

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 1957

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THE ARMY IN LIGHTS

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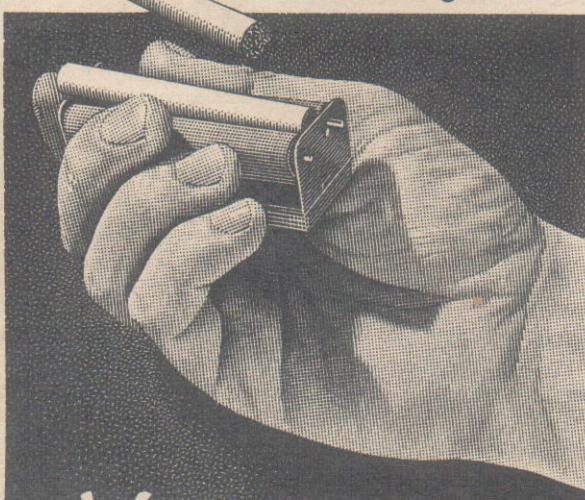


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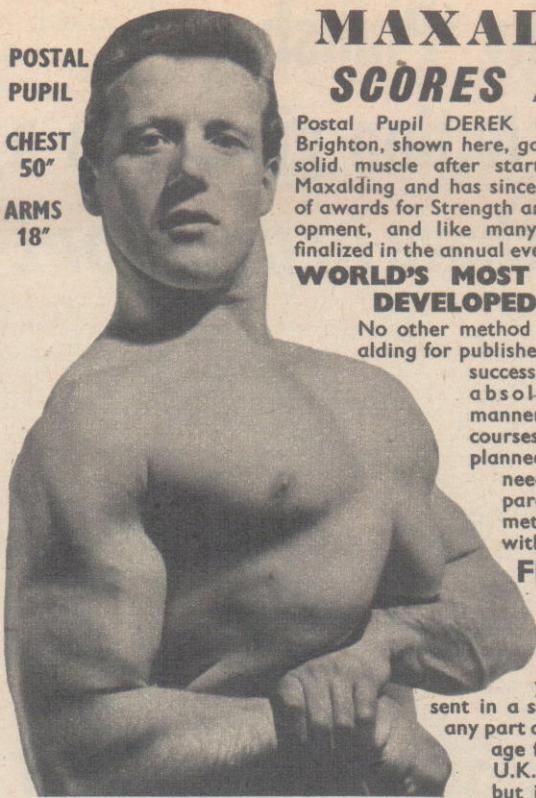
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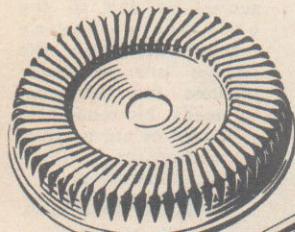


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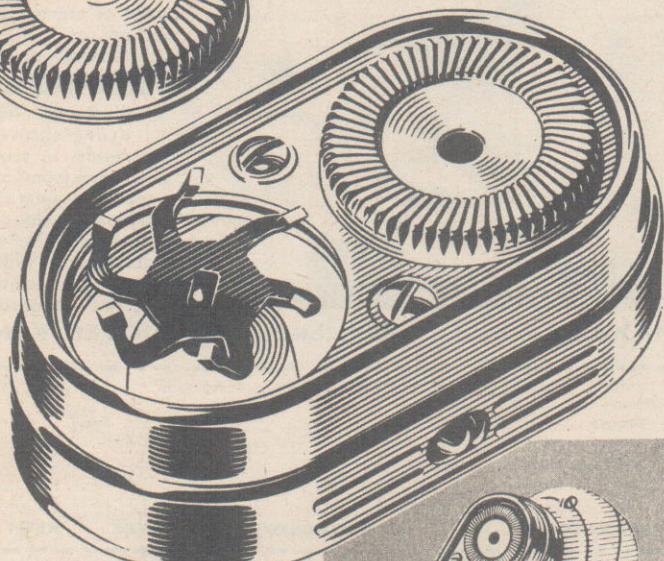
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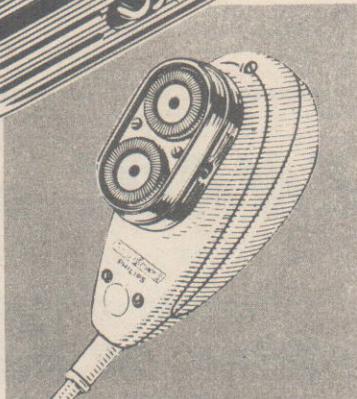


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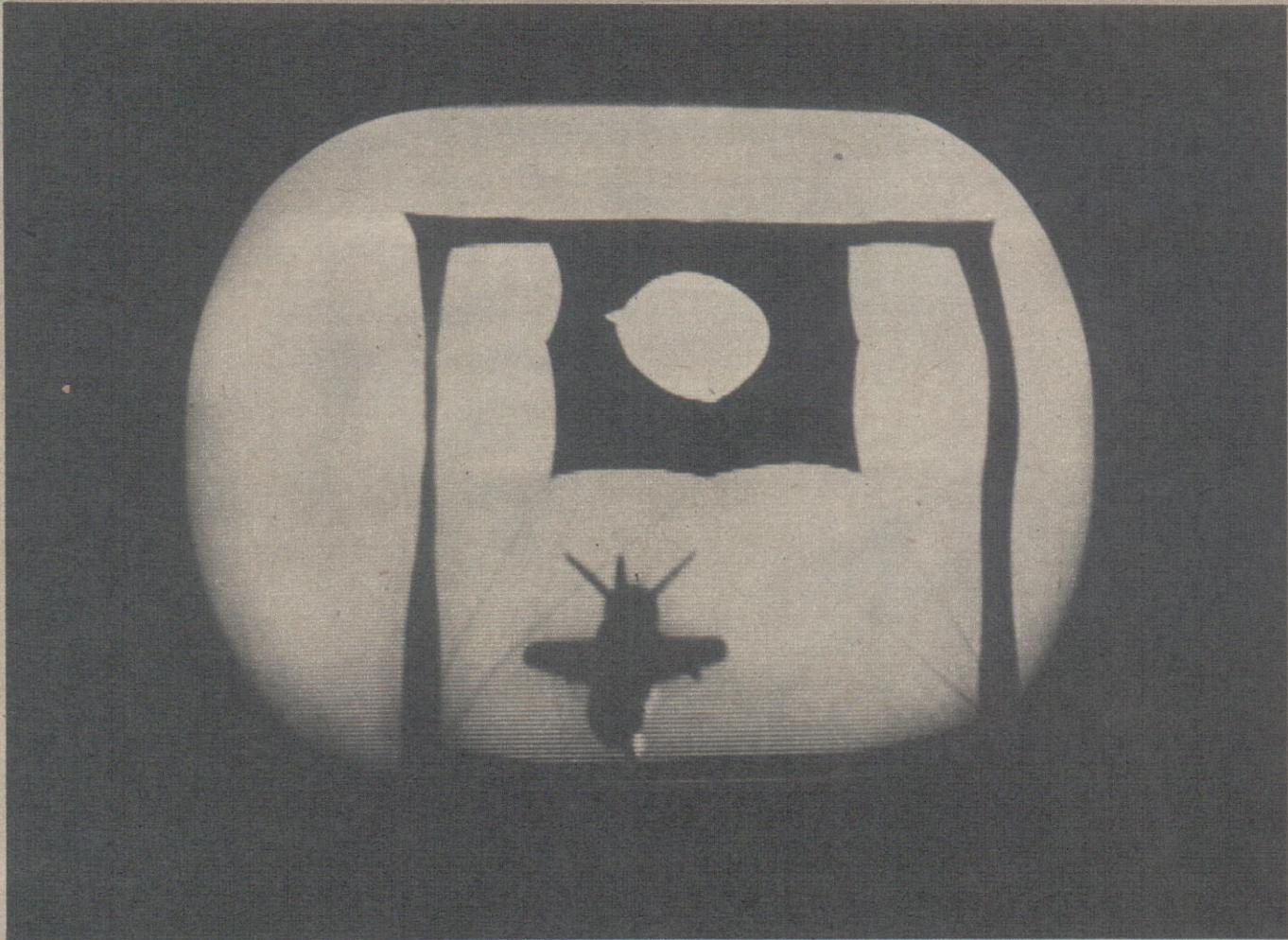
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SOLDIER 5085



“THE BEAST”

Above: “The Beast” in flight, swerving towards a cloth target. Accuracy is measured in inches. Below: A soldier seated in an armoured vehicle guides “The Beast” to its target by hand.

SOLDIER CAPTURES PICTURES OF THE SECRET WEAPON WHICH MAY MEAN THE END OF THE HEAVY TANK

SEVERAL million people in Britain had a fleeting glimpse of “The Beast,” the Army’s secret anti-tank guided weapon, when it made its debut on television in a BBC programme called “Your Army—Now.”

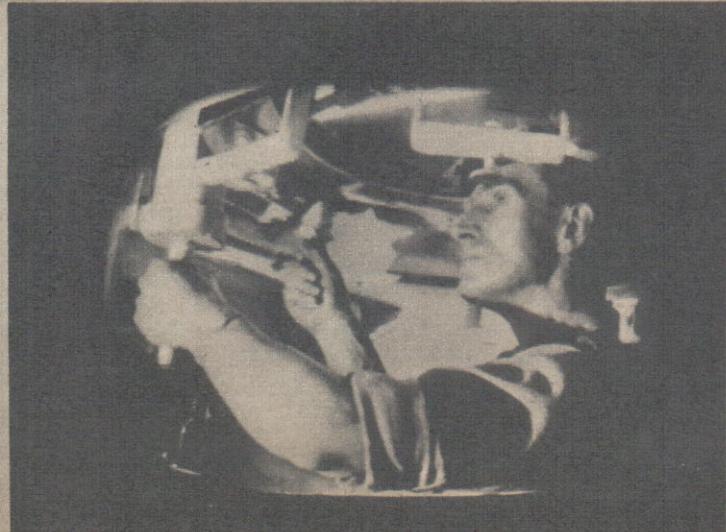
Among the audience was a SOLDIER cameraman who, although the weapon was on view for only 30 seconds, secured the pictures on this page.

“The Beast,” so called by Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, chief of the Imperial General Staff, who introduced the programme (its real name is still a secret) is the weapon which Mr. John Hare, the War Minister, said earlier this year, “should, if all goes well, remove the heavy tank from the battlefield. The Conqueror may well be the last of the heavy tanks we shall produce.”

Television viewers saw the missile—a stubby

OVER...

SOLDIER 5085



"THE BEAST"

continued

rocket fitted with guiding fins—released from its launcher and swerve almost leisurely towards a cloth target, which appeared to be about four feet square, hitting it in the centre. Then it swerved again and hit another cloth target.

The television cameras then swung to the inside of an armoured vehicle in which sat a

soldier, guiding the weapon by means of hand instruments. Finally, "The Beast" was seen hurtling towards a tank which it struck and then blew up in a great cloud of flame and smoke.

The demonstration, which was filmed at an Army range, showed that the weapon has great manoeuvrability and is extremely

accurate.

Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer told his audience that "The Beast" is guided visually and that its accuracy is measured "not in yards or even feet, but in inches." He also revealed that the weapon would be operated by the Royal Armoured Corps.

Keystone. 25741



At a training range near Oldenburg members of the German Army test the French SS 10 tank destroyer. Each rocket weighs 33 lbs.

... AND THE BEAST'S BROTHER

"THE BEAST" is believed to belong to the same family of anti-tank guided weapons as the French SS 10, now being used in the German and Israeli armies.

The SS 10 is also guided visually, by two wires which unroll from

the tips of the guiding fins as the weapon heads for its target. Its extreme range is claimed to be 2000 yards and its speed about 250 miles an hour. It is guided by one man operating press-button controls some distance away from the launching site.

SOLDIER to Soldier

BY the end of 1962 the last National Serviceman will have left the Army which will then become an all-Regular force some 165,000 strong.

That is the plan envisaged in Mr. Sandys' White Paper on Defence. But will it work out?

Recent recruiting figures suggest it may not, unless some drastic measures are taken to

induce more men to join up.

It has been estimated that an all-Regular Army of 165,000 will need about 20,000 recruits every year, each serving on a six- or nine-year engagement. In the 12 months ended last June the number signing on for long-term engagements was only about 6000. In the second quarter of this year only 6912 men joined up on Regular engagements (most of them for three years) against 9887 in the previous three months. Figures for National Servicemen transferring to Regular engagements were also down from 1321 to 568.

By the time SOLDIER went to press the Government had not announced its plans for attracting more recruits. But it was known that "improved conditions of ser-

vice" (by which is meant, among other things, better barracks, better married quarters, increased pay and pensions and better uniforms) were being considered.

A FORMER War Minister, Mr. John Strachey, has suggested that if the country is to get the men it wants it will have to pay the trained soldier "something in the order of £10 a week—and all found."

He chooses that sum because £10 is the average wage of the British civilian worker and says that "all found" would no more than compensate the soldier for the "inevitable disutilities of military life."

At first sight, £10 a week and all found may seem a bit on the generous side, but there are

many, SOLDIER among them, who think it not unreasonable for a soldier to be paid at least as much as a civilian. The days when the Army was a bolt-hole for dunces, down-and-outs and the workshy have gone for ever. The highly-technical modern Army must have men at least as skilled as most civilians.

When compared with rates of pay in some other armies even £10 a week and all found for a trained private soldier is not excessive. In the Canadian Army, for instance, the one-star private is paid £6 15s. a week and the "four-star" private gets £18 15s. a week. A warrant officer draws between £32 and £45 10s. a week—about three times the wage paid to his counterpart in the British Army.

BRITISH TROOPS FROM KENYA, ADEN, BAHREIN AND BRITAIN FLEW TO THE ARABIAN PENINSULA TO HELP QUELL A REBELLION. A WEEK LATER IT WAS ALL OVER

On a rocky hilltop outside Firq, men of the Cameronians keep watch with a Bren gun.

Planet News

OMAN

THE SEVEN DAYS CAMPAIGN



The Cameronians strike camp before entering Nizwa, overlooked by the steep, barren hill from which they helped to dislodge the rebels with their mortars and machine-guns.



Oman is a desolate country of sand and rocky mountains bounded by the Arabian Sea on one side and Saudi Arabia on the other. The British force advanced to Nizwa by way of Fahud, Firq and Izki.

their berets to keep out the sweltering sun (temperatures often reached 130 degrees) and handkerchiefs covering their faces against the choking clouds of dust. In a country almost completely devoid of roads and even tracks, the going was hard and bouncing over deep mud ruts, ploughing through soft sand and sliding through patches of loose gravel was wearing on both men and machines. The day's rations consisted of only a mug of tea and a few hard biscuits at day-break and a light meal of corned beef and tinned vegetables at night.

The British force, commanded by Brigadier J. A. R. Robertson, from 51 Brigade in Cyprus,

FOR the 350 British soldiers who helped to quell the recent rebellion in Oman it was a seven days "war".

A week after the force went into action the revolt had collapsed, the rebels had fled and order had been restored. The British troops suffered no casualties (except for seven cases of heat exhaustion) and most of them never even saw the rebels.

Nonetheless, it was a gruelling campaign carried out over difficult terrain in one of the world's most torrid spots. Speed was essential for success. Only a few hours after Britain had decided to answer the Sultan of Muscat and Oman's plea for help, British troops were on their way by air from Kenya, Aden, Bahrain and Cyprus to link up with other British soldiers travelling overland from the Trucial Oman. Some Sappers were also flown direct from Britain into the almost overwhelming heat of the inhospitable Arabian Peninsula.

In the initial stages of the advance towards rebel strongholds most of the men drove all day in Landrovers and lorries, towels draped under

Major Jasper Coates, of the Trucial Oman Scouts, accepted the surrender of Firq. He is seen here after the parley with the villagers, carrying the Sultan's flag.

Planet News



OMAN

continued

consisted of the Cameronians, equipped with small arms, Bren guns, Vickers machine-guns and three-inch mortars; the 15/19th Hussars with Ferret scout cars; Sappers, Signallers and men of the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The main task was to protect bases and lines of communication and, if necessary, to support with heavy weapons the Trucial Oman Scouts, led by British officers, and the Sultan's own forces.

On the way to Nizwa, the Oman capital which had been captured by the rebels, the Cameronians and the Hussars had their first and only taste of action in the campaign when the village of Firq refused to surrender.

Under cover of a dust storm at dusk the Cameronians took up positions on "The Pimple," about half a mile from a band of rebels dug in in slit trenches and caves on both sides of "Saw Tooth Ridge" guarding the town. The Hussars drove their Ferrets across rocky country to protect the opposite flank.

At midnight, by the light of a pale moon, the Cameronians struggled up the steep, craggy hills with their mortars and machine-guns and were soon enfilading the rebel positions. But the action was short-lived. The rebels retired and Firq surrendered, leaving the way open for the Sultan's men and the Trucial Oman Scouts to enter



In the thorny desert scrub outside Nizwa a Cameronian prepares his billet for the night.

Nizwa without a shot being fired.

The campaign was all but over. The next day Brigadier Robertson took the surrender of Tanuf and Bakhla to the west of Nizwa and the revolt was crushed.

A week later the British force had withdrawn, except for the crews of five Ferret scout cars who, at the Sultan's request, were

left behind for a few days to escort the first oil convoy from Muscat to the oil centre at Jebel Fahud.

Before they left the Sappers were also called in by the Sultan to blow up two rebel forts—at Tanuf and Izki.

Although the campaign lasted only a week and the British force gained no battle experience, a

great deal was learned about mounting a "fire brigade" action.

Lieutenant-Colonel S. Campbell, who commanded the Cameronians, is reported to have said: "The affair has shown that it is possible for British troops to fight successfully in the Arabian summer as long as motor transport is available to carry them over the main distances."



Brigadier J. A. R. Robertson, who commanded the combined British and Omani ground forces, gives wireless instructions to forward patrols before the capture of Izz, the first rebel village to capitulate.

Left: the rebel-held fort at Nizwa which gave in without a shot being fired. The Land-rover is carrying British troops who took part in the surrender.

The Regimental Spirit Will Live On

NOW THAT THE BRIGADE IS TO REPLACE THE REGIMENT IN THE INFANTRYMAN'S AFFECTIONS, WILL THE REGIMENTAL SPIRIT WITHER AND DIE? THIS ARTICLE BY A STUDENT OF MILITARY HISTORY TELLS WHY IT WILL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH

WHAT of the regimental spirit? Can it survive the disturbing changes soon to come in the Army—the wholesale amalgamations of regiments and the putting of the brigade in place of the regiment as the focus of the Infantryman's loyalty and the primary object of his Service affections?

After reflection and a look-back at the history of the British Army and the many similar upheavals it has come through without too much loss of morale, most soldiers probably will agree that this essence of the Army's life will not be quenched. The regimental spirit is indestructible.

Once there was a Company spirit. In the 17th century every company of Infantry and troop of Cavalry had its own Colour or Standard. These emblems fostered an intense company or troop feeling and devotion. There were Regimental Colours too, which in the Infantry numbered three; one for the pikemen and one for each of the two wings of musketeers. When the pikes were abolished, about the end of that century, the Regimental Colours were reduced to two, and Company Colours were given up, except by the regiments of the Foot Guards.

But the company spirit in the Line regiments was not destroyed; it simply expanded to cover also the whole regiment. The company or troop spirit lives on in many regiments to this day, and indeed the competitive interplay of it can be among the healthiest aids to regimental morale.

As Company Colours disappeared and loyalties broadened, the regimental spirit was born, and then for over 200 years it was the motive force which drove all good soldiers to give the best that was in them.

The ultimate duty of the soldier was stern. It was to endure hardship and privation in the field and to face the imminent risk of wounds or death. The force that most surely steeled him against fear and suffering and held him to his post was something beyond his ingrained discipline. It might have been his religion, but as often as not it was his share of the regimental spirit; his pride in The Regiment, pride in himself as being fit to belong to it, and a grim resolve not to let it down.

In both World Wars it was common to meet old soldiers, usually Regulars, who were frankly ribald about patriotic sentiments, yet who would, just for the credit of their own particular "mob," quietly stand up to any punishment and in the last extremity pass out without fuss. Such men generally were well informed about what "the old

mob" had done, maybe in the Crimea, in India, in the Peninsula and before that under Marlborough. They also knew the often extraordinary origins of their regiment's own peculiar customs or accoutrements. Often they would speak derisively of these things but it was easy to see that they cherished them, sometimes fiercely, in their hearts. Though they would never have dreamed of saying so, they were quite prepared to die for the sake of those quaint, and mirthful, and unbelievably heroic things that make up a regimental tradition.

The first World War inevitably diluted the old regimental spirit. How could those hosts of civilians with no military background at all, who suddenly became soldiers, ever have been expected to imbibe the regimental spirit? Yet somehow hundreds of thousands did, and many a mild and elderly Briton now, who never for a day was a soldier before 1914 or after 1919, is prouder of his war service, specifically with the "Old Scruffies" or the "Canteen Proppers," than of most other achievements in his life. For that, our tradition-loving Army has to thank that man's old-time Regular instructors: the faith was strong in them, and between them they passed on the torch.

All the same there was much dilution of that priceless spirit; more and more as the awful incidence of casualties in and among battalions, and the changing needs of the Army made wholesale, heart-breaking cross-postings grimly necessary. And that war, like others before it, produced many extra-regimental loyalties. Before the end of 1914 the 4th Guards Brigade had developed a brigade spirit over and above the regimental pride of its four battalions. Soon also there were soldiers proud to say they belonged to the 7th Division, or later on, after the Gallipoli landings, the 29th Division. And later still, Plumer's Second Army won a great name and the affection of a host of individuals who served in it.

After that war the widened Service loyalty shrank to cover simply the regiment, as before. The second World War and its resulting new expansion of the Army again enlarged the regimental spirit to embrace bigger and bigger formations, and tens of thousands of temporary sol-



Pride in belonging to a regimental family is reflected in the faces of these men of the Royal Norfolk Regiment. Soon they will owe a triple loyalty.

diers in battledress proudly sported the flashes of brigades, divisions, corps, and even armies.

Thus it has been demonstrated that the British soldier is capable of feeling an obligation of loyalty to his regimental family and any group of which it is part, at one and the same time. But those wider loyalties developed out of associations in battle. The soldier now is called upon to stretch his instinctive devotion to his regiment so as to cover, and cover primarily, his brigade—not to fight a great war but in peacetime and, at first sight at any rate, merely to serve an administrative purpose.

In the amalgamated battalions a triple loyalty will be expected of him: to his own original half of the composite unit; to the battalion itself, and to the parent

brigade. And, bitterest pill of all, he has to accept a new brigade cap badge in place of his cherished regimental badge, the traditional emblem binding together all his regimental family. Probably few of the present generation of Regular Infantrymen will ever be reconciled to the brigade cap badge.

Yet no one who knows the philosophical, adaptable, infinitely patient British soldier really doubts that he will meet these demands. Somehow he will make this strange, and at first heart-breaking system work. After all, "Orders is orders." And it will become easier as more and more volunteers enter the Army with no first-hand knowledge of the brave old way of things.

ERIC PHILLIPS

THE ARMY TACKLES

AN ASIAN "INVADER"

C.P.

If the anticipated epidemic of Asian influenza has reached Britain by the time this article appears the new vaccine which has been produced with the help of the Royal Army Medical Corps will have been given its first big test.

Medical experts predicted that the epidemic would strike Britain towards the end of this year and as SOLDIER went to press there were reports of several minor outbreaks.

All Central Press Pix - both pages



Where better to find the right types for testing the vaccine than at the RAMC's own Field Training Centre? Here are some of the 60 soldiers who volunteered.

1 Blood samples were taken from "infected" soldiers three weeks after receiving the vaccine. They were sent to the Wright-Fleming Institute for examination.

2 Each test tube contains a soldier's blood. Serum was obtained by spinning the samples in a centrifuge.

3 A laboratory assistant collects sera from the blood samples after the test tubes have been "spun."

4 Here, another assistant, examines sera for the amount of antibody which has been developed against the virus.

THE Royal Army Medical Corps has played a notable part in building up a protective shield against an epidemic of Asian influenza if and when it comes to Britain.

Army medical officers discovered the virus and 60 members of the Corps volunteered to become the first "guinea pigs" to try out new vaccine.

Following the recent outbreak of Asian 'flu in the Far East, the Royal Army Medical Corps' Deputy Assistant Director of Pathology in Hong Kong took throat specimens from Chinese nationals serving with the British Army who were stricken with the infection.

These specimens were put into vacuum flasks, packed in carbon dioxide snow to preserve the virus and flown to the Royal Army Medical College at Millbank in London.

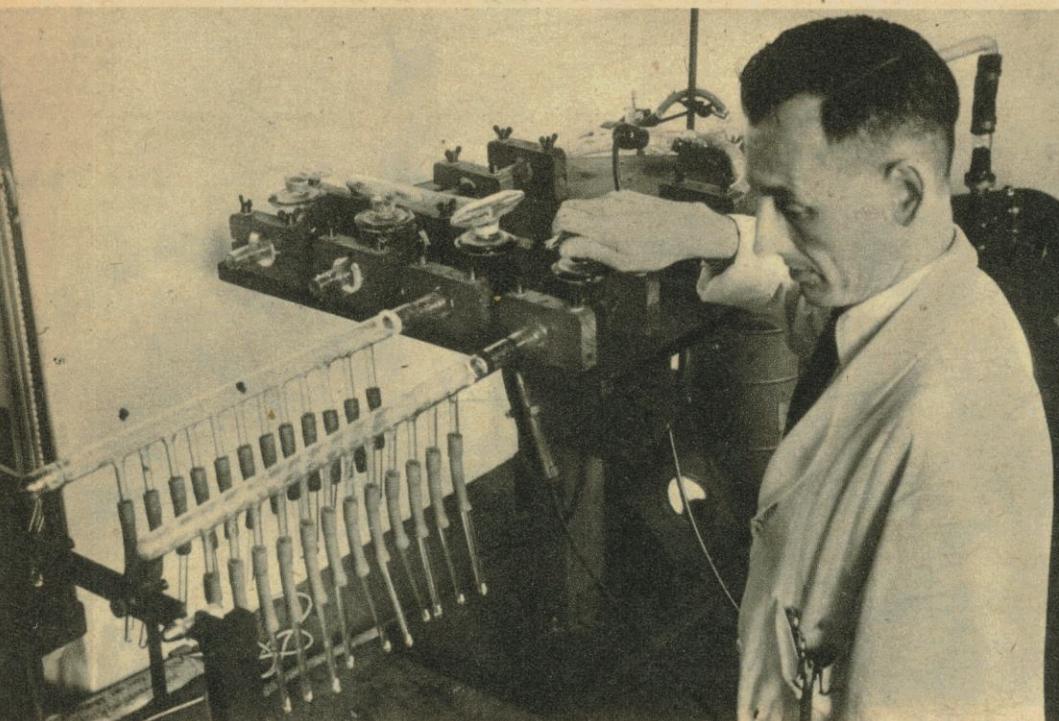
The next stage was to identify the strain of virus before making new vaccine. This was done at the World Influenza Centre, Mill Hill, by infecting fertile hens eggs with the specimens sent from Hong Kong. The strain was found to belong to a new type and a new vaccine was therefore necessary.

From the strain so ingeniously procured the Wright-Fleming Institute of Microbiology at St. Mary's Hospital, London, were able to prepare the vaccine. The emergence of this new

strain presented medical research specialists with fresh problems. One of the first things they had to find out was whether the dosage of vaccine used for other types of influenza would be equally effective against Asian 'flu. As a very large amount of vaccine would be needed in the event of a widespread outbreak in Britain it was no less important to ascertain whether the dosage could be reduced.

This called for "guinea pigs." Immediately 60 NCOs and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps at the Field Training Centre, Mytchett, near Aldershot, volunteered to undergo the test. (The Royal Air Force provided a similar number of volunteers.)

Vaccines of varying strengths were tried out. The 60 men of the Royal Army Medical Corps were given their first "shots" at the beginning of July. Three weeks later blood samples were taken. From these samples sera were collected and examined in the laboratory at the Wright-Fleming Institute to determine the amount



The influenza virus suspensions are preserved by "freeze-drying" in a vacuum before distributing them to laboratories throughout the world.



The virus is grown by infecting fertile eggs with specimens sent from Hong Kong. Each egg grows enough vaccine to inoculate five people.

of antibody which had developed against the virus.

Was a single test sufficient or would another be necessary? Would two small doses equal, or be superior to, one large dose? These were some of the questions that had to be resolved.

First results of the use of the vaccine, although encouraging, indicated that two doses rather than one might be the answer. This meant asking some of the 60 Royal Army Medical Corps volunteers if they would agree to a second "jab." Not one refused.

Thus the medical authorities in Britain were able to add to the valuable information already gained through the co-operation of the Royal Army Medical Corps and prepare well in advance counter measures designed to meet the threatened invasion

of a virulent enemy of microscopic dimensions, which had already left thousands of casualties in its wake.

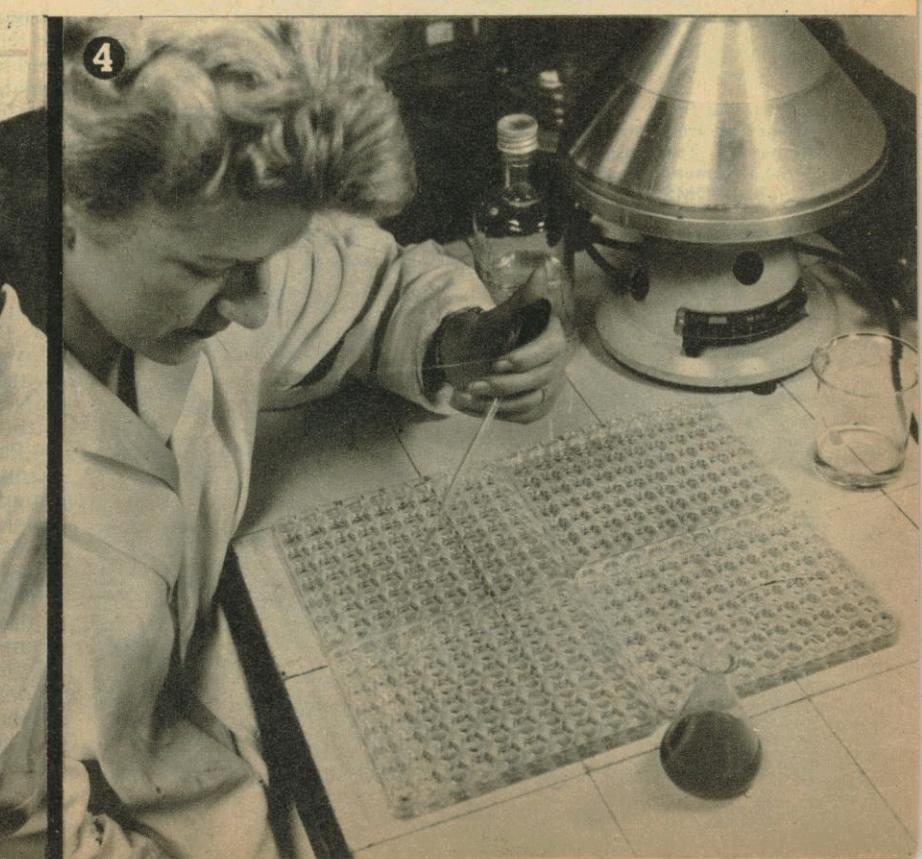
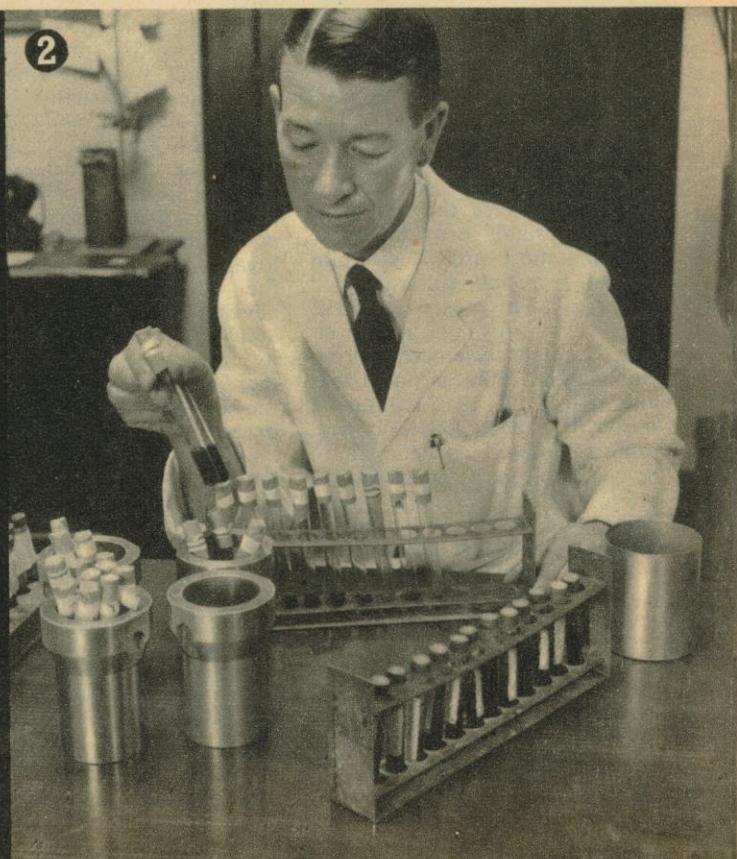
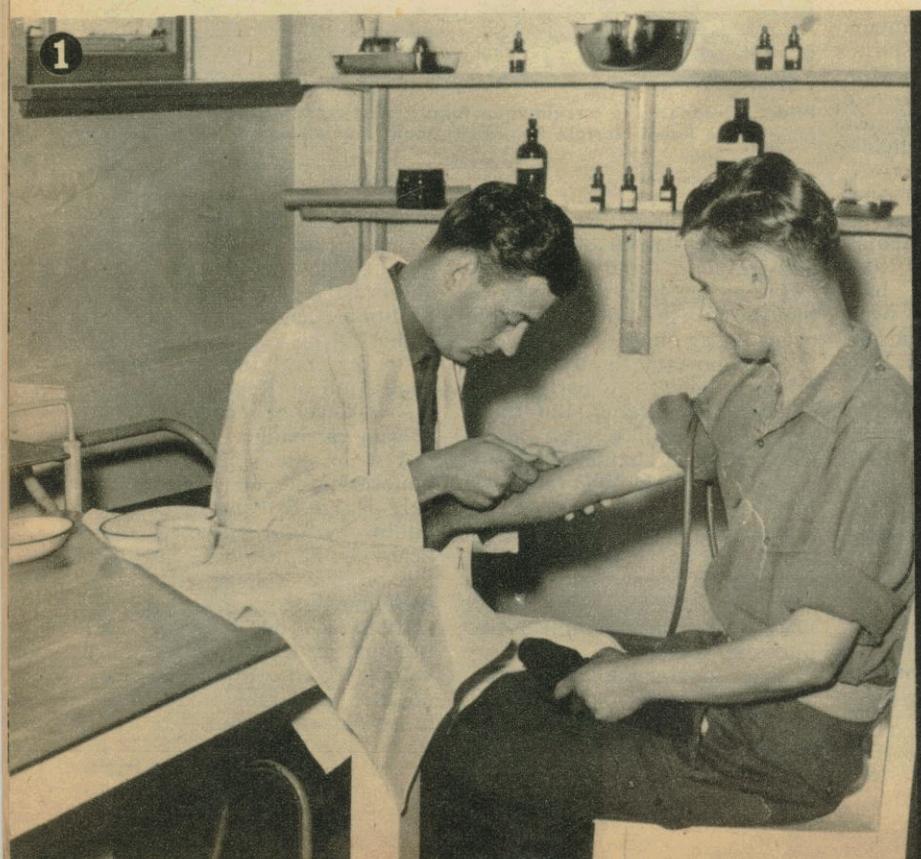
The Asian 'flu virus is a minute round particle no more than a quarter of a millionth of an inch across, but when subjected to the fertility of an egg it can multiply itself one hundred million times.

One big problem facing the medical authorities as SOLDIER

went to press was how to produce enough vaccine to inoculate the entire population of Britain. It was estimated that at least ten million eggs would be required.

Earliest reports indicate that Asian 'flu is unlikely to be as severe as the great influenza epidemic which swept Britain after World War One and from which thousands died.

BILL COUSINS



★ These airborne Gunners belong to the youngest regiment in the British Army

All Soldier Pix
5078 - back
Pages



Lieutenant-Colonel B. Parker DCM, the Commanding Officer of the youngest regiment, has been a Territorial for 25 years.

Right: A 4.2-inch mortar detachment in action at practice camp in Norfolk.



THE YOUNGEST REGIMENT



Above: The three newest recruits to the Army's newest regiment receive instruction from an old hand (extreme left). They are (left to right): Gunners T. Tomkinson, K. Curtis, and E. Perry. Below: Three members of the Regiment whose combined Army service adds up to 100 years: Left to right: RQMS H. Lines, Capt. (QM) L. Hamilton and AQMS L. Joel.



IN a troop command post on the training ranges at Thetford the accent was decidedly—and appropriately—on youth.

The Gun Position Officer, directing the fire of 4.2-inch mortars, was 20-year-old Lieutenant Patrick Spens. His technical assistant, Gunner William Petzoold and the wireless operator, Gunner John Harding, were both only 19.

All three are serving with Britain's youngest regiment—289 Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, Territorial Army, which that day was celebrating its first birthday.

The Regiment was formed in August last year but in spite of its tender age has a long tradition and history for it was born of the amalgamation of two long-established parachute-Gunner regiments of 16 Airborne Division, Territorial Army. They were 285 and 292 Parachute Field Regiments which could trace their ancestry back 100 years. No. 289 Regiment is the only Parachute Light Regiment in the British Army: its Regular equivalent is 33 Parachute Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, which took part in the recent Port Said landings.

No. 289 Parachute Light Regiment has a close support role in 44 Parachute Brigade, Territorial Army. Its batteries, each equipped with 4.2-inch mortars, are located at Grays and Stratford in Essex, Blackheath and Woolwich with Regimental headquarters in Rochester Row, Victoria. All officers and men come from the Home Counties, most of them Londoners. Earl Mountbatten of Burma is Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

The Regiment has many vintage Territorials in its ranks, too.

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ben Parker, has been a Territorial for a quarter of a century. As a sergeant in an anti-tank regiment he won the Distinguished Conduct medal in France in 1940.

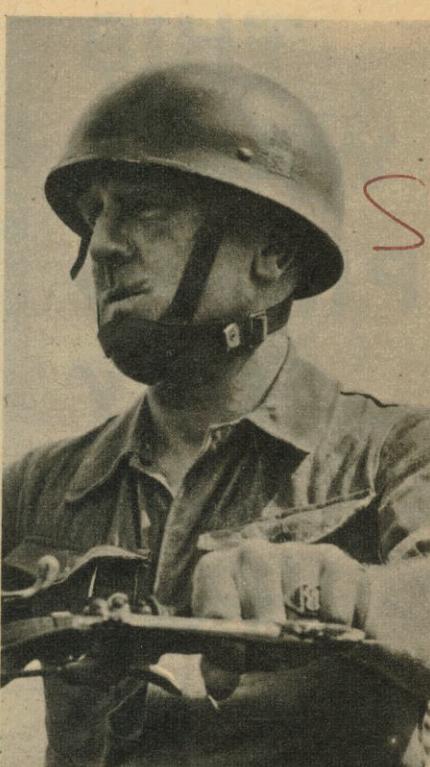
Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant Henry Lines enlisted as a boy trumpeter in 1920 and has served continuously ever since. Captain Quartermaster Leonard Hamilton, Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant Lines and Armourer Quartermaster-Sergeant Leslie Joel have 100 years of service between them.

Anyone who thinks that service in the Territorial Army consists of an occasional drill night and a fortnight of junketing at the annual camp would be speedily disillusioned by a visit to 289 Parachute Light Regiment. Drill attendances average 200 per year and many men who get only two weeks' holiday spend it at camp.

At their annual camp 289 Regiment work a 12-hour day which starts with parachute jumping from a balloon at dawn. In addition to intensive mortar drill and synthetic parachute training there are two night operations and a full scale 72-hour brigade exercise.

Reluctant parachutists are unheard of in the British Army's youngest regiment. Many are so

— but many of them have lost count of the times they have parachuted



Left: Lieutenant Patrick Spens, the Gun Position Officer, is the youngest officer in the Regiment. Right: Battery Sergeant-Major A. Harris who has parachuted 157 times, ten fewer than Sergeant C. Barnett.

GOES TO CAMP

keen, says the Adjutant, Captain F. McKendrick, that they often greatly exceed their quota of jumps. At camp every officer and man makes at least three parachute jumps (one from an aircraft and two from a balloon) and a minimum of seven during the year. At least a third of the Regiment also do additional para-

chute descents at the evening voluntary balloon jumping sessions at annual camp.

Many have lost count of the number of times they have parachuted but the existing record is held by Sergeant Charles Barnett, a London fitter, with 167. Sergeant Barnett attributes his partiality for parachuting to the fact

that early in World War Two, while serving as an air-gunner in the Royal Air Force, he had to bale out of a crippled bomber. He found the experience enjoyable and has been parachuting voluntarily with the Territorial Army ever since. Battery Sergeant-Major Alfred Harris is not far behind, with 157 parachute

jumps to his credit.

To be the youngest regiment of the British Army may seem to be a dubious distinction, but 289 Parachute Light Regiment has every reason to be proud of a record of keenness and efficiency that many an ancient formation might envy.

TIM CAREW

THIS BAND IS 600 YEARS OLD



Members of the Turkish Mehter, in 14th century uniform, rehearsing for the performance at the Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo. On the right, holding his staff, is the bandmaster.

THE Royal Artillery's claim to have the oldest regimental band in the world—it was formed 195 years ago in 1762—has been challenged by the Turkish Army which boasts one at least 400 years older.

This is the Turkish Mehter, which can trace its history back to the 14th century when it was formed to play martial music for the Janissaries, the famous corps of Infantry which struck terror into the Christians in Europe.

The Janissaries were raised in 1330 by pressing into service captured Christians who were taught the Moslem faith. At one time the Janissaries were 140,000 strong. They caused successive Sultans a great deal of trouble, setting fire to Constantinople many times to express their discontent with the rigorous discipline to which they were subjected. In 1826, when they openly rebelled, the Janissaries were disbanded and today only the Mehter keeps alive their traditions.

The Mehter took part in this year's Edinburgh Festival and last month played at Woolwich Searchlight Tattoo.



This was the uniform and equipment worn by Turkish soldiers in the 1300s: a member of the Turkish Army contingent at the Edinburgh Festival.

THIS WAS A PROUD DAY FOR THE ESSEX

ON a barrack square in Germany the Regimental Colour of the 1st Battalion, The Essex Regiment—believed to be the oldest Colour in the British Army still carried on parade—was being trooped.

As the Regimental band and drums broke into the lively lilt of a stirring quick march the Escort of three officers advanced. A second-lieutenant took over the Colour from the Regimental Sergeant-Major, turned about and rejoined the Escort. The tempo of the music changed to a slow march as the Escort advanced again and proudly bore the flag through the ranks.

The occasion was a notable one in the history of the Essex Regiment. The Colour was exactly 100 years old and the trooping was to celebrate its centenary.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier C. M. Paton, took the



The Regimental Band and drums swing on to the parade ground in Germany. The silver drums were presented to the Battalion by the people of Essex in 1913. Right: 2/Lieut. D. Palmer, having received the Colour from RSM P. McGeever, turns to rejoin the Escort.



Major Tom Lewsey, former Essex Territorial Army officer, with the oil painting of the ceremony which he completed at the parade.

of Tientsin. The enemy occupied a series of heavily defended forts and entrenchments, the most northerly of which were at Taku where the hardest fighting of the campaign took place.

In spite of a heavy bombardment the Taku Fort remained a formidable objective and the enemy was able to pour accurate and withering fire in all the approaches. First attempts to bridge the defence ditches and force a way through other obstacles, including thick hedges of pointed bamboo stakes, failed. Finally, the gate to the fort was breached by howitzer fire and Lieutenant R. M. Rogers and Private J. McDougall of the 44th swam a ditch and led a spirited attempt to break in. They were at first repulsed but on being joined by

other officers and men from the 44th and 67th (later the Royal Hampshire Regiment), Lieutenant Rogers managed to climb the wall to the embrasure on the right of the gate. An officer of the 67th stuck his sword into the wall and Lieutenant Rogers, who had been wounded, used it to stand on and leap into the fort, the first to do so. Others followed Rogers' example and the party charged from the wall and cleared an entry to the breach. The Chinese resistance was soon overcome.

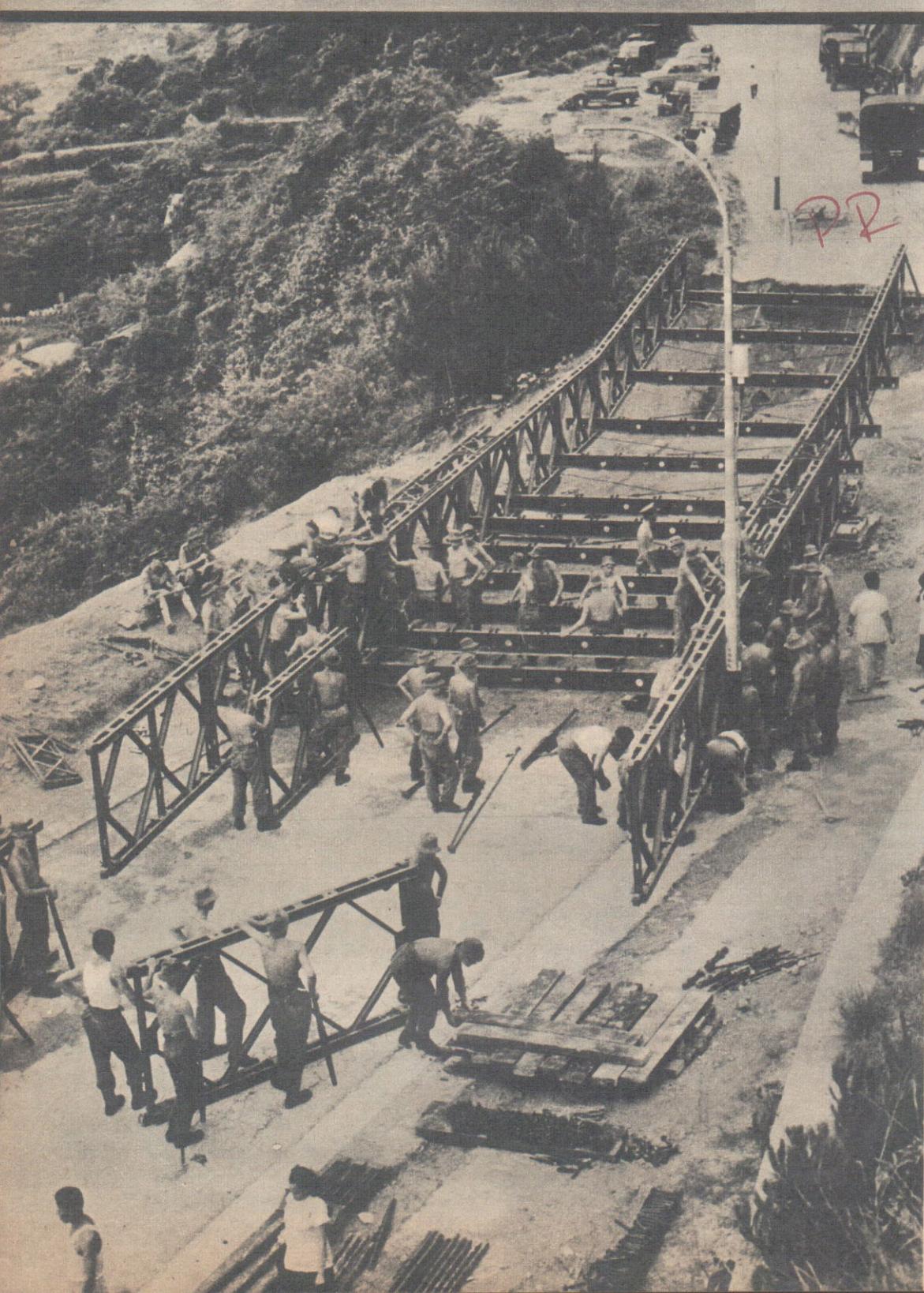
For their gallantry in this action Lieutenant Rogers and Private McDougall were awarded the Victoria Cross and the Regiment was granted the battle honour "Taku."—From a report by Major E. Bradley, Rhine Army Public Relations.



Four Sappers of 56 Field Squadron ferry Chinese children across a swollen river.

PR

Below: Men of 24 Field Engineer Regiment at work on the 70-ft. Bailey Bridge which they built across the Tai Po Road in ten hours.



PR

SAPPERS FOUGHT THE FLOODS

Royal Engineers rescued 800 people, built bridges and laid new roads after disastrous floods in Hong Kong

SAPPERS of the 24 Field Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers went into action at the double when the heaviest rains for more than 60 years brought disastrous floods and landslides to Hong Kong.

They cleared roads, bridged craters, dug water-courses and rescued hundreds of villagers in danger of being cut off by the raging waters.

On the Tai Po Road, a busy main thoroughfare from the New Territories to Kowloon and the island of Hong Kong, men of 54 and 56 Field Squadrons rushed a Bailey Bridge across a 70-ft gap in ten hours and then pushed on to a second gap where the road had been washed away. One Troop worked knee-deep in thick red mud for 18 hours non-stop to dig a foundation for a mounted excavator and constructed a make-shift drainage system. With the excavator they then dug into the hill to make a new road.

At the third gap on the road Sappers made a temporary roadway by hand to replace the one that had collapsed over the hillside.

The Sappers also took to the water in assault boats and at Yuen Long in the New Territories rescued nearly 800 marooned villagers and distributed food and clothing. At Sha Tin, Sappers in three assault boats patrolled the villages with the police to reassure the inhabitants that help was on hand if needed.

No. 82 Independent (Hong Kong) Squadron, Royal Engineers were also called in to clear a *nullah* which had become blocked with boulders and silt to a depth of seven feet. They also blasted rocks which had crashed down the hillsides on to the roads and were too heavy to move in one piece.—From a report by Major G. C. S. Turner.

Australian Gunners pounded jungle hide-outs and Infantrymen were flown in by helicopters to hunt a gang of terrorists in Malaya



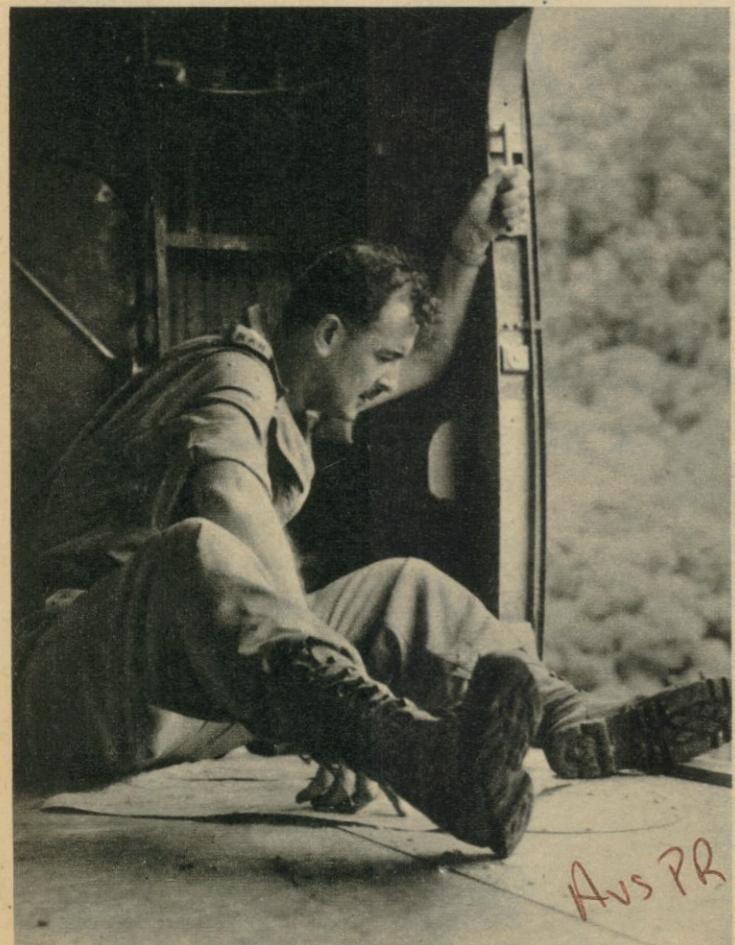
"AUSSIES" IN THE JUNGLE

Australian Army P.R.



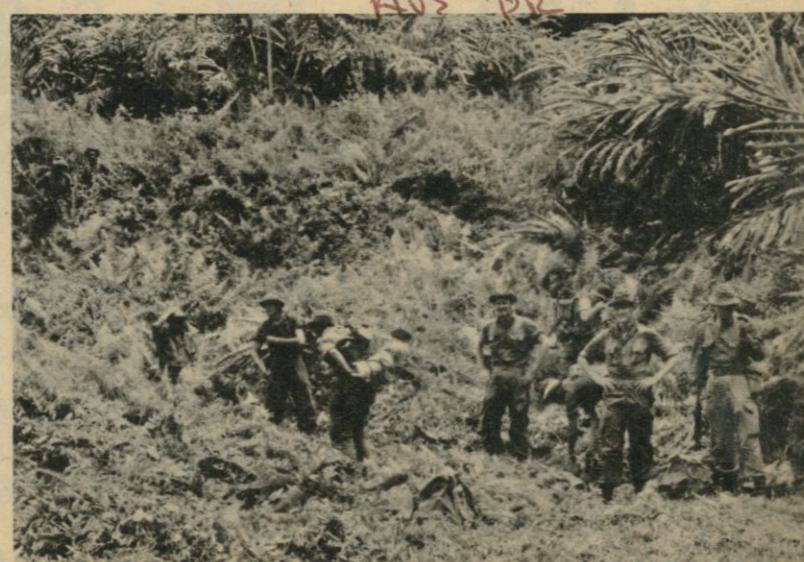
Left: Men of the Royal Australian Regiment climb aboard a Royal Air Force helicopter to be landed in the jungle in the Sungai Siput area.

Right: The guns of 105 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, in action in North Kedah. They blasted Communist camps and shelled escape routes.



AUS PR

Squatting on the floor of a helicopter, Lieutenant-Colonel C. J. O. Ochiltree, who commands 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, flies over the jungle where his men have been dropped.



This is the type of country in which the Infantrymen operated in Kedah. The picture was taken from the helicopter after it had landed the men.

AUS PR



Aus PR

and light helicopters. With them went some of the Regiment's tracker dogs. The helicopters often flew at tree-top height through low cloud to drop the men in hastily cleared landing zones.

Auster aircraft of the newly-created British Army Air Corps were also called in to fly round-the-clock reconnaissance and artillery observation sorties. Other helicopters evacuated casualties to the British military hospital at Taiping.

One souvenir the Australian Infantrymen brought back with them from a terrorist camp was "Little CEP (named after Captured Enemy Personnel) which has now become their regimental mascot. "Little CEP" is a tiny mixed-breed dog, only six inches high and nine inches long.

Recently, men of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment were also "helicoptered" into action against terrorists in the Sungai Siput area.

Private T. Hogg, who was wounded in the first encounter with the terrorists near the Siamese border, was flown back to base by helicopter.



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TRICK

There are many more ways than one of riding a motorcycle and most of them are known to stunt riders from the Army Mechanical Transport School's display team

*Pictures by
SOLDIER Cameraman PETER O'BRIEN*

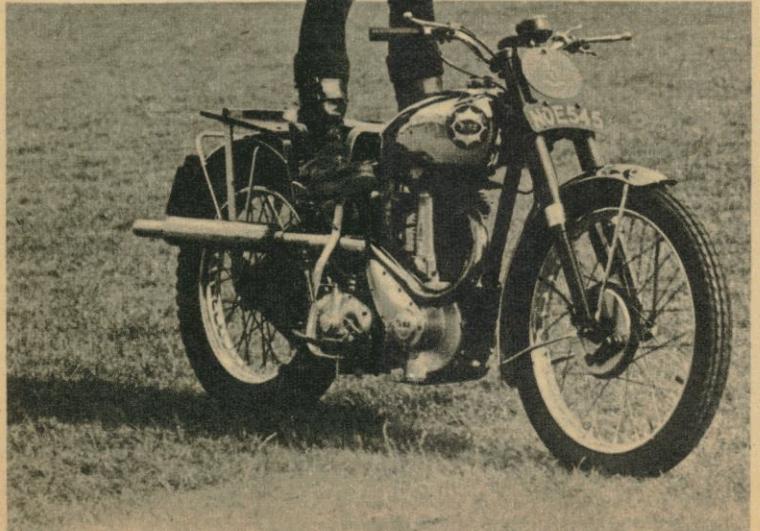


BSM R. Wraight is one of the human ramps. He is also the senior member of the team.



Above: The "Two-Up." Colour-Sergeant A. Groves, Royal Marines, steers while Craftsman W. Birch (REME) balances on his back.

Left: This act requires a fine sense of balance. Sergeant M. Edwards, of the Royal Corps of Signals, controls the machine with his feet only.



ALL SOLDIER PIX 5064 RIDERS

So far this year Battery Sergeant-Major R. Wraight has been run over nearly 300 times by speeding motorcycles.

Last year it was the same; and the year before.

But the Sergeant-Major shows no signs of wear and tear. He is one of the two human ramps in the Army Mechanical Transport School's motorcycle display team which gives exhibitions almost every week-end throughout the summer. The other is Battery Sergeant-Major W. Bunce.

The human ramp act is the highlight of the show. While the rest of the team (16 in number) rev up at the far end of the field the sergeant-majors stretch out full length in the middle and cover their bodies with a three-inch thick wooden plank. Each machine then roars over them in turn at 30 miles an hour.

"It's as safe as houses," says BSM Wraight. "The machines weigh just over three hundredweight but they are not there long enough to cause any damage."

The sergeant-majors are the giants of the team: they have a combined total Army service of 57 years and together weigh 33 stone. Since he became a human ramp BSM Wraight has lost two stone.

The motorcycle display team consists of 21 soldiers and one Royal Marine. Riding standard machines, they weave in and out in perfect formation, balance acrobatically



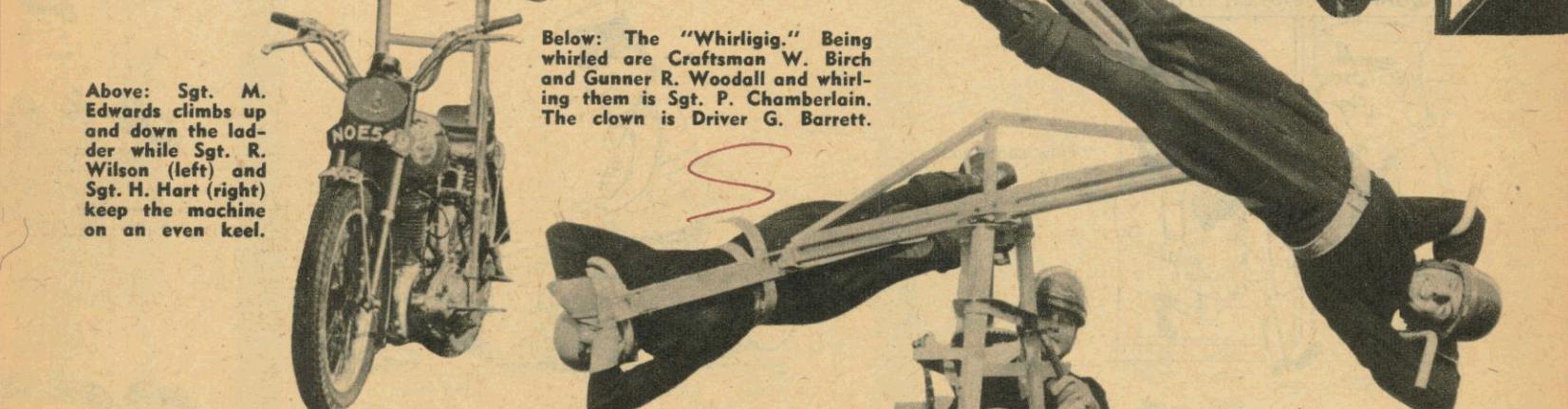
Left: CSM W. G. Asbury (RASC) speeds over the human ramp. Protected only by a wooden board, BSM W. Bunce, RA, takes most of the weight on his forearms and wrists.

Back Pages

OF BORDON



Right: Bursting through the (paper) barrier is Sgt. D. Brooker (Royal Signals).



Above: Sgt. M. Edwards climbs up and down the ladder while Sgt. R. Wilson (left) and Sgt. H. Hart (right) keep the machine on an even keel.



above their mounts and speed nonchalantly through tunnels of fire.

Since 1951, when the team was formed, they have given hair-raising displays in many towns. They have demonstrated their skill before Royalty and have appeared on television.

In the present team are Gunners, members of the Royal Army Service Corps, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Infantry.

Captain Keith MacKenzie, Royal Artillery, who leads the team says that trick riding is easy for any competent motorcyclist but he does not recommend it being done without supervision. Nor are years of experience an essential qualification—Gunners R. Woodall and W. Birch joined the team after only two weeks' riding experience.

The team also has its resident clown, Driver George Barrett, of the Royal Army Service Corps.

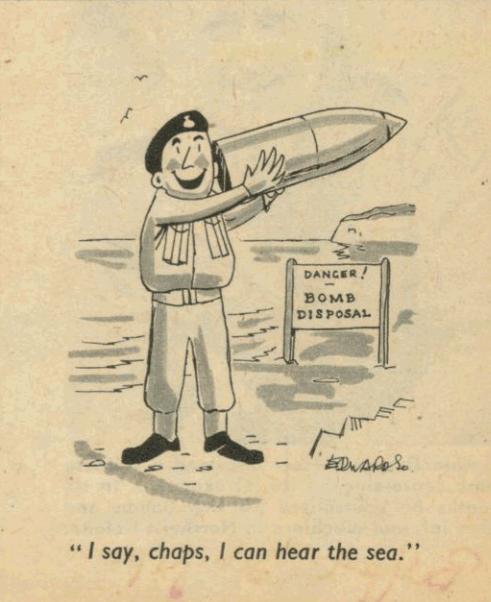
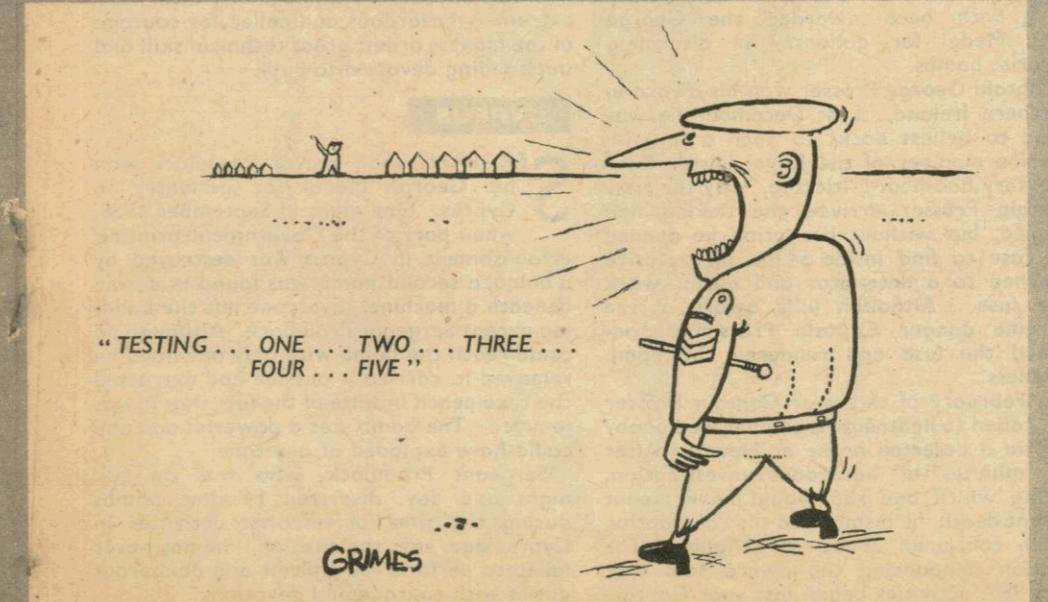
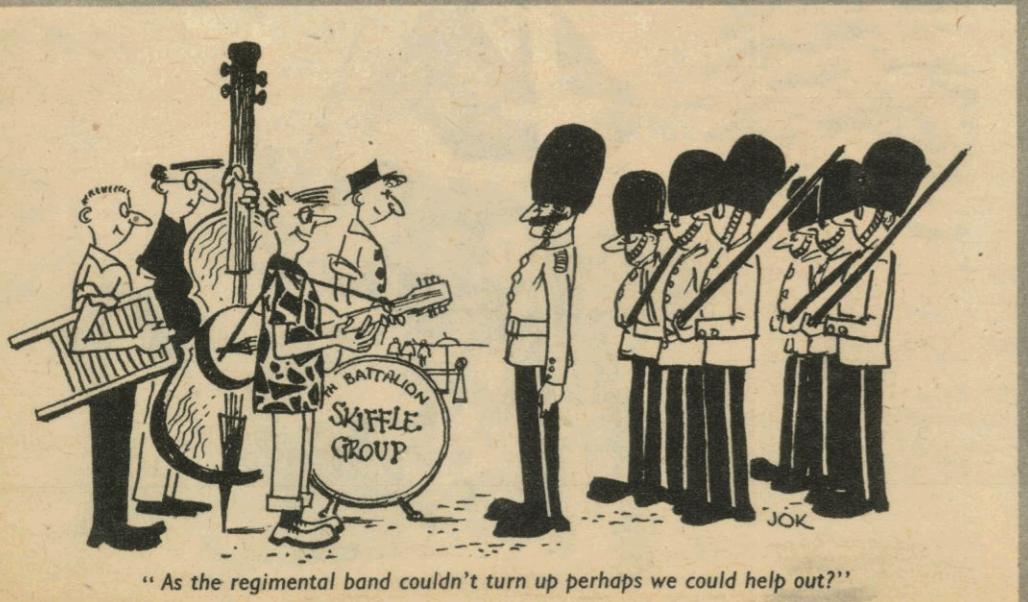
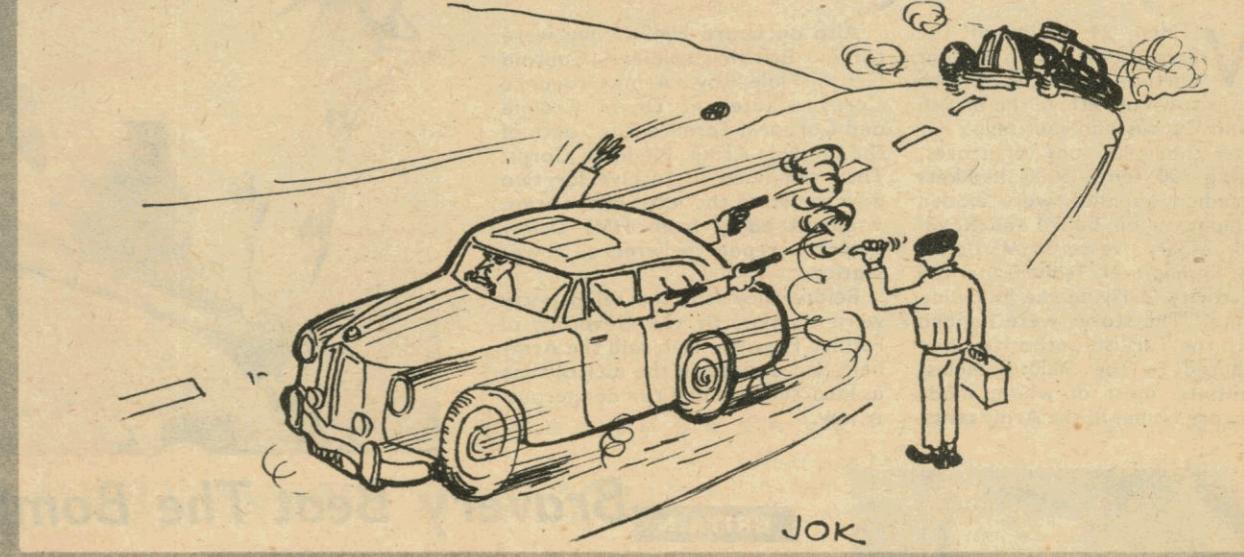
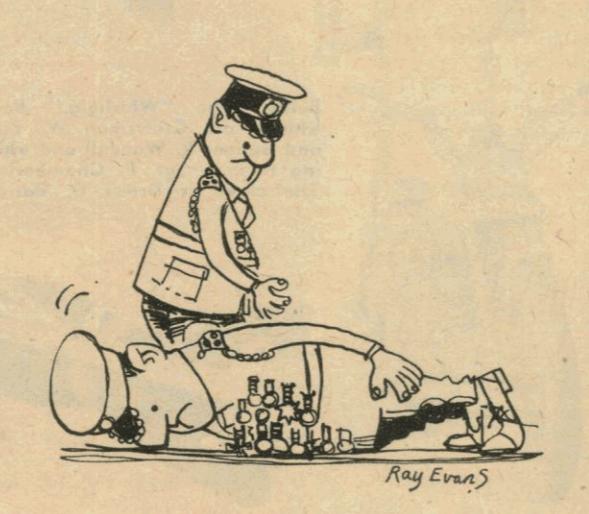
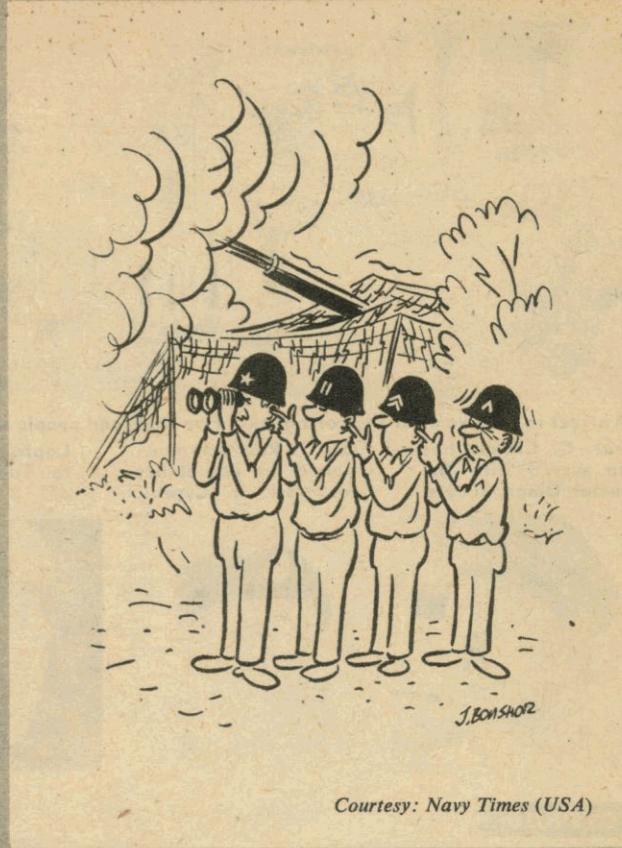
The spirit of the team has infected most members of the Army Mechanical Transport School. The Commandant, Colonel R. G. Pine Coffin, DSO, MC, recently rode pillion through a tunnel of flame and emerged minus his eyebrows.

INOCULATIONS
TODAY

Hoth.



soldier humour





A street in Fethiye after the earthquake. Five thousand people were homeless. Lieut. D. Craigie has also served with the Trucial Oman Scouts. Cpl. T. Ross was mentioned in despatches for work in Cyprus. Captain G. Hale sailed to Turkey in charge of Army stores.



CYPRUS

Army Aided 'Quake Victims

WITHIN 24 hours of the first reports of a violent earthquake in the Turkish town of Fethiye the British Army in Cyprus had sent help.

More than 40 tons of stores, including 300 tents, 5000 blankets and medical supplies, were loaded in Famagusta on board the Royal Naval escort vessel *HMS Dainty* which immediately sailed for the stricken city, arriving the following morning. The stores were handed over to the Turkish authorities and distributed to the 5000 homeless inhabitants, most of whom made temporary homes in the Army tents.

Also on board *HMS Dainty* were three British soldiers—Captain George Hale, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Lieutenant David Craigie and Corporal Terence Ross, both of the Royal Army Medical Corps. They remained in Fethiye for two days assisting the local authorities. A naval party from *HMS Dainty* helped to repair the wrecked power station.

Before they left, the relief party were thanked by the Governor of Fethiye Province who said the Army help had arrived in the nick of time as local supplies had run dangerously low.



Captain George Prosser disarmed a suitcase bomb containing 54 lbs. of explosive. In six months he neutralised 26 IRA bombs and other infernal machines in Northern Ireland.

Belfast Telegraph

IN THE NEWS

UNITED STATES

Sun-Powered

THIS American Infantryman is wearing a sun-powered helmet radio, the latest thing in headgear for the United States soldier.

Tiny silicon wafers, or solar batteries, grouped in narrow clusters on the crown of the helmet, give all the electrical power needed to operate the transmitter-receiver. Connected to small nickel-cadmium storage batteries for use at night, the solar cells can provide current for as long as a year.



Keystone

LIBYA

Sappers Rebuild History

ON a hill overlooking the ruins of the ancient Greek city of Cyrene, Royal Engineers in Libya are helping to reconstruct the famous Great Temple of Zeus.

The Great Temple, which was built 700 years before the birth of Christ as a tribute to the king of the Olympian gods, was destroyed during a Jewish revolt in the year 115. Since then it has lain shattered into a thousand pieces.

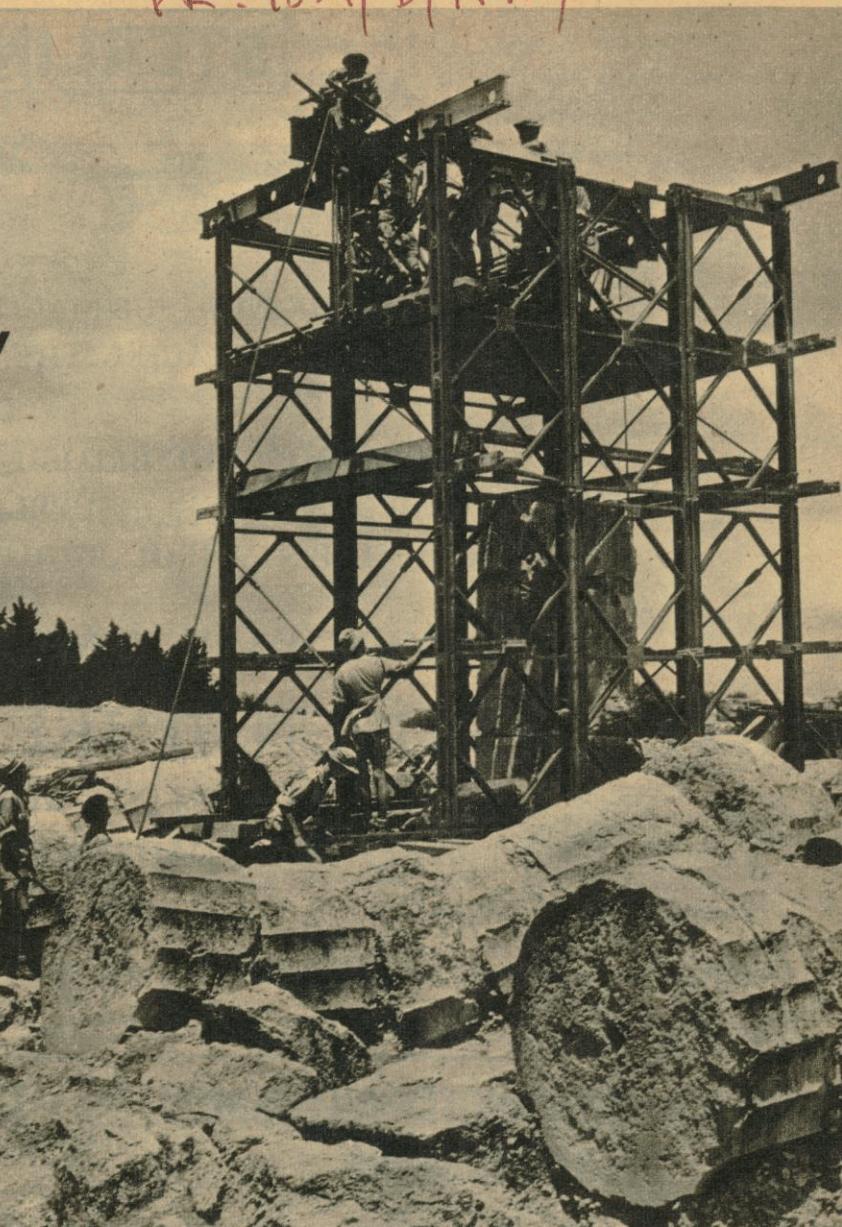
Now, with the aid of modern machinery and techniques and as part of their annual field training, Sappers on the staff of the Commander, Royal Engineers (Cyrenaica) are re-erecting one of the massive Doric columns on which the edifice once rested.

"Operation Pillar," as the task is appropriately named, began last June in response to an appeal by the Libyan authorities and since then parties of Sappers, 20-strong and including surveyors, draughtsmen, architects and clerks, have each spent two weeks on the site, slowly rebuilding the 32-ft. high column.

The task, formidable enough anywhere, is doubly exhausting under the sweltering desert sun, since the column was shattered into nine pieces, each weighing some three tons, and the capital (or cornice) weighing ten tons. Each piece has to be carefully lifted into position on a concrete foundation laid by Arab labourers in the very chasm made by the Jewish rebels to undermine and bring down the Great Temple.

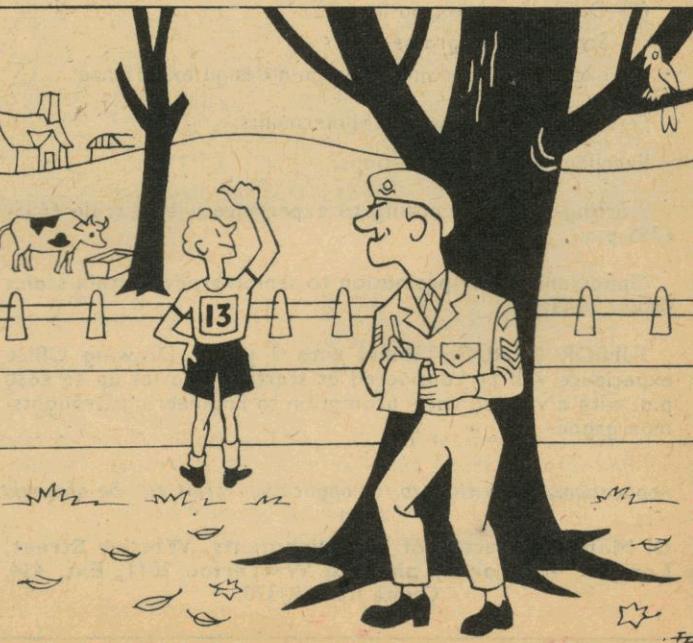
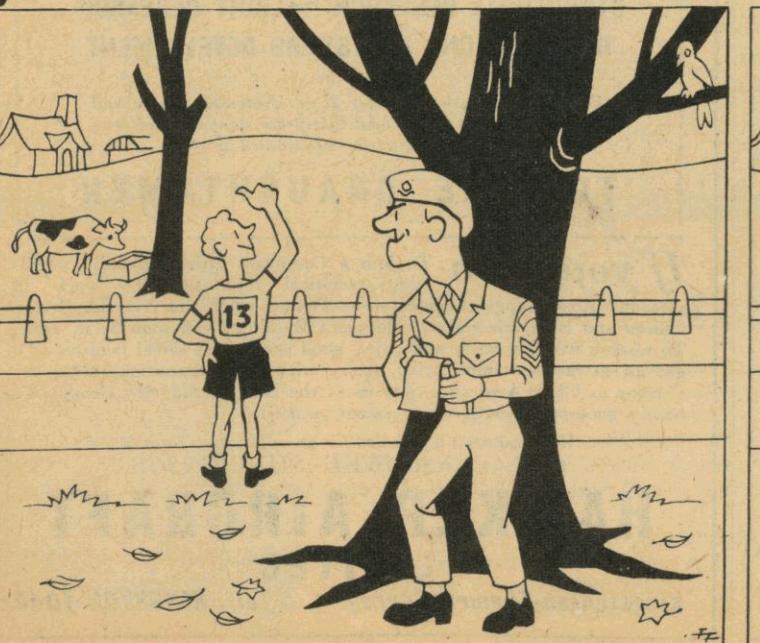
To gain the necessary height to raise each massive segment of granite the Sappers have built a steel tower, made of Bailey bridge panels, around the site. As each segment, six feet across is raised, the tower grows higher, making a striking contrast with the relics of the ancient world which surround it.

—From a report by Major W. A. C. Digby, Military Observer.



Sappers at work, raising a Doric column on which the famous Great Temple of Zeus once rested. In the foreground is the rest of the shattered column.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?



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MUSICAL MARATHONS

SOLDIER 5081

Two famous regimental bands are on tour — one in North America and the other in Australia. The band of the Irish Guards will have travelled 35,000 miles by the time it returns to London — the longest tour any regimental band has ever made



The Irish Guards Down Under

ONE day this month the Band of the Irish Guards will be sitting in the sunshine of Adelaide Oval (scene of many historic Test matches) giving its 25th concert since leaving Britain last August.

On the way to Australia for a 15-week tour the Band, of 56 musicians plus pipers and drummers, played at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto and then flew on to Los Angeles to entertain American audiences. It stopped off at Honolulu on the hop to Sydney and some bandmen bathed at Wakiki Beach.

During the tour of Australia the bandsmen have already played concerts in Melbourne, Adelaide, Launceston and Port Augusta and are due to give performances in Sydney, Brisbane and many country towns in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Captain C. H. Jaeger, who will have conducted more than 80 concerts when this musical marathon ends, was bandmaster of the 4th Queen's Own Hussars in Vienna in 1945. He conducted the Vienna Symphony Orchestra on four occasions.

PR Berlin

The Band of the Irish Guards marches back to barracks after performing at Buckingham Palace. Below: Captain C. H. Jaeger is the Director of Music.

*S.
5080*



Pipers, drummers, musicians and dancers of the Black Watch in Berlin. Below: Mr. J. Baker has been Bandmaster of the Black Watch for the past six years.



PR Berlin

Black Watch Play in 58 Cities

WITH musicians who have names like Doe and Rae, and a trumpeter who can play the "Posthorn Gallop" on a Bren gun barrel, the North American tour of the Pipes and Drums, Regimental Band and dancers of the Black Watch is bound to be a success.

One hundred performers are making the trip. They left Berlin last month and flew from London to America two days later. Their 11-week coast-to-coast concert tour of Canada and the United States began in Washington, DC.

Fifty-eight cities are on the itinerary. They range from New York to Los Angeles and from New Orleans to Vancouver.

Most of the thousands of miles involved in the tour will be done in four luxury buses. A "gutted" bus carries the gear. Some longer trips will be done by air.

This is the second time the Black Watch have been to America. Their first trip was almost 200 years ago. Then, in 1758, they fought at Ticonderoga. This time they are there as welcome guests.



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"... in a medley of boats the women were taken ashore."

The Wives of The 54th Foot

IT all began in the autumn of 1800 when a force of British soldiers, including the 54th Regiment of Foot disembarked off the Spanish coast to seize Catalina and the naval dockyards. As the troops landed, however, rumour of a plague and the threat of heavy seas forced them to abandon the project, and the convoy returned to Gibraltar.

It was customary then for regiments to carry on their establishment a proportion of soldiers' wives, and for some of those following the 54th (later to become the 2nd Battalion The Dorset Regiment) this change of plan was to reshape their lives.

The next turn of fate came at Gibraltar, when General Abercrombie, leader of the expedition, was ordered to marshal a force for Egypt, where remnants of the French Army left behind by Napoleon had become a serious threat.

The 54th Foot was largely ex-Militia and could only be called upon for service in Europe. Thus, all might still have been well for their wives; but the 54th gallantly volunteered to follow Abercrombie. Off they went with the expedition to Malta, where it was to prepare for the Egyptian venture.

During reorganisation it was discovered that the number of soldiers' wives accompanying the 54th far exceeded the regulation six per company allowed in the field. It seems that the Regiment, having gone abroad in peacetime when far larger numbers of wives were permitted, had neglected to cut its establishment. All the wives could not be taken to Egypt; so after as many as possible had been found hospital work in Malta, 300 were ordered back to England.

The situation for these women was desperate. It was not only loyalty that had prompted them to follow their husbands, to endure the hardships, the mouldering food, the threat of sickness and disease. Necessity had driven many; for, having cut themselves adrift from friends and family by marrying soldiers, they would have been little better than destitute if left behind.

When the order came for embarkation to England, there were tears, acts of violence, threats of suicide. But it had to be. Two transport ships took the women aboard and they set sail for England.

Soon they were in dangerous

waters, without the support of the rest of the convoy. The French fleet was known to be patrolling the route, and each time a strange vessel was sighted the women were hustled below. They would have fared no worse on deck, taking their chance with shot and shell, for conditions were as wretched as they had been on the journey to Malta. Sustained only by dry, maggoty biscuits, salt pork and lime juice, the women sailed away from the only human comfort they knew.

Once again, a French ship was sighted. The women were hurried below; there were cries of command and countermand; chains clanked; there was spasmodic gunfire. And this time, the ships were boarded by sailors of the French Navy.

If the women of the 54th feared a fate worse than death, it was not to be. The French kept strictly to business. The ships were ordered to sail to Minorca, which was garrisoned by the British. So, the two prows were turned towards what was to prove, for the women of the 54th Foot, an isle of destiny.

Minorca came into view a few days later. The ships anchored and in a medley of boats and barges the women were taken ashore. While news of the unexpected invasion was taken to the Army garrison a few miles away, the women spread themselves out upon the white sands like the flotsam they were.

At last, a relay of Army wagons took the women to the garrison, where it was arranged that as many as possible should stay at the barracks, while the rest were found civilian accommodation nearby.

There were several thousand troops on the island—and the women of the 54th were lost and lonely. Marriage ties and the presence of other women on the island served for a while to stem the inevitable. But among the garrison was an Irish regiment, and as was frequent at this period many of the men were no doubt pressed into service under threat

of the gallows, others turning to the Army from dire poverty. With such victims of circumstance the wandering women of the 54th soon found an affinity.

Then suddenly came startling news from Egypt. General Abercrombie's expedition had met with disaster. To the women of the 54th, basking in the glow of their sub-tropical romance, it was like a collision with an iceberg. The tears ran their course. But they were soldiers' wives and, of necessity, as hardened as their men, and they saw that their position now, in a strange land, without the legal support of a husband, was infinitely worse than it had been at Malta.

So, when the widows of the ex-54th married their Irish lovers, they were only being practical. How many of the men might already be married to girls they had left behind, the women could not afford to consider. They had to ride this latest storm, and did so securely lashed to their Irish spars.

The white dust rose from the barrack square under the tramp of rhythmic feet, there were floggings and fatigues. And the pomegranates grew blood-red and the peaches bloomed.

But it could not go on for ever. The Irishmen were suddenly detailed for another campaign—in Egypt. Reinforcements were needed there as the British under Abercrombie had met with stiff resistance.

So the women of the 54th followed their Irish husbands. The ghosts of their former spouses seemed to haunt the women as the regiment made its

way towards Alexandria. In every concentration of troops they thought they saw their former husbands. Across the shimmering sands there was only one mirage—the red coats of the 54th Foot. Shrinking from the torture that reminiscence would bring, the women must almost have hoped there were no survivors.

But there were. One day some of the women thought they saw something familiar about a group of English soldiers. Ready, willing, but unable this time to dismiss it as another illusion, they identified one or two of the men; and eventually, the remainder of the regiment.

Recognised in turn by the 54th, the women explained their presence, told of the news that had reached them at Minorca. The men of the 54th gave a rollicking laugh. The old mob wiped out? What a joke! Why, it was just another campaign to them. They would have the French out of Egypt in no time. Just how the report of the 54th's destruction had come about, they did not know, unless it arose from the trouble they had encountered in the initial landings.

At length, the women made their confessions, presenting their Irish husbands, and the two were face to face—the stolid English and the irresistible Irish. What would happen—tears, blows, mass violence? In fact, the problem solved itself with amazing simplicity.

For only one man of the 54th Foot wanted back his former wife.

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IN BURMA: Men of the South Wales Borderers on patrol in the village of Baha in Central Burma

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WHEN SAILORS WERE INFANTRYMEN

SHORTLY before World War One a choleric admiral said of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve: "They are not, and never will be, sailors. It would not be so bad if they were gentlemen but they're not even that."

Whatever their social aspirations, in "The RNVR" J. Lennox Kerr and Wilfred Granville (Harrap, 21s.) give the lie to the first part of that utterance.

The first volunteers in 1903 were viewed sourly by the Admiralty and ridiculed by the Press. These stockbrokers, clerks and artisans were ribaldly christened "The Blackfriars Buccaneers" and "The Sucking Nelsons Of Cheapside." *Punch* featured cartoons of them dancing hornpipes in city offices and carrying parrots in cages instead of briefcases.

But these amateurs soon proved their worth and their keenness astounded the most reactionary Petty Officer instructors.

The humiliating anti-climax came in 1914 when it was decided that the RNVR would not go to sea with the Fleet. They would become the Royal Naval Division and fight on land.

Inevitably, this caused bitter-

Sailors of the Royal Naval Division in the trenches in France.



ness among the volunteers. But an unsympathetic Admiralty pointed out that they had agreed to serve "either ashore or afloat" so they resigned themselves to becoming Infantrymen.

The beginning of the Royal Naval Division's active service makes sad reading. In 1914, inadequately trained and equipped, two brigades were sent at short notice to Antwerp. Each man was given 120 rounds of ammunition;

most of them carried it in their pockets because of a shortage of bandoliers. In their first action seven officers and 53 men were killed and nearly 2500 captured.

In 1915 the Royal Naval Division sailed for Gallipoli and to everlasting fame. The authors tell of the appalling carnage in the attempt to force the Dardanelles—an abortive campaign in which the Royal Naval Division lost 7000 men in dead and wounded. In this battle Sub-Lieutenant Tisdall won the Division's first Victoria Cross.

1916 found the Royal Naval Division in France where it remained until the end of the war. Its men fought at Arras and Gavrelle, Passchendaele and Cambrai. They saved the line at Ancre and overcame the powerful defences

of the Saint-Quentin Canal.

With a wealth of humour "The RNVR" tells how the Royal Naval Division fought as resolutely against becoming part of the Army as it fought the enemy. Its language was of the wardroom and the mess-deck. The men attended "sick-bay," "went ashore" and were given "permission to grow." The King's health was drunk sitting.

The authors also tell the stirring story of the RNVR's massive contribution in World War Two. By 1945 it had become a force that would have astounded its original critics, for "amateurs" were commanding destroyers, corvettes, sloops and submarines.

"The RNVR" is a lively book that deserves to be read as eagerly by soldiers as by sailors.

CHURCHMAN'S No 1



Macedonian Foray

FRANCIS REID has an eye-stopping title for his war story—"I Was In Noah's Ark" (Chambers, 8s. 6d.). It seems that "Noah's Ark" was the operational name for a foray conducted by British troops in Macedonia, towards the end of World War Two, the object being to block the mountain passes and harass the Germans as they withdrew.

The author, a Glaswegian, begins his story with a candid account of his fall from grace. As a bombardier in an anti-tank regiment in Syria he was caught in an out-of-bounds grog shop and handed over to the guard he had detailed earlier that day. Reduced to the ranks, he volunteered for a parachute regiment then being raised in Palestine—the Raiding Support Regiment. It had as its motto the injunction, "Quit you like men." Says the author: "Our cap badge, designed by ourselves, was a pair of high crested wings from which descended a mailed fist. This fist grasped a hand reaching upwards from the ramparts of a fortress." How many badge collectors have got that one?

After much strenuous training—jumping, mountain warfare,

endurance marching—the Regiment found itself raiding out of Vis, the Tito-held island off the Dalmatian coast. Before penetrating Macedonia, with other "cloak and dagger" units, the raiders were issued with documents which said, in Greek, "This man is an English soldier." The inscription had not been put in, says the author, to annoy the Scots in the unit.

Francis Reid does not pretend to be making a major contribution to military history. He describes the escapades and discomforts of day-to-day soldiering in this unfamiliar campaign and introduces us to resourceful characters like Fitzsimmons—"the type of bloke who stole fittings from public lavatories." The author has a good sense of humour but tends to over-write.

Surgeon To The Brave

LITTLE news of Yugoslavia filtered into North Africa, but the Balkans had captured the imagination of Lindsay Rogers, a New Zealand surgeon serving with the Eighth Army. In "Guerilla Surgeon" (Collins, 18s.) he tells how he cut through red tape and became a surgeon to the Yugoslav partisans.

Thus began a thrilling story of sudden flights, of attacks by night, of incredibly brave men and women.

The early days were not encouraging. In Rogers's first hospital chaos and callousness were the order of the day. Wounded partisans were heaved on to the operating table like bags of chaff, bandages were ripped off regardless of pain and hypodermic needles were administered with the slap-happiness of an inebriated darts player.

But with the arrival of new equipment Rogers performed near miracles of surgery and the cynical suspicion of the partisans

changed to undying respect. In recognition of his services Rogers received the Order of Bravery of Yugoslavia, the Order of Merit of Yugoslavia and the MBE. On a signed portrait of himself Marshal Tito wrote the inscription: "To my friend Dr. Rogers, as a token of gratitude for your self-sacrifice in saving so many of our wounded."

It is a grim and often brutal tale the author tells and it is not for the squeamish. With a wealth of detail he writes of amputations performed under the most fantastic conditions—in makeshift shelters with little equipment,

often with untrained assistants.

With gathering awe the reader learns of the incredible courage and fortitude of the partisans who were filled with such a deadly and terrifying loathing for the Germans.

There are many memorable characters in this book which are forced on the reader's consciousness with raw and bruising insistence. The young *partizanka* with the gangrenous thigh who refused an anaesthetic saying: "Keep it for those who need it, I'll just sing"; the 18-year-old Boris who, torn almost in two by bullets, was so emaciated that it was difficult to perform a skin grafting operation because of the protuberance of his bones; the girl Maria, doomed to die of cancer, refusing to leave her fellow partisans; Milica, who had been raped by



A group of Yugoslav partisans with whom the author worked.

the Germans and embarked on a fearful revenge armed with Molotov cocktails with which she destroyed many German trucks and tanks—mortally wounded, she whispered to Rogers: "You English are so kind and I am happy now."

Among many first-hand stories of the last war "Guerilla Surgeon" stands out for its compassion and understanding of these "Balkan Brigands" (as they were contemptuously described by the Germans) who never knew the meaning of the word "defeat."

The Hypnotic Captain

So far as SOLDIER knows, the only man to have escaped from captivity in World War Two by hypnotising his guard is Captain Dick Cooper, who served with Special Operations Executive in the Mediterranean theatre.

He tells the story in "Adventures of a Secret Agent" (Muller, 16s.).

Captain Cooper has an unusual range of languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, Turkish and Arabic. When the war began he was an official on the London Continental Telephone Exchange, where he had watched the lights going out all over Europe—on his switchboard.

The "spy school" at which Captain Cooper was trained had to be disbanded suddenly because someone committed a breach of security. Only two of its trainees were sent out on operations. Captain Cooper became the first and only agent to be landed in Algeria. Although he knew the local languages he found himself dropping alarming "clangers"—like asking for liquor on a no-liquor day. Betrayed, he found himself in French custody.

While in solitary confinement he had an unnerving experience when he tried to hypnotise himself to sleep and felt waves of paralysis creeping over his body. Then came the day when a warder complained to him of toothache and was persuaded to allow his captive to massage a certain nerve in the neck in order to assuage the pain. "Look well into my eyes. Relax completely . . ." began Cooper, and this singularly tractable warder was soon in a trance. Alas, the hypnotist did not get far away.

Captain Cooper was one of those who tunneled out of the prison camp of Laghouat, a white fort on the desert side of the

Saharan Atlas mountains. In its way it was a tougher proposition than Colditz, because all around were 300 miles of Arab country where a stranger could not hope to pass unnoticed. The escapers, as it turned out, were soon recaptured, but their break-out was a remarkably fine effort.

Eventually the author slipped

his guards in France and reached home via the famous escape route run by "Pat O'Leary" (Dr. Albert Guérisse) from Marseilles, via the Pyrenees. His next task was to select and train agents in Sicily and Italy, and infiltrate them behind the enemy lines.

Later Captain Cooper joined the "Balaclava Group" which

had been based on Corsica, its task being to land agents in the South of France and in Italy. He expresses high admiration for the feats of this organisation, which was commanded by Major Andrew Croft DSO (who turned up, more recently, as commanding officer of the Infantry Boys Battalion at Plymouth).



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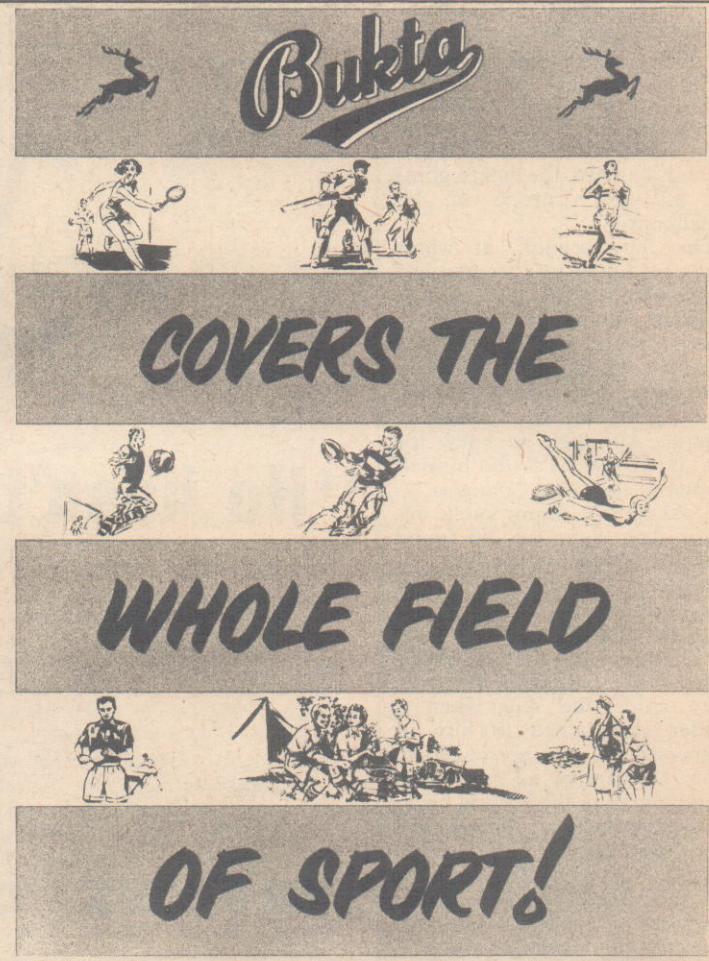


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In the cloisters, Guardsman Brian Fewtrell helps a detained priest make an ornamental cross by fretwork. Behind is one of the four deacons.

The Monastery Guard

IN the Valley of the Knife, high up in the Troodos mountains of Cyprus, one officer, two NCOs and eleven Guardsmen of the 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards perform an unusual duty. They guard the Makhaeras Monastery.

The Monastery has been guarded by soldiers since early this year when Afxentou, second-in-command to Grivas, the Eoka terrorist leader, was cornered in his hide-out near the building and killed. Three other terrorists surrendered.

Living at the Monastery are an abbot, four monks, four deacons and three novices. Recently 12 other priests released from detention camps where they had been held for aiding terrorists were also sent to Makhaeras.

The priests are given considerable freedom and are allowed to walk outside the Monastery so long as they keep within sight of the main building. They may also receive as many visitors as they wish.

Relations between the detained priests and their guard are friendly and the Abbot, Father Ireneos, who speaks excellent English and served in the Royal

Air Force Regiment in World War Two, often plays backgammon (a popular Cypriot game) with the Guard Commander.

The Monastery Guard is a popular one with the Grenadier Guards for it makes a pleasant change to leave the heat and dust of the central plain and spend a week in the tree-covered slopes of the Valley of the Knife. Nearby is a stream with a natural bathing pool where the members of the Guard swim every day.

The original Makhaeras Monastery was built by a hermit in 1190, the year before Richard the Lion Heart occupied Cyprus on his way to the Crusades. The building was four times damaged by fire before it was rebuilt of stone in 1892.

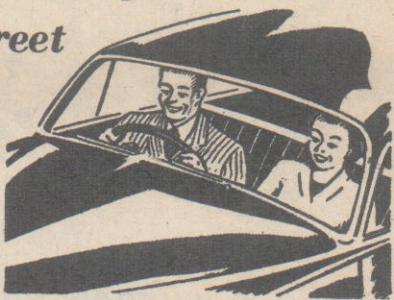
Lieutenant Robin Dixon, officer of the Guard, chats with two bearded monks in the grounds of the Monastery in the Valley of the Knife.



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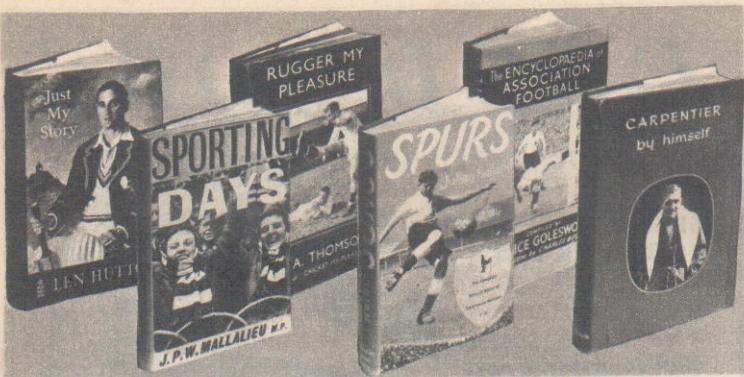
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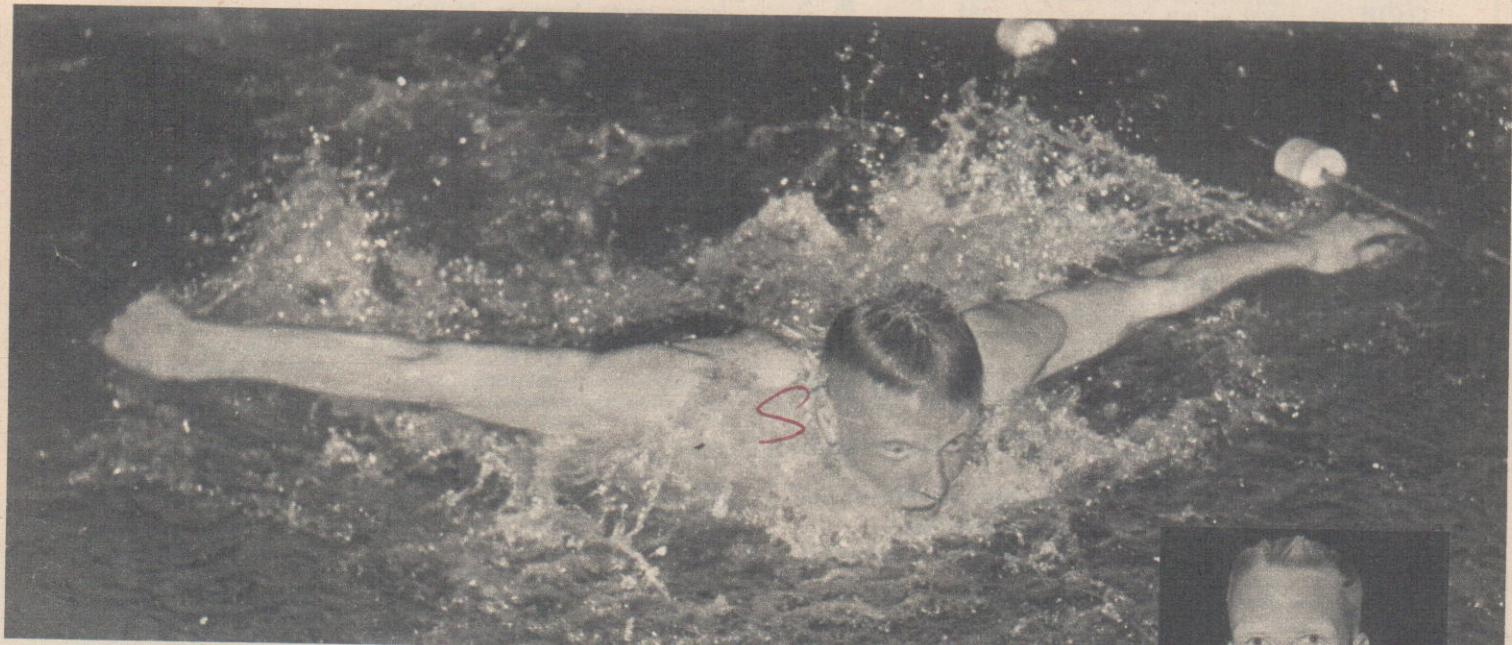
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ALL SOLDIER PIX
5082

RECORD-BREAKING SERGEANT



Second-Lieutenant S. S. Hilton, Women's Royal Army Corps, won the Women's Services diving championships for the second year running.

Below: Private J. Creese, Army Catering Corps, is the new Army diving title holder. He won both the springboard events and the high diving.



OUTSTANDING performer in this year's Army swimming championships at Woolwich Baths was Sergeant J. Cardwell, a 20-year-old Royal Army Ordnance Corps clerk at the War Office.

He won three events, two of them in record time, and was third in another.

Sergeant Cardwell's best effort was to set up a new record of 11 minutes 7 seconds for the 880 yards free-style, beating the previous record made in 1956 by 40 seconds. In the 440 yards free-style he clipped eight-tenths of a second off the six-year-old record of 5 minutes 9.8 seconds. His other success was in winning the 220 yards free-style event in 2 minutes 22 seconds, only one-fifth of a second outside the previous record.

Surprisingly, Sergeant Cardwell was only third in the 100 yards butterfly race. He is the Surrey County champion in this event with a record time of 61.8 seconds.

Another fine performance was put up by Lance-Corporal H. P. Milton, of 9 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, who won the 100 yards free-style and was second in the 220 yards, 440 yards and 880 yards free-style events.

This year's unit champions are 17 Training Regiment, Royal Artillery from Oswestry who beat the runners-up, 1 Training Regiment, Royal Signals by 46½ points to 32½. No. 1 Training Regiment won the unit water polo championships, beating last year's winners, the Depot and Training Establishment, Royal Army Medical Corps by 7 goals to 4.

The Army's new diving champion is Private J. Creese, Army Catering Corps, who beat Sergeant Instructor D. Sears, Army Physical Training Corps, into second place.

Sergeant Cardwell at speed in the butterfly race. He is a county champion in this event. Right: A big smile from the man who broke two Army swimming records.



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Letters

PIN-UPS

After reading the comments in your August issue (SOLDIER to Soldier) I wondered whether your critic has ever heard of Kipling's "Barrack Room Ballads"? The following lines are just as true today:

"We ain't no thin red 'eroes
'An we ain't no blackguards too
But single men in barracks
Most remarkably like you,
'An' if sometimes our conduct
Ain't just quite what you paints
Well, single men in barracks
Don't grow into plaster saints."

If ever the British Army gets to acting like so many schoolgirls singing madrigals in an orchard then all I can say is "Gawd 'elp us." —F. W. Walker, ex-CQMS York and Lancaster Regiment, 23 Dransfield Road, Crosspool, Sheffield.

NEW TITLES AND BADGES

I wish to register the strongest possible protest against the loss of identity of British Infantry regiments in general and that of my own regiment, The Queen's Own Royal Regiment (West Surrey), in particular. As the second senior Infantry regiment in the Army it seems extraordinary that they will not be permitted to retain the title conferred on them in 1661.

I wonder if anyone has given really serious thought to the extraordinary problems that will arise when the new brigade cap badges are designed? With the best will in the world it would hardly be possible to create a badge containing all the distinctive features of the badges of the six regiments that will make up the Home Counties brigade group: the amalgamated Queen's and East Surreys, the amalgamated Buffs and Royal West Kents, the Royal Sussex and the Middlesex.—Indignant Queensman.

Thirty Infantry regiments, which are to be amalgamated in pairs, will lose their present titles in the Army's re-organisation. But their identities will be preserved in the new titles which will be chosen by the Colonels of Regiments.

The "marriages" between regiments were decided by past recruiting records of the new partners and common territorial links. The only alternative was the disbandment of 15 regiments.

The designs of the new brigade cap badges will also be decided by Colonels of Regiments in each brigade group but it is not yet known what form they will take.

BLUE TO KHAKI

As a newcomer to the Army I have followed with interest news of the re-organisation. One realises that it is always hard to break with long and glorious traditions and Service associations but it is also very necessary to accept that there is a higher allegiance to the Service as a whole.

Until last March I was a proud member of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. Under the same axe which more recently struck at the Regular Army, all 20 of our squadrons were disbanded. Thus, after some 14 years service, first with the Royal Air Force, I suddenly discovered that my services were no longer required. However, I was still keen to serve and I resolved to continue my service in the Territorial Army.

This was a great break for me. Not only did it mean a new cap badge, but a different colour of uniform, new badges of rank and new comrades. It also meant accepting a lower rank. I felt it to be well worth while.

After only a few months, I already feel quite as proud to serve in khaki as I once used to do in blue. I have been made very welcome by my Army colleagues and I look forward with confidence to a long and happy association. Furthermore, I enjoy SOLDIER's realistic approach to Army life.—Lieutenant F. Crosdale, 5 Holly Road, High Lane, Stockport.



THE ARMY IN LIGHTS

SOLDIER'S cover, drawn by staff artist FRANK FINCH, depicts the famous Blackpool illuminations which this year, for the first time, include an Army recruiting tableau.

The tableau is sponsored by Western Command and since early September has been seen by many thousands of visitors from all over Britain, some of them on one-night trips from places as far apart as Plymouth and Edinburgh. More than 4,000,000 people are expected to have seen it by the time the illuminations come down at the end of this month.

The Army's tableau, which is 36 feet long and 18 feet high, stands on the Promenade from Central Pier to Hounds Hill. Above the words "The Army," picked out in red letters four feet high, the phrase "A Man's Life" flashes on in three stages. On the left is a guided weapon based on the "Corporal" from the tail of which issues a scintillating jet of yellow sparks. An armed soldier in jungle kit against a background of a rippling blue lagoon and waving palm trees occupies the right-hand section. Linking the two is a line of toy soldiers, marching from left to right in groups of three.

SOLDIER in Bound Volumes

ARRANGEMENTS have been made with Messrs. Gale and Polden, printers and publishers, of The Wellington Press, Aldershot, to bind copies of SOLDIER.

The binding cases, which hold a year's issues of SOLDIER, will be of red cloth, bearing a gold title and volume number on the spine. The charge for binding (including the cost of the case) will be £1 5s. Readers should send their copies, with a postal order for this amount, direct to Messrs. Gale & Polden.

Those who wish to have the binding carried out locally may obtain binding cases from Gale & Polden at 7s. 6d. each. When ordering they should stipulate the volume number required.

SOLDIER can supply back numbers of most issues from stock at 9d. a copy plus postage and packing. Those who wish to select their own back numbers may do so at SOLDIER'S London Offices at 433, Holloway Road, London, N.7.

SOLECISMS

Three solecisms are constantly committed by the daily Press, namely: (1) "Members of the Regiment"; (2) "The officer in charge of the company"; (3) "A guard of honour was provided by . . ."

The first of these implies that they pay a subscription to belong, whereas they are either officers, non-commissioned officers or men of the regiment.

An officer or NCO is "in command" of men, not "in charge." He could have been "in charge" of a Record Office or a branch of the staff, but not "in charge" of men.

According to Queen's Regulations, guards of honour are "mounted by" units although a note to paragraph 964 refers to the "provision" of such guards.—Lieutenant-Colonel George Malcolm of Poltalloch (retd.).

BOFORS GUN

The article on the "Bofors" (August) was of great interest to me, as I served with Bofors guns from 1938 until 1947.

In the Wavell Campaign which opened in December 1940, the 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Battery, RA, gave cover to field gun areas at Mektila and Tumours East and West, and again at Bardia. This Battery also took part in the move across the Desert from Mekhili to Beda Fomm.

On conclusion of the show, my troop was left with the King's Dragoon Guards on the El Agheila-Mersah Braga line, remaining in close contact with the enemy during the retreat as far as Tobruk.

The remnants of this Battery were in the siege of Tobruk from April until August, 1941, and were the Mobile Light Anti-Aircraft referred to in the article. I had the honour of commanding this Battery at that stage. The Kerrison Predictor was never used by my Battery during the siege, nor at any time during the campaign.

This predictor was no doubt excellent for static guns, but with mobile guns, it was more of a handicap than an asset.—H. H. Farr, (Major, retd.), Dawlish Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, 21.

"88th MET 88th"

The verses quoted by Lieutenant-Colonel The O'Donovan (Letters, August) aroused my curiosity. In Mr. Peter Kemp's recent book, "Mine Were Of Trouble," which tells of his experiences with the Franco forces in the Spanish civil war, mention is made of the Irish Brigade commanded by "General" O'Duffy (a former Dublin police chief), which went to Spain to fight. After giving excellent if somewhat limited service the Brigade returned to Ireland. In paying tribute to the unit, Mr. Kemp quotes the lines:

"On mountains and fields from Berlin to Belgrade,
Lie the soldiers and chiefs of the Irish Brigade."

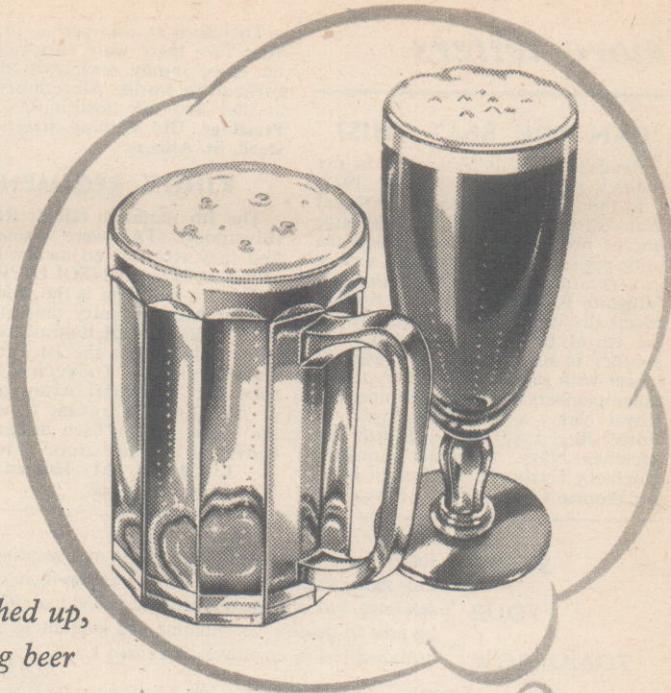
I was struck by the dissimilarity to Lieutenant-Colonel The O'Donovan's lines:

"In far foreign lands from Dunkirk to Belgrade,
Lie the soldiers and chiefs of the Irish Brigade."

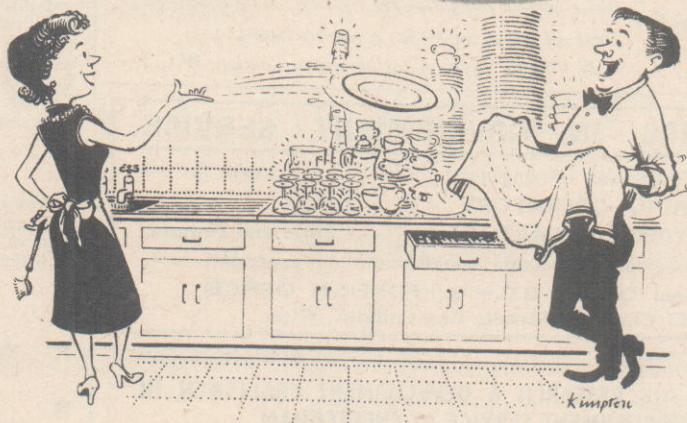
Which version is correct?—A/1C Jay Wunderlich, Braintree.

I find that the meeting of the British and French 88th regiments at Badajoz was not the only occasion these two regiments were opposed to one another. In the battle of the Nivelle on 10 November 1813 the redoubt carried by the 88th Connaught Rangers was defended by the greater part of the French 88th. The fact, pointed out by Lieutenant-Colonel The O'Donovan, that the French 88th had originally been the Irish Regiment of Berwick, makes these coincidences all the more remarkable.—Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Hume, The Connaught Rangers.

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Therefore at one period in World War Two there were 10 members of the same family serving in different parts of the world. All returned safely at the end of hostilities.—F. V. Prestidge, Old Watling Street, Flamstead, St. Albans.

KING'S REGIMENT

The 5th Battalion King's Regiment (Liverpool) (TA) were dismayed to find they received no mention in the article on Liverpool (SOLDIER, July).

The 5th Battalion is the oldest Territorial Army infantry unit in Liverpool, indeed in all Lancashire, being formed in 1852 as the 1st Lancashire Rifle Volunteers. Today, it is the only surviving Territorial Army battalion of the King's Regiment (Liverpool), the others having been disbanded or converted to other arms.—Lieutenant A. J. Moore, 61 Holden Road, Waterloo, Liverpool.

SURNAMES

During my service with the South Wales Borderers, 1929-45, I knew men of the regiment, all ranks, who bore the following surnames:

Holland, Wales, Ireland and England.

Brown, Black, White and Green. Long and Shorthouse.

Moon.

Summers and Winter.

Patrick, Joseph, Thomas and Johns. Pope, Preest, Abbot and Monk. Rivers and Flood.

Norman, Chapman, Trotman, Redman, Coleman, Cheeseman, Sweetman and Blackman.

Can any other regiment beat this list?—J. P. Henneberry, 135 Longcroft Lane, Welwyn Garden City.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 23)

The drawings differ in the following respects: 1. Top of farmhouse door. 2. Patch on cow. 3. Shape of cow's trough. 4. Runner's collar. 5. Runner's right sock. 6. Position of bird. 7. Sergeant's left lapel notch. 8. Numeral "I" on runner. 9. Length of Sergeant's left sleeve. 10. Grass at right of tree.

(SOLDIER, June) we are "alive" again. I went to India in the Dilwara and took the bounty, with furlough. What a time that was! I had the honour in Bermuda recently of giving talks to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry on soldiering as it was 60 years ago, so I imagine that those youngsters were just as interested in reminiscences as their elders.—Walter Exell, ex-Sergeant, Queen's Regiment, Devonshire South, Bermuda.

OLD SWORD

I am a keen weapons collector. Having been presented with a British cavalry sword which was left behind on the battlefield at Mons in 1914 by a soldier of the Royal Scots Greys I would like to obtain a sword-knot for it. The sword has been completely repolished in full-dress fashion.—Major J. F. Ductateau, Camp de Casteau, Maisieres, Belgium.

★ The sword-knot referred to has been declared obsolete by War Office.

THE 'NINETIES

When we "old 'uns" read SOLDIER we realise how little we know of the modern Army but when you publish an article on trooping in the 'nineties



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