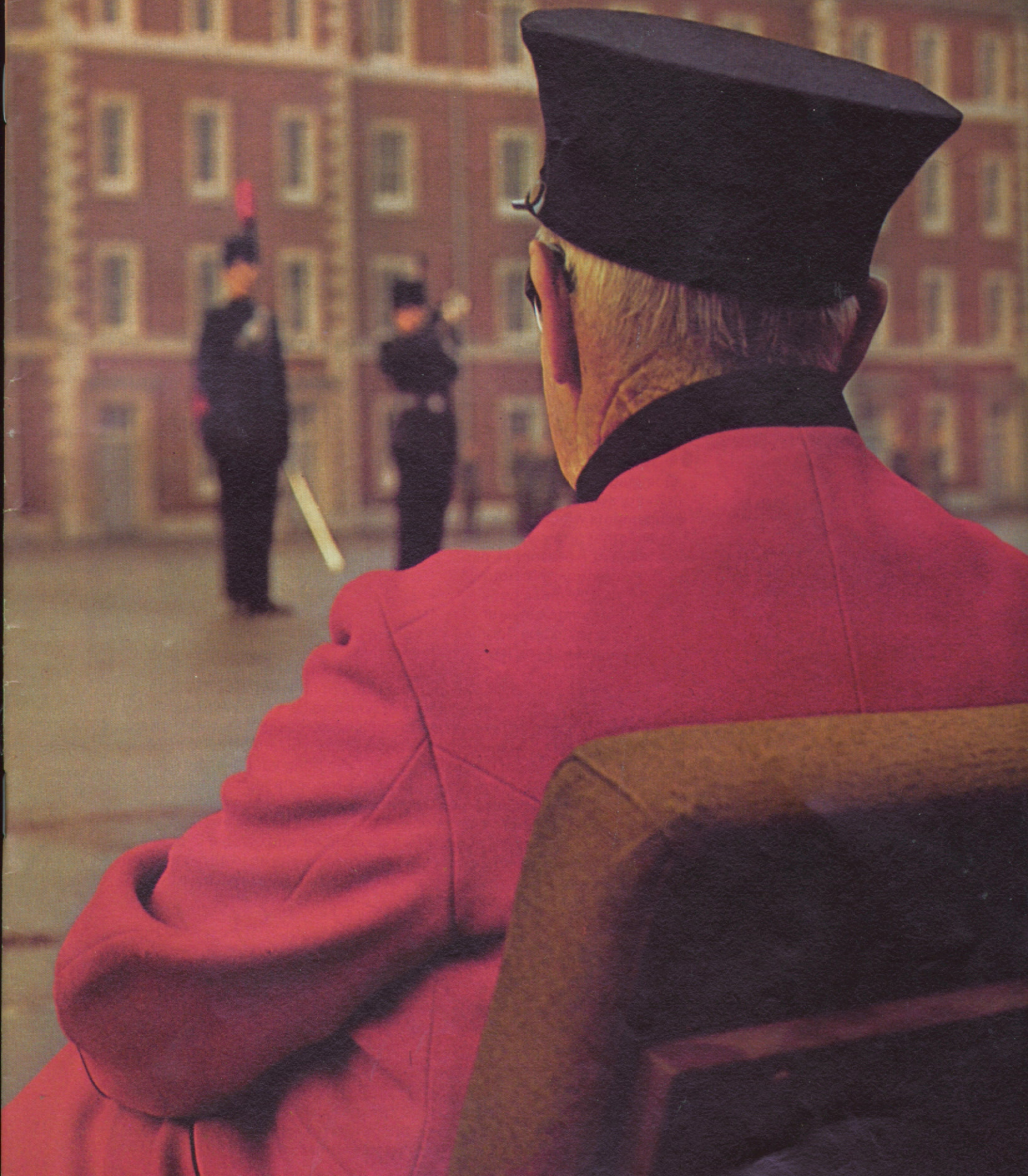


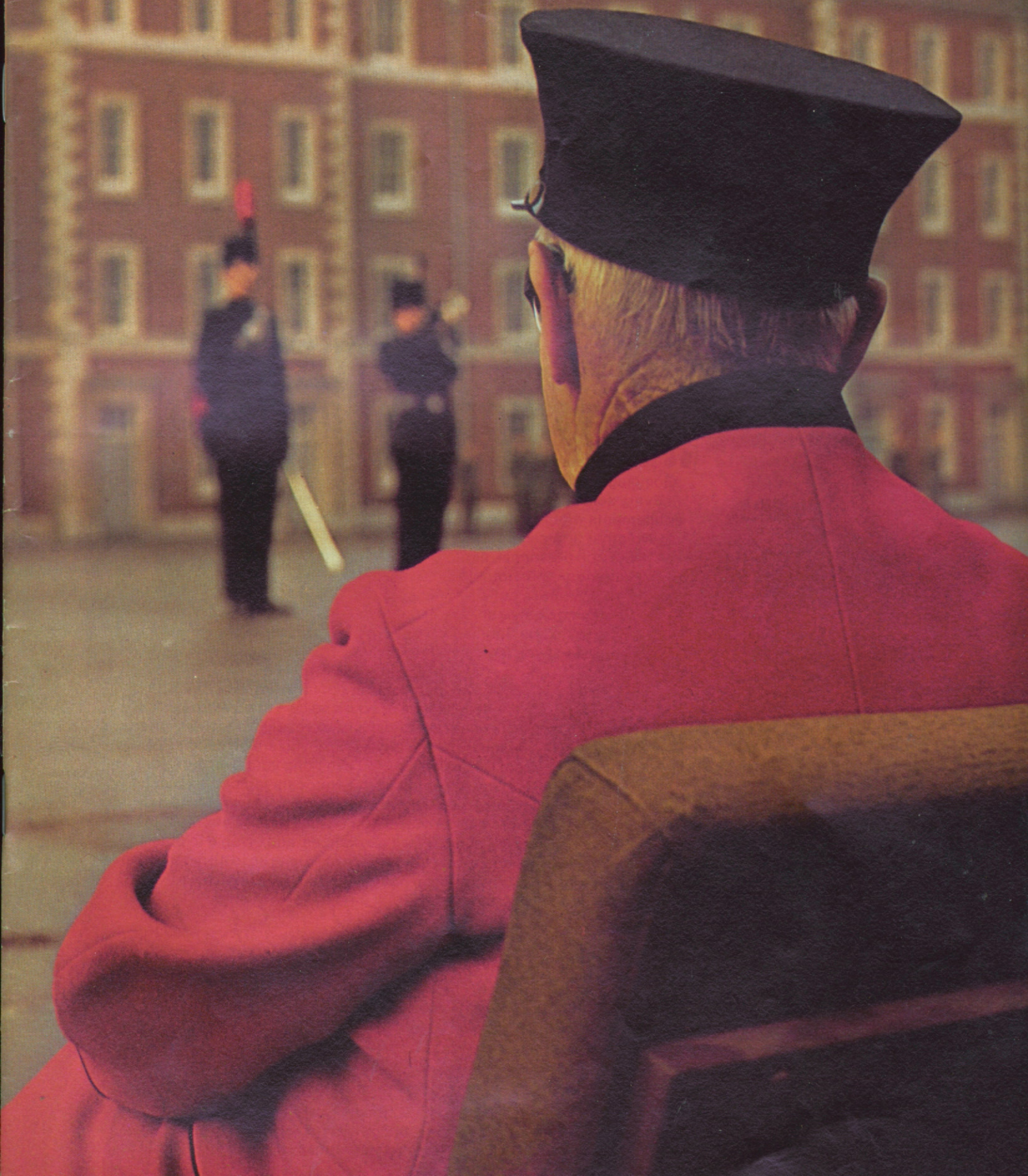
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Contents

- 5 See-the-Army Diary
- 9 Awards
- 9 Reader Services
- 10 Museums: The Royal Welch Fusiliers
- 12 Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment
- 16 New Union Jack Club
- 18 Humour: Those Winter Sports, by John Power
- SOLDIER News: Four-page pull-out supplement
- 23 Military models
- 24 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery
- 26 How Observant Are You?
- 27 Record reviews
- 28 Heide Middle School
- 29 Sport
- 31 Prize competition
- 33 Left, Right and Centre
- 34 Letters
- 35 Reunions
- 35 Collectors' Corner
- 36 Purely Personal
- 37 Book reviews



FRONT COVER

A poignant moment for a scarlet-coated Chelsea Pensioner hearing the bugle calls of old as he looks on at a recruit pass-off parade at The Royal Green Jackets Depot, Winchester . . . and remembers.

Picture by Paul Haley.



BACK COVER

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, dash forward to mount a Puma helicopter of the RAF's 33 Squadron during the recent NATO Exercise "Advent Express" on Salisbury Plain.

Picture by Doug Pratt.

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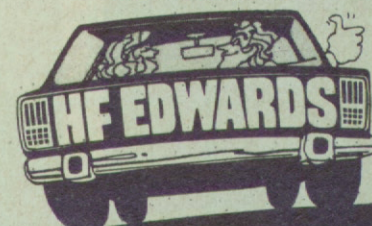
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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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).
- 12 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 13 Devon County Show, Exeter (13-15 May) (band).
- 14 Biggin Hill International Air Fair (14-16 May).
- 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).
- 15 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 19 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 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (22-23 May) (Red Devils; band).
- 22 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Show (Royal Corps of Transport "Silver Stars" freefall team).
- 22 Oxford Federation Young Farmers Agricultural Show, Oxford (Army Air Corps "Blue Eagles" helicopter display team; Royal Army Ordnance Corps "Cannonballs" freefall team; band).
- 26 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 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) (Scottish Division "Golden Lions" freefall team; White Helmets 6-13 May; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 29 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band).
- 29 Worcester City Show (29-31 May) (band).
- 29 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (29-31 May) (Red Devils; Blue Eagles 29 May; White Helmets; five bands).
- 30 Currington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (Cannonballs; band).
- 31 Southam (Warwickshire) Carnival (JLR RA PT display; band).
- 31 Selby Carnival (band).
- 31 Surrey County Show, Guildford (arena event; band).
- 31 Pershore (Worcestershire) Show (RGJ freefall).
- 31 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (arena event; band).
- 31 Oulton Broad Fete (arena event).
- 31 Watford Borough Carnival (arena event; band).
- 31 Dunstable Fete and Carnival (arena event; band).

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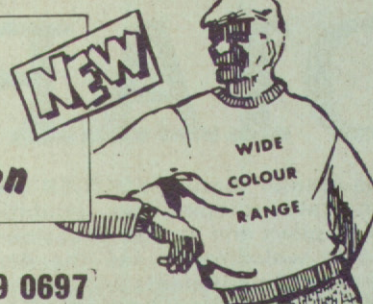
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DIARY continued

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 Open Day, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
- 5 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 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).
- 7 Coventry Carnival (JLR RA PT display; 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 (band).
- 12 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (Red Devils; band).
- 12 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (Pegasus).
- 12 Kings Lynn Round Table Carnival (Silver Stars; 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 Scunthorpe Families Day (19-20 June) (band).
- 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).
- 21 British Army Equipment Exhibition, Aldershot (21-23 June).
- 23 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 23 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (White Helmets; Blue Eagles; two bands).
- 25 Aldershot Army Display (25-27 June) (Red Devils; bands).
- 26 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (two bands).
- 26 Rushden (Northamptonshire) Show (arena event).
- 26 Chesterfield Borough Carnival (Silver Stars; White Helmets).
- 26 Cardiff Military Exhibition (26 June-1 July) (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 Hook, Goole, Gala (2-4 July) (band).
- 2 Newport (Monmouthshire) Military Display (2-4 July) (Red Devils; band).
- 3 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 3 National Military Historic Vehicles Rally, Winkfield, Berkshire (3-4 July) (band).
- 3 Aveling and Barford Show, Grantham (Silver Stars).
- 3 Eynsham (Oxfordshire) Carnival (arena event).
- 4 Leeds Horse Show (band).
- 5 Bedmond (Hertfordshire) Village Fête (Silver Stars).
- 7 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 9 Catterick Army Display (9-11 July) (White Helmets; Red Devils; Pegasus; ten bands).
- 9 Southampton Show (9-11 July) (Red Caps; band).
- 10 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 10 Bedford Regatta (Red Devils; band).
- 10 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 10 Pudsey, Leeds, Show (band).
- 14 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 14 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (14-31 July).
- 15 Liverpool Show (15-17 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; band).
- 16 Cheltenham Tattoo (16-17 July).

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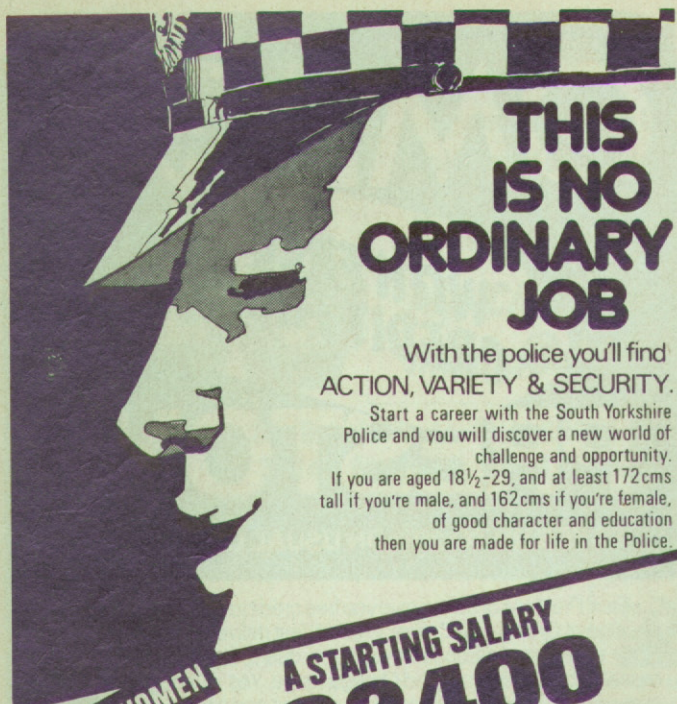
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Awards

FOR service in Oman the Distinguished Service Order has been awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel P E de la C De La Billiere, The Light Infantry; the Military Cross has been awarded to Major J P Foley, The Royal Green Jackets, and Captain P H Gullan, The Parachute Regiment.

The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct has been awarded to Private G K Bowden and Private A P Martin, both The Light Infantry, for attempting to rescue a soldier from a blazing vehicle following an accident in Northern Ireland, and to Corporal John Whenlock, The Royal Irish Rangers, for freeing and pulling clear a civilian worker severely injured in a barracks boiler room explosion.

Three times Corporal Whenlock was forced back by scalding steam but on his fourth attempt he located the injured man trapped and suspended by his leg from an overhead catwalk. With the help of another soldier, the corporal freed the civilian who later died from his injuries. For their part in the rescue attempt six other members of the 1st Battalion received the Commendation of the Commander-in-Chief, United Kingdom Land Forces, or Commendation of the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Royal Humane Society's Testimonial on Vellum has been awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel P F Larrington, Royal Signals, who, while on holiday at Sennen in Cornwall, played a major part in the rescue of a woman swimmer in difficulties in heavy surf.

Reader Services

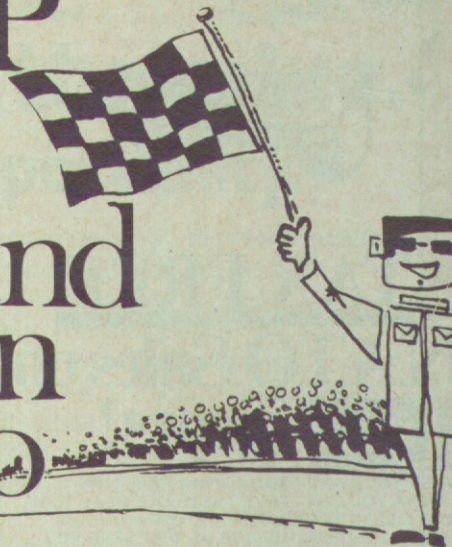
EIGHT new designs have been added to the range of regimental drum ice buckets. They are The Royal Canadian Regiment, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, Staff College, Atholl Highlanders, Royal Tank Regiment, The East Yorkshire Regiment, 7 Parachute Regiment Royal Horse Artillery and 10th (City of Belfast) Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment.

Further up-dates of the Reader Services list published in the January 1976 SOLDIER are that sets 1 and 2 of the Charles Stadden postcards have now been reprinted and a new set 5 is also available. These three sets are at £1.05 (UK/BFPO) and £1.15 (elsewhere) each including postage and packing.

The price of the Ceremony of the Keys print has been adjusted to £0.38 (UK), £0.35 (BFPO) and £0.34 (elsewhere).

Additions to the range of Charles Stadden pewter figures are: 13 Pipemajor, Scots Guards, 1935; 14 Sergeant, 31st Regiment, 1809.

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Military Museums: 38

The Royal Welch Fusiliers

THERE could be no better home than the Queen's Tower of historic Caernarfon Castle for the museum of the oldest infantry regiment of Wales, The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

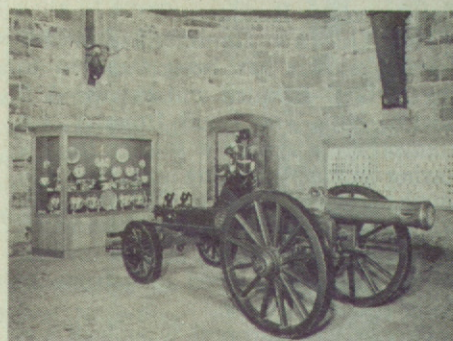
Glimpses of the proud story of the regiment, the old 23rd of Foot, spanning nearly 300 years, are soon apparent. Standing in the centre of the ground floor is the Russian 16-pounder gun captured single-handed by Captain E W D Bell at the Crimean battle of the Alma, for which exploit he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Two customs unique to the RWF are illustrated in tableaux vivants set in the immensely thick walls. One shows the regimental goat, never referred to as a mascot, being led from the officers' mess by the goat-major followed by a drummer and the drum-major, all in full dress, after the traditional St David's Day eating-of-the-leek ceremony. The other shows the ceremonial pioneers wearing their white buckskin aprons and gauntlets. Thus clad, the pioneers have long held the unique privilege of marching at the head of the regiment on ceremonial parades.

A notable collection of medals includes eight of the regiment's 14 Victoria Crosses. Three have a special interest: Sergeant Luke O'Connor won his VC at the Alma, was commissioned in the field for his gallantry and died in 1915 a major-general and Colonel of the Regiment; World War One VC Corporal J Davies was the only man to win the Victoria Cross and also the Gold Cross of St George (Class 1), the Imperial Russian equivalent of Britain's highest award for valour; and the VC won by Boy George Monger—the only boy in the British Army to receive the coveted decoration.

The museum occupies all three floors of the Queen's Tower, each offering a rich display of regimental treasures. Two of many interesting items in a large ten-sided oak showcase designed and made by the museum curator are a perfectly preserved officer's mitre hat (circa 1750) with the dragon of Wales on the back, the only known specimen, and the valuable diaries of Lieutenant Frederick Mackenzie covering his service in America from 1773 to 1781.

A diorama of the 1812 battle of Badajoz shows the night attack, said to be the bloodiest assault ever made by the British Army, which cost 3500 casualties, mostly killed, in an area of 100 yards square. The keys of Corunna are a prized souvenir of the Peninsula War. After the death of Sir John Moore the 2nd Battalion covered the British embarkation and on leaving the town



Captain Lloyd Fletcher locked the gates and pocketed the keys.

Waterloo relics include a 23rd pay roll and an RWF cap plate—although the standard infantry headdress at Waterloo was the shako the 23rd, whose "hatter had let them down," still wore their fur caps.

The five black ribbons of the "flash" worn on the back of the collar which so unmistakably identify a Royal Welch Fusilier are possibly the regiment's most jealously guarded distinction. Briefly, this is their story. The pigtail was abolished in 1808 but RWF officers continued to wear on their collars the ribbons which secured its protective queue bag. An inspecting general intent on having the flash removed was thwarted by Lieutenant-Colonel John Harrison who rode from Winchester to London and back in 24 hours to obtain the command of King William IV that "the Flash should continue to be worn to mark the dress of that distinguished Regiment." The coatee worn by Colonel Harrison on his spectacular dash is now in the museum.

Another exhibit which must be mentioned is the original score of Sousa's march "The Royal Welch Fusiliers" presented to the RWF to commemorate the regiment's comradeship with the United States Marine Corps.

The many trophies and mementoes of wars and campaigns the world over, the wealth and variety of militaria and the particularly apt setting must surely make this one of the finest military museums in Britain.

John Jesse

Curator: Major E L Kirby (Retd)
Address: The Royal Welch Fusiliers
Regimental Museum
Queen's Tower
Caernarfon Castle
Caernarfon 3362
Telephone:
Open: Daily, including Sunday, 0930 to 1900.
During winter months the museum closes at dusk with Sunday opening at 1400.
Closed: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day
Entrance: Free to castle visitors
Amenities: Car park

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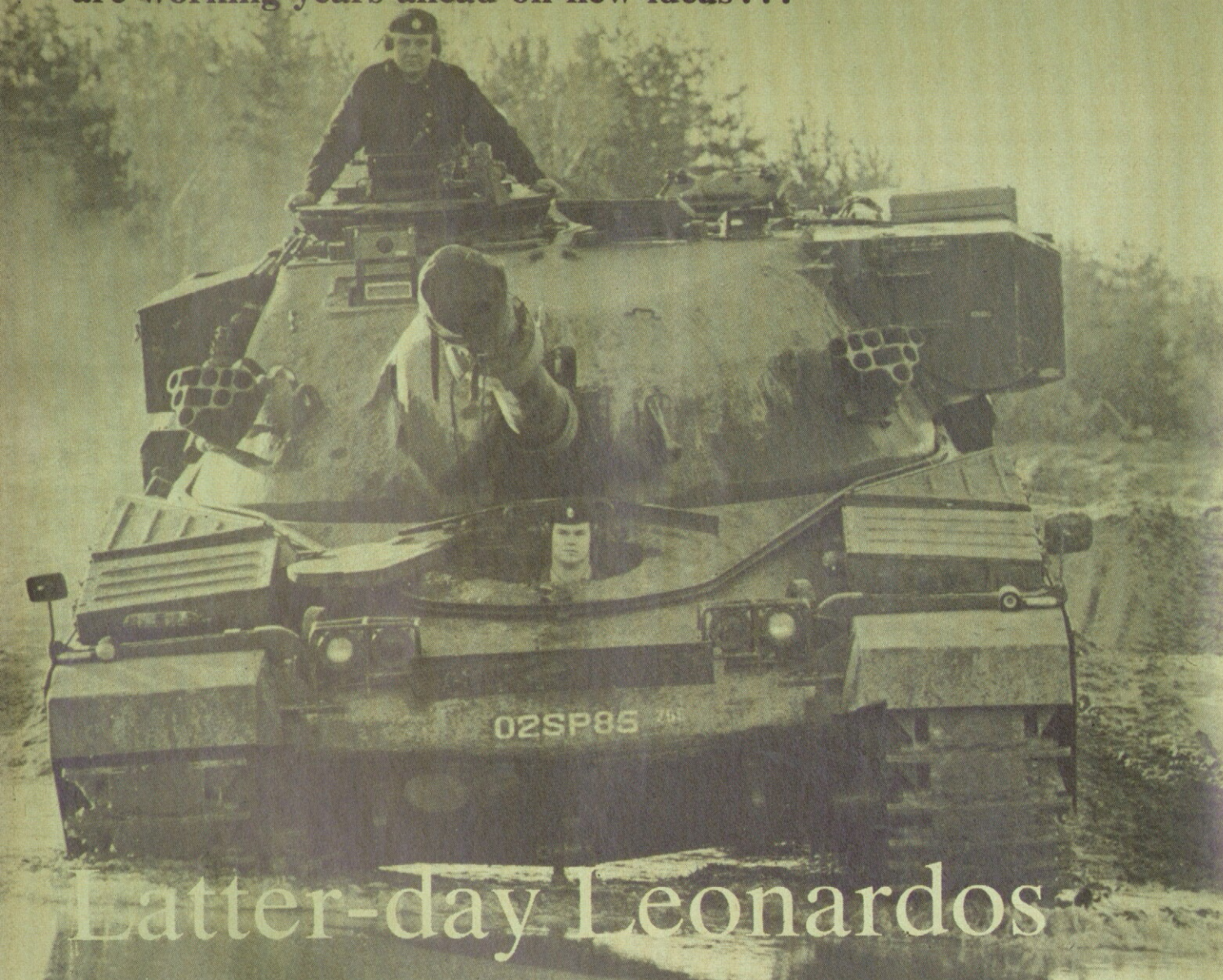
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Latter-day Leonardos



AN enlargement of a Leonardo da Vinci engineering drawing — complete with the mirror-writing he used to disguise his notes—is quite at home on the wall of a Victorian-Gothic mansion at Chertsey.

For the house is part of the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment where research and development of military vehicles would have appealed to Leonardo whose fertile mind dreamed up designs for rudimentary helicopters, parachutes and tanks years before their time. MVEE too is working with the future in mind. Many of its research programmes are aimed at a decade hence. Research, design and development of combat and logistic vehicles, military bridging and engineer support equipment for all three Services are its responsibility.

A branch of the Procurement Executive of the Ministry of Defence, MVEE is staffed by more than 1800 people, mostly civilians. The nerve centre of the establishment is a sprawling complex of buildings at Chertsey, Surrey, linked by

a bridge across the M3 motorway to a hard-surface performance test track for wheeled and tracked vehicles which has been in use for more than 20 years. As well as the track there is a series of smaller facilities which seem to the layman to be made up of a random scattering of concrete bumps and dips, dizzy slopes and sections of bad road. In fact, each lump, bump and dip is part of one of some three dozen carefully constructed testing devices designed to test specific capabilities of vehicles.

A slip pad calibrated with white lines dominates the scene like a vast upturned black saucer. During SOLDIER's visit, top racing driver John Surtees was testing tyre performance in one of his cars on the pad. His use of the facility was one of many civilian hirings MVEE allows of its testing equipment. This not only provides unique opportunities for civilian vehicle manufacturers and users but nets a handsome amount of money in fees each year.

Beside the slip pad is a tilting platform capable of tipping up to 90



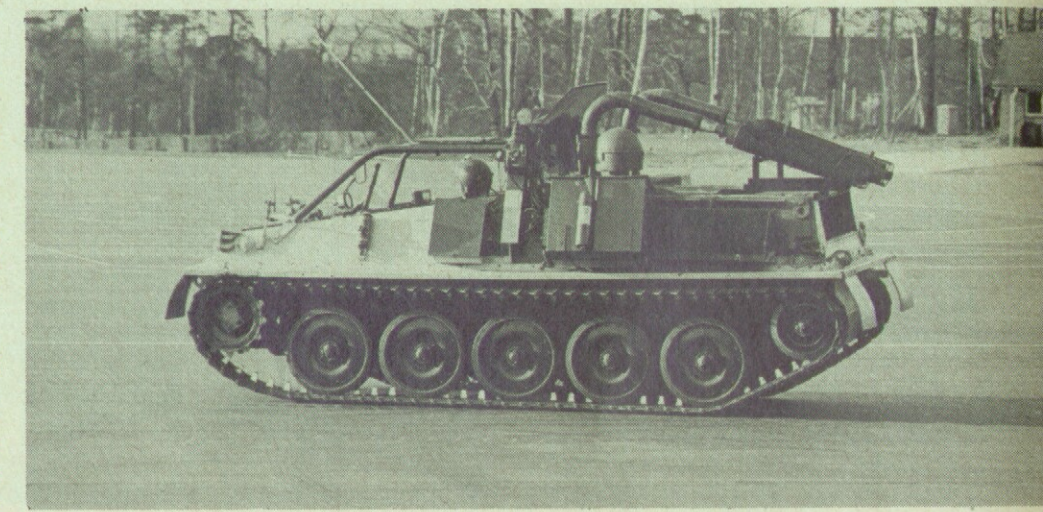
Left: A Chieftain tank rides the sandy switchback at Long Valley testing area used for MVEE experimental runs.

Above: Back at Chertsey and climbing one of four test slopes ranging from one-in-ten to a fearful one in 1.73.

Above right: A Spartan gets a rough ride along a Belgian pavé track designed to test a vehicle's suspension.

Right: The Wasp, a Scorpion-derived vehicle with a high-performance engine which is used to research into mobility.

Below left: The new one-tonne Land-Rover is taken round the switchback alpine course at Bagshot complex.



tons of vehicle to an angle of 50 degrees although that maximum is rarely called for. A nearby wading pool allows fighting vehicles to "swim" for test purposes and a massive gantry can heave them aloft and drop them to simulate air despatch landing abilities.

Concrete bumps and dips try out vehicles' belly clearance, suspension, articulation or gap crossing capabilities. Test gradients range from the comparatively gentle one-in-ten to a breathtaking one-in-1.73 looking more like a monstrous fairground slide.

The test tracks are on the site of the country estate of Lord Camrose who lived in the impressive Victorian mansion. He was also responsible for an ornamental garden which is widely used by film and television companies for location shots because of its exotic flora and the seclusion it affords in the middle of a Ministry of Defence establishment.

A few miles away is another test track complex at Bagshot comprising two made-up soft circuits providing a

switchback alpine course and a rough road course. Mostly wheeled vehicles make test runs here. In nearby Aldershot the Long Valley tracks offer high speed courses for wheeled and tracked vehicles, a course for heavy tracked vehicles and a rough road circuit. Tracked vehicles use these facilities.

Another branch of MVEE at Christchurch, Dorset, is responsible for the design and development of engineering equipment — mainly for the Royal Engineers. This ranges from plant like the new combat engineer tractor to bridging equipment and airfield construction materials. As at Chertsey, development might be done by the establishment itself right through to prototype production or by evaluating existing commercial equipment. Christchurch is also the recognised testing authority for civil engineering construction equipment and is an official test station for freight containers.

The establishment started life after World War One as the Experimental Bridging Company, Royal Engineers,

and after World War Two—when the world famous Bailey bridge was developed there—it became the Military Engineering Experimental Establishment, or MEXE.

Included in the facilities at Christchurch are bridging and structural test rigs, soil mechanics and materials research laboratories and an industrial engine test house. There are two test tracks and slopes at Hurn and Barnsfield Common nearby.

MVEE's farthest-flung outpost is a gunnery range on 4900 acres of Scottish soil in Kirkcudbright where testing evaluates the wide range of weapons mounted on the modern fighting vehicle and those that may be envisaged for the vehicles of the future.

It is the future that is constantly in mind at MVEE's home in Chertsey where a dedicated group of designers and researchers gets down on to paper generations of vehicles yet to come. Successful ideas are converted from two to three dimensions in the form of full-scale wooden mock-ups before



Above: The medium girder bridge, developed by the MVEE at Christchurch and now sold worldwide by Fairey Engineering who have commercial exploitation rights (MVEE pic).



Left: The combat engineer tractor which has astonished the world with its versatile performance. (MVEE pic).

Bottom left: A Chieftain tank riding ridges on the rocky terrain profile test track at Long Valley, Aldershot.

Story by Mike Starke
Pictures by Paul Haley



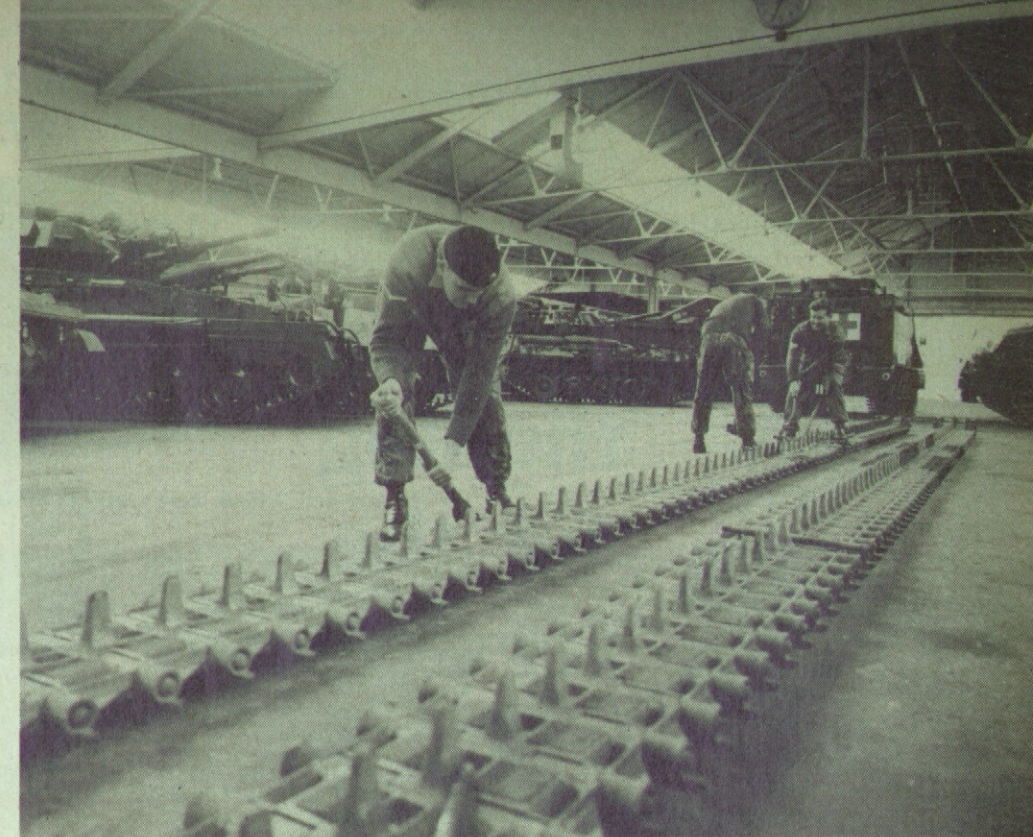
working prototypes are produced to undergo a full test programme. Detailed design and construction of prototypes is often carried out by civilian firms under contract, especially in the case of logistic vehicles where commercial products are used in modified form as much as possible. But MVEE is more expert in strictly military fields of vehicle development and is capable of undertaking research, design and development to prototype stage of such vehicles. Scorpion is an example of this.

Many of the 200 or so Army personnel working at MVEE are concerned with the trials branch. Apart from the specialist wings at Christchurch and Kirkcudbright, this is in two halves at Chertsey.

Combat Vehicle Wing is in three divisions, one dealing with heavy tracked vehicles and currently engaged in a number of studies related to a possible future main battle tank, and another concerned with light tracked vehicles including Scorpion and its

derivatives, self-propelled guns and armoured personnel carriers. A project in hand at the moment is Wasp — a Scorpion hull with a high-performance engine three times as powerful as the standard Jaguar motor normally used in this vehicle. The Wasp is not intended to be a new Scorpion variant but is a "flying test bed" for research into high mobility. The third division is for wheeled armoured vehicles such as Fox, Saracen and Saladin. Here the last examples of the scrapped Vixen can be found being used in tests for Fox components.

Logistic Vehicle Wing is in two parts, the first dealing with soft-skinned vehicles up to eight tons and the second with vehicles of over eight tons including engineer plant trailers, tank transporters and medium or heavy gun tractors. A current investigation in "B Light" is being made into minimising air pollution by the petrol engine. This involves experimenting with low octane fuel to cut lead output and ensuring that all the fuel is burned by seeking an



Above left: Barry Reeves at Christchurch measures water flow in hydrodynamic test laboratory with model.

Above: Getting on the right tracks in a hangar for light tracked vehicles at the main establishment near Chertsey.

Left: The combat engineer tractor demonstrates its swimming ability during flotation trials (MVEE pic).

Below: At Long Valley, where Queen Victoria once reviewed her troops, the mud is churned by this Chieftain tank.



improved combustion chamber design.

Variants of the new one-tonne Land-Rover are being tried out including models capable of carrying mortars for the infantry, missiles for the artillery and casualties for the medics — an ambulance version is in the pipeline.

Among the assortment of heavy tractors and trailers in "B Heavy's" vehicle park are two lorries being used to test and compare tyres. A new "M" profile tread pattern is being tried out alongside the familiar old-style tread pattern which has been the hallmark of military vehicles since World War Two.

For it is not just whole vehicles but parts — often quite small ones — of vehicles that are tried out by the MVEE. And even after a vehicle has been tested and accepted by one of the Services, development continues to improve it.

Above all, MVEE provides a formidable brainpower to complement the brawn of today's fighting forces which rely on the mobility provided by military vehicles.



"... Members and staff **belong** to a club. You **go** to an hotel..." is the motto of:

The club that flies the flag for the Services

Story
Mike Starke
Pictures
Paul Haley

TWENTY-FOUR storeys of concrete and glass point a giant new finger into the London skyline, beckoning servicemen to sample the facilities of the rebuilt Union Jack Services Club.

The old building—handily placed just outside Waterloo Station—did sterling service for most of its life since opening in 1907. But it had got beyond repair and was demolished to make way for the new club on the same site. Meanwhile the Union Jack Club moved to temporary premises in nearby Exton Street.

Opened at the end of last year to members—and officially opened by the Queen last month—the striking coffee-coloured point block has accommodation for fewer members than before but more space and comfort is on offer.

There is room for 417 single overnight guests and 55 double bedrooms cater for families—a feature of the club since 1913. Provision has also been made for banqueting to cater for a maximum of 120 and meetings or reunions up to 250-strong can be held in the basement conference area.

"The old club had a rather institutional atmosphere which was one of the first things I wanted to get rid of," said the Comptroller, Colonel Anthony Leatham. And already the visitor can sense a warm personality developing in the brand-new club thanks to the friendly staff, many of whom live in, and the pleasant rooms which would do justice to a three-star hotel.

Speaking in his ultra-modern office, subtly lit by concealed lamps and made homely by the polished glow of antique

furniture, Colonel Leatham is acutely aware of his self-imposed mission to make the new building more than a mere bed-and-breakfast-with-billiards establishment: "What I don't want is for the club to turn into just another hotel. Members and staff **BELONG** to a club. You **GO** to an hotel."

Those members—by right—are all servicemen and women below commissioned rank who pay no subscription (a per capita contribution on their behalf comes from the Ministry of Defence) and can enjoy all the facilities of the club which include dining rooms, bars, a billiard room, television rooms, library/writing rooms, a children's playroom and even a sauna bath and launderette.

Ex-servicemen and women are also eligible for membership at an annual



▲ Comptroller—ten years at the club.



▼ Roomy bar slakes visitor's thirst.

▲ Reception staff book in single members.



▼ Ted Thompson (staff) in sauna.

▼ Double room, top-class comfort.



▲ Panels from old club in library.



subscription of £2 (£1.50 for women). Overnight charges are the same at a very reasonable £3.24 for a single room, £6.48 for a double and charges of £3.24 for children over 13, £2.16 for three to 12 year-olds and £1.08 for toddlers under three. Family and single accommodation is separate in the building. Charges for adult temporary honorary members drawn from visiting overseas and Commonwealth forces are about 50 pence more a night but rates for their children are the same.

The Union Jack Club does not dwell on the past now it has embarked on a new era of its 69-year history and in looking to the future it hopes to attract new custom from the recruits of today who can use the club when visiting London. But not all links with the past have been severed and the new building

reflects this with its library lined with the fine wooden panelling salvaged from the old club. Another feature of the old building incorporated in the new is the treasured panel listing all those awarded the Victoria Cross from its inception. The panel blends pleasantly into the rear of the reception area and the motif of the VC is taken up in bold purple and white relief on the high ceiling of the foyers.

It is the past, too, which has seen the accumulation of the superlative figures relating to the club's operations. Since opening in 1907 the club has accommodated 12,165,365 people—nearly twice the population of London itself. More than half this total have been Army personnel. In the last three years alone, accommodation figures have easily topped the 70,000 mark, with the excep-

tion of last year during the rebuild when the figure was kept down to 62,527. Last year 14,326 overseas honorary members visited the club from 38 different countries including Australia, Fiji, Malawi, Sudan, Zambia and Mexico.

It is the club's hope to increase these figures even further by maintaining its membership and welcoming another generation of servicemen to this second generation Union Jack Club.

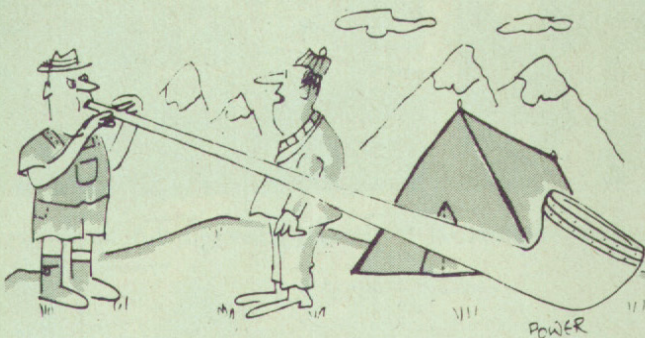
Further details of the Union Jack Club can be obtained from Secretary, Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London, SE1 8UJ.

Those winter sports

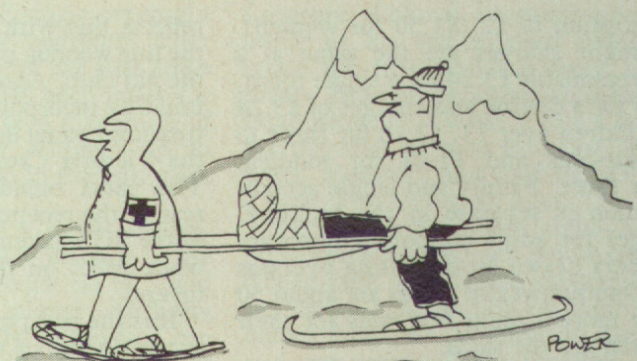
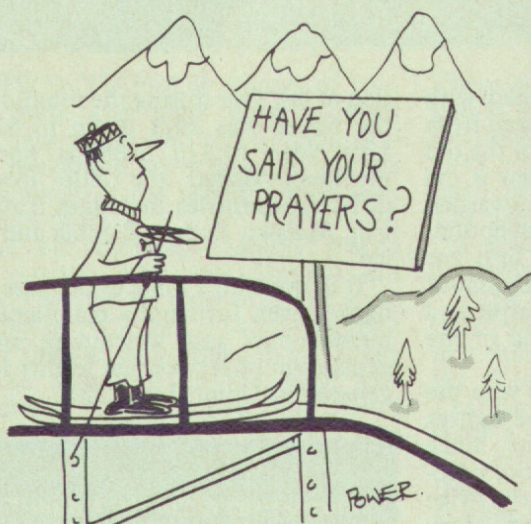
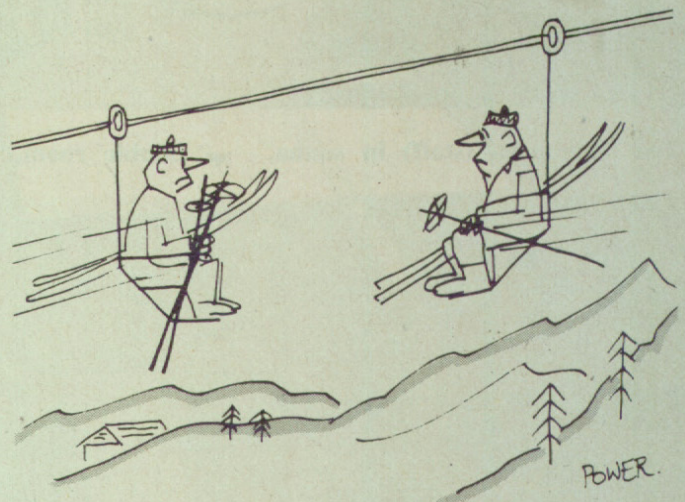
by John Power

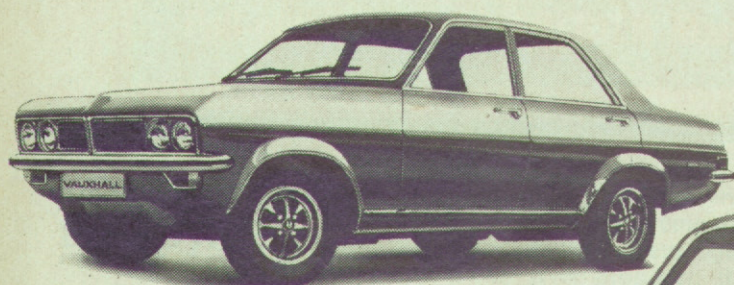


"You're out of bounds, lad!"

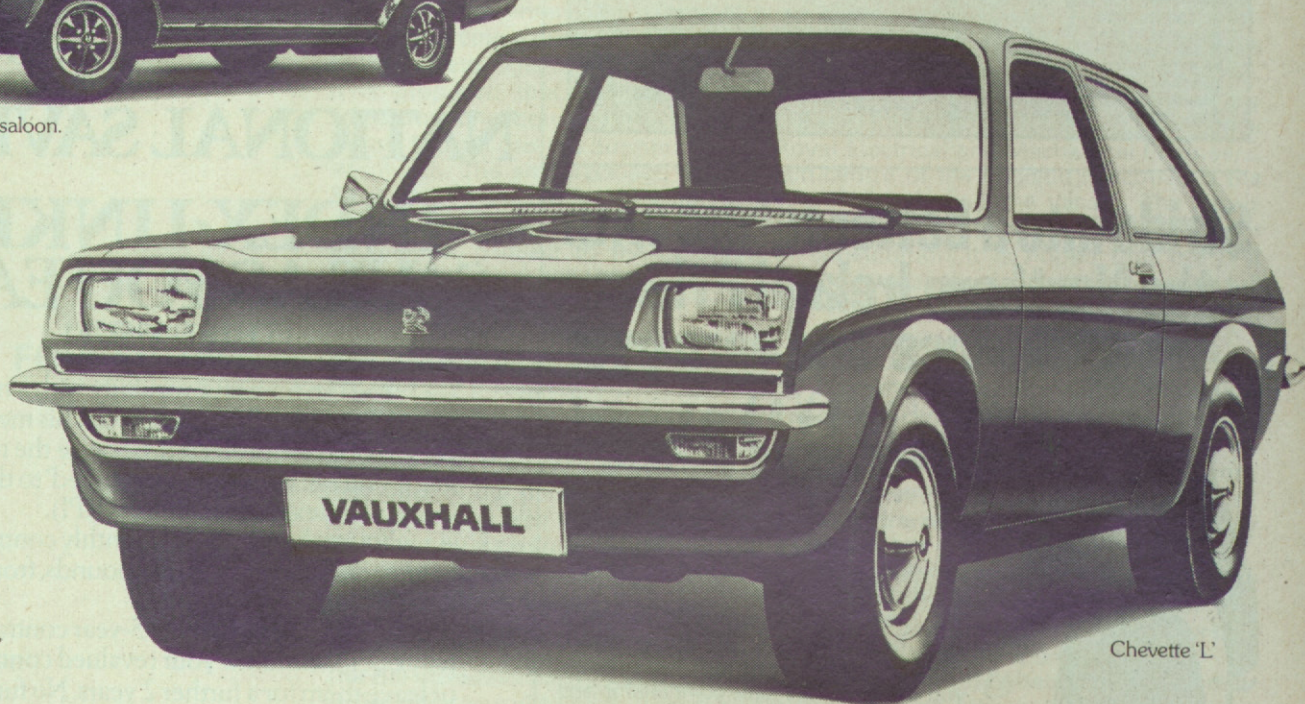


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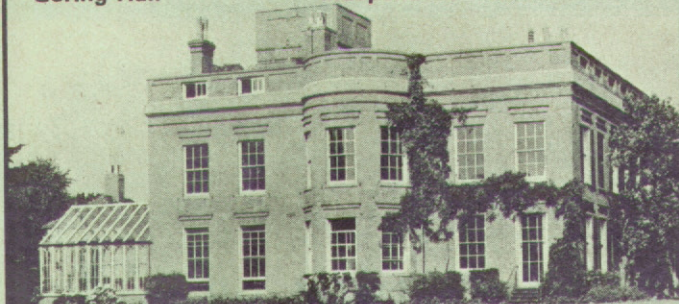
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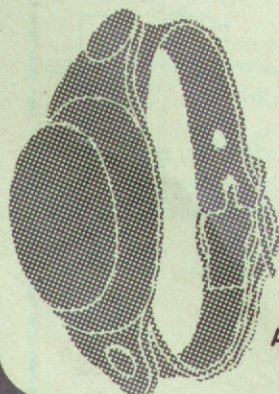
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NEW LOGISTIC EXECUTIVE

The Army has entered into consultations with its departmental staff/trade union sides regarding a proposal to draw together key policy and management elements of the current logistic command structure to form a new Logistic Executive (Army). It is proposed that main components would be staff currently at the Army Department headquarters in London, HQ Base Organisation Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Didcot, and HQ Support Group, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Woolwich. The site proposed as the main centre of the Logistic Executive is the Royal Air Force station, Bicester, which will shortly become vacant. The site is close to the Central Ordnance Depot at Bicester and the main logistic computer installation. Subject to the outcome of consultation it is hoped that the first elements might move in towards the end of this year, gradually building up to full operations by 1978. (DQMG)

ARMED FORCES BILL

New courts to be known as "standing civilian courts" are to be established under the recently published Armed Forces Bill. The new courts, which would function only outside the United Kingdom, could deal with civilians who are subject to the Army and Air Force acts. Assistants to the Judge Advocate-General will be appointed by the Lord Chancellor to form a panel of magistrates and one or more members of the panel may be nominated to sit within the limits of any area of command overseas. For trials where the accused is under 17 the magistrate may be joined by a civilian and a Regular officer.

The offences which standing civilian courts may try are those for which a court-martial can try a civilian; a person may still elect to be tried by court-martial. The court will be able to impose sentences of up to six months' imprisonment or a fine of £400. It may pass consecutive prison sentences up to 12 months.

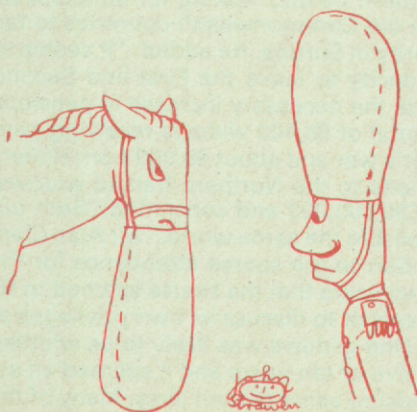
The Bill increases from 28 to 60 days the maximum period of detention which may be awarded to a soldier or airman by his commanding officer. And the maximum fine for an offence dealt with summarily also rises to 28 days' pay for all ranks below lieutenant-colonel or wing-commander. Another clause of the Bill would add the words "or reduce" to regulations in the Armed Forces Act 1966, enabling a person to extend full-time or reserve service.

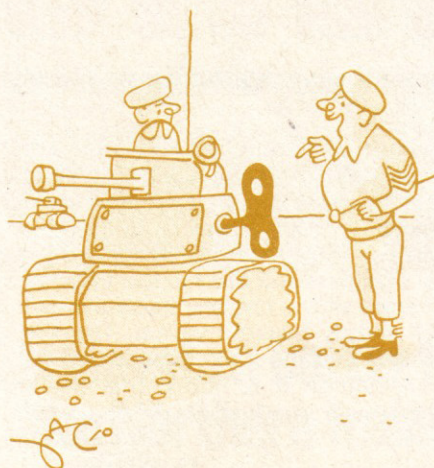
MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● Lord Tranmire (Conservative) asked in the House of Lords what compensation had been offered to The Green Howards for the destruction of band equipment and personal effects as a result of a terrorist attack on Strensall Camp while the battalion was serving in Northern Ireland. Lord Winterbottom, for the Government, said it had paid £2484 to the bandsmen and £9100 had been received by the band from its insurers. In addition the Army Central (Non-Public) Fund had given the band an interest-free loan of £7500 repayable over eight years beginning in 1978, to be used to pay outstanding bills and make good the loss of music and accoutrements. Lord Winterbottom said the matter was not closed and discussions were still taking place. If all the instruments were bought as new they would cost £30,000 to replace although many could be bought for less. He added: "It is the view of Her Majesty's Government, as it is mine, that they have not been ungenerous, and further funds may be available following up on the discussions." Veteran Lord Shinwell asked if this meant that those who had to use machine-guns and rifles against terrorist attack should insure them as there was some danger of the Government's not compensating them in the event of loss or damage. And the former Conservative Defence Minister, Lord Carrington, suggested that Lord Winterbottom was the only one who thought the Government had been generous.

● The Government would not be deterred from taking all necessary measures to deal with acts of terrorism from whatever quarter they arose, Mr Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, assured the Rev Ian Paisley (United Ulster Unionist, North Antrim). In reply to another Paisley question, Mr Rees said he was well aware of a campaign designed to discredit the Army, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the judicial and legal system in Northern Ireland. "It takes many forms ranging from scurrilous and unfounded allegations by members of illegal organisations and their supporters to unfounded criticisms by people in responsible positions," Mr Rees said. He praised the highly disciplined way in which the Army and the RUC together with the UDR and RUC Reserve had carried out their very difficult tasks in Northern Ireland.

● The estimated annual cost of maintaining horses for ceremonial purposes was £500,000, Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, told Mr D Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Caernarfon). He added that other animals, such as regimental mascots, were maintained from regimental funds.





"... and if you should run out of fuel ... !"

● The Thunderbird surface-to-air missile was unlikely to be worth retaining in service for more than a very few years and studies of possible replacements were being undertaken under NATO auspices, said Mr Robert C Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, in reply to Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth).

● Labour left-winger Mr Frank Allaun (Salford East) asked at what stage were plans for the future main battle tank in succession to Chieftain; if it was anticipated that it would be produced collaboratively; and if any design work had been contracted. Mr Brown said it was too early to give detailed characteristics and cost but joint concept studies were taking place with West Germany with the intention of leading to a collaborative successor to the Chieftain. A modest component development in support of the studies was also being undertaken.

● Mr Ian Gow (Conservative, Eastbourne) criticised the refund by the Ministry of Defence of value added tax and car tax on cars exported from the United Kingdom as it affected members of the forces serving in Northern Ireland. He said that at any one time about 3800 servicemen in the province came direct from Rhine Army. In almost every case they left their motorcars in Germany and were deprived of their use during their four-month tour. If a soldier who had served four months in Northern Ireland brought his car back to the United Kingdom within 16 months of purchase he would have to pay VAT and car tax. But the soldier who remained in Germany had only to keep his car outside the United Kingdom for only 12 months to qualify for exemption. Mr Gow contended that if the car was left in Germany and used entirely there, the fact that a soldier had spent four months in Northern Ireland ought not to ban him. The insistence by the Ministry of Defence on 16 months for soldiers who had been to the province amounted to "a penalty and an injustice for soldiers who are serving the Crown and their country in circumstances of great hardship and difficulty in Ulster." Replying, Mr Brown said servicemen going overseas liked to bring home as new a vehicle tax free as the rules would allow. This led them to put off delivery as late as possible. The rules were that unless the car had been in the possession of the owner and used by him or her overseas for a period of not less than 12 months, car tax and VAT were payable when it was brought home. The emergency in Northern Ireland had proved an exception to the rule and it was found at the end of 1972 that people who had bought cars in the reasonable expectation of not less than 12 months' service in Germany were having their assumptions disturbed by unexpected emergency tours of Northern Ireland. To assist these people a special concession was introduced in 1973, originally with no strings attached. But in March 1974 a modification was introduced which limited the reimbursement to those who took their delivery 16 months or more before the end of their planned tours. This was what Mr Gow thought unfair but as far as the Customs and Excise were concerned the rule was absolute that a car or anything else must have been owned and used for a year. Mr Brown said the Government had not gone back in principle on the concession but merely asked those who thought they could be affected to buy their cars four months earlier. To revert to 12 months for all would go beyond the original intention of protecting those who, despite prudent management, had to pay. "It could involve heavy cost with no compensating benefit and I am afraid I could not agree to it."

● In a debate on war widows' pensions, Mr Graham Page (Conservative, Crosby) said that World War Two widows in Britain were receiving one-third of the pension paid to their counterparts in Germany. He described this as "a degrading situation" and said it showed a strange obsession of the Treasury under government after government to discriminate against the widows of the two world wars. At £17.50 a month their pensions remained less than half those which the Government awarded to widows of soldiers killed in Northern Ireland. Asking for an increase, Mr Page said Britain was the only one of the old Commonwealth countries to tax war widows' pensions and it was in the minority in Europe. He added: "It seems to me the height of inhumane and cynical audacity to leave the First and Second World War widows in the cold when we made the necessary increase in pensions for the Ulster disturbance widows." Of the total of 88,400 widows receiving pensions there were about 22,000 from the Kaiser's war and about 66,000 from Hitler's war. He thought that to increase their pensions to the Northern Ireland widows' level would cost between £25,000,000 and £30,000,000 and concluded: "Both old and new widows are living in and having to exist in the same world." Mr Alan Clark (Conservative, Plymouth Sutton) drew attention to the sparse attendance for the debate and said he had noticed in the past two years that the House seemed to fill only to witness intermittent gladiatorial contests or to discuss its own privileges or registers. He said the number of World War One widows was likely to be whittled down to an almost nil figure within the next five or ten years and it seemed an act of meanness to deny them their due in the closing years of their lives. Many of the

nation's Service widows were near destitute. After a number of other speeches, Mr Alfred Morris, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said that the total increase in war widows' pensions over the past two years was 70 per cent. These had not only taken care of inflation but represented an improvement in real terms. "I do not claim that this is enough but it is evidence that the Government have in no way neglected the claims of this special section of the community." Mr Morris said the possibility of introducing retrospective payments into the Armed Forces Pension Scheme had been considered but it was a standard principle of occupational pension schemes that any improvements applied only to those actually serving at the time of introduction. The cost of giving all war widows parity had been estimated at £100,000,000 but this would be only part of the cost as clearly war disablement pensioners could not be excluded from an equalisation process. The combined cost therefore might be £250,000,000. He gave an assurance that the Government would always seek to keep pension rises abreast of the cost of living but could not make any promises about special increases for war widows.

- Refurbishment work at the Colchester Military Hospital was costing an estimated £235,000, Mr Brown told Mr Antony Buck, the local Conservative MP. Mr Brown said the works were considered necessary to maintain the hospital at an acceptable standard for the short term.

- Among the Silver Jubilee events for 1977 announced by Prime Minister Harold Wilson was an Army review in West Germany on 7 July.

- The number of servicemen killed in Germany in 1974 was 38, a steady drop from 1965-67 when an average of 67 died each year. This was among statistics supplied by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Roy Mason, to Miss Jo Richardson (Labour, Barking). Other parts of the world have dropped even more quickly with only 20 deaths from injury in the Far and Near East and other locations in 1974.

- Miss Richardson also asked whether precautions were taken to prevent former members of the Services from placing the benefits of their training at the disposal of foreign governments for the purpose of attacking countries with which the United Kingdom was not at war or in helping to maintain régimes whose existence the British Government did not recognise. Mr Rodgers replied that officers who left the active list could not, as long as they continued to hold commissions or drew retired pay, enter the service of any other government without the Defence Council's consent. Servicemen also, in certain circumstances, had a liability for reserve service for a period following their discharge. In addition it was an offence against the Official Secrets Act for an ex-servicemen to divulge official information acquired during his service unless expressly authorised.

- Ten Army officers applied for extension of their service beyond the age of 60 in 1975. Mr Brown told Mr Malcom Rifkind (Conservative, Edinburgh Pentlands) that six extensions were granted.

- Since April 1974 some 9700 married quarters in Britain had been converted from open fires to central heating other than by solid fuel, Mr Mason told Mr Denis Skinner (Labour, Bolsover). Mr Mason said that in the same period 1850 quarters had been converted to solid fuel central heating. Another 250 new married soldiers' quarters near Newcastle-on-Tyne would have solid fuel central heating. The policy was to instal central heating in all quarters which would be needed long-term.

- Rear-Admiral Morgan-Giles (Conservative, Winchester) failed to get refunds for unexpired TV licences held by servicemen posted overseas. Mr Alex Lyon, for the Government, said it was necessary to limit the grounds on which refunds might be given in order to keep the licensing system manageable. The disturbance allowance made to married men posted overseas was intended to compensate for incidental expenditure of that sort.

- After being told by Lord Winterbottom in the Lords that talks with the Sultan of Brunei on the proposal to withdraw the Gurkha battalion there were still continuing, Baroness Vickers (Conservative) said it was unfair on the Sultan to prolong the discussions. He had always been a good friend of Britain and the money earned by the Gurkhas helped the further development of Nepal. Lord Winterbottom said he was sure Lord Goronwy-Roberts had been negotiating in the most constructive way. The Gurkhas were praised by the Earl of Selkirk (Conservative) who told the Lords: "They have the remarkable quality of living in an acceptable manner with the indigenous people in any part of the world where they happen to be stationed." Lord Winterbottom said the talks would be continued again in London this Spring and added: "We are not presenting the Sultan with a diktat; we are having discussions with him."

● A musical note was introduced by the Earl of Dundee (Conservative) who said the Gurkhas had some of the most magnificent pipe bands in the world — "their supreme excellence is recognised by all the Highland regiments, even although, owing to their shortness of legs, comparatively speaking, with the Highlanders, the tempo has to be a little quicker."

● Mr Rodgers told Mr Frank Hooley (Sheffield Heeley) that there were no plans to phase out the Hong Kong garrison. To which Mr Hooley retorted: "Since there is no air cover, no air defence and no naval support for the garrison, what is the point of maintaining it, since its only option if hostilities should break out will be either to commit suicide or surrender?" Mr Rodgers said Mr Hooley underestimated the subtleties of international relations. The fact was that no one, except perhaps Mr Hooley, was anxious to upset the present status quo in Hong Kong — certainly not the main partners in it.

INSURANCE EXPLAINED

Sorting through the maze of different insurance policies on offer can be a daunting task for young couples. A new booklet, "Life Assurance and You," seeks to explain in simple terms the basic types of life policies and their uses. This booklet, which gives guidance on how to prepare a life assurance plan to meet the ever-changing needs of the family, is obtainable without charge from LOA/ASLO Information Centre, 60 Cheapside, London, EC 2V 6AX.

DRIVE FOR TAVR COOKS

Wanted—a thousand cooks for the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve. That is the recruiting task Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Maddy has set himself as commander of the Army Catering Corps' new Central Volunteer Headquarters. The TAVR is said to be a bit light on the kitchen front with only about 1500 part-time soldier cooks. During annual camps some units have to make do with enthusiastic amateurs rustling up the grub. Now Colonel Maddy is to go on a recruiting tour, taking in the catering industry's staff canteens and talking to catering students at technical colleges. Chiefly he is looking for qualified cooks but for the inexperienced there is a 15-day course (in lieu of the first annual camp) at the Army School of Catering with all found and Regular Army rates of pay. The new recruits will form a pool for attachment to needy units during the camping season. The rest of the year they will do paid military and further technical training with TAVR units near their homes on a number of evenings a year and at occasional weekend camps.

RESETTLEMENT

Second careers in uniform are spotlighted in the Services Resettlement Bulletin No. 6 of 1975. The police, fire and ambulance services in many cases make special age concessions to retiring servicemen and provide accommodation or allowances in lieu. This 80-page issue also gives information about employment and housing in south-east England and East Anglia, tables of resettlement courses and eight pages of jobs. Copies are available from unit resettlement officers and Army education centres.

RECRUITING

Recruiting figures for November showed that the level of adult and young soldier recruiting was a third higher over the period of the financial year already completed — compared with 1974. Comparisons with the one-month figure with 1974 would be misleading due to a clearing of earlier delays in the recording system. During the month a total of 2067 joined up, all but 197 of them adults and young soldiers.

REDUNDANCIES

The restructuring of the Army over the next few years will result in certain officers and soldiers being made redundant — the redundancy scheme will be in four phases over the period October 1976 to March 1980. Details of the first phase, which ends in March 1977, are published in DCIs (Army) T121-122. Some 200 officers and 800 soldiers will be affected but compulsory redundancy is unlikely to be necessary in this phase as sufficient volunteers have come forward. In subsequent phases, when large numbers will be made redundant, it is most unlikely on present forecasts that sufficient volunteers will come forward and it is anticipated that some compulsory redundancy will be inevitable.

(DM(A))

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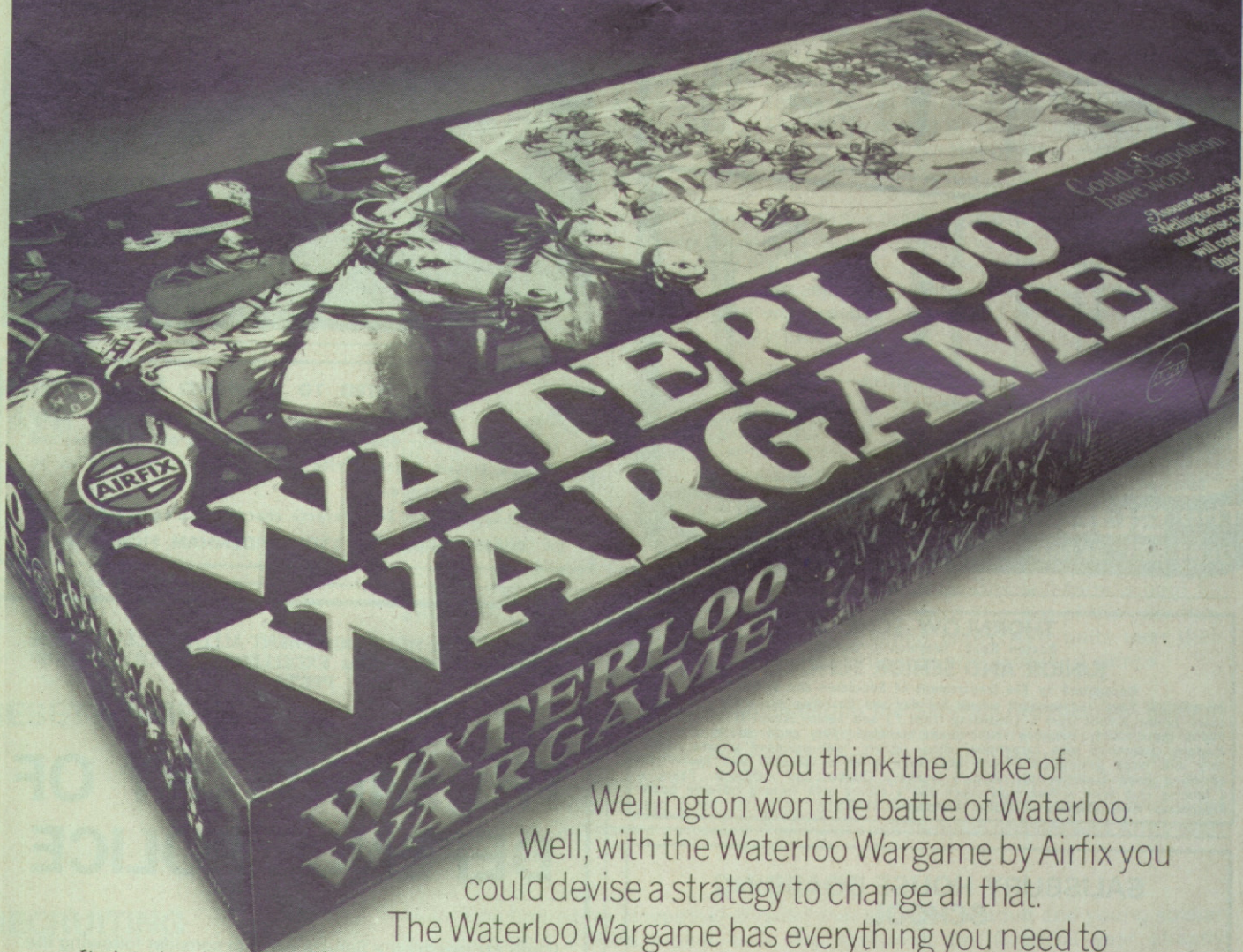
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Truck half-track

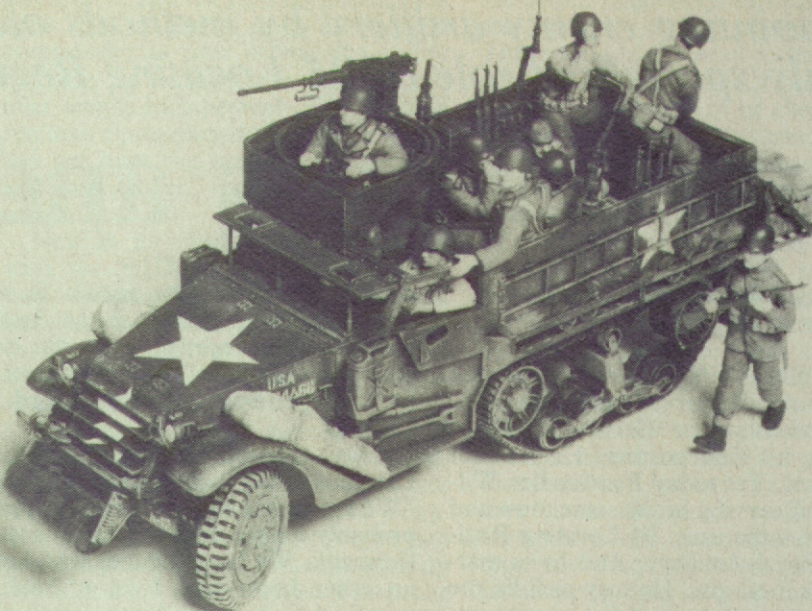
EARLY army lorries often fell victim to extremes of climate, becoming bogged down in snow, mud and desert sand. They had to be laboriously and painstakingly extricated sometimes by impractical methods such as brushwood under the wheels, horses straining at the front and soldiers sweating at the back.

The logical answer seemed to lie with the half-track, a hybrid vehicle combining tired wheels and caterpillar tracks. But the half-track was not entirely the answer as it could retain the disadvantages of both wheeled and tracked vehicles without having the advantages. The German concept was to add wheels to the front of a fully tracked vehicle to make the body longer, while the American was to replace the rear wheels of a track with tracks. For example, even simple manoeuvres in German vehicles could involve the driver in mental and physical gymnastics; turns were made either with the steering wheel or by fractionally idling the drive sprocket on one of the tracks — depending on whether the angle of turn was less or more than 15 degrees.

The US Army half-tracks of World War Two — which ran into production figures topping 40,000 — were perhaps the most successful. They had a system of steering through the front wheels only. This was effected by incorporating front-wheel drive and much shorter caterpillar tracks than their German counterparts.

This month's main model is the M3A2 which saw active service as the main vehicle of armoured infantry in armoured divisions from 1944 onwards. It incorporates all the novel features of the actual vehicle such as the "unditch-

Above: Tamiya model of US Army's M3A2 half-track. Below: Tamiya's 1:35 M577 armoured command post.



ing" roller on the front fender, hinged shutters over the radiator and windscreen and a "pulpit" machine-gun mounting behind the driving cab.

This model, from the Japanese firm of Tamiya, is in 1:35th scale and costs £2.50. It comes as a kit of nearly 140 plastic parts including nine figures in a variety of poses and alternative transfer decals for the US 1st and 9th armoured divisions. The moulding shows all the

attention to detail that is the hallmark of Tamiya but unfortunately the intricate transmission and suspension mechanism is tucked away out of sight underneath.

When making this vehicle in its American version, modellers are recommended to use Humbrol "US Army olive drab" as the basic colour and cover it with a very thin coat of matt polyurethane varnish to give an authentic, metallic-look finish. The model can be converted easily into vehicles used by the British forces in such roles as personnel carrier, ambulance, command post, load carrier, wireless, radar and REME (some being fitted with a crane jib mounted at the front).

Tamiya, whose kits are marketed in Britain by Richard Kohnstam ("Riko") Ltd, of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, have also appropriately released a version of the M113, the fully tracked fighting vehicle which superseded the half-track. It is designated the M577 armoured command post, also in 1:35th scale and costing £2.50. Accessories include four figures, a table, two chairs, periscope binocular on a tripod, and even a small map which can be cut out from the instruction sheet and painted with water colours. **HH**

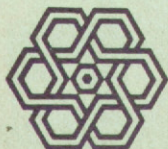
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Pinpointing enemy artillery by methods old and new, is the highly specialised role of 94 Locating Regiment...

Gunner eyes and ears

Story by John Walton
Pictures by Paul Haley

SEVENTEEN years ago young Keith Willers, then just 18, arrived at the German town of Celle on his first posting. He was not impressed. Yet today Bombardier Willers is still serving in the same town and with the same unit, 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery. And he is married to a local girl. He may well be the current record holder for continuous service in one German posting but there are many other members of the regiment who have spent more than a

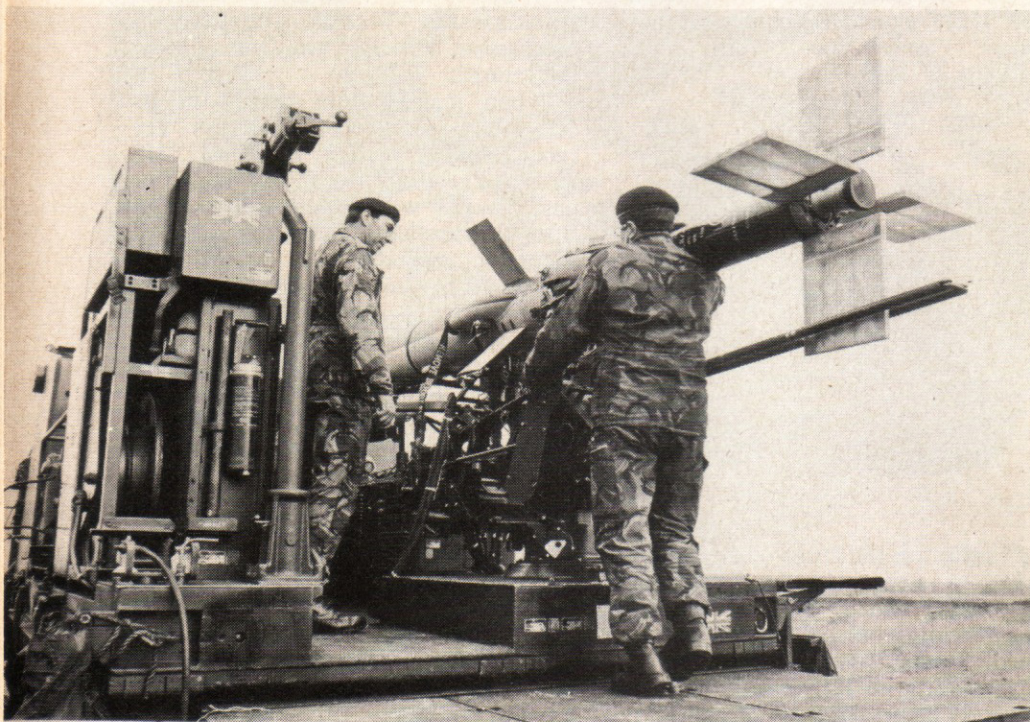
decade in Celle. The reason is 94's highly specialist role. It is the Army's only locating regiment and the only other unit like it is 22 Locating Battery, an independent battery based at Larkhill.

Says the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph Crossley: "We have lived here for nearly 20 years, probably longer than any other unit in Germany. We have families who know no other home and a lot of soldiers spend their whole Army service in Celle."

Many of the gunners have German wives and Celle boasts a number of

former members of the regiment now in Germany's "civvy street." To train a man properly in the skills used by the regiment can take about three years so he is unlikely to transfer to a unit where he would not use those skills.

The strength of the Celle link is a strong regimental spirit and good relationships with the townspeople—the freedom of Celle was granted to 94 several years ago. But Colonel Crossley concedes there are drawbacks: "We do tend to get the same thing over and over again, tend to exercise in the same sort of places and run into the same sort of problems."

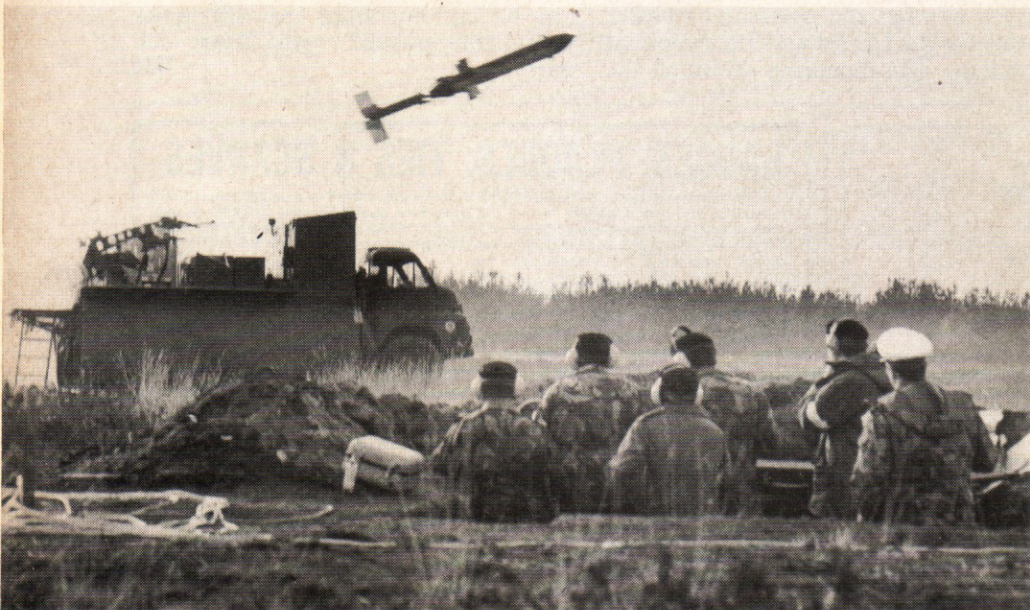


Left: Out on the Hohne ranges, gunners get the MIDGE ready for its flight.

Above: Last-minute checks before the drone goes on its programmed flight.

Below left: "We have lift-off!" MIDGE is captured in the air by the camera.

Below: MIDGE homing beacon which sends out a signal to bring it down.



"Because of this we make efforts to get soldiers away to train in other parts of the world. We run a meteorological station at Suffield in Canada for the whole of the summer and this year we have trained in Denmark and Holland as well as adventurous training in France and Norway. And about 80 per cent of the soldiers have done at least one tour in Northern Ireland."

"Locating" as practised by 94 Regiment is divided into four sections. Most of its men are specialists in only one of these and there is little interchange. Grouped together at Celle are all the Royal Artillery's medium and long-range surveillance and locating devices.

The regiment's three batteries each have a troop or section of each skill. Most spectacular is the MIDGE drone system, which takes off with the excitement of a mini-Apollo launch, flies a pre-determined route over enemy territory and returns to a specific landing site. The photographs it takes, not only of artillery targets, are photo-

interpreted and the information relayed back. Use of drones gives a divisional commander in time of war the ability not only to see over the next hill but over several hills beyond. The MIDGE replaces a propeller-driven drone which did not have the same speed or range and was much more vulnerable to attack.

Now in its third season of training with the MIDGE, 94 Locating Regiment reckons that from the asking of a question by divisional headquarters to the time of answer is only about an hour—a vast improvement on any previous method.

An older art, which goes back to the trenches of World War One, is sound-ranging. Basically, methods have not changed too much in the last 60 years. A series of microphones is surveyed into position and can be activated to pick up the sound of enemy guns. From the microphone responses fed back by radio and reproduced in a form looking not unlike a seismograph or cardiograph,

the sound-range operators can calculate the position of the enemy artillery. Three rounds are fired at the supplied grid reference and then if necessary the position is adjusted to be even closer so that enemy guns can be knocked out.

Though old, the system works well and so far no-one has found a more effective way of locating enemy guns. The only change in recent years has been the introduction of radio links between the microphones and back to the command post. Before that a mammoth cable-laying task was involved.

Working closely with the sound-rangers are the regiment's surveyors. Their main task is to provide accurate fixation and orientation for all units of the divisional artillery. In recent years they have adopted a system of pre-surveyed points, maintaining these and regularly checking to ensure that they retain up-to-date information.

And finally there is weather-forecasting. Gunners need up-to-the-minute weather information—just like a



Above: Staff-Sgt Barry Sanders lowers sound-ranging microphone into hole.

Right: An outside view of command post for sound-ranging being cleared.

Below: What it is like inside. The sound-rangers check film being fed in.





In the shadow of a barrack block which dates back to Bismarck's time, gunners prepare to release a balloon which will feed back information on the weather.

golf ball, a shell can be affected by wind speed and direction; air pressure and temperature can also change its destination. Since 1974, 94 Locating Regiment has used the AMETS system, said to be the best portable meteorological station in the world. Data is obtained by sending up a balloon carrying a small radio transmitter. The balloon is tracked by radar to check wind speed and direction and the radio feeds information on temperature. All of this information goes into a computer in the AMETS system and results can be fed to all gunner regiments in tape form.

"We can now produce a message within minutes of the balloon going up and within an hour we can have all the information we need," says Colonel Crossley. "This very new and accurate information has improved the accuracy of artillery fire enormously."

Recently an equivalent German unit was entertained for the day at Celle. Beobachtung's Battalion No 1 also uses MIDGE drones and the two units have been able to help each other with the loan of films, cameras and so on. At Celle the Germans were shown the remainder of 94's equipment and then took part in football, skittles, volleyball and tug-of-war competitions. A cup was presented and it is hoped to make the day an annual event.

The regiment's home, Taunton Barracks, is more than 100 years old, dating back to the Franco-Prussian war. Pickelhaubers and German military discipline were the order of the day for most of that time. But the bark of the martinet is muted today at Celle—it is the technological age and the soldiers who live in those gaunt barrack blocks can provide information to our forces which would have been completely unobtainable in Bismarck's day.



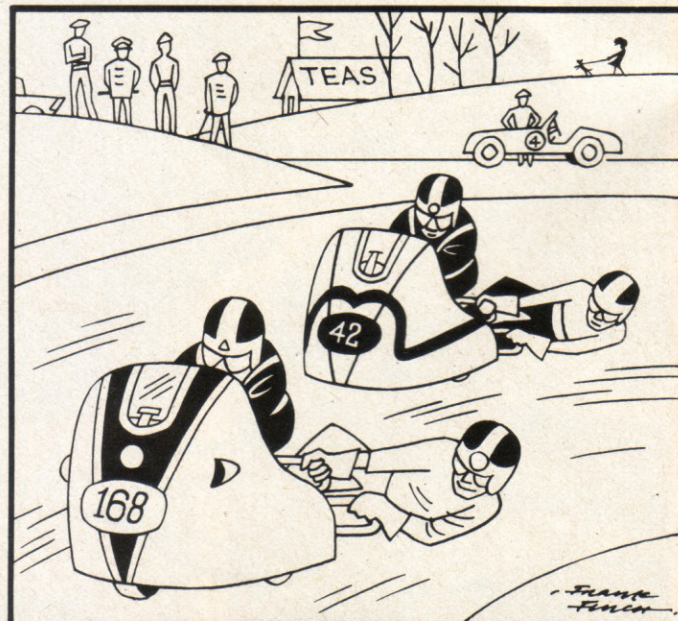
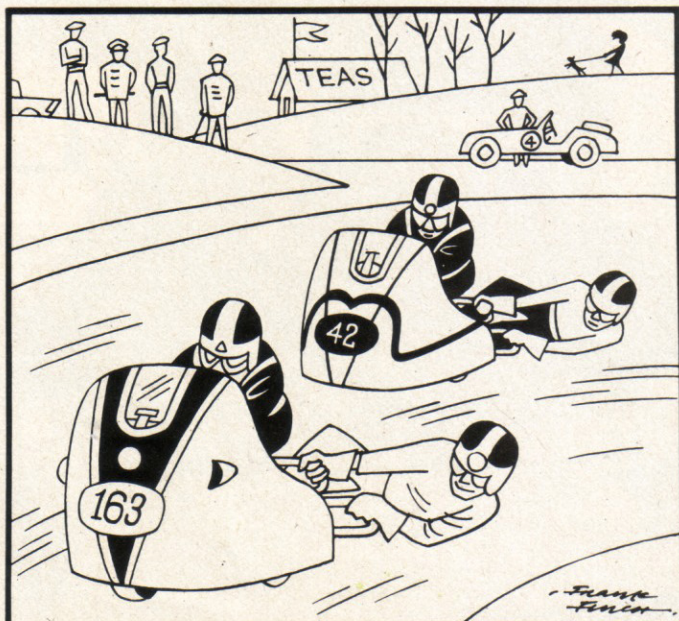
Above: German "locaters" on a friendly visit to the British equivalent.

Below: Lieut-Col Ralph Crossley (right), who commands 94 Regiment, chatting to his German counterpart.



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 35.



On record

"Music of Wellington's Time" (The Military Ensemble of London) (Music for Pleasure CFP 40230)

This is what I really call a record of traditional music, even though most items were "composed." On the German record reviewed above the march "I Bataillon Garde" is wrongly attributed to Trad while on this disc J C Bach (a son of the great J S Bach) is correctly named as the composer, along with its fellow "2 Bataillon Garde." However, one of Beethoven's marches is referred to as the Yorkscher Marsch, a variation of the possible spellings I had not thought of in recent SOLDIER correspondence on the subject!

The performers are all professional civilians and the list reads like a Who's Who of the London orchestras. All wind players, of course, and most of them served in the Army at some time. So the sound is perfect if but an approximation of what the composers actually heard in their time.

The programme is in three sections so as to display the national differences in the British, French and German styles of the period, and on more or less contemporary band instrumentation.

British: Bugle Call, "General Salute," "The British Grenadiers" and "Grenadiers

March" in contemporary versions.

French: "Le Chant du Départ (Mehul)," "Marche des Bonnets à Poils," "La Favorite," "Marche du 1er Consul" (Paisiello), "Marche de la Garde Consulaire à Maren-go," "Sonnerie aux Morts" (trumpet and drum), "Les Grenadiers de la Vieille Garde à Waterloo."

German: "Marsch vom 1 Bataillon Garde" (J C Bach), "Marsch vom 2 Bataillon des Garde," "March for the Prince of Wales" (Haydn), "Two Marches for the Derbyshire Cavalry" (Haydn), Three Zapfenstreich (Beethoven).

RB



"Hoch Heidecksburg" (The Watch Tower) is the regimental march of our own Royal Military Police and a famous example of one army commandeering another's music for its own purposes. The composer of "Prussian Glory," G Piefke, provides another called "Königgratzer Marsch" and Richard Henrion, of "Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch," "Kreuzritter." The remainder are the obvious choices of "Petersburger," "Grosser Kurfurst," "Erzherzog Albrecht," "Torgauer" (by Frederick the Great), "I Bataillon Garde," and of course "Deutschmeister Regiment."

Definition is not too good and the overall result a little woolly, but at high volume it will suit all lovers of oompah.

RB

Brass in brief

"Viva Desford" (Desford Colliery Band) (Conductor: Ernest Woodhouse) (Pye Top Brass TB 3002)

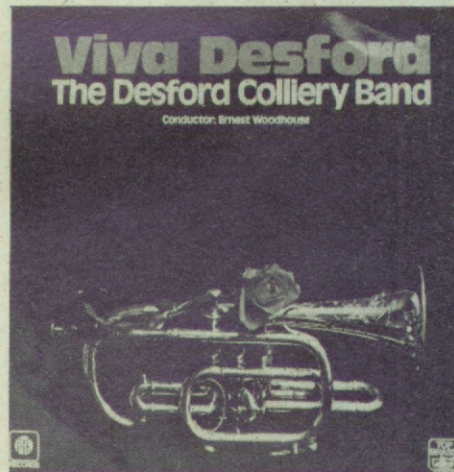
Three new marches in "Stars and Stripes," "Entry of the Gladiators" and "Viva España" didn't aid my digestion but Falla's "Ritual Fire Dance" gave me a good laugh. Remainder pretty good with "A Walk in the Sun," "Mood Indigo," "St Louis Blues," "Can Can," "Men of Harlech" and a couple of solo items.

RB



"Traditional Marches" (Music Corps of 11th Panzer Grenadier Division) (Director: Major Hans Friess) (Polydor Select 2489 523)

Here are a dozen thumping great German marches straight from the horse's mouth. I've an idea the British Grenadiers might have made a better job of them, at least from the commitment point of view, and have given some of the marches more character. Major Friess does some nice things here and there but paradoxically the ones we know best don't seem quite up his strasse. "Preussen's Gloria," "Wien Bleibt Wien" and particularly "Fridericus Rex" receive scant characterization and dynamic treatment as though he has seen too much of these marches to raise much enthusiasm. I know the feeling.



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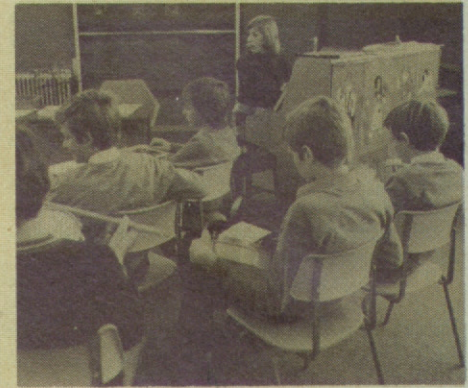
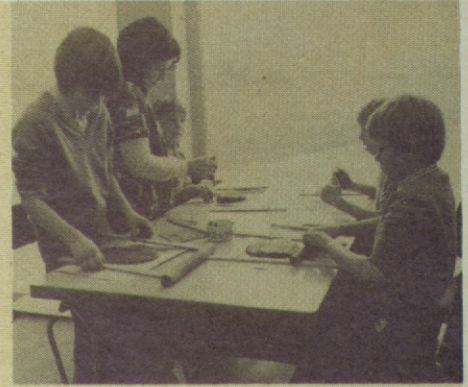
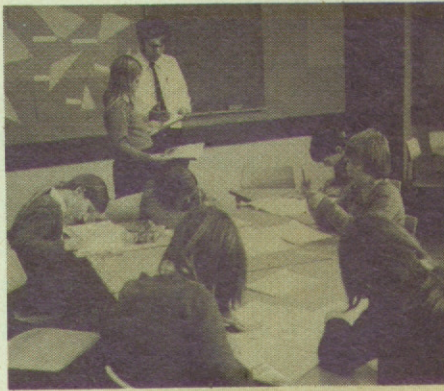
How many eights to a middle?

TAKE a series of octagons, add them together and what do you get? Schoolchildren at Fallingbostel in Germany could quickly tell you — the answer is their new school, Heide Middle School, recently opened and of space-age design.

Heide (the name means heath and is taken from nearby Lüneburg Heath of German surrender fame) is built on a pattern of octagons. Each provides three classroom areas and a shared resource area and is joined to the next octagon by a square which houses the cloakroom and stores. Middle schools are themselves a new concept within the British Forces Education Service in Germany. Already there are six of them although only Heide has the octagonal concrete-slab design.

Headmaster Mr Ray Bennett had experience in a middle school in Sussex before going out to Fallingbostel. He says the new type of school, which caters for the nine-to-13 age group, is a great step forward for forces' education. Heide is built to take 480 children and already has 300, mainly from Fallingbostel. Its specialist areas include a language room, science laboratories, art, pottery, wood and metal craft areas and a large library/resource area.

The facilities are ultra-modern and so are the subjects taught, but Mr Bennett and his staff still have time for "old-fashioned" good manners. He tells



Above: Four aspects of classroom work at Heide: Maths, pottery, art, music.

parents: "I think it still appropriate that children greet adults and one another in a polite, civil manner. We address people by name, we talk to and do not shout at one another... doors are held open for people and visitors are greeted and assisted, not avoided and ignored. Good manners are important."

That and hard work are the standards on which Heide Middle School is based. Revolutionary in design and concept it may be, but Mr Bennett and his staff are determined that traditional values should not be forgotten.

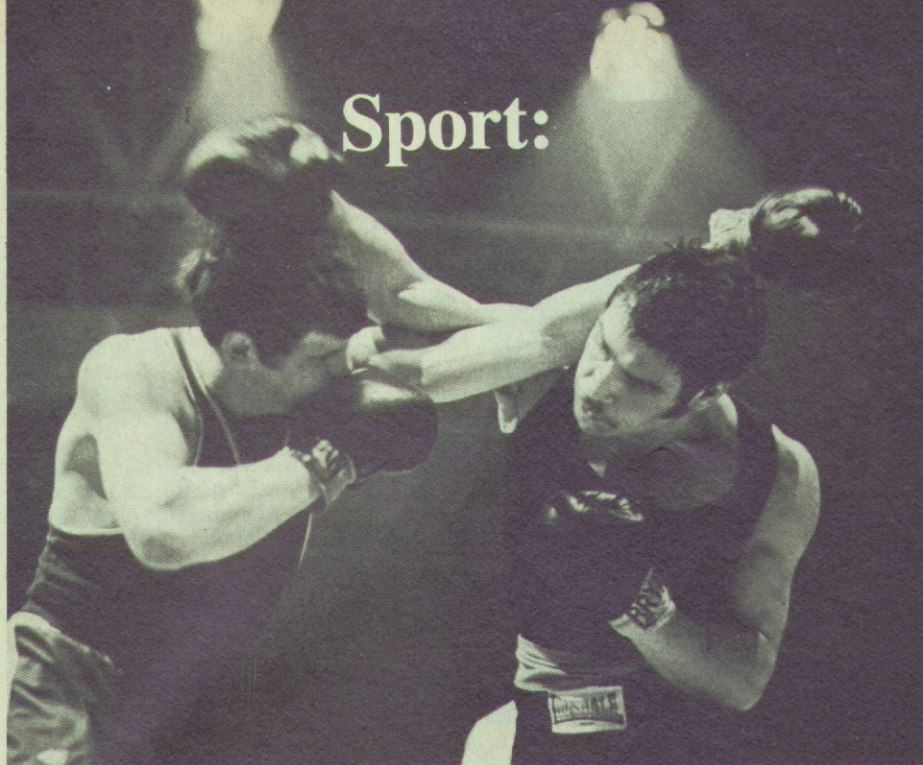


Below: Children playing outside the ultra-modern school recently opened.

Right: Handstands from youngsters on a physical training session in the hall.



Sport:



Green Jackets ko three-year champs

IF dedicated support alone won boxing matches, 10 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, would have smashed the Army record and walked off with the inter-unit team championship for the fourth year running. Some 70 of the title-holders' fans made the journey from Bielefeld to Aldershot boxing centre; no fewer than 350 of the 450-strong regiment had earlier flocked to Berlin to see their heroes win the Rhine Army final.

But at Aldershot the RCT team was conquered by 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets — the United Kingdom champions — who triumphed convincingly with seven bouts to four and 18 points to 15. The 10 Regiment boxers had their triumphs though and most of the bouts were closely fought and well matched. Officials were fulsome in their praise of the standard of all competitors.

When the Green Jackets' Rifleman J Warr hit the canvas in the first round of the first bout of the evening, after a fierce attack by 10 Regiment's Lance-Corporal O'Callaghan at bantamweight, the roar from the Rhine Army half of the audience suggested a belief that it was all over bar the shouting. Plucky Warr finally failed to beat a count in round three.

Positive smugness set in when the featherweight second bout went to Lance-Corporal S Johnson by a unanimous points decision against Rifleman J Arnott. But lightweight Lance-Corporal G Harrison brought counter cheers from the Green Jackets in the third bout when 10 Regiment's Lance-Corporal M Gannon lost on a majority points decision.

The first of two light welterweight bouts brought another two points for the Green Jackets when their Lance-Corporal M Hurley pummelled his way to a first-round knock-out against Lance-Corporal P Doyle, who was overwhelmed despite a gallant defence and even a brief attack.

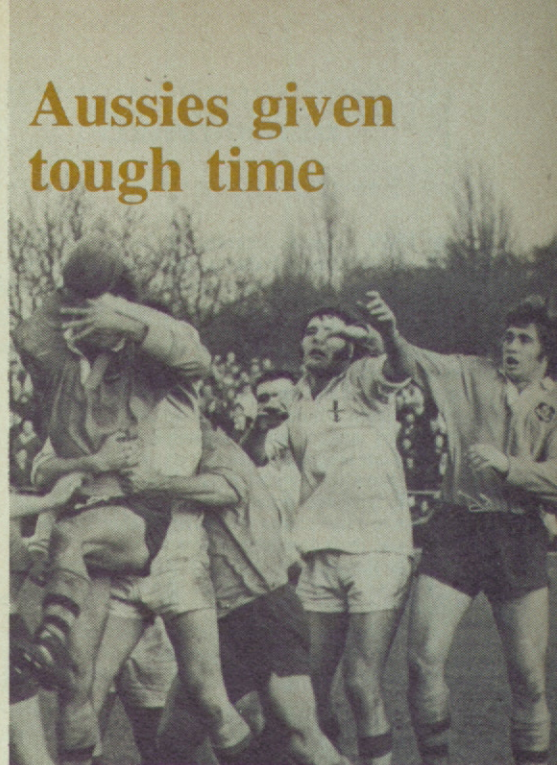
The Green Jackets added to their victories as the second light welterweight bout went to Lance-Corporal M Marsh on a majority decision against Private L Lawton, a second-string welterweight contest went to Lance-Corporal M Oswald against Lance-Corporal P Lewis on a unanimous decision, and the light middleweight result to Rifleman L Williams when he sank Corporal E Dublin in the first round.

A unanimous decision in favour of Lance-Corporal J Dwyer at middleweight brought back a faint glow to the glimmer of fast-fading hope in the 10 Regiment camp as he beat Rifleman J Roberts. But all the judges gave the next bout at light heavyweight to the Green Jackets' Rifleman H Miles against Driver V Rollock and a majority decision in the heavyweight bout between Rifleman D Richardson and Driver R Dawkins clinched the championship for the Green Jackets.

Spirited to the last, 10 Regiment won the final bout — the first-string welterweight contest in which Rifleman J Cheetham took merciless punishment from Lance-Corporal Z Rene before the referee stopped the fight in the third round.

So the Green Jackets wrested the Kings Shield from 10 Regiment who had to be satisfied this year with the runners-up Noble Trophy.

Aussies given tough time



ASQUAD with nearly half its members from the Army provided a worthy Combined Services XV which gave Australia's touring rugby side a tough time at Aldershot.

A roar went up from the packed permanent and temporary stands at the military stadium as the Services drew first blood with a penalty eight minutes into the match to make the score 3—0. Just a few minutes later they pressed home their advantage to touch down for a try which was disallowed by the referee. An Australian counter-attack was triggered off by fly-half L J Weatherstone who snatched a drop goal — the first of his side's tour — to equalise.

Before half-time the penalty scrum, Petty Officer Peter Piercy, had two more chances to kick at goal but one dropped a few agonising inches under the bar and the other went wide from some 35 yards out.

The visitors' handling let them down and several bad fumbles robbed them of scoring opportunities. A certain try towards the end of the first half was thrown away when right wing Paddy Batch failed to catch the ball and grounded it a few short steps away.

The Australians began to dominate the game early into the second half and went ahead for the first time with another Weatherstone kick for a penalty. Batch redeemed himself with the first of two tries and brought his tour total to a round dozen. The second try came from left wing J R Ryan.

The final score of 14—3 to the Australians represented a hard-fought match. Australian manager Ross Turnbull admitted: "That side was one of the hardest we have met."

Combined Services: PO P Piercy (RN), Cpl W C C Steele (RAF), Cpl S G Jackson (Army) (sub: Sgt M Cuss (Army)), Lieut A G Jones (RN), Cpl D B Reynolds (Army), Cpl J H Morgan (Army), OEM J C Davies (RN), L/Cpl N J Gray (Army), Capt P M Johnson (Army), Sub/Lieut J C Ackerman (RN), CPO M Lane (RN), Signmn S Peacock (Army), CPO P Dunn (RN) (sub: Pte G O W Williams (Army)), CP O T Kelly (RN), Sqn-Ldr G A Fraser (RAF).

Volleyball campaign

ARMV careers Sergeant G Neale, of The Royal Green Jackets, has started his own recruiting campaign to drum up support for volleyball in order to get it recognised eventually as an official Army sport.

Sergeant Neale points out that the game has been played by soldiers for many years throughout the world and he is looking for a squad of keen players from whom to choose a side to represent the Army against selected civilian teams and in top civilian league matches.

The Royal Navy and RAF, like the Army, do not officially recognise volleyball. But they do manage to raise teams to compete against outside teams and their standard is now very high. "Let's show the Royal Navy and RAF that we are worthy of a place in the next tournament," Sergeant Neale declares.

Those interested should get in touch with him at the Army Careers Information Office, 48 Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate, London E7.



Shooting star

WARRANT Officer 1 Bill Smith, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, has this season clocked up an impressive list of successes representing his country, the Army and his corps, in pistol shooting.

He was a member of the Great Britain team in the "Mayleigh Match" and was provisionally selected for membership of the national pistol squad. During 1975 he represented the Army in six team events, helping it to win four and draw two.

In individual pistol events he won five of the seven he entered, ranging from the Army Rifle Association Match 79 in small bore to the REME pistol championship in full bore. He is a member of the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering pistol team and helped the team win all its 1975 events, including the Army Rifle Association Bisley pistol championship (full bore) and Hampshire inter-Services team event.

Bill has been in the Army since 1958 and has served in the United Kingdom, Germany and Aden. He is currently an instructor/trade training warrant officer in the SEME Vehicle Engineering Wing.



Motorcycle champion

THE new Rhine Army motorcycle champion is the man in charge of the motorcycle bay at 8 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, in Münster. Corporal Ken Ablewhite (25) emerged the clear leader of a field of 63 dogged by difficult and dangerous conditions brought about by days of torrential rain on the heavily wooded Tecklenburg Ridge near Osnabrück where the championships took place. The effect of rain on clay forced many retirements and only 36 riders finished.

The winner incurred 339 penalty points — his nearest rival had 553. Ken's three-man team also carried off the open team award. The new champion is also current Rhine Area champion.

Sports Shorts

GYMNASTICS

SI Jim Purvis APTC came first in the National Gymnastic League match against Huddersfield, but the other major places went to the home team and the Army and Army A teams were second and third respectively. Total score for Huddersfield after performances at floor exercises, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, high bar was 177.45, giving them the highest aggregate score for an overall win. Second came the Army with 175.35 and third Army A with 140.25. Representing the Army were: Purvis (1st), SI J Moger (APTC) (6th), SI D Scott (APTC) (8th), SI A McLean (APTC) (7th) and Sgt G Sharp (Para) (10th equal). Army A: Spr G Jones (RE) (9th), Spr G Fidler (RE) (15th), L/Cpl T Fold (RE) (14th), SI D Rogers (APTC) (13th), L/Cpl K Lynch (RCT) (10th equal).

SI Jim Purvis repeated his 1975 performance in the national Champions' Cup at the Royal Albert Hall by coming 5th overall. The contest is for the six top-grade men and women gymnasts in the country, following earlier eliminating competitions. It was felt that the capacity audience could have expected better performances from the cream of the sport than were produced and Jim Purvis himself must have been disappointed with his own showing after his gruelling training schedule at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot before the match. Purvis scored a total of 48.25. The winner, J Davies (Carnegie), got 52.35.

Across the boards

THE British ladies chess champion, Miss Anne Sunnucks, pictured below with Sergeant Phil Callaway of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was a guest at the British Forces Germany chess championship in Berlin. Miss Sunnucks, a former Women's Royal Army Corps major, made an impressive showing in a simultaneous match display against 18 of the championship's 30 competitors.

She won 14, drew two and lost two of the games. In the contest itself each player had some eight games to complete and the winner was JT Mike Campbell (RAF) with 5.5 points out of eight. He was half a point clear of Staff-Sergeant Doug Pallett, Royal Army Pay Corps, who gained the Army Chess Trophy.



SOCCER

Results: Army XI 2, Minehead 3; Army Youth 1, Somerset 4; Army 2, Somerset 1 (making Army almost certain of place in the South-West Counties championship final).

SHOOTING

The Regular Army team scored best in a three-cornered small-bore prone rifle match against the Royal Navy and Devon: Scores: Regular Army 3945 (team average 98.625), Devon 3901, Royal Navy 3883. Devon Reserves shot 3878 and Regular Army Reserves 3853. The Regular Army also beat Derbyshire in a small-bore standing and kneeling match, scoring 1038 against 947.

The Regular Army XX beat Gloucester XX by 3952 points to 3903 in a smallbore prone rifle match. Gloucestershire's Reserves made honours even by beating the Army Reserves 3894 to 3888. The Regular Army beat Lancashire by 1044 to 1004 in a smallbore rifle standing-and-kneeling match.

BASKETBALL

The Army beat Middlesex County by 77 points to 69 in their match at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot.

RUGBY

Results: Army 7, Harlequins 44; Army 6, London Irish 19; Army 3, Surrey 16; Army 15, Hampshire 9.

Top & tail

"I take up my pen in the year of grace 17—, and go back to the time when my father kept the Admiral Benbow Inn, and the brown old seaman, with the sabre cut, first took up his lodging under our roof."

The author's next sixteen words can be obtained from the following alphabetical list:

CHIME	HASH	PLODDING	SKINNED
DECAMERON	HASP	SHED	STOP
ETHER	INDOORS	SIFT	UNREMEMBERED
FLOWERED	PIP	SITS	YESTERDAY

by "topping and tailing" certain of them in accordance with the following clues, which are also in a certain order:

PAGES	ST	ASPIRATES	POST SCRIPT
DUNE	SHIP	OLD MONEY	HESITATION
RELIGION	FOLD	DRONE	DESK
SAUCE			SIN

What are the sixth and twelfth words following the above quotation?

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 10 May. The answer and winners' names will appear in the July **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 213" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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It should have been a stirring occasion as "the biggest haggis in the world," a 33lb monster created for Harrods, the top London store, was presented to 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, on their return to Germany. But the pre-Burns night celebration turned into calamity as the "Great Chieftain o' the Puddin' Race" slithered off its silver salver and plunged to the ground. Unaware of the mishap the Scots Guards piper continued to play as Harrod's food hall manager, Mr Alastair Walker, struggled to lift it back. Eventually the haggis and a gallon of whisky left for Chelsea Barracks with their Guards escorts.

Arms and explosive searcher Duke extends a welcoming paw to Premier Harold Wilson during his visit to Northern Ireland. Duke, pictured with his handler, Corporal Philip Marston, recently found seven rifles and 50 rounds of ammunition in the Bogside area of Londonderry.



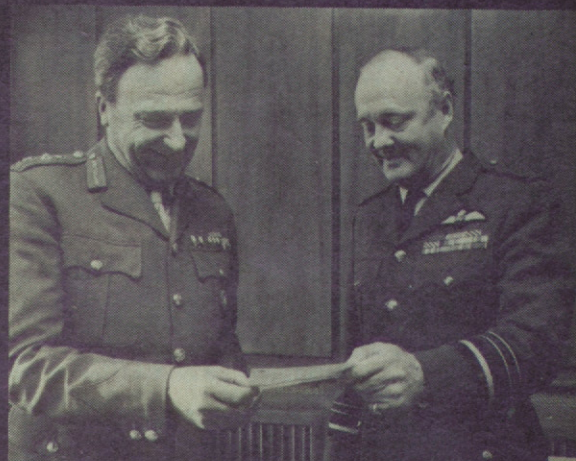
Left, right and centre

Major Spencer Holtom, second-in-command of 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps, hands over a cheque for 8432 Hong Kong dollars to Lady Bramall, wife of the Commander British Forces Hong Kong. The money was the proceeds of a squadron raffle for the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.



On Salisbury Plain? Yes—a 50-ton Chieftain tank at speed with a blonde giving the orders to an all-male crew, closely followed by an armoured personnel carrier commanded by another attractive girl. The pair were Captain Annabelle Cunningham and Captain Philippa Dixon of the Women's Royal Army Corps who were taking part in a course for captains run by the Junior Division of the Staff College at Warminster. Officers of the WRAC are included in each year's four courses.

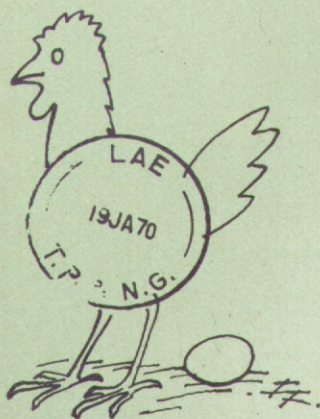
Brigadier G W Hutton hands over her door key to Mrs Kate March, wife of Captain Freddie March, Royal Artillery, one of the first tenants of the new "Open Market" flats at Holzwickede, seven miles east of Dortmund. When complete in six months' time the estate will consist of 248 flats for all ranks, a Naafi shop, community hall, four play areas, two adventure playgrounds and garaging for each family. Completion should mean the end of the Dortmund married quarter waiting list.



Air-Marshall Sir Nigel Maynard, Commander-in-Chief Royal Air Force Germany, hands over a cheque for 10,600 Deutschmarks (£2,000) to his Rhine Army counterpart, General Sir Harry Tuzo, for the Army Benevolent Fund. The sum — part of the proceeds of two RAF Germany open days — was given as an acknowledgement of the part played by Army units in the performance on each occasion.



Letters



SOLDIER welcomes letters. There is not space however, to print every letter of interest received. All correspondents must give their full names and addresses to ensure a reply. Answers cannot be sent to collective addressees.

Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published. Please do not ask for information you can get in your orderly room or from your officer commanding.

SOLDIER cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion within a unit.

“Put a soldier on the top”

May I draw your attention to an error in the January 1976 **SOLDIER**. In your sports pages you said that members of the forthcoming Army Mountaineering Association expedition to Everest “are to be given two months’ pay towards expenses.” Exactly the opposite is the case for, far from being given extra pay, each member is himself dipping deep into his pocket to contribute towards the expedition budget of £50,000. In fact these contributions, which total nearly a fifth of this budget, form the foundation of the expedition fund.

In addition, regiments are sponsoring their own representatives and of course the Army Mountaineering Association is supporting its own venture to the very limit of its resources. An Army-wide appeal has met with an immediate and generous response from units of all arms. The Nuffield Trust, Army Central Fund, Joint Service Expedition Trust and Mount Everest Foundation are all helping the expedition as well. So with this backing from the Army, the Services and the mountaineering world, and with the royalties on our own material, we felt justified in extending an appeal to industry — this has resulted in two sponsors and several smaller donations so

that we are now almost within sight of the total we need.

Some of your readers may well wonder why we should want to climb Everest so soon after Chris Bonington’s magnificent success. Well, no matter how many times Everest is climbed, by whatever route, it is still the world’s highest mountain. No other mountain presents quite the same test of endurance, no other demands such careful and detailed planning of the assault. It will always be the unique and ultimate challenge. Moreover, the opportunity to climb Everest is a rare one. We applied in 1970 and received permission for 1976 and the Nepalese Government has earmarked the mountain for other expeditions for each and every year into the 1980s. So not only will this be the first time that a small club has tackled a challenge on this Goliath scale, it will also be the only chance for this generation of Army mountaineers.

The expedition leaves Britain in late February and we should be more than grateful for donations, large or small, from any reader who wishes to help to “Put a soldier on the top.” They should be made out, please, to Army Sport Control Board (Everest Appeal) and sent to Everest Appeal Office, c/o Chief Instructor, School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield, Reading, RG2 9NH.—Lieut-Col John Peacock, Vice-Chairman, Army Mountaineering Association.

★ **SOLDIER** apologises for the error and is glad to have this opportunity of drawing readers’ attention to the Everest expedition’s appeal for donations.

Calling gun buffs

I would like to get in touch with gun collectors and historians or any other person in Great Britain and the Commonwealth who can supply me with information and photographs or slides of British or foreign-made revolvers and automatic pistols used by the British Army and British police forces in Britain and the Commonwealth between 1848 and 1920. I will willingly pay for any slides or photographs.—R I Klough, 6a Christie Street, Green Island, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Key of the door

Thank you for publishing (November) my letter asking for 21st birthday recollections. I have received some interesting replies and acknowledged most of them. If there are people to whom I have not replied, would they please accept my grateful thanks. I would still like to hear from any other old soldier who may remember his 21st birthday.—Hazel M Wheeler, 58 Greenhead Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield, HD5 8EB.

Ten cap badges

Since my cadet service began in October 1942 I have worn the badges of ten regiments/corps and am wondering whether this record can be bettered by any other reader.—S/Sgt Instr G Sale, 28 Kirkfell Close, Tilehurst, Reading.

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Know him?

I am trying to contact Sapper W (Bill) Ashe Simoyne who enlisted in Los Angeles in August 1918. After landing at Tilbury he went to the recruit depot at Hounslow for a few days and then to Chatham on 30 September 1918 for trade training as a tunneller. He was repatriated to America in April 1919. I would appreciate it if any reader who knew Sapper Simoyne would contact me.—Colin Fletcher, PO Box K, Carmel Valley, California 93924, USA.

Exhibition

The Imperial War Museum is mounting an exhibition on the life and service of the late Duke of Gloucester. The centrepiece of the exhibition will consist of a unique display of the duke's many full-dress and service dress uniforms with accoutrements and his notable collection of orders, decorations and medals, including the insignia of the Order of the Garter. Family documents, personal photographs and mementoes will illustrate the private life and public role of the duke.

The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family will attend the inauguration of the exhibition by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, on 31 March. The exhibition will be open to the public from 1 April. Admission is free.

Collectors' Corner

C B Bashow, 8 Avon Crescent, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3R 2E3.—Wishes exchange Canadian coins, Olympic stamps, badges and medals for British and Commonwealth cap badges and German militaria.

F A J Wright, 4280 Dorchester B1 W, Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 1V7 Canada.—Wishes correspond with readers interested in British smooth-bore artillery 1810-1850 period particularly those cast by I H King.

WO 1 M E Youl, 167 Eastern Road, Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia.—Wishes exchange medals and insignia several countries for British and foreign medals, metal and cloth insignia, headdress and helmets.

A L P Polkinghorne, 3 The Drive, Crossgates, Leeds, LS15 8ER.—Wishes purchase Scottish regiments OSD and OTC cap badges also any Scottish shoulder titles including OTC.

Lieut-Col N W Poulsom, Downsmead, Lewes Road, Ringmere, Sussex.—Seeks photographs and snapshots pre-1947 Indian Army eg groups, portraits etc British officers and Indian soldiers wearing any type uniform.

R P Legge, 26 Tonbridge Street, Ramsgate, NSW 2217, Australia.—Wishes purchase Buffs brass cap badge, set brass shoulder titles and collar dogs and large brass SD/greatcoat buttons (Buffs).

Y R Arden, 1 Hallam Grange Rise, Fulwood, Sheffield, S10 4BE.—Wishes purchase miniature medals, regimental medallions, and medals, also foreign banknotes. Please send details and price.

Mr A Biwandi, 236 Foresters Drive,

Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9LE.—Seeks missing issues SOLDIER 1945-48. Has duplicates 1945-54 as exchange.

D F Harris, 10 Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 9JL.—Seeks SOLDIER 1945-55 also Pegasus magazine and copy of print "The Bridge at Arnhem" by David Shepherd.

Cpl L M Stillman, AAS Balcombe, Victoria, Australia.—Seeks infantry collar badges all periods, some cap badges and shoulder titles. Has for exchange QVC and KC cap and collar badges, cavalry and infantry.

Master Bryan Blake, 278B Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth, BH8 8AY.—14-year-old starting collection present-day British Army cap badges. Any assistance appreciated.

W Milligan, 23 Merryfields, Edinburgh 7, Scotland.—Has for sale 100 each New Zealand, South Africa 1914-18 cap badges, KC WW2 Canadian cap badges, also a few 1939/45 South African cap badges.

Neil Thomas, 17 Green Drive, Bartley Green, Birmingham.—Has almost complete collection SOLDIER 1963-75. Will accept £8.00 plus postage.

Reunions

Royal Horse Artillery Association. Trowbridge Branch annual dinner and reunion, New Civic Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts, 27 March. Tickets £2.50 from Maj J C Crowe, 55 Whiteworth Park, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 0EQ.

The Queen's Own Hussars. Reunion dinner, Tavistock Banqueting Rooms, Charing Cross Road, London, 1 May. Details from Maj J S Sutherland (Retd), Home HQ, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW.

How observant are you?

(see page 26)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Helmet stripe width of sidecar 42 rider. 2 Car spare wheel. 3 Sidecar 42 rider's belt width. 4 Right sleeve length of sidecar 163 rider. 5 Headdress of third spectator from left. 6 Width of black trim stripe on 42. 7 Lower branch of tree third from left. 8 Number of leading combination. 9 Goggles of 163 driver. 10 Size of lady and dog.

Competition

Competition 209 (November — Your move!) was tough. Fewer than usual competitors tackled it and only three came up with the right answer. There are 24 possible ways of drawing four cards but only four of these meet the requirement of landing a player on 8. These four are QJAK, JQKA, QKAJ and KQJA. The first two end in repetition, making it impossible to finish the game, so the only two combinations left — the answer — are QKAJ and KQJA.

Prizewinners:

- 1 C M Streatfield, 20 Churchill Road, Bicester, Oxon.
- 2 WO 1 F Wellington, HQ A Man SG (WS), Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey.
- 3 Mrs G K Stapylton, 98 Paignton Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.

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Ladies first

When she leaves Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps next month to take up civilian nursing on Merseyside, **Captain Aileen Moran** (left) will make history as the first woman in the Army Cadet Force. She will join the 1200-strong Merseyside ACF as an instructor and administrator and will help the commanding officer, **Colonel Michael Jeffrey**, to recruit more women officers. This invasion into what has been a male preserve since the ACF's formation in 1858 is the brainchild of Colonel Jeffrey who has Ministry of Defence permission to run a pilot scheme for two years. (Picture: South Lancashire Newspapers Ltd.)



Gurkha first

Watched by Hong Kong's Royal Army Dental Corps personnel, **Corporal Rambahadur Gurung**, 6th Gurkha Rifles, receives (right) his hygienist certificate from **Lieutenant-Colonel W P Fletcher**, commanding 10 (Hong Kong) Dental Group. Corporal Rambahadur is the first Gurkha soldier to obtain a pass in the General Dental Council hygiene examinations and headed the list of candidates who included British soldiers and civilians. He began his training in June 1974 after completing an English course at the Royal Army Educational Corps centre at Beaconsfield.



Ask Jane

In her spare time from delivering babies at the British Military Hospital, 24-year-old **Lieutenant Jane Hayes** (above), an Army-trained midwife serving in Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, broadcasts requests on the British Forces Broadcasting Service in Cyprus. Over Christmas she passed messages from people in the United Kingdom and played records for soldiers and families in Cyprus and, although a newcomer to radio, had her own 45-minute message and music show on New Year's Day. She has, it is said, the kind of voice "that makes a man's toes curl."



Golden reunion

Just fifty years to the day after 19-year-old **Rukman Limbu** took the Gurkha oath before **Captain Andrew Mercer**, the two men met again in Nepal. Lieutenant-Colonel Mercer (right), now 80 and living in Darjeeling, and Hon Captain Rukman Limbu (69) met in the Dharan Cantonment which contains the headquarters of British Gurkhas Nepal. Both agreed that today's Gurkha is as good a soldier as yesterday's and Colonel Mercer added: "Today he is better educated and has a better knowledge of transport and of a wider range of weapons than his predecessor."



Skipper groom

Captain Mike Gill, skipper of the yacht Great Britain II on its record-breaking first leg of the Financial Times clipper race from England to Sydney, married **Miss Diana Groves** at the chapel of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on his return home. GB II, loaned to the Services by Chay Blyth for the race, was the only British entry and beat the long-standing record set up a century ago by the clipper ship Patriarch. Among Captain Gill's wedding guests were members of his successful crew, a new group of servicemen having taken over GB II for the return run.



Two-star Abbot

Major-General W D Mangham relinquishes command of 2nd Division in style, driving away from headquarters (left) on a two-star Abbot carrying a symbol of his new appointment — a Vice-Quartermaster-General's pennant of socks worsted grey, tin lids comp and crossed knife and fork on a scarlet field.

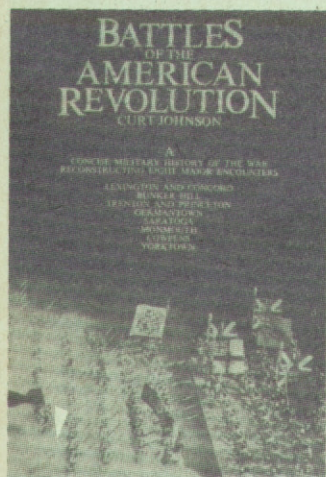
Books

Birth of a nation

"Battles of the American Revolution"
(Curt Johnson)

"Armies of the American War:
1753-1815" (Philip Katcher)

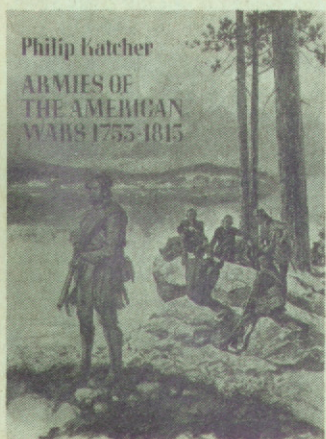
These two excellent and colourful books join the many others recently produced to mark the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Mr Johnson, historian and war games enthusiast, traces the Revolutionary War, illustrating his story with photographs of model armies in action. He begins with a chronology and the causes of the war, followed by a concise guide to the armies involved, covering uniforms, weapons, organisation and tactics.



The fighting began on 19 April 1775, with the opening shots at Lexington, and went on for six years until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis's army at Yorktown. It was a long road, through Concord, Bunker Hill, Trenton and Princeton, Germantown, Saratoga, Monmouth and Cowpens. Mr Johnson describes them all, and many other minor engagements, with skill and verve.

Mr Katcher paints a broader canvas. His interest lies in the armies which fought on American soil from 1753 to 1815—French, British, American and, of course, the German mercenaries—in the Seven Years War, the Revolutionary War and the Anglo-American War of 1812. His account is backed by 100 superb full-colour illustrations of uniforms with a further 100 photographs of accoutrements, badges and colours.

He tells his story from the viewpoint of the common soldier,



describing his training, equipment and dress, his attitude to his leadership and his experiences in and out of battle. Mr Katcher draws his detailed information from contemporary sources and produces what must surely be one of the most colourful books ever devoted to American military history.

1 Sampson Low, Berkshire House,
Queen Street, Maidenhead,
Berks, SL6 1NF, £4.95

2 Osprey Publishing Ltd,
12-14 Long Acre, London,
WC2E 9LP, £5.50

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Non-combatant

"Conchie" (Ernest Spring)

Those who genuinely believed their moral duty forbade them to carry arms often faced far worse furies than a hail of bullets. They had to suffer the derision of their own countrymen poured unstintingly on both themselves and their families. They lost their jobs—even those in protected trades—and suffered physical violence their consciences forbade them from returning.

Mr Spring does not dwell on how hard done by he may have felt. A matter-of-fact good humour pervades his account of his life as a non-combatant in the Pioneer Corps where he was sent after the tribunal had heard his conscientious objection to killing his fellows. His is no dramatic tale of a lofty spirit pitted against all the odds—more the simple story of a chapter of human existence and well worth the reading for being just that.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury
Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL,
£2.50

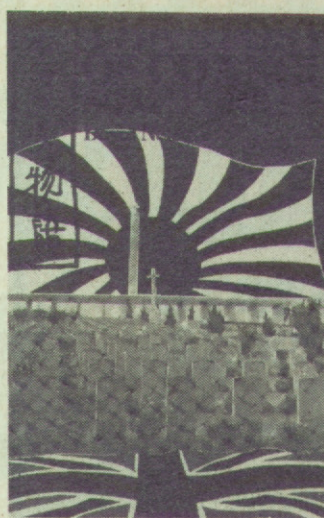
MJS

Keeping track

"The Story of Changi" (David Nelson)

For the late David Nelson, a New Zealander employed by the Singapore Improvement Trust and a captain in the engineer formations of the Straits Settlements Volunteer Forces, Changi meant long years of captivity under the Japanese. During that time, he and others ran the Bureau of Record and Enquiry (BRE), believed to be the only general record and information centre operating behind Japanese lines.

It was established in defiance of a Jap directive prohibiting the keeping of regimental records, civilian passports and diaries; it did its best to keep track of the thousands of



prisoners who passed through Changi camp. Mr Nelson tells its remarkable story in this interesting book. For instance, in October 1942, 600 gunner prisoners were moved out of Changi. At the end of the war only six survivors could be traced but the graves of 435 members of that party, identified from the bureau roll, were located on one of the smaller islands in the Solomons.

One rarely hears much good of the Japs from their former prisoners but Mr Nelson makes a point of expressing his appreciation to a number of Japanese officers and men for their courtesy, tolerance and understanding.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury
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Sorry story

"Seventy Days to Singapore" (Stanley L Falk)

By any measure, the campaign to overrun Malaya and force the surrender of Singapore in just ten weeks was brilliantly conducted. Mr Falk emphasises that any account which concentrates on British weaknesses and mistakes does an injustice to General Yamashita's ability. Having said that, it cannot be denied that the British forces were ill-equipped to defend Malaya, and mistakes were made. The defence cost the British Empire 125,000 men killed and captured; the Japanese lost only 3507 killed and 6150 wounded.

Step by painful step, Mr Falk, the US Air Force's chief historian, takes us along the road to Singapore—being an American, he has

no axes to grind and his view is entirely objective. It is a sorry story, the gloom relieved only by the heroism of the British, Indian and Australian troops who fought a battle lost before it began.

General Percival, the British commander, must not shoulder all the blame. A more aggressive soldier might have thrown the Japanese back into the sea, but it would hardly have been for long. Greater blame rests with successive British governments and their advisers—those who decided the jungle was impenetrable, who had the big defence guns pointing the wrong way, who decided jungle training was not necessary and who so grossly underestimated the Japanese.

Robert Hale & Co, Clerkenwell
House, 45-47 Clerkenwell Green,
London, EC1R 0HT, £4.50



"Schnelle" Heinz

"Guderian: Panzer General" (Kenneth Macksey)

Heinz Guderian has passed into history as the father of modern tank warfare, the brilliant rebel who seized the theories of visionaries like Fuller and put them into practice—his XIX Corps' advance of 149 miles in seven days is still one of the fastest in history. Little wonder his troops called him "Schnelle" Heinz.

Like Fuller and De Gaulle, Guderian faced an uphill struggle to propagate the tank gospel but against arch-conservatism and petty jealousies he soldiered on to build the panzer divisions in which he believed. He emerges from Major Macksey's researches as a dedicated and sincere patriot of immense courage and foresight, a man who, though initially admiring Hitler, took his life in his hands to oppose many of the Führer's more outrageous military demands.

Major Macksey delves deeply into the Guderian family archives to present the saga of a soldier whose achievements outrank those of Rommel and Manstein. He explores his character and his controversial role in the aftermath of the July 20 bomb plot and there is a terrible irony in the fact that this gifted battle winner should have been the man who, as Chief of the General Staff, should preside over the German Army in the hour of its final defeat.

This is a splendid piece of military biography, the best for many moons.

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Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk,
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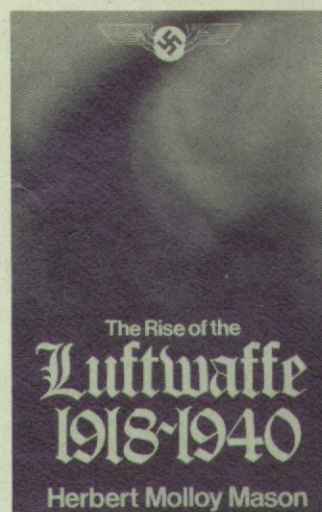
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Books

In brief



"The Rise of the Luftwaffe 1918-1940" (Herbert Molloy Mason)
The rebuilding of the German air force, denied to a defeated Germany by the Treaty of Versailles, was one of the best-kept secrets of the 20th century. State-sponsored gliding clubs gave future Luftwaffe men their first taste of flying and slowly, as the clamps were released, Germany built up her air force. Heinkel, Dornier, Junkers and of course the redoubtable Willi Messerschmitt, vied for orders for such aircraft as their He-111, Do-17, Ju-87 Stuka and Me-109.

The Luftwaffe was blooded in Spain and went on to score notable successes in Poland and Western Europe.
Cassell & Co Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £5.50

"Great Battles: Kursk" (Christopher Chant)

Mr Chant observes that history has yet to accord Kursk a place worthy of its supreme importance in World War Two. Not only was it the biggest tank battle to date but after it the Germans were never again able to mount a major offensive.

Knowing that Hitler would be unable to resist the idea of slicing off the huge Kursk salient, the Russians spent four months converting it into a gigantic trap. The Germans launched a tried and tested pincer movement, but the jaws never met.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, casebound £2.50, paperback £1.50

"Airfix Magazine Guide 11: 'RAF Camouflage of World War 2'" (Michael J F Bowyer)

Camouflage of any sort often seemed to the uninformed outsider to have been a hotch-potch of various paints sloshed about with gay abandon to break up an outline. In fact the whole system of camouflage was a carefully worked out scheme as much concerned with "hiding" an aircraft as with giving it a useful identifying feature for friendly forces.

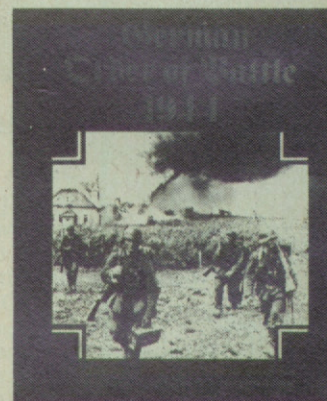
Mr Bowyer explains it all in simple terms in a little volume which will be of immense value to all aircraft modellers.

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

"German Order of Battle 1944" (Ian Hogg and Brian Davis)

This very comprehensive record of the German order of battle is in 12 sections covering the German High Command; basic structure; identification, numbering and types of formations and units; divisional units and their higher formations; minor units; armed SS formations and units; semi-military and auxiliary organisations; lists of senior officers and tables of formations and units. The book ends with a 14-page vocabulary and abbreviations explanation and a map showing the location of military districts and divisional headquarters.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1PR, £4.95



Re-issues

"Victoria Cross Battles of the Second World War" (C E Lucas Phillips)
Originally published in September 1973 and reviewed in SOLDIER, February 1974.

The author deals mainly with Crete, the Battle of the Atlantic, midget submarines in the Norwegian fjords, Singapore, Imphal, the Western Desert, Crusader, Gazala, Ruweisat and Akarit. Appendices give such information as the roll of Victoria Cross awards between 1939 and 1945, outline organisation of an army in the field, a brief note on the Indian Army, a general index and one of military formations and units.

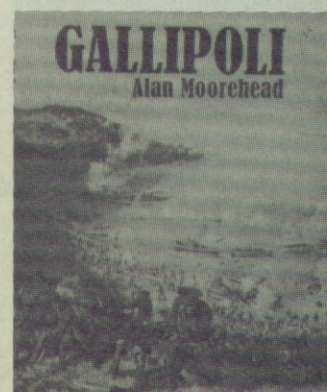
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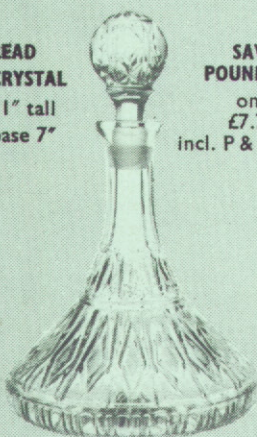
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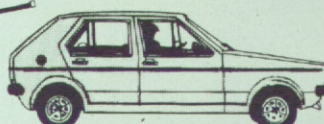
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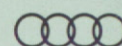
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