OCTOBER 1968 ★ One Shilling and Sixpence

SOLDIER

SOLDIER

OCTOBER 1968 Volume 24, No. 10

Contents

OPERATION MEXICO *by* **PAL**

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See-the-Army DIARY

SOLDIER readers, particularly those who travel around, are always anxious to know when and where Army occasions are happening.

In this regular feature SOLDIER will keep you posted up-to-date. Events will be listed up to a year ahead and repeated monthly. Amendments and additions are indicated in bold type.

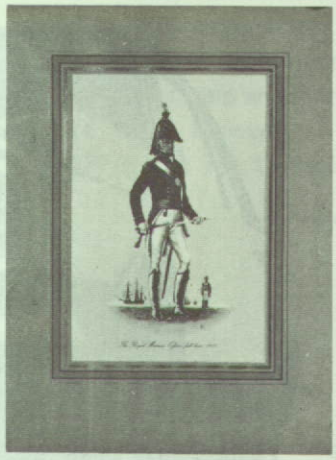
To make this feature as valuable as possible to the reader, SOLDIER invites the co-operation of organisers of tattoos, Army displays, exhibitions, at homes, open days and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment.

NOVEMBER

9 Festival of Remembrance, Albert Hall, London.

DECEMBER

14 Disbandment of The York and Lancaster Regiment, Sheffield.



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Here's your coupon to send off for your prints or framed prints of British military uniforms detailed on page 7 of this issue.

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S7

BRITISH MILITARY UNIFORMS

As announced in last month's SOLDIER, framed prints in full colour have now been added to the range of 18 prints of British military uniforms introduced in July.

The prints, complete with blue, black and gold mount and historical notes, are available singly or in sets of six at a special discount of six for the price of five. Framed in black and gold Hogarth, the prints are available only in pairs with again the six-for-five discount for a set of six. Prices, including postage by surface mail to any part of the world, are:

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	Framed pair	£8 8*s* 0*d*
	Framed set	£21 0*s* 0*d*

The prints are:

SERIES I (11¾ by 8½ inches, including mount)
Number
1 The Royal Marines (officer, full dress, 1805) (page 4, left)
2 The Royal Navy (vice-admiral, full dress, 1805)
3 The 42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot (Black Watch (officer, 1810)
4 The 7th Regiment of Light Dragoons (Hussars) (officer, 1810)
5 The 2nd or Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards (captain, 1815) (page 4, right)
6 The Royal Horse Guards (officer, 1815)

SERIES II (17½ by 12 inches, including mount)
Number
7 The 14th Regiment of Foot (officer, 1802)
8 The 95th Regiment of Foot (Rifles) (officer, 1810)
9 Lieutenant-general (service dress, 1810)
10 The 12th Regiment of Light Dragoons (officer, 1812)
11 The 2nd Regiment of Dragoons (Scots Greys) (officer, 1815)
12 The Royal Horse Artillery (officer, 1815)

SERIES III (11¾ by 8½ inches, including mount)
Number
13 The 1st Regiment of Foot Guards (captain, 1688)
14 The Royal Regiment of Artillery (lieutenant, 1743) (above, left)
15 The Wiltshire Militia (major, 1760) (above, right)
16 The British Legion in North America (Tarleton's) (major of cavalry, 1780)
17 The Corps of Marines (captain, 1790)
18 The 79th Regiment of Foot (Cameronian Volunteers) (officer, 1799)

Now turn back to page 4, fill in the order form and send off with the appropriate amount. Or, if you do not wish to cut your magazine, send in your order separately—but remember to state clearly the print numbers and quantity required. Address your order to SOLDIER (Prints M2), 433 Holloway Road, London N7.

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Trenches, minefields, barbed wire and smoke screens. It was conventional warfare again on Salisbury Plain in Exercise

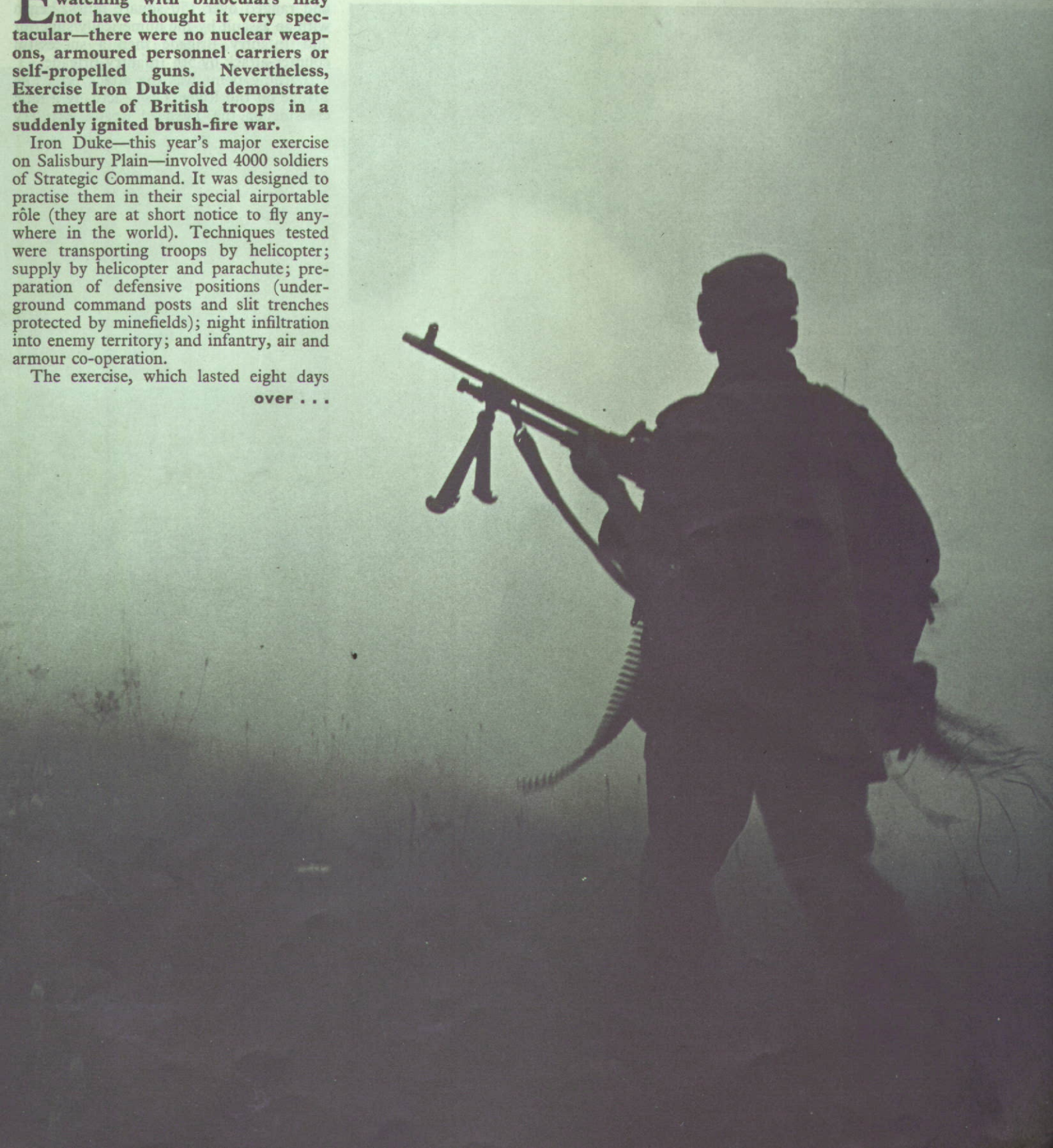
IRON DUKE

EAST European military attachés watching with binoculars may not have thought it very spectacular—there were no nuclear weapons, armoured personnel carriers or self-propelled guns. Nevertheless, Exercise Iron Duke did demonstrate the mettle of British troops in a suddenly ignited brush-fire war.

Iron Duke—this year's major exercise on Salisbury Plain—involved 4000 soldiers of Strategic Command. It was designed to practise them in their special airportable rôle (they are at short notice to fly anywhere in the world). Techniques tested were transporting troops by helicopter; supply by helicopter and parachute; preparation of defensive positions (underground command posts and slit trenches protected by minefields); night infiltration into enemy territory; and infantry, air and armour co-operation.

The exercise, which lasted eight days

over . . .



Over the page: Summer's day on Salisbury Plain. A machine-gunner advances through the rain mist.

IRON DUKE *continued*

Right: Shrouded in mist, they look like a squad of ghosts—Worcesters moving into the attack. Below: The flash of artillery lights up the English night sky—105mm howitzer in action.

and ranged over 150 square miles, began with an assault by the numerically superior 2nd Infantry Brigade then a successful counter-attack by 5th Infantry Brigade.

Turning point was the attack on "The Bridge on the River Tils" (actually a tank crossing on the Tilshead Road). Artillery opened up and Army, Royal Air Force and civilian VIPs on a commanding hill position waited expectantly at the zero hour of 0900. Ten minutes passed in an uncomfortable silence. Then almost unobtrusively a company of Worcesters with blackened faces slipped past. Royal Air Force Wessex helicopters had flown into the wind at tree-top height and landed them under the brow of the hill!

The attack pressed forward swiftly and effectively. At 0915 a smoke screen is laid by artillery . . . 0920 and five Centurion tanks move up to cover C Company's left flank . . . at 0930 C Company advances like locusts over a cropped wheatfield . . . 0936, machine guns, thunderflashes and enemy warning flares . . . 0944, elderly ladies on coach outing somewhat startled by black-faced infantrymen looming out of smoke and charging up to Tilshead Road . . . 0945, River Tils bridge captured before defenders can blow it . . . 0948, C Company consolidates on ridge on far side of river.

Joined by B Company who flew in by helicopter half an hour behind them . . . 0950, Centurions of 15th/19th Hussars cross the bridge . . . 0953, knocked-out enemy vehicles leave battlefield . . . 0955, rear party of Worcesters dig in by bridge and prepare defences . . . 0959, A Company, the main body, arrives. They have ridden in on the back of 15th/19th Hussars' tanks . . . 1000, A Company join forward troops on the ridge. Thus the attack was completed in half an hour.

Meanwhile 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, prepared to take the village of Imber—held by 1st Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regiment—which had been by-passed in the bridge assault.

Saladins and Ferrets, guns blazing with blanks, spearheaded into the village followed by infantry. The enemy returned fire from

over . . .

Left: A section of 1st Battalion, The Worcester Regiment, eyes skimmed for enemy, moves towards the River Tils—a Centurion advances, too.

A Saladin and a Ferret move warily through the battered village of Imber.

the glassless, sandbagged windows and a keen young officer urged on his men with "Give 'em rock all!"

Iron Duke was beset with Wellington weather. It was the wettest week for the time of year since records began in 1929. Visiting VIPs and Pressmen who came unprepared had to squelch through six inches of Flanders-like mud in city shoes.

An infantryman summed it up: "It started raining at three o'clock in the morning last Friday week. We have been spending the night in sleeping bags at the bottom of trenches. No one's suffering from exposure though some are near it. Fortunately, we had a 36-hour break during the exercise. All things considered, though, morale has been very good."

A Russian general at an Army exercise on Salisbury Plain! These two men of 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire Regiment, did not believe it at first. It was only when Major-General Nemtchenko (right) came out with a friendly "Zdravstvyite!" and other greetings in his own language that they were convinced. After that, the General got down to discussing with them —in fluent English— technical points like arcs of fire.

General Nemtchenko was one of nine foreign military attaches (including those of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia) who were invited along as observers. They were escorted by Prince Michael, who is a captain in the 11th Hussars.

Story by Hugh Howton
Pictures by Trevor Jones

SOLDIER to Soldier

If you are a subscriber in the United Kingdom, this isue of SOLDIER will reach you flat in an envelope instead of rolled in the usual wrapper. This is a change resulting from the introduction by the GPO of its two-tier mail system and abolition of the printed paper rate.

To meet the requirements of the cheaper printed paper rate SOLDIER was previously despatched rolled, in open-ended wrappers, in quantities of up to 19 copies. Beyond this figure it was more economical to send by parcel post.

Since there is now no requirement to send in open-ended wrappers, SOLDIER reviewed the whole distribution. The ideal was obviously to distribute entirely in sealed envelopes, but the cost of doing this even up to only 15 copies would be more than double the old postal costs. So the new distribution has had to be based on a combination of envelopes and wrappers up to 15 copies of a 48-page issue; beyond this quantity the magazine is still being sent by parcel post.

The new distribution of one to 15 copies of this issue means a small increase in the number of packets sent out but the total postal costs borne by SOLDIER are not increased and there will therefore be no change in the cost to readers.

★

To give help to British sportsmen and sportswomen of international potential in fields where there is currently a shortage of funds, the Avon Rubber Company has set up the Avon Sports Fund.

This new fund will make grants in the form of specialised equipment, travel and coaching to those who, in the opinion of an administering committee, will benefit in the short or long term and consequently improve British standards in their particular sports.

Grants will generally be limited to the equivalent of £100 a person though it is expected that most applications will be for sums between £25 and £50. Those seeking a grant can obtain an application form either from their governing bodies or direct from Avon's head office in Melksham, Wiltshire. A duplicate copy of the application will be sent to the particular governing body which will be kept informed at all stages.

Only "mechanical sports," such as motor racing, rallying and motorcycling, will be excluded; this because Avon, as tyre manufacturers, are already involved in these fields.

Serving in an honorary capacity on the administrative committee are the Honourable Robin Dixon (Olympic two-man bob gold medallist 1964), Major Bill Hoskyns (Olympic fencing silver medallist 1960 and 1964), Menzies Campbell (British 100-metre record holder), Ronald W Lees (Avon Group public relations manager) and A C B Wilson (director, Avon Rubber Company).

HOY AHOY

THE Old Man of Hoy—a sheer 400 feet of brittle sandstone in the Orkneys—is one of the toughest climbs in the British Isles. But Special Air Service Volunteers have just climbed it twice—as a signals exercise.

They are Staff-Sergeant Paddy Freaney, Trooper Brian McAuliffe and Trooper Graham Miller of D Squadron, 23 Special Air Service (Volunteers), based at Invergowrie, near Dundee.

Early morning rain made the rock wet and slippery but the trio, roped together and carrying a 30-lb radio set, completed the ascent in four hours. After sending "mission completed" messages to SAS colleagues in Glencoe, Dundee and the Cairngorms, they settled down to a picnic lunch of cheese sandwiches, chocolate and beer.

"It was really an exercise in signalling," said Staff-Sergeant Freaney, "but to make it more interesting we decided to climb the Old Man as well."

continued from previous page

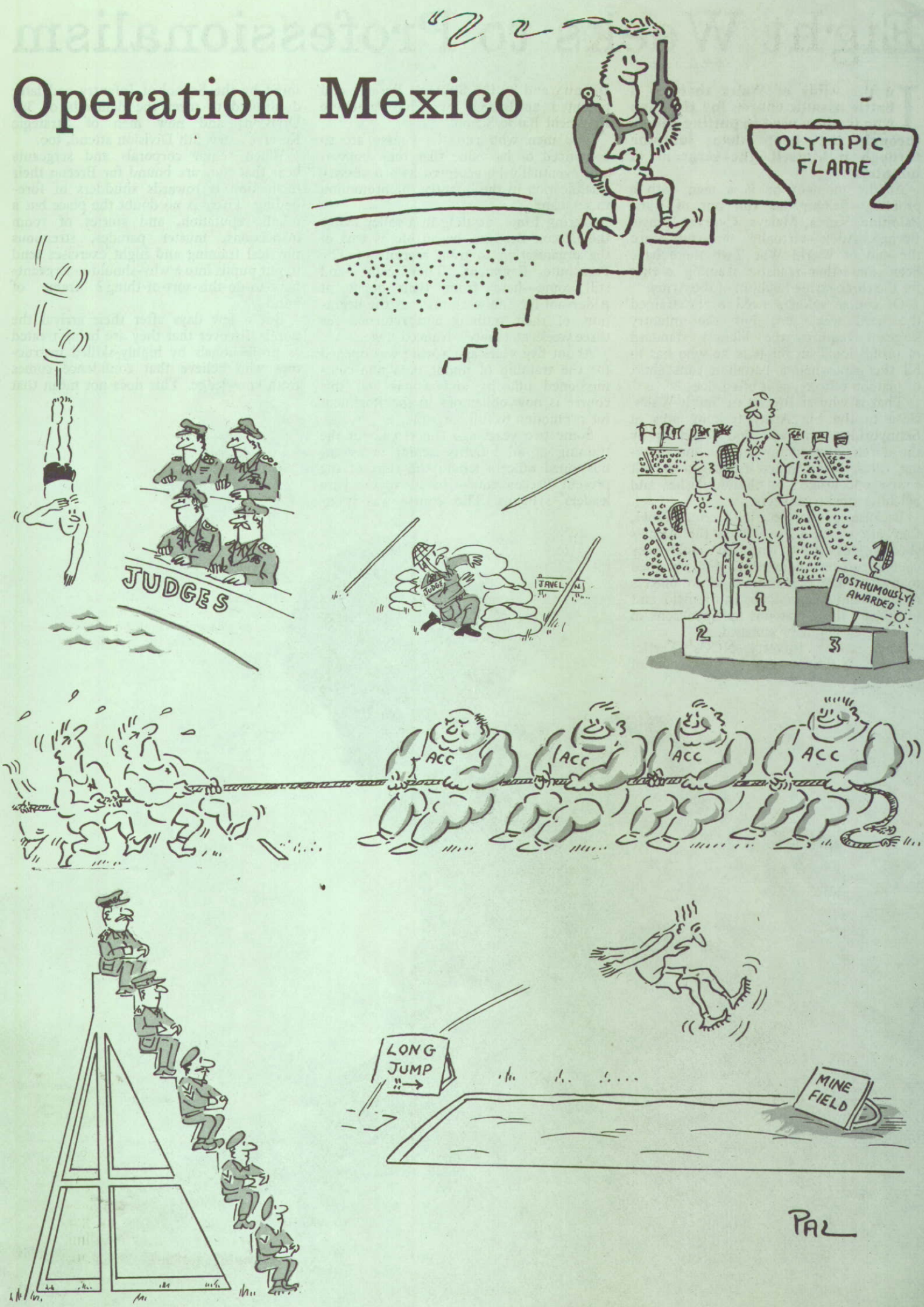
Staff-Sergeant Freaney and Trooper McAuliffe rehearsed the climb the day before without their heavy equipment. Trooper Miller stayed behind because he had a stomach complaint. Spotted by the passing Stromness Ferry, the St Ola, the two climbers were hailed by fog horn and exchanged waves with the passengers.

Said Staff-Sergeant Freaney: "The only awkward section was the overhanging crack. The remainder was nice climbing but the condition of the rock was very poor, being very brittle sandstone. The best pitch was the final one, a clean cut corner about 70 feet high with very sound rock which made for enjoyable climbing." The descent took 2½ hours and five abseils —that down the overhanging crack was "very hairy."

Left: A worm's eye view with bated breath. Tpr McAuliffe tackles the difficult overhang. Some sustenance before the climb (above) and victory waves afterwards from the intrepid trio (below).

The Old Man of Hoy was first conquered two years ago by a team of expert civilian climbers. The second assault was televised by the BBC. Since then there have been four more successful assaults. This was the first Service climb.

Operation Mexico



Eight Weeks to Professionalism

In the wilds of Wales there is a battle assault course for the man who is more used to putting people through the hoop than jumping through it himself—the sergeant of infantry.

At the moment he is a man with a problem—Britain has run out of wars. Palestine, Korea, Malaya, Cyprus, Kenya, Borneo, Aden—virtually non-stop since the end of World War Two there have been more-than-realistic training arenas for the three-stripe linchpin of the Army.

Of course soldiers need to be trained the hard way, too; but the infantry sergeant requires the highest standard of professionalism for it is he who has to fill the gap when a battalion runs short of platoon officers, as it often does.

That is why at Brecon in South Wales, close to the big Army training area at Sennybridge, you will find sergeants by the dozen, dressed for combat and carrying rifles, being yelled round an assault course encouraged by thunderflashes and belching smoke canisters.

Because at Brecon, in Dering Lines, they are trying to overcome the Army's shortage of wars with an eight-week course, run on tough principles, designed to train senior non-commissioned officers to command rifle platoons in the field and to prepare those platoons for operations in which they might be engaged.

This is the Infantry NCOs' Tactics Division. It is sponsored by the School of Infantry and by the Strategic Reserve and parented at Brecon by The Parachute Regiment Battle School.

The men who run the course are so convinced of its value that they hope it will eventually be accepted as a necessary qualification in the infantry for promotion to sergeant.

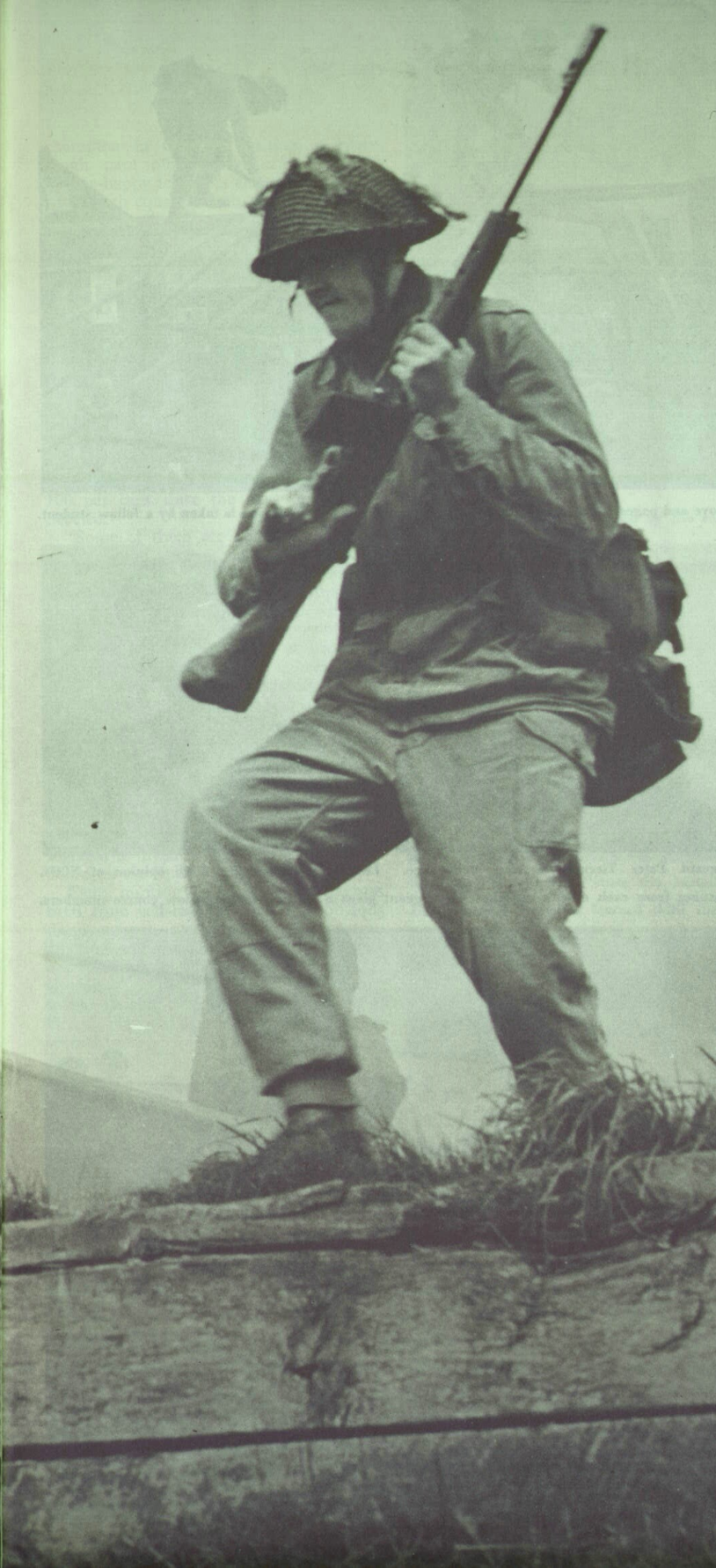
Dering Lines, nestling in a valley below the Brecon Beacons, began life as part of the organisation to train recruits of The Parachute Regiment. They came—and still come—here from their depot at Aldershot for one week towards the beginning of their training and returned for three weeks at a more advanced stage.

About five years ago a wing was opened for the training of junior para non-commissioned officers, and a pass on this course is now obligatory in the Regiment for promotion to full corporal.

Some two years ago concern about the training of all infantry senior non-commissioned officers led to the start of the present Brecon course based on the para leaders' syllabus. This course was sponsored by the School of Infantry and later duplicated to meet the demands of 3rd Division; and now men of Strategic Reserve's new 5th Division attend, too.

When senior corporals and sergeants hear that they are bound for Brecon their inclination is towards shudders of foreboding. There is no doubt the place has a tough reputation, and stories of room inspections, muster parades, strenuous physical training and night exercises tend to put pupils into a why-should-a-sergeant-have-to-do-this-sort-of-thing? frame of mind.

But a few days after their arrival the pupils discover that they are being treated as professionals by highly-skilled instructors who believe that confidence comes from knowledge. This does not mean that



Story by John Wright
Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

the sergeants' muscles have an easy time—there is plenty of close combat and other physical training and exercises in the unfriendly hills.

Lieutenant-Colonel Joe Starling—his previous job was second-in command of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Aden—fires words like a sub-machine carbine and runs the Battle School and Tactics Division likewise.

"A platoon sergeant has to be fit to make decisions, think out a proper plan and give orders under physical stress," he says. "He has got to be as fit as his men plus having professional skill and knowledge of modern tactical techniques."

So they come to Brecon from their regiments, and if they are corporals they are made into local sergeants. "No second-class citizens on the course," says the colonel. And the sergeants' mess almost bursts at the seams with up to 120 members including school staff.

The course is comprehensive. They learn about battle procedure and staff duties, artillery and engineers, more than they ever knew about infantry, air co-operation, duties of a platoon commander, weapon training, map reading, navigation and tracking, first aid, methods of instruction and organisation of training, patrols and ambushes, defence, relief in the battle area and withdrawal, advance and attack, counter-revolutionary warfare, evading capture and resistance to interrogation and nuclear, biological and chemical warfare.

The list is formidable, but so are some of the men who wade through it. Sergeant Peter Tiernan, 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, was a private soldier in Borneo, a corporal in Aden, and saw shooting in both places. He says: 'This is much more advanced stuff than anything we have in the battalion, which doesn't go into as much detail and leaves quite a lot

out." He feels sure that the course is giving him the kind of confidence needed to lead a platoon in action.

Sergeant Peter Deem, 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, has been in the Army for nine years. He agrees with his colleague. "Coming on this course brings out minor points of battlecraft missed entirely in the battalion. It brings back the professionalism of soldiering. I think the standard of instruction is very high." He was a platoon sergeant in Borneo and saw action, but he thinks he will be even more confident after the course.

An interesting view of the course comes from a sergeant of the United States Rangers who attended it (places are reserved for Students of Commonwealth and foreign armies).

In an "after action report" (his description) he writes: "Very surprisingly British and American tactics are almost the same . . . The point is that without doubt an American could be attached to a British unit and know what is going on. He would not have any trouble understanding orders and should have very little trouble carrying them out.

"I think this is the best course I have been on within my military career. Instructors know their jobs well and are well informed. They do everything possible to teach their students. I did, in fact, enjoy the entire eight weeks."

One thing that is stressed is the value of teaching correctly. The demonstration platoon—made up of two sections of 4th Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (the School of Infantry demonstration battalion), a section of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (representing 3rd Division), and a para section, all working happily together under a Queen's Regiment officer and sergeant—rehearses its performances carefully before putting them on before the critical gaze of the sergeants.

Rehearsals themselves are important, the sergeants are told. Colonel Starling makes the point that if rehearsals are necessary for stage plays why do people think that such complicated things as military operations will be "all right on the night"?

Training is made as realistic as possible. For instance, even for a simple piece of training, like moving at night, the students are taken away from camp to a desolate part of the Sennybridge training area. Anybody who has done military training within sight of a camp, with its distractions of movement and noise and Naafi, will appreciate the advantages of this.

For eight weeks the sergeant is virtually in limbo. Completely isolated from his normal battalion duties, he can concentrate on learning professional skills without distractions, and if he makes mistakes he makes them in front of fellow sergeants so that when he returns to his platoon there is less chance of making a fool of himself in front of his men. And he is made to take lessons, to change from pupil to teacher for a while.

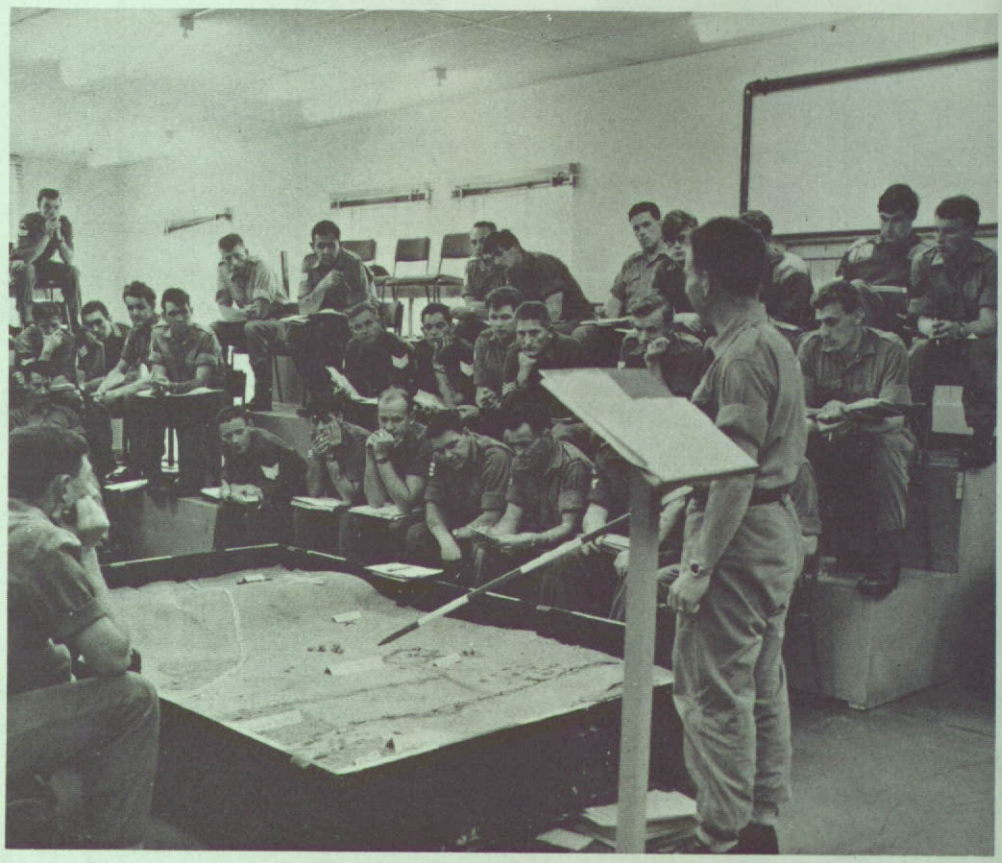
The senior non-commissioned officers who attend the course have a staunch

Above and pages 16 & 17: Sergeants on the assault course. The lesson is taken by a fellow student.

Sergeant Peter Tiernan—learning confidence.

Lieut-Col Joe Starling—high opinion of NCOs.

Learning from each other's mistakes: A sergeant gives a briefing to his fellow course members.



champion in Colonel Starling, a spare, tough para officer who can deal with trigger-happy terrorists and soldiers' angry wives with equal aplomb.

He underlines the importance of the training offered by the course by citing the example of his own battalion in Aden last year. "In general, each company had one officer short and frequently a sergeant had to command a platoon," he says. "On several occasions sergeants were in tricky situations where decisions they made could have had immense political and tactical repercussions.

The colonel adds: "I have been in the business for 20 years and I believe the average sergeant's grasp of what goes on and his ability to deal with a situation as it occurs has improved by something like 100 per cent since the days of National Service.

"Some of them are dedicated, but the average chap is more informed and more able to make balanced decisions and much better at man management. Of course, the ability of the sergeant is linked with the increased responsibility put on the soldier."

One thing they try to sell at Brecon is that with Britain's increased concentration on Europe and bigger commitment to NATO any future enemy is likely to be an armoured one. Since the Korean War, says Colonel Starling, the British soldier has not had to face a really sophisticated enemy—"Now we have got to be prepared to kill tanks!" It was to encourage the offensive tank-hunting spirit among the sergeants of the course that the staff put their heads together to invent a tank-killing time bomb based on the Energa grenade.

Tank hunting at night with Energas fired from self-loading rifles has obvious disadvantages—attracting immediate enemy reaction and thus being unable to knock out perhaps more than one tank. The Brecon "boffins" reckon that infantry would be able to creep up on a clutch of tanks, place the modified Energas on several tanks and retire to safety before the fun started. The bomb has worked in local trials and now its possibilities are being examined by the Royal College of Military Science at Shrivenham.

Parallel with the sergeants' course is that of the para leaders. Captain David Charles, The Parachute Regiment, who runs it, says: "It doesn't set out to be tough but by the nature of the job of paras it *is* tough." These junior non-commissioned officers work every day for eight weeks with frequent night exercises. Aim is to teach them to command a rifle section and be good instructors. Reserve paras also come for basic tactics teaching. And the para recruits come—first when they can still buy themselves out of the Army and for a second time when they have gained or are just about to gain their coveted wings.

All the instructors at Brecon realise that now there are no wars, training has got to be as good as it possibly can be if Britain's streamlined Army of the future is to be prepared for the demands that could be made of it.

Classroom for combat: Watched by the sergeants, men of the demonstration platoon on patrol.

Sergeant Peter Deem—"beats the battalion."

Sergeant's playtime—instructor a corporal.

Until recently sergeants learned skills the hard way: Patrol in Sarawak during Confrontation.

Children are pictured (left) being shepherded across the road outside Marlborough Infants' School, Aldershot, by 19-year-old Old Tom, an Army horse ridden by Military Police Lance-Corporal Brian Davies. This is the only school-children's crossing in the country controlled by a mounted military policeman—but soon after this picture was taken this particular horse never did the job again. Old Tom, the horse with a weakness for peppermints, retired to an old horses' home—bought out of the Army for £50 by ex-Sergeant-Major Ernest Scattergood (pictured below) who rode him successfully in many jumping competitions during service with the Royal Military Police mounted troop. When Sergeant-Major Scattergood retired last year he vowed Old Tom would retire comfortably.

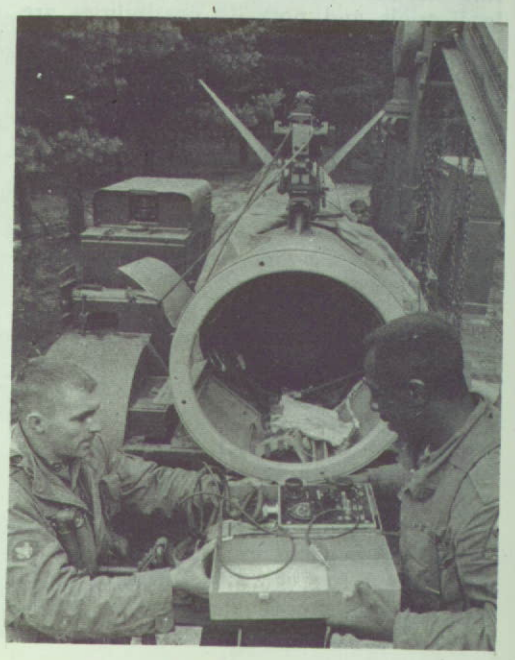
Major Brian Davis, commanding 21 (Gibraltar 1779-83) Missile Battery, Royal Artillery, stationed in Rhine Army, was in his birthplace, Lincoln, as a guest of the Sheriff while planning a battery recruiting tour. Another guest was Lieutenant-Commander Donald Lawrence, an officer of the Royal Navy's HMS Lincoln. And 21 Battery was planning a trip to Gibraltar with which it has had strong ties for nearly 200 years. Everything neatly clicked into place. HMS Lincoln, making a return trip to Gibraltar, invited along an officer and 13 gunners who spent five hectic days of sightseeing and official functions on the Rock. To mark the visit, Captain Frank Roberts, leading the 21 Battery party, presented a battery plaque to Sir Joshua Hassan, Chief Minister, who in return gave the battery a plaque bearing Gibraltar's coat of arms. Above: Three gunners with a plaque by HMS Lincoln.

While Major W H Moulder takes his dog Lucinda for a stroll (above), Major Ken Dudley accompanies him with a Chieftain tank on a lead! It happened at the Royal Armoured Corps open day at Bovington Camp in Dorset. Major Dudley, of the RAC equipment trials wing, was demonstrating an apparatus he designed to enable the tank to be steered, reversed and have its gears changed at the touch of a switch on a remote control box connected to the tank by a cable up to 400 yards long. Made in the wing's workshops from standard components, the control kit is easily and cheaply installed on any Chieftain—its possibilities *are* being studied seriously.

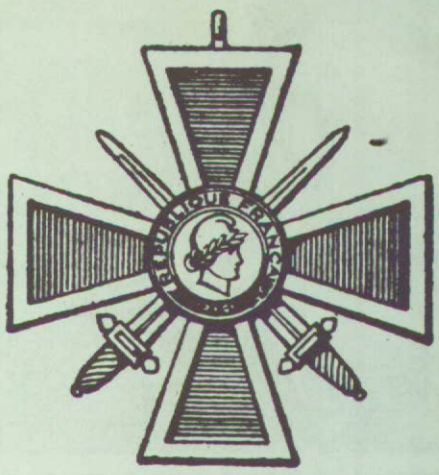
Left, Right & Centre

Major M D King is a keen 15-handicap golfer. It was his idea to convert a six-hole pitch-and-putt course at the Central Engineer Park, Long Marston, near Stratford-on-Avon, into a full nine-hole course and a "par three' course of nine holes and 1155 yards. The 2658-yard nine-hole course spreads over 12 acres of two adjacent sports fields and has a bogey of 36. Four of the five greens are played twice, there are two holes of 477 yards and the shortest hole is 100 yards. Since there are only three bunkers the tees have been cunningly sited to make use of the few trees and bushes, and seats, notice boards and cricket sight screens are all counted as hazards. The course was officially opened (above) by Major King (driving off) and Sergeant Robbie Whitehouse (left) challenging Mr John Andrew (second from left) and Mr Bill Cash (third from left), of Broadway Golf Club. The Central Engineer Park plans to run two courses for beginners under the Broadway club professional in the near future.

"The opportunity to see this American-developed weapons system used by the armed forces of an allied nation was very valuable to us." Major Lyman M Spangler, of 2nd Battalion, 73rd Artillery, 3rd Armored (Spearhead) Division, United States Army, was talking about his unit's 17-day visit to 50 Missile Regiment and 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, Rhine Army (right). British and Americans fired their Honest John rockets and, said Major Spangler, "The British procedures, their innovations and their techniques of firing the Honest John are things we can learn from and did learn from in the cross-training we were able to accomplish." A lighter side of this Project Partnership was a baseball afternoon between 19 Field Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 73rd Artillery, with British sergeants playing American non-commissioned officers and British officers meeting American officers. Bases moved and even disappeared, extra baseballs turned up in first basemen's gloves and outfielders were as inclined to sit down and chat as watch the play. Lieutenant-Colonel Eric W P Evans, commanding 19 Regiment, summed it up after his officers had defeated the Americans. "It may have been a victory for Britain, but not much for baseball."



Proud pilgrimage



BACK they went—back across poppied Picardy to the vine-clad hills west of Rheims where 50 years ago their predecessors had won them the right to wear the green and red ribbon of the Croix de Guerre on their shoulders.

To a small British military cemetery hemmed on three sides by golden corn at Chambrecy went men of The Leeds Rifles, a Territorial & Army Volunteer Reserve III unit which is the successor of the old 8th Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment (Leeds Rifles).

On 28 July 1918 the 8th won the coveted Croix de Guerre from the French by storming a hill called Montaigne de Bligny and driving the Germans from a height that commanded the surrounding countryside. In retrospect the hill can be seen as one of the hinges on which the desperate battles of 1918 turned, opening the way to 11 November and victory.

As the 50th anniversary of this feat approached the Regiment sought the approval of the Ministry of Defence and the French Government to pay homage to its predecessors. The result was that 31 officers and men and three retired members of the Regiment made a coach trip from Leeds to Rheims.

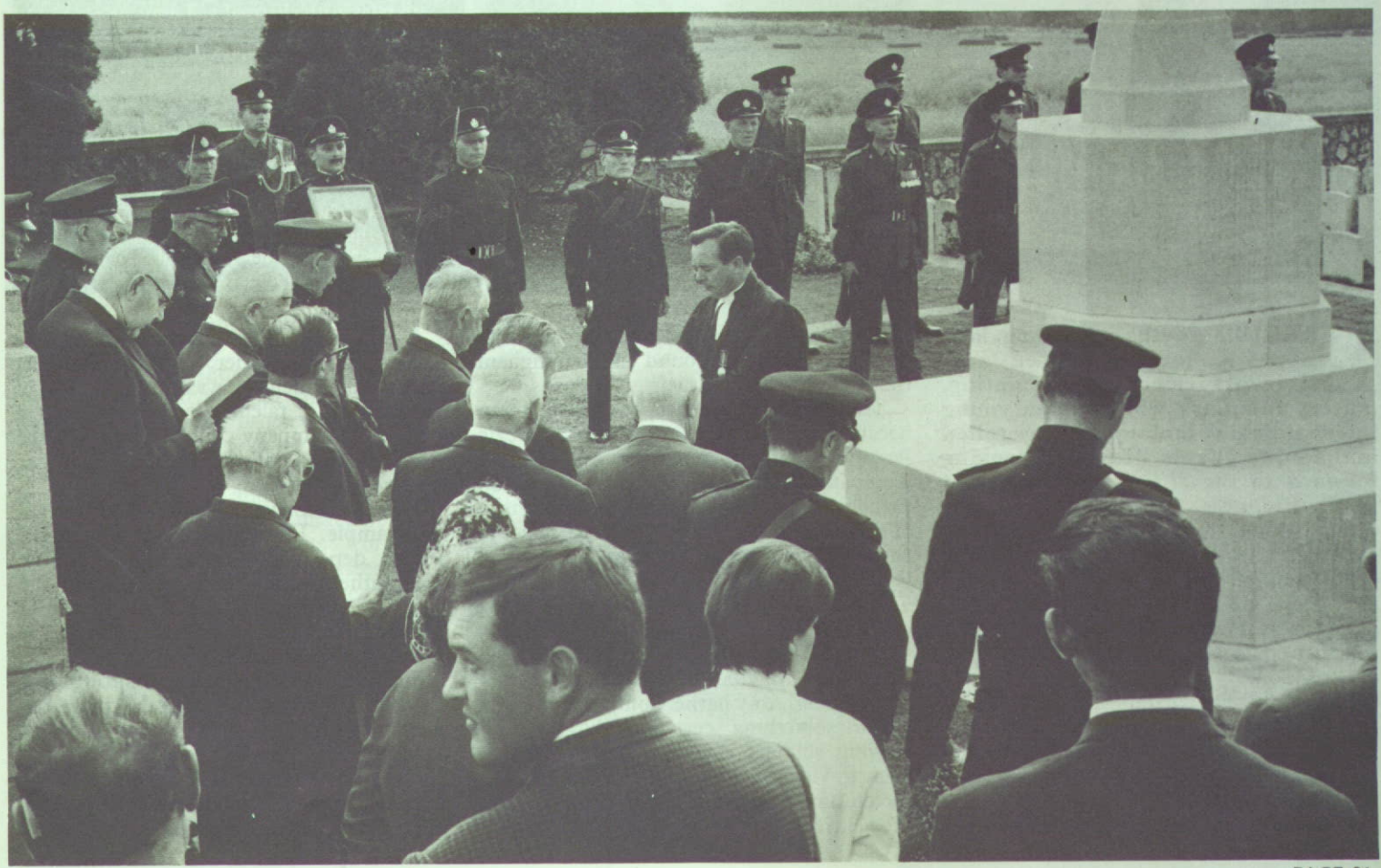
The Croix de Guerre was brought from its resting place in the regimental chapel at York Minster and paraded with pride. Colonel J H Taylor, the honorary colonel, read the citation in French and English; Lieutenant-Colonel G Jarratt, the commanding officer, laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment and read the names of its members buried at the Cemetery—and other wreaths were laid on behalf of old comrades, the city of Leeds and the towns of Morley and Castleford.

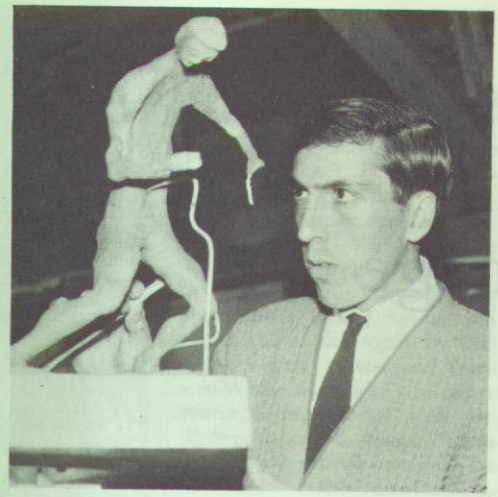
Three volleys were fired by the guard of honour and then came the Last Post, a minute's silence and Reveille. French ex-Service organisations were represented by three standard bearers, and the mayors of Bligny and Chambrecy were among the silent crowd of villagers. Later a survivor of the battle, Corporal Harry Slater, led the way up a track to the Montaigne.

The village of Bligny lies in the valley below and the mayor invited the Rifles to pay a visit. Tables were spread with white cloths and laden with bottles of wine and the French entertained their visitors to a party in the village's only street.

It was in late evening sunshine that the Rifles left Bligny for the drive back to Rheims. Behind them they left new friends —with them they took memories of ranks of headstones, of a great hill with a name said with pride, and of the courage of soldiers of 50 years before.

Top: The Croix de Guerre. Below: At the cemetery Territorial Padre T C S Welbourne conducts a service while Capt Peter Green holds the Croix.

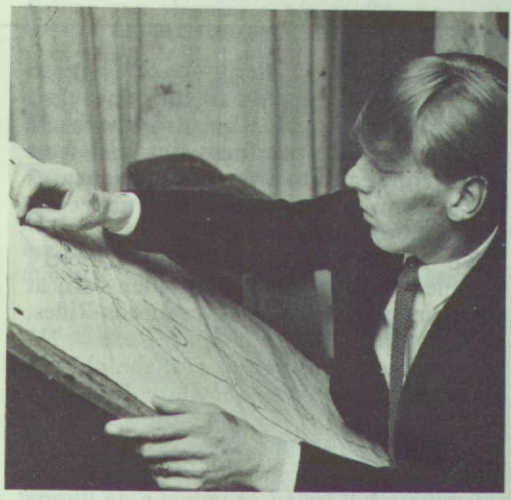


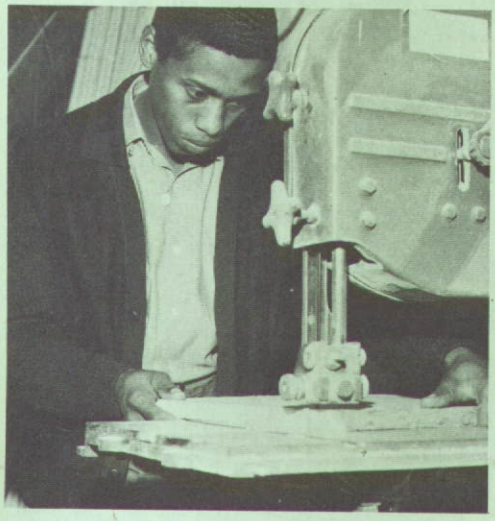


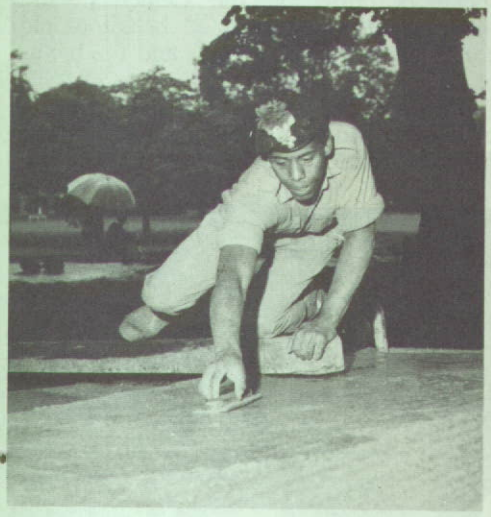
Story by John Wright

Pictures by Arthur Blundell

Artists With Rifles







Top left: During the day Lance-Corporal Mick Harris wields a shovel on the road. In the evening the same hands are sculpting delicately.

Above: Fusilier Lou McKay flounders in mud on the landscaping site. He chooses to relax with charcoal and drawing paper.

Left: Concrete occupies the mind of Fusilier Lewis Everard while he is wearing his beret. Later the material is wood.

Right: Major Nichols watches as men of his company work to transform the mud into a patio on which art lovers may sip coffee.

Below right: Charlie Company's link with the battalion. If trouble had brewed Major Nichols could have had men on the move in 90 minutes.

LANGUID youths with long hair sipped coffee and talked with their girl friends about painting, pottery and plays, while outside young international voluntary workers toiled in the summer rain. Most were looking forward to the "happening" planned for that night.

You would expect the only military connection with this scene to be the epaulets on a "with it" shirt, but manning the telephone switchboard were short-haired men in khaki and green, alert for a call that could signal a very different kind of "freak out."

The unlikely juxtaposition occurred when Charlie Company of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, indulged in some OPMAC. This is the current Army term for aid to the civil community, but in the Fusiliers' case it also meant Operation Midlands Arts Centre—for it was to this impressive complex opposite Edgbaston cricket ground in Birmingham that they went to do their good deeds.

They took their weapons with them because the battalion was on Strategic Reserve spearhead standy-by and Charlie Company was the leading element. A call through that switchboard could have abruptly terminated OPMAC and sent the company flying to a trouble spot anywhere in the world.

Because of this the men were confined to the area of their camp, which was situated in Cannon Hill Park, home of the arts centre. May be this is what caused the "happening" to Charlie Company.

For something certainly did happen. Curious soldiers who during the evenings went to view the "weirdies," as they called the culturally inclined young people whom the centre attracted, began to pick up paint brushes and to play at pottery.

A surprised Major Brian Nichols, the company commander, discovered that among his riflemen was quite a bit of natural artistic talent. Eventually about a fifth of the company could be found at the centre at night engaged in one or another creative activity.

There was Lance-Corporal Mick Harris, for example. He wandered down to the pottery department—somewhat aimlessly, one gathers—and soon produced the figure of a man. "I did a bit of art at school," admitted Corporal Harris as he sculpted delicately.

Fusilier Lewis Everard was sitting over a glass of milk in the centre's coffee bar when he got the urge to visit the woodwork department. A creditable coffee table was the result. And Fusilier Lou McKay, attracted to the live model drawing session, proved very effectively that he did a lot more than sit and stare.

The Fusiliers went to the centre as a result of a visit by Birmingham's Lord Mayor to the battalion in Gibraltar earlier this year when it was 1st Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers.

Charlie Company made an access road—and named it Fusilier Drive—did some landscape gardening and prepared a new site for the international voluntary workers' village. It was really engineers' work, but the company had assault pioneers and Major Nichols used skills acquired by his men before they joined the Army. One platoon also worked at clearing up local churchyards.

After Charlie Company's departure some of its soldiers returned to the centre during their leave to enjoy its facilities. Apart from rendering valuable aid to this imaginative project they taught civilians about the make-up of the modern soldier—and perhaps shattered a few misconceptions.

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 33.

A hit for two misses

A winning smile from **Private Margaret Dixon,** Women's Royal Army Corps, as (above) she is crowned Miss Waggon Lines 1968 at the School of Artillery, Larkhill. Fifteen members of the school's WRAC battery competed for the title at a summer ball. Private Dixon won £25—and among her duties will be representing the school's Waggon Lines Club in charitable activities. Crowning Margaret—a former children's nanny, now a postal orderly—is **Private Victoria Godley,** last year's winner of the title.

Unflagging bunting

With a victory wave (above), **Staff-Sergeant Adrian Bunting** speeds to another cycling success. Staff Bunting has won a reputation as a tireless rider in major road races in Singapore and Malaysia. But he reckons to lose as much as 6lbs in weight during a long event in Singapore's steam heat. He recently captained the combined Services against the Singapore national team in the national track championship 4000 metres pursuit and led them to a 20-metre victory. Staff Bunting is chief clerk of the Engineer Branch at Headquarters Far East Land Forces. As secretary of the Army Cycling Union in Singapore he regularly organises circuit races round Tanglin Barracks, which houses the headquarters. He is pictured winning one of these events.

Brothers in arms

Now they are a sapper trio. Below, **Junior Sergeant Stuart Atkinson** (centre) and **Sapper Christopher Atkinson** (right) were given special leave to see their younger brother enlist at the Army Careers Office in Chester. Brother **David** is congratulated by **Colonel R D Cheetham,** the Army Careers Officer at Chester. All three are in the Royal Engineers. Even their mother wears uniform. She is a traffic warden.

PURELY PERSONAL

And another beauty contest winner—Miss Whitehall 1968, pictured above against a backcloth of bandsmen at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. The contest, open to girls from all government departments, is part of the Army Department's annual sports day—and this year's winner was **Miss Doreen Prosser,** a clerical officer with the Ministry of Public Building and Works. She also won £25.

Father Feather too

John Derek Feather (above, left) is following his father's footsteps—in army boots. He signs on at the Army Careers Information Office in Bradford watched by his father (centre). There are many fathers and sons in the Army, but what made the occasion unique was that both were enlisted by **Major Ernest Deuchar** (right). Father **Donald Feather** joined the Royal Signals in 1951 and his son is going to the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion at Oswestry for eventual service with The King's Division.

Medical medal

A gold medal for its brightest student in England and Wales has been awarded to **Staff-Sergeant Michael Daniel** (below) by the Public Health Inspectors' Association. Staff Daniel, who is in the Royal Army Medical Corps, studied at the Army School of Health in Aldershot and a civilian technical college, then spent two years attached to the Public Health Department of Woking Urban District Council. Staff Daniel has other medal potential—he is a keen racing cyclist as well as a rugby referee.

Hometown historian

He has written a history of his hometown of Huddersfield to mark its hundredth anniversary. Major Roy Brook (second from right, below), Royal Army Educational Corps, is congratulated by the Mayor and Mayoress and a local resident at a cocktail party which launched his book. It is acclaimed as the most comprehensive of the four histories that have been written about the town. It goes back to Roman times, details entries in the Domesday Book, records how electors went on the rampage after consuming £1000 worth of free beer at a Parliamentary election in the early 19th century, and reports on the town's Charter of Incorporation in 1868. The foreword is written by Prime Minister Harold Wilson who is a freeman of the town. Major Brook wrote a history of Shorncliffe Camp, Folkestone, for his MA degree. He was educated at Huddersfield New College and the University of Wales, and joined the RAEC in 1949.

Dig that didgeridoo

This will take the wind out of their didgeridoos. **Bandmaster Reg Pritchard** (above), emigrating to Australia, was presented with a fine £200 bassoon on his retirement at Sir John Moore Barracks, The Light Infantry headquarters in Shrewsbury, Shropshire. The money was collected by junior bandsmen, sergeants and warrant officers. Bandmaster Pritchard had been in the Army for 35 years. He is now in Adelaide, New South Wales, coaching a police band.

Oompah with oomph

Every soldier, it is said, keeps a field-marshal's baton in his knapsack. But **Sergeant Zara Bowness** (below), Women's Royal Army Corps, may soon carry one in her handbag. Not a field-marshal's, but a conductor's baton. Sergeant Bowness has just completed a two-year course at Kneller Hall, the Royal Military School of Music, She has been selected for an officers' course at Camberley and on graduation will become Director of Music of the WRAC. The present director is a man. At Kneller Hall she was the only woman of 240 students. Her course included learning to play all the instruments which make up a military band. And she preserves her femininity even while playing the French horn. Which could be termed oompah with oomph.

"I FIGHT THEM LIKE HOUNDS"

WHEN Sir Peter heard his orders he suggested that they meant suicide for his Regiment. The General's reply was tough but typical of him: "It's got to be done and if necessary I am prepared to accept 100 per cent casualties . . ." There was, Sir Peter recalled later, no more to be said.

The General was Montgomery and Sir Peter Farquhar commanded 3rd The King's Own Hussars, who in 1958 merged with 7th Queen's Own Hussars to become The Queen's Own Hussars. That order launched the 3rd Hussars into their greatest struggle.

This was Alamein. The battle between the Eighth Army and the Afrika Korps had been raging for over a week and the 3rd Hussars, part of 9th Armoured Brigade supporting 2nd New Zealand Division, had already let—and shed—blood on Miteiriya Ridge.

The Commonwealth Army had hammered the Germans hard and now Montgomery planned to break through near Kidney Ridge with the mass of his armour. The Hussars and their sister regiments, The Warwickshire Yeomanry and The Wiltshire Yeomanry, had been chosen to spearhead the push—to break through enemy anti-tank and field gun positions and hold open the door.

On the night of 1 November 1942 their tanks began advancing behind the infantry. Before reaching the objective the Hussars lost ten of their 35 tanks. But at 6.15am on 2 November the remaining tanks left the infantry to begin their lonely thrust into the forest of German gun barrels.

Newspapers later likened it to the Charge of the Light Brigade. At first all went well; prisoners were captured—but as it got light the desert became alive with guns firing at them from front and both flanks. The Hussars pressed on with terrible loss, crushing guns under their tank tracks and fighting muzzle-to-muzzle duels in the dawn light. Soon the air was thick with black smoke from their crippled tanks.

Radio communication broke down and Sir Peter, an ex-master of foxhounds who said he fought his Regiment "like a pack of hounds," walked around giving verbal orders to his tank commanders. At one time he had only seven crews left in action. They kept fighting until joined by 2nd Armoured Brigade and at about 10am, with The Queen's Bays, repelled a counter-attack by Panzers.

The gallant charge had penetrated two-and-a-half miles into the enemy positions. The 3rd Hussars had destroyed 19 guns and five tanks and taken 300 prisoners. The door was open.

Next day the New Zealanders' General Freyberg surveyed the battlefield with Sir Peter. As he swept the desert with field glasses the General said: "Your Regiment is magnificent. The Hun is beaten—it is now the pursuit."

He was right. Soon the enemy broke—and 30,000 prisoners came into the bag. The Afrika Korps was on the run!

For the 3rd Hussars the fighting was over. Since 23 October, when the battle began, they had lost 21 officers and 98 other ranks killed, wounded and missing—and 47 of their 51 tanks. As they withdrew they took with them the New Zealanders'

fern leaf sign, awarded by a grateful General Freyberg and still carried on all vehicles of The Queen's Own Hussars.

In the year of Alamein the 7th Hussars were in Burma. As part of 7th Armoured Brigade they covered the Army's retreat to India just as their predecessors had guarded Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna nearly a century-and-a-half before. They won this praise from General Alexander: "Without them we should never have got the Army out of Burma."

These two great cavalry regiments often fought together and in peacetime it was customary for one to be at home providing drafts of men and horses for the other overseas. The roll of each regiment contained a high proportion of men who served in both.

The 3rd were raised as The Queen Consort's Regiment of Dragoons by King James II in 1685 as a result of the Monmouth Rebellion, and the 7th started life in Scotland four years later as Cunningham's Dragoons.

Oldest custom of the present Regiment dates from these days. The 3rd wore the Queen's livery with Garter-blue feathered hats—and the association with the colour blue has lasted to today's wearing of Garter-blue backgrounds to badges of rank by officers and non-commissioned officers (the only regiment in the Army to do so).

In 1714 The Queen Consort's Regiment's name was changed to The King's Own Regiment of Dragoons, and Cunningham's Dragoons were temporarily disbanded and reformed as The Princess of Wales's Own Regiment of Dragoons, shortly afterwards to be known as The Queen's Own Regiment of Dragoons.

Both regiments gained their first battle honour at Dettingen in 1743 when, outnumbered ten to one, they charged the French cavalry three times, finally driving them from the field. Today the Regiment has one kettle-drummer and one drum horse surplus to establishment—so that a pair of silver kettle-drums captured by the 3rd at Dettingen can be carried at the head of the Regiment.

The King's Own Dragoons formed part of Wellington's Army throughout the Peninsular War and for the Battle of Toulouse were joined by the 7th who, after Corunna, had been reorganised as 7th or Queen's Own Regiment of Hussars.

At Waterloo the 7th Hussars charged time after time in protection of the infantry and at the end of the day helped to rout the infantry of the French Imperial Guard. In 1818 the 3rd were reorganised as The 3rd King's Own Light Dragoons.

They went to India and in 1845 took part in three of the four battles of the 62-day war in which the British vanquished 60,000 Sikhs. These fierce warriors nicknamed the 3rd the "Moodkee Wallahs"—a name that endured for 100 years—after being thrashed by them at the village of Moodkee; they also called the Dragoons "The Devil's Children" and after Moodkee refused to stand up to them.

When the 3rd returned to England they were re-equipped as hussars and their place in India was filled by the 7th who gained two Victoria Crosses during the Indian Mutiny. Both regiments distinguished themselves in South Africa.

The 7th spent the bulk of World War One fighting the Turks in Mesopotamia, while the 3rd spent four bloody years on the Western Front. As part of 2nd Cavalry Division, they screened the Old Contemptibles and in the retreat from Mons defeated the 3rd German Hussars.

The year 1936 was momentous for British cavalry. The 3rd Hussars returned from India to be the first cavalry regiment issued with tanks and formed the nucleus of 1st Armoured Division—soon afterwards the 7th Hussars in Egypt exchanged their horses for light tanks.

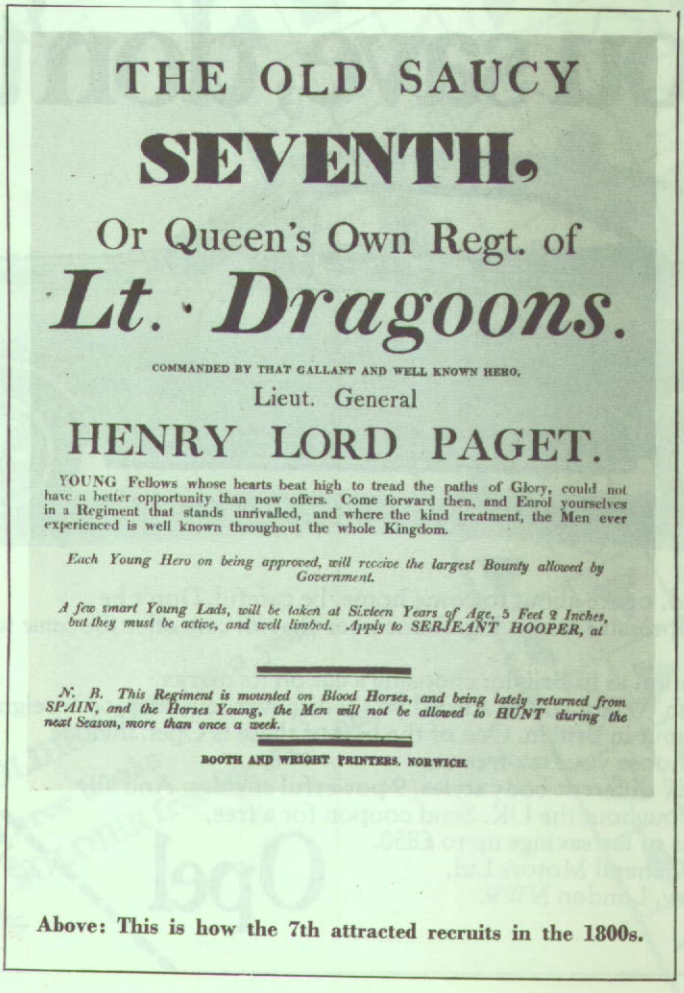
In World War Two both regiments were initially in 7th Armoured Brigade. After the desert war the 3rd—reformed and retrained after Alamein—fought their way up Italy. Every member of The Queen's Own Hussars wears on his left sleeve the scarlet and silver crest of the city of Warsaw—the Maid of Warsaw—granted to the 3rd Hussars for supporting Polish troops in Italy.

Between 1945 and the amalgamation in 1958 the 3rd Hussars stayed in Germany while their sister regiment travelled as far as Hong Kong. Last year The Queen's Own Hussars re-equipped as an armoured car regiment with Saladins and Ferrets. They saw action in Aden and now are spread worldwide—one squadron in Hong Kong, one in Singapore and one in England in the Strategic Reserve. Quite a change from the days when as the 3rd or 7th they fought saddle-to-saddle as a closely-knit unit against Frenchman and Sikh, Turk and German; but as the regimental motto makes clear:

Nor do difficulties deter us.

Left: Regimental headquarters of the 3rd Hussars after the Battle of Alamein. Above: The New Zealand fern leaf emblem granted to them after the battle by Gen Freyberg.

Top: The Maid of Warsaw. Top of other page: QOH cap badge, similar to 3rd Hussars'.



THE OLD SAUCY

SEVENTH,

Or Queen's Own Regt. of

Lt. Dragoons.

COMMANDED BY THAT GALLANT AND WELL KNOWN HERO,

Lieut. General

HENRY LORD PAGET.

YOUNG Fellows whose hearts beat high to tread the paths of Glory, could not have a better opportunity than now offers. Come forward then, and Enrol yourselves in a Regiment that stands unrivalled, and where the kind treatment, the Men ever experienced is well known throughout the whole Kingdom.

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N. B. This Regiment is mounted on Blood Horses, and being lately returned from SPAIN, and the Horses Young, the Men will not be allowed to HUNT during the next Season, more than once a week.

BOOTH AND WRIGHT PRINTERS, NORWICH.

Above: This is how the 7th attracted recruits in the 1800s.

A Saladin of A Squadron in Crater, Aden, in the stormy days leading to British withdrawal.

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Steady the Bays!
Let the Galloping Third come through . . .

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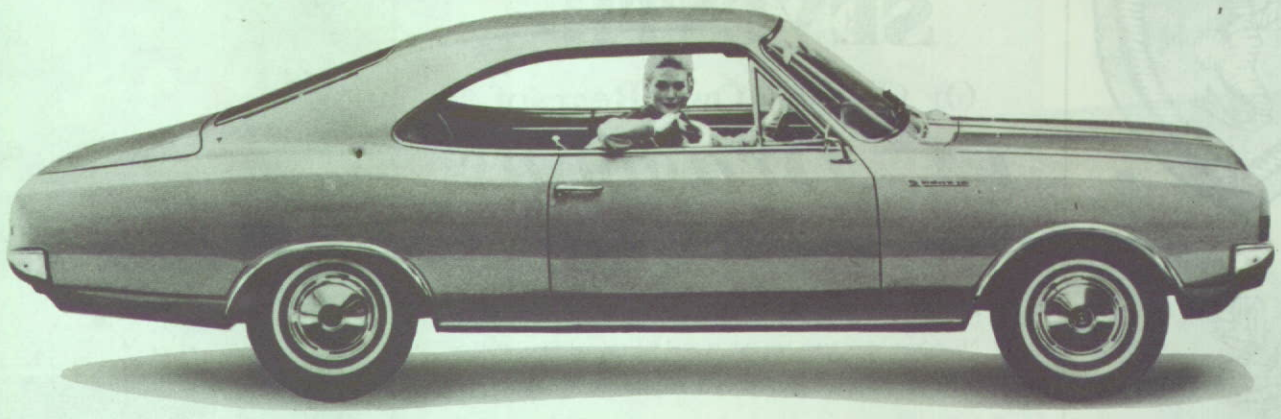

If you've just been posted abroad, or are about to come home, be careful. Don't be over-impressed by a car offering an impressive tax saving. Remember that *all* cars offer the *same* tax discount to servicemen abroad.

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COMPETITION 125

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT!

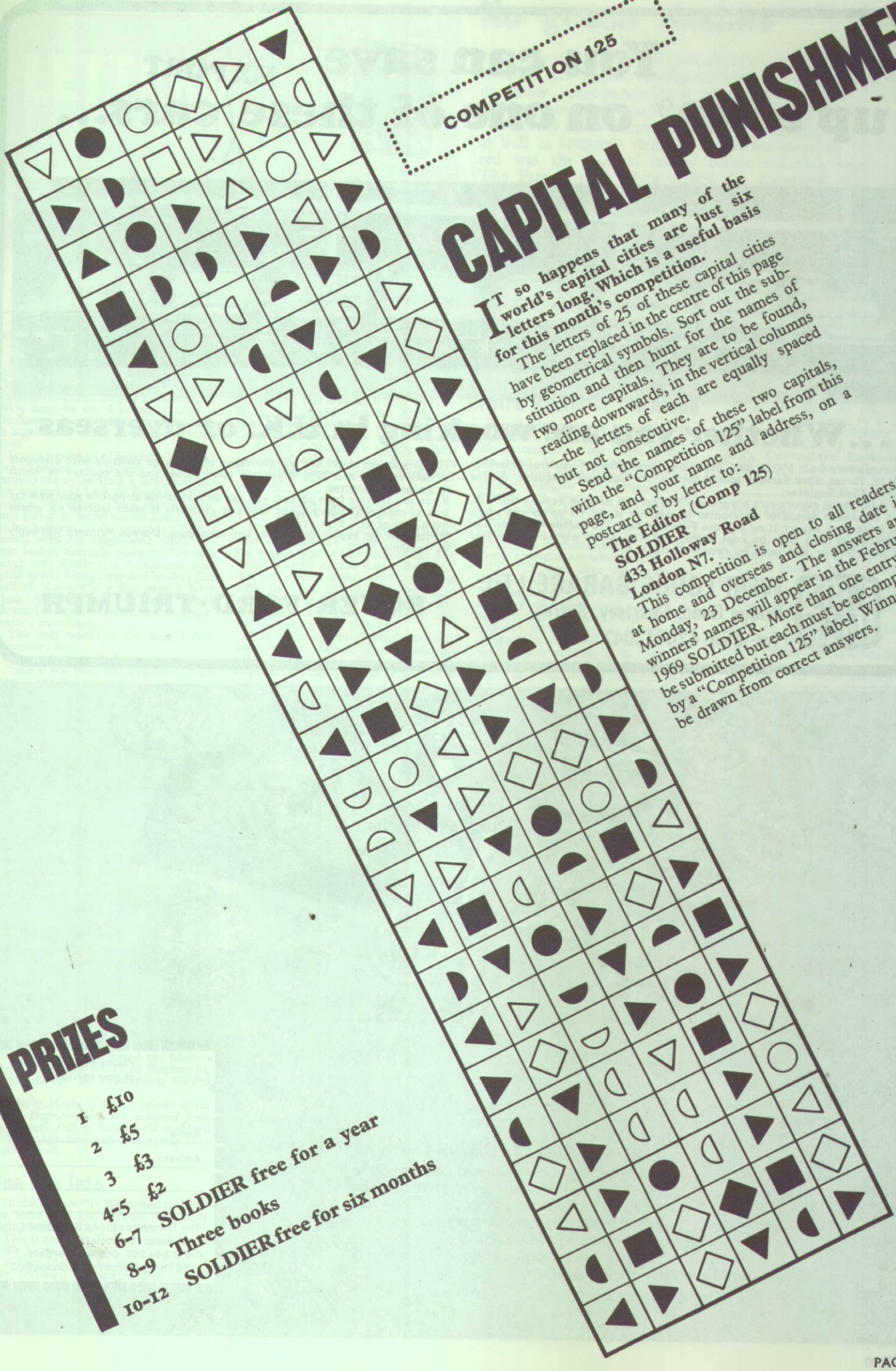
IT so happens that many of the world's capital cities are just six letters long. Which is a useful basis for this month's competition.

The letters of 25 of these capital cities have been replaced in the centre of this page by geometrical symbols. Sort out the substitution and then hunt for the names of two more capitals. They are to be found, reading downwards, in the vertical columns—the letters of each are equally spaced but not consecutive.

Send the names of these two capitals, with the "Competition 125" label from this page, and your name and address, on a postcard or by letter to:

The Editor (Comp 125)
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 23 December. The answers and winners' names will appear in the February 1969 SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 125" label. Winners will be drawn from correct answers.



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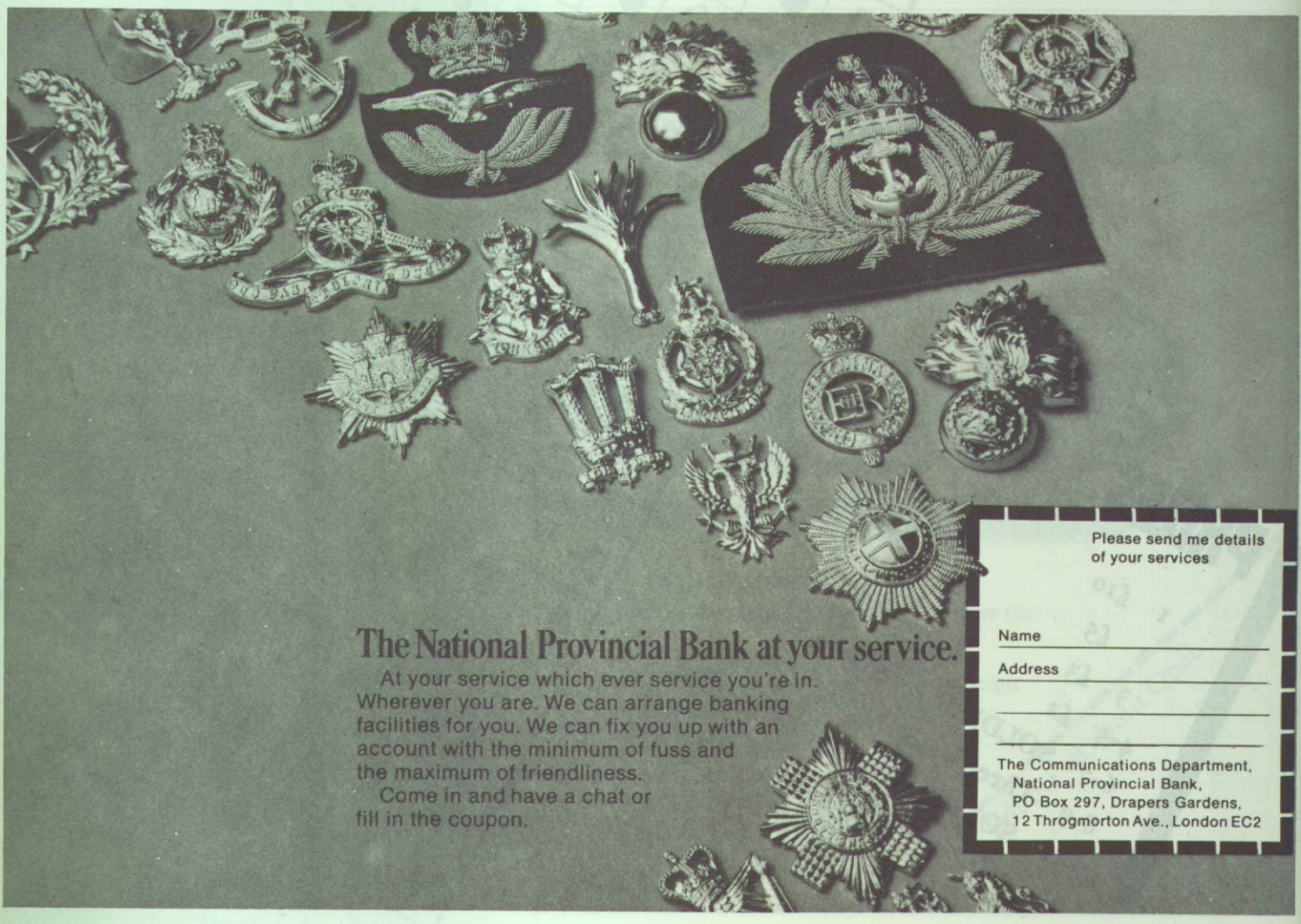

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LETTERS

The Editor,
Soldier Magazine,
433 Holloway Road,
London, N.7.

No green sashes

Your footnote to Mr I P Greenaway's letter (July) on the subject of sashes said that the Intelligence Corps was considering whether its senior non-commissioned officers should wear sashes and whether these should be red or in the Corps colour of green.

I wonder if the Corps knows that the red sash worn by officers as well as sergeants stems from the red cross of St George—red was the national colour before uniforms were invented. The French wore white sashes, the Bavarians light blue, etc.

A green sash might well represent another nation, even one of the new African states.

We ought not to be so green as that.—**W Y Carman, 94 Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey.**

★ *The Intelligence Corps has already decided not to adopt any sash.*

"The Orderly Man"

I wonder if any reader can tell me the words of the song "The Orderly Man?" The only time I ever heard it was in the Kriegsgefangenen Lager, Heilsberg, in 1918, sung by one Lamont, I think a Durham lad, and I have been wishing to know more about it for many years now.

It was new to all of us which included Jim Shenton, a railway clerk who amused me by wanting a Bradshaw the day we arrived back in England; Fred Jackson of Wigan, who saw another man gallop to safety on his horse while he lay helpless on the ground: "Taffy" Jones, with his thigh-bone stuck out four inches through being broken and never set; Kimber, a Londoner, who acted as our interpreter and leader; Jim Ball of Woolwich, a fine man I have often wondered about, and Frank Howard of Bradford, the nicest sergeant-major I ever knew.

The only words of the song I now remember are:

"... so on parade I went"
"said it was more like a chimney stack than it was like a gun."

Every verse ended with the refrain:

"but they couldn't get the dinner up because I was orderly man."

The last verse was:

"And now kind friends my six years are up,
Of soldiering I'll do no more,
I'll never join the KRRs,
Or any other corps.
They can keep their packs and four point tens,
And do the best they can,
For they'll never get me for another six,
To work the Orderly Man."—

J H Wilson (ex-Pte, Northumberland Fusiliers), 26 Suffolk Avenue, Southampton SO1 5EG.

Hand on scabbard

Are you not reaching "The End of the Road" when you publish (July) such "Traditionally British" pictures as "Sappers on Parade"?

Traditionally the left arm should not be swung. The left hand should hold the scabbard, arm straight, back of the hand to the left, thumb round the front, forefinger pointing down the scabbard, other fingers curled round the back.—**Maj J A Meeke RCT, 26 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, BFPO 31.**

★ *Major Meeke is right. Officers of the Royal Engineers are not excepted from the normal drill of holding the scabbard with the left hand when marching with drawn sword.*

One day late

In the feature "It Happened in July" you state that the invasion of Sicily (right) began on 10 July 1943.

This is not true. Troops of 2nd South Staffs landed by glider in the evening of 9 July 1943 in the area of Syracuse Bay, followed by paratroopers of 2nd Bn, The Parachute Regiment. Even though 70 per cent of the South Staffs finished up "in the drink," the remainder succeeded in all the major tasks allotted them—the capture of the bridge at "Ponte Corvo," destruction of big guns covering the beaches and generally spreading terror in the hearts and minds of the defending Italian troops. All this was on 9 July 1943.—**R C S Edwards (ex-1st Airborne Div), 4 Needler's End Lane, Balsall Common, Coventry.**

★ *Sorry! SOLDIER's usually reliable sources of reference were* Everyman's Encyclopaedia *and* Bolton's Dictionary of Dates.

The Light Brigade

With regard to Lieutenant-Colonel The O'Doneven's letter (July) about the wrong type of bits used in the film "The Charge of the Light Brigade," this is a minor error when compared with the fact that the entire Light Brigade are shown in the film wearing red trousers and the 17th Lancers with red facings on their coatees.

The only regiment which actually wore red or crimson trousers was the 11th Hussars; the others wore dark blue, and the facings of the 17th Lancers were white.

Having gone to all the trouble and expense of having the uniforms made, the film's makers might at least have ensured they were accurate.—**J T Thomson, 52 Grove Street, Edinburgh 3.**

I, too, a mere civilian and a female, was surprised to see "Universal reversible" bits galloping up the Valley of Death at Balaclava.

But what are such details to film producers, who not long ago showed us present-day hunting bridles on Culloden Field and Prince Charlie clutching a snaffle rein in each hand?

Can someone please tell me exactly when the universal reversible came into use in the British Army and if the Royal Artillery used it before the cavalry? Was it shortly before World War One?—**Miss O M Bent, Dean Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon.**

Third Battle of the Aisne

I was interested to read the letter (July) from Lieutenant-Colonel H G E Woods concerning the Third Battle of the Aisne. As a result of the fight the battalion put up at Bois des Buttes on 27 May 1918, the 2nd Devons, of 23rd Brigade, 8th Division, were awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Government, the only Regular infantry battalion to receive this honour. The occasion is commemorated by a IXth Corps special order which reads:

"On 27 May, after the enemy had captured our forward and main defences, the 2nd Devonshire Regiment maintained an unbroken front up to a late hour in the morning. Although surrounded and repeatedly attacked, it successfully defeated all attempts of the enemy to advance on its front. The time thus gained was of the utmost value, as it enabled the defences south-west of the Aisne to be organised, and reinforcing troops to occupy the position unmolested.

"A battery commander who was on the spot states that at a late hour in the morning he found the commanding officer of the 2nd Devons and a handful of men holding on to the last trench north of the Aisne. They were in a position where they were entirely without hope of help, but were fighting on grimly. The CO himself was calmly writing his orders with a storm of HE shells falling around him. His magnificent bearing, dauntless courage and determination to carry on to the end, were worthy of the highest admiration. There is no doubt that this battalion perished en masse. It refused to surrender and fought to the last.

"The commanding officer (Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson-Morshead), 28 other officers and 552 other ranks, practically the whole battalion in the area north of the River Aisne, fought it out to the last as ordered. A glorious record."

It is interesting to note that the corps order was signed by B L Montgomery, Major, for Brigadier General Staff.—**Lieut-Col J K Windeatt (Rtd), Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades Association, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.**

"My Old Shako"

I am trying to obtain the words of an old song which I heard first in an estaminet in France in 1918. It is called "My Old Shako" and the chorus goes like this:

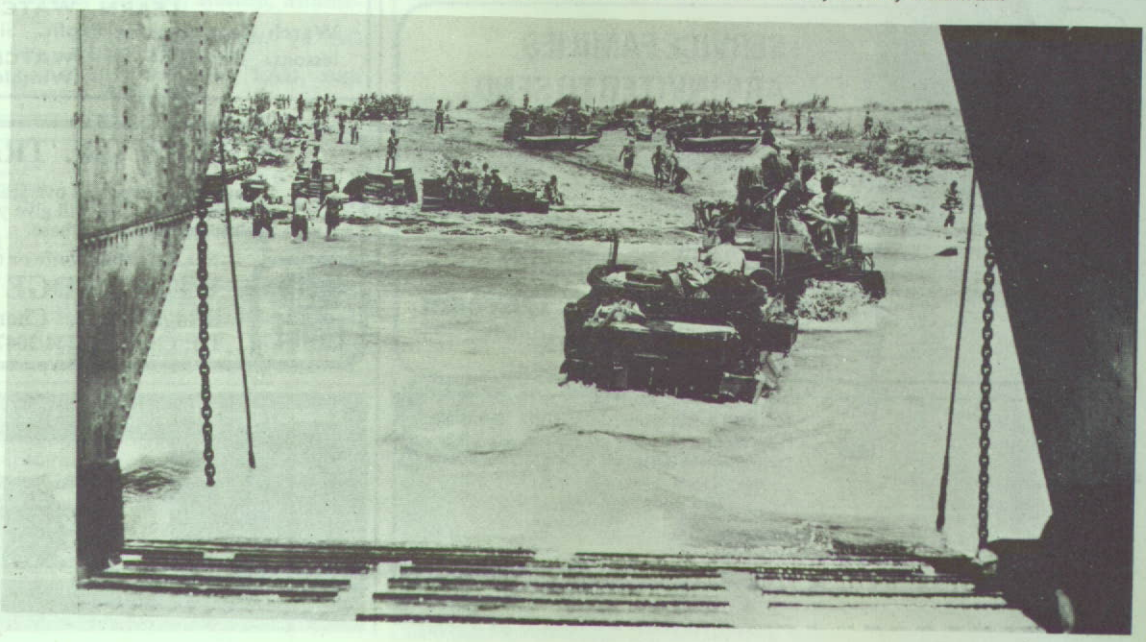
"Heigh Ho, many a year ago,
We wandered on together, you and I,
My old shako,
And we tossed the heads of all the pretty girls we used to know,
Ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty years ago."

I should be very grateful if any SOLDIER reader can help.—**J E Milgate, (ex-KRRC), 46 Battery Hill, Stanmore, Winchester, Hants.**

Private Waterfield

With Regard to SOLDIER's review (July Bookshelf) of "The Memoirs of Private Waterfield.",

No 2295 Private Robert Waterfield, 32 Regiment, earned the Punjab Medal of 1848/49 with two clasps, "Mooltan" and "Goojerat" (no soldier had this medal with three clasps). He also earned the India General Service Medal 1854/95 with clasp "North West Frontier," having served in the 1852 campaign. This medal was issued to him in 1878 and his address at that time was 17 Brierly Street, Leicester.—**R L Geach, 18 Lower Park, Tresillian, Truro, Cornwall.**



Passchendaele

Captain R A Caplan is wrong when he says (Letters, July) that Passchendaele and the ground surrounding it were never again lost to the Germans. During the battle of the Lys the British withdrew from it on 15 April 1918. On 16 April 1918 "The Times History of the War" says that the Germans occupied the line Langemarck-Zonnebeke-Veldhoek. This puts them two or three miles *west* of the Passchendaele ridge.

The ridge was not recaptured until late in the war and then by the Belgian Army. On this occasion the roads were impassable and troops on the ridge had food dropped to them by aircraft.—**N S Major, 26 Buxton Road, Brighton, Sussex.**

Captain Caplan is not quite correct. The ground won in the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917, including the village of Passchendaele, was given up when the Second Army withdrew on 14 and 15 April 1918 to a new line just east of Ypres. The town remained in our possession. The withdrawal was due to the German advance in the south on the Lys.

Full particulars of the operation will be found in the Official History, France and Belgium 1918, Volume 2, Chapters XIV to XVII.—**Brig E A James, Fernwood, 15 Bracebridge Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks.**

At 24 hours' notice

The article (July) on the recent operation in Bermuda was excellent, but I would be grateful if you would clear one small point with regard to the state of readiness of the supporting arms.

While it was true that 50 Movement Control Squadron RCT was at seven days' readiness, the rest of the supporting arms (from 24th Infantry Brigade based in the Plymouth area) were on the same state of readiness as the infantry battalion, ie a leading element at 24 hours' notice and a main body at 72.—**Lieut N H G Beard RCT, 60 Squadron RCT, Plasterdown Camp, Tavistock, Devon.**

American VC

William H Metcalf, an American, who won the Victoria Cross while serving in the Canadian Army during World War One, died recently at the age of 72.

An obituary notice by Waldo Pray, published in the Portland, Maine, *Press Herald*, contained the following sentence: "Metcalf won several other awards but the Victoria Cross, which entitles its holder to remain covered in the presence of the King or Queen and a salute from all British officers, was the only one he really cared about."

I presume this "entitlement" to be a myth.—**Col T F Lancer, 500 H St, SW, Washington DC 20024, USA.**

★ *A myth indeed! We should be glad to hear of Mr Waldo Pray's source of mis-information.*

Kitchener poster

I was somewhat intrigued to see the modified poster of Lord Kitchener in "Left, Right and Centre" (June) and feel it must have been copied (or taken) from a poster the Royal Engineers have used in the past two years to boost sales of their corps journal. Lord Kitchener was a sapper himself.—**Capt H W Corke, 249 Marlborough Road, Gillingham, Kent.**

★ *The World War One Kitchener poster is one of the best known of all time and has frequently been borrowed, even for commercial advertising.*

COLLECTORS' CORNER

W E Bibby, 2 Greenway Gardens, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey.—*Collects pre-1914 postcards of British Army full dress uniforms. Particularly requires Gale & Polden series and Raphael Tuck "Oilette" series.*

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(*see page* 23)

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1 "J" in "ENJOY." 2 Bottom of top left bottle. 3 Tooth of spectator at bottom left. 4 Glass splinters at centre left. 5 Chinstrap of nearest soldier. 6 Lettering on bottle at bottom right. 7 Tie of spectator with trilby. 8 Mouth of left soldier. 9 Toilet paper at top right. 10 Chevrons of nearest soldier.

It happened in October

1	*News of the World* began publication	1843
1	T E Lawrence and Arabs formally entered Damascus	1918
4	Boys' Brigade founded, at Glasgow	1883
15	Graf Zeppelin completed first trans-Atlantic flight	1928
26	Independence of Czechoslovakia proclaimed	1918
30	Experimental transmission of still pictures by television began in Britain	1928

Children's Education

The diversity of educational facilities in the United Kingdom offers opportunities for children of all abilities, but this variety can itself be confusing to parents. The Institute of Army Education provides a service of advice to serving Army parents on all matters relating to the education and future careers of children, especially those who suffer mental and physical handicaps, at home and overseas.

If you require advice you should apply through the Chief Education Officer to the Commandant, Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9. All enquiries are treated in confidence.

IN THE JUG

About a third of the competitors came up with the right answer, of 21 days in gaol, in SOLDIER's June competition. This can be arrived at in several ways; a specimen answer is:

10-pt jug	7-pt jug	4-pt jug	10-pt jug	7-pt jug	4-pt jug
10	–	–	1	7	2
6	–	4	8	–	2
6	4	–	8	2	–
2	4	4	4	2	4
2	7	1	4	6	–
9	–	1	–	6	4
9	1	–	–	7	3
5	1	4	7	–	3
5	5	–	7	3	–
1	5	4	3	3	4
			3	7	–

Competitors offered 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 94, 210 and even 1000 days as answers. Most popular incorrect figure was 39, but this is impossible since the correct answer can only be based on one pouring daily of a known amount.

Prizewinners:

1 L/Cpl R J Baker, 8 App A & E, C Coy, AETW, Middle Wallop, Hants.
2 Maj J D Ransom RE, HQ Northern Command, York.
3 S/Sgt F R Gloag, 18 CI Coy T & AVR, 1 Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, London NW3
4 A R Taylor, 21 Harewood Avenue, Boscombe, Hants.
5 L/Cpl D J Marsh, HQ Coy, 1 Foresters, BFPO 29.
6 D A C Baker, 3 Jalan Bulch Perindu, Singapore 15.
7 Cpl I W Fowler, 27 Coy RAMC, BMH Hong Kong, BFPO 1.
8 Maj (QM) W Stephenson, 223 Alexandra Avenue, South Harrow, Middlesex.
9 V E Webber, 3 Sunnydale Crescent, Hinckley, Leics.
10 A Seymour, 294 Woodlands Avenue, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex.
11 Cpl D Cartwright, 74 AC Wksp REME, BFPO 64.
12 Cfn D Self, HQ LAD, 10th Hussars, BFPO 17.

REUNIONS

Master Gunners, Past and Present. Reunion at Victory Ex-Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2, Saturday, 2 November 1968, at 7pm. Details from H Watling, 55 Orpin Road, Merstham, Surrey.

The King's Royal Rifle Corps. Old Comrades Autumn (Stag) Reunion, 6.30pm Saturday, 19 October, at 56 Davies Street, London W1.

40 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery. Reunion for all former members at Bulford, Friday, 25 October 1968. For details write or telephone 21C, 40 Light Regiment RA, Wing Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wilts. GPO Bulford Camp 3371 or Bulford Military Ext 4441 or 4437.

1st/4th Battalion, The Buffs (1914-1919). Reunion Dinner, Saturday 26 October 1968, 6pm for 6.30pm, County Hotel, Canterbury. Tickets 15s from local secretary or from Lieut-Col H L Cremer, Hampton Gay, 40 New Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent.

OCTOBER 1918

The German dream had become a nightmare. Prussian militarists had thought they could make Germany a dominant world power by "blood and iron." Now the German Army was bleeding to death and its war machine lay rusting on the Western Front.

The German people were sick of war. They had little or no food except potatoes and turnips; every family had lost a father, son or husband; their allies were surrendering (Bulgaria on 29 September, Turkey on 30 October and Austria on 4 November). They were left fighting half the world on their own.

The front broke under assaults of the overwhelming Allied forces. The Americans bulldozed through the Argonne Forest in the south and the Allies took Ostend, Bruges and Lille in the north. The British had breached the Hindenburg Line and were now in open country. Above, they enter Cambrai—pictured appropriately in the Place d'Armes—while the houses are still burning. Passchendaele Ridge of impassioned memory was recaptured. Pack mules and wheeled transports (right) squelch and lumber along the Menin Road which had become a quagmire of mud, debris and splintered tree trunks.

Germany formally requested an armistice on 4 October, not from Foch, the Allied commander-in-chief, but from President Wilson of the United States. They accepted his famous Fourteen Points as a basis for peace negotiations. Unfortunately, a German U-boat sank the Leinster in the Irish Sea, drowning 450 passengers, some of them American. Wilson replied sternly—submarine warfare must stop at once, the armistice must be settled by the two military commanders and Germany must produce convincing evidence that she had become a democratic republic.

The militarists were all for fighting on. But the new liberal Chancellor, Prince Max of Baden, and his democratic ministers over-ruled them. Ludendorff, the supreme commander, was sacked by the Kaiser. By fulfilling Wilson's terms, they actually thought they had become his ally and atoned for all their guilt in the war. But Wilson crashed in the US elections. The American people, like the French and British, wanted decisive victory and not idealistic peace.

Defiant German admirals secretly ordered the High Seas Fleet into action. But the sailors, who had not been to sea for two years, mutinied, murdered some of their officers and demonstrated in Kiel. There were riots all over Germany instigated by revolutionaries and deserters. Prince Max and his colleagues were now even more firmly resolved to end the war—not just to avert defeat but to prevent revolution.

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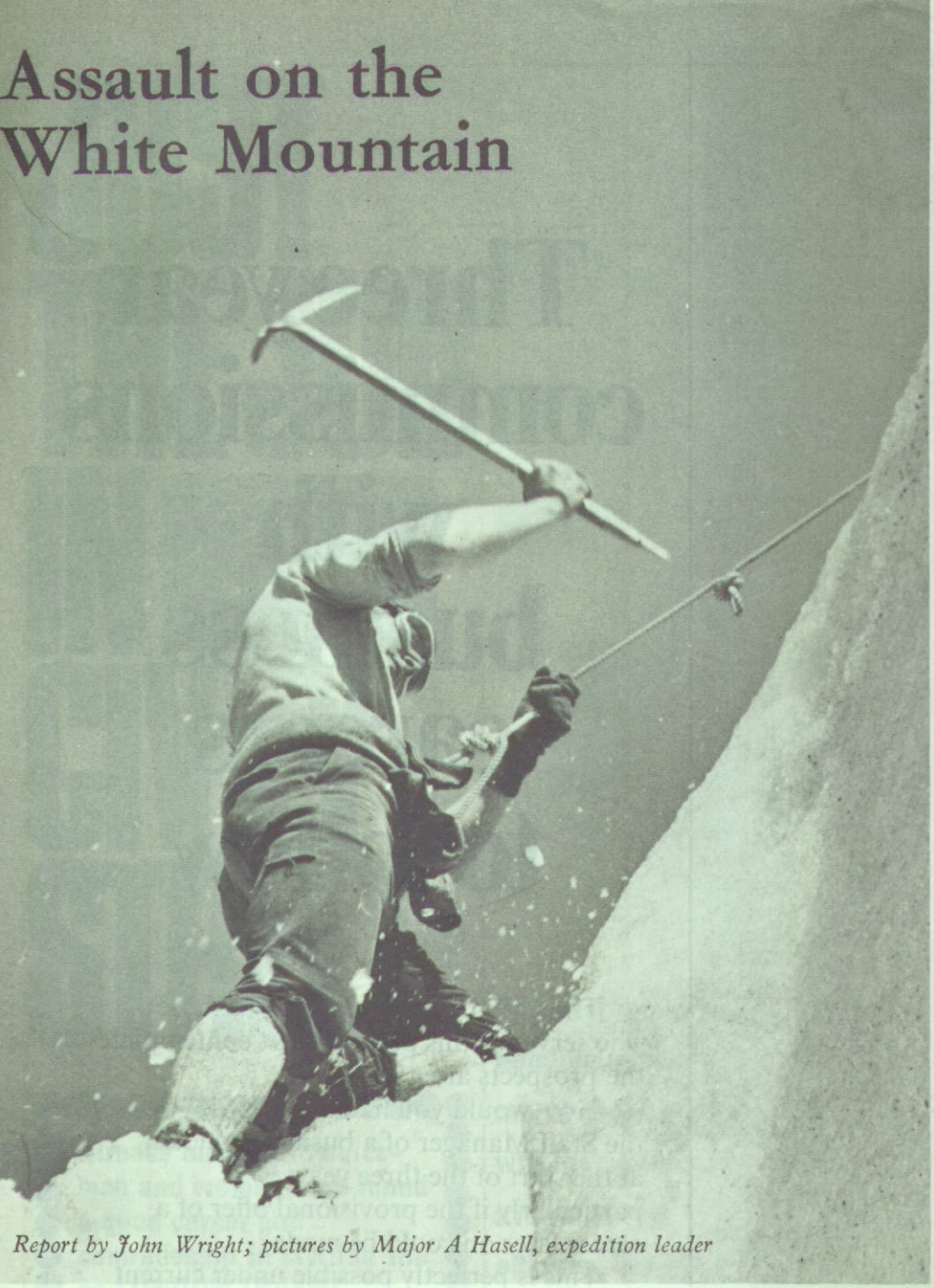
Selection is by written examination and interview. Boys aged 15 years and 5 months to 16 years and 5 months on 1st January 1969 are eligible, and application must be made before 1st December 1968.

For full details of the scheme, write to:
Major T. W. Tilbrook, Army Officer Entry, Dept. 326, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W1X 6AA

K.I.

Assault on the White Mountain



Report by John Wright; pictures by Major A Hasell, expedition leader

IT was the largest British Army party to climb Mont Blanc (15,781 feet), and the first organised Army group from this country to tackle the mountain from the Italian side. And, remarkably, many of the soldiers had not done any climbing before the start of Exercise Monte Bianco III.

In fact, 30 of the 55 selected to go to the Alps had never climbed before and only three, including the leader of the expedition, Himalayan veteran Major Antony Hasell, Royal Corps of Signals, of 3rd Division Headquarters and Signal Regiment, had any snow and ice experience.

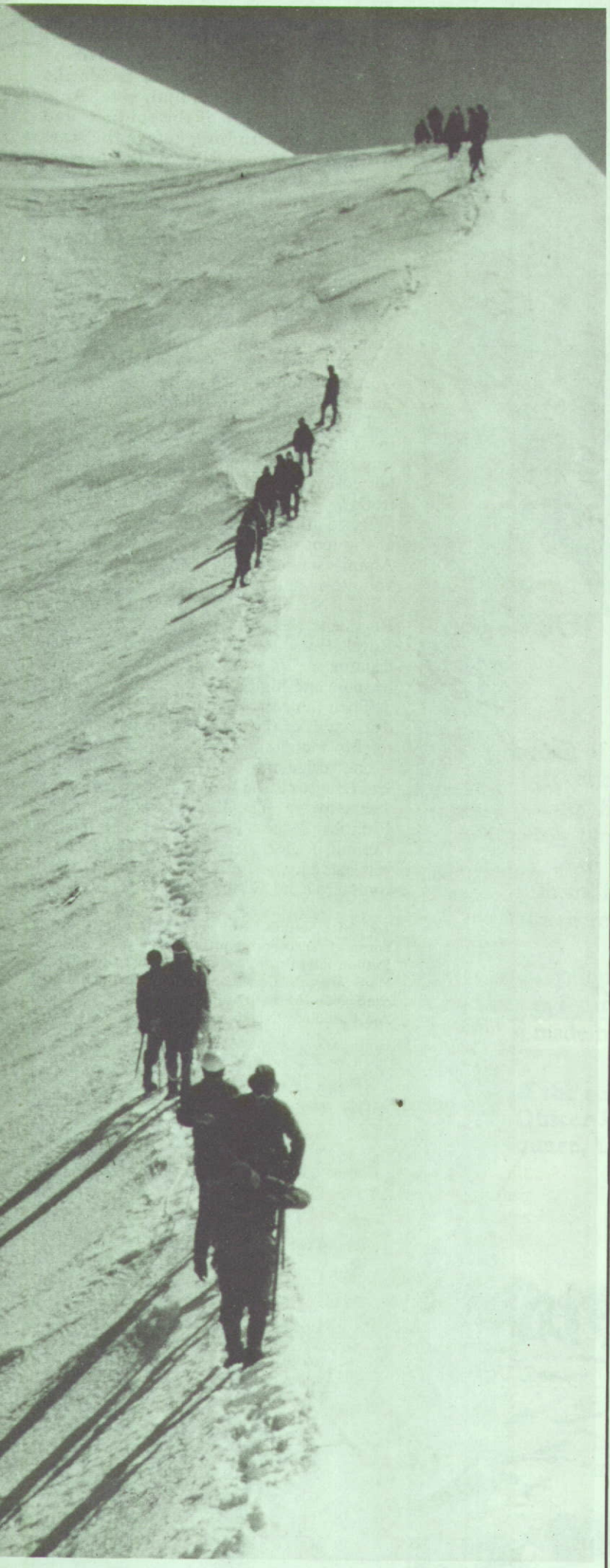
Seventy men—mostly from Southern or Strategic commands—went to Wales for toughening-up training, first at the Army's Outward Bound School at Towyn and later on Snowdon; 15 fell by the wayside.

Then the Royal Air Force flew the party to Italy for the third climbing exercise sponsored by Southern Command and hosted by the Alpini, the Italian mountain troops.

Based at the Alpini camp at Courmayeur at the foot of Mont Blanc, and guided by Alpini soldiers, the British party—all volunteers and including men of the Royal Corps of Signals, The Worcestershire Regiment, the Coldstream Guards and the Royal Horse Guards—followed up their training in Wales and became acclimatised to snow and high altitudes.

Then came the big day, the day on which a selection of the party set off to tackle the mighty mountain. There were two groups—one scaled the Brenva Face overlooking Courmayeur; the other, the larger one, went up via the Gonella hut and along Frontier Ridge. The parties met on the summit in glorious weather; when a count was made it was found that 21 of them had conquered the White Mountain.

Top left: Second-Lieutenant G D Lilley, Royal Corps of Transport, cutting steps up a glacier. Bottom left: On the way to the top of the White Mountain—the Gonella hut party. Below: Gaining confidence the hard way—Drummer J Joynson, 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, in a crevasse.



Weary but triumphant, they descend the mountain they have conquered. *Front cover shows the two parties meeting on the summit of Mont Blanc.*

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THE SAPPERS PUT UNST ON THE AIR MAP

LAST year it took a SOLDIER team 14 hours to travel from Glasgow to Britain's most northerly island, Unst in the Shetlands, to visit sappers building an airstrip (SOLDIER, December 1967). Today the journey could be done in a tenth of that time. The airstrip is finished; lonely Unst is not quite as lonely now.

First official aircraft to touch down on the new Balta Sound airstrip carried Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Lang, General Officer Commanding Scotland. He came to hand the strip over to Zetland County Council, at whose request and with whose co-operation it was built by 15 Field Support Squadron of 38 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, from Ripon in Yorkshire, assisted by detachments from 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, and 1st Battalion, The Black Watch.

The airstrip is 2000 feet long and 100 feet wide. During construction 2000 tons of rock had to be excavated and blasted, 3000 tons quarried and crushed for surfacing—and a total of 20,000 tons of earth was moved.

First phase of the work was from July to September last year when the sappers were hampered by bad wet weather. In April this year they returned to finish the job.

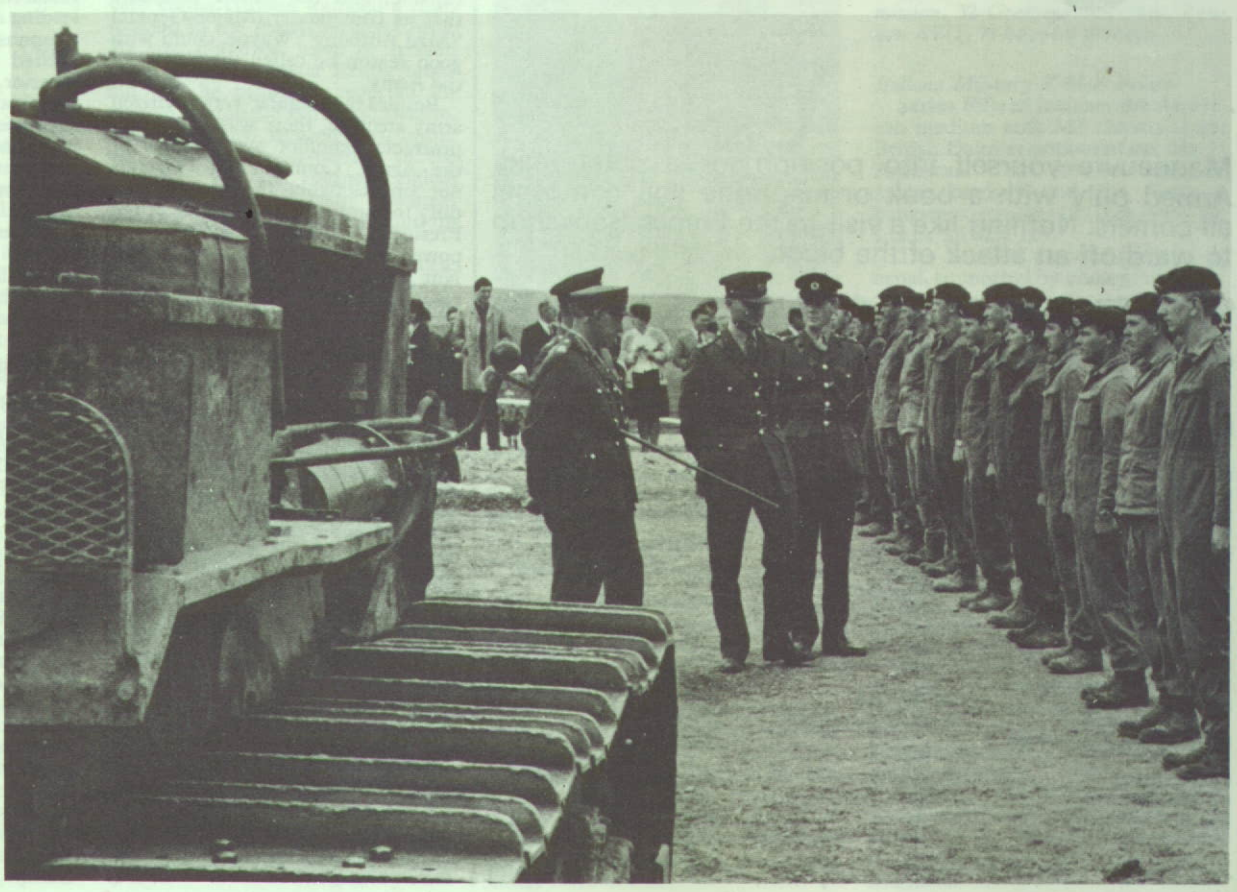
Now the airstrip is available for ambulance aircraft and charter flights. It will be a boon for the nearby Royal Air Force radio station at Saxa Vord which has no airstrip. And there are plans to use it for an inter-island air service in the Shetlands when another strip is built at Lerwick on the main island. Up to the Balta Sound airstrip being opened, aircraft had been able to land only at Sumburgh at the extreme southern tip of the Shetlands.

This was the third airstrip built in two years by 15 Field Support Squadron for the benefit of isolated Scottish communities—the others are on the Isle of Mull and at Plockton in Ross and Cromarty. Plans are now under way for another island airstrip—on Colonsay, west of Jura—and extensions to existing airstrips on two other western isles, Oronsay and Coll. Again 38 Engineer Regiment is involved.

Above: Among Unst's first aircraft were an Army Beaver and an RAF Pembroke, here being inspected by some Shetlanders.

Left: Flashback to last year. A sapper of 15 Field Support Squadron at work with bulldozer in the mud that hampered operations.

Right: Lieut-Gen Sir Derek Lang inspects the men who put Unst in closer touch with the rest of Scotland and the world beyond.



Books

CAPTAIN IN COMMAND

"History of the United States Army" (Russell F Weigley)

Professor Weigley makes much of the line that the history of the United States Army is a history of two armies—the Regular, professional Army, and the citizen army of militia, National Guards, selectees and so on. From the first history of the United States Army, published in 1904, American military history, he says, has been affected by the partisanship of professional versus citizen soldier.

He refers frequently to tensions on this subject, but his admirable history makes it clear that this was political and that citizen soldiers, whenever properly trained, brought loyal and able reinforcement to the Regulars.

The political tensions began with independence. There was a widespread suspicion that a Regular army might grow too powerful and promote a despotism, and a conviction that free Americans could, as in colonial days, rely on themselves for their own defence.

Lack of money and the political climate after independence were such that the Continental Army, with which Washington had fought the British, was run down to such an extent that a captain was listed as senior officer of the army for a few weeks in 1784.

In 1790 the standing army was increased to 1216 men, reinforced by 1500 militia, and sent on its first campaign against the Indians. It met disaster. A second, larger force did no better. A third, called The Legion of the United States, well trained, showed itself reliable and capable, and the author considers that its commander, Major-General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, could with good reason be called the Father of the Army.

Besides the Regular-versus-citizen army struggle, there was an equally protracted conflict over control of the Army. Commanding Generals not unreasonably thought it their duty to command in the name of the President. Political heads felt the power should be in their own hands. Not until 1903 was the matter resolved, when the commanding general was replaced by a chief of staff.

The Civil War left the Army virtually intact on the side of the Government. Although the South provided more officers than the North, only 313 of 1108 resigned. The war over, the Army was inevitably cut and returned to fighting Indians in the West.

Such was its decline that in 1877 there was no financial appropriation and for the better part of the year its soldiers had to depend on bankers' loans.

The development of this sorry force by 1945 to the mightiest army in the world, smaller in numbers than the Russian but more powerful, is a remarkable story with many ups and downs.

It was made possible, says the author, because the tradition of an armed citizenry springing to the country's need permitted the creation of a massed army.

Batsford, £5 5s **RLE**

PRE-HISTORY TO 1900

"Daggers and Fighting Knives of the Western World" (Harold L Peterson)

The bowie knife is generally attributed to James Bowie, the legendary American soldier and frontiersman who died in the heroic defence of the Alamo. The knife was in fact designed by Jim's brother, Rezin, for hunting. It had a straight single-edged blade 9¼ inches long and 1½ inches wide.

Rezin gave it to Jim who used it in several adventures. In 1830 Jim needed a replacement—probably the original was worn out with constant sharpening. If Jim was only half as big as his reputation he would have needed that knife to be pretty keen.

He asked an Arkansas blacksmith named James Black to make a new, improved version. Black told his tale only after the knife had become famous and did not say what the improvements were. Possibly they included the false edge at the point and possibly the introduction of the clipped point in which the back of the blade swoops to meet the edge in a concave line.

In the six following years Jim Bowie continued to build up his reputation and it was at its peak when he died at the Alamo in 1836. Thereafter everyone wanted a knife like Bowie's. It did not take long for English craftsmen to cash in on the demand and Sheffield became one of the prime suppliers. To enhance the American appeal of their products some Sheffield firms marked their blades with the letters US separated by a star or with NY separated by a federal shield.

This story of the bowie knife is a splendid example of the effort and research which Mr Peterson, a leading American authority on edged weapons and chief curator in the United States Department of the Interior, has put into his book.

In his opening chapter he discusses the stylistic origins of western knives in the Middle East and Asia Minor and continues with a full account of European weapons from pre-history to the Middle Ages. He then organises his material century by century until 1900. The result is the only full-scale reference book to be devoted to this subject.

Herbert Jenkins, 35s **JCW**

HISTORY IN 900 PHOTOGRAPHS

"The Decline and Fall of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan" (Hans Dollinger)

This book covers the last five months or so of World War Two in Europe and the last six of the war against Japan.

Its main medium is photographs, nearly 900 of them. Those in the German section are by far the more illuminating. One cannot see again those pathetic little boys who were given rifles by the crumbling Reich without having a pang of pity. One wonders how those unimpressive German generals, in their shoddy-looking uniforms, and the drab soldiery surrendering or already in the prisoner-of-war cages, can ever have marched triumphantly across Europe.

The Decline and Fall of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan

The pictures in the Japanese section fail to bind together to create an atmosphere. Perhaps this is because the campaign itself was scattered and diverse. Individually, some of the photographs are good; those showing the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are particularly vivid.

Capsule accounts of events, many from eye-witness reports and contemporary documents, good maps and useful chronological tables help the pictures to tell their stories. There is also a chapter on the cost of the war which reveals the curious information that of 3363 German generals, 901 lost their lives. Of these 287 were killed, 108 committed suicide, 25 were sentenced to death by German courts, 57 by Allied courts, and 310 just died.

Lieutenant-General Ira C Eaker, a notable American air force commander in Europe and the Mediterranean, writes a foreword and points a lesson: "Those miniwits who now prate about the ineffectiveness of air power obviously never saw Berlin or Tokyo and never served on a battlefield or a fleet under hostile aircraft. Here they can gain that experience."

Odhams, 63*s* **RLE**

CRITIC OF CHIEFTAIN

"*Machine Age Armies*" (*John Wheldon*)

Britain's Chieftain is the heaviest, slowest and most underpowered tank in service today, asserts Mr Wheldon.

He contends that machine warfare has highlighted mankind's alarming slowness in adapting its military ideology to technological innovations. He presents an extremely strong and valid case, giving examples from both world wars, from Korea and from Vietnam of how the concept of material destruction of the enemy through attrition warfare has prevailed in official thinking, despite the recurring lesson of negligible achievement at enormous cost.

Reviewing the evidence, Mr Wheldon makes a penetrating and comprehensive survey of the evolution of mechanised armies. He recalls the farsighted and revolutionary ideas of Swinton, Fuller, Liddell-Hart and Hobart, all of whom called for emphasis on strategic paralysis of the enemy through tactics of surprise and demoralisation. And sadly he recalls how these ideas were rejected by the architects of official military policy on both sides of the Atlantic.

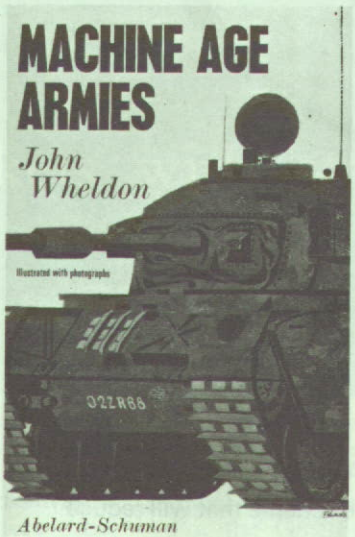
The decisive blow to the advocates of general mechanisation came with the dispersal of the serving "prophets"—Lindsay, Broad and Pile. Hobart stayed, but was "isolated with his exotic tank brigade, which sometimes, as Royal Tank Corps units were moved around, had no equipment."

It must have been a very bitter last laugh for the tank prophets when, in 1940, Guderian and Rommel put their principles to such devastating effect in the Panzers' 60-day conquest of Western Europe. Even then it took a long time for such notions to become part and parcel of military thinking.

Discussing present trends in machine warfare, Mr Wheldon emphasises the vital importance of army-air mobility, at present being pioneered in the United States and to a lesser extent in Britain.

This book is without doubt one of the most important in its field. It is written by a former member of the Reconnaissance Corps and deserves a wide readership.

Abelard-Schuman, 35*s* **JCW**



Abelard-Schuman

ECCENTRIC VIEWS

"*Inglorious Soldier*" (*Monk Gibbon*)

After a single term at Oxford the very young Gibbon wangled a commission in the Army Service Corps. He was home on leave in Ireland when the 1916 Easter Rising broke out and he promptly reported for duty to Portobello Barracks, Dublin.

He acquitted himself well under fire. He was a near-witness of the execution by an insane English officer of three innocent Irishmen and this made a deep impression on him.

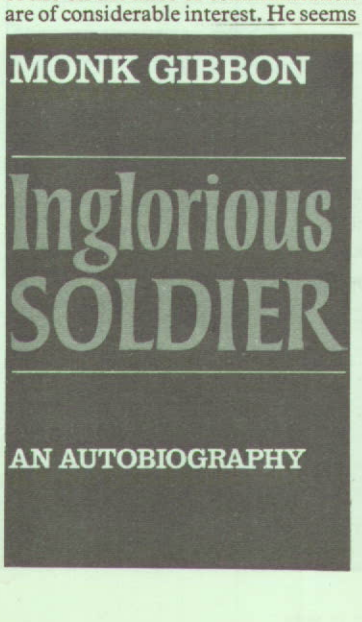
In France he served with horse transport units and his descriptions of life on the lines of communication are of considerable interest. He seems to have been a capable and conscientious officer though not a popular one.

His views on the Irish question did not endear him much to his brother officers. Later he began to have doubts on the moral aspect of war. When it seemed he was likely to be transferred to a combatant arm, he asked to resign his commission and become a private in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

His commanding officer reported, "This officer has since the date of his commission developed eccentric views on the ethics of war and the duties of the individual in war. He has never to my knowledge been guilty of any overt offence against discipline but his heart is not in his work which suffers in consequence."

His resignation was refused and he went into hospital with "shell-shock" (redesignated neurasthenia when the doctors got to know him better). A transport job at Hull followed, then a medical board discharged him. Because of that report on his "eccentric views" he never rose above second-lieutenant.

Hutchinson, 70*s* **RLE**

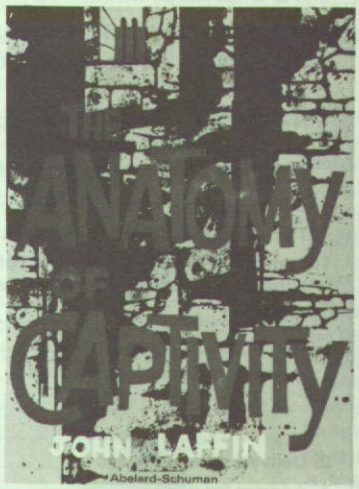


CONDEMNED TO SEA

"*Anatomy of Captivity*" (*John Laffin*)

Political captivity, that which Major Laffin writes about, is perhaps the most detestable kind. The reasons for it are often haphazard, trivial, malicious, or connected with the captive's perfectly legitimate conscience. Among the biggest batches of political prisoners were 100,000 Russian soldiers who were captured by the Finns, liberated and then arrested by their own countrymen as "enemies of the people." Some were executed or imprisoned.

Major Laffin estimates that the world today has hundreds of thousands of political prisoners. He takes the uncomfortable view that the climate in which political captivity is possible could easily be produced in those nations which consider themselves bastions of freedom, and sees increasing bureaucracy in Britain and the United States as a trend towards that climate.



The outline of political captivity, which Major Laffin examines in detail, is all too familiar—arrest in the night, interrogations, tortures, beatings, starvation, filth, degradation and "confessions."

Along with case histories the author writes of methods of survival in captivity, work, time-filling, religion, sex and consolation. He has been accused in early reviews of writing with relish of the horrors of his subject. This is unfair—he does no more than bring them into sharp focus.

Most of his material is culled from recent years but he has no more astonishing story than that of Lieutenant Philip Nolan of the United States Army who was court-martialled for treason in 1808. Asked for evidence that he had always been a loyal subject, he shouted in a fit of temper, "Damn the United States! I wish I may never hear of the United States again."

He was solemnly sentenced "never to hear the name of the United States again." For the rest of his life he lived on warships, courteously treated but with mention of his native country forbidden in conversation and cut from anything he read. Voluntarily and gallantly he took part in a battle between the USS Constitution and a British warship, and senior naval officers interceded on his behalf in Washington, but without success. His sentence had run 55 years when he died, still at sea.

Abelard-Schuman, 30*s* **RLE**

In Brief...

"*Their Name Liveth*" (*Volume VI, Part 2*)

In 1954 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission published the first in a series of books illustrating and describing war cemeteries and memorials built and maintained by the Commission.

This latest in the series is devoted to cemeteries in Burma, Thailand, the Pacific Islands, Australia, Singapore and Japan, and contains details and illustrations of 52 Commonwealth cemeteries including those at Kranji in Singapore, Thanbyuzayat in Burma and many others in which lie buried those who were killed in the fighting against Japan and those who died while building the notorious railway from Thailand to Burma.

The illustrations are particularly fine and do full justice to the beautiful settings in which these immaculately kept cemeteries are laid out.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 32 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, 7s 6d, plus postage.

Bellona Military Vehicle Prints

Series Fifteen features the American medium tank M3 General Lee; British Daimler armoured car Mk I; American T82 105mm howitzer motor carriage and the German Panzerspaehwagen 11 (2cm KwK38) Luchs Sd Kfz 123.

The detailed descriptions are, as usual, supported by photographs and scale drawings and the booklet is to this series' standard size, punched for ring binder.

The General Lee was introduced in 1941; the Chrysler Corporation produced 3243, at the rate of 50 a week, by August 1942, and other manufacturers built a further 1681. The General Lee was supplied to Britain under Lease-Lend, first going to 4th Armoured Brigade of 7th Armoured Division in North Africa—it was nicknamed ELH, an abbreviation for "Egypt's Last Hope." This tank is featured on the front cover in a colour drawing by George Bradford.

The "extra" back page of Series Fifteen is devoted to Part II of decorations worn between 1936 and 1945 by personnel of German panzer, panzer grenadier and armoured units.

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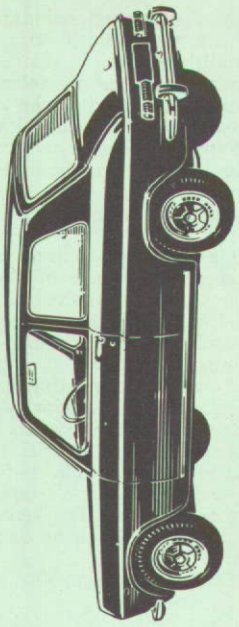

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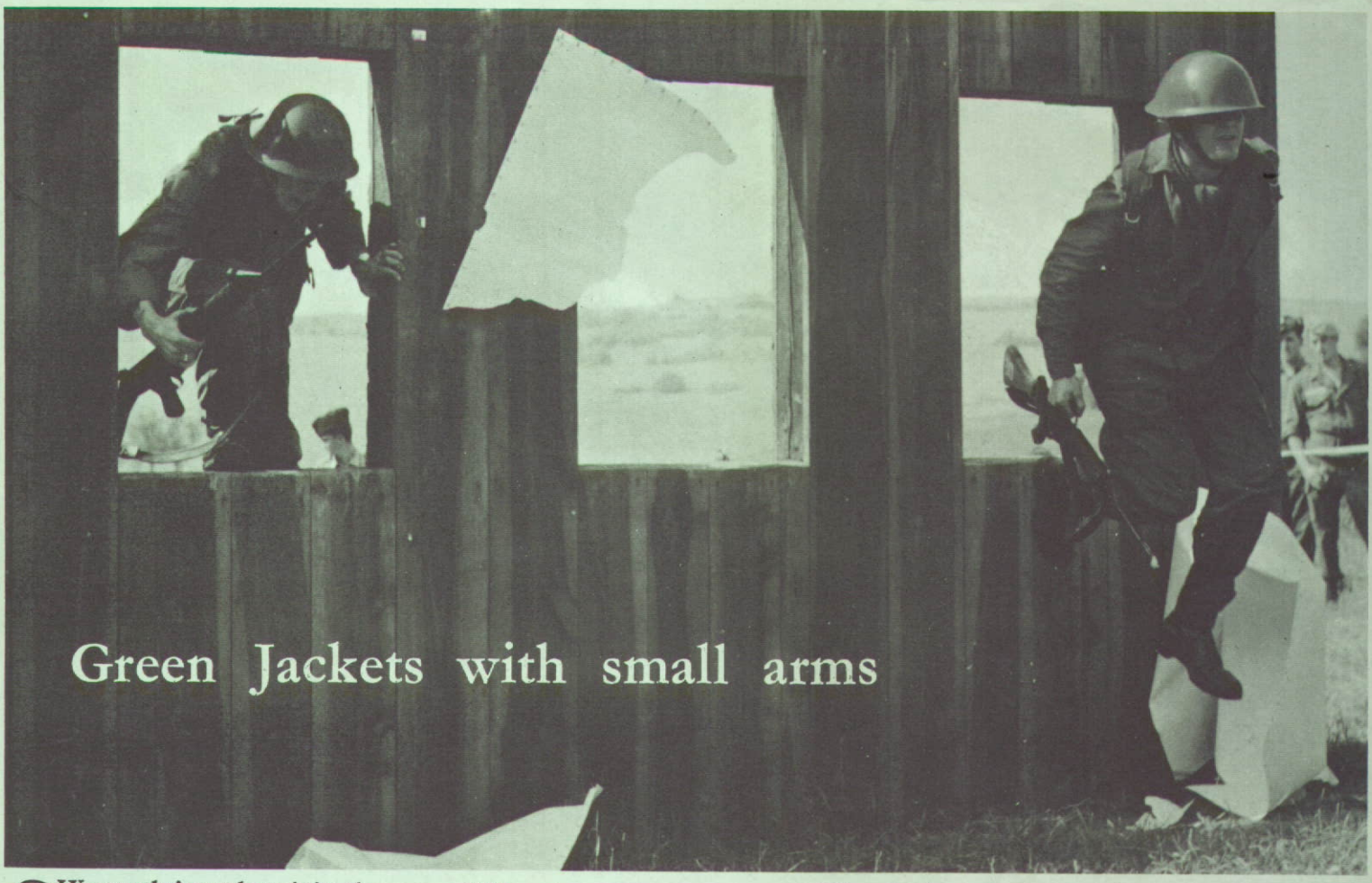


Green Jackets with small arms

SIX months' tough training by men of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, stationed at Münster in Germany resulted in a creditable fourth place in the Prix Leclerc—the NATO small arms competition.

Winners were 1st Chasseurs Ardennais of the Belgian Army.

The competition, held this year at Sennelager in Germany, began in 1951 with the aim of improving the standard of marksmanship of NATO's Allied Forces Central Europe. Last year saw the end of the old-style competition—firing on conventional ranges.

This year the emphasis was on shooting immediately preceded by considerable physical effort, as it is almost invariably in war, with the aim of fostering a high standard of modern infantry training. A 1400-metre cross-country run was followed by a five-obstacle assault course and then, without pause, by three shots—two offensive and one defensive.

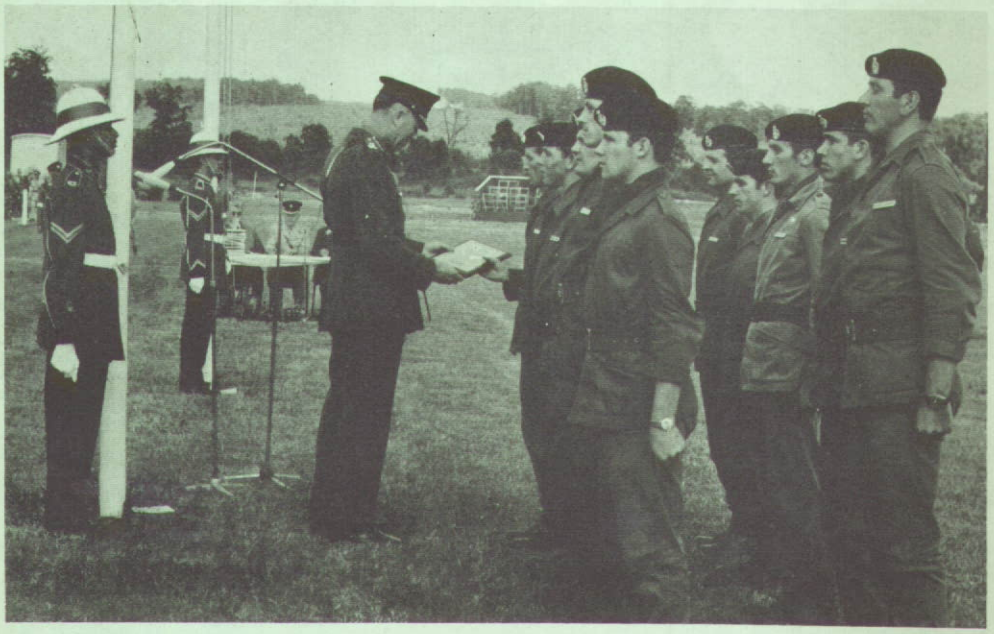
For the Green Jackets team the competition had meant hours of practice on rifle ranges interspersed with physical training and gymnasium work. A month before the Prix Leclerc the German Army organised a friendly match at Hammelberg, the Bundeswehr infantry school, for German, French, American and British teams. The Green Jackets came last.

One reason was unsuitable clothing—the British combat kit compared unfavourably with the lightweight fatigues worn by other teams. So for Sennelager the Green Jackets switched to denims.

Twenty generals were among the spectators who watched the British team improve on its time at Hammelberg for the cross-country and assault course but still fail to get near the leaders. However, excellent shooting enabled the team to finish ahead of the three teams which had beaten it a month before.

Result: 1 Belgium, 2 Holland, 3 Canada, 4 Britain, 5 Germany, 6 France, 7 USA.

The Prix Leclerc is named after a famous World War Two French soldier, Philippe Vicomte de Hautecloque, commander of the Free French armour that led the Allies into Paris. He adopted the name Leclerc to avoid reprisals against his wife and family in Nazi-occupied France after escaping to England to join General de Gaulle. He was appointed Général d'Armée in 1946 but died, aged 45, in an air crash before he had the opportunity to take up his command. In 1952 the French Government appointed him posthumously a Marshal of France.



Top: At Hammelberg the Green Jackets try techniques that won them fourth position in the Prix Leclerc and (left) Maj-Gen V F Erskine Crum, GOC 4 Div, gives them a team award at Sennelager.

Back Cover

Hammelberg, Germany—the British Prix Leclerc team warms up for the competition in a friendly match organised by the German Army a month before. The team—from 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets—comprised 30 riflemen led by Captain Damer Colville and trained by a small arms instructor from Headquarters Rhine Army and the battalion's physical training sergeant. During training the team was taken to Hythe in Kent for a shooting match against the Small Arms School and acquitted itself well.

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