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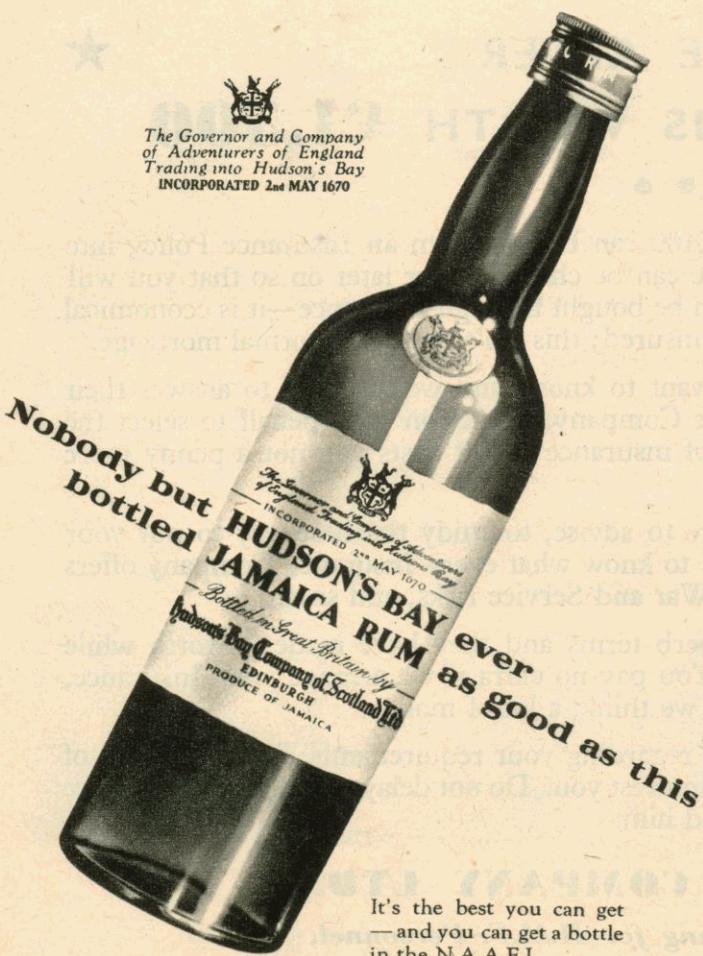
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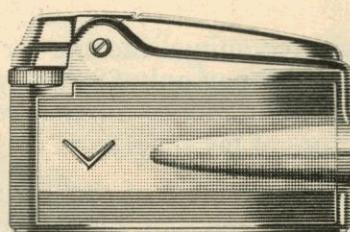


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Night beat on the waterfront. Constable J. Abrahart keeps watch on the Government piers and docks at Woolwich Arsenal Estate

THEY GUARD THE ARMY'S SECRETS

FROM Plymouth Hoe to Stirling, from Pendine Sands to the East Coast marshes of Shoeburyness, men who once served with distinction in the British Army now guard day and night Britain's defence secrets and millions of pounds worth of stores and equipment.

These ex-regular soldiers are members of Britain's most exclusive police force—the War Department Constabulary.

Round the clock the Force's 2000 ex-officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers keep a constant security vigil against prying eyes and the clutching fingers of petty thieves in 60 stations throughout the country, from huge ordnance depots to the remotest experimental establishments.

Although their principal task is security, the War Department policemen cover the whole variety of a civilian force's work. They have complete police powers inside their establishments and outside, in relation to Government property or persons subject to Service law, up to a radius of 15 miles.

Typical of many depots which the War Department Constabulary guards is the Central

OVER . . .

All over Britain men of the War Department Constabulary guard the Army's depots and experimental establishments. Behind each be-ribboned man is a background of exemplary service as officer, warrant or non-commissioned officer in the Regular Army



The Constabulary's badge incorporates the Royal cipher on a green background. Green and white are the Force's colours.



EVERY Regiment or Corps of the British Army has been represented in the War Department Constabulary since its formation in 1925. Among the decorations held by members of the Force are a George Cross, three Distinguished Service Orders, two Military

Crosses, 31 MBEs, seven Distinguished Conduct Medals and 41 Military Medals.

Nineteen officers have been awarded the British Empire Medal, most of them for police service.



Radio cars help the police to cover large areas quickly but much of the patrolling must be done on foot and by cycle. Here a patrol cyclist, brought by van, sets off along a rough track.



A Shoeburyness DUKW puts to sea with Inspector H. Stephenson (right), an ex-RSM, Royal Artillery, and Constable G. W. Saunders, a former WO II. The wooden flood boards seen stacked on the left close this gap in the sea-wall.

Ordnance Depot at Bicester where the police are ever on the alert against theft. The Bicester detachment looks after 140 buildings in the Depot and patrols 20 miles of perimeter fence. During the day there are the main gates and other entrances to man, a duty in which the police, below their eventual strength, are being helped out by soldiers.

Patrol cars facilitate quick action in cases of crime, accident or fire and are used, too, to guide and conduct convoys and patrol roads outside the Depot. These wireless Land-Rover crews check vulnerable points within the Depot and are controlled from a police information room where coloured lights on a plan plot their exact position.

Civilian workers at Bicester and other establishments are liable, as a condition of employment, to be searched at any time. Some are

"frisked" every day and occasionally all are searched. Although petty thieving has declined, the Force's Criminal Investigation Department is still kept busy. Stolen articles have been thrown over the perimeter fence to accomplices outside, and on several occasions the Bicester Depot has been raided by well-organised London gangs.

The closest co-operation exists between the War Department Constabulary and civilian police forces. The civilian police help to trace stolen property and suspects and conversely the War Department Police report civilian traffic accidents and arrange interviews with Government employees or Servicemen in connection with civilian offences.

Bicester's CID is led by Sub-Inspector G. E. Barnes, a former Warrant Officer of the 17th/21st Lancers. Inspector R. E. Parsons

held the same rank in the Royal Corps of Signals and Superintendent O. G. Delleny MM, who commands the Bicester detachment, was also a warrant officer.

One of the Force's best-known officers, Superintendent Delleny won his Military Medal with the Machine Gun Corps at Passchendaele and for the last 15 of his 21 years' service was sergeant-major of the officers' course at the Small Arms School, Netheravon. He has been in the War Department Constabulary for 22½ years.

Previous Army rank has no direct bearing on promotion within the Force. Many detachment commanders are former warrant officers or sergeants and many of the 100-odd ex-commissioned officers are constables.

In its recruits the War Department Constabulary has many potential leaders but some, usually for domestic reasons, refuse pro-

motion. After a life of travel in the Army they are content to settle down to a well-paid job offering them a second pension.

It is a pension well-earned, particularly by those who serve in the remote and draughty corners of Britain occupied by experimental and weapon development stations.

On the marshes of the Thames Estuary the "man on the beat" often trudges through flood water, deep snow or pea-soup fog as he patrols the perimeter fence and sea-walls of Shoeburyness Proof and Experimental Establishment. But despite the weather Shoeburyness is a popular station because of the variety of police work there.

Few visitors are allowed within the perimeter and at the main gate the policemen have often to explain patiently to holidaymakers that they must go to neighbouring Thorpe Bay or Southend to sit on the beach.

A tactful refusal is needed, too, for birdwatchers who, armed with cameras—and cameras are strictly banned in the vicinity of every establishment—aim for the sanctuary of seabirds off Foulness Point. On several occasions the police have had to deal firmly with demonstrations by supporters of an anti-nuclear bomb campaign.

Within the establishment the police have special security duties and also escort convoys carrying such things as war-time unexploded bombs which are destroyed at Shoeburyness.

The security responsibility extends to sea and air as well as land. A watch is kept on the prohibited sea area around Shoeburyness and when a boat appears a DUKW, with policemen aboard, goes out and brings in the crew for questioning.

Security is not the only aspect of the sea watch. When high seas



Constable D. J. Griffiths, of the Shoeburyness detachment, uses a loud-hailer to warn the villagers of immediate danger from flooding. Constable Griffiths was formerly a Welsh Guards regimental sergeant-major.



Leaving the Royal Mint with its own escort of a British Transport Commission policeman, a British Railways vehicle is checked out by Constable A. J. Baxter, an auxiliary of the War Department Police.

threaten the low-lying land the police keep an eye on the tides, put wooden flood boards in position and, if danger is imminent warn local villagers. A constable lost his life at Shoeburyness in the East Coast floods of 1953.

Shoeburyness is fortunate in having comparatively new married quarters and a modern police lodge built only two years ago.

At Woolwich Arsenal, the home of the War Department Constabulary, offices and quarters are in old buildings. That used as the Training School was built in 1780. Here, recruits to the Force undergo four weeks' training and are then posted to stations where they continue studying during a probationary period. Later they take first-aid, civil defence and revolver courses.

Woolwich Arsenal is tenanted by a number of establishments and there is a heavy traffic at its six main gates. Nearly 4500 vehicles a week go into and out of the Arsenal, and the inquiry office at the central gate, over which are the police headquarters, deals with 1000 visitors a week.

At Woolwich, the police patrol four miles of river bank and check ships which tie up at the Government piers and docks and escort all foreign sailors to and from the main gate.

Superintendent F. Partridge, a

former Metropolitan Police officer, commands Woolwich, the Force's most important station. His officers include Chief Inspector G. A. Latter and Inspector W. A. Burvill who, with Superintendent A. J. Castle MM, of Shoeburyness, and nearly 50 other members of the Force, share the distinction of wearing the ribbons of both the Army and Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medals.

Inspector Burvill, who retires next year, typifies the old guard. He has never been out of uniform since enlisting in the Army as a boy in 1912. A former company quartermaster-sergeant, he was in The Buffs for 22 years.

Also at Woolwich are two of the 70 ex-military policemen in the Force—Sub-Inspector A. R. Oldale and Constable J. A. Fisher. They joined the Army together, were promoted at the same times to corporal, sergeant and eventually to Warrant Officer Class 1, and served together in Baghdad and Palestine. Constable Fisher is the Force's only Yeoman of Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard.

These are some of the men whose military experience and qualities of loyalty, efficiency, leadership and good comradeship acquired when they were soldiers have set a wise head on the young shoulders of the War Department Constabulary. **PETER N. WOOD**

★ **B**EFORE World War Two, during which the Force expanded from 850 to 8000, the War Department Constabulary's recruits were drawn exclusively from ex-sergeants or above holding the Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Today other ex-Regular non-commissioned officers who have completed 12 years' Colour service with exemplary character may also be considered. Suitable recruits are normally accepted before they leave the Army.

Single men's accommodation is available at some stations and there are 1400 married quarters. The basic pay scales range from £9 10s. a week for a recruit to £1180 a year for a superintendent.

A pension is payable at 60 after 10 years' established service.

★ **T**WO traditional duties of the War Department Constabulary in London are policing the Royal Mint and the War Office in Whitehall.

The force will soon have dogs and the first handlers are being trained by the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

The War Department Constabulary is controlled by the Army Council through the Chief Constable's Office in London. The present Chief Constable, Brigadier J. O. E. Vandeleur DSO, a former Irish Guardsman, is assisted by a deputy and a small staff led by Chief Inspector J. H. Crawford, a wartime Gunner captain.



Sub-Inspector M. J. C. Coles, an ex-WO II of the RAC, and Sergeant G. W. Pullen (ex-Lieut, Royal Pioneer Corps) teach recruits in the Force's Training School.

Right: The two-man crew of a radio patrol at Woolwich. The observer is Sergeant J. Bell and his driver is Constable G. Williams.

Below: Sub-Inspector A. R. Oldale inspecting a duties parade at the Arsenal. The men parade with their batons, whistles and warrant cards held before them.



Commandos piloting one-man helicopters on swift raids or attacking key points in an assault landing may well be tomorrow's . . .

LONE RANGERS OF THE

HEDGE-HOPPING across the fields, a dozen one-man helicopters whirl inland towards their target. As the sombre, sunless outline of a forest rushes towards them at 70 miles an hour the Commando pilots pull on their control sticks to skim the tree tops, engines snarling like angry hornets.

Over a clearing the machines hover momentarily, then vanish in silence as they touch down, motors cut. Releasing their safety belts the Commandos, armed with light machine-guns and grenades, run noiselessly through the undergrowth.

Bursting into another clearing they rush their target, an enemy radar station. Taken completely

unaware, the guards are quickly overpowered and within a few minutes demolition charges are placed and fused. As the radar building disintegrates the ground shakes under the feet of the Commandos doubling back to their machines, their mission accomplished.

Pure fiction—or is it? Today's

fiction often makes tomorrow's news. Already some 20 types of one-man helicopter are in different stages of research, development and production.

Two of these rotocycles, the American *Hiller*, now being made under licence in Britain by Saunders-Roe Ltd, and the *Gyrodyne*, are already being tested by the United States Marine Corps.

Today's flying motorcycles are being tried out primarily in reconnaissance and liaison roles, but the rotocycle is a potential assault weapon. It could be used

for the surprise Commando-type raid already visualised, taking off from and returning to a static or mobile shore base (a dozen portable rotocycles can be carried in a lorry) or the smallest sea-going craft.

In an assault landing it could take ashore Commandos or specially-trained Infantrymen who would attack control posts or other specific key points in the defences.

With a similar independence of landing craft or other aircraft, the rotocycle could carry demolition

Three "Flying Leathernecks" of the United States Marine Corps graphically demonstrate the stability and hovering capabilities of the Gyrodyne, one of two rotocycles under test by the Marines. Note the tricycle under-carriage and contra-rotating rotor blades.



SKIES



Looking like a set of oversize golf clubs in a mechanical carrier, the portable *Hiller* rotocycle may be carried in a small vehicle. It can be loaded, assembled and airborne in minutes. Below: Inserting the tail rotor and boom, which are locked in place with two quick-release pins.



experts, beachmasters and military policemen in advance of the main assault troops. Amphibious observation Gunners would be able to move quickly to new observation posts or spot direct from the air.

Artillery observation, reconnaissance and aerial photography are particularly suitable tasks for the rotocycle which, because of its size and manoeuvrability, offers a will-o'-the-wisp target to ground defences. The pilot can use a camera, television transmitter or radio while the helicopter hovers under the remote control of an automatic pilot or stabiliser.

Lack of roads or blown bridges would be no deterrent to a unit

commander flying his one-man helicopter to outlying or isolated detachments. On a small scale, urgently needed supplies—drugs, food, ammunition and weapons—could be quickly flown where they were needed.

Tactically, an Infantry commander might use his rotocycles, fitted with a number of small rockets, to attack enemy strongpoints. Flying military policemen could control traffic from the air, checking on bottlenecks in towns and at road junctions, and Signalmen could rapidly lay out line over open country. The chaplain and the post corporal might use it for flying on their rounds, literally dropping in on detachments.

A feature of the rotocycle is

its portability. It could be air-dropped for rescue, evacuation or escape operations, carried on vehicles or in a submarine for delivering reconnaissance parties ashore.

The *Hiller* version can be dismantled by removing quick-disconnect pins, and folded into a package only 14 feet long by 27 inches in diameter. Reassembly takes only 10 minutes.

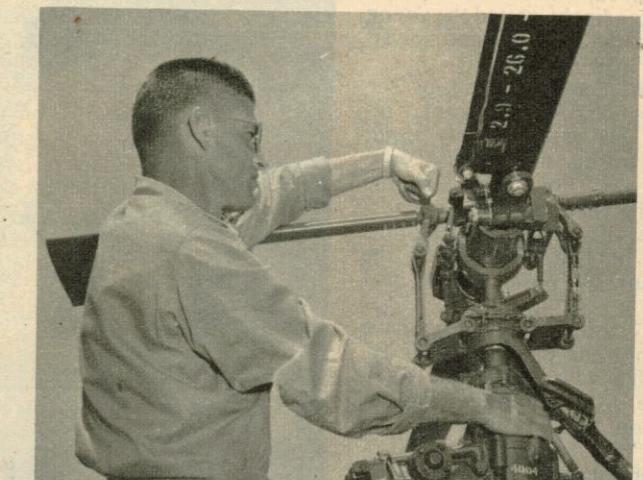
The lighter of the two types being tested by the United States Marine Corps, the *Hiller* has a single rotor powered by a 40 horse-power engine, a range of 30 miles, and weighs 256 lbs empty. The *Gyrodyne* weighs 381 lbs and has two contra-rotating rotors, driven by a 60 horse-power engine.

Its range is 40 miles.

Both helicopters cruise at 52 miles an hour, with maximum speeds of 72 miles an hour, and have a vertical climb rate under full load of over 300 feet per minute.

Under development is a new 80 horse-power gas turbine engine which may soon revolutionise one-man helicopter performance. The British Army has not yet tested the rotocycle, although the Royal Corps of Signals is interested in its possible use for the special dispatch service. At the moment the Army is more interested in the possibilities of the one-man autogyro for which, because of its greater stability, less flying training is needed.

PETER N. WOOD.



Assembling the *Hiller*, which folds into a package only 14 feet long by 27 inches in diameter, the pilot inserts one of the 13 standard quick-release pins to fix a rotor blade.

He fooled the Germans by posing as a deaf and dumb Ukrainian; the Gestapo beat him up and let him go; the Russians threatened to shoot him as a spy. These were some of the remarkable, and hitherto unpublished, adventures—told here by LESLIE HUNT—of a private in The Queen's Royal Regiment, who was on the run in Poland for more than four years in World War Two

BUT THE "DEAF MUTE" WAS NOT SO DUMB

HALT," yelled one of the two German soldiers guarding the river bridge outside a Polish village west of Warsaw.

The thick-set, dark-haired young man with the suitcase ignored him and continued to walk across the bridge.

"Halt," roared the guard again, unshouldering his rifle. But the young man still took no notice and strode on.

The second guard leapt into action, ran on to the bridge and grabbed the man round the neck. Trembling with fear, the man pointed to his mouth and ears and from his pocket produced a well-worn identity card made out in the name of Basil Turnicek, a deaf and dumb Ukrainian.

"Ach, so," said the German, understandingly, patted the young man on the shoulder and waved him on over the bridge.

Private Leonard Mann, of The Queen's Royal Regiment, replaced his false identity card, picked up his suitcase and went on his way. For the second time since he had escaped from a prisoner-of-war camp 15 months earlier he had hoodwinked the Germans by posing as a deaf mute.

This astonishing near-shave was only one of a series of remarkable adventures that befell Private Mann during his four years on the run in Poland in World War Two.

After escaping from the Germans he joined the Polish Underground army and helped to distribute arms and ammunition to the partisans. He was beaten up by the Gestapo who let him go, believing him to be a harmless deaf mute, and finally was arrested by the Russians, from whom he escaped twice and who threatened to shoot him as a spy.

Then, when he had given up all hope, he was taken to Moscow and sent home to England where, six months later he was awarded the Military Medal for his outstanding courage and determination.

Leonard Mann's near-incredible story began in June, 1940, when he was captured while on patrol in France—the prelude to an agonising five-week march with thousands of other Allied prisoners through France, Belgium and Holland to Germany.

He walked most of the way barefooted and, like his companions, almost starved on the daily



Above: This was the picture the Germans saw when Private Mann produced his deaf and dumb passport. The photograph was taken by a member of the Polish Underground soon after Mann escaped. Later, when Mann learned to speak Polish, he posed as a shoemaker.

Private Mann with his bicycle on a farm outside Warsaw where he worked for several weeks in 1942. To avoid suspicion he was moved from farm to farm. Only once did he forget he was a deaf-mute and then he was whisked to another farm by the Underground.

ration of one cup of coffee, a slice of black bread and a bowl of thin soup.

But his spirit was far from broken and soon, after being transferred to a camp at Schubin, in Poland, he made his first escape bid in company with a corporal of the Royal Tank Regiment. They were detected and next morning at roll-call were called to the front of the parade. As the gates were flung open the German guards took out their revolvers and told them they were free to go if they wished! Not unnaturally, they declined the invitation.

As punishment for attempting to escape they were made to clean out the latrines for four days and sent to "X" Company—a heavily wired compound within the main camp where the most difficult prisoners were kept.

Within 24 hours they were trying to burrow their way to freedom, helping to dig a tunnel in

the sandy soil from their tent to a spot on the other side of the wire. They had worked to almost underneath the wire when disaster struck: "X" Company was posted to another camp at Posen.

Three weeks later Private Mann and two other British soldiers were free—the first prisoners to escape from Posen.

The plan was ridiculously simple. While other prisoners engaged the guards in conversation one November evening just before the camp's four searchlights were due to be switched on, the three men cut through the wire with a pair of cutters bartered from a Pole and in the gathering gloom ran across a field and on to a road.

Their luck was in, for the road led to a railway line and there, halted by a signal, was a goods train. The trio leapt into the brake-van and almost immediately the train moved off. Two hours later it stopped in a siding and



"The Germans bundled him downstairs, one of them lashing him with his leather whip . . ." Illustration by ERIC PARKER.

lay low at Jaroslav, a town on the outskirts of the Polish capital, and then fell ill. He spent a month in a local hospital, able to talk only to a doctor who was a member of the Underground, and when he came out the plan to cross the San, which by now had thawed, had to be cancelled, as there was no chance of crossing by boat.

For the next year Mann lived with the Underground in Warsaw and its surrounding towns, moving every two or three months, working on farms and sometimes in a secret factory making cloth for partisan soldiers.

But the strain of always having to be on guard against talking became too much to bear and in April, 1942—by which time the whole of Poland had been overrun by the Germans—he decided to make his own way to Russia.

The next morning Mann had his second stroke of luck, for at the first farmhouse he visited the owner took him in, fed him and gave him a suit of lice-ridden clothes. Next day the farmer took him by horse and cart to the nearest railway line and Mann, carrying a shovel to create the impression that he was a local labourer, set off along the track for Warsaw.

Near Kalisz, Private Mann spent the night in a barn and, to his astonishment the following morning a young Pole came in, introduced himself as an officer in the Polish Underground and said his organisation would get Mann to Warsaw and from there to Moscow.

After staying at the Pole's home for several days and ex-

changing his verminous clothing, Mann was accompanied by Polish guides to Kalisz where he was lodged with another member of the Underground and given a false passport, complete with official stamps, a photograph and fingerprints. For the next two-and-a-half years, until he could speak Polish well enough to be given another passport in the name of Heinrich Dobzanski, a Warsaw shoemaker, Mann had to play the part of a deaf mute. Only once did he give himself away—when he absent-mindedly spoke to a Polish labourer at the farm where he was working. The next day Mann was moved to another farm 30 miles away.

Again his astounding luck held out. On the way back he decided one night to sleep in a stationary railway carriage. He woke up at dawn to find that the train had moved and had stopped in the middle of a German Army supply depot. If he stayed there he would almost certainly be caught so he decided to bluff it out.

He crept from the carriage, hid behind a shed to get his bearings and then walked boldly past the two German soldiers on guard at the main gate. Thinking he

was a camp worker, the Germans didn't even bother to look at him!

A few months later Mann had an even narrower escape. Without warning one day a squad of Gestapo and Hitler Youth soldiers raided the house in the Warsaw suburb where he was hiding, seeking a Pole who had escaped from the house opposite where a secret radio transmitter had been found.

As the Germans stormed into the house Mann leapt up the stairs to his room and flung himself on the bed, his face turned to the wall. The door burst open and two Gestapo men, machine-pistols at the ready, ordered him to put up his hands. Mann remained motionless, expecting to be shot but not daring to speak.

But no shot came. Instead, one of the Germans rushed across the room, flung Mann to the floor, then kicked him to his feet. Despite the protests of the owner of the house that Mann was deaf and dumb and very ill, they bundled him downstairs, one of the Germans lashing him with a leather whip. In the nick of time a Polish policeman, who knew Mann's true identity, arrived and persuaded the German that he was, in fact, a deaf mute.

The two Germans released him but were not to be done out of their fun. Cursing and yelling, they chased Mann back to his room, lashing him again with their leather whips until they drew blood.

When he had recovered from this unnerving experience, Mann was moved back into Warsaw where, for several months, he

helped deliver arms and ammunition (carried openly in suitcases) to partisan groups in the city and surrounding towns. But the Germans penetrated the ring and, for his own safety, Mann, now officially a Polish shoemaker, was moved to Radosc, a town some ten miles outside Warsaw, sleeping in the fields for weeks on end to avoid being rounded up by the Germans for slave labour.

Then, in August, 1944, the Russians broke through on the Warsaw front and Radosc was captured.

Mann thought his troubles were over but there were many more to come, for the next day, while walking through the town wearing a red, white and blue armband to indicate his nationality, he was arrested and accused of being a supporter of the Polish Government in London whom the Russians had condemned as traitors.

It was a case of out of the frying pan into the fire with a vengeance and Mann was now in a desperate plight. That night, while being marched into captivity with some Russian deserters, he broke away from the column and fled into a wood, pursued by a fusilade of shots. Unhurt, he made his way to the home of some Poles who had previously sheltered him but next day was spotted by the same soldier who had detained him before and was again arrested.

After interrogation at a Russian military headquarters, Mann was flung into a filthy air-raid shelter with some 50 other prisoners, most of them Cossack deserters. Then, one morning several weeks later, he was taken



caught by a Russian patrol, handcuffed and for several weeks kept under guard in a pigsty before being transferred to a Russian Army headquarters and locked in a cell, expecting every day to be shot.

Four weeks went by and on 23 November they thought their last hour had come when the cell

door was flung open and a Russian general entered. They could hardly believe their ears when he told them that their identities had been checked and that they were going home to England. But it was true.

The next day, dressed as private soldiers in the Russian Army, Mann, the other soldier and the civilian who had now joined them, boarded a Russian plane for Minsk and from there travelled by train to Moscow where they spent two days in a Russian propaganda headquarters before being passed over to the British Embassy.

At last, on 12 December, 1944 Mann and his two comrades left by train for Murmansk where they boarded a British aircraft carrier which landed them in Scotland.

A week later, Private Mann was back home at Henley-on-Thames, his four-year struggle for liberty at an end.

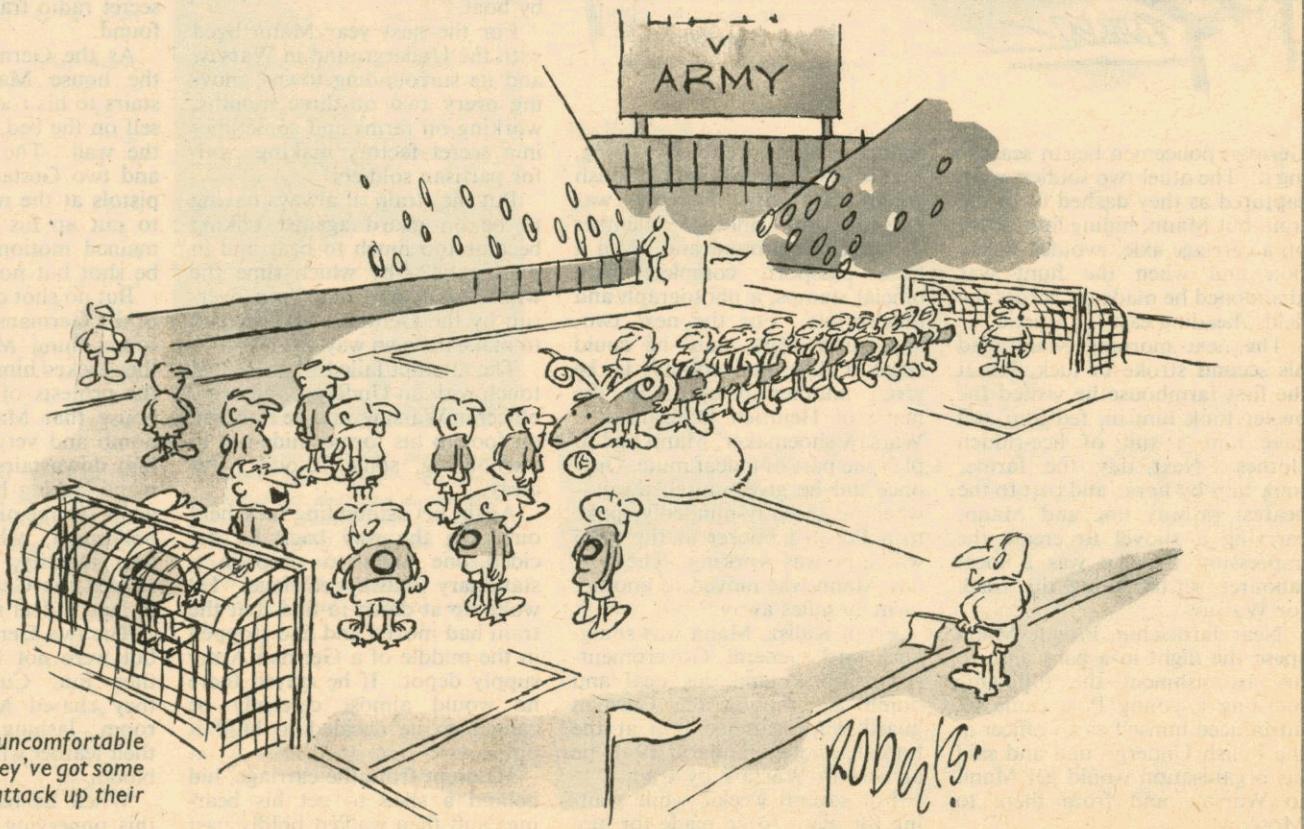
Below: At the end of the road to freedom, Private Mann (extreme right), in a Russian private soldier's uniform, poses with other escaped British Servicemen in the British Embassy in Moscow after being handed over by the Soviet Army.



to a village near Lublin and grilled for three days by the Russian secret police who said he would be shot as a spy. Here, Mann met another British soldier and a British civilian and all three were sent to work as labourers on a farm, each with his own Russian soldier to guard him.

Reckless with despair because they believed they would be shot, Mann and the other soldier decided to escape and three weeks later the chance came when they were sent to collect their rations from a shed and found the guard there asleep.

Silently pocketing the food, they tiptoed out of the shed and made off across the fields, hoping to reach a village where Mann had previously been hidden. But they never made it. Three nights later while asleep in a barn, they were





General Sir Lashmer Whistler, DSO, Colonel Commandant of the Frontier Force, after whom the Teshie barracks are named.

Left: The School's mortar demonstration team in action at Teshie. They were taught by British NCO instructors.

Farewell To The RWAFFTS

THE Royal West African Frontier Force Training School at Teshie, in Ghana, the last surviving inter-territorial unit of that historic force, has closed and this month hands over its responsibilities to the new Ghana Military Academy and the Nigerian Military College.

So ends a 15-year association in which soldiers of the four West African territories—Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Gambia—have lived and worked together under British and African officer and non-commissioned officer instructors and played a leading part in the building up of the new West African Independent Forces.

At Teshie, in the spacious Whistler Barracks (named after General Sir Lashmer Whistler, formerly GOC, West Africa Command and the present Colonel Commandant of the Frontier Force) hundreds of men from the four territories—often accompanied on long courses by their families—were trained in many military subjects, ranging from Infantry tactics and weapons, through hygiene, cookery and physical training to the training of clerks and education instructors.

It is a tribute to the instructors that many students from Teshie went to the Small Arms School at Hythe, the School of Infantry at Netheravon and the Army School of Education at Beaconsfield and obtained high gradings. Many who attended education courses at Teshie are now civilian teachers.

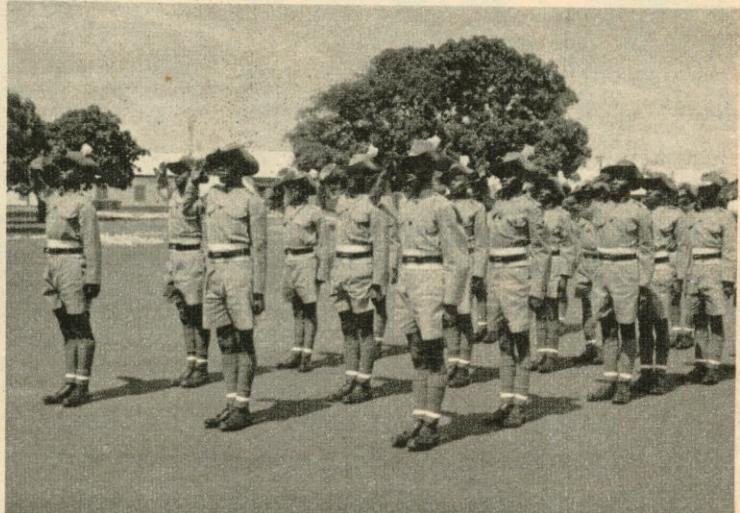
From Teshie, too, went scores of African cadets to Sandhurst, Mons, Dartmouth and military academies in other Commonwealth countries, all basically trained at the Regular Officers' Special Training School set up in 1953. Last year more than 100

cadets from all the territories except Gambia, whose military force has been disbanded, were trained there.

The Royal West African Frontier Force Training School received its title in 1956, but it had its roots in the amalgamation in 1945 of the clerks' training schools from Nigeria and the Gold Coast and of the Nigeria School of Infantry and the School of Education a year later, all four becoming the West African Command Training School in 1948. One of its outstanding and invaluable achievements has been the fostering of friendship and understanding between the soldiers of the four territories.

The closing of the Training School will not mean that all British officers and non-commissioned officers in West Africa will now leave. They will continue to serve in the forces of Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, on the staffs and with units and with the new Ghana Military Academy and the Nigeria Military College.

Right: Officer cadets receive instruction on the telescopic rifle. Many cadets have been trained at Sandhurst and attended courses in Britain.



Above: On the parade ground at Teshie the cadets are put through the paces.



FAREWELL TO A FAMOUS GUN



In the shadow of a Thunderbird guided missile, the last of the 3.7s trundle across the parade ground into retirement.

At the home of the Royal Artillery the Gunners said goodbye to the guns that had fired their last round. And with them went the last Regular regiment to man them.

The Director, Royal Artillery, takes the salute as the men of 57 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment march past.



FIVE HUNDRED Gunners stood rigidly at the salute and the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" echoed round the barracks as the Regular Army's last surviving 3.7-inch anti-aircraft guns went into honourable retirement.

It was a doubly sad and moving moment. On the Front Parade at the Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich, the Gunners were saying goodbye to a famous gun and to a famous regiment, for behind the ten gleaming guns as they were driven off in pairs, marched the men of the last unit to man them—57 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, for whom this was the last parade before disbandment.

As the Regiment, accompanied by fellow units of 7 Army Group, Royal Artillery (Anti-Aircraft), came on parade, the ten 3.7s were drawn up in immaculate line abreast. Nearby stood two Thunderbird guided missiles, their warheads thrust aggressively to the sky, marking the new era in the history of anti-aircraft weapons and the revolution that brought about the eclipse of the conventional guns.

On each side of the saluting base stood a non-commissioned

officer of the Regiment, holding a guidon from which fluttered the flags of Nelson's famous signal "Engage the enemy more closely"—an emblem adopted by the unit in 1942 when it was an anti-tank regiment.

The Director, Royal Artillery, Major-General E. D. Howard-Vyse MC, inspected the guns for the last time and told the parade: "This famous weapon served its purpose well . . . it engaged the enemy in the air, on land and at sea in many parts of the world."

Then the senior subaltern in charge of the guns, Lieutenant P. J. Appleby, in a Land-Rover, led the last march-past as Major-General Howard-Vyse took the salute. Silently, the guns whose thunderous barrages cheered the people of Britain's major cities and ports in World War Two, moved across the parade ground, the Regimental flags dipped in salute and the Royal Artillery Band struck up "Auld Lang Syne."

With the last echoes of the tune the guns faded into the morning mist to take their place in military history and behind them came the Regiment, led by its Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel N. W. Routledge, which has the proud distinction of being the last Regular Gunner unit to fire them.

Although the Regiment assumed its title only in 1947 its three batteries boasted a combined record of 450 years' service. No. 104, which served in 70 different stations in 20 countries, began its career at Woolwich in 1806 as No. 1 Company of 9th Battalion, Royal Artillery, and saw action for the first time in the Crimean War after which it was responsible for shipping home the prize guns from Sebastopol. It was one of the first British Gunner batteries to engage the enemy in Belgium a few days after the opening of World War One.

No. 108 Battery, also raised in 1806, helped to lay down the first-ever creeping artillery barrage at San Sebastian in 1813. It served in France and Belgium throughout World War One and in World War Two it was captured intact by the Japanese at Singapore but was re-raised in 1943 to fight in North-West Europe.

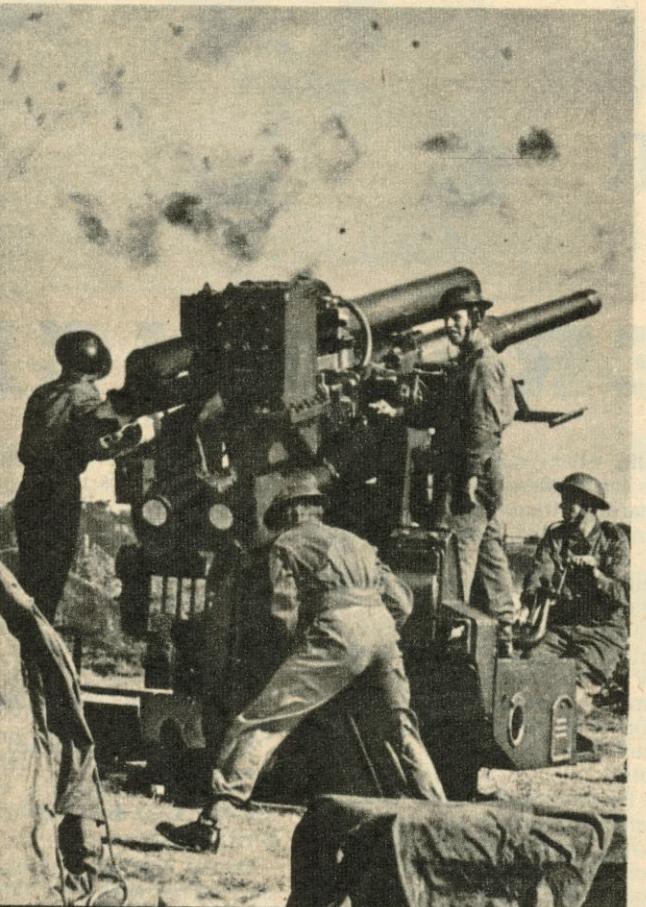
No. 160 (Middleton's Company) Battery, formed in 1854 as No. 6 Company, 13 Battalion, Royal Artillery, won its honours title for outstanding bravery at Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny. Many of the Battery's horses were eaten during the Siege of Ladysmith in 1900.

The three batteries were formed into 20 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, in 1939 and landed in Normandy on D-Day.

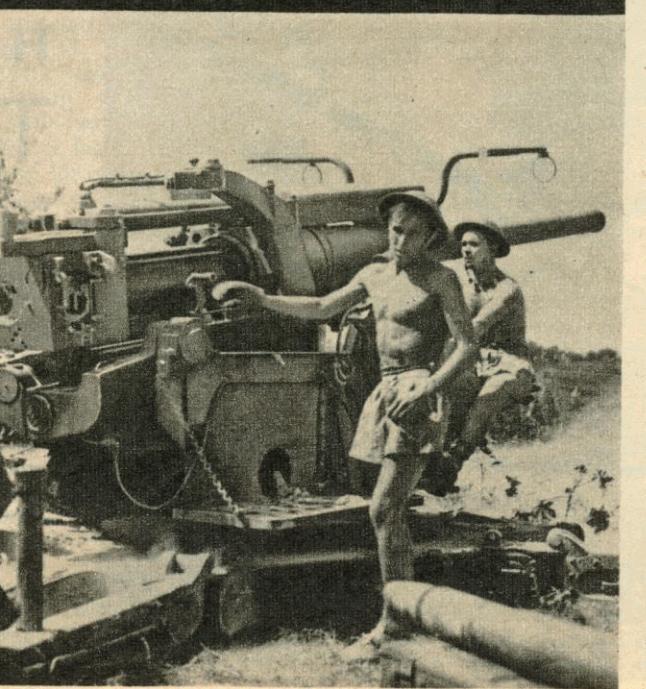
● The honours title "Middleton's Company" will not be lost to the Gunners. It will be handed over to 188 Independent Radar Battery, Royal Artillery, later this year for incorporation in that unit's title.

K. E. HENLY

It Was A "Wonderful Weapon"



Versatility was the keynote of the famous 3.7-inch anti-aircraft gun. Above: In action defending London during an air raid in 1942 and (below) playing its part as a field gun during the bombardment of the Gothic Line in Italy, 1944.



THE Gunners loved it, enemy aircrews feared it and the World War Two Commander of Anti-Aircraft Command, General Sir Frederick Pile, praised it as a "wonderful weapon."

Now, after 25 years of magnificent service, the 3.7-inch—one of the most versatile weapons ever used by the British Army—has reached the end of its Regular Army career.

Produced by Vickers in 1935, the 3.7 was intended only to shoot down aircraft, but in the next 20 years it was also used as a medium gun, to strengthen coastal defences and engage anti-mine-laying craft, to destroy tanks and demolish reinforced concrete bunkers.

In Italy in World War Two it was sometimes employed as a howitzer to bombard enemy positions over mountain ridges. It shelled the Japanese in the Arakan and New Guinea, and more than ten years later was in action on the slopes of Mount Kenya pouring shells into caves sheltering Mau-Mau terrorists.

The 3.7 served in Britain, Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Burma, Singapore, Hong Kong, East Africa, Normandy, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, Sicily, Malta, Palestine, Syria, New Guinea and Gibraltar. It was manned by Gunners of a dozen nations.

But it is as the anti-aircraft gun that defended Britain that the 3.7 will be best remembered. It formed the largest section of the anti-aircraft defences in World War Two and destroyed many German V1 flying-bombs.

The 3.7s were first in action at Scapa Flow in March, 1940, but the gun was then far from being the killer it eventually became when radar had got over its teething troubles. The hit-or-miss methods of those days are illustrated by the fact that in a night raid on London in October, 1940, the 3.7s and other weapons fired 8326 rounds—and destroyed only two aircraft.

In January, 1944, the 3.7s' accuracy and rate of fire was greatly increased by the introduction of the Molins fuse-setter, and three weeks later eight raiders were destroyed in one night by the guns ringing London.

The climax of the gun's career came during the V1 attacks of 1944. When it was found that the mobile 3.7s could not be traversed quickly enough to cope with the "flying bomb," they were replaced by static, power-controlled 3.7s. This meant uprooting nearly 450 guns all over the country and transporting them to the flying bomb belt.

The defences, with the 3.7s playing a major part, gained some spectacular successes. By the end of November, 1944, 82 per cent of all targets aimed at were being hit, and for every flying bomb that got through three were destroyed.

In all, during World War Two, Anti-Aircraft Command destroyed 822 aircraft, with 237 probables and 422 damaged, and knocked down 1972 flying bombs. How many fell to the 3.7s is not known, but the gun certainly gained more successes than any other weapon of its type.

● The 3.7-inch gun has not quite reached the end of its career, for it will continue to be used by Territorial Army Gunners.

More mobility and greater hitting power: these are the keynotes of the plan to make the Army a more effective force which will also be better armed, better paid and better housed than ever before

SMALLER ARMY— BIGGER PUNCH

THE active Army is getting smaller—this year it will fall below its pre-World War Two strength for the first time in 21 years—but it is to be more mobile and harder hitting.

It will also be better armed and equipped, better housed and better paid than ever before.

A new battle tank, described by the Defence Minister as "the best tank in the world," is on the way. So are a new tracked armoured personnel carrier, a better tank bridge layer, two new light liaison aircraft—the Beaver and the P.531 helicopter—and a new machine-gun and a new anti-tank weapon (the Wombat, a lighter version of the present Moba) for the Infantry.

The Gunners will be getting the new air-portable 105-mm. howitzer and the Royal Armoured Corps will soon be armed with the Malkara, a guided weapon re-

puted to be able to knock out any known tank.

This cheering picture of the future is given by the War Minister in his memorandum to the Army Estimates—the annual report of the Army's activities in the past year and its plans for the future.

Other plans announced by the War Minister are:

MORE AND BETTER BARRACKS

In the coming year work will start on barracks for 5500 men in Britain. About 400 married quarters were built last year and work has started on building over

1000 more. A further 2000 quarters are planned and 800 of these will be completed by the spring of 1961.

In Malaya, barracks and married quarters for an Infantry battalion and an artillery regiment will be ready for occupation at Malacca in the near future. Similar accommodation for two Commonwealth battalions is in hand and barracks and married quarters are being built for the Gurkhas in Hong Kong.

In Aden, permanent air-conditioned barracks, married quarters and amenity buildings will be erected for an Infantry battalion and administrative troops. Four new barrack blocks will be ready for occupation by next September. A permanent cantonment to

house two Infantry battalions is under construction at Kahawa, in Kenya, and one Infantry battalion will move in by the middle of 1961. At Gilgil 120 new married quarters are being built and camps for 24 Infantry Brigade will be completed by 1961.

In Germany, where there is a shortage of married quarters, German civilian contractors will build blocks of flats and houses for hire to the Army in 12 towns throughout the British Zone (including Osnabrück, Dortmund, Minden and Moench-Gladbach). This scheme will provide accommodation for about 1000 families by April, 1961.

REORGANISATION

By the spring of 1961 the reorganisation of the Army will have been completed and the strength of the active Army will be 216,000 officers and men.

WEAPONS AND TRAINING

In Rhine Army, where all Infantry units are equipped with the self-loading rifle, the Sterling sub machine-gun and the Moba, Centurion tanks are being up-gunned with the 105-mm gun.

Far greater use is being made of training facilities in Libya (where more air-transported exercises will take place in the coming year) and in North Borneo where, by 1962, facilities will have been expanded to enable a brigade group to carry out formation training.

"The emphasis placed on air movement in training is bringing within reach a variety and realism hitherto unknown," says the War Minister, "and the recent formation of 38 Group, Royal Air Force, will lead to even closer co-operation with the Royal Air Force in all forms of air training and operations."

OFFICER CAREER STRUCTURES

Regular officers will in future be given the choice of an Army career to the age of at least 55 or of retiring with a pension after 16 years' service at an age when they should not find it difficult to find civilian employment.

At present, officers not promoted to major are compulsorily retired at the age of about 34 and do not receive a pension. Other officers below the rank of major-general are normally retired at ages ranging from 47 to 52, with a pension which does not increase with length of service.

In the new plan, promotion to major will be by selection between the ages of 34-36, and those not selected will be allowed to serve until they have 16 years' reckoned service when they will retire on pension. All other officers, too, will have the right to retire on pension after 16 years' service.

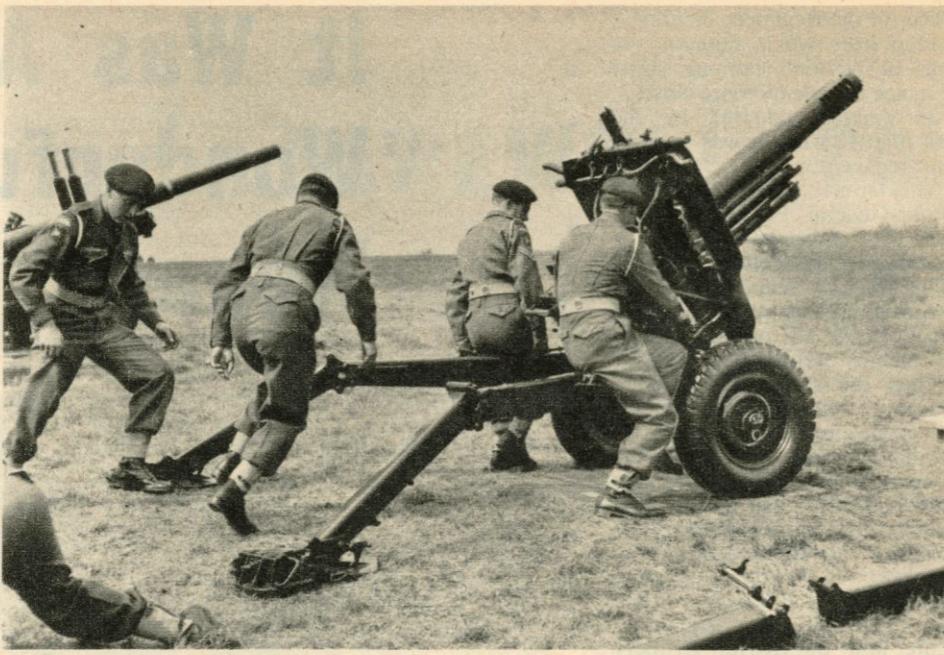
All officers selected for promotion to major will have improved prospects of further promotion and the expectation of a career up to the age of 55. Retired pay will increase with length of service and the maximum will be reached after 34 years' service.

Despite the later retiring ages, officers will not command active units and formations at later ages than at present. The older officers will be employed in the more static appointments.

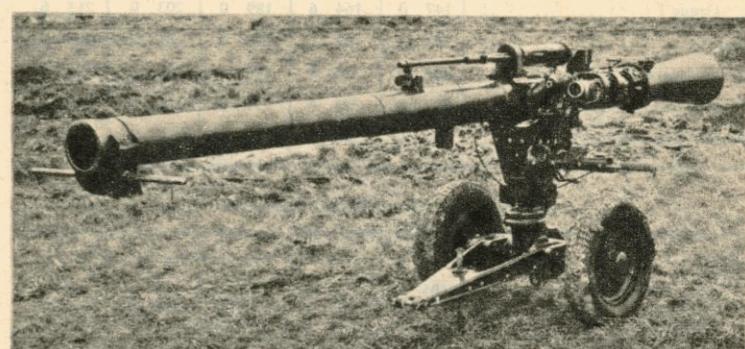
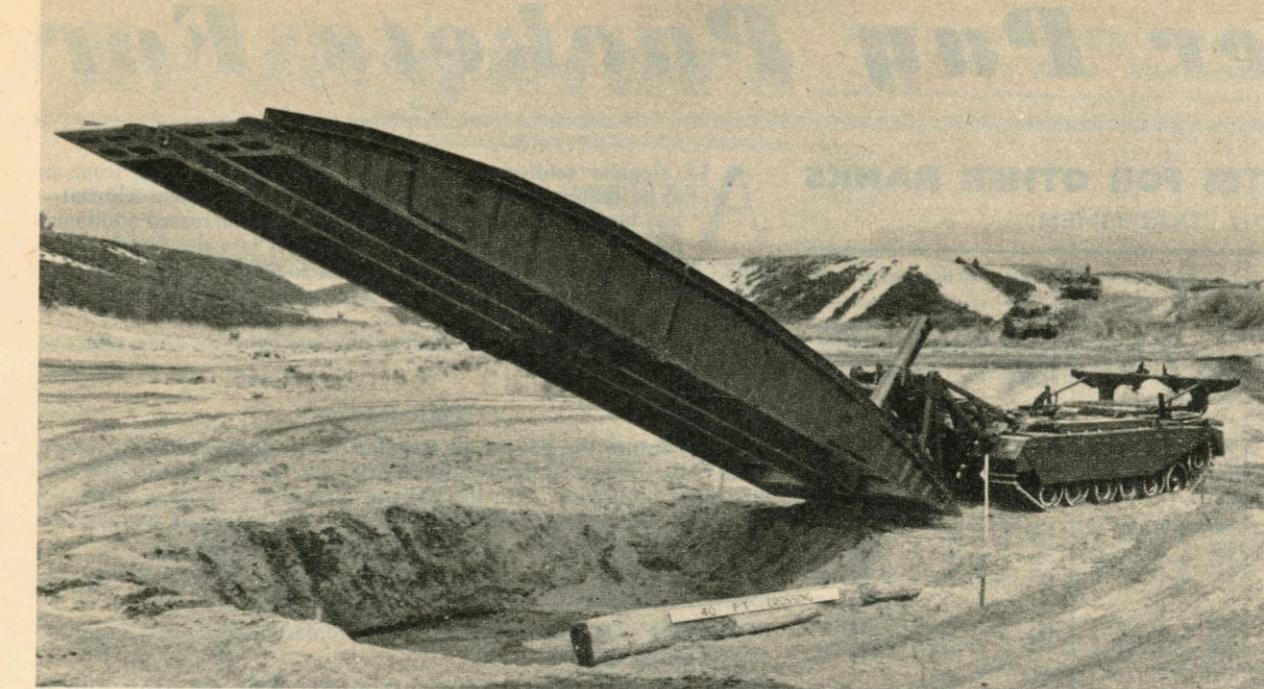
To avoid promotion blocks, some officers will not be able to serve until 55 at the outset but their retirement ages will be gradually raised.

SOLDIER understands that captains not selected for promotion in their first eligible year will be re-examined twice a year in the following two years.

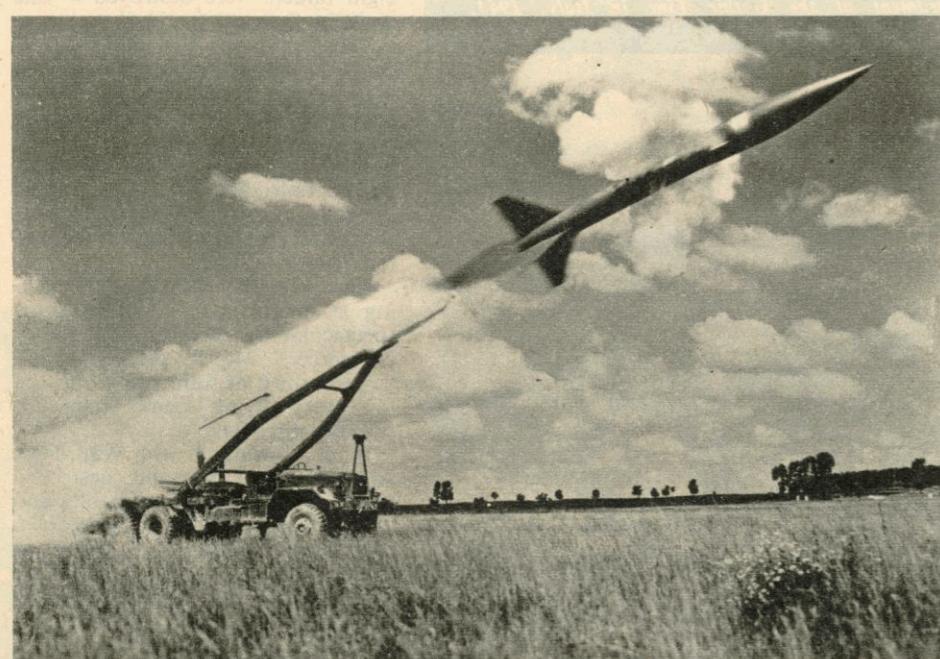
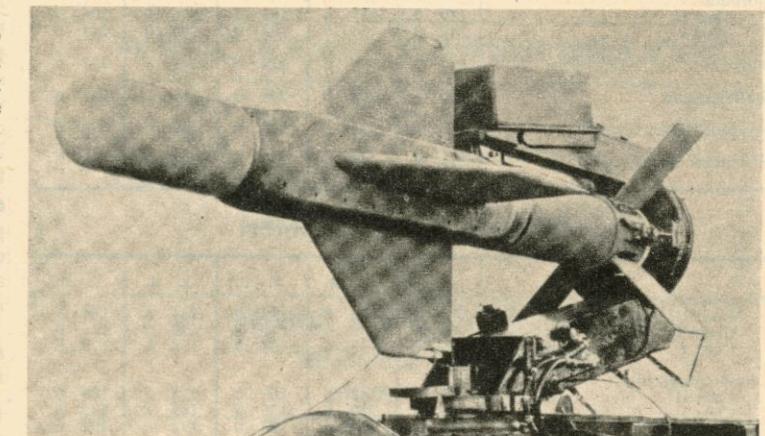
Left: The new Centurion bridge layer. It can span a 40-ft gap and carry a load of 80 tons. The bridge can be launched across an obstacle in three minutes by one man inside the tank.



Gunners go into action during a demonstration of the 105-mm howitzer which will be issued to 33 Parachute Light Regiment, RA, and to three field artillery regiments.



Above: The Infantry will soon be getting the Wombat, a lighter version of the Moba anti-tank gun. Below: The Malkara anti-tank guided weapon which will be issued to the Royal Armoured Corps. It can destroy any known tank.



Honest John takes off from its mobile launcher on a rocket range in Germany. It has a solid-fuel motor and can hit targets up to 20 miles away. It can also be lifted by helicopter.

AND NOW THE HONEST JOHN

THE Gunners, already armed with the Corporal guided missile, are to get another rocket in the near future: the Honest John free-flight rocket which can carry a nuclear warhead.

As SOLDIER went to press it was announced that a heavy artillery regiment, at present stationed in Rhine Army will soon be equipped with the weapon.

Honest John is one of the many American "short-range" surface-to-surface rockets designed to provide close-support fire up to 20 miles. It is 27 ft long, 30 ins in diameter and weighs about five tons. Propelled by a solid-fuel rocket motor, it can fire high explosive, nuclear, smoke or chemical warheads. Unlike the Corporal, the Honest John has no electronic controls.

Smaller and more mobile than the Corporal, the Honest John is carried on its own wheeled launcher and can be lifted by helicopter.

Some Gunners have already been trained by the American Army in Germany in the use of Honest John.

NEW PAY AND PENSIONS CODE OVERLEAF

Fatter Pay Packets For

NEW PAY RATES FOR OTHER RANKS NON TRADESMEN

Rank	Basic Pay for those committed to serve for:				
	Less than 6 years	6 years but less than 9 years	9 years or more	15 years having completed 9 years' service	21 years or more having completed 15 years' service
Scale A	Scale B	Scale C	Scale D	Scale E	
Private—					
Grade IV	87 6	105 0	129 6	157 6	157 6
Grade III	105 0	122 6	147 0	157 6	157 6
Grade II	112 0	129 6	154 0	164 6	164 6
Grade I	119 0	136 6	161 0	171 6	171 6
Lance-Corporal—					
Grade III	119 0	136 6	161 0	171 6	171 6
Grade II	126 0	143 6	168 0	178 6	178 6
Grade I	133 0	150 6	175 0	185 6	185 6
Corporal—					
Grade II	140 0	157 6	182 0	196 0	206 6
Grade I	147 0	164 6	189 0	203 0	213 6
Sergeant	182 0	199 6	224 0	241 6	255 6
Staff-Sergeant	206 6	224 0	248 6	269 6	283 6
Warrant Officer Class II	217 0	234 6	259 0	280 0	294 0
Warrant Officer Class I	231 0	248 6	273 0	294 0	308 0

GROUP B TRADESMEN

	s. d.				
Private—					
Class III	105 0	122 6	147 0	157 6	157 6
Class II	112 0	129 6	154 0	164 6	164 6
Class I	119 0	136 6	161 0	171 6	171 6
Lance-Corporal—					
Class III	119 0	136 6	161 0	171 6	171 6
Class II	126 0	143 6	168 0	178 6	178 6
Class I	133 0	150 6	175 0	185 6	185 6
Corporal—					
Class II	140 0	157 6	182 0	196 0	206 6
Class I	147 0	164 6	189 0	203 0	213 6
Sergeant	182 0	199 6	224 0	241 6	255 6
Staff-Sergeant	206 6	224 0	248 6	269 6	283 6
Warrant Officer Class II	217 0	234 6	259 0	280 0	294 0
Warrant Officer Class I	231 0	248 6	273 0	294 0	308 0

GROUP A TRADESMEN

	s. d.				
Private—					
Class III	112 0	129 6	154 0	164 6	164 6
Class II	119 0	136 6	161 0	171 6	171 6
Class I	126 0	143 6	168 0	178 6	178 6
Lance-Corporal—					
Class III	126 0	143 6	168 0	178 6	178 6
Class II	133 0	150 6	175 0	185 6	185 6
Class I	140 0	157 6	182 0	192 6	192 6
Corporal—					
Class II	147 0	164 6	189 0	203 0	213 6
Class I	154 0	171 6	196 0	210 0	220 6
Sergeant	196 0	213 6	238 0	255 6	269 6
Staff-Sergeant	220 6	238 0	262 6	283 6	297 6
Warrant Officer Class II	231 0	248 6	273 0	294 0	308 0
Warrant Officer Class I	245 0	262 6	287 0	308 0	322 0

TECHNICIANS

	s. d.				
Private	136 6	154 0	178 6	189 0	189 0
Lance-Corporal	150 6	168 0	192 6	203 0	203 0
Corporal	171 6	189 0	213 6	227 6	238 0
Sergeant	224 0	241 6	266 0	283 6	297 6
Staff-Sergeant	259 0	276 6	301 0	322 6	336 0
Warrant Officer Class II	269 6	287 0	311 6	332 6	346 6
Warrant Officer Class I	283 6	301 0	325 6	346 6	360 6

• A Warrant Officer Class II, holding the appointment of R.Q.M.S. will receive additional pay of 7s. Od. a week.

• In addition to the rates shown above, increments of 10s 6d a week will be granted to sergeants and above on completion of 18 years' service.

ALL Regular soldiers are to receive more pay—ranging from an extra shilling a day for a private to £2 a day for a field-marshall—and bigger gratuities. Technicians will get increased additional pay which will lift some warrant officers into the £1000-a-year class. And a new pensions code has been introduced to enable Regular officers to leave the Army on pension after only 16 years' service or to soldier on to the age of 55.

Here are the chief points in the new pay and pensions code, effective from 1 April, 1960.

OTHER RANKS

PAY: In future the pay of all Regular other ranks will be governed broadly by changes in the average earnings in "manufacturing and certain other industries." On the basis of changes in the past two years there will be basic increases of 7s a week for corporals and below, 10s 6d for sergeants and 14s for staff-sergeants and above.

TECHNICIANS: To encourage recruitment, all technicians will receive additional increases of up to 35s a week.

BOUNTIES: The bounty system is to be replaced by improved rates of pay for longer service.

GRATUITIES: Gratuities paid to those who leave the Army with at least 12 years' service will be increased by between £30 (12 years) and £155 (21 years).

PAY STRUCTURE: A simplified code will be introduced in place of the seven-star system.

PENSIONS: The 1959 pensions code remains unchanged.

OFFICERS

PAY: This will in future be linked with pay in the comparable grades of the Home Civil Service and the new annual increases will be: £73 for a captain and below; £91 5s for a major; £146 for a lieutenant-colonel; between £127 15s and £182 10s for a colonel; £219 for a brigadier; £255 10s for a major-general; £365 for a lieutenant-general; £547 10s for a general and £730 for a field-marshall.

Additional increments for long service will be given to majors and certain colonels.

FLYING PAY: The rates are to be increased to bring the pay of Army Air Corps pilots (officers and other ranks) in line with equivalent flying grades of the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

PENSIONS: The new code, applicable to all officers who retire on or after 1 February, 1960, is designed to match the new career structure which, generally speaking, will offer all Regulars the choice of serving on to the age of 55 or retiring at the age of 37 or so. The changes will be introduced gradually and it will not be possible to offer the new terms to all officers now serving.

GRATUITIES: Those who retire before becoming eligible for retired pay will receive £1150 (an increase of £150) for the first ten years' qualifying service and a further £230 (an increase of £30) for each additional year. The standard rate of Short Service gratuity will be increased from £135 for each year of service to £155.

WOMEN'S SERVICES: Pay, pensions and gratuities will be increased to 85 per cent. of the men's new rates.

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN: No change except for minor alterations as a result of the simplification of the new pay structure.

GRATUITIES FOR OTHER RANKS

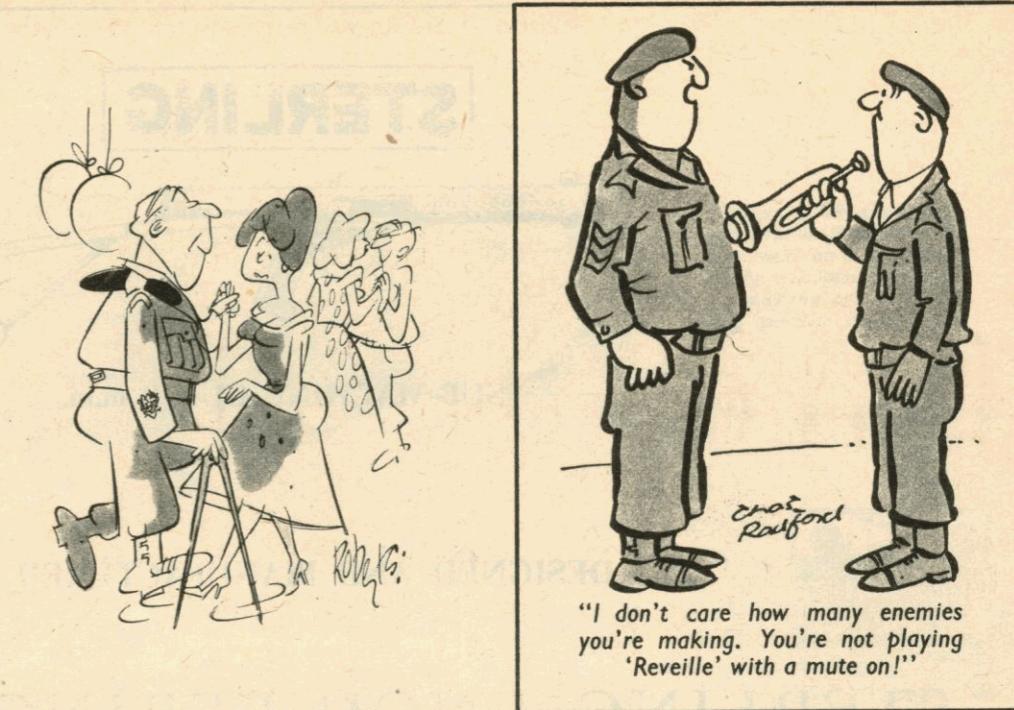
Gratuities payable to other ranks who leave the Service with at least 12 years' qualifying service will be as follows:—

Years of Service	New Rate	Old Rate
12	£ 130	100
13	170	125
14	210	150
15	250	185
16	300	230
17	350	255
18	400	295
19	450	335
20	510	375
21	570	415

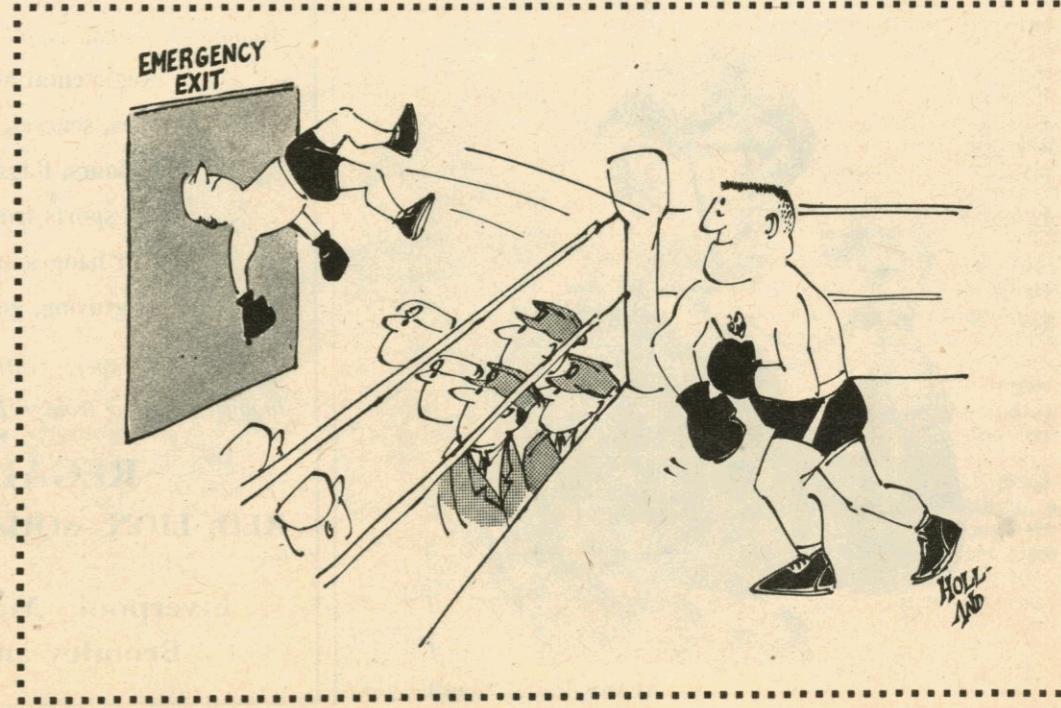
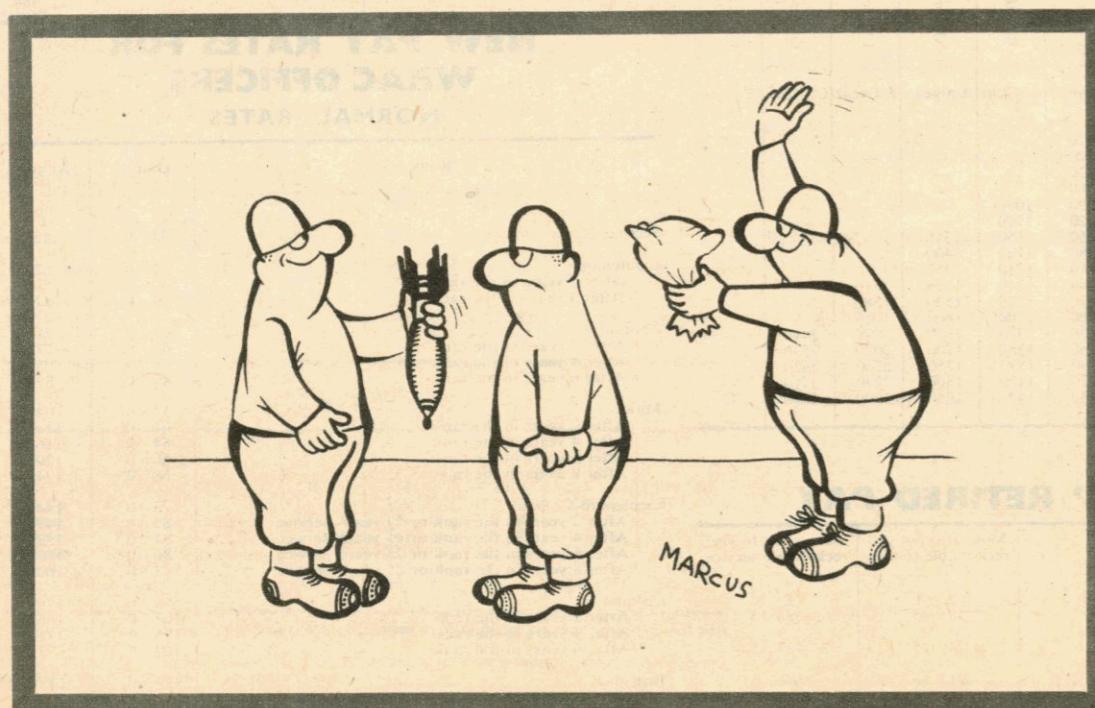
The Regulars

NEW PAY RATES FOR OFFICERS NORMAL RATES

Rank	New Rates of Basic Pay	
	Daily	Annual
Second-Lieutenant	£ 29 0	529
Lieutenant	34 0	620
After 1 year in the rank	36 0	657
After 2 years in the rank	38 0	693
After 3 years in the rank	40 0	730
Captain	46 0	839
After 1 year in the rank	48 0	876
After 2 years in the rank	50 0	912
After 3 years in the rank	52 0	949
After 4 years in the rank	54 0	985
After 5 years in the rank	56 0	1022



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When the Navy bombards enemy defences ashore, the amphibious observation Gunners, trained in assault landing, act as the ships' "eyes"



Gunners of 95 Amphibious Observation Regiment, RA may make an assault landing by helicopter, parachute or landing craft. Left: they practise roping . . .



. . . while (above) two driver-operators get prepared to run ashore when the landing craft, its ramp already lowered, hits the beach.

THE DOT-DASH GUNNERS

NO guns, but plenty travelling. Wanted, for unique Gunner Regiment, volunteers willing to learn assault landing by parachute, helicopter and landing craft, and wireless procedure including Morse."

Should 95 Amphibious Observation Regiment, Royal Artillery, ever burst into the personal columns of newspapers, its appeal to recruits might read something like this.

The Regiment, which SOLDIER recently saw in training at Poole, in Dorset, is descended from the Combined Operations Bombardment units which first went into action in Madagascar in May, 1942, and subsequently supported all British amphibious landings in World War Two.

Its operational role is to supply shore spotting parties for observing and controlling the fire of Royal Navy ships supporting amphibious and airborne operations.

Formed in 1952, 95 Amphibious Observation Regiment is the youngest Gunner Regiment—the new guided weapon regiments have all been formed from old units—and is unique in several respects. It has no guns, aircraft or complicated instruments; Sterling sub machine-guns and revolvers are its personal arms and wireless sets its principal equipment. And it is the only regiment with Royal Navy personnel permanently attached.

It takes 25 weeks to train a Gunner before he can be posted to one of the Regiment's overseas detachments or take his place within Regimental Headquarters at the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre in Poole.

He must undergo a parachute course—eventually most of the assault element will be para-trained—learn Army and NATO wireless procedure, be able to drive a vehicle, direct a shoot by himself and send and receive

Morse at high speeds. Morse is used because messages giving target bearings and fire results cannot be misheard in this medium and because it gives clear working over longer distances, particularly at night.

At the end of his course the Gunner becomes one of two trade-

men peculiar to the Regiment—a driver-operator (amphibious observation) or an amphibious observation post assistant.

In a sea-borne landing, one or more teams of an observation officer, an assistant, a driver-operator and a naval telegraphist, go in with the Infantry on the first wave of assault craft, carrying maybe three manpack wireless sets to operate with the firing ship and the Infantry ashore. On the following wave the team is completed by a driver-operator in a

Once ashore, the Gunners immediately set up their observation posts. The post assistant watches the target and checks shell bursts while the telegraphist taps out, with his Morse key, a message to the ship.



Champ or Land-Rover, bringing a larger and more powerful control set.

From observation posts on land the Gunners then direct the naval guns by Morse through a naval gunfire support liaison officer of their Regiment who works alongside the naval Gunnery Officer in the ship's operations room. The naval telegraphist is also a highly-skilled Morse operator, and his place can be taken by any of the Gunners in the team, for each member is interchangeable.

In peace-time the Regiment trains for its assault role by practising embarkation and landing, jumping or roping down from helicopters, and wireless procedure. It co-operates with the Royal Navy in working up ships on first or re-commissioning, with navies of Allied nations in bombardment training, and takes part in British and NATO large-scale exercises.

In World War Two the Regiment was represented in almost every sea-borne assault landing—Madagascar, Dieppe, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Yugoslavia, Normandy, Southern France, Walcheren and Burma—and in 1956 went into action in the Suez operation.

Last year, Regimental Headquarters, the Malta battery, a troop at Hong Kong, and the Territorial Army battery (see SOLDIER, January, 1959), took part in exercises from Norway and the Lofoten Islands to North Borneo.

FREDERICK RAMSDEN

On the slopes of a railway embankment near Ypres in World War One the East Surreys won immortal fame amid a holocaust of shot and shell. Despite appalling casualties the Regiment stood firm and saved the British line

THE HELL OF HILL 60

HOURS OF GLORY: 28



"The 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, in Defence of Hill 60, from 19-21 April, 1915."—Reproduced from the painting by Fred Roe.

Of all its many proud battle honours none was more gallantly won than that of "Hill 60" in World War One by the 1st Battalion The East Surrey Regiment.

For two days and nights in April, 1915, the Battalion held out in face of almost overwhelming odds, incessantly bombarded on three sides by German heavy guns and beating off time and again fanatical enemy Infantry attacks.

In the hell of those 48 hours the Battalion lost seven officers and 106 other ranks killed and many more wounded and won three Victoria Crosses. After the battle the Corps Commander described the action as "the most magnificent thing yet in the whole war."

Hill 60—in reality the top of a 60-ft ridge on the edge of a railway cutting some three miles from Ypres—was vital to the success of the British advance when General Sir John French decided to launch

Duke of Wellington's Regiment, The Royal West Kent Regiment and the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Most of the Germans in the forward trenches had been blown to bits and those who were left were too terror-stricken to offer much resistance.

But the Germans rallied and for hours a most bitter hand-to-hand struggle went on as the British hastily dug in in their narrow salient. Then the Germans guns on three sides opened up and saturated the British position, but still the attackers held on.

Early next morning machine-guns were rushed to the British-held trenches just in time to repel a determined German counter-attack. The enemy were cut to pieces but throughout the day and

night they attacked again and again.

Still the British held out and that night 15 Brigade, among its units the 1st Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, were brought up to relieve 13 Brigade.

The East Surreys took over the trenches just below the crest and were greeted soon after their arrival by heavy and continuous shelling which caused many casualties and was the prelude to a massive German counter-attack designed to push the British line back beyond Ypres.

Grimly, the East Surreys held on, clearing the trenches of their own and enemy dead and wounded and strengthening the defences between attacks. That evening the German bombardment in-

60

creased in intensity and all the British positions were heavily engaged by howitzers and trench mortars. From time to time the German Infantry made desperate bombing raids in attempts to dislodge the East Surreys but were thrown back each time with heavy losses on both sides. That night the Germans again heavily shelled Hill 60 but by dawn on 20 April the East Surreys had made good the damage to their defences.

In the afternoon of the 20th the Germans launched their big assault, another very heavy artillery barrage preceding determined Infantry attacks which gained a few yards and were then driven back down the hill as the East Surreys scrambled from crater to crater with their bayonets and hurled bombs.

That day Lieutenant G. R. Roupell (he later commanded the Battalion) and Private E. Dwyer of the East Surreys won the Victoria Cross. Lieutenant Roupell was commanding a company in a front-line trench which had been subjected to severe bombardment all day and though several times wounded he remained at his post and led his men in repelling a strong German assault. During a brief lull in the battle he had his wounds hurriedly dressed and insisted on returning to his men. That evening, when his company had become dangerously weakened by casualties, Lieutenant

Roupell went back to his battalion headquarters and brought up reinforcements, passing backwards and forwards over ground swept with heavy fire. With these reinforcements he held his position throughout the night until relieved next morning.

The citation to the award of the Victoria Cross said that "this young officer was one of the few survivors of his company and showed a magnificent example of

courage, devotion and tenacity which inspired his men to hold out."

Private Dwyer won his Victoria Cross for supreme gallantry when his trench was attacked by a group of German grenade throwers. As the Germans approached, Dwyer climbed on to the parapet and drove the Germans off with hand grenades. Miraculously, he was unhurt by any of the score of bombs thrown at him. Earlier

that day Dwyer had also distinguished himself by leaving the trenches under heavy shell fire to bandage some wounded comrades.

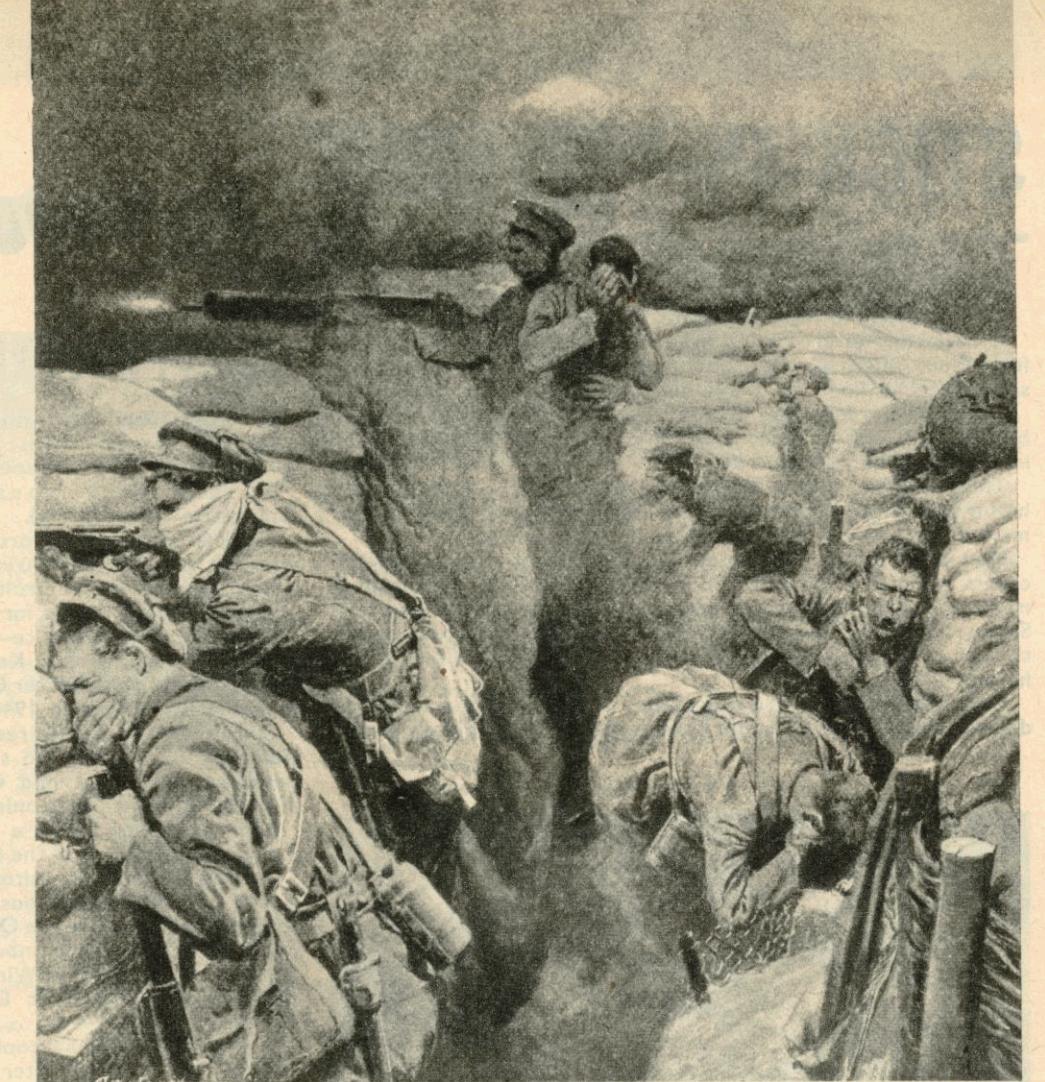
The third Victoria Cross winner was Second-Lieutenant B. H. Geary who, despite vicious shelling and bombing, held out in an exposed crater with his platoon and some men of the Bedfordshire Regiment all day and night. The crater was first heavily shelled and then attacked by bombing parties but each attack was repelled, Geary fearlessly leading his slowly dwindling force in desperate grenade and rifle assaults.

All night the battle raged and the craters and trenches filled with the dead of both sides. But the East Surreys held on and in the early hours of 21 April the positions on Hill 60 were handed over intact.

Hill 60 was the prelude to the Second Battle of Ypres in which the 2nd Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, played a conspicuously gallant part, going into action on the same battleground as the 1st Battalion had fought on several days previously. In this battle the Germans used gas for the first time and the East Surreys suffered severe casualties.

After the war the Surreys chose Ypres Day, 23 April, as their Regimental Day to commemorate the outstanding feats of the 1st and 2nd Battalions at Hill 60 and Ypres.

ERIC PHILLIPS



British soldiers at Ypres reel in their trenches as the Germans launch their first chlorine gas attack of World War One. This graphic picture is reproduced from J. Matania's drawing, "Men Under Gas."



Second-Lieut B. H. Geary, one of the three East Surreys who won the VC on Hill 60. He became a chaplain after World War One.



Lieut G. R. P. Roupell VC. He was the last Colonel of the Regiment before the recent amalgamation of the East Surreys and the Queens.



L/Cpl Dwyer VC chaired by his comrades after receiving the award. He was killed in action in September, 1916, aged only 20.

STICK-IN-THE-MUD

THE Army's recovery experts have performed some pretty tricky jobs in their time but none more unusual than the recent rescue by tank of an officer cadet stuck fast in mud up to his chest.

It happened in a training area near Aldershot when a cadet from Mons Officer Cadet School trod in a large puddle, promptly sank up to his knees in a hole and slowly began to disappear.

His comrades formed a human chain and tried to pull him out, but the mud took a firmer hold and they could not budge him as, inch by inch, he was sucked down.

Then someone had a bright idea and called in a tank and a half-track vehicle from the Fighting Vehicle Research and Development Establishment which were being tested nearby.

Hanging on to a rope attached to the half-track, one of the cadets wormed his way through the mud towards the helpless man and managed to pass a rope from the tank round his chest. Slowly, for fear of injuring the cadet, the tank was reversed and the now more than half-submerged man was pulled out of the hole to safety.

Only afterwards did the cadet learn that if the rescue had been delayed much longer he might have been sucked completely under.



1



2



3

A rope is lashed round the trapped cadet and a tank manoeuvres into position to rescue him.

Slowly, he is pulled out of the hole while another cadet assists by freeing his legs . . .

. . . and, hey presto, he is free, none the worse for wear but very muddy.

3

military

TWENTY YEARS WITH THE APES

A SOLDIER with one of the Army's most unusual jobs—Keeper of the Rock Apes in Gibraltar—has retired.

He is Gunner Wilfrid Portlock, who has spent 29 of his 30 years' Army service in Gibraltar—believed to be a record for continuous overseas service—and who took over the job of Keeper and assistant to the Officer Commanding Rock Apes in 1940.

Since then he has been responsible for the feeding (on sweet potatoes, nuts, fruit and vegetables bought with each animal's ration allowance of 4d a day) and general welfare of the apes.

Among the famous visitors to whom Gunner Portlock has presented his charges are the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margaret, Sir Winston Churchill and President Eisenhower.

Although the Army took on the job of looking after the famous Rock Apes only in 1913, the animals—Macacus Innus, or Barbary apes—have inhabited the Rock since 711 when the Moors captured Gibraltar and installed them as pets.

So much importance was attached to the legend "when there are no apes on the Rock the British will leave," that in World War Two newspaper correspondents were forbidden to mention that the ape population had declined to fewer than ten. Sir (then Mr.) Winston Churchill sent a Top Secret, high-priority telegram ordering that the strength should be increased. At once new apes were brought by air and sea from North Africa and the colony was allowed to roam the Rock instead of being kept in cages.



Gunner Portlock feeds one of his apes, appropriately on a meal of monkey nuts. The Army has been looking after the Rock Apes for nearly half a century.

FIRST FREEDOM FOR AN

IT was a proud day for the Northern Rhodesia Regiment when it received the freedom of Ndola, the administrative centre of the western province of Northern Rhodesia, recently.

The Regiment, now reduced to a battalion, was the first in the Army of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland to be granted the freedom of any city and the freedom was the first to be granted by a city in the Federation to any unit.

The Battalion, which honoured the occasion by marching through Ndola with bayonets fixed, Colours flying and drums beating, is officered by Europeans and all other ranks, except a few British NCO instructors, are Africans drawn from most of the tribes in the Federation.

The Northern Rhodesia Regiment is one of the oldest units in the Federation Army, its history dating back 60 years to the first days of the occupation of Northern Rhodesia by the British. It has a proud record of action against Arab slave traders, in both World Wars and more recently in Malaya.

miscellany



THE LOYALS CATCH A TIGER

NEWEST inmate of the Belle Vue Zoo, Manchester, is a tiger cub captured by the 1st Battalion, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), in the Malayan jungle.

A patrol was seeking out a suspected terrorist gang in North Malaya when the leading Sarawak Ranger disturbed a tigress and shot her dead as she prepared to spring. The cub, a month-old female, scuttled into the jungle, but was caught after a chase and carried back to the

Loyal's headquarters, where she was carefully fed on milk and minced meat for two months before being flown to Britain. The cub escaped twice during her stay with the Loyals but each time returned, wet and hungry.

When the cub arrived by air at Ringway, Manchester, she was met by representatives of the Loyals Depot and the Zoo, and some 20 photographers who took pictures of the cub posing with members of the Regiment, the Zoo officials and an air hostess.



ARMY

Accompanied by the acting Commanding Officer, Lieut-Col K. Radford, the Mayor of Ndola inspects the ranks of the Northern Rhodesia Regt.



NEW BADGES AND BUTTONS

THIS month a new Army cap badge will be on parade for the first time.

It is the badge of the Welsh Brigade (composed of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, The Welsh Regiment and The South Wales Borderers), a silver Prince of Wales's plume of three feathers stemming from a crown, bearing the motto "Ich Dien" (I Serve). The men of the Welsh Brigade will also wear new collar badges and buttons, the latter in gold and bearing the Welsh dragon.

For the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Welsh Regiment the new collar badges will be of the same design as their former cap badges, but The South Wales Borderers will wear a new badge incorporating the Roman numerals "XXIV" in a wreath of immortelles.

The South Wales Borderers will no longer wear the green patch, nor the Welsh Regiment the red patch, behind their cap badges, but the Royal Welch Fusiliers will retain their white hackle and black flash.

Territorial Army units of the three regiments will continue to wear the former Regimental cap badges and buttons.



Herr Bauer, Berlin's leading trumpeter, coaches Acting Bandsman Dunlop. The instrument Herr Bauer is holding is a Stradivarius trumpet.

TRUMPET VOLUNTARY

SOME of Berlin's most accomplished musicians are among the instructors at the Royal Army Educational Corps' centre in Berlin—one of the biggest and best-equipped in the British Army—where soldiers are taught, in their spare time, how to play the trumpet, trombone, clarinet and piano and how to sing.

One of them is Herr Kurt Bauer, first trumpet in the Berlin State Opera orchestra, who, when SOLDIER visited the centre recently, was putting Acting Bandsman John Dunlop, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, through his paces.

Although Herr Bauer speaks little English, his students have no difficulty in following his instructions. "He talks to me through his music," says Acting Bandsman Dunlop. "He is the best teacher I have ever had."

Two other instructors who are members of the State Opera orchestra are Herr Kunzler (first clarinet) and Herr Herguth (trombone).

COMPETITION 23

WHAT IS IT?

HERE are six photographs of parts of weapons, vehicles and clothing used in the British Army.

Study them carefully and, with the aid of the clues given beneath each picture, identify them whole. Then send your entry to the Editor.

The sender of the first correct solution to be opened may choose any two of the following recently-published books: "The Flight of the Dalai Lama" by Noel Barber; "Goodbye Dolly Gray" by Rayne Kruger; "War and Peace in the Space Age" by Lt-Gen.

James Gavin; "From Capri into Oblivion" by Adrian Gallegos; and "Jungle Nurse" by Pamela Gouldsbury.

The senders of the second and third correct solutions will each receive a whole-plate copy of any two photographs and/or cartoons which have appeared in SOLDIER since January, 1957.

The senders of the fourth, fifth and sixth correct solutions will be sent SOLDIER free for 12 months.

All entries must reach SOLDIER'S London office by Thursday, 28 April.

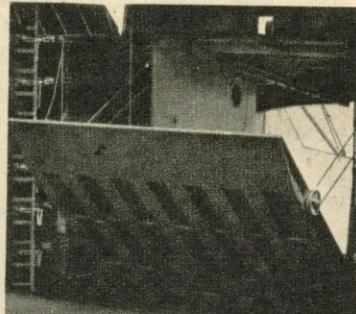
RULES

1. Entries must be sent in a sealed envelope to: The Editor (Competition), SOLDIER, 433, Holloway Road, London N.7.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by the "Competition 23" panel printed at the top of this page.
3. Competitors may submit only one entry.
4. Any reader, Serviceman or woman and civilian, may compete.
5. The Editor's decision is final.

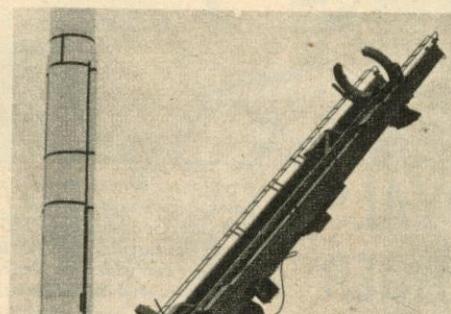
★ The solution and the names of the winners will appear in SOLDIER, June.



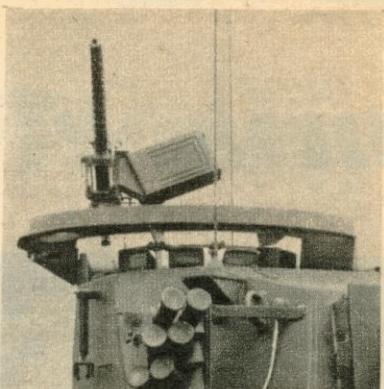
1 The Infantryman's pride and joy has a link with Czechoslovakia.



2 The way in and the way out, amphibiously and generally all at sea.



3 Weapon for a junior non-commissioned officer? But you find it in the Gunners.



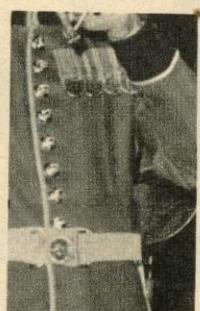
4

Above: Go in this for a six-wheeled recces.



5

Left: Those who wear this and the other half venture and take the prize.

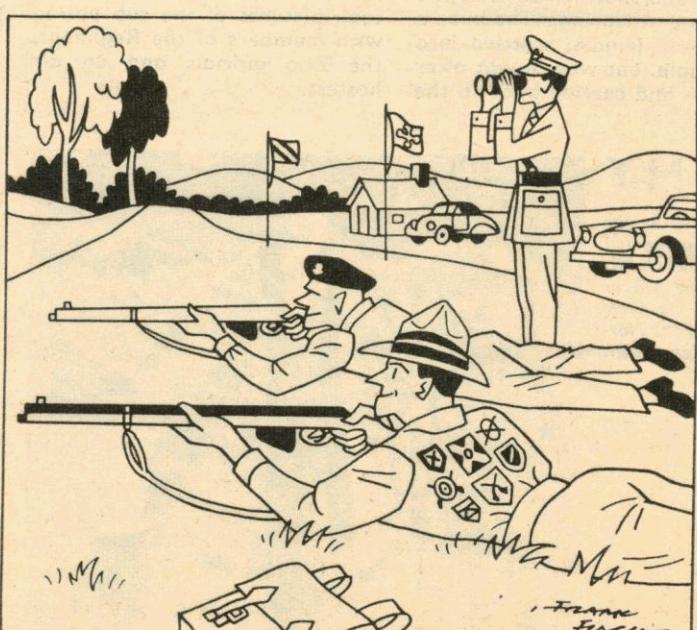
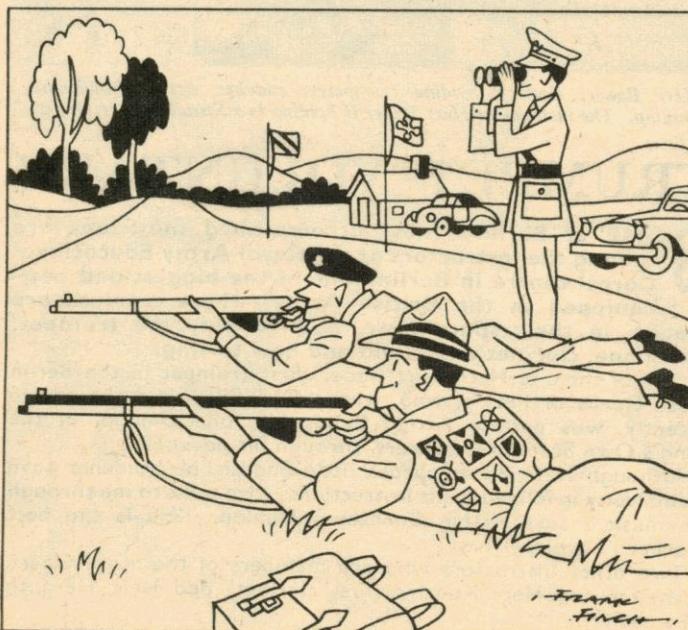


6

Below: Be on guard with this uniform and watch the fasteners.

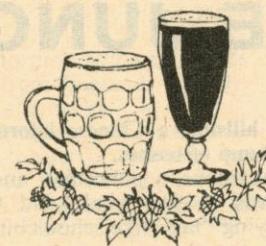
How Observant Are You?

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





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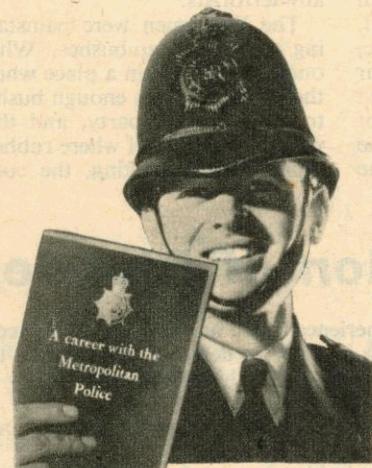
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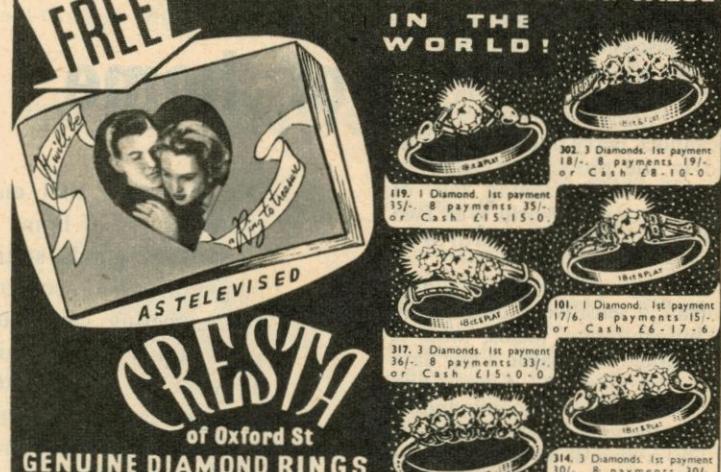
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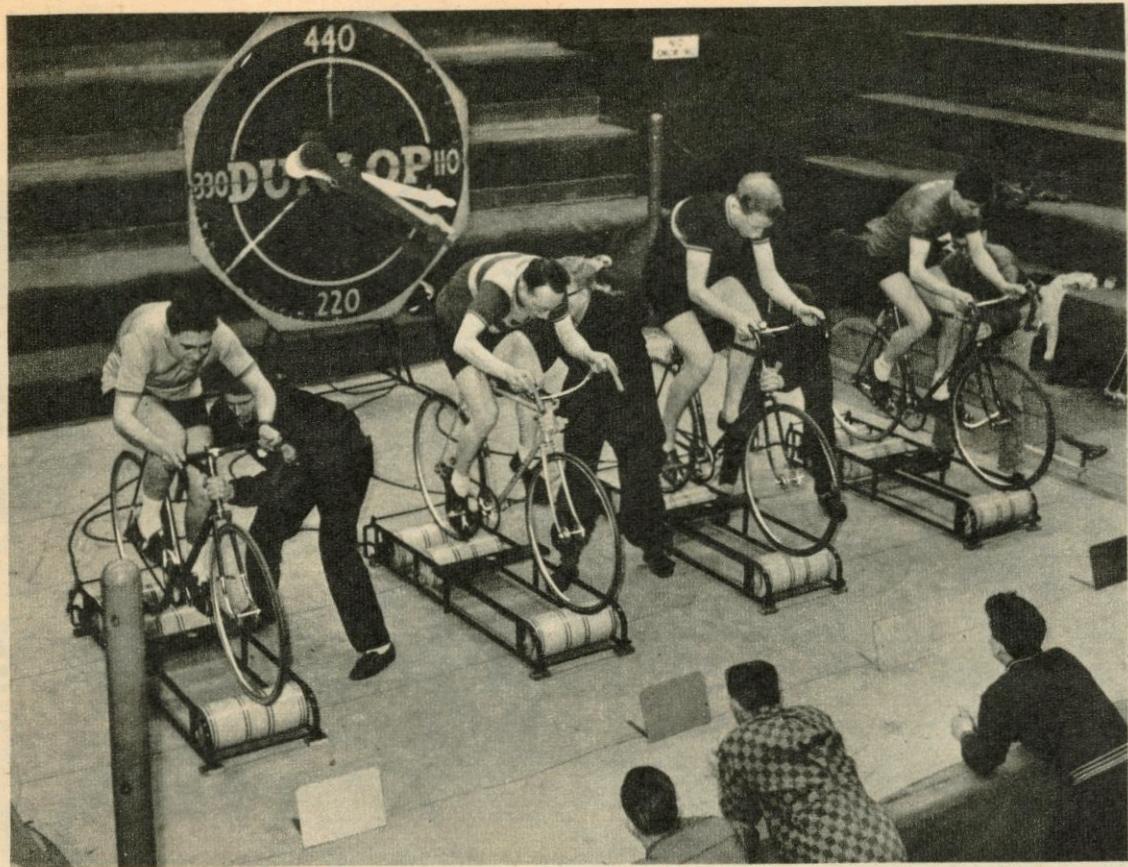
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Left: Sprint race competitors pedal furiously over spinning rollers, while team-mates hold their machines upright. Coloured arrows on the disc record the progress of the race.

Below: If looks could kill... But Signalman W. Lievesley is not about to hurl himself at the enemy. Every ounce of his strength goes into the last dash that won him the sprint.



PEDALLING TO NOWHERE

NEVER in the history of Army cycling have so many pedalled so hard and got nowhere!

Heads down, legs thrusting like pistons, wheels whirring in a blur and at the finish four of the Army's top sprint cyclists, weary and gasping, had not budged an inch!

But arrows on a large disc behind them recorded the distance they would have travelled had their machines not been mounted on rollers.

At Long Marston, Stratford-upon-Avon, a new sport was introduced into the Army calendar—Roller Racing. The first championship meeting, organised by the Army Cycling Union, attracted nearly 50 competitors, including two on the Olympic Games team short list—Signalman John Bayliss, of 8 Signal Regiment, and Private Roger Wilkins, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Six units vied for the team championship, run in two phases—the 880-yards sprint and one-mile time trial—and No. 1 Engin-

eer Stores Depot, Royal Engineers, holders of the Army cycling championship, were pipped by one point by 8 Signal Regiment, Catterick.

Signalman Bayliss trounced all-comers in the individual mile race and Signalman W. Lievesley, of 8 Signal Regiment, who had never before raced on rollers, won the individual sprint.

Highlight of the two-day meeting was Bayliss's performance in the team event when he covered the mile in 1 min. 14.1 secs. His winning time in the individual event was 1 min. 15.9 secs.

Sergeant E. J. Miller, of 9 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and Craftsman A. Mount-

field, of 3 Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, finished second and third respectively in the sprint. Sapper K. Taylor, of 1 Engineer Stores Depot, was fourth and also achieved the second-best mile—in 1 min. 18.2 secs.

The success of the meeting has prompted the Army Cycling Union to make it an annual event.

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Signalman Bayliss, British international, receives his medal from Col. R. L. France MC, who commands 1 Engineer Stores Depot, RE, Army cycling champions.



THE BELGIANS MEET THEIR WATERLOO

The British Army's young soccer stars had to fight all the way for their 2-1 victory in Brussels. Now they have a great chance of winning the Kentish Cup for the first time for six years

Ten minutes to go and the Belgians press hard. Up go centre-half Smith and goalkeeper Brodie in a joint effort to clear.

FOR the third successive year the British Army snatched a thrilling 2-1 win over the Belgian Army in the Kentish Cup match, watched by 14,000 people at the Anderlecht Stadium, Brussels. In one of the hardest-fought ties in the 40-year history of the competition, the British team clung to its half-time lead against a fiery second-half onslaught by the Belgians.

To win the trophy for the eleventh time in all and the first time for six years, the Army must now beat the French Army at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea, later this month. They face a stiff task, for they have not overcome the French since their 2-1 victory at Caen in 1952.

The British Army's young soccer stars—average age 20 and be-



Watched by the French officials, the two captains, John Smith and Belgian international Wouters, exchange flags before the kick-off.

Right: Inside-left Peacock, scorer of the Army's first goal, leaps above Belgian right-back De Nayer as he heads the ball goalwards.



WATERLOO



Busiest man on the field during the Belgian Army's second-half onslaught was the British Army goalkeeper, Charles Brodie, seen here attempting to intercept a centre while right-back Bill Edisbury guards the goal.

The clutching fingers of Belgian goalkeeper Weynants close round the ball as Peacock (left) and Young stand by, ready to pounce if he drops it.



regarded as a certainty for a full international cap soon.

Brodie, aged 22, was a late choice for the Army team when Godfrey (Southampton) was injured. A former Scottish schoolboy international, he has played for Manchester City, Gillingham

K. E. HENLY

AND NOW FOR FRANCE

FOR the vital match against the French at Chelsea this month, the British Army will be able to call on all the players who took part in the Brussels tie. Two of them—right-half Barnwell and goalkeeper Brodie, leave the Army on the day of the match but will be available for selection.

The French Army, which won the Kentish Cup last year, has a big advantage over the British Army in that all its top-class footballers serve together in a sportsman's battalion and play and train together.

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LETTERS

CHRISTMAS TRUCE

Readers who saw the war artist's drawing of British and German troops fraternising on the Western Front during the Christmas of 1914 (SOLDIER December, 1959) may be interested in this photograph.



It shows a group of Germans, with a British soldier on either side of the man with the *piklehaube* helmet.—RSM H. Corble, Royal Masonic School Cadet Corps, 1st (C) Bn, LRB, RE, Bushey, Herts.

★ SOLDIER learns from Mr. A. W. Stapeley, of Preston Park, Bright-

ton, who was present, that the picture was taken by a British soldier near Ploegsteert in Belgium, on Christmas Day, 1914, and that the British troops were men of the London Rifle Brigade.

Mr. Stapeley says that the truce began at about 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve when the Germans placed imitation Christmas trees, illuminated with candles, on their parapets and began singing carols. British troops joined in the singing and before long were climbing out of their trenches. On Christmas Day troops from both sides met in No-Man's-Land, exchanged gifts and buried each other's dead.

The fraternising went on all day and until late on Boxing Day when the Germans told the British soldiers to be careful because they had learned that their artillery intended to resume firing. On 28 December, a British soldier, sent to tell the Germans that the British guns intended to open fire soon, was shot but the Germans immediately sent an apology, adding that they hated the war and killing. The truce ended on the 29th when artillery on both sides opened up.

PARACHUTING

Tony Miller's letter "In a Rut?" (January) presents a one-sided and inaccurate picture of sporting parachuting in Britain and I feel that several of his statements should be challenged.

For example, it is untrue to say that the Royal Aero Club regards free-fall parachuting as a stunt. As the governing body for sporting aviation in this country, its policy is to promote and encourage the sport of parachuting, and to this end a parachuting committee, composed of experienced parachutists from each of the free-fall clubs in Britain, has been formed.

This committee makes possible the exchange of ideas, organises inter-club contests and selects British teams for international tournaments.

It is true that equipment is expensive, but at least one firm of manufacturers now operates a hire-purchase system.

The British Parachute Club was formed in 1955 and now has five clubs which operate every week-end. Approximately 200 sportsmen and women are involved.

I agree that here is an opportunity for the Army to show some initiative. Even if the strategists persist in their belief that parachutes are merely a means of transport, the military authorities may yet decide that the physical and mental qualities fostered by sport-parachuting make it worthy of encouragement.—M. B. Reilly, Chairman, The Royal Aero Club Parachuting Committee, 10a, Haven Green, Ealing Broadway, W.5.

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TOUGH CADETS

Here is news of more tough cadets. The 5th Cadet Squadron, Royal Signals, of Leeds, recently held an inter-Troop marching competition in which the aim was to cover 31 miles as quickly as possible. The winner, Cadet/SSM Northgreaves, completed the course in six hours 50 minutes, in heavy rain, with two breaks of 15 minutes each. Four of the five remaining competitors, including two aged 14, completed the course 15 minutes behind the winner. Can any other unit beat this?

This competition was the first of a series of events being held monthly during this Centenary year of the Army Cadet Force.—Capt. W. G. Peberdy, Dyneley Lodge, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds.

OFFICERS' PAY IN BAOR

In connection with your interesting article "Goodbye To The BAFSVS" (February), the question of payment to officers now that the vouchers have been withdrawn is rather involved but can be summed up as follows:

"Officers serving in Germany (other than in Berlin) will, in future, be provided with their cash requirements through banking channels. They will be required to go to the German bank with which they have made arrangements to receive pay and allowances or to cash sterling cheques on their accounts in Britain, depending on the arrangements they have made with their German and English bank managers.—Lieutenant-Colonel D. W. Moore, War Office (F9b)."

GATLING GUN

I understand that the Gatling gun still holds the record for fast firing at 3000 rounds a minute, or 50 rounds per second. The rate of fire from a *Spitfire's* eight comparatively modern Browning .303 guns was 9600 rounds per minute or 1200 rounds per minute per gun, or 20 rounds per second.

I know that the Gatling had from five to ten barrels to the Browning's one, but I still find 3000 rounds a minute hard to believe.—S. V. Tucker, Linwood, 51 Woodfield Lane, Ashtead, Surrey.

★ In the 1890s an experimental version of the Gatling was electrically driven and this modification increased the rate of fire to 3000 rounds a minute.

Mr. W. Y. Carman's "A History of Firearms" says: "The system of multiple barrels was successful from the point of view of rapid fire and coolness but the

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weight of the many barrels was a great drawback, and thus when a single barrel could be made to take large quantities of ammunition the Gatling gun disappeared."

DESERT PRAYER

Imagine my surprise and pleasure when, opening the December issue of SOLDIER, I saw the photograph of a group of soldiers kneeling in prayer during World War Two.

The picture was taken in 1940 just outside Sollum, North Africa, and I was the man third from the right. We were all in The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.—W. McKay, Aismunderby Road, Ripon, Yorks.

LONG SERVICE

In connection with the recent claims in SOLDIER by long-serving soldiers, your readers may be interested to know that in 1954 there died in Natal a woman with a remarkable record.

She served in the South African War and both World Wars, in each war under a different name. In the South

African War she was Nursing Sister Sherriff (Princess Christian's Military Nursing Service); in World War One, Matron-in-Chief Craig (South African Military Nursing Service); and in World War Two Deputy Matron-in-Chief Stanford (SAMNS).

In addition to seven Service medals and the King's Jubilee Medal, she was also awarded the OBE, the Royal Red Cross (1st class), the Order of St. John and the *Medaille de la Florence Nightingale*.—Major D. O. Stratford, 5 Artillery Row, Pretoria, S. Africa.

KILIMANJARO

In your article "Sappers Tame Kilimanjaro" (SOLDIER, January) you say that the Sappers reached the top without the use of oxygen or porters, intimating that all previously successful climbers had used both.

To my knowledge, and I have been in East Africa Command on and off since December, 1949, no one has yet found it necessary to use oxygen and many climbers have gone up Kilimanjaro without the use of porters. Schoolchildren from the Outward Bound School at Loitokitok reach the summit without artificial aids and without any comprehensive knowledge of mountaineering.—WO II J. H. Jessop, RAEC 5th Bn The King's African Rifles, PO Box 301, Nakuru, Kenya.

★ Recorded experience shows that the effect of altitude is much more marked in the tropics than at similar heights in the Alps and Himalaya, and the 1958 British Kilimanjaro Expedition, led by John Tunstall, FRGS, took oxygen with them.

The Kilimanjaro climb is done by students of the Outward Bound School at the end of their course, after weeks of training and acclimatisation, and they are accompanied by instructors.

For 26 Sappers, mostly recently-arrived replacements from England and none with climbing experience, to get themselves and their gear up to 18,600 feet was a very fine effort.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVER

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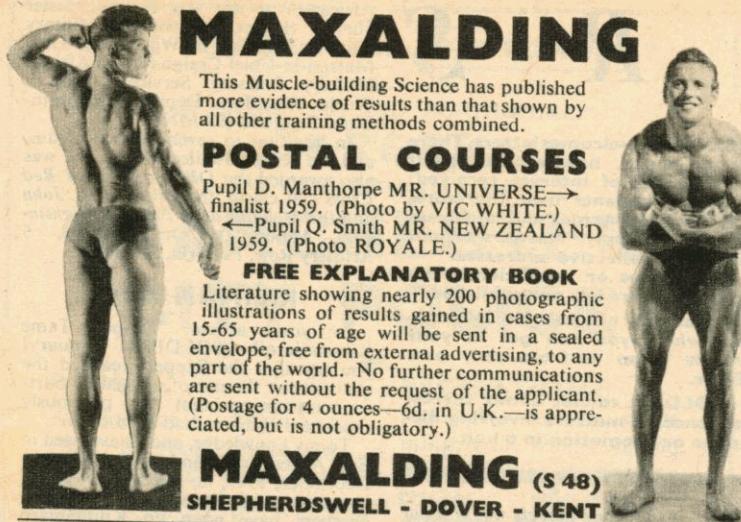
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PIPER AT DARGAI

While Piper Findlater's action at Dargai in 1897 earned him undying fame (SOLDIER, October), it may be of interest to your readers to know that one of the other pipers present that day is still living, in Toronto.

On his discharge from the British Army in 1913 Piper Fraser was appointed Pipe-Major of the 48th Highlanders of Canada, a post he held until his retirement in 1952. This fine old soldier (picture below) still teaches young lads the pipes and was present



at the recent annual Old Comrades' Parade.

This Regiment was the first unit on this side of the Atlantic (if not in the Commonwealth), to be allied to a unit of the British Army when, in 1904, an alliance was approved with the Gordon Highlanders. In our Officers' Mess hangs a very large painting (6 feet by 12), of the Gordon Highlanders at Dargai.—Drum-Major W. P. Elms, 48th Highlanders of Canada, University Armouries, Toronto 2, Canada.

SASHES

What was the original use of Sergeants' Sashes in the British Army? Who is entitled to wear them, and when, and are there some regiments or corps which do not wear them?—SMI B. W. Pound, 7/11th Cadet Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 64, Railway Terrace, Rugby, Warwickshire.

* The custom of wearing sashes is a fairly ancient one and the original purpose was to carry wounded officers from the battlefield. The sashes, usually made of silk, were strong and light and full enough to enclose the human form.

Red worsted sashes may be worn by all warrant officers class two and NCOs down to and including sergeant, of the Foot Guards, Infantry regiments (except Rifles,) Army Air Corps, Army Physical Training Instructors and Army Recruiters, members of uniformed drill staffs ranking as sergeants and above, and prefects, monitors, sergeants and colour-corporals of the Duke of York's Royal

Military School and of the Queen Victoria's School.

Before 1802 sergeants wore the sash round the waist, and up to 1845 it was striped (red and the colour of the regimental facing).

OLD WIVES' TALE

The question of the lace of the 92nd (Letters, January) has already been raised in research circles, and there is no evidence to support legends about mourning for Sir John Moore who died in 1809. A miniature of Ensign William Gordon 1800-1806 shows a black line in lace and epaulettes.

A miniature of Lieut-Colonel Erskine (killed 1801) which was painted between 1799 and 1801, shows a black line in the epaulettes, and so does another painted between 1794 and 1796.

There is no doubt the black line was worn by the 92nd long before the death of Moore.—W. A. Thorburn, Curator, Scottish United Services Museum, Crown Square, The Castle, Edinburgh.

ANY LEOPARD SKINS?

We are forming a Junior Leaders Corps of Drums but are short of items like drummers' aprons, leopard skins and drum-major's kit. Can any unit or ex-soldier help?—Major P. Riches, RA, All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, Towny, Merionethshire, N. Wales.

PICTURE PUZZLE

The winner of SOLDIER's Picture Puzzle, February, was:

Mr. I. Hall, 18 Hatfield Road, Westbrook, Margate.

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The correct solution was: 1. Cork. 2. Penknife. 3. Bottle opener. 4. Coin edge. 5. Torch bulb. 6. Nail clippers.

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The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1. Depth of officer's pocket. 2. Trigger finger of near soldier. 3. Creases at left wrist of far soldier. 4. Hill to left of far flag. 5. Far soldier's left shoelace. 6. Bottom left badge on near soldier's back. 7. Near wing of big car. 8. Width of near soldier's belt. 9. Tuft of grass at left foreground. 10. Position of pack in foreground.

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