



Reference
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Caption
Chelsea pensioners . NEW BOY OF THE PENSIONERS The Royal Hospital Chelsea, founded by King Charles II in 1862 "as a retreat for veterans of the regular army who had become unfit for duty, either after 20 years' service or as a result of wounds". Although there are no barracks, a certain amount of kindly discipline is maintained – a fact which these old soldiers actually appreciate. At present there are 367 Chelsea Pensioners, presided over by General Sir Cameron Nicholson, and new recruits give up their outside pension on entering the Hospital. In return he is provided with his board and accommodation, clothing, a pint of beer daily or tobacco in lieu. They purchase the summer red uniform for £15 and are expected to perform a few light duties, but the majority of the time is their own. The Hospital has much to offer with companionship high on the list. For the remainder of their days the old soldier has a place of comfort and friends with whom he can swap stories of campaigns. What more could a veteran ask for?
PICTURE SHOWS:- A Chelsea Pensioner relaxing . 1957
(FOTO:DUKAS/TOPFOTO)
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Original references