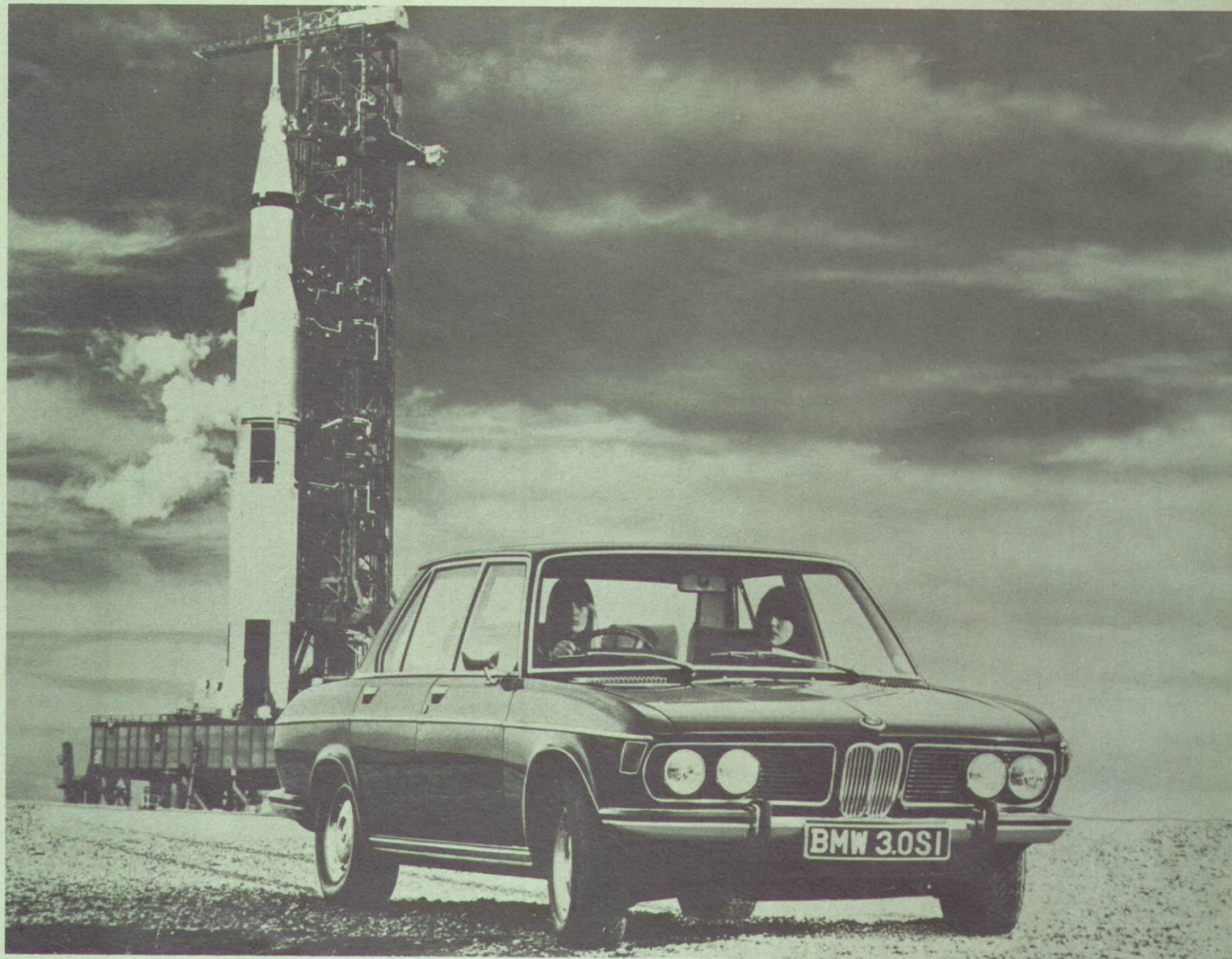


FEBRUARY 1973 ★ 7½p

# SOLDIER







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### Front cover

Players take to the air for a split second in pursuit of the ball during an action-packed moment of the Army versus the FA Amateur XI at Aldershot stadium. The Army team wears the all-red strip.

Picture by Arthur Blundell.



### Back cover

In civilian life, Barilla Gerontius, a pedigree bloodhound. In the Army, just Private Jerry, a highly trained tracker. On the right is his handler, Lance-Corporal Tom Stanton, Royal Pioneer Corps. (See pages 49-51).

Picture by Leslie Wiggs.

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# SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

## MAY 1973

- 4 Newark Show (band) (4-5 May).
- 12 **Freedom of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars.**
- 14 Brentwood Carnival, Essex (band).
- 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 16 West Midland Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (band) (16-17 May).
- 16 Focus on Manchester 73 (band).
- 19 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 19 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band, Blue Eagles helicopter display team, White Helmets motorcycle display team).
- 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 25 Lord Mayor's Procession, Birmingham (bands).
- 26 Tidworth Tattoo (26-28 May).
- 26 Second (dress) rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 26 Watford Carnival (band).
- 28 Wells Moat Race and Youth Fellowship (band).
- 30 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 30 Suffolk County Show (bands) (30-31 May).

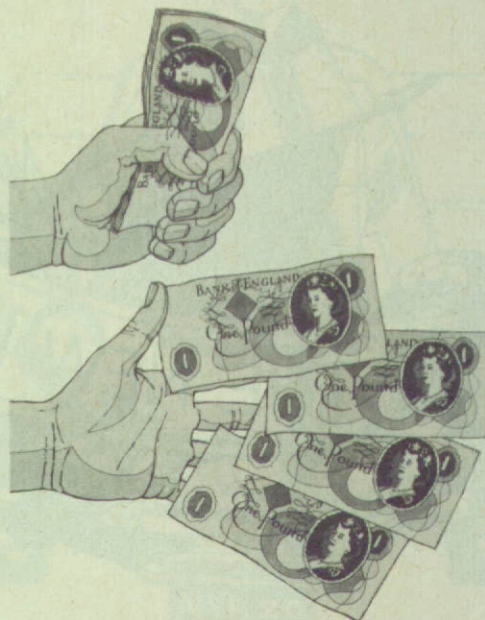
## JUNE 1973

- 1 Manchester Services Display (bands, Blue Eagles, White Helmets, Red Devils freefall team) (1-3 June).
- 1 Impel 73 Doncaster Civic Week (bands) (1-9 June).
- 2 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 2 Stevenage Day (band).
- 2 Beating Retreat, Edinburgh Castle.
- 6 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 8 Chasewater Festival (bands) (8-9 June).
- 9 Catterick Army Display (9-10 June).
- 9 Glasgow Military Display (bands, Blue Eagles, White Helmets) (9-16 June).
- 9 Birkenhead Army Display (Red Devils) (9-10 June).
- 12 Monarchy 1000, Bath (bands) (12-16 June).
- 13 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 14 Installation of Governor, Edinburgh Castle.
- 14 Beating Retreat, Chelmsford.
- 14 Coventry Carnival (band, Red Devils, RA motorcycle display team) (14-16 June).
- 15 Essex County Show (band) (15-16 June).
- 16 Open Day, Depot The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts.
- 16 Cadet Forces Tattoo, Swindon.
- 16 Wrexham Garden City Fête (Red Devils).
- 17 Welsh 3000s (17-18 June).
- 20 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 22 Edinburgh Air Show (bands, Blue Eagles) (22-24 June).
- 22 Aldershot Army Display (22-24 June).
- 23 Pontypridd Chamber of Trade Fête (RA motorcycle team).
- 27 (Provisional). Freedom of Aldershot, Royal Army Medical Corps.
- 27 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Show (band) (27-28 June).
- 29 **Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (29-30 June).**
- 29 Hucclecote Fête, Gloucester (band, arena display).
- 30 Open Day, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate (band).
- 30 Tamworth Carnival (band, Red Devils, White Helmets).

## JULY 1973

- 4 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 6 Kirby Show, Liverpool (band) (6-7 July).
- 6 Birkenshaw Show (band) (6-7 July).
- 7 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).
- 7 Newport, Mon, Carnival (RA motorcyclists) (7-8 July).
- 7 Exeter Air Day (Blue Eagles).
- 10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (band) (10-12 July).

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# DIARY

continued

- 11 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 11 Royal Tournament (11-28 July).
- 11 Massed bands display, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill.
- 13 Cheltenham Tattoo (13-14 July) (**CANCELLED**).
- 13 Pudsey Show, Leeds (band) (13-14 July).
- 13 Masham Traction Engine Rally (band) (13-16 July).
- 13 Nottingham Festival (band) (13-16 July).
- 14 Basingstoke Tattoo**
- 14 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 14 Plymouth Air Show (band).
- 14 Weston-super-Mare Dairy Festival (bands) (14-21 July).
- 14 Open Day, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
- 14 Calne Carnival (band, arena display).
- 14 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
- 17 East of England Show (bands) (17-18 July).
- 18 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 19 Liverpool Show (bands, RA motorcyclists, Red Devils) (19-21 July).
- 20 Teesside Show (band) (20-23 July).
- 21 Stroud Show (band).
- 21 Bristol 600 (21 July-12 August) (King's Troop RHA 6-11 August, Red Devils 21-26 July, White Helmets 6-11 August).
- 22 Corby Highland Show (band).
- 23 Wigan Pier Display (bands, RA motorcycles) (23-24 July).
- 25 Driffield Show (band).
- 26 Manchester Flower Show (band, Red Devils, White Helmets) (26-28 July).
- 26 St Helens Show (band, Red Devils, RA motorcyclists) (26-28 July).
- 27 Northampton Show (band) (27-28 July).
- 28 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop.
- 29 Gloucester Carnival (band) (29 July-10 August).
- 29 Open Day, RAC Centre, Bovington.
- 30 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (bands) (30 July-5 August).
- 31 Royal Lancashire Show (band, Red Devils) (31 July-2 August).

## AUGUST 1973

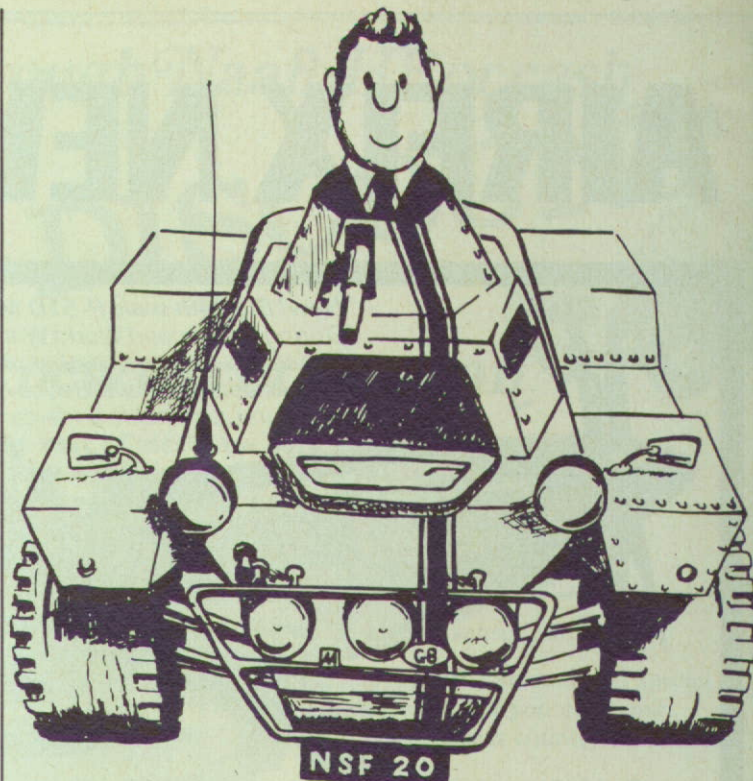
- 1 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (1-4 August).
- 1 Rutland County Show (band).
- 1 Hull Show (band) (2-4 August).
- 3 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (3-11 August).
- 7 Bingley Show (band) (7-8 August).
- 9 Darlington Army Week (band) (9-19 August).
- 15 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-8 September).
- 18 Crewe Carnival (band) (18-19 August).
- 18 Pontypool Carnival (Red Devils).
- 19 Hartlepool Show (band).
- 22 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 Southport Flower Show (band, Blue Eagles, Red Devils) (23-26 August).
- 24 Bebington Carnival, Wirral (band, Red Devils) (24-26 August).
- 24 Leeds Gala (band) (24-27 August).
- 26 Aylsham Show (band).
- 27 Swansea Carnival (Red Devils).
- 29 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 29 Sheffield Show (band) (29 August-1 September).
- 31 Keighley Show (band) (31 August-1 September).

## SEPTEMBER 1973

- 2 Hinckley Steam Fair (band).
- 5 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 7 Blackburn Army Display (7-9 September).
- 9 **Burma Star Association Military and Flying Display, Waterbeach Barracks, Cambridge.**
- 10 DLI Festival, Co Durham (10-12 September).
- 12 Kneller Hall grand (band) final concert.
- 12 Cambrian March (12-16 September).
- 13 Kendal Gathering (band) (13-15 September).
- 15 Welwyn Garden City Water Festival (band).
- 28 City of Leicester Show (band).

## NOVEMBER 1973

- 4 Berlin Tattoo (4-6 November).
- 10 Festival of Remembrance, Bristol.
- 11 Remembrance Day Parade, Bristol (band).



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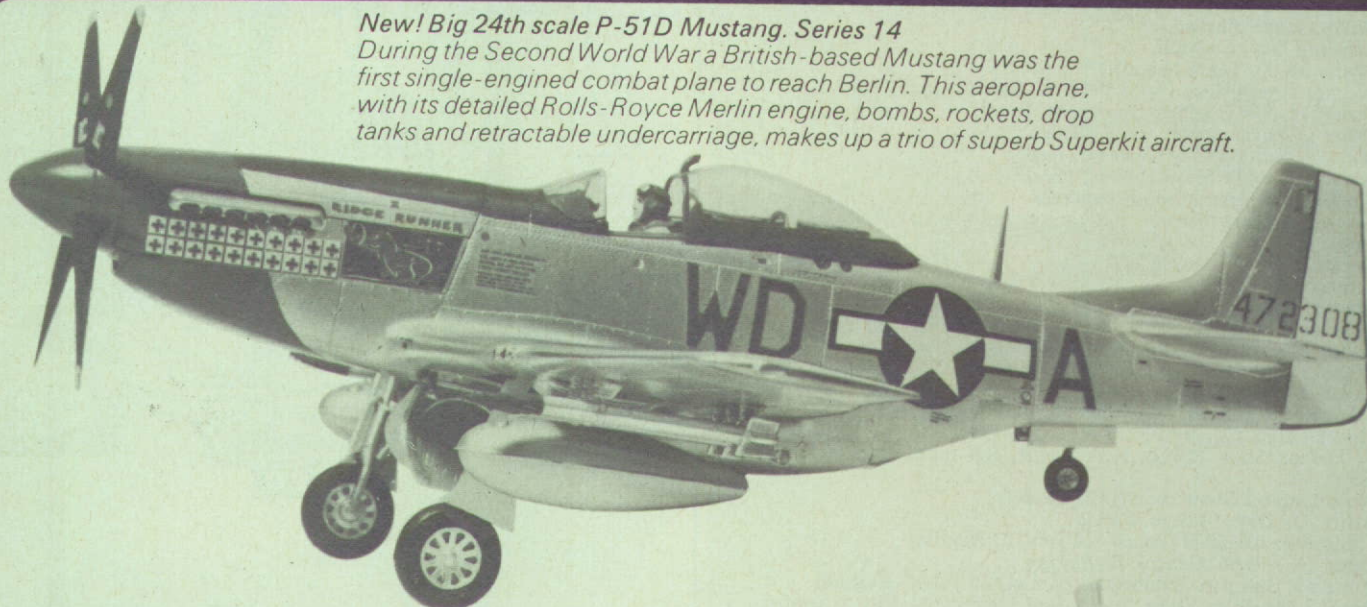
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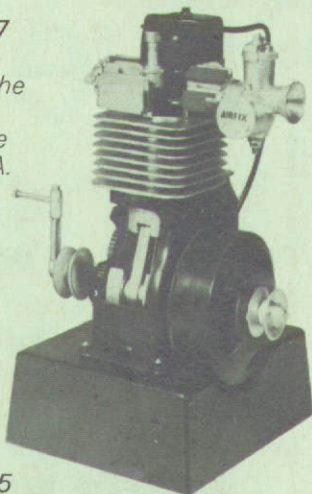
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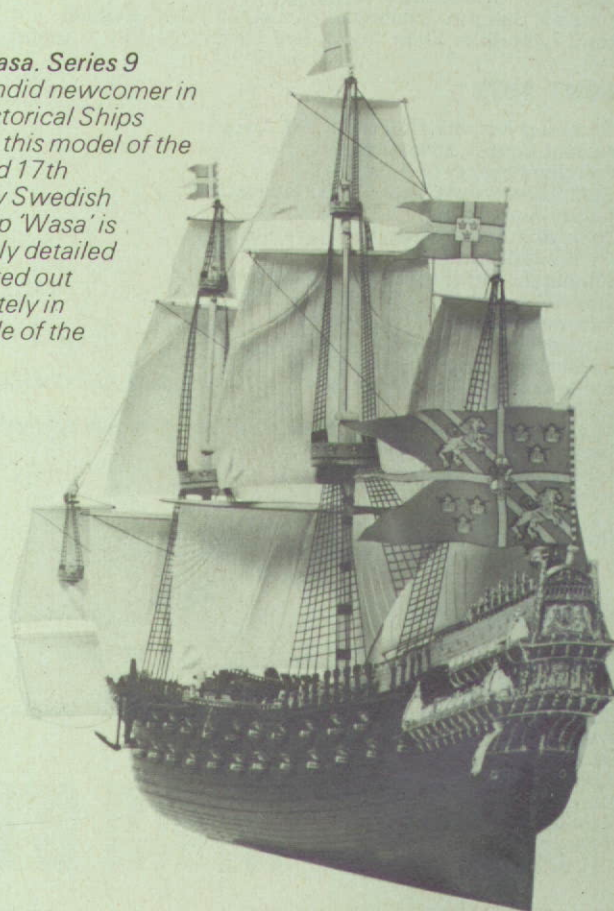
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# SOLDIER to Soldier

Judging by the avalanche of orders, SOLDIER's November page of Christmas present suggestions obviously solved the perennial problem for a lot of wives—and as many husbands are now the proud owners of regimental drum ice buckets. There is considerable work involved in preparing a new design but where a sufficient demand is created it is being met. Six new designs, plus three in course of production, were listed in the December SOLDIER, and now another seven have been added—The Gordon Highlanders, The Royal Fusiliers, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, 17th/21st Lancers, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Royal Corps of Transport. The full list now available is:

The Household Division  
The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards  
The Royal Hussars  
17th/21st Lancers  
Royal Regiment of Artillery  
Corps of Royal Engineers  
Grenadier Guards  
Coldstream Guards  
Scots Guards  
Irish Guards  
Welsh Guards  
The Queen's Regiment  
The Buffs  
The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment  
The Royal Sussex Regiment  
The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment  
The Middlesex Regiment  
The Royal Fusiliers  
The Loyal Regiment  
The Royal Anglian Regiment  
The Lincolnshire Regiment  
The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment  
The York and Lancaster Regiment  
The Cheshire Regiment  
The Royal Welch Fusiliers  
The King's Own Scottish Borderers  
The Royal Irish Rangers  
The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment  
Queen's Own Highlanders  
Seaforth Highlanders  
Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders  
The Gordon Highlanders  
The Parachute Regiment  
7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles  
Royal Corps of Transport  
Royal Army Medical Corps  
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers  
Army Catering Corps (Army Apprentices College)  
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps  
George IV  
Royal Jersey Infantry  
Royal Guernsey Militia  
Royal Navy  
Royal Marines  
Royal Air Force  
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Orders for regimental drum ice buckets, stating design required, should be sent to SOLDIER (D1), Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, with postal order (UK/BFPO only)/cheque/money order. Regimental drum ice buckets cost £5.25 each (UK/BFPO) and £5.50 elsewhere.

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## Military Museums 2

# The Middlesex Regiment

**A**N Army issue table knife patiently honed to razor sharpness to shave a thousand British chins in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp; Hitler's personal field telephone switchboard through which the Fuehrer put calls to Nazi leaders; the riding boots of Prince Menshikoff, Russian commander-in-chief in the Crimean War, taken when his coach was captured at the Alma.

These are just a few of many fascinating exhibits to be seen in the regimental museum of The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) housed in historic Bruce Castle, Tottenham, where it moved in 1969 from its former home in Edgware.

Here are displayed uniforms and weapons, badges and medals, pictures and curios which trace more than 200 years of regimental history and tell something of the proud story of the "Die-Hards."

Eight of the 11 Victoria Crosses won by members of the regiment are on show in the impressive collection of medals and decorations. Some are collectors' gems—the Maori War VC and Distinguished Conduct Medal won in a single week in September 1863 by Drummer Dudley Stagpoole (an unparalleled record) and Colour-Sergeant G Gardiner's early DCM won at Inkerman and the VC he gained a year later in 1855 for two separate acts of bravery.

Rare items in the well-preserved collection of uniforms include a caped great-

coat of the Crimean period and an even rarer militia officer's overcoat of a pattern in use for only one year in the 1850s. An imposing wax figure of the Duke of Cambridge, in the full-dress uniform of a field-marshal and wearing his Crimean sword, stands close to the diminutive scarlet coatee of the so-called "boy captain," 20-year-old Aubrey Lempriere, killed at Sevastopol. There is an instructive rack of tunics bearing on their sleeves obsolete badges of rank including a complete range of officers' cuff insignia while another case demonstrates the difference between Middlesex Regiment Regular and Territorial dress.

A good example of the notorious Broderick pattern field service cap (1905) and a splendid cocked hat with large red-and-white plume worn by a quartermaster in 1800 are noteworthy in the collection of headdresses.

Separate cases, each with their items of special interest, are allotted to most of the major campaigns in which the regiment fought. Prominent in that of the Zulu War are King Cetewayo's shield and assegais; the carbine and rifle belonging respectively to General Louis Botha and his brother Christopher are among the Boer War trophies; a Chinese bugle fires the imagination in the Korean case. One of the smallest and certainly one of the most treasured relics is the carefully preserved last remaining fragment of the Colour carried at the battle of Albuhera where The Middlesex Regiment gained immortal fame and earned its nickname of Die-Hard.

The well-captioned exhibits occupy the first and second floors of Bruce Castle whose owners included the Scottish King Robert the Bruce and, more recently, the Victorian postal reformer, Sir Rowland Hill, remembered in the museum of Post Office history on the ground floor.

**JOHN JESSE**

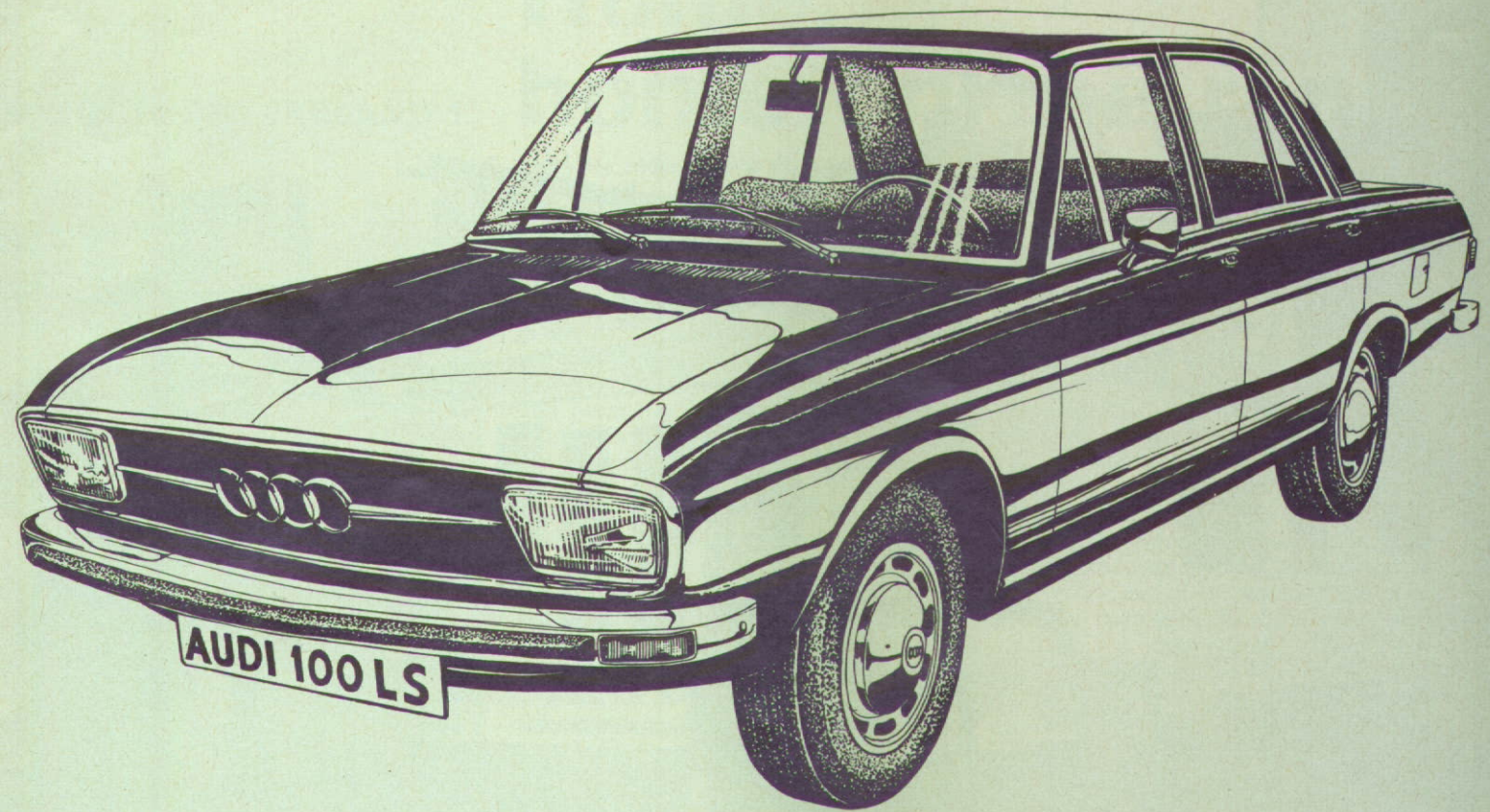


Detail from Lady Butler's "Steady the Drums and Fifes." Her son, Martin, was model for boy.

**Curator:** Major R W J Smith (Retd)  
**Address:** Bruce Castle  
Lordship Lane  
Tottenham  
London N17  
Telephone: 01-808 8772 or  
01-952 2625  
**Open:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday to Saturday 1000 to 1230 and 1400 to 1600  
**Closed:** Wednesday, Sunday and public holidays  
**Admission:** Free  
**Amenities:** Parking facilities available  
**How to get there:** Piccadilly Line to Wood Green and 243 bus to Bruce Castle or Turnpike Lane station and 123 bus.

Next month: York Castle and the Yorkshire regiments





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## ● NORTHERN IRELAND 1

# Home, home on the range

Story by Mike Starke/Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

**F**ORT Monagh and Silver City—it could almost be the Wild West. And the tough areas of Northern Ireland in which these stockades have sprung up are even nick-named “Indian Country.”

These “forts” with their high corrugated iron perimeter fences house one, two and sometimes three companies of soldiers on peacekeeping duties in the province’s hot spots.

Belfast’s Andersonstown area—staunchly Catholic and the scene of much bloody strife—has four of these new camps which were built after Operation Motorman last summer when troop concentrations reached an all-time high and every nook and cranny became “home.”

When the Army set about establishing a strong presence in residential areas of the city there was a dearth of the factories and derelict buildings which they had occupied elsewhere. In some cases they moved into schools for a short time before the new camps began to rise out of waste ground.

The technique became a pattern. Sappers threw up a high corrugated-iron fence to thwart snipers, then local contractors worked inside this protected area to put up portable huts and prefabs to make some of the comfiest quarters soldiers have known since the present troubles began in 1969.

Glasmullen Camp was the first to go up, on a patch of fairly level waste ground. This meant disturbing a local children’s play group using a hut on the site, but the Army provided two brand new huts a

few yards outside the gleaming tin fence which has earned this camp the name Silver City.

Safe inside the tin screen and a thick brick blast wall, SOLDIER found two companies of troops settled in to the relative comfort of the camp. Relaxing in the canteen, a soldier of 1st Battalion, The King’s Own Scottish Borderers, said: “This is the best accommodation we’ve been in on tours here. There’s space in this camp—you’re not confined like before.” A comrade quipped: “There’s one toilet for every day of the week—we’re living in luxury compared with the rest.” A third added the reservation: “They’re a bit noisy, these huts. The walls are only cardboard really, but it’s better than a factory floor.”

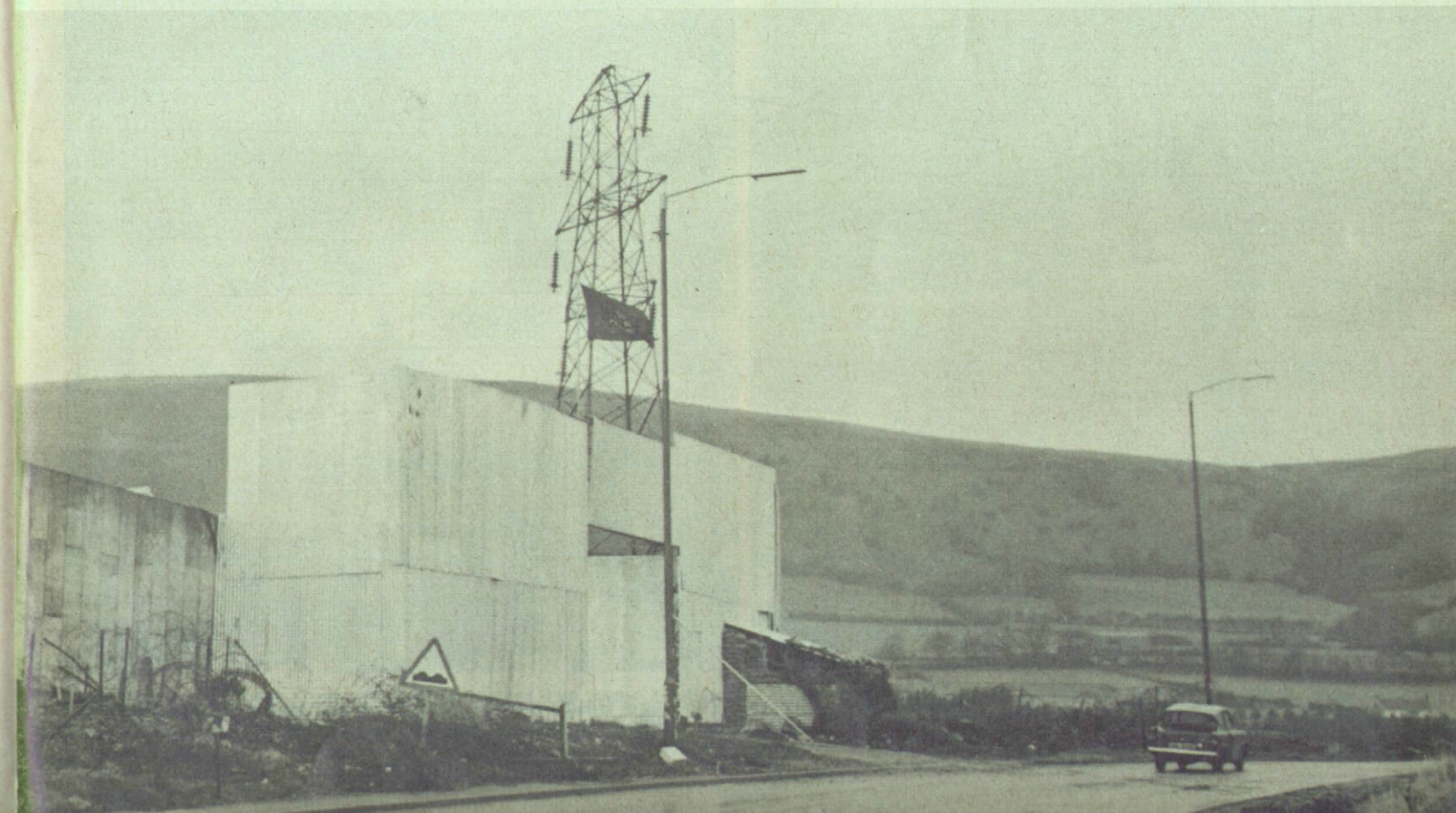
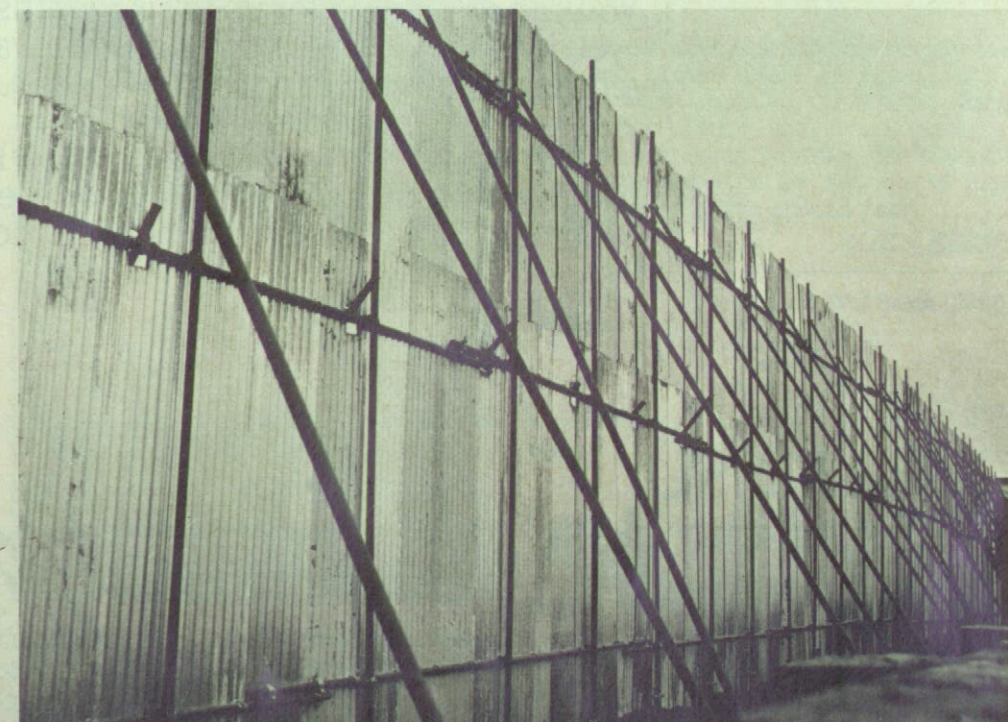
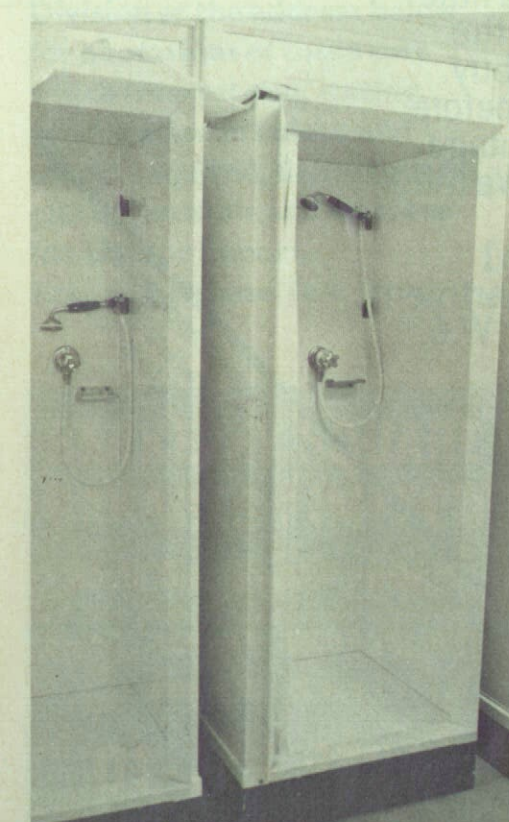
Sharing Silver City with The King’s Own Scottish Borderers was a company of 1st Battalion, The Green Howards. A sergeant praised the shower facilities which have done away with the queueing he suffered in the past. He added: “Last year some of the lads were sharing mattresses; this year we’ve all got one each.”

Recreation is a problem for the troops confined within their stockades. But there are plenty of television sets to watch and there are ambitious plans for squash courts, sauna baths and even bowling alleys to relieve the boredom.

Nearby MacRory Park camp dominates another corner of the area. The waste ground here was acquired last November

The bombed out Woodburn Hotel (above) once more opens to guests in the form of troops. Left: Showers are a boon in the new camps.

Below: High corrugated-iron fences prevent sniper fire finding its mark and make the new camps (right) look like Western forts.





and work was still going on around the troops living there. Fort Monagh too was still being built. This houses two companies and would take a third. Perched on a slope above Andersonstown, with a flag stiffened in the Belfast breeze at the gate, the fort looked more like the home of the United States 7th Cavalry than that of The King's Own Scottish Borderers. The effect was the same . . . troops were protected within its walls.

Winds have caused something of a problem at the camps, clutching at the corrugated fencing with towers some 24 feet high. The sappers who braved sniper fire and stones to put up these barriers have to return when strong winter gusts fell them.

Woodburn Camp is built around the remains of a hotel bombed by terrorists. The shattered building was gutted by troops and redeveloped to make part of the accommodation for two companies. Locally hired caravans line what were once the quiet grounds of the small hotel to provide quarters for the troops.

Creggan Camp dominates the Catholic estate of the same name on the western fringe of Londonderry in the enclave between the city and the Eire border. With building still going on, duckboards criss-crossed seas of mud like some scene from the trenches of World War One. Even so, Captain S M A Strutt, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, was able to report: "This is the Ritz compared with where we were last time." A guardsman

agreed the accommodation was good "but very messy." Paving stones were already being put down as part of the clearing up process to banish the mud.

A feature of this camp which is likely to become a familiar sight elsewhere is wire mesh mounted above the huts as protection against mortar attacks—one of the latest menaces in Northern Ireland's guerilla war.

The camp's pride and joy is a vast sandbag wall which stretches the whole length of one side of Creggan Camp. It clings to the slippery slope above the Creggan's terraced streets in defiance of principles of engineering.

It is a far cry from the constant gales and clinging mud of Creggan Camp to the cocoon-like warmth of the mess deck of one of Her Majesty's ships. For the luckier soldiers, those on a four-month tour in Northern Ireland, home is a snug berth aboard a Royal Navy ship—Hartland Point and Maidstone in Belfast and The Rame Head in Londonderry.

The Rame Head was the base of 93 (Le Cateau) Light Battery, halfway through a tour with 25 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, at the time of SOLDIER's visit. The gunners settled in so well with the 80 sailors on board that their battery's honour title was unofficially changed to "Le Bateau." About 100 soldiers were berthed aboard although there is room for another 200 or so. A 24-hour galley service is manned by a joint staff of Navy and Army cooks and the men enjoy television, a bar, an improvised cinema and

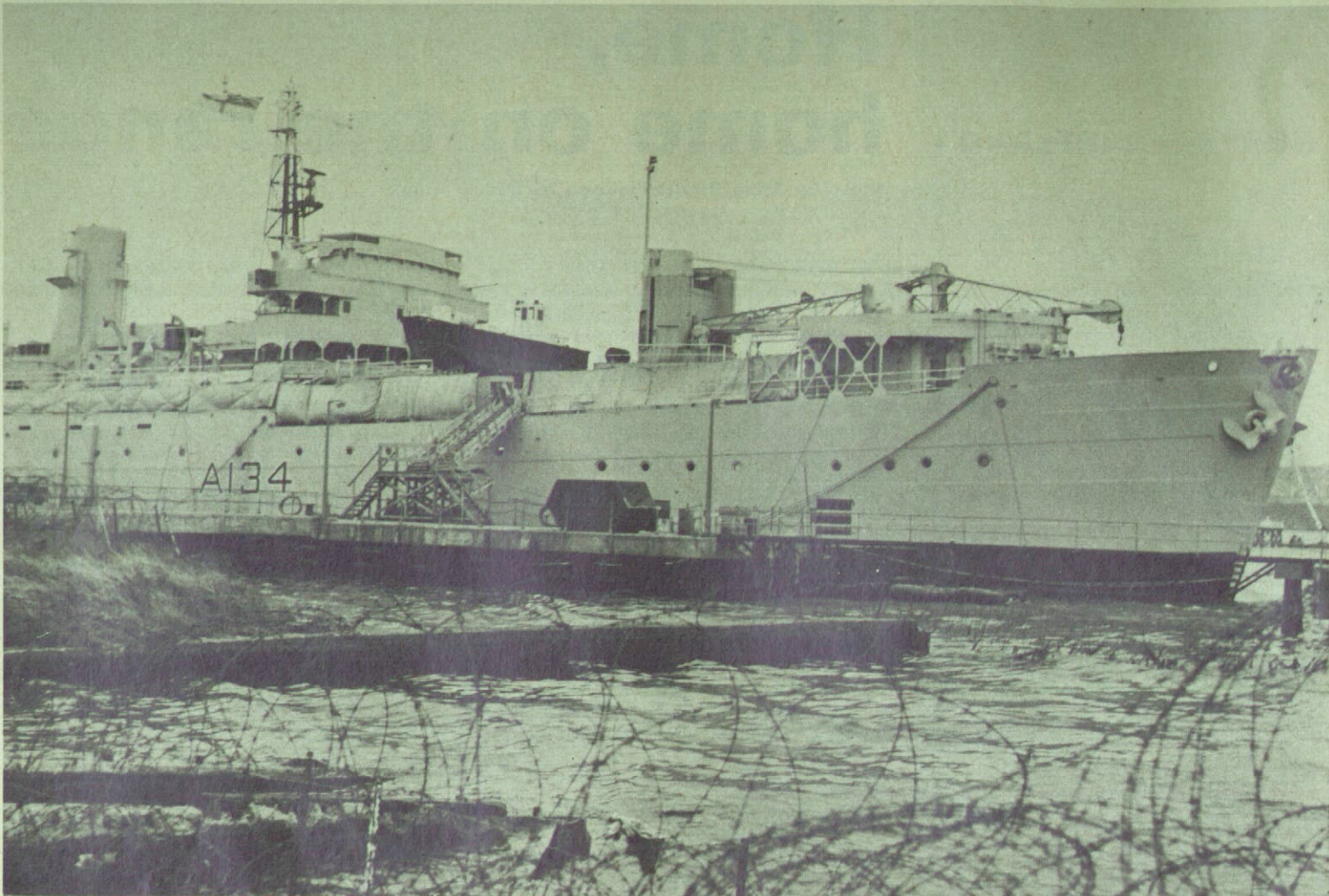
a paperback library in their few leisure hours.

Continuous hot water was the boast of The Rame Head. A massive boiler engine on deck, looking like a refugee from a traction engine rally, was the standard naval equipment for the job and there were no complaints about its efficiency despite its strange appearance.

Lieutenant-Commander C P Bengtsson, the naval officer-in-charge, explained that The Rame Head had started life as a Canadian-built Victory ship laid down in 1944. She served the Royal Navy as a destroyer depot ship. For her present duty the Rame Head was towed from Portsmouth—her engines are in mothballs below decks—and moored in the River Foyle to accommodate the Army.

All these camps have added a new dimension to troop accommodation. The temporary huts and cabins are almost totally recoverable after use, thus saving the taxpayer's money, and the living spaces can be expanded and contracted as the situation demands. From experience gained in building the frontier-style forts, a company's worth of mobile accommodation, kitchens and toilet facilities can now be moved in or out in a day.

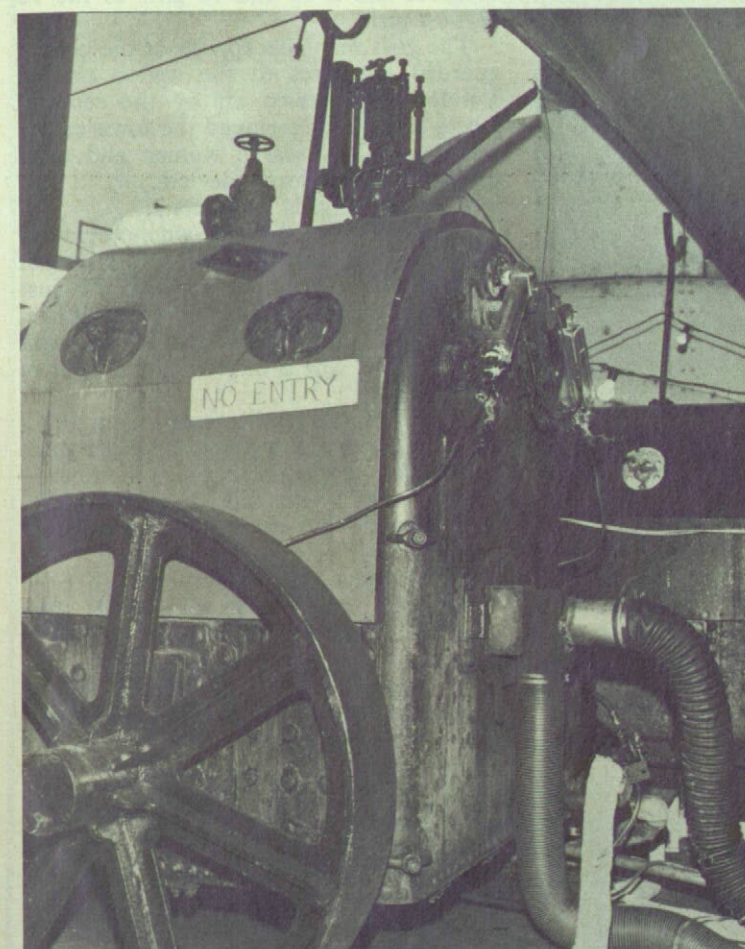
It is a new way of Army life but one very welcome to hard-pressed soldiers more than willing in the circumstances of Northern Ireland to sacrifice the amenities and freedom of their normal open-type barracks for safety and relaxed brief leisure within fortress walls.



The Rame Head, a comfortable home for troops, lies at anchor on Londonderry's River Foyle.



The Rame Head's mess decks once housed sailors but are now home for soldiers. Shipboard comforts are praised by the new tenants.



Constant hot water is a popular feature aboard The Rame Head and it comes from this "donkey" boiler parked up on the ship's deck.



Cooking is a joint effort in the Rame Head's galley. Sgt Michael Dick and Petty Officer George Duncan watch Pte David Denison work.



# On the Bogside beat



Shoppers have to submit to a search of their belongings going into Londonderry's centre, but most are good-humoured about the delays.

RAF policeman Corporal David Clark patrols with a Royal Military Policeman—none other than Corporal David Clark. Note: No weapons.



A POSITIVE move towards normality is the proud boast of the smallest Army unit in Londonderry, one which operates unarmed when on foot patrols. These men—and women—of the Royal Military Police, helped by volunteers from the Women's Royal Army Corps and a handful of RAF police, represent a normalising influence by their very presence on a street.

Major Brian Taylor, commanding 176 Provost Company, declared: "I firmly believe it protects us to have no arms or flak jackets."

One task of his 64-strong unit is to patrol the tense streets of the Creggan and Bogside Catholic areas of the city where the Royal Ulster Constabulary has not ventured since 1969.

"We are remarkably well accepted," said Major Taylor.

The general public often shows genuine concern for the military policeman. One old lady was reported as being worried about a patrol without overcoats catching cold during a wintry downpour. The relatively high popularity of the policemen is seen as an indication that a large section of the community welcomes anything representing a step towards a return to an ordinary, peaceful life. With their reassuring presence in all areas, this is just what the military policemen offer.

Playing a big part in the police work in Londonderry is a group of Women's Royal Army Corps girls, several of whom volunteered for duty in the streets of Northern Ireland's second city. The eventual aim is to add 18 girls to the 12 provost girls.

The girls man checkpoints at the closely guarded entrances to the walled city of Londonderry, sealed off by the security forces since bombs ripped the town centre last year. They search women and their handbags for explosive devices.

Why do the girls volunteer?

Private Pauline Arnold, who previously worked at the Army's Home Postal Depot at Mill Hill, London, replied: "I just wanted to come over and see what it's like. I found it's not nearly as bad as I'd thought it would be." She is on a 17-month tour in the province.

How does the public react to the girls? Corporal Denise Scrivener: "We get some abuse from people coming into the town—mainly from 15-year-olds and some middle-aged women—but many of the people are very friendly."

Things have not always been so easy. When the provost girls started their operations last summer they were a focal point for not just abuse but attack. One lance-corporal was hit by a brick. It was after this that the Women's Royal Army Corps volunteers came into the picture with an initial group of six.

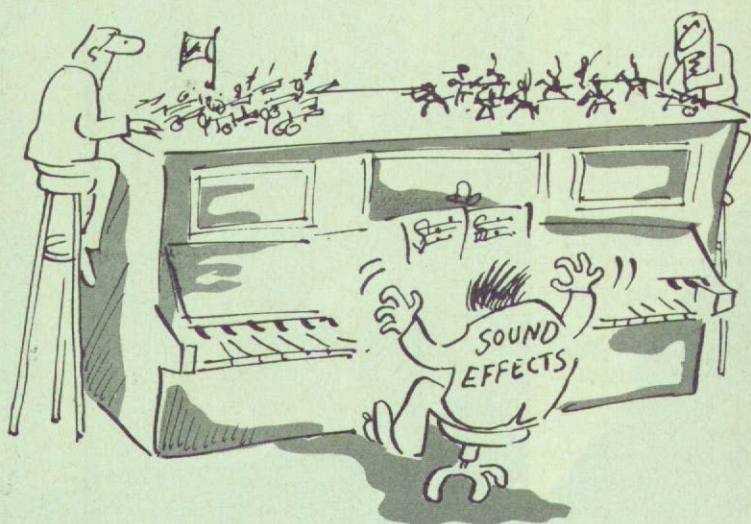
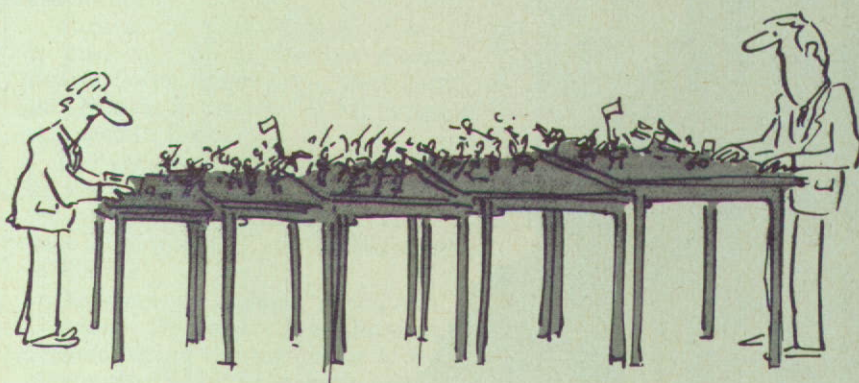
The effectiveness of the thorough searching was soon apparent—bomb incidents inside the cordon were cut to zero. One bomb went off but this was on a day the girls had been stood down early.

Major Taylor commented: "The general population accepts the searching as a necessity and the city is slowly returning to normal as a result."

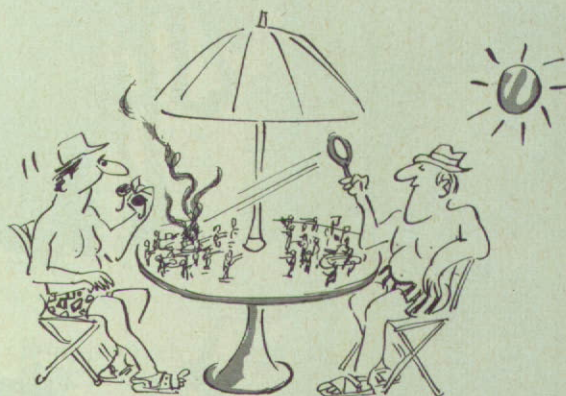


# Tables Turned

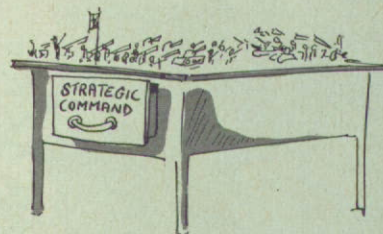
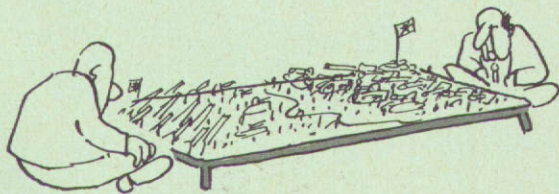
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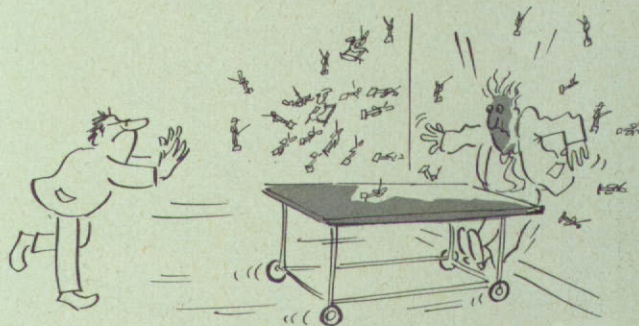
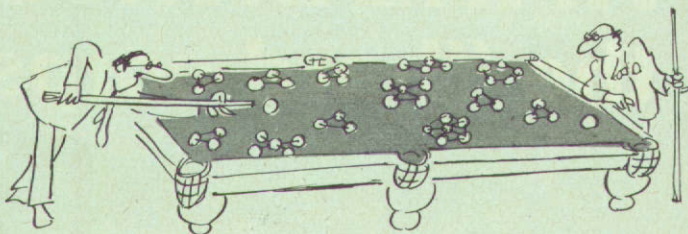
more wargamesmanship  
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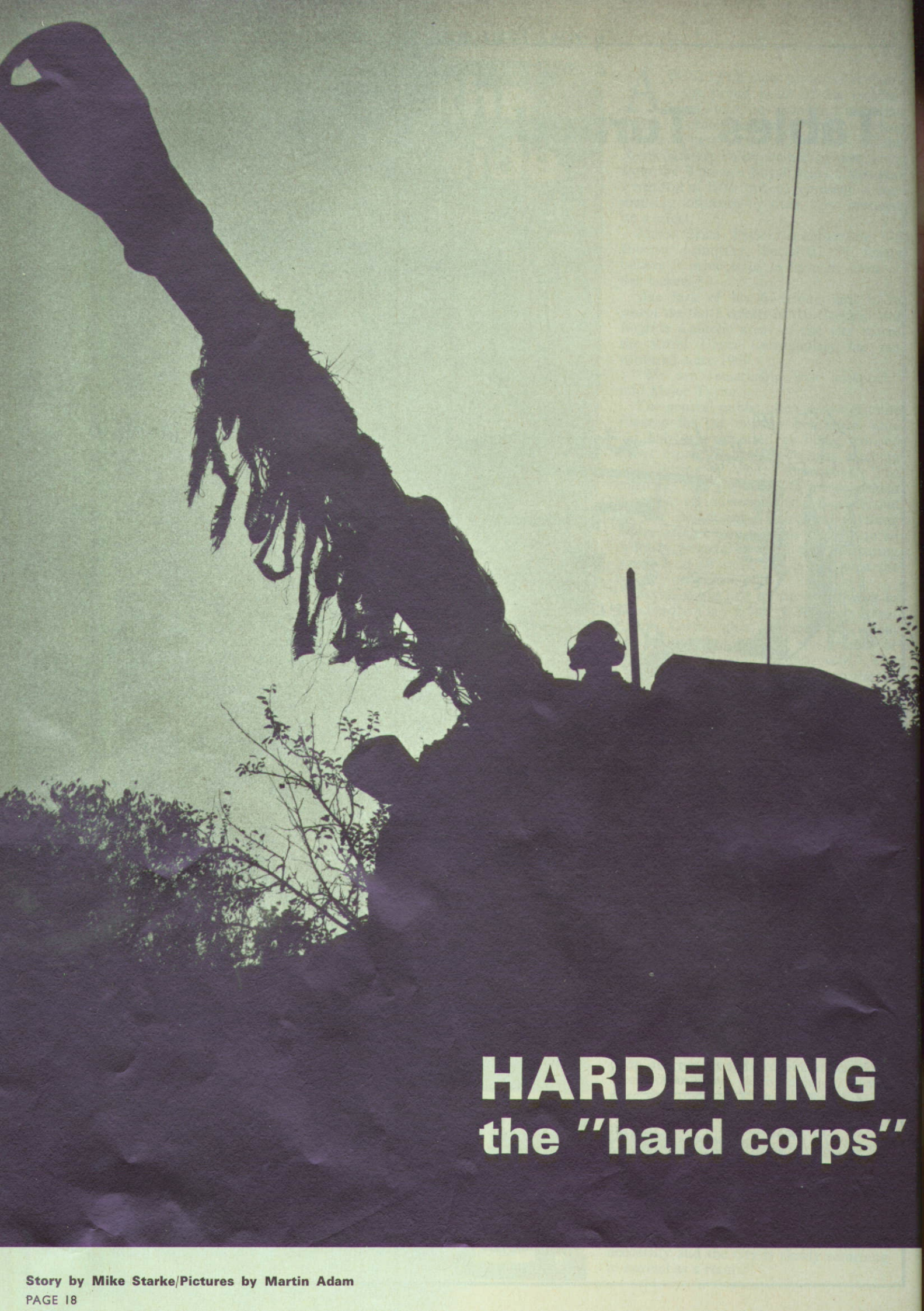
BATTLE OF  
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BIOLOGICAL  
WAREFARE







# **HARDENING** the "hard corps"





**T**O many people the British Army of the Rhine conjures up a picture of a military hangover from World War Two—a left-over army of occupation kicking its heels at the nation's expense. Far from it.

Most of the 57,000-strong Rhine Army is made up of its combat element, 1 British Corps, dubbed the "hard corps" of the British Army. A further brigade is stationed in Berlin.

The corps' spearhead badge epitomises its job in Germany. The main reason for the presence of British forces there is to contribute to the collective defence system of NATO.

Deployed throughout north and west Germany, the corps' three divisions have become part of the way of life of the local inhabitants. Close links have been forged between units and the communities where they are stationed.

Germany in turn has become a way of life for British troops. Many soldiers have married German girls and their children are bilingual, an advantage in the Common Market Age. Although Rhine Army personnel tend to keep up British customs in their domestic lives, many tour all over Europe and can enjoy all year some of the holiday benefits others get only through short package tours.

But the troops are in Germany to work and 1 British Corps keeps the point of its spearhead sharp with exercise. A whole season of manoeuvres occupies the autumn months when the camouflage colours of combat dress and vehicles mingle with the browning foliage of the countryside as "battle" is joined on a scale unimaginable in rural Britain.

Tanks and vehicles clatter through a countryside dotted with little villages and beet fields that typify the local agriculture. This may sound like a conservationist's nightmare but it is all monitored and countered by the damage control organisation.

Before an exercise the military and civilian authorities get together to make sure the least possible inconvenience will be caused. Discussions at local levels and press briefings make sure everyone is kept in the picture. Once an exercise is under way, the Army's tracks are dogged by its own damage control officers—there is one in every unit in the field—but anything they cannot repair on the spot is immediately reported to a control headquarters where sappers stand by to swing into action.

If the weather is bad and damage control chiefs think the local community will suffer unduly as a result of troops and vehicles in mud and rain, a whole divisional exercise can be called off at their request.

A sparkling October sun bathed 4th Division's Exercise Forefront last autumn so damage, although inevitable to some degree, was kept to a minimum. Over halfway through an exercise, 5 Field Squadron of 26 Engineer Regiment, acting as damage control for the division, had logged 166 incidents. These ranged from running over a few inches of grass verge to hitting a house. Ninety-two repairs had



Cameos of Royal Irish Rangers and men of the 1st Danish Life Regiment pictured on exercise.

Left: 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers, advances through woods on Exercise Forefront.

Far left: The sinister shape of an Abbot's gun points a warning to would-be aggressors.





been made and only 12 were awaiting action. The remainder were reports of items beyond repair for which the owners would get cash compensation. This was not a bad record in an exercise area which sprawled over as much ground as Greater London.

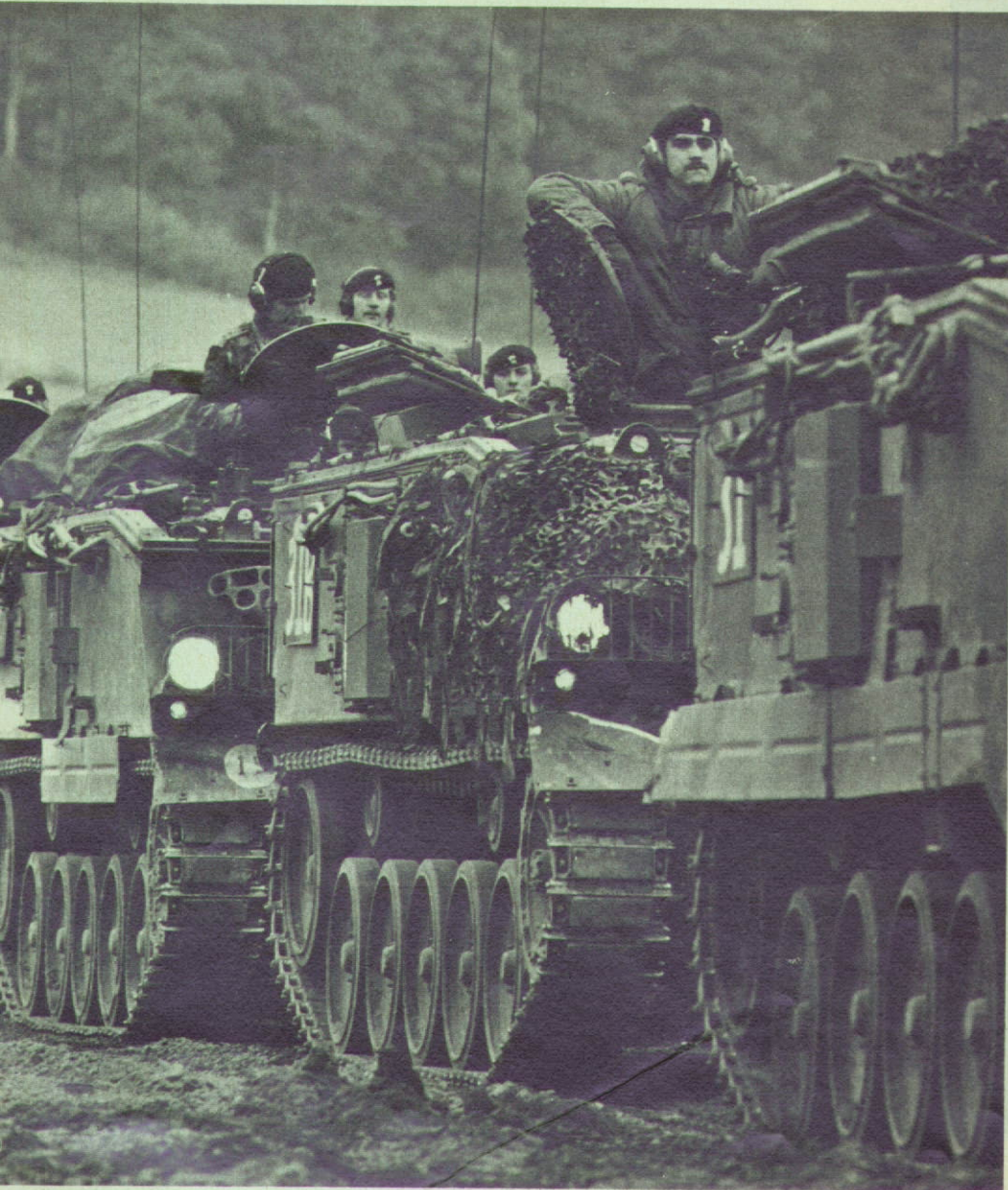
A key man in damage control for 4th Division is the Services liaison officer, Mr Stanley Cross, who set up a temporary office in the tented control headquarters. He explained: "Overall there is a lot of understanding on the part of the local people. "If something is damaged they appreciate it if someone goes to see them. I go along and take photographs, make sure they know how to make a claim and do all I can to reassure them. Then they're normally very happy. I must say they do respond well. We've had no nasty scenes with people wagging their fists at us."

Damage to civilian property during exercises is well taken care of. What of "damage" to military personnel? This is handled by the Royal Army Medical Corps.

**Left:** A sapper of 5 Field Squadron called in to repair damage caused during an exercise.

**Far right:** Scrim disguises the lines of one of 137 (Java) Battery's Abbots in a garden.

**Below:** 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Wales, moves forward to a bridgehead in its APCs.



Unlike the fighting units at the "front" who must simulate their work on exercises, the men of the field ambulances function "live."

Settled into farm buildings in a small German town just behind the "line" during 2nd Division's Exercise Swordfish in October, was 7 Field Ambulance, normally based at Osnabrück, acting in support of 12th Mechanised Brigade.

This unit's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R Treneman, explained his job was to make sure a casualty was fit for further evacuation to the rear if he was too badly injured to be treated on the spot.

This initial treatment is a race against the clock to beat the critical six-hour deadline between wounding and surgery for serious cases.

The worst case when SOLDIER visited the unit was an acute appendicitis which had been swiftly despatched to hospital. Of 213 sick or injured on the field, 180 were back on duty.

Said Colonel Treneman: "In the field we are doing it for real when we go out on exercise. It is a great opportunity for us to improvise."

His unit musters seven different cap badges. The majority, of course, are in the Royal Army Medical Corps but there is a large Royal Corps of Transport contingent to drive vehicles. Also represented are the Royal Army Dental Corps, Army Catering Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Royal Engineers and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Exercises in Germany give British troops the chance to work alongside their NATO partners. Exercise Swordfish was joined by men of the 1st Danish Life Regiment and extra armour was provided by the German Bundeswehr. The Danes are mostly conscripts doing a year's National Service. Then they stay on the Reserve list until they are 35.

Much of the Army's newest equipment is first issued to Rhine Army. The gunners of 137 (Java) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, have had the Abbot self-propelled gun since moving to Germany in 1969. The streamlined wedge of the tracked hull carries a turret with a 105mm gun which hurls shells more than 17 kilometres at a rate of six rounds a minute. The latest labour-saving device for artillery—FACE, the computerised rangefinder—does all the complex sums to make sure shells find their mark.

Scrimmed up in the lee of farm buildings on the outskirts of a village, the Abbots looked deceptively harmless, their warlike lines softened by the swathes of netting. But the gunners know the power they wield and are pleased with the relative comfort the Abbot affords them. One remarked: "There is very little noise inside the turret when you fire although there's a hell of a racket outside. You get fumes, of course, but there are air extractor fans."

The thousands of soldiers deployed with their convoys of tanks and vehicles packed with the latest equipment are enough to dispel any illusion that the British forces in Germany are mere "stragglers" from 1945.

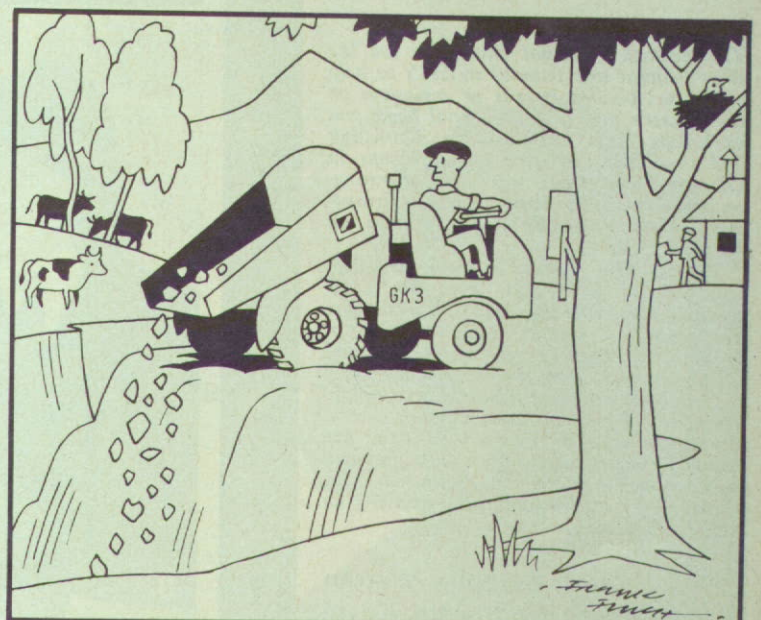
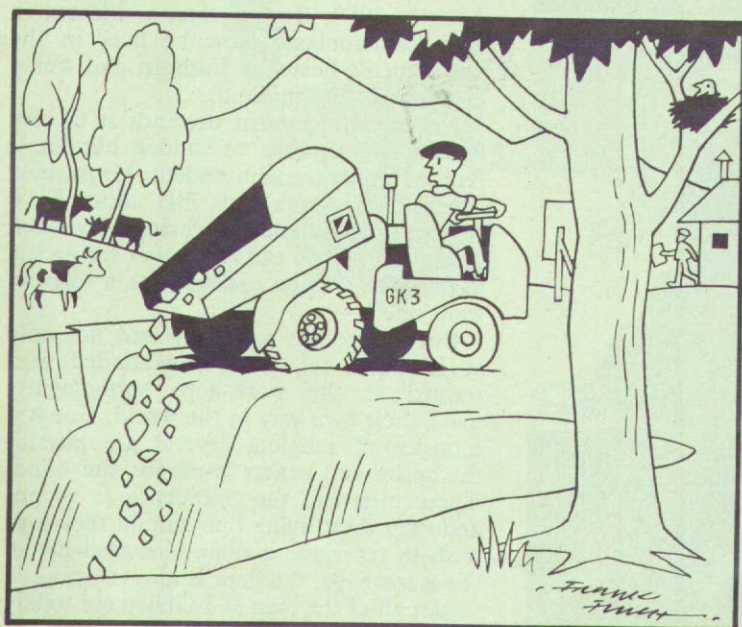
The message comes over loud and clear . . . British Army of the Rhine is alive and well.



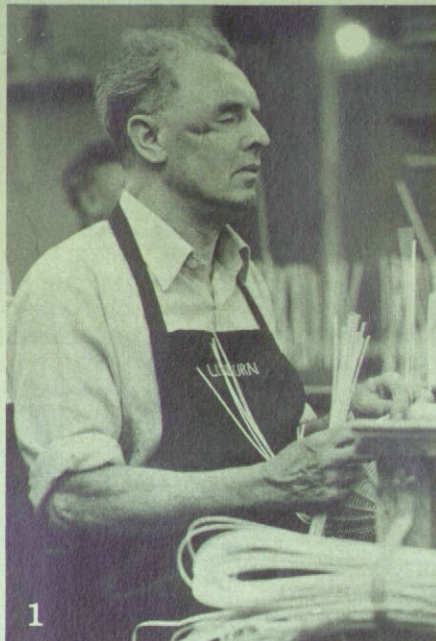


## How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 40





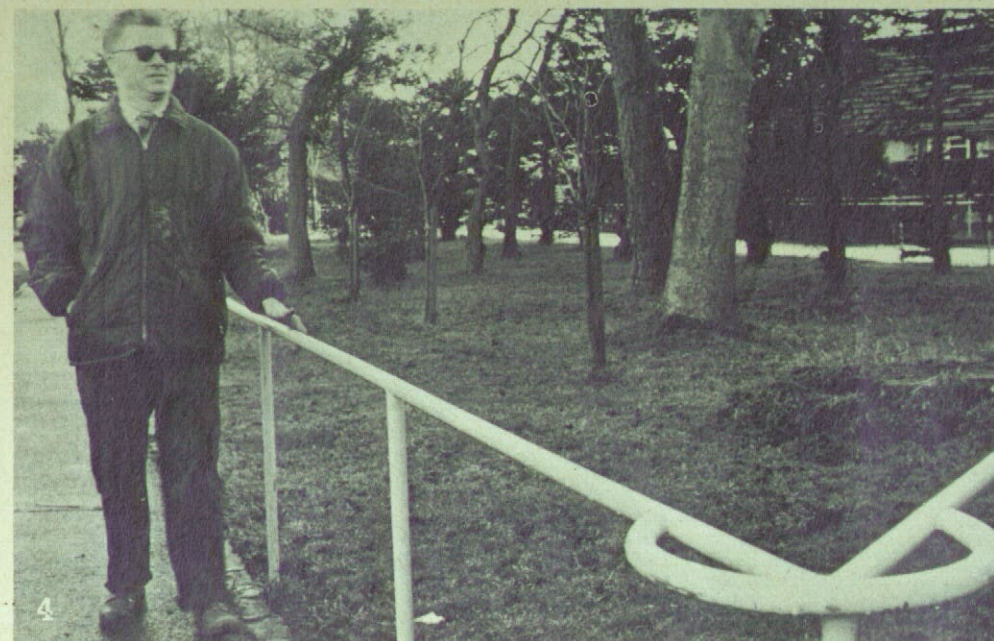


1

**B**ACK in the early 1950s, Pipe-Sergeant Harry Forbes, of The Highland Light Infantry, played a prominent role in the Edinburgh Tattoo—he trained the Highland dancers and on one occasion he took the solo spotlight as the “lone piper.” Now Mr Harry Forbes, and now blind, he still plays the pipes and still goes to the Tattoo where his son, a pipe-sergeant in The Royal Highland Fusiliers, has followed in his footsteps.

Harry’s own Army career came to a sudden and shattering end in 1957 when, at Maryhill Barracks, Glasgow, a box of thunderflashes blew up in his face. He was totally blinded.

Today he is just one of 70 sightless ex-servicemen who have learned to live again despite their terrible handicap. At a former mansion near Edinburgh these men work and play games and have adjusted to a way of life thrust upon them.



4

1 Former paratrooper Mr Jimmy Grabham working in the cane department. He holds the Military Medal.

2 “Amazing Grace” from a blind man. Former Pipe-Sergeant Harry Forbes still plays the pipes every day and loves them.

3 Youngest man at Linburn, 23-year-old Mr James Banks, who lost his sight in Aden, is now a telephonist.

4 Steel railings enable the blind men to walk round the grounds of Linburn in complete safety.

5 Lampshade department with Rangers fan, Mr Ian MacMillan, and ex-Wren, Miss Sandy Alexander, at work.

# Caring for the war-blinded



2

The Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded claims to have some of the finest facilities for the blind in Europe at its workshops in Linburn. There are 17 houses for families within the estate; other workers in the seven production departments live in the nearby village of Wilkies-ton or travel in from Edinburgh and other Scottish towns. Since Linburn opened in 1943 it has become an integral part of the village. Some of the ex-servicemen have married local girls.

“War blinded” does not merely mean victims of the two world wars. Any Scottish servicemen blinded as a result of his service is eligible for training. The youngest resident at Linburn is 23-year-old Mr James Banks whose eye-sight was lost as a result of a virus contracted in Aden in 1968. He was then a rifleman in The Cameronians. Now he lives in the single men’s hostel at Linburn and works as a telephonist in Leith.

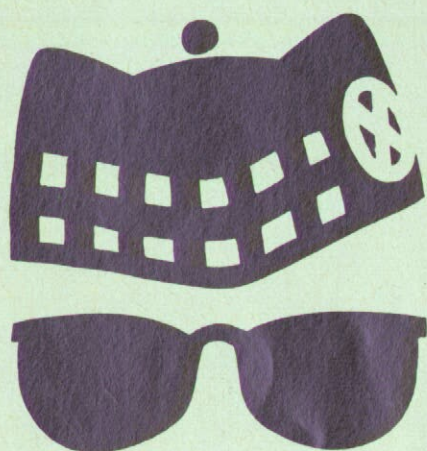
No one at Linburn pretends it is easy for a man to adjust to sudden blindness. As the Deputy Superintendent, Mr Andrew Mackenzie, points out: “It must be a shattering experience psychologically when the last thing you can remember seeing is a flash when a mine exploded or a torpedo went off.”

But the results are there and not only at Linburn, for many war-blinded men trained at the workshops subsequently make their own way in the world. One is a minister of religion, several are physio-therapists and others work for the blind. These men had the confidence to go out and earn their living but, should they ever wish to return to a more sheltered life in the workshops, the door is always open.

Not all of the men at Linburn are totally



5



The Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded was founded in 1915 to help servicemen blinded by gas or explosives on the Western Front. A residential home and workshops were established in Edinburgh and these were followed by workshops in Glasgow. The latter are still operating, on a non-residential basis, with men travelling mainly by public transport from all parts of Glasgow.

Linburn was acquired in 1944 for young men blinded in World War Two. All servicemen entering the care of the institution are given six months’ basic training in braille and touch-typing. Their pay and allowances start from the moment of entry.

New cases are being admitted even today. Hundreds of sightless ex-servicemen are on the Institution’s after-care roll. They are regularly visited and helped with financial and personal problems. The institution is an entirely voluntary organisation, receiving no national or local government aid.



3

Story by John Walton  
Pictures by Martin Adam





continued

blind. Some can read by using magnifying glasses and others have guiding sight. But even this does not overcome the surprise of seeing a game of bowls in progress in the grounds.

"It's very disconcerting for a sighted person to be beaten at bowls by someone who is blind" says Mr Mackenzie—with the air of someone who has experienced this. How do the blind play bowls? A white board is held up for those who have some sight while other players are placed in position and base their bowling on sound.

One former sapper who has completely come to terms with his blindness is Mr Ian MacMillan, blinded by a mine in Italy during World War Two. A Glasgow Rangers fan all his life, he has not let his handicap spoil his love of football. Every week, home or away, he travels to Rangers games and he even went to Barcelona with his team last year. Friends give him a running commentary on a match and he enjoys the crowd atmosphere.

Mr MacMillan works in the lampshade producing department as does the only woman in the workshops, Miss Sandy Alexander, a former Wren. She, too, was not a victim of warfare but of an infection. While in North Africa during the war her eyesight deteriorated and she was invalided home. A series of eye grafts restored her vision for a time but eventually she lost her sight and came to Linburn.

The first department to open at Linburn was for the manufacture of cane articles such as chairs and baskets. Most of the workers prefer the quietness of cane work as some blind people cannot stand noise. Working here is a holder of the Military Medal, Mr Jimmy Grabham, a former sergeant in The Parachute Regiment.

Jimmy, who won his decoration in North Africa when he put a German machine-gun out of action, lost his sight in an accident while training for Arnheim. He says: "I could not have done without the institution. Putting your time in here is just like being back in barracks with your soldier mates."

It took half a century for another basket worker's World War One injuries to blind him. Mr Tom Smith, a Gordon Highlander, was injured at Passchendaele in 1917. Suddenly in 1967 he awoke one morning totally blind.

Other departments work in leather, metal, wood and plastic, often using the latest modern machinery. The goods are sold through retail outlets, by mail order and direct to the public.

The story of Linburn has to be one of tragedy. But it also is a story of hope. Blindness can come suddenly to anyone—and by the nature of his calling the soldier is more vulnerable than most.

Seeing these blind ex-servicemen walking unerringly from the workshops to their homes nearby, using the guiding rails which ribbon the estate, laughing and chatting, one realises how much has been done at Linburn to enable them to play a normal role in society.



6

6 Linburn boasts an excellent Braille library where the blind can read in quietness.



7

7 Ex-soldier Mr William Peat working in the wire department's workshop.



8

8 Blind craftsman puts the final touches to the upholstering of a chair in the woodwork department.



# STEPTOE

## the mini-junk

**T**HESE days there is mini-everything. Even a mini-junk. Its proud owner in Hong Kong is Major James Barden, 47 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery. The mini-junk, appropriately named Steptoe after the television series, is 26 feet long and was built in the colony 11 years ago. Since then she has had an engine fitted—a 1937 Morris car engine conversion rescued from a breakers' yard.

Several Army units in Hong Kong own junks and Major Barden says: "There is plenty of opportunity for soldiers to get afloat here, either with dinghy sailing clubs or in junks." He is himself an experienced yachtsman and often sails for the Royal Artillery in ocean races.

*From a report by Pete Brown, PR Mobile Team, HQ UKLF.*



Steptoe, the mini-junk, silhouetted against the Hong Kong skyline. In this picture the ex-car engine had just started to overheat.



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**E**very year the chaplains of Rhine Army exchange their cassocks for camouflage on exercise "Parson's Pleasure" which tests them in map reading, vehicle maintenance, first aid, signals voice procedure, camouflage and skilled driving. As the chaplains prepared for the latest exercise, **SOLDIER** took a look at one of them to probe the man behind the "dog collar" and his everyday work



At work, Geoff Higgins has a smoke and chat with Pte Mike Berrill, his driver.

## Profile of a padre

**A**SKED what he would like to be if he were not in the Army, he replied unhesitatingly "a lorry driver." An odd choice for a senior officer to make perhaps . . . even odder when you see the purple flashes on his uniform proclaiming him a chaplain.

But the extraordinary has tended to become the commonplace in the packed and bustling life of the Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General of 2nd Division, the Reverend Geoffrey Higgins. Many call him Geoff, with respect rather than familiarity; his personality outranks the pip and crown on his shoulder.

Padre Geoff started his 16 years of Army ministry after an already busy life. He served as a boy in the Merchant Navy before leaving the open sea for the dark tunnels of a coal mine. Somewhere along the line he managed to fit in a year in a

library, "I was the only boy among 17 girls . . . bliss!" he recalled.

The Army attracted him and he joined The South Staffordshire Regiment. "I loved it," he said. "Then they decided I could read and write." So he was transferred to the Royal Army Educational Corps. Then he decided to become a parson and left the Army to study at Oxford. He read theology ("terribly dull") and went on to take up his new career at Peterborough. But after two years he was back in the Army to serve as a chaplain, in Aden, Borneo, Sharjah, Bahrain and now Germany. Soon he moves on to Hong Kong.

A United Kingdom posting to the School of Infantry, Warminster, gave him a chance to indulge his love of the motor car by tinkering with second-hand cars. "I love driving," he explained, and it is not unknown for him to be found up to his

elbows in axle grease in the vehicle inspection pits of HQ 2nd Division.

Why did Geoff Higgins, ex-sailor, soldier and miner become a parson after being a self-confessed 'non-going churchgoer' for years? "That's one question you can't answer without sounding appallingly smug or untruthful," he said. "Let me put it this way, you can't carry on fighting an inner conviction you've been fighting for years."

He explained his duties as twofold. First he has a local duty as the parish parson for the divisional headquarters ("that's taken for granted"). Secondly he has the wider general responsibility for all the chaplaincy services throughout the division. He added: "You couldn't possibly sit in your office and wait for it all to happen. The job is to go out to see chaplains, visit brigade commanders, go round with

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Pull-out supplement SOLDIER February 1973

## NAAFI'S PRICING POLICY

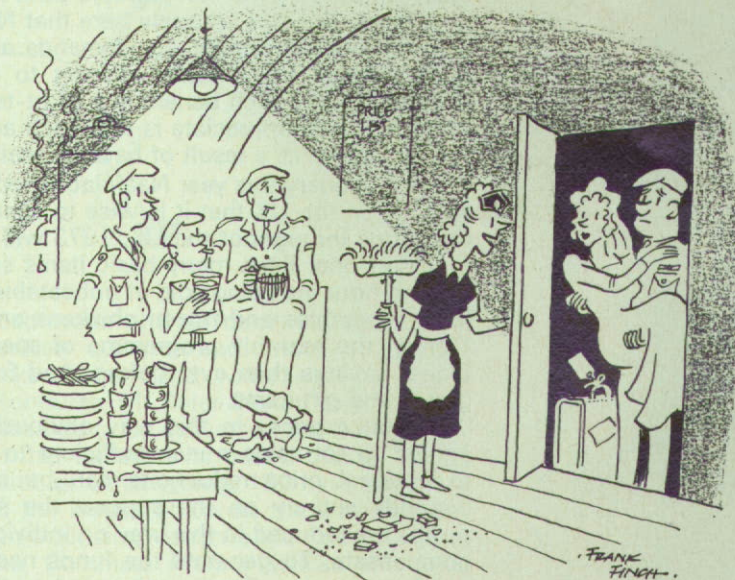
In response to a customer's reference to Naafi in SOLDIER's contemporary, RAF News, the president of the Council of Naafi, Air Chief-Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler, has written an article for RAF News which is of equal interest to the Army.

In his introduction the President says he is disturbed by the number of people who expect Naafi to be slightly better than perfect. In particular there appeared to be a large number of people who believed that Naafi prices should all be lower than prices everywhere else.

"I thought that it might therefore be a good thing if, as a serviceman and a customer, I endeavoured to explain Naafi's pricing policy," says Air Chief-Marshal Wheeler. He continues: "Although the Board of Management of Naafi is civilian (most of whom incidentally receive no remuneration) it does include one representative from each Service and takes its policy direction from the Council over which I preside.

"The Council has only one member from outside the Ministry of Defence, the chairman of the Board of Management. My principal colleagues are the Chief of Fleet Support and the Quartermaster-General. The presidency of the Council is taken by each of us in turn. We meet quarterly and I can assure everybody that we take a detailed interest in Naafi's affairs. But, most important of all, we must accept responsibility for approving Naafi pricing policy. In other words the Services have approved the Naafi price policy which applies everywhere the business operates.

"Primarily it is a policy designed to be fair and, by virtue of the co-operative principle, to be of positive advantage to the serviceman and his family. It is designed, after meeting the cost of dividend and discounts for individual customers and of rebate to individual ships and units for welfare and recreational purposes, to provide at least the opportunity for further profit to be earned for distribution to the central welfare funds of each Service. It must still leave adequate sums available to Naafi to develop and modernise its service and to enable it to undertake some uncommercial services, where necessary, for welfare reasons.



*"No, this is NOT the Naafi where they cater for honeymoon couples."*

"These objectives are achieved by Naafi selling at the retail prices prevailing in reputable civilian shops of a standard which Service personnel and their families might be expected to patronise if Naafi did not exist. Prevailing price levels are established by continual test-purchasing normally using independent consultants. In overseas areas any customs or tax concessions negotiated with the local government are passed on to the customer by deducting the amount of duty or tax from the prevailing price. Where the goods available in civilian shops are not comparable with those which the Services require, where there are no normal shopping facilities, or where other special circumstances—such as artificially high prices—thwart the standard policy, Naafi has to decide what is a reasonable price for its goods, taking into account the cost of freight, insurance, special packing and other expenses.

"The obvious example of this situation is the pricing of UK goods sold in Germany.



## NAAFI'S PRICING POLICY

*(continued from previous page)*

Here Naafi achieves a fair price by adding to the delivered cost in Germany the same profit margin as applies to the same goods in the UK. Many goods, including obviously German and other Continental items, are on normal sale in German shops and for these Naafi adopts the prevailing prices less duty or tax escaped. Naafi prices are, of course, taken into consideration by the Services when local overseas allowances are fixed. The same principles are applied to the prices of food and drink served in Naafi clubs and canteens. These are fixed so as to be competitive with prices prevailing for items of similar size and quality served in outside catering establishments likely to be used by Service personnel, allowance being made for any difference in the conditions under which they are served.

"The advantage to the serviceman or his family from all this is that after taking into account the discount and dividend applying to his purchases, he will find that overall on his normal weekly shopping list he will have done better like for like than if he had gone to any one of Naafi's competitors; and this is true even in the UK where competition is so intense.

"The application of this policy is bound to mean that in some areas, such as the UK, Naafi will find it uphill going to make an overall profit because operating a very large number of small outlets on intensely competitive prices presents very great difficulties, while in other areas like Germany, where Naafi outlets are fewer and larger and have the advantage of escaping taxes and duties, Naafi will make large profits. I want to emphasise that the result is one which is completely fair and right, not merely because of the local overseas allowance system but because the rotation of Service people between home and abroad ensures that we can all try the various parts of the system. It would be utterly wrong if the less profitable areas were not supported by the more profitable because without such support it would not enable Naafi (which has to be self-supporting financially) to maintain a service in many places where it is most needed. Moreover, if the profit in profitable areas were to be expropriated locally there would be very little (if any) extra rebate to flow into our central funds which are so vital to the welfare of the Services and dependants.

"All this being so, is it reasonable when we are living and working in the centres of civilisation to give our trade to Naafi's competitors (who do not have Naafi's obligations to provide certain unprofitable services nor to return the profits they do make to the customers) and then expect Naafi to be ready and able to step into the breach when we are posted to remote or perhaps troubled areas?

"It is of course in the United Kingdom, particularly in the larger centres, that we are most tempted by the competition, both intense and close at hand, to deny Naafi our patronage. But it is precisely here that Naafi needs to have a sound business base if it is to be able to meet our demands elsewhere. Sometimes we are able to justify our defection from Naafi—at least to ourselves—by pointing out some marginal benefit. Usually such benefit is a short-term one. Frequently there is no benefit at all. What we must appreciate is that such action jeopardises the real long-term benefits we do receive as a result of having created our own trading organisation.

"On 15 January this year Naafi launched a campaign which should help to persuade all of us in the UK that it is wise to spend most of our budget in the Naafi shop. In the shops throughout the UK, 1973 will be 'Help the Housewife' year. The plan is a four-part one. First, many basic items such as butter, bacon, eggs, margarine, lard, tea and flour are being sold at unbeatable prices after discount or dividend. Secondly, fruit, vegetables and frozen chickens are being offered at exceptionally low prices. Thirdly, the monthly programme of special offers in our Naafi shops will bring us bigger savings than ever before. And fourthly, there will be bargains in household goods and gift items.

"To reduce prices in this way obviously costs money and the Naafi Council has agreed to set aside a sum sufficient to support the plan for a year. Whether such exceptional price reductions can be maintained in 1974 and subsequent years depends entirely on the support the scheme receives from the customer. When profits are reduced in this way on individual items, many more items must be sold to compensate. To generate the funds needed for the continuance of the plan, Naafi needs many more Service wives to buy the bulk of their family purchases in the Naafi shop. It is up to us to ensure by our patronage that we retain this advantageous position indefinitely.

"Co-operation is the keynote of Service-Naafi relationships. At all levels there are opportunities for the interchange of ideas between the Services (the customer and owners) and Naafi staff and management. We have more opportunity to communicate with our official trading organisation than any customer outside has with the shops he uses. I know, from my position as President of the Council, that the Board of Management is always prepared to consider sympathetically suggestions for improving the service which Naafi provides. This is equally true throughout the organisation. Naafi must be unique in that it not only invites constructive criticism but willingly takes part in the system which processes that criticism and transforms it into results wherever possible. It is up to us to make the best use of that system—clearly defined in each Service's regulations—to ensure that Naafi continues to give us the kind of service which we require."



## NORTHERN IRELAND BORDER POLL

The Northern Ireland border poll is to take place on 8 March. All persons eligible to be Service voters who completed a registration form for the 1973 register of electors and used an address in Northern Ireland will be eligible to vote. Service voters in the UK on the day of the poll will be able to vote either by post or proxy. Those abroad will be able to vote only by proxy. Further information will be issued by the Ministry of Defence. Meanwhile, persons concerned who wish to vote by proxy should appoint a proxy, if they have not already done so, by submitting form F/Vote/32a which is available from their unit offices. They should also ensure that their proxies are aware of their wishes in this matter.

(M1 (A))

## SECONDMENT OVERSEAS

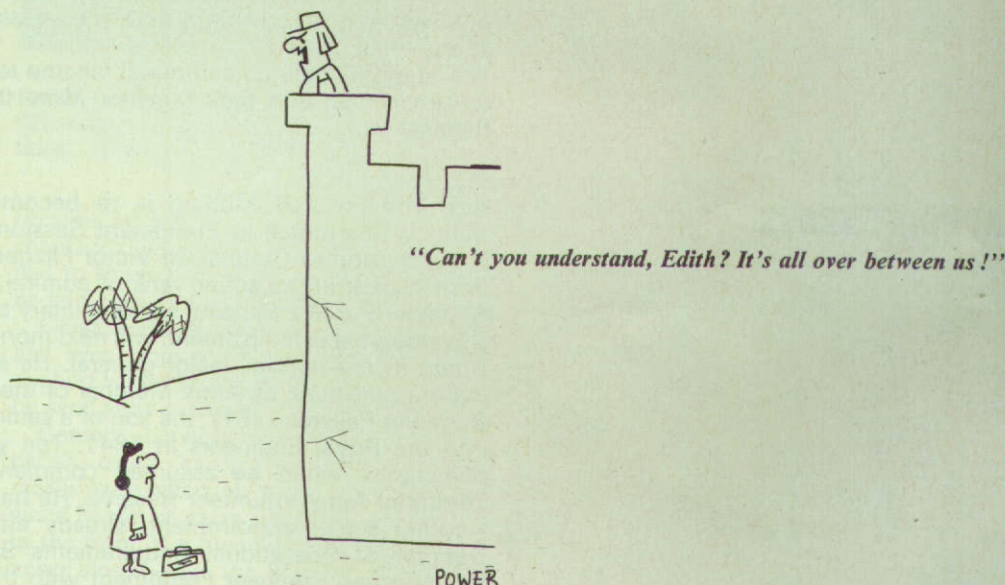
If you joined the Army to see the world, you could try a secondment to the forces of a friendly nation.

Service overseas with Commonwealth, colonial and foreign forces is still available as part of government policy to help allies the world over to develop their armies, navies and air forces.

British servicemen are on loan to 20 countries at present and many are enjoying higher rank and greater responsibility than they would be getting normally. On top of this, cash allowances make the scheme even more attractive.

Details are to be found in the Secondment Manual, which is held in every orderly room, or from personnel branches in the Ministry of Defence and manning and record offices.

(AG (SP))



## MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

Iced water and air conditioning for troops was the subject of one of Parliament's written question-and-answer sessions. Hampstead's MP, Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, asked when iced water equipment would be installed in Central Camp, British Honduras. Mr Peter Blaker, Under-Secretary of State for Defence, told him one unit was due to be delivered in mid-December and a second in April 1973. In answer to a further question he added that of 589 sleeping units in the camp, 49 are equipped with air conditioning, 180 have ceiling fans and the rest have wall or table fans.

In the House of Lords, the Defence Minister, Lord Carrington, said the question of reintroducing conscription "does not arise" despite the fact that Britain is entering the Common Market whose members have compulsory military service. Lord Carrington gave his assurance after saying: "I know of no movement towards a co-ordinated defence policy in the European Economic Community at the present time."

Army pensions of men below commissioned rank may be paid direct into a National Giro account if they so wish, Mr Peter Blaker said in reply to a House of Commons question. He added that the method of payment of Army officers' retired pay was a matter for the Paymaster-General's office.

Plans to eliminate the waiting period for Army married quarters in Germany were revealed by Lord Carrington in reply to a question in the House of Lords by Viscount Hanworth. Lord Carrington said the Ministry was not only acquiring additional long-term hirings under a programme planned for completion by 1976 but was also taking on short-term hirings wherever possible to ease the situation.

Nearly one-eighth of Army recruits are Scottish, according to figures given to the House of Commons in a written reply to a question put by Mr Donald Stewart, MP for Inverness-shire, Ross and Cromarty.



## MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

(continued from previous page)

Lord Balniel, then Minister of State for Defence, wrote in November that 13.4 per cent of recruits are Scots domiciled.

At the same time, Mr Geoffrey Johnson Smith, then Under-Secretary of State for the Army, said in written replies to questions about the Ulster Defence Regiment that a total of 33 of its members had died "from all causes" since it was formed. Since formation 175 weapons issued to the regiment had been stolen or lost and 76 had been recovered. Ninety-six UDR weapons had been lost as a result of raids on armouries of which 68 were later recovered. In 27 cases, carelessness or inattention on the part of the soldiers concerned was sufficient to justify disciplinary action being taken.

## NEW COOKS' COURSE

Apprentice chefs who entered the Army Catering Corps Apprentice College at Aldershot last September were the first to begin a newly designed two-year standard course. This new course at the college, which is currently training more than 400 Army Catering Corps juniors, not only aims to qualify the apprentice chef as a Group B Class 2 tradesman but also give him the opportunity to gain a cookery certificate in the City and Guilds of London Institute. (DACC)

## GURKHAS' MAGIC MILLION

The Gurkha Appeal Fund, launched in 1969, has reached the magic million pound figure set as a minimum target. The total was reached with the help of nearly £22,000 raised by the recent Royal première of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland."

The official appeal in Britain is now closed but the Gurkha Welfare Trust will remain open as a registered charity and its trustees will welcome further donations or legacies at any time.

The fund will provide an annual income to alleviate distress and need among Gurkha ex-servicemen and their families. More than £250,000 was raised by the Gurkhas themselves.

## APPOINTMENTS

Vice-Admiral J R McKaig is to become United Kingdom representative on the Military Committee in Permanent Session to the North Atlantic Treaty organisation in succession to General Sir Victor Fitzgeorge-Balfour. The appointment takes effect from August in the acting rank of admiral.

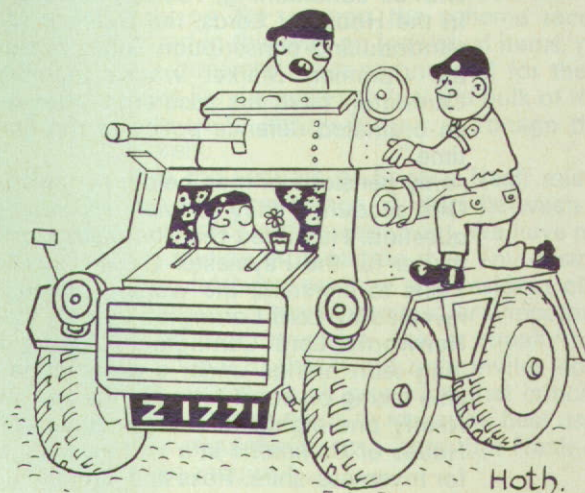
Brigadier P J M Pellereau, senior military officer of the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment, will next month become a vice-president of the Ordnance Board in the rank of major-general. He succeeds Major-General E J Younson, the current president, as Army Member of the Ordnance Board.

Brigadier Pellereau (51), the son of a senior Royal Artillery officer, was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1941. Ten years ago, at the age of 41, he became a parachutist when he assumed command of 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment, Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve. He has represented the Army at hockey.

Another senior appointment, already effective, is that of Brigadier J G R Allen, Director of Operational Requirements 3 (Army), to Director-General of Fighting Vehicles and Engineer Equipment with the rank of major-general. Aged 49, he was commissioned into The King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1942 and transferred to the Royal Tank Regiment in 1947. (DPR)

## RESETTLEMENT

Advice on outdoor work in farming, horticulture and forestry is given in the latest issue of the Services Resettlement Bulletin and there is a full study of opportunities offered in the northern region of Britain. The bulletin is available from local education officers.



"He's homesick."

Hoth.





"Nearer my God to Thee" . . . A helicopter trip for the Rev Peter Whiting from Sennelager on the padres' Exercise Parsons Pleasure.



Padre Bill Sayer with troops in the field: "Sharing in their lives, that's the great thing. When they are soaked, so are you."

chaplains, go out to parishioners in Lübbecke—it's constant travel."

Geoff makes it his business to see every new arrival in his parish as soon as possible, whether churchgoer or not, "then I play it by ear. No man coming to this headquarters can ever say he doesn't know who the chaplain is and where he is."

Soldiers in Lübbecke confirmed their chaplain's 'ever-open-door' policy worked not only at his office but at his homely flat in the town. "If he's not there, he's often to be found in the Naafi having a beer with the lads," said one. Another added: "Everyone knows Geoff, he seems to be able to get on with anybody."

Ninety per cent of the visits to Geoff's office or home are on non-religious matters. His driver, Private Mike Berrill comes round for a game of chess from time to time. Asked if these visits were

because he was a regular member of the chaplain's congregation, Private Berrill had to think hard to recall the mere twice he had been to church in Lübbecke.

Geoff claimed his most unusual visit had been from someone wanting to know the best vet in the area for a sickly budgie . . . he sent away a satisfied customer.

Contact between this padre and his parish could hardly be better, but he recalls with affection his days in Bahrain when he ran an extra aid to communication in the form of a broadcasting station. "We never closed—like the Windmill."

Summing up, he commented: "There's never a dull moment in this job—you just don't know what's going to happen next." Were it otherwise, Geoff Higgins might well trade in the purple patches of his corps to fulfil that other ambition to drive lorries.

The Army's padres are all clergymen who come into the Royal Army Chaplains' Department and take an introductory course at the Depot, Bagshot Park, before joining units. Their denominations are Church of England, Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland, Methodist, United Board or the Jewish faith. Padres are non-combatant and do not carry arms. The Royal Army Chaplains' Department is headed by the Chaplain-General (ranking as major-general), who is Church of England by Statute. Chaplains are graded in four classes—IV (ranking as captain), III (major), II (lieutenant-colonel) and I (colonel). They wear the badges of those ranks but are not addressed by the rank.

# posted overseas?



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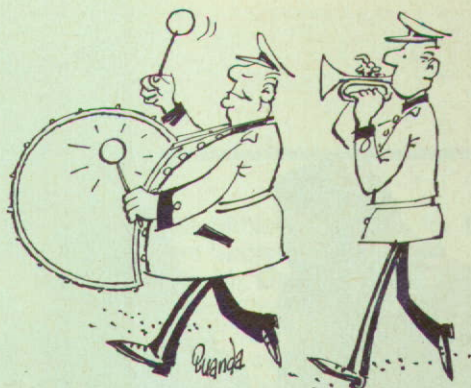
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# ON RECORD

## Norwegians on the Esplanade



**"The Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1972"** (Producer: Brigadier J S Sanderson) (Director of Music: Major T L Sharpe, Coldstream Guards) (Waverley SZLP 2134).

The Edinburgh Tattoo is 22 years old and still going strong—strongly enough indeed to help subsidise the artier aspects of the annual festival. The TV broadcast will live in my memory for the unbelievably precise and skilful design marching of the Royal Norwegian Guards and the playing of its band. To traditional and other music, and in particular to Grieg's "Peer Gynt" music, these young recruits gave us a drill display of astounding ingenuity lasting at least ten minutes without a single word of command, their gyrations becoming slower and slower as the music grew more frenzied. As here recorded the music is not of best quality but is good enough to remind you of the display.

The massed bands are, as always, a great feature of this tattoo and are here recorded after a rehearsal, with the musicians static. This year Major Trevor Sharpe was in charge and produced a couple of his medleys which come off very well and proved very popular. The marches comprise "Strike Up the Band"

by Gershwin and two numbers from "Paint Your Wagon"—"Wand'rin' Star" as a slow march and "There's a Coach Comin' In." The static medleys are "Symphony '72" with famous themes from symphonies by Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Mozart and Beethoven, and three dance tunes from Mexico, Greece and the Tyrol—"Mexican Hat Dance," "Zorba's Dance" and the "Schuhplattler."

Naturally the pipes and drums take pride of place and have two longish medleys to themselves. The finale is the traditional one with hymn tune, Last Post and march off to "Scotland the Brave," "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Black Bear," with "Amazing Grace" as a bonus.

**RB**

Other titles on this LP: Fanfare trumpeters of the Household Cavalry—"Fanfare Militaire"; Massed military bands—"Radetzky March"; Massed pipes and drums—"The Rock and Wee Pickle Tow," "I Lo'd Nae a Laddie but Ane," "The Drummer's Call," "Greenwoodside," "The Wee Man at the Loom," "The Banks of Allan Water," "Hills of Glenorchy," "Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre," "Hot Punch," "Royal Scots Polka"; Band of HM Kongens Gardes Musikkorps—"Gardemarsj," "Kontingentjefens—Signal," "Norsk Defiler Marsj," "Gemmell Jegermarsj," "Moray Firth; Finale—"Scipio," "St Clement," "Fanfare Drawbridge."

**"The National Champions" (Wingates Temperance Band) (Golden Guinea GSGL 10482)**

There isn't much I like about this record except perhaps the playing, but then one takes that for granted from the "national champions." The programme is of the kind which gives brass bands a bad name, almost all of it being "light numbers" of no musical value. Two William Rimmer items, the march "Victors' Return," and a cornet solo "Click Clack" are old hat; Roger Barsotti's "Trombones on Broadway" and P Alman's "The Whistling Bobby" I find unacceptable by any standards, old or new. A E Kelly's "Arnhem" march was written while he was a student at Kneller Hall and has some attractive if unoriginal features. Tom Powell's flugel solo "Serenade Espagnol" and J Prieto's euphonium solo "The Wedding" are in my view poor stuff.

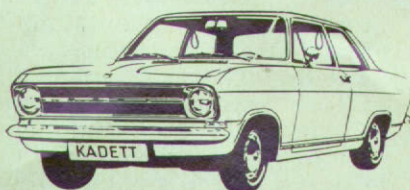
In "Rhythmic Danube" I had a vision of poor old Johann Strauss toiling away in his study putting together his masterpiece "The Beautiful Blue Danube" and of Sam B Wood, in his, taking it to bits and turning those melting tunes into four-square march rhythms—why anyone should consider it necessary to do this I cannot imagine. The hymn tune "St Clements" is sandwiched between the square waves of the Danube and the only "light number" with any pretensions to decency, Donald Phillips's "Trumpet Fiesta."

Wingates naturally give a performance of the work with which they became national champions—the overture to the opera "Le Roi d'Ys." And for the benefit of all sleeve note writers, since this work is so often played and recorded, Ys is a country (albeit fabulous) and has a king.

Sorry for the slating, Wingates—I was one-third responsible for making you national champions, but for one year only.

**RB**

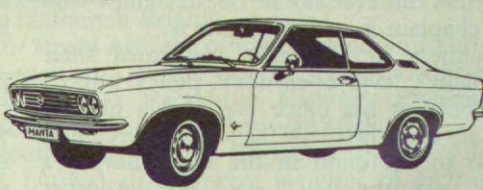
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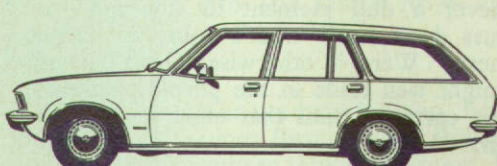
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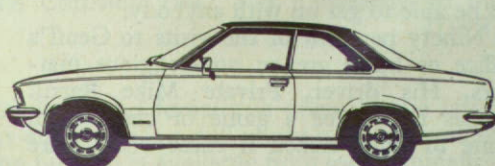
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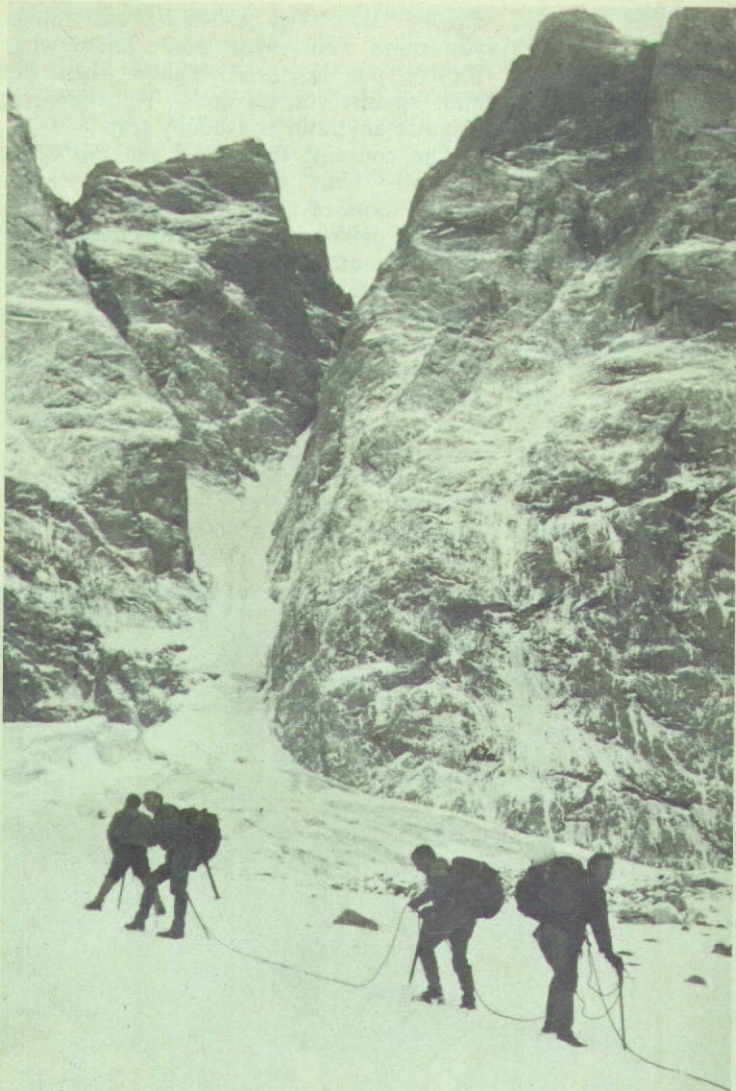
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# SAS

## in the Pyrenees

**F**EW units outside France are invited to the Pyrenean mountain training centre of the 11ème Division Interdict Parachutiste but this rare privilege came to men of 21st Special Air Service Regiment (Artists) (Volunteers) during their annual camp.

The two-week training and exercise period began with three days at the instruction "school" high in a scooped-out glaciated valley. After some tough training during which the Englishmen had to get used to receiving all orders and replying in a foreign language, they gladly returned the valley to its normal tenants—giant birds of prey that have been known to carry off unwary sheep.

Having mastered the basic skills of mountaineering and climbing on the formidable crags, the "sabre" squadrons spent the rest of their days, and some nights, practising them in the high hills. Before a 36-hour break halfway through the fortnight, the troops clambered up crags, negotiated treacherous snowfields and crossed an ice fall and snow ridges.

During the second week they spread out through the mountains to tackle difficult snow climbs and traverses of glaciers, abseil over snow cliffs using blocks of ice as belaying anchors and ski—without skis—using ice axes as brakes.

This phase ended with a live-firing exercise and the week ended with an ambush and sweep-and-search exercise against the French in a rugged area 6500 feet up in the hills. The British troops learned some new skills to add to an already comprehensive repertoire and had a chance to try them out in an unusual and demanding area.

Members of a patrol rope themselves together before tackling ice-fall.

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THE call-out can come at any time of the day or night. It may be to check a cache of ammunition; it may be to make safe a bomb or it may be just another hoax. It is all part of the job to Army explosives experts in Northern Ireland—"Boomwatch" as they have been called.

A handful of men scattered throughout the province make up 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, Royal Army Ordnance Corps. They are made available to the three infantry brigades tasked to keep the peace.

Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Crosby, a chief ammunition technical officer, explained the scope of the work: "We are called in at

times to identify ammunition as well as deal with bombs. So the job ranges from the smallest round of ammunition to a 450lb bomb which is the largest we have coped with. Anything explosive, we handle. Units on the ground do the searching—we'd be wasting our time doing that—and when they find something they stand back and let us in; each to his own skill. Sometimes tragedies do happen, someone gets impatient or isn't careful."

Each man has at least four to five years' experience behind him before coming to Northern Ireland. They need all the expertise they can get to deal with the infinite variety of devices used in the booby trap world of terror war. Colonel

Crosby said: "You're dealing with things you don't know—you don't know what they've put in them. That's when the odds against you go up . . . anyone can disguise anything as a booby trap."

The constant tension of the job takes its toll. Unit commanders do eight-month tours of duty and members of the sections deployed in the field change over at four-monthly intervals.

The current commander pointed out: "At the end of four months men get very tired. The adrenalin starts pumping when you go on these jobs. I don't think a lot of men out here realise just how wound up they get. You must never stop thinking—never take a situation at its face value."

Over a sixteen-month period, eight of the close-knit band of men have been killed. But their colleagues do not dwell on the

relatively high casualty figures. The number is regarded as statistically low in the light of the mathematical odds stacked against them in their dangerous task. In the same period 55 terrorist bomb makers and planters blew themselves up.

The unit's coolness should not be confused with bravado. A staff-sergeant-major explained: "This is just a branch of the Army we find interesting. There's no sort of heroic drive. It's a highly specialised field—you know everyone in it by name or reputation. Explosives are like electrics—either you have a feeling for it or you don't. If I take the back off a radio I'm in fear of it not being switched off or something."

A whole new breed of remote control devices has been developed to make the bomb disposal expert's work safer. Colonel

Crosby said confidently: "I'm sure we lead the world in neutralisation equipment." Some of the gadgets look strangely make-shift in a field where precision work is of the essence. Wooden spars, metal members and pram wheels go to make up these latest developments which allow disposal men to deal with bombs at a distance.

"The remote gear may look a bit Heath Robinson," said the officer commanding, "but it's simple and effective . . . and it works. There is a tremendous research and development effort behind us."

The log-book for 1972 tells its own tale. Out of 4300 incidents ranging from hoaxes to car bombs, the unit dismantled some 500 bombs and made safe nearly ten tons of explosive. The officer commanding commented: "I'd rather be doing this job than an infant's task walking the streets."



The polythene-protected hand of a disposal expert holding a cache of old ammunition.

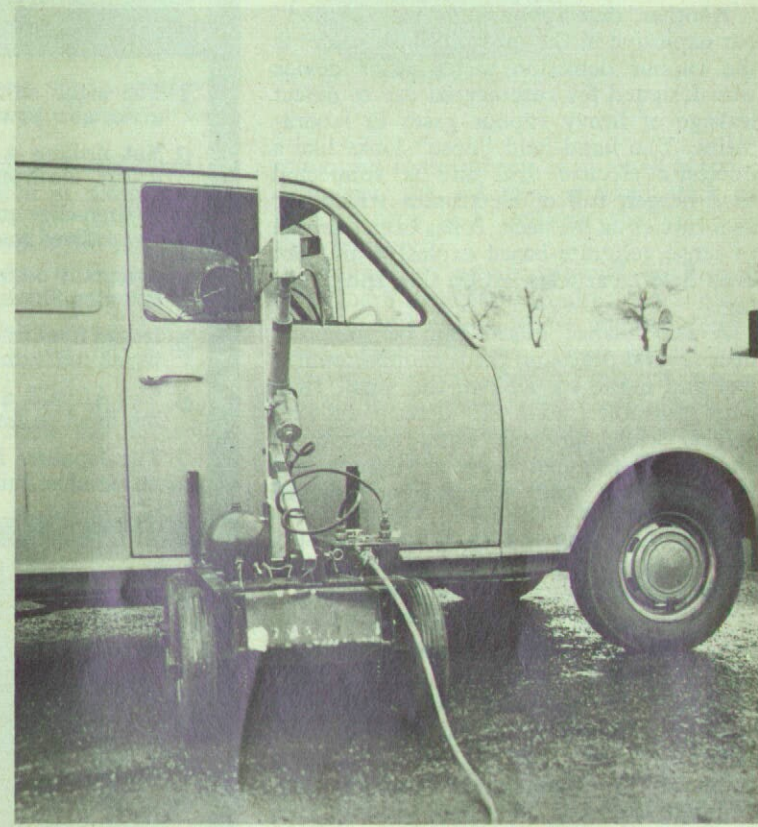


# Boomwatch

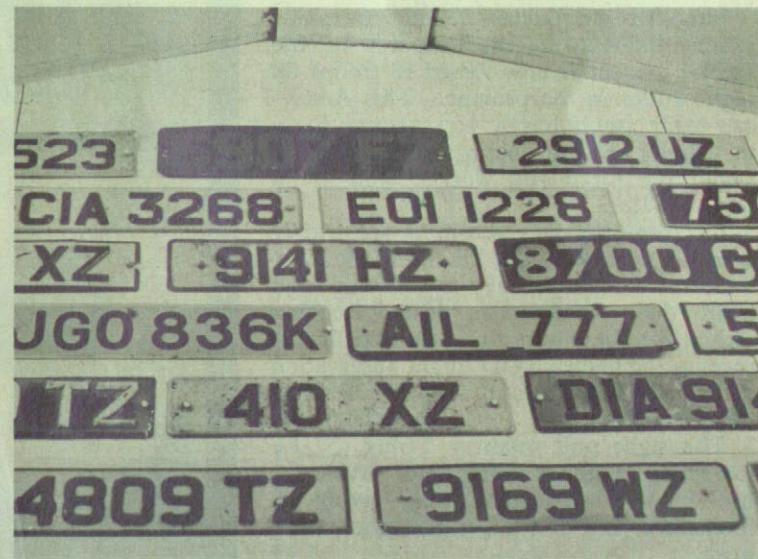
Story by Mike Starke



A home-made mine is neutralised at close quarters while a car-bomb (left) is burnt out remotely. Below: A bomb made safe is just scrap.



Above: Car bombers have met their match in devices like this which thwart their deadly efforts. Below: Battle honours of car bomb war.



● Since the start of the present Northern Ireland troubles in 1969, Army bomb disposal experts have

been awarded one George Cross, five George Medals, one MBE, four BEMs and two mentions-in-despatches



# Anti-terrorist GADGETRY

THE war against the terrorist in Northern Ireland is unconventional in many ways and a number of odd items have become standard equipment for the security forces. The ADDON detector has proved useful in finding concealed weapons. This small hand-held device gives a constant sound signal which changes to a high-pitched squeal when close to ferrous metal. Troops have used it for searching buildings for arms and ammunition and for conducting personal searches in the street.

Another detector which has "sniffed" out explosive in the most unlikely places is the vapour detection meter. This device was designed for commercial use to detect leakage of heavy vapour gases in laboratories. The hand-held "nose" looks like a domestic electric drill and is connected to a bergen full of electronics which the user carries on his back. It has been adapted to sense gelignite-based explosive and can even detect particles left on skin and clothing.

A surveillance guard can be mounted over several thousand yards of open country day and night by ZB298, the small two-man portable radar. It detects moving targets while ignoring static background and can distinguish between running and walking men and wheeled or tracked vehicles.

Television has found a role in the Northern Ireland situation. The Japanese Sony System 6 portable video equipment, a cross between a ciné camera and a tape recorder, can produce instant playback in sound and vision. It was originally produced for industrial work study and training. Users claim it has 1001 applications for the Army, from recording television programmes for later showing, through teaching television technique to soldiers who may come before news cameras and producing general public relations programmes, to recording incidents to counter brutality allegations.

Simplicity, robustness and cheapness caught the eyes of the experts in the shark's eye torch now issued to troops on night duties in the province. This American-made torch has a very strong beam matched by its construction—sappers found the torch still worked well in 58 feet of water.

Electronic image intensifiers are widely used to peer into the gloom of dusk or darkness as troops keep a constant vigil from their observation posts. Looking rather like obese telescopes, three examples revel in the names NOD (night observation device), TWIGGY and simply individual weapon sight.

The sight unit infantry Trilux (SUIT for short) is now coming into service for use on the self-loading rifle, giving an intensified view of a target in daytime or at dusk.

The driving force behind the innovations has always been to save lives.



1

1 The sight unit infantry trilux has given new power to an aimer's eye.



2

2 Not drilling a hole but "sniffing" a car electronically for gelignite.

3 A Grenadier guardsman looks on as a canvassed comrade scans on ZB298.

4 Originally designed for hunters in America, Shark's Eye torch is rugged.

5 Image intensifiers tend to be bulky; tripod mountings can take the load.

6 The ADDON detector fits snugly in the hand to find metal on suspects.

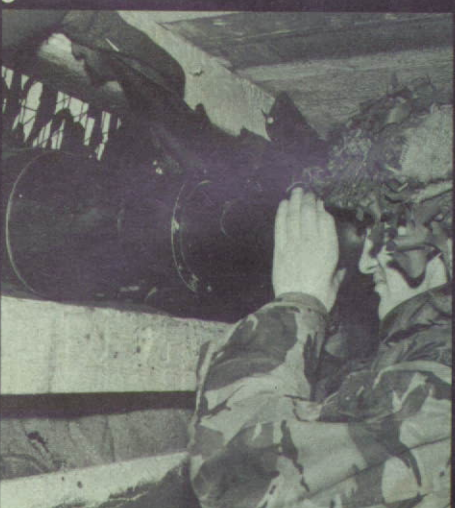
7 The Japanese have scored with this unbeatable mini-television station.



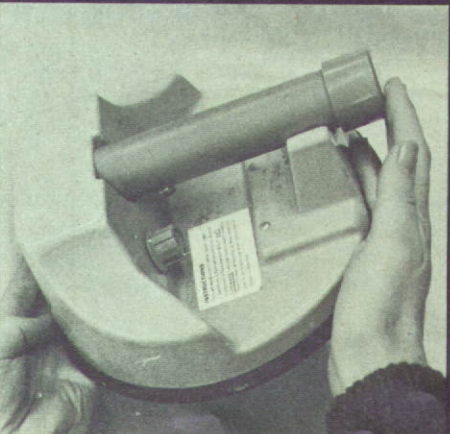
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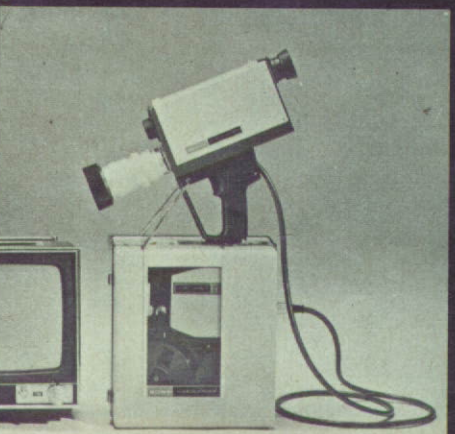
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## The awesome 88

**T**HE blood red sun, rising on the desert skyline, heralded an uneasy dawn. Huddled in their "88" gun pits, the Afrika Korps desert foxes listened to the inevitable "Lili Marlene" over an unappetising breakfast of bully beef known by the rueful nickname of *Armer Musso* (Poor old Mussolini).

Slowly, almost imperceptibly, the nostalgic soprano was chorused with a more ominous sound. A sharp-eared *Hauptfeldwebel* realised its significance and shouted: "Panzermotoren!"

The low drone of tank motors developed into a roar as a vast horde of Mark II cruisers and Matilda IIs surged towards them through clouds of dust. These were the dreaded new British tanks from which, it was whispered, anti-tank shells ricocheted like dry peas. But the first direct hit by an 88 was to prove the rumour wrong. The heavy armoured-steel turret of a Mark II was torn off and flung several yards into the sand, leaving a blackened, burning hull.

The 88s went on to drive home the point. Of the British forces' 238 tanks, 123 were knocked out—mostly by anti-tank fire—in a murderous 72 hours in June 1941. The action took place at Halfaya Pass, renamed by the British "Hellfire Pass." This severe setback was later to be revenged at a then little-known desert location called El Alamein. . . .

Designed originally as an anti-aircraft gun, the Flak 88-millimetre gun was

discovered to have an extremely effective anti-tank potential with the capability of penetrating the heaviest British armour a whole mile away.

This wonder weapon of World War Two can now be perpetuated in plastic with a construction kit from the Japanese firm of Tamiya. This 1:35th scale kit, costing £3.90, comes complete with gunners, a range-finder figure and solo motorcyclist. It is a companion to the Sd Kfz 7 half-track, widely used as a gun tractor by the Wehrmacht. This kit costs £3.50 and includes eight soldier figures and a battery-operated motor to drive the caterpillar tracks.

Tamiya have developed plastic moulding to a fine art and it is a pity that such exquisitely detailed parts as the leaf springs and drive shaft are out of sight beneath the vehicle. Another attractive feature is the wealth of transfer decals comprising helmet badges, tactical signs and markings of individual formations of the Reichswehr, Waffen SS, Afrika Korps and Luftwaffe. The only criticism I can make is that six of the figures all have the same pose, holding their rifles with right hand over left.

Construction is straightforward with easy-to-follow, step-by-step drawings. When it comes to painting, however, modellers may experience difficulty in obtaining a clean line between the rubber treads and "metal" surface of the tiny road wheels. I find this is best tackled by

mounting these wheels in a small electric drill with the aid of a cocktail stick or plastic sprue and applying the paint as they revolve.

Tamiya kits are distributed in Britain by Richard Kohnstam Limited (trade name "Riko") of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Their other new releases on the British market are a BMW R-75 motorcycle combination at 75 pence, a *Sturmgeschütz* self-propelled gun at £1.99 and a US Willys jeep at £1.30, all in 1:35th scale; a 1:48 scale RAF Harrier "jump-jet" at £1.99 and a 1:100th Royal Navy Buccaneer at 60 pence; and a 1:72 Royal Navy Vosper patrol boat with motorisation at £4.80—the best kit of its kind I have seen.

Marine modellers will also be pleased to learn that a series of realistic-looking 1:48 and 1:96 scale warship accessories in metal are available from Richard M Ward (Model Engineers) of Yeomans House, Sole Street, Cobham, Kent. They come ready made or in kit form ranging from hatches and vents at three pence to a four-inch Mk IV gun at £1.95. This gun, which on the destroyer HMS Lance fired the first shot at sea in World War One, is a model in its own right and would make a fine desk top ornament mounted on a wooden plinth. **HH**

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# LEFT RIGHT AND CENTRE



◀ The Reverend Alan Dean, chaplain to 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, got a bit of a shock when he "chatted up" this unit pin-up. For the "girl" turned out to be one of the boys, dressed up in drag as a simulated car crash victim during Rhine Army's annual Exercise "Parson's Pleasure" in which Rhine Army padres test their soldiering skills.

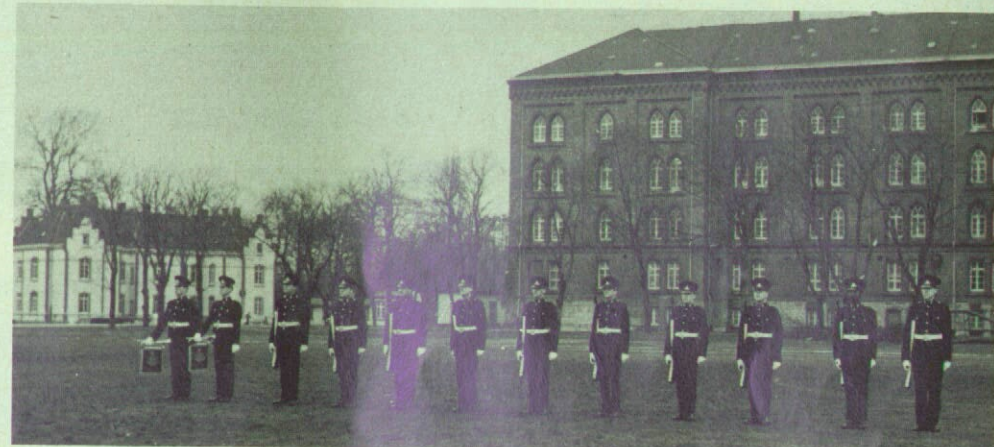
▶ Where East meets West. Corporal John Yates, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, on patrol at the border between East and West Germany. While the men of the 4th/7th were patrolling they saw East German army engineers erecting a new fence, higher and more difficult to see through and with small vase-shaped directional mines attached to the wire itself. In the background is a new East German concrete watch tower.



Thirty-five years ago, Senior Under-Officer John Mogg received the sword of honour at the Sovereign's Parade at the then Royal Military College, Sandhurst. In December he was at the same ceremony again, but this time, as Adjutant-General, General Sir John Mogg presented the sword. It was won by Senior Under-Officer Robert Martin.



Above (pictured in 1904), the spiked helmets of the King's Prussian Infantry Regiment No. 77 and below, 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, currently housed in the same barracks at Celle, Germany. The barracks, which were built by French prisoners-of-war, have just celebrated their centenary and are now known as Taunton Barracks.



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## LEFT RIGHT AND CENTRE

continued

Marines and matelots were all at sea when they took on the Army in two contests. Three Army Catering Corps cooks attached to 29 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery at Plymouth won first prize in the team event of the Royal Marines' annual catering competition. In white hats (left to right) the team was Corporal Harry Ash, Private Peter Nisic and Corporal

Chris Betts. Third in the individual class was Staff-Sergeant Alex Brannan (centre). Prizes included regimental drum ice buckets. Another team from 29 Commando Light Regiment took to the water in whalers to beat men from HMS Fisgard, the Royal Navy Artificers' School, by one-and-a-half lengths in the "Trafalgar Oar" race which is to become an annual event.



Another stage in the growth of 6th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, was reached at a parade at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, for the rebadging of amalgamated artillery, infantry and yeomanry units. Now all wear the same regimental cap badge but all other embellishments worn on parade dress remain those of the regiments from which the battalion was formed. Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock, Colonel of the regiment, took the salute.



Two brothers serving with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) carried off every prize open to them in this year's Welsh Hill Rally. Sergeant Ken Morton and Lance-Corporal Howard Morton both train at the TAVR Centre, Malpas, Newport. Against 80 other competitors they won prizes for the best 4 x 4 vehicle, the best Land-Rover, the best resident of Wales and the best British Army Motoring Association entry.



Competing against experts from more than 200 civil firms, members of the print troop of 42 Survey Engineer Regiment, Barton Stacey, won the industrial line only class in the 1972 excellence in lithography competition sponsored by 3M United Kingdom Ltd. The sappers' entry for the competition was typical of their daily work—a 1:25,000 scale map of a section of Hong Kong Colony. Picture shows the troop with their certificate outside the Dorchester Hotel, London, where the prizes were presented.

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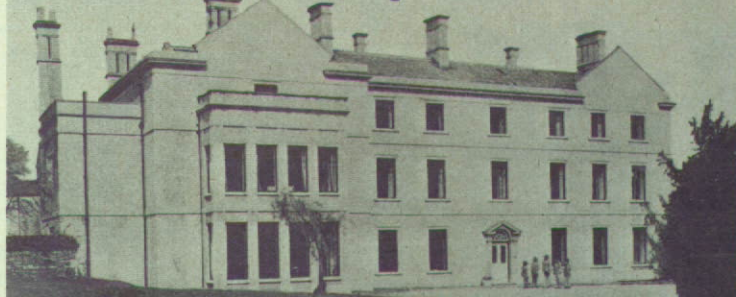


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# LETTERS

## "Blood" brothers

Some 12 months ago the Gurkhas were privileged to take over public duties in London—an honour more recently enjoyed by 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, for the first time in its history.

Links between the Devons and the Gurkhas were forged long ago. They were brigaded when serving in India in World War One. Recalling his years in India and Iraq in a letter to Mr Alf Richards, of Exeter (honorary secretary of the 4th Devons Old Comrades Association), a former 4th Devon mentioned a tale of a "blood ceremony" in which men of the Devons and the Gurkhas were supposed to have mingled their blood.

True or false? And, if factual, was it (as the letter writer presumed) an unofficial ceremony?—**Eric Hoare** (Chairman, 4th Devons OCA), 13 Ashwood Road, St Thomas, Exeter, Devon.

★ The Gurkhas do have a ceremony, or custom, of this kind. It is known as *Mit Bhai*, the word *bhai* meaning brother, and it signifies the sealing of a special bond between two men. It is quite unofficial and

usually confined to Gurkhas. A spokesman for the Gurkhas at the Ministry of Defence said that in 32 years he had heard of only one case of *Mit Bhai* taking place between a Gurkha and a Briton—a British colonel and a Nepalese officer who wished to put a seal, as it were, on their friendship.

Morris's "Gurkha Handbook" (1936) describes *Mit Bhai* as follows: "All Gurkhas may contract what is known as a 'mit' relationship with any friend of whom they are particularly fond. The meaning of the word 'mit' is friend and to make a 'mit' relationship may be compared with the custom of 'blood brotherhood' practised in some other parts of the world. The relationship may be contracted between men in different tribes but not between persons already related to one another. Once contracted, a 'mit' relationship constitutes a ban on marriage; a man could not marry, for instance, the sister of his 'mit.' There is a brief ceremony of 'mit-ship,' the essential part of which consists of an exchange of presents." Although not mentioned in the foregoing it can be said that the ceremony has been known to include the mingling of blood.

## Dolman and pelisse

Reference "Military Models" (October). Will you please inform HH that the so-called dolman on the hussar-type figure is in fact a pelisse. The dolman is the main uniform jacket which is worn correctly, not being slung from the shoulder. The pelisse is a winter garment which is worn flung from the shoulder during the warmer months. The retaining cord is actually a double cord, sometimes worn round the neck, sometimes under the right arm, to keep the pelisse in place.—**W Swindlehurst** (Chairman, Preston Military Modelling Club), 8 Hammond Street, Preston, Lancs.

★ HH replies: My Concise Oxford Dictionary defines dolman as a long Turkish robe open in front; hussar's jacket worn with sleeves hanging loose; woman's mantle with flaps for sleeves. On further research prompted by Mr Swindlehurst's comments I find this loose jacket referred to as a "slung" and "flung" pelisse.

## New Zealand Cross

I was interested to read the comments of J J Stokes (Letters, June), two of which took my eye immediately. One concerned the awarding of LS & GC medals which in New Zealand Army units are awarded to Regular soldiers after 18 years' service. TA soldiers receive the Efficiency Medal after 12 years' service, some units having both Regular and TA members.

Secondly, Mr Stokes's statement that "mothers and widows of men killed in action get the New Zealand Cross." This is erroneous and it is difficult to equate the phrase with any known procedure in the New Zealand armed forces. It was the practice after World War Two to send the campaign medals of men killed in action to the next of kin, and among these probably would be the 1939-1945 NZ Defence Medal which was awarded for both overseas and home service—but not the New Zealand Cross.

This was instituted in March 1869 to meet the urgent need for an award equivalent to the Victoria Cross for which NZ troops fighting in the Maori-European wars were ineligible. The award was restricted to militia, volunteers and armed constabulary who

"when serving in the presence of the enemy shall have performed some single act of valour or devotion to duty, or who have performed any very intrepid action in the public service, nor wounds, nor any other circumstances or condition whatsoever, save merit of conspicuous bravery, shall be held to establish a sufficient claim to the honour." The crimson ribbon, is identical to that of the Victoria Cross. Five were awarded before the Queen's assent was granted, an action which earned Governor Bowen a rebuke for infringing the royal prerogative. Only 25 New Zealand Crosses have been awarded and it is unlikely that there will be any future recipients as the armed constabulary, militia and volunteers have all been disbanded. The New Zealand Cross is thus one of the rarest decorations in the world.

Notwithstanding what I have just said, Victoria Crosses were also awarded for gallantry during service in New



Zealand at the time of the Maori wars. Regular soldiers only were able to win this decoration until in 1864, at the battle of Mangapiko, Major Charles Edward Heaphy risked his life and was wounded three times while rescuing one of his wounded men. He was recommended for the VC but, although Governor Sir George Grey strongly supported the award, it was not until 1867 that it was granted because Heaphy was a volunteer and not a Regular. His Victoria Cross was the first to be awarded to a non-Regular soldier in New Zealand.—**Sgt J D Robertson**, 1 Bn Depot, Royal New Zealand Regiment, Burnham Camp, Canterbury, NZ.

## Meritorious Service Medal

Reference November Letters. I received the Meritorious Service Medal in 1946, having been recommended in 1939 when I took my discharge. The following is a copy of War Office letter 68/S/2425 (MS3) dated 22 May 1939. I received it from 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, when I was serving with 34th AA Battalion RE (TA) and I thought it might be of interest to SOLDIER readers.

"With reference to your application No RWK 73 dated 8th April 1939 on behalf of No 3434688 Sgt Edward Sawyer, The Q O Royal West Kent Regiment, for registration for the Meritorious Service Medal with Annuity, I am directed to inform you that his name has been placed on the register; but he

should be informed that as the grant for such annuities is limited, and the list a long one, only a small percentage of the candidates can be thus rewarded.

"When a vacancy occurs (by the death of an annuitant) the records of all candidates on the list of the Regiment or Corps concerned are examined, the eldest qualified candidate receiving first consideration irrespective of the dates of registration of names in this office."

I have not received the annuity to date.—**E Sawyer** (late 3434688 Sgt, 1st Bn, QORWK Regt), 7 Windsor Road, Gillingham, Kent.

To prevent any misconceptions regarding the award of the Meritorious Service Medal, and for the benefit of Mr E Gay (September) and Captain H W Corke (November), these are the correct conditions at the present time: A candidate must have 27 years' Colour service which can include that service below 18 years of age. If through redundancy, sickness or disability a candidate has completed only 23 years he may also be recommended. The service must have been completed as a WO, NCO, man (or enlisted woman) and the candidate must have served in a Regular unit with the minimum rank of sergeant.

The candidate must be in possession of the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal and his conduct must be irreproachable. He should have performed good, faithful, valuable and meritorious service.

The maximum number of awards per year does not exceed 100.—**WO ICH Burrell MSM, Army Careers Information Office**, 7 Ridley Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8JA.

## Military postcards



Seven coloured postcards recently produced by the National Army Museum are now available at four pence each. All are reproduced from paintings. Subjects are:

Sir John James Scott Douglas in the uniform of the 15th Hussars, circa 1820, painted by Sir Henry Raeburn (1756-1823) and finished by John Syme; Field-Marshal the Duke of Wellington (1769-1852) painted circa 1825 by P E Ströhlhagen (1769-1826);

Major General the Earl of Cardigan (1797-1868) in the uniform of the 11th Hussars, painted 1855 by A F de Prades; The Battle of Isandhlwana (22 January 1879), by C E Fripp (1854-1906); Thomas Boothby Parkyns (later Baron Rancliffe) in the uniform of a cornet, King's Light Dragoons, by John Boulton (1745-1812);

General Sir Henry Clinton, ADC to the Prince of Brunswick circa 1760; and John Dalbiac Luard's (1830-1860) study, "The Welcome Arrival" (pictured left), of his brother, Major Richard Amherst Luard, 77th Regiment, relishing in the Crimea the contents of a gift box from home.



more

# LETTERS

## Mystery badge

I find the mystery badge shown on page 40 of the November SOLDIER to be no mystery. It is a white metal cap badge of the Stamford Hill Cadets of the school of that name in Durban, Natal, South Africa.—**H L King, 3 South Street, Farnham, Surrey.**

## Fear Naught

For the Queen's silver wedding anniversary my wife and I presented a Fear Naught rose bush (named in honour of the Royal Tank Regiment's 50th anniversary in 1967). I am happy to say that Her Majesty has accepted the gift with her warmest thanks.—**Lionel Pearce, Fear Naught, 65 Wilson Avenue, Rochester, Kent.**

## Who was Major Peirson?

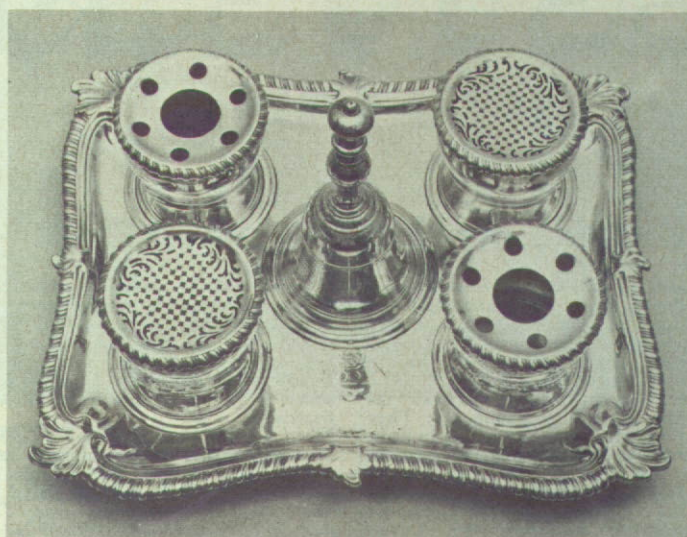
Francis Peirson (1757-1781), officer in command of the British troops at the Battle of Jersey in 1781, was the eldest son of Francis Peirson, of Morthorpe Grange, Kirby Grindalyke, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. He joined the Army at the age of 15 as an ensign in the 56th Foot, and in 1779 was a major in the 95th Foot stationed in Jersey. Shortly before Christmas 1780 his colonel and lieutenant-colonel went home on furlough leaving Peirson in command. On the morning of 6 January 1781 news came that a French force had landed and that the Governor of the island, Moses Corbet, had surrendered and been taken prisoner.

Peirson immediately marched his men to Gallows Hill, a height overlooking St Helier, where he was joined by some Highlanders and the island Militia. On nearing the town he divided his forces, some approaching by La Grande Rue (Broad Street) and others by La Rue de Derrière (King Street). The battle took place in Royal Square. It was soon over but Major Peirson was shot dead in the moment of victory. The French commander also died in the battle. Peirson was buried with military honours in the church of St Helier and a memorial was later placed on a wall. He died unmarried but the States of Jersey granted his father a pension of £250 a year and a smaller sum to his surviving sisters.—**Miss**

## Silver for museum

A little-known hoard of fine pieces of 17th and 18th century silver has been given to the National Army Museum by the Ministry of Defence (Army). Some of the 60 items, engraved with the arms of the old Board of Ordnance, have been on the desks of senior civil servants and generals for almost three centuries. Most will remain in use but two inkstands, a pair of candlesticks and a chamber-stick now grace contemporary furniture in the museum's uniform gallery.

The grandest of the inkstands (right) comprises a gadroon-edged tray bearing two inkwells, two sand casters and a handbell. The bell, dated 1690, is by Anthony Nelme of London, and the other components, also made in London but of later date (1754-55), are the work of William Shaw and William Preist. The smaller, less ornate inkstand, made by Anthony Nelme in 1697, comprises an inkwell, sand caster and bell on a plain tray with raised lip.



**P Le Feuvre (Chairman, Historical Section, Société Jersiaise), The Library, The Museum, 9 Pier Road, Jersey.**

## Lance-sergeant

May I add a note to the remarks concerning lance-sergeant (November). When I joined 2nd Battalion, The Royal Munster Fusiliers, in November 1910, the chevrons of a sergeant in full dress were of "gold" wire while those of a lance-sergeant were of white cloth as were the chevrons of corporals and lance-corporals. This difference is just discernible in photographs reproduced in an album brought out in 1913 at the end of Lieutenant-Colonel R C Boyle's command.

In service dress it was, of course, not possible to distinguish between a sergeant and a lance-sergeant.—**Lieut-Col H B Holt, 10 St Patrick's Court, Bathwick Hill, Bath, BA2 6ER.**

I was a lance-sergeant some years before World War Two while serving in India. This was an appointment that moved a corporal into the sergeants mess with all its attendant expenses and with only 6d per diem increase in pay. The step to sergeant carried one shilling per diem.

We wore sashes and did not get any increase in clothing allowance, the sash being purchased at our own expense. I believe we were credited the cost of sash on promotion.—**E Sawyer, 7 Windsor Road, Gillingham, Kent.**

## Militaria society

I would like to inform your readers, especially those who live in the Midlands, of the formation of the Coventry and District Medal and Militaria Collectors Society. Meetings will be held at the Rising Sun, Spon Street, Coventry, on the second Tuesday and last Wednesday of each month in 1973. Anyone interested in the society's activities can obtain further details from myself in my capacity as secretary.—**John Richardson, 54 Cambridge Street, Coventry, CV1 5HW.**

## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 21)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Horn of nearest cow. 2 Pieces of stone in truck. 3 Leaf cluster above mountain peak. 4 Height of noticeboard behind tree. 5 Right foot of man on right. 6 Size of window of hut. 7 Direction of bird's head. 8 Shape of numeral 3. 9 Tail of cow on right. 10 Top branch of left tree.

## BOOKING OFFICE

Competition 172 (September) posed the problem in a computerised public library and asked whether a particular book was being borrowed or returned, and what was the book's title. The answers were that the book, "The Rainbow," by D H Lawrence, was being borrowed.

### Prizewinners:

- 1 Mrs D Hart, 23 Albert Road, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex.
- 2 Capt M D Jackson, 1 Para, BFPO 801.
- 3 M Zammit, 39 Rudolph Street, Sliema, Malta.
- 4 Sgt L A Neal, RMH Hannover, BFPO 33.
- 5 Maj J A Meeke, 8 Lower Summerlands, Exeter, Devon.
- 6 S Tyler, 17 Claremont Road, Croydon, CRO 7DB, Surrey.
- 7 J A Maynard, Alra, 4 Canon Young Road, Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
- 8 W Shuttler, Domus, Ten Acre Lane, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey.
- 9 WO I (MG) F Hoults, P & EE Inch Terf, Glasgow, G65 8AQ.
- 10 Mrs J Wadman, 2 Court Cottages, Arborfield Court, Reading, Berkshire.

## COLLECTORS' CORNER

R Andrews, Mount Cottage, Great Chesterford, Essex, CB10 1NW.—Requires British Commonwealth, Nazi, Fascist and US insignia. Has similar insignia for exchange.

G A Jenkinson, 41 Charlotte Street, Belleville, Ontario, K8P 1E3, Canada.—Wishes exchange World War Two Canadian cap badges and other militaria for Commonwealth Air Force wings, world-wide Para, Commando, Special Forces, Marine items and all related reference material; also back copies SOLDIER preferably in binders.

W Milligan, 23 Maryfield, London Road, Edinburgh 7.—Invites offers for 200 CEF and 100 British Yeo cap badges. SAEs please.

S A Wright, The Old House, Longbridge Corner, Stratford Road, Warwick.—Wishes purchase SAS beret and badge, Para beret and badge, A & SH cap, and leg knife as worn by helicopter and RAF pilots; also Para shoulder flashes. All letters will be answered.

A W Green, 75 Wellington Hill West, Westbury on Trym, Bristol.—Collects military medals. Has medals to exchange.

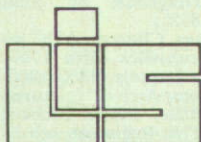
Lieut M F Lowe, Sylvan, Shortwood Common, Staines, Middlesex.—Urgently requires Swiss, German or any other country snow warfare combat jacket and trousers; also British Army "Tiger" jacket, height 5ft 10in, chest 39in approx. Will purchase or swap.

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H G Vreman, Brantsenpark 7, De Steeg, Holland.—Requires Illustrated London News back numbers 1940/42/43/44/45. Write quoting dates.  
S/Sgt G Tyson, 1 Kings Own Border, Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinler, Co Down, N Ireland.—Requires pictures,

prints, photos of any kind that may be of use in compiling pictorial history of King's Own Royal Border Regiment.  
H T Jacobs, 8524 La Salle 680, Quebec, Canada.—Requires military medals and decorations. Willing purchase or exchange other medals or cap badges.



## Richard George Masters joins the RCT fleet...

Private Richard George Masters, the only member of the Army Service Corps to be awarded the Victoria Cross in World War one, has been commemorated by having an ex-minesweeper named after him. Mr Masters, an ambulance driver at the time of his award, died in 1963 at the age of 86.

The ship which bears his name—Royal Corps of Transport Vessel Richard George Masters (above)—will be manned by officers and ratings of the corps' civilian fleet who form part of 20 Maritime Regiment at Gosport. Previously she was for 11 years under the White Ensign as HMS Halsham, later becoming HM Air Force Vessel 5012. She was named at Portsmouth Dockyard by Mrs D F Masters.

Hearing of this addition to the RCT fleet, Mr Master's old school at Bury Road, Birkdale—now a 300-strong junior school—asked to be allowed to adopt the Richard George Masters.

## and the Army gets its first 55-foot yacht

The first of a number of 55-foot yachts being provided for the Army was named Sabre by Mrs Grace Sawers, wife of the newly appointed commodore of the Army Sailing Association, Major-General J M Sawers, the Army's Signal Officer-in-Chief, at a ceremony at Gosport.

The Army has already taken delivery of four smaller yachts which, with the 55-foot yachts, will be operated in conjunction with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force from a tri-Service sailing centre based on HMS Hornet, Gosport. The yachts are the first to be provided from public funds following the Ministry of Defence's recognition of sailing as one of the many ways in which a soldier's character can be developed.

Particularly concerned with this enterprise is Major Neil Carlier who is appropriately attached to the Royal Navy as the Army staff officer to the Flag Officer Carriers and Amphibious Ships. Later this year Major Carlier will captain an Army crew in British Steel which Chay Blyth, former sergeant in The Parachute Regiment, has loaned to the Army for the round-the-world race.



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SEE ALSO PAGES 29, 34, 38, 42 & 48

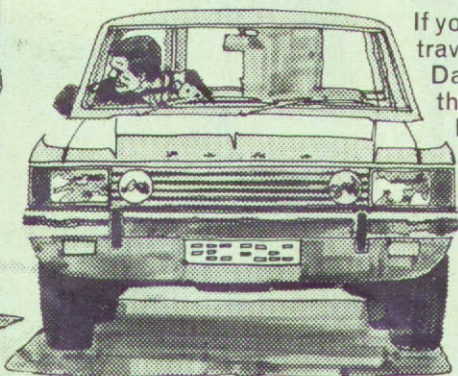
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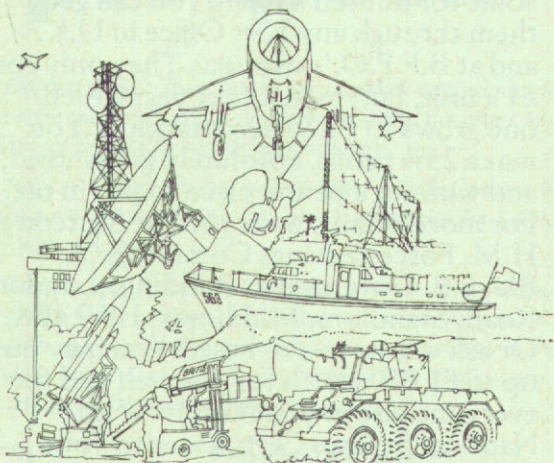
**The Chief Constable**  
**U.K. Atomic Energy Authority**  
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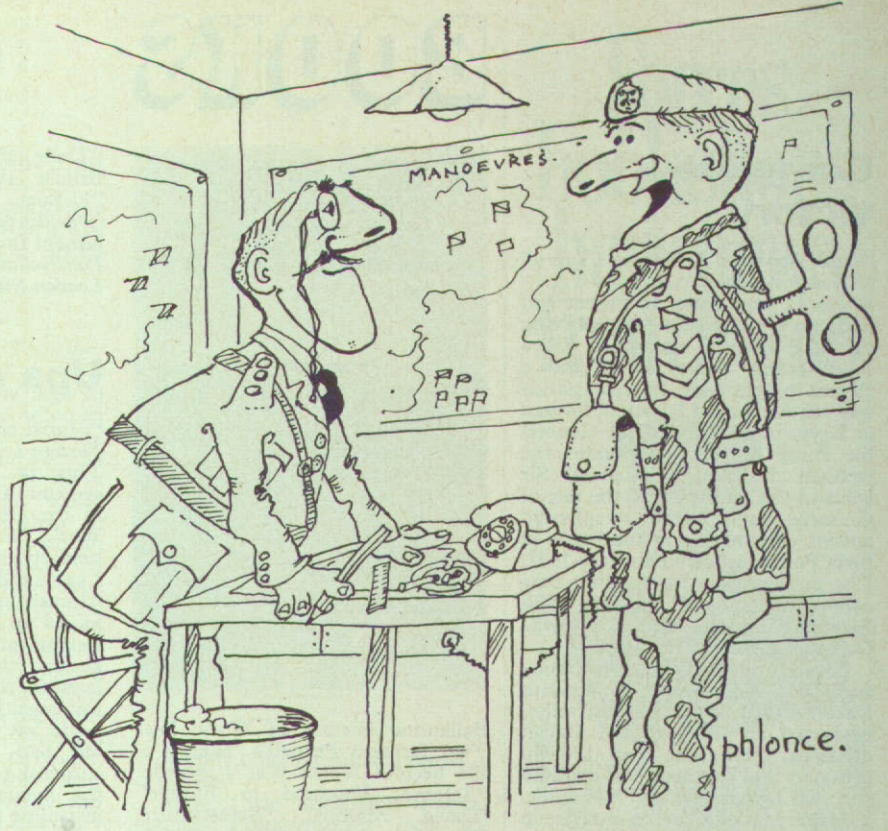
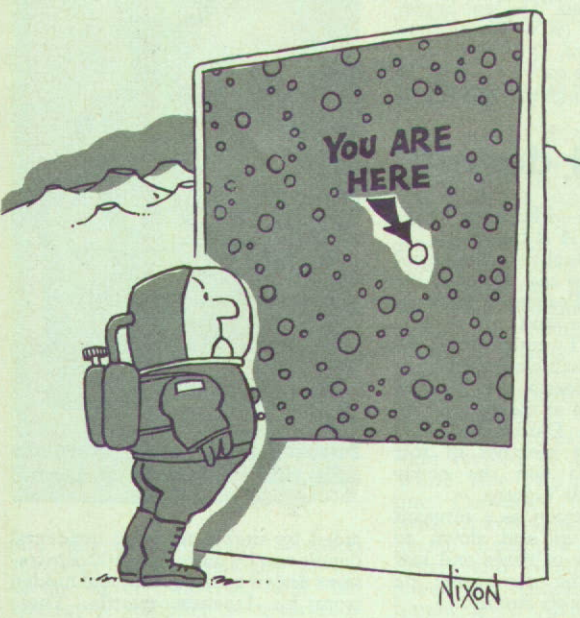
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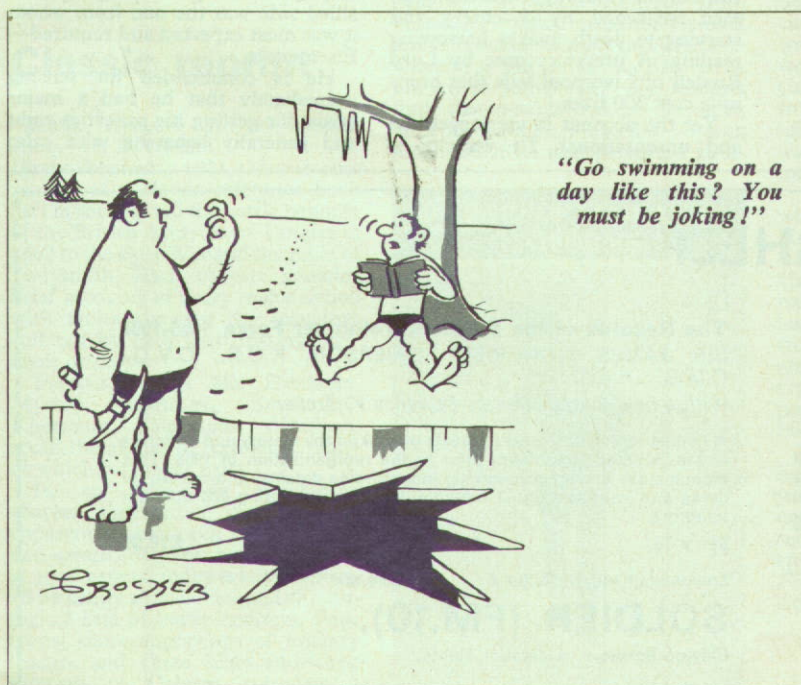


"Mission accomplished, sir. Everything went like clockwork."

# HUMOUR



"You will commence with a brisk slouch to the regimental barber."



"Go swimming on a day like this? You must be joking!"





# BOOKS

## Complete victory

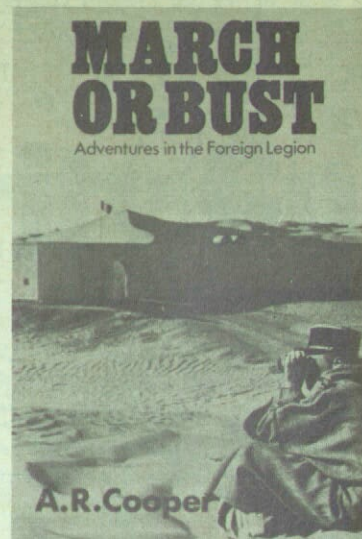
"Beda Fomm: The Classic Victory" (Kenneth Macksey)

It was 11 June 1940. In France and Belgium the Panzers were driving the BEF into the sea but in Libya the Western Desert Force had a chance to fight back. Its main punch was 7th Armoured Division, formed in Egypt in 1939 by Major-General Sir Percy Hobart, and under the brilliant direction of General Sir Richard O'Connor it and the rest of the force fought a series of splendid actions culminating in the battle of Beda Fomm in early February 1941. The public heard for the first time names like Mersa Matruh, Sidi Barrani, Sollum, Bardia, Tobruk, Gazala, Derna and Benghazi.

For the loss of 500 dead, 55 missing and 1373 wounded, the Western Desert Force advanced 500 miles, destroyed an army of ten Italian divisions, took more than 130,000 prisoners and captured 180 medium and 200 light tanks and 845 guns.

Major Macksey revives interest in this dramatic period of the war in an excellent and finely-drawn account.

Other books re-issued in the Pan/



Ballantine History of World War Two (formerly Purnell's "History of the Second World War") include: "Salerno: Foothold in Europe" (David Mason); "Schweinfurt: Disaster in the Skies" (John Sweetman); "German Secret Weapons: Blueprint for Mars" (Brian Ford);

"Their Finest Hour: Battle of Britain 1940" (Edward Bishop); "U-Boat: The Secret Menace" (David Mason) and "D-Day: Spearhead of Invasion" (R W Thompson). Pan/Ballantine Ltd, 33 Tothill Street, London SW1, 50p each JCW

## Ups and downs

"March or Bust—Adventures in the Foreign Legion" (A R Cooper)

This is an excellent first-hand account of the ups and downs of life in the French Foreign Legion in World War One and, more particularly, in the Twenties when the Legion did so much campaigning in Morocco and Algeria. Mr Cooper joined up in 1914 at the age of 15½, fought at the Dardanelles and became the first member of this famous corps to win the newly instituted Croix de Guerre.

He left the Legion as a sergeant but had been up and down to corporal a couple of times and saw the inside of the compagnie de discipline at Colomb-Bechar.

The story is rich in anecdote, with sharp pen-portraits of a host of fascinating characters. Mr Cooper writes with pride of his Legion service, and with scrupulous honesty. And he comes up with the useful suggestion that the best future role for the Legion would be under the United Nations.

Robert Hale & Co, 63 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, £2.20 JCW

## Artist POW

"And The Dawn Came Up Like Thunder" (Leo Rawlings)

This is not just another prisoner-of-war book. Here is the voice of the ordinary soldier telling it like it was. Unvarnished by any ghost-writer, it is the plain record of Japanese infamy in the treatment of prisoners-of-war.

The atrocious torture of defenceless prisoners and the long attrition of merciless working hours on the Burma-Siam railway, enforced upon men weakened by dysentery and starving to death, makes harrowing reading. A prefatory note by Lord Russell of Liverpool tells that every mile cost 300 lives.

Yet the account is unexaggerated and unsensational. Its veracity is



Prisoner-of-war artist Rawlings calls this "Surviving skeleton."

aided by simply reported incidental details and by more than 100 illustrations drawn by the author and hidden from his Japanese guards. These pictures carefully record the appalling physical condition to which men were reduced and such details as the improvisation of clothing and utensils by which they clung to the remnants of existence. They vividly picture the humiliations to which the Japanese subjected them.

The book is therefore a piece of history. It also shows the ability of men to resist adversity, though at a physical and mental cost many are still paying. There is a foreword by Lord Mountbatten of Burma.

Rawlings, Chapman Publications Ltd, Studio 22, Ridge Avenue, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, £3.00 FRF

## Ike the hero

"The Battle for the Ardennes" (John Strawson)

Was there a hero of the Battle of the Bulge? Montgomery, Bradley, Patton? No, says Major-General Strawson. The only man who displayed real generalship on the allied side was the one from whom it was most expected and required—Eisenhower.

He is commended for sensing immediately that he had a major crisis, for getting his priorities right and generally behaving with calm

## The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry

1907-1967

Brigadier J. R. I. PLATT

Britain's Oldest Yeomanry Regiment



and judgement. General Strawson says that Ike's overall grip of the battle never wavered and his strategy of stubbing the spearheads and then crushing them from the flanks was the right one. It is refreshing to find Ike's generalship praised so highly, and by a British general.

The others? Monty "did little and gave the world to understand he had done a great deal." Bradley had made dispositions which made the German attack possible in the first place and, once the battle started, his command arrangements were such that he lost control of it. In Patton's case, it was the weight of his intervention not his handling of it which turned the scales on the southern flank.

General Strawson has produced a most lucid and hard-hitting account of the battle. The German attack is seen clearly to be the epitome of offensive action achieving initial concentration and complete surprise, only for the formations to be misemployed and, consequently, totally defeated.

Batsford Ltd, 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London, W1H 0AH, £2.50 JCW

## Classic reprint

"Battle Honours of the British Army" (G B Norman)

First published in 1911, this welcome reprint of a classic reference book lists in some detail the battle honours of the British Army from Tangier in 1662 to the Boer War and the relief of Ladysmith. Each chapter contains brief accounts of every major action with tables showing the casualties suffered by each participating regiment or corps.

Famous battles like Blenheim, Mysore, Corunna, Sevastopol, Khartoum, Salamanca, Albuhera, recall the glories of regiments, many of which no longer exist.

In an interesting concluding chapter the author discusses the apparent anomalies in the award (or non-award) of some battle honours. A good general index is supplemented by handy alphabetical and chronological lists of battle honours. Four maps, some engravings of military leaders and three black-and-white pictures of Colours complete a

volume which should greatly assist the serious military researcher.

David & Charles Ltd, South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £4.20 JFPJ

## Sixty years

"The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry 1907-1967" (Brigadier J R I Platt) If patriotism is no longer held in high regard it was not so when in 1907 Haldane re-formed the old yeomanry units. Many men actually bought their own horses to serve with the Royal Wiltshires. World War One brought little glory to cavalry as such. The regiment moved to France in 1915 and its men spent most of their time guarding prisoners or were drafted into the infantry.

Disbanded in 1917, the Wiltshires were revived in 1920 and started World War Two training in Palestine. Converted to motorised infantry, they fought in Iraq, Syria and Persia. Equipped with Crusader, Stuart and Sherman tanks they joined 9th Armoured Brigade and fought at El Alamein. Later they served in Italy.

After the war came National Servicemen and Z Reservists, but the quality of the regiment never fell. In 1958 the role changed to armoured cars and in 1967 the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry was disbanded. Its story lives on in this scholarly volume which, with its many fine plates and maps, is so readable.

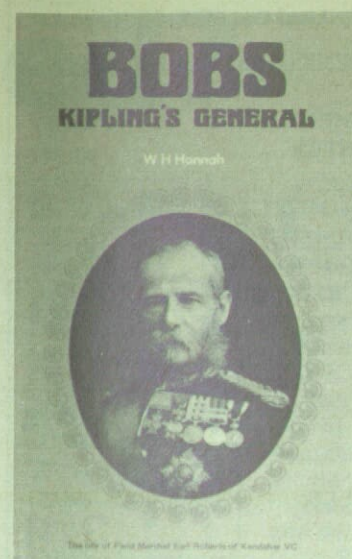
Garnstone Press Ltd, 59 Brompton Road, London SW3, £4.90 AWH

## Last C-in-C

"Bobs: Kipling's General" (W H Hannah)

The author sets the scenes against which Field-Marshal Lord Roberts saw service but fails to highlight his subject against them. There is no suggestion that the author found correspondence or eye-witness accounts or that he delved into official archives.

Many questions are left unanswered. What Whitehall manoeuvres prevented Roberts from becoming Quartermaster-General and later snatched away the Adjutant-General's job after it had been offered to him? How did Roberts find the trouble-makers he dealt with in Kabul? What did Kipling mean when he said Roberts's auto-



biography was "remarkable for what it left out"?

Roberts was undeniably a great soldier. Commissioned into the Honourable East India Company's forces in time to distinguish himself and earn the Victoria Cross in the Mutiny, he earned fame in Afghanistan with his march to Kandahar. After being Commander-in-Chief in India, he was virtually out to grass in Ireland when, at 67, he volunteered for South Africa and, with Kitchener at his side, sorted out the mess created by Buller. He was the last Commander-in-Chief in Whitehall and set in train the modernisation that stood the Army in good stead in 1914.

Lee Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.75 RLE

## Purple heels!

"Fifty Years of Yeomanry Uniforms" Vol 1 (R G Harris)

The 32 colour plates comprising this volume range from an officer in full-dress uniform of The East Kent Mounted Rifles (1882) to a Lovat Scouts piper of 1933. Finely executed, with colours brushed in with warmth and vitality, they are the work of the late Captain Edmund A Campbell (1879-1951) who, apart from being a gifted artist and a life-long student of military dress, was himself a Volunteer and Territorial Army soldier for many years.

The selection of uniforms, each of which is described in detail by Mr Harris, is based on uniforms personally seen in use by Captain Campbell or viewed by him in drill halls or museums. Most are full length to give maximum detail—from the white feather-plume of the elegant young officer of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars to the purple heels of his levee hessian boots, to take one example.

As an introduction, Mr Harris has written an interesting review of yeomanry history with the emphasis, naturally enough, on dress. The second volume is scheduled to appear in the autumn.

Frederick Muller Ltd, 110 Fleet Street, London EC4, £7.50 JFPJ

## 50 YEARS OF YEOMANRY UNIFORMS



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# BOOKS

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## Family tree

"A Register of the Regiments and Corps of the British Army" (edited by Arthur Swinson)

The changes in the regimental structure of the British Army which have taken place in recent years caused dismay among traditionalists and bewilderment to devotees of militia. Mr Swinson's book, which took four years to compile, is the answer to a great many prayers from harassed researchers and confused collectors.

Each regiment or corps has a section to itself giving date of formation, changes of title, principal campaigns and battles, nicknames, mottoes, dates of amalgamations and disbandments. As a random example take The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment. When raised in 1688 it was known as Colonel Archibald Douglas's Regiment of Foot, in 1689 as Colonel Stanley's Regiment of Foot, in 1751 the 16th Regiment of Foot. Other changes followed until in 1919 it became The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and finally part of The Royal Anglian Regiment.

This book can be confidently recommended to students of military history in all its forms from research to a collector's display of badges.

Archive Press Ltd, 22 Belsize Park Gardens, London NW3. Distributed by Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3, £6.50 JFPJ

## Strategy in the nuclear age

"Brassey's Annual 1972" (Editor: Major-General J L Moulton)

In recent years this excellent and thought-provoking annual has carried articles on the need for a new approach to strategy in the light of the accepted nuclear stalemate. The search continues this year with several articles which tackle various aspects of the theme. Michael Howard opens the discussion with "Transformation of Strategy" in which he concludes: "In abandoning a system under which violence was legitimised, we have accepted one in which it is endemic."

The influence on her strategy of Britain's political desire to enter the Common Market is also examined and in "The Royal Navy's Contribution to the Defence of Western Europe," Admiral Morgan Giles pinpoints a vulnerable spot—maritime trade. That means oil, of course, and Peter Odell analyses the problem in "Oil and Western European Security."

Major Edgar O'Ballance takes us from the East-West confrontation to one he considers more likely—between Russia and China. He sees the real danger in an exchange of nuclear blows once China's delivery capability is fully developed in the next three years or so.

Other contributors and topics are: Major-General R L Clutterbuck ("Fingers in the Mangle"); Captain J R Hill RN ("Maritime Forces in Confrontation"); Malcolm Mackintosh ("The East-West Military Balance and Soviet Defence Policy"); John Biggs-Davison ("Not in Europe Alone"); General Uzi Narkiss ("The Israel Defence Forces in the 1970s"); Air Vice-Marshal Neil

Cameron ("The United Kingdom Mobile Force"); Brigadier C N Barclay ("The British Regimental System"); Major Michael Banks RM ("The Army in Northern Ireland"); Rear-Admiral M N Lucy ("Resources of the Sea"); T D Desmond ("Close Air Support: Design of the Mission"); D Phillips-Birt ("Background to Maritime Strategy"); Captain E H Clark USNR ("Trends in American Naval Thought Since World War II"); Vice-Admiral B B Schofield ("Developments in Maritime Forces"); W T Gunston ("Developments in Aircraft and Missiles"); Brigadier P H C Hayward ("Developments in the Weapons and Equipment of Land Warfare").

William Clowes & Sons Ltd, 15 Cavendish Square, London, W1M OHT, £5 (US \$18.50) JCW

## IN BRIEF

"Scale Model Soldiers" (Roy Dille) This is an authoritative work, by the President of the British Model Soldier Society, about collecting, converting, animating, painting and displaying commercially available military figures.

The book is basically an extension of his regular articles in Airfix Magazine and, as such, offers useful and detailed information about producing individual personalised figures. For example, Mr Dille has made a farm hand holding a broom into a shirt-sleeved gunner wielding a rammer and has even converted an ANS nurse from a nude slave girl.

One would have preferred more general advice, such as detailed diagrams showing the painting, shading and toning of faces, horses and tartans—the most difficult items to tackle.

The 13 colour plates make this an attractive volume, particularly that of the prize-winning French chasseur by master modeller Ray Lamb.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 270 Burlington Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4NL, £2 (hardback), £1.50 (paperback)

"Airfix Magazine Annual for Modelers 1973" (edited by Chris Ellis)

Could you recognize a Medium Mk C Hornet tank of 1920, a Covenanter bridgelay of 1944 or an Austin Champ of 1956? Whether or not, you will certainly be fascinated by Airfix Annual's picture quiz.

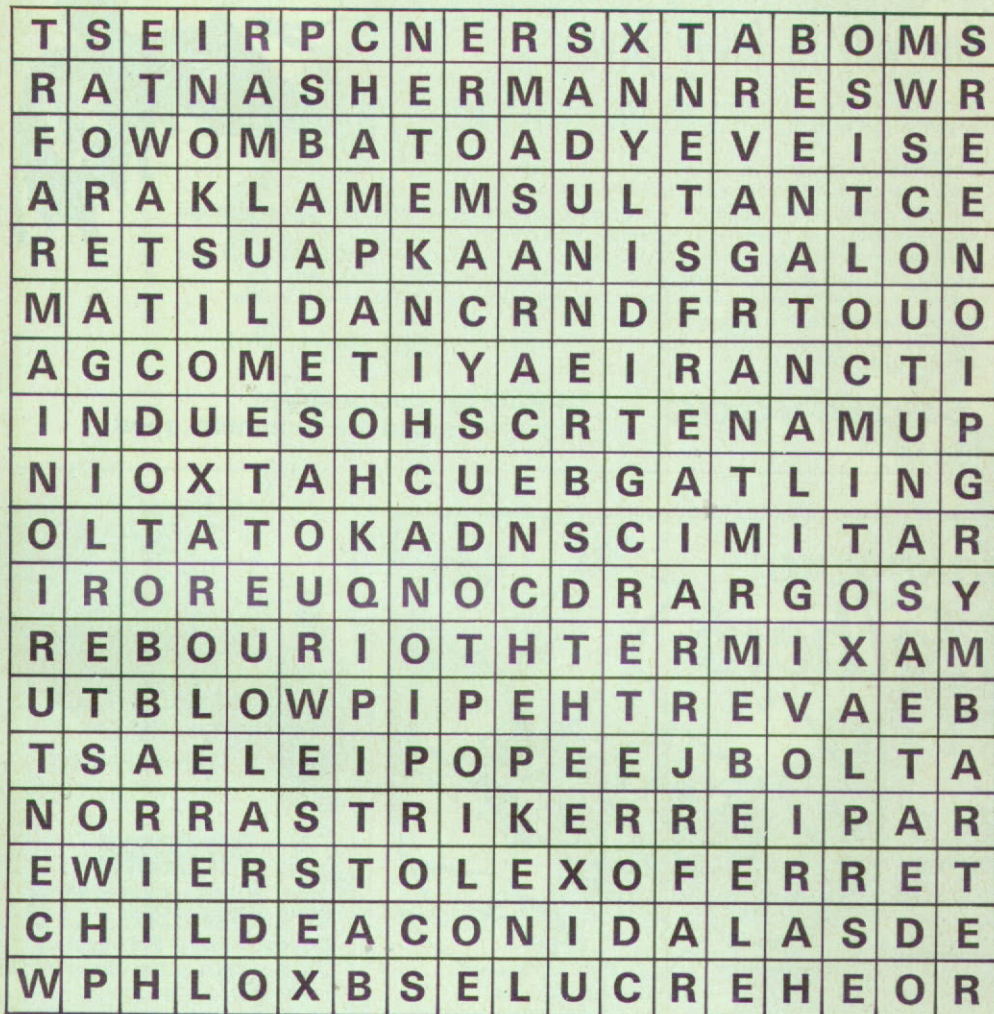
It is of special interest to the more mature military modeller, with articles on World War One in miniature, a nostalgic look at the early days of construction kits, the Italian Army in the desert and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force 1925 to 1957, plus photographs of weird and wonderful AFVs and wood-and-wire aircraft.

The present day is not neglected since there are informed and up-to-date articles on radar in the Royal Navy and helicopters of the British Services. Understandably the annual is dominated by aircraft but there is a wealth of information about modelling soldiers, tanks, soft-skin vehicles, ships and locomotives.

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Can you give: (a) The number of aircraft/helicopter names and (b) The total number of names in the square, excluding the "red herrings" of course.

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# It's a dog's life

Story by Mike Starke  
Pictures by Leslie Wiggs



**S**UCCESS in saving life and property and an ability to take on five men at once and come out on top earmark a handful of Army "recruits" as something special in the Northern Ireland conflict. Earmark is the operative word, for the tattooed number inside the ear of each identifies them as members of the select

band of specially trained Army dogs.

Some 130 Army dogs—until recently they were called war dogs—are on duty throughout the province. As well as the fierce attacking dogs, the Royal Army Veterinary Corps centre at Melton Mowbray trains alsatians as security dogs, behaving slightly less aggressively than

their brothers, and makes uncannily accurate trackers and "sniffers" of labradors, alsatians and bloodhounds.

Bloodhounds are used for tracking down human prey in Northern Ireland. Their melancholy expression and lethargic lope belie the keen sense of smell that has led to the capture of two IRA suspects in

Guard dog King's fangs flash faster than the camera's shutter as he lunges into the attack.



continued from previous page

circumstances that might have tied up more than 100 soldiers to achieve the same result. Bloodhound Jerry has been a help to the civil authorities too. He led police to a lakeside during a search for a missing woman and a diver found the body submerged off the very section of shore that Jerry indicated.

One of the most intriguing uses to which dogs are put in Northern Ireland is finding hidden explosives arms and ammunition. The "sniffer" dogs have accounted for tons of explosives, dozens of guns and many thousands of rounds of ammunition. With unswerving accuracy, dogs have led disbelieving searchers to the most unlikely spots.

"These dogs are directly or indirectly saving lives and property. Directly by finding mines and bombs and indirectly by finding weapons, ammunition and explosive," said Major Brian Thompson who is Deputy Assistant Director of Veterinary and Remount Services at Headquarters Northern Ireland. But, he added: "They aren't the be-all and end-all. They're just another aid . . . a part of the search team."

In charge of one of the dog troop's sections is Staff-Sergeant George Yeandle of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. "There are two schools of thought among people about our dogs. Either they think the dogs are useless or that they're Rin Tin Tin straight off the telly."

Years of experience have taught Staff Yeandle that both views are wrong. He knows a dog is only as good as its training and handling but this does not diminish his respect for the animals. As a true dog lover he is contemptuous of the pampering that lap dogs suffer from owners "killing with kindness." With only a taut leash between him and the fangs of a snarling guard dog, he remarked: "Man's best friend . . . Like hell!"

He also knows that the training and handling of dogs is not so much a full-time job as a way of life. "You've got to sleep, eat, breathe, dream and talk dogs. The glamour boys try to come into this job and they think, 'Dog handling . . . great.' But it's hard graft, seven days a week. When you come off duty with a dog you've got to get it dried off, fed, watered and bedded down in fresh straw before you can start thinking of yourself."

Clearly a man who practises what he preaches, Staff Yeandle trains his own German pointers and bloodhounds to trials standard and was awarded the British Empire Medal for training work with guard dogs. He was born and bred on Exmoor and the quiet, dependable wisdom of the country is as much a part of him as the West Country burr in his voice.

He is proud to have passed on some of his skills and interests to his family—a fifteen year-old son has just sold his first home-reared pedigree dog.

"It's a ruddy marvellous job, this," he said. "If I wasn't getting what the Army



pays me for doing it, I'd do it for only £10 a week outside. You've got to love it and have enthusiasm. A dog handler without enthusiasm isn't worth bothering about."

Each of the section's 40 guard dogs has its own handler. Everyone else—including Staff Yeandle as trainer—is "enemy." The handlers are all volunteers for the two-year Northern Ireland tour. At the end of their stint, handlers go through a delicate and sometimes lengthy process of handing over their charges to new handlers. And the newcomers can expect a few bites in the process.

The time taken to train a dog depends on the task it is asked to do. A guard dog can be ready for duty in six to eight weeks; security dogs need three months or more. The specialists—trackers and sniffers—can take up to two years to gain enough experience to operate efficiently. After initial training the dogs must be given

regular continuation training to keep them up to scratch. "For example," explained Staff Yeandle, "we had a dog that got rabbit happy. It ran over a hundredweight of gelignite to get a rabbit."

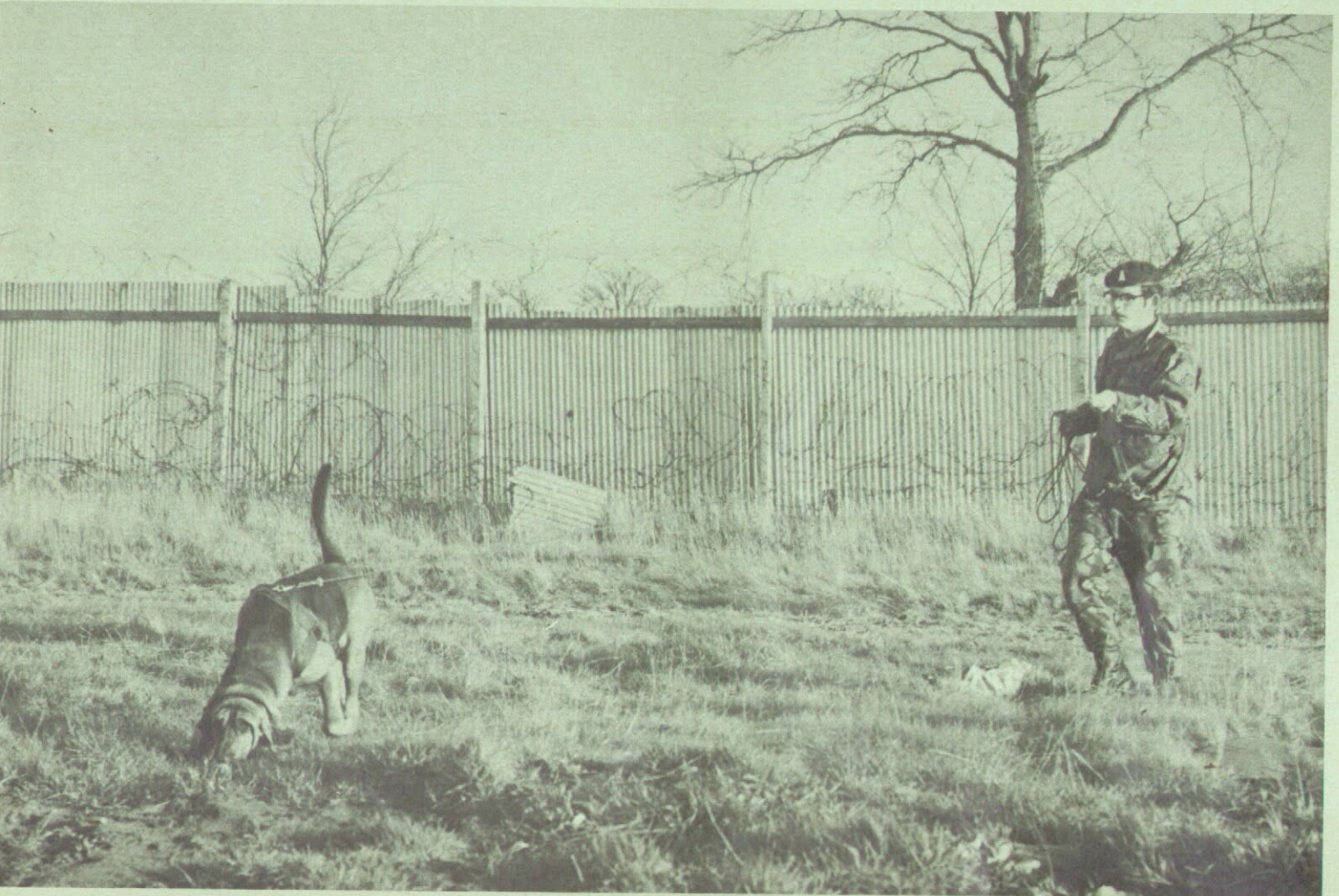
The handlers echoed their staff-sergeant's attitude to the dogs. "I like animals and I hope to stay with dogs," said Royal Army Ordnance Corps Private David Thompson. Guard dog King is his fearsome charge. "Handling dogs is something you have to learn; you're not born with it. You get to know what you should do and what you shouldn't."

A contrast to the snapping King is Jerry, the gentle bloodhound, whose sharpest feature is his sense of smell. His handler is Lance-Corporal Tom Stanton, Royal Pioneer Corps. "I've been with Jerry nine months and he's my first dog. I wanted a guard dog at first but then I took the specialist's course. I was keen on

Left: Mars is put through his paces on a car as he sniffs for arms or explosives.

Right: An obliging demonstration of 15 of the 17 cap badges worn by the handlers.

Below: Jerry the bloodhound picking up the trail. Note the long leash allowing the dog freedom of movement as he works.



dogs before this; I've nearly always had a dog of my own."

Corporal Ian McCaskill, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, is in charge of Mars, a labrador who sniffs out explosives, arms and ammunition in the most outlandish hiding places. "I've been nine years in the corps and I've been with dogs all the time."

The specialist dogs are in the minority. Most of the handlers are on duty with the guard dogs. On lonely patrols they take a particular pride in the control they—and only they—have over the one dog. Dog and man become a team, both working together in their own ways, dependent on each other's skills.

Staff-Sergeant Yeandle said: "The people who go in for this are individualists—they're loners. I've got a hard bunch of lads here, but come the end of their two years—and you may not believe it—there's a lot of weepy eyes."



A leather muzzle is all that stands between King's fierce jaws and a "victim."



