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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.

See-the-Army Diary



APRIL 1977

Freedom of Gosport, 20 Maritime Regiment RCT. King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, gallop past, Regent's Park, London.

Silver Jubilee concert, West Bromwich Town Hall (RE Chatham Band) (in aid of Cancer Research Campaign)

Queen presents new Colours to 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, Buckingham Palace.

King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen's birthday).

Household Division concert, Earls Court, London (28-29 April).
Princess Anne presents Colours to 3rd (V) Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, Newark.

Taplow (Buckinghamshire) Horse Show (Royal Military Police

'Red Caps' mounted display).

MAY 1977

Opening ceremony, Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh (pipes and drums; four bands).

Household Cavalry inspection, Hyde Park, London.

Concert, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (three bands).

Closing ceremony, Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh (two bands)

'Fall in the Stars' variety show, London Palladium (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).

Kneller Hall Band concert

Tri-Services School Day, Woodvale (Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team).

Royal Windsor Horse Show (12-15 May) (King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, musical ride)

'Gateway to Britain' Son et Lumière, Dover Castle (12 May-24 September

Plymouth Silver Jubilee Military Tattoo

Scoutarena, Stoneleigh (band). Kneller Hall Band concert.

West Midland Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (18-19 May) (Light Infantry freefall team; two bands). 18

Massed bands Edinburgh Combined Cadet Force beat Retreat, 18 Edinburgh Castle.

Devon County Show, Exeter (19-21 May) (junior band)

21 Machine-Gun Corps annual observance, Hyde Park Corner, London.

London.
Brentwood (Essex) Tattoo.
Beating Retreat, Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh (Scottish Division massed pipes and drums).

Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
Massed bands concert, Windsor (26-29 May).
Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (27-28 May).
Combined Cadet Tattoo, Gosport (27-29 May).
USAF Open Day, Mildenhall (Red Devils).
Oxford Young Farmers Show, Witney (28-29 May) (Royal Army Ordnance Corps 'Cannonballs' freefall team; band).
Burnley Army Display (28-29 May) (Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle team; Red Devils; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' gymnastic team; corps of drums; four bands). 28 'Pegasus' gymnastic team; corps of drums; four bands)

Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (28-29 May) (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 'Pentastars' freefall team)

28

Otley (Yorkshire) Show (junior band). First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, 28 London.

Havant Town Show (Red Caps).

Derby County Day (Pentastars) (date now changed to 6 June). Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet (31 May-4 June)

display; massed bands). Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (31 May-2 June).

Hove Lions Day (band). Glasgow Army Display (31 May-14 June) (Scottish Division 'Golden Lions' freefall team; band 31 May-5 June, 8-14 June).

JUNE 1977

Kneller Hall Band concert.

Suffolk Show, Ipswich (1-2 June) (Pentastars; Red Devils; band).

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King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park,

London (Queen's coronation anniversary).

Bexley Summer Show (Red Caps).

Lions Club Show, Darlington (Red Devils).

Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London

Lord Mayor's Show, Birmingham (band). Birmingham Spring Festival (4-11 June) (band 4 June). Southport Army Display (4-6 June) (Red Devils; Pegasus). Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse (Golden Lions;

Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse (Golden Lions; displays; bands).

Derby County Show (Pentastars).

Hove Lions Club Show (Red Devils).

Surrey County Show, Guildford (6-7 June) (Red Devils).

Atherstone, Coventry, Carnival (Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, physical training display; junior band).

Hertfordshire County Show, Hartham Common (Reg Caps).

Selby (Yorkshire) Carnival (junior band).

Salvation Army, Croydon, Appeal (Red Caps).

Massed bands Prince of Wales's Division beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (7-9 June).

Happy and Glorious Silver Jubilee Tattoo/Pageant, Bath.

- Happy and Glorious Silver Jubilee Tattoo/Pageant, Bath. Military Band Spectacular, Royal Albert Hall, London. State drive from Buckingham Palace to thanksgiving service, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Guildhall lunch.

Kneller Hall Band concert.

Massed bands Household Division play on forecourt, Buckingham Palace, London.

South of England Show, Ardingley (Sussex) (9-11 June) (Red Devils; band)

Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge (Pegasus 9 and 11 June).
King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park,
London (Duke of Edinburgh's birthday).
Scunthorpe Families Show (10-12 June) (band).
Massed bands Army, RAF and Royal Marines beat Retreat,

Edinburgh Castle. Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.

St Neots Riverside Festival (11-12 June) (White Helmets 11 June; Royal Artillery motorcycle team 12 June). Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (Junior Leaders Regiment,

Royal Engineers, physical training team; band). Mayor's Carnival and Water Festival, Lincoln (junior band).

Kingston-upon-Thames Tattoo.
Garter Service, Windsor.
Massed bands beat Retreat, Newport, Gwent. 13

Colchester Gala (Pegasus)

- Kneller Hall Band concert. Essex County Show, Chelmsford (17-18 June) (Household Cavalry Quadrille; band).
- Quadrille; band).

 36 Engineer Regiment Weekend (17-18 June), Maidstone.

 HQ Prince of Wales's Division Open Day and Careers Exhibition,
 Lichfield (17-18 June) (three bands).

 Coventry Carnival (Pentastars).

 Nuneaton Carnival (Jun Ldrs RA PT; band).

 Adhesive Tape Show, Boreham Wood, Hertfordshire (Red Care)

18

- Silver Jubilee Show, Rossendale, Lancashire (Red Devils). Village Fete, Datchworth, Hertfordshire (Red Devils). 18
- Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot (Red Devils; Pegasus).
- 36 Engineer Regiment freedom march, Maidstone.

 Massed bands 52nd Lowland Volunteers beat Retreat, Edin-18 burgh Castle.

Halifax Gala (junior band).
Royal tour of Lancashire, Merseyside and Greater Manchester 20-22 June

- Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
 Royal tour of Wales (22-24 June).
 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (22-23 June) (two
- Aldershot Army Display (24-26 June) (King's Troop musical ride; White Helmets; Red Caps; Red Devils; four pipes and drums; 21 24 bands)

Royal Signals At Home and Reunion, Catterick (25-26 June) (White Helmets; band).

Accrington Stanley Round Table Show (Red Devils).
Military Musical Pageant, Wembley (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund) (30 June-2 July).

Royal review of Reserve Forces and pre-Service cadets, Wembley 30 Stadium

First royal tour of London.

West Bromwich Carnival (30 June-2 July) (White Helmets).

JULY 1977

38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon Weekend Open Day. Plymouth Services Week (2-9 July).

Chichester Gala (Pegasus).
Fête and Gala Day, Cwmbran (Red Devils).
Royal Show, Stoneleigh (4-7 July) (Red Caps).
Kneller Hall Band concert.

Second royal tour of London.

Queen reviews the Army, Sennelage, West Germany.

Edinburgh Army Display (8-18 July) (Golden Lions; Red Devils;

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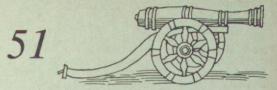
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Military Museums



THE EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

BLACKBURN and Burnley are the two centres of the museum of The East Lancashire Regiment with the main collection, comprising 19th and 20th century uniforms, historical pictures, campaign trophies, silver and drums, arms and medals, housed in Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery.

The regiment was formed from the old 30th Foot and 59th Foot and a small introductory section concentrates on the 30th when it served as marines at the capture of Gibraltar and in the battle of Malaga (1704). Illustrations of both actions can be seen alongside a nice set of 18th century battle prints. One of the finest exhibits is a shipbuilder's model of an early 18th century warship of the type on which the 30th would have sailed. A remarkable collection of commemorative medals dates back to 1695 when the 30th captured Namur despite very heavy casualties.

A wigwam in the background of a mezzotint of the Earl of London, Colonel of the 30th from 1749 to 1770, is a reminder that he was Commander-in-Chief North America from 1756 to 1758. The Sphinx cap badge given to the regiment for distinguished service during the battle of Alexandria in 1801 is recalled by a plan of the battle in Wilson's 'History of the British Expedition to Egypt.'

A crossbelt plate worn between 1782 and 1790 by the 59th and an example of the regiment facings submitted to George III in 1765 for approval are noteworthy as also are an officer's coatee of 1803, a French ship's porcelain salver acquired when the island of Mauritius was taken in 1810, an East India Company Medal showing the capture of Fort Cornelis, Java, and a photographic enlargement of an engraving depicting the assault on the fort by soldiers of the 59th with the regimental number clearly seen on the Colours.

The Napoleonic period saw both the 30th and the 59th serving with distinction. Two prized exhibits are the French Eagle captured at Salamanca by the 30th and a letter describing the battle of Waterloo written by Ensign Macready from a camp in the Bois de Boulogne shortly before Wellington's triumphant entry into Paris.

Disaster befell the 59th's 2nd Battalion when its headquarters ship, the Seahorse, went down in a gale in the Bay of Tramore, Southern Ireland, in 1816. Nearly 400 vete-

rans of Waterloo and the Peninsula were lost; only four officers and 26 soldiers and seamen survived. Colours, regimental silver— everything went down in this great tragedy which is recalled in the museum by a piece of wood from the Seahorse. Fragments of battle-torn Colours, a Russian musket and a shako bearing the Roman XXX recall the Crimean campaign.

In 1857 the 59th was the only British regiment to take part in the capture of Canton and the battle honour 'Canton' is unique. A large bell taken from a temple near the East Gate stands in the museum as a souvenir. A magnificent piece of regimental silver commemorating the last campaigns of the 59th is another eye-catching exhibit.

A 12-mile drive from Blackburn takes you to Burnley and the Towneley Hall Art Gallery and Museum (Curator: Mr H R Rigg, telephone Burnley 24213) where, because of the East Lancashire's strong association with the town, a room has been set aside for a further display of regimental regalia.

Here can be seen a fine collection of drums, a silver centrepiece commemorating the 3rd Battalion's services in the South African War in which 123 of its officers and soldiers were killed, a scroll pattern shoulder plate of 1840 — something of a rarity as only three British regiments used this scroll pattern — and a display of 30th and 59th badges.

These and many other items such as a patrol cap (1850-75), an officer's full dress tunic with the 5th Battalion's characteristic black facings on the cuffs, and a collection of swords and canes, are on display. But the most treasured exhibit is undoubtedly the Victoria Cross won at Gallipoli in 1915 by Second-Lieutenant A V Smith who threw himself on a grenade, thus saving the lives of his comrades at the cost of his own.

John Jesse

Curator: Mr M Millward

Address: East Lancashire Regiment Museum, Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Library Street, Blackburn

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Next month: The Buffs

SOLDIER to Soldier

An anticipatory touch of Spring sunshine and even a single crocus or daffodil with its welcome touch of colour after a gloomy winter serve as Nature's reminder that life goes on afresh and brightness lies ahead. Whenever it becomes less and less easy to accept the strictures of modern life there is always, somewhere, a compensation — though Nature perhaps took the remedy too far in following last year's drought at home by a deluge.

Spring brings too its crop of brochures and articles for the holidays that people know they need more than ever as a break but wonder whether they can now afford. This year the travel writers, sensing the economic climate, are more than ever extolling the virtues of the British Isles and indeed many people will find enjoyment, given good weather, in discovering a beauty, grandeur and interest they perhaps thought existed only in the holiday abroad.

And a little homework in advance will add the cream — the quaint annual customs, the lesser-known beauty spot or place of architectural or archaeological interest. The military-minded will be noting the museums — there are more than a hundred regimental, corps or military museums up and down — in which on a wet day they can happily browse, and the tattoos and other displays at which they can admire the professionalism of the Army and its show teams.

The Blue Eagles helicopter display has sadly fallen victim to economies but there are still the Red Devils, Golden Lions, Pentastars and Black Knights freefall displays, the White Helmets and Royal Artillery motorcycle team, gymnastic displays, mock battles, the pageantry and excitement of the King's Troop musical ride, Household Cavalry quadrille and Red Caps mounted display, and of course the bands, pipes and drums.

This year too has the added spice of the Silver Jubilee with special events, many with military participation, in its honour.

SOLDIER plans to have a stand at five events this year — first at the Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (the evening of Friday 27 May and all Saturday 28 May), then, breaking new ground, in the military section at the Royal Bath and West Show, from 31 May to 4 June at Shepton Mallet.

Next come the largest of the Army shows, Aldershot Army Display (open to the public on 24, 25 and 26 June), followed by the tri-Services display in Sheffield from 21 to 24 July and finally the Burma Star Association Day at Waterbeach, near Cambridge, on 4 September.

SOLDIER's staff looks forward to seeing you!

Name

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Regrettably the price of the Charles Stadden pewter figures has had to be increased. The figures now cost £7.15 (UK), £6.60 (BFPO) and £7.30 (elsewhere), including postage and packing.

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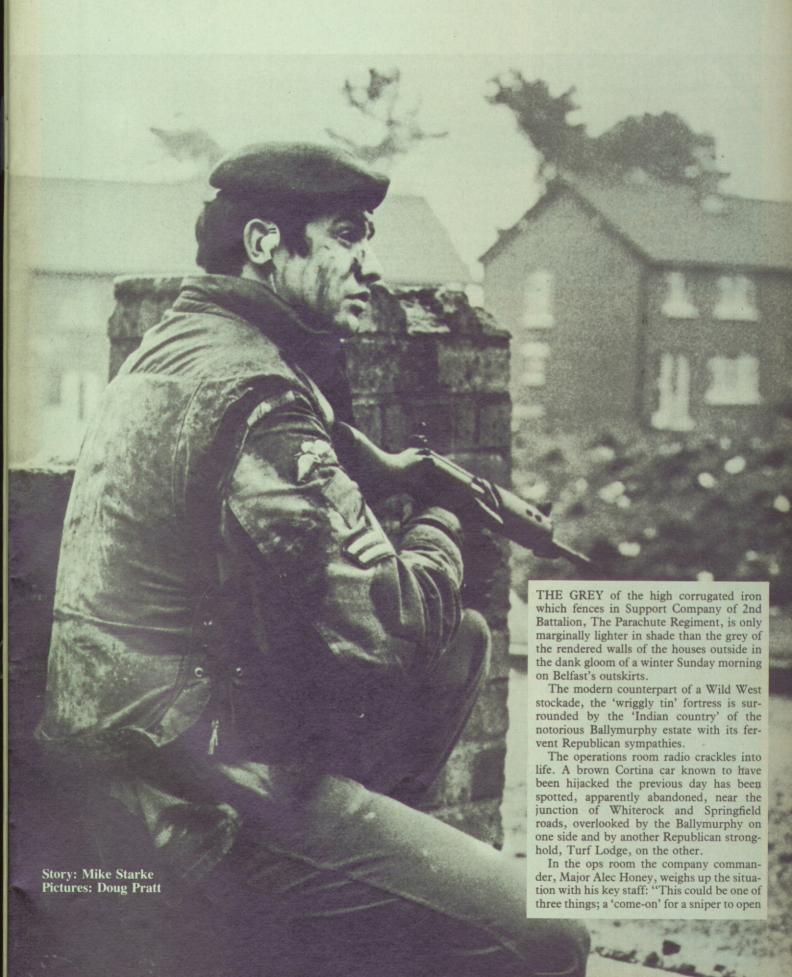
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SUDDENLY ONE SUNDAY...





up on us" (they had to dodge seven bullets aimed at them last week in a similar incident), "a booby trap or simply a car abandoned presumably in the knowledge that we know they've got it."

Methodically the plans are laid. These things cannot be rushed. Men's lives are at stake with almost all of a four-month emergency tour ahead. In the hostile world outside the corrugated iron camp, terrorists lurk like jackals ready to snap at the heels of the first to make a careless slip.

The bomb disposal team — Felix for short — is alerted and Major Honey times the despatch of troops to form an inner and outer cordon around the suspect car to coincide with the arrival of the team. The shorter the time in the open, the better.

The files of men slip out of the camp, leaving spaces for safety between them. Once outside the protective metal walls there is a sudden feeling of nakedness under the hostile eyes of the local inhabitants. Walls and even roadways proclaim IRA slogans. A wry "JOIN 1 PARA" stands out among them.

A pirouetting Army helicopter stutters overhead, keeping an aerial eye on the proceedings. The Paras alternately walk and run through the quiet Sunday streets to present as fleeting a target as possible to any terrorist gun-sight.

Each soldier is not just looking after himself but looking out for his comrades too. One flits across a gap between houses and passes back the word: "Man on a roof at three-o'clock." The next man to the gap takes a cautious look. Sure enough someone is crouching by a chimney stack, something gripped in his hands. He moves to stand up. He is fitting a television aerial. The cordon patrol moves on.

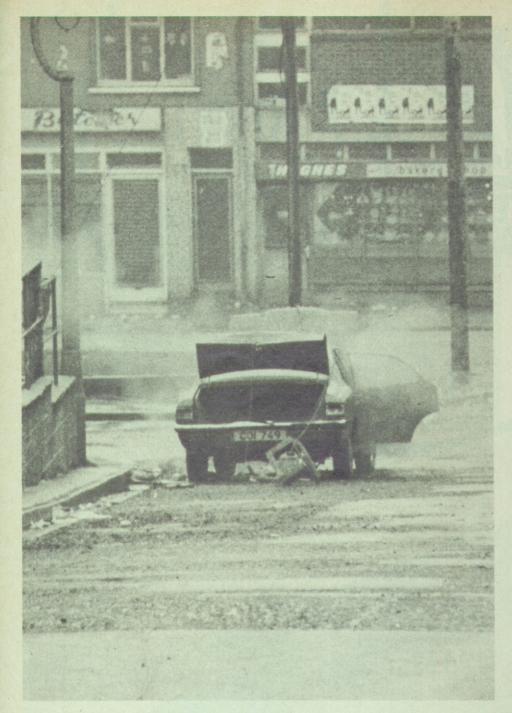
The lone car parked near the crossroads seems to radiate waves of tension. Although dull-brown and dirty in the morning murk, its potential threat gives it an almost tangible glow.

The Paras crouch in gardens, on the pavements, behind walls. Quietly but firmly they shepherd away from the area the family groups on their way to morning mass. The awful normality of bombs in Belfast tells in a mute acceptance that there may be a bomb in their neighbourhood.

Above: Major Honey briefs the patrol before setting out.

Below: The operations room hums and crackles with radios.







Left: A controlled explosion wrenches open the car door for 'Felix' men to inspect the interior.

Above: The cordon of Paras watches for IRA.

The Felix team arrives in its armoured vehicles. Major Honey is asked a few questions about the car by the Felix team leader, like a doctor matter-of-factly seeking symptoms to diagnose an ailment. He decides to 'operate' but instead of donning white coat, gloves and mask he wears thick padding, helmet and visor for protection against any blast.

The sudden 'crack' of a controlled explosion springs open the car's boot and it gapes, bouncing on its sprung hinges. There is nothing there. Another detonation slams open the door and hooks and wire make a quieter remote entry under the bonnet.

A painstaking search reveals nothing. Option three proves correct. The car was simply abandoned by its hijackers. The cordons withdraw to their metal-clad camp again, darting from corner to corner on the way. With a clatter of bolts they clear their weapons and take their places in the cookhouse queue for lunch.

In their absence the padre has been and gone. The liturgy of violence had taken precedence suddenly this Sunday.

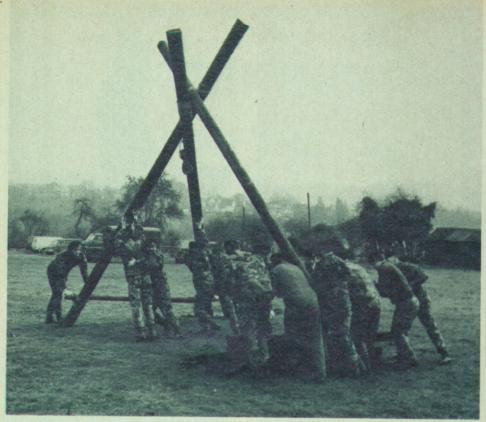
How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 31.









Although there is strong evidence that the regiment has a pre-Militia background — its ancestry can be traced back to a Posse Comitatus (peacekeeping force) of 1539 — its 'birthday' is now taken to be 21 March 1577 when it became the Monmouth Trained Band.

Its record of service since it was raised as a Regiment of Militia in 1660 by the 3rd Marquis of Worcester, who later became the 1st Duke of Beaufort, is one which few other units in the British Army can boast. Thriving from its first raising, it grew to seven companies in 1697 plus a troop of horse comprising 55 sabres.

The regiment was embodied on a number of occasions in the nation's history when Britain's interests were threatened at home and abroad. They stood to during the Seven Years War from 1757 to 1763 and for the

Above: The trestle for a ropeway being erected. Below: A group intent on a field tactics lesson.

American War of Independence (1778-83).

As the storm clouds gathered over France during the Revolution and in later Napoleonic days, the regiment was embodied from 1793 to 1802, from 1803 to 1816, and again later for the Crimean War (1854 to 1856) and the South African War.

Often the regiment thirsted for action and it volunteered more than once. Its plea for overseas service was approved in the early 19th century and it was stationed in Ireland from 1811 to 1815.

It was the first to volunteer for active service during the Crimean War embodiment, its officers having offered £5000 to equip the regiment. The offer was turned down by the powers-that-be but many officers and men served as volunteers with the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers.

At the outbreak of the South African War

Below right: A 225 Squadron man on demolition work practises on a bridge.



The present Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) has three troops as well as its regimental head-quarters in Monmouth and its Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop and Royal Army Ordnance Corps stores section in Newport.

Newport is also home for 100 Field Squadron, which also has a troop in Bristol. In Swansea is 108 (Welsh) Field Squadron with a troop in Cardiff. Over the border is 225 (City of Birmingham) Field Squadron with troops at Sheldon, Bromsgrove and Knighton, and head-quarters at Oldbury.

The regiment's name has changed over the centuries, starting as it did in the early 1600s as a Posse Comitatus. In 1577 it became the Monmouth Trained Band and in 1660 the Monmouthshire Militia. In 1793 it spread to become the Monmouth and Brecon Militia to which the prefix 'Royal' was added in 1804. In 1820 it was re-named the Royal Monmouthshire Militia and in 1832 the Royal Monmouthshire (Light Infantry) Militia.

On All Fool's Day 1877 the regiment became part of the Army's sappers as the Royal Monmouthshire Engineers (Militia) and the two 'Royals' came in 1896 when the present title was adopted.









Above: Infantry training for 108 Squadron man.

Left: 108 Squadron on traditional sapper tasks.

Below:100 Squadron builds an aerial ropeway.



the regiment volunteered to send a section. This time the offer was accepted and an officer, a sergeant, a corporal, a second corporal and 22 sappers served with a bridging battalion. This section was followed by two companies, making a total of seven officers and 231 men.

In World War One the regiment mobilised one siege company, two railway companies and one depot company. Throughout the war it maintained its own units from its own depot and raised a further five companies as well — three siege and two Army troops.

It trained and sent to war a total of 76 officers and 2113 soldiers. The distinction with which these men served is shown in their tally of medals: Five Distinguished Service Orders, eight Military Crosses, 12 Distinguished Conduct Medals and 16 Military Medals.

In September 1939 the regiment's 100 and 101 field companies went to France with the British Expeditionary Force. After successfully completing their demolition withdrawal tasks, both companies fought as infantry in the rearguard action, in which survivors of 100 Company were captured.

This company was re-formed and with 101 Company again went to France — this time to Normandy's D-Day beaches — in

1944 as part of 8 Corps Troops Engineers. The two companies were in the van of the fighting until VE-Day and were among the first sappers across the three main river obstacles — the Seine, Rhine and Weser.

In addition to the two field companies, the regiment formed 2 Training Battalion, Royal Engineers, at Chester, which remained as an engineer training establishment throughout the war. But when the fighting was over the regiment re-formed as an Army engineer regiment under its old title with its headquarters as before at The Castle, Monmouth, where it is to this day.

The long association with the town was recognised in 1953 when the regiment received the Freedom of the borough and it exercised its right to parade through the town with flags flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed on 24 June 1960 to mark the tercentenary of the raising of the regiment by the 3rd Marquis of Worcester.

And now the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers — they gained the right to the two 'royals in their title when they became part of the Corps of Royal Engineers — exercise that right again to honour four hundred years of service, a tradition which inspires the volunteers of today, as members of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, to defend their nation.



And the commemorative cover celebrates the double anniversaries — 400 years as a regiment on 21 March and 100 years in the Royal Engineers on 1 April — of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia). These covers, in four varieties, are on sale from 21 March. Details were given in the Letters pages of the February SOLDIER.

STRIKING FOR THE JUBILEE





The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal is being struck for issue as a personal award from the sovereign to members of the Crown Services and people from a variety of fields of other service in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Those selected for the award in the United Kingdom will receive the medal on 8 June 1977. United Kingdom will receive the medal on 8 June 1977. The obverse of the medal shows a new version of the crowned effigy of the Queen looking to the observer's right with the inscription around: ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA REGINA FID. DEF. The reverse bears the inscription: THE 25TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II 6 FEBRUARY 1977 surmounted by the crown and surrounded by a wreath of silver birch foliage and catkins.

The medal, fitted with a ring mount, will be suspended from a watered white ribbon one-and-a-quarter inches wide which has a central stripe of cardinal red with a Garter blue stripe on each side. There is a finishing edge of cardinal red on each side. The Canadian Government

of cardinal red on each side. The Canadian Government has minted its own medal.

The Silver Jubilee Medal has been classified as an offi-cial medal to be worn on all occasions when medals and decorations are worn. Some 9000 servicemen or women will receive the medal.

Below: From smooth silver disc to fine medal.

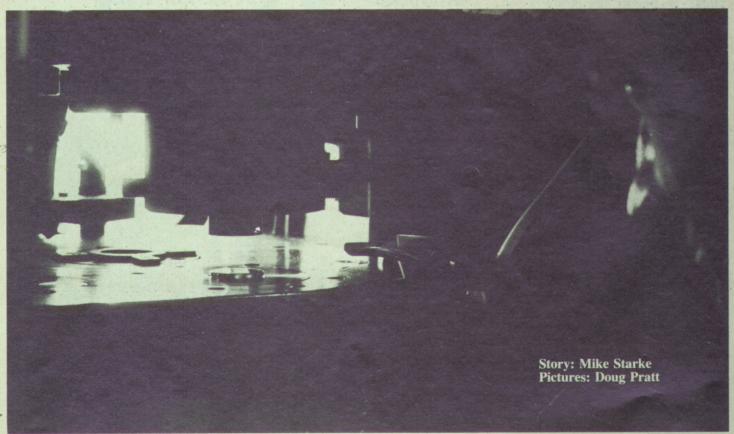
A FACTORY in South Wales with an enviable export record is proud of its strikers. Not because they stay away from work, but because they come in every day to practise a very specialised skill.

These 'strikers' are the experts at the Royal Mint in Llantrisant, near Cardiff, who turn blank discs of metal into the often highly complicated designs of coins and medals for Britain and the world.

They are busy, with their silversmith colleagues, producing the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal which is to be presented to selected members of the armed forces and civilians in June.

The medal is special in itself, but it incorporates a new royal portrait on the obverse which will be used on later medals. It is different in another way too in that it is not the same size as many other medals and so the process of manufacture involved special treatment on the workbench.

The intricate details of the design were





Above: Hammering home rivets holding clasps.

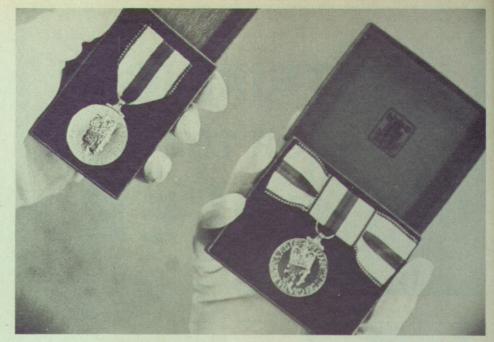
made into a seven-to-eight-inch diameter cast which was later carefully reduced to actual size of one-and-a-quarter inches for a steel matrix to be produced. Working punches — one for the reverse and one for the obverse of the medal — were then created from soft steel, later hardened to cut the clean reliefs needed for a perfect medal.

More than one set of dies is required for the one job as they wear out during production. The Jubilee medal is being produced in large numbers and each week during production some 30 men have been turning out 2500 or so of them.

The 'strikers' make their powerful mechanical presses stamp twice on the sterling silver faces of the Jubilee medals. This ensures that the design is cleanly and clearly cut into the metal. More intricate medals have been known to take a calculated 20 'strikes' to produce the perfection that

Below: The first of two 'strikes' is made.





Above: On the left a finished medal for a man. Right? One for a woman.

is demanded by the Llantrisant craftsmen.

Next the circular medals — up to now similar in shape to the coins of many nations produced at the Royal Mint — have to be drilled and fitted with the brackets and rings to take the red, white and blue ribbon which will hang them from their clasps.

Silversmiths punch out the small brackets and drill the edges of the medals to fit the components together, using tiny silver rivets tapped in with slender hammers. The rings from which the whole will hang are sawed from tightly coiled 'springs' of thick silver wire and soldered electrically into place.

During the manufacturing process, when they have been passed from hand to hand at each stage, the medals have become dirty and so must be thoroughly cleaned before despatch. First they are bathed in acid and then 'scratch cleaned' to give them the final buffing up the wearer will cherish. On duty as a final polisher right at the end of the process, during SOLDIER's visit, was the only soldier involved in the production of the Jubilee medals. He was Lance-Corporal Stan Bell, a Territorial Army Volunteer Reservist with 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

From him the medals went to the packing stage where they were beribboned and stowed in handsome red boxes for despatch. In the case of the Army, they were sent to the Army Medal Office in Worcester for eventual distribution.

Recipients will remember their Jubilee medals for the rest of their lives and show them with pride to all. In the small work-room where they were made there is pride too, not only in that medal but in many others too and for many different nations. All get the same skilled attention at the Royal Mint, Llantrisant.

Below: Precision-hardened steel dies are replaced as they wear out.



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Airfix have recruited the dashing Bengal Lancer into their glorious 54mm scale collectors series.

When Captain James Skinner, a mercenary, formed his famous

regiment of Lancers in 1803 they quickly became known as his 'yellow boys'.

The unfortunate nickname was due to their yellow alkhalak or coat. For they were anything but 'yellow' when it came to a fight, as their many battle honours testify. In 1899, long after Captain Skinner's death, the regiment changed its name to the Duke of York's Own Regiment of Bengal Lancers. Though they continued to be known as Skinner's Horse—a much more appropriate nickname than their previous one.

Now Airfix bring you the Bengal Lancer looking exactly as he did a hundred years ago.

What's more, the Lancer can ride any horse in the 54mm collection, which includes the British Hussars, the 2nd Dragoon (Royal Scots Greys), and the Polish Lancer (1st Reg. Lancer of the Guard) 1815.

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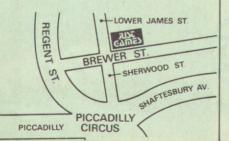


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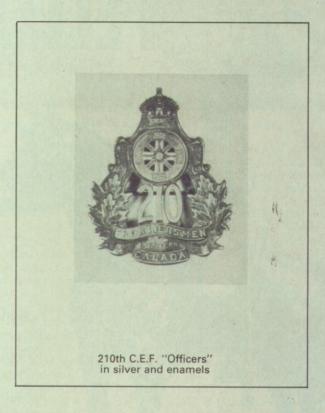
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Soldiernews

'No teeth arm cuts'—Mulley

The Army's front-line strength will remain at present levels, according to the new Defence White Paper.

This is despite the pruning of £200,000,000 in 1977-78 and another £230,000,000 in 1978-79 from the defence budget.

According to the White Paper, the 1977-78 saving will come from the equipment programme (£75,000,000), and the works programme (£64,000,000) with the balance from miscellaneous reductions in administrative and support costs.

in administrative and support costs. How the 1977-78 cuts are to be made has not yet been decided.

What these cuts will mean is a slowing down even more of deliveries of weapons and aircraft to the Services, plus a delay in new building.

The paper notes that the Soviet Union military spending has grown in real terms by about five per cent a year. It estimates that the Soviet allocates about 11-12 per cent of its gross national product to its military



"We must not be too alarmed or complacent about the growth in the military power of the Warsaw Pact" — Mr Fred Mulley.

programme. Since 1968 the combat strength of the tank and motor rifle divisions facing West Germany has increased significantly although the number of divisions has not changed.

Since 1968, increases in the combat strength of the air forces facing the region are the equivalent of another seven air regiments.

New equipment includes the Kiev aircraft carrier, Forger vertical take-off-and-landing aircraft and the swing-wing Backfire bomber. In the nuclear missile field, the Soviet Union can deploy the SS-X-20 intermediate range ballistic missile which is road mobile, older intercontinental missiles are being replaced by three new types and nuclear-powered missile-firing submarines are appearing at the rate of six a year.

But Secretary of State Mr Fred Mulley, who introduced the new White Paper, cautioned against being too alarmed by these figures.

being too alarmed by these figures.
"We must neither be too alarmed or complacent about the growth of the military power of the Warsaw Pact. What we have to do is to set about dealing with what we see to be its consequences.

"This means concentrating harder on the progress of détente, arms control and disarmament and secondly doing what we can to strengthen the cohesion of Nato."

Yet on page 2 of the White Paper, the introduction to the chapter on détente and disarmament starts: "Arms control and disarmament negotiations are continuing in several areas, but progress during the year has been disappointing."

Continued on News 3

Happy snappers

The Army Photographer of the Year is Patrick Timmos from PR UKLF. He won the title in the Army's 1977 competition with his pictures of an exercise with 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry. Other class winners: Doug Pratt, SOLDIER (colour print); Paul Haley, SOLDIER (single black-and-white print); Petty Officer Wood, JPRS Hong Kong; Bombardier E T Humphreys, the 45 Beduin Regiment (unit photographer).

New company at Sandhurst

A new company, named after Lord Rowallan, has been founded at Sandhurst.

Lord Rowallan was given the task of training young men inexperienced in command before they attended officers courses during World War Two. Rowallan Company will train men to go straight on to the standard military course, the course which the majority of the Army's officer entrants attend.

At present there are 24 young men under training in one platoon and this number will expand to two platoons by the end of the year.

The training, which lasts 12 weeks, is varied and arduous and is angled towards practical leadership rather than classroom work.

Military subjects such as mapreading and first aid are taught to enable the exercises to have wider scope. Exercises include climbing in Devon, canoeing in Wales, survival training at Sennybridge and escape-and-evasion exercises on Dartmoor.

The cadets are also introduced to aikido and judo and are expected to pass swimming endurance tests, with exercises in rafting and water crossing to add a certain stimulus.

The course will culminate with eight days in Snowdonia on Exercise Holy Grail.

Girls to get guns?

Members of the Women's Royal Army Corps may soon be packing pistols, but only for their own protection.

A study was launched to examine the role of the WRAC and one of the recommendations yet to be approved by the Army Board is the vexed question of whether the girls should carry guns.

A Ministry of Defence statement confirms that the report on the WRAC is complete, but its recommendations have not yet been

"The WRAC has never had a legally defined non-combatant status," says the ministry. "If approval is given, the corps would formally be recognised as combatant, though it would still be employed in noncombatant roles."

The working party recommended that the WRAC should be employed on any suitable tasks which would not involve direct fire against the enemy or excessive physical work

This means that they will not normally be employed forward of divisional headquarters

divisional headquarters.
The Women's Royal Army Corps
will continue to be used for search
duties in Northern Ireland.

If the Corps is to be armed, then the most suitable weapon would be a pistol.

The report does not envisage direct fire weapons, unlike the ATS during World War Two who manned anti-aircraft guns.

Comic cuts in khaki

Dramatic illustrations accompany the text of a new book designed to jog soldiers' memories on the do's and don'ts of battle. Issued by the Directorate of Army Training, the booklet, 'Basic Battle Skills,' is to be given to all new Army recruits as they join. The eventual aim — using this system of distribution — is to ensure that all soldiers have a copy of the aide-memoire snuggling next to the field-marshal's baton to be found in every kitbag.

It is stressed that the book is not a training manual but that its graphic pictorial content — complete with



You may not use torture or threats to obtain information from a prisoner.



● You must not fire at men baling out of a damaged aircraft but enemy parachutists who are descending to attack you, should be attacked.

the blood and bangs of the battlefield
— follows the maxim that 'a picture
is worth a thousand words' to fix a
concept in the receptive mind.

The Army coyly admits this is the first venture into 'this style of publication' but even a casual flick through the pages is enough to see that concepts such as camouflage, distance judgement and map-reading are revised at a glance with admirable clarity.

Suitably crestfallen civilians evoke sympathetic response to the text telling soldiers to 'treat civilians humanely.' Parachutists are treated to a less unequivocal approach. Apparently if they have baled out of an aircraft they must be left unharmed but if they are Les Dreaded paras — up and at 'em!

And now, nothing up my sleeve...

David Nixon, Britain's number one conjuror, had no difficulty in persuading 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps to show him Hong Kong from

Although there was some initial demurring, he quickly convinced them that there was magic in the air by transporting one of their Sioux helicopters and its pilot on to the roof of their small headquarters building just by uttering a few magic

This proved as good as an 'open sesame' to the doors of a Gazelle helicopter and David was soon flying high above the bustle of Hong

Kong.
His spell was not all powerful however - frantic wand-waving and mystic words failed to disperse

the heavy mist.

He was in Hong Kong for cabaret appearances at the Mandarin Hotel.

Picture shows David putting the 'fluence' on Sergeant Rodney Lambert RCT and his Sioux helicopter at the Sek Hong headquarters of 656 Squadron. Picture by Petty Officer Stuart Wood, JSPRS.

Pathfinders blast road

A troop of 30 men from the Gurkha Engineers has flown to the New Hebrides islands to improve trade and communications.

The men, from 68 Gurkha Field Squadron, will help to link the villagers on the island of Maewo by building a vehicle track.

The work is part of a long-term plan by the New Hebrides govern-ment. The engineer troop will build a single-span 30-foot bridge across the Narovorovo River, a three-culvert bridge over the Bulangoth River, a ford across the Tanise River, and will use explosives to clear rock piles.



Derby calls it a day

Derby XXII, the official ram mascot of 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, stationed at Colchester, is to be 'invalided out' of the Service because he is suffering from arthritis

and his marching on parade is not up to the standard expected. This five-year-old ram joined the regiment in October 1975 and, as he 'served' in Northern Ireland, was service Medal, with the clasp 'Northern Ireland.'

India Medal

The first mascot ram, Derby I, was acquired in India by the 95th Regiment (later to become 2nd Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters), at the siege of Kotah and, being present with the regiment at six actions, was awarded the India Medal with the clasp 'Central India.'
Since the death of Derby I by

drowning in 1863, there has been a succession of ram mascots, each bearing the title of Derby, and it has become traditional for them to be presented by the Duke of Devon-

Staffords probe a Sherlock Holmes style poser

A huge silver-mounted pipe dating from the Boer War, the bowl of which will happily take the content of a 2oz tin of tobacco, has presented 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, with a mystery.

can coin embedded in the bowl, it bears the inscription: "J Harris, 2nd NS (North Staffs) Regt, Boer War 1899-1901."

Hand carved, with a South Afri-

Now the regiment wants to know who J Harris was and where the pipe has been since 1901.

It came into their hands in cloakand-dagger fashion. A German walked into the guardroom of the Staffords at Quebec Barracks, Osnabrück, during their last open day when 15,000 people were mil-ling around, and placed the pipe on the table. He said he had taken it from a British soldier during World

Without offering any more detail he walked out and vanished.

The Staffords, posted to Colchester in March, are trying to trace the German before they leave Osna-brück to see if he can solve the mystery he created.

Was the soldier dead or a pris-oner? Did he know his name? If he did it might reveal the soldier as a son or grandson of the original J Harris.

The regiment's RHQ at Lichfield is currently combing records for the pipe-smoking Boer War soldier.

One clue has turned up by chance in Osnabrück itself and is being followed up.

Clerk Lance-Corporal Kim Hitchener, aged 19, from Salters Lane, Tamworth, who joined the Staffords a year ago, is a medal collector and he bought some medals at a Birmingham shop which had belonged to 5893 Pte J Harris of the 2nd South Staffordshire Regiment.

Right name but wrong regiment. However, the medals included the Queen's South Africa Medal with bars for the Transvaal, Orange Free State and Cape Colony. Also the King's South Africa Medal 1900-1902, plus World War One medals.

Captain Richard Amery, 1 Staf-fords operations officer (above), who has charge of the pipe as mess silver member, said: "It is possible that J Harris was transferred from one regiment to the other. All we know for certain is that the pipe is an expensive one to smoke with duty free tobacco.



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WHITE PAPER

To improve effectiveness and save staff, the separate organisations in the Procurement Executive for civilian personnel management, central finance and others are to be merged with the rest of the ministry.

A rundown of 23,500 by March 1978 is forecast towards the target reduction for Ministry of Defence staff civilian manpower set out in the 1976 Statement on the Defence Estimates.

On the plus side, a series of improvements is planned to maintain the effectiveness of the Chieftain main battle tank. Chieftain laser sights and muzzle reference systems are already in production and the improved fire control and

passive night vision kit which form the second stage of improvements are under trial. Chobham armour — "the most significant advance on armoured vehicle design and protection since the Second World War" — will not be fitted to Chieftain, because it is not "cost-effective." The policy for the replacement of

The policy for the replacement of Chieftain in the late 1980s hinges on the Anglo-German concept studies for a future main battle tank which are now virtually complete.

The combat reconnaissance vehicle Striker, which carries the Swingfire anti-tank guided weapon system, will enter service this year and production of the command vehicle Sultan will begin.

Deliveries of the all-weather version of the Rapier air-defence missile system have begun and initial deliveries of the anti-tank guided weapon system Milan are expected later this year.

The new integral logistic command and control organisation, the Logistic Executive (Army), will be established in 1977 at Andover and, it is hoped, will provide a more efficient and economic structure for the management of the Army's logistic support.

The main economies in both manpower and overhead costs in Army logistic support in the UK will stem from the concentration and reduction of storeholding and repair facilities.

During the next few years the Central Ammunition Depot at Bramley and a main repair workshop, 32 Central Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical

Engineers, at Bicester, will be closed.

In addition, 29 smaller logistic establishments supporting both the Regular Army and TAVR will be closed, reduced in size or given a different role.

A further restructuring of CODs at Bicester, Chilwell and Donnington is under consideration.

It is expected that all these measures will produce civilian manpower savings in the UK of about 2600 jobs. In the Army logistic support area at home and abroad, civilian manpower has been reduced by about 1700 during the past two years, mainly through the reduction overseas of locally engaged civilians.

The total civilian staff savings in Army logistic services will in due course amount to about 5400 jobs.

Truncheon out for General Ronnie

One of the Gurkhas' most treasured possessions, the Queen's Truncheon of 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles), was paraded in farewell to Major-General Ronnie McAlister, Deputy Commander British Forces and Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas.

General McAlister leaves Hong Kong next month on retirement from the Army and the truncheon, presented to the regiment by order of Queen Victoria in 1863 and carried on occasions when other regiments carry Colours, was paraded when the battalion held a ceremonial farewell to mark his retirement at its Burma Lines, Fanling Barracks.

The parade also officially marked the affiliation of the battalion with C Squadron of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

In recognition of their outstanding services during the Indian Mutiny, and of the fact that the 2nd Goorkhas, forerunners of the present-day regiment, were the first native infantry regiment to fight on the side of the British, the Governor-General of India granted the regiment the exceptional honour of a third Colour in 1858.

That same year a British rifle regiment asked that the Goorkhas be allowed to wear their own uniform and be called 'riflemen' to mark a bond of friendship that had been formed between the two regiments when they fought beside each other during the Mutiny.

As a rifle regiment it was against tradition to carry a Colour and so, at the command of Queen Victoria, the Queen's Truncheon was presented to the regiment at Lahore, India, on 30 November 1863.

The head of the Queen's Trun-

cheon, which stands five feet high, represents three Goorkhas standing on the minaret of Delhi Palace gate supporting, above their heads, the Queen's crown. Inside the minaret hang two crossed kukris. Figures, minaret and staff are of bronze but the crown is of frosted silver.

Major-General Ronnie McAlister, Deputy Commander British Forces and Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas, takes the salute as, for the last time before his retirement from the Army, the Queen's Truncheon of 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII Own Goorkhas (The Sirmoor Rifles), is paraded before him (right).



That's entertainment

Last year was certainly an Ntertaining one for Naafi and it was all thanks to their new central booking service.

Since the new service, simply called Ntertainment, started last year, it has organised more than 600 thous.

They include discos, folk singers, comedians, groups and cabaret artists in every size of club and mess up and down the country.

The UK service is run through Naafi's club development branch in London (its counterpart in Germany has been operating successfully for three years).

Plans for the future include a show circuit for Scotland which will

take in the clubs tucked away in remote areas where live entertainment is a problem.

ment is a problem.

"If we succeed in establishing channels for regular entertainment in Scotland we will have taken a large step towards our goal of having circuits the length and breadth of the UK," said Chris Thorpe, in charge of Ntertainment.

"Nertainment will even find artists for children's entertainments, and at the other end of the scale it is hoped to include women wrestlers on the books."

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Pegasus reports for duty

Meet Pegasus, the new pint-sized mascot of The Parachute Regiment.

The regiment has been without a mascot since the death of pony Sergeant Ringway two years ago, but now the gap has been filled by Pegasus, donated by Arnhem veteran Tex Banwell (left) who was provost sergeant of the Territorial 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and is now a horse breeder

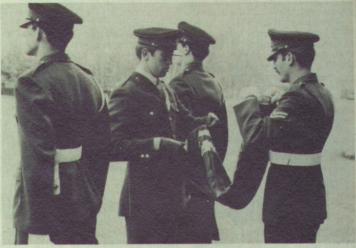
With Tex is Private Steve Mulholland, an ex-jockey who has been appointed Pony-Major and who will look after Pegasus.

"As a 30-year Parachute Regiment man, I have always felt that the regiment without a horse is naked," said Tex.

Pegasus, one of the Army's nine official mascots, will be stabled at the

Parachute Depot, Aldershot, until he takes up the first of his official duties with 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, when it goes to Berlin.

Flag goes down on gunners



The flag is folded for possibly the last time, symbolising the disbandment

of yet another regiment.
The flag, of 42 Heavy Regiment,
Royal Artillery, was handed over to
General Sir Harry Tuzo, the Master Gunner, for safe keeping. Folding it are Second-Lieutenant Richard Blackburn and Bombardier Michael

The regiment was formed at the beginning of the century as 32 Field Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, re-numbered 16 Field Brigade in 1922 and then renamed 16 Field Regiment in 1938. It was not until 1947 that the regiment was first numbered 42, then as a field regi-

General Tuzo took the salute at the parade at Fallingbostel, which included a drive past of the regiment's heavy guns followed by a dismounted march past by each of the batteries and finally a drive past with the new guns, symbolising the new role of the batteries.

The three batteries, 18 (Quebec 1959), 49 Inkerman and 94 (New Zealand) all go in different directions. 18 Battery, the only one that remains a heavy battery, joins 5 Heavy Regiment in Hildesheim and 49 and 94 batteries convert to 105mm Abbotts and join 40 Field Regiment in Gütersloh and 49 Field Regiment in Hohne.



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Brigadier says goodbye

A nostalgic ride round the Alder-shot ranges was one of the last official duties of retiring Provost-Marshal Brigadier Dennis Rendell (right) and it also brought his career full circle.

His first command, back in 1954, was 160 Provost Company at Aldershot, so it was appropriate that he took a last ride with the mounted troop when he inspected the elementary equitation course run by

the company

It was also appropriate that Troop Sergeant-Major Bill Griffiths (left) who instructed the course and accompanied the brigadier on his farewell ride, was also with the company in 1954 when it was commanded by the then Major Rendell.

Those years were stirring times, recalled Brigadier Rendell. He formed the mounted troop display team, which went on to carve itself such a niche in the Army display diary, and yet still had time to run a much larger company in those days of National Service.

"I've always loved Aldershot," he said, "even when there were so many more troops stationed here.

Thieves

"Of course there were many more police as well. Then we used to patrol much further afield. I remember that we had a lot of trouble with Christmas tree thieves who used to come down to Minley pinch lorry-loads. And

caught a lot of them."

The brigadier also has the distinction of commanding the 61st Indian Cavalry. This was when he was Deputy Assistant Provost-Marshal at Edinburgh and, because of his interest in horses, was asked to lead the Indian cavalry during a performance in the Edinburgh Tattoo. He even had to learn the Urdu words of

Young Guards follow Monck

Twenty-five Coldstream Guards Junior Leaders have followed in some very famous

footsteps.

The young soldiers, in their sec-ond term at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Shorncliffe, have traced the route covered by General Monck on his march to London in 1660 when he led the newly formed Monck's Regiment which he raised at Coldstream in Berwickshire

On arrival in London the men of Monck's regiment became known as Coldstreamers because of their origin; later the regiment adopted the title and became the Coldstream

The idea behind the march was to give the young soldiers an entertain-ing expedition at a crucial stage of

their careers

It was designed to test physical fitness and give them a chance to march through and be able to observe the countryside of their traditional recruiting areas.

During the march the lads stayed

in military accommodation wher-ever possible but, when this was not available, they camped out.





A two-year posting with a difference has ended for a platoon of Royal Australian Military Police.

The platoon, drawn from all over Australia, came to Britain on an accompanied posting to relieve British colleagues for service in Northern Ireland.

And there to see them off, when they gathered together at Aldershot, was retiring Provost-Marshal Brigadier Dennis Rendell (left). "It was a great tour," said Staff-Sergeant Chester Hallan, who

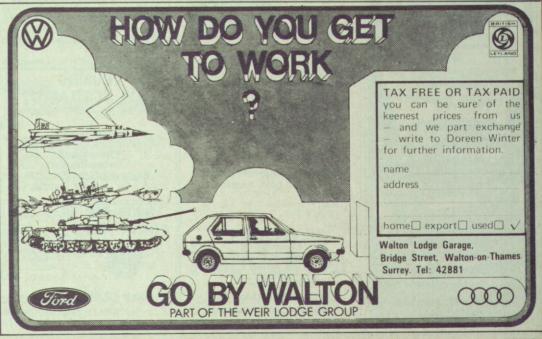
brought his wife and three children to Britain.

"Everybody has achieved a great deal in the two years, mainly because of the more responsible work they have to do. The British MPs are allowed to do far more before the civil police are called in, especially in their powers of investigation.

'The wives seemed to take a long time to settle in. Obviously life here is very different. But they all enjoyed it. Especially the one or two ex-Brits in the party. It was a real home from home for them."

One thing that the down-under soldiers did expect — and found — was the cold weather.

"For that first winter we all wore combat liners and long johns under our uniforms," recalled Chester.



District HQ to move home

South West District Headquarters is to move from Taunton to Bulford, on Salisbury Plain, in September. The move will be completed by early 1978.

As a result of the 1975 Defence Review, HQ South West District will, from April this year, have direct control of operational forces in its area — almost all of which are based

on Salisbury Plain.

With this increased responsibility, and the dwindling Army presence in the South West in recent years, the headquarters is now inconveniently placed in relation to the main concentration of troops for which it is

responsible.

The wooden-hutted Sherford Camp at Taunton, now nearly 40 years old, is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain. The move to Bulford avoids the cost of rebuilding because the main part of the head quarters will occupy a modern office block, which will be vacated in the near future when Headquarters 3rd Division moves to Germany as part of the Army-wide reorganisation. Other economies will result from the disbandment of Headquarters Salisbury Plain Area, Bulford.

"All these factors make our move not only inevitable but essential, both to enhance our operational efficiency and save money in the future," said Major-General Bob Lyon, General Officer Commanding

South West District.

"As I have said several times in the past when the possibility of a move has arisen, we shall all be genuinely sorry to leave Taunton and this lovely part of the country,

Second Contract

A second multi-million pound con-tract for BAC Rapier ultra low-level air defence equipment for the Australian Army has been signed in London. Worth more than London. Worth more than £13,000,000, it covers the supply of 'add on' Blindfire radar trackers for the optical Rapier systems ordered by Australia at the end of 1975.

but today's slim-line Army has got to make the most efficient and economical use of its limited resources.

About 240 civilians work at Sherford Camp and nearly all of these will be offered jobs at Bulford and financial assistance to move if they wish. However, many will naturally prefer to remain and an information service has been established to give civilian staff detailed advice on such

subjects as allowances, redundancy terms and alternative employment for those remaining in Taunton.

Under an agreement reached between the Civil Service Department and Civil Service unions, other government and Ministry of Defence departments in the area will do all they can to help absorb staff affected by the move.

ammunition depot since the late

1920s. The Japanese also used the

island for ammo storage but added a

Geisha house, which is still standing

but derelict, and operated a snake

The Ammunition Depot Police were formed to guard the island when it reverted to Royal Navy control after the war and was originally

composed of European officers and

the Shanghai municipal police force

and prisons department.

The force has been part of the Army Department since 1959 when changes in the organisation of the

changes in the organisation of the armed forces in Hong Kong resulted in transfer of the depot from the Navy to the Army. It became an entirely Sikh force in 1966 when the last European officer left and Staff-Sergeant Bhaget Singh was promoted to Sub-Inspector to replace him a prot he still holds.

replace him, a post he still holds.

Colonel Styles with the 25-year
men. From left: Sergeant Chapran

Singh, Corporal Satpal Singh, Col-

onel Styles, Staff-Sergeant Tirath Singh, Sergeant Balbir Singh and Corporal Piara Singh.

policemen drawn mainly from

on-smokers celebrate



Many reasons are put forward against smoking but one of the more unusual applied to a job in Hong

That's why the Army Department Ammunition Depot Police Force,

which guards Stonecutters Island off Hong Kong, is composed entirely of Sikhs - their religion forbids them to smoke, which removes one big source of danger when you're working in an ammunition depot!

Five members of the unit, which claims a unique place in the British forces, have celebrated 25 years of service on the island. They arrived in Hong Kong in 1952 having been specially recruited in India. And they were on parade with the rest of the 37-strong force when it was reviewed by Colonel John Styles, Deputy Director of Ordnance Services at Headquarters British

Stonecutters Island has housed an

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Nurses remembered —with interest

On 1 February 1941, the nursing officers of Bowen Road Hospital, Hong Kong, deposited 700 HK dollars in a special bank account for just one year.

But before the women — officers of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service — could withdraw their money, the Japanese invaded and the nurses were all either killed or imprisoned.

During the occupation all records of the British military hospital sisters mess in Bowen Road were destroyed, so it will probably never be known what the money was to be used for. The only item of mess property recovered was a 1935 jubilee portrait of Queen Mary which was untouched and in its original frame.

In fact the bank deposit came to light only during a special audit at the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. Now the bank has repaid the 700 HK dollars plus the originally agreed interest of two per cent, a total of 1200 HK dollars, despite the original promise that the money would be in the bank for only a year and therefore drawing interest only for that time

for that time.

"We are delighted at this simply splendid gesture of appreciation to the Army sisters of wartime," said Lieutenant-Colonel Anne Healey, matron of the British Military Hospital, Hong Kong.

General joins the Legion

General Sir Rodney Moore has accepted an invitation to become president of the Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth.

General Moore, who lives at Hampton Court Palace, fills a position vacant since the death in 1951 of Field-Marshal Lord Birwood and follows a family tradition set by his late father, Major-General Sir Newton Moore, who joined the Frontiersmen in Australia in 1911.

During a distinguished career, General Sir Rodney Moore commanded 2nd Guards Armoured Brigade and the Guards Armoured Division during World War Two and was Chief of Staff, HQ London District, from 1948 to 1950. He was Major-General Commanding The Household Division from 1957 to 1959.

"The money is to be donated to the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps museum appeal fund where it will be used to expand the museum facilities.

"We feel that in this way it will be used to provide a permanent memorial to our colleagues who suffered here during the war."

High speed parish visit

Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, GOC Scotland for exactly one year, believes in getting round his 'parish.'

He recently made a flying visit to the North on a schedule which, on the first day, meant leaving Edinburgh by car before 0600 hours to motor more than 150 miles to Inverness. By 2000 hours that evening the general had carried out seven engagements. Flying was really the operative word on the second day when the general paid a call on the RAF at Kinross and joined a Nim-

rod fisheries and oil rig patrol.

Piloted by Flight-Lieutenant
Norman Tench from Salisbury,
General Scott-Barrett flew on a
normal surveillance patrol over a
sector of the North Sea from north
of the Shetlands to south of the
Scottish/English border. More than
30 oil rigs were given the 'onceover' by the patrol, which flew the
mission in foul weather requiring
flying below clouds down at times to
500 feet.

Airborne gunners bow out



The last of the airborne gunners, 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, may have given up their parachute role, but it will never be forgotten.

For although the regiment is leaving 16th Parachute Brigade to become 7 Field Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, and losing the red beret, every man in the regiment will wear the Pegasus Badge of Distinction — a reminder of those now-gone airborne days.

The light blue Pegasus on a maroon background will be worn on the left sleeve by all ranks while serving in the regiment. The badge was presented by the inspecting officer, General Sir Roland Gibbs

(above, left), Chief of the General Staff and one-time commander of 16th Parachute Brigade.

The newly designated regiment is taking up its new duties with 5 Field Force in Germany.



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Post to: Head Office, 400 Gt. Cambridge Rd., Enfield, Middx. ENI 3RZ. OR Tel: Gütersloh (05241) 20763. Over the last five years the United Kingdom devoted about 5.6 per cent its gross national product to defence as compared with 5.4 per cent for Nato as a whole, the Secretary of State for Defence (Mr Fred Mulley) told Mr Nicholas Winterton (Conservative, Macclesfield). Mr Mulley added that current estimates were that the Soviet Union had devoted 11 to 12 per cent over the

Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, had news for Sir Anthony Royle (Conservative,

additional responsibility on the civilian medical resources of the

Asking for a postponement of the closure for two years, Lord Alport said that by that time the Northern Ireland troubles might be over and separate unaccompanied service less characteristic of the Army. In three years' time the local health authority might have greater resources and the British economy might be far stronger.

Baroness Robson of Kiddington said Colchester had been more conHaltemprice) asked a series of questions about the cumulative effects of defence cuts. Dr Gilbert said the defence review and subsequent cuts had led to the cancellation of the Beeswing and Hawkswing anti-tank weapons for the Army and to the deferment of the introduction of an alternative to Hawkswing.

The cuts had not in themselves produced any measures which affected training by restrictions on track mileage. The effects on consumption of ammunition and fuel had been marginal. Apart from the

with all-arms support plus an RAF element including helicopters, a detachment of the RAF Regiment for air defence and a radar detachment. Estimated cost for 1976/77 £7,000,000.

Also in the Lords, Lord Shinwell asked whether the Government had been made aware of the proceedings of the meeting of defence ministers in Brussels and in particular of the need for increased expenditure by Nato countries to match the military strength of the Warsaw Pact. If so, what was their reaction?

Richmond-on Thames) who had Richmond-on. Thames) who had been pressing for action to restore the façade of Wellington Barracks, London. Dr Gilbert said that in the light of further restraints on the defence budget it had been decided not to proceed with the rebuilding of the barracks at the present time. Work to repair the façade, compatible with a major rebuilding in the future, would be put in hand as soon as practicable. as practicable

Mr Michael Mates (Conservative, Petersfield) said a senior officer of the Royal Engineers had told him he was seriously worried about the sap-pers' ability to carry out their primary role because recent emphasis had been rightly to prepare them for their duties in Ulster

They did four-month tours in Northern Ireland as infantrymen but when they returned they were not

when they returned the were not able, because of fuel restrictions, to train for their role as engineers. In the House of Lords, Lord Alport asked whether in view of the report of the Army Welfare Enquiry. Committee the Government would reconsider the decision to close Colchester Military Hospital. He said that Woolwich, the site of the pew hospital, was very difficult to reach hospital, was very difficult to reach, not least from Colchester which was one of the largest military stations in

The Colchester hospital had recently been equipped with the most up-to-date operating theatre and the wards had been and were being modernised at a cost of several hundred thousand pounds. The Mayor of Colchester expected to send a petition to Parliament with 50,000 signatures protesting against the closure

There were 4500 children and 4000 adults in Colchester's married quarters and these would become an cerned in many ways with looking after non-military personnel than many other military hospitals. The average daily number of civilian in-patients was 28 out of 114 beds

Lady Robson said she had been told that it was intended to retain out-patient services for acute care. with X-ray psychiatry and physiotherapy services extended medical centre. Because the hospital was situated in the middle of the military barracks it was not particularly accessible to the general population of Colchester and in the present economic climate she believed the capital expenditure required to upgrade the hospital could not be provided by the Health

An attempt to get an increase in the special daily payment to ser-vicemen in Northern Ireland was made by Mr Ian Gow (Conservative, Eastbourne). Mr Gow said a daily payment of 79p would now be required to bring it up to the value of

Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, agreed that this was true but added that the pay of the armed forces was governed by an independent body. Its recommendations last year did not include one to increase the allowance.

Mr Geoffrey Pattie (Conserva-tive, Chertsey and Walton) asked for a policy statement on the issue of free travel warrants to Service personnel. Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, said there were no plans to change the current entitlement. Discussions were continuing with the Inland Revenue about the question of whether warrants should be subject to tax following the Finance (No 2) Act 1975

Mr Patrick Wall (Conservative,

deferment of some minor items there had been no effect on the Army's programme for communications equipment.

On fighting vehicles, Dr Gilbert

said the Vixen wheeled reconnaissance vehicle was cancelled and reductions were made in the followon orders for the Sultan, Spartan and Samaritan tracked vehicles. This had meant that older vehicles, the Ferret scout car and the FV 430 series of armoured personnel car-riers, had had to be kept in service longer than originally planned.

The British forces television services in Germany were now reaching an estimated audience of 15,000, Mr Brown told Mr Gwynfor Evans (Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen). It was hoped it would reach 90,000 servicemen and their families by the end of this year and more than 150,000 by the end of 1978. When in full operation it was estimated that the annual running costs would be around £1,000,000.

Mr Hugh Jenkins (Labour, Putney) asked a series of questions about the use of rubber bullets. Mr Wellbeloved, Secretary of State for Defence for the RAF, told him that 3464 plastic rounds were fired operationally in Northern Ireland in 1976 as against 3701 rubber and plastic rounds in the previous year. He said that a report produced by surgeons in 1975 indicated that of 33,000 rubber bullets fired up to the time of its inquiries, 40 substantial injuries had resulted including two fatalities. Comparable information on PVC bullets was not available.

Details of the British garrison in Belize were given by Lord Winterbottom to Lord Taylor of Gryfe. Lord Winterbottom said the garrison was based on a battalion group

Lord Winterbottom said the Government recognised that in the face of the continuing Warsaw Pact build-up, Nato was the best guarantee of our continued security. He added: "We intend to continue to make an effective military contribution to the collective security of the alliance commensurate with our economic situation."

Not satisfied, Lord Shinwell said frequent cuts in our defence expenditure might encourage some of our allies to do likewise and thus weaken Nato. German military expenditure was equivalent to £8,000,000,000 annually, which was £2,000,000,000 more than that of the United King-

Lord Winterbottom: "My Lords, the only way that the disparity can be remedied is that we put our economy in as sound a financial position as the German economy. We have in the meanwhile to cut our cloth according to our means.

Liberal peer Lord Gladwyn thought it shameful to in effect weaken the conventional defence of Western Europe by the Government's refusal to add a few pennies to the price of a bottle of whisky or a packet of cigarettes.

Lord Home of the Hirsel said that the more conventional forces were diminished, the only option left open for allied response was the tactical nuclear weapon. This was extremely dangerous and he asked for a Government assurance that it would not diminish the conventional forces any

further.

Lord Winterbottom said this analysis was absolutely correct. Proposed cuts would be concentrated in the support and administrative areas and would not involve any reduction in our front-line contribution to the alliance.

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Soldier to head expedition

A British soldier is to head a scientific expedition to the rain forests of the Amazon basin in Colombia in June. The expedition will travel mainly by river to explore an area the size of England.

Captain John Saunders (25), Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, will lead the four teams of British and Colombian scientists who are conducting studies in ecology, medicine and archaeology.

The teams will be supported by

British and Colombian soldiers including men from REME, the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and Army Catering Corps. Nine British soldiers will provide logistic back-up in the unforgiving environment which has stopped scientists from learning the area's secrets until now.

Captain Saunders was a member of a five-strong REME reconnais-sance team which visited the area in 1973. This led to the present ex-pedition. Now, scientists are to study the region, helping Colombians to develop the area's natural resources without damaging the environment

"Humidity is up to 100 per cent and the temperatures are in the 90s," said Captain Saunders. "The jungle is dense and, away from the few Indian tracks, you have to hack a path for yourself through secon-dary jungle. We will be travelling by inflatable boats which will hold a

team of six plus equipment."

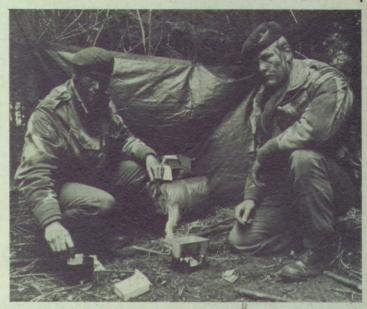
Away from the faster-flowing water the expedition will have to watch out for piranhas, electric eels, stingrays and anacondas.

The expedition will be taking a lot of its own food but the Army Catering Corps cook will be expected to produce some local delicacies. "He may have to butcher an ant-eater or so. They're very stringy but perfectly edible."

Dr Michael Eden, of the University of London, is to lead the team studying the ecology while Dr Warwick Bray, of London University's Institute of Archaeology, leads the archaeologists. The medical research, mainly into leishmaniasis, a disease passed on to man by sandflies, will be headed by Dr Bob

sandnies, will be neaded by Dr Bob Howells, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who is a world authority on the disease. The scientists fly from Bogota to the expedition's base camp at Araracuara on the Rio Caqueta in the heart of the rain forest. This base, supporting 30 expedition members plus porters and guides, will look after the four teams during the four-month expedition.

Airborne in hiding



These airborne Volunteers are no strangers to roughing it — which is just as well, for they had to stay in their woodland hide in the cold and wet for a full

The exercise, at Stanford Training Area, near Thetford, involved men of 44th Parachute Brigade (Volunteers). The exercise included working with helicopters by night and night patrols taking in special tests.

Supporting arms and services, engineers, gunners, medics, all carried out specialist training including mine-laying, vehicle recovery and the setting up of a medical dressing station.

Gurkhas pitch in



The villagers of Pak Nai in the New Territories of Hong Kong have good reason to thank the Gurkha Engineers for opening up a virtually impassable road.

The road through the village was unsurfaced before the Gurkha Engineers moved in and completely re-built it. The work involved filling in fish-ponds, re-aligning the old route and laying almost a mile of new concrete

Sporting enthusiasts and schoolchildren in Tsuen Wan now have a new basketball court added to their facilities due to the efforts of pupils from Saint Francis Xavier School and the Assault Pioneer Platoon of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles (above)

For several months the Gurkhas have been helping at weekends and during holidays to level a site on waste ground. More than 40 tons of hardcore and 50 tons of concrete were laid before the court could be





He flies through the air with the greatest of skis



One of the remotest firing ranges on Cyprus has been given a 'spring-clean' by UK-based sappers.

The sappers, 120 men from 3 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, were tasked to repair the field firing range at Akamas in one of the remotest parts

The men lived in tents and worked from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, to bring the range up to scratch.

Although remote, the Akamas range is well used because, unlike most Cyprus firing areas, the soldiers can fire and manoeuvre at the same time so that simulated battle conditions can be tested.

But it was not all work. "Due to careful organisation" the sappers managed to give nearly every man in the squadron a few days skiing on Mount

Picture shows Private Roy Straney flying through the air with the greatest of skis. Roy is in the Army Catering Corps, attached to the squadron. He is a qualified ski leader.



us from: The Principal, Goring Hall School, Goring By Sea, Sussex.

'Hi Bali,' signals John

'Make a signal!' is one of the oldest orders on board ship but it had a new twist in the Royal Navy patrol craft HMS Wasperton when she sailed from Hong Kong on a fourweek deployment. Among the Navy communicators was 31-year-old Army Sergeant John Butler (left), who had embarked to fill a vacancy in the ship's company.

Normally a telegraphist attached to a Gurkha Signals unit at Headquarters British Forces Hong Kong, John's main hobby is sailing which is just as well because his stint of sea duty will take him to the Philippines, Borneo, and the Indonesian paradise island of Bali.

Granny gets a gong

An Army grandmother has received her Long Service & Good Conduct

Staff-Sergeant Terry McGuiness (52), Women's Royal Army Corps, joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1942 and now, 35 years later, has received her medal at the Army Careers Information Office at New

A family party covering four generations attended the presentation. Terry's mother, her married daughter and toddler grand-daughter Ruth were all there.

Terry was born in Ashington. She joined the ATS in 1942 and was

married in 1944, but left the Service in 1946 when her daughter Anne

In 1947 she joined the Territorial Army, serving for three years until

In 1960 she re-joined the Regular Army as a recruiter with the WRAC at Newcastle and has remained in that job ever since.

The medal presentation was made by Colonel Ann Field, Deputy Director and Director-designate of the WRAC, who was paying an official visit to the North East

Last journey for

floating barracks

HMS MAIDSTONE leaving Belfast docks on her final journey to Rosyth where she is

She has been an accommodation ship for 2000 troops since November 1969 when she arrived in Northern Ireland.

Launched in 1938, she started life as a submarine depot ship. She was extensively reconstructed between 1958 and 1962 as a support ship for nuclear-powered

Wagons Ho!

Winter wagons were rolling on Salisbury Plain when the Royal Corps of Transport practised sup-

annual event for the Royal Corps of Transport in 3rd Division. Major unit taking part was 3 Divisional Regiment, headquartered at Bul-

plying an army at war.

Exercise Winter Wagon is an

"I joked about going on a spon-

the Abbot self-propelled gun.

Accordingly, she weighed in, in
January, at a hefty 18st 4lb and will

8 April.

Meanwhile the men are being has by a cheeky

Despite the jesting, however, Abbey is taking her diet seriously. She's given up all her favourite

The crash diet doesn't seem to have affected her sunny temperament — or her popularity with the



Abbey wants renovating!

Heavyweight Mrs Natalie Daniels — Abbey to her friends is the toast of the Tartan Badger Club at Carter Barracks, Bulford, on Salisbury Plain.

Mrs Daniels (41), who runs the Naafi for 3rd Division HQ and Signal Regiment, has agreed to go on a sponsored slim to raise money for charity - and a party for the men.

Recently Abbey, seen here enjoying a (slimline) drink with Regimental Sergeant-Major Reid (left) and the regiment's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ray Bell, was told by the hospital she must lose

sored slim and the unit took me up on it," laughs Abbey, who was nicknamed by the Royal Artillery after

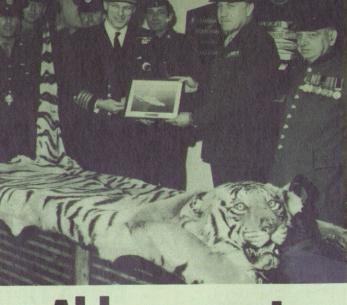
be weighed again, under the auspices of the RSM and the CO, on

urged to sponsor her by a cheeky poster around camp which reads: 'Help renovate the Abbey!'

dishes and drinks, including curry and rice, spaghetti bolognaise and brandy "I've got to get down to 10st

eventually - though I won't do that by April," she says.

Says Colonel Bell: "Abbey is so popular she has been asked to come with us when we go to Germany at the end of the year.



Delighted

A tail of

two tigers

Face front that tiger, and

important part in this story

because the soldiers, from

The Royal Hampshire Regiment — whose cap badge

bears a tiger battle honour -

It all started through the long affiliation the county regiment had

with HMS Hampshire. When this ship was paid off recently, the regi-

mental band was there to play a last goodbye. HMS Tiger, a helicopter cruiser, was tied up alongside and the skipper obviously liked what he saw of the 'brown-job' Hampshires and asked if the affiliation could be

are on board HMS Tiger.

In fact the tiger plays the

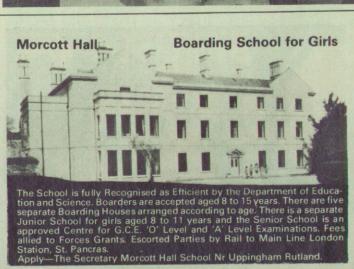
stop staring at the camera!

"Of course we were delighted to do so," said Lieutenant-Colonel CD Darroch, regimental secretary of the Hampshires.

Picture shows the captain of Tiger, Captain S A C Cassells, handing over a colour photo of the ship to the Colonel of The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Brigadier D J War-

Brought down by the regiment specially for the occasion was In-Pensioner F O Horn from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.





Bridges 'not too far'

A walk across the 13 bridges which cross the River Thames between the Tower of London and Putney has provided a holiday for a group of ndicapped children.

More than 100 men from 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, went on the walk in aid of Break, a charitable trust providing home-from-home holiday accommodation and care for disabled and under-privileged children at three centres in Norfolk.

And there to meet the men after their walk — codenamed appro-priately 'A Bridge Too Far' — was 'Liver Bird' Nerys Hughes.

Picture shows Corporal B Tyrrell, who thought up the walk, meeting some of the children who regularly spend their holidays with Break. Behind, with Nerys, is Lieutenant-Colonel A E Berry, commanding 4th



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rom air terminals.
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"Pick up a few extra & mprove your chances."

[Dr. Holliday Gbh.]

That dubious medical personality Doc Holliday seemed to do his best operating over a poker table. And he certainly won most of the time. But there was always a slim chance that even he might lose his hand. Or even his licence.

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Workshop reborn

A cold winter's day with brilliant sunshine heralded the rebirth of a unit of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers when 71 Aircraft Workshop re-formed in Detmold. The occasion was marked with a parade of the units which have amalgamated to form the new workshop.

The parade started with the inspection and march past of two detachments of 71 and 73 Field Workshops (Aircraft).

Inspecting Officer was the Commander Army Air Corps 1 (British) Corps, Brigadier J G Crowe. The two workshops then amalgamated by marching together to form a single unit under the new commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R A Weston. The parade culminated in a march past by the new unit.

Under the Army restructuring plan, HQ REME (Air) BAOR, based in Bielefeld, 71 Field Work-

shop (Aircraft), based in Detmold, and 73 Field Workshop (Aircraft), based in Celle, have amalgamated to form 71 Aircraft Workshop

71 Aircraft Workshop previously existed in Detmold from 1963 until 1971 when, in common with other second line workshops in REME, it was redesignated as a field workshop. The new workshop is considerably larger than its predecessor and is responsible for all second-line maintenance for Army aircraft in BAOR and Berlin.

Dave fights the flab



The trouble with Corporal Dave Longstaff was that every time he jumped out of an aircraft, he seemed to hurt him-

Which, for a soldier in 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, is bad news.

Dave's trouble is that he likes his pint and his food. So much so that his weight has bumped up to a very solid 18 stones

But now all that has changed for ave, who is attached to the Parachute Depot medical centre at Aldershot, for he has gone on a sponsored slim. And for every pound he loses, the British Heart Foundation makes money.

"I have broken ankles two or three times," he said, "and damaged my Achilles tendon. In fact I always seem to hurt myself when I jump, usually because I am overweight.

"I want to keep on jumping so I have got to slim. This means cutting

out beer and all starchy food, plus an increase in fitness training.

Waiting his turn to climb on the scales is Major Norman Nichols, second-in-command Parachute Depot, who is also going

Parachute Depot, who is also going on the sponsored slim.

"I know I am overweight," he said, "and I want to come down to about 13 stone.

"This means no beer, potatoes or bread. I have been allowed 1000 calories a day."

Checking the 'starting post'

Checking the 'starting post' weights is Sergeant Mac MacDonald of the medical centre, who per-suaded the two 'guinea pigs' to go on the sponsored slim.

MBE for Herr Peter

A lifetime of devotion to duty has added an honorary MBE to Herr Staff Superintendent Peter Monning's German Army Iron Cross 1st Class.

Aged 61, Peter Monning is now chairman of the Social Organisation for Workers of the Allied Forces, but his duty started with service for his country in World War Two and has continued with his work for the British mobile civilian transport groups and for its members.

Born in Duisburg, Peter Monning, of 606 MCTG, Royal Corps of Transport, joined the German Army in 1936 and three years later, as a cavalry officer of the Wermacht, won the Iron Cross 2nd Class for bravery in action. A year later he won his second award for bravery, the Iron Cross 1st Class.

His wounds kept him in hospital for some time but in 1942, when with an anti-tank regiment, he was awarded the Deutsches Kreuz in gold for individual and collective bravery of the highest order. His subsequent wounds kept him in hospital for a year before he was back on active service to be captured by the Russians in March 1945.

For three years he was a prisoner-of-war in Russia and after his release in 1948 he joined the forerunner of the MCTG. He saw his duty then as service to the British forces and the welfare of the civilians employed in the organisation. In 1957 he was elected to the council for the welfare organisation for civilian employees of the British forces and ten years later became its chairman.

His work as chairman involves



close liaison with the federal authorities and with both the Protestant and Catholic churches. The tangible example of his work is the Altenheim at Bracht — a retirement home for those who served the forces in Germany.

It was in 1970 that he conceived the idea and set about the task that saw the official opening of the home five years later. It cost more than DM5,000,000, can accommodate 116 people, and includes facilities for 26 bed cases and seven married couples.

Peter Monning has lived in Krefeld since 1951 when he joined 606 MCTG as its administrative superintendent. He became staff superintendent in 1957 and is now considering the possibility of retirement — as, he says, "in the next ten years or so."

The award of an MBE is a tribute to his work; the Altenheim a lasting symbol to his devotion to a task over many years. But to Peter Monning there is one satisfaction — "I have only done my duty," he says.

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PRESTONS TIME



Americans to get stats system?

The man who developed the Army's revolutionary computer-based master order of battle has retired. And it looks as if he is going to develop a similar system for the Americans.

Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Buckley served for 30 years with Defence Statistics where in 1961 he introduced the master order of battle and its system for determining and predicting the Army's equipment requirements.

In 1964 the system was expanded to cover manpower requirements and since then has been constantly developed so that it now provides a common centrepiece for the Army's manpower, equipment planning and day-to-day management.

The system has proved invaluable in these times of defence reviews and restructuring because it enables the Defence Staff to have various options of deployment and organisation measured and compared within a few hours.

The Pentagon has said that it is the best system of its kind in the whole of the western Alliance and has recommended that a Nato data base should copy it.

Now after his 30 years with the MOD computers, Colonel Buckley may be starting all over again with the US Department of Defense.

It seems odd to think that this career which revolved around computers and figures might not have happened had he not been wounded in Burma.



Lieutenant-Colonel Buckley, who was commissioned into The North Staffordshire Regiment, was wounded at Imphal, resulting in a temporary low medical category and subsequent 'chairborne' employment in manpower accounting.

He spent a short time in India as a records officer and at the end of the war was posted to Singapore where his technical career really started.

In 1949 he introduced the Army's first machine-produced 'Reverse Return' which saved thousands of man-hours spent by headquarters and units every month in preparing returns of vehicle holdings. He is a member of the British Computer Society.

The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, is this year celebrating its 125th birthday — and in what better year to celebrate than during the Queen's Silver Jubilee year.

You may wonder why I am mentioning this, but over the years many sick children from Service families have been nursed back to health at this hospital and some have been flown many hundreds of miles for its expert medical care.

The Service children and their families come under the wing of Colonel Woods who told me about the £1,000,000 appeal for funds launched by the Medical School of The Institute for Child Health.

The founder, Dr Charles West, wrote a little book, 'How to Nurse Sick Children,' published in 1854. In 1908 a new edition appeared and now, to quote from Dr Felix Besser:

The founder, Dr Charles West, wrote a little book, 'How to Nurse Sick Children,' published in 1854. In 1908 a new edition appeared and now, to quote from Dr Felix Besser: "123 years have passed and the world of medicine has undergone many profound changes, yet the message which the book transmits is as valid today as when it was written.

ten.

"In sending this charming book on its renewed voyage round the world, we pay homage to a great physician, a kind and warm-hearted man, full of love, compassion and tolerance, who has erected for himself a wonderful living memorial, the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street."

Having visited many Service children in the hospital I can say it is a wonderful place and so I do hope that it reaches its appeal target.

To order the facsimile book write to: Dr Felix Besser, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, WC1N 3JH, enclosing £2.00.

anne Cerustrong

Anne's view

Married servicemen posted on an accompanied tour of duty in Northern Ireland have the choice of either moving their furniture to the Province at public expense or alternatively storing it in Great Britain and claiming removal expenses and storage charges.

claiming removal expenses and storage charges. Whichever method is chosen, servicemen are also eligible for the free conveyance of their baggage to and from Northern Ireland by MFO.

Care should be taken, however, not to confuse 'furniture' with 'baggage.' Under no circumstances are the costs of moving furniture to or from Northern Ireland refundable when storage charges are being claimed in Great Britain during any part of the tour in Northern Ireland.

The rules governing entitlement and procedures are contained in Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges, Chapter 7, Sections 1, 2 and 3. It should be noted, however, that the movement of baggage is subject to the completion of AF G980 and carriage by British Rail or National Carriers Ltd only. Other removal contractors may not be used for this purpose.



Service parents who wish to seek advice on boarding schools suitable for their children may communicate



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

Moving headache eased

The headache of moving yet again was not so much a problem this time for Mrs Margaret Holmes. And the reason? — she used the new Service contract system of furniture removal.

"It worked very well," she said, "as quick as anything. There was no tenders and pay the cost of removal

"It worked very well," she said, "as quick as anything. There was no damage to the quarter when leaving nor were any articles broken. It was so quick and easy and the removal men were very helpful.

men were very helpful.

"Everything was arranged for us.
The only thing my husband had to
do was arrange the insurance."

Before the new system, everyone had to make private arrangements and then claim a refund from the paymaster. This involved seeking three tenders, writing out a claim and, sometimes, obtaining an advance of removal expenses.

This system still stands, but now you have the extra choice. Apply to the Transport Control Officer, Royal Corps of Transport, or your unit, for arrangements to be made to move your furniture and the TCO will then either hire appropriate transport or use Service transport.

The system will eliminate the need for individuals, including unaccompanied wives, to obtain

tenders and pay the cost of removal in advance. There will be an increase in efficiency and cost effectiveness in using the new system.

Staff-Sergeant Desmond Wilson, who has been helping to run the pilot scheme in South West District for the last 18 months, said "This is the best thing since sliced bread. What a wonderful help it is to wives on their own.

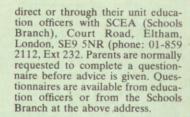
"We do all the work and the individual just has to fill up the form correctly."

All Margaret had to do in her new quarter was empty her boxes and re-arrange the furniture.

Thank you to everyone in Northern Ireland who helped make my visit so worthwhile and enjoyable. I have not forgotten the points you raised and hope in future articles to give some answers.

You are all doing a wonderful job in very trying times and conditions.





From the Services Booking Centre come two pieces of information which will help families.

When you receive your posting order, to say Germany, and you decide to go by car or make your own arrangements, make sure that F/MOV/564 is completed and then you will receive all the SBC information and pamphlets for the country you are going to (apart from the travel arrangements)

country you are going to (apart from the travel arrangements).

The SBC also draws your attention to the new method of obtaining your passport which was introduced on 1 January 77.

on 1 January 77.

Remember that passports are now obtainable through your husband's old unit and not from the SBC as previously.

However, if a problem does arise, you can still contact SBC for help.



These North Camp toddlers can play happily under careful supervision, leaving mum free to talk to her friends.

lames is the end o

James Michael Faithorn, born on 2 February 1977, and the third son of Warrant Officer 2 and Mrs Moira Faithorn, will most probably have the rare distinction of being the last gunner baby to be born in the Military Maternity Hospital,

Woolwich, which closed in March.

Well over a hundred years have passed since gunner births were first recorded in Woolwich, the home of the Royal Artillery, but the actual date of the first birth at the Female Hospital at Woolwich is lost in the mists of time.

Now this friendly 27-bed maternity hospital is finished. A sad time for the Matron, Major Sheila Cooper, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, who came from Tidworth in 1975.

I asked Major Cooper what would happen to the Service families who come from as far away

as Chatham and Maidstone.

"Expectant mothers must sign on with either the Army or their civilian doctor who will make the necessary arrangements with the local civilian hospitals and eventually, when the mothers and babies hospital in Woolwich closes, most expectant mothers will go to the Greenwich District Hospital," she

said.
"The ante-natal and post-natal clinics which have been attached to the maternity hospital will con-tinue," said Mrs Kathleen Trump and Mrs Dora Lewis who between them have 36 years of looking after Service families in Woolwich.

Asked how many babies they

have looked after during all those years, they said: "I have never thought about it." But on quick calculations, Kathleen and Dora must have cared for 81,000 babies born in the hospital alone.

The clinics in Master Gunner Place will most probably move to the military hospital and hopefully other premises will be found in the Brookhill area for the other clinic.

"We both have seen mothers whose daughters have come back and started their own families here. It just won't be the same when it closes

The hospital was friendly and homely, so important when often mothers do not have their husbands with them nor their immediate family, so the extra comfort and help which this small hospital has given has undoubtedly helped many mothers when no family back-up was close at hand.

Nurse Lance-Corporal Lesley Nurse Lance-Corporal Lesley Irvine delivered her first baby, a girl, at the hospital. "It was a tremendous thrill and I will be sad to go," she said. This was endorsed by Lance-Corporal Anne Crowthorne who will be marrying in April. Matron will be moving to Dharan in Nepal where she will be matron of the British Military Hospital. "Going to Nepal is outside our normal work. It is a great posting for me," she said. "I am thrilled."

Surrounded by cards and flowers. Mrs Moira Faithorn was full of praise for the staff and the care she had received and said the closure would indeed be a great loss to families.

It won't be long before the bull-dozers move in and another ancient monument will disappear from the Woolwich scene



Printed below is a letter to give heart to any housewife tied to her home during the day by young children who need constant attention.

Jacqui Ross was a dental nurse before marriage and Pauline Carvill was a cook. They wanted to get out of the house sometimes and meet friends, so, because there was no other way of achieving this, they founded their own mothers and toddlers club.

Dear Anne,

Soon after our posting to Aldershot we found few activities for wives or even a place where wives could meet for a chat and coffee in the daytime and bring children.

Each regiment of course has its

own wives club but these tended to be in the evenings and, with hus-bands away frequently, this was not always a convenient time.

What we felt was needed was somewhere within easy reach where wives could meet and children play

safely while we chatted. So the work began. First we approached the Housing Commandant and asked if anywhere was available for us to use. He advised us that we should hold a coffee morning in Woodstock House to see how many people would be interested, as a few people before had had similar ideas but had not carried on with them. A date was set, notices were posted and the morning arrived. How many would turn up? The number surprised even us. Thirty mums and their children filled the two small rooms of Wood-

Reader's letters

stock House. We were on our way A room in the old dental hospital had been put aside for use for organised groups; we could use this, we were told. Armed with scrubbing brushes and brooms, we set about

cleaning and sweeping. We were given cups and beakers and were loaned tables and chairs. Toys were donated, play pens set up and after weeks of planning the North Camp Mother and Toddler Group was

born last June.

Things are now running smoothly and we have more than a hundred mums on our books. Benches have been removed to give the children planty of room to run around; all that needs doing now is to give the room a fresh coat of paint -

If you feel you have not enough going for mothers and toddlers around you, get together a few friends and with a bit of luck you could have your own group in a few

Jacqui Ross and Pauline Carvill
Ramillies Park **North Camp**

Aldershot

Both Jacqui and Pauline leave North Camp soon and it would be a great shame if no-one else comes forward to run the club.

But, as well as new organisers, the

club needs pictures and posters to brighten up the meeting room.

If you can help with either need, the Assistant Housing Commandant North on Aldershot Military 3280 will put you in touch.

A reply to February's letter about transport to hospital from UKLF.

The official position is that the dependants of servicemen stationed in UK are in no different position from the normal civilian NH Service

When 'medical necessity' for tranport is established, it may be provided free of charge either by the local health authority or from Service sources to convey a dependant

to hospital.

When 'medical necessity' for transport is not established, the normal method of travel to hospital will be by public transport. If public transport facilities are not available or are unsuitable, provision is made in transport regulations for Army Transport to be used at normal repayment rates, which work out at much the same as public transport rates. However, where Army transport is conveying entitled personnel to hospital, or is proceeding on a normal routine run past a hospital, dependants of Service personnel may travel on it on a spare seat basis. It is a unit responsibility and not the doctor's to look after the welfare of its dependant families, which includes transport to hospital. Where families are separated from their parent unit, the local housing commandant is responsible on behalf of the unit.

Dependants who attend a NHS hospital, if they cannot get transport through any of the military services mentioned above, have recourse to the hospital's social worker or League of Friends who may be able to help with fares or even use of a

voluntary car service. There is no equivalent voluntary service available in military hospitals.

Members of UKLF Housing commandants organisation have a responsibility for the welfare of Service. vice families married quarters and so have contacts with all local civil agencies. The problem you have raised is known to exist in the certain areas where military hospitals are used. There is no straightfor-

ward solution. If all else fails, our advice to the unit or Service family is to go to the housing commandant. He may be able to find help from some source.

but cannot guarantee to find trans-Colonel R S D Maunsell A(PS) Branch UKLF

NEWS 15

France is to take part in the annual Courage Army Sevens rugby tour-nament in Aldershot this month.

News of this very popular one-day event — now in its third year — has not only crossed the English Channel but also reached the ears of enthusiasts in the two other armed

Both the Navy and RAF are to field sides on 27 April.

Prizes have been donated by the

Prizes have been donated by the brewers, Courage Ltd, who are introducing a man-of-the-match award for the first time this year. The Aldershot military stadium will be used for one of the first occasions since it was re-seeded after last year's drought and its brand-new restaurant facilities will be on hand for refreshments.

be on hand for refreshments.

The Army rugby side did well to draw 12-12 against a strong Oxford University XV. The Varsity players—all vying at the time for places in the team to tour Japan—had the wind with them in the first half and led 12.8 at half-time. Teamwork led 12-8 at half-time. Teamwork paid off for the Army in the second half and they pulled back with another try to draw.

Army rugby enhanced its international image with a game played in Mexico City against a local representative side.

resentative side

Once in Mexicos capital, the visitors were spendidly entertained and played an entertaining match which ended in a 26-20 point win to the home team.

Sport Signalmen are the champs

An extraordinary stalemate took up the 90 minutes of play in the United Kingdom Army Rugby Union challenge cup final with the final score 0-0.

Guards Depot and 8 Signal Regiment laid on a display of kicking and dropped passes which kept both sides locked in an indecisive contest.

The match had to go to extra time and in the war of attrition that fol-lowed, 8 Signal Regiment emerged the victors with 16 points to 0, scoring three tries in the last few minutes.

They go on to meet the Rhine Army champions — tipped by the experts to be the holders, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales in late March.

Other results: Army 3, Notting-hamshire 3; Army 14, Cambridge University 28; Army 12, Birmingham 21

Bristol clocked up a record nine tries in a victory over the Army by 44 points to eight. The Army fought back in atrocious conditions after Bristol went ahead in the sixth minute but collapsed in the second

Right: The high-jumping signalmen.



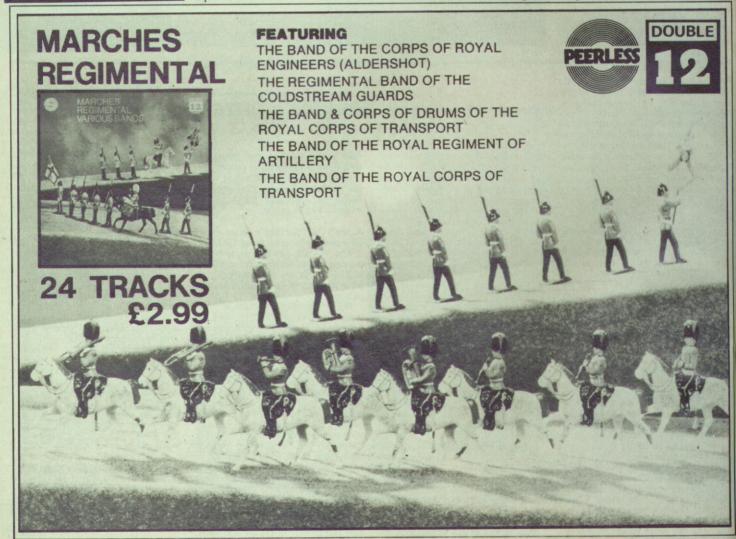
The annual Rhine Army versus French Army cross-country match ended in a narrow team victory for the British although a Frenchman was first over the line.

Three British teams from 21 Signal Regiment, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, and 4 Squadron of 2nd Armoured Divi-

sion HQ and Signal Regiment took on three French Army teams.

The Irish Rangers hosted the well-established annual meeting this year and laid out a testing 7.5 mile circuit. More than 60 runners streamed away through the mud on a cold wet day.

Adjutant Rauzduel from France won in 42 minutes, closely followed by Corporal Hegarty of 21 Signal Regiment, the winning unit.



Girls show their paces

There was some pretty good shooting when the girls of the For the first time in more years than they care to remember, three Services got together for a rifle match at Guildford . . . the shooting was good and the competitors were pretty.

Surprisingly the Army girls did not do so well at the butts, coming third by dropping 109 of the 2000 possible points shot for by the tenwoman team.

The Women's Royal Air Force won with 1923 points and the Women's Royal Naval Service was second with 1914.

Individual winner was Wren Sue

Bryne

Olympic gold medal pentathlete Lieutenant Jim Fox presented the prizes, confessed himself impressed by the sharp-shooting lasses and predicted a not-too-distant day when the women will be competing against the men in inter-Service championships.

Left to right: Second-Lieutenant Helen Beazley and Lance-Corporal Mary Allan, two team members

the Army women's table tennis team failed to win the inter-Service wooden spoon.

Their coach, Warrant Officer 1 Stan Brown from HQ Base Organisation, Didcot, said after the competition that although the general stan-dard in all three teams had gone up, the Army girls had improved "100 per cent."

RN v Army 6-3, Army v RAF 6-3, RN v RAF 9-0.

Army singles players were Private Anne Turner (CAD Kineton), Sergeant Jean Tomlin (ACIO Nor-wich), Sergeant M. Mullaney (CAD Kineton), and Captain Margaret

King (HQ W Mid Dist).

Doubles: Staff-Sergeant Leslie
Crick (10 Coy WRAC) and Corporal Sandy Wareing (113 Pro Coy, RMP). Reserve, Lance-Corporal Denise Townsend (RPO Brighton).

The Army's inter-Service team was picked the week before at the women's Army individual champ-ionships. Anne Turner was Army singles champion and Jean Tomlin

Picture shows the kind of determination Anne Turner had to become Army singles champion.



Sport runs in the family for Lieut-Col John Moore, comman-dant of the Army School of Physi-cal Training in Aldershot and a champion fencer himself. His daughter Alison (17) has become the youngest person to ski crosscountry for Great Britain. In an international ten-kilometre langlauf in Bavaria, Alison came eighth in a field of 12. Skiing is another sport her father is an expert in and he is to be technical adviser to the 1980 British biathlon squad for the Olympic Games. Alison's brothers Mark (15) and Paul (13) are both members of the British junior cross-country team.





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'Amateurs' go down fighting

The combined efforts of British and French Army football have once more failed to break the brilliant Belgians' stranglehold on the tri-national Kentish Cup.

This prized soccer trophy is played for by the three nations' armies and the Belgian side has carried it off every year since the 1972-73 season. The French have had the greatest success since the tournament began in 1920, scoring 18 wins over the years. The Belgians come next with 16 wins and then the British with 14.

settled into the match, both probed

each other's defences with deep

attacks. Within a few minutes of the

kick-off the Anderlecht player

Maertens was established in a strik-

ing position poised to score when

Then disaster nearly struck for the British when British goalie Pat

Hamilton muffed a clearance kick

and Belgium's Van Holst unbeliev-

ably missed an open goalmouth.

the opportunity arose.

Recent Belgian domination of the Kentish Cup is due largely to their ability to call on some of their country's best professional soccer talent as they still have National Service.

Belgian trainer Commandant Albert Bers — modestly discounting his own considerable contribution to his team's recent successes - admitted this in a recent interview

Confident

So it was a confident Belgian side

"Les Jass" as they call themselves — who came to Aldershot to meet the British team in this year's clash. Their confidence was boosted by the knowledge that they had beaten the French 4-1 the previous week.

But for all their professional skills, they also knew that the home team was capable of good football too and there was no room for complacency.

Lowly

On the same pitch a few weeks previously virtually the same British side had held the albeit lowly fourth division Aldershot team to a 1-1 draw, proving they were a match for some professionals at least.

As the Belgian and British teams

Right: Skippers Schepers and Coulton exchange team badges before the kick-off.

Determined British counterattacking shook the Belgian defence but they recovered their composure and began the darting, forward play that was to dominate the match In the 21st minute the Waterschei

player Van Holst took advantage of a miss-kicked clearance by Aly MacDonald to slot in the first goal of the match.

Failed

Characteristically, the British side took adversity in their stride and battled on to get back into the match. A determined attack by Alf Coulton, the British captain, ended when he was brought down just outside the box and Alan Goucher's wall-beating free kick just failed to

find the goal.

Derek Meldrum began to stamp his mark on the game and was

by Mike Starke

trainer Eddie Green and he managed to maintain his pace and aggression throughout the match. But what a waste of Meldrum. He beavered away on the wing and had a very good game which led to speculation as to how much better the British team might have done had he been poised to strike in the middle of the front row.

At the start of the second half Coulton put in a spirited attack which panicked the Belgian defence into bringing him down inside the box. Here was the equalising chance and Goucher did all the right things with the penalty shot ... except score!

His expertise sent the goalie the wrong way and he lofted the ball towards the top left-hand corner of the net. But the fates decreed the shot should rise inches too high and the ball cannoned down from the cross-bar on to the line and its spin coughed it out of the goalmouth back into play.

A demoralised British side went back into defence and less than ten minutes later Van Holst chipped the ball over the bemused heads of an outwitted defence to make the score 2-0. The referee gave the goal but British bemusement was the result of a belief that the Belgian player was offside.

The British continued to put up a creditable performance but were outmatched by the pace and elegance of a strong Belgian side. All credit to the small but partisan British crowd — mainly servicemen who generously applauded the winning away side for their footballing skill. A lesson perhaps for the

regular Saturday spectators.
So at the final whistle the Belgians knew they had won the Kentish Cup again, whatever the outcome of the Britain versus France match in Paris. They deserved their win.
They worked hard to get it. But in working hard they had to admit their opposition was strong enough to make them sweat.

British Army: Bdr Pat Hamilton (RHA), Cpl Dave Stacey (BW), Cpl Aly MacDonald (REME), Cpl Alan Goucher (REME), L/Cpl Alex Hamilton (R Sigs), L/Bdr Alec Ward (RHA), Cpl Micky Doig (RE), Cpl Kenny Seed (RE), Cpl Dave Blanche (RCT), QMSI Alf Coulton (APTC), L/Cpl Derek Meldrum (BW). Substitute: L/Cpl Dave Steadman (RE) for Seed.

Belgian Army: Munaron (Anderlecht), Gaspard (Standard), Sche-pens (AS Ostend), Phillips (FC Liege), Mariman (Antwerp), Liege), Mariman (Antwerp), Debougnoux (FC Liege), Cordiez (RWDM), Van Pelt (Beerschot), Van Holst (Waterschei), Jacucha (SC Charleroi), Maertens (Anderlecht). Substitutes: Dewil (Wintersals) for Maertens, Cattie (FC Diest) for Gaspard.





rates

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Mainstay

By half-time, strengths and

weaknesses were apparent on both sides. The British side wasted

agonising time passing across the park to set up attacks which were

then easily read by the opposition.

breakaway attacks into the British half with skill, pace and accurate

In contrast, the Belgians darted

But always there to mop up any mistakes was Alan Goucher who was the thinking mainstay of a defence that thwarted several dangerous situations.

Alf Coulton was played as the 'spare' forward man favoured by

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NEWS 18

Sports shorts

Boxing

The Royal Navy was convincingly beaten by six bouts to four in the inter-Service match with the Army at Portsmouth. Representing the Army were L/Bdr M Gregory (won), L/Cpl N Phillip (won), Pte R Plant (won), Fus K Phillips (lost), Cpl G Metcalf (lost), L/Cpl M Gannon (won), Fus A Jones (lost), L/Cpl T Williams (won), Rfn H Miles (lost), Pte A Palmer (won).

A survey is currently being made of how boxing is being run in junior soldiers' units. Questionnaires are being circulated and returned to Capt S J Moore, Junior Army Boxing Secretary, at Old Park Barracks, Dover.

Fencing

Scottish fencers — fresh from their own national championships — reversed last year's defeat by the Army by winning by 20 victories to seven in this season's match. Scotland arranged the fixture on home ground in Hawick in a bid to foster fencing in the Border area but Army officials were unhappy with the venue and conditions and felt their team was affected by the long dis-

tance travelled. Representing the Army were: Foil — Lieut I Campbell (AAC), Sgt S Evands (16/5 L), Cpl S Graham (R Sigs) (Army 3, Scotland 6). Epée — Campbell, CSM R Matlass (Gren gds), Capt L Burr (RAOC) (Army 2, Scotland 7). Sabre — Burr, SMI D Hughes (APTC), QMSI J Larkham (APTC) (Army 2, Scotland 7).

Judo

European junior judo silver medallist Apprentice Tradesman P Armstrong dominated the middleweight and open classes of the Army's junior championships in a fine display of prizewinning skill.

Armstrong, a student at the Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, is clearly a rising star in the Army's

sporting firmament.

Full results. Lightweight: 1st A/T A P Deeks (AAC Chepstow), 2nd Jun Ldr M Thompson (IJLB). 3rd (equal) J/Ldrs N A Patterson and K L Weaver (both IJLB). Welterweight: 1st A/T R H Killoh (AAC Chepstow), 2nd A/T T J Hewlett (AAC Chepstow), 3rd (equal) J/Ldr C Curran (IJLB) and A/T P J Crow (AAC Chepstow). Middleweight: 1st A/T P Armstrong, 2nd J/Ldr C S McLelland (IJLB), 3rd (equal) J/Ptes S C Wyman and R Kubath (Jun Para Coy). Light heavyweight: 1st A/T L/Cpl Debic (AAC Chepstow), 2nd A/T I D Vernon (AAC Harrogate), 3rd (equal) Jun/Gdsmn Pooley (Gds Depot) and J/Ldr S J Gill (IJLB). Heavyweight: 1st J/Tpr

Petrovic (JLR/RAC), 2nd J/Ldr Bartlett (IJLB), 3rd App T Roberts (AAC ACC). Open class: 1st Armstrong, 2nd Debic, 3rd (equal) Gill and McLelland.

Two Army judo specialists won medals — one a gold — in the Western Area individual judo championships at Barnstaple. Sgt D Lyons and Bdr G M Siddell, both of the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, gained the gold medal in the under-71 kilo and bronze in the under-60 kilo classes respectively.

Sailing

The Army Sailing Association offshore regatta for 1977 will be linked with the naval review at Spithead and will be called the Silver Jubilee Regatta. The ASA has a block booking of berths for the Queen's Jubilee naval review on 28 June and the regatta will follow on Saturday and Sunday, 2 and 3 July, at Gosport with 'round the buoys' races as in 1976.

Hapkido

Another international martial arts trophy has fallen to a British soldier. This time 21-year-old Pte Ken Birchell, of 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, has carried off the European Hapkido light heavyweight championship. Ken, a 3rd Dan black belt, took up the sport when only six and during his tour with his regiment to Hong Kong in 1974 he spent two months as part of the UN Honour Guard in Korea, home of Hapkido, where he gained valuable experience. On his return to Hong Kong he became Far East lightweight champion.

Shooting

The Regular Army marksmen scored a convincing win over Sussex in a smallbore standing and kneeling match. The Army's six hot-shots registered 1049 against the county side's 1030.

The Regular Army XX and Reserves both won their matches against Worcestershire in a small bore prone rifle match. Army 3945, Worcestershire 3886; Army Reserves 3881. Worcestershire Reserves 3863.

Basketball

Army junior-major units basketball champions for the year are A Company, AAC Chepstow, with JSC LI Depotrunners-up. Junior minor units champions are the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion with AAC Arborfield runners-up.



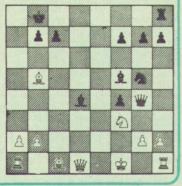
Captain Tim de Burriate RAPC, who won his game in the Army versus Navy tournament.

Here for chess enthusiasts, and particularly for newcomers to the game, is the first of a series of problems to be posed in SOLDIER News. This problem is from a game played in Prague. Black was able to mate his opponent in two moves. It is Black's turn to move. Can you see how Black won?

Send your solution to Editor (CH1), SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, by Monday 9 May. The winner, drawn by lots from correct entries, will receive £5 from the Army Chess Association.

The Army beat the Royal Navy in the second leg of the inter-Service chess tournament at Arborfield. The result was six points to four with the Army winning five matches, drawing two and losing three. Representing the Army were: SSI J Driver (REME), Capt T de Burriate (RAPC), Lieut D Charter (Int Corps), Cpl R Brewer (REME), A/T G Crockart (REME) who all won, Capts O W S Jones (REME) and D Young (RAPC) who drew, and Sgt L Hobson (REME), Pte M Cook (REME) and WO2 S Speed (RA) who lost.

The Army was narrowly defeated by the RAF in the first round of this year's inter-Service chess competition with a final score of $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$. On the same day a further ten Army players took on Wellington College and won this time with a reversal of the score against them by the RAF.





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Youngsters fight for their place



Fus Phillips won this toe-to-toe contest with Kgsm M Kirk (right).

Full diary for summer

The dinghy season is under way again and the Army Sailing Associa-tion's Netley Sailing Club has set off on another series of regular weekend races.

It became a popular feature of the club last year that come hell or high water - the latter, of course, being a necessity! - the weekly races took place. There is plenty of room for cruising too and the club's full social programme includes several saila-

way picnics into the nearby waters. The fact that membership is up some 50 per cent on the same time last year is a mark of the mushroompopularity of the Netley club and both serving and civilian members are welcome. Individual membership is £7.56 a year and further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Maj Roger Grannum, Netley Sailing Club (ASA), Netley Abbey, Southampton, SO3 5GZ.

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Although there were fewer bouts in the Army open and under-19 boxing championships this year, the standard was very high, particularly in the under-19 section.

One of the highlights of the evening's boxing at the London Scottish Drill Hall was Norman Phillip's successful defence of his bantamweight title. This is the sixth year that he has held the title

Results
This year's champions — Light This year's champions — Light flyweight: L/Bdr M Gregory (49 Fd Regt RA). Flyweight: L/Cpl J McInnes (1 BW). Featherweight: L/Cpl G Guy (216 Para Sig Sqn). Bantamweight: L/Cpl N Phillip (4/7 RDG). Lightweight: L/Cpl G Harrison (1 RGJ). Light welterweight: Cpl G Metcalf (1 Kings). Welterweight: L/Cpl W Malarkey (1 BW). Light middleweight: L/Cpl T Williams (1 RGJ). Middleweight:

T Williams (1 RGJ). Middleweight: Rfn J Roberts (1 RGJ). Middleweight: Rfn J Roberts (1 RGJ). Light heavy-weight: Rfn H Miles (1RGJ). Heavyweight: L/Cpl A Palmer (5 Airptbl OFP RAOC).

Airptbl OFP RAOC).
Under 19 — Flyweight: Gnr S Murray (47 Lt Regt RA). Bantamweight: Rfn L James (1 RGJ). Featherweight: Pte M Mannion (3 LI). Lightweight: Fus K Phillips (1 RWF). Light welterweight: Pte P Wharmby (3 Para). Welterweight: L/Cpl C Manning (160 Pro Coy RMP). Light middleweight: Spr B Miller (1 TRRE). Middleweight: A/T G Blunt (AAC Arborfield). Light heavyweight: A/T N Killen (AAC Harrogate). Heavyweight: A/T M Milligan (AAC Arborfield).

Glen first home



Glen Grant, the Army's sub-four-minute miler. pounds round the track at Tweseldown to win the Army cross-country senior championship in record style.

In fact this fine run by Lieutenant Grant, of 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, was a real disap-pointment for Warrant Officer 2 T Davis (7 Field Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery) who has now run in the competition ten times and come in second seven times.

As usual, 21 Signal Regiment won the major unit team championwon the major unit team champion-ship, this year with 100 points, fol-lowed by 7 RHA with 138 points and 29 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, with 284 points.

The minor unit champion was 16 Parachute Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron with 40 points, followed by the Queen's Division Depot with 91 points and King's Division Depot, Royal Irish, with 153 points.

Junior team champion was the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, with 35 points; Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Shorncliffe, 90 points, and Apprentices College, Harrogate, 115 points.

Minor unit team: Junior Soldiers

Company, Prince of Wales's Division, 34 points; Junior Parachute Company, 52 points. Individual winner: Apprentice Tradesman G

Wade (Army Apprentices College, Chepstow).

The women's inter-zone championship was won by SE (West) Zone and the individual winner Lieutenant A Moules from the Army School of Physical Training.

Army improves skiing

The Army put up a splendid show in the international inter-Service Alpine skiing championships at Ischgl, Austria, by finishing second overall to the Italian Alpini team.

Usually British Services come low in the lists in this event but this year the tables were turned. Out of nine teams the Army was second, the Navy fourth and the RAF fifth. The RAF Challenge Cup went to individual slalom winner Rfn Rick

Wieck (RGJ) and the Army, Navy and RAF Challenge Cup for individual effort in three events went to Lieut Andy MacInnes (QOH).



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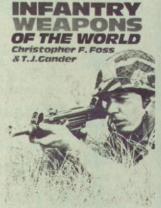
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YOUR ARMY LIFE IN THEIR HANDS

NO MATTER WHERE a soldier's Army career may take him, his manning and record office will be looking after him and helping his career along. The soldier may not see the manning and record staff, or hear from them often, but they will be responsible for his promotions (except for his first and perhaps second stripe) and his postings.

Exeter was selected as an example of the Army's manning and record offices and immediately on arrival the SOLDIER team was assured by the officer-in-charge, Colonel Tony Elcomb, that (to borrow a phrase), 'dull it isn't.'

"There is nothing boring about this job because we are dealing with the real world of people," he said. "With some of the jobs in the Army you are playing about in cuckoo land. Here we are dealing with individuals and try to treat them as such."

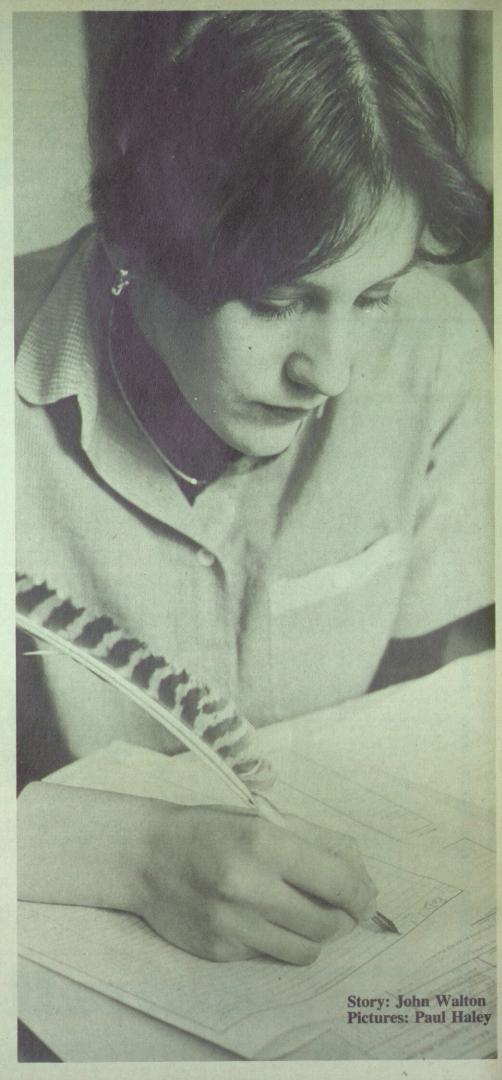
This may be no consolation for the man who has failed to make sergeant or has tried to rebadge but been rejected. But Colonel Elcomb, whose Infantry Manning and Record Office covers The Queen's Division, The Light Division, The Parachute Regiment, Special Air Service Regiment and Small Arms School Corps, says that the boards which meet to decide promotions are impeccably neutral.

"Our three-man board is made up of staff from within this office but, for instance, when we are dealing with The Queen's Division no one who has anything to do with that division will sit on the board."

The board deals with all non-commissioned and warrant officer ranks above that of corporal — most of the one-stripe and two-stripe vacancies are filled by commanding officers who, because of regimental continuity, are considered to know more about individual soldiers at that level than the staff of the manning and record office.

Manning is particularly concerned with the career soldier, which effectively means from corporal upwards. Says Colonel Elcomb: "The wastage rate for corporals and below is colossal — few of them complete more than nine years."

For promotion the board considers all those recommended and qualified and seniority then ceases to be a factor. 'Buggins's turn,' if ever it existed in the Army, is not the promotion criterion now — it is merit all the way as reflected by a man's confidential reports, all of which he will have seen.





Above: Twins Eileen and Sheila Flanagan double up on a filing task.



Above: Colonel Elcomb arranges display of his collection of badges.

Says Colonel Elcomb: "I will not let the board see any conduct sheets, course reports or any correspondence which may pass through this office."

Of course in the case of the infantry, promotion is to a rank rather than a particular job — all-rounders rather than narrow specialists are required.

"The chap who gets to the top is the one who has had a balanced career and done it well," says the colonel. "We do find people who just wish to coast along in the quartermaster's stores — that is their decision but they do so at the risk of their career in the infantry."

Postings is the other aspect of the manning side of the office. And here there may be even more grumblings. Again an infantry office is simpler — most infantrymen spend the greater part of their careers with their battalions whereas cooks etc switch around through various types of units. Still the emphasis is on the individual and Colonel Elcomb maintains that every care is made to help with domestic problems and requirements.

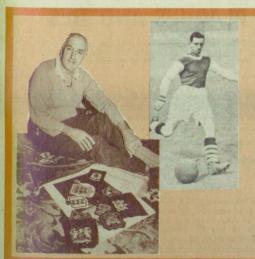
He spends much of his time visiting units and talking to all levels, from commanding officer downwards, explaining how men can get the best out of their careers. And Exeter's three-man unit documentation team, all warrant officers or staff-sergeants, is also regularly out on the road inspecting documentation and advising on procedures.

A problem in manning and record offices is geographical separation from the men they serve. As well as visiting units, Colonel Elcomb welcomes visits to Exeter — "The door is always open for guidance on soldiers' careers, it's part of the service."

The office at Exeter dates back to 1905 but manning has been part of the title for only the last ten years. Soon, a move may be made to the former Wessex depot just outside the city. All this is part of a major rationalisation of manning and record offices, details of which are still being finally ironed out.

Record keeping is still an important part of the work although the Army's computer at Worthy Down has now taken on some of this task. But the manning and record offices are still responsible for the accuracy of a soldier's records and for holding them for seven years after his discharge before they are finally interred in Army archives.

Members of the public, lawyers and authorities make frequent enquiries for the whereabouts of ex-soldiers. Mr D R Ledbrooke, who is in charge of this section at



Soldiers talking on the telephone to the Central Clearing Wing at the Infantry Manning and Record Office in Exeter are unaware that the clerical officer on the other end of the line is a man who in his day had as much fame and adulation as George Best or Kevin Keegan.

Savs former Aston Villa and Derby forward and ex-England international Frank Broome: "No one ever comments on it — it was all a long time ago." Frank signed for Villa in 1934, scored 20 goals when the Birmingham side won promotion from the Second Division in 1937-38 and played in eight internationals.

His versatility was well illustrated by the fact that he played in four different positions in the England forward line.

After his days with Derby he went into the precarious occupation of football manager. After spells as boss at Notts County, Exeter and South-

end, he spent seven years coaching in Australia before returning to Exeter City as manager once again. "And then I finally got the sack and I thought I had had enough of managing Fourth Division teams."

Frank heard that the Ministry of Defence was looking for clerical officers and he soon settled down to a routine job with none of the excitement and glory of past days — "But I enjoy it and find it very interesting."

His greatest memory is of being in an England team which walloped Hitler's vaunted German side 6-3 in 1938. And today's football? "I don't watch it much now. It's too noisy and there are too many punch-ups and arguments. The players today ought to consider themselves lucky to be able to play the game they enjoy and get well paid for doing it. Our top wage in the old days was only £8."



Mr P B Russell checks discharges.



Records go back to distant past.



Captain Humphrey Platt scans the names of current serving men.

Exeter, produced a 'typical' letter from a lady who wished to know something of her father's early life. As he was born in 1896 this was referred to the archives, but more recent soldiers may be traced.

Says Mr Ledbrooke: "In the last 12 months we have had 1300 enquiries ranging from the police to dumped wives. But we don't necessarily supply any information. There are very strict rules on what we can disclose if, for instance, a girl rings up and says she wants to get in touch with a Private Smith.'

Reservists have to be kept on ice ready for instant mobilisation and their records are kept up to date at the manning and records offices. At Exeter, attractive Miss Julie Gray, a clerk, does her part of the work in traditional style, with a quill pen. Julie found a hawk's feather when she was 14 and later converted it into a pen, not realising that she was following in the footsteps of many records office clerks of yore.

Clerks soon begin to identify with the regiments they serve and Captain Humphrey Platt, who heads the wing dealing with The Queen's Division, has a Queen's Divison plaque on his door. "I am their man in Exeter," he declares proudly.

What used to be called war diaries but are now listed as commanders' diaries are also stored at record offices. Indeed it is part of the job to make sure that any unit which goes on active service maintains a diary and subsequently send it in for the records.

Warrant Officer 1 Jack Marks, of The Queen's Regiment, leads the documentation team. He feels that manning and record offices are under-rated by the average man: "The soldier doesn't take much interest in his record office until he doesn't get promoted or a posting and then he hasn't a good word for it. . . .

Be that as it may, Colonel Elcomb still sees it as his job to serve each soldier individually to enable him to make the best of his career. He believes that computers should be used only to provide information and should never decide such things as promotion and postings.

"A soldier's career has to be guided a bit. I am a believer that this has got to be done in consultation with the soldier himself. It's terrible to plan men's careers without consulting them. I think we should do all manning considerations openly - there's too much bad administration hidden behind a security classification!"

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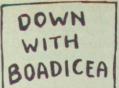
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"I got this one for being an under-cover agent."









"I hope that blindfold has been washed — I don't want to catch anything!"



POWER

'Massed Band Spectacular: Colchester Searchlight Tattoo 1975' (Colchester Tattoo LR 8) How I dread having to review records which open with distant drum rolls and that oh-so-matey crowd hubbub. Especially when I've already been got at by the sleeve note which wrings my heart with 'proceeds of sale of this disc to Service charities.'

Yes, it's another forty-odd minutes dedicated to the bass drum. It can't be helped if you record a tattoo live from the arena, which is why I go for simulated versions where the music may be heard to advantage. Potentially I suppose this could have been one of the best tattoos ever recorded, containing as it does a new battle scene called 'Wellington's Victory 1815' composed by a young student at Kneller Hall, and new tattoo set-pieces don't come very often. For its adequate performance it needed a large band, seated, collars undone, good lighting, and re-takes when blemishes occured. As it is, poor Student Bandmaster Robinson will have to wait for something better at a Kneller Hall concert.

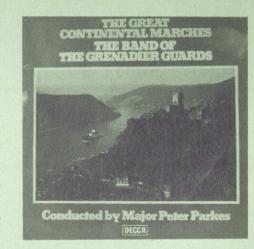
Through the din I think I detected imagination and a budding gift for this sort of grand-scale stuff. He will have to change his name to von Brandenburg though.

For the rest we have bits of some very fine marches badly played (or heard), including 'Parliament Square,' 'Old London,' 'By the Left' and the ridiculously named 'Colchester Castle' by Alf Young. Not his fault. It is in the direct line of middle-European Magyar marches (and incidentally outdoing them all), so watch out for it on future studio-made discs.

The pipes and drums get half a side as usual. Also on this record: Side one—
'Knightsbridge,' 'Colchester Tattoo' (fanfares),
'Royal Mile,' 'Daughter of the Regiment,' 'All the
Blue Bonnets,' 'Corriechoillies Welcome,' 'Wha
Saw the 42nd,' 'Caubeen Trimmed with Blue,'
'The Queensman,' 'Victory Beating,' 'Fredericus
Rex,' 'Lass of Richmond Hill,' 'Aspen Bank,'
'Fairy Dance,' 'Nut Brown Maiden,' 'Black
Bear,' 'Retreat March,' 'Scotland the Brave.' RB



on record



'The Great Continental Marches' (The Band of the Grenadier Guards conducted by Major Peter Parkes) (Decca SB 713) (Cassette KBSC 713)

With perhaps one or two exceptions, collectors should find this set of marches more to their taste than most records of late. Paul Lincke's 'Father Rhine,' for Germany, is given complete with the original trumpet part and Prussia has 'Fridericus Rex' to represent the genuine 'thumper.' Hungary's 'Rakoczy' in Berlioz's arrangement was a too safe choice as was 'Espana Cani' for Spain — there are dozens of lovely marches from the Zarzuelas by Valverde, Chapi and others that are available to bands.

With Fucik's 'Furchtlos und Treu,' 'The Dutch Grenadiers March' by Dunkler and the French Foreign Legion march 'Le Baroudeur' we break new ground, all three having been introduced to regular use in Britain by the Grenadiers band. Other fine marches not too over-recorded are 'Hoch Hapsburg' (the solo classic masterpiece of J N Kral), Donizetti's operatic 'Daughter of the Regiment,' the rondo-like 'March of the Belgian Parachutists' and Frederiksen's 'Copenhagen.'

'A Salute to America' (Alan Civil conducting the Kingsway Marching Band and Chorus) (Chorus Master: John McCarthy) (Decca PFS 4364)

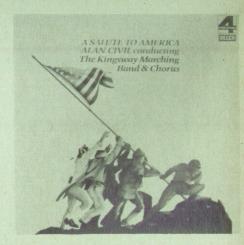
The renowned horn player Alan Civil makes his bow to the general public as conductor and arranger with this truly magnificent tribute to everything American, and does his own reputation not the slightest harm in the process. I knew he could put the odd note or two together but was unprepared for this virtuoso display.

The players would need to be good and, being professional, they are. The quality of performance is everything one would wish of our military bands. Let us hope the Kingsway Hussars are disbanded as quickly as they were formed, or amalgamated with the Unemployed Light Infantry, else we shall all be out of work.

If I name the tunes I might put you off buying
— and you would then miss the treat of a lifetime.

I cannot imagine a finer tribute has been paid by
Britain to its old colony — a pity it should be so
late on the market.

RB



'The Adventurer' (The Royal Artillery (Alanbrooke) Band) (Director of Music: Captain A R Pinkney) (Telstar TPA 89625)

Copies of this West German disc may be difficult to come by but march collectors will find the effort worthwhile. The music is all well played and the band has a nice fat sound particularly suited to the German marches.

The band, at present stationed in the Ruhr, is obviously in excellent shape and doing a good job in public relations. This is just the mixture to appeal to a German concert audience, with the added bonus for the British market of at least three rare marches. These are Sousa's 'Freelance March,' Carl Teike's 'Graf Zeppelin' (dedicated to the inventor) and Theo Vinobel's 'Gluck Auf,' the traditional march of the Ruhr miners.

Two Strauss polkas, 'Tic Tac' and 'Furioso,' are meat for both audiences. Otherwise we have music in lighter vein that almost anyone can enjoy in Denis Wilson's film music 'The Adventurer,' Trevor Sharpe's 'Caribbean Cameo' suite of West

Indian tunes, Robert Pearson's 'Minuteman March,' film music from 'Shaft' and 'The Big Country,' and a 'Dixieland Jamboree.'



'If the Cap Fits' (The Band of the 5th Military District) (EMI Australia EMB 10330)

And if it does, then wear it of course. You have the choice of a Digger's floppy, cavalry helmet, a flat 'at and several others to fit the music.

Here for the first time on my desk is an imaginative and well-produced essay in the art of recording from an Australian band. For once we have new arrangements, sadly lacking hitherto from down under, and several of them are homebrewed by members of the band. It would seem invidious to suggest that it took a British bandmaster (ex-Gordon Highlanders) to inject the necessary spark, but in the absence of evidence to the contrary I'll do just that. It is difficult to know whether a lack of definition is due to muddy playing or muddy acoustics, but once this is put right we have another fine band on the market. A bit more bite, attack and precision, lads.

All our favourites of themes of stage, screen and TV are here, with 'Hogan's Heroes,' 'Dad's



Army', 'Airport 1975,' 'Rush,' and some new arrangements of oldies from 'Oliver,' 'My Fair Lady,' 'Hello Dolly' and 'Snow White' leading the way. Plus some Burt Bacharach and Andrew Lloyd Webber tunes and others not so familiar. And all recorded in St George's Cathedral, Perth. Such goings on, but perhaps the Dean noted one of the items — 'Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord.'



'English Brass' (Besses o' th' Barn Band conducted by Ifor James) (Pye Top Brass TB 3012) Good one for collectors since it confines itself to band originals. 'Moorside Suite' (Holst), 'A Dales Suite' (Butterworth), 'Downland Suite' (Ireland) and 'Solitude' (Ifor James).

'Amazing Grace'/'Largo' (Royal Scots Dragoon Guards) (Pye 7N 45644)

This 45rpm disc, from the regiment's album 'The Legendary Amazing Grace' (Pye PKL 5550) is notable for its flip side 'Largo' by 'Trad.' Poor old George Frederick Handel. They do this to his most famous melody then give him no credit. On second thoughts though . . .

Pipes with band accompaniment is something you can take or not but the accompaniment should be unassuming and tasteful. The 'Largo' has been given, mainly by church organists, a religious connection unintended by Handel. This version should re-establish its secular origins with a vengeance.

'Christmas Festival for Band and Choir' (Black Dyke Mills Band and Bradford Choral Society conducted by Geoffrey Brand and Roy Newsome) (Pye Top Brass TB 3013)

This and the following disc, reviewed here too late for 1976, had perhaps better be considered early for 1977! 'Christmas Festival' will serve well as

background music on Christmas morning or for detailed listening. Includes Quilter's fine 'Children's Overture,' 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring,' Leroy Anderson's medley of the title, 'Cowboy Carol,' 'Hawaiian Lullaby' and several carols all beautifully sung and played.



'Carols at Christmas' (Harry Mortimer's All-Star Brass) (EMI ONE-UP OU 2154)

The usual carols on brass and organ, plus 'Jingle Bells,' 'Little Drummer Boy,' 'Coventry Carol' and 'Lord of the Dance.' Again, good stuff to accompany the stuffing.

'Kings of Brass' (The GUS (Footwear) Band) (Conducted by Stanley H Boddington) (EMI ONE-UP OU2159)

This 1969 re-issue includes 'Le Carnival Romain' overture, the fine old symphonic foxtrot 'Samum,' 'Bells Across the Meadow,' four marches, a couple of waltzes and 'American Patrol.'





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Letters HAME HAM

ACF and **GVC**

While delighted to see the Girls Venture Corps mentioned in SOLDIER (Letters, January), I feel the record should be put straight on WO2 D R Timson's lack of knowledge concerning the activities available for cadets in the GVC.

Yes, of course girls want to be boys part of the time and enjoy what boys do — shooting, camping, adventure training and so on. It is just these very pursuits that have formed an important part of the GVC programme for many years. More important still, we encourage our cadets to fly and glide. We own our own aircraft and, apart from air experience flights, have over the years awarded flying scholarships to GVC cadets who wish is compared.

However, life is not all sport and recreation, and girls look at the future pretty wisely these days, recognising the need to balance their lives and give proper place to the care and concern of others and the important sphere of an adult woman in the home - so both service to the community and such feminine pursuits as mother craft and flower arrangement are regular subjects at our unit evenings. Girls are taught to become efficient hostesses through travel scholarships that have as their central point of training unit social evenings with international links.

So the GVC produces its fair share of useful, happy and co-ordinated girls—a far cry from the dissatisfied minority of vandals and hooligans whose doings are always the most reported and talked about.

The GVC is not a pre-Service organisation but a voluntary uniformed youth movement recognised by the Ministry of Defence which enjoys close co-operation with the ACF, ATC and Army youth teams. — Lieut-Col Naomi Christy WRAC (Retd), Chairman, Girls Venture Corps, 33 St George's Drive, London, SW1 4DH.

As a GVC unit no longer exists in Market Harborough, WO2 Timson's information does not appear to have been gained from local sources. Every year an increasing number of bronze, silver and gold awards of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is obtained by our cadets, entailing considerably more effort than just "drill, housecraft, mothercraft etc." Every year our cadets attend training camps at which activities include orienteering, assault courses, rifle shooting, day and night exercises, rock-climbing, canoeing and so on. Drill competitions with ACF detachments in camp usually result in GVC victories!

We now have our own outdoor activities centre at RAF Hereford, cadets can fly in our corps aircraft, apply for flying, travel and ski-ing scholarships, take part in the Nijmegen marches and visit America



through the international air cadet exchange scheme.

I would agree with Mr Timson, however, that it is up to youth organisations to try to stop vandalism and hooliganism by encouraging young people to indulge in constructive rather than destructive activities. I gained a great deal from being a cadet in the corps and consider the GVC has much to offer teenage girls.

Perhaps Mr Timson would care to visit us on 1 May when Region V will be holding its annual festival in Nottingham. He will then be able to see for himself some of the activities of the GVC.—Miss Sheila Goodliffe, Regional (V) Commandant GVC, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, Flat 30, Shore Court, Shore Lane, Sheffield, S10 3BW.

Issued or not?

In his December feature on the Royal Pioneer Corps museum, John Jesse refers to a German-Italian medal which was never issued because the event for which it was struck — the capture by the Axis of North Africa, Egypt and Suez — never materialised.

If this is the medal I think it is, I have one which a German officer took from his tunic and gave to me at Cap Bon, North Africa. The ribbon is green, white, red, white and black and the medal depicts a German and an Italian soldier killing a crocodile.—L Woodward, 12 Devonshire Avenue, Borrowash, Derby, DE7 3JD.

Back on the road

I am involved in the restoration of a Ford GPW (Jeep) as a radio vehicle (official nomenclature, Wireless Station 62 in car 5cwt 4×4). Though I have obtained some information from the Imperial War Museum and from friends, I have very little written material on this vehicle.

Could any reader help with details of equipment carried, for which I am also searching, or the vehicle's use? I would also appreciate hearing from readers who used this type of vehicle or could provide any photographs. — D S Walmsley, 22 Langdale Road, Manchester 14.

Across the pond

Former members of The Household Division may be interested in the Comrades Associations here in North America. In Canada there are both Grenadier and Coldstream association branches which every year organise two reunions and other functions. Both associations, which support each other, welcome as honorary members former members of Guards regiments which do not have an association branch.

This year we plan a jubilee shoot in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We shall also be marching, for the third time, in the Warriors Day parade at the Canadian national exhibition in Toronto.

I will happily pass on to the appropriate secretary the name and address of any ex-Guardsman living in Canada or the USA who is interested.

— R C Pickering (Vice-Chairman, Grenadier Guards Association of North America), 28 Killarney Road, London, Ontario N5X 2A7,

Women at war

Canada.

A special Silver Jubilee exhibition, opened by Princess Anne at the Imperial War Museum, depicts the role of women in World War One. This first exhibition of its kind, 'Women at War 1914-1918,' illustrates the vital work performed by women in industry, agriculture, medicine, commerce, transport and the Services.

The exhibition is open on weekdays from 1000 to 1730 and on Sundays from 1400 to 1730, to 30 October.

Tipu the Tiger



With an anonymous donation of £27,300, the National Army Museum has acquired Robert Home's oil painting of the British commander-in-chief, Lord Cornwallis, receiving the young sons of Tipu Sultan as hostages at the end of the third Mysore War in 1792. The two eight-year-old boys were Cornwallis's surety that Tipu, the

Tiger of Mysore, would keep to his treaty. The boys were returned to their father in 1794 — and five years later their father was at war again. The National Army Museum already owned Home's painting, 'The Death of Colonel Moorhouse.' The two paintings are remarkable for the accuracy of portrayal of costume and equipment.

How observant are vou?

(see page 13)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Hub line at left of barbell. 2 Joe's left wrist band. 3 Gunman's eye-Joe's left wrist bana. 3 Gunman's eye-brow. 4 Lines on Joe's left instep. 5 Size of box in middle drawer. 6 Joe's left knee. 7 Right handle of trophy in case. 8 Back edge of bottom drawer. 9 Left edge of drawers below top drawer. 10 Nearest clasp on case lid.

Competition

As the keen-eyed joyfully pointed out, there were 54 and not 56 snowmen in December's Competition 221 (Fall in the snowmen). The error, which did not affect the competition in any way, can be put down to checking and cross-checking until snowmen started popping out from everywhere! Competitors, too, must have turned dizzy and only just over half came up with the right answer, of nine in the largest group (at A6 B4 B9 C2 C7 D5 E2 E8 and F4). Prizewinners:

1 Maj A T Brett, R Mon RE (M), The Castle, Monmouth, Gwent

WO2 D K Jennings, 16 Manor Road, Barrowby, Grantham, Lincs.
3 D Keith Sell, 20 Gaunts Way,
Letchworth, Herts.
4 Maj R Jarman, RSRE, St

Andrews Road, Malvern, Worcs 5 R C Santon, 56 Meadow Road,

Earley, Reading, Berks.

6 Miss M A Powell, Careers Office,

Broad Street, Newtown, Powys.
7 Capt A N Armitage-Smith, 3
Queens, Somme Barracks, Catterick,
N Yorks.

8 WO2 Sumner, SSD Dulmen, BFPO 44.

9 Bugle-Maj T Kent, Sgts Mess, 2 LI, BFPO 41.

10 E F Banks, 3 Briton Crescent, S

Sanderstead, Surrey.

11 Maj A J E White, 15 Squires
Way, Dartford, Kent.

12 Maj M S Wilmot, Fetcham
Lodge, Fetcham, Surrey.

Reunions

King's Royal Rifle Association. Annual reunion, 56 Davies Street, London W1, Saturday 21 May (Cup Final night). Ladies welcome. Tickets £1.50 each (incl buffet) from Secretary, KRRC Assn, 56 Davies Street, London, W1Y 2HA.

Airborne Signals. Reunion dinner and open day 22-23 July, Aldershot, £5.00 per person or £8.00 per couple. Contact Lieut P L McDougall R Sigs, 216 Para Sig Sqn, Arnhem Bar-

Tinkers Tale

Four sets of philatelic covers, each set containing 12 covers, com-memorate 'Exercise Tinkers Tale,' an overland expedition from Singapore to UK from October 1975, on the disbandment of 35 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, until December 1975.

One cover was posted in each of the countries passed through by the expedition. The covers comprise an Australian envelope, with a New Zealand airmail stamp and the RCT crest, commemorating the tri-nation association in Singapore. There are only five such sets in existence.

The sets cost £10.00 each and can be obtained (remittance with order) from S/Sgt R W Stokes, 62 Sqn RCT, BFPO 45.

Collectors' Corner

This column is open to bona-fide collectors, not dealers. Announce-ments are made free of charge as a service to readers. Subsequent correspondence must be conducted direct between readers and not through SOLDIER.

Gene Christian, 3849 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463, USA. — Wishes contact ex-servicemen of Foreign Legion, international brigades (Spain), mercenaries, China Station (military, naval, police, fire etc), Camel

racks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2AU (phone Aldershot 24431 ext 455).

244 Signal Squadron (Air Support). Annual reunion, RAF Brize Norton, 23 April. Further details from 244 Sig Sqn (AS), RAF Brize Norton, Oxon, OX8 3LX.

The Queen's Own Hussars. Reunion dinner, Saturday 30 April, Hanover Grand, Hanover Street, London, W1R 9HH. Dress optional. Tickets £3.75 from Maj J S Sutherland (Retd), Home HQ, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury Street, War-wick, CV34 4EW.

The Royal Hussars (PWO). Annual Restaurant, Kensington, 7.15pm, Saturday 30 April. Tickets £4.00 each from Home HQ, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Barracks, Winchester, Hants.

The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment. Annual regimental reunion, TAVR Centre, The Shrubbery, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, 11 June.

Royal Pioneer Corps Association. Corps weekend and annual general meeting 8, 9 and 10 July, RPC Training Centre, Simpson Barracks, Wotton, Northampton. Details from Secton, Northampeon.
retary, RPC Association, 51 St
George's Drive, London, SW1V
4DE, or Corps Secretary, Simpson
Barracks, Wootton, Northampton, NN4 0HX.

All RA units, Hong Kong, Singa pore, Ceylon stations, and of the Pack Brigades (1919-50). Combined reunion, Eastbourne, 17 September. Details from Hon Secretary, D A Knight, 79 Tyrrell Avenue, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BT.

RAPC Regimental Association. 29th annual general meeting, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, at 6.30pm, Friday 29 April, followed by 28th annual dinner, 7 for 7.30pm. Tickets, £3.50, from Secretary, RAPC Regimental Association, Corps HQ, Worthy Down, Winches-ter, Hants, SO21 2RG.

Air Corps print

During a tour at Aldergrove, Northern Ireland, last year, 651 Squadron, Army Air Corps, commissioned from artist Ken Howard a water colour which shows a Scout helicopter and Gazelle helicopter.

They are depicted against the Aldergrove background of tower, Hercules, Tristar, Beaver, Phantom, Scout underslung below a Wessex, and the Sperrins.

Prints, measuring 20in × 14in, of this painting are available at £3.00 (limited edition of 100 signed and numbered by the artist) and £2.50 (unsigned).

Orders, accompanied by UK cheques, made payable to 651 Sqn AAC, should be sent to OC 651 Sqn AAC, BFPO 32.

Corps, Indian native states and all

other 'exotic' units. A W Rowlinson 21 Gadlas Road, Llystaen, Colwyn Bay, North Wales.

— Wishes buy band records or tapes following regiments: Royal Dragoons, Queen's Royal, East Surrey, Royal West Kent, Middlesex, Royal Norfolk, Suffolk, KOYLI, KRRC, Royal Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Beds and Herts, Essex, DCLI, Ox and Bucks,

F Walker, 8 Briar Close, Caversham, Reading, Berks, RG4 7QH. — Seeks any war souvenirs, daggers, bayonets, British medals, German items, badges, Anything considered, condition unim-portant. (Phone: Reading 0734-

D Spearen, Sunny Side, Rayham Road, Whitstable, Kent. — Collector Army and Women's Services badges seeks badge Women's Legion.

G Stevens, 4 Stonebridge Way, Faversham, Kent. — Wishes buy Gren Gds peaked cap in good condition, if possible with cut peak. Will pay fair

J Howarth, 15 Lawrence Street, Preston, PR2 3DT. — Wishes purrreston, PRZ 3D1. — Wishes purchase (or exchange) kc cap badges London Irish Rifles (piper's), RTR brass (bandsman), 5 Seaforth Caith & Suth officer's 1921-46 with feather/s silver/pl, 8t Argylls wm 8 A & SH scroll, Essex & Suffolk Cyclist Bn BI metal. Some good exchanges. State

Mrs L Norden, 11 Julian Road, Folkestone, Kent. — For sale, The Times History of the War in 15 bound and six unbound volumes, cloth, good condition, some foxing.

G Ewing, c/o Staff HM Prison, Brixton, London SW2. — Prison badges of the world wanted from any prison, joint, nick or calaboose.

L Kilsby, 2 Limehurst Road, Netherhall, Leicester. — Offers two volumes Centre Capstan and Automatic Lathes,' immaculate condition, for metal kc cap badges 15/19 H, 4 H, Norfolk (with wreath) and Welch.

J G Stone, 6 Linden Close, Braunton, N Devon, EX33 1AW. — Offers

WWI leaflets (German people offer peace/Directive by Gen Rawlinson to all ranks Fourth Army) for Army cap badges or metal shoulder titles WWI

PC 900TD D F Harris, Metropolitan Police, Station Road, Hampton, Middlesex. — Seeks copies SOL-DIER 1945-55, copies Pegasus, cloth airborne forces insignia. Purchase or exchange military/police items.

John C Varley, 42 Cookridge Drive, Cookridge, Leeds, LS16 7HW. — Schoolboy collector (16) wishes pur-chase medals all Yorkshire regts (incl TAVR), rifle regts, light inf and Gds Division. Also collects cap and collar badges (post-1900 to date) all British regts/corps.

Dermot Murray, 39 Kenilworth Gardens, Shooters Hill, Woolwich, London, SE18 3JB. - For sale, separately or collectively, for best offer received within one month, sterling silver commemorative medallions prostiver commemorative medaltions produced 1976 of Queen's Royal Regt, Buffs, King's Own (Lancaster), Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, Royal Warwickshire Regt and Royal Fusiliers. Cost was £14.50 for each medallion and reproduction cap badge. Mrs L Jones, 28 Bowness Road, Bexhar L Jones, 28 Bowness Road, Bex-leyheath, Kent, DA7 5AA (phone Crayford 52700). — Requires cloth RAF squadron badges, also peaked cap (with badge) of Duke of Wellington's Regt.

K E Fry, 3 Nimegen Way, E Dul-wich Cove, London, SE22 8TL. — Collects TA, yeomanry and cavalry metal cap badges. Will exchange simi-lar or with stamps and coins. Also for exchange, 200 back copies SOLDIER 1050.76 1950-76.

R Weston, 84 Lorrain Boulevard, Templeton, Quebec J8P 2E2, Canada. — Seeks Canadian cloth shoulder titles Cape Breton Highlanders, North Nova Scotia Highlanders, Essex Scot-tish, Lanark and Renfrew Scottish, Canadian Scottish, Scottish Fusiliers of Canada, Prince Edward Island Highlanders; also CEF 1914-18 metal badges of 42nd Bn (officer), 73rd High-landers, 96th Bn, 194th Bn and 16th Bn. Will buy or trade militia badges.

At auction





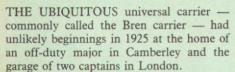
At an auction sale by Messrs Wallis & Wallis, of Lewes, a 20th Hussar Victorian officer's full-dress sab-retache (left) fetched £250. An 1886 silver flap pouch of The Royal Scots Greys realised £160, an 1885 silver flap pouch of The West Suffolk Yoemanry £80, and a post-1902 full-dress scarlet cloth pouch of the 8th Royal Irish Hussars brought £100. Three helmets, of the Army Service Corps (post-1902), The Black Watch (Victorian), and The Volunteer Artillery (post-1902) realised £90, £125 and £90

respectively.

Weller & Dufty Ltd, of Birmingham, sold a scarce Turkish helmet (below left), as worn by the Mamelukes, for £170 at auction. A rare American musician's sword fetched £54, a scarce 18th century Spanish Bilbo-hilted broadsword £65 and a 17th century Spanish cup hilt broadsword £100. A George V general officer's levee scimitar sold for £140, a powder horn for £220 and an Indian service percussion holster pistol for £75.

Military Models

HOME-MADE AFVs



Major (later Lieutenant-General Sir Gifford) le Q Martel, who worked by day in the War Office, spent his spare time constructing a 'one-man tank' with £400 worth of parts including the engine from an old Maxwell car, the back axle of a Ford lorry and specially constructed tracks. After a demonstration on heathland outside the major's garden gate, the War Office ordered four machines to be built by Morris Motors.

Captain (later Sir John) Carden had simultaneously been experimenting with a machine, for giving mobility to the individual infantryman, in the garage he managed for Captain V Loyd. He sought Martel's help after reading about his work. The result was another War Office contract. Both Martel and Carden-Loyd machines

were put on trial by a special unit called the Experimental Mechanised Force.

The carrier concept was developed through several further stages as World War Two approached. Carriers were used mainly as troop transports, weapon mounts (notably for the Bren gun) and towing tractors for light field guns. They saw sterling service with British and Commonwealth forces throughout the war although they were cramped and uncomfortable, open to the elements and vulnerable to aerial attack and artillery air burst.

Two models of the universal carrier have just been simultaneously released - a kit of plastic parts from Tamiya in 1:35th scale at £2.20 (top right) and a die-cast, ready made miniature (right) from Dinky Toys in 1:32nd scale at £1.79.

The Tamiya kit has the usual exquisite detailing down to rivets on the armour panels and textured wollen socks of the crew figures. A couple of items are incongruous



- a bayonet described as a 'dirk' and a water bottle called a 'canteen' which bears closer resemblance to US Army rather than British Army official issue. Transfer decals are included for 'tac signs' and formation badges including the famous jerboa.

The Dinky version has rivet detail too, but it tends to fall into the toy rather than serious model category. It has a white star decal - used on Canadian vehicles in North West Europe in the closing stages of the war. There are movable tracks and two unpainted crew figures. The model is available on its own, or towing an anti-tank gun (based on the six-pounder) for £2.85. HH



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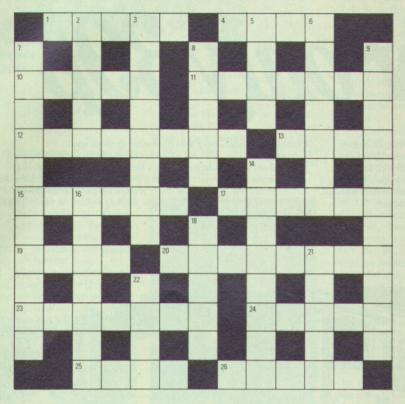
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A to Z



Clues

- A Those smashed-up cars make scar appear, Disfiguring your curves, my dear! (4)
- B Though artillery unit is true designation, assault platoon fits specification (7)
- C Culvert in which we hear there's no char for a cannon which was fired from afar (8)
- D Prod about and you may find Village which Boer War veterans mind (4)
- E Two points before we organise peace; This man hasn't got a formal release (7)
- F Fire from France to Dover extends —
- Hostilities ended? Now we'll be friends (4, 4) G Recruit with experience could be fuller
- Concerning the info about the colour (5)

 H I tithe roundabout (though to that there's no
- end) —
 What you won't do to target if you shoot
- What you won't do to target if you shoot round the bend (3, 2)
- I Cut this in two, you'll see it is girl QMs give like this (if voucher unfurl!) (5)
- J In France I ride almost all travellin' Carrying with me Middle East javelin (5)
- K A hillman's knife you have to hand,

 -Used by Gurkhas in many a land (5)
- Go in front, my dear fellow (and we will come last);

The war dog has this to make it quite fast (4, 2)

- M By provoking conflict with ruling classes This German hoped to convert the masses (4)
- N Those awesome ships with Yankee slang name Which wrong-headed Dukes make just the same (5)
- O You there, recruit, have you taken your shilling?
 - Then take this as well to prove that you're willing (4)
- P Without the Poles, 'e plunders production Simply to serve as introduction (7)
- Q Before the Latvian capital, square; A 4HP chariot you now see there (8)
- R Now what we have reverses here; Back to front? No, front to rear! (8)
- S Soldiers who are really offensive
 Do this to put them on the defensive? (5, 6)
- T A member of foot with bit in the centre; A war dog's job if he isn't a scenter? (2, 4)
- U This is the one who left unit destruction
 And till it's the same may be your deduction
 (5)
- V Visor or not, it goes instead, And call you also could have said (5)

COMPETITION 225

THIS MONTH'S alphabetical crossword comes from Tom Hughes, the former Royal Army Pay Corps sergeant who now (see SOLDIER, March 1977) runs a home for Nepalese orphans in Dharan.

Each of the 26 answers begins with a different letter of the alphabet, as indicated in the clues, and each has to be fitted into the grid. There is no need to send the completed grid or a copy of it. Simply list your answers, using the numbers in the grid (these numbers have no other significance) and send your list on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 225' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 225) SOLDIER Ordnance Road ALDERSHOT Hants GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 13 June. The answers and winners' names will appear in the August SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 225' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Prizes

- 1 £10
- 2- 3 £5
- 4-5 £3
- 6- 7 SOLDIER free for a year
- 8-10 SOLDIER free for six months
- W Bits without which a gun isn't there? But in that case then, won't a sapper repair? (6, 5)
- X From typhoid (initially the yaws escaped; Eleven in place) to now sword-shaped! (7)
- Y A weapon with two arms is fit;
- You question, we hear, the need for it (1-3)

 Z While the British soldier is content with a

 Wimpy
 - This overseas soldier must mess with his impi! (4)

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(SOLVED)



Guide

'Before Endeavours Fade' (Rose E B Coombs)

All the old battle areas of World War One — Ypres, Zeebrugge, the Somme, Mons, Le Cateau, St Quentin, Verdun and many more familiar names — come to life again in this remarkably detailed guidebook. Even demarcation stones, battlefield debris such as rusting shells, surprisingly still to be found, and accommodation, are covered.

Each salient is meticulously described, in some cases with alternative routes as for Verdun with one route for the American and another for the French battlefields, or Ypres with five different pilgrimages. In compiling this comprehensive and moving survey, Rose Coombs, an acknowledged expert on the battlefields of Northern France and Belgium and now special collections officer at the Imperial War Museum, has made more than a hundred visits to the battle areas. Every pertinent point has been dutifully recorded, every page has its quota of photographs and there are 25 detailed maps to make this well-indexed guide indispensable to the pilgrim.

Battle of Britain Prints International Ltd, 3 New Plaistow Road, London, E15 3JA, UK £2.90 including post/packing; overseas US \$6.90 including post/packing JFPJ

Evacuation

Battle for Crete' (John Hall Spencer) This fine story was first published in 1962 and will probably become one of the imperishables. It starts in Greece after the invasion mismanaged by the Italians. German troops smash southward through Yugoslavia and Greece. The small British force evacuates against increasing numbers and without air support.

The troops get "the first view in history of an approaching air armada." "The most awe-inspiring sight I have ever seen," said a New Zealander. Here were Australians, too, and Palestinians, Greeks and Cretans. The author has drawn upon all, including the Germans, for first-hand accounts of the hectic 12 days of intense action.

The result is a real feeling of the atmosphere of war — the individual dodging death, fighting exhaustion, hunger and thirst, seeking his adversary, hating the dive-bombing Stukas and bullet-spattering Messerschmidts but picking off parachutists in dozens as they floated down.

After the action and endurance came the withdrawal and evacuation. Not all got away. Maoris left on shore sang their famous farewell. Australians in the last barges listened, then sang it in English:

'Now is the time for us to say farewell....' Nowhere on the beach, the barges, nor the hills "was one dry eye."

White Lion Publishers Ltd, 138 Park Lane, London, WIY 3DD, £4.25



God's will

'Cromwell: Portrait of a Soldier' (John Gillingham)

Cromwell was middle-aged, untrained in war, no scholar, overfond of hawking and hunting and, worst of all, a melancholic with a taste for music and port. Yet that very melancholy led him to the conviction that he was to be the instrument of God's will. The change in Cromwell was to be dramatic.

From a back-bench MP, with a reputation for standing up for the rights of poor folk, he became a soldier devoted to creating a new army. Ruthless and aggressive, ready to punish with the utmost severity, he licked his troops into shape until they were probably the finest soldiers in Europe. His willingness to take a calculated risk and conviction that mobility was the secret of success led to victories at Marston Moor, Naseby, Preston, Dunbar and Worcester. Scotland collapsed under his attack and Ireland was to rue his presence for centuries.

Cromwell was much more than a conqueror and skilful politician — he was a great statesman. For the first time in European history he brought a monarch to trial and punishment and strove manfully to build a republic where democracy could actually work. The tragedy is that he failed just as surely as did Charles I.

This little volume is highly readable and informative.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London, SW11 1XA, £5.25 AWH

Back to source

'Men of Gallipoli' (Peter Liddle)

Writers of history often rely upon other authors' books, sometimes to emphasise or enlarge upon a particular aspect, sometimes to give a wider viewpoint. So inaccuracies are repeated to become generally accepted as truth — and myths arise. Sometimes slanted or narrowly based originals become perpetuated as the full story.

The author of this widely researched volume has gone to the real source, to 650 individuals who were there in Gallipoli over six decades ago. Diaries, letters, photographs and memory have produced the facts and these have been checked with unit histories, articles written at the time, biographies and official documents in Britain, Australia, New Zealand and France. Men of many nationalities, including Turks, have been questioned.

The result is a very readable account of the landings, the agony, the actions and the endurance. There is humour and anecdote. Near mutiny and real panic are neither eliminated nor glossed over. Finally there are chapters assessing the political and military responsibilities. The 650 who helped to supply the material are listed, with their units, in a special appendix.

Allen Lane, Penguin Books Ltd, 17 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SWIW 0BD, £6.50



Great battles

'Clash of Arms: The World's Great Land Battles' (Richard Garrett)
This lavishly illustrated book takes a look at Hastings, Naseby, Blenheim, Plassey, Quebec, Bunker Hill and Yorktown, Borodino, Waterloo, Sebastopol, Gettysburg, Spion Kop, Cambrai, Blitzkrieg 1940, and the Ardennes.

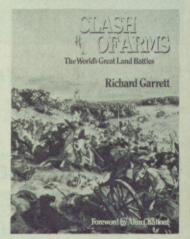
Through them it traces the development of warfare — 900 years of recurring conflict, each battle a little tougher than the last, each new weapon a little more deadly than the one it replaced.

Mr Garrett considers the type of men engaged in each of his battles, the equipment they carried, the weapons they used and the ploys of their commanders. And while his book makes a splendid introduction to a study of military history in general, he does not glory in the carnage of the battlefield, the casualties inflicted by the victors.

He ends on a cautionary note for all students. After emphasising that thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of men die when armies go into battle, he adds: "Every battle casualty is a human being; each is a deep personal tragedy. This is something no reader of military history should ever forget." If there were more such sentiments among our historians, we might even yet learn the lessons of history.

Of coffee-table proportions, 'Clash of Arms' is accompanied by stable companions 'Aerial Combat: The World's Great Air Battles' (Robert Jackson) and 'Guns at Sea: The World's Great Naval Battles' (Len Ortzen). These books do for the airman and the sailor what Mr Garrett does so well for the soldier.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £5.25 each JCW



Even the kilt

'Hitler's Generals' (Richard Brett-Smith)

From every page stalk the monocled generals of Hitler's Germany, the aristocratic, the rankers, the horrors and the characters, the jackbooted and the kilted!

Richard Brett-Smith has produced a Who's Who of the Nazi army, a marvellous handbook for everyone who wants a potted biography, a pen picture of the generals.

It is a cliché now to describe a book as "surely the authoritative work on the subject" and because of its brevity—300-odd pages—this is not it. But there can be few to have packed so much detail into so small a space.

They were a fantastic lot, those German generals of World War Two. Some got on with their soldiering and turned a blind eye to National Socialism's hideous extravagances. Some campaigned secretly for the overthrow of their Führer.

There were the moderns with their wonderful grip on armoured warfare and the ancients, titled, bemedalled, shot at, arrogant and eccentric. My money would have been on von Saucken who had the nerve to tell Hitler where to get off — and survived the experience. But Baade



continued

must have been a card, fighting in the Western Desert in the kilt.

This book whets the appetite for further reading and is recommended highly to both the general reader and the enthusiast.

Osprey Publishing Company Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2, £5.95



Rapier

"The Art of Blitzkrieg" (Charles Messenger)

The popular view of the development of the Blitzkrieg doctrine is that Britain evolved a theory and failed to put it into practice while the Germans seized it, built up their Panzer divisions and embarked on a march of conquest in 1939. This says, Mr Messenger, is an over-simplification of a complex issue, and he goes on to give us a masterly review of the employment of tanks and aircraft from the moment they were used in an attempt to break the deadlock of World War One trench warfare to the Israeli-Arab Yom Kipur war in late 1973

"Blitzkrieg," he asserts, "must be regarded as a rapier rather than a bludgeon." The main reason why the Blitzkrieg failed in Russia in 1941 was because Hitler's aim was beyond the limitations of the German Wehrmacht as equipped and structured at the time.

Similarly, it failed for the allies in North West Europe in 1944 — Monty's plan to drive along an airborne carpet via Arnhem and into the Reich — because they were unable to support it logistically.

An essential element of a successful Blitzkrieg is the attainment of air supremacy and the most economical way of achieving it — as the Luftwaffe showed in 1939 and the Israelis in 1956 and 1967 — is by destroying the enemy on the ground.

Mr Messenger, a Regular officer in the Royal Tank Regiment, illustrates his contentions with battle case histories and trenchant comment.

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

In brief

'The Spurn Head Railway (Industrial Railway Record 67)' (Kenneth E Hartlev)

Spurn Head today is frequented by Humber pilots, coastguards, and birdwatchers, but during two world wars it was a focal point for the defence of the Humber Estuary.

In 1915 a railway was built from Kilnsea to carry materials for the defence works. That line — all 3\frac{3}{4} miles of it — survived until 1951-52, and this is the story of it in peace and war. For the railway or fortifications enthusiast, it presents a wander down an unfamiliar byway of history. It is well produced, well illustrated and a snip at the price.

Industrial Railway Society Publications, 47 Waverley Gardens, London, NW10 7EE, 75p

'Collector's Guide to Militaria' (Derek E Johnson)

This well-illustrated book is primarily a guide to the budding collector of militaria with chapters dealing with subjects likely to satisfy most tastes. Antique firearms and powder flasks; military miniatures and bronzes; badges, buttons and other insignia; European and oriental armour; swords, daggers and bayonets; paintings, prints and medals. There are some handy tips on cleaning and display and an appendix containing a useful list of military museums.

Mitchell Beazley Group, Artists House, 14-15 Manette Street, London, WIV 5LB, £4.95



'Ribbons of Orders, Decorations and Medals' (Guido Rosignoli)

Dealing primarily with the study of medal ribbons, this book, as the first comprehensive work of its kind, will be welcomed by specialist collectors. Sixty-four colour plates, including nine for Great Britain, illustrate the ribbons and a few decorations of 16 nations. Some, such as the German Empire, Third Reich, Democratic and Federal republics and Imperial and Soviet Russia cover both historical and political changes.

The inclusion of Vietnam is of particular interest with many awards deriving from those created by French Indochina. Some 85 pages of explanatory text support the excellent coloured illustrations.

Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £2.75 'Handbook on the British Army 1943' When the Yanks came over here during World War Two it was felt necessary to produce a handbook to acquaint them with the Limey army. For some obscure reason it has now occurred to publishers both in New York and London to reprint this fascinating handbook.

The result is a curious exercise in nostalgia — what wartime kit layout charts looked like and what weight the average Scots guardsman carried with him into battle. There are pictures of Austin staff cars and Bren carriers, charts showing the composition of regiments, tables illustrating comparative American and British army ranks, and pages and pages of wonderfully out-of-date esoteric military information.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3, £4.50 PC

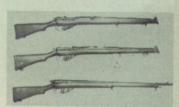
'Arms and Uniforms: The Second World War Part 3' (Liliane and Fred Funcken)

Norwegian, Finnish, Slovak and Croatian military dress are described alongside the uniforms of the United States and Japanese armies in this lavishly illustrated book. The Italian army and air force are particularly well covered and there are some good pictures of Japanese war planes. Rifles, machine-guns, mortars and other weapons also have their place.

There is a chapter on the war at sea with descriptions of the British battle fleet and air arm. French, German and other navies are also reviewed.

Divided into five parts, including an informative section on the motorised armies of France, Britain, Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union, this book is packed with useful material backed by excellent colour plates but seems to suffer from a certain lack of cohesion.

Ward Lock, 116 Baker Street, London, W1M 2BB, £3.95



'Australian Service Longarms' (Ian D Skennerton)

From Brown Bess to the Armalite and SLR, this book spans the years of colonial history in which Australians have borne arms. It pays special attention to Australianmanufactured arms and in particular those produced by the Small Arms Factory, Lithgow, New South Wales. It is a detailed study of the purchase, quantities and issue of these arms, and a quick reference for identification and authentication.

Mr Skennerton is also the author of 'Australian Service Bayonets,' a companion volume.

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