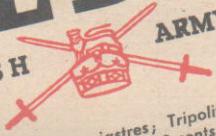


SOLDIER

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“SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN”

(See Page 5)

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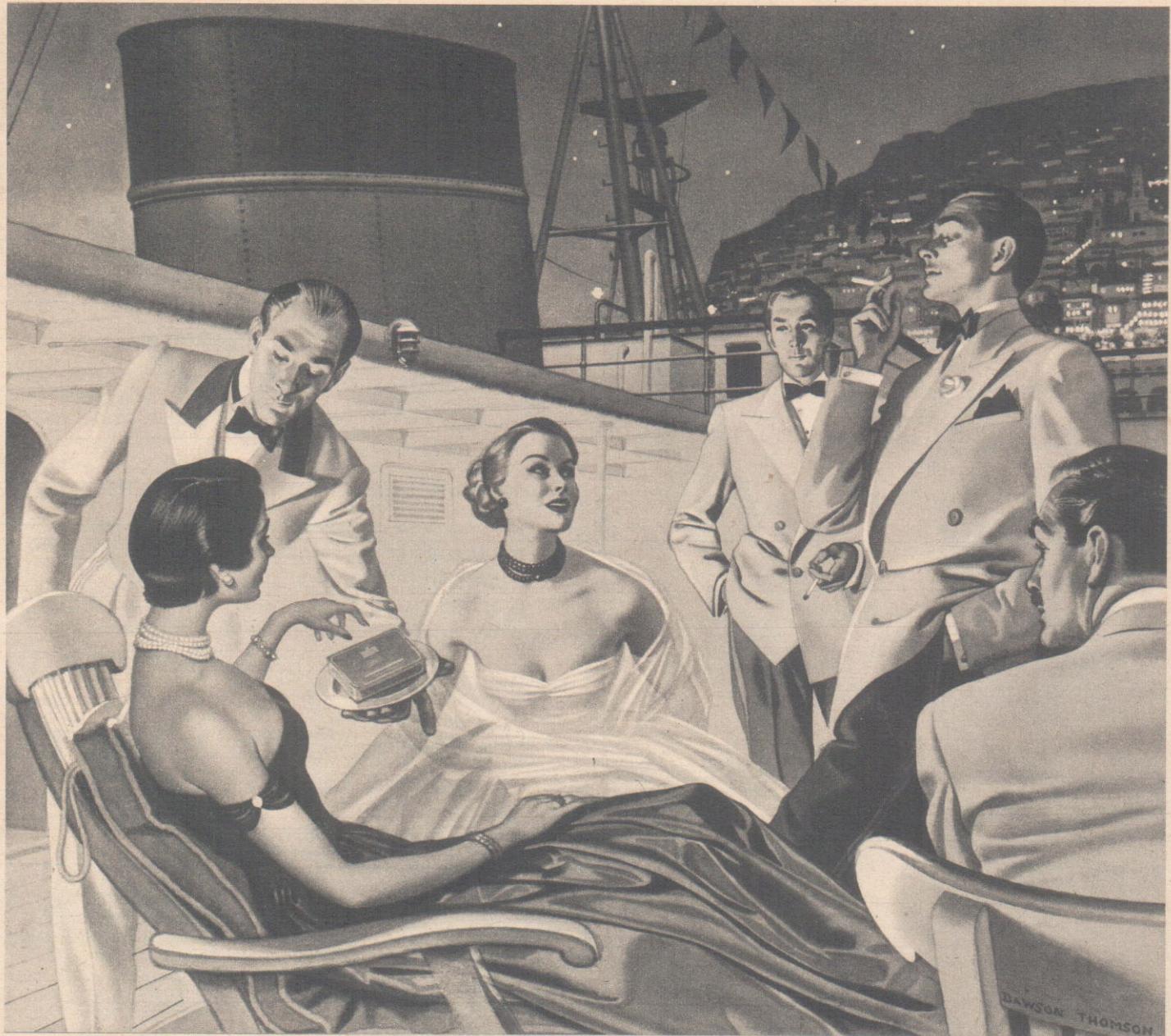
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SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN

To the British Throne comes a Queen born and bred in Service traditions, a Queen who once wore battle-dress — and denims

TODAY, after 51 years, the armed forces of the Crown again owe their allegiance to a Queen.

As SOLDIER goes to press it is not known what Army titles and honours will be assumed by Queen Elizabeth II.

Some regiments have already enjoyed close, individual links with the new Queen. As Princess, she was Colonel of the Grenadier Guards, Colonel-in-Chief of the 16th/5th Lancers and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and honorary Brigadier of the Women's Royal Army Corps. The late King was Colonel-in-Chief and Captain-General of more than 30 regiments and corps.

Queen Elizabeth has had her name in the Army List, as Princess Elizabeth, since 1942. In that year, not long before her 16th birthday, the King appointed her Colonel of the Grenadier Guards.

On her birthday, the Princess, accompanied by the King, who was Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards, and the Queen, took her first salute from a parade by detachments of the regiment. The first public engagement she fulfilled alone was her inspection of the 4th Battalion of the Grenadier Guards in 1943.

"Her interest in the Regiment's activities and welfare was unflagging," recalls the Grenadiers' war history. "Although her public responsibilities began to grow as the war progressed, she retained for her Grenadiers an affection of which every Guardsman was gratefully proud." At Christmas 1944, Guardsmen of three Gren-

OVER

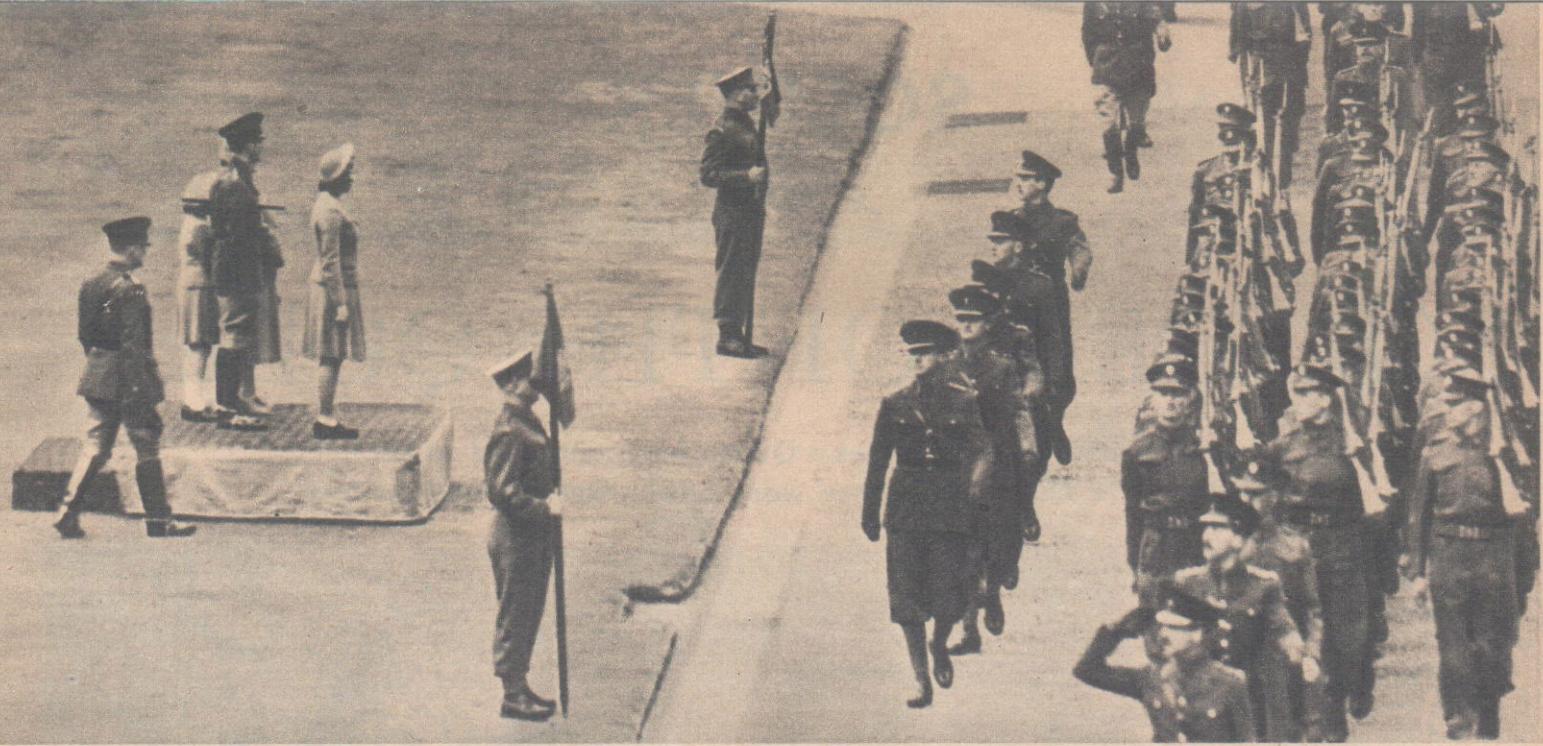


Wearing a uniform copied from that of a colonel of the Grenadier Guards in 1745: Princess Elizabeth at the 1951 ceremony of Trooping the Colour.

Left: The future Queen shares a classroom table with a sergeant of the ATS. The year is 1945.

Right: As a young subaltern, the future Queen changes a wheel.





SOLDIERS OF THE QUEEN (Cont'd)

adier battalions on the Belgian-German border, were able to tuck into Christmas puddings sent them by their Colonel.

As a child, the Princess had always been popular with the men who mounted guard over the Royal Family. Troops stationed at Windsor were among audiences who saw the Heiress to the Throne in the "cast of a pantomime, taking a stage beating from a local boy who was playing Widow Twankey.

With her sister, she visited the

guard commander's room at Windsor, which contains panelling on which guard commanders for nearly a century have carved their names. The two Princesses left their own autographs on paper, which is now framed.

The Princess's pet Welsh Corgi, Susan, did not behave too well towards the Guards on one occasion, however. In 1947 it was reported that Susan gave a sharp nip in the calf to a sentry in London. The Guardsman did not bat an eyelid. When the Princess heard what had happened, the Guardsman received a note of apology and Susan a severe reprimand.

In 1945, Princess Elizabeth joined

First official duty of Princess Elizabeth, at the age of 16, was to review her regiment, the Grenadier Guards. The year is 1942.

ed the Auxiliary Territorial Service, of which her mother was Commandant-in-Chief. The King himself went through the wording of the *London Gazette* announcement.

On her ATS papers, the Princess was described as:

Second Subaltern Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor. Age: 18. Eyes: Blue. Hair: Brown. Height: 5 feet 7 inches.

She attended a driving course for NCO's at No. 1 Motor Transport Training Centre, ATS and made her first appearance on the road as driver of a 15 cwt truck.

Then she graduated to a staff car and finally to a heavy field ambulance.

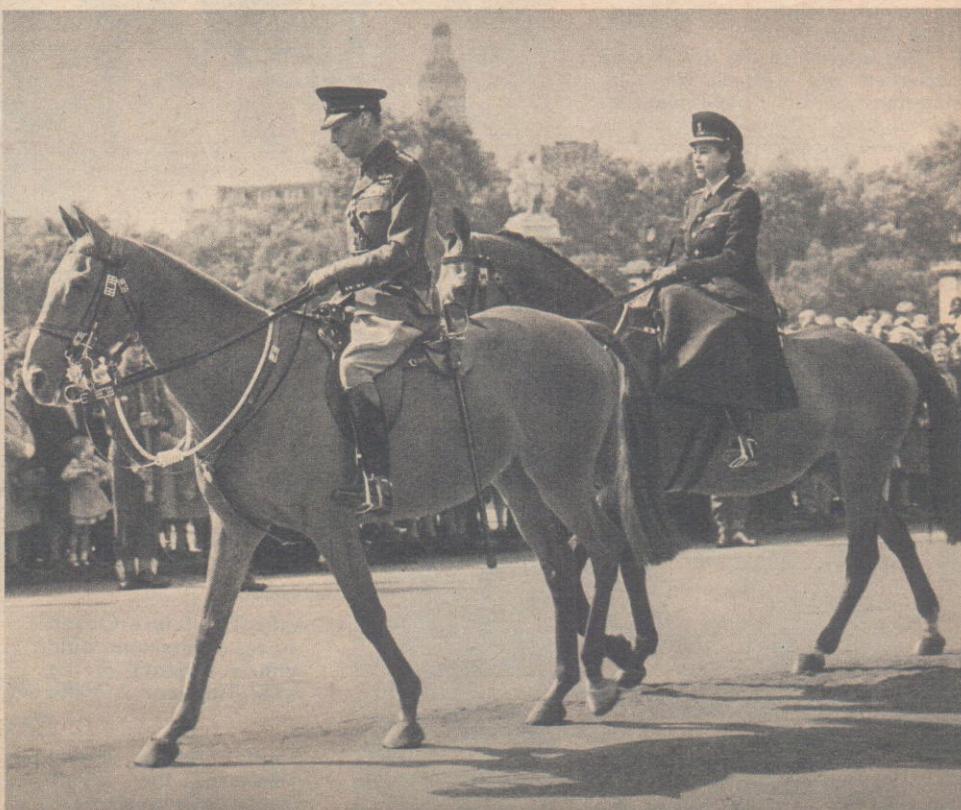
Wearing denims, the Princess learned all the dirty jobs. In the classrooms she was taught the theory of the internal combustion engine.

At the Centre, too, the Princess learned something of the other side of Royal inspections. While she was there, the King and Queen visited the unit.

Since the war her military bearing on ceremonial occasions, notably on horseback, has earned her the Army's admiration.



Left: The badge of the Grenadier Guards was worn in a military-style hat by the Princess on her early Army engagements. Below: The Princess, riding behind her father, at the Trooping ceremony of 1947. This hat inspired the new headgear of the Women's Royal Army Corps.





THE KING WHO STOOD FIRM ON TRADITION

As a boy, the late King was drilled by a serjeant-major of the Coldstream Guards

W HATEVER else they forget in years to come, few soldiers are likely to forget that sudden muster parade on a February morning in 1952, when they were told that their Sovereign was dead.

Thousands had never seen the King whose uniform they wore or whose commission they held; but there were thousands more who had their individual memories of him.

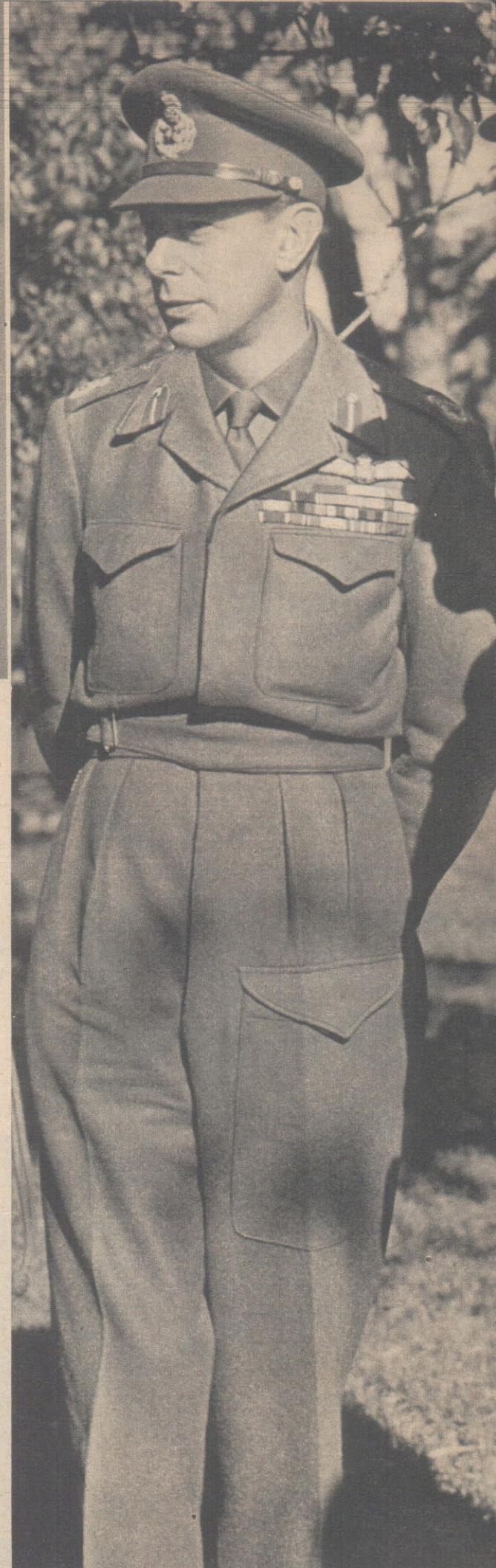
They had stood stiffly to attention while his eyes had scrutinised them from under a gold-braided cap or a towering bearskin. Some of them had stood just as stiffly to attention while he pinned medals to their tunics. There were those who had guarded him, ridden before him or held the streets open for him. There were generals who remembered the day he knighted them, high commanders who had invited him into their tents and shown him their plans of attack.

Though King George's active Service career was spent in the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, he showed no favouritism to either of these Services when he ascended the throne, and assumed the rank of field-marshal. His interest in the Army was deep and sometimes disconcerting, and it extended far beyond the glittering Household Cavalry and Brigade of Guards with

which his public and private life was so closely linked.

The Service tradition was implanted early. As young children, the late King and his brothers were taught foot and arms drill by a serjeant-major of the Coldstream Guards. A Scots pipe-major tried to teach them the bagpipes, but with indifferent success.

Prince Albert, as he then was, went to the rigorous naval training school at Osborne when he was 14, and two years later to Dartmouth. He began the first world war as a midshipman on HMS *Collingwood*, in which he served during the Battle of Jutland. Had he stood in immediate succession to the Throne, it is unlikely that he would have been permitted this baptism of fire. Cooped in a gun turret with half a dozen others, he fed and fired a 12-inch gun, and in a lull made some "jolly good cocoa." In later years the King could claim to be



One of the few pictures of King George in battle-dress (Imperial War Museum).

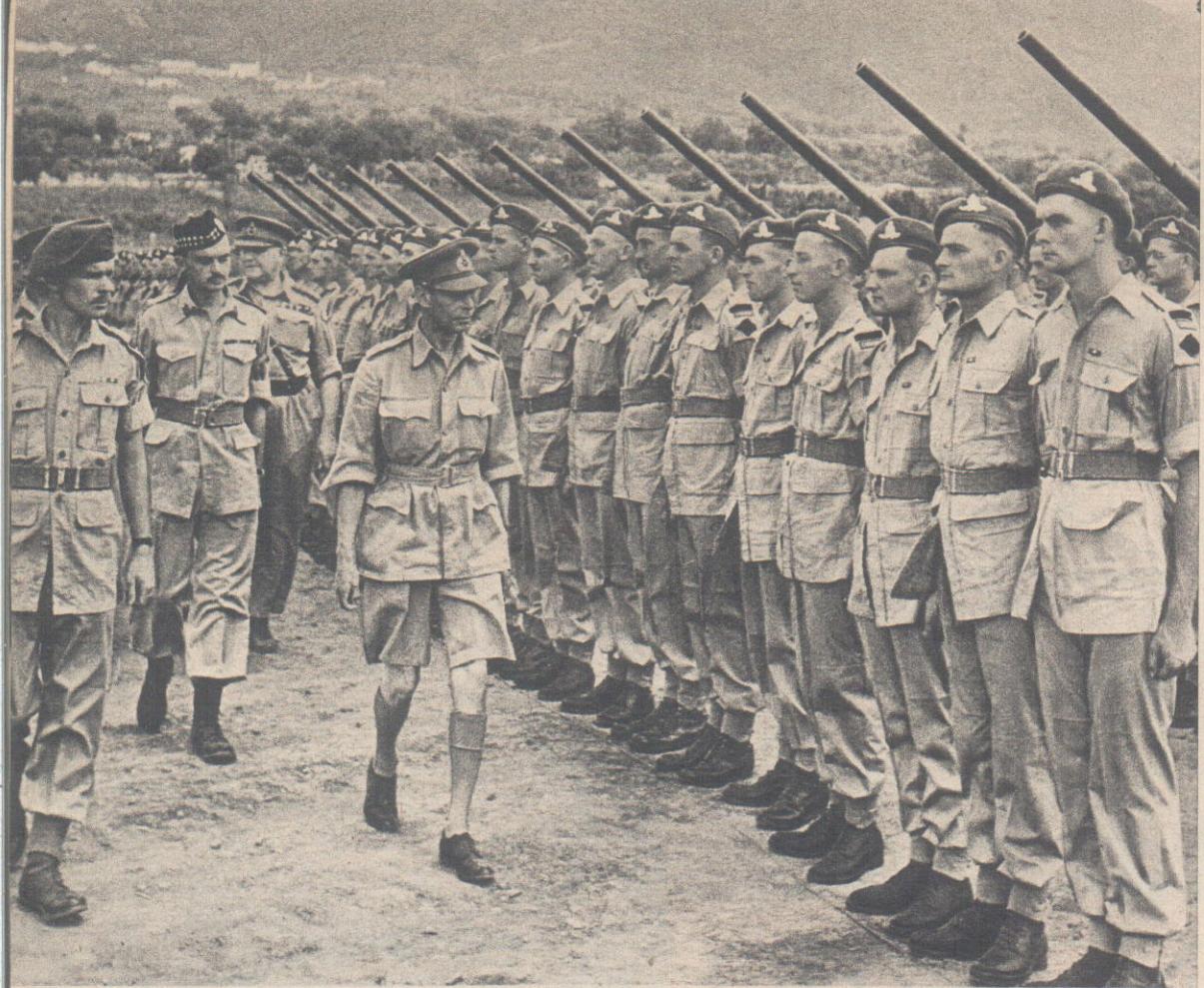
THE KING (Cont'd)

the first King of England since William of Orange to take part in a sea battle.

Bad health dogged Prince Albert. Recovering from a serious operation, he was posted to the Royal Naval Air Service, which was merged into the new Royal Air Force. Near the end of the war he served at the headquarters of a bombing command in France. Lord Trenchard at first refused to let him fly, but shortly after the war he took lessons on an Avro biplane and was awarded his pilot's wings. There is a story that he once took up his brother, the Prince of Wales, to the intense alarm of his superior officers.

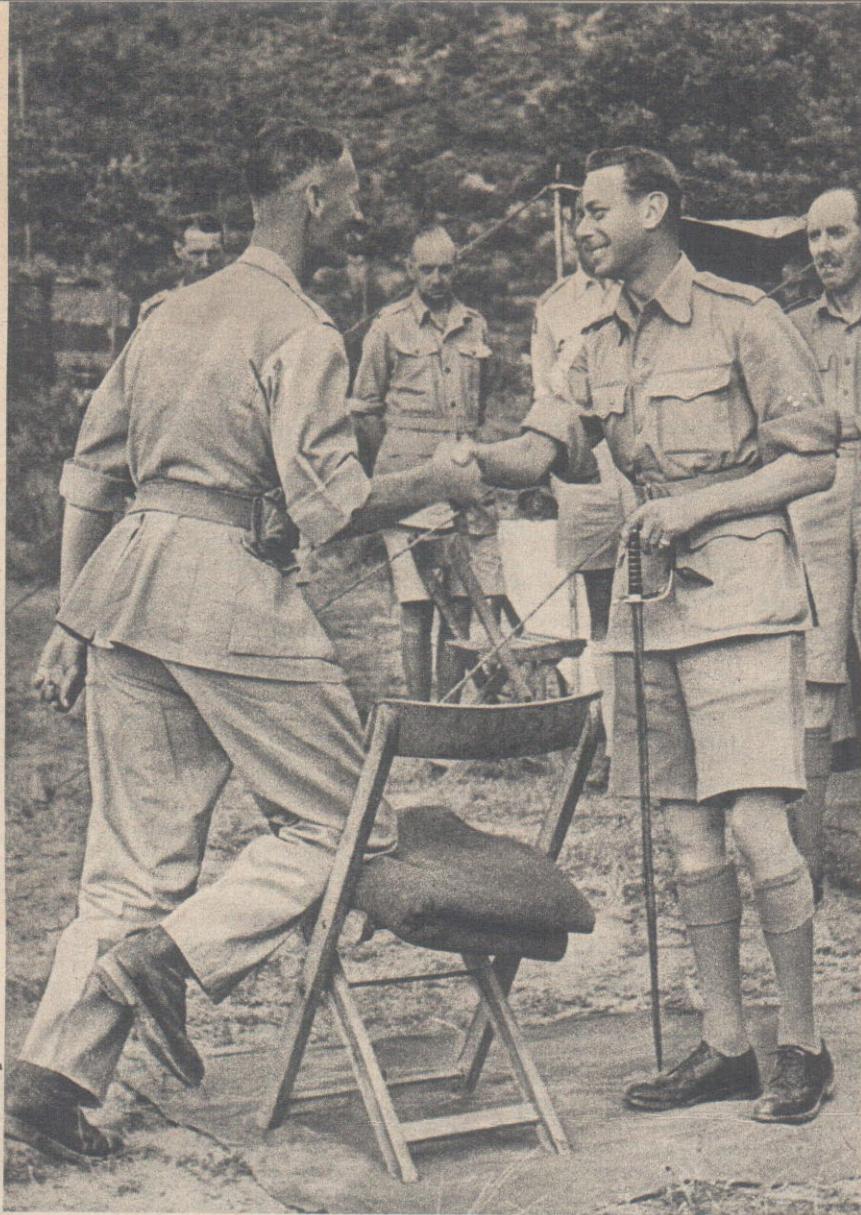
In World War Two, King George VI made five visits to his forces overseas. The first was to British and French troops in the Maginot Line in December 1939. General Gamelin accompanied him to a position overlooking the Siegfried Line. As General de la Porte, in whose area they were, explained points of interest, a German gun opened up. General Gamelin looked inquiringly at the King, who said nothing. "Who chose this position? It is too near the enemy," exclaimed Gamelin. "I did," said General de la Porte, briefly. That was that.

Back in England, in the days of the parachutist scares, the King travelled



The King inspects Canadian Gunners in Italy, in 1944. Below: this photograph was taken in Field-Marshal Lord Alexander's headquarters. Below, right: The King in a forward observation post north of Arezzo, where he watched British and German shells bursting.





Many commanders of World War Two were knighted in the field by King George. Left: He shakes hands with General Sir Richard McCreery after the ceremony. Above: General Sir John Crocker kneels to the King at Eindhoven.

ed the country with a Sten gun at his side. He had practised its use in the Palace grounds. During the years when Britain gathered her strength he visited numberless units in Home Commands, keeping abreast of all new plans. He called to the Palace commanders of the British, American and other Allied forces for informal talks.

In June 1943, after the fall of Tripoli, the King visited North Africa and was cheered by miles of troops lining the roads. Then he went on to Malta, an island which he honoured by the award of the George Cross — his own foundation.

To Mr. Churchill and General Eisenhower fell the job of talking the King out of his resolve to sail with the D-Day armada to Normandy. He crossed in a DUKW on D-Day-plus-ten and held an investiture behind the lines. A few weeks later he was in Italy, visiting the armies which had captured Rome. Later he went to Belgium and Holland to see the preparations for the last assault on Hitler's Germany.

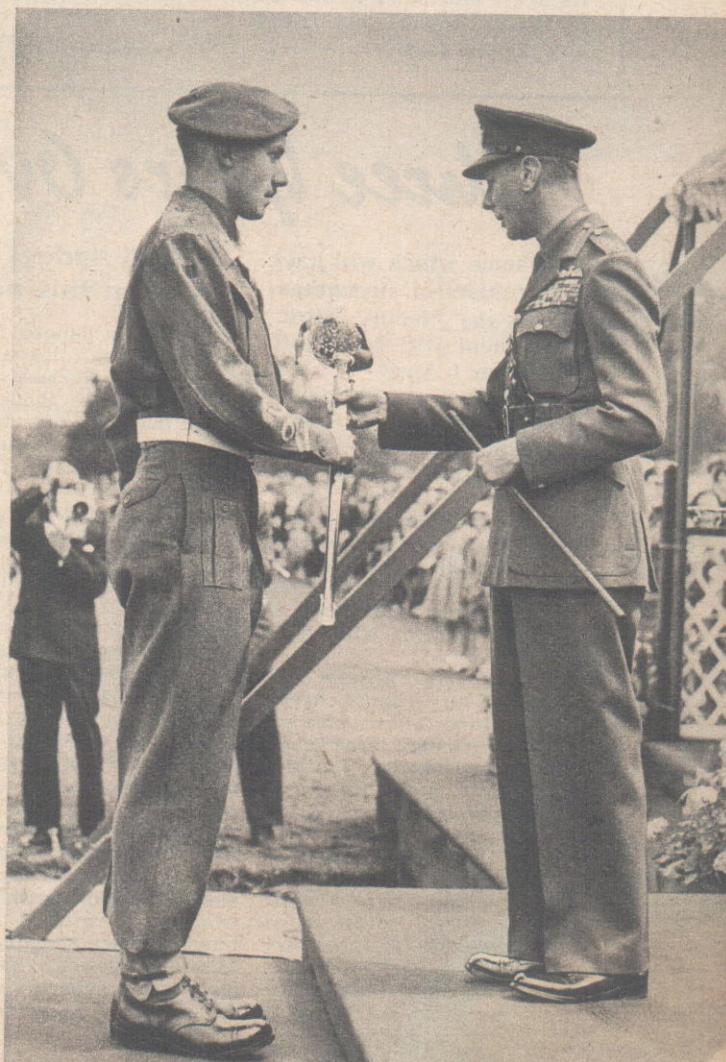
On his tours of inspection the King showed that he had a long memory, and — as befitted one who was once an adjutant — an alert eye for irregularities of procedure and dress. He could instantly spot a medal ribbon out of place. General Sir Frederick Pile has told how he was "ticked off" for wearing a cloth belt when conducting the King round gunsites at Deptford. There are other generals who could tell similar stories about

themselves. The King did not like to see dress traditions lightly abandoned. Early in the war he commiserated with the Black Watch on the loss of their kilt. At the end of the war he asked a Director of the Auxiliary Territorial Service: "Why are the pipers of your band not wearing the hunting Stuart kilt I authorised?"

Like his father and grandfather, the King made the design of badges, medals and new uniform his personal concern. Woe betide any officer who "authorised" an item of dress before it had received the royal approval. Submitting a design for a badge or medal to the King was no mere formality; he rejected many, re-designed others. He set his face against anything which was foreign to the dignity and traditions of the Services. He stood by the spirit of King's Regulations.

Now those King's Regulations are Queen's Regulations. The King's Company of the Grenadier Guards, whose Colour traditionally goes to the grave with the Sovereign, becomes The Queen's Company. Only the name changes. The King died knowing that the traditions were safe; that the Heiress to the Throne would proudly accept her responsibilities to the armed forces, and that they would as proudly accept their responsibilities to her.

Right: The King presents the Sword of Honour at Sandhurst in 1948 to Senior Officer N. Webb-Bowen.





SOLDIER to Soldier

PROBABLY no other King in history was served by so many soldiers for so short a period as was King George VI. No other King earned more honour and respect from those who wore his uniform.

Now we are Soldiers of the Queen, a phrase which, until recently, conjured up white-bearded Chelsea Pensioners hobbling along the streets. Now it is a description which fits the youngest National Serviceman. It is a fine phrase, with a hint of scarlet, a touch of jauntiness.

Our nation reached heights of greatness under her Queens. It was under Queen Anne that the British Army multiplied its regiments and won famous victories (this year six of those regiments celebrate their 250th anniversaries).

This is a time for greatness. The British Army pledges its heart and hand to sustain its new Sovereign through any shocks in store.

CONGRATULATIONS to those seven Regiments of the Line whose second battalions are to be re-born!

They are (as every proud, or jealous, Infantryman knows) the Black Watch, the Sherwood Foresters, the Durham Light Infantry, the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, the Royal Welch Fusiliers, the Green Howards, and the Lancashire Fusiliers. They were selected for the honour because of their success in recruiting Regulars.

In June 1948 SOLDIER reported a sorrowful speech by the late Lord Wavell. He said that his regiment, the Black Watch, had recruited sufficient

Regulars since the war ended to man three Regular battalions, while other regiments had not attracted enough for one company. Yet the Black Watch had been cut down to one battalion. The Commanding Officer had told 46 warrant officers that they could remain in the Regiment only if they came down in rank; or they could retain their rank by joining other regiments. Of the 46, all but four chose to stay with the Regiment; a magnificent example of regimental loyalty.

To SOLDIER it seems eminently right that a regiment should be allowed to have as many battalions as its prestige can attract. If this creates fierce regimental rivalry, so much the better.

When regiments were reduced to one battalion some commanding officers staged a ceremonial parade at which, on the word of command, the two battalions merged, physically and symbolically, into one. How much more welcome a ceremony at which one battalion expands into two!

* * *

IN this issue is an article on the British Military Mission to Turkey.

There is one thing the British soldier cannot teach the Turkish soldier; and that is courage.

Turkish troops, 5000 strong, were among the first to reach Korea. In those days when the United Nations were sore pressed, the Turks set a fine example of fortitude. They took soldiering seriously. When nobody else observed the rules of camouflage, they did. They

were heavily mauled in early encounters, but their spirit was unbroken.

The Commander of the Turkish Brigade, Brigadier General Tahsin Yazici, was a young officer who helped to capture the British General Townshend at Kut, in the first world war. Britain's ex-enemies have a way of becoming her staunchest friends.

* * *

IN the chronicles of the British Army, Shepheard's Hotel in Cairo (wrecked by the mob) will figure in both an operational and a recreational role. It was the official headquarters of British troops in the first world war, the unofficial headquarters in the second.

When General Montgomery first flew to Egypt to take over the Eighth Army, he met General Alexander informally and the two went to Shepheard's for a quiet talk (sending their ADC's on ahead to reserve a table in the inner lounge, clear of eavesdroppers). The terrace was full of junior officers on leave, and the arrival of the two generals created much speculation. It was at this session that General Montgomery is believed to have outlined his plans for stopping Rommel, and General Alexander promised to back him to the full. In that sombre lounge the great partnership began. From that point, the Eighth Army never looked back.

Rommel made no secret of where he proposed to establish his headquarters in Cairo. It was in the very hotel where his doom was sealed.

Three Years Overseas for a Battalion

Ascheme which will have the effect of strengthening the "family spirit" in a regiment will come into operation on 1 April.

It will affect all regiments of the Royal Armoured Corps, Guards and Infantry, except motorised battalions and parachute units.

In future, these regiments will serve fixed overseas tours of three years. This means that a man will not be separated from his regiment because his tours of duty do not coincide with those of the regiment.

At present many Regular soldiers posted to a regiment or battalion abroad return home individually when their three years' tour is up, and have to join another unit in Britain or Europe — changing their cap badges in the process.

In some respects the scheme is also an improvement on the procedure before World War Two, a procedure which dated back to about 1882. Then Infantry regiments usually had one battalion abroad and one at home. The

Cap badges will not be changed so often when this new scheme comes into force

battalions exchanged their home and overseas roles after about 20 years, but the men were posted from one to the other. This meant that although they remained in the same regiment, men were often parted from their comrades.

After World War Two, the reduction of Infantry regiments to one battalion each meant that men had to be posted to different regiments. To preserve regimental spirit, Infantry regiments with neighbouring territorial associations or some common role, such as Light Infantry, were grouped into brigades and, as far as possible, men were not posted to units outside their brigades. Men who joined a unit overseas a short time before it returned home were posted to other units to finish their own overseas tours.

Under the new scheme, even men not long posted to a unit will return with it to Britain. Usually, when a regiment is sent home, its men will go on leave and then rejoin the same unit,

either in Britain or Europe (excluding Gibraltar and Greece). To make the scheme workable, service in Europe will no longer count towards an overseas tour (at present, one-third counts). This ruling applies to troops in all arms, from 1 April.

It is not possible to adopt the three-year unit tour for corps other than those stated, but men of other corps attached to the Royal Armoured Corps and Infantry regiments will move with the units with which they serve. Thus cooks of the Army Catering Corps, physical training instructors, RAOC boot repairers, education sergeants and men of the Royal Corps of Signals will be treated as part of the regiment or battalion to which they are attached.

The scheme will be popular with married men and their families. At present when a soldier is posted home on his own his family also has to leave the unit, and is not always able to find accommodation near the new

regiment to which he is posted. Now families should be able to move into the home station with the unit.

In the first year or two of the new scheme, some Regulars may find that their overseas tour ends before their unit is due for home. They will not be held back, but many are expected to extend their tours to stay with their units.

By relating each soldier's overseas tour to his unit's tour, the scheme will cut down drafting problems and generally stabilise the life of a unit.

Things You Wouldn't Know Unless We Told You

At the end of World War Two the British Army had in its catalogue of stores a garment described as "Brassière, jungle."



Posting: TURKEY

There are British soldiers to whom the Bosphorus is as familiar as the River Thames. They serve with the British Military Mission in Turkey

Story and pictures by EDWARD LUDLOW

ASK a dozen men to list all the countries in the world where the British Army is serving, and the chances are that, whatever other names they overlook, they will all overlook Turkey.

Even those soldiers who gaze at the mountains of Turkey from Cyprus are probably unaware that there are more British soldiers over there, in the heart of Asia Minor.

To find the first of them, it is necessary to travel no farther than Izmir (formerly Smyrna) on Turkey's western coast, a town completely rebuilt since 1922, when it was razed during the Turkish War of Independence.

Here is stationed Warrant Officer John Rowe, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, with his wife and three young daughters. He is an instructor on transport maintenance, one of a few score of soldiers serving with the British Training Staffs

in Turkey. Along with the American Military Mission, they provide a rich reservoir of guidance always on tap for Turkey's modern military machine.

There are other men like Warrant Officer Rowe with the British teams in and around Izmir. Some of them are at Ankara, capital of modern Turkey created by Kemal Ataturk; others are in and around ancient Istanbul.

On the crowded ferry which plies across the Bosphorus, linking residential Istanbul in Asia

Minor with the European part, will be found, five mornings a week, two British Army Sapper officers.

As the boat makes the fifteen-minute trip, with the domes and minarets of half a dozen world-famous mosques in the background, the two officers, Major Thomas Marlow and Captain D. J. Simpson, discuss the early morning BBC news.

They are jostled by people of a dozen nationalities swarming from the ferry at the Galata Bridge landing-stage. From a dark green staff car they are greeted by a tall officer, carrying a file of papers and a lunch container. He is Major E. J. M. Perkins, Royal Engineers, who served at Arnhem and now commands the British Sapper Detachment link-

By the Galata Bridge, which spans the Golden Horn; Sapper Ronald Farrell and Bombardier Raymond Screech.

Right: One of many statues in Istanbul of Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey, who died in 1938.

OVER



Posting: TURKEY (Continued)

ed with the American Army Engineering Team at one of the Turkish Army bases.

A few miles away, back on the Asia Minor side of Istanbul, a group of about a dozen British uniformed soldiers can be found every morning waiting for a suburban train bound for Tuzla.

Cap badges show they are largely Gunners, with one or two Corps specialists such as 21-years-old REME Corporal David White. Like other waiting passengers Corporal White will not return home for some 12 hours. The train journey takes about an hour with many stops at way-side halts. From the carriage window they see the remains of a centuries-old highway from ancient Constantinople to Bagdad.

The British Artillery Commander, Lieut-Col. A. G. Hawkins, told the writer:

"For some years a small detachment of British Gunners has been assisting in the training of Turkish ack-ack men. The School is run by a combined Turkish-American-British staff, and this arrangement works very well.

"There is ample goodwill on all sides, and the School could well be taken as an example for the United Nations."

But Lieut-Col. Hawkins added a warning.

"You know," he said, "the casualty rate among single men out here is high. Some of the

local girls are most attractive, and a number of men who arrived have left happily married."

On the other hand some prefer to bring their sweethearts to Turkey for the wedding. In December last year Corporal White's fiancée, Miss M. Bayliss from Great Shelford, arrived in Istanbul, and the couple went through three marriage ceremonies — one at the British Consulate, another with the Turkish civilian authorities, and a third in the Crimean Memorial Church.

In Ankara a great favourite with the Turks is veteran 53-years-old Major A. F. Herbert, Royal Signals.

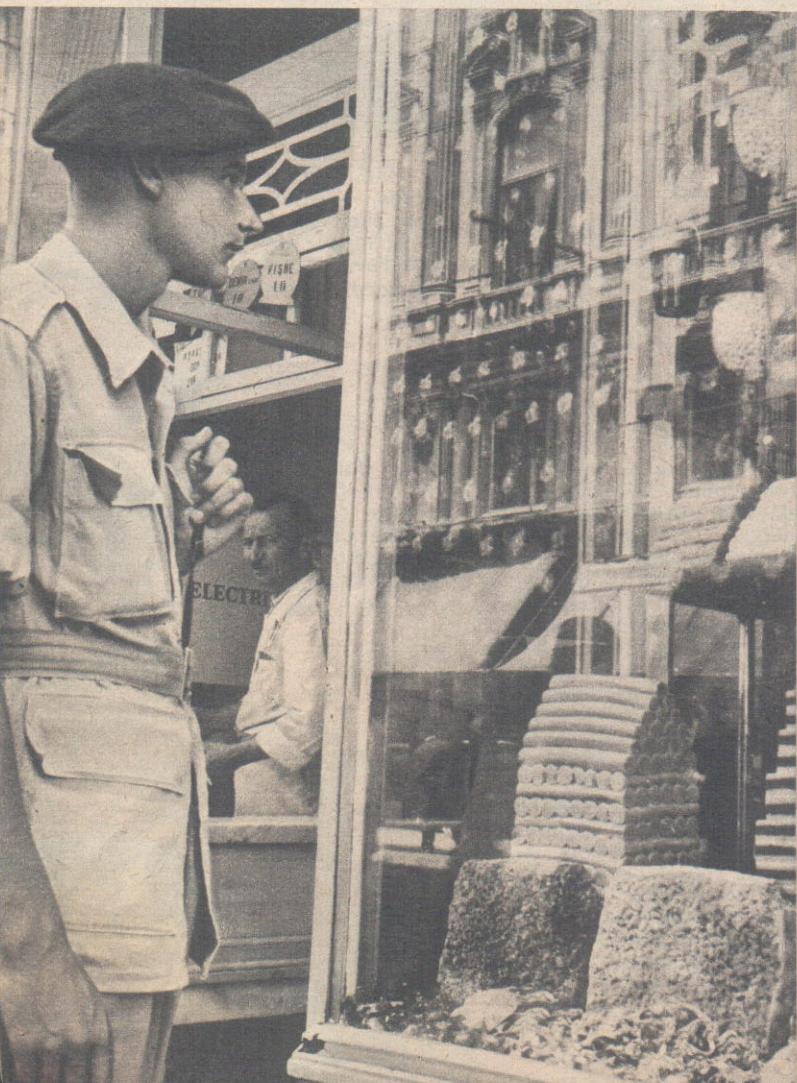
Major Herbert has been a soldier for 37 years: he first joined the Royal Engineers as a boy on 1 January 1914.

With another Royal Signals officer, Major P. C. Pigg, he is linked with the work of the Turkish School of Signals, through which more than one thousand officer and senior NCO students pass yearly.

Although much American equipment has been introduced there is still a considerable amount of British apparatus in use by Turkish Signals.

British officers and NCOs of REME continue to advise and train the Turkish Army Ordnance in repairing and maintaining all types of equipment. Of the three wings at the Turkish Ordnance School two are controlled by

Gunner Tony White from Scunthorpe pauses by a window of Turkish delight and other sticky local sweets.



Turkish soldiers study the Vickers gun. A British soldier looks on while a Turkish instructor describes the mounting mechanism.

British REME officers as Chief Advisers.

There is also a small British Tank Instructional Team with the Turkish Armoured School.

In command of the British Training Staffs in Turkey is the Military Attaché at the British Embassy, Brigadier C. R. A. Swynnerton CB, DSO, ADC. The owner of a very distinguished-looking moustache, he is deservedly popular with the Turks. He speaks Turkish fluently, and Turkish officers have been known to say, "Your Brigadier is a very good soldier, like a Turk . . ."

Many men on the training staff have acquired an everyday knowledge of the language. For instance, Major P. E. Webb, RASC formerly with the 4/7th Dragoon Guards, and now commanding the British Element, Izmir Transportation School, not only speaks good Turkish, but buys an Izmir daily newspaper to read on the way to work.

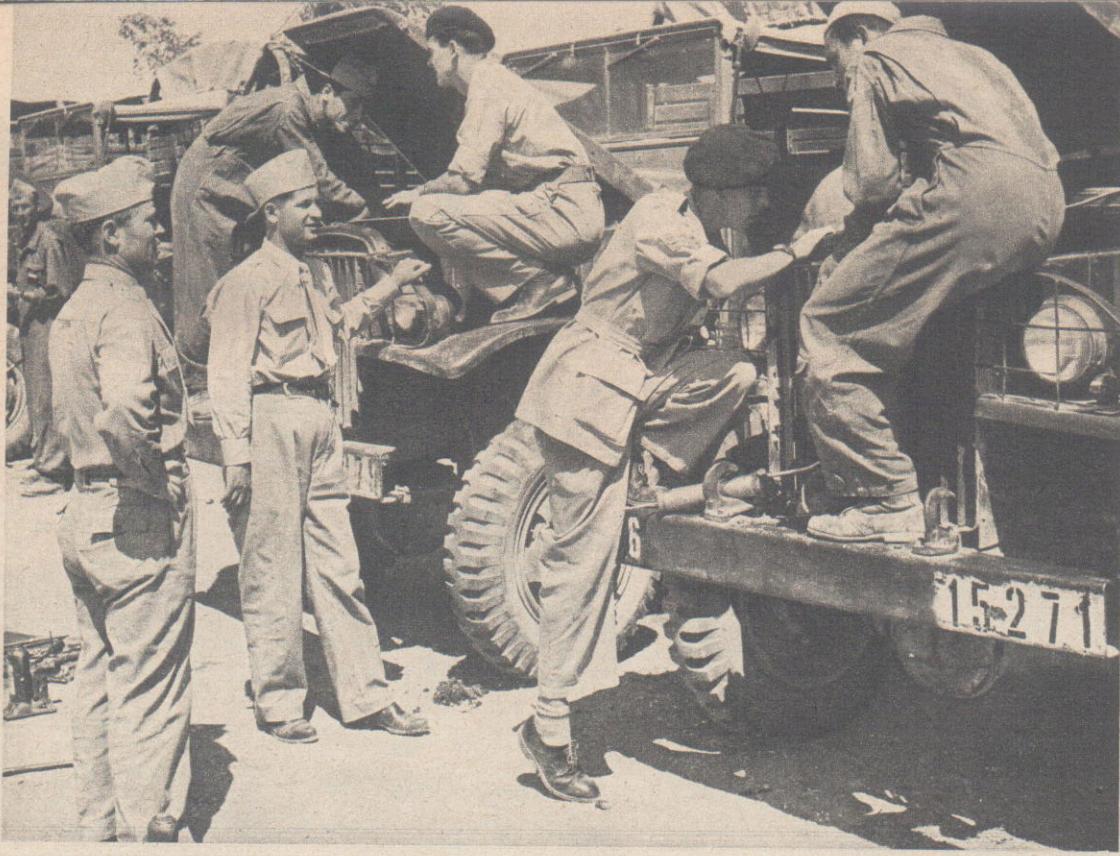
Then there is 21-years-old Corporal Arthur Hudson, from Methilhaven, Fifeshire, who with his Scots accent seems to have mastered Turkish better than any of the other younger soldiers.



TURKISH TYPES; Private Mustafa Askoy, aged 20, is a member of the Transportation School Band.



Sjt. Kemal Basaran, 16 years in the Army. He belongs to the Turkish Ordnance Corps.



Vehicle maintenance for officer-cadets of the Turkish army. The instructors are Sergeant Clifford Miles and Corporal James Driscoll.

In Ankara is an administration team to deal with such everyday problems as pay, post, NAAFI supplies, welfare and promotions.

And in Turkey there is even a typical British Army Regimental Sergeant-Major: 37-years-old RSM Michael Drennan, of the King's Own Royal Regiment. Between 1929 and 1935 his father, two brothers, and himself all served at the same time, in either the 1st or 2nd Battalions of the same regiment. They were in different platoons.

One of the highlights of last year at Izmir was the visit by

four Royal Navy frigates, including HMS *Magpie*, then with the Duke of Edinburgh in command.

The Duke flew to Ankara and Istanbul for a round of informal visits, but the sailors he left behind were royally entertained by the British colony. In turn the Navy gave one of its big "pirate" tea parties for the children.

During the summer in Ankara the British Army tries to capture the atmosphere of English village cricket — complete with a bar (bottle beer only) and the inevitable cups of tea. Teams are bolstered up by British Embassy

officials, and the Pakistan Military Attaché.

Summer highlights in Istanbul are the all-ranks boat trips along the Bosphorus.

Says Major S. A. Spearpoint MC, Royal Tank Regiment: "There is good shooting, riding, fishing, and sailing. During the winter months almost everyone takes to skis. Winters in Ankara, especially, are long and there is usually snow for at least three months in the year." Other sports are boar hunting, tennis, soccer, hockey, volleyball and swimming.

In Ankara an all-ranks re-

creational centre, with a well-stocked bar, reading rooms, and lounges, was opened last year. The visitors' book is headed by the signatures of the British Ambassador, Sir Noel Charles, and his wife.

Private accommodation for families is first-class. Single men are comfortably housed in Army-rented houses with a cook-cum-housekeeper-cum-washerwoman.

The real problem for a housewife is deciding what *not* to buy. Mrs. Rowe, wife of Warrant Officer Rowe at Izmir, keeps her home running with a limited supply of NAAFI goods which arrive in bulk from the Middle East every three or four months. Her NAAFI tea costs about 10s a pound, and has to be supplemented by purchases made on the civilian market at about 30s a pound.

Meat is plentiful. Lamb chops cost about 9s. a pound, and pork (when available) is in the region of 12s. a pound. Fresh vegetables are limited in variety, but there is a wide range of fruits.

If Mr. Rowe needs a new suit, a Turkish tailor will charge him something like £50 for one, as against a charge in England of between £25 and £30. A cheap shirt costs about £2.

In a well-known Ankara restaurant, Staff-Sergeant George Hodgson, RAOC from Leeds can enjoy (and has done so) a satisfying first-class three-course dinner for about nine shillings, or he could order fresh caviare at just under an English pound a portion.

Good beer (stronger than most English brands) is marketed by the Turkish State Breweries at about 1s. 4d. for just over a pint bottle.

On the other hand Staff-Sgt. Hodgson could order Vodka.

British soldiers are kept abreast of world and local news by daily news summaries supplied by the British Embassy.



Sergeant Murettin Vural, 10 years in the Army, is on the staff of the Turkish School of Signals.

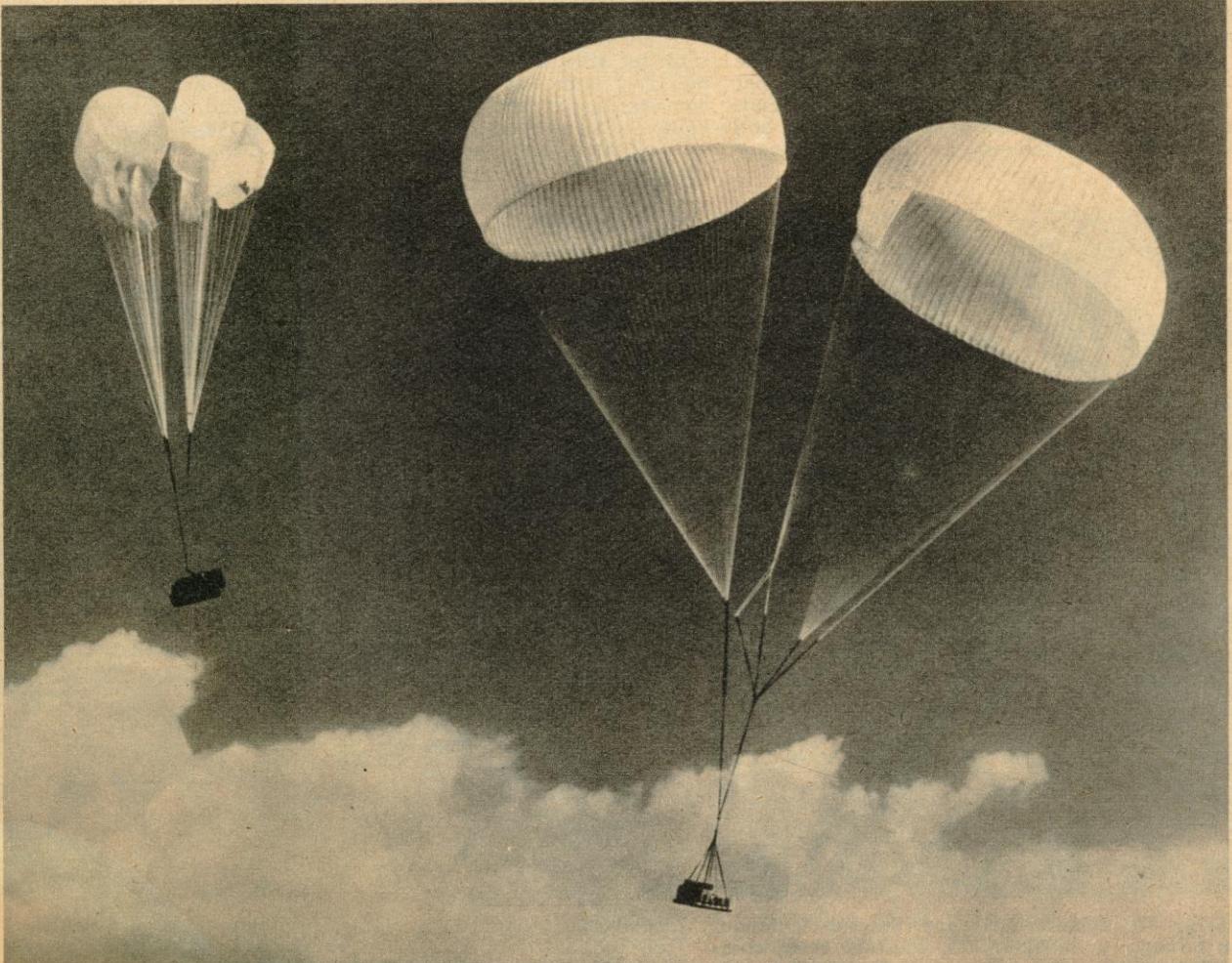
Subaltern of today: Second-Lieutenant Vedii Aklan, 23, is a tank troop commander. He likes football, swimming.

Lieutenant-Colonel Resit Umar, from Istanbul, is Director of Training at the Transportation School.

Maj.-General Gelebican is Director of Infantry, Turkish General Staff.

WHOOPS!

A heavy date in Korea



How would you like to be sitting behind the steering-wheel of this weapons carrier? Newly "kicked" from a Flying Boxcar, it stands on end from the initial shock of the pilot parachute opening. Soon two master parachutes will open and lower the vehicle gently to Korean soil.

Left: The pallet under the fully opened 'chutes carries 10,000 lbs of supplies. The other holds a weapons carrier.

Right: A sky-full of guns, vehicles and supplies is dropped by aircraft of a 'combat cargo group' of the United States Far East Air Force.

IR-DROPS become bigger and better all the time. Ask anyone who has served in Korea.

Air-drops were impressive enough by the end of World War Two. For months on end, troops in Burma fed themselves, their weapons, their mules and their vehicles on the gifts of the bully-bomber Dakotas. On special occasions, even jeeps sailed gracefully down under parachutes.

Today, barring Centurions, there seems little that cannot be showered down from the skies. In Korea, where the roads are deplorable, the American "flying box-car" takes the short cuts over the mountains.

Most of the airlift is from airfield to airfield, but supply drops to forward troops are still essential to keep the United Nations army mobile.

Multiple parachutes cushion the fall of weapons and vehicles. They are also used to send down pallets carrying as much as 10,000 lbs at a time instead of the smaller loads which need repeated runs over the dropping zone, wasting time and petrol and making the aircraft vulnerable to enemy fighters or anti-aircraft guns.

For the men on the ground, the air-drop provides incidental comforts. The parachute cords come in handy for use as anything from toggle-ropes to tent supports, and the parachute material makes emergency tents, table-cloths, sheets, towels or even sarongs for men who have no dry clothes.



The Colonels of two Irish regiments find themselves making world news...

TWO MEN

WITH TREMENDOUS JOBS

ALEXANDER: In Stress of War, He Still Remembered the Shamrock

A British officer on a secret mission was captured behind Rommel's lines (so the story goes) in the autumn of 1942. He was liable to be shot as a spy, but by some means was able to convince his captors that he was a nephew of General Alexander.

Even so, there was still talk of shooting him, until Rommel, who had also swallowed the story, exclaimed: "What? Shoot General Alexander's nephew? Do you want to make a present of another couple of divisions to the British Army?"

The story suggests that Rommel had a very fair idea of the estimation in which General Alexander was then held by the British Army.

"As a boy my ambition was to become an Irish Guardsman," Field-Marshal Lord Alexander has confessed. He became, not only

onerous posts—that of Minister for Defence. The third son of an Irish earl, he has now earned an earldom for himself.

According to Alan Moorehead, in his book *Montgomery*, Field-Marshal Alexander "was one of the very few men who are inevitably destined for the inner and the higher circles of any society in which they move." Yet, in these inner circles, Field-Marshal Alexander never forgot the Irish Guards. In North Africa, when he had more than 300,000 men under command, he was not too busy to order shamrock to be flown out from Ireland for his 1st Battalion, then at Bone. His ADC delivered the parcel on St. Patrick's Day with a message: "Welcome to the Micks. Now we'll get cracking." The Battalion responded by capturing the key Bou Massif, showing (in the General's words) "all the fire and dash it always displayed in the 1914-1918 war."

After that campaign General Alexander sent his historic message to Mr. Churchill: "Sir, it is my duty to report that the Tunisian campaign is over. All enemy resistance has ceased. We are masters of the North African shores." Yet perhaps it was just as proud a moment when, a few days later, General Alexander pinned the Victoria Cross on the shirt of Sergeant P. Kenneally, Irish Guards, and ordered him to stand at his right side while the Regiment marched past.

"When it comes to this business of fighting," the Field-Marshal has said, "the proudest claim a man can make is that

he is a front-line soldier. I am glad that in my earlier days my front-line service was with the Irish Guards."

During that front-line service he went "over the top" thirty times, defying all the rules of luck. He emerged fit, whole and mentally unscarred—and with the DSO and MC.

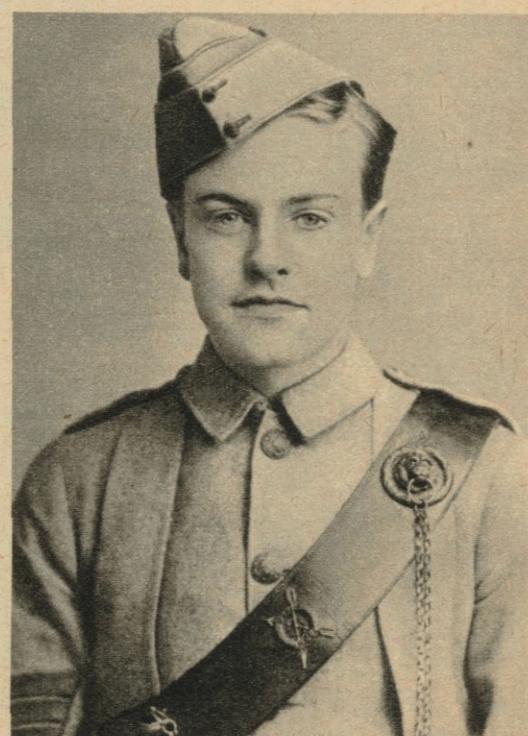
After the war he was at the Staff College at the same time as a number of men who were to win fame in World War Two—Montgomery, Gort, Brooke, Wilson, Giffard, O'Connor, Freyberg and Platt.

In World War Two it fell to Major-General Alexander to extricate the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk (General Lord Gort having been called home). When the troops had been withdrawn, he toured the beaches in a motorboat with the Senior Naval Officer, Dunkirk, halloo-ing to the shore in the hope of locating stragglers. Only a German sentry answered.

Afterwards General Alexander was appointed to Southern Command, which would have been the number one battlefield if Hitler had tried to invade. Soon came another job of extrication. Mr. Churchill, with a heavy heart, sent him to Rangoon, where he directed the fighting retreat of the British forces from Burma over the passes into India. Immediately afterwards, he was switched to the Middle East as Commander-in-Chief, and was soon deep in the plans for the most famous battle of North Africa: El Alamein.

The marshal's baton came to

Left: Field-Marshal Lord Alexander: "As a boy my ambition was to be an Irish Guardsman."



Right: There was a baton in his knapsack: the future field-marshal as a 15-year-old cadet.

General Alexander in the summer of 1944, when his armies (including men of 26 nationalities) were toiling up Italy. He was on the Anzio beachhead within the first 48 hours, and the first troops he visited there were the Irish Guards. He saw them again before Cassino.

Mr. Eric Linklater, who met Field-Marshal Alexander in Italy, has commented in his book *The Art of Adventure* on the great soldier's imperturbability. After all that he had seen of battle, after the immense burdens he had carried, it would have been no surprise if his face had been lined and grim and granite-like, or "imperious past all humanity." Instead, the ruddy-faced Field-Marshal "looked at the world unscarred, beneath brows that were slightly raised in a polite astonishment."

When the news was bad, says Mr. Linklater, troops found it "hard to believe that anything could go wrong in the presence of such perfect confidence, so perfectly tailored. He never invalidated the effect by wearing a steel helmet." On informal occasions, however, the Field-Marshal's dress could be startling enough. At Caserta he was once seen wearing a fur-fringed jacket, a fur hat given him by Stalin and a pair of top boots presented by Marshal Tito.

Field-Marshal Alexander is almost alone among the leaders of World War Two in that he has not written a book about the war. He wrote his official dispatches, as was his duty, and called it a day. The post-mortems, the recriminations, the personalities he left to others.

The Field-Marshal has the same hobby as the Prime Minister: painting. As a Brigadier on the North-West Frontier, he once disconcerted his Staff by putting down on canvas his impressions of a military operation while it was in progress—and while snipers were still about.

In his new post, Field-Marshal Alexander has the absolute confidence of every man who served in World War Two. One part of his task is to ensure a fair share-out, between generals, admirals and air-marshals, of the thousands of millions of pounds which Britain is now spending on defence. A delicate task; but he has been described as a "general's general," a man able to soothe susceptibilities at the highest levels. The other part of his job is to mould Britain's defence policy in conjunction with other nations. It is certain that he will be seeing a good deal of General Eisenhower; and it is equally certain that the two will get on swimmingly. (In 1942, when General Eisenhower first met the future Defence Minister, who had been nominated his second-in-command in North Africa, he is reported to have told his aide: "That guy's good! He ought to be Commander-in-Chief instead of me.")

The new High Commissioner's military career started in the Royal Irish Fusiliers (of which he is now Colonel) in 1916. He won the Distinguished Service Order

TEMPLER: Flying Tackle for a 'Bandit'

GENERAL Sir Gerald Templer, newly-appointed High Commissioner for the Federation of Malaya, has taken on one of the most unenviable tasks the Government had to offer a soldier.

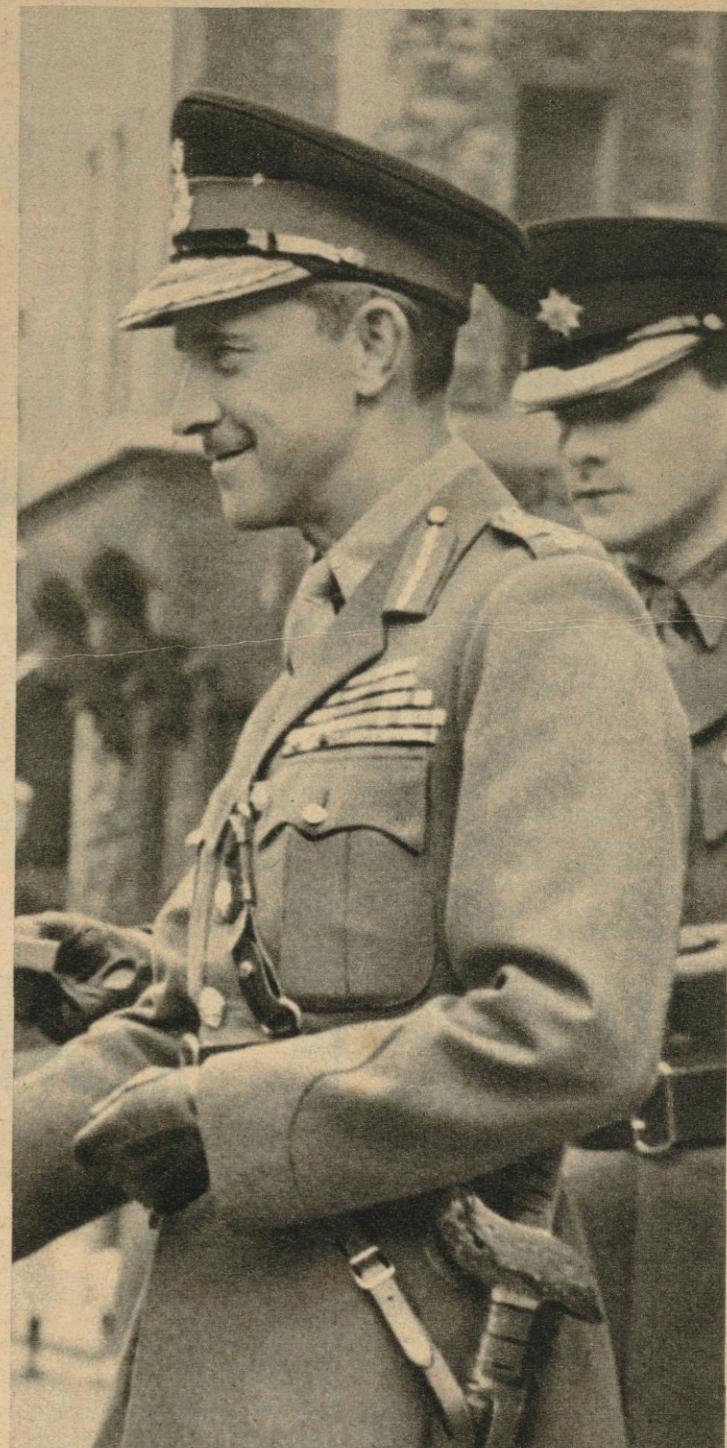
For nearly four years, Malaya's Communist bandits have successfully played hide-and-seek with the security forces in the jungle. In the process they have played havoc with the country's normal life. The Briggs Plan for resettling the squatters on whom the bandits prey in new, defended villages, has been making slower progress than was hoped.

General Templer takes over with wider powers than were enjoyed by any of his predecessors. Not only will he be political head of the government, he will have direct control over the soldiers and police who are tackling the bandits. General Sir Rob Lockhart, who last year succeeded Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Briggs as Director of Operations, will be General Templer's deputy for operations.

The British press welcomed General Templer's appointment as the "strong man" in Malaya but did not minimise his difficulties. One columnist saw an omen in the fact that General Templer three years ago espied a burglar, brought the man down with a rugby tackle and, with the help of a neighbour handed him over to the police. The burglar got nine months.

General Templer had never visited Malaya before his appointment, but he has had experience in several military-civil roles. He was Director of Civil Affairs at Field-Marshal Montgomery's headquarters in Western Europe. During the war he directed a "cloak-and-dagger" organisation running guerrilla fighters behind the lines in Germany, and was Director of Military Intelligence at the War Office—and good Intelligence is the key to the success in Malaya's anti-bandit war. Since the war General Templer has been Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff, an experience which, Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, the Colonial Secretary, pointed out, has given him insight into the machinery of government.

The new High Commissioner's military career started in the Royal Irish Fusiliers (of which he is now Colonel) in 1916. He won the Distinguished Service Order



General Sir Gerald Templer: man against the jungle.

His commands were the 1st and 56th Infantry Divisions, and the 6th Armoured Division. In 1944 his spine was badly injured in a motor accident in Italy—a piano is said to have fallen on him from a German lorry with which his car collided. This injury brought him home.

When he was appointed High Commissioner, General Templer was GOC-in-C, Eastern Command.



THE KEYS CHANGE HANDS

A new tenant will soon be moving into the ancient convent which is the home of the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar.

General Sir Kenneth Anderson, who has held the appointment since 1947, retires on 20 March. He will be succeeded by Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon MacMillan, at present Commander-in-Chief, Scottish Command, and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

Both started their military careers in Scottish regiments. General Anderson served in the Seaforth Highlanders; General MacMillan in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. General Anderson commanded 1st Army in its North African campaign; General MacMillan was a war-time commander of 51st (Highland) Division.

It is a tradition that the appointment of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar shall be given to a distinguished soldier. The Colony, which includes important naval and air stations, is a fortress. In its confined space (it is three miles at its longest and three-quarters of a mile at its widest) some 25,000 civilians live in close proximity to the Services; 14,000 more people cross the frontier from Spain each day to work in the Colony.

When General Anderson leaves, his shield will be hung in the dining-hall of Government House, along with the shields of his 70-odd predecessors as Governor since Britain occupied Gibraltar in 1704. General MacMillan will take over the historic keys of the fortress, the same keys of which a famous Governor, General Sir George Elliott, took personal charge during the siege of Gibraltar by the Spaniards from 1779 or 1783.

The keys no longer fit any of Gibraltar's gates, but they are used for a ceremonial "locking" once a week. When the Governor has guests to dinner, the keys rest on a red cushion by his plate.

Lieut-Gen. Sir Gordon MacMillan (right) is succeeding General Sir Kenneth Anderson as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar. Each departing Governor hangs his shield on the walls of the Governor's residence (see top, left).



A Boys Battalion For Infantry

FOR the first time the Army is to have a battalion of trained boys for Infantry. From it will come many of the future warrant officers and non-commissioned officers for Britain's 64 Infantry regiments.

The Battalion is being formed at Tuxford Camp, Nottinghamshire, this month and the first recruits will arrive on 15 April. Any boy who has left school will be able to join, provided he measures up to the physical standards. At the age of 17½ he will go to the regiment of his choice.

Other arms already have boys training units — including the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery (SOLDIER described the Boys Battery in February, 1949), Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps. There are also Army Apprentices Schools. The Infantry already enlists drummer boys and band boys.

The Commanding Officer of the Infantry Regimental Boys Battalion will be Major Sir Christopher Nixon MC who served in Burma in World War Two and more recently with his regiment, the Royal Ulster Rifles, in Korea.

In his first month a boy will serve with an elementary training platoon, which will help him make the change from civilian to Army life. He must complete a year's basic training before joining his regiment. Any boy joining under the age of 16½ will spend up to that age on education and military training specially designed for younger boys.

To join, a boy must be 4ft 7ins. tall and weigh not less

than 5st. 4lbs. He must agree to serve for eight years with the Colours and four with the Reserve, to count from the age of 18. If he wishes he can serve for 12 years with the Colours instead.

Recruits will be paid 2s. 6d. a day rising to 3s. 6d. after the first year and 4s. after the second. On joining their regiments at 17½ years they will receive the normal Army rates.

For those who are outstanding, promotion will come during their boys service. There will be not only boy lance-corporals but even a boy regimental serjeant-major.

The Battalion will open with one company but eventually there will be three. A boy will remain with the same platoon and instructors during his service. He will receive generous leave with pay and parents will be allowed to visit the camp.



The Royal Artillery band parades before South Arch, on Front Parade. On either side are the heraldic trumpeters.

Story which Began with a Bang

IN the last twelve years, the future of Woolwich, traditional home of guns and Gunners, has been a free subject for prophecy.

Senior Gunners, still mourning the 1947 decision to merge the old "Shop" with Sandhurst, were shocked to hear that the Headquarters and Depot of the Royal Regiment might be moved from Woolwich into the wilderness — meaning Salisbury Plain. Already the Boys Battery had been switched, in 1948, from Woolwich to North Wales, and new Gunners by the thousand were learning Royal Artillery traditions at Oswestry, Shropshire.

In fact, the Army Council did "examine carefully" whether to move the Depot to Larkhill or to Aldershot, but they decided that it should stay at Woolwich, where it had been for nearly two-and-a-half centuries.

Even a man who had never heard of Woolwich would be quick to suspect, on first visiting

SOLDIER visits Woolwich, spiritual home of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. The rumours about its future have subsided—for the time being

Photographs: *SOLDIER* Cameraman LESLIE A. LEE

that town, that the place had something to do with guns. Leaving the train at Woolwich Arsenal Station, he might board a tram near the Ordnance Arms, pass a public-house called The Gun, descend outside the Barrack Tavern hard by Gunner Lane and then find himself surrounded on all sides by evidence of the Royal Artillery. He would see historic guns ornamenting the corners and open spaces; he would see that most of the military sign-boards were in the Royal Artillery colours of red and blue; and he would see more than a score of Royal Artillery cap badges before finding one of another shape.

The neighbourhood was the birthplace of the Royal Regiment early in the eighteenth century. Ever since, while the Royal Artillery grew to be the biggest regiment in the modern Army, Woolwich has been its home.

Most of the garrison buildings were erected for Gunners. Most of them are old and steeped in Gunner tradition. There is so much Gunner tradition that even the strangers from other corps posted to Woolwich come to feel that in some way they belong to the Royal Artillery.

Woolwich Garrison is traditionally commanded by an officer of the Royal Artillery, and his headquarters is staffed by Royal Artillery officers. The present

Garrison Commander, Brigadier G. D. Holmes, sits in an office lined with pictures of his predecessors right back to 1782.

The story of Woolwich and the Gunners, however, is older than that. It starts in 1716 with Albert Borgard, a Danish soldier of fortune who was a Colonel of Artillery and Chief Firemaster of England. He joined a distinguished company who assembled at a private foundry at Moorfields, near Finsbury Square, to see a brass cannon cast for the Army. Because the sand of the mould was damp, the operation generated steam which blew up the gun, killing 17 people and wounding Borgard.

As a result of this accident, it was decreed that a royal foundry should be built on the Warren at Woolwich, for casting brass guns. From this, and some smaller and earlier activities, grew the great arsenal. **OVER**

VIOLIN PROFESSOR
ROYAL ARTILLERY
BAND

The band has its own school for boy musicians, hence this sign.



The picture that is engraved on the memory of every Gunner who served at Woolwich: the Front Parade of the Royal Artillery Depot.

Story which Began with a Bang (Cont'd)

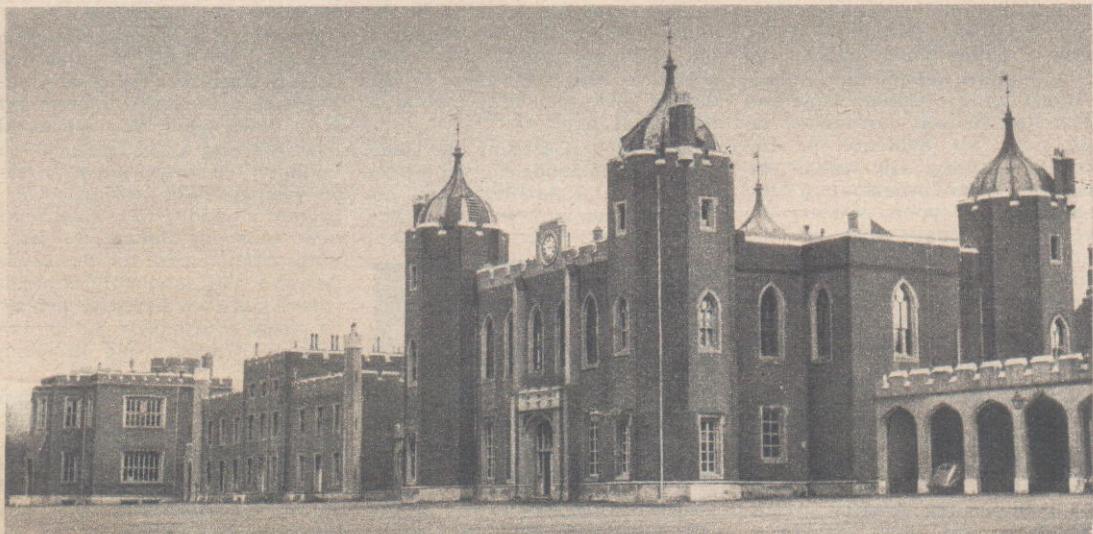


The Royal Artillery Theatre is one of the few to open on to a parade-ground.



The Royal Garrison Church of St. George was damaged by bombs in two wars.

The "Shop," once the Royal Military Academy where gentleman-cadets trained to be Gunner, Sapper or Signal officers, now serves other purposes of the three Services.



Colonel Borgard was the arsenal's commandant, and a few months after the explosion he was ordered to form the first two companies of what was to grow into the Royal Artillery. Inevitably, their first home was in Woolwich Warren, by his arsenal.

The headquarters of the Royal Artillery stayed in the Warren for 60 years. By then it had grown out of its accommodation and moved to the edge of Woolwich Common, round which the garrison has been growing ever since.

Civilian Woolwich, which also nursed a naval dockyard and station from medieval times until the advent of the ironclads, took kindly to both guns and gunners. Today it boasts its connection by displaying three cannon on the municipal coat of arms.

In modern times, friendship between town and garrison was cemented in 1925-27, when the Mayor was Councillor W. Barefoot, whose father had been a collar-maker serjeant in the Royal Artillery. The ties between the two became firmer in World War Two when Woolwich suffered under the *Luftwaffe's* bombs. In emergency, the garrison was always ready to help the civilian authorities.

Mr. David Jenkins, the Town Clerk, told SOLDIER: "I used to ring up the garrison commander, and he would send down the men I asked for. It was by-passing the 'proper channels' but it got the men where they were needed."

Woolwich is also grateful to the garrison because, thanks to Army playing fields, it can boast more open spaces than any other Metropolitan borough.

Apart from an occasional envious mention of historic Eltham Palace, which comes within its area and now houses the Institute of Army Education, the borough

council is still happy in its relations with the Army. A recent garrison commander had the unusual experience of being invited by the mayor to address a council meeting. He told the members that both his father and grandfather had served in Woolwich.

Most of the town's relations with the garrison now are social, with the Royal Artillery band contributing largely to them. In May last year the townspeople flocked in thousands to the garrison's "at home." This is to be repeated in May and followed in the evening by the Royal Artillery Association rally, which has never before been held at Woolwich. Sick soldiers in the Royal Herbert Military Hospital on Shooters' Hill particularly benefit from the good civil-military relations; amateur entertainers visit the hospital and there is a steady flow of tickets for theatres and such events as the police boxing tournament.

The life of the garrison centres mainly in the Royal Artillery Depot which, from the original barracks of 1776, has grown with austere symmetry along what is now the Front Parade. The plain façade of the barrack-blocks is broken by cream-painted porticos and, in the centre, by the South Arch, the "front door" of the barracks and a landmark in the memories of Gunners the world over.

Overlooking the Front Parade is the officers' mess, one of the Army's most famous. Here, on guest-nights and special occasions, some of the mess's historic silver makes its appearance on the table. One of the most interesting pieces, however, is stationed on the mantelpiece: it is the Abyssinian Cross, which came from a church in Magdala, when the town was captured by Napier's expedition. At one time, it is said, the cross was placed on the dinner table until a chaplain protested at this use of a sacred emblem.

The diners are waited upon by the mess's liveried "white waiters," in white wigs, and by girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps in Royal Artillery blue and red. Some of the highly-polished tables show where they were widened a foot in 1818. Legend has it that the alteration was carried out because King William IV complained that when he dined in the mess the feet of officers sitting opposite got in his way when they subsided after dinner. The mess historian refuses to believe the story.

The mess dines by candle-light. The great crystal chandeliers are lit only while the Royal toast is drunk. When the late King dined in the mess in 1950, however, the chandeliers were lit at his command while he spoke to the officers.

After dinner the cloths, white strips about 15 yards long stretching down each side of each table, and the red baize which goes underneath them, are wound into a kind of rope by waiters standing at each end, acting in concert to signs from the head waiter. At a final signal, the waiters at the bottom of each table give a vigorous tug, and the "ropes" are

jerked the full length of the table in front of the diners. Then the port begins to go round.

At one end of the Front Parade is the Royal Artillery Theatre, on a site first occupied by the original officers' mess and then by a chapel which was turned into a theatre, burned down and rebuilt. It was used by the garrison for amateur theatricals and concerts by the Royal Artillery band, but now the theatre is leased to a civilian company. It is unusual among commercially-run theatres, not only because it is leased from the War Office but also because, to avoid spoiling the appearance of the Front Parade, it does not cover its façade with the usual gaudy theatrical posters.

Just across the road from the theatre is the Royal Garrison Church of St. George, a huge, gaunt building which was damaged by bombs in World War One, repaired and re-opened, only to be much more badly damaged by bombs in World War Two. It has not yet been restored, and there is a project to remove the top of the shell and re-open it as a smaller, neater building. Meanwhile, services are held in the chapel of the Royal Military Academy.

A bomb dropped on the Front Parade itself during World War Two and uncovered what looked like an old tunnel. Elderly residents recalled hearing of secret passages from the Arsenal through which prisoners from the hulks in the river were said to have been led either to help build the barracks or to enjoy one last service at the Garrison Church before being transported to Australia. The Royal Engineers, however, proclaimed that this was just a World War One bomb shelter.

Behind the Front Parade is the bulk of the Royal Artillery Depot,

OVER



Be-wigged "white waiters" make their appearance in the Royal Artillery officers' mess on guest-nights.

The officers' mess's WRAC waitresses wear a livery in the Gunner colours while serving at dinner.

Two "white waiters" put finishing touches to the top table, on which is displayed some of the mess silver.





In the Royal Artillery Clerks' School, Staff-Sergeant (AC) C. E. Bonner corrects work from some of the 200 Territorials who study by correspondence.



National Servicemen are shown how to carve a joint. The instructor, Mr. C. O. Laborde, has served in the kitchens of both the French and British armies.

Story which Began with a Bang (Cont'd)

to which come Gunners bound for, or returning from, all parts of the world. The Depot provides foot and rifle drill courses for regimental instructors and courses for field artillery limber gunners — the men who look after the 25-pounders as well as help to man them. One of the Depot's proud possessions is the regimental canteen, which the Royal Artillery has a special charter to run in place of NAAFI. A sideline of the canteen service is a garrison rest-room for relatives

and friends visiting men stationed in Woolwich.

The Depot is also the headquarters of the Royal Artillery band, which is 105 strong and includes an orchestra. The band is 190 years old and its present director of music, Lieutenant-Colonel Owen Geary (who has held the appointment 16 years) is successor to a long line which started with "Masters of the Band" bearing names like Rocca, Schnupass and Eishenherdt. It is the only Army band, except that

of Kneller Hall, to have heraldic trumpets; and it is the only band to have its own school for training boys as musicians — there are 50 of them.

The playing fields on the Common in front of the Depot are broken by a road and the Ha-ha. This is a brick wall sunk in a ditch (it does not interfere with the view). It is supposed to have got its name from the surprise expressed by people finding an unexpected check to their walk.

Right across the Common from

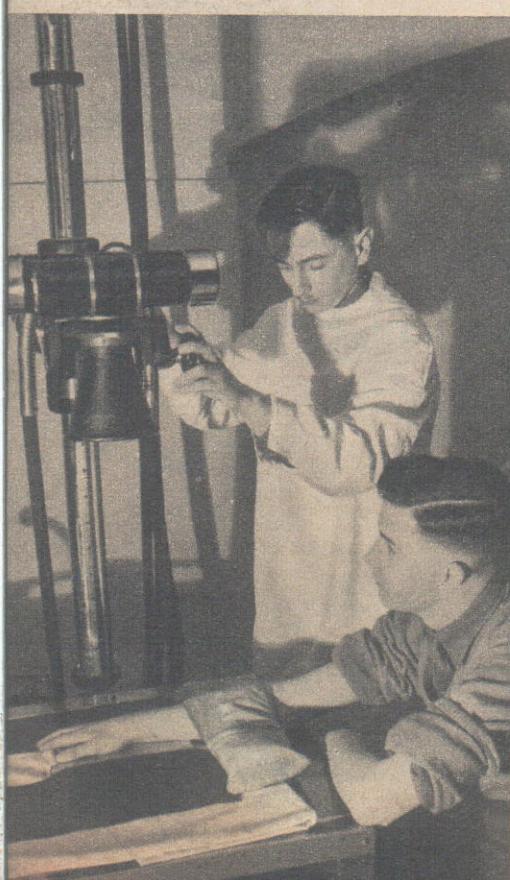
the Depot is another Gunner shrine, the "Shop" — in other words the old Royal Military Academy. Like the Royal Artillery, the "Shop" had its beginnings in the Arsenal and it moved to the Common about 145 years ago. Generations of gentleman-cadets trained there to be officers of the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers or Royal Signals, but the Academy was closed down in 1939 and amalgamated with Sandhurst after World War Two.

The rambling old Academy building, with its minaretted towers, now serves a triple purpose. It houses a mess in which live staff officers from the War Office and Air Ministry; a Royal Navy tactical school (which also uses the mess); and the Royal Artillery Institution.

The Institution, which claims to be the home of regimental tradition, produces a number of regimental publications in its own printing works. It has a library of 25,000 books on military subjects, from which volumes can be provided for courses and examinations.

The Institution was housed down by the Depot until 1940 when it was twice bombed. Books and trophies were rescued from under the masonry and moved to the Academy, where the Institution suffered again from a V-1. The library now occupies cramped quarters in the library of the old Academy and the Institution's museum-pieces are not yet displayed to full advantage. The printing works remained in what was left of the old building but part of it is shortly moving to the Academy too.

Not far from the Academy is the Royal Military Repository, which also had its beginnings in



At the Army X-Ray School, a gunner "guinea-pig" has his bones photographed by a student. Below: Private B. Walker, QARANC, has her work criticised by an instructor, Sergeant B. P. Robinson.





The Rotunda as an artist saw it in 1838 and (right) as it is today. It was once a tent. Lead now covers the roof, but the remains of the canvas can be heard flapping on windy days.



the Arsenal as a "repository of military machines." Its most striking feature is the Rotunda, which started as a huge bell-tent set up in St. James's Park for George IV to receive the sovereigns visiting London in 1814 to celebrate the downfall of Napoleon.

After it was moved to Woolwich, the canvas was covered with lead sheeting and the inside lined, but the original ropes can still be seen and the remains of the canvas can be heard flapping in a wind. One sentry 60-odd years ago deserted his post at the Rotunda, convinced he had heard a ghost.

The Rotunda is 116 feet in diameter and has 10,600 square feet of floor-space, nearly two-thirds as much as Westminster Hall. At that, the Repository is overcrowded. It has 8645 exhibits, including 1200 guns and a very big collection of muskets, flintlocks and wheel-locks. Its guns date from Crecy to World War One and include the one which exploded at Moorfield and started the Woolwich story. Hundreds of the exhibits are models; hundreds more, both models and full-size, are experimental. Among the latter are some unpleasant-looking glass shot and shell and some early machine-guns which might inspire a Heath Robinson.

On an average, 1000 civilians and as many soldiers visit the Rotunda each month. The custodian, Mr. A. Dalkin (an ex-Gunner, of course) and his staff take time off from the never-ending cleaning, dusting and oiling to show them around. One of their themes is that modern refinements like rifling and breech-loading are not so recent after all, and they produce the exhibits to prove it. There is even a model of an experimental rocket-firing ship of 1814. All it appears to lack is some means of propulsion.

Not far from the Repository are Gunner units whose weapons

have a long time to go before they are fit for a museum. One is the headquarters of 15 Anti-Aircraft Brigade. The other is the 1st Anti-Aircraft Group Training Centre which trains instructors for Regular and Territorial units in ten brigades.

The Royal Artillery Clerks' School, which was started in 1940 and "fathered" the Infantry clerks' school at Chichester ten years later, also has to teach both Regulars and Territorials. Its Territorial students, however, do not visit Woolwich; the school runs correspondence courses for them, and when the time comes for trade-testing, the testers go to the candidates.

Besides the Royal Artillery, and such dependants of the Royal Artillery as No. 1 Anti-Aircraft Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Woolwich houses a number of units which are independent of the Gunners. In the Arsenal are to be found the Equipment Scales branches of REME and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and the RAOC cataloguing authority. Elsewhere, there are REME Central Workshops, staffed almost entirely by civilians, and the headquarters of the War Office Signal Regiment.

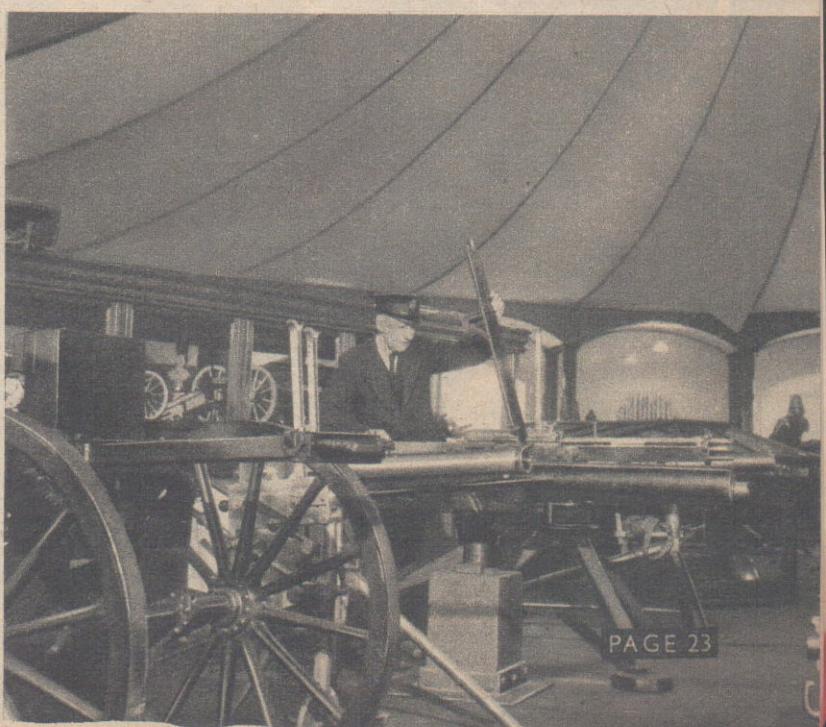
No. 1 Cookery Instruction Centre, part of which is in the old riding school of the Royal Artillery Depot, has as its second name No. 74 Army Basic Training Unit. Its main task is to turn National Servicemen into both soldiers and Army Catering Corps cooks. Among other work, the Centre trains cooks for the Brigade of Guards.

The 450-bed Royal Herbert Hospital, on Shooters' Hill, accepts military patients from much farther afield than Woolwich and is the focal point for a number of Royal Army Medical Corps activities. One is the Army X-Ray School, which is in the basement of the hospital. The School runs four-months courses to turn men

of the RAMC into radiographers. The first students from the new non-commissioned ranks of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps have made their appearance on the last two courses and have succeeded handsomely.

Although the home of the Royal Artillery has no ranges on which to fire its guns, Woolwich is not deprived of the sound of gun-fire. From Plumstead Marshes, inside the Arsenal, come reports from new weapons being tried out by the Proof and Experimental Troop, Royal Artillery, for the Ministry of Supply. On special occasions, too, 25-pounders boom out from the gun-park of the Royal Artillery Depot. Woolwich has the honour of being a saluting station. RICHARD ELEY

Mr. A. Dalkin, custodian of the Rotunda, displays a glass shell somebody once devised. Below: Among the early machine-guns is Mr. L. Cresswell, who served in the Royal Artillery for 25 years.





Men of the Lancashire Fusiliers double into action in the operation against the police barracks at Ismailia, Canal Zone of Egypt. Also in action were men of the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the Royal Dragoon Guards.

DAWN AT ISMAILIA

Eight hundred auxiliary police, who resisted stubbornly, were taken captive in the operation, and marched off, hands on heads. The operation was undertaken to prevent armed attacks on British troops. (Pictures: British Newsreels)



Left: Yes, Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery did wear shorts in the Western Desert, though he was more usually photographed in corduroy trousers. Above: Can soldiers look smart in shorts? Of course they can. Here are drummers of the North Staffordshire Regiment.



But shorts can look horrible—like these...



... and it's hard to rhapsode over these...



... and the cycle club touch is much too much.

Shorts: CANADA SAYS "NO"

BUT THE BRITISH ARMY SAYS "YES"

THE Canadian Army has decided to abolish shorts.

Only on the sports field will these now be worn. At other times the soldier in hot climates will wear long trousers.

The reason, say the Canadians, is that shorts leave the soldier vulnerable to poison ivy (which is plentiful in Canada), sunburn, cuts and scrapes, and offer no protection against mosquito and other insect bites.

The British Army will continue to wear shorts, although among medical officers there are some who are in sympathy with the Canadian attitude. One view expressed was: "The troops like short trousers because they give a feeling of freedom and allow plenty of ventilation. But we do not recommend them for use where men have to scramble about on rough ground or operate in knee-high scrub. They are wearable in places like Egypt but are useless in the tropics."

Thus it is that troops wear shorts in the Middle East but not in the jungle or in a Korean summer. The decision as to when

or where they shall be worn is made by local commanders.

Shorts have not had a long history in the British Army. Clothing regulations show that knickers, short (as they were called) were not introduced officially until after World War One, although during that war troops in Macedonia, for example, wore them. Those stocks probably came from Colonial forces who had used them for several years. The Gurkhas adopted shorts in 1913 and African troops have worn them since about 1908.

The problem of hot weather clothing was not one which greatly exercised the Army until mid-way through the Victorian reign. It was only about 1882 that tropical dress was planned. Until then, and for a while afterwards, the British soldier had to campaign under scorching sunlight in his scarlet tunic.

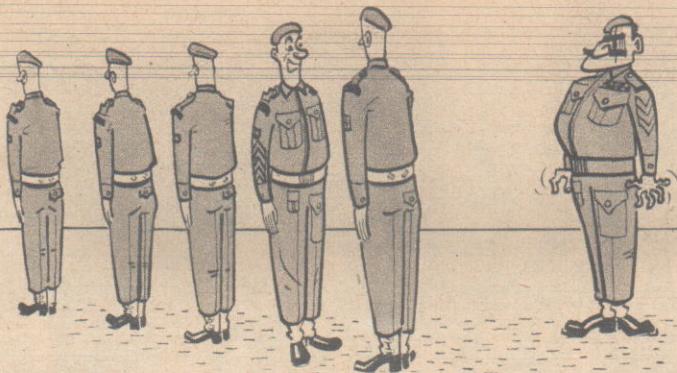
Short "trousers" of a kind were worn by Sepoys in the 1770's, at the end of the Clive era in India. They were worn under the scarlet coats and as they ended well up the thigh they had the appearance of short pants.

Recently a film director, interested in making a film based on Clive's life, called at the War Office to ask for details of soldiers' dress in those days. When shown an old print of the Sepoys he exclaimed: "This is simple. All we have to do is to dress the boys in Gorgeous Gussie's pants."

Shorts of a very unpopular design were issued in the Middle East early in World War Two. They were on the long side, having a broad turn-up which was held in place with buttons. When turned down, the extensions tucked into the hose top. The troops called them Bombay Bloomers. SOLDIER has tried to find a photograph of a soldier with his bloomers turned down — but without success.

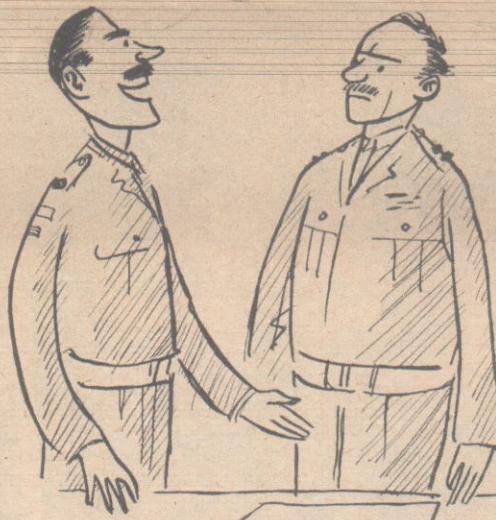


This Gurkha wears "Bombay Bloomers" in turned-up position.



WALFRE WILLIAMS

"You should have watched me, son."



Row



"Better get that board thinned out, Armstrong."

Soldier HUMOUR

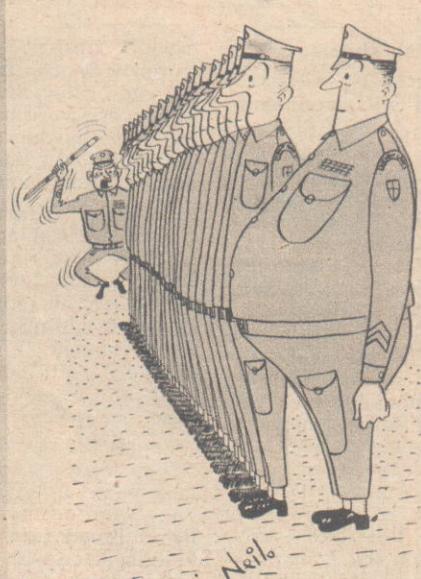
"Welcome to Headquarters — but I ought to warn you that the last establishment committee recommended down-grading your job to lance-corporal."



"Next time make it read 'MC — Gunner Jones.'"



"He's just finished an assault course — they gave him 18 months for assaulting his sergeant-major."



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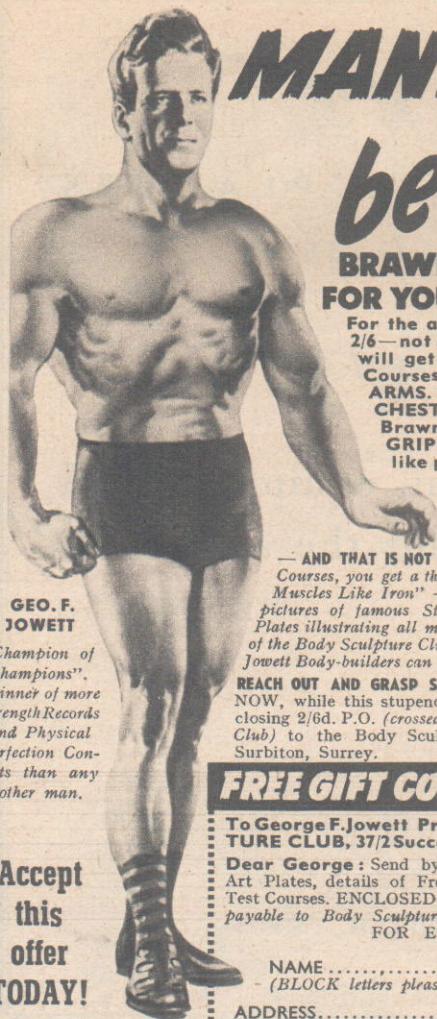


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FENCING for the FIGURE

CHAMPION swordswoman of the three Services is Warrant-Officer June Marmont, of the Women's Royal Army Corps. She is believed to be the only woman in the Corps to run a fencing class.

Warrant-Officer Marmont took up the foil for the first time in 1948. In 1949 she was the runner-up in the women's inter-Services championship at the Royal Tournament. In 1950 and 1951 she was the winner.

Five fellow-members of her Corps attend an evening class she runs once a week at Wilton, where she is warrant-officer supervising physical training in Southern Command. Sometimes Warrant-Officer Joan Roberts, who is also a member of the Corps' fencing team, comes over from the WRAC depot at Guildford to help.

The students are members of the 9th Independent Company WRAC at Wilton. What makes them take up fencing? They do so because it affords brain-quicken exercise, co-ordinates mind and muscle, and teaches grace and poise.

And also because it is Very Good For The Figure.

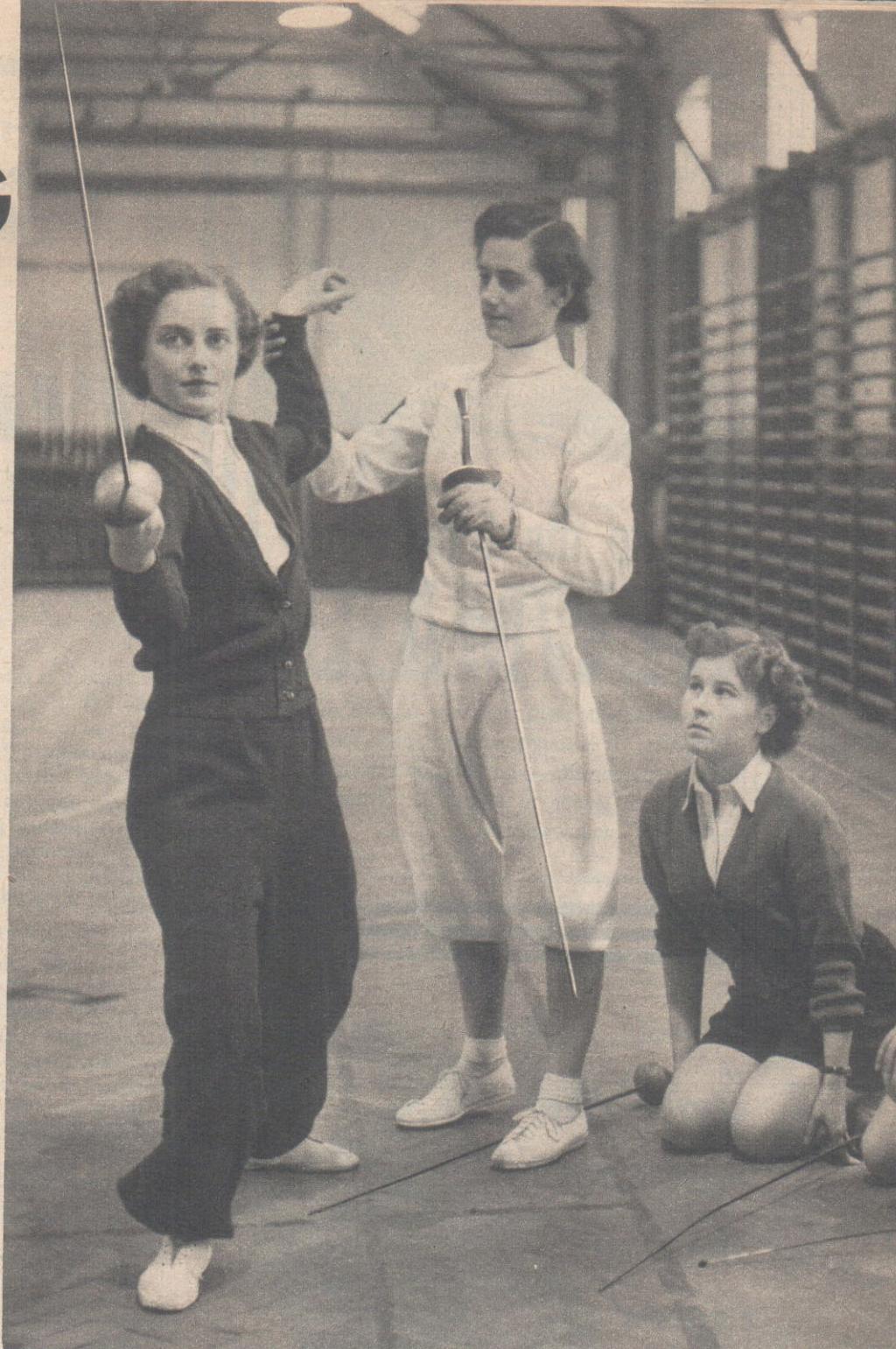
Warrant-Officer Vera Thursby, of the Engineering Accounts Branch at Southern Command (one of the first ATS to go to the Middle East in 1940) said to *SOLDIER*: "Don't think it is a case of acquiring poise without pain. Fencing, which looks so simple to the onlooker, is really hard work."

One of Warrant-Officer Marmont's pupils is the daughter of a general. She is Second-Lieutenant Anne Melsom, whose father, Major-General J. M. S. Pasley, commands 1st Anti-Aircraft Group. Her husband is serving in the Middle East.

Once a year women fencers in the Army get together at an unofficial championship, to help in selecting representatives for the Royal Tournament.

They fight only with the foil. The épée and the sabre they leave to the men.

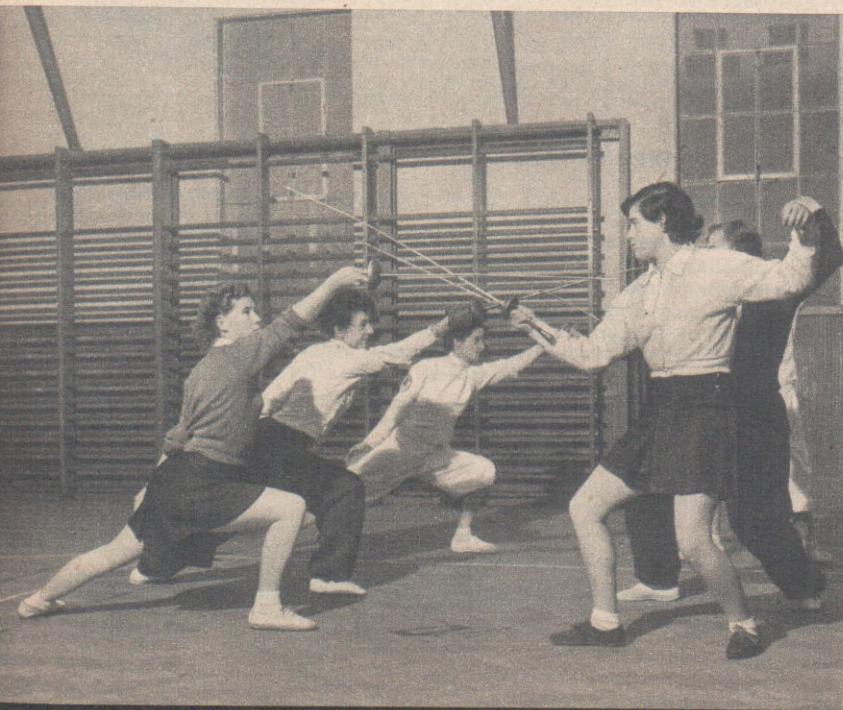
NOTE: Warrant-Officer Marmont also plays netball for the Women's Royal Army Corps team.



Above: Second-Lieutenant Anne Melsom is coached by Warrant-Officer June Marmont.

Left: Lunge and parry. The pupils belong to 9th Independent Company, WRAC.

Right: You cannot fence without a firm foundation, the right foot along a straight line to the left heel.





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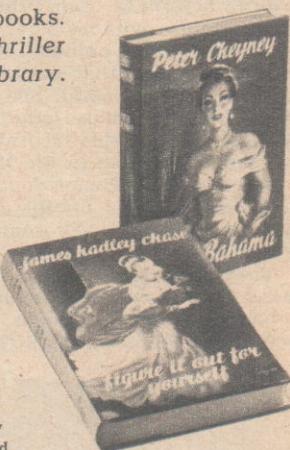
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"I Lost my Temper and Said to Hitler"

HOW many men could truthfully say what that headline says? Precious few.

If there had been more of them, the late war might never have started. If there had been more of them among the ranks of German generals *during the war*, Germany might have made things even hotter for the Allies.

The headline is taken from page 387 of "Panzer Leader" (Michael Joseph, 35s), by General Heinz Guderian, who built up Hitler's armour and led it against France and Russia. Making due allowances for the fact that anyone describing a row in which he was involved rarely underestimates his own toughness, General Guderian does seem to have had quite a series of show-downs with Hitler.

One of the first of these was when the General was in command of an armoured group in Russia, and things were going badly: "Dig in and hold the line," said Hitler. General Guderian pointed out that the ground was frozen five feet deep. "Then blast craters with heavy explosives. We had

to do that in the first world war in Flanders," said Hitler. Guderian said he had not enough howitzers or ammunition, and in any case a howitzer would make a hole only as deep as a wash-tub; as it was, they had to use high explosives to make holes in which to thrust telephone posts. "Dig in and hold the line," said Hitler.

Guderian went back, tried to hold the line, then ordered a withdrawal; for which he was relieved of his command. That was on Christmas Day, 1941. During the next two-and-a-half years he commanded no troops. In July 1944, when Germany was sliding into the abyss, Guderian was "compelled to assume" the duties of the Chief of the General Staff. That was when the rows

with Hitler really started, and by this time the Fuhrer was suffering, according to Guderian, from Parkinson's Disease (the symptoms of which include an uncontrollable trembling).

As Captain B. H. Liddell Hart points out in a foreword, the man who by his brilliant handling of tanks ensured Germany's early victories "was doomed to swallow the full bitterness to the dregs."

Captain Liddell Hart's description of Guderian as "a man who has made history — on a great scale" has been criticised in some quarters as an over-statement. But there can be little dispute that Guderian's break-through at Sedan and his fast drive to the Channel "virtually decided the issue of the Battle of France."

"For me," says Captain Liddell Hart, "it was like the repetition of a dream, as it was just the way that in pre-war years I had pictured such a force being handled by a leader who grasped the new idea — only to be told, then, that the picture was unrealistic." In this book Guderian frankly acknowledges the inspiration he received from "the books and

articles of the Englishmen, Fuller, Liddell Hart and Martel!"

General Guderian's impenitent Prussian outlook has rattled some critics and will rattle many British readers; his book nevertheless throws a vivid light on Germany in victory and in defeat.

The author perhaps goes to excessive pains to justify his orders, and sometimes into excessive detail in describing his moves and counter-moves. He even includes an appendix of many of his operational orders, headed with the name of one *chateau* after another. They give a disconcertingly clear idea of how the Allied rout of 1940 was accomplished, and Staff officers will read them with more than ordinary interest.



A German tank in a street battle: by a German war artist. The man who built up the Reich's armour acknowledges his debt to British writers.

Bottles from the Rhine

WHEN the Allies liberated Nijmegen, in 1944, three bottles were filled with water from the River Rhine and flown to Washington.

The reason? American scientists were anxious to know how far Germany had progressed in her research into the atom bomb. If she had been using the Rhine or its tributaries for cooling a uranium pile, samples of the water might show radio-activity.

With the bottles of Rhine water, the American scientific mission also sent back a bottle of French wine for testing.

The reply from Washington was: "Water negative. Wine shows activity. Send more. Action."

The mission were now impatient to see the liberation of Strasbourg, for they believed that this was where atomic research was being carried out. In November, 1944 they went in on the heels of the Allied troops, and in a wing of the medical hospital they found nuclear physicists masquerading as medical officers.

It turned out that the Germans were as far from producing a chain reaction as Britain was in 1940, before large-scale efforts were made on the atom bomb at all.

This story is told in the heavily-publicised book by Chester Wilmot, "The Struggle For Europe" (Collins, 25s). It shows that the interest of Mr. Wilmot's book does not lie entirely in its controversial aspects.

Of the 766 pages in this book, very few are really concerned with the methods by which Stalin is said to have outwitted the Allies on the political field. The first part concerns the building up of British and American strength for the Normandy D-Day; the second describes D-Day in great detail and the operations up to the fall of Paris; the third tells of the road to Berlin and the final collapse of the Reich.

Mr. Wilmot, who himself flew into Normandy as a war corre-

spondent with the glider army, brings a personal knowledge to some aspects of his story. He interrogated generals on both sides, and he appears to have read every word ever written on the liberation of Europe.

More light is shed by Mr. Wilmot on the unorthodox activities of Major-General Sir Percy Hobart, who created the "Desert Rats" in Egypt before the war, "but in the process so outraged the orthodox thinkers that he was recalled before he could test his theories in action. Driven into premature retirement in 1940, he became a corporal in the Home Guard. He was rescued from oblivion only by the personal intervention of Mr. Churchill." Ex-Corporal Hobart and his staff then devised or developed all manner of "funnies" for the invasion. One which occupied their attention was the swimming tank. This was the invention of a Hungarian-born engineer, Nicholas Straussler, who had performed the noteworthy feat of "selling" it to the War Office after the Admiralty had turned it down as unseaworthy, "primarily, it seems, because it did not have a rudder."

In July 1943 General Sir Alan Brooke ordered 900 Shermans to be converted, but the Ministry of Supply were reluctant to divert much attention to an idea condemned by the Navy. On 27 January 1944 the swimming tank was demonstrated to General Eisenhower — and then things happened. The following day he sent a British engineer to Washington with the blue-prints. Within a week American factories were hard at work on the project; and within two months 300 converted Shermans were on their way to England.

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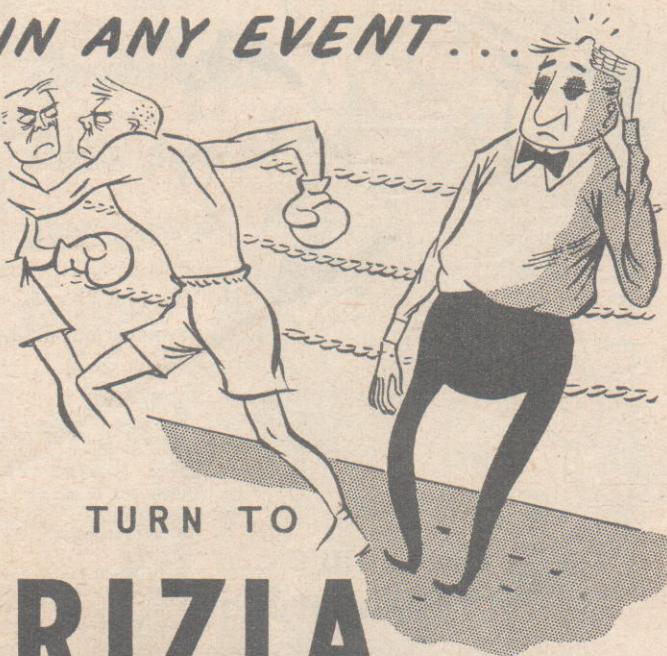
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AND ROLL THE
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BOOKSHELF (Continued)

How to Raise £5

IN 1924 the much-boosted "Rodeo" came to London. The organisers offered £5 to anyone who could remain astride a bucking broncho for a given period.

To a young officer-cadet then training at the "Shop," at Woolwich, this was a powerful lure. Unfortunately the promoters stipulated a deposit of £5 in advance, returnable win or lose. How to raise this £5 was the problem.

With a fellow cadet, the aspirant for fame journeyed to London. There the two entered a public lavatory, where the accomplice took off his suit and handed it to his colleague. The latter pawned the suit for £1 and handed over this sum as deposit on a £10 gramophone. He then took the gramophone to the pawnbroker and raised £6 on it. The rest of the story, if the reader is unable to guess it, can be found in "Memoirs of a Junior Officer," (Blackwood, 12s 6d) a diverting book of reminiscences by Lieut-Colonel M. C. A. Henniker, DSO, MC, Royal Engineers.

Lieut-Colonel Henniker, whose book ends at the point where he became a captain, obviously enjoyed soldiering. He was also a man who obviously enjoyed pulling communication cords on trains; in his time he undoubtedly had his money's worth. Once he stopped a train to allow some revelling sailors to rejoin it; if they had not done so they would have missed their ship. Three weeks later he received "a charming letter" from the captain of one of His Majesty's ships at Malta. He did not have to pay the £5 penalty.

Colonel Henniker's book has many entertaining stories of life in the Army between the wars, at the "Shop" and on the North-West Frontier, where he served under Brigadier Claude Auchinleck. At the "Shop" the author was once awarded an extra drill for "an act prejudicial to good order and military discipline in that he, when writing his name on an army form, failed to put a full stop between his initials."

It is in many ways a delightful picture that Colonel Henniker paints of the military life in India: the adjutant going through official papers while a small boy washed his feet underneath the table, "just as the British soldier of that time ... awoke to find himself being shaved, by the barber, in bed"; the Indian recruits who could not distinguish between a plan and a photograph; the elephant which saluted a British officer, and the British officers who returned the salute; the contractor who built a wall round the church to keep the cattle out, and omitted to include a door; the bearer, Sher Ali, who had such a highly developed sense of humour that when a mess guest dropped his spectacles into his soup, and everybody politely looked the other way, he dug the author in the ribs, pointed to the guest's discomfiture and laughed aloud.

This is one of the most readable books of military reminiscences for a long time.

Six Men Behind Bars

David Walker is one of many former prisoners-of-war who were bitten by the "writing bug" while in captivity.

As an officer of the Black Watch he was captured at St. Valery and remained in "the bag" for five years, in spite of several attempts to escape. After the war he was appointed Comptroller to Lord Wavell, who was then Viceroy of India.

Unlike all too many prisoners-of-war, David Walker made a success of writing. His novel "Geordie" sold more than 50,000 copies, which is four or five times the sale of many established novelists.

Now comes "The Pillar" (Collins, 12s 6d). It is a prisoner-of-war story, and the fact that it is published at this late hour, after so many other prisoner-of-war books, is an indication that it has a little something the others did not have.

Some people criticised "Geordie" because it was too "nice" a book. This one is down-to-earth, without going to the far extreme. The author presents the stories of six fellow-prisoners who share the same background of captivity. One is a failure, whom imprison-

ment at least keeps out of mischief; another is a descendant of a military family, to whom captivity is an intolerable disgrace; another is an imaginative type who writes a play in which one of the characters is his one-time girl friend — and then is called upon to play this girl friend in the camp production. A delicate situation; but Mr. Walker does not put a foot wrong.

The book shows the interactions of these widely assorted, never improbable, types. Anyone who starts this story will be sure to finish it.



David Walker: into "the bag" at St. Valery.

Into Battle — Naked

IT happened in the Arakan in 1943. A company of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was to attack a village protected by a wide watercourse, with mangrove bushes growing thickly on both banks.

The company commander, finding the water unfordable, remembered that the Inniskillings had shown, at Maida in 1806, that they could fight as well without clothes as with them. A covering-fire post was set up and the rest of the company, stark naked, stepped into the water with their rifles and tommy-guns and swam to the assault. The enemy — Burmese guerillas — fled. The naked men suffered only one casualty.

The story is told by Sir Frank Fox in "The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in the Second World War" (Gale and Polden, 21s) which covers the activities of the Regiment in Flanders in 1940, Burma, Africa, Madagascar, Italy and India. The book is notable for some fine topographical drawings to illustrate the Regiment's principal actions.

On one occasion the Command-



Serjeant Ashley Smith: the Army sent him to Carthage, Rome, Athens.

Serjeant Smith's Five Books

THE number of serving soldiers with a string of books to their name cannot be very large.

One of them is Serjeant Ashley Smith, of the Royal Army Educational Corps. He has published two novels, a collection of short stories, a book on London and a book on Greece.

It was thanks to his wartime Army service that he was able to write his "Greece: Moments of Grace," which was well reviewed in literary journals.

Serjeant Smith began his Army service in the Royal Army Service Corps in 1941, transferring in 1943 to the Royal Army Educational Corps. After a spell as educational serjeant in maritime anti-aircraft, he went to Tunisia with the first mobile educational team. Each member of the team, which included a PhD Heidelberg and a Farr Medallist in Statistics, had to be able to give any one of 50 lectures.

Later Warrant-Officer Smith took his own mobile team to Italy. There he helped to rehabilitate British prisoners-of-war, conducting parties over the Vatican and the city of Rome. After two years in Rome he was sent to Athens, and acted as lecturer and guide for the Ancient Greece historical course, operated from Athens. Presence of bandits did not prevent him from visiting Olympia, Mis-

solonghi and all the places included in the peace-time "millionaires' tour." In Mis-solonghi he was the first Englishman seen for many a year. He stood to attention at a march-past, with a Greek admiral on one side of him and a general on the other. He wrote his book while in Greece, sending it home chapter by chapter.

One task which the Army found for him was to write a guide to Britain for the Greek wives of British soldiers.

Serjeant Smith's novels were "You Forget So Quickly," a study of people in a council office at the time of Munich; and "The Brimming Lake," a story of working-class life in London. His book about London, "A City Stirs," published before the war, is being re-issued this year. It describes 24 hours in the life of the Metropolis.

Serjeant Smith rejoined the Royal Army Educational Corps last year. His first term as a soldier took him to Carthage, Rome and Athens; he hopes that his present term will be as rich in backgrounds.



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Like Captain Hornblower, African Queen is the creation of that excellent storyteller C. S. Forester. She is a decrepit vessel plying along a river in German Africa before World War One. Her one-man, gin drinking crew is recognisable as Humphrey Bogart. When war breaks out circumstances throw him into company with a prim spinster, sister of an English missionary who has just died, played by Katharine Hepburn. Together they set out in the "African Queen" to traverse the almost unnavigable stretches of river, past German forts to the great lake on the other side of which is British territory. Does romance burgeon? What do you think?

THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL

A space ship from another planet touches down in Washington slap in front of the White House. Of course there are misunderstandings between the crew and the Americans but they are resolved when a pretty girl speaks the right code words, which in case you ever need them, are: "KLAATO, BORADA, LIKTO." The stars are Michael Rennie, Patricia Neal, and Hugh Marlowe.

THE SECRET OF CONVICT LAKE

An interesting situation develops when five escaped convicts descend on a lonely village from which all the men have departed. A grannie (Ethel Barrymore) has a stack of firearms under her bed. Gene Tierney is one of the ladies and the convicts are led by Glen Ford and Zachary Scott.

GOLDEN GIRL

Another song and dance picture in colour, but for a change this one is set in the American Civil War. Mitzi Gaynor, the star, has been warmly welcomed by the London critics. Also in the cast are Dale Robertson, Dennis Day and James Barton.

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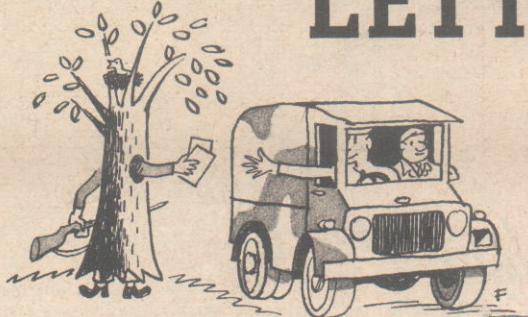
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LETTERS



MR CHURCHILL'S MEDALS

A discussion arose in my Territorial Centre as to Mr. Churchill's medals. I could account (or thought I could) for some ten War medals plus the Medaille Militaire, and the civilian honours CH and OM. Perhaps you would please publish a list. — CQMS L. Moxon, 5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, Calliope, Parkstone Drive, Camberley.

★ Mr. Churchill's orders and decorations are as follows:

BRITISH ORDERS: Order of Merit; Order of the Companions of Honour.

FOREIGN ORDERS: Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Leopold (Belgium); Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Netherlands Lion (Holland); Grand Cross of the Grand-Ducal Order of the Oak Crown (Luxembourg); Grand Cross with Chain of the Order of St. Olav (Norway); Chevalier of the Order of the Elephant (Denmark).

SERVICE MEDALS: India General Service (Punjab Frontier) 1895; Sudan 1896—97; Queen's South Africa 1899—1902 with six Bars (Cape Colony, Tugela Heights, Orange Free State, Relief of Ladysmith, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill); 1914—15 Star; General Service Medal 1914—18; Allied Victory Medal 1918; 1939—45 Star; Africa Star; Italy Star; France and Germany Star; Defence Medal; War Medal 1939—45.

COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS: King George V's Coronation Medal 1911; King George V's Silver Jubilee Medal 1935; King George VI's Coronation Medal 1937.

BRITISH DECORATIONS: Territorial Decoration.

FOREIGN MEDALS AND DECORATIONS: Spanish Order of Military Merit 1st Class; Cuban Medal; Distinguished Service Medal (USA); Khedive's Sudan Medal; Belgian Croix-de-Guerre 1915 and Palm; Luxembourg War Medal 1940; Danish Liberation Medal; Medaille Militaire (France) 1st Class; French Croix-de-Guerre 1940 and Palm; USAAC Pilot's Wings.

Mr. Churchill limits himself to wearing his medals (25 on the one bar), the Order of Merit, Companion of Honour and one foreign decoration at a time, depending on the kind of function and the country he is visiting.

● SOLDIER welcomes letters.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

WIDOW'S PENSION

Much has already been done to raise the standard of pay and pensions, but why cannot a pensioner's widow draw his pension? It seems unjust that when a man dies within a short time of leaving the Army, his pension dies with him. As the average ex-soldier lives for 20 to 40 years after his discharge, the Treasury is obviously prepared to pay a pension for that time. To save that money because the husband has died early in life must suggest extreme meanness to his widow. — Arm QMS S. Stone, 7th Armoured Brigade, BAOR.

★ There is no regulation by which the widow of a deceased soldier, other than a substantive warrant officer class one, can be given a pension in respect of her husband's rank and service. In the case of warrant officers class one the pension (which is paid irrespective of whether the husband died during his service or his retirement) is in the region of £30 a year. Should his widow remarry and again be widowed, she can ask for the pension to be renewed.

The widow of any soldier can claim a pension where the husband's death was due to service.

RELEASE

The release of Regular soldiers retained in the Army since August 1950 has started. All those who were due out in August, September, October and November 1950 will have left the Service by the end of this month (March).

The latest release details are as follows:

| Release due before ban | Release now due |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Dec 1950 | Apr 1952 |
| Jan 1951 | May 1952 |
| Feb 1951 | May 1952 |
| Mar 1951 | Jun 1952 |
| Apr 1951 | Jun 1952 |
| May 1951 | Jul 1952 |
| Jun 1951 | Jul 1952 |
| Jul 1951 | Aug 1952 |
| Aug 1951 | Aug 1952 |
| Sep 1951 | Sep 1952 |

The longest any soldier has been retained is 17 months. By next September the retention period will have been reduced to one year only.

NATIONAL SERVICE WIFE

Does the wife of a National Serviceman receive a different scale of marriage allowance from that given to a Regular's wife? My contribution, after 18 months service, has increased by 7s a week, but the Army's does not appear to have altered. I thought that during their last six months National Servicemen were treated in every way as Regulars. — Sapper G. Fox, 26th Field Engineering Regiment RE, Germany.

★ During his first 18 months a National Serviceman of the rank of corporal or below pays 10s 6d, to which the Army adds 35s, making 45s 6d in all. After 18 months (when the husband's pay is increased to Regular rates) he pays 17s 6d, but the Army's contribution does not alter. Regular soldiers pay 17s 6d, and the Army adds 42s. Thus the wife of the Regular receives 59s 6d, while the wife of the National Serviceman in his last six months receives 52s 6d.

FIRST STRIPE

In these days of rapid promotion for soldiers from the rank of private to lance-corporal, which is really the first important stepping stone in promotion, there appears to be no simple



book of guidance — containing "do's" and "don'ts" — for lance-corporals. Do any of your readers know of any publication which might meet this need? — Major A. L. T. Sassoon, Camp Commandant, HQ Land Forces, BAPO No. 1.

ARMY RANKS

To settle an argument can you tell me if there has ever been in the Army: (a) a King's Corporal; (b) a rank between private and corporal; and (c) commissioned rank below second-lieutenant? — Sgt. B. C. Davey, West Block B, Hawkmoor Chest Hospital, Bovey Tracey, Devon.

★ (a) No; (b) No (lance-corporal is an appointment and not a rank); (c) Not since the 17th century, when there was a commissioned rank of quartermaster, which was junior to all other commissioned ranks.

SERGEANT'S PROBLEM

Can you solve the problem of Sergeant "X" who, in February 1941, at the age of 20 volunteered for the Army. He was due out in 1946 but deferred for one year. In 1947 he again deferred for six months, but in October of that year he decided to sign on for five years with the Colours and seven with the Reserve which he has since extended to 12 years. He now wishes to complete 22 years for pension.

Would he be discharged to pension in February 1963?

I feel that as he has not broken his service he should be able to count his war service towards his pension. Yet the difficulty appears to be that as he entered his five-years engagement in 1947 he can count only the 22 years service from that date. — W. J. Morris, The Grange, Blackpill, Swansea.

★ In October 1956, when he has completed nine years of his present 12 years engagement, Sergeant "X"

will be able to extend to complete 22 years. This 22-year period will count from 1947, when his current engagement began, but when he has completed 22 years reckonable service on full pay (including his previous service from 1941) he may, if he wishes, claim his discharge to pension. This means that provided he has unbroken full-pay service he will be able to leave the Army on pension in February 1963.

EXTRA MONEY

Is a soldier entitled to extra money after 20 years' service? — Cpl. F. Millward, ACC, Larkhill.

★ A soldier is paid an extra sixpence a day after five years' service and another sixpence after ten. A corporal receives four increments of sixpence each after four, eight, 12 and 16 years in his rank. There is no bonus after 20 years.

TWO PENSIONS

I have almost completed pensionable service but have contracted tuberculosis, for which I may receive a disability pension. If I do, shall I be debarred from my service pension? I have heard that a man cannot receive two pensions from the State. — "Warrant Officer" (name and address supplied).

★ A man can receive two pensions. Disability pension (paid by the Ministry of Pensions) would be paid in addition to a service pension (administered by the Royal Hospital, Chelsea).

ANY RESERVE?

After the war I was placed on "Z" Reserve. Later I joined the Territorial Army for two years. What is my position now — do I automatically become a "Z" Reservist again to face the possibility of a call-up next year? — A. A. C. Langford, Moordown, Bournemouth.

★ A former "Z" Reservist who completes the period of Territorial service for which he enlisted is not transferred again to the "Z" Reserve.

BROKEN MARRIAGE

I am married with a small child, and am serving overseas. My wife has gone off with another man. As I am a Roman Catholic, divorce is out of the question. Can I stop the marriage allowance? — "Angry Husband" (name supplied) Egypt.

★ Any soldier can ask for his marriage allowance to be stopped, but this does not relieve him of his responsibility to maintain his wife unless he has corroborated evidence to show why he should not do so. In any case, he has a legal liability to maintain his children.

When both parties are in Britain the wife can go to court to ask for a maintenance order. Where the husband is overseas, the Paymaster continues to send the wife the allotment for six weeks after the date on which he is requested to withhold it. This is to give the wife time to take any action she wishes to ensure her continued maintenance. A wife may apply to the War Office for her maintenance, and the War Office has power under the Army Act to grant it if the husband cannot produce evidence to show why he should not continue to keep her.

Husbands faced with this problem should consult their Company Commanders. More details are to be found in the Manual of Pay Duties 1949 (paragraphs 359-366).

More Letters Overleaf



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MORE LETTERS

COMMISSIONS

Can officers who were originally granted emergency commissions ask for their parchment commissions, or are these issued only to Regular officers? May application be made direct to the War Office? — "Interested" (name and address supplied).

★ All officers may apply for their parchment commissions, although priority is given to Regular and Territorial officers. They should write direct to the Under-Secretary of State for War, The War Office (MS2a).

MOUNTED BAGPIPES

Have you ever heard of a mounted bagpipe band which is supposed to have existed in India in the 1880's? It belonged, I am told, to either the 17th Bengal Cavalry or 17th Bengal Lancers. — C. J. Potts, 42a Brunswick Square, Hove.

★ This band did exist and photographs of it have appeared in various Indian Army histories. It belonged to the 17th Bengal Cavalry, which was absorbed into the 17th Bengal Lancers in 1922.

TRADE BADGES

Are RASC tradesmen allowed to wear tradesmen's badges "A" or "B" on their battledress? I notice that members of REME wear them. — Cpl. L. Simmons (address supplied).

★ Yes, if they have passed out in the appropriate trades.

MISSING MAUSER

I am writing in the hope that your readers may be able to help me recover a 7mm Mauser rifle which belonged to my late father, General P. J. Liebenberg of the South African Republic. It was captured by British Forces in March 1902 in the Western Transvaal, Klerksdorp district. The rifle is of sentimental value to me, the only surviving son, and I hope that someone who may know where it is will be able to restore it to my family. On the rifle's butt is a small plate engraved P. J. Liebenberg and it is an octagon-barrelled sporting model.

I am a veteran of World War One. I served with the late General L. Botha in the First Mounted Brigade in South-West Africa. My son served as a lieutenant in World War Two in Africa and Italy. — S. C. Liebenberg, 14 Corlett Drive, Illovo, PO Northlands, Johannesburg, Transvaal, South Africa.

FROM A GLOSTER

I have seen newspaper reports that the last of the 41 men of the Gloucesters who fought their way back to their regimental lines have now reached England. May I point out that there are still a few of us here, including Privates Alcock and Carter, who took part in the River Imjin battle. — Sjt. G. A. Wiltshire, 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, Korea.

KOREA QUERY

I understand that 18 months is the length of time served in Korea by a soldier who has come straight from Britain. What is the position of anyone like myself who served in the Middle East for ten months before coming out here? — Spr. J. Farrar, Ward 8, 29th British General Hospital, Japan.

★ Normally a soldier is sent back to Britain from Korea when (a) he has concluded three years on his current overseas tour or (b) he has served 18 months in Korea. In this instance (b) will occur first; Sapper Farrar will return to Britain after 18 months in Korea. If he leaves with his unit before then, and it serves elsewhere, he will have to finish the balance of his three years abroad.

DOUBLE SERVICE

Does service in Sierra Leone count as double service? — J. Holmes, Steward, Services Club, Normanton, Yorks.

★ Not now. It did at one time, as did service anywhere in British West Africa. The privilege can now only be claimed by a soldier exercising a reserved right to pension after 21 years service under the 1940 Pay Warrant. Even then, his West African tour must be one which was begun before 30 September 1937.

The only soldiers who have a reserved right to Old Code pension rights are those who before 19 December 1945 undertook to complete a pensionable engagement of 21 years service. If it has been continuous unforfeited full pay service after the age of 18 years he can, if he likes, claim instead the new 1950 pension rates with a terminal grant for 21 years service. In this event service in West Africa does not count double.

MEDALS AND EMBLEMS

I saw a soldier wearing the ribbons of two Territorial Army Efficiency Medals and on the second one were two bars. How much service does this represent? — Cpl. J. Kirkwood, The Inns of Court Regiment, 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC 2.

★ The two ribbons and two bars represent 36 years qualifying service. Provided certain conditions are fulfilled, embodied service during World Wars One and Two is reckonable as twofold towards these awards.

The medals are: first ribbon (12 years) — the Territorial Efficiency Medal. This is awarded on completion of 12 years qualifying service between March 1908 and 22 September 1930. A clasp would represent 24 years continuous service.

Second ribbon and two rose emblems (24 years) — the Efficiency Medal (Territorial). This is awarded on completion of 12 years qualifying service after 23 September 1930 and a clasp is awarded for each additional six years continuous qualifying service.

Rose emblems on the ribbon denote the award of clasps when the medal is not worn.

GIBRALTAR CRY

Can anyone explain to me in basic English how the cost of living is supposed to have fallen for the single man in Gibraltar and increased for the married man? — "Rock Happy Gunner" (name supplied) Gibraltar.

★ The local overseas allowance in Gibraltar for the single man (4d a day) has recently been cancelled and that for the married man accompanied by his family increased. The allowance is intended to cover essential expenditure met abroad but not in Britain. Rates are reviewed periodically and those in Gibraltar were adjusted as the result of a check on current prices.

MALTA LEAVE

I am a Maltese on a regular British Army engagement and am stationed with my family in Singapore. When my overseas tour ends can we be sent on leave direct to Malta, or would we have to go to Britain first and then return to the island? — Cfn. Philip Coleiro, REME, Singapore.

★ Maltese on Regular Army engagements are treated as British soldiers for leave — Britain is their "home." This means they would have to pay their own fares if wishing to take leave in Malta.

There is no War Office objection to a soldier returning from the Far East disembarking at Malta, but once his leave is up the rule is that he must travel to Britain at his own expense.

OLD ARMY CARS

When I leave the Army I am starting a business for which I need ex-WD vehicles, including a staff car and some motor-cycles. Is there a scheme whereby ex-Servicemen can buy these? — Driver R. Clark, Royal Signals, Pocklington, Yorks.

★ There is no direct channel by which Army vehicles can be bought. Periodically there are public auctions at which some are available. Auctions are announced in the Board of Trade Journal and catalogues can be obtained from the auctioneers.

AMERICAN RIFLE

You published a picture (December) of "an American 75 mm recoilless rifle." In fact, it is the smaller 57 mm weapon which you show. The 75 mm is about 162 lbs in weight and is not likely to be fired from the shoulder as shown in your picture. — Sjt. Francis C. Cunningham, 26th Infantry Regiment, US Army.

★ SOLDIER thanks several readers among the United States Forces who have written on this subject.

PROTEST FROM PARIS

To illustrate your article on languages (SOLDIER, October) you printed a picture of a Military Police sign, the caption of which read: "The Royal Military Police need a good working knowledge of languages too."

This example of good working knowledge contains an error. The French for "Keep to the right" is not "Tenez la droite" as painted on the RMP sign, but "Tenez votre droite" or better still "Serrez votre droite." This error used to be — it still may be — perpetrated on a signboard on the London-Dover road — just to remind the French that they were now "playing away," I suppose. It is an interesting example of French

precision; not a "general" right, but the right of the person addressed. —

Major H. V. Collier, SHAPE, Paris.

★ SOLDIER asked the Automobile Club de France for a verdict. They replied that it was usual in France to use "Tenez votre droite" rather than "Tenez la droite."

GERMAN FIANCEE

When I was in Rhine Army I met a German girl whom I now wish to marry. As I am no longer in Germany I am wondering whether the six-months waiting period imposed by the Army still applies. Is it true that under German law the religious wedding ceremony is not recognised, and couples must also go through a civil ceremony? — "Husband-to-Be" (name supplied) Korea.

★ The Army rules governing marriage with Germans are only applicable to soldiers stationed in Germany. If a soldier has ceased to be stationed there the military authorities will have no objection to him visiting Germany in his own time and at his own expense, to marry a German. It is correct that under German law the civil ceremony (which must precede the religious one) is the only one legally recognised.

RATION CARDS

Has there ever been a 48-hour ration card? — Cpl. W. Walton, Commercial Street, Mansfield.

★ No, the shortest-period card has always been that for 72 hours, which contains coupons for half the ordinary weekly civilian entitlement. Men out of mess on leave or duty between 24 and 72 hours receive this card. Men who regularly spend their rest day at home or with the same friends each week are entitled to one 72-hour ration card to cover three weeks, issued in advance. This concession is to help mothers who would otherwise have to stretch their rations.

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ASPRO LIMITED,
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'ASPRO' acts in three ways at once—and the swiftness of its action takes a cold by surprise. You soon see the last of a cold when you take 'ASPRO'. 'ASPRO' acts as an anti-pyretic or fever-reducer—so that the feverishness quickly disappears. At the same time 'ASPRO' pain-relieving action is taking effect, soothing away the aches and the heavy-headed feelings. 'ASPRO' soothes the nerves, too, dispelling the upset and discomfort. For swift, sure, effective action, get 'ASPRO'—it is absolutely safe—so safe that even a child can take it.

'ASPRO'
CLEARs THE COLD & LEAVES
YOU FIT AND REFRESHED

FROM N.A.A.F.I. CANTEENS AND CHEMISTS EVERYWHERE

DRY HAIR?



Don't try to hide dry hair—it will soon become scurfy and brittle. The only sure way is to *correct it*—with Silvikrin Lotion WITH OIL. The lotion tones up the whole scalp; the *Pure Silvikrin* content—nature's own hair food—provides the essential substances for healthy hair growth. And the natural oils that dry hair lacks are there, too—keeping your hair wonderfully well groomed. Massage a few drops into your scalp daily—and you will have done something fundamental for your hair's health.

2/9 and 4/10 at all chemists and hairdressers.

Silvikrin
LOTION WITH OIL



RISE AND SHINE!

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

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

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

Deep-shine with **KIWI**

It puts life into leather



WHO WANTS MY NOSE?

Always sniffing...
can't smell...can't taste
...can't breathe



Are you, too, a victim of Catarrh? Do you wake up in the morning with your nose and throat stuffy and congested? You can STOP Catarrh where it starts. Clear your NOSE—and keep it clear—with 'Mentholatum'. This amazing breathable balm—when applied into the nostrils and rubbed on the chest—volatilises instantly.

Its medicated vapours quickly subdue inflammation, free congestion, and open up stuffed breathing passages. 'Mentholatum' stays where it is put and keeps active for hours. It breaks up Head Colds overnight and even obstinate Catarrh yields to it. Breathing is believing, so get some 'Mentholatum' right away.

MENTHOLATUM

Prices in Great Britain and Northern Ireland—in Opal Jars 2/- and Pocket Tins 9d.

Made only by
The Mentholatum Co. Ltd. (Estd. 1889), Slough, England.

Silvikrin Hair Tonic Lotion is also available without oil for naturally oily hair.
For thinning hair and severe cases of dandruff use Pure Silvikrin, the concentrated organic hair food

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE



DEFENCE CHIEF:

Field-Marshal Lord Alexander.

(See Story on Pages 16-17)

Photograph: Imperial War Museum.