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SOLDIER

JUNE 1976 Volume 32, No. 6

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FRONT COVER

The band of the Grenadier Guards playing in Stanley Village, Hong Kong, a fishing and market community near Stanley Fort where the Grenadiers' 2nd Battalion is currently stationed. The band was visiting Hong Kong to play in the colony's Arts Festival and took the opportunity to perform for the village where Grenadiers and their families do their shopping.

Picture by PO Len Cobbett, RN.

BACK COVER

A young soldier, his gun pointing menacingly ahead, waits for the enemy to appear. All part of the training for recruits into the Royal Pioneer Corps when they go to battle camp at Beckingham in South Lincolnshire. For five gruelling days they are infantrymen and pioneers — and no home comforts such as television, Naafi or bars to distract them from soldiering.

Picture by Paul Haley.

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Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU. (Phone: GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, is published for the Ministry of Defence by HMSO and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex.

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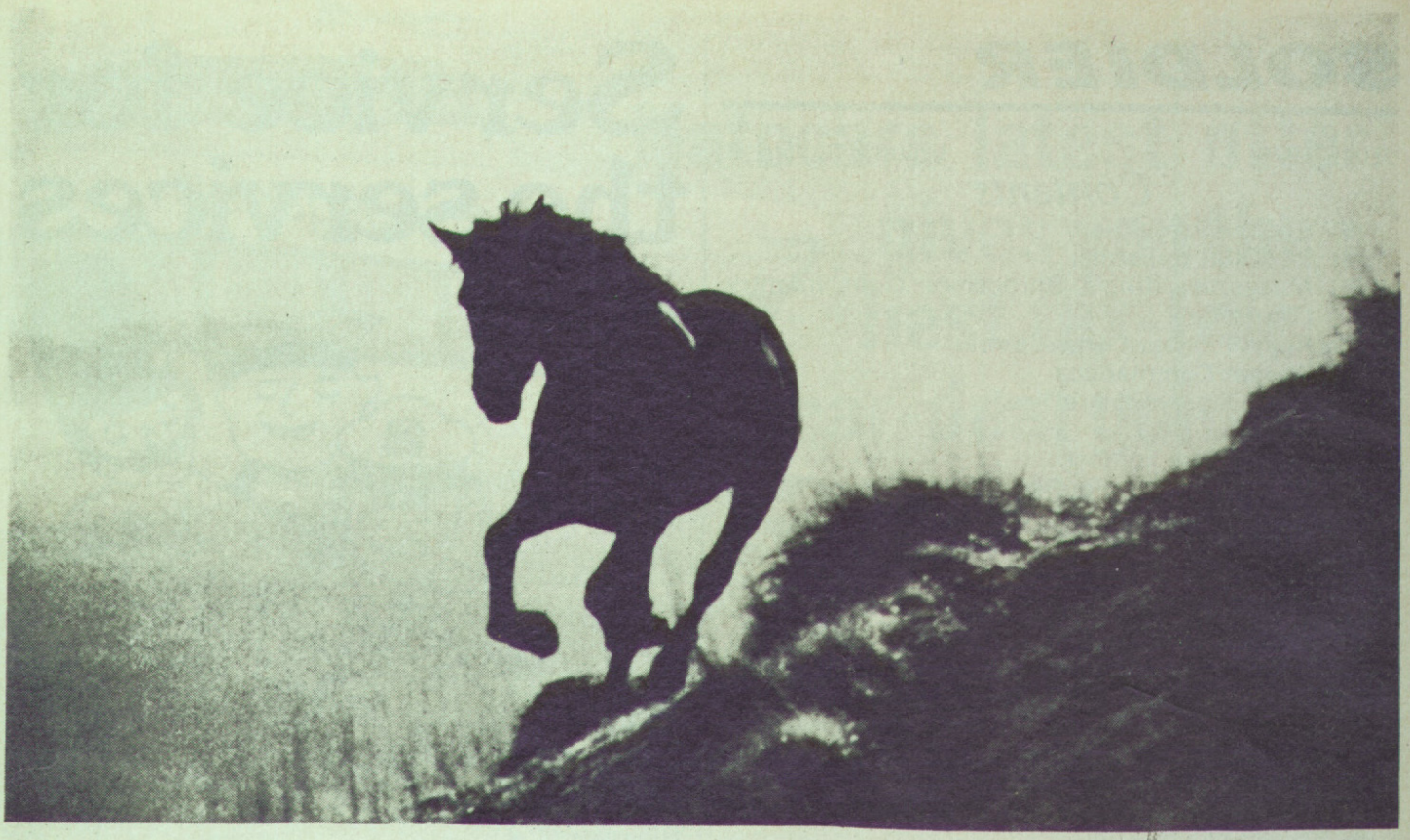

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SEE-THE-ARMY

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.

MAY 1976

26 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
26 Tri-Service Day, Trinity College, Glenalmond (Scottish Division "Golden Lions" freefall team; Junior Parachute Company "Pegasus" gymnastic team; band; pipes and drums).
28 Aldershot Horse Show (28-30 May) (APTC display; skill-at-arms; bands).
29 Tidworth Tattoo and Fair (29-31 May).
29 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
29 Glasgow Army Display (29 May-13 June) (Golden Lions; **Royal Signals "White Helmets" motorcycle display team 6-13 May);** Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
29 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (motorcycle display team; band).
29 Worcester City Show (29-31 May) (band).
29 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (29-31 May) Parachute Regiment "Red Devils" freefall team; White Helmets 29-30 May; six bands).
29 Otley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
30 Combined Cadet Tattoo, Gosport (29-31 May).
30 Currington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire Royal Army Ordnance Corps "Cannonballs" freefall team; (band).
30 Steam Rally, Yelverton (30-31 May) ("Blue Eagles" helicopter display team).
31 Southam (Warwickshire) Carnival (JLR RA PT display; White Helmets; band).
31 Selby Carnival (band).
31 Surrey County Show, Guildford (Red Devils; White Helmets; band).
31 Pershore (Worcestershire) Show (Royal Green Jackets freefall team).
31 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (arena event; band).
31 Oulton Broad Fête (arena event).
31 Watford Borough Carnival (arena event; band).
31 Dunstable Fête and Carnival (arena event; band).
31 Hertfordshire County Day, Hertford (arena event; band).
31 Open Day and Fête, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow.

JUNE 1976

1 Household Division massed bands beat Retreat (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund), Horse Guards Parade, London (1-3 June).
1 Birmingham Tulip Festival (1-5 June) (Royal Military Police "Red Caps" mounted display team).
2 Kneller Hall Band concert.
2 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (2-3 June) (Red Devils; band).
3 Festival 76, Rhyl (3-4 June) (Blue Eagles).
5 Salisbury Hospital Fête (band).
5 Open Day, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
5 Blackpool Air Pageant (Blue Eagles).
5 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
5 Standish (Lancashire) Show (Royal Corps of Transport "Silver Stars" freefall team).
5 36 Engineer Regiment freedom march, Maidstone.
5 Stanley (Co Durham) Community Centre Show (band).
6 Freedom march, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
6 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse (Golden Lions; displays; bands).
6 Lorraine Charity Club Military Show, Leicester (junior band).
7 Coventry Carnival (JLR RA PT display; Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; band).
7 Tourist Trophy, Isle of Man (7-11 June) (Blue Eagles).
8 Massed bands, Royal Marines, beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (8-10 June).
9 Kneller Hall Band concert.
10 Royal Cornwall Show (10-12 June) (three bands).
12 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
12 Branksome, Darlington, School Fair (band).
12 Wolverhampton Fiesta (Red Devils).
12 Ilkley Show (band).
12 Nuneaton Carnival (junior band).
12 Metro, Leeds (12-13 June) (Blue Eagles).

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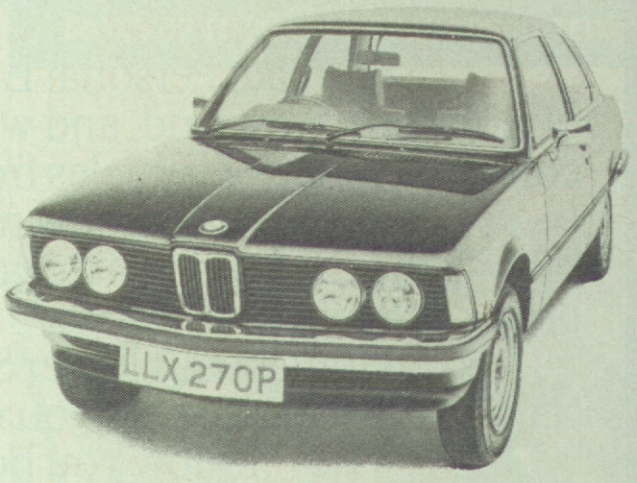

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DIARY *continued*

12 Community Association, Scunthorpe (12-13 June) (Blue Eagles).
12 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (Red Devils; junior band).
12 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (Pegasus).
12 Coventry Carnival (Silver Stars).
12 King's Lynn Round Table Carnival (band).
13 Kingston-upon-Thames Carnival (Red Caps).
15 Three Counties Agricultural Show, Malvern (15-17 June) (band).
16 Kneller Hall Band concert.
18 Beating Retreat (Army Benevolent Fund), Weston Park, Staffordshire (five bands).
18 Essex Show, Chelmsford (18-19 June) (Pegasus).
19 Open Day and Summer Fair, School of Infantry, Warminster (Red Caps).
19 Royal Engineers At Home, Barton Stacey.
19 Rotherham Tattoo (19-20 June).
19 Leighton Linsdale (Bedfordshire) Carnival (Pegasus; junior band).
19 Rainham (Kent) Spectacular (band).
19 South Tyneside Sports Week (band).
19 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
19 Brightlingsea Show (Silver Stars).
19 Fareham Show (White Helmets).
20 Air Display, Seething (Blue Eagles).
23 Kneller Hall Band concert.
23 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln **(23-24 June)** (White Helmets; three bands).
25 Aldershot Army Display (25-27 June) (Red Devils; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery; **REME Land-Rover display; junior soldiers and WRAC PT and gymnastic display; hot air balloon; light music concert; 15** bands).
26 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (**Red Devils;** two bands).
26 Rushden (Northamptonshire) Show (arena event).
26 Campus Fête, Sheffield (Blue Eagles).
26 Lord Mayor's Gala, York (26-27 June) (Blue Eagles; **Golden Lions** band).
26 Chesterfield Borough Carnival (White Helmets).
28 Steam Festival, Stanford (Blue Eagles).
30 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
30 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (30 June-1 July) (**Silver Stars 1 July;** two bands).

JULY 1976

1 Plymouth Army Week (1-3 July) (two bands).
2 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (2-3 July).
2 Hook, Goole, Gala (2-4 July) (band).
2 Newport (Monmouthshire) Military Display (2-4 July) (Red Devils, 3 bands).
3 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
3 Signal View 76, Worcester (3-4 July) (Red Caps).
3 Newby Hall, Ripon, Traction Rally (3-4 July) (Cannonballs).
3 Laying up old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, Derby Cathedral.
3 National Military Historic Vehicles Rally, Winkfield, Berkshire (3-4 July) (band).
3 Aveling and Barford Show, Grantham (band).
3 Eynsham (Oxfordshire) Carnival (arena event).
3 Birkenshaw Show, Bradford (band).
4 Leeds Horse Show (band).
4 SSAFA Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.
5 Bedmond (Hertfordshire) Village Fête (Silver Stars).
6 Scottish Military Tattoo, Washington, USA (6-11 July).
7 Kneller Hall Band concert.
9 Southampton Show (9-11 July) (Red Caps).
10 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
10 Bedford Regatta (Red Devils; band).
10 Catterick Army Display (10-11 July) (White Helmets; Red Devils; Pegasus; ten bands).
10 Basingstoke Tattoo.
10 Pudsey (Leeds) Show (band).
10 Hatfield Show **(10-11 July)** (Silver Stars).
11 Royal Tournament preview march, The Mall, London.
14 Kneller Hall Band concert.
14 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (14-31 July).
15 Kent County Show, Maidstone (15-17 July) (band).
15 Liverpool Show (15-17 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; two bands).
16 Cheltenham Tattoo (16-17 July).
16 Corby (Lincolnshire) Show (16-17 July) (Queen's Division junior PT team; three bands).
17 Masham (Yorkshire) Traction Rally (17-18 July) (band).
17 Hatfield Carnival (band).
17 Beaumont School Fête, St Albans (junior display; junior band).
19 Cleveland Army Band Week (19-23 July) (two bands).
20 East of England Show, Peterborough (20-22 July) (Pegasus; two bands).

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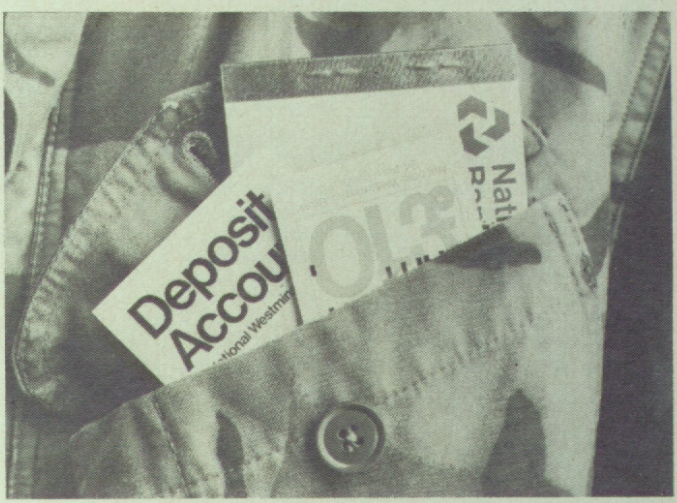

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SOLDIER to Soldier

As already forecast in the April issue of SOLDIER News, most ranks in the British Army have received the maximum £6 per week increase under the 1976 Pay Review. The only soldiers not getting the full increase are juniors and apprentices, who receive a proportion, and senior officers earning more than £8500 a year.

With such a cut-off point anomalies have occurred. For instance a colonel with two years in the rank gets his increase and now comes to £8500, only £99 short of an officer of the same rank and two more years' experience. Also, of course, food and accommodation charges are up — but as has been pointed out previously this is perhaps better than having increases at a time when your pay has not been raised to cover them.

In its report the Review Body is not too happy with having to implement such rigid restrictions and says: "The result is a departure from an orderly structure of scales and leads to distortion and anomalies . . ."

Whatever the complaints and grumbles the net result is no different to that in civvy street, as SOLDIER staff well know, (most considered themselves lucky to retain a third of their recent pay rise after various increased deductions). Next month SOLDIER News is planning to carry official replies to a series of questions from Servicemen on the pay review. One more reason to place your order for the July SOLDIER now.

Once again the Army will be out and about this summer through the length and breadth of this land — meeting the ordinary people it exists to defend. Readers of our See-the-Army Diary will see scores of shows at which the Army will be displaying its military skills as well as the martial music for which it is famous.

SOLDIER too will be at many of these shows — if not in person then on sale. But for visitors to at least five major events there will be the chance to meet members of our globetrotting staff as well as see our fine range of Reader Services (of which an updated list appears on pages 25 and 26).

SOLDIER's show season begins at Aldershot at the end of June when we shall have our own stand throughout as well as sales staff around the showground. Then on July 2 and 3 we shall be with the Royal Artillery at Woolwich and the following week-end up North at the Catterick show.

Finally, on 1 August we shall be selling the magazine at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington, as well as running our full display stand at the International Air Tattoo at Greenham Common, near Newbury. If you are looking for some good days out this summer — see you at the shows!

An updated list of SOLDIER's Reader Services is on pages 25 and 26 of this issue, including the latest additions to the range of regimental drum ice buckets, six new prints in the Charles Stadden series (now totalling 22 prints), more pewter figures and a new first edition offer, initially to members of SOLDIER Print Society, of three regimental event prints by Charles Stadden. These, and other Print Society items, are available to members at special prices or at an overall discount of 20 per cent. Join the Print Society now — there is a coupon on page 25 — and immediately take advantage of the regimental print offer, or of an introductory offer of three Stadden uniform prints at a special price.

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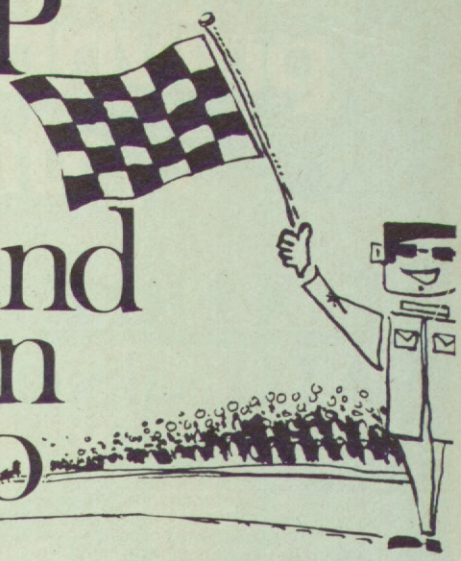

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S&D

The King's Shropshire Light Infantry (Territorial)

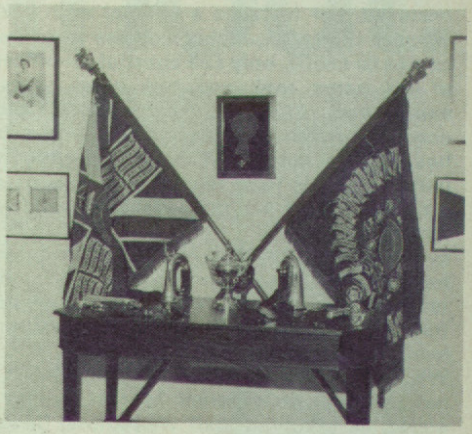
A DRILL hall with regimental Colours proudly displayed and battle trophies ranged round the walls is the "lived in" home of The King's Shropshire Light Infantry (Territorial) museum. Here, surrounded by reminders of their unit's past history and achievements, men of 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry (V), attend lectures and go through their drills.

In the main the exhibits trace the history of the Shropshire Volunteers from Napoleonic times to the present day and provide a complete record of the Rifle Volunteers from 1859. There are the service certificates (1806-16) of a West Shropshire Local Militia regimental sergeant-major and notices referring to the training of the Local Militia (1812) and the Shropshire Regiment of Regular Militia (1821) which list fines for non-attendance and other misdemeanours. Wall plaques show the volunteer lineage dating back to 1539, battle honours, affiliated units, camps and service from 1876 onwards, and a complete roll of commanding officers from 1798 hangs over the door of the CO's office.

Early 19th century Colours include the King's and Regimental Colours of the Morfe Loyal Volunteer Infantry (1803-6), the King's Colours of the South Shropshire Local Militia (1808-16) from Ludlow, the unofficial Regimental Colour of the Bridgnorth Rifle Volunteers (1860) and the interesting black Colour of the Loyal Whitchurch Volunteers (1803). Of special interest to uniform enthusiasts is the collection of headdresses showing examples of every type worn by the unit from its raising in 1859 as the Shropshire Rifle Volunteers to the present day and including a 1st Volunteer Battalion KSLI officer's helmet (1898-1908), képis of the early Shropshire Volunteer Rifle Corps and a service dress cap with the distinctive cockade of the French Croix de Guerre.

The Croix de Guerre avec Palme was awarded to 4 KSLI for its magnificent counter-attack at La Montagne de Bligny, south-west of Rheims, on 6 June 1918. The bugle which sounded the advance has a place of honour in a showcase containing bugles and presentation swords and displayed nearby are the original special order signed by Major (as he then was) B L Montgomery and the citation for the Croix de Guerre signed by General Berthelot, Commander of the French Fifth Army.

A group of 4th Battalion uniforms spans the period 1880 to 1939 and a set of illustrations depicts every change of dress worn by the regiment. Two magnificent full-length portraits dominate the hall. One, of the King of Oudh, by Robert Home, is believed to have been removed from the King's palace in Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny. The other portrays General Lord Hill, Colonel of the 53rd (Shropshire) Regiment, whose statue in Shrewsbury tops what is said to be the tallest doric column in the world.



Colours of the Shropshire Volunteers together with the Croix de Guerre.

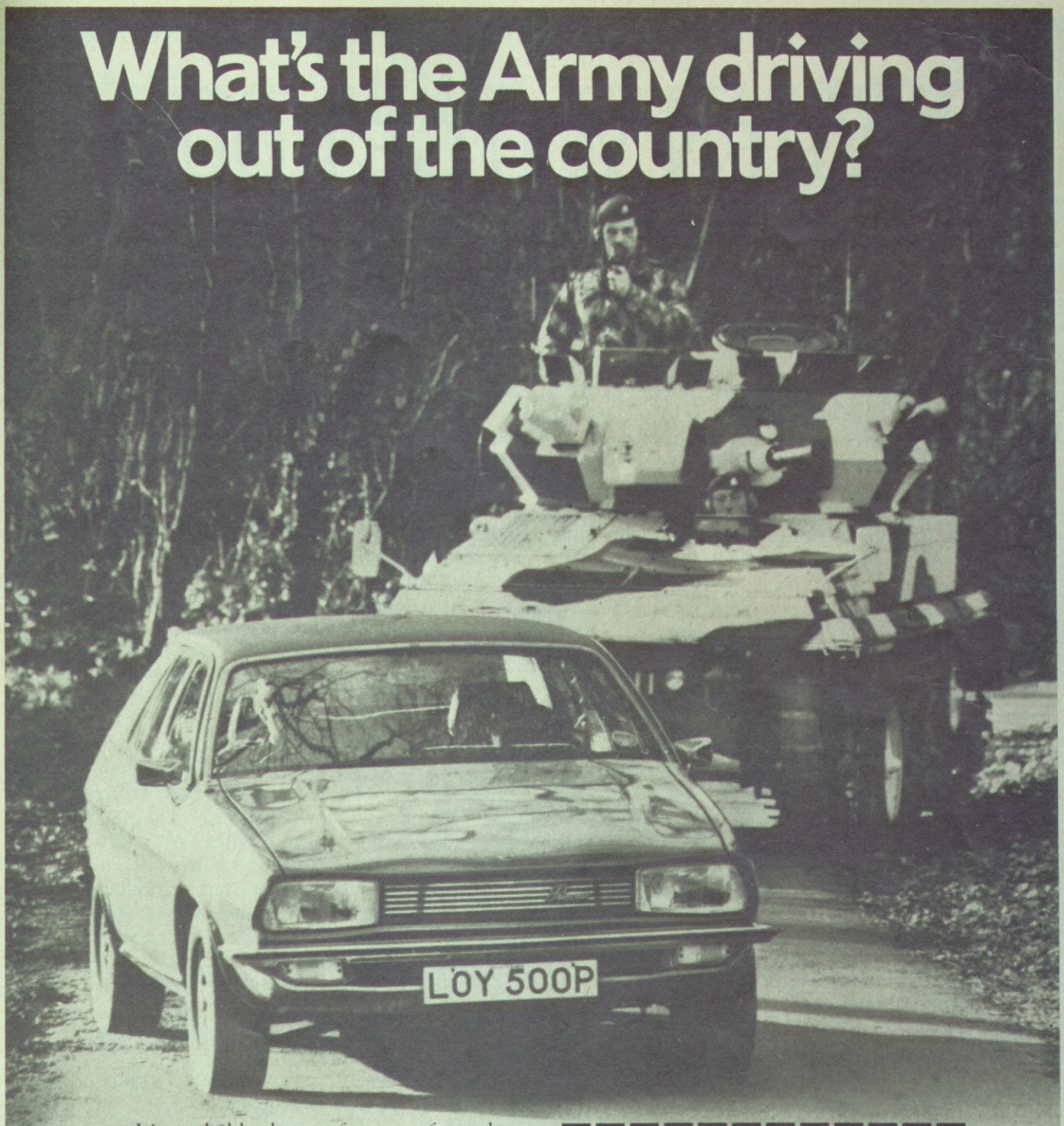
Scrapbooks started in 1859 and nostalgic photograph albums record the Volunteer story and it is here in the archives that we find one of the museum's most intriguing possessions. This is the complete set of Shropshire Volunteer records dating back to the Tudor musters of the 16th century with the names of archers, bowmen and billmen—22 of the billmen were recruited on the very site of the present drill hall.

John Jesse

Admin Officer:	Captain A R Lowe
Trustee:	Mr G Archer Parfitt
Address:	The Drill Hall Coleham Shrewsbury
Telephone:	Shrewsbury 4932
Open:	Monday to Friday, 0900 to 1700; evenings and weekends when the drill hall is open for training
Closed:	Public holidays and weekends except when drill hall is used for training
Entrance:	Free
To get there:	S20 bus from Barker Street bus Station.

Next month:
The Shropshire Yeomanry Shropshire RHA

What's the Army driving out of the country?



It's probably the tax-free cars, from the Company that's building the Army's Scimitars and Land-Rovers: Leyland.

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WHEN you've been in the armed forces for a while, you take certain things more or less for granted.

Companionship, for example. Esprit de corps. The feeling of belonging. Call it what you will. It doesn't exist in civvy street.

And many ex-service people who were convinced that they'd be happy when they got out find it hard to settle and make friends.

Then again, many civilian jobs offer no possibility for people who've been in the forces to exercise the abilities their training has given them.

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Everybody turns out.

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All in all, it's not surprising that a large number of ex-service people make successful careers for themselves in the Met.

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Royal Pioneer Corps

Story: John Walton / Pictures: Paul Haley

Adding skills to strength

THE badge of the Royal Pioneer Corps incorporates a pick and shovel. And ever since the corps came into being as the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps, early in World War Two, that has been its image — of men who dig holes and hump boxes around. The navvies of the British Army.

But when you go to Simpson Barracks at Northampton, now more firmly established than ever as the centre for the Pioneers (the directorate recently moved there from London), this image soon takes a knock. A group of soldiers is driving pallet transporters and forklift trucks around obstacle courses, picking up and delivering on the way. They are Pioneers — and you learn that for years now the role of the corps has become increasingly more automated and mechanised.

Of course strong backs are still necessary and always will be. And the Pioneers do take in more lads of lower educational standards. Recruits (there were 384 of them in 1974-75) go to Northampton for 15 weeks' training before being posted either to a company in the United Kingdom or to a platoon in Northern Ireland, Germany or Cyprus. Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Hainsworth, an ex-sailor who commands the RPC Training Centre, admits there is a higher-than-average wastage during the 15 weeks.

But for lads with poor educational backgrounds, there is a special detachment of the School of Preliminary Education. And a gruelling physical training programme sees many enter with an E on the Army physical fitness test and pass out as grade A. Says Colonel Hainsworth: "It's very satisfying. It is a reclamation job and when they leave here they are physically fit and by no means dim."

The mechanised face of today's Royal Pioneer Corps. Forklift trucks weave their way round an obstacle course.

Major Ron Wildgoose, whose long military career has included a spell as regimental sergeant-major of The Queen's Division, commands the Training Company. "We place great stress on the physical side because Pioneers have to do a lot of fetching and carrying — and our drill instructors really wade into the recruits. Within three weeks there is a noticeable difference. Providing a chap can read and write and understand the three Rs we will do the rest."

Over in the gymnasium a dozen recruits were working hard in various positions on a Heath Robinsonish Polygym — one of the few used in the Army. The twelve men all worked at once on a variety of exercises designed to develop different muscles. On the shout of "change" from the physical training instructor, Sergeant Robert Kelly, they all moved round one position and started a new exercise.

The recruits also do a lot of conventional gymnasium work, pole carrying, running and so on. Sergeant Kelly told SOLDIER: "When they come in the standard is very low but by eight weeks they improve 75 per cent and by the end of their training they really are good."

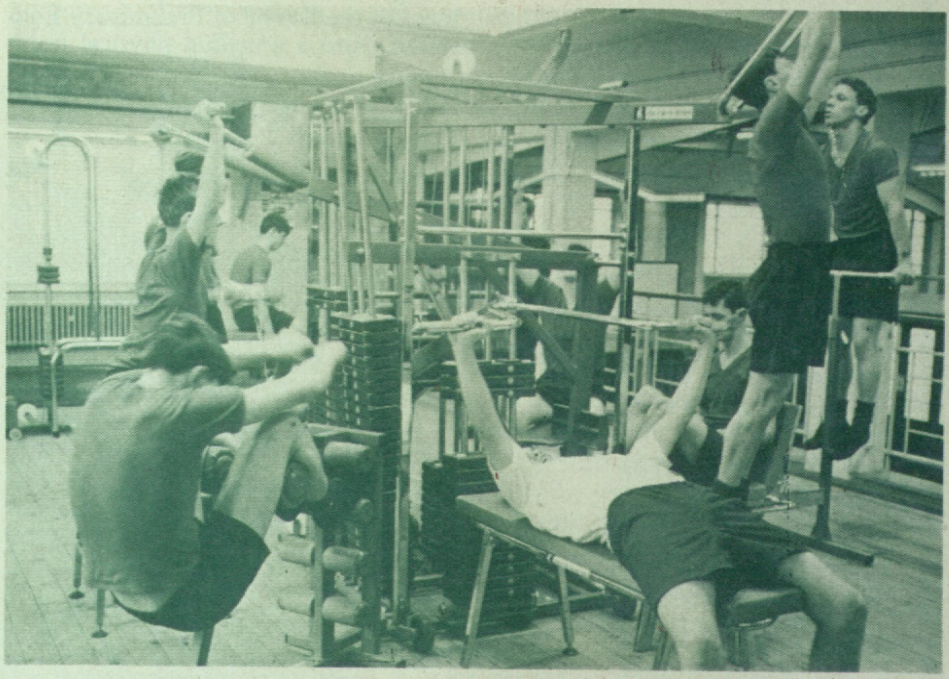
The Pioneers have built up quite a reputation in judo circles and recently won the Eastern District championships. Among the physical training instructors are Corporal Stuart Travis, British under-21 middleweight champion, Army lightheavyweight, open champion and a black belt third dan, and Private Ray Hodson, a black belt first dan who has represented the Army at international level.

In the 13th week of their training, recruits are taken off to a camp at Beckingham, Lincolnshire, for a spell of intensive field training. The battle camps were introduced in 1974 by Captain John Robb, training officer and ex-Black Watch, after he found that field training at Northampton was (in his words) "very much below standard." Sections going to battle camp take on the role of defence and employment platoon, one of the Pioneers' tasks in war. Some lads become enemy infiltrators and are either eliminated or captured. Traditional pioneer skills are not forgotten either — the men dig their own trenches which are later inspected by instructors.

Captain Robb told SOLDIER: "We try very hard to stretch the men as much as we can at Beckingham. There is no Naafi or beer bar, no welfare facilities and we discourage smoking. They get very little sleep in the five days and nights they are here. The day starts at 0545 with a road run and we seldom finish before midnight. Even then there is guard duty. We keep them away from the soft life and comforts which do not add up to good soldiering."

Assault courses, bayonet fighting, shooting, tactical and field training, map reading and pioneer special-to-arm training — all are fitted into the crowded hours at Beckingham. Two weeks later the recruits pass out into their Army careers.

But it is not the recruits who learn to drive the forklift trucks and pallet



Above: Carrying a heavy log at top speed is part of the recruit course.

Right: All sorts of muscles working at the same time — the Polygym.

Below right: A judo demonstration from experts for some of the new recruits.

Below: Another vehicle at the Pioneer School, the Eager Beaver, at work.

transporters at Northampton. These are taught to students at the Pioneer School which, instructors point out, is an all-arms school with exactly the same status as the Royal School of Artillery, the School of Military Engineering and all the other Army schools. One course is for section commanders; the Royal Pioneer Corps is probably unique in that it will send perhaps 24 men to a far-flung spot on the globe without any officer. The courses are to fit sergeants for this kind of work.

The materials handling equipment training covers the Eager Beaver, an industrial forklift truck and a range of pallet transporters. Senior instructor Major John Hickman says: "We have been using forklift trucks as long as the Army has. Now the Army is geared to a logistics system which requires mechanical materials handling and we have been geared to a greater capability to operate within that system." Other courses for soldiers include one for general duty non-commissioned officers and clerks in personnel and there is a new course on man-management and management for junior non-commissioned officers. This aspect is very important to the Royal Pioneer Corps. For, while the ditch-digging image persists, it is a fact that officers in the corps are Rhine Army's industrial relations troubleshooters and peacemakers. This specialist role is why the Pioneers are now developing their own breed of officer rather than, as happened in the past, transferring in from other regiments or even services.

Major Hickman has taken eight of the 11 available outside courses on personnel management and management and says that by the time any Pioneer officer has served a period in the rank of major he will have similar university level qualifications.

The civilian labour force in Rhine Army is currently 30,000 and the personnel management function is carried out by the Royal Pioneer Corps. Courses at Simpson Barracks train corps officers and also officers from all arms as, in effect, line managers. In Germany the RPC officer will provide a management service over an area perhaps 50 or 60 miles long or wide and embracing as many as 30 or 40 units and 3000 employees.

Amazing changes sometimes take place in the attitudes of officers as they are brought face-to-face with industrial reality by means of the courses. Asking an officer to play the role of a shop steward in simulated negotiations is always interesting and worthwhile.

The arrival of the Directorate of Army Pioneers and Labour has set the seal on Northampton as the corps centre. Lieutenant-Colonel Gerry Walker, one of the directorate's officers, sums up the Royal Pioneer Corps today: "We are always conscious that one origin of the corps was to provide a mass of 'unskilled' labour to do what were in fact fairly skilled tasks. Now we have rather more formalised these tasks. When you see the adverts saying 'the professionals' you can truly say that about the Royal Pioneer Corps."

Above: Captain Don Belgum explains string diagram used in work study.

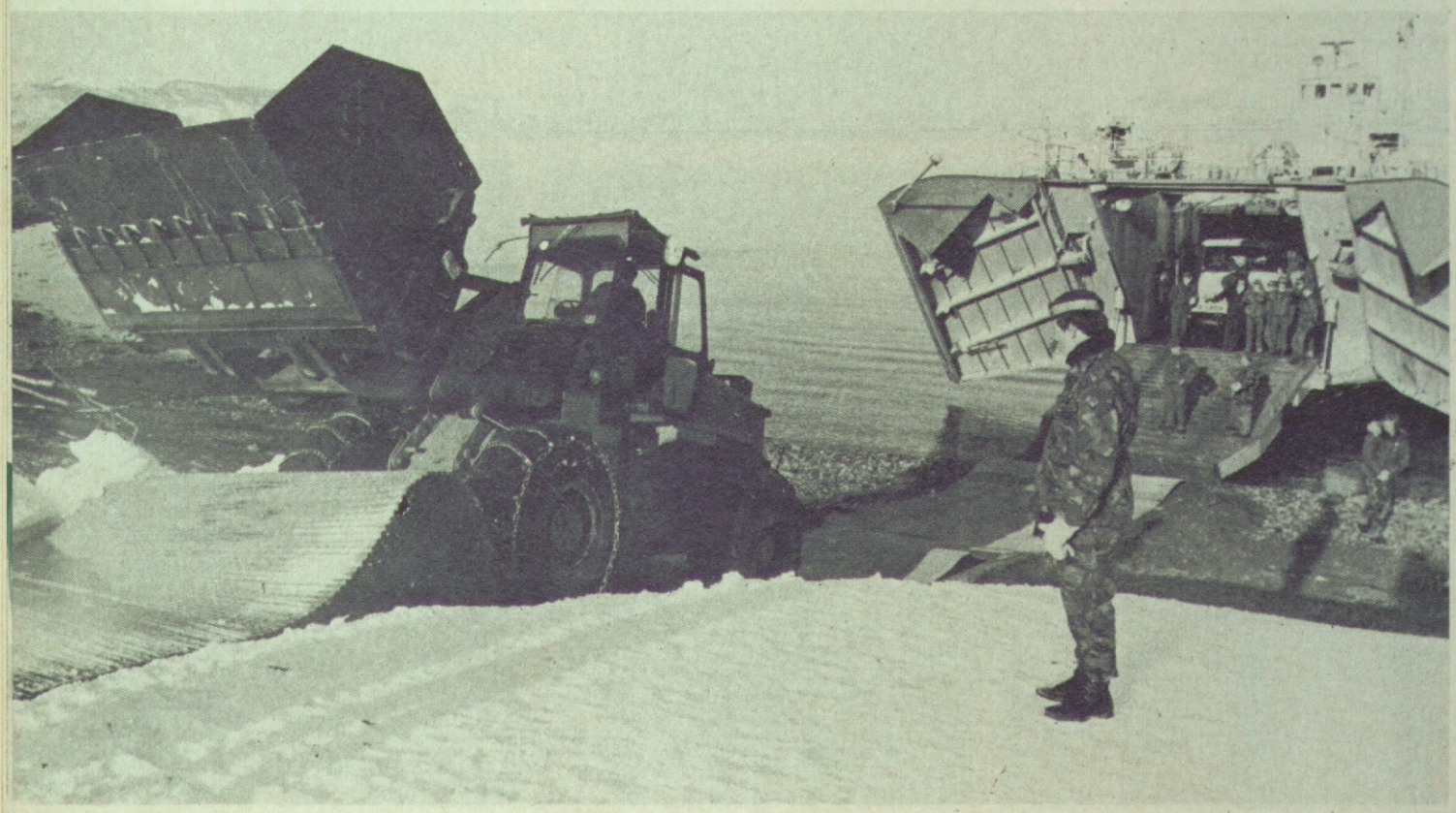
Right: Industrial negotiations. Some play boss, others the unions.

Below right: Battle camp and a guerrilla is captured by the Pioneer patrol.

Below: Recruits in final weeks preparing for their passing out parade.

Sappers at sea

by Mike Starke



THE Royal Engineers' motto "Ubique" ("Everywhere") is no idle boast. They appear on land, drop out of the sky and, as members of 59 Independent Commando Squadron, come from the sea.

Home for the commando sappers is Plymouth, alongside the Royal Marines they support with their specialist skills. Here they have Support Troop, 1 Troop and 3 Troop as well as the headquarters. In Malta, 2 Troop supports 41 Commando Group and in Arbroath, Scotland, Condor Troop — specialising in Arctic and mountain warfare — supports 45 Commando Group.

Proud wearers of the Royal Marines' coveted green beret, 59 Squadron members tend to set themselves apart from the ordinary. Major Garth Hewish, until recently commanding the squadron, said: "We're specialists in that we're all volunteers for this particular posting and our means of transport — by ship — is different from that of ordinary Royal Engineers."

There is an affinity with the airborne sappers of 9 Independent Parachute Squadron (see SOLDIER, September 1975) from which some of the squadron personnel have come. The squadron's association with Commando Forces began in Singapore in the 1960s. In April 1971 it became a fully fledged commando squadron under the command of 3 Commando Brigade, Royal Marines.

A major difference for sappers accustomed to life on land is that the squadron goes ship-borne into action. The emphasis of the squadron's task is to get commando forces over a beach, to clear mines and booby traps and lay trackway for vehicles over difficult terrain, plus demolition work. One of the squadron's tasks is to augment the amphibious beach unit which lives on board ship on operations and gets the commando force over any beach it attacks.

Once the Royal Marines are safely over the beach-head, the sappers are called on for normal combat engineer tasks such as bridging and minefield breaching, and assisting the mobility of troops as well as other traditional corps tasks of demolitions, water supply and route improvement. In major sea-borne assaults, helicopters play a vital role and on occasion the men of 59 Squadron take to the air, as well as the sea, to fulfil their part of an operation.

From what is an unusual unit, Condor Troop emerges as a unique organisation. It concentrates on Arctic and mountain warfare and as such supports commando forces on NATO's northern flank. In the bitter cold of the Arctic north the troop has not only to survive but do its job getting Royal Marines across their beach-head and into battle. SOLDIER watched a beach-head established by commandos in Norway as Norwegian tank landing craft ferried men and equipment to the shore.

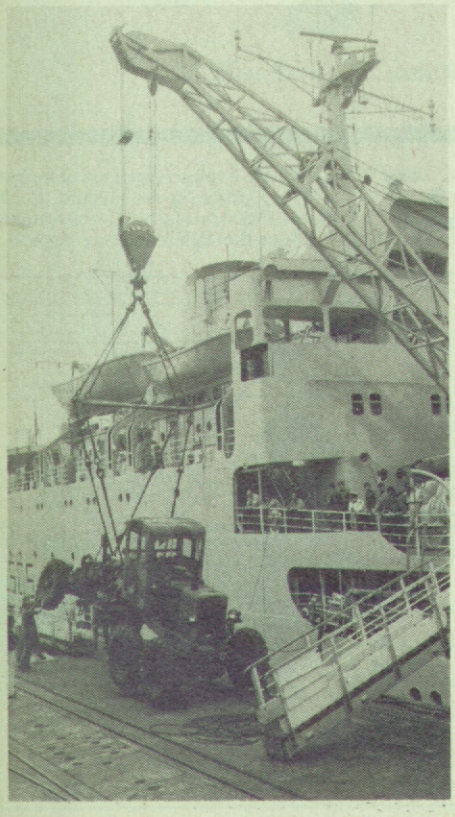
Mighty Michigan tractors of the amphibious beach unit eased first over the ramps of the LCTs. Then came the tricky task of laying class 30 trackway over shingle and deep, frozen snow to carve a road for more vehicles between the shore-line and the coastal road. On glassy ice hardened by a winter frost,

Above: Sappers go on death slide from the Citadel ramparts in Plymouth.

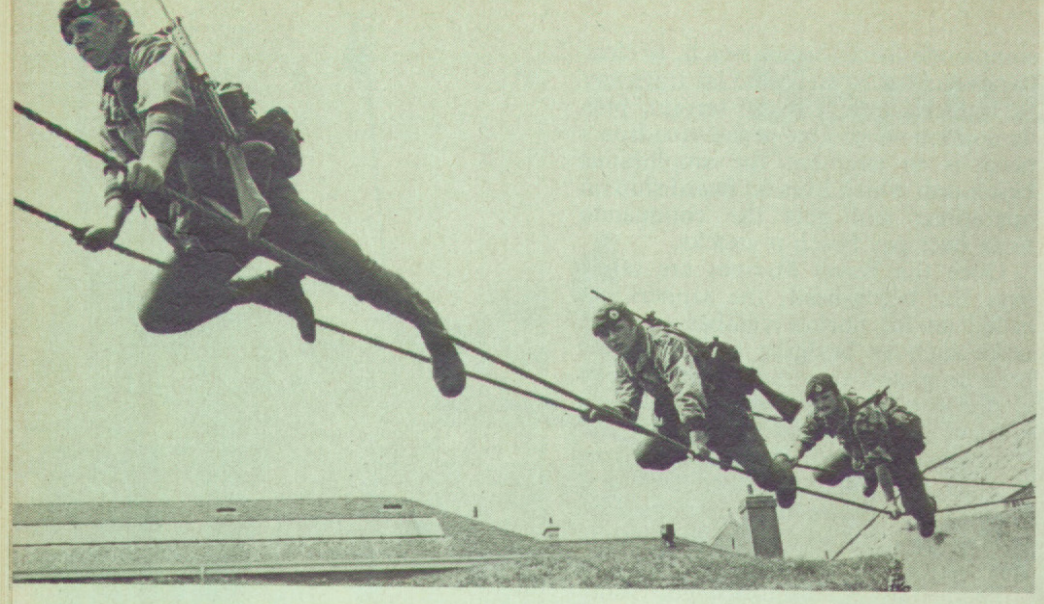
Right: Up to their armpits in muck and water on the Commando training.

Left: Giant Michigans prepare a beach in Norway for the men and vehicles.

Below: 59 Squadron equipment is put aboard a Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship.



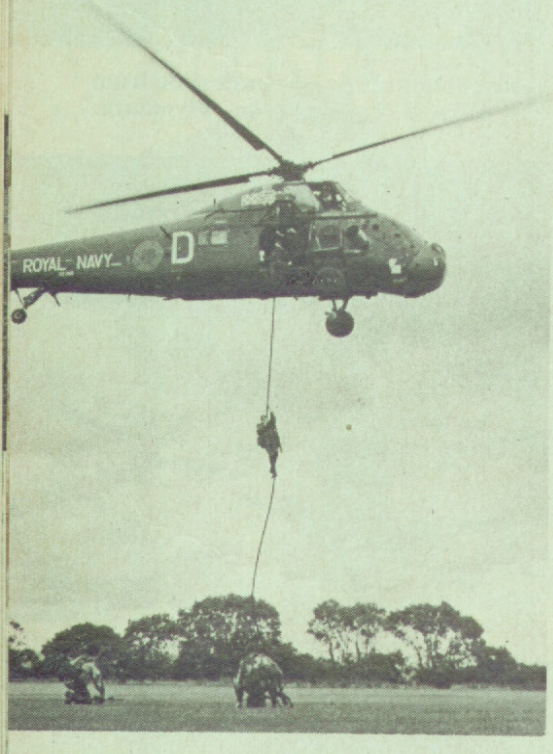
Below: Marching to a green beret on an endurance trek at Lympstone.



"Now clap your hands!"—a test calling for all one's strength and agility.

Left: Helicopter drills are mastered by the squadron's sea and airborne men.

Below: Going like the clappers on a job for the community lowering a bell.



even the sturdy steel teeth of wheel chains wrapped around the Michigans' tyres failed to grip at times, emphasising the special difficulties of superimposing Arctic conditions on a normally simple sapper task.

Training for this job is done in Scotland as well as Norway during the normal three-year posting to the squadron. Says the present squadron commander, Major Geoffrey Field, "Everyone starts life in 59 Squadron in Plymouth—we then select suitable volunteers for Condor Troop.

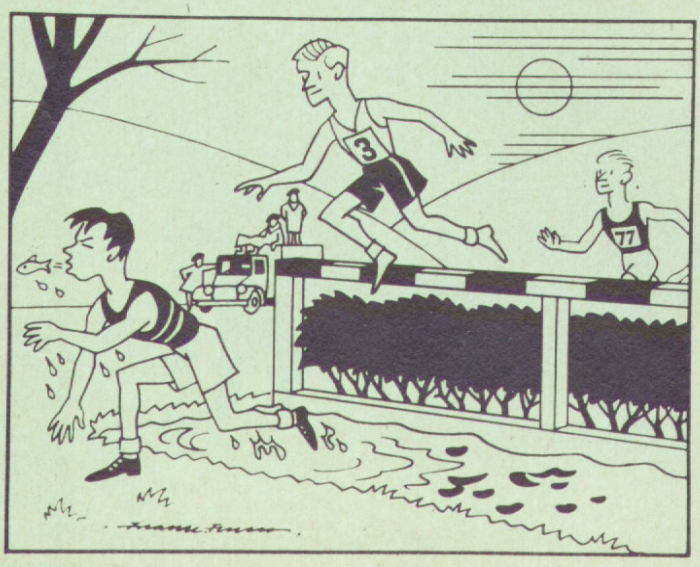
The squadron is some 265 strong and recruits are first introduced to it at Crown Hill Fort, Plymouth, for a "pipe opener" of a fortnight before three weeks' pre-commando training with 29 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery. This prepares them for the gruelling commando training course at Lympstone which tests mind and body to the limits. But the emphasis here is on making, rather than breaking, a recruit and if he succeeds he is awarded the green beret, recognised worldwide as a badge of fortitude and endeavour.

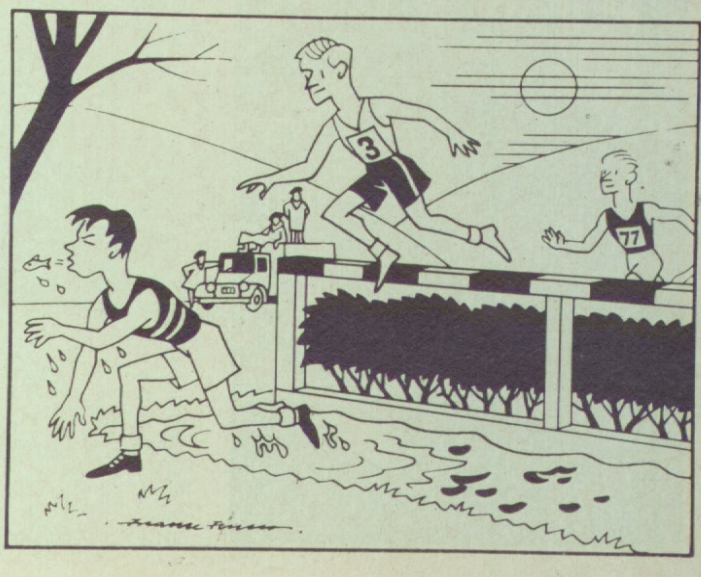
Like the Marines they serve alongside, the men of 59 Independent Commando Squadron are adaptable. They have done their stints in Northern Ireland and their services to the community while based at home have covered a wide variety of jobs including the delicate task of lowering church bells from their tower. In addition they have carried out two major road-building tasks in the United States and Kenya in recent years.

For as well as having to live up to their Marine adaptability, the squadron's sappers must adhere to their own corps' tradition and motto — Ubique.

How observant are you?

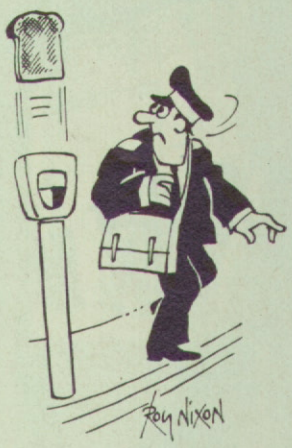
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 43.



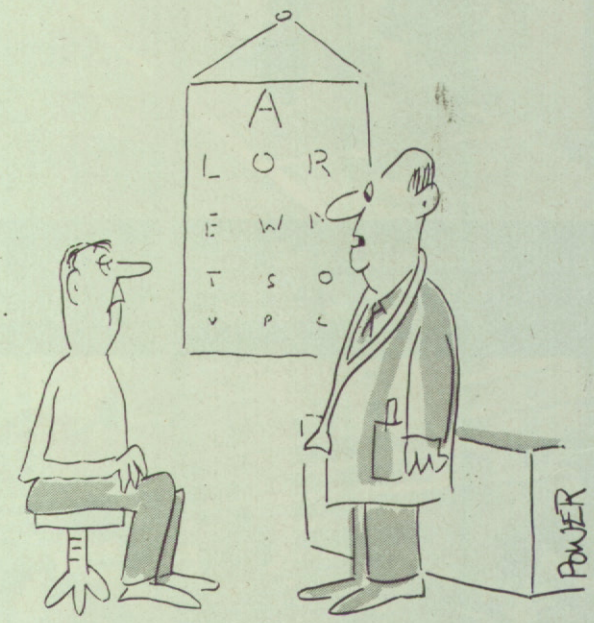


Humour

"Cut out the comedy!"



"Wait for it . . . wait for it!"

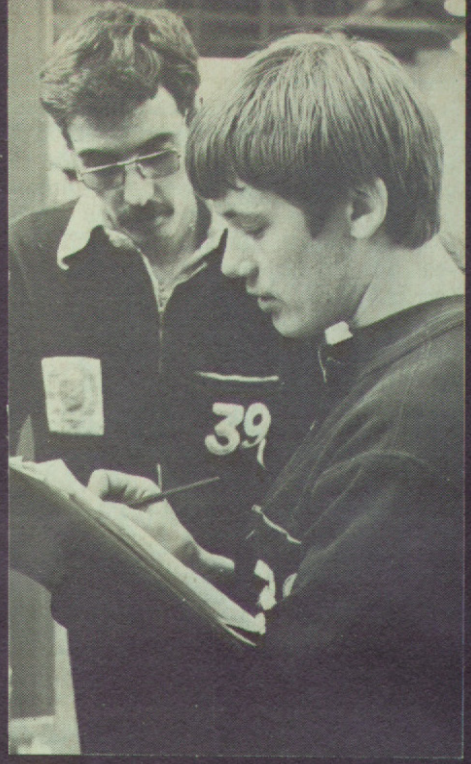


"First thing is to build you up for a medical discharge."

"We can do with this — the ground is so hard."

"It's what we call a dead heat, Your Majesty."

Above: A strenuous tunnel-ball relay limbers up competitors for a Sports-team round at Stoughton Barracks.



Above right: Private Bob Durant (left) and Corporal Charlie Salmon check the programme to see what's next.

Good Sports

FOUR members of 39 Army Youth Team at Guildford were kept busy in the Easter holidays when some 60 youngsters "invaded" Stoughton Barracks each day to take part in nearly a week of competitions to determine the winner of a mammoth Sports-team contest.

Sergeant "Smokey" Field, Corporal Charley Salmon, Privates Bob Durant and Steve Horsfall, all of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, answered a plea for help from the Guildford Holiday Fun Association which provides out-of-term activities for youngsters.

The Sportsteam Trophy idea was based roughly on the television "It's a Knockout" notion but with less elaborate games. It comprised volleyball, gymnastics, ·22 shooting, trampolining, darts, basketball penalties, football penalties, skittles, Bren gun race and team relays. Each team of five had to compete in the relay event and then choose seven of the remaining nine events in which four team members each had to compete.

As well as organising the contest, the youth team also designed and made a handsome trophy which was presented to the winners by Mr Gordon Richards who has a long-standing connection with British sport at national and international level.

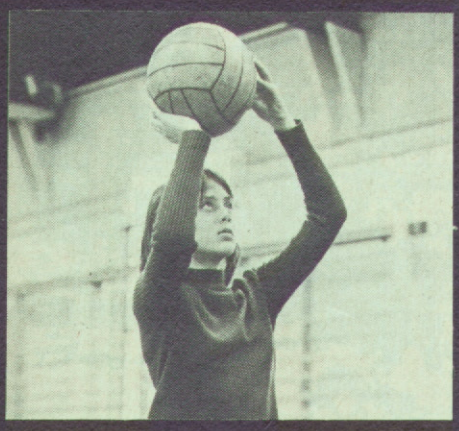
The trophy finally went to Heathside Youth Club. 2nd was Holiday Fun Team F, 3rd Gurneys' Team B, 4th Holiday Fun Team E, 5th Guildford Boys' Club, 6th Holiday Fun Team I. And the lads of 39 Army Youth Team were declared winners all round for the effort they put in on the behalf of the young competitors.

Above: Warming up exercises stretch a few stiffened young muscles in the gym.

Below: Bob Durant herds the youngsters in a circle during warming up.

Above: The Bren gun race-carrying the gun and donning floppy clothes was a source of amusement to spectators.

Above: A young contestant gets a bit of tuition on the trampoline before taking part in that particular sporting event.

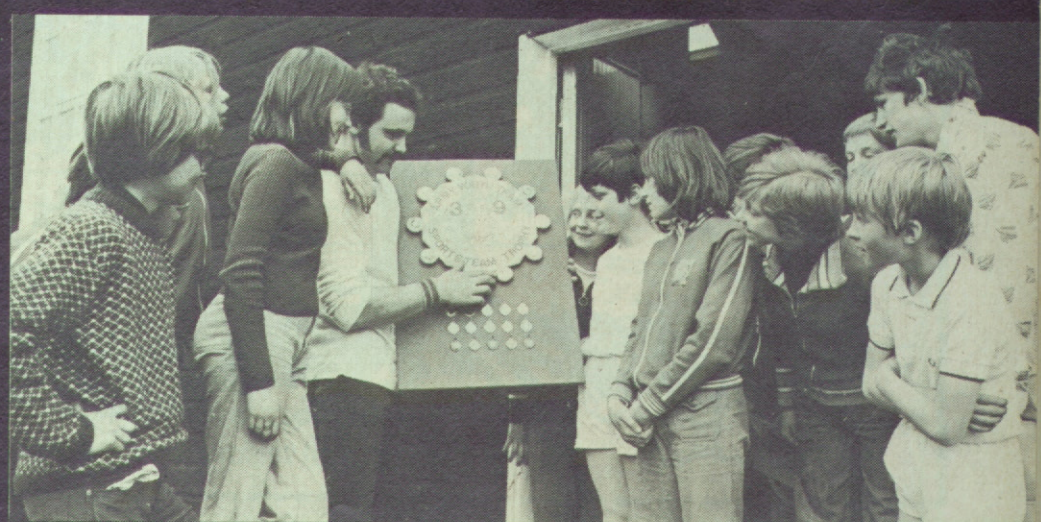


Below: As many press-ups as possible in a given time was a gymnastic test.

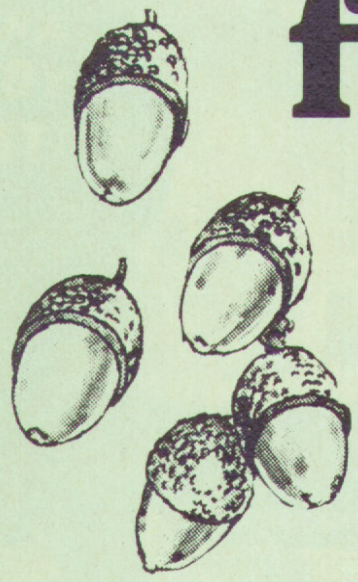
Below left: Concentration etched on a young face in basketball penalties and (below) the improvised skittle alley.

Above: Keen young competitors crowd to the scoreboard to check results.

Below: Sergeant "Smokey" Field showing off a trophy the team made.



from little acorns...



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- ■ Grantham - Harrowby Lane 7,875
- ■ Heckington †
- ■ Leasingham - St John's Close 15,150
- ■ Lincoln - Doddington Park †
- ■ Lincoln - Greenlands East 6,900
- ■ Lincoln - Greenlands West 7,585
- ■ Lincoln - Sudbrooke Park †
- ■ Lincoln - Tritton Road †
- ■ Metheringham - Drury Street 7,950
- ■ Middle Rasen 12,995
- ■ Sleaford - Lincoln Road 7,715
- ■ Stamford - Pembroke Road 7,950
- ■ Waddington - Cliff Gardens 8,125

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- ■ East Dereham - Beetley †
- ■ Heacham - Lodge Road 8,685
- ■ North Walsham 9,470
- ■ Tasburgh - Treetops 7,980
- ■ Thetford †

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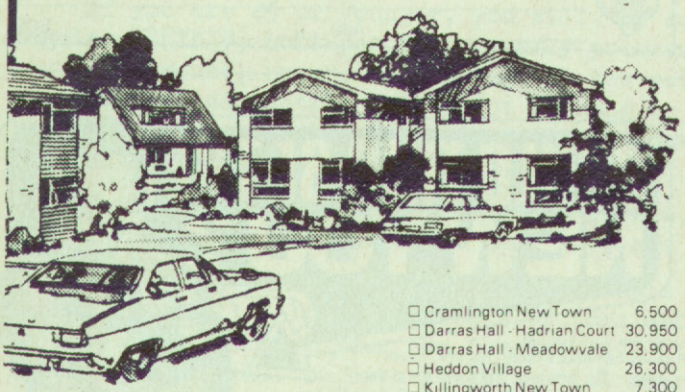
- □ Brixworth 8,850
- ■ Thrapston - Titmarsh 17,00

NORTHUMBERLAND

- □ Bedlington 6,950



- □ Cramlington New Town 6,500
- □ Darras Hall - Hadrian Court 30,950
- □ Darras Hall - Meadowvale 23,900
- □ Heddon Village 26,300
- □ Killingworth New Town 7,300
- □ Morpeth - Ulgham 19,350
- □ Newcastle - Denton Burn 7,250
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- □ Bridlington - Bempton Park 6,995
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- □ Market Weighton 7,700
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- □ Nottingham - Hucknall 7,300
- □ Shirebrook 7,350

SOMERSET

- ■ Coxley †
- ■ Milborne Port - Gainsborough 9,090

STAFFORDSHIRE

- ■ Uttoxeter - Byrds Lane 5,990

SUFFOLK

- ■ Bury St Edmunds - Northgate Avenue 9,645
- ■ Bury St Edmunds †
- ■ Needham Market - Chain House 8,990
- ■ Sudbury 12,000

TEESSIDE

- □ Billingham 7,200
- □ Darlington 10,900
- □ Guisborough 7,150
- □ Marton 9,450
- □ Nunthorpe - High Gill 13,650
- □ Nunthorpe - Runnymede Park 12,950

WILTSHIRE

- ■ Wootton Nassett 9,165

WORCESTERSHIRE

- □ Redditch †

YORKSHIRE - NORTH

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- □ Catterick - Oran Lane 7,995
- □ East Ayton 9,650
- □ Harrogate - The Dales 11,950
- □ Harrogate - Forest View 7,995
- □ Hunmanby 7,695
- □ Malton - Norton 8,950
- □ Pickering - Firthland Road 7,495
- □ Ripon - Sharowgreen 16,500
- □ Ripon †
- □ Stamford Bridge - Beagle Wood 12,995
- □ Stamford Bridge †
- □ Scarborough - Springhill Rise 15,995
- □ Scarborough - Castle Mount 15,995
- □ Thirsk 7,995
- □ Whitby †
- □ York - Copmanthorpe 9,950
- □ York (Haxby) - Headlands 7,695
- □ York - Shipton Road 9,750
- □ York - Dunnington 11,495
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- □ York - Skelton †

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- ■ Bingley - Eldwick 10,875
- ■ Bradford - Cemetary Road 7,475
- ■ Bradford - Clayton 7,895
- ■ Bradford - Cutler Heights 8,400
- □ Bradford - Gomersal †
- ■ Bradford - Polard Park †
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- □ Burley-in-Wharfedale 10,995
- □ Doncaster †
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- □ Leeds - Farsley - Newlands 7,700
- □ Leeds - Farsley New Street 9,995
- ■ Leeds - Horsforth †
- □ Leeds - Horsforth †
- □ Leeds - Rawdon 7,850
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- □ Sheffield - Chapletown 8,050
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- ■ Skipton - Hurrs Road †
- □ Wakefield - Clayton West †m
- □ Wakefield - Kirkthorpe 6,850
- □ Wakefield - Wrenthorpe 8,850
- □ Wakefield - Potovens Lane †
- □ Wakefield - Sandal 11,750
- □ Wetherby - Badger Wood Glade 11,500
- □ Wetherby - Partridge Wood Hill 16,995

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- □ Prestatyn - Crud-y-Craig 6,900

Scotland

Prices from £

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- □ Ayr - Doonbank 28,500
- □ Blackwood †
- □ Bo'ness 14,500
- □ Cairneyhill 8,750
- □ Carluke - The Nurseries 9,950
- □ Coatbridge 9,500
- □ Dundee - Inchture 13,500
- □ Dunfermline - Pittcothlie Park 9,500
- □ Dumfries 7,800
- □ Edinburgh 13,000
- □ Glasgow †
- □ Kilwinning 10,100
- □ Kilmarnock †
- □ Law †
- □ Mid Calder 9,950
- □ Milton of Campsie - Baldoran 9,700
- □ Milton of Campsie - Valleyfield 18,400
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- □ Renfrew †
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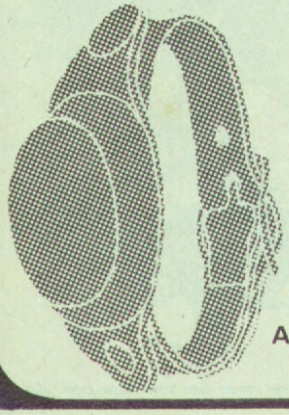

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SOLDIER NEWS

Pull-out supplement SOLDIER June 1976

PAY REVIEW

New rates of pay will be in bank accounts on 1 June 1976.

(Paymaster-in-Chief)

RFEA'S BIG BATTLE

"In this current very difficult employment situation the ex-Regular is doing well because he is reliable, adaptable, versatile and reasonably mobile," said General the Lord Bourne of Atherstone, President of the Regular Forces Employment Association, at its annual meeting.

What Lord Bourne described as a "bad year for unemployment" was reflected in the annual report of the association. Of 31,237 men and women released from the Services about a third (10,209) registered with the association and two-thirds of these (6710) obtained work through it.

The report notes 350 ex-Regular other ranks registered as unemployed for more than six months after their discharge. Lord Bourne revealed that this figure had now climbed to 500 but added "as a percentage I don't think it is too bad."

He asked the 42 RFEA local employment officers not to allow frustration to take over and told them: "This is the very situation the Regular Forces Employment Association was designed to meet."

The placing rate was the lowest for many years. As the employment situation deteriorated so the number of vacancies notified to the association decreased, and this was particularly apparent during the latter half of the year.

The report notes: "In this situation branches undoubtedly benefited from the goodwill which had been built up with employers over the years. It was noticeable that many employers continued to give the association first chance of vacancies, while others were still prepared to interview a man, and subsequently to take him on, even though they had not advertised a vacancy."

Types of employment found also varied from the past. Only 12 of the 43 police forces in England and Wales, for instance, had vacancies to offer to servicemen. There were increases in the number of those who found employment with Service establishments, Government departments, local authorities and hospital administration. But there were marked reductions in those accepted by the Post Office, nationalised industries and industry generally—security work being one of the few fields with an increase.

The association's income from all sources during the year amounted to £159,783 in 1975. This included a total of £31,204 from the Army—mostly from the Army Benevolent Fund.

Rear-Admiral T B Homan, Director-General of Naval Personnel Services, seconding the adoption of the annual report, said the personnel departments of all three Services attached great importance to the work of the association.

He said servicemen had special qualities—of integrity, high sense of duty and responsibility, self-reliance, inter-dependence, adaptability, tolerance, loyalty. "But the modern serviceman is different as well. The many changes in our society are to be found reflected in our servicemen of today . . .

"He or she is better educated, more aware of and alert to all that goes in the country and in the world. He is better paid and now very much on terms of comparability with those employed on equivalent jobs in civilian life. His and her horizons are wider, their ambitions and potential greater, their chances better. They belong to and reflect a society which has fast lost and is still losing its differing levels."

Admiral Homan said these developments had brought recruiting and retention problems for the Services. He continued: "We have had to look carefully at all aspects of Service conditions—at the attractions of Service life—and particularly we have had to consider very specially the views of the Service wife, whose influence has come so much to the fore. Progress has been made in these respects but will need to be maintained—we would be unwise to be deluded by the recent sharp improvements in recruiting and retention which have come about largely as a result of the economic recession and the growth of unemployment."

One of the most important aspects was resettlement, for today's serviceman and his wife—and the servicewoman—looked further than the end of their noses. Although courses could not be directed at other than their primary aims every opportunity was taken to seek acceptance that a Service course or particular experience qualified a man in whole or part for a job outside.

"If we are to achieve satisfactory recruiting and retention rates in the long term we will need to make further advances in this civilian recognition field," he declared.

BOARDING SCHOOL ALLOWANCES

Boarding shool allowance is increased from time to time to take account of significant rises in school fees and the Ministry of Defence is often asked how the increases are calculated.

The system is that there is a list of nearly 300 schools representing the complete spectrum of boarding education from boys' secondary to girls' preparatory and covering independent and maintained schools, the expensive and not so expensive. Each term a letter goes to all these schools and asks for proposed fees in the coming term. When all the replies are received the average percentage increase is calculated and applied to the existing boarding school allowance.

The current rates of allowance represent 70 per cent of the average school fee at the first and second child rate, 83 per cent at the third and 87 per cent at the fourth and subsequent level. These percentages only change when there is a change in boarding school allowance policy as opposed to "cost of living" updating.

(DPS(A))

ADAT PROGRESS

ADAT (Army Dependants Assurance Trust) continues to make progress and must now be counted as one of the largest voluntary life assurance schemes in the world. At the end of March there were 18,267 current members — roughly one in nine of all officers and soldiers. This average figure masks wide differences between units — there is at least one minor unit with almost 100 per cent membership while several infantry battalions can muster fewer than 20 members.

During the first three months of 1976 some 70 officers and soldiers died. Of these only 12 were ADAT members whose dependants are now receiving substantial incomes. In fact the average tax-free payment to dependants of ADAT members who died since the scheme began in October 1973 is £89.95 a month.

ADAT points out that it is a great mistake to believe that one is only at risk when in Northern Ireland. A breakdown of causes of death of 58 ADAT members shows traffic and other accidents causing 24 fatalities, and strokes, cancer, heart attacks and other natural causes a total of 22.

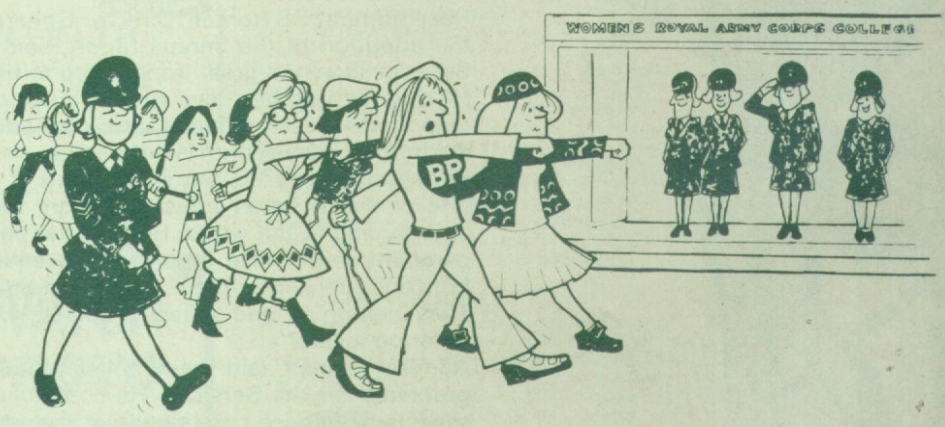
"All officers and soldiers need the protection afforded by ADAT and, at the very least, every married man should join," says the trust. (ADAT)

FASHION COLLEGE

The Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps has given permission for the finals of BP's Travel Clothes Design Competition to be held at the WRAC College, Camberley. The 15 teams of schoolgirls, who are now busy making up their collections, will spend two days at the college on 9-10 October modelling their clothes and answering questions from the judges, one of whom will be a WRAC officer.

The competition is being run by BP on parallel lines to its Buildacar competition for boys' schools, the finals of which take place at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, the previous weekend.

(BP)



"Coming here for the competition is one thing — no one mentioned a march past.

CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS

The new Union Jack complex adjacent to Waterloo Station was the venue for this year's conference of Christian Science Armed Services personnel. In addition to servicemen and women and families a number of Christian Science ministers and their wives attended the week-end gathering.

RECRUITING SATISFACTORY

A total of 1270 recruits came into the Army in February, all but 18 of them adults and young soldiers. Overall level of recruiting in the previous few months was described as "most satisfactory."

(DPR)

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, refused to list the 40 items of relatively low-priced equipment in the Army's general programme which would be reduced, deferred or cancelled. But he did give four examples — the running on of some types of recovery vehicles rather than developing new ones; reducing the requirement for electricity generators; increased use of commercial vehicle designs; and cancellation of power traverse for Scorpion.

● Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth) asked a series of questions about the effect of the Defence Review reorganisation on the parachute forces. Mr Brown said the three territorial battalions of The Parachute Regiment would be retained. HQ 44 Parachute Brigade would be disbanded but the personnel of the headquarters would be allocated new roles.

He said that 16 Parachute Brigade would continue for the time being as a brigade of the United Kingdom Mobile Forces and in due course it would provide the nucleus on which the 6th Field Force headquarters would be formed. The Parachute Regiment would make a contribution to the overall reduction in military manpower but the three Regular parachute battalions would be retained.

At present all members of the three Regular battalions undertook parachute training but only one battalion would be employed in an operational parachute role at any one time. Members of the TAVR battalions would continue to undergo parachute training but their operational role was still under study.

Mr Brown said Regular support units drawn from the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Corps of Transport and Royal Military Police had lost their parachute role. In the future regular elements of the Royal Horse Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers would continue to receive parachute training. The future requirement for TAVR support units was still under consideration.

This year's two-day debate on the Defence White Paper in the House of Commons presented a wide spectrum of opinion. Below is a selection of quotations from the debate.

● Mr Ian Gilmour (Conservative, Chesham and Amersham): "Some people say that we should not criticise the Secretary of State because, after all, even though Labour has been in power for two years we still have some armed forces left to defend us, and that if (Mr Mason) had not been in in his present office, the cuts would have been very much worse. They say that if the Tribune Group had their way, we would be lucky if we were left with more than a detachment of the Clay Cross Home Guard."

● Mr Frank Allaun (Labour, Salford East): "... Conservative Members of Parliament and newspapers regale us with horror stories involving the Red Army sweeping across Europe. We can almost see the Soviet fleet sailing up the Thames or the Manchester Ship Canal."

● Mr J P W Mallalieu (Labour, Huddersfield East): "... I note that in Hong Kong there are still four infantry battalions. I want to know what they are supposed to be doing there. If they are being used for police purposes the whole cost should surely fall on the colony. It is a very wealthy colony and it can afford to pay for them. If, on the other hand, these forces are being kept there to stop the Chinese hordes from bursting through the New Territories into Hong Kong itself, quite seriously we ought to bring them home as soon as possible and put them to practical and safer activities, perhaps in Northern Ireland."

● Mr Tam Dalyell (Labour, West Lothian) (on the possibility of an independent Scottish Army): "For two years I was a tank crewman in what is now The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards ... I was the only Scot in that crew. One other was a Geordie, there was one lad from Barnsley, who was under the happy delusion that Barnsley was an up-and-coming football team in the English League—and there was a Londoner. The composition of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards is not very different nowadays—one in three, or one in four, is a Scot."

● Mr Geoffrey Rippon (Conservative, Hexham): "The plundering tiger and its deadly cubs are moving into Africa, to the detriment not only of British and Nato interests but of the interests of the African people themselves, black and white. Instead of hearing any indication from the Government of the dangers created by the new trends ... we have had produced by them a White Paper in which the whole of our non-Nato responsibilities are dismissed in eight short paragraphs."

● Mr Frank Judd (Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Navy): "The Nato alliance has moved away from the former trip-wire philosophy to one of deterrence by the capability of flexible response. We do not need within this new posture to match the Warsaw Pact forces man for man or gun for gun, but we must be able to make a balanced response to contain any initial aggression, allowing time for diplomatic initiatives to be mobilised.... Our aim is to pose a sufficiently convincing question mark to deter the Warsaw Pact from embarking upon military adventurism in support of its political objectives."

● Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking): "In military terms the tail exists to support the teeth and if we cut the tail we must erode the efficiency of the teeth."

● Mr Judd told Mr Nicholas Winterton (Conservative, Macclesfield) that while there were plans to transport some Royal Marines personnel and vehicles to Norway by merchant ships for an exercise this year it was not by British Rail ferry as Mr Winterton had suggested.

● A plea for more money for Press advertising for the Army Cadet Force was made by Mr James Boyden (Labour, Bishop Auckland). Mr Robert Brown promised to bear the suggestion in mind for the future.

● Mr Brown told Mr Alec Woodall (Labour, Hemsworth) that 2426 applications for information about the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve had been received by the Ministry of Defence alone as a result of the recent recruiting campaign. Many requests has also been made direct to units and TAVR associations.

● The cost of canned fish purchased in 1975/6 under Ministry of Defence contracts was £199,000, Mr Judd told Mr Douglas Henderson (Scottish Nationalist, Aberdeen East).

● Mr Lewis Carter-Jones (Labour, Eccles) asked about Ministry of Defence research and development work which might be of benefit to disabled people. Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, said much of the research undertaken at defence establishments was rather remote from the problems of the chronically sick and disabled but he would ensure that particular attention was paid to possible spin-offs from defence research which might benefit disabled people.

● In the Lords, Lord Davies of Leek asked what progress was being made in restoring the cemeteries of British war dead at Gallipoli in Turkey since the devastation caused by forest fires last year. Lord Winterbottom said that two fires and a freak whirlwind had caused major damage to the planting in nine war cemeteries and lesser damage in others. Flowers, shrubs and trees had now been replanted and a few stones cracked by heat replaced.

INVENTOR GETS £200

Staff Sergeant P H Barbour, now stationed with the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Bordon, has been awarded an extra £200 by the Committee on Awards to Inventors for a suggestion relating to the fitting of handles to the radiator louvres of Scorpions. He had already received a £5 local award at 18 Command Workshop REME and £25 from the Army Technical Suggestions Committee.

During maintenance and repair of the Scorpion light armoured vehicle, whether at unit or in the workshop, it is necessary on every occasion to have the radiator louvre removed to allow access to the interior equipments. Hitherto the heavy and cumbersome armoured louvres had been removed manually but with the assistance of lifting gear.

Staff-Sergeant Barbour's suggestion, which was first adopted locally in 1973, involved drilling the louvre on either side of the air intake, manufacturing lifting handles from mild steel bar and threading to accept nuts. His method is said to save time and labour and improve safety and efficiency. It has been recommended for adoption in respect of both Scorpion and Scimitar. The saving in time is estimated at between 9000 and 18,000 hours a year.

(D/Pats)

LIMBLESS CONCERN

The three armed Services have again substantially contributed to the funds of the British Limbless Ex-servicemen's Association (BLESMA) over the last year and the Army Benevolent Fund has donated £1000 to name another bed at BLESMA's Blackpool residential home on behalf of all the regiments and corps of the Army.

Dr Elizabeth Frankland Moore, honorary secretary of appeal, said: "We are most grateful for this wonderful support for our work. What is so encouraging is that the servicemen of today show such concern for their limbless comrades of two world wars and of the many conflicts in which British servicemen have since been involved."

All kinds of ingenious projects have been devised by the Services to raise funds for BLESMA. They include jumble sales, thrift shops, sponsored walks and climbs, collections in garrison clubs and churches and in officers' wives clubs.

BLESMA's services include grants for the relief of financial hardship; continuing grants to widows; residential homes; rehabilitation training; placing in employment; pensions case-work; and research on artifical limbs and appliances.

(BLESMA)

FIXING SYSTEM

Marconi Communication Systems Limited has received a contract to provide a tactical position fixing facility for use by the British Army. The Ministry of Defence contract calls for the planning, supply and installation of a complete low frequency beacon system which will enable mobile army units operating over unmarked terrain to pinpoint their location in relation to command headquarters. Delivery is scheduled for completion by the autumn. (Marconi)

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Left, right and centre

Five brothers managed a brief reunion in Northern Ireland recently after ten years. Three of them, James, David and Gerald Goldie, all with The Royal Scots, left the province only five days after their other brothers, John and Edward, arrived there for a four-month tour. But the reunion will not be the last for The Royal Scots shortly move to Munster in Germany where 4 RTR have been for the past 18 months.

The award of a clasp to a Long Service and Good Conduct Medal is rare. But Command Pay Office at Moenchengladbach scored a double when two clasps were presented to two Royal Army Pay Corps Officers from the same unit on the same day. Major Chris Hann (left) has 44 years' service and Major Freddie Roberts 36.

In Germany, apparently, some enthusiasts celebrate the arrival of Spring by swimming seven kilometres down the Weser River from Hagenhosen to Hameln. This year, for the second time running, divers from 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment and 35 Engineer Regiment joined forces with the German Life Saving Society for the ceremonial dip. The British divers kept close to their Union Jack all the way down — not just for patriotic reasons — it enabled the safety boat crew to keep them supplied with hot coffee. They intend to make the International Stromschwimmen again next year.

The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the Right Honourable John Miller, got some lively repartee from children at Haig School, Mansergh Barracks, Gütersloh, Germany, recently. The Lord Provost was on a three-day visit to 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, "The Lowland Gunners" whose home is at Mansergh Barracks.

Sergeant Fred Mills, an Army Catering Corps cook stationed with the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, at Munster, won the overall winner title in the Rhine Army cookery competition. Picture shows his winning miniature work in pastillage described as looking like "rare old pottery."

Lieutenant-Colonel David Fairs, commanding officer, signs a Golden Book following a ceremony in which 4 Division Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, was given the Freedom of the German city of Duisburg. In the forefront of the picture is the rose bowl which the RCT presented to Duisburg.

Gibraltar

Piano keeps soldiers in tune

Story: Mike Starke / Pictures: Rifleman Barry Foster

LACK of space on the crowded Rock of Gibraltar has always limited the amount of training the resident infantry battalion can do there during its two-year stay. But 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, has tackled the problem with what its commanding officer describes as: "A piano of things to play on."

Lieutenant-Colonel David Ramsbotham explained the background: "It all started when I came to Gibraltar on my recce. I couldn't find anything much for us to do. There was this old ruined village for urban warfare training and it struck me it had great possibilities." A scale model of Buffadera Village, a collection of ramshackle buildings at the southern end of Gibraltar and overlooked by the Green Jackets' "home" in Lathbury Barracks, was shipped off to the Small Arms School Corps back in England for its experts to develop a scheme to give facilities for a company to operate a two-week training cycle including support weapons. "We didn't want to muck up the village itself as a training facility so we designed this package," added the colonel.

The battalion pioneers put new roofing and shutters on the derelict shells of the village buildings. Two observation points were constructed and abandoned cars and lighting for night operations were planned to give authenticity to this phase one of the project for internal security training. Electric gadgets including booby traps and pop-up targets feature in the scheme. Details like graffiti with a unity of theme and sequences of house numbers have been added too.

A disused shed has been converted into a brand-new anti-tank range complete with moving targets designed to cross the line of fire at right angles or diagonally. This range, based on that at the School of Infantry Support Weapons Wing, is the pride and joy of the anti-tank platoon's men and their deadly accuracy with .22 rounds against the electrically towed model tanks augurs well for their expertise with Wombat full-sized rounds.

A mortar fire control range, which uses puffs of smoke injected through the range base to indicate where a bomb has "landed," has been completely refurbished — largely by Corporal Doug Bull who worked from a map of local territory to build up the three-dimensional scale model for the range. Buildings, hills and dales are accurately represented in wood, wire and sacking, all painted to look realistic. Blue-painted hessian represents sky and the

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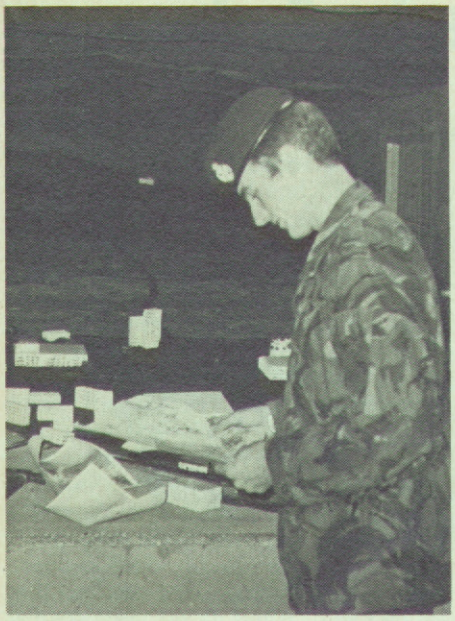

Left: An adjustment is made to the new anti-tank range in an old building on The Green Jackets' new range project.

Above: Corporal Doug Bull checks his maps against the puff range terrain he has carefully reconstructed indoors.

Right: Tiny .22 rounds are fired from the Wombat when training on the range knocking out the model tanks.

lights can be dimmed to simulate different times of day. A painted grid on the floor beneath the model gives instructors the co-ordinates used to judge where to inject the puff of smoke through the sacking model to show students where their aim has been directed.

The Reconnaissance Platoon's "Black Range" is being built in one of several old coastal gun ammunition bunkers which have been pressed into service again on the fringe of the village to act as ranges. Here a three-room complex is being developed which will be furnished like the interior of a house. Variable lighting and pop-up targets will exercise soldiers in target discrimination and acquisition. Battalion pioneers have been busy cladding the walls with rubber sheeting, the floor with aggregate and the ceiling with timber to prevent "splash" from ricocheting bullets.

The slightly larger "Green Range" is being decked out as a street scene for training riflemen. Compartments in the original bunker allow targets and "props" to be installed to practise house-clearing activities and a series of suddenly lit targets is incorporated. Loudspeakers introduce noises of riot, mayhem and gunfire to add realism.

"Beefsteak Range," the biggest part of the project, is being built in one of the many vast tunnels carved out of the Rock. With the help of the Royal Engineers, an underground street complete with brick facades of "houses," is being created. Here again moving targets operated electrically will be fired at, using the SLR weapon "sleeved down" to chamber .22 ammunition.

Each company in the battalion was made responsible for part of the Lathbury package and an immense amount of rubble was cleared in the early stages before detailed work could start. The ranges will become part of the battalion's eight-week cycle of work which also includes watermanship training and border guard duties. As a piece of self-help the project has proved remarkably inexpensive with the only major bill that for the reconnection of an electricity supply.

The colonel concluded: "At the end of July we shall have a pretty good complex of everything right here in Gibraltar."

And the Green Jackets' "piano solo" will be orchestrated into a whole new symphony of training for infanteers who follow them to Gibraltar for a tour of duty.

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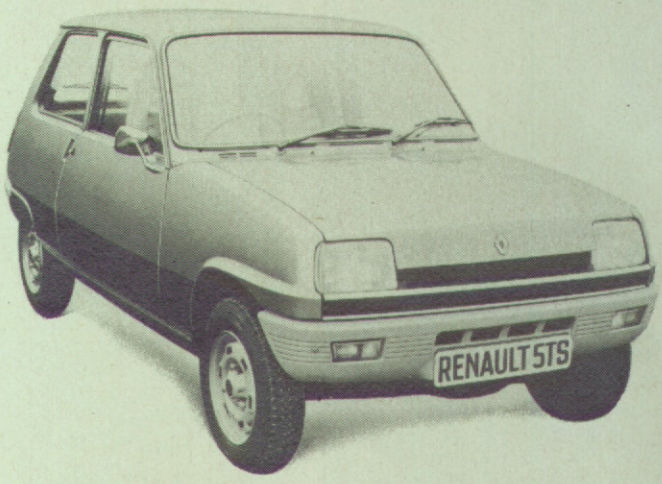

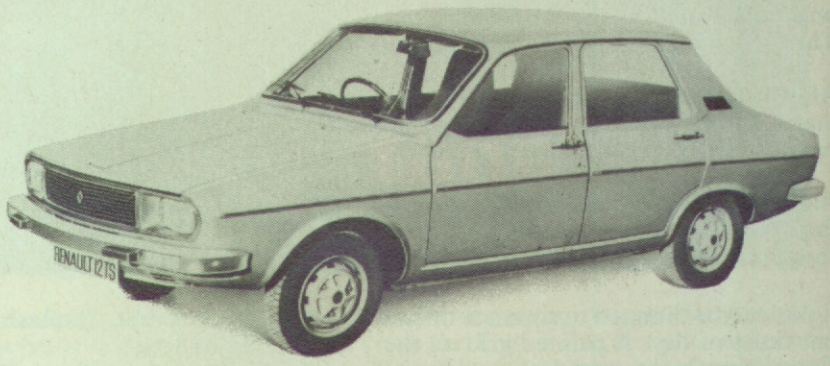

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On top of the world

TWO members of 22nd Special Air Service Regiment have become the 52nd and 53rd people to climb Mount Everest . . . and put the Army on top of the world. Sergeant John "Brummy" Stokes (30) and Corporal Michael "Bronco" Lane (31) conquered the world's highest peak at 1515 on Sunday 16 May after camping for two nights in appalling conditions at the joint British/Nepalese Army expedition's camp six 27.500 feet up the mountain.

After reaching the summit, the triumphant pair were faced by another hazardous night bivouacking near the scene of their success with the weather still bad and were unable to report their achievement for 48 hours. The two soldiers are members of a 33-strong party led by Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Streather, of The Gloucestershire Regiment, who scored a small personal triumph by celebrating his 50th birthday on the slopes of Everest during the early part of the climb.

In worsening weather conditions the mountain was evacuated immediately after news of the success of Stokes and Lane reached the expedition leader. Lieutenant-Colonel Streather had planned two more assaults on the summit but the weather put a stop to that.

A stainless steel plaque was left on top of Everest by Stokes and Lane in memory of the three British officers and one Gurkha rifleman killed on the nearby mountain of Nuptse last year on a training climb in preparation for the Everest attempt. And earlier in the Everest climb one of the party, Captain Terry Thompson, died when he fell into a crevasse 22,000 feet up.

The first successful attempt on Everest, in 1953, was also led by a British Army Officer, Brigadier Sir John Hunt, when Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing crowned the coronation year of Queen Elizabeth II with the glory of their conquest of the mountain.

The two soldiers who followed in their footsteps are both seasoned climbers. Both have climbed extensively in the Alps as well as on other expeditions. Sergeant Stokes, who is seconded from The Royal Green Jackets, joined the Army in 1963 and has served in Cyprus and the Far East. He joined the SAS in 1967. Corporal Lane joined the Royal Artillery in 1961 and has served in the Middle and Far East as well as Cyprus. Both were on the abandoned Nuptse expedition last year.

All but four of the Everest expedition were officers and members of the small Army Mountaineering Association. Each member of the team contributed two months' pay towards the £10,000 cost of the climb and were rewarded by seeing their investment reap the dividend of ultimate success.

Lieut-Col Tony Streather.

Sgt "Brummy" Stokes.

Cpl "Bronco" Lane.

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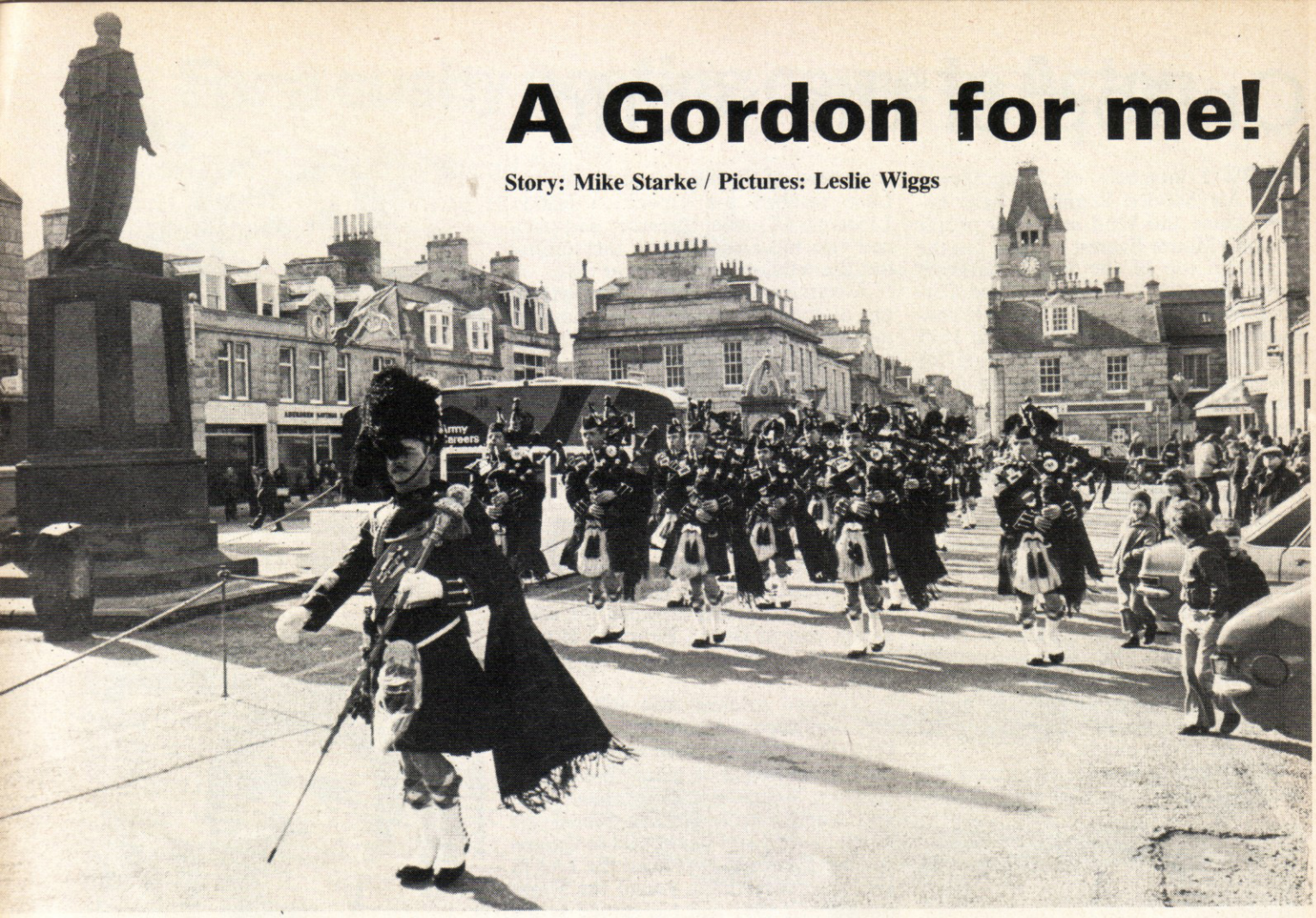
A Gordon for me!

Story: Mike Starke / Pictures: Leslie Wiggs



A skirl of pipes as the Gordons march through the market square at Huntly.

Making sure that everything is spick and span before the exhibition opens.

Below: L/Cpl Ron Birnie (left) and Pte Norman Hunter lay out the silver.

"I WANNA be a soldier," piped a small boy in the still chill of the Scottish evening as men of 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders stood silent, ready to march off after their display. And this was just the reaction the Gordons wanted after some five weeks touring their home Grampian region with parades and displays.

After two years in Singapore the Gordons felt out of touch with the rolling hills of home and decided to get to know their "ane folk" once more before going off to their next posting — 18 months in Northern Ireland.

So, with military thoroughness, the battalion took each of Grampian's new five districts and each company spent a week out "in the field" spreading the word. The pattern was visits to schools on weekdays, an average of four a week, setting up static exhibition stalls depicting all aspects of the life of the Gordons. Evenings were taken up with arena displays and beating Retreat and there were lunchtime marches in towns.

There were informal activities too, with the battalion lending a hand with cadet forces and youth clubs in the area. More formal proceedings started with a skirl of pipes and the beat of drums when the battalion exercised its right of Freedom of Aberdeen by marching through the city with drums beating, bayonets fixed and Colours flying.

The same rights were exercised in the only other town to have granted the Gordons its Freedom, the little market burgh of Huntly in the very heart of Gordon country.

Although companies rotated duties on the five-week tour, the busiest men were those manning the exhibition — some 35 or so — and the 60 musicians making up both the military band and the pipes and drums. For these groups were out for the whole time with the 65-odd arena display personnel and 15 "backroom boys" taking it in turns.

Real results in terms of recruiting figures are not expected until as far ahead as 1980 when many youngsters who expressed an interest in The Gordons during the tour are old enough to do something about it. But the important thing, the battalion felt, was to re-establish links with home after so long in the Far East.

And at Huntly, certainly, when SOLDIER saw the battalion in action on its home front, the big turnout of spectators signalled success. Even the chill, wintry evening did not deter a large crowd from watching the programme of bands, drill, akido, mortar team race, mock battle and urban warfare demonstration.

It was here that the little boy piped up with his: "I wanna be a soldier." And with the canniness traditional among Scots he added: "Nae one o' those pipers but one of those!" pointing to a guard commander resplendent in red sash. Clearly cut out for command, *he* proceeded to get *them* to sign on by passing down the seated row of officer spectators getting autographs from everyone in uniform. Who knows, perhaps he will return the compliment in due course and sign on for them?

The sign says "Antiques" but the Gordons were displaying the latest pieces of kit used by the modern British Army.

Above: This piper brought a smile to the wee lassies' faces. But it was a smile of admiration for his skill on the pipes.

Below: Sergeant Ronnie Henderson and Piper Bill Riggs both come from Huntly. Ronnie teaches piping locally.

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Sport

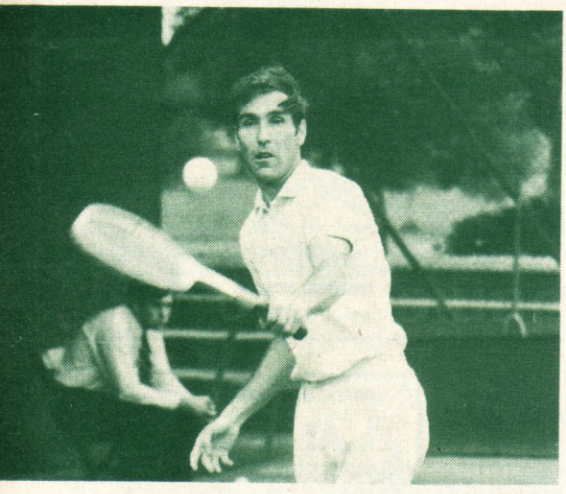
King Willow is back. And Les Lenham of Sussex shows his batting technique.

Cricketers on course for trophy

AS the cricket season gets under way, leading Army players set course for retaining the inter-Service title . . . by taking a course.

For what is believed to be the first time in Service cricket, the players spent a week on a National Cricket Association coaching award scheme which was specially laid on at Sandhurst for a 16-strong squad. The idea was to enhance the personal performance of students in all aspects of the game and — if possible — to qualify them for the NCA coaching award. Army Cap, Major Ian Vaughan-Arbuckle declared: "This should provide a tremendous start to our campaign to retain the inter-Services trophy."

Senior instructor for the course was Les Lenham (Sussex) who is the senior national coach. He was joined by Maurice Hallam (Leicestershire) and Ron Bell (Sussex).



The Ken Rosewall of Army tennis. Major Tony Hilton, a veteran champ.

Anyone for tennis?

A CHALLENGE for any young tennis hopeful seeking stardom in this year's Army lawn tennis championships in July must be the enviable record of Major Tony Hilton, Royal Army Educational Corps. He came to the forefront of Army tennis back in 1958 when, as a young National Service RAEC sergeant, he won the Rhine Army singles championship, was runner-up in the singles in the United Kingdom and was awarded his Army colours.

After National Service he went back to Civvy Street to train as a teacher but rejoined the Army as an RAEC lieutenant in 1965. He represented the Combined Services in 1969 and 1974 and has been awarded Army colours 11 times. In the ten Army championships since 1966 he has passed the previous record of four singles wins by one man and that of three successive wins.

He has appeared in 28 championship finals, winning all but seven. In addition to his five Army singles wins, he has won the inter-arms and corps doubles seven times, being partnered on six of these occasions by Lieutenant-Colonel B Reeves RAEC. In 1969 he achieved the grand slam of four championship wins while carrying the extra burden of tournament secretary.

This year's Army championships are to be held at the Officers' Club, Aldershot, between 26 and 31 July. They are open to all ranks, men and women, still serving on 31 July 1976 and — as far as veterans' events are concerned — to retired male personnel aged 45 or more. Entry forms are available from Lieutenant-Colonel C Baete, Hon Tournament Secretary, Army Dental Centre, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, SO23 8TS.

Something to crow about. WO 2 Peter Robinson receives the Sevens Trophy.

Dukes rule —OK!

THE nickname "Duke of Boots'" takes on a sporting significance for 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. For their dominance of the field tramped by rugby boots has become a living Army legend.

Although they lost to 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, in the major units rugby final this year—a title which they had won 11 times—they retained another major honour by winning the "Courage" Army Sevens contest.

This seven-a-side tournament, sponsored by Courage (Central), the brewers, was first held last year and the Dukes came to the second competition as the defending champions. There were other old favourites among the 16 teams too, including 1st Parachute Logistic Regiment, holder of the Army minor units trophy with its full side and sadly to disappear in the reorganisation of 16th Parachute Brigade before it gets a chance to defend the title next season.

There too were sevens from 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, and 22 Locating Battery, Royal Artillery—strong sides and veterans of last year's clash. And of course, in this year of years for Welsh rugby worldwide, you couldn't keep them out of this contest. So there they were, represented by 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who upheld the national tradition by carrying off the Plate competition

continued on page 36, column 2

Pay Corps hockey win

FOR the sixth time in 21 years, Royal Army Pay Corps, Worthy Down, has won the Army Hockey Cup. In miserable weather at Rheindahlen the winners of the BAOR and UK stages of the contest fought out a match in which the main factors were sweeping rain and three penalty strokes.

Worthy Down were worthy winners, but opponents 5 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, earned credit for a non-stop performance. The RAPC side was led well by

skipper Widgery who had a great game to mark his last season. His cool play was an inspiration and a great contribution to the ultimate victory.

After only 30 minutes RAPC led by two goals. The first was scored by De'ath from a penalty stroke and the second by Younger, who took advantage of a careless clearance and made a clean break through the defence. Barely two minutes later Wilson converted a penalty stroke and the gunners looked to be back in with a chance just before half-time.

Jubilant 5 Heavy Regiment spurred on their team after half-time to equalise after a good move on the right wing by Wright, assisted by tireless skipper McMeekin, which led to Ewington making the score 2-2.

But the gunners' hopes were short lived. De'ath converted his second penalty stroke and five minutes before the end a fine run by Cross down the left wing was carried on by Rodgers. Leaving a trail of beaten defenders in his wake, he crossed to Rodgers who put the ball past goalkeeper Harrison. Final score: 4-2.

RAPC skipper Bob Widgery receives the cup from Gen Sir Frank King.

Soccer super fans

THE winners of this year's minor units soccer championship unashamedly hail as part of the secret of their success—three of their wives. For Mesdames Sandra Stone, Margaret Liddle and Dorothy Tierney (wife of team captain Sergeant Jim Tierney), travelled at their own expense from Northern Ireland to cheer on 39 Infantry Brigade Headquarter and Signal Squadron in the Catterick quarter-finals and the final in Aldershot against Depot Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, when their side clinched the title with a 1-0 win.

Another source of pride for the unit was that it managed this sporting success while working fully operationally in Northern Ireland and tribute has been paid to the unit as a whole pulling together to take the strain while the soccer squad were away winning their prize.

And it was a nostalgic triumph for Jim Tierney, too. For he had left the same Aldershot stadium pitch 12 months earlier as captain of the then champion 8 Signal Regiment team which won the major units cup.

The super fans. Mrs Sandra Stone, Mrs Margaret Liddle and Mrs Dorothy Tierney celebrate in style.

International equestrian event

BLUE sky and sunshine greeted the competitors at the first International Services Equestrian competition at the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Centre, Melton Mowbray.

The United Kingdom line-up was impressive and truly inter-Service with Lieutenant Commander Nigel Goodwin, RN, Captain Malcolm Wallace, Royal Artillery, Flight-Lieutenant John Hamer, RAF, and SQMC T Varley, Life Guards. Belgium fielded a team from the Gendarmerie, France a team of soldiers from Fontainbleau and Samur and Germany a young and impressive team from the Bundeswehr Sports School, Warrendorf. The latter also brought along their Olympic team trainer, Wolfgang Feld, a familiar figure in this country.

All horses were supplied by the RAVC and four for each team were drawn by lots. All credit to the corps for providing such capable and evenly matched animals, all of which completed the event.

Belgium led off in the first event, the dressage. Although a relatively simple test (BHS Test 6), it gave the riders ample opportunity to show their skill in presenting an unfamiliar horse in as favourable a light as possible. Some idea of the consistent standard can be gauged from the corrected scores which spanned only 12 points.

The Germans rode brilliantly and UK shone too. John Hamer came second to equal a score by Germany's Grenadier Boechmann but honours go to Malcolm Wallace who rode a very precise test to win by four clear points. Even so, Germany led overall at this stage.

The cross-country section was sturdily built. The 16 fences included a table, water splash, four-foot drop and several unusual doubles. The course began downhill, which gave riders the chance to get their horses going forward, and more than half the field incurred no penalties at all. There were a few time faults and a double into a copse followed by the drop proved expensive for the Germans who lost their lead to the UK.

A show-jumping phase completed the trials and proved to be the most telling as many of the competitors found difficulty with their unfamiliar mounts. Several horses were careless, one man succeeded in demolishing several fences and some horses were still too full of the cross-country phase. Three of the Germans had clear rounds as did the Belgians and one Frenchman. Malcolm Wallace was well in the lead when his horse carelessly knocked a pole down and he ended up second to a Belgian.

Spray flies as Captain Malcolm Wallace and horse go through the water.

At the end of the day the UK team won by a clear margin followed by the French, the Germans and finally the Belgians. Each country shared in the individual honours with a Belgian first, Malcolm Wallace second, a Frenchman third and a German fourth.

Behind the scenes an interesting matching of riders and horses had gone on. The Belgians decided to compensate for a mediocre horse by giving him a good rider while both the UK and Germany matched best riders with best horses. Although the first of its kind, the future of the competition is assured for both Germany and France have already offered to stage next year's event.

Junior judo

THE decision to split the Army junior individual and team judo championships to avoid the possibility of injury in one contest affecting entry in the other proved a huge success and resulted in a good response and entertaining contests in the separated events.

The individual championships, held at Chepstow, were entered by 96 contestants from five units. The semi-finals and finals were dominated by the home unit, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, and the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Shorncliffe. The best contestant among many fine performers was a welterweight, Higgins, a brown belt from Shorncliffe, who won his own weight group and the open championship.

Ten units entered the team championship at Bramcote and again Shorncliffe and Chepstow dominated the proceedings. Teams were divided into two pools of five, with the two eventual finalists drawn in the same group. Although they beat other contestants comfortably, their match against each other was drawn 2-2 on contest wins with Chepstow winning very narrowly on points.

Both these teams again won comfortably

in the semi-finals, each scoring 4-1. Unfortunately Chepstow's heavyweight, Anderson, was slightly concussed in his semi-final contest which made him unfit for the final. This proved crucial.

In an electrifying final Maclean and Tomasso won for Chepstow and Weir and Higgins for Shorncliffe. And so all rested on the last contest between Ballard (Shorncliffe) and Mercer. Despite a plucky performance by the Chepstow reserve, Ballard proved the more accomplished.

Chepstow were desperately unlucky to lose so narrowly under such circumstances, but this does not detract from Shorncliffe's magnificent performance. They were a younger, smaller team who managed to win against opponents numbering among them veterans of last year's competition.

Results. Individuals: Heavyweight—A/T Deardon (AAC Chepstow), light heavyweight—A/T Tommasso (Chepstow), middleweight—App Bourne (ACC App Coll), welterweight—J/Ldr Higgins (IJLB), lightweight—J/inf Bishop (Jun Para Coy). Open class—J/Ldr Higgins (IJLB). Team event: 1st IJLB, 2nd AAC Chepstow, 3rd AAC Harrogate, 4th JLR RE.

Nice to SEME, to SEME, nice!

ARMY soccer champions, the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, added more honours to their groaning trophy shelves by winning the Naafi Jubilee Cup for the third time in six years.

The cup is fought out between unit champions from all three Services in the United Kingdom and the trophy goes to the team scoring most goals in their two matches. Thus the emphasis is firmly placed on attacking football. SEME beat HMS Collingwood by a crushing 4-0 and after the Navy and RAF champions (RAF Henlow) drew 2-2, SEME clinched the title with a 2-1 win over the RAF.

Ee-aye-addio. We've won another cup! SEME's Alan Goucher with trophy.

Dukes rule —OK!

continued from page 34

trophy. Newcomers to the tournament were representatives from the RAF and Royal Navy. Both reached their respective finals.

After a day of competition, the sixteen teams were whittled down to eight in the main and plate semi-finals. In the main contest the Dukes met the Royal Military College of Science and beat them 20-6 and 7 Para RHA lost to RAF Sealand 12-16. A fast and hard-fought final resulted in a convincing win for the Dukes who scored 28 to the RAF's 12.

The Welsh met 22 Locating Battery in the first Plate semi-final, beating them 24-3. The Navy's HMS Collingwood scored a 21-6 win over 20 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, who put up a creditable performance considering they were the smallest unit to have won through to the tournament.

By coincidence, the Royal Welch Fusiliers—like the Dukes—scored 28 in their final. But the winning margin was greater as the Navy failed to score at all.

As last year, the spectators were largely made up of small knots of partisans and players not currently involved on the field. A pity more enthusiasts were not on hand to swell their ranks and enjoy a day of fast, exciting action which showed Army rugby off to good advantage.

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Sports Shorts

RUGBY

"The best thing to happen to Army rugby" was how a shock win by the Service side was greeted by officials. For the Army beat Llanelli, current Welsh champions in a year of Welsh triumph, by 24-22. Llanelli supporters were quick to point out that it was not their first team that played, but with equal speed the Army replied *they* did not field *their* full first team either! Another Welsh side, Haverfordwest—in its centenary year—was next to fall to the Army tourists who beat them by a convincing 39-16. These tremendous performances could not be outshadowed by the narrow defeat at the hands of Hartlepool Rovers who won 12-11 in the last of the three-match tour games. The Army finished the season inter-Service champions after a season which had started shakily but went from strength to strength.

ATHLETICS

Indoor athletics match at RAF Cosford: 1st Southern Counties AAA (122.5 points), 2nd Army AA (78), 3rd RAF AA (75), 4th Loughborough Colleges (70.5), 5th Birmingham University (56.5), 6th Oxford University (37.5).

MOUNTAINEERING

Because of difficult weather conditions on the Khumbu icefall, the joint British Army and Royal Nepalese Army expedition's attempt on Mount Everest was not able to maintain its previous progress. Camp Five was established on South Col at 26,200 feet by Officer Cadet Geordie Armstrong and Lieutenant-Colonel Dick Hardie and, as SOLDIER went to press, it was hoped to establish Camp 6 on 14 May and make a bid for the summit on 15 May.

CANOEING

The Army had the first three crews home in the senior event of the Devizes to Westminster canoe race at Easter and the RE Canoe Club won the senior team event (four canoes counted) beating renowned teams from the Royal Marines and SAS. The first three crews home were: 1st L/Cpl Mitchell (21 Eng Regt) and L/Cpl Norton (39 Eng Regt), 2nd Sgt Kidston (562 Para Sqn RCT (TAVR)) and Cpl Wheeler (JLR RCT), 3rd Cpls Hayden and Thom (both 36 Eng Regt).

INVITATION RACE

Lieut Glen Grant just failed to crack a sub-four-minute mile in an invitation race staged by the British Milers' Club at half-time during the Army Cup Final soccer match. Grant's time was 4 mins 4.1 secs, more than eight seconds clear of second-placed man R Green (Harlow AC). Third was G Jackson (Chichester) a further three seconds behind. Even Grant, who has established himself as a force to be reckoned with nationally and internationally, could not have been expected to break the four-minute barrier on a night which was bitterly cold and with a strong easterly wind.

SOCCER

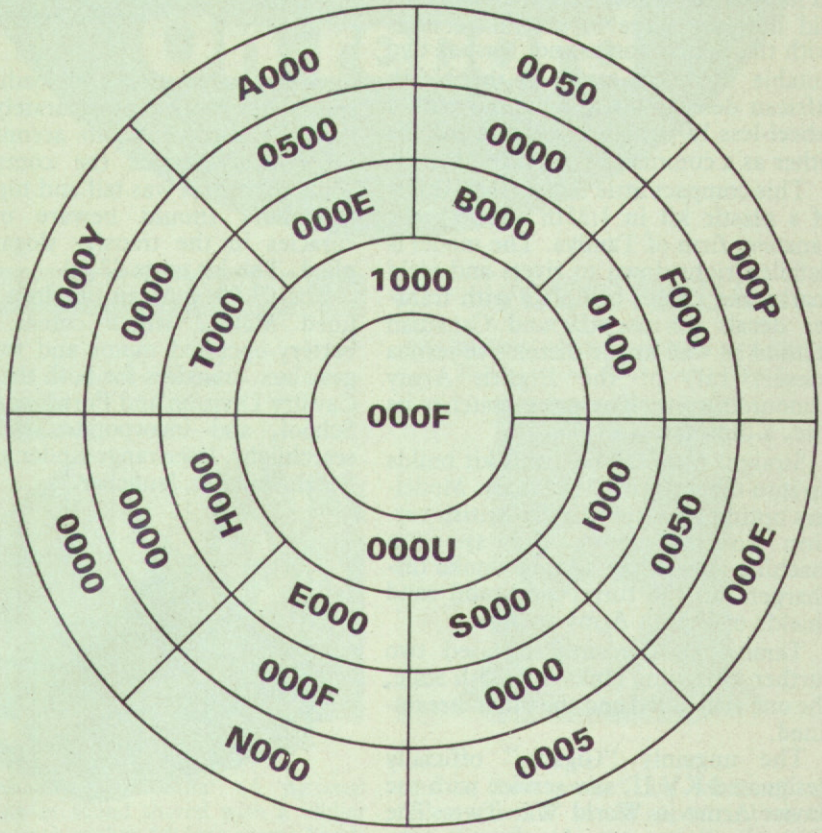
The 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, was avenged for its defeat in the UK major units soccer final when it scored a 4-1 victory in the Infantry Football Challenge Cup final. As UK winners in this contest, The Black Watch met BAOR's infantry winners, 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment.

SHOOTING

Inter-district small-bore target rifle match in London: 1st 1st Division (3130, HPS 3200), 2nd SE District (3098), 3rd SW District (3093). Top individual scores, all 395 out of 400 HPS: Sgt W A White (HQ RA 1st Div), Cpl B Warwick (42 Svy Engr Regt), Sgt E Docker (45 Med Regt RA). Other results: Wiltshire XX 3892, Regular Army 3958; Wiltshire Reserves 3818, Reg Army Reserves 3884 (small-bore prone rifle match). Five-sided SB prone target rifle match: Civil Service 5928, Regular Army 5911, Police 5897, RAF 5837, RN 5832. SB standing and kneeling match: Regular Army 1053, Middlesex 951.

Sixth of January

IF the first word in the solution of this puzzle is the first word in this sentence and the last word in the solution of this puzzle is contained in the last word of this sentence, this proves that the solution of this puzzle is a well-known quotation. What is it?



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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing day is Monday 9 August. The answers and winners' names will appear in the October SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 216" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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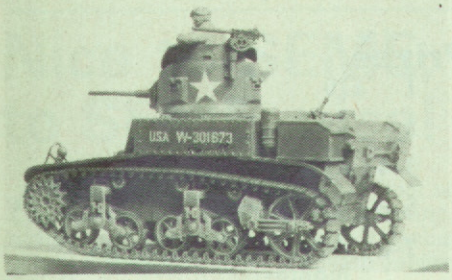
Military Models

A little Honey

At first sight the new tank did not seem at all impressive. With a height of over eight feet to a length of less than 15, and a main armament of a mere 37 millimetres, it looked as if it was sitting up and begging — begging to be knocked out. But, after a test drive which demonstrated easy handling and the then remarkable top speed of 37 miles an hour, a British tankie exclaimed enthusiastically: "It's a honey!"

Thus the officially designated M3 Stuart light tank earned both the nickname "Honey" and the approval of the Desert Rats. It also merited two firsts: the first US tank in service with the British Army in World War Two and the first US tank to see combat.

The Americans, not then in the war, had supplied the tank under Lend-Lease. Production figures for the Mark I Stuart were to run into 5311 by August 1942.



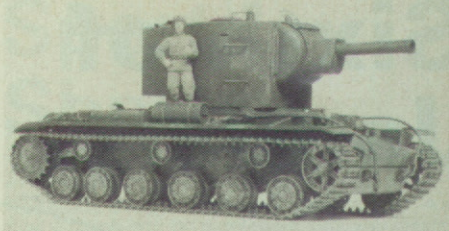
Although it was fast, manoeuvrable and reliable, the Stuart was outclassed as a battle tank and was later relegated to its rightful role of reconnaissance. It did however serve in several versions with the British forces, not least as two notable turretless tanks in the North African desert — one mounted with a wheel-less 18-pounder field gun and the other as a command vehicle for Monty.

This compact little tank is the subject of a plastic kit in 1:35th scale by the Japanese firm of Tamiya. The model is detailed right down to rivets and weld marks and comes complete with transfer decals for the US and Canadian Armies as well as the distinctive jerboa (desert rat) of the Eighth Army armoured units. The price matches its size, a diminutive £1.30.

Straight from the box, this kit builds up into the standard M3 Stuart. Modellers opting for a specifically British version could remove the sponson machine-guns while adding smoke dischargers on the turret sides and sand shields of Eighth Army service.

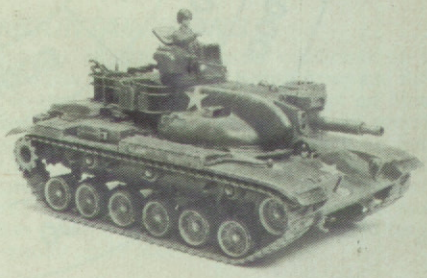
Tamiya also recently released two further intriguing tanks in 1:35th scale, the one slab-sided and the other streamlined.

The ungainly "Gigant," officially designated KV II, saw service with the Soviet Army in World War Two. The



unwieldy arrangement of loading projectile and propellant separately meant that the turret had to accommodate three men besides the commander. Thus the turret was tall and top heavy. Modellers should beware of inaccuracies in the transfer slogans supplied. The kit costs £2.80.

For £3.99 you can obtain a streamlined M60A2 which comes with a battery-operated motor and two-speed gear box, transfers for both the US 3rd Cavalry Division and Fort Knox Armor School, and incorporates the xenon searchlight, laser range-finder and Shillelagh missile launcher. **HH**



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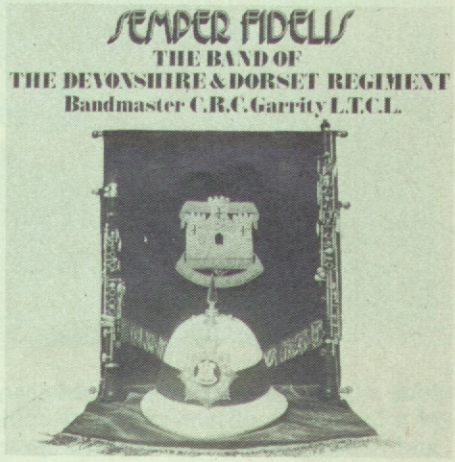
On record



"The Shadow of Colditz" (A personal experience in sound shared with a soldier and an airman as they fall into enemy hands and lie captive in Colditz) (Music for Pleasure MFP 50238)

As has happened before, my daughter had been playing her records at 45 rpm. I didn't notice for at least a few minutes of this LP as it was merely atmospheric with bird twitterings and like. Out of the mist emerge the "Warsaw Concerto," Gracie Fields in full song, a symphony orchestra, and sundry ghostly voices giving off in the old British B film manner.

Major P R Reid, who has made quite a living out of Colditz in one way or another, has devised a "song without words, a film without a screen, an opera without a libretto" so that your imagination may roam freely and make what it will of this kaleidoscopic disc of sound impressions.

Though an ex-POW myself, my imagination stubbornly refused to leave the drawing room and willy-nilly I found myself laying bets on how soon "Lilli Marlene" and "Bless 'em All" would appear. About half way through side two actually, by which time I was rolling in the aisles as my "imagination roamed freely" over all those men clod-hopping around Dover Castle trying to simulate German jackboots echoing along the corridors of Colditz.

A masterpiece of sound montage which must have cost the earth to produce, yet it conveys nothing. My prison camp, a 19th century underground fort, was more horrific than Colditz, and I spent four years in it. **RB**

"Semper Fidelis" (The Band of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment) (Fionmace MB 302)

Cavalry bands have given us several good records lately so it is a pleasant change to receive one from the infantry. With lots of pastoral junketings with Bill Brewer, Uncle Tom Cobley, Dan Archer and all (as befits a county regiment), I found side two of this LP completely up my street. Side one is a concert of light music comprising the sort of thing troops would enjoy. The old march "Fame and Glory," "Beguine on a Bach Bass," a well-played trombone solo "Cool Breeze," "Carnival Cornets," "Canadian Sunset" and the Harold Walters medley "Instant Concert" make a varied and attractive mixture.

Bandmaster C R C Garrity provides an arrangement of "Widdicombe Fair," the song "Devon, Glorious Devon" is given as a euphonium solo, the Archers signature tune "Barwick Green" is heard in full, and of course "Semper Fidelis," motto of the regiment, gets pride of place on a disc I found highly creditable to a band one has heard little of in recent years.

Members of the regiment will also relish their regimental marches, played separately and in the later form of a march medley. Available from Band Office, 1 D & D, Gordon Barracks, Gillingham, Kent, £2 including postage. **RB**

Brass in brief

"The Best of the GUS Band" (Conductors: Stanley H Boddington and Harry Mortimer) (EMI ONE UP OU 2102)

Bits from previously issued discs. Marches are "Imperial Echoes," "National Emblem," "Out of the Blue" and from Malcolm Arnold's "A Little Suite." Waltzes are "España" and "Gold and Silver." Overture "The Thieving Magpie," Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance," "The Lost Chord," "Ballycastle Bay," "Ballerina," "All in the April Evening," "Shepherd's Hey," "Swedish Rhapsody" and hymn tune Repton make up a typical concert programme. **RB**

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Home from home... ...Armagh style

From a report by B A Ford

MOST men's lives are centred around a home, a wife, children, comfort. It is where the day starts and the day ends.

"This place was designed for seven men. Now 90 of us live here." The words are Captain David Jack's. He is describing where the day starts and ends for the men of The Royal Scots' support company of which he is second-in-command. He is speaking in the heavily fortified Royal Ulster Constabulary station at Newtownhamilton, South Armagh, the "home" from which the company mounts its peacekeeping operations.

Captain Jack shows visitors around with the briskness born of having shown other visitors around at other times. A lot of what they see does not make the headlines. There is nothing particularly dramatic about a dining room for 90 soldiers which seats only 28 at a time, so that it takes two hours for everybody to eat, about Army cooks who work from six in the morning to nine at night, about the organised chaos of a large body of men eating, sleeping and relaxing in a small confined space. Yet all this probably makes more impact on the soldiers than the spasmodic outbursts of mayhem beyond the pin-up plastered walls of "home." The wonder is that morale is so high. Humour has a lot to do with it.

A feature of most men's lives is the journey to work, the daily grind. We often complain about it. What with traffic jams, train delays and so on.

The Scout helicopter comes in fast and low, the pilot zig-zagging as a precaution against snipers, as he approaches Crossmaglen—a place with a reputation as lurid as a headline writer's imagination, and much of it well deserved with a history of mortar and rocket attacks on the Army post and of killings, but an ordinary-looking village for all that.

The Army Air Corps captain zooms the chopper high and hovers while below soldiers of A Company, The Royal Scots, secure the landing area with rifles at the ready. A rapid touchdown, then a quick leap into the waiting mud and erratic dash to the sandbagged, chicken-wired safety of the company post. That's how soldiers get to work in South Armagh. As long as they don't come under fire, they don't complain very much.

Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Davies, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots', commanding officer, explains the part played by the helicopter in the daily round of his men: "Bessbrook International Heliport, as we call it (in reality a landing area next to the battalion's base in an old mill) has 60 to 80 helicopter movements a day. We have 80 per cent of the total helicopter support in the Northern Ireland theatre. The soldiers are at the stage where they regard choppers as buses. Nearly all movement, day and night, is by helicopter—from carrying soldiers to emptying dustbins. Both Army and RAF choppers are involved."

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An RAF Puma helicopter makes an easy job of removing a suspect vehicle.

Left: Soldiers on the street are the tragic necessity in South Armagh now.

Right: Royal Scots quiz drivers on the road between Newry and the border.

A landmine crater in a road. One such device cost the lives of three soldiers.

To men on the British side of the Irish Sea and to the majority in Ulster, work is a familiar routine. Regular, steady, unsurprising, rarely uncomfortable in any acute way.

At Newry, nine minutes by car from the border, the Army sometimes operates a vehicle check point outside its fortified base in the local TAVR centre. One day The Royal Scots stopped a northbound tanker lorry. They searched it and found two-and-a-half tons of explosives, including a mass of incendiaries. The deadly cargo was en route to the bombers of Belfast; there was even an instruction leaflet. The discovery was equivalent to all the explosives used in Northern Ireland in the whole of the previous year.

At work we all make decisions of one kind or another.

Near the Border it is snowing. The patrol commander has an urgent question to ask his base. Close on maximum rifle range, partly obscured by the snow, there is a group of men. He can see they are armed, dressed in green and moving tactically. Question: are they terrorists or British soldiers?

At the crucial moment the radio in the helicopter overhead, through which he is relaying his query to base, develops a fault. The patrol has the other group in its rifle sights but they are moving out of range. There is only one correct decision to make. The young commander makes it on his own. The mysterious men quietly vanish unmolested. Later the commander learns they were not British soldiers.

Colonel Davies says that contrary to popular belief there are not hundreds of terrorists operating across the border in South Armagh. Twenty or 30 would be nearer the mark. But they are aided by locals who set up targets and feed intelligence to the "very hard men" on the other side of the Border who then come over by car, carry out an act of terrorism and flee to safety.

The gunman can bide his time until he spots a weakness—a regular pattern or routine inadvertently established by the troops, for example. Then he strikes, often when a unit has just arrived for its four-month tour of duty or just about to leave; these are times when soldiers may be least on guard.

Major Edward Cowan, commanding A Company, The Royal Scots, sits on his bed in the RUC station at Crossmaglen and talks about social niceties in his area. Outside, the walls are scarred by hits from Russian-made RPG7 rockets and lesser projectiles, but the major finds nothing incongruous in talking about good manners.

"We use good manners combined with good soldiering. You don't have to be bloody-minded to do a good job. And the locals are beginning to talk to us more. The soldiers have been given cups of tea, even glasses of brandy." In "Cross," where the Irish tricolour flies defiantly on British soil and mortars have been directed at the Army base from the village square, these are substantial achievements.

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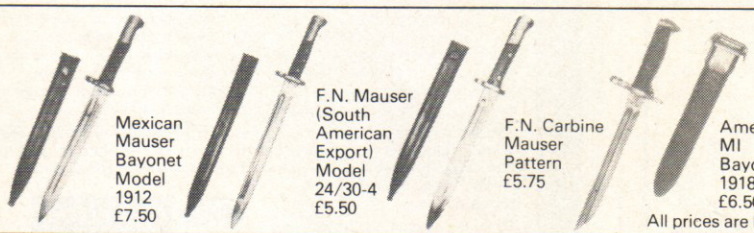

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Letters

SOLDIER welcomes letters. There is not space however to print every letter of interest received. All correspondents must give their full names and addresses to ensure a reply. Answers cannot be sent to collective addressees.
Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published. Please do not ask for information you can get in your orderly room or from your officer commanding.
SOLDIER cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion within a unit.

Eleven cap badges

I exceed Staff-Sergeant Instructor G Sale (Letters, March) by having worn since 1940 eleven different cap badges, although these relate to service in Civil Defence, RAF, Army and Navy. How many readers have served in all four Services? And I have worn at least 21 different versions of Service headgear—can this be topped?
At present, after more than 23 years in the Regular Army, I am a part-time member of the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service and regularly sail in an inshore minesweeper—**J Fisher, 150 Dunearn Drive, Kirkcaldy, Fife.**

Wembley on record

Since publication of my letter (January) I have been swamped with replies from all over the world—Rhodesia, USA, South Africa, Denmark, Canada, Holland, Argentina, to name a few—and they're still rolling in. I will answer every letter and have enjoyed reading them.

One reader, an American, tells me he has a collection of more than 200 recordings of military music including the Northern Command Tattoo at Nottingham in the 1930s and the Aldershot and Tidworth tattoos, all on 78s, and a tape recording of the Russian Army's massed bands in the May Day celebrations on Red Square.

I must thank you for what has happened—it is all due to your magazine and may it flourish for a long, long time.—**W R Perry, 15 Queens Drive, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.**

Gurkha badges

I would refer to a letter from HQ Brigade of Gurkhas in the May issue on the subject of the sale of badges.
Perhaps you would be good enough to add that the badges will also be on sale at The Gurkha Museum at the address below.—**Lieut-Col M P Dewing (Retd), The Gurkha Museum, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU13 0RJ.**

Jamieson Museum

As part of my family's museum organisation I have formed a Canadian military museum to preserve military and civilian effects of Canada and the enemies she faced during the South African War, World Wars One and Two. As part of the display I have been amassing material pertaining to the Canadian contingents that served with United Nations forces in the Korean War, Indochina, the Middle East in 1957, the Belgian Congo, Yemen, Kashmir, in Cyprus in 1964, with the ICCS in Vietnam, and which are currently serving in Cyprus and Egypt. I have been looking for pictures of the men serving in these different theatres and for newspapers and other effects depicting aspects of the service they saw. I would like to ask if any SOLDIER Magazine readers have any of this old material left and, if so, would they care to donate it to this historical cause. If donated, any such material would be well taken care of and displayed with proper acknowledgements to the donors.—**Tim Jamieson, Director Jamieson Museum Ltd, 306 Gertie Street, Moosomin, Saskatchewan, SOG 3NO, Canada.**

Seaforths sought

I have a friend in Belgium who lives near Ypres and is very interested in the British Army and who wonders if he could trace any soldiers who fought in his village. He is M Henri Braem, Wervikstreet 64, 8902 Zillebeke, Belgium. He wishes to contact ex-members of The Seaforth Highlanders, especially those in the 6th Battalion, or any other members of 5th Division who fought in 1940 at the battle on the Ypres-Comines canal. Letters can be in English and all will be answered.—**Tony Jack, Langley Green, Crawley, Sussex.**

Crown Imperial

Crown Imperial was established in August 1973 to cater for historians and collectors of militaria. It now has a membership of some 200 both here and overseas, mostly ex-service and serving officers and men.
A journal is circulated every quarter and is posted free. The president is General Sir Walter Walker and vice-president Major-General D Horsford.
Any profits that this society has made have been distributed to associations such as The Burma Star, Old Contemptibles and the War Blinded. We have not hitherto advertised, feeling that personal recommendations are more fitting. But the committee feels that we should be better known—**Maj Charles Cowie, Secretary Crown Imperial, 5 Warwick Crescent, Harrogate, Yorkshire.**

Collectors' Corner

Gerald J Jackson, Apt 504, 36 Machell Avenue, Aurora, Ontario, Canada.—Seeks badges, buttons, titles, photographs, shako plates, bedplates, Christmas cards pertaining to Beds and Herts and predecessors (Beds, Herts,' 16th Foot), and similar items of regts (any country) bearing number 16.
T S Ferguson, 25 Copandale Road, Beverley, North Humberside, HU17 7BN.—Has for sale Gordon Highlanders' kilt, height 23½ inches, waist 38 inches, in good condition.
S R Jackson, 17 Greenholme, Heatherside, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1RR—Seeks books on Russo-German war 1941-45 (especially German language books). Also books on other aspects of WW2 and books on Eastern Front WW1. Has books for sale/exchange. SAE for list.
WO C Flynn, 1271 (Bathgate) ATC, Torpichen Street, Bathgate, West Lothian, Scotland.—Seeks badges of rank of all ranks, regiments, corps of Services in Britain and Commonwealth for cadets' history project.
A/T Gould, D Company, AAC Aborfield, Reading, RG2 9NJ.—Keen collector of modern British Army cap badges requires SAS, Chaplains' Dept and all Irish and Scottish regiment badges to complete set. Cash or swaps.
J P Drayner, 11 Kelso Drive, Riverview Park, Gravesend, Kent. — Wishes to buy pair cloth shoulder titles of Parachute Regiment. Also single titles SAS and AAC Glider Pilot Regiment and Foot Guards.
Salesian College (Para Regt) Cadet Detachment, c/o Capt N Waterhouse, 36 Elms Road, Fleet, Hampshire.—Requires Blues uniforms for pipe and drum band to replace existing set.

Reunions

The XVIIIth, The Royal Irish Regiment and South Irish Horse. Annual reunion dinner, Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London SW1, Saturday 5 June, 7.30pm. Annual service at Cenotaph, Sunday 6 June, 11am. Details from R P J S Boyce, 13 Sticklepath Terrace, Barnstaple, N Devon, EX31 2AY.
49 Field Regiment. Reunion and open day 11-13 June, Campbell Barracks, Hohne, West Germany. Friday 11 June: Formal dinners officers and sergeants messes, entertainment in JNCOs Mess and Junior Ranks Club.

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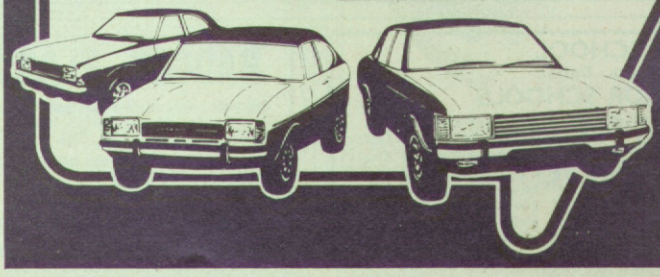

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Saturday 12 June: Regimental open day, summer ball Sergeants Mess, all ranks dance. Sunday 13 June: Sports, church services, buffet lunches in messes. All ex-members, serving or civilian, and parents of soldiers, most welcome to visit for weekend—write to 21C or RSM, 49 Fd Regt RA, BFPO 30.

Royal Pioneer Corps Association. Corps weekend and AGM 11-13 June, RPC Training Centre, Northampton. Details from Secretary, RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, London, SW1V 4DE, or from Corps Secretary, Simpson Barracks, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 0HX.

The Wiltshire Regiment Old Comrades Association. Annual reunion (51st) 19-20 June, Devizes. Tickets from Hon Sec, Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, Wiltshire.

The Royal Hampshire Regiment Old Comrades Association. Annual reunion 12 June, Winchester. Dinner tickets (£2.50) and details from Secretary, Serle's House, Winchester.

Competition

No fewer than 401 of the 413 entries for Competition 212 ("By numbers") found the correct answer, which was SCRAG.

Prizewinners:

1 Mrs J W Aggleton, 1 Kings Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6NN.
2 R K Jordan, 653 Squadron AAC, Netheravon, Wiltshire.
3 Maj E A Nixon, 51 McBain Avenue, Toronto 12, Ontario, Canada, M4P 2S6.
4 Mrs E D Gault, 27 St Francis Way, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.
5 WO2 B A Harrison, Small Arms Wing, School of Infantry, Warminster, Wiltshire.
6 Mr N Parsonage, Deeping, St James Road, Deeping Gate, PE6 9AE.
7 Sgt G P Horsman, RAPC Apprentices College, Worthy Down, Hampshire.
8 Sgt Smith, S Troop, 1 Squadron, 27 Signal Regiment, BFP01.
9 Mrs Page, 26 Oaklands Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG11 2SB.
10 Lieut Rodgers, 100 Norwood Grove, Beverley, North Humberside.

How observant are you?

(see page 18)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Smaller fish. 2 Wider stripe on first hurdler's vest. 3 No 77's vest has V neck. 4 Rear window of lorry blocked out. 5 Smaller ripple on water. 6 Collar on left hand soldier by lorry. 7 Lorry body longer. 8 Hill on left of tree slopes. 9 Radiator grille added to lorry. 10 Running shoe on first hurdler loses laces.

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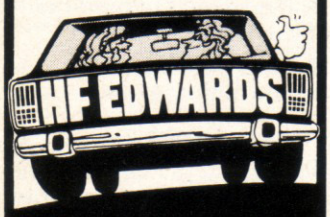

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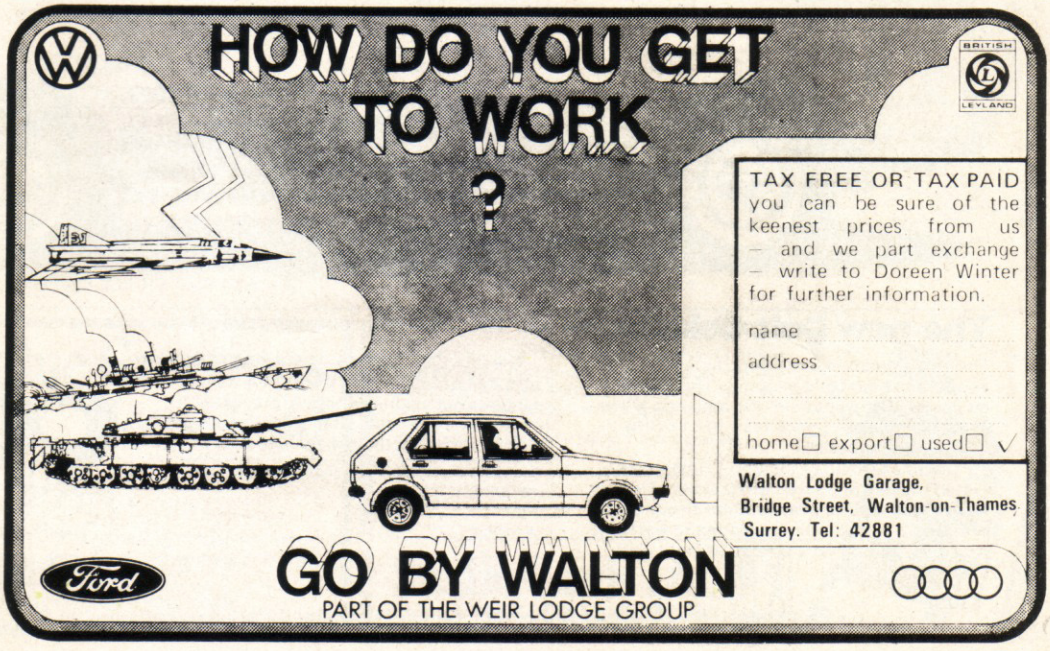

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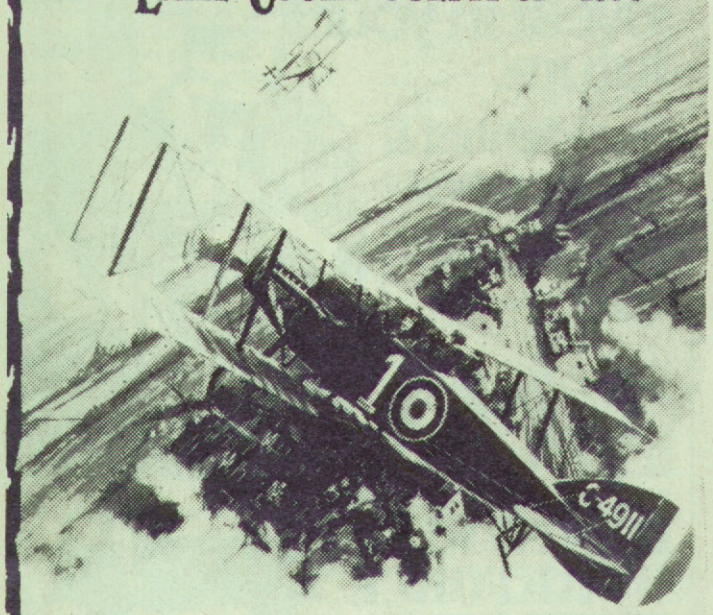

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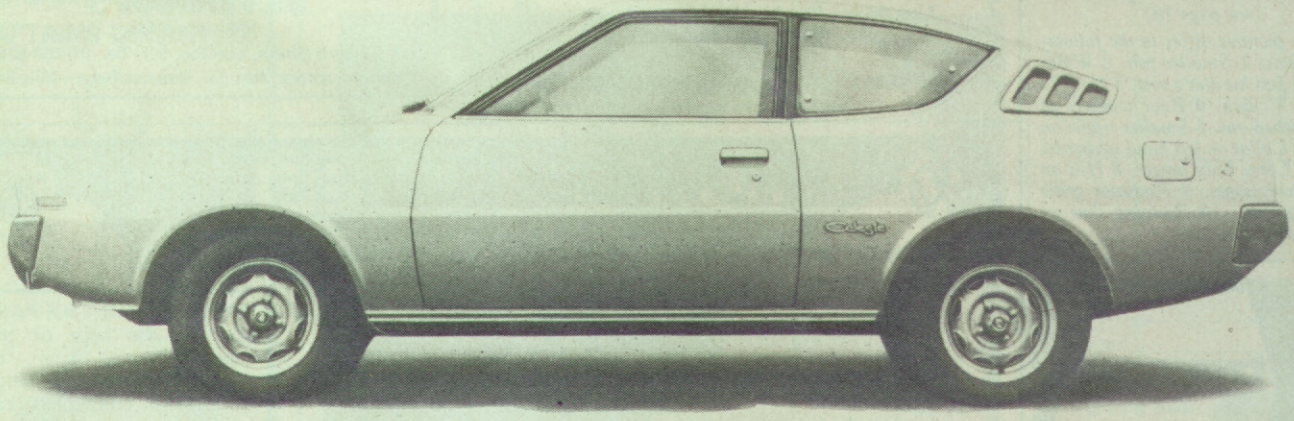

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Books

7th Armoured

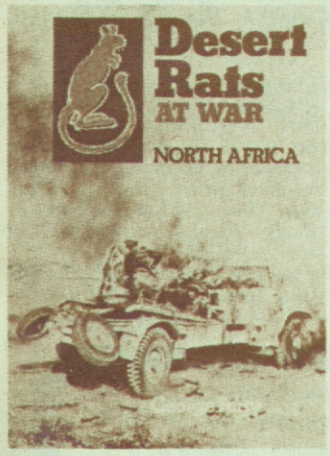
"Desert Rats at War: North Africa" (George Forty)

This book gives full credit to the members of all arms in 7th Armoured Divison, the "Desert Rats," recognising that "tanks by themselves cannot win battles." The engineers, gunners, infantry, signallers, medics, ordnance, intelligence, field security, Red Caps, RASC, chaplains, REME and Naafi, too, had vital roles to play.

Nevertheless, it is contact with the enemy, the tussle and scuffle of battle, the chasing, the outmanoeuvring and the combat that always attract attention and win battle honours. Like the 30-hour dash across 150 miles of almost uncharted desert to Beda Fomm in 1941 to completely destroy the Italian army in Cyrenaica and take 20,000 prisoners and all their armament and stores at the cost to the Desert Rats of nine killed and 15 wounded!

Copiously illustrated are the stories of the men who fought back and forth across the African desert for three years until on 13 May 1943 Alexander signalled Churchill: "We are masters of the North African shores." The many anecdotes told by the men on the spot show they were indeed in the "hot seat." They are pithy and dramatic and in uninhibited soldier language. And they tell the simple untouched truth of blood and sweat and dust and daring — and death. As, after a particularly hectic action against ME 110s: "We buried him by the side of his car, as was the tradition of the Desert Rats."

Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £4.50 **GRH**



At large

"The Escaping Habit" (Joseph Orna and Hugh Popham)

Mr Orna was a steward/gunner in the British minesweeper Agamemnon when she was sunk off Tobruk. He was captured when Rommel took the besieged fortress and sent to Campo 303 near Pavia in Northern Italy. Within weeks he had devised a method of escape. With the aid of a friendly monk, he donned the habit and simply walked out of the camp. This, of course, is the "habit" of his title.

For over a year he wandered about Italy, always moving south. He found Italian farmers generous to men of the cloth, never lacked food or shelter and, despite his habit, also found their daughters accommodating. The longer he was on the run the more confident he became. He and another escaper, Fred Sheppard, derailed an ammunition train (which blew up), destroyed a huge petrol dump at Bari and set fire to an Italian troopship. Eventually he made his way to Sicily and the Royal Navy.

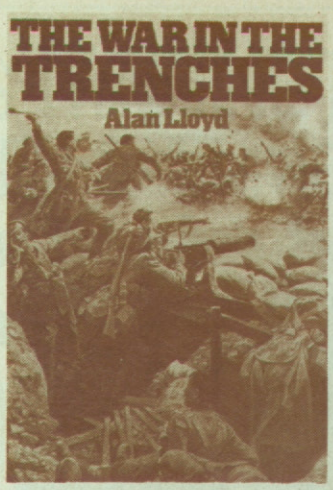
Orna's is an exciting and gripping story, but one or two questions remain. One wonders why the SS commandant at Catania should appear "resplendent in black SS uniform" in 1943 when the SS had worn field-grey since 1939. And why Orna, having done so much, was not decorated.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.25 **JCW**

Stalemate

"The War in the Trenches" (Alan Lloyd)

A war of stalemate with millions facing each other in trenches set amidst a wasteland of shellholes, mud, lacerated tree trunks, death and stench. A private soldier's war, bogged down by the inability to break through each other's defences and the cloying mud.



There were long marches at times to relieve other parts of the long line, but never the cavalry breakthrough that Haig so hoped for. Given the chance at Cambrai in 1917, the cavalry went forward too late and too slowly to exploit the tanks' success. The war of attrition wore away both sides. The repeated efforts to force through resulted in enormous casualties; three years of immobility deprived commanders of initiative and leadership.

The deadlock brought inventions designed to break it. Flamethrowers were unsuccessful; gas was widely developed. Fans and controlled fires to disperse gas did not succeed. Miners, at six times the soldiers' pay, made some spectacular massive explosions. Coal dust, to drop over the enemy and then ignite and carborundum powder to jam his rifles and guns, were among experiments. The Mills bomb was born and, best of all, the tank.

Easily the greatest force was the private soldier who against all adversities maintained the discipline and strength to hold on doggedly until the Boche cracked—and then found the energy to climb from the mudholes and pursue into the green fields beyond.

Hart-Davis, MacGibbon, 3 Upper James Street, Golden Square, London, W1R 4BP, £4.95 **GRH**

VC, DSO and bar, MC

"George Stuart Henderson: The Story of a Scottish Soldier 1893-1920" (R King-Clark)

Born a farmer's son in Berwickshire in 1893, Henderson was a typical product of his class and time. Educated at Rossall School, he entered Sandhurst in 1912 and, anxious for foreign service, joined 1st Battalion, The Manchester Regiment, in the Punjab. A few months later war broke out and Henderson found himself in the line near Ypres. While most of his contemporaries were killed or maimed he suffered only a slight wound although continually courting danger.

With a well-deserved Military Cross he was posted to Mesopotamia in 1916 and again seemed immune to enemy fire. He was a popular officer and his men were delighted with his award of a Distinguished Service Order and Bar in 1916 and 1917. The closing months of the war found him in Persia organising resistance against the Turk.

Peace took the Manchesters to Ireland just in time for the "troubles." No doubt Henderson found such service distasteful and it was probably with relief that he was ordered to Iraq to crush an Arab revolt. This little-known campaign involved some 60,000 British troops and cost the lives of 876 men — one of them Captain George Henderson. His citation for the award of the Victoria Cross reads: "He died fighting."

An interesting and very, very sad little book.

R King-Clark, 13 Havelock Street, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, G84 7HB, £1.00 **AWH**

Credit overdue

"Saving the Channel Ports 1918" (W D Joynt VC)

The author, one of Australia's Victoria Cross heroes, passionately believes that the Australian divisions fighting in France and Flanders were never given full praise for their part in stemming the German breakthroughs on the Somme and Lys. Contending that there was a "conspiracy of silence" to prevent the Australians' "saviour's role" becoming widely known, he hopes this book will bring them honour, although 58 years after the event.

He has devastating things to say about British morale which, in his opinion, was low, with officers lacking drive and the structure and training entirely wrong. Yet when the British Fifth Army's 18 infantry and two cavalry divisions gave way on the Somme they did so only under the enormous weight of 44

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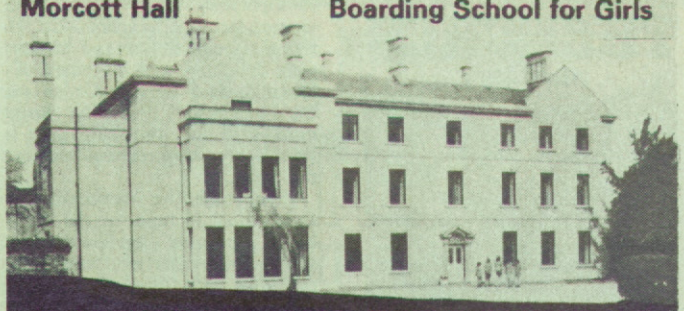

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German divisions with another 40 following in reserve.

The Australian 3rd, 4th and 5th divisions were brought in to stop the gap and did so splendidly. Had this new German thrust been successful it could have pushed on to take the Channel ports.

The author's diary and the excellent photographs show that the Australian troops when in defence were superb at harassing the Germans and in attack displayed great initiative and audacity. Their fieldcraft was excellent. This book makes fascinating reading.

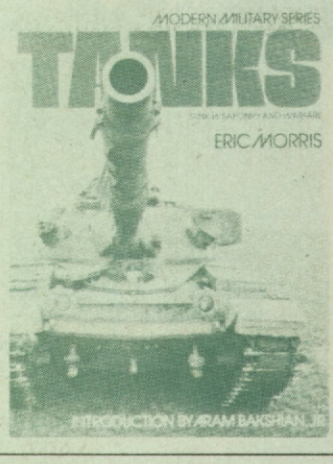
Wren Publishing Pty Ltd, 2 Palmer Street, South Melbourne, Australia, £5.95 **GRH**

Outdated?

"Modern Military Series—Tanks" (Eric Morris)

"The modern tank is slowly lumbering out of the martial limelight after a starring role of little more than half a century," writes Aram Bakshian Jnr, a staff assistant to the White House, in his introduction to this excellent survey of the tank from its birth to the present day. He observes that with the development of a wide range of sophisticated anti-tank weapons, not to mention tactical nuclear weapons, there is no such thing as an invulnerable tank.

Mr Morris, a specialist in armoured warfare, presents a clear and comprehensive story of tank conception and progress — the work of the pioneers like Estienne and Swinton, the theories of the disciplines like De Gaulle and Liddell Hart, and their practice by such masters as Guderian, Rommel, Montgomery, Patton and Zhukov. He discusses in this lavishly illustrated work all types of tanks bringing the story completely up to date with a run-down on the latest models — the British Chieftain, Swedish S-Tank, French AMX-30, German Leopard, US M-60 and even the ill-fated US/West German co-venture, the MBT-70, cancelled because of its mounting costs.



Octopus Books Ltd, 59 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DA, £2.95 **JCW**

In brief

"Insignes des Troupes Aéroportées Françaises" (Christian Malcros)

The badges and insignia of more than 260 French military airborne units from the veterans of the mid-1930s to the parachute police of today are faithfully portrayed in their true colours and actual size in this glossy publication. It is virtually a complete presentation and includes many rarities.

Each meticulously accurate illustration, be it badge, shoulder flash, sleeve or collar patch, is accompanied by an explanatory note and a few words on the background of the relevant unit. For the specialist collector this authoritative reference work should prove an invaluable aid.

Société de Production Littéraire, 10 Rue du Regard, 75006 Paris, 75F

"Commando Men" (Bryan Samain)

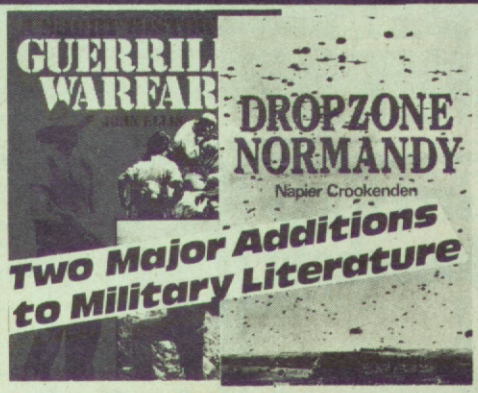
Originally reviewed in SOLDIER, March 1949, this is a record of the part played by 45 Royal Marine Commando, of which the author was intelligence officer, in World War Two, from Normandy through France and Holland and over the Rhine.

White Lion Publishers Ltd, 138 Park Lane, London, W1Y 3DD, £3.50

Short History of
Guerrilla Warfare
John Ellis

Guerrilla Warfare in its various forms is a fact of modern life in many countries but is it the latest form of armed conflict. Or is it one of the oldest? How much does its technique owe to the teachings of Mao Tse Tung? What are the lessons which history can teach us about countering the guerrilla and his kind in the last quarter of the twentieth century? This book gives many of the answers. It traces the development of the guerrilla technique from Biblical times to the present day and provides in one well illustrated volume a highly pertinent study of the only form of warfare conceivable in the nuclear age.

8½" x 5¾" 256pp plus 16pp of illustrations £4·95



Dropzone Normandy
Napier Crookenden

The story of the airborne soldiers who spearheaded the Allied assault on 'Festung Europa' in June 1945, told here by a distinguished General who as a young officer was himself dropped on D-Day. This book contains more than the dry bones of military history. It tells of the birth of that unique 'Airborne Spirit' which to this day inspires all those who have won their Airborne wings and the right to wear the maroon beret. This is a book for 'Red Devils' past and present and for those who want to know just what it was like to parachute into 'Dropzone Normandy' on that momentous June night in 1944.

8½" x 5¾" 304pp plus 48pp of illustrations £4·95

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