

APRIL 1959 ★ 9d

# SOLDIER



ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH TO BE A SOLDIER?

(See pages 10-13)

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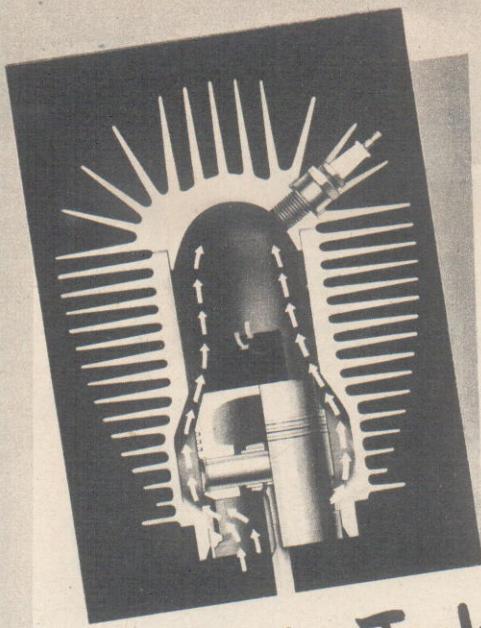
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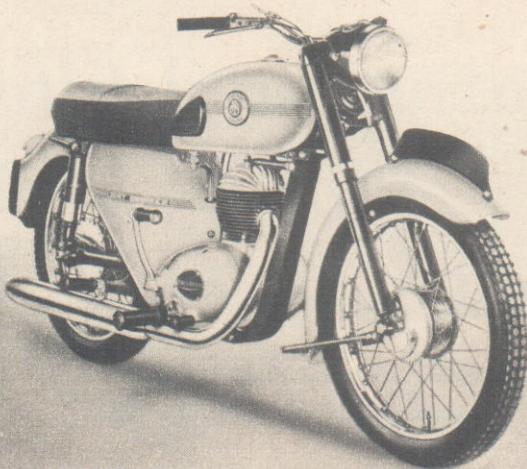




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# A Bigger And Better ARMY

*World War Two paratroopers rarely flew more than 300 miles from base. By 1963 they will be able to drop on targets 5000 miles away.*

THE all-Regular Army of the not-too-distant future will be harder-hitting, faster-moving, better equipped and better accommodated than ever before.

And it will be larger than was originally planned.

New long-range aircraft designed to fly troops anywhere in the world in a few hours and to carry paratroopers, heavy weapons and equipment will soon be in service. So will new helicopters, more powerful artillery, new vehicles and signal equipment.

This glimpse of the Army of 1963, when the last National Serviceman has left, is given in the Army Estimates—the annual account of the Army's activities in the past year and its plans for the future—which says the first requirement in re-equipping the Army is mobility—strategic, tactical and on the battlefield itself.

Air-portable equipment which is already in service or is being planned includes the Moba anti-tank gun, light vehicles for the Infantry, Ferret and Saladin scout cars for the Royal Armoured Corps, an advanced guided missile anti-tank system and the Thunderbird guided weapon for the Royal Artillery.

Trials are also taking place with an air-portable 105 millimetre Italian howitzer and large sums are being spent on new engineer equipment designed for rapid construction and improved bridging.

To achieve mobility on the battlefield a new range of wireless sets which will simplify and speed up systems of command is coming into service and there are plans to equip a number of field regiments of

***The streamlined, all-Regular Army of 1963 will be quicker off the mark, will use more powerful weapons, live in better barracks and cut down paper work***

artillery with a 105 millimetre self-propelled gun of improved range and performance. The Infantry will get a new and improved type of armoured personnel carrier and the Skeeter helicopter is coming into use as a reconnaissance aircraft.

Trials are also taking place on a variety of items—from atomic and guided missile weapons to new clothing designed for efficiency and comfort.

Other plans announced by the War Minister, Mr. Christopher Soames, are:

## A STRONGER ARMY

The strength of the all-Regular Army will be raised to 180,000 (instead of the 165,000 originally planned) and the additional men will be used to strengthen units overseas and the Strategic Reserve.

This increase is due to the highly satisfactory Regular recruiting figures since October, 1957, particularly in the fighting arms. More

*The Army's new helicopter: the twin-engine Bristol 192. It can carry 25 armed troops and be used for paratrooping, supply dropping and as an ambulance.*

## A Bigger And Better Army *continued*

men, however, are needed in the technical arms.

Recruiting of boys is so satisfactory that it is planned to open a new Junior Leaders unit and a new Army Apprentices School this year.

### OFFICERS

To improve recruitment of potential Regular officers a school scholarship scheme has been introduced to provide 40 scholarships a year to boys in their last two years at school who wish to enter the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. A scheme has also been devised to allow suitable young men to serve as officers for three years.

"In spite of the shortage of

officers," says the Memorandum, "the Army Council are convinced that there must be no lowering of standards or quality. The worst disservice we could do a good private soldier would be to expect him to serve under inadequate officers."

### WOMEN'S ROYAL ARMY CORPS

More recruits are needed, especially in signals, clerical and domestic trades, if the Women's Royal Army Corps is to meet its increased commitments and there are still vacancies for officers.

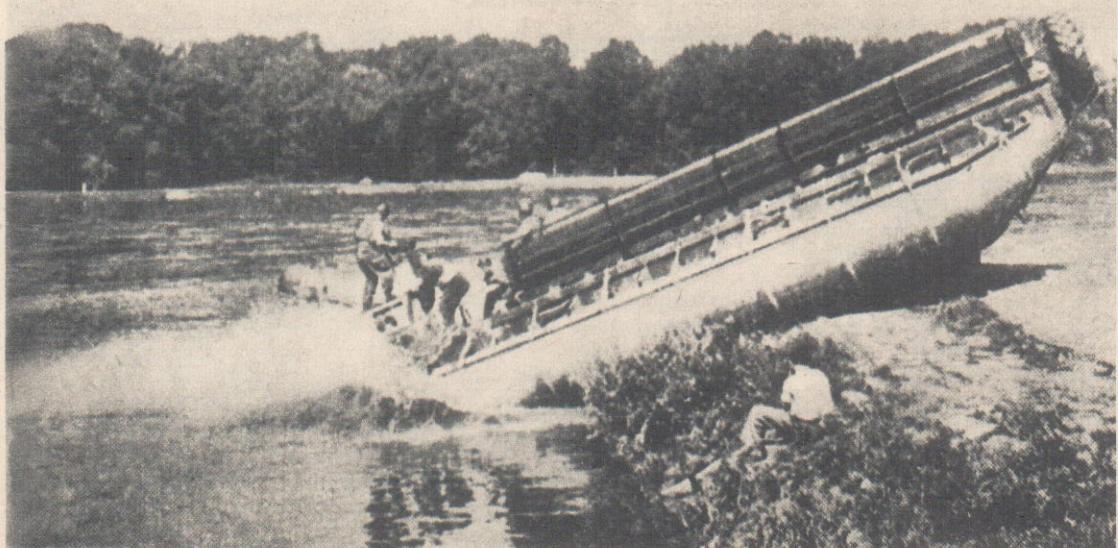
### IMPROVED TERMS

Money has been provided to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on



*Above: The Gunners may soon be getting this air-portable Italian 105 mm howitzer shown here undergoing tests in Italy. It can be dismantled and carried by mulepack, flown in three sections by helicopter, or broken down into 30 parts and manhandled.*

*Below: A new type of river-crossing device which the British Army may soon use is this French amphibious craft. It is mounted on four wheels and driven by a diesel engine. It has a road speed of 40 mph and travels through water at between six and seven knots.*



Recruiting (SOLDIER, January) and from this month disturbance and education allowances will be increased to alleviate the lot of married soldiers.

At the same time, children living in Britain will be allowed one free passage to the father's overseas station each year instead of one in each tour of duty.

Pensions and terminal grants for those discharged on or after 4 November, 1958 will be increased and widows' pensions for those whose husbands are still serving will be raised to one-third of his retirement pension. This will also apply to future widows whose husbands are already retired. (For details of the new pensions and terminal grants rates see page 36.)

There are also plans to provide boarding facilities for soldiers' children in selected schools in Britain.

### BETTER BARRACKS

Many more barracks and married quarters will be modernised in 1959-60. The main projects are for 4000 men stationed in Catterick, and at Colchester, Chelsea, Chatham, Donnington, Edinburgh and Pirbright.

Work will also begin on another 1500 married quarters in Britain: about 350 new quarters will be completed and many more will be modernised.

Overseas, new air-conditioned accommodation will be provided for troops in Aden and more married quarters will be built. Work will continue on a new cantonment for the Commonwealth Brigade in Malacca, on single and married quarters for British and Gurkha units in Malaya, Singapore and Hong Kong.

### ADMINISTRATION

Great efforts are being made to simplify administration and reduce paper work. In 1960 the Royal Army Corps will begin

## New Aircraft



## On The Way

THREE new aircraft for use in support of the Army—a long-range troop carrier, a supersonic general purposes plane and a long-distance air freighter—are announced in the Defence White Paper.

The long-range trooper is the Bristol Britannia which will come into service this year and replace the Hastings.

In 1960, the TSR 2 (the initials mean Tactical, Support, Reconnaissance) will be available to support the Army in the field. It will fly at supersonic speeds and be able to carry nuclear bombs and air-to-air guided missiles.

The long-distance air freighter is the Short SC-5 Britannic, a development of the Bristol Britannia and capable of carrying bulky equipment such as guided missiles and their radar vehicles. Typical loads are four laden one-ton trucks; a 3-ton artillery tractor; or two 25-pounder guns, a scout car and two one-ton trucks. Carrying a load of up to 15 tons the Britannic has a non-stop range of 5500 miles. Heavy loads can also be parachuted.

The number of tactical freighters suitable also for dropping paratroopers is to be increased by the introduction of the Armstrong Whitworth Argosy (picture left). Twin Pioneers for short-range transport duties are also coming into service as are the new Bristol 192 helicopters.

operating an Automatic Data Processing equipment to keep the pay accounts of every soldier. Later, the system will be used to do other administrative work which at present requires large numbers of men, notably in Central Ordnance depots.

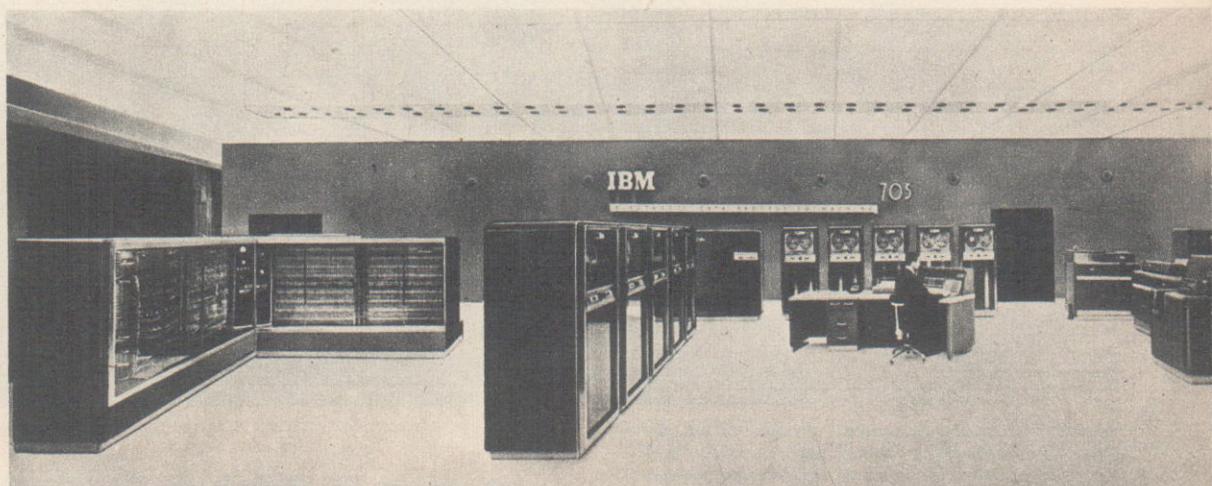
### CIVILIANISATION

The plan for an all-Regular Army is largely dependent on employing a high proportion of civilians and in the next year 2500 more civilians will replace soldiers and relieve men in fighting units of routine domestic tasks so that by April, 1960 the proportion of military to civilians in the Army will be about four to three.

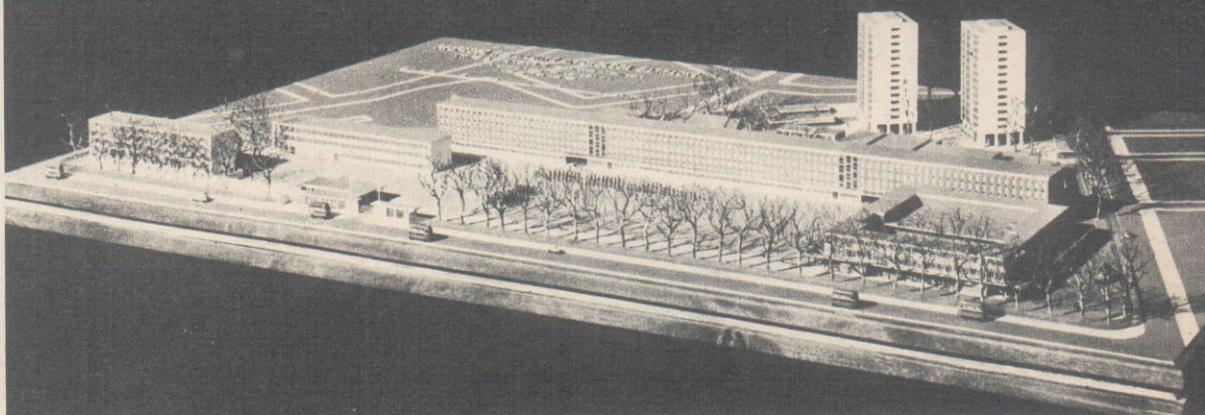
However, says the Memorandum, "this policy of increasing the proportion of civilians to military must not be carried too far. The Army must retain a sufficient number of officers and other ranks trained in carrying out all the activities which it must perform for itself in war and there must be a reasonable balance in all Arms and Services between home and overseas."

### TERRITORIAL ARMY

The strength of the Territorial Army increased in the past year from 78,000 to 100,000 but more officers are needed. To meet the needs of the larger force, additional funds are being made available for out-of-camp training in the next year. Arrangements will be made for artillery and Infantry units selected for civil defence roles to attend a civil defence camp once every four years.



Above: To simplify administration and reduce paper work, the Army will soon be using this automatic computer for all soldiers' pay accounts. It will cost £700,000 but will do the work of hundreds of clerks. Similar machines will also be used in Ordnance depots. Below: A model of the new Chelsea Barracks which will be completed by 1962 at a cost of £2,200,000. It will house two battalions and contain a swimming pool, squash court, tavern and café.



## The Cost of an Army

The Army will cost the British taxpayer a little less this year—£431,350,100 compared with £431,400,100 in the year 1958-59.

Of this amount £143,540,000 will be spent on pay and allowances; £72,580,000 on stores; £52,370,000 on supplies; £39,620,000 on works, lands and buildings. The cost of employing civilians will total £88,060,000 and the Territorial Army and Army Cadet Force will cost £18,740,000.



Above: The shallow-bottomed "Arakan" drops her ramp on the beach at Penang and fresh food and stores are loaded into one of the waiting trucks.

Below: The "Arakan's" skipper, Warrant Officer F. Ennever, checks the landing craft's compass before leaving Singapore on yet another trip to Penang.



## SOLDIERS AT SEA...

As the *Arakan* slipped her moorings in Singapore harbour and headed for the open sea, her skipper, an Army warrant officer, barked out a command that sent the code pennants fluttering aloft.

The *Arakan*, a tank-landing craft of 37 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Water Transport) was setting out on yet another highly successful mission up the western coast of Malaya, carrying supplies from depots in the Colony to ports in Northern Malaya and the island of Penang for military units engaged in anti-Communist operations in the jungle.

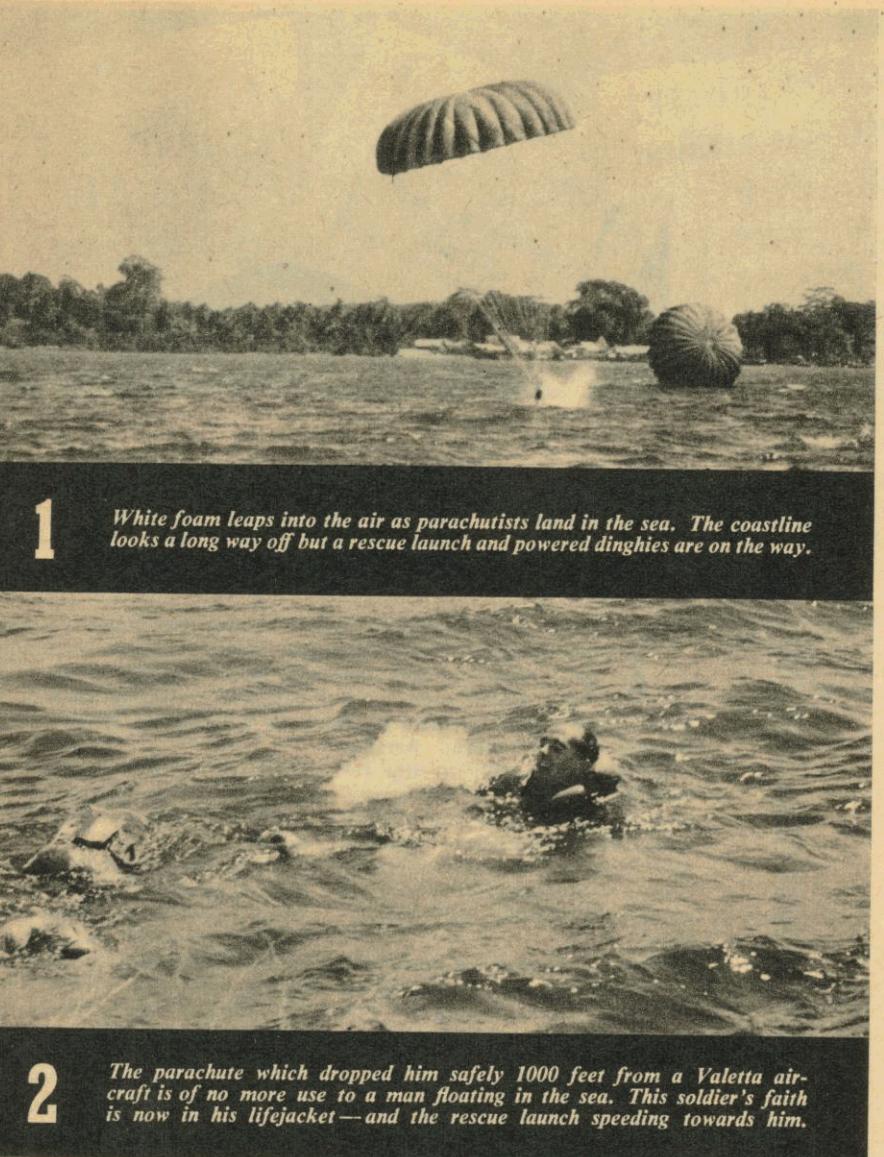
Troops in Northern Malaya were supplied by sea from Singapore four years ago but this did not last for long. Now, with her sister craft *Algiers* and *Akyab*, the *Arakan* is re-forging the link.

Among the supplies which are now being carried in the tank-landing craft are consignments of fresh food, arms and ammunition, vehicles, heavy plant for Sappers and, occasionally, even household furnishings for married quarters. Much of the equipment needed by the Royal Engineers for building the Kedah Road (see SOLDIER

April, 1958) was delivered this way.

Since last May the *Arakan*, which has a complement of two Royal Army Service Corps warrant officers, one sergeant and two corporals, ten Malayan soldiers and one civilian cook, has covered more than 8000 miles—as far as from Malaya to Britain—on her supply trips to northern Malaya. At first she made the voyage once a month; now she sails the round trip once a week.

On occasions the tank-landing craft, which normally sail some 20 miles off-shore, have run into violent rain-storms and fog banks and have been delayed by as much as 30 hours. The craft were not built for long sea voyages but they stand up remarkably well to bad weather and heavy seas—a tribute to skill of the men who handle them.



1

White foam leaps into the air as parachutists land in the sea. The coastline looks a long way off but a rescue launch and powered dinghies are on the way.

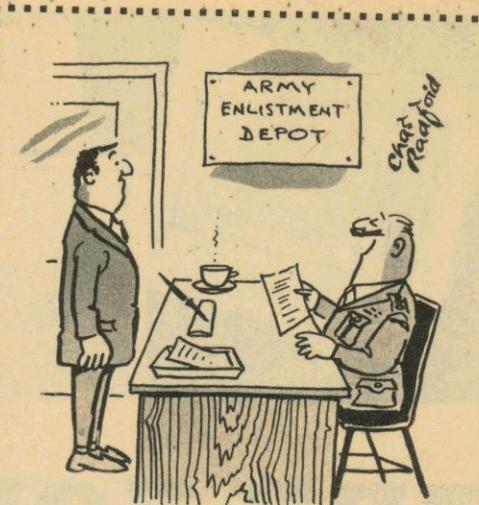
2

The parachute which dropped him safely 1000 feet from a Valetta aircraft is of no more use to a man floating in the sea. This soldier's faith is now in his lifejacket—and the rescue launch speeding towards him.



3

The man who a few moments earlier jumped into the sea from an aircraft is glad of a helping hand and the feel of something more solid than water as he is hauled aboard one of the Royal Air Force's powered dinghies.



"This doctor's report says you jump every time you hear someone shout. I'll put you down for the Parachute Regiment."

A twin-engine Valetta circled ponderously over the sea off Changi, in Southern Malaya, a green Verey light shot into the cloudless sky.

It was the signal for 21 men in the aircraft—seven soldiers and 14 airmen—to go into action. Suddenly, two dark objects dropped from the Valetta, were swept clear by a 15-knot wind and blossomed into parachutists.

Below, throwing up high waves as they scudded across the water, powered dinghies raced towards the dropping figures and a Royal Air Force sea rescue launch stood by to take the men aboard. The aircraft circled again and again and the dinghies scurried backwards and forwards until all the 21 men were safely aboard.

This was an exercise, but an exercise with a difference, arranged by the Parachute School of the Far East Air Force to give Servicemen in Malaya experience of parachuting into the sea—a job they might be called upon to do in some future emergency.

At the same time, the Parachute School was trying out an experiment in jumping with medical supplies for an imaginary ship in distress beyond the range of a helicopter. A squadron leader who parachuted into the water with the necessary equipment reported complete success.

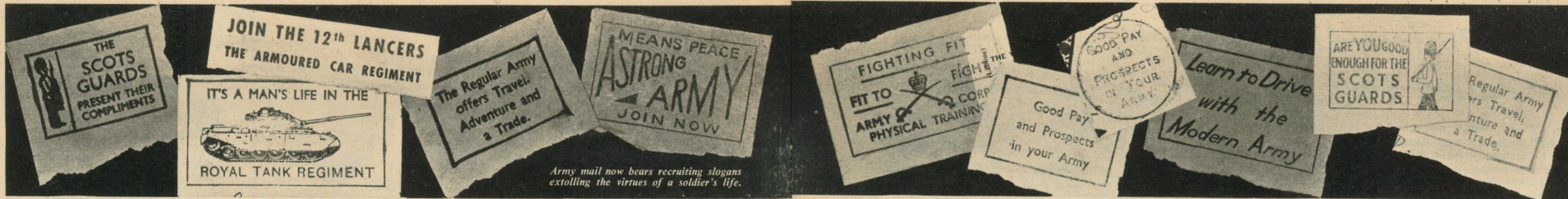
Parachuting into the sea is a hazardous business and its success depends largely on the availability of rescue craft to haul the men out of the water almost as soon as they land. On this exercise, one of a number recently held off Changi, a delay on one occasion meant that the aircraft had to circle the dropping zone twice without dropping parachutists.

One of the first soldiers to take the plunge from the Valetta was Captain P. C. Russell, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who began parachuting in 1946. In his opinion it is safer and less unpleasant to parachute on to land. "When you touch the ground you are your own master; when you drop into the sea you've got to get out of the water before you can do anything," he said.

It was 13 lucky for another parachutist, Major A. V. Reilly, Royal Army Service Corps, who is on the staff of General Headquarters in the Far East. His previous jump, 14 years ago, was his 12th. For him and Captain F. I. Robbie, Royal Engineers, it was their first experience of parachuting into the sea.

More than 20,000 parachute descents have been made at the Far East Air Force Parachute School since it was set up in 1952. Those who have jumped there include American Servicemen, members of the Thailand Police Force and hundreds of men of the Commonwealth Forces.

—From a report by Sergeant J. WOODROW, Army Public Relations. Photographs: Private P. VOLPE.



## ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH

There is a refreshing "new look" about the Army's all-out campaign to recruit an all-Regular force of 180,000 by 1963. The old-time appeal has been replaced by the challenge, civilian publicity experts have been called in and units are being encouraged to conduct their own recruiting schemes

*SOLDIER's front cover is reproduced from the original painting by EDWIN PHILLIPS, one of the Army's most recent recruiting posters.*

**Y**OUR Country Needs YOU" said the famous Kitchener recruiting poster. That finger, pointing almost accusingly at the civilian, brought thousands to the Colours in World War One. Before and after Kitchener, recruiting posters have cajoled, enticed and pleaded in efforts to maintain the strengths of the Regular and Territorial Armies.

Today's approach to the recruiting problem is different—sophisticated, up-to-the-minute and aimed at a post-war generation bred in an era of high-pressure advertising and publicity, sceptical of blarney and blandishment.

Now the appeal has given way to the challenge—"Are you good enough for the Army?" The British Army's recruiting organisation has been modernised and regiments and corps are again being encouraged to carry out their individual campaigns.

The Army has more to offer today: better pay and conditions, tuition in a trade, improved accommodation and better food. But while a rise in pay always starts an initial rush to the Colours, the impetus soon wanes. Nor do recruiting figures, as is

popularly supposed, rise when there is unemployment. The Army still has to seek out its recruits.

In the last 18 months there has been a complete overhaul of the Army's central recruiting organisation, which is based on the Army Information Centres (once called, less attractively, Army recruiting offices) in every major town and city in Britain. There are 146 of these Information Centres, but many of them, in back streets and housed in drab and depressing buildings, would discourage all but the determined from entering.

Now, to the Information Centres comes the "New Look," backed by a Government decision to spend more money on recruiting. In many towns and cities new and central premises are being

## TO BE A SOLDIER?

opened; elsewhere existing offices are being brightened, all in an architect-designed contemporary style. A third of the programme has now been completed. Sixty-six Information Centres are scheduled to move into new premises; 59 others will be modernised (29 of them by this month); and the 21 remaining offices will be closed, their places being taken by mobile centres in caravans.

These caravans, adapted to provide an inquiry office and a sound-proofed interviewing room, will be used in scattered areas and in conurbations where several permanent offices are uneconomical to run.

For the first time, too, the Army has turned to civilian firms to help with the "New Look" for Information Centres and each home command has a civilian consultant who advises on displays and window-dressing. A firm of sales consultants runs 25 courses a year at which recruiters and staff officers learn modern salesmanship techniques.

Dying out, too, is the mobile display van, once a familiar and

OVER ...

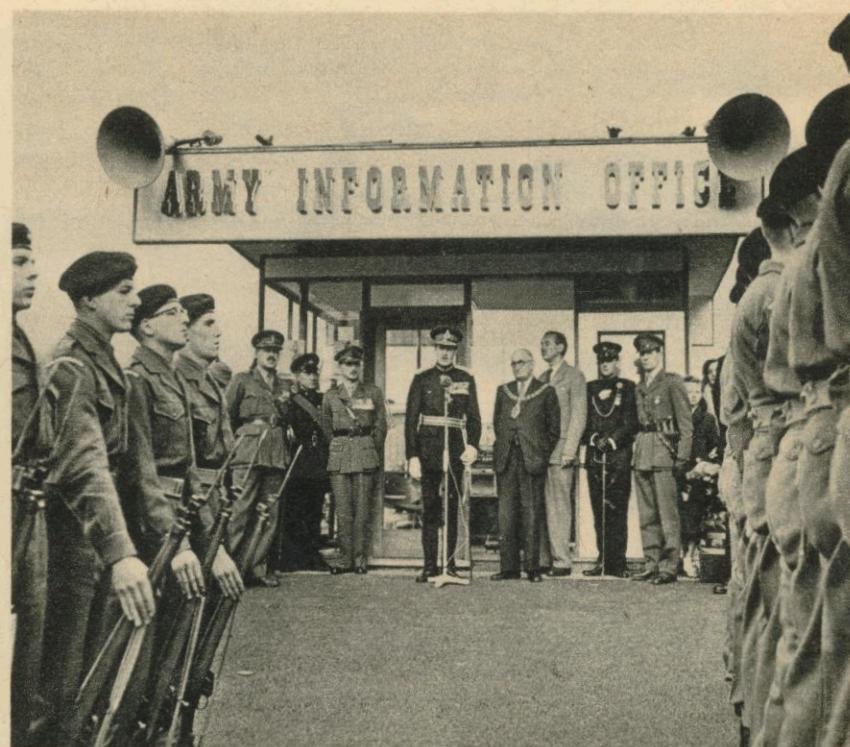
*Right: Typical of the latest recruiting posters is this challenging picture of Sappers hard at work in the jungle.*



*Left: The theme of the Gunner's new recruiting poster is two-fold: a chance to learn about new guided weapons and training in a trade.*



*Courtesy: U.S. Army Times*



*Drab, back-street, shop window recruiting offices are being replaced by attractive modern information centres. Left: a typical old-fashioned recruiting office in London and (right) the new Army information office in Coventry.*

# The Posters Always Pulled Them In

FOR a century and a half the poster has been one of the most successful methods of recruiting. Styles and techniques have changed with the development of poster-work as a specialised branch of art, but not even the Army's latest full-colour posters can compare with the persuasiveness of the old handbills.

Take, for example, the stirring invitation issued by the 14th Light Dragoons during the Napoleonic Wars:

**"All you who are kicking your heels behind a solitary desk with too little wages, and a pinch-gut Master, all you with too much wife, or are perplexed with obstinate and unfeeling parents**

**may apply to**

**SERGEANT HAMMOND,  
ROSE & CROWN, WHITECHAPEL.**

**You are quartered in the fertile County of Kent, where you have provision remarkably cheap, luxurious living to the brave and ambitious mind is but a secondary object, else thousands would repair to the Standard of the gallant 14th, could they obtain the honour of being received."**

There was the work of the psychologist, hitting at the hard-up and henpecked and appealing both to patriotic sentiment and a worldly love of comfort. There was, too, the suggestion of exclusiveness, an attraction stressed, alongside tradition and glamour, by many famous regiments.

Rivalry between regiments often had its effect on their recruiting efforts. A handbill of 1908 urged recruits:

**"LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP."**

**Half the Regiments in Service are trying to persuade you to**

**Enlist.**

**But there is ONE MORE TO COME YET!!!**

**The 95th; or RIFLE REGIMENT.**

**Think, then, and CHOOSE**

**Whether you will enter in a Battalion, Regiment, or prefer being a RIFLEMAN.**

**In this distinguished Service you will carry a Rifle no heavier than a Fowling-Piece. You will knock down your Enemy at Five Hundred Yards, instead of missing him at Fifty. Your clothing is green and needs no cleaning but a Brush.**

**NO WHITE BELTS! NO PIPE CLAY!"**

During World War One patriotism naturally became the keynote of the recruiting poster, and the spirit of revenge was invoked in an appeal to Irishmen to join an Irish Regiment and "avenge the Lusitania."

The series of posters which emphasised opportunities for travel—"See the World and Get Paid for Doing It"—has lived on in the Army in countless and usually uncomplimentary variations on the famous slogan, "Join the Army and See the World."

Between the world wars the emphasis turned again, this time to sport and particularly football, in a "work and play all over the globe" approach. Then followed the career angle, put over by every Corps in the slogan, "Join the Army and Learn a Trade."

Today the pendulum has swung back to the basic appeal of a life of adventure. The sophisticated design has given way to bold action pictures, seen for the first time on the nation's hoardings with the slogan, "Soldiers of the Queen!"

And once again the Army throws down its challenge: "It's a real man's life—join the Regular Army."



## ARE YOU GOOD ENOUGH? continued

often forlorn sight on a town's market square. Instead, the War Office is turning to larger exhibitions, setting up modern and attractive displays in London and the provinces. Last year the Army "went to town" in Belfast, with Northern Ireland District's Grand Military Display, at Newcastle and at Goram Fair in Bristol. Goram Fair, an annual event attracting about 150,000 people, saw the Army for the first time—and recruiting in Bristol (and at Newcastle, too) rose by 70 per cent after these displays.

The Army is now tapping every source of publicity—issuing bigger and brighter posters, sending teams of lecturers to schools and showing films at displays, schools and on television. Specialist recruits have been sought through Press advertisements, producing in the case of the Intelligence Corps, a world-wide response from adventurers who had hopes of going into the spy business. Replies came from Canada, America, France, India, from a Regular officer in the Royal Marines, a Merchant Navy officer, university graduates and others with strings of qualifications who had assumed the Corps' task to be that of espionage!

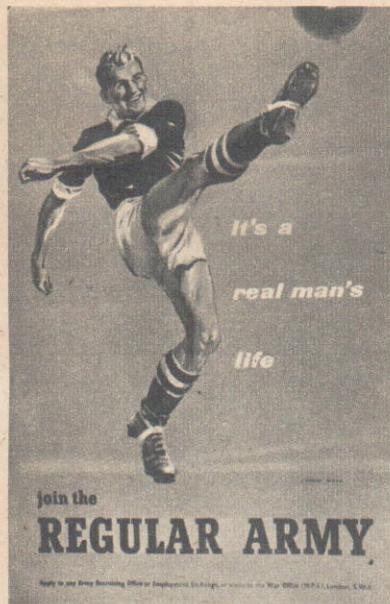
Taking a tip from the Post Office, the Army's official mail is being franked with fetching slogans like "Good Pay and Prospects in Your Army" and "The Regular Army offers Travel, Adventure and a Trade." Corps

and regiments have been encouraged to take up this idea and unit mail now often carries a colourful selection of exhortations. Occasionally there have been amusing misfires, like the slogan "A Career for You in the RAOC" stamped on envelopes containing redundancy notices!

Some regiments and corps content themselves with the "diversionary" approach to recruiting, side-tracking to themselves the men who join the Army without a specific preference for an arm. This method does not, of course, increase the overall number of recruits, but the enthusiasts concentrate on seeking their own men—and find it pays.

The Royal Tank Regiment, which forms a quarter of the strength of the Royal Armoured Corps, met a slump in its own recruiting by detaching an officer from one of its units to organise an intensive campaign. The Regiment has produced a bright strip-cartoon brochure and completed a highly successful goodwill tour of the West Country.

A party of officers and men, with modern equipment and a band, forged personal links with many towns, presenting plaques to civic heads and reaping wide Press publicity. The reward of this enterprise has been over a hundred direct inquiries about enlistment and the firm establishment of the Royal Tank Regiment, which had no previous geographical affiliation, as "The Armoured



*Above: An old theme with a modern touch. The appeal to sport was popular between the world wars—and still is today. Left: A challenge to the spirit of adventure in the days before boy units became Junior Leaders regiments. Right: With an eye to attracting potential recruits, the Royal Welch Fusiliers held an At Home in the Depot and gave away a thousand free teas.*

Regiment of the West Country."

Infantry Regiments, too, including the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, The Black Watch and Royal Welch Fusiliers, have toured their home areas to "show the flag" and bring in the recruits, and last year men of the Household Cavalry's musical ride, between engagements at shows, rode through the country lanes of Shropshire to interest today's youth in an Army career.

Most regiments and corps have by now learned the value of personal contact with the public and particularly with parents who are now finding, instead of a closed gate, a cordial welcome to see conditions for themselves. Refreshments are provided and if need be fares and expenses paid for parents of potential recruits anxious to visit "At Homes," passing-out and ceremonial parades.

After visiting her son's station, a depot of the Royal Army

Ordnance Corps, a mother wrote: "I can assure you that my general opinion of colonels and majors has completely changed. I realise now that they are kindly human beings like the rest of us!"

The Brigade of Guards seizes every opportunity for publicity and the Scots Guards have turned to advantage the three-year engagement peculiar to the Brigade by linking service in the Regiment with a later career in the police.

Some regiments have gone in for "gimmicks," the stunts which get publicity. The Middlesex Regiment, for instance, opened its depot on Saturday mornings to boys and teenagers who wanted to inspect quarters, watch training, shoot on the range or sample the mid-day meal. At Strensall, the King's Own Yorkshire Light

Infantry planned a film star reception for its 250th recruit of the year. A flood of recruits brought the date forward a month but the Regiment moved quickly. Number 250, Private Paul Holmes, and Private George Crummack, mistakenly told that he, too, was the 250th recruit, were both met at the station with a kiss from a TV actress. Then a car whisked the new soldiers and the actress to an hotel lunch with cocktails and wine. The recruits' verdict? "It was smashing. We never expected it would be like this in the Army."

Nor is it generally. But the moral is that Regular recruits are not going to join the modern Army until they know what to expect. And the "New Look" recruiting drive is providing the answers.

## 10,000 MILES TO JOIN UP

FEW recruits can have been keener to join the Army than Pakhar Singh, a 21-year-old Sikh who travelled 10,000 miles from Malaya to become a Regular soldier. He served in Malaya for two years but on being told that he could enlist as a Regular only in England, Pakhar Singh bought himself out and wrote to the Queen and the War Office.

He set out with £10 and a new bicycle. His 322-day journey took him through 14 countries, cycling, hitch-hiking and walking. In Southampton Pakhar Singh shaved off his beard, removed his turban and joined the 10th Royal Hussars at Tidworth.

Two days later the Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, gave permission for Trooper Singh "to continue to wear his beard and his turban at all times."

*Trooper Pakhar Singh travelled nearly half-way round the world to join the 10th Royal Hussars.*



*Left: Advertising on book matches was a striking idea of the SAS to improve recruiting figures.*

*Right: A page from the strip-cartoon recruiting brochure issued by the Royal Tank Regiment. The Regiment has also toured the West of England in search of more recruits.*

# SOLDIER TO SOLDIER

**I**T seems almost too good to be true. After four years of violence, hatred and misery the emergency in Cyprus is over and peace has returned to the tortured island.

No more cowardly shootings in the back, no more ambushes, no more riots, no more search operations. Instead, the barricades are coming down, the hunt for terrorists has been called off and British troops walk freely and without fear through the streets again.

The first bomb exploded in Cyprus on 1 April, 1955. Many thought it was an April Fool's joke but they were tragically wrong. It was the signal for the outbreak of violence and terrorism that cost the lives of 508 people, 104 of them British Servicemen, 12 British policemen and 26 civilians. In terms of money, too, it was costly—the British taxpayer had to foot the bill to the tune of £20,000,000.

The cost in lives and misery was great but the soldiers who died carrying out their duties courageously and patiently, and often with astounding good humour, did not die in vain. Their sacrifice in striving to keep the peace brought EOKA to the brink of defeat, prevented civil war and possibly the spread of the conflict to Greece and Turkey.

Militarily, Britain will benefit considerably from the agreement to make Cyprus an independent republic. Britain will retain, under her own sovereignty, two large

bases there—at Episkopi and Dekhelia and including the Royal Air Force station at Akrotiri. These bases will need a garrison of only some 6000 troops so that by the end of this year 20,000 soldiers will leave the island to strengthen the Strategic Reserve and some of the overseas stations which are at present undermanned. The first troops to leave are already on their way home.

Not the least important result of the solution of the Cyprus problem is the strengthening of the Western cause in the Eastern Mediterranean, for Greece and Turkey are once again real allies within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Baghdad Pact.

★ ★ ★

**I**N September, 1957 when the Defence Minister announced that by 1963 the Army would become an all-Regular force, there were few, even among the military experts, who thought that the target of 165,000 could be attained.

How wrong they were. So many recruits are now joining

that the ceiling has been raised to 180,000 and the call-up will end sooner than the most optimistic expected.

In 1958 the Army recruited the equivalent of 167,000 man-years compared with 96,000 in 1957 and the latest returns show that the figure is still rising. There is no doubt that better pay and pensions, better barracks and the prospects of a more interesting and worthwhile career the Army now offers are the reasons for this satisfactory state of affairs.

But it takes more than a plenitude of happy recruits to make an efficient army and the most luxurious barracks in the world are useless if the men who live in them do not have the best weapons and equipment with which to fight.

These new weapons and equipment are being introduced, though not as rapidly perhaps as many would wish, and every soldier will welcome the news contained in the recent White Paper on Defence that the Army will be extensively re-equipped and more highly trained.

The Army of the future will have to be highly mobile to carry out all its tasks and one of the first priorities is air transport to get well-armed troops to trouble spots quickly. The introduction

of new long-range troop carriers, freighters and supersonic tactical support aircraft is an encouraging step towards this end.

★ ★ ★

**O**NE day in 1960, a youth at present unknown will report to a recruit depot—and become famous.

He will be the last National Serviceman.

This is news that will please most people and for a variety of reasons: those youths who will escape call-up; the Army because it will become an all-Regular force once again and the nation as a whole because conscription is wasteful of men and money.

National Service was introduced for the first time in Britain's peacetime history in 1947 and the millions of youths who came into the Army in this way, some unwillingly but most in good spirit, emerged at the end of their experience much better men.

Many gave their lives—in Korea, where the National Serviceman proved he was as brave a fighter as the Regular, in the jungles of Malaya, in the sands of Egypt and more recently in Cyprus. Many were decorated for gallantry. Most became first-class soldiers.

The end of the call-up will mark the end of a vital era in the history of the British Army and the nation in which the National Serviceman played a notable part.

## A GUARDROOM GOES GAY



*Gaily painted walls, central heating and partitions to keep out draughts have transformed the guardroom at St. James's Palace. In this barrack room there is a radiator for every man, a reading lamp and book rack over each bed, hangers for greatcoats and stands for bearskins.*

**O**NE of the Army's most famous guardrooms—at St. James's Palace—has been given a bright new look costing £14,000.

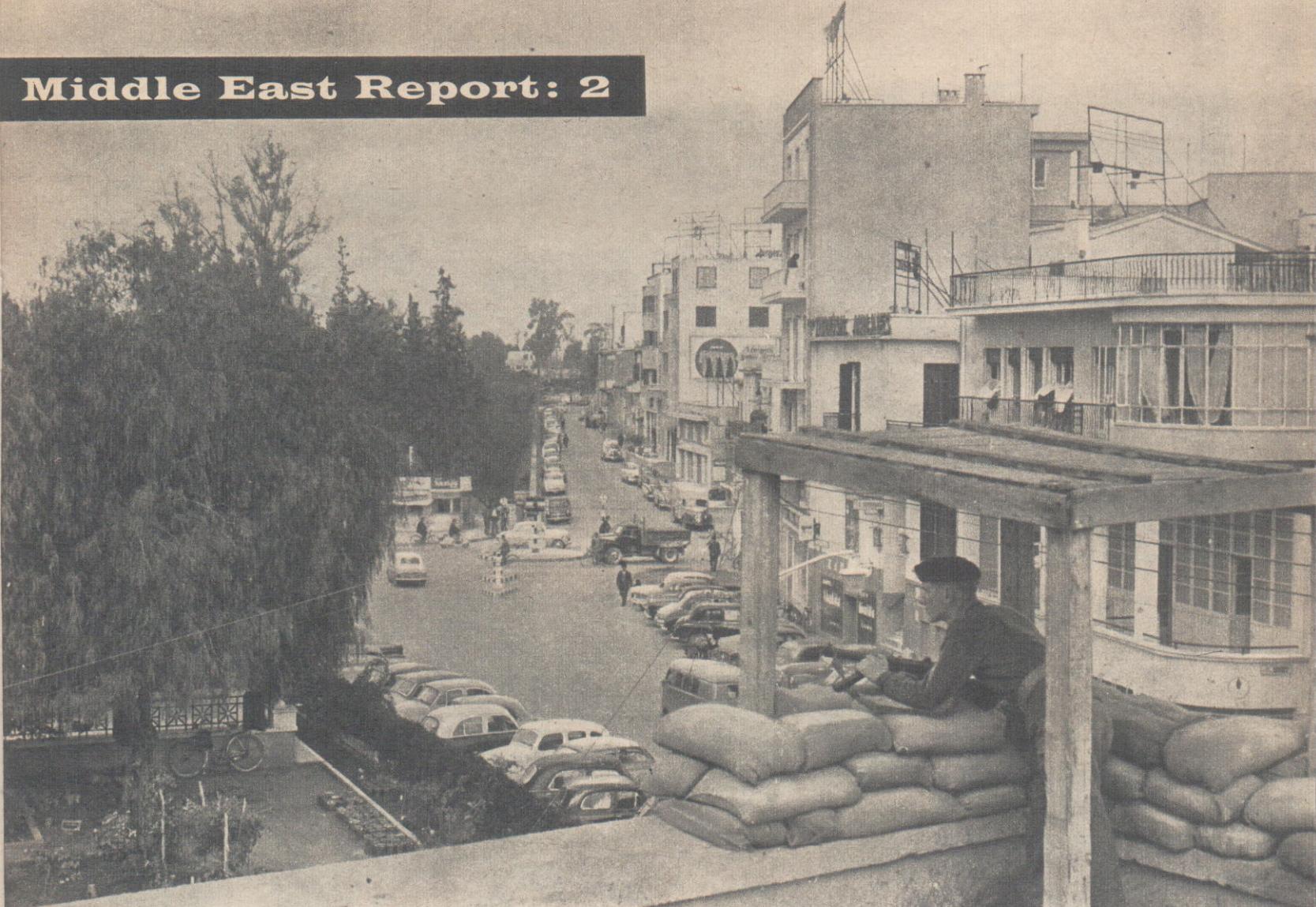
Gone are the drab, grey walls, the open fires and the Victorian plumbing which disgraced the guardroom ever since it was built in 1878. Now the walls are gaily painted in flame red, pastel green and peach and central heating has been installed.

Each bed now has its own reading lamp, radiator and bookshelf and there are racks of hangers on chains for greatcoats and stands for bearskins.

No longer do the Guard have to climb an outside staircase and enter their dining room through a window. A new entrance has been made to what was once Queen Anne's State kitchen. No longer, either, do they have to eat their meals in the same room as the food is cooked. Ten-foot high partitions with a service hatch now screen the dining room from the new half-tiled kitchen which has been equipped with modern apparatus, including a refrigerator.

Plans for providing a recreation room over the dining room could not be carried out as the building is an ancient monument and structural alterations to its two-and-a-half-ft. thick walls were not allowed. So a new recreation room, complete with television and wireless, has been constructed in what used to be an office.

Until 1793 there were no regular quarters for the Guard at St. James's Palace and up to the reign of Charles I the Chapel Royal was often used. In 1793 George III ordered a new room to be built in the Engine Court for the use of officers. Nothing more was done until 1876 when complaints about bad drainage, lack of ventilation and limited room led to the building of the present guardroom.



Watchfulness was the keyword. From his rooftop, sandbagged post inside the walled city of Nicosia an armed soldier keeps an eye on Metaxas Square.

# CYPRUS: THE LAST ROUND

**N**OTHING to report," said the daily situation report. No mines exploded, no bombs thrown, no ambushes, no shootings in the back.

But, although EOKA had called a truce and in London the heads of state were seeking ways to bring the "emergency" to an end, the Army in Cyprus did not relax its vigilance and precautions. In spite of the reassuring news that peace was in sight, terrorists were still at large and at any moment terror could strike again.

In the Troodos area 1700 soldiers searched for a mountain gang; elsewhere in the island units maintained their daily inspections of roads and increased their efforts to trap EOKA couriers, now able to move more freely from village to village.

Up in the "Panhandle," the island's north-east finger, 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, believed firmly in "Safety First" on the roads, for the single main road running from the ten-mile wide base of

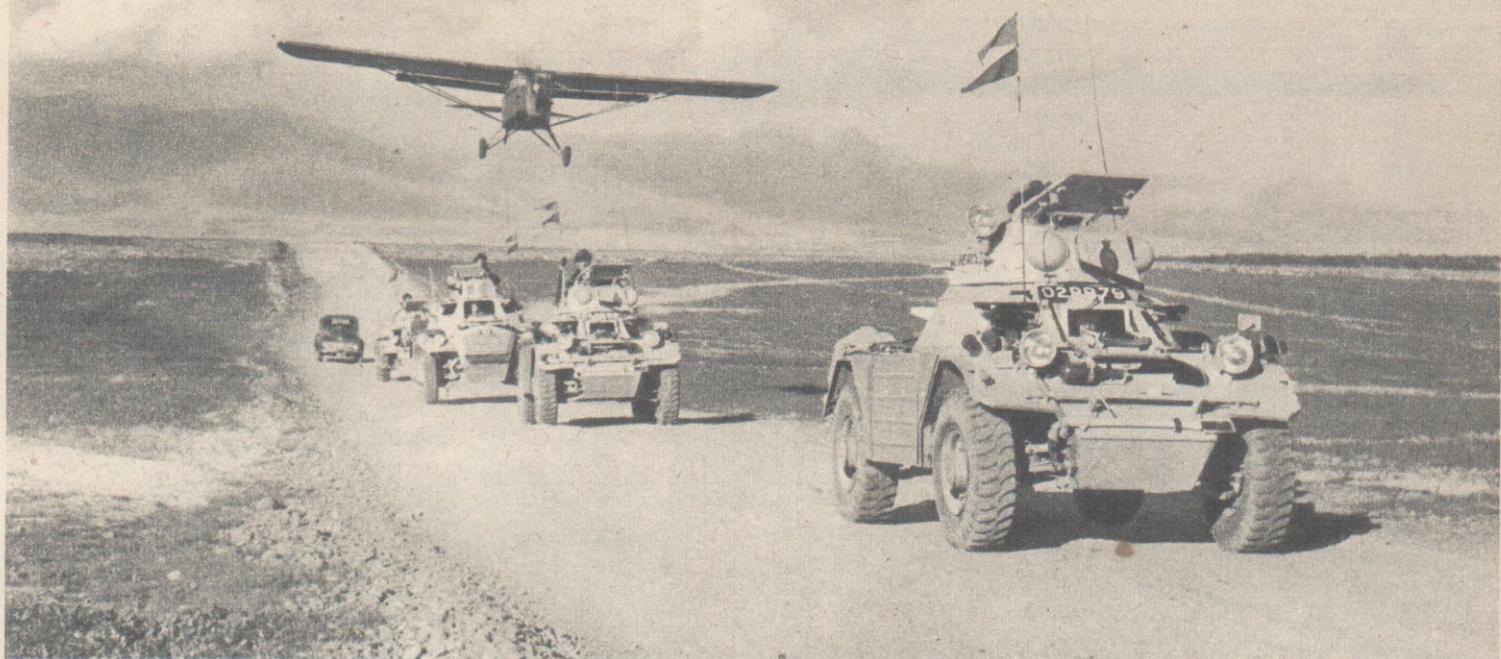
the Panhandle to the tip 40 miles away and the few mountain tracks had been a favourite target for EOKA pressure mines.

These Gunners were sent to Cyprus last October on a year's tour, leaving their guns and families behind to take on for the first time an Infantry role covering one of the largest areas in the island. But for 200 of the men who brought the Regiment up to Infantry battalion strength the Cyprus task was not unfamiliar—they had just previously served with 61 Field Regiment, as an internal security battalion, in Northern Ireland.

Studying the experience of its predecessors in the Panhandle, 25 Field Regiment kept a strict limit on vehicle speeds, believing that the secondary results of a pressure mine, in blowing a fast-moving vehicle off the mountain roads down steep slopes, were more serious than damage and injury caused by the mine itself. Every

**OVER ...**

**As this article went to press the end of four years strife in Cyprus was in sight and**  
**British Servicemen in the riot-torn island were waiting for news of an agreement that**  
**would mean the end of terrorism. But the Army was taking no chances as this report**  
**from SOLDIER feature writer PETER N. WOOD and Staff Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT**  
**tells. Troops remained on the alert, ready to go into action if trouble broke out again**



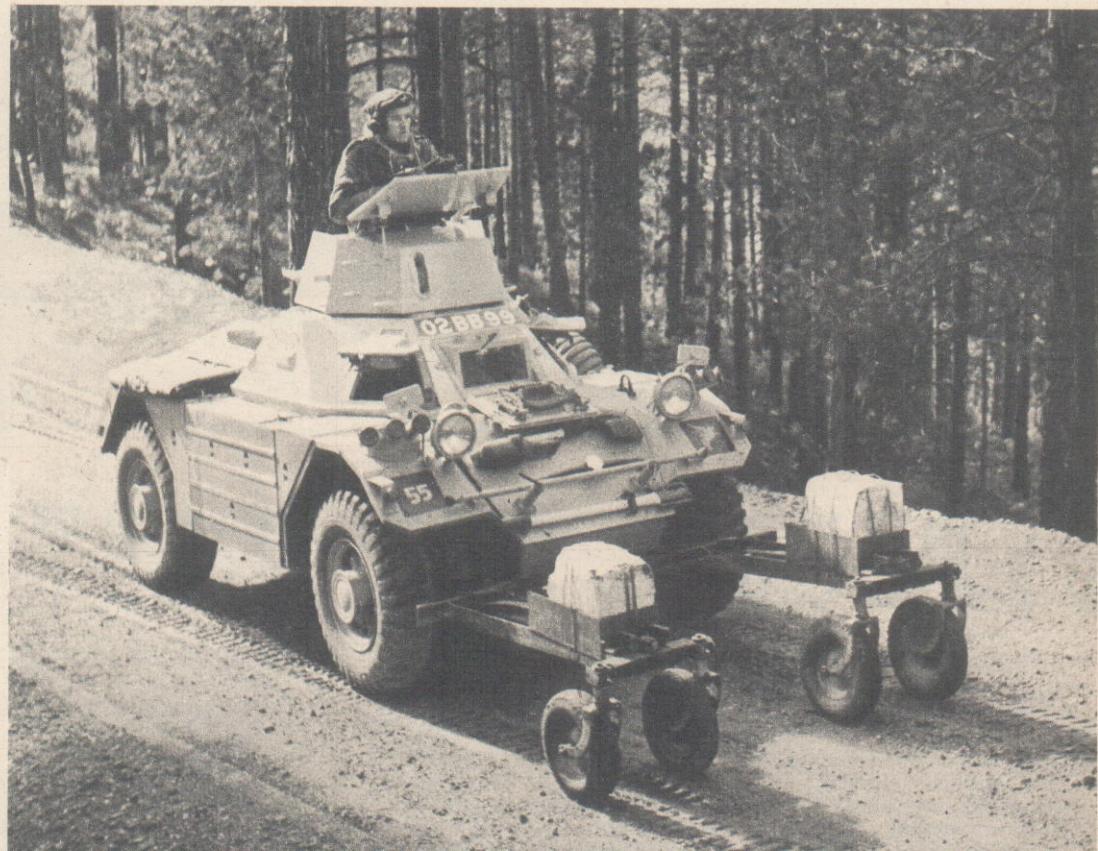
*Above: An Army Air Corps Auster swoops low over a Royal Horse Guards armoured car patrol near Nicosia. As spotters for patrols these aircraft have played a big part in seeking out terrorists.*

## Middle East Report: 2

*continued*

*Right: In the Troodos mountains a Ferret fitted with a home-made anti-mine device leads a patrol. The front rollers explode mines without damaging the vehicle. It was the idea of a Royal Horse Guards officer.*

*Below: Girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps played a big part in security operations. They were taken to road-blocks in the safety of armoured car turrets.*



day—truce or no truce—roads linking detachments to Regimental Headquarters were carefully examined before any other military vehicles were allowed to use them. These special patrols, of Land-Rovers and Ferrets, setting out from each point and meeting half-way, checked culverts and bridges and except in very wet weather, a half-track, fitted in front with heavy rollers, tested for pressure mines.

These mines, EOKA's most devilish weapon, were usually simply constructed from boards kept apart by coil springs and actuating an electric detonator when compressed. On tarmacadam roads they had often been placed at corners where vehicle wheels swing wide of the metalled

surface on to the gravel verge. In the mountains the favourite siting was at points where the explosion would force a vehicle out of control and over a sheer drop.

Usually the mines had been laid to explode on contact, but sometimes they had been controlled by men in ambush positions and detonated under a selected target.

The half-track and rollers was one method of exploding pressure mines. Another was the "Royal Horse Guards Roller Device," invented by a captain of the Regiment for use with Ferrets. It consists of four wheels, free to swivel on castor-type bearings and attached to a bar in front of the Ferret. Pressure on the castors, which swing wide of the vehicle



*Left: From an observation post near Kantara Castle a Gunner scans the countryside with binoculars while his armed companion stands by to go into action.*



*Left: Any place may be a hide-out for terrorists, even St. Hilarion Castle perched high on the rocks above Kyrenia. Men of a Suffolk Regiment patrol take no chances as they search one of the Castle rooms.*

*Below: Gunners acting as Infantrymen carry out an identity check at the village of Yialousa. In a country where terror strikes swiftly everyone is a suspect.*



wheels on corners, can be varied by weights.

Every unit with Ferrets has this device, and each unit too now has a number of vehicles, normally Land-Rovers, fitted with armour plating under the chassis. A disadvantage of this armour is that its weight reduces load-carrying, in the case of the three-ton lorry by as much as a ton.

The Royal Horse Guards, who maintained armoured car patrols in the rural district around Nicosia, have made two other local modifications to their vehicles. Radiators of the unit's Saracens have been altered so that hot air from the engine is thrown forward instead of upward and thence into the vehicle, and Ferrets have been fitted with

two-inch mortar mounts to fire flares for night operations.

Up in the Troodos Mountains the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment banned all but essential vehicle movement on Sundays, EOKA's favourite day in that area for ambushes and mine-laying; and the Battalion also banned soldiers from riding as passengers in vehicle cabs.

The Battalion had its own methods of fighting EOKA, working on the principle that information on movements and supplies could be gleaned only by living with the people in their villages. News travels fast in the Troodos area and when vehicles passed through a village or set out on a patrol, an EOKA telephone call to the next village always preceded

them. On one occasion the Parachute Battalion's interpreter answered a suspect call, asked for and was given the name of the caller who was later arrested.

The Battalion has also used mine dogs to search suspect sections of road, and bicycle patrols to check culverts on some of the mountain tracks and paths.

The Women's Royal Army Corps, too, has played a direct part in security operations. When road blocks were set up on the main road along the island's south coast, members of the Provost Section from Episkopi Cantonment helped the Infantry by checking documents and whisking (more quickly than the men) through wanted lists. They also searched suspect women couriers.



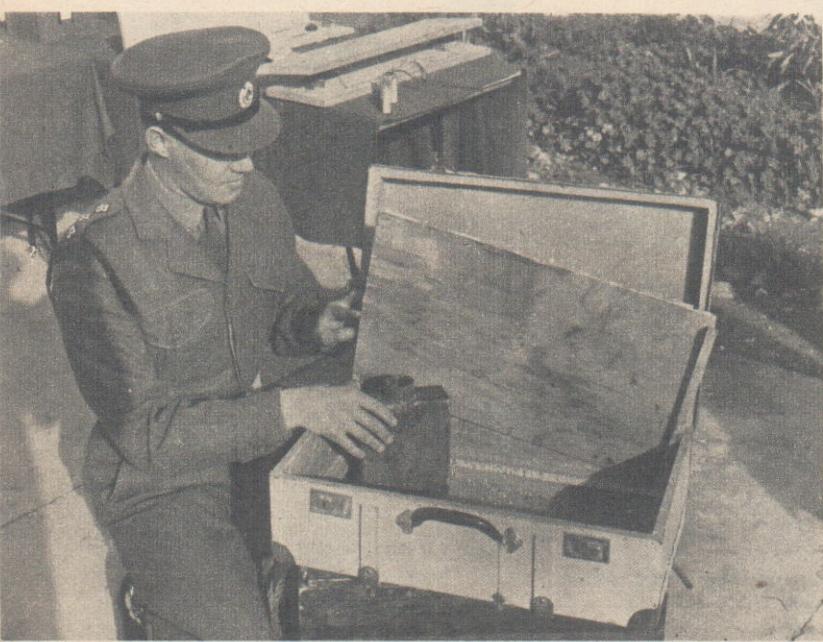
*Below: Parachutists take to skis to seek out terrorists in the snow-covered Troodos mountains. The Parachute Regiment also used mine-dogs to search roads.*



*"I think I've discovered the whole trouble with the British Army—it's you!"*



*One of the exhibits at the Cyprus Battle School is a terrorist's hooded clothing. To avoid recognition netting covers the eye pieces. When addressing villagers the masked men spoke through a megaphone with a kink in to disguise the voice.*



*Above: A Student at the Battle School examines a captured suitcase with a false bottom which conceals a bomb. It was taken from a terrorist as he was trying to smuggle it into a packed Army film show.*

*Right: An assortment of captured weapons—ranging from pipe-bombs to hand-grenades and home-made mines filled with shrapnel. Many of these weapons are so crudely made that they explode prematurely.*

# A SCHOOL FOR CATCHING TERRORISTS

THROUGHOUT the disturbances in Cyprus the Army and the Cyprus Police have worked in the closest co-operation, with soldiers bringing in the suspects for the police to interrogate and, on police information, laying ambushes and making searches.

Some police stations, a frequent EOKA target, have been protected by "underpinning" by detachments from Army units in the area. Others were used as bases for patrols.

The police helped in training the Army by seconding experienced officers to the Internal Security Training Centre and to its successor, the Cyprus Battle School. The Training Centre, started at Troodos, became a touring team which made short visits, giving lectures and demonstrations, to newly-arrived units.

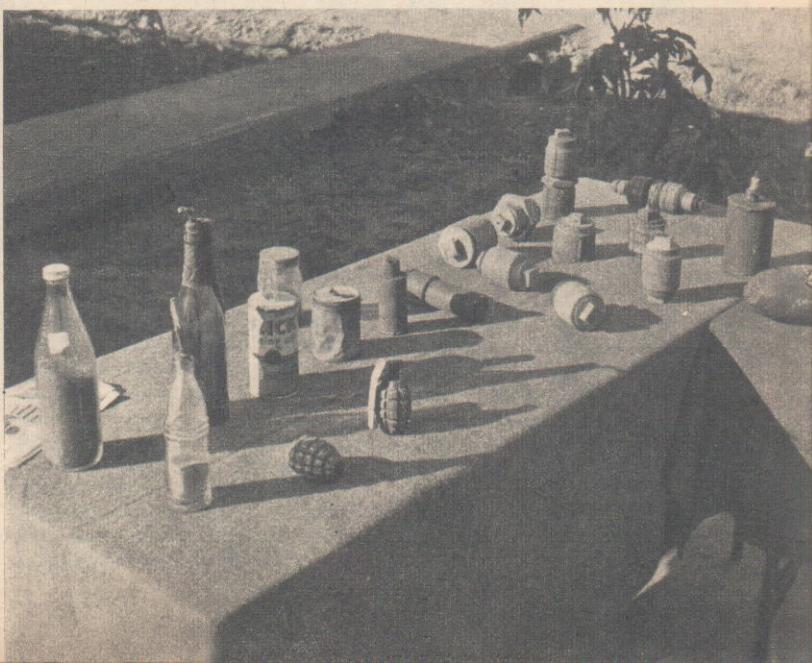
The new Battle School, which opened at a former detention camp near Dhekhelia two months ago, runs courses of a fortnight and three weeks with the object of training new units in all aspects of internal security and particularly those relating to Cyprus. Drawn from all units, the staff includes police officers and a Royal Engineers officer who is an expert in explosives and bombs, and each course has four vacancies for the police.

The syllabus covers EOKA organisation, tactics and weapons, powers of arrest and search, ambushes and anti-ambush drill, mines and booby traps, the use of

mine and tracker dogs, road blocks, anti-riot drill and the role of the Royal Navy in internal security operations. First aid, dealing with forest fires and air support, are demonstrated and the courses lay special emphasis on short-range snap shooting in daylight and darkness. Each course ends with the students spending 36 hours on practical training in the field.

The Battle School has its own "museum" of EOKA weapons, supplied from military and police sources. Students examine pressure mine detonators, hand grenades (some stolen British weapons and some made from pipe sections), cord and acid time fuses and a variety of containers which EOKA has used for its bombs.

Pipe sections filled with shrapnel and explosive and made in foundries and blacksmiths' shops, have been found in culverts, banks and even trees. Some of the bombs have failed to explode, others have detonated prematurely—to EOKA's cost. One of the exhibits is a suitcase with a false bottom concealing a bomb. It was discovered when being carried into a camp's film show.



How would you protect yourself against a nuclear explosion? Soldiers, sailors and airmen find the answer at . . .

# The Nuclear School On The Plain

**A**BLINDING flash of light, 100 times brighter than the sun, coupled with an explosion equal to that of 20,000 tons of TNT, devastated Hiroshima and virtually brought the war in the Far East to an end.

It was 6 August 1945 and the Nuclear Age had arrived.

The world began to hear about alpha and beta particles, gamma rays, neutrons and roentgen—strange new words that meant little or nothing to the average soldier, sailor or airman.

But to the 800 officers and 1000 NCOs from the Army, the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and from Commonwealth, NATO and other countries who attend courses at the Joint School of Nuclear and Chemical Ground Defence, they are all-important.

On the edge of the quiet little Wiltshire village of Winterbourne Gunner, five miles from Salisbury, the former Army School of Chemical Warfare has moved with the times. It is now a Joint Services school, operated by the War Office for all three fighting Services, with the task of dealing with the problems of nuclear warfare.

Commanded by Colonel T. H. Hardy DSO, and staffed by Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Marine officers and NCOs and a large number of civilians, the School teaches what to expect when a nuclear weapon explodes and, more importantly, the protective measures to take.

In the Officers' Division of the Training Wing students learn to become qualified unit instructors. There are also study periods for senior officers and special

Staff Officers' courses for those who are to train as advisers to Army and Air Formation commanders. In the NCOs' Division there are courses to produce assistant unit instructors. In both divisions courses are also run for Territorial Army students to qualify as instructors and assistant instructors.

Much of the work is done in the lecture rooms, studying basic physics, the structure of the atom, radio-activity, decontamination, materials which will reduce radiation, the effects of heat and blast and instruments which measure radiation.

Weak radio-active sources, some of them little stronger than the luminous dial of a watch, are used on one of the practical exercises. The streets of a small

town, appropriately named "Raytown," are marked out with white paint on the concrete floor of a large building. Heaps of rubble, placed to resemble the remains of buildings after a nuclear attack, contain the radioactive sources in various strengths, and the students, wearing steel helmets, denims, rubber boots and gloves and carrying training meters and dosimeters to measure radiation, move along the "streets" recording readings which are then plotted on a map.

From this map the "fall-out" can be plotted and the danger and safety areas marked.

The Experimental Wing tries out new techniques and equipment before they are taken into use by the Services. To keep exposure to radio-activity to a minimum it has been investigating

ways in which realistic nuclear training can be given without using radio-active materials.

One instrument which the Wing is now testing operates with a loop of cable from which electrical impulses are received on a dummy survey or training meter, the strength decreasing with distance in the same elliptical pattern as would radiation from the centre of a nuclear burst.

New radiac instruments which can measure either radiation intensity or the total radiation dose received by a man are also tested to find out if they are suited to field conditions.

The School's Publications Branch is building up a large library of books and documents on nuclear warfare and is producing a series of nuclear defence pamphlets. It also produces, in

conjunction with civilian firms, films on subjects taught at the School.

Although increasing emphasis is given to training in defence against nuclear warfare and the measures to be taken to mitigate the dangers of heat, blast and radiation, the School has not forgotten its original subject—chemical warfare—and each course studies the latest developments in this field. Again the lecture rooms are the main setting for study, but both officers and NCOs take part in at least one outdoor exercise.

Divided into syndicates of six or seven, the students use detector powder to identify "liquid gases" on the wings of an aircraft. To avoid accidents, simulators, which turn the white detector powder bright red for mustard gas and red for lewisite are used instead of live gas.

Other tests are made with detector papers fixed on sticks to test liquid gases and using air samplers (similar to a bicycle pump) students enter a chamber filled with gas vapour. The colour of a button in the air sampler tells them which gas is there.

Lectures on defence against biological warfare, in which hygiene plays a big part, complete the courses.

Whatever happens in a nuclear war of the future, one thing is certain: those who have been to the Joint Services School at Winterbourne Gunner have been well trained to meet it.



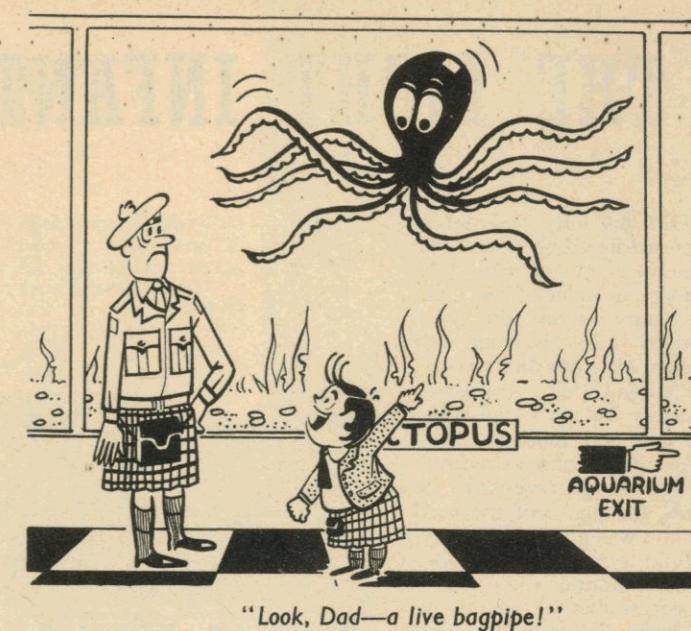
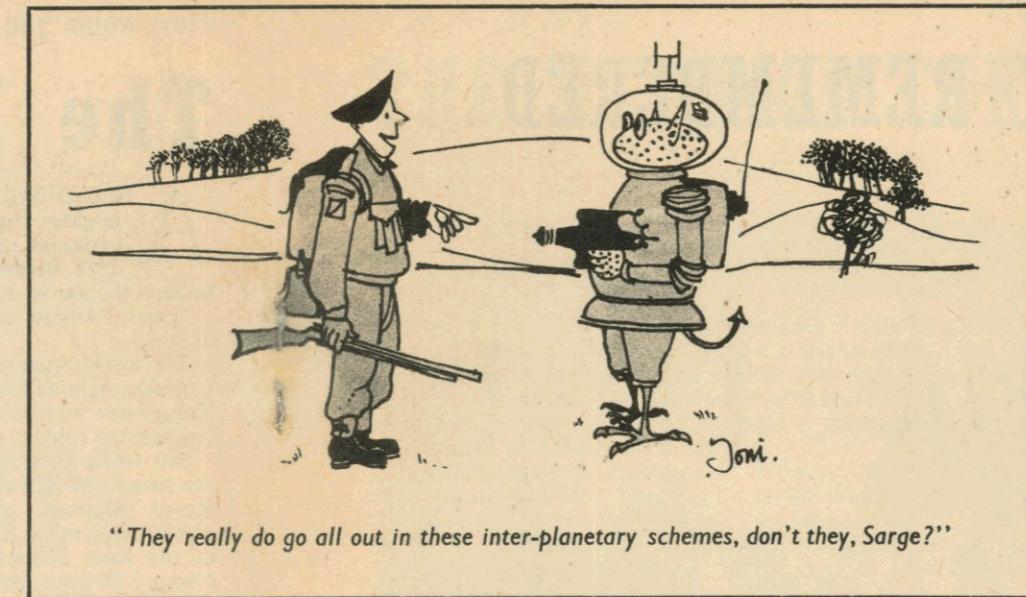
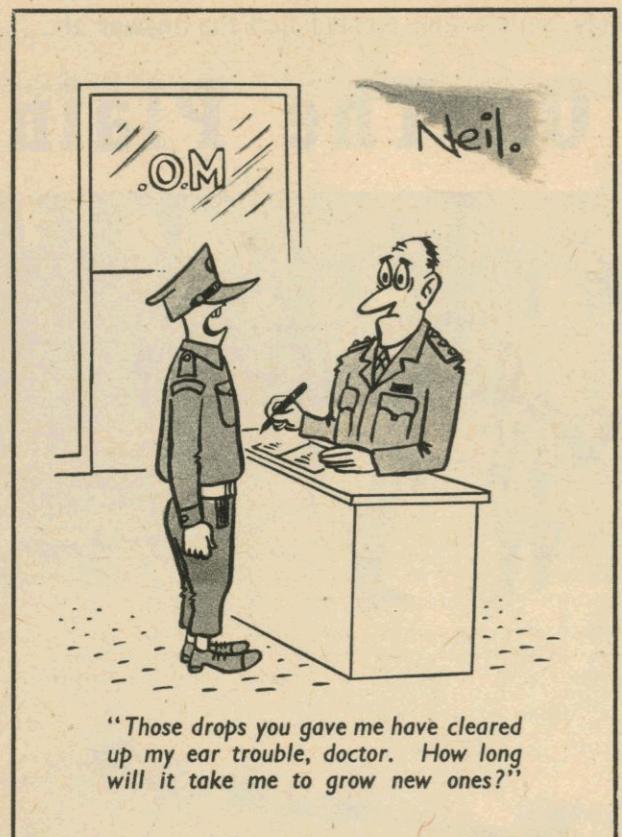
Among the rubble of "Raytown," Sergeants C. F. Hart, Royal Artillery (centre), T. H. Howard, Royal Fusiliers, and J. W. Powell, Royal Marines, check the radiation reading on their survey meter.



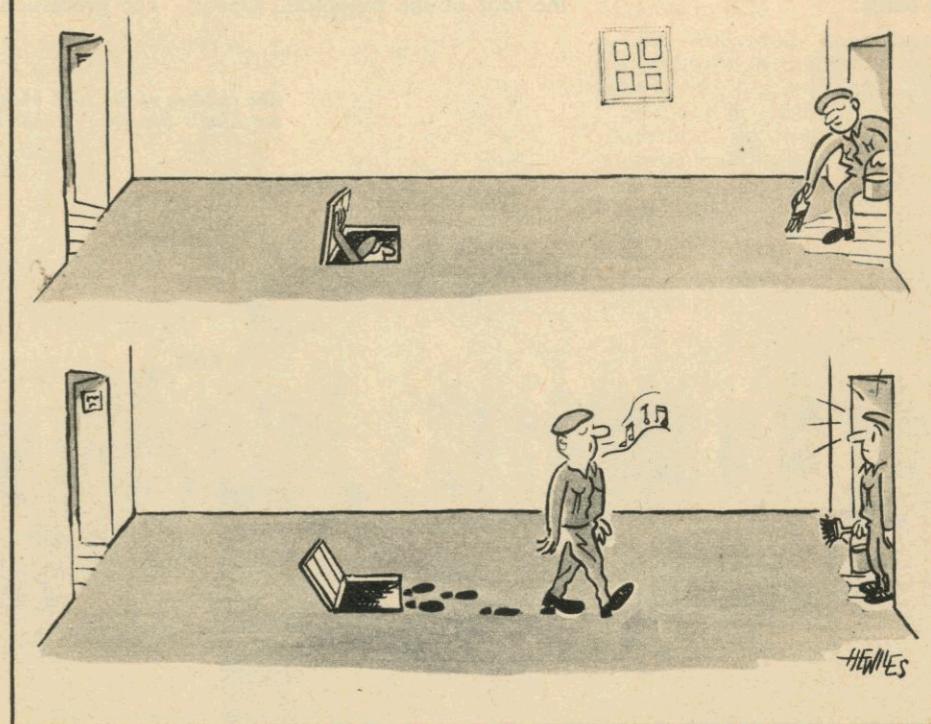
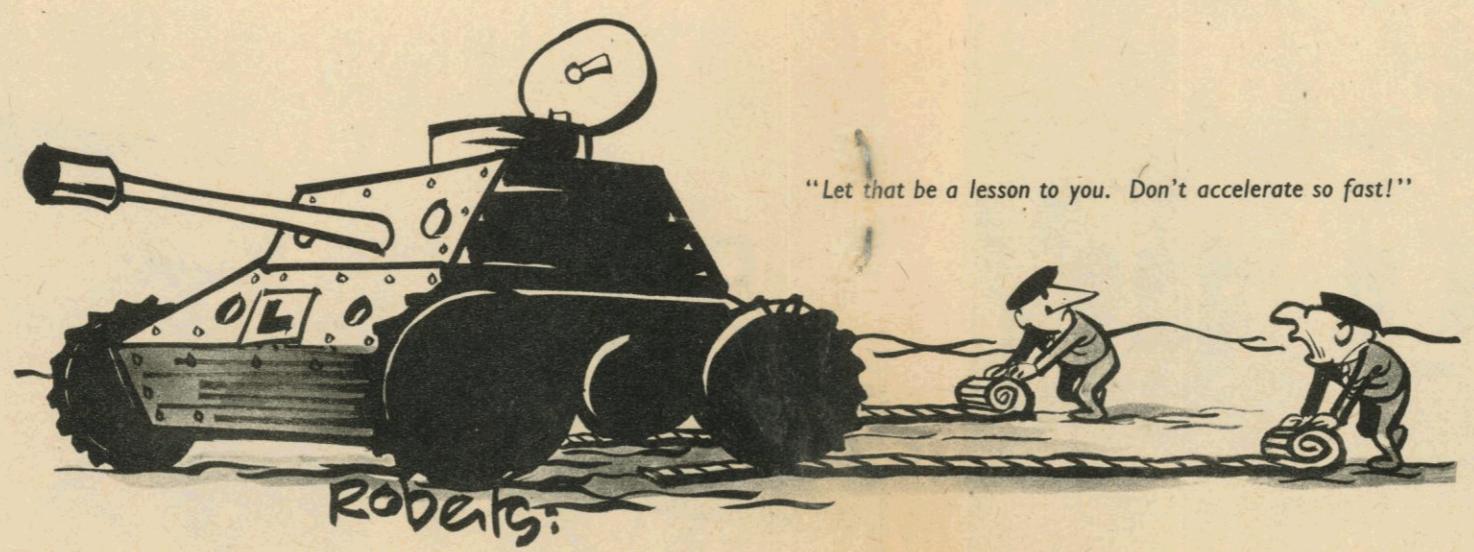
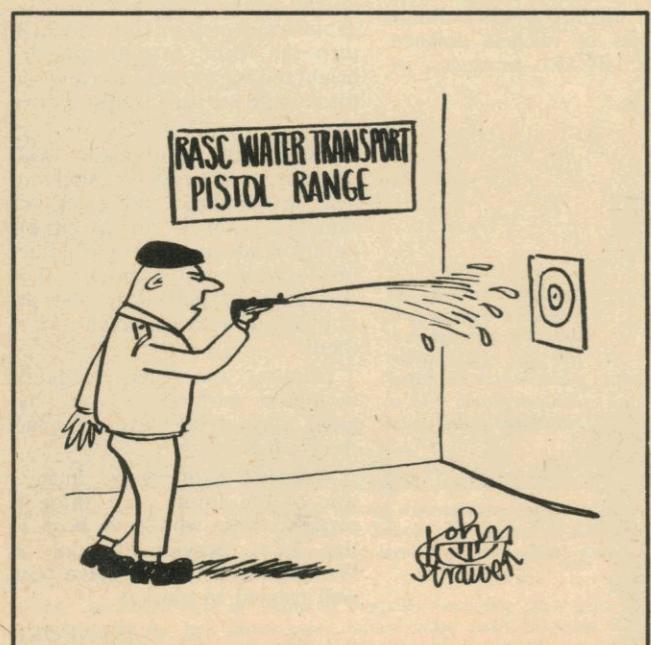
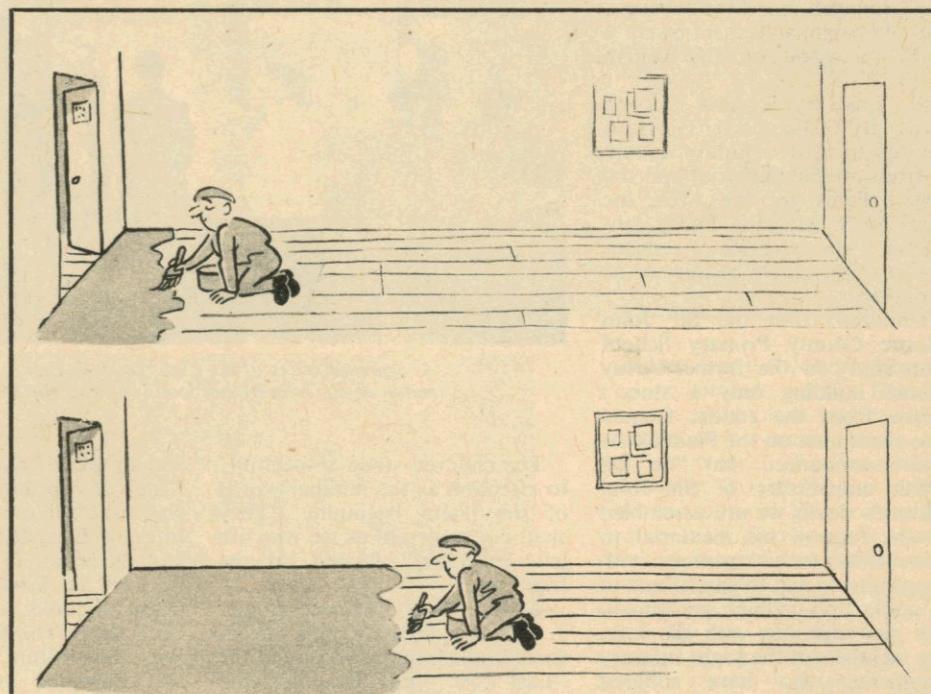
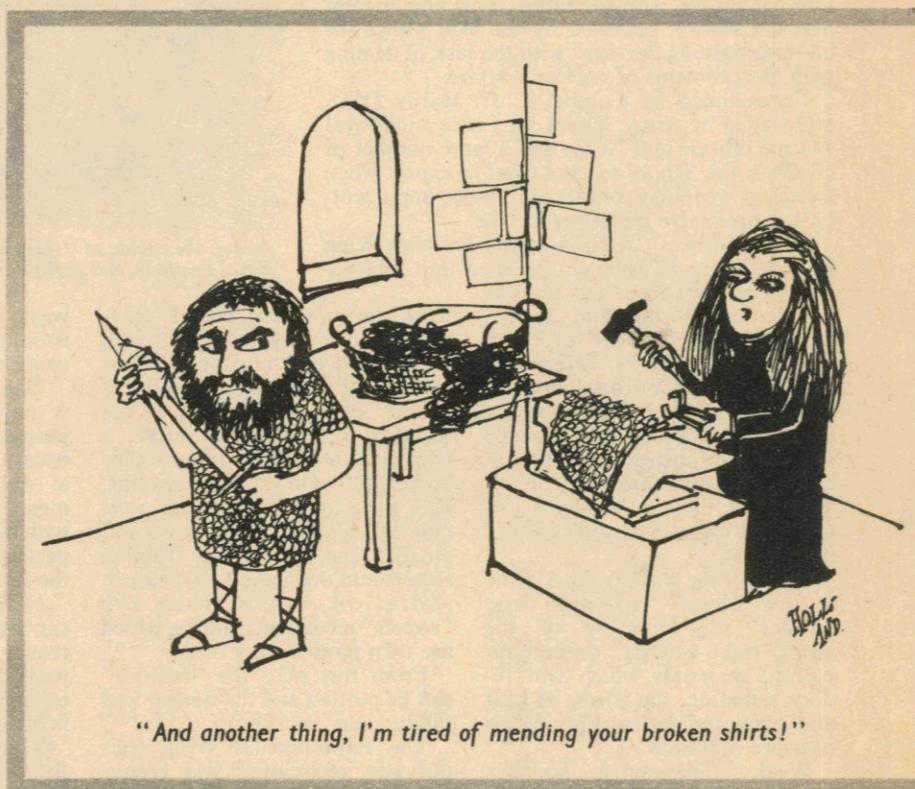
Students working as a syndicate sprinkle a detector powder on the wing of a Meteor plane which has been contaminated with a simulated liquid gas.

K. J. HANFORD

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## SOLDIER HUMOUR



# THE LIGHT INFANTRY REMEMBERED . . .

FROM his lofty pedestal at Shorncliffe Camp in Kent, the lonely figure of Sir John Moore, founder of the Light Brigade, stares across the green Plain which bears his name—the Plain where his Light Infantrymen first drilled and where Guardsmen and Gunners (but no Light Infantrymen) now play football.

But for a few moments recently on the 150th anniversary of his death, the figure of the hero of Corunna was no longer lonely. Light Infantrymen stood before his statue to honour the memory of a great soldier of whom the famous Army historian, Sir John Fortescue, once said, "No man, nor Cromwell, nor Marlborough, nor Wellington has set such a mark for good on the British Army."

A small procession moved slowly from the nearby Garrison Church to form a hollow square in front of the memorial and the Senior Padre for the Area, the Rev. N. S. Metcalfe DSO, conducted a short service of remembrance—impressive because of its simplicity.

Children from the Sir John Moore County Primary School who study in the former Army school building only a stone's throw from the statue, formed two silent lines on the Plain as the Padre announced that "on the 150th anniversary of Sir John Moore's death we are assembled at the foot of his memorial to commemorate his memory with thanksgiving and to pay tribute to a noble and gallant gentleman. Let us remember with Sir John the members of the Light Infantry regiments who have suffered death and wounds on many fields of battle."



*As representatives of the Light Infantry regiments pay tribute to the memory of their brilliant founder, the statue of Sir John Moore looks out over the Plain at Shorncliffe where the first Light Infantrymen drilled.*

The children stood respectfully to attention as the familiar words of the poem beginning "They shall not grow old as we who are left grow old" floated on the frosty air.

As the words died away Bugler J. Mellings, of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille" and two laurel wreaths were laid at the foot of the memorial. One

laid by Major K. A. Heard MC, King's Shropshire Light Infantry, was from all ranks in the Light Infantry Brigade, and the other, laid by Major G. N. A. Astley-Cooper, 1st Green Jackets, was from all ranks of the 43rd and 52nd (later The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and now the 1st Greenjackets 43rd and 52nd).

The procession departed to a

service in the Garrison church, the children returned to their lessons and Sir John was left to continue his lonely vigil over the Plain.

The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry also held a memorial service to Sir John Moore in the regimental chapel at York Minster when a wreath was laid by the commanding officer of the Regimental Depot, Major J. S. Wood.

*The children of Sir John Moore School stand in silence as Bugler J. Mellings, of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, sounds the "Last Post" and "Reveille."*



# THE HERO OF CORUNNA

*Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note,  
As his corpse to the rampart we hurried;  
Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot  
O'er the grave where our hero was buried.*

**G**ENERATIONS of schoolboys have recited this poem, written in honour of the hero of Corunna. To the British Army, Sir John Moore was more than a battle hero and a great General—he was also the man who revolutionised the training of the Infantry.

Sir John's ideals and his achievement of them are represented in all that is best in the British Army today. He was the first to appreciate the importance of intelligent discipline inspired by the example of leaders and cheerfully accepted by all ranks—a discipline which did not have to be enforced by fear of punishment. He relied on *esprit-de-corp* and the self-respect of the individual soldier.

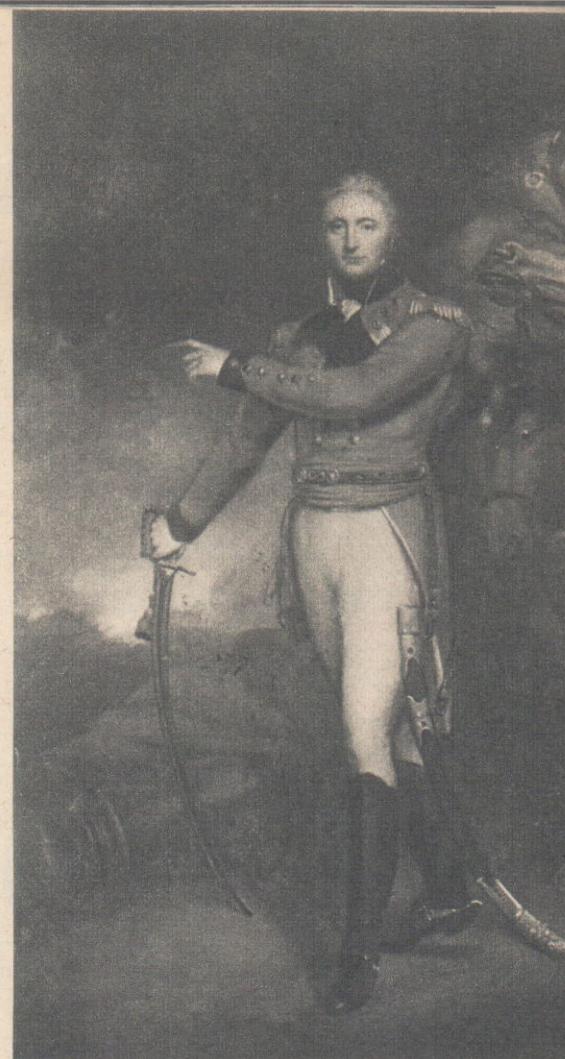
On these foundations Sir John Moore created a new type of Army with a new faith—the faith of soldiers in their leaders and themselves and in the cause for which they fought. It was this Army which remained calm during the terrible retreat to Corunna and won final victory against the French at Waterloo.

Although Sir John formed the first Light Infantry Brigade he did not originate the idea of Light

Infantry. For some time Infantry battalions each had a lightly equipped company which skirmished ahead as the main body prepared to attack. These light companies often formed a composite force but the men lacked the cohesion and comradeship of a normal regiment, a shortcoming of which Major-General Moore was well aware when in 1803 he began the task of training a "light formation" at Shorncliffe.

Out of the 52nd Foot, of which he was Colonel, General Moore formed the first Light Infantry battalion. By adding to it the 95th Rifles (now the 3rd Greenjackets, Rifle Brigade) and the 43rd Foot he formed the Light Brigade, forerunner of the famous Light Division of the Peninsula.

*Right: A well-known portrait of General Sir John Moore, the man who revolutionised the training of the British Army. Many of his ideals and methods live on.*



*Below: A contemporary print depicting the death of General Sir John Moore at Corunna. He was hit in the shoulder by grape-shot and died shortly afterwards.*



Before General Moore created his Light Brigade, soldiers formed up in a solid mass to fire their weapons at an enemy who used the same tactics. The General, in developing new drills and manoeuvres, required his men to be intelligent fighting craftsmen, quick in thought and deed.

The son of a Glasgow doctor, General Moore began his Army career at the age of 14 as an Ensign in the 51st (now the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry) which he joined in Minorca in 1776.

Like Wellington, he changed his regiment several times and after service in Nova Scotia and America he left the Army to enter Parliament. But he soon returned to serve in Ireland, Corsica, the West Indies, Minorca and at the Battle of Alexandria. After his tour at Shorncliffe he went to Sicily, Portugal and Sweden, and finally to Spain where he became commander-in-chief.

Always in the thick of the fighting—he was beside Lord Nelson when the Admiral lost his eye at the siege of Calvi in Corsica in 1794—General Moore was hit by a cannon ball at Corunna in 1809 as he was ordering up his reserve Foot Guards. Before he died he learned that the grim retreat to Corunna had ended in victory—the French had been routed.

*Slowly and sadly we laid him down,  
From the field of his fame fresh and gory;  
We carved not a line and we raised not a stone—  
But we left him alone with his glory.*

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# MODEL SOLDIERS ON PARADE



*There are 500 figures in this lively display of model soldiers produced by Major Harris. It represents the British Army of the early 20th century at a ceremonial march-past.*

**N**OT *toy* soldiers, please. *Model* soldiers. The difference? Major H. E. D. Harris, of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, will gladly explain. He owns a collection of over 5000 lead soldiers, a quarter of which were on parade at a recent exhibition in London of model soldiers throughout the ages.

Major Harris, like his fellow collectors, buys the familiar *toy* soldiers for his raw material. Then with a hacksaw and radio mechanic's soldering iron he sets to work, altering perhaps the angle of an arm, turning a horse's head or re-setting a leg, and finally he repaints the whole figure in authentic detail which, where appropriate, includes even campaign medals.

In an hour the *toy*, identical with its neighbours in the box, has become a *model* of an individual mounted soldier.

Most of Major Harris's display troops are cavalrymen, for his collection represents the British Army from 1900 to 1914. From the Army List he worked out an order of battle which would give the most colourful and interesting selection of Regular Yeomanry and Imperial Cavalry, other mounted troops and horse transport in every order of dress.

Before modelling officers and men of a particular regiment, Major Harris carefully studies the regimental history of the period. His

eventual "army" of 5507 figures will not be complete for perhaps another ten years.

Major Harris's mounted review, made a colourful spectacle against the grey, apocryphal background and rewarded closer inspection by its amazing detail—the general with a monocle, the officer impatiently glancing at his watch, a bristling, malevolent-looking mounted Provost-Marshall, and the officer's wife waving from a carriage.

Other military exhibitors included Colonel Peter Young DSO, MC (a commando of World War Two and Bedouin historian whose modelling interest is in the English Civil War), a War Office staff-sergeant, a former Gunner officer and Staff-Sergeant J. A. Jeffery, Royal Engineers, who with his brother, Mr. H. V. Jeffery, made a large—and "animated"—display of 750 figures "marching" to the music of a military band.

One of the smaller groups held a personal significance for Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer DSO, who opened the exhibition. Made by a World War One soldier of the 12th Lancers, it depicted the Field-Marshal presenting a new guidon to the Regiment. Another display, of the 28th Foot (Gloucestershire Regiment) winning the "back badge" at Alexandria, is to have a permanent home in the museum of the Gloucestershire Regiment.

*The Somerset Light Infantry this month celebrate the 117th anniversary of a brilliant victory in which a besieged British force at Jellalabad destroyed a savage enemy three times as strong*



*"The Remnant of an Army," Lady Butler's famous painting depicting the defenders of Jellalabad riding out to meet the sole survivor of a broken army.*

## "THE ILLUSTRIOUS GARRISON"

**N**O battle honour in the British Army ranks higher than "Jellalabad"—a name that recalls the magnificent courage and tenacity of the 13th Light Infantry (now the Somerset Light Infantry) in the First Afghan War of 1841-42.

At a time when British prestige was smarting under the disgraceful capitulation at Kabul, the 13th inspired the defenders of Jellalabad to withstand a five-months' siege and the terrors of an earthquake and finally to break out and rout a savage and ruthless enemy three times their number.

For this gallant feat they won the proud title "The Illustrious Garrison."

The 700 men of the 13th, under Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Dennie, with the 35th Native Infantry, a squadron of the 5th Bengal Cavalry and 150 Sappers and nine guns, formed Major-General Sir Robert Sale's brigade which left the main force of the Army of the Indus in Kabul in October, 1841. Its task was to clear the passes between the Afghan capital and the Khyber where the Army's line of communication with Peshawar on the North-West Frontier of India was threatened.

General Sale reached Jellalabad ("The Abode of Splendour") on 12 November, 1841 and 6000 Afghans surrounded the town and began to close in. Sale, who believed that attack was the best form of defence, ordered 600 men of the 13th and 35th, 100 Sappers

and two guns to attack Piper's Hill within the ruins of the old parapet.

Led by Lieutenant-Colonel Monteith, commander of the 35th, the troops stormed the hill and returned, leaving 200 Afghans dead on the slopes. This show of force kept the enemy at a respectful distance and the Garrison was able to concentrate on improving the fortifications.

Everyone who could be spared from guard duties set about demolishing the broken-down forts, raising the parapets to six or seven feet high, widening the ramparts and excavating a ditch 10 feet high and 12 feet wide right round the walls. Officers took their turn with the men.

A fortnight later the worst defects in the defences had been made good, and not a moment too soon for the enemy again closed in on the town, occupying a fort two miles west of Jellalabad and all the high ground, including Piper's Hill. Their skirmishers came nearer and nearer to the defences and the digging parties were forced to stop work.

General Sale again sent out an

assault force which swept out of the main gate and rushed at the enemy. The 13th took the hills at the point of the bayonet and repeated cavalry charges completed a brilliant action. The Afghans lost 150 men but not a single British soldier was killed or seriously wounded.

The Afghans fled from the British bayonets and for six weeks no attacks were made on the Jellalabad garrison. At this stage the 13th became uneasy about the fate of the British troops in Kabul after receiving information that arrangements had been made for the garrison there to capitulate and that the enemy would allow the British to evacuate Afghanistan unmolested.

After many bitter battles the 13th well knew the treachery of which the enemy was capable, but even they were unprepared for the terrible news that a lone figure on a spent horse brought to them on 13 January. The horseman was Dr. Brydon, the only survivor of an army of 4500 men and 12,000 followers hacked to pieces as they marched from Kabul "under safe conduct" towards Jellalabad.

Soon, the gallant defenders of Jellalabad had more personal problems to worry them. On 19 February an earthquake shook the city, to be followed in the next

six weeks by more than 100 tremors which seriously damaged the defences and shattered the Kabul Gate. But luck was on the side of the besieged, for the earthquake also severely damaged the forts and villages in the Jellalabad valley where the Afghans, led by Akbar Khan, were waiting to attack.

Once more the Garrison repaired its defences, the 13th particularly going to work with tremendous enthusiasm.

Several successful sorties were made by the besieged troops who increased their meagre food stocks by capturing 500 head of sheep and goats. But General Sale was worried by the lack of ball ammunition. All pewter, basins and mugs and spent Afghan bullets were melted down and recast.

Heroically, the Garrison held out all through March until there was only enough ammunition left to repel one large-scale attack. Then came reports that the relief force from Peshawar had been defeated in the Khyber. For General Sale there was only one course of action—to deal the enemy a decisive blow and break the blockade.

At dawn on 7 April General Sale attacked in three columns with every available soldier in the garrison. His objective was

Akbar's Khan's camp which stretched from the Kabul River to the Kabul Road. On the British left were 500 men of the 35th Native Infantry; in the centre 500 men of the 13th led by Lieutenant-Colonel Dennie and on the right, led by Captain (later Major-General Sir) Henry Havelock, 360 men of the 13th and the 35th with a detachment of Sappers. A light field battery was in support and the 5th Bengal Cavalry were held in reserve.

General Sale had told the centre column to pass 300 yards to the left of an old fort, one of the enemy's outposts, but they went too close and came under fire. During the unsuccessful assault Dennie was killed and the advance of the centre and left columns was delayed. Meanwhile Havelock's men continued to move forward and met the full force of Akbar Khan's cavalry. They calmly formed square and beat off the charging Afghan horsemen, inflicting very heavy losses.

General Sale then ordered the three columns into line and, advancing at the double in the face of fierce musketry and cannon fire, they drove 6000 Afghans from their strongholds, capturing two cavalry standards, all Akbar Khan's guns, his ammunition and equipment. By nightfall there was not one Afghan within eight miles of Jellalabad.

The British losses were 14 killed and 66 wounded. How many the enemy lost is not known but the battlefield was strewn with their bodies.

Two days later news was re-



*Moving forward at the double in the teeth of Afghan musketry fire, men of the 13th Light Infantry lead the final assault. That day 6000 Afghans were put to flight, all their guns and ammunition captured and Jellalabad saved.*

ceived that General Pollock's relief force had forced its way through the Khyber Pass and on 16 April it was played into Jellalabad by the band of the 13th to the tune of the Jacobean air, "Oh, but ye've been lang o' coming."

So ended the siege of Jellalabad. The men of the 13th Light Infantry had upheld British honour and earned the congratulations of the Governor-General of India, Lord Ellenborough, who called them "The Illustrious Garrison."

General Sale, who later became Colonel of the 13th, had served with the Regiment since 1821.

In August 1842, in recognition of its "distinguished gallantry" in Burma and Afghanistan the 13th assumed the title of "the 13th or Prince Albert's Regiment of Light Infantry" and its facings were changed from yellow to blue.

The Queen also authorised the Regiment "to bear on its colours and appointments a mural crown superscribed Jellalabad, as a memorial of the fortitude, perseverance and enterprise evinced by that Regiment and the several Corps which served during the blockade of Jellalabad."

K. J. HANFORD



*Major-General Sir Robert Sale. His brilliant tactics kept Jellalabad free in spite of earthquakes and enemy attack.*

*During the siege, the defenders ran short of food. This painting shows men of the 13th Foot capturing sheep and goats for the garrison.*



## WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL's brilliant book "The Second World War" is one of the three prizes offered this month to the winner of the Quiz contest.

Answer the questions set out below and send your entry to reach SOLDIER by Friday, 24 April.

The winner will be the sender of the first correct solution opened by the editor. He or she may choose any THREE of the following books: "The Second World War" by Winston S. Churchill; "Zeebrugge" (the famous seaborne raid of World War One) autographed by the author, Barrie Pitt; "Miss May," Jerrard Tickell's true account of an Englishwoman's courage in Russian prisons; "Adventure Unlimited" (a water diviner's experiences) by Evelyn Penrose; "Death Be Not Proud" by Elizabeth Nicholas; "Wild Men of Sydney" (a study of Australian social and political life) by Cyril Pearl; "Skeleton Coast" (a World War Two sea drama) by John Marsh and Lyman Anson; and a bound volume of SOLDIER 1957-58.

## How Observant Are You?

These two pictures look alike but they vary in ten minor details. Study them carefully and if you cannot detect the differences turn to page 38



### RULES

1. Entries must be sent in a sealed envelope to: The Editor (Competition), SOLDIER, 433, Holloway Road, London, N.7.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the "WIN THREE BOOKS—11" panel printed at the top of this page.
3. Competitors may submit more than one entry but each must be accompanied by the "WIN THREE BOOKS—11" panel.
4. Any reader, Serviceman or woman and civilian, may compete.
5. The Editor's decision is final.

1. Which regiment of the Brigade of Guards wears its tunic buttons in groups of three?
2. Pair the following: Cow, mare, ewe, bitch, fox, goat, puppy, lamb, calf, kid, foal, cub.
3. Christmas Island, the British nuclear weapons base in the Pacific Ocean, was discovered by Sir Francis Drake and was so named because he landed there on Christmas Day. True or false?

4. England lost the fourth Test match against Australia in this season's series by (a) an innings and 23 runs; (b) 7 wickets; (c) 37 runs; or (d) ten wickets. Which?
5. Which of these words are mis-spelled: apertenance, hydraphobia; nauseating; equivocate; lolipop; philosophical?

6. What is the musical instrument film-star Eileen Sands is playing? Is it (a) a mandolin; (b) a cello; (c) a guitar; (d) a ukulele; or (e) a plinkton?
7. Rewrite this sentence in five simple words: On no account are you allowed to place the termination of your extreme lower limbs upon the verdant herbage.

8. Complete these proverbs:
  - (a) A rolling stone \_\_\_\_\_;
  - (b) Lazy people take \_\_\_\_\_;
  - (c) Easy come, \_\_\_\_\_;
  - (d) Many a pickle makes \_\_\_\_\_.

9. A bittern is (a) a piece of mountaineering equipment; (b) a Hungarian sweetmeat; (c) a wading bird; (d) a sour-tasting oriental fruit; or (e) a musical movement. Which?

10. Which regiments have the following nicknames: (a) The Flammers; (b) The Moon Rakars; (c) The Black Cuffs.



★ The answers and name of the winner will appear in SOLDIER, June.

The winner of SOLDIER's What Do You Know competition in February was: Mr. B. WILKINSON, 61, Mansell Crescent, SHEFFIELD, 5.

The correct solution was: 1. John Masefield. 2. All lived except Dick Barton. 3. The mis-spelled words were: desiccator, grievous and scrimmage (correct spellings are desiccator, grievous and scrimmage). 4. Scylla and Charybdis; Buda and Pest; Hero and Leander; Anthony and Cleopatra; Helen and Paris. 5. Mercian Brigade. 6. (a) Sir Alexander Fleming; (b) Sir Humphry Davy; (c) Robert Bunsen; (d) Sir Isaac Newton. 7. (a) gaggle; (b) pride; (c) den; (d) herd; (e) pack. 8. (a) Sweden; (b) Rance; (c) Fah; (d) White House. 9. Intruder was Fabian. The rest are fictional characters. 10. (a) National Association of Local Government Officers; (b) South East Asia Treaty Organisation; (c) Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile; (d) Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile; (e) Greenwich Mean Time; (f) Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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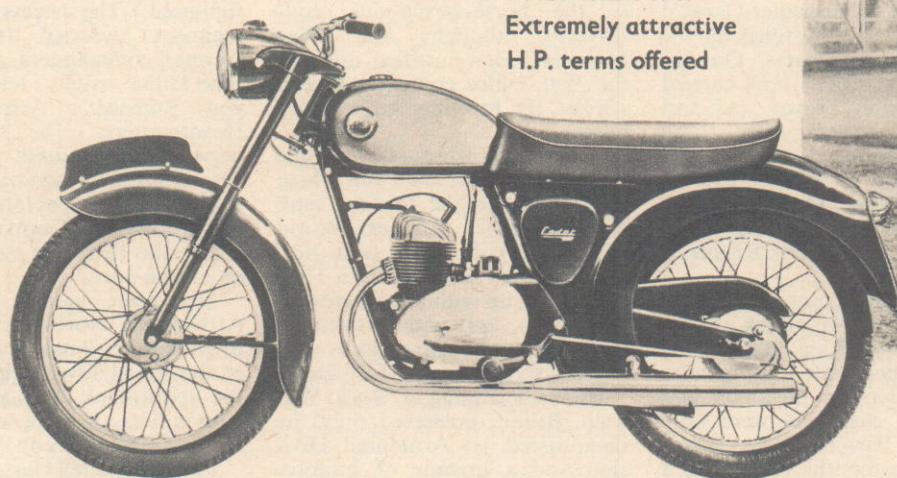
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# THE TANK TRIUMPHED

**B**ETWEEN the two World Wars, a small but vigorous group of "middle-piece" officers fought a long struggle to equip the British Army for armoured warfare.

They had a powerful ally in the military correspondent first of the *Daily Telegraph* and then of *The Times*, Captain B. H. Liddell Hart. It was not only in print that he fought their battles. Ministers asked his advice, and the papers he prepared for them were discussed in the highest circles.

Now Captain Liddell Hart becomes the historian of the Royal Tank Regiment and its predecessors. In the two volumes of "The Tanks" (Cassell, 70s) he describes the development not only of the Regiment but of armoured warfare to the end of World War Two.

What was the origin of the tank? Chariots and elephants were among its predecessors. The caterpillar tractor derived from a patent of 1770. In 1855 somebody patented a steam-driven "locomotive land battery fitted with scythes to mow down Infantry." In 1903 a short story by H. G. Wells, "The Land Ironclads" was read by several of those who later brought the tank into being, and perhaps sowed seeds in their minds.

No one man can claim to have invented the tank, but it was a Royal Engineer officer, Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. Swinton, who first gained recognition for the idea that the caterpillar tractor might be turned into a fighting machine capable of destroying machine-guns and barbed wire entanglements and of crossing trenches. He commanded the budding Tank Corps, but was relieved of his command before it saw action. As Major-General Sir Ernest Swinton, he later became a



Above: Major-General Sir Ernest Swinton played a great part in the invention of the tank and was the first commander of the Tank Corps. Below: General Sir Hugh Elles led the tank attack at Cambrai when the Regiment first carried Colours.



colonel-commandant of the Royal Tank Corps.

Having brought the tanks to a pitch of battleworthiness, the pioneers urged that the new machines should not be used until they were available in sufficient numbers to exploit surprise; that they should be used in concentration; that attacks in which tanks took part should not be preceded by vast artillery preparations which turned the ground into a morass almost impassable to the mechanical monsters.

Their advice was ignored in all these respects. When a mere 50 tanks were ready, they were ordered into battle; only 36 reached the start-line. They were used in penny-packets, but those that did not break down or become ditched in the shell-craters proved their worth. On 14 September 1916, in the first Battle of the Somme, the era of the tank began.

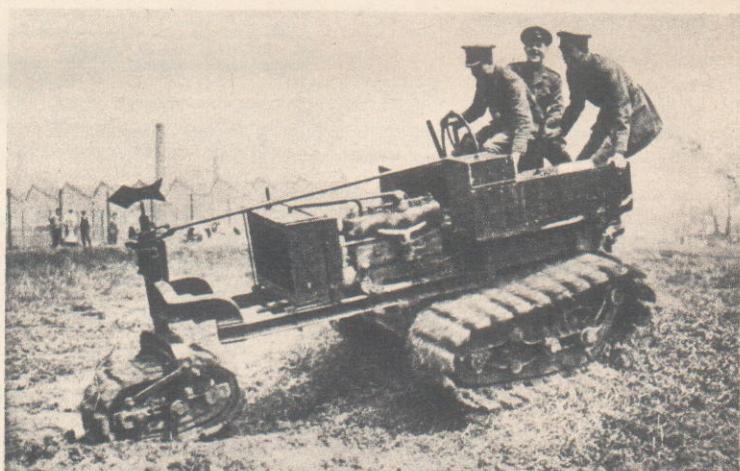
The first tanks in France were a great attraction to senior and staff officers whose visits held up training. After their first battle the tankmen staged a steeplechase demonstration for King George V and developed this into a race for the benefit of the King and Queen of the Belgians, who travelled as passengers in the tanks.

At the front, the tanks were still earning credit by such feats as taking a cluster of strong-points at a cost of 29 casualties when divisional commanders had estimated that the same operation would have cost 600 to 1000 men.

It was 14 months after their first action that the tanks had their big chance. Led by their commander, Brigadier-General Hugh Elles, they justified all the claims of their sponsors. On that day, General Elles's tank carried a new flag in brown, red and green; the colours were those which happened to be in the limited stock of silk in a shop behind the line. They have been the colours of the units which became the Royal Tank Regiment ever since.

At Cambrai, more than 300 tanks led the dawn attack against the Hindenburg Line. By midday, they had penetrated four miles into the German positions and the British casualties were only 4000. (At Passchendaele, it had taken three months to achieve a similar advance—and a quarter of a million casualties). Unfortunately, exploitation still depended on horsed cavalry, though the machine-gun had brought an end to their usefulness.

It was, in part, the stubborn faith in Cavalry that hindered



A forerunner of the modern tank—a Killen-Strait tractor—undergoing trials at Wormwood Scrubs in 1915. Observers were startled to see it cut through barb-wire entanglements. Below: "Hyacinth," a Mark IV tank wedged in a trench at Cambrai when 300 tanks assaulted the Hindenburg Line.



the progress of armour between the wars and few senior officers would countenance cutting down the older arms to provide more tanks. The tank was widely regarded as a freak, something which had been useful in coping with trenches. Trench-warfare, it was hoped, would not return. In 1933, the author, taking a hand in the horse-versus-tank controversy, thought the War Minister's view justified only "if the War Office could produce a scheme for breeding bullet-proof horses."

There were exercises in mobile warfare on Salisbury Plain which clearly showed the role the tank was to play in the next World War. The enthusiasts were not, however, very senior officers. They had to put up with a good deal of frustration, and with a tiresome tendency to combine tanks and horsed cavalry in one formation.

By the beginning of World War Two, Britain possessed only the ill-equipped 1st Armoured Division and a brigade of Infantry tanks at home, and the basis of the brilliant 7th Armoured Division in Egypt.

Perhaps the most startling thing the author has to say in his descriptions of the campaigns of World War Two, is that the 4th and 7th Royal Tank Regiments

saved the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk.

These two units led a counter-attack at Arras. In the process, they not only brought the panzer divisions to a halt but inflicted heavy casualties on them. (British tanks at this stage were by no means as inferior in quality to those of the enemy as is generally supposed.) The success of the two regiments worried the senior German commanders, and at this time Hitler visited Field-Marshal von Rundstedt's Army Group Headquarters. The news and nervousness he found there confirmed his own nervousness and led him to issue the famous order which halted the German advance before the BEF was cut off from its escape-port.

The great battles of North Africa and North-West Europe provided the climax to the history of the Royal Tank Regiment and the British tank. It is a bold man who will say if there will ever be another tank-battle on these scales.

Captain Liddell Hart sees future warfare in armoured terms. The tank, he believes, is still the most effective answer to a sudden pounce in limited warfare; if nuclear warfare should develop, the armoured force has a better chance of survival and movement than Infantry.

# Men In Battle

**H**AVE we come to the end of an era? Has the British Army fought its last action as an independent fighting force? John North is pessimistic enough to think so. Since the end of the fighting at Suez in 1956, "the shadow of decline" has closed round the Army, he writes in a preface to "Men Fighting: Battle Stories" (Faber, 18s). The cut to 165,000 men (recently raised to 180,000) is the basis of his argument.

"For the first time in English history," he writes, "political and economic necessity has overridden national security."

There are holes to be picked in his argument. The Army ceased fighting as an independent force in any but the smallest engagement when the Royal Air Force climbed into the sky. It has been cut to bare bones before, and starved of equipment too, and still comes up to win battles on its own. True, there were no thermonuclear deterrents in those days, but there were plenty of people to forecast that the next war would be fought by aeroplanes dropping gas and other bombs.

John North's own admirable selection of battle-pieces by a variety of authors contains three reminders of what sort of show the skimped Army has put up at the beginning of the two world wars—two dealing with the retreat to Mons and one with Dunkirk. Nobody wants to start the next war with experiences like those—but the end of an era? No. At worst a repeat performance, with atom-bombs adding an unknown quantity.

The Mons retreat, however, did represent the end of an era. Aubrey Herbert, a Guards officer, records his experiences of going

into battle with a sword and a race-horse on which to gallop about. But the Germans were advancing surprisingly quickly: it turned out they were using motor-cars. There were aeroplanes, too, and one of Herbert's fellow-officers informed him that officers were the best shots at aeroplanes because pheasants had taught them to swing in firing.

After a memorable account of a battle for a hill on the Gallipoli peninsula, the reader is in the tank age. On the Somme, in 1916, "Lady Bird" sank into a deep trench a few yards from her objective and stuck. Her commander left the safety of his armour-plate and beckoned Lady Bird's companion, "The Crab," to pass over her. He was killed as he did so, surely inspiring those ingenious tank bridges of World War Two.

From the victorious advance of 1918 (when another tank, a Whippet called "Musical Box," played merry havoc on a solo run behind the German lines) these articles and extracts jump to Dunkirk and the other main theatres of World War Two, and lastly to Korea and Suez. The authors range from private soldier to war correspondent, from general to professional author. Most readers will find something they have read before, but certainly worth reading again.

## A Bomb-Happy Hero

**W**AR novels do not have to be full of the sound and fury of battle or the heroism or brutishness of men, to be effective.

"The Lieutenant," by Bernard Gleeson, (Macdonald, 15s) is proof. It is set in contemporary New York and deals with an outwardly urbane, but inwardly nerve-ravaged, casualty of World War Two.

In command of a bomb disposal squad during the London blitz, Hugh Beattie is decorated for gallantry, but war leaves him with shattered nerves and an incapacity for holding down a civilian job.

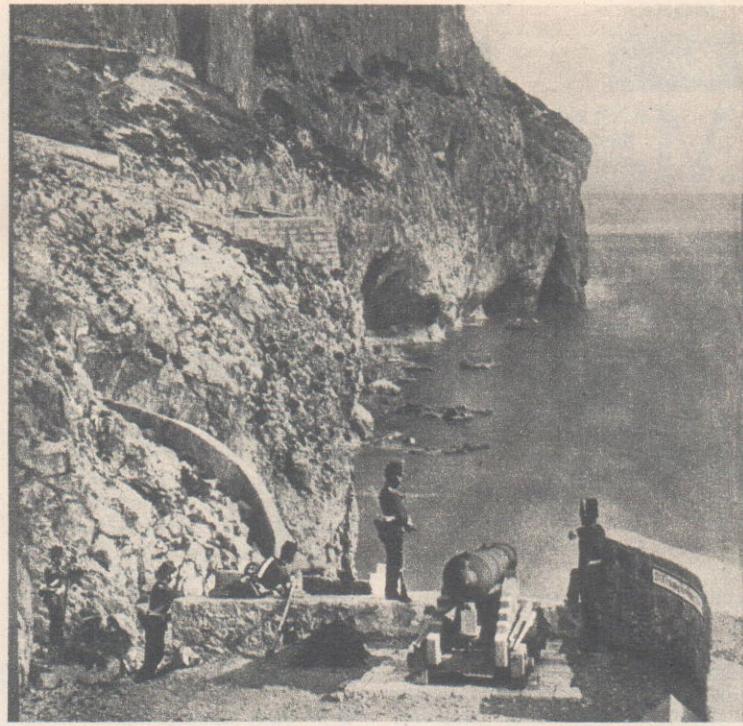
He arrives in New York, rep-

resenting an uncle's Lancashire textile firm, and there meets an American photographer who once saw him in the London of 1941, as a grime-stained subaltern defusing an unexploded bomb. Very different now; with his black Homburg hat, his beautifully rolled umbrella and a red carnation in his buttonhole, he personifies the average American's conception of the typical Englishman. He is engagingly modest about his wartime exploits but deep down is still disturbed by them. His nerve-inflated ego frustrates every effort to help him until the story reaches its somewhat disturbing climax.

## PAPER BACKS

**A**NOTHER batch of World War Two stories in paperback editions has been published by Digit Books (Brown, Watson Ltd). They deal with war in North Africa, Norway and France. "Surgeon at War" by Lieut-Colonel J. C. Watts MC, is a moving account of the wartime experiences of a British medical officer and "Assault Patrol" by Peter Baillie tells of a hazardous mission carried out by a small band of soldiers who set out to destroy a German transmitting station in Norway.

In his "Brave Journey," Stephen Strange describes the fortunes of a detachment of South African anti-tank gunners in the Western Desert who end up fighting side by side with partisans in Italy. Those who like their war stories enlivened by mystery and intrigue will welcome Roxane Pitt's "The Courage of Fear," a true account of underground and Secret Service exploits in Europe.



Flashback to 1862 when Gibraltar was the "jolliest of Colonial stations." The Rock has been a permanent Army station for more than 250 years.

## Salute To A Fortress

**O**N various occasions since the British captured Gibraltar in 1704, politicians have mooted the cession or exchange of "The Rock" only to have their proposals drowned in an uproar of popular protest. The reasons for Gibraltar's secure hold on the affections of the British people are made clear in "Proud Fortress," by Allen Andrews, (Evans, 18s).

The story of Gibraltar is, largely, the story of the British soldier, for the Rock has been maintained continuously as a permanent Army station throughout all the vicissitudes of the last 250 years.

Some of the most exciting chapters in "Proud Fortress" are devoted to the great four-year siege, when Britain was at war with America as well as with France and Spain, and General Sir George Elliot, Gibraltar's resourceful Governor, cannonaded the besieging Spaniards with red-hot shot and incendiary carcasses.

A fascinating anecdote is told of the 54th Regiment, (later the 2nd Battalion, the Dorset Regiment) two battalions of which were stationed in Gibraltar in 1800. These troops were embarked for Egypt under Lieut-General Sir Ralph Abercromby, with their shrilly protesting wives forming part of the convoy of leaking and unprotected ships. When the expedition stopped at Malta for essential repairs Abercromby decided that there were too many women, and he ordered that all wives not employed on hospital work should be sent home. Just before Christmas the men left for the East, and a sea-train of the women departed for England. On the way, a French frigate headed off two ships containing 300 of the women. However, the French Navy also rejected them and they were sent to Minorca. Meanwhile, the 54th had been involved in a

side Alexandria, General Abercromby had been killed in action and reports which first reached Minorca alleged that, along with the General, all his troops had been annihilated. The wives of the 54th believing they were widows married *en bloc* into the Ancient Irish Fencible Infantry which garrisoned Minorca. The British in Egypt, however, had not been annihilated but were in sore need of reinforcements. In July 1801 the Ancient Irish found themselves en route for Egypt, where they met the 54th and were able to supply news and gossip about their mutual wives. Only one man of the 54th eventually took back his spouse—and he became an object of ridicule.

European dictators have all coveted Gibraltar. Napoleon boasted he would storm it but his plans came to nought. Hitler gave "Number One Priority" to his early plan to occupy the Rock and expel the British Navy from the Mediterranean. Despite all, the Rock has held out into its third century under the British flag.

In World War Two Gibraltar was a corner stone of victory in Europe. When Britain stood alone it was her first advanced outpost and the only territory on the Continent where the British flag still flew.

Deep within the Rock are 25 miles of tunnels constructed by the Royal and Canadian Engineers. Here in 1942, General Eisenhower planned Operation Torch, the invasion of North Africa.

**MORE BOOKS OVERLEAF**

# A Doctor At Arnhem

**M**ANY escaping prisoners-of-war take a mascot or souvenir with them, but was there ever such a trophy as that carried by Captain Daniel Paul, a surgeon who had parachuted at Arnhem?

It was a specimen of a traumatic aneurism of the popliteal artery—whatever that may be—that he had cut out of someone a week before and preserved. Into his parachutist's jacket it went. He hoped to present it to the Royal College of Surgeons.

Unfortunately, he does not record whether this grisly treasure reached its destination, and whether it now rests in a grim museum with a neatly-printed card telling of its adventures. Otherwise, "Surgeon at Arms" (Heinemann, 16s), which Captain Paul wrote with John St. John, is a very satisfying account of his war-time experiences.

After the Arnhem drop, Captain Paul was busy in the operating theatre of a hospital which was constantly being captured and recaptured. When the firing ceased, he was allowed for a while to go on with his work. He used his opportunity to aid nearly fit men to escape. One, still very ill, who got away with the aid of the Dutch Resistance was a brigadier who had avoided German attention by masquerading as a corporal. Captain Paul also passed over to Dutch Resistance a large quantity of arms handed over to the hospital by the casualties.

At this period, he enjoyed—if that is the right word—an evening's hospitality in the mess of the medical officers of a German SS division, wondering why they had not noticed his dark complexion and non-Aryan nose. These medical men were scornful of the operations for abdominal and head wounds carried out by the surgeons and of the expensive British blood transfusion service. These things might save lives, but the men who benefited were unlikely to be any good for further military service—so why bother?

## Historical Resistance

**I**N three books, Captain Peter Churchill has chronicled the adventures of the French Resistance and of those, himself among them, who passed into Occupied France to help its members.

For his fourth book, Captain Churchill has gone about the matter differently. "By Moonlight" (Robert Hale, 12s 6d) is an historical novel with a Resistance setting.

On one of his expeditions as an

Captain Paul was relieved, by a trick, of his patients and then lost no time in escaping. Soon, with companions, he was in the hands of the Dutch underground, being whisked from place to place on borrowed bicycles. There followed long weeks of hiding under or in barns.

He met some curious people in the underground, including a lady who dined her fugitive guests in great state, and whose regal displeasure he incurred on his first morning in her care by appearing at the breakfast table in pyjamas, carrying his wet clothing.

For two months he lived on a chicken farm, the owner of which, though well paid by the underground, was too avaricious

to allow his guests an egg with the meagre fare he provided.

The main problem for escapers in Holland was to break through to the Allied lines. One attempt, organised by the underground and by Allied agents, was to be made by 140 men who would creep through to the Rhine where boats would be waiting to ferry them across to the British side. The column ran into a German patrol and was dispersed, with casualties.

Captain Paul and another officer, with two Dutch guides, tried to get away by canoe, but the canoe in which the author was travelling sprang a leak. He and his Dutch companion spent a day on a mud island in the Waal, in sight of a German post, with the temperature below freezing, before going back to their starting point. A second try by canoe brought success.

## A little bit of home

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PENTONVILLE ROAD,  
LONDON, N.1.

This is the story Captain Churchill now tells, using real names and real incidents, but with a novelist's embroidery. His central character is a Royal Air Force pilot who crashes and joins the Maquis.

Escaping with some of the survivors after the battle, he is captured by the Germans. This gives the author an opportunity to introduce another set of real-life characters, the Secret Army of Faverges. The rescue they stage and its sequel are no less credible than the exploits recorded in those of Captain Churchill's books which grace the non-fiction shelves.

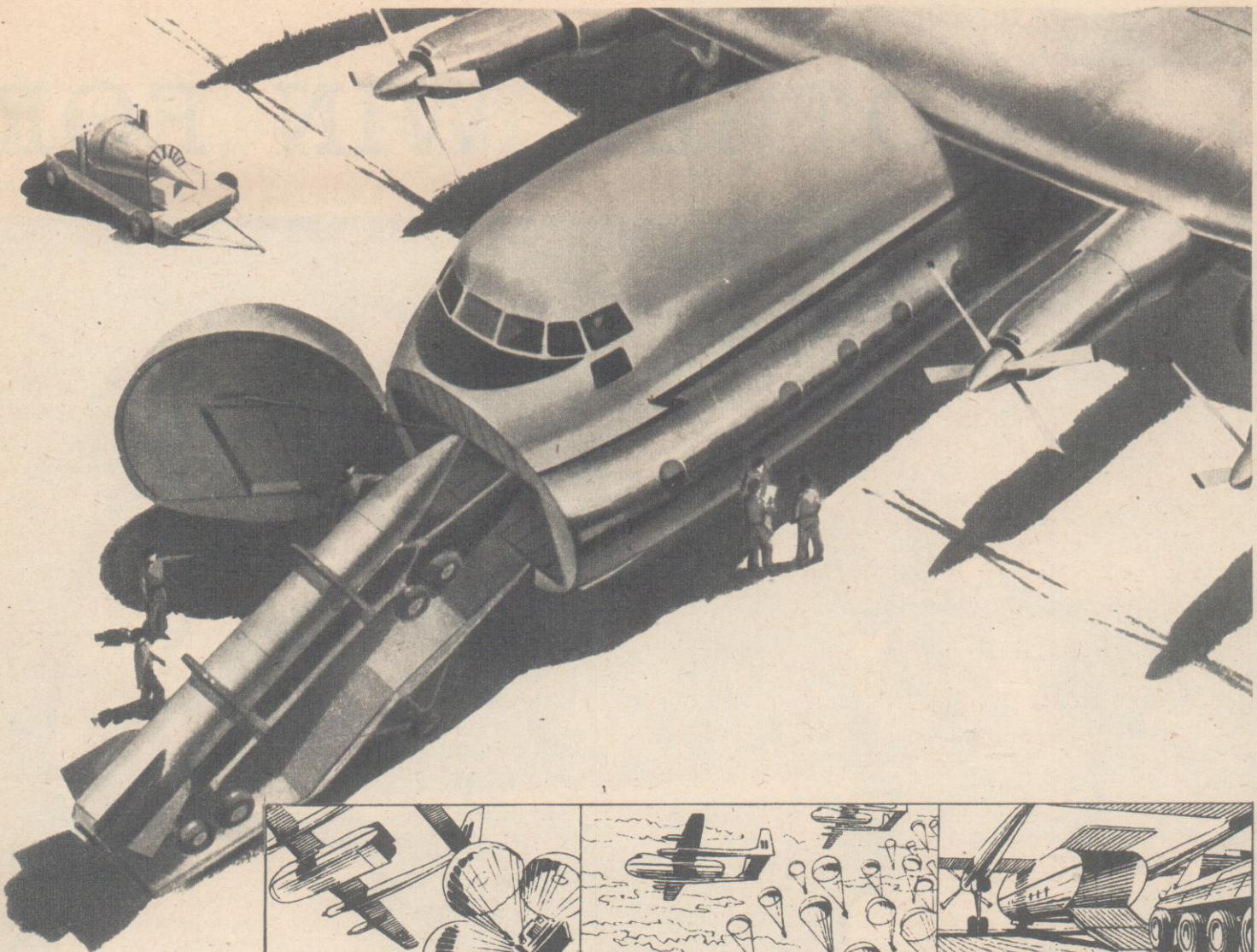
### Second-Line Soldier

**I**N World War Two more than half the British Army were second-line troops who rarely heard a shot fired in anger—though they were often the helpless targets for German bombers.

Their job was to guard "vulnerable points" and generally to relieve the front-line soldier of every duty that might interfere with his ability to fight.

"Fireside Fusilier" (Hollis and Carter, 15s) is the Earl of Wicklow's story of his experiences with second-line soldiers—in the ranks and as an officer, first with the Honourable Artillery Company and then with the Royal Fusiliers. The author was in his late 30's when he joined up "knowing less about the Army than about Tibetan Lamaism." He spent his first weeks in uniform helping to guard the Bank of England and then, after being commissioned, in charge of troops guarding the London docks and armament factories. After a spell of training recruits he went to Tunisia and on to Italy with a Royal Fusiliers battalion which ran a transit camp.

The Earl of Wicklow's war was not exciting, but it was typical of that experienced by many thousands of British soldiers who contributed a worthy share to victory.



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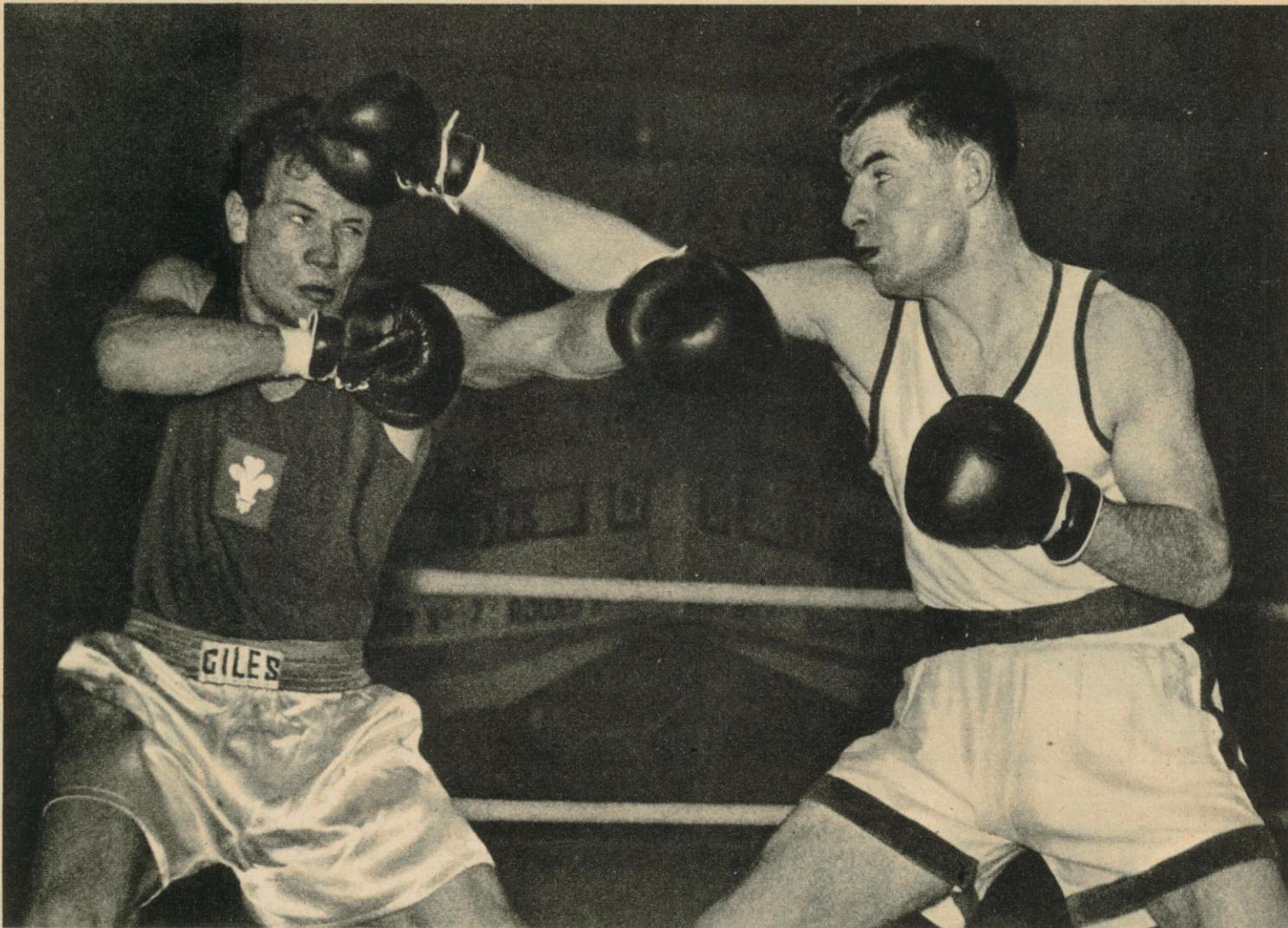
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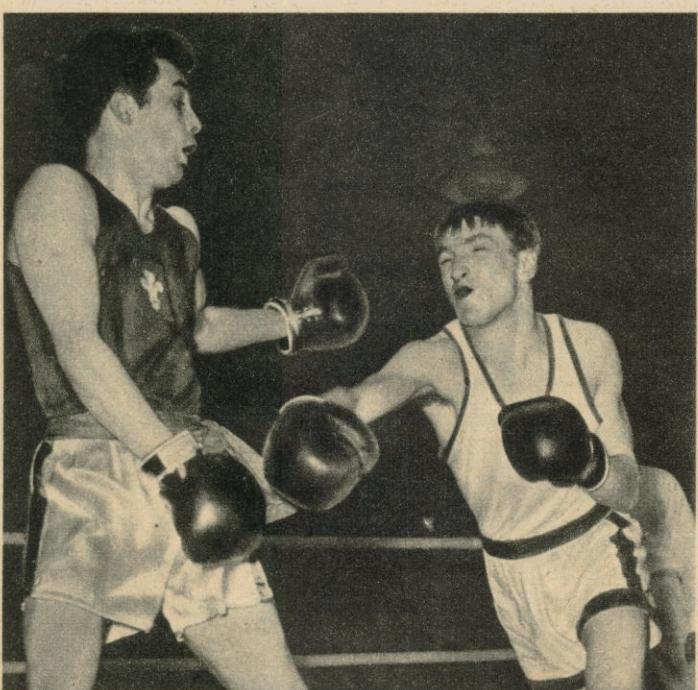
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## ANOTHER WIN FOR



Corporal Brian Nancurvis (right) crowned a brilliant boxing career in the Army with a win over the Welsh welter-weight champion Billy Phillips. He gave the Welshman a boxing lesson.



Left: Dvr Greaves misses with a wild right cross—but he was unlucky to lose the verdict.



Right: Rifleman D. Rees (left) won a points decision over P. Richards here seen ducking away from a left hook to the chin.

## THE ARMY

THE Army Boxing team put up a brilliant performance against Wales to retain their unbeaten record this season, winning a hard-fought match by seven bouts to three.

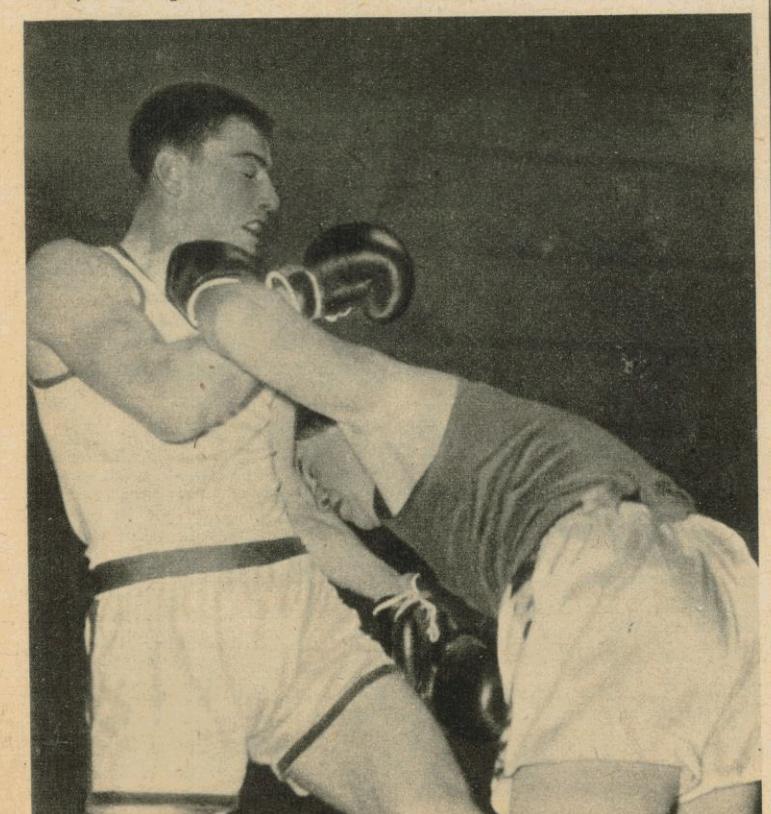
Outstanding among the Army's victories was that of Corporal Brian Nancurvis, of 4 Trade Training Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Amateur Boxing Association and Army welter-weight champion. Making his final appearance for the Army before demobilisation, he gave an outstanding exhibition of clever boxing to outpoint Billy Phillips, of Ebbw Vale, the Welsh welter-weight title holder.

Nancurvis, who is to turn professional, has represented England on many occasions while a soldier and fought in the last Empire Games. Now, he has decided to box for his native Wales and made his first appearance in the Welsh colours against Holland soon after leaving the Army.

After six bouts, the Army and Wales were level with three wins each. Rifleman D. Rees, of the 1st Greenjackets, won his fight against P. Richards on points but Driver D. Weller, of 15 Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps, the Imperial Services bantam-weight champion, was surprisingly defeated by D. Corp. Driver M. Greaves, Royal Army Service Corps, was unlucky not to gain the decision over H. Winstone, the British Empire feather-weight gold medallist, and there

The Army went on to take the last four fights. After Corporal Nancurvis had won his bout Private A. Matthews, of the King's Regiment, stopped C. Billingham in the second round of their light-middleweight contest and Driver D. Elderfield, Royal Army Service Corps, the Army middle-weight champion, outpointed J. Furnham. In the final contest of the evening Driver R. Broad, Royal Army Service Corps, easily beat A. Howard, a Cardiff policeman, the fight being stopped in the second round.

All tied up in the last bout of the evening: Driver R. Broad (left) and A. Howard. Broad, a hard puncher, won easily. The fight was stopped in round two.



The Army's new inter-Services ski champion: Capt. J. Oakes, of the Irish Guards and adjutant at Sandhurst. He was first in every event. Photograph: George Konig

## CHAMPIONS ON SKIS

THE Army swept the board at this year's 28th British Services Ski championships at Klosters, winning both the team and individual races.

The event was a particular triumph for Captain J. Oakes, of the Irish Guards, who won the individual slalom event, with Captain N. Gardner, Royal Army Medical Corps, second and Lieutenant D. Carey, of the Royal Horse Guards, third. These three, with Lieutenant I. MacLeod, of the Cameron Highlanders, won the slalom team event. Captain Oakes also won the individual downhill to become inter-Services champion, and led the way to victory in the team event.

In the Army ski championships which were held later at Bad Gastein, in Austria, Captain Gardner became the new Army ski champion, with Lieutenant Carey runner-up and Lieutenant MacLeod third.

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# LETTERS

## ARE YOU AS TOUGH?

Are today's soldiers as tough as they were 40 years ago?

Looking through some newspaper cuttings which belonged to my late father I came across one that recorded the feat of a platoon of the London Rifle Brigade which marched in April, 1914 from London to Brighton in 14 hours 23 minutes. To cover 52½ miles in such a short time was quite a performance on the part of two officers and 58 men, not one of whom dropped out.

I wonder how many platoons of modern soldiers could equal this feat? —WOI F. D. Belcher, BEM, Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot.

★ One of the marchers was Lance-Sergeant D. W. Belcher, father of our correspondent, who was the first Territorial Army ranker to win the Victoria Cross in World War One.

Recently, Warrant Officer Belcher presented his father's Victoria Cross to the Rifle Brigade museum.

## SOUNDING RETREAT

In using the term "sounded the Retreat" (SOLDIER to Soldier, February) you are guilty of a solecism which is becoming more and more common. Surely it should be "sounded Retreat" without the "the" in the middle? —Brigadier A. H. Peskett (rtd.), Ullacombe, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot.

★ "Sounded the Retreat" is correct. "Sounded Retreat" is an acceptable abbreviation which has passed into common usage.

● **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.

## PRIVATE ARMIES

The Back Road Army of Writtle (SOLDIER, February) is not the only private army in Britain.

I command one which consists of only four "men" and is called "A Section." I am a corporal, my brother is a lance-corporal and there are two privates.

The headquarters building is my shed. We do military drill, taught by my brother-in-law who is a real sergeant-major. We are fitted out with Army equipment and we hold exercises against other boys. To improve our shooting we fire an airgun at set targets. —Master Anthony Dawson, 264 Billing Road East, Northampton.

I too have a private army of from six to 12 boys which has been in existence for nearly three years.

I am a captain and have four NCOs

but I am not so lucky as Anthony Rowland as I live in a town. Although I have a big garden and am not far away from some hills I cannot manage as many exercises as I would like in the winter months. —Alan Blamire (aged 12), 52 Viewforth Terrace, Edinburgh 10.

I have just turned 15 and am very keen to join the Women's Royal Army Corps when I become eligible.

I recently went to a recruiting office for an interview and was told that there is no Cadet Force for girls.

On reading your account of the "Back Road Army" I am wondering whether I might be able to start a private army for girls. —Pamela Coomer, 1 Home Close, Drew Street, Brixham, South Devon.

## RE-UNION

I did my National Service with the Royal Army Pay Corps and was demobbed last January. Since then I have kept in touch with many of those with whom I served.

Last year 25 of us attended a reunion and we are meeting in London for another this month. We are all former National Servicemen who served in the ranks at Aldershot District Pay Office, and are now living at places as far apart as Southampton, Gloucester, Cheadle, Manchester, Walsall, Tunbridge Wells and Brighton. I think it is quite remarkable for so many ex-National Servicemen to get together in this fashion, particularly as our unit was not large in numbers. —Peter W. Burrowes, 3 Langton Avenue, Whetstone, London, N.20.

★ **SOLDIER** knows of no similar reunion by post-war conscripts.

For 14s. a head these former pay clerks do themselves proud. They assemble at the Union Jack Club, have tea there before going to a London theatre show and return to the club for an evening meal. Mr. Burrowes acts as honorary organiser just for the pleasure of meeting his Army pals once a year.

## SALUTING

In his letter (SOLDIER, February) concerning the exchange of compliments between officer and man, Captain Ashley makes no concessions to the more near-sighted members of the Forces.

To distinguish the badges of rank

## New Hat for the WRAC

Officers of the Womens Royal Army Corps are to have a new headdress—a bottle-green beret with an embroidered cap badge which is for wear with battledress.

It will eventually replace the khaki Service Dress cap and will also be worn by Territorial Army officers.

Wearing the new beret in the picture below is Captain Hazel Powell, WRAC.



worn by officers of the Parachute Regiment is a difficulty experienced by many soldiers serving in other arms. Indeed, a great deal would depend upon the angle of approach and the lighting conditions. I understand that in the past requests have been made to Airborne Forces that their officers wear something by which they may be readily identified by other regiments and corps.

While I agree that the standard of saluting within the Parachute Regiment is high, surely this is because the officers are familiar to those in the ranks. This is possible within such an integrated formation but not so in one which is less compact. —D. Williams, 22 Dol Dderw, Llandudno Junction, Caernarvon.

## DEFINITION

I am a warrant officer, class one, serving on a 22-year engagement which

## HIGHER PENSIONS AND GRANTS

There is good news this month for long-service Regular other ranks (men and women).

From 1 April their pensions are to be increased and they will receive larger terminal grants. Family pensions will also be bigger.

In future lump sum terminal grants will be three times the annual pension and pensions will normally vary with the rank held on discharge and length of service (until now they have also varied with length of service in each rank).

Here are details of the new Pensions and Terminal Grants (old rates in brackets):

Rank	WEEKLY PENSION			TERMINAL GRANTS		
	22 yrs	27 yrs	37 yrs	22 yrs	27 yrs	37 yrs
Pte	44s (33s)	64s (58s)	104s (98s)	£343 (125)	£499 (185)	£811 (305)
Cpl	55s (40s 4d)	80s (73s 4d)	130s (111s 2d)	£429 (175)	£624 (250)	£1014 (400)
Sgt	71s 6d (47s 8d)	104s (83s 4d)	169s (122s 2d)	£558 (225)	£811 (325)	£1318 (525)
S/Sgt	80s 8d (55s 7d)	117s 4d (96s 2d)	190s 8d (141s 2d)	£629 (275)	£915 (395)	£1478 (635)
WOII	88s (61s 2d)	128s (101s 5d)	208s (144s 9d)	£686 (300)	£998 (440)	£1622 (720)
WOI	93s 6d (69s 3d)	136s (108s 5d)	221s (152s 8d)	£729 (330)	£1061 (490)	£1724 (810)

The new rates will be paid to those serving on or after 4 November, 1958. The rates for members of the Women's Service are 85 per cent of the men's rates.

In future widows pensions will be one-third of their husband's retired pay and the qualifying period of service for all other ranks will be reduced to 22 years.

Children's pensions will be one-third of the widows pensions for each child, or two-thirds if they are motherless.

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terminates in 1961. If I extend my engagement and subsequently wish to claim my discharge by giving three months' notice will paragraph 379 of Queen's Regulations apply?—“RSM”

★ Paragraph 379 states: “A soldier allowed to continue in the Service beyond 22 years may claim his discharge at the expiration of three months from the date on which he gives his Commanding Officer notice of his wish to be discharged.”

The term “a soldier” applies to everyone below commissioned rank.

#### LYING DOWN

It would be interesting to know when British Regular troops first started lying down to avoid small arms fire. The history of Highland Regiments and Clans gives a good example at Fontenoy in 1745.

The Black Watch, then 43rd Foot, was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Robert Munro of Fowlis, who considered that in this, their first set-piece European battle as a complete regiment, the men should use the normal Highlanders' tactics for attacking Infantry in line and permission to do so was given by the Duke of Cumberland.

Accordingly, the Regiment was instructed to advance in line without firing, to “clap to the ground” on receiving the enemy's fire, then rush forward and after giving a volley at close range, fall with broadsword and dirk on the enemy. These tactics were repeated several times with good results.

Sir Robert himself, remained upright with his colour party, explaining that although he could get down quickly enough he could not get up again. He was untouched.

It is pleasant to discover that even in the good old days some British officers were not such fools as the non-military public likes them to be.—Lieutenant-Colonel G. N. Ross (rtd.), Gordon Highlanders, Mount Pleasant House, near Kintbury, Berkshire.

#### OLD FIREARMS

Your article (“Muskets, Ball and Black Powder,” August, 1958) brought back many old memories for me.

In 1905 I was one of 500 of the 2nd Royal Sussex sent to Crete from Malta. Part of the time we were stationed at a village about 20 miles from Kandia. While there, our captain was the magistrate and one of his duties was to issue gun licences to the local people. They carried their licences in a piece of bamboo.

All the guns we saw, except two, were flintlock shot-guns, some single, others double-barrelled. Many of them were collectors' items. One had a barrel about seven feet long and the owner carried a metal rod with a fork on top to rest it when firing. It was so worn that a piece of tin was wired on the barrel—but it worked!

The two that were not flint-locks were a double-barrelled, breech-loading shotgun with pin-fire cartridges. The other was an old Tower musket with a percussion cap.

I believe that flint knappers are still employed at Brandon in Norfolk, making flints for American gun clubs. When I was a nipper I remember my grandfather taking me to see these flint knappers at work and I was given a flint and steel which I used throughout World War One to light my cigarettes and pipe. It cost 7d.—G. R. Skilton, 167 Pearson Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVER



#### Top Of The Class

The soldiers lined up in this picture have good reason to be proud.

They are two officers and eight warrant officers of No. 5 Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who hold the record, achieved in 1956, for obtaining the highest marks at a United States Army guided missile school course, and Lieutenant-Colonel R. D. Potter (extreme right) who then commanded the battalion.

The REME team, the first NATO class to receive instruction at the US Army Ordnance Missile School in Alabama, gained an average of 98 per cent in all subjects, considerably higher than any other class has since attained. To commemorate the feat Brigadier-General J. V. Crawford, United States Military Attaché in London, recently presented the battalion with a plaque.

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said Mr. Swiveller



“I had a sip of it once,”  
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Charles Dickens:  
*The Old Curiosity Shop*

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## more letters

### LONGEST COMMAND

Who holds the record for the longest period in command of a regiment of the British Army? By command I mean majors or lieutenant-colonels who commanded regiments or battalions on active service.

It would be very hard to equal the record of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Burne, 36th Foot (later 2nd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment), who commanded his regiment from 1793 until 1810. With the exception of one short spell of sick leave, he was constantly with his regiment and served in India, Minorca, Hanover, South America, Spain and Portugal.

His last duty in command was the expedition to the Scheldt and the siege and capture of Flushing in 1809. The following year he received a rather belated promotion to Brigadier.—D. Heather, 11 Sandringham Avenue, Metton Road, Leicester.

### MEDICAL OFFICERS

The supplement to the Indian Army List of January, 1939 includes a list of retired Indian Army medical officers, both British and Indian, and shows their rank on retirement. More than a score of them retired before 1898 (the year the Royal Army Medical Corps was formed). The Indian Army must have been far in advance of the British Army in regard to medical officers, as in many other things.—Major J. H. S. Locke (rttd.), Grosvenor Gardens, N.10.★ Although the Royal Army Medical Corps was not formed until 1898, the Army had surgeons and physicians for many years before that. In Elizabethan times each company in the field had one surgeon and some medical equipment and in the Civil War surgeons were allotted to each regiment, a system which continued until 1873. In 1744 there was a Physician-General to the Forces and in 1790 a Surgeon-General and an Inspector General of Hospitals were appointed.

In June, 1855 a Medical Staff Corps, which was quasi-military, was created. This was replaced by the Army Hospital Corps and an Army Medical School was set up in 1860.

### MYSTERIOUS OFFICER...

In the book "Miss Finnegan's Fault," by Constantine FitzGibbon, there is a story concerning Viscount FitzGibbon who was posted missing, believed killed while serving with the 8th Hussars in the Charge of the Light Brigade.

A quarter of a century later, during the second Afghan war (so the story goes) the 8th Hussars were stationed

near the North-west frontier when a bowed, tattered figure was brought by the sergeant of the guard to the officers' mess one evening. He spoke a halting, rusty English. No officer knew him but he was invited to dine. He did not say who he was and no one asked his name. He was plainly at home and knew the various regimental customs. After dinner he thanked his hosts and disappeared into the night.

An examination of regimental records showed that the only ex-officer of the 8th Hussars who would be the stranger's age and whose whereabouts could not be accounted for was Viscount FitzGibbon.

Can any reader throw light on this curious story?—Sapper J. N. Shaw, Nicosia, Cyprus.

### ... AND SERGEANT

Can SOLDIER help me to trace a sergeant in the Royal Welch Fusiliers whom I rescued during the Dunkirk evacuation in 1941?

I was serving with a Field Company of Royal Engineers in Dunkirk when the order was given after concentrated bombing and shelling for us to fend for ourselves. I took refuge in a cellar and came across this sergeant whose leg had been blown off. I did what I could for him and then the building went up in flames. I ran to a slit trench some 400 yards away and then remembered the helpless sergeant so I went back for him and under fire carried him to the trench.

The sergeant was later evacuated to England but I never found out his name. If he reads this perhaps he would write to me.—G. Bott, 56 Hassam Avenue, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

### ROYAL PORTRAITS

Our British Legion Club was presented with photographs of the Queen and Prince Phillip which were hung with the portrait of Prince Phillip on the Queen's left. Some of our members say this is wrong. Could we have a ruling?—"Ubique."

★ Although there is no official regulation the normal procedure is to hang the portrait of Prince Phillip on the Queen's right.

### HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 28)

The drawings differ in the following respects: 1. Lower wing-tip of plane. 2. Colour of shorts of striped player in front of stand. 3. Length of locomotive above the tea bar. 4. Number on kit-bag. 5. Thickness of pack on ground. 6. Lower line of brick on wall bottom left. 7. Tie of wanted man. 8. Soldier's right hip pocket. 9. Height of crossbar. 10. Position of football poster.

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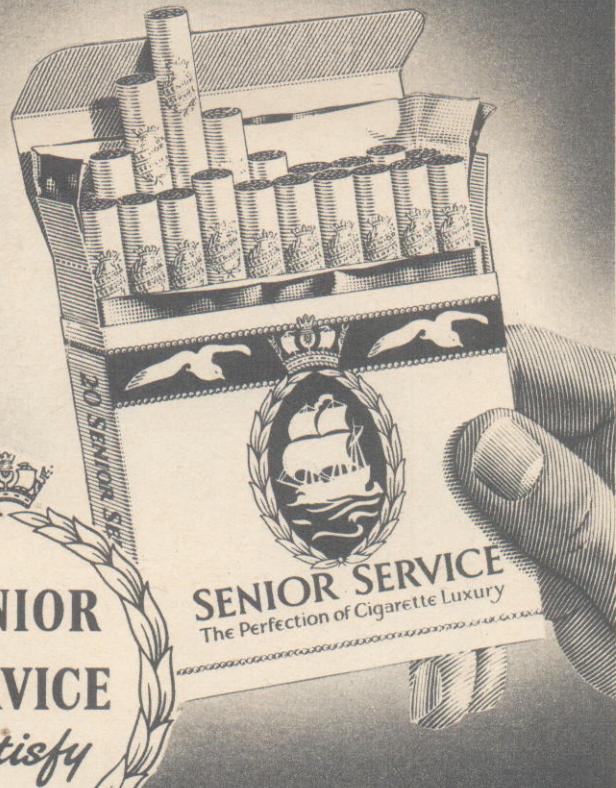
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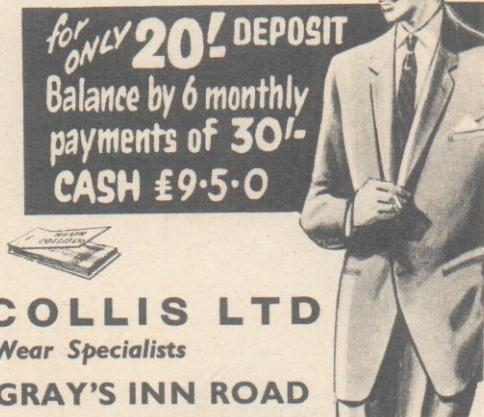
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