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SOLDIER



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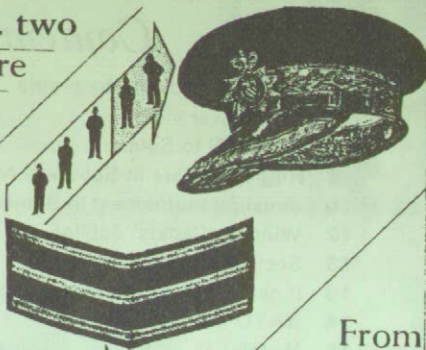
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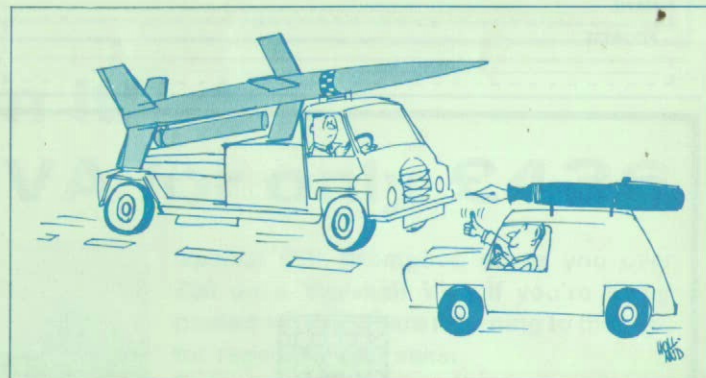
SOLDIER

SEPTEMBER 1964

Volume 20, No. 9

Contents

- 5 Welsh Guards on the prairie
- 7 Front cover story
- 8 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 9 Horse Gunners in Southern Arabia
- 10 Jousting tournament in Somerset
- 12 Windsor Cadets' Jubilee
- 13 September 1914
- 13 It happened in September
- 14 NATO exercise in Norway
- 15 Medals: 33—North-West Canada 1885
- 16 Princess Patricia's golden jubilee
- 17 Serving the Soldier: The Officers' Association
- 18 Army girls' rhythm group
- 19 That Second Career: Bob Baker
- 20 Humour
- 22 Your Regiment: 21—16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers
- 24 Life with the junior soldiers
- 26 Left, right and centre
- 29 Sport
- 32 Letters
- 33 Collectors' Corner
- 33 Reunions
- 35 Prize competition
- 37 Book reviews
- 38 How Observant Are You?



Next month's SOLDIER will carry on both front and back covers a night shot of Gibraltar from the Rock and will include articles on British troops in Gibraltar. Featured in the "Your Regiment" series will be The King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

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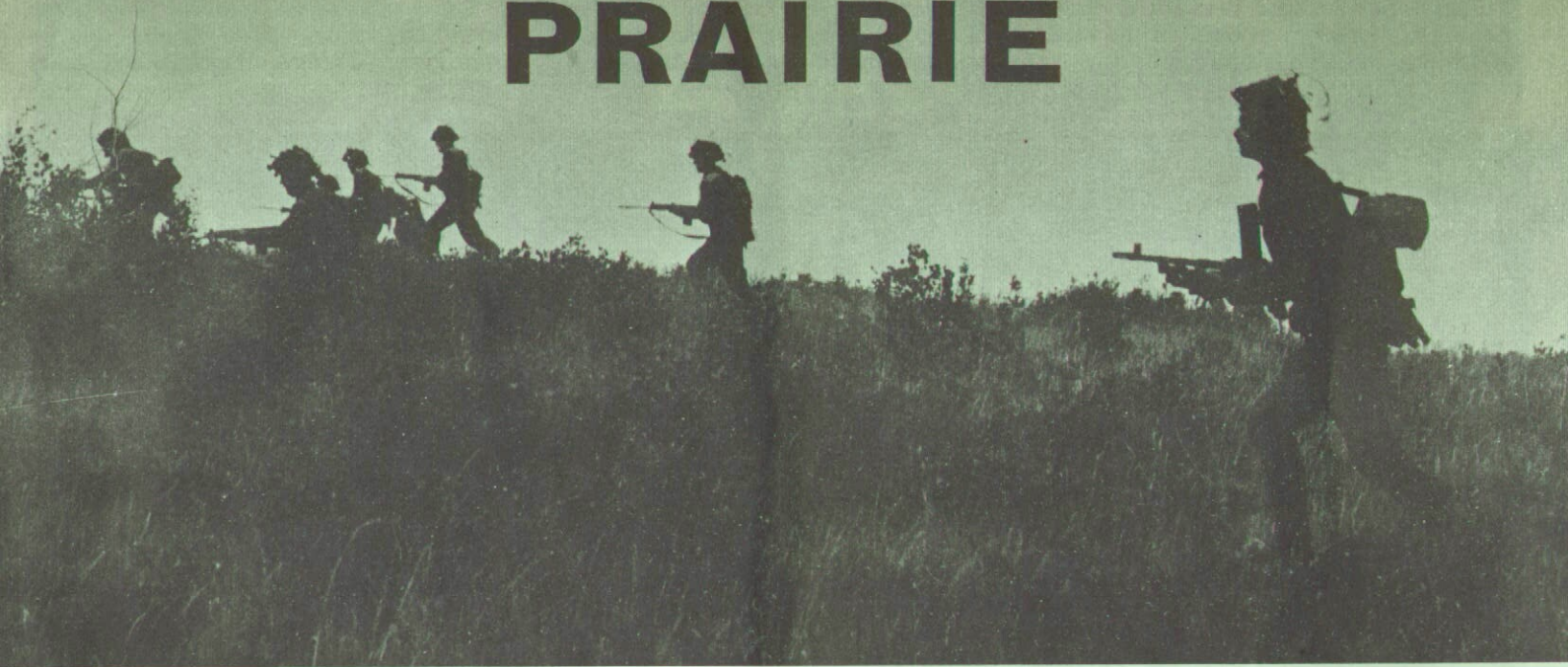
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FROM THE PALACE TO THE PRAIRIE



LEAVING THEIR BEARSKINS AND TUNICS BEHIND, THE WELSH GUARDS TEMPORARILY DESERTED LONDON TO TRAIN ON THE CANADIAN PRAIRIES, MORE THAN 5000 MILES FROM HOME

SCREAMING Red Indians broke up the Welsh Guards' official welcome to Canada. Four hundred guardsmen were patiently listening to a brigadier's speech when a bearded pioneer sergeant burst from a nearby thicket chased by painted Indians waving tomahawks with bloodcurdling enthusiasm.

Pioneer Sergeant Peter Roberts was overpowered and roped to a stake piled high with brushwood before cowboys appeared

on the scene to make a nick-of-time rescue in the best traditions of the Wild West.

All this was watched by astonished guardsmen completely at a loss to know whether to sit back and watch or to get stuck into the fight.

But the problem soon resolved itself. For as Sergeant Roberts disappeared clinging grimly on the back of a cowboy's horse, more than 200 Canadian soldiers arrived carrying crates of beer.

The raid and rescue were all part of a

spectacular welcome planned by the Canadians at Camp Wainwright, Alberta, to coincide with their own Dominion Day celebrations. It was a top secret operation and no one in the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, apart from the pioneer sergeant, knew about it.

Sappers from 3 Field Squadron, Royal Canadian Engineers, and local ranchers acted as the cowboys and Indians and played their parts so realistically that at least one Guards warrant officer prepared

Above: Guardsmen advancing during one of the battalion exercises on the vast Wainwright training area—herds of buffalo roamed there a few years ago.



Left: Between parades two members of the Corps of Drums stop by the wigwams for a chat with a Red Indian Chief on the first day of the Calgary Stampede.

to join the battle. The parties that followed the raid lasted well into the night and set the pace for the incredible, boundless hospitality that is shown to British soldiers in Canada every year.

It is the fourth consecutive year that British Army units have trained in Canada. About 600 men of the Welsh Guards left their bearskins and tunics in Chelsea Barracks, London, and flew out in Royal Air Force *Britannias* to train on the bleak prairie land at Camp Wainwright.

With them went 12 tank crews from British armoured regiments in Germany to form a composite squadron of Lord Strathcona's Horse.

They were from 17th/21st Lancers, the Royal Scots Greys, 3rd Carabiniers, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, 9th/12th Royal Lancers, 11th Hussars, 13th/18th Royal Hussars and 1st and 5th Royal Tank Regiments.

Their flight chased the sun round the world and the 5000-mile, 22-hour journey

was completed in daylight the whole way. On arrival at Wainwright most of the men were very tired and went straight to bed.

Next morning Regimental Sergeant-Major David Williams was up early. He strolled outside the barrack block and the first Canadian he met was an old friend from Wales who had been at school with his brother.

Before the tough training programme went into action, all the British soldiers were given a few days off to visit the Calgary





Stampede—it was an experience few of them will ever forget. Despite being jammed with tourists from all over the world, Calgary gave a special welcome to the British with a warmth and friendliness that left the soldiers flabbergasted.

In return for the Guards Corps of Drums performing on the opening day, the whole Battalion was given free tickets to the Stampede. For this one week, Calgary goes wild with dancing in the streets, fairgrounds, rodeo shows, the famous chuckwagon races and countless other attractions held continuously from dawn to dusk and then throughout the night.

Main meeting place for the British soldiers was the Canadian Legion club where the Welsh Guards choir gave a much appreciated impromptu performance.

In the streets the Guards' uniforms made them targets for endless invitations and many soldiers stayed with Canadians in their homes. Typical incident was when Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant Dick

Fletcher mentioned it was his wedding anniversary. His Canadian host immediately put a telephone call through to Chelsea Barracks. When he got through to London RQMS Fletcher discovered his wife was out—posting a letter to him.

Every day the soldiers joined in the spirit of the Stampede—whether it was square dancing on street corners or eating breakfast of flapjacks and maple syrup from a chuckwagon in the street.

Calf roping, bronco riding, steer wrestling, wild cow milking, bull racing, stage shows, firework displays and an unending stream of invitations meant full, exciting days for the soldiers.

Undoubtedly the most exciting event was the chuckwagon racing. Four wagons each pulled by four horses with four out-riders raced round a track in clouds of dust jostling for positions amid the thunder of hooves and crashing of wheels and wagons. It is one of the world's most fantastic spectacles.

A bar of gold worth 70,000 dollars and guarded by four armed policemen was raffled. When Sergeant Jack Jones asked one of the guards what would happen if someone tried to steal the bar, the policeman patted his holster and drawled: "If anyone gets too near, Betsy's gonna speak loud."

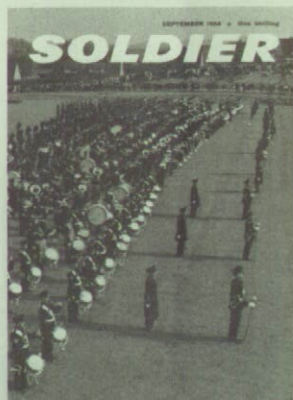
Many of the soldiers fitted themselves out with cowboy clothes and Colour-Sergeant George Jones masquerading under a huge stetson hat managed to convince a guardsman that he was Canadian born and bred when he was asked for directions in the street.

For every man at Calgary it was a fantastic, unforgettable experience. Everyone had a wealth of anecdotes and memories to take home with souvenirs, addresses and invitations to return. The town presented the Guards with a silver bowl and shield as a memento of their visit.

When the men returned to Camp Wainwright, it was back to work with a

Left: It is the opening parade of the Calgary Stampede. Followed by bronco riders, the Corps of Drums swings proudly down the main street.

Above: Two strange hats among the stetsons of the huge crowd watching the chuckwagon racing.



COVER PICTURE

On this month's front and back covers **SOLDIER** Cameraman PETER O'BRIEN portrays the scene in the Illeshöhe Stadium, Osnabrück, when 13 military bands of three NATO nations took part in 2nd Division's annual massed bands floodlit display.

On parade were the bands of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards; 9th/12th Royal Lancers; 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars; the regimental bands and corps of drums of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers; 1st Battalion, 2nd East Anglian Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Black Watch; The Black Watch of Canada. There were also the Drums and Pipes of 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, and the bands of 1st German Corps and the Royal Artillery, BAOR.

vengeance. Intensive battalion exercises started immediately and after days of blistering sunshine, the weather took an unkind turn for the worse.

After a day attack exercise, the Welsh Guards went straight into a night attack which was dramatically lit by huge flashes of thunder from a freak electrical storm. Dawn found almost every man soaked to the skin.

But there was to be no break. A defensive exercise followed immediately and on the next day the British composite armoured squadron joined the exercise to provide support for an attack.

Training became tougher and grew in scale. Almost constantly in the field, living off Canadian 24-hour rations, the British worked alongside Canadians and used Canadian equipment.

Formerly a national buffalo park, Camp Wainwright covers 236 square miles and provides ideal terrain for infantry and armoured training. But the weather is fickle—a heatwave can be followed by a snowstorm in the middle of summer—and bush fires hundreds of miles away can create a thick mist over the area.

The Welsh Guards lived in a bell tent encampment overlooking Battle River about 12 miles from Wainwright. The heatwave put a terrific strain on the men living under canvas when the thermometer rose to 95 degrees in the shade. Then when the weather changed overnight, a howling wind blowing from the north threatened to tear down the tents.

Training culminated with the Guards and the British armoured squadron taking part in large-scale exercises, lasting six days, with the 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade Group.

After that there was more leave during which the men either stayed in Calgary with friends they made during the Stampede or went on organised trips to the beautiful Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies.

Last month the Guards returned to England to take up their ceremonial duties again.

The riotous fun of the Stampede and the rigours of Camp Wainwright training became just memories—a far cry from the dignified pomp of soldiering with bearskins and tunics in London.

SOLDIER to Soldier

As a staunch supporter of the Army Benevolent Fund, which does so much for the Army's own charities, **SOLDIER** devotes its editorial column this month to two ventures which will raise hundreds of pounds for the Fund.

The first is the world premiere at the Carlton Theatre, Haymarket, London, on 24 September, 1964, of the 20th Century-Fox film, "Guns at Batasi," which the film company has dedicated to "the warrant officers and non-commissioned officers of the British Army, past and present, who at all times have upheld the highest traditions of the Service."

To encourage people to attend this premiere, at which one of the stars, Richard Attenborough, will make a personal appearance on the stage, the price of tickets has been kept as low as possible. They are available now from the Carlton box office at £5 5s 0d (front row, Grand Circle), £2 2s 0d and £1 1s 0d (Grand Circle and back stalls) and 10s 6d (front stalls and balcony).

Richard Attenborough plays the part of a regimental sergeant-major who has dedicated his life to soldiering. On the parade ground he is a tyrant, but in a hot spot—when seven non-commissioned officers and two women are trapped in a sergeants' mess by opposing forces—he is a hero.

Co-starring with Richard Attenborough are Flora Robson, as a visiting Member of Parliament; John Leyton, as a private soldier, and Jack Hawkins as a colonel. The film introduces Mia Farrow as a visiting United Nations secretary in love with Leyton.

THIS year, for the first time, the Army Benevolent Fund is producing its own Christmas card, any profit from which will be distributed by the Fund to Army charities.

Pettie's famous painting, "The Vigil," is reproduced in full colour on the front of the card, which measures 4½ inches deep by 6 inches wide.

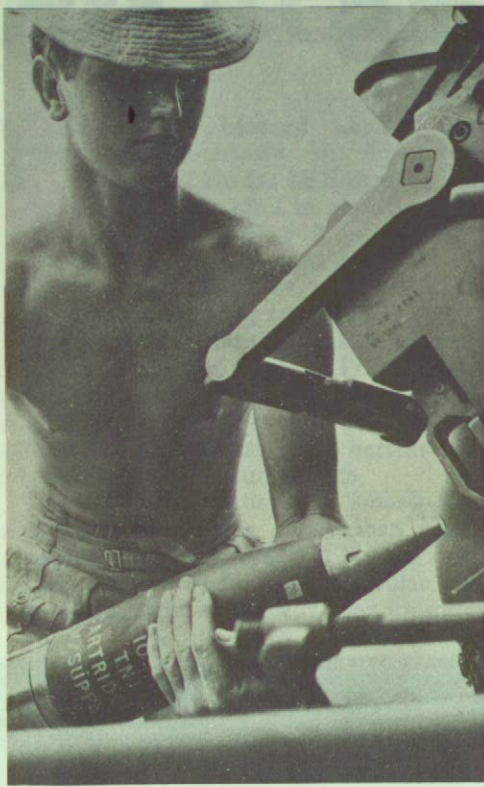
Individual orders, with a minimum of 12 cards, should be sent to National Enterprises (X), The Army Benevolent Fund, 20 Grosvenor Place, London SW1, not later than 15 November from the United Kingdom and British Army of the Rhine, and not later than 15 October from overseas stations.

The cards cost 6s per dozen, including envelopes, and postage is extra at the rates of 1s 2d for one dozen cards, 1s 6d (2 dozen), 2s (3-4 dozen), 4s (5-6 dozen), 4s 9d (6-7 dozen) and 5s 9d (8-10 dozen).



A Centurion (above) manned by British soldiers of the composite armoured squadron waits in the shrubs for orders to move forward in support of a Welsh Guards attack. The visitors had to take over strange equipment like Jeeps—one is being driven by a guardsman under the camouflage (below).





In action up-country Gunner Gerald Walsh (above) feeds another round into a pack-howitzer while Battery Sergeant-Major Sandy McGillivray (right) plots the gun corrections.

Below: In a cloud of dust and with a deafening roar a pack-howitzer fires at a rebel stronghold. A 5.5 medium gun (top right) was brought forward during Radfan operations.

HORSE GUNNERS OF ARABIA



MORE than a year of continuous fighting under terrible conditions in the pitiless sun of Southern Arabia ends this month for J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery of 3rd Light Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

In action on the Yemen border within two days of its arrival in Aden last year, the Battery has earned a formidable reputation in the endless battles against up-

country rebels. Now it is returning home for well-earned leave before moving to Germany.

In July last year the Battery had its first taste of mountain warfare in Arabia. In temperatures topping 130 degrees Fahrenheit, in sand and lava dust storms, clinging on the rugged black mountains, the Gunners manhandled their 105mm pack-howitzers to battle.

Supporting the Federal Regular Army, the Gunners' first scrap turned into a major gun battle lasting for four months during which many Yemeni guns were silenced or totally destroyed.

After this grim welcome, J Battery guns were dropped by helicopter on inaccessible peaks; on lorries, donkeys and camels they were moved into action; and with sheer brute strength under heavy sniping the men dragged their guns up escarpments of treacherous crumbling rock.

Always on 24-hour operational readiness, the Battery was often turned out of bed to man the guns. And in the first six months of this year the seven variable-charge howitzers poured 12,000 rounds into rebel positions, forts and strongholds.

In March, Lieutenant Michael Brembridge won the Military Cross when he was wounded while directing air strikes and fire support. Losing blood heavily and under continuous fire from snipers, he stayed at his post for nearly three hours before withdrawing.

More recently the Battery was in the news during the Radfan operations against the dissident Red Wolves. The Sidi Rezegh guns played an essential role, often dropping shells just 100 yards ahead of advancing British and Federal troops.

In many of the round-the-clock battles the exhausted Gunners had to manhandle their smoking howitzers into various tactical positions to deal with three different enemy targets at once.

They were tough months for J Battery, but the men lived up to the Sidi Rezegh honour earned in the Libyan desert in 1941 when, armed only with 12 two-pounder anti-tank guns, the Battery faced some 60 Panzer tanks.

During that day-long battle the Germans were thrown back three times and Second-Lieutenant Ward Gunn won a posthumous Victoria Cross by taking over a gun after the crew had been killed and knocking out at least two enemy tanks before being himself killed.

From a report by William Nutt, Joint Public Relations, Aden.



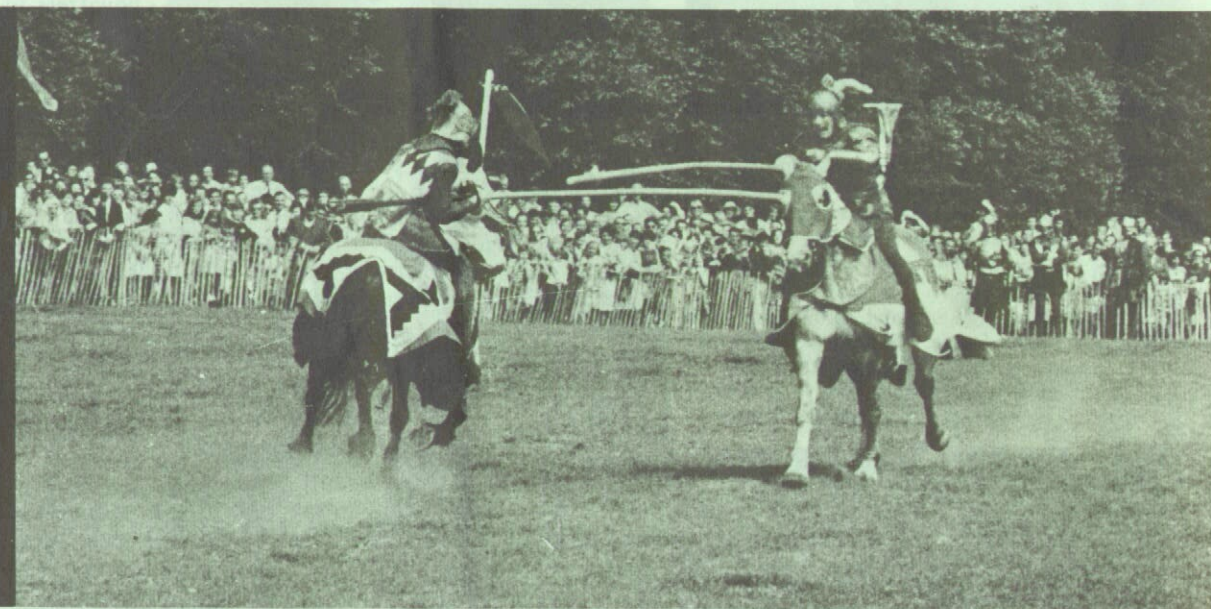
KNIGHTLY GUISTS AND FIERCE ENCOUNTERS

*A gentle Knight was pricking on the plaine,
Ycladd in mightie armes and silver shielde,
Wherein old dints of deepe woundes did remaine,
The cruel markes of many a bloody field;
Yet armes till that time did he never wield:
His angry steed did chide his foming bitt,
As much disdayning to the curbe to yield:
Full iolly knight he seemd, and faire did sitt,
As one for knightly guists and fierce encounters fitt.*

Story by RUSSELL MILLER : Pictures by LESLIE WIGGS

Wielding mightie lances, two Knights in quest of glory (Gunner officers John Mead and Bill Thatcher) charge. Observing ye bataille is be-plumed Colonel Langford.

Below: Most excellent sitters and powerfull horsemen all, right bolde and chivalrous Knights with friendly hearts bid ye tournament farewell.



FANFARES blasted across the rolling meadows in front of Montacute House in Somerset as eight bold knights clad in goodly suits of polished steel appeared on the skyline and cantered towards a crowd of some 9000 Elizabethans wielding ciné cameras and sucking ice lollies.

It was the day jousting was revived to raise money for the National Trust. And soldiers played a big part—either sweating in suits of armour as knights or acting as self-conscious squires and heralds in coloured tights and plumed hats.

The setting was Montacute House, one of the finest surviving Elizabethan mansions in the country. Under a blazing sun, the scene was colourful and spectacular, if a little inconsistent historically—for jousting

had disappeared by the reign of Elizabeth I.

The joust began with the entry of the splendid Knight Marshal—played by Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Langford, late Royal Artillery—who rode into the arena gallantly enough despite the visor of his helmet clamping down over his face as he made his entry.

Elizabethan spectators, in rather crumpled cloaks and crinolines, quickly appeared on the scene for a brief moment of glory before the arrival of the glittering knights, accompanied by sweating troopers of the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, dressed as heralds and squires.

Every neck craned as the first pair of knights were handed their 18-foot long lances and galloped forward to receive favours—coloured ribbon tied to the end of

their lances—from their lady champions, while "Lord Montacute" and his guests settled themselves in their stand.

Describing the action over a loudspeaker was the organiser, Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony Bullivant, late 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, gamely struggling against the noise of jet fighters from a nearby air display which screamed overhead at regular intervals.

The first pair to joust were Gerard Noel and Second Lieutenant Michael Goodbody, 5th Inniskillings. From opposite ends of the arena they charged towards each other, encouraged by rather un-Elizabethan cheers from the period-attired spectators and fascinated silence from the later Elizabethans.

Two charges were well-rehearsed misses but, after spectacularly executing mounted about turns at each end, Noel was caught on the end of Goodbody's lance at the third charge and de-horsed. Desperate combat with two-handed swords followed with much grunting and shouting from the knights. Noel was finally dispatched and dragged off prostrate.

Two Cornish knights were the next pair. After rushing at each other with lances, one roared "I'll have his guts for garters," a sentiment much appreciated by the spectators even if the ferocious effect was somewhat spoiled a few minutes later by the gallant knight falling from his mount.

Their sword duel ended with both of them "dead." The dying knight recovered sufficiently to plunge his sword into the back of his opponent as he was acknowledging applause from the crowd. An act of dubious chivalry, that.

The mystery knight in the third bout turned out to be Olympic rider Captain James Templar, Royal Horse Artillery, who gave battle to Lieutenant Richard Vines, 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery. When dismounted, these two disdained swords and were handed hefty maces with which they began enthusiastically bashing each other.

Maces were also used by the last pair, Lieutenant John Mead, Royal Artillery, and Second Lieutenant Bill Thatcher, Royal Horse Artillery, who appeared to get a little over-enthusiastic and were parted before further realism was added with a genuine casualty.

Throughout the contest the horses, beautifully accoutred in hoods and long coats, were handled expertly and behaved well except when one charger entered into the spirit of the thing and careered riderless towards spectators in a corner of the arena, scattering them in all directions.

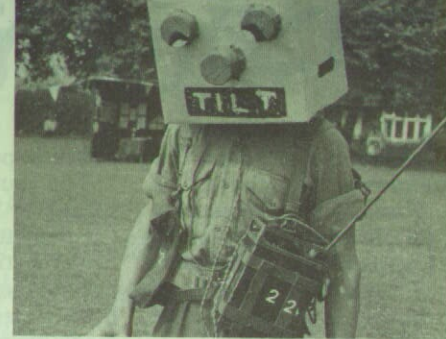
After the jousting the Elizabethans returned to Montacute House for tea and the knights and their entourage rode off across the meadows—some with a few bruises nobly sustained in battle when enthusiasm got the better of discretion.



A fair and courteous lady arrives to watch her Knight of hereditary note and exemplary nobless wield sword and mace to prove his gallantry.



A parfit gentil Knight Marshal (above) did observe ye contestes. Right: Two Knights (Lieutenant Vines and Captain Thatcher) dash together smiting mightily with their maces.



Left: The Army Cadets being inspected by the Nepalese Ambassador, Shri Kali Prasad Upadhyay, who also took the salute at the march past. Above: This "robot" obeyed radio instructions.

Right: The Royal Air Force Section, now disbanded, sadly marches off for the last time, led by a corporal piper of the Scots Guards.



Below: Three pipers lead a drill squad from the Brigade of Gurkhas—one of the CCF officers served in a Gurkha regiment. Below, right: A coach and four greys of the Household Cavalry helped to represent the 1914-20 period.



FORM FOURS TO PONY TREKKING

FIFTY years of Combined Cadet Force history were spanned by boys of Windsor Grammar School in a pageant which was the highlight of their jubilee parade.

A squad in long puttees formed fours as a reminder of the School Corps' foundation, boys representing soldiers in Burma, the Western Desert and the Arctic recalled the contingent's contribution to World War Two when its cadets served in every theatre, and the change in training emphasis of the 1960s was reflected by a camping party, pony trekkers and a section battle.

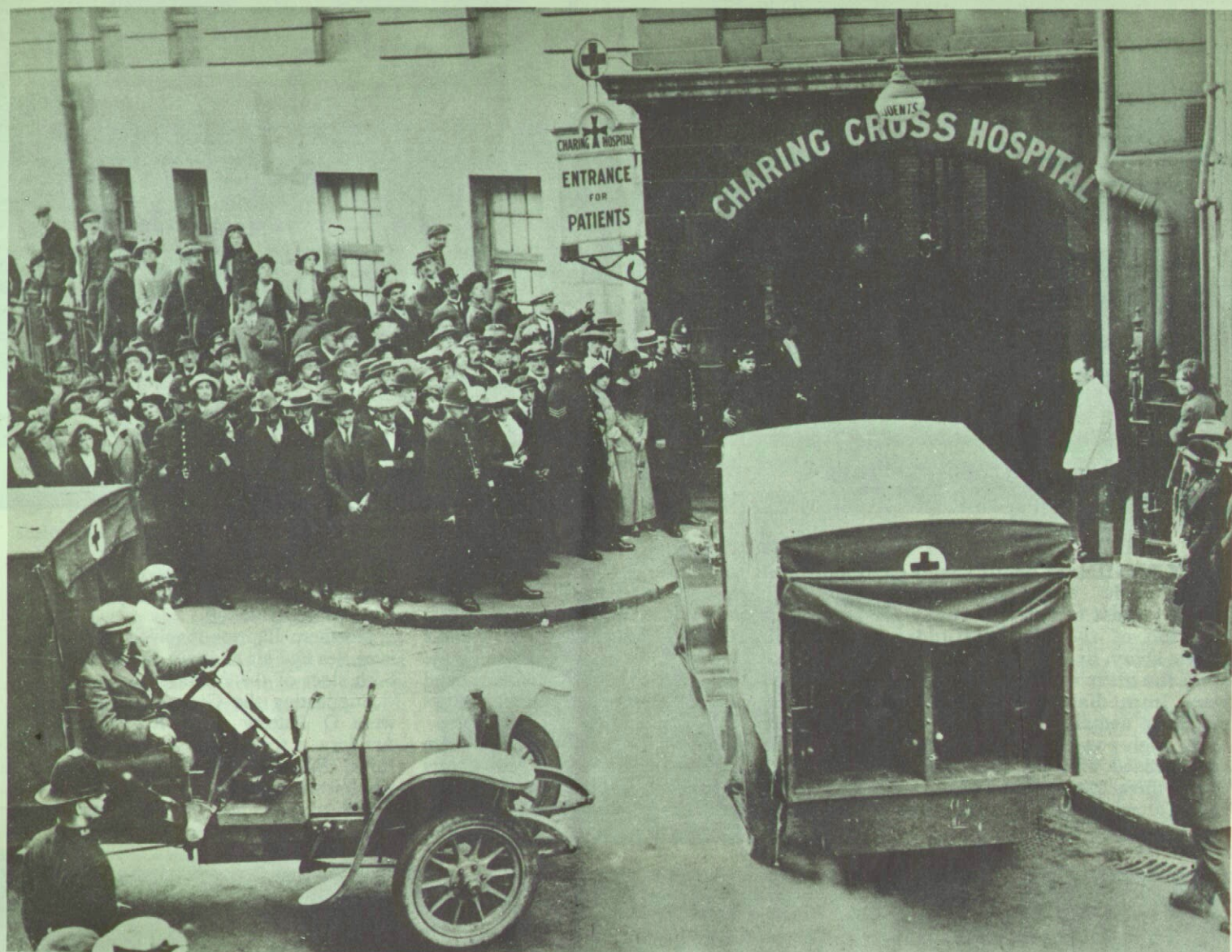
The School's Combined Cadet Force, which has a strength of between 85 and 100, is commanded by the woodwork master, Major J W Squire. The Jubilee programme, presented entirely by the boys themselves, included a signals exercise, inspection and march past, and contributions from the Corps of Drums of 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, the Band of the Irish Guards and a drill display by Gurkhas.

There was a farewell, too, to the Royal Air Force Section, disbanded as the result of Government policy, which marched proudly and sadly off parade led by a piper of the Scots Guards.



Early days are recalled by a squad of World War One and a vintage car.

SEPTEMBER 1914



London tastes the grim reality of war as ambulances arrive with wounded from the front. The crowd is serious—but this was just the mild beginning.

It happened in SEPTEMBER

Date		Years ago
1	German Army invaded Poland	25
1	BBC Home Service began	25
3	Britain and France declared war on Germany	25
6	Battle of the Marne began	50
8	Richard Strauss, composer, died	15
8	The first V2 landed in England	20
9	Battle of the Marne ended	50
11	Battle of Malplaquet	255
13	Battle of Quebec	205
16	Lake Nyasa discovered by David Livingstone	105
18	Dr Samuel Johnson, writer, born	255
20	Battle of Alma	110
21	People's Republic of China proclaimed	15
22	Boulogne liberated	20
26	The <i>Queen Mary</i> launched	30
27	Capitulation of Warsaw	25



On NATO's Arctic Flank



WITHIN the Arctic Circle enemy units were massing off the coast of Norway ready for an invasion of the fjords. Hundreds of miles away in Britain, Belgium and Italy the alert was sounded and troops were immediately flown off to help repel the attack.

No high-powered political negotiations were needed to enlist this help—for the enemy threat was against a NATO country and an attack on the fjords was an attack on

the whole of NATO. This was the setting for Exercise "Northern Express," designed to test the combat readiness and flexibility of NATO's "fire brigade"—Allied Mobile Force. Northern Norway was chosen for the scene of the exercise because it is considered to be one of the most sensitive military links in the NATO Alliance.

To combat the "enemy" (made up from Norwegian troops and United States marines) the 2nd Green Jackets, King's Royal Rifle Corps, were flown out from

England, Belgium loaned a battalion of para-commandos and Italy sent a crack Susa Alpini battalion.

Northern Express involved the move by land, sea and air of about 6000 troops from both sides of the Atlantic.

Supporting the Green Jackets battalion were Q Battery of 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery, a troop from 24 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, and other service and administrative units.

Air support was provided mainly by

British, Dutch and Belgian jet fighters which joined Norwegian air force units. In addition the United States Tactical Fighter Squadron flew direct to Norway from South Carolina, a journey of more than 4000 nautical miles which required four in-flight refuellings. Unfortunately the success of this operation was marred by the loss of a pilot and his aircraft over the Atlantic.

The Allied Mobile Force was formed in 1961 at the instigation of General Norstad, former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, in order to have sufficient troops always available to defend an attack against NATO at its weakest links.

To date, troops from Britain, the United States, West Germany, Belgium and Italy have been earmarked for the Allied Mobile Force. Canada has promised a battalion and France is likely to do the same.

The Force headquarters, at Seckenheim in West Germany, are staffed by officers from all the participating nations under the command of Major-General the Hon Michael Fitzalan Howard MC.

Highly mobile, the Force has the additional psychological value of being a reminder to an aggressor that an attack upon one is an attack upon all.

Northern Express lasted three weeks and training in the damp Arctic conditions not only exercised the formation on a large scale but gave each individual soldier valuable experience in fighting in unusual terrain alongside unusual allies.

An unexpected flurry of interest was caused during the exercise when allied jet fighters arrived at Bodo. For at the same time a rather over-equipped Russian trawler called in for fresh water and a Soviet football team arrived on tour—with 23 players!



For the exercise, soldiers from several different countries were thrown together. A Norwegian tank commander and a British soldier discuss the exercise in the top picture, US Marines in oilskins wait to go out on patrol (centre) and Susa Alpini troops in their famous feathered hats are pictured (bottom) on their arrival in the cold Arctic—many miles from their homes by the sunny Mediterranean Sea.

US Marines (left) advance through a smoke-screen to attack a British position while a Norwegian patrol boat (top left) searches the fjord along which the British are entrenched.



THE ARMY'S MEDALS

by MAJOR JOHN LAFFIN

33

NORTH-WEST CANADA 1885



In 1885 the Canadian Government decided to open up the country's North-West Territories, a decision bitterly opposed by the local Indians who were inspired to rebellion by Louis Riel.

Riel had already been responsible for some of the trouble which led to the issue of the Canada General Service Medal (SOLDIER, March, 1963). He escaped capture at the time but in 1885 he saw another opportunity to become "king" of a new land in the north-west.

In operations during April and May his troops were defeated and Riel was captured and hanged.

The medal issued for the campaign, the North-West Canada Medal, shows a veiled Queen Victoria on the obverse. On the reverse are the words "North West Canada" within a maple wreath, with the date in the centre. Only one bar was issued—Saskatchewan—to all men who had taken part in one of the three main engagements.

These took place on the Saskatchewan and Fish Rivers and at Batoche, where 850 Government troops defeated Riel's army.

A fairly large but unknown number of medals was issued, but they are not too often encountered today. Most went to Canadian soldiers, members of units with such interesting names as Todd's Sharpshooters, Simcoe Foresters, Strange's Rangers and to the Mounted Police, among others.

Nine officers were the only English soldiers to take part in the campaign, but I am unable to say if they all received the medal.

Some English ex-soldiers who had settled in Canada tried to get permission to form a unit to fight in the war but were refused.

The medals were issued unnamed but most men had them named and nearly always in block capitals. The ribbon is blue-grey with two close-set red stripes.

Exclusive NATO pictures by Dominique Berretty



They're proud to be **PRINCESS PAT'S**

FIFTY years ago this month Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry sailed to war. Raised in a few days by a Montreal businessman, they were a motley crew of old soldiers representing every regiment in the British Army except one.

Less than ten per cent were Canadians; about 80 per cent were British. Of a total strength of 1098, 1049 had seen service before and between them owned 771 decorations. Two sections were composed entirely of ex-Guardsmen, two of ex-riflemen and two of English public schoolboys.

These were the "Originals," the men who rushed into uniform at the outbreak of World War One to join the last privately raised regiment in the Commonwealth and within a few weeks found themselves sailing from Canada towards the trenches.

This year the Patricias celebrate their golden jubilee. They have a proud record to look back on over the last half century—a record that was born when Andrew Hamilton Gault, once a private during the Boer War but by 1914 a prosperous businessman, offered at the outbreak of war to raise and equip a regiment at his own expense for immediate active service.

He poured 100,000 dollars into the formation of the Regiment and the response to recruiting advertisements was fantastic. Prospectors, trappers, guides, cow-punchers, prize-fighters, farmers, professional and businessmen and above all old soldiers, poured into Ottawa by every train.

Within two weeks the unit was up to strength and the beautiful Princess Patricia, daughter of the Governor-General of Canada, agreed to give her name to the

new Regiment. She immediately began to make a Colour and on August 23 presented it to her Regiment—it subsequently became famous as the only Colour to be carried into action in World War One.

In September the Patricias sailed for Europe and on Christmas Eve, 1914, they moved into the front-line trenches at Ypres as the first Canadians in action.

War was nothing new to the old soldiers of the new Regiment and in May, 1915, they proved their mettle at Frezenburg when German artillery concentrated a terrific bombardment on the Patricias' section of the line before attacking.

Wave after wave of Germans were beaten off by Princess Pat's but the enemy gradually gained control of the flanking ground and the gallant Canadians found themselves cut off with a company of 4th

**Cow-punchers... trappers... prospectors... prize-fighters
... just fifty years ago they were all flocking to join
the last privately raised regiment in the Commonwealth**

THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

THE Officers' Association is not an exclusive London club for a privileged few—it is a charity dedicated to helping any man or woman who has ever held a commission in Her Majesty's Forces or their dependents.

It is a huge field to cover involving millions of people. Founded in 1920 by Field-Marshal Earl Haig, the Association has neither membership nor subscriptions in the accepted sense as all officers, ex-officers and their dependents are automatically eligible for assistance if required.

A large part of the Association's work is involved with employment and it has a special department handling a continuous flow of jobs of every kind which has found work for some 12,000 officers since 1945.

As well as introducing officers to specific vacancies, the department also gives speculative introductions to potential employers and advice on problems of resettlement.

Take-over bids, rising costs, smaller profit margins and difficult trading conditions make it increasingly difficult to find suitable jobs for ex-officers despite much goodwill in industry and commerce.

During 1962/3 the Association's job finding team made 1290 visits to potential employers in London and in industrial areas throughout the country. Jobs worth about £608,700 a year were found for 642 officers.

The Association also gives advice or practical assistance on countless subjects including pension claims, legal advice, grants towards education of children and relief of distress caused by sickness or unemployment.

Working closely with the British Legion and other Service charities, the Association runs a number of homes for elderly ex-officers of limited means.

Since its inception the Association has spent more than five and a half million pounds in cash grants and during 1962/3 alone more than £100,000 was spent on relief of distress and £32,000 of that amount went to officers' widows compelled to ask for help after the death of their husbands.

The address of the Officers' Association is 28, Belgrave Square, London, SW1.



During training in Germany (above) dusty men of the 2nd Battalion withdraw after an attack—a very different scene from the painting (left) of the Regiment in action at the second battle of Ypres. Below is an early photograph of their beautiful Colonel-in-Chief—the Princess Patricia.

Battalion, The Rifle Brigade. After stemming the enemy advance for hours they were finally relieved—and only 154 men, commanded by a lieutenant, came out of the position.

After the heavy casualties around Ypres, the Regiment was reinforced with "university companies," composed mainly of students—McGill University alone produced five companies during the war.

The new recruits and the old soldiers had little in common except courage—but they soon proved they had plenty of that.

Regiment's founder. He served his Regiment gallantly, cherished and guided it for the rest of his life and was its Colonel at the time of his death in 1958.

Between the world wars, Princess Pat's was split up. It was a lean time for the Regiment, soldiering on a shoestring and concentrating only three times in 20 years.

But in 1939 the Regiment mobilised and before the year was out had returned to England. After three impatient years of waiting, the Patricias took part in the invasion of Sicily with Montgomery's Eighth Army, veterans of three years' desert warfare.

They then moved to Italy and began the drive up the peninsula, adding more famous battle honours to their Colour. In the drive for Rome they suffered a heavy pounding in the effort to crack the Hitler Line, running into point blank machine-gun fire in dense woods and enduring heavy artillery bombardment.

In 1945 they were moved to north-west Europe where, in First Canadian Army, they took part in the last phase of the operations against the Germans in Holland.

Depleted by drafts to the Pacific and occupation forces and the discharge of long-service men, Princess Pat's returned to Canada in October 1945, re-formed and set about training for a peacetime army.

In 1948 they became the first parachute battalion in Canada and in 1950 the Regiment was expanded to three battalions because of the Korean war.

Men of the 2nd Battalion were the first Canadians in action in Korea and quickly distinguished themselves in the famous stand against the Chinese at Kapyong where they won a United States Presidential Citation—the only Canadian unit to earn such an honour.

All three battalions saw action in Korea. The 3rd Battalion was disbanded after its return to Canada and formed the nucleus of the newly created regiment of Canadian Guards.

Now the 1st Battalion is serving with the NATO Brigade in Germany and the 2nd Battalion is at the Regiment's home station, Hamilton Gault Barracks in Edmonton, Alberta.

And attending the jubilee celebrations last month in Germany and this month in Canada was the Colonel-in-Chief, the beautiful young girl who inspired the Regiment with her hand-sewn Colour half a century ago—Princess Patricia, now Lady Patricia Ramsay.



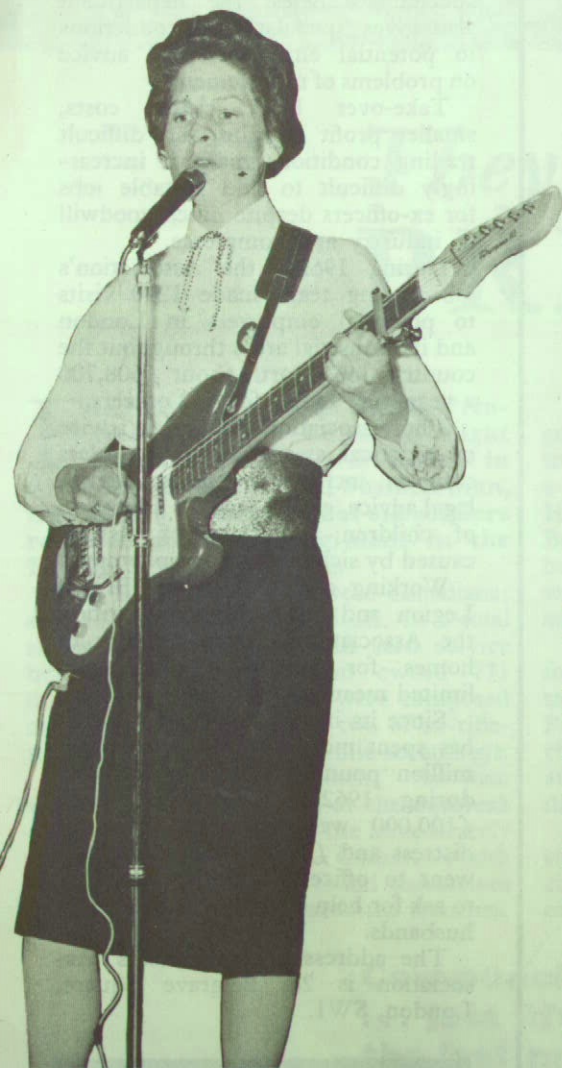
At Sanctuary Wood they fought an incredible defensive battle and at Vimy Ridge in 1917 they went into action against one of the strongest natural positions on the front, captured their two objectives with fewer than 50 casualties and swept on over the barbed wire and craters.

At the end of the war the Patricias, proudly commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel A Hamilton Gault DSO, went home with 369 decorations and 18 battle honours. Glory cost them dear—around Ypres Salient alone, 1289 Patricias fell.

None of Princess Pat's officers during that time was more outstanding than the

THEY'VE GOT THE MESSAGE

Introducing The Travellers, playing at Brentford Youth Centre. Right are Sergeant Joan Plant, on the bass, and Sergeant Pauline Bradberry (drums), and (below) guitarist Sergeant Josephine Heron.



TEENAGERS twisted and shook as a long-haired beat group swung into action with a "top ten" pop number at a London youth club.

Pounding out the cool rhythm were three sergeants wearing white shirts, black skirts and gold slippers. They were The Travellers, the Army's own three-girl rock group.

Playing the electric guitar was Sergeant Josephine Heron and on the bass was Sergeant Joan Plant, both of the Women's Royal Army Corps. Sergeant Pauline Bradberry, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, on the drums, completed the trio.

It was just another routine engagement for the swinging Travellers—yet little less than a year ago two of them had never played a musical instrument. Now they play at regular engagements throughout London, they have cut their first tape and aroused the interest of Tin Pan Alley.

The Army girls' rhythm group was thought up last year by Captain A H Harrison, a Women's Royal Army Corps recruiting officer. While considering ways to prove to young people that Army girls were just as "with it" as any teenager, she discovered that one of her sergeants could play the guitar . . .

The Travellers were born. Sergeant Heron, who strummed a guitar for a hobby, was joined by Sergeant Plant with a second-hand double bass and Sergeant Bradberry with a tin tray (the drums came much later). Armed with a lot more enthusiasm than musical knowledge, they began intensive rehearsals.

Captain Harrison miraculously managed to get official support for the group and



enough money to buy an electric guitar, drum set, double bass and amplifying equipment—all bare necessities for any pop group.

The group's first performance was before senior officers. "We were absolutely terrified," said Sergeant Heron. "Our nerves showed through the performance but at least we seemed to get all the feet tapping." The verdict after the show was—full approval all round.

Other engagements, inside and outside the Army, quickly followed and The Travellers began to develop a style of their own that is getting more and more confident and more and more popular.

Their music is just a spare-time hobby for the three girls. During the day they carry on their recruiting jobs, rehearsing or performing on most evenings. They have no back-room boys to help them. They look after their own equipment, install themselves wherever they have an engagement and wire up all the amplifiers themselves.

When they are playing, their only concession to uniform is the Women's Royal Army Corps and Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps badges that they wear on their shirts.

Now that the pop world is beginning to take an interest in the Travellers, their name could spread. But show business could never be more than a demanding hobby for them. "We never hope to compete with the Beatles" is a sentiment voiced by all three.



Bob Baker—Beadle of Burlington Arcade

BOB BAKER, Beadle of Burlington Arcade for 28 years, has many happy memories. But the one he cherishes most is of two little girls who used to visit the toyshop.

Running is not allowed in this arcade of exclusive shops off London's Piccadilly. The two girls would walk in demurely, peep over their shoulders to see if the Beadle was looking, then make a dash for the toyshop.

Bob always turned a blind eye—for the two little girls were Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret!

"They used to turn up with their detective—he was a huge man—and very ladylike they would come walking up the arcade," said Bob. "I would pretend I wasn't looking and they would run for all they were worth, leaving the detective behind."

Bob has been a beadle since 1935 and in his black frock coat, yellow waistcoat, wing collar and top hat he must be one of the best-known men in London. And he got the job because, as a boy of 17 in 1919, he chose to join the 10th Royal Hussars.

Much of his service then was spent in

Ireland searching for the Sinn Feiners. When his engagement was completed he left the Army at the height of the depression without a trade or a job and with a wife and two children to support.

After trying unsuccessfully to find work in the North he moved to London and asked his Regimental Association for help. He was lucky—there was a vacancy for a beadle at the arcade and the major qualification was to have served in the 10th Hussars.

For Burlington Arcade was built about 150 years ago by Lord Cavendish, a former 10th Hussar. It has since been an unwritten rule that where possible the beadles should be old soldiers of the Regiment.

So Bob swapped his trooper's uniform for that of a beadle and started work. At the outbreak of World War Two he joined the Royal Military Police and served with them until 1945 when he returned to the arcade and was soon promoted to head beadle.

The job of the beadles is security, guarding the millions of pounds worth of goods in the arcade, and two of them are always on duty while it is open. They must also

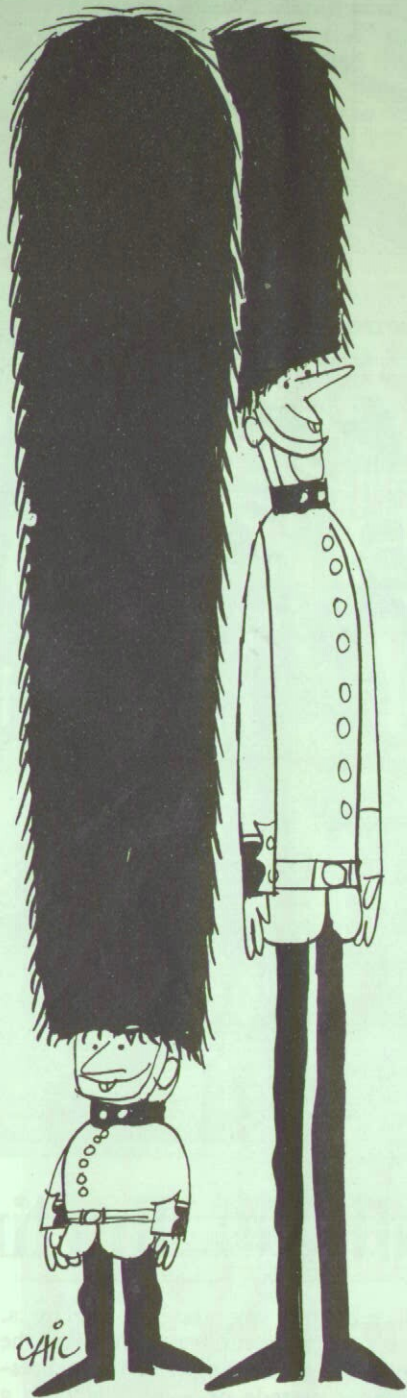
tactfully enforce the rules—no running, whistling, bicycles or open umbrellas allowed. The object is to keep the arcade unchanged in an ever-changing London—even the beadles' uniforms have remained the same for 150 years.

A few years ago Bob hit the headlines when two gunmen held up a jewellery shop just inside the entrance to the arcade. As they were snatching the jewels he calmly shut the door to block their escape. One of the gunmen whirled round and fired—but the bullet hit the door handle and Bob escaped with nothing worse than a hand that stayed numb from the shock for days. The gunmen were caught in Piccadilly Circus and Bob was rewarded with a gold watch for his bravery.

Constantly photographed by tourists, Bob now has an album of photographs of himself sent by people from all over the world.

"But it is the constant stream of questions that can get you down a bit. They are fired at us all day long and some of them are really stupid. It's funny that standing here in this uniform outside all these posh shops one of the most frequent questions is: 'Where's Woolworths?'"

Top: In frock coat, yellow waistcoat and top hat, Bob is a familiar figure to shoppers in London's smart Burlington Arcade.



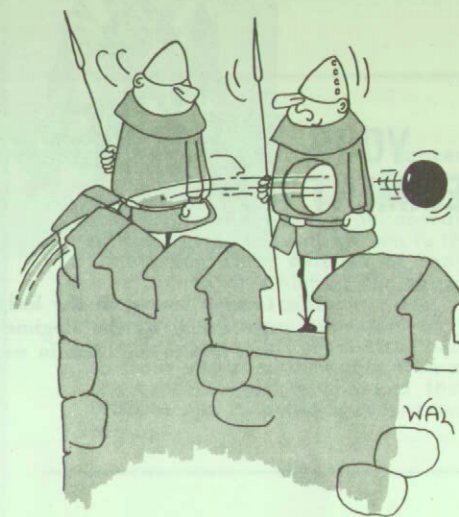
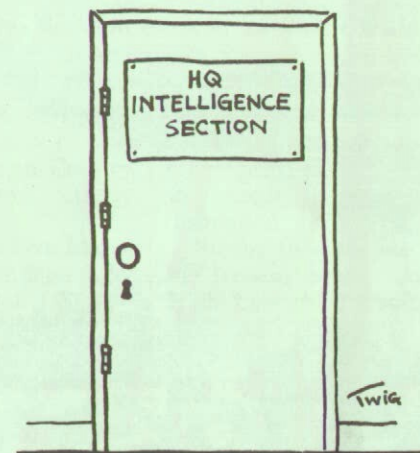
CLEW
"Where do I plug it in, corporal?"



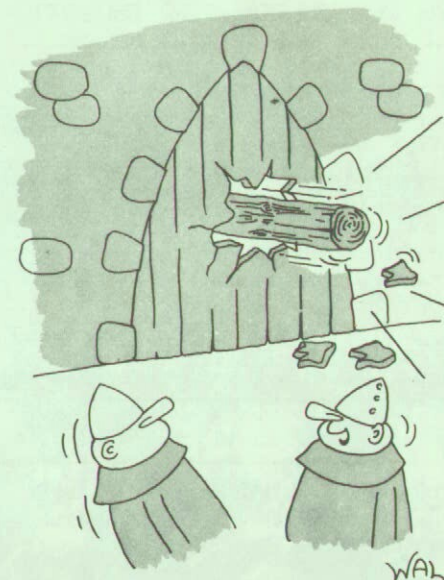
"Absentee?"
"Yes, please, two lumps!"



"If I hadn't married a hag like you I could have been a Guards Officer..."



"... That was close!"



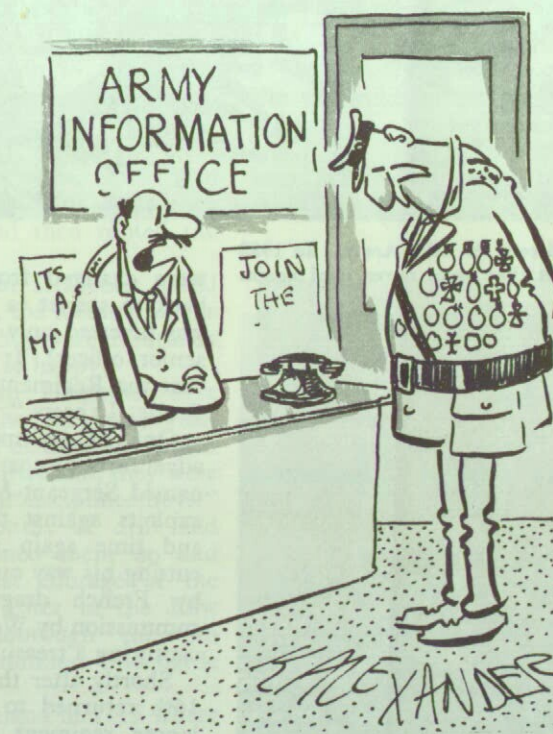
"I think there's somebody at the door!"



"Never mind all that guff about learning a trade - I just want to kill people."



"It's no use, Harold - we just don't see eye to eye any more!"



"Then going on to the second row we have the Long Service Medal..."



YOUR
REGIMENT
21



Crossed lances on the badge are fitting as the Regiment was first to use them in war.

FROM SCARLET TO BLUE TO SCARLET

"YOU will be mounted on the finest horses in the world, with superb clothing and the richest accoutrements. Your pay and privileges are equal to two guineas a week, you are everywhere respected, your society is courted, you are admired by the fair, which, together with the chance of getting switched by a buxom widow or of brushing with a rich heir-ess, renders the situation truly enviable and desirable."

This was the delightful entreaty used on the recruiting posters of the 16th Light Dragoons when the Regiment was raised in 1759.

Today the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers adopt a more subtle approach to recruiting. But two centuries have not changed intangible aspects of the Regiment like its pride and reputation—they remain untarnished by the years.

In their early years the 16th suffered many changes in name and their uniforms



Scarlet Lancers charge at Aliwal (above) and rout the Sikh Army. In 1933 (below) they still had horses and lances, but they were never used again.



were changed from scarlet to blue and back to scarlet (a fourth change, to blue, was diverted only on the intervention of a senior officer). It was from these tunics that the Regiment got its nickname "The Scarlet Lancers."

One of its most swashbuckling and adventurous characters was the aptly-named Sergeant-Major Blood. His fearless exploits against the French appear time and time again in the 16th's history—cutting his way out after being surrounded by French dragoons; being offered a commission by Wellington for his courage; capturing a treasure cart with 6000 dollars.

Shortly after the Battle of Waterloo the 16th returned to England to equip as a lancer regiment and six years later in India became the first British Cavalry to use lances in action.



On sturdier mounts the Regiment enters Arezzo during World War Two.

In 1846 at Aliwal the Regiment earned its most famous battle honour when it performed a feat then unparalleled in Cavalry history—it rode through and utterly destroyed an infantry square.

The enemy were brave and stubborn Sikhs, their natural courage inflamed by opium, who threatened the fate of British India. Ordered to attack with another squadron of light Cavalry, the 16th's men charged alone when their companions hesitated.

Through the yelling Sikhs they tore until, returning from the charge, they found their way blocked by 1200 men, the cream of the Sikh army. Unflinching they charged again through the bristling bayonets, returning again and again to the attack, utterly destroying the enemy force.

On another part of the battlefield, two other squadrons of the Regiment were thrown in against an entrenched Sikh battery. Under a terrific cannonade they captured every gun and then routed the Infantry behind.

While the 16th Light Dragoons totted up their battle honours, the fortunes of the Regiment with whom they were eventually to amalgamate were not so happy.

The 5th Royal Irish Dragoons were raised in 1689 and the following year, when they became part of the army which was to drive James from Ireland, they were described as a "mob of undisciplined boys."

However a few months of drill and discipline soon smartened them up and they fought with great courage at the Battle of the Boyne. Later in the Low Countries with Marlborough the 5th fought at Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet.

They returned to Ireland in 1715 where they were then split up into detachments over a large area, billeted in public houses

and with large landowners. The Regiment slowly deteriorated until in 1799, after rebel agents enlisted in the ranks and plotted to murder the loyal men, it was finally disbanded.

But in 1858 the Regiment was re-raised in Ireland and named the 5th Royal Irish Lancers. Its fortunes took a happier turn and after service in India it was sent to South Africa, where in 1899 it took part in the battle at Elands-laagte, charging with levelled lances and bared sabres to kill some 40 Boers.

By the outbreak of World War One both the 5th and the 16th were serving in 3rd Cavalry Brigade and went on to fight side by side throughout the war in Europe.

In April, 1922, they were amalgamated. But the winds of change were blowing for British Cavalry regiments. In 1928 the lance was abolished, machine-guns were later incorporated into Cavalry and after service in India the Regiment sailed for

BACK TO FRONT

Officers of the Scarlet Lancers wear the cross-strap of the Sam Browne belt back to front. The origin of this custom is obscure but some sources put it down to the time when King Alfonso of Spain was Colonel-in-Chief at the beginning of the century. He is supposed to have appeared for a parade wearing his cross-strap back to front and the story goes that all the officers quickly changed their cross-straps to avoid embarrassing him.

England in 1939 leaving its horses behind for ever.

At home the 16th/5th set about training as an armoured regiment and in November, 1942, left for North Africa to join 6th Armoured Division. The Scarlet Lancers saw their fair share of the grim desert battles before moving to Italy.

They saw the war out in Europe and were stationed in Germany in 1947 when they learned that Princess Elizabeth had been appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment on her 21st birthday. When she became Queen the Regiment's title became 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers.

In 1959 the Regiment celebrated its bi-centenary by becoming the first Cavalry regiment to win the Army Football Cup.

Currently the Scarlet Lancers are fulfilling an unusual role with their Centurion tanks thousands of miles apart. Regimental Headquarters and one squadron are in Aden, another squadron is in Bahrain as part of the Amphibious Warfare Squadron (see SOLDIER, June, 1964) and the third is in Hong Kong.

It is the furthest the Regiment has ever been split but at the end of this year there will be a big reunion—for in December the Scarlet Lancers come home to Tidworth.



The Queen inspects the Scarlet Lancers at Buckingham Palace before presenting a new guidon to the Regiment in 1959.

It's A Young Man's Army

ANY high-powered business-man who complains that life is too hectic should try stepping into a junior soldier's shoes. For life in the junior Army is full, tough at times, and never, never dull.

Perhaps the most outstanding feat by any junior soldier recently was that of Junior Private Richard Silk (1), of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry, who became the first junior ever to shoot his way into the Army Hundred at Bisley. Before joining the Army he had never handled a rifle—now he is one of the top shots and a bright Bisley hope for the future.

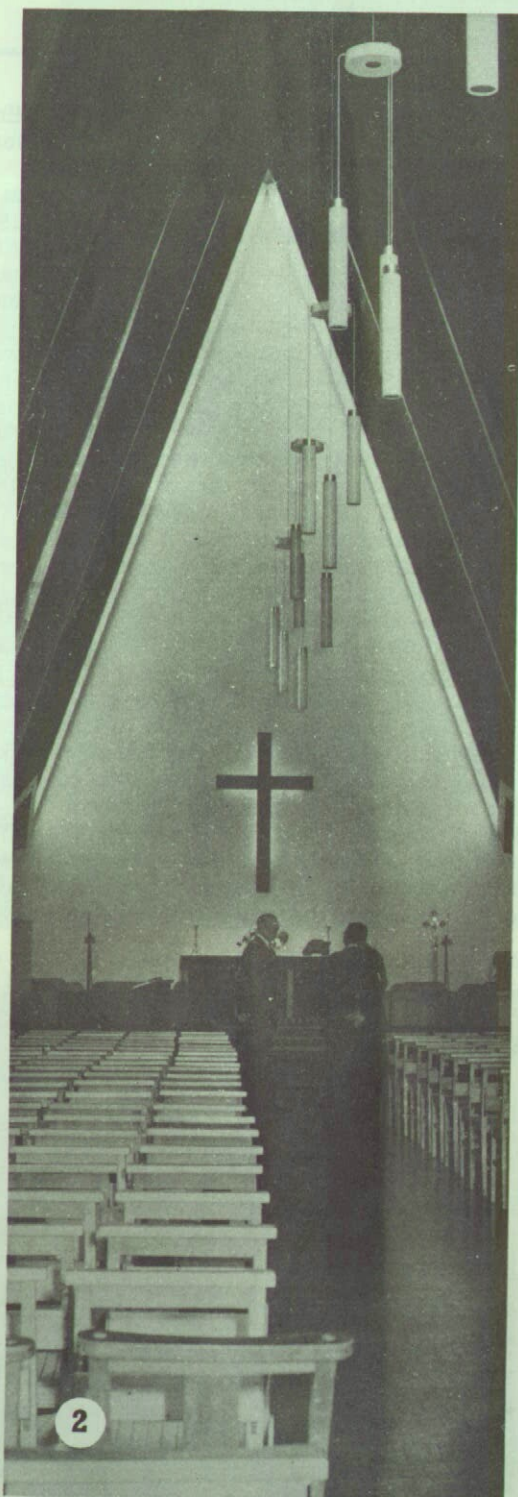
At the Army Apprentices School, Chepstow, things have really been humming. Apprentice carpenters have made pews for the school's ultra-modern £46,000 church (2) while young blacksmiths forged a wrought iron screen to surround the memorial chapel. The Duke of Beaufort, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucester, visited the school recently (4). He arrived on the opposite side of the Severn and was met by the school launch which brought him to Chepstow.

Rock-climbing in the City of London? During the National Dairy Council Exhibition, a team of rock climbers from the Royal Army Pay Corps Apprentice School at Worthy Down demonstrated techniques to beginners on an artificial face in the forecourt of the Royal Exchange (3).

Unusual job, too, for the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, Bramcote, who supplied gun fire for a symphony orchestra which played the famous "1812 Overture" in the open air at Stratford-on-Avon. The music commemorates Napoleon's attack on Moscow and the necessary "noises off" were supplied on cue by Junior Leaders firing six field guns on the banks of the Avon.

Still on the musical side, two young bands scored notable successes this year. At the Army Junior Drama and Music Festival, the Royal Army Service Corps Junior Leaders Band won the trumpet and drum section and the SOLDIER Magazine Cup for the second year in succession.

Meanwhile the Royal Armoured Corps Junior Leaders Brass Band was marching from strength to strength in a civilian summer contest at Dorset. The Band won two cups, two medals, a shield and £32 in cash prizes.



W.D. & H.O. WILLS

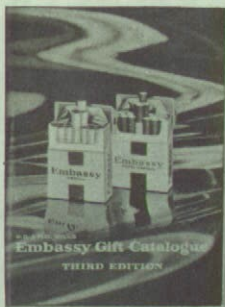
Embassy



E.M.94

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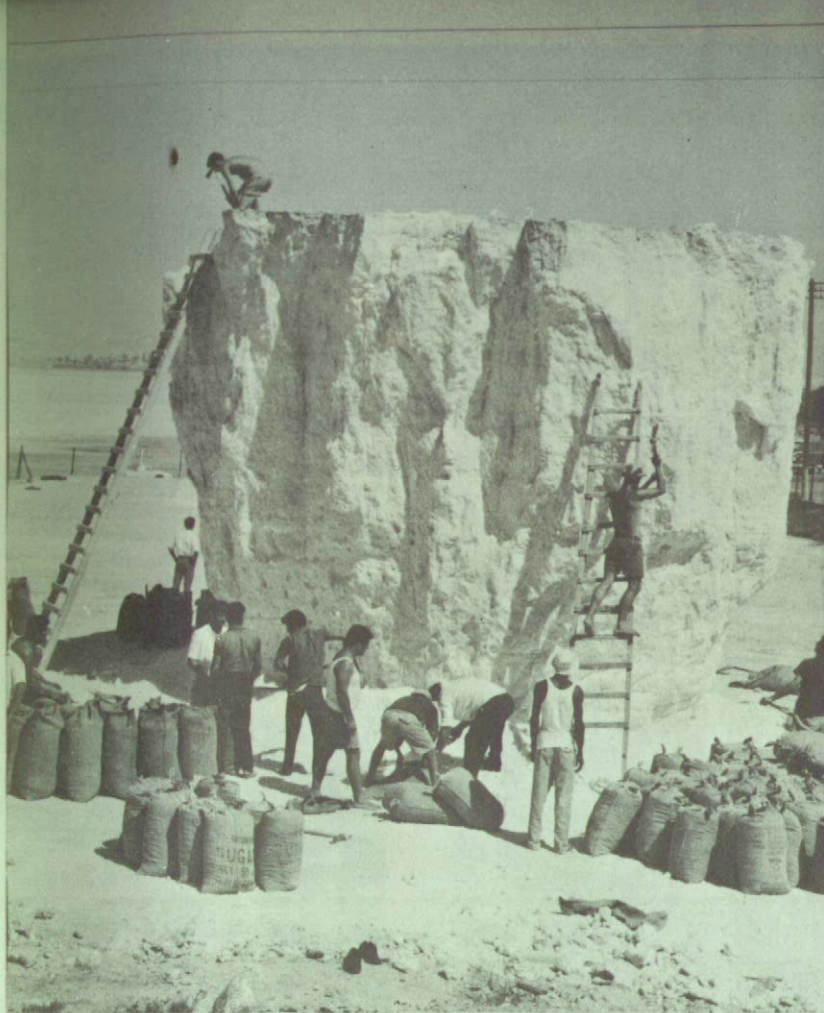
Rank and Name

Unit

B.F.P.O. No.

51

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)



Pioneers are used to tough jobs and in Cyprus recently a quarter section from 251 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps, tackled one of the toughest of all—cutting blocks of salt from pyramids at the side of Larnaca salt lake. Because of the fighting earlier in the year no one would work on the salt and the Pioneers were called in to cut between three and five tons a month for use as a water softener at the British Military Hospital in Dhekelia. In the hot sun, working on the rock-hard stacked salt was a grim job and when the tension eased after six months the Pioneers were glad to hand the work back to the locals. The Company has been in Cyprus since January this year and has tackled countless different tasks.

Left, Right and Centre

Captain Kathleen Hahn, Women's Royal Army Corps, is pictured (below) at a London reception where she was presented with £1000 and a £50 chest of Irish linen, the first prize in a national competition organised by the Irish Linen Guild. Captain Hahn is unit paymaster at the Women's Royal Army Corps Depot and Training Centre, Hobbs Barracks, Lingfield, Surrey. During her 24 years' service she has previously been at the Army Pay Office (Officers' Accounts) for 11 years, and at the Pay Office, Foots Cray.





Lollipop, an orphaned baby donkey found in Cyprus by men of 1st Battalion, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and raised with tinned milk from a lemonade bottle with a teat, has been given a new home. Because of United Nations re-deployment the Inniskillings were unable to keep Lollipop so he was given to 3 War Dog Training Unit. During his stay with the Regiment Lollipop always joined the men for their morning swim—here Sergeant Pat Cavanagh (above) gives him a farewell drink.



A lance-corporal took the salute when his own unit, 20 Vehicle Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, marched through Darlaston in Staffordshire on Civic Sunday. Standing on the dais and receiving a smart “eyes right” was Lance-Corporal Ronald Ball, a keen Territorial Army soldier—but he is also Councillor Ball, Chairman of Darlaston Urban District Council. He said: “It was certainly an honour to take the salute, although I appreciate it was the office of chairman they were saluting.”

Pictured making Territorial Army history by becoming the first Territorial bands outside London to beat Retreat on the Horse Guards Parade are the massed bands of 125 Infantry Brigade Group from Lancashire. Taking part were 5th Battalion, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire); 287 (1st West Lancashire) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery; 4th/5th Battalion, The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster); and the pipe band of The Liverpool Scottish.



A pension of two bottles of beer a day goes to Kingsman John “Nippy” Gannon, the oldest private in 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment (Liverpool and Manchester), in recognition of his 34 years' service—30 of them spent cleaning the regimental silver. The pension—awarded by the officers—will last for the rest of his service and, at 58, Nippy can consume more than 5000 free bottles of beer before he retires. It takes Nippy two weeks to clean the silver and when he has finished he starts all over again.

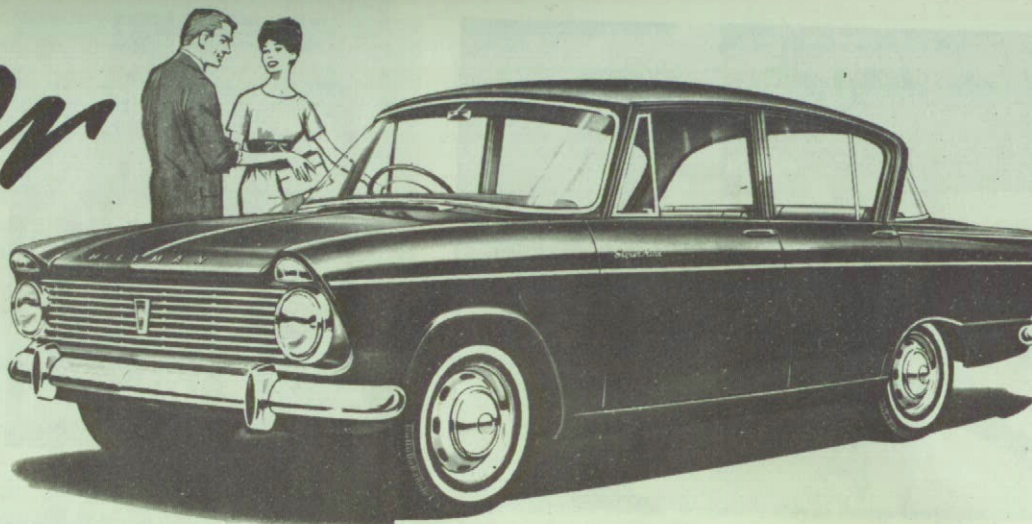
Eight soldiers from 13 Signals Regiment in Germany recently canoed down the Rhine from Basle in Switzerland as far as Krefeld, Germany—a distance of 650 kilometres. The trip started with the arrest of the whole party at Basle as their border passes were invalid, but the authorities were understanding and “deported” them to the Rhine, which forms the Swiss border. Averaging about 60 kilometres a day the party made steady progress despite being held up when two canoes were damaged after being swept on to rocks near Strasbourg. The trip took ten days and ten minutes—now the Signals want to know: “Is it a record trip?”



Kiwis have all the luck! When men of 22 Royal New Zealand Engineers arrived in South Vietnam recently to start road building and construction tasks, they were met by beautiful Vietnamese girls who draped the soldiers in flowered garlands.

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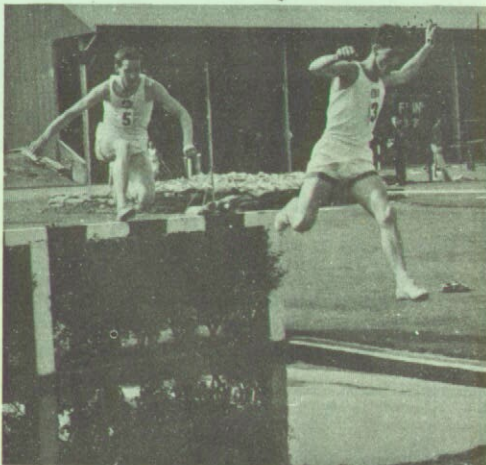
SEVEN new records were set up at the Inter-Services Athletic Championship at Aldershot when the Army regained the title with 144½ points to the Royal Air Force's 136½ and the Royal Navy's 93.

The Women's Royal Naval Service, with Petty Officer Deidre Watkinson again proving the outstanding woman athlete of all the Services, won the women's section with 69 points, closely followed by the Women's Royal Air Force with 66 and the Women's Royal Army Corps with 51.

Army record breakers were Lieutenant T B J Bryan, the English international, who recorded a time of 53.4 seconds in the 440 yards hurdles and Sergeant-Instructor, P L Lyons who won the pole vault with a height of 13 feet 3 inches.

Other outstanding Army performers were Lance-Corporal E A Gooden who won both the 100 and 220 yards; Corporal Dave Gibson, the mile winner in 4 minutes 8 seconds; Lance-Corporal Ernie Pomfret, Britain's number two steeplechaser, who carried off the 3000 metres steeplechase; Lance-Corporal Bill Tancred, an easy discus winner; and Corporal N Hart-Ives who won the javelin with a throw of 190 feet 8½ inches.

Champion steeplechaser L/Cpl E Pomfret leads the 3000 metres at the Inter-Services Athletics.



GREEN JACKETS DOMINATE BISLEY

TWO exciting tie-shoots decided the Queen's Medal and the Army Hundred Cup at the Army Rifle Championship at Bisley this year. Both were won by Sergeant Roy Smith, 2nd Green Jackets, who is the new Army rifle shooting champion.

Runner-up on both occasions was Armourer Sergeant Alan Chatfield, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The Green Jackets maintained their outstanding Bisley record by retaining both the major and minor units championships, the Small Arms Cup and the Manchester Regiment Cup. In addition they won the Staff and Schools Match, the Roupell, Henry Whitehead, Northamptonshire, Watkin and Methuen Cups and came second in four other sections.

The Methuen Cup is an inter-Services competition between 30 teams and it was the first time a team shooting with the standard NATO self-loading rifle had won it.

Runners up in the major units champion-

ship were 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who won the Britania Trophy and the Eastern Command Cup. Private A Valters, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, won the Young Soldiers' Cup.

Former British Olympic shot, Captain J M Gough, Royal Pioneer Corps, won the Revolver Cup—the Army pistol championship—for the third year in succession. He scored 432 out of a possible 480 to beat Lieutenant-Colonel C A G Walker, Royal Artillery, by 27 points.

In the Territorial Army competitions, Sergeant J W Meynell, 6th Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, using the new self-loading rifle, won the Queen's Medal. The Officers' Cup was won by Lieutenant J Christian, 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Later the Regular Army VIII won the United Services match for the first time since 1958 with a convincing margin of 61 points. The team was also successful in the Burdwan Cup match.



Tense expressions for the start of the one mile team race at the Inter-Unit Athletics.

CHESHIRE'S' SECOND HAT-TRICK

FOR the second time in its history The Cheshire Regiment has pulled off a hat-trick by winning the Army Inter-Unit Athletic Championship for the third successive year.

At Aldershot the Cheshires proved their superiority with 155 points, a clear 28 points lead over their nearest rivals, 1st Battalion, Irish Guards. Because of overseas commitments 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment—normally the Cheshires' sternest rivals—could not compete.

The Cheshires won outright nine of the 13 events. Third were 1st Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, with 115 points, followed by 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment (100½), Guards Depot (86½), 3rd Royal Tank Regiment (81) and 1st/3rd East Anglian Regiment (70).

In addition the Cheshires broke two records—in the four × 120 yards hurdles relay

they returned 65.2 seconds and in the javelin they broke their own combined throw record by 16 feet 3½ inches with a distance of 369 feet 6½ inches.

In the Minor Units Championship the holders, 16 Parachute Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, were beaten into second place by 42 Survey Engineer Regiment with 51 points. Depot and Training Establishment, Royal Military Police, came third with 41 points followed by 224 Signal Squadron (34), Light Infantry Brigade Depot (30) and East Anglian Brigade Depot (29).

In the tug-of-war finals, School of Artillery beat 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, by two pulls to none in the 88-stone event and Depot, Royal Army Dental Corps, won the 100-stone event against 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery with a pull worthy of their Corps title.



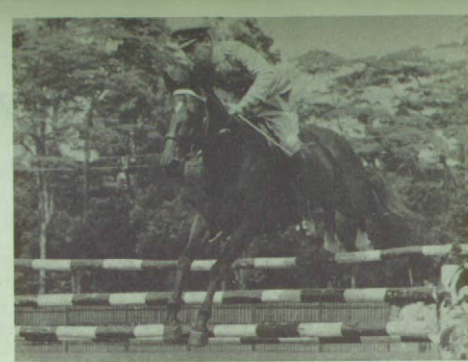
First Services athlete to finish in the Windsor-Chiswick marathon, Corporal I Harris, 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was 23rd out of 150 runners.



Left: J/Soldier J Galvin, Junior Para Coy, wins the one mile at the Junior Inter-Unit Team Athletics.

Soccer champions 2 Regt, Royal Malta Artillery are pictured (below) winning the Malta and Libya Cup.

The Army Horse Show in Kenya was won this year by Lieut-Col E M Turnbull (on right) riding Brocade.



SPORTS SHORTS

TENNIS

Two champions dominated the Army Tennis Championships at Aldershot this year. Captain J R McManus, Royal Army Educational Corps, retained his singles title by beating Trooper J B Lill, 17th/21st Lancers, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. Partnered by Lill he won the men's doubles and partnered by Captain G W Davies he carried off the inter-regimental doubles title. Lieutenant S E Messom, Women's Royal Army Corps, won the women's singles with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Lieutenant E P Lewis; the mixed doubles with Major P W Dickenson and the women's doubles with Major M E MacLagan. Major-General P G Turpin and Brigadier J Clynton Reed won the veteran's doubles and Lieutenant-Colonel M D MacLagan the veteran's singles.

GOLF

The Royal Air Force won the Inter-Services Golf Championship at Royal St George, defeating the Army by eight matches to four and then overwhelming the Royal Navy by 11½ to a half. The Army beat the Royal Navy by seven matches to five.

FENCING

British foil champion and Olympic finalist, Major H W F Hoskyns, North Somerset Yeomanry/44th Royal Tank Regiment, Territorial Army, won the foil, épée and sabre titles in the Services fencing championship at the Royal Tournament as well as the most coveted Service trophy, the Champion-at-Arms. It is only the second time in 37 years that one competitor has taken all three titles. Company Sergeant-Major Instructor G W Gelder, Army Physical Training Corps, was second in the Champion-at-Arms competition. Sandhurst retained the young officers' and cadets' foil and sabre championships.

PENTATHLON

Lance-Corporal J Fox, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, finished fifth in an international pentathlon at Budapest, Hungary, with a score of 4390 points.

ATHLETICS

Lance-Corporal Ernie Pomfret, 10th Royal Hussars, ran his fastest-ever 3000 metres steeplechase in the Great Britain-Finland match at Helsinki. He finished second, clocking eight minutes and 45.8 seconds. Four Army athletes competed in the 75th Amateur Athletic Association championships at the White City. Pomfret finished second in the 3000 metres steeplechase; Lance Corporal Bill Tancred, 1st East Anglian Regiment, was third in the discus with a throw of 154 feet 7½ inches; Corporal D Bayes, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was fifth in the hammer with a 171 feet 5 inch throw, and Sergeant-Instructor P L Lyons, Army Physical Training Corps, finished fifth in the pole vault, clearing 13 feet 6 inches.

MARCHING

The tough four-day Cambrian March across 65 miles of mountains in North Wales was won this year by 6th/7th Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, from Caernarvon. Last year's winners, 4th Battalion, The Welch Regiment, came second followed by 4th Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers. The minor units section was won by 158 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps. 158 and 160 Infantry Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, were second and third.

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Cpl. Peter Hursthouse, (Left), 28, from Mansfield Woodhouse. 'I wanted to see a bit of the world—you can't afford to travel around in civvy street. I went skiing every winter in Germany and then I went to Hong Kong. I really enjoyed that. We were training for jungle fighting. Then we went to Borneo. We stayed on patrol for 9 weeks once. I liked it—I'd go back tomorrow. I saved about £300 out there, and I got 6 weeks' leave when we came home, so I bought a car.'

Pte. Brian Isitt, (Centre), 20, from Leicester. 'Some of my friends told me about the Army—the travel and the friends you make. Soon after training I went to Hong Kong—it was very exciting as it was my first time out of the country. And then I went to Borneo. I'm a marksman, so I get extra money for that. Everything is found for me, so I do very well financially.'

Pte. Clive Baxter, (Right), 21, from Leicester. 'I joined for the outdoor life. In Hong Kong we swam two afternoons a week and at weekends. It was great. And I like a game of football, and rugby, too. In Borneo I was in the 3" mortar section; I enjoyed it—you feel as though you've got a personal responsibility to do something worth while. The jungle takes a lot of getting used to—you rely on your mates a lot. I've made better friends in the Army than in civilian life.'

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THIS IS THE ARMY



LETTERS

Oak leaves and acorns

YOUR article on The Cheshire Regiment (SOLDIER, July) is likely to re-open one of the Army's fiercest arguments. Within the Regiment it has always been maintained that the oak leaves and acorns were presented by King George II on the field of Dettingen. However, cold history finds it hard to support this claim since the Regiment was at the time stationed in Minorca. It was then known as "O'Farrell's" but had, until a short time before, been "Handasyd's."

Two arguments are advanced in support of the claim. First, that the Grenadier Company was detached and was with the King in Germany. It is true that such companies were sometimes detached, though not so often as was later the case and rarely

outside the theatre in which the regiment was serving. The second theory is that there was a mistake in the routing of a draft. A detachment arriving at a port was wrongly described under its former title of "Handasyd's" and consequently put aboard a ship for Germany, where another "Handasyd's"—later the East Surreys—was serving.

My own theory—and it is pure theory—is that the oak leaves and acorns are an even older distinction. The Regiment was raised to fight for William III in Ireland and was present at the Battle of the Boyne, where James II was defeated. As a distinguishing mark in that battle William's troops wore oak leaves in their hats. This may be the true answer.—**Lieut-Col R J T Hills, Essen-Heisingen, Am Langensiepen 4, West Germany.**

Christmas cards

Last year SOLDIER was kind enough to publicise the fact that valuable support for the work of OXFAM is given through the purchase of Christmas cards. As a result many Service units and establishments responded by sending us orders.

This year OXFAM has again a good range of cards to offer at prices from 4d to 1s 3d. A colour-illustrated brochure and order form giving full details and prices is obtainable from OXFAM, Southampton, on receipt of a self-addressed envelope. I feel sure this will

be of interest to many of SOLDIER's readers anxious to combine a Christmas greeting with a practical contribution to the fight against hunger and poverty in the world.—**P S H Anderson, Christmas Card Dept, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford.**

Knocking NAAFI

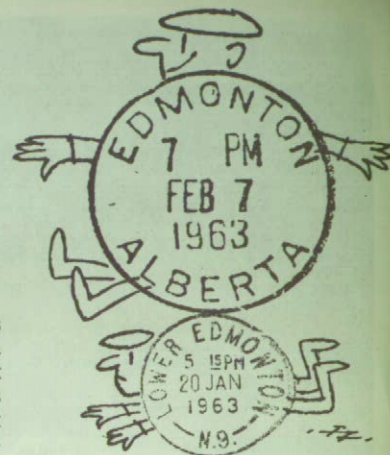
I am writing to bring to the notice of all concerned the conditions of service prevalent in the majority of NAAFI establishments.

The motto of NAAFI is "We serve

those who serve", and yet, with a few notable exceptions, the attitude of the staff from management downwards seems to be that we, the customers, are the servants and they the masters.

Surely this situation is wrong and should not go unchallenged?—**Bandsman Amphlett, Band 1/KSLI, Seaton Barracks, Plymouth.**

★ A NAAFI spokesman replies: Most of our customers know that NAAFI staff are people much like themselves. Indeed, many are wives or daughters of Servicemen. Among our 20,000 staff, as in any cross section of the public, one can expect to find a few short tempers and an



occasional mood of depression but the majority are keen to do a good job, to make friends with the people they meet and make their own day as pleasant as possible by being pleasant and helpful to others.

Naturally there are occasions when NAAFI is wrong or when individual members of the staff are wrong—we lay no claim to perfection.

In such circumstances the management is anxious that the matter should be brought to notice and put right as soon as possible.

Complaints can be raised directly with the manager or manageress and will normally be dealt with on the spot. The customer who fails to obtain satisfaction from this action can refer the complaint to the PRI committee or customer relations committee. There is still further recourse to Command Institute Committees and to the General Institute Committee which is attended by senior members of NAAFI management and the Military Director of the Board of Management.

If your correspondent has specific incidents in mind we will, of course, be happy to investigate them.



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STANDARD TRIUMPH

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H for Highland

In "D-Day" (SOLDIER, June), 76 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was referred to as the first artillery unit to land on Sword Beach. This is correct, but I would like to point out that the regiment was allowed to use the letter "H" on its regimental sign and was known as 76 Highland Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.—W J G Jones (ex-sgt, 76 HFR, RA), 5 Railway Street, Taunton, Somerset.

First airborne troops?

I read with interest T E Davies's letter on airborne troops (SOLDIER, May). However, I have always understood that the first British troops to be airborne were The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

One company and a machine-gun section (two Vickers guns) were flown from Hinaide to Kirkuk in 1924. I was with the machine-gunners and we flew in Vickers Victorias.—G Hayes (ex-sgt), 62 Haslar Crescent, Waterlooville, Portsmouth, Hants.

Commandos

The letter from Sgt D Ketting Olivier, of Roosendaal, Holland (SOLDIER, June), has been brought to my notice and I have pleasure in sending you news of the people concerned.

As you quite rightly state, the Major-General Young in Cyprus is not the Young of World War Two Commando fame.

Brigadier P Young is the officer to whom Sergeant Olivier refers; he is now in charge of the Department of Military History at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Of the other wartime Commando leaders mentioned, Major-General Sir Robert Laycock, Brigadier Lord Lovat and Colonel Vaughan are still very active, though they have long since

retired from the Army. They live in Yorkshire, Inverness and London respectively and we are very much in touch with them still. Colonel Vaughan is President of this Association.

We have many members who served in the Dutch Troop of the No. 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando during World War Two, including the OC of this Troop, Major (now Colonel) Jan Linzel, and I shall be only too pleased to send readers of SOLDIER any news they might desire of wartime Commando soldiers.—H Brown, General Secretary, The Commando Association, 2 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1.

In the interesting article on the D-Day landings (SOLDIER, June) no mention is made of the Free French Commandos who landed with and fought beside their British friends and allies on that day. I think the old members of No 4 Commando will be happy to know that we do not forget their gallantry. I was young at the time, but I well remember the day the Allies landed.—Claude Morin, La Ferte-Bernard (Sarthe), France.

★ SOLDIER gladly sets the record straight. A troop of about 100 Free French Commandos landed on D-Day as part of 4 Commando.

MM for WAAF

Re-reading the article "RAF (and RN) Ribbons on Khaki" (SOLDIER, April, 1961) and your remarks on this select company of soldiers, I am reminded that a wartime member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force was decorated with the Military Medal for bravery during an air attack on a Royal Air Force station.—Capt G M I Stroud, 15 ABOD, BFPO 40.

★ Corporal (later Flight-Officer) Elspeth Henderson was awarded the Military Medal in 1940 for bravery during "an intensive air raid."

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 38)

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1 Length of stick held by spectator. 2 Lines of net-mesh on left. 3 Ripple at top left. 4 Numeral on goalkeeper's helmet. 5 Lines on right of No 6's back. 6 Missing link in top right corner. 7 Fingers of swimmer in right foreground. 8 Pocket of spectator with stick. 9 Fingers of goalkeeper's right hand. 10 Drops of water by left goalpost.

FIND THE NAMES

SOLDIER'S Competition 72 brought in more than a thousand correct entries. The two military names were, of course, Auchinleck and Montgomery. Many competitors noticed that one of the thick black lines separating words in the crossword was in the wrong place—a printing error—but this did not appear to confuse anyone.

Winners were:

- 1 Mrs D Clifton, 46 Dorking Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
- 2 Sgt R V Hare, 29 Priory Road, Hastings, Sussex.
- 3 J T Fowler, 231 Whitton Drive, Isleworth, Middlesex.
- 4 WO II J Macdonald, 1 (Br) Corps Troops Wksp, REME, BFPO 39.
- 5 A/T C J Lewis, H6 Barrack Room, C Coy, Army Apprentices School, Arborfield Camp, Reading, Berks.
- 6 AQMS L Wilby, 2 New TA Qtrs, Budbrooke, Warwick.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

Miss E M Thomas, 1 Hazel Grove, Farnworth, Bolton, Lancs.—Requires worldwide postage stamps. Will exchange, correspondence welcomed.

Ernst Aschbacher, 8045 Ismaning by Munchen, Munchner Str 40, West Germany.—Requires British Army beer mats. Will exchange for German or Austrian beer mats, stamps or matchbox labels.

R Burden, 46 Warren Road, Folkestone, Kent.—Requires Army, regimental association and civil defence beer mats for a national beer mat library.

REUNIONS

Army Physical Training Corps. Annual dinner at Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, Saturday, 19 September. Details from Secretary.

Beachley Old Boys Association. Annual reunion, 25, 26 and 27 September. Particulars from Hon Sec, BOBA, Army Apprentices School, Chepstow, Mon.

Royal Army Dental Corps Reunion Club. Reunion weekend, 19 and 20 September, at Depot and TE RADC, Aldershot. Inquiries from ex-members AD Corps/RADC to Secretary, Ministry of Defence (AMD 6), Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1.

The Royal Dragoons (1st Dragoons). Reunion, Saturday, 24 October, at Albany Street Barracks, London NW1, to celebrate Alamein Anniversary. Full Regimental Band will also give a concert. Details from Maj C W J Lewis, Hill House, Beckenham Lane, Bromley, Kent.

The Glasgow Highlanders. Annual reunion, Saturday, 24 October, at Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow. Details from R S McFarlane, 226 Renfrew Street, Glasgow C2. Also Bren Gun Carrier Platoon dinner, Saturday, 3 October, at The County Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 1. Details from A G B Mason, 65 Bellevue Road, Edinburgh 7. All ex-Glasgow Highlanders invited.

Army Catering Corps Regimental Association. Reunion dinner, Friday, 30 October, at Victory Club, London W2. Details from Secretary, ACC Regimental Association, Tournai Barracks, Aldershot.

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READY TO ROLL

AS the shadow of the Soviet Army hangs over Europe, few people know more about it than the numbers of divisions quoted from time to time in speeches by Western political and military leaders. It is a secretive army.

A popular account of this enigmatic force is more than welcome and "The Red Army", by Major Edgar O'Ballance (*Faber, 30s*), fills the bill admirably. The author is a Territorial officer who has recently joined the British Army Department's Public Relations staff.

The Red Army of Workers and Peasants, as it was originally called, was born out of anarchy and based largely on the Red Guards, the toughs whose first role was to guard revolutionary meetings against the Tsarist police.

The first battle in its official history was a minor affair against a German column in February, 1918. For a short time it had British and French officers and supplies from the same sources. This was part of an attempt by the Allies to keep Russia in World War One. Soon, however, the Red Army was being forged in civil war and the Allies were helping the other side. From World War One until Hitler it relied a good deal on German experts for training and the development of its armoured and air branches.

Father of the Red Army was Trotsky, that brilliant, ruthless revolutionary who, when he lost the struggle with Stalin for supreme power, left behind a force that was better found and more politically reliable than ever before.

The great purge of possible enemies which Stalin began in 1936 struck the Red Army the following year, and by 1939 30,000 of 75,000 senior and medium-grade officers were executed, imprisoned or sent to concentration camps. The Red Army was left shaken and seriously weakened.

Its faults showed in the Finnish campaign of 1939-40, when it was held by a foe one-fiftieth its size. Reforms began, and 4000 officers dismissed in the great purge were brought back.

An interesting aspect of the Red Army's history is how, from an egalitarian body, where everyone was "Comrade" and there were no ranks or insignia, it has returned to the forms of an orthodox army and enforces them more strictly than most.

A Russian soldier salutes non-commissioned as well as commissioned officers. Officers are

highly paid and privileged (they can buy scarce goods at low prices) and there is a batman system under which soldier-servants help officers' wives with household chores. Smartness is carried to an extreme and ceremonial drill abounds. On the march, Soviet soldiers sing patri-

otic songs to order—and no parodies.

The political department has representatives down to company level and soldiers must attend meetings in their "spare" time.

All other arms and services are subordinated to the support of the ground forces, and in the

ground forces everything is geared to the support of the infantry.

Three-quarters of the Soviet Union's standing forces are massed ready to roll westward at a moment's notice; they estimate they should reach the Atlantic coast in from three to seven days.

RLE

AGAINST THE ASHANTI

THERE is an apparent belief among writers on World War One that we would have been in a mess had it not been for experience gained in the Boer War. Our other wars, they say, bear no comparison since they were waged against "naked savages."

There is a grain of truth in this, but so to dismiss such worthy opponents as the Zulus and the Ashanti is seriously to distort fact. The two nations had military caste systems as rigid as anything Scharnhorst imagined.

The Zulus have been well covered in recent books; now it is the turn of the Ashanti in "The Drums of Kumasi" (*Longmans, 25s*) by Alan Lloyd. Here is a detailed study of the Ashanti wars in a very lively account in which the pace never flags.

The Ashanti were, and still are, a highly intelligent people. Every

male Ashanti had his place in the war formation from the day he was born. This formation was said to have been evolved from a study of ants on the march with scouts, advance guard, main body, and flank units. In the wars which are the subject of this book, their musketry was as good as, if not better than, that of the British.

The Ashanti campaigns stemmed from the usual 19th century calls for help from British business interests. From 1822 to 1900 the Gold Coast, now Ghana, was the scene of fight after fight until Ashanti was finally annexed.

Sir Charles McCarthy thought he could tame the Ashanti. He set out with what he thought was a strong expedition, was defeated and beheaded. His skull became part of a tribal fetish.

The Ashanti suffered their first real defeat at the hands of Sir Garnet Wolseley, whose staff in-

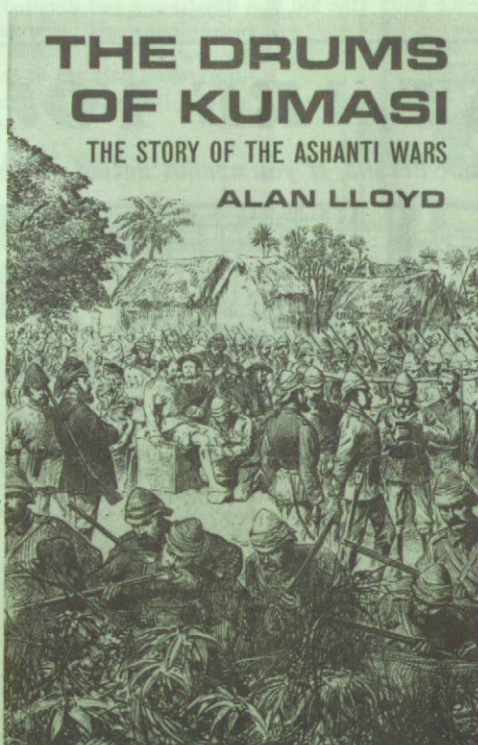
cluded four actual or prospective Victoria Cross holders. Wolseley brought the Ashanti to their knees, razed their capital, Kumasi, and forced them to make peace on his terms.

In 1895-96 the Ashanti were sufficiently recovered to try conclusions with Britain again but, at the last moment, decided not to fight. Sir Francis Scott's expedition marched on Kumasi and abducted the king, the queen mother and other notables as hostages. This time the Ashanti felt they had been tricked.

The event which led to their final defeat was the siege of the Gold Coast governor, Sir Frederic Hodgson, in the stockade which the British built at Kumasi.

The best part of this enjoyable book is the account of Wolseley's campaign. Anyone serving in Malaya or Borneo will find it interesting to make comparisons.

JCW



The Red Army

JAMES LUNT

SCARLET LANCER

Rupert Hart-Davis

On Their Shoulders

OVER...

KIND TO THE GENERALS

ON the whole, the British have been kind to their generals," says Brigadier C N Barclay in "On Their Shoulders" (Faber, 30s). He does not, however, think they have been kind enough to that band of generals who fought the early campaigns of World War Two. He selects eight generals to whom, he thinks, more recognition is due. Lord Gort, with the British Expeditionary Force, Sir Richard O'Connor, with his desert victory of 1940-1, and Lord Wilson, with his many roles in the Middle East, were not found wanting. For Earl Wavell, he admits some mistakes but points out that unlike any other general he had enemies at all points of the compass. Sir Claude Auchinleck he thinks was miscast in the Middle East—his training and experience fitted him for high com-

mand in India. He, like Wavell, fulfilled his main task of safeguarding the Nile Delta. Sir Alan Cunningham was also miscast as commander of the Eighth Army, in unfamiliar territory, after his "almost model" campaign and victory in East Africa. This command, thinks the author, should have gone to Wilson. Sir Thomas Hutton, commander in Burma during the earlier stages of the Japanese invasion, had an impossible task and probably did it as well as anybody. The defence of Malaya and Singapore by Lieutenant-General Percival the author finds an enigma; he thinks a more vigorous personality might have delayed defeat by a few valuable weeks. This book contains an interesting and a valuable appendix on training both before and during the war. RLE



Chatting in the Western Desert in October, 1940: Lieutenant-General R N O'Connor (left) and Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson.

account of his commentaries, many written with the authority and inside knowledge of one who today would be described as a staff officer, provides an illuminating account of the military procedures and machinations of the period. DHC

FOR THE BATTLEFIELD EXPLORER

TAKING a fresh look at 19 of the battles fought on British soil, Brigadier Peter Young and John Adair, in "Hastings to Culloden" (Bell, 30s), have produced compact and colourful accounts of the fighting with a between-battles commentary on the development of the military art.

Not all the accounts follow orthodox views on how the battles were fought. Brigadier Young admits that the assessment of the first Battle of Newbury differs considerably from that in "The Great Civil War" of which he was part-author with the late Lieutenant-Colonel A H Burne. Sandhurst cadets who visited the field and declined to accept the traditional view compelled the authors to reconsider the whole engagement. Certainly the account in the new book is longer and more detailed and better supplied with quotations from those who took part. A very useful appendix tells how to find the battlefields and the best viewpoints on them, and also indicates some of the features to evoke the fighting for the interested tourist. This, along with the maps (SOLDIER compared a sample three with the inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey and found them to marry in very well), makes the book an excellent guide to anyone who feels like taking up the fascinating outdoor hobby of battlefield explorer. RLE

IN BRIEF

"I had at that time stolen a small twin-screw Thames motor cruiser," writes David Divine to explain how he came to be ferrying an admiral around the evacuation beaches of Dunkirk in 1940. His book, "The Nine Days of Dunkirk" (reviewed in SOLDIER, August, 1959) is not, however, a personal account but a wide-ranging and vigorous survey of the operation that saved considerably more than a quarter of a million British and French troops to fight again. The book is now republished in paper-back form (Pan, 5s).

Why so far from lathes and spanners, Radio sets and radar scanners? Why that look so distant, dreamy, Lance-Corporal Piper, F, of REME?

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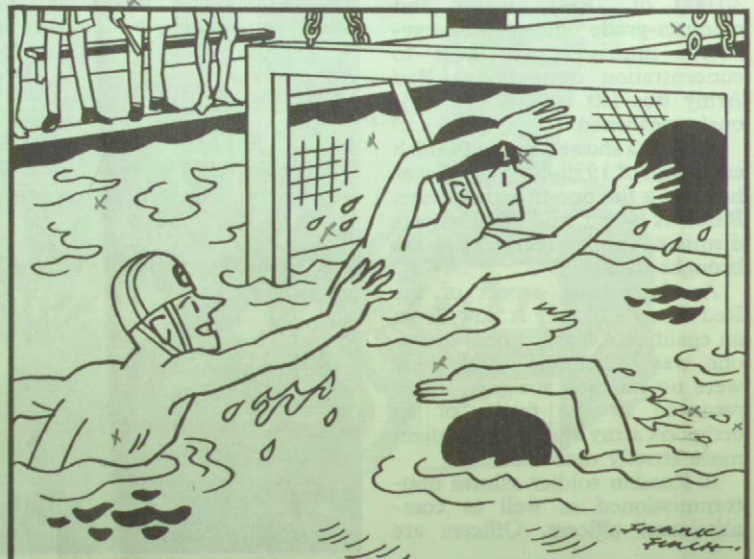
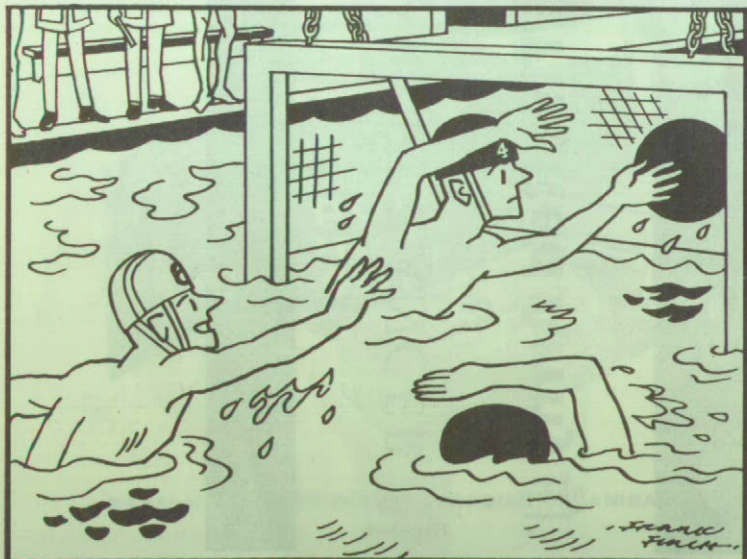
A SOLDIER'S STORY

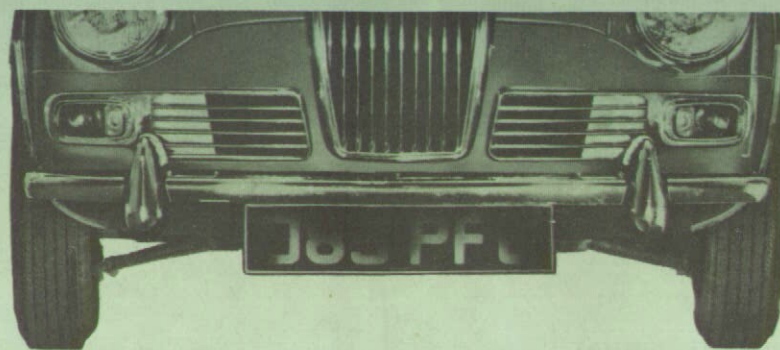
HISTORY books are apt to regard the period between Waterloo and the Crimean War, nearly 40 years later, as a period of peace for Britain. This was certainly not true for those soldiers of the British Army who were serving overseas. One of these was John Luard, who fought in the Peninsula, charged with the 16th Light Dragoons at Waterloo, served for many years in India and in 1848 sold his commission as a lieutenant-colonel for nearly £7000. Today he would be probably almost forgotten but for the fact that he left behind him a diary. Now, based on this, the story of the man and his times is told in a remarkable and fascinating book, "Scarlet Lancer" by James Lunt (Hart-Davis, 35s). John Luard, born in 1790, was typical of the type which freely chooses the Army as a career. Possessed of a small private income, more than average intelligence and

plenty of courage, he chose the profession of arms when many others were open to him. The British Army of his day was a strange mixture of squalor and opulence, bumbledom and bravery, crass ignorance and proud professionalism, and the fact that Luard, as most other officers of his period, could rise above the conditions imposed upon him and serve his profession and his country with honour and credit, is a tribute to his kind as deserved as it must have been difficult to merit. Fumbling old commanders, rooted in the glorious past of the Peninsula and Waterloo and fearful of any reforms, were firmly seated on the thrones of power and, even six years after Luard's retirement, the British Army had 13 generals with over 70 years' service, 37 of between 60 and 70 years' and 163 with between 50 and 60 years' service. This story of an able, observant and articulate officer, compiled with the aid of a day-to-day and detailed

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