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DECEMBER 1959 \*

9d

SOLDIERS



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Our Heartfelt Wish  
For You This Day

from the  
boys of  
'B' Platoon

ROYAL GRAMPIAN REGT

Sgt  
W. A.

FRANK  
FINCH



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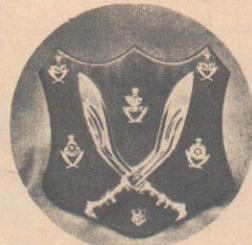
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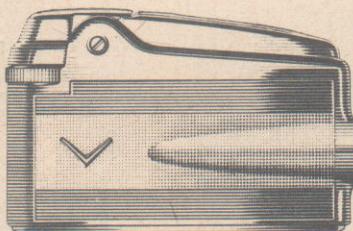


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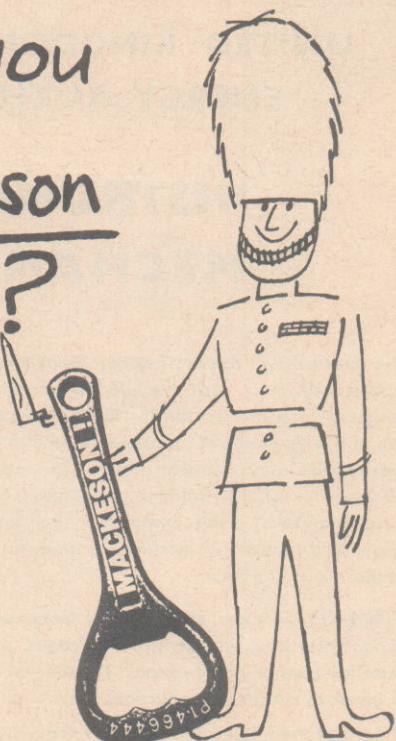
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Only  
Mackeson  
gives you  
that unique  
'rounded'  
flavour!



## Greetings, One And All

SOLDIER's staff, in bonds fraternal  
Hails, as Christmas-tide draws near,  
Every rank—Lieutenant-Cernial,  
Private, General, Bombardear.

HERE'S to the men in the Hebrides,  
And LCTs that sail rough seas  
Supplying Kilda's lonely isle  
Where spotters live in hermit-stisles.  
Hail, all who to the cold north go,  
To Norway or to far Mosco  
Where Russian hats defied the freeze  
When worn by "Mac" and the three M.Peeze.

HERE'S to the bearskin boys  
Whose equanimity lost its poys  
When, harassed and hot, a Palace guard  
Tapped a tourist a bit too huard.  
Greetings, too, to Edward Bear  
And the RMA cadets who dear  
To emulate the paratroops  
And drop from planes in ones and groops.  
But the SAS take the quickest route  
By delaying use of the parachute  
As they

drop

in

free-fall

counting

s-l-o-w-l-y

And gently land with a row / y - pow / y .



OUR thoughts go out at Christmas, too,  
To those unfortunate people whoo  
Have had to quit the barrack square  
(The time-expired this sorrow shware  
With Terry Dene—renowned affuare—  
And "Terrier" Sergeant—huare to spuare—  
Who flaunted the order: "Wuare face buare"),  
And long-haired types, Tchaikovsky-keen,  
Who spurn the Devonshire's juke macheen.

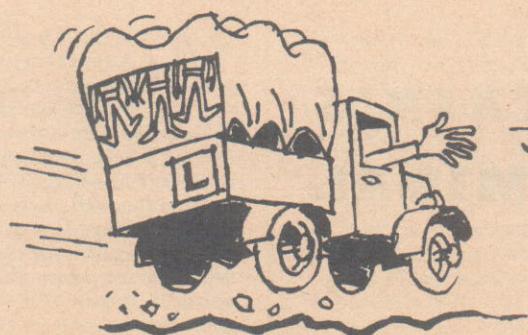
HERE'S to the "Dukes" who paddle canoes,  
To sporting winners—and those who loes,  
To Sapper-sailors 'on a Medway croes  
And Highlanders in kilt or troes.  
Here's to NAAFI's launderette,  
To the Junior Leader and the Veteran Swette,  
To zoldier-zons of Zummerzette,  
And tricky little fiddles on the "old boy" nette.

HERE'S to the Fairey Rotodyne,  
Whirlwind, Skeeter, Auster Nyne,  
And, keeping up on a downward draught,  
The quite incredible Hovercraft.  
Here's to the chaplain climbing trees,  
To Caterham drill squads—"Stand at ees!"  
Somali Scouts and APL  
And all seconded personnl.  
To Legionnaires,  
Concession faires,  
To Freedom Maires  
And boots in paires.

HERE'S to the Army m  
To unit barbers plying sheers,  
To riflemen and fusileers  
And learner-drivers crashing geers.  
Let's not forget the gallant Gurkhas,  
SSAFA, all the voluntary wurkhas,  
Red Cross, NAAFI and, what's more,  
The Women's Royal Army Core.

At home, or banned to farthest shores,  
A Happy Christmas, you and yores.

P.N.W.



The admiral who fought at Jutland as a midshipman and who commanded more than a million soldiers in World War Two, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, now holds Britain's top defence post. He is Chief of the Defence Staff but, he says, "I am no Napoleon or Hitler"

# The "Supremo" Talks To SOLDIER

**W**HEN the post of Chief of the Defence Staff was created last year one object was "to encourage a stronger inter-Service approach to defence planning." Judging by the inter-Service activity at the Ministry of Defence these days that has already been achieved.

If you walk along the corridors of the Ministry building overlooking St. James's Park you are likely to pass an admiral, a general or an air-marshall—and sometimes all three.

In the office of the Chief of the Defence Staff himself—Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma—you breathe pure inter-Service air (he has a staff of nine, three from each of the Services), with a faint tang of sea breezes. On the walls hang the framed Commissions of the Earl as Admiral of the Fleet, honorary

Lieutenant-General of Land Forces, honorary Air-Marshall of the Royal Air Force; and alongside them a drawing of the Defence Supremo's personal flag which embodies the colours and insignia of Britain's three fighting Services.

It was in this room that Lord Mountbatten recently spoke to SOLDIER of his duties, the roles and problems of the Services, of unified command and integration.

"You will be doing a service," he said, "if you can dispel the popular misconception that the

Chief of the Defence Staff is a sort of Napoleon or Hitler working with his own high command within the Ministry of Defence. The Minister needs a senior and experienced serving officer to act as a link between him and the Chiefs of Staff and to help him with everyday problems. I am that man—the Minister's military adviser. The major policy decisions are made by the ministerial, not the military, side."

Lord Mountbatten stressed that his job was not to give orders or even separate advice to the three Services but to seek the views of the Chiefs of Staff and the joint planners of the Service ministries and to advise the Minister of Defence accordingly. "I work

through the Chiefs of Staff. The ultimate military thought rests in the Chiefs of Staff Committee, of which I am the permanent chairman."

The Chief of the Defence Staff—who had more than a million soldiers under his command when he was Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia in World War Two—agreed that there was room for closer integration of some of the activities of the three Services. It was, for instance, a sensible thing for a hospital of one Service to look after the men of all three, he said, and the system could be extended to other organisations, like catering.

"But I am strongly opposed to 'mixing up' the Services. Sailors, soldiers and airmen must deal with their own particular problems. It would be crazy to send an airman to work the main engines of an aircraft carrier or a soldier to operate a V-bomber's radar. Nor would it be wise to appoint a Royal Armoured Corps officer to command a cookery school or ask a sick-berth attendant to steer the ship. Each man, in all the Services, must do what he has been trained to do."

Lord Mountbatten rejected as unworkable the suggestion that inter-Service postings would be the best way to promote a better understanding of each other's duties and problems. This could be done, he said, in other and better ways—by combined operations exercises, amphibious warfare courses, at the Joint Services Defence College and at inter-Services headquarters such as his own.

"In the Mediterranean Fleet," he said, "we never went on a cruise without offering vacant berths to soldiers and airmen. They made themselves useful and



Lord Mountbatten believes in keeping in close touch with those who work for him. Here, in 1942, he chats to an ATS girl at a combined operations centre in England.



In 1943, now an admiral, Lord Mountbatten is greeted by General Sir Claude Auchinleck on his arrival in India to take over as Supreme Allied Commander SE Asia.

## HE WAS BRITAIN'S YOUNGEST ADMIRAL

**W**HEN Lord Mountbatten was appointed Acting Vice-Admiral at the age of 41 and Acting Admiral at 43 he became the youngest in the history of the Royal Navy to achieve those ranks.

Yet, this man who led the Allied land, sea and air forces to victory in South-East Asia, completed his World War Two service with the same substantive rank with which he started it—that of Captain.

Lord Mountbatten, who is 59, is the younger son of Admiral of the Fleet the Marquess of Milford Haven and Princess Victoria of Hesse, grand-daughter of Queen Victoria. He joined the Navy in 1913, went to sea soon after his 16th birthday and for two-and-a-half years in World War One served in battleships, escort vessels and submarines. After the war he specialised in wireless, and his



In 1956 Earl Mountbatten realised a life-long ambition when he became First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. He was Britain's youngest-ever admiral.

got to know how the Navy lives. In the same way, the Royal Air Force gave us flights in its aircraft and the Army let us ride in its tanks. That is the way to get to know each other properly."

Lord Mountbatten looked forward to the day when there would be more unified commands like the one recently set up in the Arabian Peninsula where an Air Chief Marshal is in command of all Servicemen, assisted by a major-general, an air vice-marshall and (soon) a rear admiral. ("The Air Chief Marshal in Aden is an inter-Service officer and he will fly the inter-Service flag.")

The question of setting up a similar command in the Far East was already under discussion, said the Supremo. In the Middle East the situation was different because the Royal Air Force's roots were in Cyprus and the Royal Navy's in Malta. But the formation of a joint Army-Air

Force command in Cyprus, with a naval liaison team from Malta serving on the headquarters, was being considered.

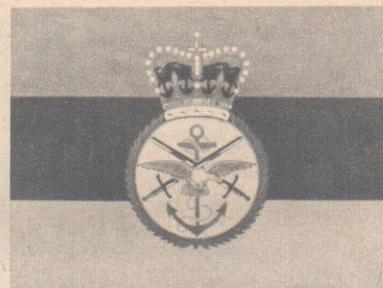
Lord Mountbatten left SOLDIER in no doubt about his views on the need for combined headquarters. He took a book from his desk and said, "This is what I wrote in my official report after World War Two. And it is what I still believe."

The passage read: "It is, in my opinion, doubtful whether a group of sailors, soldiers or airmen, trained exclusively in the methods of their Services, can plan a combined operation or undertake combined training with success unless inter-Service co-operation is directed by an inter-Service commander, advised by a joint planning and joint operational staff, so that all the efforts of his three subordinates and co-equal commanders-in-chief shall be most efficiently co-ordinated."

technical appointments included that of Fleet Wireless Officer, Mediterranean Fleet.

In the 1930s he commanded destroyers, and at the outbreak of World War Two was in command of HMS Kelly and the 5th Destroyer Flotilla. After a spell in command of the aircraft carrier *Illustrious* he became Chief of Combined Operations in March, 1942, with the acting rank of Vice Admiral, and was made fourth member of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. His brilliant war-time career reached its peak in the autumn of 1943 with his appointment as Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia. For his outstanding services he was given a viscountcy and made a Knight of the Garter.

In 1947 Lord Mountbatten became the last Viceroy of India and in the same year the Indians invited him to be their first



No British officer has had more experience of combined and integrated headquarters than Lord Mountbatten, who claims to have invented, by accident, the idea of an integrated Allied Headquarters in World War Two.

"In the spring of 1942," he told SOLDIER, "General Marshall, then Chief of the United States Army Staff, came to see me in Combined Operations Headquarters in Whitehall. He looked round at the sailors, soldiers and airmen working side by side in one room and commented: 'It's amazing. How do you do it?' I replied: 'Well, they all speak English!'

"Then the penny dropped. I said to the General: 'You Americans speak a form of English. Why don't you send some of your men to work with us here?' He sent some and thus in June, 1942, began the idea of an integrated Allied Headquarters."

After a brilliant career in the

The Chief of the Defence Staff has his own personal flag (shown left) which contains the emblems of the three fighting Services enclosed in a laurel wreath, surmounted by a crown. The horizontal stripes are dark blue for the Royal Navy (top), red for the Army (centre) and light blue for the Royal Air Force.

Royal Navy—he was the youngest in the history of the Service to achieve vice-admiral and admiral's rank—Lord Mountbatten now devotes himself energetically to duties embracing all three Services.

The Army and the Royal Air Force need have no fear of Navy bias from one who is proud to wear the ties of the Royal Air Force and the Airborne Gunners (he is Honorary Colonel of 289 Parachute Light Regiment, RA (TA)). At the Ministry of Defence the Admiral has already made his mark as a man who "knows what he wants."

At the Army Art Society exhibition this year a naval officer submitted a picture entitled "A Joint Services' Dream" which showed Earl Mountbatten in naval uniform, mounted on a horse, armed with a polo stick and wearing a helmet in the shape of a helicopter.

K. E. HENLY



Flashback to Burma, 1945. Lord Mountbatten, with General Sir Francis Festing (now the CIGS), has a front-line view of British artillery bombarding Jap positions on the Shweli River before 36 Division's crossing.

constitutional Governor-General. He relinquished this office in 1948 and was rewarded with an earldom.

In 1953 he was promoted Admiral and two years later became the first ever to follow his father to the offices of First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. In 1956, still following in his father's footsteps, he was promoted Admiral of the Fleet. He took up his appointment as Chief of the Defence Staff in July this year.

Among foreign countries to have decorated Lord Mountbatten for war services are the United States, Greece, China, France, Nepal, Siam, the Netherlands and Burma.

Lord Mountbatten has close associations with the Army, being Honorary Colonel of 289 Parachute Light Regiment, Royal Artillery (TA) and of the Royal Regiment of Artillery (TA).



*As the Hastings reaches the dropping zone men of 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, some loaded with 90-lbs of equipment, get ready to jump.*

# "TAFFS" AND "RED DEVILS" IN THE MOUNTAINS

**T**HREE hundred miles inside the Arctic Circle, a company of The Welsh Guards stormed ashore on the rocky north-west tip of Norway and, under cover of naval guns and carrier-based fighter planes, marched rapidly inland to blow up a bridge and capture an important road junction.

Along the coast, a few miles to the south, 16 Royal Marine Commandos of the Special Boat Section landed in canoes and blew up two more bridges.

At about the same time, ten miles away among the gaunt, snow-capped mountains north of Narvik (where British and German troops fought a bitter battle in 1940) 650 men of

**The Welsh Guards and**

**men of the Parachute**

**Regiment launched a sea**

**and airborne attack 300**

**miles inside the Arctic**

**Circle and fought a battle**

**among Norway's grim**

**snow-capped mountains**

**in the biggest exercise**

**of its kind ever held**

*Pictures: SOLDIER Cameraman  
FRANK TOMPSETT*

*Some of the 650 men of 1st Parachute Battalion dropping in a Norwegian marsh. All were safely landed in little more than 15 minutes.*



16th Independent Parachute Brigade leapt from an armada of *Beverley* and *Hastings* aircraft and dropped into a marshy valley. In minutes they were on their way to form a base from which, with another 650 paratroopers who were to be landed next day, they would launch an all-out attack.

The operation was a brilliant opening to "Bar Frost," the first peace-time tactical air and sea-borne assault exercise in which British troops have taken part within the Arctic Circle.

It was the first time so many paratroopers had been dropped in Norway and the first time that the Welsh Guards had visited that part of the world, only 40 miles from Finland and 300 miles from the Russian border. It was also the biggest air mobility exercise ever held outside Britain, involving an airlift of troops and supplies from nearly 1000 miles away in England.



*Above: The Welsh Guards set up a road block on a mountain road leading to Narvik. They marched for two days with only four hours' rest. Below: The Norwegian Hjulrytter Eskadron, commanded by a captain, pull off the road to do a reconnaissance in close country. They can be towed by scout car at 30 mph.*



"Bar Frost" was more than a test for the British forces. The "enemy" were the Norwegian Army's Northern Brigade (including hundreds of reserve soldiers and the local home guard) and elements of Norway's Navy and Air Force. They were in the final stages of their own autumn manoeuvres and deliberately kept ignorant of the "invasion" until it had actually happened.

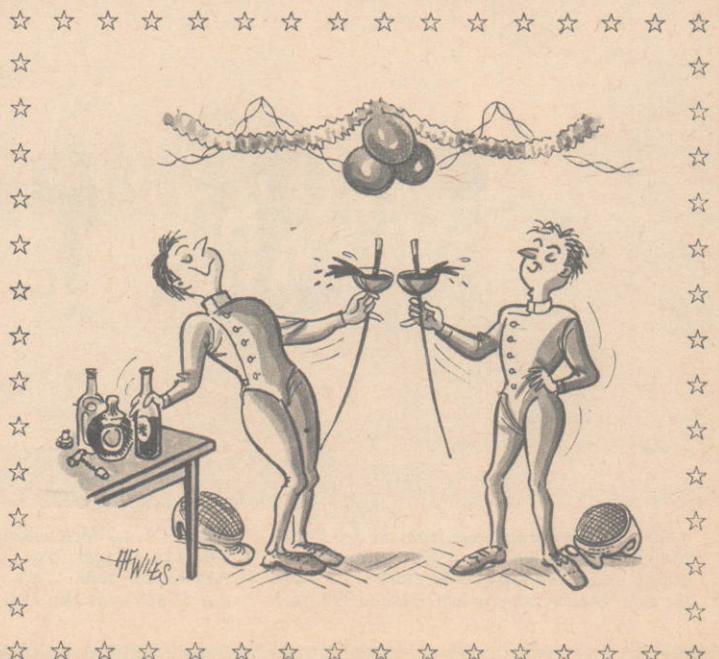
The operation began when a composite company of The Welsh Guards—some 400 volunteers from all companies of the Regiment—boarded at Invergordon, Scotland, three destroyers of a British naval task force led by the aircraft carrier *Victorious* and the cruiser *Bermuda*. They were at sea for 36 hours and saw plenty of action even before they landed at Finnsnes, north of the Lofoten Islands where the Commandos carried out a famous raid in World War Two.

When an aircraft crashed into the sea, one of the destroyers carrying the Welsh Guards set off in search and reached the North Cape before being informed that the airmen had been picked up by a Russian trawler. The destroyer rejoined the task force in time to be dive-bombed by Norwegian planes and fired upon by coastal batteries. Some of the Guardsmen took turns helping to man the guns.

In rough seas (many were seasick) the Welsh Guards landed on a rocky beach and at once set off, trailing their hand trolleys containing mortars, machine-guns and supplies, to capture their first objective—a crossroads.

Then, through the night until five o'clock the next morning, they marched along the steep, winding coast road southwards to join the paratroopers; halted for four hours and then set off again

OVER...



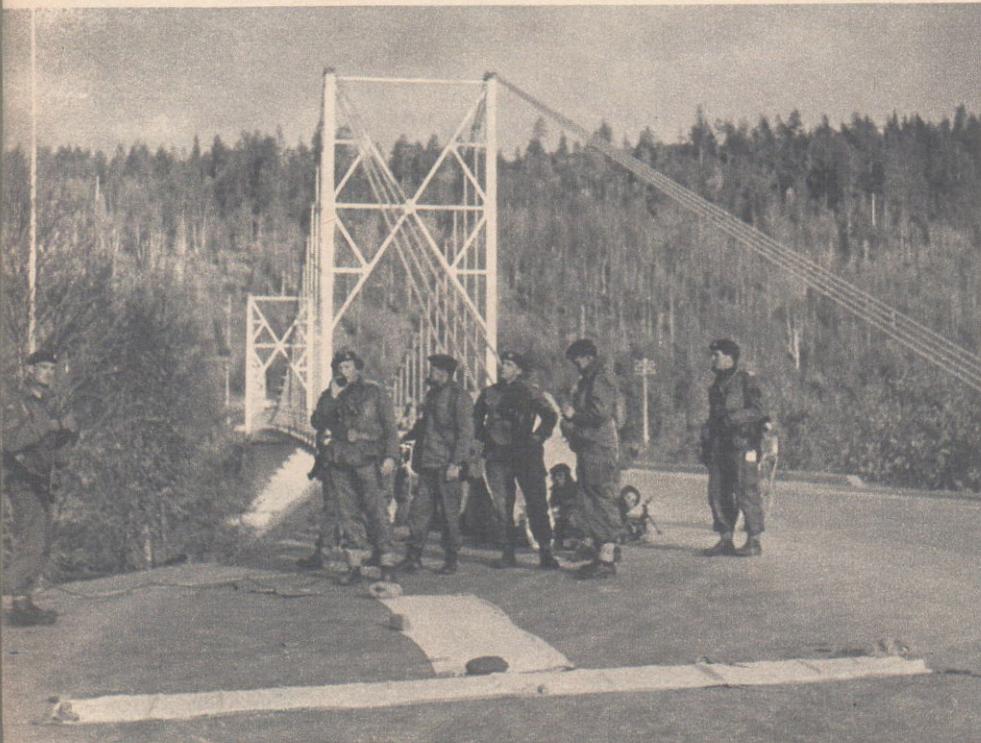
The Norwegian cyclist squadron spring an ambush, capturing the Welsh Guards' food and ammunition supplies. They penetrated country inaccessible to other traffic.



on a 30-mile trek across wild, open country, sometimes 2000 ft high, where the snow lay several inches deep. They had to force their way through marshy ground where the glutinous mud came ankle high and, for good measure, clambered over rock-strewn hillsides and picked their way through thick

woods littered with tangled undergrowth.

That night, with the thermometer showing ten degrees of frost and in a biting wind, they slept out on the mountainside in special sleeping bags—weighing only about 2 lbs each and made of a rubberised material, stuffed with



Above: An air liaison team from the 3rd Parachute Battalion calls up a fighter-bomber to attack an enemy tank. The cloth "T" tells the pilot the direction in which the target lies.

Right: A 4.2-inch mortar of 97 Battery, 33 Parachute Light Regt., goes into action in a Norwegian field. This regiment is carrying out trials with the 105-mm. pack howitzer.



a heat-retaining substance—they were testing for the Army.

"They were first class," a Guardsman told *SOLDIER*. "Better than having to carry around blankets, which always get dirty, torn or lost."

While the Welsh Guards were getting their feet wet at Finnsnes, the men of 1st and 3rd Parachute Battalions were on their way in *Hastings* and *Beverleys* (irreverently nicknamed "Flying Council Houses" by the pilots of Royal Air Force Transport Command who fly them) to capture nearby bridges and an airfield.

The airborne assault was mounted from Vaernes, 300 miles and a two-hour flight over the craggy west coast islands, dotted like autumn leaves on the sea, from the dropping zone.

In each of the two landings the 600 paratroopers came down with remarkable accuracy in spite of a high wind, an achievement that won high praise from General Sir Richard Gale, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander at SHAPE, who knows a thing or two about airborne operations. He led 6th Airborne Division's assault in Normandy on D-Day, 1944, and is the only British general to have parachuted into action.

Most of the paratroopers were young men with only a few jumps to their credit. But some were veterans, like Sergeant C. E. Hope, of 3rd Parachute Battalion, who served with the Special Air Service Regiment in North Africa in 1942 and parachuted into Sicily, Normandy on D-Day and at the Rhine Crossing. This was his 101st parachute jump but, he told *SOLDIER*: "It was just like

the first . . . I still had butterflies in my stomach."

The luckiest men on the exercise were two paratroopers of the 1st Parachute Battalion whose lines became entangled on the way down. The first man's reserve parachute failed and the pair plummeted to only 120 ft above the ground. Then the second man's reserve parachute opened and he was dragged away from his companion, whose main canopy, now freed, also billowed into action. They both landed safely.

A few hours after landing, the paratroopers had captured one of their main objectives—a river bridge—but were thrown back after the Norwegians had brought up reinforcements. Then, for three days, a rough-and-tumble "battle" was fought over the mountains and along the river valleys, ending with honours even.

One small Norwegian unit that distinguished itself by capturing the Welsh Guards' food and ammunition supplies was the *Hjulrytter Eskadron* (Wheel-Riders Squadron). It was composed of 30 lightly armed men on bicycles who were pulled along roads at 30 miles an hour by hanging on to a long rope tied to a scout car, and who sped down mountain tracks and across rough country where no other vehicles could go.

As an exercise in strategic mobility and a combined manœuvre between member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, "Bar Frost" was a big success and may be the forerunner of many more similar operations.

E. J. G.



Three old stagers have a last-minute chat before boarding their aircraft. They are (left to right): Sgt. E. Ferguson, Sgt. C. Hope, who has done more than 100 parachute jumps, and Sgt. N. Sparvell. They all belong to 3rd Parachute Battalion and jumped in the Suez campaign.



A novel idea put to good effect: Two paratroopers, one pushing, one hauling on a rope, wheel their trolley, containing a machine-gun and equipment, to the front line. These handy vehicles were invented by 1 Infantry Division.

## Privates' Predicaments . . . 6





Big moment for L/Cpl Dorothy Clement as, with an experienced colleague, Cpl S. Brown, she goes out on her first patrol.

**THE ARMY'S WOMEN REDCAPS  
ARE NO BRAWNY AMAZONS—  
BUT IF OCCASION DEMANDS  
THEY KNOW HOW TO STOP  
TROUBLE WITH A FRIENDLY  
WORD OR A NIFTY HALF-NELSON**



Right: Cpl Irene White shows how to direct traffic, an important part of Provost work.



Provost Branch girls are taught how to look after themselves in a rough-house. L/Cpl M. Tillott (left) shows how to deal with a tough.



Right: Would-be police-women study bone-structure during a first-aid lesson. Instructor is Staff-Sergeant T. Plummer, who served in the Metropolitan Police.

## THE GIRLS WHO ARE FRIENDLY

WHEN women "Redcaps" first appeared on the scene 18 years ago the public—and the Army, too—laughed and said they couldn't last long; military police work was not for women.

They couldn't have been more wrong.

The Provost girls have served with distinction in many countries in World War Two and since, first with the Auxiliary Territorial Service and then with the Women's Royal Army Corps. They have earned universal admiration and are now an accepted part of military life.

It was an uphill struggle for acceptance in those early days when popular opinion held that the girls were a bunch of brawny Amazons whose sole job was to administer a rough and ready discipline on their fair comrades, if necessary with a smart left hook.

But it wasn't true. Now (as then) it is drummed into every recruit to the Provost Branch that her primary duty is to help Servicewomen, to be a friend and not an enemy always on the prowl for trouble.

Today, the committee that

selects recruits into the Women's Royal Army Corps' Provost Branch makes sure that the bullies, the big-heads and the aggressive types are kept out. The girls at home and in Germany and Cyprus who wear the red

cover on their caps base their attitude on the Provost Branch's unofficial motto: "Be friendly, but firm."

All Provost recruits go to No. 140 Women's Royal Army Corps Provost Company at Kingston Gate Camp, Richmond Park, where they learn basic police training.

Recruits, who must be at least five feet four inches tall and have a good knowledge of English, are chosen for their intelligence and personality—not for their physical strength or ability to put up a good show in a rough-house. They are, of course, instructed in the art of self-defence, but when trouble starts the "friendly but firm" approach is nearly always the answer.

Some are former civilian police-women and all are volunteers. Many go to Kingston Gate Camp immediately after their basic training at the Corps Depot in Guildford and if they pass the five-week course there they receive their lance-corporal's stripe and red cap cover within three months of joining the Corps. Some transfer to Provost from other units within the Corps.

If accepted by a selection board which is presided over by the Company's Commanding Officer, recruits begin their police training by learning first how to be an example to other members of the Corps in smartness and bearing. They spend at least one period a day at drill, marching and generally continuing their regimental training.

Later they learn disciplinary duties which include patrolling the Kingston streets in company with a trained Provost girl and taking part in mixed patrols, on foot and in vehicles, with men of the Royal Corps of Military Police.

They are also instructed in escort and crowd and traffic control work to befit them for Provost duties at ceremonial events like the Trooping the Colour and royal visits.

During the course, recruits also spend a day at Bow Street Police Court and pay a visit to the Royal Military Police Depot at Woking which provides instructors for map-reading and traffic control. Finally, the girls receive instruction in first-aid, military and civil law and in the art of self-defence.

There is nothing brutal about



"But I couldn't join without Fifi. Couldn't she be a war dog?"

## -BUT FIRM

the way the girls are taught to deal with recalcitrant offenders, nor are they shown how to throw their opponents about in the manner of judo experts. All they learn are the recognised police holds which are designed to control but not to injure.

When SOLDIER visited Kingston Gate Camp recently, Lance-Corporal Margaret Tillott, an 18-year-old trained policewoman, demonstrated the holds on one of the trainees. She deftly avoided the girl's attack and caught her in an iron grip from which her opponent could not move. Then, gently, the lance-corporal led her away.

Lance-Corporal Tillott, who learned self-defence at the Metropolitan Police Training College, says: "Every day is a training day for policewomen. Unless you keep in training you are no good for the work."

The civilian police lose many recruits to the Women's Royal Army Corps because their minimum age limit for training is 20. Most girls are keen to start earlier and the Women's Royal Army Corps will take them from the age of 17.



We wouldn't mind being arrested by Redcaps like the two on the left, taking time off in Cyprus: L/Cpl P. Simmonds (extreme left) and Cpl D. Waddington, both of 144 Provost Section, WRAC.

the first member of the Provost Company to qualify for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in August, 1941, transferred to the Provost Wing in the following year and has served in it ever since.

Many Provost girls have served in or have family connections with the civilian police. Lance-Corporal Judith Stout, the Women's Royal Army Corps and inter-Services discus champion, who recently completed her training, is the daughter of a Swindon police inspector. She would have joined the Metropolitan Police but for the age limit of 20. Now she has a 22-year Army engagement which she hopes to serve entirely with the Provost.

Lance-Corporal Alma Wild and Lance-Corporal Dorothy Clements, two of the latest Kingston Gate graduates, both served with the West Riding Constabulary. Alma switched to the Women's Royal Army Corps because she wanted to travel, and Dorothy, a soldier's daughter, fulfilled a girlhood ambition the day she fitted a red cover to her cap.

After six years of Provost work Staff-Sergeant Thelma Plummer left the Corps in 1957 to join the Metropolitan Police, but within a year she was back among the "Redcaps." Corporal Sheila Brown went back to her native Scotland earlier this year—and returned almost immediately to re-join. She found civilian life dull after three years with the Provost.

When a girl sews on her lance-corporal's stripe and fits the red cover to her cap at the end of her course at Kingston Gate Camp she becomes a member of what, numerically, is an elite group, for there are only about 60 Provost girls in the Corps.

K. E. HENLY

Two famous Territorial Regiments—the London Scottish and the London Irish—are 100 years old this year.

# HODDEN GREY KILT...



Centenary march past by the London Scottish, led by the pipe band, after a church service in Chelsea. On the extreme left is Pipe-Major Leslie de Laspée who holds the unpaid post of personal piper to the Queen Mother.

## 59 VARIETIES

The London Scottish Regiment launched its 1959 centenary celebrations and recruiting campaign with a Press party at the headquarters, 59, Buckingham Gate, London. The 59 special guests and 59 journalists were offered 59 brands of Scotch whisky, 59 different cocktails and other drinks, and the choice of 59 snacks.

Of the many Territorial Army regiments which are 100 years old this year, none is more widely known nor prouder of its achievements than the London Scottish.

The Regiment has sent battalions into action in three wars, won three Victoria Crosses, and produced so many officers that it is often—but incorrectly—believed to be a purely officer-producing unit.

The London Scottish has always cherished its exclusiveness—its hodden grey kilt is unique in the British Army and its ranks have included film and stage personalities and famous men—but has never subscribed to snobbery. Today there are former National Service officers serving as recruits in the Regiment, and ex-officers who are sergeants.

Sir Alexander Fleming, inventor of penicillin, served as a private in the London Scottish for 14 years and the entertainment world has been represented by Ronald Colman, Basil Rathbone,

Claude Rains, Victor Sylvester and Herbert Marshall, who lost a leg with the Regiment and who wore the regimental tie in every film he made.

Two Scottish organisations in London, the Highland Society and the Caledonian Society, brought the Regiment into being at a meeting on 4 July, 1859, in the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street. This association has been closely maintained, for Scottish ancestry (a parent or grandparent) is a condition of joining the Regiment.

No name is more honoured in the Regiment than that of Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Elcho, later

the Earl of Wemyss, the first commanding officer, who introduced the hodden grey, his family tweed, to avoid inter-clan rivalry.

During the South African War two service sections of the Regiment served with The Gordon Highlanders (to which the London Scottish now belongs). Mobilised at the outbreak of World War One, the 1st Battalion fought at Messines on Hallowe'en of 1914 and took part in all the major offensives before becoming part of the Army of Occupation. The 2nd Battalion served in France, the Balkans and Palestine, taking part in the capture of Jerusalem, and a 3rd Battalion was raised to supply drafts to the two units overseas. The Regiment won two Victoria Crosses and 19 Distinguished Service Orders in World War One.

After the Munich crisis the London Scottish recruited a second battalion in only 17 days, and became the first of the duplicated Territorial units to achieve this. The 1st Battalion served in Persia and Iraq, with Eighth Army in North Africa, took part in the invasion of Sicily and fought in all the major battles of the Italian campaign. A 3rd Battalion also fought in Sicily and Italy as a heavy anti-aircraft regiment. In that war the Regiment won one Victoria Cross and three Distinguished Service Orders.

The London Scottish centenary celebrations have included the presentation of a new Queen's Colour by the Queen Mother (the Regiment's Honorary Colonel), and a number of social events, some of them attended by a representative party from the officially affiliated Toronto Scottish Regiment, the only other regiment in the world to wear the famous hodden grey.



"I'm all in favour of the Christmas spirit—but don't you think this is overdoing it?"



Mounting guard for the first time at Holyrood House, Edinburgh. The Earl of Wemyss, whose great-grandfather commanded the Regiment 100 years ago, was in residence there.

Both are justly proud of outstanding service in three wars and of their distinctive dress of the . . . . .

# AND BLUE CAUBEEN

THE London Irish Rifles, too, began as a Volunteer Corps formed, like the London Scottish, at a meeting in the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, on 5 December, 1859. The Marquess of Donegall was the first Commandant.

It, too, has its dress distinctions in the blue caubeen headdress and the blue-lined green cloaks of its pipers.

The new Corps, wearing the "Tara" harp as its badge, quickly struck the note of enterprise which has since been a characteristic of the London Irish, training itself in stealthy approach and skill-at-arms rather than in forming lines and squares like Regular troops.

In 1862 the Regiment's membership declined considerably.

"When the London Irish enrolled themselves they enrolled themselves to fight, not to prevent fighting," explained a contemporary journal. But recruiting soon picked up again and eight years later the London Irish went into action for the first time—but not with the British Army.

An officer and 40 men paid their own fares to France and, without official sanction, fought for nearly a year with the French against the Prussians. On their return to England, under Governmental pressure, the officer was fined 40s "for taking service with a foreign power while wearing the Queen's uniform" and the rest were dismissed with a caution.

The entire Regiment volunteered for active service in the South African War and several contingents were sent out, including a service company attached to the Royal Irish Rifles.



In their blue-lined green cloaks, two pipers lead men of the London Irish through the streets of Le Touquet on their way to a recent exercise held in the woods outside the town.

In World War One, the 1st Battalion fought at Loos, on the Somme, at Messines and Cambrai. The 2nd Battalion transferred from the Western Front to Macedonia and Palestine, entered Jerusalem and lost all but two of its officers and senior non-commissioned officers in a fierce action against the Turks.

In World War Two both battalions went overseas, the 1st Battalion to Iraq and the 2nd to North Africa. They both fought in Sicily and Italy with Eighth Army. The 1st Battalion distinguished itself at Monte Camino, the River Gargliano crossing and in the Anzio beach-head, and the 2nd Battalion at the Battle of the River Sangro and in the "Kangaroo Army" which swept forward from the River Reno.

On the line of the Reno the battalions were in direct contact for the first, and only, time in the war. After the Italian surrender they were disbanded and amalgamated with the remnants of the London Scottish to form a composite battalion.

Today the companies are once again named after the five disbanded Irish Regiments whose pipe banners are carried by the Battalion pipers. Each company—Headquarters (Connaught Rangers), "A" (Royal Irish Regiment), "B" (Leinster Regiment), "C" (Royal Munster Fusiliers) and "D" (Royal Dublin Fusiliers)—is closely linked with the appropriate Old Comrades' Association of the old Regiments.



During annual camp this year 43 men flew to France for a one-day signal exercise. Here the Commanding Officer (Lieut-Col N. Dorrity) is piped off the chartered plane at Le Touquet.

This statue commemorating the "Footballers of Loos" fittingly stands on the Regimental war memorial.

At the Battle of Loos in World War One the London Irish, in the van of their brigade attack, made history by dribbling a football across No Man's Land.

Reaching the German first line without difficulty, the London Irish, in their tradition of devil-may-care, booted the ball into the enemy trenches and got to work with their bayonets.

The football, later recovered, is now a treasure of the Regimental museum.

# CHRISTMAS

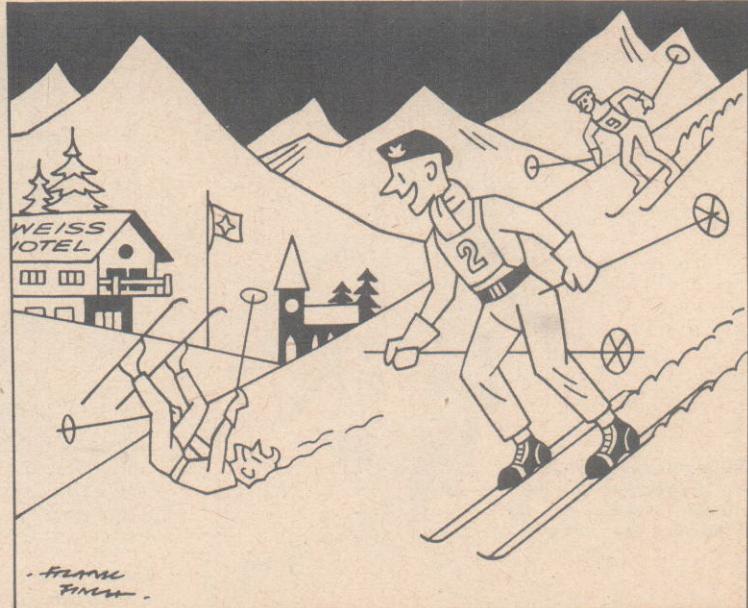
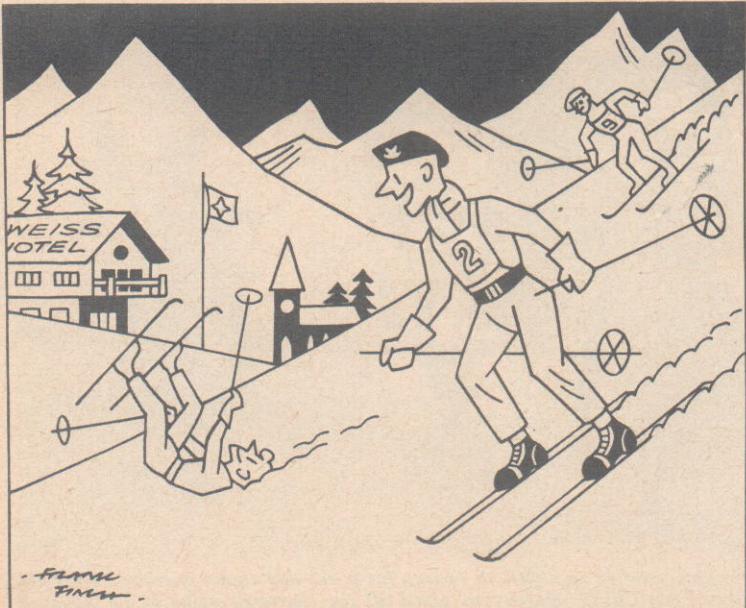
# QUIZZ

1. Which is the intruder here? Clarinet, piccolo, flute, guitar, oboe.
2. Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery was recently made a freeman of a Lancashire town. Which town?
3. Miss Jane Mansfield recently watched a football match between two First Division teams. Which were the teams and where was the match played?
4. How many seats are held by the Labour Party in the new House of Commons?



5. They are two of Britain's most famous stage personalities. Who are they?
6. For which clubs do these footballers play? Len Julians, Dennis Violett, Ron Clayton, Trevor Smith, Toni Marchi, Nigel Sims, Bill Dodgin, Maurice Setters, John Charles.
7. Which of these words is (or are) misspelled? (a) Committee; (b) isthmus; (c) entomollogy; (d) frankinsense; (e) myhrr; (f) asphalt.

# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?



8. Name one word which means (a) a sign of the omission of a letter; (b) form of speech peculiar to a district; (c) indisposed to severity; (d) illustrious by rank, title or birth; (e) one who roams from place to place.

11. Which regiments rejoice in the following nicknames: (a) "The Elegant Extracts"; (b) "The Bengal Tigers"; (c) "The Red Knights"; (d) "The Ever-Sworded"; (e) "The Old Agamemnons."

9. Which (if any) of these statements is true?

- (a) The most common blood group in the world is Group O. The rarest is Group AB.
- (b) The most poisonous snake in the world is the Australian tiger snake.
- (c) The most abundant of all birds in the world are Wilson's petrels.
- (d) The area of the earth covered by sea is a little over 70 per cent of the world's surface.
- (e) In World War One the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers raised 52 battalions.
- (f) The largest airport in the world is London Airport.



10. This picture of a well-known stage, radio and television comedian was taken in World War One. Who is he?

11. Which regiments rejoice in the following nicknames: (a) "The Elegant Extracts"; (b) "The Bengal Tigers"; (c) "The Red Knights"; (d) "The Ever-Sworded"; (e) "The Old Agamemnons."

12. Despatch riders have an affinity with this American film actress making merry in a Christmas party scene in a recent film. Who is she?



13. Which county won the County Cricket Championship in 1959?
14. Who was the hero of the poem which begins "The boy stood on the burning deck. . . .?"
15. Where did the Charge of the Light Brigade take place?
16. Put this sentence into six simple words: "A nomadic portion of metamorphosed igneous or sedimentary deposits fails to accumulate a small, herbaceous plant."
17. Each of the answers to the following clues rhyme with each other (example: a police station—cop shop): (a) Un-married girl from Berne; (b) a gamble in earthenware; (c) an evil clergyman; (d) a crazy tune.
18. Which famous English First Division football club was once known as "Dial Square"? (It also has an Army nickname.)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 37

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.

# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

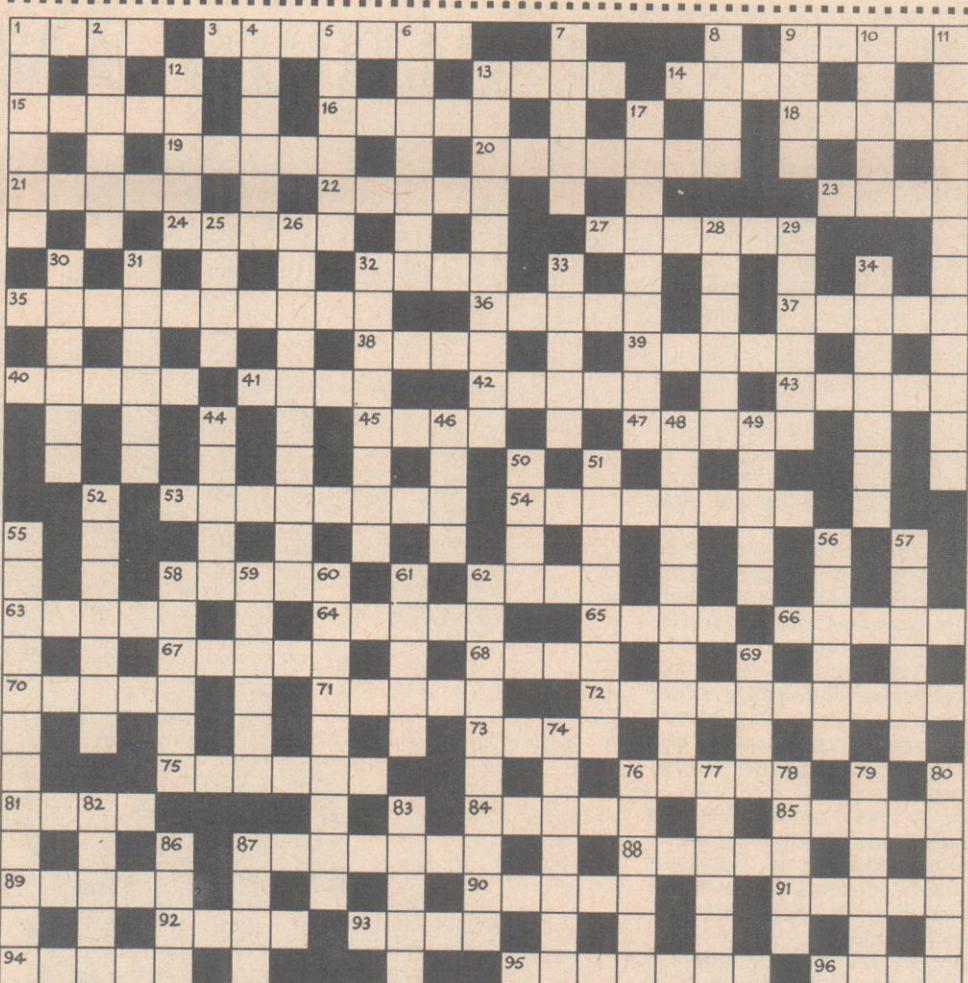
The winner of SOLDIER's Christmas Crossword may choose any six of the following recently published books: "Invasion '44" by John Frayn Turner; "1914" by James Cameron; "The Singapore Story" by Kenneth Attiwill; "The Wildest Game" by Peter Ryhiner and Daniel Mannix; "Prisoner at Jala" by Gerald Bell; "East of Algiers" by Paul Temple; "The Case Continued" by Julian Prescot; and "Fire on Fear Street" by Stewart Sterling.

Entries should reach SOLDIER by Monday, 28 December. The winner will be the sender of the first correct solution opened by the Editor.

*The correct solution will be published in our January, 1960, edition.*

### ACROSS

- Beware the hole in the ground.
- Gin trap separation.
- Decay in manuscript all back.
- Tangled veil is bad.
- Make haste to the 500 tree.
- Potentate to keep a line straight.
- Tapestry town of France.
- Frequently belongs to a number.
- Blow this Jack—to stir the patriot's heart.
- Medium tipple?
- Girl starts sporting item.
- Blow this Jack—if he takes my trick.
- Miller's husky waste-product.
- Subtle intimations.
- Headgear and domestic pet mix-up to tie-up.
- Short citizen of good social standing.
- BOLT FOR ALE (anag.)—but he won't until after the match.
- Total (2, 3).
- Chap to the south-east for the minister's house.
- Sappers in a motoring organisation.
- Solitary—sounds borrowed.
- Backward frolic to prise.
- Grandmothers are supposed to know how to suck them.
- Rails out of true.
- Seen—and heard—in travelling oriental.
- Dainty draughts.
- A little light behind the saint.
- Take a pace, boys.
- Dotted—mostly boozed.
- Remains to support.
- Confused Caledonian may sleep in these.
- Allow to remain on holiday?
- Soldier, according to a sailor.
- Just one of those things.
- Smear letter and be tactless.
- Bird starts right.
- Leon is a changed boy.
- The chucker-out's task.
- High spots of S. America.
- MORGAN I TIE (anag.)—moving out.
- Emptying glasses gets you into these vessels.
- Hey rat scramble is terrestrial.
- Little Leonard in battledress.
- Compassion in the coalpit yesterday.
- Nothing in it.
- Sailor behind.
- Want in Scottish mountain.
- This rascal may shock.
- Tearful vegetable.
- 151 medico.
- Order a hundred in an ebbing tide.



Name.....

WIN SIX BOOKS: 19

Address.....

- Metal to smooth.
- Paddy's product—but not in Ireland.
- High-pitched soak.
- The part that really matters.
- Very smart, Madame.

### DOWN

- Damned dogs Edward.
- No river is without one.
- Cat mixed I on on.
- Ta.
- Raced backwards on speed.
- Colourless lid round a number.
- Deep-voiced fish.
- Clad feet.
- Creature found in water, not terribly dry places.
- Does he watch the rockets fly past? (3, 2, 3, 4).
- Not to be expected from 42 Across.
- SLIT AS SEEN (anag.)—you can't do without them.
- Vessel favoured by beer-drinkers (4-5).
- I hastened in the Middle East.
- They scrambled round a limb and a blow for communication.
- Protection for Centurions—Roman and modern.
- No epithet for glamour-girl.
- Several 35 Across from Blackburn.
- Stirred-up master flows.
- Collector of lawn-mowings.
- Gunners sporting implement in North Africa.
- TINY IAN (anag.).
- Musical eight.
- Over and done with—but not for historians.
- What every artiste wants to do (3, 3, 4).
- Drink on the wireless on tip-toe.
- Capital place for Norwegians.
- Their start suggests they do not reach their targets.
- Society girl consumed 500.
- Gilded youth are said to start life with these (6, 6).
- Connect—or 6 Down.
- Container—of vehicle weight?
- Establish bench.
- Insect starts a hunter's trophy.
- PA HAS DEER (anag.)—and part of a weapon to hunt them with.
- Dines confused and bogus.
- NICE SCONCE (anag.)—it pricks!
- Seen on Lohen's face?
- Pipes up the litter?
- Ta-ta (3-3).
- Broken ice around short weather forecast is nauseating.
- Fruit to get sated with.
- Outcast with a song in heart.
- Still it annoys radio operators.
- Nonsense! They like it with 89 Across in Lancs.
- A bundle of yarn.
- Bargain common in a barber's.
- Jack this symbolised Prussia.



# "On Christmas Day In The Army"

FOR every soldier this Christmas Day will be a time of traditional rejoicing, of warm comradeship—and of rum sauce on the pudding. For most it will be a day of leisure in the family circle, a day of full enjoyment—and of over-indulgence.

For many it will be a time for nostalgia, of happiness tempered by those irreducible miles from home; for a few a mixed day of leisure and duty; for others a time when the imagination must conjure up firs from palms and snow from sand.

It is the season of "Peace on earth and goodwill towards men"—but the soldier may be marching off to Christmas Morning service with rifle, ammunition and side-arms. For although the British Army has never fought a major action on Christmas Day, it must always stand prepared and in war be ready to surprise—or be surprised.

In the "good old days" armies usually spent Christmas in winter quarters, breaking off campaigns to fight the common enemy of winter. Even so, there were exceptions to the rule.

In the fifteenth century the Turks were routed at Kunobitzia when the Christian Hungarians unexpectedly attacked on Christmas Eve. Margaret of Anjou fought at Wakefield during Christmas week in 1460. Charles XII, warrior King of Sweden, fought his greatest victories against the Russians—and his most bitter retreat—during the festive season.

Napoleon defeated the Austrians in Northern Italy, chased Sir John Moore to Corunna and retreated from Moscow—but always returned to Paris at Christ-

*There's only one way to test a Christmas pudding and that's to sample it, says the sergeant-major.*



mas to deal with home affairs, leaving his troops dying daily of cold and hunger.

Those were bitter times, but the spirit of medieval chivalry and the *bonhomie* of the festive season lingered down the centuries even

in war. At the Battle of Dunkirk in December, 1658, Cromwell's troops, commanded by Major-General Sir John Morgan, fought with the French against the Spanish, who were themselves helped by refugee British Royalist troops.

As the armies approached each other the English on the French side overshot their mark and came within range of the enemy. They halted, but as the battle was not officially joined, nobody committed the ungentlemanly act of firing a shot.

"We were so near the enemy that the soldiers fell into great friendship," wrote a British soldier. Major-General Morgan endured this unwarlike behaviour for a while then bade his brigade tell the friendly enemy: "No more friendship; prepare your buff-coats and scarfs, for we will be with you sooner than you expect us."

In besieged Ladysmith, Christmas Morning of 1899 began with the Boers firing several shells, which pitched where church parades were usually held. Two of the shells were painted in Free State colours and engraved "With the compliments of the Season." The first shell was empty; the second was full of plum pudding!

It was on 25 December, 1777, that Captain Cook, on one of his voyages, landed on Christmas Island, now an atomic testing ground and a British Army station.

Glancing down the years, these are some of the other events which have their anniversary on Christmas Day:

- ★ 1807 Danish island of St Croix, in the West Indies, surrendered to a British force under Major-General Bowyer.
- ★ 1901 Birth of the Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire).
- ★ 1936 Birth of Princess Alexandra (Colonel-in-Chief of The Durham Light Infantry).
- ★ 1941 Hongkong surrendered to the Japanese after a 17-day siege.
- ★ 1942 Eighth Army occupied Sirte.
- ★ 1950 Stone of Scone stolen from Westminster Abbey.
- ★ 1957 Queen's Christmas broadcast televised for first time.
- ★ And on Christmas Day, 1066 (and all that), William the Conqueror was crowned King of England.



British and German soldiers stopped fighting and made friends on Christmas Day, 1914, but hardly to the extent of this war artist's impression.

## "Army"

In the first winter of World War One, opposing soldiers were still openly fraternising. The official history of that war does not record any football match between the trenches, but it has this to say of 1914:

"During Christmas Day there was an informal suspension of arms on a few parts of the front and a certain amount of fraternisation. Where there had been fighting, both sides took the opportunity of burying their dead lying in No-Man's Land, and in some places there was an exchange of

★ *It is a Christmas Day of World War Two and in the bitter winter weather of the Italian campaign, these British soldiers, rifles by their side, kneel together in a simple and humble worship shared by comrades the world over.*



small gifts and a little talk, the Germans expressing themselves confident of early victory.

"Before returning to their trenches both parties sang Christmas carols and soldier songs, each in its own language, ending up with 'Auld Lang Syne' in which all contingents joined. On part of the front where there happened to be two Irish battalions the Germans suggested the prolongation of the cessation of fighting; naturally without result.

"There was an attempt to repeat this custom of old-time warfare at Christmas, 1915, but it was a small and isolated one and the fraternisation of 1914 was never repeated."

During World War Two the winters brought little respite from fighting and movement although generally Christmas Day saw only minor activity on the British fronts. There were exceptions—the surrender of Hongkong, advance in the Western Desert, and, in 1944, the deepest penetration of von Rundstedt's desperate last attack in the Ardennes.

In 1943, conditions were as hard for Field-Marshal Alexander's men as they were for Napoleon's troops who, too, included Polish soldiers fighting to regain their homeland.

On their march from Kabul to Kandahar, Robert's troops were more fortunate, being able to make plum puddings from almonds, raisins and currants growing in the valley through which they were passing.

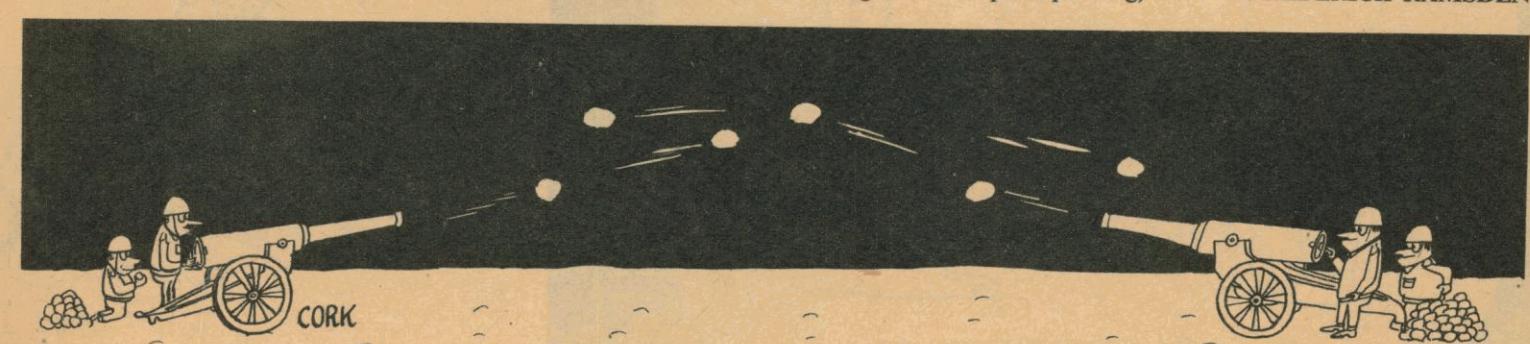
FREDERICK RAMSDEN

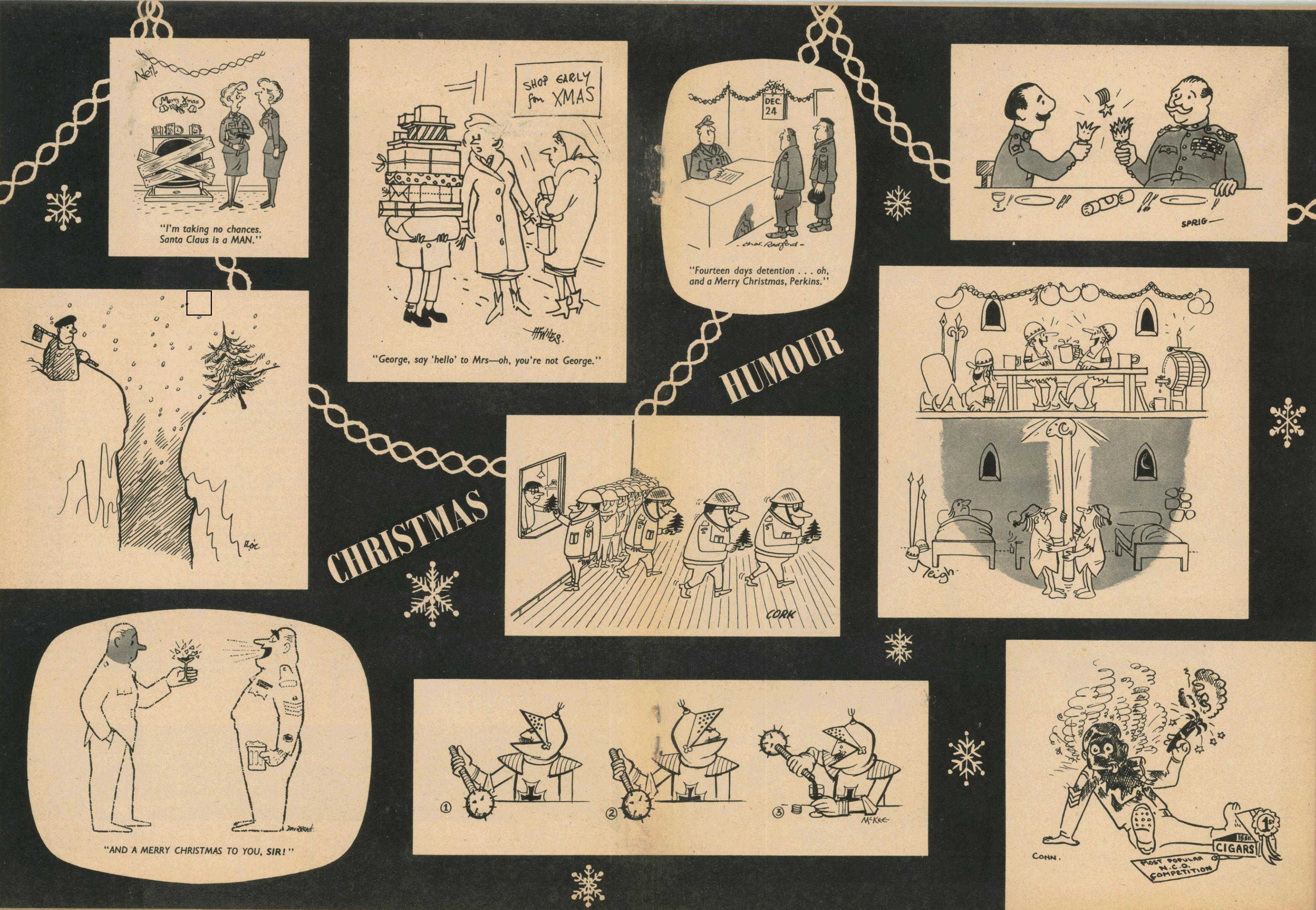


*Above: Even though there's a war on and you're sitting on a jerrican miles from anywhere in the parched Western Desert, the pudding still tastes good!*



*"Here we come a-wassailing Among the leaves so green, Here we come a-wandering, So fair to be seen," might be the carol of the WRAC waits.*





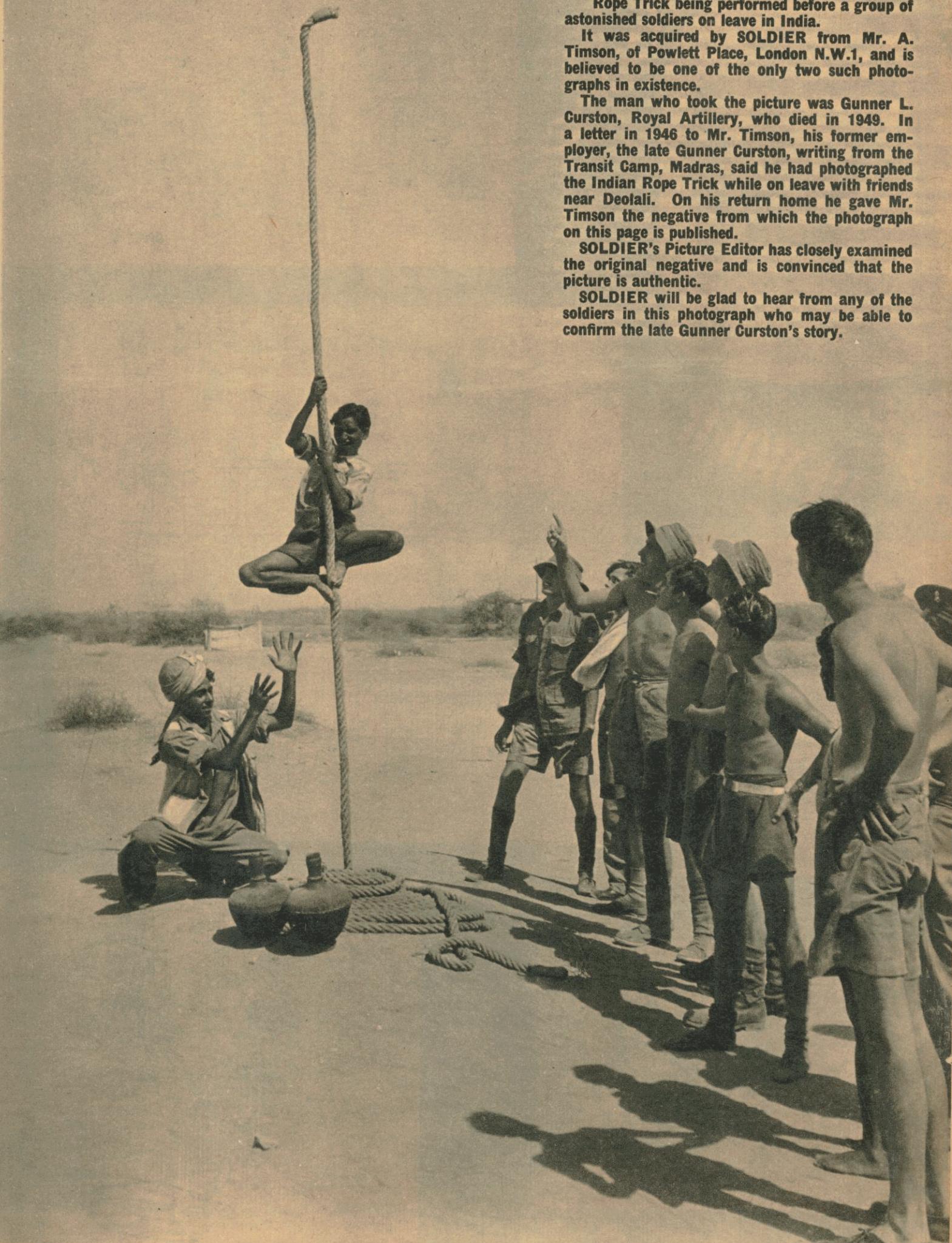
THIS remarkable photograph, taken in 1946 but never before published, shows the Indian Rope Trick being performed before a group of astonished soldiers on leave in India.

It was acquired by SOLDIER from Mr. A. Timson, of Powlett Place, London N.W.1, and is believed to be one of the only two such photographs in existence.

The man who took the picture was Gunner L. Curston, Royal Artillery, who died in 1949. In a letter in 1946 to Mr. Timson, his former employer, the late Gunner Curston, writing from the Transit Camp, Madras, said he had photographed the Indian Rope Trick while on leave with friends near Deolali. On his return home he gave Mr. Timson the negative from which the photograph on this page is published.

SOLDIER's Picture Editor has closely examined the original negative and is convinced that the picture is authentic.

SOLDIER will be glad to hear from any of the soldiers in this photograph who may be able to confirm the late Gunner Curston's story.



WHAT IS THE SECRET OF THE INDIAN ROPE TRICK?  
FOR MORE THAN 600 YEARS EXPERTS HAVE BEEN TRYING  
TO FIND THE ANSWER—AND ARE STILL BAFFLED

## FACT OR FALLACY?

**I**N the days when the British Raj ruled India, a favourite topic in Army messes was the Indian Rope Trick: was it fact or fallacy?

A few claimed to have seen the trick performed but, not surprisingly, were unable to persuade the less credulous that a boy could really climb out of sight up a rope suspended in mid-air. Not unnaturally, the incredulous scoffed and put it all down to hypnotism or, less kindly, to one too many gins.

But the picture on the opposite page, reproduced from a negative which SOLDIER's photographic experts say has not been faked or retouched, will make the scoffers think again. Cameras don't drink gin and lenses cannot be hypnotised.

How is the trick done? No one knows, except the few fakirs who perform it and keep it a closely-guarded secret. It has remained an unsolved mystery which has baffled world-famous illusionists ever since the early 1300s when the trick was first recorded.

Jasper Maskelyne, the notable British illusionist, once offered £5000 to anyone who could show him how the trick was done and agents toured India in search of the answer for the Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales in the early 1930s. The Magic Circle's offer made some 20 years ago to reward the person who can divulge the secret still stands.

The first man to see the Indian Rope Trick was Abu Abdallah Mohammed Ibn Batuta who, in a parchment written in the early 1300s, described how he went to a banquet given by an Emir and saw a team of jugglers in action.

The chief juggler took a wooden ball, containing holes from which hung long straps, and threw it into the air and out of sight. A boy juggler climbed up one of the straps and disappeared, followed by the chief juggler who, knife in hand, also vanished. After a slight pause one of the boy's hands, severed at the wrist and dripping blood, fell to the floor, followed by a foot, the other hand, the other foot, the trunk and arms and finally the head.

The chief juggler, his knife and clothes soaked in blood, reappeared and clambered down the rope. He strode over to the dismembered limbs, placed them in their proper order, and stamped on them. The corpse came to life and the boy, apparently unharmed, stood up. All trace of the severed limbs and blood had disappeared.

The next recorded instance of the Indian Rope Trick being performed was in Germany where, in 1566, Johann Weir, a Swiss, told how he saw a pony, with a juggler hanging on to its tail, climb up a rope. Both disappeared. Half an hour later Herr Weir was

Edward Melton, who said he had watched it performed by a group of travelling Chinese jugglers.

"One of the gang took a ball," he recorded, "and, grasping one end, flung the other into the air with such force that its extremity was beyond the reach of our sight. He then climbed up the rope with indescribable nimbleness and got so high that we could no longer see him and he went out of sight."

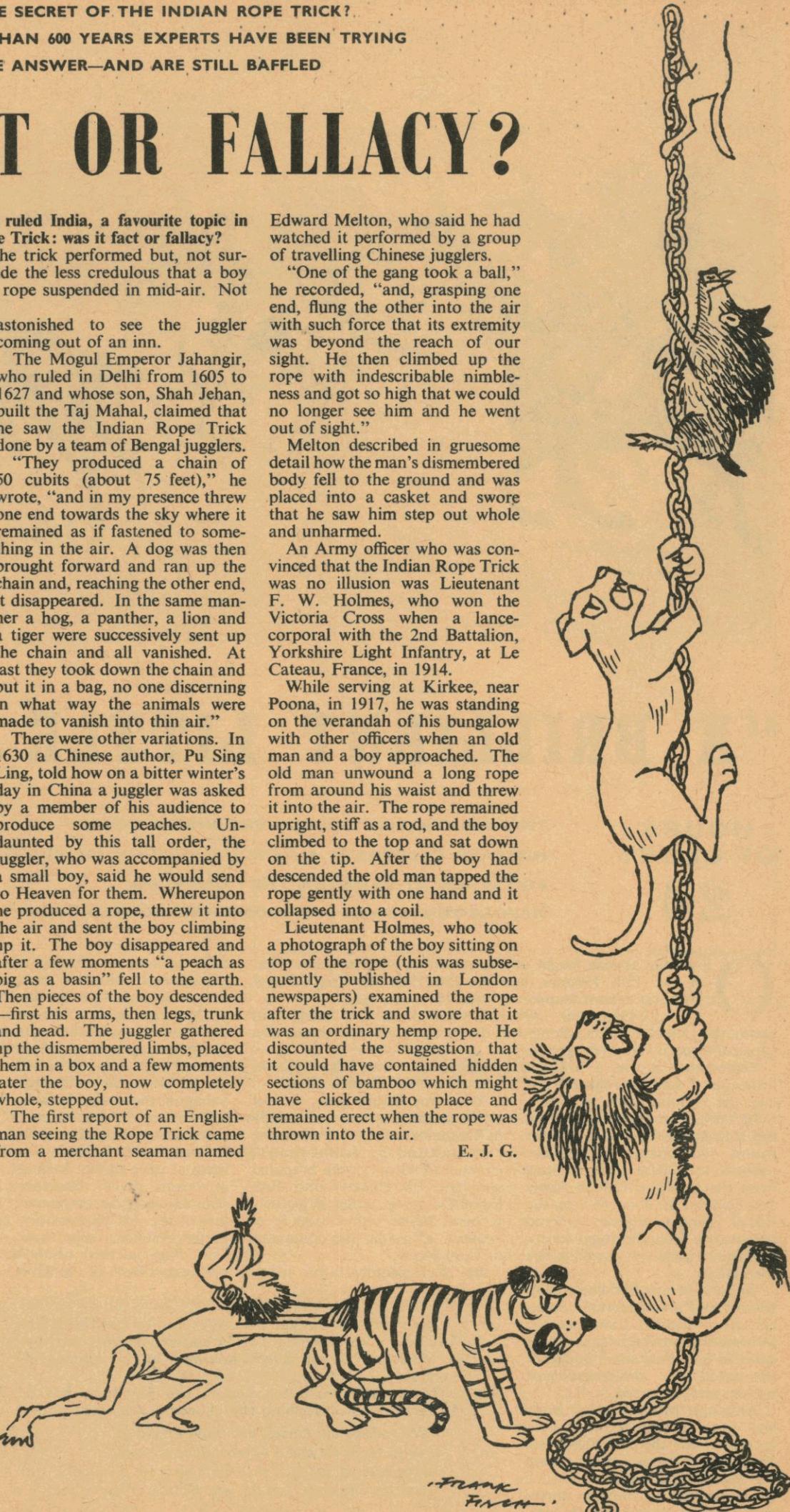
Melton described in gruesome detail how the man's dismembered body fell to the ground and was placed into a casket and swore that he saw him step out whole and unharmed.

An Army officer who was convinced that the Indian Rope Trick was no illusion was Lieutenant F. W. Holmes, who won the Victoria Cross when a lance-corporal with the 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Light Infantry, at Le Cateau, France, in 1914.

While serving at Kirkee, near Poona, in 1917, he was standing on the verandah of his bungalow with other officers when an old man and a boy approached. The old man unwound a long rope from around his waist and threw it into the air. The rope remained upright, stiff as a rod, and the boy climbed to the top and sat down on the tip. After the boy had descended the old man tapped the rope gently with one hand and it collapsed into a coil.

Lieutenant Holmes, who took a photograph of the boy sitting on top of the rope (this was subsequently published in London newspapers) examined the rope after the trick and swore that it was an ordinary hemp rope. He discounted the suggestion that it could have contained hidden sections of bamboo which might have clicked into place and remained erect when the rope was thrown into the air.

E. J. G.





## "A BRILLIANT LITTLE AFFAIR"

HOURS  
OF GLORY

24

THIS MONTH THE 15th/19th THE KING'S ROYAL  
HUSSARS CELEBRATE A FAMOUS VICTORY 151 YEARS  
AGO WHEN AT SAHAGUN THEY CHARGED  
NAPOLEON'S CRACK DRAGOONS AND ROUTED THEM

**O**f all the actions fought at Christmastime none surpasses that of the 15th Hussars (now the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars) against Napoleon's men 151 years ago.

On 21 December, 1808, near the little town of Sahagun in Spain, the 15th charged headlong over the ice and snow and shattered a superior force of French dragoons.

"Altogether it was a brilliant little affair," said Sir John Fortescue, the famous Army historian.

In 1808, before the arrival of the 15th in the Peninsula, British troops had helped Portuguese patriots to deliver their country from the invading French Army and General Sir John Moore, the British commander, was ordered to advance from Portugal to co-operate with the Spaniards against the invader.

By 20 December, after many

days' arduous marching in violent snowstorms, Moore's army was concentrated in front of the town of Majorga, and in the evening the 15th arrived in their quarters. To their surprise and delight they learned that only 12 miles or so to the north, in cantonments at Sahagun, there were between 700-800 French Dragoons under the command of Brigadier Debelle.

Lord Paget decided to engage them at once to cut them off and at 2 a.m. on 21 December the 15th Hussars, accompanied by a few of the 7th Hussars and four Horse Artillery guns, and with Lord Paget at their head, moved up the east bank of the River Cea.

The victory at Sahagun is celebrated by the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars on 21 December every year by a band parade at dawn followed by a regimental holiday.

To commemorate the action, the Regiment has a 12-verse poem describing the charge. One verse goes:

"We saddled our horses, and away we did go  
O'er rivers of ice and o'er mountains of snow,  
To the town of Sahagun then our course we did steer  
'Twas the Fifteenth Hussars, who had never known fear."

Left: Sabres drawn, the 15th Hussars charge the enemy dragoons at Sahagun. This drawing, by J. P. Beadle, was presented to the Regiment by Mrs. Bramwell, widow of an officer killed in World War Two.

Below: Lord Paget, who led the British cavalry at Sahagun. The victory was largely due to his brilliant handling of the Fifteenth Royal Hussars.



the 15th had trotted past the enemy's left flank, also wheeled his regiment into line. Thus the two bodies of horsemen stood face to face.

Without hesitation the 15th went forward at the gallop and charged. The French first line opened fire with carbines from the saddle, but this did not stop the Hussars who crashed into it and threw it back.

Debelle's second line was thrown into disorder by the rush of fugitives from the front and, being attacked in turn, was likewise broken. For some minutes

British and French were mingled in wild confusion.

According to the regimental history of the 15th the French outnumbered the British by about two to one, but these odds are questioned by Sir John Fortescue in his "History of the British Army." He says that Paget was superior in numbers, having at least 500 sabres in the field whereas Debelle had not more than 450; "but, apart from all question of inferiority in strength, Debelle seems to have been overawed by Paget's quickness in manoeuvre and by the beautiful accuracy of the movements of the Fifteenth."

Fortescue says that the 15th were the better mounted, and the French the better armed, "for the unwieldy fur caps of the British hussars fell from their heads, or if they remained on them, offered no protection against French sabres; while the British swords, short, broad, and blunted by their metal scabbards, were so heavy that it was difficult for the men to cut truly with them. By desperate struggles about half of the French escaped, and made their way north to Saldanha."

The 15th's losses were unexpectedly light. Only two men and four horses were killed and Colonel Grant, the Adjutant, 18 men and 10 horses were wounded. The French losses, in addition to several killed and many wounded, amounted to 12 officers and 145 other ranks taken prisoner. More than 120 horses, several mules, and a quantity of baggage were captured.

The 10th Light Dragoons, who had marched by another road to Sahagun, took no part in the action. They arrived at the western gate on time but found the town empty and joined Paget in time only to have a belated share in the pursuit.

ERIC PHILLIPS

## A PEEP INTO THE PAST

What was Christmastime  
like in the Army more  
than 50 years ago?

Mr. E. Stratford,  
who joined the Royal Field  
Artillery in 1893  
and immediately went off  
on a 12-year tour of duty  
in India, tells below how he

once spent Christmas  
on the march when every  
man had half a  
chicken and half a  
Christmas pudding

In the late 1890s I was serving with a battery of artillery stationed in Belgaum, a small city some two-score miles from Goa on the western seaboard of India.

Some weeks before Christmas, the battery was ordered to proceed by road to St. Thomas's Mount, near Madras, on the east coast, and off we set, making a very imposing procession.

Besides the six guns and six wagons, with their six teams of horses, there were many single riders and in rear of these came the battery transport, big G.S. wagons, water-carts, cooks-carts and so on. Behind these again trailed scores of bullock carts, each hired for about one rupee (1s 4d) a day, including the two bullocks and the driver!

Our march was supposed to be made after the rainy season was over, but, alas, the night before we were due to start there was a heavy downpour. A few days out, we came to a river which, because of flooding, we could not ford and here we were delayed for more than a week.

Christmas was fast approaching and the quartermaster's department had been instructed by our officers to prepare to give the men a good time. We

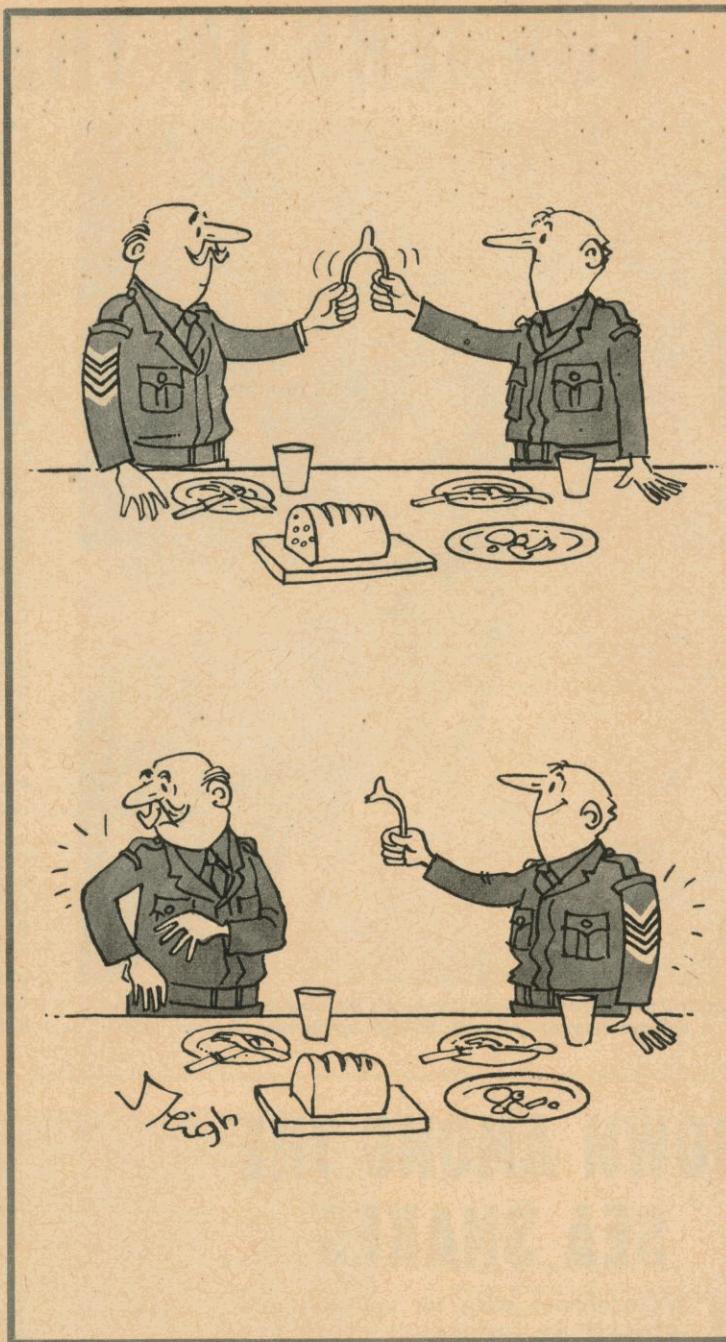
halted and the Quartermaster sent an NCO ahead to see what food could be procured to do the festive season justice. He did very well indeed.

He searched the native villages for several miles around and soon scores of chickens began to come in until there was one chicken for every two men. They varied in size a good deal but this didn't matter, especially as the Quartermaster had roused up plenty of tinned Christmas puddings which also worked out at one for every two men. There was also plenty of fruit and vegetables.

The next problem was how to cook the stuff. The Quartermaster had the answer. From a nearby native village he acquired several huge earthenware chatties about three feet across and fitted with lids. In one we put all the chickens, in another the tinned puddings and in others the vegetables. Huge fires of wood were built under, about and over the chatties.

It was a wonderful repast and never have I tasted anything quite so good. Later, in the evening, we built a big camp fire, free beer was served and we had a rousing sing-song.

Ah, me, those were the days.



# GUNNERS IN THE ALPS



Gunner Trevor Marsden hangs on by his toes and fingers on the way up a difficult buttress of rock 6000-ft up in the Bavarian Alps.

## DOWN AMONG THE SEA SNAKES

**T**WO soldiers with an unusual—and sometimes dangerous—task are Lieutenant Michael Harrison and Sapper J. Froggatt.

They are frogmen-divers of No. 10 Port Operating Squadron, Royal Engineers, who spend much of their time under the water among the sea-snakes, sharks, stinging jelly fish and razor-edged coral reefs in the Tanjong Berlayer Bay, near Singapore.

Their job is regularly to inspect and repair the moorings to which the unit's ten sea-going craft are attached outside Tanjong Berlayer Harbour, to examine the quay walls for damage and,



Sapper Froggatt comes up for air after a ten-minute inspection of a fouled mooring anchor.

occasionally, to carry out salvage operations. The frogmen-divers, both trained by the Royal Navy at HMS Vernon, Portsmouth, rarely dive to more than 50 feet below the surface so that danger from under-water poisoning, the diver's occupational disease, is slight. But, several times they have been disturbed at their work by venomous snakes and sharks have passed within feet of them.

When the unit's floating moorings need replacing, the two divers go out on a Z-Craft from which a mobile crane lifts the eight-ton float clear of the water. After the seaweed and shells have been cleaned from the chains and anchor, the new float is fitted and flung back into the sea. The divers then go down, checking the chain as they go, and ensure that the anchor is firmly fixed.

"Dangerous?" says Lieutenant Harrison. "It's all in a day's work and we both love it."—From a report by Army Public Relations, Far East Land Forces.



**T**HIRTY-ONE Gunners from three regiments in Germany—19 Field, 1 and 4 Royal Horse Artillery—have been scaling the heights and glissading down the snow-covered slopes of the Bavarian Alps in a three-week course designed to produce future leaders for Army mountaineering expeditions and instructors in mountain warfare.

They camped alongside the German Army's Mountain and Winter Warfare School at Mittenwald and spent the first ten days getting physically fit and learning basic mountain lore from four British officers and two German Army instructors.

This meant an early morning cross-country run followed by a bathe in an ice-cold mountain lake, and learning how to use equipment, culminating in a "walk" to the top of the 7200-ft Meilerhutte, where the men camped for the night.

Then they tackled more difficult climbs and practised abseiling down sheer-faced rock and crossing snow-packed gullies. By the end of the course every man was pronounced fit to be a mountaineer.—From a report by Captain I. Todd, Army Public Relations, Germany.

## MILITARY MISCELLANY



Supervised by L/Cpl J. Sloan (right) and work on a recovery vehicle. The Depot

## THEY KEEP THE

**A**T Tebrau, in Johore, where the Japanese left a graveyard of bomber and fighter aircraft at the end of World War Two, now stand thousands of British Army vehicles of almost every type—from motorcycles to armoured cars, ambulances to bulldozers.

Some are brand new and on their way to units; others need repair, or are on the last lap of their journey to the scrap metal merchants. All are in the hands of 221 Base Vehicle Depot, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the only unit of its kind in the Far East and which has been in the Command since the liberation of Malaya in 1944.

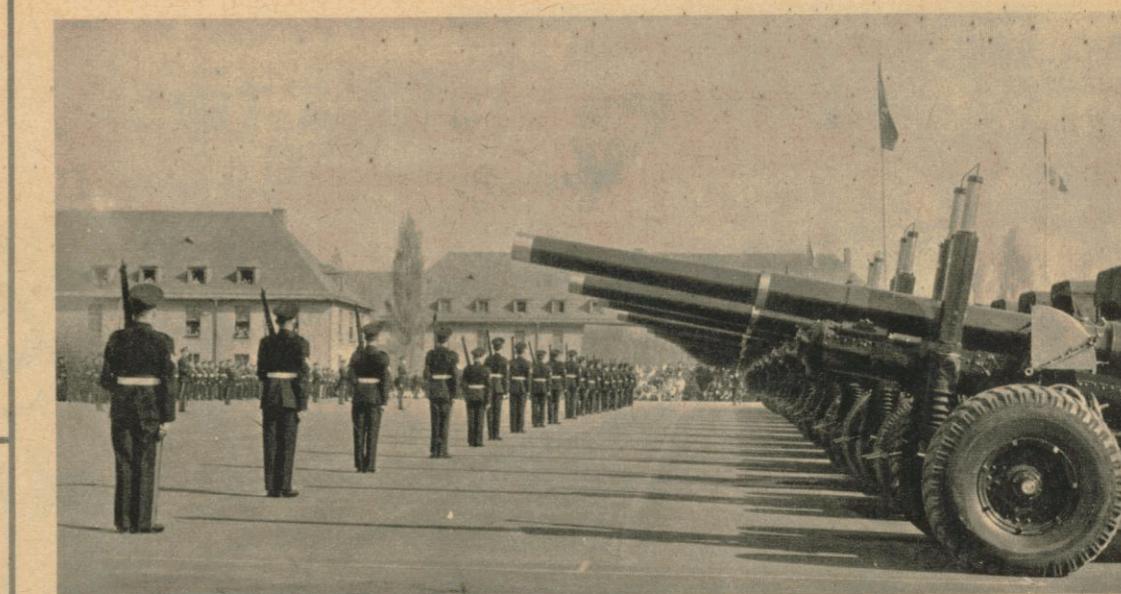
No. 221 Base Vehicle Depot supplies vehicles to, and accepts them from, every British and Commonwealth unit in the Far East. One of its main tasks is to receive and store vehicles sent from Britain and to transfer them to units in Singapore, Malaya, Hong Kong and, occasionally, to India for Gurkha

## WHEELS TURNING

regiments. Vehicles arriving at the Depot, even the new ones from Britain, are carefully checked, serviced and, if necessary, re-kitted, as they pass through the various maintenance shops and many, like the bulldozers which come from Christmas Island caked in coral, need special attention.

Before a vehicle leaves the Depot it is checked in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshops where repairs are also carried out. Because of the climate, each vehicle receives a detailed "turn-over" maintenance every six months.

The men of No. 221 Base Vehicle Depot never make the headlines like their comrades in the jungle do, but they have the satisfaction of knowing that the Depot, which employs about 100 men—including 20 British and 80 Malayan soldiers—is the power house on which all mechanical transport movement in the Far East depends.—From a report by Sergeant P. M. Howard, Army Public Relations, Far East Land Forces.



## FAREWELL TO THE GUNS

**O**N a parade ground in Germany, the Gunners of 58 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, marched past their gleaming 5.5-inch field guns.

Then they advanced in review order and presented arms to the guns. The Number Ones took post and, as the Regiment stood motionless in silent tribute, the guns drove past.

It was a sad day, for this was the Regiment's last parade before disbandment. But it was a proud day, too, for the Regiment was paying its last respects to the weapon which had served it

so long and so well, and was taking part in what is thought to have been a unique ceremony: all honours were paid to their guns which, in the Royal Artillery, serve as Colours.

The Regiment (its history goes back to the early 1800s) fought in France and Belgium in World War Two and was one of the first Gunner units to land in the North African invasion. It took part in the final attack on Tunis and then served in Sicily and Italy. Since World War Two it has served in Austria, Egypt, Palestine, Hong Kong, Britain and Germany.—From a report by Sergeant W. Nutt, Public Relations, Germany.



Members of the expedition to Australia and back make a final check of their route before leaving Britain. Each man has paid £200 to join and many gave up their jobs.

## AUSTRALIA AND BACK BY LAND-ROVER

**E**

The Territorials, who have called their expedition "Pegasus Overland" in tribute to the Parachute Regiment, had the idea for their mammoth journey when sheltering from the snow on a rifle range in Lancashire last winter and cursing the English weather. "Let's get away from it all," said one—and the idea was born.

The expedition (unarmed because possession of weapons might encourage attack in some of the wild parts of the world they will visit) began with the voyage to France and will continue with a drive across Europe and Asia to Singa-

pore, from where the men will sail to Australia. In Australia they will work and travel for four months before sailing to Cape Town, driving the length of Africa to Tangier, then across to Gibraltar and thus to Britain again.

The trip is expected to cost £4000 and each member contributed £200 towards expenses. To raise the money most of the men worked overtime in their civilian jobs for nearly a year. Some were given leave of absence by their employers; others resigned and will have to find new jobs when they return. All are single. Their civilian jobs range from an assistant buyer in sportswear to a doctor and include a window cleaner, a trainee coalface worker and a telephone engineer.

Why have they gone? "We just want to do it," said Lieutenant Stephen Anselme Fox, the leader.

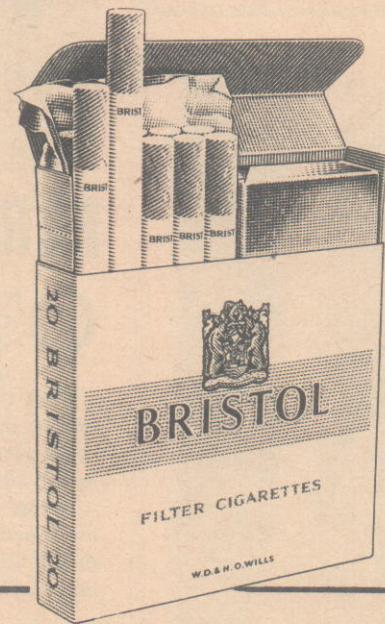
Which, when you think of it, is as good a reason as any.



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*In battle order, recruits of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders set out on their march to the mist-shrouded summit of Ben Nevis.*

## THE CAMERONS CONQUERED THE BEN

LIKE the Duke of York, the Depot Commanding Officer of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders marched his men to the top of the hill—and marched them down again.

When they were up they were up—lunching on the summit of Ben Nevis.

And when they were down they were down—in Glen Nevis, at the bivouac camp which served as a base for an unusual three-day exercise for 50 recruits in the heart of Clan Cameron country.

It was an exercise which combined a tough trek up the mountain with a flag-flying and recruiting march in Fort William and a practical lesson in regimental history and tradition.

The recruits, in battle order and wearing the kilt, marched steadily for two-and-a-half hours to the 4406-ft. high summit of Ben Nevis, led by their Commanding Officer, Major D. F. Callander (and his spaniel). They followed the winding but reasonably comfortable track used by tourists and returned, led by three pipers, by the same route because of thick mist on the higher slopes. Only two of the platoon failed to make the summit, although many of the recruits were National Servicemen from Glasgow and the Lowlands. But even after five-and-a-half hours on the mountain they still had enough energy for a regimental dance in Fort William and, for the belated few, a long and wet walk back to camp.

The final day of the exercise began with a march through Fort William with bayonets fixed and pipes playing. (The Camerons enjoy the Freedom of the burgh

Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders.

The Lochiel, as he is known, took the young soldiers back 214 years to the day when Bonnie Prince Charlie landed in Scotland and the Clan Cameron loyally gathered at Achnacarry to answer the summons of its Chief. In that same loyal spirit, he said, generations of Cameron Highlanders had subsequently rallied to their Sovereign.

"The tradition of loyalty, of being bonny fighters, which originated with the Clan Cameron was passed on to and has been continued in the Regiment which bears the name," Colonel Cameron told the platoon. "No regiment can thrive unless it is constantly

remembering its traditions and history, and no regiment has a finer history than the Cameron Highlanders."

After the Lochiel had taken the salute at a march past, the recruits made their final visit, to the Commando memorial near Spean Bridge, a modern landmark which records that during World War Two the Commandos trained in the rugged mountains of Cameron country.

● The Cameron Highlanders took over five hours to climb and descend Ben Nevis. This year's winner of the 14-mile annual race from Fort William to the summit and back finished in 1-hr. 47-min. 53-sec.

*Lochiel, Chief of the Clan Cameron, takes the salute as the Cameron Highlanders, led by their pipers, march past Achnacarry Castle, home of the Lochiels and headquarters of the Clan for over 300 years.*





Invasion scene, 1944. On the Normandy beaches, vehicles go ashore from landing craft and supply dumps are set up.

## THE GREATEST D-DAY IN HISTORY

**I**NFANTRYMEN wading ashore with their folding bicycles . . . flail tanks belabouring the beaches . . . gliders crunching down into corn-fields . . . frogmen blowing up submerged obstacles . . . Rangers "walking up" a cliff with the aid of ropes anchored in a minefield . . .

Yes, all the remembered aspects of the Normandy landings are to be found in John Frayn Turner's lively "Invasion '44" (Harrap, 21s), which presents a well filled-in picture of the most famous D-Day of them all.

But even those who went through this ordeal, and think they have a good idea by now what happened, will keep coming across accounts of episodes unfamiliar to them.

Did you know, for example, about the great enemy minefield which, conveniently for the Allies, scuttled itself just before the

assault went in? The Germans, convinced that invasion would be attempted in the first five months of 1944, laid a barrage of many thousands of mines along the coasts of Holland, Belgium and Northern France. But as a barrage of this scale would interfere with their own shipping it could not be contemplated as a permanency; so every mine was fitted with a flooder designed to sink it by May 31. This duly happened; and some 144 hours later came D-Day.

It was not the only enemy minefield that was badly mistimed. The Allies had been ashore several days before the oyster mine could be used against them. This device was detonated by the sound of a ship's engines plus the effect of the

altered water pressure caused by a vessel passing overhead. As it was, the oysters caused serious damage to supply ships.

Mr. Turner describes the remarkable feints which were conducted in order to delude the enemy into supposing that the invaders would land somewhere else. In darkness, 34 small ships towing as many barrage balloons as they could cruise in the Calais area. The balloons, it was hoped, would simulate big ships on the



Two of the first German prisoners captured in Normandy are marched away by a watchful British soldier.



### The Fortress Was A Fake

**T**HE fall of Singapore on Sunday, 15 February, 1942, was described by Sir Winston Churchill as "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history."

The retreat from France in 1940 had been a bitter blow, but the heroes of Dunkirk had not surrendered. The fall of Singapore—the "impregnable fortress," the "bastion of Empire," the "Gibraltar of the Far East"—was utter collapse, cease fire, surrender and defeat.

A sense of shock and shame has persisted through 17 years, and is implicit in the refusal of successive British Parliaments to conduct an official inquiry into the fall of Singapore.

Now, at long last, a searching account of the appalling catastrophe has been written—"The Singapore Story" (Muller, 18s) in which the author, Kenneth Attiwill, pieces together a horrifying

story of complacency, suspicion, disunity and incompetence.

What exactly happened and who was responsible? How were the two mighty battleships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* sent to the bottom in the first few hours without engaging a single enemy ship? What sapped morale in famous battalions and caused incredible blunders, confusion, panic and hasty retreat?

Answering these questions, the author, himself a Singapore veteran, tells a dramatic, heroic and tragic tale and one that military historians of the future may well regard as a classic of defeat.

Casualty figures underline the magnitude of the Singapore débâcle. Japanese casualties in the Malayan campaign were 9824; the British lost 138,708, including more than 130,000 prisoners. In addition there were countless civilian dead, wounded and enslaved.

enemy radar screens. At the same time more than a hundred aircraft flew in endless orbits overhead, shedding tinfoil for the further confusion of radar operators.

One of the less familiar operations, that of sinking 60 old ships in shallow water off the beaches in order to break the force of the sea and protect the Mulberry installations, is told in some detail. It was an ironic fate for the "Gooseberry" fleet—to become submerged obstacles in order to make other ships safe.

The fighting on the beaches and in the dropping zones is vigorously described, though only a broad description is possible when so much else has to be covered. Nevertheless, Mr. Turner finds room to tell of such exploits as that by 19-year-old Corporal George Tandy, of the Royal Marines. Seven miles from shore his landing craft lost its wheel when launched from the parent ship. Tandy went over the stern and stood with one foot on the rudder guard, guiding the rudder with the other. In this position, plunged up and down in a rough sea, through mines and much else, he stood for nearly five hours.

There have been many close-up descriptions of various aspects of D-Day and many broad accounts of the events from a commander's level. The virtue of this book is that the story is told as a whole—the planning, the inventions, the reconnaissances, the assault itself (by British and Americans) and the immediate aftermath. Mr. Turner has had the advantage, which he acknowledges, of studying many other accounts, specialised and otherwise, of those tremendous days.

# Wolfe Liked Silent Soldiers

**T**RADITIONALLY, Canada was won for Britain by a single volley—a volley fired by soldiers trained to hold their fire until the enemy was only 30 yards away.

But that 15-minutes affray on the Heights of Abraham took four months to prepare, and the first assault was a failure for which General James Wolfe accepted full blame.

The story of the campaign is told in authoritative and vivid fashion by Christopher Lloyd in "The Capture of Quebec" (Batsford, 21s), one of a series of unusually well illustrated books on historic battles. The author is assistant professor at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

There are glimpses of the unorthodox way in which Wolfe trained and disciplined his men. Two soldiers who panicked at their post were ordered to stand for an hour at the necessary house (the latrine) with women's caps on their heads. After that they were ordered "to march in the front of all parties without a grain of powder in their pieces, where they may have the opportunity to wipe out the infamy they now lie under."

The General did not care for the practice of huzzing when advancing on the enemy. It was unmilitary. "Experience plainly shows that the troops who, in perfect silence, engage the enemy, waiting for their first fire, will always preserve a superiority." Nevertheless, there was huzzing at Quebec as the redcoats charged the survivors of the volley.

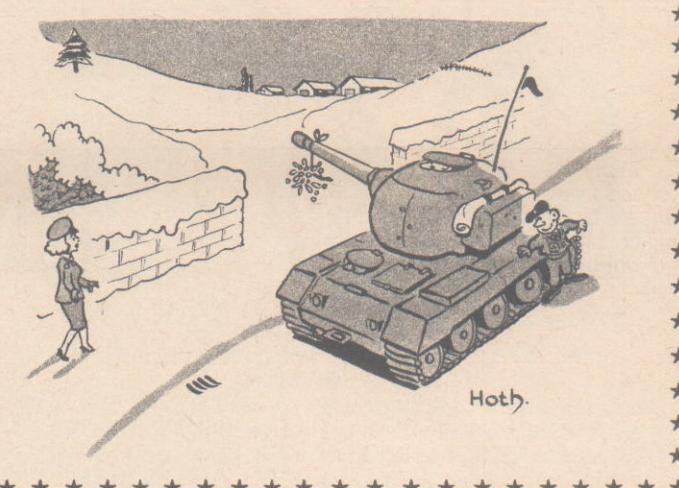
Both British and French commanders did their best to eliminate the barbarities which had for long disfigured warfare in North America. As a rule, surrendered garrisons could expect death or mutilation. Wolfe tried to put down scalping, in which even well-trained grenadiers had begun to indulge. It must stop, he said, "except when the enemy are Indians or Canadians dressed like Indians."

An Indian officer who was on the point of slaying a wounded British captain was prevented from doing so by a French officer. Wolfe sent the Frenchman a gift of £20 but General Montcalm returned the money, saying that the officer had only done his duty.

One of Wolfe's brigadiers, Brigadier Townshend, indulged in conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline by circulating caricatures of the General, mocking his unprepossessing appearance. Two are reproduced in this book; others were too gross to reproduce anywhere. Wolfe, as he crumpled one of these efforts, said, "If we live, this shall be inquired into; but we must first beat the enemy." Ironically, it was Brigadier Townshend who took command on Wolfe's death and accepted the surrender of Quebec.

The author "debunks" some of the legend which has encrusted the battle, and is scathing about the inaccuracy of the artists who depicted the death of Wolfe. He mentions that Benjamin West pro-

voked a big row in artistic circles by daring to portray Wolfe and his officers in the actual uniforms they wore, instead of in Roman togas as tradition demanded. He could have added that James Barry, an erratic Academician, was so outraged by West's breach of taste that, as a protest, he painted the death of Wolfe with all the characters in the nude—and then resigned from the Royal Academy!



## A Family Affair

**W**HY do sons follow fathers, generation after generation, into the Army? Do they conform willingly to pattern?

In his novel, "The Drummond Tradition" (Putnam, 12s 6d), Charles Mercer examines these questions as they are posed in the American Army. He does not come to any very firm conclusion.

Drew Drummond was a rebel against his family tradition. As a boy he resented the Spartan military upbringing imposed by his father. He was expelled from West Point, but enlisted as a private in World War Two, was commissioned in the field and decorated for gallantry.

There followed an unsatisfactory spell in civilian life, but

Korea brought him back into uniform and earned him another decoration.

We meet Major Drummond in Italy, where he has gone to recover from his Korean wounds and to think out his future. His father, now a retired general, follows him there to persuade him to stay in the Army. Two beautiful women join the debate.

Through a series of flash-backs, we see how the Drummond tradition was built up, and the record is not always handsome. Drew is a good soldier. He is the stuff of which generals are made—his father tells him so. His father's old batman tells him so. Drew knows it himself—but what he would rather do is teach history.

At last he decides to soldier on. The tradition is too strong for him. The reader is still not very clear where the tradition gets its strength, but he has had some fascinating glimpses of life in the American Army.

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## An Unhappy Warrior

“WHEN we get old and wear dark baggy suits and slightly greasy bowler hats . . . we'll order more beer and begin painting this bitchy trull of a war until it looks like a latter-day saint,” wrote Cassandra, the columnist, in a famous Army newspaper of World War Two.

One of his readers who stuck grimly to a determination to do no such thing was Neil McCallum, an Eighth Army subaltern. He kept a bitter journal to help him, and it is now published as “Journey with a Pistol” (Gollancz, 16s).

His pistol made the long journey from “somewhere” in Britain, round the Cape to Alamein, Enfidaville and Sicily where it was fired in anger at last—into an empty air raid shelter.

That, to the author, symbolised the futility of war and of Army life. He found so much futility that one wonders why he remained a soldier (he did once write a letter resigning his commission, but it did not reach his adjutant's desk). His answer:

“The personal choice of the fit man is simple. He either fights or totally denies the war. To fight, one must believe in the purpose of the war, in its historical necessity, in its paramount and express

importance as a defence of civilisation and culture, as an unavoidable calamity that must be pursued to the end.”

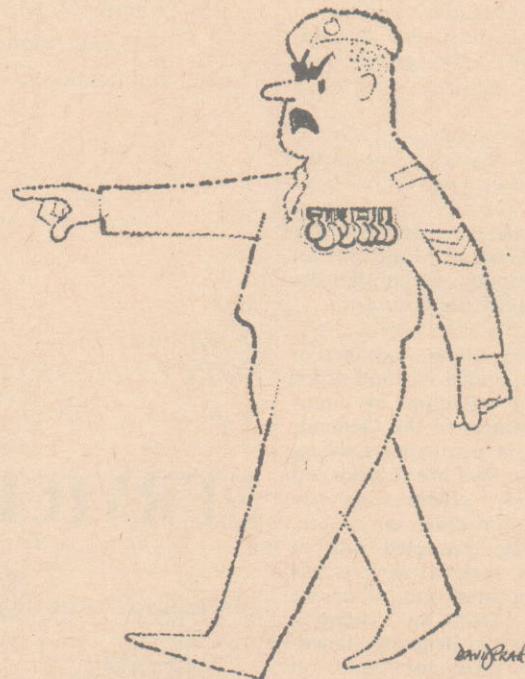
Evidently he did believe these things, or he would not have remained an officer. Unlike many sensible fellows who felt the same way, he did not settle down to make the best of what war and the Army brought him.

He saw and recorded some of the absurdities and horrors that were everyone's lot: the battalion commander who refused badly-needed subalterns because they had been commissioned to wear the wrong tartan; his own divisional headquarters bombed by the Royal Air Force (“We sat and laughed until the tears came”).

He saw it all with a superior eye: “There is a special childishness about adult men in the Army.” He scribbled of “the senselessness of Army life,” the “dishonesty of generals,” the “inward corruption of the military profession.”

If he perceived, he recorded little or nothing of the good in Army life, of devotion to cause and comrades, of the courage and humour that enabled men to fight on, of great achievement.

He seems to have been one man who went through war with his illusions unshattered. He must have been a very unhappy warrior.



“Who said, ‘Here comes old Jingle Bells’?”



At the halfway stage up White Horse Hill, Private B. Ellis pounds his pedals on the way to a record win, breaking his own 1958 record by 17 seconds.

## GOING UP—THE HARD WAY

IT'S all uphill work to the famous White Horse on top of the Berkshire Downs near Uffington. Tourists flock there in cars and coaches, but every year the Army's cyclists tackle White Horse Hill the hard way, in their inter-unit and individual hill-climb championship.

The ride is over a stiff, mile-long course, rising from 320 feet to 760 feet with an average gradient of one in twelve and steeper sections of up to one in five.

This year's 55 competitors were fighting fit and keen to break records in ideal conditions of a dry road-surface, a pleasantly cool morning and little head-wind.

The records were duly broken. The first man up, Craftsman B. J. Taylor, riding for 10 Command Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, set the pace, clocking 4 minutes 45 seconds to clip 11.7 seconds off the 1958 record time.

Four other riders bettered the 1958 time, but Taylor's new record stood for over an hour. Then came the sting in the tail,

with Private B. Ellis, The Green Howards, last year's winner and record holder, traditionally riding as last man.

As generally expected, Ellis ended the championship with a flourish, taking 4 minutes 39.5 seconds. Thus he defeated Taylor by 5.5 seconds, retained his individual title and earned a bar to his Army cycling colours. Taylor took second place and Craftsman G. Burkett, of 6 Command Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was third in 4 minutes 49.6 seconds.

The team championship was retained by 1 Engineer Stores

Depot, Royal Engineers, with 3 Training Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, runners-up.

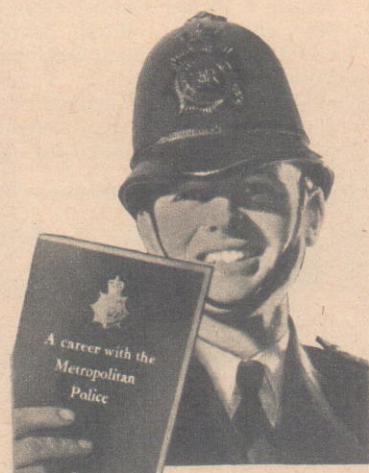
Only one of the 55 starters failed to finish. He was the only officer competitor, Captain A. G. Jones, who, although not a racing

cyclist, sportingly entered the event to make up a team from 27 Guided Weapon Regiment, Royal Artillery. A second "casualty" was Sapper J. W. Dennis (12 SME Regiment, Royal Engineers). Riding at No. 13 he fell on the hill, but finished the course.

● Sapper H. McGuire, of No. 1 Engineer Stores Depot, Royal Engineers, won the recent Army five-day stage road race, with an aggregate time of 19 hours 36 minutes 46 seconds.

Lance-Corporal R. J. Stapley, of 392 Dental Centre, was second in 19 hours 40 minutes 55 seconds, and Private S. A. Pateman, of 3 Company, Royal Army Medical Corps, took third place in 19 hours 52 minutes 53 seconds.

By the start of the fifth stage (the distances were 86, 82, 85, 84 and 79 miles) the 54 starters had thinned out to only 18. Eleven teams failed to finish. Eastern Command "E" Team (Sapper M. Garlick, Sapper D. P. Whitt and Craftsman G. Burkett) took first place and Southern Command "Q" Team (Lance-Corporal A. Mountfield, Private A. Slocombe and Corporal C. Cross) were runners-up.



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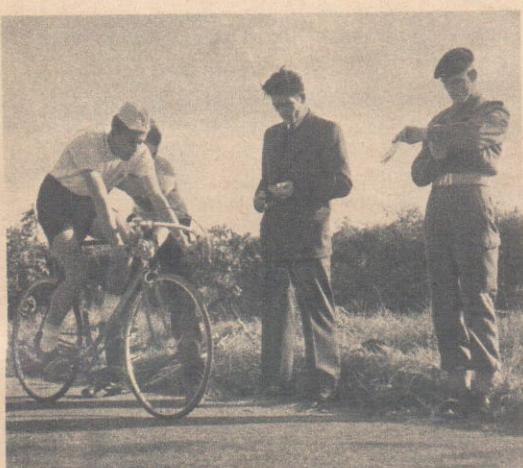
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Craftsman Taylor at the start of his fine ride. He, too, broke the old record but was placed second.

ROGER WILKINS, Britain's second best all-round cyclist this year, has now joined the Army. The title-holder, Bryan Wilcher, was a bombardier in the Royal Artillery two years ago, and the third best, Ray Booty, was also an Army cyclist.

# WALES WENT DOWN FIGHTING

ARMY boxers repeated their last season's outstanding victory over Wales at Aldershot recently when they won by eight bouts to two. The margin was greater than when the two teams last met (it was then seven to three), but the result was no surprise, for seven of the ten Army boxers were internationals.

The biggest shock of the evening was the points defeat of Lance-Sergeant Len Hobbs, Grenadier Guards, the Army heavyweight champion, by Dai Curtis of Port Talbot. Hobbs was floored with a right hook to the jaw in the second round which slowed him down and took the sting out of his punches.

Remarkably, there were no knock-outs and the only other knock-down was suffered by Alf Burningham, the Welsh middle-weight, who was sent to the canvas, also in the second round, by Private Alf Matthews, the

English international, of 3 Infantry Divisional Headquarters. The fight was stopped in the next round and Matthews declared the winner.

Lance-Corporal Peter Burke, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, the former ABA light heavyweight champion, easily mastered Dave James, a former Oxford University champion. Burke boxed cleverly and punched well with both fists.

Driver Billy Monaghan, of 6 Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps, celebrated his first

appearance for the Army with a clear-cut points win over Billy Gardner, of Dowlais, in a light middleweight contest, and Driver D. Mallon, a Scottish international, of the same unit, easily won his flyweight fight against D. James.

Two other Scottish internationals who recorded points wins were bantamweight Private Len Mackay, Central Ordnance Depot, Didcot, who beat D. Corp. of Victoria Park, and Private Tommy McGuinness (welterweight), of The Royal Scots, who had no trouble defeating J. Williams, of Menai Bridge. The other two English internationals—Driver Mick Greaves (featherweight), of 20 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, and Lance-Corporal Dan

JOHN COBB

## THE INVINCIBLE DUKES



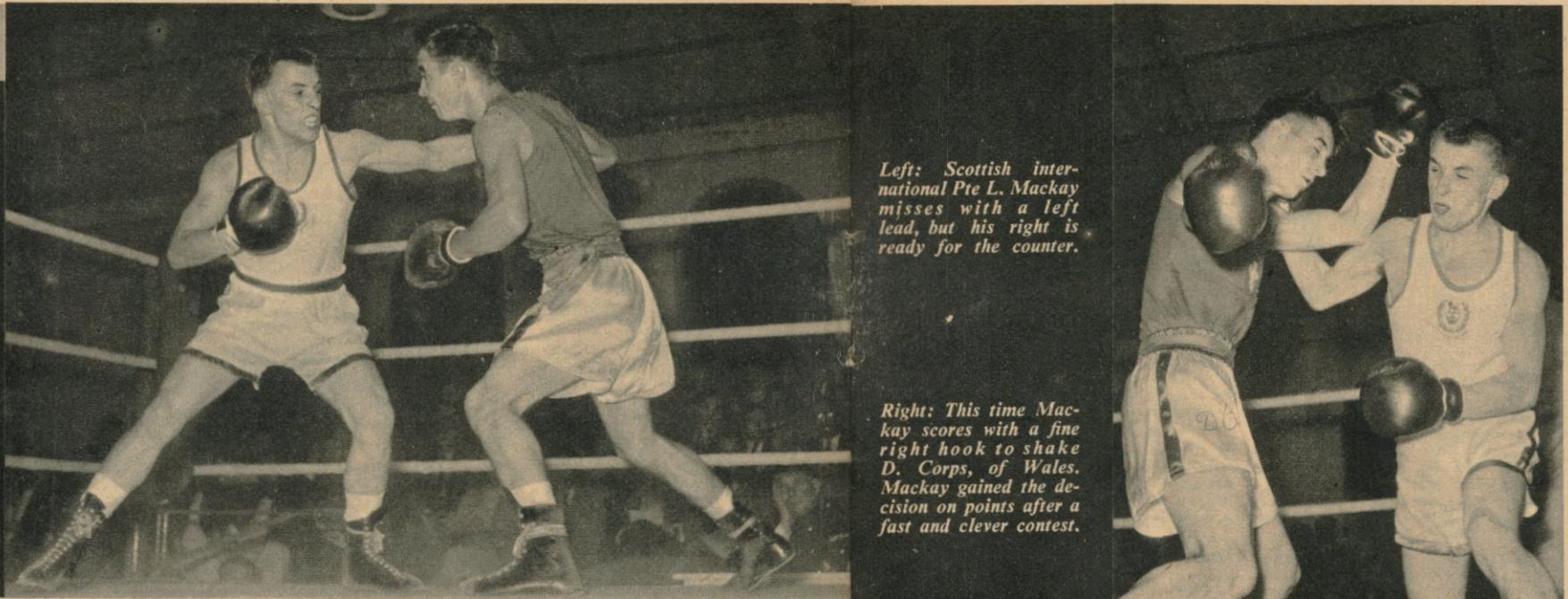
A scene during the match between the Dukes (dark shirts) and an Ulster Fifteen: Lance-Corporal Norman Field breaks away from two opponents to score a try. The Dukes won by 19 to five.

THE Duke of Wellington's Regiment recently set the seal on a remarkable rugby record by inflicting a crushing defeat—19 points to five—on an Ulster Fifteen drawn from among the best players in Northern Ireland's six counties.

The match, arranged by the Ulster branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union as a send off to the Regiment on its departure for England, was the highlight of a two-year stay during which the "Dukes" have earned the reputation for being the best Services rugby team seen in Ulster for at least 25 years. They won the Army Rugby Cup in 1958 and since 1957 have beaten most first-class clubs in Ulster and Trinity College, Dublin.

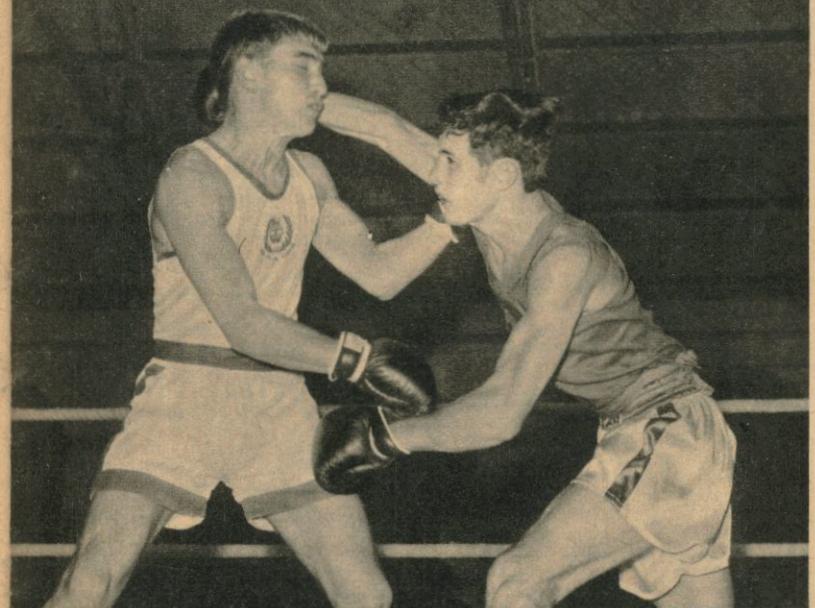
The "Dukes"—who have always been among the leading Army rugby enthusiasts—have been fortunate in having the services of two former internationals: their captain, David Gilbert-Smith (Scotland) and Denis Shuttleworth (England). Other outstanding players are Jack Scroby (Bradford Northern and Halifax), Derek Davies (Bradford Northern), Norman Field (Featherstone Rovers) and Paul Davies (Blackheath).

There is a strong link between the Dukes and Blackheath Rugby Club: the president, Colonel Jack Dalrymple, is a former commanding officer of the Regiment.



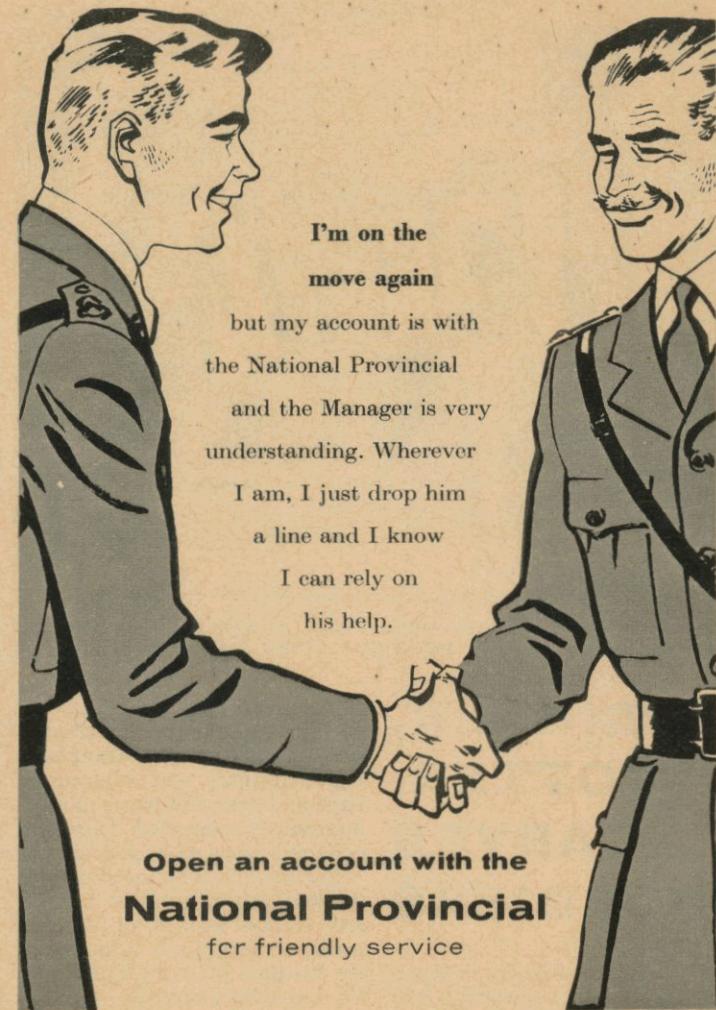
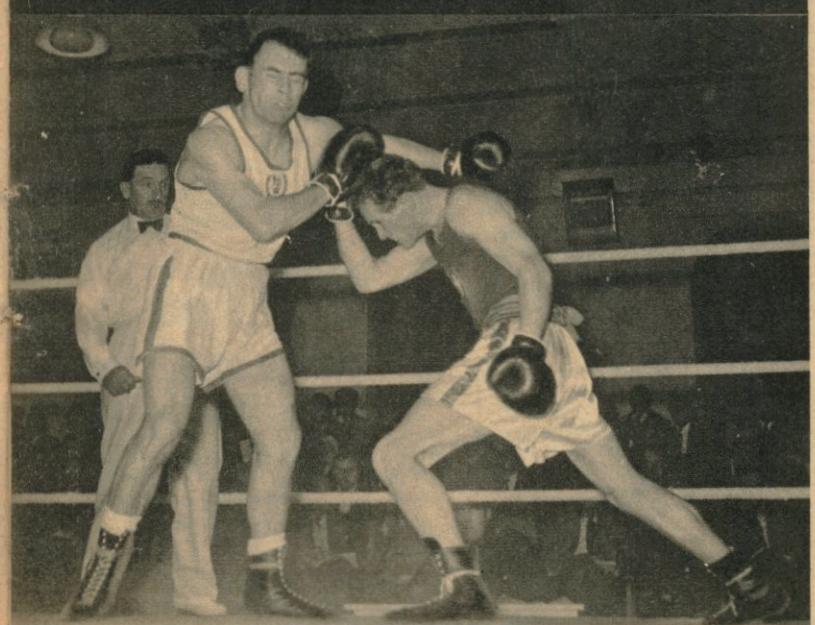
Left: Scottish international Pte L. Mackay misses with a left lead, but his right is ready for the counter.

Right: This time Mackay scores with a fine right hook to shake D. Corp. of Wales. Mackay gained the decision on points after a fast and clever contest.



Above: English international featherweight, Dvr M. Greaves, avoids a right swing from D. Delbridge. He proved too fast for his Welsh opponent.

Ouch! That one hurt. L/Cpl D. O'Brien winces as he is hit under the heart. But O'Brien, the Army's light-welterweight champion, recovered and won.



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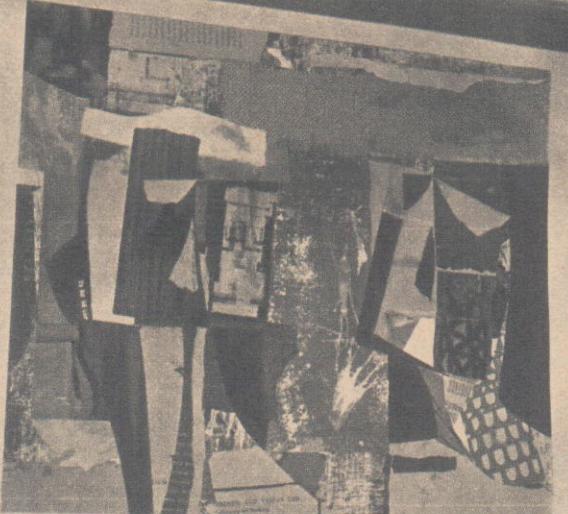
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One of Sergeant K. Marrow's entries, made up from paper and material scraps and called "Brother and Sister." (Yes, it is the right way up!)

## PAINTER, POTTER, CARVER SOLDIERS

THOSE unfriendly critics—now a tiny minority—who still regard the soldier as an ignorant and uneducated clod incapable of pursuing his leisure hours beyond dance hall or bar, need look no further than the Army's art and crafts competitions to be proved wrong.

This year's sixth annual exhibition, staged in Whitehall, gave a fair indication of the worthwhile way in which many of today's soldiers spend their leisure. They draw and paint prolifically, make toys, furniture and furnishings for their homes, fashion pottery, weave baskets and even knit!

The most striking trend in this year's exhibition, organised by the Institute of Army Education, was the increase in fine art and craft work by junior units and apprentice schools which submitted

40 per cent of the 330 entries. Their exhibits included model aircraft, photography, pottery, wood carving, marquetry and a group of large and colourful paper mosaics ingeniously compiled from the coloured pages of magazines.

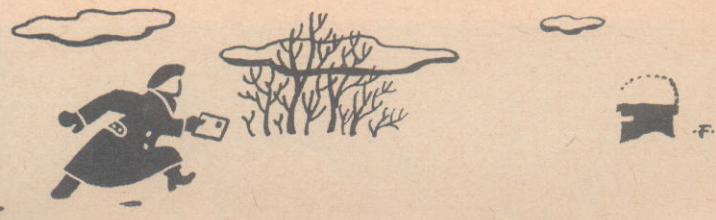
For the first time the award for the best exhibit went to the fine arts section instead of to craft work—to Sergeant K. Marrow, of the Institute of Army Education, for one of his paintings. A collection of pottery won for Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, the shield for the best junior unit entry.

The senior unit shield was won by the 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, with a last-minute entry (flown from Ireland) of two canoes, a dinghy and a radio-controlled model launch, made by members of the Battalion's Adventure Training Club (see *SOLDIER*, October, 1959).

Equally eye-catching in the non-competitive displays were the paintings from Army schools in Hongkong, and some intriguing samples from the collection of 60,000 match-box labels amassed by Conductor J. H. Luker, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.



Maj-Gen Anderson admiring "The Path of Agony," a paper mosaic by Jnr L/Cpl J. Dalgish and Jnr Bandsman R. Connolly, of the Lowland Brigade Junior Bandsman and Drummer Establishment.



## LETTERS

### THOSE SURPLUS STORES

It is comforting to know that there is somebody at the War Office who has the taxpayer at heart, but why cannot something be done to stop apparent waste?

My pet moan is the sale of "WD Surplus" goods. For instance, the current Army stores price of a blue beret is 5s 1d. I bought one in a shop in Bristol, complete with broad arrow, for 2s 1d. Assuming that the Army makes no profit on the replacement of lost kit, they must have sold these berets at an enormous loss for the shopkeeper to have made his profit.—"RAFPC, London."

★ The Ministry of Supply state that a considerable quantity of stores of all types has been sent forward for disposal by all three fighting Services. These stores were bought, some as long ago as World War Two, when their purchase was fully justified, and kept while there was a prospect of their being used.

With the re-organisation and consequent reduction of the Army Forces, however, the turnover of stores has been reduced. Therefore, it is more economical to sell surpluses than to incur costs of storage and depreciation.

The Ministry of Supply sell by auction or by competitive tender and say the prices they receive are reasonable.

### AND THOSE UNIFORMS

It is true that the average soldier would prefer to wear civilian clothes instead of uniform when he is off duty. (Letters, September.)

I could give many examples of this but the best is the United States Marine Corps. Ever since George Washington got up on a horse, the Marine Corps has had a blue uniform. In most cases, however, the Marine will go out in civilian clothes. This tendency will never change, in America or Britain. I have seen several British soldiers in Europe and I can honestly say they are careful about keeping themselves neat in appearance and military bearing.—Master Sergeant S. Cosman, Support Training Regiment, Fort Dix, Jersey, USA.

The British Army issue khaki drill as worn by many regiments does look like a crumpled pocket handkerchief (Letters, September) unless properly laundered and well starched, when it "sits" well, keeps its shape and looks smarter than any other dress.

The old Indian regiments always looked extremely well in it because they had access to large supplies of rice water daily for starching. I believe that the Indian and Pakistan armies still wear the same type of uniform.

If British soldiers would go to the trouble (and expense) of proper laundering of their khaki drill they would look more soldierly, be cooler and more comfortable in hot weather. Anything less soldierly than "shirt-sleeve" order would be hard to invent. Why not a heavier weight khaki drill, with bush shirt, even in Britain?—Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. C. Archer, The Depot, Royal Pioneer Corps, Wrexham.

### TOUGH CADETS

After reading about the 54-mile trek in the Cyprus mountains by an officer and ten men of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (Letters, September) I thought you might like to know that 45 cadets recently marched 45 miles from Rishworth to Ripon.

The first day we covered 14 miles, quite a march for two 14-year-olds in the party. The next day we did 18 miles and the third day the remaining 13 miles.

Only five cadets fell out, which all goes to show how tough we are.—T. Jones, Rishworth School, near Halifax.

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

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published.

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

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

### REHABILITATION

You state in your article "And The Cripples Came Back Cured" (September) that "when National Service ends the Army Rehabilitation Unit will have an increasingly important task to perform and it is likely that the unit will move to the London area and cater additionally for officers and members of the Women's Royal Army Corps."

Now that the Army is vacating barracks throughout the country because of amalgamations of regiments, would not a location by the sea be more suitable? This would be of value in all convalescent cases.—"Army Enthusiast."

### GUNNERS AT BISLEY

You state in "REME Marksmen on Target" (September) that Gunners were on duty for the first time at Bisley this year. As a member of 23rd Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, I seem to remember getting very hot in those same butts in 1953.—A. J. Dowdell, 95 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London.

The 23rd Field Regiment performed the duties of butt and range parties together with another Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, from Colchester.—S. A. Woolmer, War Department Constabulary, Bicester.

At the 1950 Bisley shoot 4th Royal Horse Artillery carried out the duties of butt markers. The regiment was stationed at Blackdown at the time and earned the reputation of being able to do any unusual or difficult job.—Corporal S. J. Hambley, REME, ex-Gunner, 4th Royal Horse Artillery.

### ARNHEM ARMBAND

A friend tells me that all German troops who took part in the Battle of Arnhem, September 1944, received a special badge which was worn on the arm. Is this correct?—J. Sims, 111 Hollingbury Road, Brighton.

★ Yes. Local commanders of the wartime German Army were empowered to present the armband to any man who qualified. It is not worn in the new West German Army.

### LEFT IS RIGHT

A correspondent (Letters, September) ask why troops step off with the left foot.

In his "Elements of Military Arrangement, 1791" John Williamson (late Lieutenant 29th Foot) states: "It is the custom, not only in all regiments in our service but also in every European Army, for soldiers to step out with the left foot, but some bring the right and

In the letter headed "The Troop" (*SOLDIER*, September) the name of the correspondent was incorrectly given as Major (ret) David Walker, of 6 Stretton Avenue, Wallasey, Cheshire. The correspondent's name is Major (ret) David Taylor. *SOLDIER* regrets any inconvenience that may have been caused.

others the left to the tap of the drum. This is a great defect in our military system—or rather proceeding from our want of a system—which must introduce confusion, or at least a variation and irregularity that approaches confusion, in a detachment comprised of men of different regiments or in a brigade formed of corps differently trained. It seems best to bring the left foot to the tap of the drum as then the drummers and music may begin at the same time as the men step out.”—G. Lynn, 9 York Road, Wisbech.

### EFFICIENCY MEDAL

When I volunteered for the Army on 30 October, 1939, my attestation form read “duration engagement in the Territorial Army.” I was demobilised in November, 1945. Does my six years service entitle me to the Efficiency Medal (Territorial)?—“Bramber.”

★ No. Had he joined the Territorial Army by 2 September, 1939, his service would have counted double and he would have qualified for the Efficiency Medal.

### LS AND GC

During my Colour Service, from which I was discharged after 22 years, I applied for the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal but my commanding officer refused to recommend me because I had been convicted of what I consider a minor offence.

Now that I am no longer serving can my case be reviewed with a view to the award being issued?—“Disappointed.”

★ No.

### MSM ANNUITY

I was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and annuity in 1954. When will I receive the annuity?—“Ex RAOC, WO.”

★ When a vacancy occurs (by the death of an annuitant) the records of all candidates are examined and the oldest qualified in the same regiment or corps as the deceased receives first consideration, irrespective of the dates of registration of names. The Meritorious Service Medal annuity allotment is £1500, of which the Royal Army Ordnance Corps receives £60, equivalent to six annuities.

### “WHICH WAR?”

Your correspondent (Letters, September) appears to be under the impression that the engagement at Laing's Nek took place during the South African War of 1899-1902. The Laing's Nek action, where the 58th Foot (2nd Northamptonshire Regiment) carried its Colours, occurred during the earlier Transvaal campaign of 1881. This is generally known as the First Boer War and you do not deserve to be faulted for not calling it the South African War, which is the official title of the later, bigger and better known campaign.—O. P. M. Conway, West View, Gainford, Darlington, a member of the Military Historical Society.

The 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment (58th Foot) was in South Africa from November, 1899 until May, 1904. I was there. I served in the Regiment for 22½ years and have seven medals to show for it. The 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment (48th Foot) did not take part in the South African War.—A. Fisk, 20 Dunwich Road, Blythburgh, Halesworth, Suffolk.

### “WILD OATS”

You may like to know that I was on that march by the Northamptonshire Regiment to the North-West Frontier described in your review (October) of

### CHRISTMAS QUIZ

(See page 16)

The correct answers are: 1. Guitar. 2. Bolton. 3. Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United, at Tottenham. 4. 258. 5. Dame Flora Robson and Sir John Gielgud. 6. Arsenal, Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers, Birmingham City, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa, Arsenal, West Bromwich Albion, Juventus. 7. The mis-spelled words are: entomology, frankincense, myrrh. 8. (a) apostrophe; (b) dialect; (c) lenient; (d) noble; (e) nomad (or itinerant). 9. All are true. 10. Arthur Askey. 11. (a) Royal Fusiliers; (b) Royal Leicestershire Regiment; (c) Cheshire Regiment; (d) Worcestershire Regiment; (e) Welch Regiment. 12. Debbie Reynolds. 13. Yorkshire. 14. Casabianca. 15. Balaclava. 16. A rolling stone gathers no moss. 17. (a) Swiss Miss; (b) Pottery lottery; (c) Sinister minister; (d) Insane refrain. 18. Arsenal.

Lance-Corporal Wild's book “Wild Oats.” He also had the pleasure (?) of looking after me for a time—when I spent 56 days in the unit guardroom. Ah, me, soldiering was hard and exciting in those days.—A. Jackson (late Northamptonshire Regiment), 3 Mill Road, Woodford, Kettering.

### NIJMEGEN MARCH

The Women's Royal Army Corps party shown in the picture of the Nijmegen march (SOLDIER, October) were from 'B' Company, 301 (East Anglian) Battalion (Territorial Army) and not 15 Independent Company WRAC. They came from Chelmsford and Southend-on-Sea and they completed the march despite the heat.—Major D. G. Chard, WRAC (TA), Colchester.

You say that a seven-year-old boy marched 25 miles with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment. The team representing 5 Base Advanced Depot, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, was accompanied throughout the four-day march of over 100 miles by 13-year-old Peter Flierman, of Nijmegen. Another boy, aged ten, was with us all the time, but he rode a bicycle. Peter Flierman took part in the same march in 1957-58.—Captain J. H. Rose, RAOC, BFPO 21.

LETTERS CONTINUED OVER

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### more letters

#### OLD WIVES' TALE?

The statement in the article "Corunna Re-Visited" (October) that the black lines in the epaulettes of the Gordon Highlanders commemorated the death of General Sir John Moore is an old wives' tale.

The 92nd Foot (Gordon Highlanders) was raised with a black line in its lace, as the regimental history verifies.—R. Purdy, 10 Lodge Way, Mickleover, Derby

I read the report of the celebrations at Corunna in connection with the death of General Sir John Moore with great interest.

My mother's uncle, a Mr. Hodge, was in command of the burial party at Corunna. He died in Perth and was buried with full military honours at Wellshill Cemetery, Perth.—Miss L. Henderson, 43 House and Hill Avenue, Blackhall, Edinburgh 4.

#### MAJOR MIDDLEMORE

The statement in the last part of my letter (November) was erroneous. Major Cimitière did not command the 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment (48th Foot) at the Battle of Talavera, but at Albuhera.—D. Heather, 11 Sandringham Avenue, Melton Road, Leicester.

#### ANKLE DEEP

Thanks for the interesting article (September) on the coming of age of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

I was pleased to see the picture of ATS girls in a muddy field changing a punctured wheel. We often found ourselves up to our ankles in mud, but the only pictures we ever saw published in those days of World War Two showed girls in neatly pressed skirts and highly-polished shoes. People are apt to forget that the ATS did really tough jobs.—Miss Sheila Smith (ex-Corporal ATS), Burley Road, Leeds.

### CROSSWORD WINNERS

The winner of **SOLDIER**'s September Quick Crossword was:

**Sapper L. Granger, CRE (Salisbury Plain), Larkhill, Wilts.**

The correct solution was:

ACROSS.—1, Pound Note; 7, Spur; 8, Unfed; 10, Sing Song; 12, Hoops; 13, Agrees; 14, Curare; 15, Polyp; 16, Dissever; 19, Aspro; 21, Each; 22, Depositor. DOWN.—1, Springboks; 2, Prig; 3, Undo; 4, Doughnuts; 5, Off; 6, End; 9, Experience; 11, Sheepdogs; 17, Swat; 18, Ever; 19, And; 20, Pep.

The winner of the October Crossword Competition was:

**Corporal A. J. Spain, HQ Troop, 45 Commando, Royal Marines, Malta.**

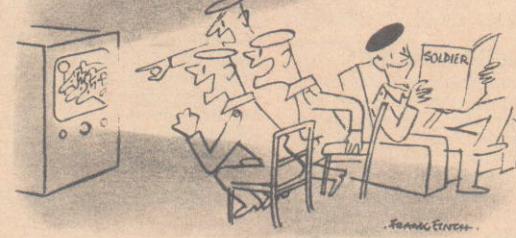
The correct solution was:

ACROSS.—1, Insular; 7, Elapse; 8, Swoon; 9, Enters; 11, Runners; 13, Temper; 14, Count; 15, A System; 18, Swiper; 20, Angel; 21, Pounce; 22, Desired. DOWN.—1, Instructs; 2, Spoon; 3, Lance; 4, Retest; 5, Pastimes; 6, USSR; 10, Scrambled; 12, Ninepins; 15, Armed; 16, Years; 17, Tiger; 19, Wool.

### HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 16)

The pictures vary in the following respects: 1. Black upper windows of hotel. 2. Width of shadow under hotel roof. 3. Forelock of falling skier. 4. Right end of church roof. 5. Position of No. 2's left thumb. 6. Height of flagpole. 7. Spokes of No. 2's left ski-stick. 8. Cap of near soldier. 9. Width of No. 2's right ski. 10. Slope of hill below falling skier.



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