

AUGUST 1972 ★ 7½p

# SOLDIER





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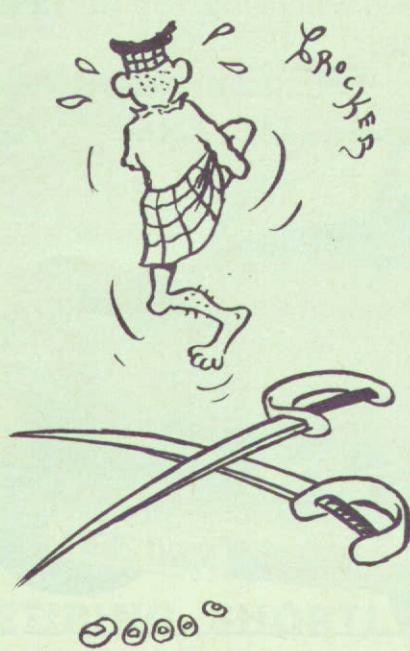
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Editor: PETER N WOOD  
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON  
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE  
Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH  
Research: JOHN JESSE  
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS  
Photographers: ARTHUR BLUNDELL, MARTIN ADAM  
Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD  
Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD

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# SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

## AUGUST 1972

- 4 Nottingham Army Display (4-6 August).
- 4 Hull Show (band, recruiting displays) (4-5 August).
- 6 Old Contemptibles Association annual parade and service, Aldershot.
- 8 Huddersfield Holidays-at-Home (recruiting displays) (8-9 August).
- 9 Bingley Show (recruiting display).
- 12 Open Day, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover.
- 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 18 Edinburgh Tattoo (18 August-9 September).
- 18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
- 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 26 Leeds Gala (bands, displays) (26-28 August).
- 26 Harlow Show (band, Red Devils, bty 3RHA) 26-27 August.
- 28 Mini Military tattoo, Watford.**
- 30 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 31 Sheffield Show (bands, displays) (31 August-2 September).

## SEPTEMBER 1972

- 2 Keighley Show (band, displays).
- 6 Preston Tattoo (6-9 September).
- 6 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 9 Freedom of Bury, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.
- 9 Freedom of Preston, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.
- 12 Barrow-in-Furness Army display.
- 13 Kneller Hall grand (band) final concert.
- 15 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (15-16 September).
- 16 Army recruiting display, Liverpool (16-17 September).
- 16 Water Carnival, Welwyn Garden City (3 RHA, Para display team, Red Devils).
- 19 Centenary, Roundhay Park, Leeds (or 22 September) (bands).
- 21 Thame Royal British Legion Fête (band).
- 21 Cambrian March (21-24 September).
- 22 Centenary, Roundhay Park, Leeds (if not 19 September) (bands).
- 23 Army recruiting display, Wrexham (23-24 September).
- 23 Open day, The Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury.**
- 24 TAVR freedom of Cambridge.
- 30 Hereford Military Tattoo (30 September-1 October).

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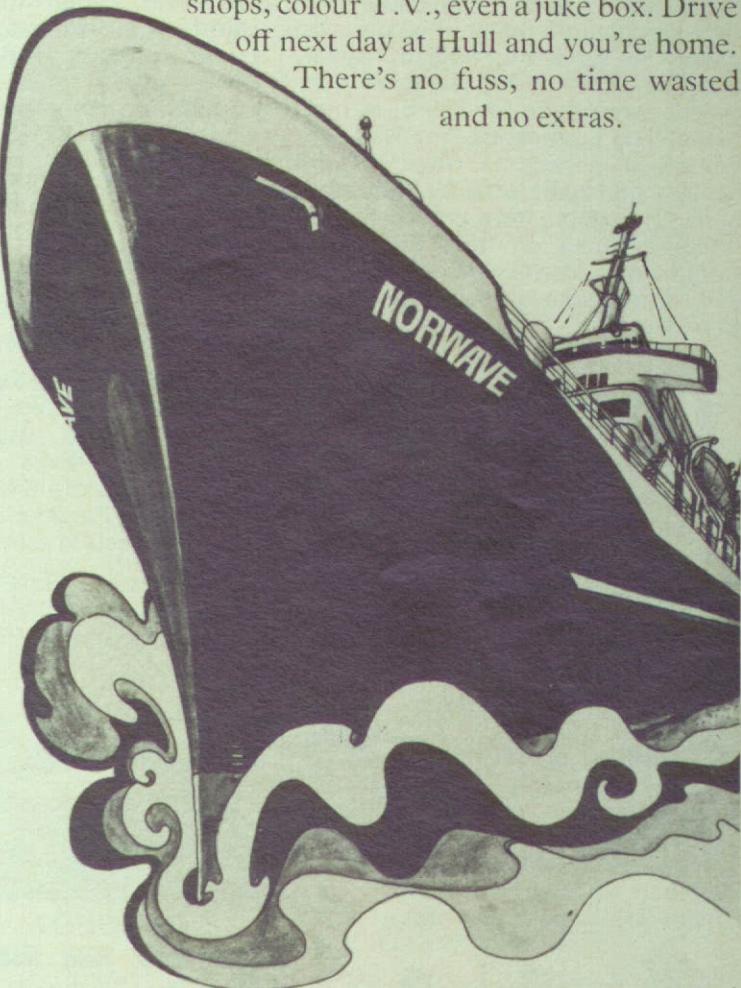
Harris and Dixon (Life and Pension) Ltd., are associated with Harris and Dixon Ltd.—Lloyds Brokers. Established 1797.

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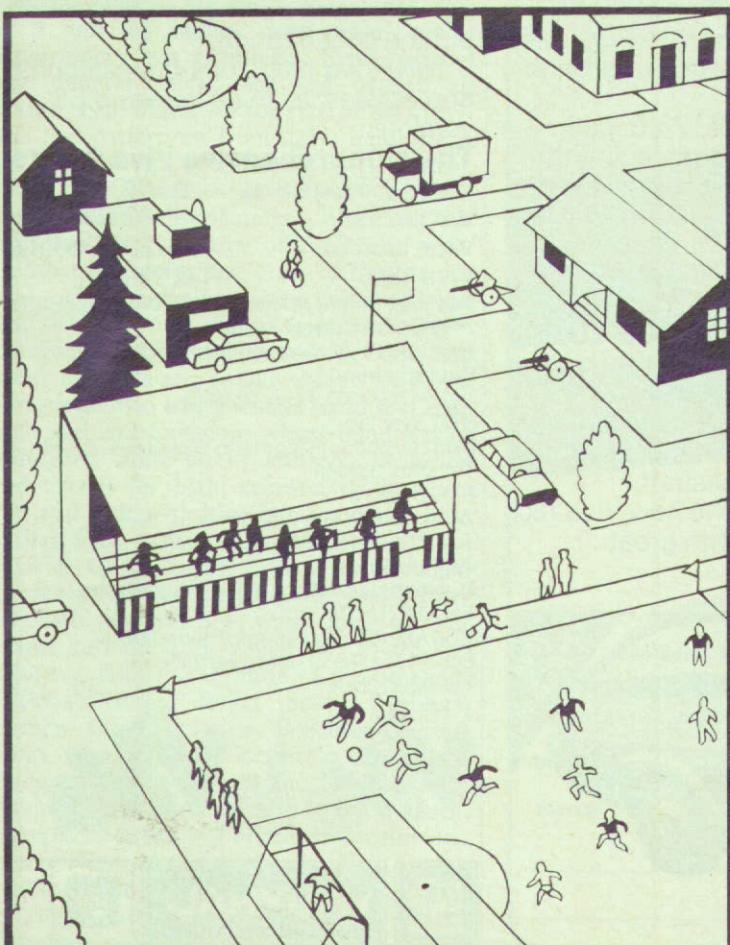
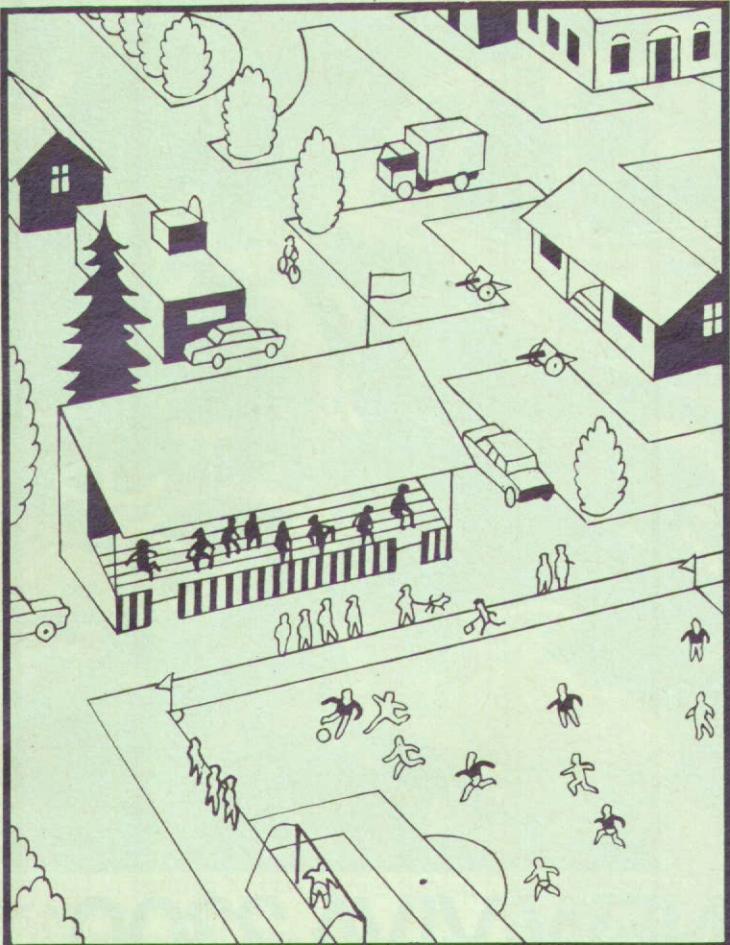
PEUGEOT  CHRYSLER  SIMCA  VAUXHALL  (Tick)

Used Cars  (Tick) Trade in against future purchase  (Tick)



# How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences, see page 40.



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Matching the power of the new Viva 2300 is a beefed-up mechanical specification including front and rear anti-roll bars, heavy duty clutch, gearbox and back axle. As well as powerful disc/drum servo brakes.

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*Viva la Viva*



VAUXHALL



# BRITISH ARMY HEADDRESS



## UNIVERSAL PATTERN FORAGE CAP 1904

This cap was of blue cloth except for rifle regiments whose cap was in rifle green and The Royal Dublin Fusiliers who had a special shade of blue.

The standard cap had three cloth welts, the depth being  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches, the diameter across the top  $9\frac{1}{4}$  inches and the circumference  $21\frac{3}{4}$  inches. For every  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch below or above this standard size the top was  $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch larger or smaller. The chin strap was of black patent leather  $\frac{3}{8}$ th inch wide and was held in position by two buttons behind the corners of the peak.

The peak was of black patent leather drooping at an angle of 45 degrees and was 2 inches deep in the middle when embroidered and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep when plain. Embroidery was as follows: Field marshal and general officer, oak leaf pattern all round; field officer on the staff of the army, oak leaf pattern on front only; field officer on cadre of unit or department (not rifles), plain gold  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide, infantry pattern; field officer of rifle regiment, black oak leaf on front only; all other officers, plain peak.

Most regiments and arms of the Service had their own distinguishing coloured band and welts, a few examples of which are: Dragoon Guards and Dragoons, band and welts of the facing colour except 1st Royal Dragoons who had a scarlet band and blue welt and 2nd Dragoons whose band was of vandyked white cloth; Hussars, Waterloo red except for 11th, crimson; 13th, white top and welt with blue band and two blue welts; 15th, scarlet; Lancers, welts down quarter seams, bands and welts of facing colour except for the 12th who had a scarlet cloth cap with blue welts down quarter seams and the 16th which was as for the 12th but with the addition of a blue band.

Royal Scots, Royal Scots Fusiliers, King's Own Scottish Borderers, diced band of regimental pattern; Connaught Rangers, green band and welts; light infantry, cap and welts of green cloth, band of black oak leaf braid; rifle regiments, green cloth cap with black welts and a black mohair band. In Scottish rifles, band of thistle pattern; in Royal Irish Rifles, shamrock pattern.

C Wilkinson-Latham

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State model

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# SOLDIER to Soldier

Lord Balniel, Minister of State for Defence, had some optimistic words for the future of the Armed Forces when he referred to the decision to reduce the qualifying age for pensions increases from 60 to 55 this coming December.

Lord Balniel said the Services were in the middle of major re-equipment and works programmes but it was not just a question of new equipment, new electrics and new bricks and mortar.

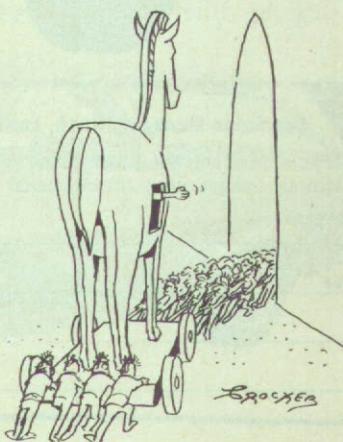
"There is a new confidence in the Services and their future" he declared. "The improvements in pay and pensions, the new, more liberal engagement structure and the better living conditions have all helped." He added that the young were being provided with a good career but the pensions decision was to remember those who served in the past. The improvement would cost £7 million and 40,000 forces pensioners would benefit—"and I believe that everyone will look on this change as being fair and right."



Stocks of the 1964 bound volumes of SOLDIER are now exhausted. The 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969 bound volumes are still available at £2.50 each and the 1970 and 1971 volumes at £3.50 each. These volumes are bound in red buckram with title, volume number and year in gilt on the spine.



That popular ten-inch record album of "The Changing of the Guard" is still available to SOLDIER readers. The LP was reviewed in SOLDIER last October and comes with a 16-page colour booklet about the Household Division. Booklet and record can be obtained direct from SOLDIER (GLP 2), Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, at £1.00 including postage and packing.



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# THE PONGO BOOTIES

PONGOS, booties and matelots (soldiers, marines and sailors) recently combined to form a new regiment with a vital role—providing the back-up and support for Britain's marine commando forces.

The Commando Logistic Regiment, based on Plymouth, will, when at full strength, comprise some 700 men of whom 450 will be completely mobile, to support commando operations from the Arctic to the Mediterranean. The mobile force embraces five different cap badges—those of the Royal Marines, Royal Navy, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Royal Army Pay Corps.

Despite their diverse backgrounds men of the Commando Logistic Regiment have one important thing in common—they wear the coveted green beret of the Royal Marines. This they earn by undergoing the harsh five-week commando training course or "beat up," which includes rope and field work, helicopter drills, cliff scaling, boats, endurance tests and unarmed combat.

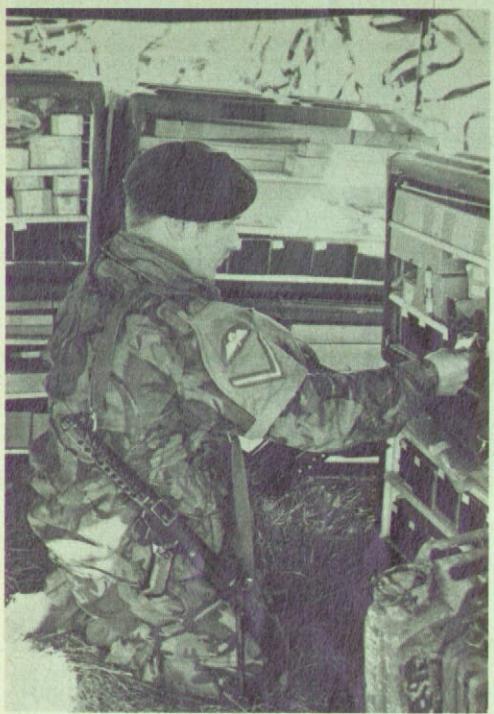
Recently 195 men from the Commando Logistic Regiment were deployed on a large scale in support for the first time. The conditions they faced were as grim as any likely to be found in Britain in a bad summer but they came through with flying colours as a thoroughly efficient and integrated unit.

In the windswept and stormy Orkney islands marines from 45 Commando Group, the Arctic warfare specialists based in Arbroath, Scotland, were carrying out a series of amphibious assaults in marrow-chilling conditions. Given the task of supporting them were the men of the Logistic Regiment.

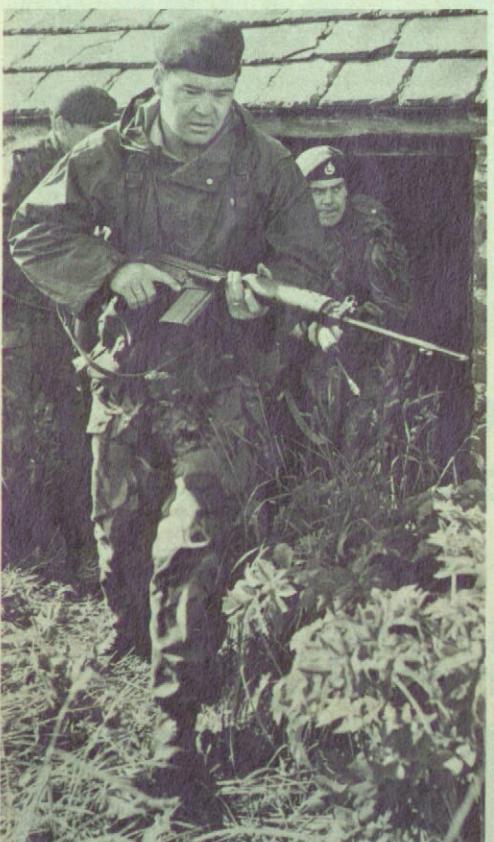
Six hours after the first assault on the island of Hoy the logistics men came ashore by Mexeflote, a large motorised metal raft.

Immediately the regiment's various squadrons moved into action to construct a brigade maintenance area. Although the area was supposed to have been cleared of enemy troops, defence trenches were dug and guards took up position as the camp was set up. Their vigilance was soon

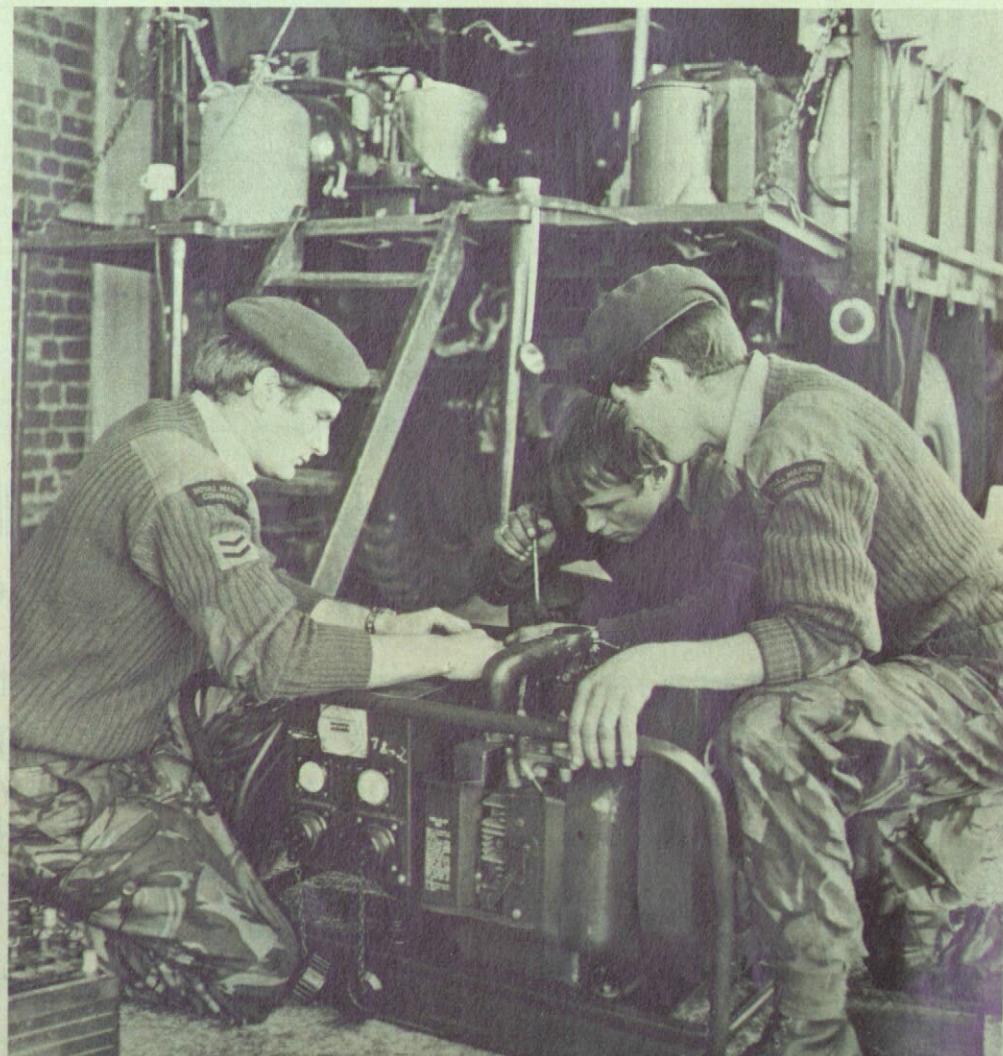
*Continued on page 14*



Above: Being in the Ordnance Squadron can involve defending the brigade maintenance area or just sorting out a spare part for one of the vehicles used at the sharp end.



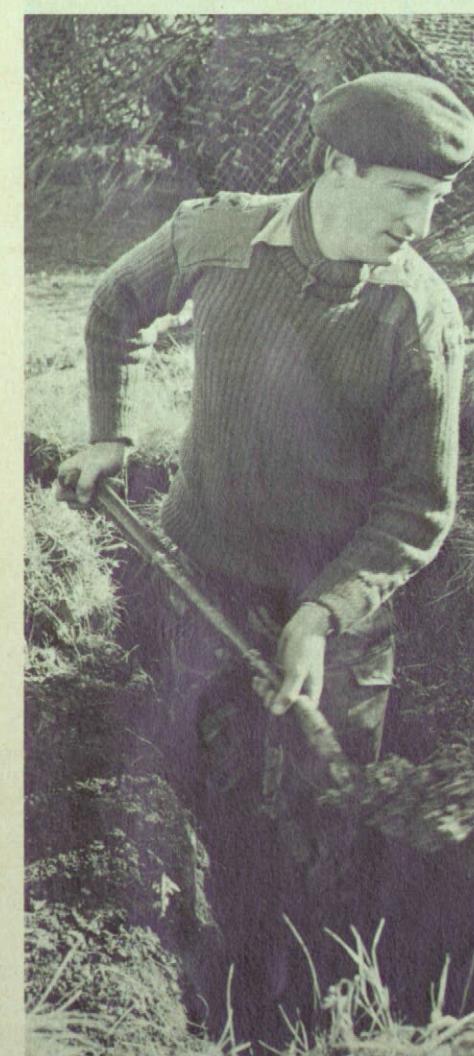
Derelict houses abound on the island of Hoy and men of the ordnance squadron checked them over thoroughly for any enemy snipers.



Story by John Walton/Pictures by Martin Adam



The beaches are clear of enemy so men and vehicles from the regiment are assembled on the mexeflote from the LSL Sir Galahad.



Corporal Paul Gough, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers—console equipment technician with the workshops squadron:

"It was the green beret which attracted me to the regiment. At the present time I am waiting for my more advanced equipment to turn up—FACE (Field Artillery Computing Equipment) and Swingfire missiles. When it does I think this will be one of the best jobs available for a console equipment technician. I will get as much travel as one could possibly want and a really stimulating and satisfying job."

Captain Brian Burgess, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (Ordnance Squadron):

"I think the soldier who joins this regiment gets a lot out of it. Our men come on a three year tour and all of them have to do the commando course. This certainly helps and I would like to see it applied right through the British Army. Our soldiers carry out most of the functions of their trade and they carry them out under field conditions. They feel they are part of the Commando Logistic Regiment first and foremost."



Sergeant Jim "Fiddler" Jennings, Royal Marines:

"It is the green beret which draws us together. We may call them 'pongos' and they call us 'booties' but it is only good-natured banter. We have the greatest respect for the soldiers' skills. Marines who find themselves drafted from a fighting commando to this regiment soon find logistics is a mammoth task and they have to work hard or harder than they did before. The regiment still has to defend itself. One moment a man could be working on a workshop task and ten minutes later on infantry work."



from page 12

rewarded when an enemy Land-Rover drove up to the camp with all guns blazing and was speedily beaten off.

During the next two days as the "battlefield" moved up and across various islands the brigade maintenance area, using an old pre-war stores complex, was kept at full stretch. Its defenders also had to beat off a night attack on the medical squadron.

The Commando Logistic Regiment was launched only at the beginning of this year, following the end of the commandos' Far East commitment. The marine commandos are now committed to a NATO role with European / Arctic / Mediterranean warfare capability.

Previous logistic support came from individual marine, REME, RAOC and Navy units but with the creation of the regiment brigade the headquarters now has to deal with only one agency no matter what the problem.

Command of the new regiment is expected to rotate between the Royal Marines and the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Thornton, commanding officer since its formation, is an RAOC man with a background in computer works study.



Left: Helicopter is used to move fencing and cement for local farmer. Above: The workshops squadron frees a trapped four tonner. Below: "Eager Beaver" loaded with stores.



He says: "It's the best soldiering I've ever had. When I have to give the job up it will break my heart. What fascinates me is the mix we have here and the way in which it is blending together."

Officers in this regiment get no chance to shine the bottoms of their trousers. Trench digging, tent erection and every other task which is carried out sees officers hard at work as well as men.

Lieutenant-Colonel Thornton is working hard to create a first-class spirit and loyalty—a task which is always difficult in a new regiment but becomes more so in one with members from such varying backgrounds.

"I believe we have already created this" he says. "We have concentrated on sport and the results have been impressive. We do fitness training two mornings a week which is something no other commando does."

The regiment comprises a regimental headquarters and five squadrons, including a garrison which has no field role. The regimental headquarters provides the command and control of the regiment and of the brigade maintenance area for exercise and brigade operations.

The ordnance squadron is a mixture of RAOC men and marines. Its function is that of a mobile storeholding unit. The



Rapid raiding craft like this are part of the new Commando Logistic Regiment and are available for all amphibious operations.



## FRONT COVER

Wearing the traditional sprig of oak leaves in her lapel, Princess Anne visited the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Oak Apple Day, when pensioners celebrate the founding of their hospital by King Charles II in 1682. The oak leaves commemorate the king's famous escape by hiding in an oak tree after the Battle of Worcester.

Picture by Martin Adam.

# HAIR RAISING!

A DECISION which was to have hair raising consequences was made in Holland last summer. Servicemen were to be allowed to grow their hair to the fashionable length of the seventies and could also sprout beards and other facial appendages.

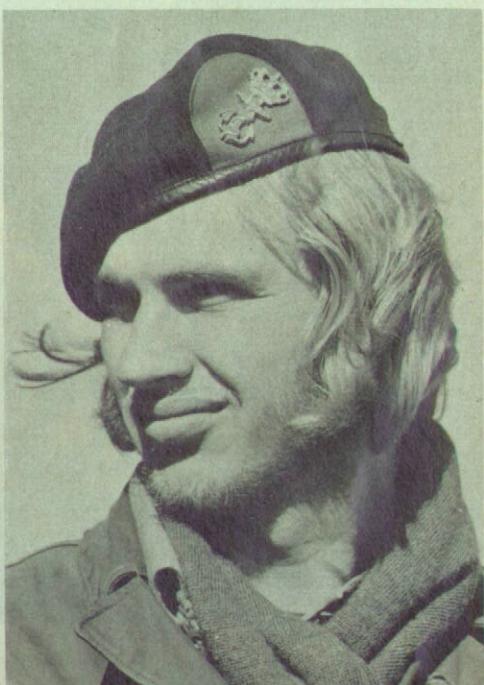
The results of a year of this policy brought gasps of disbelief from British soldiers and marines when Dutch marines took part in Exercise Strength Trial in the Orkneys.

But the long haired Dutchmen were unperturbed. Said 20-year-old Peter Van Gent, a conscript from Rotterdam: "I joined only a month before the rules were relaxed so I started off with a short haircut. But now I wear what is normal in Holland."

Piper Albert V D Slujs is 29 and has been in the marines for 13 years. He now sports long hair and an enormous Harry Wheatcroft-like facial creation. He admits that the older generation in Holland do not like long haired servicemen, especially when they are parading on ceremonial occasions. Out in the field and on other occasions when their hair might prove dangerous, special blue "hair caps" have to be worn.

Said Sergeant-Major W T Thyssen (short back and sides): "I don't like it at all. For the first few months it was very difficult for me to get used to but I realise it does not make any difference to the man himself. I don't know how long it will last—but I am sure if there was a war it would immediately be cut."

The saga of the shaggy locked serviceman has already affected a number of armies on the Continent. Recently West Germany abandoned its liberal hair policy and went back to military haircuts. The Dutch marines are still keeping a cautious eye over their shaggy shoulders and wondering "Will it be hair today—and gone tomorrow?"



# pop is the order of the day

PICTURE military musicians and you see serried ranks of boots glinting to the rhythm of brass and drum. But once a year... pop goes the Army and soldiers of the seventies swing to the sound of electric guitars.

Beat groups and solo singers from units in Britain and Rhine Army enter an annual contest inspired six years ago by ex-Bombardier Harry Secombe. This year the cream of the Army's artistes—including a padre—were judged in London by a team of musical experts headed by Steve Race.

It was first time lucky for 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets' pop padre Peter Bailey who came third in the solo singer class with his original treatment of the Frank Sinatra hit "My Way." The only girl singer in the final, Sergeant Betsy Clewlow, Women's Royal Army Corps, was voted top of the soloists with Sergeant Don Dickson, of the Royal Electrical

and Mechanical Engineers, taking second place.

The highly successful Perfect, Pure and Innocent group of 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters, scored a hat trick by winning the beat group section for the third year running but there was only half a point between them and the runners-up, the Blues Syndicate from 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Third were the Flamingoes of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

The British Forces Broadcasting Service organised the contest and recorded a programme of the prizewinning musicians at the BBC's Camden Theatre in London.

Meanwhile... back on the parade ground, it was the more traditional band of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards which was still topping the hit parade with the haunting "Amazing Grace." As they say in the trade, "That's showbiz!"

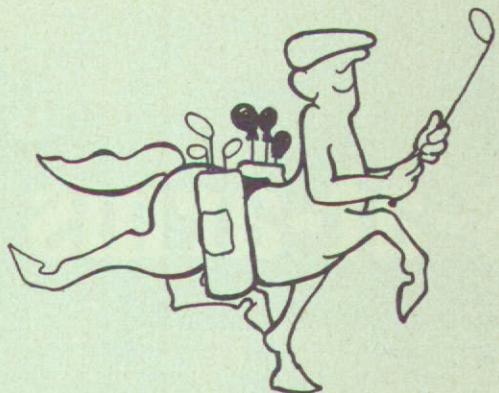
Story by Mike Starke/Pictures by Martin Adam



Best group prizewinners for the third year running were "Perfect, Pure and Innocent." Top: Sgt Betsy Clewlow—forces' favourite 1972 style, chosen as the top solo singer.



Air Trooping Centaur



Recreation Centaur

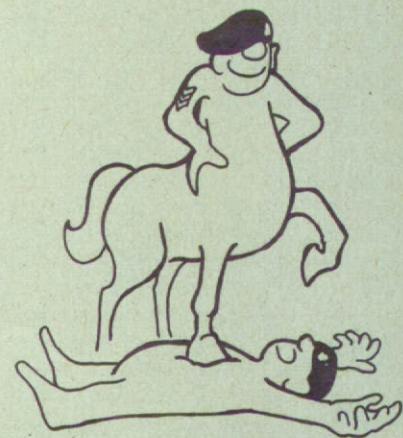


Air Defence Centaur

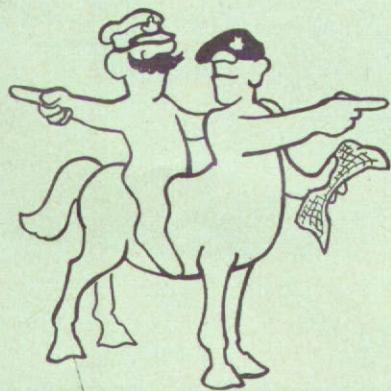


Royal Armoured Corps Centaur

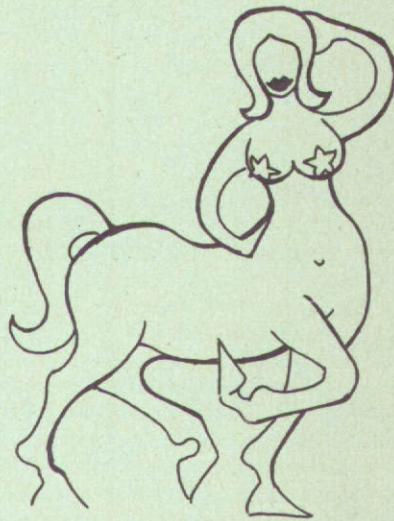
*more*  
**CENTAURS**  
of non-gravity  
by DIK



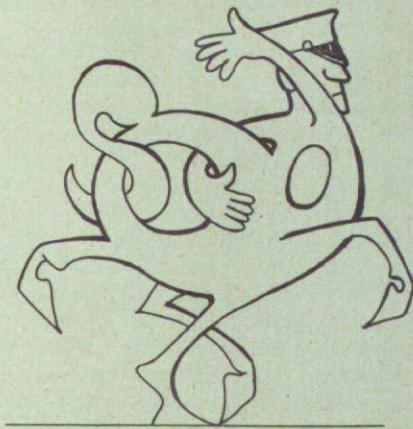
Interrogation Centaur



Joint Reconnaissance Centaur



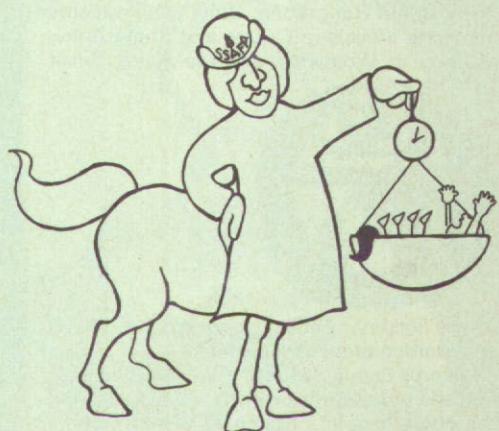
Centaur of Attraction



Design Centaur



Town Centaur



Welfare Centaur



Recruiting Centaur



**SMALL  
ARMS  
SCHOOL  
CORPS**

Story by John Walton

# Professors-at-arms

UNIVERSITY dons in khaki. This would not be an overestimation of the role played by men of one of the British Army's smallest and yet most élite corps—the Small Arms School Corps.

For members of the corps, which at full strength numbers only 122, are the instructors who teach unit arms instructors their jobs. All of them are of sergeant rank and above and the qualifications for joining this specialist corps, unique in the world's armies, are exactingly high. To be selected for a sixth-month candidates' course a soldier must be out of the top drawer in arms skill and knowledge—and even then only about 55 per cent graduate.

Says Major Vic Dearnley, the corps adjutant: "We have had high standards since we started and we never drop them even if it means being shorthanded from time to time. What we do require is dedication—it is not enough for a chap to be merely interested in weapons or instruction." Though scattered throughout the world, SASC men are fiercely loyal to their corps.

Whether working in Hong Kong, Cyprus or with Rhine Army the corps instructor is constantly looking out for potential recruits. The high standards required pose their own problems in that commanding officers are often loth to release a man to the corps for the very reason that he has been singled out—because he is a first-class soldier. Most SASC recruits are found from non-commissioned-officer skill-at-arms courses run by the corps at the School of Infantry, Warminster.

Says Major Dearnley: "The object of these courses is not, of course, to recruit for ourselves, but it is really the major source. If they get a good grading we write to the

The Small Arms School Corps is descended from the School of Musketry founded at Hythe, Kent, in 1854. It became a corps and took its present title in 1929. Three years ago the Hythe Wing moved to join its parent School of Infantry at Warminster. Corps establishment is 122, comprising 16 officers, nine warrant officers 1, 74 warrant officers II and 23 sergeant-instructors. Roughly half of them are providing instruction on all infantry small arms and support weapons to officers and non-commissioned officers attending School of Infantry courses. They serve at each division training depot in Britain and at the Royal Military Academy, Mons Officer Cadet School, Infantry Trials and Development Unit, Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Junior Infantrymen's Battalion, Jungle Warfare School, other training centres, and in Northern Ireland.

Also overseas are three two-man training teams with strategic reserve units, in Rhine Army and in Hong Kong. Other appointments are range officers in Cyprus and Rhine Army, advisers at Woolwich and the Royal Small



Arms Factory, Enfield, and at the NATO ammunition proof establishment. The corps badge includes a Vickers machine gun and crossed rifles with fixed bayonets. And the corps march? "March of the Bowmen."

commanding officers concerned and ask for their release for training as a candidate for the corps."

Promotion prospects are good. The corporal who is accepted becomes a sergeant immediately with an excellent chance of making warrant officer II within three years. All of the officers have come up through the ranks to quartermaster commissions. Major Dearnley himself joined the corps from the Welsh Guards as a staff-sergeant in 1946.

Just promoted, Lieutenant Fred Brewer is a typical corps man. He joined in 1957 and has never looked back. He regards instructing soldiers in skill-at-arms as one of the most rewarding of peacetime jobs. "At least you can see some immediate effect from your efforts. Our job in an age of more sophisticated equipment being issued to the infantry is to ensure that the basic infantry skill of shooting is not lost."

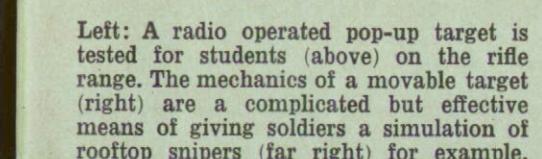
Recent events in Northern Ireland have required snipers' courses to be resurrected and Lieutenant Brewer feels that without the corps this art would almost have disappeared in today's Army.

Down at the range office in Warminster there is a group of buildings known affectionately as "Kermode's workshop." The man in charge, Warrant Officer II James Kermode, displays an ingenuity which could earn him a fortune in civilian life. As range warrant officer he spends his time thinking up ways in which to improve range facilities throughout the Army. Recently he designed a series of pop-up targets, useful for any sharpshooting practice and particularly applicable to the Northern Ireland situation.

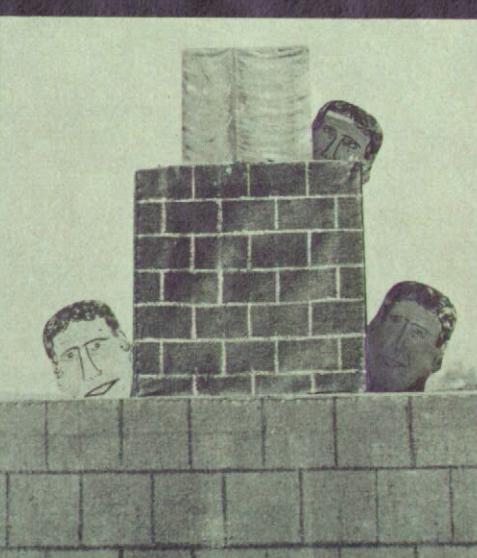
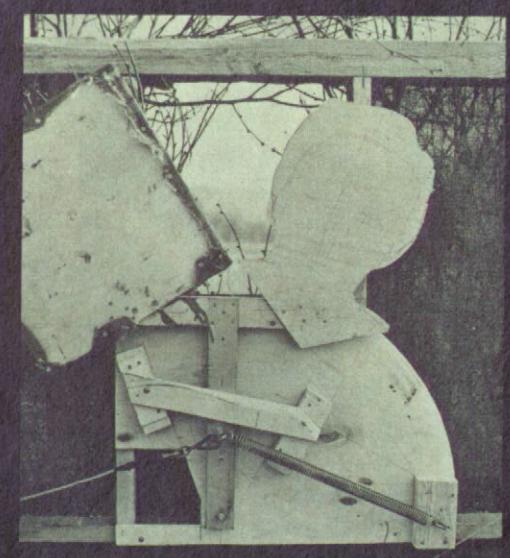
Flat-capped, ruddy complexioned and casually clothed—these are the gunmen



A group of students being instructed how to use automatic pistols to full effect.



Left: A radio operated pop-up target is tested for students (above) on the rifle range. The mechanics of a movable target (right) are a complicated but effective means of giving soldiers a simulation of rooftop snipers (far right) for example.



today's soldier may face. The heads, operated by wire, can appear in any position on rooftop or hedgerow scenery and are highly effective on a 30-metre range.

Says Mr Kermode: "I believe you have got to make targets more interesting. These realistic targets are the sort of thing the soldier will see in real life. They are also something they can easily make themselves."

Another bright idea from Mr Kermode is a pull-up target attached by a wire to a rifle trigger or a machine-gun. As the target comes up so the weapon fires—thus increasing the realism for the soldier aiming at it. He also has a mock car which looks very realistic from 70 metres when towed by Land-Rover and portable electric targets which can be operated from 800 metres away.

Since the School of Musketry began, something like 30 men from the school and its descendant corps have walked off with the major prize at Bisley. The most recent was Sergeant Anthony Harverson who won in 1970 soon after joining the corps. Names of the Bisley winners are all inscribed in the corps museum at Warminster, which boasts the finest collection of military rifles in Britain. This includes the legendary SMLE rifle which had a German bullet enter its muzzle just as it was fired. The breech was blown out but the firer was only slightly hurt.

About 25 miles from Warminster, at the Support Weapons Wing, Netheravon, other members of the corps instruct in weapons which include the 81mm mortar and 120mm Wombat and Combat anti-tank guns and the Vigilant wire-guided missile. Vigilant is being replaced by the more up-to date Swingfire, also wire-guided. Already corps instructors have been trained in its use and instruction on Swingfire begins in earnest next year.

At present only a small proportion of SASC men is fully trained to instruct in both small arms and support weapons. But, says Major Dearnley, "What we are going to do eventually is to get all of our men trained in both. The dual-trained people are the ones we need to put out to overseas stations."

The corps instructors are liked and respected by fellow infantrymen with whom they work. Colonel Cyril Morgan, of the School of Infantry, a non-corps man who is its depot commander, describes them as "really hot numbers." "All of the chaps in outstations are on their own and stand completely on their own feet. Their families are very closely knit and clannish and a remarkable feature is the number of wives who are expert shots and can give their husbands a run for their money."

The arms skill of the British Army is the primary achievement of these dedicated men. But in assessing their value it is also worth noting that a high proportion of the modifications carried out to British small arms come from suggestions made by members of the corps as a result of their experience and teaching.



### Left, right . . .

Sinister or just cack-handed? Whatever your view of the left-hander he does not pose much of a problem in today's Army. Recent surveys showed that about nine per cent of current British soldiers are left-handed and fire their rifles from the left shoulder.

The Small Arms School Corps takes the view that it is better for the left-handed

soldier to fire from the left than to change him over as he gets a better firing rate and does not become confused when switching to bayonet fighting.

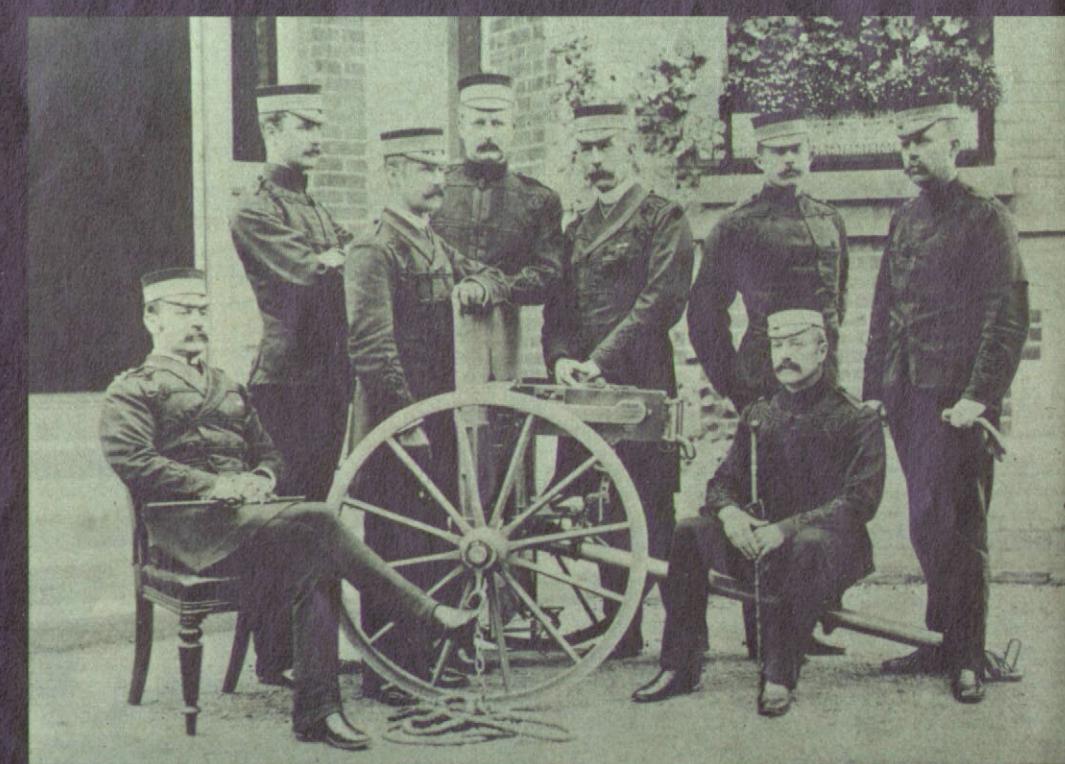
With self-loading rifles the problems the left-hander used to find with the bolt have disappeared although the old action is still used for sniper rifles. Of course, as the SASC put it, "you don't have to teach the sniper rifle to everybody and snipers tend to be right-handed."



Above: A projectile is gingerly loaded in a Carl Gustav anti-tank weapon for an SASC student shooting on the Warminster ranges.

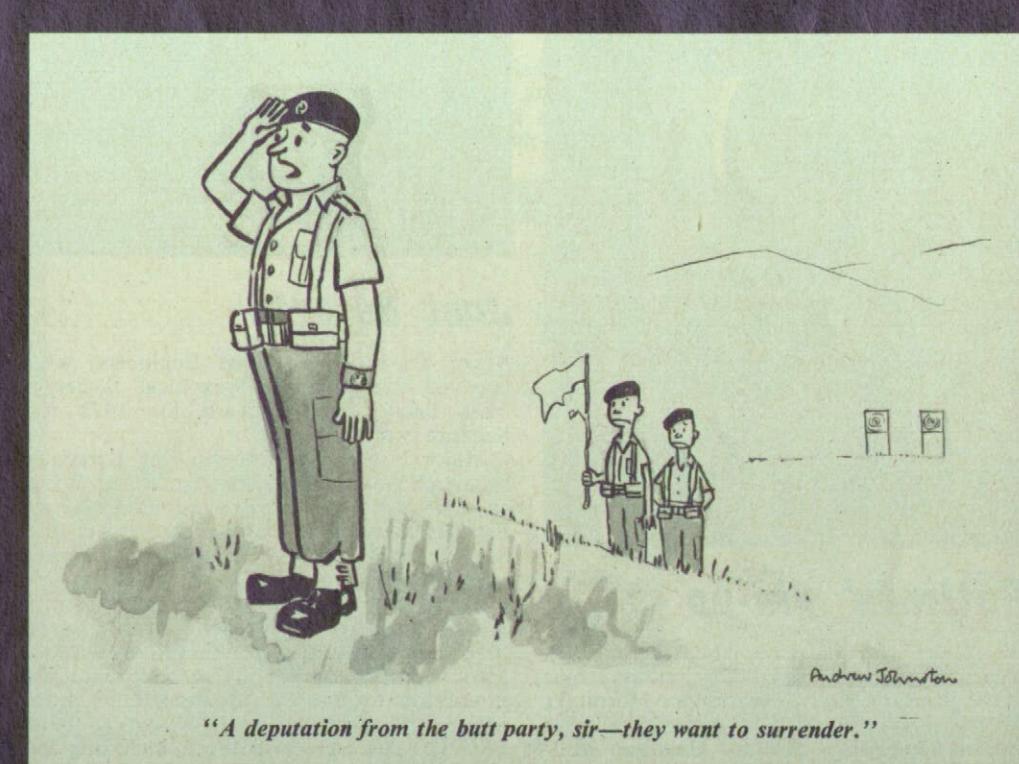
Left: A briefing for Gurkha riflemen from WO II Brian Johnson in Hong Kong where the fierce Nepalese troops were being trained.

Right: A Swingfire missile guided to its target at the end of a cable is set up for action by an expert weapon instructor.



Above: The steady eye of a champion aims. WO II Harverson was a Queen's Medallist at the international Bisley shooting contest.

Left: A Maxim gun is an appropriate focal point for this Victorian portrait of a few of the small arms experts of last century.



*"A deputation from the butt party, sir—they want to surrender."*

Andrew Johnston

# PURELY PERSONAL



## Hello, hello, hello!

The shield which Staff Sergeant Geoffrey Brien, Royal Military Police (left) is receiving here is an unusual one for an Army policeman to attain—a Royal Air Force Police Shield. It was presented to S/Sgt Brien by Air Commodore H M Shepherd, Provost Marshal and Chief of the Royal Air Force Police for his contribution to the harmony in the International Police Section at Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe in Holland.



## Wheel done!

**Mrs Mary Rendell**, wife of **Colonel Dennis Rendell**, of the Royal Military Police at Rheindahlen, who won the Daily Mail Woman Driver of the Year semi-final for Rhine Army servicemen's wives and girl-friends for the second year running. Mrs Rendell, who takes part in the finals in Britain next month (September) beat off a field of nearly 1000. An Institute of Advanced Motorists chief examiner who tested the competitors predicted that she could win the title "because her driving is so consistently good."



## Just deserts

Major David Hall, Royal Engineers, who received the Royal Geographical Society's Miss Patrick Ness Award for 1972 for Saharan exploration.

Major Hall, who is serving in Kirkcudbright, Scotland, with the Armament Wing of the Military Vehicle and Engineering Establishment, first took an interest in the Sahara while training in Libya 15 years ago.

His first major expedition was three months in the southern Sahara living with Tuareg tribesmen and this was followed by others. Most recently he was on an international expedition to the Air Mountains in Niger where archaeological remains dating back 100,000 years were discovered, including the complete skeleton of a cow estimated at 5670 BC.

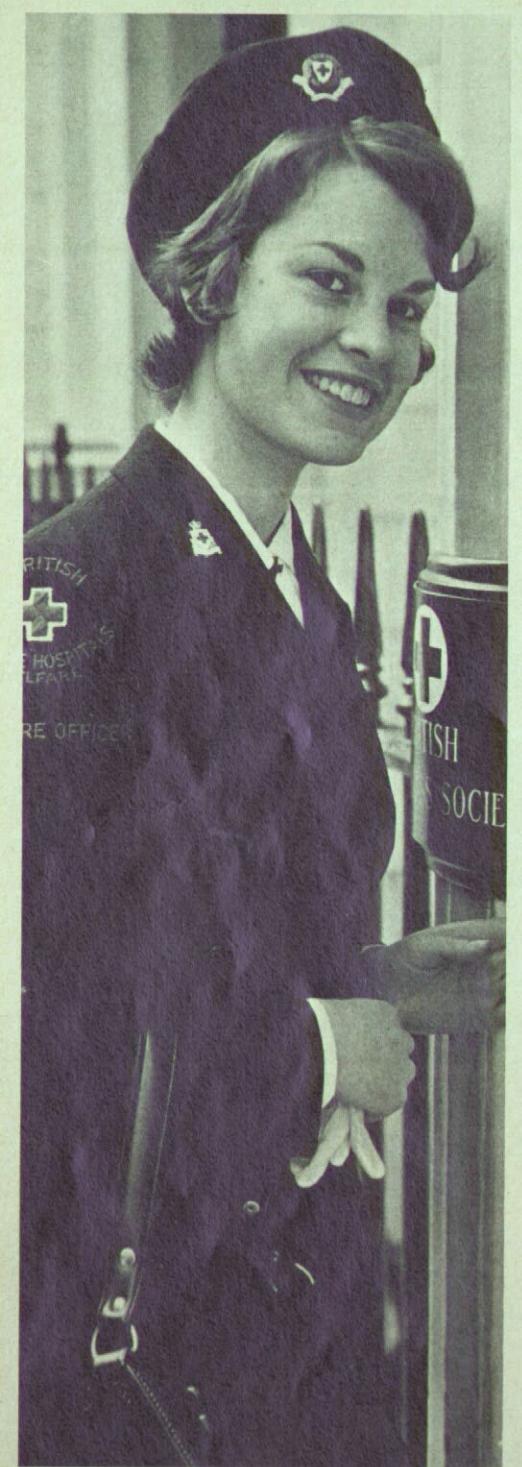


## On parade—on the air!

Men of the First Battalion, the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, based at Gillingham, Kent, now have their own half-hour record show once a month on the local radio station, BBC Radio Medway.

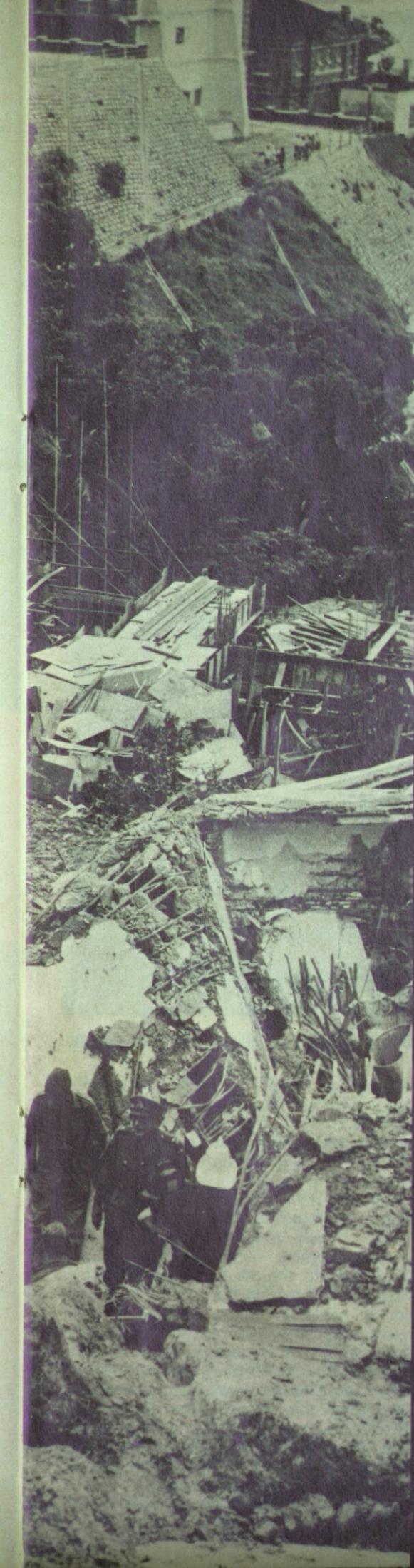
Compering the show "On Parade" is a soldier from the battalion's administrative company, Private **Winston Nurse**.

The programme, which is aimed at a wide lunch-time audience, was devised by Tony Revett, who produces Britain's only Forces magazine programme "Home Base" on Radio Medway.



## Patients' pin-up

Pretty girl with the perfect bedside manner. Nineteen-year-old Elizabeth Perkins joins the St John and Red Cross Service Hospital's Welfare Department as a welfare officer at Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, London.



## HONG KONG



# LANDSLIDE RESCUE

Sappers and Irish Guardsmen serving in Hong Kong moved in to help local fire authorities following a series of landslides in the colony caused by a 30 inch deluge in the space of three days.

At Kotewall Road on Hong Kong Island a 12 storey block of flats collapsed with 12 dead, 19 injured and 70 people missing. Men of the Irish Guards and 54 Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, quickly joined in rescue operations assisting the Hong Kong Fire Services, who were also coping with other disasters from the freak rains.

Rescued from the wreckage was one of Hong Kong's leading barristers, Mr Henry Litton, who was buried under a pile of rubble and pinned down by a slab of concrete on his legs and a water heater across his chest. Soldiers and firemen worked in a 25 foot-long black, narrow and muddy tunnel for 12 hours before they were able to release Mr Litton.

*From a report by Joint Services Public Relations Staff*

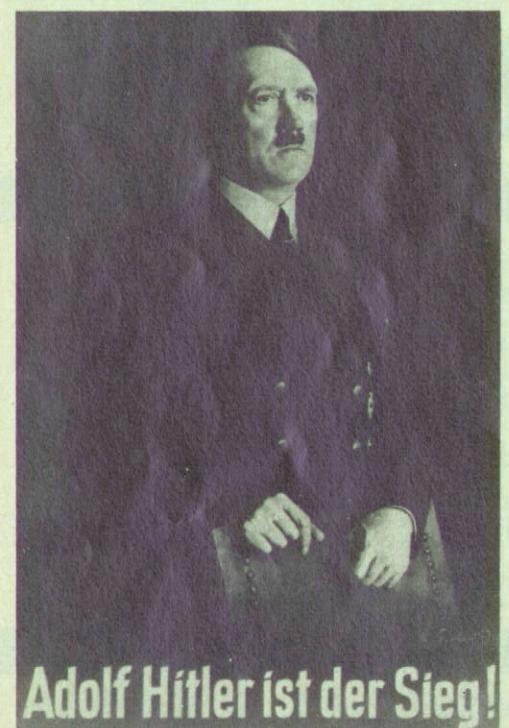
Left: Deputy Commander Land Forces, Major General E J S Burnett visits the landslide disaster scene.

Above: Searching for any survivors among the debris of the 12 storey block of flats which tumbled down.

Below: Soldiers work at the head of the tunnel to where a local barrister was trapped in the wreckage.



# POSTERS AT WAR



Adolf Hitler ist der Sieg!



World War Two leaders. Hitler puts on a sombre stare while Churchill looks friendly.



Left: The German martial approach and (right) Britons should grow more food.



Poster intended to shame reluctant heroes.

MANY a British soldier on a frustrating fatigued in World War Two growled ironically at the man next to him, "What did YOU do in the Great War, Daddy?" Few, perhaps, realised they were quoting a famous recruiting poster of World War One, designed to shame civilians into enlistment.

The human emotions appealed to by poster designers vary little from nation to nation but the artist's treatment of his theme may be brutal or subtle, tragic or comic.

An exhibition of war posters at the Imperial War Museum in London (closing 24 September 1972) ranges over the whole spectrum. There are some famous examples (including the original drawing of the Kitchener portrait, "Your country needs you," by Alfred Leete) and a few surprises. A drawing of St George, tutelary saint of England, praying on horseback before tackling the dragon, is a German appeal

The contrasting styles of French artist Jules Faivre (left) and Louis Raemakers, a Dutchman who fought his own vitriolic pen-and-ink war with the Kaiser's armies.

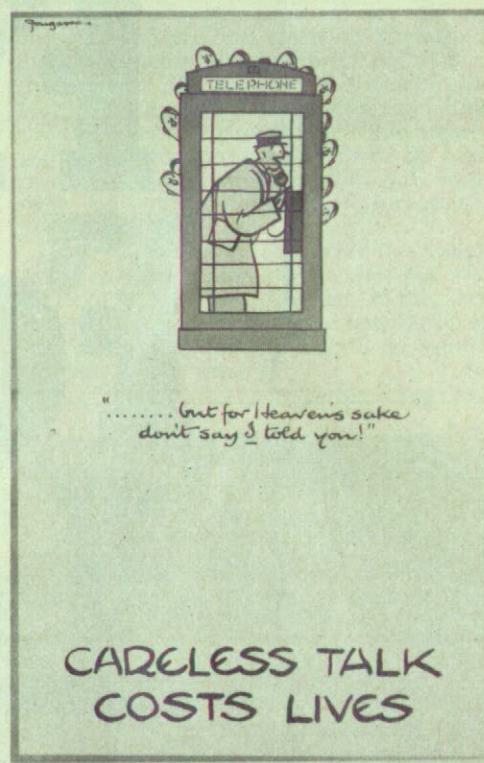


The need to restrict rail travel by civilians during World War Two was backed up by comic posters like this one which used a catchphrase still heard at times to this day.



World War One: Patriotic German girls had "butch" haircuts.

Probably the most famous recruiting poster of them all. Kitchener's pointing finger lured millions of young Britons to Flanders and France. Today, parodies of this compelling poster are used by boutiques and advertisers of many kinds of modern consumer goods.



Tight lips appeal from the pen of Fougasse.

for money in World War One. "Be it ne'er so small," runs the caption, "thou shalt be blessed by God."

Less romantic, and contradicting critics who have alleged that the "pious" line in propaganda is a peculiarly British phenomenon, is Frank Brangwyn's "Buy War Bonds" poster. This is a sternly realistic drawing of hand-to-hand combat in World War One. More subtle and with a compelling simplicity is a German appeal of the same period to women and girls to cut off their hair for use as industrial raw material.

By World War Two, romanticism has gone. Fine draughtsmanship is still seen in

United States posters by Norman Rockwell, famous for his Saturday Evening Post covers. The hero motif lingers in portraits of the British and German war leaders. The poster "Let us go forward together"

reflects Prime Minister Churchill's identification with the British people. He could fairly be said to personify their resistance to Nazi aggression. The more pretentious poster "Adolf Hitler is victory" was displayed in every office and schoolroom in Germany.

But soon the British population mobilises its most mundane activities. A straight photograph of a boot on a spade exhorts Britons to beat the German blockade by growing food in their back gardens. They are to avoid unnecessary rail travel and a cartoon poster by HM Bateman warns that "Coughs and sneezes spread diseases."

It is probably in the employment of humour that British war posters were distinctive. From the present era of humourless pontification in all the media, it is refreshing to look back at the Fougasse

cartoon posters. This artist, himself severely wounded in World War One, could sketch Hitler and Goering, eavesdropping on careless talkers in a London bus, with a pen line that is funny even before the caption is read.

And so to Vietnam and propaganda in reverse. United States posters indicting their own troops. And Northern Ireland, with a poster from the English wing of the official Sinn Fein. This shows (with considerable lack of clarity) an apparent assault on a man by a British soldier. But upon whom? And why?

Lester Pearson, former Prime Minister of Canada, said in a BBC Reith Lecture, "Those who do not learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat its tragedies." These posters form a picture-book of history.

FRANK FINCH

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S

# ON RECORD

**"Golden Hour of Brass Bands"** (Golden Hour GH 521)

And what a glorious 60 minutes. No doubt all the items appear elsewhere but if you want a record which sums up the achievement of the brass band movement over a century of music making, here it is. Modern additions to the repertory lie cheek-by-jowl with Victorian favourites, 15 bands give you virtuoso playing almost unbelievable in its perfection and the music is all "quality" whether light or more serious of intent.

Black Dyke Mills Band plays a new "Prelude for an Occasion" by Edward Gregson, a young composer doing great things for the brass band world—and the LP is off to a fine start. Then come old favourites, with Wingates Temperance Band playing its own signature tune "Wingates," Hammond Sauce Works Band in "Cleopatra," with cornet solo by Stephen Thornton. Markham Main Colliery Band contributes Lennon and McCartney's "Yesterday" and Grimethorpe Colliery Band, Parry's "Jerusalem." Another famous march, "Cavalier," is played by Yorkshire Imperial Metals Band and Edward Gregson closes side one with his suite "Voices of Youth" performed by the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain—in an effort to cater for youth he relies rather overmuch on sequential writing and other clichés.

On side two Brighouse and Rastrick Band plays the "Radetzky March," Black Dyke "Grandfather's Clock" with euphonium solo by J Clough, and Crossley's Carpet Works



Band what the label calls "Rule Britannia, arranged by W Rimmer." This is an overture and real composition. Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band plays the "Marche Militaire Française," Besses o' th' Barn Band a trombone trio "Trombola," and Ransome, Hoffman, Pollard Works Band the final march, "Punchinello." For the grand uproarious finale CWS (Manchester) Band, Grimethorpe Colliery, Luton Band, Shaftesbury Crusade (Bristol) Band and Wingate's rip through the "Thunder and Lightning Polka."

This is the most comprehensive programme by brass bands ever issued. **RB**

**"Marching with the Marines"** (The Band of HM Royal Marines conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn) (Starline SRS 5112) (£1.15)

Since it contains a few rarely recorded marches this re-issue is well worth the money. Towards the end of his military career Sir Vivian recorded many of Sousa's lesser-

known works; here we have "The Pride of The Wolverines" which starts quite acceptably but ends with a tuneless trio and an outrageously symphonic bridge passage. Safer, if over-recorded, Sousa offerings are "Manhattan Beach" and "Semper Fidelis" which appear elsewhere on this disc.

Alford of course finds a place, being an ex-Royal Marines director of music, with "Army of the Nile," "HM Jollies" and his official arrangement of the Marines' march, "A Life on the Ocean Wave."

There are two concert marches, from Holst's "Second Suite in F" and Malcolm Arnold's "Little Suite Op 53," fine stirring stuff as usual and just right for the band medium. Of Sir Vivian's own marches, two of the most popular are included from the film "Cockleshell Heroes" and a marching march of nautical flavour, "Under the White Ensign." Charles Williams's "Blue Devils" is a finely written march but is too reminiscent in at least one place of a more famous one.

The pick of the bunch is "The Champion" by an old Army bandmaster called Arthur Graham. Do you often love a march for its counter-melodies as much as for the real melodies? This is just about my favourite in that respect with "Voice of the Guns" (Alford) and "Under the Banner of Victory" (von Blon) as runners-up. So few counter-tunes add character to the main tune while preserving an individuality of their own. So often, even with great composers, they only waffle away unwanted and almost meaningless below the main thread.

"Anchors Aweigh" completes this baker's dozen of very acceptable marches but what the devil are the Royal Marines (in the sleeve picture) doing on the hallowed barrack square of Wellington Barracks? They'll be wanting to mount guard next!

**RB**

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# ACROSS THE DARIEN GAP

EVERYONE said it was impossible to cross the Darien Gap on the slender Isthmus connecting North and South America, but a British Army-led expedition has achieved the impossible.

The infamous Darien Gap and the Atrato swamp—a 1000-foot deep death trap the size of Wales—are the last geographical barriers in the way of a plan to link the two Americas by road. It was the vision of an 18,000 mile Pan-American Highway which inspired the attempt to drive two Range-Rovers the length of its route including passing through the fetid heat of Darien's jungle and swamp.

In January a team of 59 men and five women scientists and soldier-explorers from many units, led by Major John Blashford-Snell, Royal Engineers, left for South America where they were joined by 70 Panamanian and Colombian servicemen.

The two Range-Rovers had driven the first leg of the journey from Alaska to Cape Horn to rendezvous with the expedition which was to take four months to cover the equivalent of the distance from London to Land's End.

"We met the worst obstacles in the world—natural, physical, environmental and medical," said Major Blashford-Snell. "I've been on 12 major expeditions and this is the most fantastic story of the lot. We met everything in such quick succession."

A "pathfinder" Land-Rover blazed a trail for the two Range-Rovers as every inch of the jungle path had to be hacked out with machetes, power saws and explosives. Steep ravines were bridged by sappers using new lightweight equipment over 400 times. In the swamp, rubber boats and rafts specially designed by the Royal Engineers and Avon Rubber Company ferried the expedition over water.

Captain Jeremy Groves, 17th/21st Lancers, and a Colombian officer were the sole survivors when a boat carrying them and five Colombians capsized and sank like a stone near a river mouth. Those who swam ashore were sucked under by the mud of the mangrove swamp.

To the geographical obstacles were added the hazards of mosquitoes, vicious hornets, snakes and herds of fearsome wild pigs. Captain David Bromhead, The Royal Regiment of Wales, had a narrow escape when a deadly six-foot bushmaster snake sank its fangs into his boot. He managed to shoot it off with his gun before it bit through the leather.

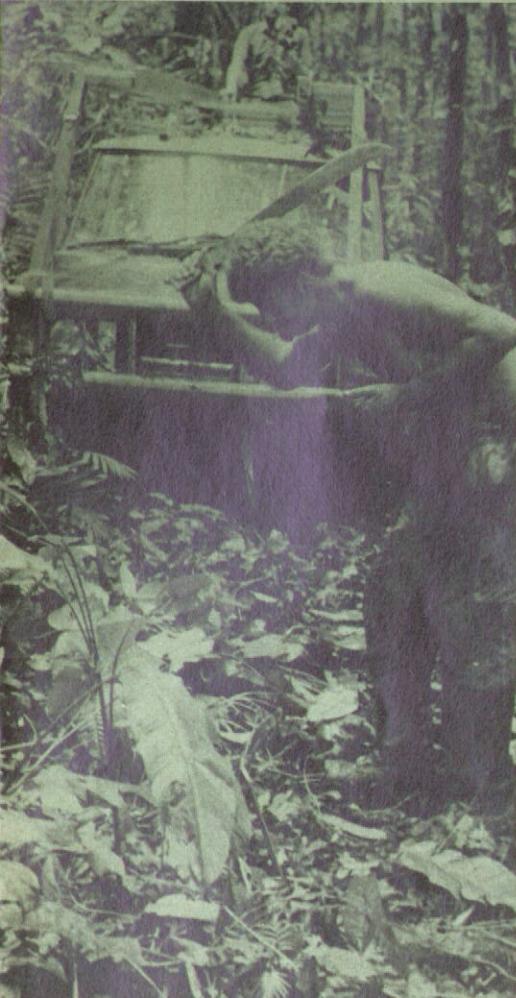
Sickness claimed 32 of the expedition. They were evacuated by boat or by an Army Air Corps Beaver and helicopters.

Two specially designed and toughened motorised cross-country trolleys had to be abandoned in deep mud early on. The mud oozed into the vehicles' track mechanism and set as hard as concrete in the heat.



Jungle mud sucks one of the two Range-Rovers up to its axles in ooze; one of a host of hazards.

Right: Expedition leader Major Blashford-Snell (in helmet) and colleagues ford a Darien river.



Cpl Bob Russell, RE, hacks a pathway for a Range-Rover deep in the jungle fastnesses.

Below: As far as the eye can see the vile Atrato swamp—a threat to those who cross.



Army rations were dropped in by air. To economise, local dishes were added to the menu including iguana lizards, snakes, monkeys and wild turkey.

As every day brought fresh hazards, Major Blashford-Snell fought despair. He said: "About once a day I wondered, 'is it worth it,' but the thing was, everyone had said it couldn't be done and that made one more determined to carry on. Logic and commonsense would have made one give up many times—but logic and commonsense don't come into those circumstances."

The team's grim determination won through and they emerged to a tumultuous welcome in the Colombian town of Chigorodo after marching out of their ordeal whistling "Colonel Bogey" and "Keep Right on to the End of the Road."

The two Range-Rovers, remarkably unscathed by the drive which had defeated all previous attempts on the gap by vehicles, drove on towards Cape Horn.

When Operation Darien ended a United States official in the Panama Canal Zone summed it up: "Only those who attempt the ridiculous may achieve the impossible."

**Above right:** On a peak in Darien, American civilian Wayne Egerton holds Union Jack by Capt A Stansfield and Sgt Partopsing Limbu. **Below:** 28 pack horses were bought locally; only five survived the gruelling gap trek.



High on the ridges of the Darien Gap these lines by Keats came to life for the explorers:

"Much have I travelled in the realms of gold,  
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;  
Round many western islands have I been . . .  
. . . Then felt I like some watcher of the skies  
When a new planet swims into his ken;  
Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes  
He star'd at the Pacific—and all his men  
Look'd at each other with a wild surmise—  
Silent, upon a peak in Darien."

Said Major Blashford-Snell: "Actually, Keats got it wrong. It was Balboa, not Cortez—but it didn't scan."





## DAMBUSTER BOMBER

The lumbering Lancaster lost height until the two angled spotlights under its fuselage converged on the surface of the water below. Then it released a spinning silver cylinder which splashed lightly on the water and went bounce... bounce... bounce... BOOM!

Such was the climax of an epic of ingenuity and courage which came to be heralded as the legend of the "Dambusters." It was an operation that destroyed the Möhne and Eder dams and sent 300 million tons of water cascading down the Ruhr Valley putting hydro-electric power stations out of action, flooding mines, wrecking factories and ruining agricultural production, thus disrupting the German war effort.

That event of May 1943 is commemorated by a kit of Wing Commander Guy

Gibson's "G for George" Lancaster from Revell (GB) Limited of Cranborne Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

The kit, reasonably priced at 75 pence, is in 1:72nd scale. The instruction leaflet gives technical details: *why* lights had to be used because no altimeter could record the required height of 60 feet, and *how* the bomb was made to bounce over the torpedo nets and roll down the back face of the dam.

A total of 64 parts includes the "bouncing bomb" and its release mechanism. Assembly is straightforward with step-by-step instructions. Although moulded in dark grey plastic, the model will require a certain amount of painting to produce an authentic replica. Beginners will be pleased to know that a set of transfer markings is

included in the kit.

Revell manufactures a wide range of aircraft and ships, from a Sopwith Camel at 19 pence to an English man o' war at £13.14. As yet its army models are limited to a Sherman tank and M-35 truck at 75 pence, and a 105-millimetre howitzer and 90-millimetre self-propelled gun at 53 pence each. While suitable for a schoolboy the detail and quality of moulding would tend to disappoint the connoisseur.

For the less serious minded there is a set of zany planes. At 99 pence, you can make the Red Baron (with removable *pickelhaube* helmet) in his "Fünfdecker Fokker," a "Messaschnitzel 109," or Flight Lieutenant Rif Raf in a stubby Spitfire with dartboard roundels and "triple London fog exhausts."

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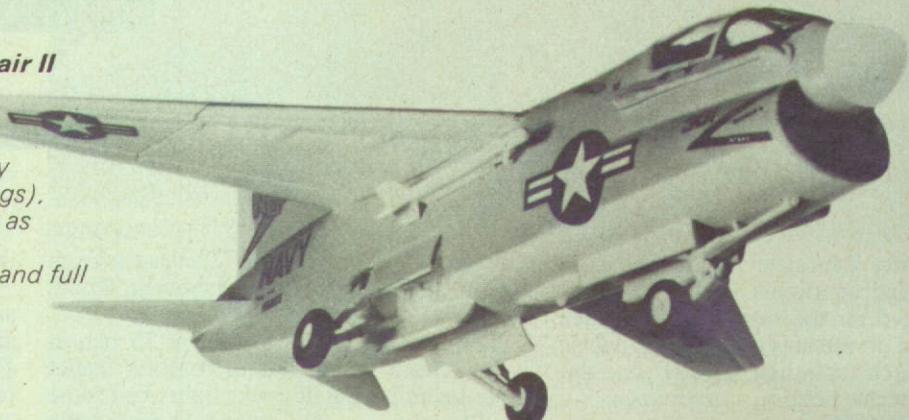
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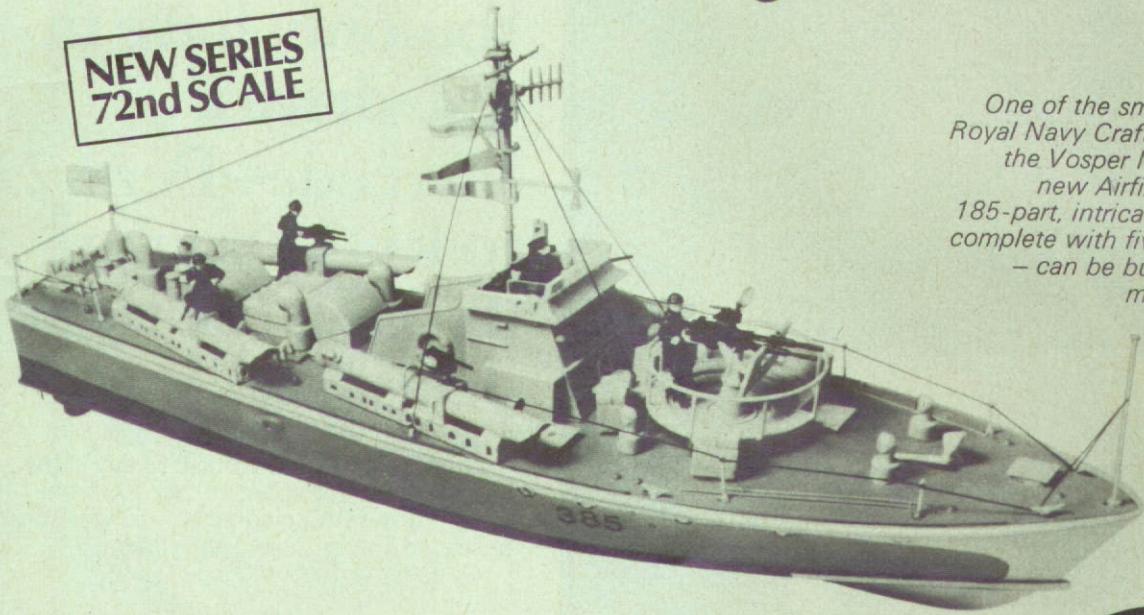
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Free French veterans march proudly off to the Cenotaph. Below: In Hull Royal Air Force aircraft fly past in Cross of Lorraine formation.

## POILU PILGRIMS

**A**T his home in France 60 year-old Roger Lecomte, a veteran of the proud Free French "Leclerc" 2nd Armoured Division, treasures an English pound note, half crown, sixpence and threepenny bit as souvenirs of the days he spent in exile during World War Two.

"I think of England as my country," he said with feeling as he and hundreds of his wartime comrades and their families made a nostalgic pilgrimage from as far away as South America and Africa to the Hull area where the division—"Deuxième D B" to its members past and present—regrouped before joining forces with the allies for the invasion of Europe in 1944.

Their leader and hero, General Philippe Leclerc, spearheaded the liberation of Paris then took them on to fulfil an oath they had sworn on their formation in North Africa in 1941—not to lay down their arms until the French Tricolour flew again from the top of Strasbourg Cathedral.

Now the Leclerc Division's 1944 invasion of its occupied homeland was reversed. No hotel could cope with the 1400-strong party so the luxury Shaw Savill cruise liner Northern Star was chartered by the Frenchmen.

And the comfort of the sleek-lined ship was a far cry from the drab landing craft the old soldiers remembered as they reminisced. Monsieur Lecomte produced from his wallet a series of dog-eared documents to remind him of the time he was nursed back to health in England after a head wound. "I owe my health to England," he said. "She looked after me well... better than France in the war—I'm not afraid to admit it."

Among the yellowing papers was a newspaper cutting picturing the Queen Mother—then Queen—comforting the convalescing "poilu" Lecomte. "La reine-mère," he murmured, his eyes widening

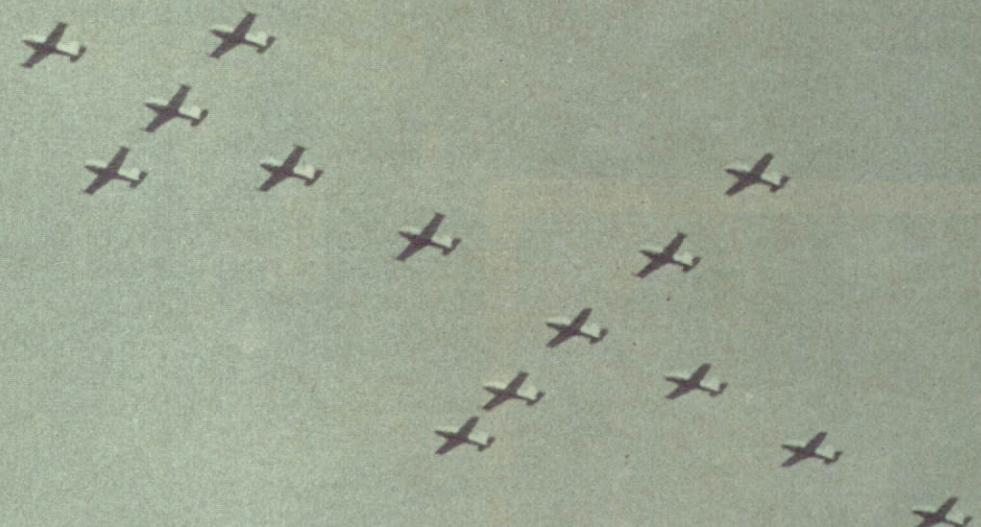
with the awe in which Frenchmen hold the British royal family.

He met his royal visitor again during the highlight of the pilgrimage—a visit to Windsor Castle where the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Queen Mother walked among them chatting in French.

La Maréchale Leclerc de Hauteclocque, widow of the division's founder, was joined by French government ministers and

generals when the party sailed from Dunkirk to Hull where, after the pomp of a civic reception, the veterans went less formally to outlying towns and villages where they were billeted 28 years ago. For most it was the first return to Yorkshire's East Riding which welcomed them as "somewhere in England" during the dark days of the war.

Overnight the Northern Star sailed the veterans to Tilbury from where a 30-



coach motorcade took them to a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. After Windsor they rounded off their weekend in London with a gala concert before sailing back to Dunkirk.

It was in Hull, as the ship slipped quietly down the Humber on the evening tide, that the wave of nostalgia broke over the French. On the distant shore of the estuary a line of barely discernible figures waved. First one, then three, then a flood of the "anciens combattants" and their families realised the spontaneous farewell was for them. Car lights blazed across the water in farewell and the ship's siren sounded a mournful reply mingling with a crescendo of cheers from the packed rails.

An ex-Spahi clutching the distinctive scarlet forage cap he wore through his campaigns with the Free French Forces ("When the bullets started to fly we took off our helmets and put these on") explained: "We had no finer friends in the war than those English people. It was very hard for us in the Deuxième D B—condemned by the Vichy régime and in exile from our land. The English it was who were so good to us then . . . we shall never forget . . ."

Story by Mike Starke



Right: Flashback to August 1944. Units of the Second French Armoured Division roll past the damaged cathedral in liberated Alençon.

Top: La Maréchale Leclerc de Hauteclocque, widow of the division's founder, inspects a guard of honour of British paratroopers.

Far right: A moving moment as La Maréchale Leclerc de Hauteclocque, assisted by French officers, lays the wreath at the Cenotaph.



## Back cover

Veterans of the Free French "Leclerc" 2nd Armoured Division at the Cenotaph during their sentimental return visit.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs

PAGE 34

The story of the French 2nd Armoured Division—la Deuxième Division Blindée—is closely woven into that of its founder, General Philippe Leclerc. Born in 1902, Philippe de Hauteclocque began his army career in the early 1920s with honours at French military academies. He crowned his successes by marrying Thérèse de Gargan who, as his widow, led the pilgrimage to England of the men he commanded during World War Two.

In May 1940 he was captured by the Germans but escaped and fled to England. Equally determined to fight on for France but avoid reprisals against his family, he took the name of a farmer on his estate—Leclerc.

Within months he was in France's African colonies forming what came to be called Leclerc's Column. With this force he fought on, helped by the British Long Range Desert Group. After capturing the Libyan town of Koufra from the Italians in March 1941, Leclerc made his men swear not to lay down their arms until the French flag flew on Strasbourg Cathedral.

The column joined forces with the British Eighth Army in early 1943 and fought as L Force under Montgomery. The Free French were to be the nucleus of an armoured division for the invasion of Europe. They were supplied with American equipment in Morocco and took their title Deuxième Division Blindée before sailing for Hull in April 1944 to prepare to join General Patton's United States Third Army.

On 1 August 1944 the division landed in France on Utah beach with the United States 15 Corps. General Eisenhower ordered the French to advance at dawn on 23 August. Two days later Leclerc's men relieved Paris—at a cost of 628 dead. Never forgetting the Koufra oath, Leclerc got permission to take Strasbourg in November 1944, but far from laying down their arms, his men fought on to rejoin Patton for the Battle of the Bulge. In 1945 they raced ahead of the Americans to be first into Berchtesgaden—Hitler's "Eagle's Nest."

Leclerc signed for France at the Japanese surrender and took over Indo-China from the British before returning to France in 1947 for his first home leave in nearly ten years.

He was posted back to North Africa and in late November, the month of his 45th birthday, he died when his aircraft crashed in a sandstorm—but his name lived on with his famous division.



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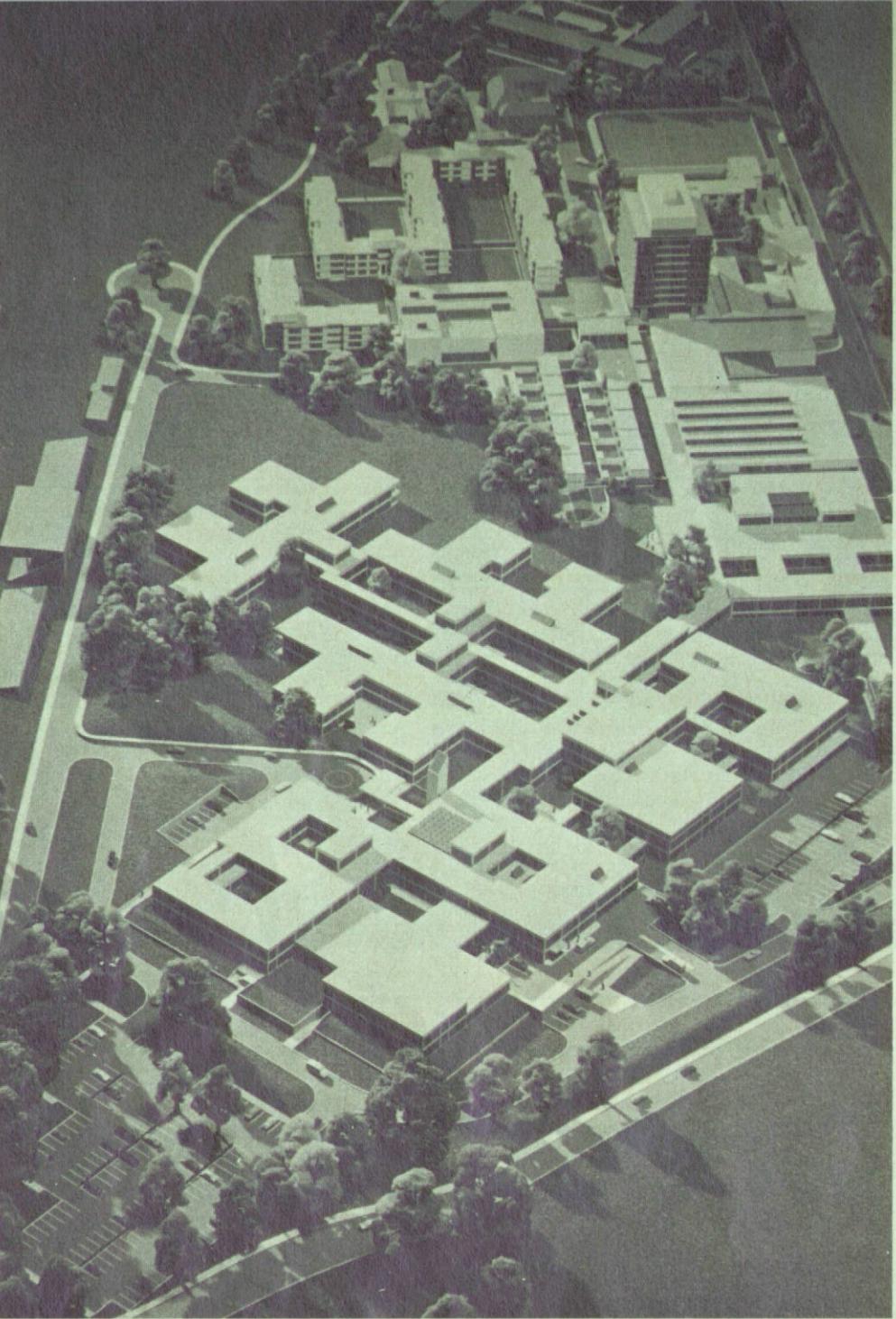
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A new £5 million military hospital to be built at Woolwich will replace the present Queen Alexandra Military Hospital allowing the Millbank site to be used as an extension to the Tate Gallery. The 500-bed Woolwich hospital is due to be in use by late 1975.

## LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE



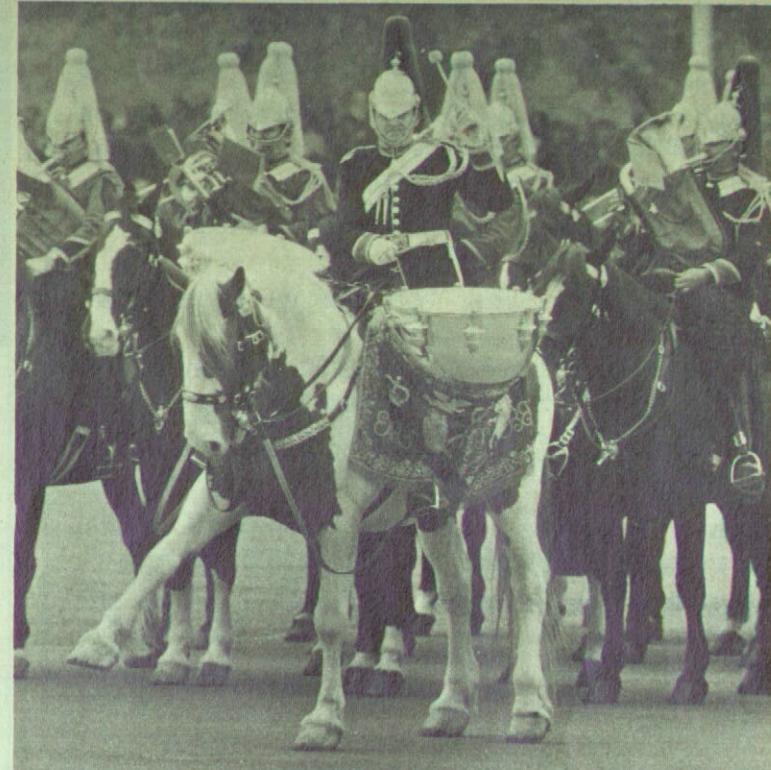
An ancient device comes to the aid of troops in Northern Ireland. The caltrop, which always lands with the spikes sticking upwards, was used by the ancient Greeks against cavalry. More recently it has been adopted by the Viet Cong. Its use in Northern Ireland could stop cars driving through road blocks.



Members of the Ulster Defence Regiment demonstrate a new high-speed patrol boat designed to beat gunrunners trying to land in Northern Ireland. The £800 "dory" can skim along at up to 35 knots.



Wistful look at a princess from 12-year-old Kim Borden of the Fallingbostel (Germany) Girl Guides Company after she had presented Princess Margaret with a bouquet. The Princess was making a visit to the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, of whom she is Colonel-in-Chief.



Shall we dance? The rhythm of the kettle drums on his back set the Household Cavalry's drum horse's hooves tapping at a rehearsal for the Trooping the Colour.



On a visit to Britain arranged by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Nepalese Army, General Singhabahadur Basnyat, went to Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, where he visited his fellow countrymen serving there with 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles. The general, seen here inspecting the Gurkha quarter guard, also met Nepalese cadets at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

### LEAVING THE SERVICE?

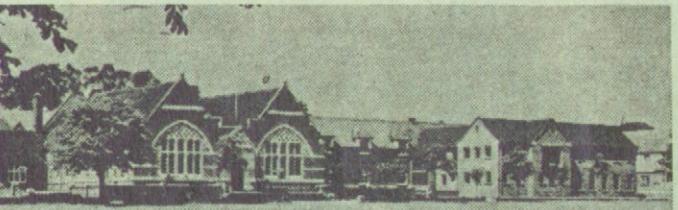
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S21

## "Not in tune"

I don't know who chose the music for this year's Trooping the Colour but I'm sure I'm not alone in considering that it was appalling bad taste and lack of imagination to have the Guards march off behind the Queen to the tune of "The Star Spangled Banner." Surely "Soldiers of the Queen" would have been ideal for this part of the ceremony.—WO1 MacGregor, 145 Lower Granton Road, Edinburgh.

★ The title of the march played—it was actually "The Stars and Stripes Forever"—may sound unsuitable but this is an international tune and a good marching tune. "Soldiers of the Queen" has of course been played at previous Trooping ceremonies.

## Pensions

SQMS Kirk's letter (May) states that Service pensions are classed as earned income. I say they are not, only a proportion being classed as earned. Like most Service pensioners I am in full-time employment and naturally pay income tax. I am allowed £480 which includes personal allowance, married man with wife to support, life insurance, trade union dues etc. Deducted from this sum is £127 from my yearly pension of £163 leaving a balance of £353 and on this the Inland Revenue gives me a coding of 214. If I were not in receipt of a Service pension my tax code would be somewhere in the region of 400.

My personal opinion is that Service pensioners in general do not get a fair crack of the whip and that many men now serving do not realise the amount



of tax they will have to pay, because of their pensions, when they leave the Service and take up full time employment.

Opinions put forward by people like WO II Kirk do not help the situation. "Ex-Badge" (name and address supplied).

have Lee Metford rifles with Lee Enfield safety catches, this being a matter of what is available.

Furthermore, equipment was not blan- coed during the South African War; one of a unit's first tasks on arriving in South Africa from overseas was to remove the blanco and apply suitable stains, tea and earth being two.

The BBC goes to great trouble in all its productions; why then fall down on points of detail that can easily be checked? As another example why, in "Dad's Army," do the other ranks wear binocular cases instead of basic pouches? I can produce copies of the relevant instruction handbooks on infantry equipment if the BBC are interested.—

M T Nash, Frensham, Cliff Road, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset.

I was interested to read your enthusiastic coverage of the current TV series "The Regiment."

Although the "Cotswolds" are clearly fictitious as you say, I would suggest that there are coincidences with one regiment in particular that took part in the events depicted. The term "Cotswolds" is used in particular connotation with Gloucestershire but the oolitic

limestone scenery typified thus spreads across England from Somerset to Northamptonshire.

Lord Methuen's infantry at the battles of Belmont, Modder River and Magersfontein comprised Guards, Scottish and Northumberland regiments but only one regiment from the south of England—The Northamptonshire Regiment. Perhaps readers may have other views on this point?—J D Crouch, 14 Priory Park, Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts.

In your article the following statement appears (p 39 para 1): "Covering the years 1895 to 1900, the series . . . shows the evolution of the professional soldier at a time when commissions could still be bought . . ."

May we have the record set straight, please? Commissioning of officers by purchase was abolished in November 1871—some 24 years before the period mentioned—as part of the Cardwell reforms, by Royal Warrant.—Maj R W Reader, REME (Retd), 56 Knowsley Way, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent.

## Campaign medals

Reference "Richard James's" letter (February) on campaign medals in which he outlines his service and asks: What would an American contemporary have received for such service?

From this letter I would say the following service awards as a marine—Purple Heart for his wound, China Service Medal (1937-39), American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War Two Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal (for enlisted service).

Before World War Two the requirement for the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal was four years' good conduct as an enlisted marine. Eight years' enlisted service would be two awards. It is now awarded for three years' good conduct.

For the period 1950-54 he would have been eligible for the National Defense Service Medal. For service similar to Palestine or Malaya (ie Lebanon) he



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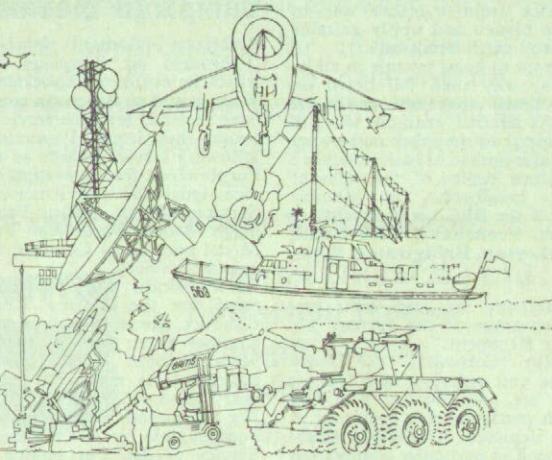
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## Queen Margrethe II and The

Queen Margrethe II of Denmark is to be one of the two Allied Colonels-in-Chief of The Queen's Regiment in succession to her late father, King Frederick IX. The other Allied Colonel is The Queen of the Netherlands.

The connection with the Danish crown was inherited from The

Queen's Own Buffs, one of the regiments amalgamated in December 1966 to form The Queen's Regiment. It began with Prince George in 1689 and was re-established in 1921, when King Christian X became Colonel-in-Chief of The Buffs.

During World War Two the Govern-

### MORE LETTERS

might have been awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal.

If his service had been in the US Army the campaign medals would remain the same except for the expeditionary medal since the army did not have a comparable award at that time. The Army Good Conduct Medal requires only three years' good conduct and only one year during World War Two. As an infantryman he would have qualified for the Combat Infantry Badge (for officers and enlisted men).

As for the US Army's combat badges, there are only two official types—the Combat Infantry Badge and the Combat Medical Badge. The Combat Tank and Artillery badges mentioned by Lance-Corporal Starling RAMC (April) were never authorised for wear by the Army.

A few were made for commercial sale but they are not "official."

After reading the several comments on service awards I wish that those of us

who have served with the British Army on liaison duty etc had something to show for it. The three months I served with the 29th Brigade in Korea in 1951 were both very interesting and rewarding. Although I have lost contact I remember several from the 8th Hussars, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and The Gloucestershire Regiment. I also remember the Dorsets in Tokyo after World War Two. Sgt-Maj J W

Jaunai, Headquarters 4th Marines, 3rd Mar Div, FMF, c/o FPO, San Francisco, California 96602, USA.

Mr Bidmead's letter (June) whether intended or otherwise only adds to the ever-growing criticism on this subject and helps to spotlight a ridiculous situation that has persisted for years. He begins by saying that one is just banging one's head against a brick wall and ends by saying "Why bother?" This was not the attitude which carried

us through to final victory in the dark days.

May I remind Mr Bidmead that it is every free man's right to fight injustice and if he is honest with himself he must admit that injustice is involved. He points this out himself with the observation that a limbless ex-service man can be wheeled on to an Armistice Day ceremony alongside a Naafi girl sporting the same number of medals as himself, if not more. Does not this demonstrate most emphatically that the disabled ex-serviceman is only awarded the same medal or medals as the Naafi girl dishing out char and wads in a safe area? By all means give those who serve behind the line an award but at the same time make sure that those who serve at the front receive something more distinctive.

Mr Bidmead goes on to say that many of those clamouring for medals only wish to show Mum how brave they were. That is a matter of opinion. Campaign medals or stars are not awards for bravery in action. We were not all heroes—just ordinary men with an unpleasant job to do.

A glaring example is the indifference shown over the out-dated LSGC medal and the non-award of the GS medal to lads who served in the Canal Zone when 24 hours in pleasant Singapore qualifies for this award.

Are we, as a nation, so poor morally and financially, that we cannot afford to treat our armed forces as they deserve in this respect? Those responsible should take a long hard look at the Canadian system. For example, I quote just a few: the Canadian Decoration; Korean War Medal in silver (not cupro-nickel as for our lads); and Canada's refusal to accept World War Two medals and stars unless engraved with the recipient's name, rank and number. We are the mother country of the Commonwealth and, we could learn a lot from our "children."

—J J Stokes, 15 Charterhouse Road, Stoke, Coventry.

## Bufs

ment decided to allow Danes to volunteer for service with the regiment and a large number did so, many escaping from Denmark in order to enlist. One of them, Major Anders Lassen, died in winning the Victoria Cross while he was serving with the Special Boat Service in Italy in 1945.

**The East Yorkshire Regimental Association.** Annual reunion 23/24 September. Apply Secretary, 11 Butcher Row, Beverley, HU17 0AA.  
**Glosters WOs and Sergeants.** Reunion 7 October at Gloucester. Apply Mr R Panting, 13 Carne Place, Gloucester GL4 7BE.

### COLLECTORS' CORNER

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L/Cpl S Joyce and Cdt N Amin, 5 Cooper Row, Southgate, Crawley, Sussex.—Require military insignia for their pursuit in Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

B Williams, 84 Southgate Street, Gloucester.—Wishes buy or sell Army cap badges, cavalry, yeomanry etc medals, bayonets, Nazi and imperial items. County ..... Age ..... please send me full details

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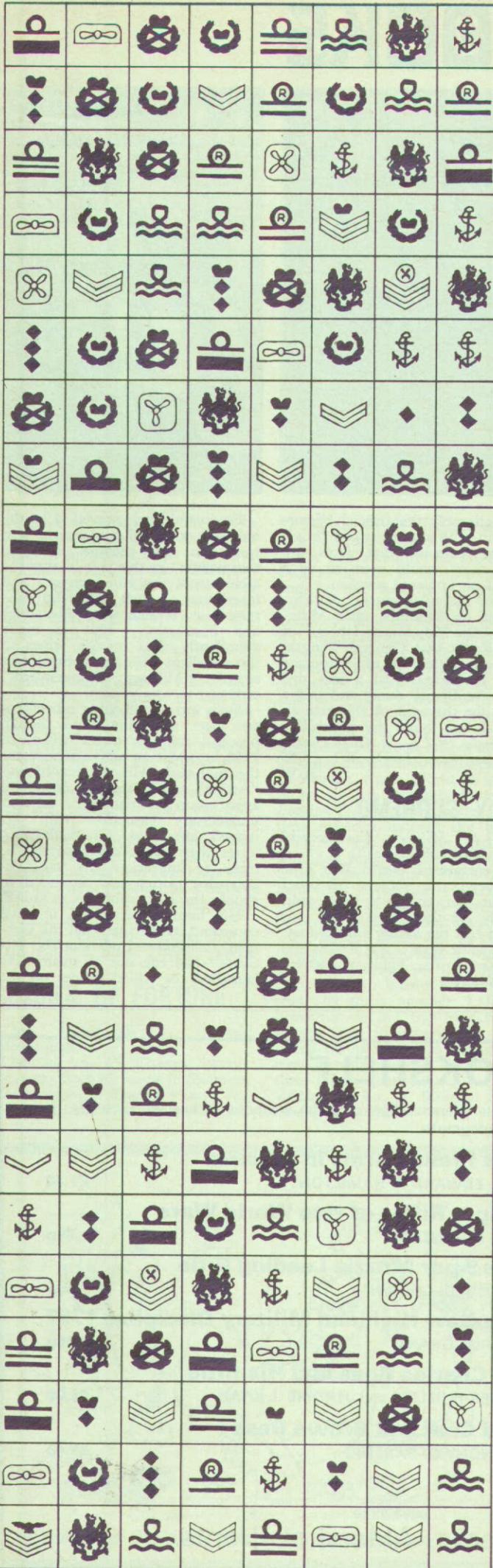
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The 25 comprise an Athenian, two Carthaginian, a Spartan, a Greek, a German, a Polish, a New Zealand, a Scottish, three United States and nine British generals, plus one surname shared by a Frenchman and an Italian, one by a Briton and a Scot, one by a Russian and an Austrian and a fourth by a Briton and an American.

When you have translated the badge of rank symbols into letters and named the 25 generals, concentrate on the vertical columns. In each of four columns you will find the surnames of four more generals—a Roman, an Italian, a British and one surname shared by a United States and a British general. In each case the eight letters of the surname, from top to bottom, are in their correct sequence though not equally spaced from each other.

Send the four names, with the "Competition 171" label from this page and your name and address, on a postcard or by letter, to:

**Editor (Comp 171)**

**SOLDIER**

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 13 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in the January 1973 SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 171" label. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official prepaid labels will be disqualified. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.

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## Less-known MILITARY PRINTS

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# BOOKS

## CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

"Wingate in Peace and War" (Major-General Derek Tulloch)

"We had not talked for half an hour before I felt myself in the presence of a man of the highest quality. It was his genius of leadership which inspired all who served under him. Here indeed is a name which deserves lasting honour."

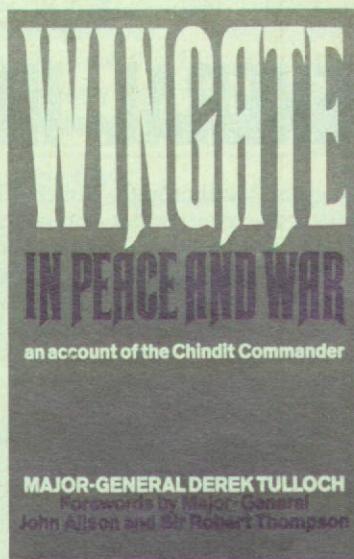
This was Churchill's just tribute to a brave and resourceful soldier. Since World War Two, Wingate's personal character and military effectiveness have been questioned and criticised; General Tulloch now presents the case for the defence.

They were cadets together at RMA Woolwich and he was Wingate's chief of staff in Burma.

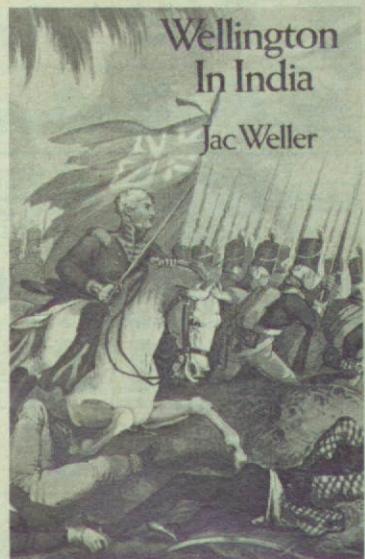
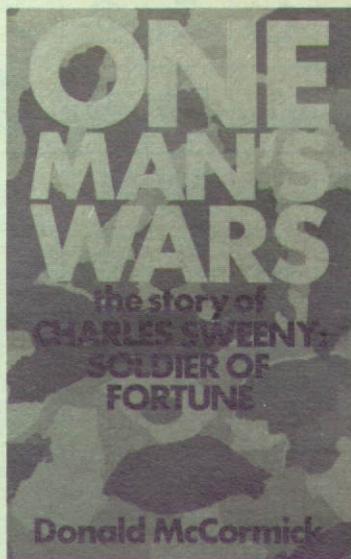
General Tulloch has also deeply researched into British, American and Japanese sources and now produces a fascinating and enlightening account of Wingate and his achievements. He paints a picture which rings true; but it is not sycophantic.

Why was Wingate denigrated and the role of his Chindits played down? General Tulloch thinks it was partly to hide the political, strategical and tactical muddle in which the Burma campaign was conducted up to September 1944. He feels too that there was an official desire to destroy "the Wingate myth." He quotes Air Marshal Sir Philip Joubert as agreeing "that there was a carefully worked out policy of writing down the Chindits as it was thought best for the British Army."

Even so there seems little excuse for deletions in the official history which are so misleading as to give an opposite impression. General Tulloch quotes General Mutaguchi, the Japanese commander: "The Chindit invasion did not stop our plans to attack Kohima, but they had a decisive effect on these



operations and they drew off the whole of 53 Div and parts of 15 Div, one regiment of which would have turned the scales at Kohima."



Unbelievably the Official Historian omitted all after the word "but." On the premise that facts are sacred there would seem to be a case for an unbiased revision.

As for the achievements of Wingate and his Chindits, again Mutaguchi: "On 26th March I heard on Delhi Radio that General Wingate had been killed in an aeroplane crash. I realised what a loss this was to the British Army and said a prayer for the soul of the man in whom I had found my match."

Macdonald & Co, St Giles House, 49 Poland Street, London W1, £3.25

JCW

## EARLY SUPREMO

"Foch as Military Commander" (James Marshall-Cornwall)

The generals of World War One have been the subject of bitter criticism for many a long year. Happily for the Allied cause, one general had the ability and courage to cast aside firmly-held beliefs and re-think in the light of current circumstances.

Ferdinand Foch proved to be the only one with sufficient energy and resolution to become supreme commander. In this role he was the architect of the allied victory and forerunner of such successful supremos as Eisenhower, Alexander and MacArthur. This is made abundantly clear by Sir James in this excellent addition to Batsford's superb "Military Commanders" series.

Foch was approaching retirement age after a distinguished though peaceful military career when, in 1914, he went on active service for the first time. His watchword was "Attack" and as a corps, army and army group commander he suffered unnecessary casualties with ill-judged offensives. Gradually, but faster than his fellow generals, he came to appreciate the value of defensive tactics and the need to choose the right moment to attack.

His hour came when, in total command, he decided that the German offensive—Ludendorff's last throw—had run out of steam. He launched the Allied armies on the

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road to victory and restored a situation which only a few months before had looked irretrievable. He earned his marshal's baton and laid the foundations for a system which was to pay huge dividends in World War Two.

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## INVINCIBLE LEGEND

"Wellington in India" (Jac Weller) It used to be thought that Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton. It is much more likely that it was won on the plains of India. Most soldiers went to India to make a fortune, by fair means or foul, and get home before being killed by the dreadful climate. Spectacular victories might be won with a bit of luck, but never a campaign. Conquering India was an impossible dream.

Wellington was quite different. He went to India with the deliberate intention of developing his skill in war. He was quick to realise the secret of success in battle—mobility combined with firepower. When one added audacity, the recipe was complete. Wellington won great battles such as Assaye; he stormed cities such as Seringapatam; he humbled wealthy princes such as Tippo of Mysore; he tracked down cunning bandits such as Dhoondiah Waugh. By these deeds he laid the basis of the legend that the British were invincible.

Wellington never fought a battle in which he was not grossly outnumbered and on many occasions his opponents were far better equipped and positioned than his own men.

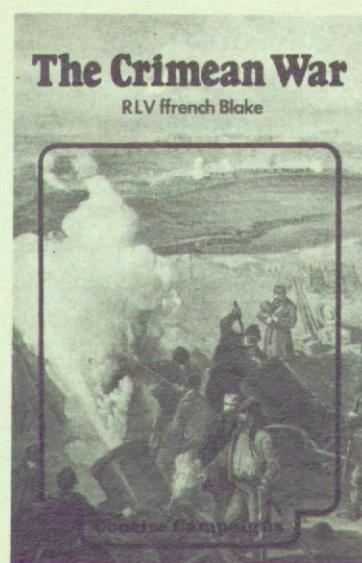
This is a highly readable and scholarly account. The plates are unusual and the maps are clear and helpful. The appendices on weapons and tactics, like the bibliography, are most impressive.

Longman, Longman House, Burnt Mill, Harlow, Essex, £5.50 AWH

## SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

"One Man's Wars" (Donald McCormick)

When he was 15, Charles Sweeny ran away from his home in Spokane, Washington, to fight in a war. Ten wars and many wounds later—on



27 February 1963—he died aged 81 in a Salt Lake City hospital.

For half a century his sword had been at the service of the oppressed and he had become a legend. If only through the variety of ranks he held, he must be unique. He was an American private, Nicaraguan general, French captain, American Colonel, Polish brigadier-general, Moroccan colonel and British group captain. Twice he was a West Point cadet—and expelled both times.

His first war was that between Spain and America; others followed in Venezuela, Mexico and Nicaragua. In France when World War One broke out, he promptly joined the Foreign Legion as a private. By the time America entered the war in 1917, he was a captain, had been wounded three times, was a Grand Cross of the Légion d'Honneur and held the Croix de Guerre. He transferred to the US Army and became a battalion commander.

He fought Bolsheviks in Poland, Greeks in Turkey, Riffs in Morocco and Nationalists in the Spanish Civil War. In World War Two he tried to form another Lafayette Squadron to aid the French, but France fell. Undismayed, he transferred his affections to Britain and was instrumental in creating the three Eagle squadrons.

Arthur Barker, 5 Winsley Street, London W1, £2.25 JCW

## NEW SERIES

"The Crimean War" (R L V French Blake)

This was in fact a "world war" with actions fought in the Caucasus Mountains as well as in the Baltic and Pacific. The Turkish Empire was disintegrating and Britain was determined to stop the Russians from filling the vacuum. The French were more concerned in displaying the worth of their new army and indulging in obscure quarrels over the right to protect various shrines in the Holy Land.

At first the war did not seem destined to last for long. The Russian push to the Danube was halted and their forces slowly pushed back to their own frontier. The allies then, rather unexpectedly, decided to invade the Crimea. The decision in many ways was farcical. Absolutely nothing was known about the peninsula and a landing was made with inadequate arrangements and obsolete equipment. Before long the first European battle in 40 years was fought at the Alma. Neither side emerged with much satisfaction and this was to prove the key to the whole war—the "glorious" blunder at Balaclava, the confusion at Inkerman and the mismanaged siege of Sevastopol.

Although there seems little reason for yet another book on this over-written campaign, the author succeeds in presenting a clear and concise account. Many comparatively new aspects emerge—the skill with which the Naval Brigade was handled by the allies of Polish, Swiss and German mercenaries. With the interesting appendices and imposing bibliography this volume promises well for the start of a new series, "Concise Campaigns."

Leo Cooper, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JL, £3.50 AWH

## AMERICAN AWARDS

"United States Military Medals and Ribbons" (Philip K Robles)

This handsomely produced volume spans nearly two centuries of American awards and decorations from the establishment in 1782 of the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington to the Vietnam Service Medal of modern times.

US military decorations were first authorised by Washington on 7 August 1782 when he ordered a heart-shaped badge of purple cloth to be given to officers and men alike. Only three are known to have been issued and the badge fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War. A century and half later, on 22 February 1932, the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth, General Douglas MacArthur, then Chief of Staff of the United States Army, directed that the Badge of Military Merit be "revived out of respect to his (Washington's) memory and military achievements." It was redesignated, quite simply, The Purple Heart.

Since World War Two, America has created 56 medals and decorations. These and the various insignia and qualification badges occasioned by new weapons and techniques are included in the book and there are sections setting out the general rules for wearing decorations and service medals. An appendix gives the order of precedence of awards for the three

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"You'd think they'd wise up to the old 'thorn in the paw' trick."

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# BOOKS

Services. As well as military, naval and air decorations the author also lists and describes other categories such as merchant marine and foreign awards.

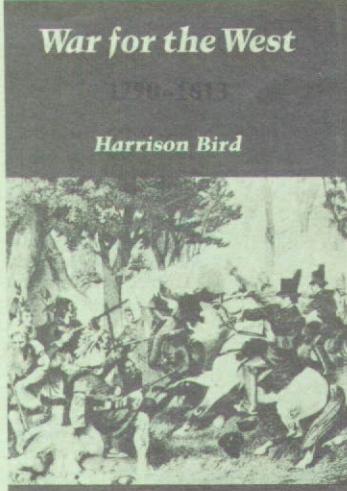
Finally, a word of congratulations on the quality of the many coloured illustrations of medals and ribbons. Some of the latter, especially, have a warmth and softness which seems to imbue them with unusual realism. *Charles E Tuttle Company Inc, Rutland, Vermont, USA. British Agents: Prentice-Hall International Inc, Durrants Hill Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, £6.25 JFPI*

## RED v WHITE

*"War for the West 1790-1813"* (Harrison Bird)

Most of us know something about Sitting Bull and the Sioux who wiped out Custer's command of 250 men at the Little Big Horn but how many have even heard of Little Turtle of the Miami who killed 900 whites at St Clair's battle in 1791?

The fiercest Indian wars were fought in the forests of the North-West Territory—in modern Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin—with all the savagery of a racial war. The red men, led by Tecumseh ("Shooting Star") wanted a federation of all the tribes to protect their way of life—hunting and fishing freely across the vast wilderness. The whites, led by Governor W H Harrison, wanted the land cleared for settlers and their new way of life—ploughing and building towns.



No compromise was possible and it was left to tomahawk and musket to settle the dispute at Tippecanoe Creek, Fallen Timbers and Lake Erie. Amidst all the cruelty, deceit and violence Tecumseh stands out as a great man who might have led his people to a better way of life had there been no war. But nothing could stop the relentless flood of white settlers and the red men were engulfed.

An interesting book describing a much neglected period in American history.

*Oxford University Press, Ely House, 37 Dover Street, London W1, £3.45 AWH*

## "GONE WEST"

*"The Old Front Line"* (John Masefield)

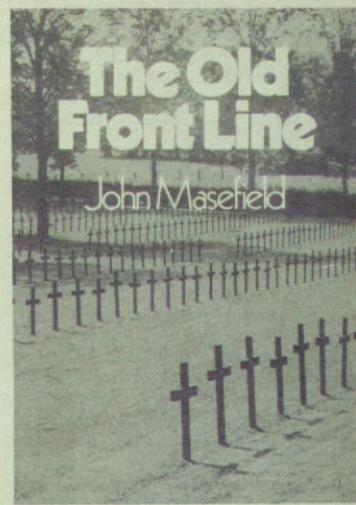
On 1 July 1916 the most terrible battle in British history began—the Battle of the Somme. More than 1,200,000 men were killed or maimed in the four-month conflict, half a million of them British. The German professionals died in their thousands, the cream of the Kaiser's infantry. The term "gone west" entered the English language, originally meaning that someone had died on the Western Front.

John Masefield, the future Poet Laureate, was a 39-year-old war correspondent assigned to the Somme front. Daily he saw the young men of the Empire—the "Pals" and "Chums" battalions of Kitchener's New armies, New Zealanders, Australians, Canadians, Indians—going into action, going to certain death. A hundred woods and hamlets were obliterated in the battle; their names became the punctuation marks in a chapter of horror.

Masefield watched, listened and recorded—and wrote this memorable account of the British advance of 1916. Moving in its detail and simplicity, it remains one of the best descriptions of a battlefield—before, during and after—that have been written.

Colonel Howard Green contributes today to complement the original text.

*Spurbooks, 88, Blind Lane, Bourne End, Bucks, £1.95 JCW*



## THE 34TH AND 55TH

*"Tried and Valiant: The Story of The Border Regiment 1702-1950"* (Douglas Sutherland)

In 1702 Richard Steele, the essayist and founder of the Tatler and Spectator was signing on recruits for the Army. Little did these Norfolk ploughmen know what lay in front of them in the 34th Regiment of Foot. They served in Spain and Flanders and fought at Fontenoy and Culloden, raided St Malo and captured Havannah, fought at Badajoz and won glory at Arroyo dos Molinos, stormed the Redan in the Crimea and helped quell the

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# Tried and Valiant

The story of  
THE BORDER REGIMENT  
1702-1959



Douglas Sutherland

Indian Mutiny. Then in 1881 they merged with the 55th Foot.

Formed at Stirling in 1775, the 55th saw bloody fighting at Ticonderoga and Brandywine, fought Red Indians, Kaffirs, Tartars and Cossacks, froze in Flanders, sweated in India and died of yellow fever in the West Indies.

Renamed The Border Regiment and attached to Westmorland and Cumberland, the amalgamated force went on to carve its name in history. It chased dacoits in Burma and struggled with Boers at Spion Kop, endured Ypres and Gallipoli, suffered at Loos and the Somme and fought at Arnhem and Imphal.

It is fashionable in some circles to mock the Empire and to regard the last 250 years of our national history as a futile exercise in imperialism, but this is to forget the devotion, courage and loyalty that lay behind it. It was men like those of The Border Regiment who gave the world a kind of stability we may never see again.

Leo Cooper, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.20 AWH

## IN BRIEF

"Panzer-Grenadiers" (Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis)

"Halbkettenfahrzeuge" (J. Williamson)

Two new titles in the useful "Wehrmacht Illustrated" series. Both booklets give basic information on their respective subjects with plenty of supporting pictures, data and colour plates. "Panzer-Grenadiers" has some particularly interesting illustrations in that they are photographs taken in the field showing different types of dress and equipment being used on active service. The five pages in full colour include examples of headgear, badges and insignia.

"Halbkettenfahrzeuge" describes half-track vehicles used by the Wehrmacht in World War Two in a series of lucid captions under well-selected photographs to make this a handy reference for technician and researcher alike.

Almark Publishing Co, 270 Burlington Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4NL, 50p each

"Uniforms of the Peninsular War" (Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Wilson and Arthur Kipling)

As one might expect, this book is

somewhat richer in content than its predecessor, "Uniforms of Marlborough's Wars," chiefly because of the increase in the number of regiments formed in the interim.

Colonel Wilson's illustrations, including eight full-colour plates, are as delightful and well executed as ever and Mr Kipling's descriptive text is both entertaining and informative. The black-and-white drawings range over a wide field from firearms to windmills and include a hussar and his horse with an accompanying letter-by-letter description of uniform and saddlery. Other pictures show a Spanish guerrilla, a creaking covered wagon baggage train and a moving study of a British soldier doggedly battling against wind and rain.

Charles Knight & Co, 11-12 Bury Street, London, EC3A 5AP, £1.50

"Better Judo" (G R Gleeson)

A sportsman's manual aimed in particular at the young Judo, this book is the latest in a series on the subject by the same author who has a reputation for bringing fresh thought to the teaching of judo. A clear, clipped style walks—or should it be throws—the student through a series of lessons and tips and 97 bright photographs illustrate the text. This is not a passport to instant home-judo success—the author says early on that players should join a club—but it is a book which would be an asset to the shelves of the club's library.

Kaye and Ward Ltd, 21 New Street, London, EC2M 4NT, £1.10

"French Line Infantry 1812-15" (Keith Over)

This is the first of a series of stiff, glossy sheets designed to appeal to the model soldier enthusiast. Depicted in full colour are the uniforms of a Napoleonic grenadier, voltigeur and fusilier as well as a drummer, standard bearer and sapper. There are also drawings of individual items of equipment. Illustrations are well captioned and peculiarities of dress and accoutrements are highlighted.

Bivouac Books, 21-25 Earl Street, London, EC2A 2AL, 75p

"American Soldiers of the Revolution" (Alan Kemp)

The uniforms and equipment of American troops, both loyalist and patriot, in the War of Independence are described in some detail in this handy little volume. The text, with concise notes of historical background, is supported by many drawings of various items of equipment and there are seven colour prints of uniforms and one depicting loyalist flags.

The book is divided into two parts. The first presents a comprehensive survey of the dress and equipment of the patriot soldier, both foot and mounted, and gives a fair indication of how he drilled and fought. Part two, in some ways the more interesting, is concerned with the other Americans: the loyalists who had no wish to be separated from the Crown.

In short, a useful quick reference for the student of military history and keen wargamer.

Almark Publishing Co, 270 Burlington Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4NL, £1.50 (paperback), £2.00 (hardback)



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