

ARMY TALKS



Traditions of the British Army



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EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES ARMY

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ARMY TALKS :—The **PURPOSE** of **ARMY TALKS** is to help American officers and enlisted personnel become better-informed men and women and therefore better soldiers.

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ARMY TALKS

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

TRADITIONS OF THE BRITISH ARMY

EVER since the first landing of American troops in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on January 26, 1942, the British soldier in these islands has come under the interested scrutiny of the American soldier. Some Americans and some British quickly became fast friends. Others never really knew each other. But almost invariably wherever American soldiers have gathered, a keen interest has been shown at times in that remarkable institution, the British Army.

Army is "Fleet's Projectile"

It is for purposes of explanation in an open discussion that this account of some of the history and traditions of the British Army is presented. The British Army, it has been often said and most commonly, "is a projectile fired by the British Fleet." The reason for this strange declaration is that the role of the British Army in all her wars has been linked up with the part that the British Navy plays in every military movement outside of the United Kingdom.

Of all the armies of the world, the British Army has had the almost continual role of an Ally. It has been said, and truly, that wherever the British Army has fought against forces of

large nations and civilized powers, she has always fought as a part of an Allied Force. Many times the British have been a very small part of the Force. Thus, when we came here to Europe and the other parts of the world, to join with the British in their fight against the common enemy, we should not have been surprised if the average British Officer or man did not grow particularly excited.

His long history, which no British soldier ever forgets, contains the record of the Great Duke of Marlborough, for example, who commanded Germans, Danes, Austrians, Dutchmen, as well as Englishmen, Irish, Welsh, and Scots; the Duke of Wellington, famed Iron Duke, who finally beat Napoleon at Waterloo, and commanded in the Peninsula campaign, Spanish, Portuguese and Germans, as well as soldiers from the British Isles.

British Were Often Allies

In the Crimean War, the British Forces were allied with those of the French and the Italians. In the last World War and in this one, the Russians have become allies of the British.

Therefore to be an ally is more traditional with the British Army than with us. To accept and get

Lt. Col. Timothy A. McInerney, G.S.C., Executive Officer, History Branch, G-3 Section, ETOUSA, is the author of this issue of ARMY TALKS. He was a Boston newspaper editor in civil life. Col. McInerney served for 18 years as a National Guard and Reserve Officer before being called to active duty in 1941. At that time he was chief editorial writer of The Boston Post. He is a graduate of Harvard and Boston College. He has served in this theater for 19 months.

along day by day with an ally has become part of the British military tradition. Perhaps it was found in the past that the best way to get along with an allied army is to maintain a polite cooperation and one's own individual identity, rather than give way to flattery or imitation.

(This is an excellent point to remember in connection with a better understanding of our allies in this war.)



The Duke of Wellington

One of the things which is most interesting to American soldiers is the way a British soldier clings tenaciously to tradition. The writer recently saw an example of the deep love that the British soldier has for his battalion or unit, and his pride in the past and hope for the future. In the basement of a very old London building are stored some of the records which are compiled by the separate battalions of the British Army every month, and which deal with the ever-lengthening scroll of its history.

These records, neatly filed away and carefully kept, were written in the battle-fields of Northern Africa by British officers and non-commissioned officers, sometimes under the most appalling conditions of warfare.

With an almost religious devotion, these officers and men wrote the battle

journal of their organizations and did not neglect a fact from which history could evaluate one day in the life of a military unit. Some of these documents were soiled by desert dust, others were spattered with rain. With infinite patience, obscure non-commissioned officers drew maps of daily situations, giving to the Army archives for all time, the real battlefield story of what happened when that particular unit faced the Afrikakorps commanded by General Rommel.

The study of these documents reveals one everpresent fact; that these men in battle have never forgotten for one moment the opportunity to add to the glory of the unit in which they were serving. This brings us to the realization that the British soldier can never in our time be considered a modern, production-line model.

He is another individualist, another representative of his unit. The day he is permitted to wear his Regimental Crest on his uniform, he becomes in his own right a somebody, and he has fought doggedly and tenaciously to retain the identity of his badge through many a war and many a lackadaisical day of peace.

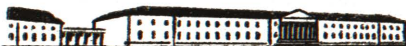
First Modern British Army

Organized 299 Years Ago

The first modern army in England, as we understand the term today, was raised by Sir Thomas Fairfax, the Parliamentary General, who produced what is now known as the New Model Army in 1645. It can be seen that in point of age the British Army does not far antedate our own. Several units in the National Guard of the United States are as old, or older in point of direct succession than this New Model Army. Likewise, the United States Military Academy at West Point is only one year younger than the British

counterpart at Sandhurst. West Point was founded in 1802, and Sandhurst in 1801.

The training of officers of the British Army in peacetime is probably responsible for the maintenance of a great part of the unit esprit de corps. The majority of officers enter the military colleges from the British Public Schools. Some enlisted men of high capabilities are admitted to the military colleges



Royal Military College, Sandhurst

from the Army. There were before this war two military colleges, the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, and the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. The latter institution deals mainly with technical training in Artillery, Engineering and Signals. It was known commonly as the "Shop." When this war broke out it was merged with Sandhurst, which now trains officer cadets from the ranks.

"The Regiment" Becomes Home to British Officers

Cadets in peacetime entered Sandhurst at the ages of 17 or 18, and worked hard, but maintained the tradition of the English gentleman. The sporting colors of Woolwich were blue, black and yellow and are said to be based on the ingredients of gunpowder, saltpetre, charcoal and sulphur. After graduation the officer is gazetted to a unit and that unit in

all likelihood becomes his home for his entire service career. The ambition of most young officers is to command the unit some day. The senior regimental officer is generally a Lt. Colonel. The regimental commanding officer invariably is a man who has a tremendous pride in every single man, custom and tradition in his organization. The happiness, contentment and efficiency of his men are of deep concern to him.

The non-commissioned officers of the British Army are considered its backbone. It has been proudly asserted that no other army can equal it in producing such a splendid array. They traditionally form the buffer between the commissioned personnel and the ranks. Much of the fighting efficiency of an individual unit can be traced to the initiative and courage of the NCOs. The battle history of the British Army has been brightened many times with cases on record of non-commissioned officers carrying on command functions after all the commissioned officers were dead.

The title "Sergeant" is derived from the French "Serviens." The position of a sergeant in an armed force goes back to the 12th century where sergeants were gentlemen next in rank below knights.

(Perhaps no other troops in the world have more confidence in the command than do the old line non-coms of the British Army.)

SUMMARY

The British Army has been allied with other forces in most of its wars. An outstanding feature of the British military organization is the part played by tradition. The first



Wellington College

modern army, as we recognize the term today, was raised in Britain in 1645. The way in which officers are trained in peacetime probably has a great effect on the unit esprit de corps of the British regiments. Non-coms form the backbone of the British Army and are among the best in the world. The history of the British Army is full of instances in which non-coms have taken over and commanded units after all commissioned officers have been killed.

Q. What were some of the famous campaigns in which British troops fought as members of an Allied force ?

Q. Name an instance cited by the author to prove the British soldier's love of tradition. Can you think of another ?

Q. Which is the oldest, the British Army as it exists today, or some American military organisations ? (See Question 3, Page 16.)

Q. When was Sandhurst founded ? West Point ?

Q. Is there another famous British officers' school ? What is its name ? Its nickname ?

Secretary of State for War Heads Army Control Council

The Army nominally belongs to the people of England or to Parliament, as differentiating from the Royal Navy, which is actually the property of the reigning sovereign. The power of control of the British Army is invested in the Army Council, and the following

offices and officers make up this Council :—

President—Secretary of State for War. (Civilian)

Vice-President — Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for War. (Civilian)

First Military Member—Chief of the Imperial General Staff.























Second Military Member—Adjutant-General to the Forces.

Third Military Member—Quarter-master-General to the Forces.

Fourth Military Member—Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Fifth Military Member—Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

ARMY AIR FORCE

	Field Marshal		Marshal of the Royal Air Force
	General		Air Chief Marshal
	Lieutenant General		Air Marshal
	Major General		Air Vice-Marshal
	Brigadier		Air Commodore
	Colonel		Group-Captain
	Lieutenant Colonel		Wing Commander
	Major		Squadron Leader
	Captain		Flight Lieutenant
	Lieutenant		Flying Officer
	Second Lieutenant		Pilot Officer

British Officers' Insignia

Finance Member—Financial Secretary of the War Office.
(Civilian)

Two Joint Permanent Under-Secretaries of State for War.
(Civilian)

For purposes of administration and distribution the British Army at home is divided into six geographical commands and each command is divided into districts for purposes of administration. In addition to the home commands the British Army is charged with the defence and garrisoning of many parts of the Empire. The Dominions and other Imperial possessions have their own armed forces.

In addition to British India the Army is responsible for the defence of the following places: Aden, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, Ceylon, China (Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tientsin), Cyprus, Egypt, The Sudan, Falklands, Fiji, Gibraltar, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Malaya, Malta, Mauritius, Newfoundland, Palestine and Trans-Jordan, St. Helena, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago, Windward Islands.

British have Fine Record

This impressive list of far-flung places is a small record of the world locations in which British soldiers have marched and fought. In contrast to the record of the British Army as an inveterate ally in wars and in continental operations in Europe, the record of the Army in colonial wars is one of the great stirring military annals of modern times.

These operations have been fought in every part of the globe against every conceivable enemy and in every sort of climate and terrain. It is almost an unbroken catalogue of military success. The British Army prides itself that it may be called upon to proceed to the ends of the

earth, and to go into action against an enemy about which it knows little or nothing.

Successes Often Unrecognized

Major Eric W. Sheppard has an inspired passage in his work on the history of the British Army. He says, "When we tell of English victories in France and Belgium, in Germany and Spain, we are dealing with matters that can be closely paralleled from the military history of any of our Continental allies and enemies. But the long record of British triumphs in the plains and mountains of India, in the swamps and deserts of Africa, in the deadly West Indian islands, and amid the depths of the American forests, constitutes in sum an achievement unlike any other recorded in history, yet one which, in great part because of the very monotony of its tale of success, usually passes unrecognized and unacclaimed."

When we consider the full planetary life that this small but dogged fighting force has seen, we can understand better the sense of pride which the average British soldier feels in his organization.

(This extensive service in foreign countries enables the British soldier to have a knowledge of the causes and an interest in the progress of this war such as few other troops possess.)

Because the Army has a record of courage and willingness to fight anyone, anywhere and at any time, it does not mean that the solid and sentimental phases of military life have been neglected. For example, military music does not wipe out enemy battalions, but military music in the British Army is one of the great sources of inspiration to the British soldier and has never been neglected as a means of building morale. We Americans serving over here have

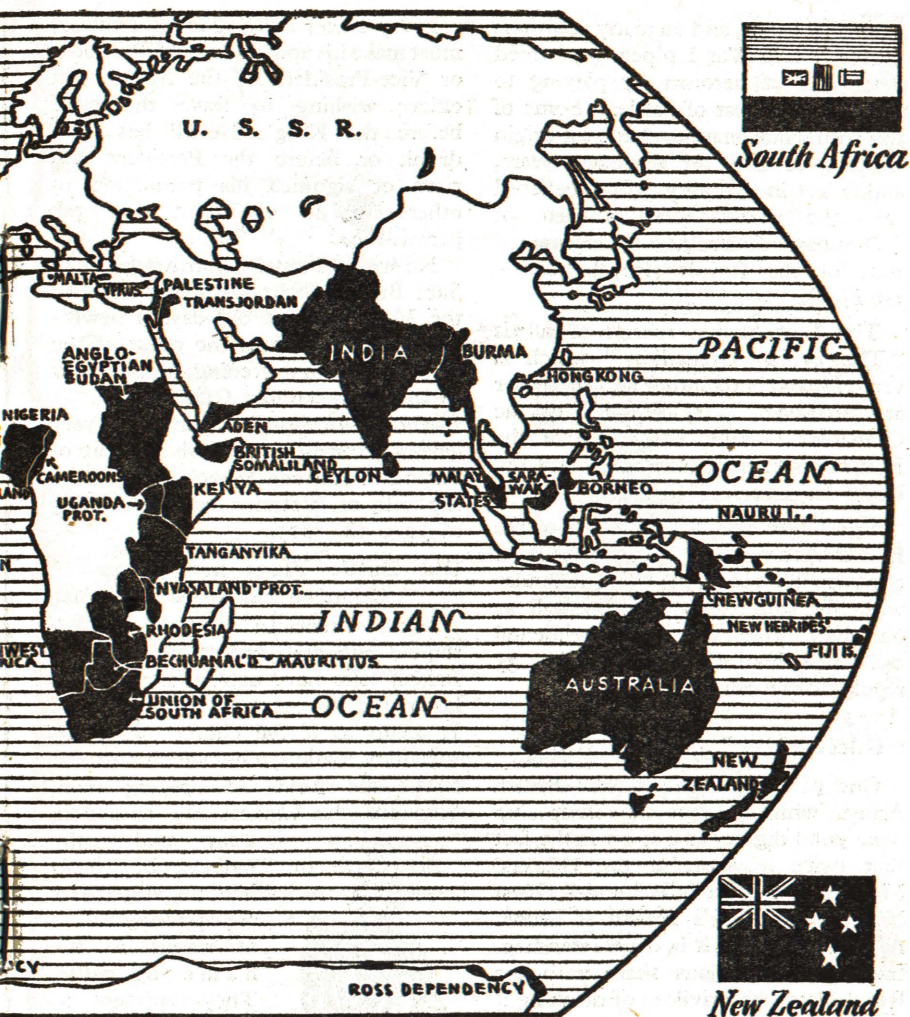


GENERAL REFERENCE MAP OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

noticed the many British military bands and their eagerness to play upon almost any occasion. These bands are of very high standard and it is hard to find anywhere a military organization with as many good bands as the British Army.

The Royal Military School of Music was instituted in 1857. Before the Crimean War the Army engaged

civilians to produce military music and they generally wrote their own ticket when it came to the selection of musical scores and instruments. During this campaign a great review was held before Allied Staffs in honor of Queen Victoria's birthday. The generals noticed that practically every regiment struck up the National Anthem in a different key. From that day on music



South Africa

PACIFIC

OCEAN

NAURU I.

NEW GUINEA

NEW HEBRIDES

FIJI

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand

ROSS DEPENDENCY

, SHOWING ALL THE PLACES NAMED IN THE TEXT

became a studied part of British military life.

Bandsmen are Trained Soldiers And Can Fight Like Infantry

All bandsmen are members of the organization to which they are attached, and, in addition, are thoroughly trained soldiers. They can literally throw down a French horn and pick up a machine-

gun. The bandmaster is usually a Warrant Officer, but in some cases, as in the Foot Guards, Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Signals and Royal Marines, he is of commissioned rank.

In the old days the band used to go into battle, and today British bands still play very close to the front line.

The Scottish and Irish regiments

have pipe bands, and on many occasions during World War I pipers performed great acts of heroism by playing to troops in the heat of battle. Some of the regimental marches have an origin which goes back for years and years, and is lost in antiquity. It is believed that the oldest tune is that of "Dumbarton's Drums," the regimental tune of the Royals (Royal Scots—1st Foot).

The best known march of all is "The British Grenadiers," which is very old, and both author and composer are unknown. It is used by the Grenadier Guards, the whole of the Fusilier regiments, Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers.

The bugle and trumpet calls of the British Army are not dissimilar from our own. Réveill  is the most unpopular with all, with the British as well as ourselves. There are special regimental calls, and there are something like 35 regular daily calls.

"Guest Night" an Old Custom

One of the customs of the British Army which serves to keep up regimental dignity and spirit is the fact that twice a week, at the Officers' Mess, on "Band Night" and "Guest Night," the King's Health is drunk. Almost invariably it is drunk standing, but a few battalions share with the Royal Navy the privilege of drinking it seated, and these regiments which have sometime or other served in the fleet as Marines. Each Officers' Mess has a President, and he knocks on the table and calls out "Mr. Vice-President—the King." The latter rises and proposes the toast, "Gentlemen—the King." Wherever officers are stationed this goes on through the years. On the India and South African posts, in the Sudan, or West Africa, in war or in peace, the ceremony is the same.

Every officer arriving late for dinner must make his apologies to the President or Vice-President of the Mess. An officer wishing to leave the table before the King's Health has been drunk or before the President has risen or signified his permission to others to do so, must first ask permission.

No weapon must be unsheathed and Sam Browne belts are never worn in the Mess. In the old days a newly-joined subaltern was the guest of the Mess on the first evening, and sat next to the Commanding Officer.

The "Retreat," sounded every evening, commemorates the retreat of Napoleon and the French Army from the field of Waterloo on the evening of June 18, 1815.

Old Battle Flags are Given Honored Places in Churches

Many American soldiers visiting the old cathedrals and churches in the British Isles have noticed in places of honor the old colors of the regiments. It seems as if the church has given sanctuary to the symbol which fluttered above the heads of fighting men. Some of the banners are shredding

away under the indiscernible hand of time, and others are ripped by bullets or seared in the flame of battle. They represent to any soldier the spirit of martial sacrifice and pride, and it can be seen why the old British pensioners in their long red coats often visit the churches to gaze reverently upon standards beneath which they once marched.



British Grenadier

Back in the days of the Saxons, standards and colors and guidons were well known among soldiers in these isles. When King Harold fell at the Battle of Hastings he was defended to the last by the Saxon Chiefs who rallied to his banner which had been set upon a mound. In the early days of the present British Army the regiments were the properties of the various colonels. Thus, each colonel had a flag, and that became the flag of the regiment. Likewise each company was the property of its captain, and he too had a flag. Therefore, there might be from 10 to a dozen different colors in one unit, and in later times many of these variegated banners were eliminated.

Colors in 1881 Battle

The Colors were last carried into action by British troops in the Zulu War of 1879, and last of all by the 58th Regiment (2nd Battalion of Northamptonshire Regiment) at Laing's Nek in 1881.

There is a long list of Color ceremonies, especially in the replacement of old Colors by members of the Royal Family. Colors and standards must never pass into the hands of individuals, according to Army custom. They always remain the property of the Government.

A few years ago when Eire was separated from British military control some of the Irish regiments were disbanded and the Colors were taken by King George V into his own charge. At that time he said that they would be preserved at Windsor Castle and honored forever. This was a moving ceremony in the history of the British Army because the Irish regiments had earned many glories for the Empire.

The most notable of these ceremonies in peace-time was perhaps the Trooping

of the Colors conducted by mounted troops in dress uniform.

The number of instances in which British soldiers have wrapped the Colors around their bodies to prevent them from falling into the hands of the enemy are myriad. Whole chronicles could be written about the passion of the British soldier for the flag of his unit.

Going on from the morale-building value of the Colors it would be well here



Victoria Cross

to mention some of the orders, decorations and medals awarded to the British Army. Orders, generally speaking, are awarded for distinguished service or for faithful service not only in war but in peace. All orders of chivalry are awarded in times of peace, excepting the Distinguished Service Order, which generally is given for one conspicuous act of gallantry or good service in war. Decorations are usually for war service and into this classification most of the crosses and medals for bravery fall. Medals themselves are generally meant to denote a battle or campaign. The British Empire has always been more rich in these personal awards, all the way from high titles to citations, than any other nation.

British Orders, Decorations

Start With Victoria Cross

Each order or decoration has its classification and its method of being worn. In order of precedence the Victoria Cross comes first in the British

Empire. The George Cross comes second. The orders of knighthood in order of precedence are the Order of the Garter, the Order of the Thistle, the Order of St. Patrick, the Order of the Bath, the Order of the Star of India, the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Other orders and decorations are the Order of the British Empire, the Royal Victorian Order, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Military Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and the Territorial Decoration.

In addition to these medals and honors which can be won by British soldiers and civilians alike, the Empire has enabled its rulers to bestow hereditary titles for distinguished service upon outstanding leaders. Wellington was created a Duke, Kitchener was given the title of Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, and Wavell was made a Viscount.

SUMMARY

The British Army "belongs" to the people of Britain, the Royal Navy is "owned" by the King. For administration purposes, the Army is divided into six commands. British troops have fought in all parts of the world and their exploits form an almost unbroken catalogue of success. Military music has an important place in the British military plan. Bandsmen are trained soldiers, able to play or fight as the conditions indicate. Officers' Messes follow elaborate traditions, during peace-time. Regimental Colors are treated with great reverence. Orders and decorations form an important part of the British military scheme.

Q. What is a technical difference in the control of the British Army and Navy? Who "owns" them?

Q. What are some of the odd corners of the world in which British troops are stationed?

Q. When was the British Army's Royal School of Military Music established? Why?

Q. What are some of the old customs, observed in Officers' Messes of the British Army? (See question 2, page 16.)

Q. How are the Colors of British regiments cared for? To whom do they belong?

Q. What is the highest decoration awarded to an officer or man of the British Army? What are some of the others?

Some regiments of the British Army have won certain privileges in the form of ceremonies or articles of attire, of which they are very proud. For example, certain units can march through the City of London with Colors flying, bayonets fixed, and drums beating. This privilege is given to the Buffs, the Gloucestershire Regiment, the Grenadier Guards, the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Marines. The reason these regiments have this privilege, whether they use it or not, is that in the early days they were members of the companies which defended the city long before there was a regular army in existence.

(It is customs like these which give the British soldier the pride in service and sense of personal participation which he has and which we are gaining.)

The regiments which went to action at Minden on August 1, 1759, passed through some rose gardens and plucked roses, fixing them into their helmets for identification purposes. Therefore, six regiments wear red roses on Minden Day, the 1st of each August. They are the Hampshire Regiment, the King's Own Scottish Borderers, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, the Lancashire Fusiliers, the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the Suffolk Regiment. All English regiments are usually supplied with roses on the 23rd of each April in honor of St. George's Day.

All Irish regiments are permitted to wear the shamrock on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. While there are no Irish regiments remaining from Eire, there are still Irish regiments originating in Northern Ireland and in London. All Welsh regiments can wear the leek on St. David's Day, March 1.



The Battle of Bunker Hill

Several regiments of the British Army wear a black "worm" in lace to commemorate Wolfe's death at Quebec in 1759 or that of Sir John Moore at Corunna on January 16, 1809. Regiments in the British Army wear the French Croix de Guerre decoration on certain occasions. Others wear the Chinese Dragon for service in the Chinese Wars.

American War not Stressed

It is novel and interesting to note, and it is certainly not critical, that the

history of the American Revolution is not especially emphasized in the British Army annals. The American soldier knows of the fierce fighting which characterized such battles as Bunker Hill. Every American knows of the steadiness of the British soldier in that day and the fact that they succeeded in carrying the hill, at a terrific cost, but that the United States still has the hill with the granite monument on top commemorating the resistance which probably did more than any one thing to make us a nation.

There was no question that in those days the British Grenadier in his red coat became to the American patriot the symbol of foreign oppression. The memory and the fear of foreign domination is still fresh in us. Perhaps that is why America, though reluctantly, finally hurled her blood and might into the First and Second World Wars, and will continue to do so as long as aggressor powers seek to dominate us.

What Can We Learn

From Our 1943 Allies?

Wars have always produced armies and it is in the academic study of the army of our chief ally that we can arrive at the answer to the two following questions: (1) What have they got that we haven't? (2) What have we got that they haven't?

In the meantime we can all ask ourselves as soldiers, what, with the increased knowledge of this very able and efficient British Army, can we do to be better American soldiers?

(What can we learn from the British which will give us a greater interest in current events and their relation to the war and the establishment of the peace?)

No study of the traditions of the British Army would be complete without a list of some of the colorful nicknames, many of them commemorating some deed of outstanding bravery, of the more famous regiments.

One of the surest ways to make friends with a British soldier is to ask him what his regiment's nickname is, and then to ask him how and where it was earned.

Here are some of them :

The Grenadier Guards : " *The Coalheavers.*"

The Dorsetshire Regiment : " *The Green Linnets.*"

The Northamptonshire Regiment : " *The Heroes of Talavera.*"

The Royal Army Pay Corps : " *The Ink-slingers.*"

The King's Liverpool Regiment : " *The Leather Hats.*"

The Seventh Dragoon Guards : " *The Lillywhite Seventh.*"

The Royal Army Medical Corps : " *The Linseed Lancers.*"

The Third Hussars : " *The Mookee-Wallahs.*"

Royal Army Service Corps : " *The Murdering Thieves.*"

The Royal Welch Fusiliers : " *The Newgate Blocs.*"

The Fifth Dragoon Guards : " *The Old Farmers.*"

The Highland Light Infantry : " *The Pig and Whistle Light Infantry.*"

The King's Royal Rifles : " *The Sweeps.*"

The Royal Scots : " *Pontius Pilate's Body Guard.*"

The Eleventh Hussars : " *The Cherry Pickers.*"

SUMMARY

Great attention is paid to special privileges enjoyed by some regiments. British military histories have little to say about the American Revolution. Regimental nicknames are a part of the British soldier's traditions.

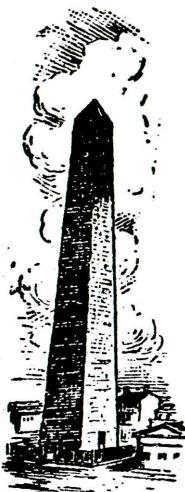
Q. Why do some regiments have the "right" to parade through the City of London with fixed bayonets, bands playing and Colors flying? Name some of the regiments which have this privilege. (See question 1, page 16.)

Q. What flower is worn by certain British regiments on Aug. 1? Why?

Q. Do Irish regiments have any special right in the observance of St. Patrick's Day?

Q. What do British military annals have to say about the engagements of the American Revolution?

Q. What are some of the nicknames of famous British regiments?



**Bunker Hill
Monument**



Preparation

WHO ARE THE BRITISH ARMY?

IN the article contained in this issue of ARMY TALKS, the author has discussed some of the traditions of the British Army. It is important to us in the U.S. to have some knowledge of these traditions and their history. At the same time, let us not be unmindful of the fact that the British Army today is composed primarily of men like most of us, who left their civilian occupations not to become warriors but to defend their country and to defeat the enemy. These men have become soldiers almost in spite of themselves, and have proved to the world that they can meet and defeat the best fighting men of the German Army. Most of these men look forward to the day when they can put up the rifle and the bayonet, and return to their homes. As soon as they can retire with honor from the fight they will do so; until then, they will fight with every knowledge, skill and courage they possess. They will beat the enemy at his own game. Happily thousands will come back to tell the story and then forget as much of it as a kindly fate will permit.

What is it, then, that can transform a man not only from his civilian life and haunts but also from a quiet and peaceful way of life into a tough, courageous fighting soldier, skilled in self-protection and competent to use all the wiles that modern warfare demands? It is not merely the months of marching, the long hours of exhausting training; nor is it only the brain and endurance of a man. It is to be found in large part in the great company of the past that greet him upon his arrival in the army and march with him until he conquers or until he dies. It is to be found in his knowledge that he is one member of a great regiment. Knowledge, skill, and gallantry are the product of this tradition of which history offers no better examples than the famous regiments of the British Army.

Let us remember the past and see its part in the present. Let us see the London cabby and the Liverpool dock-worker exalted beyond themselves and walking in the paths made in years past by Cromwell and Marlborough, by Wellington and Haig. And let us be aware that in the years to come some of them, and some of us, will have established traditions that their sons and our sons will not wish to perish.

It is suggested, as one means of leading the discussion on this topic, that whenever possible Officers and NCO's from the British Army and the Royal Air Force be invited to participate in the discussion on this Topic. There may be numerous occasions when a speaker or leader from another post, either British or American, can contribute to the spirit and quality of these informal discussions. Approval of Commanding Officers of both units should always be obtained for such arrangements.

Army Talks booklets on the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy are projected for the future.



QUESTIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION

1. Of what importance are the traditions of the British Army to us ?

Is it important that we know our Allies? Why? The British Army has many interesting traditions represented today in regalia, ceremonies, customs, and attitudes. One of the best ways to know our British Allies is to become interested in and to seek information about those things in which they have interest and pride. Incidentally, through this means we naturally develop greater knowledge of and pride in our own army.

2. Why do tradition, regalia, ceremonies, customs, and attitude play so large a part in developing pride in service and esprit de corps in the British Army ?

Perhaps the best way to seek the answer to this question is to ask ourselves how we feel about the Flag, Decorations, Insignia, the Gettysburg Address, Memorial Day, "When the Boys Come Marching Home," "America," "The Star Spangled Banner." Yes, we have our traditions too. They are different, but they are ours, and every one of us feels his pulse quicken when we think about what these traditions and symbols of our way of life mean to us and to our families at home.

3. Would you like to know more about the history and traditions of the United States Army ?

This is your opportunity. Write directly to the Managing Editor of ARMY TALKS, Education Branch, Special Service Division, Hq, SOS, APO 887, and tell him what you would like to know, what questions you would like to have answered, what topics you would like to have discussed in ARMY TALKS.

4. What is the purpose of ARMY TALKS ?

We have now had enough experience with this new and very important development in the U.S. Army in ETO to face squarely what we are trying to do and why. In the directive of General Devers, reproduced in Volume I, No. 1 of ARMY TALKS, the purpose of these informal discussions was stated as follows :—

- a. Confidence in the command.
- b. Pride in service and a sense of personal participation.
- c. Knowledge of the causes and progress of the war.
- d. A better understanding of our allies.
- e. An interest in current events and their relation to the war and the establishment of the peace.

5. What do you think of these purposes? Are they important? Do ARMY TALKS help you to accomplish these purposes ?

