

November

1976

15p

# Soldier





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*Ronnie Barker*

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### FRONT COVER

November is the month for bonfires but here's a flashback to a series of fires which were not so entertaining. Fierce blazes swept across tinder-dry heathland throughout the long hot summer and servicemen were often called on to help hard-pressed fire brigades.  
*Picture by Paul Haley.*



### BACK COVER

And here's a pretty Miss to brighten up a grey November day. She is Miss Moira Wendy Miller, a civilian nurse at the British Military Hospital, Iserlohn, who was chosen as this year's Miss British Army of the Rhine.  
*Picture by Bob Crookes, PRO 4th Division.*

Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)  
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)  
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)  
Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH (Ext 2589)  
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)  
Photographers: PAUL R G HALEY, DOUG PRATT (Ext 2584)  
Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD (Ext 2583/2587)  
Circulation Manager: Miss D M W DUFFIELD (Ext 2592)

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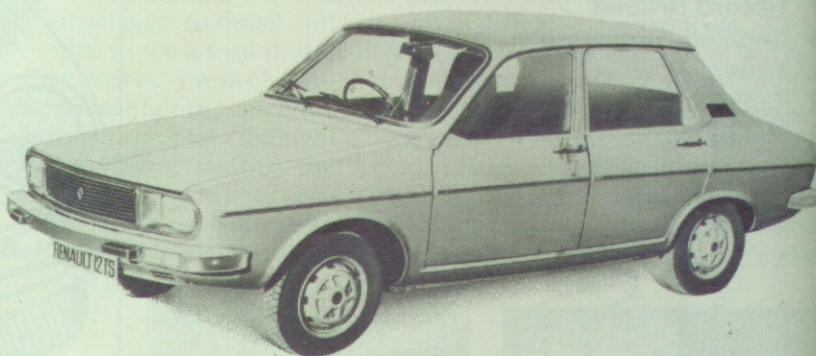
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 **RENAULT**



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

## See-the-Army Diary



### NOVEMBER 1976

- 13 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 13 Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 27 Kneller Hall Band and Trumpeters concert (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund), Royal Festival Hall, London.

### MARCH 1977

- 1 Jubilee Concert (in aid of Scottish war-blinded ex-servicemen) by the Scottish Regiments, Usher Hall, Edinburgh.

### MAY 1977

- 27 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (27-28 May).

### JUNE 1977

- 7 Massed bands Prince of Wales's Division beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (7-9 June).
- 11 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 30 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund) (30 June-2 July).

### JULY 1977

- 7 Queen reviews British Army of the Rhine.
- 13 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (13-30 July).

### AUGUST 1977

- 3 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (3-6 August).
- 5 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (5-13 August).
- 20 Edinburgh Tattoo (20 August-14 September).

### SEPTEMBER 1977

- 17 Luton Musical Pageant.

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# SOLDIER to Soldier

And to Mrs Soldier too.

You, and your families, wield an unobtrusive influence that would certainly not have been countenanced only a comparatively few years ago. This is not the result of 'Women's Lib' but rather a quiet evolution perhaps due as much as anything to broader education plus a long-overdue recognition by the menfolk that women have a part to play beyond the proverbial kitchen sink.

And officialdom recognises that in terms of a happy soldier, and career service, the wife is the power behind the throne.

Contentment with the traditional task of running a home and bringing up a family has given way to a desire to broaden horizons and counter boredom by going out to work — thereby changing the status of the Army wife and creating a wish to become more involved in Army life rather than sit back and docilely accept her lot.

While SOLDIER has never disregarded Army wives neither has it in the past accorded them their due — until now. There are — and these figures may surprise — 83,000 Army wives and 140,000 children. In the newly extended SOLDIER News you now have your own families pages — a forum of discussion and exchange of ideas and, hopefully, a source of information to combat the ever-increasing complications of life on the home front.

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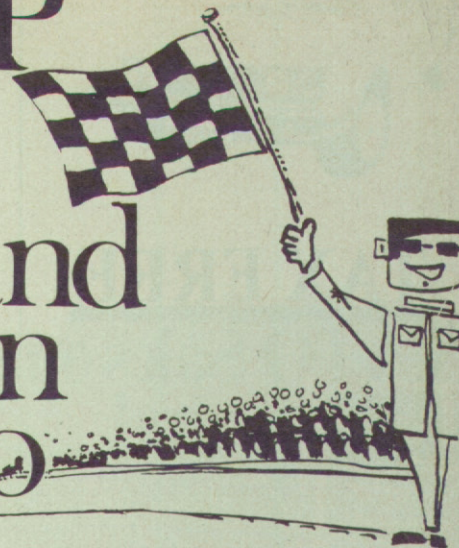
The course may be taken in Scotland on a part-time basis or on a block release basis.

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## MILITARY MUSEUMS

# 46



## The Northamptonshire Regiment

CHOICE souvenirs set out in a spacious ground floor wing of Northampton's Abington Park Museum tell the story of The Northamptonshire Regiment from 1741 to 1960 when the regiment, formed from the old 48th and 58th, became part of The Royal Anglian Regiment. Exhibits are arranged in chronological order, each section being introduced by an explanatory notice of regimental history while coloured woodcuts showing changes of uniform from the 18th century to modern times accompany most display cases.

A good collection of uniforms ranges from a copy, authentic down to the last detail, of an officer's full dress uniform (circa 1800) and the oldest uniform in the museum (worn by Major-General P Dudgeon when a major in 1821) to an officer's patrol jacket of 1805 and more modern examples of dress. Particularly interesting are some pieces of regimental lace worn in 1766 when they were approved by George III. The lace remained at Windsor Castle until 1918 when George V gave it to the regiment.

Both the 48th and 58th fought at Quebec and an interesting relic is a diary of the siege written by CQMS John Johnson. As one of the regiments in the siege of Gibraltar, the Northamptonshires have the castle-and-key cap badge and among items of headdress are two helmets of 1902 and 1914, the first bearing a two-turret castle badge and the other the three-turret badge subsequently ordained by the War Office. A good example of the large shako worn in the first half of the 19th century is also worth noting.

Another case contains a 1792 drill manual, a snuff box used at the battle of Talavera and a portrait of the commander of the 48th at Talavera, Colonel Charles Donellan, who was mortally wounded in the battle. Some 58th buttons found at Russell Bay, New Zealand, and a picture of a heroic drummer boy being hacked to death as he sounded the alarm on his bugle recall the part played by the 58th in the Maori War of 1846.

One of several interesting pictures depicts the 48th drum-major's horse, Bellerophon, captured by the French at Salamanca, galloping back to the British lines on hearing the 'charge' being sounded.

Muster rolls of the 1st Battalion in 1889 and the 2nd Battalion in 1897 catch the eye near a fine display of regimental badges, shoulder plates and belt buckles while a collection of handguns features a flintlock pis-

tol of 1800, a Colt used in the Crimea and an officer's service pistol of 1880.

World War One trophies include a German trench knobkerry, a set of chessmen carved out of German and French cartridge cases and badges fashioned from Belgian chalk. Japanese badges of rank and a detailed map of Northampton overprinted in German for use in an invasion that never materialised stand out among World War Two items.

In 1932 the 1st Battalion became the first unit, not only in the British Army but in the world, to be transported complete with equipment by air. The operation, recorded in the museum by photographs, involved Vickers Victorias carrying eight men at a time from Egypt to Iraq.

The decorations of General Sir Harry Knox, Colonel of the Regiment from 1931 to 1943, including the Belgian and French Croix de Guerre, are displayed near the main collection of medals notable for its variety and originality of presentation. Of the regiment's nine Victoria Crosses the museum has one, that of Captain T Colyer-Ferguson won at Bellewaarde Ridge in 1917. Here too are examples of the Peninsula, Crimea, Indian General Service, Zulu, South African, Territorial Efficiency, Special Reserve Long Service and many other medals. Of particular interest is the Iron Cross won in 1870 by Sergeant Palmer of the 48th while serving in the German Army.

A sports case shows trophies and caps and a photograph of England rugby international Edgar Mobbs who raised and ultimately commanded in World War One the 7th Battalion, known as the Sportsmen's Battalion.

A useful reference library is available for researchers.

**John Jesse**

**Curator:** Major D Baxter (Retd)  
**Address:** The Northamptonshire Regiment Museum  
Abington Park  
Northampton

**Telephone:** Northampton 35412  
**Open:** Monday to Saturday, 1000 to 1230 and 1400 to 1800; Sunday, 1430 to 1700 (1 April to 30 September)  
**Closed:** Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Good Friday

**Admission:** Free  
**To get there:** Bus 1 or 21 from town centre main bus station to Abington Park Hotel.

Next month: The Royal Pioneer Corps



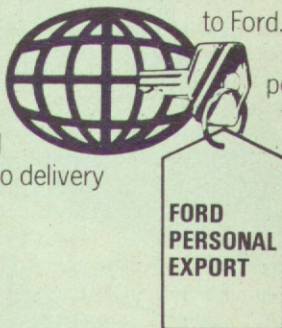


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In the Western Desert battles of 1941-43 the Germans came near to victory due to the tactical skill of their commander, Field Marshall Erwin Rommel. Rommel frequently directed operations from just behind the front line, his armoured radio command car becoming a familiar sight to the German troops.

'Greif' (Strike), as he named the vehicle, was a standard SdKfz. 250/3 semi-tracked reconnaissance car.

The SdKfz.250 series of armoured vehicles was designed and built by the firm of Demag. The 250's carried a crew of six and a main armament of two heavy machine guns. With the 250/3 version, accommodation was reduced to four to make room for the radio equipment.

No less than 14 different models of the basic 250 were produced including supply and cable laying vehicles, anti-tank and self-propelled guns and observation cars. The engine had seven forward and three reverse gears giving it a respectable

cross-country speed of 37 mph.

The Airfix 'Greif' reproduces a multitude of accessories and fine detail flexible tracks.

For up-to-date news and details of Airfix models get the Airfix magazine, price 25p.

Also available are a set of detailed Airfix Books. These give all the background information to such models as the HMS Victory, Cutty Sark, Mayflower, Spitfire, Messerschmitt Bf109, P-51 Mustang and Hawker Hurricane.



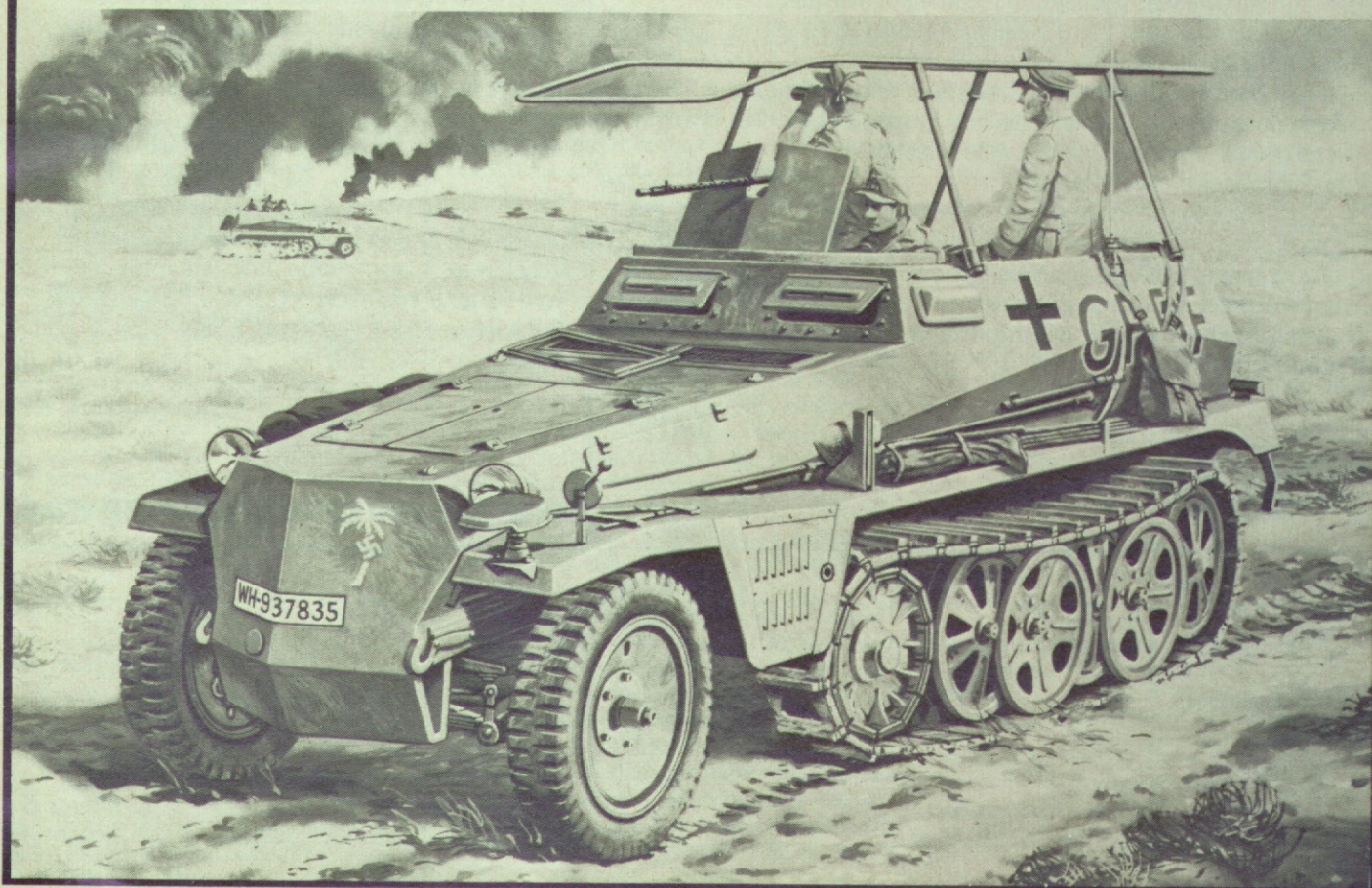
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## Technical Details

Date of origin:	1939
Make/Model:	Demag SdKfz 250/3
Engine:	6 cylinder 417 lit. Maybach.
Top Speed:	37 mph (cross-country)
Fuel capacity:	31 gallons.
Range:	186 miles.
Armament:	Two heavy machine guns.

# OUR HALF-TRACK IS ROMMEL'S GREIF.





# *An airportable brigade from England deploys in Germany for an exercise with some differences . . .*



Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Paul Haley

## Cool Gin – Tonic

NEW IDEAS and new equipment lent zest to 'Cool Gin,' an exercise in north Germany used by 19th Airportable Brigade to flex its muscles.

The exercise was one of the many interlocking allied manoeuvres which take up the field training season in Rhine Army and was controlled by 4th Division which, in the imaginary scenario of the exercise, had called in 19th Brigade from its base in England as part of United Kingdom Mobile Force to help stem an enemy advance over the three bridges of a river valley.

Ranged against the British brigade were some Rhine Army troops and 3rd Battalion, 187th United States Infantry Regiment,

from Kentucky — part of 101st Airborne Division, the 'Screaming Eagles.'

All told, some 10,000 men took the field accompanied by 850 wheeled and 120 armoured tracked vehicles. Among these vehicles were some of the newest British Land-Rovers — the one-tonne box-shaped truck. These were to be found with 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, which had recently taken delivery of the first ten of a probable total of 18 of these vehicles which are to be used by this Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit mainly in the mortar-carrying role. Regular units in the brigade are also equipped with the new vehicle.

It is significant that among the first sol-

diers to be issued with the one-tonne are the part-timers of the Territorial mirror-image of the full-time 'professionals.' The one-tonne was specially developed for conversion to a variety of roles by the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment (see SOLDIER March 1976).

In fact, the Terriers played a large part in

The enemy is advancing and British soldiers dash forward to meet the attackers swarming into the little German town being defended. (Above).

Don't look now, I think you're being followed! The lens's foreshortening effect makes it look as if this retreating tank is after the car. (Below).







A Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve soldier of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

Left: Rapier deployed on the rim of a quarry by 12 Light Air Defence Regiment of Dortmund.

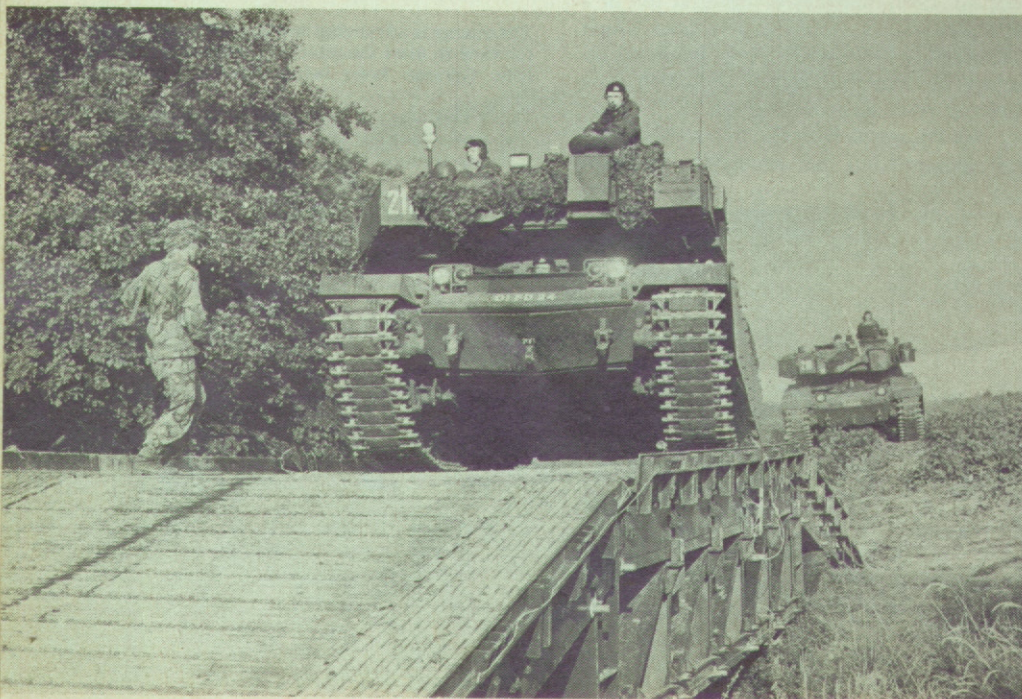
Below left: Queen's Own Hussars Chieftains in 'retreat' on a sapper-built temporary bridge.

Right: Front-line troops prepare to knock out an enemy tank with their Carl Gustav launcher.

'Cool Gin.' Around 1000 of them reinforced 19th Brigade and spent their fortnight's annual training camp period on the exercise. These part-time soldiers come from the widest possible walks of life in Civvy Street to weld into one as an Army unit.

Visiting the Green Jackets, SOLDIER found Corporal Michael O'Connell busy digging a slit trench — a far cry from his London desk job in the City where he is an insurance claims adjuster at Lloyd's. He was frank about his Service life: "I joined for the money. Now I've made so many friends I like it. I've been a Territorial for ten years now, but I couldn't do it full-time. It makes a break from an office job, though."

The Regular 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, provided more innovations. It was operating with 16 simulated Milan anti-tank guided missiles testing the



Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book' was the inspiration for the distinctive badge of 19th Airborne Brigade. The panther depicted on it represents Bagheera, Mowgli's mentor in the classic story, and symbolises 'alertness, strength and compassion,' qualities required of an Army formation on stand-by for offensive or peacekeeping operations throughout the world.

The red triangle was chosen to commemorate the brigade's long association with 3rd Division whose badge is composed of triangles. Heraldically, the 19th Brigade badge is described as 'On a triangle gules a panther's head incensed or.'





new Euromissile equipment which may well be accepted into service by the Army. But perhaps most significantly, the battalion was working with four rifle companies instead of three as a 'fighting test-bed' for the new concept of the 650 Battalion — a battalion of 650 men.

This streamlined infantry unit — here in an air-portable role — has already been tried out in Rhine Army, as part of an armoured brigade, by 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry. Instead of a battalion comprising some 700 troops plus attached soldiers such as cooks, mechanics and so on, the idea is to hone down a battalion to some 650 men including the attached personnel.

The fusiliers were working with the four rifle companies and no support company. Support roles such as anti-tank and reconnaissance have been taken over more and

more by the Royal Artillery and Royal Armoured Corps respectively.

So recce platoon had been dispensed with as had the assault pioneer platoon. The new-style battalion has an exceptionally large headquarters company including some support weapons.

Each of the four rifle companies has three platoons and numbers some 90 men and five officers.

The present role of the corps of drums, pipes or bugles as defence platoon is absorbed in the new plan with the drums becoming a rifle platoon in one of the companies, with a secondary role as pipes or drums.

The fusiliers were almost at the end of their 650 Battalion trial during 'Cool Gin' — their report on the six-month test could spell a new era for the infantry.

## Cool Gin

### *Dramatis personae*

HQ 19th (UK) Air-portable Brigade  
HQ 20th (UK) Armoured Brigade  
Squadron HQ, The Life Guards

The Queen's Own Hussars

47 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery

58 (Eyles) Battery, 12 Light Air  
Defence Regiment, RA

Section, 22 Light Air Defence  
Regiment, RA

8 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers

3rd Battalion, The Royal Royal  
Regiment of Fusiliers

1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and  
Sherwood Foresters Regiment

4th Battalion, The Royal Green  
Jackets (Volunteers)

3 Company, 5th Battalion, The Royal  
Anglian Regiment (Volunteers)

A Company, 1st Battalion, The  
Wessex Regiment (Volunteers)

1st Battalion, The Devonshire and  
Dorset Regiment

Y Platoon, 16th Parachute Brigade

665 Squadron, Army Air Corps

7 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport

19 Field Ambulance, Royal Army  
Medical Corps

19 Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army  
Ordnance Corps

8 Field Workshops, Royal Electrical  
and Mechanical Engineers

Platoon, 156 Provost Company, Royal  
Military Police

## 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.

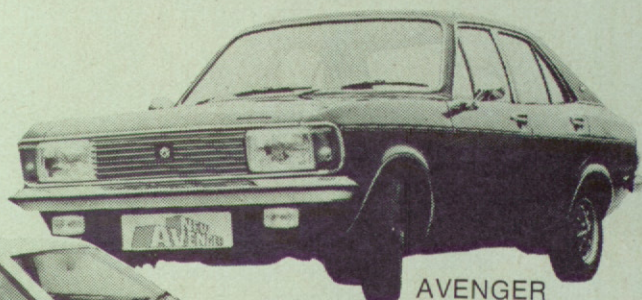




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- ☐ SIMCA                      ☐ AMERICAN CARS.

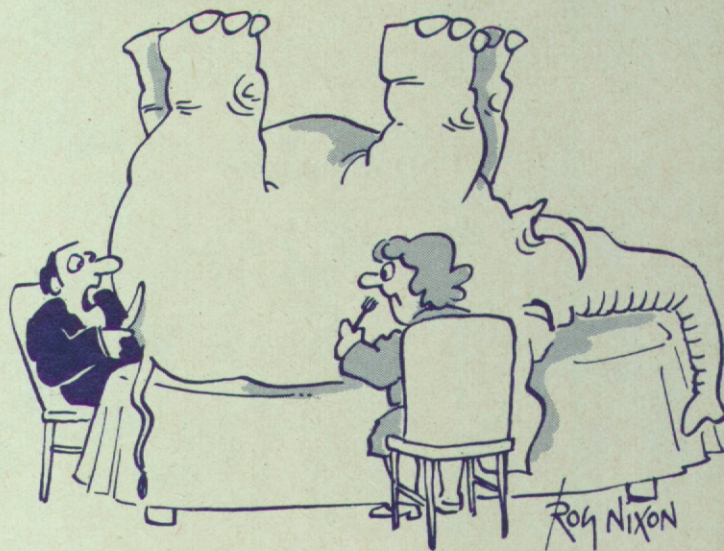
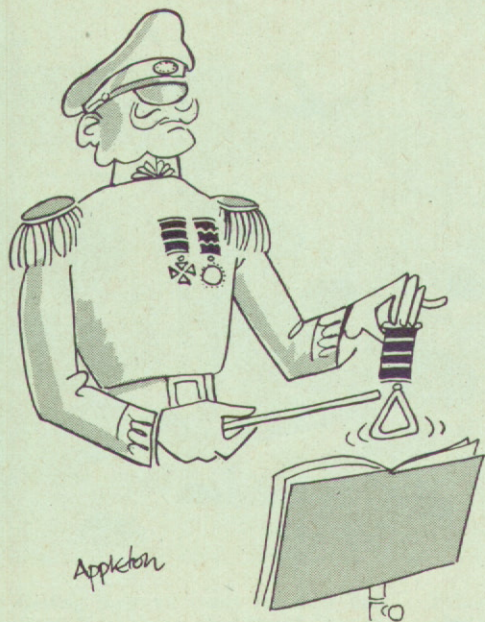
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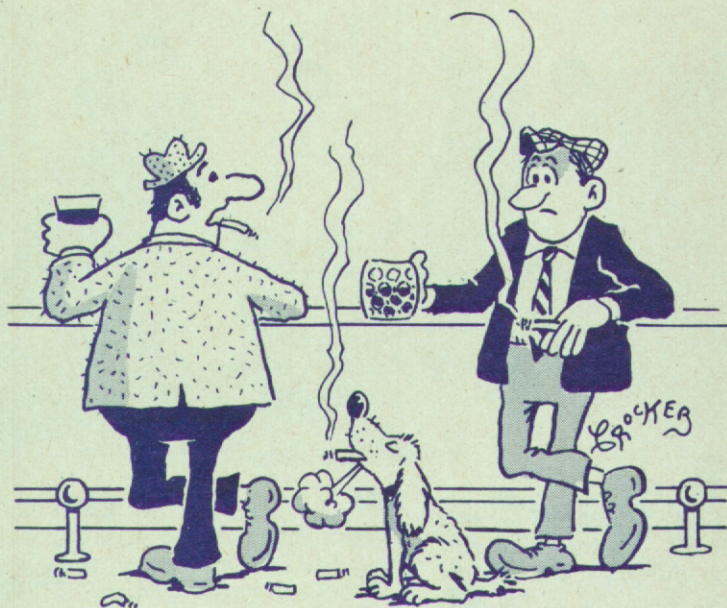
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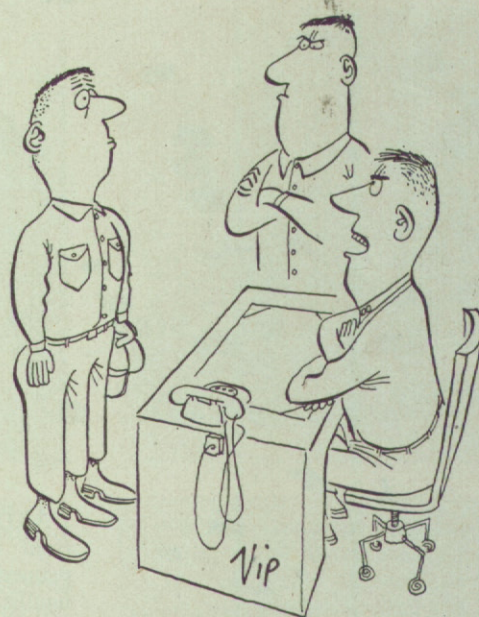
# Humour



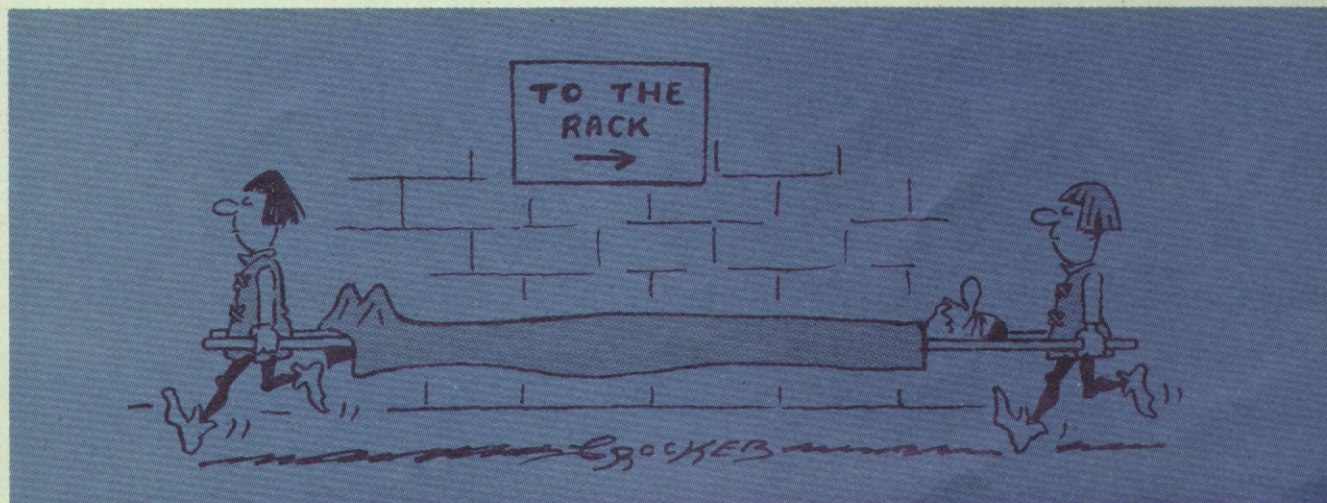
"Stop moaning! Where else would you get such large portions?"



"It only smokes dog-ends!"



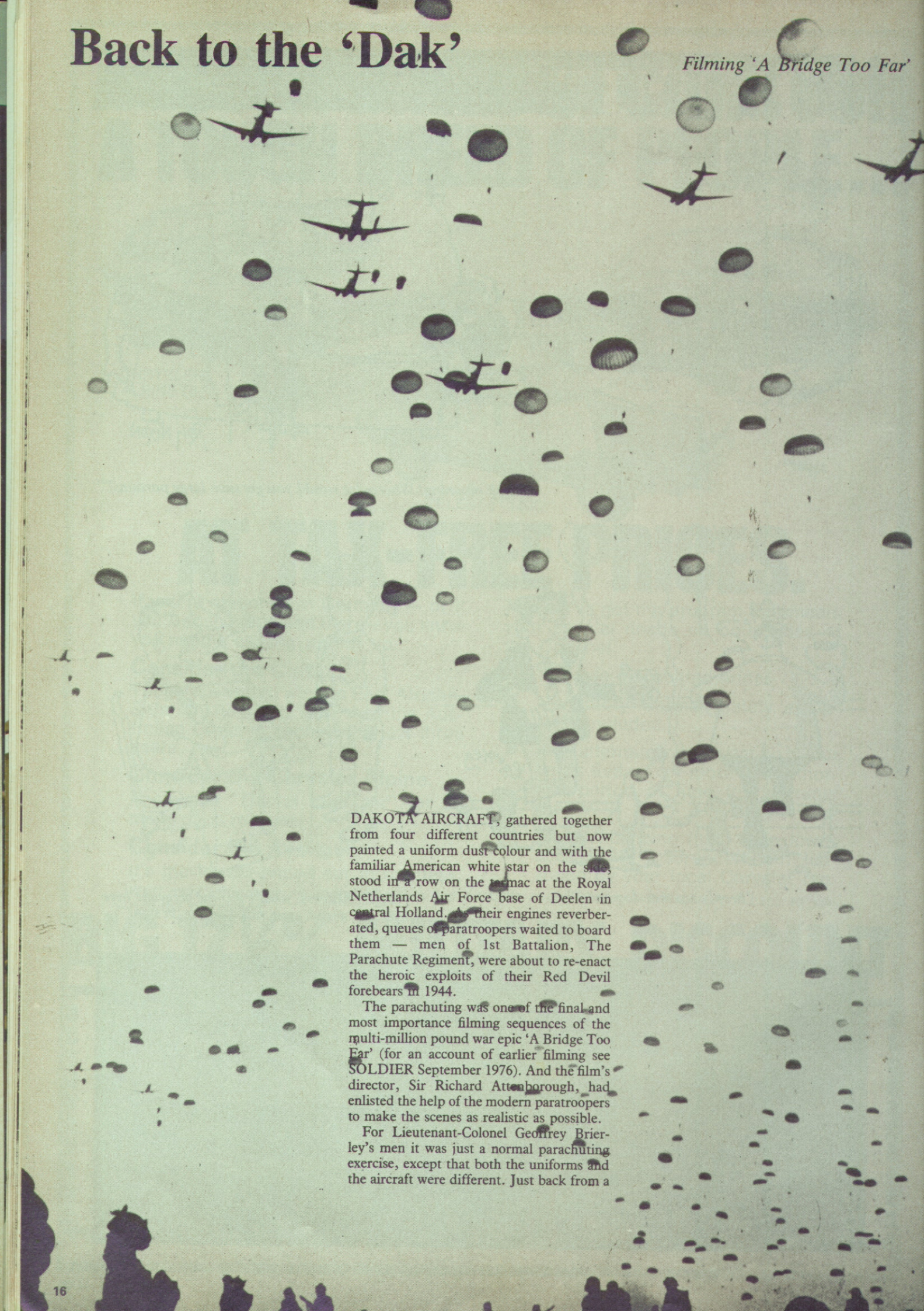
"Alright, Masters, what's this the sergeant here tells me about your not keeping in step?"





# Back to the 'Dak'

*Filming 'A Bridge Too Far'*

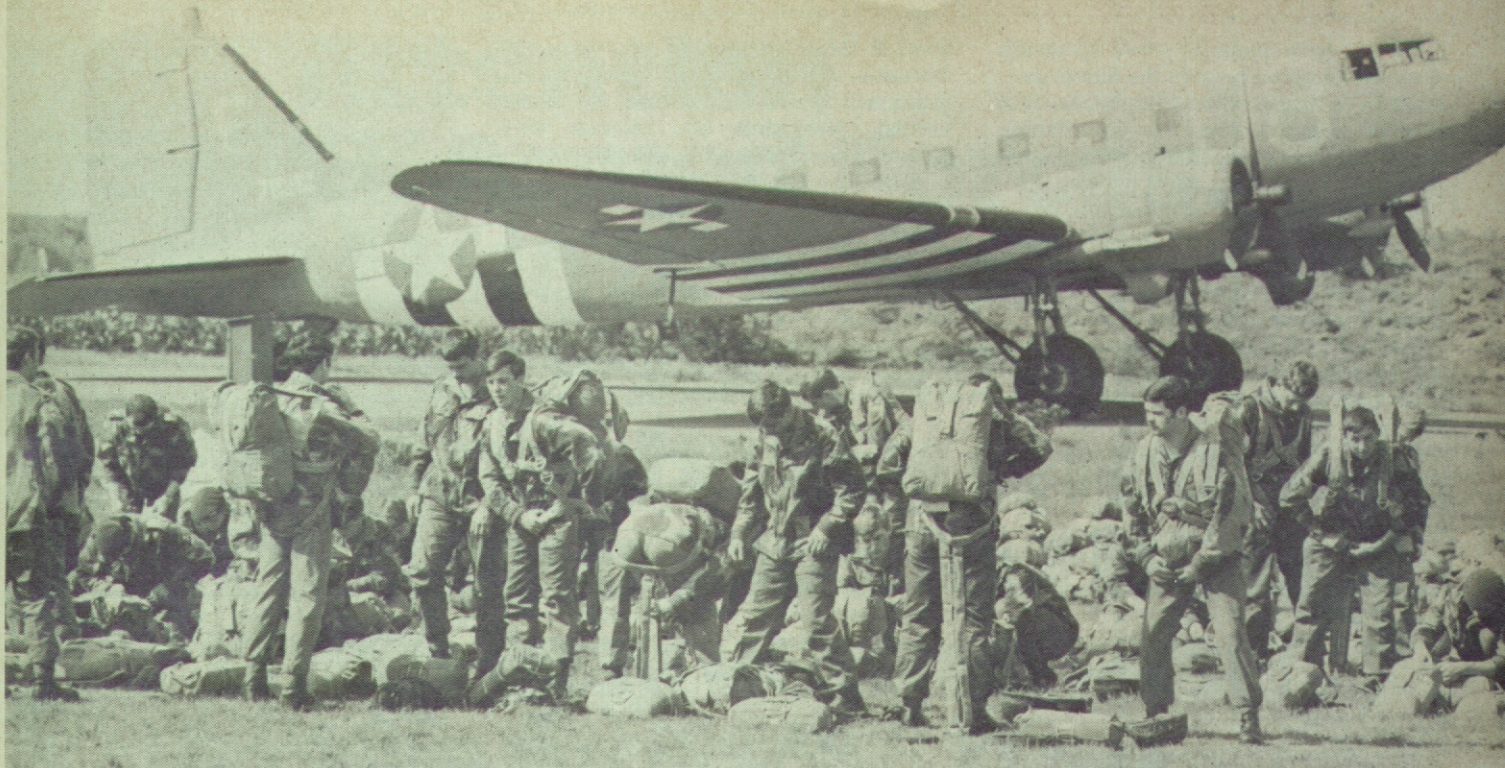


DAKOTA AIRCRAFT, gathered together from four different countries but now painted a uniform dust colour and with the familiar American white star on the side, stood in a row on the tarmac at the Royal Netherlands Air Force base of Deelen in central Holland. As their engines reverberated, queues of paratroopers waited to board them — men of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, were about to re-enact the heroic exploits of their Red Devil forebears in 1944.

The parachuting was one of the final and most importance filming sequences of the multi-million pound war epic 'A Bridge Too Far' (for an account of earlier filming see SOLDIER September 1976). And the film's director, Sir Richard Attenborough, had enlisted the help of the modern paratroopers to make the scenes as realistic as possible.

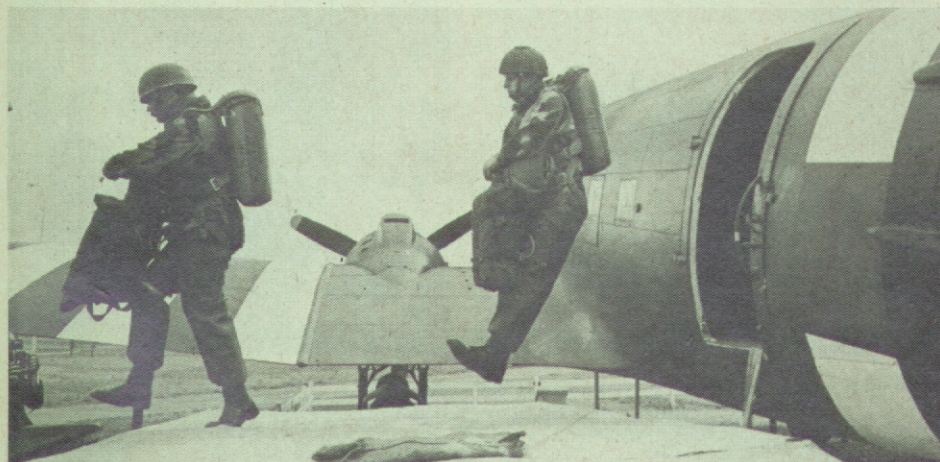
For Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Brierley's men it was just a normal parachuting exercise, except that both the uniforms and the aircraft were different. Just back from a





Above: Getting their kit ready for their first training drop from an ex-Air Djibouti Dakota.

Below: Happy landing. Just tiny drops from an old Dakota at Browning Barracks in Aldershot.



Below: British officer in a jeep. Captain Mike Summers is the man who collared a 'star role.'



busy two-year tour in Berlin, the all-volunteer 'film stars' began by familiarising themselves with jumping out of a Dakota — outside The Parachute Regiment depot at Browning Barracks in Aldershot. Wearing wartime battledress trousers and smocks, they used the Dakota which has been a familiar Aldershot landmark since it first took its place outside the depot in the mid-sixties.

Then it was off to Holland for the actual filming. On the first day, soldiers looked apprehensively at the Dakotas standing around the airfield. Colonel Brierley explained their fears: "It is completely alien for us to be jumping from so many different aircraft gathered from so many different nations and with so many different air crew. One of our main things is the confidence which we always have in the Royal Air Force."

The Dakotas came from the Danish and Finnish air forces as well as from Portugal and Air Djibouti (French Somaliland). The ten pilots included Danes, Finns and four Dutch civilians. Their time together to practise formation flying was short — yet by the time of the first drop (not officially being filmed) the formations were impeccable.

Said Major 'Birdie' Martin: "Participa-

tion was agreed only after all the rules for flight safety were met and kit was modified up to current standards."

During the war, for instance, the Arnhem invaders had no reserve parachutes. But the men who were reproducing their drop had. The only concessions made to authenticity in this respect were that when ground sequences were shot the para clothing and kit were all genuine wartime vintage.

The next day was occupied with emplaning shots, with the Dakotas remaining firmly on the ground. The British paras filed on and off the waiting aircraft, first in British uniform and then posing as American paratroopers. It was all rather routine and long-winded — too much for some. Groaned one soldier: "Just imagine how long it must take to make one of those Biblical epics!"

Just to give them the authentic memory lane flavour, the paras' 'tea and wads' were dispensed from a wartime Naafi refreshment van which had already been used earlier in the film. Its price list included such long-forgotten gems as rock cakes, jam tarts and buns at 2d each, tea 1d, coffee 1½d and cheese 3d. And its customers were told: 'No Woodbines. Only Park Drive — five per person.'

One former paratrooper who now makes his living out of the events at Arnhem is ex-Sergeant Henry McAnelly, who lost an arm and was captured in the Market Garden operation.

Sergeant McAnelly's battalion was reduced from 650 men to 40 and after the war he returned to the area on holiday each year to try to find out what had happened to the rest of his comrades. In 1954 he moved to the area permanently and he has a Dutch wife.

He took a keen interest in the battlefields and became such an authority that visitors were constantly asking him to show them round. "So I thought I might as well do it for a living."

Using his own safari Land-Rover painted in Parachute Regiment colours, Sergeant McAnelly now takes several hundred visitors around each year. He speaks four languages — English, Dutch, Flemish and Afrikaans.

One oddity he has noticed is that in one particular area his vehicle radio does not function. He recalls: "This is the same area in which our radio failed in 1944 and we still cannot explain why it happens."



Captain Mike Summers seized his chance of screen immortality when the film-makers asked for 'a British officer.' But his hopes of stardom vanished when his contribution turned out to be sitting in a Jeep as it roared away from the cameras down the airstrip.

Jumping and taking air-to-air film at the same time was the well-known parachuting cameraman, Dave Waterman. Dave, an ex-paratrooper, recalled jumping without a reserve parachute at the time of Suez.

Another man who had seen it all before was parachute jumping instructor Flight-Lieutenant Bill Coad. He first went to the Parachute School in 1942 and had spent more than 30 years instructing. He told SOLDIER: "I should have left the Air Force in July when I was 55 but I said I would stay on to do 'A Bridge Too Far.' I just liked the thought of seeing the old Dakotas and flying with them again. This is the last task of my service career."

Stringent security precautions were in

force at the dropping zone to prevent any intrusion. A main road was cleared and 150 policemen guarded the area for miles around. Meanwhile film cameras were situated around the area in hides which Colonel Brierley ungrudgingly admitted were as good as the Army's camouflage.

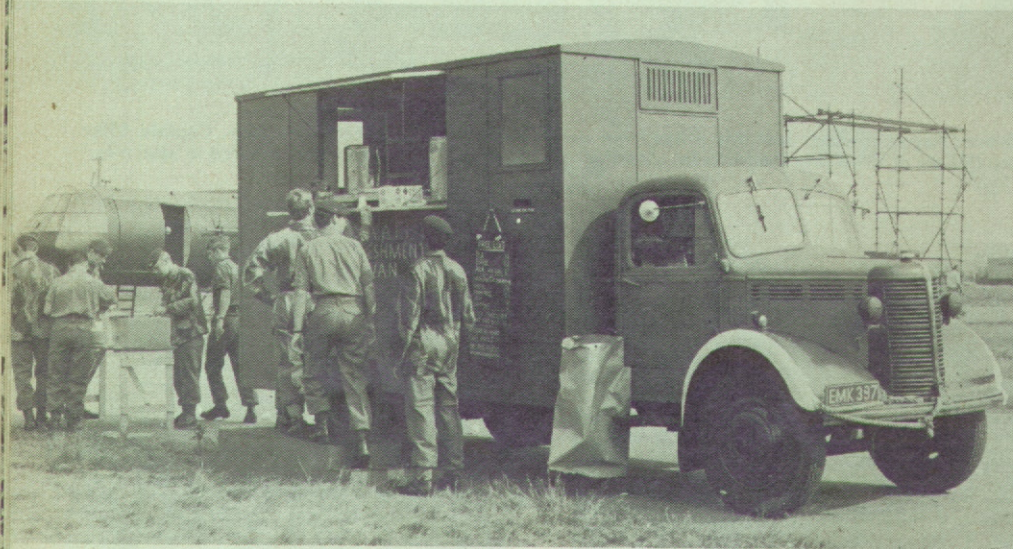
After it was all over the British paratroopers took the opportunity for several days of navigational type exercise around the local heathlands as well as holding their own memorial service for the Arnhem fallen at the war cemetery at Oosterbeek.

Next summer the results will be screened to an awaiting world public. But in the meantime men of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, have no time to sit back on their laurels. Within two weeks of their return to Aldershot they were off on their travels again, on a six-month unaccompanied UNFICYP tour in Cyprus — where there will be no parachuting.

Other soldiers who have been taking part in the filming of 'A Bridge Too Far' have been 'Tankies' from various units. All of them took leave to go to Holland and drive wartime Shermans as well as, in some cases, take other parts as extras.

Major John Larminie, the film tank adviser, told SOLDIER: "I don't know what we would have done without them. We had troops and officers from The Queen's Own Hussars, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, The Blues and Royals and Driving and Maintenance, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington."

Below: Some of the men underwent instant changes of nationality. Here an 'American' paratrooper gets a hand with a quick change.



Above: Queuing for the vintage Naafi wagon.



Right: Waiting for take-off on their first jump from a Dakota. Lieut-Col Brierley (at front left).

Below: Battlefield guide Henry McAnelly (centre) discusses old times with two other veterans, Colonel John Waddy and General John Frost.



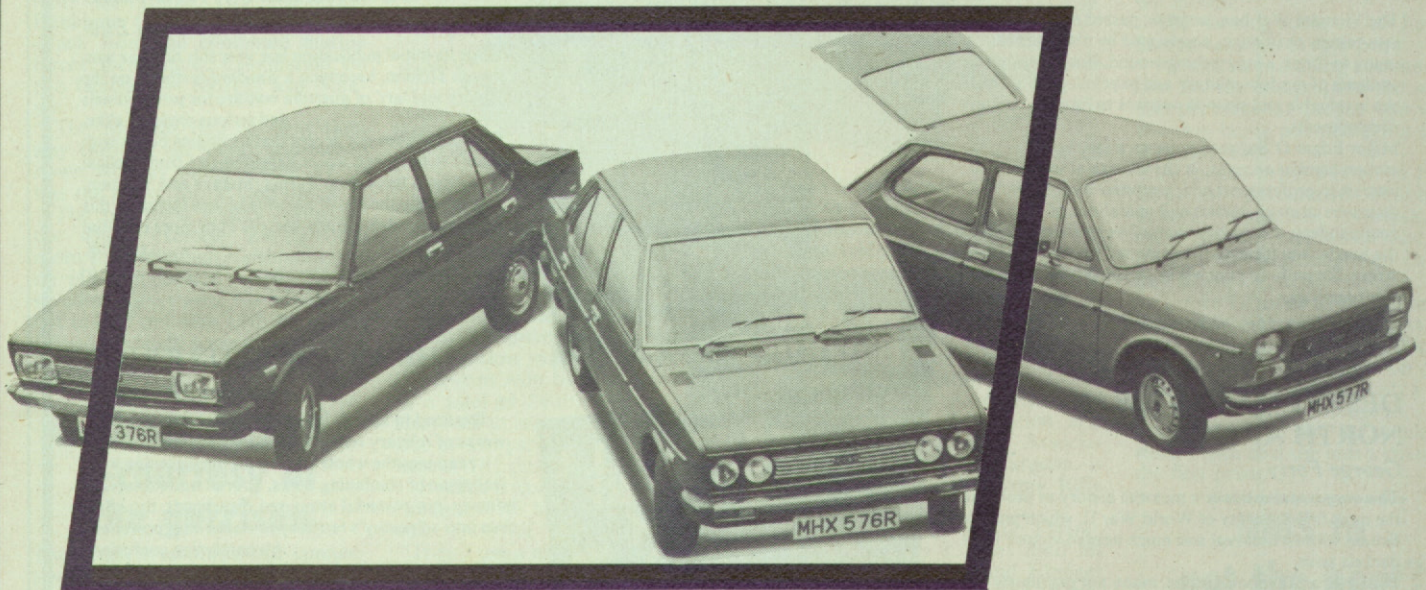


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S02



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# Soldier news

## Exercise shows Nato teamwork

More than 80,000 men from all three major Nato commands deployed by land, sea and air in the North Atlantic and Norway recently in the biggest alliance exercise ever.

Exercise Teamwork 76 was a live maritime exercise to demonstrate and refine the Nato striking fleet (Atlantic) capability to deploy forces rapidly to Northern Europe and project sea power ashore to protect the northern flank.

In all, 200 surface ships, 30 submarines and 300 planes from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, West Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Britain and the USA took part.

So far as the British Army was concerned, most of the action took place in Norway where the 'Orange' forces attacked the 'Blue' area.

The defending forces, 16th Parachute Brigade, made up of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, from Aldershot; 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, from Gillingham; 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery; 1 Parachute Logistic Regiment; 216 Parachute Signal Squadron; Royal Engineers; 23 Para Field Ambulance and 664 Aviation Squadron, plus elements of 10th Battalion and 15th (Scottish) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (TAVR), waited for the attack from the combined marine forces, including 42 Commando, on two beaches — Morkja and Nam-sos.

The Marines had to fight their way through the paras and sweep down Norway along Route 17. It was the paras' job to stop them.

The top brass rigidly controlled the whole exercise leaving little room for individual movement and on paper it looked as though the invading forces were the winners — but to find out who 16th Parachute Brigade thought were winners, turn to News 8.

### Chairman's chain —courtesy of the garrison

The Army's centuries-old connection with the historic Yorkshire town of Richmond has been honoured by a special presentation from the nearby Catterick Garrison.

The reorganised local government of the area, Richmondshire District Council, has been given its chairman's chain of office by the garrison in a ceremony at Richmond attended by local dignitaries and representatives of all ranks and their wives from the garrison at Catterick.

The presentation took place in Richmond's King's Head Hotel in Market Square which in its days as a private house was the headquarters of the North York Militia which eventually became The Green Howards.

## High velocity padre



An Aldershot chaplain has just come back from America, where he showed as much skill with a rifle as he normally does with a Bible.

Padre David Cooper took part in the Wilkinson Sword trophy shooting match between a team selected by one-time presidential candidate Ronald Reagan and another from the Yorkshire and Lancashire Combined Roses club.

The sword was first competed for in England three years ago and this was a return match. Although the Americans won by 100 points (out of a total of 2400), Padre Cooper shot well to score 190 points out of 200 at 600 yards and a competition best of 191 points at 800 yards.

It made a change from the normal 'weapons' he has carried on three full tours of Northern Ireland. "Then I use a high-velocity Bible — and I would give anyone three verses rapid fire," he jokes.

Chaplains, of course, are completely unarmed, even in Northern Ireland.

Padre Cooper is with 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, and shoots for sport only. "It's poles apart from combat shooting. It requires a completely different approach and it has a different intention," he says.

A native of Leeds, Padre Cooper has been a member of Leeds City Rifle Club and in 1969 was captain of the English universities shooting team. He is currently a member of the Army shooting team and won

the Goodlake Challenge Trophy at Bisley in 1974.

He is also a member of the Yorkshire Rifle Association, the Combined Roses Rifle Association, the English 20 Rifle Association and the National Small-Bore Association. His wife, a dental surgeon, is also a member of the Army Rifle Association.

For the competition in Fresno, California, Padre Cooper used his own 7.62mm Grunig and Elmiger German-Swiss rifle. He had 48 seconds per shot to aim and fire at a bull's-eye target ranging from three-and-a-half inches up to a maximum 15 inches across at 800 yards range.

"The heat was difficult. We were shooting in temperatures up to 106 degrees and using heavier American ammunition that made things difficult for us," he says.

Padre Cooper played cricket at college and was Northern Command cross-country champion as a cadet. He speaks New Testament Greek and also lists music, skiing and parachuting as particular interests.

## Blue Eagles grounded

The Blue Eagles, the helicopter display team of the Army Air Corps, has given its last performance. The corps has decided to disband the team, which was formed eight years ago.

Problems of manpower and finance which have always been evident have been increased by recent reorganisation decisions, and it is no longer possible to find the pilots or technicians for the team without seriously depleting front-line units.

It is planned, however, to form a display team next year from Flying Wing staff at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop, using aircraft flown by volunteer instructors outside normal working hours. This team will be able to give only a limited number of performances during the summer, fairly close to its base, but it is hoped that it will in a small way help to fill the gap left by the disbandment of the Blue Eagles.

## Turn round in design

A team of schoolboys from Radyr Comprehensive School, near Cardiff, won the BP Buildacar competition at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, last month.

The winning school takes home a Sherpa minibus as first prize.

As well as providing accommodation for the competition the school also provides the judges who watch the cars being put through a tough series of tests.

A special prize was given to the boys of Broadland Secondary School, Wroxham, Norfolk, for their circular car, which can spin round in its own length on its four tiny scooter wheels.

It does 70 miles to the gallon and the materials to make it cost only £700. Punctures are no problem at all. The car will balance on three wheels without the aid of a jack while the fourth is changed.

Unfortunately the car would not start, which cost the lads a chance of the first prize.

## DMS to get the boot?

A new boot is to be introduced for troops on urban foot patrols in Northern Ireland early in the New Year.

Designed at the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment, Colchester, the boot is calf length with a leather upper and a very light polyurethane sole.

The weight of the new boot is less than that of the standard direct moulded sole (DMS) type although sole life is reduced to probably no more than six months. But with the improved support and lightness for urban foot patrol work this was considered acceptable. (DQMG)



# High-speed brigadier starts reorganisation

A 'major reorganisation' of the British Army has started with the re-naming of two Royal Army Ordnance Corps units in 2nd Armoured Division, Germany.

The Münster-based 4 Ordnance Field Park is now 5 Field Force Ordnance Company, RAOC, and 12 OFP, stationed at Osnabrück, has become 2 Armoured Division Ordnance Company.

The job was done at two separate parades in 3½ hours flat by Brigadier Peter MacDonald, DDOS 1 (BR) Corps, who sped between the two cities by helicopter and inspected and addressed the two units in turn on their respective squares.

Both OFPs were paraded deployed for the field and the brigadier presented both officers commanding with commemorative plaques after making dual speeches and unveiling their new unit titles.

Brigadier MacDonald said in his speech: "These parades mark the formation of new units of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the putting into the history books of the old ones.

"They also mark the beginnings of a major reorganisation of the British Army, the like of which has not been seen for a very long time.

"The forms of the parades in your combat kit, beside your vehicles and

ready to deploy as you would for war, symbolises the fact that the reorganisation is keyed to producing a better fighting capability in the formations of 1st (British) Corps; in other days such parades would have been done in a more formal way, with greater ceremonial.

"This way of doing it is intended to direct your thoughts to the fact that we are here for a serious purpose, and mean business should it ever be necessary to defend Western Europe.

## Purpose

"Don't ever forget this. Enjoy your life here and make the most of what it has to offer; which is a great deal, but even when you are engaged on the most routine of your work, remember the underlying purpose of it all, and let that be the spur to achieving the best results you can.

"Your units have much to be proud of, not only now, but also for their many achievements in the past. Hundreds of men have served in

them over the years, hundreds of men carry with them memories of their times with the units. They are a part of their lives, as they will be for you in the future.

"You know the standards that are needed if we are to regard ourselves as doing our job properly. Work hard to make sure that those standards are kept up."

## Full house helps costs

Miss Daniell's Soldiers' Home at Aldershot is being fully used by men and women of the Army, says the Home's annual report. It adds: "This not only results in a better recovery of canteen costs but also increases the opportunities of spiritual and moral help.

"Variety, they say, is the spice of life and we certainly get our share. We have WRAC and QARANC girls, quite a few families and, of course, many soldiers both adults and juniors. We have also had good contacts with some older men here on resettlement courses."

## Rotten beams replaced by sappers

FIVE Royal Engineers have just completed restoration work on the church of St Thomas à Becket in Hamburg. The church is the Anglican church in Hamburg.

The soldiers, all from 21 Engineer Regiment in Nienburg, spent three weeks restoring and replacing rotten timbers in the roof. At the same time they repaired several roof leaks and did some small repairs to the plaster work. The main problem the team had to face was lifting the large roof timbers into the roof space through the narrow 30-inch light well in the ceiling. In addition, some of the original timbers, although rotten, proved particularly difficult to cut out — even with the use of power tools.

## Last time

Eleven Old Contemptibles — all past 80 years old — made what they say will be their last pilgrimage to Ypres to remember the British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Belgian salient in World War One. They were all from the now-disbanded Norfolk and Norwich Ypres Association.

## Cadets rough it in the Alps

Not so much a holiday, more an exercise in pain, was one description of a Norfolk Cadet team climb in Austria.

But even though the trip to the Austrian Alps to climb the 3772-metre high Wildspitze stretched the five cadets aged 15 or 16, they all agreed it was great fun.

Organised and led by Captain Tudor Quare of the Army Physical Training Corps, commander of 44 Army Youth Team in Norwich, the five learned the basic techniques of alpine mountaineering before attempting the big climb.

One of the lads, Michael Clarke (16), joined the Army at the Apprentices College, Arborfield, after the Austrian climb and three others of the five think they will probably join next year.

The nine-strong party, which included Regular soldier instructors, travelled by Army mini-bus to the base camp in Sölden in Austria where they learned how to walk and handle rope on the mountain's snow and ice.

"In fact," said Capt Quare, "the boys improved so much that they led the Regulars up the main slope."

"They all enjoyed the trip. I think they found it physically harder than anything they had ever done before, but then they were told before they went that it would be no ordinary holiday."



## BAYONET BARGAINS

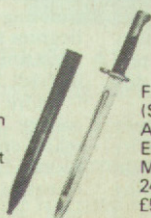
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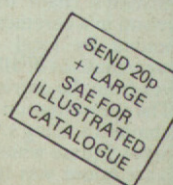
F.N. Mauser (South American Export) Model 24/30-4 £5.50



F.N. Carbine Mauser Pattern £5.75



American M1 Bayonet 1918-42 £6.50



All prices are Post Free and include VAT



## New jacket is right on target

A new sniper's suit will be in service with the Army by January although units in Northern Ireland are expected to get theirs before then.

The new garment is in camouflaged, showerproof material and the jacket, with a full-length front zip, has no fewer than seven pockets to carry all a sniper's immediate operational needs from ammunition to food.

Because of its loose fit —

which is adjustable at the waist and bottom by draw cords — the wearer has the maximum unrestricted movement. Built-in protective padding allows him to crawl easily over rough ground.

The protective pads at the sleeve tops are fitted with metal sling hooks and both shoulders have built-in pads to hold a rifle against. Nylon loops are fitted at various points and allow for the insertion of twigs and leaves

to help the camouflage effect. A crutch strap stops the jacket riding up.

The jacket is worn with normal combat trousers into which padded knee patches are sewn — these come with the jacket.

Designers of the new jacket were the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment, Colchester. The jacket was accepted for infantry use in July this year.\*

(QMG Sec)



## Hong Kong washout

Unlike Britain, Hong Kong at the moment has more water than it needs — in recent weeks, typhoons 'Ellen' and 'Iris' have left the Colony saturated in their wake.

It was during the most recent, Typhoon 'Iris,' that A Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Gurkha Rifles, was called out to the village settlement of Hawo Che, in the New Territories, to try to stem foaming floodwater as it sped downhill through the steeply tiered houses.

By dint of the Gurkhas' hard work and the clemency of the gods (who called off their onslaught before nightfall), the villagers managed to escape with only minimal damage to their properties.

## University bursary

A new scheme, known as Army University Bursaries, has been designed for undergraduates who wish to commit themselves to the Army for no more than a three-year short-service commission. The Army provides financial support during a full university course and in that period expects nothing of the student beyond reasonable academic attainment. On achieving his degree he will be granted a commission.

The scheme aims to appeal to the student who has a clear idea of his future but also recognises the desirability of a short period of Army service as a means of extending his experience of life before devoting the rest of his life to the career of his choice.\* (DAR)

## Relief again for home buyers?

Soldiers serving abroad will soon be able to claim income tax relief on their UK mortgages.

Since the 1974 Finance Act, tax relief has been limited to people actually living in the house they were paying a mortgage on, but it is understood that the Inland Revenue is going to announce a new interpretation of the Act which means that people who have to move because of their job — either in the UK or abroad will now be eligible for mortgage tax relief.

This will cut out the situation where a soldier serving, say, in Germany, would have to pay for his quarter and at the same time lose his mortgage tax relief — unless he left his wife in their house. That way he could claim relief.

Relief under these circumstances will not be given for longer than four years although, if there is another absence after a temporary re-occupation, the four-year period does start again.

But if the house is let while the family is away, the profits received

are assessable for tax under Schedule D.

While most building societies have now relaxed the ruling restricting the letting of houses being bought on mortgage, it may happen that the house-owner may be unable to conform to the requirements of the Finance Act because of a restrictive stipulation in the mortgage agreement. Where this arises, action can be taken in accordance with DCI (GEN) S 125/75.\*

## First time?

What is believed to be the first Meritorious Service Medal won by 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, has been awarded in Germany.

Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Worsley, commanding 1 (British) Corps, pins the medal on Bandmaster Bryan Briggs-Watson.

Mr Briggs-Watson joined The Highland Light Infantry in 1947 and was appointed bandmaster to The Royal Scots in 1971.



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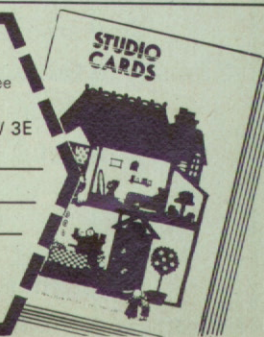
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# Norwegians lend a hand to Sergeant Foot

Sergeant Geoff Foot will remember the hospitality of the Norwegian Army for a long time.

For Geoff was on Nato's Exercise Teamwork in Norway last month and hoped to make his own way from the exercise 800 kilometres further north to where his father — a leading seaman on HMS Hunter — was killed on the first Narvik raid.

The Norwegian Army helped to find the grave, which was moved shortly after the war to a military cemetery at Ballagen, and promised to help Sergeant Foot get there.

But then he became one of the first exercise casualties when he ripped his foot tendons in a Land-Rover accident.

But this did not deter the Norwegian Army. The field ambulance crew put a 25lb plaster on the foot and made up a set of crutches. Sergeant Foot was picked up by his unit, 1st Parachute Logistic Regiment REME Workshop, and taken in the dead of night to the military airfield where he was flown north.

## Mementoes

From there on he got VIP treatment. A staff car took him to Narvik where he was shown maps and battle mementoes and then on to Ballagen, where for the first time he saw his father's grave.

"I was really overwhelmed by the way they looked after me," said Sergeant Foot, who was born 17 days after his father died. "And they said they were only sorry that I could not have come in the summer when the flowers were out. Everybody was very friendly and wanted to talk about the raid. They still think of the



war as if it were yesterday."

The only sour note on the trip was that a pewter plate, presented to him by the people of Ballagen, which he was looking forward to showing to his wife and child, was stolen on the ship home.

## Helmut's long service on the rails

It was just over thirty years ago that Helmut Fädrich began working as a waiter on the British military train operating between Cuxhaven and Hannover. So it was something of a surprise for him recently when he stepped down from the 'Berliner' at Charlottenburg Station in Berlin to be met by a reception party from 62 Transport and Movement Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.

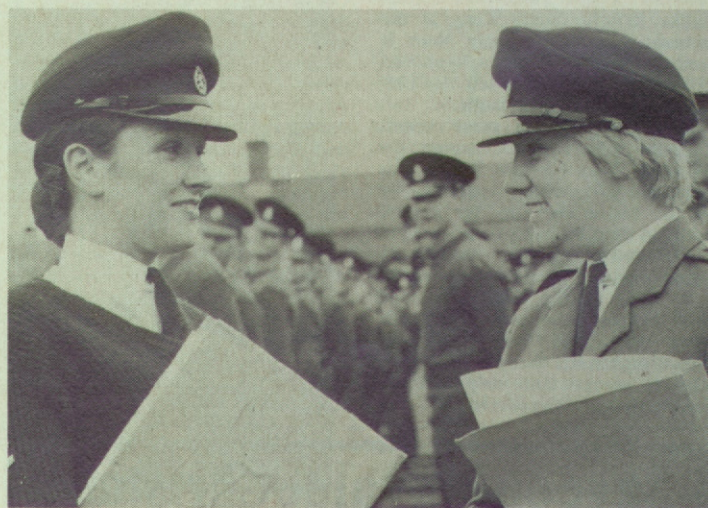
Herr Fädrich began his service in August 1946 on the military train that brought the first British families to Germany after the war. In 1948 he was transferred to the military train between Hannover and Hook of Holland where his service continued until 1961 when the trains ceased to operate on the introduction of air trooping.

Herr Fädrich was once again transferred, this time to the Berlin military train which originally operated between Berlin and Hannover and subsequently between Berlin and Braunschweig.

Now the head waiter on the 'Berliner,' Helmut Fädrich becomes the first of several civilian staff employed on the Army's only military passenger train who will shortly be completing their 30 years of service.

Back at work now, but that foot will still need nursing for a few weeks yet. Sgt Foot gets a helping hand from Staff-Sergeant Ritchie Allen, who made the first moves to get the Ballagen trip jacked up.

## A pair of real head-turners!



Two pretty girls are turning the heads — all 800 — of soldier recruits at an Army depot.

They are Lance-Corporal Bonita Kilbride (18) of Lancashire (left) and Private Lynn Brocklehurst (20) of Yorkshire.

They are the first two members of the Women's Royal Army Corps ever to be posted to The King's Division Depot at Strensall.

They are taking part in a new

'experiment' in which Army girls are relieving soldiers of some paperwork at more of the big depots throughout the country.

Said Bonita: "This is the first time since I enlisted in May I have worked with so many men. But, naturally, I have no complaints."

Although the depot can provide main meals for the girls, they are accommodated in WRAC quarters six miles away.

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# Driver breaks Army seven-year duck

For the first time in its history the Royal Corps of Transport Trophy for the best Service lorry driver has gone to a soldier.

The RAF and Royal Navy have monopolised the trophy during the seven years of its existence, but now Lance-Corporal Kevin Potter (28), of the Army School of Transport, Bordon, has broken the Army's duck.

The Service test is part of the nation-wide Lorry Driver of the Year competition whose finals were held at Bramcote in September. Lance-Corporal Potter won the Hampshire heat and was the only Serviceman to go through to the finals in which he came an overall 11th in his class, for articulated vehicles under 40 feet.

The standard of the competition was such that only Kevin, and one driver each from the RAF and Navy got through to the finals.

Although only 100 servicemen went in for the competition, there were nearly 9000 civilian lorry drivers.

"I did as much training as possible," said Lance-Corporal Potter, "but the trouble was that you were not told the course until you actually got there."

"It was really nerve-wracking, but I went there to win, and I was determined to win something."

## Amphibious

Lance-Corporal Potter has been driving heavy goods vehicles for nearly 11 years and has been on the school's service team for amphibious vehicles for the last four. He is

married with three children.

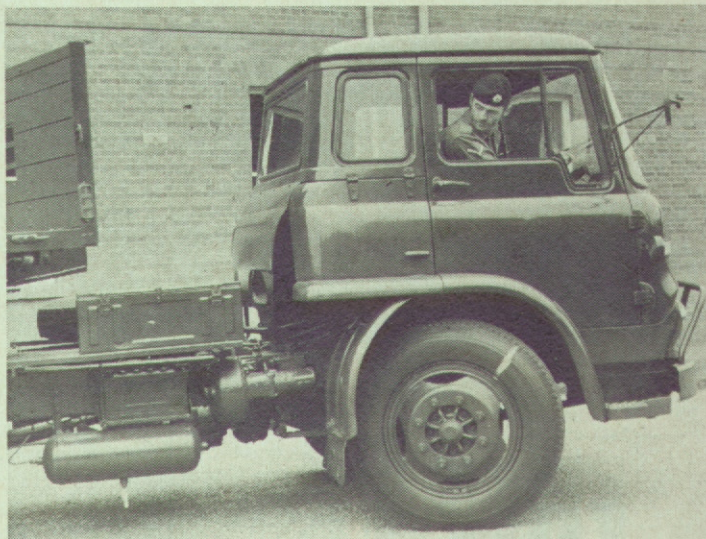
The competition tested Lance-Corporal Potter on driving, manoeuvring, Highway Code and law. He had to drive an 18-mile course, then on to the square for forward and reverse tests, driving through cones and special tests which meant precision driving through bricks and

on specially set lines on the road.

This was followed by a classroom test on the Highway Code, motoring code of practice and law.

Before he went in for the competition he was put through an intensive three weeks of training under the eagle eyes of Staff-Sergeant John Murray and Mr Henry Haynes at the RCT school, plus a gruelling three-day study of motoring law with Chief-Inspector Fred Cleverly of Hampshire traffic police.

The RCT cup was presented to Lance-Corporal Potter by Brigadier Rush Dray, Garrison Commander, Longmoor Garrison, Bordon.



## Job cell birthday

The Army Resettlement Employment Liaison Cell, now a year old, has already handled 564 offers of jobs ranging from a caretaker to an £11,500 tax-free director's post. Of these, servicemen have filled 118 out of 184 appointed.

The cell was formed to help all ranks obtain suitable employment on leaving the Army. Its role is to liaise with potential employers, to act as a focal point to which they can send job vacancies and to introduce employers to suitably qualified people leaving the Army.

It collects details of vacancies and collates the information into a 'job bank.' It also has a 'man bank' of job requirements of currently 500 people about to leave the Army. There is a job-matching service which sends introductions direct to individuals as a result of matching the two banks, and a job information service which sends vacancies to resettlement advisers and publications.

## Welcome

A report on the cell's operations says that without exception firms have welcomed the setting-up of one focal point for all Army personnel. Many examples have been given of firms attempting to recruit ex-servicemen in the past but failing because there was no readily accessible point of contact.

On future development the report says the job-matching service could now be extended from its present limit of officers, warrant officers and certain other limited categories to include all ranks with 12 years' service. This would increase the man bank to approximately 2000 at any given time.

# Special reward goes down the hatch!

Cheers, and this glass of champagne is certainly well deserved.

Corporal Tom Carroll, Irish Guards, does the honours for Guardsman Tony Riley, Coldstream Guards, with champagne, a special thank-you to four guardsmen who stopped a break-in at a Corby off-licence.

With Corporal Carroll and Guardsman Riley were Colour-Sergeant Edward Sprod, Grenadier Guards, and Sergeant Gary Neale of the Coldstream Guards.

## Display

All four are members of the Guards Division display team which was in Corby for a week.

They were settling down for the night in their caravan in the market square when they heard breaking glass. On going outside they saw some men running away from the off-licence, caught them, made a citizen's arrest, and marched them round to the police station.

The champagne was laid on by the manager of the shop as his special thank-you.





# New Lodge captured—on canvas!

A piece of wasteland in Belfast has been immortalised, by order of 4 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Mr Ken Howard, well known for his paintings of soldiers in Northern Ireland, recently finished a painting of the regiment in North Belfast. The painting was finished early in the regiment's tour during May–September 1976.

The centrepiece shows a patrol from 97 Battery (Lawson's Company), led by Bombardier McComiskey, on foot in the New Lodge. This area was a frequent source of trouble during the regiment's previous tour in the same district some two years ago, but has been relatively quiet recently.

The New Lodge is typical of much of the regimental area of responsibility. The painting depicts an area of waste ground between the New Lodge Road and Hardinge Street. In the background can be seen the high-rise Templar Flats on top of which is an observation post dominating the area. Near the IRA graffiti sign, marginally altered to read 4RA, is the back of the well-known Starry Plough.

The battery has had a successful tour, making a large number of arrests including one escaped convict and some hijackers who were caught driving a hijacked bus through the New Lodge.



It also has a good record of finds including documents, weapons,

ammunition, and bomb-making equipment.

The top left of the painting shows 42 (Alem Hamza) Battery implementing a vehicle checkpoint at the junction of Ligoneil Road and Crumlin Road. On this occasion the check was in response to a radio warning from regimental headquarters concerning a vehicle suspected of being involved in a city centre bombing. The vehicles shown are the battery commander's party.

The battery commander (Major A V Palmer) and Battery Sergeant-Major Cowan are shown checking vehicle occupants while Lance-Bombardier Watts and Craftsmen Wormsley search the vehicles. A wary eye is kept by Gunners Jermy, Pritchard and Lansdale acting as traffic lookouts and sentries.

42 (Alem Hamza) Battery is a part of 22 Light Air Defence Regiment based at Kirton-in-Lindsey and detached under command of 4 Light Regiment for the tour in Northern Ireland. These Welsh gunners have proved their worth in a number of ways. Their biggest success was the capture of a weapon and gunman following a shooting incident at just such a vehicle checkpoint on the Ligoneil Road in the early hours of the morning.

They have had a number of finds including one search operation which unearthed two rifles, two home-made weapons and a large quantity of ammunition.

The top right-hand drawing shows Major W J Collings, regimental operations officer, seated behind his desk in regimental headquarters at the Royal Ulster Constabulary Station in North Queen Street.

Standing in the background is Warrant Officer 2 Seddon (the sergeant-major instructor signals), overlooking signallers Gunner

Knight and Lance-Bombardier Ramshaw. The shift is being run by Capt O W S Jones who has given up being Electrical and Mechanical Engineer to act as unit Press officer and watchkeeper.

In the foreground is Second-Lieutenant E Manuell, Women's Royal Army Corps, the assistant adjutant and also doing a tour of duty as a watchkeeper.

Something of a showpiece, the operations room has nine different radio sets and light telephones and is the nerve centre co-ordinating regimental operations.

The corner right-hand vignette shows a search of Cliftonville Golf Club using a trained dog to sniff out explosives. Guarding the dog and its handler is Lance-Bombardier Springthorpe of 29 (Corunna) Battery which is responsible for a large part of the regimental area in the residential northern suburbs. Similar searches to this one coupled with keen observation have produced a number of useful finds including a home-made sub-machine-gun and a lot of ammunition.

The bottom left-hand corner show an observation post in the Ardoyne area of Belfast where 88 (Arracan) Battery is based. The regiment mans a large number of observation posts, particularly in the Ardoyne area. Soldiers on duty in these sangars soon become very familiar with their area and can quickly target patrols to scenes of trouble. A number of stolen cars has been recovered after being spotted by sharp-eyed observers.

88 (Arracan) Battery got off to an excellent start with the find of an M1 carbine, an Armalite and more than 300 rounds of ammunition on its third day in the province. More recently it had the useful find of 55 detonators located after a follow-up to a shooting incident.



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# The high-flying mayor comes down to earth



## Sappers even move Noah's Ark!

Operation Noah's Ark, they called it. And for the men of the Royal Engineers stationed in Cyprus it presented a 50-foot, 20-ton problem how to launch the Argo II from Nicosia, 30 miles from the sea.

The boat is an exact replica of the old caiques that used to ply the Mediterranean.

It took a year for master shipbuilder Vassilis Chagalis (70) to create — with nothing but a few lines on a block of wood for his blueprint.

The veteran craftsman, who has made 300 boats in his lifetime, lost his first Argo 1 when the Turks invaded the island and occupied the old Phoenician port and modern tourist haunt of Kyrenia.

Undeterred, he set up a tent in the middle of an empty building site in Nicosia — and set out to build another.

### Workshop

He lived in the tent, and slept in it. Adjoining it the old man built a make-shift workshop for the baulks of timber which were to become polished decks.

Slowly the giant took shape.

With two local teachers, Andreas Georgiades and Paladios Nicolau, to help him, he worked 18 hours a day... and the huge shadow on his doorstep grew and grew.

Villagers, friends and relatives

dropped by to hammer in a nail or two, or saw up a block of wood.

"It was a labour of love," the old man said. "Now, I feel very satisfied. And a little sad."

Sad, because his life's work for a year-and-a-half had to disappear in a cloud of dust — hoisted on to a 30-ton Army transporter by seven men of the Royal Engineers, and rolled away at five miles an hour on its six-hour journey to Larnaka and the coast.

It was a unique launching. But suddenly there was a wide-open space outside the tent — and a wide-open gap in an old man's life.

### Memorial window

A memorial window to the late Field-Marshal Viscount Slim has been dedicated in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, by the Chaplain-General, the Venerable Archdeacon Peter Mallett. Earl Mountbatten and many of the commanders who served under the field-marshal were present.

The Mayor of Derby, Councillor Bill Baker, complete with chain of office, tried out the 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, jump tower when he opened the first Army display in Derby for 50 years.

The display, at the municipal sports ground, was organised by Colonel C A Kiernan, Regimental Sergeant-Major R Bishop and the staff of the Army Careers Information Office, Derby.

The crowd of more than 20,000 over the two days of the show was given a feast of entertainment, the best the Army could provide both in the static displays in which most branches were represented and in the programme of arena events.

The main attraction was the Blue Eagles display team of the Army Air Corps, with supporting events from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and massed bands of the Royal Artillery, 9th/12th Royal Lancers, Royal Pioneer Corps (and drums), Junior Leaders of The Prince of Wales's Division (and drums and bugles). The trumpeters of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers sounded a fanfare to open the show.

## Servicewomen's get-together—

Women officers of seven nations went to Brussels in September for their first meeting since official status was given, in July, to the Committee on Women in the Nato forces.

Chairman of the committee is Britain's Brigadier Eileen Nolan (left) seen here with Lieut-Colonel Waltraud Thomas of Germany (centre) and Lieutenant I M Hansen, Denmark.

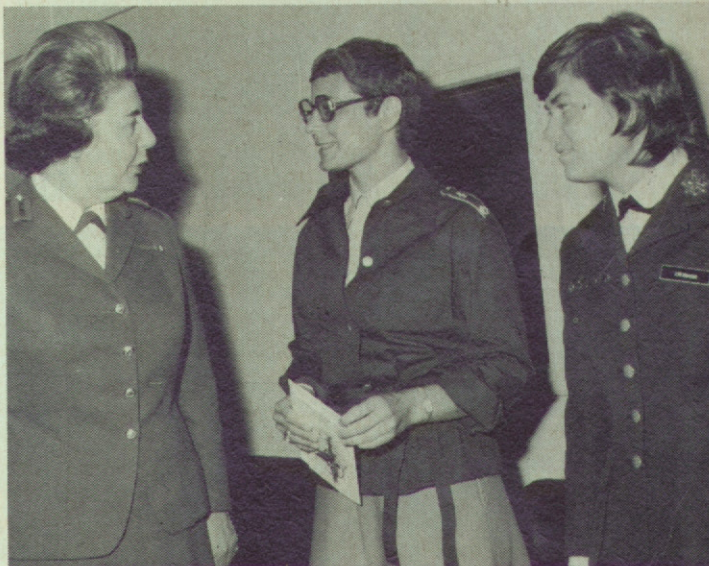
Brigadier Nolan is head of the 4500-strong Women's Royal Army Corps. Germany has only recently begun recruiting women and so far has 30 — all doctors.

There are 10,000 women in the Danish forces.

Brigadier Nolan, as well as being chairman of the committee, is the UK representative for the WRNS, the WRAC, the WRAF and the three women's nursing services.

The committee's activities affect 130,000 women in the armed forces of nine countries. Women in the Regular British Services number 15,000.

The Brussels meeting was concerned with plans for a conference in 1977, on equal opportunities for women in the Services. Speaking for her own corps, Brigadier Nolan said that a good measure of integration had already been achieved "as is the case in the other UK Women's Services."



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# Retreating paras blunt Teamwork



Although the United States, Dutch and Royal Marines, with local Norwegian Army units, tended to steal all the limelight on Exercise 'Teamwork,' it was 16th Parachute Brigade which provided the all-important enemy forces to make the exercise possible.

The brigade, renamed 'Fred Olsen's paras' because of the luxurious ferry ship chartered to take them to war, left Newcastle in high seas in mid-September for Trondheim and travelled on by road to Rinnleiret Camp in readiness for the main exercise on 18-24 September.



Dug into well-camouflaged positions, the paras and Anglians fought a defensive battle with only light artillery, including 7th Regiment's, Royal Horse Artillery, new 105mm light guns.

Concentrated in the Namdalseid area of Trondelag, 16th Brigade pounced on the unsuspecting US Marine Corps, who were forced to retire, before pressing on the assault to break through.

Throughout the woods and valleys of this isolated part of Norway, with its beautiful fjords and mountains, the paras "fought" an impressive delaying battle as the surrounding countryside echoed to the sound of gunfire.

## Arnhem

D Company of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, thought it had been singled out for glory as it was designated to attack and hold a strategic bridge, but any thoughts of Arnhem were soon drowned in the criss-cross network of drainage ditches protecting it.

On arrival, the company dug in but was then told it had attacked a day too early so its men had to go away and come back the next day. They were then allowed to win but withdrew yet again to high ground and retreated steadily without actually seeing the enemy.



● Top: Dutch marines storm ashore at Namsos.

● C Company, 2 Para, plus Canadian airborne, on helicopter patrol.

● B Company, 2 Para, withdraws from Foslia Bridge.

● Left: F (Sphinx) Battery, 7 Para RHA, set to fire its 105mm light guns.

**Pictures: Sergeant J F Clark and Private P Turner.**





● Top: Norwegian troops, some in gas masks, withdraw under smoke screen.

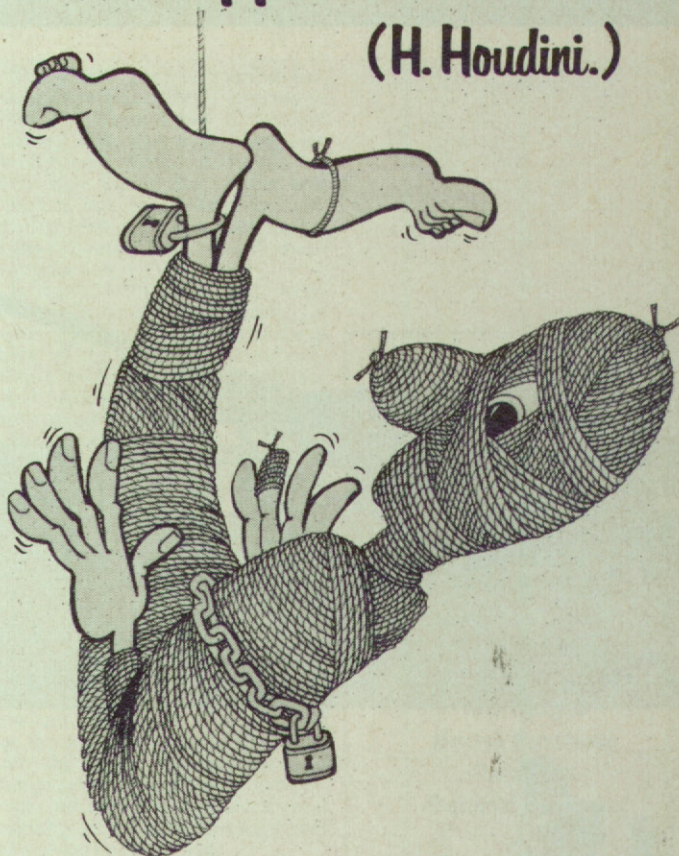
● Above: An umpire checks paramachine-guns in defensive position.

● Below: Sp Company, 2 Para, gives covering fire to the Anglians.



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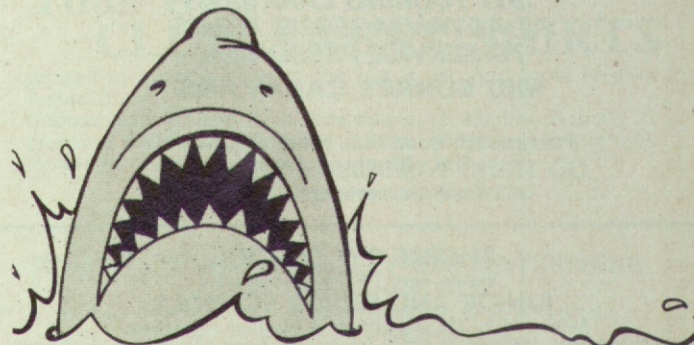
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Left: The three test howitzers lined up for inspection. In the foreground is the German gun, in the middle the Italian, and then the British.

Below, left: Brigadier-General Robert Stadlhofer, Inspector of German Artillery, looks through the sights, watched by Major-General Tim Morony and Lieutenant-General G M Vaccaro, his British and Italian counterparts.

Below: A team from the Trials Branch, Gunnery Wing, Royal School of Artillery, shows its paces. The safety officers are wearing white hats.



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# The new Euro-gun fires an export salvo

The latest weapon in Nato's armoury, the FH70 howitzer, has been officially accepted by the three developing nations, Britain, West Germany and Italy.

The gun took almost ten years to develop and build and at the international acceptance trials at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, on 21 September, it was shown off to the top brass of the three contributing countries.

Although only 500 of the £300,000 guns are on immediate order, the chances of orders from other Nato countries and from abroad are good. Colonel Alan Wheatcroft, the British technical director, revealed that the gun is booked to go to Australia for demonstrations, and already the rest of the Nato alliance has shown interest.

"It is attractive," he said, "because of its long range of 24,000 metres unassisted, and 30,000 metres assisted, its accuracy, its high rate of fire, speed into and out of action, the weight of 9.5 metric tonnes including the auxiliary propulsion unit, and its increased lethality."

The gun cost about £30,000,000 to develop, which was split between the three nations. The development

work in Britain was carried out at Vickers at Barrow-in-Furness, who will make the carriage. The gun itself will be made in Germany and the Italians will make the elevating mass. The parts will be interchanged and assembled in the respective countries.

## **Misfire**

The only sour note at Larkhill at the acceptance trials came during the Italian demonstration of the quick firing of compatible American ammunition. Six rounds were to be fired but two failed to go off. However, all three guns at the demonstration did show their paces with the British, German and Italian crews revealing their effectiveness in a series of controlled shoots.

The FH70 project started between Britain and West Germany in 1966. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 1968 and development started that year. In 1969 Italy joined the project and although not responsible for any development work has contributed to development costs and will share in production.

In early 1975, joint user trials took place in Germany using six prototype guns. As a result of these trials, all three countries gave provisional acceptance but decided that some further trials were needed to prove reliability.

In May this year, two guns successfully carried out the trial at the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, proving that the gun was fit for acceptance into service.

Production of the gun will begin in November. It is expected that pre-production guns will be delivered to each nation in 1978 to allow initial training and trials. In-service delivery date is in the late 1970s.

The trilateral partners are also developing a self-propelled 155mm howitzer, the SP70. This gun will use the same ordnance as the FH70 and the same ammunition and charge system. Trials on the sub-systems have already started and assembly of the first prototype will take place later this year.



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# Desert Rats take on Big Bear

For a week more than 60,000 troops from four Nato countries fought their way across North Germany. The men, all taking part in the 1st German Corps exercise 'Grosser Baer' (Big Bear), came from the German, British, Dutch and American armies.

The British formation involved in the exercise was 7th Armoured Brigade — the Desert Rats — which was part of the 7th Panzergrenadierdivision, described simply as 'Orange Force.' 'Blue Force' comprised the 11th Panzergrenadierdivision with elements of the 1st Panzergrenadierdivision, 3rd United States Brigade and 41st Netherlands Brigade.

The DM 8,000,000 exercise was in the area of northern Germany bounded by the towns of Bremen, Uelzen, Hannover, Münster and Meppen. It also involved a 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force exercise, 'Cold Fire,' in which the air forces of Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark took part.

The exercise play was not simulated war between Nato and Warsaw Pact forces but a fight between the Orange and Blue forces. The commander of the 1st German Corps, Lieutenant General Hans Klein, stressed, "The exercise is aimed at flexible command and con-

trol operations in open terrain," and he went on to point out that both parties had difficult tasks to fulfil and were seldom able to exploit fully the resources available.

## Advance

An example of the problems the commanders had to face were the three rivers which had to be crossed, the Hunte, Weser and Aller. The Weser was by far the most difficult since it is wider and this delayed the advance for some time.

The statistics for the exercise make impressive reading: 62,000 troops with 3200 tracked and 15,300 wheeled vehicles fought across a distance of nearly 200 kilometres and were supported by 180 helicopters.

British units involved in the exercise included 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, the 1st battalions of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire and The Cheshire Regiment, 25 Field Regiment and 42 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Engineer support was provided by 32 Engineer Regiment, 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron and 45 Field Support Squadron. In addition to the Scout and Gazelle helicopters from 651 and 657 Army Air Corps, Wessex helicopters from 18 Squadron, Royal Air Force, were attached to the brigade.

**A self-propelled amphibious bridge which is driven into a river and linked together lands German and British vehicles on the east bank of the River Weser.**



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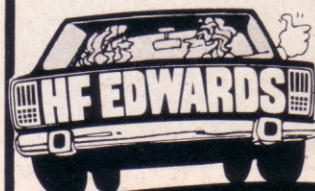


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## Recruits kept in the family

Sergeant-Major Alfred Ford of Porton, Salisbury, belongs to a family with strong Service ties, and now that he has enlisted his sons Glenn and Warren, 20 and 17, these ties have been made even stronger.

Sergeant-Major Ford, aged 44, now in charge of Salisbury recruiting staff, was an Army Cadet before joining the Royal Marines at Plymouth as a drummer. In the next five years he saw the world in a big way and had the rare experience of circumnavigating the globe in HMS Jamaica, sailing outward through the Panama Canal and home through the Suez Canal.

In 1952 he joined the Army and now wears the badge of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. He became drum-major and added a few more countries to the list of 17 notched up with the Royal Marines. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in Cyprus in 1965.

His late father was in The Devonshire Regiment winning the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Military Medal.

One of Sergeant-Major Ford's brothers, Ernest, a Royal Engineer, was killed during the Korean War, where he won the Military Medal. Two other brothers, Arthur and Derek, served respectively in the Royal Marines and The Parachute Regiment.

The female side completed the family's tri-Service representation, with sisters Betty, Patricia and Joyce having served in the WRNS, WRAC and WRAF respectively.

Now Glenn and Warren have joined the Royal Engineers.



## Pay men step it out to make the cash

By covering the 80 miles between Moenchengladbach and Arnhem in Holland in three days, six Royal Army Pay Corps walkers from Command Pay Office have raised more than DM 1300 for the Jill Gee War Widows Trust.

The six, Sergeants Ian Jones (the organiser), Glyn Jones, Stephen Booth, Chris Betts and Corporals Norman Watson and Alan Gray, faced heavy rain during their marathon but arrived looking fresh at the Osterbeek War Cemetery to be met by their commanding officer, Colonel Tony Cole, and the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Brierley.

The march coincided with the Parachute Regiment's participation in the filming of 'A Bridge Too Far' at nearby Deventer. The money raised by the six will go towards paying for widows of Arnhem battle heroes to visit the cemetery.

### Donations

Mrs Jill Gee, of Liverpool, has already received other donations from Command Pay Office personnel and said: "There are many war widows who have never been able to afford the cost of travelling to Holland to see their husband's grave. The money raised by Sergeant Jones and his colleagues will be most gratefully received and put to very good use."

Pictured, from left to right: Corporal Norman Watson, Sergeant Glyn Jones, Sergeant Ian Jones, Corporal Alan Guy and Sergeant Stephen Booth. Sergeant Chris Betts takes a break from the camera in the second rank.



## Tandem double up on cash

Some people think that a bicycle built for two sounds like quite a romantic and sedate way of getting about.

But not four cyclists stationed in Germany, because they decided to cycle all the way from Hildesheim to Malta. And it was all in a good cause.

The riders, from 5 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, left with the knowledge that almost DM 6000 would be donated if they reached their objective.

Expedition leader Warrant Officer 2 David Cooper was accompanied by Sergeant Eamonn Quigley on Tandem Number 1 while Bombardier John Mennell and Gunner Brian Branford were on the second machine. Morale and logistic support in the form of spares, food and clothing were supplied by Sergeant Bill Mitchell, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who accompanied the cyclists in his car throughout the journey.

The tandems were not standard commercial machines but had been constructed by Sergeant Bill Mitchell and Staff-Sergeant Jimmy Ord, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, from bits and pieces of old scrapped bicycles.

Leaving Hildesheim and travelling south through Bavaria, the riders averaged around 100 miles a day. However, just before ascending the Brenner Pass they encountered their first mishap. Brian Branford, who was a last-minute substitute and therefore had had little or no time in which to train for the event, developed swelling in both knees.

Undaunted, however, John Mennell negotiated the Brenner Pass solo and continued for the next two or three days until Brian had sufficiently recovered to take his place once more.

Continuing south-west towards Pisa and Rome the journey was incident free, apart from three punctures. Co-incidentally, or otherwise, the punctures all occurred between 10.30am and 11.00am and always to the same wheel — the one below John Mennell!

### Disaster

Approaching Rome, disaster overtook the team once more. The second tandem, having been repaired several times en route by Bill Mitchell, deteriorated to such a

state that it was completely beyond repair and had to be scrapped.

From Rome the team with the one remaining machine travelled to Naples and on to Reggio Calabria before taking the ferry to Catania in Sicily. Cycling a further 50 miles to Syracuse, they then joined another ferry on the last stage of the journey to Malta, having covered 1576 miles in 15 days.

After a few days' well-earned rest in Malta, the cyclists returned to Germany by air while Bill Mitchell returned by car with the tandem.

Summing up the journey, organiser and leader David Cooper said, "I enjoyed it and I would do it

again, but with some changes — next time I will travel in the back-up car."

As a result of their achievement two charitable organisations in Hildesheim, West Germany, have each received a gift of DM 1000 and an adventure playground has been built for the British children in Tofrek Barracks, Hildesheim. The balance of the money raised has been forwarded to a fund to benefit dependants of soldiers killed or injured in Northern Ireland.

Left to right: Warrant Officer 2 David Cooper, Sergeant Eamonn Quigley, Bombardier John Mennell and Gunner Brian Branford.



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# UNIFORMAL



In the September issue I drew attention to the increase in the 'level of income' below which Family Income Supplement (FIS) is payable. If you and your husband together earn less than this 'level of income' you are entitled to FIS.

If you have children, and your husband is a private or lance-corporal who has signed on for not more than three years and is receiving Band 1 rates of pay, get him to check up at his unit pay office to see if you are eligible. They will be pleased to help him.

However, there's a snag. I'm afraid it's no good doing this if you happen to be overseas because, at present, the Department of Health and Social Security (DHSS) will only pay FIS (which is not an Army allowance) to people living in the UK. This seems most unfair to me because I do not think an Army family should be penalised in this way just because the husband has been posted overseas. After all, your husband still has to pay all his UK taxes and insurance contributions while he is serving overseas so, in fairness, surely he should still be entitled to the benefits too!

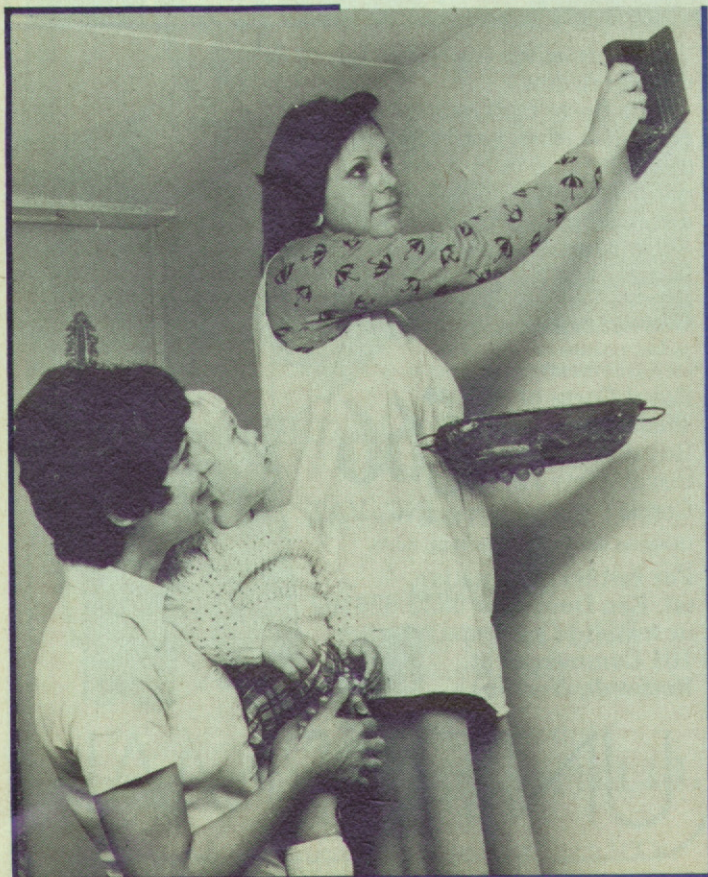
This needs investigating, and DHSS should be asked to reconsider its ruling so far as Service families are concerned.

Those of you who are overseas will, of course, be getting local overseas-allowance (LOA). This is intended to cover the extra costs you have to meet while overseas as compared with similar costs in the UK.

In other words, it is intended to make sure your military salary gives you the same spending power in your overseas station as it does in the UK. Therefore, if DHSS could be persuaded to pay FIS to Service families overseas, they should ignore LOA when calculating your income to see if it is below the 'needs allowance,' because it doesn't really give you any more money to spend.

What about it, DHSS?

*Anne Armstrong*



# All in the family with Anne Armstrong

## Paint away the 'blues'

Wives' morale could take a great leap forward as the self-help painting scheme for married quarters now has official blessing.

Paint can now be obtained from the PSA through housing commandants. However, there are guidelines to ensure that the TV comedy of slapstick-painting red and black ceilings does not face the next occupant.

Nineteen-year old Mrs Michela Kime, with her 18-month-old daughter Lorraine looking on, has finished the kitchen, hall and dining room. The living room is next on the list, she tells me. What a homecoming for her husband Sapper Barry who is on his second Northern Ireland tour with 9 Independent Para Squadron.

"I feel chuffed to bits to think of what he will say when he comes home. I had never held a paint brush in my life so I do get a wonderful sense of achievement, and it does help to pass the time till he comes home.

"The only trouble is I wish they would let us have washable paint for the kitchen because even the best cooks have accidents." Michela finds using the 75p paint pad the best for walls and the brush for touching up.

On enquiring how she went about painting inside, she said: "The housing commandant's office and estate wardens are very helpful. I just filled in a form saying what I would like to do. The warden did come and see me in the house to check first.

"Then if it's OK with everyone the paint is issued. Of course if you make a ghastly mess or do not finish the job you will have to explain. Now a neighbour would like me to give her a hand on her house."

Mrs Connie Caldwell has been an Army wife for eight years and is full of praise for the scheme.

"It is a great help," she said. "We have a lot of our own furniture so it means we can at least have a decent

colour scheme to match our carpet, curtains and three-piece suite.

"My husband has had seven tours in Northern Ireland. To have a well-decorated house helps a lot.

"It can be so depressing to look at shabby walls and, as the houses are only redecorated every five years, three families might have been living in the house during that time. As he has been away so much it really cheers me up."

Connie's husband, Lance-Corporal Caldwell, is with 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, at the moment but he has promised

that when he returns, and before he goes to Northern Ireland, he will finish off the last outstanding bits. Connie says she will hand him the paint and brush to ensure he does.

Please do check with your housing commandant's office before you start, as colour chart, paint brushes and paint can be issued only through them.

If any husbands and wives have any helpful hints on painting and decorating do write to me. Picture shows Michela painting away, closely scrutinised by Connie and baby Lorraine.

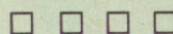
### Anne's view

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Plymouth, Councillor and Mrs Arthur Floyd, visited soldiers' homes and talked to Army wives during a tour of Army housing estates recently.

The invitation was extended to the Lord Mayor by Colonel Peter Bowser, the Army Garrison Commander in Plymouth. The civic visitors were briefed at Crownhill Fort by Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Densham-Booth, the Army housing commandant in Plymouth, who has 450 Army quarters in his care.

The party then went to the Widewell estate, where at the community centre they met Mr Norman Pryce, estate superintendent, and Mrs Eileen Clark, the play group supervisor, and her helpers. They talked to children in the play group and visited a soldier's house and met a number of wives. The Army has 190 quarters at Widewell.

A similar programme followed at Goosewell, where there are 100 Army houses. Here the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress met Mr Sammy Whittall, the estate superintendent, and the play group organisers led by Mrs Joy Pearson.

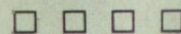


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The Royal Soldiers Daughters' School is for the daughters of soldiers whether serving or ex-service. The school has places for 135 girls and accepts them from the age of five, the upper age limit for entry being normally 11 or 12, depending on when a girl's secondary education starts. Girls may stay until school-leaving age, and any girl recommended and qualified to work for her EEC or A level examinations can stay on.

Academic education takes place at Inner London Education Authority schools and those that are used are good. Homework is done under supervision.



# Super-family keeps on growing

A mum in a million, Mrs Felicity Brown. She has five children of her own but she doesn't mind taking on a few more.

And so far as Mrs Beryl Mackenzie, the Ssafa social worker for the Aldershot Garrison, is concerned, Felicity is a goldmine.

For Felicity, a keen tennis player, is the longest serving foster-mum in the garrison.

Mrs Mackenzie told me: "There are occasions when children from a few weeks old need to be looked after for short periods of up to 28 days. For longer periods the social services take over, so I have a list of foster-mothers. They are needed when mum goes into hospital and perhaps father is in Northern Ireland and granny cannot get down to look after the other children."

I asked Felicity, a dedicated foster-mum, about her last foster-child. "Anthony came just 45 minutes after we arrived back from holiday. Charming little chap, he just could not understand why Lulu the cat could get through the cat trap and not him."

Nothing is too much trouble for Felicity. "When a child needs fostering it's because it's an emergency, so with us it is a total family commitment. Even the cat tells me when the babies cry, and the rabbit plays his part too."

"One does not do it for financial gain. We just find it enriches the whole family; we benefit from the love and affection the children bring to the home. It is depressing to see them go but we all hope that they have enjoyed their time with us, and that we have also helped the parents."

## Angels

Michelle, who is 11, came in, so I asked her about mummy's foster-children. "It's super, I enjoy having

them with us, they are all so good."

"Not always. One must understand that they are not all 'little angels,'" remarked Felicity.

Michelle continued; "When Lucia had her birthday party I sat with Ashley and gave him his supper while he watched the musical bumps; oh he did laugh."

There is plenty of laughter in Felicity's home. "My 14-year-old sister loved the twins. We all enjoy helping mummy with all her babies."

I asked Felicity how it all started. "Well, my husband Gerald brought back a notice when Queen Mary's Nursery closed its doors to residential care and there was nowhere for children to go. He said what about it?"

"He is just as much involved and never knows when he returns from work how many bed-time stories he will have to read."

"Foster-children do need so much more attention, it's a full-time job. I know Mrs Mackenzie is desperate for more foster-mums; posting plays havoc with her list."

## Safeguard

"How do you go about becoming a foster-mum?" I asked.

"Both Ssafa and the social services in the local authority do check to make sure you are suitable. It's to safeguard both child, you and the parents as there are rules and regulations which must be adhered to."

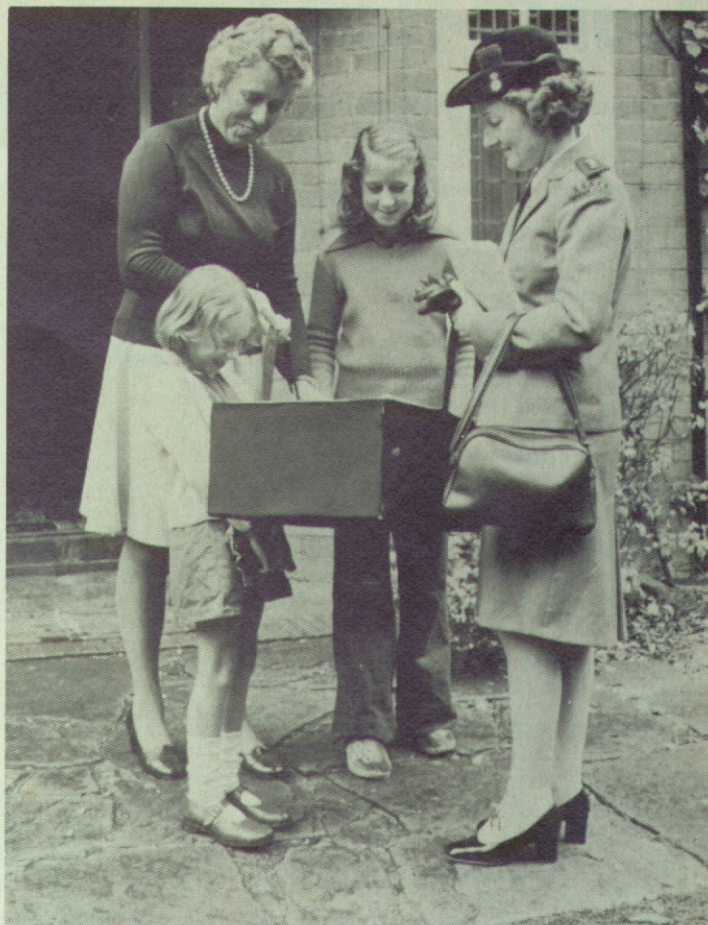
dish so that the number can be seen by the guests as they walk round the table and next to the dish or item place a jam jar with the same number (a plate of scones No 1, jam jar No 1), then continue to lay out the dishes in numerical order round the table.

Now, how to raise to the money. Everyone is asked to buy raffle tickets, for instance five for ten pence. You give the purchasers BOTH tickets, they keep one half and then place the other half in the jam jar of the goods they like. They can put as many tickets as they wish in each jar, but remember to keep one half. At the end, each individual dish or item is raffled so if you have 30 dishes then 30 people have a chance of winning.

You can enlarge as you like with separate tables with large raffles. TV dinner for two, deep-freeze supper, not to mention all the other Christmas decorations or crackers you can raffle.

Add some music, Christmas carols and even dancing and you can have a fund-raising coffee morning or evening with a difference.

With reference to last month's feature on Mrs Cathy Larby, if you wish to leave your kidneys for medical purposes after death, you simply need to carry a signed instruction. The blue-and-red kidney donor cards are available from your local GP, hospital or local government office.



A reflection of the joy another baby in the house brings to Michelle and Lucia, as Mrs Mackenzie hands over to Mrs Brown.

"What about payment?"

"Payment is also in accordance with local social service rates and cannot be looked on as a regular income."

## Kindness

Mrs Mackenzie has an office in Aldershot from which she covers a large area — some 6500 quarters — "So there are bound to be times when I need to call on the kindness of foster-mums to help out." Beryl continued that Queen Mary's Nur-

sery on Middle Hill will take children in from 8 am to 6 pm.

If any mothers are interested in fostering, please contact your Ssafa social worker, families officer, housing commandant or local authority in your area and they can put you in touch with the right people.

Also, an urgent plea. If anyone has any carry-cots, pushchairs, car seats, cloth, especially sweaters, toys, tricycles etc, please give Beryl a ring on Aldershot Military (24431) ext 380. Anything in good condition is welcome.

## Why must we be alone?

Dear Anne,

After speaking with you at the Army wives' coffee morning at Heathfield Camp, Honiton, we would like to express our views about wives having to live in surplus quarters. We are continually being put off with excuses that there are no quarters available at

hill, Wilts, when we have seen for ourselves quarters standing empty for months, and consequently the wives are forced to bring up their children alone, and only see their husbands twice a week. As you can imagine, this causes a great deal of friction and upset between husbands and wives when, as we are always being told, the Army supposedly puts the family's welfare first.

We hope this letter will bring to light the situation we are forced to live in, in this supposedly 'Modern Army.'

Mrs S Stark  
Mrs S Chapman  
Joslin Road  
Honiton  
Devon

The Principal Housing Commandant, South West District, replies:

The only houses that may be empty are those that are waiting either for furnishing or de-furnishing. There are a couple of houses which have got long-term structural problems which are unusable but at present there are no other houses which are not allocated.

We are aware of the problem and have asked for more houses to be built at Bulford or Larkhill, but this has not yet been agreed.

Honiton is one step towards uniting families with husbands, albeit for only two days a week. The alternative could well be complete separation.



# March-past double-take

Two engineer regiments, 23 and 25, marched past Major-General E M Mackay, Rhine Army's Chief Engineer, at Osnabrück, then re-formed and marched past again as 2nd Armoured Division Engineer Regiment.

In his speech, General Mackay said goodbye to 23 and 25 engineer regiments and then "welcome back" to the new formation.

For General Mackay it was also a farewell visit to Osnabrück as he was due to retire after a career which started with the Royal Engineers in 1941 when he became one of the first sapper parachutists.

## Jumped

In 1944 he jumped with 1st Parachute Squadron into Arnhem and led the survivors of the assault in their 72-hour defence of the Arnhem bridge. He was awarded the American Distinguished Service Cross, the

highest US decoration which can be given to a foreigner.

The amalgamation parade, commanded by Colonel A G Steel, CRE 2nd Armoured Division, included a 'feu de joie' which was fired before 23 and 25 engineer regiments marched past under their old titles.

Music was provided by the band of 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Major-General E M Mackay, Rhine Army Chief Engineer, inspecting 23 and 25 engineer regiments before they reformed as 2nd Armoured Division Engineer Regiment.



## Wombat becomes a real sea-dog

The anti-tank platoon of 2nd Battalion, the Royal Green Jackets, was all at sea recently when its men wanted to fire their Wombats.

The trouble was that the close confines of Gibraltar made effective firing of high-explosive almost impossible so a Wombat was taken aboard HMS Jupiter for sea firing.

The Wombat was lashed down securely on the fore's'le of the ship with the First Lieutenant keeping a close watch to make sure his paint work was not damaged. Making sure that no radios or radar were operating, because of the radio frequency hazard, the target was engaged.

The target was an old rubbish barge, thoughtfully still filled with rubbish. As if by magic the first round, fired by Corporal Geordie Carlisle, hit the barge at water level at a range of 800 yards, and was somewhat taken back by the noise of the Wombat—much louder than the 4.5 inch guns of the ship.

Three of the six rounds hit, which

was not bad from a rolling ship at a wallowing barge from an unzeroed gun.

## Old sweats remember

Four survivors of the London Scottish—all now over 80—refought the first battle of Messines, but this time no-one was hurt.

The four old sweats, in a party of 150 ex-London Scottish as guests of the Burgomaster of Ypres, took part in special services of remembrance for the battalion's action in the defence of the town.

In the first battle of Messines on the night of 31 October 1914, The London Scottish, the first Territorial infantry battalion to go into action in the war, charged the German lines at a cost of 350 officers and men.

The party was accompanied by a pipe band and some serving London Scottish Territorials.



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## SECURICOR



# Sport Big Jack's men fight all the way to beat Army

When the Army soccer team met a side from Middlesbrough — joint top of the First Division at the time — it may have lost in terms of goals, but in standards of play the Army came out tops.

And there was praise from 'Boro's manager, 'Big Jack' Charlton, who sets his sights high when aiming for soccer skill. He took the field himself for the last 20 minutes or so of the match in which he saw his squad of younger players — six of whom have first-team experience — plus Boro' star Bobby Murdoch, win 4-2.

He said after the match: "The Army has a very competitive team. They don't like being hustled — we hustled them and it cost them a couple of goals. It was a good game and I enjoyed it."

The crowd at a packed Catterick military stadium enjoyed it too, watching a game that moved mostly in mid-field but broke away at times long enough to make six entertaining goals.

Middlesbrough's young team — with an average age of 18 — kicked off and went into the attack from the whistle, but the Army players were up to the challenge and cleared two early corners which tested the courage of the new Army 'keeper, Dave Steadman from the locally based 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, and did not find him lacking.

It was not long before Army skipper Alf Coulton, wearing the number 10 shirt, was in action trying to emulate his last season's title as

noded one of his accurate headers into the Boro' net from a corner by Derek Meldrum — himself a top goal-scorer for The Black Watch, current Infantry Cup holders.

Vengeance was sweet for both the stars of this move. For, a few minutes earlier, Meldrum had been obstructed just outside the box and the resultant free kick found Goucher who just failed to slot the ball home.

As the first half progressed the Army kept moving the ball about and even got it into the net again just before the interval but an earlier infringement made it no-goal. Number three, Aly MacDonald, joined Goucher in a rugged wall of defence but showed also the ability to make the determined attacking moves he was renowned for during his regular appearances for the Army last year.

When in possession, the young Middlesbrough players controlled and placed the ball well but failed to finish attacking moves decisively and tended to pass too short. But particularly impressive was the tiny Stan Cummins who never stopped running and was rewarded by at least one good shot at goal well saved by Steadman.

But there were stern words for the Middlesbrough side in the dressing room at half-time from Jack



Jack Charlton — still a player to be reckoned with — beats MacDonald.

mix-up that let Bell through to score Boro's second goal. And not a minute later another player with first-team experience, Billy Woof, broke away to score his side's third.

Too late, the Army composed themselves and got back into the game with Meldrum shooting well from the edge of the box, making Middlesbrough 'keeper Pat Cuff dive for the ball.

Jack Charlton himself came on the field to roars of applause and the skill still at the feet of the ex-Leeds star soon showed. After the match the Army's Goucher and MacDonald freely admitted the old master out-foxed them more than once.

He inspired his own team not only by his play but with some verbal encouragement too and it was not long before Woof scored his second goal. But the Army was by no means out, even if it was down, and just four minutes later Coulton pulled back one goal after a good run down the wing by Meldrum.

At the final whistle skipper Coulton was well pleased with his team's performance. In essence he agreed with Jack Charlton's comments: "We played well, apart from that one fatal lapse," he said.

But there was no need to be downhearted by this 4-2 defeat. There were few times last year when the Army side played better and this bodes well for the Kentish Cup international matches in the New Year.

In this competition — last won by the Army in 1970 — the British play the French and Belgian armies in a three-cornered tournament. But while the British players are full-time soldiers and part-time players, the European teams from conscript armies are carefully selected from top professional teams.

Last year the Army's 'home' fixture in the contest was against France who were beaten soundly, despite having nine first and two second division players on the field. But Belgium got the better of the British on their ground at Anderlecht to snatch the title.

This season the Belgians have to come to England and the British go to Paris to meet the French in this top tournament, regrettably taken far more seriously on the Continent than here by supporters. And it is games against top professional sides



Dave Steadman diving to save one of Boro's onslaughts on his goal.

top goal-scorer for the Army and he was unlucky to hit the cross-bar when he made a side-footed shot at the Boro' goal.

But the Boro' were soon back on the attack and Charles Bell cracked a shot from 20 yards out which was well saved by Steadman. First blood went to the Army, though, in the 27th minute when Alan Goucher

Charlton who spelt out some reasons for the 1-0 deficit plus the method of redressing the balance. The effect was immediate and his local discovery Ian Bailey, who gained his first-team spurs last season, ran down the wing and shot wide of the Army 'keeper to equalise not two minutes into the second half.

This was when the hustling started. Just a few minutes later the Army was pushed into a defensive

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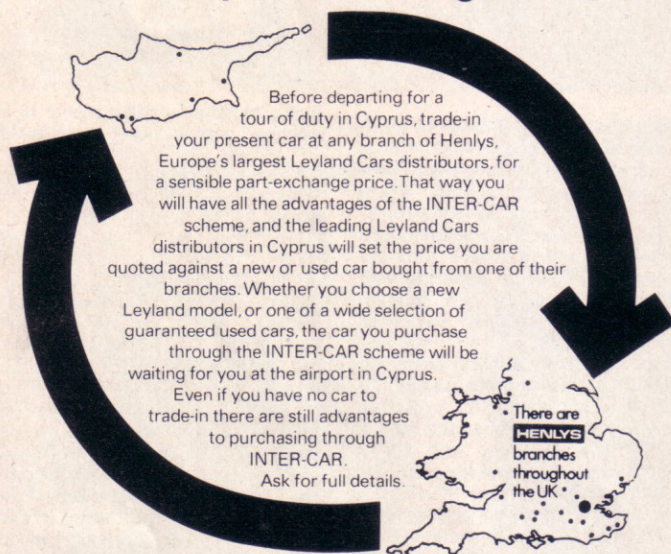
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# Commandos beat off Guards attack to win Cambrian March

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In one of the closest-fought competitions for years, Commando units held off a strong challenge by the Welsh Guards to win the 17th Cambrian March held over a 100km course in mid-Wales.

The Cambrian March, one of the toughest tests devised for infantry in peacetime, combines rugged cross-country patrolling with a wide variety of tests of military skills.

As in previous years the placings depended on the results of the military skills with only 60 points separating the top ten teams on the marching sections. Indeed the final result was so close that it depended on a single target (five points each) in the final shoot at Sennybridge.

The competition started at dawn on Thursday 16 September when the 18 teams in the four-day march set off south into the mid-Wales mountains from Kerry near Newtown.

The end came at about noon on Sunday when the teams crossed the finishing line after a 15km forced march in full kit across Sennybridge ranges and into Sennybridge Camp.

And then the stories began to circulate:

**How** last year's winners, Training Battalion and Depot, Army Catering Corps, made a navigation error on the first day and never managed to get back into the running for prizes.

**How** winners 45 Commando Group Royal Marines C team kept bumping into other teams in the desperately difficult night navigation test through the pitch-dark Radnor Forest.

**How** a Light Infantry team couldn't get a stretcher into the ambulance on the first-aid test.

**How** a Welsh Guards team got only four points out of 40 on the distance judging test.

**How** a member of another Welsh Guards team complained to an umpire "It's just not cricket" after failing to hit a target on the grenade-throwing test.

**How** a senior member of the staff of Headquarters Wales sneaked away after hearing a team member muttering after one of the tests: "If I ever get my hands on the B----- who thought that one up..."

**How** two nursing officers from 203 Welsh General Hospital RAMC (V) from Cardiff — the first women to help provide medical cover for the march — were ordered: "You must wear trousers at ALL times."

**How** 3 RRW team dropped 40 points on the forced march — by getting lost — and lost the principal prize in the two-day event.

**How** an Alouette pilot, when asked to investigate smoke in the distance, said: "I can't, it's off the map."

**And** finally how PRO Wales apologised to SOLDIER, "Sorry no pix, camera broke."

Nevertheless all teams were soon in: Stats (Pay Branch, HQ Wales) had computed the figures, and it was time for Major-General John Graham, GOC Wales, to present the prizes for a most successful Cambrian March.

### Results—

Four-day event: 1st 45 Commando Group RM C (1180 points), 2nd 42 Commando RM (1176½), 3rd 1 Welsh Guards C (1154). Best TAVR team: 3rd (V) Bn, Royal Regiment of Wales (1040½) (10th overall). Two-day event: 1st 157 Regt RCT (V) (640), 2nd 3rd (V) RRW (616½), 3rd 3rd (V) RWF (596½).

### Other placings—

Four-day event: 4 45 Cdo Gp RM B (1115½), 5 W Coy, Royal Netherlands Marine Corps (1103½), 6 59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE (1102), 7 1 WG A (1097), 8 1 WG B (1057½), 9 LI Depot B (1047), 10 3 (V) RRW (1040½), 11 45 Cdo Gp RM A (987), 12 Rifle Depot (921), 13 Liverpool UOTC (892½), 14 3 (V) RWF (864½), 15 LI Depot A (855), 16 14 Sig Regt (812), 17 Trg Bn & Depot ACC (811), 18 Depot Regt RA (590OE).

Two-day event: 4 2 Wessex (591), 5 104 Lt AD Regt RA (V) (566½), 6 R Mon RE (M) (543½), 7 5 RRF (525), 8 4 (V) RRW (462½), 9 6 LI (457½).

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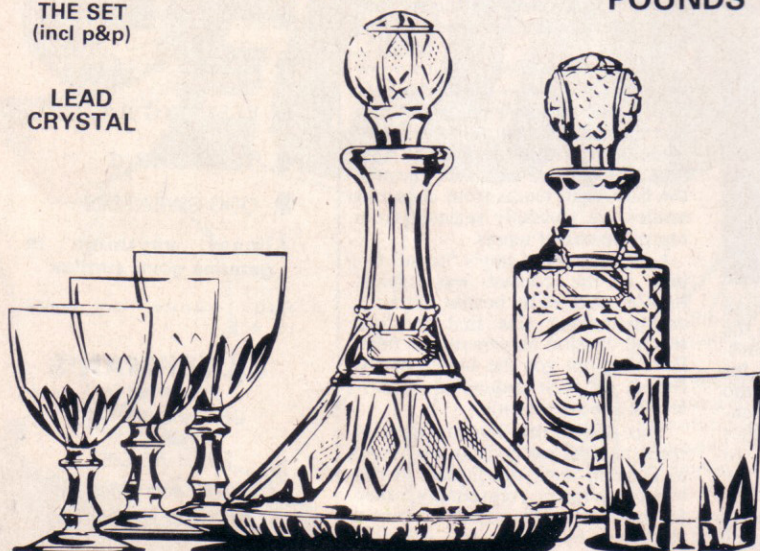
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# This one didn't get away!



The first-ever inter-Service fly-fishing match ended in a win for the Royal Navy with the challengers, RAF, runners-up in the highest total weight contest.

The winners, with 15lb 4oz of fish, took the RAF Angling Association Challenge Shield. The RAF scored 9lb 7oz and the Army trailed with 3lb 6oz.

The Royal Navy Cup for the heaviest individual catch went to Chief Petty Officer P Hughes with 6lb 4oz. Each team was allowed up to 12 anglers fishing, either from the banks of the Eye Brook Reservoir near Corby or from boats, for rainbow or brown trout.

Picture by Senior Aircraftman Nick Rust.

## Sports shorts

### SAILING

Netley Sailing Club's team of dinghy helmsmen was well placed after hosting one of the regattas held by the 21 or so clubs in the Southampton Water Sailing Association. It was the first time Netley, with its joint civilian and Army membership, had entered a team for the association's events.

Overall positions were: 1st S/Sgt Ken Foskett, R Sigs (Laser); 5th Maj Roger Grannum, RAPC (Laser); 8th Mr Derek Witts (Kestrel); 9th Mr Alan England (Bosun); 11th Dvr Ray Graham (Merlin Rocket).

Helming in his first race for the club was SOLDIER's Mike Starke who admits to coming 33rd out of 39. Fortunately for Netley, only the first five team members home counted. In the slow handicap section, Glyn Palethorpe in a Mirror came 5th for Netley. Other clubs represented were Weston, Southampton, Solent Breezes, Esso, Hythe, Southampton Schools, Burfield Lake and Netley Cliff.

### SHOOTING

The French military rifle team took all three first places in a shoot against the Combined Services at Warminster. But the Regular Army had some success in team events.

Results. Smallbore long-range: 1st Regular Army (6217), 2nd RAF (6146), 3rd RN (6138). 50-metre match: 1st Reg Army (4672), 2nd RAF (4615), 3rd RN (4593). Gilbert Cannon inter-Service long-range small-bore trophy: 1st Reg Army (10,889), 2nd RAF (10,761), 3rd RNR (10,635). TAVR won the reserve forces shield. International match, smallbore long range: 1st Combined Services (6222), 2nd French (6196). 50-metre: 1st Combined Services (4667), French (4640). Three-positions match: 1st French (3275), 2nd Combined Services (3230). Aggregate: Combined Services 14119, French 1411.

Long-range match (Bisley): 1st Reg Army (719), 2nd French Army (690). Pistol match, centre fire: 1st French (2325), 2nd Reg Army (2237). Smallbore pistol: 1st French (2256), 2nd Reg Army (2165).

### SOCCER

There were mixed fortunes for the Army soccer side in early matches of the season. It lost 0-2 to Farnborough Town, beat Carshalton Athletic 2-1 and the youth team lost 0-5 to Fourth Division Aldershot's youngsters.

### TENNIS

The reigning Army inter-unit team tennis champions successfully defended their title at Aldershot this year. The 1st Division HQ and Signal Regiment team from Rhine Army beat the United Kingdom finalists, Royal Army Pay Corps, Worthy Down. The winning team was: Majors Tony Moore, John Edwards, John Woodliffe, S/Sgt Bill Miles, Signalmen Brian Griffiths and David Edwards.



## Bill Rules, OK!

After a parachute drop of some 2800 feet, crack Army sky-diver Staff-Sergeant Bill Rule landed just eight inches from the beer-mat-sized target disc used in accuracy events.

This jump — the best of five which Bill made in the Army's two-day North East and North West Districts sport parachute accuracy

contest — was enough to win him the military expert class title. A chief clerk with HQ NE District, he has been parachuting for five years and has logged 458 descents.

Second in the military experts class was Corporal Adrian Wilkinson, 5th Royal Iniskilling Dragoon Guards, and third Corporal Nigel Cartledge, 8 Signal Regiment.

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# Nippy tourists come far too close

The Japanese rugby tourists only just lost their fixture against the Combined Services whose mistakes left the visitors 17-9 ahead at half-time.

The Services side took a long time to realise that one sure method of beating the Japanese was to drive the ball at their physically smaller players until their defence was absorbed.

For the whole of the first half the Services' stodginess in failing to make anything of their forwards' overwhelming superiority in the maul-and-drive contrasted strongly with the Japanese nippiness at exploiting mistakes.

## Tactics

Thus the half-time score at Devonport took on a rosy glow for the land of the Rising Sun. And someone, somewhere, must have had a few hard words to say to the Services side during the interval. For the obvious change of tactics brought the Services back into the game and to an ultimate 23-21 victory.

Spawforth — an Army star — took on the Japanese back row and played back to his forwards instead of giving the ball to his centres to drop and the Services made up their deficit to win by two goals, two tries and a penalty to a goal, three tries and one penalty.

## Combined Services

Lieut P J Wright, Cpl S Perry, PO

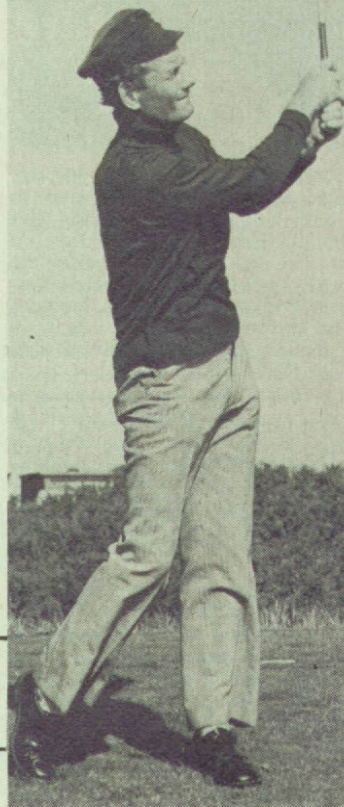
P Williams, Cpl S G Jackson, Cpl D B Reynolds, Cpl J H Morgan, Cpl D Spawforth, Sgt D R W Pulford, S/Sgt J B Mills, Sub-lieut J C Ackerman, L/Cpl S Peacock, CPO M Lane, Flt/Sgt G Bond, Cfn R A Spurrell, Sqn-Ldr G W Fraser (Capt). Substitute: Capt C J W Gilbert for Spurrell.

## Stud worry

The Army Rugby Union warned at its annual general meeting recently that referees would be empowered to check boots before a game, because of the number of injuries caused by sharp and worn studs.

The AGM also heard that WO1 Rickey Braybrooke has been appointed national coach for the Army under-19 team.

RSM Bob Hanna of the Royal Military Police, and captain of the Army team, drives off in the competition.



## ARMY FIGHTS OFF INTER-SERVICE CHALLENGE

The Army successfully defended its inter-Service golf championship title, beating the Navy 9½ matches to 2½ and the RAF nine to three.

Warrant Officer 2 Reg Simpson Royal Signals, won his Army colours by playing in the match against the Navy and although he lost his single game, he was successful in the foursomes in partnership with Regimental Sergeant-Major Bob Hanna, Royal Military Police.

The winning Army players all had good rounds, but special mention should be made of Corporal Chris Carveth, Royal Signals, who won all his matches in convincing style.

SOLDIER's golfer and photographer Doug Pratt has emerged club champion of his own club at Weymouth and has also retained the Porteus Cup as his club's match-play champion.

## Run broken

The Soldier Cup for the winning junior team in the long-distance canoe race in the Army canoe championships at Monmouth was won by Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

This was the first time that Harrogate has won, breaking a four-year unbroken run by Arborfield.

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## Divers test their deep-sea sight

A party of 15 divers, mainly from 24 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, recently returned from a diving expedition to Norway.

The party, led by Captain H C Abela, was based at Grimstad in South Norway.

During the three-week expedition, divers carried out two scientific projects for Durham University. The projects were conducted by two scientists who flew out from the UK to Norway specifically for this purpose.

The first project was an original work in colour vision underwater which set out to study what impression certain colours make on divers at different depths. Tests were carried out using scientifically balanced colours and a spectrometer.

The project leader, Mr P Emmerston, received a lot of help from the ICI Research Department in setting up his experiment. Such studies could lead to greater safety under water particularly in hazardous areas such as the North Sea.

The second project was a survey of kelp, a kind of seaweed, carried out under the direction of Mr J Mullett. It is the first time that such a survey has been conducted in South Norway and the data gathered will

prove very useful to Dr David Belamy, the British marine biologist, in his studies on pollution. These plants are also proving their importance in industry.

"The area with its countless islands made diving very interesting and challenging," said Captain Abela.

## Winners pennant

NINE teams from seven junior regiments took part in this year's junior Army sailing championships at Dover, hosted by last year's winners, the Royal Engineers Junior Leaders Regiment.

The Lagos Trophy for the under-18 team went to the Army Apprentice College, Chepstow, with 44½ points, with the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College as runners-up. The home team was third.

The under-18 individual prize was taken by Apprentice Sergeant Hill and Apprentice Tradesman Miller of Army Apprentices College, Chepstow. For the first time an under-20 championship was held—this was won by Apprentice Brown and Apprentice Lance-Corporal Shorter of the Army Catering Corps.



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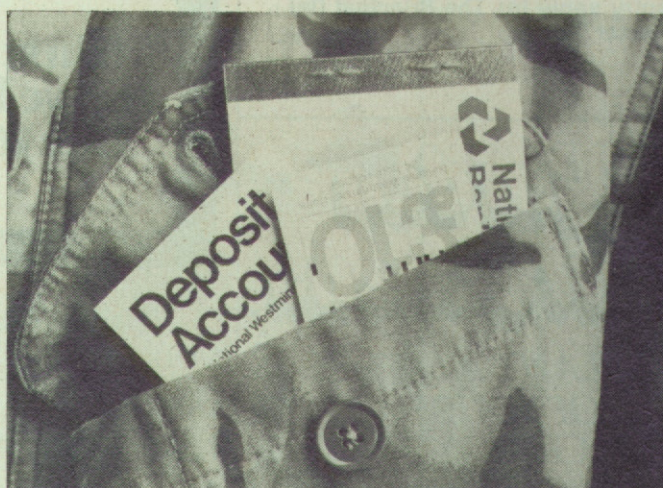
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\*Chief Electoral Officer, Belfast by 15 December for N. Ireland residents.

# It's your vote **X** don't lose it!



# Military models: Pink Panther

FIGHTING VEHICLES are camouflaged to merge chameleon-like with their background. They could be a sombre grey in city streets, matt white against Arctic snowscapes and grass green on the fertile plains of Europe. But where on earth would they be painted pastel pink?

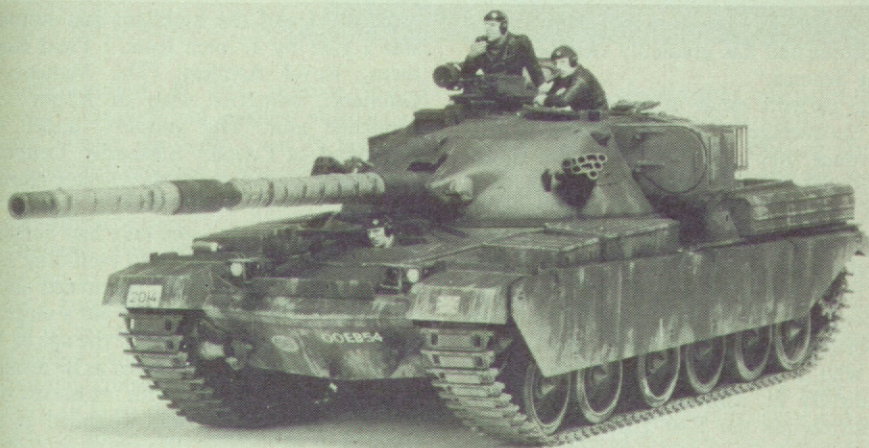
The answer is in the desert, where the sand ranges through shades of rust-red, orange-yellow and buff-brown.

The Japanese firm of Tamiya has probably picked a winner with this month's main model (right), the so-called 'Pink Panther' Land-Rover. Not only does it have unconventional colouring but it belongs to that



wears the distinctive winged dagger badge, beret and boots and gaiters. This is unlikely apparel since the SAS tend not to wear insignia and badges of rank in the field, and suede ankle boots with crepe soles are the most comfortable and common footwear in the desert.

Tamiya, whose kits are marketed in this country by Richard Kohnstam (Riko) Ltd of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, has also recently released a Sturmpanzer Brummbär (grizzly bear) self-propelled gun (below) at £3.50 and re-issued the Mark 5 Chieftain tank (left) at £3.99. Both are in 1:35th scale with transfer decals and assembly and painting instructions. **HH**



exceptional regiment, the Special Air Service.

The vehicle is not the new, lightweight one but the long-wheelbased version without windscreen and side doors. It comes as a kit of plastic parts in 1:35th scale at a recommended retail price of £1.99. The moulding is very crisp even down to tiny rivets and the Land-Rover crest. There is a wealth of detail such as smoke dischargers, small arms, radio, spotlights, jerrycans, pioneer tools and pierced steel planking for 'unsticking' the vehicle from soft sand.

Modellers should however be wary of the odd item. The rifle is described as being an 'FN' — this of course is the Belgian Fabrique Nationale weapon on which the standard issue SLR is based. The driver figure



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# Sixty Years on from the Somme

SIXTY YEARS AGO, with the carnage of World War One at its bloody height, something had to be done to cope with the massive homecoming of permanently war-disabled men. Men without legs, without arms, shell-shocked and their physical youth gone for ever.

In 1916 the Star and Garter home at Richmond was founded and away in the north-west of England another similar organisation was launched — the East Lancashire Homes for Disabled Sailors and Soldiers.

Today, although the horror of the Somme lives on only in the minds of a few, the East Lancashire Homes still exist—although there is now in fact only one home, a rambling manor house at Salford on the outskirts of Manchester.

Broughton House has a permanent residential capacity of 51 men plus an additional short-stay capacity of five to enable wives or children to take a holiday from looking after a disabled old soldier.

There is a waiting list of five at present although Mr Geoffrey Harrison, a Manchester accountant who acts as secretary to the Homes, says that the qualifications for entry have changed over the years. "Nowadays a man does not have to have developed a disability as a direct result of his service in the forces. The majority of our limbless men are First World War but over the last ten years the proportion has gradually switched over to the Second."

The patients range in age from 50 to 86 with the average in the upper sixties. In general, once they come to Broughton House that is their home for the rest of their lives. None of the present patients goes back to earlier than 1953; the longest recorded stay was of a man admitted in 1917 who finally died in 1969 after more than half a century.

Broughton House cannot cope with a high proportion of heavy nursing cases so the man who is admitted, while disabled, is not chronically ill. Unlike some old people's establishments the East Lancashire prides

itself on a free and easy atmosphere rather than echoes of the barrack square.

Each evening there is a bar at which the men can buy their own drinks. Some go out to local pubs and clubs and there's even a miniature snooker table for the 'Pot Black' specialists.

Wilfred Taylor is only 51 and a former Fleet Air Arm pilot. Paralysed and able to paint only with great difficulty, he has nevertheless produced so many paintings that an exhibition of his work was recently mounted at Broughton House and many of them have been sold to connoisseurs.

Until recently the link with the Services had steadily diminished almost to vanishing point. But this last year a new link has been established and the highlight last summer was a visit by 17 men from 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (The Manchester Gunners), complete with an Abbot self-propelled gun. The gunners, under the command of Captain Alexander Deuchar, were on a tour of their Manchester recruiting area.

"Not like my day—we only had horses," said a sprightly veteran with twinkling eyes and a shock of silver hair. He turned out to be Andrew Harwood, now 81 but a sergeant in the Royal Field Artillery at the age of 19.

The twinkle in his eye faded as he recalled his days on the Somme with six horses pulling 25-pounders. "I was wounded at the







Left: Trolley of goodies makes its way into the main ward at Broughton House.  
Above: A game of miniature snooker.

commencement of the Somme but I remained on duty and received mustard gas burns all over the body. I lost 28 horses in the bombardment and it was hell. It used to hurt me to see the horses hurt—they must have suffered agony."

Andrew, who won the Military Medal, calls out as we leave: "Don't forget to say what a good job Colonel Gibbs is doing for all of us in here."

Colonel Donald Gibbs is chairman of the executive committee tasked with raising money to keep the Homes going. National and local authorities contribute to patients'

upkeep but Colonel Gibbs calculates that an additional £20,000 a year is needed. "That is just to maintain and run existing services. But our standards are high and we mean to maintain as high a home standard as we can. We want to enable the men in here to carry on with a reasonable life."

On a motorway service station in August there was an unusual exchange. A vehicle from the south's Star and Garter Home met a vehicle from Broughton House and their passengers changed over. The idea was to give patients a change of scenery and a holiday. It is hoped to extend the idea next year.

As wars faded into history and became ever more unreal it is important that the victims of those wars should not become discarded pawns. This is the view of Colonel Gibbs and the staff of Broughton House — and 2500 men have had cause to be grateful to them and their forebears over the last six decades.

Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Paul Haley

Left: The Manchester Gunners chat to the old campaigners. Andrew Harwood is standing.

Right: Bill Tomkin, an ex-Border Regiment private, busies himself with basket weaving.

Far right: Mr Wilfred Taylor, whose art has gone on exhibition at Broughton House.



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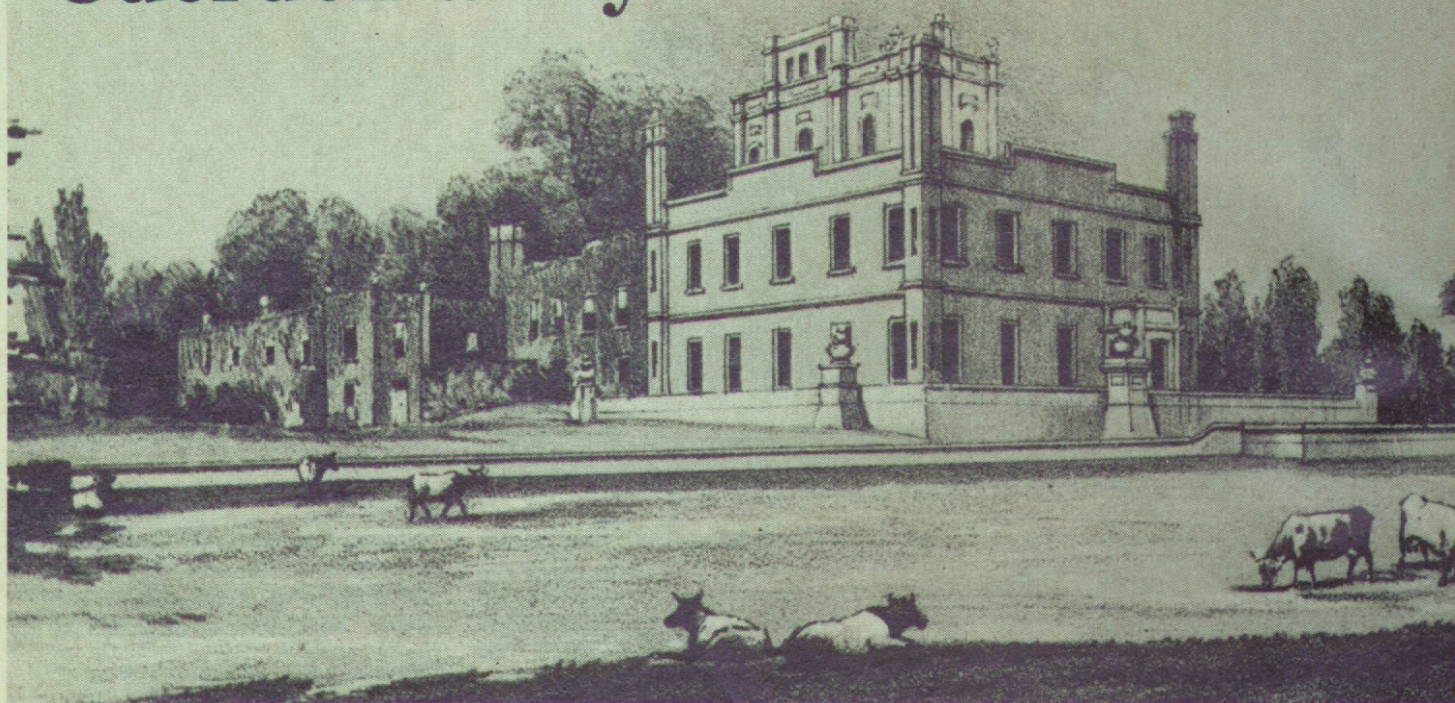
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# Cuerden away



FROM THE baronial splendour of a former country seat to a haunted Victorian barrack block. That is the move to be made this month by the 100 staff of the Army's North West District Headquarters.

Cuerden Hall, the stately home at Bamber Bridge just outside Preston, will be vacated and handed over to the Central Lancashire New Towns Corporation while the HQ will move to Fulwood Barracks, Preston, former home of the Junior Infantrymen's Wing, which is being modernised and adapted.

Cuerden Hall, the spacious lawns of which have provided a superb setting for an occasional beating the Retreat, is on the site of a manor mentioned in the Domesday Book. Part of the building dates back to

1717 and major alterations were made around 1816-19 and in 1907.

During World War One it was a private hospital for wounded soldiers. It was requisitioned in World War Two and occupied first as an Army education centre and then as the headquarters of 4 Anti-Aircraft Group of Anti-Aircraft Command. Later it was used as officers' living quarters and in 1958 was purchased and converted into offices the following year.

Many of the staff will be sorry to leave the splendour of Cuerden. One lady who has family links with the hall is Mrs Carole Brown. On arriving to work as a clerk in the District Public Relations Office she found herself working in the very room in which

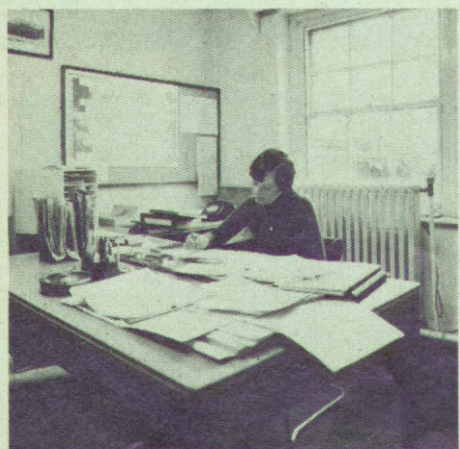
her mother had slept while in service to the private owners many years before.

At Fulwood it seems doubtful if the headquarters staff will be bothered by the ghost of an executed private who is reputed to haunt the barracks. In 1861, Private McCaffery of the 32nd Regiment (Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry) was given seven days confinement to barracks for a disciplinary offence. A little later he saw the adjutant and commanding officer walking across the barrack square and, taking his rifle, hit them both with one ball. Both men died and McCaffery was hanged but he was later claimed to have returned in spectral form to the scene of the crime. Soon his haunts will echo with the clatter of typewriters.

Above: Part of a lithograph of Cuerden Hall as it was. The structure has changed little today.

Right: Two of the military staff take a break on a stone gaming table from Cuerden's cockpit.

Below: Mrs Carole Brown working in the office which was at one time her mother's bedroom.





# On record



**Caernarfon Male Choir** (Conductor: Hayden Wyn Davies) and **Regimental Band, 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers** (Conductor: Bandmaster B A Hughes) (SAIN 1039D)

This privately made LP pulls all the stops in an orgy of Welsh choral and national fervour. The trouble is that it sounds as if it was all recorded in the ruins of Caernarfon Castle, with the band usually too much to the fore in choral items. My copy of the disc was so warped I must be charitable and blame most of the faults on that.

Nevertheless the whole thing is sung and played with great enthusiasm and Mr Hughes has contributed a couple of rousing marches and an effective arrangement of Welsh airs, 'Cambria.'

The band on its own plays the two marches 'New Era' and 'Uniad,' two arrangements by Clare Grundman of 'The British Grenadiers' (the regimental march) and 'A Welsh Rhapsody,' and two movements from Norman Richardson's suite 'The Countryman.'

The choir joins the band for Wagner's 'Roman War Song' from the opera 'Rienzi,' Mozart's 'O Isis and Osiris,' 'The Anvil Chorus' from Verdi's 'Il Trovatore,' 'Men of Harlech,' 'Deus Salutis,' 'Llanfair' and the 'Gloria' by Mozart.

At a guess, and trying to imagine the music without the warp-wobble of my copy, I would say well worth having.

Available from Bandmaster, 1 RWF, Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, Hants, £2.49 plus postage and packing (21p UK, 86p overseas). **RB**

## Brass in brief

**'Superstar Brass'** (The Band of Yorkshire Imperial Metals (conducted by Trevor Walmsley) (Pye Top Brass TBX 3008)

Excuse for the title is a medley of tunes from 'Godspell' and 'Jesus Christ Superstar' but it is in any case well deserved. Marches 'Florentiner' and 'Procession of the Sirdar,' solos 'El Cumbanchero' (cornet), 'Holiday for Trombones,' 'Summertime' (soprano cornet) and 'Largo al Factotum' (euphonium). Leroy Anderson's 'The Typewriter' and Rossini's overture 'The Silken Ladder.' **RB**

**'Clayhanger'** (The Royal Doulton Band) (Conductor: Edward Gray) (Pye Top Brass TBX 3005) Who, if not the Doulton boys, should be first in the queue with the theme from 'Clayhanger'? The sleeve portrays the film set most evocatively. 'The Falcons,' 'To a Wild Rose,' 'Trumpets Wild,' 'March of the Toys,' yet another 'Instant Concert' form side one. Side two has Harry Mortimer's march 'Pendine,' a rare performance of the Victorian tearjerker 'The Rosary,' 'The Entertainer,' 'Work Song,' and a selection from 'Paint Your Wagon.' Good stuff. **RB**

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# Gurkhas Way Out West

Pointing his finger at a 4000lb mound of rice in his store, the Canadian supplies sergeant at Camp Wainwright, Alberta, told a British infantry battalion quartermaster: "Look, Sir, I'm not going to be able to take any of this back when you go."

One week later the rice had gone and at the end of the five-week exercise so had a further 14,000lb of rice, ten cwt of lentils and nearly 1000lb of fresh spices. They had gone into curry — twice a day — eaten by men of 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas Rifles.



Loading rice aboard a Scout helicopter for a re-supply run to the Gurkha company camps.

Left: Demonstrating a Gurkha kukri's sharpness on a sturdy Canadian tree.

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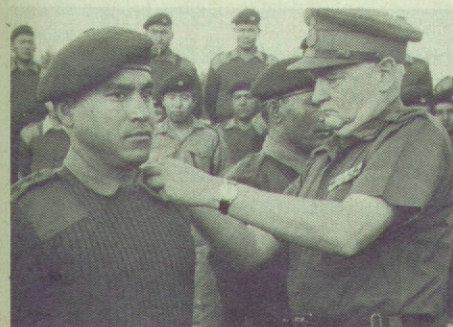
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Exercise Pond Jump 3 was the first chance the Church Crookham-based battalion had to train together for more than a year. The Gurkhas spurned the comforts of Camp Wainwright itself and settled for camps in the training areas — which soon became just as comfortable. They slung their ponchos from saplings and, with not a camp bed in sight, chopped more saplings to form a bed some two feet off the ground, then covering it with dry grass and leaves.

Around their campfires they built benches where at night they sat singing the songs of Nepal, dancing, drinking and talking. During the exercise the battalion was visited by the Commander-in-Chief, United Kingdom Land Forces, General Sir Edwin Bramall, who has just taken over as Colonel of the Regiment. He spent a night out in the field and commissioned three Gurkha warrant officers — thought to be the first field commission since Malaya.

From a report by Martin Helm, Public Relations, HQ UKLF. Pictures: Sergeant Jim Dickson.



Left: A Gurkha warrant officer is commissioned in the field by General Sir Edwin Bramall.

Above: Campfire songs in good old Nepal style on the flat prairies of Alberta.

## The vital importance of your first civilian home.

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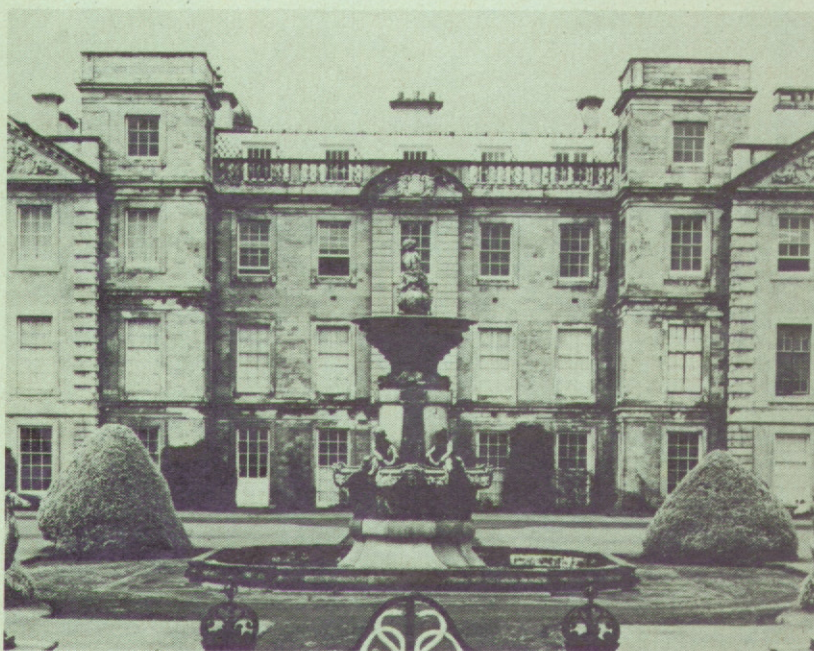
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And of course, he must have a genuine interest in a career as an Army Officer.

If he has and we think he's good enough, we'll give him the best possible start in becoming an officer in the Army's technical Corps.

(It will, incidentally, be largely at the Army's expense not the parents'. Your contribution is very reasonable and in some cases could be nothing at all.)

What your son will get is basically a 6th form education to 'A' level standard in maths, physics and related subjects.

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because success at Welbeck guarantees a place at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

And not only this; once commissioned, the majority of Welbeck boys go on to University at the Army's expense.

Most boys are commissioned into the REME, R Signals, RAOC and RE. Some go to the RA and RCT and a few to the RAC and Infantry.

We ought to point out that it is only at Sandhurst that your son will begin to wear uniform. At Welbeck he is a civilian.

And apart from some outward bound or adventure training plus Cadet corps training, the syllabus is little different from that of a first-class public school.

There's plenty of sport too. As well as school games, he can go sailing, rock climbing and orienteering.

And as you can see from the photograph, Welbeck is an old stately home which is set in beautiful grounds.

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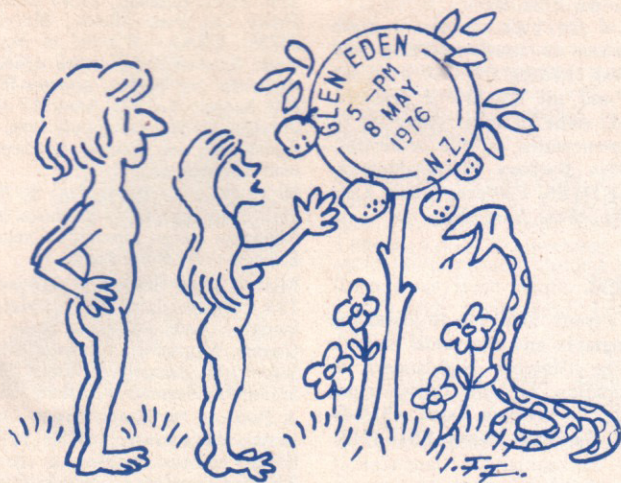
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F21



# Letters



## 'Line' uniform

First, may I congratulate you on the new format and contents of your September issue.

Watching the Edinburgh Tattoo on television I was really thrilled when I heard the drums and fifes of The Royal Anglian Regiment and saw them in the old 'Line' uniform I well remember before 1914.

Their marching, dressing and playing was satisfactory but I was appalled by their 'covering' on the final line-up. They certainly require some old-fashioned drill however good they may be at dances!

To my mind the Gurkha Rifles were the best. — **R T Wilson, Bank Nook, 1 Kingston Garth, Fylingthorpe, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4UN.**

## Ord Hume

I am a civilian with no Service time in at all but I always read SOLDIER and enjoy the book and record reviews as well as the letters.

Looking back at Letters (August and December 1973, and August 1974), I am saddened that no record of Ord Hume marches has yet been produced. It may interest others to know that my school band had an Ord Hume march book when I was a boy in 1945. The great man conducted our band in a series of concerts in 1932 and every year we had a Sunday parade dedicated to his name. This was in Southern Ireland where the very many marches of Ord Hume are most popular. In my view this composer has never been given the recognition he so richly deserves and I too hope that some enterprising band will make a record devoted to him.

As a collector of military band records I would like to have three marches — 'The Flying Eagle' and 'New Comrades in Arms' by Blankenburg and 'Graf Zeppelin' by Teike — and would be glad of help from any readers who know of any publications or could help in any way. I would also like to see Ricketts's 'Glory of Arnhem' appear as a record one of these days. — **Frank Wyse, 46 Stanley Road, Northwood, Middlesex.**

## Come in, ex-boys

A call is being made to ex-boy apprentices of the Royal Signals with a view to holding an annual dinner and/or reunion. Any ex-boy apprentice non-serving or still serving who is interested in this idea is asked to contact me. — **Staff-Sergeant Gordon Pickard, Royal Signals, 12 Jarvis Way, Stalbridge, Dorset, DT10 2NP.**

## Living legend

In Sport (June) you recorded that 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, had won the major units rugby final 11 times although losing in this year's final to 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. The Dukes' 'dominance of the field tramped by rugby boots has become a living Army legend,' you said.

May I draw readers' attention to the fact that at the time of the formation of The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot) seven years ago, The Welch Regiment had already won the Army Cup ten times and The South Wales Borderers were the then holders and, with the 'Dukes,' were the only regiment to have won the cup four years in succession.

Since the amalgamation of these two outstanding rugby-playing Welsh regiments to form The Royal Regiment of Wales, they have won the Army Cup twice and played in the final five times in the seven years of the regiment's existence. And what about the Welsh Guards? Ten times winners and finalists 18 times.

One certainly recognises the 'Dukes' as a good rugby-playing regiment but hardly as a 'living legend,' except perhaps in their own minds. — **GJB Egerton, Pen-y-Maes, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford.**

## New rifle

The new rifle described in 'Smaller and lighter' (August) appears to be a streamlined and modified version of a previous experimental rifle produced some years ago and designated the EM2. This weapon was never adopted as it did not perform well during tests, one of the disadvantages being that because the ejection port

was near the firer's face it could not be fired by a left-handed marksman. This same feature is apparently incorporated in the new rifle.

If a replacement is required for the sterling sub-machine-gun, why not the French 9mm MAT 49 — this compact and handy weapon has proved itself over many years and is still very popular with French troops. — **'Tommy' (name and address supplied).**

*\*The EM2 rifle was indeed to have been adopted, following an announcement in April 1951, as the British No. 9 rifle but after consultations with Nato allies the plan was shelved and when, in May 1957, the 7.62mm standard Nato round (still used today) was adopted, the EM2 rifle was dropped. The new system, although very similar in appearance, chambers a much smaller round (4.85mm) and incorporates many new features — as a result of 20 years' extra development — which make it versatile enough to replace existing weapons. The ejection port is interchangeable so that the rifle can also be safely fired by a left-handed person. The object, for cheapness and ease of maintenance, is to have just one gun. Using a different weapon in the sub-machine-gun role negates that object.*

## Medal mart

I feel compelled to reply to Mr Murray Flinton's letter (August) on medals and decorations. Like many other people he attaches far more importance to them than they are worth. Most of the World War One medals now on the market were put there by relatives and the majority of museums have not the room to display all the medals. If, as Mr Flinton suggests, they were returned to the Crown, what would the Crown do with them?

I feel that by banging out a gong, the Government got off cheaply in rewarding merit, distinguished service and minor acts of bravery. Why cannot these medals be treated as exactly what they are — a coin intended for display rather than circulation.

In 1919 I received my medals

through the post but can't remember what I got them for. I sold them for £60 which enabled me to give my late wife our first holiday in 14 years. I was lucky — many sets of medals finished up in pawnshops for pennies during the 1930s.

Some of the bravest men I have ever met were the firemen who served in the London blitz. They received only the unnamed Defence Medal for their efforts.

Interest in and collecting of medals is a comparatively recent hobby. At least the investment value keeps the early silver medals out of the melting pot which in turn keeps alive the memory of the men who received them. — **F Pinkard, 130 Lutterworth Road, Northampton, NN1 5JL.**

## John Reed walks

In his review (June) of the record 'Cossack Patrol,' your reviewer RB said he was mystified by the song 'John Reed Walks to Petrograd.'

It might be of interest to know that John Reed was an American journalist in Russia during the Revolution, with which he heartily sympathised, and he later wrote a book, 'Ten Days Which Shook the World,' about the events of 1917. As Petrograd (now Leningrad) was then the Russian capital, he was stationed there so there seems to be no reason why he should have walked there. Perhaps this has some idiomatic reason and is a bad translation.

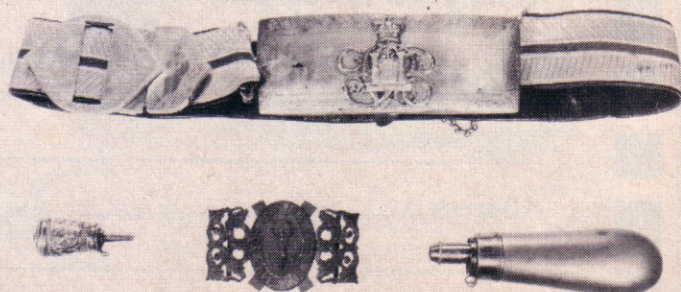
John Reed died of typhus in Russia and is buried under the walls of the Kremlin beside Lenin's tomb — he is, I think, the only foreigner to be buried there. As he was one of the first foreigners to interpret the Revolution abroad, he was very highly regarded. There is a good deal more about him in Negley Farson's book, 'The Way of a Transgressor.'

I always enjoy your caustic and refreshingly frank reviews of records. We have an excellent military band here, the Fifth Military District Band, run by Colin Harper, ex-Gordons. He has made a marvellous job of various arrangements and gets enthusiastic and top-class performances out of the band. We also have

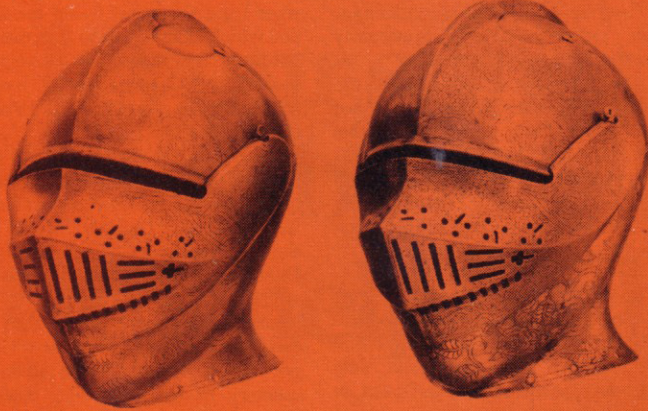
## At auction

A Victorian officer's full-dress shoulder belt and pouch (below) fetched £130 when sold at auction by Weller & Dufty Ltd, Birmingham. A heavy quality Hawksley common top copper bag-shaped

flask (bottom right) realised £40, a rare gilt brass belt buckle of the Royal Company of Archers (bottom centre) £22, and a miniature silver-plated priming flask (bottom left) £42.







## Heads and helmets

Heads have always been in good supply at the Tower of London and there is now a royal crop of them there at the newly opened Heads and Horses Gallery in the Crypt of St John. This showpiece is devoted to the history of the Tower Armouries, the oldest organised museum in the country, created in the 1680s.

Forming the central feature are carved wooden heads of the kings of England, sculpted by leading craftsmen of the day. They originally formed part of a display known as the Line of Kings and are on show for the first time since the late 19th century. At the back of the gallery are two fine horse sculptures by Grinling Gibbons and John Nost.

Two Victorian showcases, one con-

taining forgeries bought as genuine by the Tower in the 19th century, and a display of items supposedly taken from the Spanish Armoury of 1558, are also to be seen.

Just outside the new gallery the Tower is displaying for the first time a great helm. Back in the 14th century only the richest could afford a great helm so few were made and only three survive.

Visitors can even take home a medieval headgear for themselves in a superb fibre-glass reproduction (above, left) of Henry VIII's gilt engraved helmet (above, right) on sale at the Tower bookstall for £55 — yes, £55.

These are splendid 'fakes' of a typical early 16th century Armat helmet, delicately engraved with Tudor roses.

several flourishing pipe bands, notably the Police Pipe Band which recently acquitted itself well at the Edinburgh Tattoo, and the Fremantle Ladies' Pipe Band.

One of the high schools in Perth specialises in music teaching and talented children from all over the city, and the country if possible, attend, some of them going on to conservatoriums or into orchestras.

— Mrs Barbara Harper-Nelson, Rising Dawn, Pomeroy Road, Lesmurdie, West Australia.

## Help!

Can anyone help me in obtaining photographs and regimental journals of The Glasgow Highlanders or information on the disbandment parade? — William Gunn, 63 Ashfields, Basildon, Essex, SS13 1HS.

## Dog track

I would appreciate any information from readers on the 'Legion of Scouts.' The badge is a greyhound running at full stretch, over a scroll bearing the title. — F A Stevens, 14 Croft Close, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 4LA.

## Armoured cars

I am writing a book on British armoured cars at war, 1914-1964, and would be most interested to hear from anyone who served in armoured cars during this period. — Maj C R M Messenger RTR, 23 James Road, Camberley, Surrey.

## Collectors' Corner

SFC Mike Johnson, 293rd Military Police Co, Fort Meade, Maryland 20755, USA.— *Wanted to buy or swap: Scottish and Scottish affiliated regimental cap badges, also pre-WW2 RM badges. Has US Army AF items to trade. USMC commando items and fusilier fur cap grenade for Scottish units also wanted.*

H T Pike, 35 Hauteville, St Peter Port, Guernsey, CI.— *Interested in all Canadian badges especially Canadian Expeditionary Force badges.*

Miss G L M Bakker, Achillesstraat 134, Amsterdam 1009, Netherlands.— *Seeks following issues The Guards Magazine: Winter 1969-70, Summer 70, Autumn 70, Winter 70-71, Spring 71, Autumn 71, Spring 72.*

A Pawson, 34 Hovis Street, Openshaw, Manchester, M11 2JD.— *Wishes purchase anything to do with The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Please state price.*

Mrs L Jones, 28 Bowness Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.— *Requires cloth RAF squadron badges also peaked cap 17/21 Lancera. Will exchange or purchase.*

V W Cutter, 16 Kingsley Gardens, Gloucester Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.— *Collecting WD holsters, especially 1914-18 Verrey pistol; 1914 for 1908 webbing, transitional 4in and 6in barrel; WW2 .38 open top with extension strap for 1937 webbing.*

J Riddles, Sefton House, 4 Meadow Road, Worthing, Sussex.— *Seeks Army Fire Service helmet badge.*

A W Green, 26 Glebelands Road, Filton, Bristol, BS12 7AE.— *Military historian and collector all items 13th Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry*

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The National Army Museum's latest postcards are black and-white reproductions from the 'Crimean Heroes' series by J Cundall and R Howlett. The postcards are available from the museum at three pence each plus postage.

wishes purchase all books, photos, *Light Bob Gazettes*, badges, medals and other items related to regiment, of any period. Good prices paid.

N Smith, 27 Winchester Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8DD.—Requires *Queen's Bays* items, cap, overalls and band aiguillettes.

Klaus Glocksia, Wacholderstr 45, 4 Düsseldorf 34, West Germany.—Wishes buy any full dress items *Scottish Highland regiments* from headress to hose.

## Reunions

Notices of corps and regimental reunions should be sent to Editor, **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, at least two months before the event is due to take place. No charge is made for announcements which will, where appropriate, be repeated at two-monthly intervals.

**Coldstream Guards Band.** Dinner-dance and reunion, Lyceum Ballroom, Wellington Street, off Strand, London, Friday 19 November. Tickets £5.00 each from L/Cpl R A Janes, Coldstream Band Club, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, London, SW3 4RX.

**1 Parachute Logistic Regiment.** Final parade 1500 hrs 10 December, Montgomery Square, Aldershot, followed by evening stag social in Maida Gymnasium. Christmas all ranks dance evening Saturday 11 December, Maida Gymnasium. All past and present members most welcome to all events.

**14th/20th King's Hussars.** Regimental reunion, Manchester, Saturday 6 November. Details from Home HQ, 14/20H, Lancaster House, Manchester Road, Clifton, Manchester, M27 2PU (Tel: 061-794 2898).

**3rd Parachute Battalion Group.** Commemorative dinner, Aldershot, 5 November, for all ranks who took part in assault on El Gamil airfield, Port Said, in Suez campaign. Contact Col Geoffrey Mullins, Regimental HQ, The Parachute Regiment, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

**Boys Battery RA 1151-1157.** 'Badges' reunion 1976 will be held in HQ Sergeants Mess, RA Depot, Woolwich, Saturday 20 November, 1930 for 2000 hrs. Dress lounge suit with 1151-1157 tie. Further details from T C Holden, 6 Ingress Walk, Sholver 2, Moorside, Oldham, Lancashire.

**17 Company RASC, 1939-45.** If you are interested in meeting old comrades, please get in touch with Mr B H D Hewett, 30 Gladeside Court, Succombe Hill, Warlingham, Surrey, CR3 9JG.

## How observant are you?

(see page 15)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Black right panel of football. 2 Figure on shorts of player on right. 3 Bottom hoop on right sock of left player. 4 Goal netting over right player's left foot. 5 Bootlace hole of goalkeeper's left foot. 6 Goalkeeper's mouth. 7 V in player 5's shorts. 8 Top squares of player 9's shirt. 9 Figure 1 on goalkeeper's back. 10 Peak of goalkeeper's cap.

## Competition

The multi-stage 'Lost Letter' (Competition 217, July) started with 90 words which could be grouped into pairs, two trios and a quartet as follows:

Anthony/Cleopatra, Anne/Charlotte/Emily (Bronte sisters), Bill/Ben, Black/Decker, Bonnie/Clyde, Castor/Pollux, Damon/Pythias, Dante/Beatrice, David/Goliath, Desdemona/Othello, Elder/Fyffe, Flanagan/Allen, Flanders/Swann, Fortnum/Mason, Gilbert/Sullivan, Hengist/Horsa, Hero/Leander, Hobbs/Sutcliffe, Holmes/Watson, Jekyll/Hyde, Jim/Amy (Mollison), John/Paul/George/Ringo (Beatles), Joseph/Mary, Laurel/Hardy, Livingstone/Stanley, Marks/Spencer, Montagu/Capulet, Morecambe/Wise, Napoleon/Josephine, Peters/Lee, Pyramus/Thisbe, Samson/Delilah, Solomon/Sheba, Stokes/Lane (Everest), Tate/Lyle, Tom/Dick/Harry, Tristan/Isolde, Troilus/Cressida, Venus/Adonis, Victoria/Albert, William/Mary, Mark/Nine.

The two 'odd men out' but with a

military link were Mark and Nine, the letters of which produce the anagram *Inkerman* which in turn contains all but one of the letters for the campaign, *Crimea*, of which *Inkerman* was a battle. Thus the required answer was simply the letter *C*.

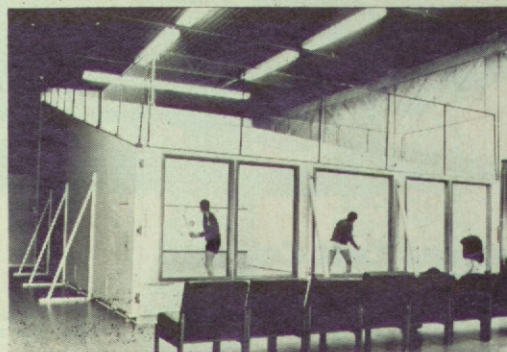
### Prizewinners:

- Miss Anne Stapylton, 98 Paignton Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.
- 2 F K Forrester, Dormers, 30 Great Tattenhams, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5SR.
- 3 A J Sudborough, 76 Abington Park Crescent, Northampton.
- 4 W S Brownie, 19 Hunter Hill Road, Paisley, Renfrewshire.
- 5 Mrs M E Mayes, 3 Chetwode Close, Wokingham, Berkshire.
- 6 G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham.
- 7 R H Garner, 3 Marne Road, Whittlesey, Peterborough.
- 8 Mrs A Dennis, 62 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent.

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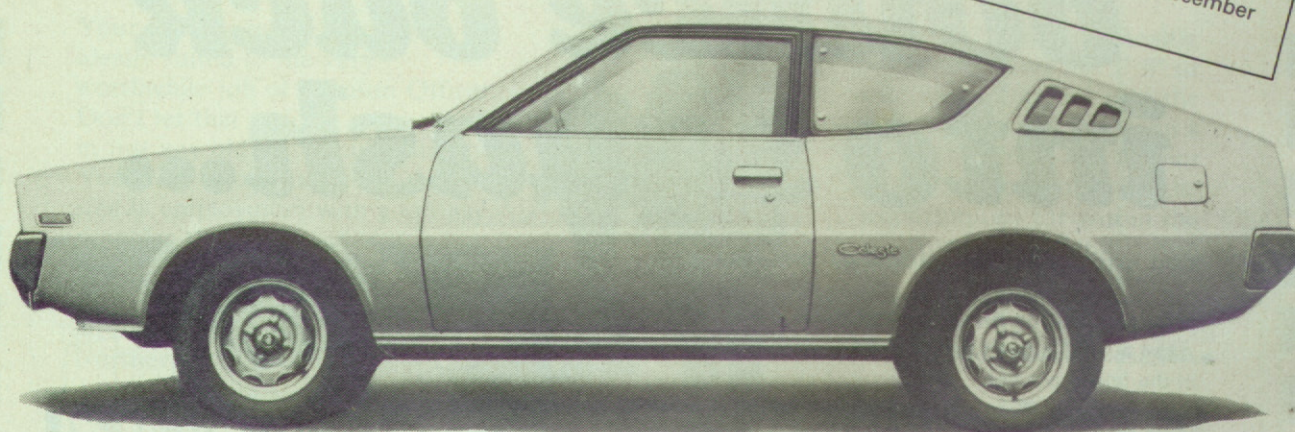
P. Copping, Training Manager, (Dept SOL)

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# Into battle

IT'S STRAIGHT to the starting grid this month with badge of rank symbols representing the letters of 25 battles down the years and across the world. The 25 names, each of eight letters, read from left to right.

When you have worked out what letters the symbols represent and have identified all the battles, turn to the vertical columns where you will find the names of two more battles, again of eight letters each. The two names are in different columns and in each case the letters, from top to bottom, are in their correct sequence though not equally spaced from each other. Send the two names, with the 'Competition 220' label from this page and your name and address, on a postcard or by letter, to:

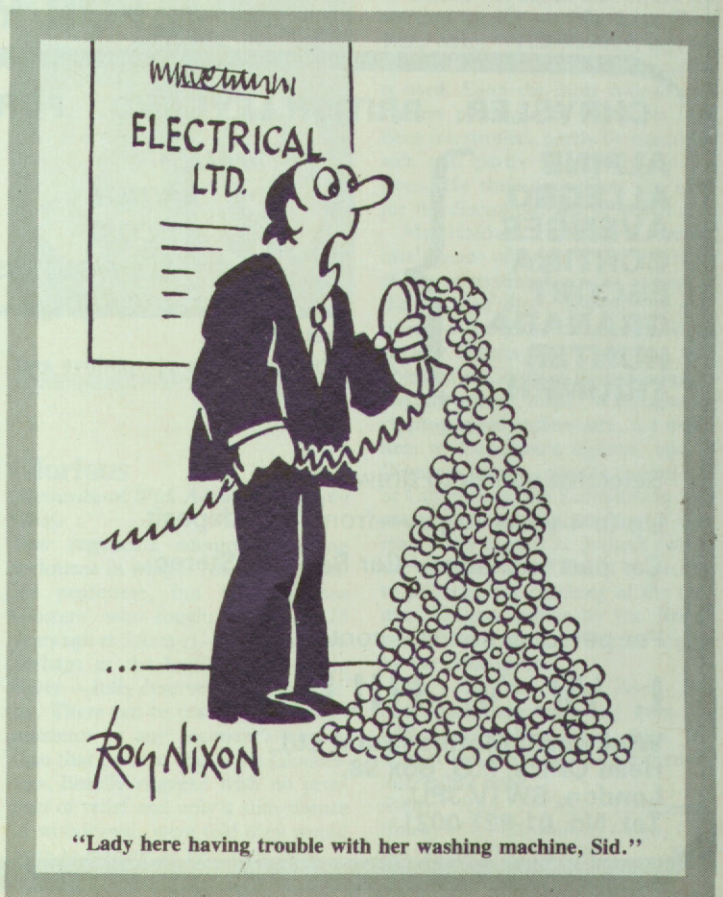
Editor (Comp 220)  
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Hants  
GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 10 January 1977. The answers and winners' names will appear in the March 1977 SOLDIER.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 220' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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## Aussies

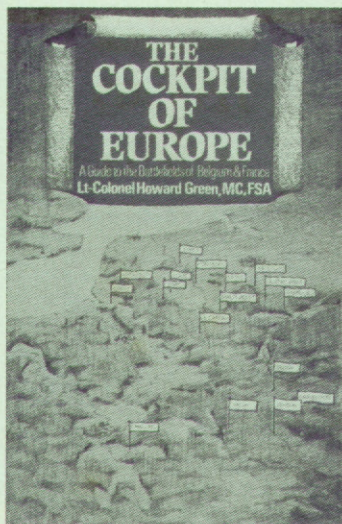
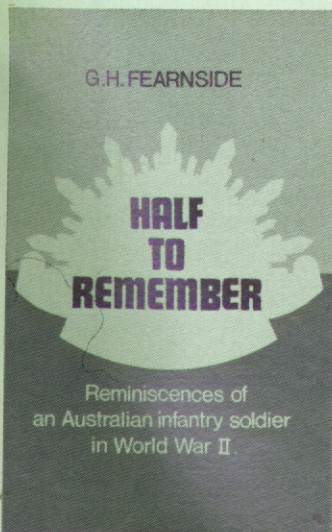
'Half to Remember' (G H Fearnside)  
Australian troops were a law unto themselves in World War Two. Tough, uninhibited, outspoken, critical of authority and British discipline, they yet fought gallantly and tenaciously as volunteers in the British cause, even when their homeland was under threat from the Japanese.

This book, written by an Aussie who was a sergeant in North Africa and later a commissioned officer fighting the Japanese in New Guinea, throws considerable light on the character and mental make-up of men who would not be ruled by petty circumstances nor subdued by seemingly overwhelming odds.

The 9th Australian Division, in which the author's battalion served, successfully defended Tobruk and bore the brunt of Rommel's northern counter-thrust at Alamein. There they were continuously engaged for 12 days and nights and tenaciously fought on until Monty was able to force through the Axis centre. During this time Rommel concentrated the main mass of his heavy and medium artillery and the whole of the Panzer Corps against them.

This book is leavened throughout with Aussie humour, anecdote and historical knowledge.

Haldane Publishing Co Pty Ltd, Darlinghurst, New South Wales, Australia, \$A10.00 JFPJ



## Battleground

'The Cockpit of Europe: A Guide to the Battlefields of Belgium and France' (Lieut-Col Howard Green)

Of 30 historic battles fought between Calais, Liège, Nancy and Abbeville in north-east France and Belgium, 17 are here selected for study. They are easily accessible and much as they were when the 15-year-old Black Prince fought at Crécy in 1346, Marlborough at Malplaquet (1709) and Pétain at Verdun (1916).

The author has 'walked' the battlegrounds and pinpoints their sites for the student, historian or casual tourist. He also suggests appropriate local accommodation. The short accounts of the battles, supported by descriptive maps, are gems of conciseness bonded with historic detail and present-day observation and information — at Ramillies in 1706 the French lost 80 sets of Colours; at Sars-la-Buyère still stands the tower from which Marlborough surveyed the field of Malplaquet.

The battles include Chalons (AD 451), Waterloo (1815), Sedan (1870), Mons (1914), Ypres (1914-15, 1917), Loos (1915) and Vimy Ridge (1917). Many regiments are mentioned by name. The 'Cockpit' is well worth visiting. Take this book with you. David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd, Brunel House, Forde Road, Newton Abbot, Devon, £4.50 GRH

## Tourney link

'The Siege of Ladysmith' (Gerald Sharp)

One wonders how many of those who visit the Royal Tournament or watch it on television realise that its Royal Navy field gun competition is directly linked with the siege of Ladysmith. It seems that in 1900 the organisers asked the Navy to supply 80 seamen and a 4.7-inch gun fitted with 'Captain Scott's' mounting as used at Ladysmith. Despite misgivings about the cost of conversion, the Navy eventually supplied two such guns — and the competition was born.

It stands today as a tribute to the naval gunners who were instrumental in saving Ladysmith, as indeed does this excellent little book written by the son of Midshipman (later Commander) Charles Reynolds Sharp who was Ladysmith's youngest officer.

From letters and diaries the author has pieced together a new view of the siege, from the standpoint of the naval brigade which took two 4.7s on mountings improvised by the legendary Captain Percy Scott and some naves! 12-pounders into Ladysmith on the last train before the line was cut by the Boers.

The Army's guns had been outranged but the sailors managed to keep the Boers' huge Creusot guns at bay throughout the siege.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, Paul-ton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 8LW, £3.95 JCW



## Glorious

'Remembered With Advantage' (Digby Grist)

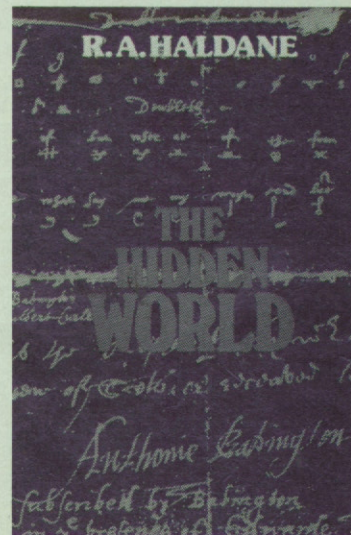
Few regiments acquire a lasting nickname in what is inaccurately called peacetime, but the 'Glorious Glosters' who fought and died 25 years ago at Solma-ri — better known perhaps as the battle of the Imjin River — fully deserve their immortality. There can be few more poignant moments in any regiment's history than that point at which the Gloucesters, heavily engaged with no prospect of relief and only a slim chance of withdrawal, were told they would have to manage as best they could.

Many, including their heroic commanding officer, Lieutenant-

Colonel Fred Carne — he won the VC and the DSO in Korea — went into Communist prison camps. A few others got back to UN lines.

In this splendid little memoir, Colonel Grist presents a personal account of the Korean War as it affected his regiment. It is sold, incidentally, in aid of The Gloucestershire Regiment Appeal Fund. It will be read with interest, perhaps even nostalgia, by all those who wore the flash bearing a white circle on a black background for which the soldiers had a vulgar, but very apt, name.

Regimental Headquarters, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 13 Carne Place, Gloucester, GL4 7BE, £1.00 JCW



## Codes and ciphers

'The Hidden World' (R A Haldane)

The essential message of this history of hidden writing is that of the old wartime poster — "Be Like Dad, Keep Mum." Vulnerability, says Mr Haldane, increases each time a cipher is used. Even the most complicated ciphers produced by machines have been interpreted, partly by electronic aids and partly by algebraic equations. He thus underlines the need for the disciplined use of words.

Mr Haldane, himself a former intelligence officer, carries the story of secret writing from its origins in the mists of time, through the centuries — the codes and ciphers of the ancient Greeks, the Venetians who objected to Cardinal Wolsey's agents reading their mail, Walsingham's cryptographic endeavours, the weakness of Napoleon's ciphers, and of Bismarck's, the introduction of the St Cyr system, the Zimmerman telegram, the successful reading of German Navy signals at Jutland (which the operations staff failed to pass on to Jellicoe), the cracking of the German Enigma cipher by the British and of the Japanese 'Purple' cipher by the Americans...

Mr Haldane has done his homework very well and even the odd inexcusable error does not detract too much from an extremely interesting book.

Robert Hale & Co, Clerkenwell House, 45-57 Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £3.80 JCW

Continued overleaf



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## Para hardware

*'Airborne Equipment: A History of its Development' (John Weeks)*

Colonel Weeks has produced a complete survey of the equipment with which airborne troops go into battle. His readable and workmanlike account will be of great value to all students of airborne warfare and to specialising wargamers.

In tracing the development of parachute soldiering, we come across all sorts of gems. I had always thought, for instance, that the Soviet Union pioneered the use of paras, but it seems the Italians were slightly ahead, beginning their experiments in 1927. The Russians began in 1930 and rapidly took the lead. By 1936, they were able to drop a whole battalion, albeit with ripcord parachutes.

The publicity which the Russians gained prompted a manufacturer to approach the War Office – but he was turned down. When Churchill demanded 5000 parachute troops in 1940, the British Army had to start from scratch.

Colonel Weeks discusses every aspect of airborne soldiering – containers and kitbags, special weapons, transport aircraft, gliders, ground mobility and uniforms and personal equipment. He closes with an extremely interesting chapter on post-war developments and, contrary to those who say that airborne forces have had their day, expresses the view that even though he is still largely immobile once on the ground, the para will remain an effective and necessary part of a first-line army.

*David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd., Brunel House, Forde Road, Newton Abbot, Devon, £4.50* **JCW**

## In brief

*'Historical Records of British Infantry Regiments in the Great War 1914-1918: Supplement' (Brigadier E A James)*

This list of battle honours, Victoria Crosses and casualties of British infantry in World War One is a supplement to Brigadier James's self-produced record (reviewed SOLDIER September 1975) of about 1760 battalions which served in the war.

*E A James, Fernwood, 15 Bracebridge Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B74 2SB, £1.00 UK, £1.50 overseas (airmail)*

*'In Lighter Vein' (Arthur E Wrench)*

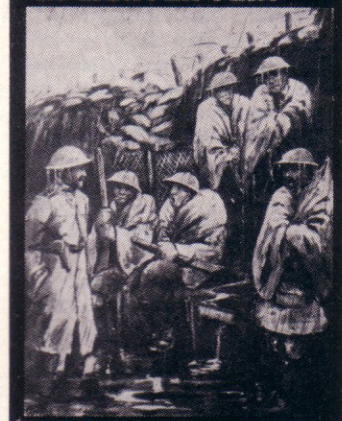
From A to Z this is a whimsical vocabulary of military terms such as 'ablution' for what you take in the morning to appear clean at inspection or what you get from the priest when you come clean at confession. Or 'bagpipes' for the drones of a battalion to 'Tommy,' a figure of speech whereby one British soldier is made accountable for them all, or 'Zig-zag' meaning a somewhat inebriated and slightly off-balance fighting man.

This amusing book, with its pages of additional anecdotes and racy rhymes, will bring back memories to World War One veterans and provoke a good-humoured smile from many a modern soldier.

*Vantage Press Inc, 516 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, USA, \$4.95*

**Arthur E. Wrench**

**IN LIGHTER VEIN**



*'An Annotated Bibliography of the British Army 1660-1914' (A P C Bruce)*

For the military librarian in particular and serious students of military history in general this valuable bibliography is essential equipment. A scholarly work, it tackles as thoroughly as possible the vast collection of books and papers relating to the British Army over some 250 years.

Divided into five parts, it covers the titles and authors of bibliographies, general works including journals and periodicals, official records, parliamentary papers and miscellaneous works on the Army, regimental histories, biographies and memoirs, military theory, tactics, drill and equipment and, of course, campaigns. Well indexed, this is the most thorough work of its kind yet produced.

*Garland Publishing Inc, 545 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA, \$23.00*

## Re-issue

*'The Nine Days of Dunkirk' (David Divine)*

First published 1959 by Faber & Faber Ltd. The story of the 1940 evacuation in which a million men and a thousand ships were involved. *White Lion Publishers Ltd, 138 Park Lane, London, W1Y 3DD, £4.75*



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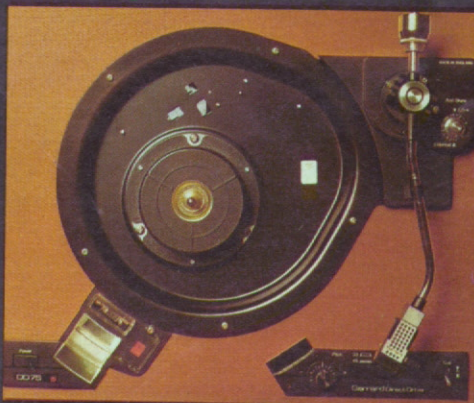
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