

OCTOBER 1974 ★ 7½p

SOLDIER





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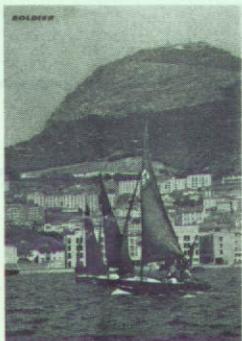
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**FRONT COVER**

A large Union Jack, symbol of neutrality in the bitter world of Greek-Turkish confrontation, flutters above this road block on the Larnaca-Dhekelia road inside one of the two British sovereign base areas in Cyprus. Manning it in the heat of a Mediterranean summer's day is a soldier of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Picture by Sergeant Mike Butler, Public Relations, United Kingdom Land Forces.

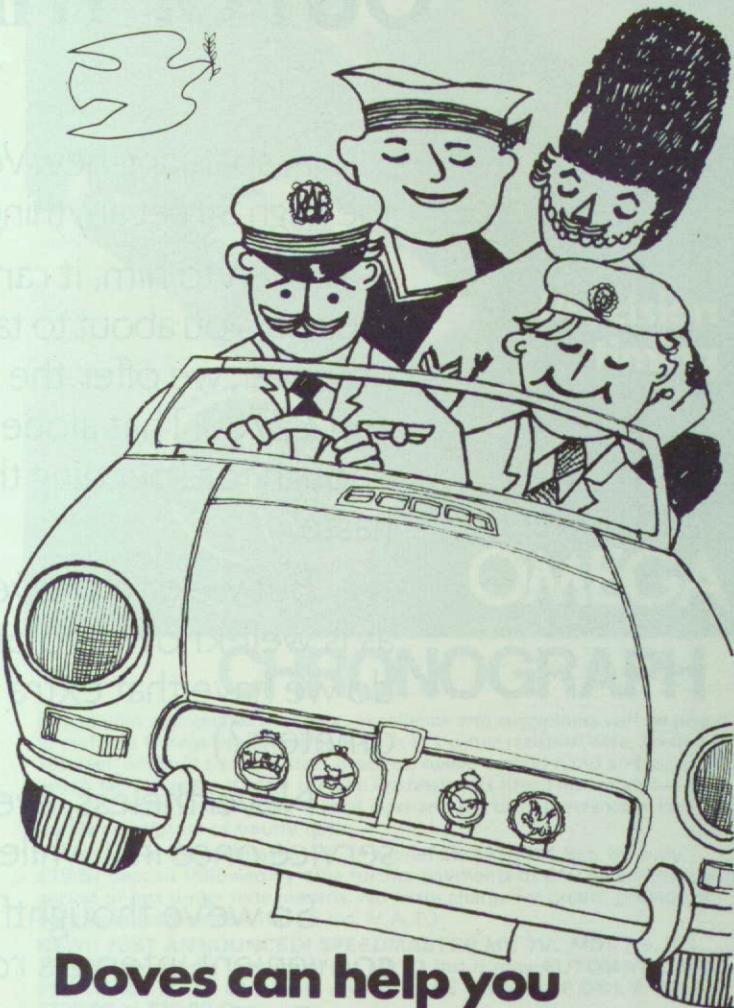
**BACK COVER**

The Rock of Gibraltar provides a backdrop to this colourful sailing race. It happened when HMS Brighton called at the Rock. The resident 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, has links with the ship so a sports day was speedily arranged including this race in which a lot of fun was had by all.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs.

Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)
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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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.

OCTOBER 1974

- 2 Grangemouth Tattoo (2-5 October).
- 7 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers tercentenary celebrations (7-13 October)—3rd Battalion static displays, Birmingham, 7-8 October. Freedom marches, Birmingham, 9 October; Leamington Spa (morning) and Stratford-on-Avon (afternoon), 10 October; Sutton Coldfield, 11 October. New freedom deed and march past, Coventry, 12 October. Parade service St Mary's Church, and march past, Warwick, 13 October.
- 7 Gala Night (Army Benevolent Fund), Horse of the Year Show, Wembley.
- 13 Motor sport race meeting, Edinburgh (Golden Lions, band).

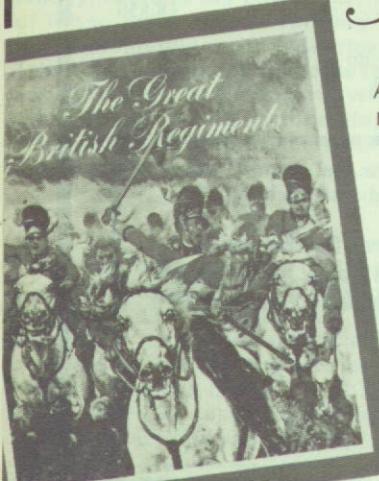
NOVEMBER 1974

- 2 Festival of Remembrance, Bristol (band).
- 9 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 30 Knebworth Hall Band Concert (Army Benevolent Fund), Royal Festival Hall.

MAY 1975

- 24 Tidworth Tattoo (24-26 May).

The Great British Regiments

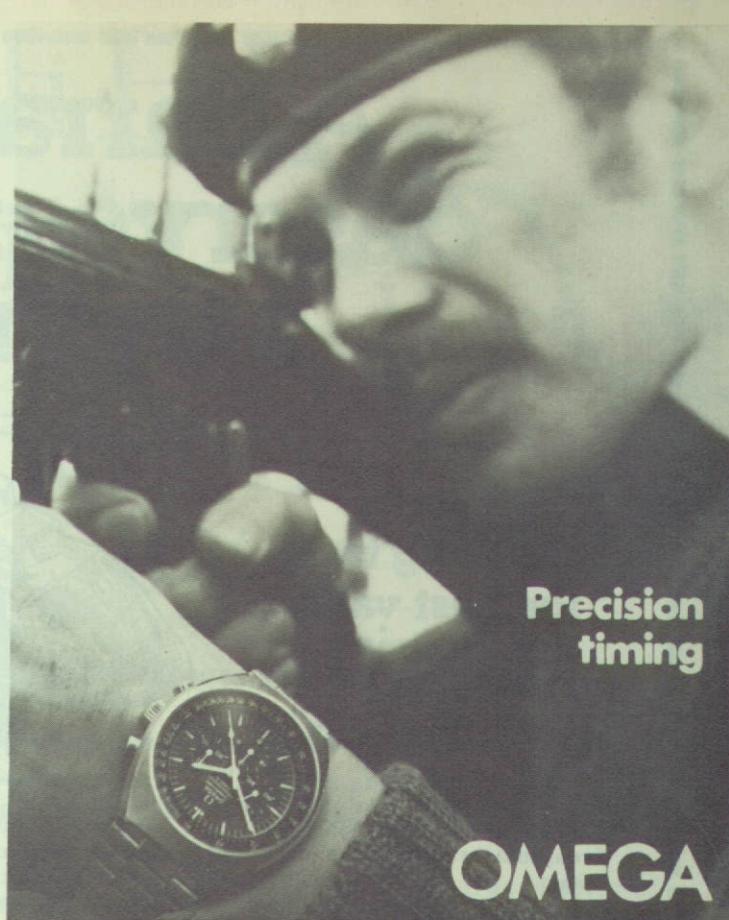


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SOLDIER to soldier

The price of **SOLDIER** is with great regret being increased from the January 1975 issue to ten pence. The price of the magazine has been held at 7½p since April 1966—more than eight-and-a-half years (surely something of a record in these inflationary times). Subscription rates are also affected and details can be found on page 47.

It may not be immediately apparent but this October 1974 **SOLDIER** differs notably from its several hundred predecessors. Including **SOLDIER** News it contains 64 pages, making it the largest issue since the magazine—which celebrates its 30th birthday next year—was launched in March 1945. One of the reasons for this exceptional size is the ever-increasing demand for advertising space—**SOLDIER**'s advertisers are well aware of the magazine's wide distribution and readership within and outside the British Services.

Once again **SOLDIER** offers through its reader services (see page 47) an opportunity to solve the problem of that special Christmas present. Particularly attractive and appropriate gifts are the regimental drum ice buckets and the 1975 Army Diary. Then there are the large military prints, ideal for framing, the range of 20 military uniform prints which can also be supplied ready framed in Hogarth and, of course, the Easibinder to hold a year's issue, and the copies themselves in the form of a year's subscription—a Christmas present every month!

Finally, there is the completely new range of lithographic prints—military figures by the well-known artist Charles Stadden. These are being made available through the new **SOLDIER** Print Society which offers special terms to its membership, and can also be bought separately. Read the leaflet in this issue and enrol now!

Three new designs—4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment and The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, have been added to the ever-growing range of regimental drum ice buckets. The ice buckets cost £5.60 (UK), £5.20 (BFPO) and £5.90 (elsewhere), including postage and packing.

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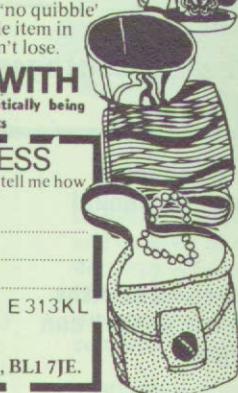
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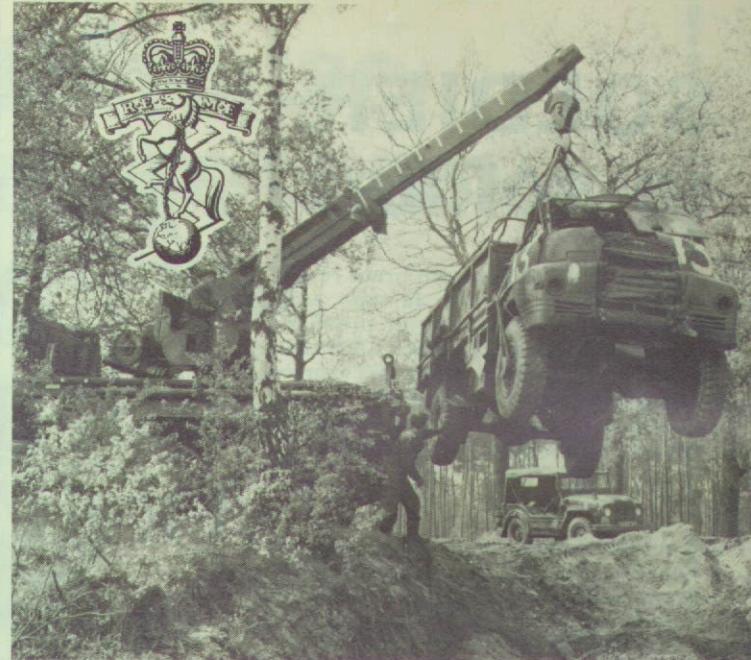
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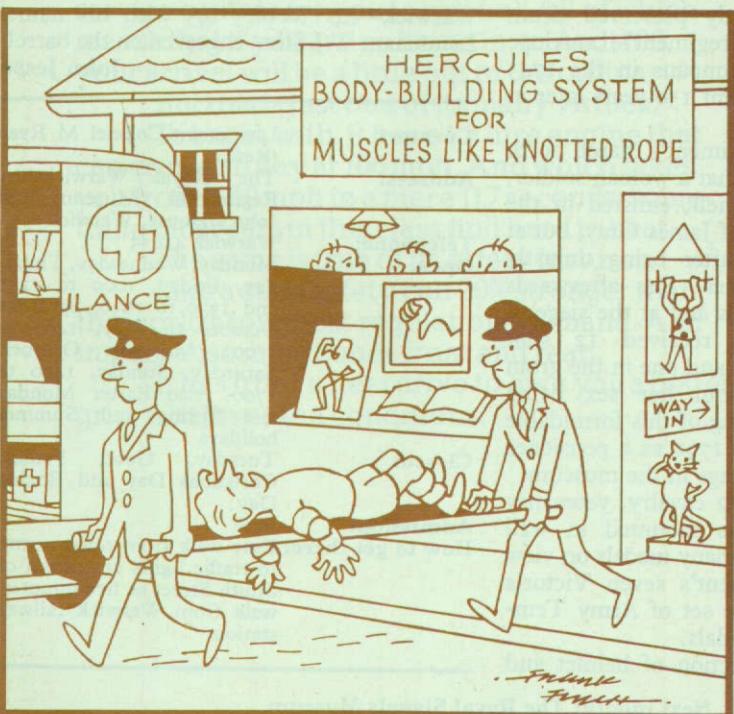
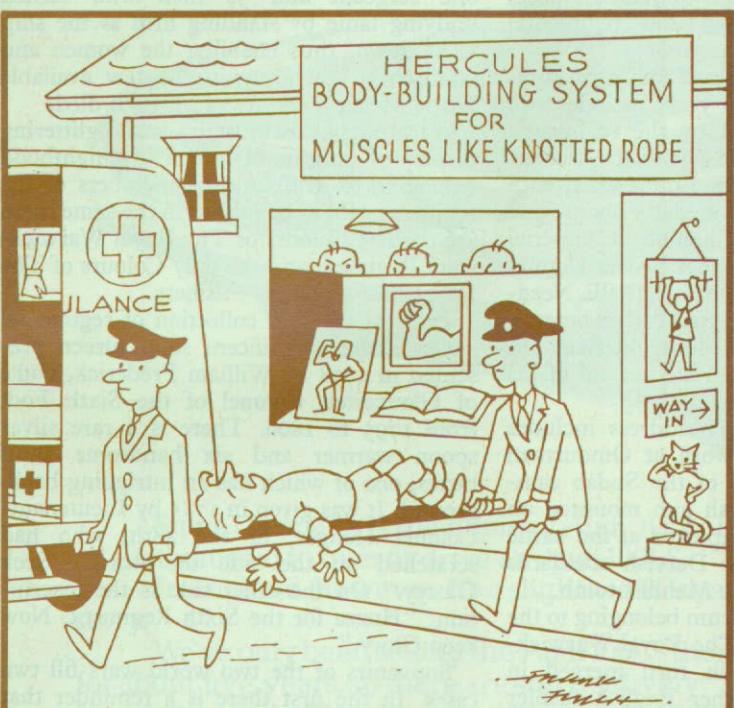
AGE



S.M.

HOW observant are you?

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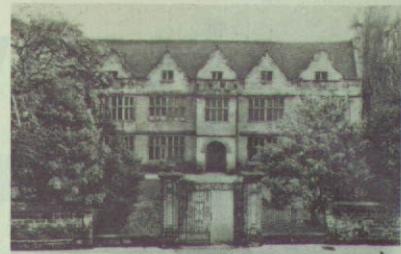
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Military museums 21



The Royal Warwickshire Regiment

THE Royal Warwickshire Regimental Museum has much to interest the visitor. The many exhibits—uniforms, medals, trophies, pictures, badges of knighthood, regimental silver—occupy the whole of the first floor of St John's House, Warwick, built in 1629 and regimental headquarters since 1960.

The museum's display of uniforms ranging over more than 170 years includes two battledress jackets worn by the regiment's most famous son, Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. Emblazoned with awe-inspiring blocks of medal ribbons, one was worn when he was Chief of the Imperial General Staff, the other when he was Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, SHAPE. Needless to say the familiar two-badge beret is nearby. A case full of Montgomeriana includes his CIGS car flag and several of his original wartime letters.

A good collection of headdress includes a Wolseley helmet as worn at Omdurman and among other relics of the Sudan campaign are an old Dervish gun mounted on solid wooden wheels, captured at the battle of Atbara in 1898, two Dervish standards and the canopy from the Mahdi's tomb.

The oldest item is a drum belonging to the 6th Foot, forebears of The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers which in turn merged in 1968 with the three other English fusilier regiments to form The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. This perfectly preserved drum clearly showing the regiment's antelope crest was lost at Prestonpans in the 1745 uprising but came to light 150 years later in a crofter's cottage.

It was during the regiment's march north to take part in the '45 that a woman soldier, the famous Hannah Snell, enlisted in the Sixth under the name of James Gray, but at Carlisle she deserted after being unjustly sentenced to 500 lashes. She afterwards served with the Marines and at the siege of Pondicherry in 1748 received 12 shot wounds—11 in the legs and one in the groin—and recovered without her sex being discovered. An engraving of this formidable character, who died in 1792 as a pensioner in Chelsea Hospital, hangs in the museum.

A display of pre-1922 cavalry, yeomanry and infantry badges is mounted in wall frames and among the many medals on view are four of the regiment's seven Victoria Crosses and a complete set of Army Temperance Association medals.

An exceptional collection of helmet and

shako badges includes a badge recalling the wreck of the troopship Birkenhead off the Cape of Good Hope on 17 January 1852. It belonged to Ensign L G N Metford. He commanded the Sixth Foot detachment of one sergeant and 58 men who earned undying fame by standing firm as the ship went down, thus enabling the women and children to get away in the few available boats. Metford and 47 of his men died.

A feature of this museum is the glittering display of insignia of orders of knighthood belonging to distinguished members of the regiment. Not to be missed in the same room are the last Colours of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment and the only Colours of The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers.

Pride of the rich collection of regimental silver is the magnificent soup tureen presented in 1798 by William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, Colonel of the Sixth Foot from 1795 to 1806. There is a rare silver spoon warmer and six handsome snuff boxes, one of which has an intriguing background. It was given in 1785 by Lieutenant-Colonel Hedges, of the 48th, who had scratched on the side the words "Seek Glory." On the other side is the inscription: "Huzza for the Sixth Regiment. Now keep Glory."

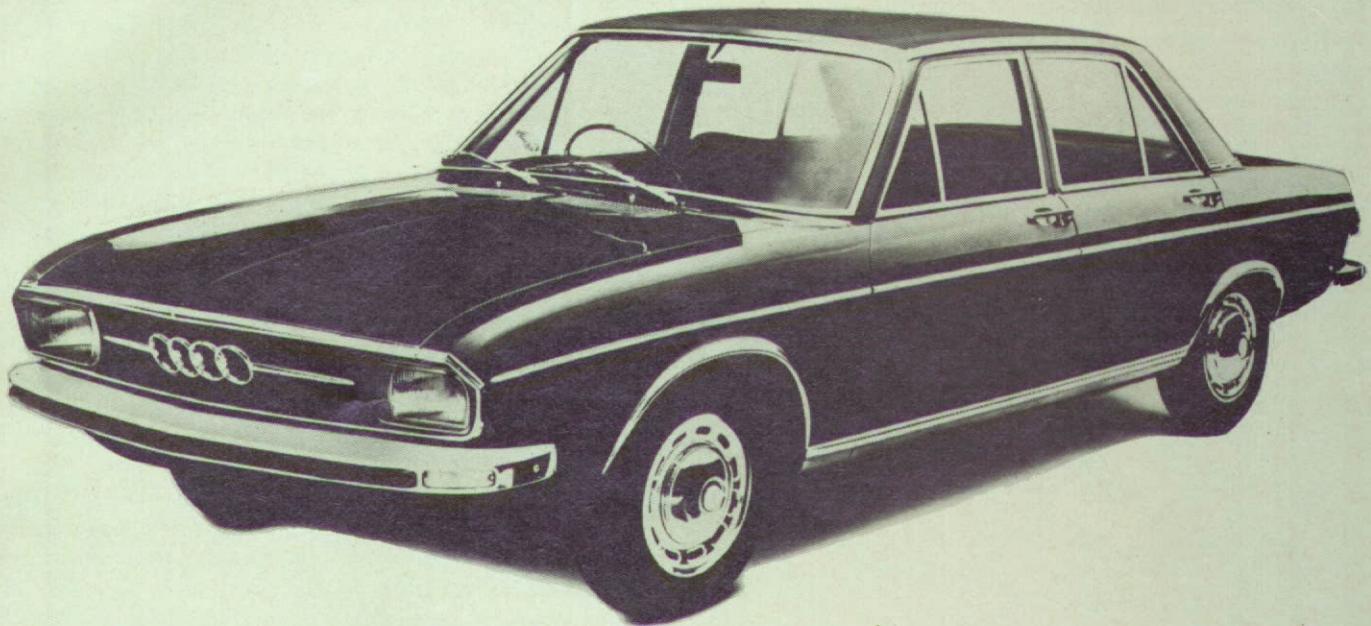
Souvenirs of the two world wars fill two cases. In the first there is a reminder that Field-Marshal Viscount Slim was once a Warwick—his Webley .45 with his name, Lieutenant W J Slim, engraved on the barrel.

John Jesse

Curator:	Lieutenant-Colonel M Ryan (Retd)
Address:	The Royal Warwickshire Regimental Museum, St John's House, Warwick Warwick 41653
Telephone:	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 1000 to 1230 and 1330 to 1630, Saturday October to May, 1400 to 1700; May to October, Saturday, Sunday, 1400 to 1700. Also Easter Monday and Spring and Summer holidays
Open:	Tuesday, Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day
Closed:	Free
Admission:	Easy walk from town centre to traffic lights at bottom of Smith Street or five minutes' walk from Warwick railway station.
How to get there:	

Next month: The Royal Signals Museum

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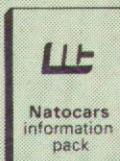
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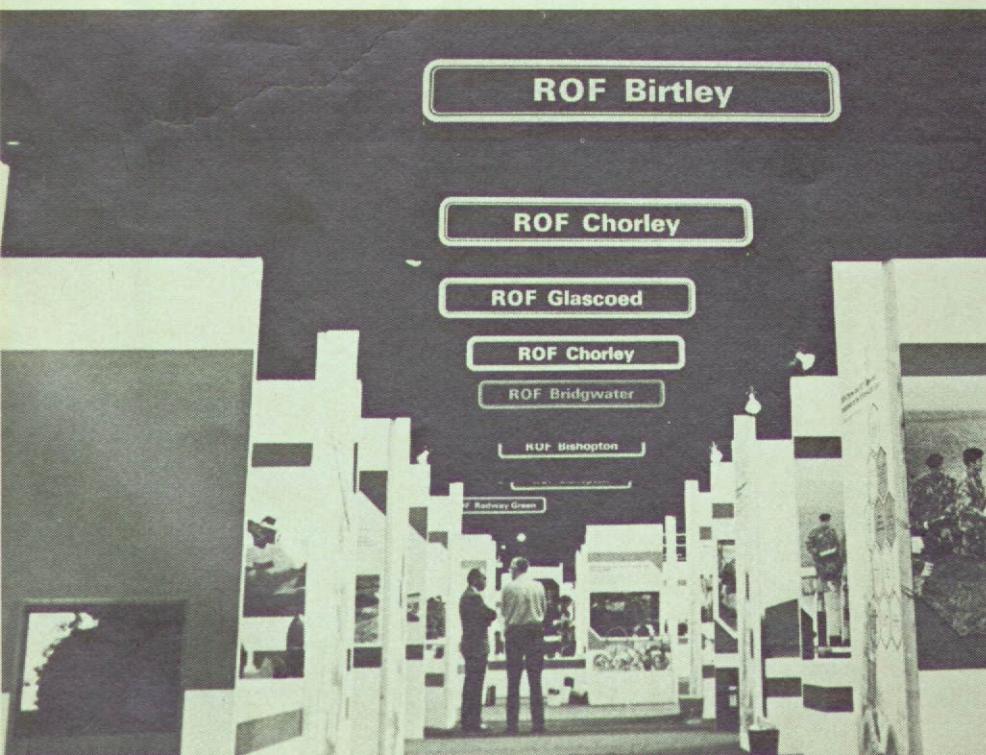


The host ROF at Leeds shows off its own pride and joy—the Chieftain battle tank.

Below: The nationwide spread of the ROFs shown in serried ranks of display boards.

Arms shop window

Story by John Walton/Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

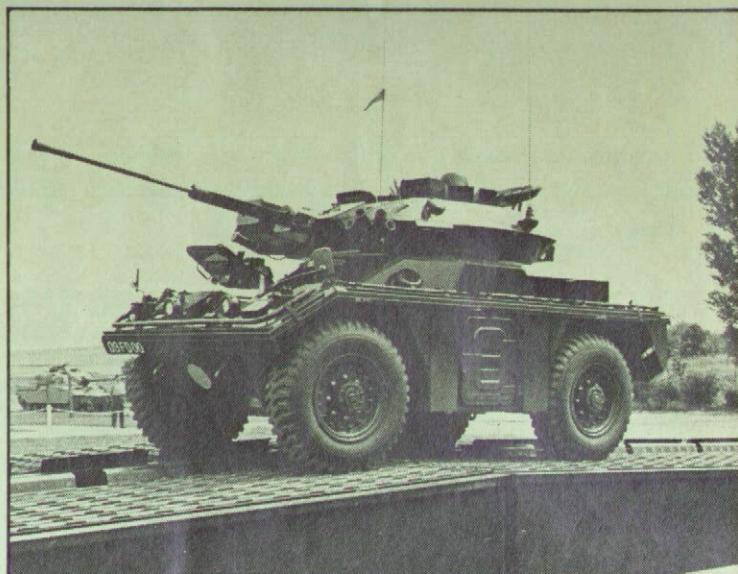
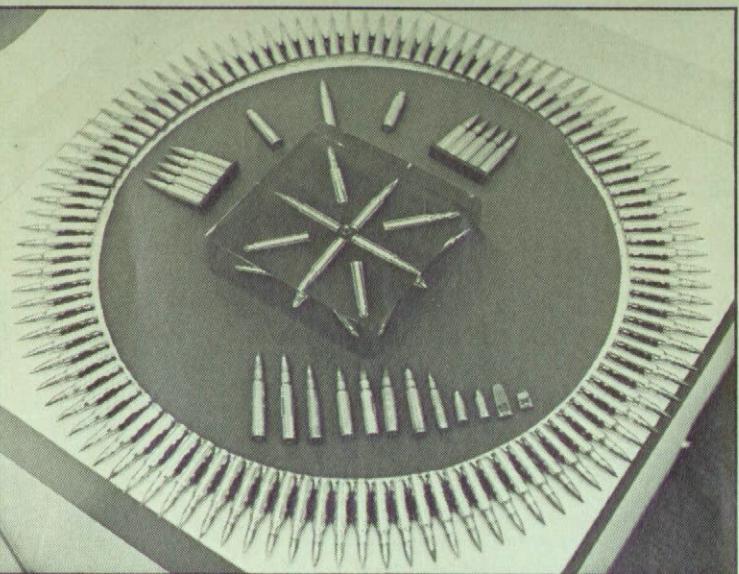


FROM bombs to bullets, from guns to guided missile warheads, from rifles to tanks—Britain's 11 royal ordnance factories provide not only arms for the British Army but exports worth up to £40,000,000 this year alone. And once every three years the ROFs combine for an exhibition of just what they do produce—this year's attracted 2500 potential customers from more than 40 countries.

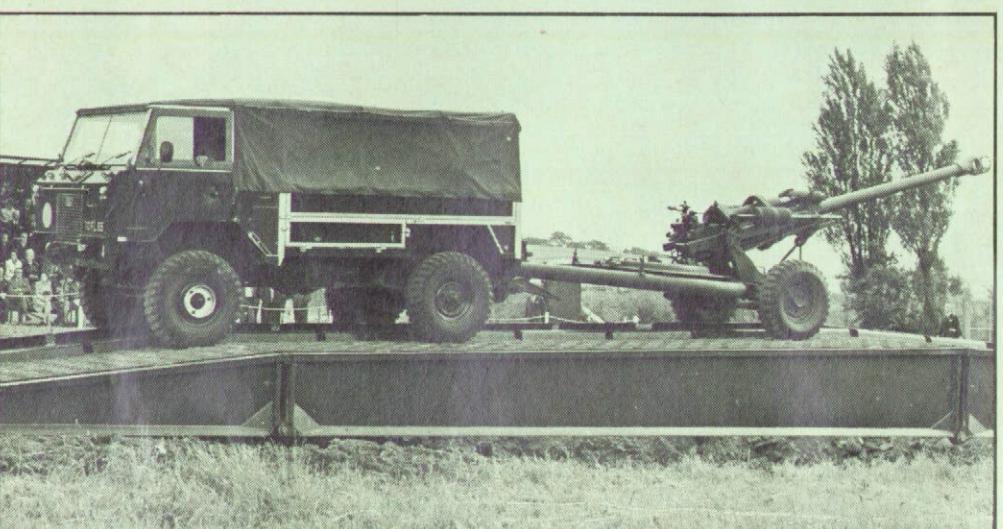
The exhibition is rotated around the factories and this time it was the turn of the Royal Ordnance Factory at Leeds—where they make the famous Chieftain tanks as well as the new Fox armoured reconnaissance vehicle.

Each of the 11 ROFs specialises in a particular field of defence equipment with their combined resources complementing one another. This was amply illustrated by the exhibition which dealt with four products—Fox, 105mm light gun, BL 755 cluster bomb and Shorts' Blowpipe guided missile. Each factory exhibited its own contribution to these items and also threw in some of its own specialities for good measure.

For instance ROF Radway Green had a spread of 7.62mm calibre bullets—it is



Fox's business-like lines stand out boldly.



Top left: Deadly pattern of ring of fire.

Left: A new light gun and new Rover too.

Below: Combat engineer tractor hard at it.



Arms shop window continued

currently working on an experiment with the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, in the drawing and extruding of 7.62mm cartridge cases in a new alloy of zinc, aluminium and magnesium.

The display of Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield resembled a fairground shooting gallery with rifles, machine-guns and sub-machine-guns laid out in a row. Enfield produces some of the most advanced small arms in the world. Providing a bit of informative fun was ROF Blackburn with an Emmett-like contraption, all bubbling liquids and little men with hammers, demonstrating how a fuze works.

The outdoor demonstration began with the Chieftain bridgelayer, carrying a 75-foot-long bridge which is capable of crossing all but a few rivers in North-West Europe. The bridge laid, it was immediately crossed by the nippy Fox, which has a 65 mile-an-hour road speed and is airportable. Its 30mm Rarden cannon can knock out an armoured personnel carrier and it has the speed to evade tanks.

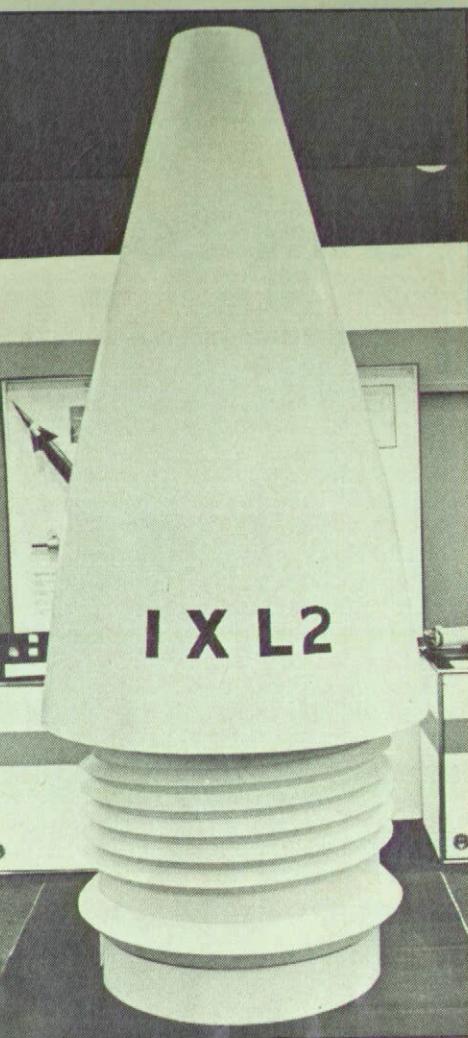
Next the combat engineer tractor, currently being developed at Leeds. A high mobility tractor, it is capable of swimming in the middle of operations and by firing an anchor can winch itself out of a river. The tractor was said to have dug out in less than

an hour the large hole used as the demonstration's "river."

The tractor was followed by the now familiar Chieftain and the Vixen liaison vehicle which is to be the new general-purpose, multi-role vehicle to replace Ferret in the British Army. As zippy as the Fox, it can carry men and a wide variety of equipment about the battle area with the Fox's speed and immunity. Its armament, a 7.62mm general-purpose machine-gun, should be sufficient to clear any insurgents out of its way.

Also included in the display were the bar minelayer, the Eager Beaver high mobility forklift truck which can carry more than 4000lb in weight over rough country, the dummy axle which converts a general service vehicle into a recovery vehicle, and the 105mm light gun.

But for many of the visitors two of the most interesting exhibits had nothing to do with Britain's current armaments industry. They were two ships' cannons dating back to the 1820s and brought to ROF Leeds from Woolwich Arsenal some years ago. Recently Leeds apprentices restored them and their glistening presence outside the exhibition hall was a reminder of the craftsmen of the past whose successors now work at Royal Ordnance Factories.



Space-age ordnance was on show at Leeds...



... so was this cannon apprentices restored.



Fox's sister-vehicle, Vixen, on parade.



Guides at the sharp end

FORWARD air control, a skill on which the Army is increasingly concentrating, is the keystone of quick and accurate response from the close support of fighter/bombers.

The concept of aerial cover of ground forces is old but since 1971 an ever-growing band of forward air controllers has been trained to make a vital contribution towards flexible response to any possible attack on NATO. Aden and Malaya saw the skill used in anger but the European environment called for answers to different problems.

Basically the task is to brief pilots on a target and guide them there and back safely and surely. There is a choice of two modes of attack—a straight, low dash from base to target or a "dog-leg" approach taking the aircraft to one side of the target when it climbs and dives to hit the objective. Some weapons preclude the choice. A rocket attack, for instance, would have to be made from a dive.

Communication is the lynch-pin of the operation and each forward air controller is paired with a driver/operator of the Royal Corps of Signals. The request for an air strike originates from the two-man team's Ferret scout car, or heliborne observation post, and progresses through a series of operations cells to pilots at their bases. Once airborne, a pilot is soon in personal contact with the forward air controller on the ground who literally talks him in once the aircraft comes in sight. Just in case contact is lost, pilots are briefed on second-

ary targets to avoid wasting their missions.

During an exercise in Germany, SOLDIER saw forward air controlling in action, with strikes called in mere minutes apart. The peacetime practice showed to great advantage the skills involved but did not hide the fact that a forward air controller's existence in war would be lonely and precarious. Captain Mike Davis, a seasoned controller from The Staffordshire Regiment, doing a two-year tour with the 17th/21st Lancers, explained his job: "I would be right up at the sharp end in war. I prefer to be backed up to a hedge or wall for cover to be able to look out over the target and see the approach of the aircraft in attack. After that, I'd beetle off!"

Working as part of NATO, the forward air controller has no idea what type of aircraft from which member nation may be sent to answer his call until he has personal contact with it. So he must be familiar with the various types of machine and know the differing characteristics that will affect the job he asks to be done.

Captain Davis had a specially adapted plastic rule to tell him at a glance the speed—and thus time taken—for particular aircraft to cover the distance between base and target. Communications aids, in addition to radio, include Aldis lamps to guide in pilots and even a mirror to flash sunlight in their

A Harrier "motors" out of a hide to take off in answer to an FAC's call to attack.

eyes to identify the forward air controller's position. Extra mobility is given to some controllers by making them airborne in helicopters and selected Army Air Corps pilots have been trained in the secondary role of forward air controllers.

Lonely as a forward air controller and his companion may be as they stalk their prey in the field, a formidable network of nerve centres processes his call for action. An air support operations centre is at the heart of the system, feeding the request from brigade through divisional and corps levels, at every stage adding to the available target information so that the forward wing operations cell can give the fullest brief to its pilots before they take off. A reverse communication down the line comes from returning pilots as they debrief on each mission.

Speed is of the essence once the pilot is in view of the forward air controller—and at that point often in sight of the enemy target as well. His low-level approach is made accurate, and so quicker, by the controller on the ground giving topographical references by tree and roof top until the target is reached.

This all adds up to a highly demanding job calling for careful training, the bulk of which is now at RAF Brawdy in south-west Wales where two days of ground training cover theory and three weeks are spent on practice controls. The minimum requirement from the successful student is 18 "bulls-eyes" before qualifying for a two-year tour attached to a unit.

Story by Mike Starke
Pictures by Arthur Blundell



Sappers maintain Harrier hides and build them too.

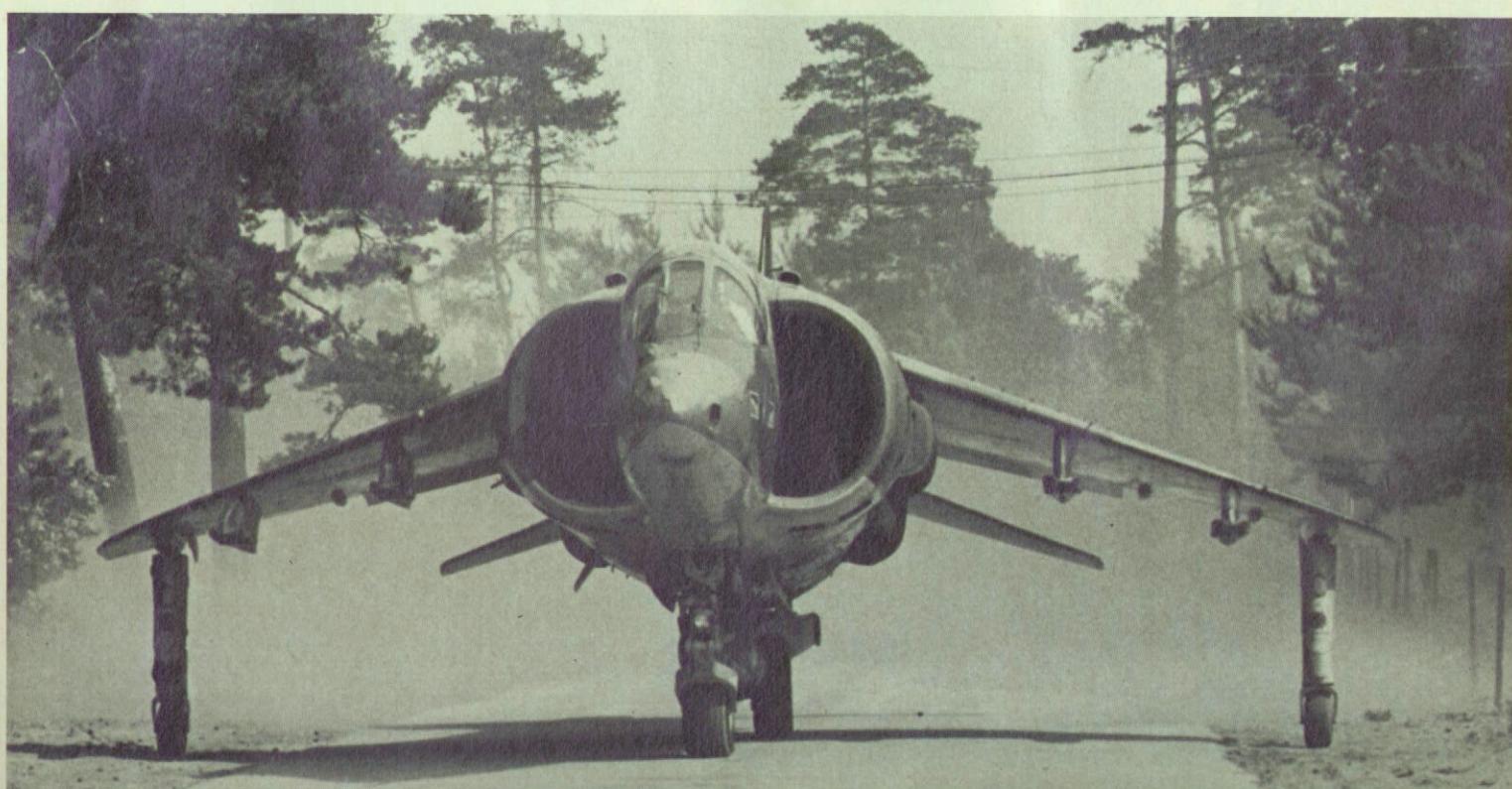


Top right: FAC team Capt Mike Davis and Sgt Harry Jack.

Right: Capt Davis plots a target. Note special ruler.

Bottom right: Harrier pilots relax before "scramble."

Below: Communications are the essence of the job.





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"For goodness sake, man, concentrate!
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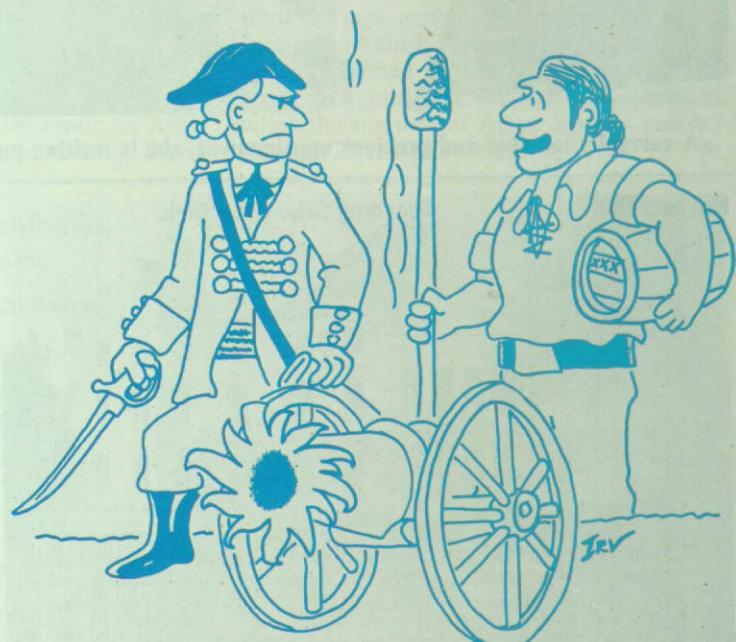
"How about a whip round for the driver?"



humour



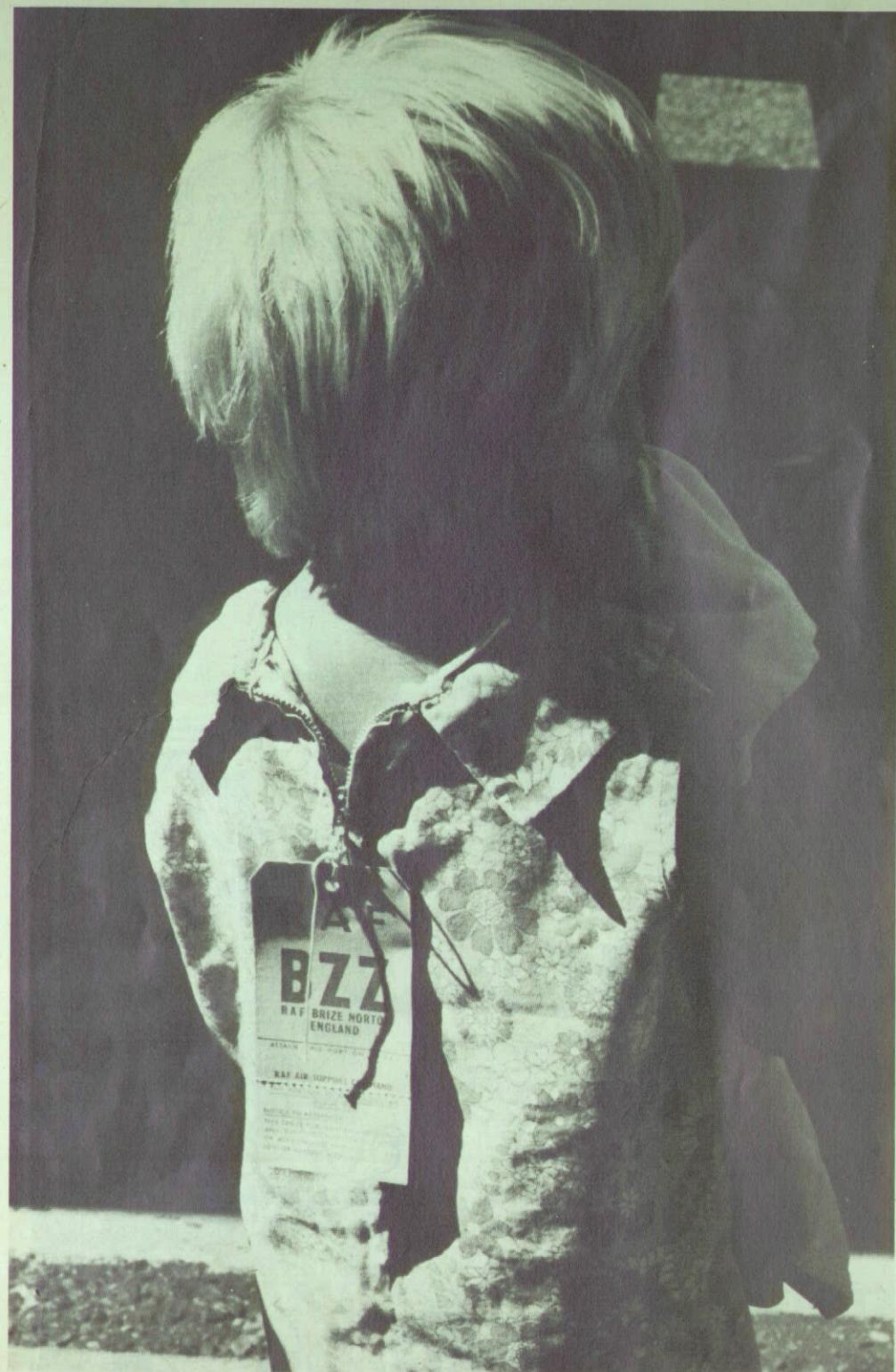
"...while you're there, would you mind
giving the windows a rub over?"



"Perhaps I did pack that last one a bit too hard."

CYPRUS

Story by John Walton/Pictures by Paul Haley



A carefully labelled and precious consignment, she is waiting patiently for the coach.

Back come the families



Above and below: Disembarking from a Hercules after a 7½-hour flight—harassing for parents but exciting for youngsters.

LESS than three weeks after successfully airlifting 7500 holidaymakers from the war-torn island of Cyprus, the Royal Air Force was back in action on an even bigger rescue operation—the evacuation to Britain of 10,000. Service dependants as renewed fighting racked Cyprus.

As soon as the Turkish forces began their fresh advance, a carefully laid plan went into operation. Around 10,000 wives and children of servicemen, about 20 per cent of them Army, who had been living in accommodation outside the two sovereign base areas, were again brought in to Dhekelia and Akrotiri-Episkopi. They had been back in their homes for only two weeks.

Once again the two sovereign bases were jammed to overflowing, for in addition to the extra Service families the numbers had been swollen by thousands of Greek-Cypriot

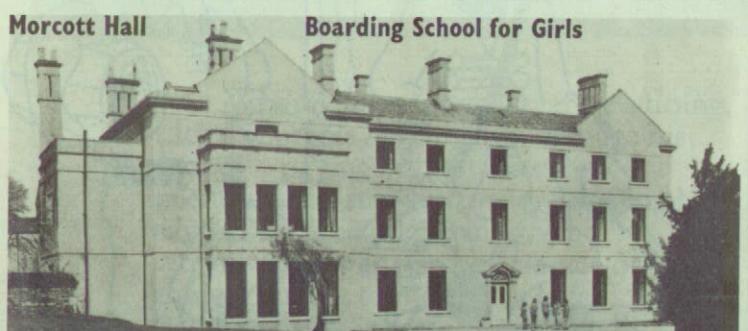
refugees fleeing from the Turkish advance. An immediate evacuation of the 10,000 to England began. Some 70 aircraft—VC 10, Britannia, Hercules, Belfast and Comet—were in use over the next four days with at least 30 flights in the air at any one time between Britain and Cyprus.

The RAF's main passenger trooping station, Brize Norton, where the runway had been out of service during the previous evacuation, was now back in full operation and 6789 passengers landed there. A further 3178 dependants arrived at Lyneham, 30 miles away.

At Brize Norton a large Royal Air Force team was waiting to receive its own families and to help with travel, overnight accommodation and quartering if necessary. This team was supplemented by about 60 Army personnel under Lieutenant-Colonel David

Prater, commanding officer of the Regimental Depot, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Blackdown. His team, mainly Ordnance and Women's Royal Army Corps, included only one survivor from the previous operation, Warrant Officer 1 Mike Allen from Arborfield (see SOLDIER, September).

Colonel Prater was given his first standby warning late on the afternoon of Tuesday, 13 August. Just 24 hours later the first flight landed at Brize Norton and his hastily assembled team was there to meet it. Girls from the Women's Royal Army Corps looked after babies and small children while mothers went through arrival procedures. The team from Guildford, under Lieutenant Lee Carruthers, had to be supplemented by ten more girls mid-way through the operation when the number of Army families passing through increased sharply. ▶



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Maj Robert Watson, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, helps wives in the customs lounge.

CYPRUS *continued*

On arrival in the passenger lounge, families were quickly processed using a card system. Those who had no accommodation problem left under their own arrangements or in a series of coaches bound for Paddington station. A Royal Army Pay Corps team was

on hand to give cash advances where required. Only those with a married quarters requirement or needing overnight accommodation were dealt with by the evacuation team at Gateway House, the Brize Norton hotel for air passengers. A gymnasium was also made available and scores of families in the neighbourhood had offered temporary accommodation. But none of this was needed.

Below: Almost the last lap as families board buses on the way home to mums and dads.



Only 61 Army families out of 525 arriving at Brize Norton during the airlift required married quarters and these were speedily allocated by the accommodation centre. All requests for quarters from Brize and Lyneham were put through to an operations room at Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces at Salisbury and a quarter was allocated as near as possible to the town requested by the mother.

About 350 of the Army families were of 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, who went out to Cyprus in May. Only about ten married quarters were available in Edinburgh, from where the majority of the regiment is recruited; the remainder who needed quarters were sent to Troon in Ayrshire. Those officers of The Royal Scots who did not accompany the regiment to Cyprus were there to greet the families and help out. Major Robert Watson, stationed at Bulford, told SOLDIER: "Their morale is incredible. The wives who have appeared dispirited I could count on the fingers of one hand. This is where the regimental system helps—they arrive in Brize Norton to find us here treating them as part of the family."

At Lyneham the arrival procedure varied slightly. The families cleared customs and then went for a meal. The joint-Service reception team was located in the former Route Hotel, in recent times used only as a store but now temporarily back to its accommodation role. The Army team at Lyneham was drawn from units all over South West District including Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Corps of Transport, WRAC and Royal Irish Rangers.

Captain Sue Rice, who headed one of the WRAC shifts, said: "I call what we are doing 'mothering.' Our girls have been looking after babies, changing nappies and looking after distraught children. They have been tremendous." Also heavily involved in the operation were men of 47 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, normally based at Lyneham.

For some families arriving at Lyneham the flight had been a seven-and-a-half-hour ordeal in a Hercules freight-carrying aircraft. A typical Hercules flight contained 60 children and 20 mothers, cooped up in a dimly lit aircraft, surrounded by luggage, with basic toilet facilities and forbidden to smoke. Yet the mothers emerged smiling into the English sunshine.

At Lyneham the in-flight meals team of Royal Air Forces cooks was kept at full stretch producing 300 in-flight meals a day. Each aircraft going out carried meals for the return journey.

When on Saturday night the Army teams were ordered to stand down, the soldiers and girls at Brize Norton were loathe to do so. Said Lieutenant-Colonel Prater: "It had been such a marvellously refreshing inter-Service exercise the end came as a bit of an anti-climax. Most of them stayed the night at Brize Norton and it was as well they did for they were called out again at six am on Sunday for an unexpected flight."

So the families were home. Most of those who went to stay with relatives will gradually be found new homes by the housing commandant organisation. But thanks to the efforts of the RAF and Army teams at Brize Norton and Lyneham, all found initial sanctuary and a roof over their heads.

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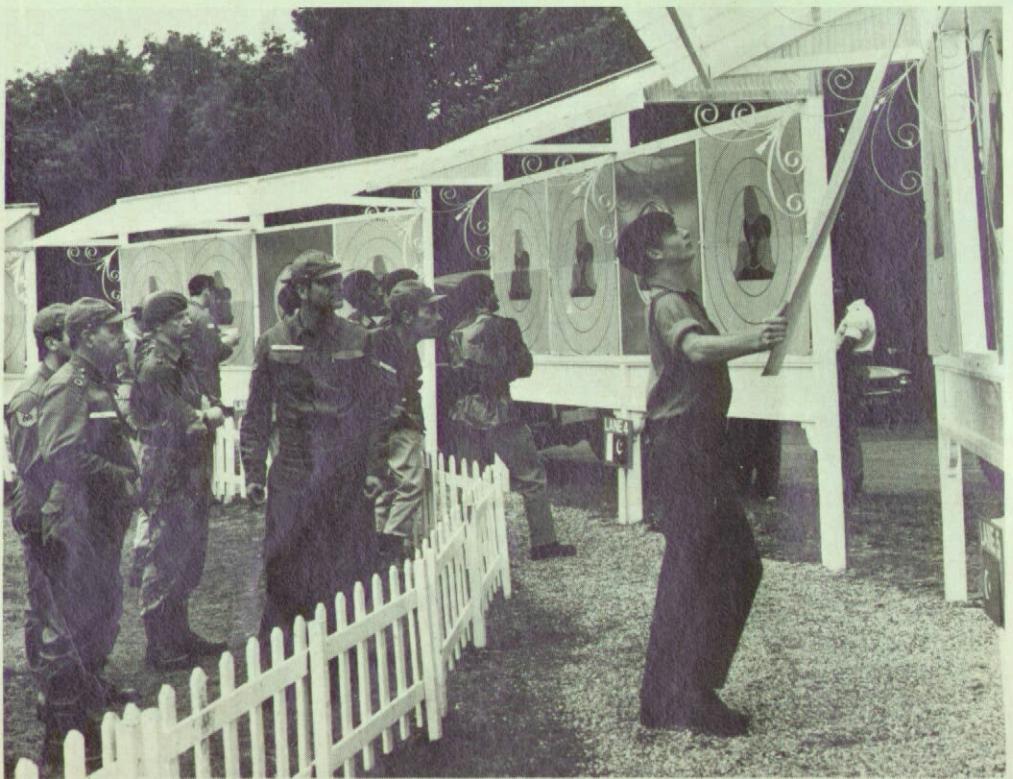
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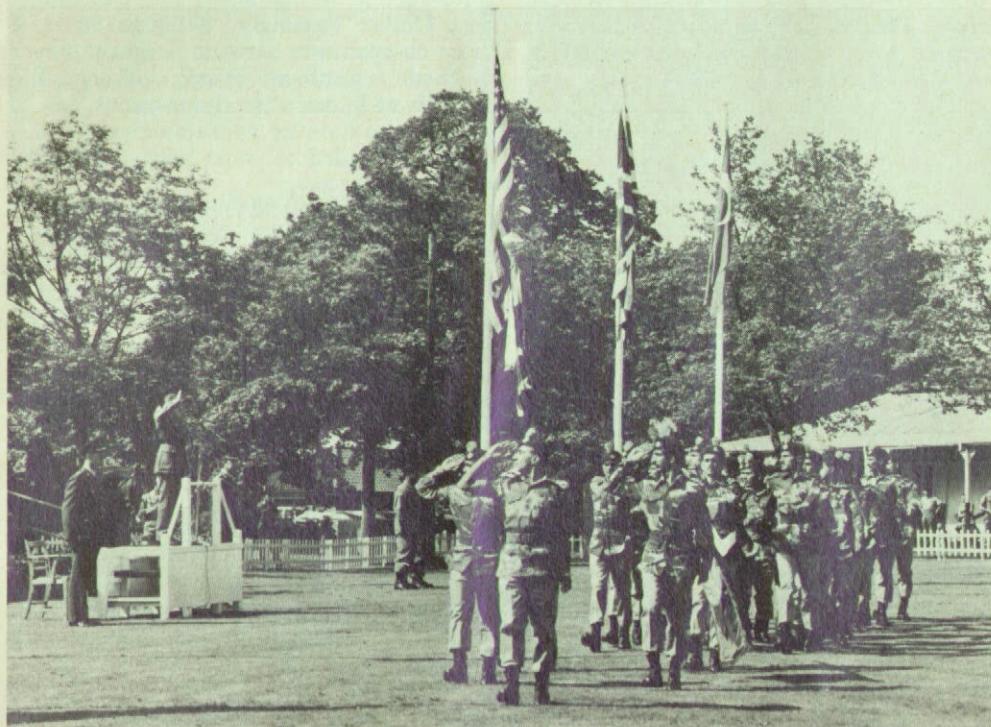
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A Pakistani marksman casually shoulders his weapon, belying any inner tension.



Above left: The Royal Green Jackets taking their light machine gun trophy.

Left: Final march past closed the contest.

posted overseas?



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Enter the guardian angels



Sergeant Corrinne Harrison (right) chats to a Service wife in the Devizes market place.



At Chatham, Sgt Bayne has made friends with Mrs Antoinette Trusdale and family.

Left: Sgt Harrison visits Mrs Diana Whitelaw. Her husband is in the Ordnance Corps.

EIGHT senior non-commissioned officers in the Women's Royal Army Corps are currently carrying out a pilot scheme in different parts of the country which may revolutionise Army families welfare. If the scheme is successful there could soon be up to 40 WRAC welfare assistants working with housing commandants at home and overseas.

The eight, whose ages vary from 23 to 51, were chosen from 23 volunteers. Their personalities are different, their approaches may be different and they are working in varying environments. On their successes or failures depends the future shape of the welfare assistant scheme.

The introductory course for the new welfare assistants was at the Women's Royal Army Corps College last September. It was followed by a short course at Bristol University and a month's attachment to both a unit families officer and a SSAFA social worker. Then at the beginning of this year the girls took up their posts. SOLDIER went to Chatham, Kirton Lindsey and Devizes to see three of them at work.

At Chatham, Sergeant Sandy Bayne is regarded by the housing commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Johnnie Coombs, as being the "hub of a wheel" with spokes

leading to various military and civilian agencies who can help with problems. He feels that the most important part of her work is that someone in trouble can talk to her in complete confidence.

Sergeant Bayne works for most of the time in civilian clothes and is "Sandy" to her contacts. A forthright and articulate personality, she bristled when asked if being unmarried was a hindrance in advising on marital problems.

"Does a doctor have to suffer from cancer before he can cure it?" she demanded. "Because I am not married I do not have to relate to my own day-to-day life and I am able to stand back and look at the problem. I am not necessarily trying to cure it but the thing I can be is someone for a lonely wife to talk to."

In a garrison area such as Chatham the major problems are often outside the larger units such as 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, although there is close co-operation between Sergeant Bayne and the families officer, Major Bill Fergusson-Edgar. "I also have a lot of people who have no families officer at all—people seconded to other corps, that kind of thing," she says.

While working with civilian welfare workers Sandy feels that her own Army experience and knowledge can often give her an advantage. She has already dealt with scores of cases and has a number of people on whom she calls regularly.

"I have found that the gentler approach is the basic one," she said. "For instance I heard about someone who was keeping a smelly dog. If a man had been marched in and disciplined he would have felt his career was in jeopardy. Now there is no antagonism with the neighbours and the dog has gone."

Seven "welfare clinics" have been set up in married quarters areas throughout the Medway towns and Sergeant Bayne visits each at a set time every week. Her success is apparent and Major Fergusson-Edgar describes the scheme as "one of the biggest leaps forward in the Army family care since housing commandants." Yet with 1500 families it may eventually need several welfare assistants to operate in a busy area like Chatham.

Among Sergeant Bayne's innovations is a temporary fostering list for emergencies such as when a mother is taken off to hospital. Then a foster mother steps in and looks after the children. She chats to mothers about fashion and knitting patterns and sees her role as building up confidence in her so that they will talk to her when they are bored with life. "If I can get them when they are bored they may never become desperate."

She adds: "It's not an easy thing to do to knock on someone's door, even in response to a request for help . . . You can't go at it like a high-class cosmetic saleswoman. Globetrotting soldiers bring back wives from



Sgt Souch (right) in conversation with the CO's wife, Mrs Nell Cross.

Right: Sgt Sandy Bayne gets many calls from wives just wanting to chat.

Below: It's not only politicians who have to kiss babies. Sgt Souch meets children of all ages at wives' coffee mornings.

Below right: Another day, another case. Sgt Bayne on welfare rounds.



Story by John Walton
Pictures by Arthur Blundell
and Martin Adam

WRAC welfare assistants *continued*

many different backgrounds and with many different customs and traditions, particularly on rearing children. You have to deal with them with diplomacy and tact."

Like Sergeant Bayne and the others, Sergeant Diana Souch works mainly in civilian clothes. The informal approach is encouraged by Major James Adair, families officer for 12 Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, with whom she works at Kirton Lindsey, Lincolnshire.

He is a great supporter of the scheme: "I certainly hope to have a WRAC welfare assistant permanently—in fact before she arrived I had already put in a bid to have one. We hope that she will get to know the names of all of our wives and they will get to know her."

Although she is only dealing with one unit of about 300 families, Sergeant Souch has found them very spread out. Some are in quarters at Grimsby 32 miles away to the north-east and others at Newark 36 miles to the south. The rest are scattered throughout the district.

"The main complication of this is that I have to deal with three different sets of welfare and social workers—from Lincolnshire, Humberside and Nottinghamshire."

Sergeant Souch finds Kirton Lindsey a happy station. About 80 families have

fathers who are currently doing a tour in Northern Ireland and she has been to see every wife concerned.

Also active over Northern Ireland has been the youngest of the new welfare assistants, 23-year-old Sergeant Corrinne Harrison, working at Devizes. Her two units are 20 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, currently in Northern Ireland for the third summer in succession, and 10 Ordnance Support Battalion whose men are frequently away on exercises.

Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Organ, housing commandant for the area, feels it is often an advantage for young wives, many still in their teens, to be able to talk to a girl of the same age. "She is a young person who thinks the same way as they do."

Sergeant Harrison, whose confidence has boomed since she took on the job at Devizes, says: "I don't think of myself as a guardian angel going out and solving everybody's problems. There are many which I cannot solve—but I may be able to help."

Her area embraces four estates of married quarters, three of them intermixed with civilian housing and including a few Royal Air Force families. Some of the quarters are at Corsham, 17 miles from Devizes.

She takes a keen interest in the military community's affairs and attends wives'

club meetings and coffee mornings. Already she has built up strong contacts with civilian welfare workers in the area.

"The tension and anxiety built up before the gunners went to Ireland and we had problems but no really serious ones."

There are no other girl soldiers in Devizes and Sergeant Harrison lives in a flat in the town. She says that at first the units "were a bit dubious and seemed to think I might be one of those old-fashioned health visitors who went round looking into people's hair."

She tries not to use the sergeants' messes too much as she does not want soldiers to feel that she might report anything they said to other senior non-commissioned officers—"the whole thing is confidentiality."

Among her achievements already is a grocery van which is calling on estates while the husbands are on their Northern Ireland tour. She is also helping with the setting up of a youth club for children of both units.

Clearly for each area the approach has to be different. But each of the eight "guinea pigs" in this experiment is making her own impact in her own way. When the system is reviewed at the end of the trial it appears likely that the Women's Royal Army Corps welfare assistant will become a permanent appointment at camps and garrisons throughout the Army.

The eight new Women's Royal Army Corps welfare assistants pose for a formal photograph at their introductory course at Camberley.



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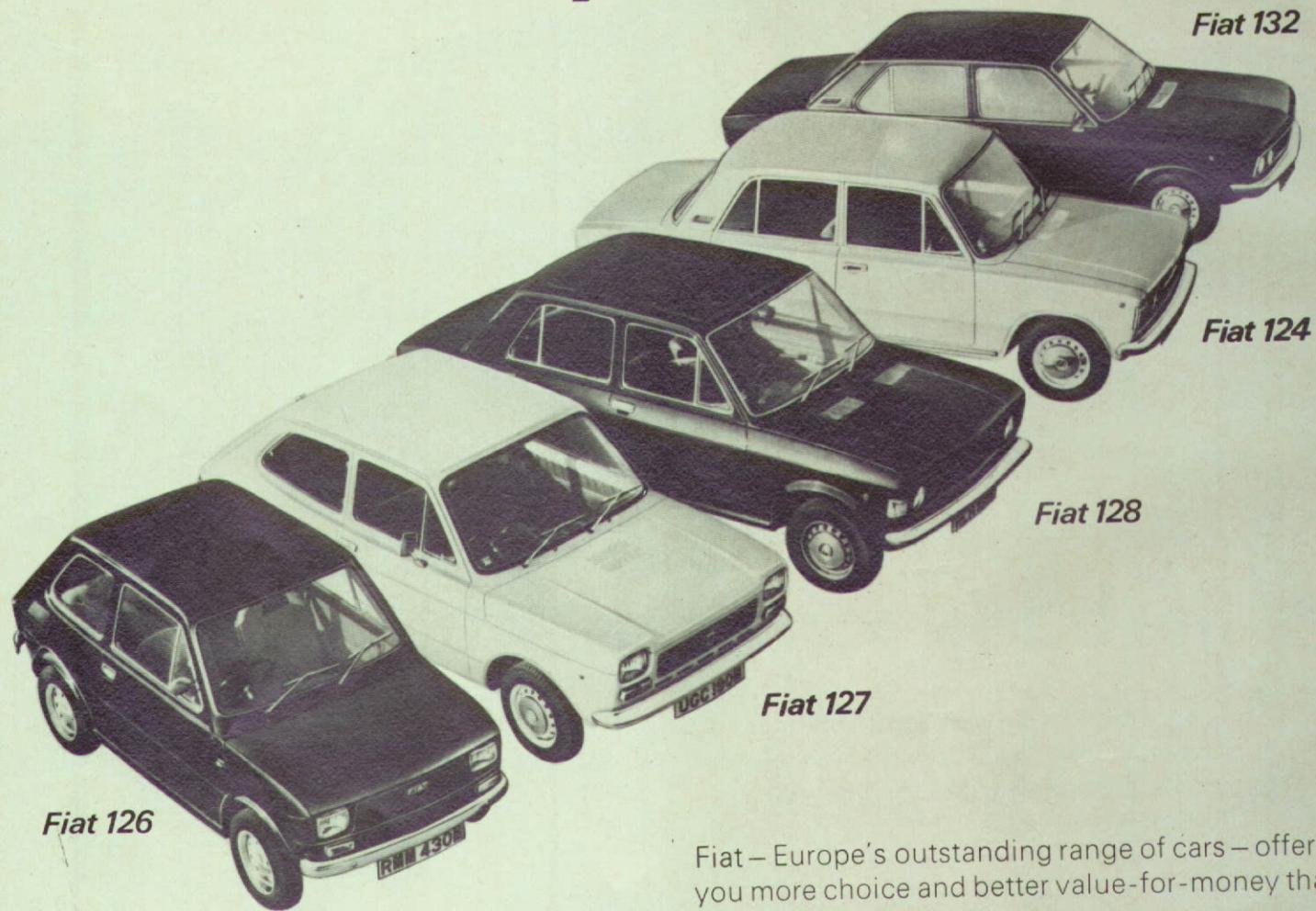
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SOLDIER

NEWS

Pull-out supplement SOLDIER October 1974

A NATION OF HELPING HANDS

A number of well-known organisations concern themselves with helping Northern Ireland casualties and their work is well publicised. But a great deal of practical assistance comes from other groups and individuals throughout the country who lend a helping hand. This may take the form of a collection for widows, free holidays for families or—as offered by one firm of civil engineers—help in adapting houses for the disabled and in finding them suitable jobs.

Here is a good example of the kind of help which is frequently given. The chairman of Newquay Rotary Club approached the Ministry of Defence early this year with the offer of a free holiday locally for the widows and families of soldiers killed in Northern Ireland. As a result seven families—one with six children—from all over England enjoyed a week in the popular Cornish resort, their travel having been financed by Rotary clubs at their home towns. (DPS(A))

TANK GUN STUDY UNDER WAY

In support of the overall intention among NATO nations to achieve greater standardisation in the field of armaments, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States are participating in a joint evaluation of available tank main armaments for future tanks. The aim of the three nations is to seek a decision



on a common solution for the main armament of the German Leopard 2, the US XM1 and the German/British FMBT main battle tank projects.

Other NATO members are being kept informed and if the result of the study is a common solution to the problem, the three countries intend to offer the selected weapon for standardisation within the treaty organisation. Three guns—one from each nation—are to be included in the trials and evaluation scheduled for 1975. (PR)

PENSION INCREASES

As a result of the recently announced pay improvements, Service pensions and related benefits have also been reviewed. The new rates, showing increases of five to 17 per cent, are backdated to 1 April 1974. Details are available in unit pay offices. (DM(A))

UNION JACK CLUB

The brand-new Union Jack Club complex, on the site of the old building, is due to be finished in mid-1975 and the club will be open to members a few months later when the interior work is completed. The old building was demolished two years ago after 67 years of sterling service and temporary premises in Exton Street, London SE1, have since been used. The club regrets that the temporary building has deprived the women's Services and members' families of their accommodation but these will be restored with the new complex.

On the site of the old club two tower blocks are now rising. The taller, for male club members, will be 25 storeys high and the smaller, for families and members of the women's Services, has already reached its ten-storey height.

The two sides of the club will have separate facilities but will not maintain their separate identities as in the past. The male side of the club and what has been known as the Union Jack Families and Women's Services Club will be combined under the single title of the Union Jack Club when it starts to operate at the new premises.

Accommodation facilities at the new club will comprise 412 single bedrooms for men, 55 families' double bedrooms and five single ladies' bedrooms with priority for the

UNION JACK CLUB *continued*

women's Services. All rooms will have wash basins. Public rooms in the male block will offer a library and writing room, smoking room, television room, billiard room, lounge, bar and sitting area, dining room, and extension dining room available for small parties or meetings. On the families and female side there will be a television room, writing room, bar and lounge, dining room and children's playroom. There will be fewer bedrooms in the new building in line with the reduction in the Services' manpower. Another factor is that staging of servicemen and their families to and from overseas stations through London has virtually ceased with the rundown of overseas bases and the development of airtrooping through RAF stations. The intention is still to retain the existing accommodation of 218 beds in the annexe to act as an overspill and to provide for large organised parties. A feature of the new club will be the conference area which, although entirely separate from the residential club building, will be an integral part of the Union Jack Club and will provide facilities for large meetings and social functions such as association dinners. In this area it is planned to provide a launderette and sauna bath. It is hoped that there will soon be opportunities for members to visit the site and be shown around the new building as it progresses. Meanwhile there is a permanent pictorial exhibition at the temporary premises to give some idea of the new club. There will be a large number of jobs of all kinds to be filled in the new club and it has always been the policy of the club to draw its staff from ex-servicemen, a policy which will be continued in the future. Anyone interested in the job opportunities available should enquire to Secretary, Union Jack Club, Exton Street, London, SE1 8UJ.

NEW CONTAINER ORDERED

The Ministry of Defence has placed a £60,000 order with Food Containers Ltd, of Aldershot, for a new 13-litre portable insulated container. Moulded in high-density polyethylene, the container will keep a two-course meal hot for six hours in sub-zero temperatures and hold enough cooked food to cater for up to a dozen people. It can also be used to store crushed ice for up to 16 hours in an ambient temperature of +25 degrees centigrade. The container weighs 11lbs and has a carrying handle or can be strapped to the back.



"You open the vacuum flask, y'know what I am for unscrewing things the wrong way."

JUNIOR ENTRY INTO THE ARMY

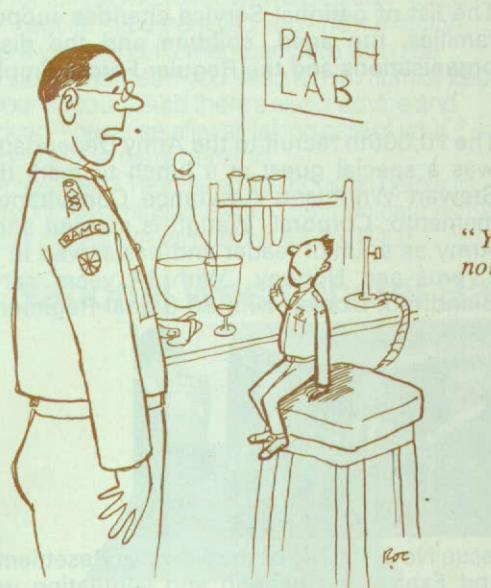
Junior entry into the Army rocketed by a staggering 105 per cent in April-June this year compared with the same period of 1973. Junior recruiting last year was severely affected by the raising of the school-leaving age but with increases of this size prospects are now regarded as "most encouraging." Total junior intake was 1820 with 2987 adult entrants, an increase of 14 per cent on the same months last year.

CASH FOR MEDIC'S NEW IDEA

A bright idea which is saving the Ministry of Defence thousands of pounds a year has earned a £250 reward for a Royal Army Medical Corps officer stationed at the Defence Medical Equipment Depot, Ludgershall. The award is made under the Ministry of Defence suggestion scheme which encourages servicemen and civilian employees to submit ideas to improve efficiency and economy.

Lieutenant Michael Durrant's notion was to replace the insulated containers used for transporting medical products at low temperatures with disposable cardboard boxes, using polystyrene as an insulator, and heat-sealed polythene bags. This saves the cost of returning the conventional containers empty by air from distant parts of the

world and does away with the occasional need to re-ice loaded containers in transit. This scheme was introduced experimentally in May 1972, when Lieutenant Durrant was a warrant officer. Since its adoption no significant problems have been reported and the condition of medical supplies when they arrive at their destination has, if anything, improved. Cost-effectiveness has increased through the ability to pack more items into a given space and the cash saving for 1972-73 was £2454. (PR)



"Your job is to isolate bacilli, Jones, not make futile experiments."

BIG BARRACK REBUILDING

Renovations costing more than £1,000,000 are to be made to Army installations at Catterick and Cwrt-y-Gollen, Wales. The lion's share of the cash will go on a contract to rehabilitate Vimy Barracks, Catterick. A boiler house is to be built to heat three Sandhurst blocks, a sergeants' mess and social club, trade training school and Women's Royal Army Corps block. Work to Sandhurst Block A comprises an extension of kitchen facilities, the provision of new bathrooms, showers, toilets, drying and ironing rooms, sitting rooms and barrack rooms and additional single room accommodation. The Cwrt-y-Gollen contract, worth more than £300,000, is for the building of a single-storey training theatre, two-storey office and stores, single-storey armourer's shop and an education block. The contract will be carried out by the Gloucester office of Shepherd Construction Ltd and the work is scheduled to take 78 weeks.

ARETHUSA TO BE STUDY CENTRE

Following the closure of the Arethusa Secondary School last year it has been decided to establish at the Lower Upnor property an on-shore environmental study centre for school children of all ages, most of whom would not normally get a chance to discover the fascination of the land and water environment in the country.

The decision comes after careful examination by the council of the Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa which was forced to close the school due to the cost of running it. The new centre is being set up with the interest and support of local authorities and it is likely that the Inner London Education Authority will be the principal user during the early stages.

The council has also ordered from the Ocean Yacht Club shipyard at Penryn a purpose-built ketch which will take adventure groups of some 14 children and young people to sea for cruises of varying lengths and degrees of challenge.

It is hoped that the centre will be opened later this year and that the maiden cruise of the ketch, which will be named Arethusa, will take place in the spring of 1975.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT

The cash disbursed by the Army Benevolent Fund, working with corps and regimental associations, crept nearer the £1,000,000 mark than ever before in 1973-74, the fund's 30th annual report shows. A total of £925,000 was distributed among the soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families the fund is pledged to relieve in distress. The steady annual increase in money given out continued, with the jump on this occasion being a staggering £137,000. The total was made up of £494,000 from the ABF and £431,000 from corps and regimental associations. During 1973-74 the hard work of all those who help the fund was rewarded by a record income of £531,100.

Many World War Two veterans are now reaching an age where they are more likely to need help and, coupled with the greater longevity of the nation as a whole, this means a still greater proportion of the fund's work is likely to be with older ex-soldiers and their dependants. The fund still helps some who fought in the South

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT *continued*

African War at the turn of the century as well as many World War One victims and those who served in the second "war to end all wars" and subsequent conflicts. The special Northern Ireland Relief Fund set up three years ago has already paid out more than £100,000 in grants and loans.

The Army itself and its corps and regimental associations were the biggest contributors to the fund with more than £161,000. Second came the general public with nearly £106,000. A surprise donation of £35,000 came from the Sultan of Brunei.

The list of national Service charities supported by the fund covers the categories of families, the aged, children and the disabled and includes two Commonwealth organisations and the Regular Forces Employment Association.

ADATS 10,000TH RECRUIT FETED

The 10,000th recruit to the Army Dependents' Assurance Trust, Corporal Harry Waugh, was a special guest at a lunch to mark the occasion given by the trust managers, Stewart Wrightson Assurance Consultants Ltd. He also received a pen set as a memento. Corporal Waugh is married and has a three-year-old son. He joined the Army as a junior leader and has served in the Royal Signals in Germany, Singapore, Cyprus and Norway. With 14 years' service behind him, he is now stationed at Blandford, Dorset, with 30 Signal Regiment. (PR)

**RESETTLEMENT BULLETIN**

Issue No 3 (1974) of the Services Resettlement Bulletin singles out careers in Customs and Excise and heating and ventilating work. There are also details of job opportunities in 14 contrasting fields from firemen to electronic engineers and trainee managers in the shoe trade. The regional opportunities section in this issue concentrates on Scotland. The reference section carries a comprehensive list of information on a wide range of topics useful to the serviceman on his way into Civvy Street. This year's fourth Services Resettlement Bulletin picks out the Health Service administration, a cameraman's job and work in the Prison Service for special study as second careers for those leaving the Army. Regional opportunities in Wales are probed and job opportunities in various police and fire services are highlighted. The 16-page reference section provides a fund of information on topics ranging from applying for a job to management in Europe.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BUILDS NEW HOMES

A new block of flats has been built in Bristol by the Royal British Legion Housing Association which exists to provide accommodation for active retired ex-servicemen and women as well as Service widows who have reached pensionable age. Field-Marshal Slim Court was officially opened by Lord Mountbatten. It is a single block of 37 flats in four storeys incorporating a warden's house and communal areas. There are ten flats for single people and 26 for couples and each unit is self-contained with its own front door leading from an access balcony. Each flat is connected to the warden's by an emergency alarm system so that help can be quickly called. It is the association's policy to provide central heating for all its tenants and in this case electric systems are fitted, controlled in every room by thermostat. Domestic hot water is warmed by immersion heaters in each unit. There are many other features incorporated to help elderly people, including grab-rails in the bathrooms and outward opening bathroom doors. A passenger lift is in the main foyer entrance. Each flat has a socket outlet for a television set.

There is a large communal lounge on the ground floor where tenants can hold social functions and meet their friends. A tea bar is available for preparing light refreshments. A coin-box telephone is also provided. A guest bedroom is available for the relatives or friends visiting tenants over night and a fully equipped laundry is provided free. The association has been registered for ten years and came into being because the Royal British Legion, with its unrivalled knowledge of the problems facing ex-service men and women, is aware of the stresses confronting the elderly and the need to provide decent, easily managed homes with security of tenure.

The aim is to build carefully designed housing—mainly flats—where there is a proven need. At present the association runs 70 projects similar to Field-Marshal Slim Court and these provide 2241 units which are occupied. A further 29 projects are under construction which will provide an extra 1047 flats. In the planning stage are 59 schemes to offer 1866 units including flats for younger people, perhaps with children. One "court" in every county of England and Wales is the goal of the association which is keen to learn of local needs from authorities throughout the country. In order to carry out its mammoth task, the association is authorised to borrow up to £50,000,000 for its building programme.

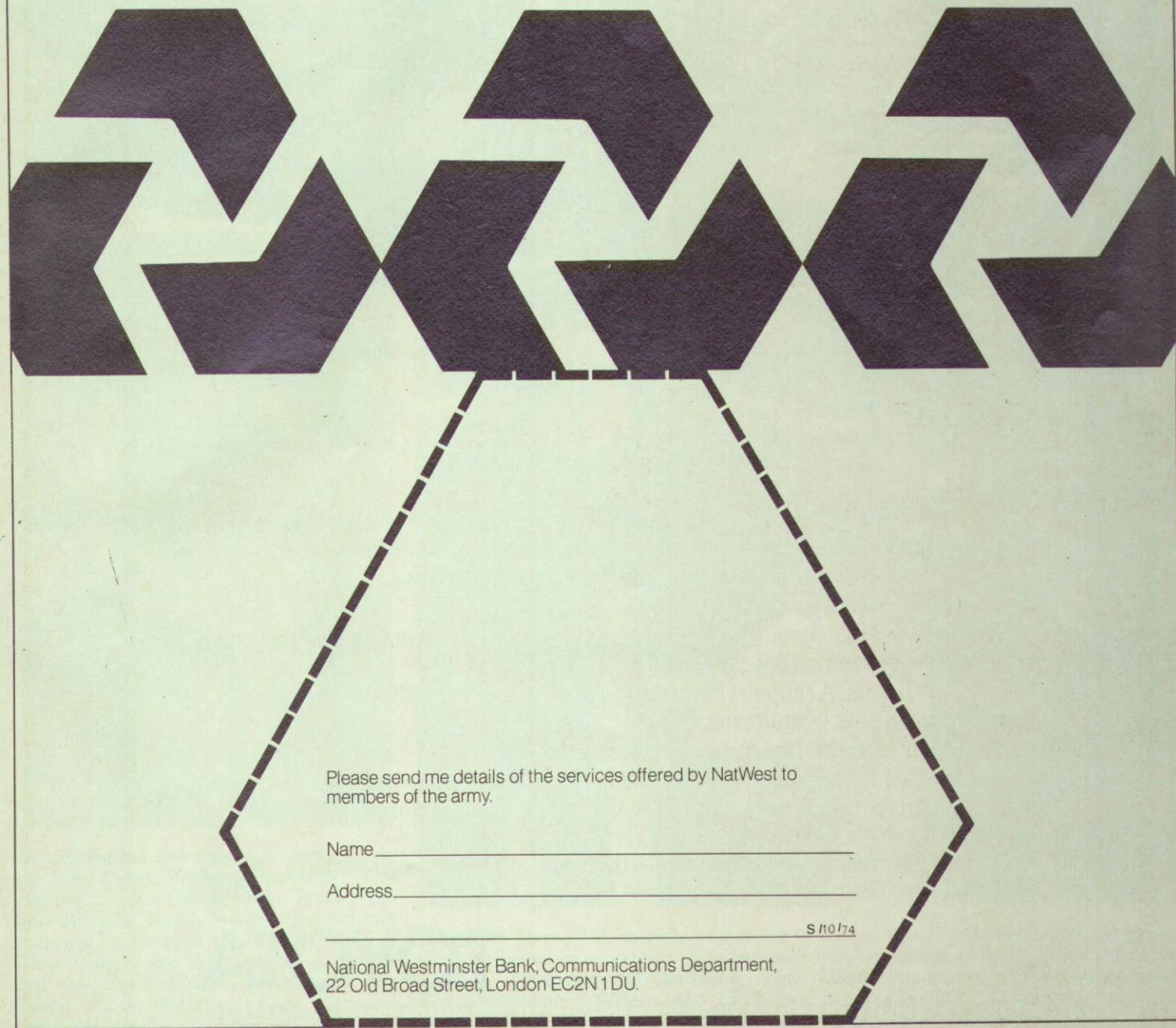
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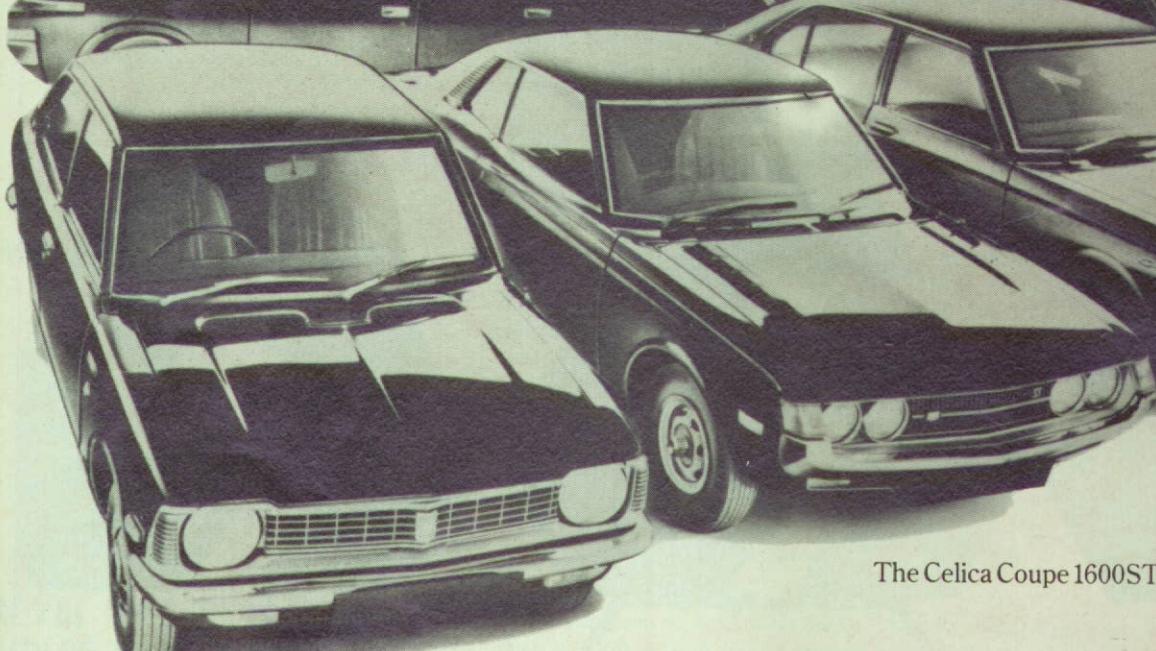
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So impressed was the veterinary surgeon called to attend to horses trapped in blazing stables at the Guards Depot, Pirbright, on 7 July, that he wrote to the Queen praising the bravery and initiative of the soldiers involved. Ten of these soldiers were rewarded at the Guards Depot when Major-General H R S Pain, Director of Army Training, presented them with the RSPCA silver award for bravery. This medal, the second highest award by the RSPCA, is not normally given to more than six nominees a year and rarely to a soldier.

Left, right & centre



Taking their last opportunity before re-organisation of Scottish local government, six Border towns conferred their freedoms on their local regiment, The King's Own Scottish Borderers. "A" company and the pipes and drums and military band flew to Scotland from Berlin to represent the regiment in ceremonies at Melrose, Wigton, Kirkcudbright, Newton Stewart, Hawick and Coldstream. Last of the six ceremonies in ten days, at Coldstream, is pictured here.



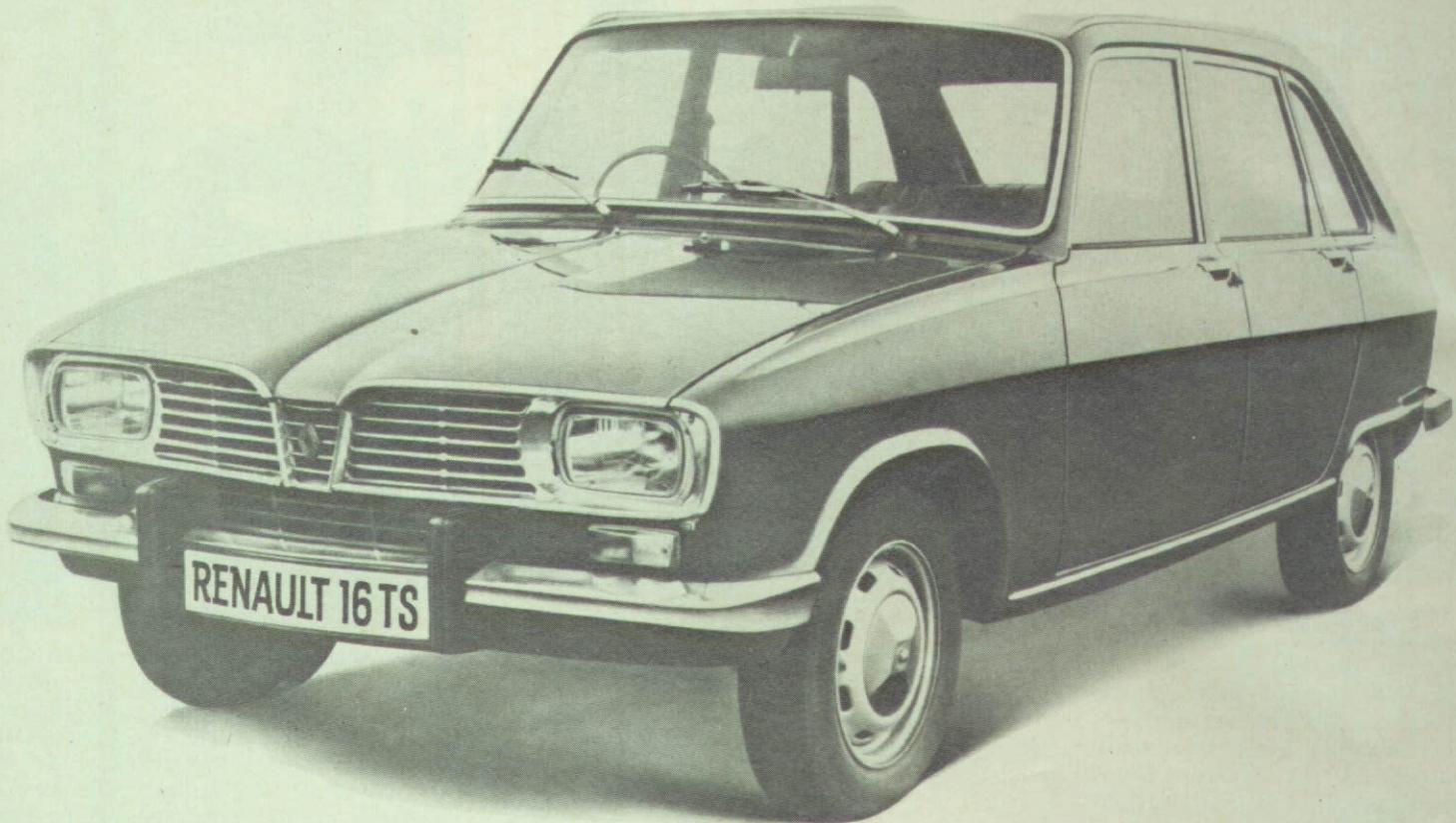
Decorating the new sergeants' mess bar at the Rifle Depot, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester, is Miss Royal Green Jacket, 18-year-old Miss Wendy Walles. She had just reopened the bar after extensive alterations. Miss Walles, who originates from Ceylon and now lives in London, has plans to visit Green Jacket battalions when they are serving in Northern Ireland.



Bunny girl Terry Lewis brought a bit of sunshine to Belfast when she flew in to become Miss A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. Terry had been chosen in a poll by company members and

the result produced a remarkable coincidence for her cousin, Private David Meek, was killed while serving with A Company in the Ardyne in 1972. Picture shows Terry with her escort at Aldergrove airport.

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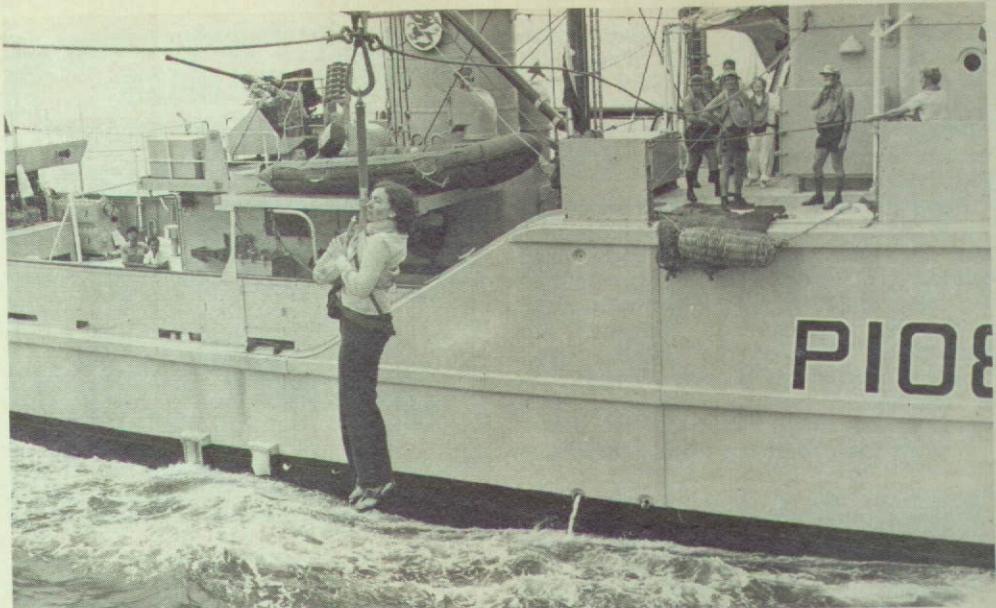
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Left, right & centre

continued

Enjoying every minute being "jack-stayed" from HMS Yarnton to another vessel in the South China Sea, is Corporal Susan Seadine of the Women's Royal Army Corps. She was one of several WRAC girls based at Victoria Barracks, Hong Kong, who were invited aboard the Yarnton for a day at sea. Another thrill for the girls was being hoisted from the deck to a Royal Air Force Wessex helicopter hovering above the ship.



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"Labour and Love" (Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band) (Conductor: Robert Oughton) (Grosvenor GRS 1020) An unashamedly old-style collection of lollipops from Carlton Main and enjoyable because they are for the most part off the over-beaten track.

Percy Fletcher, that fine composer of light music, provides the meat of the programme with the title piece—a tone poem much beloved of older BB enthusiasts and an early test piece. Dated as it is, it still sounds just right when played with sympathy and conviction. So does the contest march "Mephistopheles" by Shipley Douglas—one of those horrors that had to be played on the march in early times.

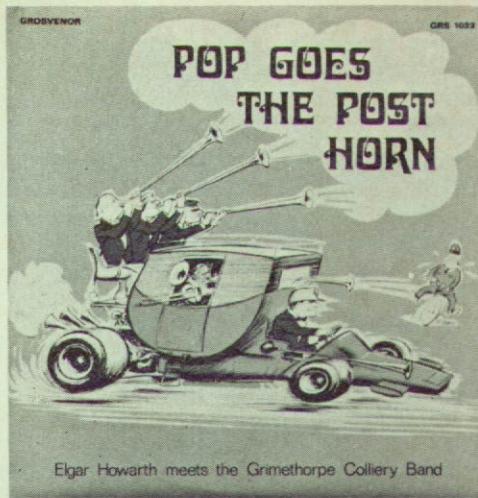
Soloists from the band display their skills



in "Fire-Star Polka" for triple-tonguing cornet, the beautiful "Romance" from "The Fair Maid of Perth" on trombone, the piano piece "To a Wild Rose" for euphonium (!) and yet again "Cornet Carillon."

Arthur Wood, apart from being the name of an old Yorkshire wicketkeeper, was also the name of the composer of three famous Yorkshire Dale dances, and incidentally the Archers signature tune. He it is who arranged the overture for "The Arcadians" by Lionel Monckton, not the composer as the sleeve notes say, and these Yorkshire colliers play this attractive piece with gusto.

For the rest we have two hymn tunes, "Hyfrydol" and "Aurelia," another "Nibelungen" march by Wagner or whoever, and



Elgar Howarth meets the Grimethorpe Colliery Band

the very rare opportunity to hear Gounod's "Funeral March of a Marionette," that lugubrious little tune that used to introduce Alfred Hitchcock TV films.

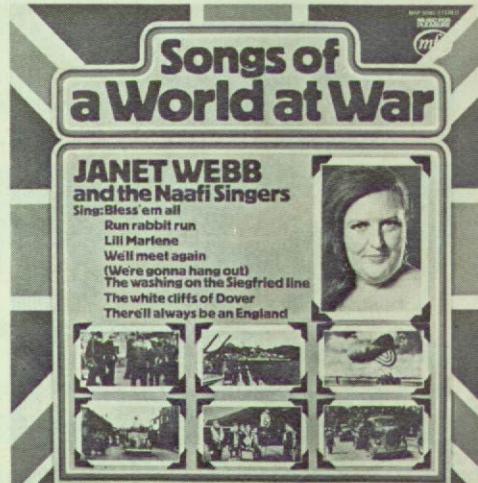
RB

"Pop Goes the Post Horn" (Elgar Howarth meets the Grimethorpe Colliery Band) (Grosvenor GRS 1022)

The title and sleeve cartoon are both misleading since there is a good deal of serious stuff on this LP. As the sleeve notes admit, Elgar Howarth is not of a frivolous bent, and in the guise of W Hogarth Lear (not to be confused with German conductor Walther Goehr), he proves the point with three "compositions" of some mawkishness.

No one will deny, however, the almost electrifying effect this young professional

On record

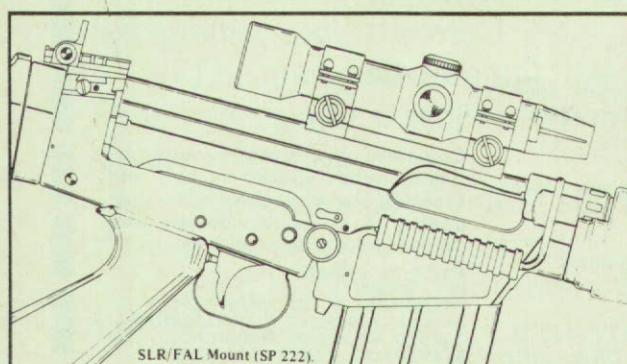


orchestral musician has had on Grimethorpe of late, and this offering will do neither conductor-composer nor band any harm. The format is new, the approach fresh and the playing magnificent, so I for one am all for Garth A Howler and his bright ideas.

W Hogarth Lear's contributions are "Pel Mel," in which all sections do their scale practice, "Cops and Robbers" ditto, and a rumba-like arrangement of Koenig's original "Post Horn Galop" which gives the disc its title. As I say, all a bit disappointing considering his known tastes in avant-garde music.

As Mr Howarth he is also responsible for arrangements of Bach in "Yo-ho-ho an' Sebastian," Glenn Miller in "Moonlight

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Serenade," trad in "A Londonderry Air" and Gershwin in "Embraceable You." His finest contributions though are a new venture in brass band performances, a set of 16th century pieces for keyboard instruments arranged for brass.

John Bull's pavan "St Thomas Wake" and his exciting "The King's Hunting Jigg," and Giles Farnaby's "Mal Sims" and "Galliard" make great listening.

After the concords of these 16th century masters the discords of three 20th century composers sound very tame. A movement from Bryan Kelly's "Divertimento," the finale from Joseph Horovitz's "Sinfonietta" and the "Russian Sailors' Dance" from Gliere's "The Red Poppy" are the more extended items, with "Trumpeters' Holiday" and the Introduction to Act III of "Lohengrin" to complete what is, in spite of my reservations, a most welcome collaboration between band and conductor. RB

"March of the Champions/The Brothers"
(The Band of HM Welsh Guards) (Director of Music: Major D K Walker) (BBC Records RESL 12)

Should you find an LP too costly in these taxing times you may be interested in this cheaper little disc containing just two of the best items from the Welsh Guards' "March of the Champions" (reviewed July). One is the Stanley Laudan march of the title which the composer dedicated to perky little Olga Korbut during the visit of the Russian gymnastic team to London.

On the B side, quite undeservedly, is the theme which introduced every showing of "The Brothers" on BBC TV. The Australian composer Dudley Simpson uncannily captures the frenetic capers in the boardroom of Hammond Transport. A fine piece of musical portrayal worthy of your record rack. RB

"Songs of a World at War" (Janet Webb and the Naafi Singers) (Music for Pleasure MFP 50063)

It seems that old soldiers' songs never die either. And do soldiers still get maudlin to this lot after a wet night in the Naafi? I doubt it, so I suppose this LP is reissued for the likes of me and my age group.

Janet Webb, the busty and lusty lady who used to appear at the end of Morecambe and Wise shows, tries hard to sound like Janet Webb but given such songs as "Yours," "We'll Meet Again" and "When the Lights

Go On Again" she can't really establish a personality of her own. Even Dame Nellie Melba in "If I Had My Way" would sound like Our Vera.

One can only listen in disbelief that we who are old enough sang "Run, Rabbit, Run," "Beer Barrel Polka" and "Siegfried Line" with something like fervour. Miss Webb and the male chorus also enthuse over "Bless 'Em All," "Kiss me Goodnight, Serjeant Major," "White Cliffs of Dover" and "There'll Always be an England," but she wisely leaves "Lili Marlene" to the men, it's a man's song anyway.

No military or brass band involved here so I review it for middle-aged dreamers of dreams, and may we all meet again some sunny day.

RB

"Hymns for Brass and Organ" (Harry Mortimer and the Cathedral Brass) (Organ: Michael Austin) (Polydor Circle of Sound 2383 242 Super)

Yet another LP of some favourite hymns, so the others must be selling well. I can quite see why there is a market for this sort of thing; in effect you have one of those marvellous training records whereon a full symphony orchestra plays the accompaniment only of, say, Beethoven's violin concerto. You, in your own parlour, merely switch on the gramophone, pick up your fiddle, and let rip with the London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Adrian Boult conducting!

So for an instant appearance at Coventry Cathedral, with Harry Mortimer, large brass band and organ, you merely turn down the volume and drown them all with your dark-brown baritone.

The hymns are "Praise My Soul," "Once in Royal David's City" (Crimond), "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" (Battle Hymn of the Republic), "There is a Green Hill" (Horsley), "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" (Hyfrydol), "Silent Night," "And Did Those Feet" (Jerusalem), "Ye Holy Angels Bright" (Darwall's 148th), "Once in Royal David's City" (Irby), "Thou Whose Almighty Word" (Moscow), "Abide With Me," "The Day Thou Gavest" (Ardgowan), "O Thou Who Camest" (Hereford), "Rock of Ages" (Petra) and "Who Would True Valour See" (Monk's Gate). RB

"Aces High" (Central Band of the Royal Air Force) (Conductor: Wing Commander H E C Davies) (Studio 2 Stereo TWOX 1010)

What makes the RAF Central Band a really great recording band? The answer is so simple that it is a wonder others do not get the message—style and panache. Obvious enough, but "style" includes one requisite without which all the panache in the world is useless. In layman's language it is the ability to play the short notes short and the long notes long, with tongued attack in varying degrees on all detached notes. There's never a woolly mess on an RAF record, and they use the same technicians and equipment as other bands.

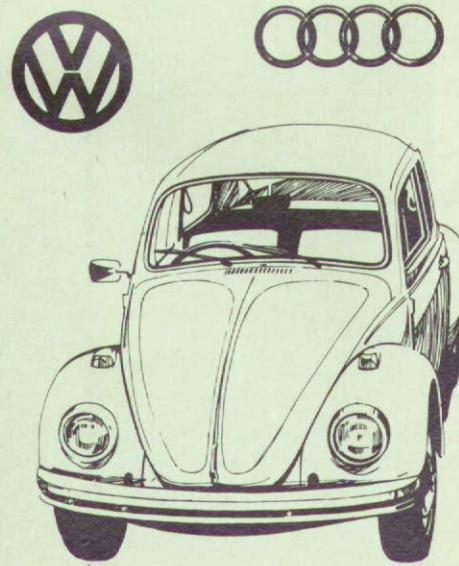
In addition there is a small matter of general musicianship, but the small matter of note values and attack would revolutionise the sound of most other bands.

No need, then, to recommend this LP. It is merely a matter of whether you want "Aces High (Luftwaffe March)" by Ron Goodwin, "Sandpaper Ballet" (Leroy Anderson), Suite



No 2, "Pineapple Poll" (Sullivan-Mackerras), "Slide-Kicks" (trombone trio by Simeone), "March of the Cobblers" (Barratt), "Bacchanal" (from "The Seasons," Glazunov), "Colditz March" (Farnon), "Zorba the Greek" (Theodorakis), "Nibelungen March" (Wagner), "Midnite Matinee" (Shaefer), "Michelle" (Lennon and McCartney) and Suite, "La Boutique Fantasque" (Rossini-Respighi).

I'm sure you do, if only for "Zorba the Greek" where the cornets show the brass band boys how to do it. RB



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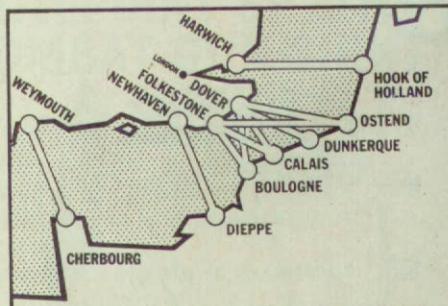
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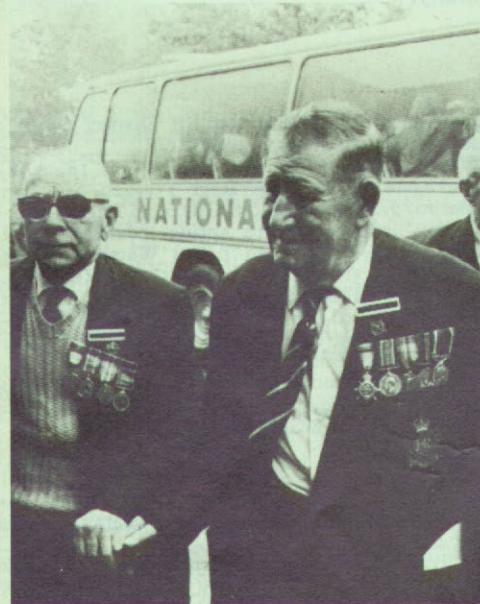


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The hand of friendship crosses 60 years as (below) Old Contemptibles enter the church.



"Chums" call it a day

WAXED moustaches bristling, medals chinking and glistening despite the rain. The indomitable spirit of 1914 shone through as the grand old men who were remnants of the British Expeditionary Force at the start of World War One got together for the last time.

When these men headed for the trenches that hot August, Kaiser "Bill" is reputed to have sarcastically dubbed them "this contemptible little Army." Four years later the Kaiser was consigned to exile while the Old Contemptibles lived on as a unique old comrades association.

Each year on the anniversary of the Battle of Mons, the "Chums," as they are known, gathered in the Army's home town of Aldershot for a memorial service, a march past and a giant "bunfight." But as age took its toll (even the youngest Chum is now nearly 80) so numbers dwindled and the journey from all parts of Britain and even overseas became more difficult.

Thus this year, in the presence of the Queen, it was the final Aldershot parade. The memorable weekend started for many the night before when they arrived in Aldershot and stayed in barracks with present-day soldiers as their hosts. A host of yarns was told but the old-timers had nothing but praise for the young men of today—"Just as brave as we were," said one.

Heads held high (the oldest man on parade was said to be 95), the Old Contemptibles converged on the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints. The remembrance and dedication service began with the Standards being laid on the altar for the last time. The Reverend D B McDougall, Assistant Chaplain-General, South East District, said that in 1914 the Old Contemptibles had changed the course of history and their achievement was comparable to the defeat of the Armada.

Though the men were old they sang the traditional hymns like "Onward Christian Soldiers" with gusto and remained completely silent throughout the Last Post, Reveille and the piped lament.

After the service the "Chums" went to the Maida gymnasium where they ate a vast tea. During the meal the Queen walked around the tables chatting to the old soldiers. In a speech she thanked them for what they had done on the battlefield and for their example of courage, fortitude and comradeship. Although it was their last service their courage and sacrifice would not be forgotten.

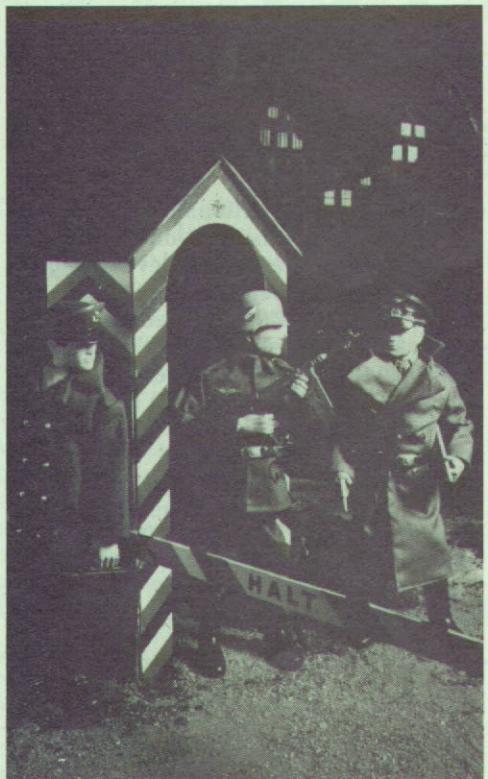
It was the last official parade in Aldershot but many "Chums" will continue to make the pilgrimage privately on the anniversary which means so much to them.



Above: The Queen meets Old Contemptibles after attending the service. Below: Happy smile on a day of sadness and nostalgia.



Military MODELS



Pure escapism

A PLAN to escape from Colditz Castle in a two-man do-it-yourself glider was no mere fancy. For ten months a handful of British officers worked undetected in an improvised attic workshop blocked off by a false wall. Spares were

made from floorboards, metal fittings from cupboard hinges, control lines from stolen telephone wire and the skin from blue-and-white checked cotton mattress covers "doped" with a paste made from millet issued as prison rations.

The launch mechanism was a rope wound round pulleys and weighted by a bathtub full of concrete. It was estimated that the glider (pictured left) would reach about 27 miles an hour, sufficient to make it controllably airborne. However, it never did fly. By the time it was completed the front line was fast approaching Colditz and the senior British officer decided to keep the glider in reserve in case of emergency. It had by all accounts an inglorious end as firewood in the hearths of local Germans during the following freezing winter.

Now, as the nights draw in, armchair escapists can recreate the Spirit of Colditz (as the glider was named) with an Airfix kit. For £1.50, a few spare evenings, a pair of scissors and a fair amount of patience, they would be rewarded with an 18-inch span glider that actually flies—90 feet or more if the wind is right. In order to make it airworthy, however, Airfix have had to use anachronistic materials such as plastic and polystyrene.

Airfix are not the only enterprise to catch on to the Colditz craze in the wake of the successful BBC television serial and specially extended exhibition at the Imperial War Museum. The Coalville, Leicester, firm of Palitoy has brought out not only a Colditz board game (retailing at £3.62) but a composite "Escape from Colditz" pack (at £4.00) (far left), escape officer (£2.45) and camp commandant (£2.30) outfits to add to the Action Man series.

These items are obtainable by mail order from Hamleys at 200 Regent Street, London W1. Potential customers, at home or abroad, should write to the store for a quote to cover postage and packing. A store spokesman said that at present demand exceeds supply and sales are "absolutely fantastic."

The board game is for two to six players, one taking the part of the German security officer and the others the British, American, Dutch, French or Polish escape officers. Players move their men the number of places indicated by the throw of dice. By various stratagems, escape officers must obtain cards entitling them to such items as disguise, compasses, escape rations, forged documents, rope and wirecutters. To counter them, the security officer can draw cards which allow him to confiscate escape equipment, break into tunnels, call prisoners to Appel (roll call) and shoot to kill. To add to the interest there are such forfeits, hazards and bonuses as solitary confinement, searchlights and a hijackable German staff car.

The Action Man packs come complete less Action Man figures themselves. This is a disadvantage because the figures all have the identical fresh, clean-cut physiognomy in the true "Boys' Own Paper" mould, so your young escaper and elderly camp commandant look like twin brothers.

The packs include such necessities as discs ID, comforters cap, parcels Red Cross, batteries torch, ropes climbing, compasses magnetic and mugs drinking. However, one item—a nondescript attache case containing a portable two-way radio and automatic pistol with detachable stock and barrel—would be appropriate only to those whose last three are 007. But perhaps the most fascinating are the authentic reproduction, forged counterfeit documents—on which you can write your own name.

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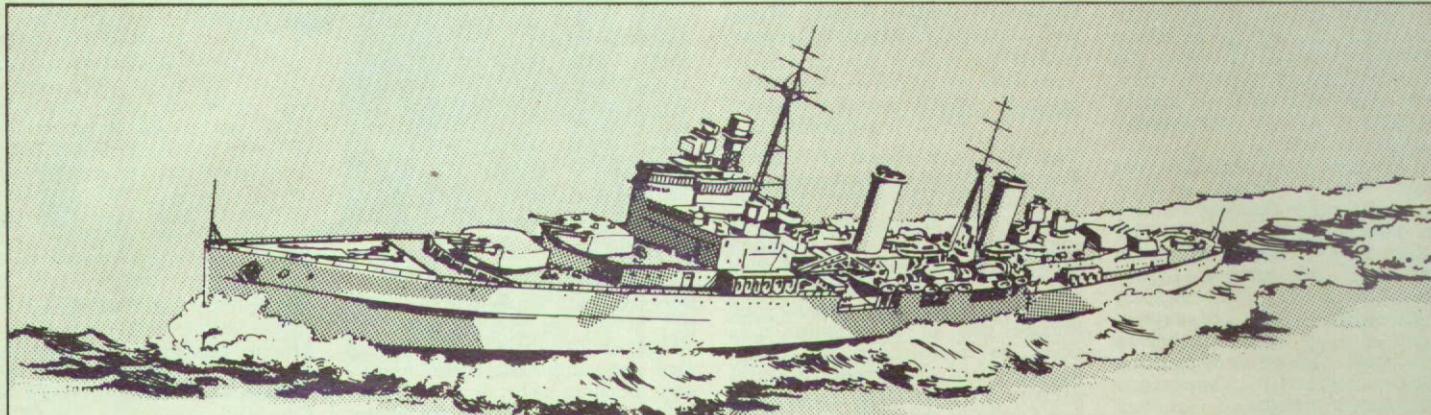


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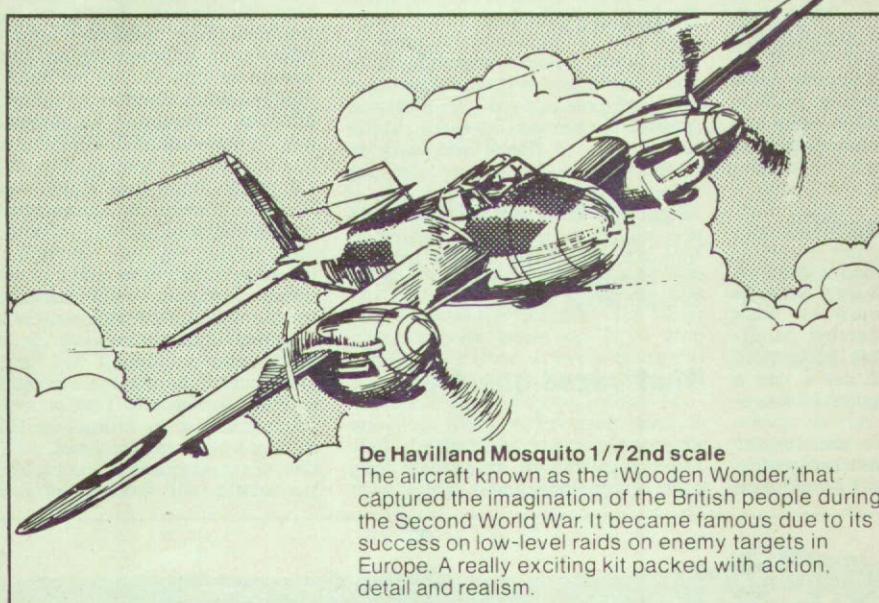
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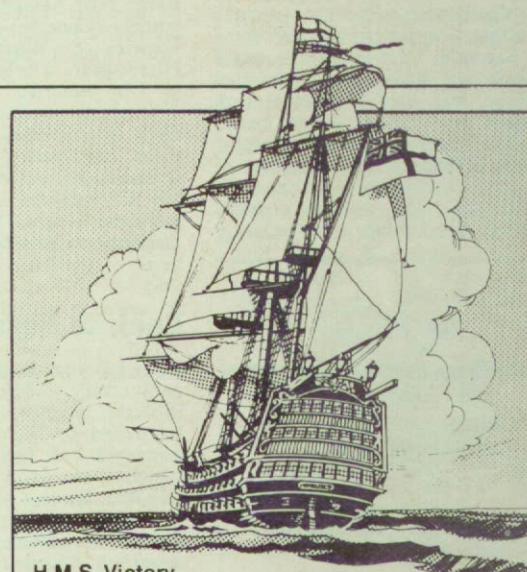
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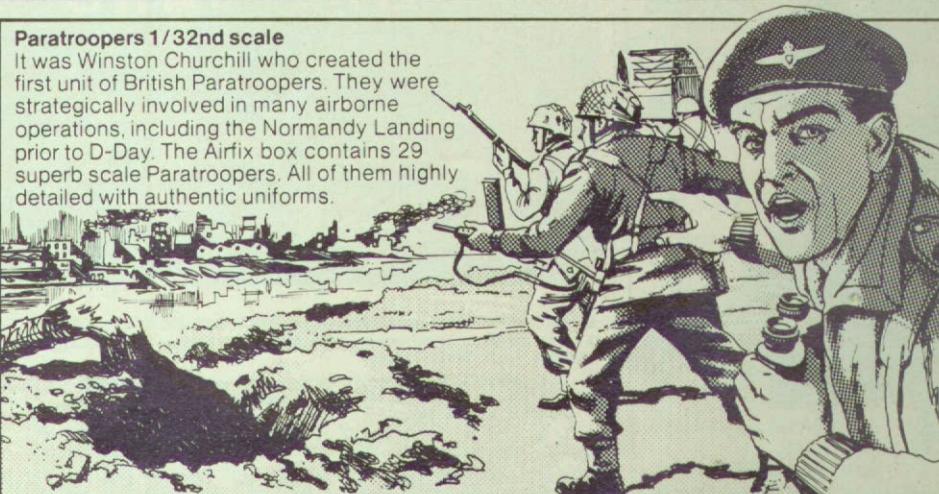


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Letters

It ain't half hot

During the BBC series "It Ain't Half Hot Mum," many observations, favourable and unfavourable have been made in the press. I agree with Captain Purvis (June) though his comments appear to be based on knowledge acquired during the last war. I would hate to think that Deolali went down in history as something akin to the picture painted by the BBC.

The facts as I know them are that Deolali was a British military cantonment since the last century with accommodation for a full battalion plus. It was designated a second-class hill station. I was stationed in Deolali from 1925-27 and stayed there for a few days at the end of 1947 before embarking for Liverpool. There were no punkahs or electric fans and the climate was mild and most pleasant.

It was during World War One that Deolali was developed as a holding and transit camp, and it was probably the men who passed through there who brought back to this country not only the bawdy songs sung at reunions but also the expression "Deolali tap" which I first heard in 1916. There were two hospitals, the old British military hospital of 19th century vintage and that built about 1916. The mental hospital appeared to function independently

of the BMH, a major of the Indian Medical Services being in charge. In 1937 I left Cawnpore for Bombay on my way to England and noted in passing Deolali that the railway line had been electrified.—**Maj L W Dutton (ex-Indian Army), Westwell Cottage, Desford, Leicester, LE9 9FN.**

Home run

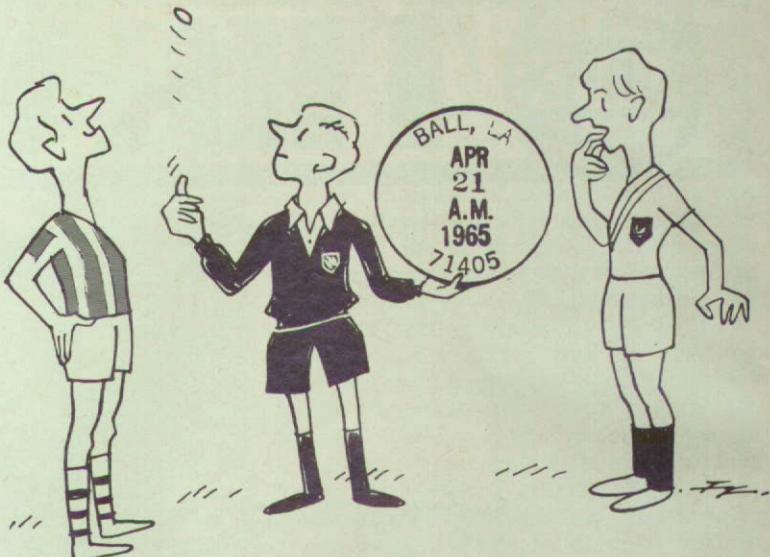
The May book review of "Colditz Recaptured" did not list Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Cecil Ingersoll Merritt VC among the escapees from Colditz. He won Canada's first Victoria Cross of World War Two for "matchless gallantry and inspiring leadership" during the Dieppe raid of 19 August 1942 when he commanded the South Saskatchewan Regiment. Colonel Merritt tunneled out of Colditz and I feel this should be recognised. I have not written previously as I have been awaiting confirmation from Canada.—**Maj Charles Cowie, 5 Warwick Crescent, Harrogate, Yorks.**

★ The majority of prisoners who escaped from Colditz were recaptured. Only a few made successful "home runs." Lieutenant-Colonel Merritt VC is mentioned in other Colditz books but not recorded as having made a successful escape. Perhaps other ex-Colditz prisoners have more information?

Back to Hermanville

After reading the article on the 30th anniversary of the D-Day landings (Soldier, August) I must ask what happened to Field-Marshal Montgomery's 3rd Infantry Division of which I am proud to say I was a member, having landed at Hermanville on 6 June 44.

I went back there this year for the first time. There weren't many of us there—in fact as far as I know there



were only two. We were in the cemetery during the evening when the village children placed flowers on each stone and, believe me, it was a very touching sight. It is a pity the light wasn't good enough for photography.—**B E F Peters (ex-Royal Warwickshire Regiment), Lye Walk, 103 Lythill Road, Bayston Hill, Shropshire.**

Going nap?

The Sabre Society was formed in 1972 to re-fight battles and skirmishes of the Napoleonic wars, to create an interest in that period and to fulfill the dreams of those who wish to re-live the past. The society is hoping to create a rifle unit in the Isle of Wight and keen and alert men who are willing to travel are invited to join.—**R T White, White Lodge, 317 Upton Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 3DX.**

That vexed question

I must take issue with the view expressed by Mr M Hefford (Letters, July). Whilst excessively long hair is not particularly smart with

the military form of dress, I feel that MOD should reconsider the present regulations on hair length in order to remove from young soldiers the feeling of being social misfits.

Mr Hefford attempts to advocate short hair as a necessity for discipline. Really! Isn't it time that he, and others with such Victorian attitudes, realised that what we need in the Army is a system of man-management based on better understanding between men and officers, as opposed to the present system of "do as you are told and don't ask questions."—**Cpl J Phelan, Herford Detachment, 114 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 15.**

Of course long hair looks scruffy. Short hair is merely one component of efficiency which goes to make the entire soldier. If he's not efficient, he's not a soldier. In my view, living in field conditions, in the open, under haystacks etc, long hair quickly collects dirt and gives accommodation to "creepy crawlies." Short hair can be quickly washed and dried. The young recruit is not a fool. Explain things to him and he will respond. One must comment favourably on the quality of soldiers of today.



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New Zealand brass

P B Smith (Letters, March) believes the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars recording of "Officer of the Day" is the only one available. This is not so—I have a record by the Central Band of the RAF in which this march is played. It has also been recorded by the bands of the Fiji Military Forces and the Royal New Zealand Air Force. While on the subject of military bands, I wish to voice my opinion that the band of the New Zealand Army is one of the finest. This is a pure brass combination and at the opening ceremony of the 1974 Commonwealth Games they gave a first-class marching display lasting eight minutes in which 14 tunes were played and 26 different drill movements were carried out. Whether on the march or in concert, about 90 per cent of their music is in the light or pop style.—J R Laws, 12 Merivale Lane, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Taffy in the limelight

I refer to your remarks concerning the regimental mascot of The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (Left, Right and Centre, July). Unfortunately dear old Derby XXI will be disappointed for Taffy I of this regiment has pipped him by eight months and the mascot of The Royal Welch Fusiliers was in Londonderry until last year. However, it must be unusual that two of the few remaining regimental mascots in the British Army will shortly find themselves serving with their units on active service in the same theatre, as well as being part of the same division (Prince of Wales's). The last time I

remember more than one was in Cyprus in 1957 when mascots of The Welch Regiment, The Royal Welch Fusiliers and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders served together.

Taffy I is an old goat in every sense and in human terms is now over 90



years of age; surely he deserves to hold the limelight a little while longer!—Capt R C Edger, Public Relations Officer, 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, BFPO 801.

New society

Thank you for publishing my letter on the formation of a George Medal society. Many replies have been received and, in order to speed up work on this project, Captain P B Murphy has undertaken the duties of honorary secretary of the proposed association. It is hoped that our new efforts will be crowned with success.—W E Green, 19 Ella Road, Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich, Norfolk, NOR 30S

Don't knock the NS

I have just read the letter in the July issue, from a reader in New Zealand, suggesting some sort of recognition for National Servicemen. The finest thing anyone could do is to stop "knocking" them at every twist and turn. It has been suggested that had the forces in Northern Ireland consisted of National Servicemen, then the troops would have been withdrawn long ago by public demand. The person who suggested this must

have forgotten that National Servicemen were on active service in Malaya, Korea, Egypt, Kenya and Cyprus. Many in fact received decorations for gallantry.

It is also worth recording that some of these men were snatched from well-paid employment or having just completed an apprenticeship, which caused hardships. The meagre pay of 28 shillings a week wasn't very good and while it can be argued that the value of money then was more than it is today, the soldier of the 1950s would have a long way to go to catch up with today's rate for the lowest rank.—JB Morris, Hillview, Daventry Road, Kilsby, Rugby, Warwickshire.



Auctioned weapons

A 12-bore ejector shotgun has been sold at auction for £7250 by Weller & Dufty Ltd, Birmingham. The shotgun, 12 bore x 2½-inch nitro double-barrelled over-and-under single trigger top-lever sidelock hammerless ejector, with two pairs of barrels, was made by James Purdy and Sons, London, and engraved and signed by Ken Hunt.

Japanese buyers are showing a growing interest in European items. They purchased the majority of a collection of sword fittings for Japanese swords.

At an auction by Messrs Wallis & Wallis of Lewes, Sussex, a post-1902 side-drum of the Royal Horse Guards painted with the royal arms and battle honours up to 1918, realised £160. An early Victorian long-tailed coatee was sold for £100. This coatee of the Royal Jersey Militia had silver bullion facings and embroidered badges on the tails.

service in the cause of freedom. Our American allies issued a small metal aeroplane to be worn on the ribbon of the occupation medal. This was later replaced by a special commemorative award for those who served during this period. Why

continued ▶

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then did our servicemen receive no general award for their efforts? We seem very remiss in the matter of medal issues. Operations deserving recognition seem to be overlooked, and there are several examples of this, whilst others attract recognition on the flimsiest of excuses.

On a number of occasions in the past, letters published in this column have challenged the authorities to answer the criticisms raised. That they have failed to do so indicates to me that it would be difficult for them to stand up under scrutiny.—**J B Morris (RARO)**, Hillview, Daventry Road, Kilsby, Rugby, Warwickshire.

COMPETITION

"By all the powers" (Competition 192, June) presented one of those problems which you either get right or just can't fathom. There was a large correct entry and only one wrong. The answer, what the bandsman said to the subaltern, was "This is the Army, Mr Jones." Prizewinners:

1 Maj J R Carswell (Retd), Little Paddock, 4 Yelland Road, Fremington, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 3BU.

2 G Saunders, 147 Rhode Lane, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6 6HZ.

3 Cpl Meredith REME, att 1 Cheshire, Wootton Camp, Preston, Lancs.

4 Cpl H A Lovegrove RAOC, Ex Planning Staff, HQ NORTHAG, BFPO 40.

5 R Lawrence, Prince Rupert School BFPO 29.

6 Mrs V R Fagan, c/o Cpl T P Fagan, O Tp, 1 Sqn, 13 Sig Regt, BFPO 40.

7 Cpl J H Hardy, Royal Victoria

Hospital, Netley, Southampton, SO3 5GZ.

8 Maj K A Stone, 174 Joicey Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5M 2VZ.

9 E Parkinson, Room 434, Dept of Ind, LGC, Cornwall House, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9NQ. 10 P Boon, 606 MCTG RCT, BFPO 35.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 9)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Light bulb in window. 2 "G" in "BUILDING." 3 Size of arm muscle on picture on window. 4 Cat's hind legs. 5 Hair of middle man in shop window. 6 Dots on weight-lifter's leopard skin. 7 Nail supporting picture of weight-lifter. 8 Back of cap of right ambulance man. 9 Curtain in left of top window. 10 Cross on first-aid box.

REUNIONS

9th Bn York and Lancaster Regiment (1939-45). 13th annual dinner, Sheffield, 26 October. Details from RHQ, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

The Queen's Lancashire Regiment and The South Lancashire Regiment (PWV). Reunion and memorial service 4-6 October, Warrington. Details and tickets from Major J Kenny, RHQ (I) The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, Peninsula Barracks, Warrington, WA2 7BR.

Royal Tank Regiment Association. Annual dinner, Victory Club, London, 23 November; Cenotaph march 24 November. Details from HQ RTR, 1 Elverton Street, London SW1.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

B R Hodge, 43 Hillside Road, Rosanna, 3084, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.—Seeks military literature, books, magazines, photographs etc on Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos 1960-74.

H J Pike, 35 Hauteville, St Peter Port, Guernsey, CI.—Wishes swap Royal Guernsey Militia for Southern Rhodesian Commandos or 2, 3, 6 CEF (N13 Kilties) also belt buckles (QVC) 3 Bombay Light Infantry and 105 Madras Light Infantry.

N Smith, 27 Winchester Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8DD.—Seeks 1908 pattern cavalry sword also coloured postcards Royal Scots Greys. Has pre-1914 Scots Greys tunic and pre-1939 Royal Marine tunic for sale or exchange.

H Kirkland, 12 Hungerford Avenue, Crewe, Cheshire.—Seeks spare parts, manual, photographs, Corgi para-troopers folding motorcycle.

D Vaughan, 3 Enterkine Square, Pennybarn, Killwinning, Ayrshire, KA16 6LW.—Wishes sell SOLDIER magazines 1952 to 1974.

C Cowie, 5 Warwick Crescent, Harrogate, Yorks.—Seeks WRNS and WRAF officer cap badges with George crown and Pugric badge Welsh Guards officer.

Tomas, 31 Buckley Road, Leamington



Spa, Warwickshire.—Seeks information armed forces and police forces Canada, New Zealand, Australia, India, Pakistan, Nepal and South Africa from 1880 to 1974.

V J T Sharpe, 31 Riverview Street, Tamworth, NSW, 2340, Australia.—Seeks copies "The Diary of a Yeomanary MO" by Major O Teichman and "Salute if you Must" (author unknown).

R T Griffiths, 7 Nightingale Lane, St Albans, Herts.—Seeks 10-inch LP records marches Welsh Guards, Scots Guards, Royal Marines and band, Royal Netherlands Navy.

A E Payne, 3 Cross Oak Road, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3EH.—Wishes purchase Purple Heart Medal and US campaign medals. Reasonable price paid.

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The King's Longbowmen

FROM a distance the tropical hills and jungles of Fiji look lush, green and inviting. But in reality—as exercising Kingsmen found—you can end up tramping ankle-deep in mud for hours through some of the thickest and most tangled undergrowth in the world. Slippery slopes become treacherous traps for men with 30 pounds of stores and equipment on their backs.

For 150 men of A Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, this was the setting for Exercise Longbow on Fiji. Every day some half-dozen cool, clear streams had to be forded by the Kingsmen, often wading waist-deep in the shallower waters. This is bearable enough in the blaze of the tropical sun, but the sun can be suddenly clouded over by fierce rain showers.

The aim of the exercise was to practise jungle warfare and develop initiative and leadership against the harsh background of jungle survival. Small groups were dropped off at scattered locations with the task of getting back to their platoon headquarters in the shortest time possible. This might take anything from ten to 40 hours with an average speed in the dense undergrowth of about three miles an hour. Thirty miles a day was the target for progress.

The sections were in touch with each other by radio, though with a limited transmission range because of the thick jungle.

If they wandered outside their range, the sections had to rely completely on themselves to re-establish contact and make their way back.

A bonus for the Kingsmen was that there were few wild-life "enemies" to worry about. The worst they could expect to meet were non-malarial mosquitoes, spiders and, of course, the unpredictable elements.

Exercise Longbow was not all work and no play. There were weekends set aside for sight-seeing and shopping in the friendly Fijian communities—where English is the official language. The Kingsmen also took part in a Queen's Birthday parade in Suva alongside the Royal Fijian Military Forces. After this there were two weeks' adventure training around the many off-shore islands, including scuba diving, rock climbing, canoeing, water skiing and boating.

From a report by Joint Services Public Relations Staff, Hong Kong.



A Kingsman talks horse-sense to a Fijian. Infanteers must put up with Shanks's pony!

Right: Putting on a brave face to start jungle warfare training—with cam cream.

Top: A footsore patrol cools its heels—after going hotfoot through the jungle.



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Books

PRIDE OF EMPIRE

"A Matter of Honour: An Account of the Indian Army, its Officers and Men" (Philip Mason)

The Indian Army reached the peak of its professionalism and success in World War Two. Without conscription, 2,500,000 men joined the Colours—the largest voluntary army in history. And the Indian soldiers showed that they could defeat the most martial races in the world, the Germans and the Japanese.

Why did so many men join up so gladly to risk their lives for a foreign emperor largely under officers of a foreign race? Pay, clothing, good food and a pension counted a lot in India but Mr Mason observes: "Men may come to the Colours for pay, but it is not for pay that they earn the Victoria Cross."

Mr Mason marches us back through history to the East India Company's recruitment of local natives as armed watchmen. We see the company expanding, spreading its rule and influence and the British-led sepoys trained into an army capable of beating ten times their own number in battle after battle. The mutiny doomed the old company army but a new Indian Army, colourful and dependable, faithful and brave, was built on the remnants of the old and became the pride of Empire.

Dealing sometimes with a campaign, an episode in a battle, the story of one man, or one regiment, Mr Mason carries us along at Gurkha pace as the Sikhs, Jats, Rajputs, Dogras, Garhwalis or Punjabis march again. And their strength, we find, was their concept of personal honour.

This is an enthralling book of great and deep understanding, a rare blend of social and military history which will stand as a tribute to the men it so ably describes.

Jonathan Cape, 30 Bedford Square, London WC1, £5.75

JCW

MAN OF DESTINY

"Napoleon" (John Bowle)

It is an extraordinary fact that the three greatest dictators of the last two centuries were strangers to the countries which they ultimately dominated—Stalin was a Georgian, Hitler an Austrian and Napoleon a Corsican. The latter was by far the most attractive of this unholy trio.

There was little about his appearance to suggest the superman. He was of average height, broad-chested and olive-skinned. His outstanding characteristic was his supreme egotism. Yet behind all this lurked the mind of a genius. Add an iron will and a boundless ambition and a "man of destiny" emerges.

Napoleon is in many ways a mass of contradictions. He is France's greatest hero yet was himself a true cosmopolitan; he guaranteed the spread of the ideas so essential to the French Revolution yet created himself emperor; he found it possible to compromise with the Church of Rome yet was a rationalist and agnostic; he was the best tactician of the 19th century yet relied on element of luck in many of his battles.

Basically, Napoleon was that very rare animal—an adventurer who was also an intellectual. He deliberately

set out to use his personal magnetism to dominate France and one could argue that he was the first modern dictator in history. He certainly used all the established techniques—a highly efficient police force, gagging the Press, blatant propaganda and mobilisation of the nation's resources to serve his ambition.

Napoleon's very real achievements were creation of the Banque de France, centralisation of education, codification of law and the introduction of prefects and maires.

This is an excellent little book, well-written and richly endowed with scores of good plates. It is a worthy addition to Elizabeth Longford's series of "Great Lives."

Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London, SW11 1XA, £3.25

AWH

SOLDIERS' SAINT

"Larrey: Surgeon to Napoleon's Imperial Guard" (Robert G Richardson)

Two centuries ago a soldier wounded in battle had only a slim chance of survival. All this began to change, at least for the French, in 1792 when Dominique Jean Larrey, surgeon, was posted to the Army of the Rhine. Appalled by the neglect of men who had given of their best he set out to devise a system of immediate evacuation involving "flying ambulances." When this was not possible he would operate immediately, even under fire. Constantly he heckled the authorities for more equipment, better hospitals and doctors.

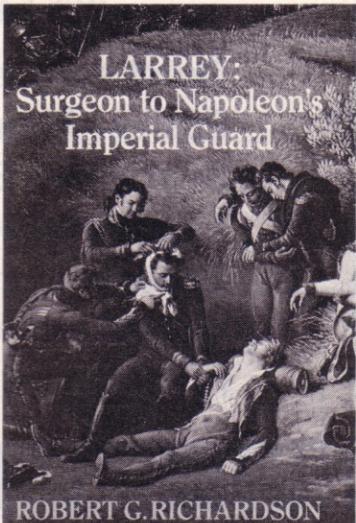
It was not long before Larrey, in Napoleon's own words, became known as "the best friend to the soldier." He tended ophthalmia in Egypt, plague in Palestine, tetanus in Austria, typhus in Spain and frostbite in Russia. At Borodino in 1812 this astonishing little man from the Pyrenees personally conducted 200 operations in under 24 hours! It is not surprising that he was regarded as something of a saint by the common soldier.

The strangest thing about this staunch republican was his loyalty to Napoleon whom he followed with devotion from Egypt to Waterloo.

A fascinating little book with good plates and maps.

John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, 50 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4BD, £4.50

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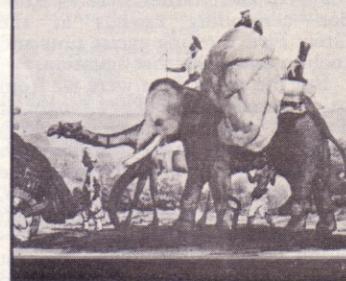


ROBERT G. RICHARDSON

A MATTER OF HONOUR

An account of the Indian Army, its officers & men

PHILIP MASON



BIRTH OF GEORGIA

"British Drums on the Southern Frontier" (Larry E Ivers)

In the early 1730s there was a huge wilderness, an area of dense wood and swamp inhabited by fierce tribes of Indians with only a handful of traders daring to live and trade there, between the Spanish possession of Florida and the British colony of South Carolina, Spain's greatness was rapidly waning and the British, in pursuit of Empire, decided to absorb the buffer area.

The man who led the campaign to dominate what was ultimately to be Georgia, was James Oglethorpe. Without his energetic leadership the territory would have fallen to the Spanish. It was a long slow business. Sections of the forest were cleared, small log forts built and the garrisons died either of dysentery or typhoid. Oddly the most successful colonists were Gaelic-speaking Highlanders who defended their settlements clad in belted plaid and armed with claymore and dirk.

Although fighting had been going on since 1686 the tempo increased only in 1739 with the advent of the War of Jenkins's Ear. A British attack on Florida proved a failure and the Spanish invaded in retaliation. After an initial victory they were routed. Georgia was won.

This interesting book, although its immense detail almost obscures its central theme, is set against a background of floods, colonial jealousies, bloody duels and colourful characters like Squirrel King, Chief of the Chickasaw.

Oxford University Press, 37 Dover Street, London, W1X 4AH, £7.25

AWH

VADE MECUM

"Ribbons and Medals" (H Taprell Dorling)

The late Captain H Taprell Dorling RN, familiar to generations of schoolboys as "Taffrail," the author of many a stirring nautical yarn, was also a naval historian and an authority on medals who wrote a book which, since it first appeared in 1916, has been a vade mecum for medal-collecting enthusiasts.

This new enlarged edition, edited by Francis K Mason, is a lavish production. Instead of drawings, medals are illustrated by actual-size photographs and 643 ribbons of Commonwealth and foreign decorations are displayed in full colour. Insignia covered by previous editions have been brought up to date, principal awards instituted by recently independent nations are

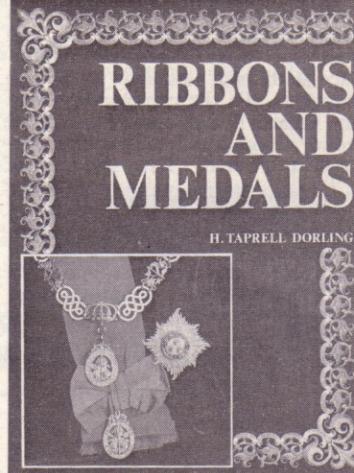
pictured, and certain countries not previously included—for example, Iceland, Finland and Monaco—are now represented.

Of particular interest are sections dealing with the orders of Imperial and Soviet Russia and illustrations of three rare decorations awarded by the former kingdom of Hawaii which were photographed when in London for repair. One of them, the Royal Order of Kapiolani, was conferred on only 11 recipients.

The main body of the book is preceded by an informative introduction, a list giving the order in which British orders, decorations and medals should be worn, and some useful notes on mentions-in-despatches and King's, or Queen's, commendations.

George Philip & Son Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP, £5.00

H. TAPRELL DORLING



THE 14TH OF FOOT

"The West Yorkshire Regiment" (A J Barker)

Founded in 1685 and known for years as the 14th Foot, the West Yorkshires won their first battle honour at Namur ten years later. Their early years, fighting Jacobites, chasing smugglers and dying from yellow fever, were often shaped by the personality of the colonel, who virtually owned the regiment. Such men took them to India, on the retreat to Corunna and to Waterloo.

Throughout the 19th century the West Yorkshires fought to maintain the Empire; against the French in Mauritius, the Dutch in Java, the Jats in India and the Russians in the Crimea. Often their tasks were exciting as when they tried to save Quebec from fire; sometimes they were frustrating as when they stormed Maori villages, but more often they were bloody as when they tried to drive the Boers from the Tugela River.

World War One saw them at Neuve Chapelle, Thiepval and Fricourt as well as at the more famous battles. They won the Croix de Guerre for the capture of Montagne de Bligny. With 66 battle honours and four Victoria Crosses, their efforts had been enormous. It was the same between the wars when they quelled Arab revolts and helped at the Quetta earthquake.

World War Two saw the West Yorkshires at Dologorodoc in Eritrea and at the bloody "Cauldron" in North Africa. Their greatest effort however was made near Imphal in

Books continued

Burma where they blunted an attack by 100,000 Japs. Vicious fighting, monsoons and malaria were their lot till the war ended.

The last years of the West Yorks' were not easy, what with trouble in Indonesia and Malaya, and the Suez Canal. When the time came to join with their comrades in the East Yorkshires to form The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, they marched off the stage of history with dignity and pride.

Another interesting addition to the "Famous Regiments" series.
Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £3.50
AWH

FIRST OF FOOT

"The Grenadier Guards" (R H Whitworth)

Every regiment has at least one moment in its history which it cherishes above all others. At Waterloo the French struggled up a ridge through swirling smoke and suddenly found themselves face-to-face with two battalions of British bayonets. To the command "Stand up, Guards!" they released a mighty volley which shattered the densely-packed French. The saviours of

Waterloo were, of course, the Grenadier Guards.

The Grenadiers trace their pedigree to the hectic days of the mid-17th century when their primary function was to protect the monarch. Many of their duties were in London—controlling crowds at the Great Fire, quelling excise riots and cooling down Chartist agitation.

But the 1st of Foot were far from being home-bound. They fought at Tangier against fierce Moorish tribes, served under Marlborough at Blenheim, protected the rest of the Army on the retreat to Corunna, fought with the bayonet at Inkerman and formed squares against Dervishes in the Sudan. Their greatest tests of courage came with the two world wars in which their long list of battle honours was won at the cost of 20,000 casualties. Since 1945 the Grenadiers have been found wherever and whenever they were needed—Palestine, Canal Zone, Malaya, Cyprus, Northern Ireland.

Like all the other volumes in the "Famous Regiments" series, this is an interesting book full of colour and action.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £3.10
AWH

ROUND THE FORTS

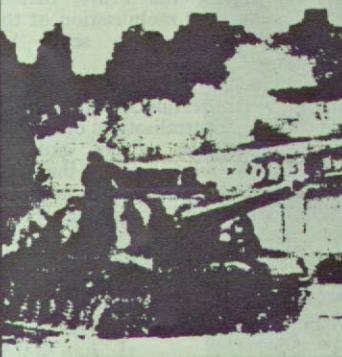
"Coast Defences of England and Wales 1856-1956" (Ian V Hogg)

By and large, for lack of an invader, Britain's £50-million worth of coastal defences were never needed. True, they fired their guns in anger. As a child I remember the four-inch battery of Haile Sand Fort in the Humber Estuary engaging E-boats and on another occasion blasting a Blohm and Voss minelaying seaplane out of the sky, but no invader ever tried conclusions in earnest.

There are older forts, of course. They were anathematised as Palmerston's Follies and for over a century have been part of the landscape. Strangely they have never been the subject of a serious examination until now. Mr Hogg takes us on an intriguing tour—Thames and Medway, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight,

THE BATTLE FOR BERLIN

John Strawson



Plymouth and Milford Haven, Dover, Harwich and Portland—to see the constructions in which previous generations placed their faith. He tells us why, how and when they were built, gives details of the guns with which they were armed, and concludes with a list of all the defensive works built round our shores. He proves to be an expert and informative guide.

Would they have worked? Who can tell? But it is worth remembering that Hitler's newest warship, the Hipper-class cruiser Blücher, was sunk with heavy loss of life in 1940 by a Norwegian coastal fort.

David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd, South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £5.25
JCW

FIRST PRIZE

"The Battle for Berlin" (John Strawson)

In World War Two the prize for every allied army was Berlin, capital of Hitler's Reich. In February 1945 the question of who should take the city seemed academic. The Red Army was on the Oder, a mere 50 miles from Berlin. In the West, the allies had not even crossed the

Rhine. Within a month, however, the situation changed. Ferocious German resistance held the Russians on the Oder while the Western Allies surged forward across the Elbe to within striking distance of Berlin.

In this splendid book, Major-General Strawson describes two battles—one on the ground between the allies and the shattered Wehrmacht, the other in the corridors of power. Churchill rightly saw Berlin as the war's greatest political prize. So did the wily Stalin. But the Americans, Eisenhower in particular, saw it in the purely military sense. Backed by Bradley, Ike decided his main task was the destruction of German forces. To support his argument, Bradley produced the extraordinary estimate that to fight from the Elbe to Berlin would cost 100,000 casualties.

General Strawson writes: "Such an estimate was hardly supportable by examining military facts, but Bradley could not be unaware that a drive on Berlin, in view of the deployment of his and Montgomery's army groups, could hardly be done by his own men."

In the event the prize was Russia's, militarily and politically. General Strawson is a superb guide to the battle, showing complete mastery of strategic possibilities and realities.

B T Batsford Ltd, PO Box 4, Springfield Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex, £2.60
JCW

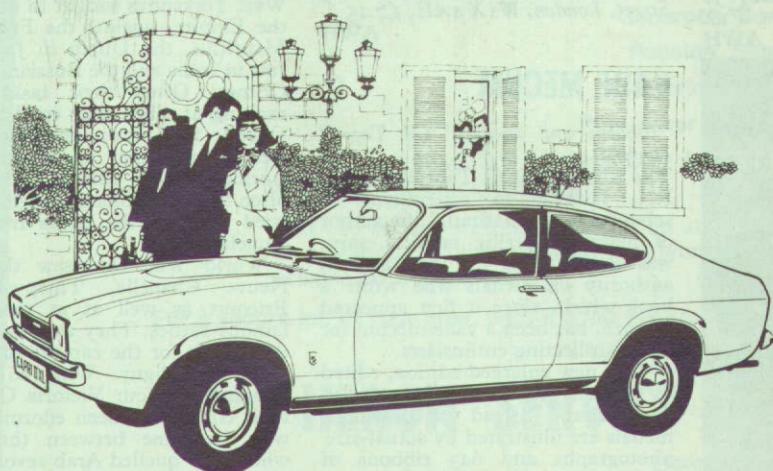
TOWARDS PROFESSIONALISM

"The Soldier's Trade: British Military Developments 1660-1914" (Frederick Myatt)

Small-arms have always played a vital part in the life of the soldier although the 14th century versions must have looked more like miniature cannons stuck on the end of long poles. It was not until the development of the lock and later sights that extended range became possible. The effect was seen vividly at Bunker Hill in the American War of Independence.

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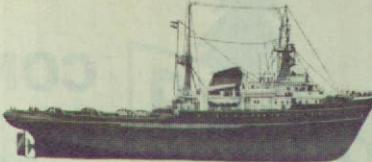
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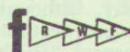
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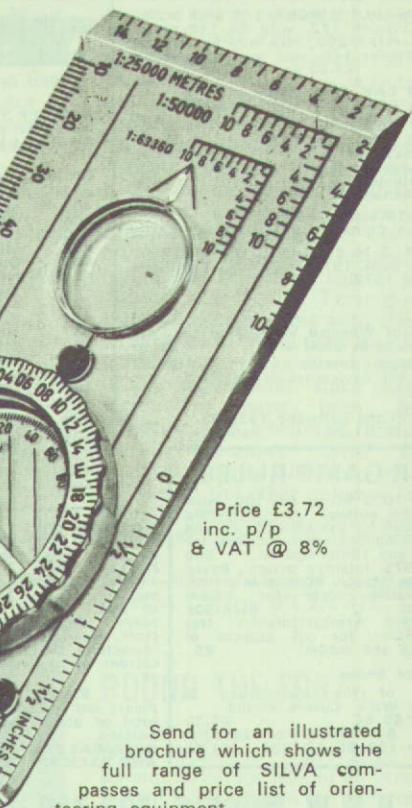
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Books continued

tians and Chinese all compete in the origins of artillery. Mobile artillery as such was not really developed till the days of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden in the 17th century. One fascinating piece of information is that the Naval Brigade used rockets in Ethiopia as early as 1867!

Tactics have probably changed more than anything else. During the medieval period the deadly longbow was master of the battlefield as the French found to their cost in the Hundred Years War. The advent of the musket and the experiments with volley-fire from columns and lines changed things drastically. As armies multiplied in numbers and supplies became a problem, victory went more and more to the side that mastered logistics.

Sieges, transport, medical facilities and a host of vital other aspects of a soldier's trade are all carefully examined in this valuable compendium.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, St Giles House, 49-50 Poland Street, London, W1A 2LG, £3.75 AWH

The value of this personal account lies in its simplicity. It is the story that millions of men, on both sides of the line, would have recognised as their own.

William Kimber & Co Ltd, Godolphin House, 22a Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AE, £3.00 AWH

In brief

"Gallipoli" (Robert Rhodes James) Another reprint (originally reviewed in *SOLDIER*, July 1965) in the "Grand Strategy Series," this is excellent value. Vividly written, exciting and completely absorbing, it tells the story of the 1915 attempt to storm the Dardanelles and finish the war with a crippling blow at the enemy. Of course it failed. But the names—Anzac Cove, Achi Baba, Suvla Bay—will never be forgotten, nor the bravery of the men from both sides.

There are plenty of illustrations and maps to clarify the text.

Pan Books Ltd, 33 Tothill Street, London SW1, 75p

"Good-bye Dolly Gray: The Story of the Boer War" (Rayne Kruger) This reprint of a 1959 best-seller tells in graphic detail the terrible story of how Victorian complacency was shattered on the South African veldt. Here are all the familiar names which still evoke such memories: Spion Kop and Magersfontein, De Wet and Joubert, Roberts and Kitchener.

A grand addition to the "Grand Strategy" series.

Pan Books Ltd, 33 Tothill Street, London SW1, 75p

"The Award of the Croix de Guerre (1914-1918) to Units of the British Army" (G Archer Parfitt)

This pamphlet reproduced from an article in the November 1973 bulletin of the Military Historical Society sets out in detail the customs and traditions associated with the award of the Croix de Guerre to units of the British Army in recognition of some of the most glorious deeds of World War One.

The 32 pages of text, with four illustrations, offer a wealth of information—citations and special orders of the day, a brief description of the Croix de Guerre itself and two particularly interesting sections on methods of display and dress embellishments. An excellent booklet but, unfortunately, published in a very limited edition of only 150 copies.

G Archer Parfitt, 26 Priory Ridge, Shrewsbury, Salop, 25p

"Battles for Wargamers: The Roman Civil Wars 49-45 BC" (Terence Wise)

Julius Caesar began these wars by crossing the Rubicon in January 49 BC and forcing Pompey and the

PERSONAL STORY

"The Somme, 1916" (Norman Gladden)

The author of this excellent volume was a boy-clerk in the Post Office who by 1916 was a soldier struggling with heavy boots and puttees and eating bully beef and hard biscuits. He landed at Boulogne in pouring rain and spent some time in the notorious training-area of the "Bull Ring." As he made his way towards the front line a whole series of pictures flashed through his mind—the first sight of shell holes, officers who still insisted on salutes under fire, derelict tanks which looked like H G Wells fantasies, shattered towns and churches, wheezy gramophones and scribbled letters home. Finally, on 1 October 1916, he went into action.

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 9 December. The answer and winners' names will appear in the February 1975 SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 196" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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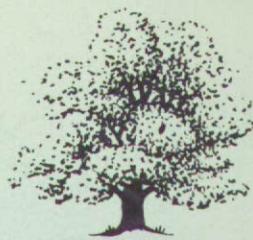
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The Brighton connection

THE home county of 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, is Sussex. Brighton is the county's famous coastal town and has lent its name to one of Her Majesty's frigates. On this Brighton connection is based the affiliation of soldiers and sailors which has led to firm friendship over the years.

The battalion is now half way through a two-year duty tour on Gibraltar and is ideally placed to play host to HMS Brighton when she is on a Mediterranean cruise. And this is just what happened when SOLDIER visited the Rock.

A lazy, hazy summer day with the tem-

perature in the eighties had its peace shattered by the shouts and splashes of a slightly less than serious regatta between the crews of HMS Brighton and the Queen's. There were two dinghy races, two assault boat races—these had more "assault" than "race" about them as acts of piracy broke out—canoe races and swimming races. For the more leisurely competitors there were fishing contests and, of course, a cricket match. All scores were meticulously recorded as the day progressed but a draw was declared . . . just before the start of the regatta, to avoid any argument.

The Mediterranean is now established as

the meeting place for HMS Brighton and her "pongo partners." Ten years ago, when the 3rd Queen's was still The Royal Sussex Regiment, the two met in Malta; Gibraltar saw another reunion last year.

It all goes to prove that with the border to Spain closed or not, a lively unit can always find plenty to fill off-duty hours on the tiny peninsular outpost of Gibraltar.

Another project captured the imagination of sub-aqua enthusiasts in the battalion. Legend lurks behind every stalagmite and stalactite in Lower St Michael's Cave which lies beneath the fabulous natural auditorium wrought by eons of dripping water

out of the living limestone in the main St Michael's cavern.

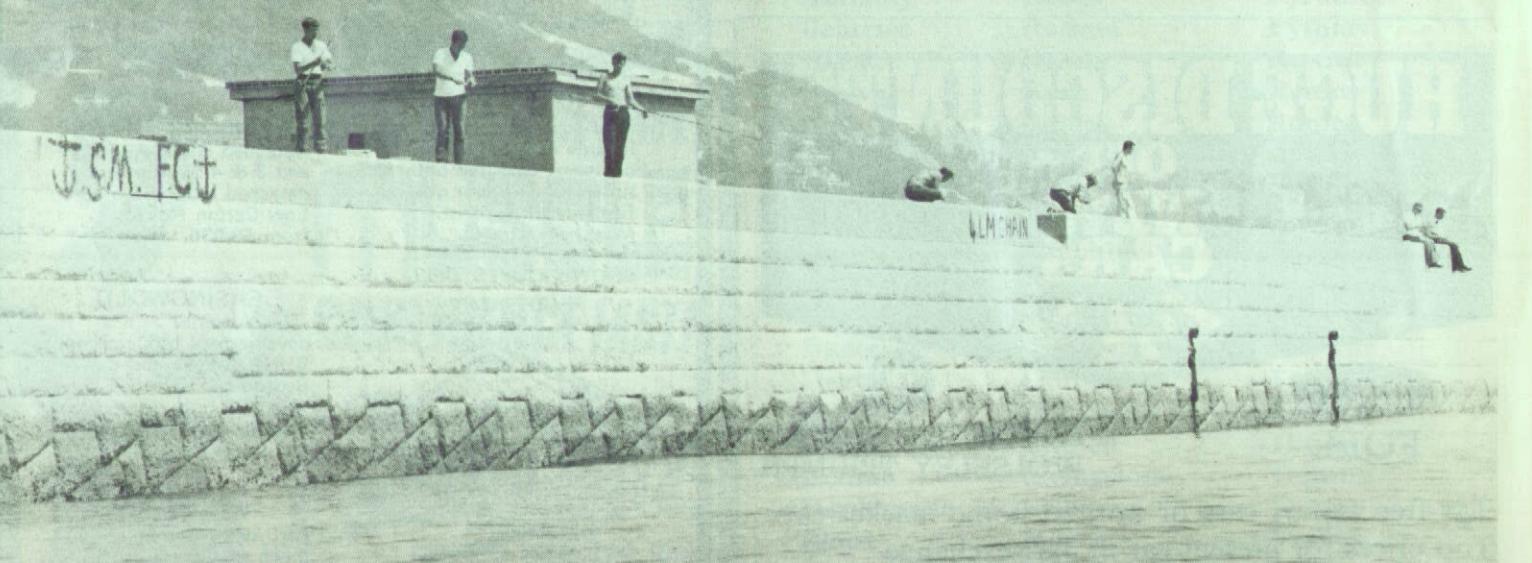
The lower cave contains a lake which local legend declared covered the entrance to the fabled tunnel across the straits to Africa, thought to be the route used by Gibraltar's famous apes to reach the rock from their native Barbary Coast of Africa.

Corporal Peter Elliot led the team of six divers bent on finding the answers to four questions, whether the lake was as old as the cave itself, whether there was an exit to the sea and, of course, whether there was indeed a tunnel to the Levant, and what the depth of the lake was.

With the team went aqualungs, life-jackets, neoprene suits, plumb lines, underwater lamps, pitons and several hundred feet of rope, all of which had to be man-handled to the cavern's innermost recesses. The lake bottom proved to have stalagmites on it, showing that the lake was in fact younger than the cavern. But the team's excitement mounted as a narrow exit was revealed on the lake floor.

Corporal Elliot squeezed into the exit and in the next 15 tense minutes, 30 feet of lifeline rope were inched out to him as he explored the tunnel. On his return, he told of a further submerged cavern at the end of the tunnel. The sunken cave was some 30 feet square, but appeared to have no other exit. And instead of proving to be bottomless, the Lower St Michael's Cave lake was only 23 feet deep.

An assault boat race. There was more "assault" than "race," reports Starke.



A peaceful inter-Service fishing contest.

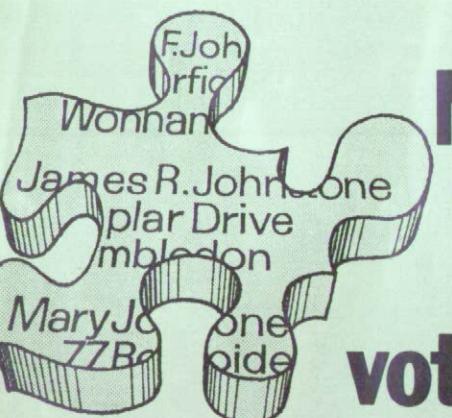
Right: A piece of kayak. Soldiers and men from the Brighton in furious canoe race.

Top: All hands on deck as HMS Brighton arrives at the Rock for Sussex reunion.



Story by Mike Starke
Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

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