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MATTERS OF MOMENT

THE BRITISH have a reputation of lack of self-advertisement. As a rule, they content themselves with doing their job, and letting the world draw its own conclusion. In these days of concentrated propaganda, is this enough? Should Britain, which, with Czechoslovakia, is the only country at war with the entire Axis forces, be less hesitant in telling the world of her part in the war, and of what she has done? Memories are proverbially short, but many people feel it is time we embarked upon a "reminding" campaign, not to spur on our gallant home-folk, or to encourage Britain's sons serving "in the blue" thousands of miles from home, but to show others that we are bearing our proper share of the burden. Propagandists—and not always enemy—seize every opportunity of playing down our part, though a few minutes' reflection is enough to show that our little nation is now stripped and exerting every ounce of its strength for victory. At Home everyone is recruited for the war effort, and even old-age pensioners

Publicise Britain's Share

are lending a hand; the voluntary Home Guard is a grand example of democracy in action, as also is the organized fire watching in towns, villages and hamlets, for each of these activities is being done in leisure time. It is those people who have lifted our production of guns, bombs, ammunition and the hundred and one other things we fight with to such a high level.

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Some Epic Achievements

What we have done in the fighting sphere has been accomplished with the help of our Commonwealth brothers and Allies, but our share has been such that we are entitled to advertise it. What, for instance, has our Navy done? We have lost practically a fleet in this war—and have rebuilt and manned it; our Navy has conveyed the largest convoy in history to North Africa, without the loss of a single soldier; it has protected three million soldiers on the high seas for the loss of less than 1,500; has dealt a mortal blow to the Italian Navy; and has given safe passage to munitions and equipment to the four corners of the earth in face of three-dimensional opposition. And our Merchant Navy? It has maintained life-lines between the Mother Country and our outposts of Empire, transported troops, munitions, refugees, foodstuffs and badly-needed supplies in defiance of ruthless attack. To them no tribute can be too high. What of our Army? An epic victory in Abyssinia against great odds; that first spectacular advance to beyond Benghazi, outnumbered by ten to one; the frustration of the German strategy to cut through Egypt and march onwards; the present splendid achievement of the Eighth Army in sweeping aside a mighty German-Italian force; a determined eviction of the enemy from the whole of Africa; the epic defence of Malta; and the unsurpassed gallantry of our forces in Malaya and Burma.

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The Royal Air Force

Finally, the Royal Air Force, whose massive and persistent raids have taught Germans, Italians, and Japs that they are fighting no decadent race. Our losses have at times been severe, but despite that our hammer blows come down with greater punch on Nazi Germany, whose war machine must be beginning to run out of gear. History will show the R.A.F.'s victory in the Battle of Britain to be the turning point of the whole war. Thus on land our tradition of generalship and fighting ability has been maintained and enhanced; at sea our stranglehold on two of our enemies at any rate is being held; in the air, our twenty-five-year old Air Force is blasting Germany to a productive standstill. For a nation which after Dunkirk lost everything but its courage—let us call it plain guts—and faith, for a nation which history will show carried high the flag of freedom for mankind when watching nations averred that all was lost, we have accomplished miracles. The lion has now begun to wag its tail, and soon will come that fatal spring which has crushed barbarity in the past, and will do it yet again.

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Ex-officers in the Post-war World

A CONTRIBUTOR in this issue very wisely stresses the help that retired Indian Army officers can give in post-war England, where their experience and leisure time can be of great value. There is, we suggest, equal need in Britain's Dominions and Colonies for the young officer who, having for the first time seen something of the outside world, and having spent a few years in open-air work, will be the more valuable in those countries built up by our forefathers and peopled by our own kith and kin. Whatever the politically minded may say, the successors of those hardy pioneers are British in spirit, character and temperament. Young officers now in India and the East will find themselves out of place in an indoor, sedentary life in England, whereas in the Outer Empire they will find an

outlet for their vigour and drive. Years of responsibility and tough training have made of them the type of which Colonials are made.

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That is our side of the picture. The Dominion Governments may, bearing in mind their pre-war unemployment problems, view with concern any suggestion of a big scale emigration policy, but selected settlers of higher than average education, and with experience of responsibility behind them, may well be welcomed. Having seen the dangers of sparse populations, and being desirous of building up their primary and secondary industries, the countries within the British Commonwealth might consider favourably suggestions of an immigration scheme embracing this class of settler. Of that, however, we have no knowledge, but given the opportunity of training in agriculture, careful selection of candidates, and keenness and enthusiasm on the part of the student, there is no doubt that the Mother Country's loss would be the gain to the Overseas Empire of a virile and forceful body of men, who would later materially benefit the economic future of their adopted country.

Will the Dominions Help?

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WHILE OUR forces are toughening up for the fight with the Japs, it is not inopportune to focus attention on an article in a recent issue of that well-produced and valuable American Service periodical, *The Infantry Journal*, in which a contributor who helped defend Bataan reveals some valuable sidelights on the enemy we shall face in Burma and Malaya. "Most soldiers", he says, "have little honest hate for the German or Jap until some of their comrades have been killed". In the last war, as much as in this, there was little need to help us hate the Nazis; hatred was and is there, in full measure. But against

Honest Hate

the Jap that intense personal hatred is at present practically confined to those who have suffered at his hands. It must be extended. Let this suggestion not be confused with an advocacy of rashness which leads to forgetfulness of training detail.

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The Alternative

It must be the counterpart of the fanatical hatred the Jap has for all his enemies, with this difference—that while the Jap fights as a fanatic, believing that to be killed will give him peace in the Hereafter, we must fight fortified by a pride in our race, pride in our toughness, pride in the cause for which we are in the war. Behind that is the potent fact that unless we overcome in turn the Nazi, the Italian, and the Jap, the whole of the Allied Nations and their inhabitants will suffer personal and economic slavery. That is why thirty-five nations in this world are united in their determination to destroy the Axis Crude as it may sound in this civilized age, we have to become expert killers—not for the sake of killing another human being, but to ensure that our children's children may live in peace.

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Officers in the Post-war Army

POST-WAR PROSPECTS for India may be obscure, but all well-wishers of the Indian Army will do well to ponder over the article in this issue dealing with the training of officers, for in it the author—an officer well qualified to write on the subject—indulges in some plain speaking. His strictures on the pre-war training of officers, his suggestion that few officers took the trouble to teach themselves much more than a proper swing at a polo, tennis or golf ball, will be vigorously contested by some, but common prudence demands that his frank facing of the fact that the Army will have to be a full-time profession after the war should be given the

closest thought. For whatever the composition of the future Army of India, its officers must not only be able to live hard (as so many have proved themselves able to do in this war), but their supremacy over other armies must be based on a scientific military education second to none.

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Speeding the Mails

SEVERAL CORRESPONDENTS have commented on the fact, revealed in an article in the last issue of this *Journal,* that mails to Balaklava during the Crimean War in 1854 took only eleven to fourteen days in transit from England. They very reasonably compare this period with the four and five weeks taken to deliver a letter from England to India in an age of fast aeroplanes and other modern means of quick transport. They, and other readers, may rest assured that this problem is well to the fore in the minds of the authorities responsible, and in the past few weeks many members of the Forces in India will have observed an improvement. But although the problem is primarily that of the Post Office, a method of assisting in the quicker transit of mails has been widely advocated in England, where correspondents in the Press have suggested that those with relatives in the East should endeavour to restrict their letters to one each week. That many writers were much exceeding that number was revealed in correspondence columns, and it was felt that such a voluntary rationing would lead to a material reduction in the total quantity despatched, and enable the postal authorities to handle them more expeditiously. Here, at the other end, we believe the suggestion will be welcomed, especially if it results in speedier delivery of a letter from Home to a father or son.

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NOT THE LEAST important of Rommell's worries in North Africa is the losses he has suffered in his Generals. Derna, for instance, is the burial place of three,

German Toll of Generals

two of them Commanders of the 15th Panzer Division; the one-time leader of the 21st Panzer Division, General-Major J. von Ravenstein, is a prisoner of war in our hands, as also is General Cruwell, former G.O.C. of the Afrika Corps, while his successor in that position, General Ritter von Thoma, is also in captivity. Rommell's 21st Division also lost a later commander in General von Bismarck, who was killed in action. The commander of the 90th Light Division suffered a like fate. These are but a few of Germany's military leaders who have fallen in the course of victorious operations which have proved to the world that British Armies and British Generals do not always, as German propagandists declare, engage in "successful retreats". Given the right arms and fighting equipment, the British General and the British soldier of 1943 can still beat the German, as they did in 1918.

Members are earnestly requested to notify any change of address to the Secretary without delay. Such cooperation will not only help to ease postal traffic at a time when mail services are overburdened, but will also ensure prompt receipt of the Journal each quarter.

OFFICERS' TRAINING IN THE POST-WAR ARMY

By "Auspex"

"Nobody has ever tried to teach me anything since I joined the army."

THAT REMARK we have all often heard from officers. Is it true in most cases? What is it that they need to be taught?

In peacetime a great number of courses were available to officers, and most of their vacancies were filled. All, except the purely technical courses, either taught directly certain aspects of the tactics which derived from the subject of the course, or else gave the student a lead as to how to follow up the tactical side of the matter. At certain other schools and courses, such as the S.O.S. and the Staff College, the tactics of all weapons and of all arms were drawn together, and considered by instructors and students.

Results were, as we now know, unsatisfactory. The reasons for this were that with a primitive army, and so a primitive mind, we produced primitive tactical ideas. Throughout the year in most places in India, things called TEWT'S were conducted pretty regularly by local commanders. The Regimental Officer could, with little effort on his part and with the help of his Commanding Officer, manage to be present at most of these exercises. Whether they were such as to instruct him well in modern war is another matter. Most were not.

In the cold weather nearly all units and formations, within the limits of a most inadequate training grant, and with the rather archaic weapons and equipment issued to them, managed to get out "into camp" or on to mobile training of some sort. Most officers got their chance of this training in most years. At any rate, most of them, if not actually participating, could have been present at some part of the training, either as umpires or as spectators. The trouble was that the training was far too short, and the equipment and weapons in the main those of 1914.

We must acknowledge that quite a number of people did try to teach our officers, although few officers took the trouble, or had the initiative to try, to teach themselves much more than a proper swing at a polo, tennis or golf ball. Whether the system or method of instruction was right, and whether it produced the

results needed for modern war, was open to question. In fact, most will acknowledge to-day that the teaching was not very good: the reasons, at any rate the chief ones, are given in this paper. Nevertheless, the opportunity to obtain instruction was there: seniors did try to teach their juniors to the best of their ability. The complaint, then, is not a good one.

Another method of instruction, or of self-instruction, is that of putting officers in a position to obtain books on past wars, on past and present military thought, on warfare of the future, on social problems, both domestic and international, which above all must bear on the causes and nature of war, on the science of war on land, sea and air, and on military biography.

Our local military libraries have done all they could with their small grants to get these books. My own experience is, however, that I have preferred to buy the books I wished to read, so that I could read them at my leisure and not have all the trouble of going to the military library, only to find the book to be "out", or of having to hurry my reading in order to get a book, particularly a new book, back in time.

The library system was not a convenient one, and did not help officers as much as it might have done. What was needed was a better means of getting recently-published books to officers from big, well-stocked central libraries, and the means to see that local libraries were fully stocked with a proper selection of military books of permanent reference, in a room where officers could read them.

Such books should only be lent out of the library to units, not to individual officers, thus saving clerical labour, particularly in checking up the return of books, and payment for lost volumes. The big libraries would send up books as demanded by officers to the local station H.Q. in consignments. Station H.Q. would issue to units and would return books in consignments. All this at public expense, but possibly no more expensive than the present system of local libraries.

Lecturers often take the rostrum at various stations. Their efforts are spasmodic and unco-ordinated. Too often their delivery is dull, and their treatment of their subject unimaginative. It may be said that a dull and unimaginative audience gets what it demands. But this is unjust in our case. Many officers are of quite a different kidney, and are not of the traditional type that looked with the athlete's contempt on the studious and the cultured.

In fact, many are to-day made of the stuff of which good soldiers and sailors have in the past been made; they are, or would be, serious students of war. They need good lecturers to talk to them on matters belonging to war which they do not meet in their daily round; matters that will give them food for thought.

Even staff duties, in the mouth of a man who has studied the history and development of staffs, can be made provocative of thought. There have been different ways of fulfilling the duties to be performed by a staff, and those ways date back to "the year dot". But we have listened at a Staff College for many dreary periods to scorching platitudes on staff duties that could well have been tabulated on a few sheets of paper and explained in an hour's talk.

The best way to learn the duties of a staff is to work on one in practice battle conditions, and not to talk about them without end. Far too little practical training has been done in our army, and far too much in skeleton and on paper.

However, lecturers we do need, and in teams, working to a programme with a certain independence in their expression of views; but we do not need them to reiterate platitudes. We need them far more to lay bare the fundamentals, to drag out the first principles of all branches of the science of war, and to point the present trend and the way of the future to those who possess a flair for the art of war.

We need lecturers who can kindle the imagination, and stimulate the desire for study and for research. They can follow each other round India and meet in the bigger centres. This does not mean that local talent should not also be enlisted, or that discussion groups should be given up.

What has been said concerns mainly the theoretical side of the training of officers, and it makes so far only three suggestions: namely, that the library system be reorganized, that a proper team or teams of lecturers should be organized, and that more attention should be paid to practical soldiering.

The provision of lecturers takes us to the provision of officers for all instructional purposes. We all know that Indian Army units are on so small an officer establishment that they cannot well run their units, provide the outside instructors needed, play their games, and attend at the club. Playing of games will have to be curtailed and attendance at clubs very much reduced. Even then, the number of officer bodies in the unit will be too few. The establishment will have to be raised to something nearer

twenty instead of thirteen or fourteen, and more of the higher ranks will then have to be filled by Indian Army officers than is the case to-day.

There is not much doubt that the officer who has been through a Staff College, in spite of all the past deficiencies in its instruction, is usually more useful, even as a commander, than the officer who has not. Probably the reason is that he works to a higher standard than many of his brethren, that he does try to think things out, and that he is more industrious. The deduction is that all officers should go through an institution of the sort once or twice in their career.

A lower school should be formed in two wings; a wing for Staff duties, and a wing for tactics. A higher school is then needed for our Lieutenant-Colonels and Brigadiers, more on the lines of the Higher War courses recently held in India than on those of a Staff College; that is, a sort of senior conference to discuss the bigger tactical problems and theories of the day and of the future.

The p.s.c. system is not a good one, and it is regarded as a pernicious system of trade unionism by the army at large. It should cease after this war: there should be no need for it with a higher standard of all-round training for officers.

Presumably something like the Imperial Defence College will continue, but it most certainly must not go on as a thing apart from the Army in India. Somehow it must be allied to that army. Hitherto, we have not known what it is teaching, and that has not been good for either side, as we now see from recent happenings in the East and the Far East. A branch of the i.d.c. is needed in India or some other part of the East to serve our Eastern empire. This, too, is merely another of our courses, and should not carry the i.d.c. badge after an officer's name in the I.A. List. Let us, in other words, educate all our officers, and so be educated by all our officers and not by just by a few.

Probably the most apparent failure has been the lack of training in the work of "the other arms", of the sea and of the air forces. For the first, "the other arms", we need to give our cadets a longer training, say two years, at the cadet school, one year being spent at studying the works, and one arm other than that to which the cadet has elected to go. Before entry to the cadet school, he must have served in the ranks for at least one year. In this way his time at the cadet school will be devoted more to study than to the recruits' parade ground. The cadet

should here be taught how to study, and be given the desire to learn more.

During an officers' service he should be made to do one full tour of three to four years in the "other arm" of the service which he has studied at his cadet school, unless he is selected to undergo an attachment of four years either to the Navy or to the R.A.F. For attachment to these, he would do at least five years as an officer in the army, and then go to a special short course of six months at a Naval or R.A.F. school to familiarise himself with one technical branch, *e.g.* signals, gunnery, navigation, in which he could take a useful part during his tour with the other service.

One criticises the army for its lack of knowledge of the other services, but it is probably true that with them there is less knowledge of the army.

There remains the ordinary practical training of the officer, and it is here that we could have done so much in India and have achieved so little, more perhaps than at Home, for our opportunities are very much greater but far less than we should have achieved. The N.W.F. gives us a bit of experience of being shot over, but our fighting is so emasculated, and so hedged about by political taboos and restrictions that we are reduced to fighting with primitive weapons in a primitive way, with one arm metaphorically tied behind our back.

Now, it is well known that if to-day there is a chronic tactical problem to solve, one must turn first to the workshop, the engineer, the laboratory and the scientist, and only if they cannot solve it should we turn to the private soldiers, and say: "Solve it yourself—train for it". But the curse of the N.W.F. is that its limitations habituate us to the very opposite attitude of mind. It is a bad trainer: it gives us the small mind for small wars or for Imperial policing.

Beyond this is the annual training camp. It has been put into a certain time of the year for climatic reasons, and is closely confined to that time. It should go on all the year round in those places where the climate admits of it, and the vitality of officers and men will not thus be hopelessly lowered.

Troops should be stationed where such training can go on all the year round, both from the climatic point of view, and from that of suitable and extensive training areas being close at hand. India abounds in such places, but troops were not till recently stationed in them in any numbers. Rather they were cantoned in military stations, where they just lay and rotted. Most of those stations should be abandoned. South of a line,

Mhow-Saugor-Ranchi, and along the foothills of the Himalayas, are huge areas of fine training country of nearly all types in a reasonable climate, while about Karachi is magnificent desert country.

Strange it is to think that we have not possessed formations expert at forest fighting, when we can roam at large (if the State permits it) through the great, dense sub-Himalayan forests of India, or expert mountain troops when at our backdoor is the mightiest range of mountains in the world, bare or clad with forest, tropical or snow-covered, just as we wish. Whose is the fault?

With an all-year field training period, games, particularly polo, must be severely relegated where they belong, a long way behind the study and practise of a full-time profession. Privilege leave must be cut down to no more than one month a year, and casual leave drastically reduced. In the 'twenties and 'thirties, games were a profession in the army, and for many officers there was little time left for anything else. This must stop. "Time spent in thought on one's profession is seldom wasted".

It will rest with those at the top of the post-war army to set the example in stopping this "games and sports" folly, for the standard of an army is the mirror of those at its head. An officer is to be judged by his value as a soldier, as a leader and planner in war, and by no other standard. The young Indian is to realize this, too, and to understand that the time is to come when he will be judged without fear or favour. As a rare bird in the commissioned ranks he has hitherto often had too soft a deal.

But there can be no proper tactical and practical training if there are, as before in peacetime, only Districts and Brigades and Areas. We have got to keep on the ground, ready at full establishment, the formations to employ in the spearhead of our wartime offensive, and behind it the framework for expansion to an Indian National Army, ready to expand to its full capacity, and with the officers to set the machine going. A proper reserve of properly trained officers has to be created, and it must be kept trained.

In this way we will live and train with our full establishment of first-line formations, and with our wartime cadre of experienced officers for first expansion. I suppose that, in the light of things as we know them now, a minimum spearhead army for India in peacetime would be five mobile corps, ten heavy infantry and mountain infantry divisions, and two air-borne divisions.

The whole army has lacked a proper picture of the war as the Empire intended to fight it. India has lacked a picture of the war as her G.A.H.Q. had intended to fight it. Without such a picture we cannot make our army, nor can we train it. No army estimates should be presented to the Assembly without an outline of the picture prefacing them, for no member can know what he is voting unless he has this on which to test the whole matter. Similarly, an officer must have this picture, into which he is to fit the details as he thinks they should be.

Good economy lies in investing wisely. It is a waste of money to have a half-baked army, half-trained, half-established, half-equipped. Either an army must be adequate to take its full part in modern war, or else it need not exist. India must in the next peacetime have a fully equipped force with proper reserves behind it, and must train her officers to handle that force and to put it far ahead of her possible enemies.

It is in the handling of such formations on modern lines that we have so sadly neglected the training of our officers, of our our leaders.

In order to ensure that the country gets value for the money spent on the Army, military financial officials should all attend junior or higher Staff or War courses.

One last tilt with our lance. The ill-advised officer who takes up foreign languages is usually penalised in the end. Others get better jobs, and he goes out as a Lieut-Colonel or less. Yet you and I know that we personally would have given our eyes for a knowledge of Italian and German in this war. Perhaps with the departure of the p.s.c. the discrimination against the language man will cease. He will be needed to teach his language at these staff schools of ours and in our special language courses that most officers will have to attend or to complete by correspondence.

This paper argues then, that for the proper training of our officers, we need:

(*a*) A properly equipped army of full size, with a proper reserve of trained officers behind it, and a framework for full war expansion.

(*b*) An adequate training grant.

(*c*) Constant practical soldiering.

(*d*) Concentration of the army in good training stations.

(*e*) A reorganized library system.

(*f*) A good team or teams of lecturers. (There's no need to clap and applaud them. They are paid to do it.)

(*g*) A bigger cadre of officers.

(*h*) An extension of the Staff College type of course for both junior and senior officers.

(*i*) The abolition of p.s.c. and i.d.c.

(*j*) A branch of the I.D.C. for the East.

(*k*) A longer and more varied pre-commission training.

(*l*) Periods of an officer's service to be spent with the "other arms"—or the Navy or R.A.F.

(*m*) Curtailment of leave, and the stamping out of the supremacy of the athlete. The army to be a profession.

(*n*) Finance to see that it gets value for money. Its officials to go to staff or other colleges.

(*o*) Better treatment of the language expert, and better teaching of languages.

There are many other things needed, but these will do as a beginning. I hope this short article will provoke others to offer better suggestions than those put forward here. We have got to realize that conditions for us are not the same as those for the army at Home. We must go our own way in many respects. Our training must teach our officers independence of thought, based on a scientific military education.

Finally, let us remember that if our tactical technique remains the same for two years, then it is probably out of date. New methods, perhaps new weapons, are needed to get it up to date and keep it there.

THIRTY FATEFUL YEARS

By Major-General R. C. Money, C.B., M.C.

IT IS NOT EASY for any of us who have not recently been in the United Kingdom to realize what Total War means or to see to what extent our lives have already been moulded by it, and must inevitably continue to be influenced by it. Nor is it easy to realize the magnitude of the social revolution which has already taken place in the United Kingdom.

I have had much to do with the Home Guard since it was first formed, in Sussex, Essex, Northumberland and South Wales. They were the same men that volunteered last war; many had fought in previous wars. They were the men who were told last time that England was to be made into a country fit for heroes to live in, yet many had been unemployed for years. This misfortune had in no wise damped their loyalty or their fighting spirit.

I asked them what they felt they were fighting for. Naturally all realized that we were fighting for our lives but none of them could say precisely what they were fighting for beyond that. They could and did say very positively what they were fighting against, and everywhere there was the same answer—"We are fighting against 1939 and all that,"—by which they meant that they never intended to see again, in the United Kingdom, unemployment on the same scale which we knew before the war. They meant to abolish wide divergencies in wealth, unequal opportunity, abuse of privilege and insecurity in the tenure of employment. How precisely they intended to bring all this about, they were not prepared to define, but I was left in no doubt as to their determination to achieve it. It is a worthy ideal.

Their wholehearted enthusiasm made one wonder why it was that such good material had derived so little benefit from the "fruits of victory". Surely there must be something wrong with us nationally to show so poor a front to the world as we did before the war, when the people are so obviously sound? It seemed

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* This article has been condensed from the first address to young officers and Senior British N.C.O s. in India of a series of talks and "Brains Trusts" dealing with Total War and the Individual, being held with a view to pooling experiences, and provoking thought and discussion on the war and after. The views are purely those of the individual giving the address.

that lack of informed public opinion about foreign affairs, lack of interest in what was happening in the world, had probably much to do with it. And that perhaps we had been making peace an end in itself instead of a means to an end.

You may ask, where exactly does public opinion come from? Is it the newspapers? I suggest it is not.

I suggest that you, the younger generation, are the people to form public opinion; that it is your duty to arrive at sound views as to how the world should be run, and to see that the Government you put in power does, in fact, express your views. It is no good in a democracy being a defeatist about this. If everybody stood back, as they so often do, you end by getting a Government consisting of men who represent only the official views of the Party in power, which may be quite out of touch with genuine public sentiment.

I wonder if you have ever considered how we in Britain appear to foreigners? I don't propose to touch on our obvious virtues—normally we are shy about them—and just now the Press is dealing with that very adequately for us. Let me summarise what the foreigner regards as our more obvious defects—obvious at least to them. They say we have no imagination, no power of logical thought and an infinite capacity for swallowing the past and forgetting about it, particularly if it does not redound to our credit. They grant that our sentiments are usually honourable and often noble, but that our successive governments seldom give effect to them, since reform and crusades cost money and the British Treasury firmly rules the British heart. They say we know nothing of the Continent, that we are too lazy to learn and therefore try to pretend we can live apart from it. They say that since the last war we "ratted" on all our engagements, and that this war is very largely our fault.

Let us examine these criticisms from the psychological angle, and from the experience of an average citizen who has lived through two wars.

I have lived through six clearly defined psychological periods. One of Belief and Ideals; one of Endeavour; one of Optimism; one of Disillusionment, loss of faith, loss of ideals; one of "Peace at any price": and now, one of Realization.

In the period before the last war, we were brought up to have ideals—patriotism, duty, loyalty, and absolute integrity. In fact, all those ideals which during the period of Disillusionment the clever young men spent their time in debunking.

I joined the Army in 1909, when it consisted of just "horse and foot and guns". The Infantry were being re-equipped with the S.M.L.E. Mk. I with its long sword bayonet. We were assured that the latter would give us two more inches of reach over the Uhlan with his lance, and that therefore, provided we formed square quick enough, we should be quite safe from German cavalry. It so happened that almost from the day I joined, I commanded one of our eight companies and eventually I became expert in forming square!

The gunners had just got their 18-pounder Q.F., Mk. I, a tremendous advance on anything that we had ever had before. The cavalry had rifles instead of carbines. Infantry battalions had two Maxim guns though no one was very clear as to what one did with such things. Mortars were unheard of, though a pattern of rifle grenade had been invented but not issued.

There was no Signal Corps, and line telegraph was run by the R.E., who also ran observation balloons and kites from a station at Farnborough. That year a man called Cody built and flew from there a contraption like a box-kite. I saw him take it for a 67-mile cross-country trip and land safely. A record for those days.

War with Germany was the subject of frequent discussion, and the *Daily Mail* was running a campaign to increase the number of Dreadnoughts, their slogan being: "We want eight and we won't wait". We had just got a new Liberal government, Campbell Bannerman as Premier, and a man who was regarded as anything but "old school tie" called Lloyd George as Chancellor of the Exchequer. He introduced in his Budget the first big programme of social legislation. His scheme of taxation produced a first-class war between Commons and Lords.

The Germans watched this performance with interest and calculated that not much was to be feared from us. Even in those days there were a million unemployed, but the statistics were less obvious and no one worried very much.

Society was very much of a "layer-cake". People belonged to certain strata, knew their place, and very largely kept in it. England was secure, and wealthy people still lived graciously in an atmosphere of country house cricket, Cowes, hunting, shooting and fishing. Football was important, but perhaps not quite so important as to-day. Racing was as important as ever, and I rather think that Minoru won the Derby that year. Anyway, all these things were vastly more important to us than the fact that Germany had a growing army and a growing navy and was training intensively and scientifically to gain world dominion.

1910.—Two things of interest. The union in South Africa, which the Mess regarded as a very dangerous Liberal experiment! How wrong time has proved us! The other thing which began to disturb men's minds was the growing tension in Ireland. It was feared that the Liberal Government would give Home Rule to Ireland and the Loyalists—particularly those in the North—absolutely refused to be placed under the majority rule of the South. During the next four years the situation became successively more tense, culminating in the refusal of the officers of the Army in Ireland to enforce Government policy if it involved suppression of the Loyalists in Northern Ireland.

The Germans viewed this situation with interest, and became even more confirmed in their belief that there was nothing to fear from England.

1911.—The French were engaged in Morocco, and the Germans tried the experiment of producing a mobilized fleet at Agadir. Rather, I think, to their surprise we reacted in support of the French and the incident blew over.

1912-13.—Years of war in the Balkans with Turkey and all the small states engaged in internecine strife and German officers gaining experience of war with both sides impartially.

July, 1914.—A harmless Prince and his wife were murdered at Sarajevo, and that set the match to the fuse. Austria turned on Serbia, Russia rallied to the aid of her ally, Germany joined Austria and then moved into Belgium. And so the first World War.

There were extraordinary scenes of hysteria and enthusiasm, and everybody rushed to enlist. Not in order to fight for their lives or to maintain the British Empire, but to support a solemn agreement entered into with the Belgians and the French, and to preserve what we believed to be the honourable way of life. And so closed the Age of Faith.

The next four years was an Age of Endeavour. The "wishful thinkers" who imagined that war with Germany would be an affair of weeks, soon began to realize that Kitchener was the only one amongst us who foresaw that it would be an affair of years. Certainly the war turned out to be very different from what we very junior generation had anticipated. We thought of it rather in terms of what had happened in 1870, and what we read of in German manœuvres. We had not anticipated four years of siege warfare and all that that entailed.

During *1915* we fought some unsuccessful and very unpleasant battles and learned a certain number of lessons.

1916 was interesting domestically because there was a small rebellion in Ireland and it was then that appeasement first reared its ugly head. The Irish people were appeased by being exempted from the Derby scheme and the "conscription" to which the rest of the United Kingdom was subject. From which, doubtless, the irreconcilables deduced that if you made yourself unpleasant you could get what you wanted, however unfair it might be to other people.

In July, the long drawn-out battle of the Somme started, and we found that we still had a very great deal to learn about warfare. Those that took part in that battle are unlikely to forget it.

1917.—Things going badly at sea. Submarine war reaching its zenith. Nivelle's offensive failed; the French army had been bled white and we realized that from now on we must do the bulk of the fighting. That is a thing for which the French give us very little credit. Nor, I think, do we ever give them the credit for carrying us in 1914 and 1915. In order to attract the enemy's attention to ourselves, we started the third battle of Ypres which, if possible, was more unpleasant than the Battle of the Somme, but it kept the German army fully occupied, and it was not until the Russian collapse that the Germans had sufficient troops to deal with the West.

1918.—The Germans launched their offensive on March 21. They drove a wedge between ourselves and the French, and they very nearly won the war. Their offensive was stopped on March 28 in front of Arras. Their subsequent offensives never achieved the overwhelming success of the first drive, and on August 8 a counter-stroke was set going. By November 11, when the Armistice was signed, the German army was beaten in the field; Germans were surrendering like Italians. One of the myths which Hitler has created is that the German Army was never defeated in the field. It was as well and truly beaten then as any army could be.

It was then that Foch handed in his "Note", in which he said that the natural frontier of France was the Rhine, and with six divisions he could hold it. But Woodrow Wilson and his Fourteen Points, his self-determination and his idealism had captured the imagination of the Government. The people felt the war was over and it was time to get back to peace. They felt that to take by force enemy territory, and hold it, was not in accordance

with the principles of the League of Nations, which was beginning to take shape in their minds, and so great pressure was put by the British and Americans on the French to drop this project of holding the Rhine. At this point the Age of Endeavour ended.

1919 was a curious year. There was a tremendous wave of optimism everywhere; the League of Nations was going to solve all difficulties; peace had come for ever; chaps at home were pinching all the good jobs, therefore everybody in the Services made a rush to get demobilized. Commodities were very scarce, and there was a rush to buy. Bits of the British Army were all over the world, trying to clear up the mess, and holding the fort until governments could get on to their feet again, and while all this was going on, statesmen were hatching out the League.

We were in Baku at the time, and I remember when we saw the terms of the Covenant, we argued that the disruption of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the creation of nations without direct access to the sea, the general woolliness as regards the imposition of military sanctions, should they be necessary, was bound to create a situation which could only result in another world war within twenty-five years, and at this point the Age of Optimism began to die.

It was succeeded in 1920 by an Age of Disillusionment. There was endless trouble in Ireland, there was a slump, coal strikes, industrial bother everywhere and though some effort was made to tackle the Irish problem militarily, there was nothing clear-cut about our action, and we had the deplorable spectacle of Downing Street being barricaded against Irish gunmen, and an Irish Field-Marshal being done to death in broad daylight.

And so 1921 and 1922. As you remember, the Germans defaulted on reparations, the French occupied the Ruhr and in 1923 there was the financial crash in Germany. I was in Berlin at the time living very comfortably in the Adlon at 2/2d. a day. The people in the streets were starving, and I made the very grave error of being sorry for the Hun. After all, he brought it all on himself, and to be sorry for the Hun is a psychological mistake of the first magnitude. He is an adept at sentimental self-pity, and he can be trusted to put up any sorrow necessary for himself.

From Berlin I went to Prague, and realized how wrong I had been in imagining that one of these new nations could not possibly run a good show. I came away tremendously impressed by all I had seen. Whilst nobody appeared to be particularly

rich, the people lived well and comfortably, and one saw no evidence of anyone being particularly poor. Their army was obviously keen, full of enthusiasm and apparently very well run. In fact, the country gave one the impression of having already achieved a very remarkable advance in democratic civilization.

1924.—A Labour Government came into power. Disarmament was the policy of the day. All the gear we built for the offensive of 1919—tanks, guns and the like, were hauled out and melted down. A carefully prepared scheme for a defensive and offensive alliance with the French called the Pact, was turned down.

1925-30.—During this time we were told that war in Europe was unthinkable for fifteen years, and anti-war propaganda of every type increased in violence whilst clever young men who had been at school when the war was on, set about debunking ideals. Even the Aldershot Tattoo was demilitarized, and any event in military history more recent than the reign of Queen Elizabeth was taboo. I think it is true to say that by the end of this period the British had quite lost all faith in themselves, the justice of the cause in which they had fought, and were fully prepared to accept peace at any price.

1931.—A year to note very particularly. Japan made an unprovoked assault on China and seized Manchuria. Both parties were members of the League. No European power was prepared to do anything about it. A mission headed by an Englishman was sent out on behalf of the League to report. The report was duly pigeon-holed, and in due course Japan left the League and started on her career as World War Menace, No. 2.

In, I think, February of 1931, Colonel Temperley, who was then G. 1 in the War Office and whose duty it was to attend all meetings of the League at Geneva, gave a lecture at Tidworth on the situation in Europe. I can recall his exact words:

> "Now I will turn to Germany. There is a man there on whom many of you will never have heard. His name is Adolf Hitler. He has written a book called 'Mein Kampf,' which I commend to your notice. In the recent elections he polled 18,000,000 votes. The next elections occur in 1933. He will then come in with a majority which I put at not less than 90 per cent. Within the year he will make himself Dictator of Germany. I give him then between five and six years to embroil Europe in the next Great War. I therefore put the first date at which it can occur as August of 1939 and the latest date as September 1940".

All those who heard him were deeply impressed and were convinced of the accuracy of the warning. However, there were troubles enough that year. The country went from bad to worse financially, and eventually went off the Gold Standard, and throughout the world there was economic depression.

1933.—Two members of the League in South America, conducted a war in the Chaco. It dragged on for three years; nobody was prepared to do anything, and again the League suffered grave loss of confidence. As Colonel Temperley foresaw, Hitler came into office.

1934.—Anti-war propaganda in England was going on just as briskly as ever, and I think it was that year that the Oxford Union determined by a large majority that they would not fight for King and Country. The German threat was well understood in the War Office, where I happened to be working at the moment, and we were trying to make up lost ground in the matter of A.A. defence and mechanization. We read with interest the German report on the behaviour of our light tanks bought by the Germans and sent to Paraguay to take part in the Chaco War!

1935.—Italians started their Abyssinian campaign. The League was not prepared to enforce military sanctions, and we were unprepared to fight. In fact, we had very little to fight with. Without telling the French, we entered into a naval agreement with the Germans. This was contrary to the Covenant of the League. Under our new agreement, the Germans were permitted to build up to 33 per cent. of our strength in capital ships and 47 per cent. of our submarine strength, with the right to build more should circumstances appear to warrant such action. I suggest that this agreement was one that only Hitler could have drawn up and only we, at that time, could have signed.

However, the man in the street became rather concerned about what was happening in Abyssinia, and there was held what was called the Peace Ballot. As a result, some eleven-and-a-half million people said that they fully subscribed to the terms of the Covenant of the League of Nations, that they subscribed the theory of collective security, that they were in favour of the imposition of economic sanctions—some even favoured military sanctions. The Government then in power took note of these sentiments and led the way for the imposition of economic sanctions against Italy. These started with a great flourish of

trumpets, but oil was not mentioned. Although the French and ourselves controlled the Suez Canal, no action was taken to stop the movement of oil to the Italian forces, nor even the movement of poison gas!

During all this turmoil about Italy, Hitler, in flat contravention to the treaty Germany had signed, reintroduced conscription. Neither the French nor ourselves felt disposed to act and I think our attitude was that if the Germans liked being conscripted and liked discipline and liked uniforms, what harm would it do to let her have them?

1936.—March. Hitler reoccupied the demilitarized zone of the Rhine. Again, this was contrary to the pledged German word, and was nothing if not provocative. Nevertheless, neither the French nor ourselves were prepared to use force to stop this flagrant breach of a treaty. Our general attitude was that after all, the Rhine was German territory—we had been there ourselves; there were some good training areas there, and some excellent barracks, and what more natural than that the Germans should wish to use the accommodation and amenities available? The British man in the street was being sentimental and not logical in his thought.

In the same year, Civil War started in Spain, and it was evident that the Russians had every intention of intervening on one side and the Germans and Italians on the other. To the side supported by the Russians, the Germans sent war material which they had over from the last war—at a price. To Franco's side they sent all their very latest equipment to undergo its trial with troops. Divisions of Italian troops were landed in Spain, and everybody tried to pretend that nothing unusual was happening. In 1937, the farce of non-intervention, which had been invented in London, brought the British name into considerable disrepute on the Continent, and our prestige had nearly reached rock-bottom. That year, we had the spectacle of Britons being debagged in China for the edification of Japanese troops and nothing was done about it. The period of appeasement which had started at the end of 1933 was now approaching its zenith.

1938.—March. Hitler marched into Austria. This was the first real aggression in Europe, and reaction was so favourable that Hitler could see no reason why he should not pursue his policy of European domination uninterrupted. That summer we appeased the Irish by handing back the naval bases to Eire. You will remember the inestimable value of these bases to us

during the submarine war of 1917, for countering the submarines lurking at the exit of the English Channel. The lack of these bases to-day means several hundreds of miles more flying for every anti-submarine patrol. Nor has the gift of them appeased the Irish. Had it done so, we should not have the astonishing spectacle of Axis ambassadors in Dublin watching everything that happens in England.

In September, Hitler took Czechoslovakia, or most of it. We made him a present of the finest natural barrier in Europe, of a first-rate army, an immense armament industry and the link between France and the Eastern European countries. In exchange, we received a piece of paper which we were told had secured "peace in our time". I think it is fair to say that by the end of 1938, the fighting spirit of the Democracies had ceased to be.

The milestones in 1939 I will recall merely as a matter of interest. On March 15, the last of Czechoslovakia disappeared. On March 22, Kemel went the same way. On April 7, Mussolini attacked Albania. On August 23, Germany launched her attack on Poland. It was not really until then that the people of Great Britain realized what was coming to them, and even then many could not see that we must prepare ourselves for a crusade, and that those who were not for us were against us.

* * * *

Now, what do we deduce from all this? Germany and Japan have a pretty black record and natives of these countries have an unholy lust to enslave and destroy others. There are doubtless decent Germans and Japanese, but they carry no weight, and they have not the moral courage to stand up for what they believe to be right. And, surely, the secret of Hitler's great appeal to his people is that they see in him a Mr. Everyman—the ideal that every German would attain if he could. He has done incalculable harm to Europe; he has perverted the whole youth of his nation to such an extent that nothing can ever make them see the error of their ways—not even defeat in the field.

The Italians, fundamentally, are decent, peace loving folk but politically have an unfortunate tendency to rush to the aid of the victors!

Then there are our friends submerged in Europe. They have paid a heavy price for mistakes which were not altogether of their making, and we must not forget to be generous to those in adversity.

You may say, "Well, who is going to watch Germany and Japan?" and I say in 1919 we all scrambled to get into "Civvy Street" and look at us now. Surely, the British Empire will have to bear its share in the watching if it means to reap some of the benefits of the peace?

And now what about ourselves and our own record? What about the man in the street and public opinion which he should have made? A sincere desire for peace is no excuse for woolly thinking, or for closing the eyes to what is going on, in the fond belief that if one doesn't see it, it won't happen to oneself. And, note the instability of public opinion which is not founded on clear, accurate thinking.

I suggest that to those who had eyes to see and wished to see, the portents stood out a mile. Most of us were too lazy to bother about things happening all round us, provided they did not affect our interests at the moment. Then, surely, we entered into a number of solemn agreements, and when the time came for action we were not prepared to use force. I think it is true to say that we are the most civilized amongst the Great Powers (though some of the lesser powers are more civilized) and as such it is our duty to lead. But one cannot be a leader only when it suits one's own interests, without incurring the risk of suspicion and dislike from the led! Beyond any shadow of doubt we condoned what we knew to be wrong. In Manchuria and the war against China, in the re-armament of Germany and the re occupation of the Rhine: in the treatment of Jews, in the seizure of Austria, in the Civil War in Spain, in the Italian war against Abyssinia, and we consoled ourselves over it all by saying it was "no business of ours".

Well, one knows perfectly well that if one condones wrong in one's private life, one has to pay. One cannot watch murder and expect to escape the punishment of the accessory after the fact—nor have we. As a nation we were rich with the wealth amassed by our Victorian forebears, and instead of using our wealth wisely, as they would haye done, by putting it back into the business, and consolidating a great block of peaceful English-speaking peoples, we practised race suicide and squandered our riches on two wars. And all because we were not prepared to face reality or to pay the price of adequate armed forces.

Surely we have been deadly complacent? We have had no informed public opinion—partly from lack of education and

partly because we have a commercially controlled Press, but chiefly because foreigners are difficult to understand, whereas football, racing and the price of beer are nice straightforward subjects. I suggest this parochial attitude of ours does not pay, and I also suggest that we do not realize it yet. I am not blaming any party in power at the time or any man who earnestly desired peace. I blame the man in the street—plain you and I—who in a democracy should create an informed public opinion.

Our thoughts about the League—in so far as we had any—were entirely woolly. We reckoned that it was some sort of scheme whereby people in Europe would do any fighting that had to be done, if they wanted to, and as a result I suggest that we have let down the Chinese, the Abyssinians, the Austrians, Czechs, the Albanians, and many others. We were not prepared to search for accurate information or demand it from our newspapers. We were not prepared to think clearly or logically, and so pursue an unwavering course to a clearly defined objective.

The question you must now ask yourselves is: "Are we going to make all these mistakes all over again, or are we going to take the trouble to learn about our own Empire and other Peoples? Are we prepared to take a long view of our responsibilities as a Great Power?" We have the chance now to set a right course. Never has the nation been so united or so single of purpose.

It is for you young people to say. You can't have it both ways in life. You can't have luxury and dodge responsibility. You can't, in fact, have and keep what you have earned if you are not prepared to fight for it.

I suggest that Peace is not an end in itself. It is only a means to an end. A period in which development and improvement of the human race is possible; a period to be guarded by force if necessary. I suggest that we have earned peace, but we won't keep it without a considerable armed force of our own. Peace is not a thing to be won and held on a "no cost" basis! It seems to me that public opinion must favour ensuring this peace at whatever cost in personal self-sacrifice and we must make up our minds that perhaps our own future will be in the Service and overseas. We can't contemplate going back to "1939 and all that", with two million unemployed and a large section of the community suffering from mal-nutrition, when we have literally

millions of square miles of uninhabited country in the Empire fit for raising good British stock, the man-power of which we must depend to maintain peace.

The reaction after the last war produced the loss of ideals, the loss of faith in ourselves and our destiny, the loss of fighting spirit; and this must not happen again. We must regain our faith in our ideals, and, like the Elizabethans, be prepared to back them with our lives, and certainly, as never before, we must work to rebuild our way of life. It is for your generation to decide whether we go forward as a great civilizing influence, or go out.

THE WELFARE OF THE SERVING SOLDIER

By Major-General H. V. Lewis, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C.

MEN, MUNITIONS AND MORALE are the three main pillars of the United Nations' war edifice—and morale is by no means the least important. Indeed, it is significant that the Government of India Defence Department has recognized its importance by the formation of a Directorate of Welfare and Amenities, charged with the responsibility of handling this vital aspect of modern training for war.

The Directorate has three main obligations towards the Forces: Material Welfare, or amenities; Emotional Welfare, or family welfare; and Mental Welfare, or welfare education. These three headings can be taken as a measure of the Government's intention to see that its soldiers are fully equipped psychologically for the hard times which lie ahead, and are fortified mentally for the post-war period.

Decentralisation of each of the above categories is obviously essential in such a vast country as India, and it has been carried down to the Platoon Commander. Indeed, to achieve 100 per cent. success the whole-hearted co-operation of thousands of officers is necessary. Given that unqualified help, I am convinced that we have embarked on a movement which will have a profound effect not only on the fighting prowess of British and Indian soldiers alike, but on their life when they leave the Army.

The diversity in outlook and general make-up of the British and Indian soldier necessitate a two-fold approach to the Material welfare, or amenities, problem. For the British soldier entertainments of a Western character have had to be organized, while Indian artists and Indian types of entertainment are provided for the sepoy.

Professional artists, soldiers who were entertainers before the war, and a number of first-class amateurs compose the British parties, which play under the title of A.C.E.S. (Amenities, Comforts, and Entertainment Services). They rehearse in the well-known Gaiety Theatre in Simla, and after two or three public performances set out on their tour of operational areas and cantonments throughout India. A portable stage and complete theatrical equipment enables them to bring an up-to-date performance to the most out of the way places. Three parties have now left, and

are on the road. Each has received an enthusiastic reception, and I can confidently recommend the reader to take the opportunity of seeing the shows when they visit his locality.

Among the artists in the Indian concert parties are well-known Indian film stars, and first-class conjurers. The Indian dearly loves his *tamasha*, and reports of the shows already given by these parties show with what keenness the sepoy enjoys them. Three such parties have already visited Iraq, and a fourth is preparing to leave; one is with the N. W. Army, another is in Ceylon, while troops in the Southern and Eastern Army are being entertained by further parties.

Finance for these entertainments is provided by a special A.C.E.S. fund sanctioned by Government. From this fund all units in India receive per capita grants, based on the strength of the unit. This money is primarily intended for the purchase of recreational equipment, and for radio sets or musical instruments. In addition, each Army is allowed a grant based on the strength of troops in mobile units at the rate of Re. 1 per head, this grant being given chiefly for larger projects, such as canteens, institutes, and recreation rooms for British and Indian troops, for organizing their own concert parties and for many other amenities.

Reserves of 4 lakhs of rupees for British troops, and 10 lakhs for Indian soldiers, are held by the Directorate to supplement the grants to Armies, special consideration being given to troops in more advanced areas and in districts far removed from towns and cities.

Supplementing Government grants, generous gifts of a wide variety have been given from Provincial War Funds and civilian sources. The Over-seas League in London, for instance, offered a supply of 100,000 cigarettes a month for British troops in India; mobile canteens and cinemas have been provided; free canteens, established on many Indian station platforms, have been presented by generous Indian gentlemen; furniture and other amenities for B. O. R. and other hostels have been purchased from a gift of £2,000 from the Nuffield Trust Fund in England.

Y.M.C.A. huts have been erected with funds from the Directorate—including a grant of Rs. 41,000 for huts in Madras and Bangalore; and at Christmas time, apart from gifts distributed for British and Indian troops overseas and in the Eastern Army, the soldiers of our Allies were not forgotten, and presents were sent to American and Chinese units serving in this country. The Indian

Tea Association has helped by giving mobile tea canteens. Sports gear and gramophones have been sent to Ceylon and the Seychelles, and gun crews on ships cruising in Indian waters were also grateful for some comforts sent as the result of a donation received from an Indian infantry battalion.

The British soldier of to-day's Citizen Army is a book-lover, and every effort is being made to satisfy his needs in this sphere. More than 200,000 Penguins have been ordered from England, and other means are under consideration whereby his reading facilities may be expanded.

The radio, of course, has long been in our minds, and it was welcome news recently to learn of the safe arrival of a large consignment of wireless sets from America, obtained under Lease-Lend arrangements. Distribution of these sets is about to begin.

Radio, too, is being harnessed in another direction, for a scheme has been started on which much work has been done in recent months. It might be styled "Entertainment by the Forces for the Forces", and consists of a series of entertainments given through the microphone from various All-India Radio stations by serving members of all the Forces in India (including American Forces) for the amusement and entertainment of their colleagues.

Messages broadcast to India from overseas by relatives of soldiers have been deservedly popular. Now a unique scheme has been evolved with the object of linking the soldier serving in the East with his relatives and friends at home. Special cinematograph pictures are to be taken in out of the way places of men from certain localities in England; the men will talk among themselves, and some will be interviewed by the camera man in the familiar style adopted by news-reel photographers. The films will be flown home by fast air mail, and exhibited in the cinemas of the towns from which the men have come. If, for instance, a group of men hail from Liverpool, or Taunton, or Glasgow, cinemas in those towns will screen the films immediately on arrival, while relatives will be advised that pictures can be seen and greetings heard from their sons or husbands in India.

Thus on the purely amenities side much has been accomplished. On the Welfare Education side a great deal of spade work is now beginning to bear fruit. The basis of this side of the Directorate's work is the publication each week of a pamphlet entitled Current Affairs. Alternate issues are for British and Indian troops, the former having a red coloured cover and the latter blue.

Topics for the British soldier are naturally of a more advanced type than those for the Indian sepoy, whom we teach how to become a better soldier by being smart and by being tough, and explain why he must fight in this war. We also set out to show him how he can apply the knowledge gained in the Army to his village life after the war. The value of cleanliness in cantonments shows him how tidiness and neatness will improve his village; the need for organization and co-operation in local affairs is stressed; and, in general, he is taught how to benefit from his life in the Army, and he is imbued with a determination to create a better village life when he leaves the Army. The pamphlets, printed in English and Roman Urdu, are written in simple style in a manner easily understood by the soldier who has spent his life in his village.

For British troops, Welfare Education is catered for in several ways. There are the regular *Current Affairs* pamphlets, written by experts, and covering a wide variety of subjects designed to teach the soldier more of national and international affairs. The nature of these pamphlets can be gleaned from the following examples of subjects already dealt with: "What are we Fighting For?", "The Chunking Angle", "Meet the Americans", and "Hitler's Own War." There are also publications containing war news and war commentaries, such as "Weekly Commentary" published by the Directorate of Public Relations. These are designed to give the soldier an intelligent understanding of the progress of the war.

Supplementing these regular publications are other booklets, including a series entitled "The British Way of Life", "The British Commonwealth of Nations" and "The United Nations".

These pamphlets form the basis of compulsory discussions between the Company or Platoon Officer and his men. A certain period is allotted in training hours for this Welfare Education, and the whole scheme is now beginning to get into its stride with, I confidently hope, beneficial results to vast numbers of soldiers.

Another direction in which the Directorate works is in connection with the District Soldier Boards. These Boards are formed in all the main recruiting districts of India, and are entirely civil institutions run by the Provincial Governments, through the Provincial Soldiers' Boards, the whole organisation having headquarters in Delhi under the Indian Soldiers' Board. Similar institutions exist in the Indian States.

The duties of these Boards are to further and foster the welfare of the ex-soldier and the families of the serving and ex-soldier. Each Board employs a number of welfare workers, who, by continual touring and investigation of complaints and petitions, endeavour to smooth out the difficulties which surround the Indian family in the absence of the husband or father.

The magnitude of this task may be easily imagined. The volume of petitions and complaints submitted has increased *pari passu* with the expansion of the Indian Army. Often the Indian sepoy is quick to take advantage of any facilities offered in the furthering of his private affairs; old grievances are sometimes put forward in the hope that, with official backing, a decision or revision will be obtained in the applicants' favour.

But while the investigation of petitions, etc., is primarily a civil responsibility, we are helping financially and by continual liaison with the civil authorities through the medium of Civil Liaison Officers, who are charged with the general supervision of these Boards and also act as a link between Civil and Military administrations. Many new District Soldiers' Boards are being opened, and provision is being made for a large increase in the number of welfare workers and for adequately paid secretaries and clerks. An indication of the organization may be gathered from the fact that there are some 30,000 villages in the Punjab alone, most of which contain service families.

Services which this welfare organization is undertaking extend far beyond India, for the temporary homes of numbers of men of the Indian Army contingent in the United Kingdom are being visited periodically and welfare reports are being cabled back to India and to the men's homes; postal facilities between the soldiers overseas and their families are being continually improved; free legal aid has been generously offered and the soldiers' rights under the Indian Soldiers' Litigation Act constantly watched. Government has also given free facilities for the translation into English of letters addressed to Prisoners of War.

All this, of course, concerns the Indian soldier. In addition, the Directorate deals with the family welfare of the British soldier serving in India, whose problems are of a somewhat different nature. His family is either with him or in some central place or many thousands of miles away. Little need be said regarding the first category, but for the latter, problems such as bombing raids over his hometown in England, domestic events, and other personal affairs are often the cause of anxiety. Conversely, his rela-

tives in England are frequently worried about his welfare, owing, perhaps, to delay in publication of casualty reports and the inevitable slowness of mail services.

To keep him in touch with home and *vice versa* we have opened a branch of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Family Association (S.S.A.F.A.) in the Directorate, with sub-offices at Lahore for the North Western Army and Central Command, Poona for the Southern Army, and Calcutta for the Eastern Army. Each of these offices takes up with the Home organisation matters reported to them.

As regards legal worries of the British soldier, machinery exists in the United Kingdom for the utilization of the services of the Poor Persons Law Committee. It is intended to set up local legal aid sections alongside the S.S.A.F.A. sub-offices, so that these services can be made available to soldiers in India, who may become involved in legal matters at home.

Thus we set out to cover the whole field of welfare for the Forces, confident in the belief that the task before us will assist the soldier while he is serving his country, and help him to overcome the difficulties which may face him in the years of peace for which he is fighting.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN INDIA

By "Custorian"

THE TREATMENT of prisoners of war is governed by the International Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, signed at Geneva in 1929. This convention was introduced as a result of the unsatisfactory treatment meted out to prisoners in the Great War, with the object of bettering their lot, and it was subsequently ratified by most of the nations of the world, two notable exceptions being the U.S.S.R. and Japan, neither of whom have ever ratified it.

This convention covers practically everything that is likely to affect the livelihood and welfare of prisoners, and consists of 97 articles. It is to be noted that it has always been the policy of the British Government to adhere meticulously to the terms of the convention in every sense of the word, and those who are inclined to think that prisoners in our hands are too well fed and looked after would do well to bear this in mind.

It has never been, and it is to be hoped it never will be, our policy to ill-treat prisoners. Any such action on our part must inevitably result in reprisals and sufferings for our prisoners in enemy hands, and this must be guarded against at all cost. It is understandable that in the heat of battle, or immediately afterwards unfortunate incidents may occur at times. But once in a permanent camp in our hands, prisoners can expect, and do get, humane and fair treatment, despite the grouses they give vent to from time to time.

The means adopted to implement some of the more important articles of the convention are varied. Firstly, accommodation. Prisoners must be lodged in buildings or huts entirely free from damp, adequately heated and lighted, and which must afford all safeguards as regards hygiene and salubrity. The area, cubic air space, etc., for each prisoner must be the same as for depot troops of the detaining power.

Italians, therefore, get the same accommodation as British troops in India. They live in huts in camps holding 3,000, each camp being sub-divided into five wings. Each camp has two parts—the living (or night-pens) at one end, and recreation

grounds (play-pens) at the other. During hours of daylight prisoners have access to both parts, while at night they are confined to the night-pens.

Prisoners have done a great deal to improve and embellish their quarters. Flowers and vegetables are grown in every vacant space between huts, and many other improvements have been carried out. Once they know they are likely to remain in their camps for some time, work goes apace—their one desire generally being to be left where they are until the war is over. In some cases, on transfer, malicious damage has been done. Prisoners now realize the foolishness of this, for not only must they pay for the damage in full, but replacements are often difficult to provide.

Prisoners' rations must be equivalent in quality and quantity to those for depot troops of the detaining power, and they must be allowed to prepare their food themselves. Canteens must be installed, in which food commodities and ordinary articles, *e.g.* toilet requisites, are for sale at local market rates. In India, prisoners run these canteens themselves, and only indigenous articles are allowed to be sold. Profits accruing from canteens must be utilized solely for the prisoners' benefit, and they, through men's representatives, of whom more later, have a definite say in their disposal. Profits are used for the provision of sports gear, seeds for gardens, etc.

The British ration not being what the Italians are used to, one more suited to their tastes has been evolved, and is supplemented by a small cash allowance, which prisoners use to buy extra articles as they wish. There is evidence that the ration given to the Italian is much superior to that given to our prisoners in their hands, and undoubtedly many are better fed than they have ever been before—but we are abiding by our obligations. Officers pay for their own food and clothing, run their own messes, and have a higher scale of accommodation.

Prisoners are subject to the laws and regulations existing in the armed forces of the detaining power, and thus may be punished for an offence under any section of the Army Act. For minor offences they may be awarded up to 30 days' detention, and for more serious offences they may be tried by Military Courts. In practice, military courts have seldom to be resorted to, in contrast to Germany, where our prisoners have, it is known, been sentenced to terms of imprisonment up to 15 years for comparatively trivial offences.

While our intention is to treat prisoners fairly and justly, a strict British standard of discipline is maintained, and orders are rigidly enforced. This is very necessary, for the Italian imagines slackness is weakness, and they are not slow to take advantage of this; but once they realize we will not stand any nonsense, they give little trouble.

Prisoners have the right to bring to the notice of the military authorities petitions regarding the conditions of their captivity, and also to communicate with the protecting power representative on these points. These petitions must be forwarded immediately, and even though found to be groundless, they must not give rise to any punishment. Complaints to the Protecting Power are normally sent through the men's representatives, who are elected by the prisoners themselves but whose appointment is subject to the approval of the military authorities.

Each belligerent appoints a neutral country, known as the Protecting Power, to protect the interest of its prisoners in enemy hands (Spain in the case of Italians in India). The representatives of these powers have many privileges. They are permitted to visit camps as they wish, they may interview prisoners alone and naturally hear complaints as to whether the terms of the Convention are being observed or not; they must be informed in advance of the intention to try a prisoner by a Military Court, and may be present during the trial.

Remittances to Italy, powers of attorney, applications for marriages by proxy—a common practice, are forwarded through them. Their reports on camps go by Diplomatic mail, and are not subject to censorship. The importance of our observing the convention rigidly will be realized, as any shortcomings on our part will undoubtedly result in retaliatory measures being taken against our prisoners in Italy.

Physically fit prisoners may be employed on any work except that in direct connection with the operations of war, and in particular the handling or manufacture of arms or ammunition or in dangerous and unhealthy work. Hours of work must not exceed those for civil workers (Europeans) in the same locality, and one day a week, generally Sundays, must be observed as a holiday. Work, other than that in connection with camp administration is paid for, the agreed rate being 10 annas or 5 annas for an eight-hour day for skilled and unskilled workers respectively.

Numbers of Italians are employed in this country on road-making, furniture making, as technicians, on chicken farms,

market gardening, maintenance of their own camps, manufacturing their own clothing, etc. Work on airfield runways is not allowed.

Among the Italians are many fine craftsmen, and every opportunity to employ them is sought, but climatic conditions, the finding of extra guards, and the question of competing with local labour, often more economical, are obstacles. All belligerents welcome prisoners being put to work, realizing that it will benefit them both physically and morally.

The convention permits prisoners to retain all personal effects, including their own uniform, decorations, badges of rank, and articles of value, except of course, arms, military equipment and papers. Money in their possession may only be removed on the orders of an officer, and sums impounded must be placed to their account and receipts given.

It is a remarkable fact that many were captured with large sums in their possession. Frequently these consisted of brand new, serially numbered lira notes as issued by a bank. Some high Militia officers were captured with sums of 50,000, or more lira, and while these may have been acquired in an honest way, it is difficult to visualise a British officer going into action with £1,000 or so in his pocket. Perhaps the Italians are different, or maybe they realized capture was inevitable and took advantage of the confusion before large towns such as Asmara capitulated, to feather their nests, and helped themselves from the nearest bank, etc. The money is now impounded, and cannot be made use of until the war is over or they are repatriated.

Both officers and men receive pay at rates agreed with the Italian Government. This may be used for purchases from canteens, etc., and credits of pay and working pay may be remitted to Italy. Prisoners are not allowed to have currency in any form, and a special form of token-money has been evolved for use in each camp. The amount of token money a prisoner may have at any one time is limited, and any currency found in their possession after the first impoundation is confiscated.

By agreement with Italy, prisoners may write one letter of twenty lines, and one card of ten lines weekly, stationery being provided by us. They may also send one air-mail letter a month at a cost of eight annas. The numbers of letters or parcels they may receive is unrestricted. All are subject to censorship, but parcels must be opened in front of the addressee.

Mention must be made here of the International Red Cross Committee, whose work in connection with prisoners of war of all countries is beyond praise. In Geneva they maintain complete rolls of all prisoners, and answer innumerable enquiries regarding them. They regularly receive lists of those prisoners who have not heard from their relatives for some time, and endeavour to obtain news for them from Italy through Geneva.

Messages from Italy, from relatives, are also forwarded through the Red Cross organization to prisoners in this country, who are allowed to reply. Red Cross delegates in India regularly visit camps (they do this in enemy countries as well) and endeavour to ensure that everything possible is being done to promote the welfare of prisoners. In Europe, all Red Cross food parcels and clothing from England are distributed to our prisoners through their agency, and all nations can never be too grateful for their great humanitarian work.

The Apostolic Delegate in India also takes a great interest in the spiritual welfare of prisoners, and his visits to camps are always very welcome. Through him prisoners have the opportunity of sending and receiving family messages once in every quarter—this in addition to the normal letter allowance.

Hospitals are largely looked after by Italian medical personnel. Although taken in battle, these are not prisoners of war but captured protected personnel. Under the convention they should be returned to their own forces but, by agreement with Italy, each country retains a number to look after its own compatriots. They receive the same rates of pay, and are also entitled to the same quarters as R.A.M.C. personnel.

The convention also requires each belligerent to form a mixed medical commission, consisting of two doctors from neutral countries and one of the detaining power. This commission visits camps periodically, and examines prisoners suffering from incurable diseases, loss of limbs, etc., and recommends them, where necessary, for repatriation to their own country. Arrangements for repatriation are made by mutual agreement with the enemy power.

Belligerents are required to encourage the organization of intellectual and sporting pursuits. In regard to the latter, facilities are provided for games, and many types of these are indulged in freely. Football is very popular, and the Italian is no mean performer. They train hard, are very fit, and reach a high standard.

though of a different type to British football. Games are very fast, but there is perhaps too much ballooning of the ball from our point of view. Frequent competitions are held, and these raise great enthusiasm.

The games begin in a typical Fascist manner. The teams enter the ground from opposite corners, doubling out in file; they then halt in the centre in line and give the Fascist salute (in reality the old Roman salute), first to the spectators on one side of the ground and then to the other, amidst loud applause. At the end of the game the salute is again given.

Other games are "bocce" (a kind of bowls), which is extremely popular, boxing, tennis, volley-ball, and athletic sports. Many competitions are held, and these are followed and watched enthusiastically.

In so far as intellectual pursuits are concerned several organizations exist. Basic English is taught and is being developed on a large scale, while many who arrived in this country completely illiterate have been taught to read and write in Italian, and are now able to write letters to their families for the first time. In one camp a University is being organised and run by the prisoners themselves, at which in due time those desirous of doing so will be able to undergo a complete university course.

Handicrafts of all descriptions are encouraged, and facilities for carrying them out provided. Painting, carving, modelling, drawing, the manufacture of articles of furniture and general utility articles, and the making of religious pictures all have their followers, and many useful and beautiful articles have been turned out. Exhibitions have been held, and the articles produced have been sold for the benefit of the prisoners. To procure further amenities, many ingenious lathes and instruments have been made, often very "Heath Robinson" in type, but useful for all that.

Prisoners owe a great deal to the war prisoners aid branch of the Y.M.C.A., who have always been extremely helpful in furthering their welfare. Its representatives continually visit camps, and give very valuable help and advice, in addition to presenting numerous articles in kind for handicrafts, musical instruments, books, etc. As already indicated, gardening is extremely popular, whilst nearly every wing has its chapel or altar. Messes and dining halls have been artistically decorated, and most dining halls have a stage at one end and an altar at the other. Frequent concerts are held, and these reach a high standard, with artistic scenery and excellent costumes.

Most camps have at least one band. Some, of course, came into captivity complete with instruments, and many of the quieter type are made in camps. One camp holds the late Duke of Aosta's band complete, and many prisoners' bands play regularly in officers messes, etc.

Italian soldiers are conscripts drawn from every walk of life, and prisoners in our hands may be taken as representing all types met with in Italy. It must be remembered that (*a*) for 20 years the Italians have been dominated by the Fascist règime, have been brought up on lies and falsifications about every country in the world, including their own, and that whenever possible news from the outside world has been denied to them, (*b*) the Italian, while having a keen sense of humour and being logical, is also touchy and impressionable, (*c*) they are not sentimental except in family affairs, when sentiment amounts to passion and all suffer from home-sickness, and (*d*) numbers are ignorant and illiterate and therefore easy meat for the Fascist bully.

As is to be expected, among those in our hands are large numbers of Fascist Militia* and Carabinieri†, who for years have been the instruments by which Fascism has been imposed. On the other hand, there are many others who, realizing the hardships and misery brought about by Fascism, are heartily sick of all the bullying and repression that Fascism involves. These, particularly when they have families in Italy, are in a difficult position.

The Fascists still seek to enforce the same ruthless control in camps, and if given the chance, prevent everything that comes from British sources from reaching other prisoners. Everything British is treated with suspicion and called propaganda, and they prevent, if possible the circulation of all newspapers, magazines, war-news, etc., and only allow prisoners to have, or hear, what they approve of. They note, for subsequent disciplinary action in Italy, the names of all those who read British newspapers or co-operate with the authorities in any way, and accuse them of being anti-Italian and traitors.

The anti-Fascist, apart from being kept ignorant of the real state of affairs, is afraid of several things—being beaten up, reprisals, both physical and economic, on his family in Italy, and disciplinary action being taken against him after the war. It is,

* Blackshirts. In peace merely a part-time political army, with a whole-hearted tendency towards thuggery. Incorporated in the army in 1940.

† Armed military and civil police.

therefore, natural that the more timid and ignorant anti-Fascist is diffident about showing his true colours, but, as they gradually realize that the prospects of an Axis victory are daily becoming less, more come forward knowing full well that only in the case of an Axis victory can these threats and black lists be made use of.

Prisoners sometimes appear to be unwilling to co-operate with the authorities when asked to do something, and the reason is not far to seek. They prefer to be given a direct order, publicly if possible, to do the thing, and then they cannot be accused of helping the British and the consequent fear of reprisals, because it is an order which must be obeyed. This too is the reason behind many of the frivolous complaints—just to show their fellow-prisoners how they are standing up for their rights, as interpreted by them. Again many, particularly among the more senior, are busily occupied in writing-up diaries and recording evidence to justify the circumstances under which they were captured, and to show their bravery in action—in case they are asked questions after the war, or to adduce reasons why they should be promoted. One senior officer who was at Keren has quoted the good write-up given to the defence of that town in "The Tiger Strikes" as a reason why he should be promoted.

Considering the numbers of prisoners in India attempted escapes have not been excessive. Some have succeeded in evading capture for lengthy periods but most are recaptured within a day or so, due principally to their lack of detailed knowledge of India, its languages and customs and despite the fact that some acquire a smattering of Urdu. A reward is paid for the capture of a prisoner.

Potential escaped can be divided into three classes, (*a*) the determined escapee who imagines he can reach Afghanistan or Goa, or find his way to join the Japanese in Burma, (*b*) the sufferer from boredom and "barbed-wireitis" and most, apart from the more elderly, get this feeling sooner or later. Generally these have no fixed idea of what to do other than to feel free and enjoy a change of scenery and environment for a time; and (*c*) the unpremeditated escape—these have no real intention to escape until they see a sudden opportunity and do so on the spur of the moment.

The biggest problem is the determined escapee, and some of these have escaped, or attempted to, on several occasions. This type is always faced with one big problem, apart from the method of escape, and that is the collection of food supplies, maps, clothes,

medicines and water bottles. Most Italians are reluctant to escape without a supply of medicine and money. Not only have these articles to be collected, but they must be stored against the appropriate time so that they will not be discovered prematurely.

When tunnelling is to be the means of exit this is not too difficult, but when this is not possible, stores must be gradually collected and hidden outside the camp by seizing opportune moments when out on work or exercise or walks. This type can be compared with the Pathan on the Frontier. He watches every move of his guards, and is quick to take advantage of any slackness or the slavish following of the same routine which may assist in his escape.

The other two classes generally make little or no preparations, and many of them have come back of their own free-will within an hour or so, some having been scared by wild animals in the jungle.

Tunnelling, cutting a way out through the wire, and jumping from trains during a move are among the more favourite methods of attempting to escape.

Prisoners in our hands are well looked after, humanely treated and well fed. On the whole they are remarkably fit, and have a lower hospital admission rate than British troops in this country. Their rations are better than anything most of them have ever been used to, and they have little to complain of. The thing they desire most of all—freedom—is, of course, impossible. Events in Russia, North Africa and the bombing of Italy make them realize that the war is being brought home to their own country, and all they now wish for is to return home and to their families, whether the Axis wins or not.

TORPEDOED—AND A THRILLING RESCUE

This remarkable and thrilling description of the experiences of a lady who left Northern India for Home a short time ago, and spent 13 days at sea in an open boat after her ship had been torpedoed and sunk, has reached us through the courtesy of a member of the Institution, who suggests that the high courage and confidence displayed in circumstances which might well test the bravest are proof once more of the stout-hearted spirit of our womenfolk.

The calmness of the writer is revealed by the fact that the story, which has been extracted from a letter to her husband, was written on board the ship which rescued her and her family.

"SOME days out of our last port of call, we had just finished dinner, and I had gone down to the cabin to collect cards, etc., for bridge (it was about 8-35 p.m.) when there was a dull explosion, and we realized that either we had struck a mine or had been torpedoed. (Actually it was the latter.) The lights went out at once, and there was a considerable list towards our side of the ship.

"I knew exactly where my torch was, and S. and I were able quickly, but calmly, to collect all our warm clothes and the little bag of things that we'd put ready for an emergency. We went straight upstairs, meaning to dress ourselves while we waited for No. 2 lifeboat. When we got there, however, we found no one in it, but someone said it was for the crew only, and that we must find another boat.

"Still dragging our belongings, we went to the next boat, No. 4, but found it full and about to be lowered. We then tried the opposite side of the deck, and found places in No. 3 boat. Shortly afterwards the boat was lowered—a ghastly process, as they couldn't keep it level; first it would be sloping towards one end so that we nearly slid out, and then it would go to the opposite extreme.

"Eventually we did get safely down, and waited while some of the late-comers climbed down the rope ladder. But at 9.3, before we had pulled away, a second torpedo struck, and something (we think it must have been the actual side of the ship) seemed to strike us at an angle from above, and our whole boat overturned.

"I remember thinking: 'I suppose this is the end', without minding very much, and being surprised that the story of my life did not flash through my head as some people say it does. But to my intense surprise I very soon found myself above water, holding on to the overturned lifeboat, and with Basil hailing me from quite close. In a moment we found R. and D., and then Susan, all keeping afloat quite easily with their lifebelts.

"Having got the family collected, my one thought was to get away from the big ship before she sank, lest we should be dragged underneath by the current. So we set out to swim for another lifeboat whose lights we saw about 250 yards away. (From what I have heard since, the big ship must already have gone by this time, and the large shape which I was mistaking for her half-submerged hull must have been the submarine).

"The family all swam valiantly, though S. got tired rather soon, and B. and I had to help her in turns. We reached the boat, but found it in a parlous condition, the people in it sitting up to their knees in water. Though some got out to lighten the load, it made little difference. They took Susan in, as she was light, and the rest of us swam and trod water in the vicinity, hanging on to the grab line, while we hoped for another boat to come along. After about an hour, No. 8 boat came, and picked up Basil, Susan and me, followed closely by No. 4 boat, which took in R. and D. We were delighted to find No. 8 contained Sir J., the M . . . . . s and the X family, so that we were among all the people we knew best.

"They took us out of our wet clothes and wrapped us in blankets—very amused at me, with my pearl necklace and blanket! The sea was luckily as calm as the proverbial millpond, and though there was no moon, the stars gave enough light to prevent us colliding with the other boats and with wreckage. Even when I was swimming round No. 1 boat, I couldn't help thinking what a gorgeous night it was, and how much, in different circumstances, we would have enjoyed such a warm starlight bathe.

"We just drifted around, and wished for the dawn, like St. Paul. At about 6-00 a.m. all the boats (the six, out of eight) got together, and the Captain told us his plans for trying to reach land. But the nearest Island even was 460 miles away, and there was no doubt that we hadn't a great deal of hope, unless we were picked up. There was no breeze to speak of, so rowing had to be kept up all the day. We hoisted our little red sai's to catch

any breeze. We were really a very attractive sight—six little red-sailed fishing boats in the vastness of the open sea.

"There were 55 in our boat (which was about 25 ft. long), 18 in the stern, and about a dozen more men forward, and some of the crew amidships. At night we sailed in line, roped together, and this was almost the only peaceful night we had. On Sunday the Captain sent us one Mr. G., a chief officer of the ship to command our boat.

"Our daily rations consisted of 4 oz. of water, one biscuit, two teaspoonsful of pemmican, one tablet of chocolate and up to five tablets of Horlicks. After a few days we found it difficult to put down even that amount of food without more water, and the Horlicks made us feel quite sick.

"Shortly after midnight on Sunday a nice old gentleman, Mr. M., overbalanced when changing places in an over-crowded spot and went overboard; unfortunately, all attempts to save him failed. So sad. He was a delightful old man, and had already lost everything once before in Burma, but was always so cheerful and so confident.

"On Monday there was a good wind, with great, steep waves which would produce quite a swell, even on a big ship, and the way in which our little boat breasted it was really marvellous. The night, however, was rather frightful. Orders were given to get all boats with their heads on to the wind, and then put out "sea-anchors"—a device, with oil, for minimising the power of a heavy sea. But this proved almost impossible to accomplish, and entailed rowing all night by tired and incompetent men—most distressing to everyone. Basil did his bit and was better than some, and I also took a turn.

"During the night one boat got detached from the convoy. I hope they reached somewhere safely. Sea was still very heavy in the morning. The Captain sailed up and said that No. 4 boat was taking in water badly, and he wanted R. and D. to be transferred to ours. It was awful weather for the process, but, thank Heaven, it was accomplished safely and we were all very happy to be together again.

"Wednesday was another nightmare of a night. The sea was too heavy for us to be roped together, but we were to keep in line as far as possible and keep in touch by flashlight. Owing to the depth of the wave troughs, this proved most difficult, and eventually we got detached. I was trying to sleep on the weather side

that night, and got drenched over and over again. It was bitterly cold, and my overcoat had been washed away when No. 3 boat capsized at the beginning. I just had on my rather thin wool navy blue afternoon frock with short sleeves, which I had put on for dinner. I took my turn in trying to spot flashes.

"In the morning we managed to find the others again. The next night the same happened. At this stage our mast, which had given us great anxiety from the beginning, owing to deep cracks, split badly, and had to be spliced with the remains of an old oar. There was no rope to do this with, and the rope from the sea anchor had to be sacrificed.

"Thursday night we again tried to keep in touch with the convoy by flashlight, but owing to the fear of putting too much strain on our mast, found it difficult to keep up. Eventually the Captain flashed us a Morse message, but none of us amateurs could read it, and 'Sparks' was asleep, so no one was any the wiser. Meantime, we accidentally found No. 4 boat. It had a proper navigating compass, whereas ours was broken and quite useless. Neither of us had a sextant or charts, though No. 4's skipper had a small sketch map. At this stage we took stock again of our rations, and discovered that on the present scale they would last another 20 days. We reckoned that we now had about 350 miles to go. On Friday the mast gave again, and the boom also broke, hurting a man badly in the process.

"Two days later No. 4 decided to take a course further north than ours, so there we were—one tiny, red-sailed boat all alone on the ocean, without charts and with nothing but a half-crown Girl Guides' compass to guide us to our objective 250 miles away. Mr. M. conducted a short service in the evening as far as he could from memory; it was very impressive and desperately heartfelt.

"Day followed day, quite pleasantly in a way, with a moderate sea and enough, but not too much, sun, but we were all beginning to get very weak, and Mr. G. and the two Q.M.'s who took it in turns at the tiller were beginning to feel the strain. Four Indians died in the next two days—three of them from having drunk salt water.

"On the evening of the 18th, I think all we grown-ups realized that the possibility of rescue was now most remote—though, of course, we wouldn't admit it. Anyhow, I think we were too weak and sleepy to mind very much. Mr. M. said some special prayers and we spent another nightmare night in the bitter cold.

"At about 7-15 the next morning someone shouted that a ship had been sighted. We could hardly believe it. But this was a ship, and it did stop, and about an hour later we struggled up the rope ladder to safety. I've often seen those ladders, and I don't think that anything but the knowledge that death was behind and safety above would ever get me up one.

"However, I got up with a great effort and collapsed on a hatch. This is a simple cargo ship, but I simply can't tell you how wonderful the Captain and Officers have been to us. Most of us have lost everything we had, and they have even lent us their underclothing while ours was washed. I am wearing the Captain's undies now!

"The possessions of the family are as follows:

Self.—One frock, one vest, one knickers, pearl necklace, watch (now ruined by sea water), but no shoes or stockings.

B.—One greatcoat, one grey slacks, one pair shoes.

R.—One cotton shorts, one shirt, one pullover.

D.—One cottton shorts, one borrowed pullover.

S.—One nightie, one school mackintosh.

"My bag with money, passports and what remained of traveller's cheques all went when the lifeboat capsized. I suppose a refugee committee will look after us for the first day or two, until the money arrives which I shall have to ask you to send.

"I only hope you thought better of the War Risks insurance policy over that week-end after we left. It is sad about the good silver and my furs, etc., but when one realizes by what a series of miracles we have escaped with our lives one cannot grieve too much about one's possessions. This ship would never have crossed our track if it had not had last-minute instructions to change course, and when they went into things they discovered that we had deviated badly from our course and had little chance of making that island, which was still 200 miles away when we were picked up. Really a wonderful example, we all feel, of a direct answer to prayer."

Later

"We have landed. We are with three different families, and everyone is marvellously kind to us. We have got emergency outfits from the local Women's Auxiliary. Mrs. B., with whom I am staying, is Oxford Group—odd how I keep running into it! However, she was 'guided' to ask me here, and has been most wonderfully kind".

PROPAGANDA PROBLEMS RECONSIDERED

By "Procrustes"

IN OCTOBER 1940 the present writer discussed in this *Journal* some general problems of propaganda and their application, not only to the peculiar conditions of India, but also to the circumstances in which this country stood at that time in relation to hostilities.

Briefly, the situation then was that India was a spectator of a conflict confined to Europe and North Africa, since the requirements of diplomacy made it impossible at that stage to present the war in China as closely connected with Axis aggression in the west. Despite the enemy's threat to Egypt and Suez and the presence of Italians on the western shores of the Indian Ocean, India could not be regarded by the ordinary observer as standing in immediate danger.

To the warning that the Axis would stop at nothing in their designs for world conquest, the reply could be given with a good deal of spaciousness that India's relation to the conflict was largely conditioned by her connection with Britain. It was widely realized that a German defeat of Britain would have far-reaching results on India, but the war was still sufficiently distant in the popular imagination for the feeling to gain ground that such results, if not actually advantageous to India, would in the long run make very little difference.

The principal tasks of war propaganda in this country were, therefore:

(*i*) to counter the cumulative effect of the enemy broadcast assertions that Britain was about to collapse;

(*ii*) to awaken public opinion to a realization of the actual hardships and horrors which German or Italian domination would inevitably entail; and

(*iii*) to show that the military menace to India was sufficiently real to justify the employment of Indian troops in defence of India's western gate, Suez and the Red Sea.

Publicity for recruiting and the raising of war funds, and explanatory propaganda designed to modify any depressing effects which might spring from the privations and uncertainties of war, all drew their points from one or more of the three simple themes that have been quoted.

By last summer the picture had been considerably altered. Although the three initial themes had not lost their value, India was now directly menaced, and her stake in the war could be recognized by thoughtful people as plain survival. The German attack on Russia for many sections of opinion revolutionised the principles for which the war is being fought. The Japanese advance had introduced new and sometimes bafflingly contradictory factors—on the one hand bewilderment and the danger of panic; on the other, moods of appeasement which attacked both the very rich and the very poor; and among all classes the effects of very serious blows to British prestige.

Taken by itself, the entry of America into the war might have lightened many propaganda problems. But it did not occur by itself. In conjunction with other shattering events its early results were less spectacular than any one would have expected.

That, of course, is the trouble with propaganda. It does not run according to the text-books, even the German ones. Or perhaps it is simply that the text-books, including the German ones, are lamentably incomplete. Psychologists have made impressive analyses of the basic human reactions to given stimuli in given circumstances. But nobody has ever been able to judge, least of all in the midst of the world's biggest war, just what those circumstances would be. Nor has anyone yet reduced the mental and emotional complexities of the 390 million human beings who provide in India the material for such fantastic experiments, to a single formula or set of formulae which would satisfy the ever-growing body of "propaganda experts".

There has been much criticism, where it is conceded that any propaganda at all has been undertaken in this country, of what is called "defensive war-propaganda". Such criticism often loses sight of the fact that for the United Nations in general, and for India more particularly, this happens to be a defensive war. It is, of course, one thing to convince people whose discontent is fundamental (as that of the Germans may be said to be) that by swarming into a prosperous neighbouring country or destroying a rival power their circumstances will be improved. It is quite another to arouse interest with the argument that by remaining calm and tranquil, by conforming with an ever-growing body of legislation by decree, by *not* spreading rumours, by *not* hampering the activities of the military and civil authorities, by *not* hoarding or speculating, a people can avoid a worse form of alien rule than that of which they already complain.

Yet this latter has been the basic task of propaganda in India throughout the fluctuating phases of warfare. It has been so because, broadly speaking, it represents the only argument which rests upon the facts of the situation; and the Crewe House principle of adherence to truth in propaganda, as has been pointed out before, is a counsel of practical efficiency as well as of ethics.

Thus even at this date we are left with a largely negative theme, when all who have studied the subject insist that propaganda should be positive. "This does not mean", a well-known contributor to these pages has written in another place, "that negative propaganda should never be used, but that the positive note should predominate". He adds that "positive propaganda consists in boosting one's interests and achievements, and the aspirations and achievements of those to whom the propaganda is directed, rather than decrying those of the enemy". Those words were written in a contest radically different from the present one, and they are quoted here only to introduce a point which is as important to-day as it was in the first two years of the war.

By the definition of positive and negative propaganda just given, it is significant that enemy propaganda addressed to India and the world in general has during the past six months shown a progressive tendency away from the positive lines which it had previously followed with such marked success. Analysis based on night-and-day monitoring of enemy transmissions in all languages shows that the percentage of items intended to impress the listener with Axis strength has decreased in comparison with items representing Allied weakness.

Research of this kind obviously cannot produce reliable results in detail, but the trend it reveals over recent months is quite unmistakable. Moreover, the casual listener will at once recognize the difference in German propaganda between the theme of the "New Order in Europe" and the theme of the "Bolshevist-Bogey", or in Japanese propaganda the changed tone reflected in Tojo's public pronouncements over the past year.

The deduction is perfectly simple. Propaganda, even Axis propaganda, cannot exist and function *in vacuo*. The actual development of military and political events must influence, if it does not in fact condition, the development of propaganda. The fortunes of war have taken a distinctly better turn for the United Nations since last September, and the turn is inevitably reflected, not only in our own propaganda, but in that of the enemy also.

It would seem reasonable that with the "turn of the tide", the "end of the beginning", the "seizure of the initiative," or, what-

ever phrase may be picked at random from editorials and speeches, our own propaganda should be enabled to pass generally from the negative to the positive, from the defensive to the aggressive, and thus at last to satisfy the theorists.

In a limited sense this is true. In British propaganda addressed to the enemy the change is clearly apparent (the simple error is often made of comparing the enemy's propaganda to us with our propaganda *to ourselves*). In propaganda by the United Nations among the few remaining neutral countries our expectations of an altered tone are also fulfilled. Nor has propaganda in India failed to take advantage of the fresh grounds for confidence after three years of fairly continuous uphill publicity work against military reverses. But India is a special case; how special a case must be honestly examined.

The salient facts in regard to propaganda in India are two: (*a*) that there is no organization in this country constituted or equipped to undertake *British* propaganda; and (*b*) that all propaganda known to emanate from the Government of India is nevertheless liable, one might almost say certain, to be regarded by the people of India as British in origin and intent, and consequently to be met with even more scepticism and suspicion than propaganda customarily receives.

The significance of (*a*) is sometimes overlooked. It is true that since the fall of Singapore a unit of the British Ministry of Information formerly functioning there has been established in Delhi, but its presence in India is more or less of an accident, and its work is not concerned with India but with the Far East. It is also true that the B.B.C., which is widely listened to in India as elsewhere, is a natural vehicle for British propaganda as well as a fairly well-respected source of straight news. But the direct interest of the B.B.C. in India is small. Its Hindustani transmission has not won any great popularity for itself, and its English programmes, whether directed this way or not, betray a consciousness that they can be heard elsewhere by different and perhaps more important listeners. While the United States buys newspaper space in India to give publicity to its policy and war aims, the official voice of Britain speaking to India can only be heard in the report of an answer by the Secretary of State to an inspired question in London. That is a very poor way of conducting propaganda.

All war-publicity in India and all presentation of the daily news from the battlefronts, obviously amounts to propaganda for the United Nations, and hence for Britain—hence also for India

herself. But whereas British propaganda to America (for example) will be designed to give special emphasis to the British point of view on any question, and whereas the Governments of China and Russia are concerned to represent their own needs and attitude abroad, war-propaganda conducted within India by the Government of India naturally takes for the most part a broader view. It will only emphasize Britain's part in the war, or Britain's attitude in some open question, on occasions where misunderstanding of such matters on the part of the Indian public (whether arising from enemy propaganda or otherwise) appears to be prejudicial to the successful conduct of hostilities in general. Such at any rate would be the logical outcome of the argument just pursued, and such I believe to have hitherto been a broadly understood principle among the bewilderingly many organizations concerned with propaganda in India.

However that may be, there are not lacking people in this country who conceive that the function of the Government of India should be to conduct propaganda for the Government of Great Britain, which is not uncommonly equated with propaganda for the point of view of the individual European who puts forward this demand. This attitude would appear to overlook the fact that the propaganda in question would be paid for by the Indian taxpayer. But it may be based on the not altogether unreasonable argument that since official propaganda in India is in any case liable to be regarded as British propaganda, it might as well be British and be done with it.

Let us suppose that the point be conceded. What then? What sort of British propaganda do we want to see conducted by the authorities in this country? Policy, declared the venerable pioneers of Crewe House, must always precede propaganda. And their successors in the field of psychology will make it clear that the primary reactions to the stimulus of propaganda are found invariably in the twin nuclei of hope and fear, reward and punishment. The same questions must in fact be answered for "Indian" as well as "British" propaganda.

What has India to fear, what has she to hope for? To answer those questions unequivocally and convincingly is the first step, and few who call for more and better propaganda prove able to do so. Doubt and suspicion are always easier to spread than trust, and there is no sense in ignoring the barrier of suspicion which confronts even the most rudimentary attempt to provide straightforward news and comment. There is no sense in calling this

obstacle "unreasonable" when it rests not upon rational but upon emotional reactions.

A bold and unbiassed approach to these problems is all the more necessary in the present stage of the war. Military operations have prospered sufficiently to lift public opinion, and by no means only in India, to a dangerous "crest-of-the-hill" stage. The doubt as to whether the war will be won has receded, to give place to doubts as to whether it is really worth winning. Enemy propaganda is straining every nerve to produce a second "phoney war" stage, and the club rumour-monger is no longer the man who hints that Calcutta is defenceless, but simply and plainly the cynic. He is dangerous. Destroy him. Or, better still, answer him. For thus you destroy two cynics—yourself and the other man.

THE STUDY OF URDU IN THE ARMY

By Lieutenant A. R. Judd

MOST OFFICERS newly-arrived in India look forward to the study of Urdu with about the same joyous anticipation as for a major operation or a series of visits to the dentist. This attitude, which, of course, is entirely unwarranted, results in procrastination until the last possible moment, by which time this little problem assumes the proportions of a major crisis.

Every officer must pass the Elementary Urdu examination within a year of arriving in India, and to do that needs but a few months of intensive study on the right lines. It is an axiom that one can hardly hope to be successful in any undertaking unless one is convinced that it is necessary, that it is to one's advantage, that it is a practical proposition, and is within the candidate's individual capacity.

Yet ask any one concerned with this particular problem, and he will tell you that far too many officers regard it as unreasonable to study Urdu at all. Often their attitude is summed up by the following excuses:

"The men of my unit are Madrasis (Ghoorkhas, Maharattas, etc.) They speak .... etc. etc. Of what use would Urdu be to me?"

"So many Indians understand and speak English nowadays that a knowledge of Urdu is not really necessary. One can always call a *babu* to interpret".

"Why Urdu, anyway? I am not convinced that Urdu is the most generally spoken language in India. What about English, Panjabi, etc."

"Why worry about grammar at all? So long as one can make one's self understood, that should be sufficient. I want to be able to converse with my men; not to become a grammarian. In any case, this method is directly opposed to the accepted principles of language study."

"Urdu is a difficult language, and, with my ordinary duties to attend to, I can't find time for it."

Let us examine these points, *ad seriatim*:

It is true that in practically all military offices there is an English-speaking *babu* who can conveniently be called upon to interpret for the officer when occasion arises. True, also, that

many Indian officers and a few Indian N.C.Os. speak English with varying degrees of intelligibility. The *babu*, however, does not accompany the officer into the front line, and one can easily visualize situations where it will be the rule rather than the exception for the officer to be in personal contact with the non English-speaking men of his unit, especially in these days of expansion and intensive training, when men have scant time to devote to the study of English.

A commander who is unable to converse with his men, or give them orders, without an intermediary, is more of a liability than an asset. He would, in fact, be anything but a commander. The truth is, of course, that an officer who can neither converse with, nor understand, his men is always more or less in the hands of his subordinates, some of whom may be tempted to turn this to their own advantage, and to the detriment of others. There is also the question of comradeship, mutual confidence and understanding, so necessary between the officer and his men, for without those qualities leadership ceases to exist.

"The mother tongue of my unit is not Urdu". At first sight this may seem a reasonable objection. But what complications would ensue if every unit used only the language of the province whence the majority of the men were recruited? Moreover, think what confusion would arise in a mixed unit of different races, all speaking different languages! In such cases it would be necessary for the officer to learn not one, but half a dozen, different languages. Countless difficulties would arise, not the least being that of signal communication in the field, to say nothing of the necessity of translating training manuals in a wide variety of tongues.

"I am not convinced that Urdu is the language most commonly used in India. What of English, or Panjabi?" It is admitted that in a few units, notably Madrasi units, English-speaking men are fairly common, but those units are not representative of the Army as a whole. The Indian mind and Indian processes of thought are essentially Eastern, and have little or nothing in common with Western ideas and Western trains of thought. This, of course, applies equally to British officers learning Urdu.

There is, however, a vast difference between the problem of teaching educated and comparatively few officers simple and idiom free Urdu, and that of teaching a million or so Indians English, up to the standard required for universal use in the Army. Such

an undertaking would be impossible in these days. Panjabi has at least the merit of being an Indian language, but it is practically unknown outside the Punjab.

Europeans have been heard to remark that Hindustani is a *kachcha* language. This is wrong. Actually, Urdu has a range of expression vouchsafed to few other languages—due, probably, to the fact that it is a composite language containing the cream of some of the oldest and most famous of Eastern languages. It readily absorbs words from any and every language. It is capable of conveying with the highest degree of fidelity and elegance the thoughts of all classes, from King to courtier and high-brow down to the humblest coolie.

It is commonly spoken (with slight local variations) in practically all the towns from Bangalore to Peshawar—a distance of nearly 2,000 miles. It is understood almost everywhere in India, with the exception of the more remote districts of Southern India and the villages situated far from railways and towns. Urdu is the product of the intermingling of Eastern races and cultures; owes its origin to identically the same reasons and circumstances as English; and, where communalism is not allowed to operate, is just as much a *lingua franca*.

"Why worry about the grammar at all?" The modern, and generally accepted method of learning a language is: "Listen, imitate, learn," combined, in the early stages, with pictures for illustration, and perhaps gramophone records of suitably graduated dialogues. The underlying principle is that of expressing a particular idea merely by producing exactly the same sounds as produced by the person of the mother-tongue, plus the exercise of the tongue in producing these sounds, until they become instinctive and automatic. This also implies, in the more advanced stages and in the case of widely differing races, the development of the same trend of thought as the people of the mother-tongue.

Grammar can then "go hang". This position, however, presupposes permanency in the country, daily and intimate contact with its peoples, and the attainment of a complete knowledge of the language. Obviously, that method would not meet the needs of an officer domiciled in India "for the duration". He must be able to use the language almost at once.

That he can do only by memorizing a vocabulary, and constructing sentences with the help of the accepted grammar rules, which has the merit of enabling the officer to build up the sentences he requires to use at once, however unidiomatic they may

be. Providing he applies the grammar correctly, such sentences are almost always quite intelligible.

One of the main objects of the Elementary Urdu examination, indeed, is to ensure that grammar rules have been learned accurately, and that the candidate is able to apply them in his speech. The "grammar method" of teaching has many defects, but it is the only practical method for the young officer in India for the period of the war. Its greatest defect is the difficulty in remembering these rules for any length of time. Once forgotten, the whole structure of the officer's Urdu falls to the ground.

This difficulty, however, can be remedied by the memorising of "model sentences". The student must select from his grammar book one sentence for each grammar construction that he has thoroughly mastered and can apply correctly. These sentences should cover all the main constructions and they should be memorized until their use becomes automatic. They should be learned and re-learned—say, five sentences each day. Whilst going through them, the student should apply those constructions to fresh sentences, for which five to ten minutes each day should be sufficient.

"Urdu is a difficult language". This can certainly not be said of the standard of Urdu expected from the wartime Indian Army officer. The study of even the most advanced Urdu is child's play compared to the study of English. Compare the simplicity and regularity of Urdu with the irregularities of English grammar, spelling, and construction! The only real difficulty in Urdu is that of gender, which can be overcome by (*a*) arranging word lists for memorizing in two columns, feminine in one and masculine in the second, thus making it easy to remember the gender by visualizing the position of the noun on the page, and (*b*), when memorizing a noun, by always doing so with an adjective, such as *bara,* which inflects with the gender of the noun. Thus, when memorizing *mez* (table), always say: *bari mez, mez* being feminine. Practically all other difficulties are easily solved by the use of the model sentences indicated above.

The study of Urdu is either pleasant and interesting, or it is excruciating drudgery, according to the manner in which it is approached and the adoption of the correct sequence of study. It must be tackled at once; leisure, amusement, etc., must be sacrificed, for when left to the last possible moment it naturally becomes an ordeal, with much to do and little time to do it in. Don't stand shivering on the brink. Take the plunge now, if you

have not already done so. Social engagements and pleasures are the greatest obstacles to Urdu study. Urdu study is very much like climbing a slope—there is always the tendency to slip back, and one's progress is in direct proportion of climb to slip. Therefore, the longer the period the study is spread over, the greater amount of work involved.

An important factor is that of procuring an experienced and efficient teacher blessed with imagination and initiative—the instructed instructor, in fact. Very few of even the best Indian teachers have any idea of the difficulties of Urdu construction that confront the European student, and fewer still are able to explain them. They are invariably explained with greater effect by a brother officer, providing he knows them thoroughly.

Gramophone records and an accompanying booklet are admirable adjuncts to early study of the language. The former should give no instructional matter of any kind; they should record Urdu dialogues (preferably military), beginning from zero and graduated to the required standard, with every sentence so arranged as to illustrate the various grammatical constructions. The booklet accompanying the records should contain the English and Urdu sentences on opposite pages, the grammatical constructions being clearly explained in footnotes. For officers studying privately (the above-mentioned paragon not being available) the best thing is to outline a course for themselves, using the teacher as a "living gramophone".

A properly graduated sequence of study is the third essential. The approach to the problem should be on the same lines as, for instance, to a signalling course. The student must progress through stages so graduated as to prepare him for each succeeding stage. Given this, the student should never, at any time, experience the slightest difficulty—always providing the student masters each stage thoroughly and conscientiously before tackling the next. Instructors, too, should go through a properly graduated and carefully planned "Instructors' Course" on much the same lines as that prescribed for the Signalling Instructor.

This graduated sequence is the crux of the whole problem. It guarantees economy of time, effort, and expense; avoids misdirected effort, ensures success; and makes pleasant and interesting what can so easily be tiresome drudgery.

To help those who are finding difficulty in learning Urdu, I append below what experience has shown to be the best sequence of study. Master it thoroughly, and any intelligent officer will find no difficulty whatever in passing his examination.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION

1. (*a*) A pronunciation table of, (*i*) consonants, and (*ii*) vowels.

(*b*) Practice in the pronunciation of (*i*) and (*ii*) above separately.

(*c*) Repeat (*i*) and (*ii*) with the vowel between two consonants, *e.g. Bat, Bit, But,* etc.

(*d*) Repeat (*c*) above, using the words of the first vocabulary.

Note: All of "1" above, should be done with the help of an Indian teacher, who should carefully check pronunciation. The above (supplemented by 2, below) should form the subject of the first two periods of study, and should be repeated at the commencement of each of the next four periods of study.

2. (*a*) Study the order of the words in the Urdu sentence. (Most grammars give it.)

(*b*) Practice in the construction of English sentences in the Urdu order, *e.g.* "This (*a*) horse is"; "These new rifles are"; "That whose book is"; "It in"; "Table on," etc.

(*Note*: This should be carried out daily for 10 minutes or so during the first ten periods of study.)

3. Preliminary Drill.—Graduated elementary grammar with sentence-building.

(These "Drills" should be treated literally as drills, *i.e.* as soon as the pupil has understood the construction, he should be drilled in it until it becomes automatic and instinctive.)

Drill I

**i.* Vocabulary (nouns only).—This should contain about 12 nouns, masculine and feminine. Masculine nouns in the left-hand column and the feminine nouns in the right-hand column. Masculine nouns should have words ending in long 'a' interspersed with some not ending in long 'a'; as *ghora* and *ghar*.

Feminine nouns should be a mixture of those ending in 'i' and those not ending in 'i' as *ghori* and *'dukan'*.

ii. Instruction in the forming of plurals.

iii. Memorizing the vocabulary in the singular and the plural.

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*Suitable military words may be selected from the grammar book in use, or from the relevant training manual of the unit.

Drill II

i. Vocabulary of adjectives* ending in 'a' and in other letters; *e.g. bara* and *sakht*, etc.

ii. Instruction on the inflexion of the adjective to agree with the noun in the singular and plural.

iii. It should be noted that adjectives are used before and after the noun and that this makes no difference to their inflection.

iv. Practice in using and memorizing the adjectives given in the vocabulary, together with the nouns above; first in the singular, then in the plural.

v. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill III

i. Vocabulary of the Demonstrative Pronouns in the singular and plural, *i.e.* 'this', 'that', 'these', 'those'.

ii. Vocabulary of the substantive verbs, present and past, in the singular and plural, *i.e. Hai, Hain, Tha-e-i-in.*
(Thus, at this stage, the student can begin to form a sentence, such as: *Yih ghora bara hai.*)

iii. Vocabulary of *'i'* and *'ii'* above, combined.

iv. Sentence-building, using all the previous vocabularies combined.

v. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill IV

i. Note on the Article, *i.e.* "a", "an", "the", etc.

ii. Mixed vocabulary of about twenty words—nouns and adjectives.

iii. Memorizing of, and sentence-building on, the new vocabulary, combined with the previous vocabularies.

iv. List of Personal Pronouns.

v. †Personal Pronouns combined with their substantive verbs, *e.g.* "I am", "We are", etc. etc. Sentence-building on them.

vi. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill V

i. Mixed vocabulary of nouns, adjectives and adverbs.

ii. Memorizing the new vocabulary.

iii. Sentence-building, using the new and the previous vocabularies in the singular and plural.

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*From Drill II onwards, nouns should be memorized together with adjectives ending in long 'a' where appropriate.

†These should be memorized together.

iv. List of Possessive Pronouns (used like adjectives).

v. Memorizing *'iv'* above.

vi. Sentence-building on *'iv'* above, in the singular and plural, using masculine and feminine nouns alternately.

vii. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill VI

i. Vocabulary of nouns, adjectives and adverbs.

ii. Memorizing *'i'* above.

iii. Sentence-building on the new vocabulary combined with previous vocabularies, in the singular and plural.

iv. Short list of the more common post-positions, 'in', 'on', 'to', etc.

v. List of Interrogative and Relative Pronouns, 'who', etc.

vi. Sentence-building on *'v'* above.

vii. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill VII

i. Explanation of the Oblique Case: (Three study periods, increasing the sentence-building progressively).

(*a*) with any singular feminine noun, also singular masculine nouns (not ending in "a", *i.e. mez par, admi ko.*

(*b*) with a singular feminine ending in "a", *i.e. dua se.*

(*c*) with an adjective not ending in "a" and combined with any singular feminine noun, *i.e. sakht lakri se.*

(*d*) with an adjective ending in "a" and any singular feminine noun, *i.e. Bari dukan men.*

(*e*) with a singular masculine noun ending in "a", *i.e. Larke ko.*

(*f*) with a singular masculine noun ending in "a", combined with an adjective not ending in "a", *i.e. Bare admi ko.*

(*g*) with a singular masculine noun ending in "a", combined with an adjective ending in "a", *i.e. Chhote larke se.*

(*h*) with 'Doublique', *i.e.* with one *ka* followed by another, as in *Uske Bhai ke ghar men* or *Mere naukar ke bete ke ghar men,* etc. etc.

(*i*) repeat (*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*e*), (*f*), (*g*) and (*h*) with the noun in the plural, and alternating feminine nouns with masculine nouns.

(*j*) with the Interrogative and Relative Pronouns in the singular and plural, and with the nouns in the singular and plural, masculine alternating with feminine.

ii. As in (*g*) above combined with possessive pronouns.

iii. Repeat (*j*) above but with pronouns, the nouns being in the plural, *i.e. In bare gharon men.*

iv. Sentence-building on this Drill.

v. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill VIII

i. Mixed vocabulary including remainder of common post-positions.

ii. Memorizing '*i*' above.

iii. Oblique case singular with the demonstrative pronouns *yih* and *wuh,* in the (*a*) singular; (*b*) plural; (*c*) as in '*iii*' (*a*) above, but inserting a masculine and feminine noun between the pronoun and the post-position; (*d*) as in '*iii*' (*b*) above, but inserting a plural masculine or singular noun between the pronoun and the post-position.

iv. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill IX

i. Mixed vocabulary.

ii. Memorizing mixed vocabulary.

iii. List of personal pronouns in the oblique case, *e.g. Mujh ko, Tujh men,* etc. etc.

iv. Sentence-building on Drills V, VI, VII, VIII and IX.

v. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill X

i. Mixed vocabulary.

ii. Memorizing mixed vocabulary.

iii. Sentence-building on Drills VII, VIII, IX and X above.

iv. The infinitive as:

(*a*) A noun.

(*b*) Present imperative polite.

(*c*) Future imperative.

v. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill XI

i. *Mixed vocabulary including some of the commoner verbs.
ii. Memorizing mixed vocabulary.
iii. Sentence building on Drills VIII, IX, X and XI.
iv. Method of forming the imperative for:
  (*a*) Second person singular.
  (*b*) Second person plural.
v. Note on the negatives.
vi. Revision of the previous Drill.

Drill XII

i. Mixed vocabulary including the more common verbs.
ii. Memorizing the same.
iii. Sentence-building on Drills IX, X, XI and XII.
iv. Method of forming the present participle (with inflections) and—
  (*a*) Present imperfect.
  (*b*) Past imperfect.
  (*c*) Past conditional.
v. Agreement of verb with subject.
vi. Revision of the last Drill.

The above sequence of study is, of course, not complete, but it will set the student on the right road. With an intelligent grasp of the programme as set out, the student can approach the subject with complete confidence.

*In transitive verbs and such verbs as are used as intransitive only. On the introduction of the transitive verb, the transitive verbs to be given in the left-hand and the intransitive verbs in the right-hand column.

MEMORIES OF TOBRUK

BY "SHABRAQUE"

AT ABOUT 12 o'clock on a March morning six 15-cwt. lorries and two armoured cars drove into Tobruk, rather more hurriedly than Brigade Orders for convoys allowed. This was due to the unpleasant attentions being paid to them by the German gunners. The door was then metaphorically slammed, and the garrison sat down to see what the future would bring forth. Somewhat to our amusement, we learned later, from a captured German diary, that the little patrol was a heavily armoured formation against which the Germans had advanced irresistibly!

Nobody knew what was going to happen, or how long we were likely to remain locked up in what the German radio described as "Hitler's self-supporting concentration camp"; so we settled down to combine business with pleasure (*sic*), and make ourselves as comfortable as we could.

After about three weeks of odd jobs and wandering, the writer's regiment was allotted a permanent home on the west face of the perimeter, by the sea. Regimental Headquarters was about two miles to the rear, and very snug in a *wadi*. The offices and certain officers' quarters were in old Italian concrete dugouts, and were comparatively free from fleas.

The only fly in the ointment was our gunners. I hope if any of them ever read this article they will not take what I say amiss in any way, but sometimes their guns were apt to be a bit trying, to say the least of it. They were parked in the *wadi* just behind us, and whenever they fired, the Wops fired back, and usually gave double measure. We did not care for this very much, although we were very pleased that our gunners rarely received the punishment that was intended for them. Most of it seemed to fall on us.

Our mess could not be got underground, so we had to move it and we moved it three times before we managed to find the "better 'ole". Even then they managed to blow down our kitchener tent one morning just after breakfast.

Our gunners, as can be well imagined, were not so very plentifully supplied with ammunition; at least not with enough

to harry the Wop in the way we considered he should be harried. It was a little discouraging, after having directed the gunners on to a good target which their OP. could not see, to be told after one shell had got in amongst them: "Sorry, old boy, can't spare any more."

So we thought that we would improve matters in our own way. We were great poker players, and one of the gunner subalterns also liked a game during his off moments. One day we considered we had won enough from him to count as a gun. The following day the message went back from the front: "The X Regt's gun will now fire twenty rounds". However, it was decided that although we might have won a gun, we hadn't won any ammunition to go with it, and we never did either. Shortly afterwards, the gunner won his gun back, so after that we had to rely on our own private artillery for any sport we wanted.

We had managed somehow to beg, borrow or steal a little Wop 37 mm. Breda. This we took off its wheels, and bolted it down on the back of a 15-cwt. truck, and called it "Little Audrey" because it used to laugh quite a lot. Later we acquired a twin called "Kuala", for no reason at all as far as we could see, but she had the name on her when we got her, so it stood.

"Little Audrey" would liven our dull moments by laughing very heartily. She used to be driven up behind the crest of a hill before dawn, and parked in such a way that by standing up on her truck we could just see the target. Then, as daylight came, a dozen or so rounds would be banged off. We would then drive away quickly to Little Audrey's hideout, and watch the Wop waste his ammunition on the empty desert. I don't suppose much damage was ever done, as all our shooting was by the light of nature, but we certainly made the Wops expend a lot of ammunition uselessly. Little Audrey's shells made the most satisfying pop, competing well with a 25-pdr. for the amount of dust and stones flung about. Once we joined in a gunner shoot, mystifying them for quite a time, as they couldn't understand why two shells were bursting where they only expected one.

Little Audrey's methods were even more unconventional than those of the "Bush Artillery". The Bush Artillery was, I believe, started by some Australian regimental cooks who found some old 75's, and thought they would be fun to play with and

relieve the monotony of cooking. Later, it became properly organized, and regular gunners were sent to teach the Australian O.Ps. some of their private magic. One day a regular gunner was directing a shoot, and the shells were going anywhere but on the target. The "Umedwar" Australian got tired of this, so, taking the blower, sent, "Look, Bill, three telegraph poles right and cock her up a thumb". The next shell fell true.

One day, just as the Bush Artillery was forming, two shells screamed over the writer's head from behind and fell within a few yards of one of our forward posts, known as "the Pimple" or "Headache Hill". This was a bit too close to be funny. Our own gunners denied having fired, but said they'd try and find out who did. Later in the afternoon two more shells came over and landed in approximately the same place. This time the telephone to the rear became hissing hot. We were quite convinced the shells came from behind us, and told the gunners as much, and the gunners were equally emphatic that the shells weren't fired by them and that they knew when they had fired their guns and so on.

It wasn't until about two days afterwards we found out that it was the Bush Artillery ranging. They had seen a suitable little pimple, which was well outside the wire, so they thought it was quite safe. What they did not know was, that although it was well outside the wire, we occupied it day and night to keep the Wops from getting up to too much mischief.

The Wop Artillery was very good if only all its shells had burst. They had what we called "The Communist Gun" in the Fascist battery. The Communist gun always used to fire a second or two late, and about two hundred yards short. Our theory was that it was a disgruntled Italian gunner who wouldn't play.

The gunners lived in our mess. They were a tremendous acquisition, and we were able, as a result, to work in the closest co-operation. The troop leader would keep us laughing all day. He was never allowed to sit down to meals until he had told us his latest "Wagon line Buzz", and some of them were startling in the extreme. Once we were told that the Bardia Road was going to be opened in three days' time—this, when our main forces were still at the frontier wire.

But our gunner "Buzzes" were nothing to some that went round the garrison. The writer himself was told in all good

faith by two Australians to whom he was giving a lift, that the garrison was shortly to be relieved, as Churchill was so pleased with the Division that he wanted it in England.

So many and so various were the rumours that the "I" branch thought they'd trace one to its source. The one chosen was to the effect that the New Zealanders had already arrived to relieve the garrison. They managed to trace it right back till they found a man who said he had actually seen the New Zealanders himself. Here *was* something, so they asked him to take them along to where these mysterious New Zealanders were. Nothing loath, he led them off to a *wadi*, where the "I" were astonished to see what certainly did look like New Zealander soldiers in their particular type of hats. On closer inspection, however, it transpired that the "New Zealanders" were an Australian leave party who had got tired of wearing their hats in the Australian fashion, so had converted them to the New Zealand.

We were always scared of the Germans or Italians listening in to our telephone conversations, and so naturally took every precaution to baffle any unauthorized listeners. It would have been a very clever Wop who could have understood the curious mixture of code and Sahib's Urdu that passed over our wires. Jerry once tried to give a fire order over the wireless to our gunners. The gunner operator listened to the excellent order but, knowing all his officers' voices, wasn't to be had. When it was finished he merely switched to "send" and said: "Get off the air, you square-headed . . ." and then switched back to receive again. There was no further communication from the other side.

One night an Australian patrol came upon a Jerry listening post. Having slain all the occupants they rang up: "Hello, Nazi, how are you? Aussie speaking". They then legged it back to their own lines to watch the blitz come down on the post.

We were constantly on patrols, both day and night. The half of our line nearest the sea was broken up by deep *wadis* running down to the water. This was a happy hunting ground for our soldiers, where they could play hide-and-seek with the Wops and learnt many useful lessons. On one occasion one of our patrols came upon a Wop patrol about two miles in front of our line. This was, except for certain fixed defences, as near as they ever succeeded in getting to our lines in daylight. They were taken prisoner and hurried back. It was during the afternoon of a very hot June day. The Officer in charge of the Wop

patrol was dressed in a thick coat, collar and tie, breeches, black butcher-boots and spurs. He was a very hot and thirsty officer when he reached our lines. He had with him a British Bren Gun with the magazine filled with Regia Aeronautica explosive bullets. We didn't know they could be used before that, but as soon as we found out, we indented for them and gave him some of his own medicine. Tobruk was full of Wop ammunition, so we never ran out of that or of shells for "Little Audrey".

After one or two raids done silently, the Italians took to "standing to" all night. To keep themselves awake they sang and played musical instruments. They became very jumpy, and started shooting off at almost anything, and quite often at nothing. We believed that some of our patrol leaders used to rouse them on purpose, just to see the coloured lights. When the "Bombardo furioso" did open up, it was a real firework display with eirie lights and tracer of every colour. At first the noise alarmed us all considerably, but we soon got used to it, and it was put down by the rest of the Garrison to the "Indians' private war".

It was naturally anxious work waiting for the patrol to return after a firework display but much was forgiven on the remark by the patrol leader: *"Bahut achchha tamasha"* and it educated the enemy and showed us where he lived.

The Italian habit of the afternoon siesta was much appreciated by the forward squadrons. It was almost as if a truce had been declared during the warm hours of the afternoon, and apart from the normal routine, patrols and sentries, one got the chance of a sleep or a bathe. The forward squadron leaders were on the go most of the night for one reason or another, and appreciated a sleep in the afternoon. Not so R.H.Q., who worked all the day and slept all night. Until we got the matter sorted out, there were often a few well-chosen words exchanged between a sleepy squadron leader who had just been called from his bed, and an alert Adjutant who had a good night's rest the night before.

We gathered round us quite a little farm-yard at one time. There was an old horse, a flock of goats and a herd of donkeys. The old horse had to be put down, as it went very lame, but the donkeys earned their keep and were put to regular work carrying our water. They did not seem to mind the shelling in the least. Where the goats finished up I leave to the reader's imagination.

The food was really first class and lots of it, but it was a bit difficult having to split up tinned rations among two forward squadrons and R.H.Q. We had one good cook, one fair and one rotten. It wasn't the rotten one's fault really, as he was only a *masalchi,* but no one cared to keep him for long. Ultimately, we compromised by swapping over every fortnight, so everyone had a turn of him. One fortnight when it was the writer's turn in the line, a great stroke of luck came his way. Our doctor, who lived in that sector, was thought by the A.D.M.S. to be looking a little peaked and in need of fattening up. He therefore sent a box of medical comforts in the way of tinned roast chicken, brussel sprouts, peaches, jellies and even a bottle of French brandy. It was a really good fortnight.

Another good dinner we had was when the D.M.S. moved and found some better caves to live in. The doctor threw a most excellent house-warming party, and gave a first-class dinner of six courses, washed down with whisky and real soda, and followed up with brandy. As a rule, we never saw soda, and had to dilute what whisky we could get with saline water, which naturally did not improve it. So this was a real treat. It was actually Rocaro water that the Italians had left behind.

Whisky did present a problem, and we were very carefully rationed. We had a standing order with a firm in Alexandria, and managed to get it sent to us in small quantities at a time by ordinary parcel post. We only lost one bottle by this method.

Once, an officer going back sent us up a case through the M.F.O. labelled "Spare Parts". It got through all right, and another regiment, hearing of this, thought they'd try the same game. It worked all right once. The next case arrived towards the end of a month when they were very dry, and they were very cross when they opened it and found that it really was spare parts.

Mails came in wonderfully regularly, thanks to the Navy, and astonishingly few bags got lost. One officer had a sister in Cairo who sent him up 24 tins of beer still in their cardboard carton, heavily labelled "Arrow Brand Beer". Even that got through. Beer, of course, after the initial stocks had been drunk, was quite unobtainable. It was reckoned that it took 60 tons of cargo space to supply each man with one bottle. The officer who got the 24 tins was uncommonly popular!

Before the initial stocks were exhausted units were rationed and sent in their ration parties to the "Naafi" to draw their allotments. One day, a Stuka raid took place during the issuing,

and issuers and queue went to ground. While they were hidden an enterprising party went in and collared a whole lot of the beer. The next time a raid took place not a man in the queue moved.

As all things come to an end sometime, so did our part in Tobruk. About five months after the gate had been blown up, one of the rumours came true. On a pitch dark night we slid out of the harbour on a destroyer bound for Alexandria, drinking success to the remainder of the garrison in our first beer for weeks. But we weren't allowed to go without one last fright. A visit had to be paid to Movement Control Office in the harbour area, to fix the details of the embarkation. At any moment the Stukas might appear or "Bardia Bill", the German's big gun, start shelling the harbour buildings. We were no longer snugly underground, and on the walls of the office we saw the notice "Never mind the Stukas—Business as usual". The Movement Control Officer got the George Cross in the end, and there was never one better deserved.

THE VELOCIPEDE

By Fan Tan

THOSE WHO ARE concerned with Armoured forces and Motorised infantry working in open country, will probably die of shock when they see an article on that obsolete Military weapon, the push bike! However, those of us who have seen the startling results obtained by Japanese bicyclists, and those who have learnt the limitations of M.T. in jungle warfare, must realize how necessary it is to study the artifices of the velocipede.

The points dealt with in this article, therefore, mainly concern ordinary walking infantry, in bush or jungle theatres of war. In such circumstances, the main functions of cyclists will roughly correspond to the duties which used to be carried out by a divisional cavalry regiment. They were:

Reconnaissance; protection, other than local; seizing and holding important tactical points; and wide turning movements.

Organization and Armament.—Whether bicyclists are best used as Bicycle battalions or as Cyclist companies in battalions is debatable, and largely depends on the strength of the force and the operations in hand. Probably the best solution is to start with a Cycle company in each battalion and leave it to the brigade commander to "brigade" his cyclists when he likes. The strength of the company should be about 100 and it should be organized in platoons, as this suits cycle tactics and enables the cycle company to fight as an ordinary company, after cycles have been harboured.

As the essence of bicycle tactics must be speed, arms and equipment should be as light as possible. At the same time, fire power will be required to brush aside minor opposition and to hold positions gained against light counter-attacks. The following is a suggested organization and armament:

Company Headquarters

Company Commander.
Company Sergeant-Major.
4 Signallers.
2 Intelligence Section.
4 Stretcher bearers.

2 Orderlies (mounted on Motor cycles).
1 Batman (mounted on Motor cycle).
1 Clerk.

Company 2nd-in-Command
Company Quartermaster Sergeant
1 Storeman
1 Batman
Driver i/c
} Remain with "B" Echelon and are carried in a 15-cwt. truck.

Arms and equipment: Sten guns.

One 18 W/T. set (Operator armed with pistol only).

2 Stretchers = 2 strips of Hessian with loops on both sides, into which branches, cut from trees at the time, are slipped.

Company

Two Patrol platoons.
One Fire platoon.

(*a*) *Patrol platoon*:

Headquarters:—Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
1 Orderly
1 Batman
} All armed with Sten guns.

Three sections:—Section Commander and 6 men, each.

Arms and equipment:

Each man is armed with one 36 grenade.
Section Commander and 3 men armed with rifles.
2 men armed with Sten guns.
1 man armed with an E.Y. rifle and four No. 36 grenades.

(*b*) *Fire platoon*:

Headquarters:—Platoon Commander
Platoon Sergeant
3 Orderlies
1 Batman
} All armed with Sten guns.

Four sections:—2 L.M.G. sections
1 Mortar section
1 Anti-tank section
} Section Comdr. and 6 men each.

Note: All section commanders of the Fire platoon are armed with Sten guns.

(*i*) *L.M.G. Section*:

Section commander (Corporal).
6 men.
One Bren gun.
Three Sten guns.
2 E. Y. rifles.
One Sten gun for section commander.
No. 1 of the section carries Bren and one magazine.
Nos. 2, 3, and 4 carry four magazines each.
Nos. 5 and 6 each carry an E.Y. rifle, a discharger cup and 6 grenades No. 36.

(*ii*) *Mortar section*:

Section commander (Corporal).
6 men.
Three 2-inch mortars.
One Sten gun for section commander.
Three pistols for men carrying mortars.
Three P. 14 rifles.

Note: Every man of the Mortar section carries 12 bombs, which are contained in an ordinary pack and carried in shopping baskets on the handlebars.

(*iii*) *A.Tk. Section*:

Section commander (Corporal).
6 men.
One BOYS A.Tk rifle.
Five rifles.
One Sten gun for section commander.

Note: Every man of the section carries one magazine (5 rounds) of .55 ammunition, and Nos. 2—6 carry four No. 68 grenades each.

Tactics.—The cyclist moves silently on his rubber tyres; he moves fast enough to carry out recce or protective duties to marching infantry; he stirs up little dust and he can traverse tracks and country which are often impassable to M.T. or track vehicles. He can take cover quickly; can travel long distances with less fatigue than walking infantry and his "steed" requires no rations, except a little air!

As it is not possible to fight from bicycles, Cycle companies must be thought of in terms of mounted infantry. They will cycle from bound to bound or when patrolling or when making a rapid get-away. At other times, they will park or harbour their

bicycles in the jungle and, from that time, they operate as ordinary infantry.

They must be given a clear picture of the situation before being sent out, together with an appreciation by the battalion commander as to what he expects may happen. They must also be told the intentions of the battalion commander and the successive objectives the battalion is making good. Orders must make the cyclists' tasks clear and must include what their action is to be if they meet the enemy and by what time reports on particular subjects are required.

Recce is bound to lead to tactical collision. Strength and other obvious factors being equal, success will go to the side which assumes an immediate and vigorous offensive, coupled with rapid development of fire power and out-flanking movements. Occasionally, cyclists will find that opposition is stronger than expected and more than they can deal with. In such circumstances, cyclists will "take to bush" and either work their way back to the main body or take up small defended positions, which will be held until the main body arrives.

Cyclists will normally move by bounds, from one tactical feature to another. This is best done by pushing the patrol platoons forward, feature by feature, and then moving up the Fire platoon, when each position is reported clear of the enemy. Moving in this way cyclists can maintain 5 m.p.h. on roads or 2-3 m.p.h. on paths or tracks.

Cyclist companies should aim at keeping their forward elements about one mile ahead of the leading walking infantry, as this will give them time to brush aside minor opposition and will give the battalion room to manœuvre, when serious opposition is met. Provided cyclists work in pairs, formations are very much a matter of opinion and should be suited to the ground and conditions prevailing.

Scouts should work in pairs; the distance between pairs varying according to the density of the jungle. When approaching corners, one scout should either cycle forward or go forward on foot, having left his bicycle near the other scout. The section commander should move with the second pair and the third pair should close up on the second, immediately shooting starts.

The Fire platoon usually moves in single file, with 5—10 yards between pairs of cyclists; sections being staggered on either side of the road, at about fifty yards' distance.

The Company commander should be well forward with the second Patrol platoon. If necessary, he can get up and down the column quickly by leaving his cycle and riding pillion on his batman's motor cycle.

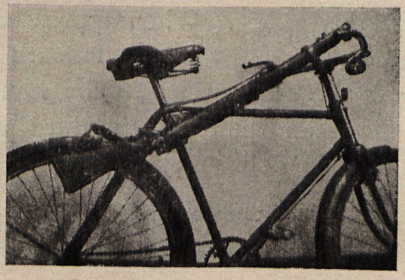
Cyclist companies should seldom walk, pushing their cycles, as this is only fatiguing and is waste of mobility. Punctured tyres form the chief weakness of the cyclist. Solid tyres make the bicycle too heavy; but a form of light steel band between the cover and the tube should render the tyre almost unpuncturable. Latex, coconut fibre and other substitutes for air have been tried, but have not proved satisfactory.

Communications.—There are two motor cycle D.Rs. at Company Headquarters, for communicating with the battalion. An 18 W/T. set is also provided, for communications between the Company and the Battalion or between Cycle companies working on a broad front. Communication within the company is by bicycle orderly only, as signalling equipment would increase loads to be carried. Various means of communicating with the air have been tried out. The 18 set works satisfactorily with almost any type of aircraft.

Ground strips would add to the cyclists' load. Ordinary face towels, of different colours, can be placed together, so as to make a form of Popham Panel, working on a predetermined code.

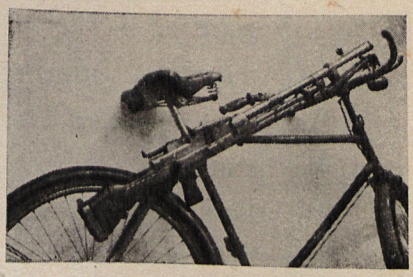
Carriage of Weapons.—For the carriage of all weapons, bicycles should be equipped with the normal rifle support clips; one clip on the handlebar and the other on the frame below the saddle. A carrier attached above the rear mudguard is also useful.

It is suggested that loads should be carried as follows:

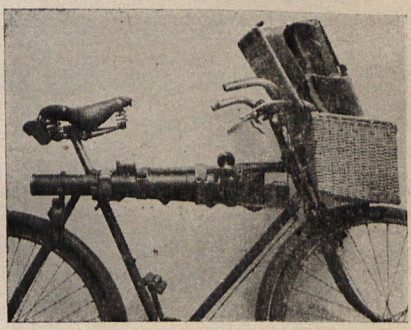


(*a*) Rifle.—Supported on rifle clips.

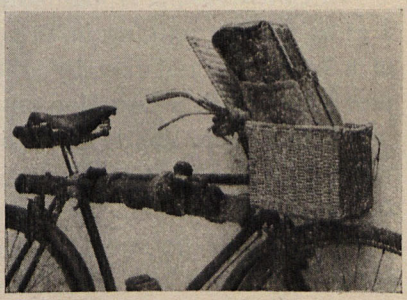
(*b*) L.M.G.—As for the rifle, but the rear clip should be strengthened if used continuously. It is not possible to carry the magazine on the gun in this position.



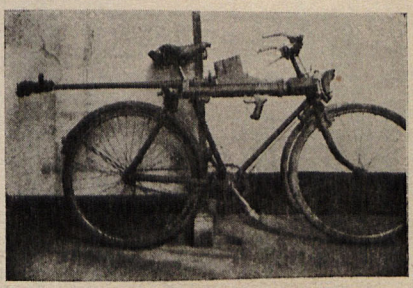
(*c*) 2″ Mortar.—Slung from the cross bar, if possible by webbing straps and must be tightly secured. Rope may be used as an alternative.



2″ Bombs.—One carrier (6 bombs) may also be slung from the cross bar to balance in part the Mortar itself. Alternatively, up to two carriers (12 bombs) may be placed in an ordinary pack and carried in a "shopping" type basket on the handlebars. Bombs and Mortar can then be taken into action quickly.



(*d*) A.Tk. Rifle.—Slung alongside the cross bar, butt forward, secured by webbing straps or rope. The whole weight of the A.Tk. rifle must *not* be allowed to rest on the rear rifle clip.



Weights of arms, etc., carried are:

1.	*Rifle*	9	lbs.
2.	Bandoliers, 50 rds., .303	$3\frac{1}{4}$	„
3.	Discharger Cup ...	$1\frac{1}{2}$	„ (approx.)
4.	*L.M.G.*	23	„
5.	Mag., 30 rds., .303	$2\frac{3}{4}$	„
6.	*Sten gun*	7	„
7.	Mag., 30 rds.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	„
8.	120 rds. (loose)	4	„
9.	*A.Tk. Rifle*	36	„
10.	Mag., 5 rds., .55	$2\frac{1}{2}$	„
11.	2″ *Mortar*	23	„
	6 Bombs, H.E. } In carrier ...	18	„
	6 Bombs, Smoke } ...	15	„
12.	Grenades. 36 Hand or Rif. ...	$1\frac{1}{2}$	„
13.	„ 68 A.Tk.	$1\frac{1}{3}$	lbs.
14.	„ 69 Hand	11	ozs.

In conclusion, it is maintained that Cycle companies would be a great asset to walking infantry. Whether they should form part of a battalion, and thereby add yet another differently organized unit with which a battalion commander would have to complete, or whether there should be Divisional Cycle Reconnaissance units, which would allot Cycle companies to battalions when required, is a matter of opinion. It is the old problem of adaptability of homogeneity *versus* specialization and the consequent inflexibility of heterogeneity.

In case any senior officer bothers to read this article. I leave the decision to him!

Based on the points made in this article, a possible War Establishment for a Bicycle company would be :

	Officers.	O. Rs.	Total.	Rifles.	Pistols.	Rifles—E. Y.	L. M. G.	Sten.	A. Tk. Rifles.	2" Mortar.	Grenades—Hand.	Grenades—Rifle.	Grenades—A. Tk.
Company Headquarters	2	19	21	..	1	..	..	20	..	..	20	..	..
Patrol Platoon—Section	..	7	7	4	..	1	..	2	..	..	6	4	..
Total Platoon	1	24	25	12	..	3	..	10	..	..	22	12	..
Fire Platoon—													
L. M. G. Sections (each)	..	7	7	..	..	2	1	4	..	..	5	12	..
A. Tk. Section	..	7	7	5	..	..	..	1	1	..	7	..	20
Mortar Section	..	7	7	3*	3	..	..	1	..	3	7	..	..
Total Platoon	1	31	32	8	3	4	2	14	1	3	28	24	20
Total Company	5	98	103	32	4	10	2	54	1	3	92	48	20

TRANSPORT

Bicycles .. 95
Motor cycles .. 3
15-cwt. truck .. 1

*Rifle P. 14

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

18 Set W/T. .. 1
Stretchers—Hessian .. 2

REGIMENTAL BADGES—AND THEIR MEANINGS

By T. H. B.

IT HAS LONG been the custom to recognize war services both individually and collectively: individually by the award of medals, and collectively by the award to regiments of "Battle Honours," or, to quote the official term, "Honorary Distinctions." These summarise the whole war service of regiments, and thus it is possible to concentrate their entire history—sometimes covering 250 years—in the small space taken by the silk or damask of a Colour.

Owing to security and other reasons, present day uniforms do not display that wealth of historical information which appeared on them in former times, but although little remains to distinguish one regiment from another, all historical associations have not been completely obliterated. Distinctive badges awarded as Honorary Distinctions appear on Regimental Colours, usually in one of the corners, but they are often adopted as clothing badges, forming either the complete badge or appearing on it.

The Sphinx is inseparably associated with service in Egypt, and is the most common of all English regimental badges. Granted by George III to regiments who fought under Abercromby in Egypt in 1801, it was a distinguishing mark of His Majesty's Royal approbation, and a lasting memorial of the glory acquired by His Majesty's arms by the zeal, discipline and intrepidity of his troops in that arduous campaign. This badge is carried on the colours, or worn on the appointments, of two regiments of cavalry, two regiments of Foot Guards and twenty-seven regiments of infantry of the Line.

Sphinxes, it is to be noted, are not peculiar to Egypt. There are also Roman, Greek and Assyrian sphinxes, but as this badge was to commemorate a campaign in Egypt, it is reasonable to suppose an Egyptian sphinx would have been chosen. An Egyptian sphinx, for instance, is exclusively male, always has a beard, while its tail lies on its back. Yet in no case has the Sphinx borne on the colours and appointments of our regiments a beard; some are obviously female; and many have the tail pointing up over the back. It would therefore appear that the

Egyptian sphinx was not used to commemorate this campaign—though the reason for this has never been recorded.

The Sphinx, above a plinth, is to be seen on the field-service cap-badges of the Lincolns, South Wales Borderers, Gloucestershires, East Lancashires, Dorsetshires, South Lancashires, Essex Regiment, Lancashire Fusiliers, and the Black Watch, while of regiments who have different cap-badges the Sphinx may be seen on the buttons of the Manchesters and the Gordons. In the case of the Dorsetshires, "Marabout" appears under the Sphinx, this unique honour being gained by their gallant conduct at Fort Marabout in 1801, when they captured two guns.

Perhaps the Sphinx cap-badge of the Gloucestershires is the best known, besides being an Honorary Distinction. This is on account of the small badge worn at the back of the cap, to commemorate their gallant conduct at Alexandria on March 21, 1801, when they were attacked by French cavalry. They had not time to form square and were ordered to stand back to back, thus beating off the attack. A similar event occurred at Festubert in 1918 during a German attack, and in remembrance of this a slightly larger back-badge is now worn by officers of the regiment on certain occasions.

The South Staffordshire Regiment, whose cap-badge, together with that of the North Staffordshire Regiment, depicts the Staffordshire Knot, are also entitled to the Sphinx as an Honorary Distinction, and used to wear it on their helmet-plates.

This regiment has an unusual privilege.

About the beginning of the 18th century our Colonial Empire was growing and had to be garrisoned. These colonies were generally remote, and many were extremely unhealthy; and once a regiment was sent abroad it sometimes stayed for generations. In 1706, Colonel Luke Lillingston's Regiment (1st South Staffs.) was sent to the West Indies, and was scattered over various stations in the Leeward Islands, Antigua, etc.

There they remained for sixty years, apparently completely forgotten. The Governor reported in 1707 that the regiment would hardly be of any use unless they were paid, armed and clothed, adding that while their Colonel and Major and a great number of officers remained at home it never would be. Indeed, it is recorded that in 1758 the men were dressed in rags and had no hats, while a year later they were using muskets that had become obsolete 50 years before. In 1788, the officers had had no

pay for the previous seven years! During these years there was nothing from which to make or repair uniforms except sacking.

To commemorate these privations the South Staffordshires have now several unique privileges. In 1936 they received official sanction to wear a piece of brown canvas, indicating sack-cloth and ashes, on their uniform. They now wear a patch of brown Holland material below the cap-badge, and mess kit facings and waistcoats have been changed from white to brown linen, while brown Holland trimmings are worn on the full dress tunic.

In passing, it is worthy of mention that Queen Victoria's Own Sappers and Miners were also granted the Sphinx as an Honorary Distinction by a Royal Warrant of October 8th, 1878.

Rewards for distinguished service in India may be recognized by an elephant or tiger on the colours, badges and appointments of a regiment. The 76th Foot (2nd Bn., Duke of Wellington's) were awarded the Elephant, with howdah and mahout, in 1807 to mark their twenty years' service in India, and although the insignia does not appear on their cap badge—which is the Duke of Wellington's crest of a three-quarter length rampant lion arising from a crown and grasping in its fore-paws a flag bearing the cross of St. George—it appears on the buttons worn by officers. The Duke, incidentally, served in this battalion as an ensign, and later commanded the first battalion in 1806.

The Elephant, superscribed "Assaye," was awarded in 1807 to the 19th Light Dragoons (now the 15/19th Hussars), the 74th Foot (2nd Bn., the Highland Light Infantry), and the 78th Foot (2nd Bn., the Seaforth Highlanders) in commemoration of their gallantry in the battle fought at Assaye on September 23, 1803. This figure is to be seen on the badge worn by the Highland Light Infantry immediately below the bugle. Incidentally, the regiment which carries more battle honours on its colours than any other Highland regiment is known as the "Assaye Regiment." The Seaforth's clothing badge is a Stag's head with the cypher of the later Duke of Albany between the attires, and the motto *Cuidich'n Righ,* while that of the 15/19th Hussars is the Crest of England within the Garter.

The Royal Tiger, superscribed "India," was awarded to four line regiments, *viz*: the 14th Foot (1st Bn. West Yorks), the 67th Foot (2nd Bn. Hampshires), the 65th Foot (1st Bn. York and Lancasters), and the 75th Foot (1st Bn. Gordon Highlanders) for long periods of distinguished service in India between varying

dates from 1787 to 1831, and the Royal Tiger superscribed "Hindoostan" was awarded to the 17th Foot (1st Bn. Leicestershires) for meritorious service in India between 1804 and 1823.

In the case of the York and Lancasters and the Hampshires the Royal Tiger is shown on the cap badge—the latter regiment only on other rank badges—while the West Yorkshires and the Gordons display it on buttons only.

For service in China between 1840 and 1842 a London Gazette of 1843 authorized the Dragon, superscribed "China," to be worn by the 18th Foot (Royal Irish, now disbanded), the 26th Foot (1st Bn. Cameronians, Scottish Rifles), the 49th Foot (1st Bn. the Royal Berkshires), the 55th Foot (2nd Bn. the Border Regiment), and the 98th Foot (2nd Bn. the North Staffordshires). The Royal Berkshire Regiment wear the China Dragon as a cap-badge, and the Border Regiment wear the Dragon in the centre of the badge. The Royal Berkshires also earned the right to wear a red feather in the War of Independence—an honour now perpetuated by the strip of red cloth worn behind their cap-badge and by the square red patch worn on the right on their foreign service helmets. The other two named regiments do not wear the Dragon as a badge on their appointments.

A Dragon is also seen on the cap-badge of the Buffs, but it is not the Chinese dragon, and opinions vary as to how this badge was actually acquired. The Dragon was an old Saxon badge said to have been borne by Harold at the Battle of Hastings and retained by the Norman Kings; Queen Elizabeth, like her father Henry VIII, used a dragon as part of the Royal Arms—the former in gold, the latter in red. A silvery dragon, mis-named a griffin, with the cross of St. George upon its wings, is on the blazon of the City of London (and it is worthy of note that the Buffs have descended from the Trained Bands of the City of London). A dragon, too, figures in Dutch history and the Buffs were once the Holland Regiment; the Buffs dragon is green. Which of the above-mentioned dragons their badge is derived from, the writer is not prepared to say. For their gallantry in the Great War the Buffs had the title "Royal" bestowed upon them, but they were permitted to retain their buff facings. They also own to an unusual reward for services, perhaps the quaintest on record. In 1696, for their services in repairing the defences of the ancient city of Bruges, the burghers voted them 600 barrels of beer—a gesture which they doubtless greatly appreciated.

The Border Regiment was, as already mentioned, awarded the Honorary Distinction for China, but they have in addition another unique distinction, a laurel wreath—the only case in the British army—granted for their fine behaviour at Fontenoy (1745) in covering the retreat of the British army. It is worthy of mention that the wreath appearing on other regimental colours is the Union wreath, consisting of roses, thistles, shamrocks and appropriate leaves, all growing from the same stalk—an allusion to the fusion of England, Scotland and Ireland. In the centre of their cap-badge is a small red patch, a reminder of the red and white pom-poms worn in the French style at one time in commemoration of their great achievement at Arroys des Molinos in 1811, when they captured the entire 34th Regiment of France.

Though, as already mentioned, the Cameronians do not wear the Dragon, they wear a molet above the strings of the bugle in their cap-badge in memory of their first Colonel, the Earl of Arran, this being from his coat of arms. In 1860 Robert Cameron made war as a Covenanter on Charles II, and although beheaded, he left behind his Cameronians. In 1689 the Covenanters supported William III, and largely from among the Cameronians, raised a regiment for him in one day. They were all Puritans and all carried Bibles. Until recent times every Presbyterian recruit joining the 1st Battalion was presented with a Bible, and in camp during church parades the battalion always carried rifles and posted sentries, as a reminder of those days when their devotions were likely to be disturbed.

There are several instances of castles as badges, the best known, of course, being "the Castle & Key" superscribed "Gibraltar 1779—83" with the motto *Montis Insignia Calpe*. This insignia dates back to the capture of the Rock from the Moors in 1462, and was awarded as an Honorary Distinction to the following regiments—with varying dates—for their gallant defence of Gibraltar under Sir George Elliott: the 12th Foot (1st Bn. Suffolks), the 39th Foot (1st Bn. Dorsetshires), the 56th Foot (2nd Bn. Essex), the 58th Foot (2nd Bn. Northamptonshires), and the Highland Light Infantry. With the exception of the H.L.I., on whose appointments this distinction does not appear, the above-named all show "the Castle & Key" and the motto on their cap-badges.

In addition, the Dorsets and Essex both display the Sphinx, while the Dorsets also show another Honorary Distinction—the motto *Primus in Indis*—granted to them as they were the first

King's regiment to see service in India. They arrived in 1754, and three years later assisted Clive to defeat Surajah Dowlah at Plassey, this also being one of their battle honours. The Northamptons also show "Talavera" on their cap-badges, a Peninsula battle in which they displayed great gallantry.

Certain Hanoverian regiments also took part in the defence of Gibraltar, and were granted the same distinctions as British Regiments. In 1899 the Kaiser ordered the successors of these regiments to wear the word "Gibraltar" on the left fore-arm of their tunics, and this they did throughout the Great War and until January 1, 1921, when the old German army was replaced by the Reichswehr.

The castle of Inniskilling, with three turrets and the cross of St. George flying, is worn on the grenade badge of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and on the buttons of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoons. This distinction was conferred by William III to commemorate the defence of Inniskilling in 1689 by the troops of Dragoons and regiments of Foot raised by the Protestants—the fore-runners of these regiments—and which the following year entered the Kings' service.

The helmet and glengarry cap-badge of the King's Own Scottish Borderers may be recognized by the cross of St. Andrew with the Castle of Edinburgh upon it. Raised in 1688 by the Earl of Leven at four hours' notice to defend Edinburgh against the Jacobites, it was known in 1689 as the Edinburgh Regiment. To-day the regiment is the only one permitted to march through the streets of the Scottish capital with bayonets fixed, colours flying and drums beating, together with the right to raise recruits without permission.

The last castle used as a badge is that worn on the caps of the Devonshire Regiment—the castle of Exeter—together with the motto *Semper Fidelis,* an allusion to the Civil Wars. Twenty-five battalions of this regiment served in the Great War, and the 2nd Bn. was one of three British Regiments awarded the *Croix de Guerre* with Palm by the French Government, for its service at Bois-des-Buttes in May, 1918, when only one officer, one Sergeant, and twenty men were left. The ribbon of this medal is worn as a cockade on certain occasions.

The White Horse of Hanover was granted by George III in 1715 to those regiments who distinguished themselves on service in Scotland. It is to-day worn on the cap-badges of the 3rd Hussars, the West Yorkshires and the Kings (Liverpool). In the

latter case the horse is prancing. The horse worn as a cap-badge by the Queen's Own Royal West Kent regiment is not the White Horse of Hanover, but the White Horse of Kent. This regiment also earned the Sphinx as an Honorary Distinction, but it does not appear on its badges.

The Eagle is an old badge of war. It was used by the Persians as a standard of war, but is better known as the standard of Imperial Rome. It has also been adopted as their symbol by Germany, Poland, the U.S.A., and formerly Austria and Russia.

Four British Regiments which were awarded the Eagle as an Honorary Distinction for their services in the Peninsula and at Waterloo are the 1st Royal Dragoons, who captured the Eagle of the 105th Regiment of France during the charge of the Union Brigade at Waterloo; the Royal Scots Greys in the same charge for the capture of the Eagle of the 45th French Regiment (Sergt. Ewart actually captured it). Both these regiments share the nickname "The Birdcatchers."

The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers captured the first French Eagle to be taken in the Peninsula War, that of the 8th French Light Infantry at Barossa (1811), while the Essex Regiment captured the Eagle of the 62nd Regiment of France at Salamanca in 1812. The Royal Scots Greys alone now wear a French Eagle as a cap-badge. The Eagle worn by the 14/20th Hussars is the Prussian spread eagle awarded to the 14th Hussars in 1798, when Frederica, Princess Royal of Prussia and wife of the Duke of York (the then Commander-in-Chief) became their honorary Colonel. The 1st Royal Dragoons wear an Eagle on their buttons, while in the case of Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and the Essex the eagle is worn as a badge on the mess jacket collars.

One wonders if the Essex Regiment would have done so well in the Peninsula had the recommendation of the Commanding Officer of the 44th Foot in 1792 been accepted. Such was the miserable standard of musketry at that time that he even recommended the re-introduction of the bow and arrow! The weapon of the period was the well-known "Brown Bess", a flint-rock muzzle-loading musket, weighing 11¼ lbs. It had an effective range of about 100 yards but was rarely used at that range, and men were usually instructed to hold their fire until they could see the whites of the enemys' eyes.

While perhaps not exactly adding lustre to the glorious war history of the Scots Greys, the story of one of its members in the

past is worth recalling. At Ramilles (1706) the identity of a remarkable trooper—a woman—became known. She was Christian Davies, daughter of a wealthy brewer who had been ruined by the Boyne having raised a troop of horse for James II. Later she lived with an aunt who kept an inn in Dublin. The aunt died and left the property to the girl, who married one of her waiters. The waiter disappeared and the girl, learning he had enlisted and gone to Holland, attempted to follow him in spite of having three children.

She first enlisted in Lord Orkney's Regiment, the 1st Foot, but had to leave through fighting a duel with a sergeant. She then joined the Greys, but being wounded, her identity was revealed, and her army career came to an abrupt end. She apparently then lost two husbands and became a vivandiere. In due course she returned to England, was received by Queen Anne, and granted a bounty of £50 and also a shilling a day. She died in Chelsea Hospital many years later, and was buried with full military honours.

Although many infantry regiments have served from time to time as Marines only three have been awarded the Naval crown as an Honorary Distinction. These are the 69th Foot (2nd Bn. Welch Regiment), who took part under Admiral Rodney in an engagement off the Island of Dominica on April 12, 1772; the 2nd Foot (the Queens), and the 29th Foot (1st Bn. Worcestershires) detachments of which took part in Lord Howe's victory on the "Glorious First of June, 1794" during the French Revolution, when Howe decisively defeated a French fleet off Ushant (Brest).

In 1793 detachments of the 29th Foot had also served as marines, one detachment on board the *Edgar* being present when the St. Iago register ship was captured; as their share of prize-money sergeants received £300 each, and privates £60. Alone of all line regiments, this regiment was allowed to retain the old valise ornament which was abolished in 1784; this is the same as that of the Coldstream Guards—the Star of the Garter. The Worcestershires also have the distinction of having an eight-pointed star badge which is longer than it is broad. They also have an English motto "Firm", one of only two among British Regiments.

Perhaps the most unusual of all badges is that now worn by the 17/21st Lancers—the skull and cross-bones. The 17th Hussars were raised in 1759 by Colonel John Hale, who had lately returned from America. There he had served under Wolfe at Quebec

and had brought back to England the news of the fall of the town and of the death of the General. As a reminder of his late General Colonel Hale obtained permission for his regiment to adopt a "Death's Head" with a scroll inscribed "Or Glory" as its badge. And well has this regiment lived up to its badge. The 17th have now been amalgamated with the 21st Lancers, the latter being honoured with the title "Empress of India's" after their famous charge at Omdurman (1898). Our present Prime Minister was in this regiment at the time, and took part in the charge.

The Red Hackle worn by the Black Watch was awarded by George III in 1795 for the regiment's gallant conduct at Geldermalsen in Flanders. A British Light Dragoon regiment had retreated before the French during a skirmish, leaving behind two guns, whereupon the Black Watch charged the enemy, recovered the guns, and the horses being killed, manhandled them back to safety. The victorious Highlanders are said to have then dipped their white feathers in the blood of the battlefield. This regiment is the oldest of the five Highland regiments, and received their special title "the Royal Highlanders" from George II in 1758 for their part in the attack on Ticonderoga during our struggle for the mastery of North America with the French. Incidentally, this attack was a failure, despite the gallantry displayed by the Black Watch.

There, then, is the inner meaning of some of the distinctions awarded to our regiments since the foundation of the Standing Army in 1661. It is hoped to describe more in a future article, for behind these distinctions is a wealth of historical interest and tradition. That tradition not only makes history, but perpetuates it, and it is that tradition which our present-day Citizen Army of Britain is determined to maintain and uphold.

WAR MEMORIALS FOR THE INDIAN FORCES

By "Pyen Dua"

IT MAY SEEM early to discuss the question of War Memorials but I am sure many of us will remember how, at the end of the last war, a large number of units failed to carry out any really useful scheme for a War Memorial, merely because no one had thought out anything on the subject beforehand.

Such memorials as shields, quarter-guard gongs, tablets, memorial towers, etc. etc., are all very well in their way but were quite inadequate as a memory of the gallantry and devotion shown by our Indian soldiers in the field.

We have got beyond such ideas, and it would appear to be much better to raise funds for something that will be of more permanent benefit to the ex-soldiers and their children than to devote our money purely to bricks and mortar. It is suggested that this subject had much better be examined now, and, as far as possible, action taken now.

If this is not done until the end of the war, in the ensuing turmoil such a thing may be put on one side and forgotten till officers and men have been dispersed and it is too late, with the result that the opportunity to organize any project adequate, suitable and fitting for so great a cause may be lost for ever.

What is our object? It is "to raise a lasting, not necessarily permanent, memorial, firstly to the gallantry shown by our Indian sailors, soldiers and airmen, in the field of battle, and secondly to commemorate the magnificent war effort shown by the enormous numbers who have voluntarily recruited in the Forces of the Crown for the defence of India and the British Commonwealth, in particular, and of democratic ideals in general."

If the above is accepted as correct, our first efforts must be to raise memorials to those who fought, and possibly died, for our cause, and when their demands are satisfied, we should not forget those who were ready to risk their lives for our ideals, but who, through no fault of their own, were not actually called upon to do so; that is to say all those who accepted an overseas liability. Factors which affect our decision are:

(*a*) In the India of the future it is essential that those who fought for her, and their children, should be given every possible opportunity of influencing the future of their country.

The only key to this problem is education.

(*b*) Education is, and presumably will continue to be, a provincial subject and, as such, at the lowest criterion, the provinces are responsible for the elementary education of children. All such elementary education of soldiers' children should be compulsory and free; so far this is not the case everywhere. In this connection it must be remembered that special attention must be paid to rural districts which, heretofore, as is understandable, have suffered both in the number of schools and in the type of instruction, as compared with urban districts. Distances in the districts, physical features such as nullahs, hills, etc., have frequently made the journey to school a labour and exhausting, even if practicable at all.

(*c*) In view of the vastness of the country and the enormous population it is not possible, in the near future, for opportunities for higher education to be provided by Government for any but a fraction of the would-be students.

This being so, it is the rural population, who have formed by far the larger proportion of our recruits, who have suffered in the past and will do so in the future, unless assistance is given.

Therefore from the point of view of equality of opportunity, assistance must somehow be given.

(*d*) In any scheme of education for soldiers' children we *must* remember the girls as well as the boys. After the last war it was overlooked that a soldier possibly had daughters, and that they too required education. Splendid schools were founded for soldiers' sons and none for their daughters.

If this country is to raise its standard of living, the above is an impossible situation. We must insist on sufficient schools and adequate teachers for girls, so that opportunity for education, up to the age of puberty, will be available. Facilities for higher education of women exist at the moment, possibly adequate for the needs of the near future. In rural districts, as suggested by a Mahomedan gentleman lately in the *Statesman*, it will probably be better to have co-education, in the early stages anyhow. The provision of one good teacher to take mixed classes would be better for the pupils than two less qualified, and therefore cheaper, allotted to deal with boys and girls separately.

Until it is recognized that, without raising the standard of education for women, all schemes of uplift will fail, so long will India not reach her proper position in the world. It was mainly

the realization of this by Kemal Pasha which has revolutionised and modernised Turkey.

Our boys educated at the K.G.R.I.M. Schools often remark: "What is the use of educating us to become officers when you make no effort to provide us with suitable, intelligent and educated wives in place of drudges?" The I.M.A. students are still more emphatic in these views. So there is no doubt that the need for the fuller education of soldiers' daughters exists and is demanded; in this connection the V.C.O. class from rural areas has been greatly handicapped compared to those from urban communities.

If we agree that our best method of remembering the gallantry of the members of our Indian Forces is to provide opportunities for education, the question arises: "Is it best to build definite memorial schools for this purpose, or to assist scholars with monetary assistance so as to enable them to attend the higher grade schools which already exist, or to have a combination of both methods?"

The sentimental attraction of building certain schools as War Memorials is considerable, but the cost of erecting such buildings is not really one that should fall on regimental funds but rather on Government, or on a fund similar to the King George V Jubilee Fund which financed the building of the K.G.R.I.M. Schools.

A big objection to spending regimental money on building schools is that any money available would be concentrated on a few schools, and those recruited from out of the way areas would receive no benefit.

Three safeguards are suggested if the scholarship method is adopted:

(*a*) The fees are paid direct to the school, not to the parent.

(*b*) That if a boy fails at his annual examination the scholarship will be forfeited.

(*c*) That assistance is given in proportion to the means of a parent, *i.e.* not on a flat rate.

The Mahratta Regimental Scheme, already in existence as the memorial to the last war, is given in outline below as it is of considerable interest as an example of a combination of methods, although it does not cater for girls' education.

A Regimental hostel was started at the Regimental Training Battalion Centre in charge of a pensioned V.C.O. who is a good

English scholar. Boys from the villages who have reached the IV standard and are 10 years of age are collected at the hostel, where they live and are housed and fed for two years. They carry on their normal education at a local school but, in addition, are given daily instruction in Urdu, English, elementary drill and P.T. by the V.C.O. and they play organized games under his general supervision. When they are 12, they proceed to the K.G.R.I.M. School at Ajmere.

Scholarships at other schools are given, but under very strict rules, beginning at the 1st standard at seven years of age and working through at one standard up per year. It is sad to relate that after twenty years' working, the Scholarship Scheme has not been found very successful, and has had to be restricted.

I am sure any Commanding Officer who desires further details could get them from Colonel K. F. Franks, C.I.E., D.S.O., Assistant Director of Recruiting, Southern Area, Poona.

We now come down to finance. The sources from which a Corps or Regimental Fund might be collected are:

(*a*) Donations from Regimental Funds—possibly these are only available in the case of pre-war Regular Units.

(*b*) Donations from surplus funds of units which may eventually be disbanded.

(*c*) Subscriptions from officers and other ranks.

It is suggested that these might be on a monthly basis of Rs. 2 from Regular officers, Re. 1 from Emergency Officers, As. 8 from V.C.Os., As. 4 from paid N.C.Os., and As. 2 from sepoys.

To save clerical work these might be collected a year in advance from officers and all trained soldiers.

The amounts are so small that there should be little objection in paying them, but the aggregate should be large.

Payments should be made to the Training Unit Commanders, who would bank the money, and the final allocation of funds should be made by a representative Corps or Regimental Committee, on demobilization. Meantime, Training Unit Commanders should be authorized to deal with cases of the children of soldiers killed in action or died on service, at temporary rates decided on by him and reported to the unit.

This subject of War Memorials was first ventilated in a letter from G.H.Q. to all Training Unit Commanders with, in some cases, most promising reactions.

In a large number of cases there is reluctance to collect subscriptions now, or to tie down successors by allocation of Unit Funds, however worthy the object.

In other cases Battalions are inclined to desire to restrict their assistance to men of their own battalion and to have Battalion Funds rather than Regimental Funds.

Surely, in this war, with its numerous cases of transfer from old battalions to new ones, this is rather a narrow point of view?

If we bear in mind the principle of first help to the children of those who die overseas and then to those of others with overseas obligations, who require assistance, it is immaterial with what unit a man served, but rather how can we help the children of our soldiers, both sons and daughters.

The Director of Reconstruction, G.H.Q., Simla, would be much interested if Commanding Officers who initiate any action as the result of this article, will keep him informed.

BACKGROUND NEWS AND VIEWS

An Ancient Route to China

"One of the most remarkable transport lines to China replacing the Burma Road and keeping China in the war can be traced almost as far back as Chinese history itself. This is the road running from Chungking across the 'roof' of the world and through the inhuman Gobi Desert to the fantastic new skyscraper city of Alma Ata in Soviet Kazakstan, halfway between the Urals and Persia. Thousands of years ago it was being mentioned by Chinese writers as 'The Eternal Road'. The Mongols swept westwards along it to their Russian and European conquests. . . . From the first, China was enabled to resist the aggressor by Russian backing by this route, and the concrete encouragement she received from the U.S.S.R. probably decided her to make that remarkable decision and fall back fighting on the undeveloped interior, even to Chungking. A certain amount of work was done to the highway, mostly by Chinese coolies under the direction of Russian engineers. The idea was so to improve the surface and bridging of this 2,500 miles track that three-ton trucks could travel along it from Alma Ata to Chungking in a fortnight. The plans were laid so carefully and the work done so well that to-day a regular stream of goods vehicles is supplying China *via* south-eastern Russia in that time".—*Mr. Donald Cowie, writing in "The Empire Review".*

"Q" Planes

"During the Great War a successful counter-measure against enemy submarines was the 'Q' boat. In this war, why not a 'Q' plane? Some of our big bombers have a bomb load of 4 to 5 tons, but the 'Q' plane would carry no bombs at all, this weight being disposed in and around the aircraft in the form of armour plating, extra fire power and gunners. The 'Q' boat was very deadly until one day an enemy submarine escaped and spread the news. Thereafter every merchantman was viewed through the periscope with grave suspicion.

"The same with the 'Q' plane; imagine an enemy fighter pilot, having pounced on one that had fallen out of formation with a dummy fire on board, being met with a devastating fire from guns of all calibres. If he were lucky—and the majority would not be—his conversation in the mess that night would be something like this: 'I came in and put two fairly long

bursts into him which had absolutely no effect. I then closed, and was just about to press the button when I was enveloped in a cloud of fire coming, it seemed, from every part of the machine. I just managed to crawl home, but I think I've discovered why Hans, Fritz, Herman and the rest have disappeared recently.' The seed of doubt would be sown and many a real lame dog would probably profit by it."—*G.B.F., writing in "The Aeroplane".*

Britain and India

"The British achievement in India is without precedent in history. When we took over 200 years ago, this great territory was in complete chaos and its peoples in a state of general misery. By 1939 there were 15 universities in British India and two in the Indian States. 14,508,467 scholars were being taught in 230,526 state educational institutions. Hospitals and dispensaries, mostly kept up by public funds, treated 76,365,906 patients.

"Space does not permit to tell of the vast system of roads, railways, and air communications, or of the work of the British medical and other missions, or of the defence of India against constant invasion threats, the efficient judicial system (in which all classes of society have complete faith), and the many administrative services which have brought betterment to all races.

"British trade is extremely important to both nations, with a visible balance in favour of India in the year 1940-41 of £31,444,000. In 1939 Britain exported to India and Burma goods to the value of £33,049,000. Exports to Britain were worth £53,911,000. In 1940-41 India's import trade amounted to £117,595,000, and her export trade to £149,039,000. Of her import trade in that year 57.3 per cent. was with other parts of the British Empire, and 62.42 per cent. of her export trade went to the Commonwealth."—*"The Review of World Affairs".*

The Second Front

"The first difficulty in regard to the opening of a Second Front is shipping: the second is hostile readiness which Germany has been ensuring for two years; the third is the German reserve strength. The Germans are not all occupied in Russia; there is a hard core of reserve in Russia variously estimated at anything from 40 divisions upwards. Forty divisions which could be moved would form a serious obstacle to any landing. We might, of course, be called upon for something in the nature of a sacrificial effort. If such an effort from these shores were to fail the situation would be extremely serious. I am not deprecating a second front, I am a most ardent advocate of it when it is possible, but it

must be decided by the only people who know all the facts of the case. If they are not good enough to decide—then God help us!" —*Captain Cyril Falls, Military Correspondent of "The Times".*

Humour at Sea

"The sailors' sense of humour can never be suppressed. Recently a few destroyers were sent off in the Mediterranean to lure off the enemy fleet, which was known to be in the neighbourhood, in order that some convoys might pass through. In due time the destroyers saw some Italian battleships and cruisers approaching them at high speed, and thereupon the destroyers turned tail and ran and the enemy pursued them in the direction we wanted them to go. Very soon shells began to fall all round the destroyers and great spouts of water were lifted as the shells struck the sea. Suddenly the leading destroyer in the line saw that the rear destroyer was making a signal to him. It read: 'Don't look round now, but I think we are being followed'."—*Admiral Sir Gerald Charles Dickens, addressing the Royal Empire Society.*

In a Few Words

"Of the forty nations now at war, thirty-five were dragged into the conflict".—*President Ieunu, of Turkey.*

"The *Times of Malta* has not missed a day of publication during the war".—*Field Marshal Lord Milne.*

"Equipment on ships for towing vessels to-day is the same as it was in Nelson's day."—*Colonel F. H. Smith.*

"More than 550 Axis submarines have been sunk or damaged in the War".—*Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty.*

"It is calculated that of over 3,000,000 Jews in Poland, 1,000,000 have already been murdered".—*The Marquess of Donegall.*

"There is sitting-room in deep air-raid shelters in Malta for every man, woman and child in the island".—*General Sir Charles Bonham-Carter.*

"Monthly average sinkings of U-boats during the whole of the Great War was 3.42. In this war it is about 14".—*Mr. H. C. Ferraby.*

"Out of about 3,000,000 soldiers transported by sea during the war, under the protection of the British Navy, only 1,348 have been lost".—*The Prime Minister.*

"In June, 1940, there were fewer than 100 tanks in Great Britain, and they were too weak to stand up to German tank guns".—*Mr Winston Churchill, Prime Minister.*

"History will show enemy shipping losses in our air-laid minefields as a major contribution to the outcome of the war".—*Air Marshal Sir Arthur Harris.*

"Japan is trying to build an overland transport road from Manchukuo to Singapore".—*Dr. George K. G. Yeh, Director of Chinese Ministry of Information.*

"Sir Nevile Henderson once told me that his book 'The Failure of a Mission' had realized a profit of over £20,000, and that he had given it all away".—*The Rev. Arthur B. Jones.*

"Captain E. Higgins, of the 10th American Air Force, last month flew a four-engined aircraft from Miami, Florida, to India, in 66 hours and five minutes, beating his previous record by 1 hour twenty minutes".—*London "Times".*

"The Constellation, America's new biggest and fastest air liner, is capable of flying a light tank and its complement of troops across the ocean. It will cruise at 20,000 ft. but can rise to 35,000 feet."—*The Lockheed Aircraft Company.*

"In the weeks after Dunkirk, when there was scarcely a Dependency in the world that could not have got free of the British connection if it had been bursting with the desire to do so, the great majority gave tangible proof of the most touching loyalty to the British nation".—*Mr. Herbert Morrison, M.P.*

"The general impression of Lahore railway station is of a Sunday School treat several thousands strong going off to the seaside in fancy dress, accompanied by a troop of Christie Minstrels and the entire cast of the Old Testament and the Arabian Nights".—*A correspondent of "The R. A. F. Quarterly".*

"An enormous amount of bones is being collected from the Army at Home. A hundred tons of bones can be made to produce 12 tons and a half of grease, from which five tons of nitroglycerine can be made—sufficient to complete the explosive charge of 40,000 18-pounder shells.—*"Times" special correspondent.*

"Hitler is a careful student of Napoleon. Many of his phrases, even whole sentences, seem to have been taken from him. When in a recent speech he said: 'There are only a few months in which one can reasonably make war in Russia' he was giving an almost literal translation of one of Napoleon's complaints."—*"A Student of War" in "The Daily Telegraph".*

"One Soviet sniper carries grenades and bottles of combustible liquid. He puts these on the ground near his dug-out, and then creeps away to another covered position, from which he fires into the explosives himself. This diverts enemy machine-guns and mortar fire, and enables him to locate enemy dispositions and fire

points".—*Lieutenant-Colonel M. Kriventsov, U.S.S.R. Army, in "Infantry Journal."*

"It is untrue that our pre-war Army was too old-fashioned to be 'tank-minded'. Before 1930, experiments had advanced to the stage which justified the production of a far-seeing manual on armoured fighting. It is extraordinary how much remains true in principle. This book, known familiarly as the 'Purple Primer', came to the ears of the German General Staff, who secured a copy through a notorious traitor, later convicted by court-martial".—*Major-General P. J. Mackesy.*

"At the end of the last war Germany, in the words of the late Lord Tweedsmuir, 'flung dignity to the winds, blasphemed her old gods, and recanted with indecent haste her former creeds—not as a penitent, but as a criminal who stands condemned and seeks to ingratiate himself with his judges'. It is as certain as anything can be that the moment will come when she will do exactly the same again. But that moment is not yet".—*Mr. J. C. Johnstone, in "The Daily Telegraph".*

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU

By Colonel F. L. Brayne, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.C.

COLONEL G. F. BUNBURY did a very good piece of work when he pointed out in the October *Journal* how we could live more useful, profitable and happy lives after the war.

But he has not told the whole story. England wants not only our labour but our leadership. Every village and town wants leaders. I know a gunner Colonel who has rebuilt his village church and vicarage—and prevented the parson from spending too much on the vicarage and too little on the church! I know an engineer who runs cricket, boy scouts, the motor ambulance and lots more things in his country town besides being a member of his town and county councils and saving them thousands of pounds on their public works.

Educated and disciplined leaders are far too scarce in the towns and villages of England, while the ex-Service "suburbs" (slums, we villagers call them) are lousy with Governors and Generals, Colonels and Collectors, who spend their time playing golf and bridge and grumbling at Government and the weather; their only contribution to their county is the taxes they pay, while the tax-shy brigade that lives abroad does not even make that contribution.

Many of us in India are so caught up in the official machine that all our hobbies atrophy, and we develop a new set of diversions merely designed to rest mind or body. Instead of shedding these time-killing sedatives and reverting to the natural hobbies of English town or country life, we take them home with us and set them up as new gods in Cheltenham and Bedford and waste our time worshipping them.

England will want more leadership than ever after this war. Let us help to provide it. Those who have no children being educated can probably give their services free; those who cannot, must find "gainful" work. Colonel Bunbury has shown us one way and there are many others.

So wedded are we to the idea of going home and idling, that many of us restrict our families to the point of race suicide in order that we may be able to live in a more expensive locality than we need and be able to devote ourselves to golf and bridge. Britain's greatness was made by large families, not by small. Large

families mean work and work brings greatness. Work also means happiness. Have you ever met a busy man who was unhappy?

And the joy of it is that after retiring we can often select the work we fancy and not be pushed about from pillar to post. doing uncongenial jobs as cogs in a red-tape machine. I know of a tiny spot of England being intensively developed—all because a couple of *qui hais* disregarded convention and produced six children. Every year many tons of fruit and vegetables are going to help win the war, hundreds of pounds are being paid in wages and several old-age pensioners have been enabled to pull their whole weight.

People talk about the depths of the country and the rigours of winter. There are no depths or rigours now. Even Norfolk is absolutely "pansy" now compared to what it was when I was a boy, the sixth son of a country curate! Both depths and rigours have been killed by central heating, electricity, radio, motors, telephones, tarmacs, gum-boots, macintoshes and all the modern kinds of warm clothing.

Housing is certainly a problem, but we can easily solve that, if several of us in each county will, with the National Council of Social Services to help and co-ordinate us, keep our eyes open and make lists of suitable houses and of agents who understand our needs. Service journals, etc., could make these reach every mess, ship and club in the Empire.

On my first furlough after the last war I was a newcomer to my village, but I was urged to take over the cricket club, and we won every one of our Saturday matches! I have now settled permanently in another village, and on every short leave I organize cricket matches for children and grown-ups. My meadow is the village cricket field, with the best pitch for a long way round!

My ambition, as soon as I can get home, is to run village cinemas, get electric light into every cottage, start a young farmers' club—fruit, bees and perhaps pigs will be my special job, others will help with teaching poultry and whatever more is wanted—and perhaps instal long baths (h & c) at the village hall, and may be, a swimming pool—all, of course, subject to the villagers wanting these things. Every one to his particular fancy.

The day of squire-archy and benevolent despotism is over. In town and village alike we are all level nowadays. There is no question of our coming in as superior beings. Quite the opposite; we shall at once realize how woefully ignorant we are in very many of the most important subjects, and we shall be busy

learning all the time. But we are educated, we shall have some leisure, we have much varied experience, and we are trained to plan and organize and to handle men. If we are humble, sincere, and adaptable, we shall be welcomed for our special talents and experience, and invited to help in organizing all manner of useful and pleasant activities for which those already there either cannot spare the time or have not the necessary experience.

Again, we are very much wanted both as voters for, and members of, all manner of local Government bodies. Domestically speaking, England is almost entirely run by these bodies; they do a vast amount of work, and upon their wisdom and efficiency depends a great deal of our well-being and convenience. Surely our knowledge and experience can be put to good use here! Heaven forbid that the *qui hai* should make a corner in local councils, but he can vote for suitable people, and if himself elected, he can help to make a proper balance in the councils and place his long and varied experience at their disposal.

Those already interested should write to A.G. 17(*b*), G.H.Q., Simla, for the excellent pamphlet just published about local government in the United Kingdom.

The job is there if we have the vision and the leadership to get on with it. If anyone is interested and will ring up Holme Hall 246 (after the present party breaks up!) and come along to Ashill in Norfolk, between Watton (both t's silent) and Swaffham (pronounced Swaaafm) I will try and enthuse him with "the new order" for ex-officers and civil servants.

It is no use saying we will wait to see how things go after the war. We must make things go ourselves, instead of allowing that fatal drift to start again which so nearly cost us everything after the last war. And we must begin preparing now, or we shall ourselves be the first to drift when we are loosed from our present anchorage.

What a marvellous life to look forward to! Never an idle moment, no more boredom, and the chance of being perhaps more useful than ever before, of making one's self and hundreds of others happy, and of definitely contributing to building up again England's green and pleasant land after thirty years of war and disintegration. But we shall never do it if we segregate ourselves from our countrymen in Cheltenham and Bedford! England was made great by work and beer, by bowls and village games and field sports, not by golf, bridge, cocktails and idleness.

THE RECORD OF THE I. A. F.

By D. P. R.

ON APRIL 1, 1933, the first unit of the Indian Air Force was formed in Karachi. The new arm had been sponsored by well-known Indian leaders of public opinion, and supported by Sir John Salmond, then Air Officer Commanding in Chief. Its foundations had been laid by a Government Commission six years before, at a time when Air Forces in many countries were dwindling. They visualised an Indian Air Force of many squadrons, manned, officered and commanded by Indians, and their foresight has been well rewarded.

Three years before, in 1930, an enthusiastic band of Indian pilots sailed for England to be trained at the R.A.F. College at Cranwell. Among them was the first Indian airman to win the Aga Khan's prize for flying an aircraft to England and back to India. Later he received the Grove's memorial prize for being the best all-round pilot of his term at Cranwell. In 1933 these returned to India, and two months later became the first members of the now well-known Indian Air Force.

During the formative years preceding the War, the I.A.F. concentrated its efforts on training and army co-operation, and for four years carried out extensive tactical reconnaissance, photography and artillery observation for the army. The aeroplane was still to many in India an unfamiliar thing, and sceptics of the success of the new Indian arm were many.

In 1937 the Waziristan troubles started, and the I.A.F. were moved to the frontier to work with the R.A.F. This was their first opportunity to prove their worth, and very quickly they won the esteem of R.A.F. pilots. In 1941 the Indian Air Force took over completely from the R.A.F. the arduous duty of keeping watch and ward over India's mountainous north-west frontier, one of their pilots being awarded the D.F.C., the highest air force award, and several others being mentioned in dispatches.

A batch of Indian pilots left for England in 1940 to receive further training and operational experience. Having completed their training, they were posted to squadrons which took part in the battle of Britain, and afterwards many of them captained bombers in raids over Germany. Later the I.A.F. also had a share in helping to re-inforce the Middle East by flying transport planes

and evacuating civilians. Their work, though not spectacular, was of immense help during the critical days in Iran, Iraq and Syria.

In the early days of 1942 the I.A.F. went into action against the Japs, being attached to an R.A.F. squadron, first at Taungoo and later at Lashio. For three months they operated on the Burma front as a general-purpose squadron, their work evoking the congratulations of Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell, while the commanding officer of the Squadron was awarded the D.F.C.

The defence of India's three thousand miles of coastline provided another opportunity for the I.A.F. In the winter of 1939 coast defence flights were formed at several important ports in India, and these were later expanded and developed. On them devolved the responsibility of convoying and escorting merchant ships to and from Indian ports, patrolling the Indian seas, and seeking enemy submarines.

Flying in all sorts of weather, and handicapped by lack of modern aircraft, they fulfilled their role admirably. It was an Indian pilot from one of these flights, out on patrol in the Bay of Bengal, who first reported and shadowed a Japanese battle squadron. It was also an Indian pilot, serving in one of these coast defence flights, who depth-charged a submarine off the Madras coast. Their duty was often routine, dull and unexciting, but their work nevertheless was as important for the defence of India's shores as that of any other service.

A number of personnel have been rescued from torpedoed vessels as a result of reports received from these coast defence aircraft. One coast defence flight, manned by Indian pilots and air crews, and commanded by an Indian Flight Lieutenant, was employed on coastal reconnaissance work, first at Moulmein and later at Bassein. They patrolled the Bay of Bengal, and convoyed merchant ships to many Far Eastern ports before the fall of Singapore.

Behind these members of the I.A.F. are the training schools. Until the outbreak of war there were not many pilots, and few machines, while all flying personnel were trained outside India. The ground crews then were mostly drawn from the Indian Technical and Followers Corps, and were supplemented by N.C.Os. from the R.A.F. In November, 1939, however, the first I.A.F. Training School was opened, the first of a network of other similar establishments. Training standard is high, and compares favourably with any other flying training school in the Empire.

The I.A.F. pilot begins his career as a cadet officer at an Initial Training School, where his physical and educational capacities are thoroughly developed, and an assessment made of his qualities. From the I.T.C. he goes to an elementary flying training school, and then to a Service Flying Training School, from which he passes to an Operational Training Unit for his final polish, preparatory to active service. If he has been training as a bomber pilot he joins pupils who have been posted from the air gunnery, navigation and wireless schools to form and train as a team in the type of aircraft in which they will fly.

Schools for technicians, armament training, administration, signals, and gunnery are now established, and young Indian air enthusiasts are coming forward in increasing numbers to join them. There are nearly thirty trades on the technical side of the I.A.F.

The boy who starts as an apprentice may become a cadet, receive a commission, and even reach air rank. There has not been time yet for any such example of triumph of character, but there are already enough ex-apprentices in commissioned rank in the I.A.F. to show that it is within the realms of possibility.

During the last decade the I.A.F. has grown through trials and hardships from humble beginnings to its present strength. Its tenth birthday on April 1 saw the culmination of many hopes, the dissipation of much doubt, and the justification of considerable planning. Two of its leaders have been awarded the D.F.C., and others of its pilots and air crews mentioned in dispatches.

Modern aircraft have begun to arrive in India, and a younger generation of pilots and air crews are coming forward to man them. Old squadrons with a history, and new squadrons whose stories have yet to be written are striving to make the Indian Air Force a first-class air arm, worthy to fight with the Indian Army.

SOME ADMINISTRATIVE SUGGESTIONS

By F. G.

WE MUST MAKE more time available for training. Here are two ways in which hours could be saved from administrative duties:

A large proportion of an Adjutant's time is spent, with British troops, in taking Summaries of Evidence. At our local Area H.Q., for instance, there are no less than 16 Court Martial cases awaiting disposal, while a Staff Captain from another station told me he averaged 18 Courts Martial per week. This appalling waste of time, labour, and paper could easily be reduced by—

(*a*) Increasing the powers of a Commanding Officer to enable him to award 84 days' detention summarily. At present a C.O. can only award 28 days' detention as a summary punishment. A large percentage of the cases which C.O.'s put up for Court Martial would be satisfactorily settled by an immediate award of 84 days, which is far more effective than a longer sentence awarded several weeks later. If my proposal was adopted, and C.O.'s could award 84 days' detention summarily, this would dispose of a large number of Court Martial cases put up by C.O.'s who do not consider 28 days' detention a sufficient punishment.

(*b*) Introducing Summary Courts Martial for British troops: The argument which led to their introduction into the Indian Army is outlined in Chapter 11 of "Indian Manual of Military Law," which says, *inter alia*:

"The discipline of the regular Indian Army had seriously deteriorated, and it was noticed that the irregular troops were, in this respect, in a much better state than their comrades in the Regular Army. This difference was found to be largely due to the position of comparative insignificance occupied by the commandant of a regular regiment, who had practically no power to punish his own men. In contrast to this, the commanding officer of a regiment of the Punjab Irregular Force had almost absolute power in that regiment, and could himself deal promptly and effectively with all military offenders. This system enabled the Commanding Officer, as such, to convict and sentence a military offender, and thereafter to issue a warrant for the execution of his sentence.

"When a new Indian Army came to be organised it was realised that the hands of the regimental Commanding Officer must be strengthened. With this object, summary courts martial were definitely established as part of the legal machinery of the Indian Army. They have proved peculiarly suited to the conditions of that army, and are now the tribunals by far the most frequently utilised in it for the trial of military offenders."

This argument is just as cogent when applied to British troops. Incidentally, it should be laid down as a matter of policy that the death penalty be awarded for desertion, even when not in the presence of the enemy.

About half the office work of company/battery, etc., commanders is devoted to questions of pay. Could not this be done by specialists? Just as we have Quartermaster and District Officer commissions, why not a Lieutenant (P) to deal with all questions of pay?

Messing.—A constant source of complaint from officers newly-arrived in India from the U.K. is about the cost of messing. In the U.K., where officers draw R.A.S.C. rations, messing is in the neighbourhood of 6d. per day. Yet in India it probably averages Rs. 3-8.

If the troops can exist on Field Service rations, why shouldn't officers? They have got to live on Field Service rations when they go on active service, so they might as well get used to it in peace stations. Sergeants' Messes now draw Field Service rations, and charge in the region of As. 8 per day extra messing. I suggest that Officers' Messes draw Field Service rations, and be forbidden to charge officers more than Re. 1 per day extra messing. This would mean that officers messed at Re. 1 per day instead of Rs. 3-8-0, a saving to the officer of Rs. 2-8-0 per day. Let their pay be reduced by the value of the Field Service ration issued free, and they would still be in pocket.

Officers would, if this suggestion were adopted, benefit in two ways. Firstly, they would be better off financially, as shown above. And secondly, they would get better value for their money. Instead of being at the mercy of a contractor, who may or may not be able to produce the food, they would be assured of receiving daily a full Government ration.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY*

"RETREAT IN THE EAST", by O. D. Gallagher, (Messrs. Harrap.)—This book has had more publicity than falls to the share of most ephemeral war publications. The author sets out to cover a lot of ground—lost ground. Whether the chief interest be Sarawak, Malaya or Burma and the command of the seas that was forfeited to us with them, every reader should in fairness note Mr. Gallagher's remarks in the preface. Amongst other things he says: "In Malaya and Burma I saw men show high courage. I saw men fight. Saw them die.... I saw other men show apathy. Saw them sit back. Saw them escape. I saw men grapple with the most hopeless situations and achieve local victories.... I saw other men bungle with consummate efficiency and achieve inglorious disorder. I saw determination. I saw vacillation.

"My incessant note taking earned me good natured jibes from some colleagues: 'the complete reporter always got his notebook and pen out'. In spite of this diligence I have, undoubtedly, been guilty of a number of errors of fact. Eight of my notebooks have long been pulp at the bottom of the South China Sea. My errors are inevitable. The fog of war was thick enough to confound the Generals. But my errors are not serious errors.

"I have glossed over none of the blunders, accidents, malingering, complacency, defeats, that I came across. I have been critical of some civilians because their support of the Army was not what it should have been. I have told the truth, as far as I was able, in fairness to the soldiers who died and in fairness to their families and friends who still live. And so that the British and Indian soldiers and airmen who lived through those green jungle hells of Malaya and Burma, particularly Burma, may—at last—be given public credit for fighting one of the most courageous actions in the history of British arms.

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*In order that members may read considered opinions of books added to the Library of the Institution, we invite one member to review the new volumes in the columns of the *Journal*.—*Ed., U. S. I. "Journal."*

"I have eschewed dope."

The fighting services, British, American (A.V.G.) and Chinese will be grateful for much that is in this book. It may still come as almost an incredible shock to many to realize that in spite of all that had happened, and was happening, the Civil authorities in Burma never saw fit to declare martial law!

For years now Mr. Gallagher has flitted from war to war. Beyond peradventure he is a brave and lucky man. He may yet live to write a sequel covering our return to Burma. He will be critical of any costly experiment in the way of an early return to civil government. If after the war the Service Chiefs involved should demand an official enquiry into the loss of Singapore and Burma, and the demand does not collect dust in a Whitehall pigeon hole, Mr. Gallagher should prove a useful witness for them.

On the Japanese the writer is both interesting and informative. He quotes with some effect the Japanese indignant description of Mr. Churchill as an ignoramus. Did not the P.M. perpetrate the blunder of describing the "descendants of the Gods in their bloody coercion of the millions of China" as "imitating the Nazis' terrorist regime over Europe?" It is a crazy footnote to history—and there is no doubt that the P. M. was wrong. The Japanese may fairly claim that the Nazis have imitated them and their doings ever since the start of the China Incident!

Whether Mr. Gallagher is at heart a friendly critic seems a moot point. There are at least three passages which he could quote with effect as proving both feeling and admiration for our fighting men. But it is just these three passages which by their suddenness startle the reader. They seem to have been inserted at random, almost divorced from their context. Newspaper men are supposed to be good mixers. Mr. Gallagher would be the first to admit that he himself would be vinegar in a Mess of *burra* sahibs.

Lord Strabolgi has written "SINGAPORE AND AFTER," self-described further as "A Study of the Pacific Campaign". Mr. H. G. Wells once wrote a history of the world. The following authentic story of a very talented Oxford tutor voicing his aversion to Mr. Wells's tabloid history is not without bearing on Lord Strabolgi's latest war book. Addressing an undergraduate who had had the temerity to quote Mr. Wells in his essay, this tutor delivered himself of the following: "You, Mr. X, could probably find one mistake on every page of Mr. Wells's history. I

could probably find two. But a good historian could indubitably find three."

In a recent Collier's magazine article, published in America, Lord Strabolgi earned considerable notoriety for an attack upon the British Army, which, to say the least of it, makes peculiar reading from the pen of one who once had the honour of holding his Majesty's commission in the Senior Service. Lord Lovat and other Service Peers made commendably short work of this article. In this light "SINGAPORE AND AFTER" may be understandable, and even interesting, as a psychological study of those who delight in twisting their own tails. Strategically, we may congratulate ourselves that at Hongkong, for instance, we did not abandon the place without a fight still less pour sixty thousand troops, without the possibility of air support or relief, into Hongkong to hold it. These being the only two courses worthy of consideration in Lord Strabolgi's opinion.

Two further books are of particular interest, and lend themselves to joint review precisely because both tell us so much of what we should know (but do not) of our two principal Allies, the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. There, however, the similarity between "ROOSEVELT", by G. W. Johnson, and "MISSION TO MOSCOW", by J. D. Davies, abruptly ceases. The former deals naturally enough with an individual, with his country and contemporaries grouped round the central star. Readers will appreciate the wisdom of Lord Tweedsmuir's advice, to the effect that Britons and Americans would get on so much better if they started with the idea that they were foreigners to each other, and were then both pleased and surprised to find so many points in common.

Mr. Johnson's book itself all unwittingly furnishes a case in point. Two-thirds of it is devoted to proving to Americans that Mr. Roosevelt is an American (and a good one at that). To us this would hardly seem necessary, and a similar attempt to explain Mr. Churchill as a good Briton merely incongruous. But the reader will learn that in America there is this necessity, and Mr. Johnson has met it both brilliantly and fascinatingly in this story of one of the world's greatest citizens in his triumph over physical adversity. The book is amusingly dedicated "to every man who cast an honest vote for Willkie".

Mr. Davies was U.S. Ambassador to Russia from 1936 to 1938. Those who remember the long tale of our own strained relations and misunderstandings with Russia must bear in mind that they were equalled, if not surpassed, by America's. M. Litvinov describes the book as "the most important contribution

to the literature on the Soviet Union". It will come as a shock to most of us to realize that Russia was producing more wheat by a hundred million bushels than U.S.A., Canada and Argentina combined. But the book deals with far more than agricultural and industrial renaissance and production. Mr. Davies had a singularly acute eye for essentials when he spotted the industrial workers marching with their rifles in Moscow's great May Day parade as the most interesting and significant item in that great pageantry of arms. When the history of Russia's resistance to the Hun hordes comes to be written, the guerillas may prove to have been the final deciding factor.

"THIS EXPANDING WAR", by Liddell Hart. This is largely a compilation drawn from contributions which have already appeared in print. Such articles penned on a day-to-day or weekly basis, cannot of necessity add much to contemporary historical knowledge or record. But that Mr. Liddell Hart has often seen the jigsaw puzzle which the war presents, as a composite whole, and drawn the right conclusions, is clearly illustrated. The chapter on Lord Gort's dispatches makes disappointing reading. Liddell Hart was himself at one time the High Priest of the ascendancy of the defensive over the offensive, and with this in mind, the reiteration of other occasions upon which the author has proved more nearly right tend to become a trifle monotonous.

The crop of books on Nazi Germany continues to sprout prolifically. "PEOPLE UNDER HITLER", by Wallace Deuel, is entitled to rank high as a thoughtful analysis of the German people. Without quite emulating Ludwig in "The Germans", by proving that German diplomacy to-day is indistinguishable from German diplomacy in the time of Cæsar, this book presents a convincing picture of a people wishing themselves to be convinced, and satisfied, only if provided with a rule of conduct, coupled with a hard and fast solution to cover any eventuality in their lives.

"EDUCATION FOR DEATH", by Gregor Ziemer, continues Deuel's theme, though confining itself to Germany's youth. But however true it may be to claim that the early years are the formative years, the teaching in those years can only be convincing if the teachers themselves have been convinced. That this was the case in Germany is proved beyond all shadow of doubt. It is at least a sobering thought to realize that German youth, mistaught and misled, could at least claim unselfishness and devotion to an ideal (mistaken though we think it), far in excess of

that to which British or French contemporaries can credit themselves.

"BRITAIN AGAINST NAPOLEON", by Carola Oman, though naturally connected with war, comes as more than a mental relief from most contemporary literature. Whether history repeats itself or no, it is refreshing to find that our great-grandparents faced up to crisis and threatened invasion much in the same way as the Home Guards of to-day.

Miss Oman's book, however, has the sovereign advantage of being written from both sides of the Channel. French actions and reactions, when cast for the part of the invaders, are every bit as interesting if not quite as stimulating to minds keyed up to the conditions of the early 1940's. Far too few good historians have been capable of writing readable history. Miss Oman, as befits a daughter of the late Burgess and Regius Professor of Oxford, lacks nothing in scholarship or painstaking original historical research. But this is not easily apparent to the reader, and with the exception of one rather unworthy fragment on Walter Scott (which might have been written by one of the Sitwells) the lay reader has nothing but mellow wine served to him in a sparkling receptacle.

No one has succeeded in writing history from the woman's point of view—perhaps no one has been qualified to do so. Miss Oman should try.

"PANDITS AND ELEPHANTS", by the Earl of Lytton. Lord Lytton takes us back to the early 1920's with his experiences as Governor of Bengal, and for a short time as Acting Viceroy. In parts the book is astonishingly naive—as naive as some of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms which the author was called on to try and implement. His judgment of Lord Reading (the then Viceroy) is both interesting and surprising. If correct one finds it hard to understand why Lord Reading ever accepted the Viceroyalty.

Space forbids any but passing reference to the following: "PARATROOPS", by F. O. Miksche. In this the author handles almost virgin ground. It is no mean tribute to him that he does so in a manner which cannot fail to interest every intelligent reader of the newspapers. Above all he does so constructively and with a sense of proportion unusual in enthusiasts.

"INTRODUCTION TO INDIA", by F. R. Moraes and Robert Stimson, provides a mass of information in easily assimilated

form. One could wish that it had not been written quite so apologetically, and a less pleading attitude adopted to Americans serving in India.

"UP, PERISCOPE", by David Masters, is a saga of the submarine service. A not unworthy tribute to that branch of the Navy whose courage and endurance is not second to that displayed by any body of men on the sea, on the ground or in the air.

"PALESTINE: A POLICY", by A. M. Hyamson. Scratch a Zionist and one does not know what one may find. Mr. Hyamson, however, has not lost that sense of proportion which alone can offer a policy with some glimmerings of hope for the future. That is not to say that Mr. Hyamson's book would appeal to Arabs.

"MY FIRST WAR", by Capt. Sir Basil Bartlett, Bart., who has some interesting things to say about security, or lack thereof in France, together with a pen-picture of Roubaix which makes one wonder whether France really was worth fighting for.

Oxford Pamphlets on Indian Affairs -Nos. 9 and 10 are complementary, since they deal with "The land and its Problems" and "Industrialization". Both stress the crying need for financial assistance and capital expenditure.

"HUTCHINSON'S PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE WAR", from March to June, 1942, maintains its interest both from its pictures and from the written word.

"RUSSIAN NEWS REEL", by Charlotte Haldane, tells of the trials of journalists in search of copy in the U.S.S.R. without adding much to our knowledge of Russia at peace or at war.

"PEARL HARBOUR", by Black Clark, is about as disappointing and uninformative account as any eye-witness can ever have written.

"DOVER FRONT", by Reginald Foster, is another eye-witness story, which makes much better reading.

"THE OXFORD WAR ATLAS, 1939—1942". A handy and well-printed production, fitting a pocket and containing more than its title would lead one to expect.

"BELLICOSE BALLADS", by P. J. Power and M. R. Dumville, price Rs. 6, is well worth buying, for two excellent reasons. First to decide for yourself whether the words or the illustrations are the funnier, and secondly because all profits go to the War Funds.

D. R. J.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE MERCANTILE MARINE

To The Editor, U. S. I. "Journal"

SIR,

In the masterly survey of post-war problems given by the Prime Minister in his broadcast, there was one thing which he omitted to touch on which appears to me to be almost vital in our future layout.

The greatest tributes have been paid by many, from His Majesty downwards, to the courage and fortitude of the officers and men of the Merchant Navy. It is no exaggeration to say that victory in the struggle depends to a great extent on the courage of these men.

If we are not to pay merely lip service to them, it is essential that in the post-war world our mercantile marine personnel should be placed on a national basis, and that there should be just as much a Royal Mercantile Marine as any other fighting service. It is only by guaranteeing them minimum wages, food, comfort, relief from distress, pensions, etc., that we can, in any way, repay the service they have so willingly given for us.

Such a service would ensure, too, that British ships were manned solely by British personnel, and that we should not feel, as before the war, that our ships were manned by foreigners because the terms of service were inadequate.

If Great Britain maintains such a service, no doubt the Dominions and India would follow suit, and the result would be that we would not see the deplorable situation, that existed before the war, of our merchant seamen being unemployed, whilst all sorts of non-Empire personnel manned our ships.

In times gone by Kipling, contrasting our attitude in peace and war, sang of the British soldiers:

"It was Tommy this and Tommy that, and Tommy get away,

But, God bless you Tommy Atkins, when the band begins to play".

In the post-war world let us ensure that the theme of this poem is *not* transferred to our attitude towards the gallant merchant seamen. It will, no doubt, mean subsidizing merchant shipping companies, but what is a more worthy method of reducing unemployment?

Yours truly,

Simla. DASHWOOD STRETTELL,
Colonel.

EDUCATION OF SOLDIERS' DAUGHTERS

To The Editor, U.S.I. "Journal"

Dear Sir,

I have just seen your note entitled "More Practical Memorials Needed" in the January *Journal*. You have fallen into the same error into which the "Powers that be" fell after last war, that soldiers can only breed sons and not daughters! After last war excellent arrangements were made for the sons of soldiers, but nothing for their daughters so that the martial classes have been terribly handicapped ever since.

The general standard of a country can never be raised by bringing education and culture to "men only." As long as we neglect to educate girls, every generation will have to start again from the base line, as it is women, not men, who impart culture and civilisation to children. Let this war see arrangements made for the daughters of soldiers. Let all war memorials be for the women,—education, domestic training, medical aid, maternity services, etc., so that the mothers of the next generation may be able to prepare their sons to be K.C.Os. and their daughters to be the wives of K.C.Os.

Yours faithfully,

Dehra Dun. F. L. BRAYNE.

[We are very glad Colonel Brayne has drawn attention to the importance of girls' education, though some will disagree with his contention that excellent arrangements were made for the sons of soldiers after the last war. Readers will find the problem of girls' education discussed in an article on "War Memorials" appearing elsewhere in this issue.—*Ed., "U. S. I. Journal".*]

JUNGLE CRAFT

To The Editor, U. S. I. "Journal"

SIR,

In a footnote to the article on "Jungle Craft" which appeared in your January 1943 issue, it was stated that a pamphlet was to be issued by this School on that and other lectures.

As, however, I understand that such a pamphlet is being issued from other sources, the School pamphlet is not being published.

Yours faithfully,
J. CAMPBELL,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Commandant.

Intelligence School, India,
Karachi.

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