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Contents

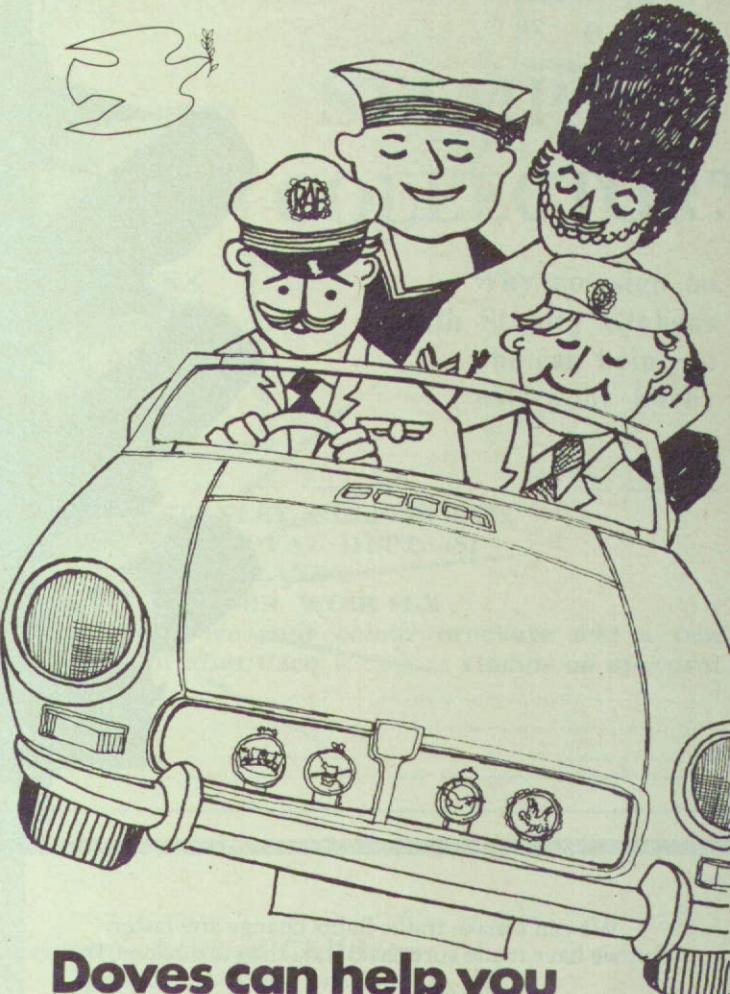
- 5 See-the-Army Diary
- 9 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 11 Headdress: Bell top shako 1835-1843
- 12 Caribbean amphibious exercise
- 17 Front and back covers
- 18 Rally driving
- 19 Humour by Larry
- 20 UK command structure
- 21 How Observant Are You?
- 22 TAVR protects osprey nest
- 22 New 105mm gun
- 24 Green Jackets' expedition to Nepal
- 26 Custer's last stand survivor
- 26 Pay parades phase out
- 28 White Paper
- 29 Historical stamp collection
- 30 Left, Right and Centre
- 34 Prince Charles print offer
- 35 Prize competition
- 36 Letters
- 39 Reunions
- 39 Collectors' Corner
- 40 Record reviews
- 42 Military models
- 43 Purely Personal
- 44 Book reviews



Wining and Dining on the Western Front by LARRY (page 19)

Editor: PETER N WOOD
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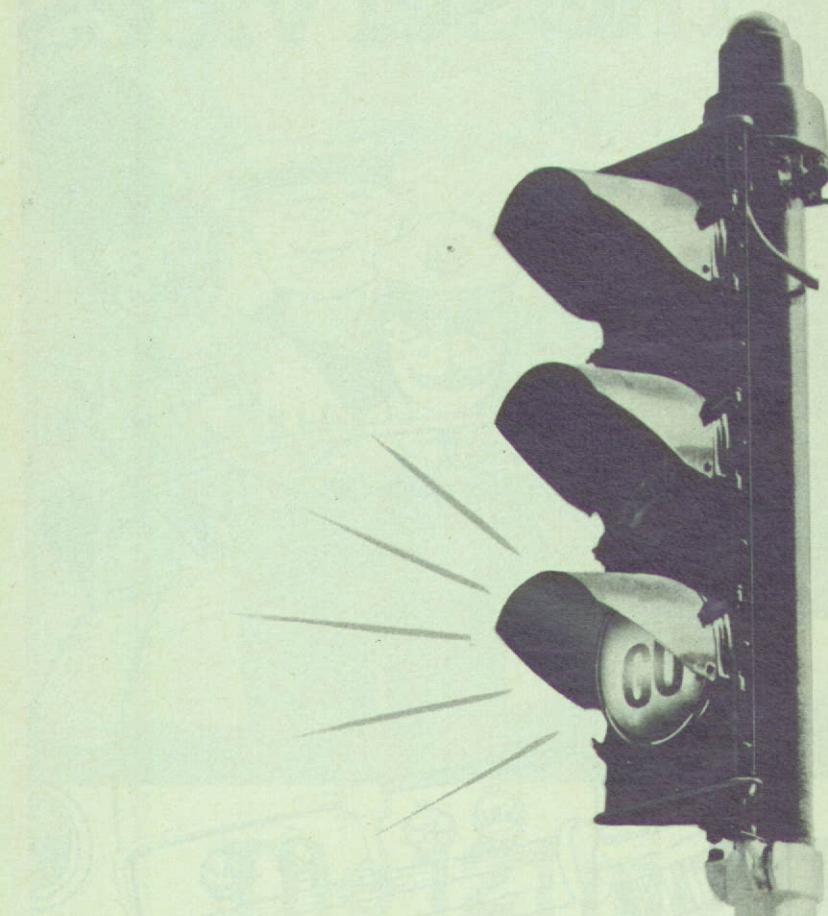
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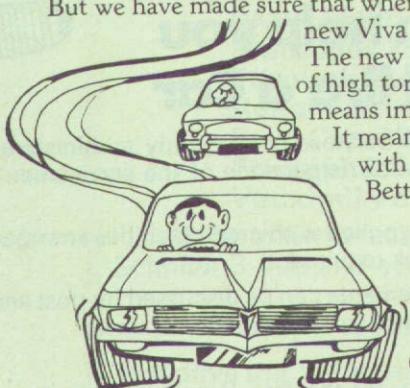
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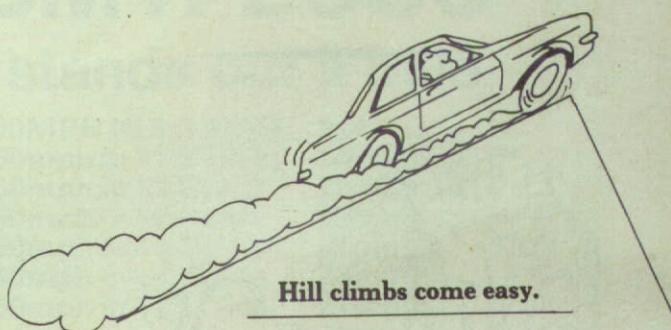


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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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 1972

- 22 Perth Festival (bands).
- 27 Irvine Tattoo.
- 28 Oxfordshire County Show (band).
- 29 Army recruiting display, Peterborough (29-30 April).

MAY 1972

- 6 Army recruiting display, Cardiff (6-7 May).
- 6 14 Signal Regiment open day, Worcester.
- 7 Combined Cavalry Old Comrades 48th parade and service, Hyde Park, London.
- 13 Army recruiting display, Swansea (13-14 May).
- 13 Gala concert by Band of Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, Royal Festival Hall, London (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).
- 13 Open Day, Wessex Depot, The Prince of Wales's Division, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.
- 13 Allied Forces Day, Berlin (bands).
- 17 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 18 King's Troop RHA at Devon County Show, Exeter (18-20 May).
- 19 Army recruiting display, Bolton/Salford (19-21 May).
- 20 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 20 Ten Tors expedition, Dartmoor (20-21 May).
- 21 Freedom of Nuneaton, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery.
- 24 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (23-25 May).
- 27 Army recruiting display, Congleton (27-28 May).
- 27 Second (dress) rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 27 Tidworth Tattoo (27-29 May).
- 29 Hertfordshire County Show (bands).
- 29 Royal Ulster Agricultural Show, Balmoral, Belfast (29 May-3 June) (bands).
- 29 SSAFA International Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.
- 29 Open Day and Fête, Army Apprentices College Chepstow.
- 31 Suffolk Show (31 May-1 June) (band).
- 31 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.

JUNE 1972

- 3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 3 Pipes and drums, Dumfries.
- 3 Salisbury Hospital Fête (provisional date) (band).
- 3 Beating Retreat, Edinburgh Castle.
- 3 Devon Traction Rally, Newton Abbot (3-4 June) (motorcycle display team).
- 5 Pipes and drums, Dalbeattie.
- 7 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 10 Catterick Open Day.
- 10 Pipes and drums, Kirkcaldy.
- 14 Kneller Hall band concert.



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DIARY

continued

JUNE 1972

- 16 Essex County Show (16-17 June) (band).
- 17 Aldershot Army Display (17-18 June).
- 17 North Wilts ACF Tattoo, Swindon.
- 17 Open Day, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.
- 18 Welsh 3000s team foot race, Snowdonia (10th anniversary).
- 21 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 24 New Colours presentation to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th (V) battalions, The Queen's Regiment, Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth.
- 24 Dumbarton Tattoo.
- 24 Lord Mayor's parade, Cardiff (bands, floats).
- 24 Open Day, Central Vehicle Depot RAOC, Ashchurch, Tewkesbury.
- 26 Dover Army Week (26 June-1 July).
- 28 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 30 HQ Yorkshire District, Yarm, closes (massed bands, beating Retreat).
- 30 Army Display, Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich (30 June, 1-2 July).

JULY 1972

- 5 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 8 Basingstoke Military Tattoo.
- 8 Closure ceremonies, HQ Western Command, Chester.
- 12 Massed bands display, Larkhill.
- 12 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (12-29 July).
- 12 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 14 Cheltenham Tattoo (14-15 July).
- 15 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 19 Kneller grand (band) concert.
- 22 Gloucester Carnival (band).
- 22 Stroud Show (band).
- 26 Inverness Tattoo (26 July-3 August).
- 29 Beating Retreat, 38 Engineer Regiment weekend, Ripon (29-30 July).
- 29 Plymouth Air Show.
- 30 Royal Armoured Corps Centre Open Day, Bovington.

AUGUST 1972

- 1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August).
- 2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
- 4 Nottingham Army Display (4-6 August).
- 6 Old Contemptibles Association annual parade and service, Aldershot.
- 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 18 Edinburgh Tattoo (18 August-9 September).
- 18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
- 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 30 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.

SEPTEMBER 1972

- 6 Army recruiting display, Preston (6-9 September).
- 6 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 13 Kneller Hall grand (band) final concert.
- 14 Carlisle Tattoo (14-16 September).
- 15 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (15-16 September).
- 16 Army recruiting display, Liverpool (16-17 September).
- 19 Centenary, Roundhay Park, Leeds (or 22 September) (bands).

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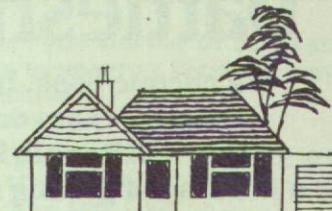
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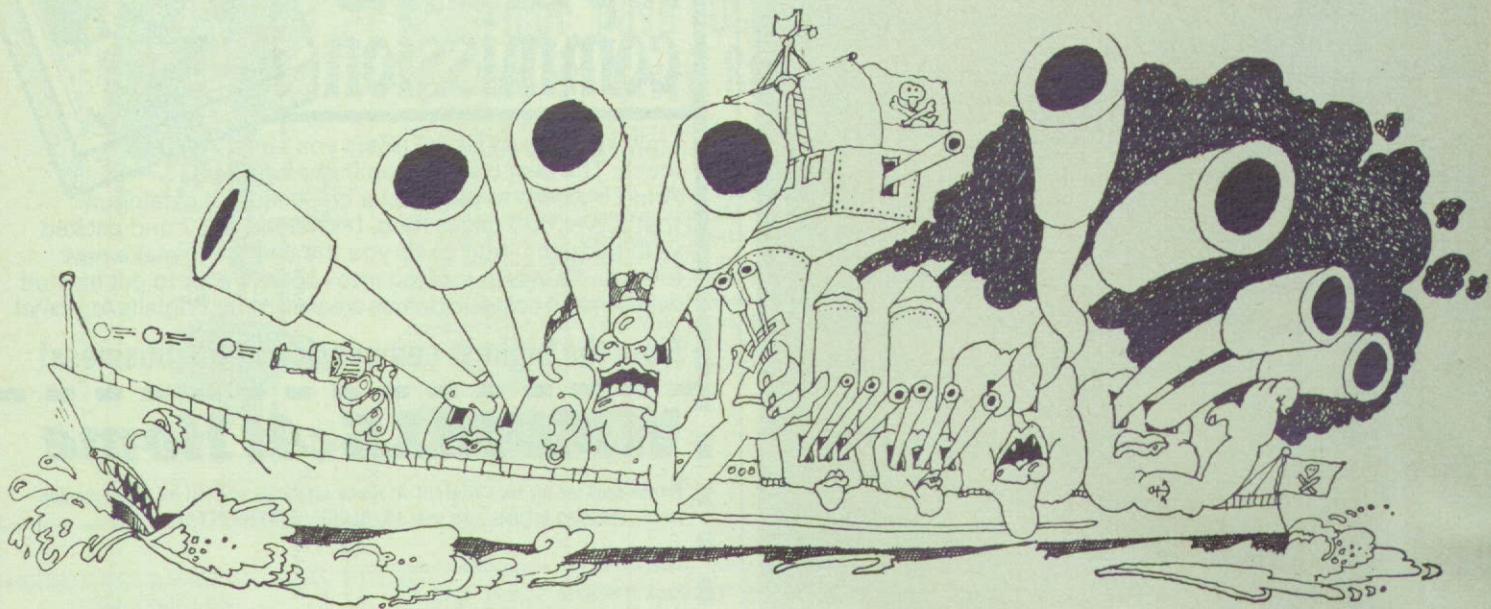
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Once again SOLDIER apologises for delays in production. During the miners' strike the consequent electricity cuts reduced the printers to a three-day working week. Despite the difficulties and overall backlog of work they made every effort to catch up but were then hit by an overtime ban.

For SOLDIER the electricity cuts came as an unexpected burden on top of the difficulties of producing the last eight issues with only half its writing staff of two. A vacancy occurred in early July last year and the writing staff will not be back to full strength until a few days before publication of this issue.

During this period the magazine uprooted itself from Holloway, moved to Aldershot and, leaving behind its locally living employees who did not wish to move, had to recruit a third of its staff.

But bear with us—all will be back to normal as soon as is humanly possible.



This month SOLDIER offers a print of the official portrait of the Prince of Wales in the uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Wales. Details are on page 34 of this issue.

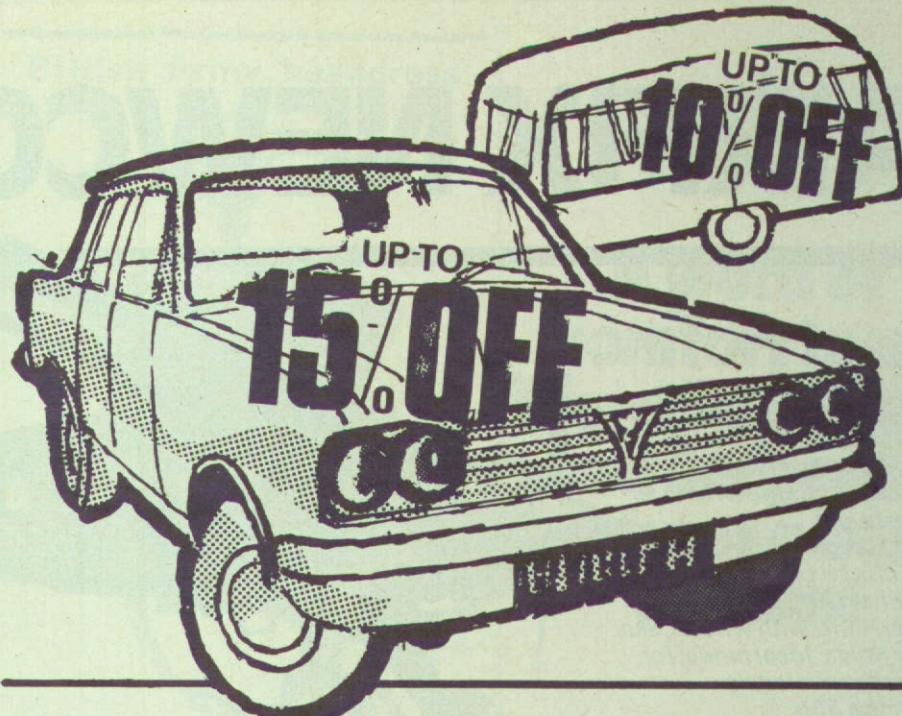
Also available now, at £3.50, is the 1971 bound volume. Fully bound volumes for 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 and 1969 (at £2.50 each) and for 1970 at £3.50 are also in stock. These volumes are bound in red buckram with title, volume number and year in gilt on the spine.

Next month will see an extension of military books available to readers through the magazine. SOLDIER has for some time offered titles in the "Famous Regiments" series edited by Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks and is to add other military books by the same publisher, Leo Cooper/Seeley Service, and also military books from the publishing house of Frederick Muller.



Readers who wish to see the full range of military prints and meet the magazine's staff will want to make a diary note of the 1972 public displays at which SOLDIER will have its own stand. They are the Aldershot Army Display (17-18 June, Rushmoor Arena, Aldershot); Armex 72 (30 June, 1-2 July, Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich); Artillery Day, Larkhill (15 July); and the Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (15-16 September).

And, while your diary is still handy, a reminder that 13 May is the date of this year's gala concert by the Band of the Royal Military School of Music at the Royal Festival Hall, London. Guest artistes will be Vera Lynn and Roy Castle. Seats at £1.20, £1.00, 80p, 60p and 50p are bookable at the Festival Hall box office (01-928 3191), at agents and at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, Twickenham. Another event in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund—and charitable funds of The Household Division—is Beating Retreat, on Horse Guards Parade, London, by the mounted bands, trumpeters, massed bands, pipes and drums of The Household Division. This is on 23, 24 and 25 May and tickets (seats £1.00, 50p; standing 25p) are obtainable from 155 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (01-434 1171) and 4/5 Charing Cross, London SW1.



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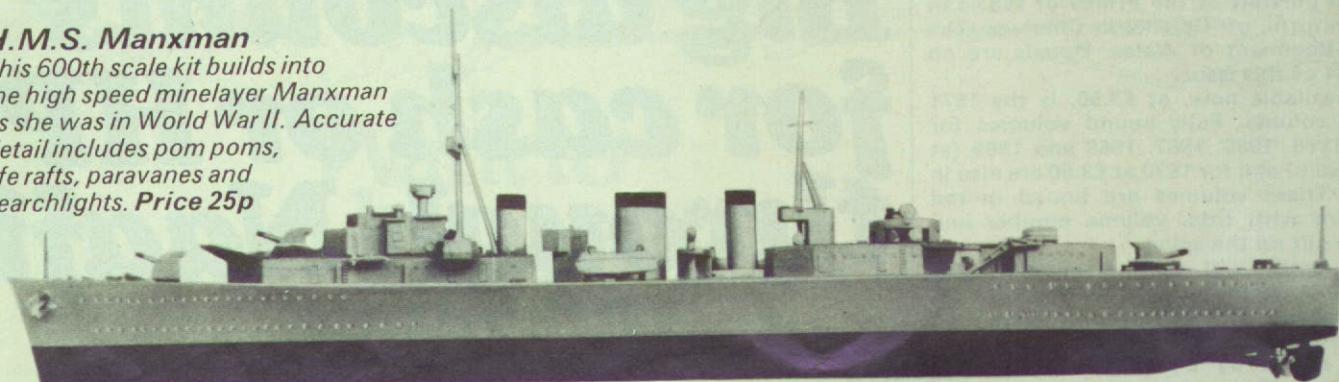
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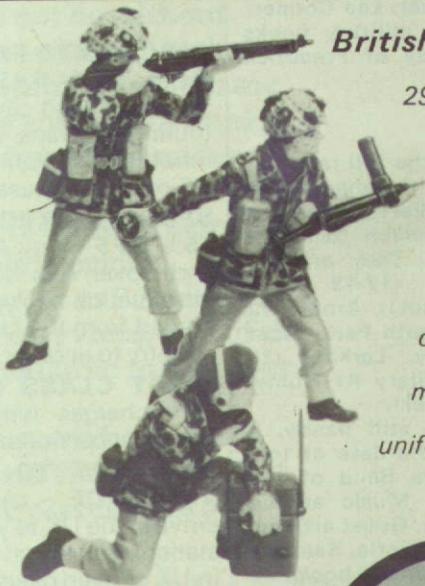
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British Army headdress



Bell top shako 1835 - 1843

The bell top shako was authorised for use by the British Army on 27 August 1835 and followed directly after the regency shako (SOLDIER October 1971).

Its body, of black beaver for officers and black felt for other ranks, was originally six inches high but this was raised to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 1842. The top was of black glazed leather sunken half an inch and 11 inches across. The top and headband of the shako were bound in leather and the sides were strengthened by a broad leather V which connected the top and bottom bands. The peak was of black lacquered leather. The chinscales were of brass backed with leather and were attached to either side of the shako by an ornamental boss.

The shako plate was in the shape of a large seven pointed star and was of regimental pattern. The 8th (King's) Regiment plate bore the garter belt with motto "Honi soit qui mal y pense" with the running horse over the Roman numerals VIII. The Rifle Brigade fittings were all in bronze, the plate bearing the brigade badge and battle honours.

Aworsted ball tuft ornamented the top front of the shako, white for Grenadier companies, green for light infantry and the Rifle Brigade and red and white for the remainder. The other ranks' helmet plate was of cast brass, round in shape and bound round the edge with a wreath of oak and laurel leaves surmounted by a crown. In the centre was the number of the regiment.

The 71st Regiment (Highland Light Infantry) wore a similar pattern shako to the infantry of the line except that it was in blue cloth and had a diced border around the headband. This regiment was also permitted to wear black plaited caplines, a privilege which continued until 1878 when the regiment continued with the shako instead of adopting the home service or blue cloth helmet (SOLDIER January 1971).

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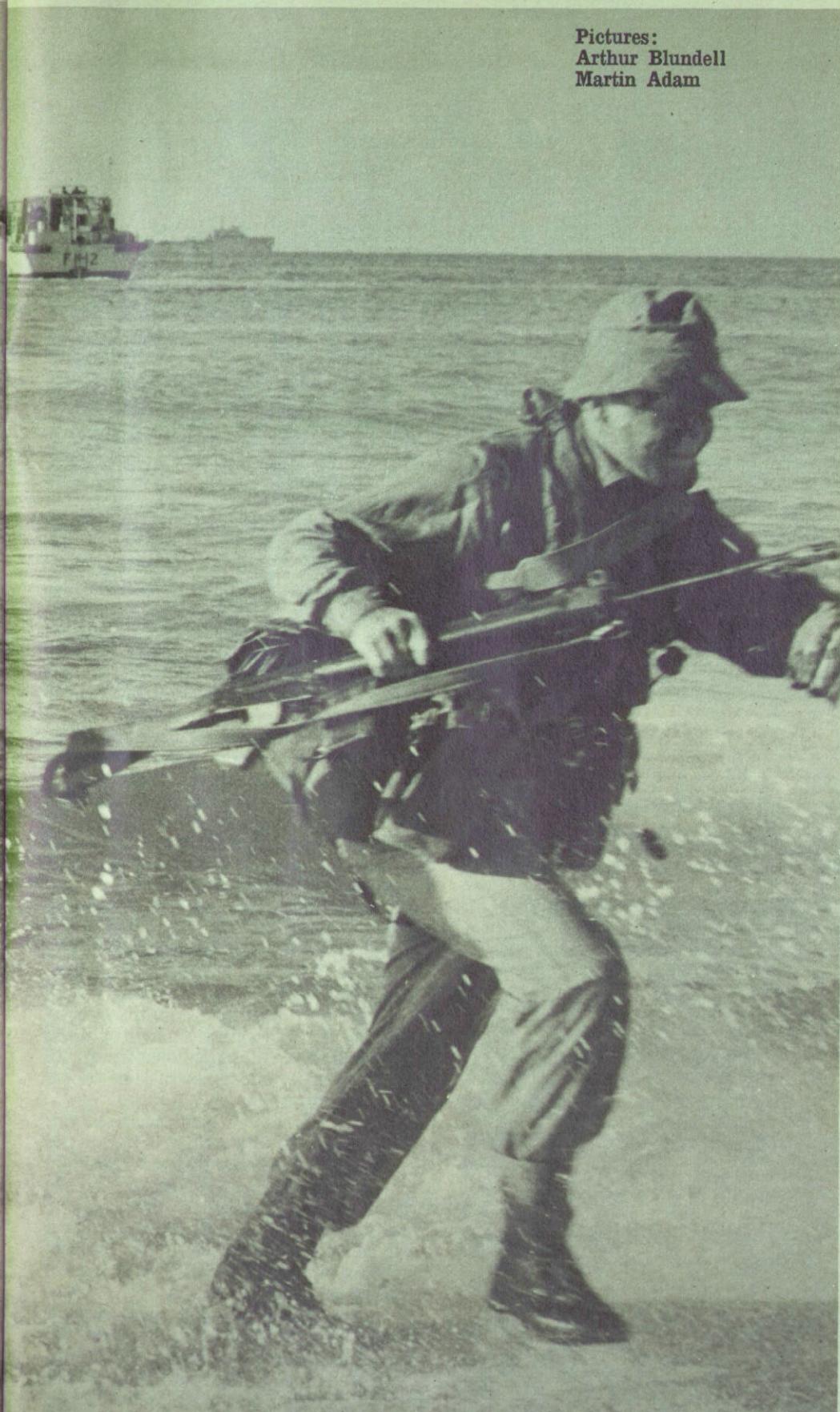
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Three thousand servicemen sail to the Caribbean for Britain's biggest joint services amphibious exercise since World War Two ...



sun pirate

Pictures:
Arthur Blundell
Martin Adam



IT was dawn. A great golden scarab, the sun climbed the Caribbean sky, bathing the horizon with brilliant intensity. Off Vieques Island, some 20 miles southeast of Puerto Rico, a task force of six Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships stretched across Chiva Bay like a great steel band.

On board some 3000 men of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Royal Marines waited impatiently for the signal to start Exercise "Sun Pirate." Many licked their already drying lips. The sun was already making itself felt. By high noon it would be as great a force to contend with as the "enemy" waiting on the island. For most it would be their first experience of such climatic conditions.

Almost two weeks earlier the task force of the dock landing ship HMS *Fearless* and logistic landing ships Sir *Tristram*, Sir *Geraint* and Sir *Bedevere* had sailed from a wintry England for the ten-day trip down the Atlantic. Almost immediately they had been hit by a force ten gale in the dreaded Bay of Biscay.

Sir *Bedevere*, a casualty of mountainous seas which loosened one of the Mexe-flotes strapped to her sides, put into a Spanish port for repairs. The two-day delay postponed the exercise for 24 hours.

Now, after months of joint planning by Flag Officer Carriers and Amphibious Ships and HQ 24th Airportable Brigade, after days of back-breaking work loading enormous quantities of stores and supplies aboard the ships, all of which were on overload, the moment of truth had arrived. Now Britain's largest and most complex joint Services amphibious exercise since World War Two was about to begin.

A flare arcing the sky signalled go. Landing craft, helicopters, all else that could float or fly, began bringing men and equipment to the beach. It looked chaotic but in a very short time the beachmaster and his team marshalled troops and vehicles inland while maintenance units, recovery vehicles and medics stood by ready to go into operation if required.

Waterproofed Land-Rovers bounced down landing craft ramps, cascaded water in all directions, roared up the beach and disappeared into the bush. One Land-Rover, hustled ashore, hit the sandy beach hard, catapulting a sergeant from the back straight into the sea. Dragged out of the way and with boots squelching, he ran after his vehicle. His language was basic—and unfriendly to beachmasters.

The attacking force was to secure a beachhead, consolidate and then drive hard some eight miles across the island to Cerro Camacho.

The force comprised 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, and 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, supported by Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, 25 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, with six 105mm howitzers, plus the guns of



Above: Brigadier K Perkins, Commander 24th Airportable Brigade (left) and Major-General G C Gilbert, Commander of 3rd Division.

the frigate HMS Phoebe, and two troops of The Royal Hussars with their Centurion tanks and Stalwarts.

Along the dust tracks long columns of troops wound their way like the island's now-extinct snakes, eliminated by the imported mongoose which now itself invests Vieques. Carrying packs of up to 60 pounds, young soldiers from un-exotic Barrow, Carlisle, Wilton and Bulford slogged on and up to the forward positions, their sweat mingling with the dust on their faces.

On one of these tracks SOLDIER met tall, deep-voiced Lieutenant Gordon Roper, a ship's draughtsman in civilian life and now in charge of the only Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve troops involved in the exercise.

"We were asked only a few weeks before Fearless sailed—we came by sea—if we would like to join the exercise. We jumped at the chance. The lads are delighted. They wouldn't have missed it for the world. It meant that employers had to be asked to give the men six weeks off work and they responded magnificently." As Lieutenant Roper led his 33 Lancastrian Volunteers away their broad Lancashire humour confirmed that their tails were up.



Above: A four-ton lorry ploughs into the water before landing on Vieques Island.

Below: Soldiers of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment after their arrival on Vieques.



On the left flank the "Dukes" had run into a minefield. Sappers of 3 Field Squadron began the laborious and delicate process of sweeping and probing. While held up the Dukes camouflaged themselves against air observation from the Sioux and Scout helicopters of 666 Army Aviation Squadron buzzing around the area.

As the long hot day drew to a close the troops prepared for the night and for a particularly unpleasant inhabitant of these Caribbean islands, the tarantula spider. Dusk became known as "tarantula time."

The second day saw continuation of "winkling out" the enemy and live firing by the infantry, the pack-howitzers of 25 Light Regiment and guns of The Royal Hussars' Centurions.

Most of the enemy were captured but some escaped to the British Virgin Isles 80 miles away. Ordered to finish them off, the Dukes and King's embarked aboard Fearless and Sir Bedeville and, like Sir Francis Drake centuries before them, sailed down into the sapphire seas of his channel, anchoring two miles off Tortola, haven of those old seafarers.

Somehow the sleek grey ships seemed absurdly out of place—one searched the horizon for tall-masted, white-sailed ships flying the skull and crossbones and ready to drop anchor in "Deadmans Bay" or off "Dead Chest" Island.

Norman Island, reputedly Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island, was very different from the glamourised Hollywood



FRONT COVER

Men of The Duke of Wellington's Regiment making an amphibious landing at Chiva Bay, Vieques, a small island 20 miles east of Puerto Rico, during Exercise Sun Pirate held in the Caribbean. Picture by Martin Adam.



BACK COVER

Men of A Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, on hilltop reconnaissance on Norman Island (said to have inspired the book "Treasure Island") during Sun Pirate's Virgin Isles phase. Picture by Martin Adam.

version. The beach of Benures Bay where the attackers had to land was but a few feet wide; the troops were immediately confronted by perverse vegetation. Tall trees, densely packed, and the space between them profuse with vicious thorn bushes and enormous cactus plants 12 to 15 feet high—all of it seemingly impervious to lustily swung machetes.

It was nature's own barbed wire and a formidable obstacle. Making life even more difficult, the enemy crested Norman Hill, 450 feet above the beach. And the inevitable sun burned down.

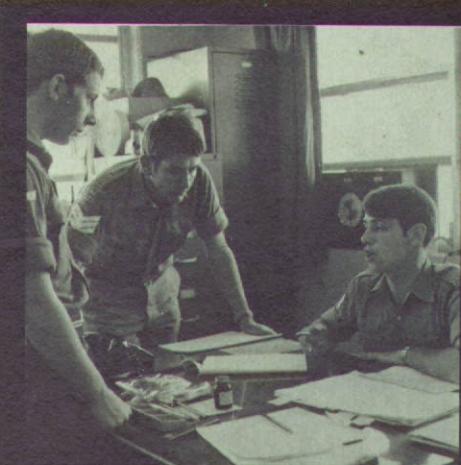
The first wave of troops entered Benures Bay in the early hours of the morning in a landing craft. Its coxswain was astonished to see a small fleet of American-owned and very expensive yachts, cabin cruisers and power boats anchored there, leaving him very little room for manoeuvre. With considerable skill he piloted his ungainly craft between two of them only to be met with a hail of "fire" from the enemy. During a lull a head poked out from a porthole and a weary American voice drawled, "Hey, buddy, if we surrender now can we get back to ----- sleep?"

The SOLDIER team went in with A Company of the King's, commanded by Major Colin Denning, a calm, quietly spoken ex-paratrooper who knew exactly how to get the best out of his soldiers. His



Above: A trio of sappers sets to work making this "minefield" harmless to the attackers.

Below: With the blue Caribbean waters and lush green vegetation providing a backdrop, a Scout of 666 Army Aviation Squadron lands on the flight deck of HMS Fearless.



Eighteen hours a day

Behind the scenes Captain Ted Stark and his small team from 29 Movement Control Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, worked an average of 18 hours a day, manning the exercise movement control 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Captain Stark and his team of six, headed by Staff-Sergeant Vince Barratt (at his desk, above), arrived in Puerto Rico 16 days ahead of the main force. The detachment handled in some way every ship, aircraft and vehicle connected with Exercise Sun Pirate and was responsible for organising transportation, utilisation and co-ordination, accommodation, messing, repatriation of compassionate cases—there were three—and casualty evacuation.

In addition the team personally offloaded a Royal Air Force Britannia which had landed at another United States base and loaded and lashed loads on an RAF Andover. On two occasions small teams were sent to Vieques Island to document Andover flights. As if that were not enough these human dynamos also helped the Royal Navy stores detachment and in the first two days of the exercise handled 155 packages from Ark Royal, there in connection with the visit of Princess Margaret to the British Virgin Islands. And they arranged some 70 sorties for the RAF Andovers.

The success of Sun Pirate was in no small degree due to the enormous energy and expertise of this hard-working detachment whose parent unit has, since the beginning of 1971, operated in 38 countries.

Captain Stark made the point that the troops and their commanders were exercising—mistakes could be of value in teaching a lesson for the future. "But for the detachment it's for real. We are not exercising but doing our job and if we make mistakes the exercise could be stopped or impaired in some way, probably seriously."



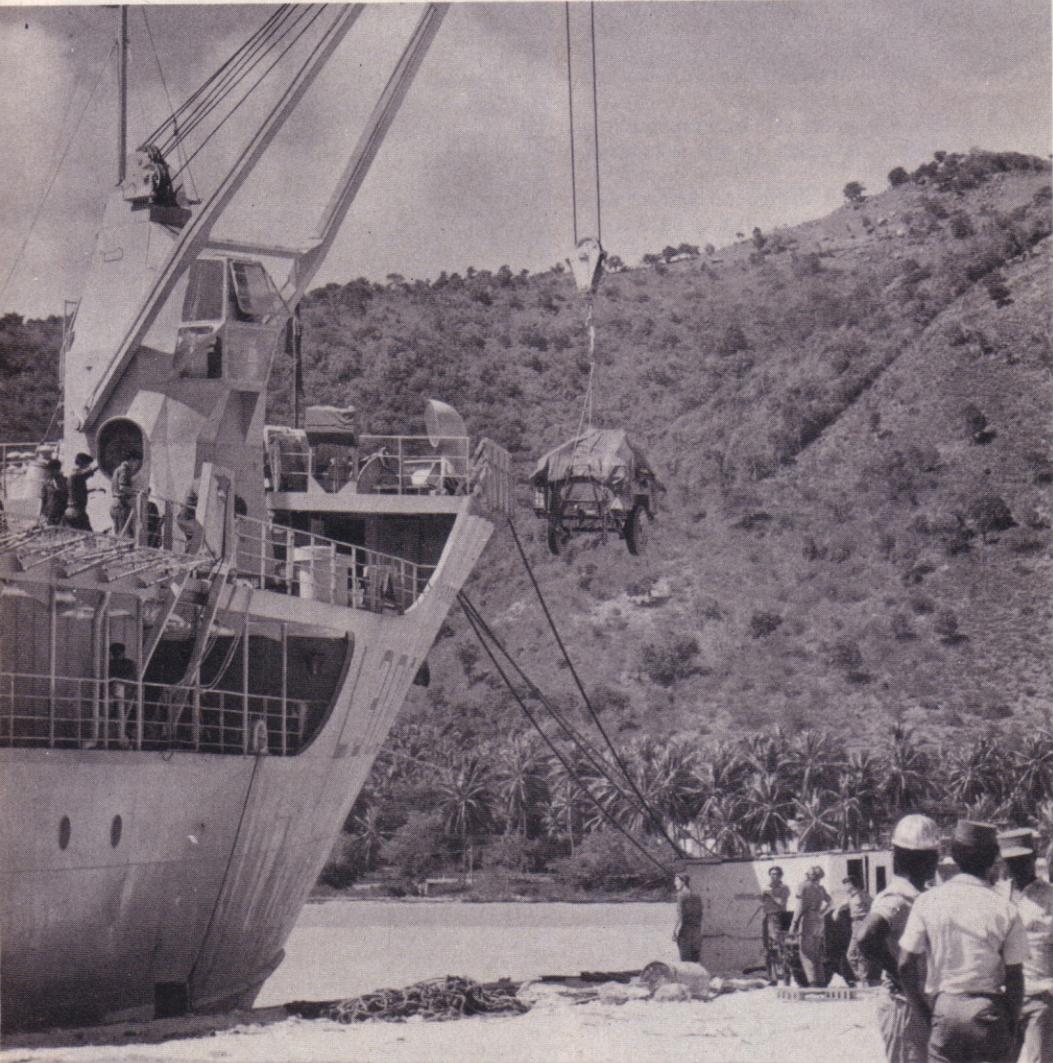
Wherever the soldier is he expects his mail—and the Royal Engineers see that he gets it. Exercise Sun Pirate, admits Staff-Sergeant D Cooper, was one of his more difficult tasks. Staff Cooper, of 3rd Division Postal and Courier Communications Unit, was given the job of setting up and running three field post offices to cope with incoming and outgoing mail. One dealt with the mounting base at Roosevelt Roads, the second with the troops on Vieques Island and the third handled, from Bridgetown, Barbados, the round-the-islands flag-flying tour which followed the exercise.

Above left: First day of the second part of the exercise. The "enemy" forces unload stores from a helicopter on Cooper Island.

Above: Soldier hacks away at stubborn growth while clearing landing area for helicopters.

Far left: Major Bill King gives instructions at a dawn briefing of the enemy before they take up their positions on the four islands.

Below left: A Land-Rover trailer is offloaded by ship's crane from Sir Bedevere on to the quay at Tortola in the British Virgin Isles.



company achieved all its objectives and rounded up the enemy ahead of the scheduled time despite Trojan efforts by the enemy of Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, and Royal Pioneers, all under the command of Captain C S Boxhall-Hunt, Royal Horse Artillery.

Then a hair raising, skin-ripping scramble from the crest of West Hill down to the beach 425 feet below to be picked up by naval Wessex helicopters. A short flight back to Fearless and Exercise Sun Pirate was over.

Major-General G C Gilbert, commanding 3rd Division, told SOLDIER that he was very pleased with the way that the Army had moved into amphibious warfare so smoothly considering that it was the first time since the last war that so large a force had moved from an English winter into a climate of such sharp contrast and had been able immediately to conduct an exercise on that scale.

He also said he was impressed by the performance of the troops "due no doubt to the maintenance of their fitness at sea despite the extremely bad weather they encountered, and to their discipline in water consumption."

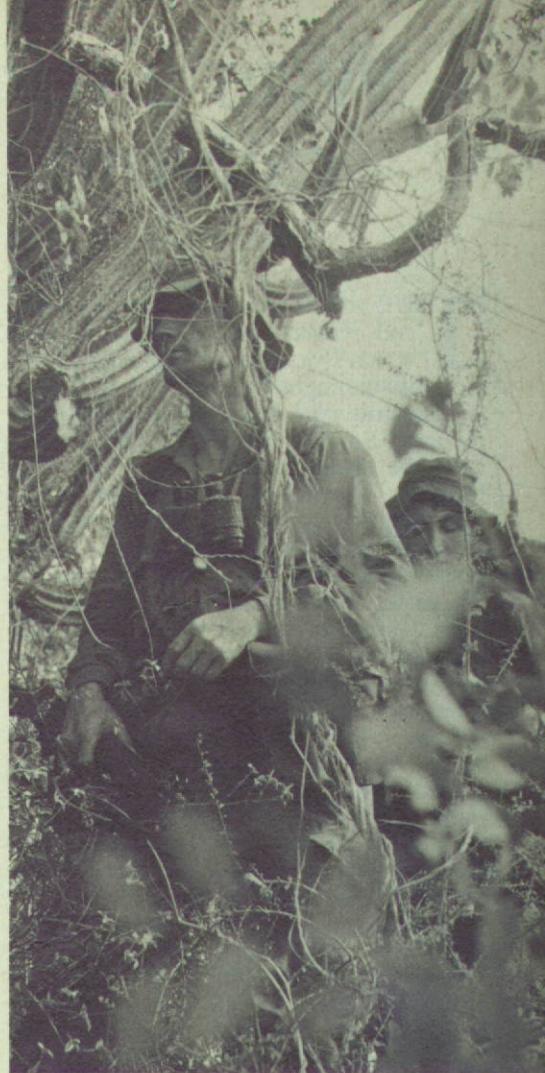
He was delighted to know there had been remarkably few heat casualties and that those who did succumb were very soon back in the exercise.

General Gilbert expressed great appreciation for "the tremendous co-operation from the Royal Navy and the American Marine Corps, whose COIN (counter-insurgency) aircraft worked so well with the British forces."

There was praise too for the co-operation of the Government and officials of the British Virgin Islands during the busy high season holiday period.



Above: Men of A Company, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, disembark at Norman Island.



Right: Major Colin Denning, King's, in hot pursuit of the enemy through dense jungle.

Below left: Twilight and there's time for a quiet chat on the deck of Sir Bedevere.

Below: Troops squat in the undergrowth and keep a watchful eye open for enemy patrols.



Who's for rallying?

Story by John Walton

THE voice on the telephone was calm and reassuring. "I've got a car in which I've done a bit of rallying and thought you might like to have a ride in it." A nice little spin in the countryside—how pleasant! So off went a SOLDIER team to meet the owner of the voice, Major John Hemsley, a company commander at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

The car, a Group 2 British Leyland Motor Corporation Maxi, which had competed in five major international rallies in the previous 12 months, was at the end of its rallying career. But, just for SOLDIER, it would do a lap of honour on the Old Dean Common at Camberley.

Soon we were tearing along muddy tracks, through puddles, becoming airborne over hump-backed ridges and sliding round sharp bends. "Don't worry, this car's never hit anything yet" grinned the major as a pine tree jumped out into our path and then disappeared again.

A few minutes later Major Hemsley pulled up, handed out crash helmets and told us: "Now I expect you'd like to experience the real thing!" With a confidence we were far from feeling we nodded, gritted our teeth and were off—through a terrifying maelstrom of hills, valleys, ruts and chasms, miraculously avoiding such obstacles as trees which had fallen across the track.

"The navigator usually doesn't look at the road at all," said the ice-cool major as we sped through puddles like small ponds at 60 miles an hour. Not surprising, we thought, particularly when we considered the bewildering array of dials and gadgets on the dashboard. The navigator's role in rallying is clearly vital.

The nightmare switchback continued with the driver imparting more bits of valuable and confidence-building information . . . "The trouble with this car is that it is clapped and the sump guard is liable to come off. In that case we shall either pole-vault over it or it will rip the mountings off."

Suddenly a housing estate came into view and the ride was over. We looked at our watches—less than ten minutes with a thrill a second. Yet on rallies cars often travel thousands of miles in far worse conditions. The Maxi, in its hectic year of life, had completed 14,000 miles of rallying. Driven by Major Hemsley and Artificer Sergeant-Major Frank Webber, of the School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, it made its first appearance in the 1970 RAC Rally.

In the 1971 Monte Carlo Rally it was put out only five hours from the end, when leading its class, with an electrical fault. Two hours from the end a broken drive shaft put paid to its Circuit of Ireland hopes—again when it was well placed.

In the Scottish Rally the car took second-in-class award and in the 1971 RAC event won the Garrard Trophy, the Services award. Owned by Whites, a Camberley



Rally car becomes airborne for a moment as it hurtles over a slippery ridge at 60 mph.

garage, it is rallied under the auspices of the British Army Motoring Association, with highly trained Army crews in support.

As we tottered away to a sedate saloon car our legs were weak but there was a strange sense of exhilaration—rallying certainly has something.

The final word lay with Major Hemsley: "The sort of rate we were doing today is what you would do with a car which was very sick indeed. You just hobble along."

How do I join?

So how do I join the British Army Motoring Association to become a rally driver or navigator? The answer, if you are a serving soldier, is that you do not—you are already a member of the association.

BAMA was formed in 1960 with the objects of improving the standards of driving and servicing Army motor vehicles, encouraging road safety by sponsoring and controlling competitive motoring in the Army, laying down rules and regulations for the conduct of competitive motoring within the Army, controlling the entry of Army teams in outside motoring events, and controlling any forms of motoring activity within the Army which might be considered to have training or recruiting value.

BAMA is allowed to enter only two inter-

national rallies in a year but for ordinary closed and home events there are no restrictions. A soldier may be able to enter a unit Land-Rover in a rally under the BAMA flag in which case he will get his petrol supplied and any repairs will be carried out in Army workshops.

The association has a representative in most districts and, says its secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel James Lowe: "If a chap fancies being a driver or a navigator he should contact the representative and say he is interested."

Every other year the British Army driving championships are held under the auspices of BAMA and in Britain a rally event is run for the Reserve Army.

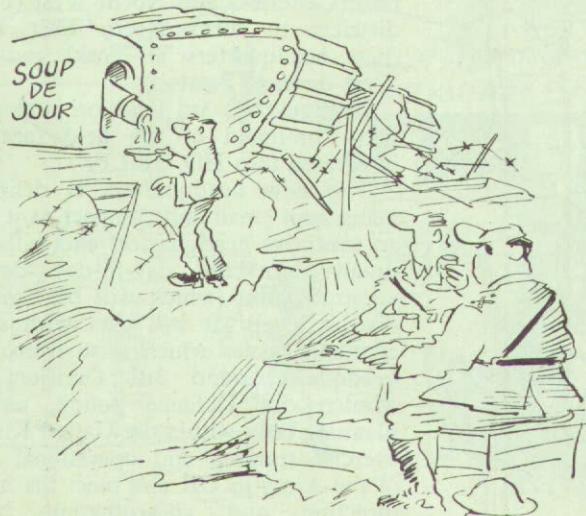
A soldier can enter his own private vehicle in an outside event as a member of the association as it is recognised as a club affiliated to the Royal Automobile Club. International rallying forms only a very small part of BAMA activities and there are only about 40 members who take part in international events.

Says Colonel Lowe: "Rallying is a recognised form of training, which is why drivers get the use of petrol and so on. Competitive driving turns out a better driver because it makes him self-reliant. If the car stops he has to be able to find out why. It is finishing which counts—not speed in the early stages."

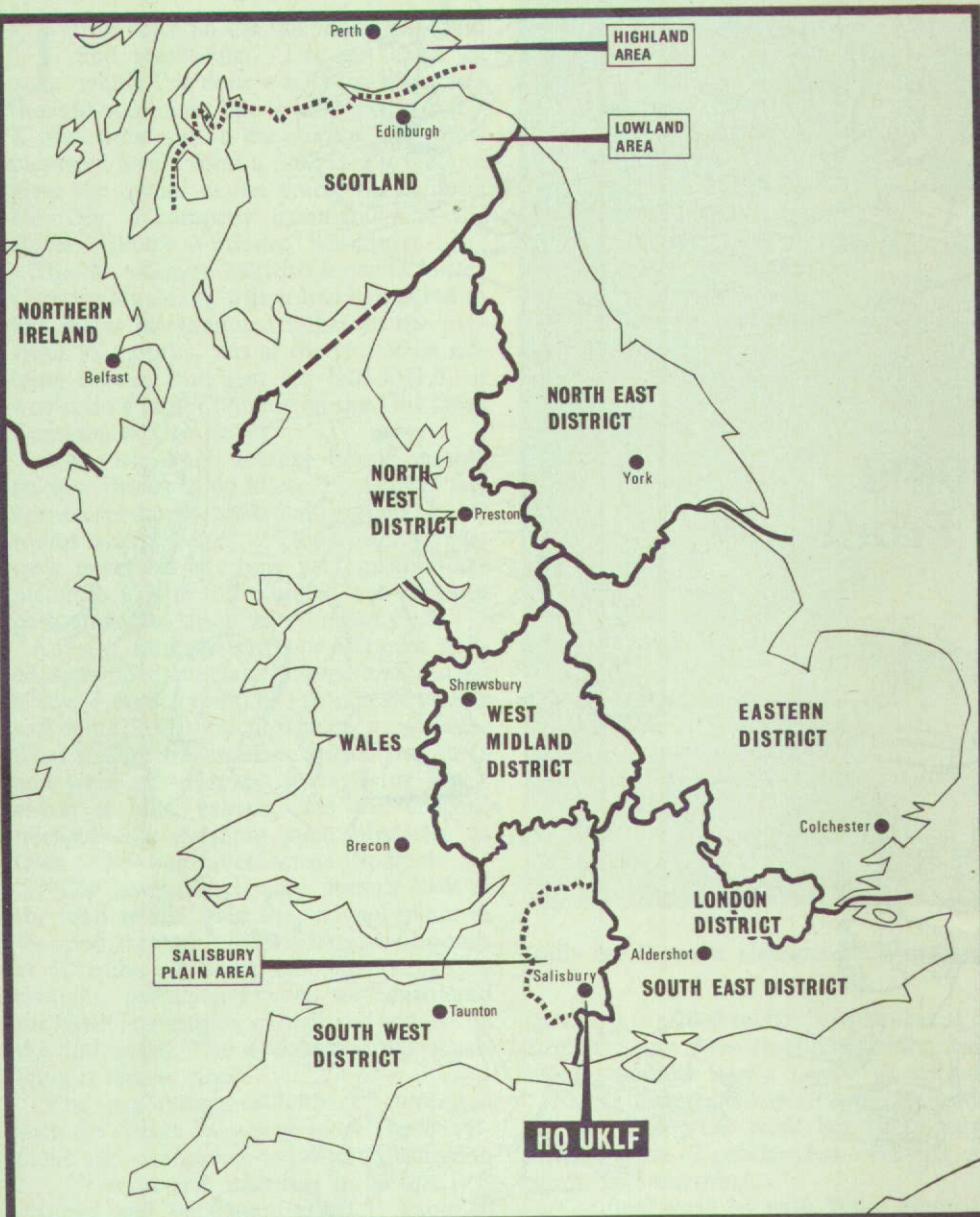


Wining and Dining on the Western Front

by LARRY



COMMAND STRUCTURE CHANGES



"This goes to MOD, this to UKLF, this is the scrambler and this is the Old Boy network."

Introducing HQ UKLF

IN the most significant change the Army in the United Kingdom has seen in more than 60 years, the present four commands are to disappear and be replaced by a single command—Headquarters United Kingdom Land Forces, based at Wilton, near Salisbury.

This new headquarters came into being at the beginning of this month and the headquarters of Southern Command (at Hounslow) and Army Strategic Command (also at Wilton) have already disappeared. HQ Western Command at Chester will be phased out in August and HQ Northern Command (York) in December. The reduction of the present 12 district headquarters to ten will be completed by 31 March next year.

Through the new UKLF headquarters the Commander-in-Chief UKLF (General Sir Basil Eugster, formerly GOC-in-C Southern Command) will command all troops in the United Kingdom—Regulars, reservists and cadets. He will have a lieutenant-general as deputy and major-generals as chief of staff and in charge of administration.

Scotland and Northern Ireland districts will continue to be commanded by lieutenant-generals with headquarters remaining at Edinburgh and Lisburn. South East District, at Aldershot, will be upgraded to lieutenant-general and the remaining seven districts will still be commanded by major-generals.

The two reductions are achieved by incorporating the present East Midland District (headquarters, Nottingham) into Eastern District with headquarters remaining at Colchester, and by amalgamating the present Yorkshire (Yarm), Northumbrian (Catterick) and North West (Preston) districts to form North East District (new headquarters at York) and North West district (Preston).

Headquarters 3rd Division is to remain, with command of the field force fully integrated into HQ UKLF.

The new headquarters is deliberately being kept small and compact as it will be an executive headquarters and will not get involved in the day-to-day detail of administration (which will be handled at district level). It will deal with any exceptional issues which arise from district headquarters and 3rd Division, apply Ministry of Defence policy, undertake planning tasks within the United Kingdom, exercise training and operational control of the Army in UK and meet the need for direction and co-ordination between districts.

There will therefore be a considerable

degree of delegation of authority, particularly to district commanders who, without constant reference upwards, will be able to take many more of the day-to-day decisions necessary for running the Army in the United Kingdom. They will have far wider financial powers and, for the first time, their own financial advisers to help them. These advisers, district secretaries, and their staffs, will be an integral part of the new district headquarters and will also manage civilians employed by the Army in their districts.

The command structure changes arise from an Army Board decision in 1969 to set up a special staff, headed by Major-General C H Stainforth, to examine the possibility of a single headquarters. The Army had become smaller and it was felt that there were "too many chiefs and not enough Indians." General Stainforth's

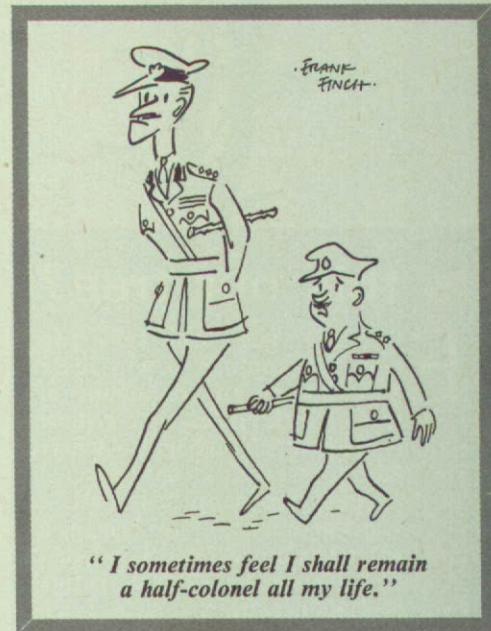
staff quickly came to the conclusion that a single headquarters would work only if the vast majority of day-to-day business was carried on at a lower level and hence advocated "management by exception" under which three broad categories would be referred upwards from district level—cases where the commander lacked the necessary resources to meet a need, where decisions should be made by someone of greater experience or broader vision, and where co-ordination was required.

The Army Board accepted the proposals and a small staff was then appointed, under Brigadier R P S Erskine-Tulloch, to monitor the re-writing of all regulations, a mammoth task which is now well in hand.

General Stainforth's staff had begun its studies by going back to the beginning of this century when a similar dilemma faced the Army. The Boer War had gone badly and one of the major reasons for this had been the lack of initiative and power of decision-making at lower levels.

In the report of a reorganisation committee in 1904, Lord Esher wrote: "The natural results of an inordinately centralised system have been the destruction of initiative throughout the Army. Officers have been brought up in peacetime to refer everything to superior authority and to shun the responsibility of taking action." The Esher report brought sense to a chaotic command structure by forming the Army Council (now the Army Board), creating a trained General Staff and setting up four command level headquarters to deal primarily with training and operations, with eight districts handling day-to-day administration.

But the problem was not solved for all time. History repeated itself and over the

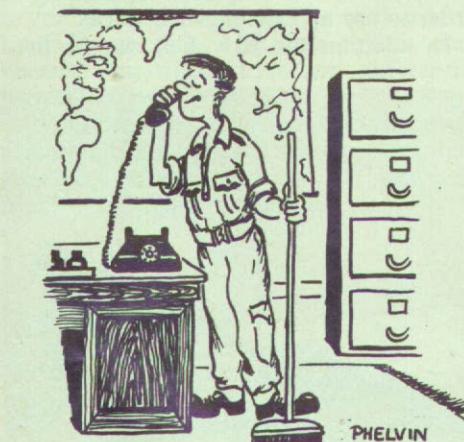


years the command structure grew while initiative at lower levels became more strangulated.

Sixty-eight years after the Esher changes the Army in the United Kingdom has been reduced to one command and ten more-autonomous districts to create a greater sense of awareness and purpose at all levels, to improve efficiency and maintain the British Army as the finest professional force in the world.

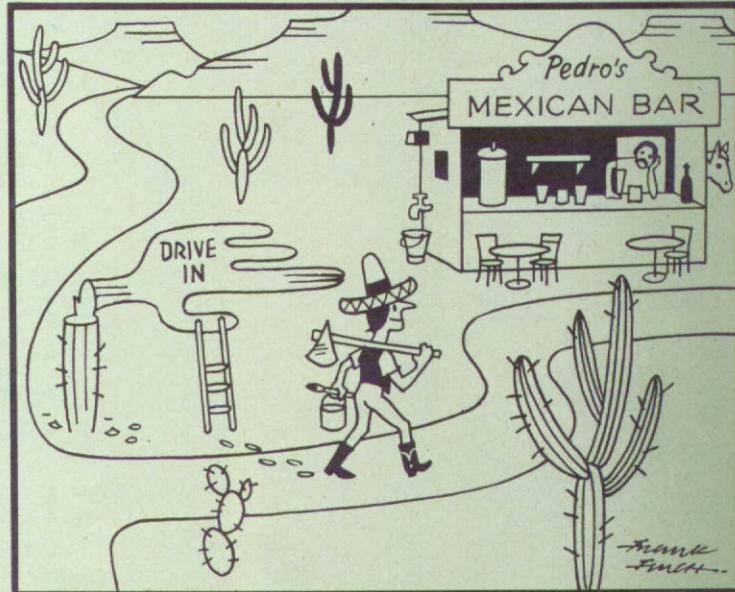
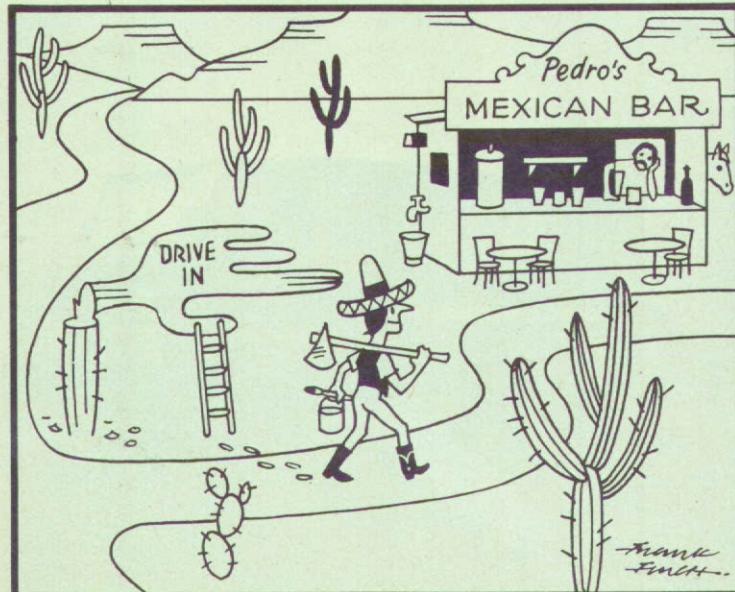
One UK command—and at the turn of the century there were 17 commands each headed by a lieutenant-general or a major-general!

From a report by Major George Forty, of Major-General Stainforth's staff.



"Yes, this is command headquarters, administration branch, Brigadier Biggles' office—and this is 607 Private Jones, defaulter, speaking!"

How observant are you?



These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 41.



Is this our tree?

EVERY spring since 1959 two rare fish-hunting hawks have winged their way thousands of miles from North Africa to a remote eyrie in the Scottish highlands—where with unerring instinct they have selected the same pine tree in which to nest.

The birds—ospreys—have become a summer attraction. So much so that last year an estimated 40,000 visitors went to their nesting spot near Loch Garten to view them through field-glasses.

But they have also attracted less welcome attention. In 1966 a crank sawed through two-thirds of the tree's trunk, now held together by metal supports. Last year the eggs, which command a high price from unscrupulous collectors, were stolen.

When the ospreys return to Loch Garten this April they will find their summer home more secure—thanks to men of 2nd Battalion, 51st (Highland) Volunteers, based at Elgin.

The Volunteers spent a weekend in the area, surrounding the battered tree with rolls of barbed wire. This will be supplemented by other security precautions taken by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to ensure that this year the ospreys can rear their young in peace. Verdict of the Volunteers?—"A really worthwhile job of work."

NEW Towed light gun

FOUR tanks stood defiantly in the spring sunshine—two minutes later they were engulfed in sheets of flame—victims of the Army's new 105mm towed light gun, designed by the Royal Armaments Research and Development Establishment and said to be the best of its kind in the world.

The occasion was the unveiling of the new gun by the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill. Accepted into service last August, it will be with all of the Royal Artillery regiments in the strategic reserve by the autumn of 1974.

Draft requirements for a gun to replace the 105mm pack-howitzer were drawn up in 1965. What was needed was a high-performance gun capable of being transported and operated in widely different terrains.

The new 105mm light gun has been exhaustively tested in temperatures ranging from -30 degrees Centigrade to +53 degrees Centigrade, from hot wet and hot dry conditions in Australia to freezing conditions in Canada. Its mobility has also been tested over snow in Norway. It has emerged with flying colours.

Its range, using the same ammunition as the artillery's Abbot self-propelled gun, is about 17,000 metres (or more than ten miles). By using a different barrel and breech, changeable in the field, the complete M1 ammunition system at present used by pack-howitzers may be fired. Maximum range with this combination is 11,500 metres; it will be employed in training in order to use up existing shell stocks.

In addition the M1 shell can be fired



from the Abbot barrel providing a specially designed British charge system is employed.

The new gun can be brought into action from a folded position within two minutes and in only one minute if unfolded. Its maximum rate of fire is six rounds a minute with three rounds per minute as a sustained rate.

Its airlift capability is such that the gun can be split into two loads in a matter of minutes to enable it to be airlifted by Wessex helicopters. But by using the larger Puma helicopter the gun can be lifted complete. Together with its towing vehicle it can also be airlifted by short-range transport aircraft such as the Andover.

In British service the new gun will be towed by the one-ton forward-control Land-Rover with a 3½ litre engine, permanent four-wheel drive and differential lock.

Its impressive performance on the range at Larkhill amply illustrated why more than a dozen overseas countries have shown an interest in buying the new 105mm.

Left: Heave! The gunners manhandle the new 105mm gun on to the turntable before firing.

Below left: The new weapon is speedily and easily linked up for towing away operations.

Right: The airborne shell is seen in this shot of the 105mm firing at the high angle.

Below: Rough terrain presents little problem for the gun—towed by a one-ton Land-Rover.



On the botany trail

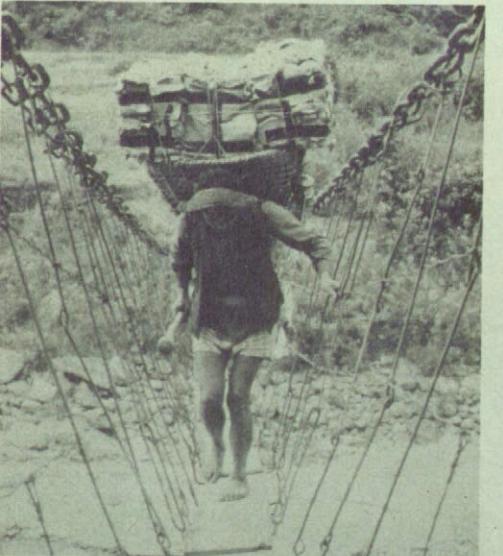


Above: Captain Mervyn Lee (right), leader of the expedition, follows a porter on a 5500 feet descent from base camp to Tamur River.

Top: The tranquil scene as members of the Green Jackets expedition enjoy a rest day at base camp 8500 feet above sea level.

Left: Corporal Lawrence uses a wet paint brush to collect specimens of insects. The rare jumping spider was caught in this way.

Far left: Heavily burdened with up to 120 lbs on his back this Nepalese porter finds this typical river bridge quite hard going.



EIGHT men of The Royal Green Jackets went to Nepal—the roof of the world and homeland of the Gurkhas—and returned with more than 700 rare specimens of Himalayan insect and plant life.

The idea was born in Germany two years ago when Captain Mervyn Lee and Lieutenant Simon Stanford-Tuck were serving with the regiment's 2nd Battalion. Captain Lee had spent 18 months in Nepal and learned Gurkhali before his German posting.

Soon plans were under way and the British Museum's natural history section said it would accept any specimens brought back by the expedition. Battalion and regimental support was forthcoming and the eight-man team gathered at the Rifle Depot in Winchester. In addition to Captain Lee and Lieut Stanford-Tuck as leader and deputy leader it included Lieutenant R N R Jenkins, photographer; Second-Lieutenant T G Bowring, treasurer; Sergeant B A Beckett, storeman; Corporal M R Cox, clerk; Corporal R A Lawrence, medical orderly; and Lance-Corporal B Croucher, assistant photographer.

The party left Britain by air, finally travelling by train and road to Dharan Bazaar, headquarters of the British Gurkha Line of Communication, where boxes were opened and contents sorted into porter loads. The 37 porters carried between 90 and 120 lbs each while the eight expedition members bore a mere 40 lbs per man.

The expedition arrived at the market village of Tapplejung, 75 miles away, a week later. Two days after that a base camp was established 8500 feet above sea level and the bulk of the porters were paid off.

Specimen-collecting trips lasting five days each were carried out three times by each of three teams. The trips averaged 50 to 60 miles at heights ranging from 3000 to 13,000 feet. Staple diet throughout the expedition was locally purchased rice, supplemented by 24-hour Army rations and "goodies" brought from Britain.

Corporal Lawrence and Corporal Cox, suffering from cartilage trouble and a torn hamstring respectively, took the specimens back to Dharan while the rest of the party prepared for the long trek to the fabled capital of Khatmandu. During the following three weeks the party was able to see much of Nepalese customs, dress and daily life.

Lieutenant Stanford-Tuck says: "The one common factor was the generous and charming nature of the Nepalis. They are extraordinary people—despite their extreme poverty and perpetual hardship they have an inborn sense of pride and nobility."

Christmas Day was spent en route. It was a clear day with a covering of snow everywhere and bright sunlight by which to eat the Christmas dinner of chicken and Christmas pudding.

For the eight Green Jackets the trip would be remembered all of their lives. Remarked Lieutenant Stanford-Tuck: "The cost and planning involved was a small price to pay for an experience like this."



Above: A breathtaking sight—a waterfall which froze on its way down the mountain. Capt Lee is the tiny figure in the middle.

Left: Porters prepare a typical Nepalese meal of rice and "dal." Expedition members supplemented this with "goodies" from home.



Right: Those were the days... Fore-and-aft caps, battledress, service stripes and, of course, check before leaving the pay table.

From pay parade to bank account

YET another change in the Army's pay system emphasises the soldier's new place in the society. From the beginning of this month the warrant officer and senior non-commissioned officer gets something which his junior management equivalent in civilian life has had for some time—a monthly (instead of weekly) salary paid direct into his bank account.

The new system—compulsory for sergeants and above—is also available on a voluntary basis for lower ranks. Under it the pay is centrally transferred into the soldier's own bank account monthly in arrear (this credit transfer system has already been operated by some units on a unit basis).

Tapes containing information of pay and allowances to be credited to bank accounts will be run off from the Royal Army Pay Corps computers at Worthy Down and passed to the Bankers Automated Clearance Services for credit to accounts. An identical operation will be used for soldiers in Rhine Army where the tapes will go to the Commerzbank in Frankfurt for credit to bank accounts in Germany.

Elsewhere, notifications will be sent to Army pay services in each command for disbursement to bank accounts. Payments to



overseas banks will in the first instance be limited to Rhine Army (for payments in Germany, excluding Berlin, and at AFCENT), British Honduras, Brunei, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Malaysia, SHAPE, Sharjah and Singapore.

At the Ministry of Defence, SOLDIER asked about the new system:

How will the Army wife cope with the change from weekly to monthly pay?—"We have no advice on how to conduct house-keeping but if necessary will give the soldier an advance of 28 days' pay to tide him over initially. This will be repayable over a period of nine months."

What about bank charges?—"We have obtained group terms which give the soldier very advantageous rates which vary slightly between banks. For instance if he holds £100 in credit he may be allowed up to 30 debits a half-year without any charge. If he has between £50 and £100 credit he may be allowed up to 30 for 75p and, with under £50, 30 or fewer debits may cost him £1.50."

How many soldiers will the new system cover?—"We expect that about half the Army will become banking soldiers to start with."

What about changes in pay rates?—"If the amount due is more than £10 a supplementary payment will be made into the bank account—if not it will be added to the next payment."

Is there any change for soldiers not on the new system?—"Yes. In future they will be paid in cash at their unit, fortnightly in arrear, except where the commanding officer considers it necessary for his unit to be paid weekly."

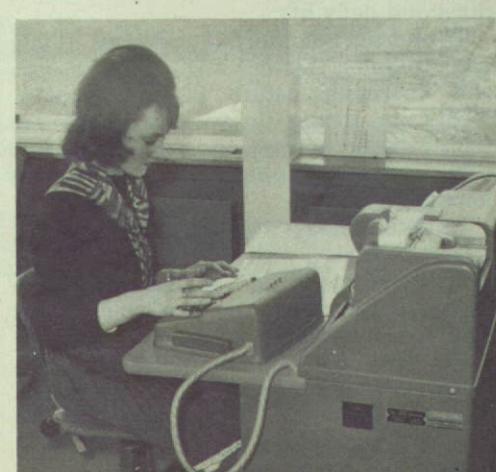
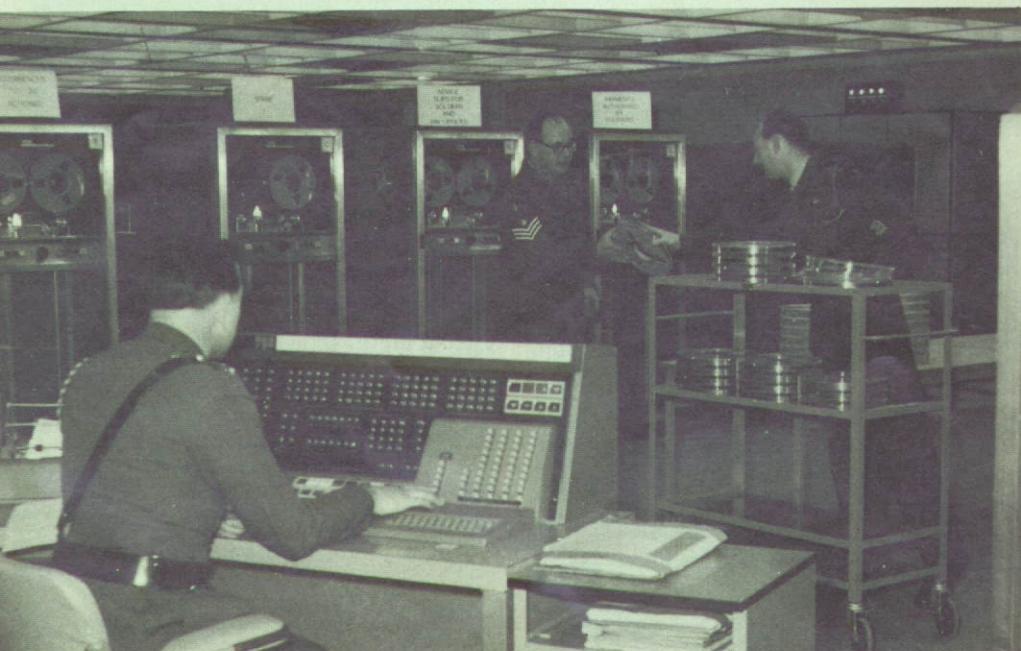
What are the advantages of the new system?—"The idea is not just to economise but because the Army recognises that the soldier, particularly the sergeant and above, is a much more responsible man and is now in the pay stratum which really leads him to having a bank account."

"This means that we are doing away with some of the paternalism which has surrounded the soldier but it does not mean we are going to leave him high and dry. We shall still pay his allotments although we hope in time that the soldier will graduate to doing this through normal banking facilities such as standing orders."

"If he cannot get to the bank and draw money we shall allow him to cash a cheque through his unit imprest account."

Left: Controlling console of the Pay Corps computer, opened at Worthy Down in 1960.

Below: Operating a card punch, an operation on one of the Army's first large computers.



Right: Captain Keogh's horse Comanche held by Trooper Korn, Comanche's attendant. Left is Lieutenant (later major-general) Nowlan.

Comanche rode alone

CUSTER'S last battle was over. His body and those of some 200 officers and men under his direct command littered the ridge by the side of the Little Big Horn river in Montana.

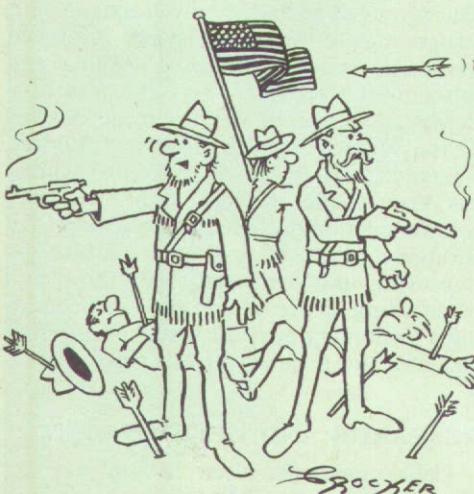
When the scouts of General Terry's main column reached the battlefield soon after Colonel Custer's defeat, they surveyed the gruesome scene. Many of the bodies had been stripped naked and mutilated by the victorious Indians.

Only one living thing moved among the piles of dead. The lone survivor was a horse, Comanche, the charger of Captain Myles Keogh. Comanche was a sorry sight, badly wounded by arrow and bullet; his saddle had slipped under his belly. He hobbled from body to body apparently seeking his dead master.

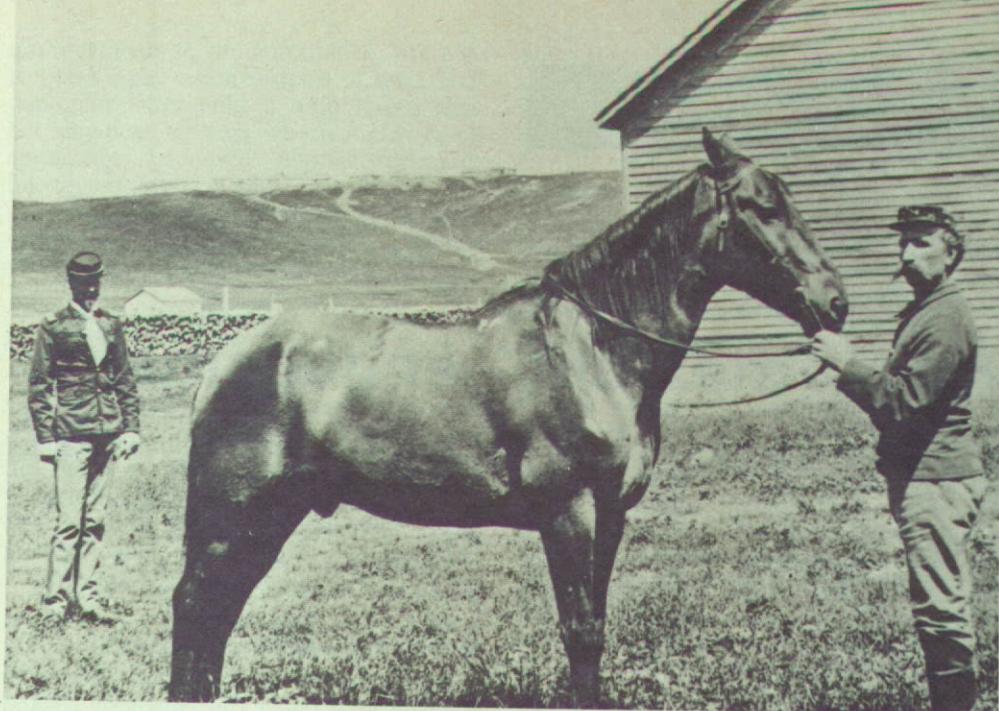
Captain Keogh was a soldier of fortune. Born in Ireland in 1840, he was the son of an officer of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers. After spending two years at Dublin University, Myles Keogh embarked on a life of adventure.

He served with the French army in North Africa and with the private army of Pope Pius IX.

Keogh arrived in the United States in 1862, during the civil war, and joined the Union forces. He was commissioned a



"Do you mind if I sit down for a while, General Custer?"



lieutenant and served as aide to Major-General McClellan. Keogh was cited several times for bravery in action and so distinguished himself that he gained the temporary rank of lieutenant-colonel.

After the war many high-ranking officers were reduced in rank. Keogh was returned to the junior grade of captain. And Major-General George A Custer—who had been promoted brigadier-general at the age of 23—was returned to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Custer was appointed to command the 7th Cavalry and Keogh became one of his troop commanders.

Custer took a liking to a tune that Keogh often whistled and sang, "Garry Owen," a favourite song of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers. Custer adopted the rollicking tune as the regimental march of the 7th Cavalry. It became the best known military tune in the United States. Custer's bandmen blasted out the tune across the plains as they rode into action and the Indians called it "devil music."

Then came the battle of the Little Big Horn. Custer had divided the regiment into three sections. He led the first, the second was commanded by Major Reno and the third by Captain Benteen. Reno and Benteen fought and survived on another part of the battlefield. All those under Custer's direct command perished in the fight.

The cavalry horses that did not die were run off by the Indians. Only Comanche remained, so badly wounded it was decided to shoot him.

But Lieutenant Nowlan, a friend of Keogh, intervened and saved the horse's life. It took a year of careful nursing for Comanche to recover.

Trooper Korn, the 7th Cavalry blacksmith, was detailed as Comanche's personal attendant and the two of them became firm friends. The horse was never ridden again. He was excused all routine duty and officially designated second-in-command of the regiment.

For the rest of his life Comanche was the much-respected mascot of the 7th Cavalry and on special parades took his place at the head of the regiment.

In an evening he and Korn would stroll over to the canteen and drink beer together.

Comanche had developed a taste for beer and when he got a little drunk he often kicked up a din.

He led a happy life until he died in 1891—it is said of a broken heart. In December 1890 his old friend Korn was killed in the battle of Wounded Knee (last major action in the Indian campaigns) and Comanche just pined away. This celebrated warhorse was stuffed and is on display at the University of Kansas.

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New "flexible" engagements

COLOSSER co-operation and a "greater identity of view" is needed between European countries within the Western Alliance, says the 1972 White Paper on Defence Estimates. In keeping with the sum of its resources Europe needs both to exert more influence on the major issues affecting Western security and to assume increased responsibility for its own defence.

The defence budget estimates for 1972-73 total £2584 million, remaining at about 5.5 per cent of the gross national product, a figure which Defence Minister Lord Carrington told a press conference was higher than for any of Britain's major NATO European allies.

The continuing threat to Western security is illustrated by the fact that the Soviet Union is currently devoting about eight per cent of its gross national product to defence. The White Paper says that in the years ahead Soviet defence expenditure can be expected to rise by up to five per cent each year in real terms and that the large amounts the Soviet spends on military research and development will continue to ensure that Warsaw Pact countries are equipped with the most modern and sophisticated weapons systems.

While Western efforts to bring about a relaxation of East-West tension continue the alliance must remain resolute in avoiding any premature lowering of its guard; it must also insist that the imbalances in the forces confronting each other in Europe, which favour the Warsaw Pact, are taken fully into account in any negotiations on arms control or force reductions.

NATO will be the main beneficiary of a number of British Forces improvements which have been decided on, including the restoration of four infantry battalions, acceleration of the naval construction programme and orders for the Royal Air Force of additional Buccaneer and Nimrod aircraft.

RECRUITING

A strong upsurge in recruiting has been felt in the last year. If current trends are maintained the figure for male other ranks enlisting will be in the region of 46,300—an increase of 65 per cent over the low point of 1968-69. Recruitment of officers has also improved.

Lord Carrington told the press conference he believed there were four reasons for the rise—unemployment, which meant that youngsters leaving school thought the Services a good job to go to; good pay; the feeling in the country about the disciplined way in which the Army was acting in Northern Ireland; and Government efforts to put some certainty back into defence affairs.

However, the White Paper notes the

prospective decline in the number of young men in the recruiting age group which will make it difficult to maintain recruitment at the level which has now been achieved. The forthcoming raising of the school-leaving age to 16 will accentuate this problem.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Lord Carrington said it was difficult to estimate how much the Northern Ireland operations were costing but it obviously added quite a substantial amount to the defence budget.

The White Paper says that the development last year of the IRA's campaign of violence and destruction added a new and serious dimension to the Army's task of assisting the civil power in the maintenance of law and order. Over the year there were some 1000 bomb outrages and more than 1700 terrorist shooting incidents with 43 members of the Army and five of the Ulster Defence Regiment being killed by terrorists.



The countering of terrorism rather than the prevention of inter-communal riots has become the main role of the armed forces in Northern Ireland. They have made substantial progress in undermining the strength of the IRA—during 1971 the security forces uncovered 26 machine-guns, 244 rifles, 92 shotguns and 244 pistols and revolvers, with other weapons, more than 156,000 rounds of ammunition and more than one-and-a-half tons of explosive.

The White Paper records: "The Services are discharging their responsibilities with impartiality and with exemplary fortitude and restraint. They will remain in Northern Ireland for so long and in such strength as they are needed."

DEPLOYMENT, OPERATIONS AND EXERCISES

The rundown of forces in Singapore and Malaysia was completed according to plan and the withdrawal of forces from the Gulf was completed without incident. The Sultan of Oman's forces, which included loan

personnel from the Royal Marines, the Army and the Air Force, have been engaged in operations and Royal Artillery and Royal Air Force Regiment personnel have been temporarily deployed to assist in the defence of the airfield.

Royal Engineers laid the foundation for an automatic navigation light on the island of Rockall and carried out several other tasks in Scotland, including the construction of an airfield on the Isle of Skye. They carried out development projects in aid of the civil community in countries including Anguilla, Kenya, Malta, Oman, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Zaire.

During the year British forces helped to plan and took part in the annual CENTO and SEATO exercises. Army units took part in small-scale exercises in Australia, Fiji and West Malaysia and carried out reciprocal exercises in Jamaica and Ghana.

RESERVE FORCES

The reserve and auxiliary forces are said in the White Paper to have "a vital role in the defence of the country—they supplement the regular Forces in time of war or emergency with trained men and women able immediately to take their places in the Services . . ."

The Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve rose in strength from 49,100 to 56,300 between March and December 1971. The TAVR expanded by a new armoured car regiment and 20 infantry-type units and there was a steady increase in the strength of existing units. It includes 2000 women.

The Regular reserves for the Army, which include 177,100 former National Servicemen and ex-Regulars to whom the National Service Act applies, total 295,600.

The Ulster Defence Regiment, formed in January 1970, increased in strength to 6700 by January 1971. The regiment was called out for extended service for two periods totalling five weeks in 1971 and also continued its nightly and weekend duties of patrolling the border, manning road checks and guarding key points.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Major improvements during the year covered pay, local overseas allowances, pensions and the "notice engagement."

In Northern Ireland the many new facilities provided included travel concessions, refrigerators for married quarters, improved telephone facilities, travelling libraries and fish-and-chip vans, TV sets and film projectors and a central welfare agency staffed by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service.

In addition, substantial and rapid progress has been made in improving temporary accommodation occupied by the troops. An additional £500,000 has been allocated to improving unit canteens, cleaning up and partitioning living accommodation, building a swimming pool for troops in the Belfast area and a variety of other measures.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Collaboration between Britain and her allies, particularly in Europe, continues to grow in importance. Germany and Italy are co-operating with Britain in the joint development and production of two main



artillery systems—a 155mm towed medium gun (already well into development) and a self-propelled 155mm howitzer (just entering full development).

In 1970 Belgium became a partner in the programme for the development and production of a family of airportable, tracked aluminium armoured combat reconnaissance vehicles. The first of these, Scorpion, will start to enter service with the Army in the next few months.

Other major projects on which work will continue include the Rapier airportable surface-to-air guided weapon system with blind fire attachment; Swingfire, the long-range anti-tank guided weapon; Blowpipe, a unit self-defence surface-to-air guided weapon; Clansman, a net radio system for communications in the field; and a new trunk communication system.

Other Army equipment projects include

improvements to the automotive, fire control and night vision systems of the Chieftain main battle tank; an amphibious combat engineer tractor; wheeled airportable aluminium armoured vehicles, primarily for reconnaissance and surveillance; and development work in the fields of weapons, instruments, specialist vehicles, engineer equipment and chemical defence.

IN BRIEF

The strength of United Kingdom Service personnel on 1 January 1972 was 372,100. The Army stood at 18,500 officers, 149,400 other ranks and 5500 WRAC and QARANC. The number of civilian staff employed by the Ministry of Defence on 1 April 1972 was expected to be about 323,000—a drop of 21,000 on the year.

A new armoured vehicle launching bridge and a new anti-tank mine system will be introduced into service with the Royal Engineers this year.

The Armed Forces Act 1971 is planned to come into force on 1 July 1972. It brings the disciplinary provisions of the three Services more closely into line and places them on the same statutory basis.

The Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia closed at the end of 1971. A new Malaysian Army Training Centre opens at the same location this month and arrangements have been made with the Malaysian Government for British jungle warfare training to continue there.

An expanded tri-Service programme of

adventurous training in the United Kingdom and Rhine Army will start in 1972-73 and be fully effective in 1973-74. It will include mountain training, skiing, gliding, freefall parachuting, subaqua diving and offshore sailing.

New flexible engagements

During the year the Services undertook a fundamental review of their engagement structures for other ranks. The main conclusion to emerge was that they needed to be made more flexible.

Says the White Paper: "Under the present rules a boy or man who enlists or re-engages must accept a firm commitment for a fixed period of years. For many this arrangement is perfectly acceptable; others may jib at the restriction of personal choice inherent in such a system, and thus be deterred from enlisting or prolonging." On 1 May 1972 a system of flexible engagements will be introduced which will apply both to those who enlist as adult servicemen and those who mature from boy service. The Services will apply the scheme to their adult intake in different ways depending on length and type of training but basically it gives the serviceman the right, on completion of training and after 18 months' productive service, to give 18 months' notice of leaving. The "notice engagement" is being offered as an initial engagement to adult recruits and applies also, in a modified form, to the women's Services. Existing long-term engagements, rewarded by higher scales of pay, will continue for those who prefer them but some shorter engagements will be superseded.

Recruits below the age of 17½ will be given the option at 18 of confirming their original engagement or converting to the "notice engagement." Also all men and women who have served for nine years or more will be granted a similar right to leave the Service at 18 months' notice.

When the Services had their own stamps

LIKE most nine-year-old schoolboys young Bill Cunningham was an ardent stamp collector, but unlike most he had something rather special, something that sparked the curiosity and excited the envy of

his classmates. He was the proud owner of some examples of the military seals and stamps issued to the British Forces in Egypt for nearly eight years from 1932 to 1940. They had been collected when his father, the late Colonel J A Cunningham, Royal Engineers and a holder of the sappers' Haynes Memorial Medal, was stationed at Abbassia.

Today that schoolboy philatelist is Major J W Cunningham, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, commanding the supply depot at Aldershot—and, from a mere handful, his collection has expanded to more than 400 stamps and seals currently worth more than £200.

When Egypt increased her postal rates from one piastre to 1½ piastres in 1932, this so incensed the British Forces stationed there that representations were made to the War Office. And for a payment of £16,000 to the Egyptian Government to compensate for the loss of postal revenue a concession was secured by which the old one-piastre rate was retained for the Services.

The seals, as they were called before they achieved the status of "stamp," were fixed to the back of an envelope and sold at Naafi canteens and at Post Offices. Only letters destined for the United Kingdom benefited from the concession and there was a special cheap rate of three milliemes for Christmas cards.

Although both seals and stamps were issued over a comparatively short period they make interesting and valuable collections. Camels, sphinx and pyramids figure largely on the seals which changed colour each Christmas. The original design was the work of Sergeant W Lait, Royal Army Service Corps. Some of the stamps feature successively the portraits of

King Fuad and King Farouk in green and an attractive shade of carmine and these were fixed in the conventional position at the top righthand corner of the envelope.

Among the more valuable items in Major Cunningham's collection are a pair of first issue used black-and-azure "Xmas" seals on cover cancelled in red ink and worth at least £10, a block of 20 "Xmas" seals for which he



The unique block of four jubilee commemoratives with the experimental perforations.

paid £22 and now catalogued at about £75, and a group of jubilee commemoratives of 1935. These gentian blue jubilees were the only stamps issued in a foreign country to commemorate the silver jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary but what makes Major Cunningham's block of four unique is that it is the only known example of a perforation having been experimentally added to the series by the printers to facilitate tearing.

Over the years some 21 different date-stamps were used from nine Army post offices—at Abbassia, Abu-Qir, Abu Suein, Alexandria, Cairo, El Daba, Mersa Matruh, Moascar and Port Said.



With an expert's eye Major J W Cunningham looks through his album of military stamps.



Above: Aftermath of the horror blast at the officers' mess of 16th Parachute Brigade at Aldershot in which seven people, six of them civilians, were killed. Rescuers clear away debris from the blitzed barracks while firemen stand by.

Right: The first of the new M110 self-propelled guns, which are coming into service with the Rhine Army. The first regiment to be equipped with the new gun is 24 Missile Regiment, Royal Artillery. Despite its size the M110 can move with astonishing speed across the most rugged country and can move into a firing position, fire and move on long before its opponent has had time to pinpoint its whereabouts and retaliate.

Left, Right and Centre



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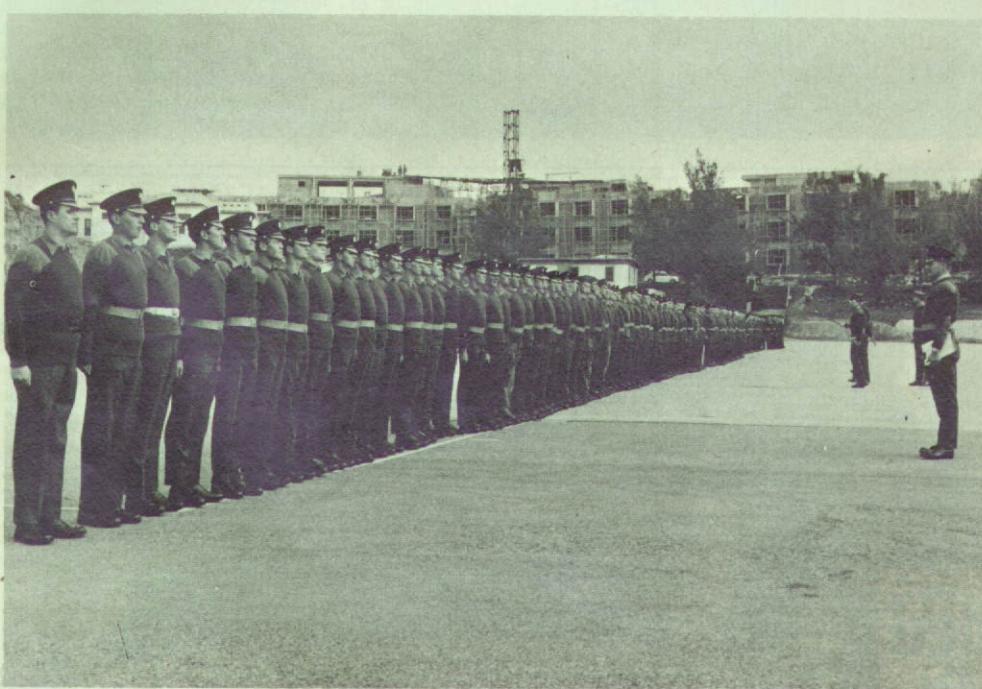
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Above: This plaque was erected in the new Farnborough Community Centre which is the only building left on the site of the former Elles Barracks, razed to the ground to make way for a new civic centre. Among the guests of the Farnborough branch of the Royal Tank Regiment Association at the unveiling ceremony was Colonel R M Jerram, Regimental Colonel of the Royal Tank Regiment. The 2nd Battalion, Royal Tank Corps, was stationed in Aldershot for more than 20 years—up to 1941—at the Pinehurst (later Elles) Barracks and established an all-time record in Aldershot Command for military efficiency and sporting prowess.



Above: Sappers from 10 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, erected this footbridge across a busy road at Woking, Surrey, so that boys from Gordon Boys' School could get across to their sports field. The school (SOLDIER, August 1969), founded in 1885 and named after General Gordon, was for many years under the dual control of a commandant and a headmaster and is proud of its long military tradition.

Left: It's not just the perspective of the picture—these Irish guardsmen really do get shorter as you go further along the line. The occasion was an unusual "size parade" at Stanley Fort, Hong Kong, when 1st Battalion, Irish Guards, formed a new No 4 Company to replace F Company, Scots Guards, returning home to rejoin their reformed 2nd Battalion. After officers, non-commissioned officers and key personnel had been allocated, the remaining guardsmen were lined up with the tallest forming No 1 Company, the shortest No 2 Company and those in between making up the new company.

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Left, Right and Centre

Right: Man at the centre. Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Tuzo, General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland (centre) with a Royal Military Police escort, walks through the border town of Newry.



Left: Major Ted Moorat, representing Hong Kong Military Service Corps, hands over a surplus four-ton Bedford engine for use as an instructional aid in the vocational training centre of St James' Settlement, one of the colony's church foundations. Technicians from 50 Command Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, were responsible for preparing the engine and their winch vehicle was used to take it to the settlement.



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Right: As an ex-member of The Green Howards (and his father before him) the Mayor of Teesside, Alderman Ron Hall, takes a keen interest in his old regiment. He and his wife were paying a second visit to the 1st Battalion at Minden in Germany. In April the regiment, which holds the Freedom of Middlesborough and Redcar, will be granted the Freedom of Stockton, Thornaby and Bellingham—thus extending it to the five boroughs which make up the giant Teesside area.



Above: As a keen member of the Aldershot and District Medals and Militaria Society, carpet sales representative Mr Frank Chard felt something special was called for in the re-carpeting of the pavilion at Bisley. So his firm, the Carpet Manufacturing Company, of Kidderminster, came up with this design, incorporating the National Rifle Association's insignia—a man with a longbow and another with a rifle.

Left: The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Douglas Edwards (right), visited B Squadron of 14th/20th Kings Hussars, a regiment with close links with Manchester, when visiting the Colony at the invitation of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. At a married quarter he met 18-month-old Deborah Anne Schofield, daughter of Corporal Joe Schofield, and (centre) Sergeant and Mrs Roy Standish.



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PRINTS of the first official portrait of Prince Charles in Army uniform, which was featured on the front cover of SOLDIER in May last year, are now available to SOLDIER readers at special concession rates.

The original painting of the Prince of Wales in his uniform of Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Wales was commissioned by the regiment and is the work of Major Aubrey Davidson-Houston, now retired and formerly of The Royal Sussex Regiment.

The six-colour prints are offered in two sizes. The larger, measuring 19½ inches by 27½ inches (50 x 70cm), is printed on white imperial sheet 24 inches by 37 inches (60 x 93 cm). Published at £5.50 it is available to SOLDIER readers at £4.50 including packing and postage.

The smaller print measures about 20 x 30 cm and is offered to SOLDIER readers at the reduced rate of £3.00 including postage and packing.

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COMPETITION 167

this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 167)
SOLDIER
Clayton Barracks
Aldershot
Hants.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday July 24. Answers and winners' names will appear in the September **SOLDIER**.

More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 167" label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.

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The villages of Brougha and Anjhit are both at sea level but to get from one to the other the traveller has to pass through extremely mountainous regions. The road, which is very narrow, is one way only for vehicles.

Last winter there was a detachment of soldiers in each of the two villages but due to the severe weather one detachment was cut off for two weeks.

Eventually supplies were delivered from the other village by their comrades. Apparently the round trip took rather longer than usual and it was not until the 17th day after starting out that their war cry echoed in triumph across the mountains on their arrival back at the village.

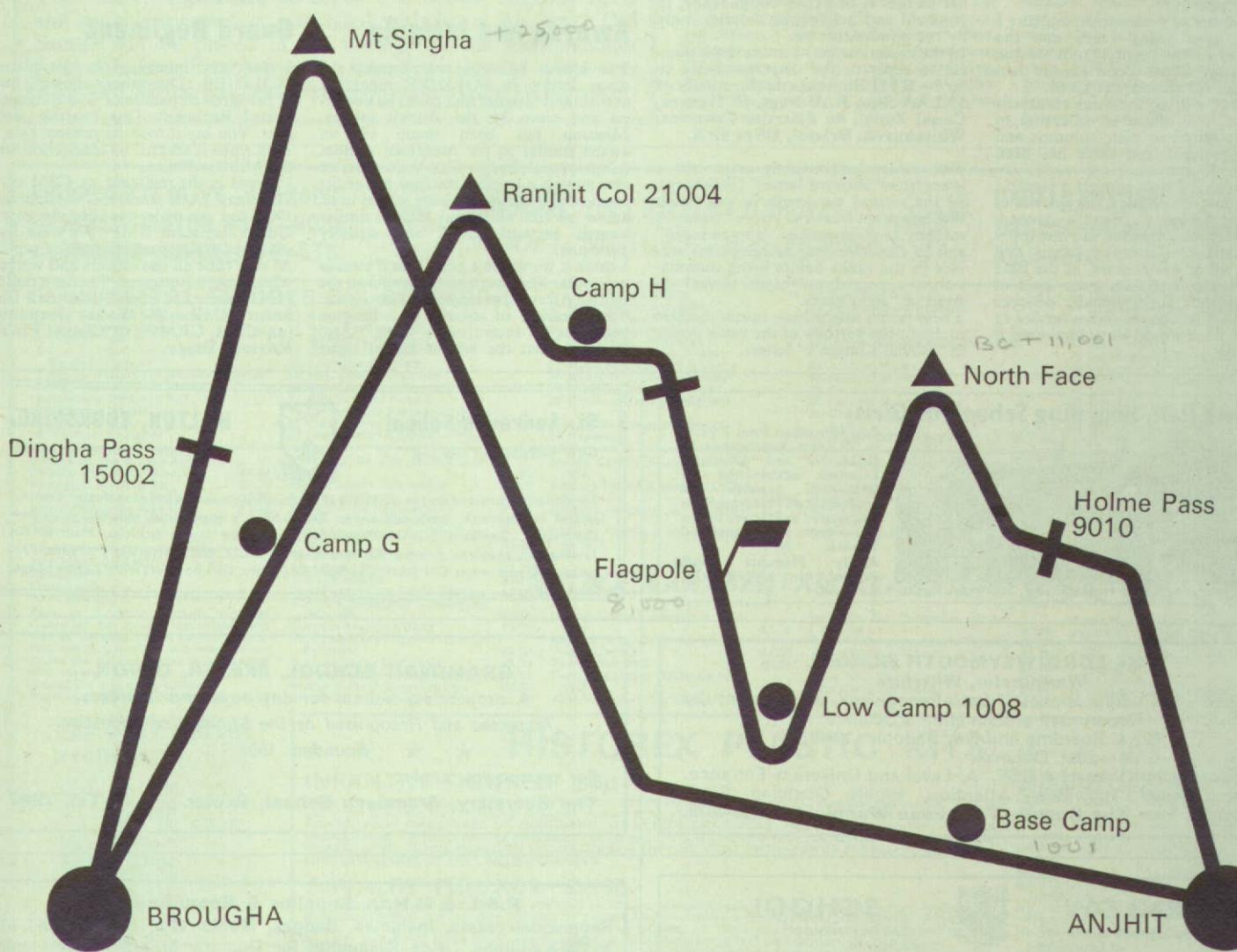
The route, not to scale, indicates the

altitudes in feet of some of the points in the road. From Low Camp the terrain rises steeply to the summit of the North Face, exactly 11,001 feet higher than the Camp. Mount Singha is the highest point on the road with an altitude of slightly more than 25,000 feet. Clare Glacier at 11,006 feet is 4003 feet higher than Camp G and the latter is lower than Camp H by 11,002 feet. Flagpole is just over 8,000 feet high. Base Camp is a mere 1001 feet above sea level.

From the information given can you say:

- Which village was cut off?
- Who were the soldiers involved?

Send your answer on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 167" label from



LETTERS

Tribute

I have many times been moved to write to you after noticing some technical mistake in **SOLDIER** and have also felt indignant when there has been a change of format, but when it came to sitting down to write I was just too lazy. I am now moved to action by recent events in Ulster. As an ex-private soldier of the 1948 Malayan campaign I am full of admiration for the conduct of our troops in Northern Ireland. As night after night I read reports and see television coverage of the task confronting my modern counterpart I can't help but wonder at the discipline of the troops and furthermore doubt if I, or my fellow comrades of 1948, would have reacted with the fortitude of today's Army. My best wishes to the soldier of today in his arduous task.—**J Beasley, 6 Finney Drive, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, M21 1DS.**

Campaign awards

I suspect that few, if any, would question that service in the Canal Zone was as dangerous and deadly—in the most literal sense of the word—as in any similar theatre of operations. Should there be some who do, reference to Gregory Blaxland's masterly survey of the British Army since 1945 ("The Regiments Department") will soon disabuse them. Why then is it that those who soldiered there have been left out of the distribution of campaign awards?

Like a number of your correspondents I enquired, after many years, and the reply I had recently merely told me that no award for Canal Zone service had been made. No reason was given.

I have been waiting for some comment from any source, official or otherwise, to the points raised in your columns and find it significant that there has been silence on the subject.

So I wonder if I may suggest a reason? I think it may be political. Egypt was in diplomatic terms a friendly country whereas this consideration did not apply to Palestinians, Kenyans, Adenies and Cypriots, all of whom were, at the time the GSM was available, some kind of British subject. So diplomatic delicacy dictated that troops on active service in the Canal Zone would be unhonoured if not unsung.

If I am wrong, as I hope I am, then I think two questions deserve a reply: Who establishes the criteria for campaign awards? Why are these criteria so variable? If on the other hand I am correct then surely the time is long past when Canal Zone service should be recognised with, say, the Africa GSM, without fear of diplomatic repercussions—18 years is a long time back.

May I go further and suggest that this particular question, and that of the allocation of campaign awards and combat badges is one that would repay, in goodwill and heightened morale, study by the powers that be.

In the meantime may I invite those powers to reply to the correspondence so far?—**B J H Blanchard (formerly of 35 LAA Sqn, RAF Regt, El Hamra, Canal Zone), 86 Allerton Crescent, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 9PX.**

Two errors inadvertently crept into a letter from "Richard James" (February). In the second paragraph it was stated that he retired from the Army "some 13 months ago" instead of "13 years ago" and in the following paragraph his service in the ranks before being commissioned appeared as "eight weeks" instead of "eight years."

These errors might have caused readers to doubt the veracity of the other points in "Richard James's" letter.

Oates memorial cover

The 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards sponsored a philatelic cover on St Patrick's Day to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the death of Captain L E G Oates, 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, who died on Scott's Antarctica expedition on St Patrick's Day 1912, which was also his 32nd birthday. Each cover shows a full colour representation of J C Dollman's famous painting, "A Very Gallant Gentleman," depicting Captain Oates walking to his death in a blizzard to try and save his comrades. A ninepenny British explorers stamp depicting Captain R F Scott is fixed to each cover and cancelled with a special one-day British Forces Postal Service handstamp.

Each cover costs 3.33DM or 40p posted under separate cover and, on orders for ten or more, 3DM/36 per cover. Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to the Central Fund 5 Innis DG and sent to the Philatelic Officer, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, BFPO 17. Any profits are being donated to the regimental museum fund to help defray the cost of improving the regimental museum at Carrickfergus Castle.

Rifle bucket

The short rifle bucket was standard equipment for the yeomanry up to 1914. Soon after mobilisation we were issued with swords and the long bucket with the short LE rifle.—**Oswald Garrish (late SSM B Squadron, Rough Riders Yeomanry, 1908/1919), Strelna Cottage, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot, Devon.**

time or other been engaged on active duty.

I agree with Mr R Spruth (February Letters) that a cloth unit shoulder insignia would smarten up the British Army's No 2 dress uniform.—**L/Cpl P Starling RAMC, BMH Iserlohn, BFPO 24.**

Singapore Guard Regiment

I have been following with interest the many letters in **SOLDIER** regarding awards and insignia that could be awarded and worn by the British soldier. Mention has been made of an award similar to the American combat infantryman's badge. The United States also awards a combat medical badge for medical personnel who have served in an active service zone and makes similar awards to tank crews and artillery personnel.

I think it would be a good idea if awards on similar lines were introduced into the British Army as, to quote the Americans, "the wearing of awards and insignia produces an incentive to work." Also it shows that the wearer has at some

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OLD SARUM

The Royal Air Force station at Old Sarum, Wiltshire, now closed, was acquired by the War Department in 1917 and became the home of 98, 99 and 103 (Bomber) squadrons, Royal Flying Corps. The following year the newly formed Royal Air Force assumed responsibility for the station.

In 1920 the School of Army Co-operation was established at Old Sarum to train pilots in reconnaissance duties. Additionally, during the period between the two world wars, 4, 13, 16 and 59 (Army Co-operation) and 107 (Bomber) squadrons were based at Old Sarum at various times. The school, which expanded during World War Two, was renamed the School of Air Support in 1944. As a result, a staff of officers from all three Services was established at Old Sarum and for the first time the school ceased to instruct Air Force officers in flying and concentrated instead on academic instruction.

In May 1947 its name was again changed, this time to the School of Land/Air Warfare. On 29 June 1956 Salisbury conferred its Freedom on RAF Old Sarum, and on 5 November 1962 the city council granted the station the honour of incorporating a part of the city coat of arms, which dates from 1565, in the station badge. The Joint Warfare Establishment was formed at Old Sarum on 1 April 1963 by amalgamating the School of Land/Air Warfare and the Amphibious Warfare School from Poole. Appropriately the first commandant was an airman, Air Vice-Marshal C T Weir.

To perpetuate the tradition of Old Sarum's unique record of joint Service activity involving not only United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Services but also those of Britain's allies in peace and in war, the name Old Sarum will continue to be used as the address of the Joint Warfare Establishment. The officers' mess is to be called Old Sarum Officers' Mess and suitable mementoes associated with Royal Air Force Old Sarum will be placed in the custody of the Commandant Joint Warfare Establishment. Administration of what was RAF Old Sarum has been assumed by the Army Department.

60-year slip

The uniform worn by The Black Watch soldier depicted on the 1p Gibraltar military stamp in the November SOLDIER (page 6) is incorrect for the year 1845. In that year Highland regiments (kilted) were wearing the coatee (a short-skirted jacket introduced about 1796) and not the doublet which was authorised in 1855, first as a double-breasted garment and then, in 1856, as a single-breasted one.

The gauntlet cuffs were not introduced until 1868, slashed cuffs being in use until that year.

From the appearance of the doublet and the weapon (which seems to be an SMLE .303in) I would place the date of the uniform between 1906 and 1914, not 1845.—William L McCaughey, 333 S Glebe Road, Apt 310, Arlington, Virginia 22204, USA.

★ The Black Watch Regimental Headquarters, which did not see a proof of the stamp, confirms that the uniform is incorrect and puts its date at post-1900.



Military stamps

The island of St Vincent in the West Indies has issued a set of three stamps, depicting 18th century military uniforms, in values of 12, 30 and 50 cents. The 12-cent stamp shows a private in the Grenadier company of the 32nd Regiment of Foot (1764); the 30-cent an officer of the 31st Foot of 1772; and the 50-cent a private in the Grenadier company of the 6th Foot, also 1772.

The Gibraltar Government has issued three special military stamps to mark the bicentenary of the Royal Engineers in Gibraltar. The stamps, in values of 1p, 3p and 5p, depict respectively a soldier artificer of 1773, a modern sapper engaged in tunnelling work and two members of the corps in "ancient and modern" dress flanking a badge of the Royal Engineers. These stamps are a follow-on to the military uniform stamps issued in Gibraltar last September.

Wot, no soccer?

It was disappointing not to see any report or result in the Press of the Army UK soccer cup final played at Aldershot on 15 February. I am sure many soldiers, particularly those in, say, Northern Ireland, would be awaiting the result. When the Royal Engineers played the Royal Army Service Corps in the final in 1937 I heard the result over the radio in a small unit canteen in Jaffa. There were splendid accounts in almost all the national dailies too. Was this because we did not have any PROs in those days?—Lieut-Col G Thomas (Retd), Fairway, Highlands, Heath End, Farnham, Surrey.

★ No, Colonel. Army PR informs the Press of forthcoming Army sports events but obviously cannot itself "cover" them. Certain national papers still cover some Army sport, eg rugby, squash, freestyle, hockey, and would probably use other reports and results if submitted to them immediately

SOLDIER had to drop sport because of the magazine's long production cycle and because results and reports were just not forthcoming—the small editorial staff could not spend a disproportionate amount of time chasing these. Within the year SOLDIER hopes to shorten its production cycle with a new printing contract and will then once again endeavour to carry Army sport.

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25 Royal Horse Artillery	36 Jerome Bonaparte in Carabinier Uniform	47 Light Infantry
26 Royal Scots Greys Trooper	37 ADC to Murat	48 Light Infantry Voltigeur in Busby
27 Household Cavalry Officer	38 Marshal of France	49 Grenadier of Imperial Guard Officer
28 Household Cavalry Trooper	39 Cuirassier General	50 Line Infantry Grenadier
29 Dragoon Guards Trooper	40 Colonel Gourgand	51 Line Infantry Grenadier Officer
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37 ADC to Murat	38 Marshal of France	46 Carabinier Officer
38 Marshal of France	39 Cuirassier General	47 Light Infantry
39 Cuirassier General	40 Colonel Gourgand	48 Light Infantry Voltigeur in Busby
40 Colonel Gourgand	41 Chasseur A Cheval of Imperial Guard	49 Grenadier of Imperial Guard Officer
41 Chasseur A Cheval of Imperial Guard	42 Hussar Officer in Shako	50 Line Infantry Grenadier
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Rifle Brigade

I am endeavouring to compile a collection of songs, poems and monologues that were originated by or were applicable to The Rifle Brigade. I would appreciate it if any of your readers who know of any would let me have details, even if incomplete.—D A Haughton, 34 Morden Way, Sutton, Surrey.

"Blues"

Some months ago you published a letter of mine regretting a Daily Telegraph report that "blues" are to be abolished and deplored the use of the pullover as normal day dress. The response from your readers was considerable!

All the letters were unanimous in deriding my sentiments, saying that I am out of touch with modern times. Some said that "blues," or an equivalent formal dress based on traditional patterns, are not applicable to the "Swinging Seventies." Others reminded me that we are in the "Space Age" and not Victorian England—although I do not see that the American exercise of putting a man on the moon need colour our Army's display of pageantry on formal occasions. I took a pace backward and re-examined my ideas. I can now report that I still

find no change in my position. Surely the pattern of life in the Army is divided into two separate spheres: (a) The job of work, for which the most appropriate clothing is essential. An up-to-date combat suit for exercises (and battle) or overalls for cleaning a tank. But neither of these, nor a pullover, can look anything but incongruous behind the adjutant's desk! (b) The ceremonial side, which makes the Army different from any other way of life and must rely heavily on tradition to justify its retention. The purpose of it is to give outward display to the long pageant of history on which regimental pride is based, and to stimulate it in young soldiers. Why else would there have been a public outcry to "Save the Argylls?" I did some market research on working dress and asked my bank manager why he did not wear a pullover at work as it is "smart and comfortable." He replied that the pullover is smart and comfortable around the home but not applicable to the formality of business life. Again I ask, is the Army to be less smart than civilians? Am I wrong in thinking that smartness and formality are part and parcel of the Army system? Oddly enough, all my replies were from other ranks. What do officers think? Capt R Armstrong-Wilson, Blawith, Ulverston, Lancashire.

Fear Naught roses

At the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment reunion in London last November I presented some Fear Naught rose bushes (Letters, November) to the regiment and these were accepted by Major-General P R C Hobart, the Colonel Commandant.

I understand three roses have been planted at the RAC Tank Museum at Bovington Camp in Dorset and that three are being planted at the Fort Pitt cemetery at Chatham where several ex-members of the regiment are buried.—Lionel Pearce, Fear Naught, 65 Wilson Avenue, Rochester, Kent.

Church to Museum

The Green Howards appeal for funds to convert a redundant medieval church, in Richmond, Yorkshire, into a regimental museum has been so successful that the original target of £52,000 has been raised to £60,000 to enable the final conversion phase to be completed professionally. The English Tourist Board has promised loan assistance on generous terms and the regiment hopes that any Green Howard so far not reached, and any individuals with the regiment's interests at heart, will help. The 14th century church of Holy Trinity, in the centre of Richmond, will also house the regimental headquarters and, since the regiment has offered to preserve part of the building as a small chapel, the church will still be a place of worship. It is hoped the museum will reopen by Easter 1973.

The Gulf in verse

"When the purple Oman mountains
Edge the ochre sand
I'm haunted by the beauty of
That ancient empty land."

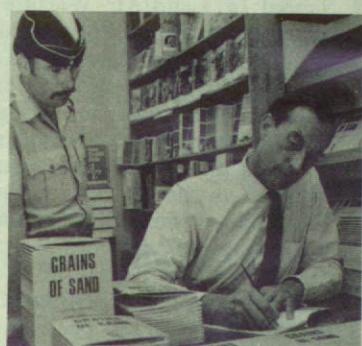
Thus begins one of the items in a collection of verse by the former Deputy Commander, Land Forces Gulf, Colonel F W E Furdon, (now with Rhine Army), which he published when in Bahrain.

The book, "Grains of Sand," was produced by Gulf Headquarters

typists and duplicators on repayment. Many of the poems, concerned with Arabia, previously appeared in the BOAC monthly publication Gulf Jet and in the Gulf Mirror. Colonel Furdon's love of the Gulf area shines through in all of these pieces. His "Bedu Call" and "The Sands" evoke the spell of the desert; he is humorous in "A Bahrain Fleet" (of donkeys) and whimsical as in "Gulf Gremlin" (an imaginary tour of the Gulf by BAC One-Eleven).

Camel racing, white Arab stallions and the south of Bahrain complete the Arabian section. Then Colonel Furdon turns to love and to a general pot-pourri "Of Events and Fancies." These include his impressions of London during two trips home and conclude with the philosophical "A Place in the Sun."

"Grains of Sand" is obtainable at 75p plus 5p postage from Fine Feather Production, Elm Tree Cottage, Ridlands Lane, Oxted, Surrey.

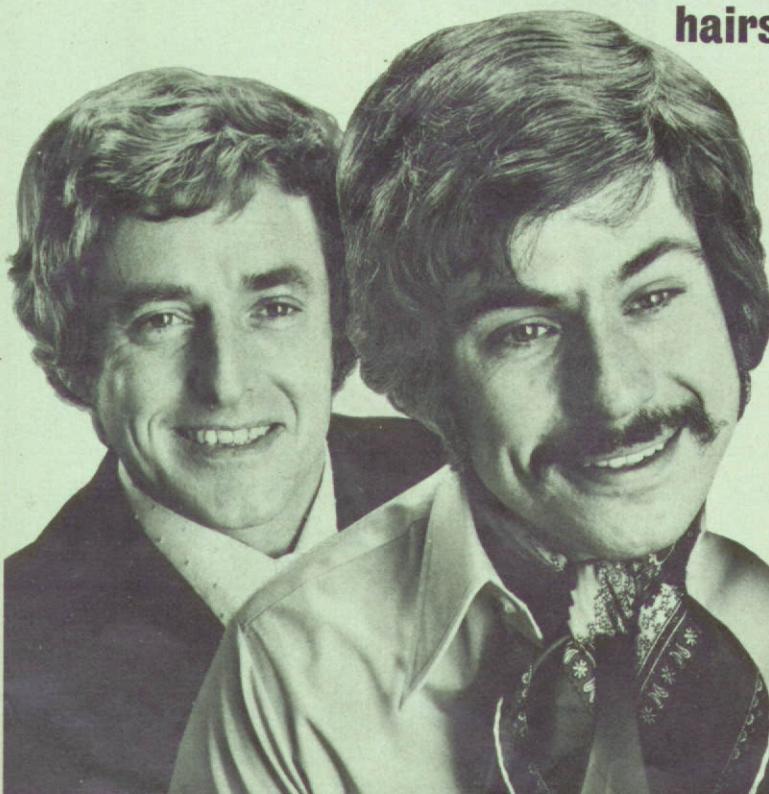


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National Army Museum

Since the National Army Museum was opened in London's Chelsea district by the Queen on 11 November, more than 15,000 visitors have seen its exhibits illustrating the history of the Army up to 1914. The collection, already of remarkable dimensions and quality, is growing continually and many generous gifts have been received since the opening. They include the Colour of an 18th century independent company; a ceremonial silver kukri presented to General Sir J F S Coleridge by all ranks of the 8th Gurkha Rifles of which he was colonel from 1925 to 1949; and the Victoria Cross and Military Cross won by Captain A H Batten-Poole, Royal Munster Fusiliers, in World War One. During 1972 it is planned to open a display of weapons, communications and transport on the ground floor of the museum and to revise the display at the Sandhurst branch of relics of the Irish regiments disbanded in 1922 and the colonial collections.

REUNIONS

18th Armourers. Reunion Saturday 13 May, Royal Green Jackets Drill Hall, 56 Davies Street, Mayfair, London W1, 1830 hours. Open to all who are serving or who have served at any time as armorer or artificers weapon in RAOC or REME. Details and application forms from Maj M G Chetwynd, REME, EME Branch, HQ South East District, Steeles Road, Aldershot, Hants.

South Wales Borderers London Branch of The Royal Regiment of Wales, Old Comrades. Reunion 22 April. Apply hon treasurer, Maj S P Hardy, 26 Billington Road, London SE14. **The Queen's Own Hussars.** Reunion dinner Saturday 6 May, Criterion in Piccadilly, London W1. Dress optional. Tickets £1 40 each, obtainable from Maj J S Sutherland (Retd), RHQ The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury Street, Warwick. **3rd Monmouthshire Regiment Old Comrades Association.** Reunion dinner 6 May. Details from Hon Sec, Mr H Jones, Argyle House, Argyle Way, Stevenage, Herts. Phone Stevenage 52468. **Middlesex Regiment (DCO).** Albuhera Service 1430 hours Saturday 13 May at Regimental Baptistry, St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4. Annual reunion 1900 hours 13 May, Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2. **14th/20th King's Hussars.** Regimental reunion, Aliwal Barracks, Tidworth, 5-7 May. Details from Home HQ 14/20H, TA Centre, Clifton, Manchester, M27 2PU. **2nd Searchlight Regiment Royal Artillery Reunion Association.** Annual reunion all ranks, Royal British Legion Hall, Wimborne, Dorset, 20 May. Church service, Cranborne Parish Church, 21 May. Details from L C Scott (Hon Sec), Wyncroft, 13 Victoria Road, Wimborne, Dorset.

IN TRANSIT

Competition 162 (November) was a fairly simple exercise in mind-bending and produced a large number of entries. The three answers required were: 40 (age of the Scotsman); 245609 (Army number of the man posted to Nicosia); staff-sergeant and widower (rank and marital status of the Englishman). The full solution was: 245542 Private Thomas (20), married, Welshman, posted to Catterick; 245764 Corporal Johnson (30), single, Irishman, posted to Berlin; 245609 Sergeant Smith (40), divorced, Scotsman, posted to Nicosia; 245999 Staff-Sergeant Brown (50), widower, Englishman, posted to Aldershot.

Prizewinners:

1 S/Sgt (F of S) M Taylor, Training Wing, 16 Sig Regt, BFPO 35.
2 M J Emsden, c/o HMB (Officers Mess), Dover, Kent.

3 WO I (SSM) J L Halsall ROAC, School of Ordnance, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey.

4 WO II (RQMS) J Edwards, 49 Fd Regt RA, BFPO 30.

5 M P Connor, 8 Brownlow Road, Redhill, Surrey.

6 Maj G K Gillberry, 7 Northfield Road, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 5GS.

7 Clare Storey (age 13), West Grove, The Raise, Alston, Cumberland.

8 S/Sgt P Burrell, c/o RNZEME School, Army Training Group, Waiouru, New Zealand.

9 T B J Coombe, The Picton, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Berks.

10 Sgt T Hannam RAPC, c/o Command Pay Office, Hounslow Heath, Hounslow, Middlesex.

stream Guards. Exchange or purchase. J M Brereton, Painscastle, Builth Wells, Brecknockshire.—Willing to buy any regimental histories published before 1939. Bjorn Martensson, Atterbomsgt 16, 75430 Uppsala, Sweden.—Wishes purchase complete volumes *SOLDIER Magazine* 1946-1954. All replies answered. Rudy W Basurto, US Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, Federal Correctional Institution, Lompoc, California, USA.—Wishes expand his worldwide collection of military insignia. Capt D C Saunders, 71 Willow Way, Farnham, Surrey.—Collects British military brass, silver and gilt buttons 1800-1950. Purchase, exchange or sell. All correspondence answered.

James Moran, Rt 1, Carl Junction, Missouri, USA 64834.—Wishes exchange US military cloth and metal insignia for any type West German military items. Also US military uniforms or any European uniforms R J C Darley, 39 College Court, Maidstone, Kent.—Requires cap badges Royal Military School (Edward VII and George VI cyphers) also pre-1881 numbered glengarry badges 87 and both types of 103. F C McDonnell, Adjutant, Basildon Drum and Trumpet Corps, 121 Great Mistley, Basildon, Essex.—Wishes on behalf of corps to start collection of cloth and metal Army badges, also buttons and militaria generally. All letters will be answered.

David Girdwood, Beechcroft, St Boswells, Roxburghshire.—Wishes purchase World War Two plastic infantry cap badges. Please state prices. All letters answered.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 21)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Top right branch of left cactus. 2. Handle of bucket. 3 Size of window in left wall. 4 Back of chair. 5 Top rung of ladder. 6 R in BAR. 7 Horse's mane. 8 Width of left mountain. 9 Handle of axe at right. 10 Direction of road at bottom left.

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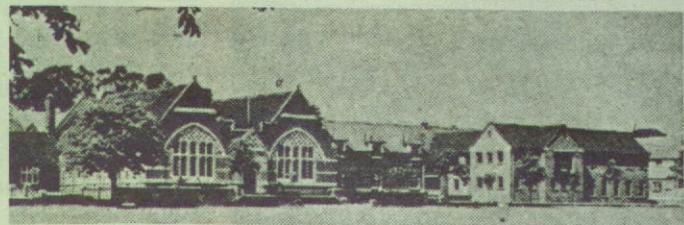
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On record

"Military Musical Pageant" (Excerpts from the Army Benevolent Fund's Military Musical Pageant performed at Wembley Stadium on Saturday 3 July 1971) (Producer: Major A F Jackman) (Musical Director: Major J H Howe) (Principal Guest Conductor: Lieutenant-Colonel R Bashford) (Philips 6308078)

This LP is vast in every sense of the word—sheer magnitude of sound, resources, scope, imagination, number of participants and above all the skill and quality of the whole enterprise.

And for the first time in my experience the record engineer's name is at the top of the sleeve among the conductors instead of in its usual place in the bottom right-hand corner. His name is Peter Olliff and to him is due the whole credit for capturing on disc this great musical occasion.

Most of you will remember the first Wembley pageant (LP reviewed *SOLDIER*, September 1970). This one is even bigger in scope, involving about 1200 musicians plus horses, guns and vehicles all used to musical ends. Every branch of Army music is represented and this may well be the high peak of military music as we have known it for 400 years. Its like may never be seen or heard again—certainly nothing so comprehensive—so your collection of records will never be fully representative without this LP. You can't afford to miss it.

Three kinds of fanfare—bugle, cavalry trumpet and herald trumpet—open the pageant and announce the entry of the massed bands of the Foot Guards playing Ketelbey's "Knights of the Queen" and Flotsam's "Changing of the Guard."

A great army of pipers, including the Gurkhas, performs the slow march "My Home" and then "The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar," all of which is merely a prelude to the showpiece of the evening, "The Battle of Waterloo."

Although you cannot see them, Wellington and Napoleon and their staffs survey the scene and direct operations while Major Jimmy Howe, from the rostrum, tic-tacs their decisions to the "troops."

A tremendous kaleidoscope of sound and effects—bugle and trumpet calls, guns, rifle volleys, cheers and counter-cheers—creates an atmosphere never quite caught before on record. Even the Prussians' late arrival on the battlefield is depicted.

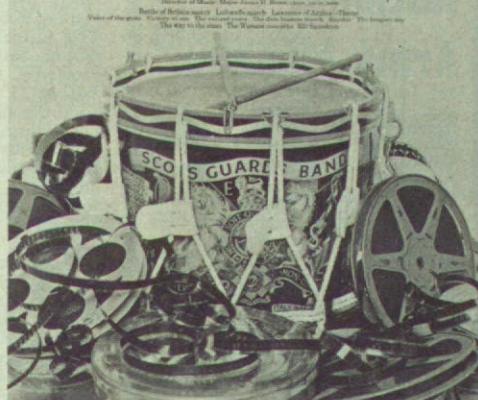
Side two begins with mounted music, a massed cavalry and corps bands item of great ingenuity at Wembley but here reduced to two pieces, Wagner's prelude to "Lohengrin" and the "Nibelungen March." Yet again the "Light of Foot" prove one of the show's highlights as The Light Division "do their thing" at 160 to the minute. At one stage the Gurkhas reach 168 in outdoing their colleagues. Thrilling stuff—and to hell with the drill books.

The massed bands with the aid of the Knele-Hall trumpeters vary the image with two pop-type numbers, "Theme and Rock-Out" and "Trumpets Wild," and all remain in the arena to form the main body for the finale when, to this mass of musicians, are added the bugles of The Light Division and Gurkhas, the pipes and drums of nearly every Scottish regiment, the many corps of drums, mounted Household Cavalry bands and sundry directors of music and bandmasters.

A list of the music played? Why worry—you'll never have heard it played like this anyway.

No other army in the world could ever have produced such a glorious pageant and if the apogee of military music past, present and probably future is of any interest to you, then here it is. Buy some fine stereo equipment to go with it. **RB**

GREAT FILM THEMES THE BAND OF THE SCOTS GUARDS



"Great Film Themes" (Band of the Scots Guards) (Director of Music: Major James H Howe) (Fontana 6309 012)

I seem to remember giving the Scots Guards a "pass with honours" for their last LP—but not this time. The band plays well enough, if without much gusto, but who can blame them with such dull stuff as most of this music is? And the arrangements are even more uninspired, making of the whole thing, instead of a sparkling Technicolour 1970s super-film, a dreary British B picture of the 1940s. The themes are famous, but with one or two exceptions not great. The engineers too have done a less-than-brilliant job this time.

Ron Goodwin's three contributions are wisely separated by the whole length of the record for the first track is the theme from the "Battle of Britain," a poor imitation of his own great and terrifically effective "633 Squadron" which ends the LP. Also from "The Battle of Britain" is his "Luftwaffe March," a very pale and unmemorable imitation of the German march style.

Maurice Jarre's music for "Lawrence of Arabia" is altogether more virile stuff but even here the general effect is uncommitted. The only perfect gem on side one is a straightforward version of "Voice of the Guns" by that reliable composer of film music, Kenneth J Alford. Typical music for an epic film drama (or in this case TV series) is "Victory at Sea" by Richard Rodgers, who should have stuck to writing great songs; it is absolutely awash with MGM Western-type clichés and exceedingly dull to boot.

On side two are a puerile arrangement of "The Valiant Years" (also by Richard Rodgers), "The Dambusters March" by Eric Coates, the theme from "Exodus" played too slowly, a "Longest Day" march of many *longueurs*, a nostalgic theme from "The Way to the Stars," a highly risible "Warsaw Concerto" from the weepy "Dangerous Moonlight," and the one really bright spot, "633 Squadron." **RB**

ing than most of its kind though. Then comes a "great" from France—"Quand Madelon," Allier's fine adaptation of the old tune. Canada has a two-tune medley, "Land of the Maple and Beaver," and Germany, I'm afraid, "Old Comrades."

One of the finest of all time, "The March of the Belgian Parachutists" by Leemans, opens side two. I have long wanted to record it for the Grenadiers have the original score and were the first to play it here many years ago. A sturdy march "Sons of New Zealand" is well worth its place as is "España" on themes from Chabrier's "España" but why, since all the other arrangers are mentioned, is that old warhorse W T Hughes (now 84) not given his credit?

The choices for England are Alford's "Army of the Nile" and a bit of "Pomp and Circumstance No. 1" but Austria's "Wien Bleibt Wien" is not too overdone. Australia is represented by "Waltzing Matilda." **RB**

"World Tour" (Band of the Scots Guards) (Director of Music: Major James H Howe) (Philips 630068)

I go along with this Scots Guards record though. Like the recent Royal Engineers disc it takes us on a world tour but this time to many more countries. The Scots Guards are indeed, as the sleeve claims, the most-travelled band of recent years and no doubt several of these marches were picked up on their journeys.

For collectors the start of the tour with the over-recorded "Liberty Bell" is a disappointment but there are rarities to follow. Holland is represented by Stenz's "Manoeuvre March," a very typical and good example, and Scotland by Major Howe's own "Pride of Princes Street." A march called "Gunkan" from Japan is a little disappointing too, for like most Japanese march composers I know, Tokichi Setoguchi has studied his Western counterparts too assiduously; more interest-





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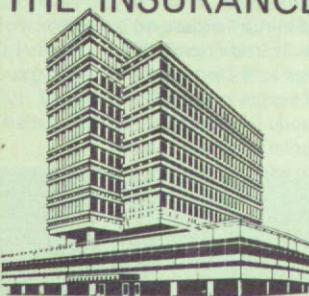
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GALLANTRY AWARDS

In the first list of awards for service in Northern Ireland since the Prime Minister announced that service in Ulster would be eligible for the full range of awards, no details of the actions for which they have been given are being released. This is in the interests of the personal safety of the recipients and their families.

Brigadier F E Kitson is awarded the CBE for gallantry while **Lieutenant-Colonel R Eccles**, The Green Howards, and **Lieutenant-Colonel R K Guy**, The Royal Green Jackets, both receive the Distinguished Service Order.

The OBE for gallantry is awarded to **Lieutenant-Colonel C R Huxtable**, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and **Lieutenant-Colonel G H W Howlett**, The Parachute Regiment.

There are four awards of the MBE for gallantry. They go to: **Captain C R M Kemball**, The Royal Green Jackets, **Warrant Officer I T B Latham**, The Green Howards, and **Captain A R Redwood-Davies**, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. The other was to **Padre Gerry Weston**, the Roman Catholic Chaplain who died in the bomb explosion at Aldershot.

An MBE for meritorious service goes to **Major P W Graham**, The Gordon Highlanders.

Three officers of The Royal Green Jackets, **Major I D Corden-Lloyd**, **Lieutenant C L Burrage** and **Second-Lieutenant M Smith** receive the Military Cross for gallant service as does **Major P H Kingston**, The Parachute Regiment.

The George Medal for outstanding bravery is awarded to **Captain A J Clouter**, **Captain D Markham** and **Warrant Officer II T J Green**, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Eight Military Medals are awarded. They go to: **Colour Sergeant E Bright**, The Royal Green Jackets; **Corporal E W Fisher** and **Corporal G Crossland**, The Green Howards; **Corporal C R Chinn** and **Private C J Butler**, The Queen's Regiment; **Corporal B Togg** and **Private S Burlace**, The Parachute Regiment; and **Sapper A G Young**, Royal Engineers.



Well, is it?

"Is it cold up there?" is the sort of smart-alec question which Irish Guardsman **Stephen Mallett** (above) must be heartily sick of. For Stephen, a towering seven feet two inches, is the tallest man in The Household Division and possibly Britain's lankiest soldier. The little chap hovering round his knees is three year-old Jimmy McGookin, who measures only 36 inches in his socks and is the son of another soldier serving with the Irish Guards in Hong Kong.



Minister at Mons

When **Lord Balniel**, Minister of State for Defence, paid an official visit to Mons Officer Cadet School, Aldershot, he had a surprise meeting with his cousin, **Officer Cadet Valentine Cecil**, aged 19. Above: The Minister tries his hand with a general-purpose machine-gun.



Two-star karter

Even a general can be a novice in some things. On this occasion it was **Major-General W Holme**, commanding Near East Land Forces, when he visited the Episkopi Go-Kart Club in Cyprus. Equipped with two-star plates to match his rank, General Holme (above) "put up a very creditable performance," report the karters.

Ski secretary-general

Captain Jan Lundgrum (left), of the Swedish Army, has been nominated to act as Secretary-General of the first military world ski championships to be held in Sweden next year.

Recently Jan has been in Austria helping in the langlauf course setting for 4th Division, British Army of the Rhine, and the Army ski meetings. He describes the British army skiers as "hard triers. They have improved a great deal over the past few years and there are quite a few who display first-class techniques."



Trenches cocktail

A cocktail created by members of the Machine Gun Corps in World War One brought a prize to a veteran who still drinks it, 80-year-old **Major D O Dixon** (above, right), secretary of the corps' Old Comrades Association.

Major Dixon won first prize, six bottles of Dubonnet, in a drinks recipe contest for "Bonny Dutch." This drink, a rare treat for the soldiers in France during 1914-18, is composed of a third of gin, two-thirds of Dubonnet and a splash of soda.



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Medals

"British Battles and Medals" (Major J L Gordon) (Fourth edition, revised by Edward C Joslin)

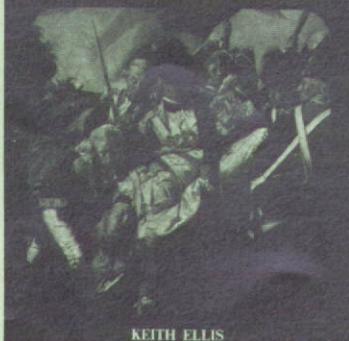
"Collecting Military Medals: A Beginner's Guide" (Colin Narbeth)

This new edition of Major J L Gordon's standard reference book for medal collectors has been completely revised and brought up to date by Mr E C Joslin of Spink's medal department. A major work on a fascinating subject, it describes in some detail every campaign medal to be awarded since the Armada with the historical reasons for their award and the names of ships, regiments and Royal Air Force squadrons whose personnel are entitled to them.

Thus, for the Seringapatam Medal the following regiments are listed as having taken part in the campaign which culminated in the capture of the fortress on 4 May 1799: 19th, 22nd light dragoons, 12th, 33rd, 57th, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 77th, 102nd, 103rd regiments of foot; Scots Brigade (94th), and Régiment de Meuron, composed of Swiss mercenaries. In addition, all the native units are listed such as detachments of Bengal Artillery, Bombay Artillery, Madras Artillery, Coast Artillery, Madras Engineers, Madras Cavalry and numerous infantry units.

A whole page is devoted to this award giving detailed information varying from such intriguing intelligence as the distribution of the £1,140,000 prize money awarded

Warriors and Fighting Men



KEITH ELLIS

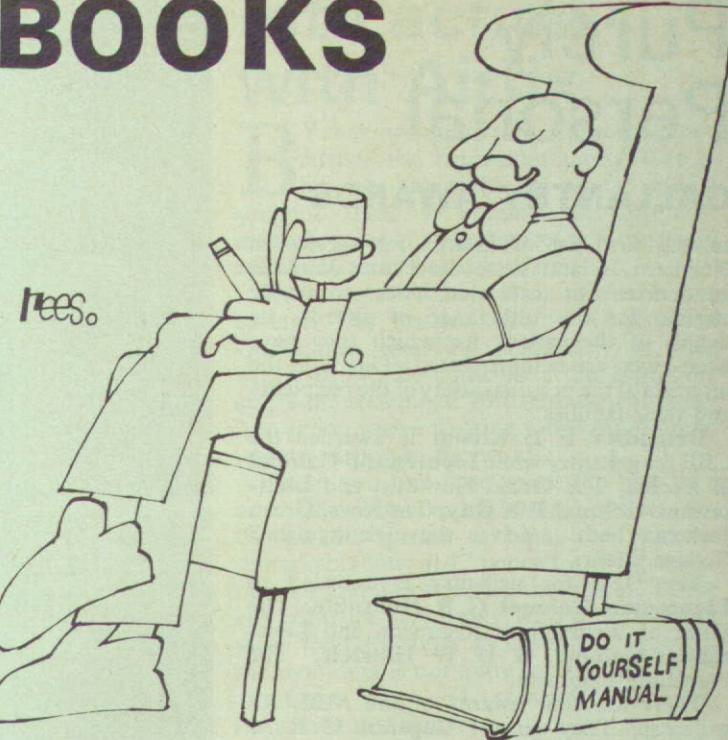
for the capture of Seringapatam—£100,000 for the commander-in-chief, £7 for a private—to the numbers of gold, silver gilt, silver, bronze and tin medals struck and details concerning their suspension.

The many illustrations include a 100-medal coloured ribbon chart and there is a wealth of information of a more general nature such as the sections on shooting medals, Indian Army ranks and their British equivalents, a table of British cavalry and infantry regiments, each accompanied by a few key words of regimental history. A useful glossary, a bibliography and a good index round off a satisfying volume. Expensive, but well worth it to the keen collector.

A beginner's guide is the apt subtitle of Colin Narbeth's expertly compiled and thoughtfully written book. This it most certainly is and a little bit more besides for, in addition to setting down in uncomplicated language all the background information necessary to a budding medal collector, the author helps the novice to extract the maximum fulfilment from his new hobby.

The first two chapters deal with Army and Navy medals while other

BOOKS



sections concentrate on Waterloo, the Crimea and medals issued for service in Africa, India, China and other theatres of war. There are some useful tips on display and a chapter on the naming of medals includes some handy advice on how to spot a forgery. Some 48 photographs illustrate the text and there is a full-colour reference plate of 36 well-known ribbons.

Recommended reading for the beginner.

1 Spink, £10
2 Lutterworth Press, £1.50 JFPJ

Men at arms

"Warriors and Fighting Men" (Keith Ellis)

It is asking rather a lot to cram the history of warfare into a mere 128 pages even though they do measure 11 by 8 inches, but Mr Ellis makes a fair job of skimming the surface to present a lucid and readable survey of men-at-arms.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature is the clarity with which he traces the development of weaponry. We see the disciplined Roman legions breaking the age-old phalanxes only to give way to the charging cavalry horde. The horseman rode supreme until he faced the deadly longbows of Plantagenet England and the equally lethal 18-foot pikes of the Swiss.

The infantryman was well on the way to resuming his ancient supremacy when gunpowder came on the scene to confirm it. It is easy then to follow his steps from musketeer to fusilier to rifleman and machine-gunner.

Mr Ellis goes on to examine the thoughts and careers of generals and military theorists—Gustavus Adolphus, Frederick the Great, Marlborough, Napoleon, Clausewitz, Moltke—and then brings the story right up-to-date with discussions on air power, guerrilla warfare and nuclear warfare.

Despite its brevity and the need to exclude so much, this book is well illustrated and makes an excellent introductory volume to any serious study of warfare.

Wayland (Publishers) Ltd, 101 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1, £2.25

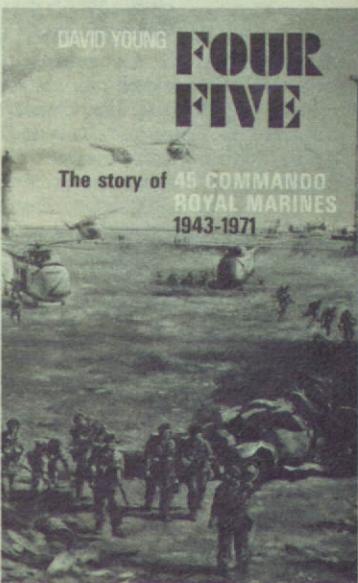
JCW

Green berets

"Four Five: The Story of 45 Commando, Royal Marines 1943-1971" (David Young)

I have read many regimental and unit histories but cannot recall any previous instance of killing an enemy with one blow of the fist. This happened during the crossing of the River Weser in 1945, the most fiercely opposed of the four major river crossings undertaken by 45 Royal Marine Commando during the North-West Europe campaign.

As A Troop's commander, Captain Dudley Coventry, led his men along the river bank an SS man leapt out at him from behind a hedgerow. For a brief moment the two opponents confronted each other in sheer



disbelief but the marine gathered his wits first and felled the SS man with a mighty punch to the jaw. The padre went to give first aid and found the German was dead.

Mr Young, who served in the Royal Marines from 1960 to 1970 and did two tours with "Four Five," covers the stirring history of this splendid unit, from its formation in 1943, across the beaches of Normandy into the heart of Germany, from

Malaya to Tanganyika, from Cyprus and Aden to Belfast and "the sorrowful task of peacekeeping within our shores."

Despite initial problems of acceptance by "blue" marines, the green berets have more than upheld the tradition of the corps and none more so than those of "Four Five." Mr Young does full justice to them in a book which deserves a wide readership.

Leo Cooper, £4.20

JCW

Battle Group Peiper

"Massacre at Malmedy" (Charles Whiting)

Joachim "Jochen" Peiper could well have been the archetype of the SS man. A dedicated, brave and ruthless fanatic, he fitted almost exactly the blueprint laid down by Hitler and Himmler. That was why, at 29, he had command of the 5000-strong 1st SS Panzer Regiment and why this veteran of a hundred bitter battles found himself spearheading Hitler's last throw, the Ardennes attack of December 1944.

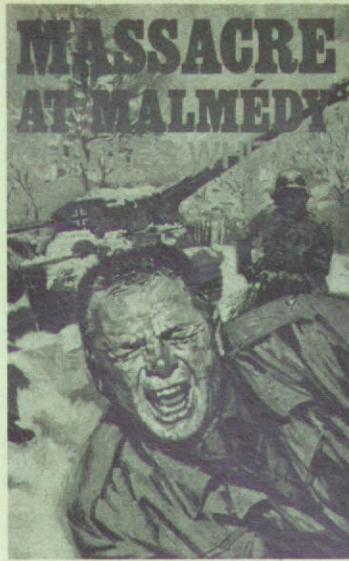
It could have been a ride to imperishable glory. Instead, Peiper's tanks drove to everlasting infamy with the massacre of some 70 captured American artillerymen on their record. The US official history estimates that Peiper's command also murdered about 300 other US prisoners and at least 100 Belgian civilians.

Battle Group Peiper finally ran out of steam when surrounded in the village of La Gleize. The colonel led his survivors out on foot and regained the German lines on Christmas Eve.

Mr Whiting sets out to trace the fortunes of Peiper and his men. He had done his research well and interviewed many witnesses, even tracking down Peiper in embittered retirement in Stuttgart. Unfortunately he has chosen an episodic style of presentation. The result is a somewhat disjointed narrative. Mr Whiting is much happier when following the fate of the SS leader and his men at their subsequent interrogation and trial for war crimes. Indeed his description of the game of legal cat-and-mouse which followed is both lucid and gripping.

Leo Cooper, £2.75

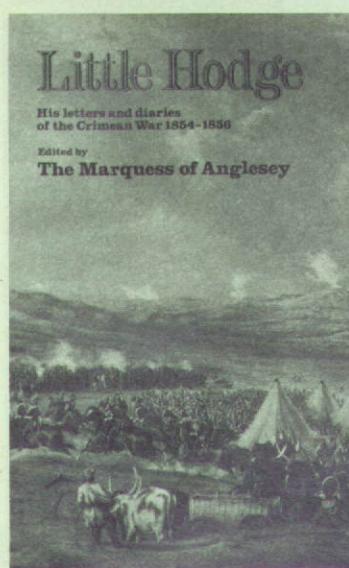
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before. How refreshing it therefore is to read the scribbled diaries and letters of a participant who wrote for himself.

Colonel Edward Cooper Hodge, 4th Dragoon Guards, was not an outstanding soldier. Although a Regular, he hated the idea of campaigning in the Crimea and was much happier reading Scott's novels or collecting flowers to send home to his mother. Yet he was an honest conscientious man, devoid of ambition and as tidy in his personal habits as any bachelor in the Army.

Even though he was involved in the charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaclava his comments are interesting because of the minor details so many others missed—how well fed the French were, the extensive use of camels, the trouble caused by snakes, ants and mice and the fact that all the British plans were reported in advance in *The Times*.

A very well-edited book of a fascinating character greatly enriched by a wide range of illustrations and clear maps.

Leo Cooper, £3.15

AWH

Professional soldier

"Blaise de Monluc" (edited by Ian Roy)

"This was the first execution I did at coming from my own house without sentence or writing; for in such matters, I have heard, men must begin with execution, and if everyone that had the charge of provinces had done the same, they had put out the fire that has since consumed all." This extract from the "Commentaires" of Blaise de Monluc is striking proof that our century has no monopoly of violent men.

Monluc was a Gascon who served in Italy at Pavia, Cérise and Siena during the long Hapsburg-Valois wars. His loyalty to the throne was such that he won the patronage of the notorious Catherine de Medici. As a devoted servant he was ordered to Guienne to suppress the Huguenots—and did so with brutal efficiency. He was badly wounded when his face was shattered by an arquebus shot and for the rest of his life wore a mask.

Although a hard professional soldier thriving on war, Monluc had

The Valois-Habsburg Wars and the French Wars of Religion
Blaise de Monluc
Edited by Ian Roy



much in common with the traditional cavaliers of Gascony like d'Artagnan and Cyrano de Bergerac. He too was just as proud, ambitious and boastful as he was brave and quick-witted.

While the aim of the "Military Memoirs" series, introducing the general public to relatively unknown personalities, is worthwhile, Monluc's text, even in translation, would be difficult to follow without the biographical notes and glossary.

Longman, £3.50

AWH

Lupin palm trees

"Airfix Magazine Annual" (edited by Chris Ellis)

How good are you at recognising historic military vehicles? Could you pick out a Vickers light tank Mk VIC and an Alecto 95-millimetre self-propelled gun from wartime photographs? Whether you could or not, you will certainly be fascinated by the pictorial "Military Quiz" which is a feature in the Airfix Magazine Annual.

This annual is the first of its kind and contains expanded and updated articles from: Airfix plastic modelers' magazine as well as original "jumbo" sized features by regular contributors. Chris Ellis, an expert on model armoured fighting vehicles, edits both the magazine and the annual.

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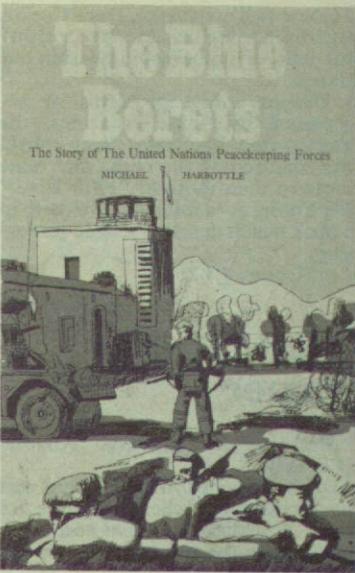
more books

Royal Dilley, president of the British Model Soldier Society, describes how to make a Long Range Desert Group diorama with items from commercially available kits using lupins as palm trees and plastic putty to make berets and arab head-dress. Other military articles cover the Churchill bridgelaying, Swordfish torpedo bomber, Messerschmitt Me262 jet aircraft, and Eighth Army AFVs. However, one main article—"Uniforms of the Flying Services"—suffers from poor artwork which anyway is in black-and-white.

The annual has 96 pages with 246 photographs and provides a fund of practical information for both beginner and expert.

Patrick Stephens, £1.25

HH



Keeping the peace

"The Blue Berets" (Michael Harbottle)

While it is fashionable in some quarters to knock the United Nations, that organisation has been largely responsible for the maintenance of peace during the third quarter of this century. In this excellent and highly readable book, Brigadier Harbottle, one-time chief of staff of the UN force in Cyprus, asserts that there is nothing to replace the peace-keeping machine of the United Nations. It has no national, international or transnational substitute.

He declares: "It is essential that the machinery be made as workable as possible. The will of the international community must be aroused on matters of vital future interest to the world—including the role of United Nations' peacekeeping in restricting and ending violence, in helping to create the conditions in which change can take place peacefully and just settlements can be reached."

One cannot disagree with him after reading his catalogue of United Nations successes—Egypt 1956-67, Congo 1960-64, Cyprus 1964-71, West Irian (formerly West New Guinea) 1962-63, Korea 1950-53 and all the observer missions between 1946 and 1971.

The author has aimed at presenting in his 157 pages a "guide book" to the more prominent efforts, describing the causes and effects of each conflict then covering the conduct of the operations themselves. He certainly achieves his object in a book which every soldier likely to wear the blue beret should read and digest. Nor should readership be confined to soldiers. The more people who get this message the better.

Leo Cooper, £2.50

JCW

Taro, china!

"The Diary of a Desert Rat" (R L Crimp)

Banker Crimp landed at Suez in July 1941, a rifleman in a London-recruited battalion of light infantry in which he later became a signaller. He served with his unit throughout the desert campaign. He swanned around in the blue with a Jock column, one of those self-contained formations that sprang from the fertile brain of Major-General Jock Campbell VC. He manned a telephone on a minefield gap at Alamein, was cut off with his unit when it made an epic stand against the panzers and soldiered on to see the Afrika Korps surrender in Tunisia.

For desert veterans he provides a wealth of nostalgia, and for youngsters perhaps a few eye-openers. There are the bull of infantry base depots at Geneifa and Beni Yusef, leave in Cairo with visits to the YMCA in Sharia Soliman Pasha and to the Berka, desert *char* brewed over a petrol fire, and the eternal flies.

There is also the old soldiers' slang with Middle East additions. Linguists may like to try this one: "Taro, china, just shufti this! The kooloo's zift. Duff scoff peachy if Ombasha can't buddly 'em."

Ex-Rifleman Crimp offers no profound thoughts on warfare, just a simple, intimate and illegal diary of very active service.

Leo Cooper, £2.50

RLE
"One moment, pal, just look at this! The whole lot's bad. Rotten meal soon if the corporal can't get them exchanged."

For wargamers

"The Alma 1854" (Major H E D Harris)

All too often for the enthusiastic wargamer one side or another in a particular battle has a clear advantage in numbers, fire-power or leadership. In this latest addition to Knight's "Battles for Wargamers" series they will find in the Alma a battle which either side could have won at almost every stage. There were no cavalry charges worth mentioning, no real hand-to-hand infantry mêlées, no attempts at encircling, no efforts to reconnoitre or even co-operate with supporting units.

The British, French and Turks landed in the Crimea in 1854 with the specific purpose of capturing Sevastopol. On the heights of the Alma they encountered the Russians. The huge allied force of 63,000 men and 128 guns lumbered into position and after hours of delay launched a frontal attack. For a moment the issue hung in the balance as some regiments withdrew but the Highlanders and Guards saved the day.

Little more than a tactical victory, the Alma is characterised by the age and ineptitude of the British generals.

The French, who have previously received less than their share of credit, were far superior.

A useful, small and compact volume.

Charles Knight, 90p

AWH

Sense of duty

"Gunner Subaltern 1914-1918"

(Julian Tyndale-Boscoe)

In 1914 the young cadets at Cannock Chase camp celebrated the outbreak of hostilities so boisterously that it nearly provoked a riot. Convinced that the war would be great fun and would last but a few short weeks, they made desperate attempts to enlist in any unit going overseas. With his admitted lack of training the author was lucky to find a place in the Royal Horse Artillery.

After a short period of intensive training the regiment found itself near Ypres and the reality of trench warfare. Constantly irritated by rats and lice in the cratered landscape, its men saw close friends mutilated and killed by gas and shell. Occasionally the madness was made

more unrealistic by leaves in Piccadilly. Inevitably, at the Somme, the author was hit.

Recovered from his wound he went to Egypt and then Palestine where he saw Lawrence and Allenby, swam in the Dead Sea, chased "Johnny Turk," visited Nazareth and suffered sand flies and dysentery.

Despite the frightful ordeal which the author and his generation endured they did not lose their sense of fun. Their sense of duty was even more impressive and it is unlikely that we will ever see the same again.

An interesting, simple account of war through the eyes of a young man.

Leo Cooper, £2.50

AWH

In brief

"British Cavalry Standards" (Dino Lemonofides)

Concise yet comprehensive, this guide to the standards, guidons and drum banners of British cavalry regiments from 1660 to the present time comes as a companion volume to Mr Lemonofides's "British Infantry Colours" and so completes his coverage of British regimental standards. Colour prints, photographs and line drawings support an informative text made the more interesting by its historical content. An appendix giving the sizes of standards and guidons will be welcomed by modellers.

Almark, £1.75 (hard cover), £1.25 (paper cover)

"Insignia, Decorations and Badges of the Third Reich" (R Kahl)

This detailed, well-illustrated work covering the whole insignia spectrum of the Third Reich is conveniently

divided into six sections. The first shows nearly all the known Nazi party and state insignia while section two concentrates on orders and decorations. Section three provides the collector with much-needed information on the donation and propaganda badges of the period, 270 examples out of a possible 32,000 being cited. Sections four and five deal with the insignia and awards of the Dutch and Norwegian Nazi movements and the last section gives a few examples of "foreign" Nazi organisation badges.

A A Johnston, Pitney, Langport, Somerset, £4

"Collecting Militaria" (Derek E Johnson)

Badges, swords and daggers, uniforms, books and maps are some of the many aspects of the fast-growing-hobby of amassing militaria covered in this collector's handbook.

At the end of each chapter is a list of typical prices at auction which enthusiasts will find useful as a guide in building up their collections or for putting a price tag on their unwanted pieces.

Nearly 30 pages are devoted to German militaria—imperial and Nazi—a branch of the hobby which has a special appeal as items become scarcer and consequently more costly. Arthur Barker, £2.00

"German 88-mm Anti-aircraft Gun"

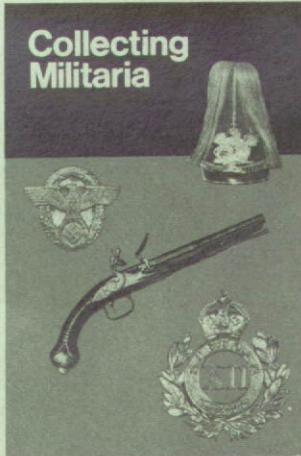
An American reprint of a once-restricted US War Department technical manual, this is something for the specialist. It covers, as one would expect, every facet of the German 88mm anti-aircraft gun from descriptions of the breech and recoil mechanisms to conversion and firing tables. The illustrations and diagrams will be welcomed for their detail by the expert and mechanically-minded.

Military Arms Research Service, PO Box 941, San Jose, California 95108, USA or A A Johnston, Pitney, Langport, Somerset, \$4.95 (post paid)

"A Collection of Pistol Points" (Gerry Ford)

For this entertaining and attractively presented handbook Mr Ford has chosen 23 British and American pistols. These he briefly discusses against their historical backgrounds—regimental campaigns, land and sea actions and individual incidents in which the weapons figured. Each cameo, for that is what they are, is illustrated by two line drawings—one of the pistol itself, the other an action picture. Easy and informative reading.

Ford Graphics, Room 505, 1 New Burlington Street, London W1, 60p



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