

SOLDIER

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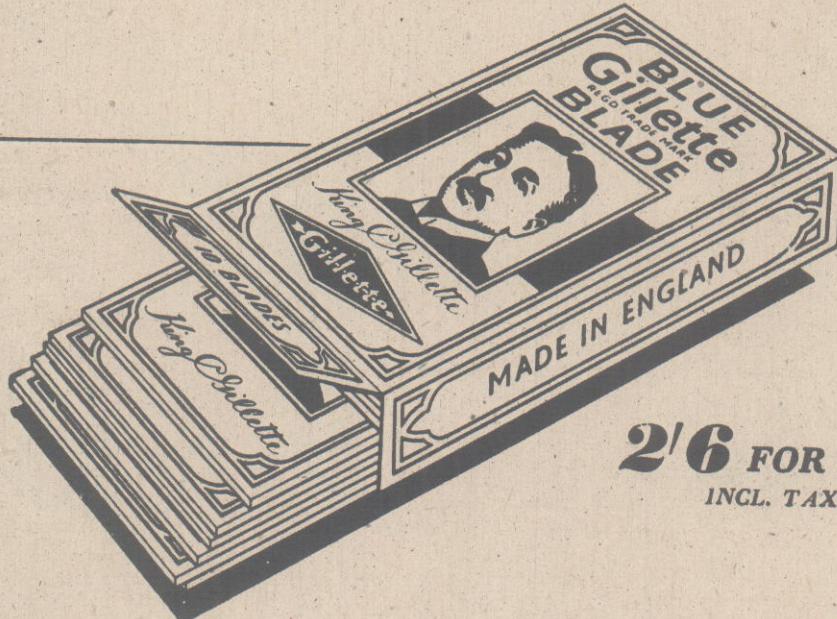
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THE BIRTH OF THE COLOURS

(See Page Five)

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If you had been

a soldier in 1830

At home in barracks, you would have had only two meals a day—at 7.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., and the cost stopped from your pay. For nineteen hours each day you would have been without food.

In the evenings you would have drunk your fill of bad liquor in barrack canteens conducted by private contractors, often unscrupulous, who paid to the State a monthly sum called "privilege money" for the right to trade. This right was considered a rich prize, and large sums were offered which could be recovered only by excessive prices. The canteens were frequently dirty and ill-lighted hovels, notorious for their exorbitant charges and poisonous liquor—the cause of much drunkenness and crime.

Reforms were gradually introduced, and in 1917 the contractor system was finally abolished, and control of service canteens taken over by the Navy and Army Canteen Board, operating on the principle that canteen profits should be returned to the Services in cash or amenities. In 1921 this principle was permanently established with the birth of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes—Naafi as it is today.

NAAFI

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Naafi still needs female staff for canteens at Home. Write to: Staff Manager, Naafi, Ruxley Towers, Claygate, Esher, Surrey, England



Let's talk of Service

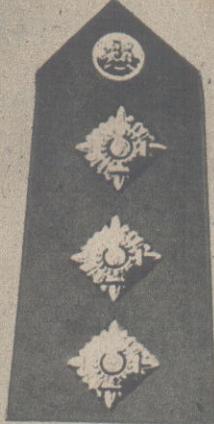
Ford maintenance facilities are something worth talking about. Standard parts for repairs, standardised prices for everything from a split pin to a re-conditioned engine, specially Ford-trained mechanics at Ford Dealers — that adds up to a lot of service. And to-day's Ford car — well, you know the spirit of the Fords and Fordsons that went overseas with you in the war. To-day's Fords have got all their spirit—and more. We're working hard at Dagenham to have your Ford ready for when you come back — and we mean working, soldier.

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THE BIRTH OF THE COLOURS

IN the colours, standards and guidons of the British Army is symbolised the honour of its regiments. For centuries the gaily-embroidered pieces of silk with the gold and silken fringes represented the eye of King and Country in battle and they still represent the glory of regiments on parade.

By long association they have become the epitome of all that men fight for and they have marked rallying-points when fighting was hottest.

In the Roman armies, when the cohorts wavered, the officers would throw the eagles into the ranks of the enemy to stimulate men who would gladly die to recapture them rather than face the disgrace of their loss.

A similar loyalty to the colours was shown by the men of the West Norfolk Regiment (now the 2nd Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment) when they and the officers of the troopship *Sarah Sands* were left to fight a fire on board after the crew had panicked and taken to the boats. Many unsuccessful attempts were made to rescue the colours from the ship's dining room before a private finally brought them to safety. The story of the bravery they showed that day was ordered by the War Office to be read out at the head of every regiment and by the German Emperor to be read at the head of the regiments of his army.

Though the practice of carrying the colours into battle has been dropped, now that a chance shell or bomb might destroy them without sight of the enemy, their significance has not diminished.

And so only the best is good enough when regimental colours are made. When a member of the Royal Family or a distinguished

continued on Page 6

An embroideress goes to work on the design of a regimental colour; the design will be the same on both sides of the material. The protea flowers on this one show it is destined for a South African regiment.

SOLDIER Cover

WHEN SOLDIER visited Hobsons, work had just been finished on the new King's Colour for the Rand Light Infantry, to be presented by the King during the Royal Tour of South Africa.

The Rand Light Infantry was formed in 1904, and as the Transvaal Light Infantry, saw service in the Zulu rebellion of 1906. As the Rand Light Infantry it saw service in the South-West Africa campaign in World War One and then provided a company for East Africa.

It dug defences at Alamein in 1941 before going into action at Bardia, as part of the 2nd South African Division. With the 3rd South African Division, the Rand Light Infantry fought at Gazala, was in the rearguard of the South African Forces during the retreat to Alamein and the spearhead of the South African attack when Montgomery launched his great offensive. It later went to Italy. It has now been established as a motorised battalion of the Active Citizen Force, the Union's Territorial Army.

(Colour picture by SOLDIER photographer Desmond O'Neill.)





Mr. A. E. Mitchell, who has been a Herald Painter at the College of Arms for 40 years, at work on a design for the Inspector of Regimental Colours.



Continuing THE BIRTH OF THE COLOURS

person presents a regiment with its new colours, the colours themselves are works worthy of what they represent.

Most of the colours for the British Army and a good many for the Empire's armies and foreign countries are made a

couple of minutes' walk from Piccadilly Circus, in the workshops of Hobson and Sons (London) Ltd. For nearly 100 years, Hobsons, who claim they will fit out a soldier with everything except his boots, have been supplying uniforms, headdresses, accoutrements, laces, embroidery and regimental colours to the British Army and a good many other services.

Regulations for colours are very strictly laid down, and although they vary in detail according to the traditions and privileges of regiments, the main formula is prescribed by the War Office in Regulations for the Clothing of the Army, 1936. This is based on standard sealed patterns made by Hobsons for the War Office many years ago and all colours follow these patterns. Infantry colours are always 3 ft 9 ins by 3 ft with a fringe of about two inches; standards for Dragoon Guards are 2 ft 5½ ins by 2 ft 2 ins and for the Household Cavalry 2 ft 3 ins by 1 ft 10½ ins, and guidons for the rest of the cavalry 3 ft 5 ins to the ends of the points of the swallow-tails and 2 ft 3 ins deep on the lance. Sizes for the lances and pikes which carry them are also laid down and Infantry colours are mounted on a pike 8 ft 7½ ins long including the Royal crest at the top.

Detail of the colours is prepared by the artists of the Inspector of Regimental Colours at the College of Arms, and, according to Clothing Regulations, "the sole authority on all details appertaining to these articles". When Hobsons receive an order, it is accompanied by a detailed drawing from the Inspector, signed personally by him.

The silk used for the job is organzine warp, the very best kind, spun by the silk-worm in the middle of its labours as it makes a cocoon. With this kind of silk the gossamer threads don't have to be spun together, they cling when they are thrown together. The silk fabric is woven by hand. From the manufacturer, this kind of silk costs about £5 a yard, without purchase tax.

On to the silk fabric, Hobsons' expert draughtsman draws the pattern indicated by the Inspector of Regimental Colours, and then the silk is stretched over a frame and women begin the job of embroidery. This is a highly

The Colours of the old West Norfolk Regiment (now the 2nd Bn. The Dorsetshire Regiment) were recently transferred to Sherborne Abbey. These were the colours that featured in the *Sarah Sands* epic in 1757.

skilled job and a girl who is apprenticed at Hobsons on leaving school will probably work there more than ten years before she is considered good enough to try her hand at this kind of work. In the days when every well-educated Miss could embroider a sampler, fashionable Mamas would pay Hobsons' substantial premiums for their daughters to learn the art.

All the work except the battle-honours is "double-sided," which means that it must look the same on both sides of the silk, so there must be no loose ends or knots showing. It is part of the craft of the embroiderer to know how to conceal them. Battle honours are worked separately on scrolls and "edged" on to the colours afterwards. The price, by the time the job is finished, may be anything over £150.

Each regiment has two colours, the King's Colour and the Regimental Colour. The King's Colour is basically the Union Jack while the Regimental Colour is in the colours of the regiment's facings, except in the Foot Guards, where the Union Jack Colour is the Regimental Colour.

Battle honours go first on the Regimental Colour, at the sides of the emblem; if there are more than nine honours to go on to the Regimental Colour, they are incorporated in an outer wreath of laurel. Up to the end of World War One no battle honours were put on the King's Colour, but in that war regiments received so many battle-honours that permission was given for ten picked World War One honours to be put on the King's Colour. Hobsons are now wondering where World War Two honours will go.

Lace and gold cord for the fringes are made on looms on the top floor of Hobsons, probably the only looms for miles in the middle of London. Here, Mr. H. W. Searle, the foreman weaver, is in charge. He has been with Hobsons since he was apprenticed as a boy, 56 years ago. His father, who was with the firm when it first set up looms, was foreman weaver then and Mr. Searle's son served an apprenticeship on Hobsons' looms before going away to become a foreman weaver in his own right.

"One of these looms has been here 70 years and another 66," Mr. Searle told me. "The modern

SOLDIER to Soldier

HERE is one man in the Army whose edifying job it is to go through the daily newspapers and clip out all references, friendly and otherwise, to the Army, and then circulate a daily summary for the enlightenment of War Office chiefs.

Anyone relying solely on a daily press summary would gain a peculiar idea of what the Army is doing and thinking. A typical day's haul would show that the Army had been holding caviare parties in the breadless Ruhr, that officers were getting better coffins than men, that deserters were busy writing to say that the latest surrender terms were still unattractive, and that athlete Joe Binks was lecturing to the troops in Palestine and receiving the same treatment as a major-general.

At The Same Time ...

Of course there is plenty of sensible stuff printed about the Army if you know where to look for it, and SOLDIER salutes those newspapers which print it; but to others the rumour of an orgy is always more likely to appeal than the report of an operation. It is notorious that normality is not news, and the papers would be pretty dull if it was.

On the same day that Joe Binks was enjoying major-general status in Palestine, probably an educational warrant officer was trying to initiate a discussion on the peace treaties among a group of gunners in Westphalia, and receiving no such reverence; and those Infantrymen who were not applauding Joe Binks were probably looking for hidden arms under manure heaps. While a deserter was reading with satisfaction his published letter saying that he could not see his way to give up a good civvy job to surrender to the Army, his more conscientious comrades were felling trees to build houses for Britain; while the millionth man to go through such-and-such a release centre was being presented with a bottle of whisky and the freedom of the camp, the five-millionth man to set foot in Europe was probably chasing would-be looters from a food dump; and an elderly officer, instead of looking quietly forward to the day when he would lie in a superior coffin, was putting his hand in his pocket to entertain the concert party which he had called in to entertain his men.

None of these people get their names in the paper, nor are they likely to so long as they continue to do a useful, unspectacular job. Though of course the Army will always get a good press if it turns out in strength on home ground to fight in the sacred cause of the Sunday joint.

It's just one of those things a soldier has to get used to. Ten thousand men, by their presence and example, will ensure order in a trouble spot where otherwise there might be riots and rapine; but the man who gets into headlines is the one who tries to smuggle a girl home in a crate.

THESE COLOURS MAY GO BACK

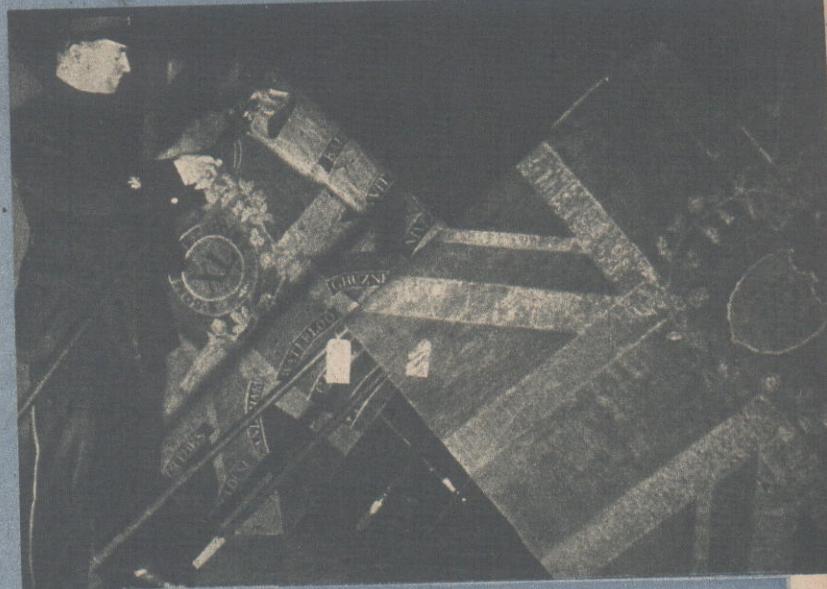
TROPHIES captured by British regiments are to be returned to their captors after more than 100 years in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

They are part of a collection of French, American and Chinese trophies, including 13 eagles and 22 stands of colours, deposited at the Hospital by King William IV in 1835.

At the time they were deposited, veterans who had fought for them were among the pensioners who cared for them and there were few regimental chapels or museums where they could have been kept safely. At various times, regiments have asked for the insignia they captured to be transferred to them, but the Hospital's Commissioners have always refused to part with trophies entrusted to them by King William IV without the direct consent of the reigning Sovereign, which has not been given. From time to time, however, regiments have been permitted to borrow them.

Now the King has given his consent to trophies being restored, in certain conditions, to regiments which can establish a claim to them. Sorting out claims, however, will not be easy in some cases. What, for instance, is to be done with an eagle that was captured by a regiment which is now two entirely separate regiments of the British Army? Then there is the difficulty of disposing of an eagle which is said to have been borrowed by a certain Scottish regiment and which left Chelsea made of gold and returned, by some strange feat of transmutation, made of brass.

Some of the claims are crystal clear, like that of the Royal Scots Greys to the eagle and flag of the 45th French Regiment, captured at Waterloo by Sjt. Ewart, Scots Greys. Writing to his father, Ewart said: "It was in the first charge about 11 o'clock, I took the Eagle from the enemy. He and I had a hard contest for it. He thrust for my groin, I parried it off and cut him through the head, after which I was attacked by one of their Lancers who threw his lance at me but missed the mark by my throwing it off my sword at my right side; then I cut him from the chin upwards, which went through his teeth. Next I was attacked by a foot soldier, who after firing at me charged me with his bayonet, but he very soon lost the combat, for I parried it and cut him down through the head, so that finished the contest for the Eagle... I took the Eagle through Brussels



Against a background of Colours of British regiments, the RSM. of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, holds one of the French eagles captured during the Napoleonic wars.

midst the acclamations of thousands of spectators who saw it."

An equally clear claim is that of the Essex Regiment to the eagle they captured at Salamanca and which they have several times borrowed from Chelsea. It was taken by Lieutenant Pearce when his regiment charged the French infantry and "seeing the trophy unscrewed from the staff and in the act of being concealed, he gallantly attacked the Frenchmen from whose hands he wrested it, and presented it on the field of battle to the General who requested him to retain it and present it the following morning to Lord Wellington." Lieutenant Pearce was given a company for this exploit; he last saw the trophy when he visited the Royal Hospital in 1847.

It is expected there will be a ceremony towards the end of the summer, when colour-parties of the regiments which make successful claims will visit the Royal Hospital to receive the trophies from the Pensioners.

looms have a few mechanical improvements, but they don't turn out any better work than these do."

For more intricate work, Hobsons still have hand-looms, and you can see spinning-wheels of the type which clutter-up antique shops scattered round the floor.

When the colours are complete, they are consecrated before being presented to the regiment. Miss Clare Miller, Hobsons' manageress, is often invited to the presentation ceremony to represent the firm. She has become an expert on the ceremony and even more is she an expert on colours.

The official life of a colour in the Infantry is 20 years, but it is 15 in the Foot Guards and 10 in the Household Cavalry, where the colours get more wear and tear on ceremonial parades. This does not mean that they are necessarily changed at the end of those periods; often they come back for repairs and renovation instead. The Royal Marines' Colours, which were renovated for the Victory Parade, were previously in Hobsons for renovation in 1910 and nobody there now remembers when they were first made.

Apart from additions to battle honours, the pattern of colours generally remains constant, but in the Foot Guards company badges are used in rotation on the Regimental Colour; the King's Company of the Grenadier Guards is also an exception in that its Colour is presented afresh by each Sovereign and has on it, to quote the Heralds, "the Royal Cypher proper and revered, interlaced."

One of the earliest recorded British forerunners of the colours was carried by the English at the Battle of the Standard on Cutton Moor in 1137 and consisted of a ship's mast fixed to a four-wheel wagon. At the top of the mast was a large crucifix with a silver box at its centre containing the consecrated host, below which waved the banners of three patron saints. The opposition signified its nationality by carrying a tuft of blooming mountain heather at the top of a long lance.

For many countries the eagle was the standard. It was first adopted by the Persians and later by the Romans. It became the symbol of the German Empire and later Napoleon also

adopted it, and woe betide any regiment of his armies that lost its eagle in battle.

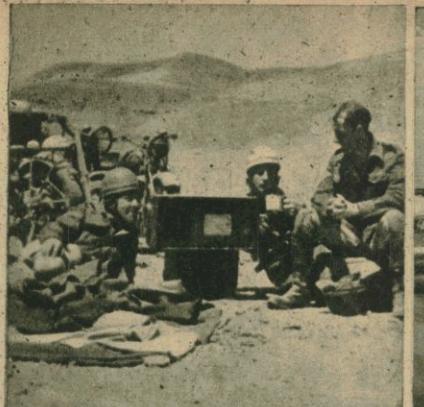
Generally, today, the patterns of regimental colours of the British Army are dignified, but there are one or two curious ones among those of the Grenadier Guards' companies. The Colour of the 20th Company, presented by Charles II, shows an oak tree with the King's crowned head peeping through the branches, in memory of his escape from the Roundheads while hiding in an oak tree after the battle of Worcester; that of the 24th Company shows a "stag couchant issuing from a tower" and sets a puzzle as to how so large a stag can get the hidden portions of itself into so small a tower.

When the colours are worn and replaced, the old ones are generally laid up in a church, a regimental chapel or a museum and there they rest with honour. There is no chance of their being misused. "In no circumstances," says Clothing Regulations, are they to be sold or allowed to pass into the possession of any individual."

RICHARD ELLEY.



For 56 years Mr. H. W. Searl has been weaving ornamental lace for uniforms; more work of this kind will be needed when new walking-out dresses are issued



Don R's halt in the Desert for tea with music from Cairo.



For men in hospitals, Army broadcasters played special request records.



'Twas caviare to the General... Sir Oliver Leese was a Forces' radio fan.

THE war-time Army has left a permanent legacy to the peace-time Army: a network of radio stations. There may be changes in the administration of Forces' Broadcasting but the programmes started by soldiers for soldiers will go on.

This means that wherever they are stationed, British Servicemen overseas will always be able to tune in to programmes specially designed for them—programmes which will give them the news and feature items they like, their favourite music and entertainers and, above all, a link with home.

Before the war and in its early stages, radio reception for troops overseas was usually a matter of hit-or-miss. If they had good receivers, if the weather was right, if they were in a place that was topographically right, they could get the BBC's overseas services, but if they got them it was not necessarily true that they got the programmes they wanted to hear.

If they could not hear the BBC, they were dependent on local stations for radio entertainment, and this was usually designed for the special needs of the civilian population rather than the equally specialised requirements of the soldier from Britain.

In 1941 the Army laid the foundations for the new set-up by beginning to buy time on

station, one in Iraq, working a wavelength for British troops and one for Indian troops, and a fifth small station in Cyrenaica. In addition, Middle East provides two and a half hours' broadcasting a day for troops in Greece, over the Greek-owned Athens station. Compact garrisons like Malta and Gibraltar have their own rediffusion services. Finally there is Radio SEAC in Colombo which includes a powerful 100 kilowatt transmitter which entertains troops all over the Far East areas.

Radio SEAC is the apple of the Army broadcaster's eye. Its 100 kilowatt transmitter is the most powerful in that part of the world and is envied by every organisation with any interest in broadcasting there. But it was conceived and built by the Army for the information and entertainment of the Forces and that remains its purpose, though now and again it lends its services to special projects, like giving the BBC its first Test Match relay direct from the stands in Australia.

The station took 18 months to build and the difficulties that had to be faced were terrific. Six great masts were needed for its aerials and the only suitable ones were in the Isle of Man. They were dismantled and shipped to Colombo where the soft ground meant that they needed specially-designed foundations. Owing to the damp climate, all the apparatus had to be "tropicalised" and there were hold-ups because Marconi, who built the apparatus for the Army, could not always get deliveries from sub-contractors on time. Now Radio SEAC is broadcasting 16 hours a day on two wavelengths at a 100 kw. power as well as on smaller transmitters.

But if Radio SEAC is the near-perfect vehicle for broadcasting to the men who are to be stationed in the Far East in peace-time, it is to Germany that Army broadcasters turn for the model on which they would base their plans if British Forces had to fight another war in some place where normal peace-time stations were not enough. There, broadcasting operations were planned in three phases. First for troops who were within medium-wave listening range of Britain there was the Allied Expeditionary Forces

YOUR RADIO IS HERE TO STAY



From the tall mast of JCPA programmes go out to troops in Palestine.

It Could Only Happen in Army Broadcasting

Extracts from Army broadcasting station programmes, which could only be possible in the intimate atmosphere created by Servicemen broadcasting for the Services.

SOUTH IRAQ

1200. PERSONAL TOUCH. — A request programme specially devised for patients in Military Hospitals and presented by Pamela Wood.

PALESTINE

2045. UNIT CALL. — Programme chosen by 52 Mobile Laundry and Bath Unit.

EGYPT

2200. RING US UP. — Telephone request programme. Phone 47167. No request accepted before 2130.

RADIO SEAC.

1900. SEAC Theatre. "The Colonel's been murdered at last..." A crazy comedy by H. R. Jeans.

1855. CHIEF ENGINEER CALLING.

NORTH ITALY
2115. THE STATION COMMANDER LOOKS IN.



Mobile units go out in overseas commands to record outside broadcasts; this one is recording the pipes at Verden, in Germany.

programme from London. Then the Forces stations programmes were built up not merely as something extra to the BBC but as programmes into which the parts of the General Forces programme the listeners would most appreciate could be fitted.

To provide them with material, the Overseas Recorded Broadcasting Service was set up to make programmes specially suitable for the Forces, and in the corridors of the Army broadcasting studios in London today you can jostle musicians comedians, Brains Trustees and Army Education officers who have come to record programmes. Besides a steady supply of recorded ORBS programmes, the stations also receive regular batches of recordings of the Transcription Service of the BBC, which records popular BBC programmes.

For planning and producing programmes, a large organisation which today works to a regular schedule was built up from nothing, through a series of setbacks and improvisations. Men with a life-time in radio and entertainment were its founders and organisers—men like Eric Maschwitz, Douglas Moodie (of "Monday Night at Eight") and Gordon Crier. From the Royal Navy and RAF—for if the Army was in charge, broadcasting was essentially an inter-services amenity—came others with BBC and commercial broadcasting experience. To join them came men who made their mark in Army broadcasting and have now gone on to fame in civilian broadcasting, like George Melachrino and Charlie Chester and bands like the Blue Rockets, the Sky Rockets and the Squadronaires.

As a foundation for their programmes, Army radio stations had the General Forces programme of the BBC, which they could relay. But not all parts of the General Forces programme are of interest to all Forces overseas and reception is not always strong enough for relay. So

RICHARD ELLEY.



You can't get the best out of radio unless you know what's on and when, so the Forces' radio stations overseas publish their own programme sheets.



"And now, the Delhi Military Male Voice Choir will sing 'It was roses, roses all the way.' A slightly acid 'crack' from SEAC newspaper.

"A ONE-IN-60 CHANCE"

C SM Roy Bradford, who runs the Hamburg end of a joint BFN-BBC request programme called Family Favourites, estimates that every soldier who requests a record for that programme has about a one-in-sixty chance of hearing it played.

"We get dozens of letters asking for the same records," he says. "I get about 600 letters a week, nearly every one of them saying, 'This is my sixth time of asking,' but I can play only nine discs in a programme, so you can work out the odds.

"Ninety per cent of the requests are for vocal sentimental numbers like 'Bless you for being an angel'—that yields a regular 50 requests a week. Then there are requests with a demob. angle like 'Put another chair at the table, Mother,' and the hackneyed ballads like 'I'll walk beside you,' and 'I'll see you again.' These are followed by the 'Holies,' like 'The Lost Chord,' 'Ave Maria,' and 'Holy City' and the popular classics of Tschaikowski and Rachmaninoff.

"Thinking it over, I should say Family Favourites runs a repertoire of about 50 records in all."

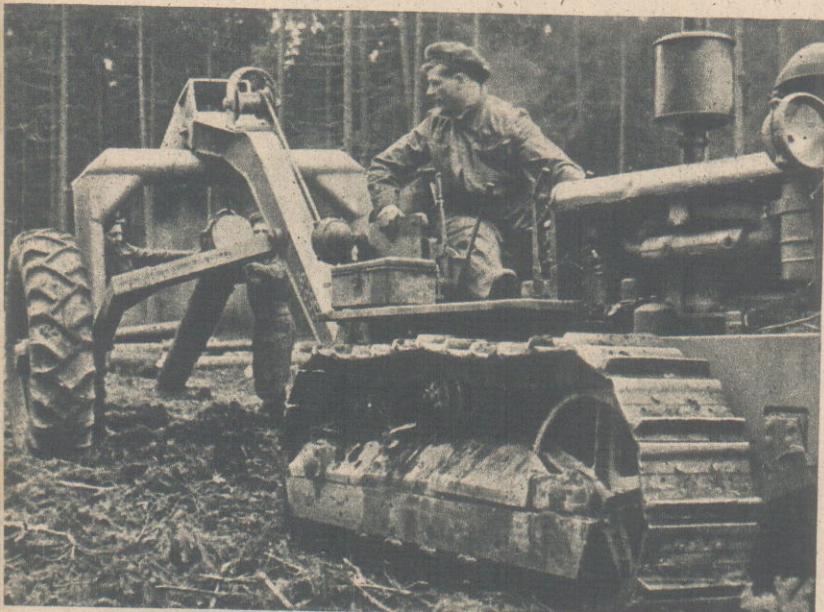
In Family Favourites, the BFN plays records that Servicemen in Germany ask for on behalf of their folks in Britain, while the BBC plays those which people at home want their serving relatives to hear.

"Choosing them is a load on my mind," says Bradford. "So many letters have an appeal like 'Can you play 'Temptation' for my wife?' or 'My marriage is heading for the rocks unless you play such and such a song.' Then there are always special requests people want played on wedding anniversaries and birthdays—all in nine-discs-a-programme. We just try to play the records that have been asked for most."



WOODPECKERS

"Wait for it!" The sergeant supervises the erection of a log pile in a clearing.



Ever seen a Sulky? Well, you have now. It's just a great grab on wheels, and a bulldozer pulls it.



Brew-up in the forest: the small branches come in handy.

Peevies, Sulkies and Pigs' Feet are the weapons of Rhine Army Infantrymen and Sappers who have turned lumberjacks in the best cause in the world: building new homes for the people of Britain.

A SMALL, wiry Sapper leans back on his long-handled seven-pound axe, judging the "lean" of a tall Scots fir. Then with a few strokes that scarcely speed up his breath, he hacks deeply, low into the leaning side of the 15-inch thick trunk.

As he steps back, two more Sappers slip a long Yankee "raker" saw into his cut and saw a few inches, to complete the operation of "chopping and sinking" that prevents a felled tree from splitting up the centre.

The axeman goes round to the opposite side and hacks again, and again the saw goes into his cut. Exactly four minutes from the first stroke, the tree gives a straining shudder and falls to the ground, slowly, smoothly and with dignity.

The man with the axe, Sapper Jock Bramley, watches with satisfaction. Every tree he drops means another floor-board, another roof-beam for house-hungry Britain. It is a part of Operation Woodpecker, in which British troops are felling forests in Germany to give timber supplies to builders in Britain. Every tree Woodpecker yields goes back to Britain — the long, 24-foot logs for housing, the short, 6-foot logs for pit-props in British mines.

When Operation Woodpecker was ordered in Britain, it was too much for the North German Timber Control to tackle alone, so the Army took on the commitment. In charge of the work on the ground is Lieut-Col. E. A. Gough, CRE, 29 Army Troops Engineers. Working with 3000 Infantrymen from units all over BAOR and two Field Companies, RE, he controls six felling areas in the British Zone and aims to produce 7,500 tons of timber a week.

Four weeks after planning started, in November, the site in bleak Ebstorf forest at Lüneburg had its first daily consignment on the rails, bound for Hamburg and then England. The men were proud of that consignment; about

150 tons, because nearly every Woodpecker is a novice at forestry. Sapper Bramley is an exception; he was felling timber ten years before he joined the Army.

"Cutting down trees is easy enough," says Lieut-Col. Gough, "the difficult job is getting the timber from the site to the railway sidings. You have to get the logs to the loading bays quickly and have transport running smoothly from the bays to the railway sidings, otherwise timber begins to pile up."

"The stores we have are colossal. Some of them have names we'd never heard before, like 'pigs' feet' which are hooks for gripping the logs in hooks-loading, 'peevies,' long-handled tools with spiked jaws for rolling logs up the ramps, and 'sulkies,' crab-like machines for pulling logs to the loading bays."

Training the Woodpeckers was a simple, two-phase affair. A North German Timber Control civilian officer was attached to each site and trained the Sappers, who in turn trained the Infantrymen. At the Lüneburg site, short, red-faced Colin MacKenzie, who has been working in timber since he was 12 years old, took charge.

MacKenzie tried to impart to his trainees some of his own romantic ideas about timber; he is the last man to admit he is romantic on any subject, but there is one story which shows he is. A few months ago he was in charge of a timber-felling site



This is the sign of Operation Woodpecker.

operated by Displaced Persons. He saw the job through from start to finish and kept a photographic record of each phase, starting with a picture of the virgin forest.

When the job was over he wanted a shot to complete his album; so he placed a little DP girl, clothed in nothing but her hair which the wind blew across her face, on top of a tree trunk. All around her the raw tree-stumps stuck out of the earth and in the distance was the dim outline of the far-away uncut forest.

"You see," he said, "she represented the Spirit of the Forest, weeping for her lost, beloved trees."

None of MacKenzie's pupils are devoted enough to forestry to be his disciples in sentimentality, but they do share his satisfaction that the original output of 150 tons of timber a day has been stepped up to 250.

Under his tuition, they knew enough about the job in a week to make a start. First they divided the forest area into plots, cleared loading bays near good tracks and built loading ramps with felled trees. Then felling began.

Each axeman has his own axe which he keeps throughout the job and the Woodpeckers work in teams of three or five men. After each tree is felled, its branches are lopped off and the trunks trimmed. Then the bulldozers and sulkies come in to move the timber to the loading bays, where it is cut down to size. The logs are then numbered and registered by German foresters who, apart from transport drivers, are the only Germans working on the scheme. The foresters measure the length of a log and its mean diameter and estimate its weight, to work out its contribution to reparations and to help estimate the loads on transporters and rail trucks. When the logs have been loaded on to transporters and from them on to the railway trucks, the Army's job finishes and the North-German Timber Control takes on the work of shipping them to Britain.

The Woodpeckers work from 8.30 in the morning until the whistle blows at four o'clock in the afternoon. Then they sharpen their axes, pack up their kit and get away to tea in waiting lorries. It's hard work, but it's healthy and has advantages over some other forms of soldiering. After all, an ex-Emperor spent his retirement doing it.

WARREN SMITH.



General "Dick" McCreery versus a Scots fir. Our money is on the General.



One of the few who have felled trees before: Sapper Jock Bramley.

WEATHERCOCKS

EXPLORERS who stay in one place are the men who man the meteorological stations throughout the British Zone of Germany.

Their job is to find out what is going on high above the earth and the material they collect is used for a variety of purposes, one of the most important of which is forecasting the weather for the benefit of shipping, airmen, farmers and, not least, their own comrades who want to plan football matches and outings.

One of their tasks is to re-

lease a gas-filled balloon three times a day. To the balloon is attached a target and the progress of the target is followed for a great distance by radar apparatus.

As the balloon rises the radar operators compile a chart of its trip showing its height and the speed and direction of the wind at various heights.

These charts are compared

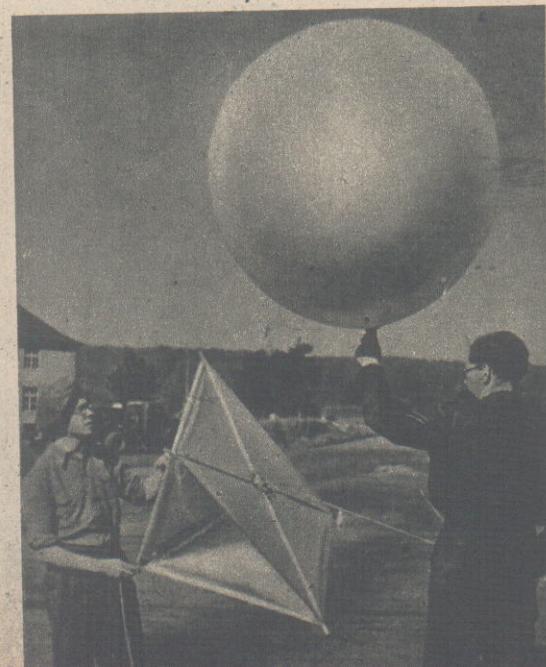
The balloon goes up ... carrying a target which is tracked by radar. The result is your weather forecast.

Radar sets designed to pick up enemy aircraft now track meteorological balloons through the skies of Germany.

and coordinated with those made at other stations throughout Germany and the result is a reasonably accurate weather forecast for about 48 hours.

The photographs below were taken at 1st. Corps HQ at Iserlohn.

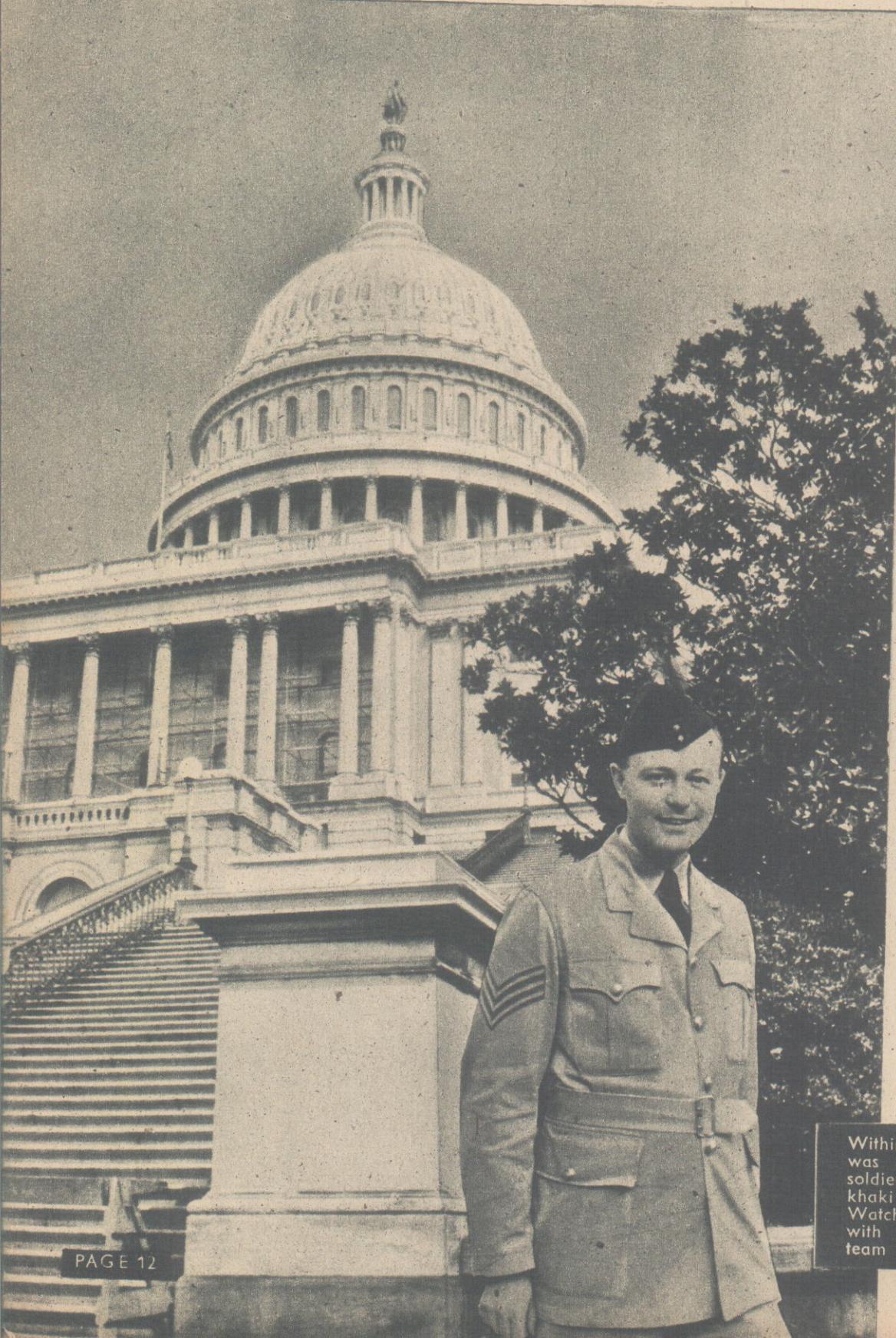
REME mechanic at work on the mobile radar receiver. Three times a day the operator goes balloon hunting.



SERJEANT WATCHAM LOOKS BACK:

Two thousand British soldiers served in North America during the war, helping Lend-Lease along. Their daily special allowance of 25s. was soon swallowed up in returning American hospitality. But the job had its perquisites, including the chance of leave in Hollywood, Canada or Cuba

7000 Miles on a 14-Day Leave



HERE'S an old Army joke about the sergeant who asked his men: "Anyone here a shorthand expert?" When one eager soldier put up his hand, the sergeant said, "Well, report to the cookhouse, they're short-handed there."

More fortunate was Maurice Watcham. When the Army found out that he was proficient in shorthand he earned, instead of a spell in the cookhouse, a tour of duty in America.

Today, back in his old job — which consists of helping discharged convicts — ex-Sergeant Watcham thinks regretfully of the days when he spent his 14-day leaves travelling in crack trains (or aeroplanes) to Hollywood, Canada and Cuba.

Sgt. Watcham was called up in 1940 and posted to the RASC. There, his ability to write at 150 words a minute brought him the post of shorthand writer to a general directing Army planning.

In 1943 he was told that he had been selected to join the British Army Staff in Washington.

His job was to assist and co-operate with the Americans in the dispatch of Lease-Lend supplies to overseas theatres. "We had some hundreds of men there, including the Navy and Air Force, but the Army stole the show," he says.

"Army Staff activities were directed from Washington, where we were billeted in hotels. I was given a tropical uniform and, boy, did I need it! I spent six weeks in New York being trained.

"The Americans were very friendly and we often mixed with them in dancing and sports. The Staff had hockey and cricket teams (the Press Club in

Within sight of Washington's Capitol was Sgt. Watcham's HQ. British soldiers wore smartly cut Canadian khaki drill—with long trousers. Sgt. Watcham ended his Army service with a war crimes investigation team in Germany. He saw Belsen.

Washington beat us at cricket) and fine tennis grounds."

Some of the Staff spent weekends at one of America's greatest universities taking a course in "American ways of life". Among the tips which Sjt. Watcham learned from friends when he arrived in the States were:

To take off one's hat when a woman enters an elevator; to give one tip to a barber and another to his assistant for brushing you; to show no surprise at seeing Americans go to work in dirty shoes, because they get them cleaned on street corners; not to smoke in cinemas except in the special smoking rooms.

"I never had a single parade, drill or inspection while I was in America," says Sjt. Watcham. "But the standard of behaviour expected was high. We had to act as ambassadors of Britain. British and American soldiers saluted each other and we saluted the Stars and Stripes."

"American women were spoiled in contrast to ours and an American girl wouldn't look at a fellow if he didn't turn up with a bunch of flowers. Even at that, quite a number of the Army Staff, including a lieutenant-colonel in charge of my branch, married American girls out there, and some ATS girls married Americans."

For seven months Sjt. Watcham was in Buffalo, where he was only a short distance from Niagara Falls and Canada. A number of times he was recalled to New York and Washington.

He decided to spend his first fortnight's leave in travelling from New York to San Francisco. It meant a 7000-mile journey and he tried to get a lift in an aircraft, a concession frequently made, but was out of luck, so he boarded the crack train which took him to San Francisco in less than a week, including lingering stops on the way. As he was a Serviceman, he had to pay only £20 — return.

When he found his way about the train Sjt. Watcham found that it contained: Radio in every compartment; recliner seats which turn into beds with pillows; the "personal key baggage system", by which every passenger's luggage is locked in a case with the only key of its kind; loudspeakers which announce meals and give descriptions of the passing scenery; a maid who takes care of children; a travel agent; a hairdressers' shop; attendants who bring ice-cream, tomato juice and local fruit; an air-conditioning plant; and an observation car at the rear.

Says Watcham: "The Americans in that train were really friendly and soon you felt as if you knew everyone personally. I was treated to a dinner of chicken and egg sauce and they wouldn't hear a word of my paying. Many were Servicemen using most of a fortnight's leave travelling to spend a few days at home before dashing back to their stations on the east coast again."

"In my compartment was an AWOL prisoner handcuffed to an MP. He would later have to

"WAR OFFICE" IN WASHINGTON

THE British Army Staff, Washington, was a miniature replica of the War Office. It started in a humble way in 1940 and at its peak in 1944 comprised 2000 officers and men, 100 British ATS, 170-odd ATS recruited in the Caribbean area and about 1200 American civilians, employed as clerks, orderlies and on similar jobs.

Its purpose was liaison with all branches of the United States War Department, the principal function being to procure anything in the way of warlike stores, from toothbrushes to tanks. It played a big part in ensuring the success of the

North African landings and the invasion of Europe.

The Supply and Transport branches not only saw to sending foodstuff to the theatres of war, but to the actual feeding and shipping of food to the peoples of the Caribbean areas.

Besides Washington, the BAS had a branch in Ottawa and Embarkation Staff Officers at all the important ports on the East and West coasts of the United States, to watch and speed the progress of supplies and equipment to distant theatres of war and to the United Kingdom.

Officers and men were carefully "vetted" before they were posted to Washington, as the British soldier in the United States was more than anywhere the representative of his

country and Britain was judged on the behaviour of the BAS by a good many Americans.

To make up the difference between the high cost of living in the USA and that in Britain, the members of the BAS received an allowance of eight and a half dollars for officers and five dollars for men, which meant that OR's had 25s. a day on top of their pay and normal allowances. It seems a lot, but it was not really and it was difficult for the men to return the lavish hospitality of their American friends.

The first commander of the BAS was Lieut-General Sir Colville Wemyss; he handed over to Lieut-General Sir G. N. Macready, who held the appointment until the end of the war.

The BAS, though reduced in size and scope, is still important. F.-M. Lord Wilson added the command to his other duties temporarily but hands it over to Lieut-General Sir William Morgan this month.



The new Chief of British Army Staff, Washington: Lieut-General Sir William Morgan, late Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean.



There were ATS in Washington, too, and they often turned out in civvies. Some became GI brides on the spot. The caravan is Judy Garland's.



pay his own return fare and that of the MP, to be deducted from his pay.

"In the train, as everywhere Servicemen had priority in everything — meals, haircuts and so on. Some girls pretended to be soldiers' wives in order to get an early table. When we stopped at stations Red Cross workers distributed candy, cigarettes and so on free.

"Once I was asked to come across with an English song. Soon I had the whole car singing "I've got sixpence" and "Me and My Gal."

In Hollywood, Sjt. Watcham was conducted round the studios with a small group of American soldiers, and visited the celebrated canteen where stars served the Servicemen. After visiting

San Francisco he persuaded the authorities to let him return to the east coast by a different route. They agreed and gave him a ticket over a foot long.

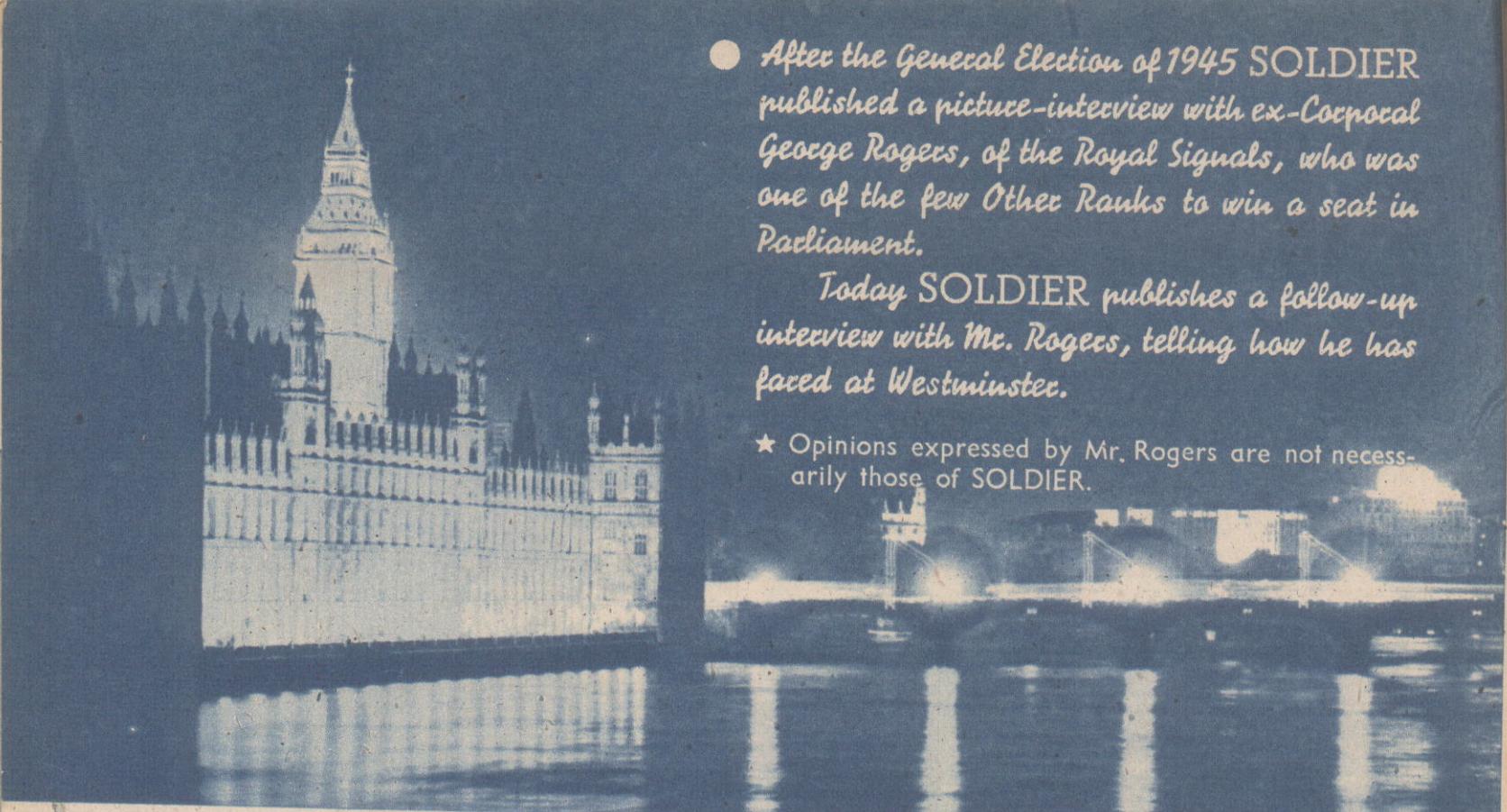
The next leave he spent by taking a train to Miami and a plane from Miami to Cuba. He stayed at El Hotel Nacional, Cuba's best hotel which is the resort of such celebrities as Ernest Hemingway, the American author — and all for about 12s. a day to a Serviceman.

Cubans know the art of living — or claim to, says Sjt. Watcham. They visit their señoritas at lunch time, never forget their siesta and never work late at the office. They won't dream of hurrying; nor will they dream of walking anywhere. It isn't done.

One of Sjt. Watcham's favou-

rite U.S. towns is Boston, where British soldiers are more welcome now than they were 170-odd years ago. The story goes that in 1770 a British sentinel, standing guard in a snow-covered street, lost his temper when a crowd called him a lobster-back. He hit a barber's apprentice with the butt of his musket, whereupon someone rang a bell which attracted the whole population. They pelted him with snowballs, shouting "Kill him!" with such force that a British captain, drilling seven privates in a street nearby, dashed to the scene with his men. The citizens stood in front of their muzzles and shouted "Fire if you dare". They fired. Seven people were injured and four killed.

ANTHONY MARTIN.

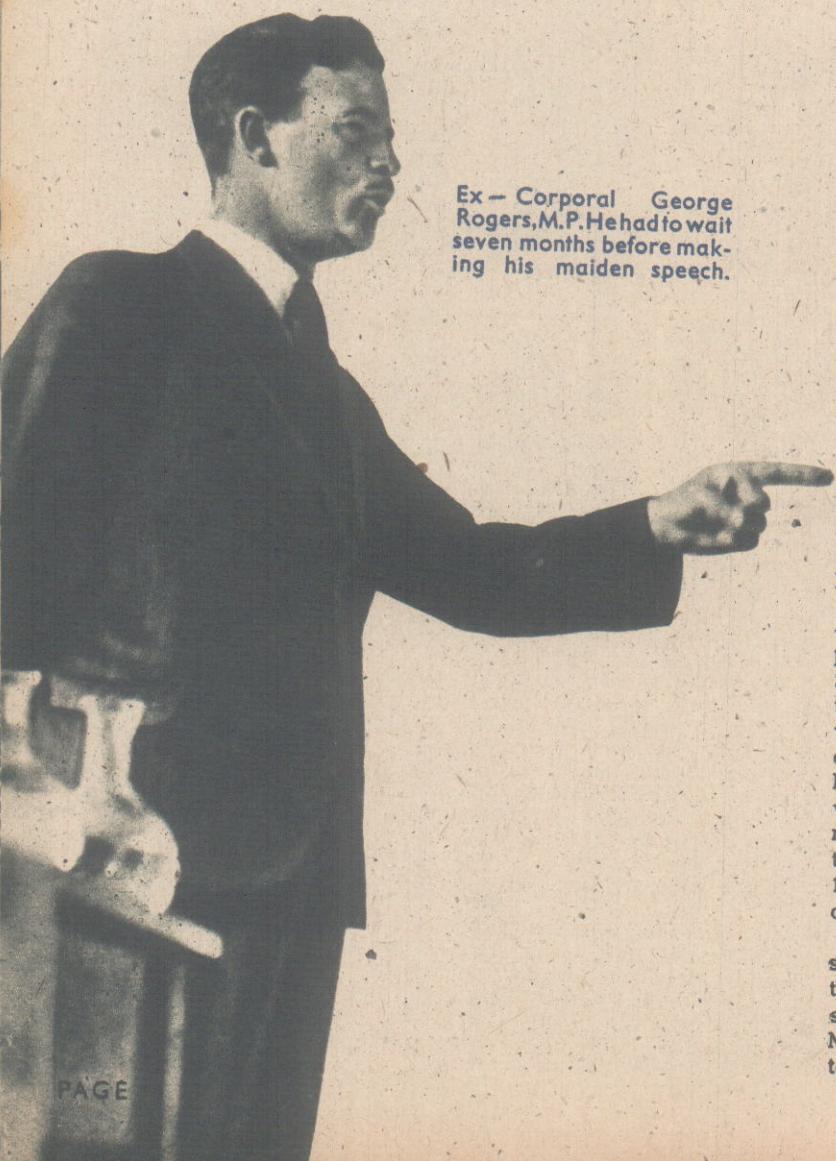


● After the General Election of 1945 SOLDIER published a picture-interview with ex-Corporal George Rogers, of the Royal Signals, who was one of the few Other Ranks to win a seat in Parliament.

Today SOLDIER publishes a follow-up interview with Mr. Rogers, telling how he has fared at Westminster.

★ Opinions expressed by Mr. Rogers are not necessarily those of SOLDIER.

THE CORPORAL WHO BECAME AN M.P.



Ex-Corporal George Rogers, M.P. He had to wait seven months before making his maiden speech.

CORPORAL George Rogers, Royal Signals (formerly an employee of the London Passenger Transport Board) became Labour Member for North Kensington in July 1945.

On 15 August Mr. Rogers took his seat in the Mother of Parliaments, one of hundreds of new members whose faces were unfamiliar to the policemen at the gate. Closely he studied the ways of Westminster.

The ex-corporal was no stranger to public speaking — he had made his first public speech at the age of 18; soon he prepared notes for a maiden speech. But it's not easy to catch the Speaker's eye. Mr. Rogers tore up the speech and prepared another. Then he tore that up and prepared still another. And so on.

It was not until 13 March 1946 — and not until he had made a polite request in private to the Speaker — that Mr. Rogers rose to make his maiden speech. He was the first man called after the opening speeches on the Army Estimates. "I was terribly nervous," he says. It was the seven-months wait which contributed towards that. But he spoke for 17 minutes and got a lot of things off his chest.

The speech caused a bit of a stir in the House, partly because there is a tradition that a maiden speech shall be non-controversial. Mr. Rogers said that he wanted to discuss the Army on the level

of the private, the unpaid acting lance-corporal and the corporal. He described some of his more unfortunate personal experiences in the ranks. There was the day he reported to his first unit: "... The sergeant gathered us round him. In friendly fashion he said: 'Some of you may have held good positions until you joined the Army, but whatever you were before the war, let me tell you you are rubbish here.' " The word was not "rubbish," of course, but there are ladies present in the House of Commons. "I think all men with Army experience will understand exactly the word that was used," Mr. Rogers told the House. "I felt pretty shocked... I felt that it was not the way to treat men."

After that Mr. Rogers was horrified to come across a unit where, one day, five sergeants were put on a charge for whistling while going about their duties. Then "an officer, a full colonel, put his dog on seven days CB with bread and water, for misbehaving itself." The burden of Mr. Rogers' speech was that there ought to be some better way of finding out whether men were suited to hold disciplinary posts in the Army, perhaps by instituting a three-months probationary period. He

said he wanted to see a system which would obviate bullying of men and which would afford a soldier more of his rights as a citizen. Only in that way would we get the best out of a citizen army.

Mr. Rogers then declared that he wanted to see the abolition of unpaid ranks. "What more pathetic object is there in the whole of the British Army," he said, "than the unpaid acting lance-corporal?"

His last sentence was: "I hope the Secretary of State for War will pay the very closest attention to the welfare of the PBI."

It fell to a distinguished general — General Sir George Jeffreys, whose first campaign was the Nile Expedition of 1898 — to offer the customary congratulations to the ex-corporal on his maiden speech. "As regards his experiences in the Army," said the General, "I will not attempt to follow him, except to say that I fear he has been very unlucky in his experiences. That possibly is bad luck, and may be due to the fact... that when men are swept into the Army in large numbers and new officers and NCO's have to be made with very little experience, the results are not always so satisfactory as they are in old-established units... where officers and NCO's are efficient and know how to look after their men in every sense of the word." There spoke the voice of the Guards.

Next day the *Daily Mail* said that Mr. Rogers' "slashing attack" had startled M. P.'s and gave three inches; the *News-Chronicle* and *The Times* also gave him three inches; the *Daily Herald* and the *Daily Telegraph* less than an inch; and the *Daily Worker* 12 inches and a two-decker triple-column heading.

From all over the world Mr. Rogers received correspondence as a result of his maiden speech; and a Mr. Geoffrey Handley Taylor thought so highly of the speech that he referred to it in a book entitled "Magenta Moment". In the *News of the World* Mr. Rogers was taken sternly to task by "EX-SOLDIER, London," who wrote: "I started this last war by looking after 26 lavatories and finished as a major on the staff. (Maybe there was some connection!) In my six years as private, NCO and officer, I had the good fortune to meet the finest types of men in all ranks... The difference sometimes may have been in the uniform (not that very often), but the similarity lay in common dangers shared and hardships endured."

All that was a year ago, and since then Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery has made it

clear while he wants a well-disciplined Army he does not want one bound and badgered by pettily conceived restrictions. Mr. Rogers has made many speeches since, and has asked some pertinent questions, on subjects ranging from Sikh VC's being refused admission to a London restaurant to conditions in troopers.

What does he think of the Parliamentary life? Mr. Rogers enjoys every minute of it. He employs a part-time secretary and between them they handle 300 letters a week. In the days immediately after his election Mr. Rogers' mail-bag was swollen by men who had read about him in *SOLDIER* (18 August). Asked if he thought that M. P.'s had too many letters to answer at the expense of their Parliamentary duties, Mr. Rogers was inclined to agree.

It is no secret that M. P.'s nowadays receive a high proportion of letters from serving soldiers. Often, as a result, Members, Ministers, War Office and Commands are involved in a lot of unnecessary work, which could have been obviated by action through the normal channels. Mr. Rogers is personally of the opinion that a man should be allowed to write to his M. P. on any subject, but says that often a man who frivolously complains is told by his M. P. that his troubles are of his own making and that he should take the consequences. Members do not send out indiscriminate sympathy to everyone with a grievance.

Incidentally, Mr. Rogers has found the War Office "very helpful indeed" in dealing with soldiers' questions.

It was not long after he had been elected that Mr. Rogers joined a party of M. P.'s who toured the big towns of the Ruhr. The

ex-corporal, in company with brigadiers and generals, inspected NAAFI canteens, talked informally to gatherings of soldiers, studied the machinery of local government, saw the dismantling of Krupps, and so on. He also went on a goodwill visit to Belgium, where he met again saboteurs and special agents to whom, as a corporal, he had given training in signals technique. One of them now is a member of the Belgian Government.

Another of Mr. Rogers' ex-pupils sits on the Conservative benches — Lieut-Col. J. R. H. Hutchison, Member for Glasgow Central, who during the war played a dangerous role with the Maquis as a special agent, even having his face altered for the purpose. Recently in a transport debate there was an exchange of pleasantries between the corporal and the colonel. The two are good friends and often meet in less formal surroundings.

Every Friday Mr. Rogers presides at party HQ in his constituency and sorts out the problems of Civvy Street — pleas for houses, pensions, divorces and so on. Some of those seeking help are soldiers whom he has already helped. It is a strenuous life. Mr. Rogers serves on the Defences and Services Group of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and is vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Transport Group and vice-chairman of the London Group of Labour Members. He leaves his Wimbledon home at nine in the morning and is rarely back before midnight. To his wife and family he is almost a stranger. Many people tell him he looks older since he arrived at Westminster; but he has found a full and satisfying job and is going right through with it.

ERNEST TURNER.

It's a proud moment for a young Parliamentarian when he first sees his name in Hansard, the official report of the Parliamentary debates.

5.5. p.m.

Mr. Rogers (Kensington, North): I rise, with diffidence and at long last, to address this assembly, for the first time. I shall confine my very brief maiden effort to an attempt to break down this great subject of the Army Estimates to a very small level. I want to break it down, in the few minutes I have, to the private, the unpaid acting-corporal, and the corporal. I have thought that discussions in the House of Commons on Army matters very rarely took the right point of view of the men in the lower ranks. I have very much in mind

— and the CSM who became a PEER

In 1934 and 1935 cadets of the Oxford University Cavalry OTC quivered to attention, like privates and cadets anywhere, under the eagle eye of Company-Sergeant-Major Mancroft, S.M.S.

Recently the second Baron Mancroft (succeeded 1942), told the House of Lords something about it.

"I run the risk, I know, of being considered reactionary and pompous if I express mildly and quietly the thought that a little military discipline does not really do any 18-year-old young man very much harm," he said, talking about conscription. "The theory is that it is very democratising and debasing to be bawled at by a sergeant-major. It is only right that I should declare an interest; I was once a sergeant-major myself."

"I am afraid I must have bawled at people in a way which nowadays would be considered to be most undemocratic. But I do not think either they or I were greatly democratised or debased thereby. I must confess that one of my squad is now serving a term of three years' penal servitude in Rio de Janeiro for forgery and that another is permanently employed in the Board of Inland Revenue; but the rest of them have turned out quite normal."

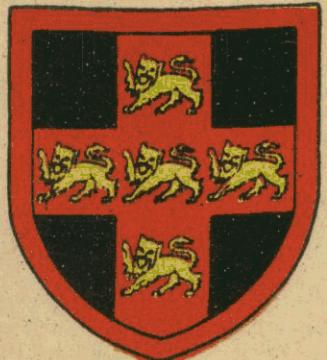
After being a CSM, Lord Mancroft was commissioned into the Territorial Army as a Royal Artillery officer in 1938 and began the war in 115 Field Regiment, in 47 Division. When he was released, he was serving as a GSO 1 in 21 Army Group. At the beginning of the war his regiment was put on to VP work, guarding bridges.

These are his views on the inclusion of ex-conscripts in the Territorial Army of the future:

"Are conscripts going to be men who come into the Territorial Army with enthusiasm; or are they going to be disgruntled, bored and angry men who feel that the first 18 months of their working life have been completely wasted? I regard this as a challenge to the Forces. None of us wanted conscription, but we have had to face it. Let us try and make the best of a bad job and see if we cannot pull something good out of conscription... This 18 months has got to be profitably used. Waste of time, hanging about, doing nothing, frustration — these are now enemies of the soldier. Those are the things that will send these men disgruntled into the Territorial Army..."



Lord Mancroft — a sketch by a German prisoner-of-war.



Lions from the Arms of York.



Red and white roses united.



New sign for a famous division.

BIRDS OR BOMBS?

INSTEAD of saying to the War Office, like most land-owners, "Hands off!" Mr. R. B. Burrowes wants the Army to take over his 1000-acre wild-life sanctuary at Dungeness. This is to keep away jerry-builders and noisy holidaymakers.

Too bad this did not happen in time for Marshal of the RAF Sir Arthur Harris to make some pungent comment in his "Bomber Offensive". As it is, "Bomber" Harris has some blunt things to say about the Services' struggle for land after World War One:

"We wanted Abbotsbury, but the use of this as a bombing range was postponed by prolonged and bitter opposition with a vast correspondence in the Press; the objection was that the swans at Abbotsbury would not lay eggs if we used this as a range. In

actual fact, once the site was given to us and we started bombing, the swans laid more eggs than they had ever done before. The reason was that they soon learned to regard the air-

NEW CAREER AT 50

LIONS AND ROSES

JUST because the war is over, don't suppose that there won't be any new flashes.

Northern Command used to sport a green apple on a blue diamond; this was a punning reference to the name of General Sir Ronald Adam, who commanded Northern Command in 1940.

Now the Command has become history-conscious. The red cross and the golden lions have been drawn from the Arms of York; but a black shield has been selected instead of the white shield of York to avoid confusion. Since the earliest Roman occupation there has been a military headquarters in York, so the new sign strengthens the ties between citizens and troops.

Catterick District has a historical motif in its flash, too (formerly, as a sub-district, it did not qualify for a flash). The design incorporates the red and white roses of Yorkshire and Lancashire which were first linked when the Earl of Richmond became Henry VII and married Elizabeth of York. The design is borrowed from the Arms of Richmond, which is close to Catterick.

A famous flash which has been "re-jigged" is that of 5th Infantry Division. Formerly the "Y" stood on a square khaki background. Now it stands on a black circle. Why "Y", anyway? To denote a pre-war association with Yorkshire.

"I'm too old to learn new tricks" is the lazy man's excuse from the age of 25 or thereabouts, which goes to show that Francis Nutter, who is twice that age, is not a lazy man.

Nutter has twice been in the Army, for five years in World War One, when he rose from private to 2/Lieutenant, and as a Lieutenant on a War Office Selection Board in World War Two. Between wars he worked for a firm of chemical manufacturers.

When he was released the second time his choice fell on Stenotyping, a method of printing a phonetic shorthand on a machine like a portable typewriter. The Stenotype machine was adapted for Britain by an inventor who is reported to have spent 16 years trying to work out a machine on which an operator could record everything a speaker said in any language, even if the operator did not understand it.

He succeeded. An operator tapping on the silent keys of a stenotyping machine, records the sounds a speaker makes on a strip of paper, phonetically but with the ordinary alphabet, a sound to a line.

Mr. Nutter is now nearly through his course, and then — "I always wanted to learn some shorthand system and I can see a lot of uses for this one. The



Can you read it? It's not so hard. Translation: "The characters used are those of the Roman alphabet."

Ministry of Labour are paying my expenses under the Vocational Training Scheme, so evidently they do, too."

Also in the stenotyping school with Mr. Nutter are ten ex-ATS girls, one of whom has become an instructor. Another is hoping to become secretary to an M.P. and a third, who is much-travelled and was an ATS interpreter in France, wants to be a travelling stenotypist in English, French and Spanish.

EXHIBIT "A"

THIS is just an ordinary bottle, a brown glass bottle. According to the German label it contained "Glucose, for injections" (a not unusual treatment for shock).

Why, then, did it become an important exhibit in a war crimes trial?

Because someone had the idea of refilling the bottle with petrol,

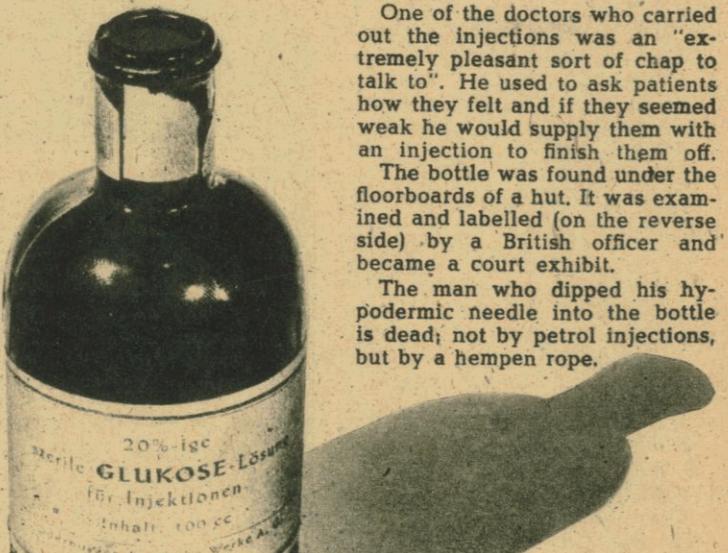
and injecting it into the bloodstream of prisoners in concentration camps.

Death, in a cheap, convenient and vile form, came out of this bottle.

One of the doctors who carried out the injections was an "extremely pleasant sort of chap to talk to". He used to ask patients how they felt and if they seemed weak he would supply them with an injection to finish them off.

The bottle was found under the floorboards of a hut. It was examined and labelled (on the reverse side) by a British officer and became a court exhibit.

The man who dipped his hypodermic needle into the bottle is dead; not by petrol injections, but by a hempen rope.



ON WITH THE PLAY

THE latest London play which dares to touch — very lightly, of course — on the recent war portrays a wife who spends all her time worrying about what her husband did on his overseas short leaves, and collects all the comely-looking girls who ever served near her husband in the hope that a leer or a wink will reveal an illicit relationship. (Happy As Kings.)

Somehow, this doesn't sound quite like the Great Play of World War Two. At all events, the lady deserves her niche alongside other fascinating stage characters inspired by the war. These include:

Stupid, unimaginative British public relations officer who does all he can to prevent pretty, intelligent American women war correspondents from crossing to the enemy lines and back whenever they want to. (Love Goes To Press: success in London, flop in New York.)

Chairborne colonel at War Office who, incensed at refusal of credit by his bookmakers, has them called up. (While The Sun Shines.)

Ex-Navyman, peddling disinfectant in East-end of London, who picks up lady doctor, takes her to Ritz, conducts sit-down strike on her sofa till she marries him. (And No Birds Sing.)

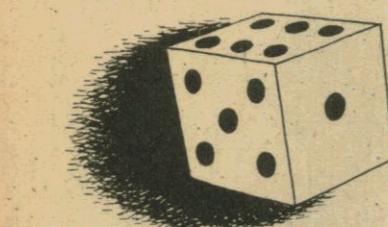
Burma soldier who presents wife's letters to dying man to cheer him up, not knowing or caring that dying man is going to send them to his publisher-father, thus making wife wealthy authoress. (Soldier's Wife.)

There are plenty more, but we thought that was about all you could stand at one go.

SMALL TALK

EX-RSM George Gordon Smith, of Crampmoor, Hampshire, left a bungalow for the benefit of the "T" (Bulls Troop) RHA Old Comrades Fund, and said: "I should like an old soldier of T Troop always to live there at a nominal rent."

Ex-Sjt. J. Tierney, US Army, sued his former employers for refusing to take him back in his



private line to a telephonist on an adjoining site, thus helping to keep both of them awake.

Ian Andrew of Aberdeen and Douglas Henderson of Cults ran a REME mobile workshop in Italy, France and Germany. Released, they have pooled gratuities and bought an ex-Navy bus for £190, fitted it as a mobile workshop and have advertised that they will "go anywhere and repair anything". Jobs include mending beds and overhauling farm equipment.

The smoke-shrouded township of Atherstone, Warwickshire lost 45 men and women in World War Two, but whenever the soldiers of yesterday gather at the ex-Servicemen's club for a pint and a game of crib their dead comrades are lookers-on. The town's ex-Servicemen said plaques were too cold and formal as war memorials. Playing fields or gardens of memory, though appreciated by the community, are seldom associated with the dead. They ordered a huge glass frame and today it contains 222 coloured enlargements of the men (and one woman) who died in the two World Wars!

Things You Wouldn't Believe Unless We Told You

In 1696 the lieutenant-colonel of Lord Castleton's regiment in Flanders was dismissed the Service by court-martial for demanding his pay... In 1688 a Captain Owsley, of Scarborough was dismissed the Service for tossing the Mayor of Scarborough in a blanket... In 1668 the Prince of Orange hanged two of his soldiers for stealing a chicken, telling the others that they had money enough, and when they wanted it was soon enough to steal.

WEHRMACHT ATONES FOR LUFTWAFFE

WHEN George Eliot's old church at Chilvers Soton, Warwickshire, reopens this year, visitors will see on the freshly-washed walls two references to the technique of the Germans, at war and at peace.

One inscription will record the Nuneaton blitz of 17 May 1941, when Nazi bombs blasted the heart out of the old village church; the other will tell that Warrant Officers and NCO's of the Wehrmacht restored what the Luftwaffe laid low.

For months past, starting long before the relaxation of P.O.W. restrictions, the people of Nuneaton have been used to seeing men with oddly assorted patches moving in and out of the church rooms at Chilvers Soton. Until the Germans began sorting out piles of debris and started rebuilding the walls of the old church, few realised what was going on.

But in the church rooms much of the work of reconstruction was started. Here Albert Mehring of Dusseldorf helped prepare restoration plans for the church where the ministry of Robert Evans gave his novelist-daughter the inspiration for her scenes of church life. At the same time,

This German prisoner, who was a stonemason in a village near Frankfurt, is seen completing the font for the church which the Luftwaffe bombed.



ADVICE TO THOSE GOING OUT: DON'T WORK FOR NOTHING!

TODAY hundreds of men out of the Services are applying for jobs as salesmen. Strangely enough, many of them held secure posts as schoolmasters and bank clerks before their call-up. The war has unsettled them; they no longer want a job which ties them down to one place. But they should "gang warily". There are far too many firms waiting, vulture-like, to cash in on the ex-soldier who wants that "open air life".

It was the same story after World War One. Hundreds of men lost their all because they did not follow the one golden rule: they did not seek advice.

Here is a true story. Mr. "X" came out of the Army and answered an advertisement. The firm invited him to travel in the soft fabric business and offered him the high percentage of 7½ commission. They said his turnover would easily amount to £50,000 a year, which would mean £3750 for himself. Of course, he would have to carry a few samples, but his commission would easily cover the cost of running a small car. As a special offer they would arrange for him to draw up to £10 a week on account to meet his immediate expenses.

His area was the whole of England, and in order to carry his "few" samples he was forced to purchase a second-hand 25 h.p. car. Each night there were hotel and stock-room expenses and each day meals and petrol had to be bought. And soon he came up against that old snag — waiting hours to see busy retailers. But by hard work and determination he built up his contacts, and by the end of his first year he succeeded in bringing in £10,000 worth of business, which for a beginner was good. The firm then prepared his account. His expenses had come to well over the £10 a week and he had to pay back the £520 drawn to cover expenses. Altogether he was £250 in their debt.

The showdown then started. He threatened to throw-in the job, and the firm — which had gained

much business through him — thereupon threatened to sue him. For security they demanded his life insurance policy which was made over to them. They advised him that his only course was to do still more business.

In the meantime Mr. "X" had joined the United Commercial Travellers' Association, whom he now consulted. He was advised to look for a post which carried less commission but a basic salary. A few months later he found a firm which offered £7 a week, modest expenses and 2½ percent commission. By this time he owed £350 to his old firm, who brought action against him when he gave notice. They won their case but apart from the insurance policy got not a penny from him, for Mr. "X" was made a bankrupt in another court.

That is the danger of those tempting advertisements. Even if you make something out of it, the firm make a great deal more. If you fail, the firm have had the advantage of your contacts. In addition, once you have built up some good connections and made the firm's products known, there is nothing to prevent them dismissing you and continuing your trade as house accounts. Many times you must have heard the story of the man who starts travelling in a certain article useful in the home. He sells easily enough to his relatives, but when he has exhausted his relatives and his business slows down, he is dismissed. He has gained little, the firm some good business.

Now all business houses do not work in this way. Some

This may seem unnecessary advice to ex-soldiers seeking a job "on the road." But scores of them have been fooled by unscrupulous firms which stand to win everything and lose nothing

which have a product which is well-known take good care of their travelling representatives, employing only the most suitable men of the highest integrity. It is to protect the inexperienced ex-Serviceman and the good firms that two organisations — the Incorporated Sales Managers' Association (representing the employers) and the United Commercial Travellers' Associations (for the employees) produced a joint plan.

By agreement with the Ministry of Labour they supply experienced men to sit on panels held frequently throughout Britain to interview and advise ex-Servicemen wishing to become travellers. They have also drawn up the "Standards of Practice" governing the employment of representatives.

He is setting out on a new career in his demob coat. If he is on a "commission only" basis he might as well turn back now.

One of the basic standards was to encourage employers to provide a salary as well as commission. This would enable a salesman making little progress in his early days to live without falling back on his gratuity, or other resources.

Mr. R. J. Morgan, general secretary of the Incorporated Sales Managers' Association, told SOLDIER:

"Before the war and the present shortages some firms employed established travellers who had spent their lives in the profession. They knew salesmanship backwards and the product they sold was world-famous. It was not unusual for those men to earn £50 commission in a week and they would have laughed at the idea of having their com-

NOTHING!

sion reduced and being placed on a salaried basis. But there are two things to remember about them. One is that they spent their lives building up their contacts. The other: they worked for firms of the highest repute who produced articles for which there was great demand and which could be supplied as fast as the orders came in. Shortages in those days were unknown, and good salesmen could continually increase the market.

The two associations do not fix salaries. This is left to the firms with the proviso that salaries should be such that every representative can support himself and his family adequately. Other agreements reached deal with expenses, financial loss in moving to new districts, bad debts and the abolishing of the system whereby representatives were made to pay for samples, except where these consist of finished goods.

What is the drill for the ex-soldier? He should go to the Ministry of Labour appointments department. They will not register him unless he has had experience or has been seen by the advisory panel. In London these panels are held at the Ministry's building in Tavistock Square and so far over 50 have taken place.

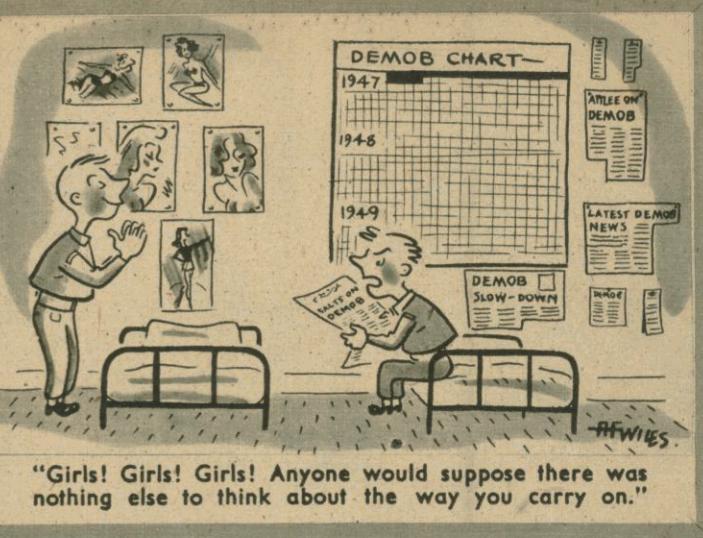
"A lot of ex-Servicemen do not realise this and because they do not seek advice they get exploited."

Another man who knows how the ex-soldier has been fooled in the past is Mr. W. J. Lovell, the general secretary of the United Commercial Travellers' Association, which has 30,000 members. He says:

"A lot of people do not know how to start. Often they go in for correspondence courses in salesmanship. There are some very good schools that give you a good course for a few pounds. And then there are those that guarantee a job at the end of the course, and their charges are

The members ask him questions.

"What makes you think you would be a successful salesman?" "Do you think you can overcome that hesitation of speech?" Questions are fired by the advisory board at a candidate who aspires to a life on the open road.



His answers are straightforward: owing to his medical state he must have an open air life, he has made various enquiries about the prospects from friends and feels he has the required personality.

"Why did you give up farming?"

"There was a great deal of carrying, and heavy loads at that. And then my baby son died recently and I took my wife away for a holiday."

Other questions, quietly put, were:

"Do you think you could sell farm products or feeding stuffs to farmers?"

"Have you tried obtaining any books on salesmanship from your local library?"

When the panel learned that the applicant had knowledge of French and was prepared to travel abroad he was asked, "Do you think you could sell British products to French firms — that is, persuade French business men to buy our goods?"

"Yes."

"How would you go about

selling yourself to a business house, for that is the first task?"

"I would try to get an interview rather than depend on correspondence."

"You are inclined to falter in your speech. How do you propose to overcome that?"

"That is the result of prison life. I feel I shall overcome that."

The applicant leaves the room and his case is discussed. The next man is also an ex-Regular and says that he has bought a small clothing business which his wife runs.

He says he thinks he is capable of becoming a salesman and as an ex-Sapper he is interested in anything mechanical.

"Could you describe and sell a building product to a man who has spent a lifetime in the trade?"

"Certainly."

"Don't you think you would be better off building up that business you bought?"

"Perhaps, but it has not got enough in it for me. The Army has taught me to be always on the go."

After he has gone the chairman says: "Although he did not realise it that chap sold himself by his personality."

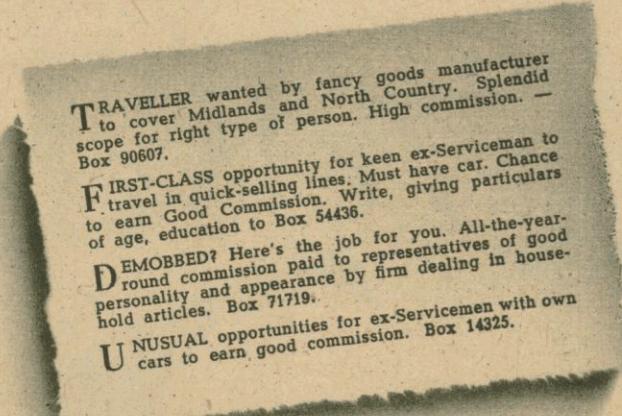
And so the applicants come and go. According to their merits they are marked down on the register, usually as salesmen learners. They do not all pass. If a man is felt to be of greater use to his pre-war trade he is encouraged to go back to it.

How does the panel serve the men? If applicants are approved and registered, business houses wanting salesmen apply for them, but that does not stop men getting jobs on their own initiative.

The essential qualities in a salesman, says Mr. Lovell, are: Tact, coupled with diplomacy. Address, which means marshalling your resources in argument without becoming garrulous. Knowledge of manufacture, so that you know your product as you knew your weapons in the Army. Character, so that you can be honest in your dealings. Education, which must be of reasonably good standard to enable you to make clear reports, and talk in simple language — and possibly foreign languages as well, for don't forget, there's a terrific export drive on.

PETER LAWRENCE.

DON'T BE CAUGHT BY THESE





YOU CAN'T KEEP THE
ATS OUT OF A GUN SITE
REUNION — NOT THAT
YOU'D WANT TO, ANYWAY

Just the way it was in the NAAFI—even to the beer mugs on the piano. The "Girls of the Ar-till-er-ee" gather with gunners for a sing-song.



"Well, here's to matrimony!" There's no stopping those gunsite romances, even in Civvy Street. The banns are up for Gnr. L. E. Dorman and Pte. S. Cook, telephonist.



The next round is on the battery captain ... but at the moment they're still talking about that time Elsie was blown from the transmitter aerial.

WHEN a husband says, "I'm off to a regimental reunion" the wise wife holds her peace. She may not understand the Regimental Spirit, but there's nothing she can do about it.

And when — in this Year of Grace 1947 — a wife says, "I'm off to a regimental reunion" the wise husband holds his peace. There's nothing he can do about it, either.

Of course, there are occasions — such as the get-together of a mixed regiment — when both husband and wife are qualified to attend the same reunion. This is what happened recently when ex-members of 160 Heavy (Mixed) Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery met in the Duke of York's Barracks, London, to renew war-time friendships. Among those present were at least two married couples who had met in that forcing-house of romance — the mixed gunsite.

Indeed, romances are still ripening; also present were a gunner and an ATS girl who were due to be married within a few weeks.

This regiment (which incidentally was the regiment whose guns shot down the "highest ever" plane: see SOLDIER January 1947) occupied sites in the Portsmouth and Isle of Wight area, and latterly in the southern suburbs of London. When the batteries were broken up there was strong determination that war-time camaraderie should not be allowed to die; the ATS were among those who were keenest on the idea of a reunion.

With the onrush of release it was difficult to keep track of everybody, but Lieut-Col. V. G. Dixon succeeded remarkably well. The first reunion went with a swing: gunners (in their zig-zag ties), radar girls, predictor numbers, quartermasters, telephonists, limber-gunners, clerks, majors, captains, spotters and height-takers — they all turned up and saw each other for the first time in civilian clothes. Some travelled hundreds of miles to be there. There was no dance, there was hardly any organised entertainment; all that people wanted to do was to ask what happened to old Bert after they put him on the boat to SEAC and whether anybody had heard from Hilda since she became a GI bride. There was a sprinkling of men and girls still in uniform; and there were "sorry I couldn't come" messages from Germany.

This kind of a reunion breaks a tradition — the tradition that regimental reunions should be all-male and the beerier the better. But it does no harm to break a tradition now and again.



The men in this picture can produce it as evidence to their wives who may have been suspicious at their eagerness to attend a mixed reunion. The photographer says they were talking about football.

REUNION of a Mixed Regiment



"And didn't we look terrible when we rushed out in the middle of the night with our hair in curlers and no make-up? And then found it was a false alarm! Still, those buckets of tea were a good idea..."



"In battle troops ask for things which they really do not need. However, their requests, no matter how unreasonable, should be answered..."

The fate General George Patton.

PETROL POINT for Two Armies

RUBBER-BOOTED against the risk of sparks, an RASC serjeant and private climbed a swaying ladder to the deck of the 10,000 ton British tanker Kennerleya—three weeks out from Persia—as she edged her way to the unloading jetty at Pet Haven, on the River Elbe.

In quick time they organised the coupling of the ship's pumping gear with the conduit pipes on land. Within half an hour the oil of Persia was gushing into the Continent of Europe.

From tanks wrecked by the Royal Air Force and rebuilt by the Army goes almost every pint of petrol used by the British Army of the Rhine, the RAF in Germany, the Control Commissions of the British Zones of Germany and Austria, and the civilians in both zones. If Pet Haven should fail, tens of thousands of vehicles would be stranded across the best part of a continent, and hundreds of planes would be grounded.

It was just before the final collapse of Germany that fuel workers on the opposite bank of the Elbe thanked their stars they

were not on duty as British and American heavy bombers blew Germany's biggest storage depot to ruins. When the great fires died not one of the 200 tanks would hold a gallon of fuel, the marshalling yard was a chaos of rails and molten trucks; engine sheds and boiler houses were battered out of existence. The Germans who worked at Pet Haven accepted its ruin as utter and complete.

Yet today, 18 months after it was taken over by C Base Petrol Installation, RASC (then it was known as 12 Bulk Petrol Storage Coy.) 100 tanks are in working order and 60,000,000 gallons of fuel—motor and aviation spirit, diesel oil, kerosene and furnace oil for sea-going ships—are stored there. To the installation come tankers from Persia, the United States, Mexico and Great Britain, many of them veterans of the U-boat blockade.

Black Market gangs "bled" these tempting pipes which ran 30 miles from Pet Haven to Stade, forcing a close-down.

"When we first came here," Lieut-Col. J. H. Jeffers, OBE told me, "we thought it impossible to set Pet Haven on its feet again. I have never seen such devastation—even some of the German technicians despaired. But in two months we had made storage space for 50,000 tons of fuel. RASC technicians, engineers and oil experts with the leading oil companies before the war re-planned the site. Sapper teams were drafted in to supervise the hundreds of German labourers, and by a great deal of improvisation we gradually built it up to what it is now."

Signs of improvisation are to be seen everywhere. German oil and petrol pumps are fitted with British engines, British pipelines have German valves, and German steamlines are coupled to British and German petrol pumps.

But there are still nearly a hundred tanks beyond repair—some gashed wide open, others looking like gigantic pricked balloons and scores twisted and rusted in gigantic bomb craters.

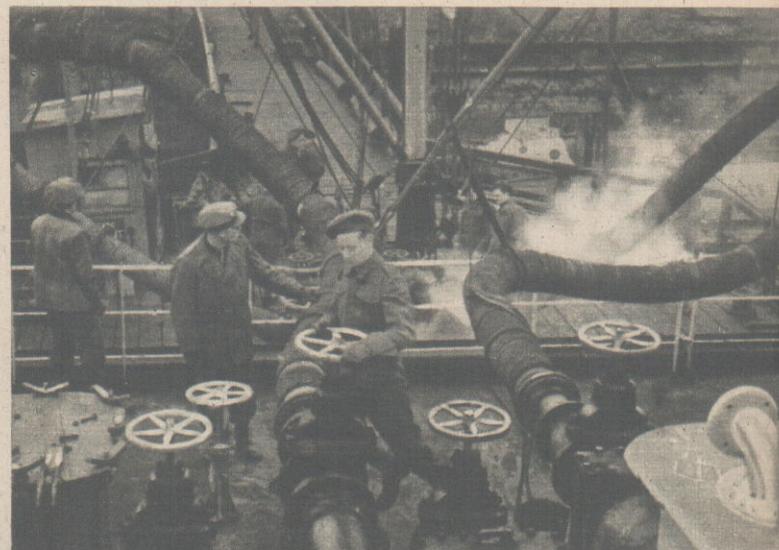
Not far from the CO's office two rail petrol wagons rear into

the air, their ends entwined. Lieut-Col. Jeffers hopes to leave this exhibit as evidence to the 1200 German workers who labour there of the futility of war.

Occasionally, while they are re-laying pipelines, the workmen find unexploded bombs deep down in the sandy soil. A short while ago an officer, inspecting damage to a storage tank, came across an unexploded two-ton bomb which had entered the tank through a small manhole. "He came out quicker and more harassed than when he went in," said Lieut-Col. Jeffers.

As soon as a tanker arrives a sample of its cargo of oil or petrol is taken to the laboratory where a British major and a staff of serjeants working with German chemists test it for correct classification and ensure it is up to standard.

There are 100 miles of pipeline, including the branch lines between the tanks and the pumping houses, marshalling yard and road filling depot, and every man must know where the pipes lead. Only 35 percent of the total holding of fuel is allowed as



Above: Regulating the flow from tanker to tanks. Below: A small corner of the jerrican department. The stock is four million.



Out of red ruin the Army has rebuilt the great petrol depot on the Elbe which fills the tanks of almost every British vehicle and aeroplane in Germany and Austria

"lost" by evaporation and leakage, but monthly returns show well under this figure.

"Leakage" into the Black Market has to be prevented, too. To eliminate temptation, the crews of tankers are not allowed ashore, but are disembarked before the ship docks and taken to the other side of the river. They report back only when the ship is due to leave. At all the jetties German police and RASC soldiers are on constant duty.

Danger from explosions and fire is very real and no precaution is overlooked. The only real fire was when a petrol engine back-fired and burst into flames. Every tank is fitted with water pipes which can be turned on very quickly to isolate it.

Across the entrance to the harbour a special boom can be drawn, in the event of a serious fire or explosion, to protect shipping in the narrow channel outside. Smoking is forbidden, except in specially wired-off parts of the site. If a German is found smoking he is instantly dismissed and is liable to imprisonment; an officer or NCO

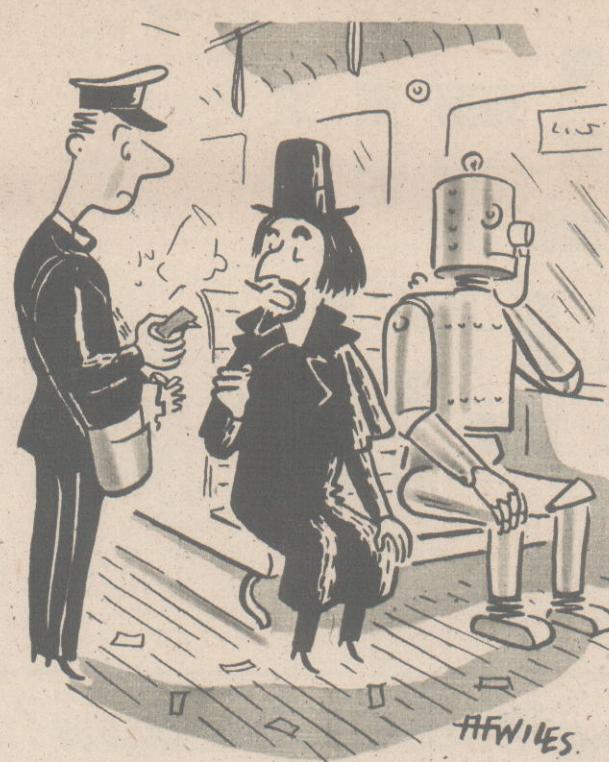
would appear before a court-martial.

In one section at Pet Haven 4,000,000 jerricans are stacked. These are the usable jerricans which are filled and sent to depots throughout the British Zone. As fast as they are despatched they are replaced by thousands of others from as far away as the Normandy beaches, Holland and Belgium. Before they take their turn on the heap they are tested, and where possible, repaired. Thousands were stacked along the *autobahns*, but these have now been used up and are in continuous circulation. The official name for this work is "Jerrican Rehabilitation." It is done on an ingenious conveyor-belt system.

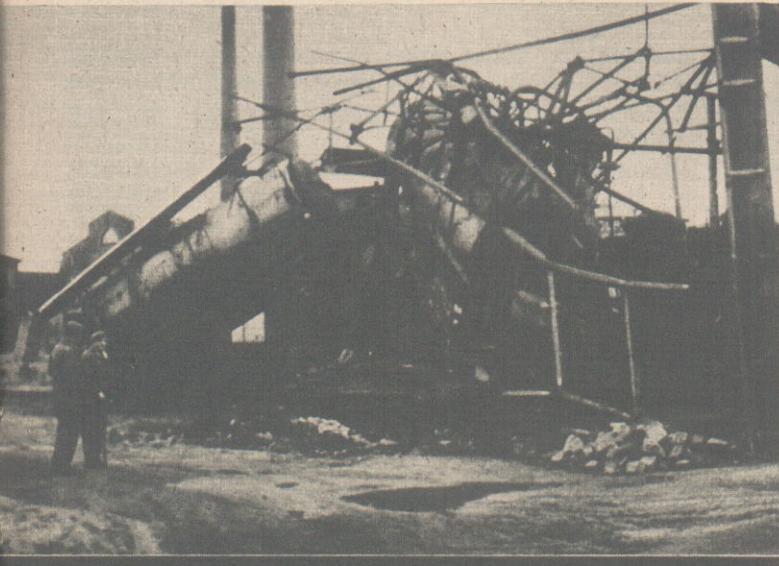
Already the re-building of Pet Haven has cost over £1,000,000; it may well cost £3,000,000 before the repairs are completed.

But within a year or 18 months it is hoped to have Pet Haven back where it was before the war — a fuel depot capable of storing 120,000,000 gallons of petrol, oil and other fuels.

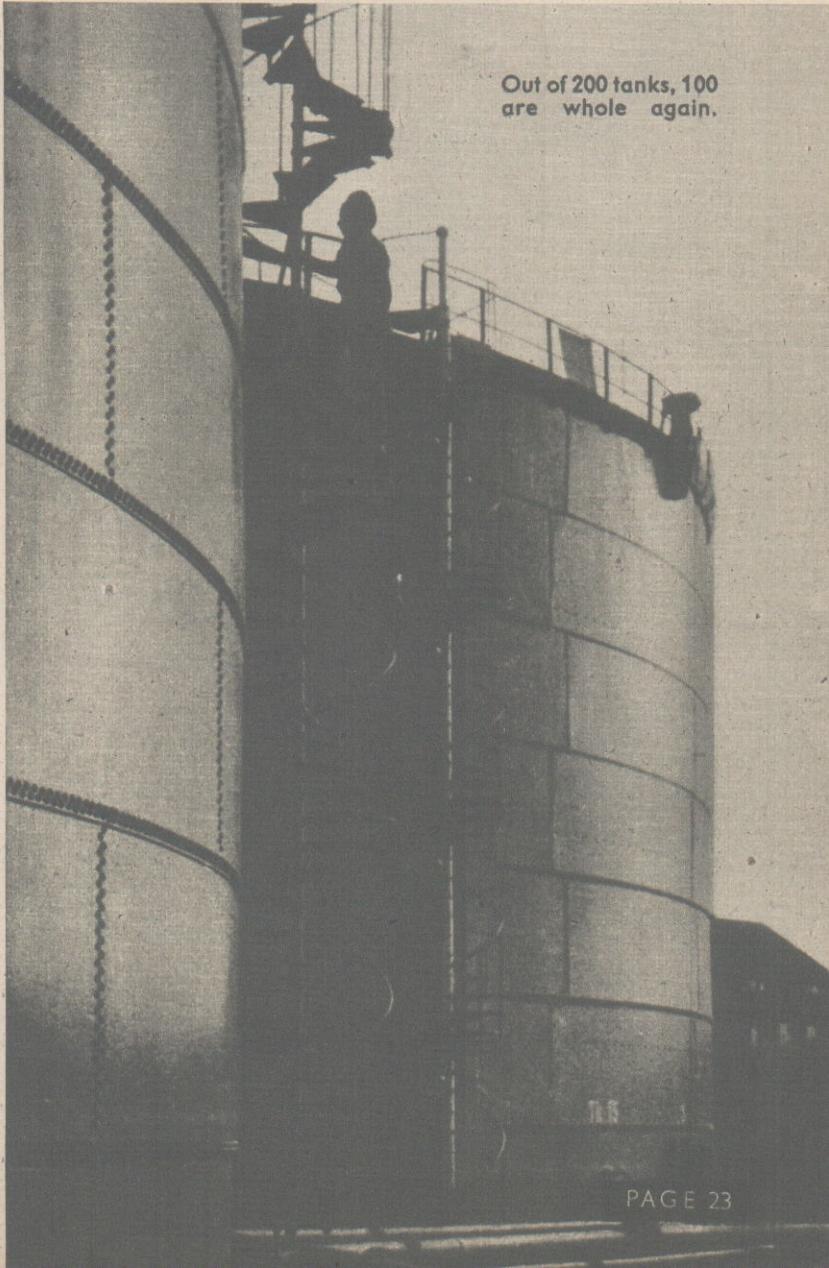
E. J. GROVE.



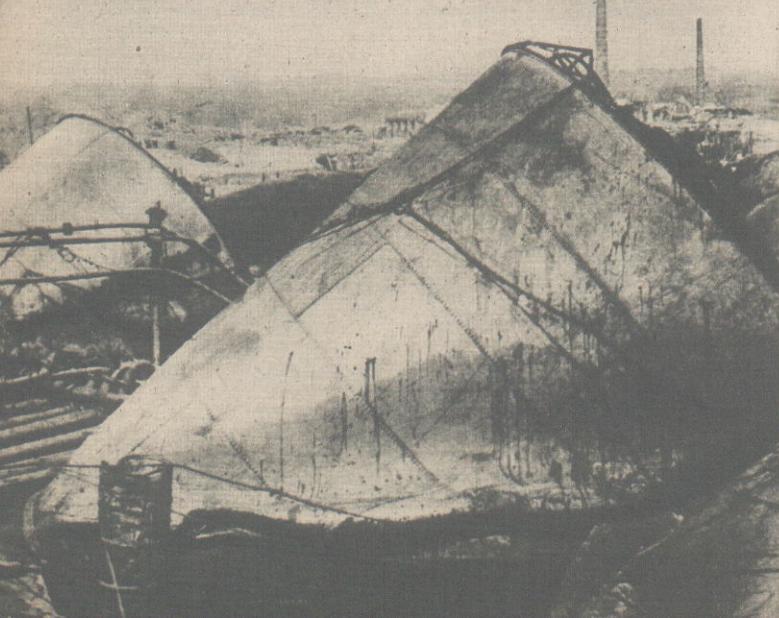
"One return and one single to the War Office, please."



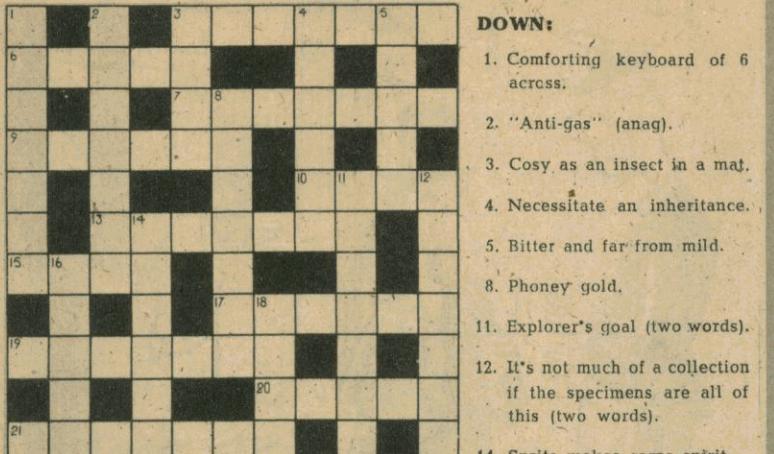
Above: This exhibit is being left as a monument to man's folly. The whole depot was like this in mid-1945; even today scores of tanks (below) are beyond repair.



Out of 200 tanks, 100 are whole again.



CROSSWORD



DOWN:

1. Comforting keyboard of 6 across.
2. "Anti-gas" (anag).
3. Cosy as an insect in a mat.
4. Necessitate an inheritance.
5. Bitter and far from mild.
6. Phoney gold.
11. Explorer's goal (two words).
12. It's not much of a collection if the specimens are all of this (two words).
14. Sprite makes corps spirit.
16. Fragile.
18. If you stick this out you may take something on it.

(Answers on Page 35)

ACROSS: A few separate. — 6. See 1 down. — 7. Parvenu. — 9. Mean but not average. — 10. Indian. — 13. Town famous for oranges and a barber. — 15. Newts. — 17. Where the cakes come from in Lancashire. — 19. Undisciplined quee in an asylum? (Two words). — 20. This man takes the bun. — 21. Take the bumps out.

How Much Do You Know?



1. At a rough guess, would you say the gentleman in the picture above was: An entrant in a male pin-up contest at Los Angeles; A Kabul money-lender taking a siesta; An impersonator of Omar Khayyam at the Chelsea Arts Ball; A browned-off eunuch in the Palace of Zanzibar?
2. Can you name three film actresses whose surname is Russell?
3. If you were told you were going to be expropriated, you might make one of these exclamations: "But I'm not a Roman Catholic, anyway." "Well, make sure the knife is sharp."
4. How did the Bren gun get its name?
5. This is a parody of what, by whom: "Here, where the flattering and mendacious swarm Of lying epitaphs their secrets keep, At last incapable of further harm The lewd forefathers of the village sleep."

(Answers on Page 35)



Back to the tiny villages or the teeming cities of Mother India go the fine fighting men who slashed the enemy's tentacles in Africa, Palestine and Persia.

THE INDIANS

THE Indians are going home. The men of the Indian Army, the Moslems and the Hindus, the Gurkhas and the Sikhs, and all those other regiments with picturesque dress and long-standing traditions, who fought shoulder to shoulder with other men of the Empire and gained 6,900 awards for gallantry and meritorious service, among them 31 Victoria Crosses, are awaiting repatriation.

In the Middle East at No. 17 Indian Reinforcement Camp, Suez, bounded on one side by the Red Sea and on the other by miles of desert, there has been great activity, for No. 17 camp has become known to thousands of men as the first step on the long road home. Through the gates of this tented camp pass the men who served

in Libya, in Palestine, in the Dodecanese, in Paforce; the men who ferried transport and supplies to the hard-pressed Russians across the plains and mountains of Persia; the men who looked after the cattle stocks, railways and docks. Tall Punjabi Mussulmans with carefully pressed fan-tail turbans; martial Sikhs with resplendent beards held tightly in nets so that they may not become disarranged; short sturdy Gurkhas

GO HOME

complete with kukris—all are to be found at Suez.

It is a hard task to keep hundreds of anxious men cheerful when waiting for the boat home, so Lieut-Col. H. L. Mostyn Owen, of the 19th Lancers, has organised almost continuous sport. There are other amenities, such as a canteen, information room, and a daily programme of Indian films, but they all take second place to sport. The men spend all their time training, for Indians, with their multitude of different traditions, are essentially competitive.

Recently, when 2000 officers and men were gathered in the camp, an athletic meeting was held which would have set a standard for a professional exhibition, and which proved that even while in transit, the men of India can compete with any.

Every side of athletics from putting-the-shot to tug-of-war was featured, and a colourful touch was given by the 2nd. Punjab Regimental Band.

A few days later the Cameronia arrived, having fought through funnel-high seas, often with a 30-degree list, to get to Suez. The host of small units that made up the 2000 men left the sports fields, and the other amenities of the camp in the desert, and set out for home. Seven were disappointed; they had married in the Middle East and had to stay— their wives were in quarantine with mumps.

CLIFFORD GARROD.

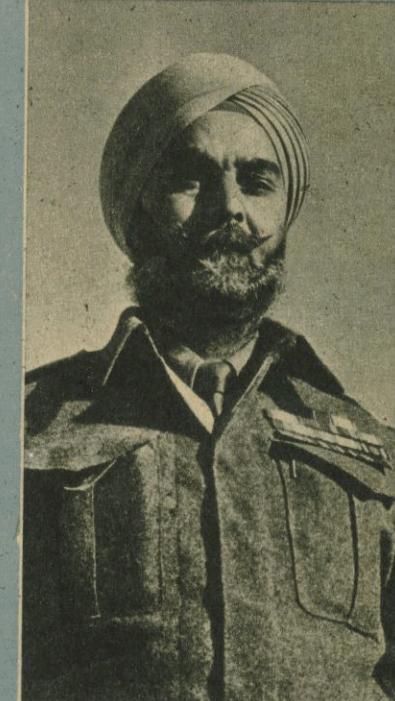
Desert sand gives a poor grip for a tug-of-war, but the spirit was there. Sport went on non-stop while the men waited for the ship.



Lean, perhaps—but his muscles were hardened in desert campaigns.



Fan-tail turban is traditional dress of this Subadar Major of the Punjabi Mussulmans.



Wearing four rows of ribbons: a Sikh Subadar Major with immaculate moustache and turban.



One of India's oldest Infantry regiments—the 2nd. Punjab Regiment, composed of Punjabi Mussulmans, Sikhs and Dogras—sent its band to entertain Indian troops awaiting repatriation at Suez. Fine musicians in fine uniforms, the Punjabi bandsmen were a "smash hit" among Indians, British and civilians alike. The band of another Punjab regiment thrilled Londoners during the Victory celebrations.



All Quiet at Munster: photograph by L/Cpl. K. Boocock, Royal Scots Greys.

Reviving an early **SOLDIER** Feature-



Dawn at Lubbecke: photograph by Sjt. M. Fleet, Glasgow Highlanders.

Readers in all theatres are invited to submit photographs suitable for this page or for reproduction elsewhere in **SOLDIER**. All pictures used will be paid for at professional rates.



QUIET PAGE

The picture which makes you want to emigrate. A photographic classic from New Zealand: Maori Maid.

Lac d'Amour, Bruges: photograph by **SOLDIER**'s Sjt. M. Berman.



The soldier with an idea for an invention is up against stiff competition from Ministry of Supply experts. Many of the best ideas have been thought out already. But there's always a chance that his idea will bring him a reward from a Royal Commission

Sorry, No Electric Walls

JUST getting down to work in London is a Royal Commission established to settle claims by more than 50 inventors of gadgets that helped win World War Two. Among them are the designers of the Scorpion flail tank, Mulberry Port, and the Blacker Bombard mortar with its anti-tank shell.

The soldiers and civil servants who invented things in the course of their duties, like Sir Donald Bailey, who produced the bridge that is named after him, are not strictly entitled to awards, but they will be considered if they make application.

Casual inventors are not likely to figure largely on the list, because they are always faced with competition of expert Ministry of Supply research workers who have the advantage of knowing what new ideas are secretly in production and exactly what the authorities are looking for.

Because of this ignorance, several casual inventors had near misses, like the man who invented inflatable decoy tanks with-

out knowing that troops were already using them in Middle East, the one who thought up man-carrying "shells" for dragging Infantry into action behind tanks when the Americans had already adopted a similar idea, or the RE sergeant who invented a mine similar to the German "S" mine which would throw mustard gas or some similar chemical substance and whose idea was turned down simply because there was no chemical warfare.

Other inventions were thought out by people to help their own jobs along, like a REME Corporal's device for remoulding rubber valves on inner tubes, another NCO's design for a de-belted device for 50 ammunition and modifications for the 25 and 17-pounder guns by engineers at

Another bright—but impracticable—idea was to interleave secret documents with pyrotechnic paper, which would destroy them if they fell into enemy hands.



Early in World War Two an unnamed Fusilier claimed to be able to locate U-boats by divination. The War Office "was not prepared to pursue the investigation."

Royal Ordnance factories.

Many devices considered by the Science branch of the War Office failed because inventors overlooked some vital detail.

A civilian invented a magnificent "amphibian armoured locomotive weapon for war" which, he claimed, could get itself out of any hole or pit, could right itself if it capsized, was completely enclosed by armour which would stand up to anything less than a direct hit by a large shell or bomb, and was very fast on water. It was 19 ft 5 ins long and 18 ft 7 ins wide which, it had to be pointed out to the inventor, would make it very difficult to convey to a battlefield.

Other inventions which did not go into production because they were either redundant or impractical were: —

An electric wall of X-rays or Gamma-rays to keep out invaders. In theory it was all right, but practical-minded people at the War Office pointed out that the amount of power needed to produce the necessary current would be "fantastic".

Pyrotechnic paper to be interleaved with secret documents to destroy them if they were in danger of falling into enemy hands.

An extension to a Sten-gun barrel to make it into a rifle. The extra piece of barrel was to be hinged from the main barrel on four levers and fold back on to the main barrel when it was not in use. The inventor, a soldier, airily dismissed the idea that it would be extremely difficult to make the two sections of the barrel accurately collinear and the joint gas-tight.

Against flying-bombs one inventor suggested that mortar-bombs with time-fuzes should be fitted with rubber "stickers" to make them adhere to the bombs until they blew up.

The atomic bomb seems to have brought amateur inventors

to a dead stop. The Science people can recall only two amateur suggestions.

The first was from a man who said there was a vast underground lake under southern Germany and that an atomic bomb set off there would probably remove most of southern Germany. It had to be pointed out that the war in southern Germany was over and there were a good many British troops there.

The other atomic idea was from a boy of 14, who designed an air-raid shelter which would be atom bomb-proof. It was to be 440 yards high and 150 yards wide and buried to a depth of about 400 yards. Its walls, some 50 yards thick, were to be made of alternate layers of lead and iron with a partial vacuum between them and a glass lining inside. His shelter possibly would have been atom bomb-proof, but the experts had to point out to him that it would need 40,000,000 tons of lead, 20,000,000 tons of iron and about 30,000,000 man-hours to build and that the bearing pressure of its foundation would be far too much for any section of the earth's crust.

The most curious correspondence of all on inventions in the War Office files is not, strictly, about an invention at all. It concerns a Fusilier who claimed to know all about divination and to have found a fellow-Fusilier who had the necessary powers. The two of them were to bring about the destruction of all Germany's U-boats "by the simple process of knowing exactly where they are."

The War Office solemnly replied that it was "not prepared to pursue the investigation" as "divination is not usually susceptible to proof or disproof." So the Fusiliers went off to North Africa with their CO's assurance that they could use their gift to locate enemy batteries, headquarters and other targets in the field.

DEMOB

What Happened Last Time

Men who wear the 1914-18 ribbon will tell you that the Age and Service release plan of today is a big advance on the demobilisation scheme which followed the Kaiser's war. Just what did happen after 1918?



IN November 1918 The War Office had been working for two years on a demobilisation plan, but had had little cooperation from the Government, and the day war ended nobody knew what was going to happen — unlike 1945 when every serving man had known for months the number of his release-group.

Yet on 10 November 1918, the day before the Armistice was signed, the national Press published a statement which said: "Should the Armistice conditions be accepted by Germany, demobilisation may begin this week."

And so the stage was set for chaos. Shortly after the Armistice the first men came out — "pivotal" men, whose work in industry and other fields was believed to be essential for re-absorbing other demobilised men into the civilian community. Next, soldiers on leave, including miners and 19-year-olds, were told not to report back to their units.

The main basis of release was the importance accorded to a serving man's pre-war occupation, which meant that many badly-wounded men who had fought for four years were kept under arms while young recruits went back home. All a man had to do to be released was to produce a written statement from his employer that a job was waiting for him; that was where the wangling started. Those whose employers did not want them back had no redress in law — a big contrast to today.

Winston Churchill, who took charge of the War Office soon after the Armistice, described the result in his book "The Aftermath":

"The fighting man has a grim sense of justice, which it is dangerous to affront. As the result, the discipline of every single separate unit throughout the whole of our Army in all the theatres of war was swiftly and simultaneously rotted and undermined. For nearly two months this process had continued, and it had become intolerable to the fighting troops....."

MP's were getting worried about conditions, too, and questions, one or two of which bear a resemblance to some of today's, were shot across the Commons at the War Minister:

"Is the Secretary of State for War aware that many men who were formerly dock labourers and are now in the Army, quartered in Great Britain, have for some time past had no occupation other than sport?"

"Is the Secretary of State for War aware that there are many men in the Army Pay Corps who have permanent civil employment awaiting them, who are being retained in the Army on the ground that they are indispensable; and, in view of the fact that in some cases this work is being done by discharged soldiers, will he consider the possibility of

sentence of two years' hard labour; and will he authorise this man's discharge from the Army in order that he may resume his work as legal adviser to the Navvies' Union?"

"Can the Secretary of State for War see his way to release from service, without delay, Sergeant Jesse Bird, 295334, A Company, 23rd Rifle Brigade, recently stationed at Bareilly, India, in view of the fact that he is over 40 years of age, has a large family and an old father who requires him in the family business? Sergeant Bird spent several years in India without leaves, and many men much younger have recently been permitted to come home from his unit and other units."

But in the Secretary of State's room at the War Office, Churchill was preparing to cope with the situation.

"I propounded forthwith the following policy," he wrote. "First:



"... a written statement from his employer that a job was waiting for him."

extending this and employing in the Army Pay Corps discharged soldiers who are out of employment and thus be able to release the men who have civil employment waiting for them?"

"Will men serving far from home who have had no leave have preference in demobilisation, and is there a possibility of one-man businessmen being allowed special consideration to account for the great loss they have suffered?"

"In view of the fact that there are 9593 doctors and 20,141 nurses in the Army, will the Secretary of State for War arrange for at least 50 of the former and 2000 of the latter to be granted immediate indefinite leave to help the public health?"

And there were the personal questions:

"Is the Secretary of State for War aware that —, North Stafford Regiment, who is now awaiting court-martial at Whittington Barracks, has served two sentences of six months' hard labour and has just completed a third

Soldiers should as a rule only be released in accordance with their length of service and age. Those who had served at the front the longest were to be the first to be demobilised, and any man with three wound stripes or more was to be discharged forthwith..... Second: The pay of the Army must be immediately increased to more than double the War rate, in order to lessen the gap between the rewards of military and civilian employment. Thirdly: In order, whilst maintaining the necessary forces in the field, to release the men who had fought in as large numbers and as quickly as possible, the 80,000 young lads who had been trained but had not quitted our shores, must be retained compulsorily for a period of two years and sent abroad."

Churchill hurried over to France to see Lloyd George, then Prime Minister, and had his plan approved, but it was not in time to prevent a series of troubles caused by soldiers' anger at the

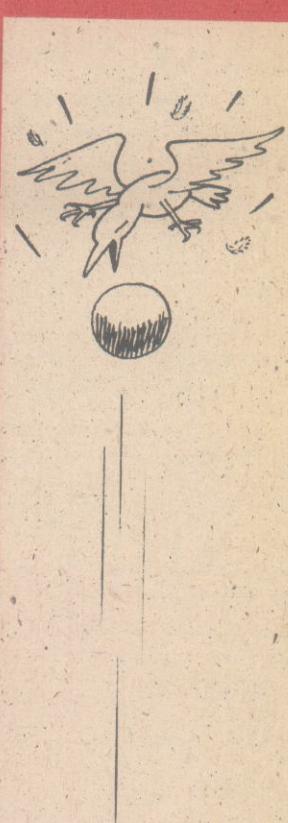
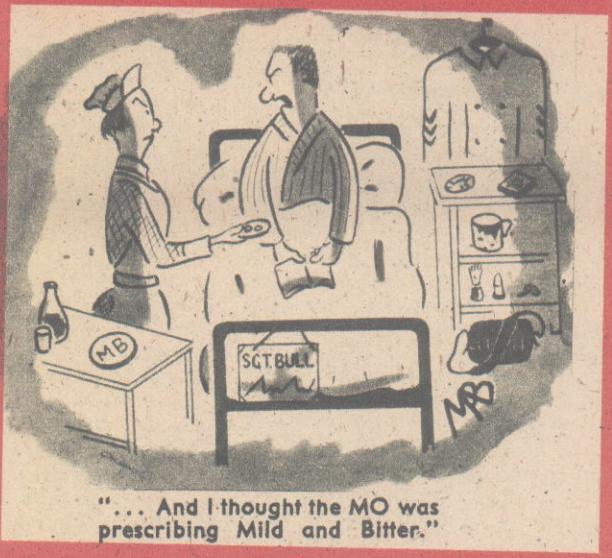
old release programme. Churchill goes on:

"In a single week more than 30 cases of insubordination among the troops were reported from different centres. Nearly all were repressed by the remonstrances or appeasements of their officers. But in several cases considerable bodies of men were for some days entirely out of control. Some units informed their officers that they had constituted themselves a Soldiers' Council and intended to march to the nearest township and fraternise with the workmen..."

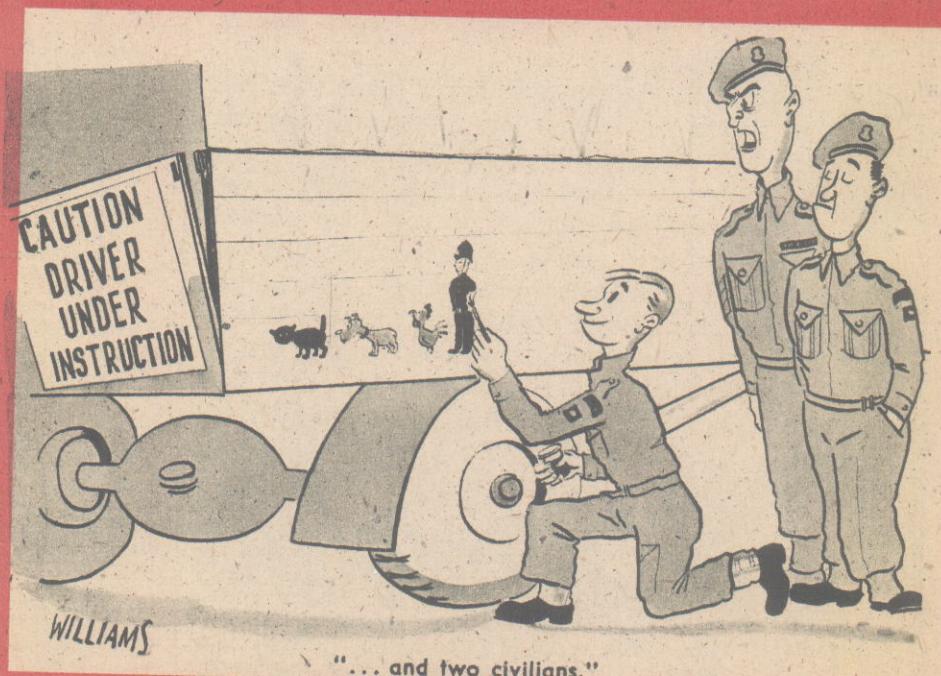
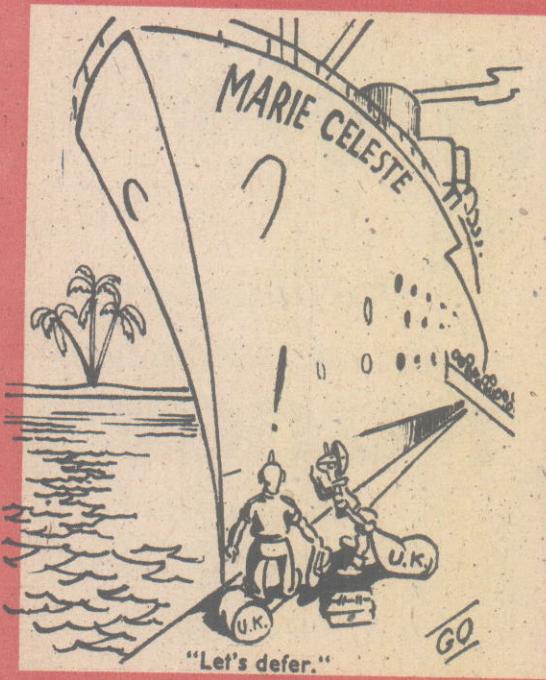
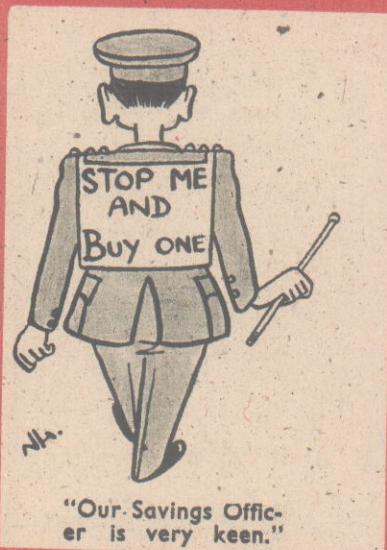
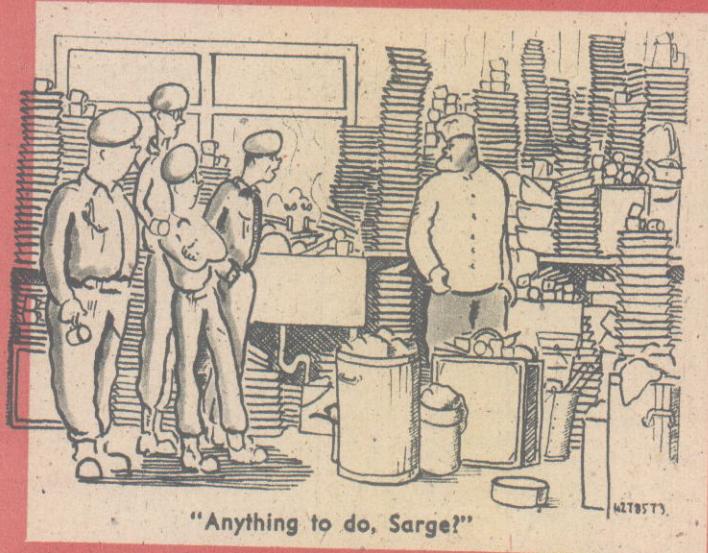
A mutiny broke out at Calais. Between 27 and 31 January (1919) the Army Ordnance detachments and the Mechanical Transport, then "the least disciplined part of the Army," refused to obey orders.

"They met the leave-boats and induced a large number of the returning soldiers to join them. In 24 hours the ringleaders were at the head of about three or four thousand armed men and in complete possession of the town. All the fighting divisions had moved on towards Germany, and there was no force immediately at hand to cope with the mutineers. The Commander-in-Chief accordingly recalled two divisions from their forward march, and placing them under the personal control of a most respected and trusted Army commander, General Byng, directed them upon the scene of the disorders. The soldiers of these divisions were aroused to indignation at the news that demobilisation was being obstructed by comrades of theirs who had in no wise borne the brunt of the fighting. By nightfall of the second day the disaffected soldiery were encircled by a ring of bayonets and machine guns. At daylight a converging advance was made upon them. In front officers, unarmed, called upon them to return to duty; behind them deadly overwhelming force was arrayed. Thus confronted, most of the men drifted to the rear, but several hundreds stood their ground with obstinacy. A shocking explosion would have been precipitated by a single shot; but self-restraint and good feeling triumphed. The ringleaders were arrested, and the rest returned to their obedience without the shedding of a drop of blood."

Churchill's demobilisation plan was the first Britain ever had on the age and length of service principle. But though it was, as he claims, an improvement on the system which operated immediately after World War One, he spent many months facing a barrage of angrily put questions about demobilisation, chiefly based on the complaint that it was too slow.



SOLDIER Humour



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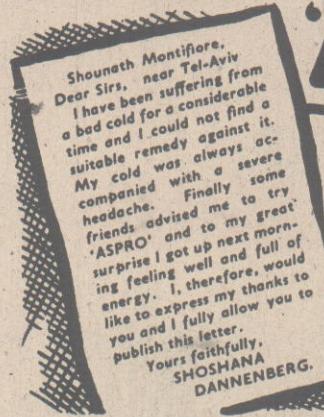
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Jim Pike, the man who once went round the dartboard in doubles in 17 seconds, says it's "just a knack."

THE WILLIAM TELL OF DARTS

BY ARCHIE QUICK

THE game of darts has come a long way since its sawdust and public bar days — in fact, as far as table tennis has advanced from the ping-pong stage — and the one man, more than any other, responsible for its progress is Jim Pike.

This dapper little man from Lambeth Walk is to darts what Joe Davis is to snooker. His uncanny skill has so fired the zeal of others that there will be half a million entries for this year's *News of the World* Individual Championship. Others are now approaching him in actual play, but Pike remains the incomparable maestro of trick shots; the daddy of them all at showmanship.

Try some of these efforts if you have the patience — and a friend bold enough.

Stand close up to the board with the flights taken from your darts and then go round the board in doubles as rapidly as possible, pulling out the darts yourself. Pike's record stands at the almost unbelievable time of 17 seconds. I saw him do it in 22 and in order not to interrupt the rhythmic sway of his body he

scored probably 30 doubles in that space of time. For example, if he had scored his double six and it was inconvenient at that instant to transfer to seven on the other side of the board he would throw his third dart into the six and then scoop them out with his left hand — and at that instant he would be poised for the seven. He says this is his greatest trick.

Now get a pal — and he'll need to be some pal — to place a match in each of his finger nails and hold up his hand against the board. Pike, from nine feet, removed the matches with six darts.

Then again from nine feet he drove his dart through a cigarette held in a man's mouth and pinned it to the nominated double — in this case double 15.

Then came the removal of a sixpence from the top of a tumbler, with the dart going into the nominated double three. And then the board was covered with

"Hold it!" cried the photographer after Jim Pike had pinned this soldier's cigarette to the dartboard. There's really no need for a volunteer to appear as worried as that.



Continuing THE WILLIAM TELL OF DARTS

a newspaper and Pike got the double asked for with his third dart. Believe it or not, I saw it — and so did *SOLDIER*'s photographer, Desmond O'Neill.

As I said, the game of darts has moved up into the swank class and this exhibition took place at the East Herts. County Club before an assembly of professional men — doctors, lawyers and so on. But Jim and his *News of the World* team still go out on the highways and byways of England and Wales playing for charity.

Pike stands almost sideways to the line and he delivers his throw with the wrist bent back. His dart has a rounded, four-pronged paper flight, a long shank of wood, a short brass weight and an even shorter steel arrow point.

Jim, who is approaching his 500th "treble twenty" — I shall be pleased to get my first one day — still works as a metal die caster. He is 43 years of age, he has not been beaten at match-play for ten years and he has won 37 major championships. All of which makes the star-turn at my "local" green with envy, while I go a delicate emerald myself.

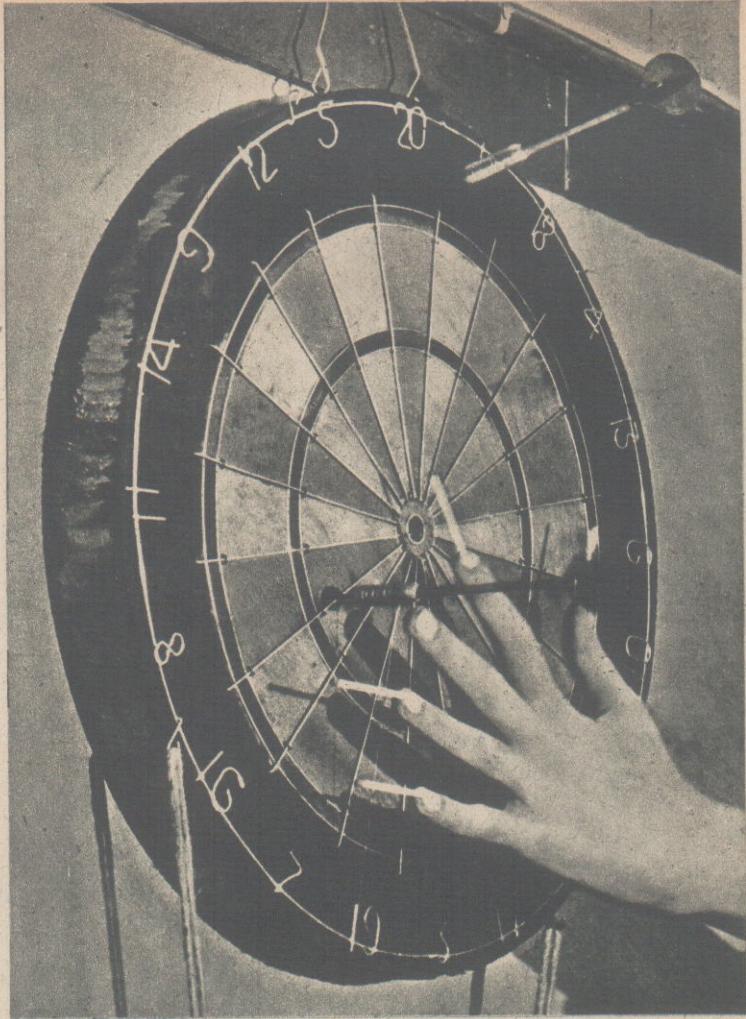
Darts, I should say, is played by more people than any other game. It can certainly claim one distinction, and that is that it raised more money for charity during the war than any other sport — £300,000. That was mainly through the efforts of Pike and

his team. Twelve million is Jim's estimate of the playing public. Incidentally during the war the American soldiers took a lively interest in darts — a game that was entirely new to them — and as a result darts is certain to become more popular in the States than crap shooting here.

Pike, chirpy as a Cockney sparrow, was blind for two weeks earlier in his life. He says his prowess is due simply to "a knack". Twenty-seven years of dart throwing have worn a hole in the pad of his third finger. He sights over the flight and then remains motionless until he flicks the dart away in a slight arc and follows through with fingers outstretched. He spins a dart on its course in very much the manner of a cricketer.

Jim regrets that the game has not been standardised. There are 30 variations of throw distances and of the manner in which matches can start and end. In Nottingham, for instance, the throw is 6ft and in Yorkshire 9ft 6ins. Then there are the boards without treble rings, and so on. Pike's aim is for uniformity throughout the country.

Pike has been broadcast, televised, and put on the stage. Once in a London suburban hall a member of the audience suggested that in one of his trick shots — knocking a pin out of a man's mouth — it was the feather of the dart that took the pin away.



Ping! And the match has vanished from the second finger. Jim cleared all five in six throws.

So just to prove it wasn't Jim took another throw, aimed the dart extra hard and bent the pin!

The *News of the World* team these days play with a giant indicator. It is a replica of a dart board with lights in each number for singles, doubles and trebles. The board subtracts automatically, the score made is indicated, and even "No Score," "Too hot," and "Game shot" are shown. Pike says it makes 50 per cent difference to a man's game if scores are taken for him.

Pike's teammates are Newstead, Ross and Outten. In a recent match in Nottingham they put up 52 scores of 100 or more

in three games each of 1001 up. And their percentage of misses when game shot is on is less than one in ten. How often have I — and you — said: "That is the thirtieth dart I have thrown for that double one!"

I was frankly sceptical when I went to see this exhibition at Hendon, but I stayed to become fully convinced. Awed, I think, is a better word. When a person achieves perfection there remains little for the rest of us to do but stand and admire. The only sports people I know who are complete masters of their profession, far ahead of anyone else, are Joe Davis and Jim Pike.

Stance is half the battle. Jim stands almost sideways to the line.



Blind man's darts... The double was secured with the third dart.



"I'm a bodiless Inn-spectre,"
he remarks with ghoulish glee;
"But anything I lack *de corps*
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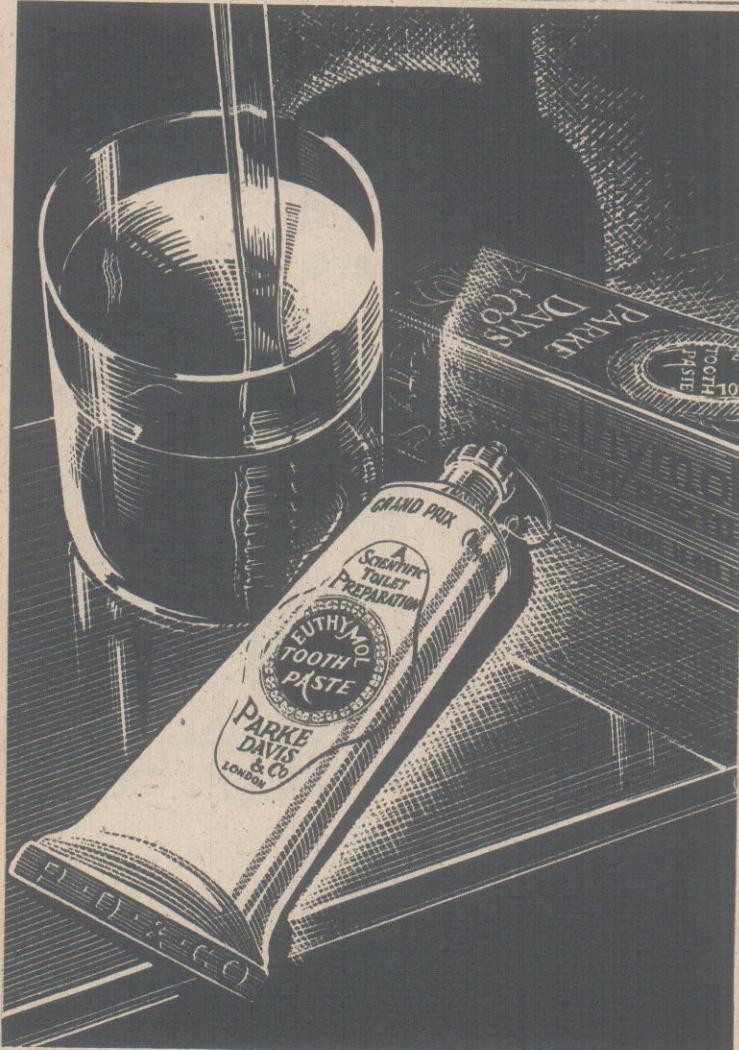
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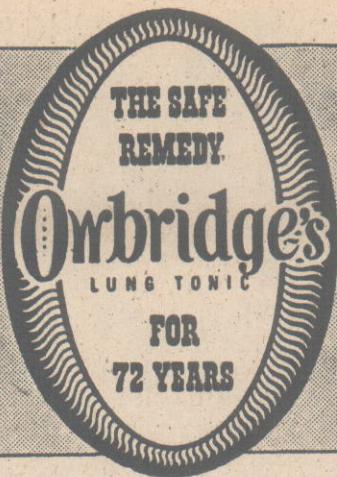
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TRAINING QUIZ

HERE are many current misconceptions about the scope and progress of the Government's training scheme for ex-soldiers. **SOLDIER** prints this questionnaire to clear the air:

Q. How many ex-Servicemen are undergoing vocational training at the Ministry of Labour training centres in Britain?

A. 28,182 (according to latest figures by Mr. Isaacs).

Q. How many are waiting for training?

A. 26,138.

Q. How fast are they being absorbed?

A. At the rate of 5000 a month.

Q. Why aren't there more centres?

A. Because—apart from shortages of premises and tools—it's no use training men for work which isn't there. The scheme is closely geared to the needs of industry. Programmes are worked out with the collaboration of employers and trade unions. Priority at present goes to building trade students.

Q. Which jobs are most popular?

A. Waiting lists vary from month to month, but the longest queues have been to learn bricklaying, carpentry, painting, plumbing, plastering, hairdressing, boot repairing and cabinet-making; and, after these, wood machining, upholstering, electrical trades, radio and typewriter repair, watch and clock repair and tailoring.

Q. Can a man be considered for training if he was employed on unskilled work before joining the Forces?

A. Yes, he can apply and will be considered if he can show he is in need of training to obtain work suited to his capacity. Prior claims of

younger ex-Service applicants may have to be considered, however.

Q. Is training available in all trades?

A. No. In some industries—such as the iron-foundry industry—it has been agreed that training required by adult new entrants shall be provided by the industry itself at standard rates of pay. In others, because of war-time expansion, it is not considered that there will be scope for skilled new entrants at present.

Q. If no training facilities are available, will the Ministry of Labour pay for a course of training which a man may be able to take privately?

A. No. The Ministry is bound by agreements with industry and cannot pay for independent training.

Q. If a man takes a job after leaving the Forces will that prejudice his application for vocational training?

A. No. If his application is accepted it will be filed and he will be notified when a vacancy occurs.

Q. In some jobs a man needs personal tools. Does the Ministry supply them?

A. In certain jobs, yes. Not only does the Ministry find the tools to train the man, but it lets him take these tools to his job.

Q. Do trainees enter industry with full trade union privileges?

A. Yes.

Q. Do all trainees get jobs?

A. A recent check on 14,000 men trained for the building trade showed that 95.3 per cent had been placed. Local variations in conditions and the inability of the trainee to move his home accounted for most of the odd 4.7 per cent.

ANY ADVANCE ON 22?

NOBODY so far claims to have emulated or surpassed the record of Lieut. (QM) A. E. Brittain in taking no leave for 19 years (**SOLDIER**, January).

But Lieut. Brittain's secondary claim to have served longer with one battalion than anybody else (18 years) produced two letters within 48 hours of publication. One was from a private soldier whose continuous service with the 2nd Bn. Devonshire Regt. for 22 years three months just beats that of the second claimant a lieutenant (QM) in the 1st Bn. East Lancashires.

It was on 4 June 1924 that Arthur Roland Bennett, aged 14, took the King's Shilling. Twelve days later, a bugle boy in the KOYLI's drum and fife band, he set off for Minden Barracks, Cologne, to join the World War One occupation army.

Now Private "Battler" Bennett is with the World War Two occupation army at Lüneburg.

In October 1924 Bennett was claimed by his brother into the Devons. In December both were posted as bugle boys to the 2nd Bn. in India. In 1927 the battalion moved to Aden.

Bennett's claims to fame include possession of a clean conduct sheet; a "four-figure sum" saved from his Army pay and a 21-year

title to the regimental javelin-throwing record.

Lieut. Reginald William Abendroth — "Abbey" — of the 1st Bn. East Lancashire Regt. was posted to that battalion on 10 March 1925. He also began his Army career as a band boy.

He was commissioned in 1945 and was recently granted a short-service commission which will keep him in the Army for seven years more. With any luck he expects to bring his total service to 40 years, and still to remain in the same battalion.

BUYING A HOUSE

TO help ex-Servicemen buy their own houses the British Legion has decided to lend the difference between five percent of the cost price and the amount of the available mortgage on houses costing up to £1500. This loan will be interest free.

Example: If you find a house costing £1000 you must find £50 and if you raise an 80 percent mortgage of £800 the Legion will lend you the remaining 15 percent (£150) to be repaid by easy instalments.

Application must be made to local branches of the Legion. If possible, approvals or refusals are given the same day. The ex-Serviceman (or woman) must have a definite house in view with an assurance that it will be available for occupation as soon as possible.

Answers

(from Page 24)

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

1. A Kabul money-lender.
2. Jane, Gail, Rosalind.
3. "You can't take away all I have in the world."
4. From Brno (Czechoslovakia) and Enfield.
5. "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"; parodist—Sir John Squire.
6. Yes, 5s. per annum, or a life payment.
7. There were once Twelve Commandments.
8. Tipperary.
9. *The Leader*.
10. Mary (popular song).
11. *Folies Bergère*.
12. *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Mirror*, *News Chronicle*, *Daily Herald*.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 3. Several. 6. Organ. 7. Upstart. 9. Stingy. 10. Indo. 13. Seville. 15. Efts. 17. Eccles. 19. Mad rush. 20. Inner. 21. Flatten. DOWN: 1. Console. 2. Against. 3. Snug. 4. Entail. 5. Acrid. 8. Pyrites. 11. New land. 12. One sort. 14. Esprit. 16. Frail. 18. Chin.

SOLDIER BOOKSHELF

The Unglorified Ally

OF all the allies who shared with us the trials and victories of the recent war, the mule is probably the one who has had the least recognition.

Spoken and printed words daily glorify the human ally; for pigeons and dogs there have been

"animal VC's" special shows and places in the Victory March. But the mule, apart from a few jokes with a World War One flavour, has been allowed to return to the humble obscurity from which he came.

Yet there were mules in France with the original BEF, mules carried stores and artillery and wounded across the hills of the Middle East, of North and East Africa, of Greece and Italy and, not least, through the "unjeepable" wildernesses of Burma.

It is to the mules that operated in Burma that Brigadier Bernard Fergusson, DSO, pays tribute in "The Wild Green Earth" (Collins, 10s. 6d.)—the big mules from South Africa and the Argentine and the tiny mules from India that marched with the Chindits of Wingate's Special Force.

"Of mules," writes Fergusson, "I should like to celebrate the virtues in a great epic poem. I love them from the tip of their Bolshie ears to the outer rim of their highly suspect hind hooves. The patient eyes and the courageous hearts of the great family of mules move me with real affection."

He recalls: "The men became passionately fond of their mules: not only the muleteers, but the whole platoon who owned them. I have seen men weeping at a mule's death who have not wept at a comrade's. I have seen men jeer at another platoon whose mules were having to be helped to their feet ... The mules did more than their share in keeping us in a good temper; and their fabled obstinacy, translated into terms of sticking to their job through thick and thin without urging, is a rare and fine quality."

"The Wild Green Earth" tells the story of No. 16 Infantry Brigade, the Chindit Brigade that went behind the Jap lines on its feet instead of by air, and ruminates and reminisces on the Chindits' particular kind of warfare in a way that bids fair to make it a textbook, though not, perhaps, an official one.



"Battler" Bennett — his second occupation



Lieut. Abendroth — may serve 40 years

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LETTERS

CUSTOMS DUTY

Are cameras bought through Welfare and accompanied by the official bill subject to Customs duty and purchase tax? Also, are spirits taken into Britain with either the seal broken or the contents partly used subject to duty and tax? — Pte. G. Gibson, 1034 Camp Reception Station.

If I purchase through my Unit Welfare Office for £3 a pair of binoculars the value of which in Britain is perhaps £15 and send them home under a duty-free label, will I be liable to pay duty calculated on the home market value, which exceeds the value covered by the duty-free label? — Sgt. P. Lynch, RHG, 2 LAA Regt, RA.

★ The Customs assess duty and tax on the amount stated on the bill. If you lose that bill you will probably be charged the full taxable amount. The binoculars should be accompanied by the bill and should also be covered by duty-free labels to the value of the purchase price.

The Customs allow you to take a little spirit into Britain free, but they charge duty and tax on any amount above the permitted duty-free allotment, whether or not seals are broken.

Will my German fiancée be allowed to bring jewellery into Britain tax and duty free? — Gnr. E. F. McDermott, B.F.N.

★ A modest amount which she can prove is her own personal property is usually allowed free.

INTERCHANGE

In view of the possible standardisation of the equipment in the British and U.S. Armies I make the following suggestions:

The round U.S. fatigue cap should be standard head-wear by both Armies.

Our two-piece entrenching tool should be standardised instead of the unwieldy long-handled spades and picks.

The Sten mark II should be used. It is much better than the highly praised German machine-carbine of 1944 which needs a lot of oiling and has more stoppages. — Cpl. Peter Buxbaum, OR Mess, Mil. Gov, 821 HQ CCG.

RESTORING MEDALS

(1) How long must a man serve to be entitled to the 1939-45 Star and Defence Medal? (2) I served in France

RELEASE SPEED-UP

A speed-up in releases is announced. The whole of Group 53 will be out by 8 July (before it was stated that only Group 50 would be out by that date.)

The reason: improvement in recruiting and a shortening in the training period.

The War Office announce that the change will necessitate revision of shipping and other plans but it is hoped to get all men back for release in their group periods. No guarantee can be given that there may not be a slight delay in a few cases.

from 23 Sept 1939 to 16 May 1940. After coming out of hospital I went absent for which I lost my service. I went to BLA on 25 March 1945. Can I claim any medals? — Fusilier (name and address supplied).

★ (1) To qualify for the Star you must aggregate six months service in an operational command. For the Medal: three years. (2) ACI 348/45 says recommendations for restoration ... will only be made if the individual gives satisfactory service on the battlefield after his offence. ACI 689/46 adds an amendment which says that after the cessation of hostilities recommendation for restoration can be made in the case of individuals who have been 12 months clear of a regimental entry.

NEW RIFLE

Was the Lee-Enfield Mark 5 rifle with the flash eliminator issued to and used by the Infantry during the war in Europe? — Cpl. A. Johnson, 3 B.A.D.

★ You probably mean the Lee-Enfield No. 5 — there is no Mark 5. This was issued to certain airborne



Lee-Enfield No. 5, with flash eliminator and double-edged eight-inch bayonet.

formations (including Infantry) in 1944 but was never used in action by them. It was issued for trial purposes to several divisions after the war. The rifle was used on a small scale by Infantry in Burma in 1945.

ROCKETS

I noticed the picture of the rocket guns (SOLDIER January). These 32 barrel projectors (a later type had fewer barrels) were used by 102 LAA Regt. in Holland and Germany. They fired a rocket similar to that carried by a Typhoon. One gun could fire by 32 rockets in approx. eight seconds. There were 12 guns to one battery.

Although these projectors were handled by a LAA Regt. the targets were on land and not in the air. As for using them against V1's, this is very doubtful as the gun, though having a decent range, was not accurate. — Ex 102.

CIVVY STREET RANK

Can you tell me the official ruling on the retention of rank by officers holding a temporary (or war) commission on release from the Forces. Can they claim to be addressed by their rank? — F. T. Lee (ex-R.A.F.), Broadgate, Preston, Lancs.

★ Army officers on release receive a letter from the War Office stating that at the end of the emergency "you will relinquish your commission and at the same time a notice will appear in the London Gazette (Supplement) granting you the honorary rank of Meanwhile you have permission to use that rank from the date of your release".

Usually only ex-Regulars use their rank in civilian life.

MILITARY MEDAL

Does the M.M. carry any grant or bounty? — C. A. Grocott, MM, Salford, Lancs.

★ Yes, £20 if won after 3 Sept '39. But if you are in receipt of a pension



(including disability) then you get 6d. a day instead. Should the disability pension end before the sixpences total £20, the difference will be made up.

LEAFLET WAR

With regard to Peter Lawrence's article on Leaflets (SOLDIER's Feb.) you might be interested to know I was once told that by October 1944 it was estimated that 77 per cent of prisoners taken by the Allies had read one or more of the leaflets. About 80 per cent of the prisoners taken on the Brest Peninsula had leaflets in their possession.

On one occasion three Germans surrendering had only one leaflet. They each held one arm up, the other clutching a corner of the leaflet. — Capt. T. Gregory, ex-IC.

In "The Leaflet War" you mention the Germans' curious misuse of English slang. I once saw a German leaflet addressed to the Americans. It showed a GI dripping with blood and underneath was, "Your way to the Rhine—and then what?"

On the back was: "Well, Kid, how do you like the ETO? Don't you think it's horseman to risk your neck in a damned foxhole full of snow and mud?"

"Isn't it better to stay on the easy side of life? Even your kinfolk back home write that for you the only important thing in this damned war is to get home in one piece."

It has often been pointed out, and I think it is quite true, that propaganda directed at a winning army is not very effective even if it is shrewdly concocted. — L/Cpl. A. Gough.

PYTHON

Am I entitled to claim Python leave after spending four months in Britain? I returned to England after serving two years in CMF. I was placed on draft for the Far East, was given 14 days disembarkation leave and 14 days embarkation leave, when I was taken off the draft and posted to a unit in England. Then I had 14 days embarkation leave before being posted to BAOR. Is my overseas service broken or can I claim Python at the end of the usual period? — Cpl. W. Payne, 737 AFV Serv. Unit, REME.

Unless you proceeded to BAOR before 16 November 1944 your Python tour has been broken. You start a new overseas tour from the date of your embarkation to BAOR.

ACI 1226/45 says:

For the purpose of assessing a soldier's eligibility under the Python scheme periods spent in UK on leave or duty aggregating not more than six months will be counted as service overseas and will contribute towards the qualifying period except in the case of personnel arriving in the UK after 15 November 1944 and subsequently posted to North-West Europe, when the periods will be as shown below:—

Personnel arriving in the UK between 16 November 1944 and 31 July 1945 (inclusive)—three months.

Personnel arriving in the UK on or after 1 August 1945—six weeks.

Time spent in the UK aggregating more than the periods specified in the above para. will constitute a break in an overseas tour and a new tour of overseas service starts on the next date of embarkation.

NO WARRANT YET

Are wartime WO's granted warrants as laid down in King's Regulations? If so, when do they receive them? — RSM. J. Loach, RE., 153 Ry Operating Coy., RE.

★ The general issue of parchment warrants to substantive or war substantive WO's was suspended for the emergency. In due course Record Offices will submit demands to the War Office.

LESS DRINK, MORE FRUIT

Would it be possible for some of the transport and sterling used by NAAFI to bring vast quantities of poor quality brandy and champagne to BAOR to be diverted to the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables which abound in the liberated countries? — Capt. G. Handelman, 722 HQ CCG S/K, Hanover.

★ NAAFI says: "Before any consideration can be given to the suggestion, we should like to have more details of the 'poor quality' brandy and champagne referred to."

REDUCED BY FGCM

I was a colour-serjeant and then reverted to the rank of serjeant at my own request. Later I was reduced by FGCM to the rank of corporal. Does the first reversion at my own request affect my gratuity? — "Corporal", REME, 130 Bde.

★ Reduction by FGCM to corporal from serjeant renders you eligible for war gratuity in the rank of corporal only. Higher rank held before, from which you voluntarily reverted, does not count.

(More Letters on Page 38)

Two Minute Sermon

You cannot become a good pianist, drive a car, play table-tennis, or dance a waltz merely by reading a book. If anyone claimed to speak with authority on such matters without having had any experience you would be justified in thinking him stupid.

You must experience things to be enabled to pass an opinion about them. Who would maintain he could find out what the Sahara Desert or even Piccadilly Circus was like by sup-

posing that he had travelled there? You might just as well tell a thirsty man to suppose he is having a drink.

No, you've got to have personal experience. There is a way to tread whether we are playing a game, or living the Christian Life, before experience can be gained. Have you ever tried to experience Christian living? If you have tried, why not make greater efforts to deepen your experience?

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MORE LETTERS

FOREIGN LEGION

As a former soldier of the French Foreign Legion, in which I served for six years, I was interested by the letter of L/Cpl. Collacott and your reply (SOLDIER January).

It is a pity that a lot of people have a false idea of the Legion. It is not a penal formation and is considered in France a crack regiment. Everyone (Frenchman or foreigner) may enlist in any of the five Infantry regiments or in the cavalry regiment, but enlistment is voluntary. Since the foundation of these regiments (1831) they have fought in Algiers, Spain, Mexico, France, Far East, Sudan, Madagascar, Morocco, Oran, Lebanon, etc. In this last war we fought in Africa, France, Italy and Germany; and our comrades are now in the Far East. I am sure L/Cpl. Collacott is confused with the Infanterie Légère d'Afrique, a penal unit. — Legionnaire J. Kerkoff, ex-Corporal, Croix de Guerre, 4th Regiment of French Foreign Legion, Morocco.

★ Anxious that no slur shall be cast on the French Foreign Legion, SOLDIER willingly prints ex-Legionnaire Kerkoff's letter. That the Legion consists of first-class fighting men nobody doubts; popular fiction is probably to blame for the prevalent idea that the Legion is composed exclusively of outcasts with a "past".

IS IT DONE?

Please settle a dispute: is an officer allowed to push a pram while out walking with his wife? — "The Three Musketeers" (name and address supplied).

★ Compilers of King's Regulations seem to have shirked this one. There is an unwritten law that no soldier shall, while out walking, do anything to lower the dignity of his uniform; and that goes for pushing prams, carrying flowers, throwing snowballs and walking arm in arm with a girl. The law obviously requires to be

interpreted with common-sense and discretion.

SOLDIER cannot undertake to convince women of the justice of all this.

UNDERWEAR OVERPRICED

The ordinary soldier or airman cannot afford to pay £7 10s. in the NAAFI for an underwear set for his wife. — LAC J. C. Lawrence, 151 RU (A) RAF.

★ It is agreed by NAAFI that £7 10s. is too expensive for the average soldier. Items of this nature are normally reserved for sale in officers' clubs.

★ The 1914 Star was awarded for service in France or Belgium before midnight 22/23 Nov 1914; the 1914/15 Star for service in a theatre of war before 31 Dec 1915.



clubs and the presence of the items referred to in a men's club was caused, says NAAFI, through incorrect distribution.

WHERE TO MARRY

I saw in SOLDIER (November) your reply to a man who wants to marry a German woman with a child by a previous husband. He asked if the child could be taken to Britain.

I, too, wish to marry a German who has a child by her previous husband and I want to know if I can take her furniture to Britain and can I get married before I am released in April? — "Worried Soldier", 130 Inf. Bde.

★ Before the marriage can take place your fiancée must produce evi-

dence of her former husband's death. Personal belongings can be taken into England but not furniture.

THE OTHER WAR

I was a member of the Winnipeg Grenadiers (Winnipeg) up to outbreak of war, 1914; volunteered for service overseas on outbreak of war; left Canada with first contingent, Oct 1914; commissioned in Imperial Forces May 1915; the whole contingent was stationed in England, with exception of Princess Pat's, till May 1915. Am I entitled to wear either 1914 Star or 1914/15 ribbon? — Capt. K. W. Bennett, 2 Release Embarkation and Transit Camp.

★ The 1914 Star was awarded for service in France or Belgium before midnight 22/23 Nov 1914; the 1914/15 Star for service in a theatre of war before 31 Dec 1915.

WHO OWNS IT?

To settle the fate of 50 cigarettes: who has the controlling interest in The Daily Mirror? Is it Lord Kemsley?

— L/Sjt. R. D. McMeekin, 151 Railway Constrn. Coy., RE.

★ The Mirror is owned by a very large number of shareholders. There is no evidence that any one person has the controlling interest. The directors are answerable to the shareholders in the normal way.

THE DAY

I signed on until general demobilisation but in the meantime I am urgently needed back in my old job at a ladies' college in Sussex. When will the day be?

— Gnr. H. J. Wheeler, 21 Field Regt. RA.

★ Sorry. No one knows yet. The ladies must wait.

REJOINING

Can you tell me if ex-BAOR men who have left the Army can rejoin the BAOR for a year, even after their release leave?

A friend in Hamburg has signed on for a year and I would like to do the same although I do not want to stay in for four or five years. Some no doubt would not mind signing on for a year with the prospect of re-signing for another two years at the end of that time. — H. J. Iremonger, Parr Street, Parkstone, Dorset.

★ Once a man has left his unit for release he cannot be allowed to return to the Service on a deferment of release basis.

All deferment of release is voluntary and all volunteers who apply for defer-

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ment sign a certificate stating they undertake to continue serving subject to the normal rules on transfer, posting and pay, which means a general service liability until the end of their deferment period. Voluntary deferment has not and cannot be allowed on a "conditional" basis—such as service for a specified object only—and no exception can be made to this rule.

If you are a Section B Reservist you can apply to your officer i/c Records to rejoin the Colours to extend or re-engage.

NEW ARMY

Is there any reason why beds cannot be left made-down as in civilian life, provided, of course, that the rooms are kept clean? — Pte. S. Broughton, 9 Supply Depot, RASC.

AFTER 18 YEARS

Is there any chance of the Prolongation of Service Act being revoked this year? I am a regular serving a 21-year engagement and would like to apply for my discharge when I have completed 18 years, which will be at the end of this year. — S/Sjt. D. Davidson, 5 Area Intelligence Office, 823 Mil. Gov. Det.

★ The regulation which permitted a soldier to be discharged to a modified pension after 18 years is still in abeyance. No immediate change is forecast.

It is regretted that the photograph of the burst dam in the December SOLDIER was incorrectly captioned. It was the Eder dam, not the Mohne. Both were breached with disastrous effect during the same RAF operation.

MORE WILL WEAR THIS MEDAL

THE General Service Medal (Army and RAF), which was first instituted in 1918, is to be granted for specified service in Java, Sumatra and French Indo-China since VJ-Day and also for Air Force service up to 4 October 1945 in the removal of internees and prisoners-of-war in SE Asia to Singapore and other ports for onward shipment. It will carry a clasp "South-East Asia 1945-46."

In addition the medal is to be given for bomb disposal and mine clearance work ashore since the end of the



war. In this case the clasp will read "Bomb and Mine Clearance 1945-46."

Mentions in Despatches for service since 2 September 1945 are to be accompanied by the award of the single bronze oak leaf emblem of the type granted during the war. It will be awarded, too, to those who won "mentions" between the two wars.

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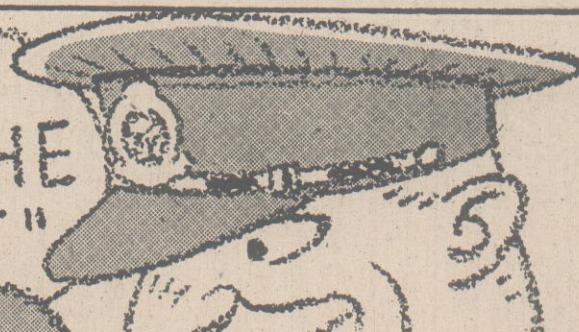
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(Or is it Montay?
We couldn't say).
Anyway, she's got more beads
Than she needs.