

# Soldier



**GAZELLE PATROLS ULSTER BORDER  
JATE KEEPS THE ARMY AIRBORNE  
SALISBURY PLAIN HOSTS NATO FORCES**

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Subscription (13 issues):

UK/BFPO £3.72; Elsewhere £4.08

Send UK cheque/UK postal order/international money order and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed.

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

### FRONT COVER BACK COVER

A Chieftain of 3rd Royal Tank Regiment during Exercise Avon Express on Salisbury Plain. See News 8 for story and more pictures.

Picture by Paul Haley.



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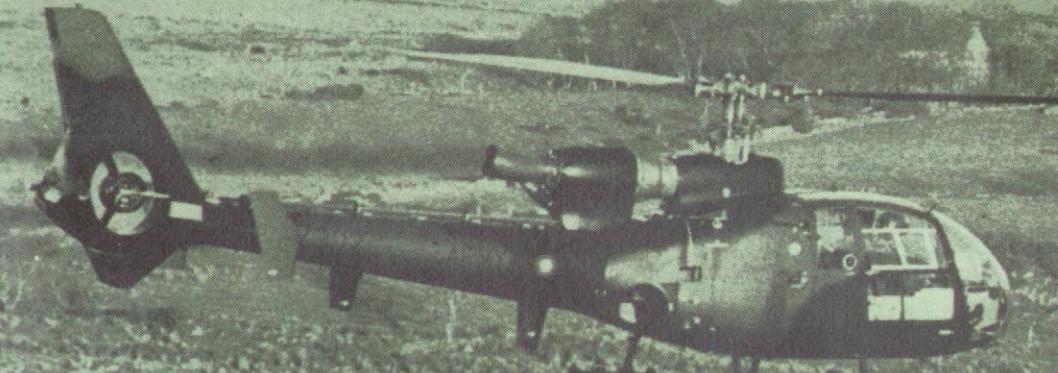
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**Fast and quick-reacting like its African bush namesake, the Gazelle helicopter, now in service in Northern Ireland, is already speeding up the Army's reaction in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary**



## Gazelle-thoroughbred racer

HIGHLY MANOEUVRABLE and versatile, the Army's latest helicopter, Gazelle, is quickly making its mark in intelligence gathering and supporting ground troops in Northern Ireland. Although now a fairly familiar sight around Army Air Corps stations elsewhere, the Gazelle has only recently been introduced in the Province on a permanent squadron basis.

Already the new Anglo-French machine is making an impact. It has nearly twice the speed of its predecessor, Sioux, representing for pilots the difference between driving an old family saloon and a brand-new sports car. The new aircraft is in a family, with Lynx and Puma, developed by Westland-Aerospatiale as part of the Anglo-French collaborative helicopter programme started in 1967. Gazelle, in the middle of the range, is a lightweight, high-performance general-purpose machine.

Only recently, 3 Flight of 7 Regiment, Army Air Corps, at Lisanelly Barracks, Omagh, exchanged its Sioux helicopters for Gazelles and reported an immediate increase in ground covered per sortie. Just as important is the time taken to get airborne, which is greatly improved.

The flight's area includes the rolling hill country to the west and south of the Province with nearly 400 miles of the border with the Republic. From the air this patchwork quilt of tiny farms and peat diggings, with farm buildings nestling in virtually every kink and fold of the land, looks most pic-

turesque. To the pilot and air observer, swathed in flak jackets and body armour, it presents a different picture. There are few recorded instances of potshots at helicopters but normal precautions are always taken.

"Our area is thinly soldiered," explained Major Colin Sibun, commanding 3 Flight, "so we tend to provide a lot of top cover as well as doing our own patrols. We keep an eye on checkpoints and convoys and we are kept busy along the border. What we look for there is holes filled in on unapproved crossings and any signs of digging near the roads, indicating cross-border routes reopened or mined.

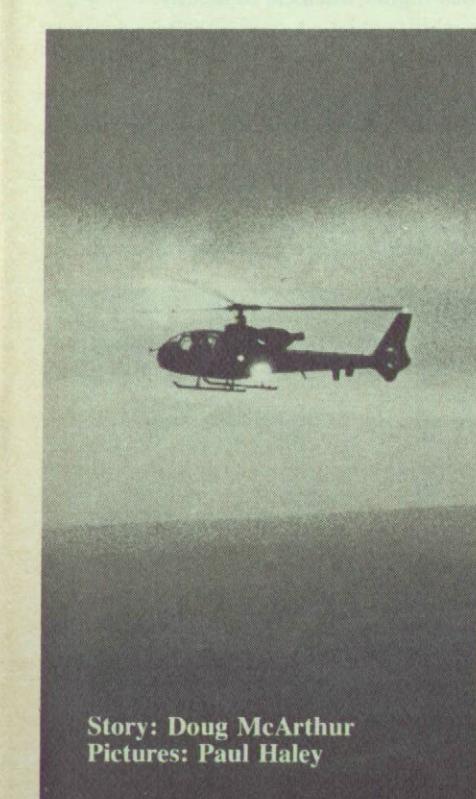
"A lot of incidents happen close to the border so that the terrorists can scuttle back across the other side. They go for soft targets like a police patrol or they will dig a mine into the road then clear off before the soldiers come along. There is something very comforting for the soldiers on the ground to see a helicopter circling above. It is a tangible link with the outside world and the soldiers know that the terrorists will think twice about an ambush if we are around because very little escapes you from the air."

The flight does its fair share of night flying, particularly with the dazzling Nightsun — a lamp which turns night into day by throwing out a beam of light from 800 feet up. A recent example of the use of Nightsun was during the much publicised incident of a man who suffered a heart attack and died while sitting at the side of the road. Ground



Top: In many places the border is just a line drawn on a map, but it must be patrolled regularly.

Above: It is a reassurance for men on the ground to see a helicopter hovering overhead.



Story: Doug McArthur  
Pictures: Paul Haley

Above: This Gazelle is fitted with Nightsun, a lamp which turns night into day 800 feet below.

Right: The rolling Irish countryside is spread out like a map for the vigilant helicopter crew.

troops found him at dusk and it appeared that he was attached in some way to his car windscreen. A Gazelle was tasked to sweep the area with Nightsun before bomb experts went near. Next morning the car's door was blown off — the suspected booby trap was found to be a false alarm.

Because the flight's main role is to support the 13th/18th Royal Hussars, the work load tends to fluctuate according to what the ground troops are doing and how much support they require.

"An average flying load for pilots is about 50 hours a month, which is more than would be done in England or Germany," said Major Sibun. The ground crews have a tougher time because most of them are trained as driver signallers and, because there is little driving or signalling to do, they seem to spend most of their time refuelling,

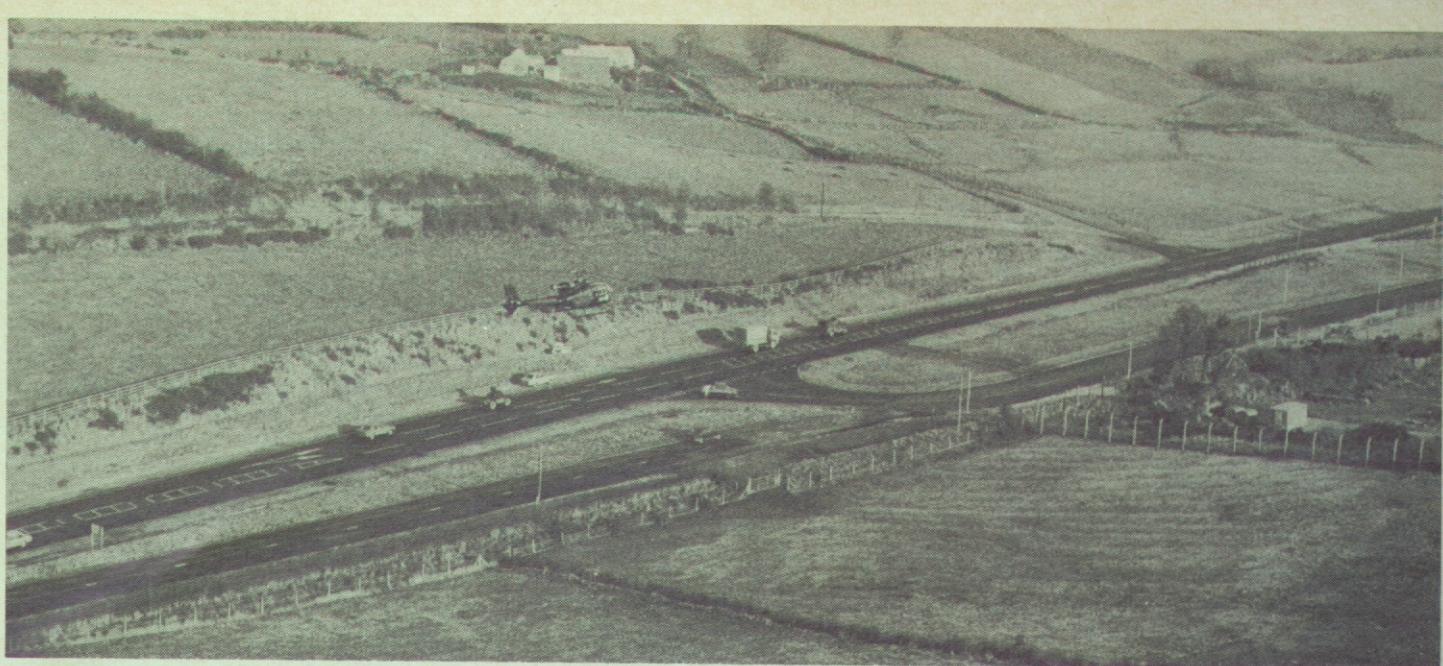
cleaning aircraft and manning the ops room."

As with all new bits of kit, there have been teething troubles with the new machines — particularly with instruments. All first-line servicing is done at Omagh, but any bigger job is sent to the workshops at Aldergrove where it gets prompt attention.

Casualty evacuation by Gazelle is much easier and, more importantly, more comfortable for the patient. The patient had to be strapped on to the skid in a special stretcher on the Sioux, but there is enough room inside the Gazelle, with the observer's seat dropped down, for the patient to lie full length in his stretcher and be looked after by the medic who sits behind the pilot.

Gazelle's main construction fabric is a revolutionary new material called Nida which is a honeycomb sandwich of two





sheets of light thin alloy encasing a tin honeycomb.

The flight experimented to see if Gazelle was practical as a troop carrier, but on the first attempt a soldier stuck his rifle through the Perspex roof and the idea was abandoned.

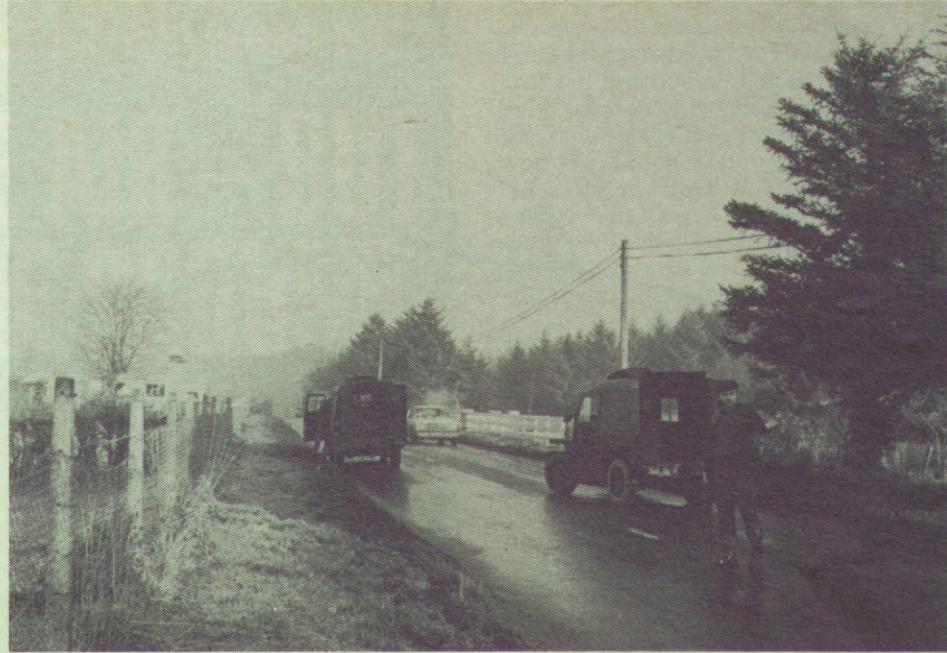
To the men who keep the helicopters flying, "Sioux and Gazelle are about as different as chalk and cheese." Sergeant David Clark, of the small band of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers servicing the flight, explained: "For a start, the Sioux is piston-engined and the Gazelle is gas-turbined. Servicing the Gazelle is much easier — in fact the aircraft was designed with servicing in mind. The designers have gone right back to basics and simplified whenever possible, which has resulted in a much higher technical capability.

**Top:** Riding airborne 'shotgun' on an explosives convoy is a routine task for the Gazelle flight.

**Left:** The flight is ready to go, even as first light reaches through the frost and cold of dawn.

**Below:** First-line servicing in the hangar. Here a faulty clutch has been stripped and will be replaced.





"Gazelle really is the best of both worlds. If it is handled properly it will go on for years. It tends to get used as a workhorse, but I suppose that is fairly understandable because it is far more manoeuvrable than other machines and very much easier to fly. They have taken each system, looked at the design and built round that. If you enjoy flying then you love it, and if you like working on engines you love it."

Small wonder that by both the pilots and the men on the ground, the Gazelle is regarded as a real thoroughbred.

Top: Air and ground liaison is important. Here a guard is kept while a Gazelle lands nearby.

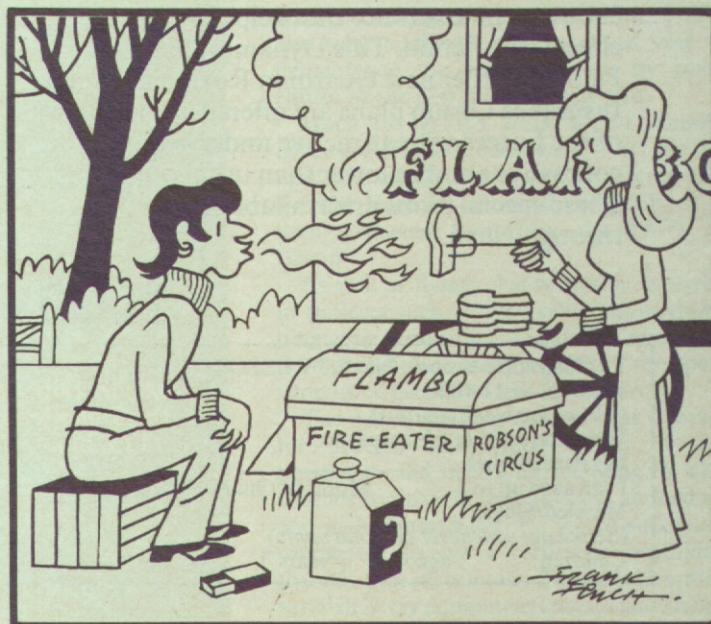
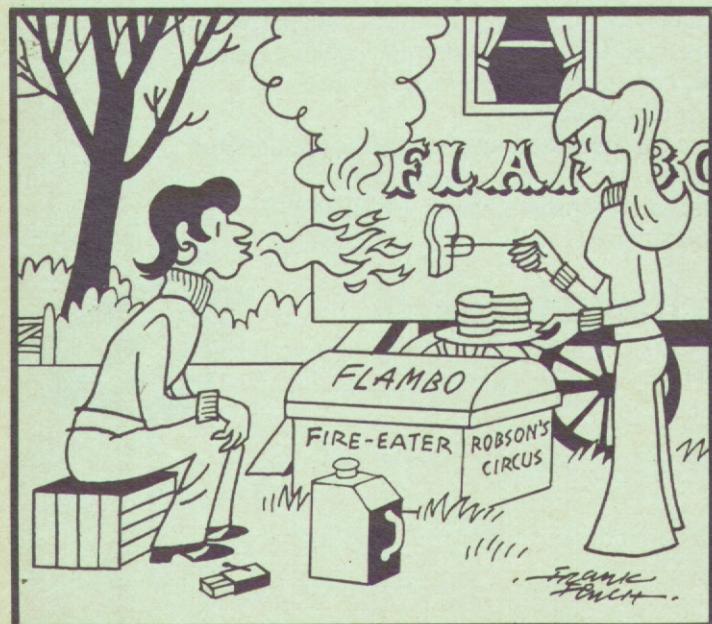
Top right: High in the sky the ever-watchful helicopter is ready if the patrol needs help.

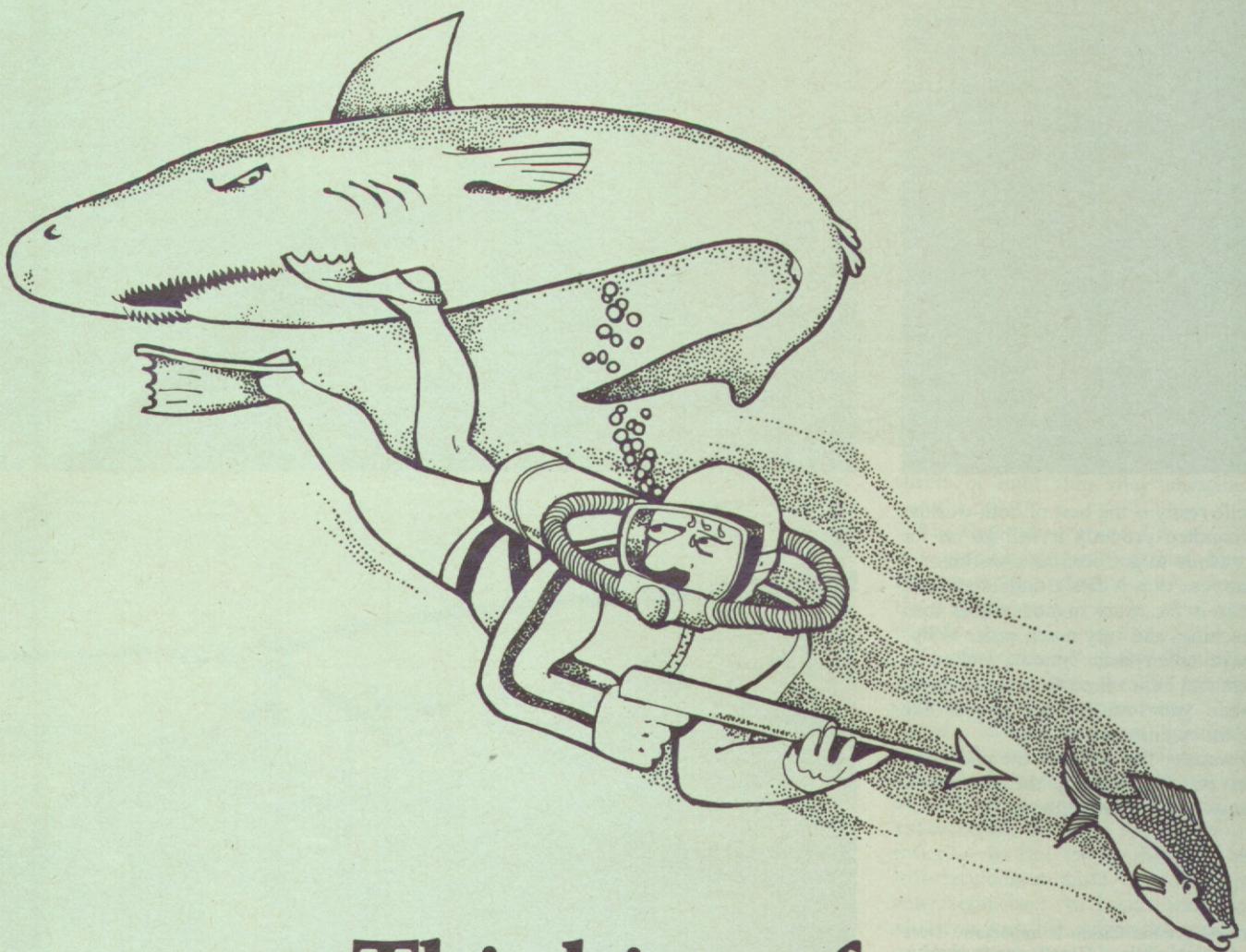
Right: Fuel tanks must be kept as full as possible. Air Trooper Gerry Lockhart tops up.



## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 42.





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JOINT AIR TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENT

# HEAD IN THE AIR—BUT FEET ON THE GROUND



Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Doug Pratt  
and JATE

THE QUEEN might never have been able to review her troops at Sennelager during her Silver Jubilee year had it not been for the skill and expertise of a small joint-Service unit tucked away in hangars and huts near the south side of the runway at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

For the two royal Rolls-Royces and an equally regal Range-Rover had to be cleared for airportability by Hercules aircraft to get them to Germany for the review. And the only people qualified to do this were the staff of the Joint Air Transport Establishment (JATE) which has a training section and six trials and development sections.

But fitting the VIP vehicles into a Hercules' cargo hold was all in a day's work for JATE where they have no fewer than 152 tasks on their plate at the moment, 75 of them airportability tasks. And this makes that day's work a busy one with only 148 people on the staff. The majority are officers and senior ranks but all, insists the Commandant, Colonel Michael Hickey, are "highly skilled specialists." There are 51 from the Army, 35 from the RAF, two Royal Marines and a lone naval officer as well as 59 civilians.

JATE's job is to study, develop and test techniques and equipment for airborne assault and air-transported operations. The establishment also trains instructors and key personnel of the Army, RAF and Royal Marines in these techniques and in those connected with the ground handling of helicopters.

The staff also find that they are called upon to apply their skills to ticklish tasks themselves. They organised the lowering by helicopter of a kidney dialysis unit into the otherwise inaccessible back garden of a patient to enable him to treat himself at home rather than having to break up his week by visiting hospital.

Four or five times a year, teams are called on for operational tasks to supervise the insertion or extraction of underslung loads by helicopter because of their unusual nature and because they had not previously been subjected to trials at JATE for clearances.

"The boys get quite used to living out of a suitcase," said Colonel Hickey. Training teams have been to Rhine Army and Hong Kong recently. An advisory team went to Cyprus and another team visited Gibraltar to recover a damaged aircraft. Men from JATE also went to the United States last year to demonstrate the aerial delivery by parachutes of the new 105mm light gun.

Much of JATE's work would literally never get off the ground were it not for the unit's Flying Section — an RAF aircrew and a C130 Hercules allocated to JATE on a semi-permanent basis from the RAF's 38 Group.

As well as flying, this section is involved in projects such as the evaluation of dropping zone acquisition aids and research and development into many aspects of transport support of ground forces by air forces.

The JATE training section runs courses for officers and senior NCOs in airportability and helicopter handling. It also coaches students in techniques of air loading and night landing aid, for which successful candidates receive a certificate qualifying them as unit instructors. The unit also runs aerial delivery equipment courses and ad hoc

airportability and helicopter training for unit teams, including the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve.

In addition the section is responsible for basic military and adventure training for all ranks at JATE. An annual camp has been instituted which is enthusiastically attended by men of all three Services at JATE as well as by the civilian element. Last year the camp ended with a voluntary parachute drop into water led by the commandant himself and others, including WRAF and civilians, who are unqualified parachutists.

Much of JATE's success depends on the technical expertise of the 'backroom boys,' epitomised by the Engineering Section. It is staffed by RAF engineer officers and civilian technical officers, supported by a small number of tradesmen in a variety of skills.

Among recent developments have been a tactical acquisition light carried by pathfinder parachutists and capable of allowing main force aircraft to spot a dropping zone from eight miles in daylight. Other prototypes included the design and development of pallet cradles and wheeled cradles for the carriage of different aircraft fuselages and wing sections inside the Hercules — this shortens the loading time for air transportation and gives greater mobility.

Aerial Delivery Section carries out trials in the airdropping by parachute of vehicles, guns and other equipment as well as supplies, plus all aspects of airdropping equipment on stressed platforms. The section works within the broad and demanding guidelines of having to deliver all manner of tactical loads in such a way that they can be de-rigged by the 'customers' on the ground within five minutes to be ready for action. The reefed mains extraction parachute system, which drags loads out of the cargo hold of an aircraft in flight, enables loads up to 18,000lbs to be dropped from as low as 550 feet. As well as heavy drop tasks, air despatch systems are developed for combat supplies which can range from ammunition and fuel to fresh eggs.

Working closely with Flying Section, Aerial Delivery Section maintains and refines the ultra-low level airdrop (ULLA) system for the delivery of combat supplies weighing up to 21 tonnes which can be delivered at 15 feet from the ground. But the medium stressed platforms (MSP) with reefed mains extraction parachute system are the mainstay of the section's delivery systems nowadays.

The section also has facilities for the design and manufacture of delivery equipment and provides support for technical publications and training people to inspect aerial delivery equipment. Heavy drop training is also provided by the section for all arms.

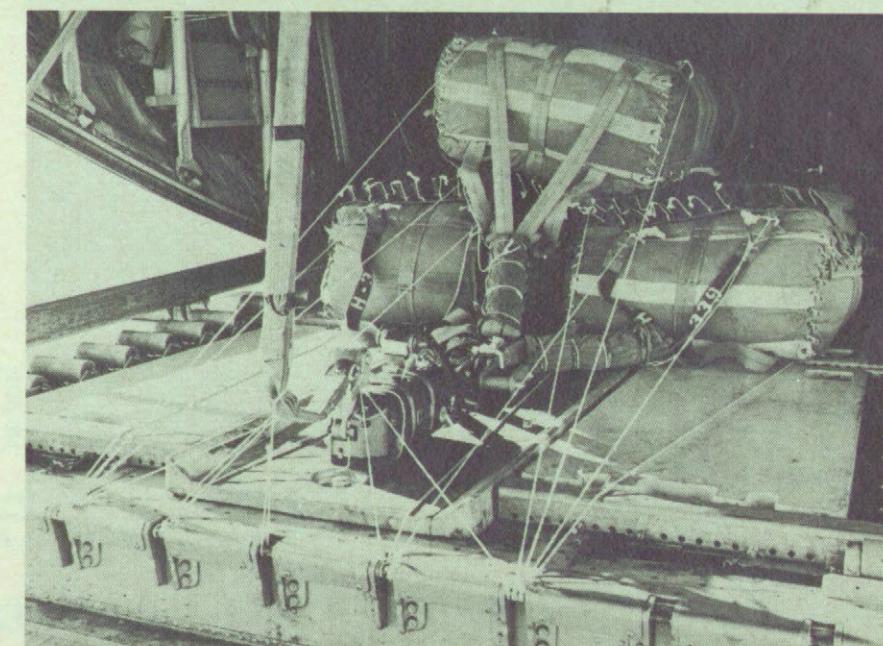
Airportability Section advises on the logistic use of fixed wing aircraft and carries out trials and issues clearances for the carriage of vehicles, guns, equipment and palletised loads and associated combat troops. The advice service and clearance of loads for carriage in aircraft is often made available to industry through the Ministry of Defence, as the findings are often vital when an added



An RAF co-pilot on the flight deck of the Hercules used by JATE practises at ultra low level.

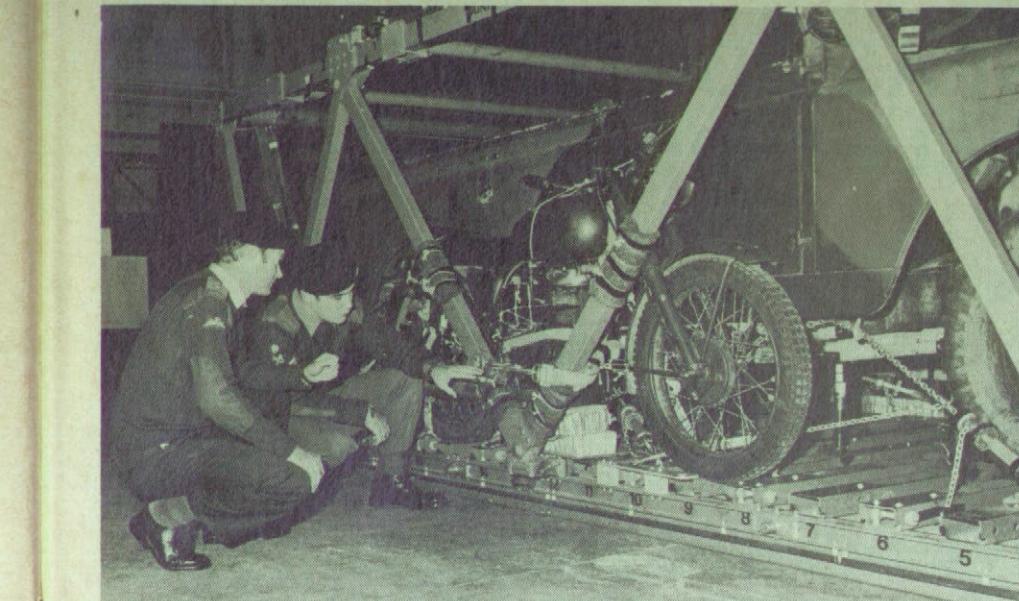


Poised over the void on a draughty Hercules tail-gate, JATE staff watch a load descend.



Above right: Painstaking research led to the most efficient stowage of the extractor parachutes.

Right: With wheels down, the JATE Hercules is making a breathtaking low-level practice pass.



attraction to an overseas buyer can be that a particular piece of equipment has been tested for airportability in the universally-used Hercules transport.

One of the section's challenges is to see whether the new combat engineer tractor can be cleared for airportability in the Hercules.

Especially when it comes to vehicles and equipment, such as engineer plant, JATE's staff is continually encouraging the Ministry of Defence to include the clearance by JATE for airportability to be part of the research and development programme of equipment coming into service. Although the demand for airportability into action may be a low priority in the specifications, it has happened that re-supply and recovery of vehicles has been hampered by not having been proved by JATE experts.

A recent example was the MK four-ton truck, a version of which was found to be 17 inches too long for the standard airportability system developed at JATE. Only then was it pointed out to the section that there were no fewer than 11 versions of the vehicle, each with different dimensions. And when the air loaders are working to within half-inches of clearance in aircraft, these variations can make the difference between a load flying or staying grounded.

The section also conducts studies into air cargo handling techniques and air movements documentation. From time to time the section is asked to help civilian agencies in the air freighting of awkward cargoes. An example was the airlifting of a complete Boeing 747 flight simulator from Canada to London. The load weighed a staggering 34,000lbs.

Rotary wing aircraft — helicopters as distinct from fixed wing aircraft — present the Helicopter Section with particular problems and the responsibility for issuing clearances for slung loads carried on a hook underneath a helicopter. The teams are often called out on operational tasks and to give assistance to the civil community.

The infantry is not forgotten at JATE and a section is dedicated to the trial and development of personnel parachutes, equipment and clothing. The main part of the section is the Joint Services Freefall Trials Team, largely made up of ex-members of The Parachute Regiment's Red Devils freefall display team and the RAF's



Above: JATE personnel make meticulous checks on a load filling the gaping Hercules tail-gate. Left: Capt David Pickworth and S/Sgt Douglas Beazer with a medium stressed platform load.

together the two building bricks of the establishment's success — professional competence and the pursuit of excellence. All his staff are interdependent, sometimes for their very lives in the twilight world of research and development where the unknown is probed to the limit.

The enthusiasm of all sections of JATE grows from the fact that the staff have the satisfaction of seeing their efforts carried through to an end result — most of their ideas and prototypes are accepted into service.

The concentration of expertise covering the whole range of air transported operations in such a small joint-Service unit is the best investment for co-ordinated results and evolution.

JATE has its origins in World War Two — the Army's Airborne Forces Development Centre (AFDC) was formed in May 1943 at Amesbury Abbey and the RAF's Airborne Forces Tactical Development Unit (AFTDU) opened at Tarrant Rushton in September of the same year. The new glider and parachute equipment and techniques were tested and developed.

In late 1944 the air transport of the Army as a whole, not just airborne forces, became a need and an expanded AFDC was redesignated the Army Airborne Transport Development Centre (AATDC). The RAF's AFTDU was renamed Air Transport Tactical Development Unit in January 1944 and moved to Netheravon. It was re-named again in August 1945 to become Transport Command Development Unit and moved to Harwell in November 1945 for a couple of months before settling again at Brize Norton in January 1946.

In May the same year the AATDC joined TCDU at Brize Norton. An American detachment joined AATDC here not only for liaison but to take part in the tests and training.

In June 1949 the AATDC, with a growing commitment to training, was renamed the Army Airtransport Training and Development Centre and moved with TCDU to Abingdon. After two years, AATDC moved again to RAF Old Sarum where it stayed for 20 years, working closely with the Aeroplane and Armaments Experimental Establishment at Boscombe Down, Army Units on Salisbury plain and the Joint Warfare Establishment which was also at Old Sarum.

The RAF unit removed and re-named a number of times in the meantime and ended up at Abingdon as the Air Transport Development Unit (ATDU). In January 1968 the Joint Air Transport Establishment (JATE) was formed with its headquarters at Old Sarum. Under the co-ordinated control of JATE, the Army's AATDC at Old Sarum and the RAF's ATDU at Abingdon worked on. The Joint Helicopter Training and Development Unit was formed at Old Sarum and for a while was part of JATE.

Between April 1971 and February 1973 the elements of JATE at Old Sarum moved to join the others at Abingdon and the separate identities of AATDC and ATDU disappeared. JHCU changed its name to Joint Helicopter Tactical Development Unit, separated from JATE and remained at Old Sarum. JATE moved to Brize Norton between November 1975 and February 1976, still retaining its independent status by being controlled directly by the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Operations) from the Ministry of Defence.

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# Getting more in the store

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Working in Royal Army Ordnance Corps depots may not be the most glamorous job in the world — but it is vitally important. This month **SOLDIER** visits Donnington, where a major expansion of stores is in prospect, and the Materials Handling Trials Unit at Bicester where handling instructors are trained and new methods are tried and tested

Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Doug Pratt

WHEN YOU HAVE a quiet (or not so quiet) grumble about how long something takes to come from one of the Army's stores complexes, first pause to consider how big a problem the Army has in storing and distributing the mountains of supplies needed to keep everything in running order.

At Central Ordnance Depot, Donnington, they are getting ready for a big expansion following the soon-to-come demise of Chilwell. Already the statistics they bandy about are of the mind-bending variety.

How about these for starters? Donnington holds stocks of 380,000 different items ranging from small arms, guided weapons and minelaying equipment to forms and publications. In 1976, Central Ordnance Depot met 728,707 vouchers demanding on its technical stores range, involving 48,122 tonnes of materials and 885,522 packages.

In the same period, the Forms and Pub-

lications Section sent out 267,496 letters and 114,608 parcels.

Donnington covers 313 acres of land set in the Shropshire countryside near the new town of Telford. And just one of its seven giant storage buildings contains 67½ miles of shelving. When the Chilwell stores eventually arrive, the number of items stocked at Donnington will rise by 74 per cent to 660,000. So a drastic modernisation of handling and storage methods is under way to cope with this increase.

Explains Major David Eccles: "We know our present system is very wasteful in its use of storage space. Only by changing to high density storage space can we take the Chilwell requirement."

The overall plan now being put into effect should solve storage requirements at Donnington for the next 20 years. It will involve increased mechanisation and storage by

handling characteristics rather than by vocabulary numbers.

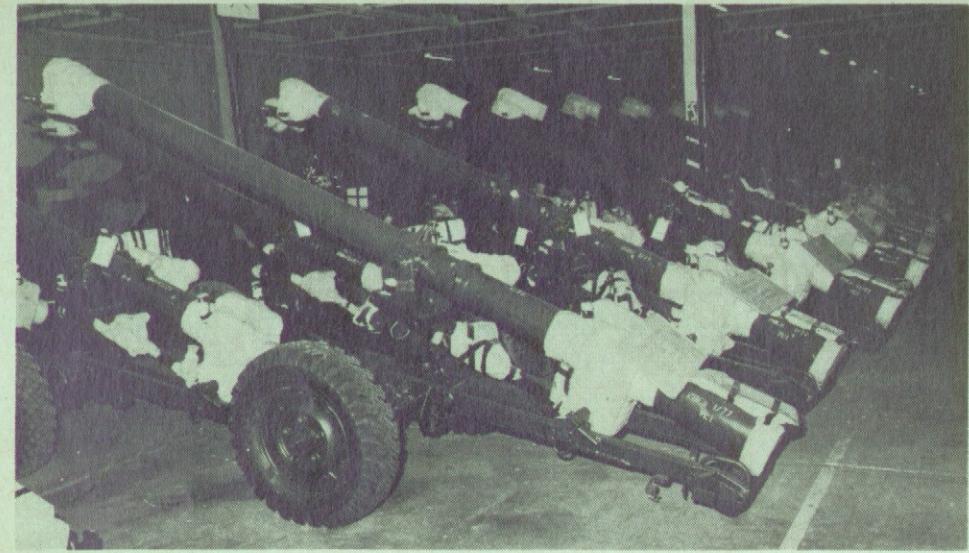
Under the plan, receipts, issues and traffic activities will all be centralised in one building and there will still be sufficient space in it to store the 40,000 fastest-moving items in the inventory. The remaining items will be stored in the most appropriate and space-saving way possible. Already one of the store sheds has 30-foot-high storage with unloading and loading by turret truck.

To help with the traffic problem at the expanded Donnington a new depot entrance is to be built to link up with the Telford ring road and the new motorway link to the M6. Says Major Eccles: "We already have the good old-fashioned processes and now we are moving into the future."

Modernisation of this kind requires the best mechanical equipment for moving the goods and also the best type of operator to

do the work. Tucked away at Bicester is the unit which provides just that kind of expertise — the Materials Handling Trials Unit.

The MHTU rightly regards itself as unique. Neither of the other Services has anything like it and they often call on it for advice and assistance. In fact Major Digby Smith, officer commanding, envisages that it will eventually become a tri-Service unit. "We have a tri-Service working group for materials handling (the Defence Storage and Materials Handling Working Group) and it

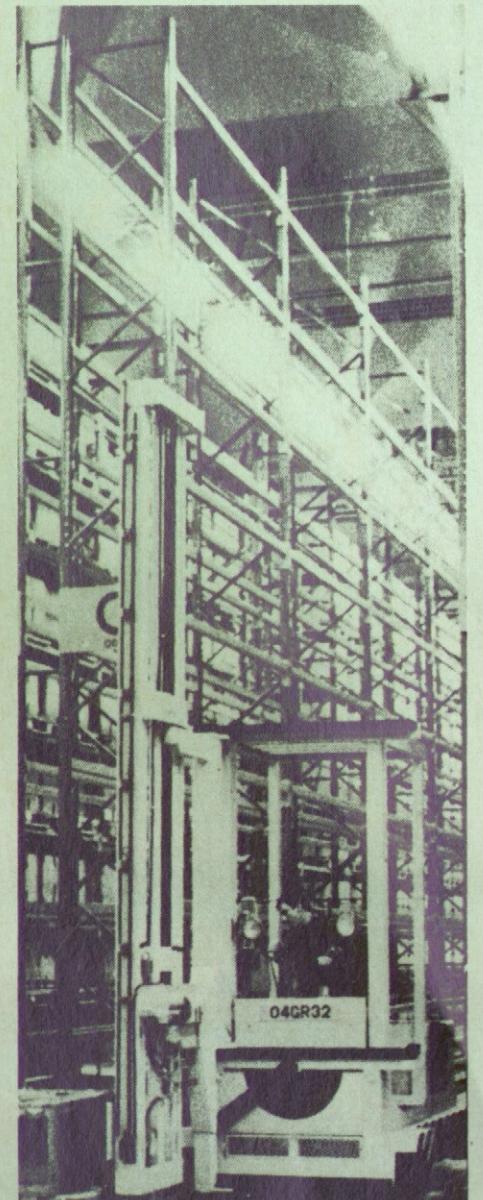


Above: Carefully packed and ready to be sent from Donnington are some 120mm anti-tank guns.

Left: The new methods of storage — a turret truck in a Donnington high-rise warehouse.

Right: One of the forklift trucks used at MHTU for their training courses in materials handling.

Below: At the Materials Handling Trials Unit at Bicester an Eager Beaver squelches through mud.



is likely that we shall have to reinforce MHTU because it is a consultancy firm for dealing increasingly with materials handling for the three Services."

The unit is only 34 strong, including 20 civilians. So far as the military complement is concerned, Major Smith describes their selection as 'eating our own young.' What he means by this is that they will almost certainly have been to one of the unit's training courses before being selected to join the staff. On the materials handling side the

regular courses are for trained operators who wish to become instructors — therefore all instructors are known to the MHTU.

Senior crane instructor Sergeant Charlie

Taunton runs five courses a year. He says of

his time at Bicester: "The best job I've had

yet in the Army. You are left alone to get on

with it and no-one bothers you." Staff

Sergeant Alun Cleverly, senior instructor on

regular courses are for trained operators who

wish to become instructors — therefore all

instructors are known to the MHTU.

There is a training area outside where forklift trucks, Eager Beavers and so on are put through their paces and the MHTU is the only centre for training crane operators both for the RAOC and other sections of the Army, and for Ministry of Defence civilians.

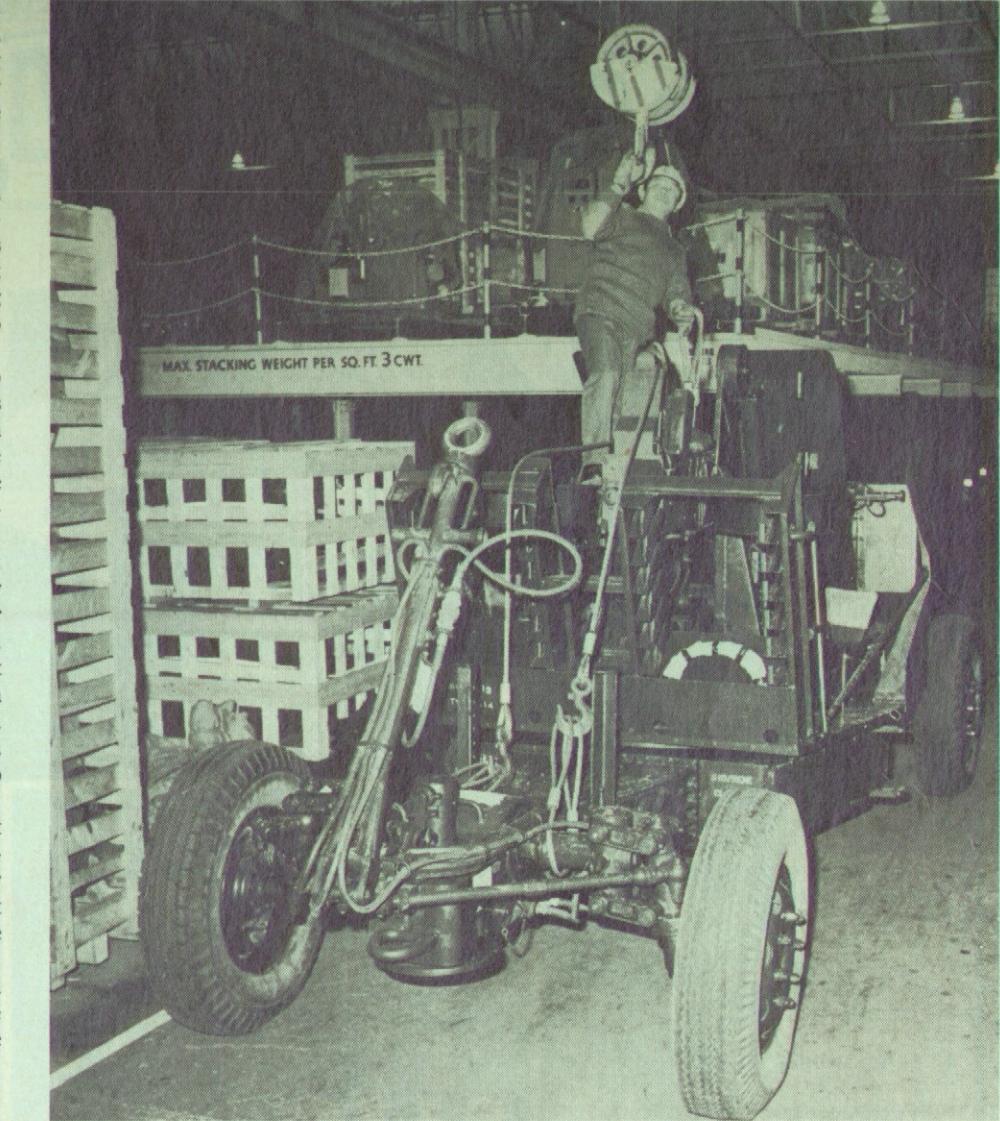
But training is only one aspect of the important work of the MHTU. There is an advisory section of four civilians (all ex-Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers artificers) who advise Army units on the best and most efficient materials handling methods as well as helping out the other two Services when required.

These advisers visit units and try to suggest solutions to problems in materials handling and storage. But, for instance, in a one-week trip to Rhine Army they may see eight or nine different units and therefore cannot provide solutions to complex problems.

When the Materials Handling Trials Unit carries out trials of new equipment it really gets put through its paces. Royal Pioneer Corps men give the kit 100 hours of rough treatment. All manufacturers have the right to repair their equipment if it breaks down during the trial — but the ones which survive are really durable. For example, in a recent trial three out of four entries failed to last the course.

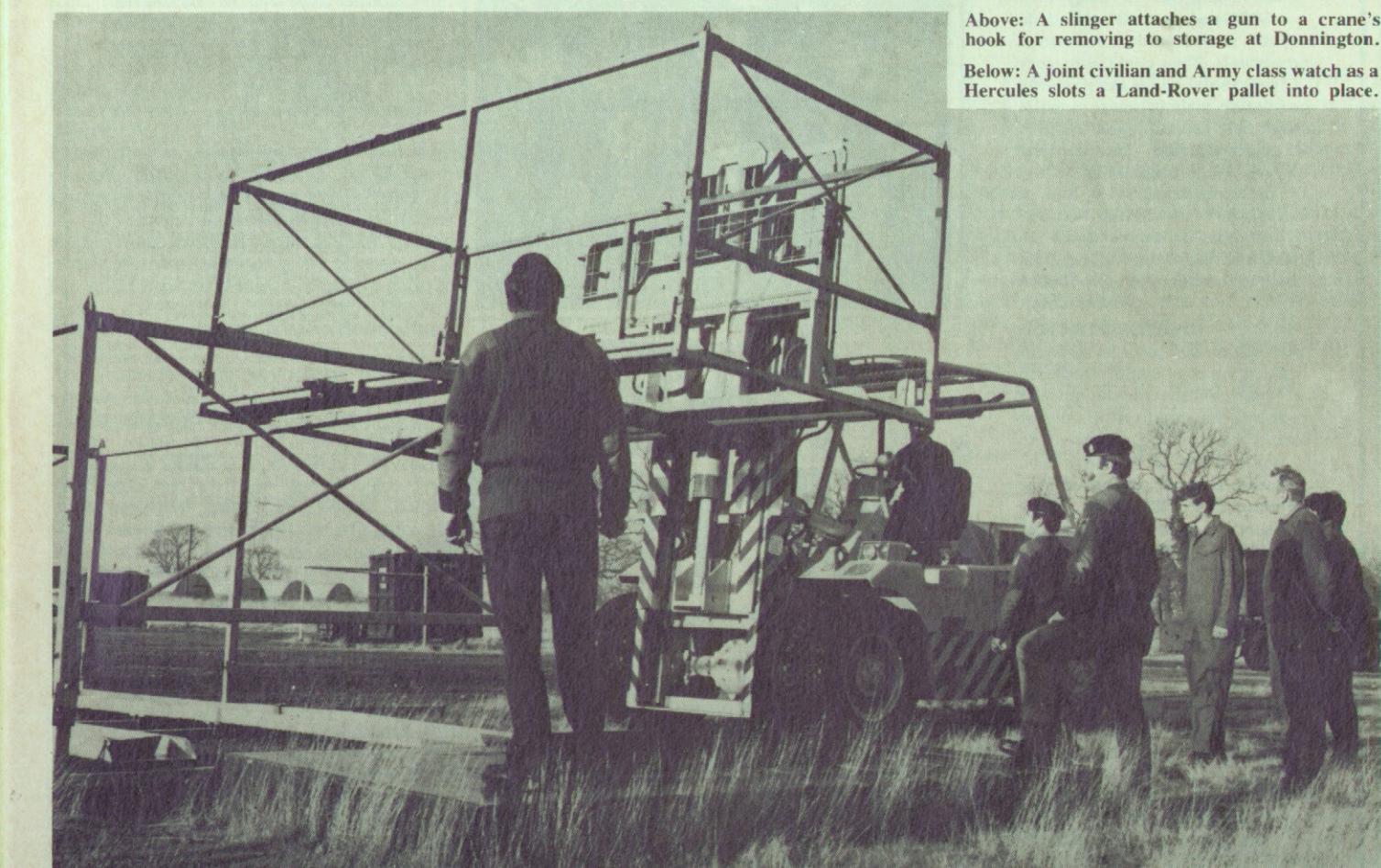
Nevertheless, Major Smith says his unit enjoys excellent relations with manufacturers. The MHTU controls no money and merely makes recommendations but such is its expert knowledge that these recommendations are invariably heeded.

"We will do comprehensive studies for all units looking for new equipment. In fact we provide an essential buffer between the manufacturers and the service buyer who doesn't know what is available and might just pick a name out of a trade magazine."



Above: A slinger attaches a gun to a crane's hook for removing to storage at Donnington.

Below: A joint civilian and Army class watch as a Hercules slots a Land-Rover pallet into place.



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# SOLDIER to Soldier

**A**S a former commandant of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, the Adjutant-General, General Sir Jack Harman, is only too well aware of the importance of Sandhurst's Academy Sergeant-Major. And at the last Sovereign's Parade the Adjutant-General was quick to point out how much the success of "this part of the British scene" depends on "the energy and efforts of the permanent staff."

He singled out the ASM, Warrant Officer 1 Ray Huggins, for particular praise. "Now there is a man we can all admire," said General Sir Jack. "Highly respected not only in British military circles but throughout the free world by former student officers and cadets of many nations.

"Always guiding rather than driving, encouraging rather than reproofing, and setting a personal standard that never waivers from excellence. If only our country possessed more men of similar stature, it would be a better and happier place."

Praise indeed.



**O**RDERS are pouring in for SOLDIER's special issue — Royal Salute — which commemorates the close links between the Queen and her Army in Silver Jubilee Year. This souvenir edition of the magazine is a permanent record of the Army's participation in the royal tours, the Regular Army review at Sennelager and the Reserve and Cadet Forces review at Wembley.

Printed on high quality paper, with card covers, the issue contains 24 pages of pictures and text. There are 31 pictures in full colour and eight in black-and-white with a full colour 'wrap-around' cover showing the Queen arriving at St Paul's Cathedral for the thanksgiving service on Jubilee Day. The text lists units on parade for the reviews and tours.

This special issue, which costs 50 pence, is not available from Naafi or bookstalls and can be bought only from Army units or direct from SOLDIER. Units may place bulk orders. Individuals who are not able to get a copy from units should send 65 pence (which includes 15 pence postage and packing) by UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order direct to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.



**T**HE landlady of an Aldershot pub is busy learning Gurkali in order to make her regular customers from 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, based at nearby Church Crookham, feel at home. Strength to her elbow, we say, not only for pulling these ever-popular Nepalese visitors

their pints but for going out of her way to be welcoming.

The British reluctance to learn foreign languages has always been a mystery to foreigners and the maxim that 'if you shout loud enough they'll understand' repeatedly falls down. With one-third of the Army in Germany as semi-permanent 'Gastarbeiter' (that's German for visiting workers), it is surprising how few soldiers know more of the language of the country in which they spend two to five years at a time than 'zwei Bier, bitte Herr Ober' or 'noch ein . . . give or take the odd 'danke schön.' German courses are readily available for soldiers and their wives and it is a pity that this valuable facility is neglected by the people it is intended to help.



**S**OUDIER can now reveal that — despite rumours to the contrary — the Army's menace on the field of battle cannot be construed as diminished by defence cuts. For it is a widely held belief — backed by years of experience — that there is nothing more dangerous in the Army than . . . an officer with a map!



**'P**ROFESSIONALISM' is no empty boast with much modern training being geared to give soldiers and junior ranks a higher degree of responsibility than ever before to make them more effective members of the military machine. The result is a mature and experienced senior non-commissioned officer, a middle-manager in civilian terms, who works with, plays with and in certain operational circumstances lives with his executives — his officers. But it is a source of potential frustration to him that the traditional social division of the Army has not kept pace with the new professional working relationships. The Army is still split into officers, warrant officers and NCOs, and other ranks. As a point for discussion, would it not be better to re-define the rank structure with officers from major upwards in one band, sergeants to senior captains in the next and privates to senior corporals in a third?



**N**OTABLY absent from the cacophonous debate on Services pay has been the still, small voice of the ordinary soldier. Among the din, one had the courage to tell SOLDIER: "At a time when the country's economy is just about staggering to its feet and all my mates in Civvy Street have their wages pegged to a ten per cent rise, I don't think it's right for me to be asking for more than them." That's the sort of loyalty money can't buy.

**H**ERE is a story about firefighting. Apparently there was a fire at a Yorkshire mill. When the 'Green Goddess' finally made its way through the crowd of sightseers, the sergeant in command found two immigrant workers trying to douse the flames with buckets of water. "Where are you from," he asked. "Karachi," was the reply. "That's good," said the sergeant, "they haven't got here from Barnsley yet."



**A**N MP has suggested halving the number of firemen and having the soldiers, who have recently coped so admirably, as a permanent reserve for emergencies. There's no end to the possibilities of this novel scheme. Send home half the bakers and have the Army Catering Corps on call for the Easter rush for hot cross buns. Ship a few building workers back to Ireland and keep the sappers in reserve for whenever we need a few more empty office blocks in city centres. Give early retirement to a cross-section of London bus drivers and let the Royal Corps of Transport lend a hand during rush-hour.

The only trouble is who's going to be called up to make up the missing numbers when an emergency call comes to do a bit of soldiering if Nato needs us?



**H**EARTFELT plea from a SOLDIER team which visited Richmond, Yorkshire, recently, to the curator of The Green Howards Museum. Please get your clock chimes fixed.

This fine museum is housed in a lovely church in the centre of picturesque Richmond, right opposite one of the few hotels in the town. At seven o'clock on Sunday morning, the old church clock chimed twelve times. Then a quarter of an hour later it chimed no fewer than 25 shattering times.

This spasmodic chiming started at 5.00 in the morning and went through to breakfast time when, inexplicably, it seemed to sort itself out.

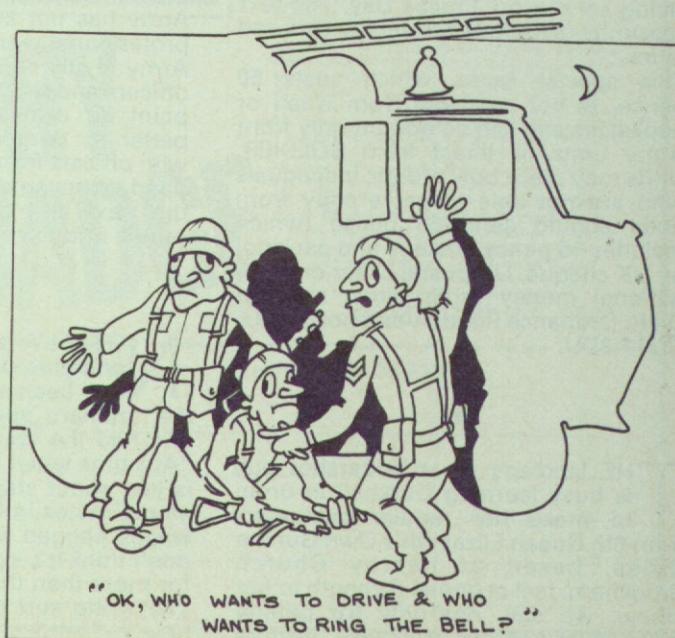
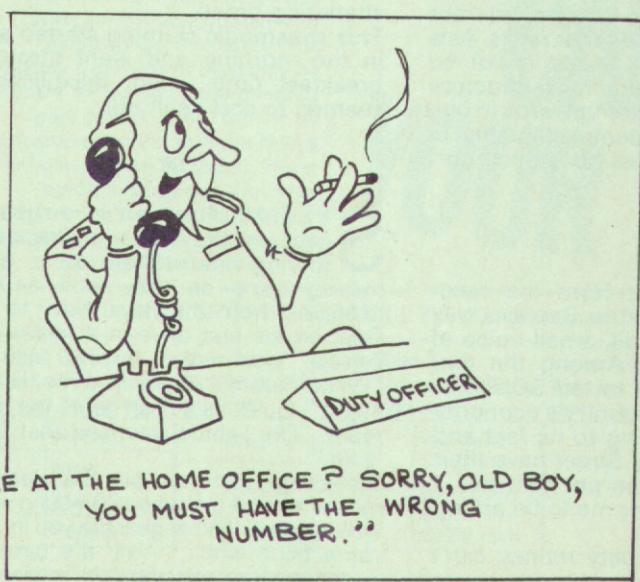
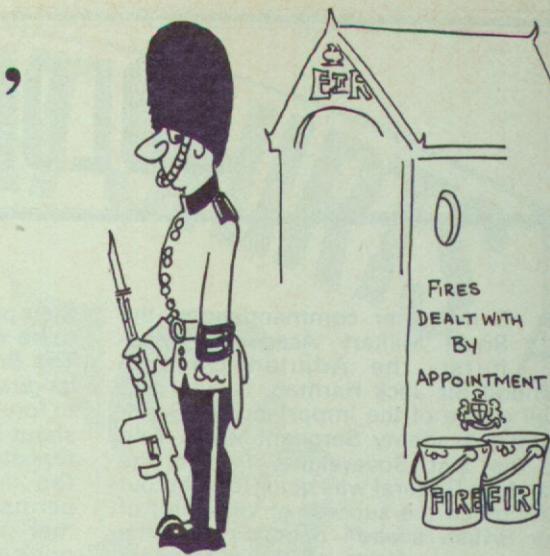
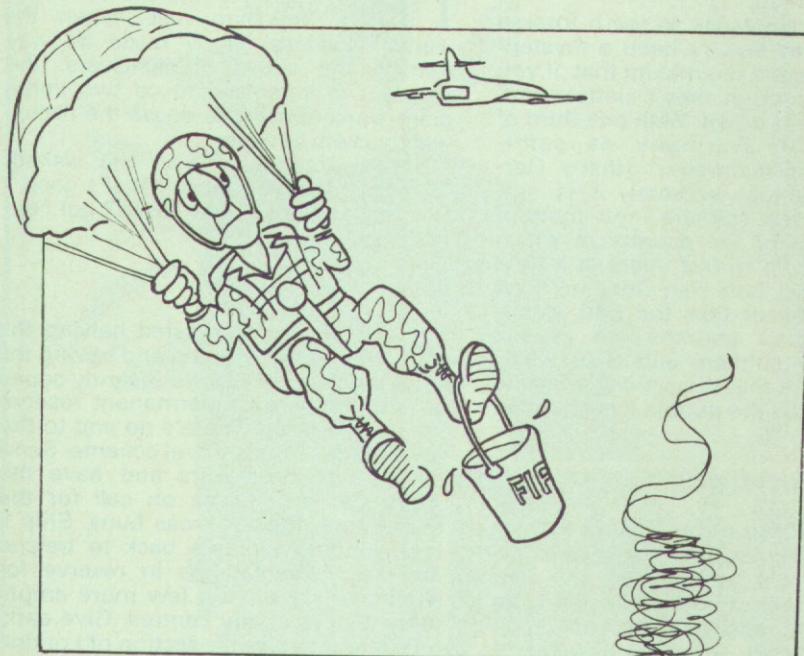


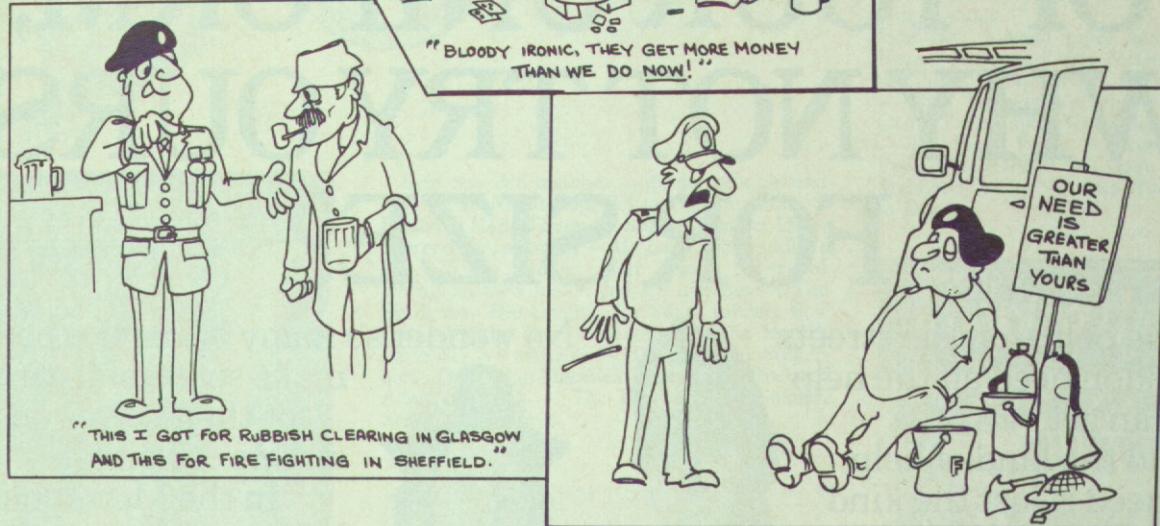
**S**PECIAL firemen's duties left gaps in the ranks of trainees for driving instruction at a sapper training camp so they took on some 'mateots' from the Royal Navy to fill in. One, on his first drive in a heavy goods vehicle, was asked by his instructor: "What hazards might you be likely to meet?" Quick as a flash came the sailor's reply: "Oh, lighthouses, and that sort of thing."

But it's not just the Navy that gets flummoxed behind the wheel. A young soldier, when asked: "What gear are you in, son?" came back with: "Well, it's called disruptive pattern material."

# “It 'aint 'arf 'ot, Mum!”

From a distant touchline, Shape's own cartoonist, Carl, takes a look at firefighting duties ...





## DOMINOES

AFTER LAST MONTH'S numerical poser here is a very simple problem in deduction. One after another, four countries are attacked by insurgents and the governments overthrown.

From the information below, and with the help of the grid, determine the ruler and capital of each country and the order in which they fall. Send your answer, with the 'Competition 235' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 235)

**SOLDIER**  
Ordnance Road  
ALDERSHOT  
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GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 10 April. The answers and winners' names will appear in the June **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 235' label. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official prepaid labels will be disqualified.



1 The military ruler of Ngadi was fearful when he saw the fall of Kingston because he knew his own capital would be the next target.

2 The last ruler to be deposed did not live in Vlim nor did she rule over Stonga.

3 The king's palace in Avnik was attacked immediately before Glasd.

4 The colonel was not the first military head to be deposed though both were overthrown before the king.

5 Next to fall after Blakz was Ostland.

### COMPETITION 235

## PRIZES

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	CAPITAL				RULER				ORDER OF FALL			
COUNTRY	Avnik	Glasd	Kingston	Vlim	Colonel	General	King	Queen	First	Second	Third	Fourth
RULER	Blakz											
	Ngadi											
	Ostland											
	Stonga											
	Colonel											
	General											
	King											
	Queen											
ORDER OF FALL	First											
	Second											
	Third											
	Fourth											

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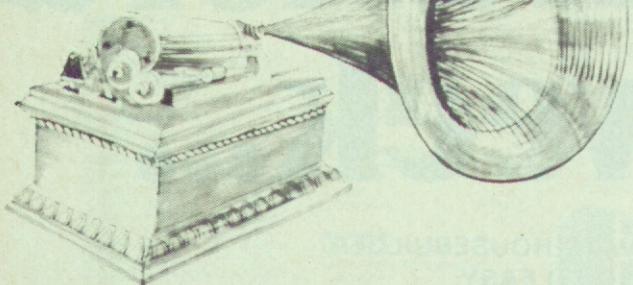
For full details write to the Chief Inspector, Metropolitan Police Careers Centre, Department GA244, 6 Harrow Rd, London W2 1XH.

If you would like a chat with one of our police careers advisers, why not give us a ring on 01-725 4237.



THE METROPOLITAN POLICE

# On record



'The Victorians' (The Pipe Band of Queen Victoria School, Dunblane) (Pipe-Major: J MacKenzie) (Waverley SZLP 2150)

Even now, nearly 50 years on, I can hardly bring myself to mention the name Dunblane. As a Duke of York's School boy from Dover, the Dunblane School, with the BTS Chepstow and a few others, was the dreaded foe on our windswept football field. How often their team returned to its highland fastness leaving we Dukies shattered and ashamed, with our school song, 'Play Up Dukies,' sounding somewhat pathetic in their ears.

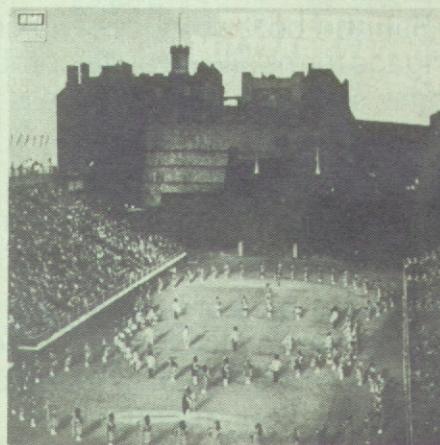
And now I have them at the end of my vitriolic pen. Although I would not presume to criticise the quality of piping on this or any other pipe band record, I think I can offer one or two suggestions for improving the overall programme. These lads are no greater sinners than any others I have reviewed and, as always, the final result must rest on the musicianship of the pipe-major and record producer.

Any good bandmaster will, when choosing a programme, make sure the music is varied in key, texture, volume, style, speed and anything else he can think of. A pipe band cannot vary the key so it must make every effort to vary all else to avoid monotony. One piper cannot alter his volume but a pipe band can. It is not enough merely to vary the rhythm and tempo of each set. Volume and texture, mood — all are available to the pipe band but never used. They are content with a dreary monotony that sends the likes of me up my sassanach wall.

So, pipe-majors, why not vary the number of pipers and drummers according to the mood of the music? This changes the volume, and the mood, and the texture. Why not let the drummers vary the volume, and play with or without snares? Why not play a reel or strathspey as if you are enjoying it? **RB**

Side one: 6/8 marches — The Victorians, The Bugle Horn, Queen Elizabeth's March; slow march and 2/4 marches — The Sheiling, The Banks of the Kelvin, Queen Victoria's Jubilee; march, strathspey and reel — Prince Henry's March, The Laird o' Drumblair, The Circassian Circle; 2/4 marches — The Inverness Gathering, Australian Ladies; slow marches — The Crooked Bawbee, Dream Angus; 4/4 marches — The Meeting of the Waters, The Rowan Tree; marches — The Battle's O'er, Castle Dangerous.

Side two: 6/8 marches — Kenmure's Up and Awa', The Argan Gap; 3/4 and 4/4 marches — Brigadier Hope Thomson, Bonnie Summer Days, Murrayfield; selection — My Land, The Fiddler's Joy, Willie Davie, Fair Jean, Liverpool Hornpipe; slow march and 9/8 marches — The Borderers, The Dhalin, The Silver Jubilee; slow airs — Sunny Days in Maoriland, The Maori's Farewell; 2/4 marches — The Duke of Sutherland, The Earl of Mansfield, The Barren Rocks of Aden; marches — The Bluebells of Scotland, Scotland the Brave.



'The Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1977' (Military bands of 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards; Scots Guards; 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment; The Royal Highland Fusiliers; 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. Corps of drums of 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales. Fanfare team, 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders. Pipes and drums of 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards; 1st Battalion, Irish Guards; 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots; 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers; 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders. La Batterie-Fanfare de la Garde Républicaine de Paris. Hornchurch Drum and Trumpet Corps) (EMI Waverley SZLPA 101)

Reviewing this particular tattoo record defeats me at almost every point — there are so many bands involved, fanfare teams, corps of drums, pipes and drums, trumpet corps, and so much music to be mentioned that my mind boggles.

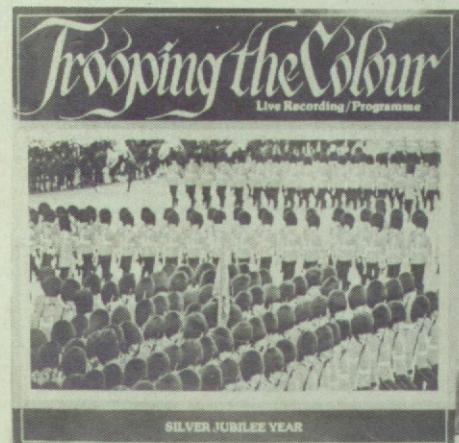
La Batterie-Fanfare de la Garde Républicaine de Paris, by personal permission of the President of France, opens its display with 'Le Régiment de Sambre-et-Meuse' and continues with 'La Marche de la Garde Consulaire à Marengo' ...

Regular readers should by now know the form. Opening fanfares with voice-over, massed bands, guest bands, Highland and Scottish country dancing, yards of pipes and drums and a finale of weepies like 'Crimond,' 'Scotland the Brave,' the obligatory lament, and 'Loch Lomond,' this year somewhat enlivened by the French buglers sounding 'L'Extinction du Feu,' so politely Gallic compared with 'Put those bleeding lights out.'

Only you know if you want this sort of record. I've said my piece over the years and it will take more than this to change my views. **RB**

Other music on side one: Salute to a Sovereign (fanfare); La Batterie-Fanfare de la Garde Républicaine de Paris — Le Reveil en Fanfare de la Garde, La Marche des Eclopés, Le Rigodon d'Honneur, La Marche des Soldats de Robert Le Bruce, Le Chant du Départ; Highland and Scottish country dancing — Lads wi' the Kilt, The Brown Haired Maid, The Rose Among the Heather, The Rakes of Mallow, The Piper of Drummond; Hornchurch Drum and Trumpet Corps — Fanfare, The Hustle, The Entertainer, American Patrol, Birkenheide, Trumpet Concerto, Ode to Joy, 1812 Overture, Symphony No. 5 in C Minor.

Side two: Massed pipes and drums — Miss Elspeth Stewart, Paddy McGinty's Goat, Pet o' the Pipes, Aileen Aroon; massed military bands — Blue Bonnets o'er the Border, Edinburgh Castle, Portsmouth, Wee Macgregor Patrol; finale — The Pipe's Polka, A Drum Salute, Le Rêve Passe, The Garb of Old Gaul, Lament for Mary MacLeod, We're No' Awa' Tae Bide Awa', Back to Donegal.



'Trooping the Colour' (Silver Jubilee Year) (QBP 1)

As a special offering for the Jubilee we have one of the very few live recordings of the Queen's Birthday Parade. It is not an easy parade to record, there being a good deal of movement with bands and troops to-ing and fro-ing over a large area. Modern equipment, however, makes it an acceptable venture and even I can find little to fault.

What faults there are lie as ever in the endless repetition of some of the music, necessitated by the distances involved, but for those who have ever taken part in the parade the atmosphere will certainly recall for you every agony of tight bearskin and itching belly and all those little torments the Queen shouldn't know about, but does.

This disc comes in an informative double sleeve, with many photos in colour and a souvenir programme from the actual parade. The whole thing has a Scots bias of course, it being the Scots Guards' Colour that was trooped but, as all buffs know, much of the music is traditionally the same every year — the regimental slow and quick marches, the slow troop and the marches for the escort. The so-called 'neutral' marches are 'Moray Firth,' 'Sullivan on Parade,' 'Holyrood,' and 'Scottish Emblem' and the two inspection pieces are 'Auld Scotch Songs' and 'Highland Gathering,' both arranged by Captain Duncan Beat.

One joy of a live recording of the parade is that you are privileged to hear that most unique of sounds — the swaggering, clattering brazenness of a mounted cavalry band in full cry. **RB**

Other music on side one: Festival March, National Anthem, Les Huguenots, British Grenadiers, The Grenadiers Slow March, The Duke of York, Garb of Old Gaul, Scipio, Figaro, Hielan' Laddie, Milanollo.

Side two: The Black Bear, Preobrazjensky, The Life Guards, The Blues and Royals, D'ye Ken John Peel, The Girl I Left Behind Me, Helston Furry Dance, The Road to the Isles, The Keel Row.

This record is available from Treasurer, Household Division Funds, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London SW1A 2AX, at £3.50 including postage and packing.

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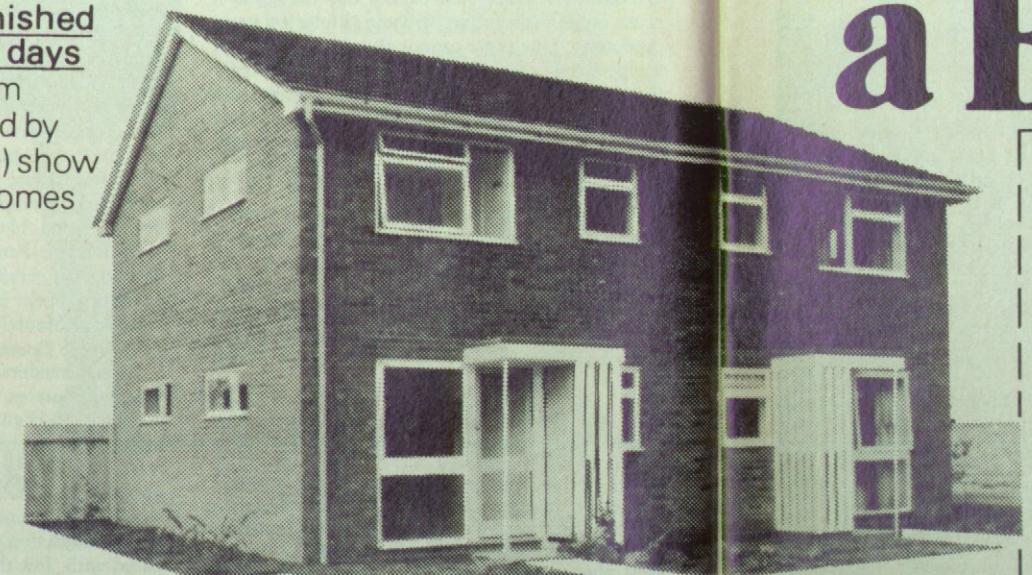
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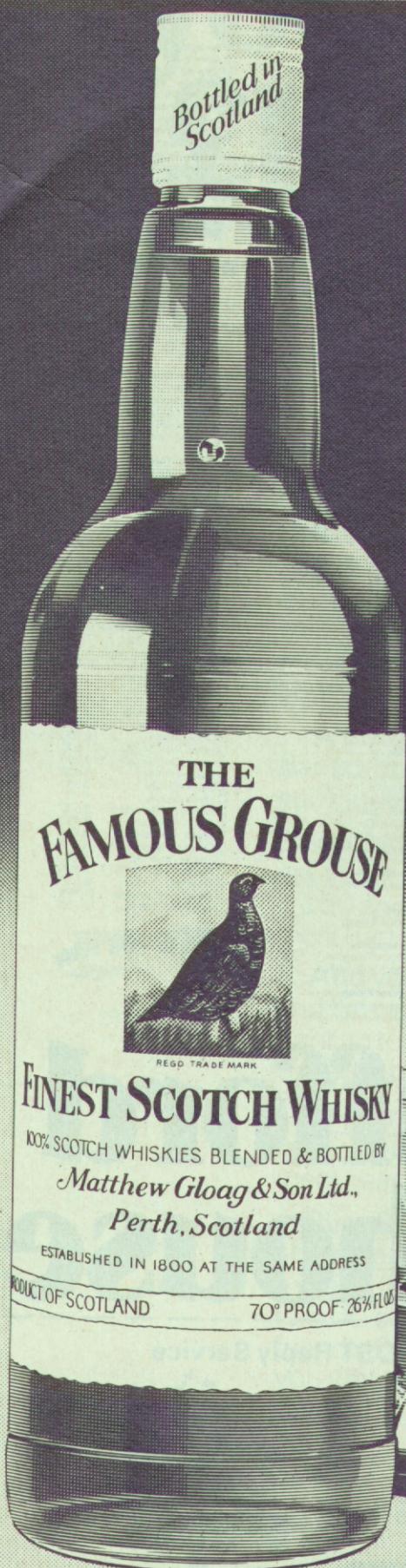
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<input type="checkbox"/> Greater London	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greenford-Green-Friars Close	
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# Soldier news

## Barracks close in Hong Kong

Another four Hong Kong camps and barracks are to be released by the Ministry of Defence just as soon as essential facilities elsewhere have been refurbished.

Lyemun Barracks (72 acres), Sham Shui Po Camp (12 acres), Bowring Camp in the New Territories (17 acres) and Tudor Court in Kowloon (1 acre) are the properties affected. The units which currently occupy them will be relocated within the shrunken garrison.

The Hong Kong Government will meet the estimated \$HK158,000,000 cost of the essential refurbishing, and will also meet the \$HK58,000,000 cost of a number of capital works for the garrison additional to those provided for by the defence costs agreement of 1976.

The effect of these arrangements will be to concentrate the garrison's facilities and improve operational and administrative efficiency, while releasing valuable building land to the Hong Kong Government.

It is hoped that most of the land will be used for a public housing estate and a home ownership scheme. The land at Sham Shui Po will make room for a number of improvements in the area's town planning.

**Work is well under way for the new headquarters building for the British Forces in Hong Kong which will tower to 28 storeys at the HMS Tamar shore base.**

The new building, designed to provide offices, stores, living

accommodation, recreational facilities and car parking, will cost some £6,500,000. It will be occupied in 1979 when 43 acres at Victoria Barracks are allocated to the Government of Hong Kong.

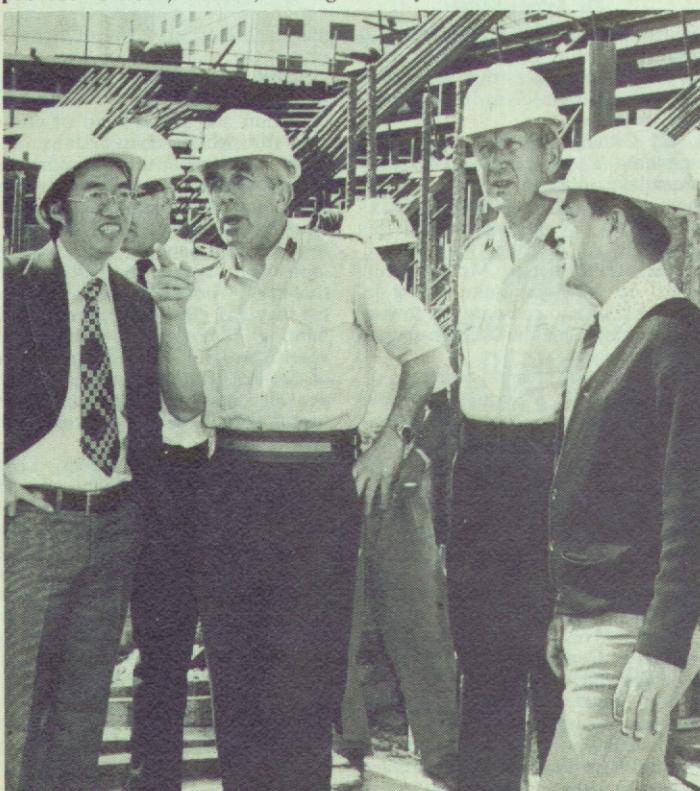
The structural work on the five-storey base of the new project has been completed and was inspected by the Quartermaster-General, General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, and the Commander British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer (below).

## New home

The foundations have been laid for a new Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve centre at Derriford, Plymouth, to house Volunteers and cadets under one roof.

The new complex will replace three separate old buildings which scatter around the area 211 (Wessex) Field Hospital, Royal Army Medical Corps; 232 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport; 17 Platoon of E Company, 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment; B Company, Devon Army Cadet Force; and 232 Squadron Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Costing almost £700,000, the centre is expected to be ready early next year.



## The master's cake



The finishing touches are added to Master Peter Phillips's christening cake by top chef Warrant Officer 1 David Dodd of the Army Catering Corps.

The cake was made from two of the tiers of Princess Anne's official wedding cake, redecorated for the occasion. David made and decorated the original cake.

## Pensioners boost fund

**Old-age pensioners, sending in their £10 Christmas bonuses, helped to swell the Services' Christmas appeal fund to around the £100,000 mark.**

In the first four days, more than £40,000 flooded in to the London headquarters of the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association and, in the week before Christmas, the kitty had swelled to £92,000.

Several large factories sent in donations of up to £1000, and Lloyds underwriters raised £25,500.

The fund was launched by MPs Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr Winston Churchill and Mr Jo Grimond, and Lord George-Brown.

"Money is flooding in," said Mr Churchill. "Gifts are averaging about £10 each, with a high proportion of them coming from the elderly. Many are sending the whole of their £10 Christmas bonus."

"People have been asking how they could show their gratitude to

the Services for their firefighting effort and their fortitude in Northern Ireland, and we thought this fund would be the best way."

**Nearly 400 gunner families were a little better off over Christmas, thanks to the Royal Artillery Regimental Fund.**

Each of the 375 gunners who get rent rebates was given a £10 Christmas present.

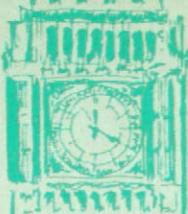
## Yet more cash

As a result of the success of the 1977 Silver Jubilee Royal Tournament, £30,000 has been presented to the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, to be distributed to Army charities.

Since the tournament began in 1880, more than £1,000,000 has been given to Service charities from the proceeds of this world-famous military entertainment. The 1978 show will be from 12 to 29 July.

A reasonable increase in pay and a substantial improvement in conditions of service was demanded by Mr Graham Page (Conservative, Crosby) in a Commons motion. Mr Page admitted he was not an expert on defence matters and said that the only time he had been trying to take part in a defence debate he had been hit on the head by a bundle of leaflets thrown by a demonstrator in the Gallery.

But as a non-expert he was expressing the ordinary citizens' anxiety about Service pay and conditions.



They were asking "Why are we giving them such a raw deal?"

Mr Page said that until he started to examine the matter he always thought the military salary was genuinely fixed on the basis of the level of salaries in comparable civilian life minus the cost of accommodation and food in civilian life and plus the 'X' factor to account for special factors in Service life not suffered by civilians.

"It is obvious that the result is not now comparable with other employment and the X factor appears to be completely unknown. How has this happened?"

What had gone wrong was that the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, while being obliged to keep within the Government's limits on the salary side, had had to disregard any limits in the cost of accommodation and food.

On the proposal for trade unions in the Services, Mr Page contended that it was not being made to genuinely improve Service pay and conditions but in order that they could be dragged into the web of the trade union movement so that they would never again be able to protect the public against strikers who put the lives of the public at risk.

Mr Page said a policy of waiting until April and then awarding ten per cent was not good enough — nor was a policy of telling servicemen to supplement their pay by working at a petrol pump, on a paper round or pulling pints in a pub.

More high-ranking officers than ever before had demanded pay increases for their men. At 'the Adjutant's annual party' they had shouted 'Rhubarb' at a Defence Minister.

Mr Page called for a Government announcement of an increase in armed forces' pay followed by a firm commitment for reaching comparability over a period of months.

Mr David Weitzman (Labour, Hackney North and Stoke Newington), a World War One veteran, recalled that he earned 'a bob a day' in his Army days. He said servicemen were certainly entitled to reasonable remuneration and it was essential that there should be a substantial improvement in conditions.

But what would economic conditions permit and how many categories of special cases were there? There was a clear threat that if the Government gave way to one or other, workers in other fields would press their rights and bang would go the ten per cent limit and the hope of getting inflation down and restoring the economy.

"We certainly cannot expect members of the armed forces to face dangers in Northern Ireland or to be called upon to carry out the hazardous tasks of firemen without being properly recompensed. I hope that the Government will, in their own way and in conjunction with the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, find a satisfactory way to deal with the problem as expeditiously as possible," Mr Weitzman concluded.

Mr Alan Clark (Conservative, Plymouth Sutton) referred to 'a highly dangerous combination of

forces were beginning to disintegrate. He cited as an example 47 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, where out of 95 men in the Cromac Mission, Belfast, no fewer than 21, including four sergeants, had announced their intention of quitting by June 1978.

Mr Robert Banks (Conservative, Harrogate) said the Northern Ireland allowance of 50p per day was an insult to soldiers serving there.

Replying, the Minister of State for Defence, Dr John Gilbert, said the Government agreed completely

of unemployment benefit in this country to continue receiving it for a limited period if they went to seek work in West Germany. The regulations also enabled those who had become insured under the German scheme since their last arrival in that country to count relevant British contributions towards qualification for German unemployment benefit. In these respects, wives of British Service personnel were subject to the same conditions as other British nationals in Germany.

Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State

# PARLIAMENT PAPERS

low wages and obsolete, defective and deficient equipment.'

Support for better pay came from a Labour member, Mr John Cronin (Loughborough), who said that a Government based on the tenets of Socialism was in duty bound to look after people in the lower income groups. A private, trooper, air-craftsman or sailor was equally as entitled to good treatment and fairness as any other worker.

Mr Willie Hamilton (Labour, Fife Central), said it ill behoved the Tories to talk about the Labour Party being opposed to the armed forces. The greatest exploitation of the armed forces took place in the last century and up to World War Two under Tory governments.

Liberal Mr Emyl Hooson (Montgomery) said bringing back to comparability could be implemented in two stages — in October 1978 and October 1979. This would be similar to the plan offered to the firemen.



Mr Winston Churchill

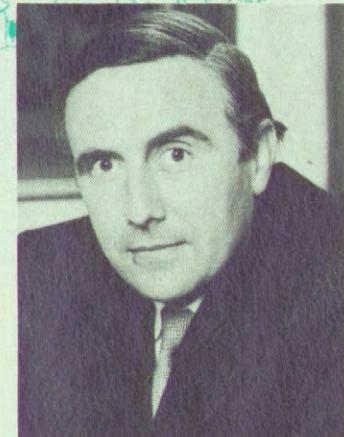
Mr Winston Churchill (Conservative, Stretford) threw out a challenge to Mr Mulley to find any employer other than the Secretary of State for Defence who worked his employees for 108 hours a week on a sustained basis or who paid less than 50p an hour for an arduous, skilled and dangerous job.

Declared Mr Churchill: "I make this undertaking to the House: If the Minister can find any capitalist employer who is so hard-faced, demanding and mean, I shall willingly be the first to stand in the picket line."

Mr Churchill said Britain's armed

forces were beginning to disintegrate. He cited as an example 47 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, where out of 95 men in the Cromac Mission, Belfast, no fewer than 21, including four sergeants, had announced their intention of quitting by June 1978.

It is insufferable impudence and hypocrisy for Hon Members opposite to try to suggest that we have suddenly interfered with the independence of the Review Body, that it is working under constraints



Dr John Gilbert

which have never existed before and that it is due only to the Government's meanness that the armed forces find themselves in their present position."

Dr Gilbert said that the recommendations of the Review Body must be implemented in a way that was consistent with the Government's pay guidelines, and this might involve phasing over a period.

He also criticised Mr Churchill who, he said, was quite wrong in always trying to compare the lowest forces' pay with the average industrial wage.

The question was put and agreed.

Replying to a written question from Mr John Loveridge (Conservative, Upminster) Dr Gilbert said that from 1 December 1977 the amount paid to the estate of a single member of the Reserve Forces who died on service as a result was £430.15.

Mr Michael Brotherton, (Conservative, Louth) asked the Secretary of State for Social Services whether wives of British Service personnel in Germany were eligible for unemployment benefit.

Mr Stanley Orme told him that British unemployment benefit was not normally payable outside the United Kingdom. EEC regulations, however, enabled persons in receipt

## PAY SPECIAL

for Northern Ireland, told the House that the security situation there continued to improve. In the first ten months of 1977, 105 people died and there were 401 bomb attacks. The comparable figures for the same period of 1976 were 263 and 1068.



Mr Roy Mason

"There is no cause for complacency. But recent improvements prove the rightness of the Government's firm policy of countering terrorism within the law, by the detection and prosecution of criminals through the courts."

Mr William van Straubenzee (Conservative, Woking) wanted to know to what extent the armed forces were being trained to undertake civilian jobs in the event of industrial disputes. Dr Gilbert said that apart from the elementary training they had recently received in fire fighting they were receiving no specific training although the nature of Service training was such as to provide a number of servicemen with useful skills of more general application.

In the House of Lords, Lord Leatherland (Labour) came up with an old remedy for a new problem. He asked whether, because normal breathing apparatus was said to be unsuitable for firefighting troops, the Government could provide them with chemically treated cloth hoods of the type issued to front-line troops in France in 1915, before gas masks became available.

Lord Winterbottom said the Government did not believe that servicemen involved in firefighting would be assisted by hoods of the type described.

# Rebate back to 5%

Naafi's campaign to control operating costs and increase sales to the shrinking Services has resulted in a trading surplus of £15,500,000.

After staff pensions and benefits and £8,000,000 in rebate and discounts and spending £2,200,000 on improvements, there is still £5,200,000 left in the kitty — double last year's figure.

This £5,200,000 will be swallowed by the capital reserve fund to reduce Naafi's dependence on outside borrowing which has grown so rapidly because of inflation.

But what this really comes down to for units is that from last November the rate of rebate payable each month to unit welfare

funds on club and canteen turnover has been increased to five per cent.

This is a return to the traditional rebate which Naafi was forced to drop in 1975, when inflation knocked their figures sideways. Then funds had to be conserved to avoid a liquidity crisis — which meant a rebate cut to three per cent. Last year, rebate climbed back to four per cent.

"But," stressed Mr James Spooner, Naafi chairman, "things cannot be quite the same again."

"It is simply impracticable, in the volatile economic climate which affects the business world generally, as well as Naafi, to work on the basis that five per cent rebate can be permanent.

"There are far too many factors

outside our control to permit that attitude. Not merely overriding commercial factors, but the peculiar ones which arbitrarily affect Naafi business — for example, changes in the deployment of the forces and variations in strengths and in spending power have an immediate effect on Naafi's fortunes."

After transfers to and from reserves and making the provision for future rebate, £750,000 was left for extra rebate.

"I understand this is much needed by the central funds of the three Services," said Mr Spooner, "and it is gratifying that each of them will get more than twice as much as last year."

The Army's share of this figure amounts to £413,000.

## NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

The following awards have been made for service in Northern Ireland between 1 May and 31 July 1977.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire: Lieutenant-Colonel C M J Barnes, The Royal Anglian Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel C T Shortis, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

Member of the Order of the British Empire: Major H Jones, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; Major S A G Simms, Royal Corps of Transport.

Air Force Cross: Flight-Lieutenant M K Johnson, Royal Air Force.

George Medal: Warrant Officer 2 K F A Adams, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Queen's Gallantry Medal: Warrant Officer 1 R D Boucher, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Mentioned in despatches: Lieutenant-Colonel E H A Beckett, Staff-Sergeant D Moffat, both The Prince of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel G B Campbell, The Royal Highland Fusiliers; Warrant Officer 2 J A Frost, Captain K J Haley, both The Queen's Regiment; Major A E Houlton, Royal Engineers; Staff-Sergeant P MacPherson, Major J J Reid, Major J F W Wilsey, all The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; Sergeant R Maughan, 9th/12th Royal Lancers; Major H M Rose, Coldstream Guards; Lance-Corporal R M Smith, The Royal Hampshire Regiment; Captain G Tillotson, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lance-Corporal M P Wallington, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

## Cadets pick their pin-up

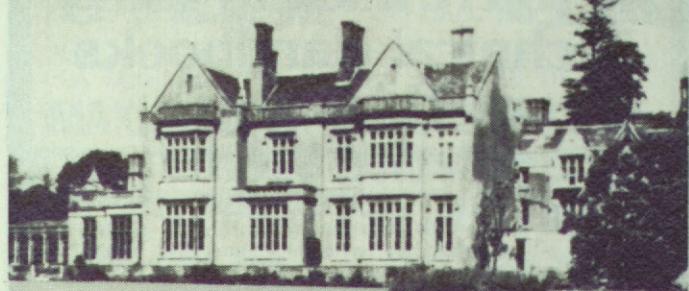


### ROSE AMONG YOUNG THORNS

A pretty girl among the boys ... Miss Pamela Rundle, who is Miss Young Great Britain, has been adopted by Swansea area Army Cadet Force as their very own pin-

up. Pam, who will hold the title of Miss Swansea Area ACF for a year, was presented with a plaque by Cadet Michael Torrington watched by some of the lads.

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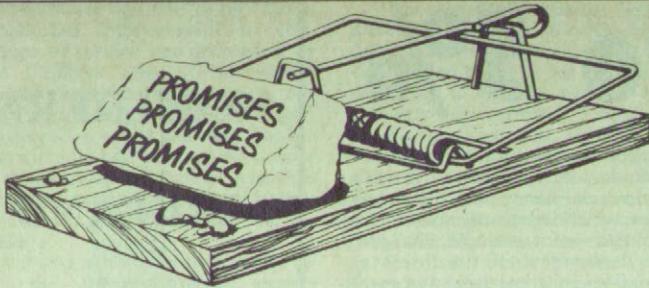


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# Cavers' narrow escape from icy death



A British Army expedition of three men and a woman, probing giant glaciers in North West Canada, saw a big ice cave they had discovered collapse with a thunderous roar only hours after they had started to explore it.

Team members had to make a rapid evacuation of the cave as it began to crumble.

Now back in Britain, they tell of the "incredible beauty" of the Dome Glacier cave, 7400 feet up in a vast mountain wilderness, before Nature closed it for ever.

Leader of the four-week expedition to the British Columbia icefields — covering 100 square miles between British Columbia and Alberta — was Sergeant Frank Holmquest, a 32-year-old instructor with the Army Physical Training Corps.

Assistant leader was Staff-Sergeant Pat Swales, Women's Royal Army Corps, a 34-year-old physical training instructor.

The two other members of the team were Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Dick Dart, Army Physical Training Corps, in charge of equipment, and Sergeant Anthony Jones, Grenadier Guards, photographer.

All four are now serving in York.

The team discovered the cave by accident but first attempts to explore and photograph it were thwarted by bad weather and intense cold.

When they finally entered, it was found the cave went down to a depth of 150 feet in three large 'steps'.

Said Frank, who was life-lined down the hole: "It was an eerie feeling going into a tunnel of ice with the light turning into turquoise blue. At the bottom was a large ice chamber."

"It was like a fairyland. Stalactites and chandelier-like formations of crystal clear ice were all around us."

"The whole air was full of sus-

Picture shows a team member climbing out of a small ice-hole encrusted in glacial mud and ice. A hazard here was stones embedded in the roof of the tunnel. The warmth of the human body could easily dislodge them.

# Firefighters settle in



Games worth £5000 were given by Naafi to troops on standby firefighting duties to while away the time spent between call-outs during the firemen's strike.

Packs were delivered to 11 centres in England, Scotland and Wales for distribution to the firefighting teams. They included such popular indoor games as darts, Monopoly, cribbage, Scrabble, dominoes, Cluedo and cards.

Naafi's managing director, Mr Edward MacGowan, said: "These men are our customers and they are doing a job of work they did not seek."

At their regular locations they have a variety of facilities provided by the unit welfare funds — which

are largely provided from the trade in their Naafi club.

"The welfare funds by their nature cannot always react quickly to this kind of situation so it seemed appropriate that Naafi should step in to help relieve the boredom of sitting around in what are often not congenial surroundings."

Pictured receiving their games are men of the 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles who were covering Surrey as standby firemen at the time.



Rifleman Barry Milton (left) relaxes as Mr Fred Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, chats to Rifleman Christopher Pullen, from 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, at Mile End Road, London.

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Men of 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, fighting fires in Merseyside, can boast of a special 'Green Goddess' of their own. She is lovely Liverpool model Jenny Crowe, who heard that the lads wanted an up-dated and shapely version of a green goddess, so she volunteered to come along and see them.

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# Fire bravery

A Rotherham soldier has received an award for bravery after rescuing one of his mates from burning to death in a garage fire. Private Allan Jones, who is serving with 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, in Berlin, was awarded the General Officer Commanding's commendation for bravery after saving the life of Private Phillip Pride in a blazing garage at their Berlin quarters.

Allan was working on his car when the fire broke out at the rear of the garage and he had to run quickly for safety. Outside he remembered that another soldier had been working in the garage and the citation says: 'At considerable risk to his own safety he dashed back in through a solid wall of flames to rescue his colleague trapped beneath a car and enveloped in flames.'

## Heroic

Presenting the award, Major-General Roy Redgrave, GOC Berlin, said: "Private Jones, by his prompt and heroic action, undoubtedly saved the life of his fellow soldier from burning to death."

## Bruce 'the bravest'



Corporal Bruce Green of the Royal Military Police mounted display team won a gold cup at Berlin's Horse of the Year Show — without winning an event.

On the final night he was asked by the organisers to parade in the arena for the presentation of prizes. Sitting there on his horse in front of 8000 people, alongside Harvey Smith and David Broome, Bruce could only imagine he would be receiving a traditional bunch of flowers. Instead he was presented with a foot-high gold cup, suitably engraved to 'The Bravest Performer.'

On the boat trip from England, Bruce had gone down into the hold during a force ten gale to help keep an eye on the horses. Struggling to keep them calm, he had been thrown up against a bulkhead and dislocated his shoulder. Not letting the injury put him off, he took part in the display team's spectacular act for five days with his arm in a sling.

## Kukri versus cutlass



The Gurkhas, who have won countless battle honours with their deadly fighting kukris, were more interested in naval swords and cutlasses than guided missiles on board HMS Cleopatra when they visited the frigate in Hong Kong. The visitors, from the Queen's Gurkha Transport Regiment, showed expert interest in the range of swords, dirks and boarding cutlasses brought out for their inspection by Lieutenant Mel Petrie, the captain's secretary.

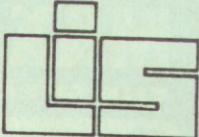
## Lynx takes a bow

The latest Army helicopter, the Westland Lynx, takes a bow over the 400-foot spire of Salisbury Cathedral after a six-month trial when the aircraft was put through its paces by the Lynx Intensive Flying Trials Unit of the Army Air Corps.

Part of the trials — being assessed now — involved a speeded-up rate

of use to test reliability. One aircraft did the equivalent of two years' flying in the six months.

The Lynx holds the world speed record for its type and is a multi-purpose machine. It can carry a section of troops, fire anti-tank missiles, provide an aerial command post and carry out search-and-rescue.



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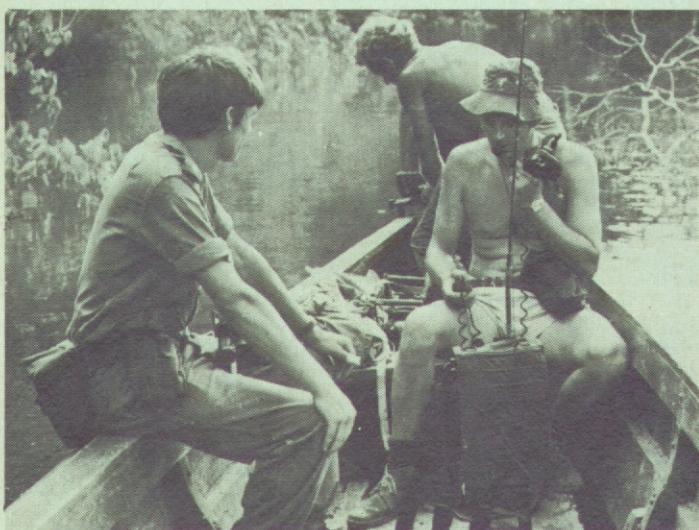
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# 'Boffins' probe jungle killer



Top: Any mode of transport was pressed into service. Captain Saunders becomes horse-portable while stores go by native longboat.

Middle: Captain Adrian Goldsack and Professor Harold Woodhouse discuss the freighting of hamsters.

Above: Communication, even on the river, was vital.

Right: Soldiers helping with the scientific analysis.

A band of British scientists has just returned from an exhausting expedition into the Amazonian rain forests of Colombia, South America. The responsibility for getting them there and back and supporting them while they were working rested with a small Army team.

The four-month expedition was organised as a joint Anglo-Colombian venture. The medical team travelled widely, examining the local human population, collecting insects and trapping forest rodents. Their main object was to study the disease of leishmaniasis and suspected strains of the parasite carrier were maintained in liquid nitrogen, hamsters and cultures for laboratory work in Bogota, Liverpool and London.

The environmental team studied the shifting architecture in the jungle, measured soil erosion and investigated the changes in soil conditions that occur after forest clearance. Many plants were collected, some by soldiers abseiling down rock gorges.

The archaeological team investigated several Indian villages and house sites of the pre-European period.

Two successive cultures were discovered, each with its own distinctive styles of pottery, and soil samples were collected to gain information on prehistoric land use.

But it was the Army, and Captain John Saunders from 3 Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, in particular, who were faced with the daunting task of supporting upwards of 60 people in a jungle area, the size of England, where there are no roads, few airstrips and dangerous rapids.

The main problem facing Captain Saunders, who led the expedition, was keeping in touch with the various scientific teams operating away from the base camp and arranging resupply of anything from food to

liquid nitrogen. The main means of travel was by river. With teams and sub-teams operating up to 500 miles apart, the latest man-portable HF radios, linked with an airportable land station at base camp, proved invaluable.

The nine British soldiers on the trip were all from 3 Field Workshop — six of them REME and three attached.

"There was a tremendous challenge for everybody," said Captain Saunders. "Take the communications — the yeoman of signals had a hell of a job to keep us all in touch."

As well as building 250 animal cages, 3 Field Workshop designed and made some specialist equipment, including a soil drying oven and two plant drying ovens. The workshops also designed a plant pressure bomb which could force all the water out of a leaf so that water retention could be measured.

Two types of sand fly traps were developed at the School of Electrical Engineering and built by students on the artificer course.

"The great thing about the expedition, so far as I was concerned, was that we were really doing something worthwhile," said Captain Stuart Cameron. "Other expeditions have been of great value, but generally just to the people who went on them."

"As well as what we got out of the trip personally, there was also the satisfaction that something worthwhile will come out of all the research and it will definitely be a help to the people of Colombia."



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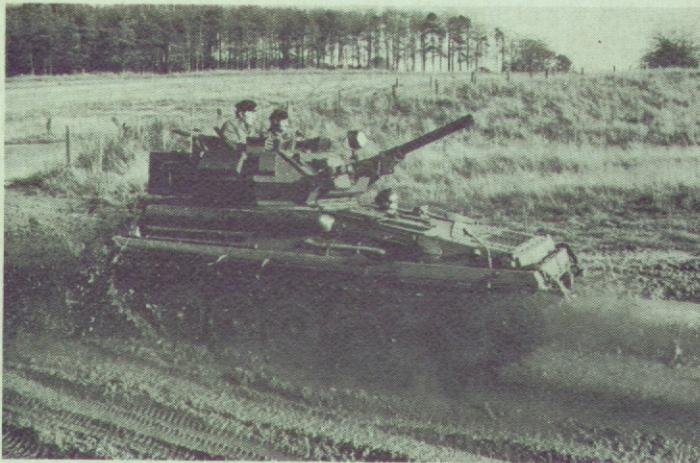
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# Nato's 'fire brigade' on call

While Britain faced the nation-wide firemen's strike, with thousands of servicemen prepared to man the pumps, another 'fire brigade' flew in from Europe.

This was the Allied Mobile Force, Nato's fire brigade of land and air forces from eight Nato nations who would be rushed to any part of the

alliance's territory threatened with conflagration from an aggressor, particularly to the more vulnerable



A Scorpion of 17th/21st Lancers' B Squadron, AMF's reconnaissance squadron.

flanks of Norway in the north and Turkey in the south.

The force was testing and improving its efficiency in a full field exercise on the Salisbury Plain and Aldershot military training areas. About 7000 men were deployed. Ground forces were strongly supported by Starfighter, Phantom and Harrier air squadrons.

The exercise, named Avon Express, involved forces from Belgium, Germany, Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom and was seen by the Secretary-General of Nato and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Some 60 aircraft flew into RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire and over the next three days, some 4500 troops from Europe arrived in a total of 300 flights.

They joined 2500 British troops in exercising their Nato role, providing an immediate demonstration, by the deployment of a multi-national force, of Nato's resolve that an attack upon one of the allies would be an attack on all.

If they should fail, then western civilisation would face an infinitely greater conflagration than any facing the servicemen manning Britain's fire service today.



An RAF Jaguar taking off on a sortie.



Harrier 'jump jets' can hide in the woods between operations.



American airborne troops in action.



German paras were there too.

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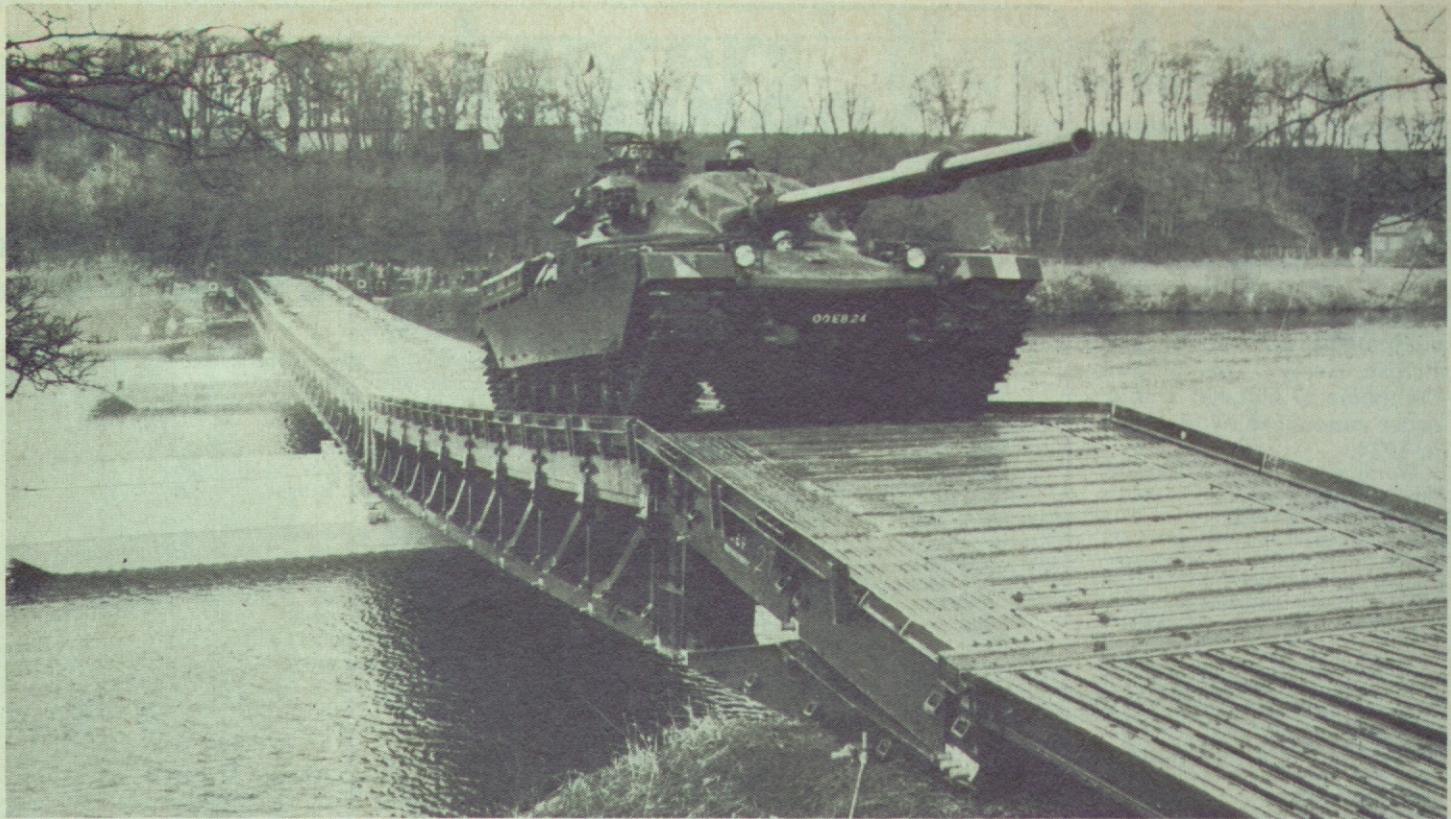
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# Sapper Terriers bridge gap

Brand-new experimental pontoons were unveiled for the first time when Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve sappers constructed a four-span medium girder bridge across the River Lune at Halton Training Camp, near Lancaster.

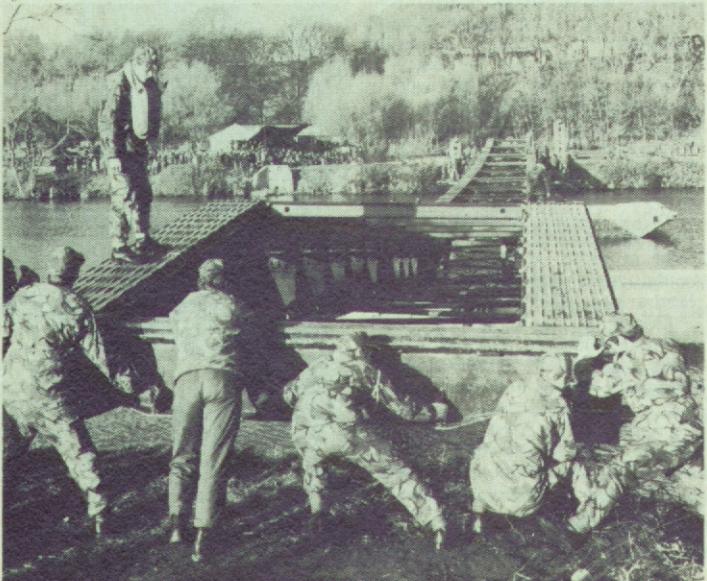
Observers from the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment, and from the pontoons' manufacturers, Fairey Engineering, plus Army Minister Mr Robert Brown, were on hand to watch men of 75 Engineer Regiment build the 306-foot bridge in just under four-and-a-half hours. And as a proof of their confidence in their workmanship, the sappers immediately sent a heavyweight Chieftain tank rumbling across the bridge.

The main feature of the new aluminium alloy open-decked pontoons (not yet purchased by the Army) is their self-draining capabilities. Four holes at the corners of the hulls allow water taken in during the bridge's construction and use to drain quickly from the pontoons to maintain buoyancy.

The pontoons stack in nests and are easily launched from tipper trucks straight into the waterway to be bridged.

On hand to help in the construction of the M60 medium girder bridge was one of the new combat engineer tractors which was driven into the river to prove its 'swimming' capability. The pathfinder vehicle is equipped with a sturdy bulldozer blade and a rocket-propelled grappling anchor which can be used to haul it up steep banks, like the sides of rivers.

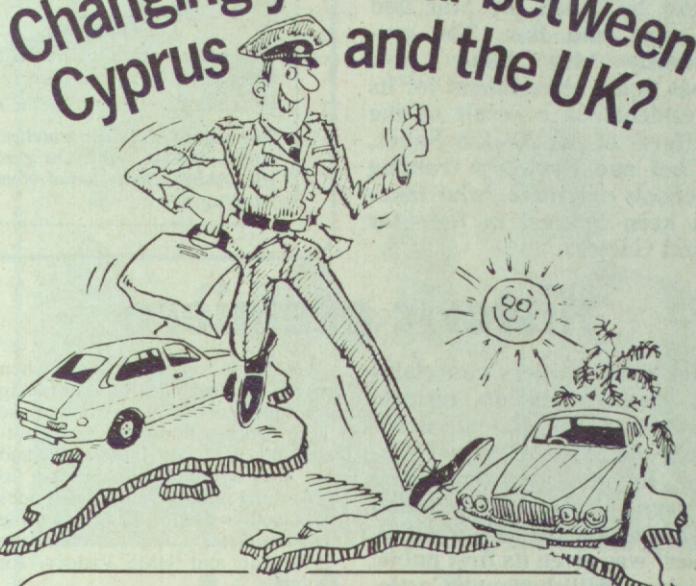
More than 300 volunteers from 75 Engineer Regiment's squadrons in Manchester, Liverpool and Sheffield, were involved in the study period and demonstration at Halton.



Top: The multi-span bridge takes the weight of a Chieftain tank — well over 50 tons. Note the light-coloured prototype pontoons.

Bottom: Sappers manhandle the bridge threshold member into place across the river.

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## Marconi radio is on

Marconi Communications Systems Limited has been awarded an extension contract by the Ministry of Defence (Procurement Executive) for the supply of some 400 Triffid transportable UHF radio relay equipments for use by the British Army. This follows the major £7,600,000 Triffid order announced by Marconi in 1974.

Worth more than £12,000,000, this extension contract will be implemented in collaboration with two German companies. Marconi, as the prime contractor, will manufacture approximately two-thirds of the equipment and deliveries are expected to commence in January 1980.

Triffid is based on the type FM 200 communications equipment designed by Siemens and AEG-Telefunken for the Dutch Army but has been developed and extended to meet the specific requirements of the British Army.

Triffid will be used to form a radio relay network designed to work into the British Army's Ptarmigan tactical communication system planned for introduction in the next decade.

## Bar added to Star and Garter

The famous home for disabled sailors, soldiers and airmen at Richmond could now be called the Star and Garter and Bar. The previously 'dry' home now has liquid refreshment for its residents as a result of the efforts of Mr Dickie Sweet, Chef and Brewer's training schools executive, who takes a keen interest in the Star and Garter.

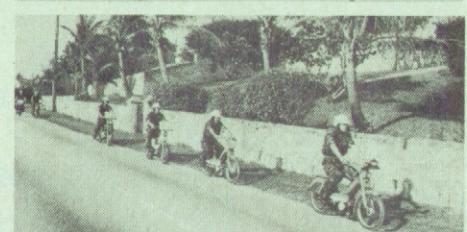
# Spearhead troops fly in to quell Caribbean crisis

In Bermuda the rioting over the execution of two men had been going on for two days. Then came the news the Army was coming. The violence stopped.

In England, with the time four hours ahead, the call for troops came on Saturday night and less than 24 hours later some 170 Spearhead troops from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, were on the island.

But they were beaten there by a company from The Royal Regiment of Wales, half way through a six-month tour in Belize.

They landed on the island at Sunday lunchtime and immediately deployed to mount guard at key installations around Hamilton, Bermuda's capital, to relieve the pressure on the police and part-time soldiers of The Bermuda Regiment.



Top right: A fusilier watches local fishermen at work. Bottom right: On guard in the sunshine isle. Above: Some found wheels and some came running!

But after two days on the sub-tropical island the disappointed Welshmen were on an RAF VC10 again, winging their way back to the steaming heat of Belize.

The orders to the Fusiliers were to 'Keep a low profile' — and they did such a good job that they were dubbed 'Britain's invisible Army' by the Bermudans.

The soldiers were seen only at night driving past the swaying palms and white-roofed houses during the curfew on their way to mount guard at Government House, police headquarters and various key installations.

At the island's police headquarters in Hamilton, the Fusiliers manned a joint operations centre with the police and Bermuda Regiment until the curfew and state of emergency ended in the middle of December.

Story: Martin Helm  
Pictures: Tony O'Shaughnessy

In the daytime the Fusiliers returned to sleep at Warwick Camp, The Bermuda Regiment's headquarters some eight miles from Hamilton.

But just across the road from the camp the soldiers were tempted to the white sand and turquoise seas to swim in a sparkling bay.

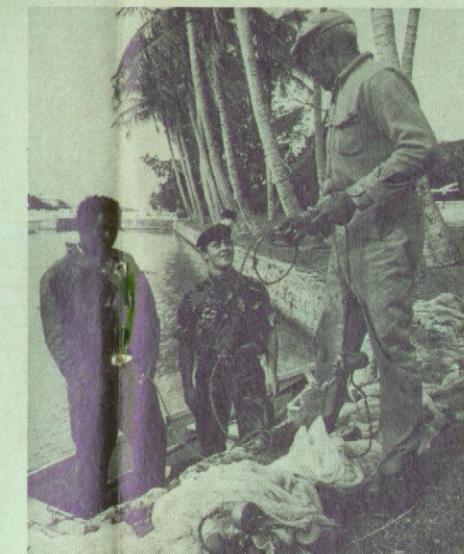
Bermudans who saw them were amazed — the soldiers were the only people on the island swimming in the sea, even though the sea and air temperatures were both around 70 degrees.

As the state of emergency came to an end the Fusiliers were allowed to see Bermuda in the daylight for the first time before flying home.

With cars banned except for residents and a 20 mph speed limit throughout the 18-mile-long island, the Fusiliers hired mopeds to get about.

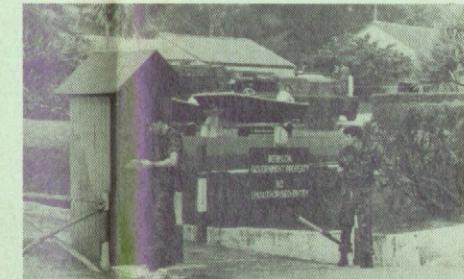
And it was now that the Bermudans really showed their generosity to the soldiers. They were given free admission to the aquariums, caves and a dolphinarium and a consultant on the filming of 'The Deep' took them on tours around the island, its reefs and wrecks aboard his 48-foot workboat.

Four hundred cigarettes for each man and free beer arrived at the camp from well-wishers.



When news of the two-week tour in Bermuda came through to the regiment's Oakington Barracks, near Cambridge, there was no shortage of volunteers.

There was not such a queue to go back home to fight fires — starting in South West London on Christmas Eve.



## Historic première

Not many writers can claim a première in an historic building. One who can is 40-year-old Major George Fleming, Royal Army Educational Corps, whose presentation 'Hurrah for the Life of a Soldier' was given its first public airing at Hillsborough Castle, near Belfast.

The occasion was a charity performance of George's work, telling the story of the British Army from Blenheim to Belfast, right up to date, in contemporary words, song, slides and tape recordings.

The setting was the throne room of the famous building, former residence of governors of Northern Ireland, where the Queen conducted official business during her Jubilee visit to the Province.

The audience, from Belfast and district turned up to boost the Lord Roberts Workshops Appeal and Forces Help Society funds.

George is initially hesitant when asked to find an all-embracing description of his hobby. "I suppose 'Live Documentary' is most suitable. It is not a novel, not a play and not just a reading. It is akin to something radio and television does very well — Charles Chilton's 'Blue and the Grey,' about the American Civil War, and 'HMS Victory,' for example."

A former private in The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (National Service 1955-57), he went to Edinburgh University to read history and emerged with an honours degree, rejoining the Army in 1964. History is not just part of his educational background and work — it is a passion.

His father served 15 years with the Senior Service, and George began researching the life of Nelson in 1970. His first live documentary, with Nelson the subject, was presented by the Münster Garrison players in Germany in early 1975. "People weren't quite sure what was coming," George chuckles, "but



Major Fleming (left) taking a class at Aldergrove.

# Lancers' Nepal trek



A 17th/21st Lancers expedition from Germany to Nepal nearly came to grief when three of its four Land-Rovers were impounded on the Pakistan-India border.

An expedition member admires the Himalayan view.

## Devils drop in . . .

Sport parachuting in Hong Kong got a shot in the arm thanks to a visit from the Army's prize-winning display team, The Red Devils, who took time out from their show programme in the colony to lecture, train and advise members of the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Sek Kong.

The Red Devils were in Hong Kong to take part in a Jubilee pageant but realised the problem of the locally based Service and civilian sport parachutists whose geographical isolation from world centres of their sport means that contact with world-class exponents like the Red Devils is rare.



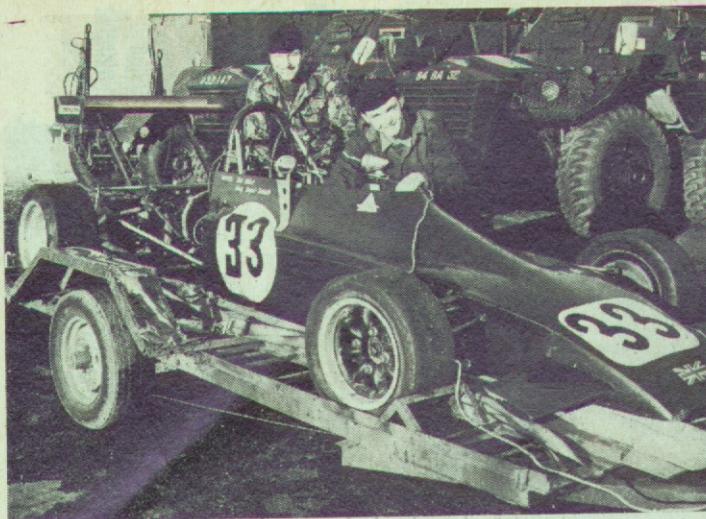
## Egyptian Swingfire agreement

Another British weapon system has been bought by the Arabs. The Swingfire anti-tank missile is the subject of agreements signed between the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation in Egypt and the British aerospace manufacturers in the United Kingdom. Production is planned to take place on the outskirts of Cairo.

## . . . And Angels too!

It was a blessing from heaven for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association when pretty women 'Red-caps' Marian Guthrie and Jane Sowden decided to make their first parachute jumps.

Their week of training and four jumps each resulted in a total of £404.73 being donated to Ssafa by their sponsors, and the girls climbed into their jump suits again recently to present the cheque to Lady Archer, wife of the Commander British Forces and chairman of Hong Kong Central Committee of the association.



## In the Belfast pits

This latest addition to the vehicles at Belfast's Moscow Camp could be the Army's latest secret weapon in speedy follow-ups in the unrelenting war against the terrorists.

It could be... but it isn't. In fact, the glittering Supernova Formula Super-Vee racing car has arrived at 60 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, as a project to while away off-duty hours during the unit's four-month tour in Northern Ireland.

The car has endured a gruelling

racing season and is to be stripped down and rebuilt as a joint venture undertaken by the squadron's second-in-command, Captain Bob Birrell, and Captain Tony Taylor-Roberts, serving with 662 Squadron, Army Air Corps, at Ballykelly.

Pictured with the car are Craftsman Mark Grundon (left) and Lance-Corporal Roger Hopwood, both of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who will actually do the donkey work.

## They gave their hearts

World War One Albanian veterans have refurbished a memorial to a



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## Bridge so far



British and German sappers combined to build one of the largest M2 units ever constructed in Germany in just over two hours over the 400-metre-wide River Elbe.

The bridging was the finale to a week's training by the British 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment and a company from the Amphibisches Pionierbataillon 130 of the Bundeswehr. The two units both use the German-designed bridge, which can double as a ferry.

## Bridge no more



Almost a year after its exhumation from the Normandy beaches, where it had been for 32 years, the Churchill AVRE which gave the site its name returned. The site became known locally as Pont d'AVRE since the tank had provided a bridge on one of the exits from Juno Beach in June 1944, near the village of Graye-sur-Mer.

The tank was recovered last year by men of 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron from Hohne, Germany, with support from Royal Electrical

and Mechanical Engineers recovery technicians and Royal Army Ordnance Corps ammunition experts. It has been refurbished at a French Army workshop and has now been placed on a plinth overlooking Juno Beach and dedicated to the British and Canadian soldiers who died there.

Among those at the dedication ceremony were two of the original crew members, Mr Bill Dunn and Mr Bill Hawkins, and Major-General A. E. Younger, who was commander of 26 Assault Squadron at the time of the landings.

## Juniors have Jubilee of their own

In 1952 the formation of a squadron of 44 boy soldiers laid the foundation for what is now the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, at Bovington, Dorset.

The 25th anniversary was celebrated at the winter-term passing-out parade when the reviewing officer was the Duke of Gloucester.

In its quarter-century the regiment has grown considerably and more than 800 boys were on parade for the duke. They were commanded by 18-year-old Junior Regimental Sergeant-Major Colin Drew and 290 of them marched off the square for the last time on passing out to begin adult service.

Ten of those passing out joined the regiment's 93-strong band.

Twenty-four are Royal Military Police and 23 are going to the Army Air Corps. The remaining 233 join the 16 regiments of the Household Cavalry and Royal Armoured Corps.

They marched off in slow time, wearing the uniforms of their new regiments, and the distinctive dress styles and characteristics gave a colourful touch to the parade, enhanced as it was by the red-topped caps of the Royal Military Police and the light blue berets of the Army Air Corps.

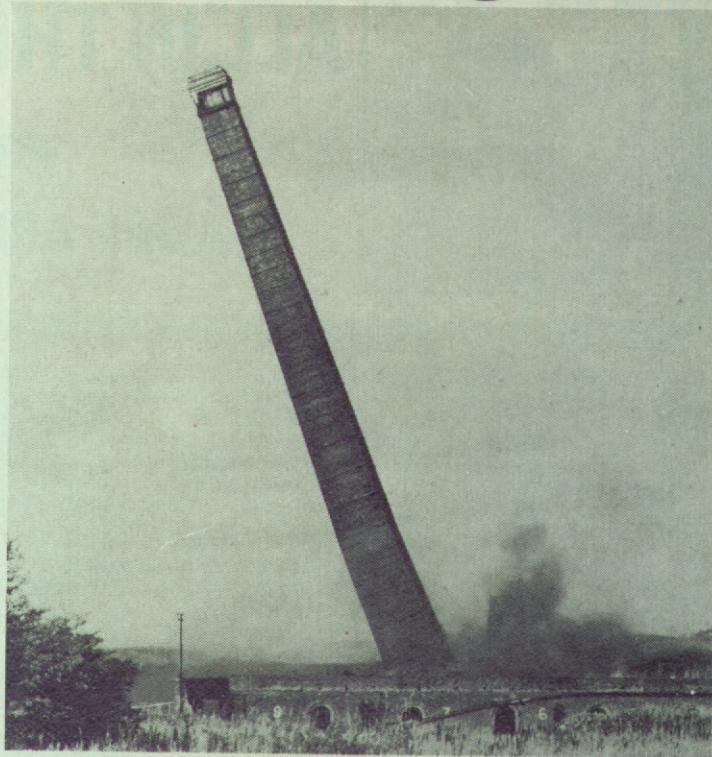
To celebrate the anniversary, the regiment invited all its past junior regimental sergeant-majors. One of these served as long ago as 1958. Five former RSMs also accepted invitations.

## General's Jubi-tree



Major-General John Stanier, Commandant of the Staff College at Camberley, gets stuck in with a spade. The occasion was the planting of a tree in the college grounds to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The maple is not far from a similar tree planted in Coronation Year.

## Going Going . . .



This leaning tower of Pisa effect was produced — for a split second only — by Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve sappers as a precision demolition task was captured on film.

The men of 1 Troop, 102 (Clyde) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (V) — the self-styled 'landscape levelers' — took on the job of 'dropping'

this 35-year-old brickworks chimney at Walkinshaw.

The chimney was in direct line of the flight path for light aircraft into Glasgow Airport.

It took just nine kilograms of strategically placed explosive to lay the 36-metre chimney to rest in a particular direction to miss adjacent buildings.

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There are a number of vacancies at present for all ages. Fees are on a scale to meet the financial circumstances of the parents. MoD allowances at Boarding School rate apply to children of school age.

Application form and further details available from:

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Royal Caledonian Schools,  
Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD2 3T6**

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# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## WITH ANNE ARMSTRONG

Have you ever felt utterly confused and bewildered by the plethora of forms, leaflets, posters, regulations and new legislation which always seem to be affecting you? Often it is better for you to know about some of these things, for there may be benefits for the family — sometimes even cash. I am referring this time only to civilian information and I will not go into detail on the various organisations which exist to help — such as citizens' advice bureaux and legal aid centres. Recently I have visited a number of Government departments and have been amazed at the amount of information and help which is actually available. And I have collected together a number of posters, pamphlets and forms intended for the public.

Over the last few months I have tried to keep you all informed of help available from the various authorities. For instance I have had some excellent posters and fact sheets from the Department of Education and Science on free school meals as well as leaflets on rent and rate problems, help with electricity bills and information on the increased mobility allowances due next summer.

Much information is displayed in post offices but sometimes they are not easily accessible to Service families. But a plan to distribute information materials through, for example, BFPOs, is now being examined with a view to helping those who are overseas, not only for themselves but for those who may depend on them back home.

Posters and factsheets on free school meals and the other items mentioned are available from me at SOLDIER Magazine.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting a school which must be almost unique in its ability to keep brothers and sisters together throughout their schooling. It is the Royal Caledonian Schools at Bushey, Hertfordshire — home to 115 sons and daughters of servicemen of Scottish descent. Including the new nursery wing, the children's ages range from three to 18.

I was impressed with the variety of life there — including a pipe band, an indoor swimming pool and community work. The head boy, aged 16, who hopes for a commission in the Royal Air Force, told me: "If I had not come here I just would not have had the chance to even apply for one. And it's a bit different from ordinary boarding school for we go to the local day schools in the area and come home at night."

The head girl, looking very charming and attractive in the Royal Stuart tartan, explained: "We all wear this tartan — not in school but for special occasions and when the pipe band and dancers compete in competitions or attend Highland functions."

The children, who live in spacious dormitories, chatted away to me about their school activities and I learned that those who are a bit behind with their learning receive evening tutorials and help with their homework. The examination results I am sure reflect the care taken on the academic side. Founded in 1815, the school keeps in close touch with the armed forces for a high percentage of its children come from Service families. Among its fans is stage and screen star Jessie Matthews who recently gave a concert at the school in aid of its funds.

Next month's edition of Families Page is not to be missed. I have obtained an exclusive interview with Miss Jean Orr, Director of the Office of Manpower Economics, which is responsible for the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

*Anne Armstrong*

Older children help the younger ones with games in the Common Room.



general questionnaire issued to people who claim unemployment benefit after having been in an EEC country.

"You will appreciate that the majority of such people have been insured under the other country's scheme and that it may be possible under the EEC social security regulations to utilise that insurance towards entitlement to British benefit.

"The number of people who have not been insured in the other country is small and the number who have remained under British legislation under the special arrangements with Germany is even smaller. It would not be administratively practical to set up special procedures for these categories.

"One of the proposals we have in mind is an alteration to Question One of the form, which would enable the claimant to skip most of the subsequent questions if there is no foreign insurance to be taken into account."

## Songs of wartime

Which piece of music brings all your wartime memories flooding back? Is it 'Roll Out The Barrel,' 'Lili Marlene' or 'The White Cliffs of Dover'?

Ssafa is collecting the most popular of the songs sung during World War Two and will present them in an 'Evening of Nostalgia' at the Royal Albert Hall on 4 May.

You are invited to send in your nominations for the best three tunes. They will be played by the Royal Marines Concert Orchestra and sung by wartime songbird Anne Shelton and John Heddle Nash. Richard Baker is the compère.

Seats are at £4.00, £3.75, £3.25, £2.75, £2.25 and £1.50. Ticket application forms can be obtained (send stamped addressed envelope) from Ssafa, PO Box 5, London SW1.

# BAOR unfurnished rents

Families in Germany who have defurnished quarters are now eligible for a rent reduction.

Previously, families in BAOR defurnished their quarters to take in their own furniture, but still had to pay full rent.

This rent reduction is seen as being a help in getting furniture home until baggage allowances are increased.

Anne Armstrong explains that the UK scheme did not apply to Germany because it was thought that there was no need for the scheme there because families "did not buy large furniture in Germany."

Now, with longer tours in BAOR and with families looking ahead to setting up their own homes, the need has become more obvious.

The scheme will be applied on the basis of a 12 per cent 'wharf' on officers' quarters and two per cent for soldiers.

This does not at present apply to Army quarters administered by the RAF, but discussions are in hand to resolve this.

## Your Letters

### Working WRAC

Dear Anne

Can you do anything for us? — 'us' being married, working WRAC?

At the moment the only advantage we have, by being married instead of engaged or single, is the privilege of being allowed to live out. In fact we lose more than we gain. Why, if we are being taxed as 'single girls' (and still paying around £70 per month in tax) do we have to lose our local overseas allowance? True, our husbands receive married LOA, but then so do those men who marry 'civvies.'

Admittedly, if we wives are of a higher rank than our husbands, as I am, then the husband can claim the LOA

# Oh, what a lovely war



## New centre

A flat has been handed over to the families on a large Army estate at Bushey in North London as a community centre.

Already it is being used by the estate wives club and as a thrift shop. Mrs Jean Barnett, an organiser, explained that other events might be too noisy for the very tolerant families in the rest of the block.

for the higher rank. (Which is another point we feel is wrong. Why should LOA be paid according to rank? Food shops etc don't ask your rank before they tell you how much an item costs! But then that's another, separate grumble).

Surely if we are willing to stay in the Service after we are married, we shouldn't have to lose money. True, we don't have to pay for food and accommodation (only quartering charges!) but that saying 'Two can live as cheaply as one' just doesn't ring true in this day and age. I, and other girls, went through the same training as the men, at the same expense. Myself, I did a five-month course and then a year-long course, the cost of which, as they kept reminding us, was extremely high. I have been in the WRAC for more than five years and would like to do another three years at least. I've already been in the Army

When 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, had to present a combat team attack demonstration for the Colonel of the regiment recently, they decided to use the rehearsal day to initiate a few of the wives into the joys of soldiering.

After being kitted out and having their faces blackened, the wives were put into the platoon vehicles with their husbands. Then all went into the attack complete with bangs and smoke. The lady warriors are reported to have acquitted themselves well under fire.

longer than the average WRAC but, moneywise, there doesn't seem to be any point in staying in.

Couldn't our LOA be worked the same way as our taxes are done? With our husbands getting married LOA, and ourselves single LOA? Don't we deserve some sort of incentive? This might then put us on a par with the men doing exactly the same job as us, but earning up to £2 per day more.

Why should we be penalised just for being married? I know I'm not the only one to think like this — indeed, out of the corporals in my unit alone, ten of us are married! (This number is due to go up shortly, too!) After all, if we were still single, we'd be getting LOA.

Cpl, WRAC  
BFPO 58

## Disturbance

Dear Anne

The subject of our grievance is concerned with the disturbance allowance, an entitlement when a soldier moves from one quarter to another on posting. Our grievance is this. My husband's regiment is moving to a new area and his pay office states that his entitlement will be £29 and

not the basic rate of £114. The reasons given were that my family has not been in the present duty station for six months.

We moved from Dortmund to our present duty station and because officially posted we claimed disturbance allowance for the move, at the basic rate for soldiers of £114. Now we are moving again and have expenses to find but this time can claim only £29, which will hardly cover expenses and cost of removals. We feel that the time limit of having to be in a quarter for six months is totally unfair as we still have the same problems as on our previous move and have to find the necessary money to replace items which might need replacing.

Mrs M,  
BFPO 16

## Pay problems

Dear Anne

We have seen on the television and in the papers how poor Army pay is when compared to civilian rates — the firemen included.

I would like to know who fights my husband's battle for more money. When is something going to happen? How much are we likely to get? Will it all be taken away as they did last time in increased tax, housing charges, and so on?

After paying all the bills for gas, electricity, insurance, food etc, we are left with only about £2 to spend on the baby and ourselves. It really is getting very difficult to cope, and we would appreciate any help or advice that you could give.

Mrs P,  
Pirbright Camp

# Chilwell are prime movers

Central Ordnance Depot, Chilwell, came close to sweeping the board in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps' annual fork-lift truck competition with a performance which included one score which was the best since the event started three years ago.

CODs Chilwell and Bicester and Central Ammunition Depots Bramley and Kineton took part in the competition. COD Donnington had to withdraw because of firefighting duties.

There were two classes in the competition, held at the Materials Handling Trials Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Bicester — for electric reaching and tiering trucks and for diesel counterbalanced fork-lifts. The competitors, including both civilian and Army drivers, sat one written test, then took three practical tests.

Chilwell finished more than 70 points clear of their nearest rival, Bicester, in the diesel class but were 60 points behind Bramley in the electric.

But it was in the individual events that Chilwell really triumphed. Mr

Jim Toseland, on diesel, won the competition two years ago, did not enter last year and came back this year to grab his title back, while on electric, Private Roger Spicer turned in a new record. In the whole competition, he dropped only four points.

"It wasn't difficult, so much as awkward," he said afterwards. "You can get round, but it's a case of getting round in the time."

Jim Toseland lost points mainly for not keeping his load square but even so had sufficient mastery of his machine to take first place in his class.

The competition was watched by Mr Paul Vivian, a training officer from the Road Transport Industry Training Board, who had just come from the national fork-lift truck driving competition.



## THORNLOW SCHOOL

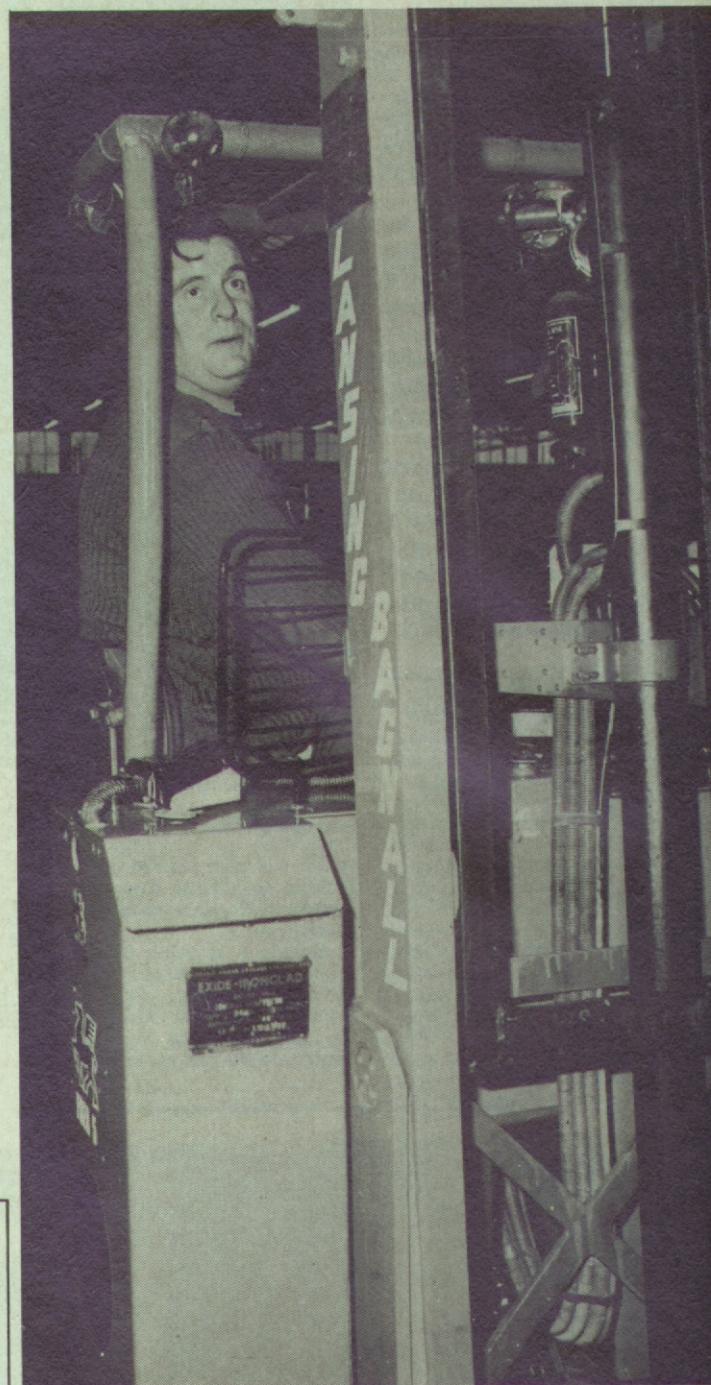
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Prospectus from Secretary. (Tel: Weymouth 2977).

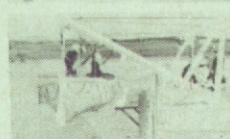


Above: Electric class winner, Private Roger Spicer, stacks up the points and (left) Jim Toseland, who won the diesel class for the second time.

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# Sport

## Top awards for these athletes

The special challenge trophies awarded annually for the most outstanding single performance in the Army individual championships, inter-Service championships and Combined Services match in athletics have been awarded.

### New record

The Cotterell Cup for senior track events goes for the third consecutive year to Lieutenant Glen Grant, 50 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery, for winning the 1500 metres in the inter-Service championships in a new record time of three minutes 47.7 seconds.

### Best throw

The seniors field events trophy was awarded to Private C Clover, 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, for winning the javelin event in the inter-Service match with a new Army and inter-Service record throw of 80.98 metres. At the time this was the best throw in Great Britain.

Lieutenant A M Carter, Women's Royal Army Corps, was given the women's track events trophy for winning the inter-Service 200 metres in 26.1 seconds.

### Top place

In the women's field events trophy class, the top place went to Private J Burdon WRAC for a high jump of 1.70 metres — equalling the Army record — for Combined Services against Surrey Women's AAA.

Junior track events trophy winner is Lance-Corporal M Edwards, Royal Signals, for his run in the 800 metres in the inter-Service championships. Corporal Edwards set a new Army junior record with a time of one minute 51.4 seconds.

# 'Enery joins the Army



A cliff-hanging finish kept spectators on the edges of their seats at the inter-unit team boxing finals which proved to be a closely fought match narrowly won in the end by 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, whose boxers just got the better of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. The celebrity commentator for the event was Mr Boxing himself, Henry Cooper, pictured commiserating with the losing team.

### Second time

The junior field events trophy went to Lance-Corporal M Annis for the second time. He won the javelin event in the Army versus Royal Navy junior match with a throw of 65.02 metres — a new Army junior record. Annis is serving with 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment.

### Outstanding

The Harington Cup, originally awarded to the most outstanding Service athlete in the Middle East, has been redesignated to be given annually to the athlete contributing outstanding service to Army athletics.

This trophy has been awarded for the first time to Warrant Officer 2 T Davies, of 7 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, for his long service to Army cross-country and athletics.

## Cross-country run

### Ted goes international



Congratulations to Staff-Sergeant Instructor Ted Turner (Army Physical Training Corps) who represented Wales in the prestigious Phillips/IAC cross-country race at Crystal Palace. He finished well down the field but swelled the ever-growing ranks of Army athletes being selected for international meetings. He finished third in the Welsh open cross-country championships last season and is pictured here on his way to winning the 1977 Army individual 3000 metres steeplechase title.

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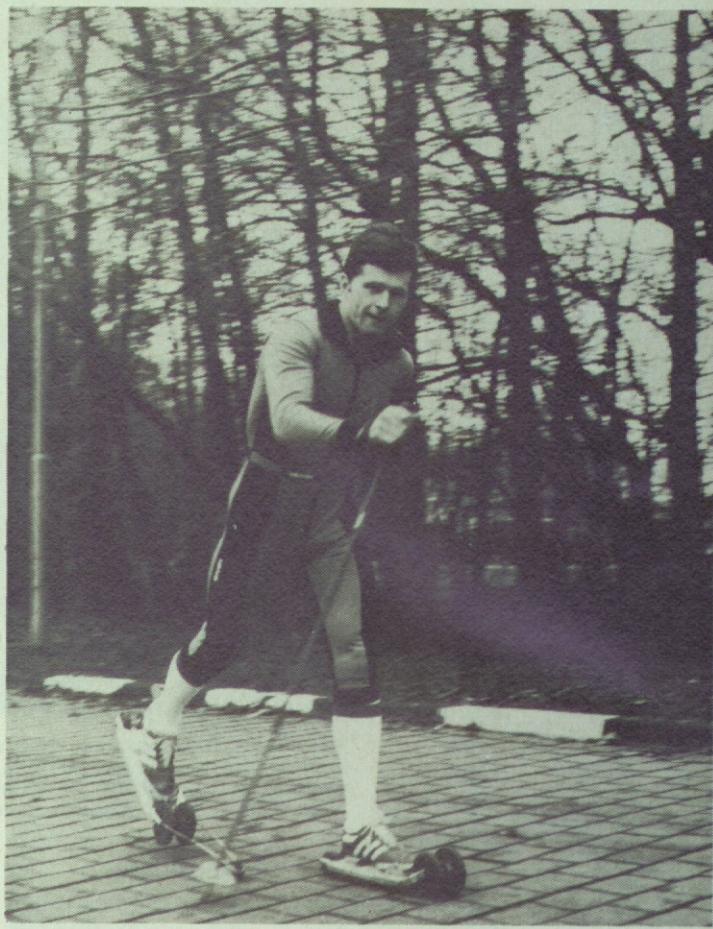
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## Signalman's switch paid off



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A switch from cross-country running to cross-country skiing has put 20-year-old Signalman Stephen Lancashire, of 2nd Armoured Division HQ and Signal Regiment, in line for a place in the British biathlon team for the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Stephen is already training with the British intermediate biathlon team in the Alps. He holds the Army 2000-metre steeplechase record and is a former North of England schoolboy cross-country champion.

### Junior chess finalists to meet

The finalists in the junior inter-unit chess competition are Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, and Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery. Harrogate won through to the final by beating Junior Soldiers Company, Prince of Wales's Division, 5-3 and JLR RA beat AAC Arborfield 6-2 in their semi-final.

### Close finish marks team boxing final

A closely boxed match gave a certain amount of edge to the minor units (United Kingdom) team boxing championship final this year. In the end, 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers, came out on top with four bouts and 11 points against 6 Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron with three bouts and ten points.

### Triple lift is a record

A triple-tow lifting three parascenders into the air at once is being claimed as a Service record for the Cyprus Parascending Club.

Careful preparation went into the record bid, believed to be the first triple attempted by a Service club, by the three parascenders — Captain Eddie Lyons, Royal Engineers; Lance-Corporal Pete Sheldrake, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment; and Corporal Geoff Armstead, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment. Equally important was the skill of the towing vehicle driver, Warrant Officer 2 Taff Cousins of 3 RTR.

Fitted with Para Commander Mark 1 canopies, the three lined up with a 500-metre line with yoke and quick-release attachment run to the front parascender. Two special yokes and normal quick releases plus a special line connected number two to number one. A further special yoke, normal quick release, and another line connected two to three. In an emergency all three could operate individual quick releases and descend independently.

Lasham civilian parascending club is thought to be the only other club in the world to have attempted the feat and now the Cyprus parascenders are keen to attempt a quadruple tow.

# Win boosts morale

With only weeks to go before the all-important Kentish Cup international series against top professional footballers from France and Belgium, the Army side pulled off a much needed morale booster by beating London University 3-1.

The pressure was laid on by the Army from the kick-off. After 16 minutes the Army took the lead following a well-placed free kick by skipper Corporal Micky Doig. Corporal Dave Blanche back-headed, the 'varsity' goalie failed to clear the ball and Bombardier S Ward nipped in to head it home.

A corner by Lance-Corporal W Morton nearly produced another

goal when goalie Irving palmed the ball out to Lance-Corporal S Tusz whose subsequent shot went wide.

On one of the rare occasions when London University beat the Army's offside-trap, their number 9, R Tillman, caused Army goalie Sergeant Instructor Dave Smith to bring off one of his characteristically smart saves. Immediately afterwards

the university broke away on the right and M Nevin put over a splendid cross only to see Smith cut it out with well-judged anticipation.

Still piling on the pressure, the Army was awarded a free kick some 40 yards out, Blanche dummied for Doig's shot which was blocked. But Corporal R Stephen caught the rebound to slam home the Army's second goal after 38 minutes.

As the second half opened, the Army still dominated the game and it was no surprise when the 50th minute brought goal number three. Doig again spearheaded the attack and from his pass Tusz neatly lobbed the ball over the advancing Irving.

With three in the back of the net, the Army began to rest on their laurels and the university took advantage of this by beating the offside trap to harry the Army defence.

From a goalmouth scramble the 'varsity's M Nevin snatched a goal to make it 3-1. The Army deserved their win and special praise went to Smith for his performance in goal. Veteran Corporal Aly MacDonald was a tower of strength in defence. Rarely beaten in the air, he had his best game of the season so far. Doig and Blanche did their usual lion's share of the attacking.

Relying as it does so often this season on this handful of players, the Army players will be hard pressed to give a good account of themselves against the French and Belgians. The loss of Alf Coulton and Alan Goucher, who retired last season, is sorely felt.

## Angling duo weighs in



Two Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve soldiers broke the ice for charity with a frosty fish-in that netted more than 1000lbs of fish and a tidy sum in sponsorship for Dr Barnardo's Homes.

Angling Captains Brian Gay (left) and Mike Keen, both of 152 Transport Regiment (Volunteers), braved sub-zero temperatures on the banks of the river Bann near Portadown to catch as many fish as possible in eight hours.

But before the intrepid pair could dangle a single maggot in the water, they had to throw a few icebreakers into the river to clear their way.

Eight hours and a few tots of medicinal brandy later, Brian weighed in with 631lbs of fish and Mike with 431lbs. And, at an average of two pence per pound sponsorship, Dr Barnardo's will hook a tidy sum for their funds.

## Fencers face top opposition

The Army fencing team — still looking for some of last season's form — went to Cambridge University to face a strong opposition which included fencers trained for junior national colours.

The épée teams were very equally matched. Staff-Sergeant Instructor Pete Brierley looked sharp and fit, winning all three of his bouts in good style. Warrant Officer 1 (RSM) Clive Eldridge fenced really well after a slow start, winning one and narrowly losing against two trained and awkward left-handers. But it just wasn't Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Dereck Truman's day. After battling hard he lost all three of his bouts, two of them by only the odd hit.

### Spirited

The sabre match started off very well with Warrant Officer 1 (SMI) Dave Hughes winning all three of his bouts. But unluckily the result was the same as the épée event with the Army winning four bouts to the university's five. Truman fenced below his best, winning one. Staff-Sergeant John Campbell put up a spirited performance but unfortunately failed to register a win.

### Revenge

The Army team was really up against it in the foil match with Mark Chetwood, for the university, beating Brierley and claiming his revenge for last year's Army foil championships. Brierley also lost against Thompson who proved to be Cambridge's best foilist on the day. He fought back well in his last bout to win 5-2.

### Improve

Sergeant Instructor Tim Johnston, still working hard to improve his competitive fencing, moved very well against strong opposition and was unlucky on a number of occasions not to register hits.

Apprentice Tradesman Kanaga, in his first Army match, started a little slowly but improved in his second bout and was narrowly beaten 4-5. His last bout against Chetwood was very exciting. Finding himself 2-4 down he proved a determined character and won the bout 5-4.

### Good account

The result of the foil match was Army 2, Cambridge 7. With an overall result of Cambridge 17 to the Army's 10, it was nonetheless felt that the Army gave a good account of themselves, having fielded three fencers with relatively little experience in this class of competition.

## Berlin Wall run

The 102-mile Berlin Wall became the route for a sponsored run by British soldiers in aid of one of the city's hospitals.

Two dozen runners of 14 (Berlin) Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, made what is believed to be the first 'circuitnavigation' of the infamous wall by a group of athletes. All were sponsored by the British community in Berlin and £750 was raised.

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## Army squash president joins the top team

A formidable string has been added to the bow — or racket — of the up-and-coming Army squash team in the form of Brigadier Mike Perkins, an ex-England international, who has taken over as president of Army squash.

A former Army champion, the brigadier is adding his strength to the Army players by joining the team playing for honours in the prestigious Cumberland Cup competition, the fourth division of which the Army heads half way through the season.

Meanwhile the team has continued to stamp its mark on the squash scene with a win against the strong civilian Jesters side 3 — 2. But they lost against Hampshire 2 — 3.

The A Team beat London House 4 — 1 and the Honourable Artillery Company 5 — 0 but lost to Oxford University Squirrels 2 — 3.

The Army provided the top three players in the Combined Services team of six that trounced Combined Universities 6 — 0. The Army players were Lieutenant Neil Stewart, Lieutenant Christopher Wilson and Sergeant Robbie Robinson. This was considered a good omen for the inter-Service tournament as far as the Army was concerned.

For the first time this year the inter-corps championship was held as one meeting throughout one weekend with 15 teams competing.

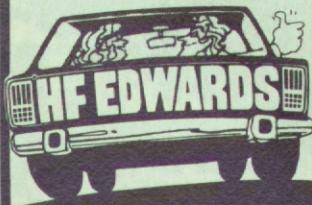


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# Adventure sails on

With the third leg of the Round-the-World yacht race under way from Auckland to Rio de Janeiro via the infamous Cape Horn, the final positions for leg two left the tri-Service entry Adventure sixth on handicap for that stage and fifth overall in the field of 15.

For readers following the SOL-DIER chart, the position of Adventure on 23 November was 46.44 South, 55.70 East. She crossed the line at Auckland on 30 November after maddeningly being pipped for a higher placing (she had led for some part of the second leg) by suffering two days of light airs and no wind at all.

The boat was reported to be "immaculate" as were the crew as they entered harbour, skippered by the Army's Staff-Sergeant Dave Leslie. The second Army skipper, Lieutenant-Colonel Robin

Duchesne, takes over for the last leg from Rio to England.

Adventure suffered with the other yachts in heavy weather during leg two and broke her main boom kicking strap track and a spinnaker pole. Among the other casualties was the far more serious leak which developed in the hull of King's Legend.

But all reached their destination safely and the leaders of the race after leg two were 1st 33 Export, 2nd Trate de Rome, 3rd King's Legend, 4th Flyer, 5th Disque D'or and 6th Adventure.



Adventure running before a breeze under full sail.

## Rugby juniors score

Good results from two tours by the Army's junior rugby side bode well for the selectors next season when a number of the young players will be old enough to be considered for the senior side.

In a trip to the West Country the juniors beat St Austell Colts 15 — 13 and lost to Plymouth Albion Colts 8 — 20. Things went better in the north of England where Birkenhead Colts were given a resounding thrashing 27 — 0 and

Orrell Colts toppled by 20 — 7. The only loss on this tour was to Widnes Colts 13 — 20. A delighted Army rugby secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Dawson, enthused: "This shows they've done a good bit by any standard."

## Sports shorts

### Gymnastics

The entry in the Army senior gymnastic and trampoline championships was disappointing with eight of the 21 competitors withdrawing on the morning of the competition. But the response to the women's contests was most encouraging, reflecting the benefit gained by those who regularly attended the weekend courses at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot.

Summary of results: Army Olympic Six competition (voluntary exercises only): 1st SSI Jim Purvis APTC (52.00 points), 2nd SI D N Scott APTC (44.90), 3rd L/Cpl G Jones (39.75). Women's Services overall competition: 1st Pte L Eyre (27.65), 2nd L/Cpl R Williams (25.35), 3rd L/Cpl M Blair (25.25), all WRAC. Senior team trampoline competition: 1st 1 DWR A Team (48.20), 2nd 3 LI A Team (44.20), 3rd 1 DWR B Team (39.65). Senior individual trampoline competition: 1st L/Cpl T Fry LI (25.80), 2nd Pte O'Brien Para (23.20), 3rd Pte Hathaway LI (20.25). Women's open trampoline competition: 1st Cpl B Y Bennett (20.60), 2nd L/Cpl L Eyre (19.68), 3rd L/Cpl M Blair (18.65), all WRAC.

### Water polo

British Colleges North East were beaten 7 — 5 by the Army in a water polo match staged at the College of St John in York.

### Cross-country

Firefighting duties kept a large number of Army athletes away from the cross-country track and this was reflected in the poor showing in a three-cornered match with the Universities Athletic Union and British Polytechnic Colleges.

The UAU came first with 35 points followed by BPC with 51. The Army trailed in third with 96 points.

In the Army United Kingdom inter-district championships, South West District came first with 18 points followed by North East/North West (49) and London District (57). Eastern District was fourth with 92.

A larger British Army participation than before is being sought for a major international cross-country event to be staged next month in The Netherlands.

The third Afcen-Brunssum international cross-country races are being held in South Brunssum on 11 March when top military and civilian runners from Germany, Belgium, Holland and the United Kingdom will take part.

Last year the event attracted a lot of interest in running circles when the 1977 world cross-country champion, Leon Schots, competed, only a week after his success in Düsseldorf, as a member of the Belgian national military team.

More information can be had from Peter D Williams, Secretary Organising Committee, ASG/E, HQ Afcen, BFPO 28.

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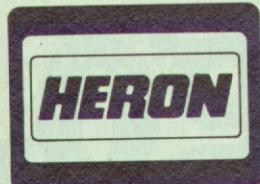
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# Soldier-Scholars

## Learn at Shrivenham

MOST ASPECTS of civilian life are reflected in the Army's activities. It even has its own university and officer-students who study at the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

There is more tweed and twill than jeans and jumpers to be seen on the Shrivenham campus, but in many respects it has characteristics of a university. It is responsible for the scientific education of officers at various stages of their careers and offers degree courses at graduate and post-graduate levels recognised by the Council for National Academic Awards.

More than half the 1600-plus students who are engaged in the wide variety of courses of varying lengths and depths of technical study at Shrivenham in a year are from the Army. Upward of a quarter are civilians, mainly from Government departments — especially the Ministry of Defence's Procurement Executive — and there are a few dozen students from the Royal Navy and RAF too. Overseas students from the forces of friendly powers also study at Shrivenham and 42 countries have been represented there in recent years. Defence sales are indirectly aided by the fact that students from developing nations trained on British techniques and equipment are likely to want to use these rather than those of other nations on their return home to put into practice what they have learned at Shrivenham.

As far as the British Army is concerned, Shrivenham forms an integral part of the training of an officer and develops his knowledge and application of science and technology in an increasingly technological Army.

The Army Staff Course is divided into three divisions. Selected officers with a degree in mathematics, science or engineering spend just over ten months at the college in Division I, making studies of military technology. Those with slightly lower academic qualifications — Division II students — take a similar course of the same length.

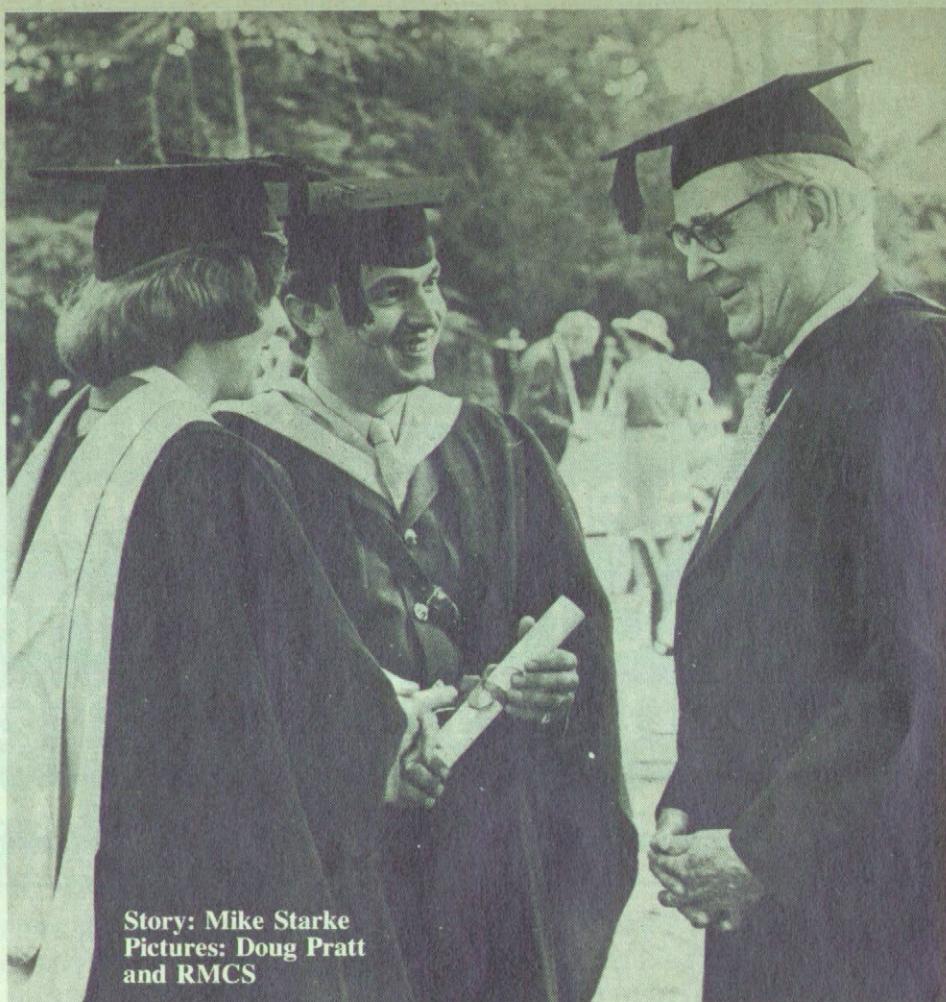
Finally, those with an educational background based in non-technical subjects are

Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Doug Pratt  
and RMCS



Top: Graduation Day — Capt Peter Parfitt and his wife Amanda with Sir W Hawthorne.

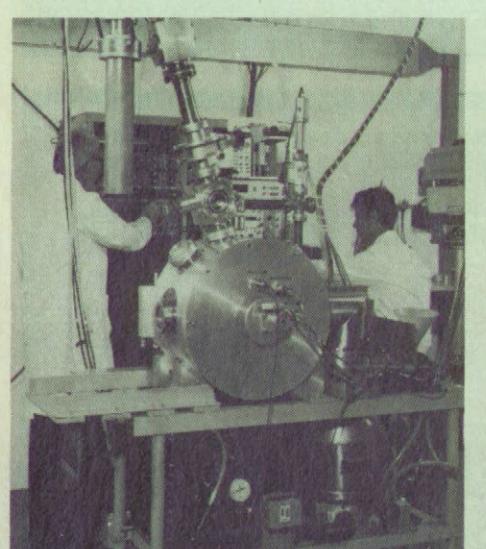
Right: Class of students at a Shrivenham lecture with a studious pipe-puffer in the front row.



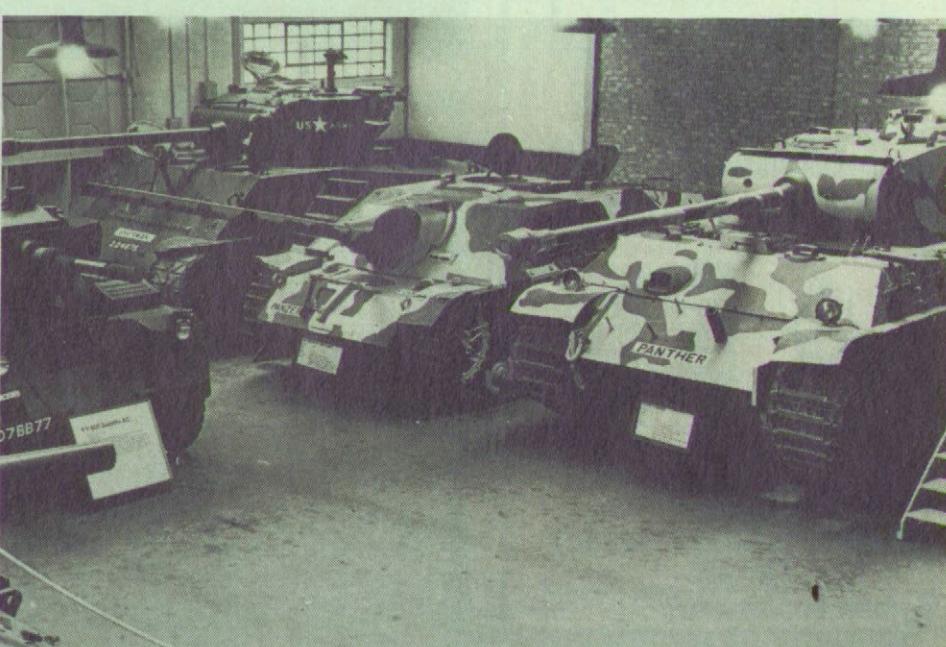
taught an awareness of the application of technology in the modern Army on an eight-week course in Division III. All three divisions move on to the Staff College, Camberley, for ten months of general staff training.

Apart from the Army staff courses, there are the degree courses. Some 100 students a year — mainly Army officers — make up the intake for the three-year Bachelor of Science courses. An increasing number of postgraduate degrees and PhDs are studied for and among the 35 or so courses available are Masters degree studies of guided weapons systems, military vehicle technology, design of information systems and — from January this year — courses in gun systems. There are also courses in management science.

An up-to-date computer is on hand for study and research and nuclear studies are carried out in the Rutherford Laboratory which is laid out in a series of circular blocks joined by tunnel corridors representing the shape of the water molecule.



Above: Positive ion beam channeling using a Van de Graaff accelerator — this is advanced stuff.  
Right: Students and visitors alike are intrigued by the collection of tanks in the college museum.

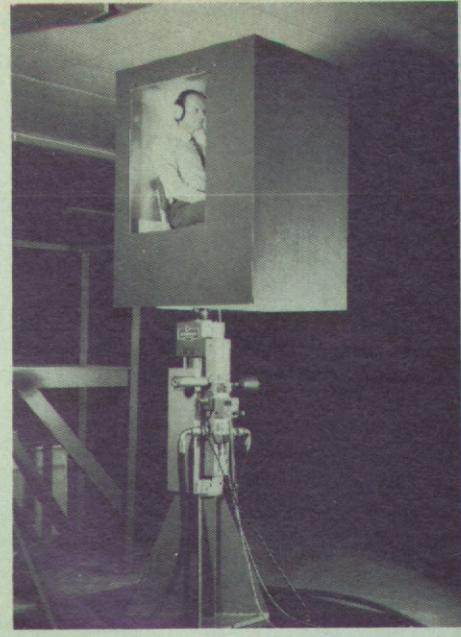


Above: Technical journals line this hallowed hall in one of the sections of the Shrivenham library.

Left: In the Rutherford Laboratory, students have plenty of room in a physics teaching area.

Life for a first degree student at Shrivenham is much like that of his civilian counterpart. Uniform is rarely worn and the teaching process with lectures, tutorials, laboratory work and demonstrations is similar to that of comparable courses elsewhere. Formal instruction takes up to 25 hours of the working week and students are expected to devote extra time to private study.

This leaves plenty of time — as at any university — for extra-mural activities and sport. There are some 26 clubs and activities available, from a flower club, painting and pottery classes to German and French classes and the college orchestra. Adventurous training is encouraged in the summer vacations and Shrivenham students have found themselves climbing the Andes and Rocky Mountains in south and north



America, crossing the Sahara Desert and exploring the Upper Nile. One group crossed France from north to south by canoe.

Students from the Army staying more than six months qualify for married quarters at the college, otherwise accommodation is in halls of residence with well-appointed bed-sitting rooms and a variety of public rooms in which to relax. Non-academic pursuits are encouraged outside study times for, as a college prospectus points out: 'The man who has no interests outside the Army is not very much use in it.'

Shrivenham's Royal Military College of

Science is housed in lofty red-brick buildings originally constructed before World War Two for an anti-aircraft brigade. The choice of the Vale of the White Horse for the site was made on its reputation as the area of Great Britain with the least number of days a year in which the skies are overcast by cloud.

Appropriate then that its current use should be dedicated to enlightenment not of the elements but of the mind.

Left: The ICL 1909A computer whirs away in the Shrivenham computing science branch.

Above: Perched high in the air, a guinea pig is shaken about in this vehicle vibration test rig.

Below: The stolid lines of the pre-war blocks contrast with the new Rutherford Laboratory.



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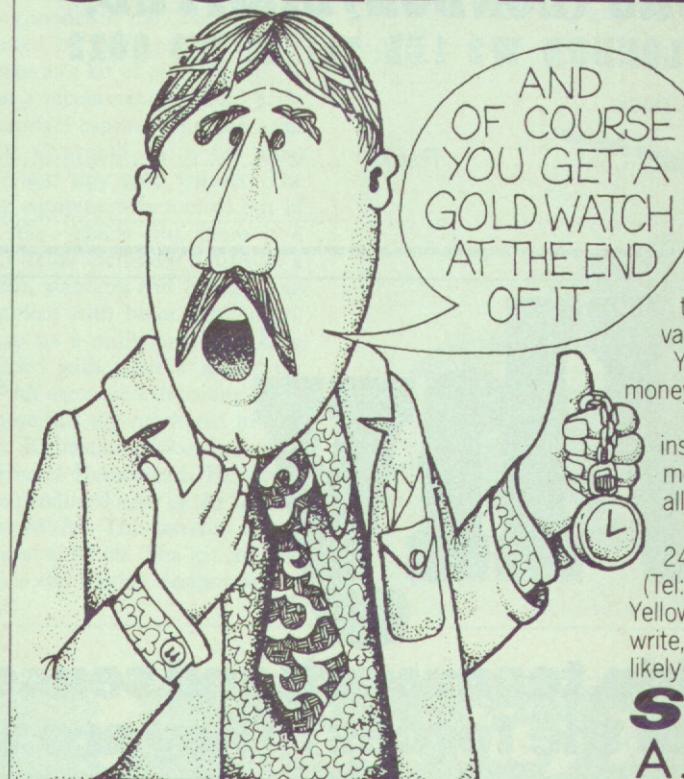
The Royal Military College of Science traces its origins to the Military Society of Woolwich set up in 1772 for the scientific study of gunnery "by two officers who found their guns were not hitting their targets." The society became the Royal Artillery Institution in 1840 and was augmented in 1864 to include a new advanced class for the technical training of staff officers. This advanced class, which carried on right up to 1939, is deemed to be the foundation of the current RMCS.

The organisation formally became a college with the formation of the Artillery College in 1885 which changed to the Ordnance College in 1889. The Military College of Science came into existence in 1927 and in 1939 was evacuated from Woolwich to Lydd in Kent, and then to Stoke-on-Trent, Bury, Lancashire and Rhyl in Wales.

After the war, the college reformed from its scattered outposts to take up residence at its present home at Shrivenham with an expanded scope which the exigencies of war had developed. In 1953 the 'Royal' prefix was added to the college and from 1966 every officer selected for staff training has done part of it at Shrivenham.

From 1946, London University external first degrees in science and engineering were awarded, being superseded in 1968 by the Council for National Academic Awards first degrees in applied science and engineering. From 1971, CNAAs degrees have been awarded from Shrivenham.

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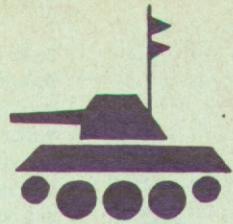
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# Military Models



# CHURCHILL CROCODILE

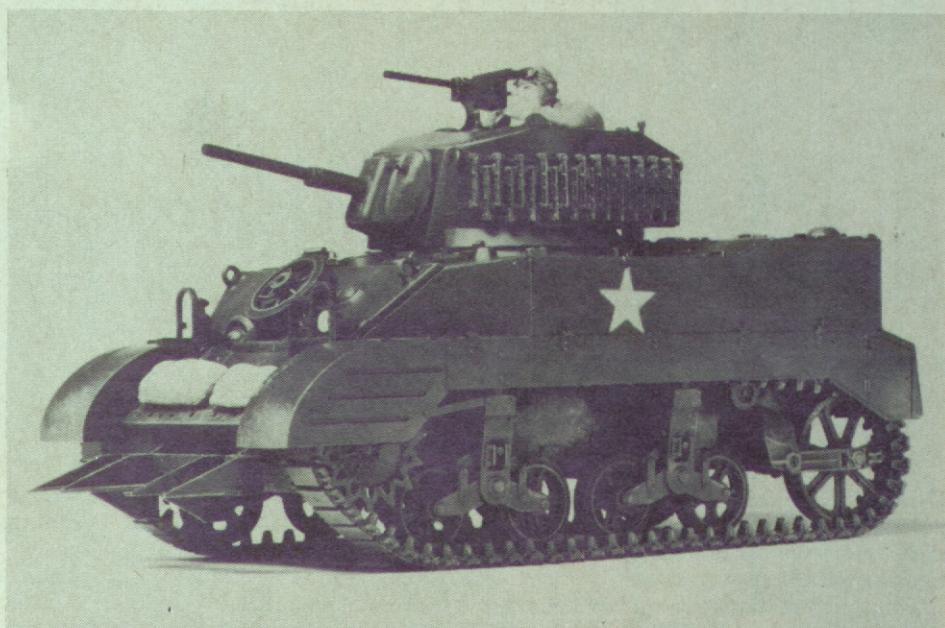
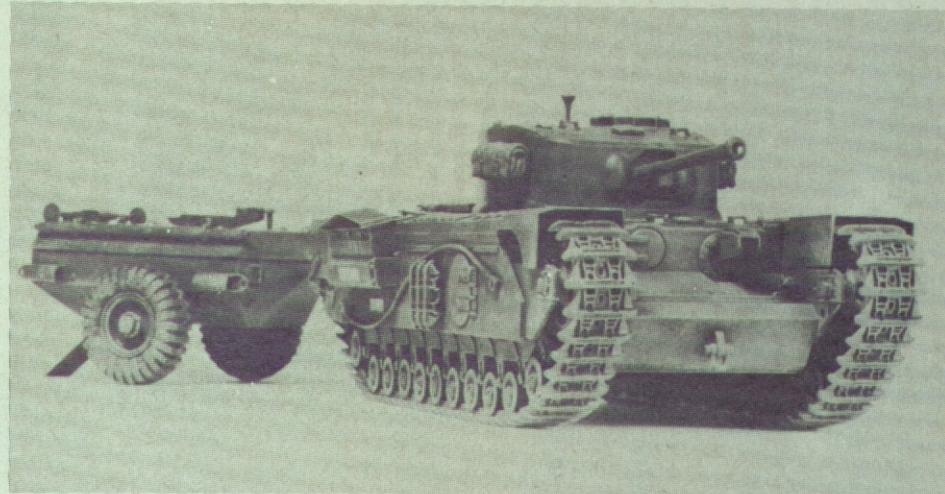
IT WAS SOMETHING from a nightmare: a crocodile that lumbered out of the sea, had armour-plated skin and spat fire like some mythical dragon. The 'crocodile' was a flame-throwing variant of the Churchill tank which was transported by landing craft to the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. It was one of the so-called 'funnies' which also included the Sherman duplex-drive (DD) amphibious tank, Crab flail tank for exploding mines, Churchill Ark and AVRE gap-crossing combat vehicles.

The flame projector, replacing the hull machine-gun on the Churchill Mark VII, used napalm fuel carried in an armoured trailer and pumped through by compressed gas. It could shoot out tongues of flame up to 120 yards, effectively penetrating vision slits of pillboxes and burning out unfortified positions in woods.

An intriguing model of the Crocodile has just been released by the Japanese firm of Tamiya. It comes as a kit of plastic parts, in 1:35th scale, at a recommended retail price of £5.50. The model captures the character of the original Churchill, with its squat squarish shape and tiny road wheels. The flame-throwing equipment is tucked out of sight beneath the vehicle but there is a wealth of other detail including figures of a soldier with rifle, webbing and tin hat, and an officer complete with binoculars, pistol holster and map on a millboard. Finishing touches are added with transfer decals for the 34th and 79th armoured divisions.

Tamiya, whose kits are marketed in Britain by Richard Kohnstam (Riko) Ltd of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, have also produced a kit of the United States light tank M5A1. This too is in 1:35th scale and is priced at £2.60. The kit can also be made up into the British designation of Stuart Mark VI.

HH



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## TRAINING'S THE AIM



IN A SLEEPY Cumbrian village where the pace of life is the gentle amble of a grazing sheep, the Army has re-written the calendar to make 100,000 days in a year.

This does not mean the military has created a multiplicity of Mondays or a welter of Wednesdays. The figure of 100,000 represents the number of 'soldier days' worked on average by units visiting the Warcop Principal Training Area on the edge of the craggy massif of the Lake District.

The compact camp, conveniently located right alongside its ranges, can house up to 800 troops at a time and can cater for all arms to train. The massive bulk of Roman Fell looms above the ranges and acts as a natural butt. The rest of the 24,000-acre site has ample space for 'dry' training on its bleak uplands.

With the Lakeland winter spanning some seven months of the year, much attention has been paid to making the camp's accommodation as comfortable as possible for units training there. They can range from Combined Cadet Force contingents and girls from university officer training corps to Regular infantrymen and cavalry regiments.

Modern huts house the off-duty troops

after a day on the ranges and a surprisingly large Naafi looks after their spare-time needs. Four large kitchens can feed 300, 200, 100 and 50 soldiers respectively at a time. One is specifically for the use of the two battle camps serving The Queen's Divi-

sion and The King's Division, both of which maintain administrative detachments on the site to handle their soldiers who come to Warcop. With a seven-day-a-week working schedule, the camp's predominantly civilian staff is greatly helped by being served by a



rail branch line which can bring in men and material.

When the local public service was axed two years ago, the Ministry of Defence leased part of the line as far as Warcop, allowing complete units to travel to the camp doorstep by train and delivery with ease of some ten tons of ammunition and stores to the camp each week. Armoured units can also bring all their own vehicles to camp by rail.

Warcop started life in 1943 specifically as a training area for the Royal Armoured Corps which enjoyed its exclusive use until 1960. Now the bias is on the infantry, which takes up some 180 days a year on the ranges. The cavalry's tanks and armoured cars occupy 60 days now and the Royal Artillery comes to shoot for a total of about 15 days. Night firing is not yet a possibility at Warcop but the ranges are in use 48 weekends a year, mainly by Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve units. Mondays are maintenance days and local farmers can tend their flocks of sheep on the remaining days in the year when no firing is taking place.

By far the largest booking of Warcop is made by the Ulster Defence Regiment, which plans to spend six weeks there in 1978. But a wide variety of other users regularly arrive. The Royal Armoured Corps is still represented by recruits from their training regiment at Catterick and Regular support companies from the infantry train with mortars and anti-tank weapons. As well as the TAVR weekends and annual camps, junior leaders regiments send parties to the Cumbrian hills too. There is a CCF camp in July and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, sends cadets some three times a year. Twice a month, platoons use the Queen's Division battle camp and once a month men of the King's Division use theirs at Warcop.

Top left: Live mortar bombs lob into the fells behind the camp without danger to man or beast.

Bottom left: Mr Gordon Gasgarth is one of the busy range wardens who keep Warcop working.

Top right: Army Minister Robert Brown, on his visit to Warcop, watches a Terrier in training.

Bottom right: The training camp's own branch-line allows vehicles to be brought in directly.

Below: Fresh-faced Pte David Lancaster (right) is one of the youngest reserve soldiers at only 17½.



All this stretches the range facilities, at present limited to a maximum of 200 men at a time. It is hoped that improvements to the ranges' capacity — now improvements to the camp itself are complete — can be made to streamline their effective military use. The full use of the facilities as they now stand means a hectic workload on which the 50-strong civilian staff appears to thrive (the staff has only two military personnel, the commandant and the assistant range officer, a warrant officer 1).

But whatever the shortcomings of the ranges administratively, soldiers are full of admiration for their equipment and layout. Mechanical pop-up targets and moving vehicle simulation targets are a feature of Warcop.

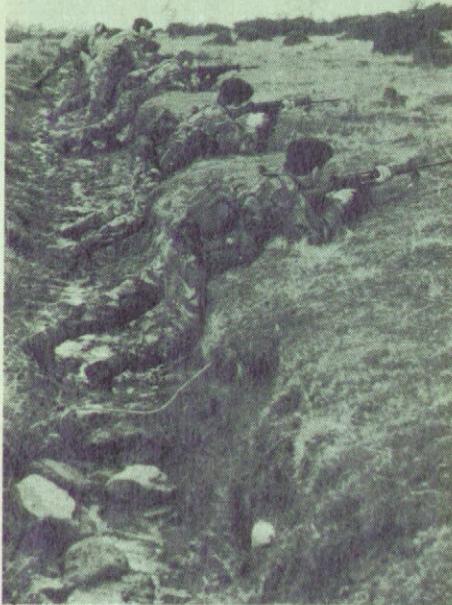
The wooded Jungle Lane dell, with its mechanical ambushes, is particularly popular with infantrymen. Gunners on an anti-tank

relationship with the other inhabitants of the surrounding fells. "The Army has a very good name around here," declared the Commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel A W H Cameron. And in his two years at Warcop he could recall only one or two minor incidents involving visiting troops.

He added that one of the most popular aspects of the camp from a local point of view was that it provided a considerable amount of employment in an area where jobs are scarce.

Many of the range wardens have years of service in double figures and it is only their willingness to work all hours that keeps the ranges open for the necessary seven days a week.

The Pennine Way runs close to the ranges but ramblers rarely present a problem to the troops training. On the ranges themselves are ancient ore mines which provide an



Above: A group of recruits in 5th Battalion, The Light Infantry, watch intently for some of Warcop's mechanical targets to appear for them.

Right: More targets loom through smoke from a series of grenades thrown by instructors to give a sense of battle realism for men under training.



range have the distinction of aiming at targets of four-inch-thick armour plating, weighing up to two-and-a-half tons, taken from the deck plating of a long-gone Ark Royal aircraft carrier.

There are facilities for play too. Warcop camp administers the Ambleside Hut, a Lake District cottage that can house 30 adventurous training enthusiasts from visiting units not occupied on the ranges.

Set in the heart of a rural community, the Army at Warcop is ever mindful of its

invaluable source of study material for geologists who are allowed through the locked gates (installed by sappers) by request on non-firing days.

Warcop's cheerful staff is justifiably proud of its small corner of the training world and eager to welcome even more soldiers on to the ranges in the future. Certainly few other principal training areas among the country's half-dozen or so can offer more in terms of variety on duty and comfort off-duty than this Cumbrian camp.

Below: Warcop's lonely fells provide a bleak backdrop to a patrol advancing through some of the camp's open country to the next objective.



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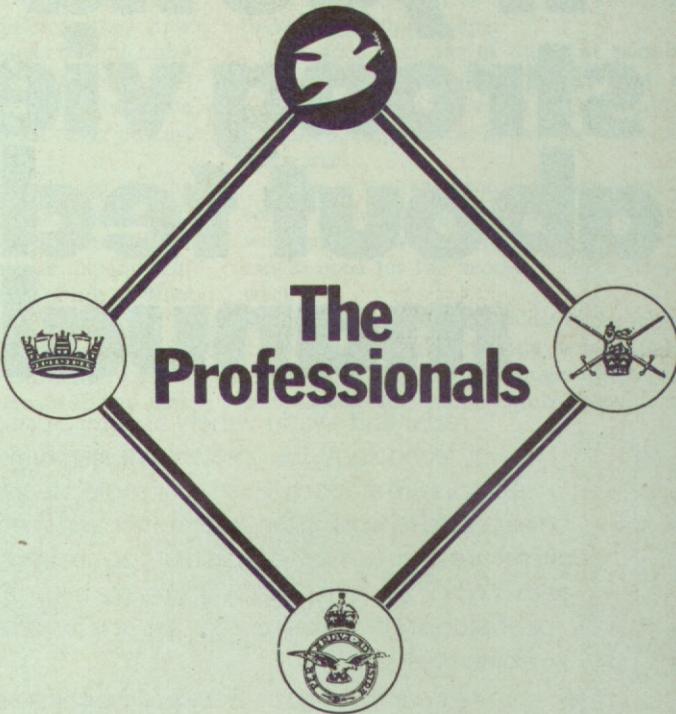
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## THE GURKHA MUSEUM



ALL THE REGIMENTS of the Brigade of Gurkhas, including the Engineers, Signals and Transport Regiment, are represented in this comparatively new regimental museum which sets out to commemorate the services rendered to the British Crown by the Gurkhas since 1815.

The chronologically arranged exhibits are dominated by a unique and remarkably complete collection of badges, buttons and shoulder plates of all Gurkha regiments, past and present. The badges and insignia of the Gurkha Parachute Battalion are all on view. A selection of uniforms, helmets and forage caps includes the mess dress of an officer of the 1st King George V's Gurkha Rifles and a group of black sealskin crossbelts, nowadays quite a rarity.

Appropriately, a corner reserved for Nepal, the Himalayan homeland of the Gurkha, contains a portrait of the Maharajah of Nepal in an intricately carved wooden frame, typical of the fine work of the Nepalese wood craftsmen. Nearby are an ancient Japanese sword believed to have been forged some 500 years ago and, by way of contrast, General von Arnim's revolver, personally captured by the commanding officer of the 2nd Gurkhas in North Africa, and a Japanese flag taken in Burma in 1944.

A picture shows the Gurkhas crossing the Tigris in Mesopotamia in 1916 and a treasured relic is the sword presented to the 9th Gurkha Rifles by General d'Urbal on behalf of the French Army in appreciation of the part played by the Gurkhas at Neuve Chapelle in 1915. Two other interesting swords (circa 1830) are said to have been used by the Cuttack Legion, forerunners of the 6th Gurkha Rifles.

A case full of miscellanea contains a diversity of objects from a silver statuette of a Gurkha in fighting trim to Japanese swords captured during the Burma campaign and a model of an 80mm gun made by Japanese prisoners. Some old jezails — firearms made by Pathan tribesmen — are souvenirs of Gurkha action on the North-West Frontier. Heavier weapons include a .303 medium machine-gun used by the 2nd Gurkhas from 1915 to 1964.

A world map pin-pointing the campaigns and services of all Gurkha regiments and carrying 74 of the 76 campaign medals won by Gurkhas dominates a steadily growing medal section. Gurkhas boast 26 Victoria

Crosses — 13 won by British officers serving with Gurkha regiments and 13 won by the Gurkhas themselves. The three VCs in the museum were won by Rifleman Kulbir Thapa (the first Gurkha ever to be awarded the VC) in 1915; the second Gurkha VC, won in 1918 by Rifleman Karnalbahadur Rana; and the VC awarded to Lieutenant (later Lieutenant-General) John Manners-Smith in 1891.

Grouped together to form a rare combination are a George Cross and an Empire Gallantry Medal won by two Gurkhas in the Quetta earthquake of 1935, rare because this is one of the few EGMs not to be called in for replacement by the George Cross because the soldier who won it died before the change-over.

There is a fine collection of ornamental scabbards and a range of kukris of various sizes from a massive sacrificial blade to presentation weapons. The full dress uniform in miniature of an officer of the 4th Prince of Wales's Gurkha Rifles, complete down to spurs and sword and worn in 1887 by the four-year-old son of Colonel C A Mercer of the 4th, is typical of the Gurkhas' flair for detail.

The Sun and Moon flag of Nepal and peacock emblems superimposed on two Union Jacks which once flew over the British Governor's residence in Rangoon, catch the eye, and not to be missed among individual items are the telescope used by the commanding officer of the Sirmoor Battalion, now the 2nd Gurkhas, at Delhi during the Mutiny, and a kukri carried by Maharajah Sir Jungbahadur Rana when he personally led 6000 Nepalese troops at the relief of Lucknow.

John Jesse

**Curator:** Lieutenant-Colonel M Dewing (Retd)  
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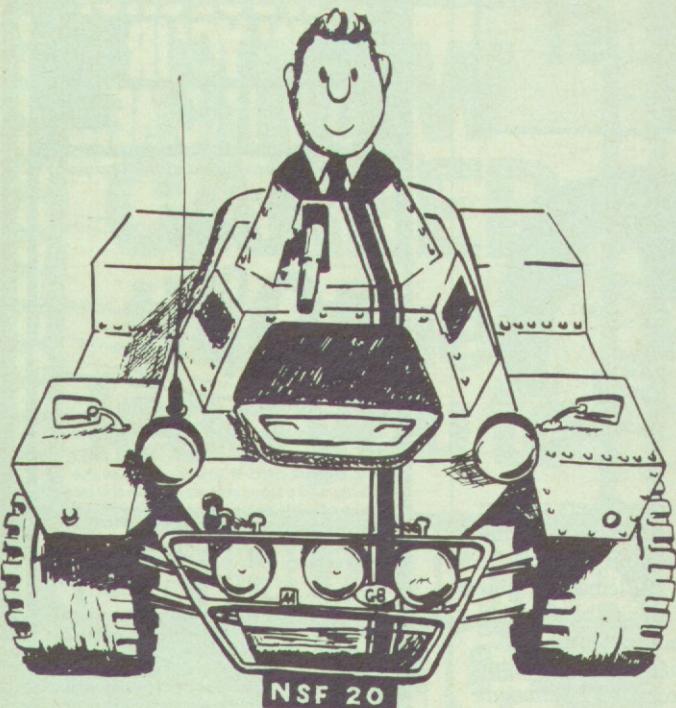
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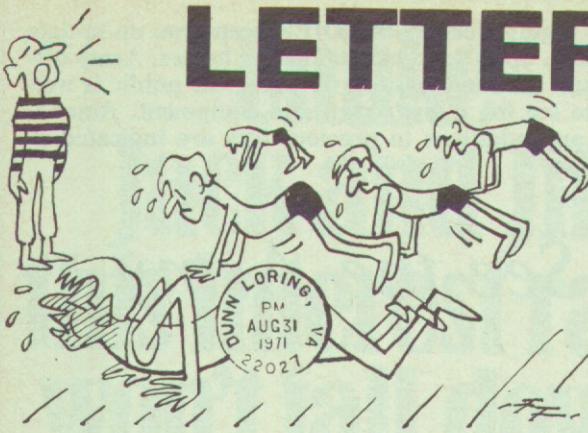
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# LETTERS



## Drum and flute

A group of enthusiasts who wish to preserve the drum and flute (fife) corps of drums as traditionally constituted in the English and Welsh infantry battalions of the British Army has recently formed The Corps of Drums Society. The society's aims are to promote and preserve the concept and traditions of the drum and flute corps of drums; to act as a forum for the exchange of views and ideas; to investigate and record the history of corps of drums; to act as a repository and library for drum and flute music and/or recordings; and to maintain a register of active corps of drums.

It is hoped to make contact with other similarly interested people either within or outside the Army and we shall be glad to hear from any *SOLDIER* readers. We would be particularly pleased to hear from any ex-drummers who may have photographs or recordings which they would be prepared to lend to the society for copying.—R J Davenport (Hon Secretary), 50 Station Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent.

## Fiddlers' Club

As an ex-trumpeter, Royal Artillery, I was much interested in the December article 'Call of the Trumpet' about the Fiddlers' Club. I was in the 2nd Boys Battery in 1936 and later posted to 23 Field Regiment at Exeter. Tough it was, being a fully horse-drawn unit, but I enjoyed every minute of it. I often think of my beautiful horse, sold with all the others just before the outbreak of war. I loved her, and she me.

Last year, for the first time, I went back to Woolwich for the open day. I

walked down the hill to where our barracks used to be. Although remnants of the main gate are there, an ugly block of flats stands where I had once lived, slept, eaten and 'bulled' my way through a solid year of hard going.

There must be many ex-badges who would like to hear more of the Fiddlers' Club but unfortunately you gave no address to which they could write.—Ex-trumpeter.

★ Happy to oblige. Write to Maj Joe Dobbs, Easter Ross House, Minley Road, Cove, Farnborough, Hants.

## Not overrun

The article 'From Stalag 383 to the Silver Jubilee' (*SOLDIER*, September) says of Mr Cyril 'Phil' Phillips, sergeant-major of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard, that at Dunkirk his unit was overrun and he 'went in the bag' for five years.

As a former company sergeant-major of the Prince of Wales Company, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, may I say that the company was not overrun but successfully, under the command of Major Sir William Makins, fought its way to the beaches and was evacuated to England by the Royal Navy. All men of the company were in possession of their personal weapons and the only casualties were two men slightly wounded and the loss of CQMS Phillips who had acquired a despatch rider's discarded motorcycle and was last seen riding in the general direction of the enemy.

One of the guardsmen in my platoon was so exhausted that he fell asleep in the 'heads' of a destroyer and made the trip home twice!—Lieut-Col J G Williams, 26 Doyle Terrace,

Chapman, ACT 2611, Canberra, Australia.

## Calling Camerons

A reunion is being held in Edinburgh on Saturday 18 March, from 2030 to 2300 hours, to include a buffet supper and bar, of members of 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, who embarked on the Dutch ship Marnix in 1942 and served between then and VJ Day in the Far East.

Those who served in Adderbury in 1942 before embarkation are also eligible to attend and all Camerons would be delighted to see at the reunion any from the other arms who supported them in 2nd Division. More than a hundred ex-1st Battalion Camerons have been contacted and are attending the reunion. Those who qualify and have not been contacted are invited to write to me for a booking form.—Mervyn S Preston, The New Club, 86 Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2BP.

## To the Somme

In May or early June of this year I hope to make a return trip to the Somme battlefields and memorials of World War One. A previous visit to this area on a conducted tour proved to be very much an 'out, look and away' excursion and it is my hope that there may be individuals or a small group intending a more leisurely trip to the area who would consider my joining them on a shared expenses basis. I would be most grateful if anyone can help.—Richard Comrie, 78 Edgell Road, Staines, Middlesex.

## Soldiers

Mr Worley may well have been irritated (*SOLDIER* to Soldier, December) by the use of the term 'other rank' to describe certain members of the Army. He was not alone in his opinion and the then Army Council directed the Adjutant-General to obtain suggestions throughout the Army for a collective noun to describe warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, enlisted men, enlisted women, apprentices and boys.

Various ideas were put forward and an Army Council Instruction was issued discontinuing the use of 'other rank' and introducing 'soldier.' This definition, as I recall, was last shown in Queen's Regulations 1961, page

XVII. Queen's Regulations 1975, para 1.006 ('The Army is composed of officers and soldiers of various arms and services . . .') continues this although not spelling it out in full. Use of the term 'soldier' in place of 'other rank' did not come easily to the 'Old and Bold' and so reference to 'other rank' has continued out of habit.—WO1 (Cdr) T A Burford RAOC, ACIO, 10 Church Street, Wrexham, Clwyd, LL13 8LS.

## Collectors' Corner

J C Varley, 42 Cookridge Drive, Cookridge, Leeds, LS16 7HW.—Schoolboy collector (17) wishes exchange or purchase cap badges TA and Regular Army post-1900 to date. Especially seeks Northumberland Hussars, East Riding Yeomanry, Yorkshire Hussars, Ayrshire Yeomanry, Cheshire Yeomanry and Yorkshire Yeomanry (KC) cap badges. Also interested in insignia unique to regiments and corps, both metal and cloth; for collection of Guards Division needs full dress RSM's embroidered arm badge. Also interested in photos WW1 and WW2 of battle scenes and soldiers in uniform.

Bjorn Martensson, Stravilinsvägen 27, 85254 Sundsvall, Sweden.—Seeks copies *SOLDIER* 1945-1947, 1948 (Jan, Feb, Mar), 1949 (Dec), 1952 (Mar, Jul), also back numbers *Guards Magazine*. Has for exchange *SOLDIER* 1951 (Jan, Sep), 1955 (Mar) and 1957 (Jan).

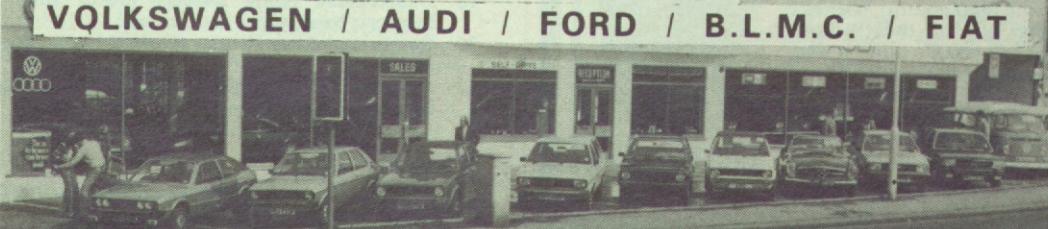
Gene Christian, 3849 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463, USA.—Seeks badges, shoulder titles (metal), plates etc bearing legend/letters SVC, SVRC, SVA, SVI, SVE, SVCC, SVR, SRA(V), SRE(V), SVFA, SDF, SCDV, SSVC, SSRC, SSVF, SSDF, SSVAF, SSRNVR, HKVC, HKAVC, HKRC, HKDF, RVR, RVC, RVA, RPDV, RB, PRC, PVC, PCDV, PV, MSG, MSVR, MVI, KVC, KVR, KV, KVF, PWVR, P&PWVC, JVR, JVC, JVE, MVR, MVC, FMSVF, TVC, TVR, TBVC, TBMVC, TBMEC, SVC (crossed sabres), AT, MHLRC, 'In oriente primus' and 'Service fortier.'

Peter A Heims, Tilt Corner, Stoke Road, Cobham, Surrey.—Collects airborne insignia worldwide, or trade or buy parachute and commando items. Letters welcome.

L Fox-Roberts, 185 Arden Road, Smethwick, Warley, B67 6EM.—Offers *SOLDIER* from 1952 and some Charles Buchan Football Monthly early 1950s in exchange for Light Infantry badges including black DLI badge.

WO C D Sutton, 32 The Cloisters, *continued over*

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## FRENCH POSTERS

From its collection of more than 30,000 posters and proclamations of World War One, the Imperial War Museum has set up an exhibition of French posters inspired both by patriotic tradition and by wartime events. They include calls to patriotism, specific and varied appeals in aid of war victims and charity posters for war orphans, the homeless and the soldier at the Front. The exhibition, to which admission is free, is open on weekdays from 10am to 5.30pm and on Sundays from 2pm to 5.30pm and runs until 26 March.

Frimley, Surrey.—Seeks cigarette cards, particularly those with military subjects. Good prices paid for cards in good condition.

N Smith, 27 Winchester Way, Gillingham, Kent ME8 8DD.—Requires pair Blues and Royals overalls, also corporal-of-horse or above gold aiguillettes.

D B Andrew, 23c Wiltsdown, RD2 Putaruru, New Zealand.—Seeks English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish cap and collar badges, arm patches and shoulder titles etc to build up present small collection. Particularly interested in regiments wearing hackle. Offers New Zealand badges in exchange.

M J Laker, 36 Oatlands Drive, Otley, Yorkshire, LS21 2AY.—Wishes to buy hackles of RNF, RWF, RIF, R Inns F, LF. State price.

A F Reardon, 68 Roberts Road, Aldershot, Hants.—Wishes to buy or trade foreign para wings; also seeks contact with collectors of same.

G W Hazeldine, 36 Sams Lane, Blunsdon, Swindon, Wilts.—Ex-Royal Northumberland Fusilier seeks British infantry cloth division or brigade patches home and abroad, 1950 to present day, to include UN Korea and Cyprus, also Shape.

Peter Woodage, 27 Bourne Road, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7JT.—Seeks British military vehicle handbooks, manuals etc 1939-44; shoulder flashes 79 Armd Div; buy or borrow book 'History of 79th Armoured Division'; also any photos Churchill AVREs.

## Competition

The answer to October's Competition 231 ('Fallen archers' — and no regrets for the horrible pun) was that Company 3 was left with the greatest number of archers — 26 — in Area D.

### Prizewinners:

- 1 R C Forster, Knorren Lodge, Walton, Brampton, Cumbria.
- 2 P Bowman, 48 Hollows Close, West Harnham, Salisbury, Wilts.
- 3 Spr Hall, 2 Tp, 7 Fd Sqn, 32 Engr Regt, BFPO 30.

## NEW STAMPS

Four stamps have been issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the Jamaica Military Band. The nine-cent stamp (below) shows a trumpeter playing the trumpet from which hangs the band's banner and the ten cent (below right) features three clarinetists holding their instruments. On the 20 cent stamp are two kettle drummers while a cellist and trumpeter are the subject of the 25 cent stamp (right).



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

## See-the-Army

- 4 D Learmonth, 18 Rastell Avenue, London SW2.
- 5 Mrs D Hart, 23 Albert Road, Yiewsley, Middlesex.
- 6 Cpl E J Male, Svy Branch, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.
- 7 Cpl R Glover, SHQ Tp, D Sqn, QRIH, BFPO 16.
- 8 Mrs G K Stapylton, 98 Paignton Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear.

## Reunions

**RHA Association (Trowbridge Branch).** Annual reunion dinner, New Civic Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts, Saturday, 18 March. Ladies welcome. Details have been circulated to all known members. Any member who has not received a circular and wishes to attend should contact WO2 (RQMS) T J S Carter, 5 Dean Close, Melksham, Wilts (tel home 0225-708223, office 0225-810342 ext 61).

**218 Army Troops Coy RE.** 31st reunion dinner, TAVR Centre, 65 Parkhurst Road, Holloway, London N7, 1830 hrs 1 April. All inquiries to J Wilkinson (01-531 4973) or P T Beaton (01-435 9669) after 6pm.

**15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association.** 59th annual reunion dinner and dance, Empire Rooms, 161 Tottenham Court Road, London W1, Saturday 6 May, 6pm for 7pm. Tickets from Maj B O Simmonds, Secretary, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 4NP (phone: 0632 29855).

## How observant are you?

(see page 7)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Middle bar of field gate. 2 Tray of matchbox. 3 Left curtain of window. 4 Man's ear-ring. 5 Tail of 'R' in 'EATER.' 6 Back end of girl's hair. 7 Match on matchbox. 8 Size of bottom slice of bread. 9 Handle of paraffin can. 10 Right spoke in near wheel of caravan.

## FEBRUARY 1978

- 11 Borough of Croydon adopts C (Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry) Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry; 41 (Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron (Volunteers); 2 Company, 10th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment; 151 (Greater London) Transport Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers).

## APRIL 1978

- 15 Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) Freedom of Swansea.

## MAY 1978

- 20 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 23 Massed bands, Household Division, beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (23-25 May).
- 24 Queen's Birthday Parade, Berlin.
- 26 Aldershot Horse Show (26-28 May) (Royal Corps of Transport 'Silver Stars' freefall team; band).
- 27 South Midland Tattoo (27-29 May).
- 27 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (27-29 May).
- 27 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 28 Hove Lions Day (band).
- 29 Scottish/American War Memorial service, Edinburgh (junior band).

## JUNE 1978

- 3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 4 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot (Glencorse) (Scottish Division 'Golden Lions' freefall team; bands).
- 11 Hungerford Steam Rally (11-12 June) (band).
- 14 Edinburgh Army Display (14-17 June) (Golden Lions; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training display; band; pipes and drums).
- 23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June).

## JULY 1978

- 7 Catterick Army Display (7-9 July).
- 7 Southampton Show (7-9 July) (band).
- 8 Basingstoke Tattoo (8-15 July).
- 8 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 9 Centenary parade, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh.
- 13 Kent County Show (13-14 July) (band).
- 16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (16-30 July).
- 18 Dunfermline Army Display (18-19 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 20 Burntisland Army Display (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 22 Aberdeen Army Display (22-23 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).

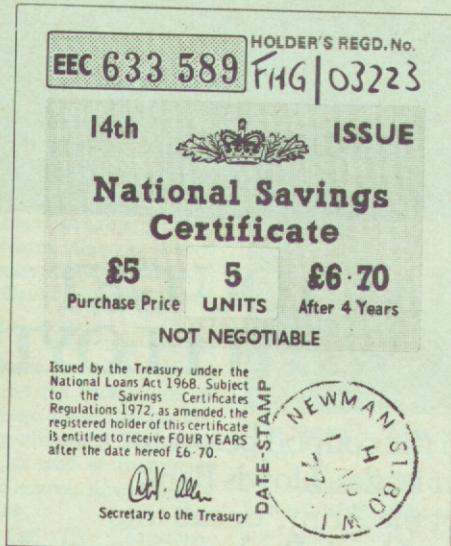
## AUGUST 1978

- 1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August).
- 2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
- 4 Southsea Show (4-6 August) (band).
- 9 Plymouth Services Tattoo (9-12 August).
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-9 September).
- 18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
- 27 Quexpo 78, Birchington, Kent (27-28 August) (band).

## SEPTEMBER 1978

- 2 Guildford Town Show (2-3 September) (band).
- 21 Thame Show (band).

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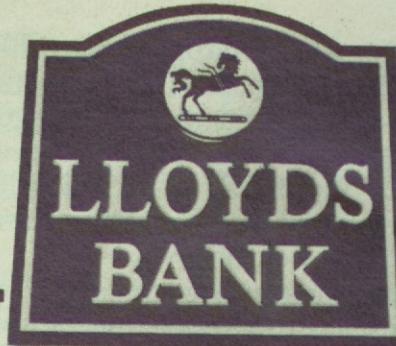
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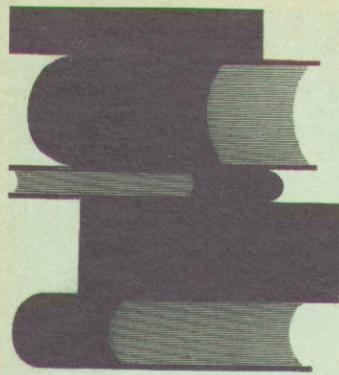
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# BOOKS



## Syria and Lebanon

*'Fulfilment of a Mission'* (Major-General Sir Edward Spears) General Spears, who brought Charles de Gaulle out of France and was largely responsible for his elevation to leadership of the Free French, was charged by Churchill to head a mission to Syria and the Lebanon in 1941-44. Here he tells of its progress and the vicissitudes associated with his task.

The author, who died in 1974, wrote this book shortly after World War Two and is very outspoken about many of those concerned in the events of the time, including General Sir Henry Wilson, General Wavell and the French General Catroux, senior to de Gaulle but who served under him.

This book is interesting for its literary excellence as well as for the light it sheds on the background to events in a theatre of war that has not been over-publicised. There is humour here as well as frustration but overall, of course, this is history in the moulding.

*Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £9.95*

GRH

## 'PBI' at war



*'Charlie Company'* (Peter Cochrane)

A full and entertaining account of an infantry company at war. From action under Wavell in the Western Desert in 1940, C Company of 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, progresses, endures and triumphs through the Eritrean campaign and back to North Africa and suffering at Tobruk. Then a new 2nd Battalion, formed in the Shet-

lands with a new C Company under its old commander, fights through Italy from Cassino to the Gothic Line.

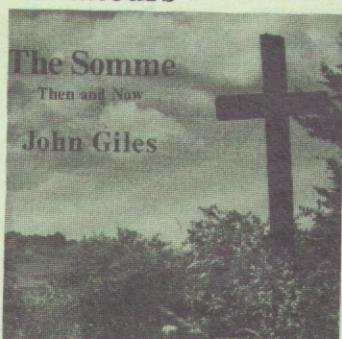
The author begins as a raw second-lieutenant and leaves eventually for Staff College. Meanwhile he has won the MC and the DSO, been so badly wounded he nearly lost both legs, and has had a spell in the United States taking a realisation of the war to American students.

Charlie Company is that close-knit military family that all soldiers will recognise — a replica of their own unit.

*Chatto & Windus Ltd, 40 William IV Street, London, WC2N 4DF, £4.95*

GRH

## 'Amateurs'



*'The Somme — Then and Now'* (John Giles)

The opening day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916, saw the greatest loss ever suffered by the British Army in a single day — 57,470 casualties of whom 19,240 were killed. The next day the Army picked itself up and 'carried on,' as it was to carry on for nearly five months before the Somme battle ended.

It was the first major battle of the new armies, the men who had answered Kitchener's call for volunteers; they were armies of amateurs fighting professionals and this was a main reason for disaster.

In their five months they gained some ground, which the Germans were to retake in 1918; they relieved the pressures on the weary French defenders of Verdun; and they killed the myth of German invincibility.

Mr Giles's account of the battle is short, but illustrated by extracts from survivors' accounts and by large numbers of 'then and now' pictures. The World War One pictures could do with more space for full effect and those of the same places in the 1970s lack professionalism, yet the combination is surprisingly moving and absorbing.

*Bailey Bros & Swinfen Ltd, Warner House, Folkestone, Kent, £10.50*

RLE

## Dutch saviours

*'I Was a Stranger'* (General Sir John Hackett)

As a very young brigadier, 'Shan' Hackett raised the 4th Airborne Brigade in Palestine and dropped at Arnhem with it nearly two years later. The day before the evacuation

of 1st Airborne Division began, he was severely wounded in the stomach and thigh. In a German-occupied Dutch hospital, a Jewish South African surgeon carried out a brilliant operation which saved his life. To prevent the Germans taking an embarrassing interest in a senior officer, the brigadier was presented first as a corporal, then as a major.

Before the Germans could get him into the prisoner-of-war pipeline, he was spirited away by the Dutch resistance; this book is a tribute to the gallant Dutch who defied the Germans and in particular to the Nooijers family of Ede.

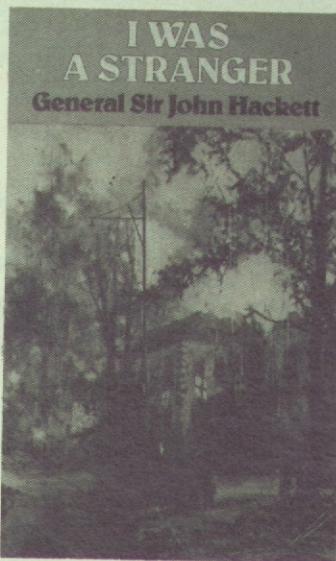
Rommel is that 'great' men are impelled by simple things and that their own morale is so easily influenced. Rommel was always elated by success and thereby gained extra vitality to push his men ever harder, often taking risks that produced most spectacular beneficial results. In defeat and setback he was most pessimistic, cautious and even despairing. When he believed that censure for failure was descending upon him he was inclined to blame and disgrace others. He trampled on and used many to further his ambitions yet strove to maintain high standards of clean fighting.

His inclination to disobey orders during the exuberance of victory often brought him further success but embarrassment to his seniors. He was dedicated to Hitler but his downfall came when during the Normandy invasion he felt it was time to seek peace with the West, through Montgomery, and to enlist the aid of Britain and the United States to fight the Communists of the USSR.

He was not involved in the plot against Hitler but was caught up in the web of intrigue. Had the plan to assassinate the Führer been successful, Rommel would most probably have been nominated to replace him and would have initiated peace with the West in 1944. He even spoke of Germany becoming part of the British Commonwealth.

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

GRH



For three months he was sheltered, fed and nursed by the Nooijers — three maiden ladies, their widowed sister, brothers, niece and nephew, who risked the severest penalties from the occupation forces. They were hard put to it to feed their guest and provide dressings for his wounds but they never faltered in their warm, dangerous hospitality.

That they and he were all deeply religious no doubt made both giving and receiving easier. When at last the brigadier set off through the snow back to the British lines, his pack held not only hard-won butter, bacon and brandy but also an English Bible.

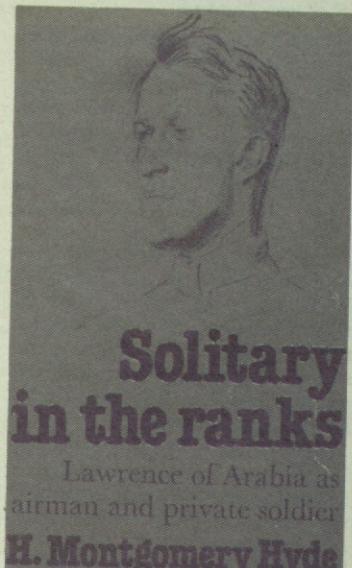
*Chatto & Windus Ltd, 42 William IV Street, London, WC2 4DF, £4.95* RLE

## Rommel

**THE TRAIL OF THE FOX**  
The Life of Field-Marshal ERWIN ROMMEL

David Irving

## Odd aircraftman



*'Solitary In the Ranks'* (H. Montgomery Hyde)

Colonel T E Lawrence, leader of the Arab revolt against the Turks in World War One, turned down a knighthood and a career as a colonial governor to join the Royal Air Force in the ranks under an assumed name.

Lawrence was discharged after a year in the Service and joined the Royal Tank Corps as Trooper T E Shaw. Two years later he transferred back to the RAF and was posted to India but hurriedly sent home again when the Press linked his name with trouble in Afghanistan. He ended his RAF career as an expert on motor-

continued over

*'The Trail of the Fox'* (David Irving)

Perhaps the chief impression from this painstakingly researched life of

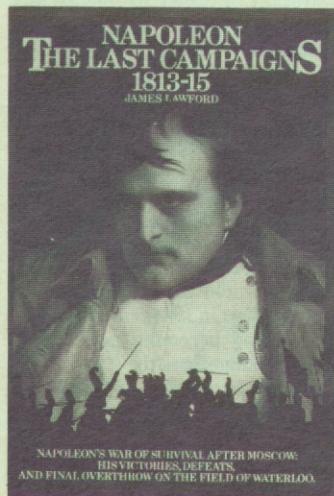
continued  
boats and an architect of the air-sea rescue service.

He was an odd aircraftman. An intimate friend of the Chief of Air Staff, he was suspected by some of his commanding officers of spying on them; with others he enjoyed a close relationship remarkable in any Service. He made friends in the ranks yet, as one corporal put it, "It seems perfectly natural to take orders from Mr Shaw."

Lawrence himself found the peace he sought in the Service he grew to love. The story Mr Hyde tells is moving, astonishing, and happy. *Constable, 10 Orange Street, London, WC2 7EG, £6.95*

RLE

## Final defeat



*Napoleon: The Last Campaigns, 1813-15* (James Lawford)

Though Napoleon had lost most of an army of half a million in Russia in 1812, he fielded an equally strong force in Germany the following year. He fought a brilliant campaign though he suffered defeat at Leipzig, his biggest battle, at the hands of the allies under the clever Austrian, Schwarzenberg.

In 1814, while Wellington was defeating Soult in the south of France, in the north Napoleon scored points against numerically superior allies. Schwarzenberg, adapting his strategy to genius, swayed with the punches and led Napoleon to treat him with fatal contempt.

These and the Waterloo campaign, Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford describes clearly in a text generously illustrated with pictures and admirable battle maps.

*Sampson Low, Berkshire House, Queen Street, Maidenhead, £6.95*

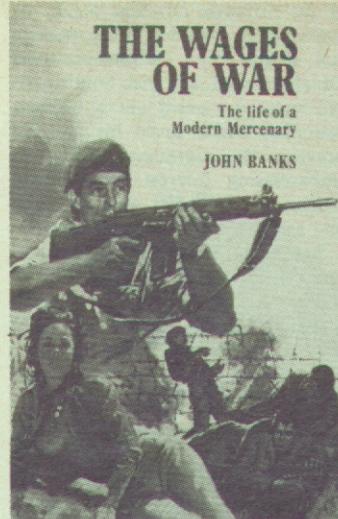
RLE

## Mercenary

*'The Wages of War'* (John Banks)

John Banks came in for some public attention as a recruiter of mercenaries for Angola, but it is his earlier career that he describes here — and a colourful career it was.

He served with The Parachute Regiment in Aden and Borneo and thereafter could not settle to either peaceful soldiering or normal civilian life. He smuggled people from East to West Germany for the Americans,



went into the bodyguard business and then spent a year on deep penetration operations in Vietnam for the American Special Forces.

He fought with Kurdish rebels in Iraq, then was in the international trucking business. He raised mercenaries to fight for the anti-Smith guerrillas in Rhodesia but the advance party behaved so badly at Heathrow that the 'customer' called off the whole deal. This was the start of Security Advisory Services, which provided anti-terrorist security and then mercenaries for Angola.

For one who proclaims that he fought for anyone who would pay for his services as long as the cause was not communist, he ends surprisingly by saying of Angola: "Now it is not just a question of money, it is also an ideal. The ideal of freedom . . ."

*Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JL, £4.95*

RLE

## Yugoslavia



*'Wartime'* (Milovan Djilas)

A senior member of the Yugoslav Communist party, Milovan Djilas was sent by Tito to Montenegro to organise resistance when his country fell to the Germans in 1941. He was removed from that command for alleged 'incorrect' decisions but in fact, he says, because Tito suspected he was getting too independent.

He continued in senior appointments in the Communist hierarchy, fighting both the Axis occupation forces and, in the 'civil war' within a

war,' the anti-communist forces of his own country.

His tale of politics and fighting, inextricably intertwined, moves interestingly at a fast pace. Djilas's war was never dull. At the end of it, he was one of Tito's party on a visit to Moscow, where Stalin took him to task for voicing his countrymen's resentment at rape and assaults by Soviet soldiers in Yugoslavia.

This book ends in 1945. For another nine years, Djilas continued to be one of Tito's closest aides. He fell from favour in 1954 and has since spent nine years in prison.

*Martin Secker & Warburg, 14 Carlisle Street, London, W1V 6NN, £7.95*

RLE

## Performance

*'A Genius for War: The German Army and General Staff 1807-1945'* (Colonel T N Dupuy)

Researching the German Army's performance in Italy and Normandy in World War Two, Colonel Dupuy found that 100 German soldiers on average equalled 120 American or British soldiers in combat and that the German soldiers inflicted three casualties on the allies for every two they suffered themselves. Looking back to World War One, he discovered his formula produced similar results. And talking to soldiers who had fought against the Germans he found no surprise at the conclusion that the Germans were better soldiers

**Col. T. N. Dupuy**  
**A GENIUS FOR WAR**

**The German Army and General Staff 1807-1945**

than their opponents. So he set out to discover why.

He found the Germans had no monopoly of military virtues and competence but they had a monopoly of consistently reliable and excellent performance. This, he concludes, is because they had discovered the secret of institutionalising military excellence, the job for which the General Staff had been more rigorously selected and more intensively trained than in any other army.

In support of his theme, Colonel Dupuy examines the rise of the Prussian Army and the evolution of the German General Staff to the end of World War Two.

*Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £6.95*

RLE

## IN BRIEF

*'Soldiers Killed on the First Day of The Somme'* (Ernest W Bell)

Harrowing and deeply sad in its very simplicity is the long list of names of the 18,011 British soldiers killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916 — ironically a gloriously sunny Saturday.

The names of the dead are drawn from the 220 battalions of infantry of the 17 divisions which launched the offensive, and from the various corps which were also involved — a tragic, heroic record in human lives of the greatest disaster in the history of the British Army.

*Ernest W Bell, 1 Ribble Avenue, Bolton, Lancashire, BLR 6FY, £5.50 plus 50p postage and packing*

*'World War 2 Combat Uniforms and Insignia'* (Martin Windrow)

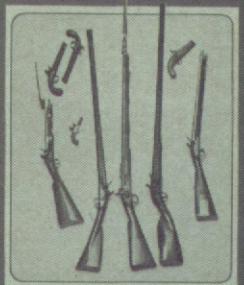
No high-ranking officers, no full dress uniforms strut across the pages of this book; instead the reader will find the basic fighting soldier of the six major powers of World War Two and how he appeared on the battlefield. Photographs and 40 colour plates by Gerry Embleton illustrate infantrymen, tank crews and paratroopers of Britain, America, Russia, Germany, Italy and Japan and are well supported by pages of detailed explanatory text.

European and tropical wear, denims, protective and camouflage clothing, tunic insignia — these and many other features of the fighting man's equipment are described in detail.

*Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £2.95*

**Antique Guns in colour**

1250-1865



Robert Wilkinson-Latham

*'Antique Guns in Colour'* (Robert Wilkinson-Latham)

There is a fascination about old guns and pistols that captivates the collector and holds the interest of so many who can satisfy their possessive instincts only by proxy. For such, this book, with its large number of excellent plates, will constantly be perused and studied.

It shows not only military but also civilian weapons, from fowling pieces and hunting rifles to all kinds of pistols and revolvers. The text gives a good deal of information about the development of military arms and sporting weapons from the earliest days of their introduction.

*Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £3.95*

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