SOLDIER

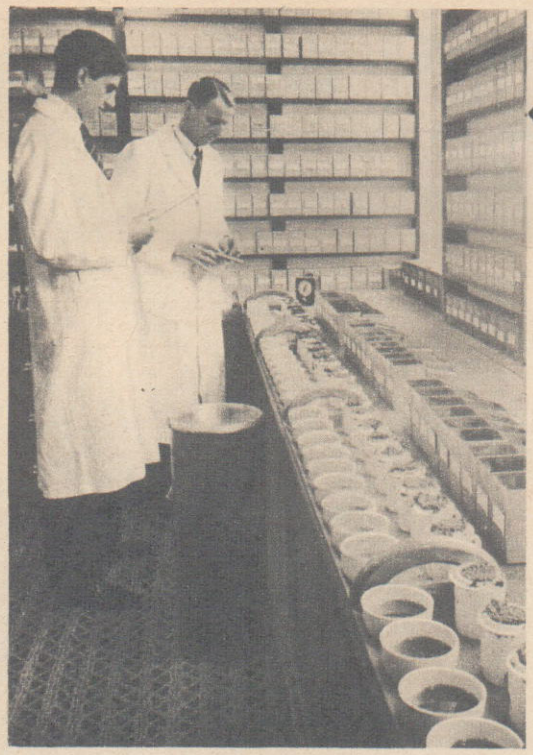
THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

MARCH 1957

NINEPENCE

THE ARMY ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND

see page 5



from Tea

to Tobacco

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

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

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

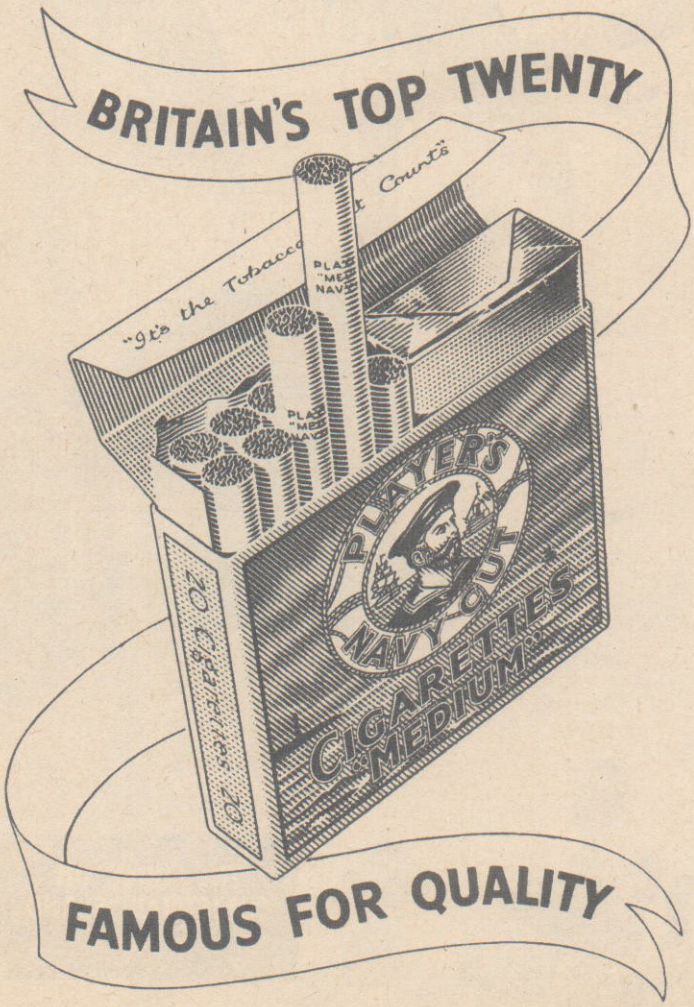
To see that Servicemen and women enjoy to the full their tea and tobacco is but one of the many and varied duties of . . . .

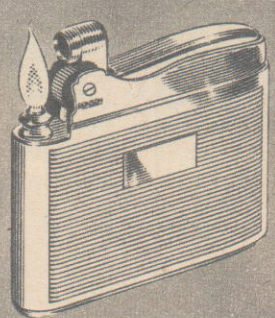
. . . this many sided

NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces,

Imperial Court, Kennington, London, S.E.11.





Something to write home about!

THE EVER-POPULAR RONSON ADONIS. Slim, smart, always reliable.

. . . RONSON

WORLD'S GREATEST LIGHTER

You'll be proud to own a Ronson. Each one is a fine piece of precision engineering, and you're sure to find exactly what you want in the wide Ronson range.

GO TO THE NAAFI

AND GET A RONSON

For your own protection . . . look for the trade mark **RONSON** *world's greatest lighter*

Furs
from a famous London House

ANY man is proud to be seen out with his wife or fiancée wearing a beautiful Fur Coat; and not less proud—and justly so—is the lady. Now this pride can be yours. SUGDEN'S offer fine Furs, reliable, stylish Furs, at prices well within your reach. Do as thousands have done—buy a luxurious Fur Coat from SUGDEN'S.

Here's an example of SUGDEN value and style—attractive BEAVER LAMB in gleaming rich brown skins at the very low price of

15 GNS

Orders by post can be placed with confidence. SUGDEN'S reputation is a guarantee of satisfaction.

ESTABLISHED OVER 50 YEARS

C·A·SUGDEN LTD.
Furriers
1ST FLOOR SHOW ROOMS
186 REGENT ST. LONDON W.1

Fully illustrated CATALOGUE will gladly be sent post free on application

for those about to become

Engaged

SEND p.c. for your copy of the James Walker BOOK of RINGS, in full colour showing rings in a wide range of moderate prices and keen values; also with a permanent Ring Size Gauge—FREE. You can select, from a stock of 50,000 rings, your own style at your own price!

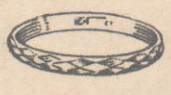
The Diamonds are set in Platinum mounted in 18 ct. Gold Rings.

You pay no purchase tax if you buy from abroad for *delivery abroad* **(not in U.K.)**

Diamond single-stone. £25.10.0

Diamond three-stone. £15.15.0

Diamond cross-over. £10.10.0



Faceted Gold Wedding Ring. £2.15.0

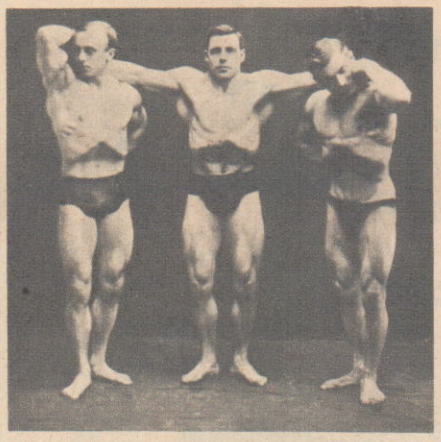
Estd. 1823.

James Walker

Dept. 18, CENTURY HOUSE, STREATHAM, LONDON, S.W.16

77 BRANCHES IN LONDON AND THE HOME COUNTIES

1909—MAXALDING THE MASTER METHOD—1957



FOUNDED BY Maxick & Saldo IN 1909, AFTER MANY YEARS OF EXPERIMENT AND RESEARCH UNDER MEDICAL SUPERVISION, THIS GREAT TRAINING SCIENCE HAS ENJOYED AN UNINTERRUPTED RUN OF SUCCESS IN PRODUCING OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF STRENGTH AND MUSCULAR DEVELOPMENT RIGHT UP TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDARD.

TRADITION

The illustration (left) shows Maxick and Monte Saldo with a world champion pupil in 1909. The leadership of Maxalding has been taken over by COURT SALDO (son of Monte Saldo) and the tradition of personal training and World Class results continues.

ASTON—BRITAIN'S STRONGEST MAN

Edward Aston was trained and backed by the founders of Maxalding when he won the title of "BRITAIN'S STRONGEST MAN" and although only a middle-weight he held the title for a number of years and retired undefeated. At that time he stated: "I was so fit for the championship that I was as fresh at the finish as when I started."

PHYSICAL PERFECTION AT ACADEMY

Like other followers of Maxalding, Aston not only had great strength, but a perfectly balanced muscular development as well. A statue of his magnificent physique was exhibited at the Royal Academy.

FIT AND YOUTHFUL IN 1957 ——→

Edward Aston remains fit and youthful with the appearance of a man 20 years younger and writes again: "1957. Throughout my professional career I found the practice of Maxalding a great help in weight-lifting and acrobatics and also as an adagio dancer where reflexes had to be all that they should be."

CHEST 50" — ARM 18"

The magic figures above have been reached and passed by a large number of followers of Maxalding, and many more are approaching this target. Pupil W. Morris is nearing the 50" chest and has over-all development in proportion, which enables him to win awards for Physical Excellence. At only 20 years of age he is still improving and will become a Maxalding Champion in 1957. His latest photo is shown here (centre).

ASTON

was one of the few to lift 300 lb. overhead in one hand.

PERSONAL-POSTAL INSTRUCTION

For nearly half a century the Maxalding Postal Training Courses have been going to all parts of the world, and every one has been personally planned and supervised in accordance with the basic factors bearing on the individual case. No ready-prepared or stereotyped instruction can compare with planned training for results. Although we give the finest service, have published more genuine evidence of results than all other methods combined and have been in existence longer than any other method, OUR FEES ARE THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD FOR 100% PERSONAL ATTENTION OF THIS KIND.

BRITAIN'S PERFECT MAN

The first competition to find Britain's Best Developed Man was run in 1910 and was won by a Maxalding pupil. Since then hundreds of Maxaldists have won competitions right up to World Class and many more will do so in future.

BRITISH, EUROPEAN AND WORLD FINALIST

Herbert Loveday (left) won the title of Britain's Best Developed Man, travelled to France for the European Finals, and appeared in the World Finals at the London Palladium recently. His most recent report stated: "NOW 40 YEARS OF AGE, I AM IN GREAT SHAPE AND INTEND TO BREAK A FEW PERSONAL RECORDS."

FREE EXPLANATORY LITERATURE

PROFUSELY ILLUSTRATED EXPLANATORY LITERATURE showing results achieved in cases from 15-65 years of age, will be sent Free and Without Obligation to any part of the world. All Maxalding correspondence is conducted in sealed envelopes, without any external advertising matter. No "follow up" inducements are sent, and the next move is entirely up to the applicant. (Postage for 4 ounces —4d. in U.K.—is appreciated, but is not obligatory.)

MAXALDING (S8), SHEPHERDSWELL, DOVER, KENT

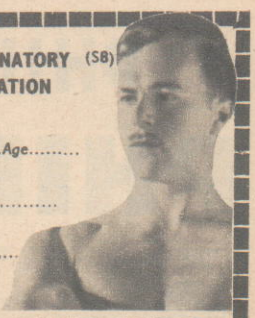
I WISH TO RECEIVE THE MAXALDING EXPLANATORY LITERATURE WITHOUT COST OR OBLIGATION (S8)

Name.....Age.....

Address .....

.....

.....



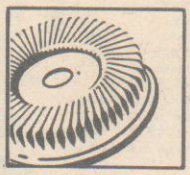
MAXALDING (S8) SHEPHERDSWELL DOVER, KENT

COURT SALDO (Principal)

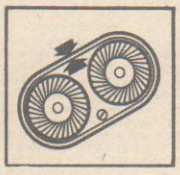
Why 'Philishave' Rotary Action gives you a closer shave —in comfort

The 'Philishave' is the dry shaver with Rotary Action — 12 high-speed blades that rotate to remove the hairs right down close. These diagrams show why only the 'Philishave' can shave so close so comfortably :

1 Here's your skin before shaving— covered with a jungle of hairs growing in every possible direction.



2 These are the slots in the 'Philishave' skin-guards— set in all directions to catch hairs growing in all directions.



3 At the same time, the raised rim of the shaving head gently stretches the skin so that . . .

4 . . . the rotating blades can get right down to *really* close shaving. You must try it for yourself !

Ask your 'Philishave' dealer for a demonstration - right away!

Unbeatable value at
£7 · 14 · 2
tax paid, complete with case. AC/DC 110-130 and 200-250v.

PHILIPS

PHILISHAVE

The dry shaver with the biggest world sale

RADIO & TELEVISION RECEIVERS · GRAMOPHONE RECORDS · LAMPS AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT, ETC.

Philips Electrical Ltd • Century House • Shaftesbury Avenue • London • W.C.2

NICE WORK . . .

if you can get your boots cleaned for you . . . but if you can't, you *can* still get Kiwi. And because it's the best boot polish, Kiwi makes the job much easier. Make sure you use Kiwi . . . you'll find polishing easier and your boots brighter.

deep shine with
KIWI BLACK

UMBRO
The Sportswear people

Manchester City with the F.A. Cup.

Both Manchester City and Birmingham City wore "Umbro" in the F.A. Cup Final at Wembley

The choice of champions

FROM ALL LEADING OUTFITTERS AND N.A.A.F.I.

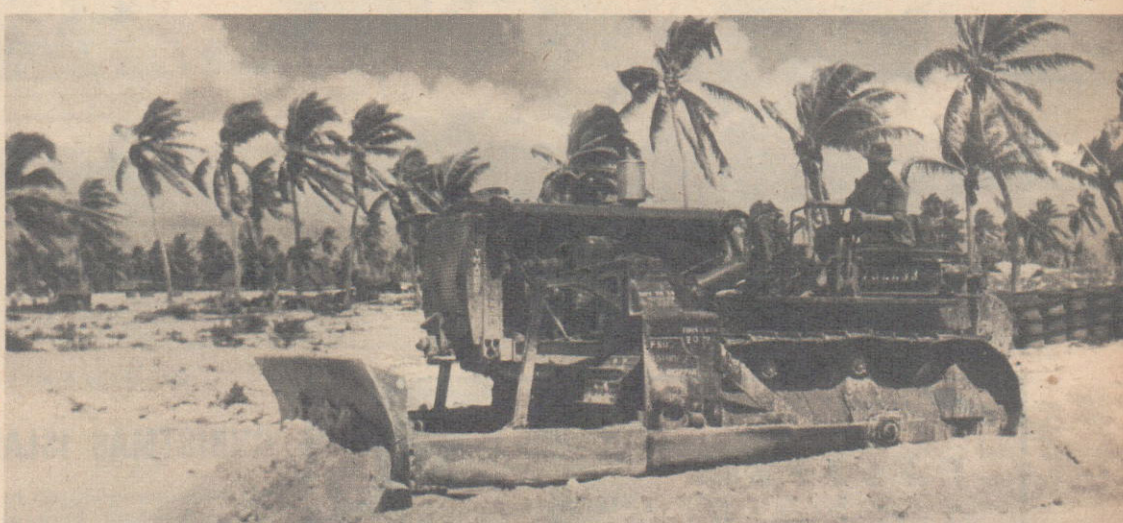
Vol. 13, No. 1 **SOLDIER** MARCH 1957

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

Libya, 4 piastres; Cyprus, 7 piastres; Malaya, 30 cents; Hong-Kong, 60 cents; East Africa, 75 cents; West Africa, 9d.

FOR NEARLY A YEAR MORE THAN 1000 BRITISH SOLDIERS HAVE LIVED ON A PACIFIC ISLAND WHICH THEY ARE PREPARING FOR NUCLEAR BOMB TESTS

Garrison Commander of Christmas Island is Colonel J. C. Woollett, MC, a Sapper.



The roar of bulldozers now drowns the roar of Pacific surf.

THE ARMY RE-SHAPES CHRISTMAS ISLAND

An aerial view of Christmas Island showing one of the Army's tented camps.

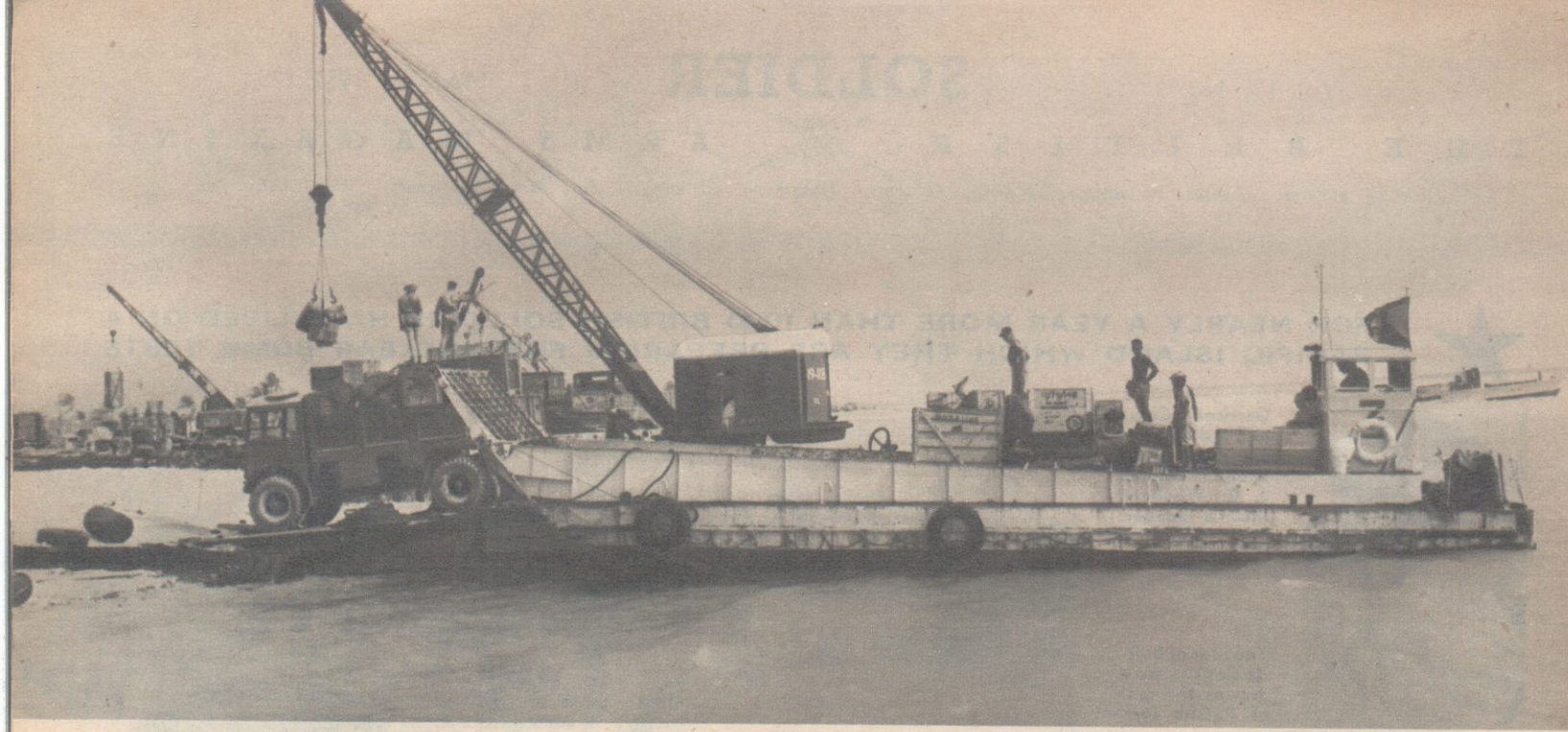
ON Christmas Island, a white coral atoll in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, more than 1000 British soldiers are putting the finishing touches to a base for Britain's forthcoming nuclear bomb tests.

In a few months they have turned an almost uninhabited island into a modern town with its own electricity and water supply. They have cleared big areas of scrubland, laid miles of new roads, erected offices, laboratories and a meteorological station and built an airfield and a port.

The work has been hard and often tedious, but life on Christmas Island is not without its compensations. Among these are sailing and swimming in sparkling, shark-proofed waters, and goggle-diving among the brilliant fishes which swarm on the coral banks.

Christmas Island (so named by Captain Cook who discovered it on Christmas Eve, 1777) has rarely earned a headline, but it will soon be front-page news everywhere. Shaped like a lobster's claw and rising only ten feet above sea level, it stands two degrees north of the Equator, 3600 miles from the nearest mainland, California, and more than 4000 miles from Australia. Honolulu is nearly 1200 miles away. Ordinarily it is inhabited only by a District Officer and 200 Gilbertese natives, imported from other islands to work the coconut plantations. The temperature, even at night, rarely falls below 75 degrees Fahrenheit but never exceeds 90. A constant easterly Trade wind tempers the humidity.

When Britain decided to carry out nuclear tests in the Pacific, the Army was called on to form a task group to prepare an air base on the island. The backbone of this force was 28 Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, stationed at Devizes **OVER...**



One of the Army's small ships lands stores at the improvised port.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND *continued*

but with one squadron in Korea.

Never before, perhaps, has a regiment logged as many miles and sailed as many seas on its way to a new posting as this Sapper Regiment. The operation meant diverting well-known troopships to unaccustomed runs. The *Devonshire* sailed from Britain to Singapore, where she took on board most of 55 Field Engineer Squadron, newly arrived from Korea, and also the 1st Battalion of the Fiji Regiment, homeward bound to Suva. One Engineer troop, crowded out, had to fly from Singapore to Suva by way of Australia. At Suva the *Devonshire*, after disembarking the Fiji battalion, shipped additional units which had been flown out from Britain.

A second regimental group for Christmas Island, in the *Charlton Star*, sailed round the world the other way, via the Azores, the Panama Canal and Honolulu; and a third group in the *Cheshire* went by way of Jamaica and Panama.

The Commanding Officer of the Regiment, now Garrison Commander Christmas Island, Colonel J. C. Woollett, MC, flew across North America to Honolulu, then on to Canton Island, thence by Royal Air Force Shackleton to the airstrip on Christmas Island.

Before leaving Britain, many of the Sappers were trained in the use of special engineer plant needed for the construction of the base. The port operating detachment consisted of Sappers who had been trained in at least three Army trades.

The first force to arrive at Christmas Island went ashore in copra boats, towed by local motor launches.

Landing the main force, which arrived in the autumn, was not the easiest operation. Because of the shallow water around the island, ships must anchor four miles out, so that all machinery, stores and men had to be taken ashore in small, shallow-draught craft. As Sapper stevedores un-

The Special Royal Signals Troop use a fork lift to put up a telegraph pole quickly. Right: Islanders help to unload the Army's stores.

loaded the big ships by crane and derrick a fleet of DUKWs, landing craft and specially-built pontoons plied between the anchorage and the shore. The ten DUKWs, of wartime vintage and manned by men of the Royal Army Service Corps Special Services Unit, gave distinguished service. One of them, however, sank fully laden, 200 yards from the shore. It was saved by a sergeant who, braving the sharks, fixed wire ropes under the vehicle so that the Royal Navy could recover it.

Once ashore, the Sappers set about constructing a port at the island's chief settlement of London (Paris, the other settlement, is five miles away on the other side of the entrance to the lagoon). In the same area they installed a fuel storage depot and refrigeration plant. The men of the Royal Army Service Corps set up a food supply depot and a field bakery equipped with oil-fired oven trailers.

While offices, cookhouses, laboratories, a hospital and a meteorological station were being erected from prefabricated parts brought from Britain, the Sappers went into action further inland with bulldozers, scrapers, rock crushers and concrete-mixers. They cleared thousands of square yards of scrub and coconut plantations and levelled and widened the main runway of a disused United States wartime airfield. They relaid the runway with asphalt and concrete, built an auxiliary airstrip and constructed nearly 30 miles of good-class roads, using the hard-drying mud from the lagoon as a dressing. Some of the 200 Gilbertese on the island helped with this work. Short but thick-set and strongly built, these cheerful islanders set to with a will.

The asphalting of the main runway was a race against time. When it was over a holiday was declared, and the evening was livened with a bonfire, rockets from HMS *Messina* and Sapper explosives. It was a proud day for the Royal Engineers when a Qantas Super Constellation touched down on their new asphalt.

Before many weeks, the island had its own electricity and fresh water which was piped from purifying plants. Men of the Special Signal Troop, Royal Signals, installed local communications, erecting four telephone exchanges and laying 360 miles of cable. They also helped the Royal Navy to lay and maintain submarine cables to ships lying off-shore.

No one worked harder than the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, whose workshops kept vehicles and machinery in good order and made scores of spare parts. Their "customers" included the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, the Army Kinema Corporation, the film unit and the sailing club. They worked on the unfamiliar distillation plant and even did a job on a Hastings aircraft. A small Royal Army Ordnance Corps unit looked after stores and provided a laundry.

Although they live in one of the world's most isolated places the men of Christmas Island Garrison are by no means cut off from civilisation. Regularly every few days a Royal Air Force Hastings aircraft brings fresh vegetables and mail from the United States Air Force base at Honolulu, where a detachment of 504 Postal Unit, Royal Engineers, have set up a staging post—a posting no less exotic than Christmas Island.

Only a few days after the advance party arrived NAAFI was operating a canteen service. Later three canteens, a bar and a gift shop were built and two sailing boats were provided for the troops to use on the lagoon. The Royal Navy also furnished a number of dinghies. On the shores of the lagoon NAAFI built a beer garden.

When the Task Force Commander, Air Vice-Marshal W. E. Oulton, visited the island, the officers of the garrison held a full-scale guest night, with tropical mess kit and silver on the tables.

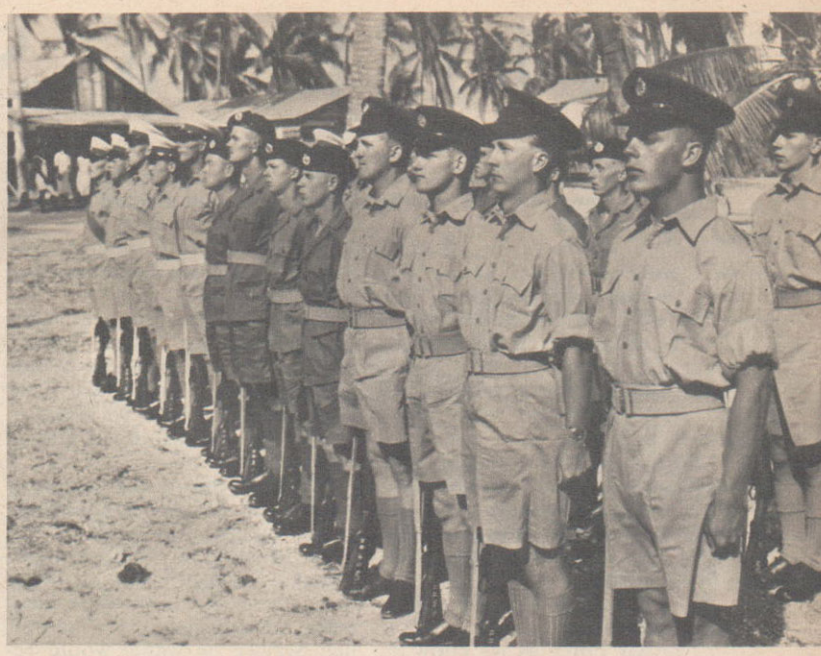
In each of the two camps, where the men live in tents (the only married quarters on the island are *bashas* occupied by the islanders), the Army Kinema Corporation has an outdoor cinema which shows three programmes a week. Two churches made of timber and palm thatch have also been built and the men have made their own sports fields, using lagoon mud to surface hockey, football, basket-ball and cricket pitches. Swimming is the most popular pastime and the lagoon has been netted by the Royal Navy to keep out sting rays and sharks.

There are two members of the Women's Voluntary Services on the island—Miss Billie and Miss Mary Burgess, sisters from Bristol. Before going to Christmas Island they served together in Korea and East Africa.

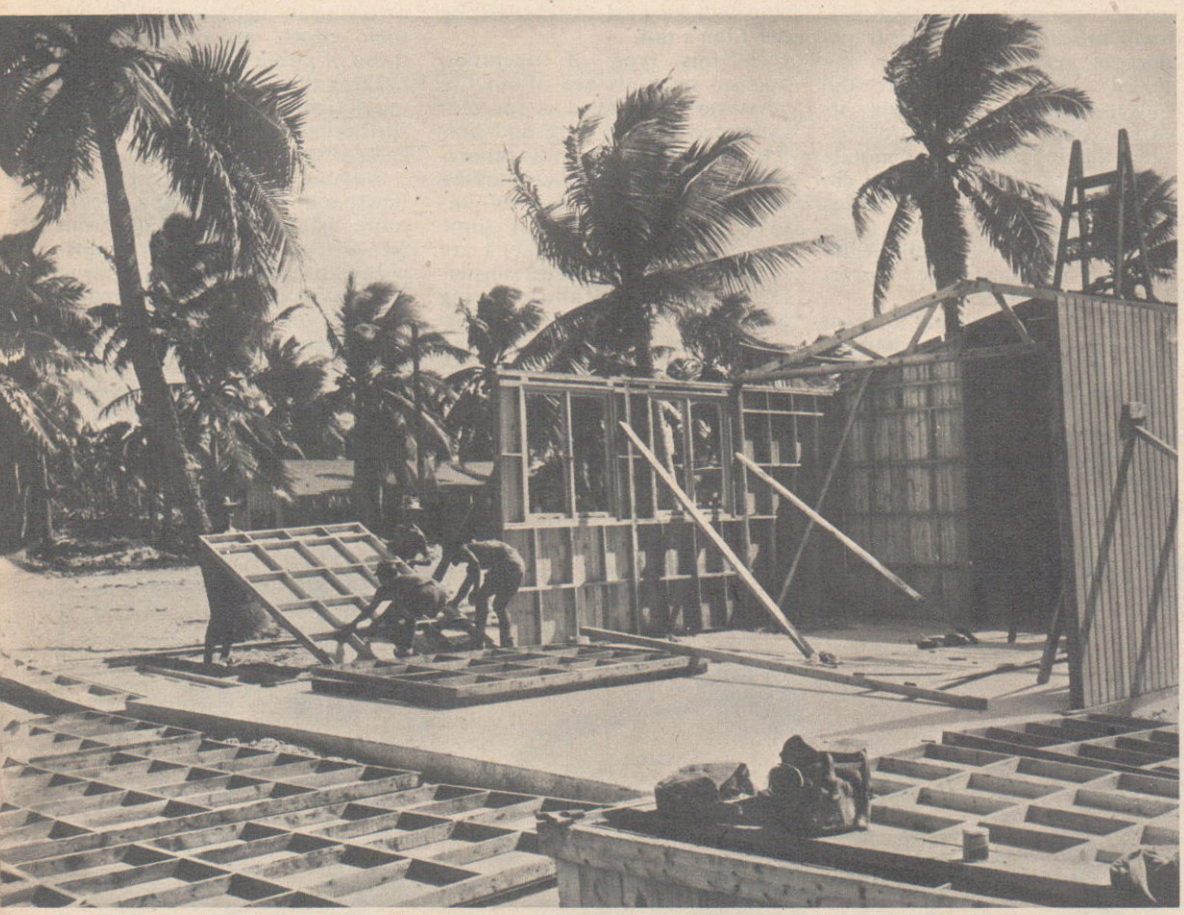
The troops on Christmas Island even have their own daily news-sheet — the *Mid-Pacific News*—produced by a Royal Army Educational Corps team which also runs a gramophone club and a photographic club.

Christmas Island Garrison celebrated Christmas in traditional fashion, providing the answer to the question in the song-hit at that time: "How'd you like to spend Christmas on Christmas Island?" Turkeys were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Even on a coral island there are guard duties. A combined guard of all three Services is mounted daily.



With prefabricated parts brought from Britain the Sappers put up an office among the palm trees.

SOLDIER to Soldier

NINETEEN FIFTY-SEVEN may turn out to be a most momentous year in the history of Great Britain's armed Services.

So far it has offered exhilarating scope to the armchair strategists, notably those in Fleet Street. The Suez operation and the Cabinet changes have inspired all kinds of heady forecasts of the shape of defence to come.

The defence correspondent of the *News-Chronicle* says, confidently:

"Within a maximum of ten years, probably much sooner, the British armed Services will be integrated into the British Royal Forces—one Service with three different arms."

No less confidently, the *Daily Mail's* leader writer says:

"The Air Force as we know it is little more than 40 years old, yet already it is on its way out. It rose like a rocket in the firmament of war and it looks like descending with equal rapidity. It will itself become a rocket.

"Usually a major weapon takes generations, if not centuries, to run its course. Never before has an entire arm, a complete service such as the Air Force looked forward to so speedy a decline."

There will still be a need for aircraft, the *Daily Mail* admits, but primarily the aircraft is a means for throwing things at the enemy.

How unthinkable statements like those quoted would have been in 1945 . . . or 1950 . . . or even 1955!

It is very little more than a year since the prophets were saying that the Junior Service ought to be renamed the Senior Service. The future of war, they said, lies in the air. So it may—but not in old-fashioned piloted aircraft.

Much of the recent argument on defence strategy has been inspired by the new book of Air Chief Marshal Sir Philip Joubert, "Rocket." He foresees, as others have foreseen, the three Services being merged into one. The unified Service he wants would require between 150,000 and 200,000 Regulars. The air arm would operate pilotless ground-to-air missiles and such air transport as may be necessary; the Royal Navy would make the rocket-equipped submarine its capital ship; and the Army, besides having a highly mobile "police force," and a home defence force to minimise chaos after nuclear attack, would operate land-based inter-continental missiles, medium-range rockets and guided missiles.

Other experts have put forward variations on this theme, coupled with plans to end conscription. Captain B. H. Liddell Hart's defence plan, vigorously propounded in the *Daily Mirror*, is —alas!—of such transcending importance that it may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, in any language; but it is comforting to know that the Defence Minister has been sent a copy.

All this talk about inter-continental missiles and the end of conscription has a quaint ring, no doubt, in the ears of soldiers who, during the last twelve years, have spent so much of their time and energy operating against old-fashioned "terrorists" — in Malaya, Eritrea, Palestine, Egypt, Kenya and Cyprus, or in preventing *coups* in inconvenient places like British Honduras or British Guiana. At the moment British battalions have relatively new commitments trying to prevent outrages on the border of Eire and the border of the Yemen, and nobody knows who will be next to try twisting the Lion's tail.

In this type of operation nuclear weapons are of no use whatever. The need is for old-fashioned barbed wire and bullets, plus patience and persuasion. This is one man-consuming commitment which seems unlikely to decrease unless some truly fundamental decisions are about to be made in Westminster. (The politicians are already being urged to withdraw from "untenable bases" and "crumbling footholds" across the globe; and *The Times* has published a list of garrisons which it expects to be reduced or abolished in the near future.)

By the time this appears, the Defence Minister may have made his statement on future policy and have ended some of the frenzied speculation—or at least directed it into more confined channels.

★

THE latest foolishness involving the sentries at Buckingham Palace occurred when, on a cold winter's morning, two models in bathing costumes (one in a Bikini) hopped out of a taxi and had themselves photographed blowing kisses at close range at one of the unfortunate Guardsmen on duty.

The result was reproduced over sixteen square inches of our most bust-conscious newspaper.

This type of vulgarity on the Queen's doorstep has been going on for too long. Many of the ordinary public go out of their way to embarrass the Palace sentries, by offering them sweets or trying to make them talk, but their efforts are surpassed by those of publicity men who seem to think that the Foot Guards are maintained to assist them in furthering their own oafish enterprises.

Anyone who searches the newspaper files can find plenty more examples—anything from an Oriental dancer in transparent harem trousers fingering the point of the Guardsman's bayonet to a gaggle of overseas sportsmen (?) standing round in mocking attitudes.

One effective, but probably unpopular, answer would be to put the sentries within the courtyard of the Palace.

CYPRUS HAUL

Left: The face of EOKA. Wearing a mask and beret which once belonged to a Cyprus terrorist is an officer of the Parachute Regiment. Right: Some of the captured weapons and ammunition—including a bazooka—seized in the latest big-scale search. Top left is the Sten carried by Markos Dracos, who was killed. The object which looks like a cash register is a duplicator.

More Cyprus pictures on page 18.

Left: The Siege Train of the 1700's goes into action —on Woolwich Common. Above: In the grounds of the Staff College, Camberley, modern Gunners re-enact the part played by the nine-pounders of Mercer's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, at Waterloo.

THE GUNNERS

In Britain, Germany and America a film company has been "shooting" the colourful history of the Royal Regiment of Artillery

Saving the guns at Kemmel Hill, France, in 1918: the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery act this episode.

SIX HUNDRED years of military history are crammed into a new 30-minute colour film which will soon be shown to Army audiences.

It tells the story of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, beginning with the Battle of Crécy and ending with a peep into the future—the firing of a Corporal guided missile, a weapon with which the Gunners will shortly be equipped.

The film, as yet without a title, has been shot in Britain, Germany, and the United States. All the actors are soldiers but the "stars" are the weapons which mark the Regiment's progress through the centuries.

After the opening scene showing the Crécy bombard (the first field gun) come action shots of

OVER . . .

the Siege Train of 1700, the Galloper Gun (the Army's first really mobile gun) and of Congreve's rockets creating havoc among Napoleon's soldiers at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813.

One of the original Crécy bombards and a real Galloper gun appear in these first scenes, which were filmed on Woolwich Common. They were lent by the Royal Artillery Museum. Both weapons appear to fire; in fact, simulated charges were used.

Two scenes were filmed in the grounds of the Staff College at Camberley: Mercer's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, firing their nine-pounders at Waterloo and the brilliant action in which 84 Regiment, Royal Field Artillery, saved their 18-pounder guns at Kemmel Hill in 1918. The shooting down of a German bomber by anti-aircraft guns in World War Two was recorded at Tonfanau in Wales.

To bring the history up to date, cameramen filmed a Royal Salute by the Royal Horse Artillery in Hyde Park, dropped in on training centres and the Boys' Regiment, and went to Germany to film a modern battle scene enacted by the 1st Battalion The Sherwood Foresters, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers and 10th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. They also visited the School of Gunnery at Larkhill, filmed the training of airborne Gunners and Air Observation Post pilots flying their Austers, and "shot" a 25-pounder gun and its detachment being parachuted from a "Beverley" transport.

The final scene of a Corporal being fired was taken at the White Sands Training Grounds in the United States, where British Gunners are training on that weapon.

Some 300 soldiers will appear in the film, most of them Gunners. All the mounted scenes were performed by officers and men of the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery.

Mr. Stephen Clarkson, who directed the film and wrote the story, likes directing soldiers. They always do what they are asked and do not suffer from temperament.

The film's military adviser is Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. Tirrell, MC and two bars, DCM, who was chosen because of his intimate knowledge of the Royal Artillery in peace and war. One of his headaches was finding out the drill movements used by rocket gunners at Leipzig.

The film, which should be released early this summer, was made for the Army Kinema Corporation by World Wide Pictures. It is the latest of a number of films which the Army has commissioned since the end of the war, among them "Greensleeves" (the story of the Women's Royal Army Corps), "Pegasus" (Parachute and Glider Pilot Regiments), "Mercury" (Royal Corps of Signals) and "Craftsman" (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers). The training film "The Infantryman," made soon after the war, has now been brought up to date.

A 25-pounder in action—at the School of Gunnery, Larkhill. Below: A forward observation post (played by 10 Field Regiment in Germany).

★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★ ☆

SABRINA is so distracting

SABRINA has a walk-on, or wiggle-on, part in a new Army film called "Successful Instruction." She passes the open window of a Nissen hut in which recruits are being lectured. Not surprisingly, the recruits' attention wanders.

"Successful Instruction" is an attempt to teach the art of lecturing by means of a film. It has already been borrowed for that purpose by two universities (Glasgow and Durham) and by civilian organisations.

The film lays down three basic principles for successful lecturing: prepare a detailed plan in advance; promote and maintain the desire to learn; and make sure that the instruction has been understood.

A successful lecturer, the film stresses, never tries to cram too much into his lesson, is always sure of his facts and uses simple words. He must never joke at the expense of his class or allow them to be distracted—though how he is to stop Sabrina passing his window does not emerge. He must always make sure that his class is comfortably seated and, if possible, organise team competitions to create additional interest.

Footnote: Sabrina is not the first shapely distraction to be employed by the Army. In World War Two slumberous audiences watching aircraft silhouettes were sometimes jerked wide awake by the sudden projection on the epidiascope screen of a pin-up girl.

THE ARMY IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ORIGINATED STEEPLECHASING—AND IT HAS ALWAYS HAD AN INTEREST IN THE GREATEST STEEPLECHASE OF THEM ALL—THE GRAND NATIONAL

Many a favourite has fallen at Becher's Brook, the famous jump named after an Army officer who took refuge in it.

Captain Becher Swore Profusely

IT was midnight, and the young cavalry officers were bored. For a lark, they concealed their uniforms under nightshirts and nightcaps, saddled their horses and rode a race across hedges and ditches, heading first for one moonlit church steeple, then for another.

That was in 1803, at Ipswich. The escapade is said to have been the origin of steeplechasing.

So it is fitting that Army officers should have helped to build up the prestige of the greatest steeplechase of all: the Grand National. Since the race began in 1839 there have been few occasions on which the Army has failed to furnish an entrant. Since the cavalry said goodbye to its horses, however, and the military life became real and earnest, fewer officers have been able to acquire the necessary prowess in the saddle.

At least seven Army officers have won the Grand National, the first in 1848 and the most recent in 1946 (the records do not always disclose a rider's military status). One of the riders in 1933 was Lieutenant Antony Head, of the Life Guards, who was to become War Minister and Minister of Defence.

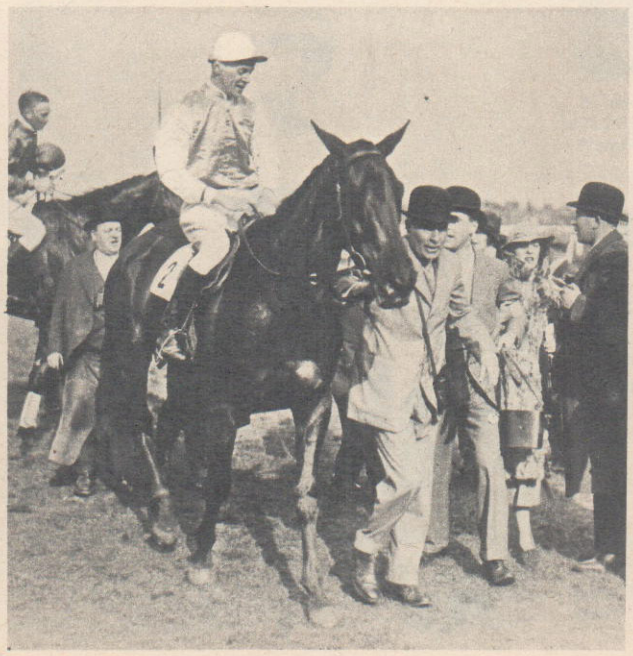
It was a fiery-tempered officer, Captain Becher (he fought under Wellington in the Peninsula) who gave the famous "brook" its name. While leading on "Conrad" in the first Grand National he was unseated at Brook One and flung in front of the field. To save himself from being trampled he dived into the deepest part of the brook, swearing profusely as the remaining horses thundered overhead.

The first Army officer to ride

OVER . . .

The last Army officer to win the Grand National was Captain R. Petre, riding "Lovely Cottage" in 1946.

Major Noel Furlong, of the 9th Lancers, leads in "Reynoldstown" after its second National win in 1936.



Major J. P. Wilson on "Double Chance," which he rode to victory by a very narrow margin in 1925.

CAPTAIN BECHER *continued*

the Grand National winner also owned it. He was Captain Little, who rode "Chandler" to victory in 1848. He bought the 1849 winner, "Peter Simple," which again came in first in 1853.

In 1849 Captain D'Arcy was second on his own horse "The Knight of Gwynne." He had bet heavily on himself to win. As he tailed the winner, "Peter Simple," up the final straight Captain D'Arcy is said — no doubt libellously — to have shouted an offer of £4000 to "Peter Simple's" jockey if he would pull up and let him pass.

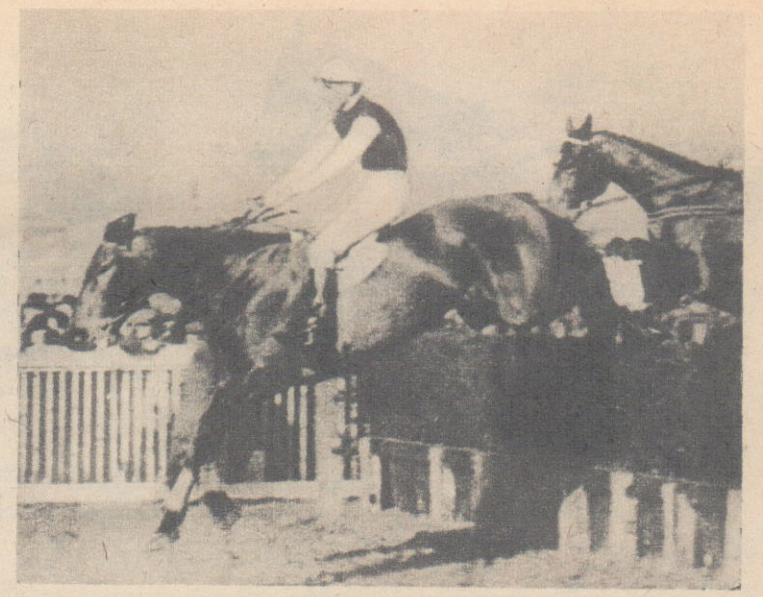
Captain Coventry won the race on "Alcibiade" in 1865 when Captain Tempest, one of the best steeplechasers of his day, was second on "Hall Court." Four years later Captain Tempest was again second on the same mount when the race was won by a horse with a distinctive Army title—"The Colonel." The second and third horses were both owned by Army captains and the jockey of the fourth horse was Colonel Knox.

Between 1869 and 1885 three horses owned by Captain Machell won the Grand National. The captain was an inveterate and bold gambler who made—and as quickly lost—several sizeable fortunes on the race tracks. In the Grand National of 1874, when his horses were placed first, fourth and sixth, he won £3500 in bets and three days after the race sold all three horses for £12,000—ten times as much as he had paid for them.

The famous amateur jockey, Captain Roddy Owen, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, came near to winning on "Cloister" in 1891 in a race that created a precedent for the ruling that a rider must not attempt to overtake on the inside. As the two leading horses —"Cloister" and "Come Away," ridden by Harry Beasley—jumped the last fence, Captain Owen tried to go through on the inside. Beasley let him approach up to his horse's shoulder and then bored in, boxing "Cloister" on the rails all the way to the finish. Captain Owen claimed the race on a foul and offered to fight Beasley. While the stewards were considering the complaint, which they rejected, Beasley's supporters broke into the weighing-in room and threatened Captain Owen, who backed up against a wall and offered to take them on, all together or one at a time. Course officials arrived just in time to prevent a free-for-all.

The following year Captain Owen, who promised that he would give up racing if he won the National, realised his ambition on "Father O'Flynn," and immediately applied for active service with his regiment. That autumn he went with the Lancashire Fusiliers to Egypt and died of cholera on the Dongola Expedition in 1896.

In the year that Captain Owen died the Grand National was once again won by an Army officer—Lieutenant (later General Sir) David Campbell, of the 9th Lancers, on "Soarer."



Lieutenant Antony Head (later Minister of Defence) on "The Arc II" clears a fence in the 1932 National. He was serving in the Life Guards.

One of the most remarkable horses to win the Grand National was "Rubio," owned by Major F. Douglas-Pennant. "Rubio" was an American-bred chestnut gelding with a disappointing record and was sold to the major in 1905 for 95 guineas. After winning three unimportant steeplechases "Rubio" broke down and his owner sent him to a hotel keeper in Towcester to pull the hotel bus to and from the railway station. "Rubio" apparently thrived on this treatment and in 1908 Major Douglas-Pennant entered him for the National. He started as a rank outsider at 66-1 and romped home an easy winner, giving the bookies a field day.

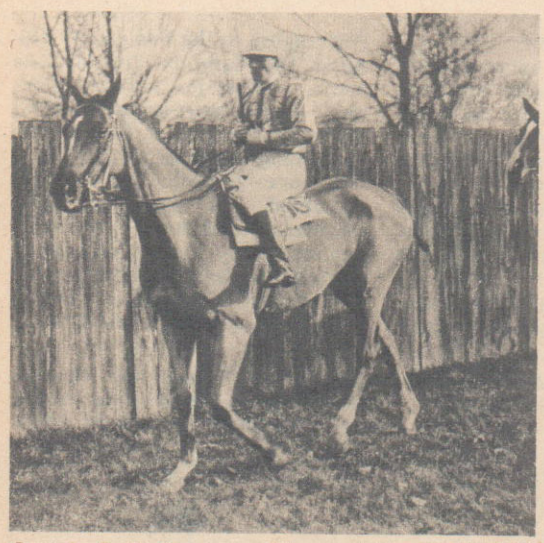
Captain G. N. Bennet who won the race in 1923 on the 13-year-old "Sergeant Murphy" was a leading amateur jockey with many steeplechase wins to his credit. "Sergeant Murphy" was sired by a stallion named "General Symons" and owned by an American.

Two years later Major J. P. Wilson brought off an unexpected win on "Double Chance," coming up behind the leaders in the final straight and pipping them on the post.

Major Noel Furlong, of the 9th Lancers, was one of the few owners to win the National twice. He pulled it off in 1935 with "Reynoldstown" and repeated his victory the following year with the same horse.

The last Army officer to win the National was Captain R. Petre, who rode "Lovely Cottage" in 1946.

The Army has always given Grand National riders special leave to take part in the race. In 1955 the 15th Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery sailed to the Far East without its Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel W. Holman, who was allowed to remain behind to ride "Wild Wisdom" in the National. After the race, in which he was unplaced, the Colonel was flown out to Hong-Kong to rejoin his regiment.



Captain G. N. Bennet on "Sergeant Murphy," which was first in the Grand National in 1923. "Sergeant Murphy" was sired by "General Symons."

"The Colonel" won the race twice: in 1869 and 1870. Below: Captain Roddy Owen gave up racing after winning the National in 1892 and rejoined his regiment. He lost his life on the Dongola Expedition.

AND THE GRAND MILITARY

THE Army's best steeplechase jockeys will compete against each other this month in the Grand Military Meeting at Sandown Park, an event only two years younger than the Grand National itself.

It was inaugurated in 1841 and until 1939 all the races in the two-day meeting were exclusively for soldiers. In the best years more than 100 riders took part. Since the war, however, the entries have rarely exceeded 20 and only four of the races are for soldiers.

The main event at the meeting is the Grand Military Gold Cup which was won last year, for the fourth time in six years, by Major D. Gibson, of the Welsh Guards. In 1955 the trophy was won by Major Philip Fielden, of the Royal Scots.

THE "KAISER'S WAR" GENERALS ARE DOWN TO A HANDFUL——

——but there are still two who served right through 1914-18

MOST of the field commanders and top Staff officers of World War Two served as regimental officers in World War One. It was a tough training-ground. No one who soldiered on the Western Front was likely to look on war as a game, or on Staff work as a pastime for amateurs.

Recent retirements of generals and lieutenant-generals have reduced to a very small band the field commanders who were blooded in 1914-18.

Among the latest to go have been General Sir Richard Gale, who joined the Worcestershire Regiment in 1915; General Sir Lashmer Whistler (Royal Sussex, 1917); and General Sir Cameron Nicholson (Royal Artillery, 1915).

Two out of the three serving field-marshals soldiered right through the Kaiser's War. Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe since 1951, was commissioned in 1908. He earned his Distinguished Service Order as a lieutenant in 1914. If he stays in harness until next year he will have completed half a century's service. In Service annals, however, that would not constitute a record.

Field-Marshal Sir John Harding, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Cyprus, was commissioned in the London Regiment in May 1914, later transferring to the Machine-Gun Corps. He served at Gallipoli, in Egypt and in Asiatic Turkey, winning a Military Cross. At 21 he commanded a battalion in action. The Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, was commissioned in the Royal Irish Fusiliers in 1916 and served for the last year of the war on the Western Front.

Other veterans of World War One, holding lieutenant-general's or general's rank, are:

Lieutenant-General Sir Colin Callander, Military Secretary, who joined the Royal Munster Fusiliers (long since disbanded) in 1915, and in the course of six months' service on the Western Front was thrice wounded and won the Military Cross;

General Sir Nevil Brownjohn, Quartermaster-General, who was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1915 and also won his Military Cross on the Western Front;

Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Redman, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar, commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1917, with service in France and Germany;

Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Kimmins, commanding Northern Ireland District, who was commissioned in 1917 in time to take part in the big push that led to the Armistice;

Lieutenant-General Sir William Eldridge, Controller of Supplies (Munitions) at the Ministry of Supply, a Gunner in 1915, who won his DSO and MC on the Western Front;

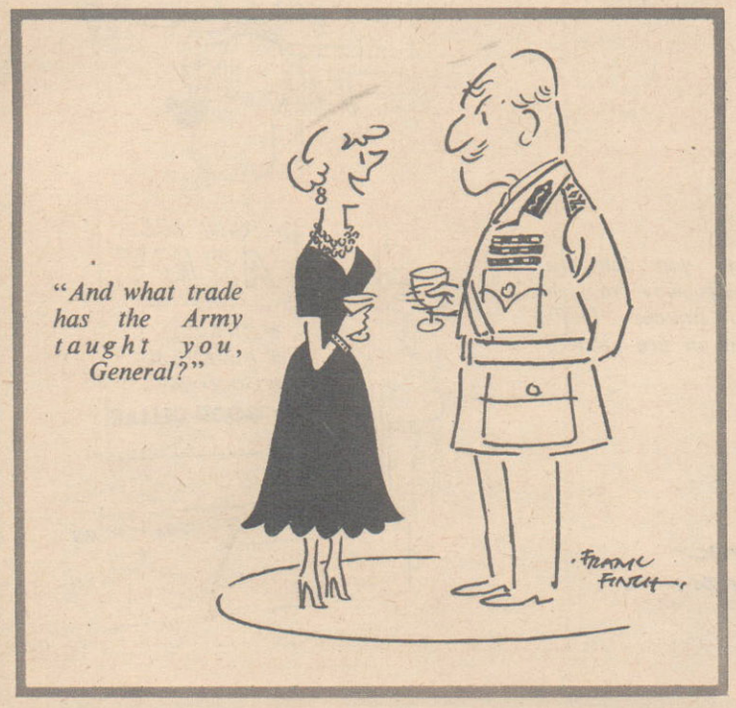
General Sir George Erskine, Southern Command, commissioned in 1918 in time to see a month's active service on the Western Front before the war ended.

Just too late for that last push was General Sir Charles Loewen, Adjutant-General, who became an officer on his eighteenth birthday in September 1918.

There are still one or two veterans of World War One among serving major-generals. The Director of Army Education, Major-General W. S. Beddall, counts his service from September 1914. He went to France with the Machine-Gun Corps in 1916.

Two of the highest appointments in the Army today are held by lieutenant-generals who were not commissioned until the late 1920s. They are Lieutenant-General Sir Dudley Ward, commanding Northern Army Group and Rhine Army (1929), and Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Hull, Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff (1928).

Field-Marshal Sir John Harding (left) had a Territorial commission in 1914; Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer was commissioned in 1916.



50 YEARS?

By next year, if still in harness, Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery will have completed half a century's service. He won his DSO as a lieutenant in 1914.

Two of the youngest generals in high appointments today: Lieut-Gen. Sir Dudley Ward (left) and Lieut-General Sir Richard Hull.

"He wants a brisk sophisticated claret, at room temperature, to go with egg and chips."

"Sorry, ducks, that's for taking fur out of kettles."

"Darned if I can work up the right mood for 'Nellie Dean' on this stuff!"

MINE'S A WINE

Soldiers may now order wines in their NAAFI canteens

"When you can tear yourself away from the port, Private Duffy, you're on fire piquet."

FRANK FINCH

'GRUB' IS NOW 'CHOW'

Gateway to Korea—for the Royal Sussex.

KOREA REPORT
by Major D. H. de T. Reade

BRITAIN'S ONE BATTALION IN KOREA NOW WEARS AN AMERICAN FLASH AND SHARES ITS BADGE WITH KOREAN TROOPS

THIS month sees the first anniversary of Commonwealth Contingent Korea—the 2000-strong force from Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand which takes the place of the 1st Commonwealth Division.

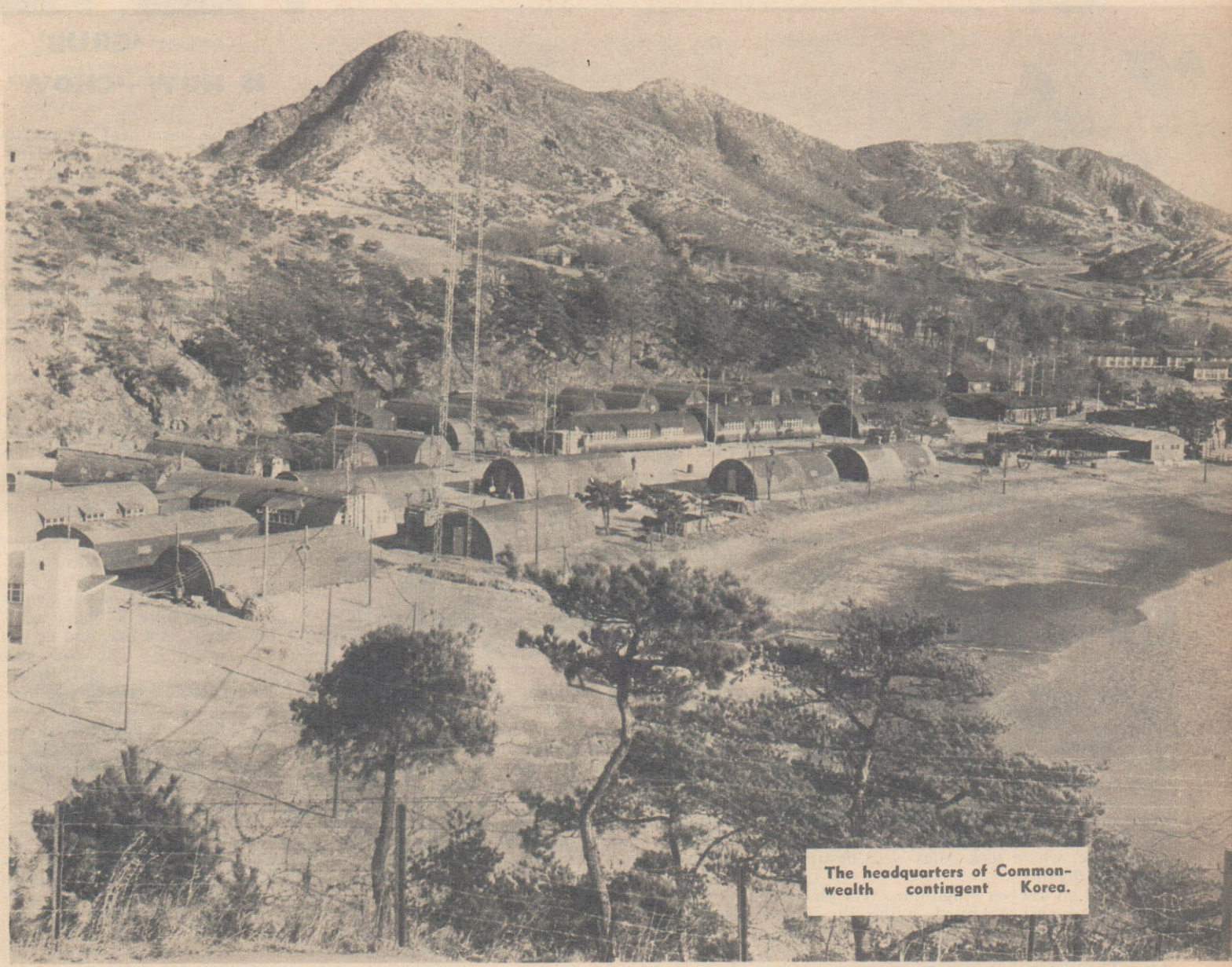
It is a unique formation. Britain provides the 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex and some base troops; Canada the medical services, Australia the signals and New Zealand the transport.

The nearest British base is Hong Kong where troops of the four nations fly for a fortnight's annual "rest and recuperation" leave.

Commanding Commonwealth Contingent Korea is Brigadier V. W. Barlow DSO, who commanded the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in action in Korea. His deputy is Colonel S. Coleman of the Australian Army.

The men of the Royal Sussex—sole British Commonwealth fighting unit in the United Nations forces—wear an American divisional

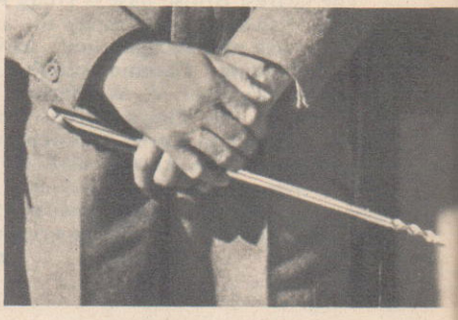
OVER . . .


The headquarters of Commonwealth contingent Korea.

Left: The camera lens was ice-coated when this below-zero training picture was taken. Hence the scratches.

Right: The flash of the American 24th Division, worn by men of the Royal Sussex.

Below: The "gimlet" stick carried by Royal Sussex officers instead of swagger canes.



FIGHTING THE SEA AT INCHON

REME fights with sluice and dyke. The highest tide was 31 ft 8 in above sea level. Inside bank (right) are REME workshops.

IN the past year Nature—in the form of the sea—raged a relentless war on the workshops of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Inchon. There, the rise and fall of the tide is 31 ft 8 in at the highest, except when winds raise it still more.

Of necessity, the workshops were erected before suitable defences against the very highest tides were completed. The weak spot was the lagoon side, where lock gates were destroyed during the fighting.

To ward off one very high tide every man in the workshops was mobilised. In the grey dawn they threw sandbags while two bulldozers pushed on to the banks all the stony soil available. The Royal Engineers directed work parties all along the threatened bank—some 600 yards—and improvised sluice gates were set up.

If heavy rain had brought down torrents from the hills at the same time, the area would have been flooded. The first high tide reached within 10 inches of the bank level. Those ubiquitous metal plates used for aerodromes were used to peg into the banks at danger points.

Several times, as a precaution vehicles were driven out and portable stores and machinery raised.

"I have no doubt," says Captain Eric Happ, Royal Engineers, "that the only water conditions which could now beat the defences would be those of a typhoon." The last typhoon off Inchon, over 20 years ago, caused huge havoc.

Continuing **'GRUB' IS NOW 'CHOW'**

sign, the "taro" leaf of the 24th Division. Tactically, the Battalion is attached to the 21st USA Infantry Regiment (the "Gimlets"), which, with three battalions, approximates to a British brigade.

The Commanding Officer, Second-in-Command, Adjutant and all company commanders of the Royal Sussex have temporarily exchanged swagger canes for "gimlet" sticks presented by Colonel George McGee, commander of the 21st.

At Seoul, Advanced Headquarters of the United Nations Forces and the 8th US Army, is the multi-nation "Honor Guard" (see SOLDIER, November 1955) on which the Royal Sussex are represented.

Most of the rations issued to the British in Korea are American. The men enjoy these, even the lashings of ice-cream when the temperature is below zero. But they do not like, and do not receive, coffee. The American influence is such that British troops are now referring to their food as "chow" and their drinking water as "potable" (drinkable). But there are Oriental influences, too: "Yobisao" (hello) and "Sayonara" (goodbye) are now every-day words.

A source of help to the neighbouring Americans, who do so much for the Battalion, are the Pioneers of the Royal Sussex, who run a "combined blacksmith's shop and utility construction unit."

Water supply has always been something of a problem in Korea.

Left: Soccer wear in Korea is unconventional. Above: Infantry on exercises patrolling in the snow.

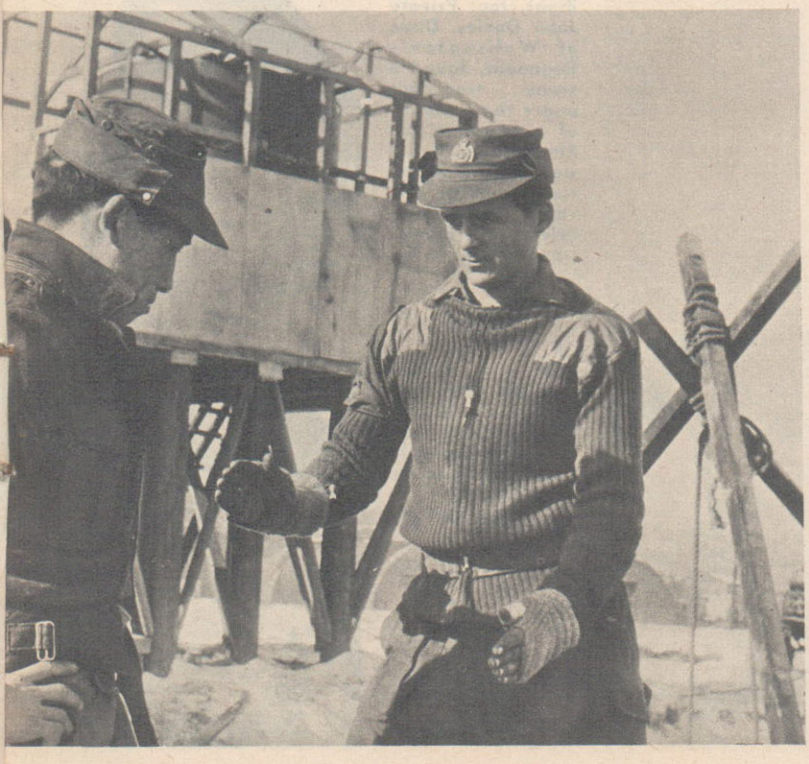
Recently a letter was circulated inviting any man with the gift of water divining to come forward. A well under construction at the Royal Sussex Headquarters stands on the side of a river bed which in winter is dried-up. This was not traced by a "diviner."

When the Royal Sussex replaced the Cameron Highlanders, 36 Koreans who had been serving with the Scots battalion discarded their Highland headgear and badges and "joined" the newcomers. For some, this was the fourth or fifth change of cap badge in six years.

The "Katcoms" are locally enlisted members of the Guard Company, Korea, and come under British military law. The British soldier gets on well with them. They are smart at drill and do not let down the badge they are privileged to wear.

One of the oldest members of the Guard Company is Staff-Sergeant Joung Yung Hak. He may be going back to the Korean Army but he will treasure five different regimental badges as heirlooms.

A Sapper lance-corporal gives instructions for boring a well.



GLOSTER HILL TODAY

IT is nearly six years since the Glosters made their famous stand above the Imjin.

Today hardly anyone visits the hill. The base is wired off with "Danger—Mines" notices. New saplings have risen waist high and the rain has closed most of the trenches.

Captain Daniel Cronin, now of the Royal Sussex, served with the re-formed Glosters when they re-occupied the position.

"This was our old company position," he said, as he ducked into a dugout with a clear view of the entire valley leading to the Imjin. "We rebuilt it from the hastily erected strongpoint of the battle."

There's little else there, besides rusted wire and empty tins . . . and mines . . . and memories.

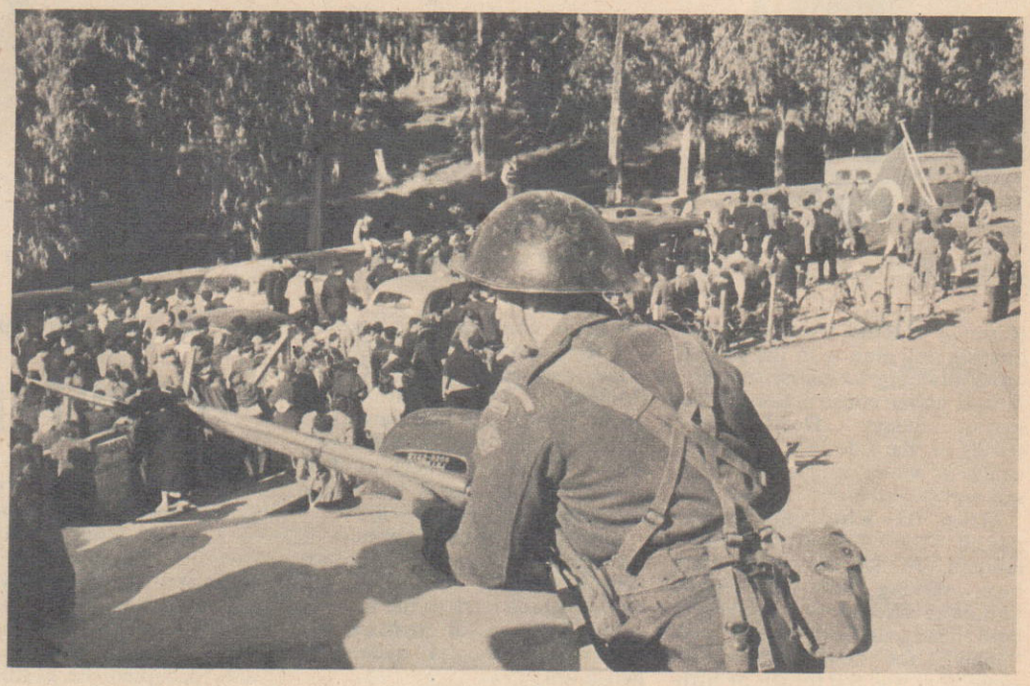
Captain Daniel Cronin re-visits his old dug-out on Gloster Hill, above the River Imjin. It was rebuilt after the battle.

The three-man patrol of the Suffolk Regiment who encountered the much-wanted EOKA terrorist, Markos Dracos, suddenly by moonlight in the Cyprus mountains. Dracos was shot dead as he opened fire. Left to right: Lance-Corporal Henry Fowler, Corporal Brian King and Private Sydney Woods (whose shot put an end to the £5000 terrorist).

CYPRUS ROUND-UP

The Turkish flag precedes the funeral procession of a shot Turkish policeman—and a soldier is ready for any sign of trouble.

Gunner Anthony Watson, serving with 50 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, "introduces" Jackie to the War Minister, Mr. John Hare. Jackie can carry enough compo rations to last ten men ten days, and is of great help on mountain operations against terrorists.

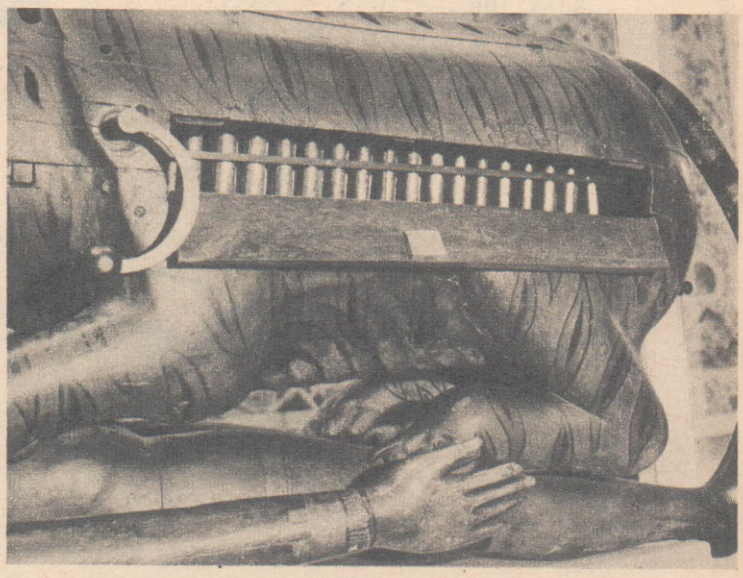


Right, top: Private John Davies, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, found a stone trap-door under the fireplace of a house in the Platres area. Below were a gang of terrorists. With Private Davies was Private T. Forrest (right, below).

Left: A soldier emerges from the cellar where the terrorists were concealed. A threat to drop a grenade soon brought them to the surface.

Tippoo, tyrant of Mysore, had a favourite plaything—a tiger which roared as it savaged a Briton. It was an unknown British soldier who ended Tippoo's life

Through holes in the tiger's back emerge roars and screams produced by the hidden organ. Below: A panel is opened to show the organ pipes which are linked to bellows.



TIPPOO'S TIGER

A MONSTROUS musical "toy" which belonged to Tippoo Sahib, one of many tyrants whom the British Army unseated, is on show again in London.

Tippoo's toy is an almost life-size model of an Indian tiger mauling a Briton. It is now being exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum's new Indian art gallery after a 12-months tour of the United States.

The model is made of wood. When a handle is turned, two bellows operate a miniature organ concealed inside the beast. The resulting sounds simulate the tiger's roar and the victim's screams. At the same time, the man's left arm moves up and down as if to ward off his attacker.

Tippoo, who was very fond of his tiger, was the fiendishly cruel Sultan of Mysore who, in the 1780s, allied with the French in an attempt to drive the British out of India. He claimed to be the divinely appointed leader of Islam—"The Resplendent Presence."

Cruel even to his own people, he singled out his British prisoners, especially officers, for particular attention. Sometimes he would have their throats cut or watch them being slowly strangled. The less fortunate, after having their ears and noses cut off, would be thrown into a den of tigers or impaled. Others would be slowly poisoned, dying in great pain.

Rank meant nothing to Tippoo. One of his victims was General Matthews, Commander-in-Chief of Bombay, who was put to death after being captured at Bednore in 1783.

Tippoo, who was brave and in many ways an enlightened ruler, died at the Siege of Seringapatam in 1799, being shot by a soldier of the 12th Foot (now the Suffolk Regiment) who failed to recognise him. His body was found after the battle buried beneath a pile of dead. Appropriately, the storming party was led by General David Baird who had spent three years in a filthy dungeon as a captive of Tippoo's father, Hyder Ali.

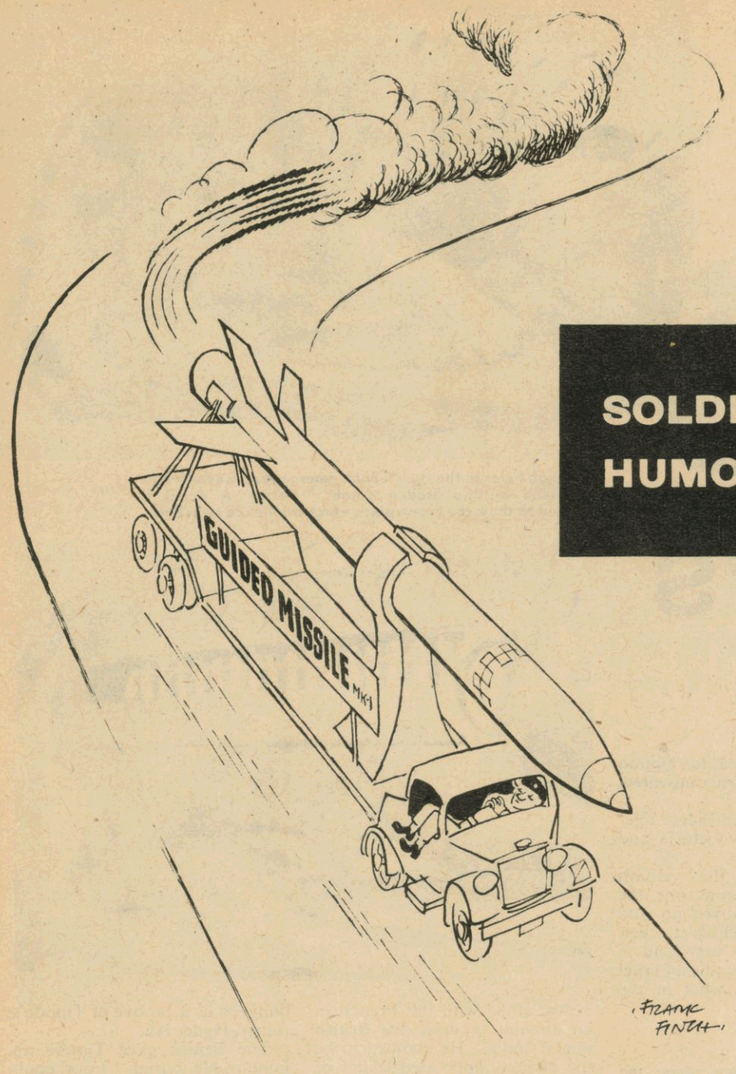
The British gave Tippoo an honourable burial. Four companies of Grenadiers escorted the bier to Lal Bagh and as the body was lowered into the grave the troops presented arms and minute guns were fired.

As the tiger roars, the victim screams and moves his arm up and down to fend off his attacker.

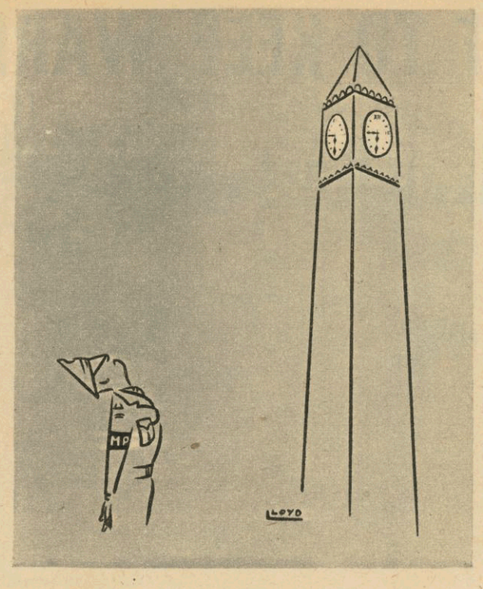
Photographs by courtesy of Victoria and Albert Museum

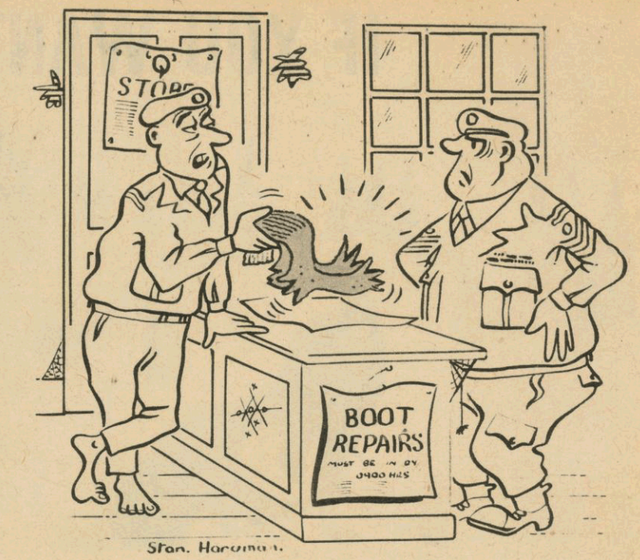
"Very clever—but don't do it again"

SOLDIER HUMOUR

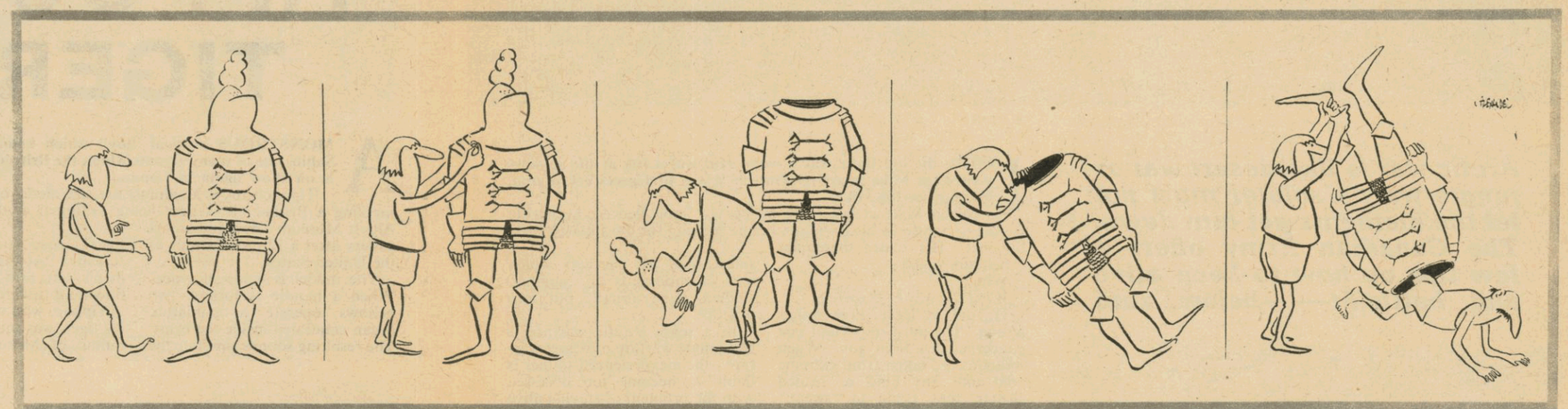


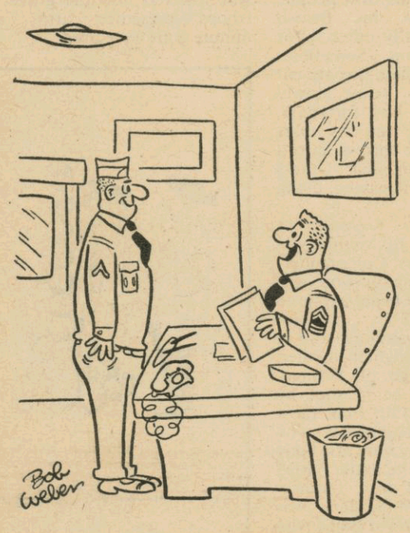
"There's too much fuss made of you recruits these days."





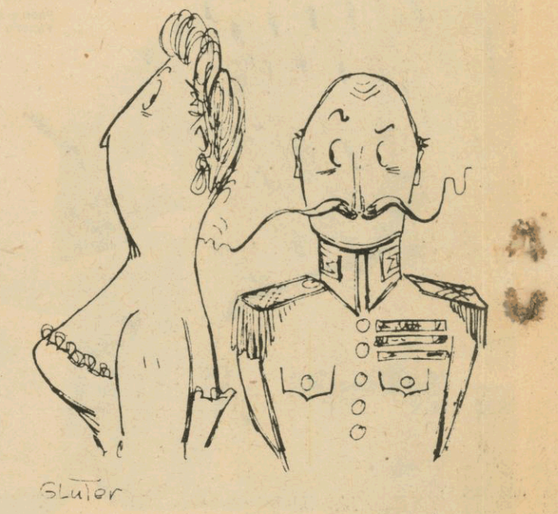
"Soled and heeled, please."



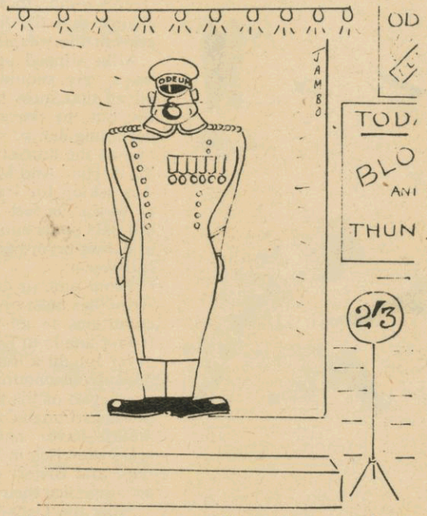


"I'm sorry, but 'to have one hell of a good time' isn't sufficient reason for me to give you a 24-hour pass."

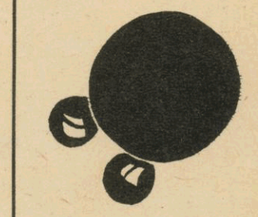
Courtesy: Army Times (USA)



"Fancy fighting in that get-up!"



"Three-and-sixes, stand fast. Two-and-threes, by the left, quick march. One-and-nines, dis-miss!"



Bird's-eye view of British soldier.

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WARM,

KEEP COOL

Left: In the Hudson Bay territory these American soldiers are making themselves an igloo, their only tools being knives. Above: A well-built igloo will stand 500 pounds of manpower.

Arctic war is like desert war or jungle war: a soldier must not let the elements get him down. The Canadian Army offers a few tips on how to keep alive and battle-fit——below zero

There is little scope for practising Arctic warfare in Britain, but this snow-shoed Royal Marines Commando sergeant in the Scottish Highlands knows the way to build a snow-break against his tent.

INSIDE the hut there was a wonderful warm fug as the soldiers waited for Mike to arrive. Outside it was 40 degrees below zero. Nobody envied Mike.

When Mike at last burst in, heavily snow-flecked, he hardly waited to put down his Bren gun before making for the stove to toast his feet. His mates thereupon called him a clot.

Why?

What did Mike do wrong?

He did at least three things wrong. The most important one concerned his Bren gun. When weapons are taken from extreme cold into any kind of heated shelter, they begin to "sweat." Then, when they are taken out of doors again, the condensation freezes—and there is a good chance that the film of ice will prevent the weapon working.

Mike slipped up in two other ways. He should have shaken off all that snow before entering the hut, to prevent his clothes becoming damp. *Dry* clothing is one of the secrets of comfort in the Arctic. And Mike, of course, was asking for trouble in trying to warm his feet with his boots on. His boots could easily go up in flames before his feet began to feel warm.

From time to time, the British Army has been up against Arctic conditions in all sorts of lands from Canada to Korea, but it has never fought a long campaign in pure Arctic conditions. In recent years, two of the Atlantic Treaty powers—Canada and the United States—have undertaken big-scale exercises in the Polar Barrens, and British observers have accompanied them.

Now the Canadian Army has issued to its troops a useful book for the parka pocket: "A Soldier's Guide to the North." It summarises the precepts which tens of thousands of Canadian soldiers have already put into practice.

In a sense, Arctic warfare is like jungle warfare or desert warfare: the inexperienced soldier is liable to become too obsessed with the problem of staying alive to think about fighting and beating the enemy. But, as this booklet points out, the Finns and the Russians have shown that really cold warfare is possible.

"Nearly every soldier," it says, "after three or four weeks of Arctic winter training, is able to get along in the Arctic. Some soldiers may not be as proficient as others, some may spend too much time and worry over survival problems; but nearly everyone learns to get by fairly well."

In the jungle, men may go "jungle-happy" and in the desert they may go "sand happy." The Arctic breeds its own brand of blues, and the right mental attitude is essential.

"If," says the booklet, "you get depressed and moody and don't want to talk, force yourself to chat with the others. Talk things up and don't let yourself get off in one corner.

"If you're on edge and everyone gets on your nerves, remember that this is bound to happen. Everyone's in the same boat. Pull with them, not against them.

"If you find yourself shirking any job unless it is going to keep you warm, remember you're not in the Arctic to go on camping trips, but to fight . . . THE COLD IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR NOT CARRYING OUT TASKS. It may be an excuse for them taking longer, but it's no reason for letting them slide."

Newcomers to the Arctic are afraid to take off their mitts to perform those tasks which can only be done effectively with bare hands. Then they find they can do so for a few seconds. "People who work best in the cold do so because they are able to expose their hands for a long time. Once you find out that you are carrying around a portable heater in the person of your own body, especially your belly and privates, you can extend the time you are able to work bare-handed."

Like parkas, Arctic mitts are made up of an outer covering and a liner. There are also anti-contact gloves to protect the hands from frost burn when handling cold metal.

The book stresses, constantly, that warmth is not achieved by wearing a great many clothes, but by wearing clothing loose and in layers, the effect of which is to insulate the body heat. This was a lesson dinned into British troops in Korea, where string vests were fashionable basic wear.

A most important rule is: If you want to stay warm, never get hot. When clothing becomes damp from sweat, the spaces previously occupied by still air, which is an excellent insulator, become filled with heat-conducting moisture. This allows body heat to escape. Moreover, the evaporation of sweat from the body causes a marked loss in heat. The way to avoid overheating is by ventilating or removing layers as required.

It is essential to keep clothing clean. "Dirt and grease on clothing fill the tiny air pockets which give it its warmth. Dirty clothes are cold clothes." Thus, the Arctic soldier must not complain too readily about "bull." And nobody will call him a cissy for using talcum.

It has been said that in the Arctic a soldier's best friend is his bed. There are two types of sleeping bag—the mummy style and the hunting style. In either it is possible to sleep even when the temperature is many degrees below zero. The bags are constructed on the layer principle, and if the weather grows warm it is not necessary to use all the layers. A sleeping bag must fit the individual, closing properly round his head and shoulders. If it is too big, his body cannot radiate enough heat to fill the vacant space. The fewer clothes the sleeper wears, the better. On getting up, he should shake out the warm, moist wear and roll up the bag from the foot to expel any remaining warm air.

In capital letters the booklet warns: NEVER SLEEP WITH YOUR HEAD INSIDE THE BAG. To do so may seem comfortable at first, but the moisture from the breath will spread inside the sleeping bag and make it wet. Then, in due course, the bag will freeze solid.

In Arctic conditions, weapons are treated with very thin oil. The booklet says: "In extreme temperatures weapons may function best if no lubricant is used." The soldier must be careful to keep snow and ice out of the barrel and working parts. When firing, he must not let the hot parts come in contact with snow—otherwise the snow will melt and later freeze on the metal. When changing barrels, he should not lay them on the snow; rapid cooling is liable to warp them.

The Arctic is the kind of theatre where the "buddy system" is recommended. Each man should watch his "buddy" for the tell-tale white patches which indicate first-degree frostbite. If the affected areas are warmed with the hand the patch disappears. Second-degree and third-degree frostbite require more elaborate treatment. In low temperatures wounds bleed easily because the blood has less opportunity of clotting.

The Arctic soldier is advised to shave at night. Beards, though often worn by polar explorers, are not recommended, as they freeze up. So do bushy or straggling moustaches.

"There are no poisonous plants in the Arctic," says the booklet. A man can eat the flesh or organs of any animal, except the polar bear's liver. "Insects are best roasted."

At the foot of every page in this booklet is a slogan. These include:

EAT MORE FAT

CARBON MONOXIDE KILLS QUICKLY

CARRY LOTS OF MATCHES

EAT ALL YOUR RATIONS

VENTILATE — OR SUFFOCATE

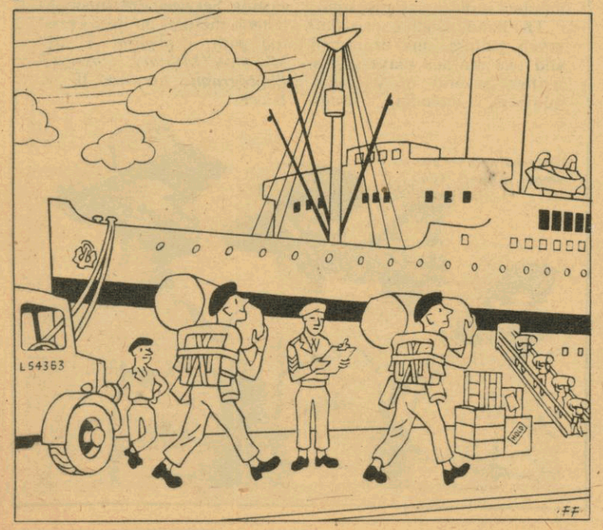
WHEN LOST BUILD A SHELTER

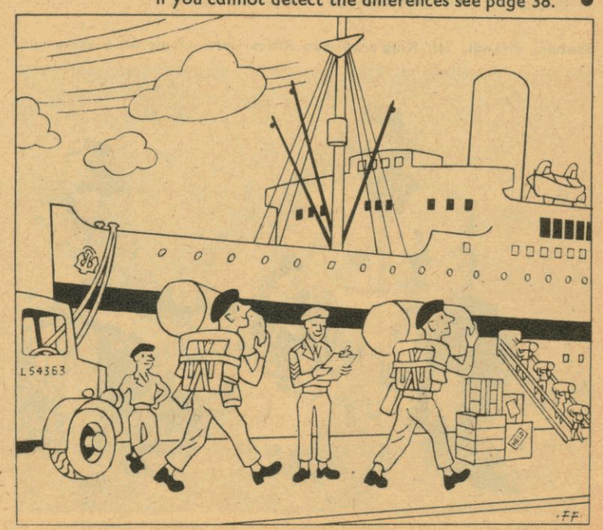
GIVE YOUR AXE A CLEAR SWING

ONLY CHILDREN PLAY WITH ZIPPERS

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. Look at them very carefully. If you cannot detect the differences see page 38.





EAST AFRICA REPORT

EFFENDIS again

THESE HAND-PICKED WARRANT OFFICERS OF THE KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES WEAR SAM BROWNE BELTS AND SWORDS

EFFENDI ranks have been reintroduced in the King's African Rifles.

This will enable selected warrant officers to assume greater responsibilities and eventually qualify themselves to hold the Queen's Commission.

Eighteen serving soldiers, some of them veterans of Abyssinia and Burma and all with a record of meritorious service against Mau Mau, have already been appointed Effendis. Their decorations include a Military Medal and five British Empire Medals. One is a Member of the Victorian Order.

The oldest soldier among them is Abdireman Effendi, who has 21 years service and was recently regimental sergeant-major of the 3rd (Kenya) Battalion of the King's African Rifles. The youngest has nine years service.

The appointment of Effendi is within the rank of Warrant Officer Class One and has three classes of its own. After three years in the third class, an Effendi is eligible for promotion to the second class; further promotion, by selection based on merit, comes after ten years.

As badge of rank an Effendi wears one star in the third class, two in the second, three in the first. Dress and scale of clothing are similar to that of an officer. Effendis wear Sam Browne belts and carry swords on ceremonial occasions.

Pay ranges from a minimum of £15 a month to a maximum of £45.

At Nakaru the 18 Effendis have been undergoing six months strenuous training. Their course, under Major M. J. Harbage, has been designed to bring them up to the standard of platoon commander. In fieldcraft, special emphasis is laid on tracking and the control of trackers.

Leading the course in parade-ground drill is Dishon Effendi, of the 5th (Kenya) Battalion, who recently passed out "above average" at the Guards Training Battalion at Pirbright.

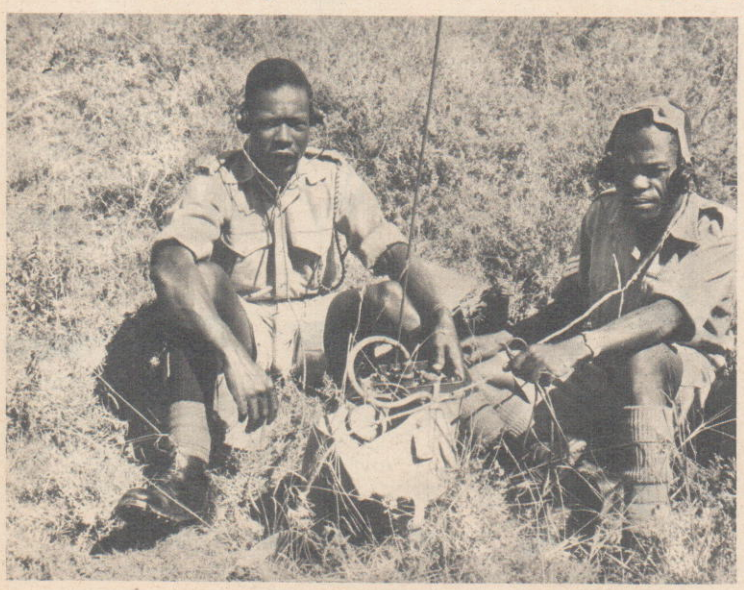
Probably the most important part of the Effendis' training is platoon administration, looking after rations, pay, welfare and sport. At their Training Depot, they have their own mess committee, not omitting a wines member.

The duties of these Effendis were summed up for them by General Sir Gerald Lathbury, Commander-in-Chief East Africa Forces:

"Not only will you be expected to lead your platoon into action, but you will also be expected to carry out all the duties of a platoon commander. You will be fully responsible for the administration of your men, and for looking after them at all times. As well as seeing that they are well trained and disciplined, you must be prepared to help them with their personal *shauris* (problems) and to see that they are properly looked after. It is most important to look after men so that they are contented and good soldiers. At the same time, you must see that bad soldiers are dealt with firmly and justly."

Footnote: Effendi is a Turkish title of respect.

Shabani Effendi, 7th King's African Rifles (left) trains on a radio set.



CRAFTSMAN JOHN ORYAM (above) IS THE STAR OF A NEW AFRICAN ENTERTAINMENT UNIT WHO RUN——

THEIR OWN SHOW

THE first entertainment unit composed entirely of African soldiers is touring Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, performing for *askari* and their families. It is an outstanding success.

The East Africa Army Ordnance Corps provides most of the talent from its 140 *askari* clerks, storemen and drivers at the Command Ordnance Depot. Only one of the team —Craftsman John Oryam— does not wear an Ordnance cap badge.

Odd-man-out Oryam, of the East Africa Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, sings with guitar accompaniment and is popular throughout Kenya for his many recordings and intermittent performances over the African Broadcasting Service network. A born entertainer, he leads the band into many rhythmic African songs and occasionally breaks out in English with a jolly warbling of "Never Marry A Woman Bigger Than You," which is his own number sung in calypso style.

The band, which consists of seven guitars, one drummer and two maraca players, has written several of its own numbers, including songs about the *askari's* life. Such songs are catching on like hit-parade numbers and are being hummed and whistled by the men on their daily chores.

The repertoire of the concert party includes numerous original sketches of life in the East African Army, among them good-tempered impersonations of British officers and NCOs giving orders in KiSwahili.

During tours the unit is accompanied by Captain G. Pope, Entertainments Officer at the Ordnance Depot.

Major J. W. Harley-Peters, commanding the Depot, and Mr. Peter Colmore, an ex-Army officer who is an organiser for the African Broadcasting Service, did much to launch the unit on its successful path.—*Corporal T. W. Murphy, Military Observer. Photographs: Sergeant W. R. Hawes.*

Entertainers—but smart soldiers, too.

Benghazi—where the Army radio has taught people of all nationalities to play tombola (housey-housey).

RADIO TOMBOLA

ONE of the oldest games in the Services has been introduced to the inhabitants of Benghazi, Libya by means of a weekly radio broadcast.

About 1400 people listen to Radio Tombola each week—not only the military population, but Americans, Greeks, Italians, Germans and Arabs.

Banter about "clickety-click" and "Kelly's eye" is now common in the shops and market-places. In its modest way, the game helps towards international goodwill.

Radio Tombola, which sounds better than Radio Housey-Housey, is run by a committee from the British Military Hospital at Wavell Barracks, Benghazi and No. 5 Field Broadcasting Service.

How is tombola played by radio? Those who wish to play buy tickets bearing the familiar squares and numbers. After the first 40 numbers have been called out over the radio, each new number is given a sequence number. Thus: "The forty-first number is 72 . . ."

When all the figures on his card have been covered, the player notes the sequence number of the last one called, and records it on the reverse of his card.

If the card is completed in 75 numbers or fewer the player posts off his card with a claim. The winning card is unlikely to be completed in fewer than 75 numbers.

Winners' names are later broadcast.

Tickets cost two shillings each. The takings are distributed as follows: 60 per cent first prize, ten per cent second prize, 30 per cent to charities. A sum of between £140 and £150 is taken weekly.

Since Radio Tombola began last summer more than £500 has been given to charities.

Captain L. J. Long introduced the game in this form and he is assisted by Sergeant E. V. Taylor. The chairman of the committee is Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. F. Watson. All three belong to the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Radio Tombola in action: Left to right—Mr. P. Pachebat (checker), Sergeant E. V. Taylor (caller) and Captain L. J. Long (recorder).

CLICKETY CLICK AND ALL THAT

MANY SOLDIER readers have made enquiries about the curious slang phrases which go with tombola, or housey-housey.

Here is a list, compiled by DOREEN HINCHCLIFFE, of the most-used phrases, with an account where possible of their origins:

On its own, number one; or *Kelly's eye* (it appears that he had only one).

On its own, shiny two; or *one little duck* (from the shape of the figure 2).

Spot below, number six (from the black dot underneath the figure, put there in order to avoid confusion with number 9).

On its own, number seven; or *one little crutch* (from the shape of figure 7).

Doctor's chum, number nine (this one hardly needs explanation!).

Number 10—Macmillan's den (or the den of any other existing Prime Minister); also called *Marine's breakfast,* which traditionally consists of a thin slice of bacon (1) and a bean (0).

Legs eleven (memories of drawings made in childhood).

One and two—one dozen.

One and three—unlucky for some (a popular superstition).

One and four—before you joined (i.e. the Great War of 1914).

One and six—sweet sixteen; or *never been kissed.*

One and seven—St Patrick (17 March, St. Patrick's Day).

Two-oh, blind twenty (all the numbers ending in nought are, for some inexplicable reason "blind").

Two and one—Royal salute (21 guns) or *Key of the door* (coming of age).

All the twos—Dinky doo (rhyming slang) or *two little ducks.*

Two and six—half a crown, or *bed and breakfast* (in the dim past).

All the threes—feathers (from the 33 feathers on the throat of the legendary thrush).

Four-oh, life begins (or so our elders inform us).

Four and five, halfway (the top number being 90).

Five and seven—all the varieties (advertisement for Messrs. Heinz).

Five and nine—the Brighton Line (this must have been a long time ago, too).

Six and five—old age (when we become pensionable).

All the sixes—clickety-click (did this originate with a caller who lisped?).

Six and nine—anyway up (it could be 96, if tombola numbers went that far).

Seven and six—was she worth it? (the cost of a marriage licence).

All the eights—two fat ladies (from the shape of the figures, in every sense).

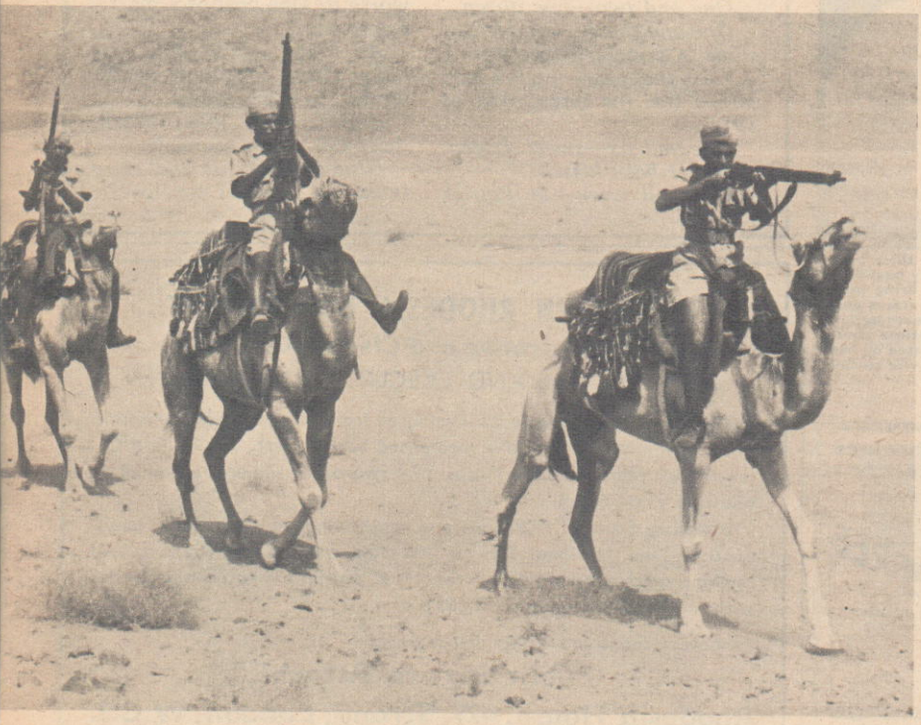
Eight and nine—nearly there (90 is last number).

Nine-oh, top of the shop (meaning "top of the lot"?).

A fort in the Aden Protectorate — with Royal Air Force armoured cars in foreground.

ANOTHER BORDER TO BE TAMED

There's a touch of the North-West Frontier about the rugged Yemen border where British Infantry, supporting the Aden levies, have been at grips with tribal raiders.



How the Aden Protectorate Levies go into action on camel back.

A NEW beat for the British soldier is on the wild border of the Aden Protectorate, where hit-and-run raiders out of the Yemen have been harrying villages which look for protection to the British flag.

This border is as romantic as it is ill-defined. Like the territory of India's North-West Frontier, it offers copious opportunities to a rogue with a rifle. The dyed "indigo men" of those parts are quick to exploit any signs of what they think to be weakness.

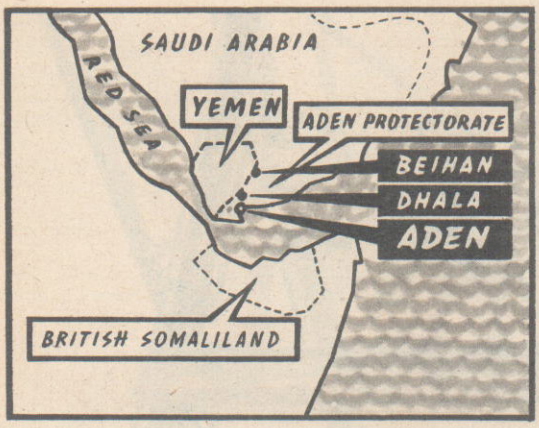
The trouble in the Protectorate has worsened since Britain's Suez adventure. To meet it, British troops have been reorganised under a new command: British Forces, Arabian Peninsula, under a senior Royal Air Force officer. Regiments which have been assisting the Aden Protectorate Levies include the Durham Light Infantry and Cameron Highlanders.

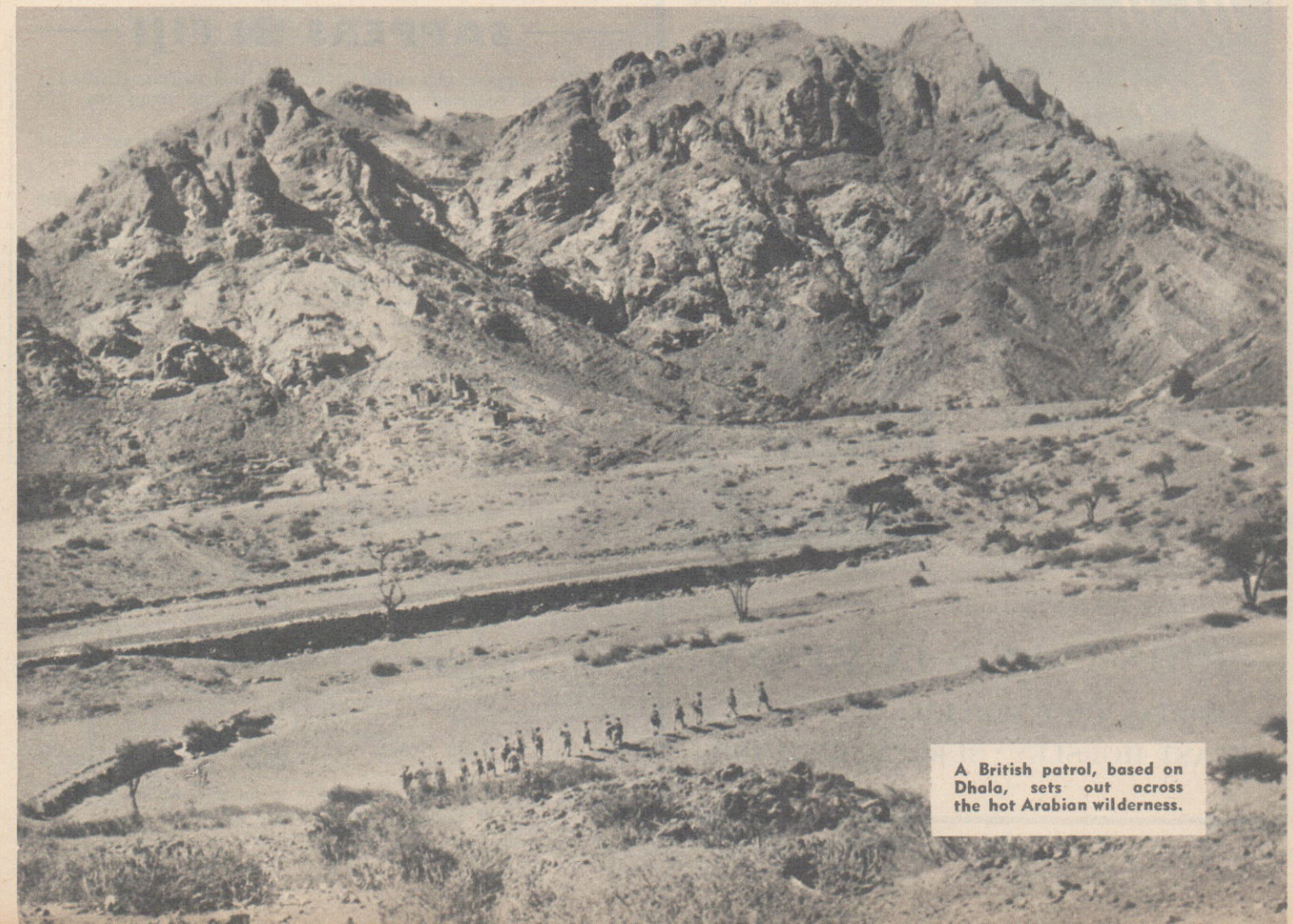
Mostly the incidents have occurred in the areas of Beihan and Dhala, in the Western Aden Protectorate. They have taken the form of sniping at transport, raiding (and temporary occupation) of villages, attempts on forts and abduction of hostages. Not only Yemen tribesmen but regular Yemen troops have been involved in these clashes, and dissidents within the Protectorate have also co-operated with the intruders. The affrays have been distinguished by a great deal of aimless firing on the part of the tribesmen. In the main, they have been disinclined to face disciplined opposition, leaving it to their propagandists to magnify their exploits.

In one action the Durhams dislodged intruders from their positions with rifle and mortar fire. Royal Air Force Venoms and other aircraft have been in action on numerous occasions, within the territory of the Protectorate.

Last year, when similar disturbances occurred, the 1st Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders and a squadron of the Life Guards were flown into the Protectorate from Egypt to reinforce the Levies.

One of the levies on watch in the Fort Atag area. Right: men of the Durhams on their watch-tower at Beihan.





A British patrol, based on Dhala, sets out across the hot Arabian wilderness.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

continued

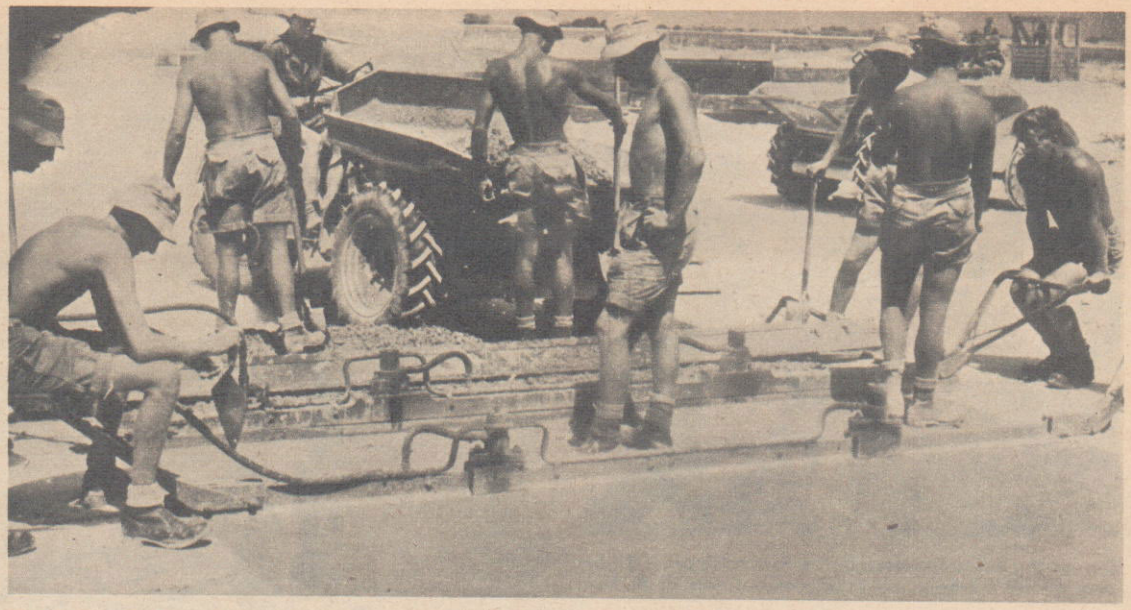
shipped from New Zealand and Christmas puddings and mince pies from England; but it seemed strange to eat them under a blazing sun with a background of tropical palm trees, among land crabs and giant ants. Every man of the three Services on the island subscribed to a fund to give 2000 sick children in British hospitals a toy on Christmas Day: an imaginative gesture.

Two men who missed the Christmas celebrations were Warrant Officer Roy Lower and Sapper David Tomlinson. Early on Christmas morning they received messages from Britain, 10,000 miles away, that their fathers were dangerously ill. That day they were flown to Honolulu, thence to San Francisco and New York to catch a plane for London. They arrived in London four days after leaving Christmas Island. It was one of the most striking examples to date of the speed at which the Army can act to meet a domestic emergency.

When the base is completed in the near future and the scientists and Royal Air Force arrive in strength to begin their tests, more than half the troops at present on Christmas Island will leave. Certain units will remain to operate the installations and load and unload ships.

The Army has also been making habitable Malden Island, some 400 miles from Christmas Island. This inhospitable spot, which early this century produced guano for the phosphate industry, is to be used as an advance camp for scientists and meteorologists.

E. J. GROVE



An area as big as two full-size football pitches was laid with high-grade concrete by Sappers using this type of modern pneumatic vibrating compactor. Below: Three Sappers enjoy a brew-up in the girders of a pre-fabricated building they are erecting—with a view of the Pacific.

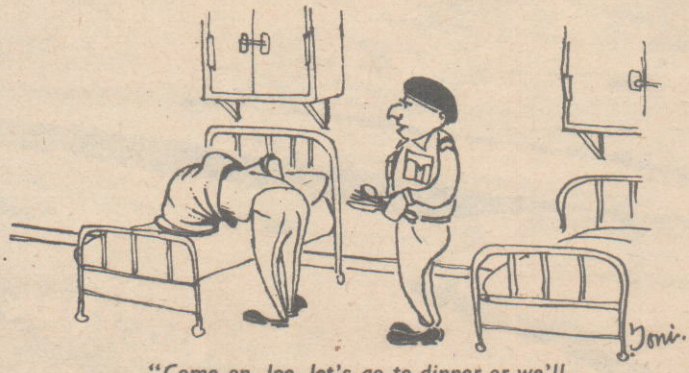
SAPPERS IN FIJI

THE Sappers who called at Suva on their way to Christmas Island received a tremendous welcome from the Fiji islanders.

A resident wrote to the *Fiji Times* to point out that the Royal Engineers had the honour of being the only British troops ever to be stationed in Fiji: "A company of Sappers was brought here from England by Sir Hercules Robinson in 1874 and was 'lost' by the War Office for about 12 years."

Several streets in the colony were named after this "Legion of the Lost." More tangible reminders of their stay are the sea wall, the old wharf and a highway which they built.

Chatham turned out to fête the Sappers from Fiji when they eventually returned to Britain. The band of the Royal Engineers played them to barracks and they were followed by an Army Service Corps wagon bearing war clubs, parrots and all sorts of Pacific curios, but—to the disappointment of all—no dusky princesses.

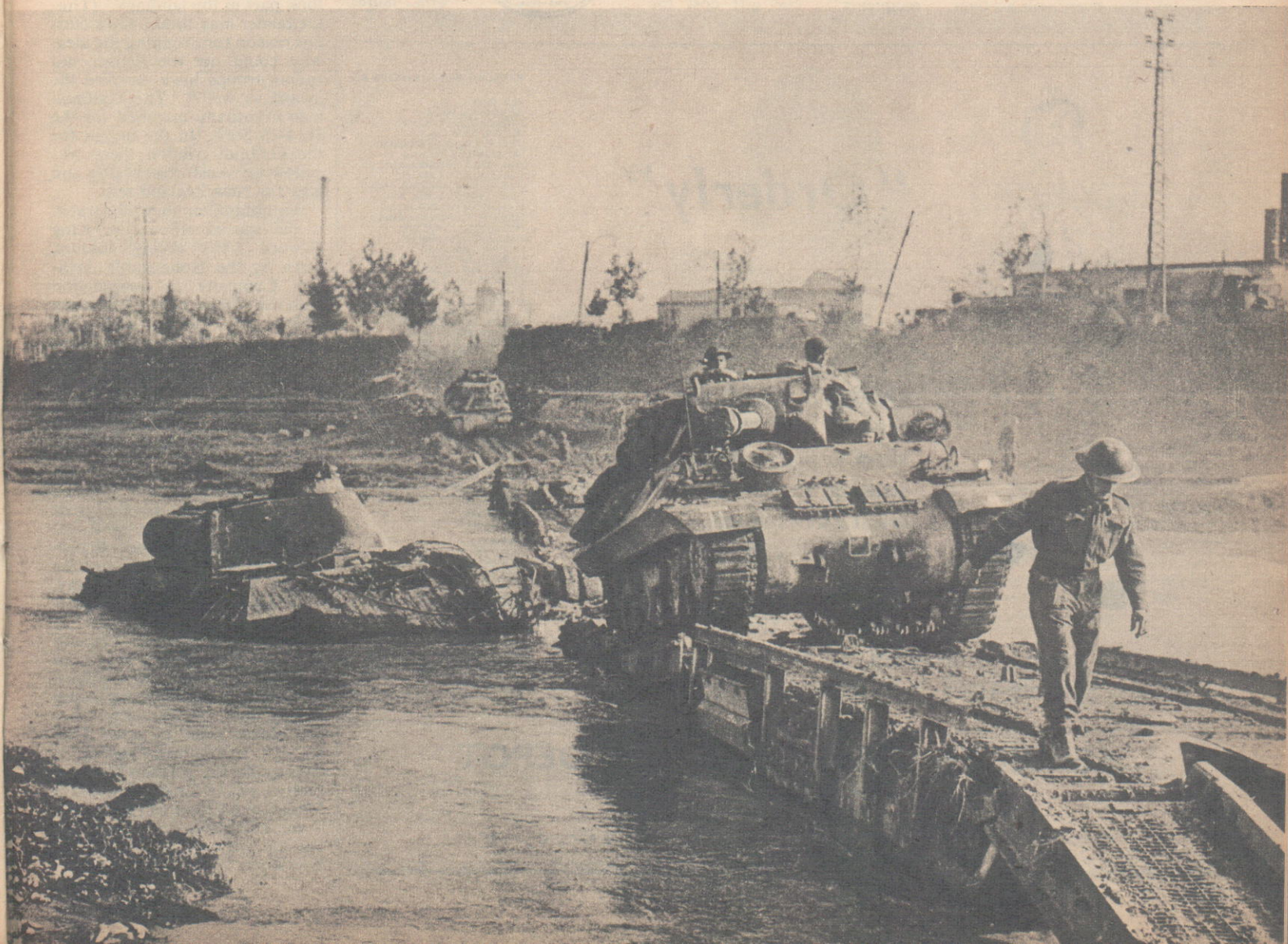


"Come on, Joe, let's go to dinner or we'll be too late to get a meal at the NAAFI."

SOLDIER SCRAPBOOK OF WORLD WAR TWO

Right: Looking momentarily like a war memorial on its pedestal, this tank is crossing an anti-tank ditch in Roosendaal, Holland. The ditch was spanned by a bridge-propelling tank.

British armour crosses the River Senio in Italy by means of ark bridges. One tank appears to have come to grief.



A 40-YEARS WAIT FOR THEIR MEDALS

THERE is a perpetual demand for an authoritative book about medals and medal ribbons. In 1915 Captain H. Taprell Dorling DSO, Royal Navy ("Taffrail"), published such a work, which has since run into many editions, its last appearance being in 1946.

Now it appears, revised, enlarged, as "Ribbons and Medals" (*George Philip and Son, 21s*), with more than 600 excellent colour reproductions of ribbons from many countries. Even those who think they are authorities on medals will find much to fascinate them in these pages.

Captain Dorling reminds his readers that medals for war service were not issued generally to all officers and men engaged in a campaign until well on in the nineteenth century, "the only exception in Great Britain being the medal for the Battle of Dunbar, 1650, which was awarded by the vote of the House of Commons to all officers and men of the Parliamentary forces who had been present at the battle." In India a general medal was awarded to the officers and men who stormed Seringapatam in 1799. The design showed a lion overcoming a tiger.

"What a buzz there would be today if a private individual proposed to award a medal to the troops who occupied Port Said in 1956!"

Medals were a sore subject among soldiers who slogged through the Napoleonic wars. Senior officers received awards, but the veterans of Maida and Albuera had to wait 42 and 37 years respectively for their Military General Service Medal, with appropriate clasp. A high proportion of those entitled to the medal died before it was issued.

All ranks who fought at Waterloo, however, received the Waterloo Medal, issued in 1816.

The Royal Navy was no more generously treated. After the Battle of the Nile, Lord Nelson's Prize Agent, a Mr. Davison, issued a medal at his own expense to all officers and men engaged: gold for admirals and captains, silver for lieutenants and warrant officers, bronze-gilt for petty officers and bronze for seamen and marines. "The medals were bestowed privately, but were worn and highly prized by their recipients." The gift cost the donor nearly £2000. A Mr. Boulton of Birmingham made a similar award to the Royal Navy after the Battle of Trafalgar.

What a buzz there would be today if a private individual proposed to award a medal to, say, the troops who occupied Port Said in 1956!

In the nineteenth century General Service Medals were introduced to prevent the unnecessary multiplication of medals, bars being attached to denote the specific service for which the award was made. The first campaign star was issued in 1843, for the Gwalior campaign. It was made from the bronze of captured cannon.

On a subject which continues to cause much misunderstanding, Captain Dorling writes:

"To the British Army"—the first General Service Medal. It shows Queen Victoria crowning the Duke of Wellington with laurel.

The Waterloo Medal: it was issued in 1816 to all ranks who fought in that battle. *Reproduced from "Ribbons and Medals," (George Philip).*

"There is a widespread belief that medals won by fathers may be worn by sons; but there is nothing to support such an idea. It is true, of course, that medals of deceased officers and men, including the Victoria Cross, are given to their nearest relatives, but this does not imply that they are to be worn."

Among the medal ribbons of the first world war reproduced in this book is one which is as colourful as it is unfamiliar: the proposed Gallipoli Star. It was the intention of the Australian and New Zealand governments to award this to their troops who had served in Gallipoli, but the plan was dropped as it was thought that such an award would not be fair to British, Indian and other troops who also took part in the landings. (This, the reader may think, was a curious reason for dropping the idea: why could not the British and Indian troops have received the award as well?) The Gallipoli men eventually qualified for the 1914-15 Star. In the design for the Gallipoli ribbon there was yellow for Australian wattle and grey for New Zealand fern.

An unfamiliar item illustrated is the special ribbon, in King Edward VII's racing colours, worn by the Honourable Artillery Company in conjunction with the ribbon of the Efficiency Decoration. Can any other regiment boast its own exclusive medal ribbon? Equally unfamiliar to most people is the King's Medal for Courage in the Cause of Freedom, awarded chiefly to foreigners who helped British escapers in 1939-45.

Also reproduced and described are medals which were awarded to British soldiers by the great trading companies like the Royal Niger Company, the British North Borneo Company and the British South Africa Company.

Foreign ribbons and medals include those of the Order of Merit of the Federal German Republic (instituted in 1951); the 1916 Medal of the Irish Republic, which commemorates the Easter Rising (and, incidentally, takes precedence over all other Irish medals); and various Communist awards like the Russian Order of Glory and the Czecho-Slovakian Medal for a Prominent Labourer.

An admirable book, containing the answers to a thousand queries.

Take your pick!

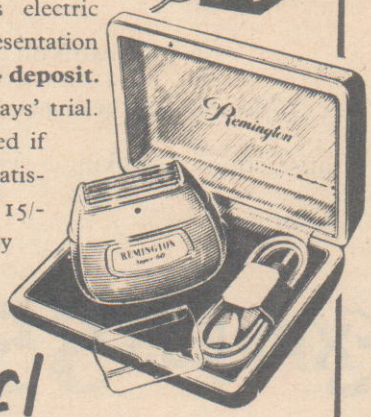
CURRYS' BARGAINS BY POST

REMINGTON

Super 60

5/-

This luxurious electric shaver in its presentation case for only **5/- deposit.** Yours for 14 days' trial. Deposit refunded if not completely satisfied. Balance of 15/- after trial, then by 8 monthly payments of 24/6. **Price £10.4.3.**



£2 off!

Special offer! A reduction of £2 off the price of the Remington Super 60 in exchange for any make of old electric shaver. **Exchange Terms:** 5/- deposit, balance of 15/- after trial, and 8 monthly payments of 19/6.

PHILISHAVE

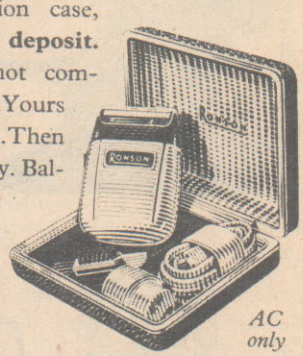
5/-

The Philips close-cutting rotary action dry shaver complete with leather zip case for **5/- deposit.** Yours for 14 days' trial. Deposit refunded if not satisfied. Balance of 10/- after trial, then by 8 monthly payments of 18/6. **Price £7. 14. 2.**

RONSON

5/-

This precision-built, self-sharpening Ronson electric shaver, complete with presentation case, for only **5/- deposit.** Refunded if not completely satisfied. Yours for 14 days' trial. Then buy this easy way. Balance of 20/- after trial, followed by 8 monthly payments of 20/6. **Price £8. 17. 6.**



AC only

BY POST OR FROM YOUR LOCAL CURRYS BRANCH

State name of electric shaver required when ordering.

POST 5/- TO CURRYS LTD., DEPT. B44, WORTHY PARK, WINCHESTER, HANTS.

Currys LTD.

HUDSON'S BAY

Jamaica Rum

Ask for it at N.A.A.F.I.

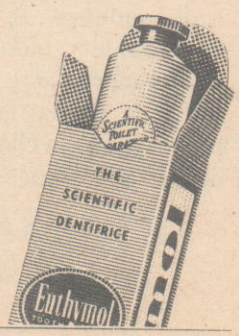
Rums sold under the Hudson's Bay label had already become the standard of comparison in America even before the destruction of the Prince of Wales fort in Hudson's Bay and the historic escape of the Company's supply ship, the Prince Rupert, from a French war-ship in 1782

The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay
INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670

"I use Euthymol TOOTHPASTE how about you?"

Euthymol does more than polish your teeth completely clean. When you use this pink, antiseptic toothpaste, you really *feel* that something is happening. And so it is! Euthymol's biting, refreshing foam stimulates your gums, fights bacteria and leaves your whole mouth fresh and healthy.

Prove this for yourself, Euthymol is available at all NAAFI stores.



DESERT FACT

RAIDERS IN THE WILDS

Not the easiest of "mobs" to join: men of the Long Range Desert Group.

IN the eyes of an outsider, those who served in the Long Range Desert Group of World War Two wore the glamour of the highwayman.

To set out from the fabled oases of Siwa and Kufra, to range behind the enemy lines, to seize forts, to wreck airfields, to burn transport . . . what more could an adventurous spirit wish?

There was another side to this gay life, and Lieutenant-Colonel David Lloyd Owen DSO, MC does not omit it from his book "The Desert My Dwelling Place" (*Cassell, 18s.*). He writes:

"It is easy to remember the excitement and stimulation of victory. But to re-live the anguish we sometimes went through, lying all night awake in the pouring rain within a few miles of the enemy, after a day when we had been continually on the look-out for aircraft exactly the same as the three or four preceding days, is not so easy."

The wells of Siwa sparkled like soda water but in the Holy City of Giarabub "the water was the most salty and evil-tasting liquid that I found anywhere in the desert and the flies were relentless and unmitigated in their pestilence." Jalo was much the same except that the flies were bigger and there was a perpetual sandstorm.

To a mathematician, there was nothing difficult in taking an astro-fix to determine one's position. Just a question of setting up a theodolite, waiting with a stopwatch for the sixth pip of the Greenwich time signal, then taking readings on certain stars with the assistance of a time-keeper.

But the feat was not so easy, as the author points out, on a winter's night, with a gale blowing, when a light could be shown only for a second or two and the stars were continually being obscured. On the correctness of the calculations, men's lives depended.

Lieutenant-Colonel (then Captain) Lloyd Owen joined the Long Range Desert Group in 1941 from the Queen's Royal Regiment, after a not very happy spell on the staff of an Officer Cadet Training Unit in Cairo. He later commanded one of the Group's patrols. On an early sortie he captured a small Italian fort, which earned him a sharp "rocket" by radio and the order: "Dispose of your prisoners and do what you were told." Disposing of prisoners in the middle of the desert was quite a problem.

The author led the Commando expedition which set out from Kufra, 500 miles inland on the edge of the Sand Sea, to raid Tobruk, at the same time that other raiding parties converged on Benghazi, Barce and Jalo. The grand plan to wreck Rommel's supplies did not come off; but, as the author says, "for all those separate forces to have reached their objectives unseen and unhindered was a very great achievement of planning, navigation and of leadership."

The story of the Long Range Desert Group has been told before, but Lieutenant-Colonel Lloyd Owen's book gives an interesting picture of the triumphs and frustrations of life in that unconventional arm. He admits that, in his early days, he nearly failed to make the grade. He also reveals that, once established, he interviewed nearly 700 men in order to select 12 recruits.

DESERT FICTION

STORY OF AN AMBULANCE

THE real hero of Christopher Landon's novel "Ice-Cold In Alex" (*Heinemann, 15s*) is the ambulance in which a British captain, with a sergeant-major, sets out to drive two nurses from doomed Tobruk to Alexandria and safety.

To avoid the encircling Germans, they steer south through minefields to the edge of the Sand Sea, then through the more stable portions of the Qattara Depression.

The passengers, needless to say, have their personal problems. Captain Anson has been living on nerves and whisky (where have we met him before?) but is keeping himself going by the thought of ice-cold beer waiting in Alexandria, and chains to pull again. The party picks up an officer, Captain Zimmerman, with a pack containing something hard and square which he hugs to himself. He says he is a South African officer, which *might* explain his accent. Every night he goes off for a little walk by himself . . . What would *you* do, if you were Captain Anson? Captain Anson seems slow to react.

The descriptions of desert travel under difficulties are excellent and obviously first-hand. "Ice-Cold In Alex' " has received the accolade of serialisation in the *Saturday Evening Post* and is to be filmed. Perhaps Captain Zimmerman will look less obviously suspicious when he reaches the screen.

Three Tanks and Fifteen Men

MODESTLY, John Foley describes his "Mailed Fist" (*Panther, 2s*) as "a reasonably accurate account of what happened to three tanks and 15 men" in North-West Europe.

The author was a tank troop commander and his war took him by way of Villers Bocage to Le Havre, Holland, the Ardennes and the Reichswald. He writes a good-humoured, lively story, which expresses well the rugged spirit and camaraderie of the tank crews.

The account starts with the author's arrival from Sandhurst, wearing two pips, and explaining to an unbelieving squadron commander that if you have more than six 'years' service in the ranks you put up two pips right away. Later, after a little spot of bother, he tried to explain that at Sandhurst they said subalterns should salute majors only once a day. That didn't go down very well, either.

Memorable occasions were: the day, on the eve of embarkation, when an inexperienced driver turned the wrong switch and exploded the Cordtex charge which blew off all the waterproof sealing . . . the day when the Churchills' 75-millimetre rounds bounced off the Tiger like peas off a drum and the troop found themselves tankless . . . the fortnight when, as a change from sleeping in their tanks, the troop were billeted in the second most expensive hotel in Europe, in the Ardennes . . . and the days of battering through the Reichswald forest the hard way, pushing down the firs rather than risk ambush in the open rides.

Words, Useful and Naughty

IT may be that the British Army and the new German Army will get along better if they learn, not only each other's military and technical phrases, but each other's slang and swear words.

This appears to be the view of Studienrat Kurt Hilmar Eitzen, who has published (from Bonn) a new edition of his German-English, English-German "military word book" entitled "The Military Eitzen" (*distributed in Britain by Atlantic Press, 40s.*).

Whether you want to know the German for "re-enlistment bounty" or "cocking handle" or "have another drink" or "proper channels" or "wakey-wakey" Herr Eitzen will furnish the answer. He also explains to his German readers the meaning of words which most printers (including the printers of SOLDIER) would be nervous of setting up in type. He tells them that ****, is "an excellent Old English word, no longer obscene," and that "the naughty word ******* has displaced 'bloody' in Colloquial English." Herr Eitzen's German readers should nevertheless be very careful how they use these colloquialisms.

From his text and footnotes it is evident that Herr Eitzen is a reader of SOLDIER (though he certainly did not find those "naughty words" in it). His list of "literature used and recommended" ranges from "The Dam Busters" and "They Die With Their Boots Clean" to "The Naked and the Dead." These works may well have contributed some of the curious slang expressions listed by Herr Eitzen, among them "abso-bloody-lutely" and "wind your neck in."

Many of the technical and administrative translations will be of great use to the student, once he overcomes his surprise at finding "families hostel" cheek by jowl with "falsies" and "deditch" alongside "dedigitate."

On British regimental nicknames, alas, Herr Eitzen slips up more than once. He lists "Death or Glory Boys" as the Sixth Airborne Division and the "Death or Glory Lads" as the Commandos. There's going to be some heart-burning in the camp of the 17th/21st Lancers over that. Then Herr Eitzen defines the "Jocks" as the Cameronians but not even the Cameronians would claim that they were the only Jocks. And since when have the Grenadier Guards been known as the Coalheavers?

But not to worry too much, Herr Eitzen. (Incidentally, what's the German for "not to worry"?) No doubt an Englishman would slip into many a pitfall if he tried to assemble similar information about the German Army. It certainly makes a fascinating book in which to rummage in an idle half hour.

LETTERS

A QUOTATION

Can anyone tell me the source of the quotation: "You were only their fathers. I was their officer."—**"Woolwich."**

BETTER BARRACKS

Your article "Now For Some Better Barracks" (January) leads one to continue hoping that some real progress in building will be achieved. It was a relief to note that the condemned and dangerous barrack block at Combermere Barracks, Windsor, has at last been replaced. This to my knowledge has been a high priority for some years.

I realise that there are many factors which retard building programmes, with the result that the Royal Engineers spend vast sums on Part III (Maintenance) Services in propping up old quarters and time-expired hutting. Cannot some of these factors be eliminated?

May I suggest that shortage of money is not the main cause of delays. In my experience, many Part I building projects fail to materialise because of the constant changes in the role and establishment of units, etc., the pressure of commanders who want changes made to suit their own particular requirements and the suspicion of Command Secretaries and the Treasury that floor-space is being included which may not be fully utilised.

Experience also shows that wherever good accommodation exists, Command and District "G" and "Q" Staffs rejoice and have no difficulty in filling it. One can rest assured that modern quarters, wherever sited in the United Kingdom, will never remain vacant for long.

Let us therefore not allow interference with a sound plan in order to seek elusive perfection. Moreover, delay usually results in additional expense.

Some may think that I oversimplify the problem but I feel certain that my comments will be endorsed by those who struggle to get something done.—**"Black-Button."**

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

● Please do not ask for information which you can get in your orderly room or from your own officer.

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

SHE'S THE FIRST

The first Warrant Officer Class One in Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps is Jean Deakin. She is serving as chief clerk to the Assistant Director Medical Services in Germany in a post formerly held by a warrant officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Warrant Officer Deakin began her Army service as a nursing orderly four and a half years ago. She has more than a year of her engagement to serve and expects to sign on. "It's a good life," she says.

ASSAULT FORCE

"It is better to have an élite army for the main operational purposes than to have a much bigger army that is mediocrely trained and equipped throughout."

How true that statement by General Manteuffel is we saw in the invasion of Port Said. It was the special formations, the Royal Marine Commando and the Parachute groups, who led the assault and gained the victory. They were enough for a campaign such as this but they will not be enough in the event of a third world war.

With that in mind surely now is the time to create a strategic assault force for tasks of exceptional hazard and delicacy. A force based on the wartime Special Air Service and Commando units should be ideal. Let them have the best equipment and training facilities, a distinctive uniform (the smartest possible) and a single commander of adequate status.

Given the needful support they could offset the immense preponderance of numbers and armament which faces this island and, at the same time, carry terror to the heart of any aggressor, however powerful, by daring, bluff and unpredictability of plan.—**Keith Farnes, 90 The Fairway, North Wembley.**

THE ARMY'S SHIPS

Although I served for many years as a "sandscratcher" (seaman) under the White Ensign, I am a great admirer of the British Army. I believe it could "lick" the remainder of the universe put together.

So it was with more than passing interest that I read the article about ships with military names (SOLDIER, January). Two more items might prove of interest. The *Marne* is paid-off now, I believe, while the *Tobruk* is with the Royal Australian Navy.

In 1931 I was in China waters, serving aboard the *Somme*. In the same flotilla was a sister ship, the *Sepoy*. Both have gone for scrap. There is another destroyer, the *Barrosa*, although I notice the Army spell it "Barossa." When this destroyer went on patrol to Aquaba a few years ago the Royal Irish Fusiliers were there as part of the garrison. It is worthy of mention that the old 87th Foot played a noteworthy part in the action at Barrosa in the Peninsula campaign. Also in the Mediterranean was a small Fleet minesweeper, the *Rifleman*, which maintained contact with the Green Jackets.

Before World War Two the Canadian Navy had the trawlers *Festubert* and *Givenchy*. The British gave them some destroyers, one of which they renamed *Vancouver*. As the Royal Navy also had a destroyer of the same name confusion was avoided by re-christening the British ship *Vimy*.

Many years ago the depot ship at Portsmouth was the *Duke of Wellington*. One of the old "wooden walls" was the *Culloden*, of unhappy memories, and there was the old armoured cruiser, the *Cressy*, torpedoed in 1914. Another cruiser, *The Black Prince*, was lost at Jutland, but another was built in World War Two and given to the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Although the *Agincourt* is still in full commission, the *Vittoria* was lost in the Baltic. There was the destroyer *Gurkha* and another, given by the Americans, was renamed the *Belmont*. There was also the minesweeper *Hussar*. The *Blenheim* was a base ship in Iceland; the *Ramillies*, a battleship of 29000 tons, did much convoy work. At the beginning of 1939 four or five destroyers being built for some South American republic were commandeered by the Admiralty and one was renamed the *Havelock*. In Wales, I believe, a naval shore base was called *Skirmisher*; also serving was *Corunna*.

No doubt there are others that came and went, so it is quite evident that the Army was well represented afloat and not only by the Merchant Navy.—**A. Haynes, 45 Crofton Road, North End, Portsmouth.**

Your writer appears never to have heard of Grimsby, the world's greatest fishing port, the home port of the trawlers *Royal Lincs* and *Black Watch* of approximately 600 tons.

These two ships belong to the military class of the Butt Group, a firm of Grimsby trawler owners whose other trawlers have the following names: *Bombardier, Coldstreamer, Lancer, Royal Marine*.

A trawler belonging to another firm bears the name *Drummer Boy*. This ship is much smaller and older, fishing only in the North Sea, while the Butt Group ships fish mainly in the Northern waters of White Sea, Bear Island and Iceland.—**R.B.C., Grimsby.**

NEWS IN BERLIN

Immediately World War Two ended in Europe I produced a newspaper for my squadron of 11th Hussars. The third issue on 25 July, 1945, was printed and published in Berlin. Can I claim to have published the first English language newspaper in post-war Berlin?—**Kenneth Cook, 47 Thorley Park Road, Bishop's Stortford.**

continued on next page

WERE YOU THERE?

The German magazine "Kristall" published these pictures along with a letter from an ex-soldier who said that about 60 similar photographs came into his possession when a British vehicle was shot up in the Libyan-Egyptian desert during the 1941-42 campaign. He is anxious to return the photographs to the soldiers in question or to their relations. SOLDIER has been asked to help in tracing any men shown in these photographs.

more letters

ON TARGET

At annual camp last year the 439 (Tyne) Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, Territorial Army, had the distinction of winning the *Sunday Times* light anti-aircraft trophy, which is competed for by all light anti-aircraft units. The point of interest is that our gunners shot down the target in three seconds from the order "fire." Is this a record?—**Bombardier J. A. Bailey, 'S' (Tyneside Scottish) Battery, 439 Regiment, Newcastle-on-Tyne.**

BOREDOM—BAH!

Much nonsense is talked, not only about 'bull' in the Army but about boredom.

I recently read in the press an absurd suggestion that the radio sets of National Servicemen should be exempted from tax, as radio was the only source of entertainment! The great point that all concerned overlook is: all the amenities, in the main, of any town in which he is stationed, are at the disposal of the Serviceman, PLUS the amenities of his unit and garrison, to which the civilian is NOT entitled. And with these amenities we may bunch educational facilities, although many men may not consider education as an amenity!

Does it not show a deplorable lack of initiative on the part of any man who cannot make good use of his spare time? Is he not the type who would be at a loss to do so, even in Civvy Street, unless it were laid on for him by his Mum or the Welfare State?

No man is prohibited from continuing study in his spare time, though sometimes facilities may be difficult to get. In the old British-Indian Army monetary rewards were always given to all ranks for learning the languages and dialects used in the Indian Army, plus a host of others spoken outside that country. I remember 40 years ago a British sergeant proceeding home on leave with his family was held up in Karachi because his children contracted chickenpox. They were all isolated in the local transit camp for six weeks. If such a happening would mean boredom in Britain today, what could it involve in any Indian station 40 years ago, before the days of modern pleasures? This sergeant, however, got down to the study of the local language—Sindi, and in those six weeks passed the higher standard and earned a reward of several hundred rupees!

I understand that similar incentives are now available in all the British fighting services, covering all languages likely to be of military application. Whether this is a recent innovation I do not know, but I am told that the possibility of improving incentives and facilities is now being actively considered. I trust the authorities will not be content merely to include the scheme in the appropriate regulations, which the majority of Servicemen never see, but to promulgate it frequently in local orders!—**J. H. S. Locke, 1 Grosvenor Gardens, London.**

HOW MANY LANDS?

The correspondence about travel in foreign countries by officers and other ranks led me to check up on the four passports I have had since retiring from the Service in May 1947. During my 29 years service I thought I had truly "joined the Army and seen the world" but my passport check reveals that *since 1947* I have visited, on business, the following countries—figures in brackets indicate numbers of visits:—

Aden (1)
Angola (1)
Bahrein (2)
Belgium (2)
Burma (1)
Cyprus (1)
Egypt (6)
France (2)
French Congo (1)
French Somaliland (2)
Gambia (1)
Malta (4)
Germany (2)
Gibraltar (1)
Gold Coast (4)
Holland (2)
India (8)
Iran (1)
Iraq (8)
Italy (6)
Kenya (8)
Kuwait (8)
Las Palmas (1)
Madeira (2)
Syria (2)
Mozambique (5)
Nigeria (1)
Pakistan (8)
Rhodesias (4)
Saudi Arabia (2)
Sicily (4)
Sierra Leone (4)
Sudan (4)
Sweden (1)
S.W. Africa (2)
S. Africa (8)
Singapore (1)
Tanganyika (8)
Teneriffe (1)
Tunisia (2)
Turkey (1)
Uganda (4)

Each visit was an actual inspection trip of anything from a few days to several weeks—transit visas not included. Maybe the catch-phrase "Join the Army and see the world" is more applicable to the right sort of civilian job these days.—**E. Andrews, Col. (retd.), Consulting Engineer, Hotel Aviz, Lorocenço Marques.**

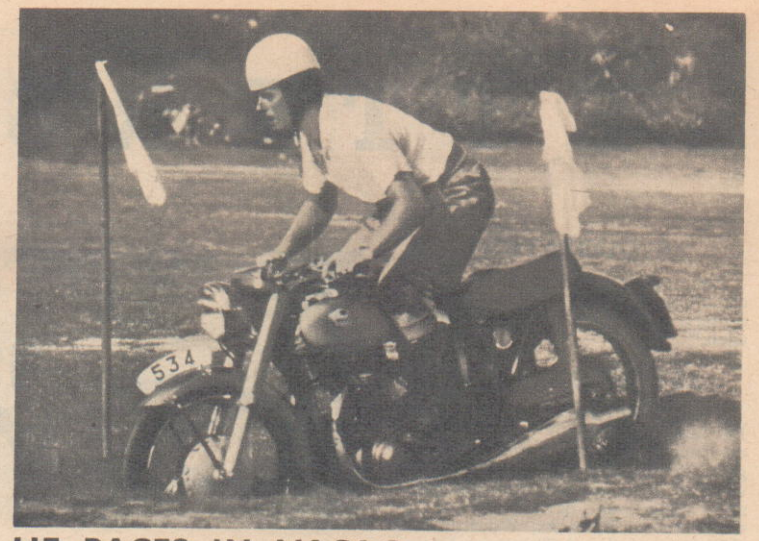
CLANGER

Literally, it is correct to say (SOLDIER, January) that there are no "four-square bastard" files, but there are four-sided "square bastard" files. The full range of these bastard files is: flat, half-round, hand, knife, pillar, round, square, three-square and warding. I have no doubt that "bastards smooth" would cause a corpse to turn about; "bastards round" would sound a little better.

So SOLDIER has dropped a clanger. However, do not worry. It may easily be retrieved with the aid of a "tool, holding, long reach."—**Staff-Sergeant G. A. Gladman, 5 Training Battalion, REME, Arborfield.**

★*SOLDIER's researcher was confronted with this letter. He writes: "Further investigation shows there are bastard files and dead smooth files, but apparently there are no smooth, or dead smooth, bastard files. This is very disappointing."*

He has been advised where to obtain a "tool, holding, long reach."



HE RACES IN MACAO: **Somehow or other, you don't expect to find a British soldier driving a Mercedes-Benz to first place in a Grand Prix held in a Portuguese colony in Asia.**

Sergeant D. Steane, of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, has done just that. For the last three years he has competed in the Macao Grand Prix, driving for the Mercedes-Benz agents in Hong Kong. In 1956 he came in first. That year he also drove a DKW into third place in a 100-mile handicap for saloon cars; the previous year he was second in the Grand Prix and second in the saloon car handicap.

On a motor cycle during 1955 and 1956 Sergeant Steane won a large number of first awards in trials and gymkanas in Hong Kong Colony.

KIT BAGS

The kit bag must be the least efficient means of conveying kit ever devised. Like many others, I am over six feet tall and find it almost impossible to pack away battle-dress, boots, greatcoat, Number One Dress and other items of kit so that it is easy of access and reasonably neat. Surely a container similar to the open-out valise would be better? In this the kit could be packed flat and, when the sides were open, permit the easy extraction of any item. Straps would limit the dimensions of the finished package.—**"Staff-sergeant."**

EARLY MAGAZINES

With reference to the jubilees of *The Snapper* and the *RAOC Gazette*: I wonder which was the first regimental magazine to be published?

I have in my library a bound volume of *The Pibroch* from 1895 to 1901. This, however, was not strictly speaking a magazine, but an annual record of the Glasgow Highlanders.

The 2nd Battalion The Suffolk Regiment also published a monthly journal entitled *The 2nd Suffolk Gazette*. The first issue of this was published on 15 February, 1890, in Alexandria, as were the twelve subsequent issues, the price of each being one piastre. Nos. 14 and 23 appeared when the Regiment was at Wellington (Madras) and the ensuing numbers to 46 at Secunderabad. The price of the Indian issues was one anna. Each number consisted of eight pages, and the magazine was printed at the regimental press. Among the contemporaries acknowledged in this gazette was *The Soldier*.

Earlier still was *Our Chronicle*, a quarterly publication by the 67th (South Hants) Regiment (later the 2nd Battalion Royal Hampshire Regiment). I have a few odd numbers bound together, the first of which is Vol. VII No. 80, dated Cabul, Afghanistan, 1 January, 1880. Publication evidently began about 1860.—**Ernest J. Martin, 834 Kenton Lane, Harrow Weald.**

OFFICER TRANSFER

What are the regulations governing the voluntary transfer of a Regular Army officer from one corps to another? If an officer wishes to move, say, from the Royal Tank Regiment to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, or vice versa, can he do so?—**A. P. Purves, 17 St. Aidan's Road, Berwick.**

★*An officer applying for transfer to any regiment or corps, other than the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Army Pay Corps and Royal Army Education Corps, must have his commanding officer's certification that the request does not originate in any cause affecting his honour, character or professional efficiency. A subaltern with not less than two years commissioned service, chosen for transfer to the Royal Army Service Corps or Royal Army Ordnance Corps, is put "on probation" for 12 months.*

THE ELEVENTHS MET

I was interested in the article "34th met 34th" (SOLDIER, January) describing the ceremony carried out by the Border Regiment to commemorate the capture of French drums at Arroyo. However, this encounter is not unique in the annals of the British Army. At Flushing in 1809 the 11th Foot (now the Devonshire Regiment) met the French 11th "de Ligne" and captured their drums.—**A. R. Smith, 55 Coursington Road, Motherwell.**

ON THE MAT!

Mark up a "fall" against SOLDIER! The hold applied by the constable of the Singapore Police to the curfew-breaker as shown in the picture in "Singapore on the Boil" (SOLDIER, January) is a hammer-lock, not a half-Nelson. The latter is a famous catch-as-catch-can wrestling move, dating from the Napoleonic Wars. Tell your caption writer to report to the physical training instructor in the gymnasium for a few quick cross-buttocks!—**Robert Morland (ex-Corporal, Royal Air Force, Midlands middle-weight amateur wrestling champion 1955), 24 Wheeleys Road, Edgbaston.**

The Garrison Commander, Colonel A. E. Wilkinson, cooked the first steak in the Junior Ranks' Club at Northern Army Group Headquarters. He is handing it to a bandsman of the Royal Artillery (Portsmouth) Band. Right: Sparkling enough for a hospital: the "called order" counter.

A STEAK IN 90 SECONDS

SOME 12 NAAFI canteens and clubs catering for the Army and Royal Air Force in North-west Germany and Berlin have now been supplied with the latest type of "called order" equipment.

The Army Junior Ranks' club at Northern Army Group Headquarters in Moenchen Gladbach was one of the latest to be converted. The right-hand picture above gives a close-up of the "called order" apparatus which enables the soldier to select his chop or steak and then watch it being cooked by infra-red rays—in 90 seconds.

Sales of sirloin and fillet steak have rocketed at canteens where this system has been installed—but the favourite Army order is still "double eggs, double chips, double beans."

more letters

PRIVATE'S PROGRESS

While serving as a full-blown private with my regiment in the 1930's I was called upon to take a class of second-lieutenants in elementary gun drill for an hour. I had no qualifications as an instructor. All available non-commissioned officers were attending a lecture given by the company commander. Would this example of a private soldier drilling officers be a record in the history of the Army? **—S. V. Hill (ex-Bedfs. and Herts. Regiment), 36 River Avenue, Hoddesdon.**

★*Hardly.*

FOUR STRIPES

The description of the four stripes worn by the squadron quartermaster-sergeant of the Middlesex Yeomanry (SOLDIER, December), was very interesting but you did not tell the full story.

The reason four stripes are worn is to differentiate between lance-sergeants, sergeants and squadron quartermaster-sergeants. All non-commissioned officers of the Middlesex Yeomanry wear a crown above the stripes. There are no one-stripe lance-corporals and corporals; both wear two stripes and a crown. I believe that volunteers to the Middlesex Yeomanry were still proposed and seconded up to 1939.**—J. J. Missett (ex-Middlesex Yeomanry), Beldeen Court, Corlett Drive, Johannesburg, South Africa.**

PREVIOUS SERVICE

I re-enlisted in February, 1955 after a break in service of more than five years. I was allowed to count my previous service towards a pension and for pay assessment. I had previously completed just over 16 years service. When the new pay code was introduced last year I did not receive an increase. I was informed that my previous service would still be allowed to count for pension but not for the new rates of pay. Can SOLDIER tell me if I am eligible?**—"Corporal."**

★*No. Where previous service is followed by a break of five years or more it is not reckonable under the new pay code.*

TAKU VCs

I notice in your article "The Youngest VC Was Fitzgibbon" (SOLDIER, January), you state that Fitzgibbon was one of five to win the Victoria Cross in the Taku Forts action. I think you will find that seven Victoria Crosses were awarded, the other two going to Lieutenant R. M. Rogers and Private J. McDougall of the 44th Foot, later the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment.**—T. A. Martin, The White House, Newport, Essex.**

CHELSEA PENSIONERS

What are the terms on which an ex-Serviceman can be admitted into the Royal Hospital, Chelsea?**—J. Davey, (ex-WOII), chairman, Old Contemptibles, City of New Sarum Branch.**

★*An eligible applicant must be an Army pensioner of good character, unable to earn his own living but capable of generally looking after himself, at least 55 or younger if in receipt of a disability pension and free from the liability of supporting a wife or children. He must stay a bachelor.*

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(*See page 23*)

The pictures differ in these respects: shape of big cloud; position of crow's-nest; height of ship's funnel; shape of porthole below mast; pattern on tyre tread; height of sergeant; shape of sergeant's mouth; leading soldier's water-bottle; number of planks in big packing-case; word on label of packing-case.

SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, is published for the War Office by HM Stationery Office, and printed by SUN PRINTERS LTD., London and Watford. Trade distribution inquiries: PO Box 569, London, SE 1. Army inquiries: Circulation Dept., SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London, N 7. (ARChway 4381). Editorial inquiries: Editor, SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London, N 7. Advertisement inquiries: Messrs. Cowlishaw and Lawrence (Advertising) Ltd., 14-16 Ludgate Hill, London, EC 4 (CITy 3718).

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

ANN MILLER

—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer