

November 1977

20p

Soldier



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FRONT COVER

Ace, the German shepherd dog, is hot on the trail. With his handler, Gunner Ian MacDonald, Ace was taking a well-earned respite from Northern Ireland — in the open spaces of the Isle of Man. Picture by Paul Haley.



BACK COVER

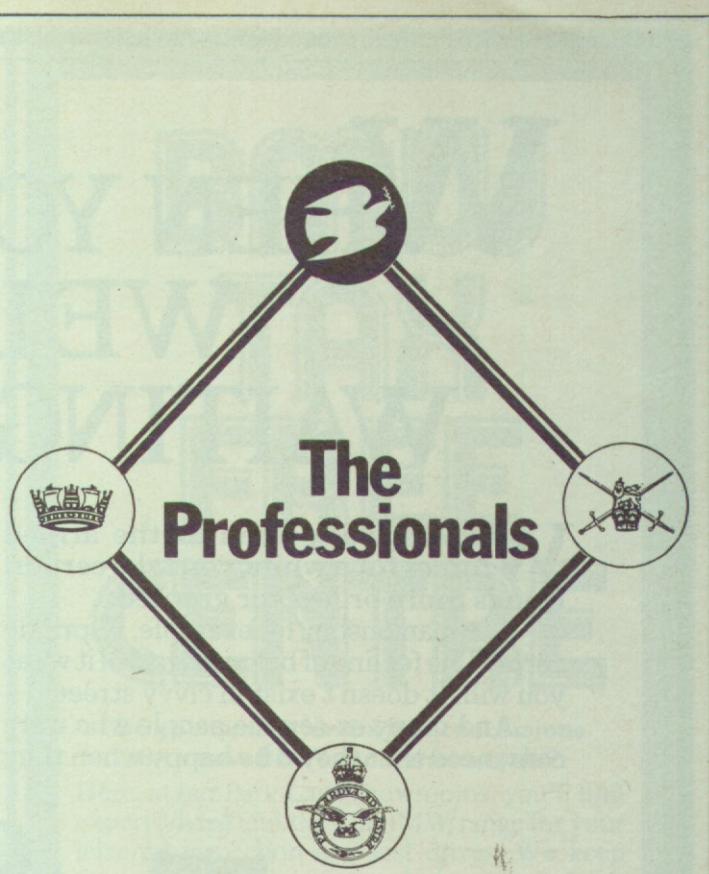
'We will remember them.' A young Army cadet places a wreath to World War One fallen at the Menin Gate, Ypres. Each year, members of the Army Cadet Force are among those who pay tribute. Picture by Paul Haley.

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

See-the-Army Diary



JANUARY 1978

21 Scottish Military Collectors Society militaria fair, Glasgow.

JUNE 1978

3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June).

JULY 1978

7 Catterick Army Display (7-9 July).
16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (16-30 July).

AUGUST 1978

2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
9 Plymouth Services Tattoo (9-12 August).
25 Edinburgh Tattoo (25 August-9 September).

SEPTEMBER 1978

23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Edinburgh (provisional).
24 Laying up of old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Ayr, and march past (provisional).
25 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow (provisional).

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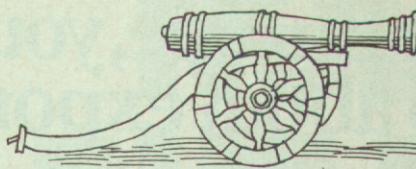
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THE LONDON SCOTTISH

WHEN LORD ELCHO founded The London Scottish in 1859 — then known as The London Scottish Rifle Volunteers — he tore a piece of odd grey cloth from his greatcoat and there and then decreed that this was to be the colour of the regiment's uniform because "a soldier is a man-hunter; as a deer-stalker chooses the least visible of colours, so ought a soldier to be clad." That same fragment of cloth is now carefully preserved in the regimental museum in a case which also contains Lord Elcho's spurs, bonnets, elaborately embroidered jacket and a presentation set of bagpipes.

First to catch the eye in the museum gallery is an illuminated regimental roll dated 1891 which includes the names of every officer from the regiment's inception. Going back to the Loyal North Britons, raised in 1803 as part of the Volunteer forces ready to repel Napoleon's threatened invasion, there is a handwritten letter signed by the Duke of Sussex, Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, and a picture of the duke in full regimental dress.

The Boer War is remembered by a number of exhibits including an officer's sash worn in South Africa and again during World War One, a haversack which also saw service in both wars, and a City Imperial Volunteers hat badge worn by the Earl of Albemarle.

A diorama of the battle of Messines (31 October 1914), in which the 1st Battalion, London Scottish, gained the distinction of being the first Territorial infantry battalion in action against the Germans, a German anti-tank rifle, a Lewis gun and a goatskin trench coat, are among a number of World War One relics. Others include a pair of well-worn Army boots which saw service in Salonica and again in Palestine, a Prussian spiked helmet and a sniper's badge.

A complete set of every type of rifle used by the London Scottish up to 1969 is worth noting and nearby is a presentation Highland broad sword carried by Colonel Alexander in the London Scottish and later by his son in The Gordon Highlanders. Headwear and uniforms are well represented. Typical are a late 19th century glengarry bonnet, a 1921 tam-o'-shanter, an officer's blue undress waistcoat (1872-96), a major's odd grey undress jacket of the same period, a colour-sergeant's doublet and an 1884 officer's mess kit which, incidentally, is virtually the same as that worn today.

Two of the regiment's three Victoria



Crosses, both won in World War One by Corporal C W Train and Private R E Cruickshank, are on show. Apart from a good collection of regimental badges there are also sporran badges, shoulder titles and plaid brooches. Honorary Colonel of the regiment is the Queen Mother and not to be missed is her pipe banner carried by a London Scottish pipe-major when piping before her residence whenever she was in London.

Downstairs in the drill hall are the three London Scottish war memorials — for the Boer War and two world wars — and a case containing, among other exhibits, a jacket belonging to Colonel R J L Ogilby, an assistant honorary colonel of the regiment, who has done so much for military museums through the Oglby Trust.

An autographed bass drum which went through World War Two with the regiment, and Turkish drums and bugles taken in World War One, catch the eye, and The Gordon Highlanders, to whom the London Scottish are affiliated, are represented by hose tops, a plaid brooch (1881), an officer's sporran top and a glengarry bonnet and badge. A field communion set and chalice are shown with a Bible and book of psalms belonging to Field-Marshal Earl Haig, an honorary colonel of the London Scottish.

There is an exceptionally good library which, apart from regimental histories and other military works, boasts a fine collection of biographies, fiction and photograph albums.

John Jesse

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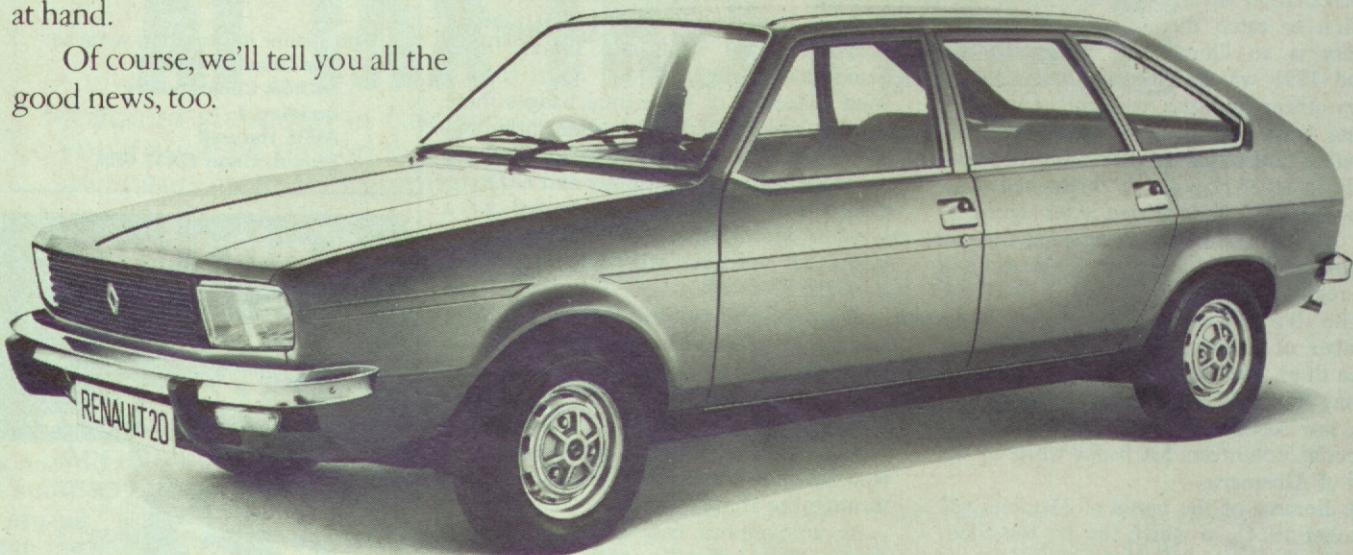
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Lufthansa's Boeing 737, with its 80 crew and passengers, had flown from airport to airport and deadline to deadline while the world watched and waited. The terrorist hijackers, grew more and more desperate. Then, at Mogadishu, German police commandos stormed the plane, rescuing the helpless passengers and the remaining four crew, killing three of the hijackers and wounding the fourth.

The world breathed relief. Not only had air piracy been dealt hopefully a mortal blow but, unlike the Israeli raid on Entebbe, this equally brilliant rescue operation had been achieved through unprecedented international co-operation.

This country and its Army are proud of the swift response to the German Chancellor's call for help, met by the immediate despatch of two soldiers of 22nd Special Air Service Regiment to lend their expert knowledge to the West German team.

We know that you were both there and know, too, that you played a significant part in the successful outcome of the attack on the aircraft.

Whatever it was you did — and for obvious reasons the story can never be fully told — the British nation and the world say 'Well done' both of you. You have brought credit to your country and written, in the bizarre context of today's terrorism, yet another line in the long history and traditions of the British Army.

★

After a reasonably equitable run of several years, SOLDIER has fallen behind its scheduled publication dates. The September issue was seriously delayed by printing problems and this has led to delays in publishing the October number and this November issue. Unfortunately SOLDIER has no means of notifying everyone of a delay and hence can only apologise, as now, in retrospect.

It is particularly regretted that readers should be put to the trouble of ringing up or writing to ask why their copies have not turned up — but on the credit side it is certainly heartening to know that we are missed so much!

★

Since publication of the latest Reader Services list in last month's issue, the cost of regimental drum ice buckets has had to be increased again. The new prices, all including post and packing, are £7.60 (UK), & £7.05 (BFPO) and £8.60 (elsewhere). As with other Reader Services items, the BFPO rate does not apply to Northern Ireland BFPO addresses because VAT applies, of course, to the Province.

★

And now for more cheering news — a package deal for a Christmas holiday in London. The Union Jack Club, breaking new ground, is offering a five-night stay in the club for £25.00 a person — half-price (£12.50) for children under 13.

The holiday starts with evening meal on Friday 23 December and ends with breakfast on Wednesday 28 December. The £25.00 includes breakfast and evening meal on the full days plus a traditional Christmas dinner at midday on Christmas Day. Also included is a dance in the Gascoigne Room on the evening of Boxing Day with a buffet taking the place of the evening meal.

This package holiday is open only to members of the Union Jack Club — all servicemen not of commissioned rank are automatically members.

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OUTSIDE SHAPE — Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe — a memorial commemorates the first shot fired in World War One.

Only a hundred yards down the road, another memorial records the last shot fired in that war. They are a constant reminder of the absurdity of total war and the necessity of Nato.

It was once said that if Nato ever went to war it would have failed in its primary objective of keeping the peace. Apart from internal brush-fires, Nato has so far succeeded and Europe has enjoyed almost 30 years without strife.

But what if Nato did go to war? Could all

those nations weld together to produce one fighting force?

At Shape, between Brussels and Mons in Belgium, the British contingent in the multi-national headquarters is sure that integration is workable. The 'Brits' at Shape live and work in a unique international environment. Each day they deal not only with the administration of a complex military machine but also grapple with different languages as well as keeping in mind the need for diplomacy in dealing with other nationals.

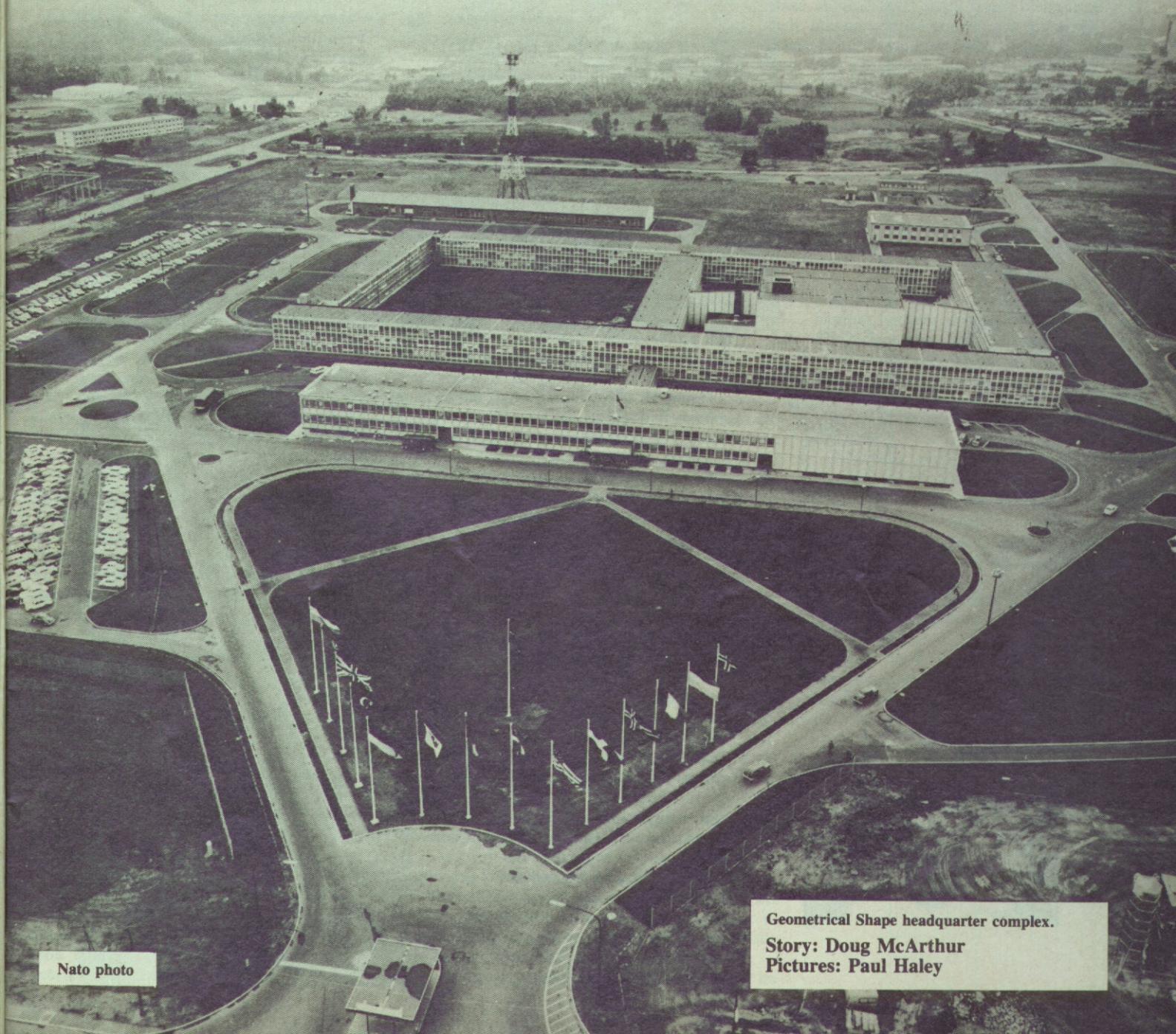
But despite all this the 14 nations at Shape do work together. As one staff officer said: "If we didn't want to work together, if we

just stuck to nationalism, this place would have closed down ten years ago."

Shape is a huge bustling headquarters — and yet in peace it commands no troops. Supreme Allied Commander Europe, the American General Alexander Haig, takes over his forces only in the event of war. Shape's job is to plan and make sure that if or when war comes, it is ready.

Those plans are always shrouded in secrecy. All that ever comes out of Shape is broad policy guidelines, so understandably the outsider asks: "Just what do they all do there?"

The answer to that question is summed up in a Shape booklet, 'In the Service of



Nato photo

Geometrical Shape headquarter complex.

Story: Doug McArthur
Pictures: Paul Haley

Peace and Security,' which says: 'By its very existence Shape is a visible indication of Allied teamwork and collective Western determination to maintain peace. Should deterrence fail, Shape — as the headquarters that would direct and coordinate the actions of Nato military forces in Europe — would be vital to the defences of the West. Through Shape, the Allies have been able to agree on and develop plans for the implementation of Nato strategy in Europe and to establish common systems of communication, intelligence and logistics that would be required for effective international cooperation in the event of war.'

What does this mean to the British staff officers and the men who support them — is it really more trying or frustrating than a normal posting?

According to Major Richard Cross, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, the job is not so much frustrating as challenging. Major Cross has been in the Command Control Branch of Shape's Operations Division for more than a year. He defines his team's job as trying to improve the capability of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe to command the multi-national forces that may be assigned to him.

"It's certainly quite a change from Springfield Road RUC Station," he said. "Here we are dealing with problems that face the alliance not just now, but five years, ten years and 15 years ahead. We are trying to convince nations of the need to properly control and improve their forces. Obviously if you are able to command and control something properly then you are going to get more value from it."



"OK, two Purple Hearts and a Vietnam campaign medal for your GSM Northern Ireland?"



Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Harry Tuzo, at Shape's gates.

As an indication of the internationalism of his job, Major Cross is under an American Air Force colonel section chief who works to a German brigadier who in turn answers to a British rear-admiral and, right at the top, the Chief of Operations is an American major-general.

"So we are multi-lingual, multi-national and multi-Service as well. One difficulty we have found is that some words may not mean quite the same thing to different Services, let alone different nationalities, so it is important that you explain your ideas in English and in a way that you are sure you are being understood.

"Certainly one of the nicest things is that people almost always subordinate their national feelings and jealousies for the common cause. It is certainly a friendly place in which to work. Here we are dealing with real problems that actually affect soldiers in the field, not grandiose theoretical problems.

It may all seem very abstract, but to us it is important and we are all trying to make it work. The job is both intensive and fun and, I believe, very useful."

In fact the language difficulty has been eased because all Nato communications is in French or English, and English is the main language at Shape.

Each of the 14 countries represented at

Shape was built in a hurry just outside Mons. In 1967, France withdrew from the military side of Nato, keeping a presence in the political sphere. But it meant that the headquarters set up at Fontainebleau outside Paris by General Eisenhower after World War Two had to move. The new site provided an unexpected boost for the Mons area where high unemployment had resulted from a decline in the traditional mining industry.

The headquarters and military village were built in only six months and all that is left today of the Belgian Army camp flattened to make way for Shape is the old hospital, now a craft and arts centre for the families.

Shape has its own national support unit to look after things like accommodation, pay, welfare, and general administration. The UK national military representative of the Chief of Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence, Brigadier C G H Arnold, also has responsibility for the UK Support Unit which is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel S Love.

The support unit looks after about 2000 people, including families. The unit, like the headquarters itself, is very much tri-Service and compromise is something that everyone very soon learns. "It is amazing how well it all works," said Brigadier Arnold. "People will bend over backwards to reach agreement."

"I have found there is much more recognition and realisation by the three Services lately that we do play a part in Nato and that this HQ is very important, and so there is more care taken in sending people here. We are in an international setting here and we cannot afford problem men."

"There are problems with differing status. For instance an American Warrant officer is of officer status, whereas British warrant officers are not."

One sad fact of life for senior officers on posting to Shape is that they must resign themselves to losing authority, simply because of the high numbers of staff officers there. In a world where there are almost more colonels than privates, there is a story that lieutenant-colonels are allowed to wash the cups but only a full colonel can actually make the tea.

Another blow to senior officer esteem is the canteen system instead of an officers' mess. They have to queue in the canteen with their wooden trays like everyone else — rear-admirals and brigadiers with sergeants and corporals — and then join in the scrum for a seat.

The mess system is keenly missed by all British ranks. Because American influence is so strong there are no messes, but clubs with full staffs. The regimental sergeant-major of the UK Support Unit, Warrant Officer 1 Carl Widdowson, Royal Signals, explained that messes are out because the whole intention of Shape is to make people work together and integrate. "But it does make life difficult. We have British warrant



Above: Multi-national mechanics at work. Only the Brit, Cpl 'Chalky' White, is in overalls!

Top left: Maj R Cross briefs colleagues from the German, Canadian and Belgian forces.

Left: A trans-Atlantic import influences the social lives of Shape off-duty staff and families.

Below: A gleaming Belgian supermarket serves Shape. Franchise cash pays for sport facilities.

a franchise. This works very well for the families because this and all the other outside concessions help to pay for Shape's sport and social facilities. The rest of the money needed to keep everything in trim, including paying ground staff, is found from a small surcharge on goods from the duty free shop.

"There is certainly nowhere else like this place," said Mr Widdowson, "and it can be very difficult. The lads particularly have to use a lot of tact especially when there is so much brass about. But the main problem is that they are all junior ambassadors. Here, if a soldier gets drunk and is seen, then foreigners don't think of him as just a drunken soldier, but as a drunken British soldier — and it sticks.

"This is a matter for a man's self-discipline. We don't have parades, most of the Brits are NCOs and we don't really have too many problems. We have a good reputa-



officers here who have perhaps had 17 or 18 years of mess life and suddenly it is taken away from them."

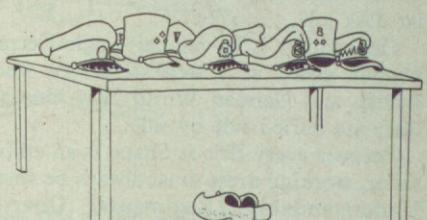
Replacing messes are an international officers club, the Top Graders Club (the nearest equivalent to the sergeants' mess) and the International Club for junior ranks.

But this lack of mess life is a small price to pay for living in an American environment. On the plus side are the fantastic social and sporting facilities — at the last count there were 97 different sports and games being played at Shape with first-rate facilities for all of them.

On the camp are all the usual courts and pitches, plus of course American football, a full-size gymnasium with custom-built rooms for martial arts, weightlifting and virtually every kind of indoor sport imaginable. There is a magnificent swimming pool, ten-pin bowling alley, arts and craft rooms — complete with instructors — and a running track.

Shape is classed as a medium-sized town in Belgium and has its own hospital with consultants, supermarket, duty free shop, bank, cinema, theatre, and petrol station. There is even a fully-equipped do-it-yourself garage where you can take your own car to work on — and get expert advice at the same time.

The supermarket is Belgian, operating on



Truly international is Shape's Chapel Centre where not only Anglicans but also Catholics, Lutherans, American Protestants and even Jews all worship in the same building. This year, the British contingent padre has been appointed international staff chaplain. This means that the padre, the Reverend E D R Simms, is responsible for all matters spiritual at Shape for co-ordinating the activities of nine chaplains of different nationalities and religious persuasions.

"In fact some 15 different religious groups use the Chapel centre at various times," he said. "This is an incredible place to work in. For instance we have got the great problem of language. Although the husbands must speak either English or French, it doesn't follow that their families do so. So our printing for special occasions usually has to be done in between three to five different languages.

"There is no place like this chapel centre, and no place like Shape."



Tri-Service stores for smart new uniforms.

tion and it is generally accepted that a British sergeant, has better trade training than any of his Nato counterparts.

"Esprit de corps here is perhaps the best I have ever seen in a tri-service unit. Considering the in-flow and out-flow and different cap badges we do very well, especially as we do nothing but support someone else.

"I've travelled all over and I reckon Brits can get on with just about anyone. And we certainly do mix in here. Sport is a common link. Sometimes we have to be careful, because of our sense of humour, but by and large we all make friends outside the unit."

An increasing number of men come to Shape as temporary bachelors, leaving their wives and children at home for continuity of schooling. Because there are no British secondary schools available, children over 11 go to boarding school, either in UK or Germany. The only over-11 school is American.

Whenever possible the men in the support unit put on combat jackets and boots and go out on small unit exercises "just to blow the cobwebs away," as Mr Widdowson puts it. They fire their weapons as regularly as possible on the police shooting ranges in Mons and there are also a few ceremonial duties which provide a break from the regular desk job.

One oddity is an annual Anglo-German honour guard at a local cemetery where British and German World War One soldiers are buried side by side.

Because every Brit at Shape is an ambassador, working dress must always be smart. Understandably, Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant Cliff Pollard in the UK Support Unit clothing store is more likely to exchange a worn garment than in most



Top security guards the secrets of Shape's sterile steel and concrete corridors.

postings simply because every soldier must be well turned out at all times. Although his store is small, RQMS Pollard has to keep kit for all the differently cap-badged souls at Shape, with the exception of the Royal Navy contingent. And whenever a man comes to Shape, one thing indented for straight away is another cap badge — Shape has a lot of souvenir hunters . . .

Some support services, for example the transport workshop, are fully international and others, like the postal unit, are all-British but working in the international set-up.

The Royal Engineers' 115 Postal and Courier Communications Unit runs the UK mail and courier services for some Nato establishments in Europe and handles all mail to and from the UK. It also provides a normal post office counter service for the Brits. The post office side is all-British but the Shape courier service, commanded by Major Alex Isaacs, is international. The couriers travel all over Europe, carrying classified material to and from the various Nato headquarters.

Language can sometimes be a problem in the International Transport Workshop. Corporal 'Chalky' Wright, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, works with Germans, Greeks, Americans and Belgians and on a variety of vehicles. "Most of the lads speak English and the manuals we work from are either in French or English so if I come to something I don't understand, the Belge can help with the translation and we help the other way. It all works out."

Britain's top man at Shape, General Sir Harry Tuzo, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, thinks that Shape's international environment is immensely valuable to

all who experience it, officers and soldiers alike.

"My contention is that as many people as possible should come here because they will see Nato working," he told SOLDIER. "This military alliance is nowadays virtually the entire content of our military thinking. Apart from residual things like Hong Kong or Belize, this is it. There is very little nowadays that is not related to Nato."

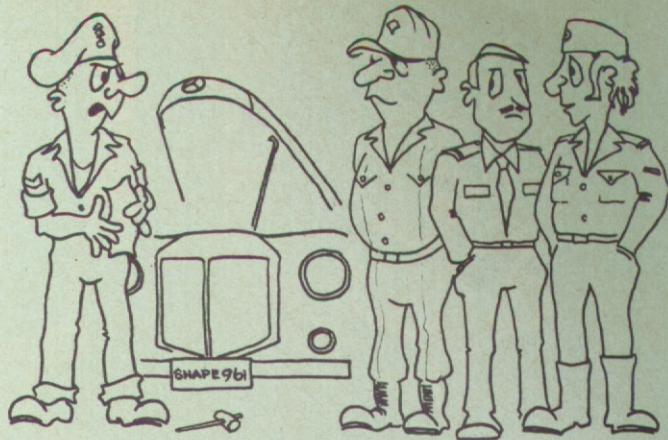
"We want the best men to come here and then we have to make sure that they don't think they are working in a backwater. The truth is the very reverse although perhaps this wasn't always so in the past."

"The British make a contribution here which everybody recognises. We also of course have the good fortune to work in our own tongue. I think the adaptability of our people is remarkable. They fit into this large team and grow used to taking instruction from people of any one of 14 nations. This is a great tribute to them, I think."

"I have never met anyone who actively disliked this place. Usually when you talk to soldiers about their present posting they moan a bit. They always say their best posting was the last one. Here it's different. They say 'Oh, it's all right', which to me means that they are really liking it."

"The married people of course have language difficulties and perhaps the quarters aren't all they might be, but there is a great deal of satisfaction working here."

"It is totally different from working in BAOR because here we are much more closely related to the other nations and to the host nation. We shop in a Belgian supermarket and contact with the civilian population is much closer. I think that is to the good."



"OK, I've changed the first plug. Who's next?"

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Taking shape

On the sideline at Shape — he wears a British national hat and not a Nato hat — Warrant Officer 1 Carl Widdowson, Royal Signals, regimental sergeant-major of the UK support unit, finds ample scope for his talent as a cartoonist in quietly poking fun at the conglomeration of uniforms, high-ranking officers, nationalities and Services which make up the headquarters.

Two of his earlier cartoons, published in 1974 when he was serving in Catterick, are reproduced on pages 12 and 13, and here are four more drawn specially for SOLDIER. Regimental Sergeant-Major Widdowson — 'Carl' when wearing his cartoonist hat — has had his work accepted by several journals. A collection was published under the somewhat obscure title of 'Bang, Bang, Bloody Bang' in May 1973 when he was serving in Singapore. A second volume, 'Goodbye Digger,' came out two months later and continued the saga of the Anzuk Force, taking the mickey out of the nine Services, from Australia, New Zealand, and United Kingdom, making up that force.



"Man, here everyone has a middle initial."



"How about a nice line in blue and white?"



CODEWORD 'KISS'... OF DEATH

"WE HAVE A CODEWORD in this regiment," hissed the adjutant confidentially. "It's KISS — Keep it Simple, Stupid!" And that kiss can be the kiss of death for the enemies of 23rd Special Air Service Regiment (Volunteers) whose Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve members believe simplicity is the cornerstone of success in their kind of war.

Like 21 SAS, its sister TAVR regiment, 23 SAS, is assigned to Nato in Europe to become a unit of I (British) Corps based in Germany.

Ironically, the last thing these front-line troops would want to do at that stage would be to fire a shot in anger — "Every time we fire a shot we write off one of our own patrols," said one trooper. The time for fighting would come only when the patrols were overrun.

FROM MINE TO FRONT LINE IN 17 HOURS

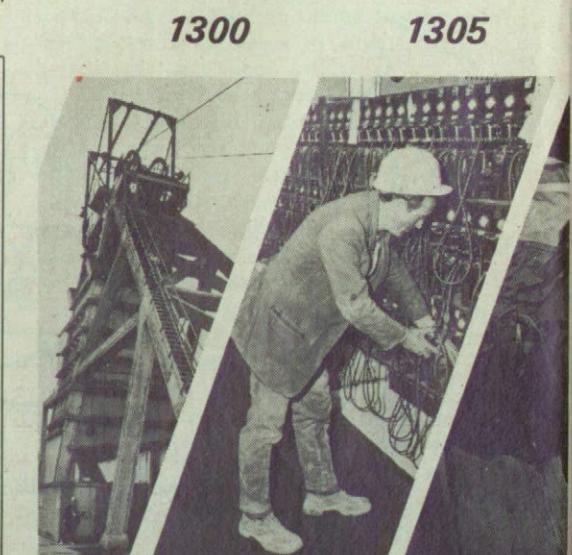
Men of the SAS recently joined the United States Army on exercise in southern Germany and confidently proved the claim that front-line troops could be in the field from the United Kingdom well within a day...

At 1300 on a Friday, Tom was just finishing his shift down the mine in a Yorkshire colliery. A telephone call at 1400 summoned him to his mobilisation point, some 50 miles away, as a member of the 23rd Special Air Service Regiment (Volunteers). He gathered together his personal kit and uniform and made his own way to the TA Centre where he signed in at 2000.

His squadron's 'key party' was already busy getting specialist stores ready for the flight to Germany and Tom was quickly channelled through the unit's administration cell where the documentation processes were completed. By 0200 on Saturday morning his squadron was up to strength and equipped for war and by 0300 he was climbing aboard an RAF C130 Hercules aircraft. Within two hours he was in Germany being briefed and soon afterwards his patrol melted into the countryside to begin its task.



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt



1300 1305

This all immediately calls for a specialist skill — the ability to enter unknown territory and speedily get to know its geography in daylight or dark. Said a trooper: "When we get to our own patch of land to patrol we've got to learn its valleys, hills, woods, paths, the lot, so that when the enemy comes along HE'll be walking into OUR back garden."

This is work that calls for a special sort of man, too. The adjutant of 23 SAS — a veteran Regular — explained: "In our job a few blokes can do a hell of a lot of damage, more indeed than a large formation which can be dealt with by superior numbers in a simple firepower equation.

"In fact, an SAS patrol is one of the safest places in the Army in war. But it carries psychological pressures. When you've stepped over the enemy line you get that prickly feeling that you're on your own."

A trooper added his point of view: "The difference between this and a line regiment is that every man is self-sufficient. You can tell a bloke to get on with something and he won't need telling a second time. There's no room for malingerers here and I'd be surprised if you could find more than two in the whole lot — and they soon get weeded out."

In other words, although the men of 23 SAS are part-timers, they take the job of soldiering seriously. The specialist skills they require — mainly in the all-important field of surveillance and signalling — cannot be mastered in a few drill nights a year and many put in far more hours than the average TAVR soldier.

They are backed by a team of permanent staff instructors from the Regular SAS who take their job equally seriously: "If they're not good at their job, it's our fault," said one.

This dedication does not apparently meet with universal approval. A story currently circulating in the regiment tells of a TAVR soldier being counselled by his commanding officer not to transfer to 23 SAS because "They do not show proper respect to senior officers and they even eat out of mess tins!"

Left: A full day's work behind him, a soldier leaves Civvy Street to sign on for mobilisation.

Right: Before the action there's the admin as the part-time soldiers sort their out documentation.

The fact is that the age-old problem of adapting full-time civilians to their part-time military life is taken just as seriously in 23 SAS as anywhere else. A trooper turned up at the drill hall with a wisp of black beard sprouting under an already luxuriant moustache. The adjutant was soon in eyeball-to-eyeball contact: "If that beard was white, lad, it would be useful... you could be Father Christmas. But it's not — it's black, so it's no use at all. Get it off! If you want to join our club you follow our rules. If not, you can always join another club."

In an aside another PSI commented:

"YOU know what SAS means. But there are

some who still think it means Saturdays And

Sundays!" The regiment can take the joke.

Based in the heart of the industrial Midlands and North of England as well as in Scotland, it draws on hard-working, hard-playing men who get their backs into a job.

Many are miners and workers from heavy industry but the recruiting net has trawled through all strata of society. A university graduate with a double first rubs shoulders in the field with a gravedigger; a labourer with a business man.

Unlike the Regular SAS regiment, the TAVR recruit can make a direct entry to the unit as well as transferring from another

TAVR unit. Members of 23 SAS tend to be in their late 20s or 30s but there is no bar on the age of joining if the recruit is up to the rigorous training. The youngest — son of an ex-Regular SAS soldier — is just over 18. Currently the oldest is four years below the limit of 50.

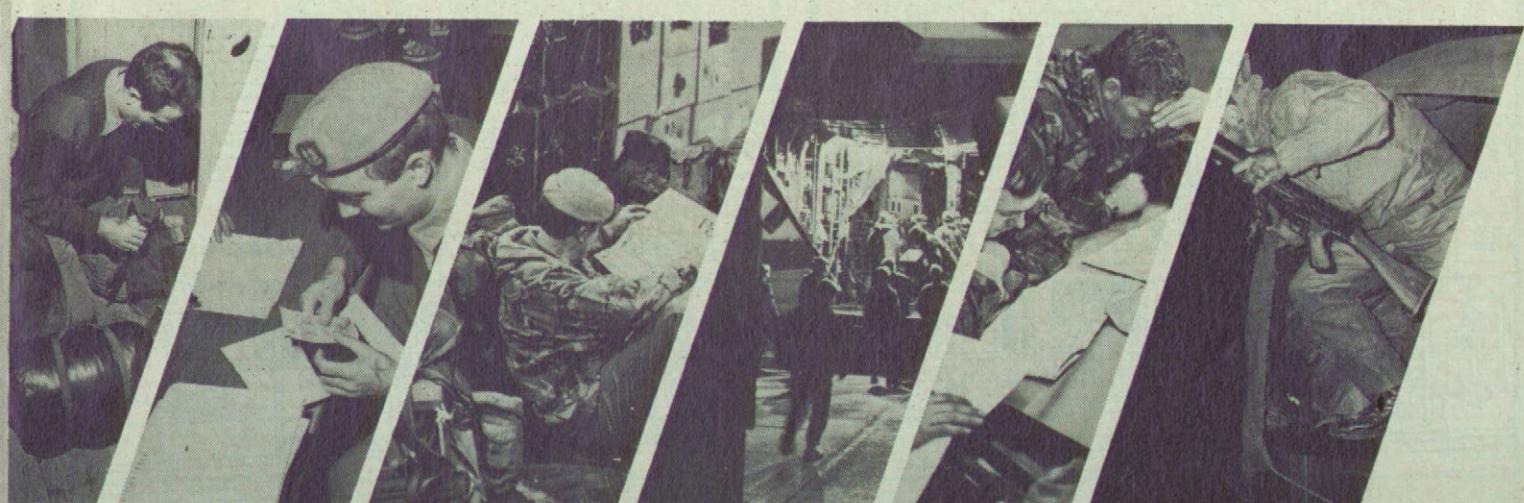
Ex-Regular servicemen make the best recruits, they say, "especially ex-Marines or ex-Paras — they know the score." They can find themselves fully-fledged members of a 'sabre' squadron in three to five months whereas it could take up to two years for a recruit from Civvy Street to make the grade.

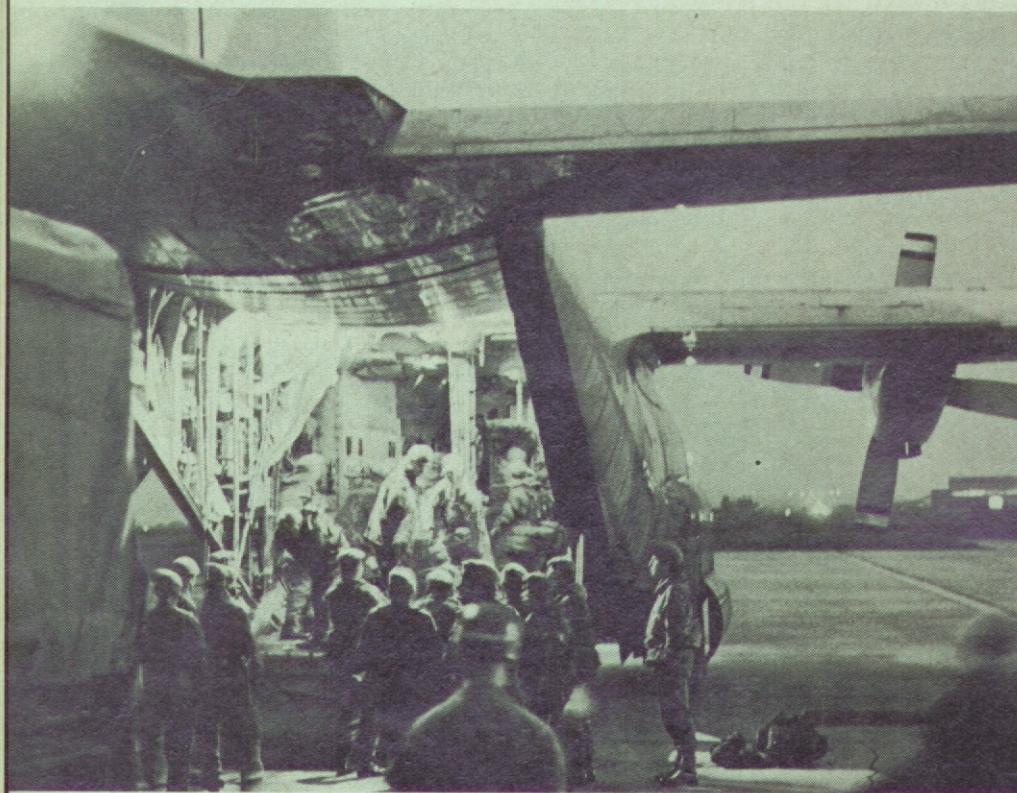
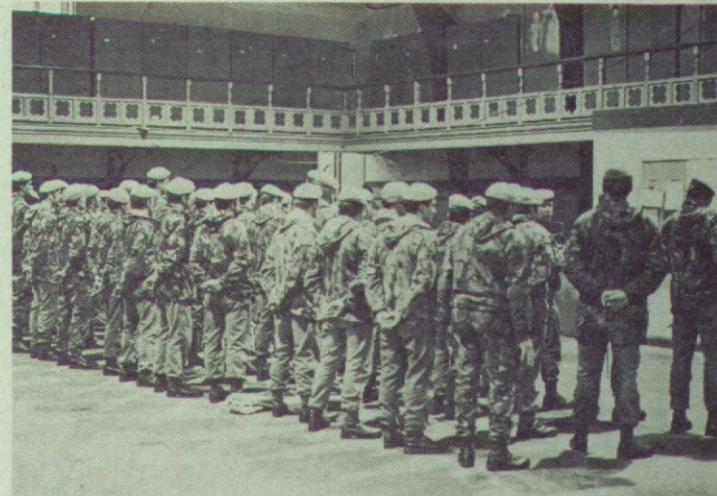
All have to undergo the gruelling selection tests for a couple of weeks which are run three times a year by the TAVR at Sennybridge. Here they are treated in the same way as Regular recruits who come to the SAS from other regiments or corps of the Regular Army and no allowances are made for the fact that the TAVR men are part-timers. At least half-dozen 'work-up' weekends precede the TAVR recruit's Sennybridge visit. This year only 41 recruits were accepted out of 471.

Many of the men of 23 SAS have been with the unit for some years. Typical is a miner, Tom, who joined when he moved to Yorkshire from Durham and had to leave



2000 2030 0145 0300 0445 0530





Above left: A patrol gets a chance to study a map before setting off to its exercise field location.

Above: A squadron is all present and correct before leaving the drill hall for the aircraft.

Left: An American military policeman looks on as 23 SAS deplanes in Germany on exercise.

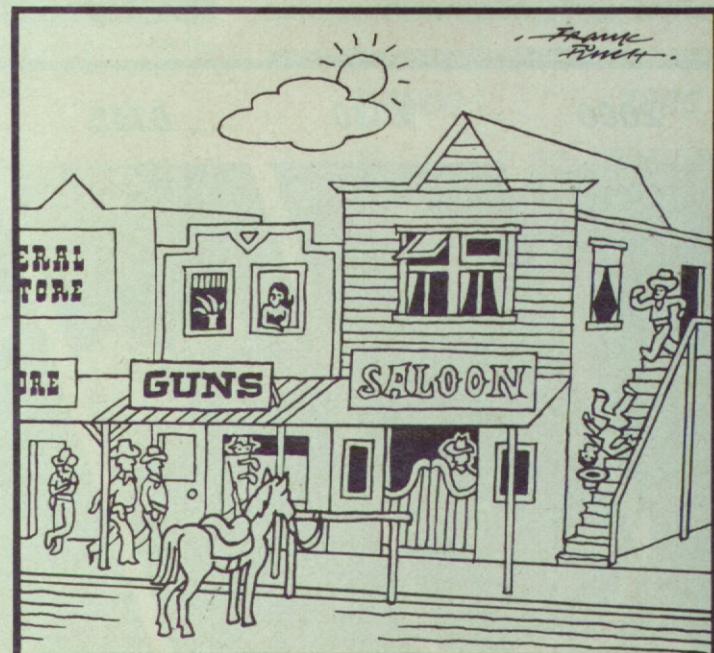
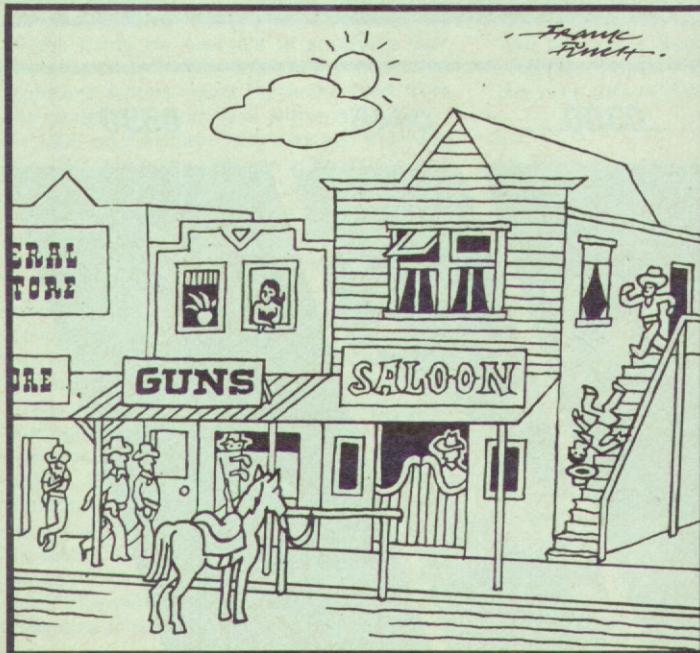
continued

his TAVR Parachute Regiment battalion. He could have joined another TAVR unit, so why the SAS? "I didn't think there was enough excitement in the other units. To start with I wanted to join the TA to prove I dare parachute."

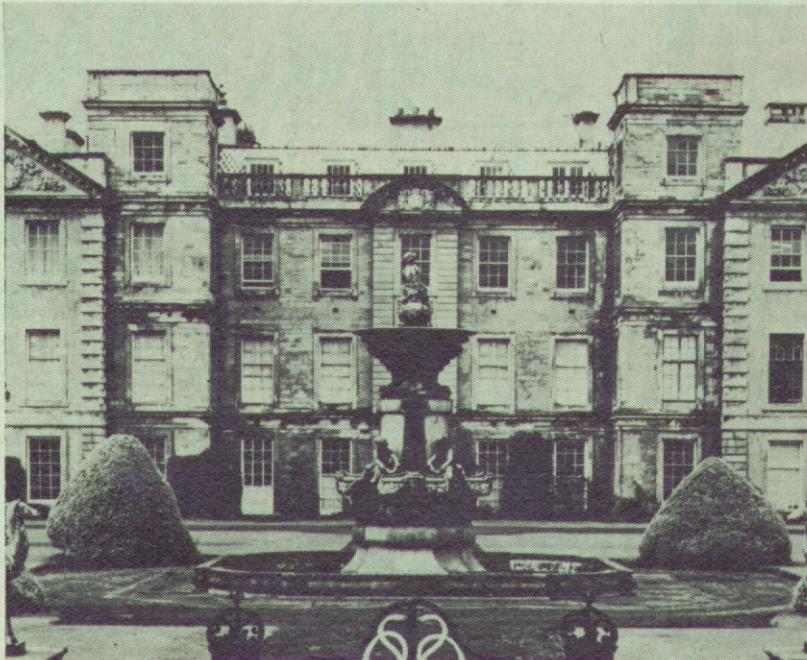
And as the SAS motto proudly declares: "Who dares, wins."

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 33.

How observant are you?



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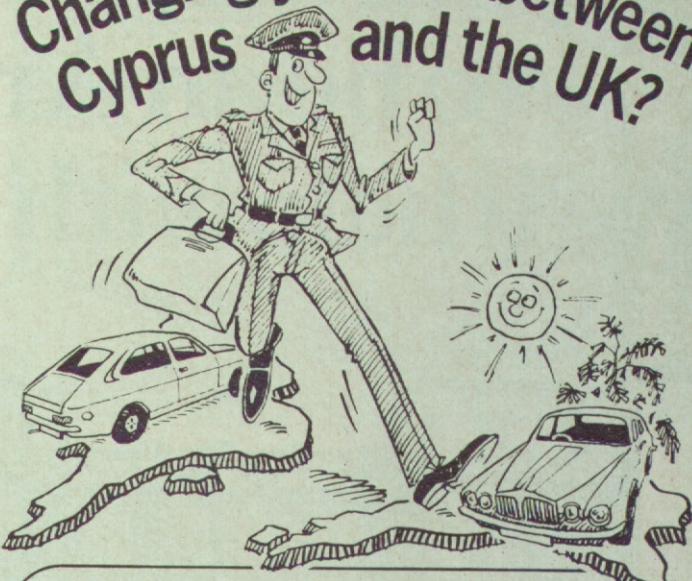
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Soldier news

No dole for BAOR wives

By

Ann Armstrong

Service wives in Rhine Army are not eligible for unemployment benefit, despite paying full taxes during their overseas tour.

This has come to light as a result of SOLDIER's recent articles on the plight of families supporting unemployed teenage children not eligible for supplementary benefit.

But with no supplementary benefits for teenagers, how many more benefits are there for which we pay taxes but which Service families in BAOR are unable to claim?

Free school meals, for instance, is a benefit not enjoyed in BAOR.

There is no tax concession to make up these differences and local overseas allowance was never designed to cover them.

In May, the Government introduced a national insurance scheme for married women allowing wives to opt for full liability or reduced liability. More and more wives are choosing full liability because it entitles them to unemployment benefit and maternity grant.

Mrs T- paid her class I contributions for nine years, a total of nearly £2000. She is now working in BAOR and if she loses her job there will be no unemployment benefit for her. Mrs W- lost her job some weeks before leaving UK to go to BAOR. Because she did not know about unemployment benefit for UK citizens living in EEC countries, she did not take the correct action, and now she cannot claim benefits in BAOR. She should have signed on as unemployed in UK at least four weeks before leaving home.

On arrival in Germany she could then have gone to the German unemployment bureau and they would have either found her suitable employment or paid her benefits for three months — a lot of money which she has lost.

I have been told by the Department of Health and Social Security that the problem is recognised by the EEC's administrative commission on social security of migrant workers and that they are currently looking into the operation of EEC unemployment benefit. However this does not help the wives, especially when German unemployment offices are dealing with a million of their own unemployed, so wives must look for jobs through the Pioneer Civil Labour Unit.

It may be that it is an unfortunate consequence of the intrinsic nature of the benefit, but our families suffer and they should not lose out.

Nato angry over cuts

The Government's decision to cut the defence budget by one-sixth has provoked a sharp response from Nato's Secretary-General, Dr Joseph Luns.

In all, £230,000,000 is to be slashed from the defence bill in 1978-79 — which, said Dr Luns in a letter to the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, must cut the effectiveness of Britain's forces.

"It must be emphasised that Nato, faced with an increasing threat, cannot afford any lessening of its members' defence efforts and that any further cuts by the United Kingdom would not be understood by its allies or find any measure of support on their part," he said.

In an official statement replying to the letter, the Government pointed out that the five per cent of gross national product Britain spends on defence is well above the average of the European members of Nato.

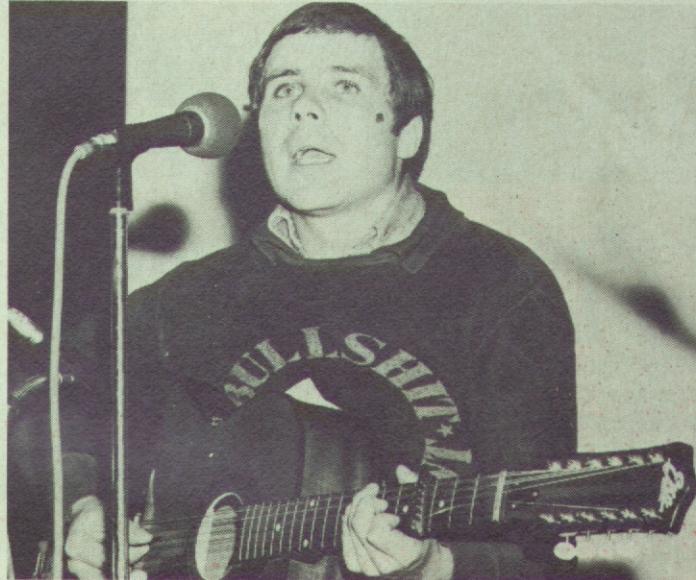
"The United Kingdom reminds the alliance that its forces are of high quality in a wide variety of roles and that it is the only European member making a major contribution in all the fields of the alliance defence effort — in Allied Command Europe, in the Channel and the Atlantic and in the nuclear elements of Nato."

Taking into account the consultation with Nato, the Government has decided on the broad allocation of the £230,000,000 reduction. About one-half is expected to come from the equipment programme, about one-fifth from the works field and the balance from cuts in support areas.

Equipment savings will mainly be found by deferring new equipment. There are also likely to be cancellations of some projects but these will not affect the major equipment programmes.

The works cuts will result in delays to some new projects and to maintenance. Savings will also be found from cuts in research and development expenditure, from further economies in Service and civilian manpower costs and from general support and administration. But there will be no additional Service redundancies.

Brian puts his shirt on his song



NO CUTS

There is to be no cut in local overseas allowance at least for a year. And that is official.

This was announced in October by the Ministry of Defence, effectively squashing rumours, rife in BAOR, of a 40 per cent cut.

"The Ministry of Defence wishes to make it clear that no reduction in the value of the allowances payable to the forces in Germany is contemplated. There will be no change in the present rates of LOA payable (except these consequent on fluctuation in exchange rates) for the next 12 months."

A packed theatre at RAF Gütersloh in West Germany saw Lance-Corporal Brian Morris, of 50 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, presented with a silver trophy by Geoff Love, the composer and arranger, for winning the 1977 Services folk composer of the year competition.

Brian sang his composition, 'Big Wheel of Cambois,' a song about which he feels very strongly. For Cambois is not only the village where his wife Isabel lived for many years, but is also a victim of mine closures. The song tells of how a once thriving village is now a desolate waste.

Brian, who is stationed at Maidstone in Kent, entered the competition through BBC Radio Medway.

Ssafa challenges MOD

Ssafa has stopped recruiting social workers until the Ministry of Defence agrees to pay them "proper professional scales."

This means, said a Ssafa spokesman, that as vacancies arise on the staff they will not be filled until wages go up.

The Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, has agreed to two urgent Ssafa requirements — a full-time social worker will be appointed to work at Ssafa head office and give personal leadership to the 21 social workers overseas and in five UK garrisons, and a senior social worker is to be estab-

lished in British Forces Germany to supervise the 14 Ssafa workers.

Ssafa is seeking payment of the top two increments, not at present paid, to the senior social worker in Germany, and to those entitled to them after ten years' experience which applies to 11 of the 21.

"This," said the Ssafa spokesman, "arises from a mistake on the part of the Department of Health and Social Security which advised the Ministry of Defence that Ssafa social workers were not entitled to the two top increments because they do not take student social workers."

"Ssafa has always maintained that

their social workers work unsupervised, train WRAC welfare assistants and help to train families officers and housing commandants."

"The Council is not only concerned about justice for the social workers. It is equally concerned that it is no longer possible to recruit the right calibre of social workers unless it is permitted to pay the professional scales — and to continue in the present unprofessional manner will be a serious disservice to the families."

Ssafa workers in the UK earn less than the WRAC welfare assistants they are training.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

Christmas and New Year are just around the corner. Many parents, relatives and friends are making arrangements to visit Service families overseas. What should be a happy time sometimes turns to tragedy. Relatives and friends fall ill and sometimes die.

Since January 1977, 20 dependents have died in one Service hospital alone.

It makes no difference whether the patient is in a Service hospital or not, the bill still has to be paid.

Should a death occur and the families wish to repatriate the body home, the German undertaker insists on a down payment of DM1600, approximately £500, before he will make any arrangements. So medical insurance cover is essential for both illness and death. The Department of Health and Social Security leaflet SA28 gives details. And do remind visitors to bring their E111 with them; the application form is at the back of SA28. These forms are now obtainable through units in BAOR or from DHSS offices in UK.

Naafi does an insurance scheme, for holiday/travel insurance. Application forms are available over the counter. A serviceman can take out the insurance, pay the premium and name a relative as the insured person. So easy, and at the same time no worry for older relatives.

Dependents are not covered by the repatriation scheme at public expense which covers servicemen. So dependents are advised to take out insurance, which is handled by the Army agents, Cox and King and Williams and Glyn's bank.

For example, in EEC countries for ages between 19 and 65 years for £500 cover it will cost you:-

1 year £2.50
2 years £5.25
3 years £8.50

For children six months to 18 years:-

1 year £1.40
2 years £2.80
3 years £4.75

But for further information do ask at your unit.

I do not wish to be gloomy at such a time but the extra financial burden can be crippling, so do give it a thought. 'It never happens to me' are famous last words!

Anne Armstrong

It's DIY for MFO box liners

MFO box liners are no longer issued but black tarred paper can be obtained from all unit stores. Individuals have to cut it to the box size they require.

You may qualify for free school meals

I read in the national Press the suggestion that some 375,000 parents are not claiming for free school lunches which now cost 25p per child a day in the UK.

Maybe some of those 375,000 could be Service families who have returned from overseas and because they do not know the new regulations, do not realise that they are eligible.

Incomes of both or one parent totalling:

£60.00 a week with one child can qualify
£62.00 a week with two children can qualify
£64.00 a week with three children can qualify.

This means MOST privates, lance-corporals and some corporals may be eligible. Second-lieutenants just miss out by 17p.

Remember, 25p a day is £1.25 a week (£2.50 for two children which

over two months is £10 and £20.

Do check with the DHSS office, education authority or the pay office in case you can claim. All schools and education welfare offices have claim forms.

This also applies to other benefits like family income supplement. Just as a guideline, incomes of £41.00 a week with one child and £52.00 with two children may be eligible. Ask for DHSS leaflet FIS I of April 77 and check with them to see if you qualify.

Holiday fun for families

I have read with interest over the last three months about the summer holiday play schemes which took place in July, August and September in Northern Ireland, Berlin, BAOR, Cyprus and UK. Each year the number of schemes increases and the ones who have done it before become more ambitious. The enjoyment seen on the faces of the youngsters from the many photographs shows their appreciation of the adults who have organised the activities.

One novel way is to join the Netley Sailing Club families course camp in the grounds of the Royal Victoria Hospital, sail on Southampton Water and use the clubhouse amenities. And even mum can have a go too. For a week the families learn the skills of sailing dinghies.

"All in the boats, capsize drill." In went father Dave Martin; somehow son Peter righted his dinghy first.

Members of the Willis family from Andover were trying out their home-made Mirror dinghy, and son James was receiving instruction from 14-year-old Steven Morley who qualified on a previous course. "Marvellous holiday," said George Andrews and James from RAF Halton. "I find Dad does not always know best," said one father.

Thirty aspiring sailors from ten years to 50 years are taught by civilian and Army instructors. "Some pass the RYA elementary ratings during the week," said Major Roger Grannum, club secretary and course organiser. "We do find it is an excellent way of teaching all the family."

The headquarters of the UKLF Regiment at Old Sarum offered a host of activities for hard-pressed parents. The usual summer sports included river and sea fishing plus ice skating at Bournemouth, picnics at the naval base in Portland and Army Air Day at Middle Wallop. The person behind the scenes who made all this possible is Lieutenant Juliette Tudor WRAC.

"HACK, HACK," was the cry echoing around the camp of The Royal Irish Rangers at Little Rissington. The Holiday Activities Club for Kids (HACK) is run for children of six to 17 years. Crazy sports such as 'It's a Knockout,' and a disco were just a few of the events. But what is different about HACK is that it is a joint project between the Irish Rangers, whose idea it was, and the East Gloucestershire recreation services. The Rangers had a problem for almost all the men were away on a six-month tour in Cyprus — whereas the county did not have very good facilities.

Jointly, money was raised, paid staff and volunteers were found and the scheme flourished. It enabled children from the surrounding countryside to join with the Army children in fun for all. "It did prove very successful and because it was my first time with such a venture my worst fears were unjustified," said Captain Stephen Blanche.

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PLESSEY

All aboard the Lollipop Special!



This is King's Cross Air Terminal. "Calling all passengers for BY 121X for Gütersloh, book in now," comes over the loudspeaker. End of term for 3000 servicemen's children who on a series of 'lollipop' flights join their families in Europe for the holidays.

A mammoth job for the Joint Services Air Trooping Centre which organises the mass movement: "The efficiency of the scheme depends to a great extent on the parents filling in the unaccompanied minors form and returning it to me two months before they wish their children to fly," said Major Stevens, commanding the centre, who continued with a plea to all parents: "Please, if there is a change in plans, let the JSATC know immediately."

It was 1115 at the terminal, one

Friday at the end of term. Children had been booking in since 0800. Teddy bears, bulging carrier bags, a kite, a fishing rod. All were clutching precious belongings, for trunks are left at school. Efficient escorts hand over their charges. Miss Molly Hill, ex-SSAFA escort and now with Universal Aunts, told me: "Once I hand over my charges, I know I need not worry."

Inside the JSATC, staff check and re-check every child, lists of names, destinations, school addresses and

escort names. They see them from terminal to coach, coach to Luton, check through the airport controls and then on to the plane, where a charming Britannia airways hostess meets her young passengers, greeting them with special ice creams for all.

I spoke to one five-year-old in the departure lounge at Luton. "Tired?" I asked. "No, I have lost my boarding card" was hardly spoken when a friendly corporal came up and handed it to him.

At Hendon, the centre of the whole operation, phones ring, charts are plotted, and there is non-stop activity.

"What happens if a child does not arrive at the terminal or at Luton?"

I asked Captain Dill Blackmore. "Immediately we put into action the emergency procedure. We have never lost a child yet." I am sure they never will.

As I left Luton, two travellers spoke to me. Linda, nine years old: "Once I am at the terminal I don't worry any more." And this was echoed by all the children. Turning to seasoned traveller Robert: "I have been travelling since I was very young. Hong Kong, Nepal, Singapore, Kenya, and now I am off to Germany." He's just 12 years old! Four to six weeks later the 3000 will be on their way back. In a year this amounts to 18,000 tot-to-teen travellers.

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More in the family . . .

Analyse any town in the UK and you will find a host of facilities and services — shops, schools, transport, libraries, police and medical services, most of which are run by experts, some by voluntary organisations; each one an important part of the community; most of them long established.

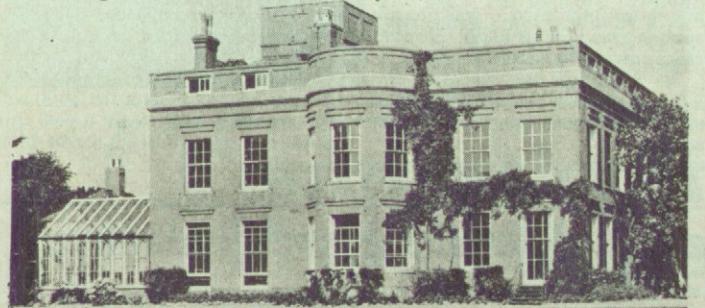
I visited several garrisons in Germany — each one is a small town. The difference? They all have similar organisations to a town in UK but they are run by versatile people who are fully committed to their tasks as members of the 'Professionals' but run a town at the same time. The complexity of running a garrison is quite staggering. No two are the same; the military roles of the units in them vary. The location and size bring different problems to each one.



Mrs Pamela Harden uses the new Naafi shop.

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Prospectus from Secretary. (Tel: Weymouth 2977).



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Prospectus: The Secretary, St. John's College, Coolhurst, Horsham, Sussex.

Tel: Horsham 2424.

Families live in houses or in blocks of flats (some old like Barop, some new like Holyweekede, built for nearly 600 families). Opened in 1977, Holyweekede has a Naafi community centre and huge car parking areas. But it lacks adequate play space for the 7-16-year-olds. Like any town, most of the amenities are normally in the centre where the work is done.

Transport is usually the key to successful life in any community. Dortmund Garrison is no exception. School buses, Naafi buses and medical centre buses are essentials of everyday life. But long waits and wasted hours are well known to most Service wives. However, Dortmund Garrison is trying out a revolutionary scheme in running an inter-connecting bus service with a regular timetable.

"We hope that this will give greater flexibility to wives, especially those who live some distance away, as there is virtually no public transport," said Mrs Judy Steele. "They will be able to come and go as they please, do their shopping and then perhaps catch a bus on to visit friends on another estate."

"Dortmund? It seemed miles away when I looked at the map," said Mrs Pamela Harden, who had just arrived after two days' driving from Wales with 2½-year-old son Mark. "I had never driven on the Continent but we made it."

Voluntary

Most towns have a local paper. The Dortmund Despatch, run by voluntary staff, is full of news, views, letters, information, competitions, stories and cartoons.

On Sunday morning in the garrison church the choir sings lustily. Mrs Helen Simpson and family are back in the choir stalls after an absence of five years. The Royal Artillery Mounted Band is back after five years in Larkhill.

What can youngsters do in Dortmund? Despite the fact that they have no purpose-built youth centre, 'Make do' is their motto. Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies or youth club members, all are full of ingenuity. Untiring leaders keep the momentum of activities running non-stop throughout the year. It

Dortmund gives all it's got for British families' welfare

could be a camp, Miss Dortmund 77 or winning an international youth football tournament. For the older ones and adults, there are stamp, drama and chess clubs and the very lively folk club entertains with top folk singers from UK.

There are adult education classes with arrangement for Open University courses, German classes and an Anglo-German society and for the energetic all sports are available.

Shopping

Community centres, however small, can be found on most estates. Bingo, whist, coffee mornings, thrift shops, play groups — anything is tried to alleviate the boredom. Shopping plays an important part. Most wives shop at Naafi because buying from the German stores is expensive. So Naafi has to try and satisfy the needs of some 8000 people and put on to their shelves as much variety as a housewife would find in any high street. "A mammoth task," said Mr Robert Eeckelaers, the Naafi manager.

Quite a lot of trade is done through mail orders. Just across from the Naafi is the YWCA, with gifts, sweets, films, canteen, hot meals and newspapers. "Sunday morning is very busy — we dispense over 1000 papers," said Mrs Iris Sauerwein, "and as we open at different times to Naafi it enables the soldiers to do a lot of shopping when they get back from an exercise. And of course the schoolchildren come in for their comics."

Three schools cater for the five to 16-year-olds. They are Alanbroke and Alexandra, where the pet white rabbit hops around the open-plan school at will, and Cornwall Comprehensive. Defence cuts have hit



A nursery school keeps youngsters happy.

this school, built for 400. It now houses 750.

This is both hard for teachers and pupils. Teachers too have been cut in Germany. It is questionable whether such cuts are acceptable when both pupils and staff are prone to frequent moves.

Towns have their big events. Dortmund runs a garrison horse show among the many yearly events embracing all garrison members.

Heavy responsibilities fall on the

garrison commander, commanding officers and their wives. In fact most wives help with jobs such as being an escort on the youth club bus, fostering children while mum's away in hospital, or just being a good and helpful neighbour. A hundred-and-one jobs are done by members of the garrison, mostly for no financial reward.

With the untiring help of Ssafa sisters and social workers, the estate

exercises or in Northern Ireland," said the Ssafa social worker. She added: "With the few jobs available and at 30 years old you may be the oldest one in a large block of flats."

Wonderful

A young wife, Mrs Christine Ingham, said: "The welfare flights are wonderful. Mum came out from Newcastle. It made all the differ-

ence when my husband was away."

Major Sharpe, the Station Staff Officer, summed it up: "We do try and understand all the problems but some schemes do have difficulties because we do not have the same financial resources as in UK. Due to the predominantly young family element and continuous postings, finding volunteers is a perpetual headache. If you have something and offer time, a skill, you will be snapped up immediately," he said.

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We reunite pals

Two old pals who lost touch with each other at the end of World War Two have met again — thanks to SOLDIER.

The first that Reg Stevens of Ilminster knew of the reunion was when he opened his door one evening to a man he did not at first recognise but who introduced himself as 'Smokey Joe.' Then the years swiftly rolled away.

'Smokey Joe,' otherwise Mike Attard, who now lives near Bournemouth, last saw Reg Stevens in 1945 in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany. During the years in between he often thought about his old mate but was resigned to never seeing him again. Until Mike had a letter published in SOLDIER.

"My family encouraged me to try and fulfil my dream to contact some of the POWs," he said.



Reg Stevens (left) greets his long-lost pal.

A hero is honoured

An act of supreme gallantry which cost the life of a British soldier and earned him the highest peacetime accolade of the award of the George Cross was remembered in a simple ceremony at Hong Kong's Colonial Cemetery.

Back in 1946, Driver Joseph Hughes (20) of the Royal Army Service Corps, was driving a lorry loaded with explosives into the ammunition magazine at Lyemun when the vehicle started to smoulder and then caught fire.

The George Cross citation goes on: 'Knowing full well that his vehicle was likely to blow up at any moment, Driver Hughes — instead of running for safety — did everything in his power to put out the fire.'

Despite several small explosions he first tried to remove the camouflage net covering the load and then unsuccessfully tried to put out the blaze with a fire extinguisher. Minutes later the lorry blew up, fatally injuring him.

But his actions had delayed the disaster and allowed troops in the area to get clear. As a result, casualties were negligible — with the exception of Driver Hughes himself.

Short memorial services at Driver Hughes' graveside have been regularly held over the years, first by the RASC and latterly by its successor, the Royal Corps of Transport.

This year Warrant Officers To Tung Sau and Frank Slatter visited the grave to mark the continuing pride the RCT take in the gallant deed of their dead comrade more than 30 years ago.



BOTH HORSE AND FOOT

Fine-line studies of 18th and 19th century military life by Roald Knutsen in special limited editions of prints.

These nine prints include four drawings of the Black Watch between the time of Fontenoy (1745) and the Crimean War. Others look at Marlborough's infantry, the American cavalry and infantry around 1779 and 1781, an English militia regiment — the Sussex Light Dragoons in 1781, and the famous Skinner's Horse (1st Bengal Irregular Cavalry) in 1863.

Each edition strictly limited to 200 numbered prints, all available separately at £3.24 (inc VAT) or BFPO £2.75.

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RMK Studios 13 Keere Street, Lewes, Sussex, England

Job creation helps museum

An Army museum's precious files and uniforms are to get a facelift, thanks to the Manpower Services Commission's job creation programme.

As a result of the scheme, people can call in to The Green Howards museum at Richmond, North Yorkshire, and get almost instant information on the regiment's history and members.

And as visitors pass through the museum, they cannot fail to be impressed by the appearance of what is claimed to be the most comprehensive collection of historical uniforms in any regimental museum — again cared for through job creation which authorised two of the scheme's most unusual projects.

The improvements are the work of two women, an archivist and a textile conservator, who are temporarily employed at the museum. They have their jobs because Colonel John Forbes, regimental secretary and curator of the museum, unable to get an increase in the museum's staff establishment, turned to the job creation programme as a way of getting work done which would otherwise have been neglected.

"We needed specialist help to care for the uniforms and to put the regimental archives in order and there was no way of getting this help in the present economic situation, so I appealed to the job creation action committee and they agreed to the scheme for two people to work here for a year," explained Colonel Forbes.

Now, Ruth Ogden, an Army wife whose husband is stationed at nearby Catterick, is bringing order for the first time to the archives. A full index by names and a card index of campaigns has been prepared so that queries can be answered without effort, where previously they disrupted the work of the museum.

"We get a lot of people coming in to ask about the war records of

relatives and if medals are genuine. Now we can give them an immediate answer," said Ruth.

Having finished a course at the Textile Conservation Centre at Hampton Court, Bridget Harper was looking for a first job in a field which she found had contracted through the economic situation. Then came the enquiry from Colonel Forbes for an experienced conservator to work in the museum. Now she has sole charge of the care of more than 80 uniforms dating from 1780 to the present day which are on display and another 30 which are held in reserve.

"I'm inspecting them all and listing the necessary work to be carried out on each," she said. "I have surface-cleaned most of those on display — vacuuming them through a gauze to protect the cloth — and I intend to do what I can to improve and preserve the rest during my time here, but there will still be a great deal to be done."

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Early bath didn't dampen Lemgo Light Infantry



It's a Knockout for L/Cpl Tony Clarke as he takes a dive!



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Prospectus from the Headmaster

Telephone: Kinlet (029924) 230

To say farewell to the German town of Lemgo, where it has been stationed for four years, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, laid on a giant open day to involve both German and British communities.

Lemgo has been a Light Infantry town for eight years — the 1st Battalion was based there for the previous four years. Now the 2nd Battalion is on the move to Northern Ireland.

More than 6000 people turned up for seven hours of non-stop arena excitement as well as more than 50 stalls and sideshows. A rugby match between the battalion and Hamburg Police was commentated on by Mr Eddie Waring, the 'early bath' commentator.

Displays were by the Light Infantry's own freefall team, The Flying Bugles, The Blues and Royals tent-pegs team, Gazelle helicopters of 654 Squadron, Army Air Corps, and martial arts from 4th Division Army Physical Training Corps staff.

Visiting teams were from Germany's 212 Panzergrenadierbataillon, Holland's 3 Guided Weapons Group and the United States 51 Signals Battalion. The only snag — persistent rain ensured 'an early bath' for everyone.

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

Wymondham — Norfolk

Places for January, 1978

A new independent boarding and day school, specifically for the needs of Force's families. Boys, ages 8 to 16. G.C.E. and C.S.E. exams. Traditional teaching and discipline, in good atmosphere. Courier service to and from school: facilities for caring for children through holidays. Sensible, reasonably priced uniform. Very large reductions in fees for Services' children.

Prospectus: Admissions Officer, 34 Heather Avenue, Scrabha, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Probably no other subject raises so much interest among soldiers and their families than money and matters related to it. Now **SOLDIER NEWS** has started a new column, which over the months will bring you all possible information about pay and allowances.

Money Matters

Following last month's article on soldiers' pensions, here is the follow-up in question and answer form, on what the soldier's family would get if his death was due to Army service. It also covers awards to soldiers invalided out of the Army.

Remember that whether you're thinking of signing on, are already serving, or getting married, you should know what your pension rights are.

Soldiers' pensions

What if I am killed while in the Army?

The Army provides an adventurous career but it can be dangerous.

If the Department of Health and Social Security accepts that your death is due to Army service, there are no quibbles about your age or years of service. Whether you are single or married, your heirs or your widow will be paid a lump sum equivalent to about 97 per cent of a year's pay. Or, if it is bigger, they will be paid the terminal grant you would have received if, instead of being killed, you had been invalided out.

Your widow will also get a short-term family pension for 91 days — this is the same as your basic rate of pay — plus an extra lump sum of half the yearly pension you would have got had you completed 37 years' service.

After 91 days, a forces family pension will be paid to your widow and children. The rate of pension is higher than normal because death is due to Army service. The children's pension is payable for up to four children at the same time.

What does this mean in actual cash?

Take the case of a married corporal with a wife and four children who dies due to Army service after having served for nine years. His rate of pay was class 1, band 1. His widow would receive a lump sum of £3712 and a special lump sum of £928, both tax-free. She would also get a short-term family pension, paid for 13 weeks, of about £72 a week.

When the short-term family pension ended, she would then receive around £56 a week as a forces family pension. This would be made up of nearly £28 a week for the widow and about £7 a week for each of the four children.

And, remember, these pensions would be increased every year to keep pace with the cost of living.

What happens if I am invalided out of the Army?

If you have more than five years'

service since the age of 18, you may get an invaliding pension. With less than five years' but more than two years' service after age 18, you may get an invaliding gratuity.

What if my disability is due to my Army service?

It is the job of the Department of Health and Social Security to say if your disability is attributable to or aggravated by your Army service. The department sees the documents of everyone who is medically discharged.

If your disability is attributable to Army Service, then you get a disability award from DHSS. In addition, regardless of length of service or age, you may get a further attributable award from the Army. Invaliding awards are made at the discretion of the Defence Council and may vary, depending on the circumstances.

What if I am discharged normally but become ill later because of my Army service?

You can claim for a disability award at any time after discharge if you think your illness has been caused by your service. You make your claim to the Department of Health and Social Security.

Anything else?

Yes! It is obviously not possible to give all the ins-and-outs of the detailed rules in a short article like this, so do not take this as gospel for your own individual circumstances. If you want more details, ask your unit paymaster.

The next article in this series will deal with officers' retired pay.

A district on the move



South West District has moved east. The Army headquarters which used to be in Taunton, Somerset, has been shifted to Bulford on Salisbury Plain where the General Officer Commanding, Major-General R Lyon, ceremonially raised the headquarters' flag by way of a 'business as usual' sign.

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37/11

Melton's four-footed freedom



Above: The mayor stops for a handshake.

Right: The corps marches through Melton.

Every dog has its day. And nearly 40 of them had theirs en masse when they — and their masters and mistresses — were granted the Freedom of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

All are members of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps which made its home in the town in 1946. To mark the close ties that have built up between the corps and local inhabitants, the town council decided to honour its military neighbours by making them Freemen.

There for the ceremonial parade were some of the corps' alsatian dogs and their male handlers plus labradors with their girl handlers and a troop of male and female corps members on horseback.

As the orders rang out on the parade field they were punctuated by a few mutinous barks of protest from the immaculately groomed dogs intent on undoing all their handler's hard work by rolling ecstatically on the turf.

But the sense of occasion soon impressed itself on the animals and they responded in true military fashion to choruses of 'sit' or 'lie down' from their bands of handlers, translating the human orders of 'at ease' and 'stand easy' for their charges to understand.

The parade was duly inspected by the Mayor of Melton, Councillor D Smart, who stopped to shake paws with a dog on the way. Next to the dogs he admired the gleaming mounts — who

had the horse-sense to forgive him for being a wholesale meat trader by profession.

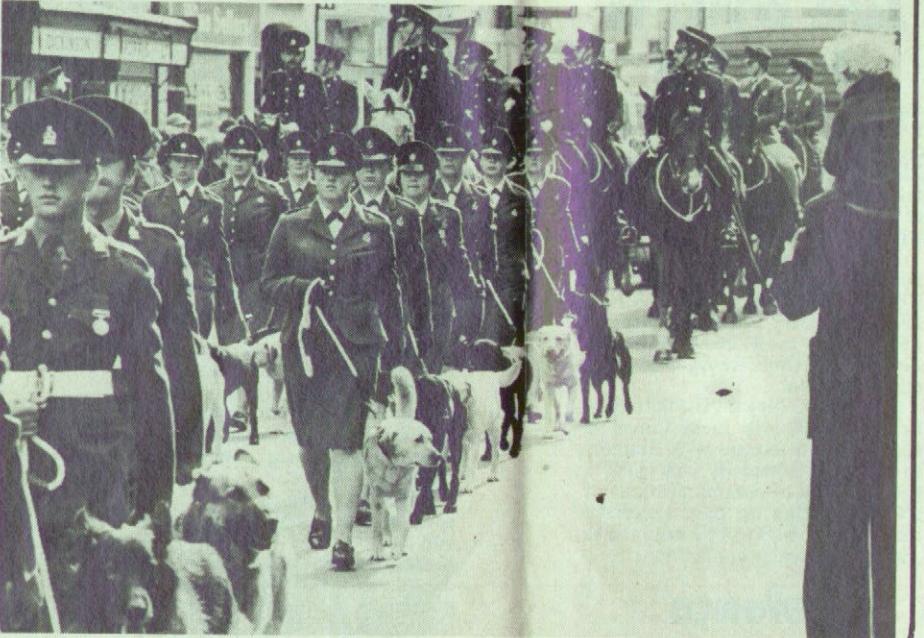
The Army and its animals have been associated with Melton since 1911. It was then that the Army Remount Services bought a stud farm. A veterinary officer of the then Army Veterinary Corps (it became 'Royal' in 1918) was always a member of the staff.

In 1936 the present headquarters camp was built and was used by airborne troops before their departure for Arnhem during World War Two.

Meanwhile the RAVC had developed its headquarters at Woolwich but in 1942 this was severely damaged by bombing and the depot evacuated to Doncaster racecourse as a temporary home. At the same time the RAVC assumed responsibility for Army remount services and so became associated with Melton.

Then in 1946 the corps' depot moved from Doncaster to its present home in Welby Lane, Melton Mowbray.

The mayor presented the Freedom scroll to the corps' Colonel Commandant, Major-General Peter Long, and finally the corps members, animal and human, marched off through the town to exercise their newly won right to do so 'with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing, Colours flying'... dogs barking and horses trotting.



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Kidney fund gets head start



It's not so easy after all

What's so difficult about an assault course anyway? How many soldiers have heard that from their wives? But one group of women certainly know now just how difficult it is — they have been over the assault course.

A grand total of 15 members of the wives' club of the Army Apprentices College, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Arborfield, had a bash at the Guards assault course at Pirbright and many of them were surprised that they actually managed to get round the full course, let alone worry about times. The group included Mrs Margaret Keast, wife of the college's Commandant, Colonel Barrie Keast.

The idea, suggested by Mrs Elaine Jewell, took root and was given to Captain Ken Robinson to organise. The girls found sponsors for every obstacle defeated and in that way turned the muddy day out into a fund-raising scheme, and eventually managed to make more than £150 towards a kidney machine.

Most of the wives completed 28 of the 32 obstacles on the course. Mrs Miriam Thompson cracked an ankle bone, and another wife, Mrs Angela Pearson, took a ducking in the water obstacle, known locally as the Queen Mary. All told, the girls took about an hour to get round the course, with a break at the half-way stage. Trained soldiers take about 15-20 minutes.

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S/11/77

Disabled beat the Channel

Three disabled ex-soldiers who each lost a leg on active service made a daring crossing of the Channel in canoes in aid of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal. It was the first crossing of its type by the limbless.

All members of the BLESMA Venturers, an action group of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, the three canoeists completed the crossing in seven hours.

The three were Alec Beer (27), Cliff Sadler (54) and Tony Maynard (33). Mr Beer, who was with 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, had his left leg amputated below the knee in November 1974 in Northern Ireland.

Mr Sadler had his right leg amputated above the knee in Normandy in 1944 and Mr Maynard, an ex-member of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, lost a leg in Borneo in 1963.

The three Venturers wanted to demonstrate to themselves and others who are handicapped, their ability to overcome physical disablity. As they have only one leg each it was difficult to balance and steer the canoe — this being normally done with two feet.

A fourth member of the team, Corporal Simon Cook, Royal Marines, who is not limbless, joined them for the adventure.

The canoes started from St Mar-



The going starts to get tough. Tony Maynard (front) and Simon Cook ride the swell soon after leaving the shore.

garet's Bay, Dover, in a Force Four wind and with a heavy following sea — very unstable and difficult conditions for canoeing. A mile out, the steering broke in Alec and Cliff's boat. As the other canoe came alongside to help, Alec Beer lifted himself out of the canoe, levered his one leg over the other canoe and

manoeuvred himself face down under the prow of the boat to repair the steering.

The steering broke three more times, the last about five miles from the French coast, and it was decided to steer with paddles — tricky and exhausting for men who were already tired.

In France the crews were met by the French press and television as well as large crowds. Later they were given a civic reception in Calais Town Hall.

John drinks in Army life

Mr John Hings, an executive with H P Bulmer Ltd, the cider firm, is currently learning all about Army life on a special short-service commission. He is spending four months at HQ 6th Field Force in Aldershot with the rank of major.

At the end of his Army stint Mr Hings will make a report to the Commander-in-Chief, United Kingdom Land Forces, giving his impressions as a businessman of Army leadership, management and administration.

Meanwhile Major 'Birdie' Martin, from HQ 6th Field Force, is spending four months with Bulmers at Hereford where he will make a special study of communications at all levels within the firm. Later the exchange scheme will be assessed to see if it has wider applications.

Defence contract

Britain has signed a major defence contract with Saudi Arabia. Under the contract, signed in Saudi Arabia by Mr Fred Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, Britain, through the British Aircraft Corporation, will provide technical assistance for the Royal Saudi Air Force in the fields of maintenance and training. The contract runs from next year until 1982.

Four figure target

Four soldiers have made a 400-mile run to raise £2000 for a crippled comrade.

The four, from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, started off in Folkestone where a four-ton lorry overturned in March, seriously injuring their fellow soldier, 19-year-old Rifleman Kenneth Anderson.

The run ended at Ken's home village in County Durham where it is hoped that the sponsorship money raised will go to provide special fittings at his house. He is paralysed from the neck downwards.

The runners kept up a non-stop relay round the clock, taking turns to sleep in a supporting Land-Rover.

Gurkha Bach!



Welsh Gurkhas, look you! They are actually members of the Cambrian Gurkha Jazz Band from Pontypridd on a three-day visit to Hohne in West Germany. The word 'Gurkha' in their title is explained by the fact that the boyos — aged from eight to 16 — adopted the uniform of 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles on their formation.

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For the second year running men and women from New Zealand have come to Britain and Germany as part of an exchange scheme between the New Zealand Army and the British Army.

On Exercise Long Look, 30 members of all corps of the New Zealand Army will take over jobs of British counterparts who have gone to New Zealand for their exchange.

A similar exchange is being conducted between the British and Australian armies with some 90 soldiers from each taking part.

All 240 Longlookers met briefly for a few hours in Singapore before boarding military aircraft from the three nations to continue their journeys around the world to their new units. The exercise is due to end in mid-December.

And, for the first time for years, troops from the New Zealand Army have been visiting Hong Kong on exercise.

A mortar platoon of 28 men from 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, flew from their base in Singapore to take part in Hong Kong's annual mortar concentration. They operated with mortar platoons from the four Gurkha and one of the United Kingdom infantry battalions based in the colony (right).

The Kiwis were hosted by 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, during their stay and then returned to Singapore where their battalion forms part of the New Zealand Force, South East Asia.

The mortar concentration exercise was part of a series of live firing exercises with infantry support weapons recently held in Hong Kong to test the combat readiness of infantry units.

Gurkha crash commendation

Two Gurkha soldiers who rescued seriously injured car crash victims after an accident in Hong Kong have been awarded the Commendation of the Commander British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer.

The crash involved two civilian cars and a number of Chinese trapped in the wreckage seemed to be badly hurt.

One of the cars had skidded off the road, overturned and spewed petrol out of its burst tank while the engine was still running — an explosion could have ripped through the devastated scene at any moment.

Lance-Corporal Krishnababur Gurung, of 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, seeing that no help was being offered, immediately took control of the situation. He organised traffic control as he personally saw to it that the injured were taken to safety where he gave first aid.

Rifleman Kerbahadur Gurung, from the same battalion, meanwhile had climbed into the overturned vehicle and switched off the engine. He joined his colleague in evacuating the injured and giving first aid.

Kiwis take a Long Look



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Volunteers' royal turnout

Only a few months after taking part in Llanelli's welcome to the Queen during her Silver Jubilee tour of Wales, men of 4th (Volunteer) Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Wales were on parade again for another royal visit to the Welsh town.

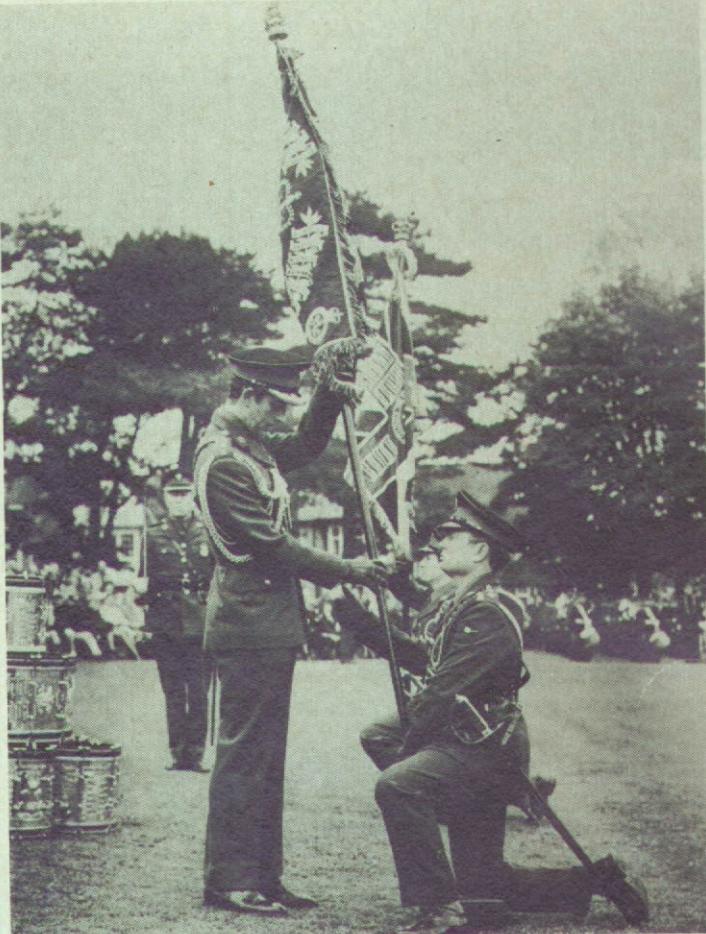
The Prince of Wales, who is Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Wales, spent a busy day with his regiment, presenting new Colours to the 4th Battalion, meeting its members and wives, watching a rugby match and attending an old comrades' reunion dinner.

At Llanelli's Parc Howard the rain charitably ceased for the Colours ceremony during which Prince Charles inspected the 4th Battalion's two Colour guards, each of 100 men and drawn from the battalion's Llanelli-based headquarters and A Company, B Company at Neath and C Company at Bridgend. On parade too were the battalion's goat mascot, Sospan II, the regimental band and the regimental bands of the 1st and 3rd battalions.

The new Colours were consecrated by the Chaplain-General, Archdeacon Peter Mallett, assisted by the Reverend E H Brown, chaplain to the 4th Battalion, the Reverend P F White, Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General Wales, and Father H Beattie, senior Roman Catholic chaplain to South Wales District and Wales.

Addressing the parade, Prince Charles said the battalion's old Colours were presented in 1960 by the Queen who had asked him to convey her best wishes. Lieutenant-Colonel M Davies, commanding the 4th Battalion, replied.

After the march past, three cheers for the Colonel-in-Chief and the final royal salute, Prince Charles chatted to representatives of affiliated regiments — The Ontario Regiment and the Royal New South Wales Regiment — who were over



on holiday visits. Two officers from the Canadian regiment and the regimental sergeant-major and a colour-sergeant from Australia were on parade guarding the saluting dais where also on duty were members of the battalion's Women's Royal Army Corps platoon.

The platoon, almost fully recruited, has taken over such duties, normally done by men, as clerks, radio operators, drivers, cooks and medical orderlies.

Above: The Colonel-in-Chief presents the new Regimental Colour which bears 40 battle honours won before 1914 by The South Wales Borderers and The Welch Regiment and 'Korea 1951-52,' one of the few battle honours awarded to the Army since World War Two. Thirty-five battle honours won in the two world wars are borne on the Queen's Colour, the pike of which carries the Silver Wreath of Immortelles, a unique distinction commanded by Queen Victoria.

Richard's courage saves the day

The calm courage of an eleven-year-old Cub Scout who went to the aid of a young girl whose arm was impaled on a metal gate was rewarded at a special ceremony at Rhine Army's headquarters in Germany.

Richard Bell was presented with Scouting's Medal of Meritorious Conduct by General Sir Frank King, who is Commissioner for British Scouts in Western Europe as well as



being Commander-in-Chief of Rhine Army and Northern Army Group.

After the presentation, Richard said that with knowledge gained during his Cub Scout training he had been able to give first aid to the injured girl before taking her to Cub Scout leader Mrs Joan Whale, who lived nearby.

Richard's proud parents, Staff-Sergeant and Mrs John Bell, were on hand at the ceremony. Staff Bell serves with 21 Signal Regiment at RAF Wildenrath where Richard is a member of the 1st Wildenrath Scout Group.

Good service Scouters

It was a proud day for three Service Scouters when they received awards for good service to the Scout Association at a meeting of district commissioners in Osnabrück, West Germany.

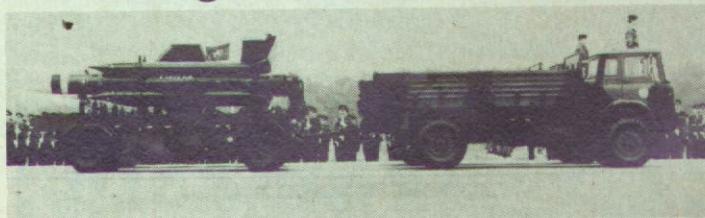
The Deputy Commissioner of British Scouts in Western Europe, Brigadier Peter Dietz, made the presentation of the Medal of Merit to Captain Mike Gaffney, his wife Gwenda and Flight-Lieutenant Colin de Fleury.

The Medal of Merit is awarded to leaders who have given at least ten years' outstanding service in the Scout movement.

Mike Gaffney is the District Commissioner for Central Westphalia and Gwenda is Assistant DC for Cub Scouts.

Colin de Fleury is DC for Teutoburg, which covers Bielefeld and Gütersloh. He is also a leader trainer. He has been a leader for more than 15 years and also received the Scouts' Long Service Award.

Brigade bows out



The end of 60 years of anti-aircraft or air defence formations at brigade strength was marked in Dortmund, Germany, with the disbandment parade of 7th Artillery Brigade.

Moving on to new roles with the new air defence missile systems, Rapier and Blowpipe, were the brigade's HQ and Signal Squadron plus 12 Air Defence Regiment, 16 Air Defence Regiment, 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment and 6 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.

Farewell music was provided by the Royal Artillery Mounted Band, the band of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, and the pipes and drums of 103 Light Air Defence Regiment (The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers).

The brigade was formed in 1955

as 7 Anti-Aircraft Group, Royal Artillery, after the disbandment of the old Anti-Aircraft Command. It was a totally heavy formation comprising three regiments of 3.7-inch guns, an AA fire command battery and 7 AGRA Signal Squadron.

It moved to Cyprus during the Suez crisis in 1956 and returned to the United Kingdom early the following year. In 1961, 7 AGRA was redesignated 7th Artillery Brigade and moved to Rhine Army. It was based at first in Gütersloh before moving to Dortmund in 1967.

French memorial moved

A memorial to 16,000 men of the British Army's 1st Division who died in World War One has been re-dedicated in the village of La Groise in northern France.

The dedication service was carried out by the present chaplain to 1st Division, the Reverend Bill Martin, and La Groise's parish priest, Abbé Mauville.

Speaking in French at the ceremony (right), the division's General Officer Commanding, Major-General David Alexander Sinclair, recalled that 60 years had passed since World War One but he felt it right that we should continue to honour those who gave their lives in vain.

In reply, the Mayor of La Groise, Monsieur Denise, said his village was honoured that the British had returned and it made them feel that the sacrifice made by their countrymen had not been in vain.

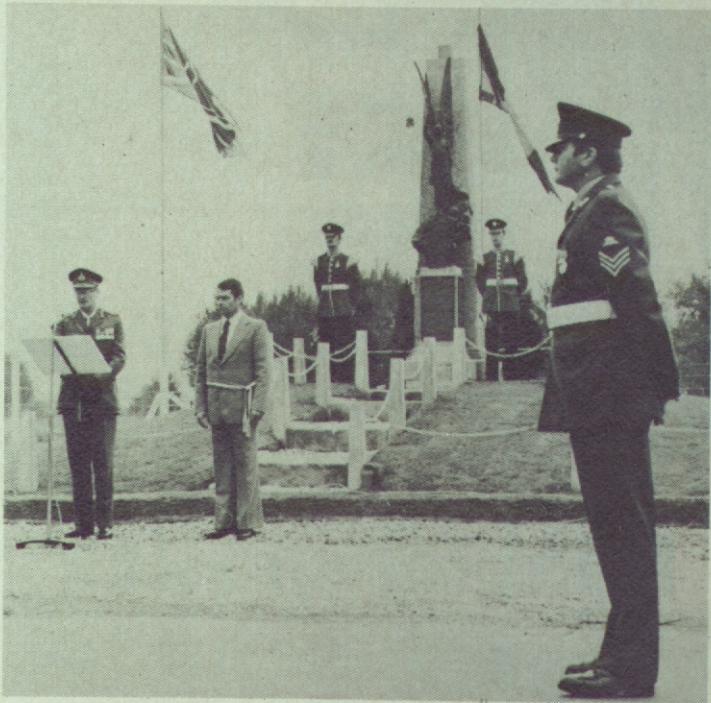
The memorial had been moved to a new site and the work of renovating it had been carried out by a small party of specialists from 32 Regiment, Royal Engineers. It

was the last task the regiment undertook before its disbandment in September.

During their three-week stay in the village, the sappers made many friends and when they returned for the ceremony several took their families and stayed with local people.

The Union Flag flew from every building in the village as a guard of honour from 93 (Le Cateau) Battery of 25 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, formed up at the memorial. Buglers from 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, were also there, with a French guard of honour from 21 Compagnie Militaire du Terroire.

The new memorial site is now slightly nearer the crossroads where 1st Division was attacked at noon on 26 August 1914 and where it was compelled to fall back four years later in November 1918.



Freemen march in Germany



The self-propelled Lance missile system — one of Nato's major defence weapons — was driven through the German town of Menden by men of 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, exercising their privilege to parade through the streets as Freemen for the first time.

Sixty vehicles, some carrying Lance, drove slowly through the crowded town centre to demonstrate the fighting role of the regiment which has been based in local barracks for some 20 years.

Earlier, in a more formal setting outside the town's Rathaus, the Bürgermeister, Herr Otto Weingarten, had presented the regiment with its Freedom Scroll. In return, the regiment is to give the town a stained glass window for its new Rathaus and the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tommy Tucker, presented Herr Weingarten with a framed copy of the design.

The Freedom scroll was trooped (above) around a foot parade of 140 members of the regiment before the contingent marched off to exercise the new right to parade ceremonially through the streets of Menden, suitably adorned for the occa-

sion by the citizens with flags and bunting.

Major-General Frank Kitson received the Freedom of the German town of Lübeck on behalf of 2nd Armoured Division which he commands.

The ceremony — which also heralded the start of a British Week to mark the Queen's Jubilee Year — took place in Lübeck's market place as a 100-strong guard representing all the units in the town paraded.

As Lübeck is a headquarters town with personnel from almost every regiment and corps in the Army, more than 35 different cap badges, including those of the Women's Services, could be seen.

Despite grey skies, the citizens turned out in force to welcome the new Freemen to their town.

Hallo, hallo, hallo



An Army family — including nine-month-old triplets — has been reunited with friends and relatives in Bradford thanks to a win in a competition organised by the British Forces Broadcasting Service in Germany.

Corporal Trevor Lund, serving with 16 Signal Regiment in Krefeld, won a free ferry crossing from the Townsend-Thoresen company after correctly answering a question on the ferry operators.

Trevor and his wife Sue decided to take the opportunity to let everyone back home see the latest additions to the family — triplets Jill, Katie and Alex, not to mention older brother Jim, aged two.

So after a Zeebrugge to Felixstowe trip on Townsend's Viking Voyager, the Lunds had a holiday in Bradford with other members of their family.

Picture shows Viking skipper Derrick Entwistle getting to know the triplets.

First aid 'vital'

A sound knowledge of casualty first-aid techniques, particularly among Service people, was of the utmost importance, Brigadier J C Moore, Commander Rhine Area, told competitors in the area's annual first-aid competition.

Teams from major and minor units, the Army Fire Brigade and Mobile Civilian Groups took part in the event.

Major unit winners were 28 Signal Regiment A team with 16 Signal Regiment second. Minor unit victors were B team of 40 Army Support Regiment, Royal Engineers, with 23 Transport and Movement Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, runners-up.

AFB Emblem beat AFB Willich into second place in the fire brigade class and MCLG Moenchengladbach were winners for the second year running in the civilian class with their counterparts from Bracht in second place.

Brigadier's beaming bull's-eye



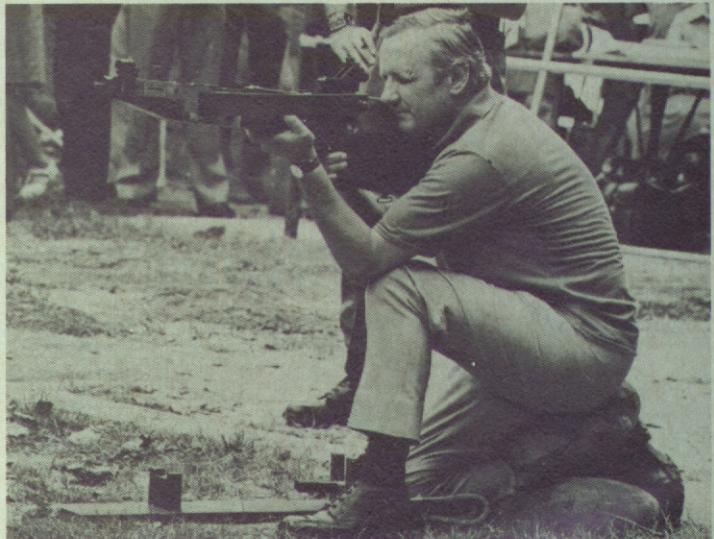
The smile with the hat on in the middle of all the Chinese smiles belongs to Brigadier John Chapple, Commander of Hong Kong's Gurkha Field Force. He had just opened a new basketball court, and was watching some of his Gurkha troops play the first game.

The court, at Kwai Chung on the shores of Hong Kong harbour, is for use by many schools in the area, one of the fastest developing parts of Hong Kong. It was built by secondary school students and soldiers from 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, using materials donated by the Army and with expert advice from the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Field commission



Warrant Officer Haripasad Newar was commissioned in the field by the Commander British Forces Cyprus, Air Vice-Marshal R D Austen-Smith, while his battalion, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, was on exercise in Cyprus. Haripasad Newar has been a Gurkha soldier for 18 years and was employed as a clerk until 1975 when he became regimental quartermaster-sergeant. After a course at Deepcut he will become a quartermaster.



It was back to the crossbow for soldiers in Hong Kong as they took part in a biennial shooting match, which was started seven years ago, against the Swiss Army.

Some 8000 miles and seven hours' time difference separated the contestants but the scores were relayed back and forth by telex link between the cool alpine valleys of Switzerland and the torrid heat of Hong Kong.

The whole thing started back in 1970 when a group of Swiss businessmen stopped in Hong Kong on their way to Expo '70 in Japan. Being also part-time soldiers in the Swiss Signal Corps, they were entertained by the Royal Signals and Gurkha Signals and in appreciation presented a Swiss crossbow. From this the idea of the crossbow and pistol shooting contests arose and they came to be known as Operation Mercury.

This year's competition — the fourth in the series — had the Swiss team rising early to start shooting at Kloten, Switzerland, at 0900. But things were more leisurely in Hong Kong where it was 1600 local time when Brigadier John Chapple, Commander Gurkha Field Force, fired the first bolt (above).

His expertise with the crossbow left something to be desired though as his opponent, a Swiss colonel, beat him in the VIP shoot-out which opened the proceedings.

In fact, the Swiss — from the home of William Tell — proved better with the crossbow than the British and took the team prize for firing it.

The pistol shooting was more evenly matched with the British officers' team losing by just one point to their Swiss counterparts. The NCOs shot a draw.

Results were flashed between the two locations seconds after they were known over a direct teleprinter link provided by Cable and Wireless Ltd.

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Sport Marines take Cambrian



All-time best

An Army marathon runner showed a clean pair of heels to 400 rivals as he crossed the line to win the fourth Sports Club Charlottenburg international race in Berlin.

Lance-Corporal Norman Wilson covered the flat, fast course of 26 miles and 285 yards in two hours, 16 minutes and 20 seconds — a new best time for an Army runner and one which placed him fifth in the United Kingdom marathon ratings.

Wilson was one of three Army runners in the race. Corporal Nicholson came 5th and Staff-Sergeant Fred Howell — the ultra long-distance runner — did not finish.

Anglers have a field day

Nearly 350 contestants from all over Rhine Army converged on Verden for the Army's top angling awards in Germany.

Twenty-four hours of continuous rain and blustery wind preceded the start of the annual competition, held this year on the River Weser, 25 miles south of Bremen. Undaunted by the adverse conditions, the contestants lined both banks for the five-hour match.

It was estimated that the individual catches of the top 30 anglers would have won nearly every major match held in Britain this year. Nearly one-and-a-half tons of fish were caught.

As the figures imply, there were very few dry nets, bream, roach and chub being the main catch. By far the biggest catch of the day was made by Doug Hoyle of 4 Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who after netting 42 fish weighing in at a staggering 95lb later admitted to having "lost a few."

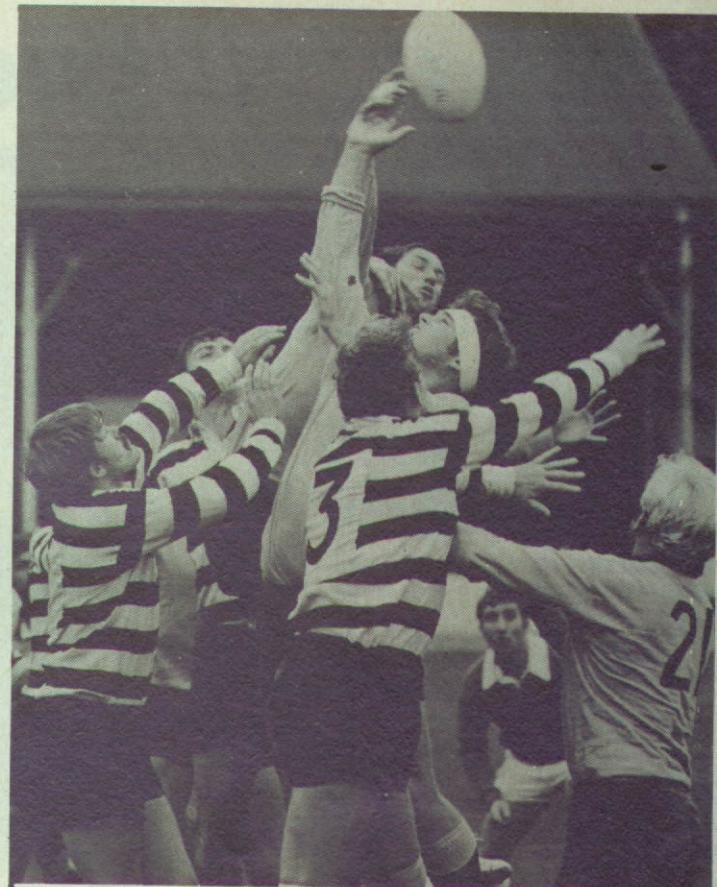
Top honours in the team award went to 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, who produced a bag of 130½lb of fish, with Münster Garrison A team runners-up.

The Royal Marines walked off with the top trophy in this year's Cambrian March which tested Service teams in some of the most remote countryside of Wales.

Plymouth-based 42 Commando provided the victorious team which had to cover some 65 miles in the four days allowed, testing military skills as well as stamina and physical fitness along the way.

In the two-day event run concurrently, Army reservists of 157 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, from Cardiff, carried off the trophy for the second year running.

Pictured are Marines advancing cautiously on the fieldcraft test.



Well, gee,
beaten at
our own game

Several thousand miles away from their home pitch in the Californian sun, a team of American rugby players took on Aldershot Services XV... and won!

In an exciting and fast moving game the Yanks proved they had mastered all the tricks of the trade and emerged with a convincing 20-12 score-line. The visitors were all from the United States Navy base in San Diego.

For Britons in the Belgian-based Shape, the rugby season got off to an international start at their annual seven-a-side contest.

Teams from all over Belgium and two from Germany took part in the event and throughout a whole day of competition spectators saw some excellent rugby.

The winners of the main competition were Brussels British who beat the Brussels University Association Sportif in a very close final.

Fleet doldrums

Slow progress was made by the joint-Services entry in the Round-the-World yacht race as Adventure struggled through the windless Doldrums. But all the fleet suffered the same fate, leaving her still in touch with the leaders. She crossed the Equator sometime in the night of 20/21 September and soon picked up the south-east trade winds to speed her on her way to Cape Town. More noon positions to plot on the SOLDIER progress chart are: 14 September, 11.45N, 22.40W; 20 September 01.27N 13.02W.

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Marksman sweep the board

The Army swept the board at the inter-Services smallbore rifle championships with wins in every event.

The individual long-range championship was won by Warrant Officer 1 M C E Gosling (RAOC) with 791 out of 800. Second was Colonel R H Gilbertson (late R Sigs) with 788 and third Captain A V Glasby (also RAOC) with 787.

The Regular Army won the prone, standing and kneeling match, which carried a highest possible score of 3600, with a total of 3240. The Royal Naval Reserve came second with 2809.

The Army again won the long-range match with 6259 out of 6400 with the Royal Navy just 100 points behind in second place. The 50-metre shoot with a possible 4800 was also won by the Army (4705) with the Navy second (4653).

The inter-Services championship for the Gilbert Trophy (HPS 11200) was again won by the Army (10964), followed by the Navy (10812), RAF (10759), TAVR (10745) and RNR (10712). Thus the reserve forces championship went to the TAVR.

Sixteen British cadets of a Combined Cadet Force rifle team, The Athelings, have returned from Canada with a string of victories to their name after the Dominion of Canada rifle meeting.

Competing against Canadian cadets, they retained the Michael Faraday trophy with 1126 points to 1094. Top scorer was Paul Kent of



The Army's team in the inter-Services match. Standing, left to right: Capt A V Glasby (RAOC), WO2 J O'Brien (REME); kneeling, Maj P Martin (1 DERR) (captain), Sgt D Bright (REME); prone, Lieut W S Cowell (REME), Sgt W A White (RA).

Epsom College. Thirteen of them also qualified for the final of the Governor-General's Trophy, open to adults as well as cadets.

Cadet John Hayward of Marlborough College won the Alexander of Tunis competition, also open to adults.

New skipper announced

Army midfield soccer star Micky Doig has been picked to skipper the Army side this season to succeed Alf Coulton who retired last year after some 12 years with the team.

The full side for this year is expected to be announced sometime this month after a series of trials which included pre-season matches against Uxbridge and an Amateur Football Alliance team.

Skipper Doig missed these games, having been released to play in a team which toured Korea to play soccer in the sun.

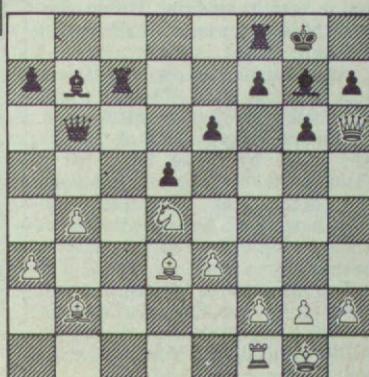
Brits in check



Above: WO2 L Crowe, Royal Signals, ponders over a move.

There is a £5 prize for the first correct answer to this problem. The game was played in London 90 years ago and White is to play and mate in three moves.

The prize is donated by the Army Chess Association. Send your solution, by Monday 23 January, to Editor (CH3) SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Hants, GU11 2DU.



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Army aggression is praised



'Aggressive' accuracy parachuting was praised when an Army team of parascenders scored a win in the 7th annual national championships.

Relative newcomers to this sport that sends parachutes UP instead of DOWN, the Army enthusiasts who formed nine of the 25 teams taking part were hampered by both their inexperience and a ban imposed by the Ministry of Defence on their use of flat 'ram-air' canopies.

But this did not stop the three-man team from 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, who had come from Berlin for the event, stepping out of the skies on to the tiny target disc to win the British Association of Parascending Clubs' trophy for the best circular canopy performance and the Army Ascending Parachute Association Challenge Trophy for the first Army team (5th overall).

Runners-up in both cases were the Flying Bayonets A Team from the School of Infantry.

Commenting on the Green Howards' performance, chief judge Wing-Commander Bill Paul congratulated them on their "aggressive driving-in at the target" and added that once their determination is matched by their experience (this was their first championship) they will be a force to be reckoned with.

Picture shows Apprentice Sergeant Andrew Allen, Royal Army Ordnance Corps Apprentices' College, after a non-too-perfect parachute landing fall... but all in one piece!

Paras poised to win



Army parachutists are well on the way to reasserting their domination of the British team — if a European Special Forces competition is anything to go by.

The competition, organised by American Special Forces at Bad Toelz in West Germany, was won by the host Golden Knights team who achieved a world record of 32 consecutive dead-centre landings on the target disc from their four-man team.

The 23 teams were from all over Europe, as well as from the United Arab Emirates, and the first British team was placed fifth. In fact all three British teams were in the first nine places and, if the teams had been re-arranged, with all the best scores in one team, Britain would have taken second place.

Major Ewan Hewston, of the Army Parachuting Association, explained that two training cadres had been formed to try and regain the Army's monopoly, which has slipped badly in the last seven years, of the national parachuting team.

The classic cadre will concentrate on accuracy and style and the relative work cadre on the skills of manoeuvrability in freefall.

Members of both cadres — 24 in all — are drawn from throughout the Army and a training programme has been worked up to climax with the world championships next year and in 1979.

"With the present climate of cuts in spending and manning," said Major Hewston, "success of cadres will depend almost entirely on the goodwill of unit commanders in releasing members for training."

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Shaky start to season need not daunt Army



A 5-1 hammering at the hands of Carshalton Athletic got the Army soccer team off to a shaky start for a season in which they have high hopes of retaining the inter-Service title and making another bid for the international Kentish Cup.

But it has to be admitted that team manager Major John Smith and coach Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Eddie Green have a tough task facing them in picking a winning combination from a squad which contains many new faces.

Trusty forward Corporal Micky Doig is back as this season's skipper, replacing QMSI Alf Coulton who retired last season after 12 years in the side. Back too is Corporal Dave Blanche who reaches peaks of brilliance on the field when he is on form.

Veteran Corporal Aly Mac-Donald is once more in the squad with the lofty Lance Corporal Eddie Pressey and Lance Corporal Ian Trussler.

The big question is, how will these men fill the gaping hole left by Corporal Alan Goucher, the catalyst who set fire to many an Army game in his dozen years in the side but who joined team-mate Alf Coulton in retirement last season?

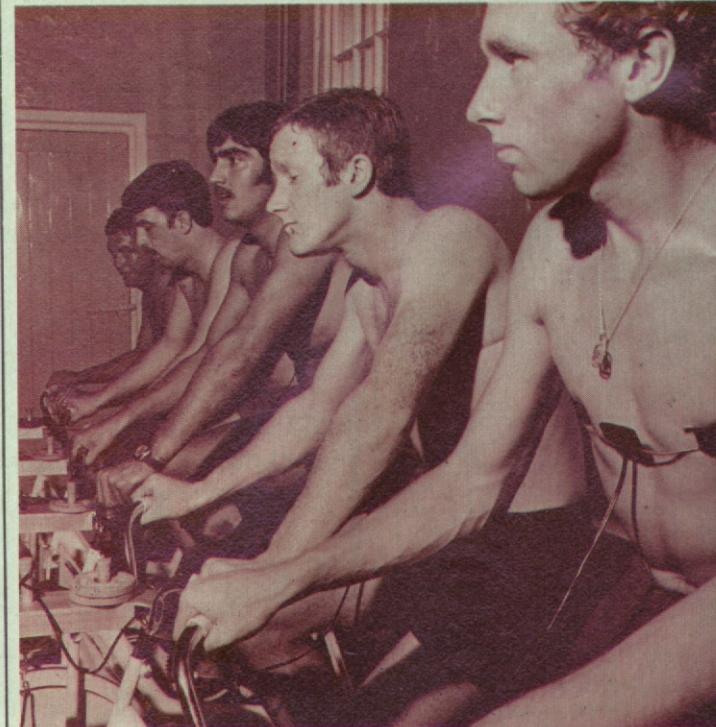
One thing is certain. A lot of thought and planning is going into the forthcoming training sessions. Already the squad members have been scientifically tested on the

Army School of Physical Training's heart/lung potential machines. Many national teams and individuals are using the same facility in Aldershot to gauge their own fitness and the results from the soccer players will be a useful guide for Smith and Green in the weeks to come.

But on the showing against Carshalton — an admittedly strong side — there is a long way to go. The Army played well for the first 20 minutes or so and scored in the 25th. A well-aimed free kick from Doig was nodded in by Pressey. But Carshalton came back in minutes to equalise.

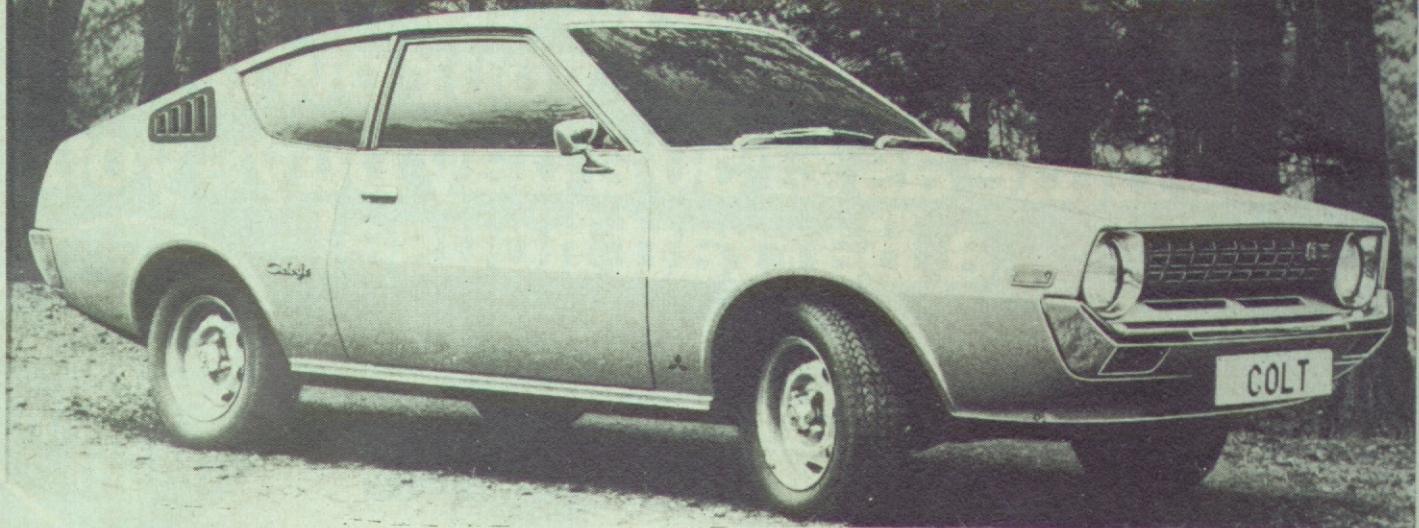
The fact that Carshalton could so easily demolish the Army defence was ominous and the visitors pressed home their advantage in the second half to tot up five goals. One of these was an own goal and another a penalty for hands inside the six-yard box.

The Army side learned a lot from its mistakes and hopes to put together a winning team to face the French and Belgians in the Kentish Cup later in the season.



Top: Helpless Blanche and floored Smith watch Carshalton's equaliser.
Below: The team gets in trim with VO2 tests at the ASPT in Aldershot.

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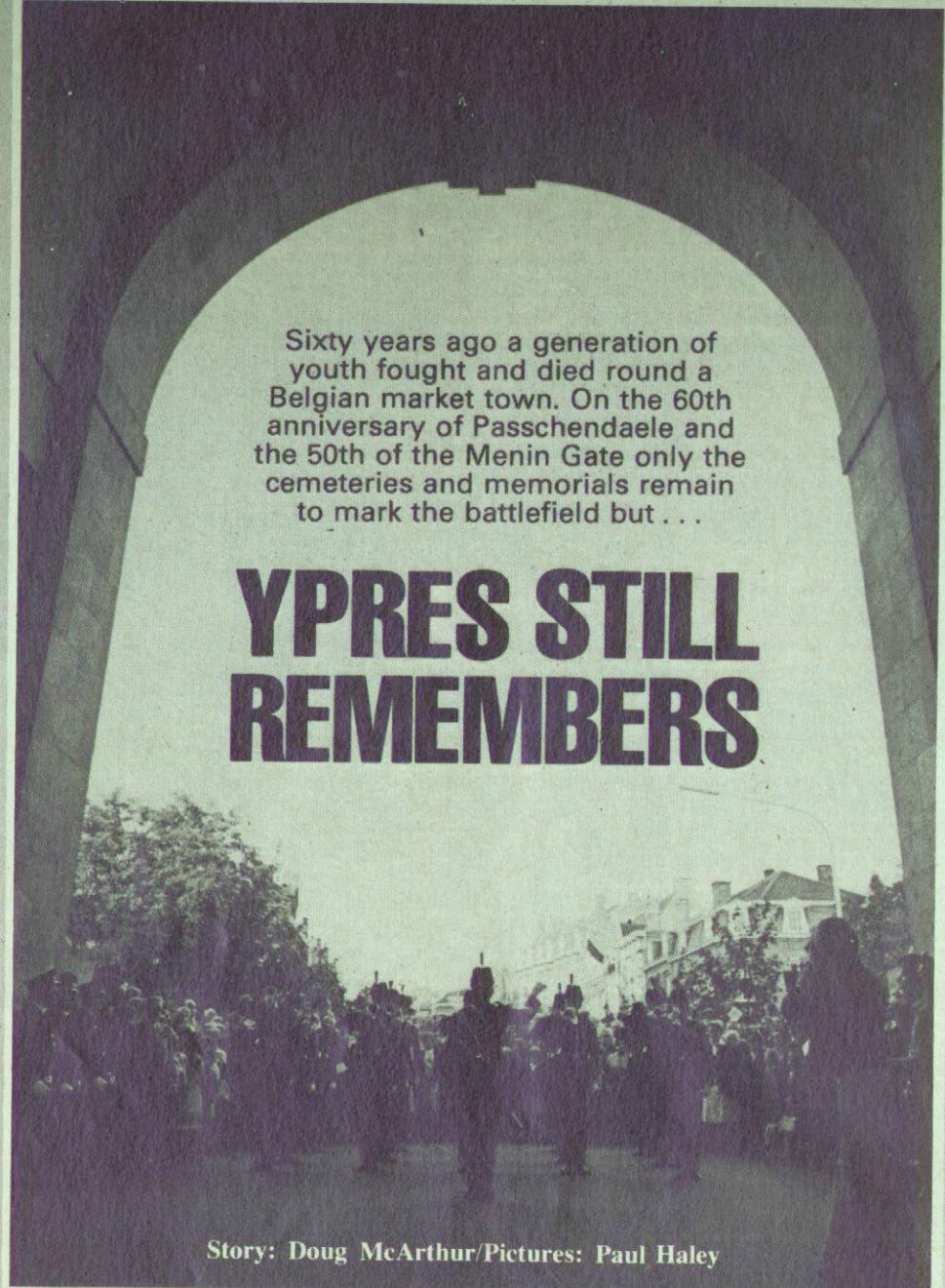
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YPRES STILL REMEMBERS

Story: Doug McArthur/Pictures: Paul Haley



TIME HAS INEXORABLY thinned the ranks of those grey-haired veterans who could say of the Third Battle of Ypres, "I was there." It is now 60 years since that battle cut down more than 310,000 men from Britain and the Commonwealth but a rebuilt Ypres still remembers their sacrifice as keenly now as in those dark days of war.

Ypres was virtually flattened in the fierce fighting which raged over the ridge a few kilometres to its south and east. Its townspeople took the same risks as the soldiers but without the satisfaction of being able to fight back. During that summer of 1917, when the fighting around the town reached its climax, they could only sit and watch as their homes came crashing down round their ears.

Thousands of Commonwealth troops passed through Ypres on their way to the front — Canadians, Australians, Indians, South Africans and others from smaller countries which have long since gone their separate ways. Many of these fresh-faced young men marched through Ypres never to return, falling in battle or to one of the many diseases which flourished on that soaking battlefield.

What is now rich and green rolling farmland once resembled the moon's landscape. Not one single blade of grass or leaf remained. Shellholes took the place of trenches and men lived and slept round their edges. The holes filled with water as the battlefield flooded but they fought on, despite trench foot, dysentery and always the thick, cloying, spirit-sapping mud.

Now, 60 years later, the memory of that hell on earth has dimmed, but not in the town which gave so much to those who gave all. Every evening the Ypres traffic is stopped at the imposing Menin Gate, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorial, and a townsman sounds the Last Post. As those sad notes fade away, who could possibly forget?

After the war, instead of building a new town, the people of Ypres decided to rebuild the old in as faithful a likeness as possible. The main landmark, the magnificent medieval Cloth Hall, was left with only one wall standing. It took the townspeople until 1957 to rebuild it, but rebuild it they did.

And during all this expensive and laborious rebuilding they found time to erect a permanent monument to the dead, the Menin Gate. It stands on the site of the 17th century town gate leading to Menin and commemorates by name some 55,000 soldiers whose final resting place is known 'only to God.' They are those whose bodies could not be identified or who simply disappeared in the carnage of war.

The Menin Gate's Hall of Memory, 120 feet long by 66 feet wide, straddles the main road out of Ypres. Broad staircases lead to the town ramparts and to loggias running the whole length of the building. The names of the dead are inscribed by regiments and corps on Portland stone panels on the inner wall of the hall, up the sides of the staircases and inside the loggias. Over the two main arches is the inscription: 'To the Armies of the British Empire Who Stood Here from 1914 to 1918 and to Those of Their Dead

Top: Menin Gate buglers and Belgians at an evening remembrance of World War One.

Left: Saplings' shadows dapple the ground once strewn with the dead and dying atop Hill 62.

Who Have No Known Grave.'

That memorial is now 50 years old and, to commemorate its half century and the momentous Third Battle of Ypres ten years earlier, the town of Ypres arranged a weekend of tribute. Present-day British soldiers, cadets and Scouts made their pilgrimage to join with members of the Royal British Legion in honouring the dead. The Last Post was sounded, wreaths were laid and old soldiers remembered.

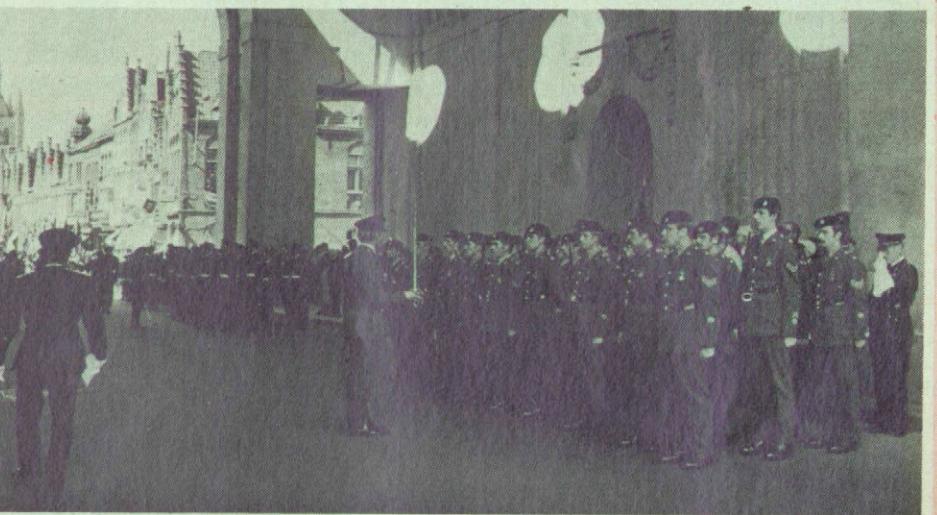
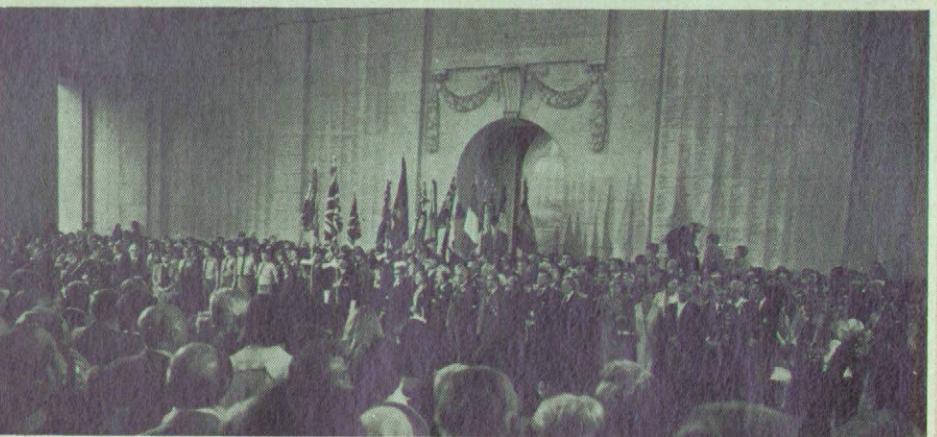
In 1917, the cold and wet summer claimed nearly as many victims as the Germans. In 1977, brilliant sunshine gave the proceedings almost a festive air. "It's difficult to remember all that happened then," said one old soldier. "Everything is so different now."

Colonel Roderick Macleod is 85 now. During the Third Battle of Ypres he was a horse gunner in 5th Division at Passchendaele and saw his battery destroyed several times. He was one of the few who survived continuous years of action, from Mons right through to the Armistice. Usually a man lasted only days in the Front, before being wounded or dead.

"During that battle, the rainfall was five times heavier than usual," said the colonel. "The battlefield was a bog. Once, after putting down a tremendous barrage in support of an attack by our infantry, with shells exploding every second, we saw Germans coming out of their trenches to surrender. But our infantry got stuck in the mud, so the Germans went back and started to shoot us up again."

It was appropriate that the British Army's representation at the commemoration should be The Light Infantry, all the former regiments of which were heavily engaged in the fighting round Ypres, Passchendaele being awarded as a battle honour in recognition of the valour of some 16 battalions, ten of them from The Durham Light Infantry.

Buglers of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, sounded Last Post at the Menin Gate in recognition of the fact that it was first sounded, 50 years earlier, by a bugler of The Somerset Light Infantry. The buglers also took part in an evening entertainment that included the bands of The Queen's Regiment (TAVR), Royal British Legion, Belgian Navy and Ypres town, and a silent



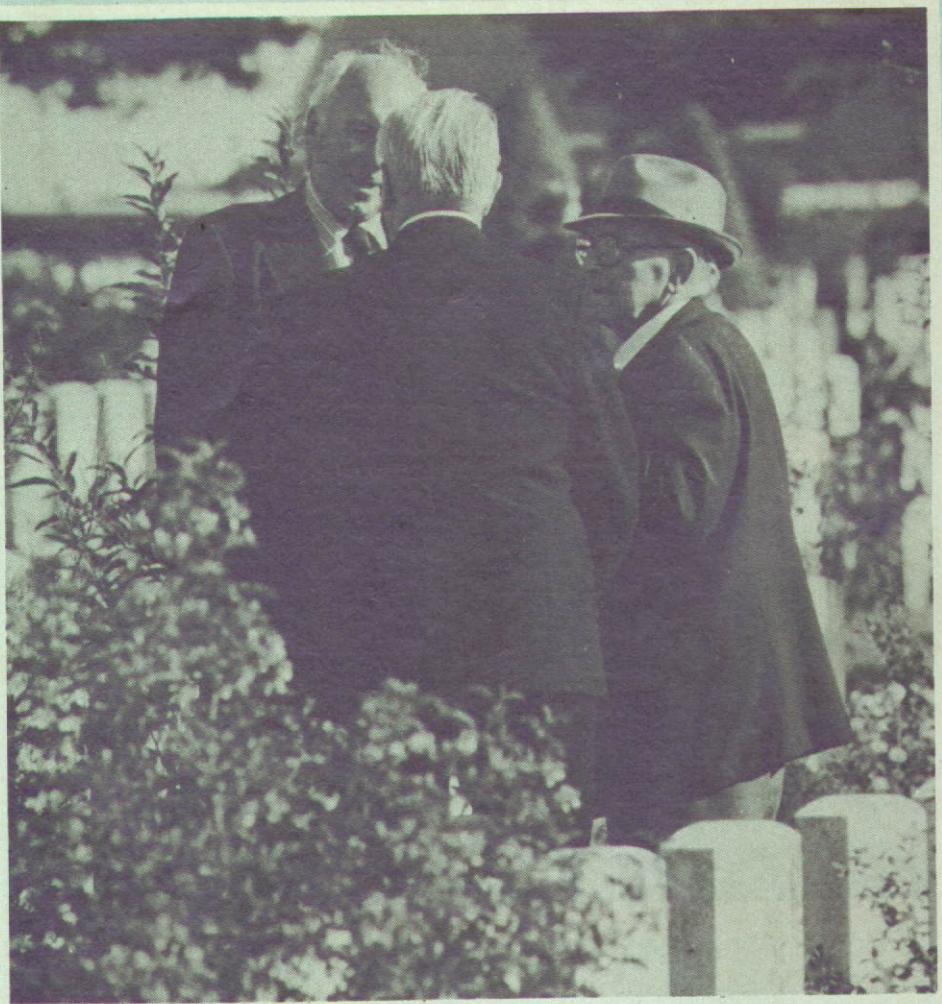
Top: Smart bandsmen march where soldiers once struggled for survival in the mud of trenches.

Centre: Hundreds of the living remember many thousands of dead whose names line the walls.

Bottom: A Light Infantry guard of honour near where many of their old comrades 'did and died'.

Inset above: Relics of the war still survive, including this part of a rotary aero engine.

Left: The ever-thinner ranks of the 'old and bold' march in peace where they fought in war.



drill display by the 2nd Battalion's anti-tank platoon.

On the Sunday a service in St Martin's Cathedral was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Menin Gate. Wreaths were laid by Commonwealth ambassadors to Belgium, military attachés and, representing Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (Shape), by General Sir Harry Tuzo, Deputy Supreme Commander.

In the afternoon the spotlight switched to Tyne Cot, one of the largest and most impressive of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's cemeteries around Ypres. The Tyne Cot memorial forms the north-east boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery between Passchendaele and Zonnebeke. It stands on ground captured on 4 October 1917 by the 2nd Australian Division where later nearly 12,000 Commonwealth soldiers were laid to rest.

The memorial is on high ground from which the whole country, right to the English Channel, lies open. It represents the most desperate fighting of the British Army in Belgium, as Ypres represents the most stubborn resistance.

"Sixty years ago the scene here would have been completely different," said the Right Reverend John Satterthwaite, Bishop of Gibraltar and Fulham and bishop in charge of the Anglican churches in north and central Europe.

"Some of those here today will remember vividly what it was like then, but others who are younger will find it hard even to envisage the scene. It is natural that many involved in the First World War came here on pilgrimage when we remember that 35,000 men fell at Passchendaele. Today we are all here as pilgrims to the site of one of the biggest and most cruel battles of all time."

Later in St George's Memorial Church, in commemoration of the laying of the Church's foundation stone in 1927 by Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, the bishop added: "Some younger people may wonder why today — 60 years after — men still make pilgrimages to this place. Since then, Europe has been through yet another grueling world war, but with Ypres it was different. Ypres remains still an epic in human endurance and suffering. For about four years this Flemish market town withstood continual bombardment without any break.

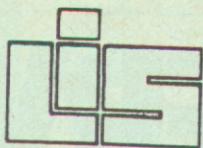
"During that time, the Belgian defenders, together with the forces of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, withstood all that the enemy forces could throw against them. It was a time of mud, misery and carnage. The salient of the Western Front bent to and fro. Ypres, however, was never captured. Yet in its defence hundreds of thousands of young men were slain. For British and Commonwealth soldiers, Ypres will always hold a special place, bearing the blood of 200,000 of their comrades."

Today the memory of those horrific times is all but gone. Soon there will remain only the cemeteries, with their rows of orderly headstones, and the memorials with their lists of names. The largest memorial of all, the Menin Gate, will stand as testimony to the generations to come, of the ultimate sacrifice made by so many.

Top: Old soldiers re-live the past amid the memorials to their World War One comrades.

Left: Legion Standard-bearers watch as General Sir Harry Tuzo, from Shape, lays his wreath.

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On record



'Wings' (Central Band of the Royal Air Force) (Conductors: Wing Commander R E C Davies and Squadron-Leader John Martindale) (Decca Studio 2 Stereo TWOX 1059)

Any TV series about soldiers, sailors or airmen always triggers off a record from one of the Service bands. Alexander Faris had already given us the tunes to 'Upstairs, Downstairs' and 'The Duchess of Duke Street' so his nostalgic little 'Wings' tune was a certainty for the next RAF record. Unfortunately it is Roy Davies's farewell performance with the Central Band and I for one will miss the fine musicianship he displayed in the many records he made during the past few years.

As a goodbye bonus he gives us one of his own marches, 'Skywatch,' and appears as piano soloist in several of his own arrangements of old favourites. These are 'Embraceable You,' 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square,' 'When I Fall In Love,' 'Forgotten Dreams' and the old folk tune 'Portsmouth.'

Television is also the source of a sports theme medley comprising 'World of Sport,' 'Sportscene' and 'Grandstand,' the melodies of which herald a slanging match with the wife for most of us. The 'Nationwide' theme ('The Good Word') sounds much less nauseating on band so I recommend this version to the BBC.

An attractive movement from the Dutch composer Kees Vlak's 'Windward Isles' suite, the theme from the film 'The Eagle Has Landed,' the 'Cornet Carillon' played as all other bands wish they could play it, the march 'Cardiff Arms' and Russ Conway's march 'Royal Event' make up the rest — in a programme which shows the military band at its best and most versatile. I never expect to hear better.

RB

'Jubilee' (The Band of the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, conducted by the Bandmaster, Warrant Officer 1 James Wood) (Music Masters 0504)

'Band Wagon' has come to mean that thing you jump on when the pickings might prove advantageous. Well, the Jubilee is as good a band wagon as any, but should have more justification than a 'Jubilee March' by the conductor which, to my suspicious ear, probably started life under another, more regimental, title.

Never mind, the bandmaster knows the limits of his young players' capacities and has produced an attractive album of light music of no great pretensions but easy listening.

The 'Jubilee March' is preceded by a fanfare based on the regimental march, followed by 'Yel-

low River,' 'Cornet Carillon,' 'Italian Festival,' Ronald Binge's 'Rushlake Green' and Harold Walters's 'Instant Concert' medley. The best thing on the disc is Mr Wood's own imaginative version of 'On Richmond Hill Baht'At,' wherein the lass is caught on the moor in a state of déshabillé.

For all Queensmen, and others, you also have Don Pryce's march 'The Queensman,' Douglas Pope's 'Nightfall in Camp,' 'Sussex by the Sea,' and 'Soldiers of the Queen,' all for £2.50 plus 50p postage from PRI, 3 Queens, Somme Barracks, Catterick Camp, North Yorkshire.

RB

Robin Gray,' 'Rule Britannia' and bugle calls. The corps of drums (with glockenspiel) plays 'The Longest Day' and a march called 'VP.'

Side two contains the marches 'Bandology' and 'Voice of the Guns,' Erickson's 'Balladaire,' a saxophone solo 'Nightfall,' the pop tune 'Una Paloma Blanca' and some tunes of Bacharach and David, all played 'straight.'

This record is available, at £2.50, from Bandmaster, 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster, Wiltshire (Warminster 4000 ext 7244 or 7326.)

RB



'The Aldershot Army Display 1977' (Senior Director of Music: Major G H J Hurst, Director of Music, Royal Army Medical Corps) (Senior Pipe-Major: Pipe-Major R H Macphee, The King's Own Scottish Borderers) (AAD-1)

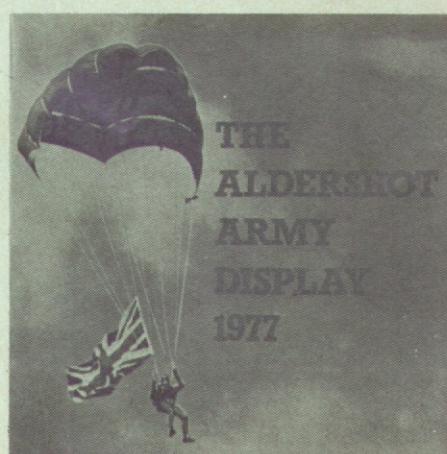
This record was pre-recorded so that it could be on sale at this year's Aldershot Army Display. Four bands, of The Royal Hampshire Regiment, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and the Royal Army Medical Corps, and pipes and drums, play the music which was heard during the show's arena display from massed bands, pipes and drums. Proceeds from the sale of the record then, and now, go to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Side one opens with a fanfare, 'Aldershot Jubilee,' and the bands then play music from 'Heart of Oak,' 'Hundred Pipers,' 'Cock o' the North,' 'Minstrel Boy,' 'Here's a Health unto His Majesty,' Meyerbeer's 'Coronation March,' 'Men of Harlech,' 'Yellow Bird,' 'Waltzing Matilda' and 'Alouette.' The pipes and drums contribute 'Hills of Glenorchy,' 'Bonnie Dundee,' 'Mist Covered Mountains,' 'Badge of Scotland,' 'Leaving Port Askaig,' 'Because He was a Bonnie Lad,' 'High Road to Linton' and 'Dovecote Park.'

Side two records the arena display finale, 'The Restoration of the King,' with the fanfare 'Procession' and music from 'Trumpet Tune,' 'Conquering Hero,' 'God Bless the Prince of Wales,' Walton's 'Crown Imperial,' 'Auld Lang Syne and Last Post,' Gordon Jacob's arrangement of the National Anthem and 'Soldiers of the Queen.'

This record is available from SOLDIER at £1.50 (UK), £1.45 (BFPO), £2.20 (elsewhere) and a cassette, also stereo, at £1.50 (UK), £1.40 (BFPO), £1.55 (elsewhere). All prices include postage and packing. Orders, with UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order, should be sent to SOLDIER (AAD), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, indicating whether record or cassette is required.

Brass in brief



'The Band of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, (also featuring the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion)' (Bandmaster: Warrant Officer 1 N A Borlase) (Grosvenor 1056)

This disc features regimental music and a concert-type programme, with the corps of drums is given a welcome spot. Side one is devoted to the regimental tunes which include the 'The Farmer's Boy,' those of the old Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire regiments, regimental slow march 'Auld

'Bandology' (G.U.S. (Footwear) Band) (Conducted by Stanley H Boddington) (EMI ONE-UP OU 2179)

Very much a brass band potpourri of old favourites, ie Sunday night schmaltz: 'Praise my Soul,' 'Who Would True Valour See,' 'Coronation Street,' 'Slavonic Rhapsody No. 2,' 'Mary Poppins,' overture 'The Arcadians,' 'No Hiding Place,' to name but a trite few. Also 'Tit-Larks,' 'Amparita Roca,' 'Congratulations,' 'Punchinello' march, 'Les Preludes,' 'Beautiful Colorado,' and title march 'Bandology.'

RB

'Sounds of Brass Series: The Ever Ready (GB) Band' (Conducted by E W Cunningham and W B Hargreaves) (Decca SB 329) (Cassette KBSC 329) Contains Elgar's fine 'Severn Suite' and Gilbert Vinter's 'Salute to Youth,' so a must for brass band lovers. Also James Shepherd as soloist in Hummel's 'Theme and Variations,' 'Crimond,' 'North Country Fantasie' and Melvin McCrea as euphonium soloist in Gehr's 'Romanza.'

RB



When Dogs met Man . . . and thereby hangs a tail



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley

Clune, the black Labrador search dog, snuffed up to and inspected the tiny ginger kitten. Then he backed away in horror and refused even to look at it again.

What had shocked Clune, a Northern Ireland four-footed veteran, was that the kitten had no tail — it was a Manx, and just one of the surprises and changes in store for him during a one-week break in the Isle of Man with the Army Dog Unit from Long Kesh prison.

For three weeks, dogs and handlers took over Jurby training camp on a former air-

field in the north-west of the island. For the first time, dogs and men were able to get away from the stress, tension and constant work in the troubled Province.

Not that it was exactly a holiday. Major Bill Berridge, who commands the unit, told his men: "You haven't come here to skive. You will work hard and play hard. But you will get the chance to do things that you cannot do in Ireland."

The three-week camp was treated as a mobility exercise in moving dogs and men by sea and helicopter. Altogether, 48 dogs

and their handlers made the trip — 16 at a time with a changeover every seven days. Half travelled out by Puma or Wessex helicopter and the rest by sea. On their way home the roles were reversed — so each dog had experience of both modes of travel.

Said the sergeant-major, Warrant Officer 2 Ray Angwin: "The specialist dogs often travel by helicopter but guard dogs don't get much opportunity. We make a note of any which don't like a particular form of travel — just in case it might be necessary at some time in the future for them to fly or sail."



Far left: The dogs have to be muzzled when on their way in a four-ton truck to the seaside.

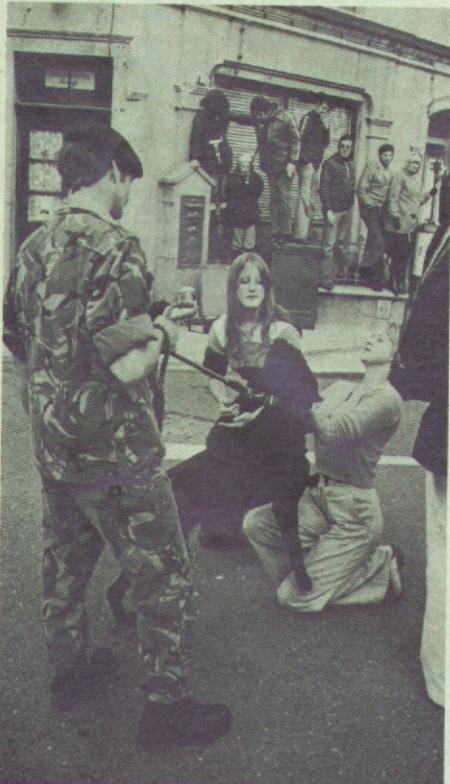
Left: This Labrador has had a swim. Time for a rub down — Manx winds are strong and chilly.

Below: An unspoilt beach — with pebbles like that it's not too comfortable but OK for dogs.

Centre: A new batch of dogs and handlers arrive after a half-hour Wessex flight from Ireland.

Bottom left: Clune and handler, L/Cpl Willie Watson, make friends during Manx Grand Prix.

Bottom right: Come on in, the water's lovely. Two specialist dogs enjoy their dip in the briny.



Of the 16 dogs in each draft, ten were guard dogs and six specialists — either tracker or search dogs. Only those search dogs which normally work on explosives were unable to practise their own particular skills — but all had plenty of exercise.

There were long walks in hills and woods and on almost deserted beaches — a great chance for men and dogs normally scattered in small detachments throughout the province. The guard dogs were used to guard the old aerodrome and a touch of realism was added with night exercises in which intruders tried to get in without being detected.

Home for the dogs was an empty hangar. The cacophony of sound from the dogs as any newcomer entered the hangar was enough to raise the hairs on anyone's neck but Ray Angwin was pleased with the accommodation. "It's used as a potato store in the winter so we had to clean it out," he said. "It's more than adequate — in fact it's better than some of the tin cities they have to live in in the province."

Major Berridge was equally enthusiastic: "I'm surprised more people don't use this place. It's a marvellous training area and the men can move around without worrying. In Northern Ireland they spend most of their time being carted around in 'Pigs' and Saracens."

The Army Dog Unit in Northern Ireland has something like 55 different cap badges represented and as its men are spread so widely many of those in the Isle of Man had never met before. But going out with the dogs, map reading on their own, fishing for mackerel and pony trekking soon breaks down any barriers.

Sergeant Phil Hobson told *SOLDIER*: "The way the lads have been laughing and joking with each other here has been tremendous. There is not half as much in Long Kesh because of the tension."

Qualification for the week away was at least a year with the unit. And it comes as quite a shock to realise that some dog handlers have spent up to five years in Northern Ireland without a break. They become so attached to their dogs that after their initial postings they apply for extensions.

Private Billy Wright, Royal Pioneer Corps, has been over there for four years. After arriving on Man by Wessex helicopter with his guard dog Ty, he said: "I would stay there for all my Army career if it was left to me. The only thing that's worrying me is this pony trekking business — I'm scared stiff of horses!"

The dog handlers got a tremendous reception from the Manx people. Police dog handlers and a local dog obedience club came along to get a few tips and in the local pubs the soldiers found themselves the centre of attention. Said Major Berridge: "Once they find you are from Ireland it becomes positively embarrassing. They insist on paying for everything."

But after a week of free evenings (except during night exercises) the men who wear 'the red paw of Ulster' in their berets had to return to Northern Ireland.

As they boarded their helicopter Major Berridge called after them: "Don't pop into the first pub you see when you get back. It's not quite the same back there." A little joke which vividly illustrated the grim reality from which men and dogs had obtained an all too brief respite.

Letters

Militaria

Judging by the interest shown in 'Collectors' Corner' I am sure there must be militaria groups such as ours, who would like to exchange information etc on their activities.

If interested groups would drop me a line, a list of meeting places, dates etc could be compiled to the mutual benefit of all concerned — Jim Livermore (Hon Secretary, Staines Militaria Group), 2 Riverside Close, Wheatsheaf Lane, Middlesex.

Veterans

The third reunion of 1914-18 veterans in the Birmingham area will take place on 10 December in Birmingham. Anyone living in the area who served in any of the armed forces or nursing services may apply to the undersigned for an invitation. There is no charge to any veterans but any donation to help pay for the occasion would be most gratefully received. Should anyone wish to sponsor a veteran, the cost per head is £3.00 and 250 invitations will be issued. — E Gumbley (Secretary, 1914-18 Veterans), 56 Anstey Road, Birmingham, B44 8AJ.

Where and when?

In 'The Redcaps' centenary article (August) one of the pictures was captioned 'A mounted military policeman keeps an eye on a human baggage train in the Crimea.' But the

officer depicted is wearing the universal pattern helmet introduced in 1878 — probably inspired by the Prussian victory against France in 1870 — and which could not therefore have been worn during the Crimean War.

This is a confusing drawing as the bullocks suggest a hot country but the mounted figure is wearing a fur-trimmed greatcoat similar to that sealed in 1899 for service in Canada. It cannot be Northern India or Afghanistan as the helmet is the home service pattern. The mounted figure at the rear of the foreground wagon appears to be wearing either a badly drawn forage cap or the shako of 1869-78 (without the ball), the last pattern worn by British infantry. The Military Mounted Police were raised in 1877 and the Foot Police in 1885. In 1854 a mounted corps of some 100 was raised from the Irish Constabulary and Metropolitan Police for duties in the Crimea but they wore a completely different uniform and helmet.

The question of the Crimean period is answered but not, unfortunately, that of the picture's exact date and location. — Mrs Alexandra C Bremridge, 91 Deacon Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT2 6LS.

How observant are you?

(see page 18)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Shape of second 'O' in 'SALOON.' 2 Plant pot in upstairs window of gun shop. 3 Top of door at top of stairway. 4 Hat of man third

from left. 5 Horse's reins round hitching post. 6 Hand of girl at window. 7 Top plank of saloon gable. 8 Shape of horse's saddle-cloth. 9 Curtain in top left window of saloon. 10 Left plank of verandah roof.

Competition

July's 'Coronation' (Competition 228) brought in a large entry, many of them correct but almost the same number wrongly offering 'bracelet' instead of 'bracelets.' The other two required words in the first vertical column were 'orb' and 'sceptre.' The horizontal words associated with the Queen's coronation were: Army; Oath; Ring; Bands; dukes; gloves; Spurs; Crowd; Earls; Princess; The Mall; Royalty; Election; Royal Navy; investiture; Benediction; Recognition; Anointing; Carriages; Earl-Marshal; Lord Mayor of London; Enthronement; Train-bearers; St Edward's Crown; and Her Majesty the Queen.

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- 4 J P Irwin, Junior Ranks Club, RA Depot, Woolwich, London.
- 5 L W Wynn, 17 Wentworth Avenue, CAD Kineton, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
- 6 Maj E G Jones, Dental Centre Stanley, BFPO 1.
- 7 Cpl F J Delez, 33 Marsh Avenue, Dronfield, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
- 8 Mrs M Smith, 37 Cobham Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.
- 9 C R Obrey, 20 Sqn RCT, Regents Park Barracks, Albany Street, London.

- 10 Maj R I G Hale, RAEC, 57 AEC, BFPO 106.
- 11 G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton.
- 12 S Cannons, Firbank, 9 Moorside Road, West Moors, Wimborne, Dorset.
- 13 A H Scougal, Manager, Naafi 18022, BFPO 16.
- 14 Maj J F A Overton LI, 7 Tithe Farm Close, South Harrow, Middlesex.
- 15 R E Faulkner, 98 Apley Way, Witney, Oxon.

Reunions

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

Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Regimental Association. Annual reunion, Saturday 12 November, at Slade Park, Oxford. Details from RHQ, RGJ, Slade Park TAVR Centre, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7JL.

Middlesex Regiment remembrance services. Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, Saturday 12 November, assemble Middlesex Guildhall 1045, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, Sunday 13 November, assemble 1000. Details from Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex (tel 01-952 2625).

The Duke of York's Royal Military School Old Boys' Association. Remembrance weekend reunion,

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Dover, 12-13 November. Details from Hon Secretary, A Sadler, 1 Bushy Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

82 Armoured Engineer Squadron RE Old Comrades Association. 32nd annual reunion buffet, Saturday 12 November, 6-11 pm, Royal Green Jackets Sergeants' Mess, 56 Davies Street, London W1. Contact Lionel T Crate, 364 King Street, London, W6 ORX (tel 01-748 6755).

Collectors' Corner

D Bowyer, 6 The Wynd, Calne, Wiltshire. — Army cadet requires British Army cap badges, collar dogs and buttons. Limited funds. State price.

M P Warnes, 13 Ipswich Court, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. — Seeks all kinds military headdress badges, old and new. Will pay good money or swap.

B J Green, c/o Box 533, Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada. — Seeks old regimental army swagger cane, any regiment. Willing buy or has American Army combat insignia and airborne patches (some rare) to trade.

Mrs A C Bremridge, 91 Deacon Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT2 6LS. — Military artist urgently requires copy 'Shoulder Belt Plates and Buttons,' by Maj H G Parkyn. Will pay good price.

Gen Natale Dodoli, Accademia Militare, Modena, Italy. — Wishes buy WW2 British cavalry badges. Or will exchange for Italian badges.

Gene Christian 3849 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463, USA. — Seeks Standards, Colours, Guidons, trumpet banners, drum-major's sashes etc of British, French, Italian, Belgian etc, metropolitan and colonial forces,

native irregular forces, liberation forces, mercenaries. Correspondence and documentation also sought.

Dave Jones, 39 Wheatfield Drive, Shifnal, Salop. — Seeks Army Victorian LS & GC medals, also and medals to 7th and Queen's Own Hussars.

Maj R E Evans, Croftway, Yapton Road, Barnham, Bognor Regis, Sussex. — Seeks for widow of an instructor named in the book, copy of 'Prelude to Glory,' the story of WW2 para training by Lieut-Col A C Newman VC.

W Martin, 7 Druids Way, Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, Merseyside. — Three separate collections of US, Canadian and Belgian militaria offered in exchange for German daggers or any type of spiked helmet. Also interested in purchasing such items.

N Cherry, 228 New Cross Road, London, SE14 5PL. — Seeks Para Regiment red beret 7th, brass shoulder titles and airborne forces smock patches. Has numerous swaps, mainly British Army cap badges but a few shoulder flashes and formation signs. Will buy if necessary. Also swap DPM jacket for medium size airborne forces denison smock.

Edward A Thomas, 6 Nobbs Lane, Old Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 2EY. — Wishes buy any collection or single item of Royal Artillery, RFA, Fortress and Garrison, to build up comprehensive collection for display on loan at Southsea Castle and the Square Tower.

J A Gordon, 1436 Bonita Court, Ontario, California 91762, USA. — Seeks near-new P58 webbing in trade for mint US M1956 webbing; also wants WW2 British para sorbo training helmet. Please state condition, price or wanted items in trade.

ZIA, c/o Geoffrey Enterprises, Bagpipe Makers, Railway Road, Sialkot 1, Pakistan. — Wishes exchange

Pakistan and Middle East cap and shoulder badges for overseas badges, two for one.

T Dale, 29 Appleton Drive, Wymeswold, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 6TS. — For exchange or sale, para wings (Army, RAF or Royal Marines), SAS para wings (cloth or wire embroidered, blue or scarlet backing), Para Regt wings (wire embroidered, blue or scarlet backing), Army or RAF para-instructor wings, British airborne Pegasus shoulder flashes, Para Regt or Glider Pilot Regt cap badges (white metal), SAS

cap badges (cloth, metal or wire embroidered).

Norman Christensen, 4552 Ridge Road, Dallas, Texas 5229, USA. — Requests information on identity British Army units (infantry and cavalry only) posted to Bangalore and Poona, India, May 1928 to Oct 1938, to help in research. Also wishes to buy metal cap badges King's Own Royal, Northamptonshire, Royal Norfolk, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, York & Lancaster, Manchester, Poona Horse, Mysore Lancers and 8th or 14th Punjab. Reasonable prices please.

New Zealand farewell cover

A special 'last day' cover was issued on 12 September to mark the official retirement of the 25-pounder field gun from the New Zealand Army. The cover bears the signature of senior officers of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery including that of the present Chief of General Staff, Major-General R D P Hassett, a former gunner.

After 37 years' service, the 25-pounder 'marched out' at Christchurch on a parade marking the New Zealand Army's farewell to the Governor-General, Sir Denis Blundell.

A set of six covers costs from NZ\$1.00 without signature to \$2.50 for those signed by General Hassett. Inquiries should be made to Military Covers, PO Box 331, Christchurch, New Zealand.



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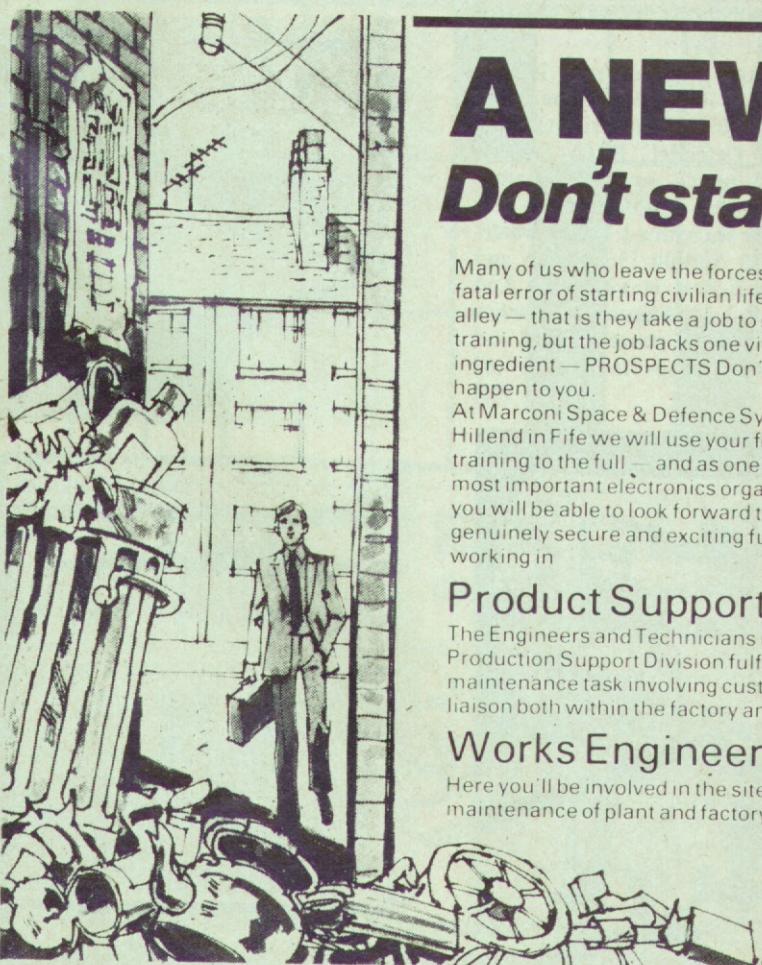
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Military models



Ack-ack attack

THE STUKA — an ugly, angular aircraft that screamed out of the sky dive-bombing panic-stricken cities — heralded the horrors of lightning war first in Spain and later in Norway, France, the Balkans and Russia.

Back in Britain, preparations for anti-aircraft ('Ack-ack') defence had already begun. Around London were built curved concrete walls, designed to reflect the sound of approaching aircraft on to a microphone sited at the focal point. The system worked on the hearing trumpet principle and at best gave only a few minutes' warning. One inventor designed an ack-ack shell containing weights linked by wires which worked like the South American bolas, the weapon used to capture wild animals. It was politely turned down by the Ordnance Board.

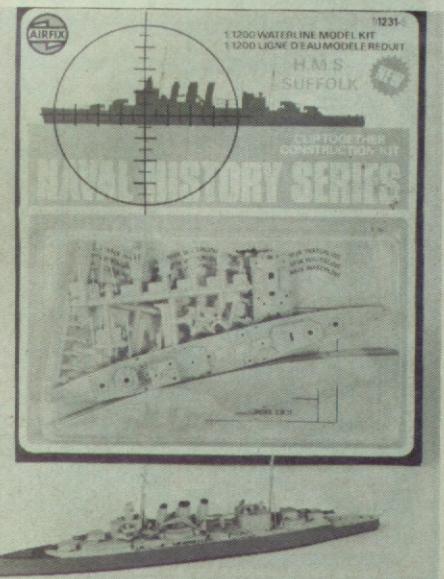
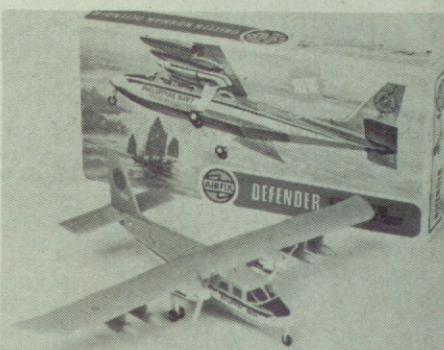
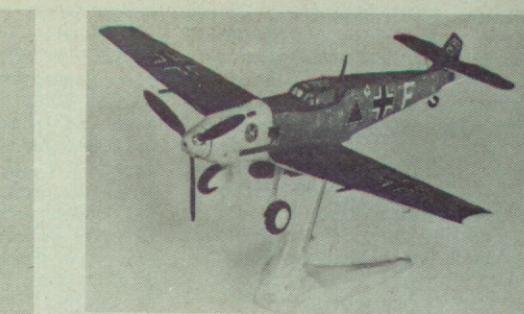
However, the timely development of early warning radar and the adoption of the 40-millimetre Bofors anti-aircraft gun, later operated under a centralised fire control from a Kerrison predictor, were to reduce the Stuka from a bird of prey to a clay pigeon.

Ironically, the Bofors were produced by neutral Sweden and used by both sides in World War Two. It had an average rate of fire of 60 to 90 rounds a minute, a traverse of 360 degrees and elevation of -5° to 90° . Its distinctive silhouette, with a loader feeding

in four-round clips and two layers rotating the cranked control arms, was a familiar sight in almost every theatre of operations. This gun, designed in 1930, is remarkably still in use today in many parts of the world.

The 40-millimetre Bofors, and a 30-cwt Morris towing tractor, have been modelled by Airfix as a plastic kit in tiny HO/00 scale, at a price to match of 46 pence. The 42 parts include an elevating and traversing gun barrel, five figures and alternative transfer decals for 1 Battery, B Troop, 15 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, attached to 7th Armoured Division in North Africa in 1940, and 1 Battery, B Troop, 6th Anti-Aircraft Division, responsible for the defence of Essex, north Kent and the Thames Estuary in 1940.

Airfix have taken to the air with 1:72nd scale kits, both at 46 pence, of the Messerschmitt Bf 109E (top right) and Britten-Norman Defender, BAC—Sepecat Jaguar at 68 pence and Westland-Aerospatiale Lynx helicopter at 62 pence . . . To the sea with a 1:1200th waterline kit of HMS Suffolk (36 pence) and 1:72nd German E-Boat at £2.35 . . . And back to earth with 1:32nd figures of Gurkhas in tropical uniform (65 pence a pack) and German mountain troops in ski kit (62 pence).



Tri-partite

THIS MONTH'S competition is in three stages. First, find the answers to the 16 military questions listed here and insert the initial letter of each answer in the appropriately numbered square in the grid.

The second stage is to take the letters in the following phrase and fit them into the grid to complete an excerpt from a work by a well-known poet of the 19th and 20th centuries: ONE GETS AN AIR ENLISTEE A WEAPON.

The message in the completed grid is hardly one that would be used by any modern recruiter but, supposing it were, which regiment or corps of today's British Army would seem to be the most appropriate for that recruiter?

Send your answers — just the regiment or corps — with the 'Competition 232' label

from this page and your name and address, on a postcard or by letter, to:

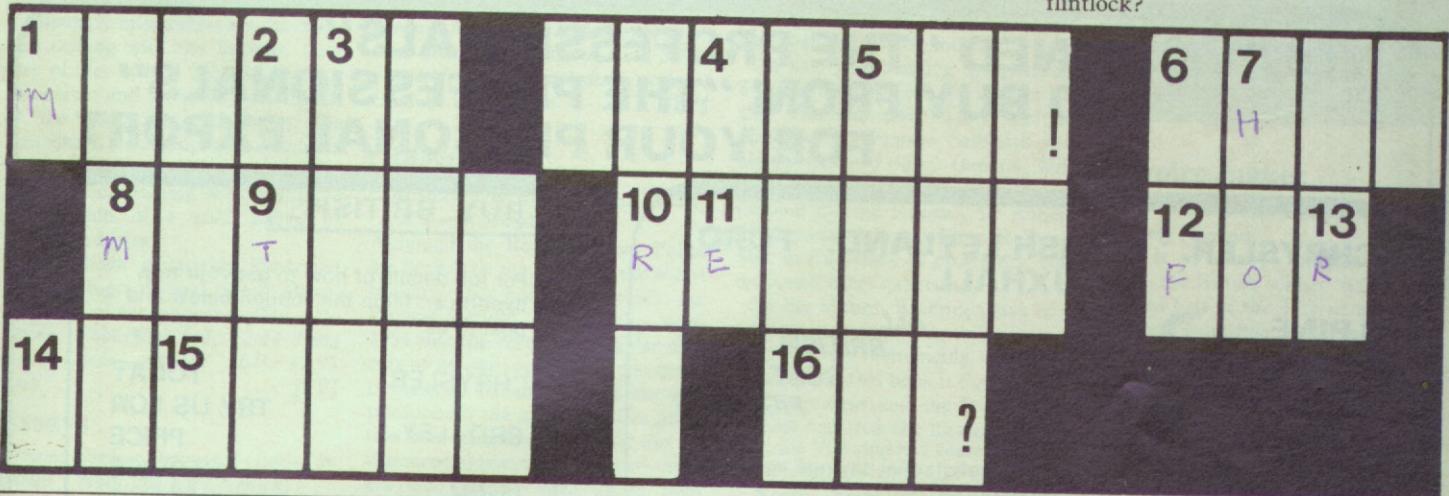
Editor (Comp 232)
SOLDIER
 Ordnance Road
ALDERSHOT
 Hants
GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 9 January 1978. The answers and winners names will appear in the March 1978 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 232' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official prepaid labels will be disqualified.

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COMPETITION 232

- 1 Surname of the Deputy Supreme Commander, Allied Forces Europe, 1943-45? *Monty*
- 2 Case-shot with irregular pieces of iron formerly used to damage rigging etc? *Grapes*
- 3 German equivalent of the Home Guard in World War Two?
- 4 Northamptonshire village famous for the battle fought there on 14 June 1645?
- 5 Nickname given to Cromwell's soldiers because of their steadiness in battle?
- 6 British commander of the expedition against Quebec in 1759?
- 7 Carthaginian soldier who made a memorable passage of the Alps in 218 BC? *Hannibal*
- 8 Fortification, usually circular, defending the entrance to a castle? *Motte*
- 9 Military display? *Tattoo*
- 10 Name applied to a group of unconquered people in a conquered country? *Resistance*
- 11 Rank of an officer whose duty was to carry the Colours? *Ensign*
- 12 Marshal appointed Chief of the French General Staff in 1917? *Foch* / *Key*
- 13 Organisation founded as a result of the suffering seen by Henri Dunant at the battle of Solferino? *Red Cross*
- 14 Successor to Roberts as Commander-in-Chief during the Boer War?
- 15 President of the USA during the Civil War? *Lincoln*
- 16 Form of musket used until the 17th century when it was superseded by the flintlock?



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BOOKS

Histories

'Men-at-Arms: Napoleon's Cuirassiers and Carabiniers' (Emir Bukhari)

'Men-at-Arms: The Portuguese Army of the Napoleonic Wars' (Otto von Pivka)

'Men-at-Arms: The Boer War' (Christopher Wilkinson-Latham)

'Men-at-Arms: The American Indian Wars 1860-1890' (Philip Katcher)

In 'Napoleon's Cuirassiers and Carabiniers' an interesting chapter on dress and equipment leads into a detailed survey of sabres, saddles and harness while lists of the war service of individual cuirassier and carabinier regiments add up to an invaluable quick reference.

A year-by-year diary of Portugal's part in the Peninsular War serves as a useful introduction to Mr von Pivka's book. Although a French assessment of the Portuguese Army of the period described it as not being at the peak of military efficiency it was nevertheless a useful enough addition to Wellington's command in the Peninsula.

Next a concise review of events leading to the Boer War makes an ideal introduction to the weapons and uniforms used in that conflict. There follows a comparison of the opposing armies, one a glorified commando, the other courageous to a man but untrained for fighting in the veldt.

Finally, Philip Katcher's masterly account of the American Indian wars between 1860 and 1890 sets the scene for an examination of the military dress and equipment of this period. Particularly informative are the chapters dealing with the Indians, their way of life, martial prowess, manner of combat and apparel. A useful list of the major engagements of the period and descriptions of American Army field dress and armament complete an entertaining and instructive examination of a vital period of American history.

Each book is lavishly illustrated with photographs and colour plates, the latter of exceptional quality. Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP, £1.95 each

JFPJ

Essays

'Beyond Nuclear Deterrence' (Edited by Johan J Holst and Uwe Nerlich)

This collection of essays by European and American writers sets out to take a new look at the defence of the North Atlantic alliance in the light of recent political and scientific developments. The former include 'detente,' the strategic arms limitation talks, and the talks on mutual balance force reductions, recent government changes in Southern Europe, notably in Portugal and Greece, and the possibility of Communists in the Italian government.

The scientific developments include the technological advances in the precision guidance of weapons; the increased effectiveness of non-nuclear munitions, along with the slimming-down of 'mininukes' to the point where the two are almost interchangeable; and, of course, data processing and communications.

There is some high-flown gobbledegook in the introductory pages but most of the essays are as readable as it is reasonable to expect, given their subjects.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £10.50

RLE

HLI dress

'The Highland Light Infantry: The Uniforms of the Regiment 1881 to 1914' (James B McKay and Douglas N Anderson)

In terms of dress, The Highland Light Infantry, or Glasgow's Own, was so contradictory as to be almost exclusive and this well-informed little book by two dedicated Glaswegians examines the uniforms of this famous regiment in the last years of British military splendour — 1881 to 1914.

Illustrated in black-and-white, it takes the reader into every aspect of HLI accoutrements and dress from feathered bonnet, dirk and doublet, to plaid, mess kit and the khaki service dress of 1914. Buttons, badges of rank and regimental badges are discussed in some detail and it is worth remembering that The Royal Highland Fusiliers today proudly bear the monogram HLI on their colours and crest.

For the specialist on Scottish regiments, and indeed for all those interested in military uniforms, this 90-page booklet certainly deserves its place in the enthusiast's library.

James B McKay, 14 St Andrew's Crescent, House 17, Glasgow, G41 5SH, Scotland, £3.45 including postage, USA \$7.25 inclusive

JFPJ

Oldest office

'The Story of the Royal Military Police' (A V Lovell-Knight)

Although the Royal Military Police are headed by the holder of the oldest military office under the Crown, the Provost-Marshal, it was not until 1954 that the corps got Regular officers of its own, apart from the quartermasters. The main reason was that traditionally the military police function was disciplinary, carried out by experienced non-commissioned officers who needed little more than administrative support from officers.

World War One expanded the corps' duties, notably in traffic control, but it was the immense traffic problems of the battle areas in World War Two that rammed home the lesson that the men who directed the corps needed to be staff-trained specialists.

World War Two saw the re-birth of the Special Investigation Branch, one of whose members flew over the Japanese lines into besieged Imphal to make an important arrest.

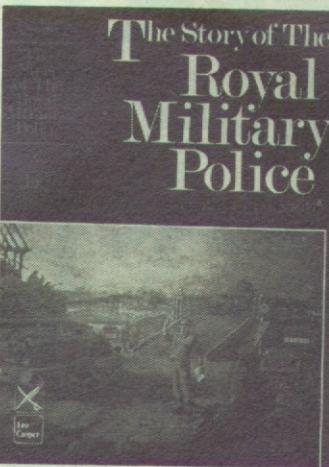
Over the past 30 years the RMP has become established as a complete, sophisticated corps. It has played its full part in the most arduous of the 'imperial policing' campaigns. In the Korean War it provided part of an integrated Commonwealth Division company, one of

whose SIB men tracked down a stolen vehicle to a Korean police captain who killed himself rather than lose face by admitting the theft.

In Northern Ireland the corps strength has grown from a small company of 31 in 1969 to two regiments totalling 935 in 1975.

Seeley, Service & Cooper, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £12.50

RLE



For nothing

'The Lessons of Vietnam' (Edited by W Scott Thompson and Donaldson D Frizzell)

The frustration in the United States over Vietnam produced against the military a backlash which some see as a threat to national security. It was a natural reaction. The country had never been united in its views on American involvement in Indo-China and frustration and anger, possibly some shame, had to follow defeat and the stark realisation that this long war had been fought for nothing.

In this wide-ranging symposium, 31 contributors hold an inquest on the Vietnam war. They include Ambassadors Francis Galbraith and Henry Cabot Lodge, General William C Westmoreland and Major-General George Keegan, Sir Robert Thompson, Admiral Elmo R Zumwalt and a galaxy of professors, colonels and other experts.

In the Sixties, America's lack of a counter-insurgency capability was a fact, yet the convincing argument presented in this book is that by 1972 the Americans and the South Vietnamese had won the unconventional war; the Vietcong had ceased by then to be a serious contender for power.

North Vietnam's conventional Easter offensive was beaten back but in 1975, when they swept south again, they achieved a conventional victory.

The arguments and discussion will go on for many years yet but no one studying this war or American foreign policy in the mid-20th Century, can afford not to read this thought-provoking book.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £10.50

JCW

Crimea

'Nurse Sarah Anne with Florence Nightingale at Scutari' (Robert G Richardson)

A very moving story of the difficulties, sufferings, anguish, squalor, shortages and Christian

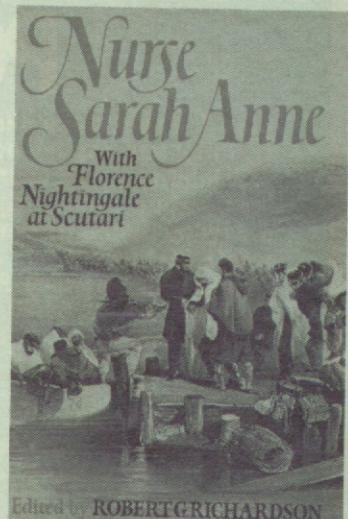
charity in the British hospitals at Scutari during the Crimean War. The first third of the book sets the scene, telling the story of the hospitals, the doctors, the nurses under Florence Nightingale and the medical supply difficulties.

The body of the volume is from the journal of Sarah Anne Terrot, an Anglican sister and one of the 38 nurses who accompanied Miss Nightingale to Scutari. It tells a very human story of the conditions, the acute sufferings of the men, their forbearance, the high death rate, the inadequacies of diet and clothing, of untrained nursing orderlies and of the gentler and more understanding approach of the sisters. It also reveals the comradeship and unselfish feelings among the wounded.

A human and very readable document that is a record of times and conditions now thankfully past.

John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, 50 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4BD, £4.95

GRH



Edited ROBERT G RICHARDSON

Empire maker

'The Victorian Army at Home' (Alan Ramsay Skelley)

This is an attempt to discover what made the British soldier 'tick' in the second half of the 19th century. He was the front-line maker of Empire and therefore the criterion by which people overseas judged Britain and the British. Yet at home he was often looked upon as a wastrel, ignorant and low caste.

Much research has gone into the background of living conditions, health, clothing, quarters, education within the Army, discipline, crime, pay, allowances, stoppages, pensions and recruitment. The result is a rather depressing picture of the Army.

There are many tables of statistics to augment and prove the conclusions. In spite of the poor quarters, low pay, high stoppages, drunkenness, and the recruitment of many undesirable characters, the ex-soldier of the time, when he met his pals on pension day, is still recorded as saying: 'By stop-tap most of us had said what utter fools we had been to leave the Service, and that if we had our time over again, we would not leave the Army until we were damned well kicked out of it.'

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Recruitment, Northumbria Police,
Freepost, Ashington, NE63 8BR.
(No postage stamp needed).

Name _____
Address _____

Height _____ Age _____

'The Crucial Years 1939-1941' (Hanson W Baldwin)

Very readable and overflowing with facts. The author was military and naval correspondent for the New York Times for nearly 40 years to 1968 and has written a number of books on World War Two.

Here he reviews the three years at the beginning of the world conflict, touching on the main characters involved and the political and economic background. Sea, land and air battles are dealt with in detail and there are eyewitness accounts as well as personal memories.

The 18 maps well support the text and a block of 27 pictures portrays action and helps to pinpoint the era. *Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 11 St John's Hill, London, SW1 1XA, £12.50*

THE SAMURAI

A Military History



S.R. TURNBULL

'The Samurai: A Military History' (S.R. Turnbull)

This lavishly illustrated book describes the elaborate dress and code of behaviour of the samurai. Every important battle and campaign is analysed and the reader is taken through the rise of the samurai from semi-legendary figure to greatness and power and on to the siege of Osaka Castle in 1615 which brought significant changes not only to samurai military tactics but also in their social status.

The book is full of anecdotes and sidelights on the way of life of the samurai.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP, £8.00

'The Army in Victorian Society' (Gwyn Harries-Jenkins)

Mr Harries-Jenkins seeks to inform us at enormous length about what was amiss with the Army during the last century and how its faults were ultimately revealed in what we all call the Boer War. If you agree with his between-the-lines criticisms of the way the Victorians ran, admired or simply tolerated their Army, you will have the satisfaction of having your opinions confirmed. If you resent his implications, it will provoke you to screaming.

Whatever it did and however it was composed, the Victorian Army was of its age and it did its stuff. Its record — and there were few blemishes — suited its time.

Routledge & Kegan Paul, Broadway House, Newtown Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1EN, £5.50

'Swords in Colour' (Robert Wilkinson-Latham)

There are some fine colour photographs in this handy sized volume of swords of medieval and modern times, even Bronze Age blades, daggers and spearheads. There are also line drawings explaining the parts and the make-up of swords and their scabbards.

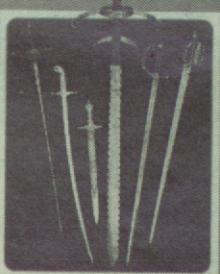
The text covers seven chapters, one being devoted entirely to Scottish weapons, another to dirks, knives and daggers, and one to bayonets. The longest chapter covers the military sword and includes extensive research into the weapons of Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Prussia, Germany, Austria, Russia, Asia, Siam, China, Japan, India, Scandinavia, the United States and South America.

Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £3.50

Swords in colour

Including editor Edward Whigham

Robert Wilkinson-Latham

Specialist photography
John Searle Austin

'British Military Museums and Events in the Silver Jubilee Year'

The increasing interest by the general public in military museums is well reflected in this informative booklet. It contains details of some 136 regimental, Services and special museums such as the German Military Underground Hospital and the museum of German military equipment — both in Jersey — with a brief description of most collections.

A slim 40-page publication, it should prove a welcome aid to the many ex-servicemen who are visiting Britain to relive old regimental, air squadron or naval memories. A Jubilee calendar of military displays and events and a helpful selection of booklets for the tourist rounds off this thoroughly useful little guide.

English Tourist Board, 30p. Available at most tourist information centres or by post from SOLDIER at 40p

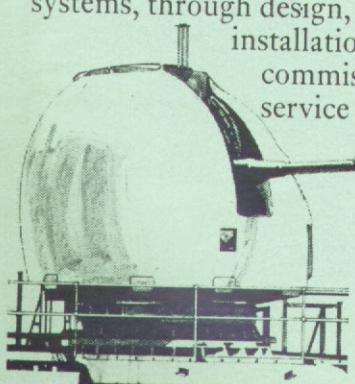
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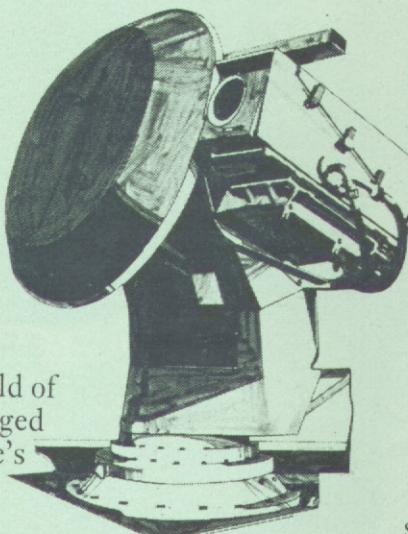
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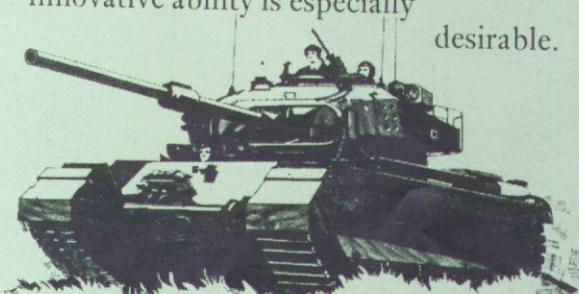


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