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# Soldier



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4 It's a tough climb to the top for the boys of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Rowallan Company, on a gruelling 12-week test of their potential.

19 Army biathletes make up the British squad who are already training hard to be in peak condition for the 1980 Olympic Games.



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#### FRONT COVER

Captain W H M Ross, Scots Guards, adjutant of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, rehearsing the traditional finale to the Sovereign's Parade by riding his charger Alexander up the academy's steps and through its Doric-columned portico.  
*Picture by Doug Pratt.*



Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)  
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)  
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)  
Soldier News: DOUGLAS McARTHUR (Ext 2591)  
Art Editor: JOHN RUSHWORTH (Ext 2589)  
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)  
Photographers: DOUG PRATT, PAUL R G HALEY (Ext 2584)  
Advertising/Circulation: Mrs C WILKINSON (Ext 2583/2587)  
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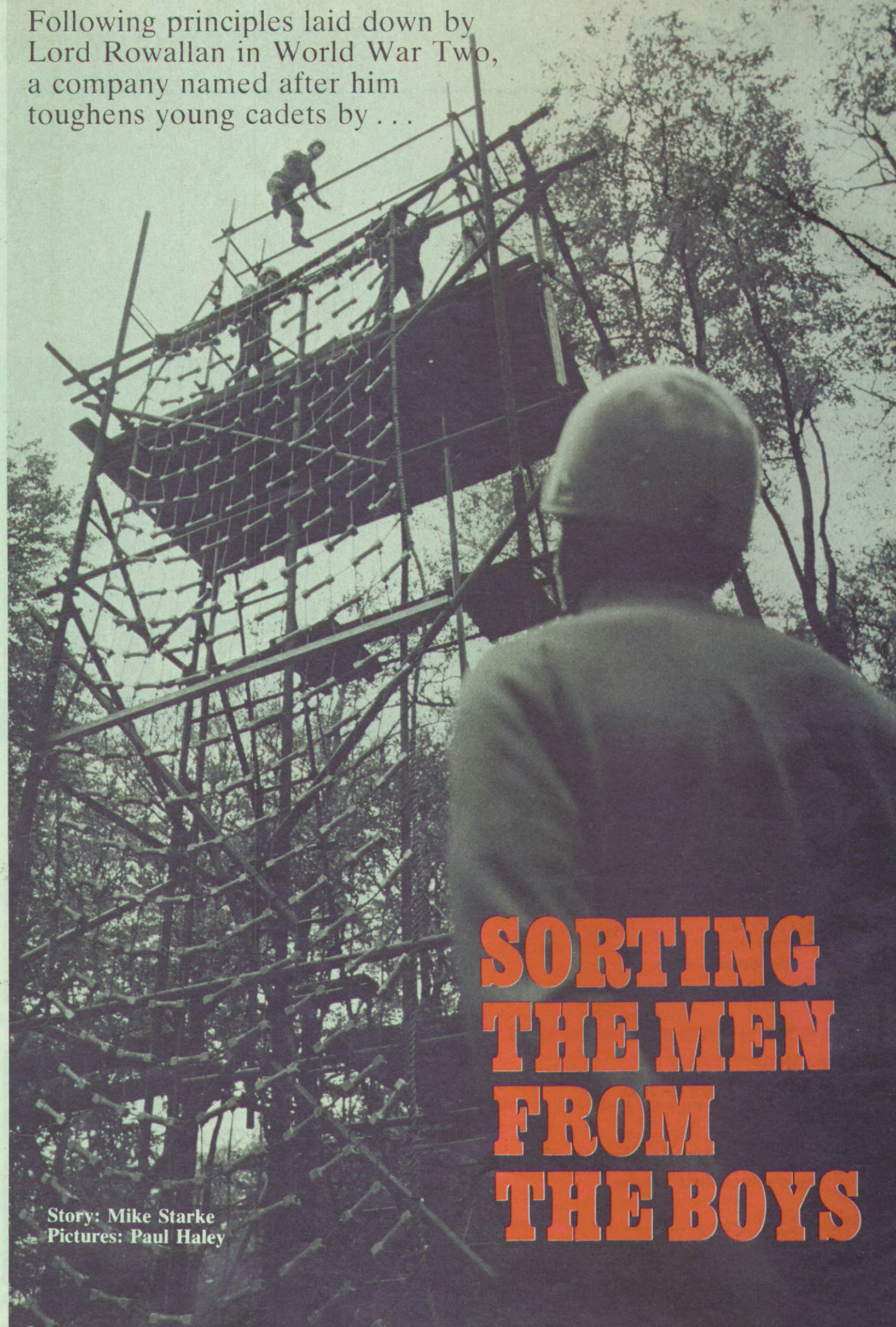
#### BACK COVER

Students from the Royal Military Academy's Rowallan Company climbing at Symonds Yat in Wales during their mid-term adventurous training 'break' half-way through the gruelling twelve-week course of toughening up.  
*Picture by Paul Haley.*





Following principles laid down by Lord Rowallan in World War Two, a company named after him toughens young cadets by . . .



# **SORTING THE MEN FROM THE BOYS**

Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Paul Haley



THE CLOISTERED world of the classroom is just the echo of a school bell away and memories of hearth and home tug agonisingly at the heart strings. But this fond cocoon of boyhood is systematically stripped away in an intensive twelve-week course that strives to make men of cadets hoping to be officers in the British Army.

Set up just two years ago, Rowallan Company at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, is dedicated to physically and mentally toughening up youngsters in whom the Army's Regular Commissions Board sees potential but considers too young or immature to go directly into the standard military course for officer cadets at Sandhurst.

The idea is not new. It had considerable success in the hands of the company's namesake, Lord Rowallan, during World War Two, when similar potential officers were toughened up at the future Chief Scout's Highland Fieldcraft Training Centre at Glenfeshie, Scotland.

Basing itself on Lord Rowallan's model and adding the results of subsequent experience, the Sandhurst company has evolved a course that is constantly being refined. Much of the groundwork for this was done by the first officer commanding, Captain Angus Ramsay, of The Royal Highland Fusiliers — the successor regiment to Lord Rowallan's own Royal Scots Fusiliers.

The company's present commander, Major David Williams, explained his unit's role: "The idea is to develop leadership qualities in the cadets. This is done by developing their self-confidence and self-reliance."

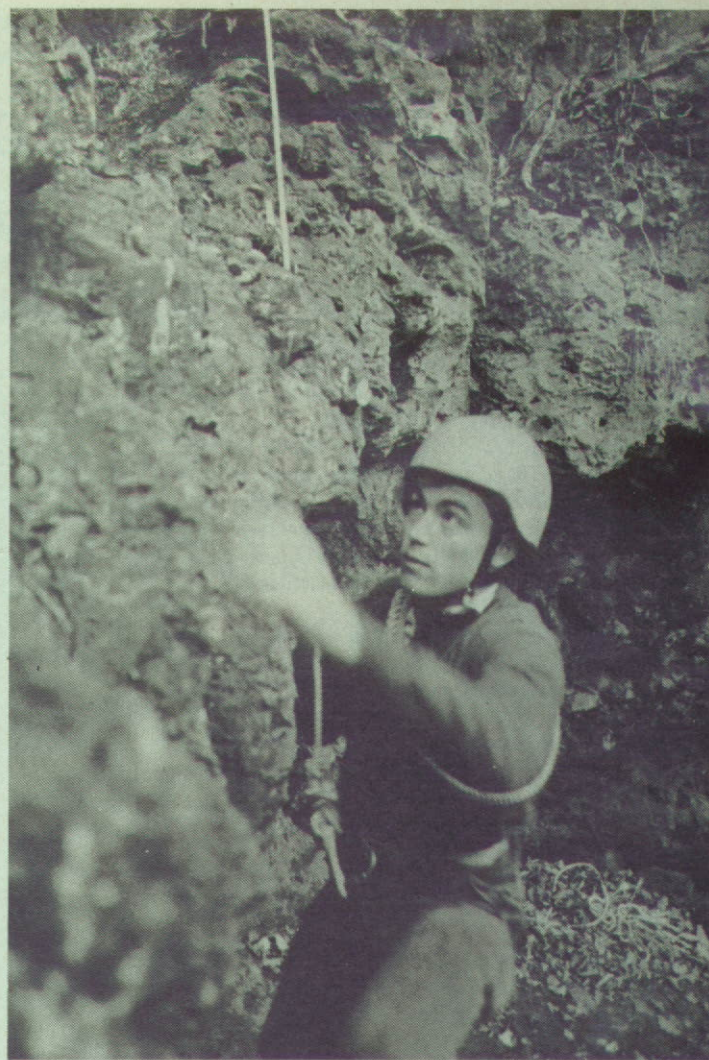
Major Williams and his specially picked staff follow the maxim of leadership expert John Adair that leadership cannot be taught, only learned. To this end the staff set tasks for the cadets and then stand back and let them make their own mistakes. If a cadet

Left and right: The ups and downs of building Rowallan students' confidence in themselves.

Below: Even the company's mid-term 'rest' is a challenge with canoeing on the wintry Wye.







itches his tent incorrectly he is not taught there and then how to do it right. After a wet night on a bleak exercise area he will learn quickly enough to avoid repeating the experience!

Throughout the course the pressure is constant on the cadets. Apart from three weekends off, they work seven days a week. A week is set aside in the middle of the twelve weeks for an adventurous training 'holiday' but even this is a packed programme of tough outdoor pursuits such as climbing, canoeing and potholing.

Care is taken not to duplicate the activities of the standard military course which is devoted to training rather than the character building of Rowallan Company. Commander of one of the company's two small platoons, Captain Keith Price illustrated the point: "An SMC cadet is taught to use a rifle as one of the essential tools of his trade. In Rowallan Company a cadet may be taught instead to handle a canoe in freezing white water, only so that the experience may be beneficial to his breadth of mental fortitude."

Basic military training is given in the first three weeks of the course simply because the company is part of Sandhurst — working as an independent sub-unit answering to the academy's headquarters — and its members must have some vestiges of military bearing. The only other SMC subjects touched on are map-reading and first aid.

The latter proves essential to the cadets on

exercise in small groups away from their barrack-block home at Sandhurst (none of the comforts of SMC cadets' single accommodation for them).

A large proportion of their time is spent 'in the field' on carefully designed exercises which rudely awaken the unwary to expect the unexpected. Demoralised and dispirited after one gruelling exercise in the Brecon Beacons, a cadet commented: "We were low — really low — out there. But afterwards we got quite a sense of achievement at having stuck it out."

And this is half the battle, Major Williams believes, in winning the war against lack of self-confidence and self-reliance. The challenge, mixed with deliberate elements of risk, gives the cadets a unique chance to test themselves and measure their own limitations and potential against tough odds.

This testing is formalised on the course in written self-assessments the cadets are required to make as well as commenting on the progress, as they see it, of their fellow cadets. Like Lord Rowallan before them, the company's staff find this useful in making their own assessments, which are regularly reviewed as the course continues.

Four such reviews, conducted by the commandant of Sandhurst in consultation with the company's staff, are used to point out each cadet's weak and strong points. Some drop by the wayside before the end. Most go on to finish the course and enter New College for the standard military course. One, so far, has finished up winning the Sword of Honour as best cadet in his intake.

Classroom periods augment the outdoor activities of the company and these are

mainly designed to develop communication skills as well as the ever-present task of increasing self-confidence. These periods can include debates on contentious subjects designed to provoke the cadets into verbal sallies they might not have dreamed of a few weeks earlier.

Initiative tests have been sprung on them late at night with a morning deadline before which to achieve aims such as announcing an aircraft departure from Gatwick airport, collecting a chorus-line garter from a top London night spot, and setting foot on French soil (the French Embassy). Seemingly frivolous, these all contributed to building confidence.

Although the staff ostensibly keep a 'low profile,' counselling and assessment of cadets play a vital role in Rowallan Company's function. The relatively high ratio of one to four staff to cadets means that every cadet's potential can be monitored thoroughly throughout. One instructor commented: "This is as tough a course as you'll find anywhere in the Army. These lads are really put through it. It wouldn't do any harm for SMC cadets to have to do the same thing for a few weeks when they join."

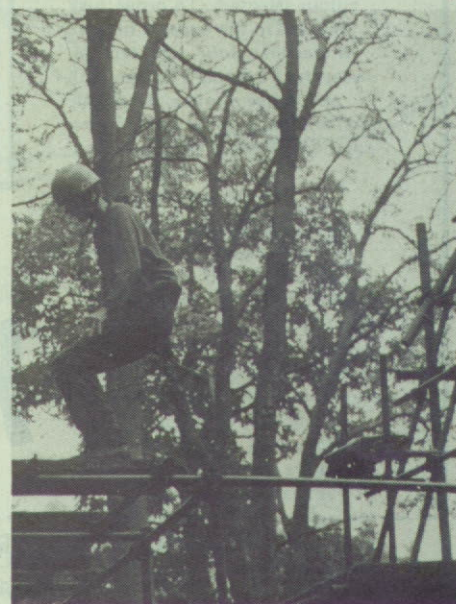
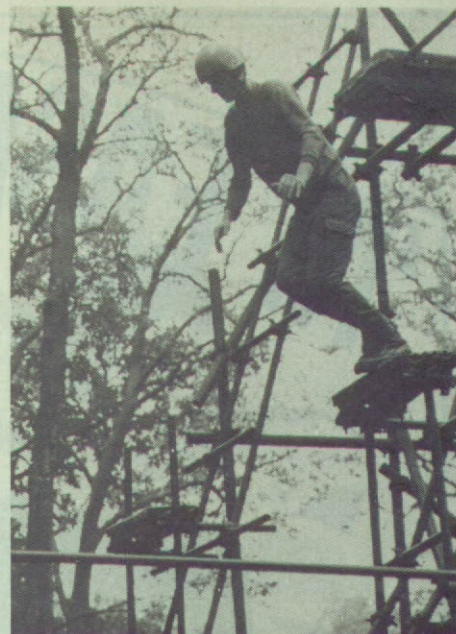
But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. A Rowallan Company cadet thought hard when asked: "Can you envisage yourself giving orders to your platoon under terrorist attack in Northern Ireland?" He eventually said: "At the beginning of this course I would have said 'no way.' But now . . . I think I'll be up to it when the time comes. I wouldn't have said that a few weeks ago."

Only time — and Rowallan Company — will tell.

Top left: SSI Mick Kilcoyne knows the ropes.

Top right: . . . And a student then learns them.





Above: Going, going, gone. A student leaps a confidence course chasm high above the ground.

Top left: Rowallan Company's staff and students join in a game of volleyball at the day's end.

Left: Staff-Sergeant Dave Rutter (foreground) briefs a party of orienteers before setting off.



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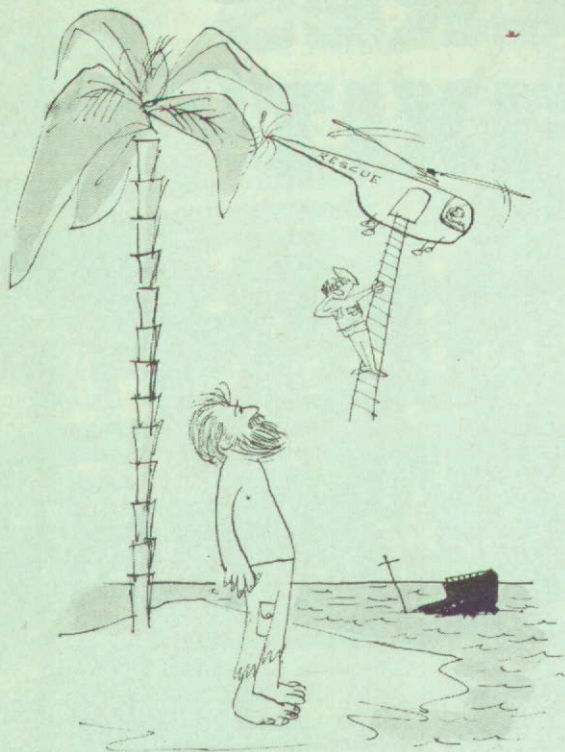
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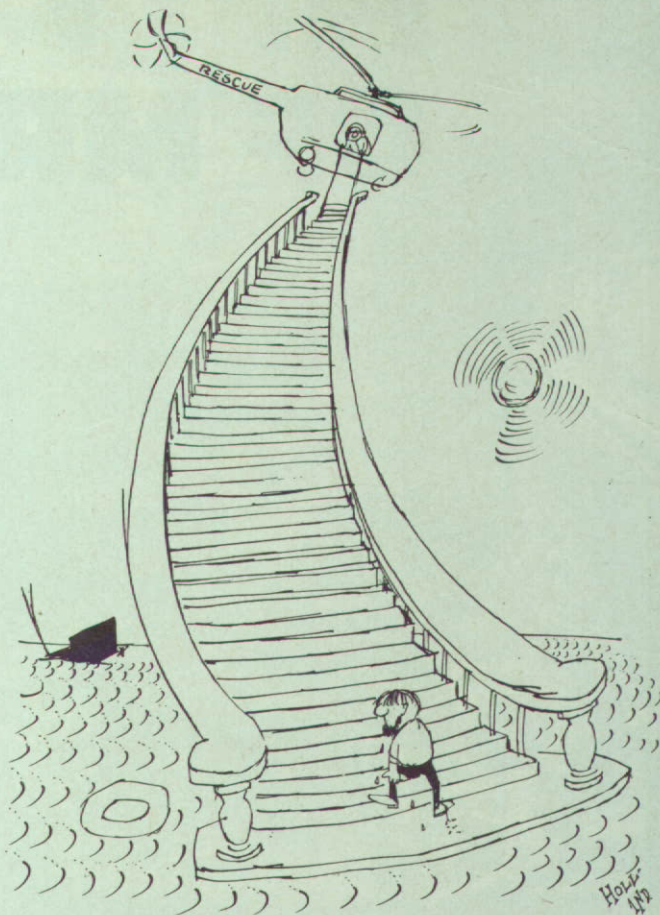
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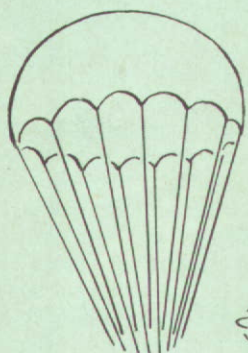


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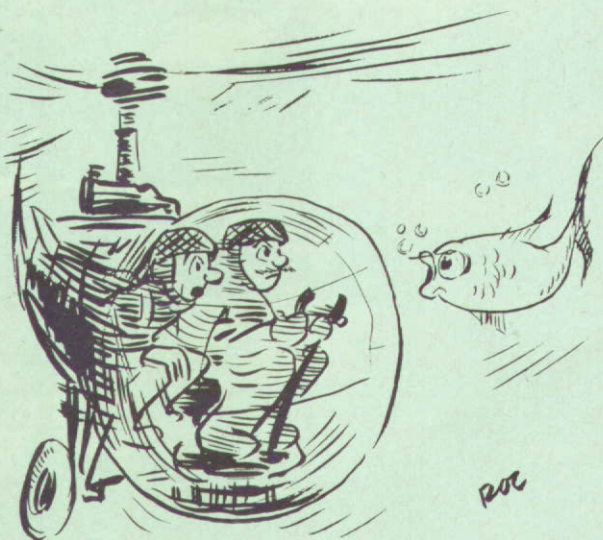


# UP and AWAY

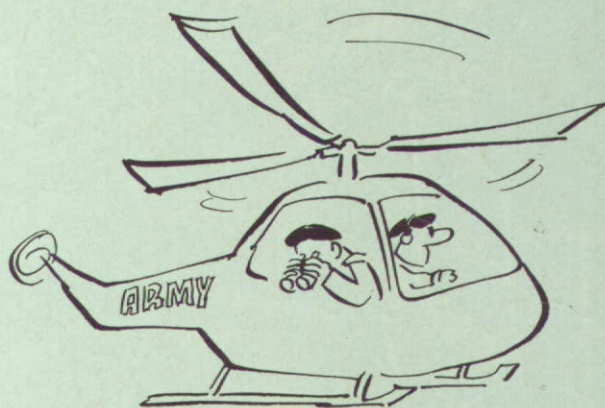
Visiting United States helicopters  
(page 31) prompt a peep at the  
whirlybird world



"Sorry!"



"Are you sure we're in a fog?"





# FIFTY ACRES OF 'MR FIXIT'





TANK BROKEN DOWN, rifle won't fire, watch stopped, compass inaccurate — your unit cannot fix it — it's beyond local repair. Who puts it right? The answer is simple: 23 Base Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The unit traces its history back to World War Two, being finally located in Wetter, Germany. The workshop site spreads over some 50 acres which previously belonged to the Harkort-Eicken Steel Works, said to have been the birthplace of the industrial revolution in Germany.

Responsible for the reconditioning to base repair standards of A (armoured) vehicles, 23 Base Workshop also copes with A vehicle assemblies and a wide range of heavy engines together with armament, small arms, instruments and some telecommunications equipment for Rhine Army and the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS). It also carries out repairs and modifications as well as investigation of defects.

Boasting the largest Royal Army Ordnance Corps stores section in the entire Army, the workshop's staff comprises 14 military officers, three United Kingdom-based civilian officers, 21 warrant officers and non-commissioned officers — the lowest rank is sergeant — six other UK-based civilians and 1745 locally employed civilians of whom 72 are apprentices under training.

The apprentices are trained partly in the workshop school and partly on the 'shop floor.' In addition they attend local vocational schools. These apprenticeships are much sought after as they not only provide a source of skilled labour for the workshop for years to come but also meet a social need within the local community.

The workshop is the second largest employer in the area and half its employees have served for at least ten years while a quarter have been there more than 20 years.

The commander, Brigadier Bill Bailey, looks on his organisation as a family and is proud of the fact that it is a multi-national team effort both at work and off duty in the town of Wetter itself. His is the only unit that encourages parties from other units to visit to see what goes on.

It takes the best part of a day to look over the vast site and with its three workshops, its own internal railway system with two locomotives, its own effluent disposal system, range, power station, chapel and six miles of central heating pipes, there is certainly plenty to see.

*Report and pictures by Army Public Relations, HQ 3rd Armoured Division.*

**Left:** A line of Chieftain tanks in for their overhaul in the massive A vehicle workshop.

**Top right:** Herr Dieter Schmidt instructing two first-year apprentices in workshop techniques.

**Right:** WO1 (ASM) Dave Hall supervising repair of compasses by Fraulein Elisabeth Lindibauer.





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# THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE OF CANADA

JUST OVER A CENTURY ago the British Army withdrew from Canada and the Canadian Government had to seriously consider national defence. As a result, a college was set up which today has developed into an institution combining elements of Sandhurst, Cranwell, Dartmouth and Shrivenham and yet is like none of these. The Royal Military College of Canada, the forces' own university, in fact anticipated Canada's unification of the Services by two decades — it went tri-Service in 1948.

Today, 43 per cent of officers joining the Canadian Forces have university degrees — and more than half of those will have passed through the lakeside college at Kingston.

For many years the college was linked with the mother country. Four British commissions were awarded each year to its graduates and, by 1910, 29 ex-cadets had reached brigadier or higher in the Imperial forces. In World War Two the total was 21, although 90 per cent of the ex-cadets by that time went into Canada's own army. Since 1942 this has dwindled until there are now believed to be only two ex-cadets serving in the British Army.

There are two other Canadian military colleges — the Royal Roads over on the west coast and Le Collège Militaire Royale De Saint-Jean in Quebec. But Kingston takes many cadets from these two colleges for their final studies towards degrees.

The Royal Military College has had its own degree-granting charter for 20 years and those first arts degrees have now been followed by degrees in engineering, science war studies and administration.

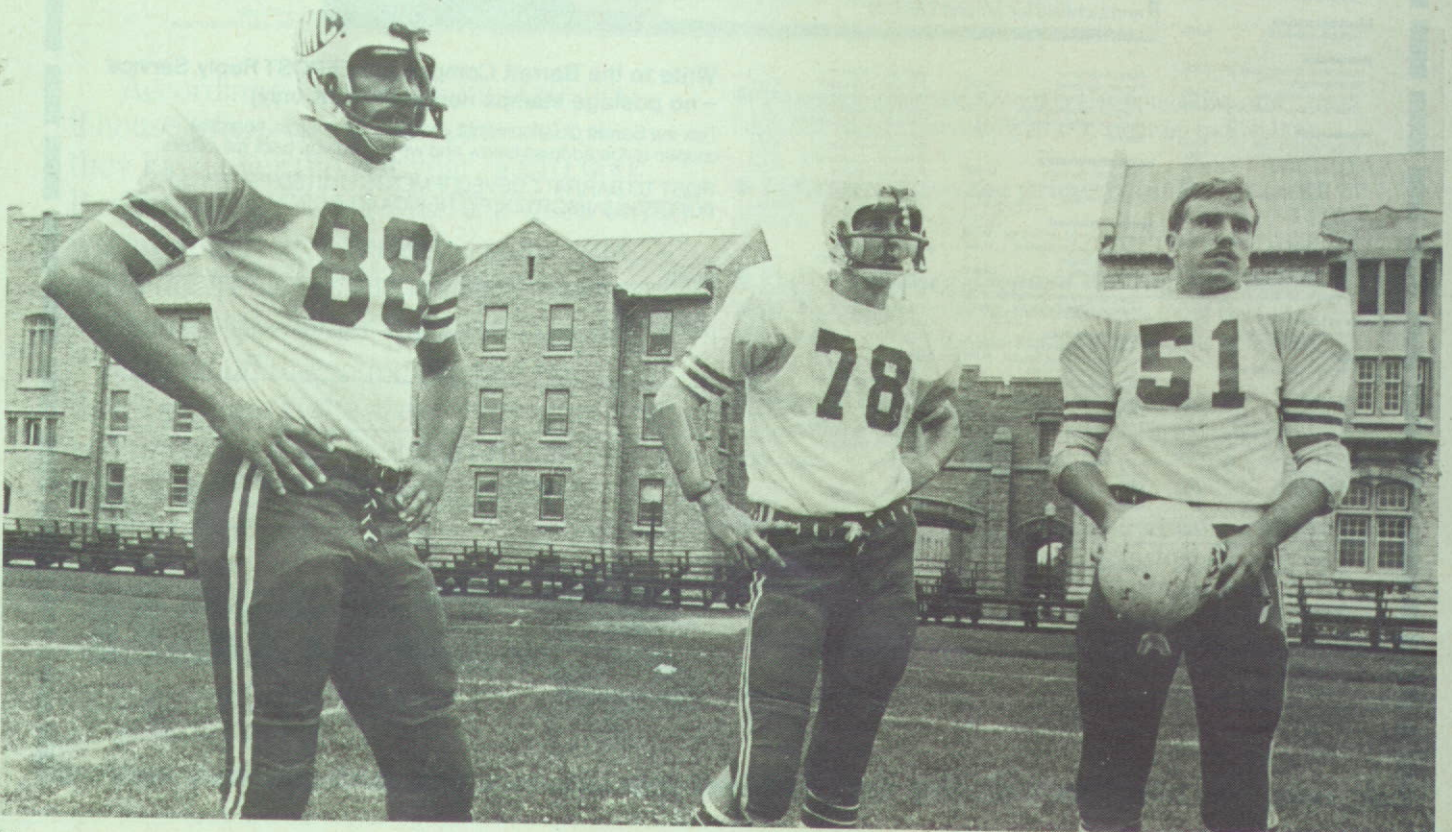
There are four types of students at Kingston — those who study for four years for degrees, some who pay their own way though the college, officers who return to study for degrees and former non-commissioned officers seeking degrees and commissions.

From September to May the college operates as a campus environment but with military discipline and administration. Con-



## REDCOAT UNIVERSITY

Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Doug Pratt







centration is on academic studies and physical education. During the summer the cadets go off to join the Services proper for their military training.

Women are poised to be admitted to one or more of Canada's three military colleges by 1980 — and the move has upset members of the Royal Military College Club of Canada. This comprises all ex-cadets, some of whom passed through Kingston more than half a century ago.

The Kingston Whig-Standard reports that most old campaigners, meeting at the college for a reunion, were adamantly against the move. Said Mr E D Campbell, aged 72: "The college is a combat training institution and there's no place in the Canadian Army for female combat troops. Women's rights have gone too far. They've overstepped the mark now."

As befits what is now a bilingual country, the official business of the college is carried out in both English and French — on a one-week on and one-week off basis. There is also five hours a week of second language training so that all cadets will leave with a functional knowledge of their second language.

Mr Bryan Rollason, a Welshman who heads the language department, says: "Francophones learn English more easily because they are living in Kingston, which is unilingual so whenever they go outside they use their English. But we are making very good progress with the Anglophones and they spend 12 weeks at a Canadian Forces base in a French area in order to improve their French."

The cadets are basically responsible for their own discipline. Lieutenant-Colonel John Annand lays down the policy and they see it through under supervision and guidance from the staff.

"We try to sit down and let the cadets do it without interfering. We let them make mistakes and then discuss what has gone wrong. This is their last chance to make mistakes because they must not make mistakes after they are commissioned."

Tom Lowson, in his fourth year, is wing commander (head cadet). He explains how the system works: "The fourth year organises, the second and third supervise and the first are the workers. Up to a certain point the more you go through in terms of chal-

lenge the more identity you have with the college. But we have tried to get rid of the useless type of challenges that may have been previously given to cadets — polishing apples and things like that. We want to present more physical challenges."

Colonel Annand says the physical and mental challenges are designed to give the cadets a sense of achievement at the end of each year. The recruit orientation course culminates with a long and arduous obstacle race — which requires teamwork as the obstacles cannot be overcome individually.

All potential cadets go through nine weeks of preliminary training before they arrive at Kingston — this has cut wastage at the college considerably. But standards, both physical and academic, are strictly maintained throughout the year.

"If at any time anyone falls down on the physical education and drill programme, then out he goes," says Colonel Annand. "But most of our wastage in the first year is from people who cannot take the academic life on top of other commitments. It's very hard to get in here but it's not difficult to leave."

Undoubtedly the environment at Kingston is very North American — a century ago the idea was to take the best from both West Point and Sandhurst. Today the college has evolved into something which has no equivalent in the United Kingdom — the only relics of its Imperial past are the dress uniforms with their scarlet tunics and pill-box hats.

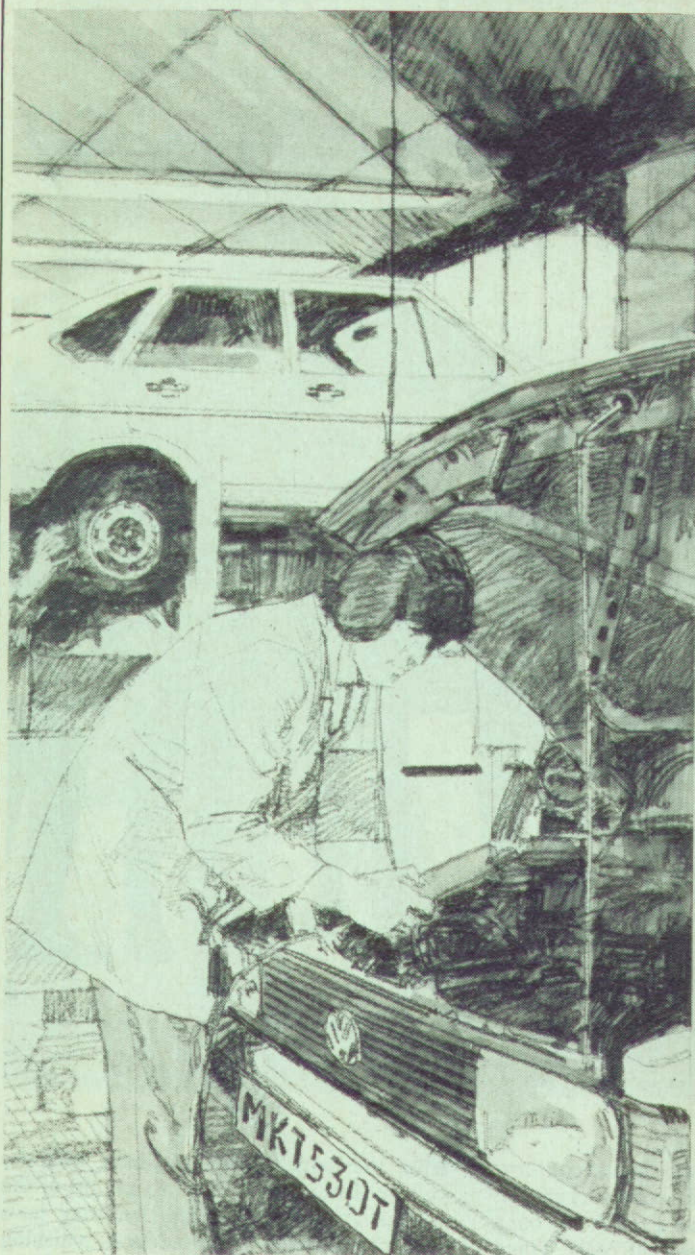
Top left: Statue of officer cadet watches with stony eyes present-day cadets on the square.

Opposite: Not extras for 'Superman' — just well-padded cadets for American football.

Above left: College commandant, Brig-Gen A J G D de Chastelain, Scots educated.

Above right: British officer Lieutenant Chris Blevins poses at college entrance with cadets.





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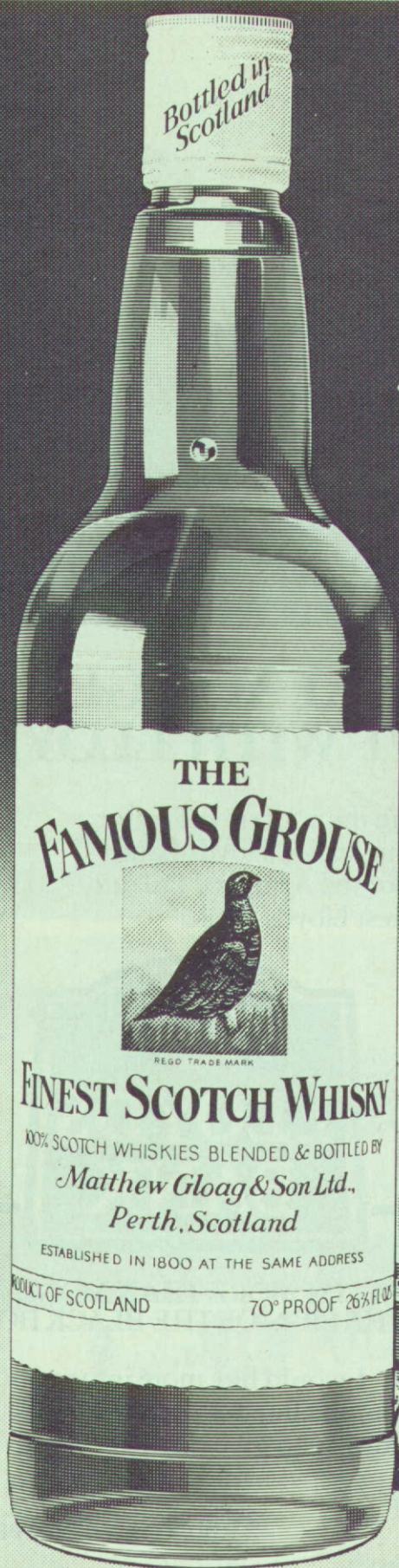
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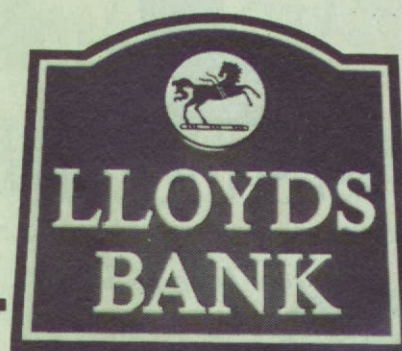
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# The fittest men in Britain



Story: Doug McArthur  
Pictures: Doug Pratt





A FOUR-YEAR training programme is honing seven soldiers to a knife-edge of fitness to take part in the world's most physically exhausting competition. Yet out of the seven, only four will have the honour of representing their country.

The sport is Nordic biathlon, rated the most gruelling competition in the world. Currently the all-Army British team is rated about third in the world, although it can hope to be only in the top six when the Olympics come round. Because of the many imponderable factors associated with this precision sport it will still be a matter of luck whether the team comes in the top or bottom end of the first six places.

The seven-man team is competing this month in the world championships in Bavaria — two years before the big one, the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid in the USA. Bavaria will give trainer Staff-Sergeant Alan Notley valuable insight into whether his four-year programme is working. Lieutenant-Colonel John Moore, commandant of the Army School of Physical Training and the first-ever British Nordic biathlon competitor, is in no doubt that the squad comprises the fittest men in Britain — and he has the test results to prove it.

Biathlon originated in Scandinavia as a form of hunting on skis, using a bow and arrow, then rifle. When there was no longer any necessity to kill to live, it became a sport and animals were replaced by static targets.

Great Britain fielded a team of one — John Moore — in the first world championships in Austria in 1958. His qualifications as national cross-country ski champion and a promising marksman ideally suited him to this new sport and in that first competition he came 18th out of 40 entrants.

By the 1960 Olympics the team had swelled 100 per cent with the addition of one team-mate for John, but a proper team and back-up organisation were formed in time for the 1964 Olympics. Since then the team — which has always been found from the Army — has steadily improved, with the best performance so far from Sergeant Keith Oliver who came 11th in the 1972 Olympics and is hoping for an even better personal place in 1980. But as well as being athletes, each man has to fit in his soldiering. This year, five of the squad have served in Northern Ireland.

There are currently two teams in training — the A team for 1980 Olympics and the B team for 1984. Both teams work to a four-year cycle developed on Finnish lines, and although there is a great deal of financial help from the Army and Sports Council, as well as outside commercial sponsorship, it is estimated that each competitor will have paid out about £4000 of his own money before he has finished. Spending is not difficult when each man has to buy items like his own custom-built small-bore biathlon rifle at £250 a time.

The teams train full-time for seven months a year and, until they moved to Switzerland for snow training before Christmas, had become a familiar sight around Bovington and the surrounding picturesque Dorset countryside. Unfortunately those rolling hills take on quite a different aspect after pounding up a few of them on roller skis. The sight of the squad in training has proved a great incentive to the dozens of junior soldiers training at Bovington who

turned out regularly to watch the biathletes going through their paces.

"Ski-ganking is harder than sprinting and harder than a two-hour run," said 'Ollie' Oliver. "If there is a time when we spew up, this is it."

The seven men pushing their bodies to the limit in this intensive training know that they are competing for only four places — three know that, injuries apart, they will have undergone this nerve-jangling torture for nothing. In the end it is only their obviously high self-motivation which keeps them going.

"It is physically the hardest sport in the world," said Colonel Moore, "and we have the figures to prove it. They are easily the fittest team in Great Britain because among top athletes the fittest men are always top cross-country skiers, which is probably why the event, which is virtually unknown over here, has such a fantastic following abroad.

"There will be 32 countries taking part in biathlon in the next Olympics, which makes it the biggest winter sport — yet in Britain it is hardly known."

If the event demands super-fitness it also demands acute concentration. For instance, in the 20-kilometre event, the competitors ski for four kilometres, lie down and shoot five rounds, ski another four, fire five rounds standing and so on. The target is less than two inches across and, if missed, penalty time is added. Concentration is essential for accurate shooting but this is made well-

nigh impossible with constant distractions, particularly from other competitors running to the firing line and shooting.

"This part is fascinating," said Colonel Moore, "because they are channelling enormous strength, power and determination to drive on faster and faster, then suddenly stop, control a hammering heart and concentrate on shooting. They will be hot and perspiring then have to lie down in the snow in a thin ski suit, so the cold grips right into them.

"This of course is the Army's interest because it harnesses this explosive energy with the skiing and the steadiness needed for shooting. It's a very obvious Army sport."

Obviously with so much intense effort, promotion and careers can suffer, but this is only in the short term, says team manager Major Richard Grieve. "They don't really reach their peak of fitness and experience much before 28, and that is after about six years of training. Yes, during that time careers can suffer, but once you are no longer competing fully, then you have the fact that you have been an Olympic athlete behind you, — which must be a positive



Top left: Picturesque Lulworth Cove provides a backdrop for muscle-stretching hill-sprinting.

Left: Corporal Jim Woods skiing away from the range in last year's relay championships.

Above: Deep concentration is called for on the range because a miss means a time penalty.





Above: Road roller-skiing outside Bovington.



Left: Checking pulses after heavy exertion.

boost. There is the amount of travelling, which is a great education, and we have found that whatever they do afterwards they will have received a tremendous boost to their careers from competing at such a high level."

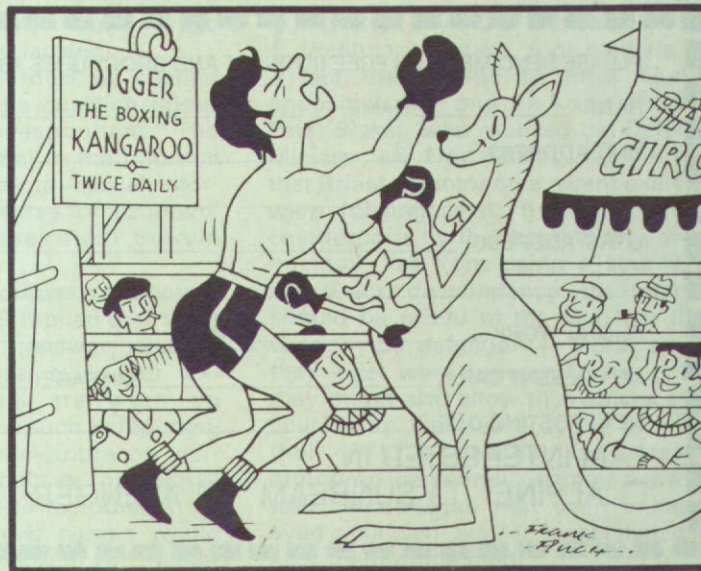
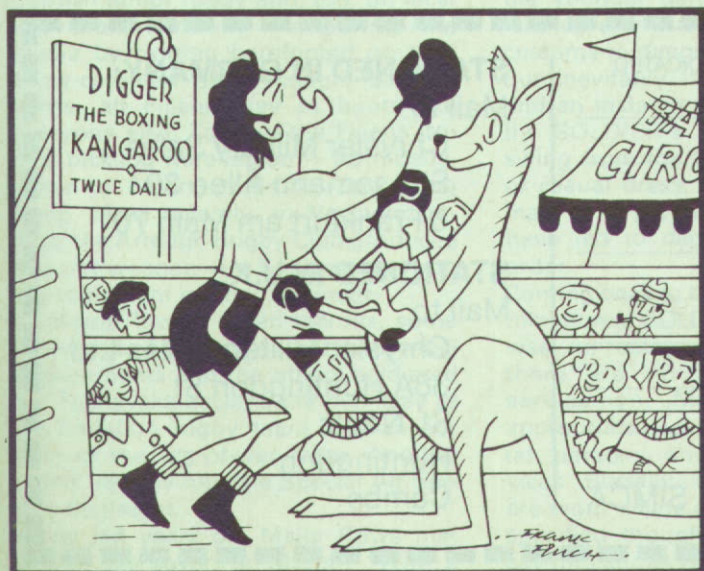
What of the future? Will the Army keep its grip on this exacting sport and, if so is there enough interest to ensure world-class squads? According to Colonel Moore: "There are some very good soldiers knocking on the door"

Trainer Alan Notley started his four-year programme with 17 hopefuls. That number was eventually whittled down to the present seven for whom training started with a return to basics on skiing and shooting. The next year, weight training was added; now the team is building up speed. For five months of the year team members return to their units to concentrate on individual training and catch up on military commitments.

"A medal would be the wildest of wild dreams," said Staff Notley, "but I am hoping for the first eight. Whether we are in the top or the bottom will depend then on luck, and that is something we can only hope for."

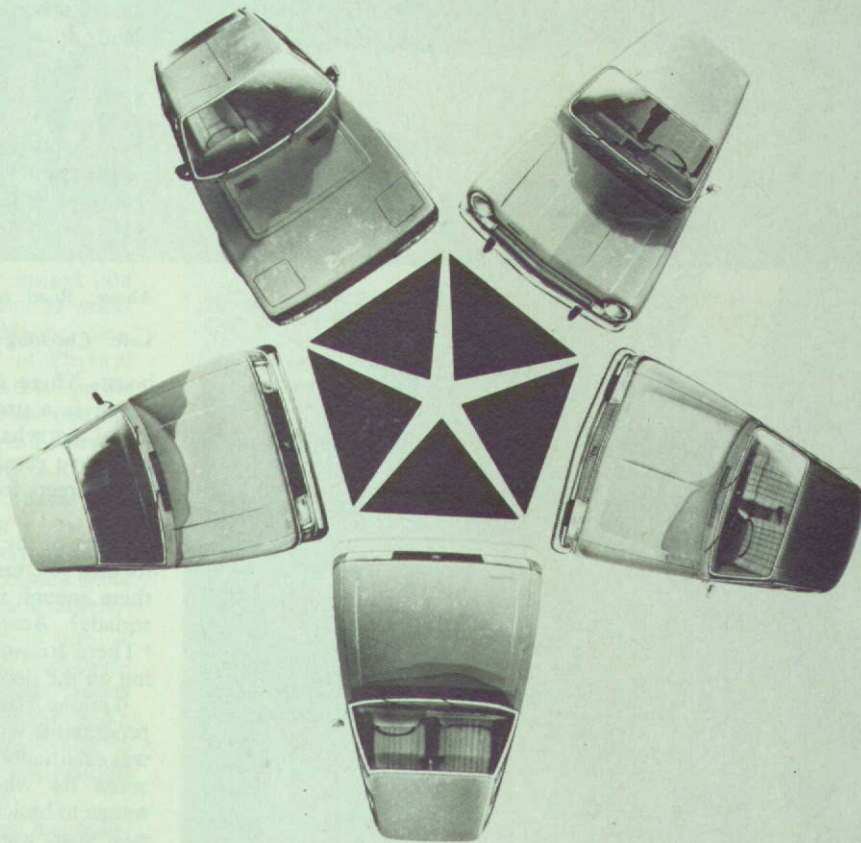
## How observant are you ?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 44.





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# SOLDIER to Soldier

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A reminder that it is more than 17 years since recruits were brought in from the Commonwealth to bring the Army up to strength comes from Major Peter Rowe, The Light Infantry, at the Army Medal Office. Then he was taking Fijians into the training (recruit) company which he commanded at his regimental depot. Now he is involved in issuing the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal to those of the original 200 Fijian men — and 12 women — who are still serving.

Of all the overseas recruits — there were others from the West Indies, the Seychelles, British Honduras and British Guyana — the Fijians stole the limelight at the time and endeared themselves to civilians and fellow soldiers alike. The Fijian is a naturally cheerful and friendly character, intensely proud of being British, possessing as a soldier the same virtues which have earned for the Gurkha the deep respect of friend and foe — and he plays a rattling good game of rugby!

Major Rowe recalls his intake of seven young men — Kunandomo, Lepai, Marafono, Quovadrada, Tabuavaka, Tekuleka and Vosabeci — who arrived at Heathrow on a grey November day and were met with seven large-size greatcoats. They varied in height from six feet plus down to five feet six inches — but only large size coats would span their broad shoulders.

For their first meal at the depot the seven Fijians took their loaded trays to the same table then, completely naturally, stood quietly with heads bowed and said their grace. Major Rowe later discovered that five of them were Methodists and two, Roman Catholics. Reinforced by all seven, the depot rugby team made a real impact on Cornish junior rugby and, too, on local television, dutifully humouring the media by trotting barefooted on to a snow-carpeted pitch though, back at home, all Fijians play in boots like everyone else. Tales of the Fijians' robust tackling were legion — from Ballykinler to Berlin, in Brunei and Hong Kong. More recently, in Northern Ireland, the Armagh Rugby Club produced a secret weapon — a Fijian centre from the roulement gunner regiment.

Of Major Rowe's seven recruits, some returned to Fiji at the end of their initial engagements and the others soldiered on. Tabuavaka became the mainstay of his battalion rugby team and anchor man of the tug-of-war team. Another found his way into the Special Air Service Regiment.

Some ten years on, Major Rowe met one of his seven in Dhofar. "With a

small group establishing a health clinic in the fishing village of Taqah he suddenly appeared and thrust a mug of delicious Omani coffee in my hand.

"Some years later I was stopped at a cunningly placed vehicle checkpoint in Northern Ireland. A huge grin confronted me behind which lurked Sergeant Tabuavaka, on his -nth tour in the Province, this time a 'spearhead' move to a seemingly tranquil but deeply sorrowing corner of Co Armagh in the area of Kings Mills. Quite a long way from the dining hall at Bodmin, and far, far away from Fiji. Again I shook his hand."

★

Is it correct to wear miniatures with a lounge suit at an old comrades' annual dinner and dance? This question, recently put to SOLDIER by a reader in presumably that delightfully vague bracket of 'middle age,' itself poses further questions. Is there a danger, as the years go by, of unwritten rules disappearing by default? Or are customs and traditions being irrevocably eroded in the 'permissive' and even 'anti' age? And, as an extension of that, does it matter anyway?

In reverse order, yes, it does matter to many people. It matters to the middle-aged or older because they see a growing apathy towards so much that has been the discipline and bedrock of their lives. It matters to those of the younger generation who seek conformity and something to grasp in an age of instability.

And, yes, customs and traditions may well be disappearing though conversely the younger generation is tending to take up enthusiastically the old village customs in danger of lapsing.

But inevitably there must be change and an instance is the question raised by SOLDIER's correspondent. The swing from the formal to the informal or casual dress, even to 'casual informal,' and the pressures of economy have led to departures from the old order.

Coming back to the original question of miniatures, SOLDIER replied that there was no categorical answer because there are no dress rules for ex-servicemen. Medals are worn on appropriate occasions such as regimental parades and remembrance services. Socially, medals or miniatures are worn where one or the other is not specified though most people would say miniatures were proper with dinner

jackets but not with lounge suits. SOLDIER went on to suggest that if the reader's old comrades association had no regimental guidelines, its committee might discuss medals and miniatures and meet the problem by specifying dress and decorations on invitations. But then, as ever, other readers might have other views?

★

One of the surprising things to us has been the way in which demand for the special Jubilee commemorative issue of SOLDIER — Royal Salute — has continued since its publication a year ago. Hardly a day goes by without someone wanting a copy.

This is not just the normal demand for back copies. For Royal Salute is a permanent memento of that glorious year and very few of the thousands of copies already sold have made their way to the wastepaper merchants.

There is still time for you to buy your own copy of Royal Salute. Just send 65 pence, which includes 15p postage and packing, by UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

Just as a reminder, Royal Salute has card covers with 24 pages of pictures and text, showing the Queen and her Army — and 31 of those pictures are in full colour. This special issue is not available from bookstalls and Naafi.

★

Infantry, says the Concise Oxford Dictionary, means 'foot soldiers.' A fact that seems to have eluded opposition MP and ex-Army Minister Peter Blaker, who rebuked the Defence Minister, Mr Fred Mulley, for the fact that British infantry on a recent exercise were 'distinguished from their Nato counterparts by the fact that they were on foot.' Far from being a source of alarm and despondency, the infantry should be proud of the fact that they were — by definition — right, where their allies were apparently wrong. But they might also allow themselves a sly chuckle up the sleeve at the fact that their FV432s (mechanised infantry armoured personnel carriers) were so well camouflaged that even a hawk-eyed politician like Mr Blaker failed to spot them in the field!





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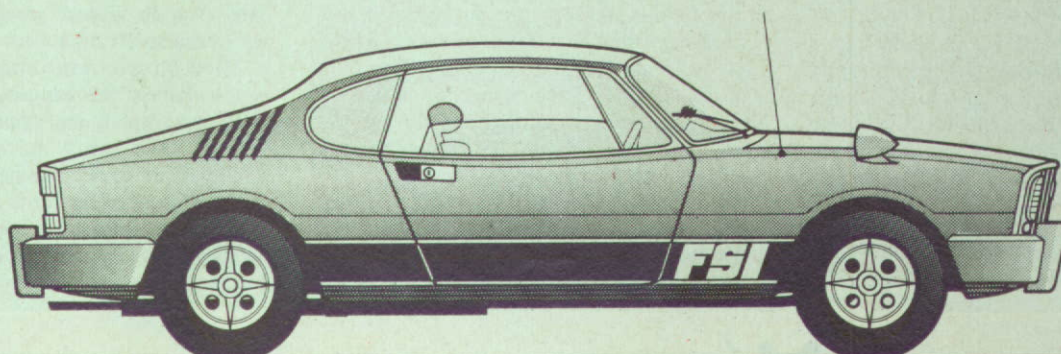
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**Starring Norman Clayden**

# THE WILD GEESE

SUNDAY MORNING. A fierce nor'easter whips across the salt marshes at Foulness, reddening the faces hidden beneath anorak hoods and woolly hats. The skies are leaden and visibility is poor — but that is not why the small party is equipped with telescopes and binoculars.

For we are off on a wild goose chase. In the company of members of the Army Birdwatching Society we are to study the Brent goose, who flies to this lonely part of Essex to escape the even worse rigours of a Siberian winter. And during the day we shall see many other species of birds which make their homes in this part of the Shoeburyness ranges.

It is almost superfluous to say that at the centre of things is the Army's own conservation officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Clayden. Clutching a telescope and tripod, he bubbles with enthusiasm as he points out a several-hundred-strong gaggle of Brent geese waddling about the sands.

Peering through his spyglass he spots a goose with a yellow ring on its leg and then

proceeds to blind us with statistics. "Do you know that one-fifth of the entire world population of Brent geese comes here from Siberia?" — and goes on to tell us that the reason why this eight-mile stretch of coast from Shoeburyness to Foulness is such a goose Mecca is that it contains vast quantities of their favourite foodstuff, a plant called *zostera*. After they have exhausted the supply, the birds tend to spread around the coast for the rest of the winter, going as far north as Hull and as far south as Chichester. Then it's back to the Soviet Union in the Spring.

Apart from up to 40,000 geese of different types, the ranges are home for up to 200,000 waders and gulls and 20,000 ducks during the winter. It is a field day for the Army Birdwatching Society's annual pilgrimage. The society now boasts 320 members and is increasing all the time. Fortunately only a handful of them have turned up today — they have other opportunities during the year to visit other military establishments teeming with birdlife.

Our small convoy of cars makes its way across the ranges to Foulness — then it is back to Shanks's pony. As we trudge through ankle-high coarse grass and

assorted sea plants, the cries go up from the ornithological fraternity — "Are those widgeon coming over?" "No, they look more like teal."

There are crevasses hidden beneath the foliage and it is difficult to watch your feet at the same time as you have binoculars pointed heavenwards. Calamities occur — Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Sherrard-Smith tells us confidently: "It's fairly straightforward here . . ." His words come to an abrupt end as he plunges into a knee-high rut of ooze.

We reach the shellbank and Colonel Clayden moves away to set up his tripod on the millions of shells. Miss Molly Drake, resident ornithologist, tells us that the ill-fated and unlamented (in this party at any rate) Maplin airport would have stretched up to the shellbanks.

Miss Drake, who spends a day most weekends on the ranges, was one of the leading campaigners against the proposed airport. "To say I am pleased it is not coming is an understatement. This is a most wonderful place for birds and so valuable to them and to human beings. Because of the Army being in occupation it is really a proper nature reserve."

**Story: John Walton**  
**Pictures: Paul Haley**





Left: Flying in perfect formation, the geese show how they managed to inspire the hearts of men.

Below left: Members of the Army Birdwatching Society scan the grey skies over Foulness.

Right: Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Clayden holds out a gallant hand to help lady across a rut.

Below: The beach at Shoeburyness is alive with immigrants from Russia — the Brent geese.

Meanwhile, a few hundred yards away hundreds of black dots move around on the water's edge. Enthuses one naturalist: "Those are lovely, massive oyster-catchers, aren't they? I don't think I've ever seen so many." Colonel Clayden lets us peek through his telescope for a closer look.

More birdwatchers arrive, including Lieutenant-Colonel Gwen Staines, matron of the Louise Margaret Hospital in Aldershot, and a couple who have travelled down from Norfolk. We slowly wend our way back across the marshes.

Miss Drake produces a plastic bag and begins picking a strange green substance, growing below a look-out platform. "It's sea beet," she explains. "It tastes like spinach. You just cook it in boiling water, add some butter and it's gorgeous." We take her word for it.

Lunchtime arrives and the birdwatchers prepare to take a breather. With a puckish grin, Colonel Sherrard-Smith approaches. "Well, do you feel like joining?" he asks. In the time-honoured Sunday newspaper phrase 'we made a certain excuse and left' — it was time to get warm and dry again.

Driving back we accidentally ran over a pheasant. A sad way to end a pleasant outing — but just a small indication of the threat which hangs over wildlife from man and his machines. And it is the efforts of Norman Clayden and people like him which mean that those birds and animals are not alone in their fight for survival.





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# MILITARY MUSEUMS

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## THE WEAPONS MUSEUM

THIS IMPORTANT and extremely comprehensive museum of military firearms at the School of Infantry, Warminster, started its collection from very small beginnings at the old School of Musketry at Hythe, Kent, well over a century ago. Exhibits are arranged in six main sections — pistols, muskets and rifles, light automatic weapons, machine-guns and mortars, anti-tank weapons and foreign firearms.

Two pairs of duelling pistols, one made by Joseph Manton in 1780 and the other by Mortimer in 1800; a fine pair of Lepage holster pistols owned by Napoleon, who gave them to his doctor on St Helena; a rare Borchhardt automatic of 1893, one of the first automatic pistols to be produced; a collection of self-loading pistols from the late 19th century onwards; and many modern examples, including a display of small picket pistols, are just a few of the fascinating exhibits in the first room.

Of special interest in a display of revolvers is the first Webley to be used by the British Army — the .577in No 1. Other rarities include an early British centre-fire revolver with Thomas's patent extractor, the Colt 'Peacemaker' .45 favoured by such Wild West characters as Buffalo Bill and Jesse James, and a long-barrelled Smith & Wesson with detachable stock used by the rebels in the Irish rebellion of 1916. A range of sub-machine-guns and LMGs includes examples of the Tommy gun and one of the original Brens.

On to muskets and rifles — and so much to see and appreciate. An English matchlock musket with its forked firing support (1660) is followed by a Dutch wheel-lock carbine (circa 1620), flintlocks from 1670 to 1840 and breech-loaders from the mid-19th century onwards, including examples of Snider cavalry and artillery carbines. Then come Martini-Henrys and Lee Metfords and a complete series of every magazine rifle to be used by the British Army including experimental models and the Farquhar-Hill self-loading rifle used in World War One and before.

Here too is one of the rarest weapons in the world, the British Ferguson breech-loading flintlock rifle (1774) by Durs Egg. Only a few of this type were made and they were used by British riflemen in the American War of Independence. This one, presented by Mr Jac Weller, an eminent

American military historian and weapons expert, is one of the very few known specimens.

On the walls and in cases are rifles of all types from many nations. To mention a few, there is the Russian Kalashnikov AK47 assault rifle, a Prussian Wurtemberg needle-fire rifle, the first breechloading service rifle to be generally used by any army, a number of American Winchesters, and a set of sniper rifles with telescopic sights. Yet another great rarity is Tinker's Mortar (1685), a combined flintlock musket and grenade-thrower named after its inventor, John Tinker.

Next, a prototype Maxim machine-gun. This brass pre-production model mounted on a tripod was presented by Maxim's widow in 1916. Other weapons in this section include a Vickers medium machine-gun, used by the British Army in both world wars, and a British-made ten-barrelled Gatling gun.

A compact assembly of some 40 different types covers the history of the hand grenade and in a representative group of sporting firearms there is a Chinese gun with an unbelievably long barrel and a hair-trigger Austrian target rifle.

Heavier weapons include three World War One trench howitzers, British and foreign mortars and a World War Two PIAT anti-tank weapon. Sectionalised bullets, mortar and smoke bombs, anti-tank grenades, projectiles and many other items all play their part in a museum with more than 2000 exhibits, each demanding attention and study.

Because of the close association between the museum and the Small Arms School Corps, a room has been set aside for exhibits of a purely regimental nature such as SASC badges and photographs, trial books and a complete record of tests from 1853 to 1887.

John Jesse

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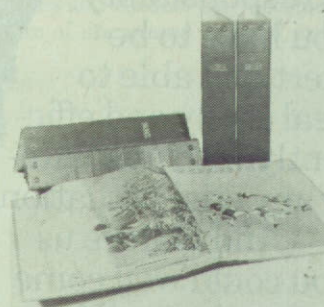
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THE METROPOLITAN POLICE



# COBRAS COME TO CALL

SPORTING a jaunty Playboy bunny insignia on its matt, battle-green flank, the Cobra helicopter weaved a contour-clinging course, flying 'nap of the earth' to engage its target on Salisbury Plain's Larkhill ranges.

The Playboy Platoon aircraft was swiftly joined by Dragon and Raider platoon 'choppers' pausing at the hover to pour fearsome rocket fire down the throats of distant misty targets, followed by the dispeptic burp of bursts from the 3000-rounds-a-minute mini-guns mounted in the Cobras' noses.

The Cobras snaked away from the ridge in sequence, mission completed on an exercise that had brought them from Germany to try out the Larkhill ranges as a possible regular venue for firing practice.

The men and machines came from Charley Company of the United States Army's 3rd Armoured Division's 503rd Aviation Battalion, based near Frankfurt. "At 221-strong, we're the largest company-sized unit in the US Army in Europe," boasted company commander Captain Gary Ellis.

He explained that the company has 37 aircraft geared to the mission of destroying or disrupting enemy armour. The striking

Right: A Cobra's rocket tubes are readied to receive their deadly loads of tank-killers.

Below: The helicopters fire at the hover. The recoil of their machine-guns pushes them back.

power is provided by 21 AH-15 Cobra helicopters armed with 2.5 inch rockets fired in salvos to 'suppress' targets, followed by TOW (tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided) missiles as tank killers. The multi-barrelled mini-guns, with their 2000 or 3000 rounds-a-minute fire rate, are used to engage soft targets of opportunity to or from missions.

The Cobras' eyes and ears are in the form of 13 OH-58 Kiowa scout helicopters that track down the targets before calling up the Cobras to slither, snake-like as close to the ground as possible to avoid detection before rearing to the hover for the kill. The company's complement of aircraft is topped off with three UH-1H Huey utility helicopters for routine passenger tasks.

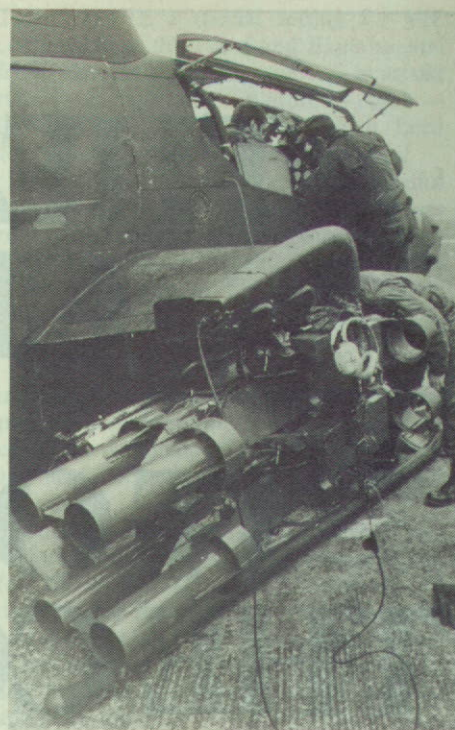
With the raunchy esprit de corps characteristic of American units, the company's three platoons are nicknamed the Playboys (hence the bunny motif), the Dragons and the Raiders.

Aircraft from all three were represented among the seven Cobras that came to Larkhill although the personnel came mainly from Dragon Platoon.

For exercise purposes just three Kiowas and two Hueys accompanied the Cobras and support transports were provided in the form of two twin-rotored Chinooks from 295th Chinook Company ("Contrary to what those guys may have told you, ours is the best chopper outfit — we're their life-blood line.")

Although the Americans stayed at their own Greenham Common base near Newbury for the week of their visit, they were hosted by the Army Air Corps' 7th Regiment at Netheravon. The British air troopers had interesting comparisons to make not only in tactics and equipment but in the structure of their trans-Atlantic counterparts.

The American unit's non-commissioned officers and enlisted men (rank and file) are helicopter specialists permanently assigned to that trade whereas the officers are drawn



from other arms on detachment — Captain Ellis is an armo(u)r man.

This was not the first time American helicopters had been to Larkhill—503rd's predecessors, 334th Attack Helicopter Company, paid a visit in 1975. The purpose of this year's trip was to assess the possibility of regularly using the ranges.

Captain Ellis said: "Our ranges in Germany are used by all arms with only a small impact area. We think Larkhill is large enough for us to use for aerial gunnery." Having proved the point with his Cobras he added that he was very favourably impressed with the exercise. Would he be coming back? "Personally I'm all for it. But it's up to our two governments to agree."

Given that agreement, the Playboys, Dragons and Raiders may become a regular feature of life around Larkhill in future.





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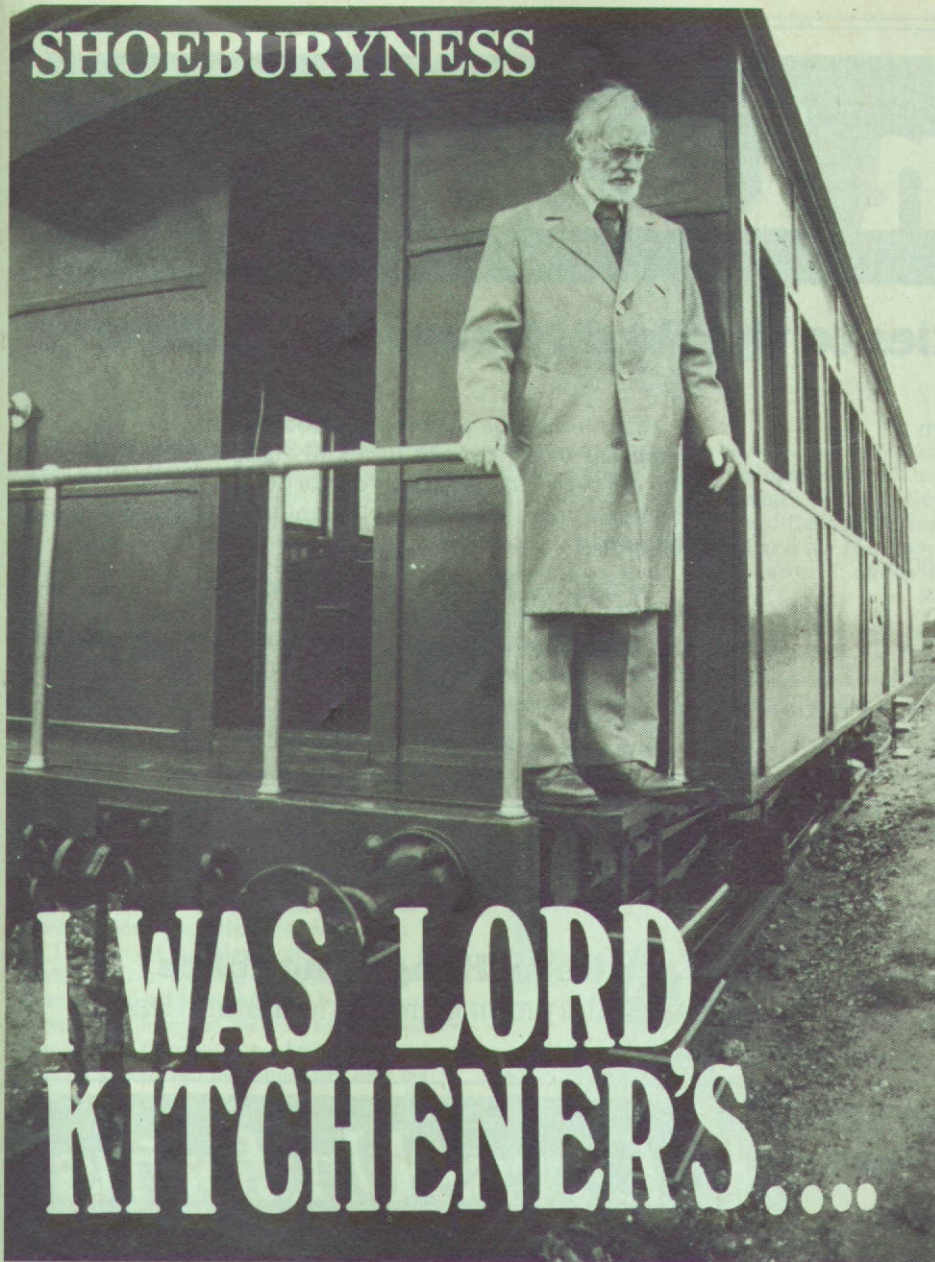
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# SHOEBURYNNESS



I WAS LORD  
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THEY HAVE a special setting for VIP conferences at the Proof and Experimental Establishment at Shoeburyness — in an old railway coach. Not just an ordinary coach — it is reputed to be the one which Lord Kitchener used for his Sudan campaign.

When the campaign came to its successful conclusion, all the railway rolling stock was returned to England. A few years later, just before World War One, three of the coaches found their way to Shoeburyness where there are about 22 miles of internal railway track.

For years the coaches were used for moving soldiers around the ranges. Then this practice was discontinued and Kitchener's coach stood outside in all weathers, forlorn and neglected and awaiting the scrapman's attention.

Enter Mr Jim Higgins — transferred from Oxfordshire as depot railway superintendent for the Royal Corps of Transport. "I decided that it would be a pity to scrap it and that it should be done up," he recalled. "Over the next six months we worked on it, a bit here and a bit there, whenever we could spare the time."

Inside, the coach faithfully follows how it must have looked in its heyday — except that leather seats have been replaced by cloth and a false floor has been added. Old photographs taken at Shoeburyness line the walls.

The old coach has now been used for 16 years for transporting top military and naval personnel as well as provided an atmospheric venue for their meetings. So something which Kitchener used and which Churchill used in wartime is still totting up its years of service to the nation — although nowadays it is pulled by a modern diesel locomotive.

Left: Mr Jim Higgins steps from the coach which he helped to restore to its former state of glory.

Below: What the coach looks like inside — just the place for senior 'brass' to hold conferences.





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A nice touch of humour on the sleeve, with a full frontal of the band nicely covered and dressed — turn it over and they have their backs to you. The music, so, really is a concert programme and among a selection of varied light music includes a major work for band. Well done, EMI, and it isn't often I'm won over before I've listened to a note.

Those of you who like what you know need not be frightened of the major work — Gordon Jacob's 'Concerto for Band,' it being light-hearted in general mood with a hauntingly beautiful slow movement. The two outer movements are fast and furious and require a fair degree of virtuosity from all concerned. A fine addition to the recorded repertory.

The main theme from 'A Bridge Too Far' opens the concert, with a Spanish number, 'Memories of the Alhambra,' a trumpet solo 'Evening Breeze,' 'The Piper in the Meadow' and Leroy Anderson's flute trio 'The Penny Whistle Song' to follow. Side two has 'The Adventurer' by Dennis Wilson, a symphonic scenario from 'My Fair Lady' and a full-blown suite from the film 'Star Wars.' John Williams (the composer, not the guitarist), who wrote 'Star Wars,' is a lucky man to earn the millions he has with such derivative music for this futuristic film. Arthur Bliss did it better forty years ago for Things to Come but it sounds well enough in an arrangement by Band Sergeant David Cole.

RB



**'All Time Show Stoppers' (The Band of the Scots Guards) (Director of Music: Captain D R Beat) (EMI Note NTS 156)**

Many years ago, under Lieutenant-Colonel Sam Rhodes, this band gave us a disc of then up-to-date musicals, including Rose Marie, The Vagabond King and such. It was re-issued recently enough for me to review it and I said then that it was perhaps unwise to commit a military band to a whole LP of musical comedy. On the pierhead bandstand OK, but on record an orchestra has more variation of tone colour. Or perhaps any band but a Guards band, which tends not to indulge in electronics.

In short, what we have here is for the most part the over-full sound of music which was arranged for pierhead performance emerging from equipment capable of picking up the sound of a falling fag paper at fifty yards. I found myself longing for the sweet sound of a human voice and, God help me, electric guitar and organ before the end.

But the band bravely does all that can be done

with such material, so pay your five pence and draw up a deck-chair for five of Cole Porter's best tunes, four of Michael LeGrand's, five by Richard Rogers and five by Simon and Garfunkel. There are also selections from 'Oliver,' 'My Fair Lady,' 'West Side Story' and an updated version of 'Show Boat.'

RB

Cole Porter: Another Op'nin' Another Show, Wunderbar ('Kiss Me, Kate'), I Love Paris ('Can-Can'), I've Got You Under My Skin ('Born to Dance'). Michael LeGrand: The Windmills of Your Mind ('Thomas Crown Affair'), Pieces of Dreams, Sweet Gingerbread Man, What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life? Simon and Garfunkel: The Sound of Silence, Mrs Robinson ('The Graduate'), Scarborough Fair, 59th Street Bridge Song ('Feeling Groovy'), Bridge over Troubled Water.



**'Massed Bands Extravaganza Volume 1' (Viking Sevenses SPVP 162)**

**'Massed Bands Extravaganza Volume 2' (Viking Sevenses SPVP 163)**

We've had the 'Very Best of . . .' almost everything to date, including brass bands, the Royal Marines, military bands and pipe bands. It is a way distributors have of putting another record on the market without paying the musicians for their services.

Now, inevitably, we have in effect The Very Best of the Colchester Tattoo and where Colchester leads I expect Cardiff, Wembley, Edinburgh, Bath, Aldershot, Bagshot, Oxshott and what's-its-name to follow. This particular project comes in two discs, which may be bought separately, of excerpts from the 1973, 1974, 1977 and 1978 Colchester tattoos — space forbids mention of the many regiments and personalities involved.

Even the music is formidable and to some extent unidentifiable. In searching for one of my own marches I passed it over twice before catching the merest glimmer of 'something familiar about that there thumping.'

Marches on Volume 1 are: On the Square; The Duke of York; The Queensman; Men of Harlech; Minstrel Boy; Scots Wha' Hae; Long Live Elizabeth; Liberty Bell; King Cotton; Marche Militaire (Gounod); Le Régiment de Sambre et Meuse. On Volume 2: Le Régiment de Sambre et Meuse; Bab el Mandeb; Raglan; Little Bugler; Swing March; The Royal Green Jackets; Light Infantry; Cavalry Ride; The Standard of St George; Mechanised Infantry; British Grenadiers;

Brass Buttons; Der Hohenfriedburg Marsche; Men of Harlech; Colchester Castle.

RB

Also on Volume 1: The Yellow Rose of Texas; Balcombe Cove; Botany Bay; Moreton Bay; The Dying Stockman; Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport; Click Go the Shears; Waltzing Matilda; A Health Unto Her Majesty; Garb of Old Gaul. Volume 2: Happy Music; London Medley; Victory Beating; Reveille; Le Marseillaise; Hielen' Laddie and St Patrick's Day; The Battle of Waterloo; The Kinnegad Slashers; God Save the Queen.



**'The Very Best of British Military Spectaculars' (EMI EMC 3269)**

When I wrote my notes on 'Massed Bands Extravaganza' I honestly had no idea this one was further down the pile. The ultimate is with us, unless anyone has the nerve to put the words spectacular and extravaganza into one title. Or what about The Very Best of Gala British Spectacular Ceremonial Extravaganzas? That will fox them for a bit — those who would catch the eye of browsing suckers like you — until someone comes up with Eureka! The Very Best of . . .

The British Berlin Tattoo excerpt is from 1977 and has a markedly Welsh flavour while the Aldershot Army Display 1976 (a new one on me, I think) comprises for the most part a medley of World War Two tunes. Albert Elms's 'The Battle of Trafalgar' represents the 1974 Royal Tournament and the usual finale mixture of Scottish and Gurkha tunes the 1976 Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

The sound on this one is excellent considering the musical and other forces involved and, for your money, as the title says, you get some of the very best of its kind.

RB



Berlin Tattoo: Opening Flourishes; Lilli Burlero; Men of Wales; Men of Harlech; Triple Crown; The Rising of the Lark; Coronation March; Vivat Regina; Ode to Joy; Salute to Berlin; Berliner Luft. Aldershot Army Display: Run, Rabbit, Run; Beer Barrel Polka; Lili Marlene; In the Quartermaster's Store; We're Gonna Hang Out the Washing on the Siegfried Line; Colonel Bogey; Battle of the Valiant Years; There's Something About a Soldier. Edinburgh Tattoo: The Athole Highlanders; Badge of Scotland; Sano Maya, Mero Maya; Hoedown in the Highlands; Scotland the Brave; We're No Awa' to Bide Awa'; The Black Bear; Take Me Home, Country Roads; Scotland the Brave.



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In Canada the Guards have changed but the ceremony remains . . .

# OLD-STYLE DRILL IN THE NEW WORLD

CANADA's Armed Forces today all wear green uniforms — no longer can one rapidly identify soldiers, sailors and airmen.

But something still remains of the traditions and ceremonies inherited and copied from the British Army. Highland militia units still wear the kilt — with a cutaway green jacket — and today most of the ceremonial duties are carried out by militia or reserve units such as the Governor-General's Foot Guards and the Canadian Grenadier Guards. These two reserve units, whose

uniforms include the traditional scarlet tunics and bearskins, took over public duties in the nation's capital, Ottawa, when the Regular Canadian Guards were disbanded in 1970.

The Changing of the Guard ceremony on Parliament Hill dates back only to 1959, when the Queen took up residence for a short time at Government House in Ottawa. In order to share the pageantry of the occasion with the public, it was decided to change the guard daily at Parliament Hill

with sentries posted at Government House. This proved so popular that it was continued on a daily basis throughout that and succeeding summers.

Canadian defence sources are at pains to point out that the guards on duty are 'proper' soldiers although the event is primarily a tourist attraction. In fact all will have been on an eight-week intensive training course before beginning their four-month stint of official duties. And three colour-sergeants visited London last Spring to study the original Guards ceremonials.

Said Captain Jamie Jamieson: "Just above half of our strength in May each year are new recruits and we teach them to be good soldiers. In fact this is the only time when such a large group of militiamen can get together for four months' continuous duties as a unit."

Similar ceremonies are held by other units in Quebec and Halifax while the Governor-General's Horse Guards appear at the Queen's Plate (Canada's equivalent of the Derby) and at the opening of the Ontario provincial Parliament in Toronto. Other redcoats can be seen carrying out period military drill. In many of the 18th and 19th century forts scattered throughout the country, students dress up in reproduction British redcoat uniforms and perform for visitors.

At Old Fort Erie, on the shores of Lake Erie and with the tower blocks of Buffalo, New York State, only spitting distance away, the students dress in British uniforms dating back to the time when the fort changed hands several times in the 1812-1814 war between Britain and the infant United States.

Dressed in the uniform of the King's Eighth Regiment of Foot, Private Andy Montana (16) explained how he and his comrades occupy themselves within the

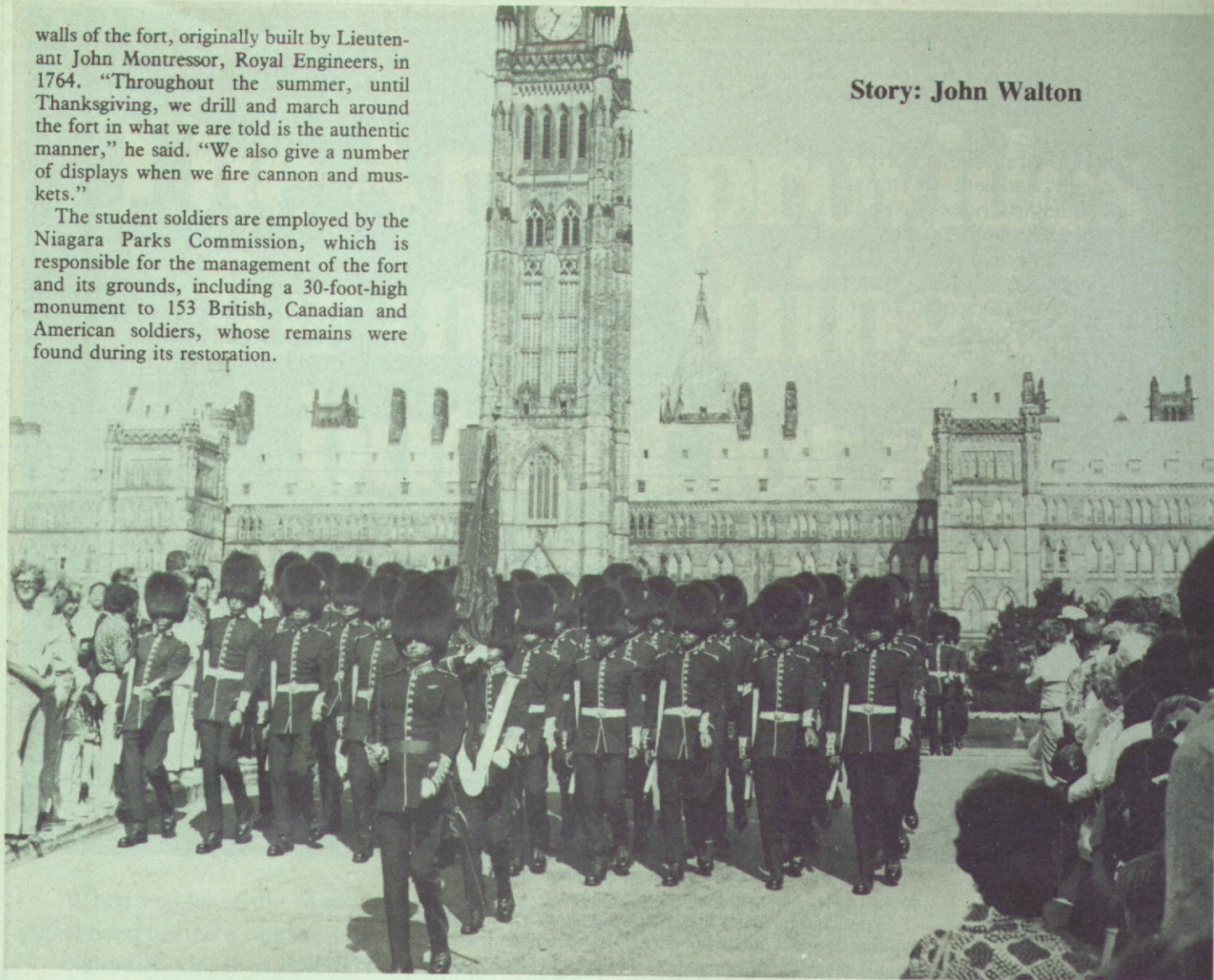




walls of the fort, originally built by Lieutenant John Montessor, Royal Engineers, in 1764. "Throughout the summer, until Thanksgiving, we drill and march around the fort in what we are told is the authentic manner," he said. "We also give a number of displays when we fire cannon and muskets."

The student soldiers are employed by the Niagara Parks Commission, which is responsible for the management of the fort and its grounds, including a 30-foot-high monument to 153 British, Canadian and American soldiers, whose remains were found during its restoration.

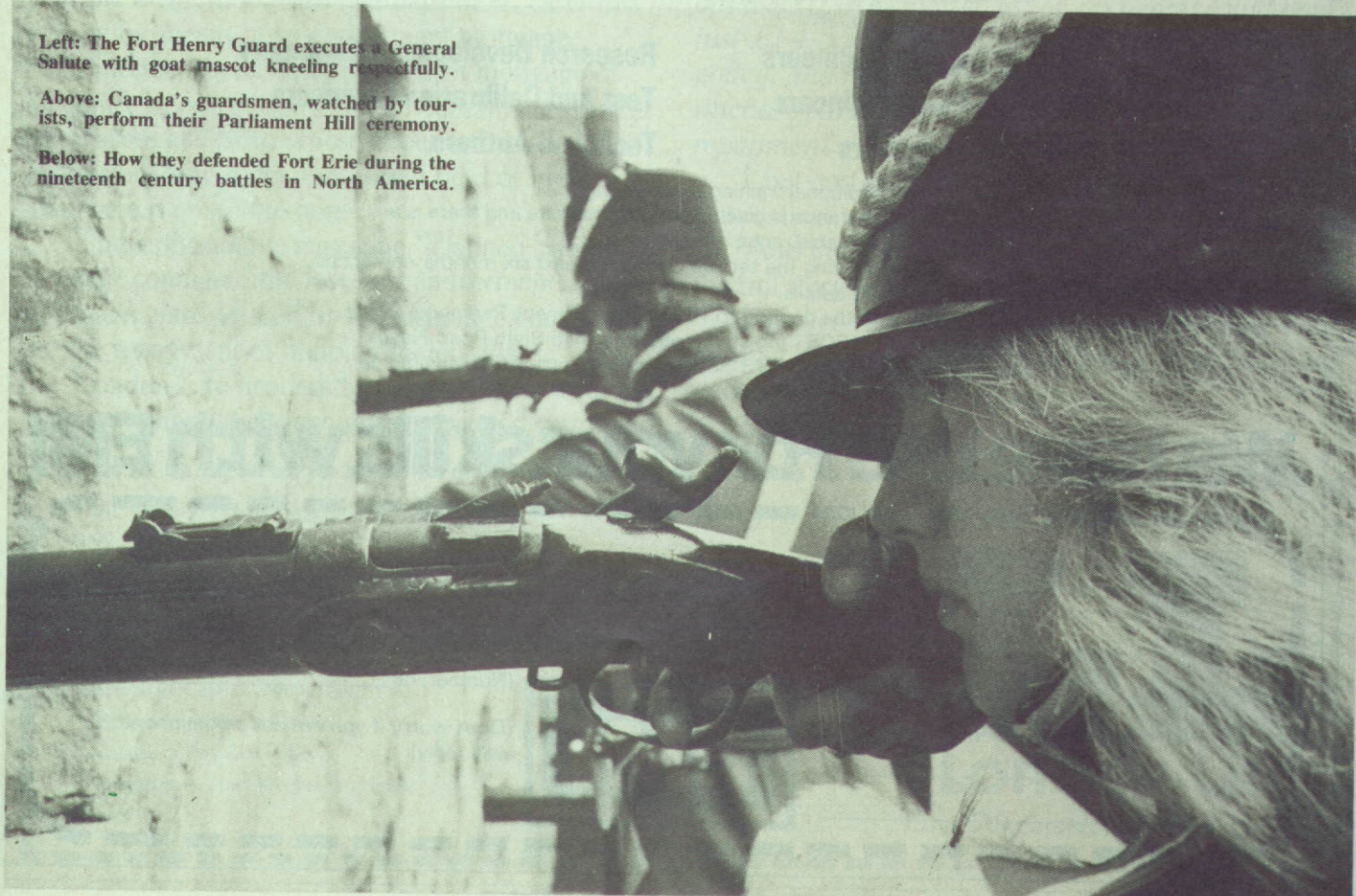
Story: John Walton



Left: The Fort Henry Guard executes a General Salute with goat mascot kneeling respectfully.

Above: Canada's guardsmen, watched by tourists, perform their Parliament Hill ceremony.

Below: How they defended Fort Erie during the nineteenth century battles in North America.





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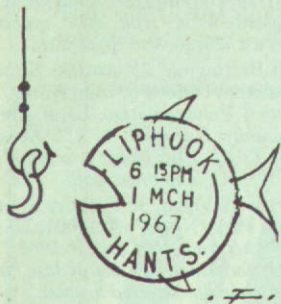
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# LETTERS



## Mercenaries

It seems my younger brother started something he did not envisage when he replied (Letters, October) to Mr L Hillaby's letter of July and signed himself 'Mercenary' — which he was.

I wondered how long it would be before the stock political answer came back but I am surprised to hear it from a private soldier (Letters, December). Your correspondent has completely, and I suspect deliberately, missed the point of my brother's letter which simply drew attention to attitudes and priorities affecting today's soldier. He was well aware that the British Army was not so involved in Ireland 40 years ago but was trying to compare attitudes then and now.

I too served in the British Army and left in 1970. I fought the Mau Mau in Kenya and was wounded in Aden. If I had not had a wife and two children I would probably have gone to the Biafran war.

When your correspondent sees what the realities of life really are, perhaps he will understand the various axes that some ex-soldiers have to grind. He says his enemies are the enemies of freedom, implying that my brother's enemies are not. Does he think the men fighting against the Cubans in Angola are the enemies of freedom?

Ten days after writing his letter, my brother was back in Angola fighting for the Unita forces — and without payment. And he paid his own air fare. A few weeks ago we heard that he had been killed somewhere near Cangamba around the end of September. He had been offered £300 a week to work for a guerrilla organisation fighting the French in Chad but had preferred to work for nothing against the 'enemies of freedom,' ie the Cubans and East Germans.

Pre-conceived ideas of mercenaries are false. Some do fight for money, but remember those in Biafra who used their wages to buy food for the children. Each mercenary has his

own individual reasons for being what he is.

My brother is dead. Let these letter columns now be devoted to issues other than long-drawn-out hysteria. I have asked for my name and address to be withheld as my brother's enemies tend to settle the score upon relatives if they cannot find the 'guilty'. — **'Mercenary's brother.'**

## Short 'back-and-sides'

I fully agree with Mr P E Barber's remarks (August letters). When the British Army relaxed its rules on haircuts some years ago it was, in my modest opinion, a retrograde step.

I was called up in 1940 and given the obligatory 'pudding bowl,' certainly the smartest haircut for anyone, in khaki or 'civvies.' When on active service in the Western Desert I always had my head close-cropped every week and sometimes to the skin. In the prevailing conditions an extremely close crop was very popular with most of the men. In those stirring days my mates and I took a pride in a smart masculine appearance and in so doing gave a good impression of our great country.

So jump to it, lads — visit the barber and not the boutique and start looking like blokes and not birds. If things go on like they are doing they'll be issuing hair nets next. That'll be the day! — **G Smellie** (ex-gunner 1941-45), 2 Ranfurly Road, Penilee, Glasgow SW2.

*\*Pictured right, Dutch trooper working on an armoured personnel carrier. Another Nato ally met this problem some years ago by officially issuing hair nets.*

Recent letters on Army haircuts prompt me to write these few lines. Hair should at all times be kept short — a soldier should not only perform smartly but should also look workmanlike.

When I served in the ranks some 30 years ago, discipline on haircuts was excellent — we all had the good old 'pudding bowl,' every man jack of us and no messing. Failure to keep the

hair barbered and a daily shave resulted in a charge.

The young chap of today has many styles open to him, ie crew cut, skin-head crop, Kojak — all smart haircuts, yet the majority still persist in long, untidy hair which, to my way of thinking, is very bad, especially in the armed forces. — **Eric Henderson**, c/o YMCA Hostel, Lomond Street, Cumbernauld.

We would like to stress our objection to Mr B G Butcher's (Letters, December) idea that short haircuts are good for morale. In this day and age the modern soldier likes to blend with the civilian population and not stick out like the proverbial sore thumb. The only place where a soldier could blend into his environment with a haircut to Mr Butcher's standards would be the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester.

Come on, Mr Butcher, take a look round and compare the smart, styled fashion of the modern soldier with that of many male civilians today. Are we that bad? — **Andy, Taff, Steve, George, M (Striker) Troop, J (Sidi Rezegh) RHA, BFPO 16.**



## Old soldier?

Reading 'Major Mike — 40 years in' (SOLDIER News, October) led me to ponder on when does one become an old soldier? I was a sergeant instructor at the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, when he joined in 1948, when I had 14 years in the Service and he had only just started — or did I become an old soldier when one of my apprentices had 18 years in?

Can I call myself an old soldier now that I have just reached three score and ten? — **J Salter** (ex-WO1 REME), 52 Farhalls Crescent, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 4DA.

## Venturers

Your December SOLDIER to Soldier refers in striking and glowing terms to some of the notable achievements of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (Blesma) Venturers. It is true that their official role of increasing public awareness of Blesma has now been terminated by Blesma HQ, doubtless for well-considered reasons.

However, the Venturers themselves remain firmly based in the East Berkshire and neighbouring branches of Blesma and are very much alive and kicking. They are as resolved as ever to offer the fun of adventure and stiff challenge to the limbless man. The tasks they set themselves would daunt most ordinary mortals, but in attempting them successfully they transcend disability. Currently a number of them are preparing to tackle for the first time the full length of the Devizes-Westminster canoe race. Training is now based near Marlow, thanks to the hospitality of RAF Strike Command.

We are not very good letter writers but will gladly respond to inquiries from limbless men or from fit men and women willing to give us a hand with future projects. — **Sir James Stuart-Menteth Bart**, hon president East Berks Branch of Blesma, Broomhurst, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 6RJ.

## Plea for an LP

As an ex-piper of 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, I would like to turn to your readers with a cry for help!!

My problem is, I would like to buy an LP record 'Pipes in Concert' by the Invergordon Distillery Pipe Band. The record number is EMI SZLP 2078. As this record is some 12 years old and is now out of print, my searches in record shops have proved fruitless. — **Officer M Pleasance**, c/o Her Majesty's Prison, 1 Brighton Road, Lewes, East Sussex.

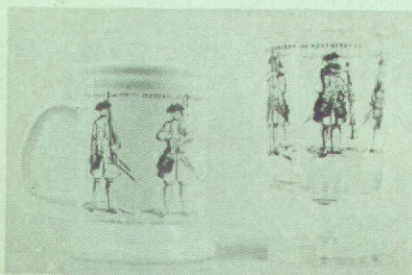
## Off to India

The Military Historical Society organises each year a tour of military interest. Normally, these are battlefield tours in Europe — to France, Belgium, Holland, Spain and Portugal — but in January 1977 we went to India for two weeks, visiting places of interest, some of us for the first time and some of us luxuriating in nostalgia. Those Indian Army units which we visited were most hospitable and continue almost more British than ourselves.

In January 1980 we propose a further visit to the sub-continent, flying first to Rawalpindi in Pakistan, thence by bus to Peshawar to visit the Khyber Pass, Dargai and the Malakand, then on to Lahore and into India, first to Delhi in time to see the Republic Day parade on 26 January, a side-trip to see the Taj Mahal in Agra and another to Dehra Dun and Mussoorie. From Delhi we fly to Madras and then go up to the hill-station of Ootacamund and the Staff College at Wellington before visiting the old fortress at Seringapatam. Returning to Madras, we shall fly back to London via Bombay.

If readers are interested in

A glass and tankard, depicting scenes from 'The Gentleman Volunteer's Pocket Companion, 1745,' are available from the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HT. These are similar in style to the tankard and glass previously offered, with scenes from the lance exercise, circa 1820. The new glasses and tankards are available in both designs, the glasses at £1.50 each (£8.50 for six), plus postage, and the tankards at £2.00 each, plus postage. The earlier glasses of the lance exercise are now available again.





them on receipt of a stamped, addressed envelope. A report on the 1977 tour appeared in our May 1977 journal and a copy of this can be had for 50 pence (postal order or cheque made payable to the Military Historical Society). It will serve to give some idea of the demanding nature of the tour. — **John Gaylor (Hon Secretary), 7 East Woodside, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3PG.**

## Researching

I am researching the names of those British soldiers who fell during the retreat from Mons and the advance to the Aisne in 1914. I would very much like to hear from anyone who served in the BEF of that period, especially if they have tales to tell, ideally if such memories relate to anyone who died during the period. — **R Sharpe, 13 Deepdene, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 3WF.**

## Visitors welcome

I have just started my year's stint as chairman of the Wessex Military Historical Society and am convinced there must be dozens of people in the area who have never heard of us. Our members meet on the first Saturday afternoon monthly in the Schools Room at Bristol Museum. The society covers every aspect of militaria collecting, from helmet plates, badges and weaponry to campaign medals and military decorations. We would welcome all who have a similar interest to visit us. Several members have over the years become experts in their fields and would be only too pleased to help newcomers gain more knowledge of their chosen hobby. Each meeting sees new material brought in by members to show around and we then have a talk by a guest speaker. Twice a year we hold an auction of surplus items, with usually a bargain or two to be had, and sometimes we have a 'Members' Own' session of ten-minute talks by members on their favourite items. Further details are available from me. — **A W Green, 26 Glebelands Road, Filton, Bristol, BS12 7AE.**

## Naafi

On the front page of the December SOLDIER News the story 'Officers attack debt chore' publicised Lieutenant-Colonel A E Hemesley's fears that the proposed Naafi credit card system would cause regimental officers even more work in collecting debts for Naafi.

Naturally the chairman of Naafi's Army General Institute Committee, Major-General W D Maugham, commented: "If many bad debts were written off, this would be money that would have to be written off by Naafi, so it is your rebate that would be affected."

As a (hopefully) normal regimental officer, may I ask if people realise how much of our time is spent collecting soldiers' debts, and when will people realise that the average serviceman and his family would benefit more from an efficient and self-supporting Naafi, in genuine compe-

## Competition

Teaser enthusiasts obviously enjoyed October's 'To the beach' (Competition 243) which was based on an idea from a keen reader, Major Egon Maarup, who edits a Danish Army newspaper. The answer to the problem was that the range commandant needed to close Clump Hill and Howgill Fold gates, which then gave public access only to Freshwater Cove.

Prizewinners:

- 1 S McCracken, 18 Central Street, Ludgershall, Andover, Hampshire.
- 2 Sgt T P Winstanley, 15 Oxenden Road, Golden Valley Estate, Folkestone, Kent.
- 3 Maj N A Cox, Officers' Mess, RAF Wildenrath, BFPO 42.
- 4 WO1 Prior-Sanderson RAOC, Comp Ord Depot, BFPO 1.
- 5 WO2 D K Jenkins, 16 Manor Road, Barrowby, Grantham, Lincolnshire.
- 6 A/T L/Cpl J G Cole, D Coy, Army Apprentice College, Arborfield, Berkshire.
- 7 WO2 A P Strafford, REME Tech Services, BFPO 34.
- 8 H V Shufflebotham, 43 David Road, Paignton, Devon.

## Collectors' Corner

Paul Woolf, 215 Forester Street, San Francisco, California 94112, USA. — *Collects contemporary armoured formation uniform badges and patches worldwide. Exchange or purchase.*

M E Cavanagh, 20 Slingsby Grove, Dringhouses, York, YO2 2LS. — *'Regimental brat' 1st Bn, Seaforth Highlanders, 1936-1945, seeks info, photos for contemplated illustrations/*

paintings/sculptures in memory of past days. Interest in Fort George and battalion pipe band at any date a must. All acknowledged. 'Caber Feidh.'

D M Whitecross, 20 Cardinal Avenue, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, KT2 5SB. — *Seeks 1952-69 white purse sporran badges of the six Highland regts.*

Peter M Mowat, 2015 Kensington Drive, Apartment 8, Wankesha, Wisconsin 53186, USA. — *Seeks Canadian BD trousers (Army, approximately 1951 pattern, 5ft 7in to 5ft 8in height, 31-32in waist, pocket front left thigh, belt loops for webbing belt, near new as possible, will buy. Also seeks all items current uniform 17/21 Lancers No 1 and 2 dress, particularly No 1 dress 7½ hat, uniform buttons and shoulder titles.*

S/Sgt R Boardman, 1 King's, ADDC, Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancashire. — *Requires anything related to King's or Manchester regts, 8th, 63rd and 96th of Foot.*

J B Allen, 38 Lon Cadog, Sketty, Swansea, West Glamorgan. — *Seeks old military side drum and brass buckle for white buff leather belt.*

Konstabel Niels B Pedersen, C Coy, Kokkina Camp, Dancon/Unficyp, Danmark. — *Collects military insignia — caps, berets, jackets, etc.*

Philip R Mather, 9 Andrew Close, Greenmount, Bury, Lancashire, BL8 4HQ. — *Seeks copies of 'Musical Progress and Mail' (Boosey & Hawkes) and 'The Leading Note' (Kneller Hall magazine).*

F G Frisella, 1528 El Camino Real, San Carlos, California 94070, USA. — *Old pocket knives wanted. Send description, price, condition. Also wanted, British war medals WW1.*

G Altman, Sandal Cottage, 22 Sandal Road, New Malden, Surrey. — *Seeks all Household Cavalry, 1st Royal Dragoons, Brigade of Guards militaria*

including uniforms, helmets, state and service dress swords, officers' cap badges EVII, EVIII, GVI. Especially required Grenadier and Royal Dragoons WO's with these cyphers. Good exchanges. Sae appreciated.

Walt Barrington, 25 Gardner Street, Pendleton, Salford 6, Lancashire. — *Requires Volunteer items Loyal North Lancashire Regiment — £35 for all W/M QVC. Cap badge wanted H/P S/T W/B/C. Top prices paid.*

Patrick McVeigh, 36 Hickory Street, Floral Park, New York 11001, USA. — *Wishes trade SOLDIER 1968 (12 issues) for issues any one of last three years or similar type publication.*

R B Page, Hunters Gate, Clackhams Lane, Crowborough, Sussex. — *Will buy plastic KC cap badges Para, AAC, Glider Regt; cloth shoulder titles S Staffs, fd amb, air despatch, Para, RAMC, chaplains, Rough Riders, 52 Lt Tk Sqn, ord fd park, Royals; cloth shoulder patches Border (with glider), RAF WW2 para instructors, 152 Indian Para Bde; DZ patches 4 Para, 16 Para (XVL with arrow) and any numbered types; present-day patches AAC, 6 Fd Service Sqn (yellow and blue Pegasus). Also interested in buying any genuine WW2 insignia and badges, airborne only.*

## How observant are you?

(see page 21)

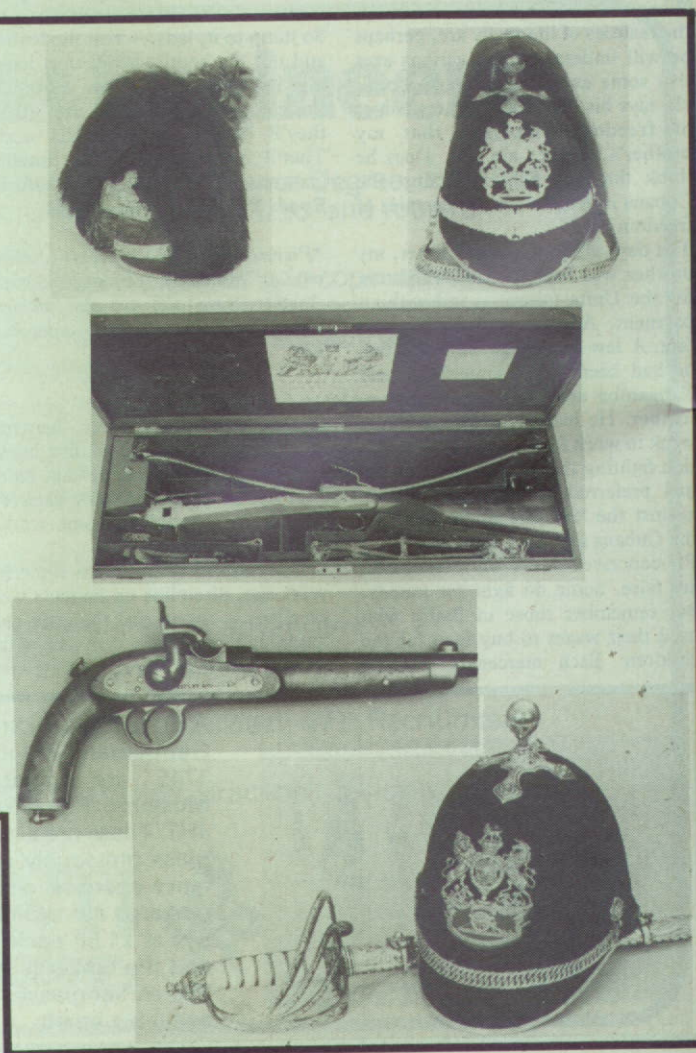
The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Kangaroo's right toes. 2 Mouth of spectator with pipe. 3 Line above 'Twice Daily.' 4 Centre rope at left of boxing ring. 5 Pennant on marquee. 6 Stripe on boxer's shorts. 7 Elbow patch of soldier on right. 8 Cigarette of soldier at left. 9 Boxer's right shoulder. 10 Curve of kangaroo's tail.

## At auction

At the special golden jubilee sale of Messrs Wallis & Wallis, of Lewes, a Georgian officer's rare Tarleton helmet of the 23rd Light Dragoons (right) realised £4100. A cased display of items relating to Captain (later Colonel) George G Adams, 1st London Artillery Volunteers, including his blue cloth ball-topped helmet and 1821 pattern presentation sword (bottom right) fetched £550 while a Victorian mounted bandsman's blue cloth ball-topped helmet of the Royal Artillery (far right) was bought for £600 by the National Army Museum. The Tower of London bought for £1700 an early 19th century cased stonebow (below, centre) and also, for £900, a .451 Westley Richards 'Monkey Tail' breech-loading military percussion holster pistol (below, right).

tion with other firms, than they do from this easily misunderstood rebate which is quoted habitually whenever the serious deficiencies of Naafi are pointed out?

In my opinion, servicemen should not have to rely on a Naafi rebate for anything at all. — **Maj S C Doble RTR, G Sqn, 4 RTR, BFPO 17.**





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.

# See-the-Army DIARY

## FEBRUARY 1979

- 27 Band Spectacular, with the Scots Guards, The Scottish Division, Kenneth McKellar and Mrs Helen McArthur, Usher Hall, Edinburgh (in aid of Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded).

## APRIL 1979

- 5 Burslem Show (5-7 April).
- 7 Beating Retreat, Blackpool (7-8 April) (TAVR band).

## MAY 1979

- 4 Newark Agricultural Show (4-5 May).
- 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 16 West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (16-17 May).
- 19 Harpenden (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
- 19 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo.
- 19 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Farmers Club Show.
- 19 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (19-20 May).
- 19 Brighton Festival Tattoo.
- 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 Stafford Show (23-24 May).
- 25 At Home, Royal Artillery, Woolwich (25-26 May).
- 26 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (26-28 May).
- 26 Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
- 26 Hertfordshire Agricultural Show, Redbourn (26-27 May).
- 26 Blackburn Army Tattoo (26-28 May).
- 26 Plymouth Tattoo (26-27 May).
- 26 Cannon Hill Festival, Birmingham (26 May-2 June).
- 26 Dudley Spring Festival.
- 26 Mexborough (Yorkshire) Gala.
- 26 Military Pageant, Winthorpe Showground, Newark, Nottinghamshire (26-27 May).
- 27 Carrington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (27-28 May).
- 28 Hove Lions Day.
- 28 Open Day, Army Apprentices College, Chesham.
- 28 Derby County Show.
- 28 Hertfordshire County Day, Hertford.
- 28 Surrey County Show, Guildford.
- 30 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 30 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (30-31 May).
- 31 Review of the Scots Guards, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 31 Wolverhampton Fiesta (31 May-3 June).

## JUNE 1979

- 2 Chester Army Tattoo (2-3 June).
- 2 Impel '79 Doncaster (2-9 June).
- 2 St Neots (Cambridgeshire) Riverside Festival (2-3 June).
- 2 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 5 Beating Retreat by massed bands of The Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, London (5-7 June) (6pm 5 June, 9.30pm (floodlit) 6 and 7 June).
- 6 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 8 Installation of Governor, Edinburgh Castle.
- 8 Edinburgh Army Display (8-9 June).
- 9 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 9 Halifax Gala.
- 9 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (9-10 June).
- 10 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse.
- 10 Glasgow Army Display (10-15 June).
- 13 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 15 Essex Show, Chelmsford (15-16 June).
- 16 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 16 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.
- 20 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (20-21 June).
- 20 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 23 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (23-24 June).
- 23 Gas Board Gala, Leicester.
- 23 Rotherham (Yorkshire) Tattoo (23-24 June).
- 23 Chesterfield (Derbyshire) Carnival.
- 27 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (27-28 June).

- 29 Hook (Yorkshire) Gala (29 June-1 July).
- 30 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (Lincolnshire) (20 June-1 July).
- 30 Ssafa Aldershot Tattoo (30 June-1 July).

## JULY 1979

- 4 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 7 Birkenhead (Yorkshire) Show.
- 7 Open Day, Depot Queen's Division, Basingstoke (Hertfordshire).
- 7 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Wootton (Northamptonshire).
- 7 Town and Country Show, Stafford (7-8 July).
- 8 Royal Tournament March, The Mall, London.
- 10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (10-12 July).
- 11 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 11 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (11-28 July).
- 14 Corby (Northamptonshire) Tattoo and Highland Games (14-15 July).
- 14 Durham County Show, Middlesbrough.
- 14 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
- 14 Bristol Steam Rally (14-15 July).
- 17 East of England Show, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (17-19 July).
- 18 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 19 Liverpool Army Tattoo (19-21 July).
- 21 Open Day, Marchwood.
- 21 Bournemouth Air Pageant (21-22 July).
- 21 Adwick (Sheffield) Gala.
- 25 Ilfracombe Tattoo (25-26 July).
- 26 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 26 Manchester Show (26-28 July).
- 26 St Helens Show (26-28 July).
- 27 Northampton Borough Show (27-29 July).
- 27 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop (27-28 July).
- 28 Cromford (Derbyshire) Traction Rally (28-29 July).
- 28 Cleveland County Show, Middlesbrough.
- 28 Worcester City Show (28-29 July).
- 31 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (31 July-4 August).

## AUGUST 1979

- 1 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 1 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 2 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (2-11 August).
- 2 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show.
- 2 Leicester Army Display (2-4 August).
- 2 Plymouth Spotlight Spectacular (2-5 August).
- 3 Hull Show (3-4 August).
- 4 Colchester (Essex) Carnival.
- 8 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 8 Shrewsbury Show (8-11 August).
- 9 Bournemouth Fiesta (9-11 August).
- 10 Gloucester Carnival and Military Display.
- 10 Staverton Air Show.
- 11 Lord Mayor's Gala, Stoke-on-Trent.
- 11 Sedgefield, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 11 Castle Howard Steam Fair, Malton (11-12 August).
- 15 Cromer (Norfolk) Carnival.
- 15 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (15 August-8 September).
- 18 Skegness (Lincolnshire) Carnival (18-25 August).
- 18 Darlington Show.
- 18 Hartlepool Show (18-19 August).
- 18 Horse of the Year Show, Doncaster (18-19 August).
- 22 Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.
- 24 British Timken Show, Northampton (24-25 August).
- 25 Expo Steam, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (25-27 August).
- 25 Durham City Show (25-26 August).
- 25 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (25-27 August).
- 26 Carlisle Services Display (26-28 August).
- 26 Eye (Suffolk) Show (26-27 August).
- 27 St Albans (Hertfordshire) City Carnival.
- 27 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show.
- 27 Moorgreen Show, Nottingham.
- 27 Leicester City Show (27-28 August).
- 27 Leeds Gala.
- 27 Walsall Show (27-28 August).
- 31 Birmingham Show (31 August-2 September).
- 31 Sheffield Show (31 August-2 September).

## SEPTEMBER 1979

- 1 High Wycombe Show (1-2 September)
- 1 Malmesbury Carnival.
- 1 Moreton-in-Marsh Horse Show.
- 1 Guildford Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Turnditch and Windley (Derbyshire) Show.
- 1 Seaham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Wolsingham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Show.
- 1 Guisborough Festival (1-2 September).
- 1 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 2 Luton (Bedfordshire) Show.
- 3 Crawley (Sussex) Tattoo.
- 8 Trowbridge (Wiltshire) Carnival.
- 8 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
- 8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September).
- 8 Stanhope, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 15 Stokesley, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 20 Thame (Oxon) Show.



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## COMPETITION 247

OR IT MIGHT have been, since 1839, the year of this extract, was also the year in which Louis Daguerre came up with his photographic 'Daguerrotype.'

The extract on this chess board can be unravelled by using the knight's L-shaped move of a square forward, backward or sideways and two squares at right angles to that line, or two squares and then one.

Send your answer on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 247' label from this page and your name and address, to:

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This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 9 April. The answers and winners' names will appear in the June SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 247' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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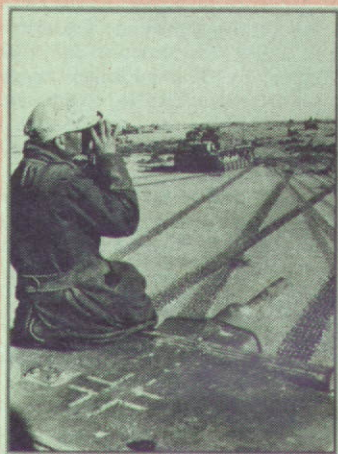
## Chivalry

'Afrika Korps at War: 2 The Long Road Back' (George Forty)

The recent invitation to Afrika Korps veterans to an English Army reunion in Manchester is a clear indication of the respect the desert warriors felt for each other.

The author's two-volume history of the Afrika Korps clearly shows why this can be so. If war can be clean, the desert battles were fought with chivalry and in accordance with the rules of war. Colonel Forty recalls an incident in Tunisia in which a Gestapo or Abwehr colonel had ordered the shooting of Lieutenant Buchanan, of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and his half-platoon, in accordance with Hitler's notorious 'commando order.'

At the very moment of execution



— by an Italian machine-gunner — Oberstleutnant Walter Koch, commanding the German 5th Para, drove up, sprinted from his still-moving vehicle and kicked the gun out of position. He then apologised to Buchanan and his men, secured the return of all their private property and put them safely on a German lorry for Tunis from where they were flown to Italy. The Gestapo man was left standing in the desert.

This is but one incident in an action-packed history which does full justice to the men who fought the desert battles.

Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £5.95 JCW

## Secrets

'Inside Story' (Chapman Pincher)

In 1946, Harry Chapman Pincher went to Fleet Street with a major asset — a background as an Army scientific officer involved in secret weapon research, retaining contacts who were on their way to the top in both the forces and the Civil Service. He also had the backing of Lord Beaverbrook in making other contacts in high places.

On these foundations he built famously. Army public relations officers got used to being asked by generals, 'Where does Pincher get his informa-

tion?' as the Daily Express published news ahead of official sources. Besides politicians and senior officials, Mr Pincher's sources seem to include an astonishing number of Intelligence officers, by no means all of them British.

One of the most notorious incidents in his career was the 'D-Notice Affair' when Sir Harold Wilson, then Prime Minister, accused him of a breach of security. He reports that years later Sir Harold admitted this to have been a costly error, and apologised to him.

Mr Pincher deplores the Whitehall attitude of 'It's secret because we say

# CHAPMAN PINCHER

# INSIDE STORY

A Documentary of the Pursuit of Power

so.' One might take issue with him on this — after all, somebody has to decide what is secret and what is not, particularly in the defence field.

The Official Secrets Act is very much under discussion these days. Whatever the outcome of the debate, it will be a sorry business if it prevents a patriotic and responsible investigative reporter, as Mr Pincher is, from pitting his wits against Whitehall for the good of both his country and his newspaper.

Sidgwick & Jackson, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SG, £6.95 RLE

## Secret weapons

'Halbritter's Armoury: An Introduction to the Secret Weapons of History' (Kurt Halbritter)

It is tempting to suspect that this modern book of humorous drawings of war weapons by a German artist owes something to those of the distinguished British cartoonist whose fantastic and almost credible machines discomfited the enemy in World War One.

This was W Heath Robinson. One of his sketches was of two German officers disguised as a farmer and his wife pulling past the British lines a gun disguised as a cow. Halbritter in this book has a mortar disguised as a pig. His Cannon Crackers, like huge nutcrackers, find a parallel in Heath Robinson's Pillbox Crackers.

The difference between the two artists is that Heath Robinson covered only the World War One period while Halbritter's drawings range all the way from ancient Greece and Rome. His cartoons, like Heath Robinson's, are based on sound draughtsmanship and the style has a mediaeval fairy tale quality. They



also have the ingredient, not uncommon among continental cartoonists, of occasional compromising situations involving the ladies.

Ernest Benn, Sovereign Way, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1RW, £4.95 FRF

## Gurkha VC

'My Life Story: Rambahadur Limbu VC' (as told to WO2 Kulbahadur Rai) Rambahadur Limbu must be the only deserter ever to win the Victoria Cross. In this short, moving account of his life he tells how he ran away from home and after a six-day walk was accepted as a boy soldier in the Brigade of Gurkhas. He got bored with waiting in a depot for a draft to Malaya, deserted and, after some hungry wandering, went back to his village.

He went travelling again, fell in love with a girl in Sikkim but went back to Nepal without her. Then he set off to Sikkim again to fetch her, travelling for the first part of the journey with a draft of Brigade of Gurkha recruits which was one man short. Much talk and rice wine with the recruiter led to Rambahadur bringing the draft up to strength.

The Sikkim girl was forgotten and Rambahadur was happy in the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. Four years later he married a girl from his own village.

His Victoria Cross was won in Borneo when, then a lance-corporal, he destroyed a strong enemy position and rescued two of his men who had been badly wounded, spending, according to the citation, all but a few seconds of the twenty-minute action 'in full view of the enemy and under the continuous aimed fire of their automatic weapons.'

He returned to Singapore from Borneo to find his wife gravely ill. She died before the announcement of his Victoria Cross.

Gurkha Welfare Trusts, Room 543, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W1X 6AA, £1.00 (including postage) RLE

## Three hard years

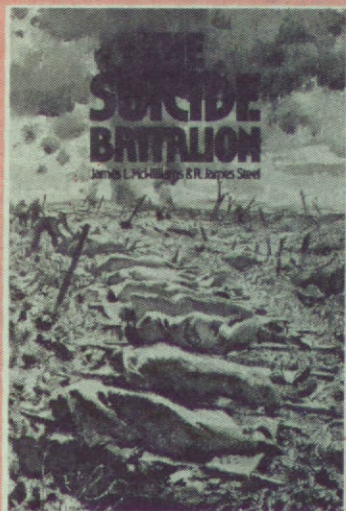
'The Suicide Battalion' (James L McWilliams and B James Steel)

The 46th Canadian Infantry Battalion was formed in February 1915, reached the Western Front in August

1916 and was disbanded in Canada in June 1919. In its short life, 5374 men served in its ranks and 4917 — more than nine out of ten — became casualties; of these, 1433 died.

It was not unique in calling itself, sometimes, 'The Suicide Battalion' and the authors call its story 'typical... of a battalion caught up in the ghastly reality of war.' They tell it with heavy reference to the memories, letters and diaries of veterans and there are no sketch-maps to clarify its tactics.

Here, from close up, are the mud of the Somme; the drama of Vimy Ridge, where the 46th was for a critical moment cloaked by a snow-storm as it crested the ridge; here is



the slime of Passchendaele, through which the 46th hauled the artillery which was to make the going even more impossible in the advance; and here is Valenciennes, where the 46th broke the last German fortification in France and Sergeant Hugh Cairns earned a posthumous Victoria Cross. Hurig Publishers, 10560 105 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 2W7, Canada, \$11.50 RLE

## Gunnery

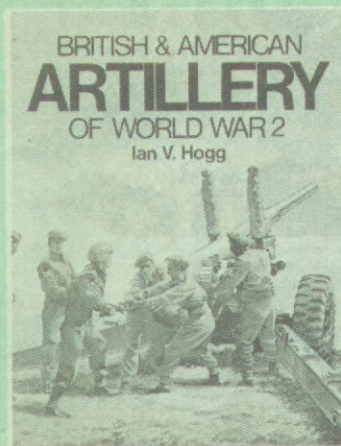
'British and American Artillery of World War 2' (Ian V Hogg)

'Winnie,' named after Winston Churchill, and 'Pooh' were 14-inch guns sited near Dover in World War Two. They fired shells each weighing 1586lbs and had a maximum range of nearly 27 miles. They scored a

continued over



# MORE BOOKS



number of direct hits on batteries in the Cap Gris Nez area. But super-guns were being superseded by bombing aircraft and an idea for a hyper-velocity gun with a 93-foot four-inch barrel was abandoned.

Ian Hogg, in his latest volume on artillery development, lists, describes and discusses British and American artillery of the last war. The book, which in reality is a fully comprehensive encyclopedia, is finely illustrated with photographs and diagrams of guns and shells of all kinds used by the allied armies.

As the war proceeded, greater emphasis was given to the development of anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns, while against the flying bomb and in the Battle of the Ardennes in 1944 the newly developed proximity fuze played an important role.

The book is divided into convenient sections, each sub-divided into individual guns, with the British and USA pieces grouped separately. The artillery sections include field and medium, anti-tank, anti-aircraft, heavy and super-heavy, railway, coast and recoilless. There are also sections for ammunition and ammunition markings.

*Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ, £11.95 GRH*

## Bluffing

'Battle of Wits: A History of Psychology and Deception in Modern Warfare' (David Owen)

This volume examines war from the unusual viewpoint of the psychology



of deception by materials and — more insidiously and perhaps more effectively — by fear-creating bluffs.

Wavell had studied deception before World War Two and used imitation tanks and guns to overawe the Italians in his first Western Desert push in 1940. This made them run, so to lure them out and destroy them he used real tanks camouflaged to look like slow-moving lorried supply columns.

These were simple bluffs with rude materials. As the war progressed, intricate deceptions were worked out, elaborate hoaxes organised and superb blow-up duplicates of tanks and weapons manufactured. With small tinfoil strips, code-named 'Window,' dropped from attacking allied aircraft, the Germans were led to believe that 11,000 planes bombed Hamburg — 746 bombers were actually involved.

Radio waves played a major role in deception and never more effectively than in 1943 when an Italian-speaking Maltese officer in the British Army, after conducting an effective radio campaign aimed at divorcing the Italian Navy from German command, radioed 'all patriotic comrades throughout the fleet that the time had come.' The fleet unhesitatingly sailed for Malta. The Germans sank the battleship Roma, but the remainder reached the island as ordered!

There is much, much more — revealing and amazing.

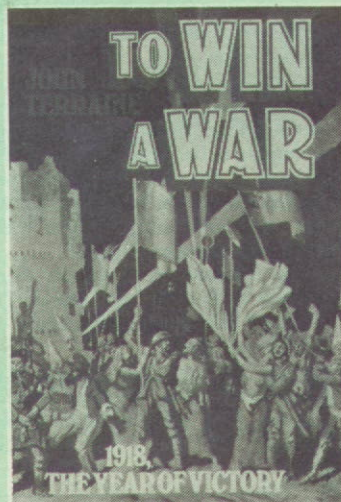
*Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £7.95 GRH*

## Defeat

'To Win a War: 1918, The Year of Victory' (John Terraine)

Many books have been published about World War One and they leave an impression of stalemate, mud and trench warfare interspersed by great battles in which brave men hurled themselves against thickets of barbed wire and impregnable defence lines, only to be outflanked by devastating machine-gun fire to die in their tens of thousands.

There was another aspect of this war that became possible only in



1918, the year of victory. Then, the British Army, ably supported by troops of the Commonwealth, took part in a war of movement and chased, outflanked and finally defeated the German Army in the field. The meritorious efforts of those 100

days resulted in 'great victories' for British arms 'as deserving of commemoration as Austerlitz or Waterloo.'

So declares the author. He queries why these victories were later ignored and the world allowed to believe that the German Armies were never defeated in the field but were 'stabbed in the back by communists and Jews at home.' In this volume he has striven to 'straighten the record' and to 'give honour where it is due.' The resulting revealing, thought-provoking book is supported by some useful photographs and maps.

*Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SG, £7.95 GRH*

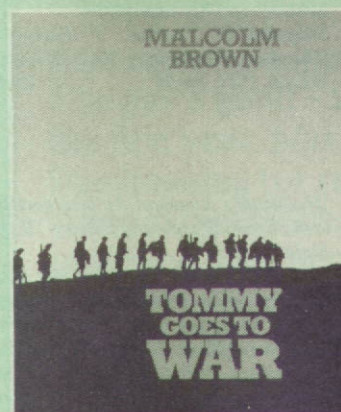
## Hampshires

'Tommy Goes to War' (Malcolm Brown)

Lieutenant-Colonel Palk, of The Hampshire Regiment, was mortally wounded on 1 July 1916, the first day of the battle of the Somme. The whole of his 1st Battalion — 585 officers and men — became casualties. As he lay in a muddy shell hole he said to a man nearby: "If you know of a better 'ole, go to it!" Bruce Bairnsfather sketched his most famous cartoon around these words.

Such facts and intimate knowledge of circumstances are the basis of this book. Photographs, letters, diaries and newspaper cuttings treasured for 60 years were retrieved from long-forgotten packages in dusty attics to enable the author to produce a volume full of human experience and with the distinctive atmosphere of World War One.

Memories brought back stories — and the book is full of them — of humorous adventures, agonising raids, excellent and appalling trenches, billets and food. The whole



picture of life in France and Belgium 60 years ago is here. Not from the generals' viewpoint; not concerning strategy, tactics or the winning of battles, but merely, and most revealingly, about the life of the Tommy. Well worth reading.

*J M Dent & Sons Ltd, Aldine House, Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4QY, £6.95 GRH*

## Pre-Pasha

'Arabian Adventures: Ten Years of Joyful Service' (John Glubb)

In the 1920s, young Lieutenant Glubb, Royal Engineers, working as an Intelligence officer for the Royal Air Force, lived among rebellious

Iraqi tribesmen and prepared maps to enable the RAF to bomb his hosts. He told the tribal chiefs what he was doing and advised them to submit to the government. They bore him no grudge and their hospitality was not diminished.

On bomb-day they evacuated their villages and casualties were few, except where one group discovered an unexploded bomb. They carefully carried it to a village with which they were in feud, stacked straw and dried grass round it and set it alight. The bomb blew up, causing more casualties than had the aircraft. The tribal chiefs duly made their submission to the government, and the Royal Air Force was elated that a few aircraft could control an area that would have needed a division of ground troops.

The RAF was not, however, so successful in controlling murderous raids made across the border into Iraq by rebellious tribesmen from King Ibn Saud's territories.

The author spent ten years in Iraq, and describes (from notes made at the time) a way of life among the tribesmen which had scarcely changed in centuries. At the end of his tour, he crossed into Transjordan to claim compensation for sheep stolen by Transjordanian raiders. Contact made then led to an invitation which set him on the path to fame as Glubb Pasha, commander of the Arab Legion.

*Cassell, Collier & Macmillan (Publishers) Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £6.95 RLE*

## GC island

'Malta: The Triumphant Years, 1940-43' (George Hogan)

The author served in Malta as an officer of The Royal (then plain) Hampshire Regiment for two of the island's three years of agony.

In him grew a deep affection for the Maltese people and pride in the way they and British servicemen not only suffered but laboured positively together. That pride and affection inspire his book — no formal history but a personal view of events as he remembers them, rambling, wordy, repetitive but patently sincere and possessed of some charm.

Mr Hogan wrote verse, like many of his contemporaries (editors of war-time Army newspapers were deluged with it), and seems to have got publication at the time, though he does not say where. His verses now break into his chapters and run to a 15-page overflow.

He reminds us not only of how Malta stuck it out, but also how it dished it out. Thus in 1942, more enemy aircraft were destroyed over Malta than over Britain, and Malta's ships and aircraft sank much of the shipping which tried to supply the Afrika Korps.

He also reminds us how close-run was the siege of Malta. When it was raised in November 1942 by four merchantmen, the island had gone five weeks beyond its calculated endurance limit and had only 12 days' food left at the half-ration to which its occupants had long been reduced.

*Robert Hale & Co, Clerkenwell House, 45-47 Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £4.95 RLE*



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