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# SOLDIER





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Editor: PETER N WOOD  
Deputy Editor: GEORGE HOGAN  
Feature Writer: HUGH HOWTON  
Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH  
Research: JOHN JESSE  
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS  
Photographers: ARTHUR BLUNDELL  
TREVOR JONES  
Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD  
Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD

Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation (except trade distribution) inquiries should be addressed to:

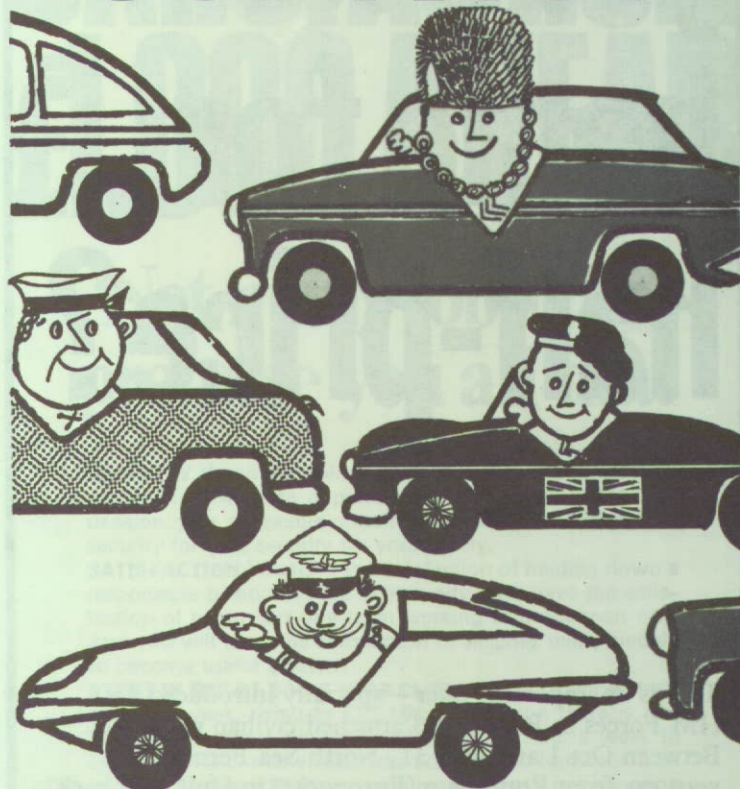
SOLDIER 433 Holloway Road London N7.  
(Phone: GPO—01-272 4381 Military network—Holloway Military).

Trade distribution inquiries to PO Box 569, London SE1.

SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, is published for the Ministry of Defence by Her Majesty's Stationery Office and printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd, 134 Blyth Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

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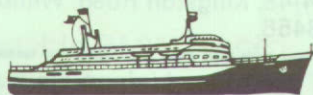


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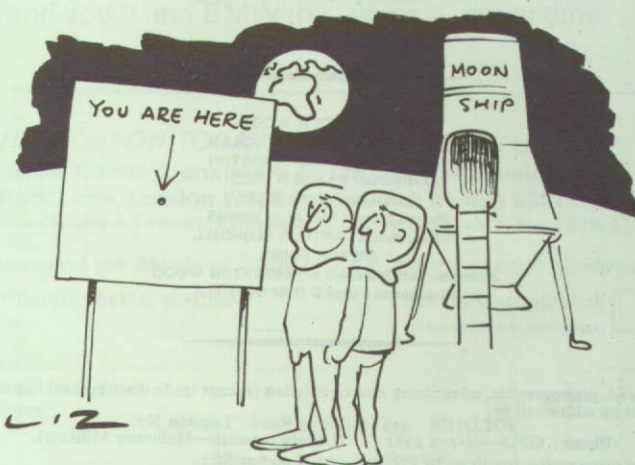


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*humour*



"Ignore him, colonel, he's just jealous!"





## See-the-Army DIARY

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

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

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

### JUNE

- 7 Army Display, Catterick.
- 7 Machine Gun Corps observance, Boy David Memorial, Hyde Park, London.
- 7 Trooping the Colour rehearsal, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 11 Amalgamation of The South Wales Borderers and The Welch Regiment into The Royal Regiment of Wales, Cardiff Castle.
- 11 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, sponsored race, Kempton Park.
- 13 Essex Show, Chelmsford (13-14 June).
- 13 Recruiting display, Edinburgh (13-15 June).
- 14 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 14 Aldershot Army Display (14-15 June).
- 16 NATO Sticking Taptoe, Arnhem (16-21 June).
- 18 *Lincolnshire Show Army Display.*
- 18 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, *golf match* and dinner, Wentworth.
- 19 Recruiting display, Dundee (19-21 June).
- 20 Suffolk Tattoo, Christchurch Park, Ipswich (20-21 June).
- 20 Bexley (Sidcup) Tattoo (20-21 June).
- 21 (Provisional) 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, Open Day, Kirkee Barracks, Colchester.
- 21 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, Musical Pageant, Empire Stadium, Wembley.
- 23 NATO Sticking Taptoe, Brussels (23-26 June).
- 24 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, Floral Festival, London (24-26 June).
- 26 Carisbrooke Castle Tattoo (26-28 June).
- 26 Army Display, Belle Vue, Manchester (26-29 June).
- 28 North Wilts Army Cadet Force Tattoo, Swindon.

### JULY

- 1 Investiture of Prince of Wales, Caernarvon Castle.
- 2 Royal Progress through Wales (2-5 July).
- 4 Recruiting display, Kilmarnock and Ayr (4-9 July).
- 4 Recruiting display, *Walsall* (4-6 July).
- 5 Open Day, 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields), Waterbeach, Cambridge.
- 6 Open Day, Depot The Queen's Regiment, Canterbury.
- 8 Recruiting display, Stoke-on-Trent (8-9 July).
- 9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (9-26 July).
- 10 *Army Art and Crafts Exhibition, Earls Court (10-25 July).*
- 11 Cheltenham Tattoo (11-12 July).
- 12 Summer Show, Croydon.
- 12 Recruiting display, Liverpool University (12-13 July).
- 12 Dagenham Town Show (12-13 July).
- 12 1 and 3 Training Regiments, Royal Engineers, At Home and RE Association Weekend, Southwood Camp, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire (12-13 July).
- 12 *Open Day, Wessex Depot, Prince of Wales's Division, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.*

continued on page 7

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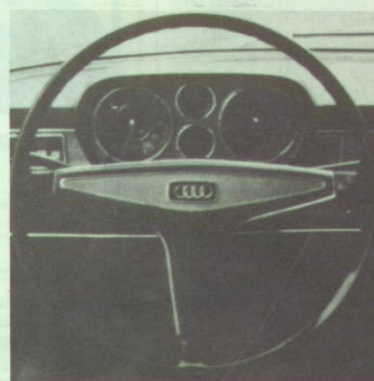
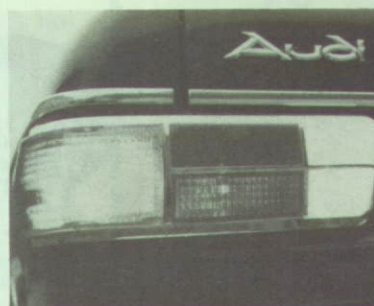
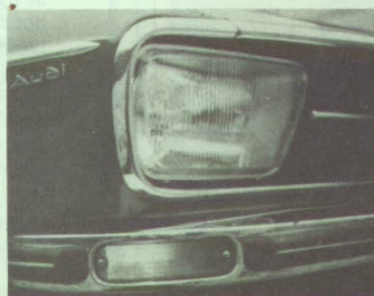
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# DIARY *continued*

## JULY

- 12 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 16 Recruiting display, Liverpool Show (16-19 July).
- 19 Larkhill Day.
- 21 Army Week, Dover (21-26 July).
- 24 Dover Tattoo, Crabble Ground, Dover (24-26 July).
- 25 Nottingham Army Display (25-27 July).
- 26 Christchurch Tattoo, Bournemouth.
- 26 Army Air Corps Open Day, Middle Wallop.
- 30 Colchester Tattoo, Castle Park, Colchester (30 July-2 August).

## AUGUST

- 1 Cardiff Tattoo (1-9 August).
- 2 Strensall Army Display (2-3 August).
- 2 Chatham Army Display.
- 3 Royal Armoured Corps Open Day, Bovington.
- 11 Army Week, Darlington (11-16 August).
- 15 Edinburgh Tattoo (15 August-6 September).
- 23 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, Gymkhana and Field Day, Gosforth Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
- 27 Army Open Days, Plymouth (27-29 August).
- 29 Army Week, Leeds (29 August-2 September).

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 Army Week, Keighley (3-7 September).
- 4 Army Week, Sheffield (4-6 September).
- 5 Recruiting display, Glasgow (5-7 September).
- 6 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, sponsored race, Sandown Park.
- 13 Shoburness Garrison (including 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery) At Home.
- 13 Recruiting display, Rochdale (13-14 September).
- 16 Recruiting display, Blackpool (16-18 September).
- 18 Military Band Festival, Berne, Switzerland (18-21 September).
- 19 Berlin Tattoo (19-20 September).
- 20 Recruiting display, Blackburn (20-21 September).
- 20 Airborne Forces Pilgrimage, Arnhem (20-21 September).
- 20 Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse, Open Days (20-21 September).
- 29 British Week, Tokyo (29 September-5 October).

## OCTOBER

- 6 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, Gala Night "Horse of the Year" Show, Empire Pool, Wembley.
- 10 British Week, Vienna (10-18 October).
- 24 Alamein Reunion, London.
- 25 Formation of The Royal Hussars from 10th and 11th Hussars.

## NOVEMBER

- 8 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 8 Festival of Remembrance, Albert Hall, London.

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ON A TRAINING EXERCISE IN ICELAND, BRITISH  
SOLDIERS FOUND THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT  
SUN A COUNTRY OF SURPRISES

# STORA-LAXA

*—and much more*

Story by Peter N Wood / Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

**S**TORA-LAXA is not a battle honour of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. But it is a placename that will be remembered as readily as any on the Colours by men of A and D companies, by the chosen few of 23 Para Field Ambulance and 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, and by two helicopter pilots of the Army Aviation Squadron, 16 Parachute Brigade.

To all the 250 soldiers who flew up to

Iceland for a fortnight's training the name Stóra-Laxá—actually a swift-flowing icy river up-country—will recall an exercise that had almost everything.

The soldiers expected some surprises from the Land of the Midnight Sun but they had not bargained for initial problems in the Hercules transport airlift, Communist demonstrations and an anti-Communist protest, nor for the vagaries and fury of the Icelandic weather, a duelling challenge to the Royal Anglians' com-

manding officer and a homecoming reception by HM Customs which seemed to them as chilling as Iceland itself.

Servicing problems with the Royal Air Force Hercules which flew the soldiers, Land-Rovers, two Scout helicopters and equipment to the American naval base at Keflavik in south-east Iceland—heavy vehicles and equipment had earlier gone by sea—resulted in a changed order of flights.

And when the exercise started some

Above: Lone soldiers trudge through virgin snow nearly 2000 feet up on a desolate mountain ridge.



stores had yet to arrive—the doctors had to borrow medical stores from the Americans and the mountain rescue team of 23 Para Field Ambulance was without its climbing ropes. Even the battalion's band and drums—the first full-dress band seen in Iceland—had to cancel its first engagement, a group appearance on the American base's TV, because the double-bass was somewhere in mid-air.

But these were teething troubles to be taken in their stride—the real test was to come. A jolting 112-mile ride in three-tonners from Keflavik over pot-holed gravel roads and through cloud on a low mountain pass gave a foretaste of terrain and weather.

Base camp, at the end of a journey reminiscent of Radfan tracks and *murrum* roads up-country in Kenya, seemed idyllic with the sun shining on rows of tents and igloos ranged along a clear mountain stream—until the wind, sweeping down from the snow-covered ridges, suddenly gusted to 40 or 50 knots, chilling everyone to the bone.

As a preliminary to the exercise proper each company spent a day and a half in local training, marching over the undulating low hills, practising bivouac erection



Top of page: Base camp with line of inflatable rubber igloos. Left: Hand-over-hand across the Stóra-Laxá. Above: Kit and four-day rations that make up an 80-pound pack. Below: Roaring and frothing, an icy river plunges 150 feet over the falls by base camp. Right: Patrols making the long climb towards the pastel blue skyline.

in the wind and becoming accustomed to a compass variation of 25 degrees.

The exercise aim was to practise the companies in deep penetration by strike groups with an imaginative story, in the James Bond tradition, built round the rescue of an Icelandic metallurgist-professor and his daughter who, to the disappointment of the troops, did not in fact materialise though strenuous efforts were made behind the scenes to overcome the administrative difficulties involved in actuality.

Men of D Company, first away, made better-than-expected progress on the first leg, to the Stóra-Laxá, of the two-day approach march. On the map a climb from 600 feet at base camp over a ridge of less than 2000 feet and down again to 600 feet seemed not too difficult. But they soon found the going extremely tough over the







Clinging like leeches, medics of 23 Para Field Ambulance scramble up a cliff of crumbling lava.

snow-covered bristling lava, icy ponds and frozen rivers and round or through deep drifts in the ridge's gullies.

The Stóra-Laxá, with a gorge to the south and a ten-mile-long impassable gorge to the north, could be crossed in only one place where Major R Hardy and half his mountain rescue team of 23 Para Field Ambulance supervised rubber recce boats hitched by a karabiner to a stout rope and hauled hand-over-hand to the opposite bank.

Beyond the river the strike groups had to traverse five more ridges before putting in an attack across a bridge over one of Iceland's largest rivers, the Hvita, to snatch the metallurgist from a defending platoon of United States Marines.

As the Icelandic goose flies it was about ten miles to the Stóra-Laxá and another seven beyond, but the strike groups walked up to 80 miles in their four days out and back—all with a rucksack weighing between 60 and 80 pounds and including emergency rations and even sticks to make bivouacs

from ponchos, for there are few trees in Iceland and in the exercise area none.

First to cross the Stóra-Laxá and reach the strike groups' rendezvous were Captain Patrick Springfield, Royal Artillery, and his group of Royal Anglians and gunners from I Battery (Bull's Troop), the battery of 7th Royal Horse Artillery which supports the 3rd Royal Anglians in 16 Parachute Brigade.

Safety measures were rigorous and needed to be in a climate which can switch without warning from sun and comparative stillness to cloud, rain, hail, sleet, snow and blizzard and biting icy winds of gale force. Before setting out, the strike groups were warned not to lie up at night on exposed ridges, to watch for rock falls and to beware of rivers that can rise quickly by up to eight feet with heavy rain or a thaw of the glaciers feeding them.

Each group had a medical orderly and carried a radio and a supply of rum. Casualties were to be evacuated by helicopter if possible but if weather prevented

While the SOLDIER team and Sun photographer Ron Burton were flying over the exercise area their pilot, Captain James Arbuthnot, intercepted an emergency call from a strike group on the first high ridge. The casualty, Private Paddy Grogan, complained of stomach pains and had a high pulse rate.

Captain Arbuthnot called up base camp

and circled the patrol to guide in the other Scout, piloted by Sergeant Mike Jones. Private Grogan was flown back to the base camp, examined by the battalion medical officer, then flown back in the same Scout to Keflavik, 80 miles away.

There an ambulance met the helicopter and whisked Private Grogan to hospital where he was immediately operated on

for appendicitis. The operation took place within three hours of his being picked up from the ridge.

The alternative would have been to walk, or be carried, some seven or eight miles to base camp then travel 112 miles on bad roads in a Land-Rover ambulance. This would have taken at least seven uncomfortable hours.





flying the mountain rescue teams at Stóra-Laxá and at the Hvita river were to be called out. If radio failed and a casualty could be moved, the whole group was to evacuate the casualty to the rescue team locations or to the base camp.

A day after D Company, A Company set out and similarly succeeded in liberating the professor. Then for both companies the trouble began. On the return march they faced a breath-snatching icy wind.

"On the first leg back to the Stóra-Laxá the wind started getting up," said Major W R W Pike, commanding D Company. "The temperature was around minus ten degrees Centigrade and we marched out with the wind 35 to 40 knots in our faces."

Major W J G Hancock, commanding A Company, was caught by the weather when his strike groups had battled for the professor and made their getaway after another battle for the Hvita bridge. "The next three hours, in the teeth of the wind, were the worst I have ever faced. Only half a mile took anything up to two hours to cover."

It was no consolation to learn later that on the previous day the Icelanders had been taking a holiday to celebrate the first traditional day of summer!

Despite the weather the two Scout helicopters were rarely grounded—and had they been, certainly the exercise could not have been held. The two pilots, Captain James Arbuthnot, Black Watch, and Sergeant Mike Jones, Army Air Corps, flew a total of 60 hours in a week without a single snag. Six technicians at the base camp worked on the helicopters on the flexible maintenance system which allows servicing tasks to be carried out when the machines are available and without preventing them from flying if needed.

Manning the Stóra-Laxá crossing, Major Hardy, who like the men of his rescue team, is a keen mountaineer, felt somewhat deprived of excitement. When the last strike groups had returned over the river he made a reconnaissance of its lower reaches; then with Private R Law sailed one of the rubber recce boats downstream towards the



Shipsshape soldiers. Neat ranks of Royal Anglians inspected by an American admiral at Keflavik.

main road. Two miles from his camp the river narrowed to only 30 feet wide in a gorge with 100-foot-high walls. "Suddenly the river disappeared."

The boat shot over a ten-foot waterfall, landing safely with Private Law still dry inside—but the doctor was thrown out into the ice-cold water.

Whether cold or wet, or both, the soldiers found the mountain air very bracing and a sharp contrast to the central heating of the American base to which they returned for a week of adventure training, jaunts to the capital, Reykjavik, a battalion parade for the rear-admiral commanding the base and a football match against an Icelandic team.

As Lieutenant-Colonel John Dymoke, commanding the 3rd Royal Anglians, told the Icelandic Press before the main exercise: "There is no opportunity for this type of training in the United Kingdom. It is a wonderful opportunity to test a man's confidence."

Certainly the Royal Anglians will go back to Iceland if they have the chance—and if they do, it will be with a very healthy respect for the vagaries of instant weather!

They would not even mind meeting the Stóra-Laxá again.

At least as a name it rolls off the tongue more readily than, 20 miles to the north-west in the same area, the Flóamanna-og-Skeidhamannafrjettir!

## RED FLAGS A-FLYING

Near the exercise base camp, but on the opposite side of the river, was a small camp of Icelandic Communists with Russian-built jeeps. The Communists, carrying red flags, distributed leaflets addressed to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, "... on a visit to Iceland sponsored by American Imperialism Inc, Public Relations Office."

The British soldiers took all this in good part but were less amused when awakened at midnight by an amplified harangue and by subsequently having to provide additional guards to protect fuel dumps, stores and equipment against possible mishaps. A tactical error by the Communists, this.

Later, while the commanding officer was holding his Icelandic Press conference, the small camping party moved in to squat near the base tents with their red flags and a group of about 50 demonstrators marched into the camp area, headed by a Left Wing MP, Mr Jonas Arnasson, and Dr Skuli Thoroddsen, an eye specialist. The group sang marching songs, followed by another amplified harangue, then Dr Thoroddsen presented to the British Press an open letter to Queen Elizabeth in which he challenged Colonel Dymoke, as Queen's Champion, to a duel with words or pistols.

At the end of the demonstration, and after Mr Arnasson had attended the Press conference, at which Colonel Dymoke declined to answer his political questions, the group marched quietly away. The Communists, a minority in Iceland,

call themselves the Occupation Opponents and oppose Iceland's membership of NATO and the presence of the American base at Keflavik.

There had been no demonstrations of this kind the previous year when 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, became the first British troops to train in Iceland since the World War Two occupation. The lively interest in the Royal Anglians was in part sparked off when the Icelandic Press, in announcing the exercise, referred to the fact that Colonel Dymoke is the Queen's Champion, an office which his family has held since the 14th century.

The Queen's Champion can be challenged in fact only during a Coronation ceremony and duelling in Iceland was banned in 1526.

Reports of the Communist demonstrations so incensed three young Icelandic businessmen that they decided to stage a counter-demonstration to assure the British that this was by no means a majority view. Piloting their own light aircraft they flew over the base camp, dropping yellow toilet rolls to attract attention, then showered leaflets on a low formation run and finally, to waves and smiles, flew over at near-ground level with a final salvo of rolls.

The leaflets bore hastily written slogans including "Long live the Queen," "God bless Buckingham Palace," "Women of the world, unite," "We have forgiven you for the cod war," "Long live Lolita" and "Don't shoot the pianist. He is the last one in town."



Cold War in Iceland. Reds demonstrate at base camp. "Iceland is a Free Land," say banners.



# Cyprus

## "Walkabout"

**T**WENTY miles as the crow flies but more like 30 by the shortest possible walking route—and a climb from sea level at Episkopi to more than 6000 feet on Mount Olympus, then 30 miles back again.

That is the bare outline of the Army's Cyprus Walkabout, a unique annual competition that this year attracted 72 teams, including some from Malta and the Persian Gulf.

The United Nations Force in Cyprus was well represented and the team from The Royal Hampshire Regiment took fourth place. The 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, in the Sovereign Base Area, entered ten teams and had finishers in second, third, sixth, seventh and eighth places. The battalion organised and controlled the race, with officers, non-commissioned officers and regimental signals manning the start and finish and the five checkpoints while Sioux helicopters of the SBA infantry air platoon kept a watchful eye on progress.

The teams of three had to select their own routes over some of the rockiest and steepest hill country imaginable and were not told the locations of the checkpoints until after the start. Apart from the sheer physical effort of covering 60 miles and climbing 6000 feet there were the hazards of broken bridges, treacherous rocks, unmarked tracks and snakes. There was also the weather. The troops started in blazing sunshine that could have produced heat exhaustion and spent the night on the Troodos Mountains while a blizzard raged outside their hut.

The teams travelled light but had to start out with full waterbottles which could be replenished at a halfway point, torches, matches, maps, waterproof clothing and whistles. They also had to wear suitable boots, slacks and long-sleeved shirts. Accommodation and a hot meal were provided at Troodos but all other food had to be carried.

Thirty-one of the 72 teams finished the course and the race was won by RAF Akrotiri whose team completed the two-way trip in the remarkable time of 12 hours 44 minutes. Their prize—a rather battered ammunition boot. All concluded that this taxing but stimulating combination of cross-country running, orienteering, hill climbing and forced marching made an exhilarating competition that was really worthwhile.

*From a report by Army Public Relations, HQ Near East Land Forces.*



**Right:** Scorching sun, dusty road and snakes to boot. Sioux-eye-view high up in the mountains.



# THERE'S A PRICE ON KITCHENER'S HEAD

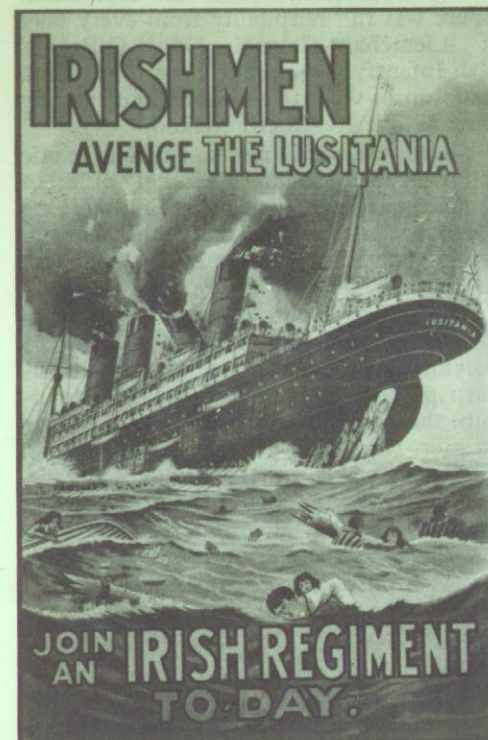
**P**OSTERS that plastered every wall of every street of every town in Europe and America during World War One have suddenly become rare and valuable collectors' pieces. An original poster in good condition is worth up to £100 today—and its value is likely to increase every year.

For although Britain, France, Germany and the United States produced millions of posters between 1914 and 1918, millions were also destroyed. Who could have foreseen that such everyday objects would one day become so rare and so desirable? Even the printers of posters very often did not bother to keep examples of their work; when the war was over, everyone simply wanted to forget about it as soon as possible.

No one knows how many patriotic posters from those days are still in existence. There may be thousands hidden under floorboards, or lining trunks in dusty attics, or stuffed behind plaster walls, or rotting forgotten at the back of some garage.

When Philip Granville, director of a London art gallery, decided to hold an exhibition of World War One posters it took him more than two years to collect a sufficient number.

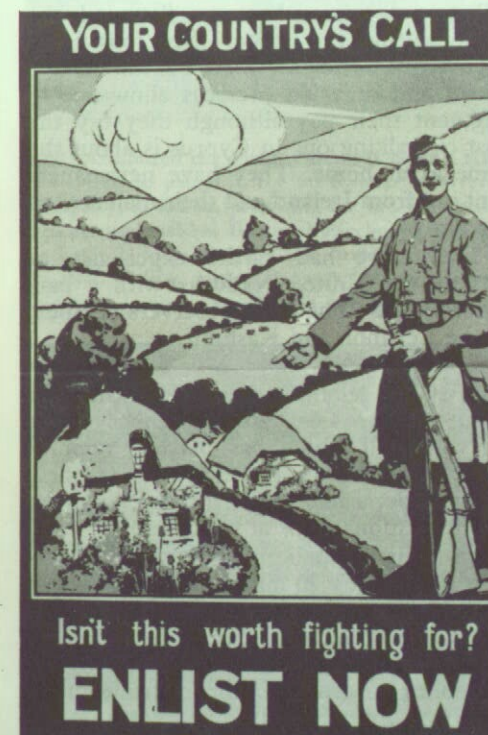
"I hunted everywhere for them," he said. "Some came from colleagues in the trade, others came out of the blue from people who had heard what I was looking for and some I found by sheer good luck. On one occasion a woman found half a dozen First World War posters in perfect



Left: Lord Kitchener and the pointing finger—probably the most famous poster of all time. Above: Appeal to avenge Teutonic barbarism.

Right: Charged with emotion, these posters depict a proud *poilu* urging his comrades into action, a starving widow comforting her child and a young innocent to whom war just means playing at nurses. However the exhortation is for cash not recruits.

Below: Fight for the fatherland! This was also a favourite cry of the Nazis in World War Two.



find a copy of the most famous British recruiting poster of all—Kitchener's accusing finger and the unanswerable message "Your Country Needs YOU." Copies of this poster in good condition could be worth around £100 each and there must be hundreds still around . . . somewhere.

Favourite subject for American poster artists, trained in the hard-sell techniques of Madison Avenue, was—inevitably—a pretty girl. Voluptuous, ruby-lipped blondes crop up again and again waving the Stars and Stripes or nicely filling a variety of uniforms.

Even the legend "If you want to fight, join the Marines" is accompanied by a girl in a Marine uniform.

French and Belgian posters were much more emotional and evocative. Many famous French artists were given the opportunity of expressing themselves in posters and a series by the Belgian artist Louis Raemaekers, illustrating the disaster of war, was one of the few attempts to bring reality home to the public.

Curiously one of Philip Granville's most valuable posters emanates from World War Two. Commissioned by the Germans to whip up anti-British sentiment in occupied France, it showed the south-east coastline of Britain with, where London would be, a caricature of Churchill's head on octopus tentacles stretching towards France. "When I got the poster it was in small pieces. Apparently a French resistance fighter had torn it down one night and kept the pieces. I have no idea why he kept it because it was dangerous enough to tear the poster down, but even more dangerous to keep the pieces."

Now fully restored, this historic poster is possibly unique—many people remember seeing it during the war but no one knows of another copy in existence today. Granville says that in a way it is "priceless" inasmuch as it can never be replaced and he is keeping it in his own private collection of specially interesting or rare posters.

"Original posters are an extremely good investment," he says, "because as their rarity and historical interest increases, their value goes up. But I don't think people buy them for purely economic reasons."

"These posters are documents of the past and their historical association and text immediately evokes something in our minds. However good a painting might be, it cannot really be turned into a conversational topic, except among experts. When people buy a picture it is not only for their solitary contemplation, but also for having an exchange of thought or feelings, or a way of communicating, with other people with the picture as a kind of springboard."

"Posters do that better than anything else. They may not have the artistic merit of a Picasso or Renoir print; nonetheless there is something you can say about them. They are related to our daily experiences of life."



*With the United  
Nations Force in*  
**CYPRUS**

## AN IRISH WELCOME



**“CÉAD Míle Fáilte”** read the sign at the entrance to the Irish camp at Xeros, Cyprus—“One hundred thousand welcomes!”

Although the battalion with the United Nations peace-keeping force was but 400 strong the greeting was no idle expression. There was full hospitality from every man of Lieutenant-Colonel Don O’Broin’s 11th Infantry Group, a composite battalion made up of volunteers from Regular army units all over Southern Ireland.

There was nothing fancy nor exotic about the food, nothing startlingly different about the approach to soldiering, nothing peculiar nor unusual about the drink—except that Irish whiskey is the kind with an e in it.

The officers and men were neither swashbuckling sabre rattlers nor ditch-crawling bootlickers—but the first hand-clasp proclaimed the stability, the friendship, the genuine support behind the dour exterior. It brought with it the slow curling smile that wakens the naturally sad face, and the wit darts forth as the eyes sparkle. “When Irish eyes are smiling!” The lines at the corners record how often they do.

It is a mistake to assume—if you are a visitor—that you will have easy progress through an Irish camp. Many parties of officers and soldiers from the other five national contingents in UNFICYP have spent enjoyable times at Xeros in spite of the rumble of trains and machinery at the nearby copper mines and the smell of the ore, which can be overpowering.

The first mistake is to underestimate the strength of Irish coffee headed with foaming cream and including a “modicum” of the “hard stuff.” The Irish are great entertainers and believe a glass should never be empty. An evening party goes with a swing and is never forgotten. The generous flow of Irish whiskey has started a legend that there is an illicit still somewhere in the camp!

This is the only station within UNFICYP in which all the troops live in tents. The square marquees have electric light cabled in and the men are comfortable enough. When a ten-minute storm flattened the camp during the winter they took it in their stride. They serve six months on the island and draw an overseas allowance to augment their pay although they say the cost of walking out in Cyprus is about the same as at home. They have newspapers sent out from Ireland and their mail arrives regularly.

They have had earlier experience of serving the United Nations—with a battalion in the Congo and observers at Suez, in the Lebanon and Kashmir.

Officers and men mix well within UNFICYP, taking part in all sporting and social events. They are particularly keen on volleyball which has become popular in recent years in Ireland. One of their players, Sergeant “Calf” Moran, has won 16 international caps at basketball.

The Irish battalion has a mountainous area 30 miles by 20 miles to control. There are very few posts now and most of the work is by patrol, including the use of Land-Rovers hired from the British and by an armoured car group equipped with eight of their own French-built Panhards.





Left: Armoured car group Panhards cross a river bed while on patrol in the north-west. Above: B Company, at Lefka, preparing for the UN volleyball championships. Below: Noticeboard at Xeros—there is little outside the camp for soldiers to visit. Below, right: Outpost Limekiln where one man is on lookout while two play draughts.

They have a portion of the north-west coast to watch in Morphou Bay and the Morphou-Polis road was at one time the main trouble area. It was considered possible that an invasion might have come at this part but the danger passed and the



Above: A treat for a lonely outpost near Lefka where three men watch the hillsides. Corporal Christopher Flynn is the piper.

Turkish Cypriots formed an enclave. Now both the Greek and Turkish military preparations in this area have been reduced and problems are being solved quickly by the Irish using direct contact procedures with each side.

## WHATS ON

| FIXTURE | DATE | TIME  | LOC.         | REM |
|---------|------|-------|--------------|-----|
| MASS:   | 14/2 | 19.15 | ST. PATRICKS |     |
| BINEO   | 14/2 | 20.00 | D/HALL       |     |





# *left, right and centre*

The Royal Corps of Signals motorcycle display team was sent to Coventry—to take delivery of a brand new fleet of 500-cc Triumph Tiger 100 machines. They replace the 500-cc side-valve models previously in use. Although they had never ridden the new machines before they gave a skilful display as soon as they received them.



Wearing a fur coat and warm smile, the Queen visits the stables at Whitehall after watching the guard mounting of The Blues and Royals. The regiment was recently formed by the amalgamation of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) and The Royal Dragoons.

An Army hovercraft (right) made light work of it. The hovercraft, of 200 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, shipped workmen and acetylene gas cylinders to Leung Kwu Cha island, Hong Kong, for the annual servicing of the light beacon there. Marine Department workmen unload one of the 10 giant cylinders. Said a Department official: "It reduced very greatly the manual labour and time involved and is very much appreciated."







The flying cranes—named CH-54—(far left) were used during the United States Army manoeuvres "Reforger I" at Grafenwohr, between Nuremberg, and the Czech border.

Left: Long Tom was a famous American gun of World War Two. But 74 (The Battle Axe Company) Heavy Battery Royal Artillery has a long David and a long Ernie. To be precise, Lance-Bombardier David Naylor (6ft 1½ins) and Gunner Ernie West (6ft 2ins). Being the tallest man in the company has a special significance. He carries the axe during the Battle Axe Day ceremony every 24 February. A French pioneer's axe was awarded to No 7 Company, 7th Battalion RA—forerunners of today's Battle Axe Company—for distinguished service at the capture of Martinique in 1809. Now, 160 years later, the axe is still trooped annually. This year's parade was held at Tofrek Barracks, Hildesheim. Gunner West—with the pioneer's whiskers—recently joined the Company and usurped Lance-Bombardier Naylor (right) who had been the tallest man for two years.



British personnel stationed at Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) in Brunssum, Holland, are now getting their letters post haste. The mail is flown to nearby Beek Airport instead of Brussels, saving at least 12 hours. The first shipment of mail into Beek was collected by Sergeant Jim Bonham and Captain D Hamilton. Captain Hamilton commands 115 Detachment Postal and Courier Communications Unit, Royal Engineers, which serves HQ AFCENT. The Headquarters, which is manned by forces of seven NATO nations, is responsible for the defence of Central Europe from the North Sea to the Alps.



It takes the mess out of messing. The new mobile canteen (left), mounted on two Bedford lorries, has six gas operated cookers, a large petrol refrigerator, hot-water wash, strip lighting and can feed 250 men at one sitting. Used recently on Front Centre '69—a HQ Allied Forces Central Europe sponsored exercise—it was designed by Squadron-Leader Johnson of the Royal Air Force and Captain Edward Pitman, United States Air Force, who are serving at the Headquarters.

Above: Army weapons at the Imperial War Museum were a disappointment to 11-year-old Kevin Macey. So he wrote to the Ministry of Defence and gave it to them straight: "Your exhibits are obsolete. I was not impressed." Back came the Army's reply—a Thunderbird guided missile. It was parked outside Kevin's home at Thorpe Bay, Essex, complete with its sophisticated electronic equipment and six soldiers of 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery. Captain Bill Blunt told him how it all worked and allowed him to press a few buttons. Kevin was forced to admit that the Army really did have all the gear.

The place is the Women's Royal Army Corps Centre in Guildford and the distinguished visitor Mrs Denis Healey, wife of the Secretary of State for Defence. She discusses a study project with Private Linda Johnson (left) and Private Judith Reeks (right), both 18. The next day Mrs Healey went on to visit Army establishments at Bulford and Tidworth including a children's nursery, families' medical centre, a school and new married quarters.



**B**ATTLE of the Boyne, Namur, Ramillies, Oudenarde, and lastly Malplaquet in 1709. Now, 260 years after they fought side by side, 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, and the Danish Fynskelivregiment are planning an affiliation.

This liaison—it will mean the exchange of officers and men and joint training exercises—is being arranged by the respective colonels following the recent Exercise Superior during which the two regiments exchanged barracks, the Danes staying in Heathfield Camp, Honiton, and the Welshmen on the Danish island of Funen, each leaving behind a rear party to act as hosts.

During the three-week exchange, the Welshmen took part in two “battles”—Exercise Bold Adventure in Schleswig Holstein (see last month’s SOLDIER) and Exercise Brigade Cross over a desolate training area in Jutland.

“A very successful exercise,” commented Lieutenant-Colonel Leonard Egan, the British commanding officer. He is sending the Danes a copy of “Red Dragon,” history of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, as a souvenir. They have already exchanged regimental plaques, when The Royal Welch Fusiliers, then stationed in Iserlohn, went to Denmark in 1964 for a two-week battalion exercise with the Fynskelivregiment.

The Welshmen, trained in FV 432s during their three years in Rhine Army, were without armoured personnel carriers. They fought in the worst possible circumstances for infantry, as flesh versus armour. They had to move on foot and in soft-skinned vehicles while opposing forces of Danish Life Guards and the 182 German Armoured Infantry Battalion had Centurion tanks and tracked armoured carriers. The Welshmen were put on their mettle,

# GOD DAG SOLDAT!

inching their way over unfamiliar countryside and making use of sparse cover of shallow ditches and rows of mini Christmas trees.

At least the “natives” were friendly. There was the cheery greeting: “God dag soldat” (Good day, soldier) and the hospitality of a meal of *smorrebrød*. “They always let us use their barns to sleep in when we asked,” said an officer. “One family actually wanted to turn their children out of their beds for us to sleep in.”

The Danes have not always been friendly to the British. Once they forced their Danelaw on half of England and collected protection money (Danegeld) from the rest. Flayed skins of Danish Viking pirates were once nailed to East Anglian church doors! Canute was both King of England and Denmark.

The Fynskelivregiment (Funen Life Regiment)—raised in 1614 and one of the two oldest regiments in the Royal Danish Army—had one of its battalions leased to England in 1689 by King Christian V. It was in this year that the 23rd of Foot (later The Royal Welch Fusiliers) was raised. The next year, the two regiments fought together in the Battle of the Boyne.



Left: Casting long shadows, Danish Jens trudge along a snow-covered road lined with Christmas trees. Jens—equivalent of Tommy—is short for De Danske Jenser (the Danish soldiers).

Danish dummy tank. It is a wooden framework covered with fabric and mounted on a jeep chassis. “The Danes are very thrifty. We are saving money to buy new tanks,” said Danish Major-General Jens Skriver Jensen. The Royal Danish Army has Centurion and American M 47 Patton tanks. But many are worn out and will cost 400 million krone (£20 million) to replace. “The movement of real tanks is very restricted because every small piece of land is cultivated, so we have to use dummy tanks a lot anyway,” said a major.

Story by HUGH HOWTON  
Pictures by LESLIE WIGGS





The flags are out in Odense. The band and corps of drums of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, picked an appropriate day to march through the town—the 70th birthday of King

Frederick IX who is Allied Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen's Regiment. The Danish national anthem was played in his honour outside the town hall of Odense. During their parade through the

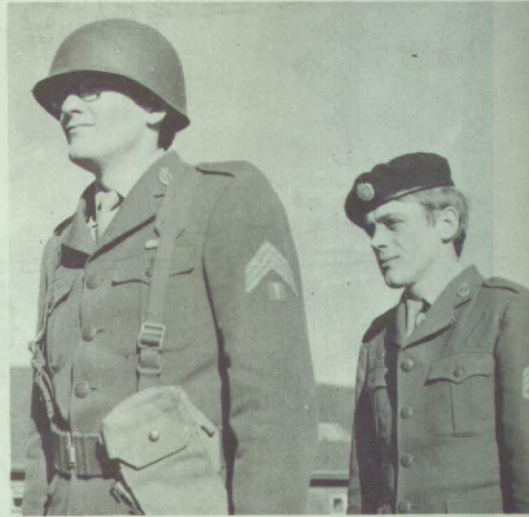
streets, the band and drums played "Colonel Bogey," "Lily the Pink" and tunes from the film about Hans Christian Andersen. Odense was the home of this famous Danish fairy-tale writer.



Guard duty with fixed bayonets at the Funen Life Regiment's barracks in Odense. The rifles are semi-automatic Garands made in Springfield. "They are a little antique but very good," said an officer. The US-style helmets have removable steel tops (not worn here). "They make useful wash basins in the field," explained a soldier.



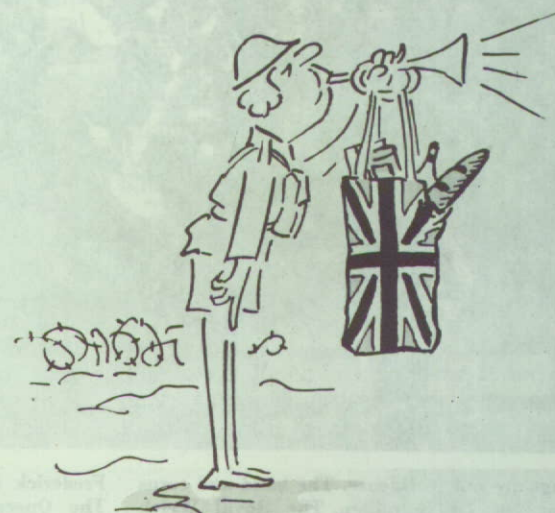
Commemorating 350 years of military history—in beer. The Funen Life Regiment was raised in 1614 and a local brewery produced a special brew to mark the anniversary in 1964. The beer, Musketer Bryg, cannot be bought outside the regiment. Said an officer appreciatively: "It is very strong and has an interesting taste." Beer in Denmark costs 3s to 4s a glass. A packet of 20 cigarettes costs about 7s and one can pay as much as 2s 6d for a cup of coffee served in a restaurant.



Sergeant at 19. This is quite common in the Royal Danish Army. A national serviceman of 18 who has leadership potential spends four months as a recruit and then goes straight to a sergeants' school for a six-month course. Regular sergeants, who are usually much older, have a loop under their stripes—jokingly called "a rocking chair."



# Petticoat Platoon



PAL





# SANDES BUILT ON

Story by Hugh Howton

# ROCK

**C**HRISTIANITY — through the juke box, comfortable armchairs, cream buns, tea and sympathy. Such is the mission of the Sandes Soldiers' and Airmen's Homes which celebrate their centenary this year.

Elise Sandes, founder of the homes, was an unlikely person to care for the rough-and-ready soldiery of 100 years ago. She was delicate and shy, the daughter of a Southern Ireland landlord who lived in Oak Villa, Tralee, an imposing mansion with a long drive and ornamental iron railings.

With her mother's approval she invited drummer boys home. Some of them could not read or write. So she and her teenage friend Marie Fry read them stories from the Bible and taught them to sing hymns.

It was crusading in the teeth of Victorian prejudice. Once she visited a barrack room and asked a drunken soldier: "Will you come to see me tonight?" She was greeted with ribald laughter. But that soldier did go to see her and confessed that because of drink he had been reduced through the ranks three times and ruined. The Bible message gave him hope and Elise gained a convert.

While in Cork—a grimy city of reeking pubs and sleazy dance halls—Miss Sandes was told by a soldier: "There is nowhere the men can go in the evenings if they want to stay straight." It was here that she established the first permanent Sandes home in 1877.

She provided a home from home for the lonely soldiers unable to return to England on a 48-hour pass. A kettle was always on the hob, there was community singing round a piano and the reading room was stacked with good books. Soldiers awaiting boats home—they were not allowed barrack accommodation while on leave—were put up overnight. Miss Sandes stood on the quayside at Queenstown waving goodbye to men destined for the Zulu and Afghan Wars. Many were never to return.

By 1914 she was running 30 homes, yet still found time for correspondence. One soldier wrote to her: "The little Bible (received from Sandes Homes) has a bullet hole right through it. I think it was the means of saving my life as it was carried in my breast pocket when I was hit."

During her lifetime she saw more than 40 homes established from Ireland to France, India and South Africa. And when she died in 1934 the Army paid its highest tribute—a funeral with full military honours.

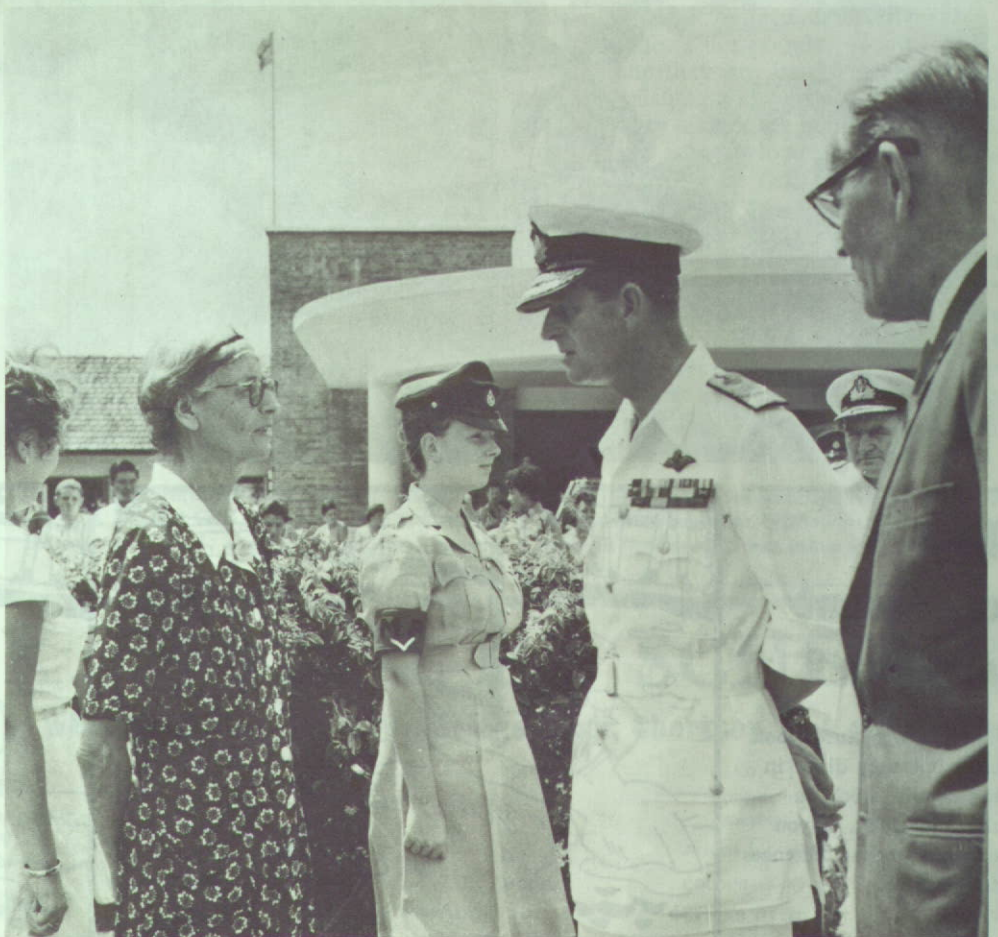
She and Miss Eva McGuire, who took over as honorary superintendent of the homes until her death in 1967, are among the very few civilians so honoured.

Today there are seven Sandes homes—in Belfast, Ballykinlar and Holywood in

Northern Ireland; The Curragh in Eire; Catterick, Singapore and Guildford. All home comforts are provided such as easy chairs, television, quiet rooms and libraries, and meals are available in the canteens. Catterick even has a swimming pool. At Catterick, Belfast and Singapore there is hostel accommodation for men and their families.

The home at Guildford—in the Women's Royal Army Corps Centre—is a new venture in that it caters exclusively for the Women's Services. The girls at Guildford can not only buy snacks and chocolates, but mascara, nail varnish and false eyelashes. And they can invite their boy friends for the evening.

The staff are all Protestant Christians. None is ordained, few have had any formal



Right: VIP visit. The Duke of Edinburgh chats to workers at the Sandes Singapore home in 1965. It will be closed with the Far East withdrawal.

Top of page: Faded Victorian photograph—Miss Elise Sandes who was the founder of the Homes.





# SANDES continued

theological training but all have done church work such as running a Sunday school or youth club. Gone is the image of the elderly spinster aunt in bonnet, boa and bustle. Most of the homes are now run by husbands and wives living on the premises with their families.

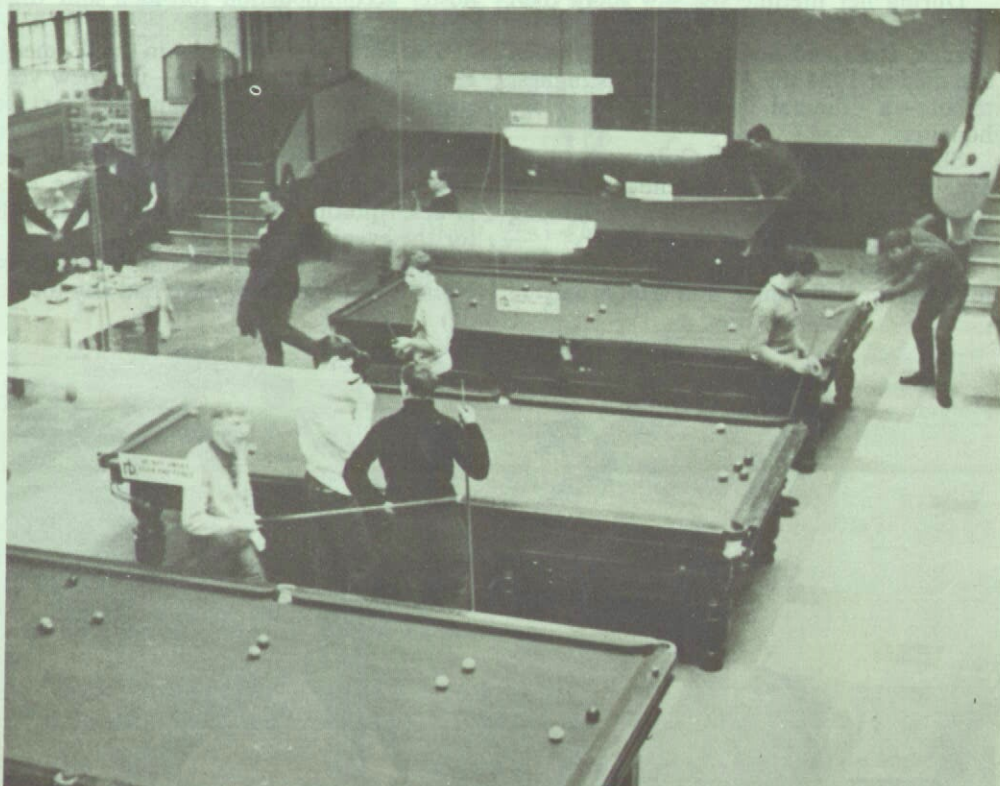
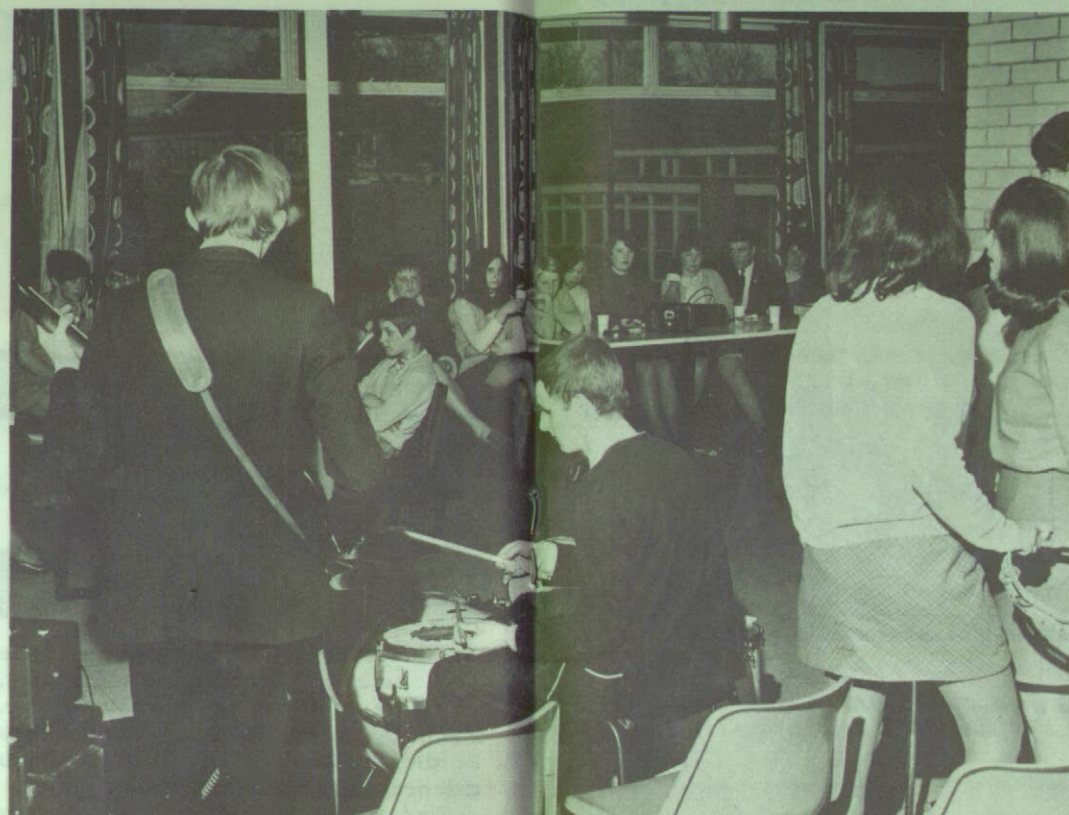
"I suppose they look on us as a mother and father," said Mr Leslie Saunders, who runs the new home at Guildford with his wife Eva. Mr and Mrs Saunders, who have three young daughters, recently moved there from Holywood. "The soldiers can pop round to see us whenever they want, meet the family and have a cup of tea and a chat."

Charity begins at home. Sandes workers have looked after babies when the mothers were ill; fixed up a bed late at night for a soldier when the home was really full; visited sick soldiers in hospital and run parties for children when their fathers were away on exercise and mothers out shopping. Sometimes Sandes samaritans have ticklish tasks—like sewing a badge on a busby. "The only way to do it was to pull the

needle through with the teeth in a most unladylike manner, which resulted in a mouthful of black fur," recalls Mrs Wendy Hume of Catterick in a recent edition of the homes' magazine, Forward. Then, she continued, there was the time a young soldier confessed to her that he had been involved in a fight in his barrack room: "I could not stand him saying things like that about my Saviour, so I hit him."

Although they have great respect for the Royal Army Chaplains' Department, the Saunders think padres have a communication problem. Many private soldiers are hesitant in approaching a padre who wears officer's uniform. "We are a little bit apart from the Army and can give a sympathetic ear," pointed out Mrs Saunders. "The soldiers can come and see us and talk over their problems in a relaxed home atmosphere," she went on. "They rather look on

Right: With drumbeat and twanging guitars, The Followers sock it to them at Guildford. Below: The quiet click of snooker balls at Catterick.



us as an example. Many of them come from broken homes."

Informality is the key. There are no sermons, lectures or services where everyone stands up to sing hymns and kneels down to pray. There is an occasional small Bible study group but the Saunders prefer communication on an individual basis.

"We never buttonhole them with religion," stressed Mr Saunders. The method is more subtle. A juke box in the Guildford

home has pops like "Bad Old Days" by The Foundations and Lulu's "I'm a Tiger" interspersed with religious songs such as "He is Everything to Me" and "My Wondrous Friend."

Sock-it-to-me scripture sessions are a regular feature at Guildford. On alternate Sundays, groups of young people with guitars and drums play and sing religious songs to pop music. Their names are specially significant: The Regeneration, The Messengers and The Followers. Attendance averages 25 to 30.

Film shows are popular too. All have a moral but they are in the teenage idiom about misfits and dropouts who find Christianity and young people of the "you-can't-trust-anybody-over-30" generation who discover that their minister is not a "phony" after all.

At Guildford the generation gap is bridged by 22-year-old Miss Shirley Snaith who assists the Saunders. Said Shirley: "We often talk about hair-dos and fashions and things. You can't hit them over the head with a Bible all the time, you have got to strike a balance. But I often get asked questions like 'Was God a man?' and 'What can he do for me?'"



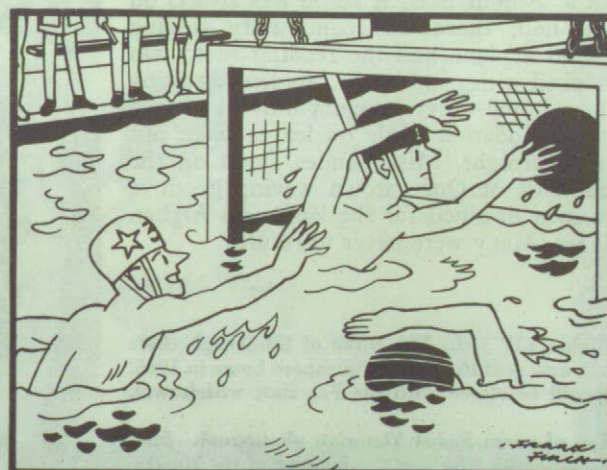
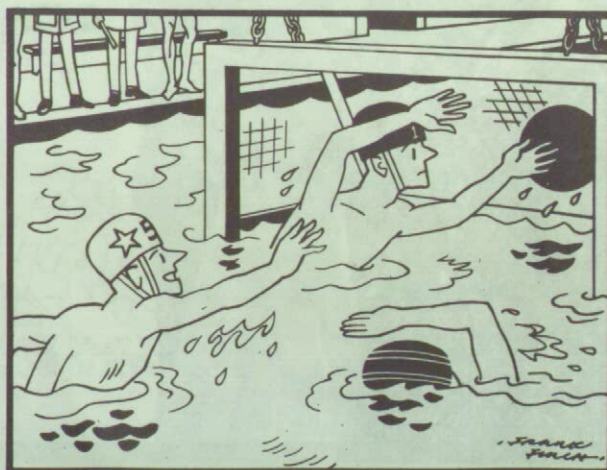
Above: Eva McGuire was high on visiting lists of generals coming to Northern Ireland. With Lieut-Gen Sir Ian Harris, Ballykinlar, 1966. . .

Above: Miss McGuire died the next year, 1967, at 94. A BA and CBE, and Superintendent of the Homes since 1934, she had a military funeral.

Above top: Cosmetics and Christianity. Informal discussion group with Shirley Snaith at the new home in Guildford. It was taken over from YWCA.

## 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 35.



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Far left: Virginia McKenna (Duchess of Richmond) and 16-year-old Susan Wood, a new film find, at the "Waterloo" ball.

Centre: Jack Hawkins (Picton), Terence Alexander (Uxbridge), Michael Wilding (Ponsonby), Rupert Davies (Gordon).

Left: A handshake from Russian director Sergei Bondarchuk (left) as Drum-Major Hall gives him a Gordons Band LP.

Below: Unflinching and steady, the pipes and drums of the Gordons march through smoke and explosion in a battle sequence.



Abseiling at Fort George

## "Waterloo"- and the Gordons



**T**HOUSANDS of flickering candles illuminated a magnificent ballroom giving a warm glow to the brilliant uniforms of noblemen and generals and to the gowns of their ladies as they watched a team of tartan-kilted Scottish broadsword dancers perform to the skirl of bagpipes.

The occasion, now part of history, was the Duchess of Richmond's famous Brussels ball on 17 June 1815, the eve of what was destined to be one of the most significant battles of all time—Waterloo.

That Brussels ballroom, where Wellington first received news of Napoleon's advance, came to life again in the Rome studios of Italian film-maker Dino de Laurentiis, now working on his most ambitious project to date, a 25-million dollar film version of "Waterloo."

On set for these early scenes, rubbing shoulders with Rod Steiger, Christopher Plummer, Virginia McKenna, Jack Hawkins, Michael Wilding and Rupert Davies, were 45 soldiers of 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, who re-enacted the

role played by men of the 92nd (Gordon Highlanders) before and during the great battle.

Dressed in the smart red-and-yellow tunics of the period—authentically reproduced down to the last button—and disguised behind wigs and sideburns, it was hard to recognise the normally familiar faces of the battalion's pipers and drummers or the team of 20 dancers who had been specially trained for the ballroom sequences.

A few days later identification became even more impossible as the Jocks, begrimed by explosions, were involved in the preparation of "cutaways" for the famous battle itself, major episodes of which are being filmed this summer in the Ukraine with 16,000 men of the Soviet Army doubling as French, British and Prussian infantry and cavalry. In order that these scenes can be accurately "married up," the Gordons were also called on to make a series of "stills" of their marching, as well as recording pipe music for the film soundtrack.

Working with Russia's dynamic film director Sergei Bondarchuk, of "War and

Peace" fame, was no holiday. Reveille at 4 am, departure for the studios at 5, make-up from 6, and on set into the evening meant a 14-hour working day. Even so the general opinion was that the whole exercise had been "an experience too good to miss."

Certainly it provided a topic for conversation over a pint back at the Scotsmen's messes in Minden, Germany. For instance, there was that bewildered look on the face of Rupert Davies (playing Lord Gordon) when Drum-Major Gren Hall marched briskly towards him, snapped to attention, saluted and barked out: "Sir, I feel I should greet you as our new commanding officer . . . but what the hell was your batman up to this morning?" Slowly the actor's face broke into a grin as the drum-major went on to point out mistakes in his uniform.

"After all", he explained later, "I have been a member of The Black Watch, the Camerons and The Queen's Own Highlanders, besides the Gordons, so I feel I should know the form. When young subalterns entered the studios with plaids upside down I tried to tell them what was

wrong, but seeing our own CO incorrectly dressed was the limit!"

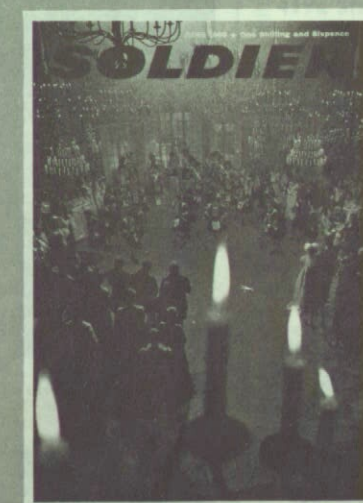
Then there was the day when a battle sequence nearly ended in chaos as kilted Italian extras "died" rather than endure the battlefield explosions. As cameras rolled just a thin line of sooty-faced Gordon Highlanders emerged through the smoke instead of the assembled Army, and an irate director ordered yet another re-take!

"Waterloo," to the success of which the Gordons will have made no small contribution with their dash and talent, will be a unique film. Not only does it mark the first time that this battle has been screened; it is also the first co-production between a Russian company and a Western producer.

And if the Scotsmen's popularity among stars and extras alike is anything to go by their box office draw when the film is released towards the end of 1970 should be really something. Already they have had "rave" notices in Italian newspapers following their appearance at a Rome Press reception.

From a report by Army Public Relations 1st Division, Rhine Army.

### FRONT COVER



Broadsword dancers of The Gordon Highlanders entertain in the magnificent ballroom set, built in Dino de Laurentiis's Rome Studios to film the Duchess of Richmond's eve-of-battle Waterloo ball.

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# PURELY PERSONAL

## The General comes to tea

So the general was left holding the baby! And made a good job of it at Queen Mary's Nursery, Aldershot, run by the Army for the children of officers and soldiers and whose mothers are temporarily unable to look after them. When **Major-General Charles Stainforth**, GOC South-East District, came to tea there were 15 residents and 15 other children as guests. They also saw a conjuring show but the ices and jelly at tea were a great treat—when served by a general.



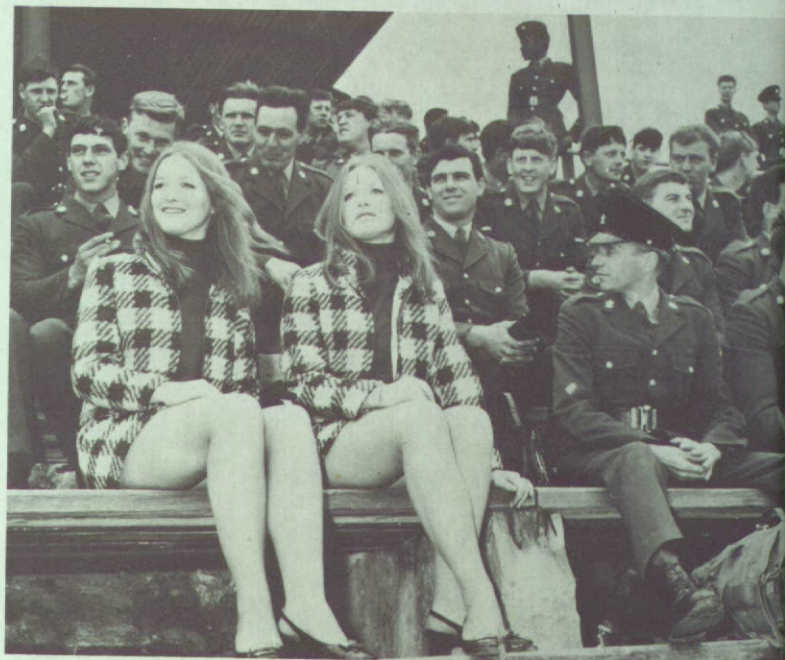
## Biblical battler

The padre teaches religion by war games. **The Reverend Derek Spilman** uses maps and a sand table to bring Old Testament battles to life. Here he shows how Gideon's 300 men routed the Midianite army in 2000 BC. Afterwards Mr Spilman discussed tactics with his pupils of 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. The war games are no gimmick. "It's to combine military and religious training," he explained. "It makes it interesting and gets away from the 'Thou shalt not' language. Also it is a means of getting people to open their Bibles and of showing that the Old Testament characters were real and not just people in funny clothes and flowing beards."



## Twin triumph

The pretty **Spooner twins** cheered 1st Battalion, The Lancashire Regiment, to a 2-1 triumph in the Malta inter-Service football cup final at Corradino. And the Lancashire lads reciprocated by giving a big hand to the girls after their star performance in the Combined Services Entertainment show that evening.







## Top Price

He beat 1944 other candidates from all over the world. **Staff-Sergeant Windsor Price**, Royal Army Pay Corps, has won two top awards of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants. He received the Donald Moran Prize for being first in part three of the Institute's examinations and the W B Flower Award for financial accountancy. Staff Price, who is 33, was educated at Neath Grammar School, worked for a Neath firm of chartered accountants and decided to sign on during his National Service in the Pay Corps. He is at present in the Command Pay Office in Rhine Army. Of the six other prizes awarded by the Institute, one went to **Lieutenant Jim Park RAPC**, and another to **Mr John Burnup**, a civilian executive officer at the Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington.



## Sergeant mother

**Lance - Corporal David Worth**, 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, had a big kiss for the sergeant arriving at Düsseldorf Airport. The sergeant was his mother. She is **Mrs Jeanne Kick** (new name by remarriage) and had come to spend some leave with him in Münster. Sergeant Kick, who is stationed at the Central London Recruiting Depot, is the oldest serving recruiting sergeant in London District. But she is outranked by her husband, **Regimental Sergeant-Major Frederick Kick** of 15 Group, Army Cadet Force, at Wallington, Surrey. There are believed to be several other members of the Women's Royal Army Corps who have sons serving in the Army.



## Brothers in arms

A soldier's best friend is his brother. At least that is what seven men of A Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry Regiment (Volunteers), think. Pictured in front of a Saladin at the TAVR Centre in Trowbridge are, left to right: **Troopers Michael and Trevor Wilkins**, **Trooper Philip and Corporal Francis Vennell**, and **Troopers Nigel, Anthony and Colin Fowler**. They will all be going to camp at Bellerby, Yorkshire, for two weeks this month.



## and brothers in armour

Two pairs of brothers are following the tracks of **Sergeant R Alcorn** (left) special recruiter of 4th Royal Tank Regiment. All four are joining the sergeant's regiment. They are, from left to right, **George and Isaac Macphie** from Wick and **Peter and Campbell Taylor** from Tomin. They are pictured at Inverness Army Careers Information Office, the most northerly recruiting office in Britain.

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## FROM TRUMPET, FIFE AND DRUM

**M**ILITARY bands have come a long way in the last 250 years from the early days of only trumpet, fife and drum.

It was not until the early part of the 18th

century that military bands as such began to make their appearance. These usually comprised eight instrumentalists with two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons and two horns and often the serpent and ophicleide. These groups were under hired bandmasters, usually Germans, and privately maintained by the officers of a regiment.

Band strengths gradually grew and by the early 19th century well-established bands such as the Royal Artillery (Woolwich) and Coldstream Guards were 20 or more strong. But there was little co-ordination and military music generally badly needed moulding into an organised machine.

Queen Victoria was worried over the band situation and deputed the then commander-in-chief, Field-Marshal the Duke of Cambridge, to do something about it. A far-seeing man who realised the value of creating a musical establishment to train bandmasters and musicians, he set up in 1857 the Military Music Class at Kneller Hall, Twickenham, now the Royal

Military School of Music. And military music has never looked back from this turning point.

Present-day strengths of bands vary from 30 for regimental bands to more than 60 for major staff bands (Guards bands etc). The Royal Artillery Band (Woolwich) has 84 musicians including a full symphony orchestra.

The standard of playing generally has fluctuated over the years, mainly because of wars, but today's standard is very high indeed. This is borne out by some of the fine recordings now available. The type of music played has changed very little down the years. The public still wants to hear a good Sousa or Kenneth Alford march, a Suppé overture or Sullivan selection, but there is a trend to "mix it" with some of the wonderful American band arrangements.

As true today as yesterday, there is no sound more pleasing to the ear or sight more appealing to the eye than a good and well-disciplined military band.

\*\*\*\*\*

**"Second to None" (Band of the Coldstream Guards)** (Director of Music, Captain Trevor L Sharpe) (Golden Guinea GSGL 10419).

There have been many fine LPs made by military bands but I would class this as one of the best.

The overall quality of performance is superb and the standard of recording excellent.

The items selected bring out the many fine qualities of this band and illustrate the wide range and great potential of the British Army's staff bands.

From the very first notes of Gounod's "March Militaire" on Side 1 to the stirring quick march of the Coldstream Guards, "Milanollo," the listener is treated to a feast of modern arrangements which are brilliant in their conception and pure joy to hear.

The most exacting piece is the "Festive Overture" by Shostakovich, a very difficult work—but what an exciting performance this band gives. "Winds on the Run" (Osterling), "Blades of Toledo" (Trevor Sharpe), "Cherokee" (Ray Noble) and "Black Eyes" (Ferraris) are all included to demonstrate the brilliant teamwork of both brass and woodwind, but the outstanding performance is "Fanfare and Soliloquy for Band" by Trevor Sharpe. In this the composer brings out the sharp attack and brilliance of his brass and the beautiful tone of his woodwind, particularly in the low register, and at the same times gives a rare tone picture. This is an instance of the craftsman knowing his job.

I can firmly recommend this LP to all music lovers.

**"Music of The South Staffordshire Regiment and The North Staffordshire Regiment" (Band of 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment)** (Bandmaster R A Hunt) (Sound News Production SNP 33).

This privately sponsored LP is a very interesting disc because it embodies a wealth of music of both the old regiments, but I think it is spoiled by including too much music that has no connection with either.

The regimental quick marches are particularly well played and it is good to hear "Come Lasses and Lads," a very good march-past, but one of the most interesting marches is "The 80th Slow March" which, as far as is known, is the only slow bugle march specially written for this purpose. It was composed by Bandmaster J Baxter, of 2nd Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment (80th), in Cairo in 1931 and first performed on a Retreat beating there in the same year. It was an immediate success.

"The Staffordshire Knot," one of the finest of marches, was composed by W J Duthoit, band sergeant of the North Staffords, who passed through Kneller Hall to become bandmaster of 2nd Battalion, South Staffords, in 1923. He wrote the march when a student bandmaster and over the years it has become part of the regimental music of the combined regiments. The new combined regimental march has been well arranged by Bandmaster Hunt.

This LP is available at 30s from Regimental Headquarters, The Staffordshire Regiment, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

**"The Marches of The Worcestershire Regiment" (Regimental band)** (Bandmaster J L Long) (Hollick/Taylor HT/EP 1116B).

Many regiments have made non-commercial records of their own regimental music played by their own bands. Although these may not have a very wide appeal, they preserve the music for posterity. This EP includes such grand marches as "Rule Britannia," "The Lincolnshire Poacher," "Royal Windsor," "Heart of Oak" (incorrectly titled "Hearts of Oak" on the record) and "The Duchess of Kent," better known as the Royal Artillery's slow march. It is available at 7s 6d, including postage, from the Regimental Secretary, The Worcestershire Regiment, Norton Barracks, Worcester.

\*\*\*\*\*

**"The Regimental Music of The South Wales Borderers (24th Regiment)" (Regimental band)** (Bandmaster O R Whiting) (Hollick/Taylor HT/EP S1137A).

This is another non-commercial record and a "must" for all South Wales Borderers, past and present, although they may be a little surprised to hear the drums and fifes playing "The Happy Wanderer." It is doubtful if this tune can be found in regimental records or, indeed, among Welsh national music! This is a very good little record and includes "God Bless the Prince of Wales," "British Grenadiers," "Men of Harlech" and "Land of My Fathers." Available at 9s 6d from the Regimental Secretary, The South Wales Borderers, The Barracks, Brecon.

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**"Regimental Marches of the British Army" (Band of the Scots Guards)** (Director of Music, Major James H Howe) (Fontana STL 5482).

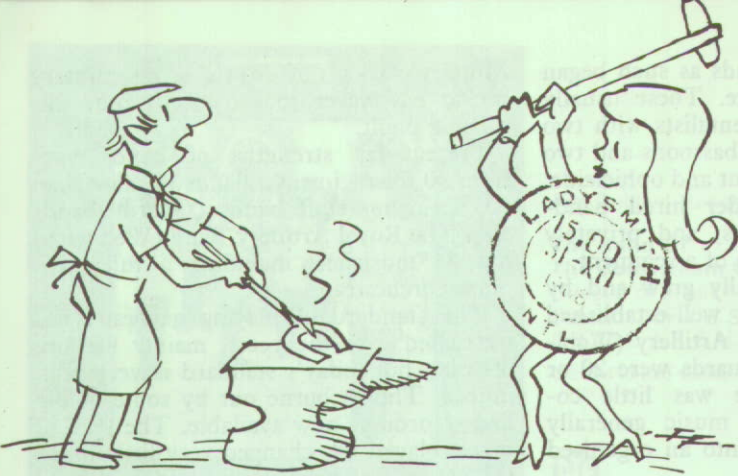
This is a follow-up to an LP made by the band of the Royal Military School of Music some years ago and is a very welcome addition to regimental march music—it is amazing how many people are interested in

this inspiring and stirring music. With so many changes in regiments it is good to have these wonderful old tunes on records. The marches on this disc vary from the oldest regimental march of the Army, "Dumbarton's Drums" (The Royal Scots), to a comparatively new one, an arrangement of Wagner's "The Ride of the Valkyries" for The Parachute Regiment.

This LP also includes cavalry, light infantry, Army Catering Corps ("Sugar and Spice"), Royal Military Police and Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps "Grey and Scarlet." It is a great pity that there is not a short introduction of each march—without this it is very difficult to follow the succession.

BHB





blue dress and the red "tunic order" dress are, of course, an issue.

## Student's plea

Is there any Army family stationed in Germany who could help an impoverished student by offering cheap accommodation from about 8 August to 20 September this year? I am studying German and Russian at Birmingham University and have to spend the summer in Germany but haven't been able to get a job, and the cost of living in a German lodging house is much more than the pound-a-day maintenance grant which is supposed to keep me from starving.

I am a willing baby-sitter, dishwasher, floor-scrubber and general household drudge, to say nothing of being an ex-Naafi girl!—Miss P Heron, Students' Union, Birmingham University, Birmingham 15.

## On or off?

SOLDIER (February) published a photograph of the Colours of The Durham Light Infantry being handed over to the Dean of Durham Cathedral by Lieut-Col J H Jacob, commanding 4th Battalion, The Light Infantry, who is shown wearing no headdress. In another part of the magazine there is a picture of the Colours of The York and Lancaster Regiment being handed to the Provost of Sheffield Cathedral by Lieut-Colonel P A Winter, commanding officer, who is wearing headdress. Which is correct?—Brig A H Peskett, Oak Tree Cottage, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, South Devon.

★The officer who actually hands over the Colours to the cathedral or church, provided he is not a member of the Colour party, (who do wear headdress and carry arms), should not wear headdress unless, of course, there is some other factor such as regimental tradition or special privilege. The DLI commanding officer was, therefore, correct to be uncovered.

Inquiries at the Regimental Headquarters of The York and Lancaster Regiment revealed that the Regiment did

not in fact claim any tradition or special privilege, but it was pointed out that in the case of the Regiment's ceremony at Sheffield Cathedral neither the Bishop nor the Dean raised any objection at rehearsals to the commanding officer wearing headdress.

## Amphibians

With reference to Capt I G M Bamber's letter (February) concerning 18 Amphibian Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, rumour has it that this squadron is soon to be drastically reduced. As Capt Bamber says, it is the only amphibian squadron in the Regular Army and now that the only reserve squadron has disbanded this must place the role of the amphibian in a very minor position.

As an ex-member of 264 Amphibian Squadron RCT (V) may I take this opportunity to thank all members of 18 Squadron for all their help to us during our annual training and for being our hosts at Fremington, Devon, many times. I should particularly like to thank the senior non-commissioned officers who acted as advisers during the last port task exercise at Brown-down, Hampshire, in May/June 1968.

Good luck to you, 18 Squadron. May you and your DUKWs soldier on for many years.—S/Sgt M G Morley, 260 Sqn RCT (V), 71 Wheatfield Way, Cranbrook, Kent.

★SOLDIER understands that in the foreseeable future there will be no run-down of 18 Amphibian Squadron subject, of course, to any change in defence policy.

## Happy collector

I am writing to express my thanks for publishing my requirement for military badges in the November Collectors' Corner. To date I have had 53 replies, mainly from the UK and Europe but also from the USA, Pakistan, Australia and Malta. I am assured by a friend who had a similar notice published in SOLDIER about 18 months ago that the replies will probably continue for another year. He had over 100 answers

# Letters

SOLDIER welcomes letters. There is not space however to print every letter of interest received; all correspondents must therefore give their full names and addresses to ensure a reply. Answers cannot be sent to collective addresses. Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published and SOLDIER cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit.

## Back to full dress

Since I started subscribing to SOLDIER in 1961 it seems to me from photographs in the magazine that regimental bands have changed quite a bit. In the past two years I have noticed that most bands have gone back to the pre-1914 full-dress uniforms including full-dress helmets and busbies. Personally I think this is about time.

The blue dress for bands is pretty

smart too, but the red coat with the white dress belt does something for an army band. I know that bands of the Brigade of Guards have worn the full-dress uniform for many years now.—Philip Leventhal, 530 West 163rd Street, New York, NY 10032, USA.

★Many regimental bands are indeed reverting to pre-1914 full-dress uniforms but this is purely a private arrangement by the regiments concerned. They provide the uniforms from their own funds. No 1

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from 17 countries outside Europe.  
Once again, my thanks.—**G W E Adamson, 10 Newton Terrace, Bishophill, York, YO1 1HE.**

**Band for hire**

Although the band of The Middlesex Yeomanry is no longer recognised as a band of the TAVR it still continues to play at functions as previously. If a unit within reasonable distance of London requires the services of a military band for parades, concerts, church services or recruiting drives when its own band is not available, it might like to know that the band of The Middlesex Yeomanry Old Comrades Association can be engaged at a reasonable fee.  
Inquiries should be addressed to the Band President, who is:—**Lieut-Col S J Williams, 88 Hornsey Lane, London N6.**

**Pith helmets**

As avid and regular readers of SOL-DIER we would like to address a plea to all Army readers.  
We urgently require 50 white Wolseley pith helmets for the boys of 2554 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Cadet Corps. Of course we would be delighted to find some kind donor but if necessary are prepared to buy these and pay all shipping costs. We would be grateful for any information regarding a source of supply.—**Lieut E C Doughty, Adjutant 2554 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Cadet Corps, AF16 Currie Barracks, Canadian Forces Base, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.**

**910 Club**

On re-organisation of the Territorial Army, 910 Sqn RCT (TA) was disbanded and its drill hall at Mossley Hill, Liverpool, sold. However, it was decided by all ranks, both male and female (we had a grand bunch of WRAC), that 910

was not to die and accordingly 910 Club was formed. Now, some two years later we are flourishing, with regular meetings, dances and functions. We have our own distinctive tie—navy blue with the Liverpool liver bird surmounting the squadron's numerals in silver—and a brooch of similar design is on the stocks for lady members.  
Our members are scattered in places as far apart as Northern Ireland and Australia and I know that many have joined the Regular Army. We want as many people as possible to know of the existence of what I believe to be the only active club of its kind. There must be many old 910 lads who would welcome the idea of joining us. If they would write to me I will arrange for them to have copies of regular bulletins and a tie if they so wish.—**John D Shaw, Hon Sec 910 Club, Trinity Chambers, 8 Suez Street, Warrington, Lancs.**

**War years double**

How I heartily endorse Mr R Rimmer's letter (March). I had 15 years' "Exemplary service" when discharged on medical grounds. I had enlisted on a 22-year engagement with my heart set on attaining the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. A modified Service pension and disability pension have not been balm enough for my keen disappointment at falling short by three years of attaining the award.  
There must be many men and women just falling short of the far-too-long-required period for reasons such as mine and through no fault of their own. I feel that in such cases the award should be granted or at least there should be a "secondary" award.  
The LSGC is not for valour but for long, loyal and exemplary service and I feel sure many will agree with me that the "powers that be" demand far too long a period of service to attain it. During World War Two the Territorial soldier's service counted double towards the required 12 years for the Territorial Efficiency Medal, another fine decoration. Surely such a gesture

could also have been made for those of the Regular Forces on long-serving engagements and would perhaps even have encouraged others to "take on".  
I am now 52 and do not enjoy the best of health but hope I shall see a change of heart that will grant us the award we set our sights and hearts on.—**J J Stokes, 15 Charterhouse Road, Stoke, Coventry, Warwickshire.**

We can learn much from the design and quality of the American Serviceman's uniform etc—but please, never from medals! Though I do not doubt the worth and valour of Captain Rankin's achievements, 19 medals in six months make a laughing stock of the man and those he serves.  
American bombing does not seem to have brought North Vietnam to her knees—but if Captain Rankin receives any more medals he will spend the rest of his service career on his!  
Issuing decorations at this rate makes them quite worthless. However I do agree that there should be a very different system from that which operates today for the British Serviceman.

When an individual wins or qualifies for a medal it should be issued within at least a month. (The current General Service Medal is a fine medal but all too many receive it only when they have left the Service). Additional bars should be minted, issued and added, again within a month, so that the individual receives credit for the action in which he has been engaged. For more outstanding campaigns special medals should be struck.  
Now to good conduct medals. On completion of one year's service (provided a certain standard of conduct is maintained) a medal should be issued with a bar for each following year. After five years a special bar should be issued and previous bars removed, and so on through the soldier's career. In addition a long service medal should be issued after 15 years. Three or four (in some cases more) well-designed medals complete with up-to-date bars would show that quality and not quantity is the standard in the British Army.

In this way the "virgin breasts" will be covered without our troops looking like over-decorated Christmas trees!—**R Castle, 97 Stakes Road, Purbrook, Waterlooville, Hants.**

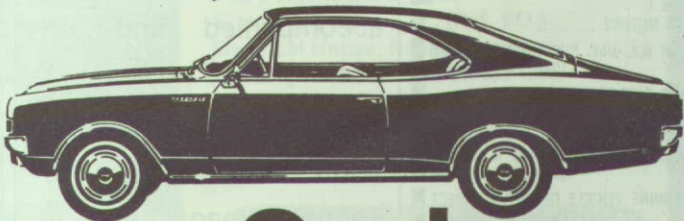
**More medals ?**

Mr Rimmer implies (March letters) that the British Army should adopt the American method of awarding medals. In my opinion, when a person sees a member of any armed Service aged 27 with three rows of medal ribbons on his chest, all from two years in one place, he begins to wonder how he got them.  
Any British soldier wearing a medal ribbon is sure to have earned it and, after all, a man who joins up is paid to fight so awards should be made only for exceptional conduct outside the call of duty (General Service medals not included) and not for being first in the NAAFI queue three times in a row whilst under fire.—**Pte R Wilcox, Sp Coy, 1 PWO, Roman Barracks, Colchester, Essex.**

Mr Rimmer's letter on a Service medal for Germany is perhaps important. Medals should indeed not be issued indiscriminately but a single overseas service or overseas duty medal, for those qualified, would be valued by those wearing it and would not cheapen others. This need not be administratively difficult or expensive—it could be in bronze, not silver. Three or six months' good conduct overseas (with the usual injury, sickness and gallantry provisions) would be appropriate, with bars for 30 days or more in say Europe, Middle East, Africa and Far East where no general service medal or campaign star has been issued.  
Such an award could well be retrospective, from the end of World War Two or the accession of Queen Elizabeth II. Service could be aggregated, including Reserve camps—a real incentive to continue.—**Lieut L Goodall RAMC (TAVR), 21 Styles Close, Stopsley, Luton, Beds.**

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## Letters continued

### Combat badges

Sergeant Byng's letter (March) about combat badges is interesting. There are many courses and skills from freefall parachuting to first aid instructors which could well be recognised by the wearing of a small arm badge. If we wish to encourage recruiting and slow the rate of leavers let us not ignore every aspect which has been associated with the Service in the past—foreign duty, uniforms, regimental titles and traditions and many other Service attractions have all been cut to shreds. Let us leave some token and reward still showing.—2/Lieut L Goodall RAMC (TAVR), 21 Styles Close, Stopsley, Luton, Beds.

### Reserved

I find the similarity between Sergeant Byng's "Infantry Combat Badge" and Mr Rimmer's "More Medals—and Quicker?" (March letters) very interesting.

Sergeant Byng raised the question of the British Army's treatment of its national flag. Here he touches upon the different approaches of the British and Americans to patriotism. Surely the American attitude stems from the immigrant origin of their population, which needs a ritual symbol of unity. A similar display of patriotic pride would seem ostentatious to the British who are both more reserved emotionally and united in their background.

This reserved attitude, in my experience, is also seen in the British soldier's attitude to badges and medals. Pride in one's regiment or corps takes the place of that of one's division and is felt deeply enough not to need flamboyant expression. Similarly medals, which are recognised as awards for outstanding conduct, normally in action. To increase their availability would debate the importance of all medals and many men, I am sure, would not

appreciate looking like "walking Christmas trees"!—Cpl R C Saunders, The Depot, Intelligence Corps, Templer Barracks, Ashford, Kent.

### Where are the "Matchstick" men?

During 1939-45 the Army made extensive use of coloured posters to stimulate interest in physical training. They were the work of the famous cartoonist Fougasse who used "matchstick" men to illustrate the exercises.

The Army Physical Training Corps Museum would very much like a complete set for preservation. Even one or two would be better than none at all—our present sad position.

May I appeal to readers for any help they can give. Information may be sent direct to me or given to any serving PT officer or APTCI.—Maj T L Fletcher (Retd), Hon Curator APTC Museum, ASPT, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, Hants.

### OF COURSE!

Readers seemed to enjoy the February competition as much as Mr and Mrs Armitage and their friends enjoyed their meal. Who ate and drank what was the question. The answer was:

Mr Armitage: Soup, —, Beef, Rice, Brandy; Mrs Armitage: Juice, Plaice, Pork, Cheese, Coffee; Maj Brooks: Soup, Cod, Lamb, Cheese, —; Mrs Brooks: —, Sole, Chicken, Rice, Coffee.

Prizewinners:

1 L/Cpl E Woolfenden, HQ Coy, 4 RRF, Gun Club Hill Barracks, BFPO 1.

2 Miss M E MacLagan, Myrtlewood, Heathcote Road, Camberley, Surrey.

3 A Dewan, 1/6 QEO Gurkha Rifles, BFPO 1.

## Wingate's phantom army

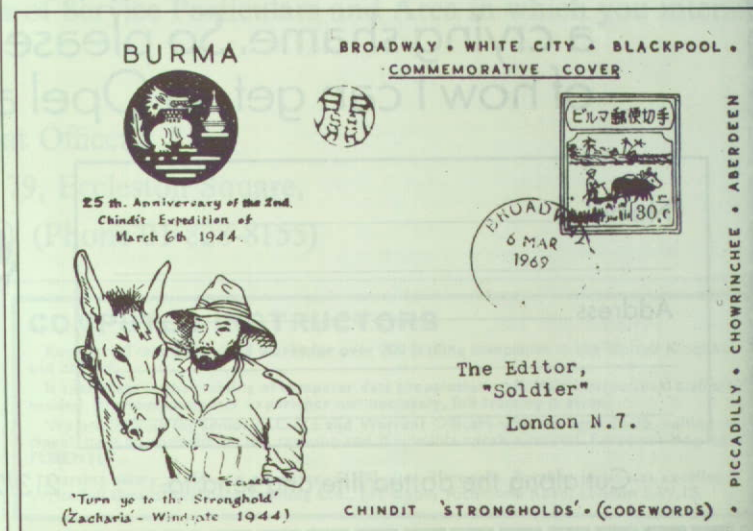
Ex-Chindit Bert Reeves, of 33 The Green, Stratford, London, has designed a special envelope cover issued on 6 March to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the second glider-borne Chindit expedition into Japanese-occupied Burma. Mr Reeves, who also produced the envelope, says it is a tribute to the memory of General Orde Wingate, who was tragically killed whilst visiting his Chindits, and to all those who fought and died in both Chindit campaigns.

The envelope, of particular interest to philatelic collectors, was drawn by artist C Clark, of Colliers Wood, London, and depicts a typical Chindit and his mule.

Strong bonds of friendship existed between these men and the

pack animals that shared their hardships and dangers. It was not uncommon for a tough-looking bearded Chindit to go away into the jungle and cry like a baby when his animal partner had to be destroyed because of injury or, as a last resort, for use as food.

A special feature of the cover is the Burmese Japanese occupation stamp in current use at the time of the Chindit campaign and cancelled by a special date handstamp marked "Broadway" (code-name of the major Chindit glider landing-strip some hundreds of miles within Japanese-occupied territory). A further small handstamp, the "personal seal" of a Japanese officer who died "For the glory of the Emperor," is also used to give historical value to this unique cover.





4 Mrs N V Burnett, 8 Sarum Drive, Devizes, Wilts.  
 5 Spr L Gallagher, 9 Indep Para Sqn RE, Haig Lines, Crookham, Aldershot, Hants.  
 6 WO I (SSM) F E Ellison RAOC, HQ DOS, CILSA, Vauxhall Barracks, Didcot, Berks.  
 7 Maj J Boyne, 20 Nursery Close Frimley Green Camberley, Surrey.  
 8 Sgt G M Banks, 19 Wingfield Road, Stratford, London E15.  
 9 D Stollery, A Clerks, HQ Plymouth Gp RM, Hamoaze House, Mount Wise, Plymouth, Devon.  
 10 Spr E Herod, Plant Tp, 16 Fd Sqn RE (Project), BFPO 36.  
 11 E Benford, 20 East Woodside, Bexley, Kent.  
 12 WO II D Hines, HQ RAOC, 1 Div, BFPO 32.  
 13 Maj R S Groves, Ord Directorate, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.  
 14 WO I H M Kibble, Artillery Branch, HQ Far East Land Forces, c/o GPO Singapore.  
 15 Mrs K Pethers, 32 Churchill Road, Langley, Slough, Bucks.

## REUNIONS

**The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment Association.** Remembrance service and reunion Maidstone—20 July, Canterbury—10 August.

**Military Provost Staff Corps Association.** Reunion dinner Saturday, 12 July, Berechurch Hall Camp, Colchester. Details from Hon Sec, MPSC Association, Berechurch Hall Camp.

## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 24)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Length of stick held by spectator. 2 Right doorpost. 3 Numeral on left player's cap. 4 Right shoe of spectator third from right. 5 Stripes on cap of swimmer on right. 6 Position of water drop at elbow of swimmer on right. 7 Goal-keeper's left collarbone. 8 Left shoulder of left player. 9 Left leg of form behind spectators. 10 Ripple at right goalpost.

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## Calais 1940

To the gallant defence of Calais in 1940 Sir Winston Churchill attributed the safe withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force from the Dunkirk beaches. The Royal Green Jackets bore the lion's share of the Calais battle and to commemorate the action The Rifle Brigade Club and Association commissioned from Terence Cuneo the painting illustrated (left) in black-and-white.

Colour prints of this painting are now being made available to SOLDIER readers at 20s including postage to any part of the world. Within a white border the print area is 16 x 11½ inches.

Orders, accompanied by cheque, postal order, money order or international money order, made out to "SOLDIER Magazine," should be sent to SOLDIER (Print RB2), 433 Holloway Road, London N7.

## COLLECTORS' CORNER

Dr Roger Hughes, Box 520, Kanata, Ontario, Canada.—Wishes purchase any Victorian campaign medals, Hampshire Regiment or KRRC. Will exchange or purchase any Army or Navy lists and military prints. All letters answered.

L/Cpl M Branstion, 4 R Anglian Regt, Gordon Barracks, Gillingham, Kent.—Wishes sell one pair dress- and one pair riding- pre-World War One solid nickel spurs in excellent condition but no fitting straps. Photograph available to anyone interested. No reasonable offers refused.

W Lambert, Sycamore House, Grey Green, Belton, Doncaster, Yorks.—

Requires British cavalry badges, buttons, shoulder titles, particularly embroidered badges and officers' service dress badges for cash or exchange.

D A J Lister, 1 Norr Green Terrace, Wilsden, Bradford, Yorks.—Requires all Victorian, Edward VII British campaign medals India, Africa, Egypt, China etc also Victorian books on British campaigns. All postage paid. Please send details.

G Pilkington, 5 Bowness Crescent, Kingston Vale, London SW15.—Wishes buy any rank badges especially RMP above rank of sergeant.

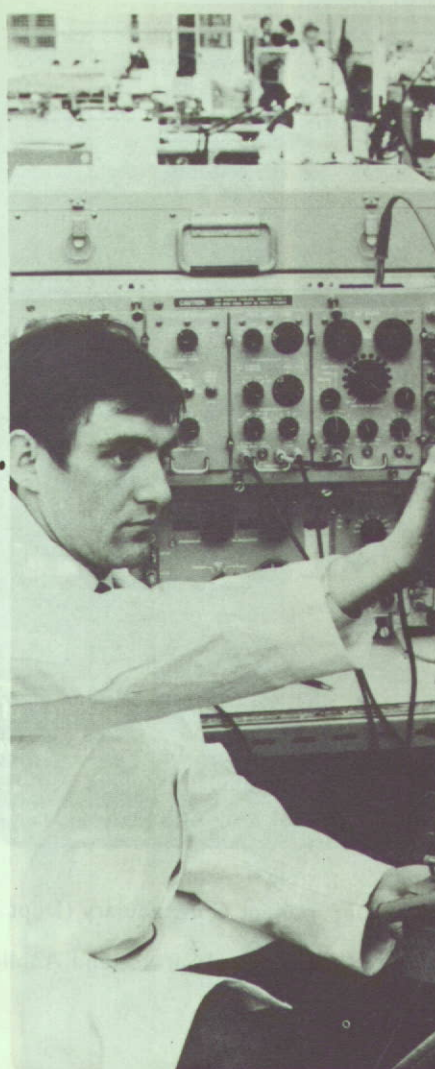
G Robb, 17 Hillhead Road, Craig-hall, Aberdeenshire.—Urgently requires American steel helmet, gaiters, combat

boots (size 9) also .45 automatic or 9mm holster and US combat knife. Will exchange captain's dress jacket, Gordon Highlander bonnet and Sam Browne belt, all in good condition.

R J Girling, 8 Edinburgh Gardens, Claydon, Ipswich, Suffolk.—Requires worldwide cap badges and army insignia in exchange for British militaria.

John D Willcox-Jones, 6 Hensley Road, Bath BA2 2DR.—Requires SOLDIER March 1945 to December 1954 and March, April, July 1955 issues.

P Thistoll, 97 Racecourse Road, Christchurch 4, New Zealand.—Will exchange New Zealand badges and shoulder flashes for badges and medals in general.



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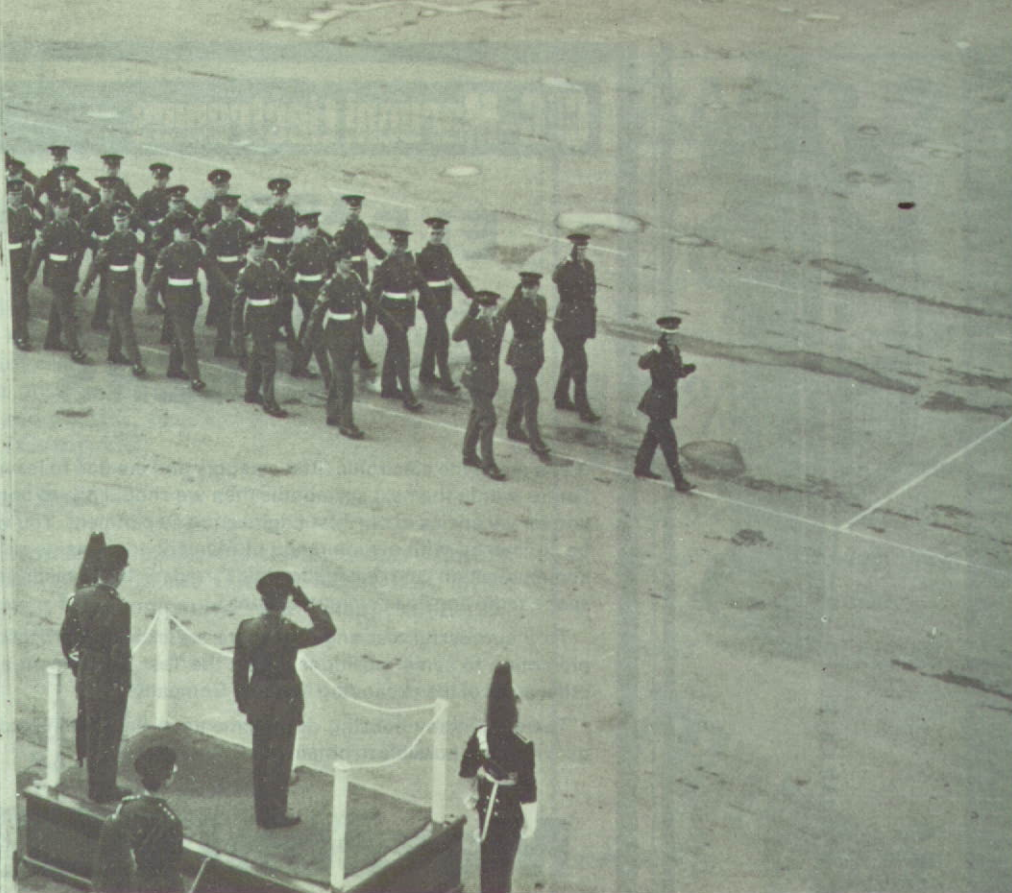
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# *It's The Blues and Royals*

**A**FTER 308 years of vigorous, independent and distinguished life two famous British cavalry regiments—the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues) and The Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons)—have joined forces and a new regiment of Household Cavalry has come into being.

The main parade marking the amalgamation took place at Detmold, Germany, while token parades were held at Wellington Barracks in London, Bovington Camp, Dorset, and Pirbright Camp, Surrey.

As Colonel of the new regiment—The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons)—Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer took the salute at a march past on a windswept Detmold parade ground. With him was the Deputy Colonel, General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, C-in-C Rhine Army.

The new regiment, equipped with Chieftain battle tanks and stationed at Hobart Barracks, Detmold, is the first Household Cavalry regiment to be equipped with tanks.

About 80 old comrades of The Royal Dragoons attended an earlier weekend of special activities at Detmold to mark the end of their regiment as a separate entity.

The Royals were founded in 1661 as The Tangier Horse and on their return to England 22 years later were regimented as the 1st Royal Regiment of Dragoons. Their first colonel was Lord Churchill, later Duke of Marlborough, and among

former colonels-in-chief were Kaiser Wilhelm II, King George V and King George VI.

One of their most famous battle honours was won at Waterloo with the capture of the Standard of the French 105th Infantry Regiment. The Royals have taken part in most of the major campaigns of the British Army.

Charles II raised the Royal Horse Guards in 1661. Their first colonel was the 20th Earl of Oxford and because of their distinctive blue tunics they became known

as the "Oxford Blues"—later abbreviated to "The Blues." For their gallantry at Waterloo The Blues were elevated to the Household Cavalry and granted honours and privileges formerly restricted to The Life Guards alone.

The new regiment has been accorded the honour of a privileged regiment of the City of London and is being given the Freedom of the Royal Borough of Windsor. Commanding the new regiment is Lieutenant-Colonel R M H Vickers, formerly commanding The Royal Dragoons.



Above: At the amalgamation parade at Detmold of The Blues and The Royal Dragoons, the new regiment marches past Fd-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. Right: A token parade at Wellington Barracks, London, by The Blues, to mark the amalgamation.



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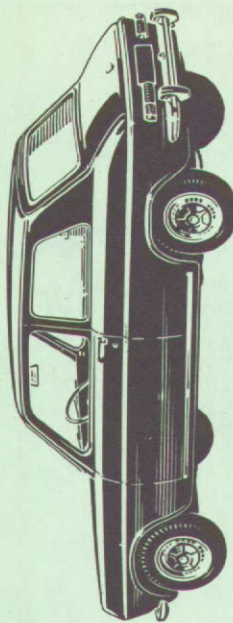
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# Togetherness

ONE word in this list of 75 words does not "belong." It can be found by grouping the other 74 into pairs of names of people, actual and fictional as, for example, Romeo and Juliet.

Send just the "odd man out" word, on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 133" label from this page, and your name and address, to:

The Editor (Comp 133)  
SOLDIER  
433 Holloway Road  
London N7.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 25 August. Answers and winners' names will appear in the October SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 133" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct solutions.

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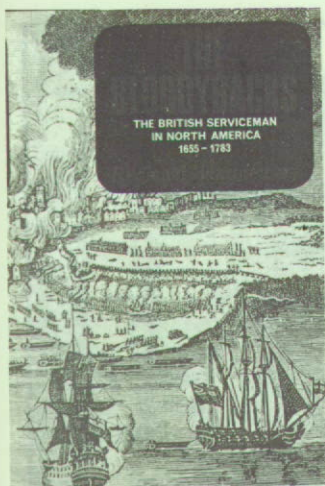
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## Colonial campaigns

*"The Bloodybacks" (Reginald Hargreaves)*

Rather like the Old Contemptibles of 1914, the British soldiers left in North America after the expulsion of the French took perverse satisfaction in referring to themselves as "the Bloodybacks," a name derived from floggings and conferred on them by New Englanders in general and Bostonians in particular.

In this highly readable account of the campaign in North America and the Caribbean between 1655 and 1783, Major Hargreaves presents a dramatic and intensely interesting story which brings out the enduring qualities of the British soldier.

It is by far the most illuminating on this period. His marshalling of facts is expert and lucid and his coverage of the two major campaigns of the period—the war with France for the possession of Canada and the American War of Independence—leaves nothing to be desired. Naturally he has drawn on the recognised main sources but he has also delved into the letters and diaries of serving men and officers who took part. It is this which lifts his book far above the level of routine military history.

Hart-Davis, 55s

JCW

## Redl and Co

*"Great True Spy Stories" (Editor: Allen Dulles)*

One has only to see the name Allen Dulles on a book to know this guarantees the authenticity of the contents—especially if the subject is espionage.

As the former director of America's Central Intelligence Agency and a leading World War Two agent, he has an unparalleled knowledge of the trade. Here he presents 40 superb cameos of espionage giving a comprehensive view of its practice from Greek antiquity to the 1960s.

In a selection of this sort one name always stands out—Alfred Redl. Colonel Redl was head of the Austro-Hungarian Military Intelligence Service's counter-espionage branch from 1901 to 1905 and later its representative in the key city of Prague. From 1902 until caught in 1913 he systematically fed his country's secrets to the Russians, betrayed the agents it sent to Russia and prevented from being used such information as reached the Austrians.

No spy ever caused more damage for, had Redl never existed, the map of Europe and its rulers must have been vastly different today. Redl's treachery directly influenced the ruin of three empires. If he had not suppressed the knowledge that Russia had formed a considerable number of new army corps, the Austro-Hungarians would have recognised the hazard of a quarrel with Russia and not plunged Europe into World War One in which Austro-Hungary, Tsarist Russia and Imperial Germany foundered.

Though Redl is the star turn, history has never seen him in want of competition. The field covers elaborate military deceptions, industrial espionage, defection, double agents, and underground exploits.

Zopyrus's delivery of Babylon to Darius is a classic, and so it goes on—Richard Sorge, Benedict Arnold, Oleg Penkovsky, Kim Philby, Klaus Fuchs, Colonel Abel, Cicero, Levno Aseff, Stig Wennerstrom,

Igor Gouzenko—and Casanova, of all people.

Ginger/Collins, 25s

JCW

## American revolt

*"1775: Another Part of the Field" (Ivor Noel Hume)*

Mr Hume is an Englishman living and working in Virginia as Director of the Department of Archaeology of Colonial Williamsburg. His book, which describes month by month what happened in the colony of Virginia, particularly in Williamsburg, its administrative capital, during the crucial year which led up to the revolt of the 13 colonies and the American War of Independence, would seem at first glance to be of limited interest.

However, it is very well written and the documentation is first-class. For students of the period it provides an admirable insight into the atmosphere in which the American colonies made their open break with the Crown.

Virginia provided the revolution, with its great military leader, George Washington, as well as Thomas Jefferson, one of its most eloquent voices. The year was one of crisis, with both loyalists and patriots attempting to win the support of local Indian tribes, and the Governor, Lord Dunmore, threatening to declare freedom to the thousands of slaves in the territory. From far-away Russia came the Empress's offer to send 20,000 troops to subdue "the rebellious Americans."

For students of military history perhaps the most interesting month is December 1775 on the ninth day of which was fought the Battle of Great Bridge, a little-known action well worthy of recall.

Great Bridge spanned a branch of the Elisabeth River near Norfolk, Virginia. It was guarded by a fort manned by the 14th Regiment. The bravery of the 14th's grenadiers under Captain Charles Fordyce inspired the dedication of Mr Hume's book.

As Fordyce marched his men out to attack a breastwork built by Virginian rebels they were a sight "to provoke in an enemy a superstitious fear of the valour and discipline of the British Army."

The Virginians held their fire until the last moment, then their volley crashed out with devastating effect. The wounded Fordyce rallied his men and staggered on, finally to fall on the breastwork with 18 bullets in him. The British retreated—beaten.

Eyre and Spottiswoode 55s

JCW

## Chinese attitudes

*"The Paper Dragon" (John Selby)*

China's relations with the rest of the world have never been exactly intimate but she has had her friendships. For 40 years in the last century she seemed to have a lasting friendship with Britain—until the Boxer Rebellion smashed the veneer.

In the thirties and forties of this century, necessity forced Chiang Kai-shek to woo Britain and America and later to become their ally, but she remained the "paper tiger" she had always been. Chiang preferred to husband his strength for the coming struggle against Mao—but Mao emerged the victor and in the fifties it was Russian friendship which China sought. The recent Sino-Russian skirmishes in Manchuria in which many Russian soldiers have been killed represent

just one more facet of the Chinese puzzle.

Perhaps things might have been different had the Victorians followed Napoleon's advice to "let China sleep." But it was an age of enterprise, expanding trade and gun-boat diplomacy in which was laid the foundation of modern China's attitude today to "foreign devils."

Mr Selby, a specialist on the Far East and a Senior Lecturer at RMA Sandhurst, has written a masterly survey of the conflict between British imperialism and Chinese nationalism in the last century. He covers the opium wars, only one of which—the First China War of 1840—had anything to do with opium, Britain's acquisition of Hong Kong, the Hope Grant-Elgin mission to China and the burning of the fabulous summer palace of the Manchu rulers at Peking at the close of the Third China War in 1860.

The China wars were the outcome of British demands for trade and acceptance of ambassadors.

After lucid and concise accounts of China's problems with France and Japan, Mr Selby goes on to cover the infamous Boxer Rebellion. In this splendid book he not only paints a vivid picture of the old China but also enables one to understand Chinese attitudes today.

Arthur Barker, 42s

JCW

## And Greek fire

*"Clubs to Cannon" (Brigadier O F G Hogg)*

One of the most intriguing weapons ever used was "Greek fire" but rarely has any explanation been given of it. Brigadier Hogg comes up with full details in this highly readable and very interesting account of the weapons of war from earliest times down to the invention of gunpowder and the Battle of Crécy in which the cannon first played a decisive role.

Incendiary compositions, he tells us, were an adjunct to warfare as early as 1000 BC. The original Greek fire, composed of sulphur, bitumen, resin, naphtha and tow, with the possible addition of turpentine, charcoal and saltpetre, was employed as early as the 5th century BC and certainly used in 413 and 304 BC in the sieges of Syracuse and Rhodes. It stayed in use for 1000 years until suddenly, in 637 AD, the Mediterranean world was startled by an improved form of Greek fire invented by Kallinikos. The ultimate deterrent had arrived.

Projected by syphons in the prows of vessels or hurled in pots and phials, its formula was jealously guarded. It was one of Byzantium's state secrets and said to have been in the possession only of Lampros, a descendant of Kallinikos. When the Byzantine emperor used it to aid his allies, the supplies went ready-mixed—just as atomic warheads pass from America to NATO today.

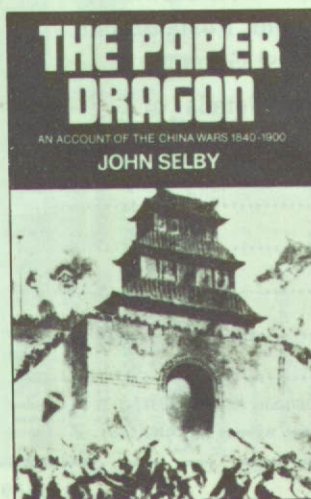
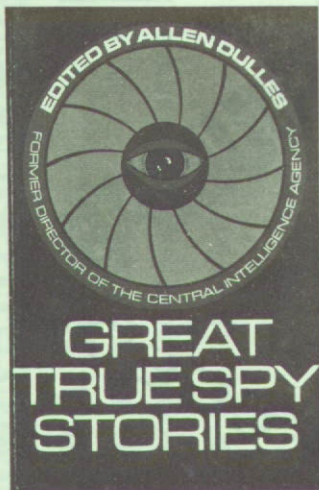
Artillery displaced Greek fire but it appeared again in 1756 when a certain Dupré claimed to have rediscovered the secret and sold the patent to Louis XV. It seems to have been just as much a terror weapon as the flame-throwers, napalm and nuclear devices of the present century.

The author unfolds a splendidly instructive panorama in which he covers personal weapons, armour, siege engines, chariots, cavalry, warships, the art of fortification, *ruses de guerre* (the Trojan horse, naturally) and early ideas in tactics and strategy.

Duckworth, 42s

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# BOOKS





# The Army's padres

"In This Sign Conquer" (Brigadier Sir John Smyth VC)

Of all British church dignitaries perhaps the best known to Servicemen is the Bishop of Birmingham, Right Reverend John Leonard Wilson, the commanding figure who takes the services at the British Legion's Festival of Remembrance.

He was Bishop of Singapore when the Japanese overran his diocese so he became a chaplain second class with the Army, looking after military hospitals in his area. With the surrender he reverted to his civilian capacity to enable him to work for those in prison camps. During 18 months on parole he did sterling service on behalf of the prisoners until interned in Changi.

Accused of anti-Japanese activity, he was singled out by the Kempei Tai for brutal torture yet found the strength to give Holy Communion through the bars of his cell to other prisoners. Four years after his ordeal he baptised and confirmed one of the Kempei men who had been one of his principal torturers. Wilson was a chaplain for only a week yet he well deserves his place in Sir John's stirring story of the Army chaplains.

If the Royal Army Chaplains' Department could be awarded battle honours it would have the longest list in the Army, for wherever British soldiers have marched and

fought, with them went their chaplains.

Their calmness under fire has encouraged many a frightened soldier, they have given comfort and help to the wounded, and their decorations—including several Victoria Crosses—bear witness to the fact that bravery is not the monopoly of combatants.

In the Dieppe raid Captain John Weir Foote, Presbyterian Church of Canada, continuously braved heavy fire to rescue wounded Commandos then, when evacuation was ordered, carried many to waiting landing craft. Finally he refused the chance of escape, preferring to stay with those taken prisoner. No VC was ever more deserved.

The padres of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department cover a multitude of denominations. On battlefields, in prison camps and faraway postings they have tended each others' flocks in the spirit of united comradeship. The architects of the current move towards church unity could well look to the RACHD for example and inspiration.

Mowbrays, 63s

JCW

## Unwanted conflict

"The Matabele War" (Stafford Glass)

Considerable attention has been focussed recently on the Zulu military state, principally in books, but also in an excellent film. There

was, however, another such state, Matabeleland, founded by Umziligazi, a Zulu general who had fallen out with the great Shaka, father of the Zulu nation. Copying Shaka's doctrine, Umziligazi established himself in what is today western Transvaal, but was eventually driven north into present-day Rhodesia.

In 1870, Lobengula became the Matabele's chieftain, exercising the same brutal control over his people as his father had done. By 1890, white settlers had appeared among the neighbouring Mashona tribe and a pioneer column of the British South Africa Company established a settlement there.

This had been achieved with Lobengula's permission, but the administrator of the colony, Dr L S Jameson—later to lead the ill-starred Jameson raid on the Transvaal—was a man indoctrinated by his friend Cecil Rhodes with dreams of British dominion in the north of the territory.

An attempt to establish a border between Mashonaland and Matabeleland in a bid to halt Matabele incursions failed, and Jameson decided on war to achieve destruction of the Matabele military threat and addition of Matabeleland to the company's area of operations.

Mr Glass presents a well-balanced and well-researched account of how Lobengula was forced into a war he did not want, the progress of the war itself, and the part played in it by the British High Commissioner, Sir Henry Loch.

Longmans, 45s

JCW

## IN BRIEF

"Afrika Korps" (Major K J Macksey)

Early in 1942, in the House of Commons, Winston Churchill said of Rommel: "We have a very daring and skilful opponent against us, and, may I say across the havoc of war, a great general."

That tribute, writes Captain Sir Basil Liddell Hart in his introduction to this splendid little book, might as justly be paid to the Afrika Korps itself, using the term "great soldiers," and be all the more unhesitatingly set on record in the light of history.

Major Macksey does full justice to a subject worthy of study as he follows the fortunes of the Afrika Korps in the battles to and fro, across the Western Desert.

Only when Montgomery took over command of the Eighth Army and when its superiority of strength over the Germans was increased to the vast odds of more than six to one in tanks and aircraft were the scales finally turned against Rommel and the Afrika Korps worn down. The relatively small Axis force had drawn into North Africa the equivalent of more than 20 divisions of British strength. Such was the Korps' effect as a strategic distraction.

This is Purnell's Campaign Book No. 1 in a series covering the history of World War Two. It is profusely illustrated.

Macdonald, 8s 6d

JCW

"U-Boat: The Secret Menace" (David Mason)

For years the men of Doenitz's U-boat fleet have been portrayed as evil, cold-hearted criminals. No doubt some were, but by and large they were brave and resourceful men, of enormously high morale and a technical command of specialist skills which compels admiration. One cannot disagree with these

sentiments expressed by Barrie Pitt in his introduction to Purnell Weapons Book No. 1.

In what was the longest battle of the war, the U-boats inflicted fearful losses on Britain and her Allies—2603 merchant ships, 30,000 seamen and 175 naval vessels. The U-boat came closer to gaining victory for Hitler than any other arm or weapon in his vast armoury.

German losses, too, were staggering. In the course of the war Germany built 1,162 U-boats of which she lost 784.

Mr Mason tells in graphic terms the story of the defeat of the U-boats, with many dramatic illustrations to complement his text.

Macdonald, 8s 6d

JCW

"D-Day: Spearhead of Invasion" (R W Thompson)

There are few mysteries left about D-Day; the majority of Americans now accept that Monty's plan went through as he intended with 21 Army Group pulling the German armour on to its own front to enable the Americans to break out on the right. But as former war correspondent R W Thompson observes in this Purnell Battle Book No. 1: "The enigma of General Bradley remains."

Why did Bradley refuse to have any of Hobart's flails, petards and other armoured novelties? Was it, as Chester Wilmot thought, his contempt for British 'under-confidence and over-insurance'? Monty had offered the Americans a share of Hobart's special armour. Mr Thompson observes: "It may be that Bradley's acute anglophobia had found a focus on General Montgomery. But whatever it was, the Americans paid the reckoning on D-Day at Omaha beach."

As darkness fell on 6 June 1944, for General Bradley "it must have been a night of grave anxieties, even

—but there is no evidence—of some self-questioning.

"For General Dempsey (British Second Army) there was cause for some satisfaction, but not for jubilation. Dempsey, of whom very little has ever been written, is a good strategist and a sound tactician, in my view one of the finest soldiers of the Second World War, distinguished then, as now, by his dignified silence."

Mr Thompson has produced a vivid and illuminating account of D-Day which cannot fail to attract a wide readership.

Macdonald, 8s 6d

JCW

"Their Finest Hour" (Edward Bishop)

In this Purnell Battle Book No. 2, Mr Bishop recalls an incident which had far-reaching effects on the success of the Spitfire.

It seems that Capt Geoffrey de Havilland, the pioneer aircraft manufacturer, became convinced that the margin between the fighters' existing variable pitch and the constant speed propellers, the adoption of which he had been strongly urging, might prove mortal to the nation.

Unable to get official sanction, he arranged privately with a squadron to convert a single fighter. The improvement was miraculous and he was bombarded with requests for conversions. Risking that his company might never be paid for the work, he sent teams to airfield after airfield to convert the front-line fighters. Happily the contracts later caught up with the work.

Mr Bishop captures the whole atmosphere of the besieged Britain of 1940, the courage of the fighter pilots and their bombed-out countrymen contrasting sharply with the flagging morale of the Luftwaffe with whom Goering had hoped to force Britain's surrender.

Macdonald, 8s 6d

JCW

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Paddling down the river on a Friday afternoon. But it was no picnic. For Lance-Corporal R Evans and Driver P Pagnanelli of 63 Squadron RCT it was a 20-hour non-stop test of stamina and skill.

# PARAS

## *beat the record*

**I**T was 125 miles of arduous aquatics—77 locks to be portaged, broken paddles, blistered hands, submerged rocks and the danger of crashing into low bridges in the dark. But Lance-Corporal Roy Evans and Driver Peter Pagnanelli of 63 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, finished the Devizes to Westminster canoe marathon in record time.

The para pair—their unit is in 16 Parachute Brigade—paddling a flimsy fibreglass kayak, clocked 19 hours 47 minutes and 20 seconds at the finishing post by Big Ben. This was 20 minutes faster than the previous best time.

The race, reputed to be the toughest of its kind in the world, attracted a record entry of more than 240 doubles kayak crews this year. Senior crews race non-stop right through the night while for juniors it is a 3½-day race stopping overnight with only their actual paddling time recorded. Many Service crews take part and in past years the senior section has been dominated by the Royal Marines Canoe Club, Poole.

Trouble beset the para crew early in the

race. Just before Newbury, Evans broke his paddle and had to mend it with tape. Soon after, when portaging a lock, they were swept backwards under a bridge by the strong current and almost capsized. During the first part of the race they had to paddle against a cold east wind but once reaching the Thames at Reading, Evans and Pagnanelli raced into the night in fine style leaving the other crews far behind. Over the last few miles they continued to improve.

Just before 0645 on Saturday they sped under Westminster Bridge and past the finish to become the first ever to break the 20-hour barrier for the marathon.

Other 16 Parachute Brigade crews came in 7th, 9th and 28th to win the team race trophy. Runners-up were 22nd Special Air Service Regiment.

Services placings in the senior event were: 1 R Evans/P Pagnanelli, 19 hrs 47 mins 20 secs; 2 A K Alan-Williams/R Swindell, Royal Marines Canoe Club, 21-35-49; 4 C S Buckman/M C Thatcher, 21st Special Air Service Regiment, 22-15-30; 5 Edwards/Brownlie, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, 22-47-30.

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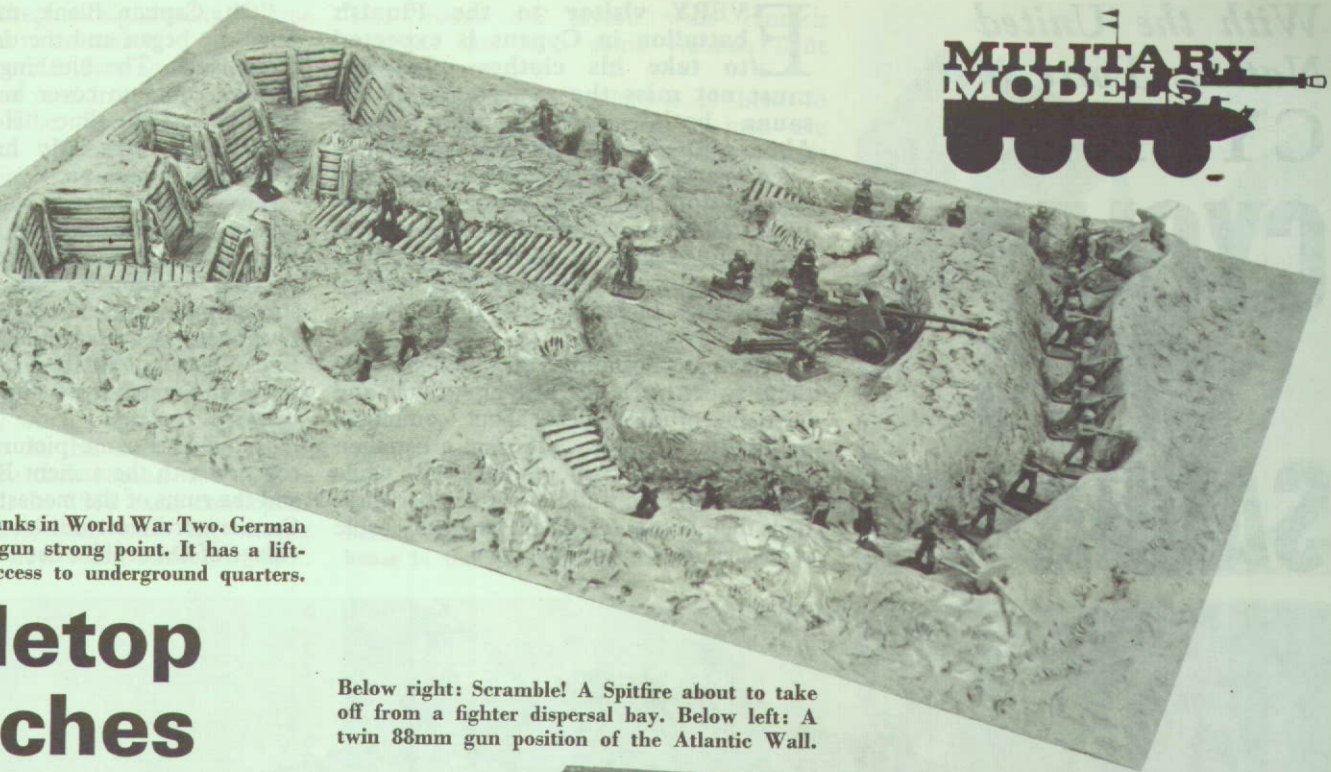
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Right: Stopping tanks in World War Two. German 75mm anti-tank gun strong point. It has a lift-off section for access to underground quarters.

## Tabletop trenches

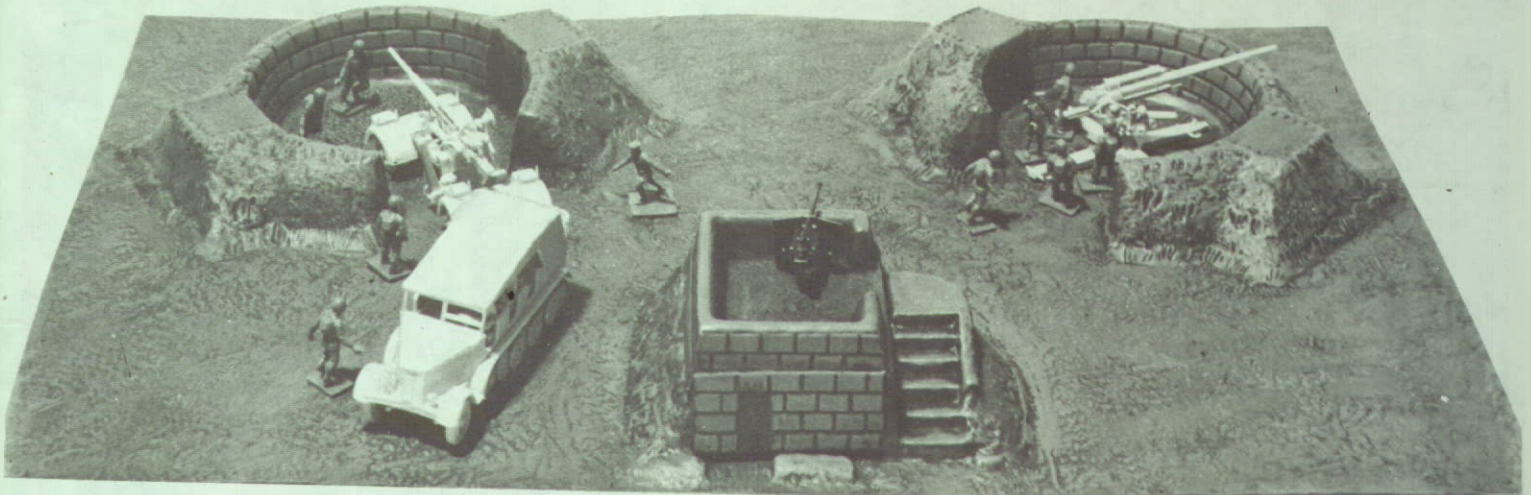
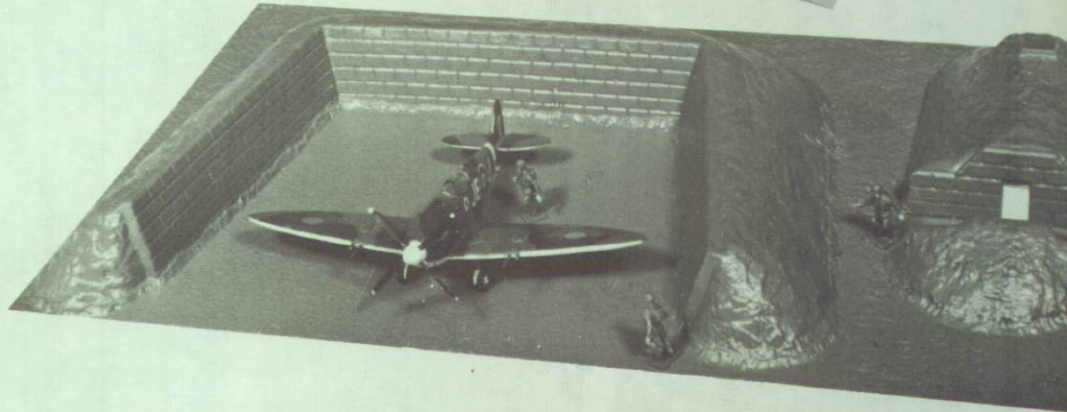
**R**UINS, mud, duckboards and sandbags—all the authentic atmosphere of wartime trenches can be yours for 11s 3d.

What is claimed to be the world's largest range of battle scenery is produced by the private firm of Merberlen, which has a small workshop in the Berkshire countryside at Hawthorn Hill, Bracknell.

The trade mark is "Bellona," the name of the Roman goddess of war who was the escort of Mars.

The altars of Mars and Bellona were the

Below right: Scramble! A Spitfire about to take off from a fighter dispersal bay. Below left: A twin 88mm gun position of the Atlantic Wall.



only ones on which human sacrifices were offered.

The firm began with latex cottages and churches for model railway layouts. Business improved with the manufacture of ruined buildings. But it did not achieve real success until it moved into the military field.

Bellona made more than 12,000 uniform accessories, such as lanyard toggles, from latex, for the film "The Charge of the Light Brigade." But its main product is Bellona Battlefields, ranging over 2000 years of history. There are a Roman marching fort (the latest model), a redan of the Crimean War, Menin Road, World War One trench

system, gun position of the Atlantic wall, fighter dispersal bay and anti-tank strong point. All these cost 11s 3d each and are about 16 by 10 inches (HO/OO scale suitable for Airfix figures).

There are 16 smaller sets, costing 3s 4d each, which include artillery and mortar positions, slit trenches, shell craters, fox-holes and pillboxes. They are moulded in earth-brown PVC. Little painting is needed, just some thinned-down black plastic enamel in the crevices, Humbrol "gun-metal" for cannonballs, matt green for grass and brick red for buildings. The Bellona Manual of Military Field works is a useful companion to the model battlefields.

It is in two volumes, 18th/19th century at 5s and 20th century at 8s.

Bellona also provides a useful service for do-it-yourself modellers by marketing polystyrene sheet and military vehicle prints with colour drawings, photographs, detailed plans and cut-away diagrams. The range of prints, which is being built up month by month, is not yet very comprehensive—there are only 70 out of a possible 600. Modern tanks like the Chieftain and German Leopard are not included but there are prints of some obscure ones such as the 140-ton E100 Panzer-kampfwagen which existed only as a prototype.



# With the United Nations Force in CYPRUS CYCLES AND SAUNAS

EVERY visitor to the Finnish battalion in Cyprus is expected to take his clothes off—"You must not miss the experience of the sauna bath," said Captain Reijo Ahoen, the Press information officer.

"A marvellous feeling when you have sweated it out in 120 degrees," said Major Jyrki Loikkanen, commanding 2 Company. He claims to have the most effective sauna in Cyprus even though all the national contingents, including the British, have built their own.

The three Scandinavian battalions have these sweat boxes in their homelands and have no prudish ideas about communal nakedness. The story goes that a battalion invited two British officers and while they were in the middle of their perspirations their host entered with two fashionable young ladies, one on each arm.

"Oh, Captain Blank, meet Sophie and Sue," he began and the damsels extended their hands. The blushing Briton did the best he could to cover his confusion and bow at the same time. "How d'ye do," he said, "s-so sorry. My hands are wet!" Then turned and ran.

The officers and non-commissioned officers with the Finns in UNFICYP are Regulars; most of the men are National Service volunteers. The battalion, 460 strong and commanded by Colonel Aarre Purhonen, is responsible for the Nicosia East District, which excludes the main town and extends to the northern coast east of Kyrenia.

It includes some picturesque mountain country with the ancient Buffabento castle and the ruins of the monastery of Bellapais. On the north-east outskirts of Nicosia the village of Omorphita has been a tough spot

in the past but there are signs today of some efforts to return to normalcy.

This is a cycle battalion—a tactical infantry unit last used in the British Army in World War One. The Finns find they can get around quickly, effectively and quietly on bicycle patrols. They also operate foot, motorcycle and car patrols.

Their recce platoon of four motorcycles, a Volvo Laplander and a Land-Rover includes a war dog—the last of ten—and turns out rapidly for emergency duties. It reconnoitres every large village and known trouble spot in the area daily.

The Finns served overseas for the first time in 1956-57 when a unit was under the United Nations in the Suez Canal zone. Cyprus has been their second task outside their homeland. In 1964 their contingent was 1000 strong but with the easing situation it has now been reduced by half.

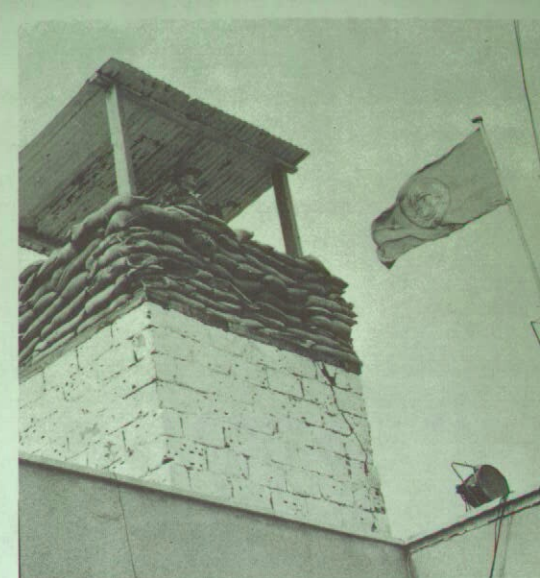
The troops are armed with Finnish weapons but have some Russian light machine-guns.

A special "Fist" platoon is held in reserve for emergencies. The men are trained to deal with disturbances in built up areas. They can jump from a four-tonner on the move and search houses with rapid efficiency.

When the immediate task is completed they are picked up even more quickly. Special handrails on the vehicle enable them to scramble aboard with speed.

Right: Finnish look-out keeps watch and a UN flag is evidence of his peace-keeping role.

Bottom left: Motorcycle patrol passes ruined house in Omorphita, scene of early bloodshed.



Tense moment for SOLDIER cameraman as Finnish war dog "Lare," a useful member of the recce platoon, bares his teeth in a fearsome attack.

If you beat record of 47 withdrawn beer cans in Finnish Officers' Mess without topping pile it's free drinks all night. Failure costs £5.

## back cover

Handlebars straight! Wheels in line! Number seven dress back half a pedal! Rehearsing for a medal parade the Finnish soldiers line up with their bicycles as smartly as any unmounted troops. They use their cycles on patrol and find that their silence often gives them an advantage. The British Army, which unlike the Scandinavian countries dropped cycle battalions after World War One, also used cycle patrols during the Cyprus Emergency.

Picture by Trevor Jones.





# SOLDIER

