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SOLDIER

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"What makes you think your billet's damp?"

Next month's SOLDIER will include features on an escape and evasion exercise of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, the amphibious load carrier *Stalwart* and the Army's new armoured engineer regiment. This issue will also mark SOLDIER's twentieth anniversary.

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ALONG THIS UNBROKEN BARRIER OF international sorrow, British soldiers stand helpless in the free West and stare across the minefields into the forbidding fringe of the Communist World



IRON CURTAIN PATROL

STANDING in squalls of icy drizzle on opposite sides of a barbed wire fence, two small groups of soldiers stare miserably into each other's binoculars. It is a hopeless, helpless scene of frustration. Between them is the Iron Curtain.

This is where East meets West, the grim rendezvous of two worlds scarred by tangled barbed wire, watchtowers, mines and a ploughed strip. The soldiers on this side are British; on the other, East German. Through their powerful binoculars they search each other's faces. Someone ventures a wave, but there is not a flicker of recognition on the other side.

It is dramatic; yet it is routine. The

British clamber back into their vehicles and rumble off along a well-worn track skirting the border; the East Germans resume scanning the wire.

A week later the same scene will be re-enacted at the same place. The soldiers may be different; perhaps the weather will be brighter. But no amount of sun can melt the cold hate of international politics along that border of sorrow.

It is difficult to believe that it is possible to build a barrier of the strength and length of the Iron Curtain, but it is an accepted fact to thousands of British soldiers in Germany and the horrified awe with which they first view it soon changes with familiarity.

The section of the Iron Curtain which borders Rhine Army's area in Germany is regularly patrolled by British soldiers under the auspices of the unique British Frontier Service.

Units take it in turn to man the weekly border patrols accompanied by an officer of the British Frontier Service. The task of the patrol is to scan the border and make a note of anything unusual or any changes, no matter how trivial.

To get these dramatic pictures and this report, a **SOLDIER** team accompanied a patrol of The Queen's Own Hussars, stationed in Detmold, with British Frontier Service officer Freddie Hope, a former military police sergeant.

Above: An East German officer at the wire tries to read the numbers of the patrol vehicles.

IRON CURTAIN PATROL

continued



Border patrols are popular with the soldiers in Germany. They offer an exciting and unusual break from normal duties in an area where, naturally enough, the British soldier could not be more popular.

First halt on the patrol was a point where the road literally disappeared into the Iron Curtain. It abruptly came to an end at a warning sign and barrier, although its former path, now disused and overgrown, could be seen on the other side of the wire.

It appeared to be completely deserted on

the other side, until Mr Hope pointed out the East German observation point—there they were, two pink faces staring in our direction, almost completely hidden by foliage at the edge of a wood.

Further along the border, two East German guards (commonly referred to as "goons" by the British) were searching the ten-metre ploughed strip for telltale footprints that would indicate an escape attempt.

Contrary to expectation, the actual fences

At a village just inside East Germany (above) the patrol stops and stares through the Iron Curtain and soldiers on the other side (below) stare back.

Right: Guns slung over one shoulder, two border guards search the ploughed strip for the footprints of escapees.





Story by RUSSELL MILLER

Pictures by FRANK TOMPSETT

The sharp eyes of frontier officer Freddie Hope (left) did not miss the rare sight of an Army lorry parked close to the fence on the other side.



are usually set back a short distance from the border itself and it is physically possible, if very unwise, to stroll into the fringe of the East.

The next halt was at a tarmac road which has been the subject of dispute for many years. The trouble was finally settled—in the best tradition of children's games—by halving the road and painting a dotted white line down the centre. The patrol trooped along this line, wondering perhaps at the sanity of international squabbles that required the solemn painting on a road of

a dotted line. All along the route the patrol met the armed German customs police who patrol the border day and night on bicycles or on foot with Alsatian dogs. These are the men who first report incidents and pick up refugees.

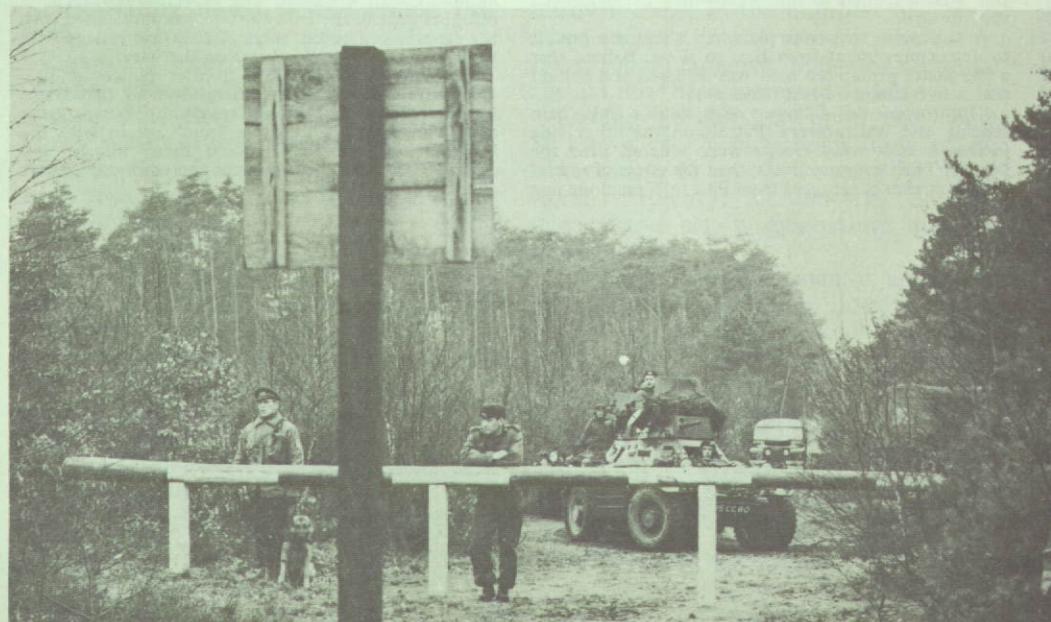
There is still a steady trickle across the border, despite the hazards, and about one fifth of the refugees are defectors from the East German Army.

Just a couple of days before the Hussars' patrol, five young men made a break for freedom by swimming the Elbe. One of

them drowned, but the other four made it.

The previous night a 16-year-old girl, with incredible courage, had crossed the border alone in the dark. But tragically it was likely that she would have to be returned under an existing agreement on both sides to return juveniles who cross.

Further along the border, two "goons" raced up to the wire and tried to note the numbers of the patrol vehicles through their binoculars. One of them plugged into a telephone point at the fence to report what was happening to his headquarters.



Above: Grim sign—facing west—warns of mines between the fences. Left: SOLDIER cameraman Frank Tompsett stepped into East Germany to take this picture—the warning board marks the actual border.



Ferrets skirt the ten-metre ploughed strip (above) which is the Iron Curtain. Behind that is the double fence with mines sown between. Below: With German customs police the patrol walks along a dotted white line on the road—this side is the free world. The fences are set back out of the picture.



HISTORY OF THE HEARTBREAK BORDER

The sad story of the Iron Curtain in Germany begins at the end of World War Two with an agreement to use the old Prussian frontier as a border between East and West. It was a line marked only by stones or waterways.

In 1945 the border was revised after it was found that the old frontier interfered very much with local affairs. A new line was agreed and the Russians moved up to that line. It was marked by posts on the Russian side and by warning boards in the West. But the line began bending—often for no more sinister reason than a farmer moving a marker post to bring a little more land on to his side. But history was to decree that the line was not to remain so fluid.

At 10 am on 26 May 1952 the Iron Curtain dropped. Every local agreement allowing movement across the border was rescinded and people working on the other side were expelled to the West—they never crossed the line again.

A ten-metre strip was ploughed along the border to detect movement from East to West. Behind that a 500-metre prohibited zone was declared and behind that a five-kilometre restricted zone.

“Improvements” followed with double link chain fencing and watchtowers. Patrols on the other side increased and many troops were billeted near the border. The “improvements” had the effect of reducing the stream of refugees from East to West along just

Irrepressible as ever, some troopers stood on their *Ferrets* beckoning the “goons” invitingly to come over to our side. “Come on, you can make it,” shouted one soldier encouragingly. “Only two lots of barbed wire and a minefield to cross!”

Mines are sown heavily between the double fences along lengthy sections of the Iron Curtain. They are anti-personnel mines operated by trip wires or “cigar box” foot mines. Hundreds are detonated every year by animals or game—innocent victims of power politics.

Inhabitants of villages just inside East Germany are all carefully-vetted, diehard Communists; any doubters were shipped off to the interior years ago. Tragically some villages are literally split in half by the Iron Curtain.

At one village, viewed through barbed wire entanglements and a minefield, the patrol watched farmers and their wives moving about their work. When the East German soldiers turned their back for a moment, a farmer gave a little surreptitious wave behind his back at the British, a sign that would have been funny had it not been so sickeningly tragic.

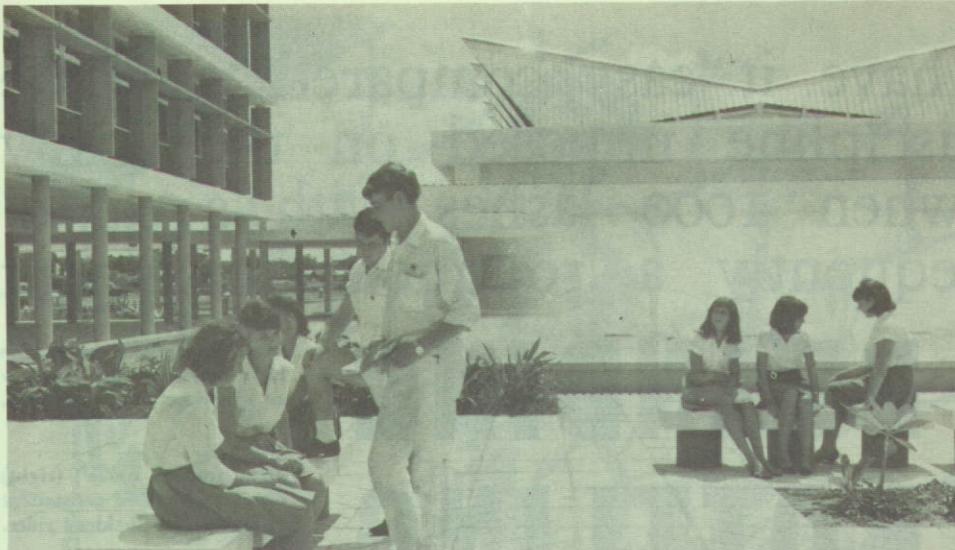
And so the patrol went on. At dusk it ended for the day and the men returned to a nearby inn where a hot dinner was waiting—part of the perks of this duty is accommodation in civilian inns.

A few glasses of beer with the locals brightened everyone up and fulfilled one of the aims of the patrol—to “show the flag.” And it is a flag which is very, very much appreciated by people living within a stone’s throw of the Iron Curtain.

one sector from 25,000 a month to a mere 15. The refugees turned towards Berlin, where 3000 a day crossed into the West until 1961 when the infamous Wall was built. The expected movement of refugees back to the Iron Curtain was anticipated with the erection of double fences 20 to 30 yards deep with heavily-sown minefields between the wire.

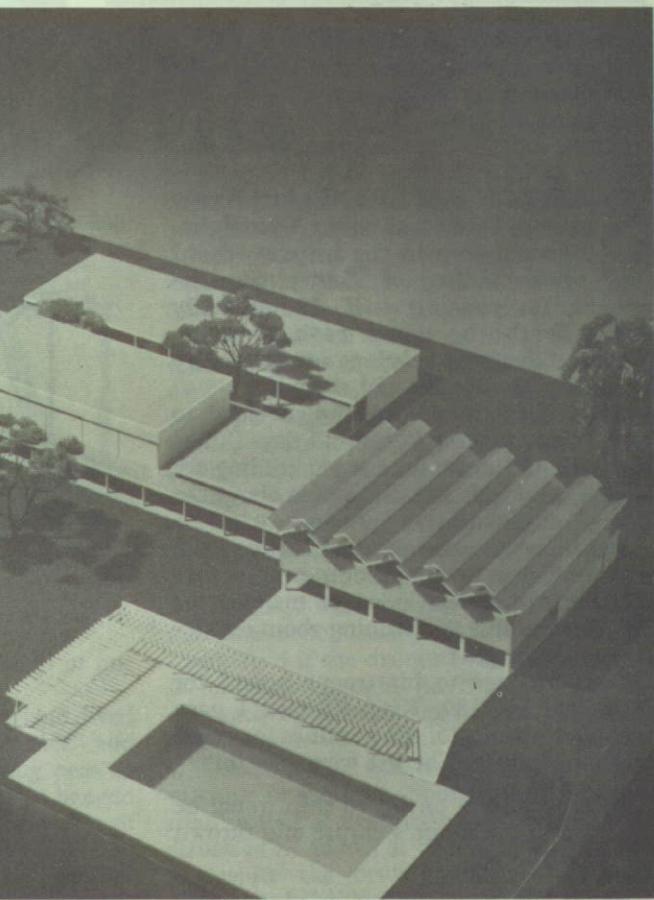
In September 1961 the frontier police in East Germany suddenly found themselves in the Army, forming the new Frontier Command. These are the men who grimly trudge the Iron Curtain with the heartbreaking task of shooting men, women and children who attempt to run the incredibly dangerous gauntlet to freedom.





Boys and girls at the Army's biggest-ever school relax in the main courtyard during a break from lessons. Below: A scale model of the new school.

ST JOHN'S IS THE BIGGEST



AIR-CONDITIONING is a mixed blessing for 1000 pupils now settling down to their first full term at a brand new Army school in Singapore. It certainly keeps the classrooms pleasantly cool—but it also means that they put in a full day's study while other schools in the area close in the afternoons because of the high temperature and humidity.

St John's, Singapore, is the biggest Army school in the world and the first of its type to be built in the Far East. It caters for children of British and Commonwealth Servicemen throughout Malaysia.

Selection by the 11-plus tests to decide whether a child moves to a secondary modern, technical or grammar school has been abandoned in the Far East and the opening of St John's has been a major step towards the smooth introduction of a completely comprehensive educational system.

The new school teaches all children

between the ages of 14 and 19. The entry age was originally 13 but because of the steady increase in the numbers of Service schoolchildren in the area—at the rate of about 100 a year since 1956—the minimum age has now been increased to 14.

Costing £650,000 to build and equip, St John's has 26 classrooms, nine science laboratories, 11 practical rooms for metal-work, carpentry, needlework, domestic science and art, a gymnasium and two assembly halls.

In temperatures constantly around 90 degrees Fahrenheit, the interior of the new school is constantly cool. A fountain and pond dominate the design of the main courtyard and form part of the cooling system of the air-conditioning plant.

Outdoor facilities include a swimming pool with underwater lighting for night bathing, six tennis courts and recreation grounds with six football pitches and a pavilion.

The 1000 children at the school—more than half of them girls—are taught by a staff of nearly 70 teachers.

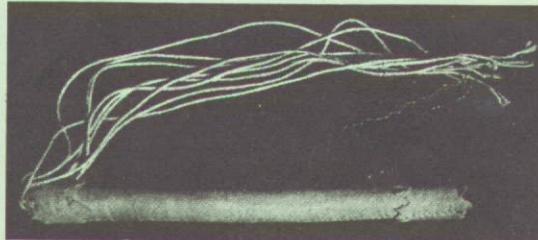
Mid-day meals are provided and two boarding houses—one for boys and one for girls—each accommodate 120 children of Servicemen stationed in the far-flung areas of Malaysia.

The switch to comprehensive education in the area has meant establishing another new school for children from 11 to 13. This has been set up in the old grammar school and now facilities for all secondary education—formerly split into three streams—are housed in the two comprehensive schools.

But 11-year-old pupils at the junior schools still sit the 11-plus tests in case the father's next posting to Britain takes them to an education area which has not fully adopted the comprehensive system.

From a report by Army Public Relations, Far East Land Forces.

Soldiers of today have it easy compared with the brutal codes of discipline imposed on the Army not so long ago when 1000 lashes with a cat o' nine tails was frequently a routine punishment



BRANDING BOTTLING AND BEATING

SHEPTON MALLET, the last Army prison, is to close soon. A straightforward step in the improvement and streamlining of Army punishments, its passing will undoubtedly bring forth the usual rash of complaints from old soldiers nostalgically recalling the "good old days."

SOLDIER, in anticipation, decided to take a look at these "good old days." The result should make interesting reading for anyone who feels like a grumble about the Army's disciplinary code today.

Punishments once awarded for the most trivial offences were sometimes so savage that the victim was killed or maimed for life. Anyone still complaining about restriction of privileges?

In a message to his troops bound for Jerusalem in 1189, King Richard I gave them fair warning of the penalties for crime and misconduct. The list went like this:

- A murderer on board ship would be tied to his victim's corpse and thrown into the sea.
- On land he would be buried alive with the body.
- To draw a knife meant the loss of a hand.
- A thief was to be "shorn like a champion, boiling pitch poured over his head and a down of feathers shaken over it"—he was then dumped at the first landfall.

Even gambling was frowned on in the 14th century and any poor devil who had a flutter out of turn was sentenced to be "whipped naked through the Army for three days."

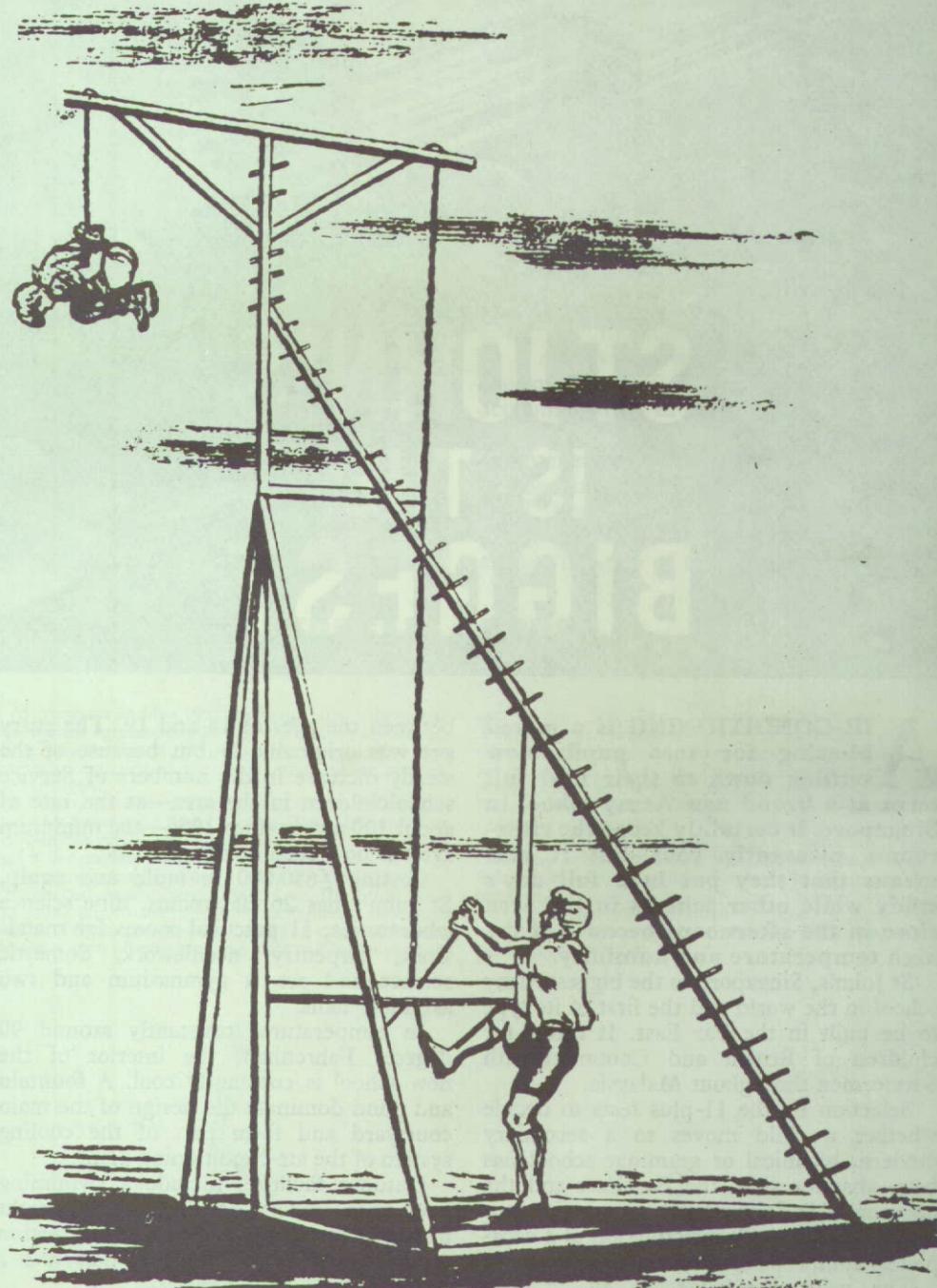
Careless blaspheming may be a fault of the modern soldier—but it was a lot less common in feudal armies when the standard punishment was a red-hot iron bored through the offender's tongue.

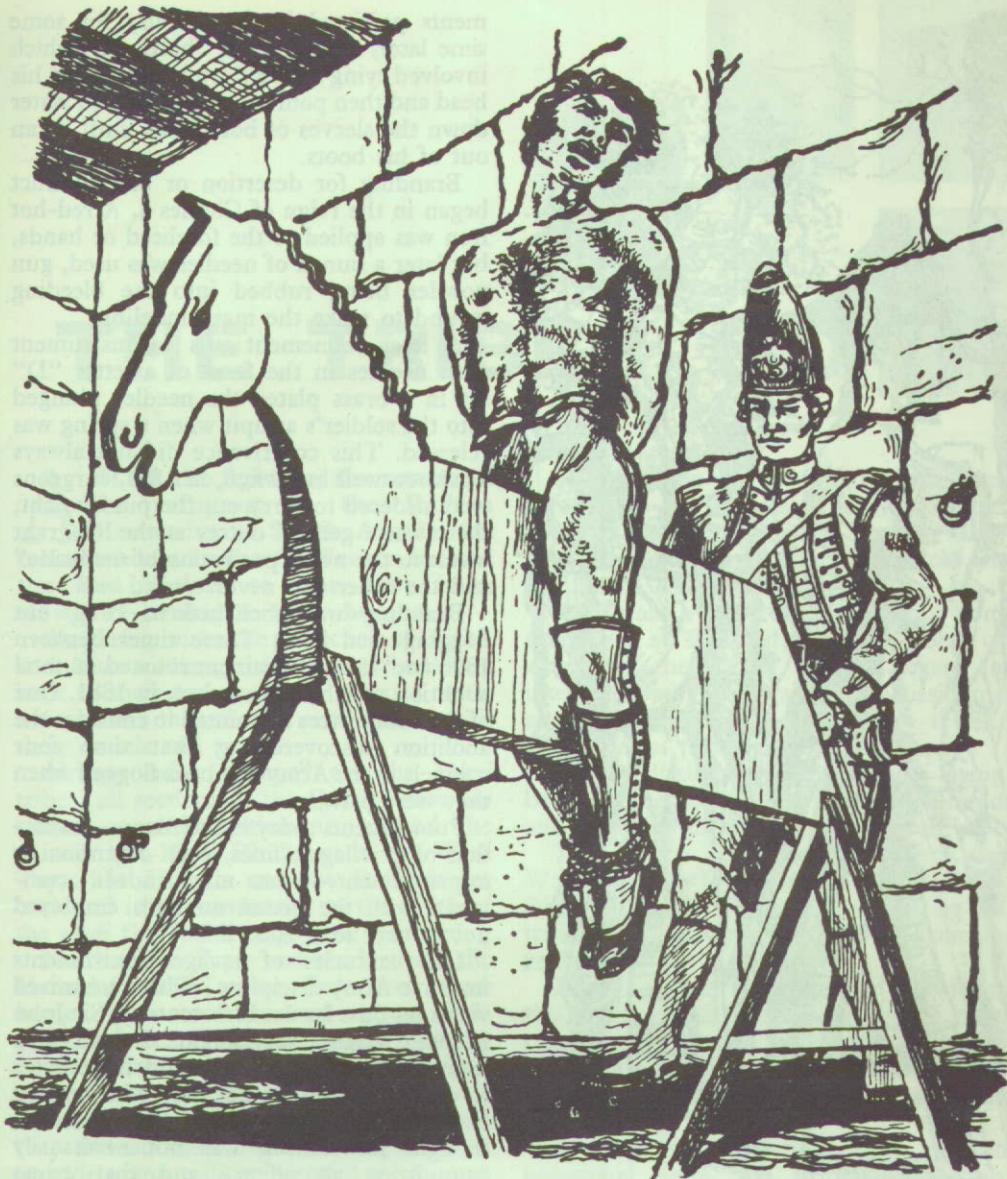
In the 17th century, Army punishments, according to a book published in 1683, included shooting, beheading, imprisonment in irons, bread-and-water diet and

Left: The dreaded cat o' nine tails sometimes had as many as nine knots on each lash.

The "wooden horse" (right) sometimes caused permanent injury to its luckless rider.

Below: The grim rigmarole of the strappado. Victims were hoisted into the air and then dropped to within inches of the ground—usually dislocating both their arms.





hanging by the thumbs with the toes just touching the ground.

The strappado, a standard punishment for being drunk on guard duty, was nothing less than torture. The victim's hands were tied behind his back, a rope was tied to them and he was suddenly hoisted to a great height, the weight of his body dislocating his arms. Then the rope would be released so that the poor offender plunged down and jerked to a halt inches from the ground. After this ordeal the soldier was often treated by the surgeon, an experience which usually proved as painful as the punishment.

Another punishment common to most regiments was the "wooden horse," made of planks nailed together to form a sharp ridge about nine feet long and supported on four legs. The prisoner, sometimes naked and often with muskets or weights attached to his legs, was set astride this.

Embellishments of a carved head and tail were occasionally added, giving the whole thing the appearance of a giant toy. But it was far from entertaining to ride it and the punishment often caused permanent injury.

In the same era, tying a man by his neck and heels (two firelocks, one behind his neck and one at his heels were strapped together forcing the offender's chin between his knees) was a usual sentence for offences like being a few minutes late on parade. Another was picketing—suspending a man

by one or both wrists with the ball of one foot resting on a spiked cone.

In 1748 the Duke of Cumberland lived up to his nickname of "The Butcher" and ordered all soldiers found stealing peas or beans in the fields of Flanders to be hanged without trial. By this standard, a soldier of the 73rd Regiment of Foot probably thought himself lucky when he received "only" 150 lashes for stealing two carrots.

For centuries, savage flogging was a standard Army punishment for almost every offence and it was always the subject of much controversy.

A trooper of The Royal Scots Greys wrote a blood-chilling account of being

whipped. The Regiment was formed four deep round the walls of the riding school and a farrier and trumpeter stood in the middle each with a cat o' nine tails in his hand. The handles were two feet long and the nine tails were the same length, three times the thickness of whipcord and with six hard knots on each tail.

The regimental surgeon and his orderlies were present and nearby was a pail of water with towels in it for applying to the man's back and a basin of water for him to drink. After stripping to his trousers, the offender was tied to a ladder and fastened by the wrists and ankles. Behind him stood the regimental sergeant-major with a book and pencil to count each lash.

The farrier and trumpeter were ordered: "Do your duty." The victim described the experience: "I felt an astounding sensation between the shoulders under my neck which went to my toe nails in one direction and my finger nails in the other and stung me to the heart as if a knife had gone through my body . . . but I thought the former stroke was sweet and agreeable compared with the second one . . ."

After 50 lashes . . . "I felt as if I would burst in the internal parts of my body; I was almost choked and black in the face." After 100 lashes (the sentence was 200) the commanding officer ordered: "Stop, take him down. He is a young soldier."

Two hundred lashes at that time was quite a small sentence—1000 was not unusual. When Queen Victoria was a girl a book published for official use as a guide quoted sentences of 800, 1200 and 1500 lashes to be given for refusing an order on parade. At Fort Charles in Jamaica, a dismal fort surrounded on three sides by swamp, 300 discontented soldiers received a total of 54,000 lashes in only two years.

Floggings were usually administered by a drummer boy before the assembled regiment. And if the drummer boy did not lay it on hard enough, he himself was encouraged by a couple of strokes from the drum-major.

The cat o' nine tails had varying numbers of knots in each tail. Some had as many as nine so that at every lash the prisoner was struck in 81 places at once.

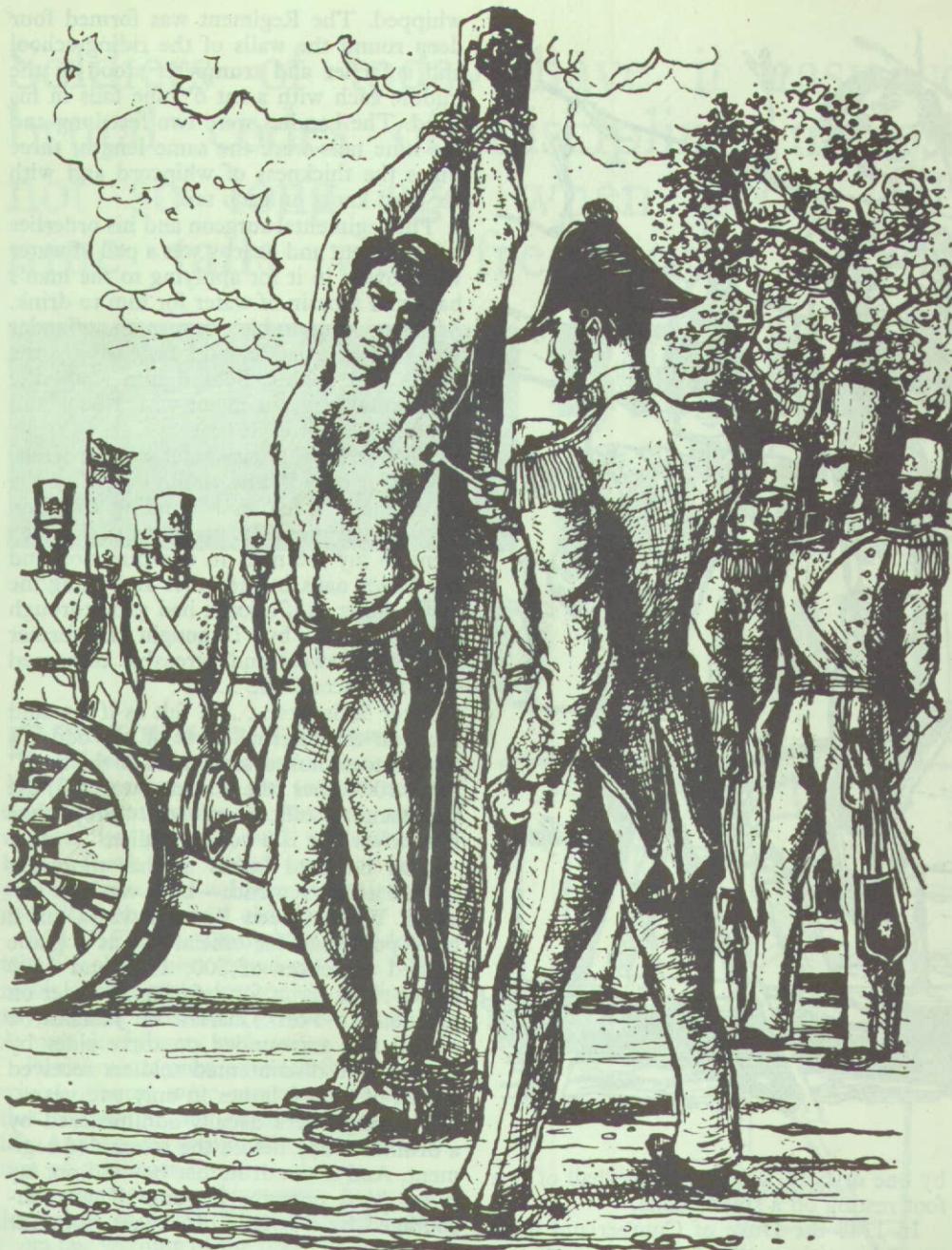
Despite the brutality of the custom, flogging was sometimes a doubtful punishment. In a booklet, "Cautions and Advices to Officers of the Army, 1761," an old officer wrote: "Some soldiers, once they have shown their backs, become hardened to shame and all the whipping in the world is insufficient to reclaim them. I have heard

It happened in FEBRUARY

Day		Year
3	Yalta Conference began	1945
4	Submarine warfare declared by Germany	1915
5	Sir Hiram Maxim, inventor, born	1840
10	Upper and Lower Canada united	1840
16	The Battle of the <i>Altmark</i>	1940
23	The Cato Street conspiracy	1820
24	The Battle of Pavia	1525
28	Ladysmith relieved	1900



Sir Hiram Maxim with the gun that bore his name.



Branding a deserter under the armpit with a letter "D" was not abolished until 1871.

of a soldier who used about once a week to be brought to the whipping post.

"He was so hardened that he once told a court martial: 'Gentlemen, I am so sorry to give you this frequent trouble . . . if you will please order me 150 lashes every Monday morning I will regularly come and receive them. This will be better for us all . . . it will save you the trouble of meeting so often.'"

Early in the 1800s there was a public outcry against flogging and the first steps were taken to ameliorate the punishment of soldiers, but many years were to pass before it was finally abolished.

Sir Charles Napier, commenting on flogging in 1837, wrote: "Men are frequently convulsed and screaming during the time they receive one lash to 300 lashes . . . then they bear the remainder without a groan." Although he was against flogging, the alternatives he suggested were also cruel, like transportation, the treadmill or blistering.

It was not until the beginning of the 19th century that measures were taken to prevent

soldiers being beaten by officers, a practice condemned in 1761 by the same officer who wrote about flogging.

"Never beat your soldiers," he advised. "To see, as I have done, a brave honest old soldier battered and banged at the caprice and whim of an arrogant officer, is shocking to humanity."

Running the gauntlet was not banned until about 1800 and many unusual punish-

ments persisted in the Cavalry for some time later, among them "bottling," which involved tying a man's arms high above his head and then pouring gallons of cold water down the sleeves of both arms until it ran out of his boots.

Branding for desertion or bad conduct began in the reign of Charles I. A red-hot iron was applied to the forehead or hands, but later a bunch of needles was used, gun powder being rubbed into the bleeding wound to make the mark indelible.

A later refinement was an instrument with needles in the form of a letter "D" set in a brass plate—the needles plunged into the soldier's armpit when a spring was released. This contrivance did not always work too well but when, in 1851, surgeons were ordered to carry out the punishment, there was a general outcry at the "flagrant insult to the noble profession of medicine" and the order was never carried out.

Branding was abolished in 1871, but flogging died hard. Three times between 1876 and 1879, Parliament resisted its total abolition which came, at last, in 1881. One of the committees appointed to consider the abolition discovered at that time four colonels in the Army had been flogged when they were privates.

Punishments today in the Army—restriction of privileges, fines, even detention or imprisonment—seem mild indeed compared with the brutal methods employed not so very long ago.

Did centuries of savage punishments improve Army discipline? There are mixed views on this. In the 18th century, Sir John Moore taught his Light Infantrymen military heresy—he persuaded his officers to credit his soldiers not only with honour but with intelligence; that the man who thought for himself was not necessarily committing an offence and that crime should be prevented and not merely punished.

It was the beginning of a new approach to Army discipline and Moore's revolutionary ideas gradually took hold. But changes came slowly.

In 1837 the Duke of Wellington flatly informed a Royal Commission on Military Punishments: "English soldiers have enlisted for drink. I have no idea of any great effect being produced on British soldiers by anything but the fear of immediate corporal punishment."

Perhaps the most naive evidence given to the commission was by one colonel who seriously told them that "ugly reports of Army flogging are discouraging recruits." Fortunately, today's recruiting officers do not have similar problems.



Cover Picture

This month's front cover picture was taken by Lance-Corporal K Nottley, Royal Army Service Corps, at Prinn Barracks, Tripoli, where Lance-Corporal Colleen Ribbons, Women's Royal Army Corps, then serving with the Tripolitania Provost Company, checks the pass of an Arab workman.

Corporal Ribbons has since left the Corps to be married, and the policewomen serving in Libya have been transferred to Malta. Other women "redcaps" are overseas in Aden, Cyprus, Singapore, Hong Kong, Germany and at Shape Headquarters.



THE TRIBES GO

HOME

AFTER the fighting, the return of the refugees. In the Radfan Mountains of South Arabia the tribes who fled when the Yemen incited the Red Wolves to war have been slowly returning to their homes.

Sheltering under the protection of British and Arab soldiers, the tribes are trekking back to their own jealously guarded territories where they eke out an existence with their camels and goats.

Already safely "home" are the Bakri tribes; all sections of the Qutaibi have returned to their settlements around the Misrah and Wadi Dhubsan; in the Wadi Taym the Hujailis and the Daibinis are back and in the mountains to the south of the *wadi* the Ibdali tribe have returned.

North of the Taym and the Danaba, the Halmaini tribes never fled from their homes. They stood firm and resisted dissident influence, preferring instead to throw in their lot with the British and Arab forces.

During the resettlement of the tribes they formed their own "home guard" to provide some military control in an area north of the Wadi Taym, where some of the most bitter fighting took place.

Most of the tribes found themselves refugees in the middle of last year when the Red Wolves made the Radfan their stronghold for Yemeni-incited attacks on the Dhala' Road trade route.

British and Arab troops, operating from their base at Thumier, 60 miles north of Aden on the Dhala' Road, began an intensive operation against the dissidents and, as the fighting became more severe, the homeless tribes grew in number.

But the dissidents were fighting a losing battle and gradually the area was cleared and brought under military control.

The Danaba Basin, the Wadi Taym, the Wadi Misrah, the Wadi Rabwa, the Bakri Ridge, the Jebel Widina, all deserted by the tribes, were slowly made safe for them to return.

The dissidents were winkled out from their strongholds and many fled to take refuge in the Yemen while resettlement of the returning tribes was supervised by a Federal Government adviser based at Thumier.

As well as protecting them against occasional raids, the British and Arab troops—including 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, 2nd Battalion, Cold-

stream Guards, and 19 Regiment, Royal Artillery—also helped to put the deserted villages in order and their presence provided welcome employment for large numbers of tribesmen.

Army doctors checked the health of the villagers, treating many injuries caused by the fighting and diagnosing a score of other ailments.

Sheiks of the returning tribes co-operated closely with both civil and military authorities to bring about the successful resettlement of their people and, encouraged by regular and welcome visits from the Army, helped to foil dissident raids.

The stalwart "home guard" of the Halmani tribe were given a few professional tips on arms drill by the Brigade of Guards and all the tribes helped to prevent dissidents entering the controlled areas to lay mines at night.

One tribesman responsible for checking the Wadi Misrah for mines was so confident of his efficiency that he insisted on riding every morning in the first truck up the *wadi*!

From a report by Joint Public Relations, Middle East.

In the shade of a tree in the Wadi Taym, Radfani sheikhs confer with a Government representative (centre chair) and two British battalion commanders.



THE WINDMILL THAT HASN'T CLOSED



IT is probably the most famous canteen in North-West Europe. Its distinctive shape, looming out of the fog or the night, has brought comfort to millions of weary troops.

The menu aspires to nothing more adventurous than sausage, two eggs and a cup of tea. But every week thousands of soldiers swear that cup of tea at the Windmill YMCA on the autobahn in Germany is the best they have ever tasted.

For 18 years the Windmill has been dispensing cups of tea and comfort to everyone from the Commander-in-Chief downwards. Almost all troop movement in Germany involves using the autobahn on which it stands—and every soldier who has ever served in Germany must remember with affection the "good old Windmill."

Originally used as a café by the Germans, it was closed when Hitler built the autobahn and remained empty until 1947 when

it was taken over by the YMCA. Since that time countless tired soldiers have pulled their vehicles off the autobahn after exercises or a long drive, clattered up the central spiral staircase and slumped at a table with a steaming cup of *char*.

Open from seven in the morning until eleven at night every day of the year except Christmas Day, the Windmill has changed little from when it was first taken over.

Famous people, nonentities, generals and

gunners, have all called there, many recording their appreciation in the well-worn pages of the visitors' book.

In the grounds is a tiny building with three beds inside and almost every night these are occupied by soldiers marooned by the weather or too tired to continue.

This month the manager of the Windmill, 74-year-old Mr Henry Dolden, celebrates his seventeenth year at the canteen. "It has been a wonderful time

and I hope I will have many more years here," he said. "I must have met enough soldiers to form a fair-sized army—up to 3000 a day stop here and nearly all the generals of Rhine Army have called in."

On one occasion over a cup of tea a general told a little Cockney soldier how lucky he was to be in the Army, ending with: "I think you have got a very good job." "Yes sir," replied the soldier, "and so have you."



Below left: Mr Henry Dolden, manager for 17 years, outside the Windmill. Below: Inside murals on the concave walls depict four old folk legends of the locality.

*Sign in,
please*

Proudest possession of the Windmill is the well-thumbed visitors' book. Sir Beverley Baxter held the honour of making the opening entry—until "Scouse and Crashie" decided to squeeze their names in first.

Through the months and years the entries record the tired travellers from all over the world who have stopped for a cup of tea. "Hell on Wheels" from Celle was closely followed by a priest (in pursuit or vice-versa?) and a mysterious thumbprint with a message in Arabic.

Two officers on their way to drink vodka with the Soviet Army (happier days then) may not have been so frivolous had they known that the next signature was to be Sir Hugh Stockwell, then commander of the 1st British Corps.

Comedian Arthur English signed soon after "Get Knotted 317" while a more debonair caller records: "A far cry from its namesake in Piccadilly, but just as welcome."

"The Bomb—the best Scammell in BAOR" comes in for some derisory comment as does modest Jock Green who described himself as "the Windmill's most popular visitor and if you don't believe me ask Margaret and Kittie."

Vic Oliver . . . Arthur, late for a chaplain's conference . . . the Hamelin Rats . . . Carole Carr Company, 1957 . . . recovery in BAOR will soon be looking up, Lou is back . . . the English motor racing team.

"Two hungry and lonesome Americans looking for advice and food," gratefully entered their appreciation and Gracie Fields finds herself on the same page as the inevitable Kilroy. "Blimey, is this place still standing?" asks one anonymous writer.

Verse comes thick and fast, like "We came, we saw, we conked out. But not to worry, we weren't in a hurry." Two "wild Colonial boys" passed through closely followed by three girls from Texas.

Sincerity is there, too. "See you at the Windmill. No one will ever know what that has meant to tens of thousands of Servicemen and women." Or "after 200 miles just the job—nice tea, food and bed."

"The last Life Guards to visit the Windmill" were a bit premature as the next entry—"No you aren't, mate"—indicates. Mormons from Salt Lake City in America were soon followed by blissful newly-weds who recorded proudly: "Married today—first meal, Mr and Mrs J A White."

One of the more recent entries is intriguing. It appeals plaintively: "I am here, Desirée, but where are you?"

HUNLIKELY CONTRAPCTIONS

WITH automation on everyone's lips these days, it is a little-known fact that 50 years ago one man was working feverishly on the automation of war.

He was William Heath Robinson, the brilliant cartoonist who died in 1944. His fertile brain was producing such invaluable machines as the "Armoured bayonet-curler for spoiling the temper of the enemy's steel" and the "Armoured corn-presser for crushing the enemy's boot."

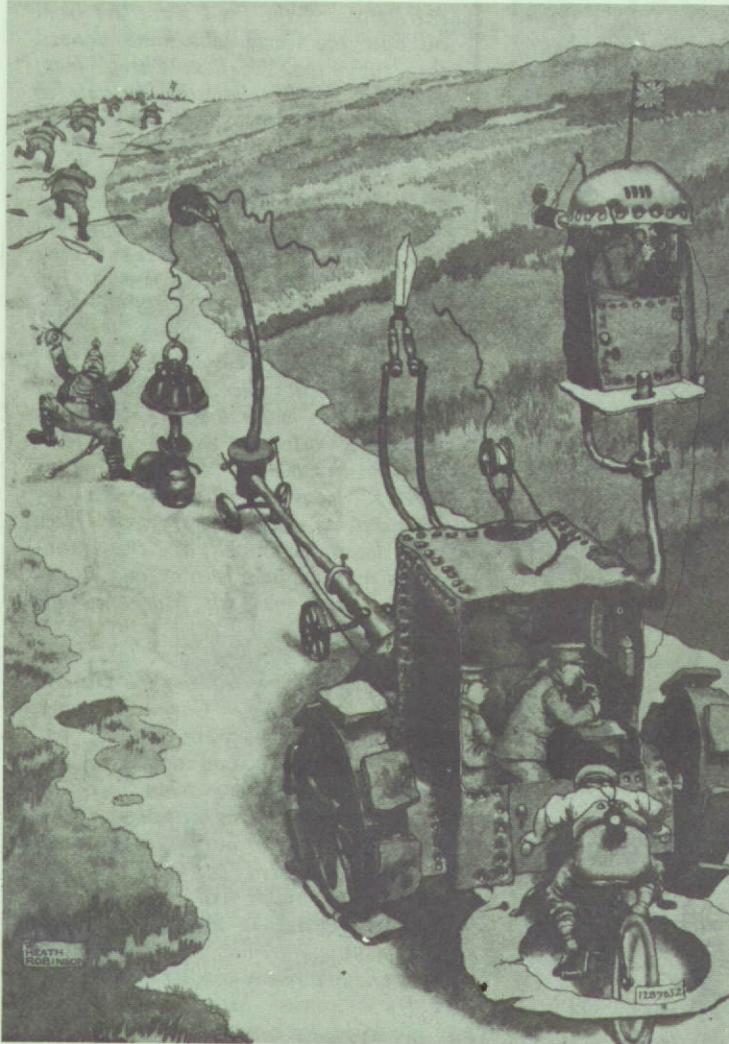
Incredibly, none of these inventions went into action, a fact which recent pundits on World War One strategy seem somehow to have overlooked.

In 1916, the middle of the dark war years, there appeared a little book entitled "Hunlikely!" It was a collection of Heath Robinson's war-like contraptions and many an evening was brightened by the close scrutiny of his absurd and complicated designs for winning the war. Heath Robinson's ability to poke fun at the machine age

with such superb draughtsmanship must have been a tonic in those depressing years.

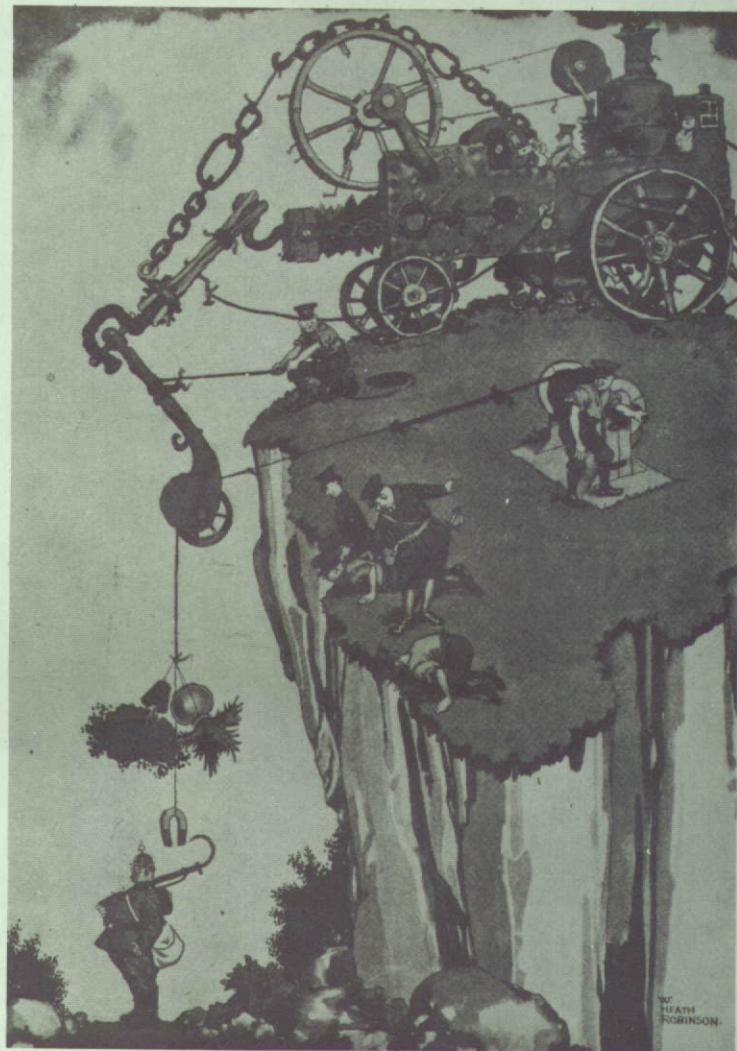
Some of the drawings are reproduced here; units wishing to construct any of the machines are warned that spares are in short supply. But perhaps the "Screw-stopperer for plugging the muzzles of the enemy's rifles" may turn the tide in Borneo. Who knows?

Footnote—"Hunlikely!", published by Duckworth and Co., has long been out of print.

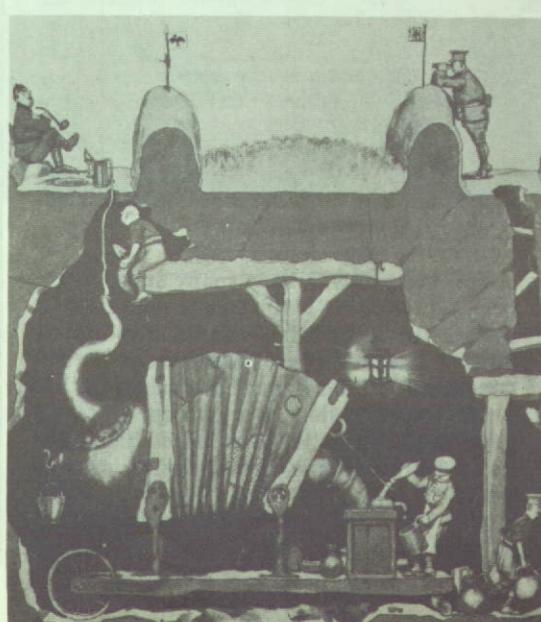


Above: The enemy in full flight before the relentless advance of the British "Armoured corn-presser for crushing the enemy's boot."

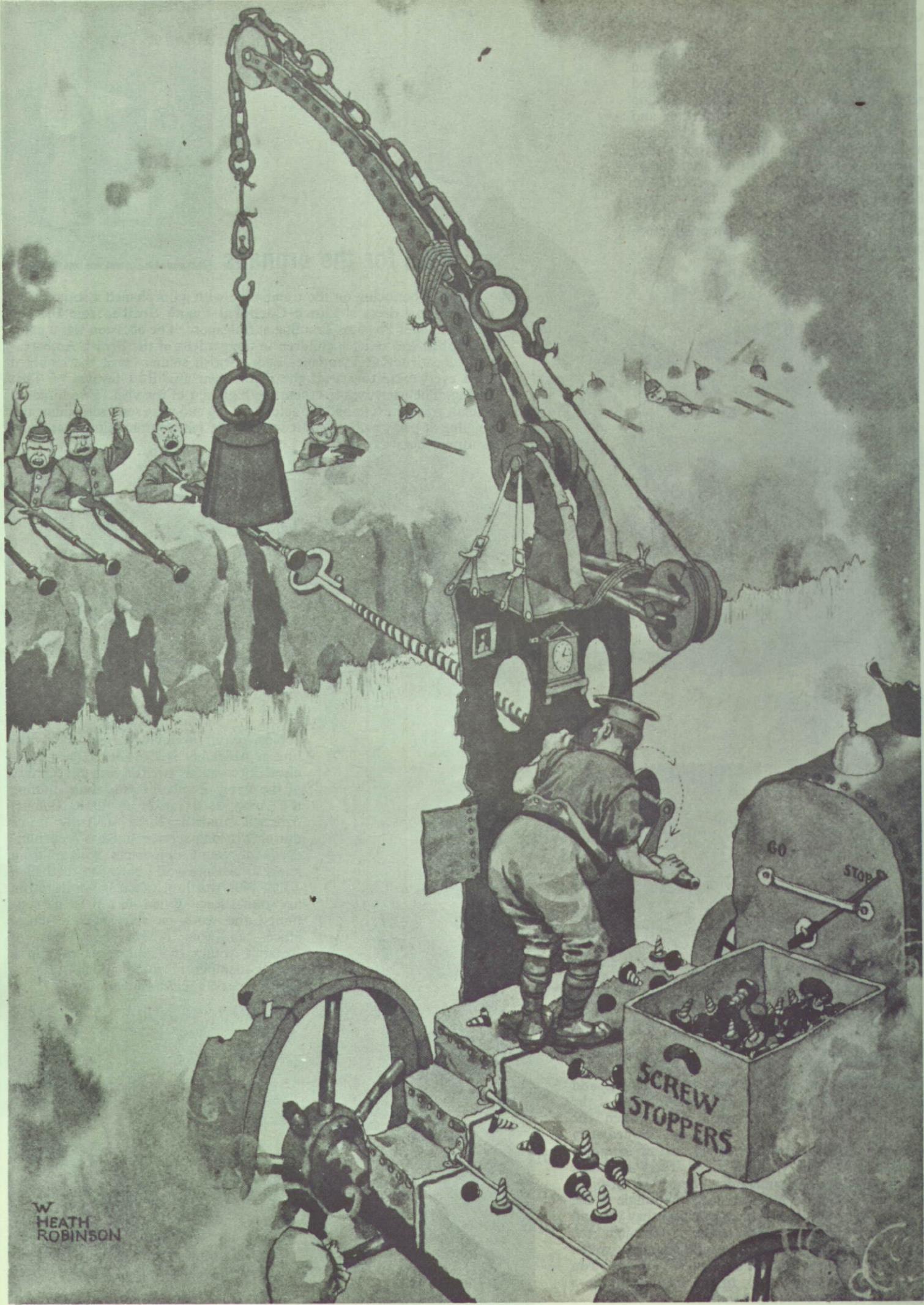
Right: Another Heath Robinson invention that incredibly never saw action—the "Pilsener pump for tapping the enemy's supper beer."



Above: Pictured undergoing War Office trials is the ingenious "Armoured bayonet-curler for spoiling the temper of the enemy's steel."



Right: The "Screw-stopperer for plugging the muzzles of the enemy's rifles"—note the modification to protect the operator's rear.

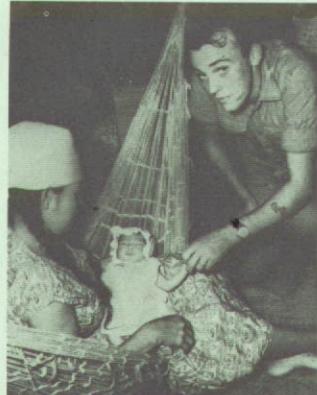


JUDO for the tiny tot

One minute he was standing there chatting to a little girl; the next he was flat on his back. Tiny June Rose Shreedy, aged seven, has no compunctions about tackling a six-foot physical training instructor and she demonstrated the fact during a break in a judo contest at Singapore. June's dad, **Company Sergeant-Major Instructor Mike Shreedy**, of the Far East School of Physical Training, decided that it was never too early for a girl to learn to look after herself and taught her judo. Picture below shows the result.



LIFE for a mother



This mother owes her life to the soldier posing here with her new-born baby. **Gunner Terry Smythe**, attached to 24 Recce Flight, Army Air Corps, was spending a week's leave fishing and shooting at a friendly mission in the interior of the Demerara jungle in British Guiana when the woman gave birth to the baby but immediately became unconscious. Completely cut off from the outside world, the villagers asked Terry for help. With a native as a companion, he set off in pitch darkness to trek 25 miles through the jungle to the nearest Army airfield. For seven hours they ran and walked without stopping, hacking through the undergrowth and wading through jungle streams. They arrived exhausted at the airfield but insisted on guiding a helicopter back to the mission where a medical officer revived the mother.



FUN for the orphans

Happily bouncing on the trampoline with an orphaned Laotian child in traditional dress is **Lance-Corporal Frank Smith**, from the Far East School of Physical Training at Singapore. The occasion was a party for orphan and refugee children in the gardens of the British Ambassador's Residency at Vientiane, Laos. British soldiers visit the troubled state every year to attend the extravagant Buddhist festival of That Luang. The party was for them the highlight of the visit. Two hundred solemn youngsters joined the soldiers at tea and were soon screaming and giggling at party games, but it was the PT team's trampoline that really captured them.

Parley Personal

NOSTALGIA for the Colonel

Nostalgically watching Army cadets drilling at Aldershot is **Colonel Gerry Mitchell**, now in his twelfth year as secretary of the Army Football Association. Joining the Army as a ranker in 1910, Colonel Mitchell handled scores of Army teams during his long service and has seen hundreds of young conscripts emerge from khaki to become world names in football—£5,000,000 worth of talent has featured in his team sheets. When he retired he continued the work he started as a senior officer and his unique knowledge of Britain's young footballers makes him a valued member of the Football Association's under-23 selection committee.





FEBRUARY 1915

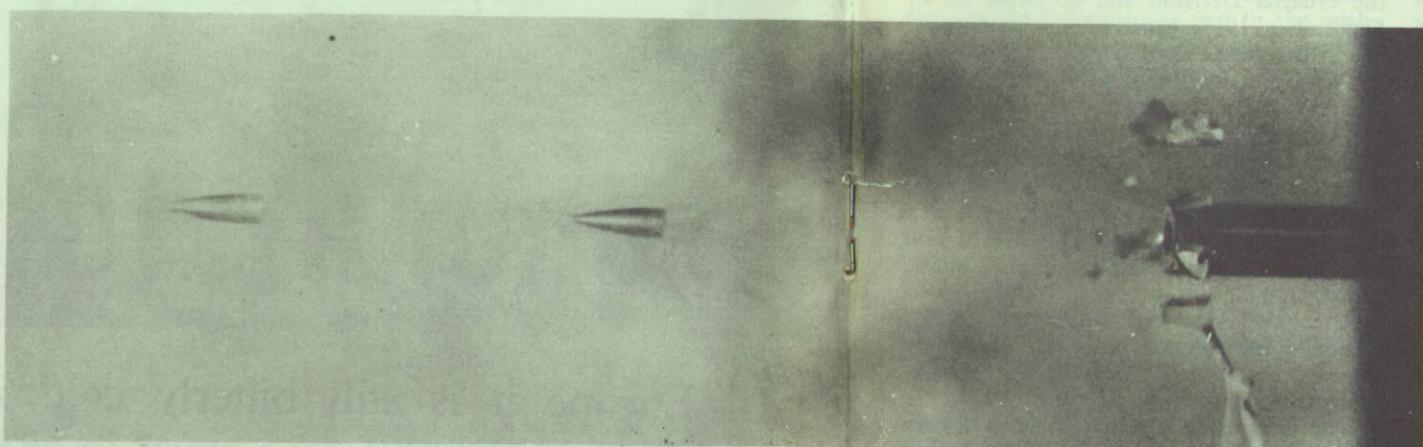
In Europe it is still bitterly cold in the stinking trenches, but here in Africa it is a different story in the same war—South African mounted troops move off in a cloud of dust on the banks of the Orange River, which forms the frontier between German South-West Africa and the Union. On the skyline, their camp of bell tents is clearly silhouetted.

LEFT RIGHT AND CENTRE

This was the impressive scene at the final performance of the British Military Tournament and Tattoo in Sydney, Australia. In front of the entire parade is Captain T Priest and behind him are ranged contingents, from the left, of Royal Marine Commandos, the Brigade of Gurkhas and the Grenadier Guards. Behind them is part of 3rd Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment, a squad of Royal Air Force gymnasts and two files of highland dancers. Flanking the massed pipes and drums are motor cyclists from the Royal Signals and at the rear are the massed bands, flanked by mounted State trumpeters of the Household Cavalry. Taking the salute is the Hon E E Reece, Premier of Tasmania.



"Ten Feet Tall" is the title of a new unconventional recruiting film designed to talk to boys of 15 and 16 in their own language. The actors in the film are all young soldiers themselves and it was shot on location at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry, the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Rhyl, and the Army Apprentices School, Arborfield. Running for 20 minutes it presents the work, play and prospects for recruits to the junior Army and will be shown at schools throughout Britain. This still from the film shows two junior soldiers under battle training in Wales.

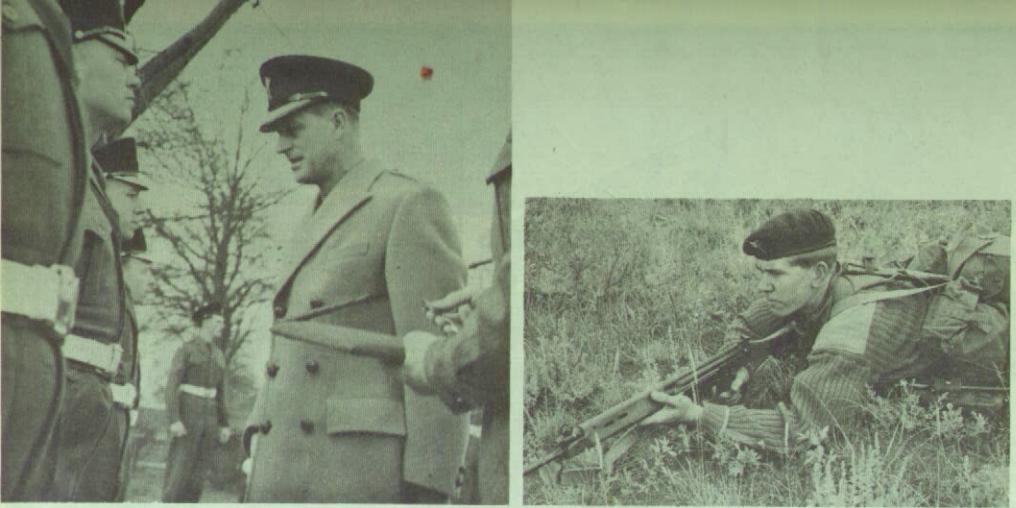


Seeing double? No, it's just a new cartridge developed in America that fires two bullets at once, giving soldiers a much better chance of hitting targets at close range. It looks the same as any other cartridge and is the standard NATO calibre. The front bullet follows the line of fire while the second bullet, which nestles behind the first in the cartridge, follows a path slightly off course, increasing the radius of the strike area.



"Remember me? I had my picture in SOLDIER in June 1963 soon after I joined 3 War Dog Training Unit in Cyprus as a pup recruit. I was caught having a bit of a yawn then, but just look at me now (left). Me and my brother are certainly following in Dad's footsteps. He was a champion tracker and now I do Red Cross work—casualty detection and all that sort of thing—and my brother is in arms recovery. By the way, the bloke is Corporal Tom McDine."

WELSH GUARDS



Far left: The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel of the Welsh Guards since 1953, pictured during a visit to the Regiment. Left and below: Guardsmen flew to Canada last year for a month's tough training.

THREE DAYS OLD—ON PALACE GUARD



Precision drill (above) at a birthday parade in Germany and (below) in 1916 Welsh Guards wait in a reserve trench before action in France.

FIIFTY years ago this month, Lord Kitchener called General Sir Francis Lloyd into his office and abruptly informed him: "You have got to raise a regiment of Welsh Guards."

Slightly taken aback, the general replied: "Sir, there are a great many difficulties in the way which I should like to point out first." Kitchener snapped back: "If you do not like to do it someone else will."

"Sir, when do you want them?" asked the general—"Immediately," said Kitchener. A few days later King George V signed the Royal Warrant and just three days after that, on 1 March 1915—St David's Day—the Welsh Guards mounted guard at Buckingham Palace.

The formation of the new regiment filled a long-felt need for the Welsh to have their own Foot Guards regiment and meant that each country of the United Kingdom was represented by a Guards regiment.

First recruits came from Welshmen already serving in the Brigade of Guards who were asked to transfer to the new Regiment. Then the rush of recruits from Wales began and with it the difficult job of selecting men to measure up to the immaculate standards of the Brigade.

In August 1915 the 1st Battalion sailed for France, leaving the reserve battalion to train reinforcements throughout World War One. In France the 1st Battalion joined the Guards Division and at Loos, on 27 September 1915, received its baptism of fire in the attack on Hill 70.

Thereafter the Battalion was involved in most of the major battles in France. In September 1916, Welsh Guards held Ginchy against five enemy attacks in 24 hours and the following year, at Pilckem, Sergeant Robert Bye won the Regiment's first Victoria Cross when he stormed two blockhouses, put their machine-guns out of action and took numerous prisoners.

After the Armistice the Battalion was stationed in Cologne before returning to England in 1919. Between the world wars, apart from a year in Egypt in 1929, the Welsh Guards stayed in England taking part, among other duties, in King George V's Jubilee and the Coronation of King George VI. In 1923 they won the Army Rugby Cup for the first time (but certainly not the last—they currently hold the cup for the third successive year and have won it a total of seven times).

Shortly before the outbreak of World

War Two a 2nd Battalion was formed at the Tower of London and when war was declared the 1st Battalion was sent to France from its station at Gibraltar.

At Arras the Welshmen immediately distinguished themselves and in the withdrawal from the town Lieutenant the Hon Christopher Furness won a posthumous Victoria Cross. Already wounded, he led an attack with three *Bren* carriers against a very much stronger enemy force to enable his Battalion transport to get away.

A few light tanks supporting his attack were quickly knocked out and when his carrier was knocked out and its crew killed, Lieutenant Furness fought in hand-to-hand combat until he himself was killed.

In May 1940 the 2nd Battalion went to Holland to cover the embarkation for England of the Dutch Royal Family and Government, later took part in the defence of Boulogne and after four days of fighting was still in contact with the enemy until taken off in destroyers.

The following year the 3rd Battalion was formed and in 1942 it went to North Africa, taking part in all the fighting and later landing in Italy and fighting non-stop up the Italian peninsula.

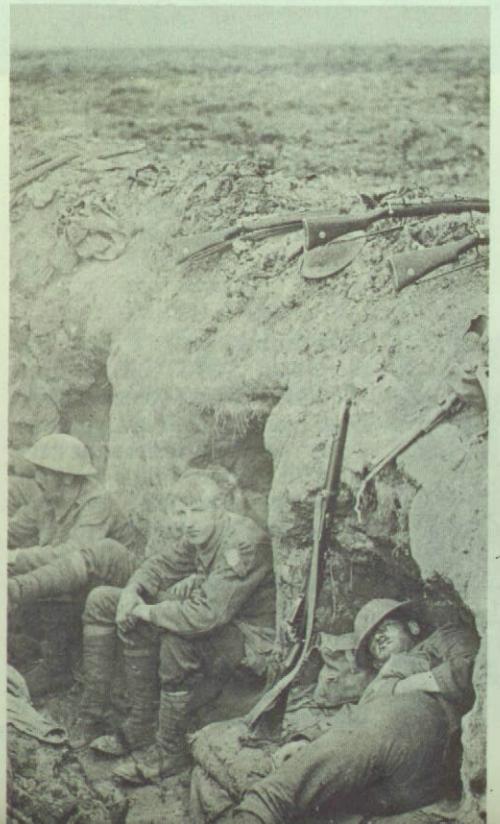
Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion joined the newly formed Guards Armoured Division and landed at Normandy in June 1944, fighting through North-West France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany, often supported by the 1st Battalion.

On 1 September 1944 men of the 1st Battalion were the first troops to re-enter Arras, having been the last to leave in 1940, and two days later the regimental group became the first allied troops to relieve Brussels. In 1945 the world-famous Mannekin Pis statue wore the uniform of a Welsh Guards regimental sergeant-major.

Reduced again to one battalion after the war, the Welsh Guards served in Palestine, Germany and Egypt. In late 1963 the Regiment returned from a three-year tour in Germany where it had formed part of the NATO Mobile Land Force and trained in Greece, Norway and Sardinia. Last year it flew to Canada for a month's training (SOLDIER, September 1964).

Currently stationed at Chelsea Barracks in London, this month the Welsh Guards will be enthusiastically celebrating their 50th anniversary — for although the youngest regiment in the Brigade of Guards, they can confidently claim that they have always measured up to the exacting standards that have been required of the Guards for hundreds of years.

Recruited from a nation of singers, it is fitting that the Welsh Guards should have a choir which has a high reputation and is in increasing demand. Formed in 1921, it has sung at villages and towns throughout Wales and in 1960 won third place in the male voice competition at the International Eisteddfod. Currently directed by Sergeant Hubert Carpenter, the choir is composed entirely of regular soldiers and rehearses whenever time can be spared from the many duties and training commitments of a service battalion.





"I'm thinking of buying myself out!"

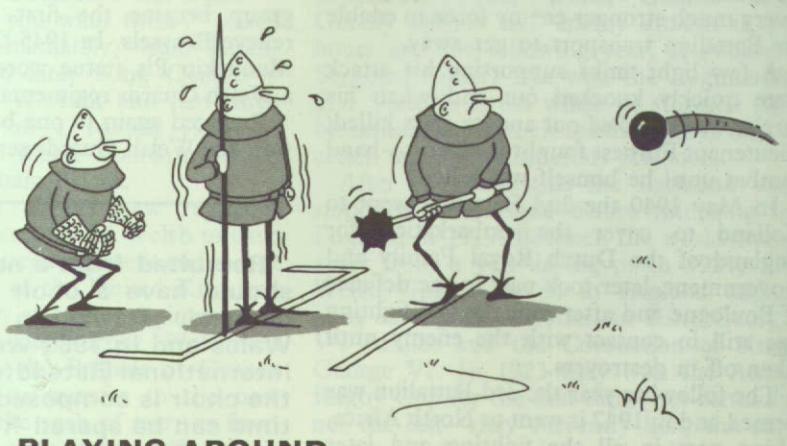
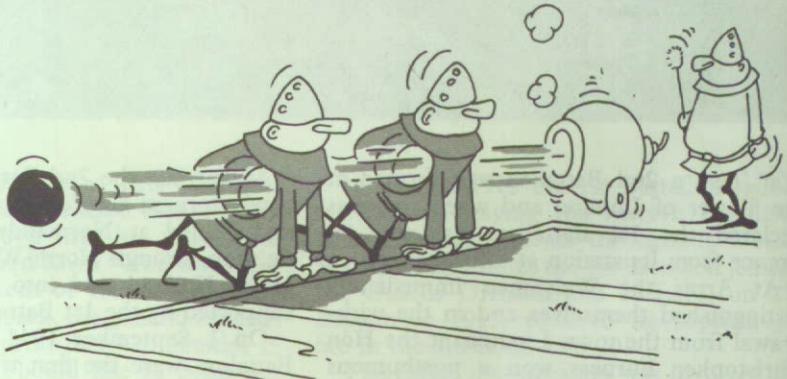


"I'd like to be measured for a hacking jacket!"

humour

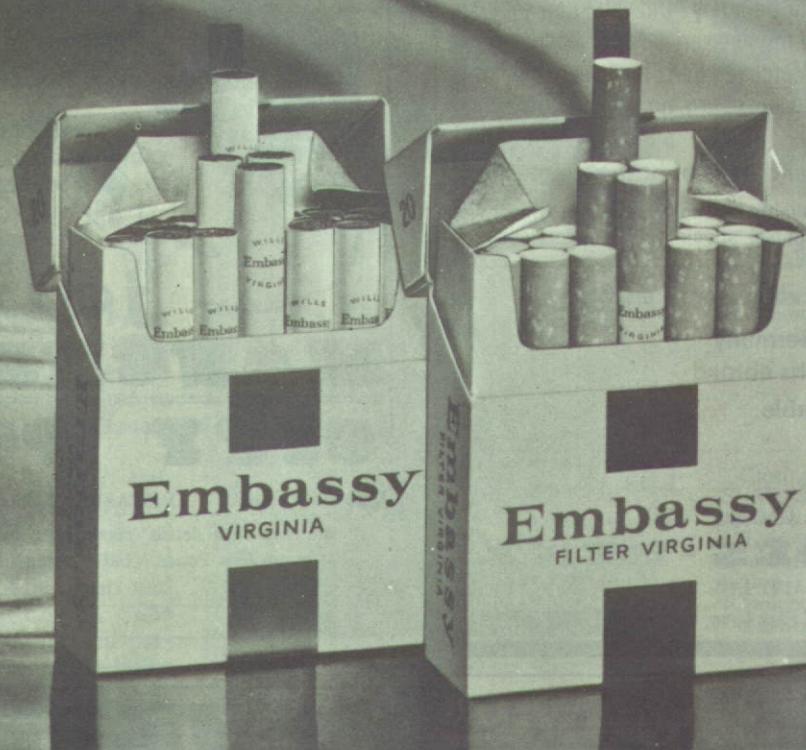
THREE ROUNDS RAPID

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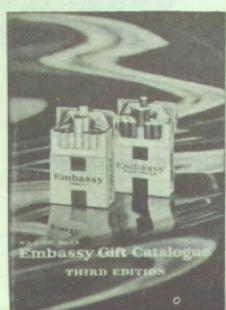


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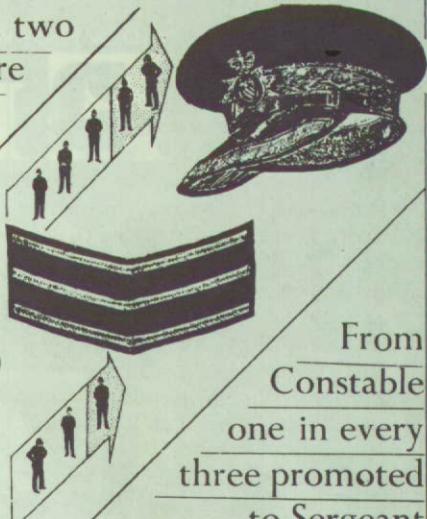
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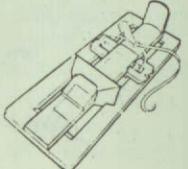
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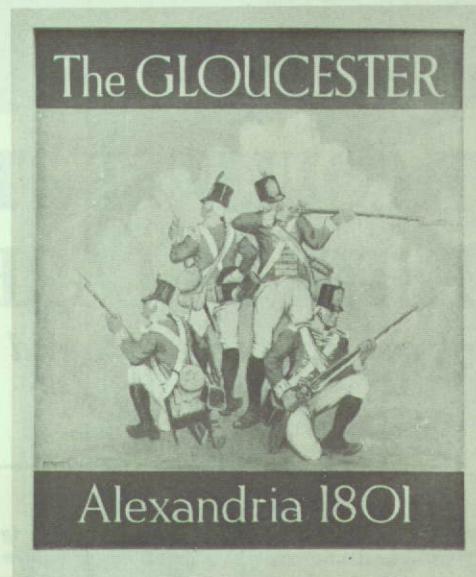
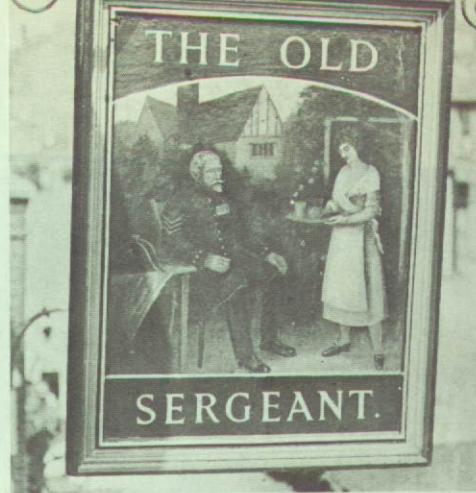
NAME THE PUB

THE fascination of British inn signs—the books on this subject make interesting reading—prompted a **SOLDIER** competition last year when readers were asked to pair off a list of words to make well-known inn names, eg "Bull and Bush," "Rose and Crown."

Many old inn signs have military origins and this tradition is being maintained today—among recent "unveilings" of new or renamed houses have been "The Cherry-picker," "The Master Gunner," "The Gloucester" and "The Staffordshire Yeoman."

The commemoration of Sir Frank Whittle's invention in the apt title of "The Jet and Whittle" prompts this month's competition in which readers are asked to provide two titles for modern public houses or NAAFI clubs.

The first title should be a "paired" sign appropriate to a corps of the British Army, eg "The Spade and Limber" for the Royal Artillery, "The Duck and Launch" (Royal Army Service Corps) or "The Soup and Soufflé" (Army Catering Corps). The second title may be appropriate to a particular military garrison or camp, eg "The Water and Bucket" (Terendak Camp, Malaya); to a corps or regiment, eg "The Elusive Ace" (Royal Army Educational Corps); to any equipment ("The Skid and Rotor") or to a person ("The Gallant Gurkha").



RULES

Send your two titles by postcard or letter, with your name and address and the "Competition 81" label from this page, to:

The Editor
Comp 81
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

Closing date for this competition is Monday, 29 March 1965. Winners' names will appear in the May **SOLDIER**.

This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 81" label.

Entries will be judged by the Editor on ingenuity and aptness.

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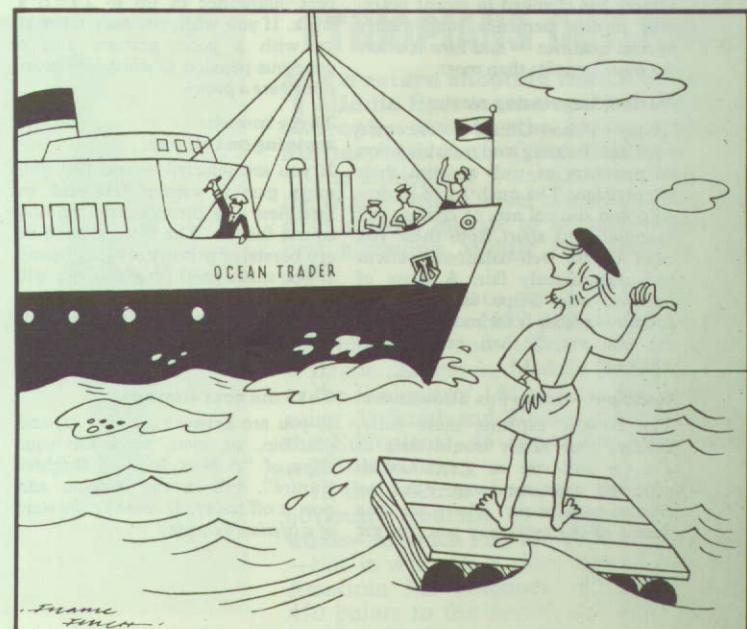
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How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. If you cannot detect all the differences, turn to page 35.



COMPETITION 81



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HER MAJESTY'S PRISON SERVICE

PARATROOPERS v COMMANDOS

To commemorate the first link-up between paratroopers and Commandos in World War Two, an annual sporting competition has been started to resurrect the friendly rivalry of wartime days.

It is the Normandy Cup, and the fight to hold it will take place every year between Royal Marine Commandos and The Parachute Regiment on the playing fields, boxing rings and firing ranges of Aldershot. The first contest was planned for more than a year ago, but action in East Africa, the Middle East and Cyprus prevented either of the contenders from taking part.

When it was finally held, it was something of an occasion for The Parachute Regiment, for the 1st and 2nd Battalions were competing together for the first time for ten years, overseas commitments having kept them apart.

The Normandy Cup involves shooting, cross-country running, soccer, rugby, hockey and boxing and on this first occasion the paratroopers won the trophy with some ease. They took two of the three shooting events, outclassed the Marines in the cross-country by 21 points to 79, won the soccer by two goals to nil, had an easy five bouts to two victory in the boxing and were beaten only at hockey—by six goals to one.

Marines won the Hopton shooting cup event for four rifles and one light machine gun, but The Parachute Regiment took the Worcester and Lindley Cup for riflemen advancing and also the Hamilton Leigh Falling Plates Cup.

With goal scorers Corporal Gaskin and Lance-Corporal Williams, a forceful centre-forward, the paratroopers did well at soccer



Top left: The soccer—one of the six events in the Normandy Cup.

Above: Lieut Smith opens the scoring for The Parachute Regiment with a brilliant try in the rugby match.

Left: Colour-Sergeant Burt led The Parachute Regiment to victory in the cross-country.

as the Marines team included three Royal Navy players. At rugby the Army won by three goals and four tries to a penalty goal, with Lieutenant Mark Smith opening the scoring with a beautiful try following a combined run in which most of the backs took part.

Star of the hockey match was Lieutenant M F Hodder who scored four goals for the Marines. The cross-country was a walk-over for the soldiers who had the first seven men home in a field of 16. Winner was Colour-Sergeant Gordon Burt, who covered a difficult five miles in 26 minutes 15 seconds.



Second-Lieutenant Steward, Royal Anglian Regiment, shoots it out with Ethiopian Lieutenant Lema.

ETHIOPIANS OUT-SHOT

In a return shooting match at Aden, a Middle East team regained the silver trophy won by the Haile Selassie I Military Academy from Ethiopia.

The Ethiopians were the first winners of the trophy—three silver miniature replicas of rifles stacked muzzle to muzzle—when they beat a visiting Middle East team in April 1963.

But in the return match the home team scored a 1254 to 1159 points victory in the .22 rifle, pistol and 7.62mm rifle contests.

In the .22 match, Middle East scored 205 to the Ethiopians' 154 and the following day, using .38 Smith and Wesson revolvers against the Ethiopians' .45 automatics, they scored a 205—154 win.

In the 7.62mm shoot, the Ethiopians were obviously troubled by the powerful cross-winds—to which they are quite unaccustomed—but it was still a close contest and using American M1 automatic rifles they scored 410 points to the British 424 with FN self-loading rifles.

PARACHUTE BOYS WIN AGAIN

SUPERIOR fitness helped the Junior Parachute Company win the Infantry Junior Soldiers Wing Team and Individual Boxing Championship for the second year and retain the **SOLDIER** Shield.

The competition, instituted last year, again suffered from lack of support and will need more entries to become an established event.

Only three units entered boxers this year but if boxing skill was lacking in some cases, there was certainly no shortage of determination.

Winning boxers of the Junior Parachute Company were: Junior/Drummers Brennan, Hicks, Pollock, Smith, Junior/Soldiers Parkes, Gordon and Junior/Lance-Corporal Skovronek. The remaining winning boxers were: Junior/Drummers Gillon, Walters and Junior/Bandsmen Riley and Adlington, all from the Mercian Brigade; Junior/Drummers Lewis, Murphy and Junior/Lance-Corporal Lednor, all from the Welsh Brigade; and Junior/Bugler Baverstock, Green Jackets.

SAPPERS ARE JUNIOR SOCCER CHAMPIONS



TWO goals scored in extra time in the final of the Junior Leaders Army Soccer Cup brought victory for the fourth time in six years to the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover.

A team from the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon—newcomers to the competition—played well against the Sapper team and also scored in the time but were unable to alter the final score of 2-1 to the Sappers.

Played at Aldershot, the game set off at a cracking pace and soon the Troon half-backs revealed their strength although their forwards looked less effective against the Sapper defence.

Slippery conditions had their effect on the accuracy of kicking and passing and after 80 minutes there was still no score, despite some narrow misses on both sides. But after six minutes of extra time the Sappers scored their first goal, following it up quickly with another.

ARMY LOSES CROSS-COUNTRY TITLE

DESPITE a determined challenge, the Army team failed by 30 points to retain the Middle East Command Inter-Services Cross-Country Championship.

Victory went to the tough Navy team, led by Sergeant John Rae, 45 Commando, Royal Marines, which finished in 1st, 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th and 9th places. Just a week before, team captain Rae had won the Middle East individual championship run over the same course.

Second man home was Lance-Corporal David Gransden, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, one minute 21 seconds behind the winner.

The Royal Air Force were well in the lead at the start of the four-and-a-half-mile race in the burning Arabian sun, but they soon dropped behind and finished with an 85 point tally. The Army had 24 points in hand over the RAF but their finishing order of 2, 5, 12, 13, 14 and 15 was a good deal short of the Navy's performance.

SPORTS SHORTS

HOCKEY

The Army hockey side was made to work hard for its 3-1 victory against the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. The cadets battled nobly and nearly forced a draw, but with less than five minutes to go and the score at 2-1 a misdirected pass gave the Army the chance to score again.

BOXING

British Army boxers won their annual match against Wales by seven bouts to three at Stoke-on-Trent. Surprise of the evening was the hard fight given to Army light-welterweight champion Lance-Corporal "Pip" Taylor by 17-year-old Roley Evans of Porthcawl. Taylor's experience told in the end and the referee stopped the contest in the second round.

SOCCER

The Highland Brigade won the Inter-Brigade Soccer Trophy at Aberdeen with a 13-8 goal aggregate. They won the first leg 9-2 against The Lowland Brigade and although beaten 6-4 at home still had a five-goal lead for the cup.

THE ARMY'S MEDALS

by MAJOR JOHN LAFFIN

38: INDIA GENERAL SERVICE 1936-39



THIS medal's reverse design broke right away from the traditional form of India medals. The forts, flags, rifles, swords and soldiers disappeared and in their place appeared a tiger with raised right front paw. His head, turned back, almost meets his very long tail which ends with a hook.

He is standing on rocky ground and above him is the word "India" in large letters. The design is rather disappointing for it is an anti-climax, militarily speaking, and the medal looks unfinished.

The obverse shows the crowned coinage head of George VI. Suspension, as always, is of ornamental type.

Two bars were issued: North West Frontier 1936-37 and North West Frontier 1937-39. The medal itself was not instituted until August 1938 when two different strikings were made. That of the Royal Mint has an artistic claw-grip while that of the Calcutta Mint is quite plain. The Calcutta medals are slightly thicker than those of the Royal Mint, while the engraving on the reverse of the Indian version is of poor quality. This is a pity because this was the last service medal the British issued for India, apart from the India Independence Medal of 1947.

However, the first campaign medal instituted by the President of India was the General Service Medal of 1947—proof enough that British military traditions remained alive in India after independence.

British regiments awarded the bar for the campaigns of 1936-37 include the Norfolk Regiment, Leicestershire Regiment, 2nd Green Howards, 1st South Wales Borderers, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Hampshire Regiment and 1st Northamptonshire Regiment, Highland Light Infantry, 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and about 20 men of the 1st East Yorkshire Regiment.

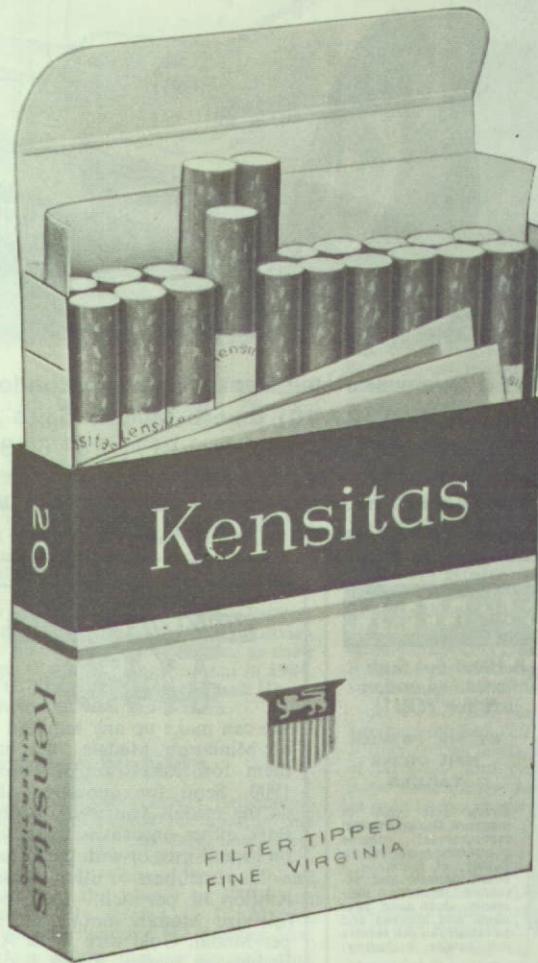
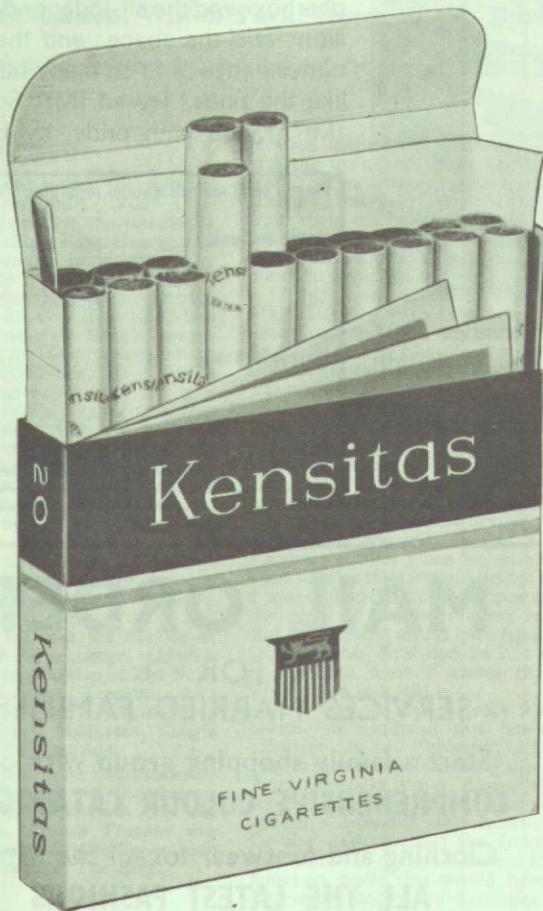
British regiments engaged in the 1937-39 campaigns include 1st Royal Warwicks, 1st Norfolks, 2nd Suffolks, 1st Leicesters, 2nd Green Howards, 1st South Wales Borderers, 1st Hampshires, Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The actions in which these regiments were involved began on the night of 15/16 December 1937 and with breaks continued until the night of 31 December 1939.

The men who marched away from Waziristan on 1 January 1940—most of them to fight during World War Two—could little have guessed that the days of the British Army in India were ending.

The medal is named in thin impressed block capitals and the ribbon is green with grey, sandy-coloured centre separated from the green by two thin red stripes.

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Letters

Any takers?

We are a small sergeants' mess of 11 permanent staff members. Between us we aggregate 323 years' service and eight of us total 266 years' service, an average of 33½ years each.

We challenge other small messes to beat this record!—**Sgt T Francis, Royal Anglian Regiment, Depot and School, Army School of Education, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks.**

Buff and Green

I was very glad to see the story of The Queen's Own Buffs ("Your Regiment," November). But can you clarify your statement about King George II's charger being brought under control by a captain of The Buffs at Dettingen?

The Buffs' records (Volume 2, page 125, paragraph 2) say: "This firing had the effect of causing the King's charger to bolt, carrying him ignominiously back towards the second line. Here, fortunately, his progress was barred by a captain of Howard's Regiment, Cyrus Trapaud by name, who checked the career of the terrified charger, enabling the King to dismount."

In the account of this incident, Trapaud, an officer of French descent, is described as being an ensign. He had actually been gazetted captain on 31 March 1743 in place of Capt George Malcolm. Trapaud eventually became colonel of the 70th (later 2nd Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment).

It seems to me that the honour of stopping the King's charger did not after all belong to a captain of The Buffs but rather to Capt Trapaud, who belonged to Howard's Regiment.—**Victor W Hewson, Hillcrest, King's Road, Bury St Edmunds.**

★ Two regiments were commanded by colonels called Howard and they became known as the Buff Howards and the Green Howards. Captain Trapaud was undoubtedly serving at Dettingen with Howard's Regiment, ie The Buffs.

War of blunders?

Perhaps the following extract from the official history of The Worcestershire Regiment (1914-18) will clear the air on N S Major's reference (Letters, December) to a Cavalry action in the closing minutes of World War One:

The 4th Worcestershire were leading the brigade as it advanced on the morning of 11 November 1918. Colonel Freyberg, the brigadier, rode at the head of the column. The march had scarcely begun when a mounted orderly galloped up with news of the signing of the Armistice and orders for the British vanguards to halt at 1100 hours in the positions they then held.

"The news spurred the whole column to desperate energy. The Brigadier galloped forward and found the squadron leader of the Cavalry. They collected every available man of the squadron and went forward at top speed to seize the crossing over the River Dendre at Lessines. They reached the outskirts of the town at about 1045 hours, overtook the German rearguard and were met by fire from rifles and machine-guns.

"Immediately the Cavalry charged the enemy, killing four and rounding up a hundred as prisoners. Then they dashed forward to the bridge, crossed it at three minutes to 11am and drew

rein on the eastern bank. They rode into the town and compelled the surrender of two more companies of the enemy's Infantry; but after protests from their officers it was decided that hostilities must by then have terminated. The German troops were released and marched away."

If this is the action to which N S Major refers, it was a brigade action and not one conducted at "regimental level." As for its being a blunder, I quote again from the history: "... for the Armistice was not an absolute guarantee that the war was at an end, and precautions had to be taken against possible renewed hostilities."

This quotation does not refer to the action of 11 November but to troop movements in the following days. However, it seems reasonable to suppose that some such thought was in Colonel Freyberg's mind when he dashed forward to seize the Lessines bridge. It was a move of great tactical importance in the event of hostilities being renewed and the Colonel would have been doing less than his duty had he not sought to establish himself across the river while there was still time.

It is easy, at this distance from the events, to condemn this last-minute offensive as a "blunder." Colonel Freyberg was merely making sure, if the Armistice talks broke down, that he would not have to start his next advance against a defended river-crossing. The Cavalry dash enabled the Infantry of his brigade to occupy Lessines by 1400 hours—a move that would have been impossible under the Armistice terms had the Cavalry not been used so decisively and promptly.—**Capt James O'Conor, Norfolk ACF, 34 Redenhall Road, Harlesden, Norfolk.**

The bridges referred to were over the River Dendre at the town of Lessines. The attack was carried out by a detachment of the 7th Dragoons under command of the then Brig Freyberg VC DSO.

The purpose of the attack was to prevent the demolition of the bridges by the Germans who had possibly not received orders on the cease fire. Brigadier Freyberg confirmed afterwards that the bridges had been captured just before 1100 hours, the time set for hostilities to cease.

An interesting account of this action is contained in the biography of "General Lord Freyberg VC" by Peter Singleton-Gates.—**Sgt H S Rawle RE, Q Movements, HQ BOAR, BFPO 40.**

Prussian eagle

I enjoyed reading your article on the 14th/20th King's Hussars ("Your Regiment," December). However, the 14th did not wear the Prussian eagle cap badge during World War One. They were requested by King George V to use their second badge—the Royal Cipher within the garter—while Great



Britain was at war with Prussian Germany.

In Mesopotamia the 14th were, of course, fighting against the Turks.—**Maj M A Urban-Smith, Regimental Secretary, Home Headquarters, 14th/20th King's Hussars, Lancaster House, Norton Street, Manchester 16.**

You say that during World War One the 14th Hussars wore the Prussian eagle badge while serving in Mesopotamia. This is not so. Early in 1915 the Regiment adopted the crest of England within the garter for cap and collar badges.

The Prussian eagle was not restored until 1934, and then only as a plain eagle and not like the original badge of a white metal eagle upon an oval brass plate, with 14th King's Hussars below.

In 1915 too the King's Dragoon Guards dropped wearing the Austrian eagle and took the Garter Star as their badge, the eagle being restored in 1934.—**F Gibbs, 109 Glenister Park Road, Streatham, London SW16.**

Waltzing Matilda

C W Mann asks (Letters, November) if anyone can supply the missing line of an old form of this song. Some time ago Alan Whicker, of the BBC "Tonight" team, visited Australia and checked on the history of "Waltzing Matilda." He quoted C W Mann's version and included the missing line:

"Once a Jolly Fuzileer marching out of Rochester,
Off to the War in the Low Country,
Sang as he marched
Through the dear streets of Rochester,
Who'll come a soldiering with Marlborough and me?"

I hope this helps.—**Anne Irvine, 30 Mount Pleasant Road, Ealing, London W5.**

Cri de cœur

May I be permitted to correct the impression which Cadet/Cpl Davis (Letters, December) may have conveyed to our friends in the Regular and Territorial Army? I have talked to Cdt/Cpl Davis and the position is as follows:

(a) In some parts of his letter the meaning of the words is the reverse of what he intended, eg when he says "The main complaint is against the TA" he meant "I have no complaint against the TA."

(b) The reference to shooting was based upon a solitary experience about 18 months ago when he was marking in the butts for a TA unit. He cannot recall which unit it was. Apart from this he has no knowledge of the shooting capabilities of the TA and therefore has no grounds for suggesting that the ACF are better shots than the TA.

(c) The aim of his letter was to put forward a case for the ACF to receive a larger share of the funds supplied by the Treasury for the Regular Army, TA and ACF. He agrees that he presented his case very badly.

Although it is unlikely that Cdt/Cpl Davis's letter, obviously written without due reflection, will cause a rift in the harmonious relationship which exists between the TA and the ACF in Gloucestershire, I must say I am most disappointed that a Cdt/Cpl in my Regiment should have written it and that you, Sir, should have printed it.

However, may I take this opportunity to apologise for any offence it may have caused and to say how grateful we in the Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force are for all the assistance and helpful advice we receive from the Territorial Army whenever we seek it and from the Regular Army whenever we have the opportunity to make use of their services.—**Maj C B Dolan (OC 2/4 Cadet Regiment, Gloucestershire ACF), 102 Barnwood Road, Gloucester.**

★ **SOLDIER** makes no apology for having published Cdt/Cpl Davis's letter. Within certain limits, for example matters of discipline and promotion, the letters pages have always been and will always be open to any reader to express a view or comment.

I cannot agree with the complaints made by Cdt/Cpl Davis. As a member of a progressive ACF Detachment in Gloucestershire I should like to thank both the Regular Army and the Territorial Army for all the interest they show by loaning us transport, instructors and equipment.

Only last weekend the Regular Army provided us with transport for an all-night scheme, and at the previous weekend the Territorials invited several cadets to join them on a map-reading scheme.

Then this year we have had instruction in the SLR, SMG, 2in mortar, 3in mortar and M60, all from the Regulars or Territorials. As to the other points raised, the social side is the responsibility of the detachment, as is its financial position.—**L/Cpl B Avery (Tewkesbury Detachment, Gloucestershire ACF), 12 Lancaster Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.**

I agree that more should be done for the ACF units, not only in Gloucestershire but throughout the country. But I feel that Cdt/Cpl Davis is unfair to the Territorial Army. Surely this help should come from the county regiments—even if a regiment is serving overseas there is always a depot or a recruiting team left behind.

I feel sure that if ACF units only asked, county regiments would be only too glad to help. My Regiment is always willing to help not only ACF units but local lads wherever they are stationed.—**Cpl C Housley, 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, Essex.**

I feel I must defend the Regular Army and Territorial Army against the disparaging comments by Cdt/Cpl Davis.

The Army Cadet Force is not the Army's main source of recruitment. It is designed to bring out the best in a boy, to foster initiative, zeal and companionship and not to turn out boy soldiers.

As I coach both the TA and ACF shooting teams in this county I am in a position to judge their shooting merits. While there are some excellent prospects in the ACF I cannot agree that the ACF are better shots than the TA. I cannot recall Cdt/Cpl Davis ever attending one of my coaching sessions; perhaps a challenge is indicated.—RSM P Martin, 5 Glosters (TA), TA Centre, Painswick Road, Gloucester.

Private of The Buffs

I read with interest your feature on The Queen's Own Buffs ("Your Regiment," November) but wondered why you did not mention "The Private of The Buffs." Surely he is fact and not mere poetic legend? I thought this was an incident in the Boxer rising?—T Harrington, 10 Norfolk Road, Stapehill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

★ According to "A Short History of The Buffs" (Brig E Foster Hall MC), "The Private of the Buffs" was a short poem by Sir F H Doyle. The individual's name was Private Moyse.

Engineer origins

I read with interest the splendid article "Tunnel Tigers in the Rock" (October) and I am sure it will be appreciated by Royal Engineers everywhere. I would like to enlarge on the origins of 1st Fortress Squadron and other Royal Engineer squadrons for the benefit of interested readers.

A Royal Warrant of 6 March 1772 authorised the raising at Gibraltar of a Military Company of Artificers which was almost immediately renamed the Soldier Artificer Company. It gradually increased in size and a second company was formed in 1786. Officers for these companies were found from the Corps of Engineers, which in April 1787 was renamed Corps of Royal Engineers.

Under a further Royal Warrant of 10 October 1787 a Corps of Royal Military Artificers of six companies was formed. These were quite distinct from the soldier artificer companies serving in Gibraltar but were also commanded by officers of the Corps of Royal Engineers. The following units, existing today, can trace their origin back to the first six companies of the Corps of Royal Military Artificers: 3, 4 and 5 Field Squadrons; 6 Field Park Squadron; 7 Field Squadron and 8 Railway Squadron.

In 1797 the two companies of soldier artificers in Gibraltar were incorporated into the Corps of Royal Military Artificers after 25 years of separate existence. In 1812 the Corps name was changed to

Royal Military Artificers or Sappers and Miners, and in 1815 this title was shortened to Royal Sappers and Miners.

The soldier in the Royal Sappers and Miners was a private. The rank of sapper was not introduced for another 43 years when, due to the gallant services of the Royal Sappers and Miners in the Crimean War, the title of Royal Engineers was granted. Thus ended the long-standing anomaly of engineer officers and men belonging to separate corps.—Lieut-Col F T Stear, Secretary, Royal Engineers Historical Society, Institution of Royal Engineers, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

Dettingen

I am afraid R Rimmer GC is wrong when he says (Letters, December) the Battle of Dettingen was fought in mid-February. It took place on 16 June 1743 and the woods around the battlefield were in full leaf.

We here at the National Army

Museum possess a fine painting of the scene by John Wootton (below) depicting King George II, his son, the Duke of Cumberland and the Earl of Holderness. They are all sporting oak sprigs in their hats. Cumberland holds up the broken rein which is part of the incident during which a contingent of the 22nd Foot is said to have saved the King's life.—Maj E N Hebbden (Retd), National Army Museum, RMA Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey.

24th Foot

I noted with interest Sgt H N Sanders's references (Letters, October) to Talana Hill and Lieut Bromhead as I was brought up in Dundee, a town at the foot of Talana Hill.

On a clear day one can see from the town the white monument on Talana Hill erected on the spot where Maj-Gen Sir William Penn Symons fell fatally wounded.

Rorke's Drift, where Lieut Bromhead



CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

The following examinations are held annually: **Executive Class for ex-Forces candidates**, June. (Basic grade rises to over £1,200;) good promotion opportunities. **Clerical Class for ex-Forces candidates**, October. **Assistant Preventive Officer**, 19-21 February, and **Customs Officer**, 18-23 March; allowance for Forces service.

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won his Victoria Cross, is some 30 miles from Dundee and ten miles from Isandhlwana where Lord Chelmsford's troops were massacred by Cetewayo's *impi*. On a visit some years ago to the scene of Isandhlwana we were struck by the eerie atmosphere. Local Zulus call it Amasodjeni—"The place of soldiers"—and legend has it that they refuse to cross the battlefield at night because of spirits.

The site of the medical tent was pointed out and there could still clearly be seen chips of blue glass from medicine containers. We followed the path of the flight from Isandhlwana to Rorke's Drift and this is marked by well-preserved white cairns where pursued soldiers were caught and where the wounded succumbed.—**Capt J R A McAdam, 4 SA Infantry Battalion, Middelburg, Transvaal, RSA.**

East Surreys

The picture you reproduce in "Your Regiment" (November) of a Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment patrol in Cassino, 1944, in fact shows men of 1st/6th Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, crossing the ruined square after the capture of the town by their Battalion. The 6th Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment (TA), was amalgamated in 1961 with the 23rd London Regiment (TA) to form 4th Battalion, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA).—**Maj J S D Wright, Second-in-Command, 4 Queen's Surreys, TA Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.**

★ Sorry! *SOLDIER*'s source for this picture was the official 1920-50 history of The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment!

Bearded padres?

Are Army padres permitted to grow beards or must they be clean shaven?—**Terence J Spong, The Theological College, Rochester, Kent.**

★ Army chaplains follow the rules of "Queen's Regulations for the Army" and do not wear beards other than in special circumstances. *SOLDIER* does not recall meeting a chaplain sporting a moustache.



COLLECTORS' CORNER

D Johnson, B4-Apt 167, Blanes Monts, Arras, Pas-de-Calais, France.—Exchange worldwide used foreign stamps for metal badges British and Commonwealth forces.

J Griffiths, 7 Petherton Road, Elizabeth West, South Australia.—Requires model soldiers British regiments all periods, especially Blenheim and Waterloo, also French of these two periods; worldwide medals and ribbons.

Maxwell Sadler (16), 64 Avenue Court, Clayhall, Ilford, Essex.—Wishes correspondence on and military items such as cap badges, shoulder flashes, helmets, hats, bayonets, cartridges, ammunition pouches, holsters, etc.

H T Vreman, Brantsenpark 7, De Steeg, Holland.—Requires history World War Two; maps, books, photographs Battle of Arnhem; volumes The War Illustrated 1939-45; volumes London Illustrated News 1939-45; records of military band music.

C J T James, 12 Midland Road, King's Norton, Birmingham 30.—Requires clothing, equipment, film and pictures of German paratroops; exchange British items with Continental collectors.

COMPETITION 77

About one third of the entries for the October competition (How Observant Are You?) were correct.

Winners were:

1 L/Cpl A E da Silva, Logan Cottage, Downs Road, South Wonston, Winchester, Hants.

2 WO II R Bradley, RASC, HQ RASC Cyprus, BFPO 53.

3 Pte J Rowley, HQ Coy, MT Pln, 1 SCLI, Brooke Barracks, BFPO 45.

4 S/Sgt P Clements, 79 Railway Sqn RE, BFPO 40.

5 Pte R Rose, B Coy 6 Pln, 1 DERR, BFPO 51.

6 A Owens, Signal House, TA Centre, Score Lane, Childwall, Liverpool 16.

There were 15 differences, as follows:

1 Woman's right heel. 2 Boot handle of modern car. 3 Width of near pavement edge. 4 Number of vertical lines (or squares) on No 9's radiator grille. 5 Poodle's lead. 6 Handle of No 5's near sidelamp. 7 No 5's wing mirror. 8 Number of buttons on seat of No 5. 9 Offside hinge of No 5's bonnet. 10 Starting-handle of nearest car. 11 Length of rear mudguard of nearest car. 12 Radiator badge of nearest car. 13 Step of nearest car. 14 Thickness of nearest car's seat cushion. 15 Tie of driver of nearest car.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

The diversity of educational facilities in the United Kingdom offers opportunities for children of all abilities, but this variety can itself be confusing to parents. The Institute of Army Education provides a service of advice to serving Army parents on all matters relating to the education and future careers of children, especially those who suffer mental and physical handicaps, at home and overseas.

If you require advice you should apply through the Chief Education Officer to the Commandant, Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9. All enquiries are treated in confidence.

REUNION

York and Lancaster Regimental Association. Annual reunion dinner Saturday 24 April, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield 10, preceded by annual general meeting. Drum-head service and buffet lunch Sunday 25 April. Any member wishing to attend either or both functions should apply Regimental Headquarters not later than 1 Apr.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 27)

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1 Width of ship's funnel. 2 Pattern of flag. 3 Arms of sailor third from right. 4 Position of small cloud. 5 Sea below left porthole. 6 Soldier's wrist watch. 7 Width of raft at far end. 8 Hair behind soldier's ear. 9 Lines on starboard bow wave. 10 Top of flag mast.



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S/Feb. 65

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HITLER'S LAST FLING

"The Battle of the V-Weapons, 1944-45" (Basil Collier).

JUST after four o'clock on the morning of 13 June 1944 the first V-1, flying-bomb, doodle-bug, FZG76 or Hitler's "secret weapon"—call it what you will—crossed the Kent coast. Three more followed, the only survivors of ten despatched, which were all the Germans could launch out of a planned five-hour opening attack with 500 missiles.

It took the launching teams less than two days to get over this fiasco. Then they sent 244 missiles towards London and another 50 or so towards Southampton. A new kind of war was firmly in being.

The development of the V-1 and V-2, the intelligence battles, the efforts of the Royal Air Force to destroy the development and launching sites, are all told in this comprehensive and readable work.

By mid-July 1944 there were nearly 800 guns in a "gun-belt" on the North Downs, protecting London, and further south were another 600 light guns.

The gun-belt was then moved to the Kent and Sussex coast to give the guns an unrestricted field of fire, enable the Gunners to use new proximity-fuse shells and their radar to work better. It meant, however, a divided field for the fighter pilots—at sea or behind the gun-belt—and so reduced their effectiveness.

Within hours of the decision, 23,000 men and women, 800 guns and 60,000 tons of ammunition were on the move from the North Downs.

In the next seven weeks the guns were destroying 170 instead of 50 missiles a week but the fighters were bringing down only 120 against 180. The new figures represented nearly 60 per cent of the missiles observed compared with 40 per cent previously.

The V-1 was, for the moment, beaten. But as launching sites in France were overrun, new ones came into operation in Holland and launches from aircraft began over the North Sea, so the defences were again switched to the East Coast.

Against the V-2 no defensive counter-measures were discovered, though offensive attacks on the launching sites by fighter-bombers brought some good results.

Hodder and Stoughton, 25s.

RLE

RUNNING THE GAUNTLET

"The Russian Convoys" (B B Schofield).

BETWEEN 1941 and 1945, forty convoys, comprising 811 merchant ships, set out from Britain to carry war material to the North Russian ports. In the long summer days, out of range of the Royal Air Force, they ran the gauntlet of the Norway-based Luftwaffe; in the dark winter they ploughed through formidable storms.

Always they ran the risk of U-boat patrols, and for most of the time Hitler's big ships lurked menacingly in the Norwegian fjords. The Germans held most of the trumps and, though they failed to play many of them, 100 merchant ships and 18 naval vessels were lost. It was a saga of courage and determination in which many soldiers took part, manning the guns of the merchant ships.

The policy of sending aid to Russia had many critics, including Field-Marshal Lord Alanbrooke who pointed out that many tanks and aircraft were lost at sea, that the Russian maintenance was poor and that there was no information about the Russian supply situation.

The author accepts that aid to Russia was necessary; what was unsound was the strategy of keeping the Arctic convoys going. There were three other, safer routes, including that via the Persian Gulf, and these ultimately carried more than three-quarters of the supplies.

Batsford, 30s.

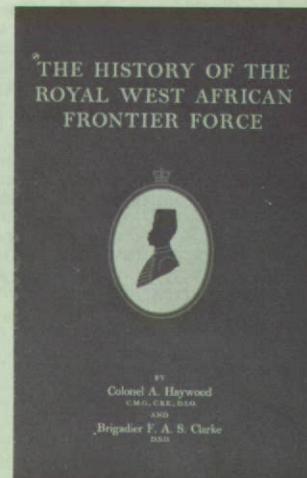
RLE

WAR WITHOUT BITTERNESS

"Into Battle 1914-1918" (Ernest Parker).

ON 16 September 1916 a young man lay sprawled on a low ridge near Delville Wood in France. As he desperately tried to look through a bullet hole in his helmet he

BOOKS



vowed that if he survived he would return to that very spot and give thanks.

This slim volume, strangely moving, is the result.

The author was only 18 when he entered Kitchener's Army to do his Cavalry training. The fact that he was sent to The Durham Light Infantry at Ypres seems an apt comment on war.

He experienced the whole range of the war—delousing, patrolling, commissioned, decorated, wounded—yet bitterness is absent. There is just regret.

Longmans, 18s.

A WH

IRON CROSS AND MILITARY MEDAL

"The History of the Royal West African Frontier Force" (Colonel A Haywood and Brigadier F A S Clarke).

THERE must be few soldiers with the distinction of having been awarded the German Iron Cross and the British Military Medal—such a man was Regimental Sergeant-Major Chari Maigumeri, of 3rd Battalion, The Nigeria Regiment.

In 1913 he joined the Kaiser's army in the Cameroons and won the Iron Cross fighting against the British. Captured, he later joined the West African Frontier Force and served with merit in the East African campaign against Von Lettow-Vorbeck's colonial force. It would hardly be correct to say that Maigumeri was typical, but he is certainly the finest example of the men who have served in the Frontier Force.

By 1928 Maigumeri was Regimental Sergeant-Major of the 3rd Nigeria Regiment and he won the Military Medal during the 1940-41 campaign in Abyssinia and the Italian colonies. He was later mentioned in dispatches while serving in Burma and received the British Empire Medal in 1944 for long and loyal service to the Crown.

He retired in 1953 after 36 years' service—and the Queen granted him the honorary rank of captain. The Regiment's officers presented him with a sword.

The Royal West African Frontier Force, actually formed in 1897, sprang from various

sources. Freed Hausa slaves were marshalled by a naval lieutenant to form the Lagos Battalion, Sir Charles McCarthy formed the Royal African Colonial Corps which, in turn, gave birth to the Gold Coast Regiment and the Gambia Company. The Nigeria Regiment was formed from northern and southern constabularies which had been raised to protect trade. Similarly the Sierra Leone Battalion was born as a police force.

The Frontier Force distinguished itself during the campaigns in Togoland and the Cameroons and upheld its traditions in World War Two, particularly in the Burmese jungle where it performed tasks which for white troops were considered impossible. Units earned 13 battle honours in Burma.

British officers and non-commissioned officers who have served with the Force look back with pride and happiness on their association with the gallant, cheerful West African soldiers. And to face the problems besetting the newly independent African countries, those who soldier on have behind them a long tradition of which any man could be proud.

Gale and Polden, 42s.

J CW

THE "COMMON" SOLDIER

"Rank and File" (compiled T H McGuffie).

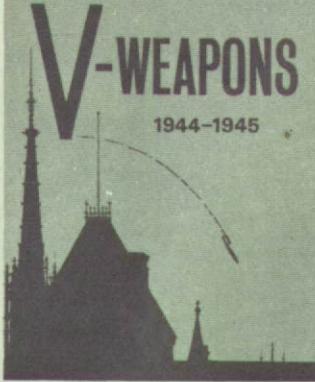
THE British soldier down the ages has not been noted for his literacy. But from time to time some of the more articulate have put pen to paper. This anthology, subtitled "The Common Soldier at Peace and War 1642-1914," draws on 43 separate sources, most of which will be unfamiliar to the general reader.

Though mainly British, the "common soldiers" quoted here include Americans (War of Independence and War between the States), Frenchmen of Napoleon's Grande Armée and members of the French Foreign Legion.

Almost inevitably with a miscellany of this sort, the pace is somewhat uneven. Such dull and inconsequential items as those dealing with the Civil War (British) could well have been dispensed with, while Mr McGuffie has surprisingly ignored the prolific and fascinating "Letters of Private Wheeler 1809-1828." Nonetheless, there

The Battle of the V-WEAPONS

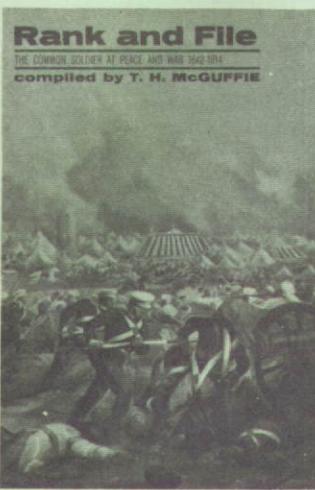
1944-1945



Rank and File

THE COMMON SOLDIER AT PEACE AND WAR 1942-1944

compiled by T. H. McGUFFIE



are many items of unusual and absorbing interest — "A Boy of Ten Joins the Army 1759" and other items by John Shipp; "The Retreat from Moscow 1812"; "The Great Assault on Gibraltar" and "The North-West Frontier 1839."

From the whole there emerges a picture of men who, despite the soldier's one accepted and age-old privilege of grumbling, grumble little. Their occupational hazards were prodigious, in times of peace as well as war.

A wry cheerfulness and stoic endurance in the face of sometimes almost insuperable odds were their characteristics. The soldier of today has very much more to be thankful for than he may sometimes realise.

Hutchinson, 35s.

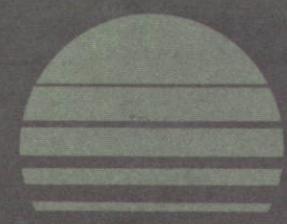
D H C

DEATH IN THE AFTERNOON

"Six Minutes to Sunset" (Arthur Swinson).

ONE of the most explosive incidents in the history of the British Empire was the ghastly slaughter which took place in the Jallianwala Bagh, in the Punjab city of Amritsar, on the afternoon of Sunday, 13

SIX MINUTES TO SUNSET



Christopher Hibbert

April 1919. When it was over and the British commander, Brigadier-General R E H Dyer, marched his 90 soldiers from the carnage, they left 379 Indian men, women and children dead, and more than 1200 wounded and unattended.

At first General Dyer was praised as "the saviour of the Punjab" who had, by his drastic action, nipped in the bud a rebellion which would have spread throughout the country. But a political outcry reached such dimensions that a committee of inquiry was set up, and this eventually condemned his action. Such heat was engendered that at one time the British Government found itself fighting for its life. The country was split into two factions, the one upholding Dyer as a soldier who had carried out his duty with great courage, the other denouncing him as the cruel and cold-blooded perpetrator of an atrocity.

The author has uncovered many important facts which enable him to tell the story against a comprehensive historical background. Three-quarters of his book is devoted to the repercussions which followed the slaughter and the reactions, both emotional and political, in England and in India.

General Dyer was disgraced without ever being tried, but his personal integrity was never in question. He lived in retirement until July 1926 when, a few days before his death, he said: "So many people who knew the conditions in Amritsar say I did right . . . but so many others say I did wrong. I only want to die and know from my Maker whether I did right or wrong."

Davies, 30s.

D H C

JUSTIFYING EOKA

"Guerilla Warfare and EOKA's Struggle" (General George Grivas).

WHEN it comes to guerilla warfare the opinions of General George Grivas-Dighenis are bound to command attention. After all he did wage a successful campaign against the British forces in Cyprus. That some of EOKA's actions smacked more of Chicago gangsterdom than of a fight for freedom only adds point to his utterances.

This is a boastful book in which Grivas and EOKA are invariably right and the British almost always wrong. The British failed to get the sympathy of the Greek-Cypriot population, he says, because the weapon they used was force. British propaganda was mostly lies; EOKA told the truth.

Grivas's strategy was impeccable; that of the British, owing to a surfeit of men and materials, was "hunting field mice with armoured cars." Some British tactics could not be criticised, but the methods of carrying out the operations were "so open and lackadaisical . . . that one got the impression they were on an exercise."

The author attempts to justify all EOKA's methods, including the notorious "execution groups" which, he says, had as targets "any

Englishman belonging to the armed forces, especially dangerous members of the Intelligence Services."

This book provides an insight into the thinking of a ruthless guerilla leader and it also exposes one weakness of EOKA which the security forces were never able to exploit.

Because of a lack of experienced subordinates and the danger of establishing a command post, command had to be centralised in Grivas. "Had I been eliminated," he writes, with boastfulness this time more apparent than real, "the whole struggle would have collapsed because no one could have taken my place."

Longmans, 30s.

R L E

INVASION, 1415

"Agincourt" (Christopher Hibbert).

WITH skilful attention to detail the author reminds us that Agincourt, fought on 25 October 1415, was not merely a battle but a campaign. We see the complex machinery of war get under way as a 1500-ship armada gathers in the Solent and thousands of men-at-arms, horses, archers and battering-rams are taken aboard.

The Agincourt campaign was no crusade to save Europe. It was a war for plunder aimed at France when she was at her weakest. Her King, Charles VI, was mad, the French were riddled with feudal jealousies, they lacked discipline and worst of all their fighting techniques were obsolete. They were no match for the deadly English long bow, lethal up to 300 yards, nor could they match the inspired bravery and ruthless leadership of Henry V who, at a critical stage in the battle, ordered the massacre of all prisoners to free more men for combat.

The cost to France was shattering. The list of dead reads like a Burke's Peerage and some 1500 nobles were also captured. Their fate was to shuffle through the streets of London in the victory parade that followed Henry's return and to await, for years, the payment of a ransom.

Hard, domineering and patriotic, Henry emerges from the campaign as one of England's most successful soldiers.

Batsford, 35s.

A W H

PURGED AND REINSTATED

"Years Off My Life" (General A V Gorbatov).

IN August 1943 the triumphant Russian Third Army liberated the town of Orel. It was a great moment for the commander, General A V Gorbatov, who before World War One had served in Orel as a trooper in a Tsarist Cavalry regiment.

General Gorbatov came from a peasant family so poor that he was not above stealing a few coins from a church. He was apprenticed to a shoemaker, served in the shoe trade for more than five years and became a successful salesman. Then he was called up.

After fighting the Germans in World War One he was demobilised in 1918, but in the following year enlisted as a private in the Red Army. By the end of the civil war he was commanding a Cavalry brigade.

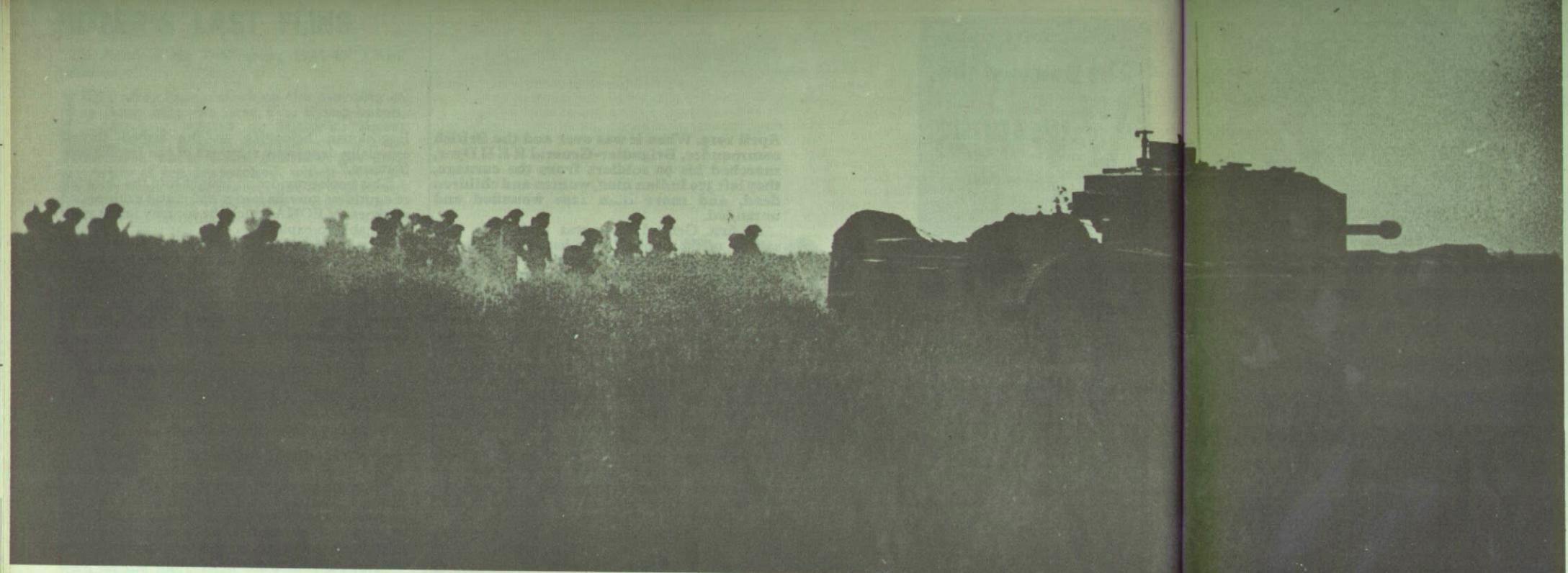
In peace-time he rose from regimental to divisional commander. Then came Stalin's purge. Gorbatov was removed from the army and party, arrested and tortured. Although he refused to incriminate himself he was sentenced to 15 years' prison and was sent off to Siberia.

In 1940 he was released and reinstated in the army to experience an eventful war culminating in his being awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

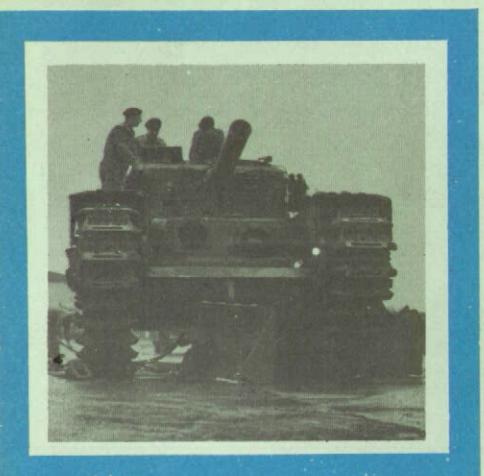
General Gorbatov tells his story with a simple faith in the Communist way of life and describes his campaigns with great gusto. He has no bitterness at his treatment in 1937-40 but reflects sadly that the Red Army made many mistakes in the earlier stages of World War Two because so many experienced officers had been purged.

Constable, 25s.

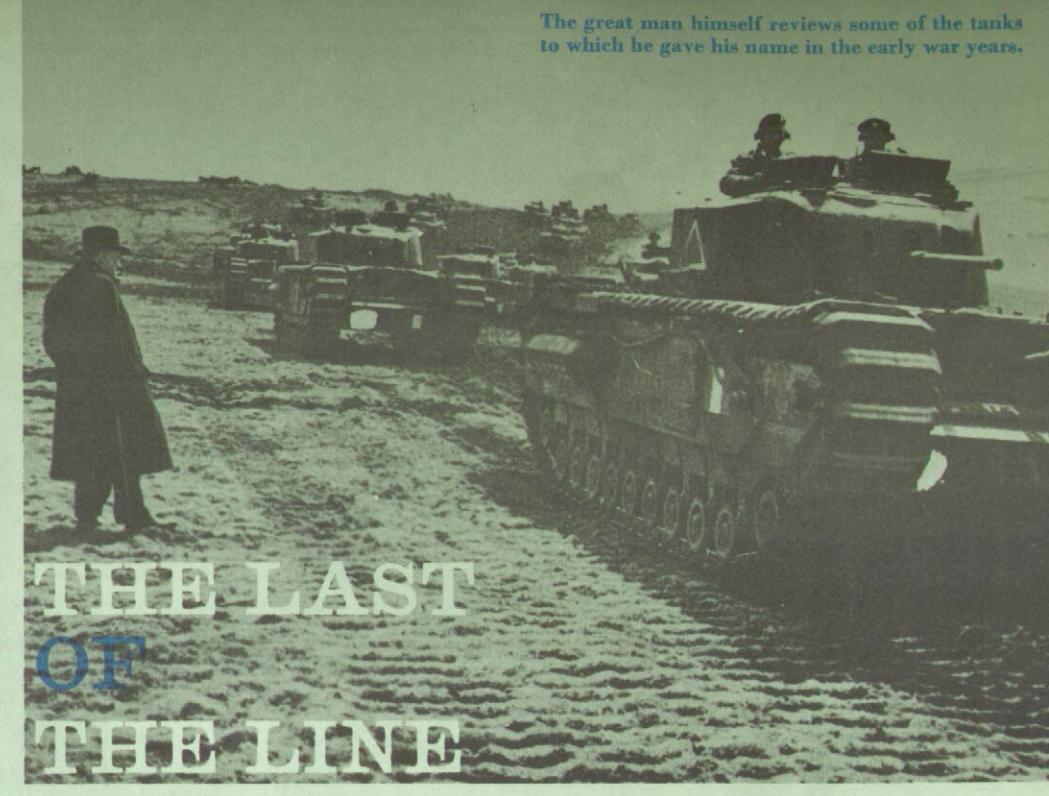
R L E



Above: Troops advance behind a Churchill in France, June 1944.
Right: Sappers working on the last Churchill in the Army.
Left: This picture, taken on exercises in Britain, was one of the first of the new tank.
Below: Crocodile flamethrowers support the attack on a Dutch village during the 1944 advance.



S.O. Code No. 72-32-65-2



THE LAST OF THE LINE

After 24 years' faithful service in war and peace, the last Churchill tank in the British Army will be officially retired next month.

Freshly painted, it is to be mounted on its own tank bridge in a place of honour at Hohne in Germany, home of 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron, Royal Engineers, the last unit to be equipped with Churchills, now completely replaced by Centurions.

There it will stay, a permanent reminder to soldiers of the future of its days of glory during the dark years of World War Two.

The first Churchill made its appearance in 1941, and a beastly and unreliable machine it was too. But these were only growing pains and later models proved themselves more than worthy of the famous name they bore.

Eleven marks of the tank were produced, each differing in armament and armour. Initially they were very much under-gunned and quite incapable of dealing with the big German Panthers.

In the ill-starred raid on Dieppe in 1942, Canadians manned 30 waterproofed Churchills in the assault from the sea. They landed simultaneously on the beach and more than half crossed the sea wall but heavy concrete road blocks barred the streets and prevented further progress.

The crews fought on to the last but every one of the new tanks fell into enemy hands for examination, a sacrifice that happily made the Germans think that Dieppe was not merely a large raid but a definite invasion attempt.

Later in North Africa Churchills really proved their fighting value and in the mountains of Tunisia they covered very great distances under appalling conditions. These later models, with much improved armament, a top speed of 20 miles an hour and considerable armour, could withstand much anti-tank fire and had the popular feature (with the crews, at least) of seldom blowing up.

The Churchill proved itself ideally suited for conversion to unusual roles—towing an

armoured trailer containing 400 gallons of fuel it became the Crocodile, one of the most effective flame-throwing tanks of the war. The trailer carried sufficient fuel for 100 one-second shots and the flame gun mounted in the bow of the tank had a maximum range of 120 yards. Crocodiles were still being used successfully as late as the Korean campaign.

Churchills rolled ashore on D-Day in Normandy with a multitude of roles. The Churchill Bobbin was equipped with a huge roll of canvas matting which it laid across the soft sand and swampy ground—this track would support a 40-ton tank.

While Crocodiles breathed fire in all directions, other Churchills were converted to AVREs (armoured vehicle, Royal Engineers) with a 12-inch spigot mortar which could throw 25lb high explosive charges (known as "flying dustbins") up to 80 yards. These were used to clear obstacles in the path of the advancing troops and their striking effect sometimes led enthusiastic engineers into acting as storm troops.

In Normandy the Churchills were the only vehicles which could cross the *bocage* country and their speed was such that they frequently outdistanced the Infantry working with them.

In the closing weeks of the war in Germany, Churchill tanks, many of which had landed on D-Day, carried the Sixth Airborne Division on its famous pursuit which spearheaded Second Army's advance to the Baltic.

Dogged by early teething troubles, the Churchill was regarded by many as a poor tank. But for the men who fought in them, it was an entirely different story.

When a correspondent of *The Times* dismissed the Churchill as "only useful in freak roles" it raised a storm of protest. Major-General G L Verney DSO summed it up with this comment: "I, and others who had the good fortune to fight in Churchill tanks, will always maintain that the Churchill was the best all-round tank this side of the Iron Curtain."

SOLDIER

MARTHA HYER

*Paramount
—in "The Carpetbaggers,"*

