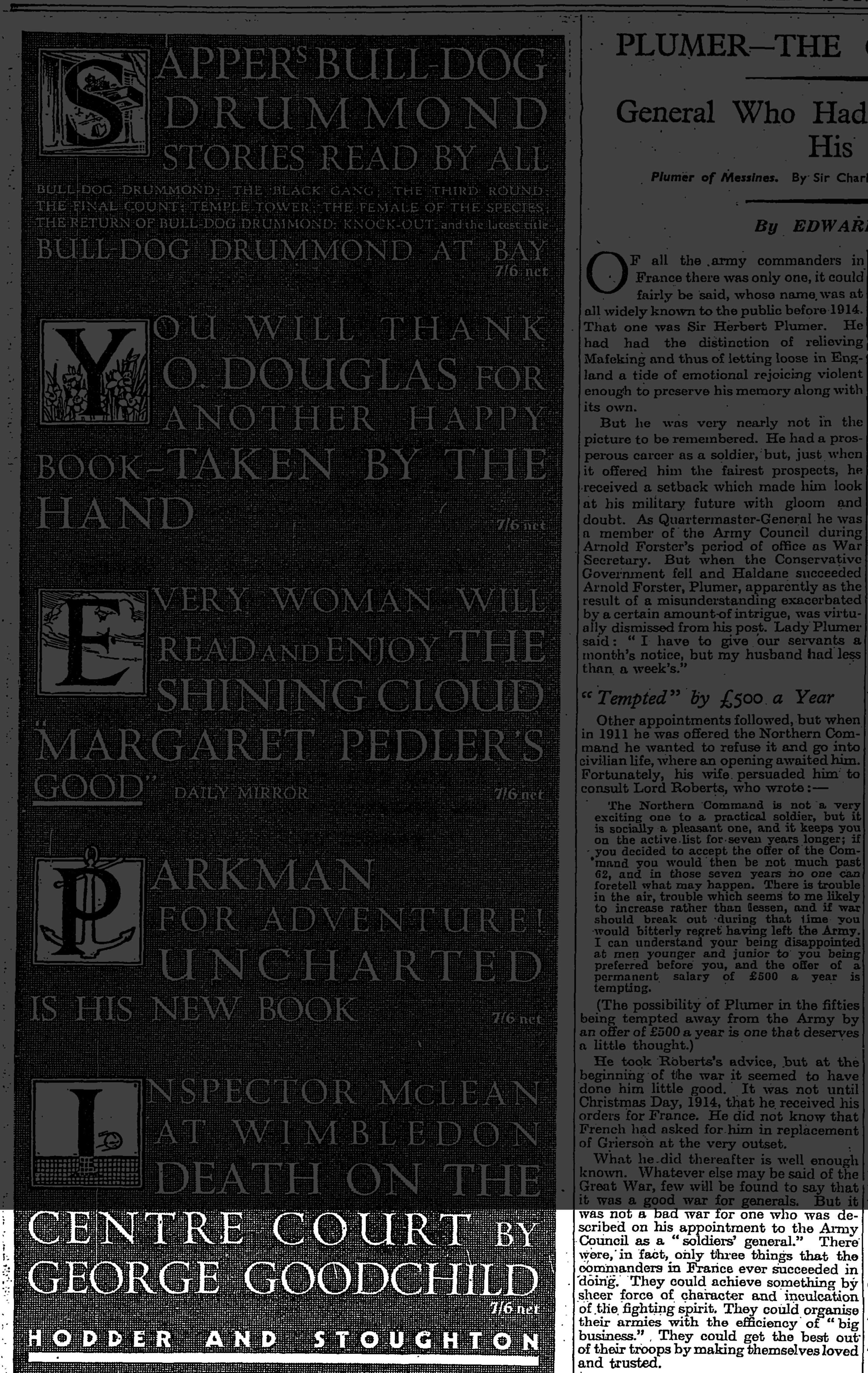
contact the same belief that he created in

nip of Palestine instead of the Presi-

dency of the M.C.C., and to know also that the less troublesome honour was his

before anything else in the world.



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General Who Had the Confidence of His Men

Plumer of Messines. By Sir Charles Harington. (Murray. 12s. 6d.)

By EDWARD SHANKS

fairly be said, whose name was at of Malta and the High Commissionership all widely known to the public before 1914. of Palestine. In both he seems to have That one was Sir Herbert Plumer. He had had the distinction of relieving Majeking and thus of letting loose in Eng-1 the troops—that with him the faithful land a tide of emotional rejoicing violent enough to preserve his memory along with

But he was very nearly not in the picture to be remembered. He had a prosperous carcer as a soldier, but, just when it offered him the fairest prospects, h received a setback which made him look at his military future with gloom and doubt. As Quartermaster-General he was a member of the Army Council during Arnold Forster's period of office as Wa Secretary. But when the Conservative Arnold Forster, Plumer, apparently as the result of a misunderstanding exacerbated y a certain amount-of intrigue, was virtually dismissed from his post. Lady Plumer said: "I have to give our servants a month's notice, but my husband had less than a week's."

"Tempted" by £500 a Year Other appointments followed, but when in 1911 he was offered the Northern Command he wanted to refuse it and go into ivilian life, where an opening awaited him.

consult Lord Roberts, who wrote:— The Northern Command is not a very exciting one to a practical soldier, but it is socially a pleasant one, and it keeps you on the active list for seven years longer; if would bitterly regret having left the Army.

being tempted away from the Army by ffer of £500 a year is one that deserve

He took Roberts's advice, but at the beginning of the war it seemed to have done him little good. It was not until Christmas Day, 1914, that he received hi French had asked for him in replacement of Grierson at the very outset.

What he did thereafter is well enough known. Whatever else may be said of the Freat War, few will be found to say the

was not a bad war for one who was described on his appointment to the Army Council as a "soldiers' general." There were, in fact, only three things that the commanders in France ever succeeded in doing. They could achieve something by Cut and Come Again. By H. E. Bates. sheer force of character and inculcation of the fighting spirit. They could organise their armies with the efficiency of "big business." They could get the best out of their troops by making themselves loved Modern Short Stories. and trusted.

Loved by His Troops

men under his command) is something each case show the true affinity. of Sir Charles as a soldier might hesitate naturally and effectively done. before dissenting from a statement which is sufficiently proved in the pages that short story writer, because his vision is so genuinely creative in short fiction as in

ALL SORTS OF ADVENTURE

Trall of the Macaw. By Eugene Cunningham. (Hodder and Stoughton. 7s. 6d.) Fools of the Legion. By J. D. Newsom. (The World's Work. 7s. 6d.) The Dry Ridge Gang. By B. M. Bower. (Coilins. 7s. 6d.)

Reviewed by JOHN BEEVERS

We all, of course, know that revolutions F all the army commanders in as difficult as any at the disposal of the are as natural in Central America as flowers France there was only one, it could British Government—the Governorship in spring, but I think we have gained this useful bit of general knowledge more from films than from books. For not many tales have been written about this troubled area created in all with whom he came into of the earth's surface, not many, that is, in comparison with the amount of shooting and general excitement that has its home and diligent performance of duty came there. So I am glad to welcome Mr. Cunningham's "TRAIL OF THE MACAW," ousing yarn of hairbreadth escapes by good and field in the little republic o It cannot be said that this book gives one a very precise picture of him as a N

numan being. General- Harington Morgan Conner is a wealthy cowboy who remarks more than once appreciatively is tired of his great possessions and returns to Central America to forget them for a little and admiringly on the keenness of his sense of humour, but the examples given while. He arrives just in time to fight sid same fighting involves a good deal of dirty

The "Macaw" becomes president, and Morgan wins a haughty senorita for his bride. The whole thing is very well written, it is told with great good humour and occaional wit, and there isn't a dull paragraph from beginning to end. I read it at a sitting and enjoyed every word. I can say no more than that.

The great merit of Mr. Newsom's " Fools OF THE LEGION " is that its two heroes are just about as tired of the Legion as I am. Since "Beau Geste," untold mon capitaines and countless vives la patrie have been dinned in my ears, and my eyes have been far too often afflicted by the sands of California doing their best to look like those of Morocco at the bidding of a Hollywood

So I was delighted with a book in which there is no nonsense about the Legion, which uses the Legion because every tale of adventure must have some background and the Legion is as good as most, and in which the two men of the story neither hate nor love the Legion but desert from it for quite adequate but purely private reasons. That they desert by aeroplane and get away with it is satisfyingly dramatic but hardly probable. But, except for that, Mr. Newsom is careful to describe only what could have happened to two quite uncrushable and courageous men out to escape from the Legion

West to stay as a guest at the home of hi He presided at all the meetings. He listened to all the views put forward and then gave his decision, just as he did when commanding the Second Army. mysterious gang of bank robbers, and of how the sister and he finally discover who But, for all these touches, the picture solurred and remote. It is far from

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

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The late Viscount Plumer

n which he directed the M.C.C.:—

s the man whose troops loved him.

(Lovat Dickson. 3s. 6d.)

Reviewed by L. A. PAVEY

Plumer was a good organiser, and his fiction writers, who are most at home at a the growing general public who like the troops undoubtedly loved and trusted shorter length than the novel, the more as very best. either side. Under the conditions of they are a small band by comparison with modern warfare for one man thus to make their long-distance brethren. Those equally himself felt by so many (at one time successful in both forms are rare, and, even plays over Mr. Bates's stories, the dark Plumer had three-quarters of a million so, I dare swear that examination would in the short title play of Miss Irwin's book,

he achieved it, but we know that he did. collections of stories alternately with his of material. Every one of these stories is Sir Charles Harington, except as an novels. He is excellent at any length, but it not only sustained by fine imagination, but obviously sincere witness, does not help is interesting to note that his novels are is balanced and rendered doubly credible us very much. "I may say at once," he long stories rather than careful structures by a piquant combination of the genuine confesses, "that I have no literary qualifications for such a task" [as writing Plumer's life]. Even the warmest admirer of Sir Charles as a soldier might hegitate

follow. He calls other witnesses, how-often and so exactly attuned to the quick long. ever, and among them they succeed in apprehension and capture of the moment, convincing the reader that there was and his art to its immediate interpretation, something in Plumer which brought out in those around him his own quality of unselfish loyalty.

Plumer did his duty. In the ordinary

both essential requirements of the short in those around him his own quality of unselfish loyalty.

Plumer did his duty. In the ordinary

You would go far before you found out:

Story from "Lovat Dickson's Magazine," now unhappily dead.

I would not claim that all of them are material and detailed exposition.

dame Fears the Dark. By Margaret Apricot'—only proves his adaptability.

They are quiet, but intensely rich in scene, in atmosphere, and in controlled life. The range of this collection is wider than that of Mr. Bates's earlier ones, but his freshness and vividness remain, and there is a more positive control of selection It would not be right to generalise about connoisseurs of the short story as well as

. By comparison with the clear light that and no less by most of her other characters, like a miracle. It is hard to say how Mr. Bates, for example, publishes his is cavernous. But that is solely a matter

notable collection of the unusual and the

"Modern Short Stories" are reprints

Plumer did his duty. In the ordinary way of things, he would have been approaching the end of a long and honourable military career when he went to France at the age of 57. But even after the strain of the war and of the command of the British Army of Occupation, he accepted, one after—the other, two posts of the material and detailed exposition.

You would go far before you found outside the pages of Mr. Bates's latest collection, "Cut and Come Again," the perfection of economy of treatment that he distributed have been after the strain of the war and of the command of the command of the British Army of Occupation, he accepted, one after—the other, two posts of them are apparent when they are placed against the best, say, D. H. Lawrence's masterly story "Strike-Pay" but the general standard is high, and plays in the title story, and in those equally distinguished—the limitations of placed against the best, say, D. H. Lawrence's masterly story "Strike-Pay" but the general standard is high, and plays in the title story, and in those equally distinguished—the limitations of them are apparent when they are placed against the best, say, D. H. Lawrence's masterly story "Strike-Pay" but the general standard is high, and very well justifies that gallant venture apparently endess supply of stories "cut apparently endess supply of stories" cut

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