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WRAC Sergeant Sarah Odell operates a Green Archer radar unit at Shoeburyness — story page 18.
Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Red-shirted Army players pause for a line-out in their floodlit rugby game with Ebbw Vale.
Picture by Andy Burridge

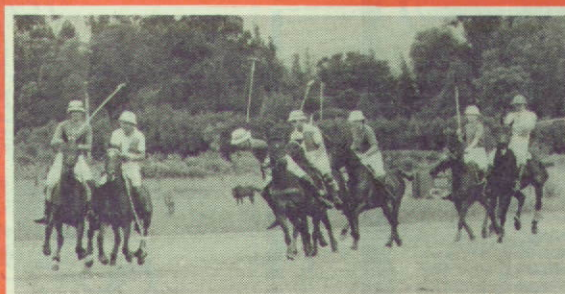
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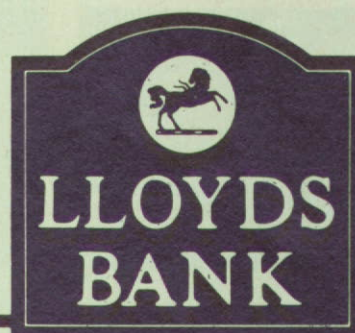
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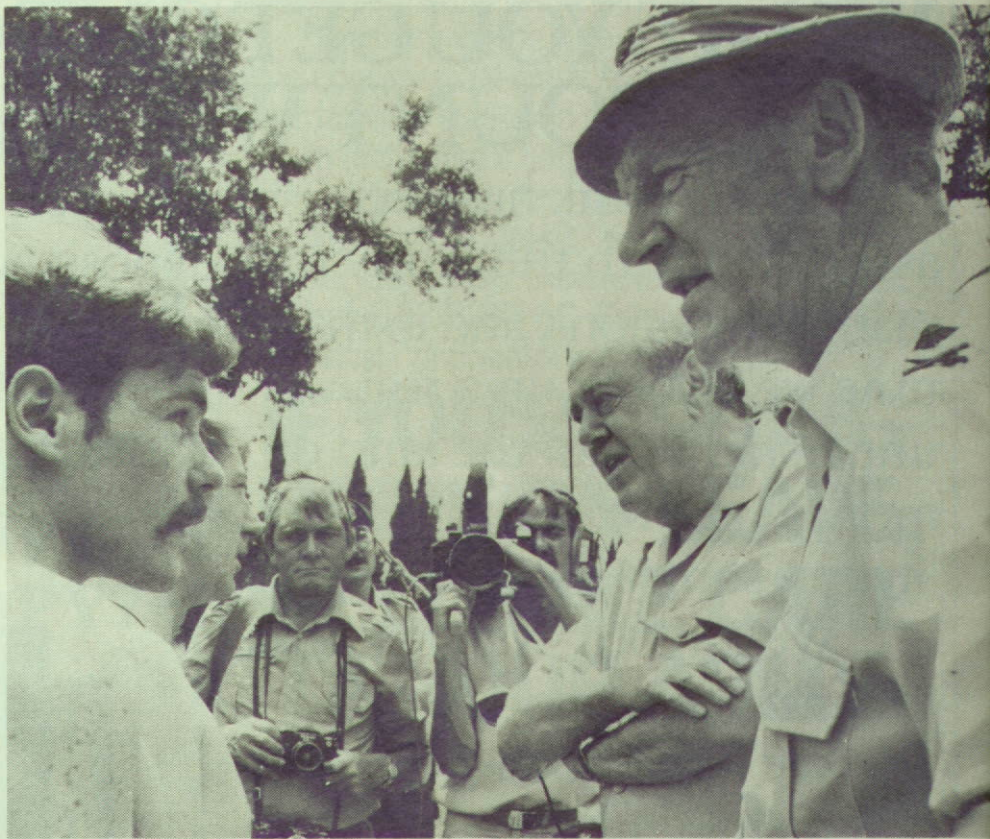
Below: Men and land-rovers for the Monitoring Group get ready for take-off at Brize Norton.



Below: Lord Soames and Major-General Acland call on troops at transit camp near Salisbury.

ARMY'S RHODESIA PEACE BID

From despatches by
Army Public Relations



Below: British contingent about to set off on unfamiliar roads in mine-protected land-rovers.



CAPTAIN MIKE CORBET BURCHER was enjoying a quiet shave when trouble walked in. A group of guerillas had arrived and their leader was threatening to shoot all his men.

It happened at Bakasa in the north of Rhodesia where the captain was commanding a small detachment of troops from The Royal Horse Artillery in charge of a guerilla assembly point.

The leader was incensed at the presence of a Rhodesian journalist who he accused of being a spy, and threatened not only to kill the journalist but the ten lightly armed British soldiers as well.

But Captain Corbet Burcher kept his cool, calmed the man down and offered him a cup of tea. Before long they were chatting amicably together and sitting down to a meal.

Incidents like that made Major-General John Acland, commander of the 1300-strong Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Rhodesia, very proud of his men. He sent a special signal to them all as they supervised the ceasefire in the bitter Rhodesian civil war praising them for their "courage, determination and steadiness". Early in the operation — codenamed Agila — the message coincided with the news that more than 18,500 guerrillas, including women, mostly armed with Soviet-designed AK-47 assault rifles and stick grenades from both wings of the Patriotic Front, had reported to 39 designated rendezvous and assembly points throughout the country. Thus they were meeting the conditions set by the 102-day Lancaster House talks, chaired by Great Britain between the Muzorewa government that took over from Ian Smith's regime and the two wings of the Patriotic Front.

The 51-year-old Monitoring Force Commander — who is also military adviser to the Governor, Lord Soames, and Chairman of the six-man Ceasefire Commission told his

continued over

Rhodesia, a country 1½ times the size of the United Kingdom, with over six million people, including 250,000 whites and 11 tribal groupings with 252 chiefs, is carved up into five administrative zones each with Joint Operations Centres and Sub-JOCs. The Commonwealth Monitoring Force established the Assembly Areas and Rendezvous Points for Operation Agila.

The aim was to monitor both the Rhodesian Security Forces and mount the supervision of the check-in of the Patriotic Front's 'boys in the bush' to 23 Rendezvous points and 16 Assembly Areas in response to the ceasefire agreement ending the seven-year war which has claimed more than 20,000 lives and started with a guerilla attack on a police station in December 1972.

To monitor the Rhodesian Security Forces, the Commonwealth Monitoring Force moved into the Joint Operations Centres, where each was manned by a British Lieutenant-Colonel Commissioner, a major or a captain, nine soldiers and a Patriotic Front representative. These, in turn, controlled 15 sub-JOCs staffed by an officer and two NCOs.

In addition, 45 Commonwealth teams monitored Rhodesian company bases, each team made up of one officer and a SNCO or a SNCO and a Junior NCO.

Links to and from the field were maintained by HF radios and the £250,000 ground satellite terminal which bounced messages 23,000 miles sky-high from the quiet grounds behind the Monitoring Group's headquarters at the High School.

The Monitoring Force, comprising the Headquarters Ceasefire Monitoring Group and more than 100 small teams of men spread throughout Rhodesia, was made up of 1010 British troops, 159 Australians, 75 New Zealanders (a third of them Maoris), 49 Kenyans and 23 Fijians.

The British contingent was made up of men from 35 units drawn from two Guards regiments, ten infantry battalions, two cavalry regiments, four artillery regiments, two Royal Signals units, four engineer regiments, a regiment and squadron of the Royal Corps of Transport, two Royal Military Police companies (including four female 'red-caps'), a squadron and flight of Army Air Corps plus a workshop unit from the AAC and men of the Army Catering Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Pioneer Corps, Royal Army Pay Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps and the Royal Marines.

The largest contingent from any one unit was 70 men from 30 Signal Regiment, Blandford, whose corps provided the largest number of men (120) from any one corps.

The largest total from a single infantry regiment was 31 men from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment. The RAF had 70 men involved.

The airlift was the biggest ever mounted to southern Africa and was a joint RAF and United States Air Force venture. The RAF VC10s and Hercules' staged their 5692 nautical mile journeys through Akrotiri in Cyprus and the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

Below: Brigadier Learmont chats to troops.

Below right: Leaving 'Tent City' transport camp.



men: "I want you to know how proud I am of the way in which you and your teams have discharged a task as difficult as any the British Army has ever attempted."

The general got a taste of the problems involved himself when he visited one of the assembly areas and was threatened by an armed Patriotic Front member.

For the purpose of monitoring the Patriotic Front forces the 23 British-manned rendezvous points — each run by one officer, nine soldiers and a PF liaison officer — were set up for one week for the war-weary guerrillas to congregate at.

The PF troops then made their way to the 16 Assembly Areas by bus — many self-hired. Six of these areas were run by British teams each comprising one officer and 16 soldiers. They were set up in abandoned missions, schools, farms and even a former tsetse fly research station. Huge tented compounds were established to accommodate the PF forces — who still retained their arms — and they were looked after by men of 13th/18th Royal Hussars, the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, 1st Battalion Irish

Guards, 1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales, 3rd Battalion The Light Infantry and the Royal Marines.

The Australians ran five other assembly areas, the Fijians and New Zealanders controlled two each and the Kenyans one.

To these tasks were added monitoring duties at seven border crossings on the frontiers of land-locked Rhodesia, each manned by two officers, five non-commissioned officers and a PF liaison officer. Five of these were British controlled with the New Zealanders and Kenyans manning one apiece.

All the Commonwealth troops deployed wearing white arm bands and moved out in vehicles marked with large white crosses proclaiming their neutrality.

Once established in remote and lonely bush areas scattered with villages of conical-topped huts protected by sun-bleached stockades, re-supply became the major task in the joint Commonwealth/British Army and RAF operation.

Royal Air Force Hercules transport aircraft from Lyneham in just one dawn to



Pipe-smoking Major General John Acland, Commander of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force, roused quite a lot of interest among the world's media in his faded bush hat.

A Scots Guard, the General told them: "It was issued to me in 1949 in Malaya".

He then explained its two-tone colour scheme. "I had a new middle put in a couple of times but the brim is original," he said.

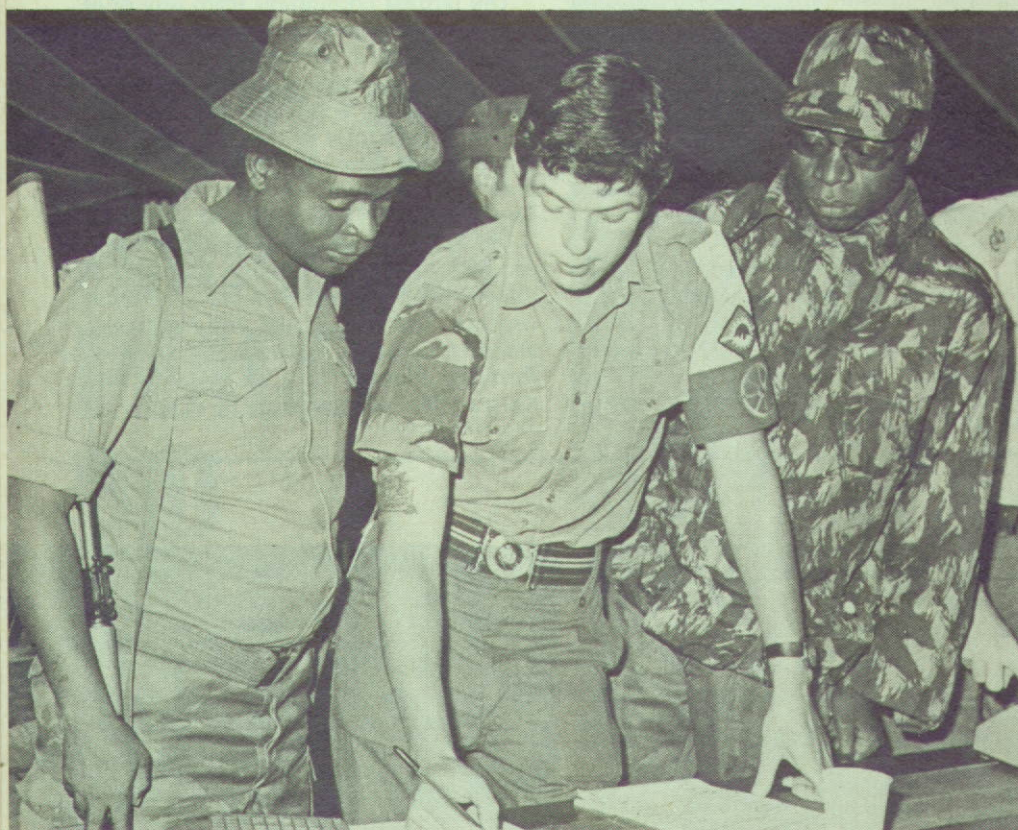
Commissioned into the Scots Guards in 1948, Major-General Acland served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions in Malaya, Cyprus, Egypt, Kenya and Zanzibar, becoming Brigade Major of the 4th Guards Brigade in 1964.

In 1968 he commanded the 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, in Germany, Libya and Northern Ireland.

Following a three-year tour in the Ministry of Defence he joined the Defence Review Implementation Team as Brigadier General Staff until 1976.

He was then appointed Commander Land Forces and Deputy Commander British Forces Cyprus. General Acland was awarded the CBE in the 1978 Birthday Honours List. In December 1978 he was appointed GOC South-West District.

He is married with one son and one daughter.



Above: L/Cpl Derek Morton checks flight papers for senior Patriotic Front medical officers.

Below: Puma armoured personnel carriers helped first deployment of monitoring teams.

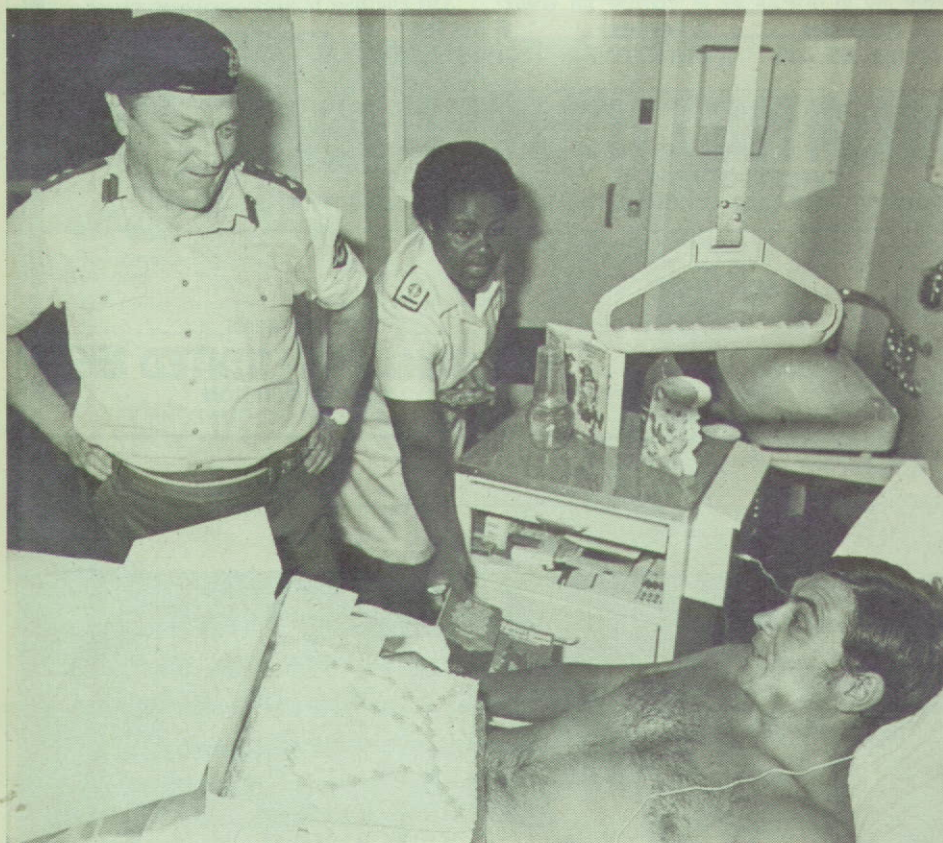




Above: Dropping supplies to teams in the bush.

Top left: British soldier and guerrilla liaison officer drive to rendezvous point at Masembura. (AP wirephoto)

Left: Birthday hospital visit for Cpl Andy Drewery after land-mine accident broke his leg.



dusk operation dropped 110 tons of tentage, tent poles, blankets and food in sorties lasting up to four hours at a time. The tents, from America, had been brought to Rhodesia by eight specially chartered civil aircraft. Another American contribution was the loan of the massive C141 Starlifter jet freighters.

In another intensive four-day period of activity the RAF's Hercules' aircraft hurtled across the sun-baked bush — drenched from time to time at this season of the year by torrential rains — at four miles a minute and at a height of 250 feet. Herds of cattle were sent scampering in fright as the aircraft sought their dropping zones — some as small as a tennis court.

Helicopters were there too. Not only the RAF Pumas but Army Gazelles and Scouts manned by 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, from Farnborough. Tragedy struck the Puma fleet when one crashed killing three crew members.

continued on page 11

A flying doctor helicopter service was set up to serve the daily medical needs of four of the closest Assembly camps to Salisbury which house men from the Commonwealth Monitoring Force and members of the military wing of the Patriotic Front.

The closest of the assembly areas was about 100 miles from Salisbury by road; the most distant, about 400 miles.

At the furthestmost assembly areas a doctor was in attendance all the time, supported by one or two medical assistants.

The Force Medical Officer was Colonel Bob Blewett, 48, Commander of the Cambridge Military Hospital at Aldershot. He had 13 doctors at his disposal — five from the Army, four from the RAF and four from the RN, all UK-based — plus 24 medical assistants (13 from the RAF; six from the Army and five from the RN). The four assem-

bly areas closest to Salisbury had two medical assistants.

Ensuring all-round health care with the Force were three RAMC hygiene teams who visited the assembly areas on regular rotation. Their responsibilities included checking water purification and other field sanitation requirements.

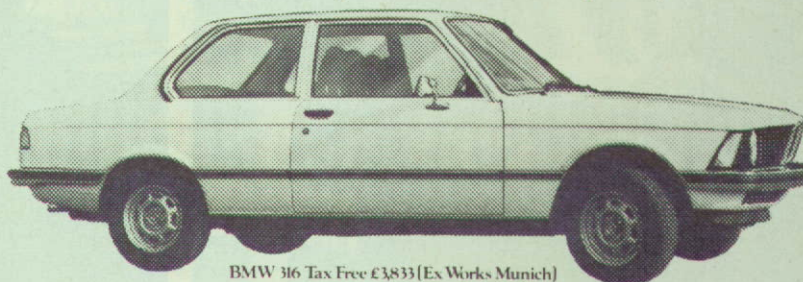
Col Blewett summed up their task in the bush as being available to "advise and encourage the PF in all matters of field hygiene". The PF had a natural immunity to many of the ills which beset Europeans in tropical climates. But some of them reported to the camps with illnesses such as malaria and bilharzia — a bug which thrives in water and gets into the body system and is "almost universal" among Africans in Rhodesia, he said.

Right: Colonel Blewett with senior PF medics.



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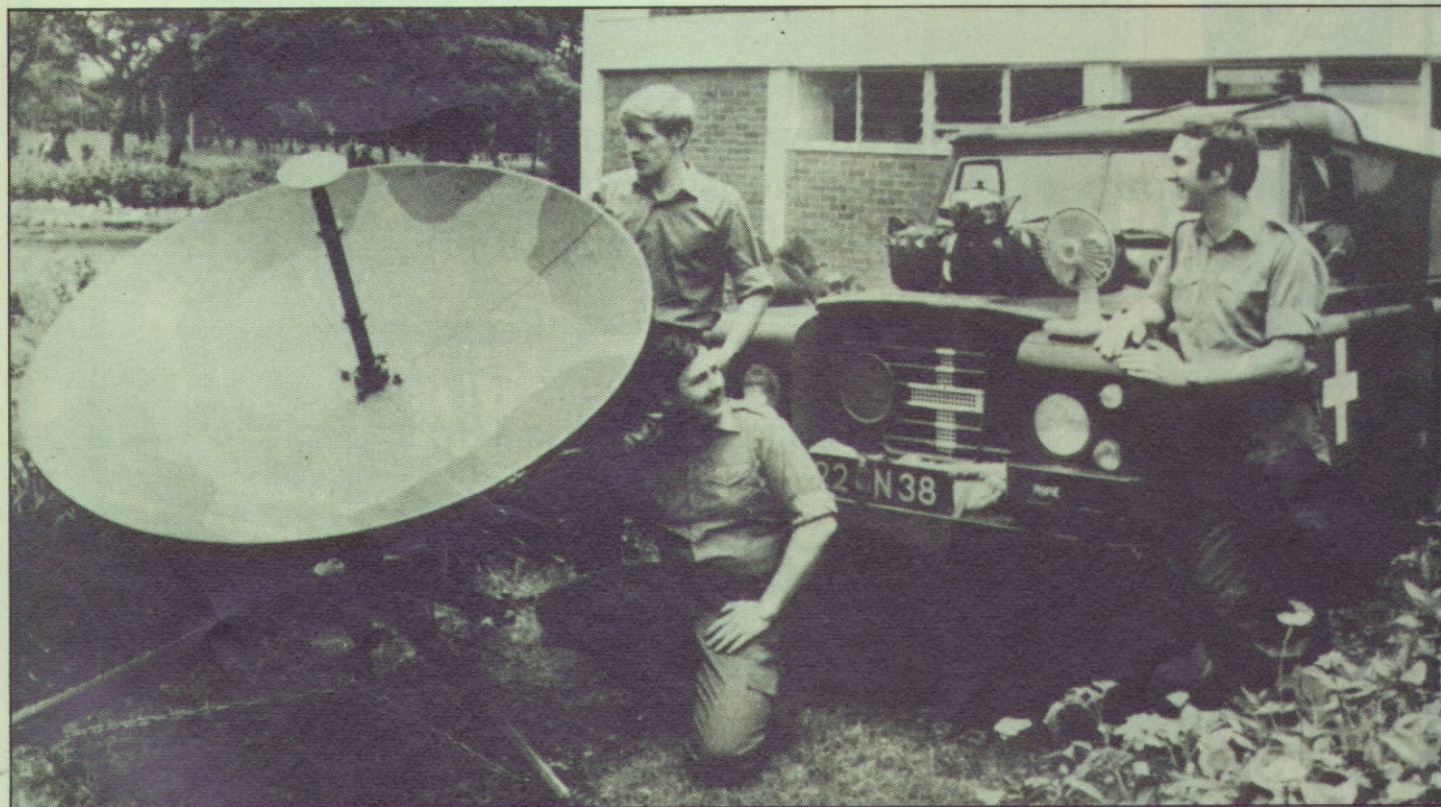
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Re-supply was also made by road with drivers running the risk of hitting hidden land-mines. To guard against this a number of the Land-Rovers used had been specially armoured to withstand blast from beneath and fitted with bulbous roll-bars to protect them if overturned.

Lorries from Salisbury took 100 tons of stores a week out to the remote assembly areas. The stores included one kilo a day rations for the PF men in their tented camps. The food consisted of meal, tinned meat, salt, tea, sugar, onions and soap — one bar per man per month.

Nor were the monitoring teams forgotten. Special funds were provided by the Ministry of Defence to buy sports kit such as board games, badminton rackets and footballs.

Below: Sgt Cartwright, Sgt Aitken (centre) and Cpl Morris of 30 Signal Regiment set up satellite communications station at Salisbury HQ.
(AP wirephoto)



The five-nation Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Organisation in Rhodesia — drawn from Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Kenya — soon acquired its own distinctive arm-band monitoring motif.

Measuring two-inches-square and mounted on white cloth it depicted a Temminck's Ground Pangolin or scaly anteater — said by indigenous peoples to be a symbol of good luck — backed by a yellow sunrise (the sign for the birth of a new nation, Zimbabwe), the whole backed by the red, white and blue colours of the Commonwealth Force.

The anteater measures 3½-feet long from nose to tail, lives on ants and termites and its back is so well protected by its scales that it is said to be able to withstand, head-on, a .303 bullet fired from a distance of 100 yards.

Cpl Steve Parsons (right) hands over one of the first distinctive arm-band motifs.

Even a Tactical Lending Library of 1000 paperbacks was set up. Portable record players became a hit both with the monitoring forces and the PF troops they were looking after.

At the outset Operation Agila was summed up by Brigadier John Learmont, Deputy Commander of the Monitoring Force as: "Unlike any normal United Nations operation because we are not here in a peace-keeping rôle and therefore cannot concentrate our forces into an effective fighting formation with the necessary support arms should the need arise.

"We are determined to do this job efficiently, impartially and with compassion and we sincerely hope it will be the recipe for success."

Right: Mine-protected land-rover is driven aboard RAF Hercules transport plane at Salisbury ready for delivery to an airstrip in the bush.



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SOLDIER to Soldier

A despatch has reached SOLDIER from Afghanistan. It says in part: "... Our vigilance as to Russian aggression can still by no means be relaxed ... and it is probable that the disturbances now existing in the more distant parts ... though in some measure resulting from the anarchy ... are partly attributable to Russian machinations ... it will be no easy matter to prevent their recurrence with a firebrand ready to emit sparks of dissension at all times so near the border."

The date of the despatch? 1 September 1879. And our acknowledgement to The Journal of The Royal Hampshire Regiment which unwittingly published the item in full in their November 1979 issue as a chronicle of regimental activity one hundred years ago.

Cold comfort to us all that Russia — albeit under a diametrically opposed régime — did exactly the same to Afghanistan in the nineteenth century as the twentieth and — uncannily — at times separated by exactly 100 years.

Plus ça change



Major General John Acland, Commander of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Rhodesia, told a press conference about the day he came face-to-face with a 23-year-old Patriotic Front battalion commander at an Assembly Area.

The General had remarked to the young man that there were many differences between the two Armies, noting that promotion seemed to come very early in the Patriotic Front forces.

"I didn't become a general until I was 49," said the Commonwealth Force Commander. "At least, I told him, in our Army we are not involved in politics whereas in the PF Army you have your political commissars with you all the time."

General Acland said the young man looked him straight in the eye and replied: "Ah, yes ... but you have your chaplains."



Choosing a wife is a bit of a lottery at the best of times and today the pressures on a marriage can be greater than ever before. The rocketing divorce rate — it has risen thirty-five fold this century — has seen the chances of a worthwhile lifetime relationship diminish considerably over the years.

The Services, despite their problems of frequent separation and regular uprooting of environment, have not been any more adversely affected by the rise in the divorce rate than civilians.

But — as readers of SOLDIER NEWS will already know — 6th Field Force is so concerned by the number of soldiers with marital problems that it has decided to do something about it. And 'how to choose your wife' has been

included in the Force training.

A pilot scheme of 13 seminars, each involving about 30 men, both single and married, has been launched by Force chaplain, Padre Paul Mears.

The 6th Field Force are one of the Army's more highly mobile units and Padre Mears was speaking nothing less than the truth when he told the students: "Soldiers' wives are a special breed. They have to be — to put up with soldiers!"

Particular stress is being laid on getting married at too early an age — "the pressures are too great for many young girls to cope with. They are liable to change their minds as often as they change their underwear".

And of course there are the girls met on overseas trips and in Northern Ireland. They may be attracted by the glamour of the uniform — but it is a different story when they find themselves on a married patch in Catterick or Aldershot.

After the series of seminars has been completed the results will be considered and the idea may be extended to cover other units and possibly wives or WRAC personnel. If it makes just a few individuals more cautious about rushing to tie the nuptial knot, it will be an initiative to be welcomed.



It may not hit the headlines with the film critics or have West End movie buffs flocking for seats, but a new film just launched by the Ministry of Defence deservedly earned a glowing reception at its 'premiere' before an invited audience of industrialists, businessmen, church leaders and other public figures.

It's called *Army Cadet*, lasts 25 minutes, and is the focal point of a major new initiative to promote the Army Cadet Force and attract more adult leaders.

Although sponsored by the Army, the ACF is an entirely voluntary organisation run by people from all walks of civilian life. Its aim is to develop among its members 'the qualities of good citizenship and the spirit of service to Queen and Country'. And if that sounds a trifle overblown and pompous to appeal to ink-stained third-formers, their imagination and interest are certainly fired by the all-action activities that the ACF provides — activities that are vividly captured in *Army Cadet* which not only reflects the fun that the cadets have but the pride that their instructors take in teaching them.

As one ACF officer puts it on screen: "The great satisfaction is finding out that when you've sweated blood at times and thought it was all in vain, to know that it wasn't."

There are currently 44,000 cadets, aged between 13 and 18, spread among

1600 detachments in 69 counties. They are led by some 8000 adults who get their instruction at the Cadet Training Centre in Frimley, Surrey. But 1500 more instructors, male and female, are currently needed — hence a major reason for making the film.

Copies of *Army Cadet* can be borrowed free from the Central Film Library, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London, W3 7JB. We hope it gets the wide showing it deserves and succeeds in plugging the instructor gap.



One of the most shaming sights in inter-Services sport is the virtually empty stadium which stages the annual Army versus Navy rugby clash. Each year Twickenham's splendid stands and terraces look deserted for what many consider to be the supreme sporting trial between the two services. Worse still — from an Army point of view — the vast majority of the small crowd who do bother to go come from the Senior Service.

Last year, the first year that sponsorship, and therefore better advertising, was used to help promote the game, the gate went up to about 6,000. But although that was Britain's biggest rugby crowd of the day, it fell a long way short of pre-war attendances.

It would be nice to think that this year units might begin redressing the balance by running coaches to Twickenham packed full of soldiers prepared to shout their team on to victory. It could make all the difference between success and failure for the Army squad.

Why not make a note in your diary to be there too? Twickenham. March 8th. Kick Off 2.15.



The suggestion that SOLDIER run a feature on Naafi-EFI (see page 34) came from a man who travelled the world with SOLDIER but is now well and happy and working for Naafi.

Martin Adam, one of the magazine's photographers in the early seventies joined Naafi as a photographer. But soon the lure of the shop counter proved too much and he became a trainee manager.

Now, to those who remember his aversion to uniforms during his SOLDIER days, there has been an amazing transformation. As a Warrant Officer 2 he ran the Naafi on an Arctic exercise in Norway last year and on his return uttered the memorable quote: "It is a terrific feeling when an officer comes in first thing each day and says 'Good morning Q and how are you today?'"

The latest increase in postal charges means, regrettably, that SOLDIER subscriptions must cost more from this issue. The new rates are £4.32 for UK and BFPO readers and £5.16 for those elsewhere but we shall continue to give subscribers one free issue — that is, thirteen for the price of twelve. SOLDIER NEWS (26 issues) subscriptions are also increased — to £5.15 (UK/BFPO) and £5.00 (elsewhere).

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NEW DOORS OPEN FOR WRAC



Lance-Corporal Jill Johnston on car patrol.



Brigadier Anne Field, WRAC Director.

NOTHING ILLUSTRATES BETTER the quiet revolution which is taking place in the Women's Royal Army Corps than a simple comparison between the official rôle of the Corps for many years and the new rôle which will shortly appear in Queen's Regulations.

Hitherto the official line has been that: "The WRAC provides replacements for male officers and men in such employments as may be specified by the Army Board of the Defence Council from time to time."

Now, with the auxiliary emphasis abandoned and new trades for Servicewomen appearing all the time, the rôle will appear as: "The WRAC is to be organised and trained as an integral part of the Army to carry out those tasks for which its members are best suited and qualified so that it will contribute to the maximum efficiency of the Army as a whole."

Unlike North America, where changes have proceeded at breakneck speed, the emancipation of Britain's Servicewomen has continued at a steady pace over the last decade.

More of the girl soldiers and officers are staying on in the Army after getting married — although (see SOLDIER-to-Soldier December 1979) Britain has not followed the

American example of retaining young Mums and supplying them with special maternity uniforms.

But there is now equal pay (less the 'X' factor) and since last October the married Servicewoman has not had to pay food and accommodation charges. And she is now entitled to married quarters in exactly the same way as the male soldier. Just how many WRAC personnel have taken quarters since this innovation is not immediately clear, although it is not thought to be high since few of the married women soldiers have civilian husbands.

Every effort is made to keep Service couples together during their careers — but the Women's Services now offer sufficiently attractive prospects for there to be cases where the civilian husband is changing his job and following his wife to a new posting!

Among the new employments now available to the WRAC are terminal equipment technicians with Royal Signals, telecommunications technicians with REME and traffic operators with the Royal Corps of Transport.

For most of these a certain educational level is required. The right girls are needed to start with and they will have the opportunity

Right: Sgt Margaret Moule instructing in law.

Centre: Home from home for Catterick girls.

Bottom: Fatal accident with police on duty.

for careers to warrant officer I and, for officers, to lieutenant-colonel.

A very short average length of service has long been a problem for the WRAC but the Director, Brigadier Anne Field, notes confidently that the figure is now over the three year mark and gradually rising. Because of this the corps has not had to reach its annual recruiting target of 1600 in recent years. But the target has now been raised and more recruits are needed.

More improvements will be coming along over the next two or three years. In many of the trades women will be in direct competition for promotion with men. In the past this has meant that women have not been able to progress to, say, yeoman or foreman of signals because they have not had the requisite appointments. Now this should change.

In fact this is one of the biggest changes of the last decade. Once the WRAC recruit has done her basic training most of her trade training will be alongside her male counterpart. And the big question — will the WRAC be armed? That's still under consideration and has been for some time.

Today the WRAC offers a wider choice of career than ever before. Something like 20 per cent of the corps are stationed outside United Kingdom — mostly in Rhine Army, Cyprus and Hong Kong. Many go on adventurous training exercises and expeditions. And the WRAC has a worldwide reputation. In fact this summer a small team of two officers and a senior NCO will go to Sri Lanka to set up a similar organisation in that country.

Brigadier Field says WRAC morale is very high and concludes: "The future is very challenging. We are in an expansion market but the important thing is that we do not want radical changes — we need to evolve."

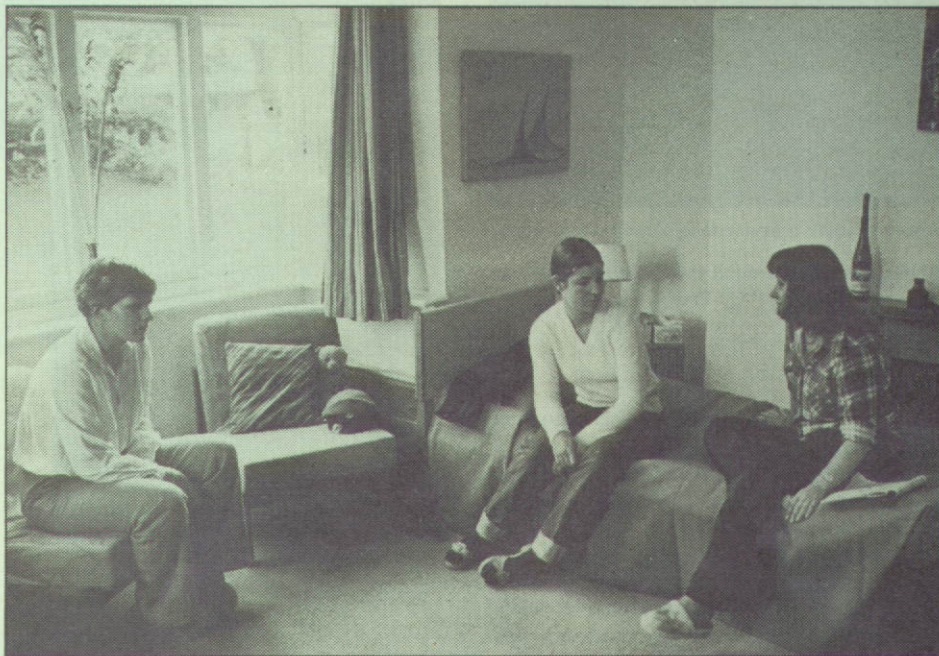
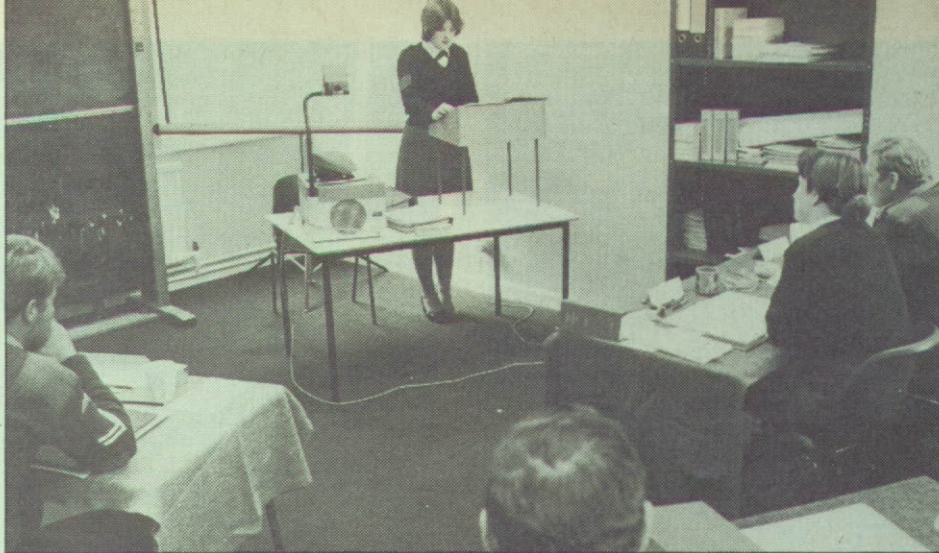
CATTERICK

THE REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR of 150 Provost Company, Royal Military Police at Catterick, Mr Theodore Joseph, is the first to admit that he is not at all keen on the idea of having a mixed male and female unit. But so far as the eight girls in the 52 strong Redcap company are concerned he has nothing but praise:—"They are smart and attractive looking and they present themselves well."

One girl is detached to duty at Preston but the rest, headed by Staff-Sergeant Heather Nelson, operate in the Catterick area. Staff-Sergeant Nelson, primarily a platoon commander, specialises in road safety and crime prevention. But in the comparatively peaceful Catterick garrison she also assists with training and solving of manpower problems.

Sergeant Margaret Moule works with the minor investigation section. This deals with such things as thefts, criminal damage, assaults and so on and, admits Sergeant Moule, involves a lot of paper work.

Staff Nelson, Sgt Moule, and four of the other girls live in a house within the garrison. Each girl has her own room and the girls



make it a home from home.

Says 18-year-old Lance-Corporal Jill Johnston: "When we were in training we were four or five to a room. Now we all have our own but we still tend to go into the sitting room for a chinwag."

The policewomen are employed in exactly the same way as men in the company in that they work shifts and also have a week-end rota. The only training they don't do is on the ranges. Within the garrison area they go out

on foot and car patrols with both their military police colleagues and with local civilian police. But in the event of trouble it is usually the male policeman who makes the arrest — unless the suspect happens to be female.

Jill Johnston was soon to depart for Northern Ireland when SOLDIER called. Usually the girls who go to Catterick on a first posting find themselves in the troubled Province as next port of call.

continued on page 20



Above: Hiding a pretty face behind a gas mask.

Right: Patrolling around the camp at Catterick.



She said: "My first ambition was to go into the civilian police but I decided that it would limit me to one country and that this job would give me the chance to travel as well as to be a policewoman."

"It's usually pretty quiet in Catterick. In fact it's long stretches of boredom then — pow! Something happens. Which is what makes the job so exciting — you never know what to expect from one day to the next."

"Catterick is a good place if you are willing to work hard and you want to learn. You get a lot of job satisfaction when you are able to help someone — perhaps a person who has had something pinched and you get it back for them. I keep telling myself we are here to help rather than hinder."

The girls in the red caps at Catterick really enjoy their job. Wendy Ramsay, an 18-year-old Lance-Corporal, joined up because her father was in the Army and she could not adapt to being a civilian. She finds that the most involved matters she has to deal with are domestic tiffs.

And Corporal Sue Kendall, who had previously been on police work with Rhine Army, re-enlisted only five months after she left the Army. She says: "In Germany we did far more police work. Here it's slightly different but we all mix very well."

MARCHWOOD

LIEUTENANT JANE JOHNSON has just spent two months as acting adjutant with the busy 17 Port Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport at Marchwood, near Southampton. She had been assistant adjutant for more than a year so her stint in the chair while



Right: Donning a special hard hat Jane Johnson goes round the port and chats to some drivers.



Above: Checking the shots on the Essex mudflats.

Right: Three of the girls set up Green Archer.

waiting for a new appointee posed few problems.

Jane has now moved to the Logistic Executive at Andover — again the first time a WRAC officer has been appointed at that headquarters. She feels that being the only woman officer in a port full of male soldiers is fine “providing you have broad shoulders and can take a joke. People are always pulling your leg and you need a sense of humour”.

When she arrived at Marchwood from Germany last year Jane found herself on a six weeks course designed to teach her all about port operating. Among the things she learned were boat handling, loading ships, types of cargoes and how to drive such handling equipment as forklift trucks. “It taught me how to be the first female stevedore in the British Army” she quipped.

Most of the assistant adjutant's job at Marchwood, like anywhere else, is paper work. But last year, when all the male subalterns were away on exercise, she took charge of a troop which went into the Solent and loaded tanks for overseas. And this year she was given her own troop on an adventurous training exercise in Cyprus.

A keen sailor, she enjoyed Marchwood but feels that working in an all male environment has raised her standards of discipline and made her harder. “My expectations are higher than they were when I was in an all female unit.”

SHOEBURYNNESS

THE GIRLS who go down to Shoeburyness near Southend to be experimental assistants in gunnery on the ranges can expect to be there for the whole of their Service careers. For their job is unique and although there are jobs with a similar title in Benbecula the WRAC girls need retraining to transfer from one to the other.

For instance 21 years ago Private Jill Hoskins went to Shoeburyness direct from



recruit training at Guildford. Today she is still there as a Warrant Officer 1 responsible for training and the quality of the WRAC work.

“When I first came in my intention was to stay for three years but it became so interesting” she says. “I’ve had what I consider to be a good career out of it and so would anybody

sufficiently interested in not being tied to a nine to five job.”

Corporal Delyth Gough was practising survey with a theodolite — a task which has recently been added to the WRAC girls’ repertoire. She has been at Shoeburyness for seven-and-a-half years and says: “I didn’t

continued on page 23

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S3

have much choice about coming — you don't get many volunteers because nobody knows what we do down here. I've had some bad times but a lot of very good times."

Out on the salt caked mud flats of Foulness the experimental assistants in gunnery spend hours on end sitting in observation posts along the sea wall. Using stop watches they time the shots fired from the Proof and Experimental Establishment from shot to burst. They also judge the angle of firing and the starshell bursts and then file reports.

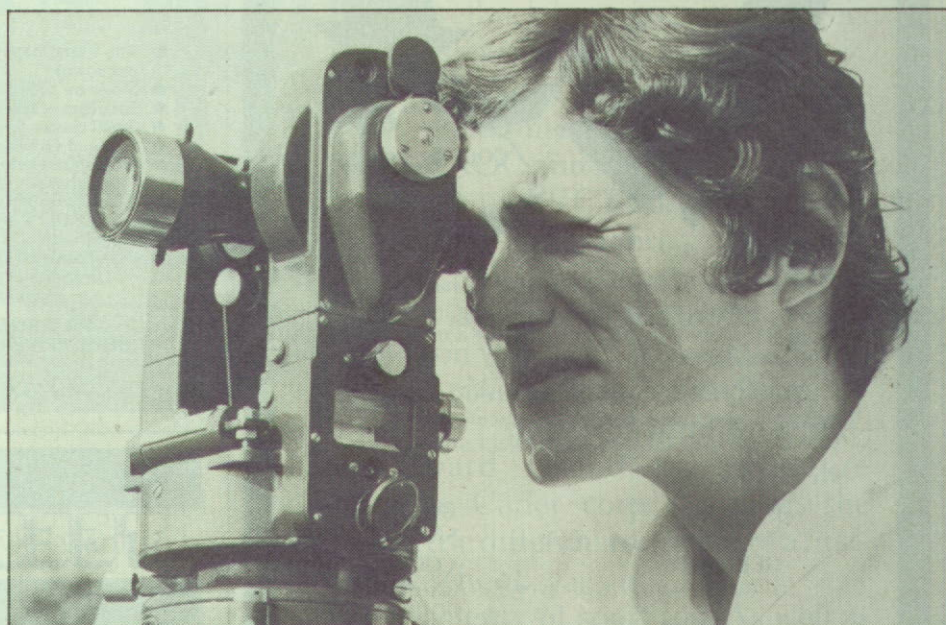
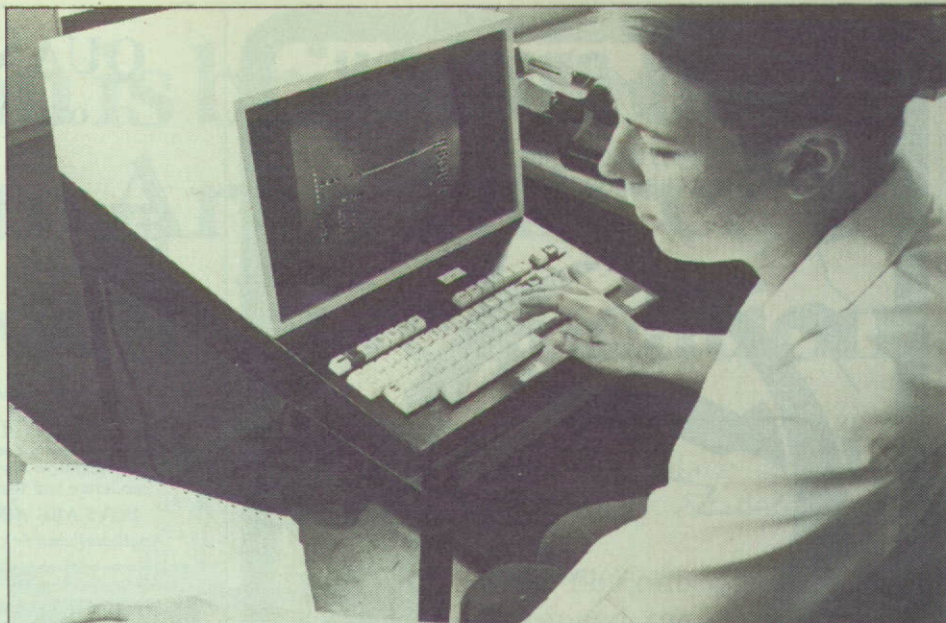
This can be quite gruelling when icy nor'easters whip across the coastline and some of the observation posts are without heating. Said Corporal Carol Robbins: "Sometimes we cannot wear gloves and there is no chance to nip in for a warm between rounds. Most of the time in winter we get hot meals brought out or have sandwich lunches and we try to arrange to have tea delivered."

And Private Rosemary Parrott added: "When we are out in the cold we sit and think of home and watching television and look forward to a nice hot bath."

All of the girls at Shoeburyness learn how to do all of the tasks that make up their trade including some classified work.

One of these is to operate Green Archer radar, used to observe ground bursts and fall of shot as an aid to later recovery. Sergeant Sarah Odell says it needs at least two strong girls to erect the Green Archer aerial.

She was lucky with her posting as she had lived in the Southend area before. "Hopefully when the girls find out they are here for what amounts to a permanent posting they accept the fact and do their best. I like it here because Foulness island is in such a natural state — you can just sit down and watch a rabbit going by or a kestrel hovering."

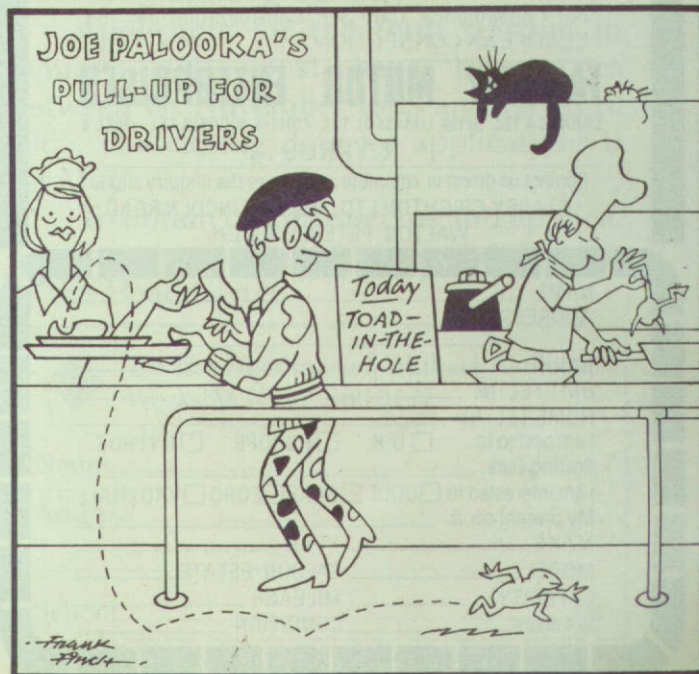
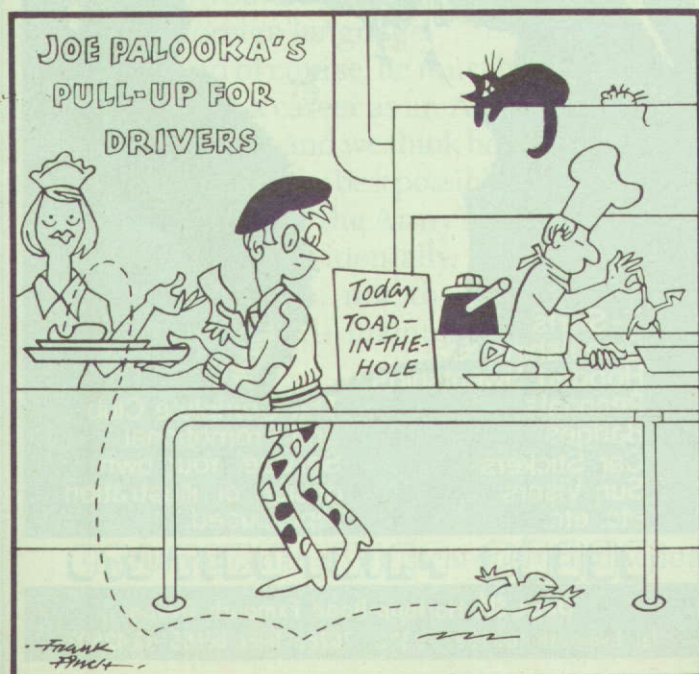


Top: L/Cpl Jennie Smyth on the computer.

Right: Cpl Delyth Gough surveys with theodolite.

How observant are you?

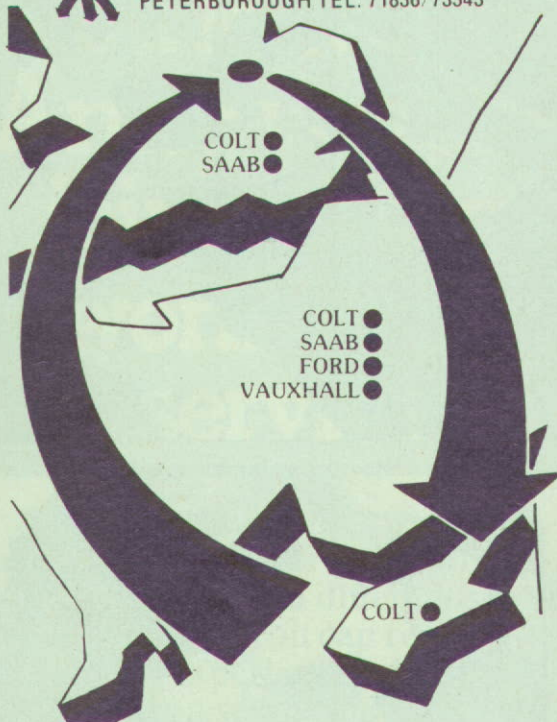
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 53



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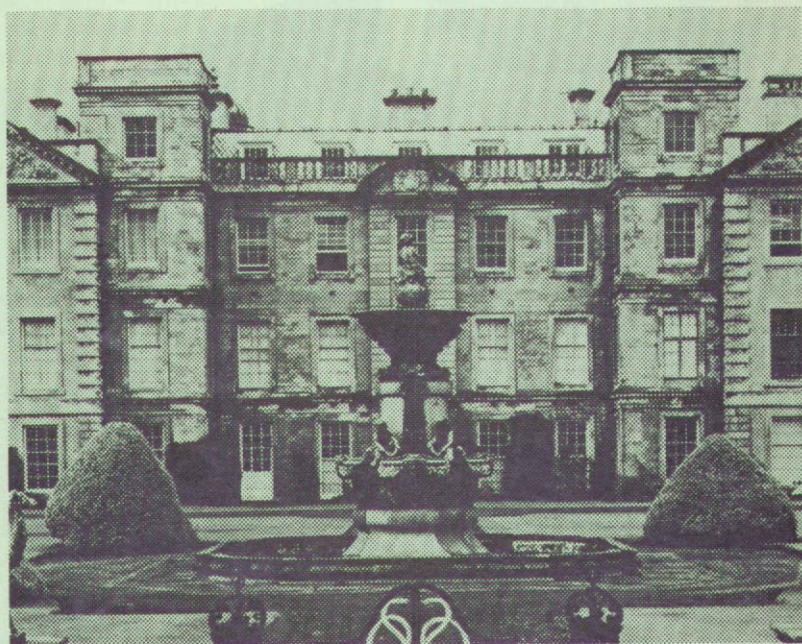
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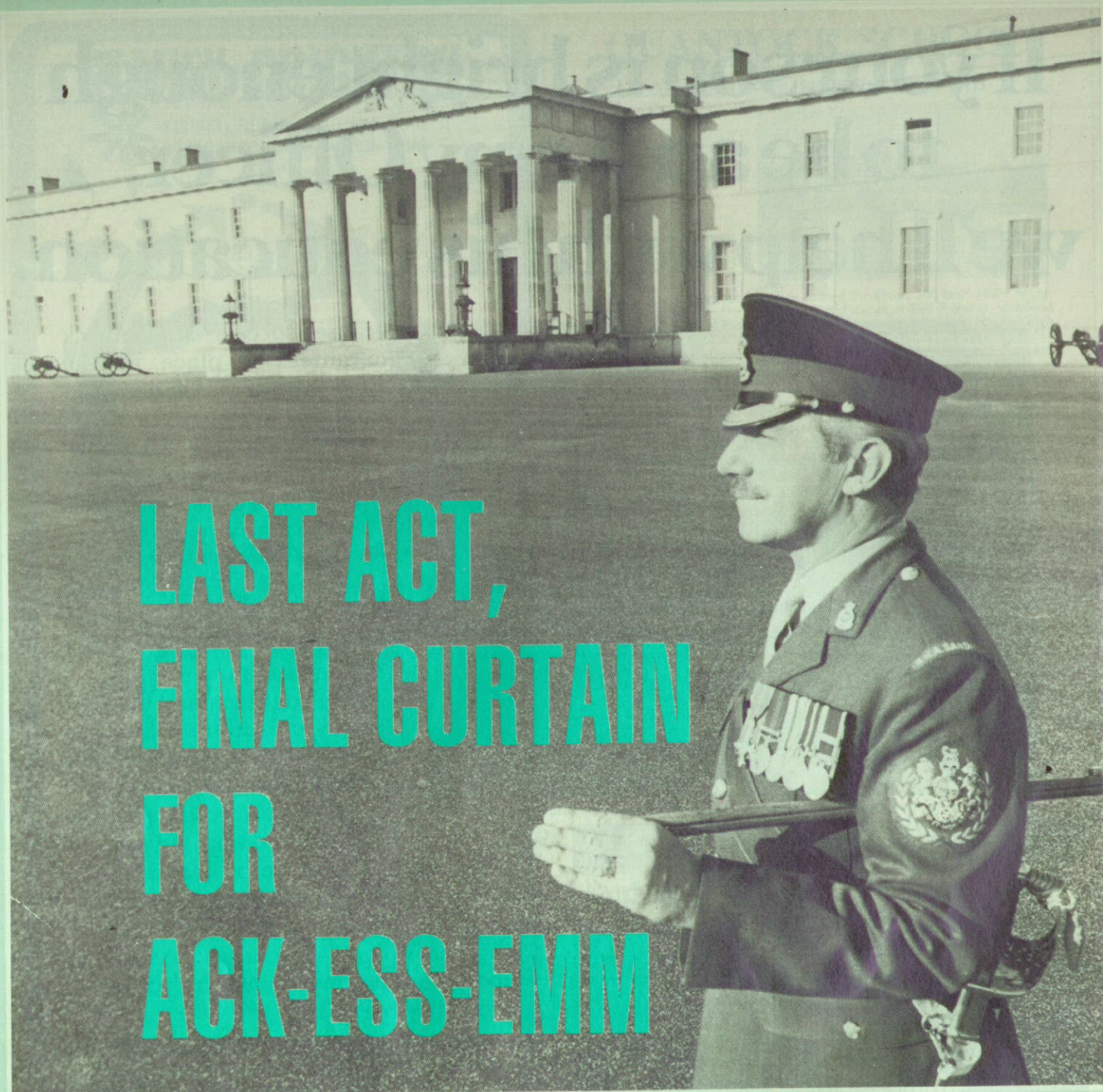
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LAST ACT, FINAL CURTAIN FOR ACK-ESS-EMM

"YOU SIR! While you're here, sir, you have to call me 'sir', sir. And I have to call you 'sir', sir. But both of us knows which one of us means it, don't we sir?" Thus an Academy Sergeant-Major is once said to have hissed his welcome to a hapless officer cadet at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

And isn't that what everyone expects? I mean, everyone knows sergeant-majors are like that and who more so than the Academy

Sergeant-Major — the Ack-Ess-Emm — the senior RSM in the whole British Army? Not so, apparently:

"They don't understand — it's a big act — you have your image to project just like an actor on a stage", said Warrant Officer 1 Ray Huggins, the retiring Academy Sergeant-Major who left the job last month aged 52 after exactly a decade there to take up a second career at the smarter end (where else?) of Civvy Street as Deputy Administrator of Blenheim Palace, seat of the Duke of Marlborough.

It has to be admitted that, cast in the rôle of the Army's top tartar, its master martinet, Mr Huggins could give convincing performances. Like every skilful actor, he has learned how to grip an audience and bend them to the mood he wishes to create.

"Sometimes on the square you want to be stern and get them really jumping", he admits. And on such occasions he might use his own special brand of vitriol: "SIR! Why are you depriving some village of an idiot?"

But on other days he might want the mood to be more relaxed. And there are tricks of

Story: Mike Starke

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the trade to achieve that too. But, above all (like any top performer), it's largely a matter of personality.

Behind the immaculate uniform, the austere clipped hair (a distinguished grey), the moustache with the hint of a turn-up at the ends — there is a human being. Mr Huggins exclaimed: "They all imagine I came out of a cupboard and there I was, in a polythene bag, all dressed up like this and ready to go as Ack-Ess-Emm."

"But I was a young guardsman of 17 myself once. I got into all the scrapes we all do and I had to work my way up through the ranks to get here."

The fact is, he has lived, eaten and breathed Army all his life. His office at Sandhurst was a cherished little museum of some of the landmarks in his career like the formal regimental line-up photographs from the Grenadier Guards. There was one of him as the centre-piece flanked by his fellow non-commissioned officers when he was Regimental Sergeant-Major of 2nd Battalion. "I've had ten super years here at Sandhurst — it's a one off job. But RSM of my battalion was the ultimate I'd worked for all my career. Everything else was a bonus".

There, too, was the reminder that his family is steeped in the Army past, present and future. In pride of place behind his desk was a triptych of framed photographs showing great-grandfather and grandfather Huggins (90th Regiment of Foot), father Huggins (The King's (Liverpool) Regiment) and Ack-Ess-Emm Huggins with his own son Timothy who at 16½ is at the Duke of York's Royal Military School and clearly destined to follow in the well-drilled footsteps of his forefathers.

Even the Huggins daughters have Army connections. Nancy is married to a sergeant in the Royal Corps of Transport and Katie to a captain in the Royal Engineers. The third girl, Sally, works for British Caledonian Airways — and even there there's a uniform! And Mr Huggins' pride in his family goes deeper even than the dark sepia of the photos of its military members past and present that hung on his office wall.

The family has always moved with the regiment in the past. This is one of the changes in the Army Mr Huggins has noted over the years. The wives were very much a part of the regiment in his experience. And his wife Sheila was no exception.

When "Mrs Huggins became RSM's wife", as he put it, she naturally took it upon

herself to organise a wives' club in their 'patch' in Germany at the time (it was 1966). Club nights were fixed for Mondays. Now; it so happened that there was an unusually large number of young officers' wives in the battalion at the time and one of them misguidedly organised a dinner party which clashed with wives' club. Result? No young officers' wives at the club that night.

His voice an even darker brown than usual and eyes twinkling with pride, Mr Huggins went on: "Mrs Huggins was round first thing on Tuesday morning knocking on that young lady's door to know the reason why!"

"Now that same lady's husband is a senior officer but she tells Mrs Huggins, 'you know, to this day I never organise a dinner party for a Monday!'"

"The point I'm making is that when you were with a regiment with the wife you acted as a team — simple as that."

Not that this anecdote implies disrespect for officers. Mr Huggins has a simple formula for his attitude to the hierarchy of the British Army: "They serve to lead — we serve to follow." He explained: "My relations with the officer corps must be tempered with the fact that I have known Sandhurst and the Household Division. The British Army is the only one with that magic rapport between officer and sergeant. They give the orders, we execute them."

What about the changes he's seen at the Academy? "Since I've been here in the last ten years, this is where the changes have come — at Sandhurst. A revolution . . . a coup d'état — courses down from two years to 26 weeks. But this is what the modern Army wanted. The scheme is now only eight years old, and that is nothing in the history of officer training."

What of the officer cadets themselves nowadays? "They will always be officer cadets. They are far wider spread nowadays — they come from some 1300 schools to Sandhurst now . . ."

The implication was there, but Mr Huggins paused only briefly before pressing home his attack: "As far as I'm concerned I'm the biggest snob in the world and I say that if your ancestors weren't with us at Waterloo — don't bother. Perhaps I'm too old."

"There must be an officer corps — nowadays everyone wants to be the same and I think that's wrong."

Generally speaking, he said he thought he had seen more changes in the Army than had taken place in any other era. Soldiers' accommodation, for instance. Nowadays they have roomy quarters with all mod cons. When he joined up 34½ years ago he was given three boards and two trestles for a bed and that was that.

Not that he was saying 'those were the days'. He warned against looking back through rose-tinted spectacles to golden days that never were. Many changes — like accommodation — have been for the better, he thinks. (His only regret — and he emphasises *only* — in his Army career is that he has not bought a house of his own, always sticking to his maxim of being with the regiment at all times.) But he has to admit: "In some cases we've gone overboard in my opinion. But the Armed Services only reflect society — we can only do what they ask us."

And now he has gone to blend into that society as a civilian, leaving the top job an

RSM can aspire to. Not that it is the highest Warrant Officer rank, Mr Huggins was reminded, that is Conductor in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Of course. He is well aware of this. "But if they were on a parade with me I know where they would be . . . in the ranks! Talk to them about drill and they think you mean Black and Decker!"

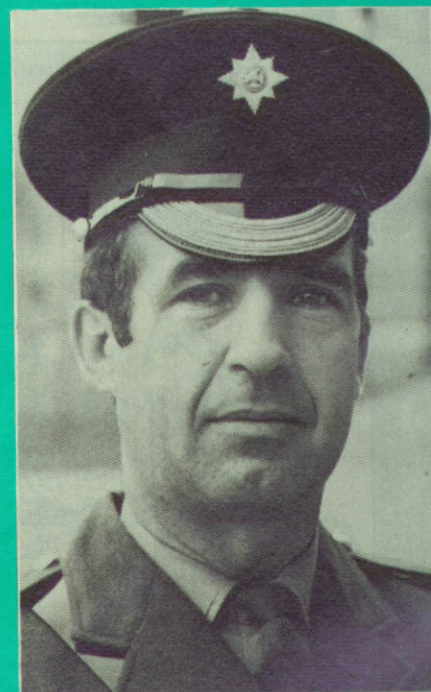
The smile curled the moustache ends a bit further, the eyes twinkled, the act went on to its final curtain and as the one-man credits rolled, that leading man summed up his rôle as Ack-Ess-Emm: "It's fun!"

R P Huggins joined the Grenadier Guards in Manchester in 1945, aged 17. He served in Germany, Palestine and North Africa between then and 1950 when he was promoted Sergeant. He became Warrant Officer 2 in 1955 and served in Germany (twice), West Africa and South America. In 1965 he was promoted Warrant Officer 1 and appointed Regimental Sergeant-Major of Old College at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. In 1966 he became RSM of 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, and in 1970 returned to Sandhurst as Academy Sergeant-Major, the post he held until 1 February this year.

He was awarded the MBE in June 1973 and the MSM in the following month. In 1976 he was awarded the Cross of Recognition, an honour from the French Army.

A keen sportsman to this day, he has represented his regiment at rugby, athletics, fencing (sabre), swimming and water polo. He played for an Army XV against Malta in 1950 and again in 1963 against Trinidad. In 1951 he was light heavyweight boxing champion of his battalion.

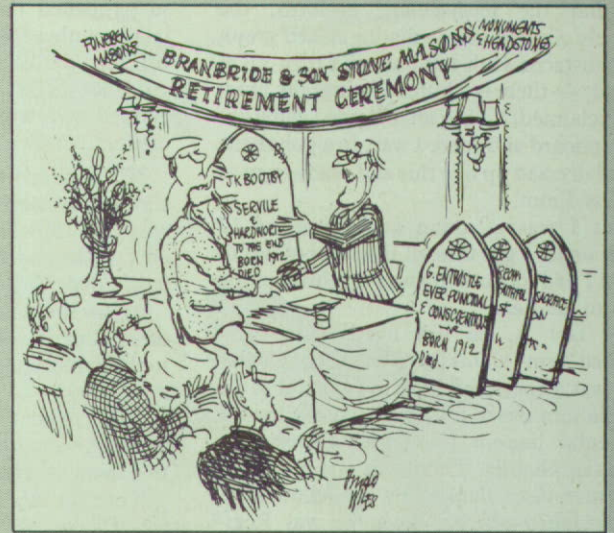
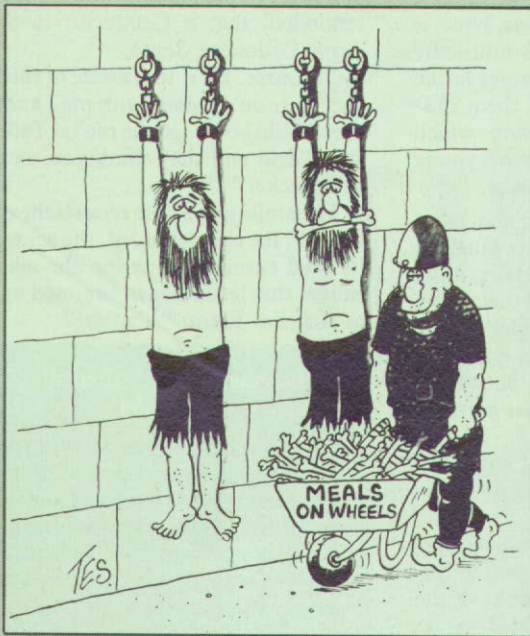
His successor is WO1 Dennis Cleary who comes from being RSM of 1st Battalion, Irish Guards. Mr Cleary is no stranger to Sandhurst having served there before as Company Sergeant-Major of New College and later RSM of Old College.



The new Ack-Ess-Emm, WO1 Dennis Cleary



"You're not a bit like Norman described you — I half expected you to have a ring through your nose!"



HUMOUR

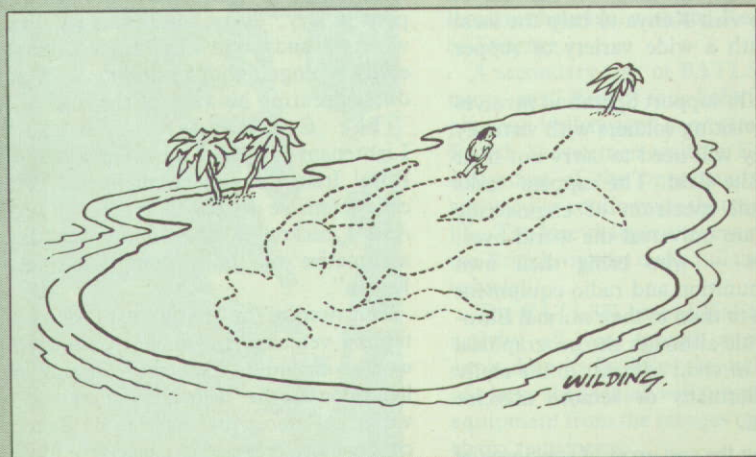
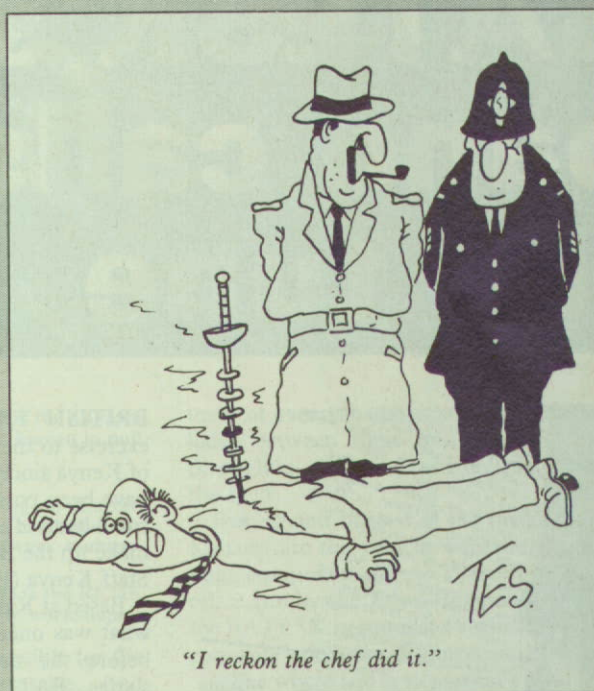
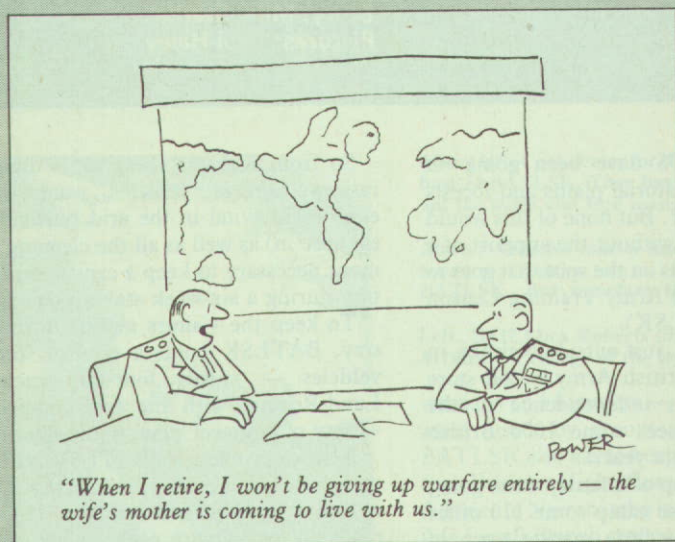
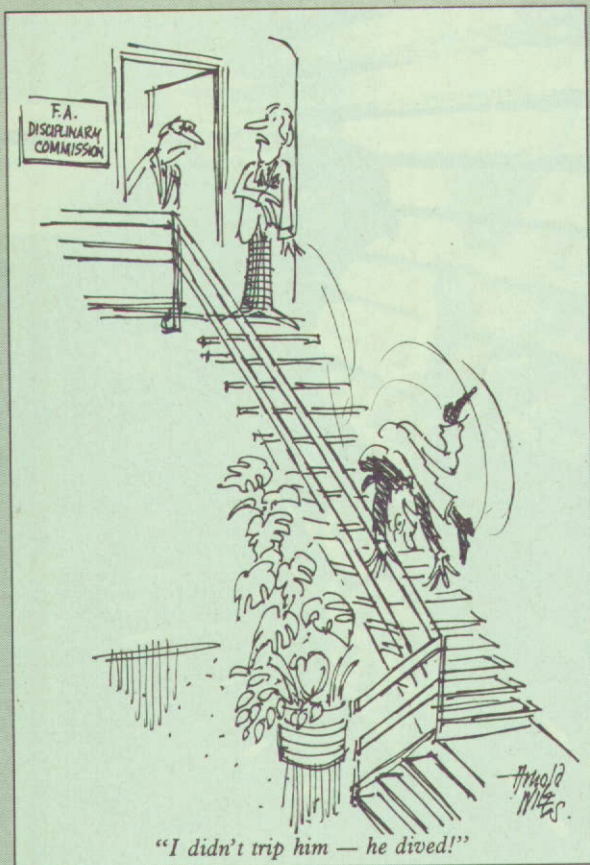


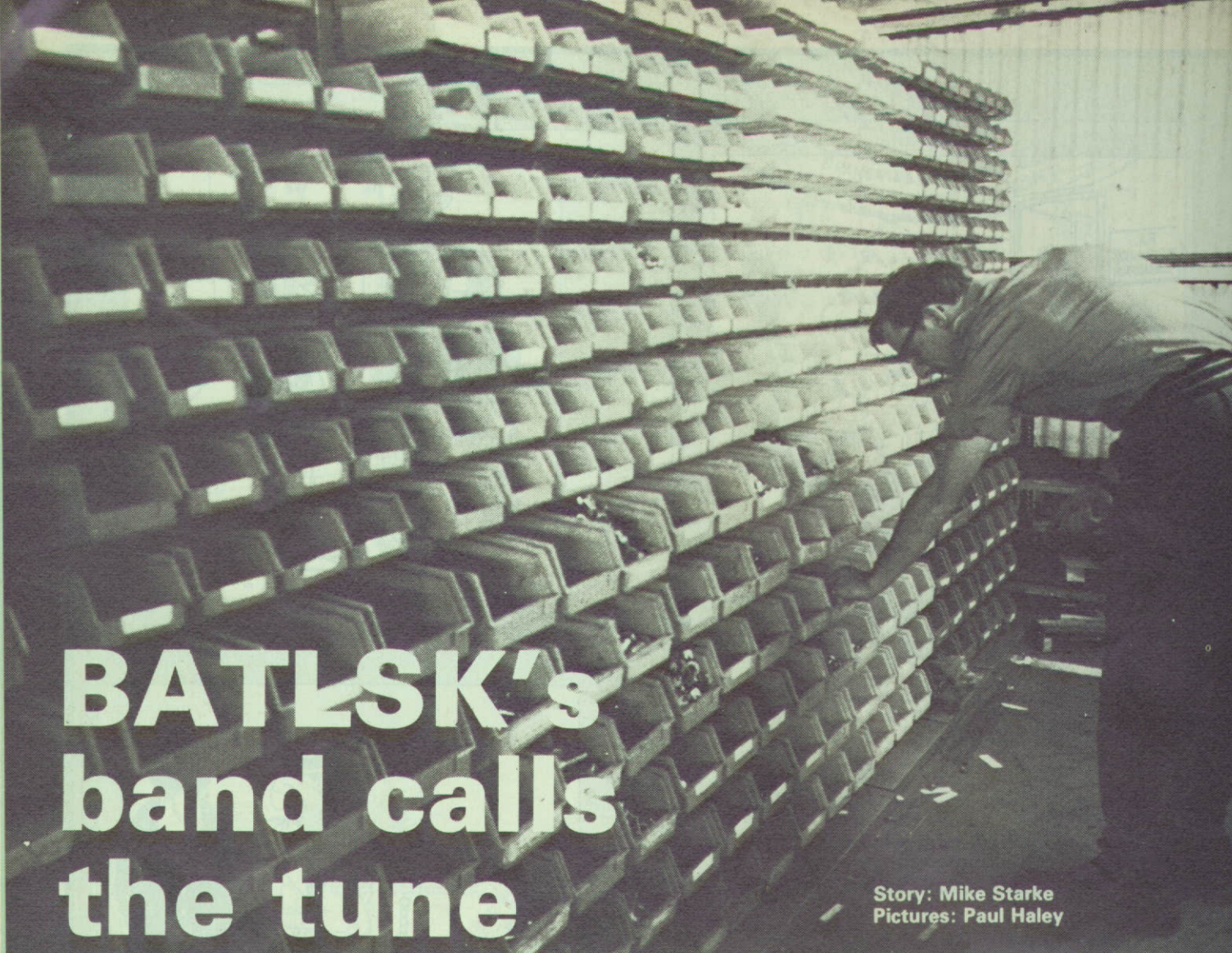
"No thanks. I'll smoke my own."



"You'll soon get used to my parade ground yell."

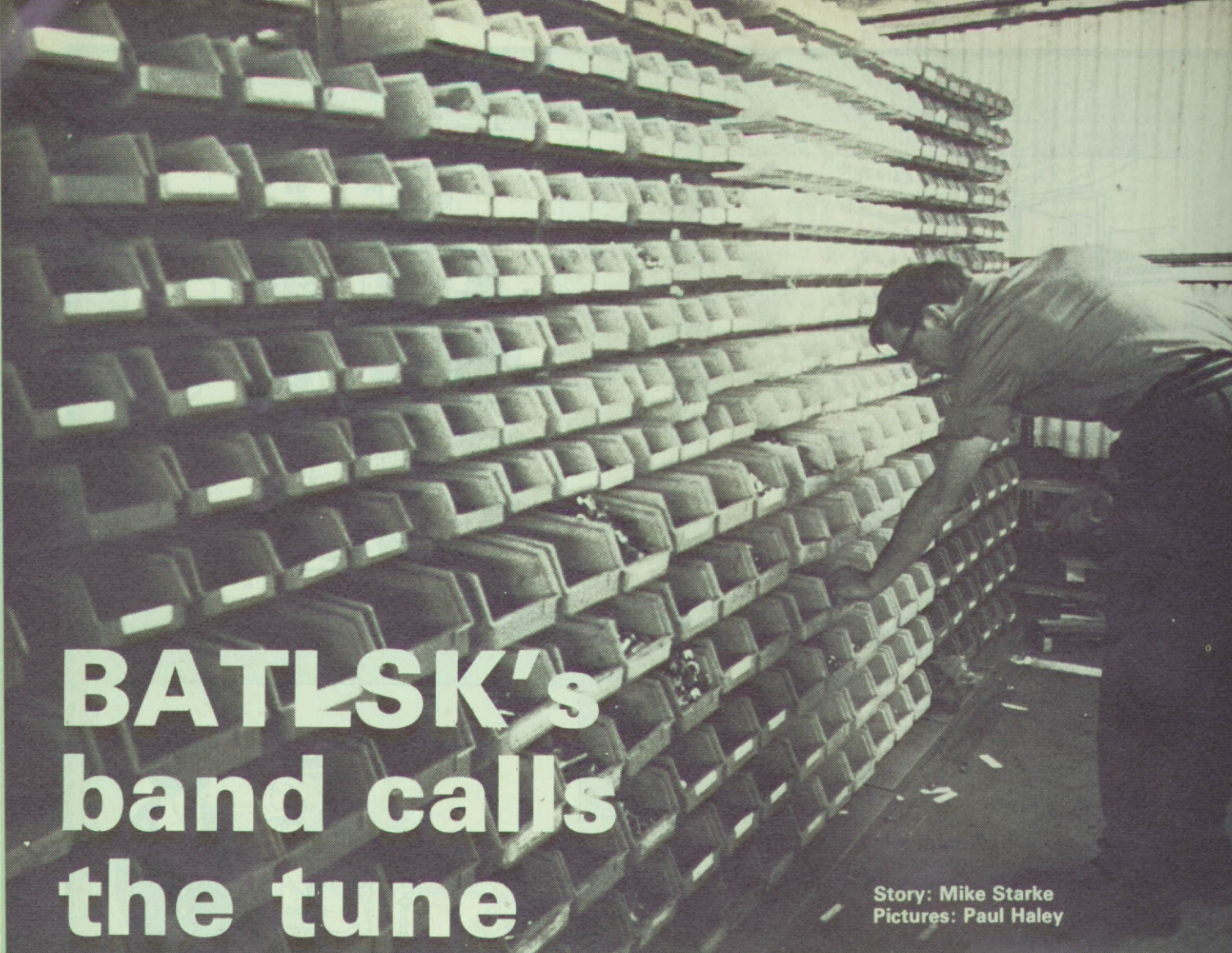






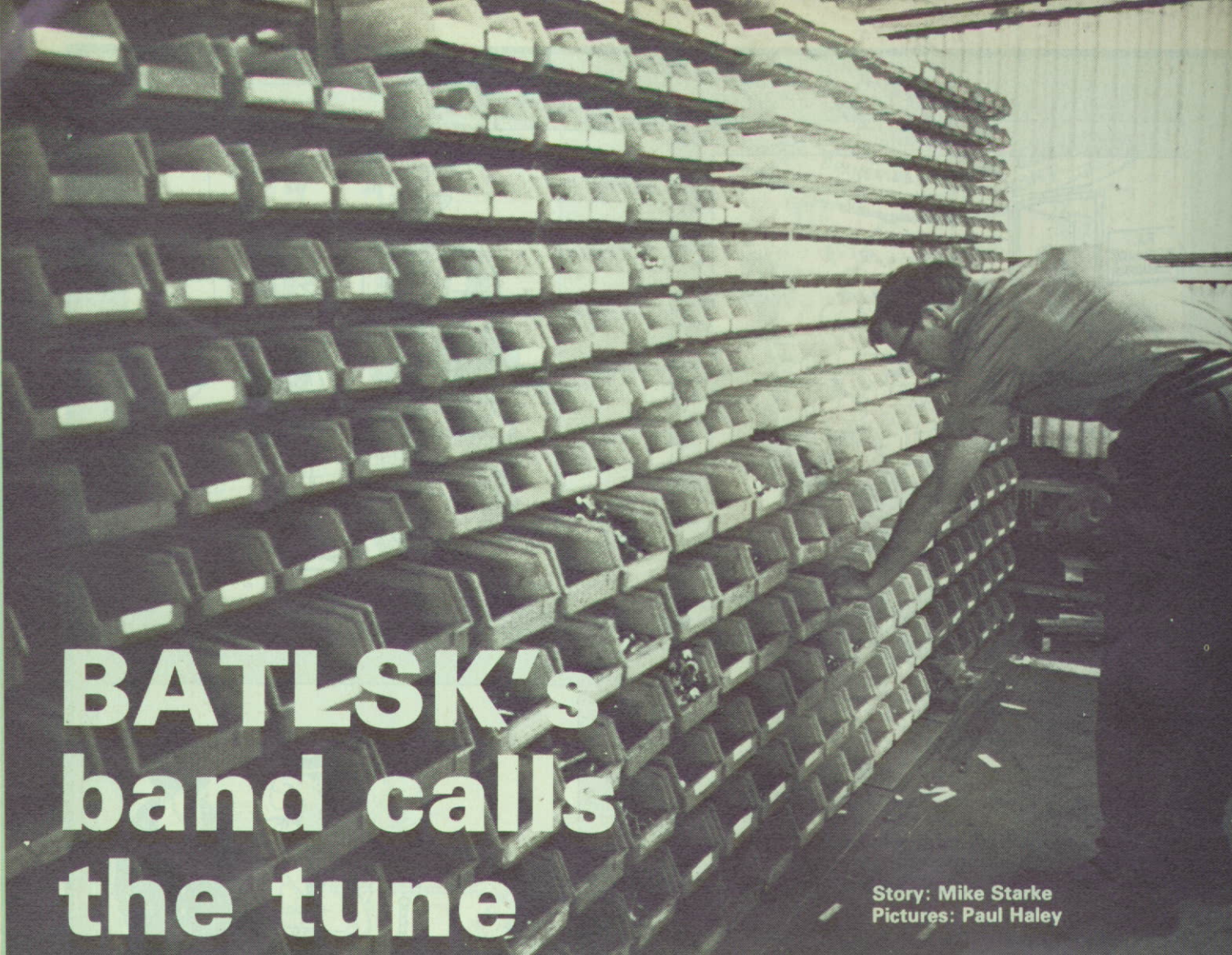
BATLSK's band calls the tune

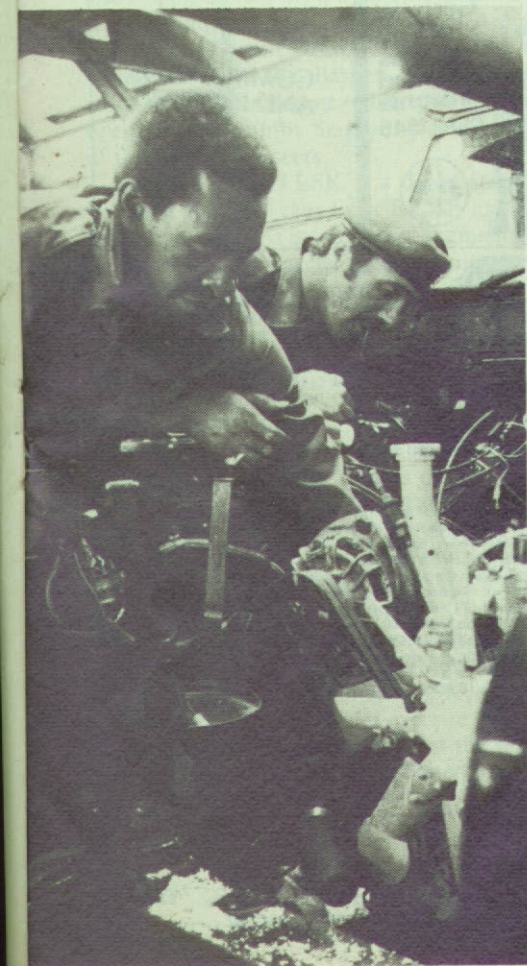
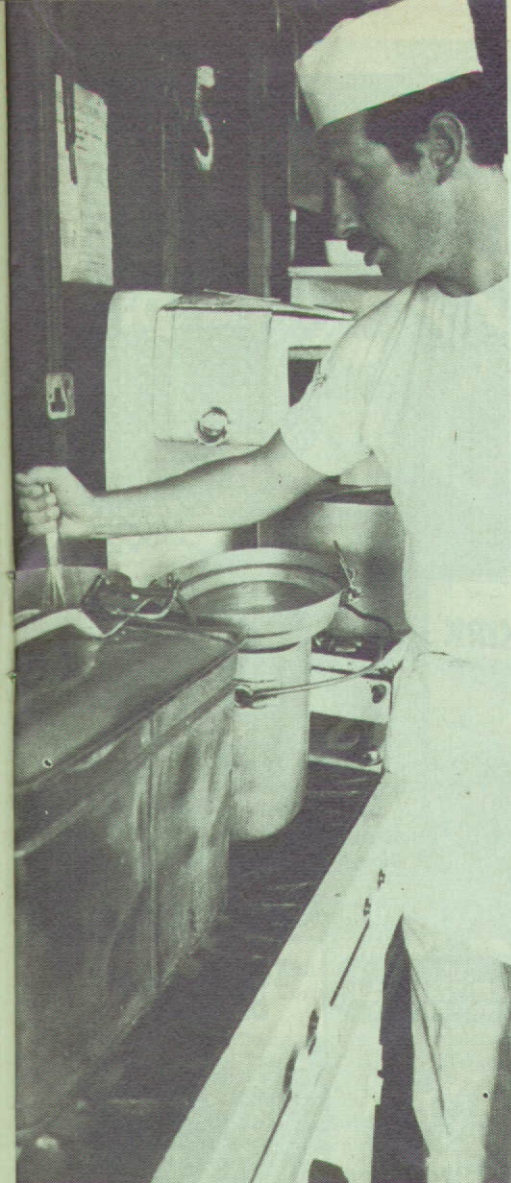
Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley



BATLSK's band calls the tune

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley





Above left: Cooks cater for the staff at the Kahawa base of BATLSK. They have been known to pull out the stops and feed many more!

Above: Vehicles take a hammering on Kenyan roads so repairs are a major headache for BATLSK. But somehow they always manage.

Left: WO2 Mick Roberts (in beret) is the REME Artificer in charge of the BATLSK workshops.

wardens and foresters — responsible for the areas used by troops on exercise. And BATLSK also has to keep in close touch with the British High Commission's Defense Adviser in Nairobi who is ultimately responsible for all British troops in the country and who forms the link, through his own diplomatic channels, with the Kenyan Ministry of Defence.

A secondary task of BATLSK is to maintain a small fleet of four Safari Land-Rovers plus one Volkswagen caravette tourer so that British Servicemen visiting Kenya can take advantage of the opportunity to tour the spectacular countryside that teems with wildlife. The hire charges are very reasonable and the British visitors make full use of the sturdy vehicles.

The BATLSK base at Kahawa is a hive of activity all year round and is currently expanding its facilities through the addition of a large shed which will protect sapper plant equipment from the ravages of fierce sun and sharp rainstorms.

The camp can accommodate up to 150 men in tents passing through as either advance or rear parties for the major exercises. A small

team of exercise troops stays at Kahawa to liaise between their units and BATLSK throughout the time their colleagues are in the field.

Busiest and biggest of the installations at Kahawa are the vehicle workshops and the huge equipment stores. There is also a post office run by the Royal Engineers as well as the BATLSK headquarters offices where the complete operation is administered.

"The whole aim is to see that any unit that visits has everything ready for it — which is no mean feat", summed up Lieutenant-Colonel Illingworth.

To see that this basic object is achieved, the small band of men that make up the BATLSK team have to be a special breed of experts. "They are all very carefully selected. It is a plum job for a senior non-commissioned officer which means they are all hand-picked", said Lieutenant-Colonel Illingworth.

He added: "They all get on like a house on fire. They have to, really, otherwise they don't function to the best of their ability".

And this counts off-duty as well as on since the entire team live in a close-knit compound of houses in Nairobi's suburbs with their wives and families for the duration of the two-and-a-half year tour of duty with BATLSK. Lieutenant-Colonel Illingworth knows Kenya well. He served in the pre-independence King's African Rifles and as aide-de-camp to a Commander British Forces, and he was even married in Kenya too. His Second-in-Command — and the

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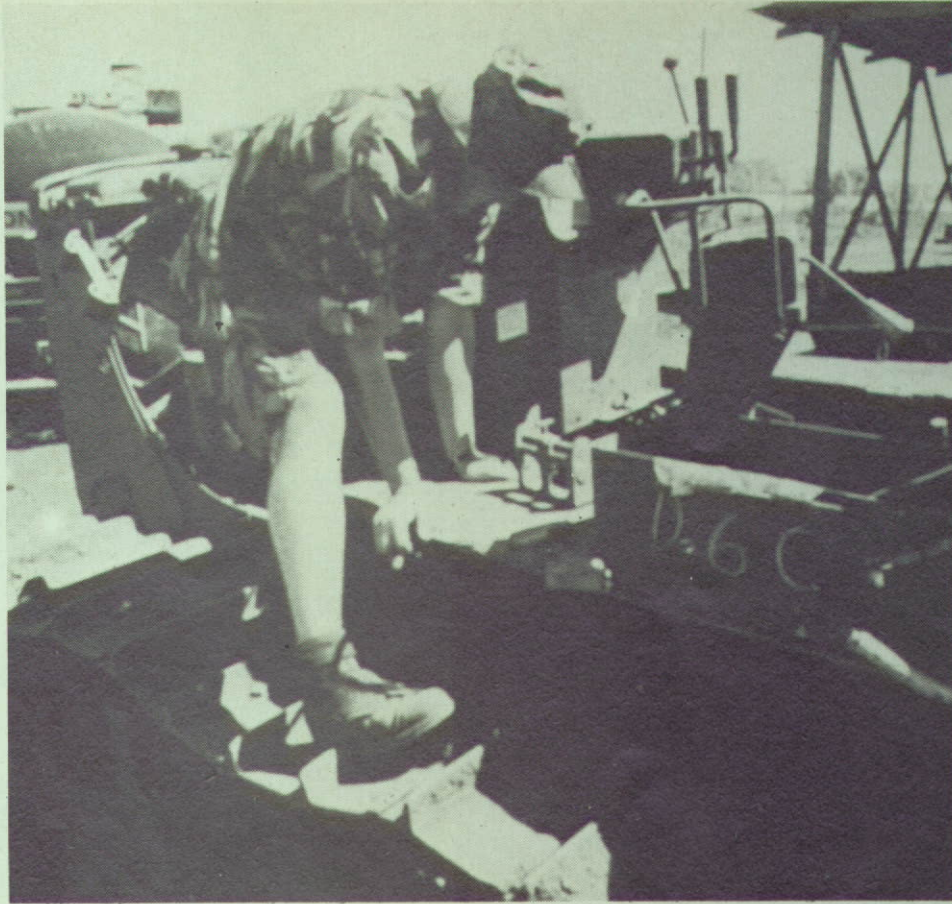
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Above: Nerve centre of BATLSK is its office run by Royal Army Pay Corps WO2 George Iles.



Above: Heavy plant used by the Royal Engineers gets the 'once over' by an expert in Kahawa.

Below: Kenya may be a land of sun, but it rains too! And Sappers have had to see to drainage.

man in charge of the all-important ordnance stores — is Warrant Officer 1 Rod Moor, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Responsible for the hard-worked workshops is a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers artificer, Warrant Officer 2 Mick Roberts. And chief clerk-cum-paymaster, also responsible for the movements of incoming and outgoing personnel, is Royal Army Pay Corps Warrant Officer 2 George Iles.

Staff-Sergeant Ken Bartlett RAOC is the stores section manager while the postal operations are run by Sergeant David Jones of the Royal Engineers.

Attached to BATLSK is a dozen-strong Forward Repair Team from REME in the workshops and this is sometimes augmented by an FRT for the specialist plant equipment used by the Royal Engineers.

There are also 30 locally employed civilians working at BATLSK and they too are hand-picked men. The senior mechanic, for instance, saw service in the King's African Rifles as a squadron sergeant-major.

Speaking in general, Lieutenant-Colonel Illingworth concluded: "This is the greatest training area in the world because of the country, the animal life and the people. The Kenyan African is about the happiest guy you could meet anywhere. He has a great sense of humour and gets on with the job whatever it is with great enthusiasm".

Happily, those admirable traits seem to be reflected among the staff of BATLSK, ensuring that all goes smoothly for exercise troops in Kenya and enabling them to get the very best out of their short periods in the country.



FALL IN THE NAAFI BRIGADE!

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley

"IT WAS FIVE DAYS OF SLAM! SLAM! SLAM! . . . A lot to take in in a short time." That was the verdict of one of a dozen Naafi employees after a week-long whistle-stop tour of Army recruit training as their introduction to life in uniform as members of EFI — the Expeditionary Force Institutes.

The twelve were the latest addition to the swelling ranks of EFI, now standing at some 160 after dwindling to a peacetime low of less than a score until a recruiting drive five years ago.

A unique Territorial Army unit ("It's rather like an exclusive club — you have to work for Naafi to be in EFI," said second-in-command Captain Simon Clayton-Payne), EFI sets out to provide as near normal as possible Naafi services to soldiers in the field. And to do so it is essential that EFI men should be equipped to blend into the military background by being trained as soldiers themselves.

In this respect, EFI has a proud tradition behind it. Under the wing of the old Royal Army Service Corps (EFI is now a Royal Army Ordnance Corps unit), it came to maturity in World War Two when much experience was gained in many theatres of conflict.

From the 'phoney war' period of 1939 to the end of 1943 alone, EFI and members of its sister organisation, the Naval Canteen Service, lost 600 killed, missing and captured.

At Dunkirk, EFI members kept cool enough to keep their account books and cash tins intact to bring no less than 6,000,000 French francs back to Britain.

After Dunkirk, EFI had its own headquarters at Norwood and trained and sent abroad more than 900 officers and 10,000 men. In those days establishments included Naafi girls in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) EFI. Nowadays there is no women's section although it has come under consideration recently.

In 1939 Naafi's strength was 8000. But at the peak of the war there were some 125,000 in uniform and working as civilians for Naafi and EFI.

No wonder Captain Clayton-Payne boasts of EFI today: "When we put on uniform we wear combat suits, not Number Two Dress, because we're combat soldiers. We're a pukka TA unit — not a Naafi Army. We are part of the support to Nato troops in the field and we provide a service in uniform to the Services in uniform."

Basically, the role of an EFI member in the field — be he officer or non-commissioned officer (the lowest rank is corporal) — is the same as the job he does in Civvy Street as a supply specialist. This means he will either be in charge of the bulk issue of Naafi stores — the drinks, smokes and sundries normally on sale in a Naafi shop in camp — or operating a canteen for the troops in the field or actually running a shop for them.

And in the field, a shop or canteen might be a tent, the corner of a marquee or even an old cow shed that has to be 'mucked out' before it can open for business. But wherever it is it will be cheek by jowl with the canvas and camouflage of the soldiers it serves. Hence the necessity for EFI members to be trained as soldiers themselves.

Like any TA unit, EFI is a volunteer organisation with its members recruited largely by hearsay as 'old sweats' pass on the word about it. After signing on at the EFI headquarters near Esher in Surrey, the raw rookie has to have a medical examination. "This is vital because it's hard work keeping up with trained soldiers," explained Captain Clayton-Payne.

As a member of EFI, the recruit becomes part of 10 Ordnance Support Battalion, EFI's Regular Army sponsor unit, and he is ready for one of the three basic training courses held annually in Germany.

Although EFI is not fully up to strength at the moment, its officer commanding, Major Bob Randerson, and Captain Clayton-Payne (the unit's two permanent staff, ex-Army but now Naafi-employed) have to resist the temptation to accept every one of the growing number of volunteers.

Said Captain Clayton-Payne: "We don't just take anybody. If anything we try to put them off by telling them all the bad sides of things . . . the cold, the wet, that sort of thing. Because we can't afford to take the

Above: The bark of the drill sergeant echoes across Bracht's parade square. But EFI recruits found that military barks were worse than bites!

Right: 'Short back and ear lobes' was all part of the service for the hirsute recruits and with a breeze on their bare necks they felt like soldiers!

wrong sort of person who won't be able to fit in with the Army."

Having been selected and passed medically fit, the recruit joins his new comrades in arms, preferably in a group of a dozen or so, to set off for Bracht in Rhine Army where he will spend an intensive five days of basic military training with the Training Wing of 3 Base Ammunition Depot, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

The most recent course, the one seen by SOLDIER, was the third at Bracht. Before then the courses were run by another RAOC unit, 15 Central Ordnance Depot at Dulmen, also in Germany.

Rather than fly the course out to Germany, it was a deliberate part of EFI policy to send the 'daring dozen' by ferry. It was slower, but all to the good — it gave the recruits time to get to know each other.

Captain Clayton-Payne explained: "It's important that they get on with each other at this stage so that we know they will get on with each other under sometimes adverse conditions in the field. There they will have to work as a team and harmonise with each other as well as the units they serve."

continued over





Great care went into stressing the safety aspects of weapon training (top left) and the mysteries of map reading were mastered (above). But for those who got it wrong . . . ten press-ups, 'at the double' watched closely by fellow recruits!



Once at Bracht, work started in earnest under the expert tutelage of the 3BAD Training Subaltern, Lieutenant Paul Beerling, and half a dozen spick and span NCO instructors who soon had the "orrible lot's" ears ringing with words of command . . . and press-ups for anyone who was a split second late jumping to it!

But far from feeling they were being badly treated in any way, these recruits left with nothing but admiration for their instructors. Said Paul Harris, a Naafi Club manager in Aldershot and a graduate of the training course: "I certainly learnt a lot — thanks largely to the instructors at 3BAD. They really know their job — they amazed us. In fact, I must say, we expected them to be a bit stricter and harder with us."

This comment bore out what Captain Clayton-Payne had said: "Basic training really changes them. They come here with a bit of apprehension and some with a bit of bravado . . . which is good. Then they go through the week and become a force to be reckoned with."

The week sped by in a head-spinning series of lessons and lectures on a wide variety of subjects. As one recruit put it: "Afterwards I had to sit back and think, now, what did I learn? There was square bashing, rifle and sub-machine-gun stripping, firing and all



those safety routines. There was NBC (Nuclear Biological and Chemical) training, first aid, map reading and orienteering . . . it all took a lot of absorbing."

Friday soon came round with a competitive shoot on the 35 metre range and an orienteering exercise to test the absorption of the map reading lessons. And all that 'left, right, left right . . . swing those arms' was finally put to the test with a pass off parade on the Saturday when chests visibly swelled with pride in a job well done and with a commendable effort to do justice to the hard work of the 3BAD instructors. They bore out Captain Clayton-Payne's remark: "They are fiercely loyal and really get stuck in." Or, as one of their instructors said from his point of view: "They're better than many; they're young, keen and motivated which is half the battle as far as we're concerned."

So, fighting fit, the course dispersed to return to their everyday jobs with Naafi but now ready to answer the call to volunteer as fully-fledged members of RAOC/EFI to go on exercise with the Army.

With regular exercises taking place in Norway, Arctic survival training is the next step for the EFI men. But wherever they opt to go, they are likely to put in more time in uniform and in the field than the average TA soldier as they will be away for three — sometimes more — weeks at a time for two or even three times a year as opposed to the more usual fortnight's camp attended by most of the TA.

As EFI grows again, so does its reputation

according to Captain Clayton-Payne: "Lots of units are now asking for EFI teams in the field. We are now considered 'one of us' rather than 'one of them' by the Army.

"In fact, people think we are Regulars and I've heard them say: 'Why don't Naafi do this?' Then we have difficulty persuading them that we actually *are* Naafi!"

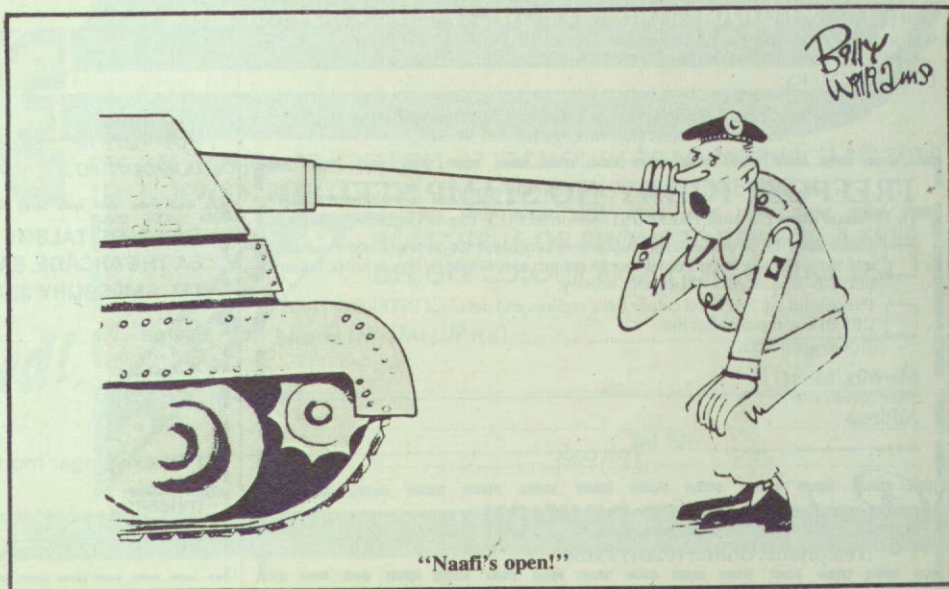
And how does EFI see the Army? Paul Harris summed up: "I've never been in the Army but I'm interested in that sort of life. And, the thing is, working for Naafi we are so close to the Army and yet we can't participate

Dismantling and reassembling a Sterling sub-machine gun is not as easy as instructors make it look (top left). And when it comes to live-firing — it's a job to remember all those drills (above).

in the things they do. Personally, this can be very frustrating at times.

"But now I've joined EFI I've been able to do those things. Now I'm going on to do the Arctic survival course and then I'll be off on exercise with the Army, doing what the Army does. And that's very good, I think."

Thanks to Paul and his EFI colleagues, it's good for the Army too.



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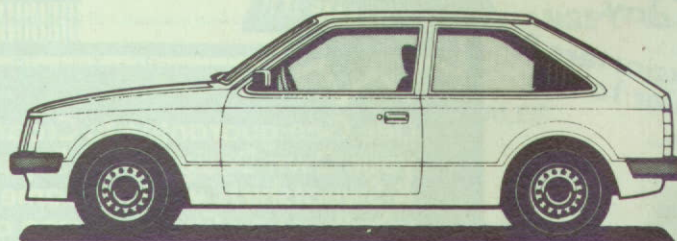


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MILITARY MUSEUMS

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

THIS SPACIOUS well arranged museum tells the story of military engineers in the British Army from the time of William the Conqueror and the construction of the Tower of London's White Tower down through the years to the present day. It shows some of their achievements in war and peace and the Royal Engineers motto 'Ubique', or 'Everywhere', is well reflected in the variety of items displayed.

A room dealing with the early history of the corps leads to a tableau showing two uniformed soldiers of the Royal Military Artificers working on the first tunnel in Gibraltar (1782). Further on are a number of reminders of the Napoleonic wars: a Sapper officer's notebook outlining the repairs made to a demolished bridge in the Peninsular War, the establishment in 1812 of the Royal Military School of Engineering and a particularly interesting map of Waterloo made by Sappers and showing pencil markings put in by the Duke of Wellington.

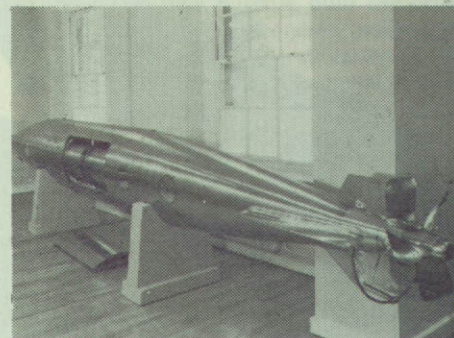
A model of the first standard pontoon bridging equipment developed in the 1830's is one of the more remarkable exhibits from the period 1815-54, the years of the peace when the Royal Engineers and the Royal Sappers and Miners were employed world-wide in developing the Empire.

From the Crimea there are reminders of the first use of the electric telegraph on active service and there is also a selection of artificers' tools, among them a Russian adze. Relics from the Abyssinian campaign include the first examples of visual signalling — two signalling flags and a pair of signalling lamps. Here too can be seen evidence of the first use of photography to reproduce field sketches.

Another first in the museum is the stereo-plotter of 1908, an ingenious piece of equipment enabling map contours to be plotted from stereo photographs. Souvenirs dealing with railway construction by the first sapper unit specially formed to operate steam transport, can be studied in the Boer War case before moving on to the two World Wars.

A German field telephone, a British exploder used in demolition work, plans and notes connected with the RE Tunnelling Company and a display concentrating on the Royal Engineers Special Brigade set up to combat chemical and gas warfare, are among many World War One items. Bomb disposal equipment, the original instruction from the Records Office forming the first bomb disposal unit and two Bailey Bridge prototype panels are among a varied collection of World War Two exhibits.

Of many reminders of RE service in India one in particular fires the imagination, a carefully preserved piece of wood from the Kashmir Gate, Delhi, blown in by the Sappers in September 1857. Among a whole



series of ornaments is a model of the Crown of Thorns made for Coventry Cathedral — the original was the work of artificers in Brompton Barracks. Other exhibits deal with terrorist activities in Malaya, Borneo, Aden, Cyprus and Northern Ireland and there are also reminders of the fighting in Korea and Suez.

The museum has a remarkable collection of medals. There are more than 800 groups and 18 Victoria Crosses of which only a proportion are on show at any one time.

Upstairs a gallery of exhibits illustrates the maritime activities of the Sappers. There is the glistening 20-knot guided Brennan torpedo (above) developed in 1870, relics brought up by divers from the wreck of the *Royal George* and a detailed relief map of the Mulberry Harbour complex erected by Royal Engineers on the Normandy coast on 23 September 1944.

Finally there is the Gordon and Kitchener room commemorating the corps' two most famous sons. Major-General Charles Gordon's colourful career is well brought out by the display of Mandarin's robes presented to him by a grateful Chinese government while relics from Khartoum include a jade talisman and Gordon's last letter from which it is clear that he realised the end was near. The Kitchener exhibits recall his surveys of Palestine and Cyprus in the 1870s through to his appointment as Secretary of State for War in 1914 while the centre page of *The Times* of 7 June 1916 is entirely devoted to his death and career.

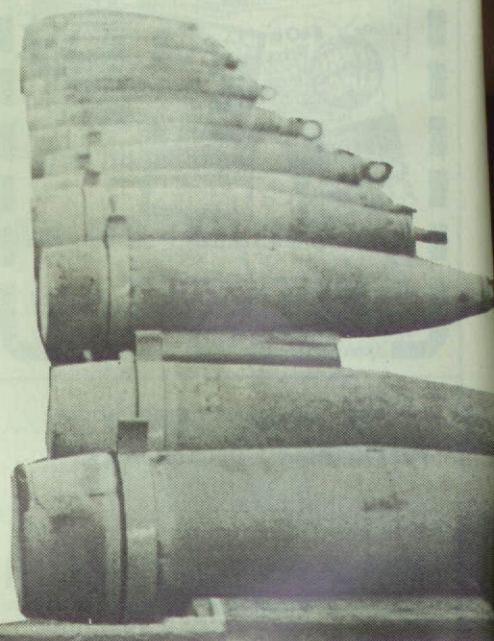
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A VAST TRACT of forested land in Germany is home to a few hundred men, a herd of boar, two herds of deer . . . and tens of thousands of tons of ammunition destined for the guns and tanks of Rhine Army.

This all goes to make up a unique Royal Army Ordnance Corps unit, 3 Base Ammunition Depot, which is the largest ammunition depot in Rhine Army holding a major proportion of the ammunition for units stationed there.

The depot itself sprawls over some 4,000 acres of real estate and has a perimeter fence (patrolled day and night) more than 14 miles long.

Inside the fence the extensive conifer woodland remains relatively undisturbed providing an ideal habitat for the wild boar and deer that roam its acres. Some say they have also seen a golden eagle flying there.

Between the wooded areas, the clearings are filled with the depot's stock in trade — ammunition of all shapes and sizes, stored in special buildings protected on three sides by

Top: Testing the depth of a shell's fuze hole.

Left: Primary fuses for Chieftain shells.

high earth banks (safety traverses).

About 70 miles of roadway — some metalled and some levelled from the sandy soil — criss-cross the depot storage areas. For the ammunition is not just tucked away in its sheds and left. It is constantly on the move, not only arriving and leaving, but also for maintenance and inspection.

There is even a seven mile railway which runs through three sidings in the depot and links with the state-run Deutsche Bundesbahn system. The Klein Bahn — little railway — is privately owned and the locomotives used by 3 BAD on its track come from the Royal Corps of Transport's 79 Railway Squadron nearby — another unique unit being the only Regular railway squadron in the British Army.

The job of the depot is to receive, store and issue ammunition to Rhine Army units. But a large proportion of the working time is taken up with the inspection, repair and disposal of ammunition.

It is this that makes the depot's 'stock in trade' a highly labour intensive commodity and even in peacetime there is plenty for the

Below: Going, going, gone! A controlled explosion gets rid of old material no longer safe to use.

270 or so soldiers and some 400 civilians to do. Most are clerks, storemen and drivers with only a small proportion — about a couple of dozen — actually ammunition technicians.

Two of these, naturally enough, are the Commandant, Colonel Bill Musson GM and his deputy, who is also the Chief Ammunition Technical Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Manuel.

With ammunition always on the move, manpower, resources, time and space are all at a premium and the depot has its own management services department to plan and monitor the operations.

For it is not just a question of storing the ammunition in the next empty shed. Some types of ammunition are incompatible and have to be carefully segregated according to their different 'natures'. The whole business is regulated, not just by the United Kingdom's own stringent rules, but by United Nations regulations which govern the world of such substances.

Then there is the repair and maintenance of ammunition. Carefully looked after, ammunition can last for ages and still fire as accurately as when it was made. But it is still

subject to the ravages of time. So shell casings have to be sand-blasted of rust, repainted and marked, fuzes must be checked electronically and propellants tested for effectiveness. Inevitably some explosives 'go off' like other stored commodities and then they have to be destroyed by means of carefully controlled explosions.

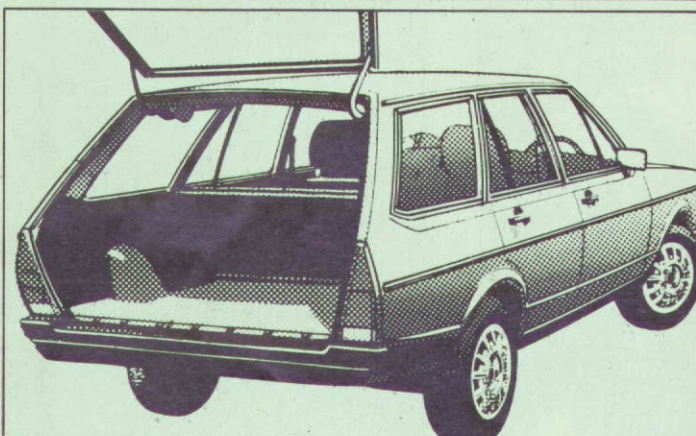
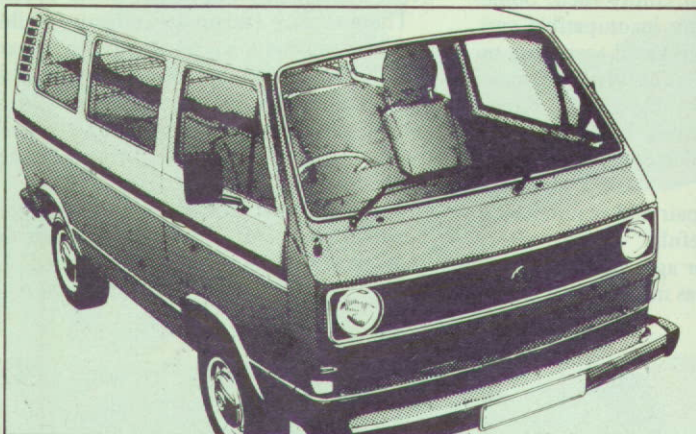
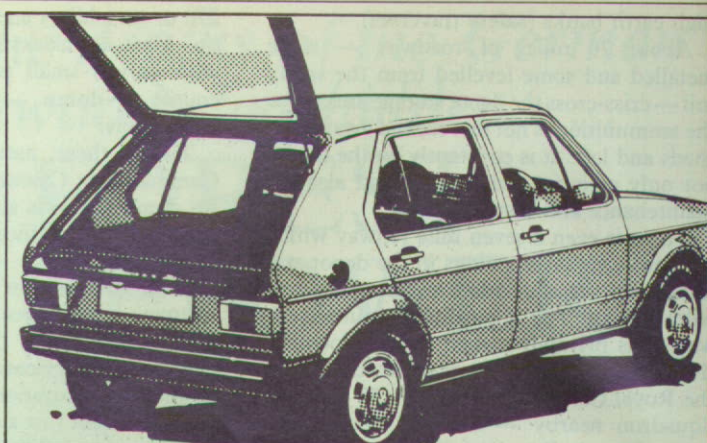
Naturally, the very best accommodation is needed for such sensitive and vital military material and an extensive rebuilding programme of the 3 BAD storage sheds is well under way. Nearly three quarters of the 140 buildings are now purpose built explosive store houses with thick concrete walls, thin breakable roofs (to give way easily in the event of accident) and sturdy metal doors.

These replace earlier, less effective buildings. Surprisingly, up until only nine years ago, the depot was a field storage unit and, as the name implies, ammunition was held in very primitive open conditions, stacked by the side of unmetalled tracks under tarpaulins.

But in 1970 the unit was designated a permanent depot and authority was given for permanent buildings to be constructed. In

continued on p 45





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the intervening years the building programme has slowly advanced towards the purpose-built storage now coming into use.

This coincides with the change to palletisation and the use of mechanical handling equipment to ease and speed movement — hence the need for drivers on the staff.

Situated near the little German village of Bracht near the Dutch border and only a few miles from the massive Rheindahlen Joint Headquarters of Nato troops, 3 BAD is very much a family unit. This is partly because a large proportion of its tradesmen/soldiers are married men themselves but also because it is a relatively small unit in a self-contained station.

The family spirit is fostered by participation in a vast array of sports and 3 BAD is justifiably proud of its achievements in a number of them. The Rhine Area Championship is just one of the many trophies won on the rugby field and it is a measure of the unit's dedication and expertise that the team recently beat a Dutch national team — no mean feat for what is officially a minor unit!

The unit boasts the current Army golf champion too, Corporal Ian Gray, who is also the Dutch Open amateur champion as well as Rhine Army Combined Services champion.

The history of 3 Base Ammunition Depot goes back to the Hampshire countryside before World War Two when it was formed at Bramley in October 1939. It soon moved to France to join the British Expeditionary Forces. The unit was evacuated from Le Havre in 1940 just before Dunkirk and reformed in Bedfordshire.

In 1942 the depot donned desert garb to go to North Africa but returned after the victory at El Alamein to prepare for the invasion of occupied Europe. On D-Day plus ten (16 June 1944) the unit landed in Normandy and followed the Allied advance across the Low Countries and Germany until October 1945 when it set down its roots in Liebenau just south of Bremen.

When the Iron Curtain descended and the depot's lines of communication changed from the ports of Hamburg and Bremen to the Channel Ports, the BAD was moved to its present location in Bracht in 1952.

In 1965 the unit amalgamated with 6 Petroleum Depot, Royal Army Service Corps to form 3 Base Ammunition and Petroleum Depot, a title it kept until a year ago when the petroleum element was once more detached to go elsewhere.

After some 27 years, the unit has become very much part of the local scene and is proud of the fact that its good relationship with the local people was formally recognised in 1963 (the 21st anniversary of its presence in Bracht) by the granting of the Freedom of Brüggen.

Soccer, hockey, squash . . . the list goes on. Even the unit's anglers have hit the jackpot with the top trophy in the Rhine Army Championships this year — the first time

they have entered.

It is all a healthy sign that at work as well as play, 3 Base Ammunition Depot has its sights set on winning.



Above: A new coat of paint for stored shells.

Below: The Depot is justifiably proud of its sporting achievements and especially excels at rugby.



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Polo team finds the pace hot in Kenya

IN THE SHADOW of Mount Kenya in the heart of equatorial Africa five officers from Rhine Army spent a fortnight away from the chilly plains of north Germany's military training areas . . . playing polo.

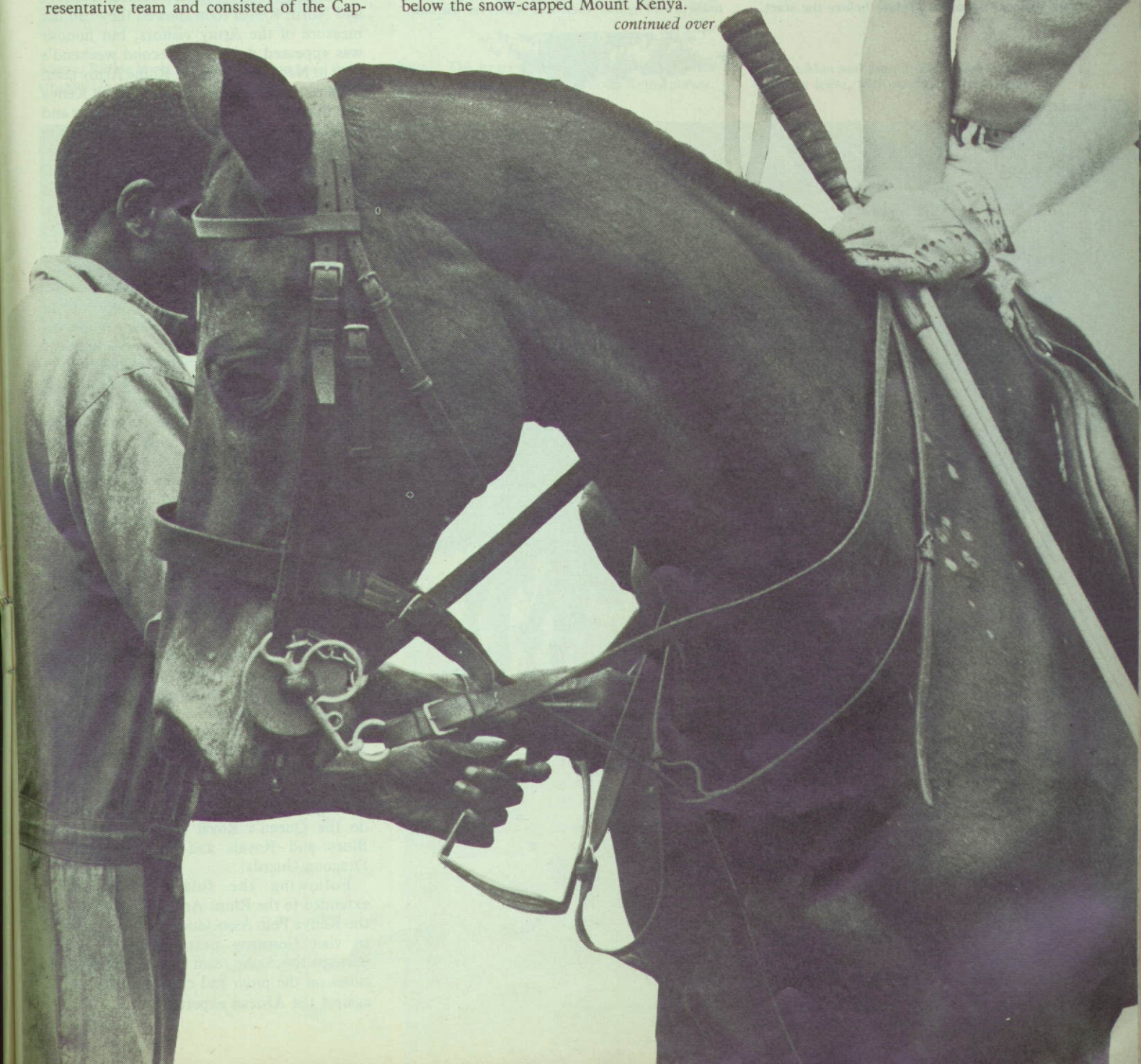
The ancient mounted sport, imported from India by the British in the days of the Raj, followed the settlers to Africa and now has a firm following in Kenya where that country's Polo Association extended an invitation to the Rhine Army-based players to visit for a tournament.

The five players who came formed a representative team and consisted of the Cap-

tain, Major Michael Vickery and Captain Jonathan Cameron-Hayes, both of 14th/20th Kings Hussars, Major Geoffrey Widdows and Captain Michael Portman, both of 15th/19th Royal Hussars plus Captain Oliver Larminie of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards. This provided a four-man team with one reserve.

The team stayed with local hosts during their fortnight's stay — they paid their own way to get to Kenya and back — and played polo during two weekends, one at Timau and one at Nanyuki Sports Club on the plain below the snow-capped Mount Kenya.

continued over





Above: The Army team (right) together with a team of local opponents salute before the start.

Below: In polo the action can get tough as the mallets flail against men and beasts for the ball.



Local teams Manyatta, Kitale, Nairobi and North Kenya soon showed they had the measure of the Army visitors, but honour was appeased during the second weekend's play in Nanyuki when the Rhine Army team drew return games against both North Kenya and Manyatta. However, Major Vickery and his squad drew a veil of modesty over the other scores against them!

Not a cheap sport, polo is limited to a relatively small number of players among the cavalry regiments of Rhine Army with some 50 officers and four soldiers involved. The season runs from April to September.

Out of season time is taken up tending and training the tough little ponies ridden on the field of play — each player should have at least two. The Rhine Army team in Kenya could not bring their own mounts and relied on borrowed ponies for their games there.

Major Vickery is keen that polo should become more widely played and that more soldiers should be given the opportunity to take up what is an exciting and challenging sport — a sort of hockey on horseback. He said: "There have been fears of a decline in polo recently. But in the last two years it has held its own and is definitely becoming more popular.

"I would hope that equitation could become a recognised Army sport. This would mean that more soldiers could take part with the cash being made available to pay for travel and so on".

And travel there certainly is. For the team has not only toured to Kenya but has played in America too, as well as playing the circuit of clubs in Germany in Berlin, Hamburg, Hohne, Lippspringe, Düsseldorf and Munich (Berlin, Hohne and Lippspringe are all Army clubs).

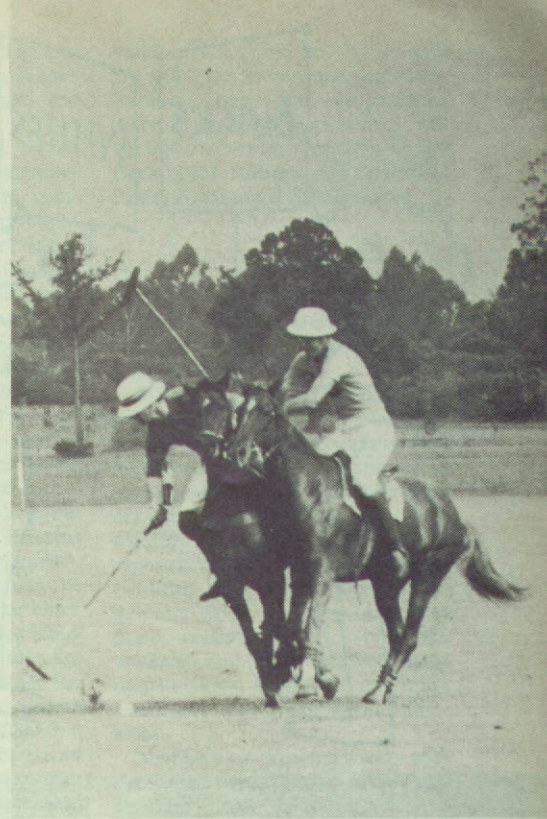
The three units represented in the team touring Kenya all have regimental teams as do the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, the Blues and Royals and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Following the fulsome hospitality extended to the Rhine Army team in Africa, the Kenya Polo Association has been invited to visit Germany next season — when perhaps the Army team can reverse its fortunes on the pitch and clock up some wins against the African experts.



Above: Riding boots are tugged on and knee pads strapped in place to face the rigours of a chukka.

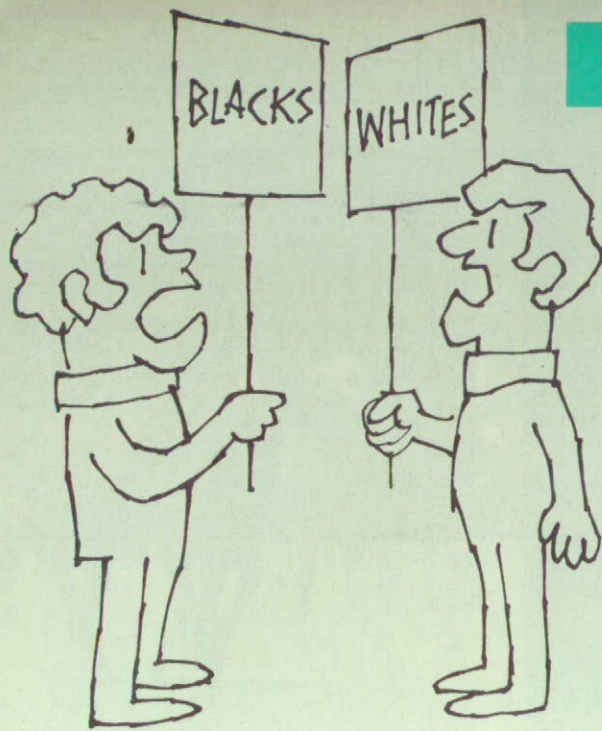
Below: The grace and strength involved in the game are shown in this study of an Army player.



Above: Men and mounts challenge for the ball in a tense, high-speed confrontation.



Letters



Unfair view

The letter from Mrs Grace Thurgood (December) in which she stated that there is "little or no cooperation" between the Regular Army and the Army Cadet Force is, I feel, a very unfair and obviously personal opinion. Whilst I concede that more equipment is always helpful I cannot possibly agree with her view on liaison.

This is surely reciprocal and can only be achieved by joint efforts. Of course the Regular Army will not come begging. They have an important and difficult job to do which has not been easy over the years of constant and increased cut-backs on expenditure.

Personally I find Regular Army units only too willing to assist with cadet training. My own detachment has recently been away for weekends with The Queen's Regiment and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and now The Royal Green Jackets are trying to fit in a weekend before they go to America. The Royal Artillery at Woolwich Depot are extremely helpful. Once contact has been established

these units cannot do enough to please. The soldiers also get tremendous pleasure from having been members themselves.

The Regular Army now takes the ACF very seriously as recruiting potential, but from my experience it would appear that individual detachments do not try hard enough for help from these very willing bodies. All you are required to do, Mrs Thurgood, is ask. — **W Gault, 3 Ravenscroft Road, Beckenham, Kent.**

TA and sport

In SOLDIER-to-Soldier (January) you ask why members of the TA do not compete for the Army in representative sport. The bare rules laid down by the Combined Services Sports Board are that only officers and men serving on a regular engagement are eligible to play and members of the Reserves and the TA are not eligible to play even when called up for annual training.

There are a number of reasons behind these rules. First, the excel-

lent facilities and free travel which we enjoy for most of our sports are provided by the State for the Regular Forces of the Crown. Second, equipment and clothing provided from PRI stores and Army welfare funds come in the main from Naafi rebate and extra rebate earned from the profit on spending by Regulars. Third, any Army standard player in the TA normally belongs to a civilian club who have first call on him at weekends. In mid-week, when many Army fixtures take place, he is unlikely to get the time off from his civilian job. Fourth, if it were practical to include TA members in Army teams the RN and RAF would hardly agree to the Army increasing its catchment area to the extent of unbalancing the Inter-Service competitions. In order to include the UDR in Army Cup Competitions we had to apply for special legislation for the period of the current emergency in Northern Ireland and this specifically excluded the TA.

There is of course no objection to TA members taking part in friendly fixtures of unit teams and this happens today.

On the subject of orienteering, this activity comes under the jurisdiction of the Director of Army Training and enjoys the advantages that go with this classification. — **Brigadier P D F Thursby OBE, Director, Army Sport Control Board, Ministry of Defence, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.**

No bell-ringers!

I agree entirely with the remarks of Mr Travers-Bogusz (January) regarding the exaggerated arm swinging which we see these days. Arms should also be swung to the rear as well as to the front, not stopping at the trousers seam.

The present method probably accounts for the tendency in some rhythm-lacking people to attempt to move their corresponding arms and leap in the same direction. When I see this ghastly sight, I curl up!

Let us have no more of this half bell-ringer, half milkmaid action. Follow the dictum of the Light Division: 'Do everything that is necessary and nothing that is unnecessary.' It is smarter — and quicker. — **P Newmarch, Bargoed Mill, Drefach Velindre, Llandyssul, Dyfed, S Wales.**

Appreciation

I am writing to say how much I enjoyed reading the story 'Joe and Mary come to town' in the December issue.

It was a perfect 'Story for Christmas', and after reading it many times I found something fresh in it each time to equate with the original story in the Bible.

The author must have taken a lot of trouble in order to be able to write such a meaningful and beautiful story. Will you please pass on my thanks and appreciation for such an excellent story, which I also shared with many of my friends. — **Mrs Nora McGuire, 64 Burnage Avenue, Four Acre Estate, St Helens, Merseyside.**

Glad that you liked the story Mrs McGuire. Your thanks have been passed to the author — none other than our feature writer, Mike Starke.



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National Service

Never in the history of the United Kingdom, has the need for unity through discipline been more imperative than it is now.

Far too many people are aware of rights and rules for personal gain, but have little perception when obligations are presented to them. Whilst it is true to say that the British never had it so good, this is also philosophically fallacious. It is also fallacious to argue that since Jones receives alpha remuneration, Jack should get omega. No man is an island on this Island, or anywhere else in a civilised world. It is therefore essential that all demands for a better distribution of wealth should be governed by national feeling and common cause, leading to national progress.

Some two and a half thousand years ago, Epictetus defined wealth, as "whatever a man can with dignity do without". There is a popular demand for more wealth and less dignity amongst the British people, an attitude which has destroyed many nations and empires.

The wealth of the British Empire — in spite of defects — was not measured in gold alone, but in the right of its peoples to dignity. It is on this premise that World War Two was contested.

I believe that a purposeful spirit employed by discipline is Britain's only way to salvation and the best school where this may be learned is the British Army. There is no more time for experiments. It is time for National Service. — **L E Nicolaidis, 63 Rowstock Gardens, Hungerford Road, London N7 0BH.**

No to APTC

The letters from a brigadier, lieutenant-colonel and a captain (December '79) seem too concerned about Basic Fitness Tests for soldiers. The Army Physical Training Corps is probably unnecessary in our modern Army.

On enlistment today recruits receive a thorough medical examination. The RAMC decides if a soldier maintains fitness during training which leaves no time for flamboyant exercises in gymnasiums. Ordinary physical training is sufficient and can be supervised by NCOs of the recruit's or trained soldier's unit. The APTC only adds to the lengthy 'tail' of our armed forces.

During a turbulent existence our Army has generally emerged with flying colours from tough campaigns without thought, need or knowledge of Basic Fitness Tests. Fortunately for me, more than sixty-two years ago, they had 'ways of making recruits fit'. My case is typical of those times. Having surmounted the under age problem with a brother's birth certificate, my first examination proved me to be below the seven stone minimum weight. This was rectified next day when, with a belly full of water, a pal added a towel-wrapped brick to my hands which were ostensibly supporting my shorts as I stood on the scales. Physical training was conducted by NCOs and were the only parades where we did not wear those long unhealthy puttees.

World War Two found me over age for infantry and overseas service

which I overcame by giving a false age. I was medically graded A1 and thus had the honour of performing overseas active service despite never having the benefits of APTC instruction or even a Basic Fitness Test. And I still march at regimental reunions and Armistice commemoration parades in perfect step with the youngest and oldest veterans. — **R Rimmer, 27 St George's, Chester, CH1 3HG.**

Stupid sign

I wonder how much damage to the Army's image is being done by the idiotic retention of the sign 'Rations. No lifts' to be seen on many vehicles at home and abroad.

To me, it summons up the Great North Road on a dark drizzly evening with an impecunious National Serviceman at the roadside in a soggy shapeless greatcoat looking for a lift. Private soldiers of the Eighties may not all have cars, but their NCO colleagues will, I am sure, oblige them with a lift if needed. — **Major L F E Fitzpatrick-Robertson, Woolwich Garrison Officers' Mess, Academy Road, London SE18 4JJ.**

Wartime firsts

Reading recently *Famous Scots*, by William Weir Gilmour, an excellent little book giving information on the contribution made by Scots to human progress in every field, I came across the statement "In the 1914-18 War, the first British regiment to go into action was The London Scottish." As readers may know, The London Scottish was the first Territorial Army unit to go into action, but not the first British unit. However, the statement prompted me to do a little research on what were the 'firsts' of World War One.

As stated, The London Scottish who, together with the Infantry Battalion of the Honourable Artillery Company, had landed in France in September, 1914, was the first Territorial Army unit to go into action. This was on 31 October. Of the Yeomanry Regiments, the Royal Oxfordshire Hussars, who had landed in France in mid-September, was the first to go into action. The first Regular Army unit to meet the enemy was a patrol of the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, a corporal of that unit having the distinction of firing the first shot. This was early on the morning of 23 August at Mons. Before the day was out, five Victoria Crosses had been won. Casualties I have been unable to find out about, but the first senior officer to die on active service was Lt Gen Sir J M Grierson, who died of a heart attack in a train in France on 17 August.

However, Mons was not the first action in Europe in which British personnel were involved. A group of the Legion of Frontiersmen from Lancashire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire, paid their own fares to Belgium, and joined the 3rd Belgian Lancers. They were fighting by 16 August. The Legion of Frontiersmen still exists, consisting of a body of ex-Servicemen who wish to continue voluntary uniformed service for Queen and Country. The Legion has large units

in Canada and New Zealand. The first British Army unit to land in France was 2nd Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Probably the first action by an armoured car was on 16 September 1914, when an armoured car, commanded by Commander Sampson, of the Royal Naval Air Service killed four Uhlans and captured a fifth, near Doullens, close to the Belgian frontier.

The first man to fly into Germany was Flt-Lieut C H Collet RFC, who bombed the Zeppelin sheds at Düsseldorf on 23 September.

Units of the Indian Army were in action in France by the time of the Battle of La Bassée. The first Indian unit to land in France was the 129th Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis (later 4th Bn The Baluch Regiment). An officer of this regiment was the first Indian Army officer to be killed in action, and Sepoy Knudadat Khan of the regiment was the first member of the Indian Army to be awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery on the night of 30/31 October. The first Indian Army cavalry regiment to land in France was the 20th Lancers, but the first to go into action were the 2nd Royal Lancers and the Poona Horse (17th QVO's Cavalry), whose proud boast it was that up to 1939 they held more battle honours than any other cavalry regiment in the Commonwealth.

The first tank ever to go into action was a Mk 1 No D1 of D Company, Heavy Section, Machine Gun Corps (later Royal Tank Regt), commanded by Captain H W Mortimer, at 5.15am on 14 September, 1916 near Delville Wood.

This, then, is my record of 'firsts' for the 1914-18 War. Would any reader like to expand on it? — **Ian Hamilton, Commander RN, 8 Old Hall Drive, Newton Stewart, Wigtownshire**

Rules, please

On occasions during the last ten years I have heard mention of a motor rally-cum-hillwalking exercise which incorporates motoring between and climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon — respectively the three highest mountains of Scotland, England and Wales. I believe that the bogey time is 48 hours, which, depending on the start point, is not very generous.

I have never met anyone who has taken part or knows the 'rules' — formally drawn up or established by tradition. I would be very grateful if any readers could shed light on this challenging activity. — **Major P J R Mileham RTR, 'C' Company, Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, Berkshire.**

Flagstaff House

While on a recent visit to my old regiment in India, I had lunch with the brigadier in Dalhousie. It may interest your readers to know that his official residence, Flagstaff House, was in pre-war days the Sergeants' Mess.

He is completing a history of the

building and would be very grateful for any information and anecdotes from your readers who were stationed there. If they send them to me, I will see that they are forwarded. — **Lt-Col (Retd) J R L Roberts, 148 Ennerdale Road, Richmond, Surrey.**

WWOOFing

I wonder whether any SOLDIER reader would be interested in spending some spare time in helping on an organic farm?

WWOOF (Working Weekends on Organic Farms) is a nationwide, non-profit making organisation whereby unskilled labour is exchanged for bed and board on organic farms, gardens and small holdings and for the chance to gain experience in organic methods of horticulture and agriculture. A bi-monthly newsletter gives details of places needing helpers on specific weekends and of forthcoming educational courses, exhibitions and other events and news in the organic movement.

Members are expected to take with them their own working clothes and sleeping bags. Children can be accommodated on some farms. After successfully completing two weekends, members may apply for their own copy of the complete, detailed list of WWOOF places and make their own arrangements.

WWOOF is organised by a team drawn from its own membership who volunteer to carry out the specific jobs as they occur. Social get-togethers are held from time to time so that members can meet one another and discuss the running of WWOOF.

Many WWOOFers have found WWOOF the doorway to a new life on the land, gaining first education and then the opportunity to change to a rural career.

As at July 1979 WWOOF has around 2000 members and 200 places needing help. Further details and our brochure and application form may be obtained from WWOOF, 19 Bradford Road, Lewes, Sussex — **Richard Hazell, 137 Camberwell Road, London SE5.**

Much smarter

I wish to dispute Captain Wakley's letter (January) in defence of khaki. Please do not throw out the No 1 dress hats. They look much smarter than the beret.

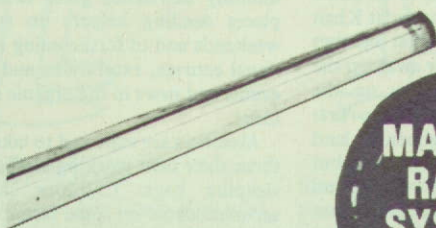
The green uniform looked very smart. So did the peaked caps. The deep crowned peaked caps were popular and comfortable when the No 2 dress was introduced and, with all due respect to the Light Infantry and Fusiliers, looked much smarter with the round flat peaked caps than side hats or berets. It would be interesting to learn other readers' views. — **P Stevenson, 57 Prinley Park Crescent, Alwoodley, Leeds LS17 7HY.**

Unit museum

The City of London Company of 5th Volunteer Battalion of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has an unbroken history through its predecessor units 8th and 9th Bns, The Royal Fusiliers, 1st and 2nd

continued on page 53

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Bns, The London Regiment, 1st and 2nd Volunteer Bns of The Royal Fusiliers and 19th and 46th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps — right back to 1859 when the earliest unit was raised by Thomas Hughes, the author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*.

To record this history, a unit museum is now being formed and I would like, through your columns, to appeal to your readers for any relevant material which they might be willing to lend, donate or possibly sell to the unit. Any item no matter how small would be gratefully received. I can be contacted through the unit at the above address if anyone can help. — **Sgt J M J Mills, Fusilier House, 213 Balham High Road, London SW17 7BQ.**

Malabar Bar

I do not know at what period reader A H Dall (Letters, December) was engaged in the Moplah Rebellion but his comments are, to quote him, extremely sketchy.

So far as I can ascertain the disturbance started at a place called Calicut in the area of Goa, which necessitated military intervention. At the time, 1921, I was stationed at Cornwallis Barracks, Bangalore, serving in a famous cavalry regiment, The Queen's Bays.

A fully equipped mounted squadron of my regiment was sent to the area together with details of the 67th Battery Royal Field Artillery and the 2nd Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment from Baird Barracks, Bangalore. The Irish Regiment referred to was The Leinster Regiment, disbanded 1922.

As the subject in question is entitlement to the Malabar Bar, I would like to mention that Indian contractors who accompanied their respective regiments were entitled to and awarded the Bar. I have seen an Imperial General Service Medal, awarded to the contractor of my regiment, with the 1921-22 Bar, but in all these years I have never seen or heard of one awarded to personnel of 'B' Squadron of my regiment. As there could only have been about 100 awarded they must be extremely rare. — **A C Tebbutt, 33 Creffield Road, Ealing, London W5 3RR.**

Landguard Fort

I am at present engaged on research into Landguard Fort, Felixstowe, Suffolk, with a view to possibly producing a book about it. The Felixstowe History Society, of which I am a member, is also having discussions with the Department of the Environment about the possibility of our society carrying out renovation work on the fort and, in future, opening it to the public. I should like to hear from any old soldiers who were ever stationed at Landguard Fort. — **D A Wood, 126 Hervey Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.**

Beachley OB's

I would like to assure Captain Chalmers (January) that even if SOLDIER did overlook the presence of REME at AAC Chepstow, this is certainly not the case in respect of the Beachley Old Boys Association.

The large and very faithful contingent of distinguished members and

ex-members of his corps which arrives here annually for the BOBA Reunion gives us a constant and happy reminder of the contribution that REME has made to the past history and present status of the college. This fact has been recognised by inviting the DME to be our guest of honour and having the REME Band to play for us on two occasions in recent years.

If Captain Chalmers will come and join us for the 1980 Reunion from 26 to 28 September, he will see in the Apprentices Dining Hall a long decorative panel bearing the shields of all corps and regiments of the Army with apprentices trained at Chepstow, together with the years during which they received their training.

This list does not include the apprentices trained for the Burmese and Nigerian armies after the War, nor the many others who served in a variety of other units such as the Glider Pilot Regiment during the war.

In answer to Captain Chalmers' final query, marine engineers for the RCT Fleet receive their initial training as marine fitters at Chepstow. — **Lt-Col (Retd) S G Townsend, Vice President Beachley Old Boys' Association, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Gwent NP6 7YG.**

Boer Medals

I write to ask if any SOLDIER readers have in their possession any medals inscribed to Cambridge University Rifle Volunteers for their part in the Boer War. Cambridge University Officers Training Corps are hoping to purchase any such medals for our corps' collection. Also, have readers any cap badges worn throughout our history up to World War Two? Finally, are there any ex-Cambridge graduates who would like to donate

medals or badges to the University Officers Training Corps. This would be very much appreciated. — **Officer-Cadet Glenn K Worridge, Royal Signals Wing CUOTC, 1 Montgomery Road, Cambridge, CB4 2EQ.**

Derby quest

I emigrated from Derby to Ontario in 1959 and have returned a few times since to visit relatives and friends. However, my attempts to trace a particular friend with whom I grew up have met only dead ends, and since his father was in the Army I wonder whether any SOLDIER readers might be able to help me.

My friend's name was Nicholas Brown and he lived at 42 Chatsworth Street in Derby. His father was a sergeant. If any of your readers recognise his name and have any clues to the whereabouts of either father or son, I should much appreciate hearing from them. — **David Quinn, Box 1349, Kincardine, Ontario, Canada.**

How observant are you?

(see page 23)

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1 Left point of waitress's collar, 2 Tail of dead mouse, 3 Fingers of chef's left hand, 4 'D' of 'Drivers', 5 Front foot of running toad, 6 Cat's whiskers, 7 Soldier's left heel, 8 Soldier's tie, 9 Waitress's elbow (below tray), 10 Chef's left sleeve.

Competition

Plenty of our readers have a flair for anagrams judging by the large response to our November competition (256) 'Cracking the Code'. There were even complaints that it was too easy although some entrants still got it

Collector's Corner

exchange 1922 disbanded Irish Regt badges.

Capt F Whittle, 4 Darnford Close, Parkside, Stafford. — Collector of British Army cap badges wishes to contact same with a view to exchanging badges and information.

M Fogarty, 2 Stuart House, King St, Droylsden, M35 6DW. — Wishes to buy badges and other items of the Irish regiments. Regrets nothing available for exchange because of paucity of collection.

F A J Wright, RR2, Knowlton PQ, Canada, JOE IVO. — Wants RAF Ferry/Transport Police items (WBCs) badges, brassards Sweetheart Wings — RAF Ferry Command Cap badges (air and ground crew). Has medals, obsolete police pocket badges, formation flashes etc for trade. UK Collectors — £1 common badge for complete list (US\$1.00). Specify your trades please in reply.

Peter de Greiff, Am Kiesberg 3, 2351 Rickling, West Germany. — Wants para wings (all acc to numbers of the book 'Parachute Badges and Insignia of the World' by Bragg and Turner) 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 61, 109, 283, 284, 291, 449, 503, 523, 528, 529, 530. Offers in exchange all West German current Army and Army para insignia.

S T Peterson, Dalen No 2, DK-4130,

wrong! Bond's vital message was **AIRBORNE INVASION AT DAWN TUESDAY** and the winners were:

1 C/Sgt D Irving-James, 2 Bn Queen's Rgt, Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, Essex.

2 Mr G Maynard, 45 Barfield Road, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks.

3 Cpl P F Sinclair, Junior Leaders Regt RE, Old Park Barracks, Dover, Kent.

4 Brigadier J D G Pank, HQ Paderborn Garrison, BFPO 16.

5 Major P D Whittle, 47 (Middx Yeomanry) Sig Sqn, TAVR Centre, Elm Grove Road, Harrow, Middx.

6 Miss W J Parker-Wade, 3 River-view Way, Cheltenham, Glos.

7 Capt J J MacDougall, Accommodation Services Unit RAOC, NI (East), BFPO 801.

8 Mr G Smith, 1 Barbour Road, Hartcliffe, Bristol, BS13 0PW.

Reunions

RAMC/RADC WO's & Sgts past and present dinner club. The 1980 Dinner is to be held on Saturday 19 April 1980 at the Royal Officers Club, Aldershot. Further details available from: RSM, RAMC Trg Centre, Keogh Bks, Ash Vale, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 5RQ.

The Annual Reunion of the Fiddlers Club will be held, with kind permission of the Commandant, The Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, on 1/2 August 1980. All pre-war trumpeters, are invited to attend. Further details from Major J J Dobbs, c/o SOLDIER Magazine, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants.

Viby-SJ, Denmark. — Needs following for collection of worldwide artillery badges and emblems: Imperial Russian artillery badges, particularly helmet plates etc. Any old worldwide artillery badges and helmet plates etc. Has Danish and other cap badges and some Danish Medical Corps armbands from 1914 and before.

Jurgen Balke, 3050 Wunstorff/Hannover, Asternweg 44, West Germany. — Seeks British Army vehicles 1:100/HO scale and is searching for models. In exchange can give Bundeswehr models in same scale. Would also like to know where he can buy such models or contact others with similar interest.

E McAllister, 26 Fir Tree Rise, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9HS. — Wishes to purchase blue diamond with red VP formation sign, blue diamond with red TC formation sign, CMP printed in black on red title, CMP on khaki slipover titles, any medals named to military policemen.

R J Russell, 1425 Slater Place, Victoria BC, Canada, V8P 3R2. — Collector of British and Commonwealth cap badges and cap badges of the Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919. Has many British and Commonwealth cap badges (all genuine and some scarce) for exchange. — Wants spares list sent on request.

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Huntingdon, PE18 8NP.

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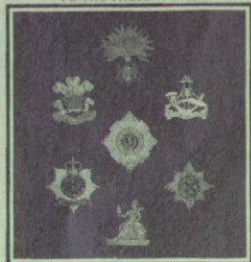
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Books

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VOLUME TWO
FROM THE END OF THE GREAT WAR
TO THE PRESENT DAY



Arthur L. Kipling
Hugh L. King

Above the head

'Head-Dress Badges of the British Army - Vol 2' (Arthur L Kipling and Hugh L King)

With the first volume, still available at £25, this completes a survey of head-dress badges from the 18th century by covering the period from World War One to now. With its 1200 illustrations, it is claimed to be 'comprehensive' and at its price it ought to be. Besides the expected, it includes school cadet contingent badges, the Home Guard (including a squadron formed in 1940 of Americans living in London) and officers' training corps'. There is a section on (Oh, horror!) plastic badges made when metal was scarce in World War Two.

For the collectors this appears to be a thorough and easy-to-use reference book. For dippers-in there is a good deal that is interesting. This reviewer having worn that badge familiarly described as, 'A pansy resting on its laurels', was pleased to find it is officially, 'A rose ensigned with the Imperial crown within two branches of laurel'.

The authors issue a stern warning to collectors to beware of 'restrikes' and speak slightly of reproductions from the Middle and Far East. Any old soldier who bought a locally-made badge in Cairo or Calcutta and wore it at Alamein or Kohima might want to argue that it is worthier of preservation than a 'genuine' article from Birmingham that never heard a shot fired in anger. Frederick Muller, Victoria Works, Edgware Road, London NW2 6LE, £22.50

RLE

Striking detail

'US 2nd Armoured Division 1940-45' (Philip Katcher) 'Sturmartillerie and Panzerjäger' (Bryan Perrett)

Numbers 11 and 12 in the Osprey Vanguard series describing units and weapons systems for the benefit of enthusiasts and modellers, these books contain much detail of equipment and uniforms and are well illustrated in both colour and black and white.

The American 2nd Armoured Division was formed in July 1940 and had the redoubtable George S Patton Jr as its commander from late that year until early 1942. It saw battle in North Africa, Sicily and North West Europe.

Sturmartillerie and Panzerjäger were self-propelled guns, respectively assault artillery and tank destroyers. The author estimates that the former alone destroyed 30,000 tanks. 'Father' of assault artillery in the German army was General Erich von Manstein and that doughty exponent of the armoured Blitzkrieg, Guderian, sponsored the tank destroyers.

Osprey, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP

RLE

Tortuous tale

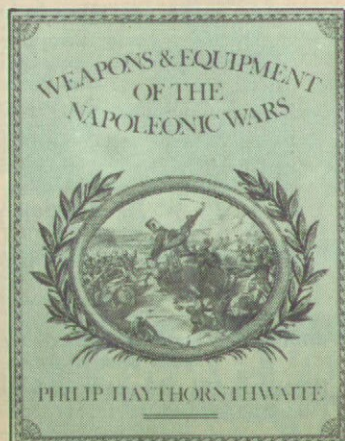
'North American FALs' (R Blake Stevens)

FAL stands for Fusil Automatique Léger, or light automatic rifle. Mr Stevens sub-titles his book, 'Nato's search for a standard rifle' and it explains among other things how in the 1950s, Britain came to adopt a Belgian rifle with an American cartridge as its L1A1.

The tortuous tale of this weapon begins in Belgium in the 1930's. Its early design was spirited away from the advancing Germans in 1940 and its designers had to mark time in a Britain which was too busy to worry about it. Mr Stevens gives a good deal of technical detail with more than 200 pictures. The book is to be succeeded by 'UK and Commonwealth FALs' and still a third FAL book is planned. All very much for the enthusiast.

Collector Grade Publications, PO Box 250, Stn E, Toronto M6H 4E2, Canada, \$20

RLE



Napoleon's era

1. 'Weapons and Equipment of the Napoleonic Wars' (Philip J Haythornthwaite); 2. 'Armies of the Napoleonic Era' (Otto von Pivka)

While Napoleon was on St Helena, an author suggested he had never existed at all but was a composite image for the deeds of many generals, his name

a cant term for the 'good part' of the French army.

Mr Haythornthwaite quotes this as an extreme example of the kind of source an historian must avoid. He then goes on to pick his way between discrepancies in contemporary sources to produce an enjoyable, pleasantly-illustrated and rather generalised description of the armies of Napoleon's time. He gives details of weapons and tactics, organisation and supplies, conditions, uniforms and equipment. He also tacks on a glossary, handy for when reading less considerate authors. Did you know that French troops called British ones 'Goddams', for the obvious reason, and had done so since the Hundred Years War? And that British troops called French ones *crapauds*, which a French dictionary describes as small amphibians (perhaps the ones drinkers get as tight as).

Mr von Pivka is much more of a collectors' author than a readers'. He, too, has chapters on weapons and equipment and they are full of facts such as weights and lengths and angles and ranges and recipes for fire-bomb fillings and rocket propulsion charges. More than two-thirds of his book is devoted to regiments, and especially their uniforms and badges, not only of the big nations but of such forgotten states as the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and the Duchy of Oldenburg.

1. Blandford Press, Link House, West St, Poole, Dorset, £8.95; 2. David and Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon, £7.50

RLE

Desperate days

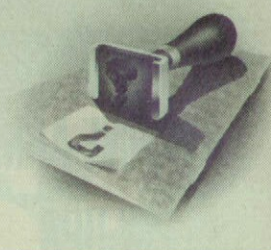
'Desperate Journey' (Francis Clifford)

Francis Clifford, successful novelist, was known in war-time Burma by his real name, Captain Arthur Bell Thompson of the 1st Burma Rifles, who had been in the rice trade before the war. Early in 1942 he was in command of a party of Karens and fought a desperate delaying action which, according to the citation for the DSO he was awarded, 'saved the Chinese and British armies in Burma from encirclement'.

The desperate journey started after that, but before Captain Thompson and his men could recover from two months of fighting. Cut off, they set out 150 strong to rejoin the British Army in India. It took four months during which they covered about a thousand miles through enemy-held territory. Only 12 of them completed

BRITAIN'S INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

LAURAN PAINE



the trip, but many of the Burmese were sent off to look after their families.

The marchers endured all the hardships of Burma with none of the amenities to which Britons were normally accustomed. They were cut off, as Ronald Lewin says in an introduction, from the 'system' through which comes supplies, medical attention and the rest and which, however ramshackle, is tremendous for morale.

They lived largely off the countryside and survived partly owing to the hospitality of the Karen and Kachin tribesmen in whose villages they stayed, and to the loyalty of the Karen soldiers in the party. They did at one time enjoy the luxury of a team of mules, but the muleteers deserted with their animals and food supplies. They rested their feet for four days by rafting down a river. The author, sick with fever, boils and other ailments, was so weak that he crawled for one five-mile stage. They crossed the border into China but cheered when they got back into Burma. "I did not like the idea of dying in China," said one of them.

This is one of the great tales of endurance and determination to come out of World War Two. Captain Thompson's ordeal affected his health permanently. He was invalided back to Britain and wrote this account of the march from his diary two years later. He died in 1975.

Hodder and Stoughton, 47 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP, £5.50

RLE

Ypres revisited

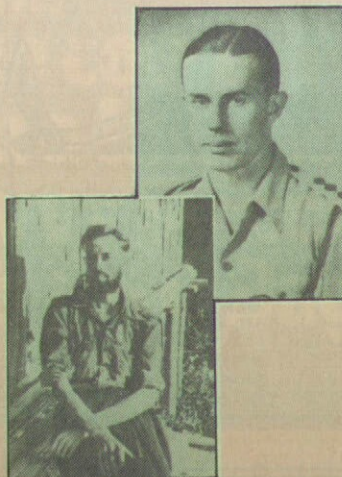
'The Ypres Salient' (John Giles)

The Ypres Salient was a feature of the British line in Flanders throughout the World War One stalemate in Flanders, and 200,000 Commonwealth soldiers — 160,000 of them from Britain — are buried there.

Mr Giles produced this book, including 'then and now' pictures, in 1970 and has now up-dated it. He has found changes in those nine years, particularly in the roads as the 'pavé' vanishes. A motorway, he reports, is being carved across the old battlefields north of the Menin Road. The pictures of the graves retain their poignancy, and aerial shots of the seas of muddy shell-holes make one wonder again how men survived fighting there.

Picardy, 11-13 Knightsbridge Green, London SW1X 7QL, £8.50

RLE



Subject to error

'Britain's Intelligence Service' (Lauran Paine)

The Blunt case and the continuing stream of revelations about the Enigma code-breaking operation give topicality to the subject of this book. However, it is not a source of further revelations but a popular survey of the intelligence scene from the Spanish Armada onwards. It is very readable, but its accuracy must be suspect — in this one sentence it makes two blatant, easily-checked errors: 'At this time Wavell's successor in Africa, British Lieutenant-General Montgomery was poised with his Eighth Army to press a vigorous attack, and General Rommel, recently returned from sick leave in Germany, was prepared to resist.' Montgomery was not Wavell's successor and Rommel was not recalled from sick-leave until after the assault was launched at Alamein.

Robert Hale, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT, £6.50 **RLE**

In the pink

'Tank and AFV Crew Uniforms since 1916' (Martin Windrow)

Mr Windrow says he wrote this book because he needed it on his own reference shelves, and he sees its potential readers as scale modellers of armoured vehicles, all of which should be a good enough recommendation to interested parties. Armoured vehicle crews as a group must be among the most drably-dressed soldiers in all armies, but Gerry Embleton's colour illustrations show the colonello of an Italian tank regiment in Lybia in 1942 fetchingly attired in a 'slightly pink shade of sandy drill' — pink being widely recognised as an excellent desert camouflage colour. Few others in the 120 black and white and 52 coloured illustrations look so smart, but most of them look pretty businesslike.

Patrick Stephens, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8EL, £5.50 casebound, £3.95 softbound **RLE**

Leyte Gulf

'The Battle of Leyte Gulf' (Adrian Stewart)

This last great battle of the Pacific war, in October 1944, was gigantic in scale and varied in action, with submarines and kamikaze aircraft, carrier-borne aircraft and naval guns up to 18.1 inches all taking part. For the Japanese, loss of the Philippines would be vital and their plan was to concentrate naval forces to wipe out the American surface fleet supporting a landing, and then the landing force. It was the Japanese, however, who were beaten, and thereafter their navy was incapable of fighting another full-scale action. This readable and analytical study is, say the publishers, the first full-length account of the battle by a British author.

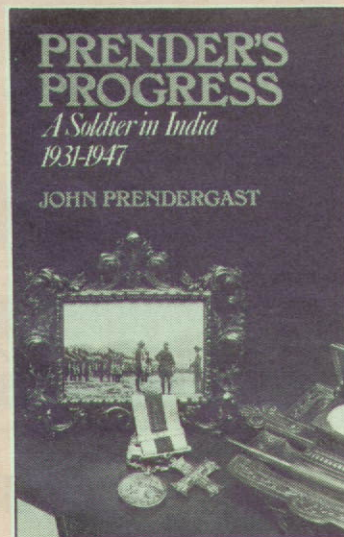
Robert Hale, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT, £6.50 **RLE**

Civil games

'The Campaign of Naseby 1645'; 'The Campaign of Leipzig 1813' (both by Stewart A. Asquith and Peter Gilder)

The first two of an Osprey Wargames series by and for wargamers. Each consists of a concise study of the campaign with notes on the commanders involved, weapons, tactics, organisation and other relevant factors and there are useful pictures and plans. Each book has a centre section of colour photographs of battle-scenes set up with models and an 'aerial view' of the main battle showing the lie of the land and troop dispositions. 'Naseby' has a section on wargaming the campaign which starts by declaring that the English Civil War is particularly suitable for war-gaming because the limited range of weapons and desire to get to within 'a push of the pike' make the confines of a wargames table less of a restriction than they are for most periods. Brightly and succinctly presented, these tabloid histories are attractive even to the non-wargamer.

Osprey, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2 9LP, £2.50 each **RLE**



Indian summers

'Prender's Progress' (John Prendergast)

"Prendergast is a nice chap, but he eats with his hands", reported a staff officer who visited the 1st Western Tribal Legion in Southern India in 1942. So he did. The founder and commander of this bold attempt to get fierce Pathans from across the North West Frontier to fight the Japanese had trained himself to eat with his men in the field and had laid on a Pathan feast for his visitor. Alas, the Legion was a flop. Higher authority denied it proper weapons, the paymaster was slow with the money and above all the Pathans were not nearly so fierce and happy away from their barren hills. The Legion was disbanded.

This was just one incident in the colourful career in the old Indian Army which Brigadier Prendergast describes. He fought on the Frontier with the tough and famous Tochi Scouts. On attachment to the British Army he fought in Norway with the Independent Companies (gallant but still unorganised predecessors of the Commandos) and the Irish Guards, and he fought in Burma with Indian infantry battalions. His accounts of life in India as a child, and then in the 1930's, and of going to war with sepoys, are nostalgic, entertaining and valuable.

Cassell, 35 Red Lion Sq, London WC1R 4SG, £7.95 **RLE**

Union Cavalry

'The Union Cavalry in the Civil War' (Stephen Z Starr)

'Glamor' was the word for the cavalry when the American Civil War broke out, but few of the recruit's gaudy visions lasted long. His steed turned out to be an untrained, unmanageable scarecrow, his sabre stayed in its rusty scabbard (except on parade) because most of the fighting was on foot, and the cavalry yellow trim on his uniform was soon tarnished and dirty. With such a summary Mr Starr introduces this first of three volumes, in which he tells the story of the Union's cavalry from its raising to the battle of Gettysburg. But, as a sort of trailer of things to come, he leaps forward to the end of the war and describes the Union cavalry's climax when, under a whizz-kid general of 27, 14,000 cavalry invaded Alabama and destroyed the South's arsenals. Mr Starr has an easy style and is pleasant reading.

Leicester University Press, Leicester LE1 7RH, £18 **RLE**

Panzer story

'Panzers in Russia 1943-45' (Bruce Quarrie)

This is the continuation of *Panzers in Russia 1941-43* — Number 9 in the World War Two Photo Album series reviewed in February's *SOLDIER*. It contains a list of nine German tanks introduced into service during 1943 to 1945, giving details of their tonnage, capacity, armament and armour, and their capabilities. The photographs follow the usual pattern being, in general, clear and detailed. There is a campaign map and one fine aerial picture shows Panzer-Grenadiers deployed and advancing in half-tracks during the battle of Kursk.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8EL, £4.50 casebound, £2.95 softbound **GRH**

Deuce and a half

'The GMC: A Universal Truck' (Jean-Michael Boniface and Jean-Gabriel Jeudy)

If you want to know anything about the American GMC (General Motor Company) Universal Truck you will find all your answers here. Known as 'Jimmy' or 'Deuce and a half', it is claimed to have been the "most commonly used tactical vehicle in World War Two". It was a 2½-ton 6 × 6 vehicle and nearly 600,000 were produced.

It was used successfully and gratefully by a number of nations and was developed to carry stores or personnel, and to act as tipper, bridge transporter, pipeline layer, tanker, air compressor, mobile workshop, medical unit, bomb transporter, mobile canteen, fire-fighting unit as well as many other rôles.

One of its developments was as an amphibious vehicle — the DUKW — useful for ship to shore transportation and onward to inland dumps. The British soldier of World War Two and after, knew it well and praised its capabilities. Here are pictures galore and all about 'Jimmy' in war and peace.

Frederick Warne (Publishers) Ltd, 40 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HE, £9.95 **GRH**

WORLD ARMIES

John Keegan

All the armies

'World Armies' (John Keegan)

Mr Keegan is a senior lecturer in war studies at Sandhurst, and in the course of his work discovered that nobody had published a comprehensive guide to the armies of the world. So he set out to do so with the help of contributors among whom his Sandhurst colleagues are heavily represented. They have nearly 850 large pages, including an appendix to update entries overtaken by events.

The object is to present armies in their domestic, historical, social and political as well as military contexts. The political aspect is one of increasing importance, given the number of states now under direct or indirect military rule. In an introduction, Mr Keegan quotes Professor S E Finer on the political advantages of an army over civilian groupings: "It possesses vastly superior organisation. And it possesses arms. The wonder, therefore, is not why it rebels against its civilian masters but why it ever obeys them." So far as Britain is concerned, John Pimlott meets that point succinctly in the United Kingdom entry. Mr Pimlott's summing up of today's British Army praises its professionalism but finds "causes for disquiet" in its smallness and that of its reserve potential, in the time given to Northern Ireland which should be given to Nato, and in the economic stringency.

Richard Holmes calls the offensive potential of the Soviet ground forces "impressive" but says young Russians do not find their military service the happiest time of their lives. It was reduced to two years in 1967 and is further eroded by political instruction which lessens the training time with what may have damaging effects on efficiency.

Mr Keegan himself writes on the United States Army and it is heartening to read that it has recovered well from its disabling experience in Vietnam. It has "reorganised sensibly". Its drug abuse, disciplinary and racial problems "have been almost completely eliminated, its morale is high" and so is the standard of recruits.

This is a splendid book, admirable for reference, informative and stimulating to dip into. It is intended for people with weightier interests than uniform buffs, but on behalf of the latter let us have one niggles. What, please, are these 'bear-skin busbies' that Mr Pimlott attributes to our Foot Guards?

Macmillan, London and Basingstoke, £22.50 **RLE**

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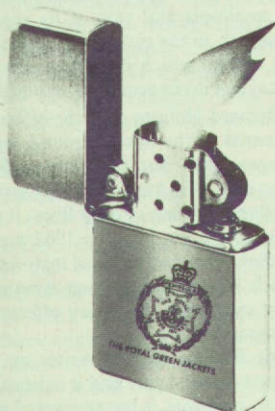
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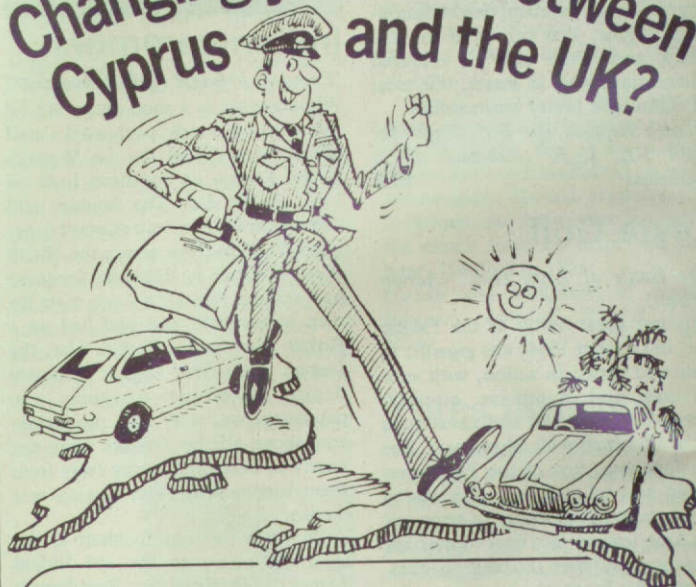
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See-the-Army DIARY

Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type. We hope that organisers will advise us of any changes but please check locally before setting out.

MARCH 1980

- 16 Burnley, Concert by Band, Royal Hussars.
- 29 Folkestone Leas Cliff Hall, Concert by Bands, 17/21 Lancers, RAC Bovington.
- 30 Guildford Civic Hall, Concert by Bands, 17/21 Lancers, RAC Bovington.

APRIL 1980

- 27 Country Fete, Teesdale.

MAY 1980

- 3 Burslem Festival (3-5 May).
- 5 Lydiard Park Show.
- 7 Royal Windsor Horse Show (7-11 May).
- 11 Maypole Week, Birmingham.
- 15 Devon County Show, Exeter (15-17 May).
- 17 Brighton Festival Tattoo (Bands, RN display, RAF dogs).
- 17 Hinckley Tattoo (17-18 May) (JLR RA Band and gymnastic team).
- 18 Royal performance of 'Star Parade'. Theatre Royal Drury Lane. In aid of Army Benevolent Fund.
- 18 Paignton Festival Theatre, Concert by Bands, 17/21 Lancers, RAC Bovington.
- 20 Chelsea Flower Show (20-23 May) (Grenadier Gds Band).
- 21 Shropshire and West Midland Show (21-22 May) (LI Band, RA Motorcycles, Flying Bugles).
- 23 Beating Retreat, Chester (JLR RA Band).
- 24 Poole Wessex Theatre, Concert by Bands, R Signals, Royal Corps of Transport.
- 24 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (24-26 May) (Bands and RGJ Bugles, Red Devils, Blue Helmets).
- 24 Dudley Spring Festival.
- 24 Birmingham Spring Festival (24-31 May) (R Sigs Band, White Helmets, RGJ Freefall).
- 24 Herts Agricultural Show, Redbourn (24-25 May).
- 25 Carrington Park Rally (25-26 May).
- 26 Hove Lions Day (Red Devils).
- 28 Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet (28-31 May) (RA Bands, RHA Kings Troop).
- 28 Stafford Agricultural Show (28-29 May) (Flying Bugles).
- 28 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (28-29 May).
- 29 Wolverhampton Fiesta (29 May-1 June) (Band, JLR RA gymnastic team).
- 31 First Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London (Massed Bands).
- 31 Salisbury Hospital Gala.
- 31 International Air Display, Bristol Airport (31 May-1 June).
- 31 St Neots Riverside Festival (31 May-1 June).
- 31 Burnley Services Tattoo (31 May-1 June) (Brigade of Gurkhas Band and Bugles, Blue Helmets, Red Devils, 1 Gordons Pipes and Drums).

JUNE 1980

- 3 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade (3-5 June) (Massed Bands).
- 5 South of England Show, Ardingley (5-7 June) (1 Queens Band).
- 7 Nuneaton Carnival (JLR RA Band and gymnastic team).
- 7 Second Rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 8 Massed Bands, Horse Guards Parade (8-13 June).
- 8 Nottingham Festival (8-13 June) (Band Irish Gds).
- 14 Queen's Official Birthday Royal Salute, Cardiff (Band 1RRW).
- 14 Queen's Birthday Parade, Horse Guards Parade (Massed Bands).
- 14 Coventry Carnival.
- 15 Open Day, Scottish Infantry (Glencorse) (PT and drill displays, static displays, side shows).
- 18 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (18-19 June) (Band, White Helmets).
- 21 Leicester Tattoo.
- 21 Ashford Extravaganza (21-22 June) (Band).
- 25 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25-26 June) (Bands, H Cav Quadrille).
- 25 Aldershot Army Display (25-29 June) (Massed Bands, Kings Troop

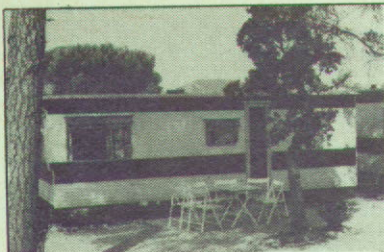
- RHA, RA Motorcycles, Red Devils, Red Caps).
- 29 Chesterfield Carnival.
- 30 Royal Show, Stoneleigh (30 June-3 July) (Bands, RGJ Freefall, RHA Musical Drive).

JULY 1980

- 2 Army Exhibition for Schools, Bassingbourn (2-4 July) (Bands, Red Caps, JLR RE gymnastic team).
- 2 Larkhill Massed Bands.
- 3 Royal British Legion Tattoo, Staverton Airfield, Gloucestershire (3-6 July) (Massed Bands, Red Devils).
- 4 Staffordshire Careers Exhibition (4-6 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 5 Open Day, Prince of Wales' Division Depot, Crickhowell.
- 5 Army Open Day RPC Trg Centre, Northampton.
- 5 Open Day, British Steel Corporation, Middlesbrough (Band 1 Green Howards).
- 5 Birkenshaw Show.
- 5 Pelsall Carnival (Band).
- 5 West Bromwich Carnival (RGJ Band, RGJ Freefall).
- 5 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars.
- 5 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (5-6 July).
- 6 Paull Air Show, Hull.
- 9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (9-26 July) (Massed Bands, Kenya Army Band and Display Team, Kings Troop RHA, Household Cavalry Quadrille, APTC).
- 10 Basingstoke Tattoo (10-12 July) (1 Staffs Band).
- 10 Kent County Show (10-12 July) (Band, Red Devils).
- 10 Sheffield Services Display (10-13 July) (Bands).
- 11 Taunton Centenary, King's College.
- 11 Hereford Careers Exhibition (11-13 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 12 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
- 15 East of England Show, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (15-16 July) (RA Motorcycles).
- 17 Manchester Show (17-19 July) (2 RRF, Queens Division Depot, Red Devils).
- 18 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (Bands).
- 19 Stroud Show.
- 19 Durham County Show.
- 19 Bristol Harbour Regatta (19-20 July).
- 19 Bournemouth Air Pageant (19-20 July).
- 20 Concert, Edinburgh by Band, Royal Hussars (20-26 July).
- 21 Rotherham Tattoo (21-22 July).
- 24 St Helens Services' Tattoo (24-26 July) (RA Band, Woolwich, Irish Guards Corps of Drums, RA Motorcycles, Red Devils, RA JLR Gymnastic Display).
- 25 Kempton Park Extravaganza (Bands, static and arena displays).
- 25 Northampton Borough Show (25-27 July) (RGJ Band, RGJ Freefall).
- 26 Colchester Carnival.
- 26 Gloucester Carnival.
- 26 Welsh Rugby Union Centenary Celebration, Cardiff (Band).
- 26 Cleveland Show, Middlesbrough (Bands).
- 26 Tatton Park Reunion Parachuting Spectacular (Red Devils, Pegasus Gymnastic Team, freefall teams).
- 27 Redcar Carnival (Bands).
- 29 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (29 July-2 August) (Bands, White Helmets, Royal Army Veterinary Corps Mounted Display).
- 29 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (29 July-2 August) (Redcaps).
- 31 Folkestone Tattoo (31 July-2 August) (RAMC Band).

AUGUST 1980

- 1 Southsea Show (1-3 August).
- 2 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (Bands).
- 2 Newport Military Show (2-3 August) (Bands).
- 6 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 6 Poole Hospital Gala.
- 6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (6-7 August) (RA Motorcycles).
- 7 North Yorkshire County Show.
- 9 Lord Mayor's Show, Stoke.
- 13 Edinburgh Tattoo (13 August-6 September) (Massed Bands and Pipes, Royal Guard Regiment of Ruler of Oman, State University Band of Long Beach).
- 15 Reading Show (15-16 August).
- 15 Shrewsbury Flower Show (15-16 August) (White Helmets).
- 16 Hartlepool Show (16-17 August).
- 16 Skegness Carnival (16-22 August).
- 18 Doncaster Horse Show.
- 22 GLC Horse Show (22-25 August) (Coldm Gds Band).
- 23 Darlington Show.
- 23 Expo Steam, Peterborough (23-25 August) (Red Caps, White Helmets).
- 23 Town & Country Festival, Stoneleigh (23-25 August) (Band, RA Motorcycles, RGJ Freefall).
- 23 Expo 80, Birchington, Kent (23-25 August).
- 25 City of Leicester Show (25-26 August) (Band, RGJ Freefall).
- 25 Walsall Show (25-26 August) (White Helmets).
- 26 Leeds Gala.
- 27 St Albans City Carnival (Red Devils).
- 27 Bristol Flower Show (27-29 August).
- 30 Wensleydale Show.
- 30 Holkham Game Fair (30-31 August).
- 30 Sheffield Show (30-31 August) (RA Motorcycles).



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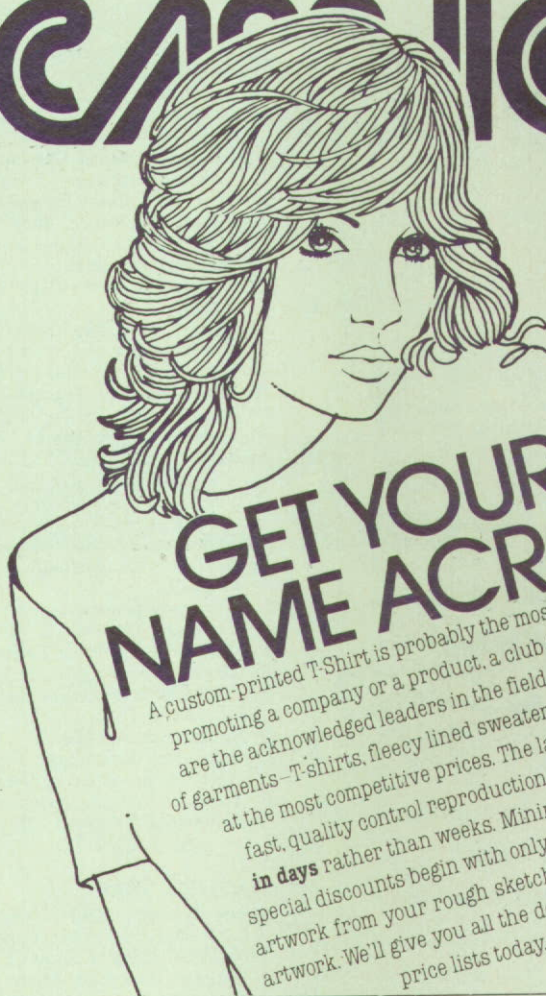
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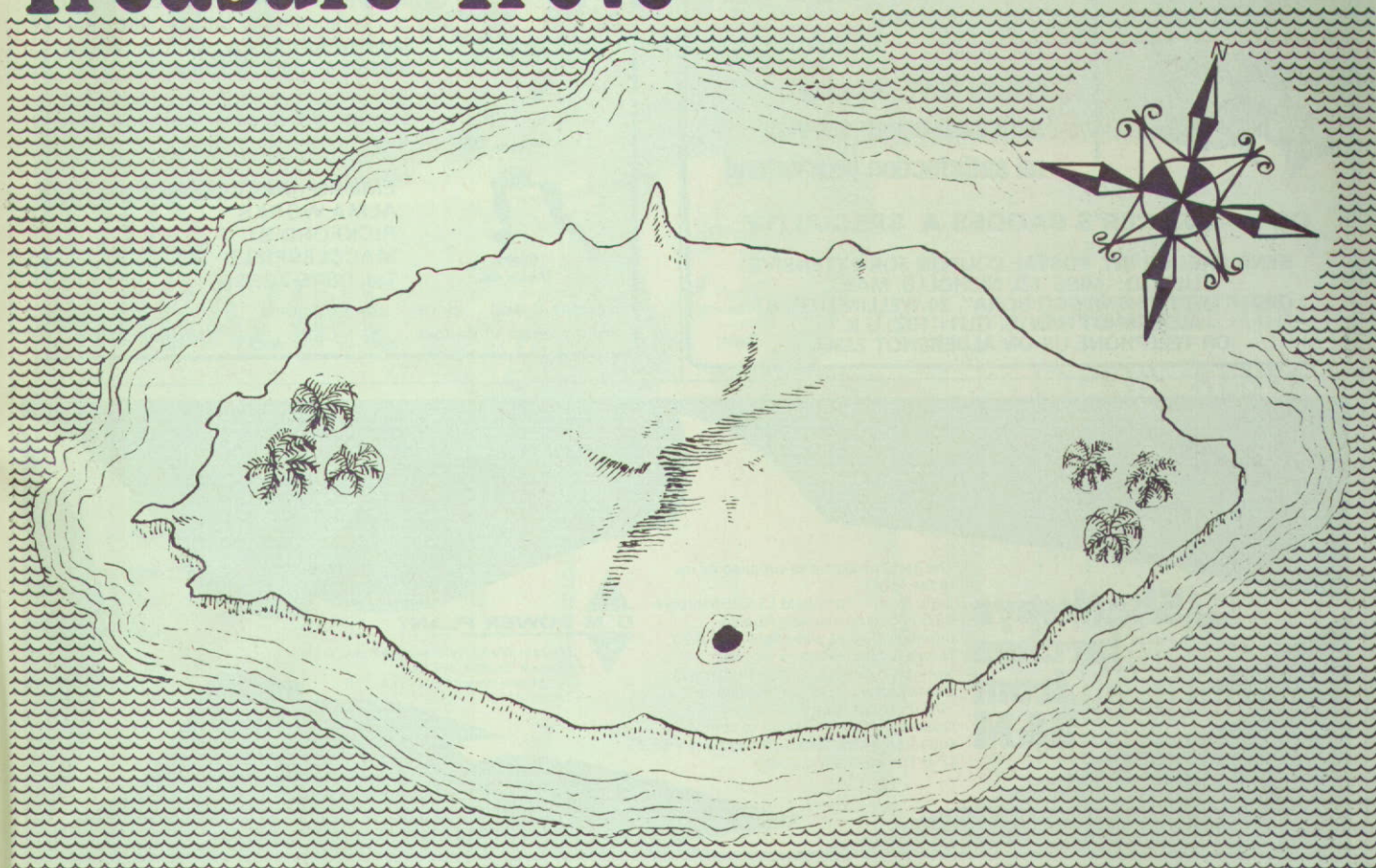
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Treasure Trove

COMPETITION 260



THREE YEARS had gone by since young Ribbons had sailed for a far Pacific island. With his two companions, Braid and Lacey, he had gone in search of a treasure hoard which was supposed to have been buried on the island many years before.

That the three adventurers had reached the island was certain because, not long afterwards, they had been signalled by a passing cargo ship (well off its course). They had then been in good health and spirits.

However, since that day, well over two years ago, nothing had been heard of them. Therefore their old companions, Cutts, Dealls and Plaize decided to charter a craft and go in search of them. They eventually arrived at the island to find Braid dying and Ribbons and Lacey dead. There was no trace of their craft. This had possibly been blown away with most of the provisions and wrecked during the severe hurricane of a year before. The treasure seekers had died from starvation!

The island was bare except for some camping equipment, scattered tools, empty bottles and discarded food tins. The only features of the island were a slight rise in the centre, a few coconut palms and a well or water hole.

All that Braid managed to say before he died was: "My watch!" A search of his clothing revealed several articles including a knife and a pocket book, a compass and a watch. In the back of the pocket watch was a small piece of paper on which was written: WEALTH IS FOUND.

In Braid's pocket book the following entry was found: "IG IE BB LI BB EM KB HJ KE FB CH EJ IA BD DE BL IB BE MJ AL." None of them could make sense of it.

"Wealth is found", murmured Plaize, glancing round the island. "It certainly does not look like it. I suppose the best thing we can do is bury the poor chaps and set sail for home."

"Just a minute", said Cutts, "perhaps there is something in the message." He studied the phrase WEALTH IS FOUND very carefully in conjunction with the mysterious pocket book entry. "I've got it", he shouted. "Wealth is found! And to think we nearly missed it!"

A little hard work and they had soon unearthed the treasure which had, presumably, been reburied by the adventurers after the loss of their craft.

What did the coded message have to say?

The competition — another from reader TE Kempshall—is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 5 May. The answer and winners' names will appear in the July SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 260' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Send your answers by postcard or letter with the Competition 260 label from this page and your name and address to:

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