

placed a "pice," a copper coin about the size and thickness of a half-penny. The Kukhri is then raised in the air and by an effortless stroke, relying only on the balance and weight of the knife, is allowed to drop on the "pice."

To be a perfect weapon (and only perfect weapons are acceptable to the Board) the "pice" must be cleanly halved without a bend in the coin in any way or damaging the keen edge of the Kukhri.

One of the exhibitions a Gurkha will accomplish with his Kukhri is interesting. Obtaining a pole of hard and dry male bamboo about the diameter of a tea-cup, he will cut it so that it has a clean level end. The other end is staked in the ground. On the top of this stake he will place, up-side-down, a "pill-box" hat.

With many blows of the Kukhri a pile of shavings accumulates at the foot of the stake whilst the hat drops lower and lower without otherwise moving its position on the stake.

It is not only the Kukhri which makes the Gurkha the valuable soldier he is. He is generally a marksman with the rifle, he can stalk his foe unheard and unseen, and he knows no fear.

In appearance he is no beauty. His height, 4 ft. 10 in. to 5 ft. 6 in. in most cases, is out of all proportion to his breadth. He generally has an enormous chest and limbs in proportion. He is an ugly little devil, but "beauty is only skin deep," and "handsome is as handsome does," and one of his most redeeming features is his habit, both in peace and war, of chuckling his way along.

NAVAL LOSSES IN COMBINED OPERATIONS

THE MAGNITUDE of the effort needed to mount a major combined operation has not always been understood. It may therefore be of value to give a few facts about naval losses in some of these major operations so that the task that lies ahead of the Service Chiefs who are planning the entry into Europe may be better understood.

In November, 1942, 850 ships took part in the landing in North Africa. The whole force, including 350 warships, sailed in three major convoys. The armada carried 56 per cent. of the entire list of British Army and R.A.F. equipment, in addition to its own landing-craft and locomotives—*i.e.*, the 700,000 items of equipment which were distributed to British ports by over 1,100 special trains. Despite the time required to organize and escort the armada, German U-boats, aircraft, &c., failed to sink a single ship from the two convoys from Britain. Of the warships, 10 were lost during the landing—*i.e.*, less than 3 per cent. However, the actual landing was not fully opposed.

For the invasion of Sicily on July 10, 1943, 85,000 tons of merchant shipping in a force totalling 2,500 warships and merchantmen were employed. Seven thousand vehicles, 300 tanks, 700 guns, and 80,000 men were landed in the first forty-eight hours. The losses were confined to 2 submarines, 3 motor torpedo-boats, and 1 motor gunboat.

Five hundred warships and merchant ships were used in the Salerno landing. Among these were 94 British warships and an immense fleet of small craft. The supply operations were considerable, and many minor amphibious engagements took place. The total loss, however, in the Sicilian landing, and in subsequent amphibious and supply operations up to the time of the Nettuno landing, was 8 destroyers, 1 minelayer, and a maximum of 6 other warships in minor classes.

The Nettuno landing cost the Navy 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers, and 5 major assault vessels. Since then, supply operations have been extensive.