SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

NINEPENCE

MAY 1954

On the word one!

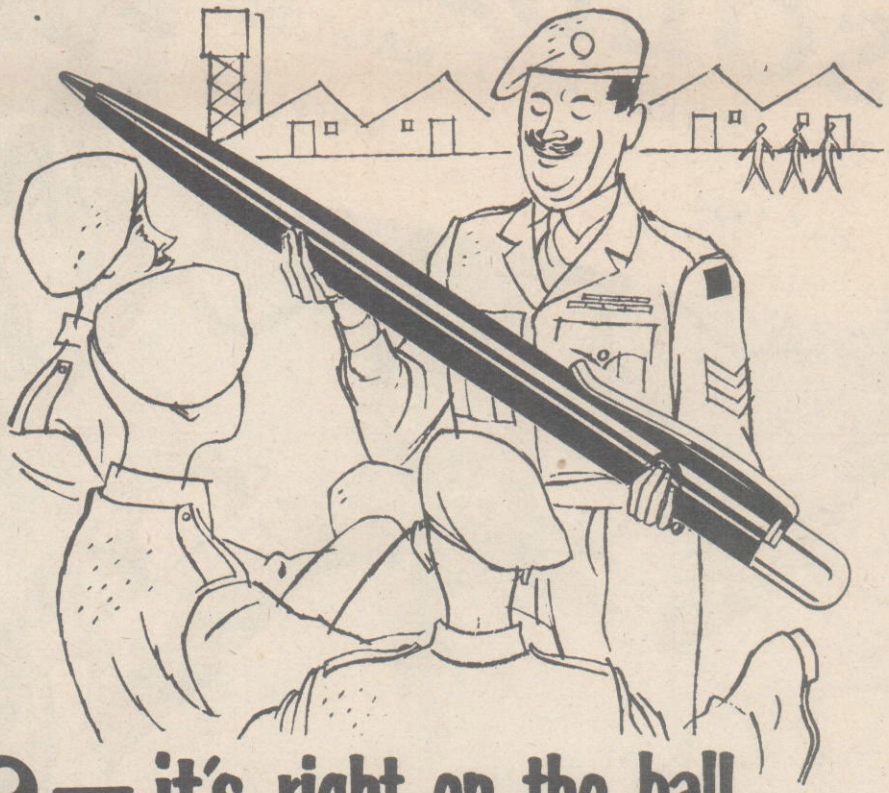
Get a Biro Retractable – it's only 3/9d (4/6 in the U.K.)

On the word two!

With a flick of the finger, bring the point to the ready

On the word three!

A single touch and it's back in the barrel



And that isn't all, you lucky men! There's a lot more to this magnificent ballpoint. No leaks, no smudging and clear, easy writing *all* the time.

Smart turnout! Just look at the finish! Made from satin-smooth plastic with tarnish-proof mountings, it's built with all the precision of a sniper's rifle. Less than *one ten-thousandth* of an inch clearance is allowed between ball and seating on the Retractable's point. That's how carefully Biros are made.

And the perfect ammunition. Hundreds of different ink formulas were invented and tested by Biro research teams before they finally achieved the new Blue-66. Easy-flowing, but never running too fast, new, smudge-proof Blue-66 ink will *never* leak or fade.

Buy Biro — it's right on the ball

1540

See also the elegant **Biro citizen** at 3/- (3/7 in the U.K.)

Naafi Grand Slam in Clubs!

THIRTEEN CLUBS—the kind of hand you dream of and never expect to pick up! But there's nothing visionary about the thirteen clubs which the Naafi has 'dealt' the troops—centres at which the serving man and woman may enjoy all the facilities of a first-class social club. Yet a meal costs little more than in any Naafi canteen. All other club amenities (apart from the barber service) are free. The entire cost of establishing the clubs is borne by Naafi.

NAAFI CLUBS AT

ALDERSHOT: Wellington Avenue, Aldershot.

CATTERICK (Residential): Shute Road, Catterick Camp.

CHATHAM (Residential): Brompton Road, Chatham.

CHIPPENHAM: Wood Lane, Chippenham

COLCHESTER: Flagstaff Road, Colchester.

GLASGOW: Buchanan Street, Glasgow.

KHARTOUM: Gordon Avenue, Khartoum.

LINCOLN: Park Street, Lincoln.

OSWESTRY: Middleton Road, Oswestry.

PLYMOUTH (Residential): Notte Street, Plymouth

PORTSMOUTH: Cambridge Junction, Portsmouth.

SALISBURY: High Street, Salisbury.

SINGAPORE: Britannia Club, Beach Road, Singapore.

NAAFI

The official canteen organisation for H.M. Forces

RUXLEY TOWERS · ESHER · SURREY

"You asked for Benson & Hedges cigarettes, Sir"

Benson & Hedges Ltd. are proud to announce that their Super Virginia cigarettes are available on the world's most famous airways, including all routes served by the following:—

BRITISH EUROPEAN AIRWAYS.
BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRWAYS CORPORATION,
SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES SYSTEM,
QANTAS EMPIRE AIRWAYS · AIR CEYLON · EL-AL ISRAEL AIRLINES,
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS
TRANS-AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES
BRITISH WEST INDIAN AIRWAYS
SABENA · MALAYAN AIRWAYS,
CENTRAL AFRICAN AIRWAYS
AER LINGUS · CYPRUS AIRWAYS

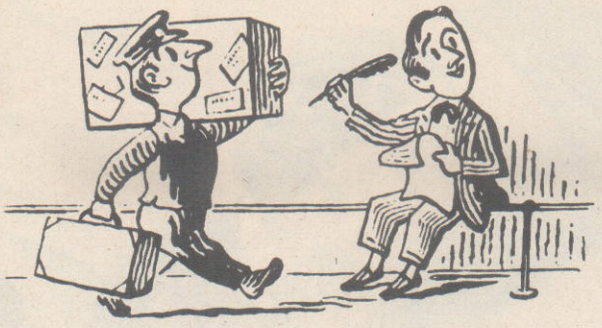
Fitting accompaniment to smoothly luxurious travel, **BENSON** *and* **HEDGES** Super Virginia cigarettes are made from the finest of fine tobaccos with unhurried, untiring care for all those occasions when only the best will do.

When only the best will do

BY APPOINTMENT
TOBACCONISTS TO
THE LATE KING GEORGE VI

BENSON & HEDGES LTD · OLD BOND STREET · LONDON · W

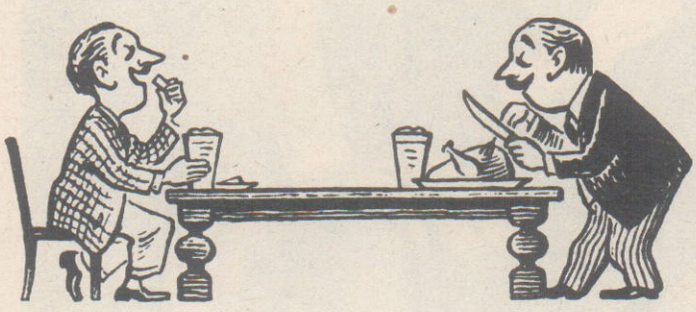
TBW L84



Porters lift loads on it

Poets write odes on it

Good wholesome beer



Try bread and cheese with it

Duck and green peas with it

Taking your ease with it

Good wholesome beer

Let's have one at The Local

ISSUED BY THE BREWERS' SOCIETY · 42 PORTMAN SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

Odette Churchill was awarded the George Cross for her achievements in enemy occupied territory during the last war.

Odette Churchill *says*

"You Can Come Up Smiling"

Today women as well as men are getting to the top of the tree. There's a chance for everyone — all you need is enterprise and enthusiasm, and the pluck to go on trying. You don't have to choose a spectacular job. The truth is that opportunity is where you make it yourself, whether it's in farm, factory, or office. That's the beauty of it — you've got a free choice in the matter. And with courage and personal enterprise you'll be a success in your job.

WHAT'S YOUR LINE?

Whatever your job is — while there's Free Enterprise there's opportunity. So make the most of it yourself, and encourage the spirit of Free Enterprise in others all you can.

Free Enterprise gives everyone a chance and a choice

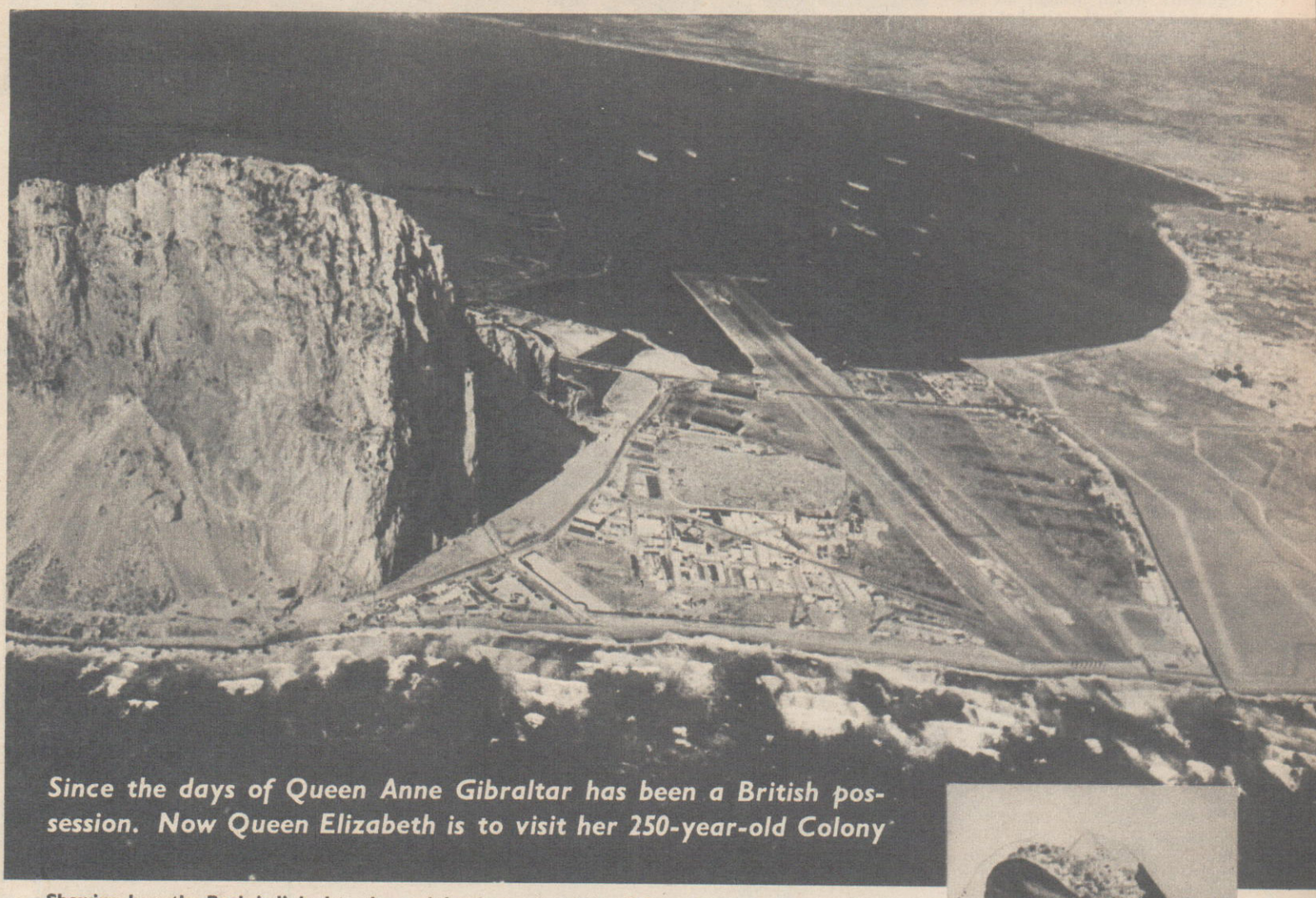
The Free Enterprise Campaign. 51 Palace Street. Westminster. S.W.1

Y12A

Vol. 10, No. 3 **SOLDIER** MAY 1954

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

Canal Zone and Libya, 4 piastres; Cyprus, 7 piastres; Malaya, 30 cents; Hong-Kong, 60 cents; East Africa, 75 cents; West Africa, 9d.



Since the days of Queen Anne Gibraltar has been a British possession. Now Queen Elizabeth is to visit her 250-year-old Colony

Showing how the Rock is linked to the mainland; on the right of the airstrip is the frontier line, with the Spanish town of La Linea beyond. Spanish workers travel into Gibraltar daily.

ROCK ROYAL

WHEN the Queen visits Gibraltar this month she will miss by only two months the 250th anniversary of the Colony's entry into the British Empire—in the reign of Queen Anne.

Probably no colony packs so much interest in such a small compass. The old hands say it takes two years to know the Rock thoroughly. If a vote were held for the most popular military station overseas, Gibraltar — congested though it is—would be a long way from the bottom. It is a family station, and—in a small way—a Servicewomen's station.

When the Queen arrives, she will be presented by Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon MacMillan, the Governor, with the Keys of the Fortress. These are the keys of the three main gates which, during the Great Siege, General Eliott ordered to be locked at night. The keys were handed to him by a serjeant specially appointed to collect them—and that serjeant, now known as the Port Serjeant, is still on the establishment (the appointment has a Queen's Regulation to itself). Once a week, in the Ceremony of the Keys, he goes through the motions of locking a gate. The keys no longer fit, but they accompany the Governor on ceremonial occasions.

The Queen will go inside the Rock to see the underground city which the Royal Engineers, from generation to generation, have hollowed out. Development of aerial bombing inspired a good deal of additional tunnelling in World War Two, when there were 15 squadrons busy "weevilling." The spoil went to build the airstrip, which juts out into the sea—the major difference in the contours of the area since the days of Admiral Rooke. If the Queen should ask whether tunnelling has weakened the Rock, the Sappers will have their answer ready: they have removed only a fraction of one per cent. It would take more than an atom bomb to collapse the Rock.

On the Queen's itinerary is the King's Chapel, where a new memorial window to King George VI is due to be installed. This Chapel, built about 1531, is the second-oldest owned by the War Department (the oldest is in Dover Castle). It formed part of a Franciscan convent which is now the Governor's residence.

The Chapel is being turned into a shrine for OVER

The Queen will receive the Keys of the Fortress—a fortress which is in itself the key to the Mediterranean.

ROCK ROYAL

continued

regiments which fought at the capture of the Rock or in the Great Siege. Those which were at the capture have been asked to lay up stands of Colours there. The next Colours to go to the Chapel will be those of the 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment, which was to receive new Colours from Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, last month.

Least formal of the Service inspections during the Royal visit will be that of the Rock apes, which are on the strength of the garrison—with an officer responsible for their welfare. There is a tradition that when there are no apes on the Rock the British will leave. When ape strength dropped to eight or nine during World War Two, newspaper correspondents were forbidden to mention the fact, and on Sir Winston Churchill's instructions replacements were flown in from North Africa. Today there is a thriving colony of apes.

An unusual war-time picture: an Army chaplain prepares to take Holy Communion at the Spyglass site

Gibraltar's famous "bald patch" is created by the catchment area designed to trap rainwater for the dwellers on the Rock.

THE ROCK COST 300 CASUALTIES

BRITISH forces captured the Rock of Gibraltar 250 years ago with the loss of only 300 casualties.

It was during the War of the Spanish Succession. An Anglo-Dutch fleet under Sir George Rooke dropped anchor in Gibraltar Bay and put ashore 1800 Marines on the north front, cutting it off from the mainland.

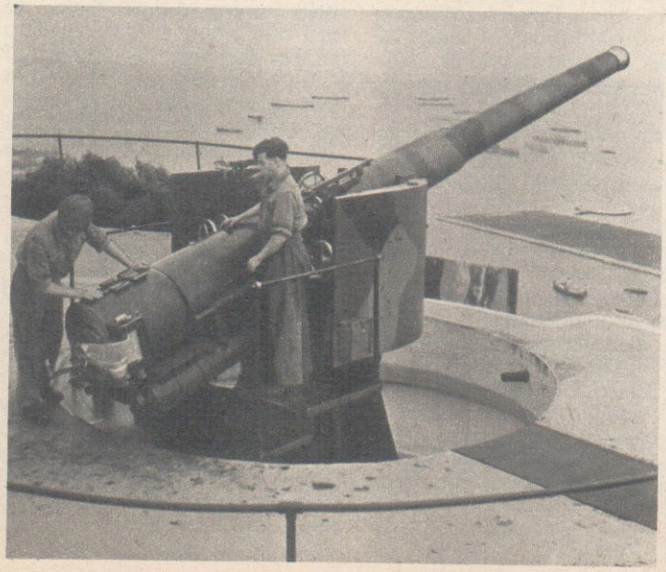
Defying an ultimatum to surrender, the Marquis Diego de Salinas manned his 100 cannon—heavy ones for their day. But numerically his garrison was weak.

Prince George of Hesse, who had commanded the initial landing force, ran up the standard of the Archduke Charles of Austria. Sir George Rooke pulled it down, and raised that of Queen Anne.

That was the eleventh siege of Gibraltar. But the 1,800 British soldiers left by Sir George Rooke in the fortress were soon withstanding the twelfth siege—by the French and Spanish. It lasted six months.

Gibraltar was formally ceded to Britain "in all manner of right for ever," by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

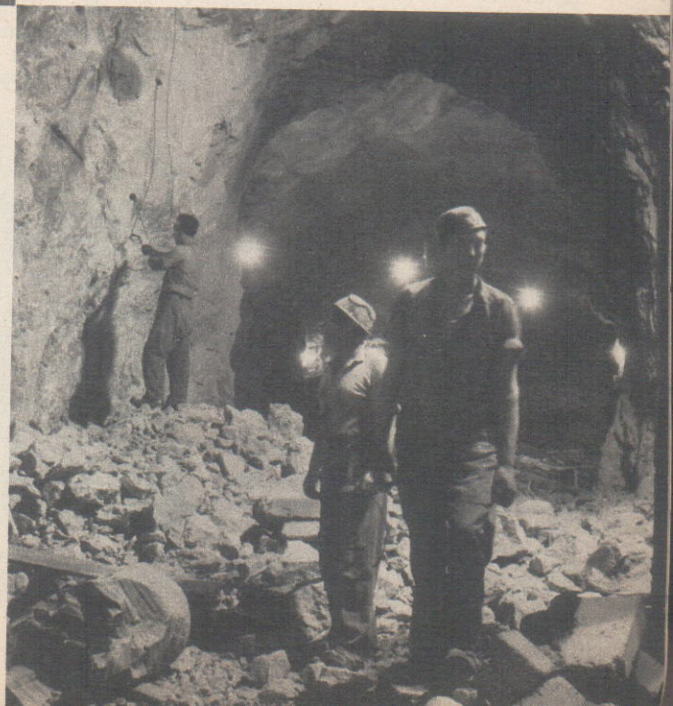
A notable tribute to the "orderly and useful" British soldier. Below: One of the iron rings with the aid of which guns were hoisted to the heights.



Above: One of the natural caves found during tunnelling in Gibraltar during the war.

Left: A six-inch gun commanding Gibraltar Bay and the airstrip.

Right: Like a mine shaft: a gallery in course of excavation in the Rock.



ROCK ROYAL

By courtesy of the Parker Gallery).

The year is 1782: floating batteries are repulsed in flames during the Great Siege. Ruins of the Moorish castle seen on right still exist.

WHAT A SIEGE THAT WAS!

"Roast potatoes"—otherwise red-hot shot—were used with telling effect by the Rock's defenders in the Great Siege which lasted more than three-and-a-half years

THE Great Siege of Gibraltar started tamely enough on 21 June, 1779, when the Spaniards cut off communications.

For two months the garrison and the besiegers watched each other preparing batteries and digging fortifications, while their respective navies exchanged shots. The defenders tightened their belts and gave up powdering their hair with flour to conserve food stocks.

Every horse was turned out of the garrison unless its owner had an adequate stock of feed for it. These were to prove wise precautions.

Legend has it that the first shot from the garrison was fired by Mrs. Green, wife of the Chief Engineer on the Rock, who is said to have "formally opened the siege" from a battery named after her husband. Mrs. Green in her own diary, however, attributes the first shot to a Captain Loyd of the Royal Artillery.

There is another legend that the Queen of Spain took up a position on a hill which gives a good view of the Rock, now known as the Queen of Spain's Chair, and declared that she would not leave until she had seen the English flag lowered in Gibraltar. The Governor is said to have chivalrously lowered the flag for a few minutes, so that the Queen might keep her word. But this legend, too, has been exploded by historians.

One of the first major attacks against the garrison was by Spanish fire-ships, directed against vessels anchored off the fortress. It failed in its purpose, but the hulls which drifted ashore made welcome firewood for the garrison.

The colony of apes is thriving, thanks to new blood introduced secretly in World War Two.

The blockade, meanwhile, was having its effect. Food was becoming very short, and the black market was thriving. Blockade runners from Tangier, Minorca and Portugal brought a trickle of supplies, but the Spaniards managed to close the Tangier source. Thistles and dandelions began to feature on the menu. The Governor, General George Augustus Eliott, himself lived for eight days on four ounces of rice a day, to see how little would suffice. Scurvy broke out and caused havoc in the garrison, until a blockade runner brought a cargo of oranges and lemons. The juice of the fruit which was not immediately used was conserved by being mixed with brandy.

Two convoys from England brought relief. The arrival of the second was also the signal for the enemy to start a great bombardment of the town, to which the garrison's guns replied.

From then on, shells poured thick and fast into the garrison, from land and sea. Each day, however, the Spaniards broke off the firing for their siesta, which gave the garrison a chance to make good some of the damage. In the ruins were found stocks of liquor which traders had been hoarding in the hope of high prices. The troops helped themselves, and it became necessary to threaten the death penalty for drunkenness or marauding.

Some members of the garrison found themselves fascinated and unable to move when they saw shells coming towards them. At least one officer stood rooted to the spot watching the approach of a shot which took off his leg. Two boys serving with the engineers had remarkable sight, and were able to see shells leaving enemy guns, a useful faculty which enabled them to warn their comrades to take cover.

The enemy's bombardment steadied to 1500 rounds a day. In six weeks, the Spaniards fired 76,000 shot and shell into the fortress, and killed 70 men. Then, as it was not having the required effect, the cannonade dropped until at one stage it averaged only three rounds a day. General Eliott, anxious to conserve his stocks of ammunition, restricted the garrison's reply. Now and again, brisk firing broke out to relieve the tedium.

The year is 1942: Gibraltar, like a fiery porcupine, repels attack by Axis aircraft.

It was partly to relieve tedium, too, that General Eliott planned a sortie by the garrison, against newly erected enemy fortifications and batteries. It was a great success. A force of 2200 men left the fortress, levelled the advanced Spanish fortifications, blew up powder-magazines and spiked 28 guns and mortars, all for very little cost in casualties. Surprise contributed greatly to the success of the sortie. The Spaniards had not conceived that the greatly-outnumbered garrison would venture on an offensive operation.

The garrison was even more outnumbered when the greatest attack was made on the Rock in September, 1782. By now, French troops had joined the Spaniards, and the Duc de Crillon commanded the combined army, totalling more than 33,000 men. The garrison numbered 7000, of whom 400 were in hospital. The besiegers had about 250 guns and mortars; the garrison 96.

General Eliott got in the first blow by ordering the guns on the north of the Rock to shoot up the enemy's obvious preparations for attack, and "roasted potatoes," shot made red-hot in portable furnaces or emergency fires, had good effect. The following morning, enemy guns began a four-day cannonade, backed up by broadsides from a squadron of ships. The combined fleets of France and Spain arrived to join in the battering, and then the besiegers produced their master-stroke: floating batteries. These were roofed sailing ships so reinforced that the enemy claimed they were unsinkable and unburnable.

The floating batteries anchored half a gun-shot off the Rock and opened up. Their cannonade, wrote one officer of the garrison, "became in a high degree tremendous." Upward of 400 guns were firing from both sides, "an instance which has scarcely occurred in any siege since the invention of those wonderful engines of destruction."

For two hours there was no telling which way the issue would go. Then, one after another, the floating batteries caught fire. Red-hot shot had won the day.

For another fortnight the enemy bombarded Gibraltar. Then Admiral Lord Howe brought supplies and reinforcements to the garrison. The enemy fleet went off to chase Howe's warships. Now the besiegers seemed to lose heart. The enemy camp began to empty and the blockade eased.

Then came the day when British and Spanish boats met under a flag of truce and the Spaniards cried: "We are all friends." The siege, though General Eliott would not believe it until he was officially informed the war was over, had ended.

It had lasted three years, seven months and twelve days.

RICHARD ELLEY

THE DEFENDERS WERE FULL OF IDEAS

THE Great Siege of Gibraltar was the mother of invention.

AIR-BURST shells were devised by a Captain Mercier, who conceived the idea of a shell with a short time-fuse to make it burst over the heads of the enemy instead of sinking in the ground before exploding.

STAR-SHELLS stem from "light-balls" invented by a Captain Witham, to be fired from a gun for the purpose of illuminating the enemy's work-parties at night.

GUN-CARRIAGES which could be depressed were invented by a Lieutenant Koehler.

STONE BOMBS, which were rocks drilled and filled with powder, were fired from mortars and burst over the enemy's head.

HEALY'S MORTAR was a hole in the rock with a copper tub filled with powder fitted into the base. With the right amount of powder, it would fire 1220 stones and scatter them on a target area.

A BALLISTA, otherwise a Roman catapult, was built at the orders of the Governor, to supplement the guns and conserve powder.

THE FIRST INCUBATOR was invented by Hanoverian soldiers during the famine. Eggs were placed with cotton-wool in a tin-case and heated by a lamp or hot water. For foster-mother, the chicks had a capon whose breast and belly had had feathers removed and had then been scourged with stinging nettles. He was only too glad to nestle his stinging bald patch against the chicks for warmth.

THOMAS INCE, a serjeant-major in a Soldier Artificers' Company, suggested tunnelling galleries in the north face of the Rock, from which guns could fire through holes on the Spaniards. He was rewarded with money, a farm and a commission. From the gun-ports of his galleries, searchlights now shine towards the frontier.

The Woman Technician Is Here

There is a shortage of men to do the Army's technical jobs so the WRAC have been invited to help

IT'S no good anyone saying that women are not technically minded. Thanks to the Army, thousands of British wives—the ex-radar operators of World War Two—know far more about electricity and electronics than their husbands.

Today, in the Women's Royal Army Corps, women are pioneering in technical jobs.

Private Caroline Clatworthy, for instance, is the first woman tele-communications mechanic in the Army. When she recently joined the staff of a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop at Donnington she was the only girl among 60 men whose job it is to diagnose faults and carry out repairs to any of the Army's 11 types of wireless sets. But she was not embarrassed; she had just completed a 28-weeks' course on which she was the only girl among 600 men.

Private Clatworthy cannot expect to hold her record for long. Other members of the Women's Royal Army Corps have volunteered to become tele-communications mechanics to help relieve the shortage of men in this highly technical trade.

Staff-Serjeant Alix Mullineaux is the only girl armament artificer. She is concerned, not with guns and ammunition, but with wireless sets and radio equipment in an anti-aircraft workshop at Woolwich. Not so long ago she achieved some fame by baffling a "What's My Line?" team on television and caused Gilbert Harding some perturbation that a woman should be working on armaments.

Staff-Serjeant Mullineaux, who has been a nurse, actress, and farmhand (she spends her evenings writing short stories and poetry), recently turned down the chance of a commission. The reason? It would have meant doing general administrative duties and she does not want to leave her present job.

Private Caroline Clatworthy, the Army's only woman tele-communications mechanic, can repair any type of Army wireless set.

The Army's only woman armament artificer: Staff-Serjeant Alix Mullineaux, former nurse, actress and farmhand. She refused the chance of a commission to stay on in her job.

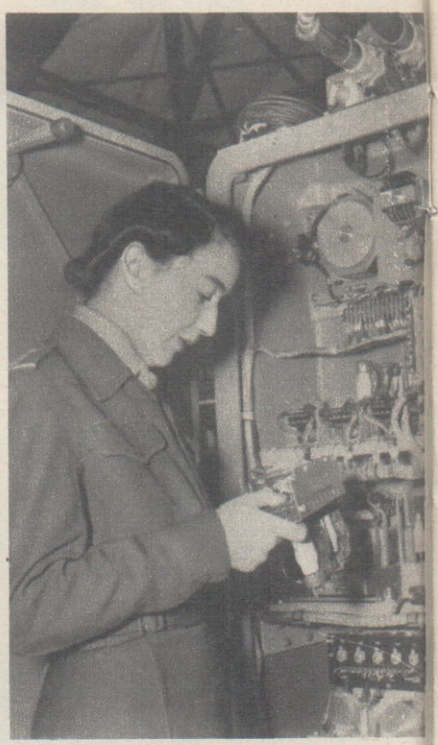
Captain Jean Giffen, the only wartime woman radio maintenance officer left in the Women's Royal Army Corps, is the first and only student of the Corps to attend the year-long officers' electronic, engineer, radar, and control equipment course at Arborfield. On completion of the course she will become the only woman in the Army qualified to take charge of a radar workshop or supervise a radar section on an anti-aircraft gun site.

Captain Giffen joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943 direct from Edinburgh University, where she studied electronics and took her Bachelor of Science degree. She served as a radio maintenance officer with searchlight and heavy anti-aircraft batteries and was placed in charge of 30 men in a tele-communications workshop. After the war she commanded a tele-communications workshop with 100 men and later spent six years on the staff of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Western Command Headquarters. She was one of the few Women's Royal Army Corps officers recently appointed to technical posts on permanent attachment to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

In their efforts to persuade more women to join the Army in technical trades the War Office recently sent Captain Giffen to lecture at Liverpool and London Universities.

Major D. L. M. Portway, the Army's only woman survey officer, joined the Women's Royal Army Corps in 1943 direct from Newnham College, Cambridge. She is now a War Office Staff officer with the Royal Engineers, in charge of map production. She spent two years on Rhine Army Headquarters staff doing the same job and helping to organise field surveys.

A qualified engineer, Second-Lieutenant Gwendoline Sergeant, was recently commissioned into the Women's Royal Army Corps to serve with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. When she has completed staff training at Northern Command Headquarters, she will take up a post as a vehicle workshops supervisor and examiner.



The inside of an anti-aircraft predictor is a mystery of valves and bits of wire to most people—but not to Captain Jean Giffen.

"Seeing the girl friend tonight, Serjeant?"

THE BATTALION WITH THE RAM

The Sherwood Foresters' 2nd Battalion, re-formed from scratch, now has a role hitherto reserved for Rifle regiments

ALL three battalions of the Sherwood Foresters—two Regular and one Territorial—are now motor battalions.

The last to assume this role was the 2nd Battalion, one of the Infantry's seven second battalions re-formed in 1952. When it marched into new barracks in Germany to take over from the 1st Battalion The Rifle Brigade, it took over more than barracks—it took over vehicles and job as well.

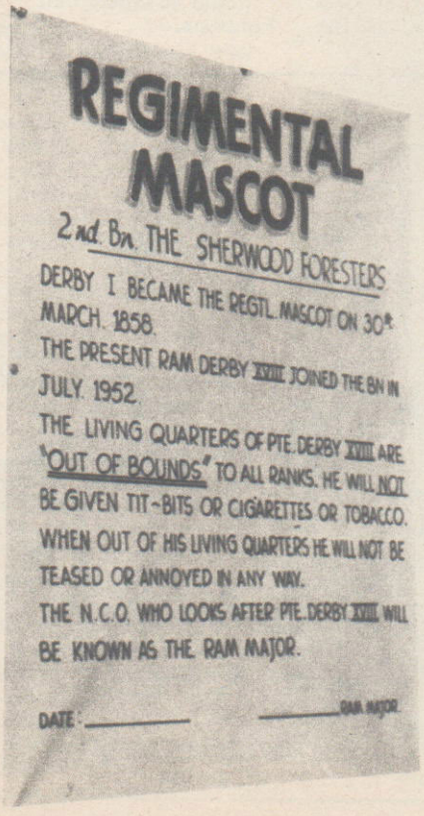
The 1st Battalion had become a motor battalion a couple of months earlier.

Motor battalions—not to be confused with lorried Infantry—were introduced in World War Two. Until recently they had been provided in the peace-time Army exclusively by the Rifle Brigade and the King's Royal Rifle Corps. When it became necessary to introduce another regiment to the role, the Sherwood Foresters, with two Regular battalions, and with one Territorial battalion already motorised, were obviously well fitted for it.

The original task of the motor battalions (as the Rifle Brigade's historian tells) was to give close support to tanks and restore the momentum of an attack when armour was held up. Other tactical uses have since been worked out.

For the 2nd Sherwood Foresters, the new role meant a number of changes. "But nothing spectacular," says the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Foster. The Foresters refer cheerfully to the time they changed their job as "when we left our feet behind," but the phrase is more breezy than apt. "We are still foot-sloggers," says Lieutenant-Colonel Foster, "and just to prove it, when there was snow on the ground in January we went on a three-day exercise and marched 45 miles."

Private Derby XVIII on parade with the Ram-Major, Corporal D. Langford (left), and the Ram Orderly, Private J. Spink.



REGIMENTAL MASCOT

2nd Bn. THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS

DERBY I BECAME THE REGTL. MASCOT ON 30th MARCH. 1858.

THE PRESENT RAM DERBY XVIII JOINED THE BN IN JULY. 1952.

THE LIVING QUARTERS OF PTE. DERBY XVIII ARE "OUT OF BOUNDS" TO ALL RANKS. HE WILL NOT BE GIVEN TIT-BITS OR CIGARETTES OR TOBACCO.

WHEN OUT OF HIS LIVING QUARTERS HE WILL NOT BE TEASED OR ANNOYED IN ANY WAY.

THE N.C.O. WHO LOOKS AFTER PTE. DERBY XVIII WILL BE KNOWN AS THE RAM MAJOR.

DATE: _____ _____ RAM MAJOR

The "Derby Orders." The tobacco ban is dictated by experience. An earlier Derby died after eating too much of it.

The new role came as a climax to a busy 18 months, during which the Battalion built itself up from scratch into a fighting unit complete with band and corps of drums. After 125 years of existence, first as the 95th Derbyshire Regiment and later as the 2nd Battalion The Sherwood Foresters, the Battalion was merged into the 1st in 1948.

In April 1952, Lieutenant-Colonel Foster arrived in Colchester with nothing

OVER

but his personal kit and a written order to reform the 2nd Battalion. There was a short strenuous period in which commanding officer and private joined forces in shifting furniture, and a major took over the officers' mess kitchen on the cook's night out. At one stage, one man was held to represent a company. There was some consolation—and stimulation—to be derived from the knowledge that six other new battalions were going through the same kind of thing. But soon the re-formed battalion came into being.

Lieutenant-Colonel Foster is the son of a former commanding officer of the 1st Battalion; his second-in-command when the battalion was re-formed was the son-in-law of a second-in-command to Lieutenant-Colonel Foster's father; and the adjutant was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Foster senior's adjutant. It was just a coincidence. The family tradition still goes on. One subaltern frequently sips water from a silver goblet presented, according to custom, by his father on leaving the mess. More than one member of the Battalion can boast that his father and grandfather both served with the Regiment.

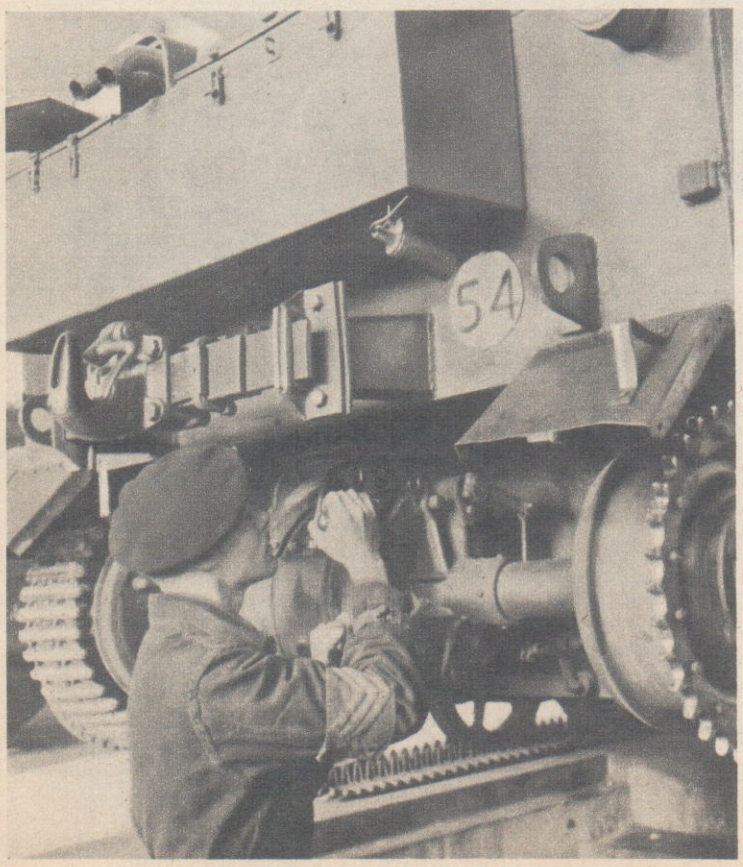
The Battalion very quickly revived the custom of having a Derby ram as its mascot. This custom dates back to the siege of Kotah, in 1858, during the Indian Mutiny. In the assault on the fortress, the 95th captured a magnificent ram, which was christened Derby. It marched 3000 miles with the Regiment, fought 33 battles with other rams, and was never defeated. Derby I was awarded the Mutiny Medal with the "Central India" clasp (the original medal hangs in the officers' mess). He died when he jumped a wall and found a well on the other side instead of solid earth.

The present Derby—Private Derby XVIII, to give him his full title—was presented to the Battalion by the Duke of Devonshire. He is cared for by Corporal D. Langford, who holds the appointment of ram-major and knew a good deal about sheep before joining the Army. On parade, Corporal Langford is assisted by a ram orderly from the band, since Derby takes quite a bit of holding.

Private Derby XVIII is luckier than his predecessors in that he has been provided with four wives. When SOLDIER visited the Battalion, four lambs were expected and the Foresters were considering building up a flock of sheep alongside their already flourishing pig-farm. Generally, Private Derby is well behaved, but a few months ago the commanding officer solemnly awarded him 10 days' route marches for being idle.

"And it cured him," say the Foresters.

On a sandy German training area, men of the Foresters double to their half-track. But they still take pride in foot-slogging.



Attention for a carrier by the Foresters' light aid detachment.

"Well, you wanted to play soldiers, didn't you?"

If it's a surplus vehicle or a worn-out sock, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps will get rid of it—profitably

At Hamm a consignment of elderly trucks concludes the first stage of a journey which may end in America or Persia.

RHINE ARMY'S 'SECOND-HAND SHOP'

WHO wants a Bailey bridge 720 yards long (slightly worn)?

Who wants a pile of old gas capes?

Who wants a second-hand telephone exchange? Or a bundle of gas-masks for mules?

The place to look for them is Rhine Army's "second-hand shop," otherwise the Royal Army Ordnance Corps's disposals organisation at Mark, near the much-bombed marshalling yards of Hamm.

If you are thinking of founding a town, here are enough generators to light it and enough cans of paint to paint it; here are machines for its factories and 900 typewriters for its offices.

If you are contemplating a Polar expedition, here are masses of skis and sledges.

There are good bargains to be had, but do not imagine that those old gas capes, for instance, will go for a song. The fabric of which they are made has a base of finest Egyptian cotton, and there are plenty of manufacturers anxious to recover it and turn it into new textiles.

It was in 1950 that the Services began to dispose of their own war-time surplus in OVER

The five-star Montgomery Bridge at Wesel is now a series of "lots" at Hamm.

'SECOND-HAND SHOP'

Continued

Germany (previously this had been done by the Control Commission and the Ministry of Supply). The depot at Mark (a former *Wehrmacht* food depot) handles goods for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force as well as the Army. Some of the goods sold are war-time left-overs, others are peace-time "arisings," the out-of-date and worn-out stores of a standing army.

Some metal articles, including the components of broken vehicles, are baled up and sent to Britain as salvage. At the time of SOLDIER's visit the depot was processing 300 tons of .303 cartridge cases. The other goods are divided into lots, and firms in various parts of the world, which have put themselves on the depot's mailing list are invited to tender. The most closely-guarded secret at Hamm is the amount of any tender, successful or unsuccessful. If it leaked out, such information might affect tenders next time.

Now and again, the depot calls in a German auctioneer and holds a public auction of goods which have not been sold by tender. This is the only time a Serviceman may try to buy any of the stores, since no servant of the Crown is allowed to tender. A local butcher sets up a sausage stall in the depot to feed the customers and one sale has been televised by the German network.

The Hamm depot invited its first tenders in September, 1951, and by the beginning of this year sold more than 20,000 tons of stores and 3263 vehicles, recovering more than £3,000,000 in various currencies for the British taxpayer—a handsome return for an organisation consisting of nine British civilians and about 80 Germans.

When SOLDIER looked in, the stock included the 3000-ton Montgomery Bridge, which stretched 720 yards across the Rhine at Wesel and was one of the longest and strongest Bailey bridges ever built. Though some holes which ought to be round had become oval, the sections were still good for building shorter bridges, and tenders were coming in for the "lots" into which the bridge had been split.

The depot finds a ready sale for vehicles. "Jeeps will sell in any condition," says Mr. R. W. Head, who is in charge of the depot. Amphibious vehicles—DUKW's and Weasels—have found civilian careers on the fjords of Scandinavia, and the depot expects a consignment of Neptunes to follow them there. The most glamorous item in the whole depot at the time of SOLDIER's visit was a gleaming post-war Packard limousine.

Trucks from Hamm have gone out to many parts of the world, including, surprisingly, the United States. The spares market accounts for this contribution to Britain's dollar budget.

Anybody thinking of raising a police force may buy a stock of truncheons from the Army's second-hand depot at Hamm.

To America, too, go tyres, teleprinter equipment, typewriters and telephone exchanges.

Trucks have been dispatched to Persia, motor-cycles to Denmark, nails to Southern Rhodesia, windscreen de-frosters to Sweden, old boots and tyres to Italy, raw cotton to France, generators to Israel, skis to Aberdeen.

Four huge granaries contain the smaller stores and those most likely to suffer from exposure. As he takes a visitor round, Mr. John Pennington, the lotting officer who prepares the stores for sale, points to bales of well-worn socks, moth-eaten duffle-coats and greatcoats and battle-dresses ripped to pieces. "We shall get a good price for those," he says. "They make wool shoddy." Nobody, by the way, gets Army buttons or badges when he buys old uniforms; they are crushed and sent to Britain as metal salvage. Cloth insignia are burned.

Mr. Pennington leads on past mountains of boots and despatch-riders' leather jackets. "Always a good sale for leather," he says. Then he stops in front of a pile of old webbing equipment from which the brass pieces have been removed. "We'll get a lot of money for that. Why? We understand it's used for making bank-notes."

On the shelves and in the bins inside the granaries are oddments waiting to be made up into lots—a case of micrometers, a stack of policemen's truncheons, some Canadian fur-trimmed caps, hammers, cobblers' lasts, ladies' black stockings, false teeth. Meanwhile, Mr. Pennington is recalling some of the things the depot has sold in the past—tartan kilts and trews, several tons of khaki and khaki-green Blanco, sacks of feathers, gramophones and records, anti-mosquito cream, fly-catchers, sextants, cooks' ladles, wash-boards, raw wool, kapok floats, old canvas, dental chairs, invalids' crutches, ball-bearings, life-jackets, musical instruments.

Dangerous drugs have also passed through the depot. Some have been sold, but others the depot has had to dispose of by means of evil-smelling bonfires. When SOLDIER visited Hamm, the current headache was a consignment of four drums of sodium cyanide, a chemical used in hardening metals. It had been sold, but sodium cyanide is highly poisonous and dangerous stuff to handle, and the buyer could not persuade the German railways to move it, so he had given up his claim. If nobody else would buy it and find some method of taking it away, it was going to be nasty stuff to get rid of.

RICHARD ELLEY

TANK REGIMENT TAKES OVER A LONDON BUS

Sometimes civilians buy Army cast-offs . . . but here's an example of the Army accepting a civilian cast-off, and a welcome one at that. It is a "retired" 56-seater London 'bus, a veteran of the blitz, and was presented by London Transport Executive to 6th Royal Tank Regiment. The vehicle is now being used in Germany to carry sports teams and their supporters, and soldiers' families. Miss Flavia Coryton, daughter of Air Chief Marshal Sir Alec Coryton, "christened" the omnibus, the destination board of which read "6th Royal Tank Regiment, British Army of the Rhine".

For more than twenty hours non-stop Members of Parliament talked about the problems of the British Army. One of the questions raised was —

DO WE NEED TWO KINDS OF INFANTRY?

AT half-past two in the morning, during the House of Commons 20-hour debate on the Army Estimates, occurred this exchange:

Mr. John Hall (Wycombe): One of the great advantages of debates on the Estimates is that if one has sufficient patience one can be sure, sooner or later, of getting up to speak. But I am not at all sure that advantage is not very much outweighed by the disadvantage that everything one wanted to say has been said three or four times before.

Mr. Ian Mikardo (Reading, South): That does not stop the hon. Member from saying it.

Mr. Hall: How right you are.

That extract from *Hansard* may help to explain why so little that was really new emerged from this year's debate in the House of Commons on the Army Estimates.

Those who took part were mainly the "old faithfuls"—the brigadiers and colonels, the wartime officers, not forgetting the indefatigable Member who cheerfully admitted that he "never rose above the rank of private in a detention barracks" (Mr. Emrys Hughes).

The War Minister, Mr. Antony Head, said the Army now contained 180,000 Regulars below commissioned rank, and 214,000 National Servicemen. Eighty per cent of fighting units were overseas; four battalions had spent only two months in Britain since the war.

As for combing out the Army's tail, Mr. Head said, "We are going away from the squirrel and getting much nearer to the guinea-pig."

Another picturesque phrase came from Lieut-Col. Marcus Lipton (Brixton) who, sympathising with pay clerks, said: "The Code of Pay now resembles the arm of a drug fiend with hypodermic syringe marks all along the arm. The hypodermic syringe is injecting a boost from time to time for different purposes."

Mr. C. J. M. Alport (Colchester) put forward the idea that the Army needs two kinds of Infantry battalion. One kind should be capable of being deployed in Germany as part of a highly equipped NATO force. The other would be trained for use in support of the civil power, as in Kenya, Malaya or British Guiana. At present, he said, men returning from internal security operations overseas became reserves for Europe's "highly complicated, armoured and atomic army." The solution? A Colonial Service Army, quite separate from the United Kingdom Army.

Mr. Julian Snow (Lichfield and Tamworth) criticised standards of instruction in the Army. There was often a gulf between instructors and instructed; even accents could be a barrier. He once attended what seemed to him a good lecture on modern Infantry weapons, but afterwards a "reasonably intelligent man" asked him: "What is this about 'Far-par'?"

The instructor had been talking about fire-power.

Any Press story about the Army is liable to be quoted in an Estimates debate. There was a reference to a national newspaper which published an article entitled "Army Swindles in Germany Cost the Taxpayer £40 Million." Of this, the War Minister said: "I rang up the editor, and, after inquiry, he admitted that there was not a word of truth in it, but that did not alter the headline, nor the harm it did the Army."

A leading article in another newspaper had pointed out that, since the recent pay increases were announced, a second-lieutenant might be paid less than his serjeant.

"That happened in the Army before these rises were announced," said Mr. Head. "It is not a novelty." The limited amount of money available ought to go to help officers with families. "I am sorry about the second-lieutenant, but we cannot have endless money. I believe that the serjeant with 12 years service and the captain

OVER

NEW BENEFITS

These were among the concessions announced by the War Minister:

★ **All Regular soldiers in Kenya and the Canal Zone who have been separated from their families for more than nine months will be allowed an annual leave home for their normal leave period of 28 days or more, flying free each way.**

★ **School children whose parents are stationed overseas will be able to join their parents every two years for a holiday of not more than 28 days, flying free each way.**

★ **Families in Europe will be allowed one free trip home and back during their tour of duty.**

★ **Soldiers overseas with not less than six months to serve may have their families out with them.**

★ **When a wife who has no passage entitlement goes out to join her husband, the couple will be able to draw local overseas allowance, "provided one or two minor requirements are complied with."**

★ **A soldier moving from one house to another will receive a bigger "disturbance allowance."**

★ **An attempt will be made to limit the number of annual drills for the Territorial Army to 50. Hitherto volunteer Territorials have been putting in more than that number because part-time National Servicemen have attended at irregular intervals, and in small parties, causing overwork for the instructors.**

★ **Paper work in the Territorial Army is to be cut down and administration simplified.**

These were among possibilities hinted at by the Minister:

★ **Ways may be found of helping Servicemen's wives left behind in Britain. A committee is due to report on this subject shortly.**

★ **Local authorities may be persuaded to further exertions in helping Servicemen to get houses after their service. "Some local authorities are good about it, but some are not so good." One difficulty is that a man cannot always put his name down for a house before he leaves the Service because he does not know what and where his civilian job may be.**

WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT

The Minister's references to new equipment included these:

★ **"We plan to introduce a ground-to-ground guided weapon with an atomic warhead. An atomic weapon of fissile material will not, anyhow in the foreseeable future, become an intimate part of the lesser tactical battlefield. To put fissile material into things like 25-pounders or rifles or light automatics will for many years to come be a terribly extravagant and wasteful way of using fissile material. . . . Atomic missiles may be used against a bridgehead, but not against formations on the lesser, tactical battlefield."**

★ **A new very high frequency wireless set with good reception by night and day will be introduced to cut down the amount of line laying.**

★ **"It is our aim to introduce helicopters to the maximum extent. Anything we can do to reduce that very vulnerable mass of wheeled vehicles, which is the lifeline of the forces, will be invaluable to a modern army when atomic weapons are used."**

"Would there be TV?"

and the major will need it most."

The debate is the opportunity for Members to trot out their favourite reforms. The most startling was that hinted at by Mr. Victor Yates (Birmingham, Ladywood), who complained :

"The soldier still cannot take his shop steward with him to see his commanding officer. He still has no right to challenge an order, whether or not he believes it to be right."

A later speaker complained that this suggestion had been received with titters.

EGYPT? IT NEVER WAS A PARADISE...

MEMBERS of Parliament held a debate-within-a-debate on the Canal Zone. All agreed that life there was dangerous, monotonous, frustrating and austere — and that the morale of the British soldier in these parts was, nevertheless, astonishingly good.

One Member sought to correct an impression that life in barracks in Egypt before the war had been paradise by comparison. He had served in the "splendid" barracks at Kasr-el-Nil and Abbassia and had spent much of his time killing bugs with blow-lamps. Even in those days no soldier was allowed out of barracks alone—unless he was of the rank of serjeant.

The debate-within-a-debate was inconclusive. The responsibility for retaining a British garrison in the Canal Zone, Members were reminded, was that of the Government, not of the War Minister.

★

Newly received from Egypt are the photographs on these pages of men of the Cheshire and Border Regiments, on exercises in the barren mountains south of Suez. These excursions into the uninhabited rocks and *wadis* are a welcome change from the daily round of guards and security duties.

Both battalions man important check-points on the roads to Cairo. The utmost vigilance is needed to prevent thieves and terrorists escaping from the Zone with stolen equipment—or even with kidnapped British soldiers.

To the Cheshires, in the south of the Zone, the town of Suez has been out of bounds for two years. Only the smell wafted from its huge refineries and oil storage tanks convinces them that it is not a desert mirage.

The Border Regiment have had the task of protecting the great dump of Tel-el-Kebir, with its 17-miles perimeter—a standing challenge to thieves. These men from Cumberland and Westmorland have borne the torrid heat of the Canal Zone for two and a half years.

THE MEN THE MPs PRAISED

At the crest of a sand wave: men of the Cheshires on desert training.

Right: Action stations: Infantrymen leap from their carrier to man their 17-pounder. Despite incessant guard duties, training is not neglected.

Meanee Day at Suez: General Sir Charles Keightley, Commander-in-Chief Middle East Land Forces, takes a Cheshires' salute.

Despite the "dust sheets," the men of the Border Regiment on a desert exercise have been spotted by an aircraft.

Right: Showing one of the barren humps of the Gebel el Ataka amid which the exercises were conducted.

A machine-gunner commands the pass 1,000 feet below.

(*Photographs : L/Cpl. P. J. Howard*)

SOLDIER to Soldier

ASKED to choose the kind of vessel in which he would prefer to be shipwrecked — always supposing he *had* to be shipwrecked—the wise man would probably say "A British troopship." This would give a guarantee of no panic.

An Army's traditions are not set up on the battlefield alone. Some of them—like discipline in sea disaster—can be, and are, emulated by the civil population.

The *Empire Windrush* story is a useful corrective to those who think of British soldiers in transit as "bodies in a pipe-line." In days of aerial trooping, the wreck of a troopship has a curiously old-fashioned sound. It was not so long ago that a plane-load of young soldiers were praised for their calm in a perilous crash-landing of a trooping aircraft in France. So long as British soldiers are required to shuttle back and forth across the world there will be mishaps, even disasters; but whatever their nature, the Army will face them in its usual way.

Among the stories of human folly which chequer the front pages, amid the witch-hunts and drooling exposures of vice, a story like that of the *Empire Windrush* has power to move half-forgotten emotions. Here, for a change, is human nature on its good behaviour; here is everybody trying to help everybody else.. Here is kindled a new glow of admiration, not for the Army alone, but for the merchant navies, the Royal Navy, the hospitable French. What a pity it takes a disaster to lift men's hearts!

"*What God abandoned, these defended,*
And saved the sum of things for pay."

THUS the poet Housman on the British "army of mercenaries" (or Expeditionary Force) of 1914. It may be he was unfair both to God and the soldier. As these lines are written, the defenders of Dien Bien Phu—a force largely composed of mercenaries—are striving to save "the sum of things," not for pay, but for honour. Every soldier, professional or otherwise, respects the dedicated fighting machine of the French Foreign Legion, made up of men who have forsworn all allegiances but one. Their battle is every soldier's battle. Here again is a story which dignifies the front page.

A SCHOOLBOY CHARGED —WITH THE TAILORS

John Floyd, Britain's first Cavalry commander in India, made his debut on a German battlefield at the age of 12

ON a June morning in 1760 Eliott's Light Horse, or the 15th Dragoons, a regiment composed mainly of unemployed London tailors and clothiers, with a 12-year-old schoolboy as one of their officers, charged the French at Emsdorff in Germany and routed them.

Their charge, one of the finest ever made by Light Dragoons, made a tremendous impression on the British people, and was long remembered. It touched even the tender soul of Charles Lamb. "Valiant I know they can be," he wrote in his essay, *On the Melancholy of Tailors* . . . "I appeal to those who were witnesses to the exploits of Eliott's famous troop."

The Seven Years War, which broke out in 1756, was raging. Frederick the Great, determined

Cornet John Floyd: he was "blooded" with Eliott's Light Horse, later the 15th Dragoons.

to make secure his hold upon Silesia, had forgiven George II, that pinch-cheeked, money-loving yet able monarch, the last British Sovereign to appear on a field of battle, for his part in the War of the Austrian Succession. George, full of fears for *his* Hanover and our colonies in America, had as readily overlooked the very pointed remarks made by the Prussian monarch concerning himself. Now Britain and Prussia faced France, Russia and Austria. Britain required more troops and it was decided to raise a light regiment of dragoons. The task was entrusted to Colonel George Augustus Eliott, a veteran of Dettingen and Fontenoy. The regiment was raised mainly in London and district in 1759.

It is said that recruits are always plentiful when there is unemployment in the land, and in that year there was unemployment in the tailoring trade. Recruits flocked to the Colours. A number of clothiers had come to London to present a petition to Parliament for the removal of grievances. Whatever happened to their petition they found their way into Eliott's Light Horse.

Twelve-year-old John Floyd, commissioned in the rank of Cornet, reported to his regiment one month before it sailed for Germany. His father, Captain John Floyd, of the 1st Dragoon Guards, who fought at Minden the previous year and died a few weeks later from his wounds, entrusted him to the care of the Earl of Pembroke. It was through Lord Pembroke's patronage that he was granted a commission.

Everyone knows how, at Minden, the British Infantry plucked wild roses and pinned them on their helmets and tunics. Roses were, no doubt, blooming in the German lanes at Emsdorff, when Eliott's Light Horse met the French, but it was not the rose this time that the British favoured.

Major Erskine directed every man to place an oak twig in his helmet. "Remember the English Oak," he said, "the English oak tree and all its qualities."

The British regiment charged, swords flashing in the sun. There had been criticism of earlier charges by British Cavalry on the grounds that the horsemen had failed to press home their advantages. This regiment of tailors made no mistake.

Five times they pierced the French lines. Five battalions they routed, and when they reformed and continued to press forward, they had covered six miles.

Young Floyd's horse was shot under him. He lay on the ground at the mercy of a French dragoon, but, before the fatal stroke could fall he was gallantly rescued by "Active and Bold" Ainslie, a captain of his regiment. Later, he was presented with a French dragoon's sabre.

News of the charge inspired such poetical tributes as this, in the *Weekly Journal* of 2 August 1760 :

Nine taylors make a man, the proverb says,
But this was only in more ancient days.
In these our times invert the rule before ye,
The French destroyed proclaim the Taylor's glory.
His bodkin *in his hand a sword becomes,*
His parchment measures *head the sounding drums,*
His goose *becomes a* skull cap, *wrought most rare,*
His shreds *are feathers waving in the air* . . .

Cornet John Floyd, after Emsdorff, obtained two years' leave of absence, and was sent to Utrecht to complete his schooling. His brother Tom entered the Navy and was a shipmate of Midshipman Horatio Nelson. The Peace of Paris in 1763 brought the Seven Years War to a close, and in that year John Floyd was promoted Lieutenant. He spent from 1777 to 1779 on a Grand Tour of Europe where he was presented at several courts.

On his return to military duties, he proved an outstanding horseman and became instructor to his regiment. Eventually he was posted to India as commander of the first British Cavalry ever sent there—the 23rd Light Dragoons, who became the 19th Light Dragoons. Later, he was appointed Commander of Cavalry on the Coromandel Coast.

"You may depend on it," he wrote with that foresight which distinguished him, "the first military miracle that is to be performed in India will be wrought by Cavalry. No one here has an idea of that arm. A small body of well-disciplined Europeans on horseback judiciously led will defeat and destroy myriads of Indian enemies." How right he was our story of India tells.

He had a brilliant career in India, playing an outstanding part in the crushing of the notorious Tippoo Sultan. In a battle against Tippoo a musket ball passed through his cheek and lodged in the back of his neck. He carried the ball to the grave. The mark on his cheek he would refer to as his "beauty spot."

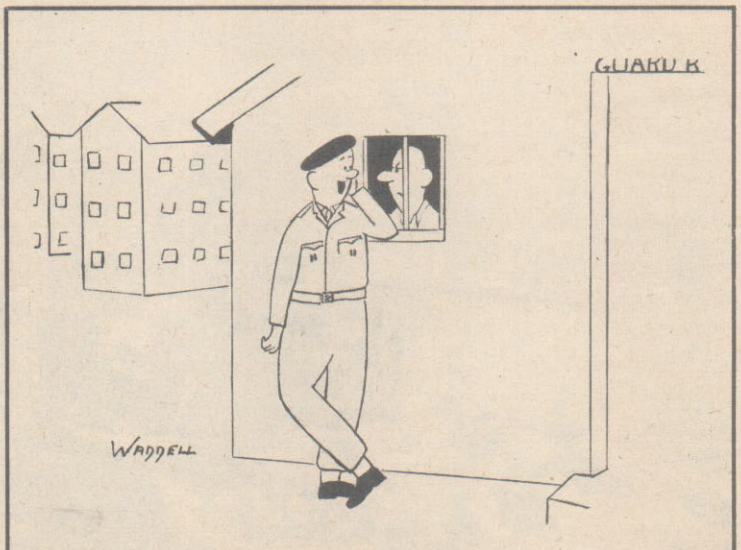
He was beloved by his men. Keen and exacting disciplinarian though he was, he was not ashamed to admit : "I never beheld the distress of my fellow-countrymen but with woman's eyes, when many that stood by would have laughed at me could they have known what passed within."

General John Floyd returned to England in 1800, but like many another famous Englishman who served in India his work appears to have been overlooked. Recognition of his services did not come until 1816, when he was created a baronet.

The sabre he was given at Emsdorff was handed down by his family. It was in the possession of the Cornet's great-great-grandson, Brigadier Sir Henry Floyd, Baronet, now Colonel of the 15th/19th Hussars, when it was destroyed by a German air raid on London in the late war.

Today the descendants of Eliott's Light Horse, the 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars, are in Germany, not so far from the field of Emsdorff. If we do not have Cornets of 12 years of age we have young soldiers to whom the memory of Cornet John Floyd, in an age as unsettled as his own, is an inspiration.

JOHN MOFFAT.



"Smart! And what did the orderly serjeant say to that?"

The new tank transporter is called "The Mighty Antar." Sixty feet long, it weighs more than 100 tons fully laden.

THREE NEW VEHICLES

In a mechanised Army, there's always a new line coming out. Here are the latest examples

A TANK transporter, designed to carry the Army's heaviest and newest tank—the Caernarvon—will soon be seen in Britain, Rhine Army, and the Middle East.

It measures 60 feet from nose to tail and, when loaded with a Caernarvon, weighs well over 100 tons.

Next to the Royal Air Force's "Queen Mary" trailer for carrying aircraft, the new transporter is the largest vehicle in the three Services.

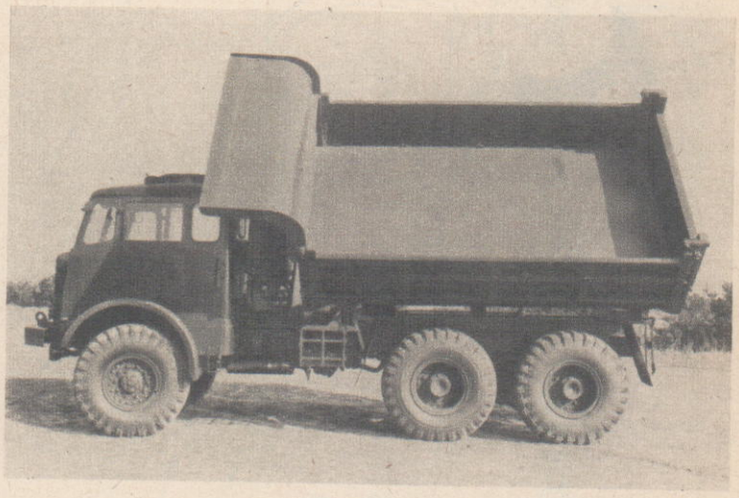
Its weight would have been greater but for the use of a new type of semi-trailer, which has wheels only at the rear, and is supported at the front by the rear wheels of the tractor. The semi-trailer needs only 16 wheels against 32 on the present trailer. Hydraulically operated ramps at the rear of the vehicle enable tanks to be driven straight on to the carrying platform; broken-down tanks can be winched on and off.

Loaded with a tank, the new transporter can climb a gradient of one in six and in an emergency can reach a speed of 28 miles an hour. Its normal speed on roads is restricted by law to 12 miles an hour. Steering is hydraulically assisted to lessen strain on the driver.

Two other new vehicles for the Army will also soon be in use. One is an artillery tractor, which is intended to replace the Matador. It is a combat vehicle fitted with a Rolls-Royce engine and a six-wheel drive, which gives it a remarkably fine cross-country performance. Fully laden, it can climb gradients of one-in-three.

The cab will carry a complete gun detachment, stores and ammunition being transported in the rear canvas-covered compartment. The tailboard is in three parts, so that each can be lowered separately for easy loading and unloading.

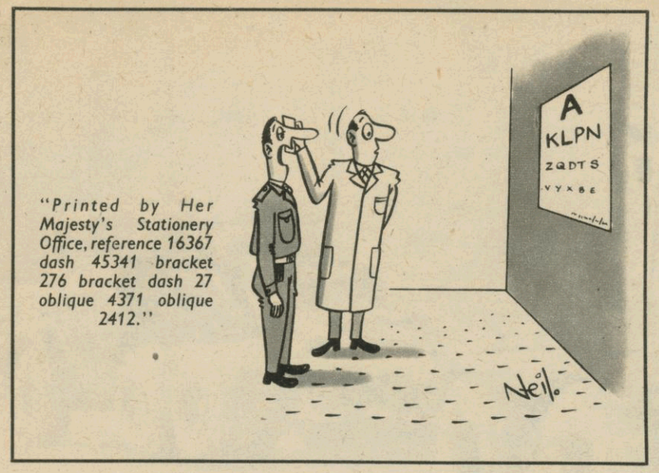
The other new vehicle is a three-way tipper, which will save the Sappers time and labour, especially in road-building operations. Twin hydraulic rams, operated from the cab, allow the load to be deposited on either side or at the rear of the vehicle.



Right: The new three-way tipper will be welcomed by the Sappers. It will speed up road building.

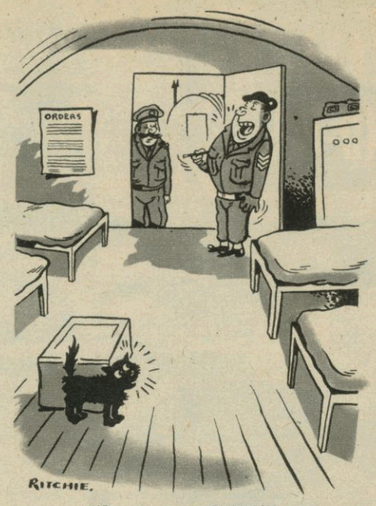
Below: Something new for the Gunners: this medium tractor has a remarkable cross-country performance.

SOLDIER HUMOUR

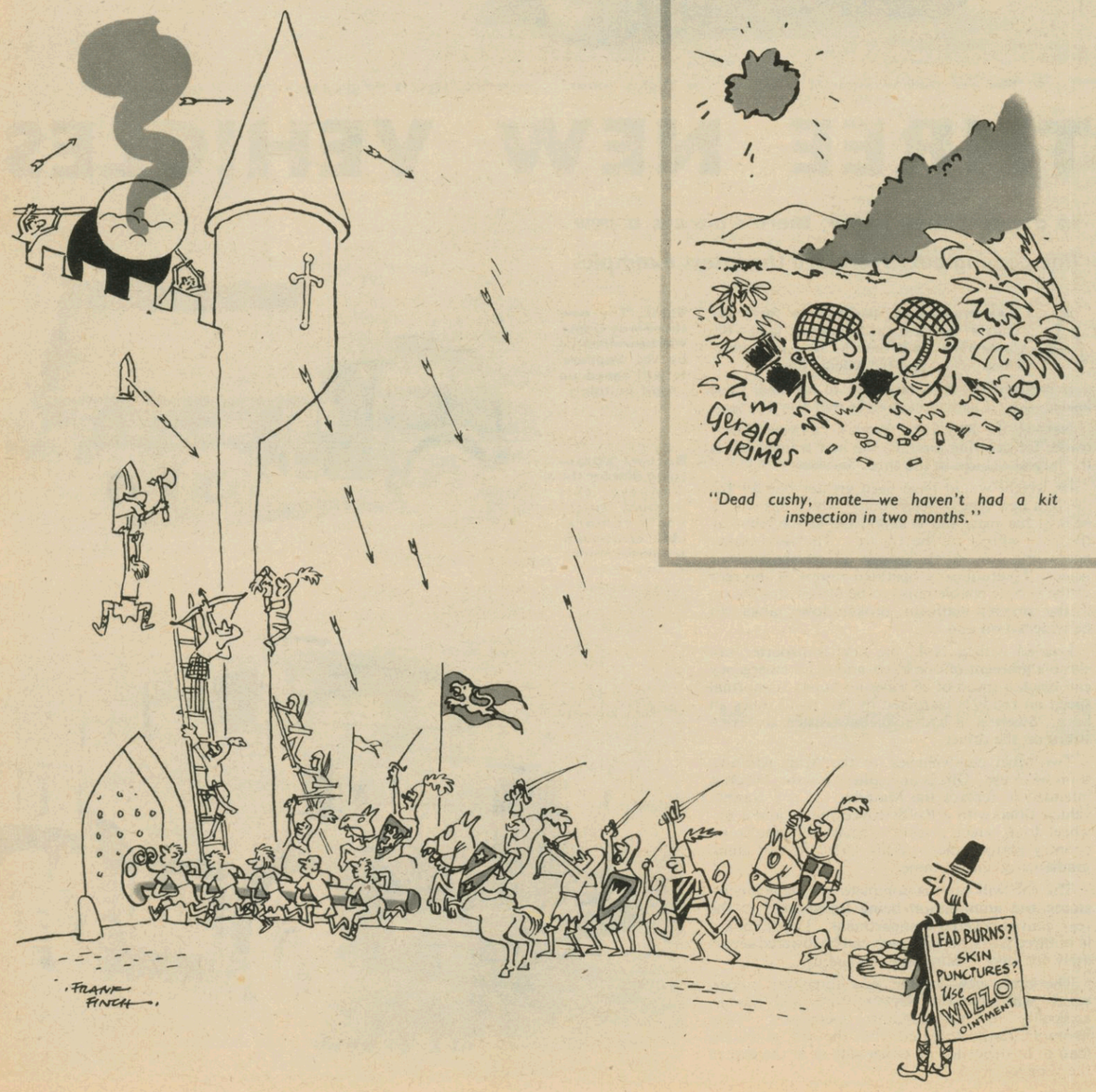


"Printed by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, reference 16367 dash 45341 bracket 276 bracket dash 27 oblique 4371 oblique 2412."

"I've made out a list of his likes and dislikes for you."

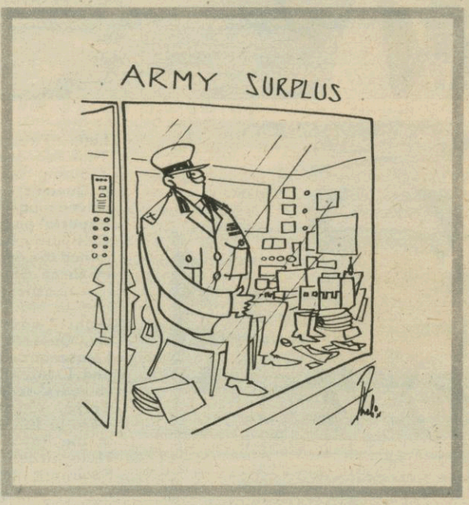


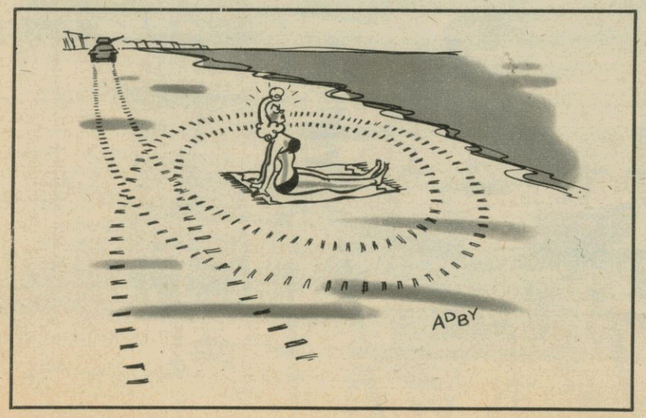
"Room—room SHUN!"

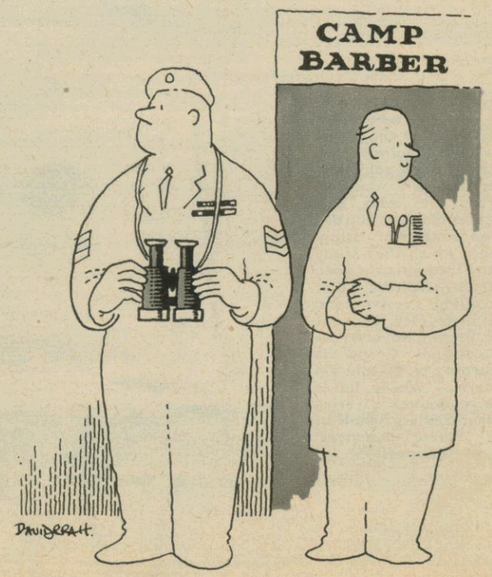


"Dead cushy, mate—we haven't had a kit inspection in two months."

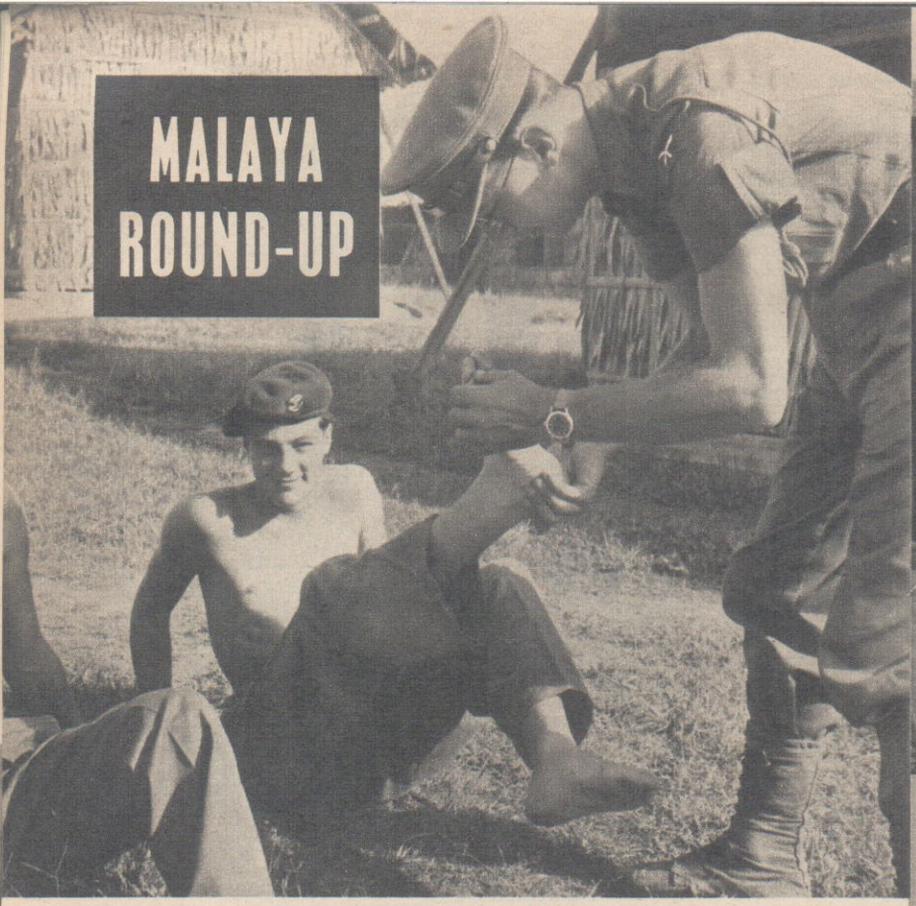
"Are you sure, Mary, you haven't been entertaining that young Guardsman again?"

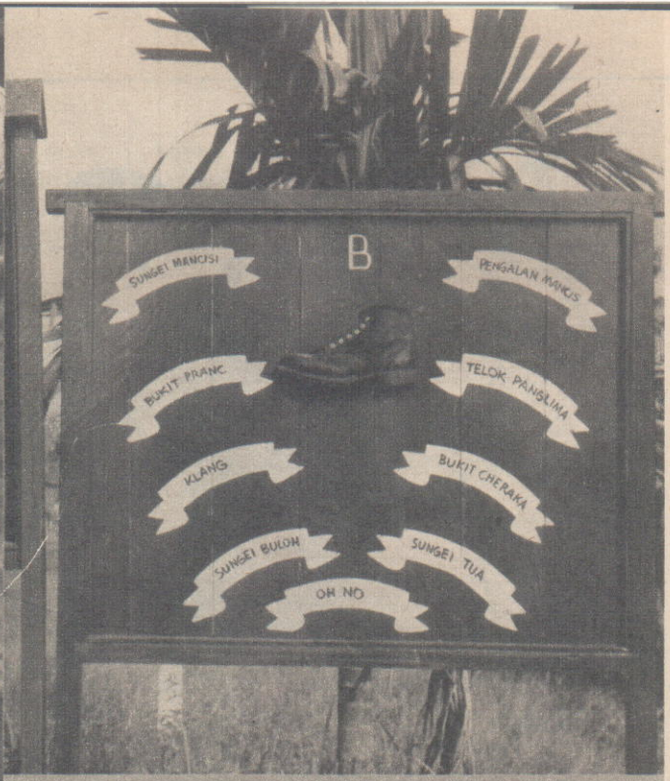






MALAYA ROUND-UP



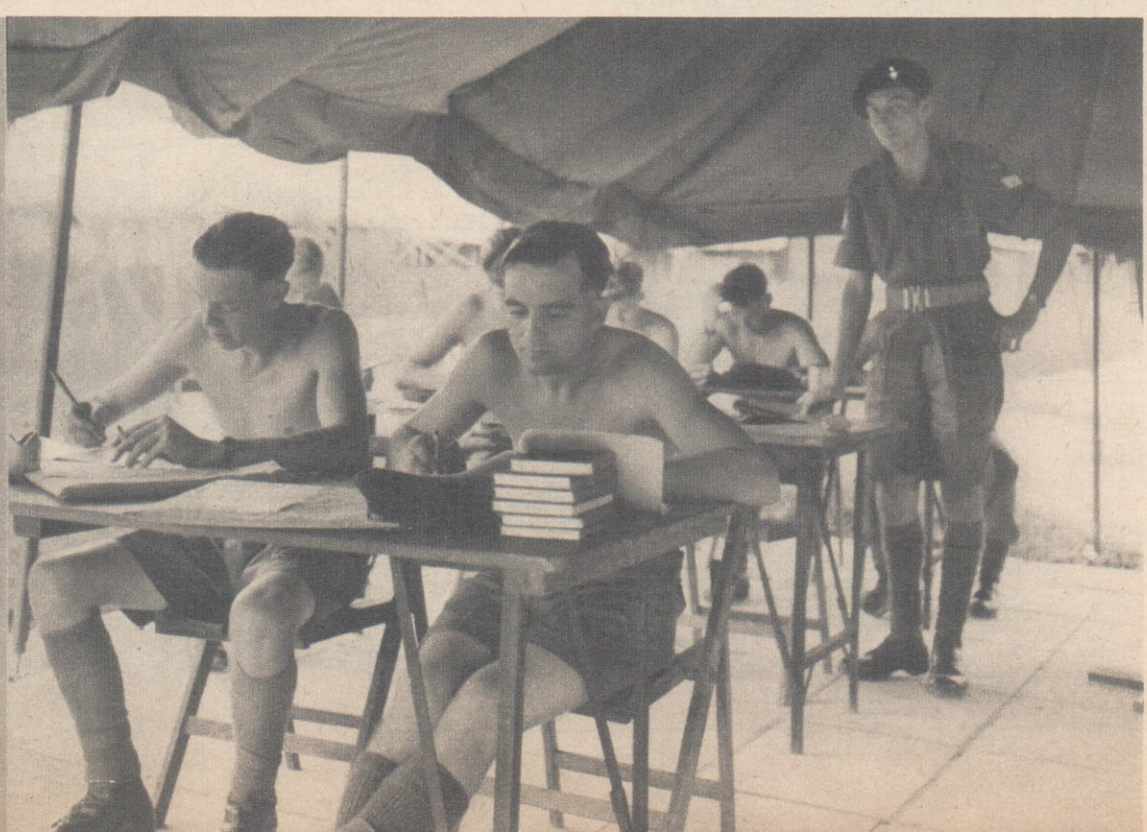


One of the most-moved-about battalions in Malaya is the 1st Battalion The Somersetshire Light Infantry. It had nine locations in a year. A symbolic half boot now appears on the Battalion's unofficial notice-board. Left: There's no more important parade for operational troops in Malaya than foot inspection.

Left: Twenty-six-year-old Lieutenant Peh Teck Foo, graduate of the Mons Officer Cadet Training Unit, is the first Chinese to hold a Queen's Commission in Malaya. He received a parchment signed by Her Majesty at a special parade of his unit: No. 52 Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps. He joined the Army as a private in 1947 and is one of three Chinese officers in the RASC, the other two being in Singapore.

Right: Two of the first five Malayans to receive the Queen's Commission in Malaya were Lieutenant Attan Bin Yatim (nearer camera) and Lieutenant Teck Onn Liew. Both had 18 years' service in the Singapore Volunteer Corps. Of the five officers honoured four were in the Royal Army Service Corps, one in the Royal Engineers. There are already Malayan commissioned officers (in the Malay Regiment, for instance) but they hold the High Commissioner's commission.

After the jungle-bashing, the brain-bashing; here men of the West Yorkshire Regiment are getting down to study. Operational troops preparing for their certificates of education are given a series of assignments which they study in the intervals between patrols—with the aid of travelling instructors. This instructor, Serjeant R. F. Brown, Royal Army Educational Corps, is returning to Britain via America, where he is due to deliver a series of lectures on behalf of the Young Farmers' League.



THE VOICE FROM THE GROUND

This rocket-firing aircraft was called down by a Ground Liaison Officer while escorting a convoy of Army school-children.

Often has the airman steered the soldier to his target. In Malaya the role is reversed and the soldier steers the airman.

IN a close-matted land where rivers vanish under the trees or even run underground for miles, where not only valleys, but mountain tops are cloaked by jungle, how can the pilot of a bomber find his target?

There he is, in the pilot's seat of a Lincoln at a height between 5000 and 8000 feet, and everything below looks the same. If his bombs go wide, he may strike the security forces lurking in ambush just outside the terrorist areas, or he may shatter the pipe-lines carrying water down from the catchment areas to towns and tin mines.

Most welcome at times like these is a voice from the ground—a voice speaking into a microphone somewhere down there in the featureless confusion, guiding the pilot to his destination, and perhaps adding a few last-minute words of "briefing."

The voice out of the jungle is that of the Ground Liaison Officer, trained for this exacting—and sometimes exciting—role at the School of Land/Air Warfare at Old Sarum, on Salisbury Plain.

There are several Ground Liaison Officers scattered about Malaya, each with his team of drivers and wireless operators. The officer is responsible for the military side of the briefing when aircraft from his station or area are being used. He must know the military plan on the ground, the locations, habits and likely intentions of the enemy. At any moment he must be ready to operate with his men as an air contact team in the jungle, establishing and maintaining a direct link with the attacking aircraft. This means approaching as near the scene of the attack as possible. His four-wheel-drive light vehicles may have to use mine roads, logging tracks and even jungle paths in order to move the wireless set as far forward as possible (nobody wants to carry it far—it is too heavy).

After each aerial strike the Ground Liaison Officer assesses from the ground troops the effectiveness of the attack and reports to his Royal Air Force station.

Though on call for 24 hours, drivers and signallers relish the opportunity to get away from guards and routine labours. Sometimes they find themselves co-opted for convoy duty. In Perak State they have escorted the Army children from the Slim School in the Cameron Highlands.—*From a report by Captain J. D. Matthewson, Military Observer.*

Left: The officer establishes air contact. One soldier steadies the set, another keeps guard.

Lying up in the jungle, the scout car driver keeps watch, while a signalman talks to an aircraft overhead.

Army drivers will soon be competing for this new silver trophy.

A CUP TO CUT DOWN HEAD LINES

NEXT summer, a two-foot-high challenge cup will take its place for the first time among the silver of a unit of the Royal Army Service Corps.

It is the award of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, and 26 Regular companies of the Corps, operating three-ton load-carrying vehicles in Britain, will compete for it.

Returns of their road-mileage and accidents will be compared at the end of a year. Then teams of six, drawn by lot from the men of the two companies with the best records, will compete in a final driving competition.

The figures on the returns may not be very flattering by comparison with civilian mileage-accident statistics. This is because mishaps no civilian driver reports count as "accidents" in the Army—such as when a driver drops a spanner on a headlamp and breaks the glass.

Mr. Antony Head, Secretary of State for War, accepting the cup on the Army's behalf from Lord Brabazon of Tara, said road safety was "a very major problem" in the Army. Every year the Army trained about 22,000 young drivers, nearly all between 18 and 20 years of age. Every vehicle they drove unmistakably belonged to the Army, which was why so many motorists' stories had an Army lorry as the villain of the piece.

The Army had now laid down that every unit concerned with driving vehicles must detail an officer for liaison with the local road safety organisations.

The number of Army entries in the National Safe Driving Competition, 3500, was not as large as it might be. There was no better recommendation for a National Serviceman trying to find civilian employment as a driver than a safe driving certificate.

The Army's policy, said Mr. Head, was to put twin rear lights on all vehicles which were expected to be still running on 1 October 1956 (when twin rear lights will be obligatory on all civilian vehicles).

Army crashes make news—but not every crash is the Army driver's fault.

5 Die As Army Truck Crashes Into Canal

Two Britons die in Korea crash

PUSAN, Sunday.—Two B... soldiers and one Korean killed yesterday when their lorry ca... forced men, over a 40ft. cliff ir... near Pusan.

Ambulances crash: Two soldiers killed

Army boy drivers are ... danger, says coroner

Boys of 18 just going into the Army and driving 27-horse-power vehicles are a danger to every-thing on the road, said the Wilt-

Yard Reporter

...e killed and ... seriously

With narcissi on her desk: Colonel Mary Railton, CBE.

HER FIRST RANK WAS 'VOLUNTEER' - SOON IT WILL BE BRIGADIER

WHEN Colonel Mary Railton takes up her appointment in September as Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, with the rank of brigadier, she will have achieved what no other woman has done before.

She will have worked her way from the lowest to the highest rank it is possible for a woman to attain in the Army.

Colonel Railton, daughter of an engineer, is the only member of her family to have served in the Army. It was with no intention of making the Army her career that she joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry early in 1938. All she wanted to do was to serve her country as best she could, and as she had been an accomplished driver since the age of 18, the FANY seemed to offer the best opportunity.

When the FANY became the transport section of the newly formed Auxiliary Territorial Service at the end of 1938, Volunteer Railton joined the ATS, and it was as a subleader (corporal) driver in the 7th Wiltshire Motor Transport Company that she started her war service at Anti-Aircraft Command Headquarters. When promoted to the rank of section leader (serjeant) in 1940 she was posted to the ATS Motor Transport Training Centre at Camberley — and commissioned the same year.

For a period during the war Colonel Railton held a staff appointment at the War Office, handling welfare problems. In 1946 she was back at the War Office as senior staff officer dealing with promotion, appointments, and confidential reports on ATS officers. Since the ATS merged into the Women's Royal Army Corps she has been deputy director in Eastern and Northern Commands, at the War Office, and latterly in Southern Command.

Colonel Railton's wide experience in almost every rank has given her a deep understanding of Service girls and their problems. She was a member of the original committee which planned the popular new green uniform and has taken a great interest in the dress of the Corps.

Colonel Railton talked to SOLDIER of the new improved accommodation which is already in existence in some units. The new type, she said, departs from the barrack-room idea and provides a single room for the older private as well as the NCO.

She sees a new future in the Army for girls with a technical bent, especially those about to leave university. "Already there are many jobs in the Army that a girl can do as well as, and in some cases better than, a man," she said. (*See page* 10.)

Colonel Railton, who prefers to drive herself and has not forgotten how to make running repairs, has little patience with the mothers who think that Army service will coarsen their daughters. "A girl can be just as feminine in the Army as in civilian life. She learns the value of discipline and acquires self-reliance."

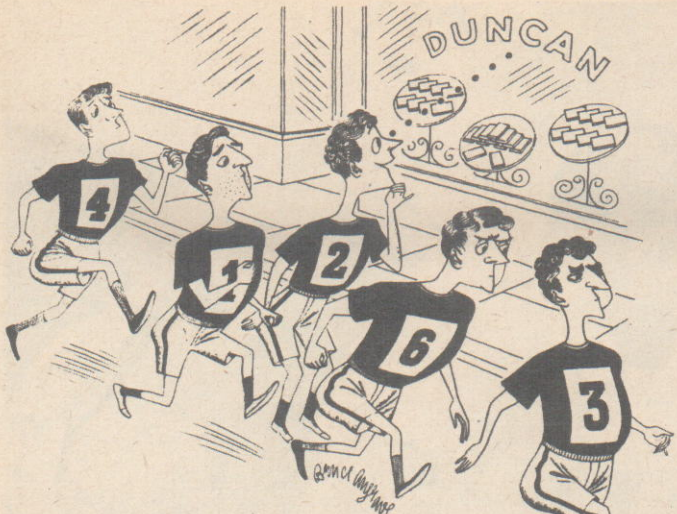
When she takes up her appointment Colonel Railton hopes to visit as many of the 7000 girls in the Women's Royal Army Corps as she can. It will be a strenuous tour, for the Corps is widely spread throughout the world, with outposts in Singapore, Hong-Kong, and East Africa.

Guinness up!

NOW FOR A REAL MEAL

What's that they've got — cheese rolls? How can *that* be a real meal? But look what there is besides. Guinness. A glass of that rich, mellow goodness is almost a meal in itself. And how refreshing it is after an exhausting day. The clean unsweet taste puts paid to your thirst in quite the most satisfying way. Whatever the weather, it's always a **lovely day for a Guinness.**

G.E.2337.A



"GOODNESS!—IT'S DUNCAN HAZELNUT!"

If YOU happen to spot Duncan Hazelnut — rush in and buy it! Here are whole Hazelnuts, skinned for extra sweetness, golden roasted for fuller flavour, simply crowded into smooth rich milk chocolate. *Everyone* loves Duncan Hazelnut!

DUNCAN — *The Scots Word for Chocolate*

W. & M. DUNCAN LIMITED, EDINBURGH

ROLLS-ROYCE LIMITED

DERBY

offer a special form of apprenticeship to young men who intend entering Universities to read Mechanical Engineering, on completion of National Service.

The course includes the following:—

(a) One year pre-University practical training

(b) Six-week courses during University vacations

(c) One year post-graduate specialist training

An adequate salary will be paid during periods of training in the Company's Factories.

The next course begins in September, 1954. Applications are required to reach the Training Manager, (RP3)

ROLLS-ROYCE LTD., NIGHTINGALE RD., DERBY,

by June, from whom also further details are obtainable on request.

MACLEAN-WHITE TEETH ARE HEALTHY TEETH

It's plain common sense: Macleans gets teeth cleaner, whiter — and that's what counts against decay

ALL research workers, all recent experiments, support one fact about tooth decay. It is this. If the coating of food debris and acid-forming organisms can be removed from the teeth, decay will make small progress. The first and vital function of a toothpaste therefore is to keep the teeth clean. And that is just what Macleans Peroxide Tooth Paste does supremely well.

The menace of dental 'plaque'

Research experts agree that this food and saliva coating (called dental 'plaque') can be destructive as well as unsightly. The importance of the association of the 'plaque' with tooth decay has been stressed by modern dental authority.

The action of Macleans

Teeth cleaned by regular brushing with Macleans Peroxide Tooth Paste are freed from the deadly 'plaque' which is the breeding ground of the agents of decay.

So Maclean-white teeth are more than lovely teeth; they are strong and healthy teeth.

Did you MACLEAN your teeth today?

Macleans Peroxide Tooth Paste ALSO WITH CHLOROPHYLL

E 2b OS/54

All the Sights of 'Gay' Vienna—

In the grounds of Schönbrunn Palace: soldiers on the Vienna Historical Course.

—and the Sounds

IT is called the Vienna Historical Course.

As Army courses go, it is easily one of the most attractive, involving as it does a guided tour of the outstanding sights in the Hapsburgs' one-time capital.

The Army has run sightseeing tours in a variety of cities since the war—Berlin, Cairo, Venice, for instance—but the tour of not-so-gay yet still fascinating Vienna has probably been subject to fewest interruptions.

The course has been running since the early days of the Four-Power occupation. Hundreds of soldiers remember gratefully the patience, vitality and wit of Frau Emmy Wottitz, who has been conducting soldier-tourists from the start.

In the early days the course was run once a week; now it is held monthly. Those attending arrive for a three-day stay in Vienna and are carefully briefed on where *not* to go and what *not* to photograph. In the past the Russians have confiscated films and cameras from soldiers who photographed Russian buildings and memorials, and occasionally the party has been moved on. But in spite of the tension which has often existed in the city, the tour has encountered little friction.

On the itinerary is the great Palace of Schönbrunn, where Napoleon reviewed his armies 150 years ago, and where the British Army has shown its paces in more recent times. Also included are the Parliament building; the Belvedere Palace; the Historical Art Building; the wine cellars of Grinzing (a popular call this); and the famous castle of Leopoldsberg, looking over the Danube and the wide Hungarian plain. To help soldiers to make the most of the tour, the Royal Army Educational Corps presents each member with a background book.

During the eight years of the course many useful contacts have been made with guides and Austrian civilians. One result is that even when the opera is "fully booked" seats can usually be found for opera enthusiasts in khaki.

IMAGINE you are a Russian soldier. You find a British officer behaving mysteriously with a microphone in a ruined castle in your Zone. When challenged, he says he is trying to summon up the spirit of a former King of England. What would you do?

Luckily, Captain H. G. Ferguson MC, of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, did not have to talk his way out of such a challenge.

He had visited the ruined castle of Durnstein, in the Russian Zone of Austria, as Vienna's radio reporter for the British Forces Network. The spirit of Richard Coeur de Lion failed to show up.

About to descend to the bottom of the Danube: "Scott Fergus."

Scott Fergus, as Captain Ferguson is known on the air, received many curious glances as he sang one of Blondel's songs below the castle walls and let the echoes of a stentorian cry of "Richard of England" play follow-me round the mountain sides.

Scott Fergus has brought energy and imagination to his job as radio reporter. The ordinary In-Town-Tonight type of interview was too tame for him. He decided to take a tape recorder out into the city of history and intrigue, and see what it had to offer.

Once he waded through the city's sewers. Another time he took his equipment into the famous catacombs of St. Stephan's Cathedral, and gave a chilling description of the mausoleum, tapping his microphone on the skull of a plague victim.

Scott Fergus claims to be the only man to broadcast naked. This was on a visit to a Turkish bath. In company with his retinue of technicians, and with only the tape recorder in its everyday dress, Scott Fergus paddled from room to room describing the scene to his grinning invisible audience. The climax came when a huge masseur, rejoicing in the name of Kaiser, placed him on a marble slab and for several moments the radio audience heard only the expressive slaps of the masseur and not the eloquent tones of their commentator.

There is something of the small boy in Scott Fergus, including a passion for fire engines. He broadcast from the top of the world's highest ladder, leaped into a safety net complete with microphone and sped at 50 miles an hour through the streets of Vienna on a routine call.

It was obvious that sooner or later the Danube would feature in Saturday Magazine. The programme began with Scott Fergus describing the descent and ascent of a Viennese diver. Then followed an interview with the diver and the owner of the company. The episode seemed nearly over when the owner invited Scott Fergus to dive.

"Well—it is an opportunity not to be missed," was the commentator's reply. And within the time most men would have taken to make up their minds, the words of Scott Fergus came faintly from the bottom of Europe's largest river.

DEREK J. JENKINS

TRACKING SCHOOL

"Bushcraft Taught Here" might be the slogan of the East African Tracking School. Footprints can speak volumes

Here a gang rested. Major Rodney Elliott, game warden and ex-Commando *(right)*, and Assistant Inspector Don Bousfield of the Kenya Police Reserve read lessons in straws, twigs, mud and grass.

THERE is a heavy dew at dawn in Kenya. The odds are that a man abroad at that time will leave a caked footprint. It will remain to tell the trackers not only where he went, but *when* he went. According to the depth of the heel mark, the footprint may tell whether he was carrying a burden, and if so whether it was a light or heavy one.

Wrinkles like these are taught to the security forces at the East African Training School. At the beginning of the emergency in Kenya too many gangsters escaped because their bushcraft was better than that of their pursuers. Today, as the increasing number of successes goes to prove, this is no longer so.

The Tracking School was formed under the orders of General Sir George Erskine, the Commander-in-Chief. It has two objects : to teach platoon commanders and platoon serjeants how best to handle their trackers on operations, and to instruct African trackers, whose main experience has been in game-tracking, in the art of tracking human beings—especially the wily Mau Mau.

Kenya's Chief Game Warden lent the services of Major Rodney Elliott, ex-Commando and a very experienced tracker. Two Kenya Regiment serjeants, Monty Brown and Jim Tooley, were appointed to assist him. These NCOs had already won themselves high reputations for skill at tracking on operations.

After preliminary lectures and practice, the School, well armed, goes into the neighbouring forest and studies at first hand the type of trail that will have to be followed. The students learn to read the tales of broken twigs, crushed grass and old camp fires. They learn at first hand, on "live" ground where terrorists themselves have laid the clues—a mixed blessing since not every kind of clue is there every time.

The forests in which they have to operate are patterned with hundreds of inter-connecting footpaths, some over ideal tracking ground, some over rocks and stones which show no trace of passing gangs. This is where the pursuers turn to the tangled undergrowth for a clue to the direction taken by the gangsters.

As the School expands it is probable that an area will be made available which can be turned into an ideal tracking ground. Tracks, fires and other clues will be planted there.

The Mau Mau terrorist has all the cunning of a hunted animal added to the intelligence of a man. A patrol leader must be able to get inside the mind of the fugitive and anticipate his moves. Trackers are not always of the highest intelligence and it is up to the leader to command the skill of the tracker so that he can make the best use of it.

It is expected that police and their African trackers will also undergo courses at the School.

He Cheated The Firing Squad

JUST about everything happened to Serge Vaculik. Czecho-Slovakia was his homeland, France his adopted country. Captured by the Germans at Dunkirk, he bolted for freedom, swearing that somehow or other he would reach Britain and fight for the Allies.

The story of his jail-studded journey to England and his crowded war afterwards is told by himself in "Air Commando" (*Jarrolds*, 15*s*), one of the most exciting stories to come from a wearer of the red beret.

It is written with disarming candour. The author is not afraid to display his emotions; he does not hesitate to admit that sometimes he felt in a funk. He chafed against regulations and often broke them. But he was an uncommonly resourceful man in a tight corner.

After Dunkirk, Serge Vaculik saw the inside of a mournful succession of prison cells. The worst of these were in Spain. When he reached England they clapped him into Pentonville for more than 40 days until they were sure he was not a spy. After that he was at liberty to join the Free French. Life moved too slowly for him, however, and one day he waylaid General de Gaulle in the street and said, "General, I am not satisfied." For approaching a high officer irregularly, they gave him 14 days—but it was mild going by Spanish standards.

Vaculik became a parachutist, with all the thrills and frustrations that that involved. He gives an alarmingly frank account of how he and his comrades moved about Britain on initiative tests—"borrowing" a car here, a bus there, a Royal Air Force vehicle somewhere else.

Real action came at last. Dropped into France with British soldiers, Vaculik played his part in a singularly successful raid on an ammunition depot and a German train. Afterwards the troops were picked up by a British aircraft which touched down for that purpose—on a German military airfield !

On a later raid he was captured after a bloody scrimmage. Parachutists, said Hitler, were to receive short shrift. Vaculik was given the hot and cold water treatment; his hand was screwed into a vice while they pulled out one of his nails; they stubbed out cigarettes on his skin. Oddly, they left him in possession of a wrist-watch, from which he extracted the main-spring and used it to saw away the stone holding the window bars in his cell. But an SS serjeant-major one day tugged at the bars on a routine check; and that brought another beating-up.

Vaculik still kept the spring, and found a way of freeing himself from handcuffs with its aid. That, as much as anything, saved him on the grim day when, with six English comrades, he was taken into a French forest at dawn to be executed. The Gestapo put on white gloves for the occasion. As one of them read out the sentence, Vaculik gave a terrific roar and ran for it. So did "Ginger" Jones, his chum. Both men, fantastically, got away—and lived to testify against the criminals at a war crimes trial at Wuppertal in 1947.

As further indication of Serge Vaculik's enterprise, it should be noted that during the war he secretly married a British general's daughter, who appears in the narrative as "Lady Frances."

Serge Vaculik : he dropped with British soldiers. For him, the executioners put on white gloves.

The Other Wellington

NOT content with the traditional picture of the Duke of Wellington as a cold, contemptuous autocrat, Mr. Godfrey Davies decided to investigate the question : "Was the Duke human ?"

The answer, as given in "Wellington and His Army" (*Blackwell*, 18*s*) was: Yes—bad-tempered and aloof, perhaps, but certainly human.

To confirm this view, the author quotes accounts of how the Iron Duke rode miles by night to visit a dangerously-wounded former aide, of how he wept over the casualties at Badajoz and broke down when he saw the Waterloo casualty list.

Mr. Davies's researches also brought a great deal of interesting information about the domestic life of the Army in the Peninsula. Wellington, it seems, was all for Welfare. It may surprise many to learn that his troops were addicted to cricket (which in those days required less equipment than now), football and amateur theatricals. Wellington and his Staff once rode 12 miles over bad roads to see a performance of "The Rivals"—a startling example of fortitude! Besides Wellington's famous pack of foxhounds, there were numerous others. One, got together by an officer of the 95th, included poodles, sheepdogs and mongrels. When it was tried as a hunt, every dog ran howling to its home. Coursing was also popular, and helped to relieve the monotony of long marches. When greyhounds strayed into the enemy lines, the French politely returned them.

The Peninsular army was a hard-drinking one and produced at least one original excuse for intemperance delivered by an officer who went down to posterity as Sir A. D. : "I mean to get drunk in order to make the fleas drunk, having discovered that after the first bite they fall powerless, and leave me to repose in peace the rest of the night."

The wives, official and unofficial, who travelled with

(*Continued on page 30*)

Wellington's army were something of a mixed blessing. Many of them were devoted nurses; some fought off plundering camp followers from the baggage when sentries deserted their posts to join in the storming of Ciudad Rodrigo. Most washed, sewed or cooked for the Army. On the march, the Rifle Brigade's wives, mounted on donkeys, would ride ahead of their men, to have tea ready for them at the next halt—often getting in the way of the Infantry. Sometimes, like their husbands, they yielded to the temptation to plunder.

This Brigadier was Shadowed

A BRITISH officer with one of the most delicate assignments of the post-war years was Brigadier C. H. Dewhurst, for two years Chief of the British Mission to the Soviet Forces of Occupation in Eastern Germany. (An account of this Mission appeared in SOLDIER in July 1949.)

In "Close Contact" (*Allen and Unwin*, 12*s*. 6*d*.) Brigadier Dewhurst gives a lively and provocative account of his experiences behind the Curtain. To him fell the task of negotiating with the Russians over those unhappy incidents which occurred on the *autobahn* to Berlin. He was liable to be summoned at midnight by the Soviet Commander-in-Chief, to receive a demand for the return of a strayed Soviet soldier.

The Brigadier had two houses, one in a compound in Potsdam and another in West Berlin, where he could keep contact with his own headquarters. "I journeyed back and forth from one world to another—from want to plenty, from fear to freedom." He soon became reconciled to being followed by motor-cars containing the Secret Police, and to being shadowed in restaurants. There is an amusing account of a long dance he led his shadowers on a visit to the Baltic isle of Rugen.

Brigadier Dewhurst admires the thoroughness of Russian security and considers that the British Press makes life far too easy for Russian agents seeking information about new military equipment and disposition of troops.

In the Russian Army, it seems, only the higher ranks have access to maps. Russian troops newly arrived in Germany are kept in barracks for several months before being allowed out, "and during this time they often don't know in which country they are."

Brigadier Dewhurst's book, which is by no means pessimistic, does much to explain why negotiations with the Russians are subject to such tortuous delays. Many of the author's views are controversial—but they are those of a man who has *met* and tussled and dined with Russians.

The Army's cooks can soar as high as anyone in the realms of fancy—always provided they are given suitable rations

A Long Way from Brown Stew

Roses made from pulled sugar—by Corporal P. Cottatt, Army Catering Corps. This ingenious exhibit won first prize in the open junior confectionery contest.

MR. PHILIP HARBEN, the television cook, recently declined a fat fee offered him if he would give a demonstration of frying fish and chips. He has nothing against fish and chips, but it doesn't make a very interesting demonstration.

Sometimes the Army's cooks feel that their talents are not seen to sufficient advantage in the preparation of brown stew. In every cook's heart lurks an ambition to build the Taj Mahal in sugar.

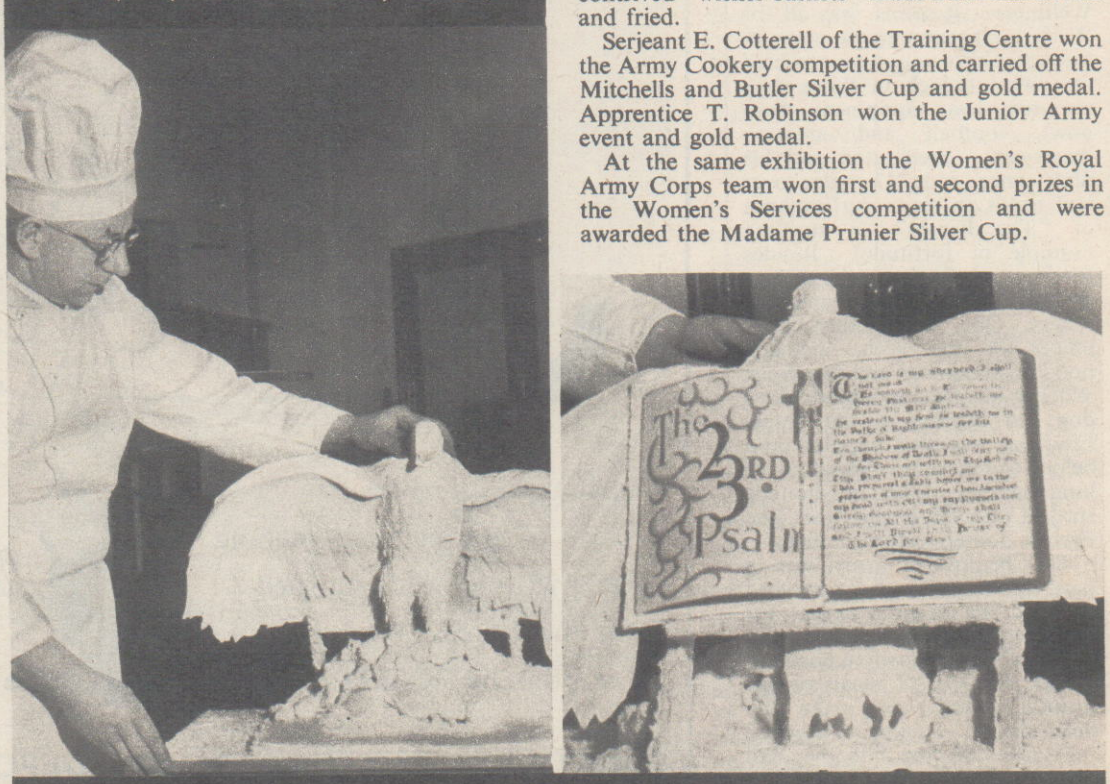
Well, the Army's cooks recently had a chance to show what they could do in the line of whimsy. Competing against crack *chefs de cuisine* at this year's International Hotel and Catering Exhibition, the Army Catering Corps won no fewer than 46 prizes, including six gold, nine silver and 11 bronze medals—easily the Corps' best achievement in open competition.

The team's success was the more remarkable because they had only a ten-day refresher course to prepare their exhibits, whereas most of the other contestants prepare similar food every day. In all they entered 56 exhibits, ranging from cold grilse (a young salmon which has been to sea only once) cooked in a swimming position and stuffed and garnished with prawns, to caskets of flowers made from sugar. (They *did* also prepare Lancashire hotpot and boiled jam roll.) As Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Atkins, Chief Instructor at the Army Catering Corps Training Centre at Aldershot, said: "The exhibition showed what Army cooks can do if they have the material to work with."

Apprentice cooks from the Training Centre gave a particularly fine account of themselves by taking five of the first six prizes in the competition open to all apprentices in Britain. In the junior section Army cooks romped home with five firsts in the seven events for which they entered, and collected all three prizes for works in potato—cleverly-contrived "wicker baskets" made from thin slivers and fried.

Serjeant E. Cotterell of the Training Centre won the Army Cookery competition and carried off the Mitchells and Butler Silver Cup and gold medal. Apprentice T. Robinson won the Junior Army event and gold medal.

At the same exhibition the Women's Royal Army Corps team won first and second prizes in the Women's Services competition and were awarded the Madame Prunier Silver Cup.



Former Staff-Serjeant J. Russell, now a chef-instructor, won a bronze medal for his lectern, made from twelve pounds of sugar. On the reverse side is lettered the 23rd Psalm!

STATE EXPRESS

'THREE THREES'

CIGARETTES

Always first class quality

RISE AND SHINE!

R.S.M. A. J. BRAND, M.V.O., M.B.E., gives his 7 point recommendation for a parade ground polish.

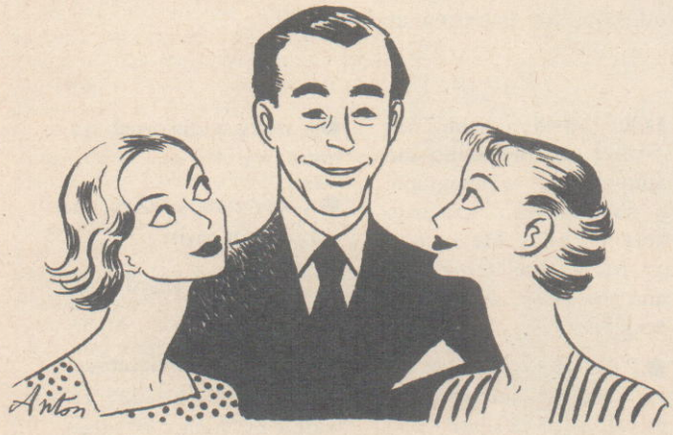
Known throughout the British Army as "The Voice," R.S.M. Brand, late of the Grenadier Guards and the R.M.A. Sandhurst, has used and recommended Kiwi for twenty-five years. Here is his 7 point method for getting a parade ground polish on a boot.

1. *Get a tin of Kiwi Polish.*
2. *Take the lid off the tin.*
3. *Remove dust and dirt from the boot.*
4. *Put a little Kiwi on the boot with a rag or brush.*
5. *Damp a rag with water.*
6. *Moisten the boot with the rag.*
7. *Finish with a dry cloth and "You could shave in it."*

Deep-shine with KIWI

It puts life into leather

Corvette After-Shave makes you feel good (LOOK GOOD, TOO)



After shaving, rub in a few drops of Corvette After-Shave. It seals up every nick, stimulates the skin to a tingling glow, leaves it looking and feeling very pleasant indeed. Corvette After-Shave may not turn you into a film star, but it certainly helps to make a man worth a second glance! **3/9 a large bottle.** Made by Goya (Men's Division), 161, New Bond Street, London, W.1.

QUEEN ANNE

RARE

SCOTCH WHISKY

SCOTLAND'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

HILL THOMSON & Co. LTD.

EDINBURGH **Est. 1793**

By Appointment Wine & Spirit Merchants to the late King George VI

SPORT

HE WAS A BOXER AT SIX

Lance-Corporal Joe Erskine has won 101 out of 108 fights—32 of them by knock-outs

NOTHING excites the boxing world so much as the thought that Britain may have a "dark horse" for the world heavyweight championship.

Three years ago the wiseacres were looking forward to the day when Serjeant Jack Gardner, Grenadier Guards, would pull off the title. Well, Jack Gardner went a long way, both in Army boxing and professional boxing, but not quite far enough.

Now the wiseacres are discussing the chances of Lance-Corporal Joe Erskine, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, whose recent professional debut was a sensational one. He knocked out his opponent, Alf Price, of Worcester, after 16 seconds of the second round.

Joe Erskine holds the Army, Amateur Boxing Association, and Inter-Services Boxing Association heavyweight titles.

The optimism of the sports writers may be premature, but Lance-Corporal Erskine's record of only 7 defeats in 108 fights, 32 of which he won by knock-outs, stamps him as one of Britain's best heavyweights since the war. He has been winning fights ever since he began competitive boxing at the age of nine and has already done enough to show that he is of the stuff of champions.

But Lance-Corporal Erskine himself cherishes no illusions. "Anything can happen in boxing," he told SOLDIER. "However, I have made boxing my career and if I don't win the British title it will not be for want of trying. The world title? I haven't even thought about it, but if the time should come, then I'll do my best."

Boxing is in Lance-Corporal Erskine's blood. His father, who now manages his affairs, was a booth boxer in a travelling fair and he gave his son his first boxing lesson at the age of six. "It's never too young to learn how to look after yourself," he told the boy, punctuating his words with light taps on the nose which brought tears to the lad's eyes.

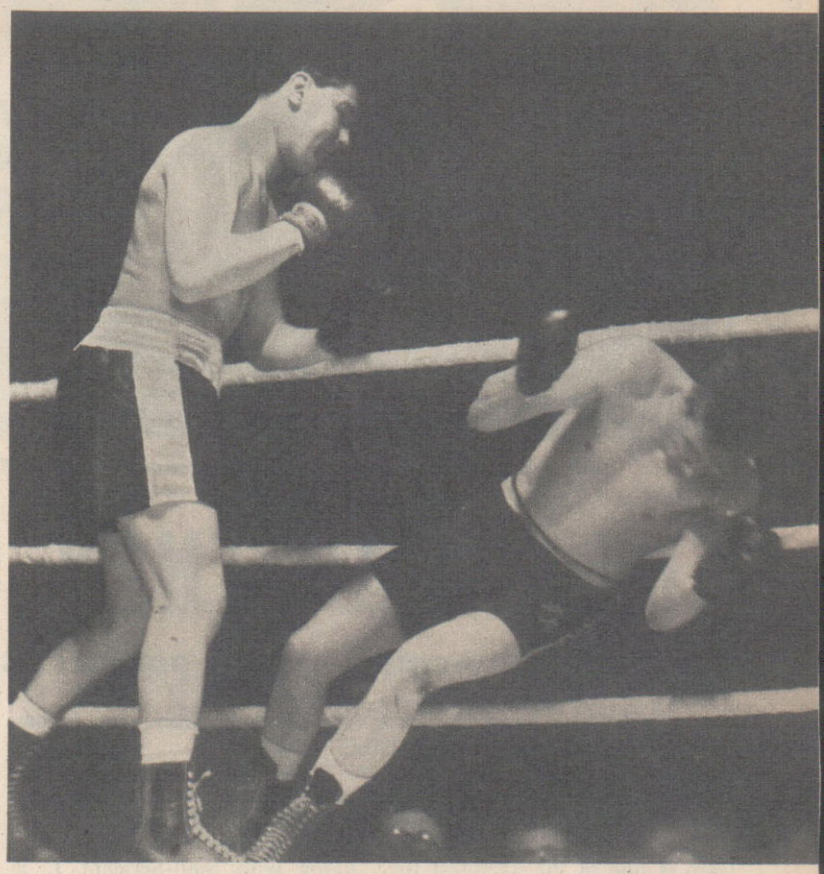
As regimental policeman at Shrewsbury: L/Corporal Erskine.

Three years later young Joe Erskine, who tipped the scales at 6 stone 7 pounds, entered the Welsh schoolboys' championships and reached the final. He was narrowly beaten, but had his revenge the following year and held the title for three years in succession.

By the time he left school in 1949 he was considered the best boxing prospect Wales had had for many years, an opinion which was strengthened later that year when he won the Army Cadet championship at 10 stone 7 pounds, and in 1950 and 1951, when he became British Youth champion at 11 stone. He followed this up by winning the 1951 British all-star middleweight championship—a competition open to Army, Sea, and Air cadets and boys' clubs from all over Britain. In 1952 he won the Welsh amateur light-heavyweight title and then suffered his first serious defeat—at the hands of Henry Cooper, an opponent he was to defeat later that year in the match between Wales and the Army. It was against Cooper's brother, George, that Erskine won the Army heavyweight final last year.

He also won the Inter-Services and Amateur Boxing Association heavyweight titles last year and has represented Britain against France, Spain, Germany, and Denmark, winning all but one of his fights. In his last fight for the Army against Wales before turning professional he beat the Welsh champion, D. Rowe, on points.

When he joined the Army in September, 1952, Lance-Corporal Erskine weighed 12 stone 7 pounds. Now a regimental policeman with 17 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Shrewsbury, he scales 13 stone 12 pounds. He claims that the Army has given him more opportunities of meeting good opponents than he could have found elsewhere, and says Army life has kept him always at the peak of condition. His worry at the moment is that there is no one in his unit prepared to volunteer as a sparring partner. He has to confine his training to early morning road work to improve his stamina, and shadow boxing in the gymnasium. Soon he will take up weight-lifting to strengthen his arms.



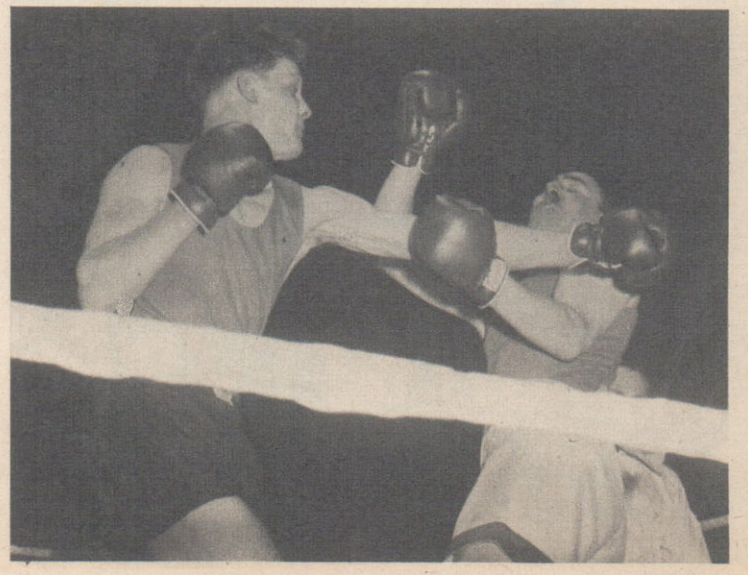
Going down: Alf Price drops like a felled tree in the second round of Lance-Corporal Erskine's first fight after turning professional.

Lance-Corporal Erskine acknowledges a special debt to two members of the Army Physical Training Corps, QMSI Frederick Verlander, the Army boxing team manager and trainer, and Serjeant-Major G. Neilsen.

In his battalion Lance-Corporal Erskine is a popular figure and is affectionately known as "Our Joe." Like many big men who are handy with their fists, he is soft-spoken and modest outside the ring.

His mates think a lot of "Our Joe" and hire buses at their own expense to travel to watch his fights. "It gives me a great kick to hear my pals shouting their heads off for me as I enter the ring," Lance-Corporal Erskine told SOLDIER. "I think I'm going to miss them when I leave the Army in August."

Joe Erskine (right) at the receiving end. He met and defeated Corporal George Cooper in the 1953 Army heavyweight championship.



All eyes on the ball as the Army's forwards raid the Territorial Army goal.

THE GAME THEY SCORNED

Is now the Army's most popular sport after football

HOCKEY, a game scorned by the old-time Army, has become the second most popular Army sport.

Today there are more Army hockey teams than ever before and the total of 160 entries in this season's Army Hockey Cup was a record. Only Association football produces more teams.

This season's Army hockey team is one of the strongest for many years, containing no fewer than five Internationals and three International trials players.

Captain W. Vans-Agnew, Royal Army Medical Corps, is captain of Scotland. Captain F. O. Reynolds, Royal Engineers, who recently returned from Singapore, has eight English caps; he was in Britain's 1948 Olympic team along with Staff-Serjeant J. V. Conroy, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who has played six times for England. RSM W. O. Green, Royal Engineers, has been capped 12 times for England, and Captain Rhys Griffiths, Royal Signals, is a Welsh International.

Perhaps the unluckiest member of the Army team is the right back, Lieut-Colonel J. Whitmarsh-Knight, Royal Army Educational Corps, who was 12th man in all England's International games in the 1951-52 season and has yet to play for his country.

As in previous years Army players have formed the backbone of the Combined Services eleven which recently defeated powerful West and Midland teams—six Army players were on the side that severely trounced West by six goals to one.

Hockey did not become really popular as an Army sport until after the first World War (before that, some commanding officers had forbidden their men to play it, on the grounds that it would hold the Army up to ridicule). Between the World Wars, the Army fielded every year one of the strongest teams in the country and almost always there were International players among them—such famous hockey stars as Captain M. H. Cork and Warrant Officer T. E. Parslow, both of the Army Educational Corps, Captain H. T. Heard, Royal Engineers, and Captain C. W. Cook, Army Dental Corps, all of whom played for Ireland.

Captain O. L. Roberts, Royal Engineers, was another of the Army's outstanding International players. Except in the 1928 season, he turned out for Wales every year from 1924 to 1931. Today, as General Sir Ouvry L. Roberts, the Quartermaster-General, he is President of the Army Hockey Association.

Warrant Officer Parslow is now Lieutenant-Colonel Parslow, chairman of the Army Hockey Selection Committee and the Army's leading hockey umpire. He was still playing first-class hockey in 1948 at the age of 52. With him on the Committee are his fellow Irish ex-Internationals—Lieutenant-Colonel Cook and Lieutenant-Colonel Heard. Army hockey today owes much to their experience and guidance.

Lieutenant-Colonel Parslow has played both hockey (at centre-forward) and soccer (at left back) for the Army. His verdict: "Hockey is tougher, faster and more skilful than football." He learned to play hockey at the Royal Hibernian Military School in Dublin and attributes the high standard of play in the Royal Army Educational Corps to that school's early influence. Immediately after World War One, before the School was evacuated from Ireland to join forces with the Duke of York's School, its team had seven Irish International players.

Another famous Army player who also learned hockey at the Royal Hibernian Military School was Warrant Officer W. A. Godfrey, Army Educational Corps, who captained England and played for his country without a break from 1927 to 1931. Captain Cork (who retired last year as Colonel) played for Ireland in 1913 and 1914, and then from 1920 to 1924, and, finally, against England in 1934.

Hockey stars, past and present: Left to right: Lieut-Colonel H. T. Heard, Staff-Serjeant T. F. Daniels, Captain W. Vans-Agnew, Major-General E. S. B. Gaffney (chairman of the Army Hockey Association), Lieut-Colonel R. E. Parslow and Captain Rhys Griffiths.

General Sir Ouvry L. Roberts, the Quartermaster-General, was a Welsh hockey Internationalist.

Staff-Serjeant J. V. Conroy, REME, has six English caps.

will you marry me?

SUCH A MOMENT must be marked forever by a fitting and enduring symbol. A James Walker diamond ring embodies the essence of beauty and permanence.
Send for the James Walker RING BOOK, in colour—it illustrates 280 lovely rings and is FREE on request. Wherever you are, it provides as wide a selection of styles and prices as a visit to a James Walker shop. Satisfaction is fully guaranteed or money will be refunded.

The Diamonds are set in Platinum mounted in 18 ct. Gold Rings.

You pay no purchase tax if you buy from abroad for *delivery abroad* **(not in U.K.).**

Diamond single-stone £23.0.0

Three-stone Diamond crossover £14.10.0

Five Diamonds in half-hoop £22.0.0

Half-hoop of three Diamonds £16.0.0

Two Diamonds in crossover £9.10.0

Diamond single-stone £14.10.0

Lady's Gold Signet Ring £4.15.0

Engraved Gold Wedding Ring £3.3.0

Three Diamonds, fancy setting £9.10.0

Emerald and Diamonds in crossover £11.10.0

77 Branches in London and the Home Counties at your service

Estd. 1823.

James Walker

Dept. 18, CENTURY HOUSE, STREATHAM, LONDON, S.W.16

GREAT ELIZABETHANS

It's a moot point whether Sir Francis Drake would have dressed his beard with IMPERIAL LEATHER *Brilliantine or shaved it off with* IMPERIAL LEATHER *Shaving Soap had Cussons made* IMPERIAL LEATHER *then.*

Cussons

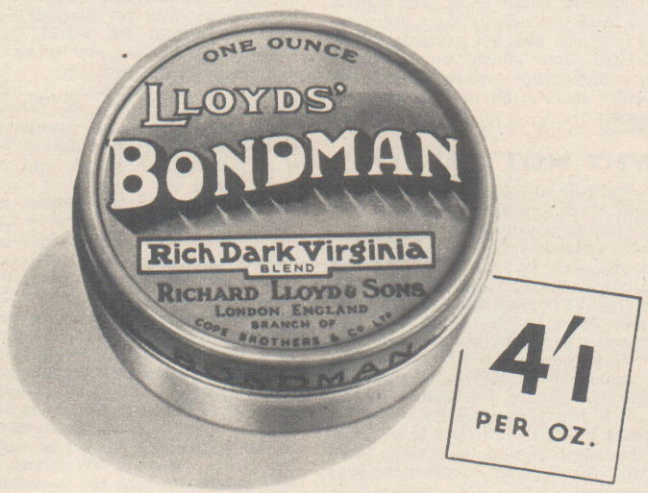
IMPERIAL LEATHER SHAVING SOAP

MAKES NEW ELIZABETHANS FEEL GREAT

This firm, free-lathering shaving stick in attractive container is a joy to shave with and a luxury that lasts. **Refills always available.** Use also Imperial Leather After-Shave Lotion and Talc to complete your luxury shave. From all good shops.

Cussons Sons & Co. Ltd, 84 Brook Street, London W1

An ounce of experience



4/1 PER OZ.

means your search for tobacco VALUE has been realised

FRESH AND FRAGRANT IN AIRTIGHT TINS
AS SUPPLIED TO THE
1953 EVEREST EXPEDITION

royds B2 1/54

What will "Crown Life" do for me if I save £1 per month?

If you live—among other things the CROWN LIFE plans will

★ Make money available to you or provide an income for your own later years—when you will need it most. Free of tax.

★ Create an immediate estate for your family which otherwise would require years of constant savings to accumulate.

★ Build up an emergency cash reserve fund.

★ Create in later years, collateral security so helpful when seeking loans for house purchase and other purposes.

If you do not live CROWN LIFE will

★ Pay the rent on your house or clear off a mortgage.

★ Provide your family with a guaranteed monthly income for a definite number of years. Free of tax.

★ Provide the money to give the youngsters a start in their chosen careers. Free of tax.

★ Do what you would have done had you lived.

SAVINGS are essential today—start NOW on a plan which will provide immediate SECURITY for your dependants and at the same time provide a safe and secure investment for your own future. Income Tax rebates can represent a saving of as much as 18% of your premiums.

WAR and AVIATION COVER normally available ON ALL PLANS—you *want* this—take it *now*

All inquiries will be dealt with personally by Major A. E. Arnold (retd.) who, for some years, has been giving the benefit of his advice and experience to members of the Forces on all forms of insurance, and will be very pleased to assist you to find the right plan.

Really it is surprising what can be done—even with £1 per month. In any event find out what you—at your present age—could obtain. Send the coupon below, and KNOW what you could get—if you decided to.

To THE CROWN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
(Incorporated in Canada with Limited Liability)
2 Ramillies Buildings, Hill's Place, Oxford Street, London W.1
(*Telephone No. GERrard 5984*).

Without obligation let me have details please. Assume I save each month £1, £2, £4, £6.
(Cross out the inapplicable)

Name (Rank) .....

Address .....

Date of Birth ....

Sol. 5/54.

LETTERS

ARMY WIVES

Why does "SOLDIER to Soldier," in your March number, speak of "taking a crack at the wives?" Surely most Army wives have enough to put up with, without SOLDIER adding this little dig.

I read that from 60 to 70 per cent of Army families are separated, and it surprises me that more do not reach the same conclusion as your correspondent who said that she and her husband had decided to buy his discharge.

I presume that SOLDIER sees something wrong in a wife helping to decide her husband's future, yet this happens all the time, and anyway, a soldier's wife is likely to suffer more than he does as a result of her husband's itinerant career.

SOLDIER would do better to applaud those wives who suffer hardship and perhaps heartbreak through separation without asking their husbands to leave the Service, rather than to suggest "taking a crack" at those who, quite reasonably, ask more of married life than the peacetime Army is able to offer.—**"J.S." (name and address supplied).**

★*This is delicate ground; but, as in all problems, there are two sides.*

In SOLDIER's view, a woman who marries a soldier—of whatever rank—is in a similar position to a woman who marries a man in the Merchant Navy, in that she has a good idea that life will involve many separations, and the hardships that go with them. (Just the same, the life of a soldier's wife is not without its compensations).

It is freely admitted that post-war soldiering has brought unexpected hardship to many wives. This is because the Army has so often been called upon to serve in places where wives cannot expect to follow. The very highest praise is due to those wives who have borne long periods of separation, with its attendant burdens, without complaining. The dilemma of a married soldier faced with abandoning his Service career or seeing his marriage go on the rocks is a bitter one, and one he must resolve for himself. But not every married soldier faces such a stark choice. Even in civil life there are times when jobs look hopeless and frustrating. A Service career should not be thrown away without much soul-searching—and the major share of the decision is surely the man's.

WHY NOT MALAYA?

As the wife of a Regular soldier now serving three years in Malaya I am more than disappointed in Mr. Antony Head's statement that 28 days' leave annually will be given to married Regulars in Kenya and Middle East. Surely, what is good for some is good for all? After all, the troops are doing a tremendous job in Malaya and they seem to be completely forgotten. Not one single MP mentioned Malaya during the Army Estimates debate. Why? If Mr. Head sees no way clear to grant FARELF 28 days leave, then cut the length of tour from three years to two. All we seem to get these days is Suez and Kenya. Let's have a little more Korea and Malaya.—**"Cold War Widow," Leeds (name and address supplied).**

★ *Malaya is a permanent families station. Egypt and Kenya lack facilities and safeguards for full complements of wives.*

Malaya was not wholly unmentioned in the Estimates debate. Mr Richard Stanley (North Fylde) said employers much preferred the National Serviceman from Malaya and Korea—"he is a first-class man to employ; he works very hard and is very good."

HOME LEAVE

The Treasury has done better than it knows in providing free United Kingdom leave for unaccompanied married men in Middle East and Kenya. Already the plan meets with tremendous approval, and it is clear it will do as much, if not more, than increased pay to retain the Regular soldier. At the same time it provides a vast saving in Local Overseas Allowance in the future, against which the fare home is a mere trifle. More and more men, especially those with children at school, will choose this alternative of regular home visits. The plan should be an alternative for married Servicemen throughout the world, bringing stability and contentment to the family, and saving to the taxpayer.

One thing remains: security of tenure of quarters for the families of men serving abroad. A foreign service will be a completely different venture if a quarter in England, and regular home leave, are features of it. What is almost certain to happen is that fewer will apply to take their families to "difficult" stations, where accommodation is scarce and costly as it is here in Kenya. Let the Treasury take note: this plan is going to be a tremendous success. Men of all ranks, with their families here, are saying that if they had known this would happen they would never have brought them abroad at all. Put the money into quarters at home, and give the married soldiers regular leave from anywhere in the world, and all will be well with the Army.—**Rev. E. W. Evans, Chaplain to the Forces, 1st Battalion The Buffs, Kenya.**

FIRST IN HAMBURG

In a book review (SOLDIER, February) you say the Queen's Royal Regiment claim to have led the way into Hamburg in May 1945. However, "The Durham Light Infantry At War" says the 9th Battalion The Durham Light Infantry led the way in on the afternoon of 3rd May 1945. Which statement is correct?—**Territorial Battery Quartermaster-Serjeant, Sunderland.**

★*SOLDIER can find no third opinion yet published on this point. When the official history comes along, it may give an authoritative answer. Meanwhile, are there any other claimants? What about the tanks of the 7th Armoured Division, in which both Queen's and Durhams were serving at the time?*

● 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 the discipline of an individual unit.

TEN GUINEAS WEEKLY

Please settle a barrack-room argument. What is the highest rate of pay a soldier below commissioned rank can earn?—**"Taffy" (name and address supplied).**

★*In the new "Group X" trade category, a warrant officer, class one can earn a* basic *weekly sum of* £10 10*s.*

These are the rates of pay of trade groups in the order "Group X, Class One," "Group A, Class One," "Group B, Class One" and "Others":—

A serjeant earns 157s. 6d., 147s., 143s. 6d., and 136s. 6d.; a staff-serjeant earns 182s., 171s. 6d., 161s. and 154s.; a warrant officer class two (other than RQMS) 196s., 185s. 6d., 178s. 6d., and 171s. 6d.; a warrant officer class two (RQMS) 203s., 192s. 6d., 185s. 6d., and 178s. 6d.; and a warrant officer class one 210s., 199s. 6d., 192s. 6d. and 185s. 6d.

All these figures are weekly basic rates. In addition there are increments for service and service in rank which carry a daily rate of 6d. after three years man's service, an additional 6d. after six years man's service and an additional 1s. after 12 years man's service.

Marriage and other allowances are, of course, extra.

LOST EYE

I read the article on one-eyed and one-armed generals (SOLDIER, March). The article says that, if a man can do his job there is no reason why he cannot carry on as a soldier. Well, the Territorial Army must be more particular. I tried to rejoin the Territorials in 1947 after being demobilised in 1945, and although the job I was wanted for was also my civilian job (storekeeper) the medical tribunal turned me down because of the loss of sight of my left eye, although this did not affect my efficiency as a marksman with small arms.

The lieutenant-colonel in charge of the Territorial unit was very desirous of my enlistment, but was over-ruled by the medical tribunal.—**W. Fenton, Sr. ex-Royal Engineers, Hercules Street, Springfield, Darlington.**

★*The rule is that persons who have had one eye removed or have lost the sight of one eye will not be accepted for enlistment. This does not bar a man from further service if he is already serving when the disability occurs. There is provision for special cases, however, and the details are laid down in "Territorial Army Regulations* 1952" *para* 221.

RHINO FLASH

Your January number had a query on the Rhino flash.

The 1st Armoured Division flash was a white rhino on a black background, the rhino standing still. This division was reformed in July, 1946, when 6th Armoured Division went into "suspended animation"; the famous mailed fist was retained by the new division until we moved to Palestine early in 1947, when we adopted the *new* 1st Armoured Division sign—the *charging* rhino—then seen for the first time.—**Colonel A. Morris, 1st Comwel Div.**

EAR MUFFS

I had hoped to see in SOLDIER pictures of the ear-muffs said to have been worn by British military policemen recently in Berlin. The papers said the effect was smart, but I would like to be reassured.—**"Cold Nose" (name and address supplied).**

★*They are the smartest ear-muffs SOLDIER has seen* (see below).

COMPULSORY SAVING?

I was extremely interested to read the letter from "Unit Pay Serjeant, Catterick Camp" in the March SOLDIER (*advocating a method of compulsory saving*). It is true that, during the war, the Services were given 6d. a day pay rise which was withheld until the end of their service, and paid out to them at their final discharge. This was as your reader says, in effect the Service counterpart of a civilian post-war credit scheme. Admirable as the suggestion seems, I feel it would not be a suitable thing to advocate at the present time, as it would take away from the individual his undoubted right to dispose of his pay as he thinks fit, and this has always been a cherished institution in the Services.

We of Her Majesty's Forces Savings hold that saving should be an entirely voluntary matter, but we feel that it is our job to persuade the Services that it would be very much in their interest to save a bit of their pay so that they will have a nest-egg on return to civil life. We view savings, therefore, entirely from the welfare angle and not as a money-raising proposition, although I might add that the Services are now saving a very creditable total every year.

With regard to "Unit Pay Serjeant's" conclusion that he is cancelling more savings accounts than he is starting, I expect that it must at times seem so to him, but this is not entirely borne out by the official figures. During 1953, for example, just over 10,000 Post Office Savings Bank accounts for the Army were cancelled as compared with nearly 50,000 new accounts opened. In addition, I am proud to say that 32% of the three Services are saving through the Schemes which we organise —much to their own benefit and to the benefit of the country.—**Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams, Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee.**

★*Air Marshal Sir Thomas Williams began his Service career in the Army, enlisting as a private in the South African Infantry in World War One.*

NOT SO SMART

I saw a smart-looking draft of young soldiers travelling recently on the London Underground. At least, they looked smart until they turned round, when the effect was ruined by the way in which they had pushed naked coat-hangers under the straps of their big packs. It is surely ironic that soldiers who value their appearance sufficiently to use coat-hangers should ruin their military appearance by "wearing" these wretched things on their backs. The chipped tin mug which used to hang, rather idiotically, over a soldier's posterior was excusable, perhaps, on the grounds that it could readily be reached when it was needed. But coat hangers — no! — **"Spit and Polish" (name and address supplied).**

REVERSED BOOTS

I have been reading a book about the late General Wainwright of the United States Army. It gave a description of his funeral in which his horse was led behind the coffin with full equipment, and boots reversed in the stirrups. What is the reason for the boots being reversed?—**L/Cpl. J. Wood, att. MT Section, HQ Coy., 1st Bn. Royal Norfolk Regiment, BAPO 1.**

★*The custom of reversing the normal order of things at military funerals is a very ancient one, and the reason for it seems to have been lost in antiquity. In his "Military Customs" Major T. J. Edwards says: "When the body is being taken to the place of burial, arms are reversed, the precedence of those who follow the coffin is reversed and if a horse follows bearing the dead warrior's boots, these are placed reverse-wise in the stirrups. This custom of reversing things . . . was carried out by the Greeks in civil funerals as well as military." Walton's "History of the British Standing Army* 1600-1700" *says that military funeral customs are "exceedingly ancient and have remained unchanged in a wonderful degree," some of them being* 18 *centuries old.*

CALL IT A GASPA

With reference to your invitation, in the March SOLDIER, to give a popular name to the new FN rifle, I suggest: The GASPA—Gas-Powered Automatic, or God's Answer to the Soldier's Prayer, At Last.—**Cfn. L. Neaven, Rhine Workshop, REME.**

Since it seems that the FN will come into general use by the North Atlantic Treaty countries, how about christening it the NATOR gun?—**Ian M. Gibson, 54 Bovingdon Road, Fulham, London S.W.6.**

Last month a correspondent chided SOLDIER for describing a cuirass (*as worn by the soldier in this picture*) as a breastplate.

SOLDIER is now informed —on the best authority— that it is the horse which wears the breastplate. For the sake of the record, it is the small plate dangling below the horse's neck (*arrowed in picture*).

SWIMMING TANK

Your article "The Swimming Tank" (SOLDIER, March) suggests that the British version, as used in the Normandy landings and elsewhere, is very inferior to the new American type.

The only advantage I can see in the American swimming tank (though there may well be others) is that the armament can be operated while the tank is afloat.

While I have no wish to decry the American invention, I feel that, in fairness to the British tank, these points should be mentioned:

The American amphibious tank appears to have no freeboard. Surely it would be a perilous equipment to operate in rough seas?

Very large pontoons are required to float it, which means that it could not be launched from any normal type of landing craft;

These pontoons must be difficult to transport, and by nature of their construction, easily damaged;

The tank, once fitted with pontoons, must be deprived of almost all mobility on land.—**"Amphibious."**

★*SOLDIER published an account of the American tank because of its general interest. There was no intention of decrying the British equipment.*

TRADE UNION

I am a Vehicle Mechanic Class One, having served an apprenticeship at the Army Technical School, Chepstow. I would like to become a member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union. Is this possible, and if so, what is the procedure?—**Sjt. J. Burst, REME, 50 Grange Road, Gravesend, Kent.**

★*"Soldiers who wish to join the Amalgamated Engineering Union in order to be members thereof on return to civilian life may, for this purpose, make contact with branch officials while still serving. The Union advises this course to minimise the delay that may be experienced in securing suitable employment on discharge." So reads ACI* 72/1954.

*When application for membership is made, the Union officials will wish to see particulars of a soldier's trade training and employment. These should be supplied by the soldier, by means of extracts from his AB*64, *Part One, certified by his commanding officer.*

LETTERS CONTINUED OVERLEAF

FILMS *coming your way*

The following films will shortly be shown in Army Kinema Corporation cinemas overseas:

THEY WHO DARE: *A film about the Special Boat Service, the "private army" which had close connections with the Special Air Service and which harried the Germans on the shores and islands of the Mediterranean. The operation portrayed by the film is the blowing-up of two airfields in Crete from which German bombers are attacking Allied communications. Dirk Bogarde and Denholm Elliott lead the expedition. Akim Tamiroff and Gerard Oury play their Greek comrades.*

HOBSON'S CHOICE: *The Hobson who gave the phrase to the English language was the owner of a livery stable who would allow a customer to hire only the horse nearest the door. The Hobson of the film (based on Harold Brighouse's successful play) is a father who becomes the victim of a similar stratagem through the intrigues of his three daughters to marry the men of their choice. Charles Laughton, John Mills and Brenda de Banzie head the cast.*

YOU KNOW WHAT SAILORS ARE: *A naval officer splices too many mainbraces and, from a pawnbroker's sign and an old pram, produces a "secret weapon" which he welds to the deck of a foreign destroyer. In the light of a hangover, the joke is not so funny, especially when it achieves international significance. In colour—with plenty of dazzling girls. Cast: Akim Tamiroff, Donald Sinden, Sarah Lawson, Naunton Wayne.*

The winged dagger is worn by Dirk Bogarde ('They Who Dare.')

KISS ME KATE: *Film version of the London and Broadway stage success of a play within a play. Cole Porter contributes 14 songs. Kathryn Grayson stars, as she did on the stage, and with her are Howard Keel and Ann Miller. In colour, both in 2-D and 3-D.*

CALAMITY JANE: *The original Calamity Jane was a pistol-packing singer. In this film, as a fighting herione of the Wild West, she meets Wild Bill Hickok in Deadwood City and the scene is set for ten songs, snappy shooting and more than a little romance. In colour. Doris Day and Howard Keel are the stars.*

MORE LETTERS

ROCKETS AGAIN

As a small child I was taken each year to the Military Tournament at the Agricultural Hall, Islington. One year, I should think, before Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the set piece was the capture of Benin. In this the gates of the stockade were demolished by rockets (very gratifying indeed to a youngster!).—**Herbert A. Mason, Foxcombe, 60 Stanley Hill Avenue, Amersham, Bucks.**

★*Benin City, in Nigeria, was stormed by British forces in* 1897, *in retribution for the massacre of a British party. The Oba of Benin, who had tolerated human sacrifice on a big scale, was deported.*

NO REDUCTION

Can a Regular soldier change his engagement of 12 years with the Colours to five years Colour service and seven on reserve, or seven years with the Colours and five on reserve?—**Fusilier, MELF (name and address supplied).**

★*No.*

KEEPING HENS

Very shortly my wife and I hope to move into married quarters. Does the Army allow us to keep hens?—**"Domesticated Joe" (name and address supplied.**

★*Soldiers may keep poultry in gardens attached to married quarters, when so authorised by the officer commanding the station. Units may keep poultry or pigs if similarly authorised.*

THAT KITBAG

Since the issue of the No. 1 Dress it has become evident that something better than the kitbag is now necessary. Nothing can be more unsightly than a uniform straight from a kitbag, no matter how diligently it may have been packed. Have the War office any improvement in mind?—**BSM, H. Price, Drill Hall, Llandudno, N. Wales.**

★*No change is contemplated at the moment.*

REARING JEEP

In your article on jeeps in the March issue you show one rearing on its back wheels. I say it has just struck a mine but my friend says that it has just reached the crest of a hill or a sand

dune. Will you please settle the argument?—**22798973 L/Cpl Ward, Room 10, "B" Coy., 28 Bn. RAOC, CAD, Bramley, Hants.**

★*The jeep in question is, to use an American term, "sandblasting" a sand dune in Florida. In other words, it is going at a fast pace over the top of a dune.*

DIRTY FIFTY

Who are the "Dirty Half-hundred"?—**"Happy Larry" (name and address supplied).**

★*The Queen's Own Royal West Regiment earned this nickname in the Peninsular War, after an exploit in which they blackened their faces.*

100 YEARS OLD

I feel sure that any of your readers who have in the past been associated with Hong Kong will be interested to learn that the Hong Kong Volunteers will celebrate their centenary this year.

The actual date of the raising of the first group of "Volunteers"—the title under which the Force is best remembered by pre-war members—has for some ime been in doubt, but the recent discovery of the original Gazette Notification definitely places the date as 30 May 1854.

While it appears from records that there have been periods of "suspended animation," it is true to say that since that date the Colony has always had an official unit of trained volunteers available on mobilisation to assist the Regular Forces in maintaining law and order in times of emergency.

Many of your readers will doubtless remember not only the heroic part the Volunteers played in the hostilities which ended with the surrender of the Colony on Christmas Day, 1941, but also the bravery with which they faced the ordeal of nearly four years as prisoners of war under the Japanese.

To mark the centenary, a special number of *The Volunteer* is to be produced, in which it is hoped to include many details of the early days, and it is in this connection that I should like to appeal to those of your readers who have in their possession any old photographs or cuttings of the activities of the Volunteers. Very little material regarding the Force has survived the Japanese occupation of the Colony.

All communications should be addressed to the Commandant, Royal Hong Kong Defence Force, Hong Kong, and particular care will be taken of any material which the owners would like to make available on loan only.—**Colonel L. T. Ride, CBE, ED, Commandant, Royal Hong Kong Defence Force.**

NO ROSETTES

Why is a soldier who was awarded the General Service Medal, say for service in Palestine in 1936-39, and again in Palestine 1945-49 or Malaya since 1948, not entitled to a rosette on the ribbon to show he has the medal twice?—**"Interested," Catterick (name and address supplied).**

★*Soldiers who serve in more than one operational area for which a General Service Medal is awarded are granted a distinctive clasp to denote each operation. No rosette denoting the clasp is authorised for the ribbon when the medal itself is not worn, as rosettes are not permitted on the ribbon of any medal on which a Mention in Despatches emblem may be worn.*

"ANY COMPLAINTS?"

When the question "Any complaints?" is asked at meal-times, the answer is invariably "No."

Yet when a young soldier is asked: "Why are you not eating your———?" he will often reply in such a manner that the fault can be detected and rectified. Judicious questions to persons leaving their food should, therefore. supplement the formal "Any complaints?"

Then there is Request Hour: the onus is on the soldier to visit his company commander. He may have something on his mind but through inexperience, or lack of confidence, or because he thinks it not worth while to worry his officer, the something goes unsaid.

That problem is more likely to be voiced to an officer or senior NCO who holds an informal session before, say, Padre's Hour—"filling in," as it would appear, before the arrival of the Padre. "Has anybody got any queries about the Army?" would elicit a few of those puzzlers which in the old days would have been answered, perhaps, by the long-serving Regular in the men's barrack-room. —**"Army Enthusiast" (name and address supplied).**

REPEATERS

I was interested in the informative article on the new Belgian FN rifle in your March issue, but was surprised to see it referred to as "the Army's first repeating rifle." It is, of course, the first self-loading, automatic weapon. Our own Lee-Enfield and Lee-Metford rifles were repeaters.

A repeating rifle is one in which the next round is brought up by re-cocking, as opposed to single-shot loading. An automatic weapon is one where the trigger is pressed after each shot without the need to re-cock, and a firearm which fires continuously falls into the machine-gun category.—**W. A. Thorburn, Scottish United Services Museum, Crown Square, The Castle, Edinburgh.**

★*The War Office state that it is not wrong to describe the FN rifle as a repeating rifle in the sense that each time the trigger is pressed a new round is fed mechanically into the breech, ready to be fired by further pressure of the trigger.*

They state that the term "repeating" in relation to firearms is not, and never has been, used as an accepted military term. Weapons, they say, are placed in three categories: 1. *Bolt action—in which the bolt is moved backwards and forwards each time a round is fired and replaced by a new one in the breech.* 2. *Self-loading—in which the first round is placed in the breach by hand and is reloaded by mechanical means after the trigger is pressed and the first round is fired.* 3. *Automatic—in which the first round is placed into the breech or the magazine, the weapon is cocked by hand and when the trigger is pressed the weapon fires a burst.*

SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, is published for the War Office by HM Stationery Office, and printed by SUN PRINTERS LTD., London and Watford. Trade distribution inquiries: PO Box 569, London, SE 1. Army inquiries: Circulation Dept., SOLDIER, rear of 437 Holloway Road, London N 7. (ARChway 4381). Editorial inquiries: Editor, SOLDIER, rear of 437 Holloway Road, London N 7.

Advertisement inquiries: Messrs. Cowlishaw and Lawrence (Advertising) Ltd., 28 New Bridge Street, London EC 4 (City 5118 and 1542).

SOLDIER

THE BRITISH ARMY MAGAZINE

EILEEN MOORE

"An Inspector Calls"