

# SOLDIER





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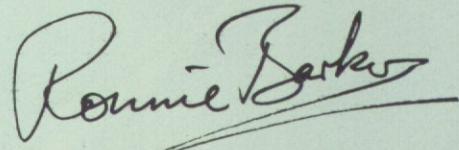
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### FRONT COVER

A Samaritan armoured ambulance, derived from Scorpion, on the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment tilt platform at Chertsey. The platform can tilt loads of up to 90 tons through 50 degrees.

Picture by Paul Haley.



### BACK COVER

Taking time off from Gibraltar frontier guard duties, men of 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, try their hands at abseiling under the instruction of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

Picture by Doug Pratt.

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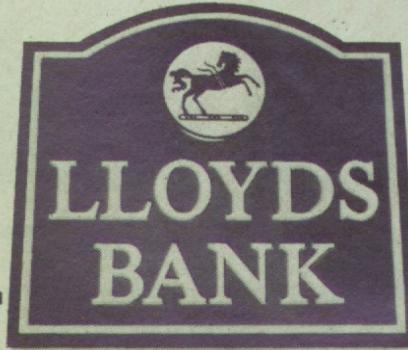
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# SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

## APRIL 1976

- 9 Freedom march 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Poole.
- 10 Freedom march, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Dorchester.
- 10 **Open Day, 100 Field Squadron, Royal Monmouth Royal Engineers, Malpas, Newport, Mon.**
- 11 Freedom march, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Exeter.
- 11 "Fall in the Stars" (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund), London Palladium.
- 13 Freedom march, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Barnstaple.
- 18 **Kent Festival, Maidstone (18-19 April) (7 RHA "Black Knights" freefall team).**
- 24 Kenley, Croydon, Air Show (Royal Corps of Transport "Silver Stars" freefall team).
- 24 Freedom of Delyn (Clwyd), The Royal Welch Fusiliers.
- 24 Presentation new Colours, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Gloucester.
- 25 Laying up old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Gloucester Cathedral.

## MAY 1976

- 3 Bridgend (Glamorgan) Army Exhibition (3-5 May) (Parachute Regiment "Red Devils" freefall team; Royal Signals "White Helmets" motorcycle display team; band).
- 4 **Folkestone Military Spectacular (band and bugles).**
- 7 Swansea Army Display (7-9 May) (Red Devils, White Helmets, Royal Military Police "Red Caps" mounted display team; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery; band).
- 9 Laying up old Colours, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh.
- 12 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 13 Devon County Show, Exeter (13-15 May) (band).
- 14 Biggin Hill International Air Fair (14-16 May) (Army Air Corps "Blue Eagles" helicopter display team; Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Silver Stars (two bands).
- 15 Boldon (Co Durham) British Legion Festival (band).
- 15 Medway Steam Fair, Gillingham (15-16 May) (arena event; band).
- 15 South Suffolk Show, Bury St Edmunds (Red Caps; band).
- 19 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 19 Shropshire and West Midland Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (19-20 May) (White Helmets).
- 19 Birmingham Careers Exhibition (19-21 May) (Royal Green Jackets freefall team; band).
- 21 Warrington Army Display (21-23 May) (Junior Parachute Company "Pegasus" gymnastic team; Red Devils; Red Caps; White Helmets; five bands).
- 22 **Machine Gun Corps OCA observance; MGC memorial, Hyde Park Corner, London.**
- 22 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (22-23 May) (Red Devils; band).
- 22 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Show (Silver Stars; band).
- 22 Oxford Federation Young Farmers Agricultural Show, Oxford (Blue Eagles; Royal Army Ordnance Corps "Cannonballs" freefall team; junior band).
- 26 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 26 **Tri-Service Day, Trinity College, Glenalmond (Scottish Division "Golden Lions" freefall team; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).**
- 28 **Aldershot Horse Show (28-30 May) (APTC display; skill-at-arms; bands).**
- 29 Tidworth Tattoo and Fair (29-31 May).
- 29 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 29 Combined Cadet Tattoo, Gosport (29-31 May).
- 29 Glasgow Army Display (29 May-13 June) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 29 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (motorcycle display team; band).
- 29 Worcester City Show (29-31 May) (band).

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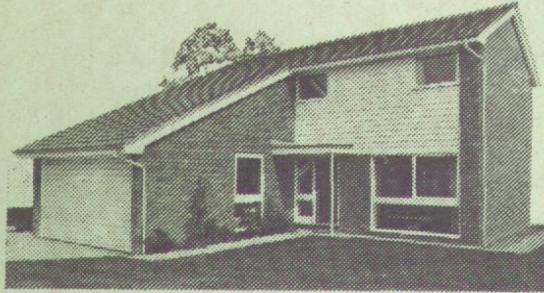
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# DIARY

*continued*

- 29 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (29-31 May) (Red Devils; Blue Eagles 29 May; White Helmets 29-30 May; six bands).
- 29 Otley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 30 Currington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (Cannonballs; band).
- 31 Southam (Warwickshire) Carnival (JLR RA PT display; White Helmets; band).
- 31 Selby Carnival (band).
- 31 Surrey County Show, Guildford (Red Devils; band).
- 31 Pershore (Worcestershire) Show (RGJ freefall).
- 31 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (arena event; band).
- 31 Oulton Broad Fête (arena event).
- 31 Watford Borough Carnival (arena event; band).
- 31 Dunstable Fête and Carnival (arena event; band).
- 31 Hertfordshire County Day, Hertford (arena event; band).

## JUNE 1976

- 1 Household Division massed bands beat Retreat (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund), Horse Guards Parade, London (1-3 June).
- 2 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 2 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (2-3 June) (Red Devils; band).
- 5 Salisbury Hospital Fête (band).
- 5 Open Day, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
- 5 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 5 Standish (Lancashire) Show (Silver Stars).
- 5 36 Engineer Regiment freedom march, Maidstone.
- 5 Stanley (Co Durham) Community Centre Show (band).
- 6 Freedom march, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
- 6 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse (Golden Lions; displays; bands).
- 6 Lorraine Charity Club Military Show, Leicester (Silver Stars; junior band).
- 7 Coventry Carnival (JLR RA PT display; RA motorcycles; band).
- 9 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 12 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 12 Branksome, Darlington, School Fair (band).
- 12 Wolverhampton Fiesta (Red Devils).
- 12 Ilkley Show (band).
- 12 Nuneaton Carnival (junior band).
- 12 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (Red Devils; junior band).
- 12 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (Pegasus).
- 12 Scunthorpe Families Day (12-13 June) (band).
- 12 Kings Lynn Round Table Carnival (Silver Stars; band).
- 15 Three Counties Agricultural Show, Malvern (15-17 June) (band).
- 16 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 18 Beating Retreat (Army Benevolent Fund), Weston Park, Staffordshire (five bands).
- 19 Open Day and Summer Fair, School of Infantry, Warminster.
- 19 Royal Engineers At Home, Barton Stacey.
- 19 Open Day, Light Infantry, Shrewsbury, (Blue Eagles; RGJ freefall).
- 19 Leighton Linsdale (Bedfordshire) Carnival (Pegasus; junior band).
- 19 Rainham (Kent) Spectacular (band).
- 19 South Tyneside Sports Week (band).
- 19 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
- 19 Brightlingsea Show (Silver Stars).
- 23 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 23 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (White Helmets; Blue Eagles; three bands).
- 25 Aldershot Army Display (25-27 June) (Red Devils; 16 bands).
- 26 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (two bands).
- 26 Rushden (Northamptonshire) Show (arena event).
- 26 Lord Mayor's Gala, York (26-27 June) (band).
- 26 Chesterfield Borough Carnival (Silver Stars; White Helmets).
- 28 Cardiff Military Exhibition (28 June-1 July) (Red Devils; band).
- 30 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 30 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (30 June-1 July) (Silver Stars; two bands).

## JULY 1976

- 1 Plymouth Army Week (1-3 July) (two bands).
- 2 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (2-3 July).
- 2 Hoök, Goole, Gala (2-4 July) (band).
- 2 Newport (Monmouthshire) Military Display (2-4 July) (Red Devils, band).
- 3 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 3 Laying up old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, Derby Cathedral.
- 3 National Military Historic Vehicles Rally, Winkfield, Berkshire (3-4 July) (band).
- 3 Aveling and Barford Show, Grantham (Silver Stars; band).
- 3 Eynsham (Oxfordshire) Carnival (arena event).
- 3 Birkenshaw Show, Bradford (band).

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## Soldier to Soldier

At the age of 49, SOLDIER has sadly lost a member of its editorial staff, Mr William Smitherman, who died suddenly at home from a heart attack. Bill Smitherman joined the magazine two years ago, taking over the task of dealing with readers' inquiries and also handling the magazine's display stands at Army shows. Before joining SOLDIER, he had served 28 years in the Royal Engineers — his last appointment, as a captain, was as second-in-command of 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron. Although he was personally known to comparatively few people in SOLDIER'S sphere, notably to fellow members of the Military Historical Society, Bill was the familiar contact of many readers whose queries he answered so capably during his two years with the magazine. Early in those brief two years he made a slot for himself in SOLDIER'S staff as a hard-working and conscientious colleague and friend. SOLDIER'S readers will join its staff in their sympathy to Bill's wife, son and daughter.

As announced last month, a new set 5 has been added to SOLDIER Print Society's range of Stadden cards of British military uniforms. Sets 1 and 2 have also been reprinted, making a total of 60 subjects available. A further six prints (numbers 17 to 22) have been added to the larger Stadden prints and the range of pewter figures has also been extended.

All these items are now generally available and also to enrolled members of the SOLDIER Print Society at a membership discount of 20 per cent. Full details are on page 27 of this issue.



Further additions to the range of regimental drum ice buckets are Army Catering Corps, The King's Regiment and the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment.

# DIARY

*continued*

- 10 Hatfield Show (Silver Stars).
- 14 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 14 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (14-31 July).
- 15 Kent County Show, Maidstone (15-17 July) (band).
- 15 Liverpool Show (15-17 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; two bands).
- 16 Cheltenham Tattoo (16-17 July).
- 16 Corby (Lincolnshire) Show (16-17 July) (Queen's Division junior PT team; three bands).
- 17 Masham (Yorkshire) Traction Rally (17-18 July) (band).
- 17 Hatfield Carnival (band).
- 17 Beaumont School Fête, St Albans (junior display; junior band).
- 17 Canterbury Festival (17-18 July) (Black Knights).
- 19 Cleveland Army Week (19-23 July) (two bands).
- 20 East of England Show, Peterborough (20-22 July) (Pegasus; Red Caps; two bands).
- 21 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 22 Manchester Show (22-24 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; two bands).
- 22 St Helens Show (22-24 July) (Red Devils; two bands).
- 22 Bournemouth Fiesta (22-24 July) (Silver Stars; junior band).
- 22 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 22 Deal Regatta (22-24 July) (RGT freefall; band).
- 23 Northampton Show (23-25 July) (Red Caps; Cannonballs; two bands).
- 24 Cleveland County Show (three bands).
- 24 Army Display, Aberdeen and Dundee (24-29 July) (Golden Lions; White Helmets 26-29 July; band; pipes and drums).
- 25 Eastbourne Regatta (Silver Stars).
- 27 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (27-31 July) (two bands).
- 28 Driffield (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 30 Hull Show (30-31 July) (band).
- 31 Edinburgh Army Display (31 July-8 August) (Golden Lions; Blue Eagles 2-6 August; band; pipes and drums).

## AUGUST 1976

- 1 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 1 Knebworth Park (Hertfordshire) Air Display (Blue Eagles; band).
- 4 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (4-7 August).
- 4 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 4 Gloucester Festival (4-7 August) (Silver Stars; White Helmets; band).
- 6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (Red Devils).
- 7 Brighton Carnival (band).
- 7 Biddenden (Kent) Spectacular (band).
- 14 Bournemouth Fiesta (Silver Stars).
- 14 York Sportsmen's Gala (band).
- 14 Surrey Festival, Blackbushe, Camberley (14-15 August) (Black Knights).
- 16 Bromley Show (Silver Stars).
- 18 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 18 Cromer Carnival (Cannonballs; RA motorcyclists; band).
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-11 September).
- 20 Reading Horticultural Show (20-21 August) (Red Caps; band).
- 20 Worthing Fiesta (band).
- 21 Darlington Show (two bands).
- 25 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 27 Blackpool Services Display (27-29 August) (Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; four bands).
- 27 British Timken Show, Northampton (27-28 August) (Red Devils; Red Caps; King's Troop; RA motorcyclists; two bands).
- 28 Expo Steam, Peterborough (28-30 August) (Blue Eagles 28-29 August; band 29-30 August).
- 28 South Tyneside Show (28-30 August) (band).
- 28 QUEXPO, Birchington, Kent (28-30 August) (Cannonballs 30 August; band).
- 30 Worthing Fiesta (Rotarama) (Red Devils; RAC hot air balloon; band).
- 30 Leicester City Show (30-31 August) (Red Caps; two bands).
- 30 Eye (Suffolk) Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 30 Aylsham (Kent) Show (band).
- 30 Hemel Hempstead Carnival (Red Devils; arena event; band).
- 30 Sevenoaks Rugby Club (Silver Stars).
- 31 Barrow Army Display (31 August-1 September) (Pegasus; Red Devils; Blue Eagles; RA motorcyclists; three bands).

## SEPTEMBER 1976

- 1 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 2 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (band).
- 3 Watford Show (3-4 September) (Silver Stars; band).
- 3 Sheffield Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 4 Rye Carnival (Black Knights).
- 4 Seaham (South Shields) Show (4-5 September) (band).
- 4 Bury Army Display (4-5 September) (Red Devils; Red Caps 5 September; four bands).
- 4 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Steam Fair (4-5 September) (arena event).

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## Military Museums: 39

### 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards

**C**LIVE House, Shrewsbury, home of the museum of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards — formed in 1959 by the amalgamation of The 1st King's Dragoon Guards and The Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards)—was also home in 1762 for Clive of India when he was Mayor of Shrewsbury. A full-length portrait of the great soldier-administrator can be seen to advantage from the stairs leading to the rooms which house relics and souvenirs covering nearly 300 years of regimental history.

Uniform specialists will be interested in four pictures on the landing showing in some detail KDG dress and horse furnishings in 1760, 1812, 1822 and 1830, while an early recruiting poster (circa 1799) urges "All Young Men who have their own Interest at Heart and are fortunate enough to make this distinguished Regiment their Choice are requested to apply immediately to Serj Tibbles at the Angel Inn, Honiton, where they will receive The Highest Bounty and all the Advantages of a Dragoon."

Two of the oldest items in the first room are a 1680 cavalry sword and a 17th century breast plate. Other exhibits include a 2nd DG bedding roll end, cavalry flintlock pistols, swords, carbines and rifles.

As part of the 1st British Cavalry Brigade at Waterloo the KDGs took part in a memorable but costly charge which broke the élite French Cuirassiers. As a reward the regiment was permitted to bear the word Waterloo on its Standard and accoutrements and every officer and man present received a silver medal, two of which are on view as well as an 1812 pattern helmet, modified to include "Waterloo," and a Guidon carried during the battle.

The Queen's Bays, so named because of the bay horses used by the 2nd DGs from 1766 onwards, played a distinguished part in the Indian Mutiny campaign. Three of the five Victoria Crosses in the museum were won during the Mutiny by the Bays—those of Lieutenant Robert Blair at Lucknow and Private Charles Anderson and Trumpeter Thomas Monaghan, both at Jamo saving the life of their wounded commanding officer, Colonel W H Seymour, whose pistol, carried throughout the campaign, now reposes in a glass showcase.

Uniforms and accoutrements include the splendid full dress worn by KDG and Queen's Bays officers in 1910, a 2nd DG officer's helmet (1840) and a Bays officer's shabraque. An 1896 group of KDG sergeants in stable dress and blue patrols and a lieutenant in field

service dress figure in one tableau vivant while another depicts a realistic stable scene with a horse's head leaning over the stable door and an inspecting officer critically eyeing a set of well-polished saddlery.

Other interesting items are two beautifully embroidered Queen's Bays trumpet banners (circa 1909), a Bays drum horse shabraque and kettle drums, a picture by C J Payne (better known as Snaffles) of the last KDG mounted parade at Secunderabad on 23 October 1937, and an Afghan banner and sword captured in 1919 during a short punitive campaign on the North-West Frontier when two KDG squadrons made a cavalry charge.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards is now the senior regiment in the Royal Armoured Corps and the tail rotor blades of a Sioux helicopter, a tank crewman's suit, an anti-tank mine and weapons captured during the Aden confrontation are evidence of the regiment's present-day role.

Cherished exhibits are a silver trumpet and gold banner presented to the KDG by Emperor Franz Josef of Austria, their Colonel-in-Chief from 1895 to 1914, and a magnificent gold and enamelled punch bowl with cups and ladle presented by the Czarevitch of Russia, later the ill-fated Emperor Nicholas II, on the occasion of his visit to the regiment in India in 1891.

A change of scene, well worth visiting after the regimental museum, is the fine display of Georgian furniture and objets d'art in the ground floor rooms of Clive House. The mayoral robe worn by Clive during his year of office is in the Georgian Room.

John Jesse

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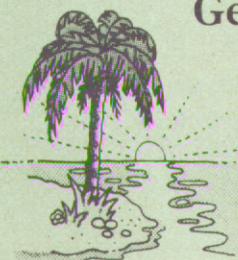
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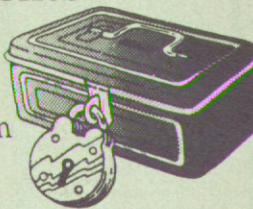
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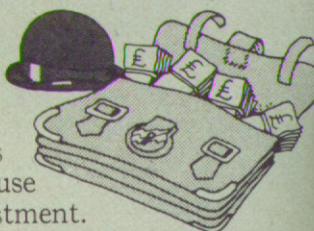
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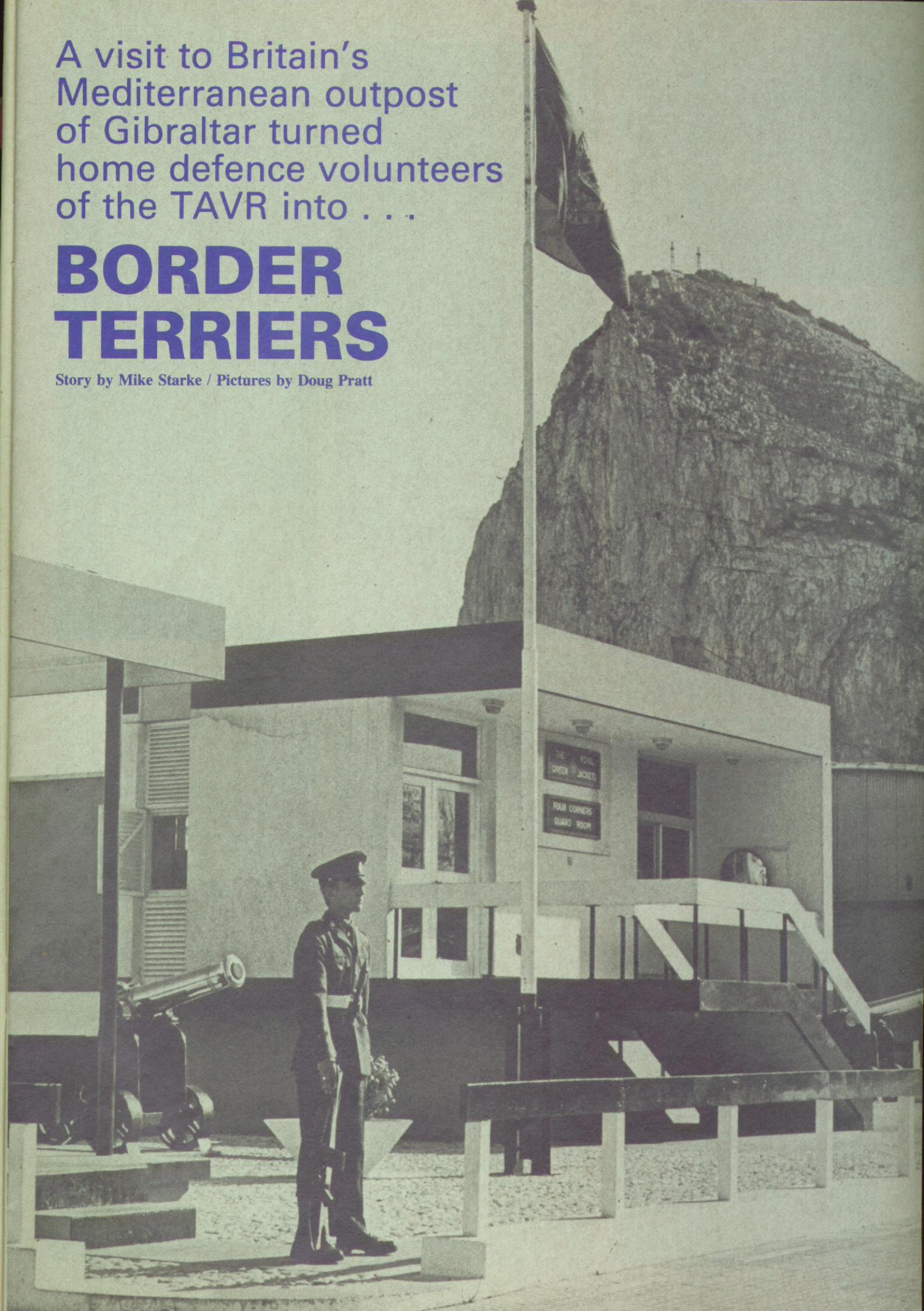


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A visit to Britain's  
Mediterranean outpost  
of Gibraltar turned  
home defence volunteers  
of the TAVR into . . .

# BORDER TERRIERS

Story by Mike Starke / Pictures by Doug Pratt





Part-timers they may be, but soldiers of the Queen's know the importance of checking weapons after guard duty.



All this and pay too! Captain Rodney Turner RAPC officiated at pay parade for the company — less all that tax!

SOMETIMES they bring babies down to the frontier wire and hold them up for the straining eyes of relatives to glimpse from behind the other fence — a hundred yards or so away across the "neutral territory." The changing of the guards and sunset ceremonies of both Spanish and British troops are punctuated by the shouted exchanges of family gossip across this frontier between Gibraltar and Spain — a frontier closed by Spain in 1968 as a move in the diplomatic chess game to determine the future of the Rock, long since claimed as theirs by the Spanish.

Pawns in the game are the divided families and friends. Knights must be the British soldiers who man the Four Corners frontier guard-room and the three observation posts spaced along the mile or so of wire bisecting the sea-girt spit of low land joining the giant crag of Gibraltar to the Spanish mainland.

For the first time ever, soldiers of a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve battalion normally committed to home defence of the United Kingdom on general reserve duties have served in Gibraltar on the frontier guard. Albuhera Company of 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, flew out as one of a series of predominantly TAVR units standing in for men of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, the cur-



Time to go home and these two Terriers found a corner of Lathbury Barracks to settle down to clean weapons.

rent resident infantry unit on the Rock.

The visiting units spent a fortnight each in Gibraltar releasing Green Jackets — a company at a time — back to England for training which would be impossible in the restricted space available in the tiny fortress community. The towering limestone ridge of Gibraltar is only some two and a half miles long and the town nestling under its western slope is no bigger than, say, Andover, in Hampshire.

Albuhera Company drew men from drill halls throughout Greater London, Surrey and Sussex. There were some 150 Terriers in all, comprising a headquarters — including its own drivers and cooks — and six platoons each a score strong. From a variety of home locations came part-time soldiers with a variety of backgrounds, literally from a don to a dustman. The don was Oxford University graduate Patrick Ovans who, at 25, is a private with his battalion after a year in the TAVR. He works for a London furniture importing company but is proud of his family's Army connections and joined the TAVR as a result. His father served as an officer with the Gurkhas.

Private Ovans's academic background earned him pleasant extra duties in Gibraltar — the local British Forces Broadcasting Service station snapped him up to give radio talks. He has



Each man stripped down his SLR for a thorough clean before packing up to go back to England at the end of the tour.



Lance-Corporal Norman Spalding keeps a keen lookout on the border. He joined the Territorials six years ago.

specialised in the politics and economics of Morocco, the African state facing Gibraltar across the Straits, so he broadcast on this subject. An interest in Islamic castles had also given him enough background to talk about Gibraltar's own historic Moorish Castle in another programme.

But the main job of the Terriers was to provide the frontier guard. Ceremonial duties such as the Convent Guard mounted outside the Governor's official residence and changed every Monday were impossible for the part-timers who had no band or ceremonial uniforms for the task. The Green Jackets continued with these duties.

The six-platoon composite Albuhera Company was sub-divided into two, dubbed Frontier Company and Training Company by their headquarters. The two halves changed roles every 24 hours with one platoon of Frontier Company on duty at the border and the other two platoons on standby.

Stints of only an hour each in the observation posts kept the vigil sharp and Regulars in the Green Jackets commented on the meticulous attention to detail the Territorials maintained.

Throughout the fortnight the blue-and-gold flag of the battalion flew at the Four Corners border post and each day the Territorials were joined by a Green Jackets bugler to sound Sunset as the



**The Rock looms large over an outdoor demonstration lesson on the Ferret by experts from The Royal Green Jackets.**

Jackets bugler to sound Sunset as the flag was lowered. This was the cue for the Spanish to perform their own ceremony just a few yards down the road through the gate posts shared by two sets of gates. The Spanish gates are firmly closed but the British ones stand open. A knot of eager watchers from Gibraltar gathers daily to peer at the band and drums — 30 or more strong — which swing down the road from their base in the Spanish border town of La Linea, so near and yet so far away across the wire.

The band's light infantry pace is an ironic legacy of a past alliance with Britain when the quicker-than-quick march was taught to Spanish soldiers by the British light infantry during the Peninsular Wars against Napoleon.

But even in the midst of the pomp and circumstances of this benign confrontation, humanity breaks through the barbed wire curtain and soldiers on both sides exchange smiles, waves and even salutes.

For the TAVR soldiers not on frontier duties there was a full programme of training provided by the Green Jackets at Lathbury Barracks, the resident unit's base on the southern tip of the rock.

The general reserve battalion soldiers are equipped only with small arms for their home defence role so they were

given the chance by the Green Jackets to get to know infantry support weapons and procedures. As well as doing their own training, the Terriers fired the 84mm Carl Gustav anti-tank weapon in sub-calibre practices. They were also introduced to reconnaissance work with Ferret armoured cars.

There was adventurous training, too, with a popular mini-course in abseiling on one of Gibraltar's sheer rock faces.

With plenty to fill the fortnight's visit, which was in addition to the Terriers' annual two-week camp, it was soon time to pack up and head for home. Deep in the cavernous belly of the RAF Belfast aircraft they could not observe their one last journey the length of the frontier as the lumbering transport roared down the runway which runs parallel to the wire a stone's throw away.

Out of the towering shadow of the Rock on the Gibraltar side, the Belfast banked slowly left to clear the Spanish coast — while the next TAVR unit, 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, prepared to take up the frontier task release a new group of Green Jackets for training.

And the same local folk were turning up on both sides of the border to hail each other across the barren neutral territory as the new border guards looked on.



**Bargain hunters from 6/7 Queen's seen in Gibraltar's Main Street looking for souvenirs of their two-week stay there.**



**Miss Gibraltar, Lilian Lara, helped to make the Terriers' trip a pleasant one by dropping in to see them in training.**

The 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, was formed by the amalgamation of two Territorial Army Volunteer battalions on 1 April 1975. Ever since the 1967 Army restructuring, the battalion's ancestors have been committed to home defence and it continues that role now as a general reserve battalion.

It is directly descended from 44 major units in the 1947 order of battle. The 1967 reorganisation pruned the remainder of these units down to nine and cadres from these each formed the basis for a company in 1971 when the 6th and 7th battalions were formed as home defence battalions. The Queen's Regiment itself is descended from amalgamations of The Queen's Royal Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment, The Buffs, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, The Royal Sussex Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment.

Links with the original counties are maintained by 6th/7th Battalion by the use of drill halls in Horsham, Farnham, Edgware, Hornsea, Crawley, Hayward's Heath, Wandsworth, Sutton and Camberwell.

# Армейская Школа языков

# اللغات

THEY tell an amusing story at the Army School of Languages down in Beaconsfield. An English lecturer asked his class—"What is a millionaire?" One student, an Arab, immediately raised his hand and declared: "I am a millionaire!" He was too—an Arab prince among the foreign servicemen and Gurkhas who learn English at Beaconsfield, and the English servicemen who are taught the three foreign languages of Russian, Arabic and German.

The bringing together of all this tuition has been a steady process over the years. The oldest of the school's four wings, for Russian, dates back to the Cold War days of the late 1940s when the Joint Services School of Linguists was launched in a massive way at Coulsdon and Bodmin. Classes of National Servicemen taking Russian at that time were 800 to 900 strong and it is not surprising that the present officer commanding the school, Lieutenant-Colonel Owen Taylor, notes: "If you take any 40-year-old lecturer in Russian today it is a 50-50 chance that he started his Russian as a National Serviceman."

Mr Brian Hawkins, senior lecturer in

Russian, remembers all this vividly. "Alan Bennett and Michael Frayn were among our more celebrated students. Over the years most of our present military instructors have been through as students so we are rather self-perpetuating."

Major Robert Anderson, himself a student in 1972, has eight other lecturers besides himself and Mr Hawkins. Three of them are native Russian speakers. At present there are two 18-month courses running side by side with one finishing this Spring and the other in 1977. Aim of the course is to qualify as an interpreter; diplomatic students, who also take part, leave after ten months and go to their respective posts.

Currently studying Russian at Beaconsfield are four Japanese diplomats. They need to have a yen for the language—in fact a lot of yen for their government pays for each student whom the Army School of Languages takes on a fill-up basis.

Naturally the Russian language classes, like all studies at the Army School of Languages, are based on what the student will need. And as time goes on

each course splits into its military, naval and diplomatic sections for certain periods in order to learn the special language needed for their particular trades. For instance soldiers will learn Russian words for stripping a radio set and putting it back together again.

When the student eventually emerges from his course he will be fluent. Says Brian Hawkins: "If a chap wants to be fairly confident of getting a second-class pass he should know at least 8000 Russian words as well as grammatical functions. A really good student might know as many as 12,000." And yet it has been calculated that an average Englishman can get by in this country with as few as 3000 words of English!

Mrs Cherry Catling, the wing secretary, does not speak Russian and yet has taught herself to type the language. She learned the Russian alphabet and can now copy all course material and exercises using a Russian keyboard. She has also typed a Russian-English dictionary and is doing work previously typed by a native Russian speaker.

Arabic is another language with an entirely different written alphabet although students on the ten-week

\*Military School of Languages—expressed in Russian, German, English and Arabic.

colloquial courses do not have to bother with it. Consisting almost entirely of officers and non-commissioned officers going on secondment to Arab armies or to training and liaison teams, the short course students are taught enough to engage in basic conversation.

The colloquial courses are mainly based on the form of Arabic used in Oman but those going to other regions are taught different pronunciations and one or two different words.

Major Bob Bradley, until recently commanding the Arabic Wing, has just left the Army but will return to Beaconsfield as a civilian lecturer. He was previously the first education officer to be attached to the Sultan of Oman's forces. He told *SOLDIER*: "Our course definitely has a military bias. We also practise the usual basic greetings and we plan in background films and lectures on the area."

The eight lecturers in the Arabic Wing comprise four British officers, two Jordanians and two Egyptians (all

civilians). The wing began life as the Command Arabic School in Aden and moved to Beaconsfield in 1967. Long courses in Arabic last for 12 months and are usually followed by a six-month period at a British Foreign and Commonwealth Office centre near Beirut.

Because of the recent Lebanon troubles this has closed and the future of the final part of the course is still under discussion. So far the Army School of Languages has achieved a 100 per cent success record with students taking the interpreters' examination in Arabic.

Two-way traffic has been possible between the Arabic Wing and the English Wing. Several Omanis as well as other Arabs come on English courses to Beaconsfield and from time to time inter-wing conversation classes have been held, sometimes all in English and sometimes all in Arabic, to mutual advantage.

It was not for Arabs that the English Wing was started but for the British Army's Gurkhas and they still comprise a large proportion of the wing's students. Four eleven-week courses a year are held for Gurkhas, all of whom have done some preliminary work on English

Below: Classes can vary greatly in size. This Russian group comprises two men—one Army and one naval officer.

in either Hong Kong or Church Crookham.

Colonel Taylor says: "Nearly all of them are going on to some military training course shortly after they leave here. They are not learning English just because it may come in handy; the content of the course is related as closely as possible to the military courses they are going to do."

With Gurkhas the main problem is intelligibility and instructors use a phonetic type of blackboard instruction, rather reminiscent of one of those new alphabets which are suggested now and again. Gurkhas tend to like their own food and they have a Gurkha cook, Corporal Jagman Thakali. He buys from Asian traders and armed with a pestle and mortar creates his own curries which are highly popular with other students as well as the Gurkhas.

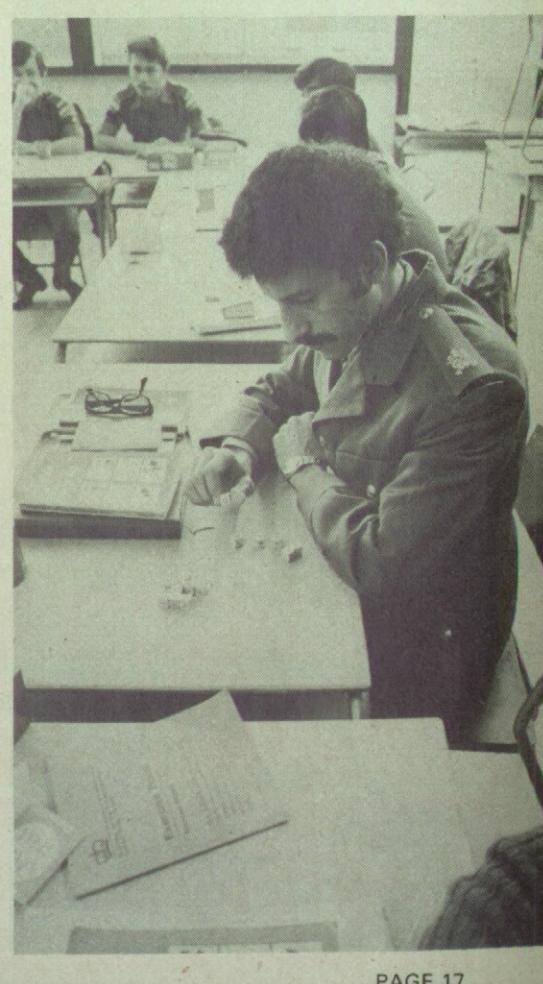
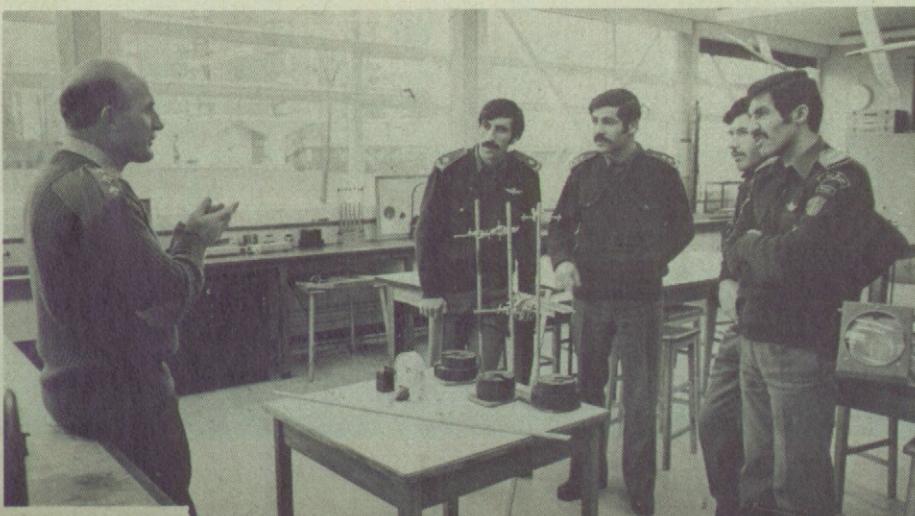
Major John Macfarlane, who commands the English Wing, says that the first aim of courses is to introduce the overseas officers, soldiers and officer cadets to the British Army, its uniforms, customs, weaponry and so on and to provide them with both a general and a military English vocabulary.

Below: "Spill and Spell," a modified form of Scrabble, is one of the many aids used to help students' English.

Below: Lecturer, Mr Mahmoud Jabir from Jordan brandishes two Arab swords and explains their differences.

Below: Mr Brian Hawkins explains a point to a Russian class which includes two Japanese diplomats (centre desks).

Bottom: Beaconsfield has the latest in language laboratories but the emphasis is on traditional classroom teaching.



Cadets going to Sandhurst, including those oil-rich Arab princes, not only learn English but are not allowed to forget where they are heading. The School has its own sergeant-major in Warrant Officer 1 G Lyon, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, who employs all the withering sarcasm of the traditional sergeant-major in drill training. Mr Lyon, who at the moment during a rebuild has to take drill on a tennis court, loves the job: "It is just right for me after 32 years of service and having been at Sandhurst I know exactly what is wanted."

The students have weapon training in order to learn the English names for parts of weapons and there is a strong emphasis on personal self-discipline with regular room inspections by Major Macfarlane. Nor are they allowed to become deskbound. Regular fitness training sessions as well as orienteering and sports such as football keep the overseas students busy.

Major Macfarlane sums up: "I believe you learn English properly only by using it in a situation because you cannot divorce language from reality. I make them use the language under stress and go through the motions of

**Below: Gurkhas (and others) line up to sample the Eastern culinary delights supplied by Corporal Jagman Thakali.**

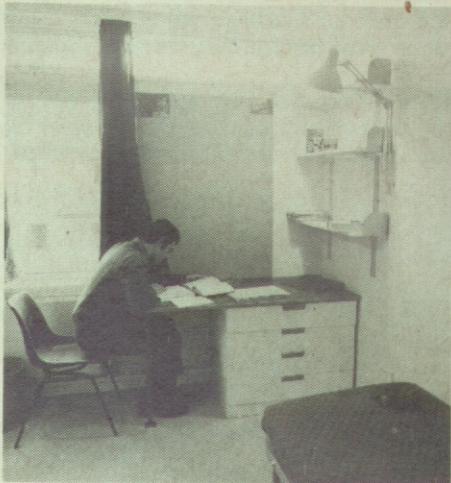


battle skills. They also pick up a lot of swear words and slang and this is very important. We also have to make them understand that if they are sworn at in the Army it should not be taken too literally. We like to think that when they go to Sandhurst they can march and dress like soldiers, they know the main parts of a weapon, they know Army organisation and tactics and they have lived in a British Army environment."

Other courses for foreign students are for those going to arms schools, mainly infantry, and technical courses such as telecommunications. In each case the emphasis is on the type of technical English they will be needing on their subsequent courses.

All are going to courses where the basic assumption will be that all students are English so the aim is to enable overseas students, who may be technically brilliant in their own language, not to be handicapped by their English. The highest level English course at Beaconsfield is for officers from foreign countries going to the Staff College—most are already English-speaking and the concentration here is on developing additional linguistic skills needed to cope with the Camber-

**Below: An Arab student gets down to his books in one of the study bedrooms in which they do their "homework."**



**Below: Sergeant-Major Lyon with officer cadets from Arab countries on Beaconsfield's temporary drill square.**



ley syllabus. In all, 33 different nationalities have passed through the Army School of Languages in recent years.

Most recent innovation has been the German Wing. It started about five years ago for special forces who would be likely to go to Germany in the event of a war but would be unlikely to be posted there in peacetime. The wing runs six courses each year in colloquial German, each of six weeks' duration.

Major Bob Dawson, who commands the wing, has found that these courses are becoming increasingly popular for high-ranking officers going out to Rhine Army to take up appointments. His wing, although the junior, is shortly to expand to take in French and it is then likely to be known as the NATO language wing.

What Beaconsfield is all about is communication. And the wide assortment of students of many races and ranks who enter the grounds of Wilton Park are certainly better communicators when they leave. This makes them better soldiers—gestures and a smattering of badly pronounced words in a foreign language are no longer enough in 1976.



**Above: Typist. Mrs Cherry Catling, who taught herself to type in the Cyrillic alphabet but speaks no Russian.**

# Humour



KoMIK



*The wintry world is  
getting its spring awakening;  
a soldier's awakening  
can be a little ruder!*

**"Fine way to wake up on your first morning in the Army — some lunatic blowing a trumpet."**



**"I don't care how many  
enemies you're making,  
you're not playing  
Reveille with a mute on!"**





## Slog-a-Log

Below: Soccer assistant manager Harold Shepherdson starts them off.

Below: Time for a stocking adjustment as a youth club team is handed its log.



Below: Negotiating a fence in the middle of the tough assault course.



SEET lashed the uncompromising hillside of a farm on the north-east coast. Hundreds of shivering youngsters peeled off trousers and tracksuits and exposed their legs to the raw, biting wind. All in the name of fun and adventure — they were taking part in the first-ever Green Howards' "Super-Slog" competition.

"Super Slog" was the brainchild of Lieutenant Graeme Cooper and the other members of 11 Army Youth Team: Sergeant David "Chuck" Berry and Lance-Corporals Ivor Lewis, John Feather and David Dring. The idea was for teams of youngsters representing schools, clubs and other youth organisations from Middlesbrough and the area round about to carry logs across a gruelling two miles of farmland and then over a tough assault course. The Middlesbrough-Cleveland area is the traditional recruiting area for The Green Howards. Official starter was Mr Harold Shepherdson, a Green Howard, who is Jack Charlton's assistant at Middlesbrough Football Club.

Some 130 teams took part in the competition at Trout Hall Farm, Skelton, divided into three age groups for boys and three for girls.

The mortar platoon of the Green Howards' 1st Battalion, from Chester, most of them natives of the area, as well as members of a local rugby club, were on hand at various points around the course to monitor progress and watch for infringements.

But it was at the end of the two-mile run that the major problems came. The assault course had been constructed with fiendish delight by Graeme Cooper and his men. It consisted of 200 yards of conventional up-and-down obstacles followed by 100 yards of knee-deep stream.

Before wading down the length of the stream the youngsters had first to cross it and then go up and down a steep bank. Here an early draw was a help — by the time the senior boys' teams arrived the slope had been reduced to treacherous mud up which they had to struggle and then slither down on their rumps. For some of the competitors it was all too much. Girls in a dazed condition had to be helped along by their team-mates and one girl ended up carrying the log by herself.

While the results were being checked, competitors were given the chance to get their own back. Fifteen of the organisers, mainly Green Howards, went round the assault course carrying a massive telegraph pole. All the time they were pelted with thoughtfully provided flour bombs and with mud.

Lieutenant Cooper said at the prize-giving that £350 worth of prizes had been presented and it was intended to make Super-Slog an annual event. In future the youth organisations would run it and the Green Howards would present the prizes. He added: "We hope that next year you will take training a little more seriously than some of you may have this time."

A team from St Mary's College, Middlesbrough, took the Super-Slog trophy and the Green Howard Cup for winning the senior boys' section. Other team winners are listed below — but for every youngster completing the course was a special "certificate of insanity."

**Results:** Junior girls — Grove Hill Youth Club, Middlesbrough; junior boys — Risedale School, Catterick; intermediate girls — Rosecroft School, Darlington; intermediate boys — Brotton Youth Club, Risedale School; senior girls — Prior Pursglove College, Guisborough; ACF-D Coy Cleveland; Boys Brigade — 25th Teesside Coy; Scouts — 17th Alphonso's, Middlesbrough; youth club — Brotton; assault course best effort — King James School, Darlington; girls overall winners — Priors Pursglove College; teamwork cup — Henry Smith School, Hartlepool; Berry Plate for team showing most guts — William Turner College, Redcar.



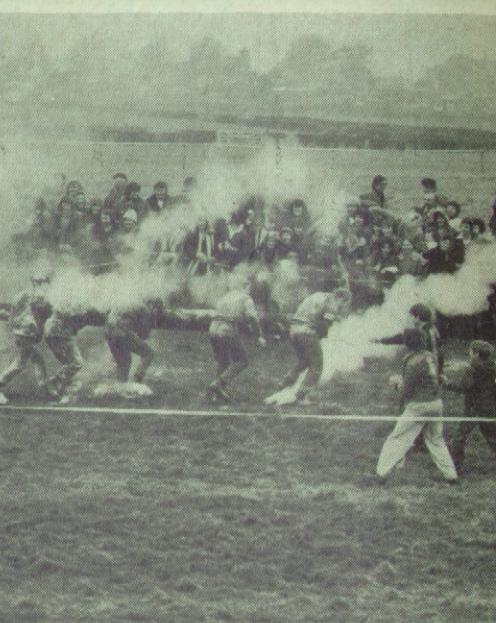
Above: Lance-Corporal David Jackson at a checkpoint and in radio contact.



Above: A muddy start to the course — splashing through this little pond.

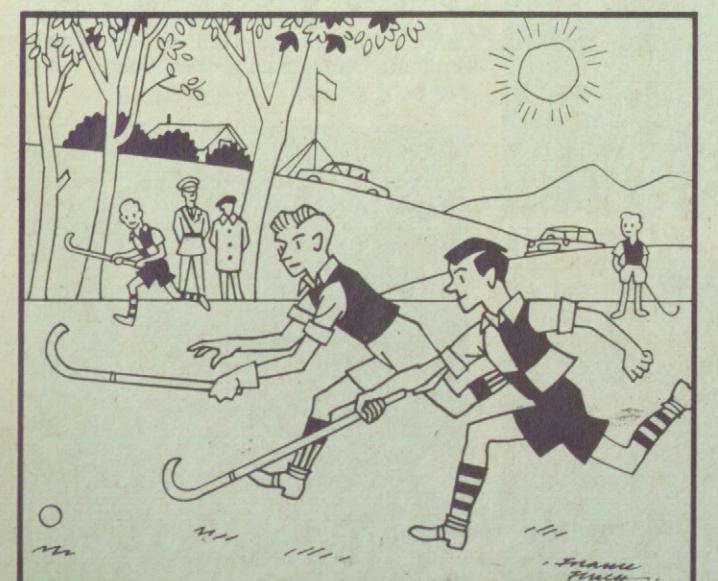


Above: Slithering down a treacherous slope with a cold bath waiting below.



Above: Revenge is sweet. Competitors get even by flour-pelting organisers.

## 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 41.

# Purely personal



## Forces family

Mr Gordon Howse (below, centre) spent 25 years in the Royal Corps of Signals travelling all over the world. Service life seems to have rubbed off on his children for already his two elder sons, **James** and **Michael**, have joined the Royal Corps of Transport and his two elder daughters, **Barbara** and **Susan**, the Women's Royal Air Force. But there are more to come — **Anthony** (14) is an Army cadet, **Louise** (15) also hopes to join the WRAF and 11-year-old **Judith** also plans to be a servicewoman.



## Silver medallist

Staff-Sergeant R Orchard (right) beat more than 800 other entrants to win the silver medal first prize in the City and Guilds of London Institute final examination in electrical engineering practice. Staff Orchard, who is 25 and stationed with 64 CRE (Electrical and Mechanical), received his medal at Barton Stacey from **Brigadier A C S Ross**, commanding 12 Engineer Brigade. The last time a sapper student achieved the award was in 1953 when the recipient was the now **Major Graham Jones**.

## Busy Jenny

When she retires later this year, **Sergeant Jenny Wells**, Women's Royal Army Corps recruiter for East Kent at the Army Careers Information Office, Canterbury, plans to continue her voluntary work with the WRAC Association in East Kent as its secretary and standard bearer, and as secretary of the Royal British Legion's Canterbury Branch and vice-chairman of the branch's women's section. Sergeant Jenny, seen (left) receiving her Long Service & Good Conduct Medal from **Brigadier B N L Fletcher**, commanding Dover/Shorncliffe Garrison, joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1940, served until 1947 and returned in 1964 to serve with the recruiting organisation.

## Gunner glamour

Putting a shapely foot forward (right) is lovely **Beverley Haughton**, of Manchester, who is this year's pin-up of 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Beverley was selected from some 20 girls, three of whom went out to Londonderry to visit the regiment on its four-month tour. Among the losing finalists was **Shirley Cavanagh** (Miss Metal Box — see **SOLDIER** January 1976). Beverley has been invited to visit the regiment in Germany this autumn to brighten up her gunners' lives just as she did in Ulster.



## Hi! Dad!

**Major Brian Rusby**, who was commissioned into The North Staffordshire Regiment 30 years ago, now finds himself (left) serving with his son, **Second-Lieutenant Mark Rusby**, in 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, in Germany. Mark now has his platoon of 30 men and four armoured personnel carriers and is all set to carry on the family tradition.

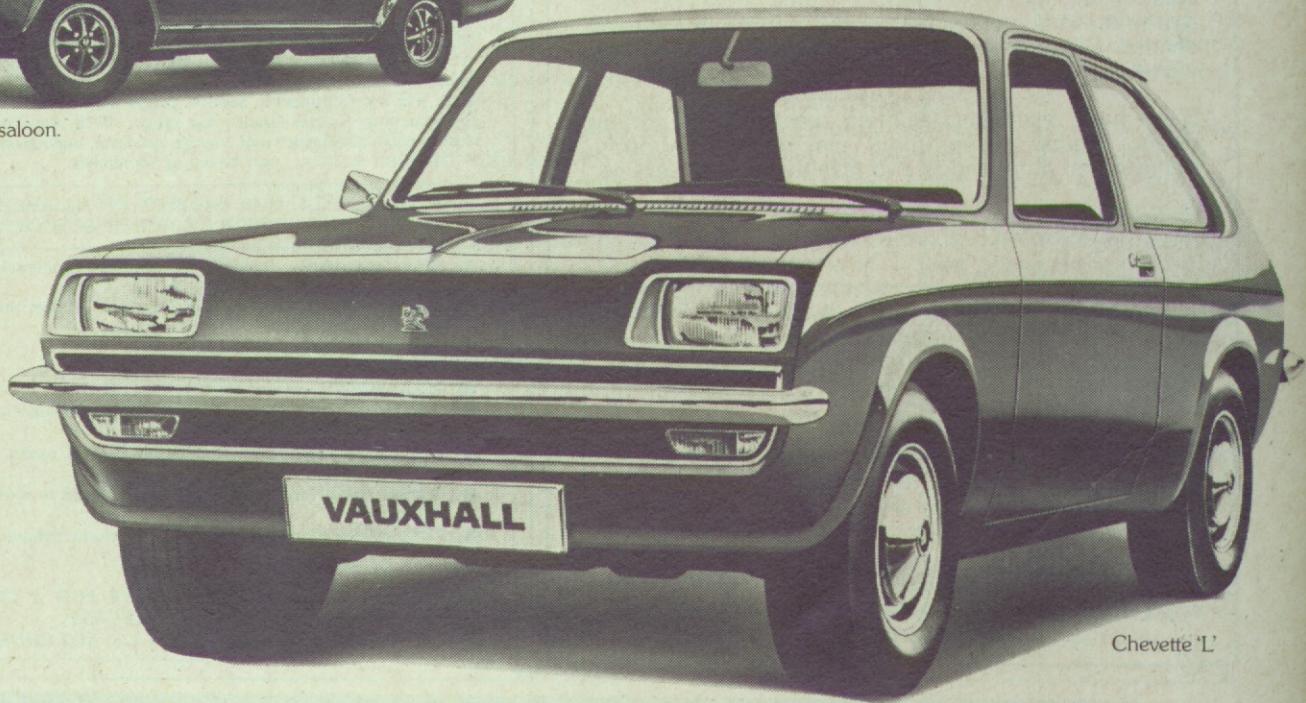
## Hi! Dad!

When **General Sir William Jackson**, Quartermaster-General and Colonel of the Gurkha Engineers, stepped from a plane in Hong Kong (below), one of the first to greet him was his son, **Captain Nigel Jackson**, The Royal Green Jackets, who was aide-de-camp to **Lieutenant-General Sir Edwin Bramall**, Commander British Forces Hong Kong.





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# SOLDIER

# NEWS

Pull-out supplement SOLDIER April 1976

## PAY STATEMENT

The Armed Forces Pay Review Body is now finalising its report which it is hoped will be sent to the Prime Minister at about the time this Soldier News appears. As the Services like other sectors of the Community, are subject to the Government's pay policy, any pay award will be restricted to a maximum of £6 per week for those adults on full time pay earning not more than £8500 per year.

However, those who may be awarded this £6 must not expect that this will be the extra cash in their pockets. Increases in pay are liable to income tax, changes in National Insurance contributions are due to take effect from 1 April and pay increases may affect the amount received in rent and rates rebates. Also it must be borne in mind that costs for such items as food, heating and accommodation have been climbing steadily in Britain over the last year — food prices alone have gone up about 25 per cent. If charges for food and accommodation were to be "frozen" for servicemen at present levels this could amount to what is called a "non-wage benefit" which would have to be offset against any pay rise.

It may well be therefore that food and accommodation charges will be increased as part of the Pay Review. If so this will merely follow what has been happening in civilian life. Indeed single men have been protected against the rises in food and accommodation prices, and married men in quarters against increased housing costs, over the last year because, unlike those living in their own houses, their increases will have been postponed until the Pay Review. The alternative would be for charges to be increased as and when costs rise, which is exactly what happens to other members of the community, but this would not be to our advantage.

The reality is that servicemen may well find themselves very little better off in 1976 in spite of the Pay Review, but we will be in the same position as those in civilian life and in these difficult times it will be wrong for us to expect special privileges.

(DPS)

## DRIVER TRAINING REORGANISATION

The recommendations of two recent Ministry of Defence studies, made with the aim of achieving better efficiency and producing savings of manpower, may result in the bulk of the Army's learner-drivers no longer being trained in the Aldershot/Bordon area.

The main proposal regarding wheeled vehicles is to establish a new School of Army Transport on two airfields at Leconfield and Driffield in Humberside which are being vacated in 1977 by the Royal Air Force. The new school would take over training now carried out by the MT Wing of the Army School of Transport at Bordon and by 12 Driver Training Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, in Aldershot. The fourth term from the RCT Junior Leaders Regiment, now at Taunton and scheduled to move to RAF Colerne, will take place at Driffield where the juniors will receive their driving instruction. The learner-drivers of the Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Artillery, most Royal Signals, Army Air Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Women's Royal Army Corps would also be taught at Leconfield. Arrangements for driving instruction in the Royal Engineers, Infantry, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Military Police and Intelligence Corps will not be changed. Men of the Royal Pioneer Corps are already being trained by the Royal Marines at Poole.

It is hoped that consultations with the staff and trade unions will soon be successfully completed and that works services at Leconfield and Driffield will start so as to allow the move to begin on or about 1 April 1977.

The two airfields at Leconfield and Driffield offer a large area for both road and cross-country driving circuits which will allow learner-drivers to be taught off the public roads during the early stages of training. There is also excellent accommodation for all ranks and more than sufficient married quarters for permanent staff. This move will save up to £10,000,000 in long-term works services which would be necessary if the Army School of Transport were to stay in Bordon and Longmoor. Centralisation will save manpower and raise standards.

The second study concerns the training of tracked vehicle drivers. The bulk of this training is carried out at the Driving and Maintenance School at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington, but the Armoured Personnel Carrier Division of the Army School of Transport currently trains the APC instructors, including those for Ferret scout cars and Stalwart amphibious load carriers of the Infantry, Royal Signals and Army Air Corps, at Bordon. This division will have to move when the school sets up at Leconfield. The recommendations of the study have not yet been approved by the Army Board.

(DAT)

## MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● Aldershot's Conservative MP, Mr Julian Critchley, asked if there would be support for the setting up of a NATO disaster relief force to provide shelter, food, medical and other humanitarian assistance at the request of any allied government stricken by a national disaster. The Minister of State for Defence, Mr William Rodgers, said that in the event of disaster NATO had long-standing arrangements for the co-ordination of action and the exchange of information, for the use of national civil emergency organisations, of NATO military forces and other facilities. He concluded: "I am not persuaded of the need for a NATO disaster relief force."

● Mr John Stanley (Conservative, Tonbridge and Malling) asked what assessment had been made of the suitability of Short's Sky-Spy for the armed forces and for NATO. Mr Rodgers said it was assessed, together with others, in the pre-feasibility study of systems to meet the Army's requirement for a medium-range unmanned surveillance system but was considered unsuitable. This remained the position.

● A hundred and thirty seven million pounds was the total amount paid to the 238,000 Service pensioners in the financial year 1974-75. This information was given by Mr Frank Judd, Under-Secretary of Defence for the Navy, in reply to Mr Adam Butler (Conservative, Bosworth).

● Mr Stan Newens (Labour, Harlow) was told by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Roy Mason, that 11 members of the Special Air Service Regiment had been killed in Oman since 1965.

● Mr Enoch Powell (United Ulster Unionist, South Down), asked whether an early opportunity would be taken to replace the designation British (Irish) in Army records, since it referred only to United Kingdom citizens born in Northern Ireland, with either British (Ulster) or British (Northern Ireland). Mr Robert C Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, said he would bear it in mind if a suitable opportunity arose.

● Mr Colin Shepherd (Conservative, Hereford), asked if, in view of the high cost of travel incurred by servicemen in Ulster when returning on weekend leave, an allowance might be made in the form of additional travel warrants. Mr Rodgers declined and outlined the existing arrangements.

● Adventure training concerned Mr Gwilym Roberts (Labour, Cannock). He asked for figures on deaths and accidents from its use in the Armed Forces and if its value could be examined. Mr Rodgers told him that adventurous training played an important part in the training programme of all three Services. Although safety precautions were kept under careful review it inevitably involved some risk. In the past five years more than 250,000 servicemen had taken part in such training and there had been 22 fatalities and 15 serious injuries.

● Of the 1522 United Kingdom-based Service personnel served with redundancy notices by 1 February 1976 the overwhelming majority qualified for an immediate pension on leaving the Services, Mr Brown told Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (Conservative, Edinburgh West). All were, however, under 55 so that those who qualified for an immediate pension would not receive pension increases in recognition of inflation until they reached that age, unless they previously became incapacitated.

● Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking), moved that the Representation of the People (Armed Forces) Bill should be read for the second time. He said that seven years ago, in an effort to improve the registration of Service voters, there had been a fundamental change—Service voters had to re-register annually instead of remaining on the register for as long as they were Service voters. All those good intentions were sadly disappointed for since that time there had been a progressive decline in the number of registered Service voters until fewer than one in four were registered. It was important to restore the opportunity to vote to 300,000 people who were at present unable to do so. Mr Onslow said he had been told by the Home Secretary that the Government would not oppose a second

reading of his Bill. Last year the Government had indicated that it planned to return to the previous system. Dr Shirley Summerskill, Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, said the Government had not found time for a Bill in its legislative programme and therefore felt it would be wrong to stand in the way of the present Bill. If the House decided to give it a second reading the Government would have to consider what assistance could be made available to help its passage. The Bill was read a second time.

● No restrictions were placed on servicemen taking private family holidays in Spain, Mr Rodgers told Mr Robin Corbett (Labour, Hemel Hempstead).

● "Even though we are not the world's policeman, it is sometimes thought that perhaps we ought to be the world's lawyer or social worker. That is a role we cannot totally fulfil." — Mr David Ennals, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, during a debate on "Foreign Policy and Morality."

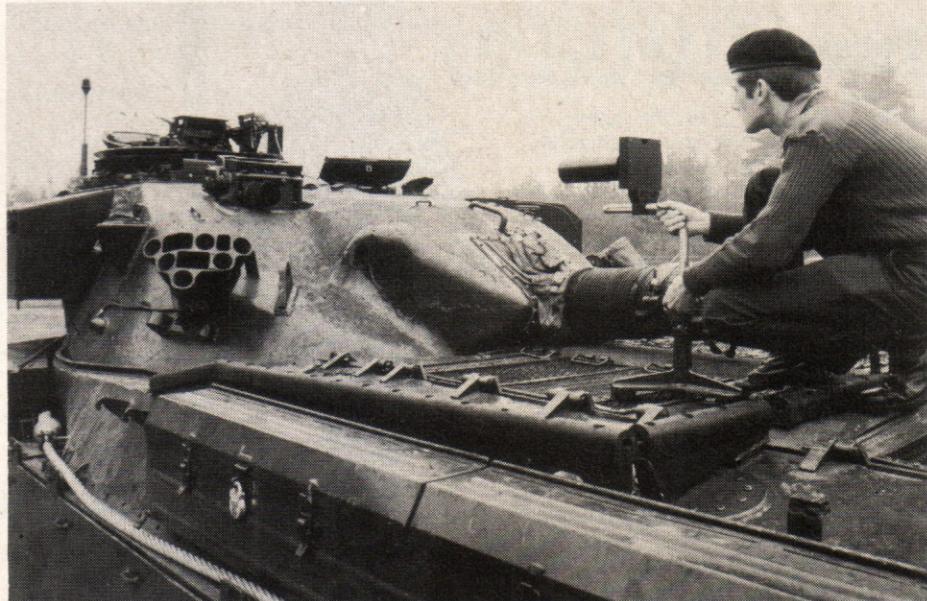
● Mr Rodgers told Mr Onslow that no provision was made to reimburse Service owners for legal and other expenses incurred in recovering possession of their houses where they were let to tenants who refused to vacate them without a court order. He said that in common with other house owners they could apply for costs when seeking an order for possession.

● The greater part of training given to members of foreign armed forces at British defence establishments was financed by the overseas governments concerned, Mr Mason told Mr Corbett. Receipts amounted to £7,500,000 in 1974-75 and 7500 were trained last year.

● Mr Judd told Mr Peter Rees (Conservative, Dover and Deal) that there were no plans for merging military bands.

● A total of 1226 servicemen were studying with the Open University last year, Mr Gerry Fowler, Minister of State Privy Council Office, told Mr John Watkinson (Labour, Gloucestershire West).

## LASER SIGHT



Private N Spann of the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, sets up equipment to test the alignment of the laser beam with the aiming mark in the gunner's sight in a Chieftain tank. The Barr & Stroud tank laser sight obtains the range of a target by determining the time elapsed between sending a pulse of intense laser light and receiving its reflection. Instantly a digital range reading is presented for the gunner.  
(Barr & Stroud)

## TO THE TOP

Youngsters who join the Army as apprentice tradesmen or junior soldiers can get to the top. The annual analysis of ex-apprentices and so on reveals that among ex-boys now serving are two brigadiers, 54 colonels or lieutenant-colonels, 805 majors or captains, 2300 warrant officers and 8246 staff-sergeants or sergeants. (DPR)

## DEFENCE DISPERAL

In 1974 it was estimated that 5000 Ministry of Defence posts in London would be moved to Cardiff and 6000 to Glasgow. Now it has been decided that preferred locations for Ministry working accommodation are at St Mellons, near Cardiff, and the St Enoch station site, Glasgow. The initial plan for the latter is for it to house 4500 posts and further consideration will be given to the composition and location of additional posts to be moved to Glasgow. The moves are expected to be completed by 1984. (DPR)

## RECRUITING

Recruiting into the Army in the last half of 1975 was about a third up on the corresponding period for 1974 for adults and young soldiers and about 25 per cent higher for junior soldiers. The grand total for the six months was 15,407, comprising 8534 adults and young soldiers and 6873 juniors. (DPR)

## ERSKINE'S NEW WARD

Only 12 months after a public appeal for £200,000 to build a new ward for 26 disabled ex-servicemen, the ward, at Erskine Hospital, near Glasgow, has officially been opened. It is part of the largest establishment in Britain for the care of disabled ex-servicemen and has among its 380 patients men who have served in wars or actions from the Boer War up to the Northern Ireland emergency.

## OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

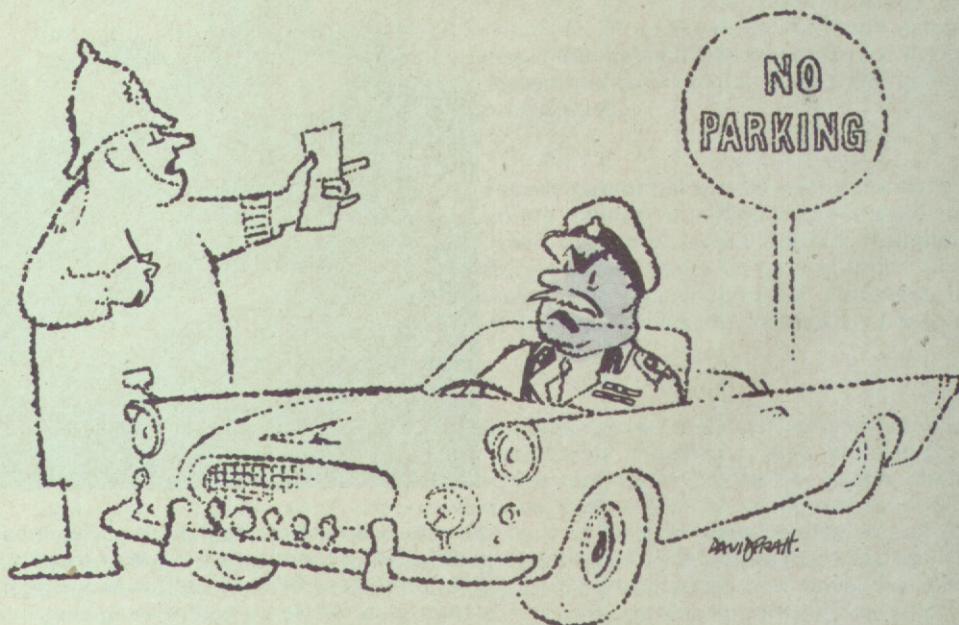
A total of 1178 people were helped with an average grant per head of £110 during 1974-75, says the annual report of the Officers' Association. The number of ex-officers assisted was 488 and the association reports a gradual decline in calls for assistance, largely accounted for by the continuing deaths of World War One veterans.

## RECORD BRIDGE SALES

Record export sales for the British-designed medium girder bridge were achieved by Fairey Engineering during 1975. They totalled £26,500,000, more than double the combined sales for the previous three years. The bridge was designed by the Military Vehicles Engineering Establishment at Christchurch.

## BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion Attendants' Company has been awarded the contract to manage and man Barclays Bank International's 1200-space car park adjoining their new office complex at Poole, Dorset.



"All I can say, Admiral, is that you must be blind."

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0006	0112	1215	1419	0000	0001
0007	0514	0601	1420	0019	0001
0002	0405	0000	0000	0000	0001
0002	1201	0000	0000	0000	0001
0006	1601	2018	0905	0000	0001
0002	1205	0000	0000	0000	0001
0004	1015	2118	0000	0000	0001
0002	0405	0000	0000	0000	0001
0006	0712	1509	1805	0000	0001
0003	0519	0020	0000	0000	0001
0006	0118	1809	2205	0000	0001
0046	0000	0000	0000	0000	0011

Into what language has the computer translated and what numbers would the computer have printed for your answer? Send your answer on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 214" label from this page and your name and address, to:

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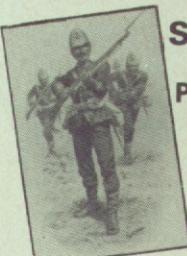
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# Left, right & centre

The new Union Jack Club (see SOLDIER March 1976), which has risen on the old site at Waterloo, was officially opened by the Queen (right, signing her own portrait) continuing a long royal connection going back to the laying of the original foundation stone by the then Prince of Wales in 1904.



The Army Catering Corps was once more to the forefront in the annual Hotelympia catering contest which tests the skill of top cooks from all sections of the industry. The Army School of Catering scooped up 53 awards and the corps' apprentices gained 59. Pictured above is Warrant Officer 2 Peter Dau, overall winner of the Grande Piece in the open competition of the Salon Culinaire.

This diorama (left) depicting World War Two armour in North Africa won a first prize for apprentices of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Arborfield, at the International Plastic Modellers Society national championships at the RAF Museum, Hendon. The models making up the scene were all made from converted kits, and the ship from scratch.

As Singapore's housing schemes progress, old British military cemeteries have been taken over for development. So the last of some 1500 servicemen and dependents were re-buried at Kranji War Memorial. At the service (right) the officiating padre — one of five including a Hindu Gurkha chaplain — thanked the joint RAF/Army team for the "most respectful and dignified way in which they carried out this difficult and delicate task."



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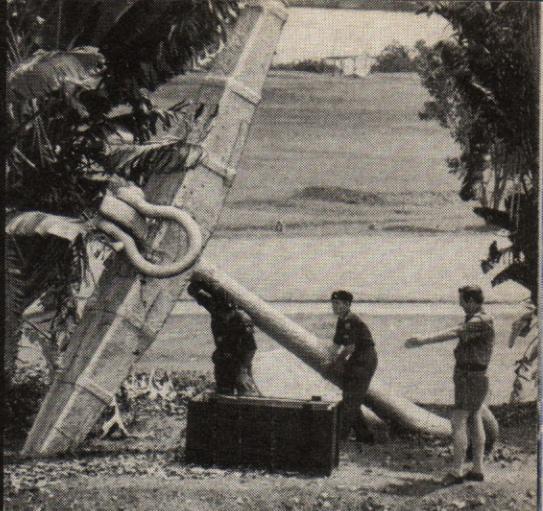


Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw, Lord Mayor of Manchester, visited (above) her own gunner regiment—2 Field Regiment—on St Valentine's Day. As a noted mathematician she was fascinated by the artillery computers and training. But the high spot of her visit was obviously a drive in an Abbot self-propelled gun in sleet and mud.

After hitting the headlines with pronouncements on defence matters, Tory leader Mrs Margaret Thatcher got some first-hand experience of Army life at the controls of an Abbot self-propelled gun (right) during a visit to 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.



Pulling up anchor in Singapore (right) was taken literally by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, faced with the mammoth task of shipping home the large anchor which had rested on the grass outside the officers' mess at Terrier Barracks since World War Two. Under the direction of Captain Bert Gracie (right), undaunted warrant officers 2 Danny Molloy (left) and Geordie Campbell wrestle with the problem of fitting the anchor into the standard packing case.



Two Freemen of the city of Cardiff shared a joke (left) during a ministerial visit to 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, in Berlin. For both Foreign Secretary James Callaghan and Goat-Corporal Chris Ferrier—who looks after Taffy II—share that honour.

Under-Secretary of State for the Army Mr Robert Brown heard all about one of the Army's latest bits of equipment . . . while wearing it himself (right). For the ear defenders used to protect his hearing during firing of the new light gun at Larkhill incorporate an electronic innovation which allows the wearer to hear conversations while protecting his ears from the loud bangs of the guns.



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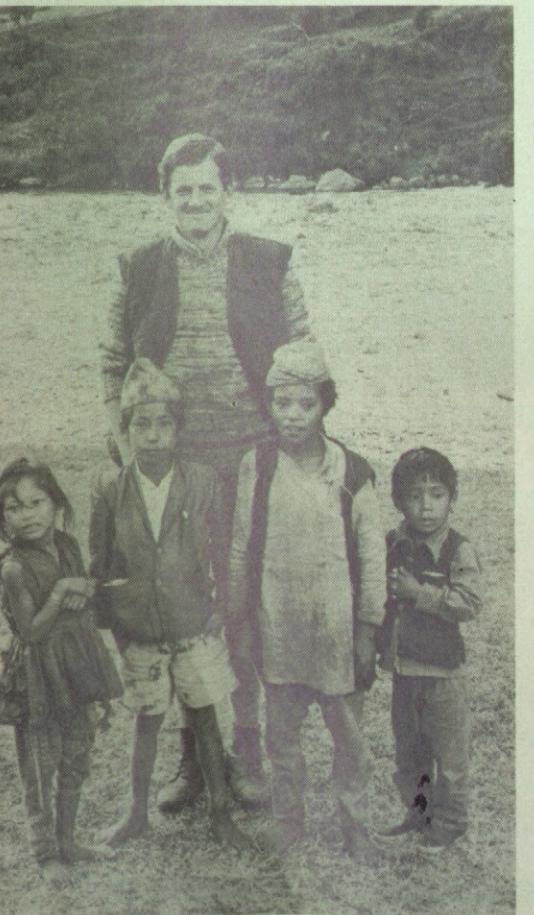
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# Harlech globe-trotters



Above: Clear skies on the "roof of the world" give spectacular scenic views.

Below: Lieut Plummer with some young villagers from the remote Solu Valley to the west of Mount Everest.



"JOURNEY of a lifetime" was the way expedition leader Lieutenant Brian Plummer described a trek he and seven other members of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, made while motoring 16,000 miles and walking another 350.

The three-month round trip took the men from their base in Tidworth, Hampshire, by Sealink ferry to France and then overland to Nepal and back. The eight travelled in two specially adapted Land-Rovers and drove through France, Switzerland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India to reach Nepal.

Said Lieutenant Plummer: "We wanted to get to Nepal as quickly as possible and so the drive out meant long days on the road. We would set off before dawn and stop at dusk, doing sentry duties throughout the night in Asia because of the real danger of theft and bandits. This was especially so in eastern Turkey and Afghanistan where travellers were advised not to stop outside inhabited areas in the dark."

But even the deadly danger that lurked around every bend in the road could not eclipse the travellers' appreciation of the breathtaking scenery. Lieutenant Plummer added: "In Iran and Afghanistan the scenery was magnificent with sandstorms, the brilliant sharpness of the light, the dark clouds, the animals, the dust and the distance."

The two-vehicle convoy passed south of the Hindu Kush and on through the Khyber Pass. Then 28 days after leaving the United Kingdom it arrived in Dharan, Nepal. There they were joined

by Captain Nigel Shakespear, of 1st/2nd Gurkha Rifles, who was to accompany five of the party on a 17-day trek through the Himalayas. Porters were hired and the remaining three soldiers were to take the two vehicles round by road to meet the walkers at the end of their route.

For the walkers the day began around 0600 and they averaged some 20 miles a day by dusk 12 hours later. They carried packs weighing some 45lbs. Temperature varied between 100 degrees Fahrenheit and below freezing. And they climbed to heights around 13,000 feet.

Lieutenant Plummer said: "We had our first views of the snows on the sixth day when we got up at dawn to a magnificent sight as the sun rose above the clouds lying thick below us. To the north we could see Nuptse, Lhotse and Everest. This was a glimpse of a small part of the Himalayan chain which extends for about 1250 miles from Kashmir in the west to Burma."

It was a busy time for 18 year-old Private Dulwyn Hadden, the cook, who supplemented Army rations with locally purchased fare — including one goat which the bearers helped him skin and cut up. "It tasted like chicken," he said. Corporal Harold Jones, as medical orderly, was also kept busy — not so much ministering to his fellow soldiers as to local people ignorant of medicine and far from clinical aid.

The road party, led by Corporal John Miles, had a major setback when one of the vehicles sank up to its windscreen while fording a flooded river. Villagers helped pull it out and the party turned

back to find another route avoiding monsoon floods. This meant a 1000-mile detour through India. The water-logged vehicle spluttered to a halt and six hours were spent dismantling its soggy innards and drying them off. Even so, the road party reached Kathmandu with a week to spare which they spent on a trek to Shivapuri — the largest mountain near the capital — before their rendezvous with the walkers on the road between Kathmandu and the Tibetan border.

On the journey home a day or two of relaxation and sightseeing in some of the capital cities on the way was allowed to make up for what the party might have missed on the dash out to Nepal. Ironically this more leisurely drive produced the only road accidents of the trip when one of the Land-Rovers was hit twice — once by a bus and again by a lorry. But damage was not enough to prevent the two vehicles returning home safe and relatively sound.



Above: Cpl M Griffiths, Cpl J Jones, Sgt A Davies, Capt N Shakespear, Lieut Plummer, Fus R Beck, Cpl J Miles, Pte D Hadden, Cpl B Griffiths.

Below left: The hazards of crossing a bridge above raging water. Right: Cpl J Jones with one of many villagers he gave medical aid during the journey.



The trek party: Lieutenant Brian Plummer, Sergeant Alan Davies, Corporal Harold Jones (the medic), Corporal Barry Griffiths, Private Dulwyn Hadden (the cook), the liaison officer and ten porters. Vehicle party: Corporal John Miles, Corporal Malcolm Griffiths (REME) and Fusilier Bob Beck.

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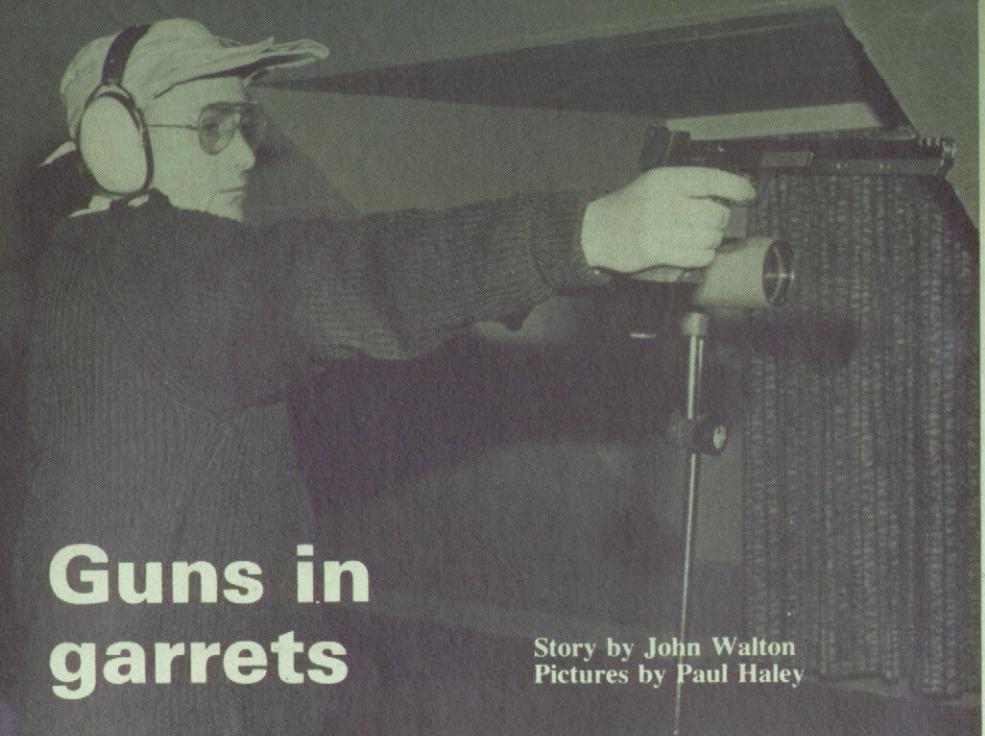
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## Guns in garrets

Story by John Walton  
Pictures by Paul Haley

**W**HEN crackshot Major Arthur Harvey first looked at the indoor rifle range at Verden, Germany, three years ago he found it to be "very mediocre" with just one 25-yard rifle range and a rest room. But today Major Harvey and his team of expert shots have created from a series of unused attics an indoor small-bore complex which is one of the finest in Europe.

It all started when the Royal Artillery marksmanship training team decided to raise the standard of marksmanship in the Royal Artillery. The centre at Verden was ideal for expansion although the initial conversion was a daunting prospect. "Every room was filled with rubble and wooden packing," recalled Major Harvey. "One of the attics even had a big hole in the roof which was left over from the last war."

The transformation to what Major Harvey describes as "unique" is complete. The ranges are now not only used for gunners but for 1st Division Train-

Above: Major Arthur Harvey practises with a pistol — not his usual weapon.

ing Team and as an Army training centre. Students come from all over Rhine Army and from the United Kingdom for target rifle-shooting.

Major Harvey believes that his training is great grounding for an Army marksman. He says: "You can train any man to shoot with a .22 and an air rifle and when he can shoot instinctively only a small amount of acclimatisation is required to raise him to a good standard with the self-loading rifle and full-bore."

To an outsider the presence of air-rifle ranges is a little surprising but Major Harvey explains: "Until recently, air rifles were regarded as something which little lads used in the back garden between the ages of six and 12. But we do a considerable amount of air-pistol training and most international shots have their own private target air rifle for practice at home."

In the past 12 months, 95 students have been trained at Verden on Service rifle shooting and about 40 on target rifle courses. Major Harvey and his staff have also travelled widely for shooting competitions. Yet, as the major says: "This is only a part-time job for us. We all have our normal jobs to do."

In addition to the air-rifle range there is a 25-yard .22 range and a newly constructed 50-yard range. This more ambitious project requires a high standard of accuracy from the marksman. Renovation work includes the painting of walls and ceiling in eau de nil—"a restful colour"—and electric heating for the bitter German winter.

There are two other ranges, using electronic targets, for training of instructors. They could roughly be called the town and country ranges. The first, with a rural landscape, provides pop-up miniature targets of men which can also be held for rapid firing. The lighting can be altered from broad daylight through twilight to moonlight.

On the other side of the same room is an urban scene. Here targets are fixed on electric model cars and travel along streets. At the same time Belisha beacons flash and window lights can go on and off. Night-firing aids can be used on this range and the sudden flashes of light, which can temporarily blind a marksman using night aids, are employed to make students appreciate the problems of diffused and changing light in a town.

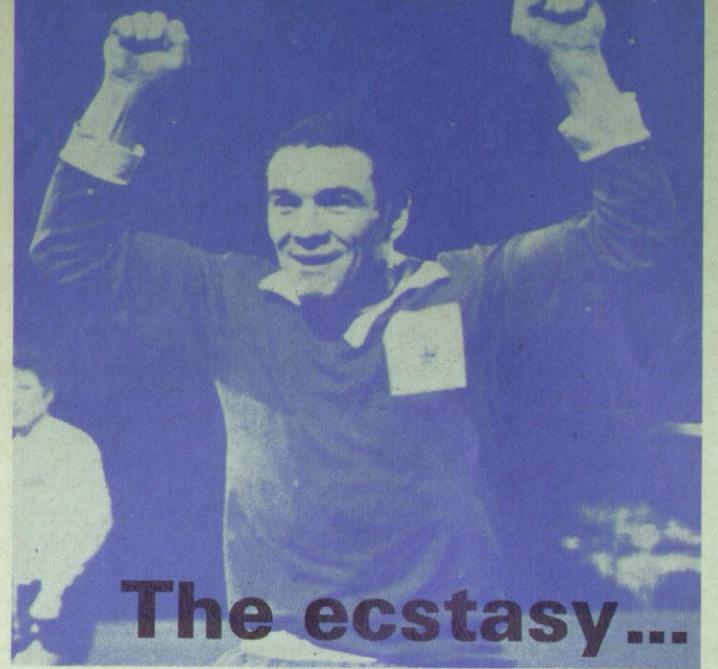
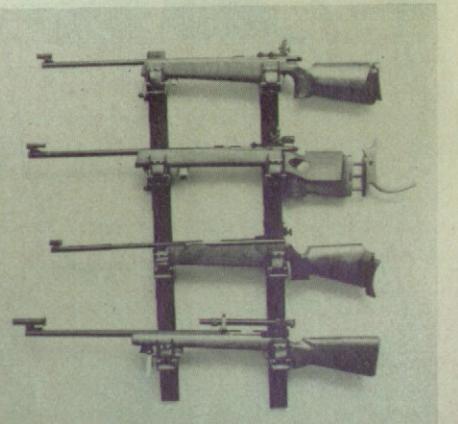
Major Harvey has been shooting seriously since he was 13 and got into his county full-bore team at the age of 16. He says: "The joy of shooting is that you can go on until you are 70 if your health is good. It is a sport that once the bug has bitten will involve you for the rest of your life."

His three other instructors, Sergeant Bill White, Sergeant Bob Sadler and Sergeant Dave Bright, are all current Army shots. Major Harvey holds the British and English short-range championships. The centre's glass showcase is full of trophies won last season.

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Left: Two of the marksmen on courses at the centre practising prone firing.

Below: A selection of modern target weapons. Top to bottom: Anschutz .22 target rifle; Anschutz super match .22 Feinwerkbau air rifle; Winchester .22.



## The ecstasy...

## ...and the agony



**T**HE British Army side set its sights high in this year's Kentish Cup soccer competition against top professional players of France and Belgium and opened the three-nation series of matches by dismissing France with a brilliant 4-1 victory. Belgium met France in the second match and scraped a 1-1 draw in injury time so the British travelled to Brussels' famed Anderlecht ground with high hopes of winning the Kentish Cup for the first time in six years.

But the British could not muster the sparkle of their opening game and a hard Belgian side steamrollered its way to a 3-1 win to clinch the title for them for the fourth year running.

France has won the title 18 times, Belgium 15 and Britain 14 since the tournament was started in the 1920-21 season between the armies of the three nations. With the exception of the years of World War Two, the Kentish Cup competition — named after the British brigadier-general who founded it — has been played annually.

The strength of the British side in recent years cannot necessarily be gauged on scorelines for the Belgian and French armies, which still operate conscription, have the pick of professional players. This year's French team fielded nine first division and two second division players when Britain won 4-1 and the ultimately triumphant Belgian side was peppered with the young stars of Anderlecht and Bruges.

There was ecstasy in the British camp after the convincing home win against the French. The injection of new blood from Rhine Army paid off handsomely when Sergeant Johnnie O'Rourke, of 2 Division Headquarters and Signal Squadron, scored a hat-trick. A stiff breeze favoured the British during the first half but their attacks were punctuated by dangerous probes by the French at a defence lacking an injured Goucher. Some 20 minutes into the match, O'Rourke turned on his heel and lofted the ball between two defenders to hit the top of the French net.

Within five minutes Corporal Taff Leyshon (REME) gave the British a 2-0 lead and five minutes later O'Rourke slotted in his second goal from a header by Staff-Sergeant Instructor Alf Coulton (APTC). Defensive play from the British opened the second half but after 15 minutes O'Rourke found himself at the end of an attacking move and squeezed the ball past the French goalkeeper for his hat-trick.

Within a few minutes the French number 10, D Simon of Reims, curled the ball into the British net for his team's first and only score. The British Army never looked like losing the match and it was a tribute to Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Bill Stoves (APTC), in his last season as team coach, that the team looked so strong.

British Army: Cpl John Dudley (REME), L/Cpl Mick Rogers (1 RWF), Cpl Aly MacDonald (REME), L/Cpl Alex Hamilton (R Sigs), Cpl Joe Ramsden (REME), Cpl Taff Leyshon (REME), L/Cpl Dave Blanche (RCT), Cpl Micky Doig (RE), Pte Andy Holman (1 R Anglian), S/Sgt Alf Coulton (APTC), Sgt Johnnie O'Rourke (R Sigs). Substitute: L/Cpl Dave Steadman (RE) for Coulton.

French Army: H Orlandini (Mimes), T Denneulin (Lille), M Bossis (Nantes), S Perruchini (Monaco), H Gorce (Dunkerque), O Sahnoun (Nantes), A Gemmrich (Strasbourg), Y Ehrlacher (Strasbourg), M Platini (Nancy), D Simon (Reims), G Rampillon (Nantes). Substitutes: O Rouyer (Nancy) and A Bernard (Rennes) for Simon and Gemmrich.

The second match of the series saw France and Belgium clash, with the French dropping Perruchini, Gorce and Platini in favour of Fuchs (Nancy), P Rampillon (Cholet) and Pecout (Nantes). A tough match brought a goal each, the French scoring first and the Belgians equalising in the few minutes of injury time allowed by British referee Major Ron Roberts. This left the British with the tantalising prospect of meeting the Belgians on their home — and fiercely partisan — ground at Anderlecht, Brussels, where a draw would clinch the championship for the first time since 1969-70.

But the ecstasy for British had pas-

sed. The agony was to come as the same Belgian team that met France (see over) trotted confidently out into the floodlit Brussels night. From the first whistle the Belgians showed they were giving no quarter and hard play seemed to throw the more gentlemanly British side with the result that the home team's first goal sped past Dudley some ten minutes into the game. Attack after attack by Belgium penetrated the British defence but Dudley made some brilliant saves — not least of which was a penalty given towards the end of the first half.

Bruges player Beheydt, surprisingly swift for his height, proved adept at lightning dashes and lightning shots at goal. But it was from his Bruges team-mate Sanders that Belgium's number two goal came towards the end of the first half.

Some British composure was regained before half-time and O'Rourke came near to scoring more than once. Rogers also had a chance. There was a certain lack of cohesion in a team little changed from the successful side that destroyed France — Alan Goucher was recalled and Ramsden relegated to the substitutes' bench. The trouble seemed to be that players tended to move away from the man with the ball instead of going to him to put together scoring moves.

Clearly some half-time talking stiffened the British resolve and they went straight into the attack from the whistle with O'Rourke getting another scoring chance from a pass from Blanche but still a score eluded the hat-trick hero of the France match. The Belgians were on the attack too and a shot from De Mulder beat Dudley but was cleared off the line by MacDonald to save a certain goal.

Then disaster struck. Dudley saved a sizzling shot and turned to throw the ball to Blanche who was calling for it. The goalie spotted a Belgian moving to mark Blanche and made the fatal error of changing his mind in mid-throw. The ball lingered a split second longer

in his hand and then slotted neatly into the back of his own net. Suddenly, 3-0.

A shaken Dudley was comforted by a sporting Coulton, the team captain after this incident — one of the most amazing own-goals ever seen. Dudley himself commented after the match: "If the game had stopped then, I could have wished for a hole to open up and swallow me."

With the half ticking by there now seemed little hope of a British win but the gallant team fought on and Coulton scored his side's only goal after a goal-mouth tussle some 20 minutes from the end of the match.

As Britain never looked like losing the French match, so Belgium never looked like losing the game at Anderlecht. They were cocky, sometimes very aggressive and the best team on the night. But Britain had shown that the potential was there to make mincemeat of the continental professionals.

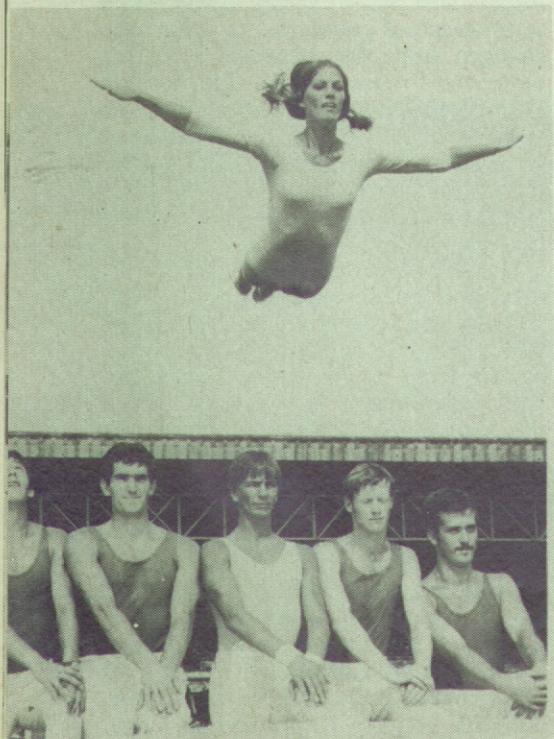
Belgian Army: Munaron (Anderlecht), Dewaele (Bruges), Callaerts (Mechelen), W Ceulemans (Lierse), Cornelis (Anderlecht), Sanders (Bruges), Hanssens (Mechelen), De Mulder (Herchem), Veyt (Boom), J Ceulemans (Lierse), Behydt (Bruges).

British substitutes: Sgt Peter Campbell (R Sigs) and Sgt Tony Graves (RAOC) for O'Rourke and Holman.

## Bye-bye, Di!

**T**WENTY-six-year-old Sergeant Di Lodge, Women's Royal Army Corps, has decided to end her spectacular career as an Army gymnast and turn to recruiting. Di, who represented Great Britain in gymnastics in the 1966 World Games at Dortmund when only 16 and was selected for the British Olympic team in Mexico, has thrilled crowds at gymnastic displays throughout her Army career.

After a highly successful swansong at the Harrogate Army show last year, she has put on the uniform of a recruiting sergeant to work in the same county at Doncaster.



On their home ground at Anderlecht the triumphant Belgians show the prized Kentish Cup they hold again.

Below: A winner's smile flickers on the lips of Sergeant W Venus as he storms home first in the cross-country event.

## Fleet-foot Signals finish first

**M**AJOR unit cross-country champions this year are the runners of 21 Signal Regiment who beat 29 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, into second and third places respectively over the Pirbright course.

Individual first place went to the winning major unit's Sergeant W Venus in 35 minutes one second. Half a minute later came Warrant Officer 2 T Davies (7 Para Regt RHA) and third—another half-minute away—was Staff-Sergeant Instructor E Turner of 1 Training Regiment, Royal Engineers.

Minor unit champions are 16 Parachute Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron with 16th Parachute Heavy Drop Company Royal Army Ordnance Corps second and 4th Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron third.

The junior major unit title went to Army Apprentices College Harrogate, followed by Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion and AAC Chepstow. Junior minor units: 1st Junior Parachute Company, 2nd Junior Soldiers Company Light Division, 3rd JSC Prince of Wales's Division.

Junior individual winner was Signalman A D Robertson (21 Signal Regiment) in 36 minutes 49 seconds. Second was Private N C Wilson (1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment) in 38 minutes 20 seconds and third, Gunner R Wise (29 Commando Light Regiment RA) just four seconds later.

On the individual youth course Junior Signalman D Carr (11 Signal Regiment) came first (20 minutes 30 seconds) with Apprentice Tradesman Sergeant J Boyes of Army Apprentices College Harrogate second (21min 4sec). Third was AT S J Rimmington (AAC Chepstow) eight seconds later.



## Table tennis bids for recognition

**Y**ET another "Cinderella sport" is making a bid for official recognition with the staging this month of the first inter-Services table tennis championship. This fast game, well established internationally as a major sport, joins such hopefuls as volleyball and angling in their attempts to gain official Army backing. Precedents are to be found in success stories like that of orienteering which, with some help from SOLDIER, eventually won recognition.

The inter-Service table tennis is to be played at RAF Stanmore Park on 25 to 28 April concurrent with the RAF championships. At present only the RAF Sports Board recognises table tennis as an official sport but as the new event goes ahead with the blessing of the Combined Services Sports Board it may well be that tri-Service recognition is at hand.

A Services boost for the sport is appropriate as the 1977 world table tennis championships are to be held at the mammoth new National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

# Sports shorts

## ATHLETICS

A planned star attraction at half-time in the Army soccer cup final on 7 April is a one-mile race on the tartan track surrounding the pitch at Aldershot Military stadium. If the event materialises there are high hopes that the class of military and civilian entrants should ensure more than one sub-four-minute time. The Aldershot and Farnham District Athletic Association is keen to be involved and numbers among its members Bernard Ford who recently came third in the world cross-country championships at Chepstow. The Army's international star, Lieut Glen Grant, is also being invited to take part.

Lieut Grant did well to qualify for the final in the 1500 metres at the European indoor athletics championships in Munich but was outclassed in the end. Knowing this, he was happy to have gained international experience on a tight track which has just 179 metres to a lap.

## BASKETBALL

Cavalry Park Basketball Tournament: Cavalry Park (1st Scottish National League) 87, Army 71; US Navy Edgell (European US Navy champions) 103, Army 86; Cavalry Park B 50, Army B 56.

## BOXING

The Combined Services trophy stays with the Army for another year—the Army's boxers beat the RAF and Royal Navy at Cosford and Aldershot respectively with convincing wins of 6 bouts to 4 in both cases. Points scored showed a closer matching, with the RAF losing 14-15 and the Navy 13-16. The RAF was helped by gaining a two-point walkover in the middleweight division when the Army failed to find a suitable contestant. Non-availability of first choice boxers for both teams in the Navy match led to the managements readjusting their representatives to suit the occasion which nevertheless provided a good sporting evening.

Following the preliminary bouts at Tidworth and finals at Aldershot, Army individual boxing champions for the year are.—Light flyweight: L/Bdr M Gregory (4 Regt AAC). Flyweight (one entry, walkover): L/Cpl J Lucas (1 RWF). Bantamweight (one entry, walkover): L/Cpl N Phillip (4/7 DG). Featherweight: Tpr S Holdsworth (QRH). Light welterweight: L/Cpl C Sexton (1 BW). Welterweight: L/Cpl Z Rene (10 Regt RCT). Light middleweight (one entry, walkover): Rfn T Williams (1 RGJ). Middleweight: Fus A Jones (1 RWF). Light heavyweight: Rfn H Miles (1 RGJ). Heavyweight: L/Bdr C William (5 Hy Regt RA). Under 19 year championships for boxers over 17 and under 19 on 3 March 1976 (no entries for light flyweight, bantamweight, lightweight, light heavyweight and heavyweight).—Flyweight (one entry, walkover): Fus M Ullah (1 RWF). Featherweight: A/T C Gill (AAC Chepstow). Light welterweight (one entry, walkover): L/Cpl P Harper (2 Coldm Gds). Welterweight: Pte W Malarkey (1 BW). Light middleweight: Pte S Ogiste (206 Coy RPC). Middleweight: J/Inf P Rickis (Depot Para).

## CROSS-COUNTRY

In the annual match against the Welsh Cross-Country Union at Chepstow, the Army runners were robbed of victory by just two points. Wales snatched up first, second and third places in the junior match with the Army's first man home sixth. Score: Wales 1st (69 points) Army 2nd (155). The same pattern was followed in the women's match with the Welsh home in the one, two and three slots. The first Army runner was 13th. Wales won by 21 points to 69.

## FENCING

The annual Mylne Cup fencing match between officers and soldiers resulted in a win for the officers by 16 to 11. In the foil match, the officers

eventually gained superiority over the soldiers by an 8-1 victory. The experience of the officers' team, after several bouts going to "assault point", was the deciding factor. In the sabre and épée the soldiers won by 5-4 in each contest but this was not enough to redress the balance. Since the competition started in 1964 the officers have won five matches and the soldiers seven.

A powerful Army team came third out of 15 in the annual men's épée team championship for the Savage Shield. In the first round the Army team met Espada Fencing Club and whitewashed the opposition by 16 victories to nil. In the draw for the second and subsequent rounds, with a direct elimination method, the Army was matched against the London Fencing Club and gained an 8-6 victory with two coup-doubles. In the third-round semi-final the Army was eliminated by Thames A team, 5-9. Final result: 1st Boston, 2nd Thames A, 3rd Army. Army team: Lieut T Belson (Glosters) (reigning British individual épée champion), Sgt Jim Fox (REME) (Army 1974 pentathlon champion), SSI P J Brierley APTC (current inter-Services épée champion), S/Sgt J A Darby REME (former inter-Services épée champion).

The toughest opposition yet encountered by the Army this season came to Aldershot in the form of the Combined Universities fencers who reversed their defeat in the 1975 meeting to win by 18 victories to 9. Rarely do club matches produce many bouts reaching the four-all stage before a result is obtained but such was the case in the foil contest. Finally the honours went to the Universities 5-4. A strong Army sabre side lost 3-9 and in the épée duel the Army swordsmen managed only two victories in nine bouts. Representing the Army were: Foil, Lieut-Col J A G Moore (RA), QMSI D D Truman (APTC), SSI J V Larkham, (APTC); sabre, Moore, Larkham QMSI D Hughes (APTC); épée, Capt L S Burr RAOC, Lieut N Sutherland (RE), SSI P J Brierley (APTC).

The Lennon Cup returned to the Army, after several years, with a 17-10 victory against Scotland at Harrogate. The Army foil fencers squeezed a 5-4 victory but the sabreurs lost 3-6. The épée event clinched the result for the Army with a 9-0 whitewash.

## HOCKEY

Army 0, Oxford University 5; Army 2, Sussex 2; Army under-21 0, Sussex under-21 3; Army under-21 1, Oxford University under-21 1; Army 5, RMAS 0; Army 0, Cambridge University 2. Senior and under-21 matches against Oxfordshire were cancelled.

## JUDO

Army junior individual championships, at Chepstow. Heavyweight: A/T Deardon (AAC Chepstow). Light heavyweight: A/T Tommaso (Chepstow). Middleweight: App Bourne (ACC). Welterweight: J/Ldr Higgins (IJLB). Lightweight: J/Infm Bishop (Jun Para). Open class: Higgins.

## MOUNTAINEERING

Climbers from the Army Mountaineering Association are well on their way to the roof of the world for their attempt on Everest. The expedition is led by one of the Army's most experienced Himalayan mountaineers, Lieut-Col Tony Streather. This first-ever attempt by an independent enthusiasts' club on the world's highest peak is by a 33-man team including three Gurkhas and three men from the Royal Nepalese Army. A fair proportion of the £50,000 estimated cost has been contributed by the climbers themselves with help from sponsors including Naafi (providing tea bags) and Everest Double Glazing.

## RACKETS

Col Andrew Myrtle won the Army singles rackets title for the seventh time when he beat Capt David Reed-Felstead (RHG/D) in the final, 15-10, 18-13, 15-12, at Queen's Club, Kensington. The two met again in the inter-regimental doubles with partners: Scottish Division (Myrtle and Capt B E Osborne) beat RHG/D (Reed-Felstead and Lieut T L S Livingston-Learmouth) 15-4, 15-10, 15-12, 15-11.

## ROWING

The main event of the Army Rowing Clubs Association this year will be the Joint Services regatta at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, on 6 June. All three Services will be represented, including the Women's Services, and a full day's racing is planned. Full details for both competitors or spectators can be had from Capt P G Major, Trg Bn and Depot REME, Arborfield, Reading, Berkshire.

## RUGBY

Results: Army 9, Oxford University 22; Army 15, Hampshire 9; Army 3, Bristol 34; Army 6, RAF 3; Army Juniors 41, RAF Juniors 13.

## SAILING

The ketch Great Britain II sailed into Dover some two days ahead of the old clipper record time for the trip from Sydney to England set by the Patriarch more than a century ago. A tri-Service crew—heavily dependent on soldier-sailors—manned GB II which was on loan from its owner, ex-Parachute Regiment Sergeant Chay Blyth. The yacht won the first leg of the Financial Times clipper race out to Sydney, again beating Patriarch's time. GB II's closest rival on the return trip, the French Kriter II, lost her rudder 1000 miles out from Australia.

The Army may again be represented in the second Whitbread round-the-world yacht race due to start in August 1977. Captain Brian Daniels, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, hopes to crew a Bowman 57 ketch with serving or ex-serving soldiers. He gained ample experience as a crew member with Chay Blyth's prize-winning Para team in Great Britain II on the first Whitbread race and has since won a sizeable number of off-shore sailing trophies.

Said Captain Daniels: "I am not only determined to make the start line but the finish too. And with the boat and crew I have in mind I see no reason why we shouldn't finish first. Sponsorship is the only major hurdle to clear—and a vital one it is too. But we are offering a business-like package which has already attracted an encouraging response."

## SHOOTING

Smallbore prone rifle match: Regular Army XX 3942, Worcestershire 3906; Regular Army Reserve 3878, Worcestershire Reserve 3845. Smallbore standing and kneeling match: Regular Army 1047, Kent 1030.

## TENNIS

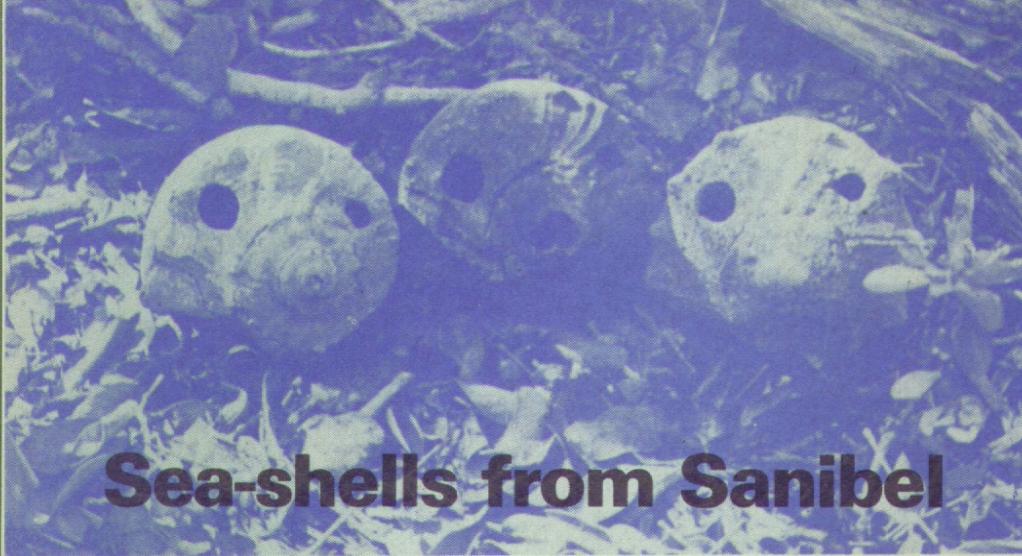
Anyone for tennis? This question is now being asked in Army medical circles in a bid to get together a squad of competition players from the RAMC and RADC. Players wishing to be considered for team trials should contact Maj Graham Hopkins, Joint Services Medical Rehabilitation Unit, Chessington, Surrey.

## TUG-OF-WAR

Locally based 1 Parachute Logistic Regiment swept the board in the Army indoor tug-of-war championships at Aldershot. Entries were well down on previous years—a trend the organisers hope will reverse in future—but quality was in evidence even if quantity was not. Results.—560 kilo (3 entries): 1st 1 Para Log Regt, 2nd School of Sigs, 3rd 3 Para. 640 kilo (5 entries): 1st 1 Para Log Regt, 2nd 522 Coy RPC, 3rd 3 Para.

## WINTER OLYMPICS

The Army was well represented in the Winter Olympics at Innsbruck with 18 soldiers in the British contingent. A nineteenth, Capt Rory Cochrane-Dyet, was manager of the bobsleigh entry. This event drew eight of its 12 British bobbers from the Army—largely from 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards. Another nine made up the entire biathlon squad and one entered the luge. Despite high hopes in the bobsleigh event, none of the British could wrest high placings from the dominant East Europeans and Germans in events with Army participation.

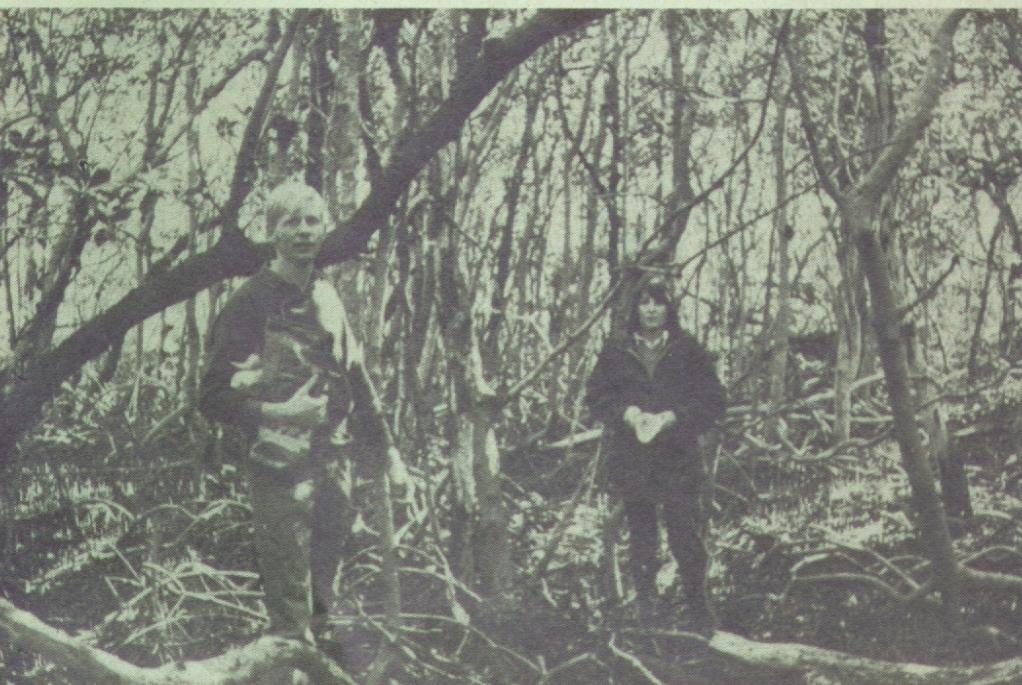


## Sea-shells from Sanibel



Above: Searching for the burial mounds which revealed the shell tools believed to date back to 500BC.

Below: Expedition leader Robertson on Sanibel island with his scientific assistant — also his fiancée — Susan Pryn.



CONCH shells thought to have been used by primitive Indians as hand tools have been brought back to Britain by an Army expedition to the remote Sanibel island in the Gulf of Mexico.

The eight soldiers and a civilian girl also brought home specimens of shell fish and lizards from the tiny island of about 30 square miles off the west coast of Florida. It was once the haunt of pirates from the Spanish Main and more recently has become famous for the more peaceful pursuit of collecting shell specimens for scientific purposes.

There is also a belief that the more remote mangrove and freshwater inlets of the island may still be the haunt of the Florida puma, a rare species of American mountain lion. The expedition failed to find evidence of the beast. But the ancient shell-tools were significant enough to justify the journey. They are believed to be some 2000 years old and to have been used by Calossa Indians who thrived at the time.

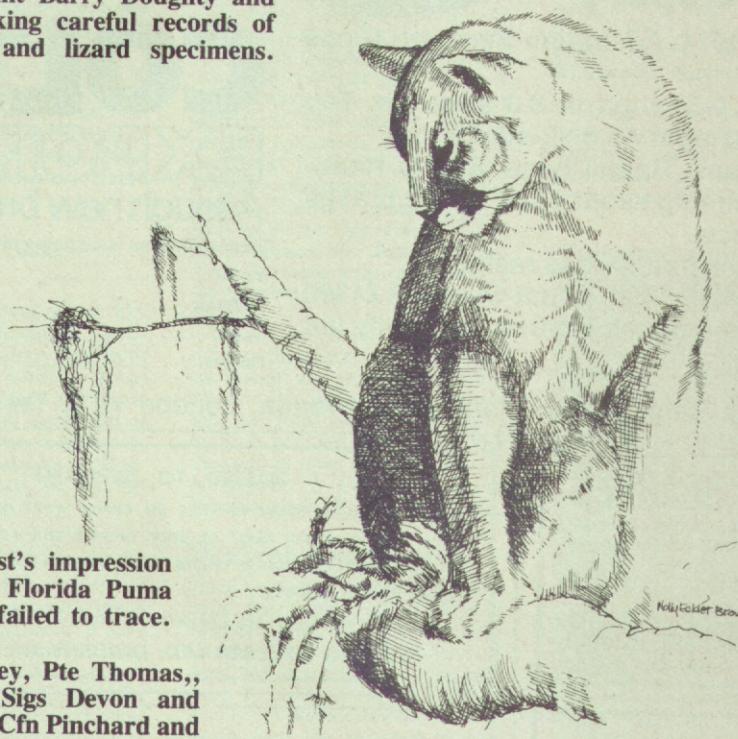
The shell research was in conjunction with the British Museum and much of the classification work is being done by the expedition's female member, Sue Pryn (21), who is reading zoology at Cambridge University. She is no stranger to exploration, having used her skill as a sub-aqua diver on an underwater expedition in Cyprus in 1974.

Leader of the three-week trip was Sue's fiancé, Lieutenant Iain Robertson, Royal Signals. Sergeant Barry Doughty, Queen's Regiment, led the research into lizards. This followed up similar work he carried out last year for the British Museum on the Joint-Services East-West Sahara Expedition. Three other Royal Signals soldiers, Corporal Tim Elsey, Signaller Nick Devon and Signaller Ken Sirr, were in the party which was completed by Driver Evan Dickson (Royal Corps of Transport), Craftsman Ted Pinchard (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) and Private Dick Thomas (Royal Army Ordnance Corps). All were from 5th Airportable Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron at Tidworth, with the exception of Sergeant Doughty and Sue Pryn.

It was the squadron commander, Major Kelvin Kent, who masterminded the expedition after a reconnaissance in 1973. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and veteran of seven expeditions, including one to Everest.



Above: Sergeant Barry Doughty and Sue Pryn making careful records of various shell and lizard specimens.



Right: An artist's impression of that elusive Florida Puma the expedition failed to trace.

Below: Cpl Elsey, Pte Thomas, Dvr Dickson, Sigs Devon and Sirr, Sue Pryn, Cfn Pinchard and Sgt Doughty of to Sanibel.



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Prospectus: The Secretary, St. John's College, Coolhurst, Horsham, Sussex. Tel: Horsham 2424.

# Letters

## Penny-wise

Private Dobson served in the Crimea War in 1855 during which time he was ordered to raise the flag at Sebastopol. While holding the standard he had all the fingers of his right hand blown away by a shell, leaving him with only a damaged thumb. His unfortunate wounding and courage was brought to the notice of Queen Victoria who, on learning that he could no longer carry on his civilian trade, ordered that the entire entrance fees (one penny) to Hampton Court Palace maze should be paid to Private Dobson for the rest of his life in lieu of a pension. The popularity of the maze increased to such an extent that the annual entrance fees of more than £4000 were soon being paid to a very happy ex-soldier. As a medal collector I would be very happy to hear from any reader who could tell me more about Private Dobson or who have medals to sell. All medals interest me.—John Clarke, 44 The Avenue, Hatch End, Middlesex.

## Up — one, two — down

My military career was neither distinguished nor illustrious. However, I reached the dizzy heights of lance-corporal one morning. I was promoted at CO's orders at 9.00 am but was demoted to signaller at 12.00 noon the same morning! Is this a record?—Malcolm T Hobson, Friedrich Ebert Str 35, 629 Weilburg, Germany.

## Combat medal?

Since publishing (November) my letter on the formation of a Canal Zone veterans association, I have had many letters from both veterans and serving soldiers and it would appear that the subject of campaign medals is still a sore point and that the present system does not operate as efficiently as it should.

For some reason or other, probably under pressure from people who do not fully understand the military approach to management techniques, some deserving cases appear to have been overlooked, causing a lot of bitter-

ness. Recognition is a basic human need; it ensures loyalty and generates enthusiasm.

We have the ridiculous situation where soldiers have given years of service to their country, have been in combat, have carried out orders without question while being paid a mere pittance as a wage, and seen comrades killed—but still have no medal to show for it. Does anyone consider the feelings of these men as they stand on parade with their regimental comrades? May I suggest that to keep the award of medals to a minimum the General Service medal should be awarded to all soldiers who have served overseas on active service (which would include the Canal Zone veterans).

A new medal should be struck—Combat Star (or Combat Medal). To qualify for the award of this medal a soldier should have to spend at least two years on active service, to have actually been in combat, operational duties or have performed a dangerous task in a hostile or combat zone. The soldier going to Northern Ireland would at least know that his services would be recognised and that if he survived he would wear the ribbon of the Combat Star or Medal on his chest.

I have had letters from young soldiers dissatisfied with the present system and this saddens me. I am sure it is time that the powers that be took notice and had a re-think on the subject and that they will be open to suggestions.—A Ingram, 3 Falmer Gardens, Woodingdean, Brighton, Sussex.

## Madras Regiment

I have received an official request to write the history of the Madras Regiment from the days of Stringer Lawrence up to the present. A great deal of work has already been done by other people but this is mainly of a statistical nature. These works lack the personal element and anecdotes of those who served. I would be most grateful if any old soldier could give me any information whatsoever on this subject which they feel will help the history to have a more popular appeal.—H L Townsend, Lishen, Havelock Road, Ootacamund 643001, Tamil Nadu, India.

## Military Medal

I am compiling material for a book on the history of the Military Medal and hope to include a personal "word picture" type of story on each recipient I can contact or learn about. Would any reader who is the holder of the Military Medal please contact me? I would prefer copies of citations, recommendations, newspaper cuttings etc. to eliminate the risk of loss of the originals. I feel that the Military Medal is a particularly hard-earned award and its history needs to be told.—William Carrigan, 61 Sydney Road, Eastbourne, Sussex, BN22 8BQ.

## Forward the ladies

Referring to the letter from Major Willman in SOLDIER (January). I think we have the winner here at Worthy Down. WO 1 Joan Beard, WRAC, has 30 years' service to her credit. She retires from her job in the Imprest Audit Wing and will I am sure be missed by both "customers" and colleagues alike.—WO 2 A G Croucher, RAPC, RAPC Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants, SO21 2RG.

*\*Although the previous letters on this subject referred to ATS/WRAC members of the TAVR we print this letter because we feel that 30 years' service in the WRAC is a fine record.*

## MID record

In reply to Mr Karslake's query (Letters, February) whether 11 mentions-in-despatches constitutes a record, I am afraid the answer is no. This honour belongs to Field-Marshal Earl Roberts who was "mentioned" 24 times. He was the only one with eight sets of official post-nominal letters. Official statistics show that 141,082 mentions-in-despatches were gazetted during World War One. The longest gap between a first and last mention was that of General Sir Edward Thackeray who was first mentioned in despatches on 15 December 1857 during the Indian Mutiny as a lieutenant and lastly as a general on 5 June 1919 for services with the Red Cross in Italy—a remarkable gap of 62 years. —Alastair L Kennedy-Rose (aged 16), Pound Cottage, Lodsworth, Petworth, Sussex.

## Your old unit?

Each month you publish a list of reunions and each time I envy the meetings of different regiments where no doubt they re-live their memories and "swing the lamp" a little.

I now wonder if, through your columns, it would be possible to trace anyone from 2 Wireless Company, RCS, MELF, who would be

## Imjin Roll

This month marks the 25th anniversary of the Battle of the Imjin River, Korea, in which 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, distinguished itself during the course of the three-day conflict. As a regimental battle honour, Imjin ranks second only to that of Egypt where at Alexandria in March 1801 the 28th fought back-to-back and gained the right to wear the regimental number as a back-plate to the headress. The regimental roll of those of the 28th who fought at Alexandria is lodged in the regimental archives. It seemed fitting, therefore, that the names of those Glosers who fought at Imjin should also be recorded.

There are extremely few instances in the history of the British Army where the names of participants in the battle have been recorded in detail. The Imjin Roll lists the names of all men of the Glosers—including

attached and Royal Artillery support units—who were in the battle. It also contains an account of the battle, details of escapes from the forward area and the experiences of those who were captured plus various appendices containing information as to honours and awards. The author, Colonel Denis Harding, who was a company commander with the Glosers at Imjin, has spent three years researching material for the roll. Much hitherto unpublished material is included.

This book will be of particular interest to the medal collector as it is the only authoritative roll of those who fought with the Glosers at Imjin. The Imjin Roll is published this month and copies can be obtained from Regimental Headquarters, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 13 Carne Place, Gloucester, price £1.75 including postage. All profits will go to the Regimental Appeal Fund.

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## Letters *continued*

interested in forming an association? If so, perhaps they would care to write to me.—**G H Robinson** (ex-cpl Royal Signals), 40 Linbridge Road, Whitehouse Common, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B75 6HJ.

## Commemorative cover

An Army mobile post office will be operating at this unit's "Open Day" on Saturday 10 April and will be date-stamping a limited edition commemorative cover which has been printed for the squadron. This cover is available for a 25 pence postal order—profits to the Army Benevolent Society.—**Maj H D Baily**, 100 Fd Sqn, Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), TAVR Centre, Malpas, Newport, Mon, NPT 6ZD.

## Where is he now?

I am trying to trace Sergeant-Major Edwin Austin who was present at the suicide of Heinrich Himmler in Lüneberg in 1945. It is believed he was serving in the Intelligence Corps with HQ Second Army. All the usual channels of inquiry have been exhausted and if any readers have information on WO2 Austin I would very much like to hear from them.—**Winston Ramsey**, 3 New Plaistow Road, London, E15 3JA.

## Collectors' corner

**Mrs L Jones**, 28 Bowness Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 5AA.—Seeks cloth insignia of Royal Marines, Army Air Corps, Royal Green Jackets and Light Infantry. Also interested in acquiring regimental caps and ribbons. Has items for exchange or will purchase.

**N S Major**, 26 Buxton Road, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 5DE.—Has 1000 Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and British cap badges for generous exchange for rarer British ones.

**Adrian H Wright**, 94 Bank Side, Walton, Stone, Staffs, ST15 0HP.—Wishes purchase British and Canadian arm cap badges.

**P Laycock**, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsberry, West Yorks, WF12 7ET.—Seeks para smock (38in chest

5ft 10in height) also combat cravat. Has for sale or exchange military WHY incl US patches and Nazi items.

**Master J Haddon**, c/o Farrell, 3 Piershill Square East, Edinburgh, EH8 7BD, Scotland.—13-year-old starting collection of military band, pipe and drum, tattoo and pageant music wishes purchase records. State record and price.

**Leslie A Wilson**, Island Spot, Lower Tremar, St Cleer Liskeard, Cornwall.—Seeks print Royal Bucks Yeomanry (RBH). Please state price. Detachment Commander, ACF, Brunner School, Campus, Billingham, Cleveland.—Would appreciate any help in building up detachment's collection of badges, any type or country.

**R E Smith**, 65 Ricardo Street, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent.—Has British military officer pattern beret, khaki, all wool, with leather band, size 7, new and complete with badge. Will exchange for similar items foreign/Commonwealth armies.

**Bill Gesswein**, 102 Grassmere Avenue, Oakdale, New York 11769, USA.—US military and naval insignia, manuals and publications for sale.

**E F L Russell**, 86A, Lansdowne Place, Hove, Sussex, BN3 1FH.—Wishes buy (or borrow—return in good order guaranteed) copies of "SEAC" or "Laugh with SEAC."

**C J Wheeler**, 18 Sunna Gardens, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, TW16 5EF.—Would purchase British airborne insignia cloth badges ie Pegasus and airborne shoulder titles, SAS and glider pilot wings.

**Maj B S du Preez**, 7 Sam Leon Road, Jan Kempheuwel, Voortrekkerhoogte, Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa.—Building up complete British Army uniform WW1 and wishes purchase full set pattern '08 web equipment, khaki stand-and-fall collar tunic, trousers, puttees, boots and steel helmet (must have liner and chin strap).

**R A Crowter**, 78 Unity Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1HX.—Seeks 31st and 70th helmet, shako, plates; also collar dogs, belt buckles, pouch badges TA and Vol bns East Surreys; pagri; Canadian badges WW2. State price.

**J D Wilson**, 1 Bretton House, St James Street, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.—Seeks old bayonets, swords and pistol. Will buy or exchange complete SOLDIER Jan 66 to Dec 75.

**Graham Little**, 5 St Johns Road, Polegate, Sussex.—Wishes to exchange over 100 British Military cap badges for Britain's lead soldiers.

**J L Garland**, 73 Upway, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8AA.—Wishes purchase Fontana Special album SFL 13072 (Band, pipes and drums, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers).

**Capt R Bacon**, 14 Eastleigh Drive, Mansfield Woodhouse, Mansfield, Notts, NG19 8PL.—Wishes sell set of Elastolin Guards corps of drums and Colour party with mounted officer. Made early 1930s, still in good condition.

**Maj N M W Irvin**, TAVR Centre, Bishops Hull, Taunton, TA1 5LJ.—Seeks badge Libyan Arab Force circa 1942.

**Arnold J Ferreira**, 3041 North Second Street, Fresno, California 93703, USA.—Has variety combat branch US Army regimental and battalion unit insignias for sale 85 cents each. All letters answered.

## Reunions

**22nd Armourers Reunion**.—Saturday 8 May, Royal Green Jackets Drill Hall, 56 Davies Street, Mayfair, London W1, 1830 hours. Open to all serving or who have served at any time as armourer or artificer weapon in RAOC or REME. Details and application forms (closing date 26 April) from Maj (Retd) M G Chetwynd, 52 Copthorne Rise, Warminster, Wilts.

**Royal Military Police Association**. Reunion dinner, Saturday 15 May, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Central Vehicle Depot RAOC, Ashchurch, near Tewkesbury. Tickets £3.50 (incl dance after dinner) from Secretary, RHQ/RMP, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex. Wives (and husbands lady members) welcome. Hotel accommodation on written request to RHQ/RMP.

**The XVIIIth, The Royal Irish Regiment and South Irish Horse**. Annual reunion dinner, Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London SW1, Saturday 5 June, 7.30pm. Annual service at Cenotaph, Sunday 6 June, 11am. Details from R P J S Boyce, 13 Sticklepath Terrace, Barnstaple, N Devon, EX31 2AY.

**49 Field Regiment**. Reunion and open day 11-13 June, Campbell Barracks, Hohne, West Germany. Friday 11 June: Formal dinners officers and sergeants messes, entertainment in JNCOs Mess and Junior Ranks Club. Saturday 12 June: Regimental open

day, summer ball Sergeants Mess, all ranks dance. Sunday 13 June: Sports, church services, buffet lunches in messes. All ex-members, serving or civilian, and parents of soldiers, most welcome to visit for weekend—write to 21C or RSM, 49 Fd Regt RA, BFPO 30.

**Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Association**. Annual reunion 29 May—Retreat 5.30pm followed by buffet supper and dance, Stirling Castle. Tickets £1 single, £2 double from RHQ A & SH, The Castle, Stirling.

**The Middlesex Regiment**. Annual reunion 7pm, Saturday 15 May, Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2. Service of remembrance 2.30pm, Saturday 15 May, St Paul's Cathedral, London. Full details from Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

**Coldstream Guards Band**. Dinner-dance and reunion, Lyceum Ballroom, Wellington Street, off Strand, London, Friday 19 November. Tickets £5 each from L/Cpl R A Jones, Coldstream Band Club, Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, London, SW3 4RX.

**The York and Lancaster Regimental Association**. Annual reunion dinner dance, Victory Club, Seymour Street, London, Saturday 24 April. Tickets £3.00 from Lieut-Col A W Stansfield, RHQ York and Lancaster Regiment, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

## Competitions

Answers to the December Competition 210 (Forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards and diagonally too!) indicate that European geography, at least in terms of countries and their capitals, is not the strong point of every SOLDIER reader! Major Egon Maarup's maze of letters included the names of 26 European countries and 27 capitals. The odd capital was London and the required answer—the missing country—was therefore United Kingdom (or England).

The countries and their capitals were: Albania (Tirana), Austria (Vienna), Belgium (Brussels), Bulgaria (Sofia), Czechoslovakia (Prague), Denmark (Copenhagen), East Germany (Berlin), Eire (Dublin), Finland (Helsinki), France

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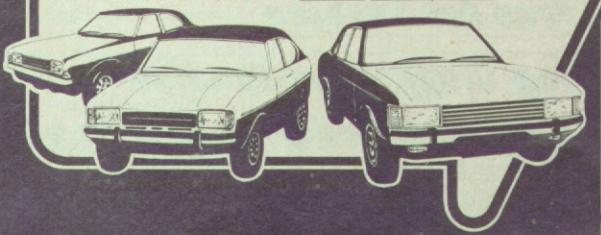
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**Prizewinners:**

- 1 Chris Broadbent, c/o Albert College, 160 Dundas Street West, Belleville, Ontario, K8P 1A6, Canada.
- 2 Miss A M Young, 1 Wey Close, West Byfleet, Weybridge, Surrey.
- 3 Pte Rudd, HQ C Coy, 3 Queens, BFPO 801.
- 4 P Barnes, 36 Highview, Byron Way, Northolt, Middlesex.
- 5 R J Bayliss, 6 Severn Way, Bewdley, Worcestershire.
- 6 V A Blake, 21 Bodycoats Road, Chandlersford, Hampshire.
- 7 Oberleutnant Rolf Bähr, Tulpenbaumweg 12, 53 Bonn, Bad Godesberg, Deutschland.
- 8 K Richards, 11 Westwood Drive, The Mount, Shrewsbury.

**How observant are you?**

(see page 21)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Number of sun's rays. 2 Button missing on spectator's coat. 3 Lower band on hockey stick, third from left player. 4 Missing flourish at end of artist's signature. 5 Grill of car on right. 6 Right hand of hockey player second from left. 7 Position of ball. 8 Hair of hockey player third from left. 9 Collar of hockey player third from left. Hockey stick of right player.



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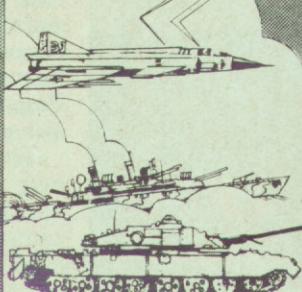
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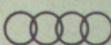
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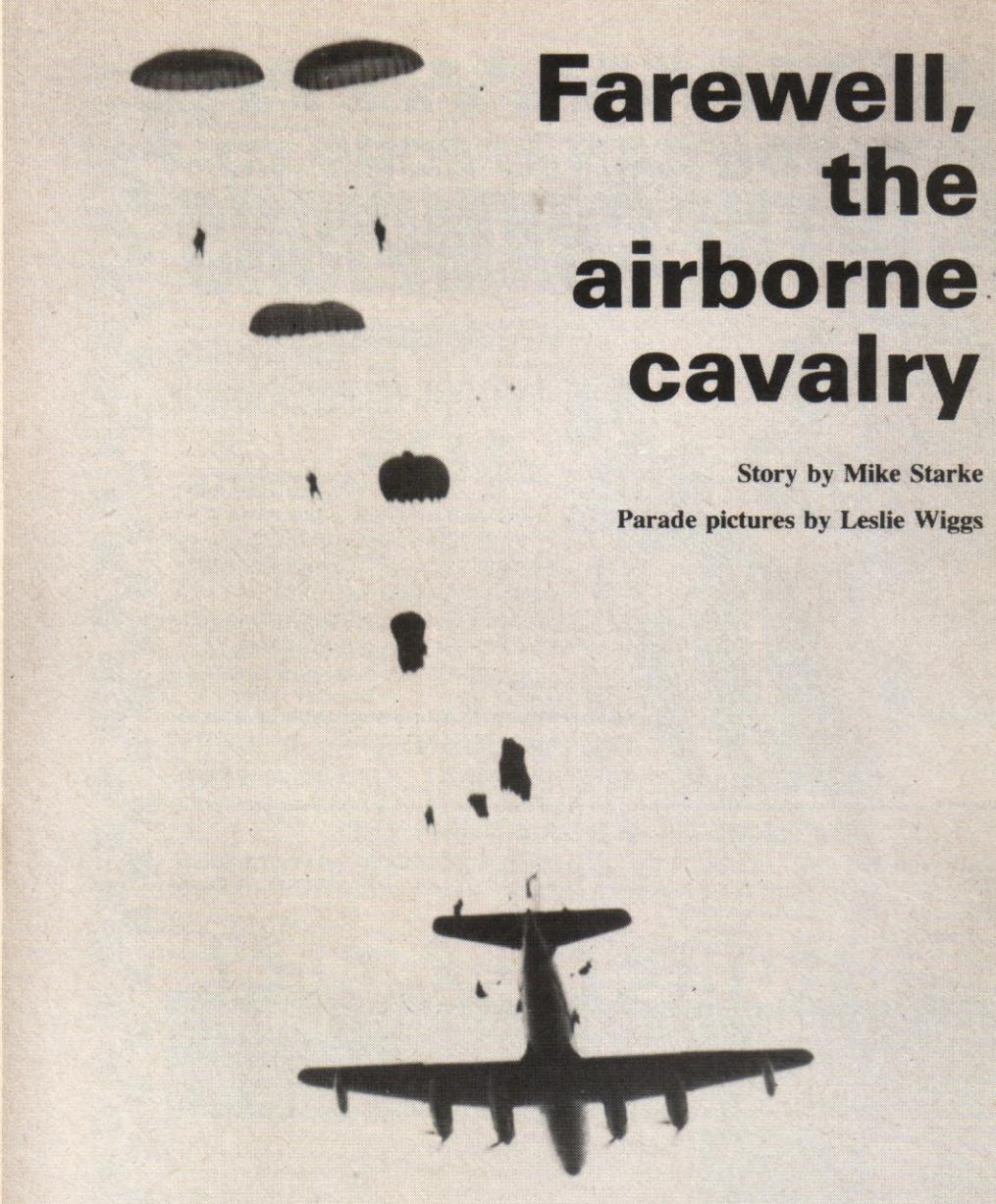
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# Farewell, the airborne cavalry

Story by Mike Starke

Parade pictures by Leslie Wiggs

THE proud air cavalrymen of The Parachute Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps, could have been forgiven this once for failing to live up to their motto of "Go anywhere, do anything, willingly." For the duty was disbandment.

But despite a chill Salisbury Plain wind that forged horizontal needles from the winter rain, the squadron maintained its spirit to the bitter end by insisting on going ahead with the final parade and inspection outdoors. There to pay last tribute to the squadron's primary role as a long-range anti-tank defence force for 16th Parachute Brigade were the fighting vehicles used for the job — Mark 5 Ferret scout cars mounting Swingfire missile systems and the Scorpion tracked reconnaissance vehicle with its 76mm gun.

Echoes of the past rang from the armoured bodywork of a Hornet vehicle from which the unit, on its formation 11 years previously, fired Malkara, an Australian missile. And a Willys Jeep stood as a reminder of the squadron's brother unit, 1st Airborne Recce Squadron, which thrived for the duration of World War Two.

Leading a parade of the recce squadron's old comrades, plus men who had served with The Parachute Squadron RAC, was Colonel Freddie Gough, one-time commander of the original unit and Honorary Colonel of its modern successor.

There to take the salute was Field Marshal Sir Michael Carver, Chief of the Defence Staff and Colonel Commandant of the Royal Armoured Corps, who reminded the parade and spectators that the Parachute Squadron was a unique combat unit of the Royal Armoured Corps, being drawn from all the regiments. On disbandment, members were returning to parent units.

The Field-Marshal added that the concept of the squadron emerged as far back as 1956 and was finally agreed by the then War Office in 1959. A Royal Armoured Corps Special Reconnaissance Squadron was formed in May 1962 with an SAS-style approach to its work. Cyclops Squadron of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment took on a similar role in August the same year and cadres from the two were welded into The Parachute Squadron RAC on 3 February 1965.

This was the first time that an RAC unit had been seen in Airborne Forces since the disbandment of 1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron and 6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment which were attached to the airborne divisions of World War Two.

The squadron has seen service all over the world and undertook its first operational tour dismounted as a patrol company in the Radfan in 1966. Since then seven tours in Northern Ireland



Top left: In 1965 a Hornet is de-rigged and soon ready for action (top right). Bottom left: Past OC Maj G K Bidie and SSM H McLaughlin. Bottom right: A recent task in the middle of Belfast.

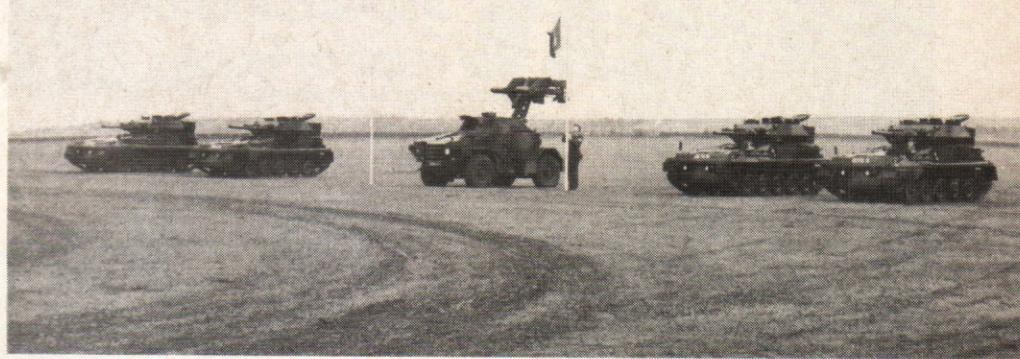
have been completed, the last ending on 31 December 1975. The squadron was part of the United Nations Force in Cyprus during the 1974 war.

Although there is no direct line of succession, the squadron's wartime predecessors identify themselves with their modern counterparts — hence the honorary colonelcy of Colonel Gough (75) who first saw active service as a midshipman in HMS *Ramillies* in World War One. A Territorial officer in the London Rifle Brigade he was chosen to raise 1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron in 1941. He qualified as a parachutist and is the proud possessor of the Royal Aero Club's parachutist's certificate number one. He led the squadron in North Africa and Italy; later, at Arnhem, the squadron played a vital role in the defence of the bridge where Colonel Gough was captured.

This original unit started life as 31st Independent Reconnaissance Company from the 31st Independent Brigade Anti-Tank Company in January 1941, becoming airborne that November as 1st Air Landing Reconnaissance Squadron. But it was in an infantry role that the squadron landed from the first ship into Taranto harbour in September 1943 to fight its way up the east coast of Italy. By March 1944 the squadron had become mainly a parachute unit and had been re-named the 1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron. The new role was put into practice at Arnhem in September 1944; the final operation was in Norway in May 1945.

The squadron was unique among the allied arms. At first, as the recce squadron for the 1st Air Landing Brigade, men and vehicles — jeeps and motorcycles — were glider-borne. Mobility remained the squadron's "armour" until after Arnhem when the Dingo armoured car was introduced. But by the time of Arnhem, only the jeeps and motorcycles — plus their drivers — were glider-borne. The rest of the squadron used parachutes. The arms carried ranged from three-inch mortars and 20mm Polsten guns to jeep-mounted Vickers K guns, brens, stens, Piat anti-tank weapons and an assortment of grenades, sniper rifles and two-inch mortars.

It was a far cry from the sophisticated missiles of the Parachute Squadron arrayed for inspection on the day of disbandment. But friends old and new were there to talk of times past and present. The RAF showed its appreciation with a flypast of a Phantom photo-reconnaissance jet and a C130 Hercules transport aircraft; the Army Air Corps paid its respects with a formation of three Sioux and three Scout helicopters.



New Scorpions flank the old Hornet as the squadron's flag is finally lowered.



Above: Field-Marshal Carver takes the salute at the squadron's last parade.

Below: Colonel Freddie Gough leading the Old Comrades at the final parade.



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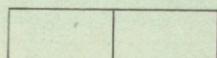
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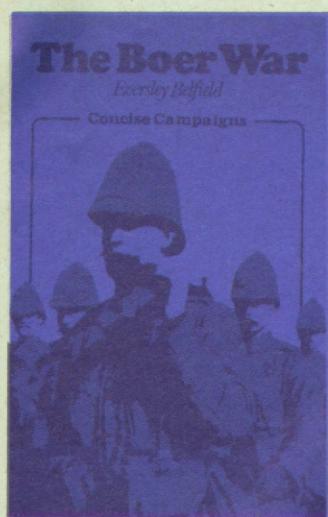
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# Books



## South Africa

"The Zulu Wars" (David Clammer)  
"The Boer War" (Eversley Belfield)  
The Zulu War began as what would today be called a pre-emptive strike. To the British in South Africa it seemed that attack was the best form of defence — and into Zululand marched Lord Chelmsford's South African Field Force. The course of the war is now well remembered — the shattering defeat at Isandhlwana, the heroic defence of Rorke's Drift, the actions at Intombi, Hlobane, Kamkula, Gingihlovo and the final battle at Ulundi.

Mr Clammer does justice to them all but his book is particularly noteworthy for its lucid coverage of the problems of Victorian campaigning and for his skilful use of vivid first-hand accounts of the incredible courage displayed on both sides.

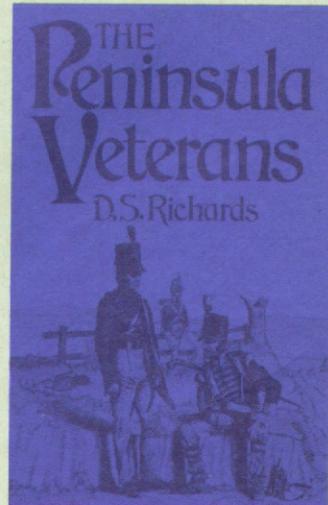
Mr Belfield, too, covers well-trodden ground in his review of a war which demonstrated all too clearly one of the great paradoxes of military science, that while the job of an army is to keep the peace, if it succeeds in this aim for too long a period it becomes an outdated and ineffective machine. When the Boer War started, the British Army had not fought a major campaign since the Crimea. Its senior officers were as rusty and antiquated as its weapons and tactics, and in the face of the highly original Boer commando tactics it was not long before reputations bit the dust.

Mr Belfield traces the complications of the war with a lucid narrative notable for its balanced

judgment. This is the second in the "Concise Campaigns" series and, if subsequent volumes match this one, it will be well worth following.

1 Pan Books Ltd, Cavaye Place, London, SW10 9PG, 60p  
2 Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.75

JCW



## Spain again

"The Peninsula Veterans" (D S Richards)

This first-rate volume by D S Richards is surely one of the most readable books on Wellington's battles and is told by interspersing the general narrative with the experiences of 32 participants.

What a fearful business it all was. The very job of getting to the Continent was frightful enough. The fighting itself must have required nerves of steel; the business of mere existence between battles sometimes defies the imagination. And how the infantry loathed the cavalry. On one occasion so dreadful were the wounds inflicted on the French that the poor fellows sought sanctuary in the ranks of British infantry . . . and what is more, were protected by them!

It was all very harrowing. Even the pay did not come through and soldiers had to sell their watches and horses (the officers sold their epaulettes) to obtain the wherewithal to live. It was virtually left to God and Spanish women to protect the wounded.

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This is a book I rate highly and recommend strongly however much you may have read before of the Peninsular campaign.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £3.95

PC

Renaissance Armies  
George Gush

## War horses

"Horses in Battle" (Victor Ambrus) From the sturdy little ponies of the Tartars to the great war horses of the Teutonic knights, from the superb Arab chargers of Napoleon's cuirassiers to the cavalry of World War One, horses have faithfully served man and nowhere more so than on the field of battle. Between soldier and steed there has always been a special relationship of trust and love and it is good to see a book dedicated, for a change, to the horse rather than to the rider.

The Huns, we learn, not only fought on horseback but ate, drank and slept in the saddle; because horses were so important to them they became part of their religion. Genghis Khan's Tartar horsemen were subject to strict discipline and anyone found overloading or exhausting a horse was liable to be beheaded. Centuries later, Hungarian hussars broke their sabres and shot their horses rather than let their two most treasured possessions fall into unfeeling enemy hands. Snippets such as these crop up throughout this 40-page vividly illustrated book to gladden the heart of all true horse lovers.

The Norman cavalry at Hastings; the dashing, spotted Appaloosa mounts of the North American Indians; equine armour, schooling and many other aspects of the war horse in different parts of the world are covered in their essentials while a final chapter pays tribute to some famous chargers—Bucephalus (Alexander the Great), Napoleon's Marengo, the Duke of Wellington's Copenhagen and Lord Cardigan's Ronald.

Oxford University Press, Ely House, London W1, £3.50

JFP



## Early days

"Renaissance Armies 1480-1650" (George Gush)

In military as in other arts the Renaissance was a time of rapid and significant change, a turning point which saw infantry armed with musket and cannon holding its own against the hitherto all-conquering cavalry. This well-presented book provides a concise yet comprehensive account of the principal European and Islamic armies of the pike and early firearm era.

Beginning with a survey of the development of infantry, cavalry and artillery organisation and arms, it goes on to describe the origins, weapons, dress, insignia, tactics and flags of individual Renaissance armies — the Burgundian army of Charles the Bold, the Swiss army renowned for its courage and ferocity, the armies of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, the Holy Roman and Ottoman empires and those famed Turkish soldiers, the highly disciplined Janissaries, the armies of Poland, Muscovy, Persia and so on.

The illustrations of armour, tactical formations, weaponry and standards — many from contemporary prints and engravings and all informatively captioned — reveal the multi-functional and sometimes bizarre nature of these colourful armies. For historians and military enthusiasts the book has much to offer; wargamers and modellers will find a useful appendix devoted to their hobby.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £4.25 JFP

## Siege

"Fortress: A History of Military Defence" (Ian V Hogg)

Since the dawn of civilisation, man — in or out of uniform — has sought protection from his enemies behind stockades and fortifications. Thorn hedge or ferro-concrete, above or below the earth's surface, he has sought to evade wild animals or warring fellow humans by embattling, provisioning and arm-

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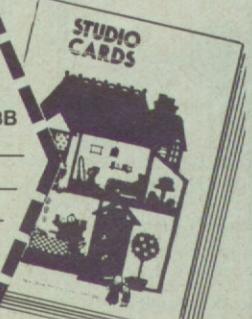
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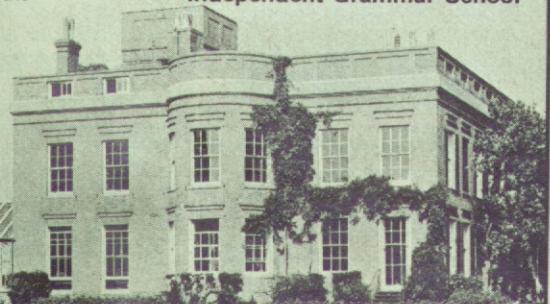
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**FORTRESS**

A History of Military Defence  
Ian V Hogg



ing himself, pulling up the drawbridge and confidently awaiting all comers.

Outside, his enemies have sought the right weapon to reduce thorn hedge or ferro-concrete to so much dust. In particular the artillerymen have gone on improving on their previous endeavours until the atom bomb and the nuclear rocket render useless all forts past.

Ian Hogg, amid a superb array of illustrations, has penned the life story of the fortress and its effect on nations. It is a story of success and failure, of comic farce and engineering achievement. One is amazed at the ingenuity of military thinking and the optimism of the defender.

As a general dictum, the fortress is a negative expression of waging war; nevertheless it is very often necessary.

The last truly great fortress to be built was the Maginot Line, France's idea of repelling German boarders. The Germans simply ignored it, went round its flank, neither laying siege nor attempting to pulverise. Hitler's wall to keep the allies out of "his" Europe was similarly outflanked. Fortresses, one comes to the inescapable conclusion, have not really been worth the trouble.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £4.95 PC

## In brief

*"Eccentric Soldiers"* (Carol Kennedy)

Eccentrics stalk the pages of history doing frivolously silly things that endear them to the rest of us leading our own rather dull and conformist lives. Carol Kennedy has gathered ten of them together in this slim pick-it-up-and-put-it-down book. It is pure fun and games, gleanings from here and there, soldiers like Patton and Carton de Wiart, Popski and Colonel Wintle behaving outrageously and sometimes getting away with it.

Sadly one realises that the future does not hold much hope for worthy successors to these military nut-cases. Or is that just another way of saying "they don't make 'em like that any more" . . . which is patently a load of rubbish.

A R Mowbray & Co Ltd, The Alden Press, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EG, £1.50

*"Airfix Magazine Guide 12: Afrika Korps"* (Bruce Quarrie)

This is an excellent introduction to the Eighth Army's principal opponents. There is information on organisation and tactics, vehicles, weapons and equipment, uniforms,

and a concise rundown on Rommel himself. Gerald Scarborough contributes a chapter on modelling Afrika Korps vehicles and Robert Gibson writes on Afrika Korps figures and the intricacies of modelling them.

Since the book is aimed mainly at modellers, purists should not be too irked by mis-spellings here and there.

*Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £1.20*

*"Graphic Art of WWII"* (James Jones)

This is an essentially American view, in drawings and paintings by eye-witnesses, of World War Two. Those who look for the work of British war artists will be disappointed. Having said that, this collection confirms that the human hand holding a paintbrush can often record the realities of war more expressively than a camera.

This is not an art book with a gentle Sir Kenneth Clark commentary. The writing, by the author of the novel "From Here to Eternity" (he was twenty and at Pearl Harbour when the Japanese attacked), is racy and not polite. But then, war is not polite.

Military heraldry enthusiasts will like the two hundred or so coloured divisional, corps and other insignia on the black end-papers.

*Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £10.00*

*"Collecting Volunteer Militaria"* (R. J. Wyatt)

This handy, illustrated paperback sets out to help militaria collectors—especially those interested in the British Volunteer movement—to identify and evaluate the wide range of articles offered for sale by dealers or in auction rooms.

Volunteer uniforms and head-dress are described in some detail and there is much useful information to be gleaned on badges, buttons and equipment. Weapons are also discussed and there is a short but informative chapter on medals and tokens. The book opens with a brief historical review of the Volunteer Force and closes with a section devoted to the Royal Volunteer Corps and their successors.

A well-thought out, helpful addition to the enthusiast's bookshelf.

*David & Charles Ltd, South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £1.95*

## Re-issues

*"The Gurkhas"* (David Holt)

Published in 1967 and reviewed in SOLDIER March 1968.

Many of the illustrations have been omitted but the text remains the same. Though the opening chapter on Nepal is a little difficult to follow, there are many interesting facts about the Gurkhas.

*White Lion Publishers, 138 Park Lane, London, W1Y 3DD, £3.25*

*"Invasion 1940"* (Peter Fleming)

First published in 1957 and reviewed in SOLDIER June 1957.

Writing with a dry polished wit, the author cocks an eye at many of the nonsenses perpetrated on both sides. This is a very thorough but nonetheless lively and fascinating account of five of the proudest months in British history.

*White Lion Publishers, 138 Park Lane, London, W1Y 3DD, £4.25*

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