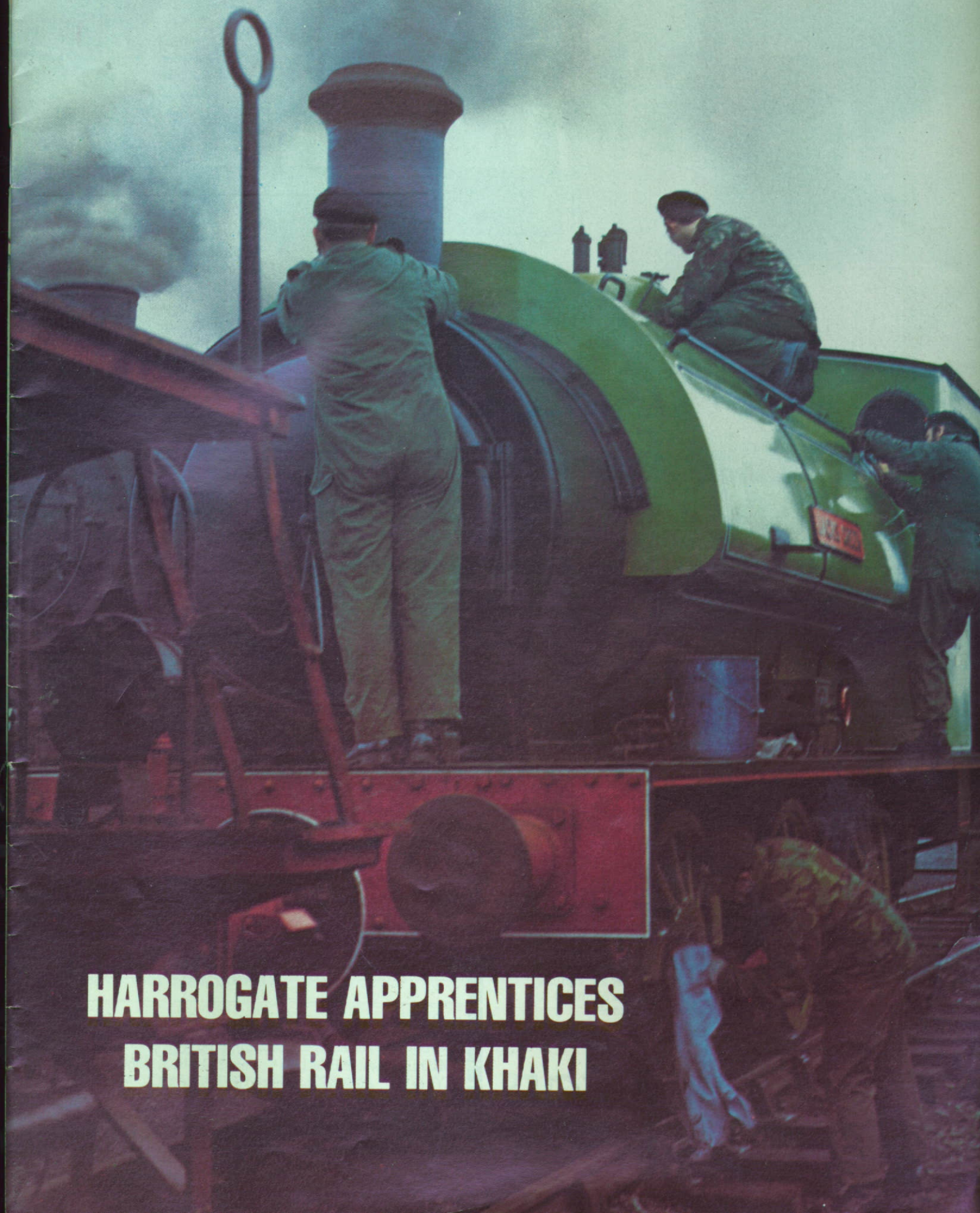


JANUARY 1979

20p

Soldier



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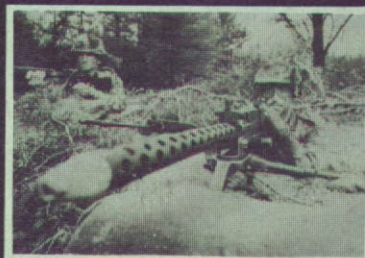
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FRONT COVER

Nene Valley Railway's 0-6-0 locomotive 'Jacks Green' getting a bit of military spit and polish before being used by Royal Corps of Transport reservist railwaymen on exercise on the line near Peterborough.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs.



Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)
Soldier News: DOUGLAS McARTHUR (Ext 2591)
Art Editor: JOHN RUSHWORTH (Ext 2589)
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)
Photographers: DOUG PRATT, PAUL R G HALEY (Ext 2584)
Advertising/Circulation: Mrs C WILKINSON (Ext 2583/2587)
Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD

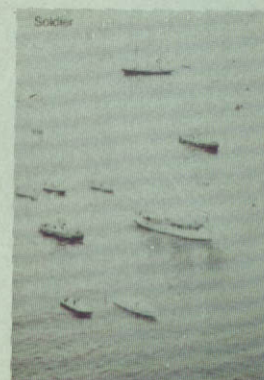
Subscription (13 issues):
UK/BFPO £3.72; Elsewhere £4.08
Send UK cheque/UK postal order/international money order and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed.

Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2DU (phone GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military).
SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1978.

BACK COVER

The 150-ton brigantine Eye of the Wind sails off from Plymouth on the first leg of its round-the-world voyage. Lasting two years, 'Operation Drake' will be crewed throughout by teams of youngsters who will also carry out scientific and other projects.

Picture by Jim Usher.



It's cold and bleak at the Royal Corps of Signals Apprentices College but its go-ahead and strenuous life sees a . . .

WIND OF CHANGE BLOWING AT HARROGATE

THERE'S A REFRESHING amount of candour at the Royal Signals Army Apprentices College at Harrogate. From the Commandant, Colonel Ultan Ryan, downwards, members of staff are quite willing to tell visitors of any shortcomings they may find in equipment, training and the apprentices themselves. This frankness is possible only because of the inner conviction of everyone



on the camp that their college is the best — 'the cream of junior soldiers.'

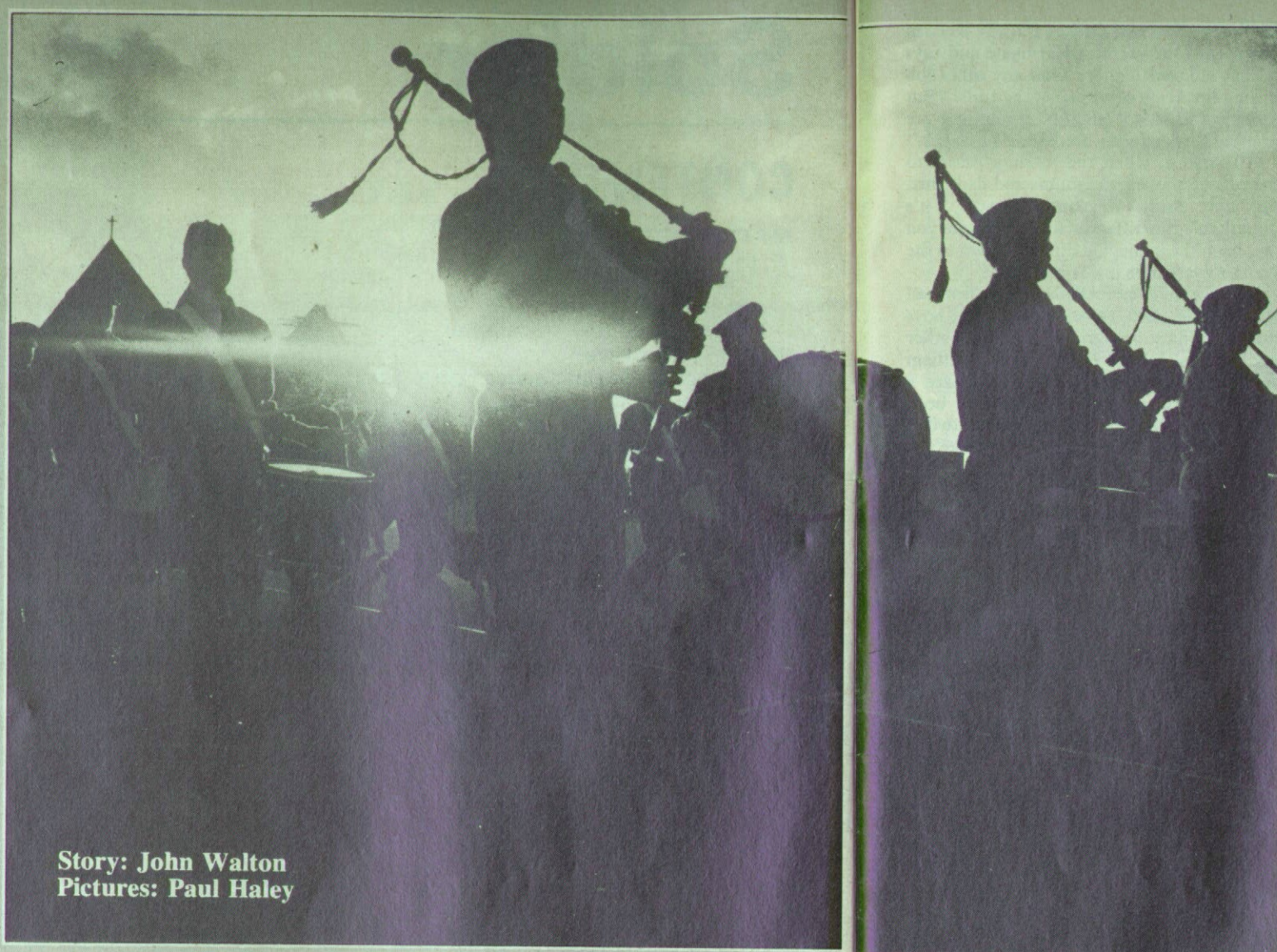
Unlike the image of the elegant spa town whose name it takes and which lies three miles away, the college at Harrogate is always changing and updating. Under a current reorganisation plan, other arms and services will disappear except for Royal Army Educational Corps experts, one Women's Royal Army Corps lecturer, one infantry major in the military training wing, and the regimental sergeant-major and two other warrant officers from the Brigade of Guards.

The college opened in 1947 as an all-arms school but since 1960 its role has been to train technicians and telegraphists for the Royal Signals. Chartered to train 825 at a time — 315 technicians and the rest telegraphists — it currently houses just under 700 youngsters aged from 16 to 19. The shortfall is because of increasing competition from industry for the bright lads needed for this type of job.

Once a recruit arrives, it is a hard slog from morning to night, seven days a week. In fact the recruits were working so hard in the evenings cleaning floors and kit that a new edict has gone out — lights must be out by ten o'clock and where possible youngsters will be allowed to go — gratefully — to

Top: The combined bands of the college, headed by pipers, practise for one of their parades.

Left: Apprentice technicians engage in basic fault-finding on a C50 radio transmitter.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley

bed even before that. The crowded days take in 45 periods of instruction a week — then there's bags of sport, including Sunday after church, and two compulsory hobbies evenings. In all there are 47 different hobbies, ranging from guitar lessons to model railway to golf.

Colonel Ryan and his staff believe that because they keep the youngsters on the run they keep them interested — and thus achieve, at between ten and 12 per cent, the lowest wastage rate in the Army's junior soldier establishments.

The deputy commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Plant, patiently explained the philosophy to a party of schools liaison officers and careers masters after one of them had suggested that the boys be given more time to themselves. He told them: "We have the best wastage rate in the Junior Army and that must mean something when they can walk out of here at any time in the initial stages. And some do — we had one chap who stayed precisely two hours. When he came to the camp, because he was not shouted at or pushed around he finally told his squadron commander that it was the first chance he had had to say that he did not want to join the Army. His father and careers master had pushed him into it."

"When people come here they must know that they want to join the Army. We are not a refuge for refugees from the dole queue. And we want to keep them occupied. Young

men with time on their hands are a nuisance and that is why we have such a good relationship with Harrogate and the neighbouring towns — because they are too exhausted to cause any trouble."

Colonel Ryan, with a son in the Army and two teenage daughters, feels he has a good knowledge of the traumas which teenagers go through. And, he says: "Anyone who doesn't enjoy it here needs his head tested."

In 1968 the camp was completely rebuilt. Spread over 177 acres and blasted by fierce winds from the nearby moors, the camp is modern and comfortable. Dominating the centre are three surrealistic churches — one used by Roman Catholics, the second by other denominations and the third now a community centre. But the harsh Yorkshire weather has taken its toll — already one is undergoing major roofing repairs.

But there are lots of good things about the Harrogate college. For instance, when the snow comes, the paths remain clean and dry — because the pipes of the central heating system run underneath them. There is a small hospital and boys who injure themselves usually return there to recuperate after treatment in Harrogate, and are able to attend their classroom training sessions. Says Colonel Plant: "Sometimes it's like the retreat from Moscow with people being pushed or walking with legs in plaster to training."

The people who spend most time in the classroom are the apprentice technicians. They have to know what goes on inside their equipment and why it works rather than just how to operate it. For four terms all do a general curriculum — then they split into three sections — radio, terminal equipment and relay technicians.

After three more terms they will pass out as class three tradesmen and will earn their first stripe as soon as they join the adult Army. They will probably emerge with a civilian qualification as well — City and

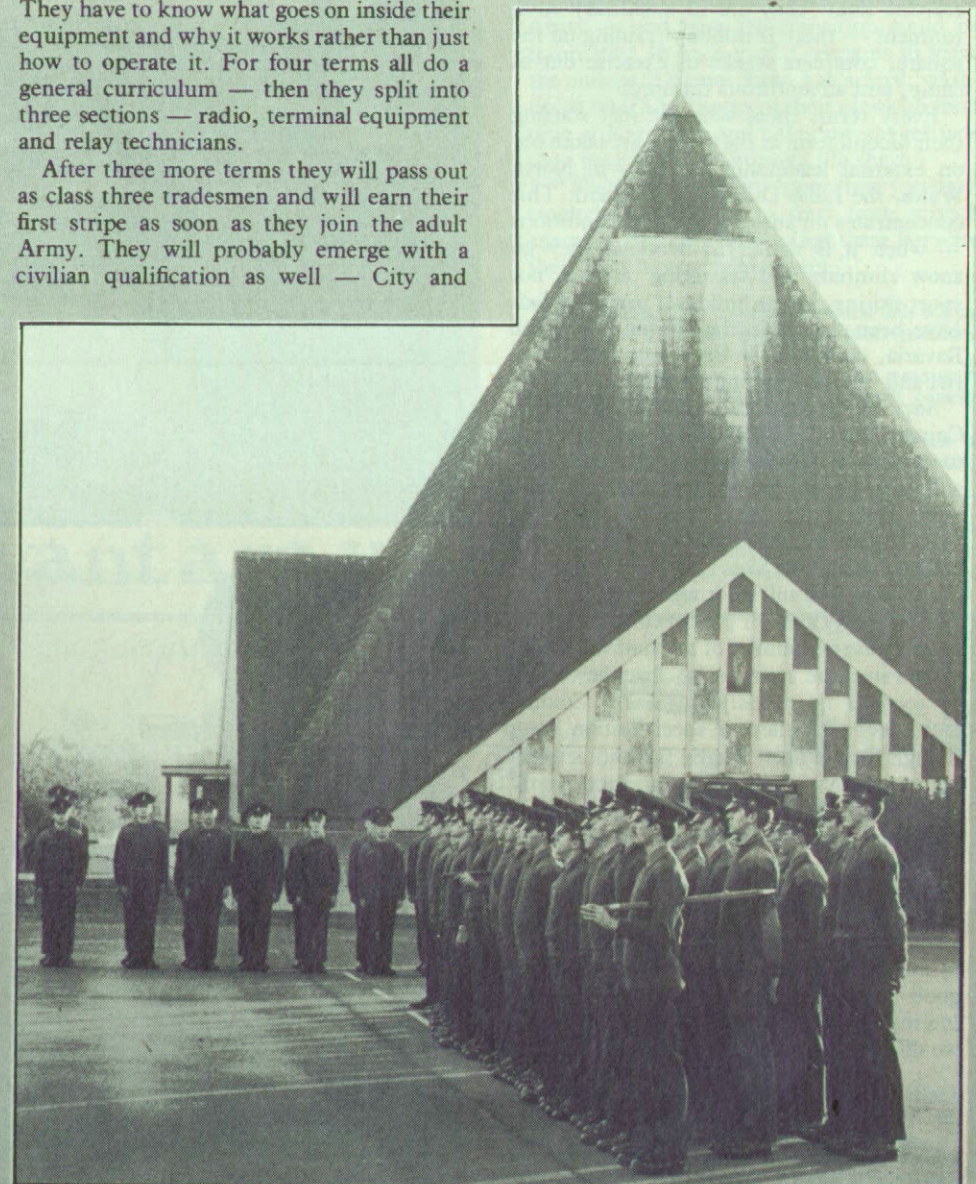
Guilds is now being phased out and replaced by the Technician Education Council's certificate and diploma. Although training for the latter only started with the September intake Captain Tom Stoddart, head of the electronics wing, predicted that 40 per cent or more would emerge with a diploma and the vast majority with a certificate.

There's a whole new world around the corner in the computer field and training at Harrogate for technicians is taking account of it. They are given a general background to the understanding of machine code because their area communications systems in future will be data based. At present there is a training computer but this year there will be a brand-new and more advanced computer installation.

Manual dexterity is all important when dealing with things like silicon chips and engineering work to make hands more skilful is an important part of the technician's training. Says Captain Stoddart: "A technician today has to have hands like a surgeon."

The telegraphist is not usually so academically minded. Lieutenant-Colonel Tom Sherry, the Royal Army Educational Corps senior officer, describes him thus: "Usually hostile to the classroom environment. He is not a misfit but a good lad who can easily be turned off by too much academic intensity. The more you can bring the theory to life by

Continued over



Right: One of the three modernistic churches provides backdrop for military drill session.

practising it on the ground the better it is for him."

The telegraphists do not enter the adult Army with a stripe but attain a class three qualification. All of them spend two terms getting a basic grounding in communications skills, electronics and keyboard skills. The latter is the crux of all telegraphist training. Touch typing on typewriters with no letters on the keys, and a board in front of the paper on which they are typing, teaches them accuracy. A recorded voice calls out the letters which they tap out and in four weeks they can type 12 words a minute with 90 per cent accuracy.

Says instructor Mr Peter Metcalfe: "Accuracy is what we aim for rather than speed. The method teaches them to develop a rhythm and when they pass out they can do 40 words a minute with a minimal failure rate in the trade test."

At the end of the second term the telegraphists split into two — the radio telegraphists turn to Morse while the data telegraphists move on to teleprinters and switchboards. At the end of the third term a few apprentices begin special training for a security role in the Army. Telegraphists emerge with civilian qualifications too — 90 per cent pass Part I of the City and Guilds communications operators certificate and a good proportion pass Part II.

All this classroom activity might suggest that the military side is neglected. Far from it. From the moment they enter the gates, recruits know they are in a military environment — there is military training on the square, complete weeks of exercise out of camp, and adventurous training.

Every term, those who are just starting their second term at the college are taken out on external leadership exercises in North Wales, the Lake District or Scotland. This concentrates on survival in harsh conditions — when it is winter in Scotland they go snow climbing and travelling on skis, not sport ski-ing. In the holidays, parties of lads have been ski-ing in the United States and Bavaria, sailing in the Baltic and from Cyprus and mountaineering on Skye.

Says the adventurous training specialist, Captain John Cornforth: "The overall aim is to present them with challenges which they will meet in life, but to accelerate the process. And at the same time we often get them to take something up as a pastime — a lad decides that he likes being frightened out of his wits and will do it again . . ."

Sport plays a major part in college life and recently every member of the staff was asked to join in some sport — 'so that they could be seen to be participating.' Yet Colonel Ryan does not believe in specialisation, even though he is a keen Rugby fan and actively referees. Canoeing has a special place, partly because of the wild water around North Yorkshire and partly because Major Mike Simms-Reeve, a keen canoeist, is a squadron commander.

Colonel Ryan puts his view: "It must be sport across the board. It's just as important to me that a guy plays good table tennis as good soccer, hockey or rugby. I'm not interested in gladiatorial contests, although we do enter teams and permanent staff sides

in various competitions. I really don't care who wins as long as they enjoy themselves and get satisfaction. The only thing we want to avoid is getting a hammering, which is why we are spending a lot of time getting coaches trained."

Many of the apprentices have their own motorcycles and Colonel Ryan, a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, concerned over the increasing number of accidents, has revitalised the motorcycle club. The aim is that every motorcyclist will leave Harrogate as a member of the Institute.

The constant exertion requires plenty of fuel and specialist catering officer Captain Tony Jackson, when he arrived at Harrogate, was amazed at the amount of food eaten. "You have to cook twice as much food per person as in an ordinary unit," he said. "An apprentice eats far more than any other soldier in the Army and I have served with all types of units." There are 22 cooks at the college, 14 of them employed in the cookhouse. And as an added chore, during the recent bread strike, they had to turn out 7000 bread rolls a day, all moulded by hand. But bread, along with chips, forms a staple diet the lads would not do without.

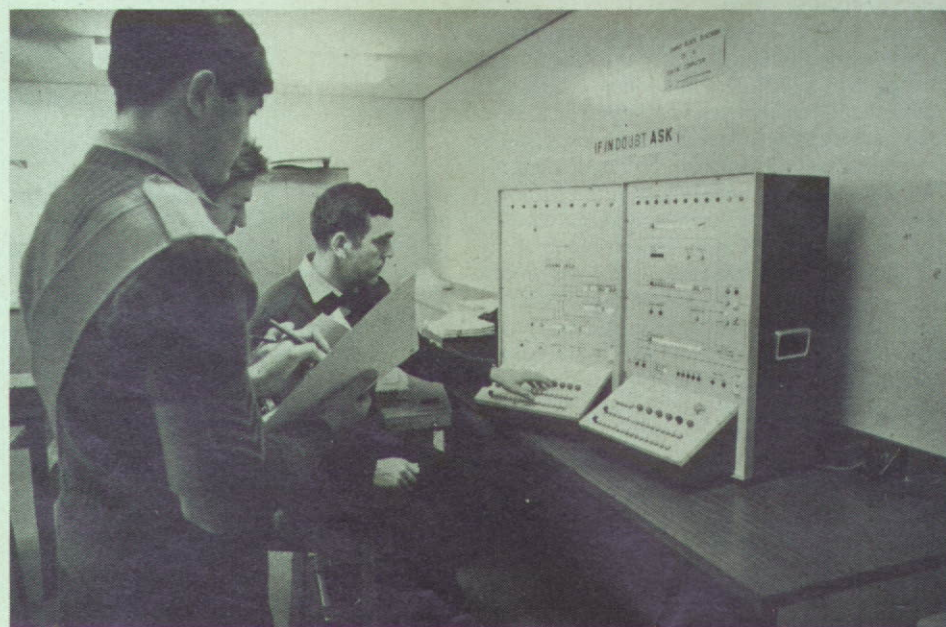
In the sergeants' mess there is a lot of enthusiasm for the college and its methods — but at the same time there is the usual

frankness. Warrant Officer 2 Andy Keenan has spent four years at Harrogate and says he has enjoyed it more than any other job during his Army service. Yet, he adds: "But I do feel that not all the apprentices are grateful for what has been done for them."

At parades, when the recruits pass into the college proper, the mums and dads turn up, and Andy Keenan observes: "It's remarkable the different sorts of people you see, from the managing director down to the builder's labourer in his best suit."

The apprentices really do come from all walks of life. And, rather surprisingly, boys from a military background often do rather badly. Says Colonel Plant: "Some of them are ideal material but a proportion are a damned nuisance because they have been coerced into coming here. In my time two of the worst four or five we have had were the sons of an Army officer and a Royal Air Force officer."

Regimental Sergeant-Major Sammy Connor, Irish Guards, finds that one of the major problems in the first few weeks is homesickness — and this means a helping hand rather than a lot of old fashioned shouting. "I'm a Jekyll-and-Hyde in this job and it's the same with him," he says, referring to his 'right-hand man' — the current Apprentice Tradesman Regimental



Above right: Would-be telegraphists at work in the classroom with battery of teleprinters.

Right: The shape of things to come. Training computer is soon to be replaced by a new one.



Sergeant-Major, 18-year-old Paul Cahill.

Paul has another distinction — he is the only married apprentice at the college. Father of a baby son, he does not qualify for a quarter, but is not restricted like the raw recruits. He sees his most important job as taking the pass-off parade, and after that to keep order in the college, give advice and help to junior non-commissioned officers and to act as an older brother to new boys.

"For the first few weeks they are totally bemused and you give them a helping hand but then it changes into 'I am the NCO and you can learn from me.'"

Apprentice Tradesman Sergeant Littlewood started off as a technician but found the classroom work boring and switched to telegraphist. He has noticed fundamental changes in the college in recent times — particularly in the lessening of the 'make-or-break atmosphere.'

Says Paul Cahill: "There's more of a bond in the college and less aggression from the senior apprentices. It's getting so everyone is more or less pals with everyone else and that is a much better way."

Christian Baden-Powell, a fourth term apprentice who doesn't know if he is related to the Boer War hero and Boy Scout founder, also appreciates the college. He told SOLDIER: "It has got better and better each term as I have got to know more about the telegraphist trade. To me it is a challenge to go all the way through and I am going to try to do that."

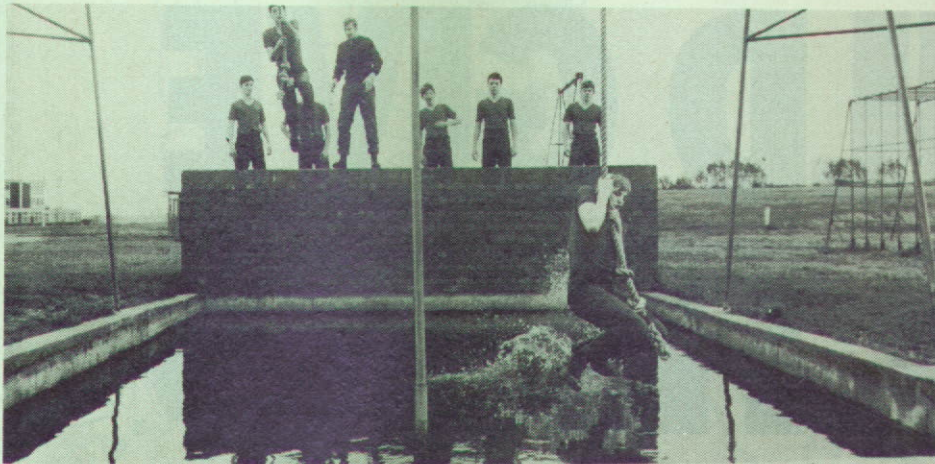
All the way through means into the adult Army — and here the transition could be traumatic. As each group prepares to leave the college, Colonel Ryan has a final 'wash-up' at which he listens to their views on their time at Harrogate and notes any suggestions they may make to improve life there.

"Then I say to them, 'tomorrow you are a troglodyte and have to start from scratch again' — but I do believe that these boys are their own best advertisement."

Top: Exercise Cold Comfort took the lads out on skis in the Scottish Highlands (unit picture).

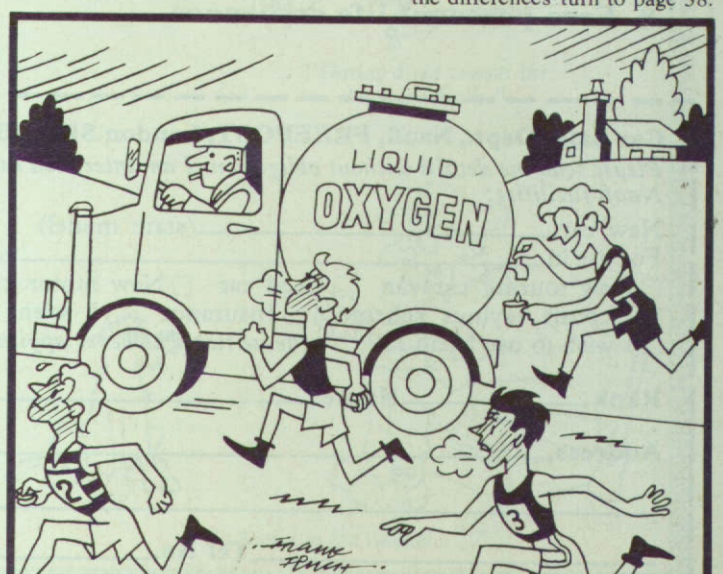
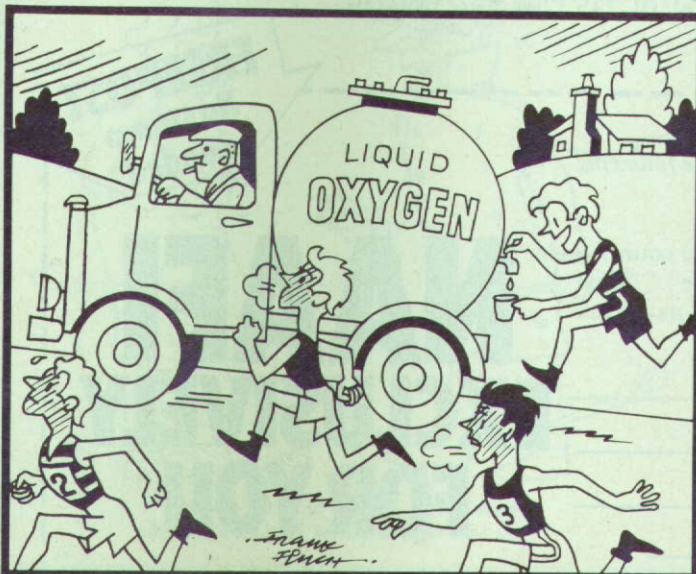
Centre: Tarzan-style act leaves one youngster with wet feet as he continues assault course.

Left: It's not a new disco dance but exercise as part of the process of developing bodies.



How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 38.



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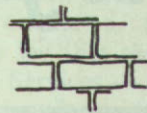
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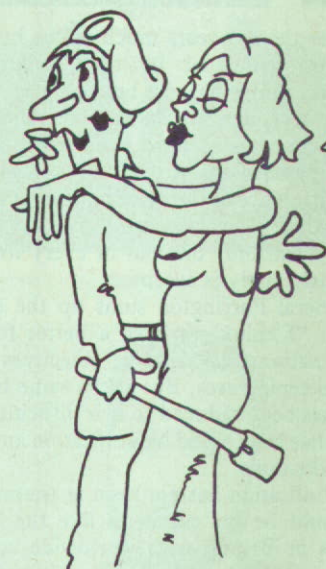
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"Now don't go and do anything foolish while I'm guarding you."



"I know you're out next week, Spike, but I really don't smoke."



"Madam, I have it on good authority your husband will be back from Cyprus in a week's time and the orderly sergeant will be round in five minutes."

PICK OF THE PICKET

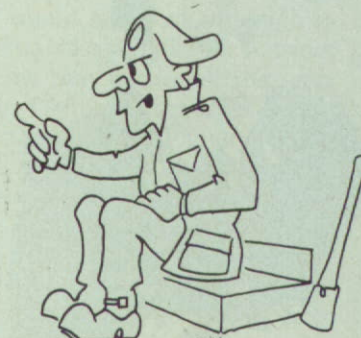
BY CARL



"Daring Fred crosses the Niagara Falls."

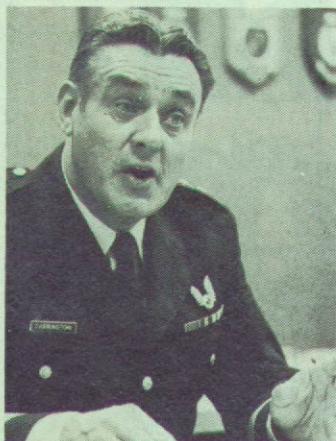


"Terrible the likes of you, Sir, having to check the likes of me on a night like this!"



"So I said to the colonel ..."

Ten years of Unification



IT IS NOW a decade since Canada launched a startling and revolutionary change in her armed forces. It was a change which was watched with interest in Western military circles but is as yet unimitated. It was a change which, with associated cutbacks, saw the disappearance of famous regimental names, some of them with strong British connections. And it was a change which saw the resignation of many senior Canadian officers who were opposed to it.

Now, ten years later, the dust has settled and unification of the three Services into the single Canadian Forces is an accepted fact. Indeed more than half those now serving joined since unification and have known no other system.

But over the years there have been considerable modifications of the original concept. In 1975, the forces were reorganised into three separate commands — Air Command, Mobile Command and Maritime Command — roughly corresponding to the old Air Force, Army and Navy although the overall command remains unified. 'Collar dogs' now denote different sections of the forces, shoulder flashes have returned for the infantry and, most recently, sailors are again allowed to wear beards.

SOLDIER spoke to Brigadier-General Laurie Farrington, a former sailor with both the British and Canadian navies and now Director-General of Information at National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa.

He immediately conceded that although they are no longer legally separate entities there was still a sense of identity with the three former Services. "Those in the infantry feel they are in the army, those who fly feel they are in the air force and the same applies to sailors and ships. But there is a fourth group, perhaps 50 per cent, who work on administration or as cooks or in a functional role.

"This fourth group I call the 'greeners' (after the green uniforms they all wear) and they are developing a sense of identity only from the way they are employed. They can be employed in various units — perhaps in an Army milieu, one posting to a ship, then to air transport command.

"If we have any problems — and I don't think there are many — it is with these people who sometimes envy people with hard trades and a sense of identity with the army, navy or air force. You often find that they identify with whatever is the first job they do."

Over the ten years much of the heat and emotion generated by such symbols as badges, uniforms and buttons has evaporated, says General Farrington. And while some concessions have been made in this field, none of the vast changes have made any difference in the most important area — recruiting. The Canadian forces are all voluntary and only one out of every five who seriously apply is accepted.

General Farrington sums up the experiment: "I think we have a better force to meet national government objectives in the peacekeeping area. But at the same time its size has been reduced so it is difficult to say what has been saved by unification and what by reductions.

"Unification has not been as traumatic as it would be for countries like the United States or Britain with worldwide commitments. But we deliberately avoid using the word 'success' because until the unified force has been tested in combat it is difficult to say that our great Canadian experiment has been successful."

Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt



Major Bill Aikman, Editor of *Sentinel*, the magazine which circulates throughout the Canadian Armed Forces:

"Originally we had three magazines — one for each Service. The problem is in giving all three elements their fair share of publicity over a whole series of issues. We do maintain the balance but even so we get complaints. If a guy works around aeroplanes he wants to see aeroplanes in the magazine; if he's a sailor he wants to see ships and if he's a soldier he wants to see tanks and guns."



Sergeant Bill McKee . . . joined the forces about eight months after they were unified. An administrative clerk:

"My first tour was with the army and I have also been on an air force base which was navy orientated. So I have been in all three environments but I can say that there is no real difference with regulations for the three Services — they are essentially the same.

"If I am asked what element I am with I say I am 'green.' I identify with the Canadian forces and in that way only."



Chief Warrant Officer Gordon Way . . . joined as a Navy stoker then went to the fleet air arm:

"I am now working as a career manager for the air crew trades. I'm happy with the way things have gone. I think it has been of benefit to my trade and I think it has been of benefit to the naval air arm. Equipment facilities give us a little more flexibility and it has helped our career possibilities."



Roy Williams . . . leading seaman and marine engineer. Now able to wear a beard once more:

"Getting our beards back is a step back towards our own identity. We have an identity problem in that we are unrecognisable as sailors when we go ashore. Now if I see a guy with two anchors on his collar he is probably in the sea element but you don't know what and you cannot identify by ships now. The civilians think of us all as soldiers — they cannot tell by your badges unless they have military experience.

"I don't see it's done a lot for promotion. For the hard-sea people were always in competition with other sailors of their trade and they still are."



Chief Warrant Officer Ted McTaggart . . . joined the Army in 1950 in an anti-aircraft battery:

"I basically felt from the start that it would not work although in some areas it has worked. We went at it too fast and did not consider everything. It is a wrong premise to say that we are all the same because we are not. When you go to the Olympic Games the people whom you watch are all athletes but they train differently — the same applies to the forces.

"It has been beneficial in some areas on the logistic side, such as in our supply system, our administration set-up and our pay services. I don't know if we have saved money by it but I feel we have probably not saved an appreciable amount for what we have lost. Perhaps not in my service lifetime, but some time I feel we shall go back to three uniforms."

Twice a year a unique Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve railway unit gets together as . . .

Terriers who lay it on the line



PANTING like stranded whales, three gleaming steam engines waited their turn to be coupled up to an assortment of British and Continental rolling stock. A whistle blast rose above the hiss of steam and the first train eased its way out of the tiny Fenland station on the first journey in a packed timetable designed for a unique military exercise.

The trains were being run by the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve's 275 Railway Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, drawn from the ranks of British Rail's staff — swapping their blue uniforms for khaki as members of the squadron.

With a strength of 70-plus, the unit represents some 75 per cent of the British Army's railway expertise. Its role on mobilisation would be to reinforce the only Regular railway unit — 79 Squadron — to operate rail depots in Germany, marshalling locomotives and rolling stock on to the German railway network to supply troops in the field.

As a 'sponsored' unit the TAVR squadron, unlike independent reserve units, has no drill hall base for its training. Experts in their field to start with, the squadron's personnel come together for a fortnight a year for an exercise in Germany and have a commitment to train on another two weekends a year.

Drawing its members from as far away as Plymouth and Dundee, the squadron finds

it more worthwhile to run its extra four days as one period and it was for this that its men gathered at the Nene Valley Railway, near Peterborough, to take over the private railway's steam locomotives and rolling stock.

The squadron's second-in command and operations officer, Captain Greg Goodman — station manager at Aldershot, Home of the British Army, in civilian life — explained: "The Nene Valley line is five-and-a-half miles long, which is ideal for our purposes. We drew up a timetable of 22 trains to run over 11 hours, using three separate train sets which uses the line to the absolute maximum possible."

Operating old steam locomotives from Sweden, Denmark and Germany as well as Great Britain presented few difficulties for the Volunteers, many of whom had steam experience in earlier days. Among them was Captain Goodman himself who did a 'recce' of the track from the footplate before the exercise proper got under way.

Twice before in recent years the squadron has been allowed to exercise on the small railways dedicated to preserving the age of steam for posterity — in 1968 on the Welsh Ffestiniog railway and in 1972 on the North Yorkshire Moors railway.

As professional railwaymen of the seventies, not all the squadron's members share the enthusiasts' nostalgia for steam. With a sidelong glance at the pride of Nene Valley belching smoke and plumes of steam, one recalled: "Dirty smelly old things . . . always gave you blisters on your hands — you can keep 'em!"

But the years of expertise — blisters and all — are the backbone of 275 Squadron as a sponsored unit. Training is strictly limited by the time available so recruitment is from the ranks of past and present British Rail employees.

In uniform, the TAVR railwaymen fall into the three trades of brakesman/shunter (train guard to the layman), traffic operator

(forming the railway control element) and railway engine driver. The Regular Army railwayman combines the three skills in grades I, II or III of the railwayman trade.

By way of 'payment' for use of the Nene Valley Railway, 275 Squadron demonstrated a further skill as track layers by providing the labour to build a siding spur from the railway's turntable in its Wansford sidings. The task was planned and supervised by 507 Specialist Team, Royal Engineers (Permanent Way Troop). But many of the 'navvies' were used to the work, including the squadron's cook sergeant — badged Army Catering Corps — who is a permanent way worker in civilian life.

Brought together only twice a year from all over the country, the squadron is kept in touch by newsletters issued three times a year to its members. The squadron's officer commanding, Major Roger Bagnall — operating superintendent of the brand-new Tyne and Wear Metro in Newcastle — commented that the nearest thing to a squadron base is a "corner of a noticeboard at the RCT's Civilian Volunteer Headquarters in Grantham," from which the widespread unit is administered.

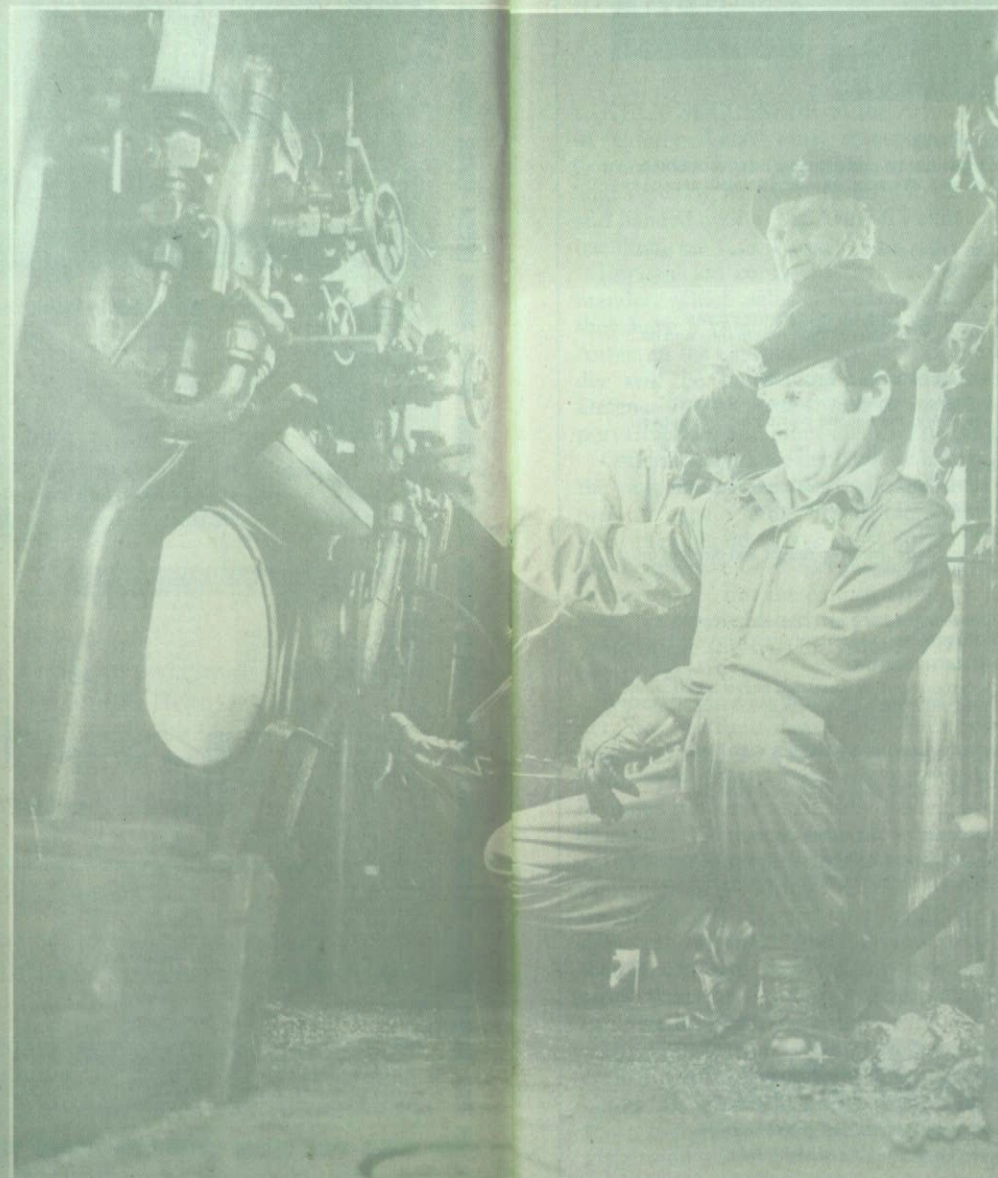
So it was with surprising smoothness that the squadron was soon working in as well-oiled a fashion as the steam engines it took over at Nene Valley. The picturesque line was soon echoing to the hoot of steam whistles and the clank of signals as the trains plied between Wansford, Ferry Meadows and Orton Mere stations to keep to the tight schedule laid down for the exercise.

Before the glowing fireboxes of Nene Valley had cooled, 275 Squadron's men would be dispersed again throughout the nation's railway network to resume their everyday jobs among the humming diesels of British Rail. But they had the satisfaction of knowing they had proved their ability to answer the nation's call as one, should their skills be needed in time of war.

Above: Work in progress on turntable spur. Below: Filling with water the Danish State Railway's 1949 vintage 0-6-0 Class F side-tank loco. Right: Getting up steam — searing heat from the firebox of 'Jacks Green' (see front cover). Far right: Bristol signalman Sgt Fred Cook.



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Les Wiggs



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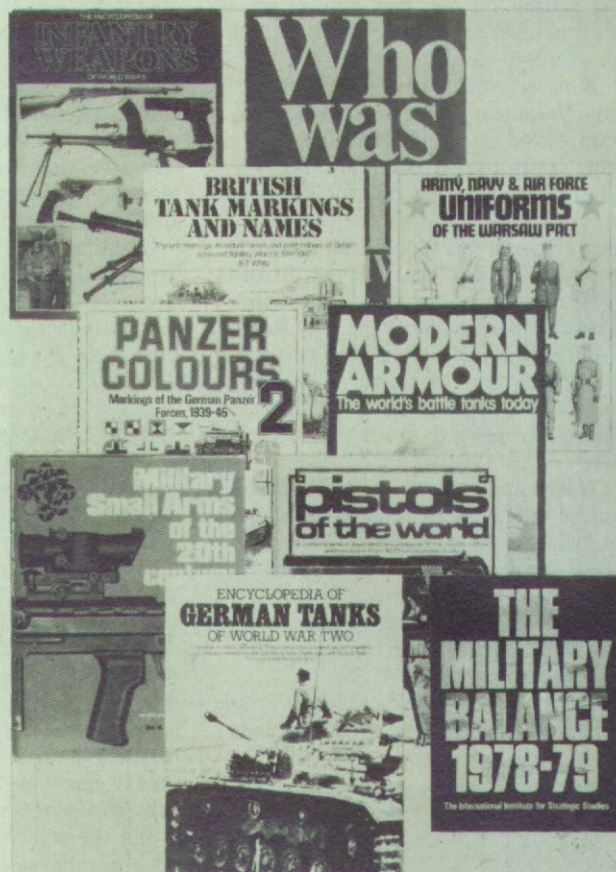


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Commander bids to replace Antars



LIKELY SUCCESSOR to the Army's fleet of elderly Antar tank transporters, the Commander from Scammell, part of Leyland Vehicles, has been unveiled to the Press and handed over to the Army for exhaustive trialling.

Leyland are confident that in the Commander, which sells at a six-figure price, they have a vehicle which will replace the Antars in the eighties. They say: 'Commander will be bought by the Ministry of Defence and overseas governments to transport Chieftain and other main battle tanks.'

Official acceptance depends, of course, on the outcome of the Ministry trials but the makers expect only minor alterations to what they herald as 'the most powerful and most expensive on-road vehicle in operation in the world.' For the Antars, although they have been refurbished to give another five years of life (SOLDIER August 1978) date back to the 1950s.

Beneath the Commander's massive bonnet lies a Rolls-Royce 625-horsepower, huge V12 engine equivalent in power to 20 Minis. The vehicle has a top road speed of 39 miles per hour at its fully loaded weight of around 110 tonnes.

It has excellent hill-climbing and acceleration qualities — during the Press preview, it was frequently stopped on a one-in-six gradient and restarted. And Leyland point out that it can also be used for transporting other types of fighting vehicle and heavy engineering plant and equipment.

Inside the cab all is luxury compared with even the refurbished Antar. Two full-sized bunks are specified as standard and the driver is provided with a Dunlop air-sprung suspension seat. An air blend arrangement is used to maintain the right interior tempera-

Above: Fully loaded and ready to go — Commander, expected transporter of the eighties.

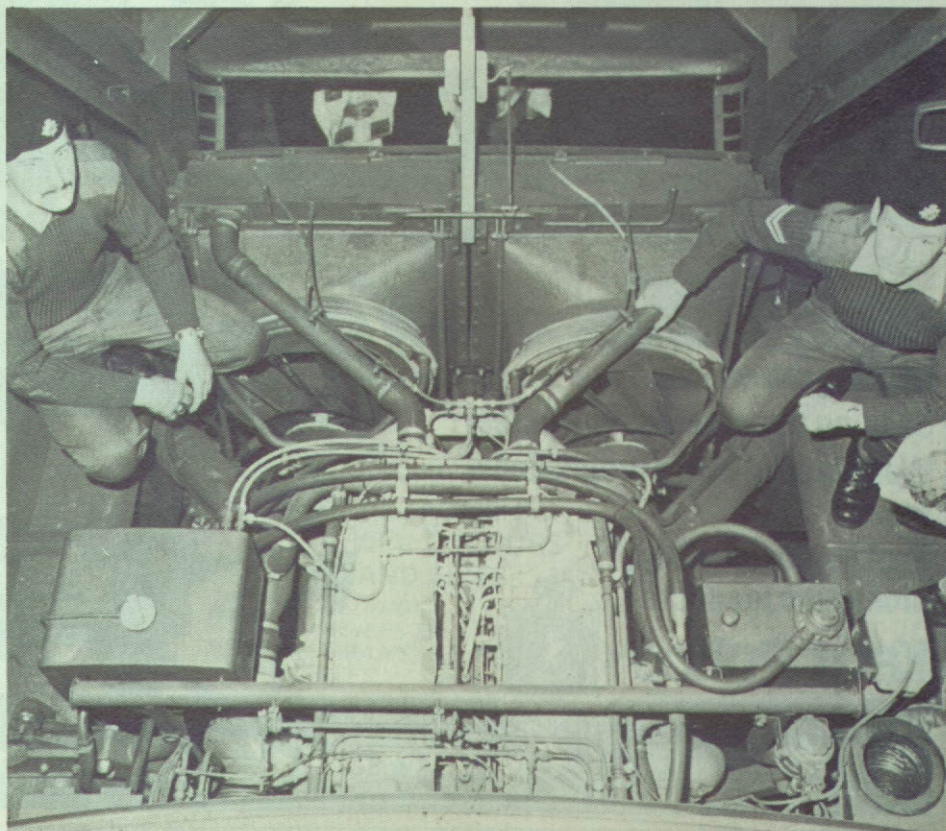
tures. This provides much finer control of cab temperatures without the occupants having to use the heater controls. Cold air and fresh air ventilation are also available.

Instruments are mounted on a large panel which curves gently in front of the driver.

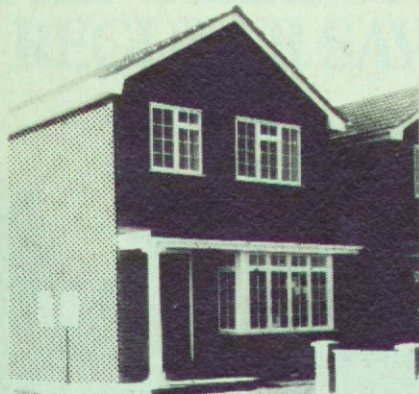
Below: Corporal P Pengilly and Driver R Bale of RCT show how much room is under the bonnet.

All gauges are within easy view of the driver and the panel is topped by a row of malfunction warning lights.

The vehicle can operate in temperatures ranging from 46 degrees Centigrade down to -24 degrees.

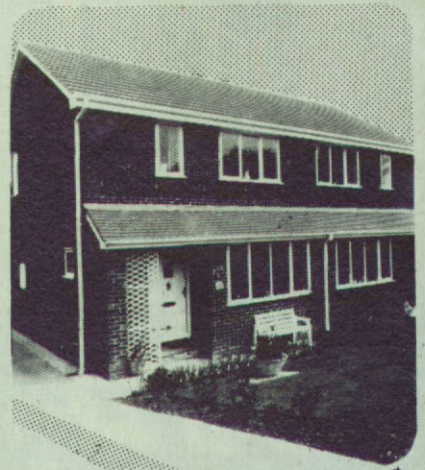


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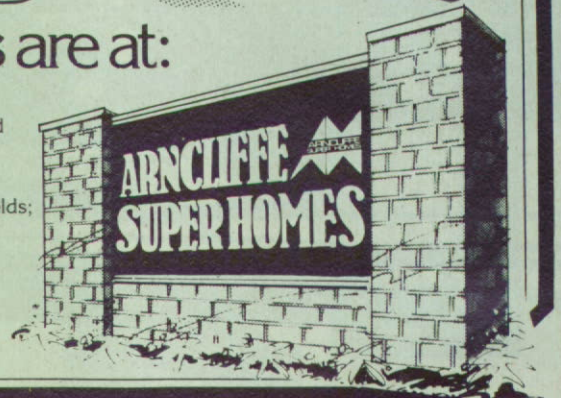
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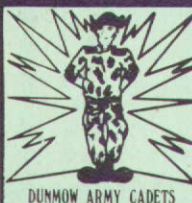


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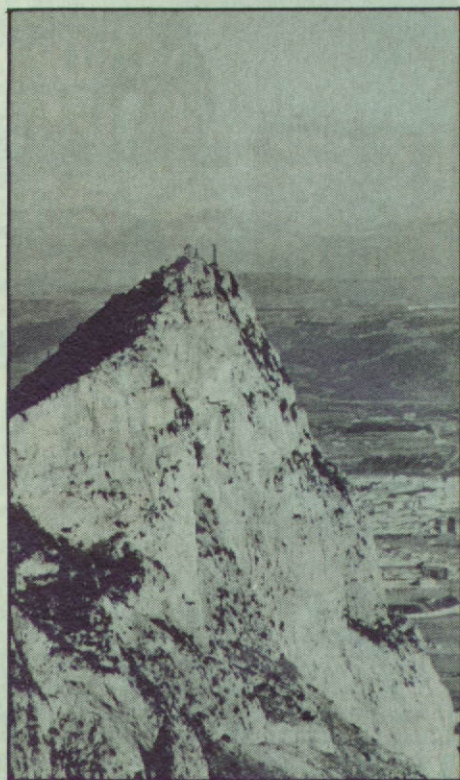
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Keys to the Rock



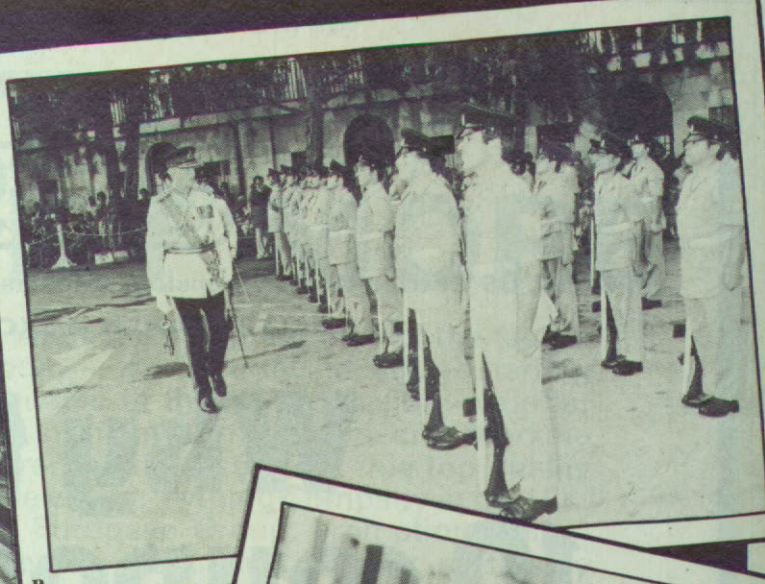
THE LEVANTER, the swirling cloud which seems permanently to shroud the pinnacle of the Rock of Gibraltar, added a sombre note to one of the Rock's oldest rites, the Ceremony of the Keys.

The ceremony dates back to 1704, since when the keys have symbolised the possession of the fortress by Britain. Now the large, heavy iron bunch of keys is regarded as the governor's seal of office and is handed over to each new governor for safe-keeping.

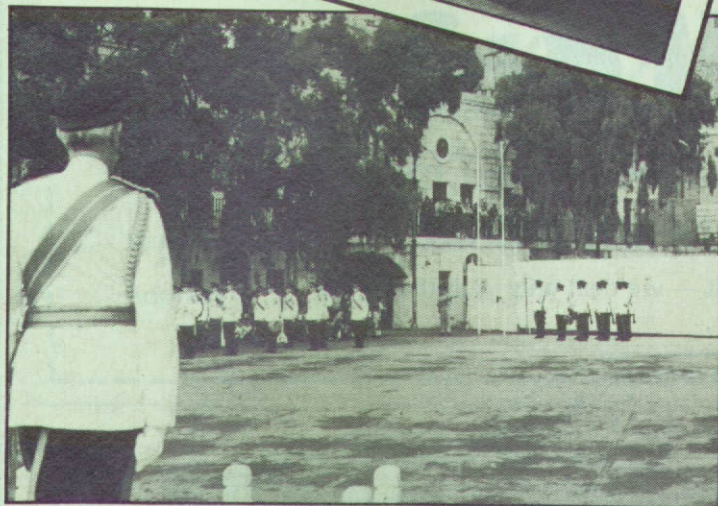
But if the ceremony symbolises Britain's military presence on the Rock, it is now also a measure of the increasing importance of Gibraltar's own soldiers in The Gibraltar Regiment. This Territorial regiment now takes its turn with the resident Regular battalion on parade in the ceremony and is hoping that the ancient post of Port Sergeant will be revived as an appointment for a Gibraltar non-commissioned officer.



A



B



C



D

A: The governor arrives with the keys. C: The keys challenge by a sentry.
B: Outpost Platoon on the square. D: Keys returned to the governor.

During the Great Siege of 1779-1783, the then governor, General Eliott, who was later created Baron Heathfield of Gibraltar for his heroic defence of the Rock, wore the keys at his belt constantly, except when he handed them to the Port Sergeant who was responsible for locking the gates. As the sunset gun was fired and the outposts marched out to take up covering positions forward of the fortress defences, the Port Sergeant, accompanied by an armed escort, would lock the gates at Landport, the only entrance by land to the fortress. The keys would then be returned to the governor.

After peace was restored, drums and fifes, accompanied by the Port Sergeant and his escort, would warn aliens to leave the Rock before the gates were closed. The event was revived as a ceremony in 1933 and later incorporated an outpost platoon representing the company which originally protected the fortress on the North Front.

At one time the ceremony was carried out weekly but with the gates removed for traffic access and fewer soldiers on the Rock, this has slipped until it is now performed only at intervals during the year — usually when a cruise ship puts into harbour.

Since the ceremony ceased to be a weekly event, the appointment of Port Sergeant — he had his own special paragraph in King's Regulations — has been allowed to lapse. In recent years the resident infantry battalion has appointed a sergeant-major for the parade, but that may change.

With the arrival of the present governor, General Sir William Jackson, the ceremony has taken on a more Gibraltarian note, with the flying of the Gibraltar flag side by side with the Union Flag on Casemates Square. The Gibraltar Regiment, which includes both a rifle company and artillery battery, now hopes that it will be allocated the appointment of Port Sergeant.

"It would make sense for the regiment to be given the post," said Captain Solomon Levey, "because it will give continuity, it will be a boost to the regiment and will give the occasion more local significance. The Gibraltar Regiment is becoming more and more involved in the defence of the Rock, so it is right that it should be a Gibraltar Port Sergeant who receives the keys which are the symbol of Gibraltar's freedom."

The Outpost Platoon, the Port Sergeant and the Escort to the Keys, with the band of the infantry battalion — 2nd Battalion, The

Queen's Regiment — formed up at Southport Gate shortly before sunset, then marched via Main Street to Casemates Square to await the arrival of the governor.

At 6pm the sunset gun was fired by Thomson's Battery of The Gibraltar Regiment from Princess Caroline's Battery high on the Rock, to sound Retreat. This was the signal for the Outpost Platoon to advance in review order and, after the royal salute, the platoon commander, Lieutenant Dennis Reyes, asked for permission to post his troops.

The platoon then marched off through the Landport tunnel to represent taking up night positions.

The Port Sergeant, Troop Sergeant-Major Joe Saunders, accompanied by his escort, reported back to the governor and requested permission to 'secure the fortress.' He then received the keys from the governor and marched to the entrance to Landport tunnel. A sentry posted at the tunnel entrance challenged the Port Sergeant, who replied that he carried the Queen's keys. He then passed through to represent the locking of the Landport Gate, formerly the only land entrance to the fortress.

The Rock was secure once again.



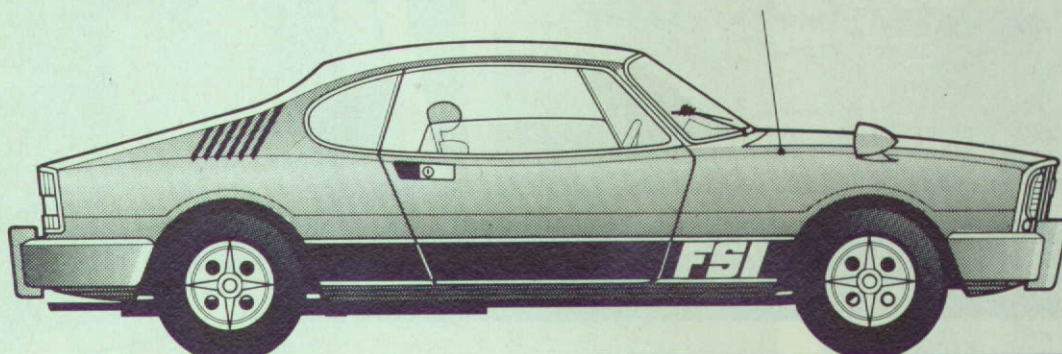
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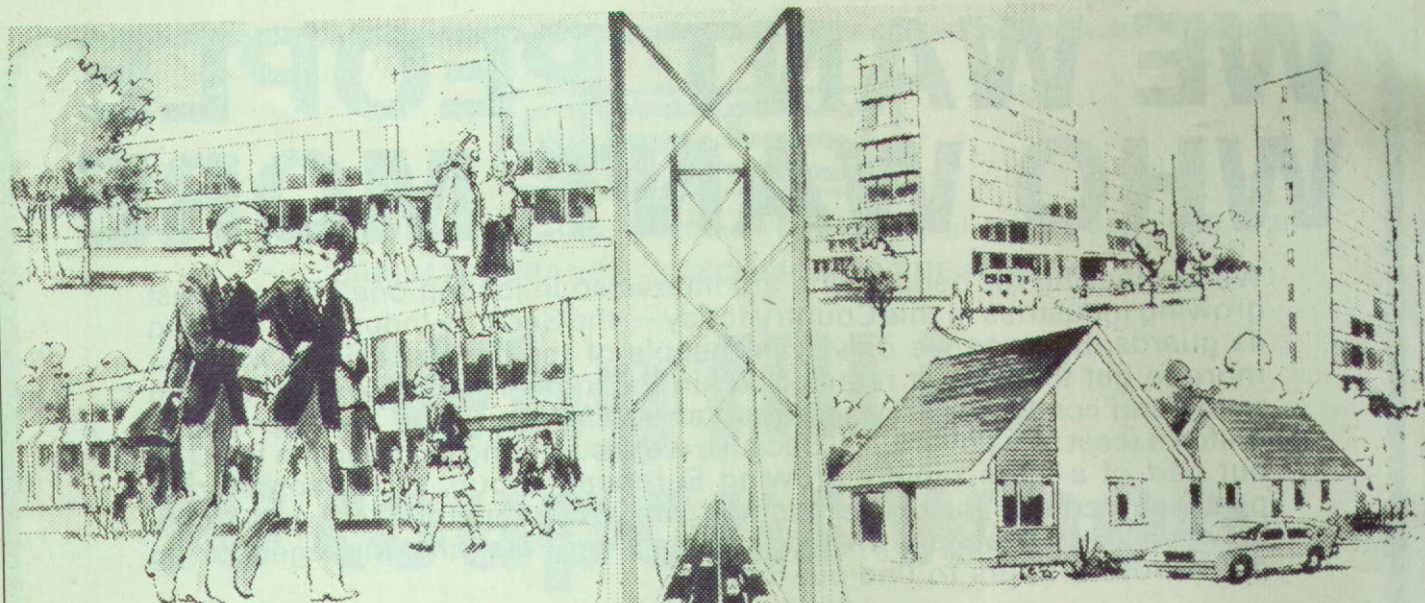
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SOLDIER to Soldier

That most traditional of British institutions — the pint of beer — has come under fire from the powers-that-be in Rhine Army who are currently waging war against intemperance among British troops in Germany.

The beleaguered pint in question is the one that appears on SOLDIER magazine promotional posters pointing out that our publication can be bought for 'less than the price of a pint' (in fact, in these inflationary days, it is truer to say that SOLDIER can now be bought for the price of the more abstemious half-pint of beer).

Laudable though a campaign against excessive drinking among soldiers undoubtedly is, there is historical precedent to show that the target for attack should not necessarily be the relatively wholesome pint of beer (let alone SOLDIER's notional one) but 'the hard stuff.'

A fascinating article in this year's annual report of the National Army Museum chronicles the drive against drunkenness in the nineteenth century Army. It says: 'The reformers behind the temperance movements within the Army and outside it did not all condemn all drinking, an attitude which would have alienated those whom the movement sought to convert, but their chief aim was that wholesome (and indigenous) drinks like beer should replace less wholesome (and foreign) drinks like gin, and that moderation should replace excess. Hence temperance rather than total abstinence.'

The article goes on to study the causes of drunkenness on overseas postings and although the soldier's life in Victorian India cannot compare in

detail with that of his modern counterpart in Germany, there are some broad similarities to be found that suggest pointers to alleviating such problems as exist.

We read that boredom was the chief enemy. The article adds: 'Spirits were cheap, plentiful and often of the poorest, rawest quality and, before the days of India Pale Ale, British beer was almost unobtainable. Forms of recreation were restricted to the most unenergetic kind and little attempt was made to induce the soldiers to use their off-duty periods constructively.'

Of course, a vast array of off-duty activities from poetry reading to parachuting is available to the soldier in Germany today although he is notorious for not taking the initiative in exploiting these advantages denied to his Victorian counterpart. But, as in India, language and cultural differences can still confine a man to barracks if he — or others on his behalf — make no effort to bring him face-to-face with the host country and its people.

As we have seen, the Victorians blamed spirits at home and abroad for a large part of the drinking problem. And, as in India, spirits in Germany today are cheap and plentiful (although their quality is indubitably of the best). SOLDIER ventures to suggest that sales of spirits could be discouraged by Naafi selling bottles at their retail outlets for sums nearer those paid in the United Kingdom. Current duty free prices are about one-third of those back home.

The resulting extra revenue could either join other Naafi profits going to the Army Central Fund for disburse-

ment in welfare cash or form the basis of a special fund to provide incentives and amenities in Germany as alternatives to drinking as a recreation.

For, compared with the damage done by cheap and plentiful spitts, the good old British pint is — to coin a phrase — small beer in the fight against drinking to excess.

★

Back to the 'You can't win them all' department. The nightmare of publishing is correctly correcting the error — like the apocryphal example of the general referred to in a newspaper story as 'battle-scarred veteran,' subsequently but even more unfortunately corrected to 'bottle-scarred veteran,' or paper which apologised for 'these careless mistakes.'

So apologies all round and particularly to artist Frank Finch for the piece in these columns (November) apologising for an error in the September 'How Observant Are You?' feature. Readers noticed that one difference between the two drawings — a lance-corporal's stripe and a corporal's two stripes — was not listed in the answers and gleefully pointed out that for the first time in umpteen years there were therefore 11 and not ten differences.

Which is where the real error cropped up — SOLDIER did not do its homework properly and cross-check. For which there is no excuse although, with a newspaper as well as the magazine to produce with at the moment no additional staff, the margin for error is greater. The simple answer is that there were only ten differences but one of these, No. 5 (the stripes), was omitted from the printed answers. These read 1 to 4 and 6 to 10, so the stripes were assumed to be an eleventh difference. The last word goes to Frank Finch: 'I am sorry to disappoint faithful students of my drawings who this time felt they caught me out!'

BASKEYFIELD VC



In this full-colour print, artist Terence Cuneo vividly illustrates how Lance-Sergeant J D Baskeyfield, of 2nd Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment, won his Victoria Cross at Arnhem.

During a heavy German attack, Sergeant Baskeyfield's gun destroyed two tanks and a self-propelled gun by allowing them to approach to point-blank range. He was severely wounded and his detachment dead or seriously wounded but he manned his gun alone until it was put out of action.

The 21-year-old sergeant then crawled to another gun and, still single-handed, stopped a self-propelled gun. While preparing to fire again, he was killed by a tank shell. His citation ends: 'The superb gallantry of this NCO is beyond praise. During the remaining days at Arnhem, stories of his valour were a constant inspiration to all ranks.'

Overall size of this print is 26 × 21 inches (658 × 537 mm) and the picture area measures 20 × 15½ inches (557 × 386 mm).

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Showcase for Special Service Force

CANADA's crack Special Service Force, formed only last year, was on display. And the audience for a two-day demonstration by 3500 men using all the latest Canadian equipment was a highly critical one — 350 officers from many parts of the world attending courses at the Canadian Staff and Defence colleges, plus a sprinkling of other very important persons.

Exercise Mobile Warrior, held at the force's home base of Petawawa, in central Ontario, was the showcase for the skills of men who train in Canada for what would be an important role in any major European land war. Their shoulder patches more than coincidentally carry a dagger and the motto 'Let Us Dare' — which have invited obvious comparisons with Britain's Special Air Service Regiment and criticism from anti-military circles in Canada which see the similarities as something sinister.

There was certainly revolutionary and up-to-date equipment on show. Most unusual to British eyes was 1 Canadian Field Hospital, the only unit of its kind in the Canadian Forces. For it uses a system which has finally got rid of tentage, for centuries the only method of housing wounded prisoners near the battlefield.

MUST (medical unit, self-contained transportable) provides a mobile hospital capable of being transported anywhere in the world and put into use within hours. It has three basic elements — an expandable surgical area, air-inflatable patient wards and inflatable connector corridors.

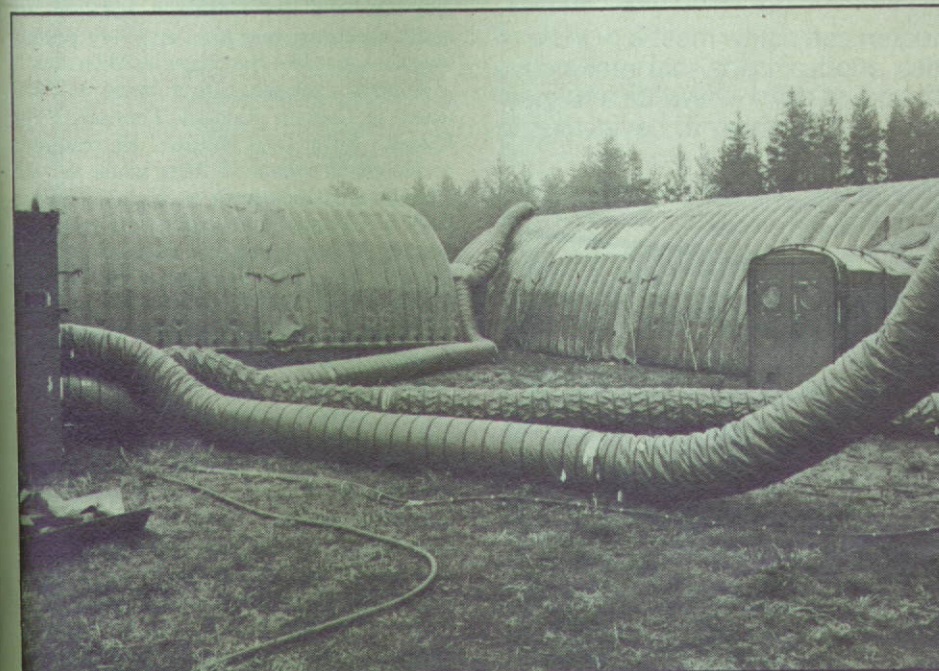
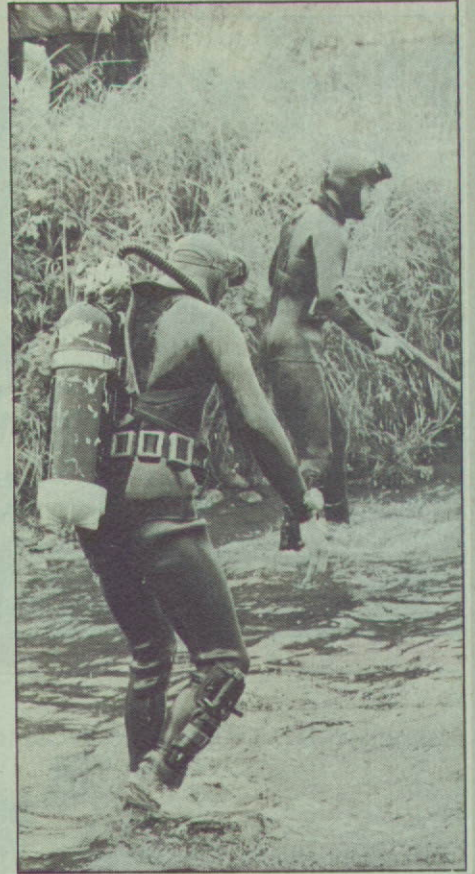
continued on page 28

Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Left: The Lynx armoured personnel carrier silhouetted against the night firing display.

Below: Running on to the 'battlefield' — infantry from Canada's crack Special Service Force.





Top left: Camouflaged troops wait in trenches for the expected assault on their position.

Above: Sapper frogmen emerge from water with guns at ready — they rarely misfire when wet.

Centre: What it's like inside the new mobile hospital — warm, dry and air-conditioned.

Below left: From the outside the hospital looks like a row of inflatable Nissen huts.

Below: Force commander, Brigadier-General A G Christie, and other officers watch intently.





Left: Captain David Workman, enjoying Canada.

Above: Captain Richard Thornely, on exchange.

Centre: TOW, part of the armoured defence show.

Below: Excited officers clamber over Leopard.



First used by the Americans in Vietnam, the system has been adapted by the Canadians as a complete closed hospital system. It can be operated in all types of temperatures although the Canadians have put a special emphasis on resisting the rigours of the Canadian Arctic, where a patient's survival chances would be extremely low without proper heating.

Tactical helicopters on show included twin Hueys, smaller Kiowas and the Chinook — which Britain has on order. Signals, sappers, infantry and gunners were all put through their paces. Watching his men taking part in a helicopter deployment of a light artillery battalion was Captain David Workman, until last year adjutant of 4 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, and now on an exchange attachment with 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery.

He told SOLDIER: "There are so many parallels between this and our 6 Field Force. All Commonwealth gunners speak the same language and my Canadian soldiers are really excellent, very keen and very professional — just like the chaps in Aldershot."

Another exchange officer based at Petawawa is Captain Richard Thornely, The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars. He remained as second-in-command there while the 8th Canadian Hussars went on United Nations duty in Cyprus. And to his unit went the honour of presenting the show-stopper — the first view most had had of the German Leopard tank with its British 105mm gun and bearing a black maple leaf insignia. The Leopard is just coming into service with the Canadian Forces.

Two massive firepower demonstrations, one by night and one by day, led to the culmination of the exercise in which what was described as 'a typical Warsaw Pact defensive position' with open trenches, trenches with overhead protection and a platoon bunker, was blasted by artillery and mortar fire followed by napalm and missiles from the air and finally a helicopter-borne infantry attack. The guests were then invited to inspect the remains.

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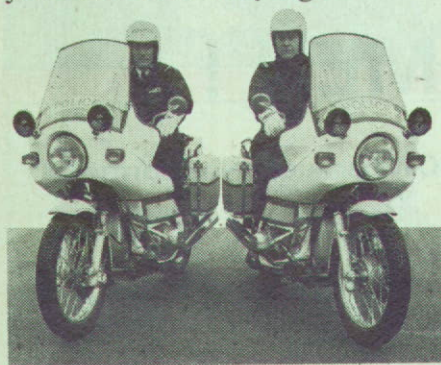
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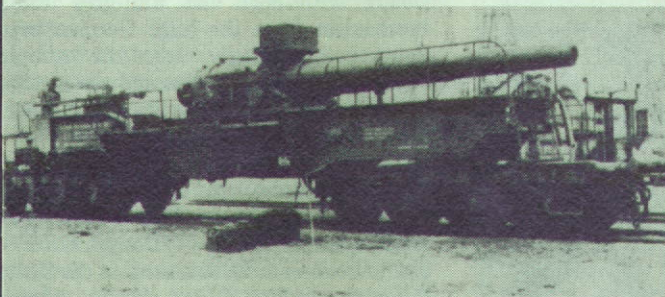
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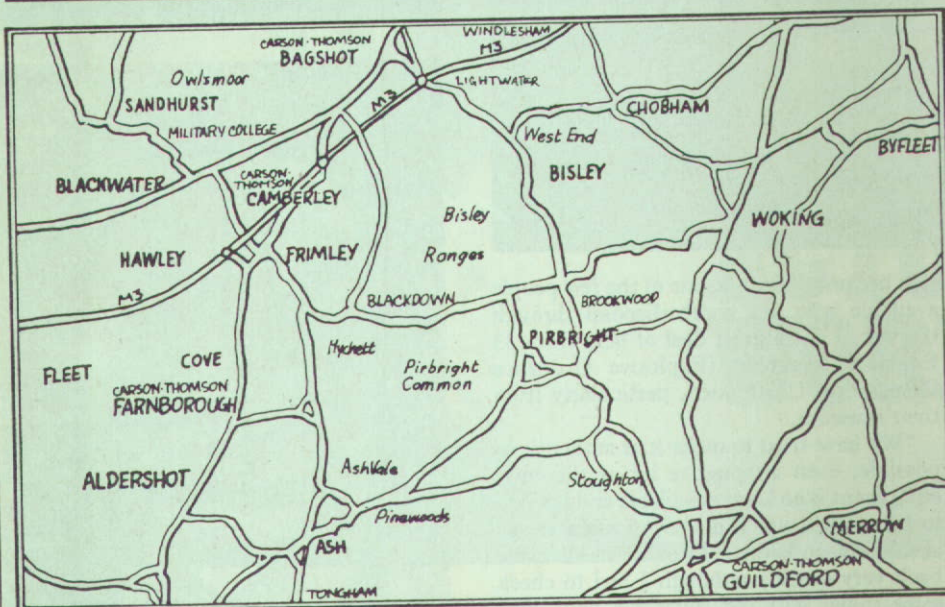
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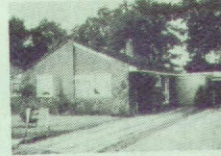
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THE WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

TWO HISTORIC drums are featured among the regimental relics which abound in this museum — the Crimean drum captured from the Russians in 1854 by the 62nd Foot, later to become The Wiltshire Regiment, and one of the 2nd Battalion's drums, which were lost at Dunkirk in 1940. The drum on show was found in Denmark in 1958 and given back to the regiment.

A well-displayed collection of medals includes two Victoria Crosses, one awarded to Captain (later Lieutenant-Colonel) R Hayward, The Wiltshire Regiment, in 1918 and the other, the last to be won in the regiment, earned by Sergeant M Rogers, of the 2nd Battalion, for gallantry at Anzio. One of the oldest exhibits is an infantry officer's sword of 1750 while other early blades on display were forged in 1822 and 1834. On a less martial note there is a splendid set of Chinese vases taken from the Summer Palace, Peking, in 1860.

Some nice pieces of regimental silver include a pair of Georgian candlesticks, a magnificent centrepiece and the Viceroy's Goblet presented as a 'token of respect' to the sergeants of the 62nd by the Viceroy of India, Lord Lytton, in 1876. Helmet plates and belt buckles, pouch belt plates, regimental buttons and badges covering years of development are shown to advantage while a Royal Wiltshire Militia side drum of 1845 rounds off an interesting corner.

Featured in a range of rifles and bayonets are a German musket of 1840, a World War One Russian rifle, a BSA carbine manufactured in 1885 and an early Lee-Enfield — the last three with bayonets fixed. Two ostrich eggs cleverly decorated with regimental motifs, a bandolier and a wooden cigarette box made by a Boer prisoner-of-war, are just a few of the items to attract attention in the Boer War case.

Souvenirs of World War One include the inevitable Pickelhauber spiked helmet and a number of other German trophies such as saw bayonets, an entrenching tool with a miniature pick for handle, various hand grenades and a 1917 gas mask, while two French clarions will attract students of military music.

Among World War Two mementoes are a variety of Nazi daggers, badges and an incendiary bomb. Another reminder of the war and its nearness to home is a selection of

Home Guard relics such as a pike fashioned from metal tubing, a truncheon and a 12-bore shot gun. Japanese swords and a steel helmet from the Arakan, a rush sandal, a compass and a water bottle from Burma are reminders of the fighting in the Far East.

A rack of drum-major's maces precedes the well-stocked uniform section. Typical examples are an 1895 jacket worn by a warrant officer of the 1st Battalion, Wiltshire Rifle Volunteers, the coatee and breeches of the 5th Wiltshire Local Militia (1808-16), an officer's review order uniform of 1903, a drummer's tunic (1905-39) and an officer's buttoned mess jacket of 1850 shown alongside the open-fronted design introduced in 1896. Nearby are some drum-major's belts going back to a Royal Wiltshire Militia belt of 1860, a miscellaneous group of dress swords and a 3rd Battalion side drum.

A representative collection of pistols and revolvers will attract the connoisseur and a fine array of headdress shows some regimental helmets of 1902, an RWM shako of 1876, a Wiltshire Regiment glengarry, an officer's undress cap (1875-95) and a soldier's service dress cap (1818-40).

Exhibits from Cyprus range from a crudely spiked club taken from a Turkish Cypriot to a binocular case removed in November 1958 from the body of Kyriakos Matsis, the EOKA leader in the Kyrenia district. Finally, hanging from the wall in the entrance, there is a heavy rope mantelet used by the British Army in the Crimean War as a primitive screen for gunners.

John Jesse

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Letters

All there

Out of pure curiosity and interest we wonder if our unit, which has a military establishment of five serving officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers, can claim a record by having a 100 per cent attendance at our Remembrance Day parade, held in Otterburn Village, Northumberland, on 12 November 1978. — **Lieut-Col R D W McLean**, Commandant Otterburn Training Area, Otterburn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE19 1NX.

RAVC 50th

The Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association (formerly the Old Comrades Association RAVC) is always grateful for **SOLDIER's** publication of the date of its annual reunion dinner.

The 50th annual reunion dinner was held at the RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray, in October, and among the 160 members attending were five serving or retired directors of the Army Veterinary and Remount Services and ten serving or retired regimental sergeant-majors.

At the association's annual general meeting, one of the decisions taken was to increase the RAVC grant to the Army Benevolent Fund, for the current year, from £600 to £1000. Readers will appreciate that this is no small contribution for a corps the size of the RAVC.

What a golden anniversary we had! Perhaps new faces will join us next year on 6 October. — **Maj G R Durrant RAVC**, Hon Secretary RAVC Association, Ministry of Defence, Army Veterinary and Remount Services, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 8AU.

African service

I am trying to contact warrant officers and non-commissioned officers who served with British forces in Africa during the years 1919 to 1939. The aim is to collect information about service in Africa for the Imperial War Museum's archives.

If any readers would be willing to help the museum with this work I should be very glad to hear from them. The regiments in which we are interested are the King's African Rifles, Royal West African Frontier Force, Sudan Defence Force, Somaliland Camel Corps/Scouts, Northern Rhodesia Regiment and

Arab Legion. — **David G Lance**, (Keeper of the Department of Sound Records), Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.

Bandmaster wanted

The Evergreen Venture Corps, of which I am club leader, urgently needs a bandmaster or anyone interested in a newly formed corps of drums. This might appeal to someone retired or retiring from the Services or to anyone living in North London and with an interest in a military-style youth movement. Our headquarters is at Earlsmead School, Broad Lane, London N15. — **S Hodgson**, 158 Philip Lane, Tottenham, London N15.

Kuwait

As a historical researcher I would be most grateful if anyone who served in or visited Kuwait, however briefly, in the period up to and including World War Two, would contact me with details of unit and dates. Photographs would be particularly welcome and would of course be returned. — **Lieut-Col Abbas**, KMAO, 46 Queensgate, London SW7.

The Gurkhas

I write in support of WO1 R Calvert's letter (September) suggesting a contribution of one day's pay from all serving officers and soldiers to the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

I am sure very few soldiers would be against such a donation as it would be only once a year and a very small sum at that. Sadly, not many of our soldiers now come into contact with the Gurkhas, who so faithfully serve the Crown and are a magnificent body of men.

Could not a vote be taken on the issue of a day's pay? Should the result be against it, any soldiers could still make his contribution on a voluntary basis to a very worthwhile fund. — **L/Cpl R Lovibond**, HQ Coy, 1 LI, BFPO 801.

Family McGeorge

It is now nearly a year since my first contact with The Royal Green Jackets during the firemen's strike which led to my first letter to **SOLDIER** (April). Throughout the year I have kept in touch with C Company of the 1st Battalion, now in Hong Kong, through Major R H Ker, and with the Depot at Winchester through the very tolerant Captain MacArnold,

with numerous visits to the museum (thank you, Mr Coles).

When the men of C Company return some time in 1980 we hope to be in the happy position of being able to make some personal gesture instead of just writing the odd letter. In the meantime, here in London my door is ever open to the Royal Green Jackets.

Pictured below is the Family McGeorge — ever ready to dig in and support the RGJ! — **E McGeorge**, 38 Stapleford Close, Beaumont Road, London, SW19 6TQ.

*Mr McGeorge, his family and friends, 'adopted' C Company when it was on firefighting duties in London. He did his National Service in the Royal Air Force but had no connection at all with the Army until the firemen's strike.



AFV recovery

I should like to hear from any reader who has personal experience of the operational recovery of an AFV (armoured fighting vehicle) in World War Two or in any other conflict. — **Maj David King**, Staff College, Camberley, Surrey.

Unfair awards?

I would like to draw attention to the unfairness of medal awards to the British Army between 1928 and 1945, mainly of the General Service Medal (Egypt and India). There must be hundreds of men who gave valuable service in these countries from 1928 to 1939 and have nothing to show for it. In India you could not be considered unless you served on the North-West Frontier. The Army was not in these countries because everything was just fine and dandy and when you were there you did not come back until you were time-expired or your regiment came home. The other award which I think should be altered is the 1939-45 Star, for which you were not eligible unless you served abroad even though you may have been called up as a reservist before the war and gone through to the end as a permanent staff instructor.

During the war, visiting generals always stressed that we instructors were doing a great job but when the War Office announced the War Medal and Defence Medal, these could be awarded to anyone who had

just joined. — **H Hollier**, 17 Menin Road, Billesley, Birmingham, B13 0TT.

Not dark green!

As a life-long uniform 'buff' I was surprised to read in the September **SOLDIER** ('Hum, a nice bit of schmatter') that a dark green uniform was under consideration for the Army. Except for rifle regiments, green has never been a British Army colour — scarlet, blue and khaki have always characterised the British soldier. In fact I am old enough to remember when the Army 'walked out' in scarlet, and the blue-braided tunics of the hussars and lancers.

Even more dismaying is the suggestion that the No. 1 dress should be phased out — this is the last good-looking dress uniform left. Surely it is not the intention of the Ministry of Defence to make the British soldier as drab and unmilitary as the American or German soldier? Most soldiers like to dress up and look smart once in a while. — **G A Baldwin**, 811 Howard Street, Santa Rosa, California 95404, USA.

Walking record

In the May **SOLDIER** you described John Brooks (Staff-Sergeant John Brooks, Composite Ordnance Depot, Hong Kong) as holding the world record endurance walking title.

In fact I hold the title with 314 miles set in April 1977, and in September 1978 I also set a new figure of 234 miles for absolute non-stop walking — that is, stopping at no time at all.

The absolute non-stop walking trophy was presented to me on 23 October at the Anglo-American Sporting Club in Manchester by the president of the Australian Rugby Council. Five days later, at the Northern Federation dinner, in Southport, the former British welterweight champion, Johnny Cooke, gave me a plaque from the people of Merseyside in recognition of my walk — the people of Liverpool sponsored me to the tune of more than £5000 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

I am an ex-soldier myself, having served in 3rd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, for five years, and much of my record-breaking I credit to my Army training. I hope to meet John Brooks on a track at Aintree, Liverpool, in the near future. In the meantime I would like to put the record straight. — **Tom Benson**, 49 Ribbles-ton Avenue, Preston, Lancashire.

*Three events are involved — world endurance walking record, world endurance absolute non-stop record and

continued over

The Queen has approved a change in title of the Army Legal Services to the Army Legal Corps, from 1 November 1978. The new corps will take precedence in the Army immediately after the Army Catering Corps.

world 24-hour endurance walking record. **SOLDIER** said that John Brooks set the first of these three in 1976 with 305 miles at Aintree and gave the impression that he still held this record when reporting on his (unsuccessful) attempt in Hong Kong (April 1978) on the 24-hour record of 133 miles, set in the 1960s.

Nine brothers

I am writing on behalf of my grandfather, Mr Pat Bresnahan, who often reads **SOLDIER** and thoroughly enjoys it. The article in **SOLDIER** News ('Holroyd Regiment walks tall') on the six Holroyd brothers serving in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, aroused grandad's pride.

While he accepts that the Holroyd family may hold the present record of serving sons, he points out that his father, 'Con' Bresnahan, and his family of nine sons all served in World War One — the family claims this as an all-time record. — **Mark Bresnahan, 10 Mansfield Road, Hextable, Kent.**

*Mr Cornelius ('Con') Bresnahan joined the Army in 1870 and rejoined, giving a false age (he was actually 55), at the outbreak of World War One. Of his nine sons, seven served with him in The Royal West Kent Regiment — Cornelius, William, Dennis, Peter, Edward, Patrick and Daniel — and although all seven were wounded, they survived the war. The other two sons — Joseph and Michael — serving in the King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Bedfordshire Regiment, were killed. Readers who recall the Bresnahan family may like to know that Mr Pat Bresnahan lives at 1a Danson Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.

PBI v tanks?

I feel Mr K F Shurety (Letters, November) failed in part to appreciate the thought behind Mr Griffin's (September) letter. The British Army is famed for its esprit de corps built up during 300 years of service. Mr Griffin, and I am sure many others, feel that much of this has vanished with the mergers and disbanding of so many famous regiments.

Would Mr Shurety agree that if some of the older regiments had a good recruiting record at the time of the amalgamations they should have been allowed to retain their individuality? This would have kept the Army at sensible manning levels and preserved some of its oldest traditions.

Finally, would not an increase in the infantry, with its use of various anti-tank weapons, offset some of the AFV might of Nato's potential enemies? I am sure this point was not lost on Israel's tank forces after their last experience against well-trained dug-in troops using such weapons. — **R A Stott, 25 Maplin Road, Netherhall Estate, Leicester.**

I must take Mr Shurety to task over what he infers from Mr Griffin's letter. Mr Griffin did not advocate the resurrection of line infantry regiments at the expense of existing tank units, nor any reduction in airborne capability. What he did say was that existing units should bear the titles of senior, defunct regiments of, basically, the same arm of service.

The only losers would be the Foot Guards, losing the Irish and Welsh elements, and The Parachute Regiment and Royal Tank Regiment, which would lose their badges but retain their roles. As for the inter-corps rivalry referred to by Mr Shurety, there is nothing wrong with that; in moderation it is good for the soul and, very likely, good for recruiting.

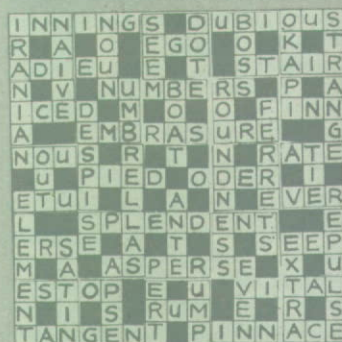
I agree that we must not live in the past but there is nothing wrong in living with the past. The Army has been cut to the bone on more than one occasion in its history — vote-catching, penny pinching politicians find the defence cut platform a good old standby at election time.

The infantry is too thin on the ground, as Northern Ireland has demonstrated, and although armour may be the battle-winning arm in a conventional European conflict, this is precious little comfort to the squaddy in Northern Ireland today. The colossal armoured might of the Warsaw Pact is not the only threat to this country, so let us be practical. We need the right balance of infantry

and tanks — in the right places. — **K Kenworthy, 11 Intake Avenue, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.**

Competition

'Inns' — the do-it-yourself crossword of Competition 242 (September) — went down well though one or two competitors complained that it was too easy — they can be assured that it was certainly easier to solve than to compile! A clue to solution was to be found in the incidence of black squares in the 25 small squares as the completed crossword was symmetrical.



Prizewinners:

- 1 Mrs R G Laird, c/o Chaplain's Office, Alexander Barracks, BFPO 808.
- 2 Cpl K Rollinson, TFG Sig Tp, BFPO 29.
- 3 Bdr M Smith, 127 (Dragons) Fd Bty, 49 Fd Regt RA, BFPO 30.
- 4 Mrs Brenda Whatman, c/o Capt C G Whatman, 112 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 36.
- 5 S/Sgt J Middleton, LAD REME, 14/20 H, BFPO 30.
- 6 Mrs J Reece, 49 Highridge, Seabrook, Hythe, Kent.

How observant are you?

(see Page 7)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Window on right of house. 2 'Q' in 'LIQUID'. 3 Notch in shorts of leading runner. 4 Drop from tap behind lorry. 5 Fingers of right hand of leading runner. 6 Shape of lorry door above wheel. 7 Neckline of second runner's vest. 8 Third line in sky at top left. 9 Ear of runner behind lorry. 10 Right shoe of second runner.

Collectors' Corner

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

T H Donovan, 56 Brompton Farm Road, Strood, Kent. — Ex-RE (1923) has large number metal shoulder titles, mostly Victorian and WW1. Send list of wants and see. No dealers.

Gen Natale Dodoli, Accademia Militare, Modena, Italy. — Wishes buy or trade belts with buckles or belt buckles only. Has for exchange Italian patches, distinctives and belt buckles.

Sergeant First Class Mike Johnson, Battery A, 2d Bn, 56th ADA, APO

09095, US Forces. — Seeks RM cloth and metal badges pre-1920; para wings of Africa, Middle East, South America, Sweden and Finland; Scottish and Canadian cap badges pre-1953. Will swap or buy at reasonable prices.

John Evenden, 24 Pemberton Road, East Molesey, Surrey. — Wishes buy banners, in good condition, from military band music stands.

Neville Tacey, 10 St Ann's Court, Nizells Avenue, Hove, Sussex, BN3 1PR. — Seeks worn battery ties, artillery blazer, sports badges etc — must be artillery or units converted to artillery.

L G Buckley, Flat 2, St Cross Hospital, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 9SD. — Wants to contact other collectors of mounted or DR uniforms, or collectors of photographs of same. Exchange or purchase considered.

D W Pedler, 24 West Beach Road, Keswick 5035, South Australia. — Collects worldwide Scottish militaria with emphasis on Seaforth Highlanders all periods and all allied units. Present aims are Seaforth swagger canes and completion MM/WM group to 1015579 Sgt J J Melville, 72nd British Columbia Regt, KIA 2 Sep 1918. Requires Victory Medal, KIA plaque, Canadian Memorial Cross named to above. If unavailable would specimen VM/CMC be on market for display with group?

Douglas S Aykroyd, Meisenweg 5A, 6301 Pohlheim 3, Federal Republic of Germany. — Wishes trade US badges and medals for any items relating to King's Dragoon Guards, Queen's Bays and 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards. Also seeking WW1 Victory Medal to cavalry regts and following infantry regts: Coldstream, Irish and Welsh Guards, Royal Irish, KOSB, Sherwood Foresters, Gordon Highlanders, Leinster, Royal Munster Fusiliers, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

P A Burman, Blackborough End, Middleton, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 1SE. — Wishes to buy all decorations and medals awarded for either Korean War or Malayan Emergency.

F P Wilson, 52 Mount Pleasant, London WC1. — Would appreciate words of poem 'There's a green-eyed yellow idol to the north of Kathmandu, There's a little marble cross below the town...'

N Cherry, 228 New Cross Road, London, SE14 5PL. — Seeks formation signs Belgium, Netherlands, West Germany, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Eire and all Iron Curtain countries, also patches of forces attached to UN peace-keeping forces. British and American exchanges or will buy.

Flt-Lieut S Clarke, RNZAF, PO Box 1271, Wellington, New Zealand. — Would like to hear from anyone involved with Army aviation who would be interested in corresponding.

Kerry N Jost, 95 Grove Street, Lodi, New Jersey 07644, USA. — Has for sale 172 antidisc British Army badges (all regts, bdes, services, yeo etc). Also other metal badges (Scots Yeo, Canadian Scots, Irish); collar badges; books — 'Regimental Badges' (Edwards), 'Militaria' (Wilkinson), Tradition magazine, past issues **SOLDIER**; uniforms of Queen's Regt No. 2 Dress (1960) complete including fatigues, Royal Irish Fusiliers major's tunic (late 19th century), Royal Canadian Signals tunic (WW2); other items and records.

Wartime postcards

Postcards — an 'in' collecting theme these days — are the subject of an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum until 3 January 1979. The postcards, issued by the belligerent nations during the two world wars, have been selected from a collection of more than 1000 held by the museum's Department of Art and, in the World War Two section, largely from a private collection of Nazi and Fascist material.

The exhibition, says the museum, shows 'a German mastery in graphic design (many German postcards started life as posters), the French and Austrian cards betray a strong illustrative tradition and Italy parades a more archaic selection of images though fully of typically operatic verve.'

The more humorous approach of the British is displayed through the work of such well-known artists as Donald McGill, Bruce Bairnsfather ('The Better 'Ole') and Bert Thomas ('Arf a 'Mo Kaiser').

The exhibition is open on weekdays from 10am to 5.30pm and on Sundays from 2pm to 5.50pm. Admission is free.

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

FEBRUARY 1979

- 27 Band Spectacular, with the Scots Guards, The Scottish Division, Kenneth McKellar and Mrs Helen McArthur, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (in aid of Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded).

APRIL 1979

- 5 Burslem Show (5-7 April).
7 Beating Retreat, Blackpool (7-8 April) TAVR band).

MAY 1979

- 4 Newark Agricultural Show (4-5 May).
16 Kneller Hall band concert.
16 West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (16-17 May).
19 Harpenden (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
19 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo.
19 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Farmers Club Show.
19 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (19-20 May).
19 Brighton Festival Tattoo.
23 Kneller Hall band concert.
23 Stafford Show (23-24 May).
25 At Home, Royal Artillery, Woolwich (25-26 May).
26 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (26-28 May).
26 Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
26 Hertfordshire Agricultural Show, Redbourn (26-27 May).
26 Blackburn Army Tattoo (26-28 May).
26 Plymouth Tattoo (26-27 May).
26 Cannon Hill Festival, Birmingham (26 May-2 June).
26 Dudley Spring Festival.
26 Mexborough (Yorkshire) Gala.
26 Military Pageant, Winthorpe Showground, Newark, Nottinghamshire (26-27 May).
27 Carrington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (27-28 May).
28 Hove Lions Day.
28 Open Day, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow.
28 Derby County Show.
28 Hertfordshire County Day, Hertford.
30 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
30 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (30-31 May).
31 Review of the Scots Guards, Horse Guards Parade, London.
31 Wolverhampton Fiesta (31 May-3 June).

JUNE 1979

- 2 Chester Army Tattoo (2-3 June).
2 Impel '79 Doncaster (2-9 June).
2 St Neots (Cambridgeshire) Riverside Festival (2-3 June).
2 First Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
5 Beating Retreat by massed bands of The Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, London (5-7 June) (6pm 5 June, 9.30pm floodlit 6 and 7 June).
6 Kneller Hall band concert.
8 Installation of Governor, Edinburgh Castle.
8 Edinburgh Army Display (8-9 June).
9 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
9 Halifax Gala.
9 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (9-10 June).
10 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse.
10 Glasgow Army Display (10-15 June).
13 Kneller Hall band concert.
15 Essex Show, Chelmsford (15-16 June).
16 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
16 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.
20 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (20-21 June).
20 Kneller Hall band concert.
23 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
23 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (23-24 June).
23 Gas Board Gala, Leicester.
23 Rotherham (Yorkshire) Tattoo (23-24 June).
24 Chesterfield (Derbyshire) Carnival.
27 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
27 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (27-28 June).

- 29 Hook (Yorkshire) Gala (29 June-1 July).
30 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (Lincolnshire) (20 June-1 July).
30 Ssafa Aldershot Tattoo (30 June-1 July).

JULY 1979

- 4 Kneller Hall band concert.
7 Birkenshaw (Yorkshire) Show.
7 Open Day, Depot Queen's Division, Bassingbourn (Hertfordshire).
7 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Wootton (Northamptonshire).
7 Town and Country Show, Stafford (7-8 July).
8 Royal Tournament March, The Mall, London.
10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (10-12 July).
11 Kneller Hall band concert.
11 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (11-28 July).
14 Corby (Northamptonshire) Tattoo and Highland Games (14-15 July).
14 Durham County Show, Middlesbrough.
14 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
14 Bristol Steam Rally (14-15 July).
17 East of England Show, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (17-19 July).
18 Kneller Hall band concert.
19 Liverpool Army Tattoo (19-21 July).
21 Open Day, Marchwood.
21 Bournemouth Air Pageant (21-22 July).
21 Adwick (Sheffield) Gala.
25 Ilfracombe Tattoo (25-26 July).
26 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
26 Manchester Show (26-28 July).
26 St Helens Show (26-28 July).
27 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop (27-28 July).
27 Northampton Borough Show (27-29 July).
28 Cromford (Derbyshire) Traction Rally (28-29 July).
28 Cleveland County Show, Middlesbrough.
28 Worcester City Show (28-29 July).
31 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (31 July-4 August).

AUGUST 1979

- 1 Kneller Hall band concert.
1 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
2 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (2-11 August).
2 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show.
2 Leicester Army Display (2-4 August).
2 Plymouth Spotlight Spectacular (2-5 August).
3 Hull Show (3-4 August).
4 Colchester (Essex) Carnival.
8 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
8 Shrewsbury Show (8-11 August).
9 Bournemouth Fiesta (9-11 August).
10 Gloucester Carnival and Military Display.
10 Staverton Air Show.
11 Lord Mayor's Gala, Stoke-on-Trent.
11 Sedgfield, Middlesbrough, Show.
11 Castle Howard Steam Fair, Malton (11-12 August).
15 Cromer (Norfolk) Carnival.
15 Edinborough Military Tattoo (15 August-8 September).
18 Skegness (Lincolnshire) Carnival (18-25 August).
18 Darlington Show.
18 Hartlepool Show (18-19 August).
18 Horse of the Year Show, Doncaster (18-19 August).
22 Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.
24 British Timken Show, Northampton (24-25 August).
25 Expo Steam, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (25-27 August).
25 Durham City Show (25-26 August).
25 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (25-27 August).
26 Carlisle Services Display (26-28 August).
26 Eye (Suffolk) Show (26-27 August).
27 St Albans (Hertfordshire) City Carnival.
27 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show.
27 Moorgreen Show, Nottingham.
27 Leicester City Show (27-28 August).
27 Leeds Gala.
27 Walsall Show (27-28 August).
31 Birmingham Show (31 August-2 September).
31 Sheffield Show (31 August-2 September).

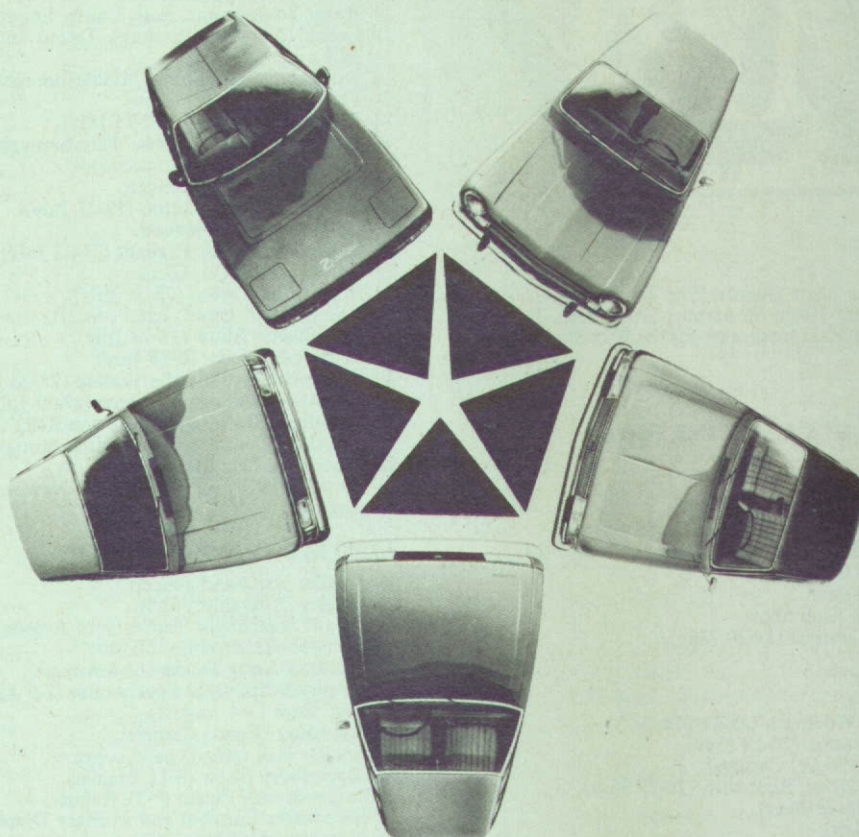
SEPTEMBER 1979

- 1 Malmesbury Carnival.
1 Moreton-in-Marsh Horse Show.
1 Guildford Show (1-2 September).
1 Turnditch and Windley (Derbyshire) Show.
1 Seaham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Show (1-2 September).
1 Wolsingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Show.
1 Guisborough Festival (1-2 September).
1 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show.
2 Luton (Bedfordshire) Show.
3 Crawley (Sussex) Tattoo.
8 Trowbridge (Wiltshire) Carnival.
8 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September).
8 Stanhope, Middlesbrough, Show.
15 Stokesley, Middlesbrough, Show.
20 Thame (Oxon) Show.

OCTOBER 1979

- 23 British Berlin Tattoo (23-28 October).

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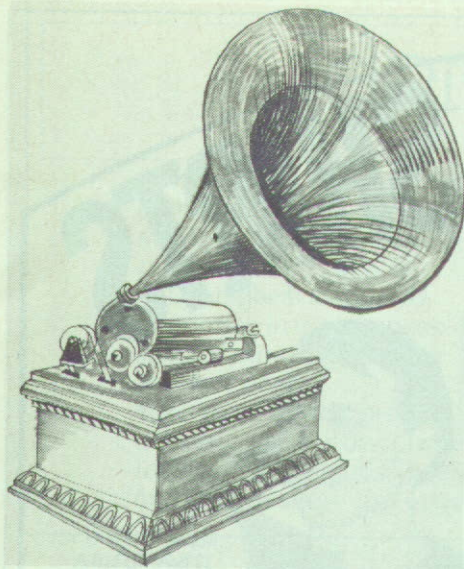
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ON RECORD

'The Band and Corps of Drums of the First Battalion, The King's Regiment' (Bandmaster: Warrant Officer Class One J B Dawson) (Drum-Major: Staff-Sergeant S A Donkin) (Sound News Studios SM 151)

For readers who, like me, have lost touch with who's who in the modern Army, we are talking about the old King's Liverpools and the Manchester Regiment. Unusually for a regimental band record, the marches and light music are here interspersed with the purely regimental music and several bugle calls and drum beatings, rather than each group banished to separate sides of the disc. The corps of drums, I'm afraid, is represented by a solitary bugler.

For review purposes I will separate the groups and tell you that the calls are 'Rouse', 'Band Call', 'Fall In', 'Post', 'Cookhouse', 'Fire Alarm', 'General Salute', 'Regimental Call', 'Sergeants' Dinner', 'Officers' Dinner' and 'Last Post.' These, with the drum beatings, were recorded inside and lack any sense of immediacy or urgency.

The old song 'The King's Are Coming Up the Hill' is complete with words and the regimental slow and quick marches ('English Rose' and 'The Kingsman') are there. The former is based on the rather insipid ballad from Edward German's 'Merrie England' and the latter includes a Neapolitan folk song. For some reason best known to himself, a German bandmaster of the time used two such Italian love songs when supplying a march for the newly formed Manchester.

Marches and light music are 'Sambre et Meuse', 'On the Square', 'Swing March', 'The Thunderer', 'Colchester Castle', 'Luftwaffe March', 'Royal Standard' and 'Poyamba', with 'Abide with Me' and 'Sunset' to finish. All a bit muddy and unstylish in presentation but a useful disc for those who need the calls and, of course, for all Kingsmen. **RB**

'The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards 1678-1978: 300 Years' (Military Band, Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards) (Bandmaster: WO1 P Standing) (Pipe-Major: A J Crease) (Pye Records Special PKLH 5571) (Cassette: ZCPKB 5571)

On a very colourful and informative double sleeve I learn that the first vestiges of the present regiment were raised as the Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons, later to be known as The Royal Scots Greys. Quite rightly though, the new regiment chose John Brophy's fine old march 'The 3rd Dragoon Guards' as its regimental march and it appears here in all its glory, with the slow march 'Garb of Auld Gaul', the trot 'Keel Row' and the canter 'Bonnie Dundee.'

Since the days of its great success with 'Amazing Grace,' this band has learned how to put a record together and here you have another winner all the way with the regiment's musical elements displaying their wares in a fine variety of well-chosen music which fittingly celebrates the tercentenary.

After a 'Tercentary Fanfare' on cavalry trumpets there are three evocative tunes, the first of which, 'Arrival,' I take to be a Scandinavian melody played on pipes and band. 'High on a Hill' is a favourite trumpet solo and 'The Lass o' Fyvie' one of those Scottish tunes which lends itself so well to pipes and band treatment. 'Trumpet Voluntary' appears in yet another guise with not only pipes, trumpet and band, but the electronics as well — marvellous how it survives, but you can't keep a good tune down.

Katie Moss's old 'Floral Dance' appears, not in the arrangement with which the Brighthouse and Rastrick Band reached the top of the charts, but one by Robbie Burns himself, dating from 1965.



After some fine piping and drumming, led by the ubiquitous Pipe-Major Crease, this most enjoyable record ends with Derek Taylor's 'Evening Hymn and Cavalry Last Post.'

The pipes and drums play 'Glasgow Week in Hamburg', 'Donald MacKillop', 'Malcolm Ferguson', 'Joe McGann's Fiddle', 'Wings', 'The Campbelltown Kiltie Ball', 'The Miller of Drone', 'Mrs MacLeod of Raasay', 'Dancing Feet', and 'Dunnadeich.' **RB**

'Focus on the Grenadier Guards' (Conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel F J Harris, Lieutenant-Colonel Rodney Bashford, Major Peter Parkes, Captain Derek Kimberley) (with the Pipes and Drums of 1st Battalion, Scots Guards) (Decca FOS 47/48) (Cassette: KFOC2 8088)

A blockbuster of an album this, coming as a set of two discs of music culled from recordings made over nearly a quarter of a century. For one who spent many hours in Decca studios, it was a salutary experience to re-hear some of these oldies, and a very revealing one for, like many 'artists', I never listen to my own recordings again after the final check before publication.

Unlike all other 'The Best of ...' records, this one has the benefit of all the music being recorded in one studio and by the same two engineers, in spite of the time span involved.

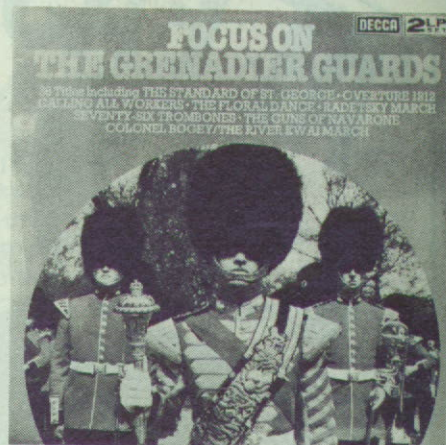
Two of the longer items are a brilliant 'Thru the Years 1776-1978' medley by Eric Rogers and an 'Old London Medley', a tourist's guide to the city ending with Raymond Agoult's 'The Incredible Adventures of the Grenadier Guards.' Shostakovich's 'A Festival Overture', 'The Floral Dance' in its original setting, some 'Waltzing Clarinets', 'The Agincourt Song' and a bit of Tchaikovsky's 'Symphony Pathétique' are just some of the highlights.

Pipers of the Scots Guards join the band for 'Sidewalks of New York' and the catchy 'Portsmouth' tune and as finale there is a fanfare and setting of 'Song of Europe' by Derek Kimberley.

Marches are 'The Guns of Navarone', 'Hoch Hapsburg', 'El Abanico', 'Nibelungen', 'Calling

all Workers', 'Seventy-Six Trombones', 'River Kwai', 'The White Plume', 'Radetzky', 'Standard of St George', 'Scipio', 'Lorraine', 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' and 'Hands Across the Sea.'

Oh, yes, and there's a fully mortar- and gunned version of the '1812' overture in there somewhere. **RB**



'The Very Best of Military Bands' (EMI Studio 2 Stereo TWCX 1070)

Wot, no Grenadiers? No, but four of the items on the Grenadier disc are on this one, so you won't need both.

The Royal Marines School of Music plays 'King Cotton', Robert Farnon's 'Colditz March', 'Cavalry of the Steppes', 'The Guns of Navarone', 'On the Quarter Deck' and 'March of the Cobblers.' The Honourable Artillery Company presents its party piece — 'Post Horn Galop' — and 'Standard of St George' from its record, the first from a non-Regular Army band.

The Royal Artillery Mounted Band plays Mantovani's 'Brass Buttons' and the Scots Guards contribute James Gayfer's great march 'Royal Visit.' Bands from the Scottish Division are heard in James Howe's 'Pride of Princess Street,' and the Aldershot Band of The Royal Engineers plays the alliterative but stylistically meaningless 'Hoedown in the Highlands.'

The remainder is by the Royal Air Force Central Band, including Gilbert Vinter's graphic and thrilling night journey, 'The Dover Coach,' Hubert Bath's march 'Out of the Blue,' 'A Trumpeter's Lullaby,' 'Portsmouth,' Wagner's 'Nibelungen' march and the 633rd performance of '633 Squadron' make up the rest of a programme which, for me, could have done with at least one work of importance written especially for band. **RB**

Brass in brief

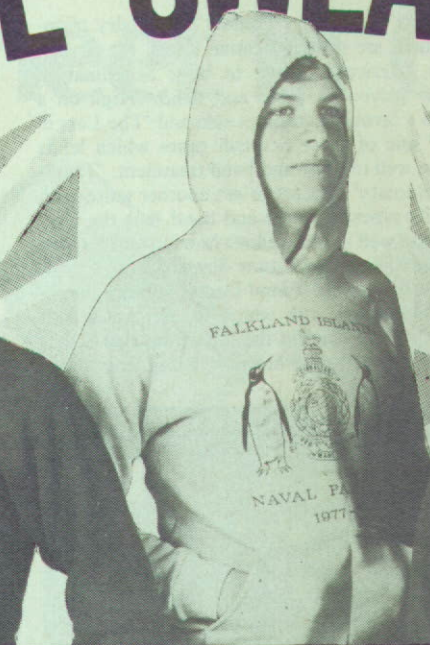
'Sounds of Brass: The James Shepherd Versatile Brass' (Conductor: Ray Woodfield) (Decca SB 331) (Cassette: KBSC 331)

Great stuff, this. Ray Woodfield also supplies his 'Impact' and 'Varied Mood' as well as arrangements. 'My Favourite Things', 'Mexican Hat Dance', 'Three Dance Miniatures' (Hedges) 'Bye Bye Blues', 'Cossack Ride', 'Carpentaria' medley, 'Chanson Suisse', 'Conversations in Brass' and a humorous sermon by Bill Relton, 'The Trouble with the Tuba is ...' **RB**

'Barwick Green' (Brighthouse and Rastrick Band)

(Conductor: Walter Hargreaves) (EMI NTS 147) Capitalising on their Cornish Floral Dance pop-charts success, Briggus 'n' Rastrick try the 'Archers' signature tune ('Barwick Green'), 'A North Country Fantasy', 'The Dover Coach', 'Forsythe Saga' theme, 'Cornish Cavalier', 'Trojan March', 'Entry of the Gladiators', 'The Buccaneer' and 'Marche Militaire Francaise.' Might reach number 95 with 'Caprice and Variations on a Theme of Arban.' **RB**

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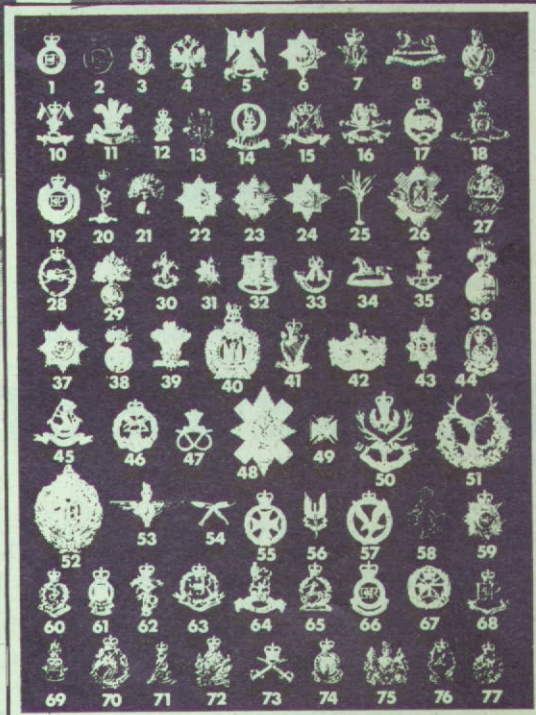


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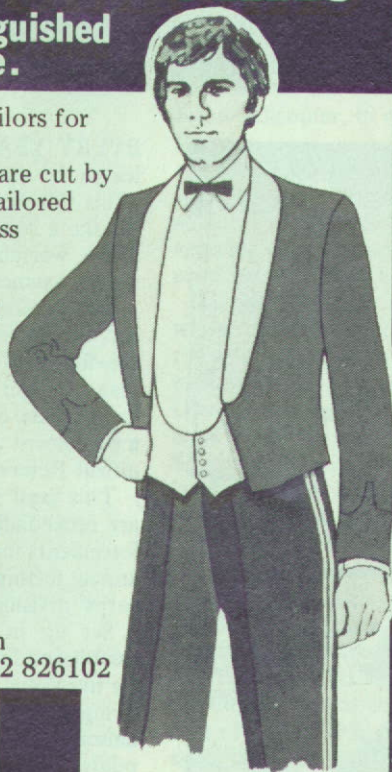
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UNIFORMAL

Tokyo Hilton or a tent



EVERY YEAR, First Officer Pat Bushby leaves the dial-studded flight deck consoles of his 400-passenger Boeing 747 'Jumbo' jet to take a steep dive in rank and pay as an Army warrant officer piloting a five-seat reconnaissance helicopter.

He forsakes the luxurious life-style of, say, the Tokyo Hilton for a shared tent and shaving bowl somewhere in northern Germany — and welcomes it. He is one of a hand-picked élite of two dozen men forming a permanent 'pool' of Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve helicopter pilots.

This 'pool' is filled by ex-Army pilots who are immediately available as wartime reinforcements for Army Air Corps units. Their annual fortnight's training is spent with the corps' divisional regiments in Germany.

Set up in January 1968, the 'pool' is established for 25 men and each pilot serves for five years. In addition to their fortnight's flying tour in the roles of air observation, liaison work and troop transport, the TAVR pilots put in a weekend at Middle Wallop, Hampshire, headquarters of the Army Air

Top: Warrant Officer Bushby, in Army 'livery,' with his Scout and First Officer Bushby's 747.

Left: Mr Peter Boitel-Gill in civilian life with his firm's Hiller UH 12E 'crop duster' helicopters.



Above: First Officer Greg Manning supervises the loading of this British Airways 'heli-bus.'

Corps, for small-arms refresher training.

First Officer Pat Bushby left the Army in 1971 as a £70-a-week warrant officer instructing on the Scout liaison helicopter, on which he completed about 1500 hours. He has more than trebled that salary as a 'Jumbo' co-pilot but is still grateful to the Army for his early training — he flew 5000 hours in helicopters in Borneo, Malaya and the Gulf — and the chance each year to keep in touch with developments in military tactical flying techniques.

He compares his eight-mile-high commuting life-style with his down-to-earth TAVR training thus: "Sleeping under canvas in a small tent somewhere in north Germany in the chilly autumn makes quite a difference from the unbridled luxury of the Tokyo Hilton. I like the training and really welcome it."

His dedication to part-time soldiering is shared by 40-year-old Peter Boitel-Gill, another ex-Army pilot who logged 2700 hours on Scouts and Skeeters in Germany and Cyprus before leaving the Army in 1971. He is now director of a crop-spraying business with its headquarters in a Hampshire village. His staff of 15 former Army Air Corps personnel, including seven pilots, mans a fleet of five Hiller UH 12E helicopters.

Mr Boitel-Gill has been a TAVR pilot for three-and-a-half years and says of his annual commitment: "It is an extremely good way of maintaining links with the flying branch of the Army, especially for people like us who may very rapidly be hurled into a

wartime situation." During his training he finds himself covering old ground of very similar topography to that of his civilian life as he 'hedge-hops' over the rich, rolling farmland of the North German plain in a Scout helicopter, to which he converted last January.

Like all the 'pool' pilots he is largely able to choose his own time for Army training — which is just as well when one of his crop-spraying contracts specifies covering 15,000 acres between June and August!

In the Shetlands are eight more pilots whose civilian area of operations lies over the gale-lashed North Sea, flying helicopters to any of half-a-dozen oil field platforms. One of these pilots, flying British Airways S 61 helicopters on shuttle missions from Sumburgh airfield to the 85-foot-diameter landing pads, is First Officer Greg Manning, who left the Army last February after completing 1300 hours on Scouts. He has already done more than 400 hours on the S 61s — and nearly quadrupled his salary.

He and the other TAVR pilots at Sumburgh normally take 19-passenger loads but their cargo flights have included drill bits and pipes, tons of concrete and even three tons of mud. Of his TAVR training, Greg says: "It would be a great pity to waste my Army training and it presents more exciting airmanship. I also enjoy roughing it a bit, once in a while."

"By comparison, operating with oil platforms is just like landing on top of or taking off from a 180-foot-high block of flats. On average, I make two trips a day representing

about five hours' flying and in a year, I guess, would carry out some 500 hours' shuttle flying." Training in Germany, he would fly about 25 hours or so during his two-week stint.

Another of the TAVR pilots based at Sumburgh is Alasdair Campbell, who until June 1973 served with 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, completing 2400 hours on Scouts and Sioux helicopters. A TAVR captain, he is also joint winner of an American-sponsored international helicopter heroism award given for his part as a winchman in a night rescue of its crew from a trawler wrecked on rocks north-west of Sumburgh.

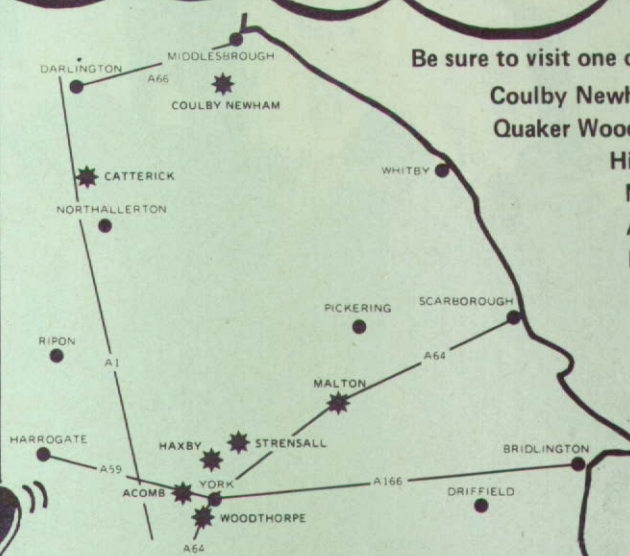
The TAVR helicopter 'pool' is administered by the Administrative Wing of the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop. The Army Air Corps, affectionately known as 'Teeny Weeny Airways,' has about 1000 personnel and some 300 helicopters, including Gazelles (about 60 per cent of the fleet), Scouts and the newly acquired Lynx.

The worth of the TAVR pilot is summed up by Lieutenant-Colonel 'Nick' Nichols, of the Army Air Corps HQ Directorate at Middle Wallop. "They are unique. Nowhere is anyone going to find resources of this nature tuned up to a pitch ready to go at the drop of a hat. These pilots are invaluable."

From a story by Graham Smith and pictures by Pat Timmons, Army Public Relations, HQ United Kingdom Land Forces.

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TWO IN ONE

COMPETITION 246

HERE AGAIN is another double bill — two competitions, neither of them difficult, and two correct answers required. The first one takes you to a police cadet school where, said the instructing inspector, "Much detective work is repetitious and sometimes downright boring."

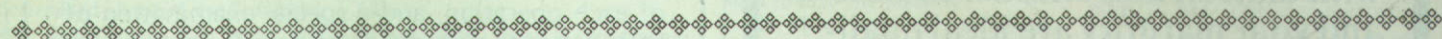
"However, attention to detail and the exercise of patience are frequently rewarded." And as an example of this, the inspector distributed to his cadets this list of motor vehicle licensing authorities:

BRISTOL	HOLLAND	PAISLEY	CARDIFF	IPSWICH
READING	CHESTER	LINCOLN	SALFORD	GLASGOW
LINDSEY	SWANSEA	GRIMSBY	NORFOLK	WALSALL

He continued: "Look at the blackboard, which shows a list of vehicle registration marks. Two of them are bogus and indicate stolen vehicles." The blackboard showed:

YLI 5	NLI 6	KNO 7L	WGL 392N	HIP 332C
LWA 7L	DHO 88N	DSA 88R	WGL 444	YPA 444
YGR 311B	LBR 332	LBR 332F	RCH 692E	469 ASW
	GRE 444N		FCA 332F	

The question is, which two registration marks were not issued by any of the above authorities?



The second competition concerns an eccentric who for years has confidently been predicting the end of the world — so far without success. He now says he has firm proof from the following symbols which he claims to have discovered on an old tablet:

$$\bigcirc \times \bigcirc = \blacksquare$$

$$\blacksquare + \diamond = \square$$

$$\bigcirc \times \blacksquare = \triangle$$

$$\blacklozenge \times \square = \square$$

$$\blacktriangledown \times \blacktriangledown = \square$$

$$\bullet - \blacktriangle = \blacklozenge$$

He goes on to say that if the following multiplication is carried out, the answer, in numbers, is quite specific:

$$\begin{array}{r} \blacklozenge \blacksquare \blacklozenge \blacksquare \square \\ \times \quad \quad \bigcirc \bigcirc \\ \hline \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Send your two answers on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 246' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 246)
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This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 5 March. The answers and the winners' names will appear in the May SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 246' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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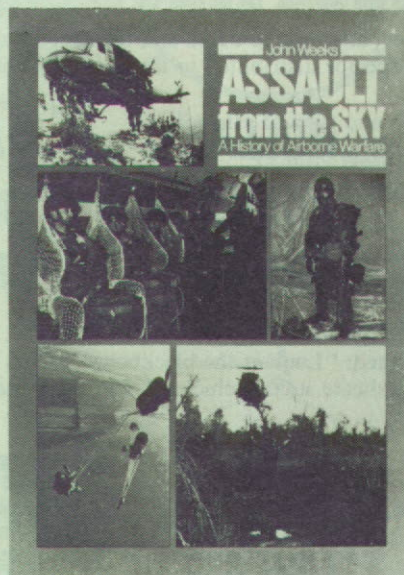
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Books

Recce squadron

'Remember Arnhem' (John Fairley)

The task of the Reconnaissance Corps was to press far ahead, to seek out information of the enemy and to get it back quickly and directly to divisional headquarters. The corps had double the firepower of an infantry battalion, fast armoured cars and Bren carriers and the right to feed back information direct to division, by-passing forward units and brigades.

At Arnhem, 1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron had an operational strength of only 250 but its specialised task gave it representation in all parts of the battlefield. Which enables its story to reflect the general scheme as well as many highly individual actions. The author has traced nearly 100 of those who fought in this never-to-be-forgotten epic and has produced a graphic picture of the airborne assault, the progress of the battle and the eventual withdrawal.

Overall it is the story of the men, the recalling of countless incidents that made up the day-to-day pattern of the fighting. For example, on the east side of the bridge there was 'determined hand-to-hand fighting with fists, boots, rifle butts and bayonets ... the enemy had no stomach for cold steel.'

Only about a fifth of the Squadron returned from Arnhem.

Pegasus Journal, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2BS, £4.95 **GRH**

Grande Armée

Armies of 1812



'Armies of 1812: Vol I — The French Army' (Otto von Pivka)

Although the main section of this detailed work on Napoleon's invasion of Russia is devoted to the uniforms of the French Army and its foreign allies, the orders of battle, casualty graphs and maps which form the second half are even more remarkable.

Starting with the Imperial Guard, the composition of the Napoleonic armies — infantry, cavalry, artillery and engineers — is meticulously tabulated. Corps strengths are neatly listed and artillery material is set

down from howitzers, cannon and ammunition wagons to small, almost insignificant items like the number of priming wads and matches. The names of commanding officers and many other points of detail all contribute to this intriguing work.

When it comes to uniforms, the Grande Armée presented a truly magnificent spectacle and the colour plates give a high degree of accuracy. They made a brave enough picture on the outward trek to Moscow but the return was tragically different — rags and tatters and a ghastly 90 per cent casualty rate for most units with some just vanishing without trace in the bitter Russian winter.

The second volume will cover the armies of Russia and Turkey and the Austrian and Prussian contingents.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £7.95 **JFPJ**

Far East

'The Lasting Honour: The Fall of Hong Kong 1941' (Oliver Lindsay)

'Burma 1942-1945' (Raymond Callahan)

'World War Two: China-Burma-India' (Don Moser)

The Japs launched their assault on Hong Kong almost simultaneously with the attack on Pearl Harbour and the invasion of Malaya. The defenders — British and Indian troops, Hong Kong volunteers and newly-arrived and untrained Canadians — were not buoyed up by propaganda about the impregnability of Hong Kong. In fact, once the Japs invaded from China, they never had any real hope of holding the colony.

It was thus a matter of selling their lives as dearly as possible. Major Lindsay presents an inspiring account of the heroic 18-day defence which won from Churchill the phrase which gives the book its main title. Driven back from the mainland territories, the defenders retired to the island, forcing the invaders to fight hard for every defensible position, every valley, every pillbox.

In the end, they earned the grudging respect of the Japs, but they did not escape the appalling atrocities the conquerors meted out to the men and women who had served so steadfastly. A most worthwhile book.

Professor Callahan is an American historian for whom the war in the Far East holds a fascination and this is about the best single volume account of the Burma war this reviewer has come across. Concise and lucid, it displays a grasp not only of the military issues but also of the politics which dictated action in Burma.

Nowhere were the painful ambiguities of the Anglo-American alliance more starkly revealed than in Burma. American interest centred on opening a route to China in the hope

of establishing bases from which to pulverise Japan from the air. An Americanised Chinese army was another ambition. At the same time, the Americans were implacably opposed to the re-establishment of the British Raj.

Britain, on the other hand, did not even wish to make her main effort against Japan in Burma, but her lack of resources prevented her from doing anything else.

The professor pays full tribute to Slim — 'one of the greatest generals of the war' — and judges him the only man who accomplished what he set out to do in Burma. But he recalls Slim's last words to Mountbatten — 'We did it together' — and agrees they wrote a brilliant page in military history.

Don Moser and the editors of Time-Life Books cover the conflict on mainland Asia in the workmanlike way expected of them. Again lucid and concise, this book is not only notable for its descriptions of the fighting, the privations and problems of the men who served in this theatre, but also for its accounts of the squabbles in the bamboo corridors of power.

For instance, we find General Claire Chennault doing his best to oust General 'Vinegar Joe' Stilwell, the irascible soldier whom Roosevelt sent to China. Just about everybody but Slim had problems with Stilwell, but he was a determined soldier who saw through Chiang's little game of husbanding Chinese forces for use against Mao's Communists rather than to fight the Japanese.

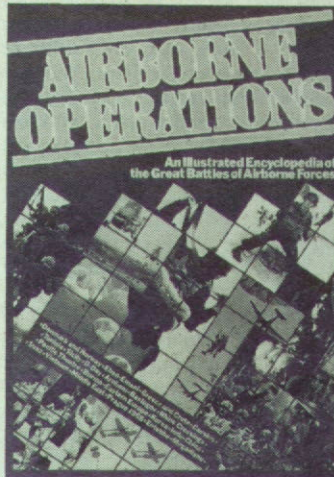
Mr Moser and his collaborators present a compelling survey of the mainland action which, with its well-conceived and valuable picture essays, is a splendid addition to the library of World War Two.

1 *Hamish Hamilton, 90 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3PT, £5.95*

2 *Davis-Poynter Ltd, 20 Garrick Street, London, WC2E 9BJ, £5.50*

3 *Time-Life Books, c/o George Gillespie, Time-Life Building, New Bond Street, London, W1Y 0AA, £6.50* **JCW**

Air assault



'Airborne Operations' (Edited by Philip de Ste Croix)

Has the increasing use of helicopter-borne conventional troops eliminated the need for traditional airborne forces? One of the authors, Chris Chant, points to the pioneering work of the United States in Vietnam on

the large-scale use of air mobility and observes that it seems to offer an alternative to what may now be considered 'traditional' airborne forces.

But the Paras can take heart — Mr Chant has not written them off entirely. He thinks their future role will be 'as intervention forces and for special purposes such as the seizure of key areas in front of advancing ground forces.' They may also enjoy a role in defensive warfare, perhaps in the seizure of areas apparently threatened by an unexpected angle in an enemy's advance.

These conclusions come at the end of a thorough survey of airborne operations from the German exploits in Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Crete, through allied operations in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, North-West Europe, and the Pacific; French operations in Indo-China; the Korean War, Suez, Vietnam, the Arab-Israeli wars, the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia, and the daring raids on Entebbe and Mogadishu.

The book opens with Peter North's expert technical review of the development of airborne forces and equipment; other contributors are Shelford Bidwell, Richard Humble, Will Fowler, W C Beaver, W F K Thompson and Alon Kadish.

It is right up to date and essential reading for anyone approaching airborne activity.

Salamander Books Ltd, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3AF, £6.95 **JCW**

DUKW

'Military Vehicles 2: DUKW 2½ Ton 6 × 6 Amphibian' (Jeff Woods)

With the possible exception of the Jeep and the Dakota, no piece of military transport equipment exemplified American enterprise so well as the DUKW, the amphibious lorry which brought a new dimension to warfare. It was hard-wearing, too. The British Army, for instance, did not phase them out until 1974.

This splendid little paperback history of the DUKW pays tribute to this fine vehicle, showing it in all its roles since its conception in 1942. And if you have ever argued over just what the letters DUKW stand for, here's the answer. They are code letters in the General Motors Corporation terminology — D for 1942, U for utility (amphib), K for front-wheel drive and W for two rear driving axles.

ISO Publications, 483 Harrow Road, London, W10 4RG, £1.25 **JCW**

Himmler's men

'History of the SS' (G S Graber)

Lidice, Oradour, Treblinka, Belsen, Dachau, Mauthausen ... the list could be much longer. These are the milestones in the Schutz Staffel's infamous march of terror and atrocity. The SS, commanded by Himmler, the high priest of Nazism, was the instrument of Hitler's power, a state within a state which obeyed no laws but those it made itself.

It began as a small élite bodyguard to guard Hitler at political meetings. At its peak it rivalled the German Army in strength and efficiency. At its end, it fought with a fanatical devotion.



Hitler used SS men to murder his former colleagues in the Sturm Abteilung and in 'the final solution' to the Jewish problem. The SS reign of terror extended to occupied territories, and the gas chambers and ovens of the concentration camps worked round the clock. Millions of men, women and children died horribly at SS hands.

There was the Waffen SS, too, with Panzer and motorised divisions and always the most up-to-date equipment, fighting with tenacity and unrivalled heroism and slaughtering helpless prisoners-of-war.

Mr Graber, a former assistant editor of *European Digest*, avoids the dry chronological recital of facts to present a highly readable history of this 'alibi of a nation.'

Robert Hale & Co, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £5.50 **JCW**

Failure

'Hitler's Spies: German Military Intelligence in World War II' (David Kahn) Mr Kahn records some remarkable German coups — Cicero who regularly photographed secret documents in our Turkish embassy, the fabled B-Dienst which read our naval signals — but Germany's Intelligence record is one of almost unrelieved failure.

Operation Double Cross ensured that spies in England were 'turned' to feed back misleading information. Ribbentrop thought he could use the Duke of Windsor to head a peace movement but overlooked the fact that British royal dukes just do not go over to their country's enemies. In the east, it was just the same. Hitler was told the Russians had 10,000 'obsolete' tanks. It may well have been true, but they also had 24,000 serviceable tanks including lots of T-34s, the war's best.

Even the legendary Gehlen was rather less than brilliant. He failed to warn OKH of the pincer movement which trapped Sixth Army at Stalingrad, and even on the day before the attack was launched he could observe only that the chances of it were 'not excluded.'

They allowed 'the man who never was' to convince them that Greece and not Sicily would be invaded and, after failing to predict the allied invasion of Normandy, persisted in the belief that it was a feint to cover a main landing elsewhere.

This is a fast-paced, deeply-researched account of Hitler's espionage services.

Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, 47 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, £9.95 **JCW**

More tanks

'Encyclopaedia of German Tanks of World War Two' (Peter Chamberlain and Hilary L Doyle)

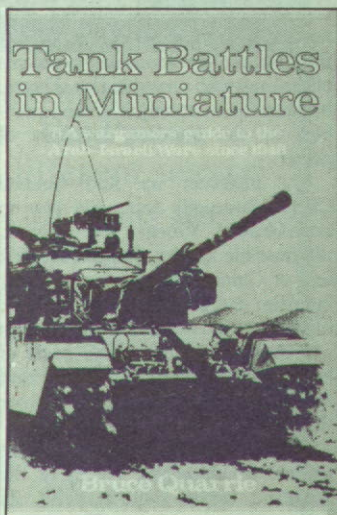
'Modern Armour' (Pierangelo Caiti)

'Armour of the West' (Robin Adshead and Noel Ayliffe-Jones)

'Tank Battles in Miniature 5: A Wargamer's Guide to the Arab-Israeli Wars Since 1948' (Bruce Quarrie)

And still they come — tank books by the squadron. In publishing terms they are outnumbered only by books on steam locomotives.

The encyclopaedia is an absolutely excellent work and, while it covers well-trodden territory, one cannot recall a more wide-ranging or better-illustrated book on German World War Two armour. Its claim to being 'the ultimate encyclopaedia' on its subject is well founded with complete coverage of everything from the tiny two-ton Kfz 13 armoured car to the



188-ton Maus experimental tank. Detailed information is backed by some 1000 pictures.

Of particular interest is the section dealing with the Germans' use of captured armour. It is interesting, too, to note that when the Germans used captured British Matildas in North Africa, they could be lost only through lack of maintenance — because we did not then have a gun capable of destroying one.

Signor Caiti's readable and well-illustrated survey of today's tanks presents a timely reminder of the Soviet Union's vast superiority in tank forces over the West. With 49 tank divisions and 110 motorised rifle divisions in service, each with between 316 and 325 tanks, Moscow's calls for détente certainly seem to have a hollow ring about them. And the Soviet T-72 is now coming into service, thus closing considerably the gap between the tank technologies of East and West.

The British Chieftain, 700 of which are stationed with British forces in Germany, remains the best-armed and armoured tank in the West, though the German Leopard is the mainstay of European land forces.

Perhaps the most interesting new tank is Israel's Merkava (Hebrew for chariot). It is a home product and the Israelis appear to follow British thinking in that survivability is a prime consideration, trading mobility for protection. It is claimed that no ballistic shell in use today can penetrate the Merkava's armour.

The most striking thing about Mr Adshead's and Mr Ayliffe-Jones' catalogue of Western armour is the versatility of the Scorpion chassis with its Striker, Spartan, Samaritan, Sultan, Samson and Scimitar variants. The main message of their book is that it is no longer enough just to have tanks in numbers. The quality — design, technology and all the complex equipment that makes a battle winner — has to be there too.

Only three Nato nations have the capability of accepting the challenge — Britain, West Germany and America. The authors relate how these allies have tackled the problem in their differing ways.

The Arab-Israeli wars have been the principal settings for tank warfare in post-war years. There were four major campaigns of which the Six-Day War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur War of 1973 are of particular interest to wargamers. In these conflicts, Israeli-manned Centurions, Pattons, Shermans and M60s vied for supremacy with Arab-manned T-54s and T-62s.

Mr Quarrie outlines the background and course of the wars, the strength and equipment of the opposing forces, their tactics and organisation, and winds up with detailed playing rules.

1 Arms & Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ, £11.95

2 Arms & Armour Press, £5.95

3 Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £3.50

4 Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £3.95 **JCW**

From 'Roscha'

'March Past' (Lord Lovat)

Lord Lovat's place in military history is assured by his command of 1st Army Commando Brigade on the extreme left of the allied bridgehead on D-Day in Normandy — he was seriously wounded six days later.

His brigade was to hold the flank and advance to the brigades of 6th Airborne Division, which had dropped inland to capture bridges. This book's account of those desperate days includes reports by several of Lord Lovat's officers and makes not a particularly clear narrative but one full of colour and personal incident.

Lord Lovat has a great deal else to tell in this gossipy book, not least an explanation (new to this reviewer at least) of the rumour of the Russians landing in Britain 'with snow on their boots' in World War One. The Highland Brigade commanded by the author's father was on a train which stopped at York where the troops were served cups of tea by lady volunteers. Their strange hats and accents branded them as foreigners and when asked where they came from, they answered 'Roscha' — their pronunciation of Ross-shire. So a legend was born.

Lord Lovat first soldiered, as an undergraduate, in the Oxford University Cavalry Squadron. He was a Regular in the Scots Guards for four years — which he dismisses in two paragraphs as 'pleasant but not particularly exciting.' Early in World War Two he was in the Lovat Scouts (raised by his father for the Boer

War) but quarrelled with his colonel. He was with the Commandos in Lofoten and at Dieppe and has some decided opinions on the failure of the Dieppe raid.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £7.95 **RLE**

Wargaming

'The Old West: Part Two' (Mike Blake, Ian Colwill and Garth Rose)

These enthusiastic authors continue the fun they had producing Part One, which introduced the Old West, with its bar-room brawls and main street shoot-outs, to table-top warfare. It contained the basic rules required by such an innovation.

Part Two expands them and opens new vistas — for instance, the unexpected appearance of a grizzly bear or a buffalo at an inopportune moment. And, as befits an era in which, despite legend, gun-slingers were more often than not indifferent marksmen and cowards to boot, many of these rules are written tongue-in-cheek.

So, if the battles of Marlborough, Wellington, Haig or Montgomery are beginning to pall — or if you're not winning often enough — go West, young man. You might find a way of winning.

Skirmish Wargames, 24 Mill Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1HN, £2.00 (including post and packing) **JCW**

Photo albums

'World War 2 Photo Album 1: Panzers in the Desert' (Bruce Quarrie)

'World War 2 Photo Album 3: Waffen SS in Russia' (Bruce Quarrie)

This is the North African desert as seen by German fighting troops. Literally, for this is a book of photographs taken by war correspondents and now stored in the Bundesarchiv, Koblenz. A six-page introduction sets the scene and a map shows the extent of the campaign.

More than 200 photographs have been selected to show the terrain, the vehicles, arms and equipment in use. There is also an appendix setting out the order of battle, ie listing the units and commanders engaged. While there are no startling battle scenes, the desert war atmosphere is well conveyed. Included are one or two pictures of British prisoners.

The introduction to the third album in the series gives details of the Waffen SS, the structure of their formations, their arms, equipment and armour. On the Russian front they fought for four years and capitulated only when the Third Reich crumbled in 1945.

The photographs, in general, depict snow-covered landscapes and show much detail of uniforms, weapons, vehicles and armour. Many were taken during the fighting around Kharkov and Kursk.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £2.50 each **GRH**

'Spearhead: The Story of the First British Corps,' by Colonel Desmond Bastick (reviewed May 1978), is still available at DM15 or £3.75 from Publications Officer, 1 (BR) Corps PCCU RE, BFPO 33. Proceeds benefit the corps welfare funds.

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