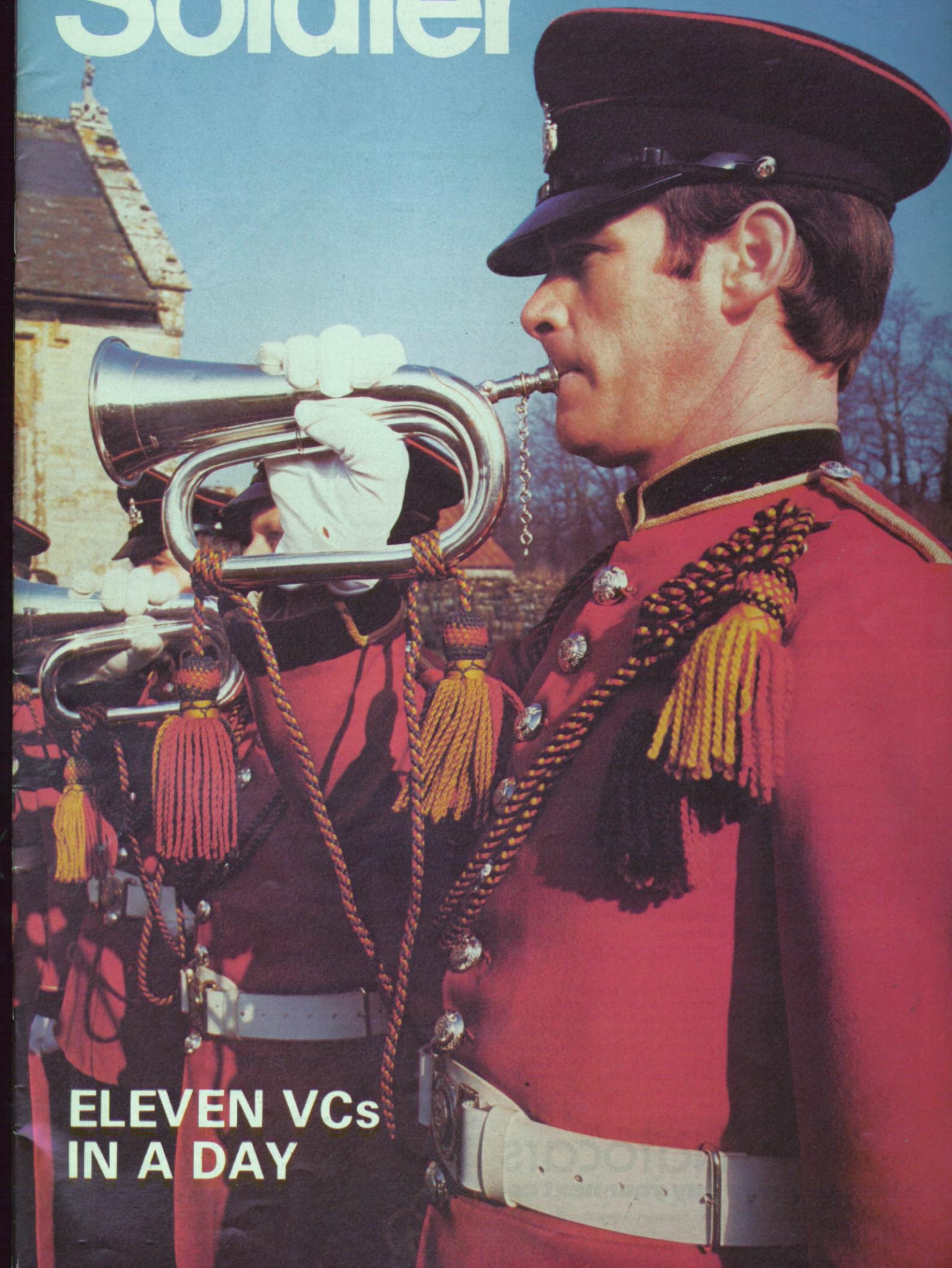


MARCH 1979

20p

Soldier



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4 No fewer than 11 Victoria Crosses were won in a day when, a hundred years ago, a small force of Welshmen of the 24th Regiment of Foot held out against Zulu Impi of thousands. The 24th's descendant — The Royal Regiment of Wales — and the Royal Engineers, who also had an officer at Rorke's Drift, commemorated the centenary at home and away.



13 Dedicated to a life of mercy missions, an Army-run depot keeps all three Services supplied with their medical needs worldwide.



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FRONT COVER

A bugler of The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers salutes a hero of his corps, Lieutenant (later Colonel) John Chard, at his graveside in Somerset. Lieutenant Chard was one of 11 men awarded the VC for the heroic defence of Rorke's Drift in Africa against overwhelming Zulu odds 100 years ago.
Picture by Doug Pratt.



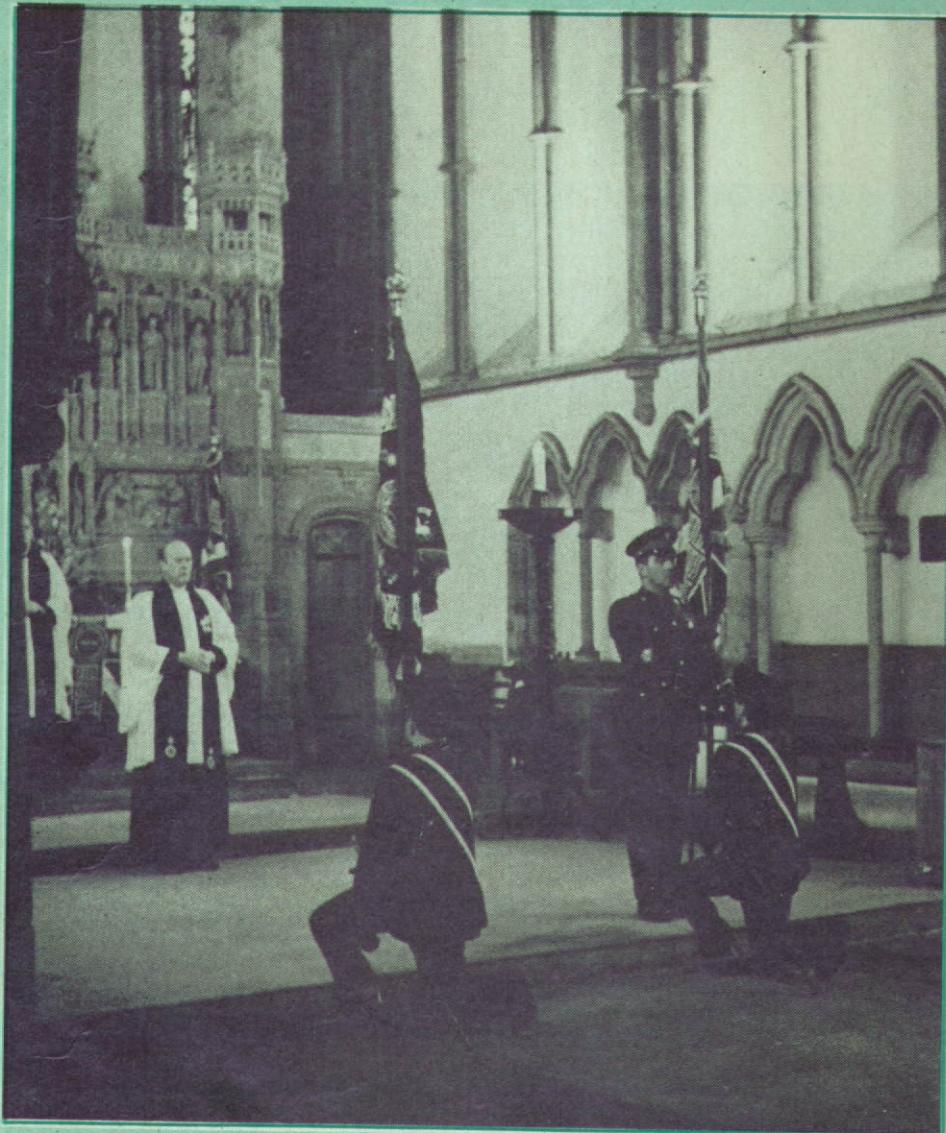
BACK COVER

Thousand upon thousand disposable medical instruments are carefully selected, packed and sterilised by staff of the Defence Medical Equipment Depot in the heart of rural Wiltshire. The instruments — and a host of other medical supplies — are shipped to all three Services all over the world for use.
Picture by Paul Haley.



One hundred years ago, eleven Victoria Crosses were awarded to men who successfully defended a tiny African mission station against overwhelming odds. In Brecon, Somerset and Armagh, today's British soldiers commemorate that heroic action against the Zulus

RORKE'S DRIFT REMEMBERED



IN THE SMALL Powys market town of Brecon, high in the bleak yet beautiful Welsh mountains, the celebration of the battle of Rorke's Drift is an annual event. For it is the regimental home of The Royal Regiment of Wales, successors to The South Wales Borderers who replaced the 24th Regiment of Foot two years after the Zulu wars. But in this century year the celebrations were on a larger scale with a parade and service in Brecon Cathedral.

On parade in the biting cold were a contingent of junior soldiers and instructors from the depot, representing the 1st Battalion, on a four-month tour of Northern Ireland, the 3rd and 4th Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve battalions with their Colours — the first time they had paraded together since the amalgamation of The Welch Regiment and the Borderers in 1969 — and members of the regimental association.

Although thin on the ground, the 200 men on parade still outnumbered the men who fought in the action they were commemorating.

After the service in Brecon Cathedral, the 'old and bold' and descendants of those who fought in the battle gathered to swap yarns over lunch, followed by a browse round the impressive regimental museum.

Among the descendants at the cathedral was 85-year-old Mrs Mary Whitby, the daughter of Colour-Sergeant Bourne, awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal after the battle, who retired from the Army as a lieutenant-colonel and died in 1945. Mrs Whitby had decided that the centenary of Rorke's Drift was an appropriate time to present her father's medals to the regiment.

"He was a very retiring man," she recalled, "and he didn't often talk about his experiences, except on Rorke's Drift night, which we always honoured. I wanted to give the medals to the regiment; for the last two years I have had to keep them in the bank but it is only right that the museum should have them and I know that is what my father would have wanted."

There is now only one descendant from the battle serving in the regiment, Major D de G Bromhead, who has a staff appointment in Rhine Army and could not be present at the celebrations.

In Armagh, near Northern Ireland's border with the Republic, the 1st Battalion honoured its heroes in its own way. The day started with a showing of the late Sir Stanley Baker's film 'Zulu' to as many soldiers as

Above: The Colours, complete with the Wreath of Immortelles, are laid up in the Cathedral.

Left: The Volunteer band of 3rd Battalion leads the march through Brecon to the Cathedral.

could be spared to watch it. The showing, punctuated by the whine and clatter of helicopters moving out on patrol, drew cheers from the combat-kitted successors to those scarlet-clad Welshmen, particularly when an officer was seen to miss a fleeing cheetah intended for the pot. "Not much better now," shouted one wag.

Afterwards the corps of drums performed a moving drumming ceremony in authentic uniforms made for the new film, 'Zulu Dawn,' which chronicles the battle of Isandlwana. Joining in the celebrations at the Armagh base was the lovely 20-year-old beauty queen Ann Jones — Miss United Kingdom and Miss Wales — whose great-grandfather, Private Evan Jones, was among the small band of Welshmen who survived the onslaught at Rorke's Drift.

"I still have a very formal regimental picture of him," she said, "and also his log book which is now so faded it can hardly be read. I was so little when he was alive, I could not understand what the significance of the battle was, although I did read up on it afterwards.

"Both my father and I are very interested in history, but I find this battle especially interesting, apart from my personal reasons. I have really enjoyed this first visit to Northern Ireland to see the battalion, and it was interesting to see just what they do and the conditions they live in."

Regimental Sergeant-Major Haydn Davies introduced the 'Zulu' film and reminded the audience that during that day 15 Davies and 16 Joneses were killed and — to a chorus of cheers — two RSMs.

Another guest was actor James Faulkner, star and co-producer of 'Zulu Dawn,' a lavish production starring Burt Lancaster, Peter O'Toole and Sir John Mills, which is expected to have its première in May. James Faulkner illustrated a talk on the production with slides, showing how the regiment's part in the battle weaves its way through the film. One slide also showed the battlefield and monuments erected to the fallen at Isandlwana.

The actor was interested to see a portrait of the character he played, Lieutenant Mel-



vill, awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for his efforts to carry the 1st/24th Colours to safety.

A cocktail party in the officers' mess that evening produced a surprise from the neighbouring Royal Engineer unit, 3 Field Squadron. At last year's celebration in Belize — Rorke's Drift is a battalion regimental day — the sappers sandbagged the jungle cinema screen when the battalion showed the 'Zulu' film. At the end of the first reel, Michael Caine as Lieutenant Bromhead tells Stanley Baker as Lieutenant Chard, the sapper officer: "Well, I will leave you to your mud pies." During the break the squadron presented the battalion with a cake made up as a mud pie.

This year in Armagh the sappers also laid on a mud pie cake but added a pièce de résistance with one of their officers, dressed in the uniform of the African campaign, riding into the mess on a white charger to present his compliments. He had made his way on horseback through the streets of Armagh, with an escort of two Land-Rovers, to the amazement of the local population.

"I think that everything went very well," was the summing-up of Lieutenant-Colonel Martin Lloyd, commanding the 1st Battalion, "particularly considering the restrictions of the situation we find ourselves in.

"We wanted a short, simple, but, I hope,
continued over



Top: An artist's contemporary impression of the battle raging, with hardly a Zulu in sight.

Above: The beautiful Ann Jones travels by helicopter to visit the outpost in Armagh.

Below: Edward Chapman, who won his VC in Germany in 1945, looks at Rorke's Drift heroes.

Left: Miss Jones meets the Williams and Jones. On the left, Williams 15, 14, 13; kneeling, 97 and 96; and right, Jones 75, 82, 27, 65, and kneeling in front of them, 88 and 80.



impressive ceremony to mark the centenary. We are spread over such a wide area that it was impossible to get more than 50 soldiers together at one time, but even so we are all conscious of the significance and importance of the occasion."

The battalion will have a belated celebration in Wales in May, at the Cardiff Tattoo, when three companies will black up as Zulus to re-enact the battle. During a six-week stay in their homeland, the Welshmen will also exercise their 'freedom' rights to march through several Welsh towns, the first time this has been possible since amalgamation in 1969.

Top right: That's me! Actor James Faulkner points himself out to Lt-Col Martin Lloyd.

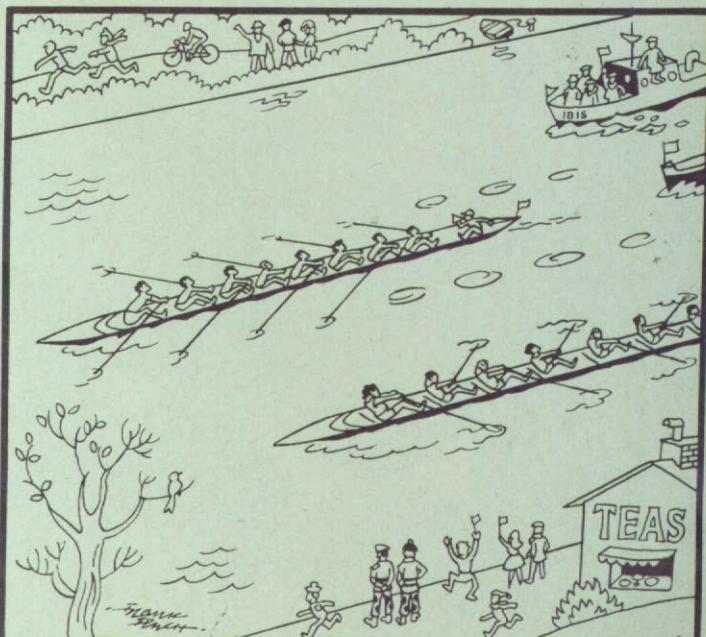
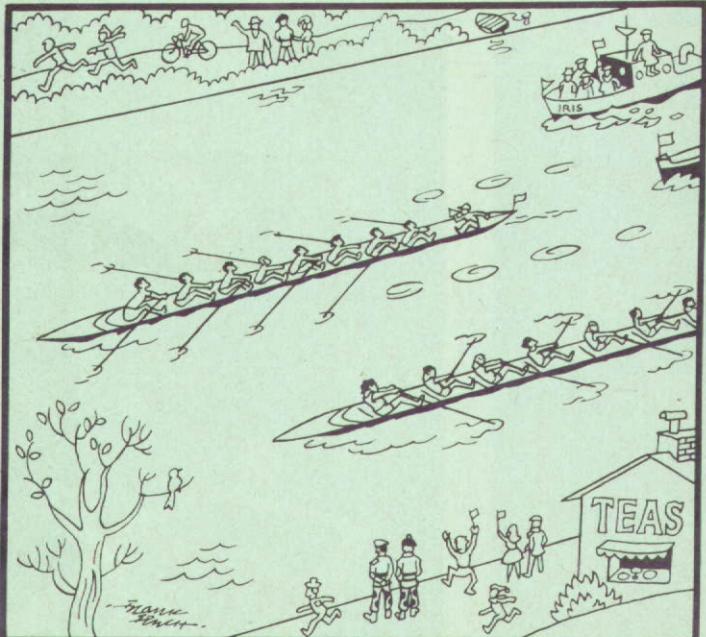
Right: Pte Steven McCarthy in modern dress, Ann Jones, Cpl Coverdale in period uniform.

Below: Mrs Whitby presents her father's medals to General Harrod, Colonel of the Regiment.



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.



MUCH OF THE surrounding Somerset countryside was shrouded in fog but in the tiny village of Hatch Beauchamp the sun shone bravely through. Winter had loosened its icy grip for a day in which military men, local dignitaries and villagers with accents as strong as Cheddar cheese and cheeks like scrumpy apples had gathered to honour a hero.

The occasion was the 100th anniversary of Rorke's Drift. The hero was Colonel John Chard, Royal Engineers, senior officer — as a lieutenant — at the battle and the man to whom Sir Stanley Baker gave screen immortality in the film 'Zulu.' Colonel Chard lies buried in the village churchyard in a grave marked with a simple headstone and red granite chips.

Chard would have been surprised and a little embarrassed had he been present at the centenary commemoration. For he was a man of genuinely modest nature and after the initial feting on return from South Africa went on to pursue a perfectly ordinary Army career until his premature death from cancer in 1897.

On parade at Hatch Court, a country house which he knew well, were the Royal Engineers Band (Aldershot), the Corps of Drums of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), 40 boys from the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, 100 Field Squadron of the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers and more than 100 veterans from Royal Engineers Association and British Legion branches in the West of England and South Wales.

The Chief Royal Engineer, Lieutenant-General Sir David Willison, inspected the parade and then received on behalf of his corps two Chard souvenirs — the sword which he carried at Rorke's Drift and a marble bust commissioned on his return to England. They were presented for display in the corps' museum at Chatham where they will join his belt buckle, hitherto the only relic the Royal Engineers had of one of its most heroic members.

Making the presentation was Chard's great-nephew, Mr Donald Phillips, who lives only a few miles from Hatch Beauchamp and to whom the bust and sword had passed via his mother. Mr Phillips said Chard's inventiveness, resolution, coolness and courage were well known but he had also been a modest man who had



Above right: The Chief Royal Engineer, Lieut-Gen Sir David Willison, lays the corps wreath.

Right: Lieut-Col W W M Chard, a descendant of the VC, chats with another descendant, Mr Donald Phillips, at the display of Chard relics.

Although no official celebrations were taking place at Rorke's Drift, Brigadier Charles Cox, a retired officer of The South Wales Borderers, intended to lay a wreath on behalf of the regiment, while on holiday in South Africa. Celebrations of the centenary of the Zulu War, including Rorke's Drift and Isandhlwana, are being organised jointly by the Natal and Kwazulu authorities in May.

been genuinely surprised by the reception he received on his return from Africa.

"What would he say if he could be here today?" asked Mr Phillips. "How proud he was to belong to a corps which has continued to distinguish itself in two world wars and is continuing to do so in Northern Ireland today."

Mr Phillips said the sword and bust had been valued family possessions for 100 years and it was now right that they should be made available to a wider general public.

Replying, General Willison promised that the souvenirs would receive a prominent place in the museum. Forty-six sappers had won the Victoria Cross but there were factors which made Lieutenant Chard's deeds stand out even in that illustrious company. "He proved that the Royal Engineers are soldiers first. His command provides an object lesson to sappers that they must be fully versed in the conduct of the battle as well as in the support they provide as combat engineers."

The parade then marched to the tiny village church for a special service. Afterwards, wreaths were laid on Chard's grave by Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Chard for the family; the Chief Royal Engineer for the corps; the Lord Lieutenant for Somerset, Lieutenant-Colonel G W Luttrell, for the county; Major-General R W T Britten for the Royal Engineers Association; Colonel R J Welchman for The Royal Regiment of Wales; and Captain Bill Bailey for 5 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, (Chard was senior subaltern of 5 Field Company at the time of Rorke's Drift).

Other Chard relics were on display at Hatch Court, including a Zulu shield, knobkerrie and assegai, a dress sword presented to him by the City of Plymouth on his return, and an autographed book from

The Zulu War broke out in January 1879 and on 22 January both battalions of the 24th Regiment of Foot were engaged in the battle of Isandhlwana from which only three men of the regiment escaped.

That same evening, 4000 Zulus attacked the tiny mission station of Rorke's Drift which was defended by a small force, including 87 men of the 24th, under Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead of the 2nd/24th Regiment. In overall command was Lieutenant John Chard of the Royal Engineers, senior of the two subalterns. The desperate fighting raged for 12 hours until the Zulus withdrew after slaughter on a massive scale.

For gallantry at the defence of Rorke's Drift, the Victoria Cross was awarded to Lieutenants Chard and Bromhead, Surgeon-Major Reynolds, Assistant Commissary Dalton, six non-commissioned officers of the 2nd/24th and a Natal native corporal.

When it was seen that all was lost at Isandhlwana earlier in the day, Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill were ordered to try and save the Queen's Colour of the 1st/24th. In trying to cross the Buffalo River in full flood, Melvill was washed from his horse and lost his hold on the Colour, which was carried downstream. Several days later, a search party found the bodies of Melvill and Coghill and further downstream the Colour and its pike. When the battalion returned to England, Queen Victoria asked to see the Colour and placed upon it a silver Wreath of Immortelles and directed that this should always be borne there in memory of the two officers who died to save the Colour. She also awarded them the Victoria Cross posthumously. Later a silver wreath was ordered to be placed on the pike of the Queen's Colour of the 2nd/24th as well, to commemorate the defence of Rorke's Drift.

Queen Victoria. Owner of some of these is Colonel Chard, also a great-nephew, and regimental secretary of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers for the City of London area, with offices in the Tower of London.

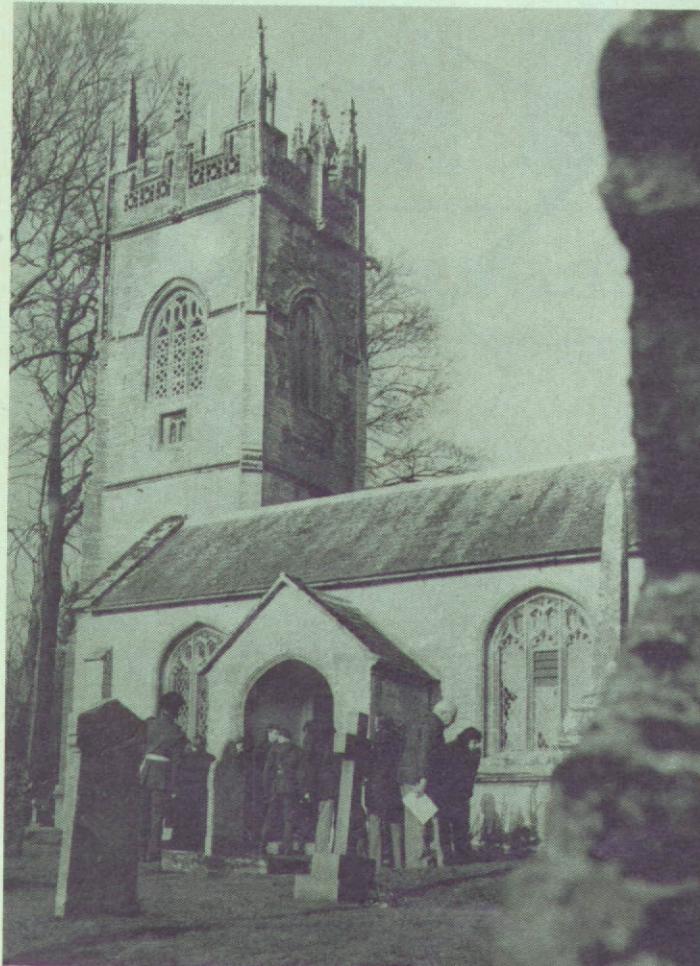
He told SOLDIER: "All my family are Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and he was the black sheep because he became a sapper — but he ended up doing rather well."

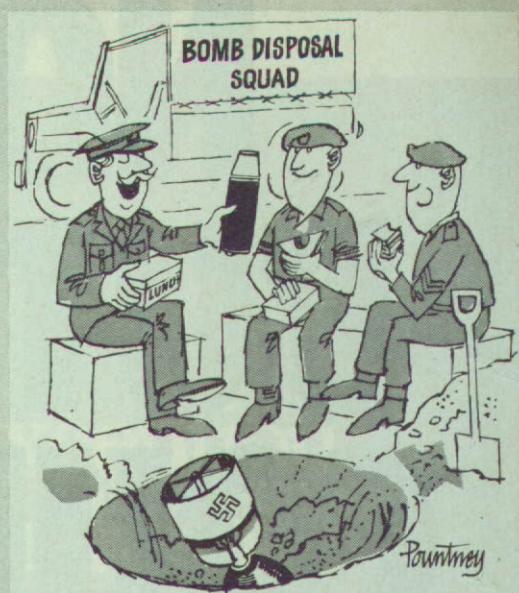
Mr Phillip's mother, who died last year at the age of 93, remembered her uncle well from when she was a child. She recalled him as a man who never seemed to come to terms with what he had done and never felt it was as heroic as people thought. Her story of his

arrival back in Somerset from South Africa sums up the quiet hero. Chard was met at Taunton by civic dignitaries and after the speeches he got into a carriage and was driven to the village of North Curry.

On arrival in the village he was met by a waving crowd of country folk. Told by Mr Phillip's grandmother to take off his hat and wave back, he reluctantly did so, muttering sheepishly: "All I did was my duty."

Below left: Hatch Beauchamp parish church of St John the Baptist, where Col. Chard lies. Below: Old and young soldiers march to church.



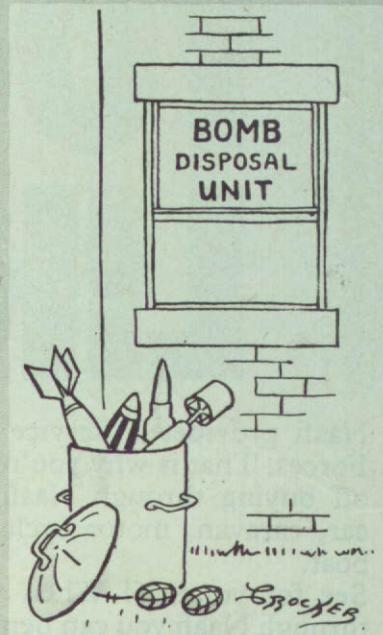


"You open the vacuum flask, y'know what I am for unscrewing things the wrong way."

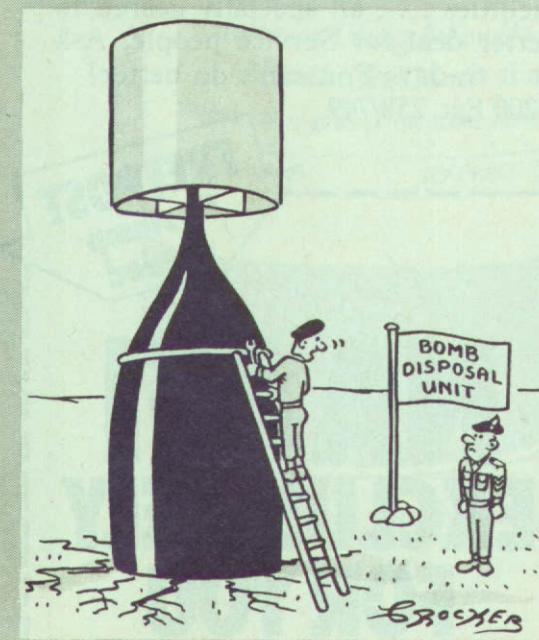


BOMBS AWAY

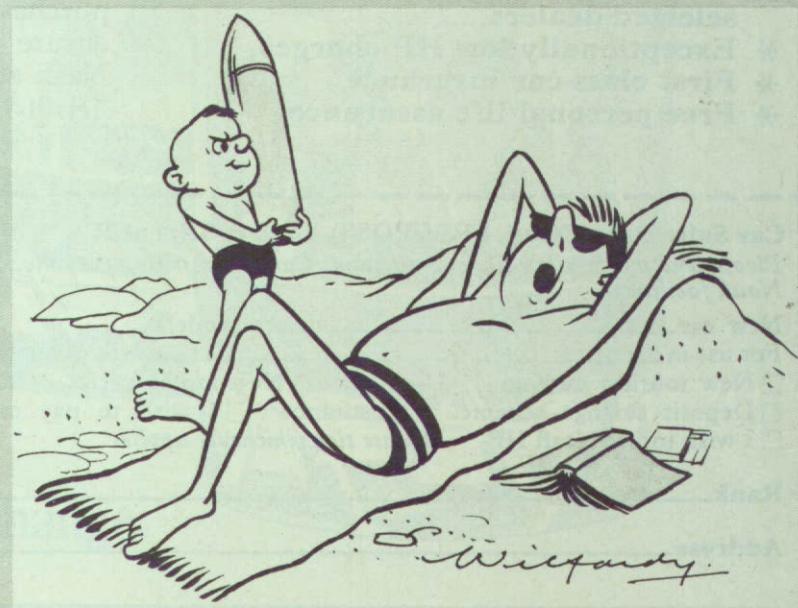
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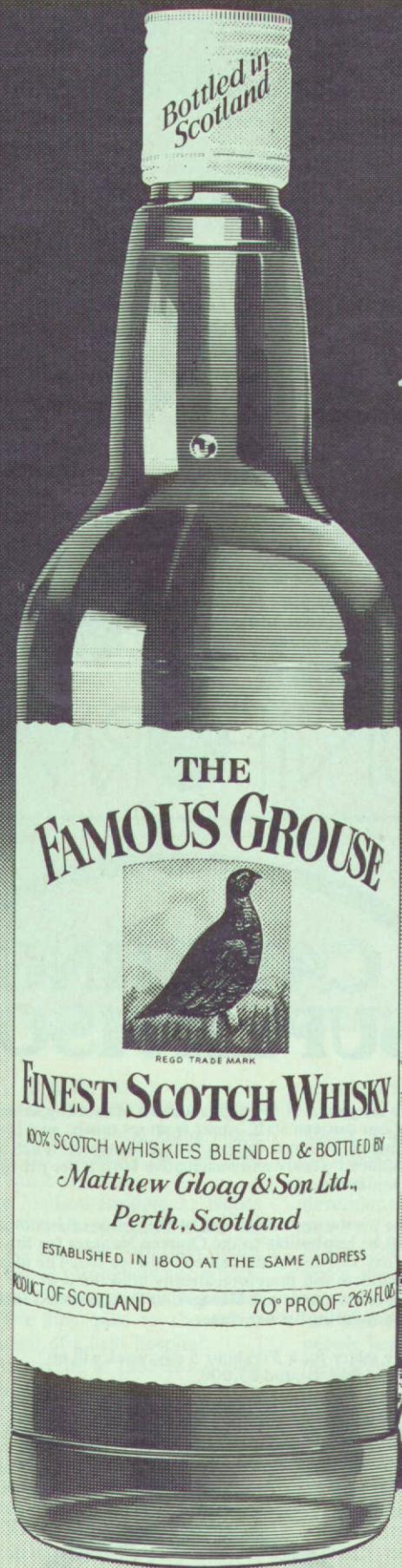
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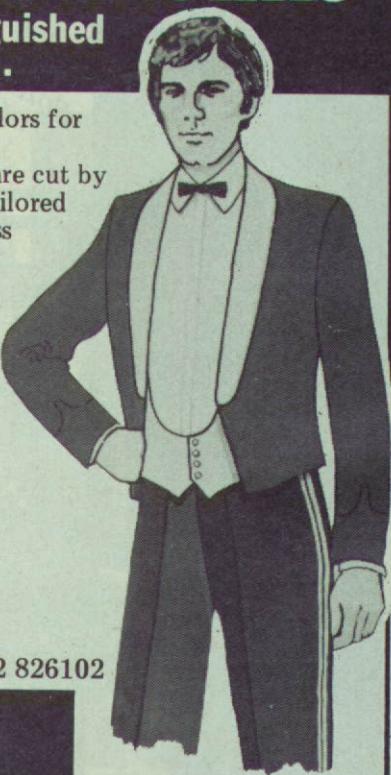
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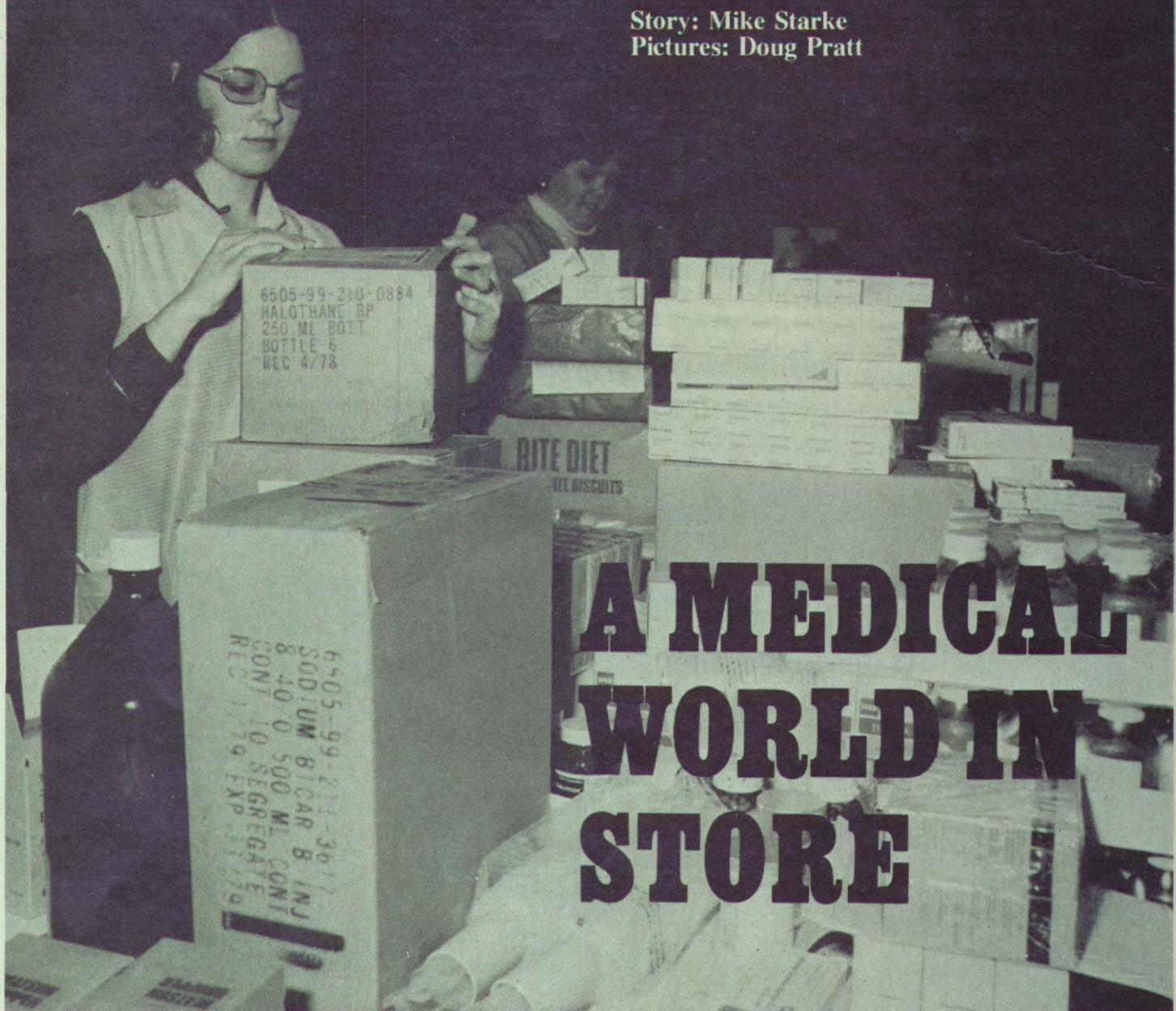
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A MEDICAL WORLD IN STORE

SNAKE-BITE SERUM for a soldier in Belize, medicine for a mate on the high seas, first aid for an airman in Hong Kong — all come from the one depot perched high on windswept Salisbury Plain.

The Defence Medical Equipment Depot at Ludgershall, Wiltshire, sees to it that all three Services are supplied with their medical and dental needs throughout the world. And this can range from a personally packed phial of just five tiny pills to the entire medical equipment of a field hospital.

The depot started life in 1938 as a purely Army establishment, taking over from the earlier Army Medical Reserve Store at Woolwich. But during the streamlining of the Services in recent years, Ludgershall has now taken on a tri-Service role. Army personnel still control the depot but they have been joined by RAF and Royal Navy officers making up the 60 or so serving people there. The bulk of the staff are civilians — some 270.

Deputy Commandant Major Jim Southby commented: "We are very much a family organisation — literally in some cases. The civilian staff comes mainly from the villages

Above: A mixed consignment of medical supplies is carefully packed by the warehouse's girls.

hereabouts and always has done. We have instances of three generations of the same family working for the depot. This makes for a dedicated and loyal workforce."

Other civilian staff are drawn from the dependents of Army families posted to the nearby Tidworth area for two years or so. Major Southby added: "All in all, they know one another and us as well. We've never had a day lost in a dispute, whatever has been going on in industry outside. The people here feel their priority is to provide their service to the sick and injured."

That service involves the staggering statistics of maintaining a stock valued at between £10,000,000 and £12,000,000 to meet some 250,000 orders a year from units. Among this, for example, is the annual production of nearly 2,000,000 dressing packs.

Unlike most other major supply depots, DMED carries out the total exercise involved. It does its own procurement — within a strict budget laid down by the Ministry of Defence — its own storing, packing and issue to units.

It is a source of justified satisfaction to the depot that dramatic economies have been made as a result of its own staff of experts having control. In one case skilful negotia-

tions resulted in the bulk buying of a common drug, at a price less than a quarter of the retail charge.

In another instance, budgeters' brows puckered to find that at £7 a type of first-aid box cost double its contents. The depot set to work on the problem and came up with a sturdy tin — normally used for export packs of chocolates — at only 17 pence.

The work of the depot is divided into two main functions. With so many items taken in, warehoused, packed and despatched, by far the largest department is the clerical one of provision, purchasing, supply and accounts. Under the command of RAF Squadron-Leader Tony Boden, this carefully logs the progress of every item from manufacture to issue and keeps a meticulous 'history' of its details to check any breaks in the chain of events.

Major Peter Redmond RAMC heads the other main field of activity, stores management department. This involves not only the systematic storage and specialised packaging of vital medical supplies (the depot has its own carpenter to make sturdy boxes for awkward-shaped pieces of equipment) but also a production line of kits and packs.

This production line has evolved from the

development of disposable medical supplies in the last couple of decades. Nowadays it is considered cheaper, easier and cleaner to provide doctors and surgeons with a variety of sterile disposable packs of forceps, scalpels, syringes, swabs and dressings with many of the instruments made of plastic.

The Central Sterile Supply Department makes up nearly as many as Heinz's 57 varieties of disposable packs. Items are selected, bagged, marked — and then sterilised by Gamma radiation — by a team of ladies doing repetitive and monotonous tasks to make up the hundreds of thousands, even millions, of packs vital to the well-being of a patient somewhere and sometime in the future.

Using many of the items made up at the depot, another sub-department puts them together to fill medical kits. These range from simple one-man first-aid packs to specialised kits such as a six-month bergen-packed selection of medical supplies for a

long-range Army patrol developed for jungle use by the Special Air Service Regiment, to aircraft life-raft first-aid kits which become fluorescent on contact with sea water, plus the other specialist first-aid kits to suit the needs of workshops, fighting vehicles or just the office.

At the other end of the scale, general hospital 'kits' are prepared as total assemblies. And from time to time, packs are made up for expeditions, such as the current Operation Drake's circumnavigation of the world.

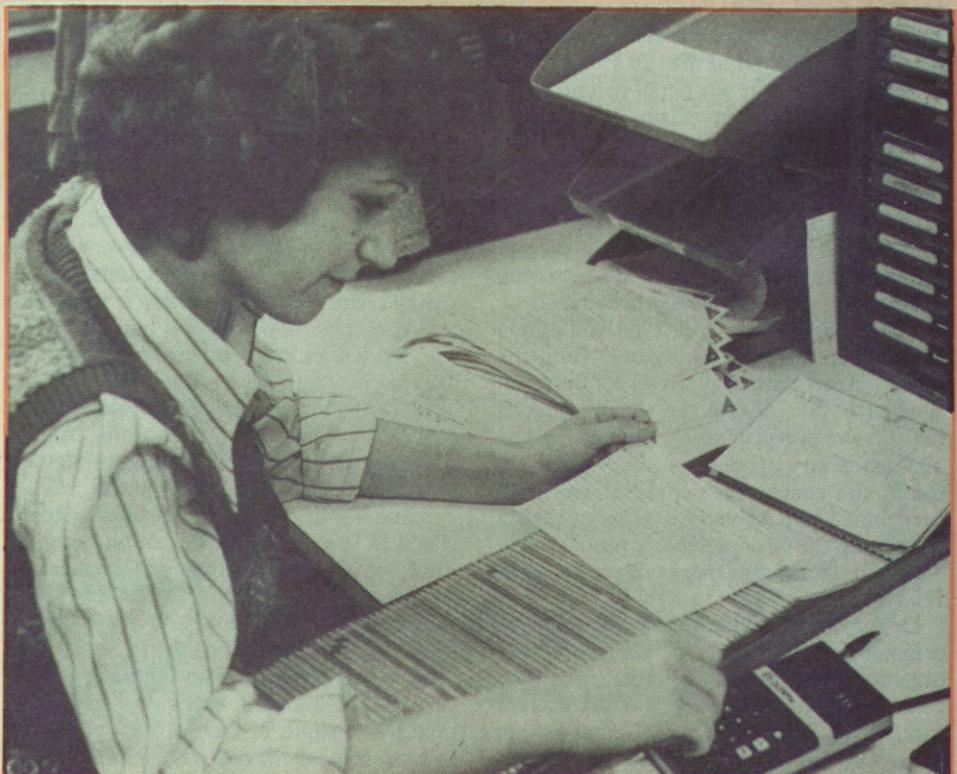
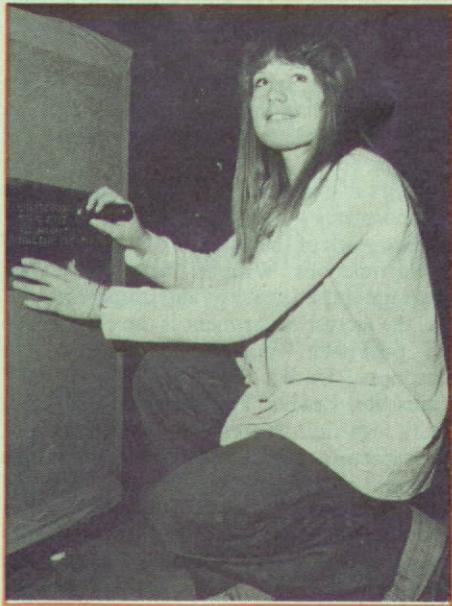
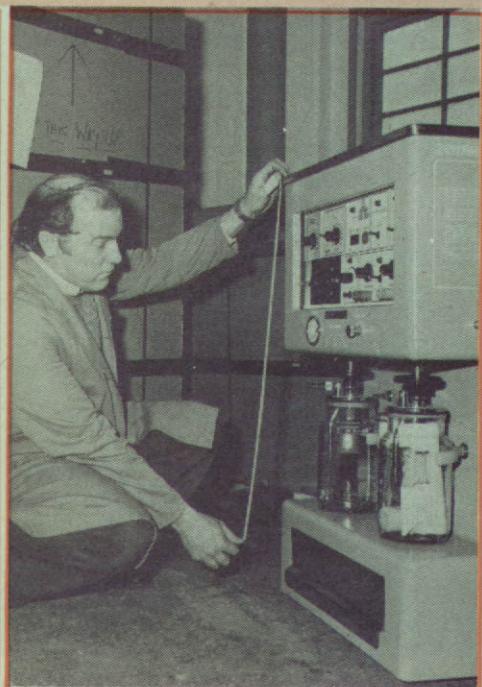
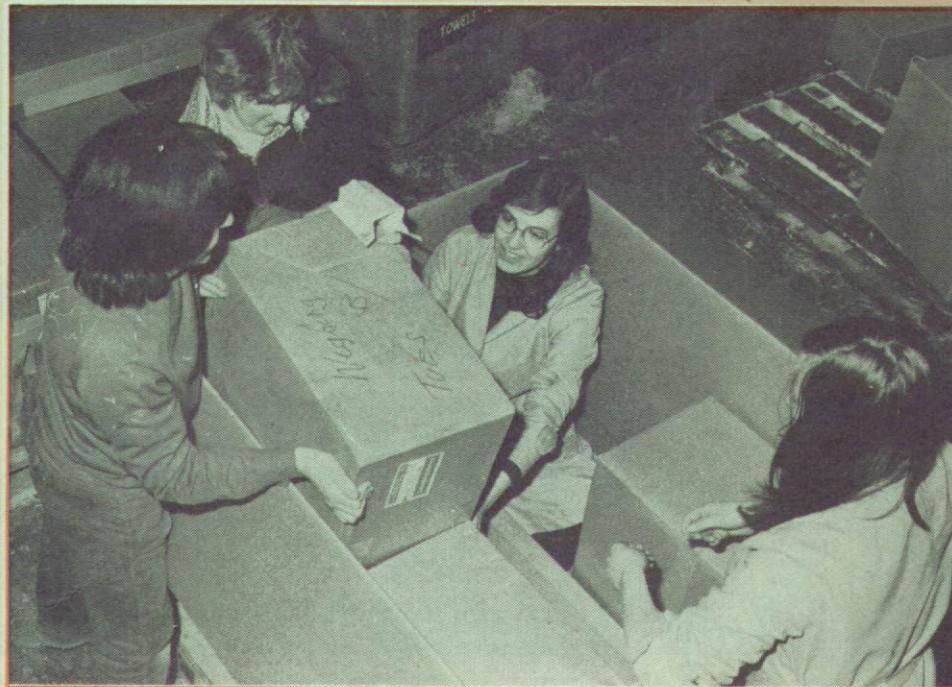
Expeditions are also used to test equipment — and especially packaging in adverse environments — so that the depot can improve its service to its 'customers.'

With the vast array of supplies constantly shifting in and out from the 500 or so suppliers and to roughly the same number of 'customers,' the depot is split into four groups for both its main functions. Group A deals with pharmaceuticals, chemicals and

test products, Group B with surgical instruments, other instruments, laboratory, operating theatre and X-Ray equipment, Group C with dental equipment, dressings and textile material, training equipment and hospital sundries and Group D with spare parts for mechanical and electro-medical equipment.

The depot was housed until recently in the original warehouse and administrative block with its World War Two-vintage huts and sheds. But now a rebuilding programme has got under way and the first stage — started in 1976 — has now been finished. This is the new administrative block housing the clerical department and a roomy staff canteen.

Stage two will double the warehouse area's storage space and add special-to-purpose stores for corrosive chemicals and medical gas cylinders. The whole project is due for completion in 1982. In the meantime, the depot's customers have to be kept



Top left: At Ludgershall they really become wrapped up in their work . . . and soon get to make their mark (above left)! Meanwhile (top right) depot carpenter Jim Weeks has to get the measure of unusual shapes to package up carefully. And Mary Weeks plus her colleagues keep account of all that comes and goes there.

supplied.

The staff boast that every conceivable form of transport is used to get their goods to their 'customers' — from road, rail, sea and air to the modest pack mule still used to carry the depot's supplies to Gurkhas in far-off Nepal.

At home in the United Kingdom, the depot has a number of storeholding locations by way of 'customers.' These are mostly military hospitals of all three Services which then break down the consignments they have ordered to re-distribute items to units in their catchment areas. Field units which have to be in constant readiness for mobilisation are supplied direct.

Regular 'milk-runs' keep the static locations stocked up and the same basic principle applies both to Rhine Army and further-flung outposts such as Hong Kong, Cyprus and Belize.

Supplies to Germany have been considerably streamlined since the introduction two years ago of container shipping. Bulk consignments sealed into the containers replace the previous packaging and posting of individual items.

As well as serving hospitals in Münster, Iserlohn, Rinteln, Wegberg, Hannover and Berlin, the depot also supplies its smaller sister depot in Bielefeld.

The skills needed to operate this globe-spanning organisation are not learned overnight and the depot has a commitment to train personnel from all three Services who may later become its next generation of military staff. In the meantime, the depot benefits during its courses from the use of their extra pairs of hands, not to mention their brain power.

It all adds up to being the heart of the Services medical supplies pumping matériel through arteries of communication worldwide to ensure the health of servicemen and women.

Top right: First-aid haversacks are among the many kits packed and checked at Ludgershall.

Right: Palletisation and the fork-lift truck have streamlined warehouse operations here.



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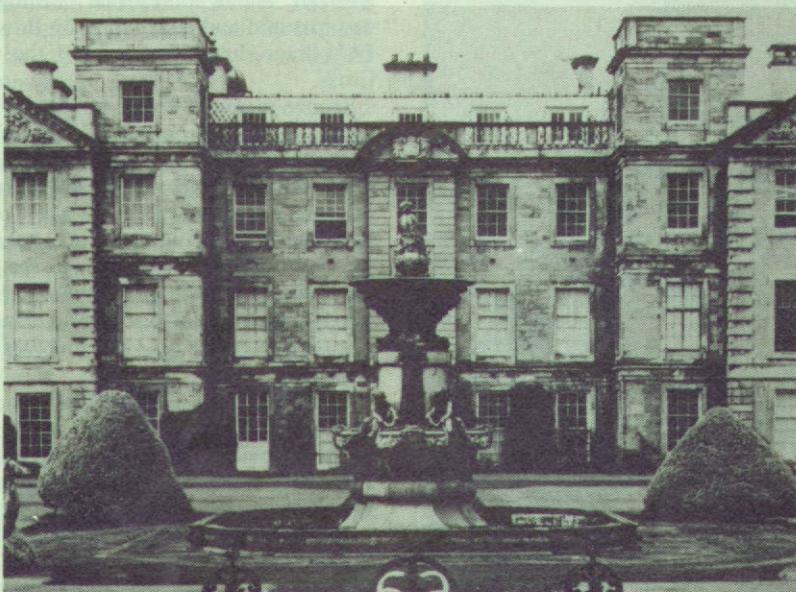
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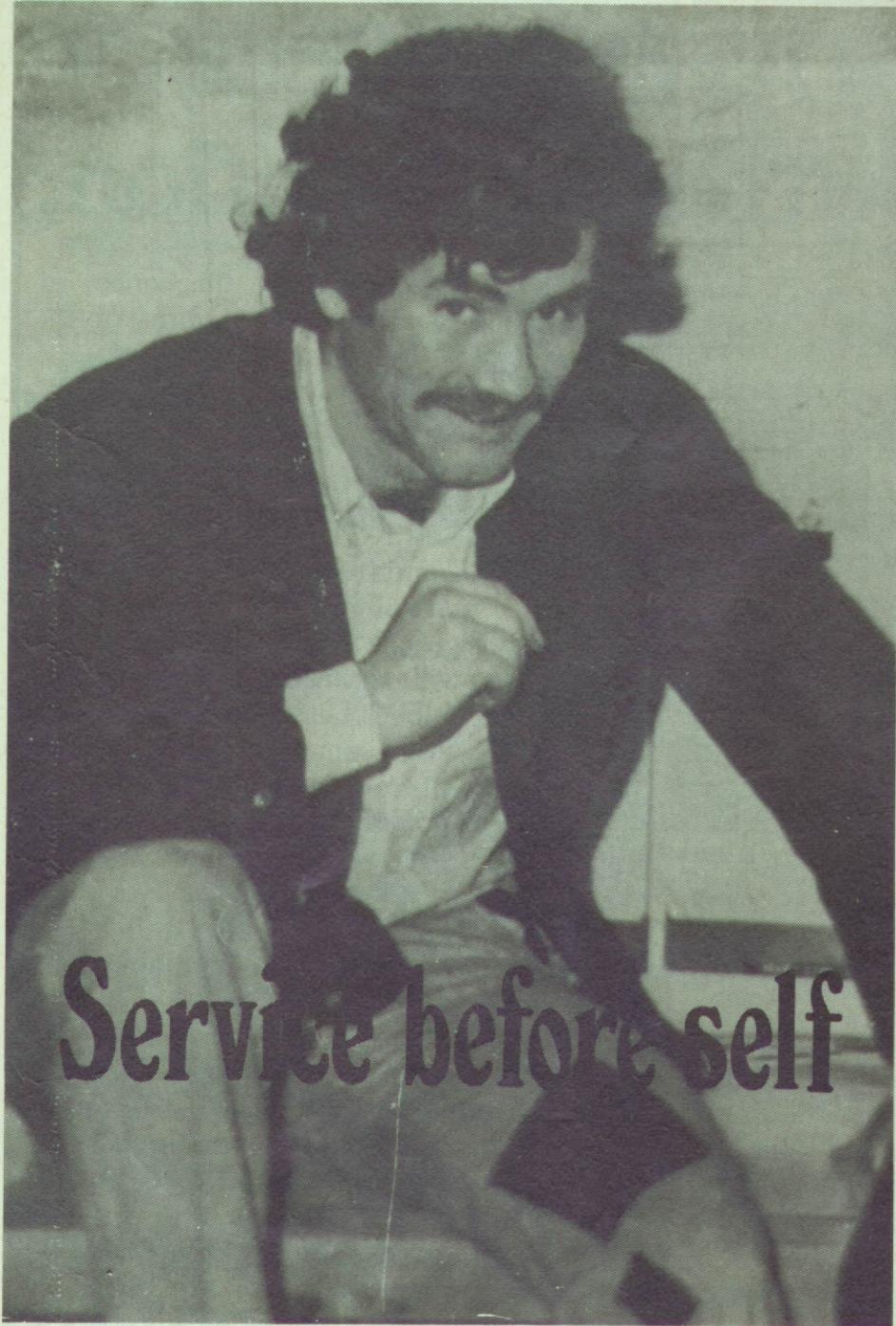
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CAPTAIN ROBERT NAIRAC GC



Service before self

Captain Nairac was born in Mauritius in 1948 and his parents live in Gloucestershire. He was a bachelor. Educated at Ampleforth, he joined Oxford University Officer Training Corps in January 1972 and completed a four-month course at Sandhurst later the same year. He joined the 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, in January 1973.

He first went to Northern Ireland with the battalion in March 1973 and returned in July for a four-month tour in North Belfast — his company spending its time between the Protestant Shankill and Catholic Ardoyne. He spent a lot of his time with the Fianna and the Tartan gangs — the youth organisations which provide recruits for illegal para-military organisations on both sides. By the end of the tour he was known throughout the Ardoyne and was said to be able to disperse a hostile crowd with a few words. After leave and courses he returned to Northern Ireland in mid-1974 and worked there for a year, mainly with the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Armagh. In 1976 he just had time to complete the junior command and staff course before returning for a second tour of police liaison duties. He returned in May 1976 apparently by request because he had proved so useful and effective on his first tour.

Sadly, a few weeks before his death he wrote to his regiment saying how much he was looking forward to returning to it and taking up the more conventional duties of a regimental officer.



CAPTAIN ROBERT NAIRAC, the public school-educated Guards officer who passed himself off as an Irishman while working in the hardline Republican enclave of South Armagh, and who revealed nothing as he was tortured and later killed by Provisional IRA thugs, has been awarded the George Cross.

It was in May 1977 that Captain Nairac was abducted from a public house, whisked over the border into the Republic and murdered. His body has never been found. The posthumous award of the George Cross has been held up for all that time because of separate trials on both sides of the border from which a total of six men have been jailed. Police are still hunting for three other men believed to have been involved in the crime.

Captain Nairac, a Roman Catholic, was in the Grenadier Guards. He was not a member of the Special Air Service although his role as liaison officer between the Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary in South Armagh brought him into contact with them.

For something like a year he had lived in South Armagh, wearing an old donkey jacket, patched jeans, worn shoes and with long hair and moustache. He became a familiar figure in the area, known as 'Danny Boy' and claiming that he came from Belfast. He was usually accompanied by a large black Newfoundland dog called Bruno.

On 14 May 1977, Captain Nairac was briefed at the Army base at Bessbrook and then went to meet someone at a public house called The Three Steps at Drumintee, about two miles from the border with the Republic. During that evening he took the microphone and sang two rebel songs — but suspicions had been aroused. Locals said later that he was still wearing his heavy jacket on a balmy summer night. He was armed with a 9mm pistol in a concealed holster.

Captain Nairac had been to the public house many times before but that night he left it with two men. In the car park were more IRA men and he was jumped. A fierce struggle ensued before he was bundled into a car and driven away.

The Army knew that he was visiting The Three Steps alone. Said an intelligence source: 'He was a fairly strong-minded fellow with a confident knowledge of the area — a guy with a lot of common sense and well aware of what the risk was. By and large he was a very careful man.'

The next morning, Captain Nairac's car was found abandoned in the inn's car park. The windscreen and wing mirror were shattered and the headlights broken. There were bloodstains in and around the car. Later that day a Belfast radio station received a message from the Provisional IRA stating that 29-year-old Captain Nairac had been arrested, interrogated and executed.

After crossing the border, his abductors took Captain Nairac to a spot in Ravensdale Forest. There he was tortured and, two to

three hours after his capture, shot by a 'hit man' — 34-year-old Liam Townson.

Townson, who was jailed for life by a Dublin court, told Irish detectives: "He never told us anything. He was a great soldier."

Five other men later appeared in Belfast in a trial which made legal history — on charges over a killing committed in the Irish Republic. All were jailed.

Just what sort of a man was Captain Nairac? One of his closest friends was a fellow Grenadier officer, Major Tom Lort-Phillips. He told SOLDIER: "He was a great enthusiast in anything he did. His real interests were wildfowling and an outdoor life — he kept peregrine falcons when he was at university.

"He was a great all-round sportsman and very keen on boxing but never a cruel and vindictive sort of person. He won a boxing Blue at Oxford and was a friend of Joe Bugner. His other passion in life was sporting weapons — he collected guns, particularly wildfowling guns.

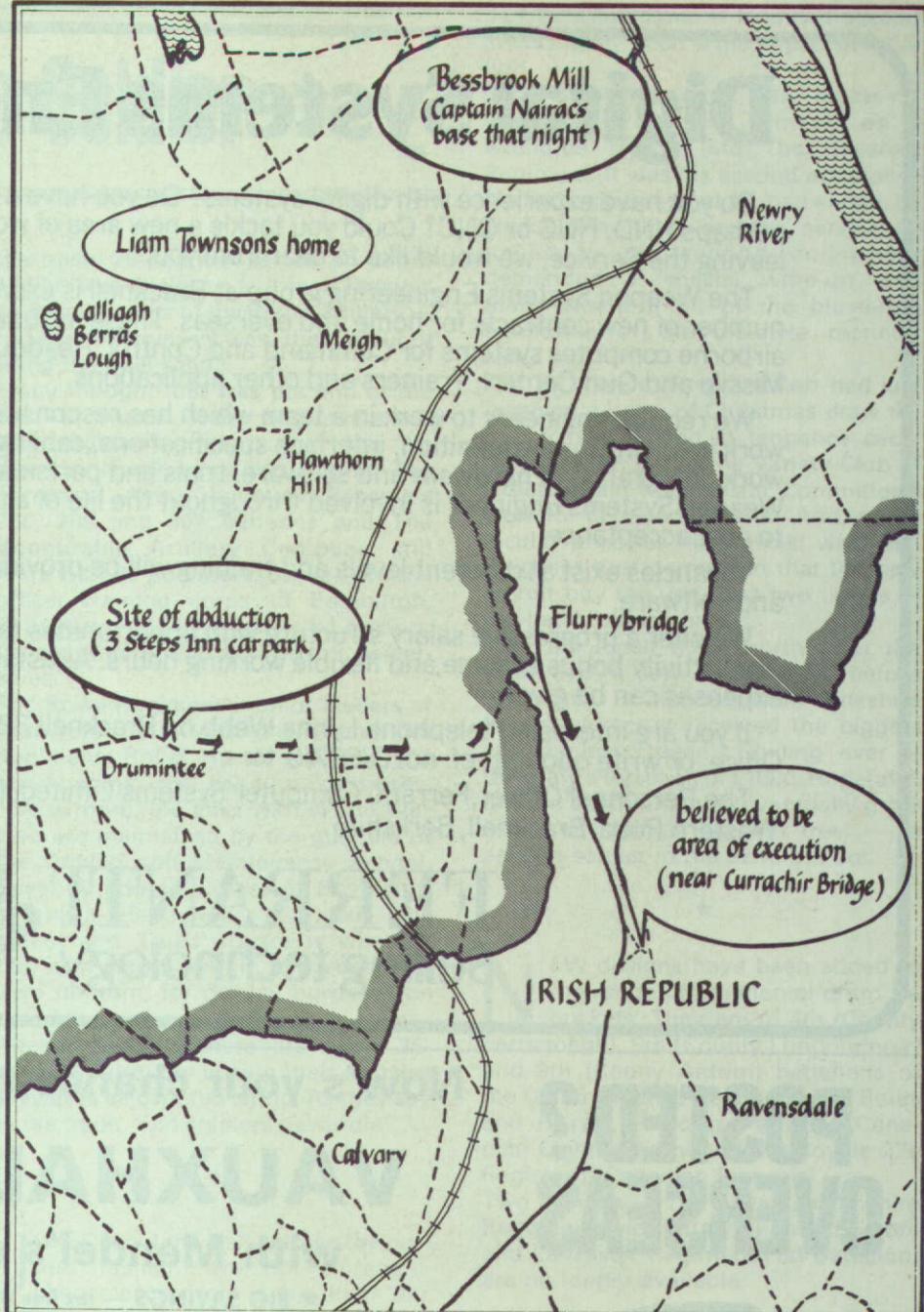
Significantly, Major Lort-Phillips said that Captain Nairac had a dislike of red tape and formality. "He was a little unconventional but he was very popular with the guardsmen and an outstanding platoon commander."

"The closest image I can think of is someone like Lawrence who is totally involved in the goings-on on the ground but is not so concerned with spit-and-polish and that sort of thing."

It was possibly that unconventionality which led to Captain Nairac's death. For although his visit to The Three Steps had been approved, Army intelligence sources have never fully ascertained what he was up to that night. But they have stressed that his job was not that of a secret agent trying to penetrate the Provisional IRA.

Captain Nairac's is the third George Cross to be awarded to members of the Army for acts of gallantry in Northern Ireland. The last award was to then Major George Styles, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, in 1972 for bomb disposal. Earlier, a posthumous award was made to Sergeant Michael Willets, The Parachute Regiment, for selflessness and courage in a bomb incident. The award to Captain Nairac will be presented to his parents by the Queen.

General Sir Jack Harman, who was Commandant at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, when Captain Nairac was a cadet there, paid his tribute: "Of course I knew that Robert Nairac would do great things. It was therefore utterly tragic that his life was cut short so soon. Obviously supremely courageous — I do not say without fear for it is only the truly brave who act courageously but who also know fear. Service before self was Robert's lodestar and his death is an eloquent mockery of happenings in the United Kingdom today. There are certainly few like him. It is only when one meets a Robert Nairac that life suddenly seems so very much worthwhile."



The official citation for Captain Nairac's George Cross award reads: 'Captain Nairac served for four tours of duty in Northern Ireland, totalling 28 months. During the whole of this time he made an outstanding personal contribution — his quick analytical brain, resourcefulness, physical stamina and above all his courage and dedication inspired admiration in everyone who knew him.'

'On his fourth tour, Captain Nairac was a liaison officer at Headquarters 3 Infantry Brigade. His task was connected with surveillance operations.'

'On the night of 14-15 May 1977, Captain Nairac was abducted from a village in South Armagh by at least seven men. Despite his fierce resistance he was overpowered and taken across the border into the nearby Republic of Ireland where he was subjected to a succession of exceptionally savage assaults in an attempt to extract information which would have put other lives and future operations at serious risk.'

'These efforts to break Captain Nairac's will failed entirely. Weakened as he was in strength — though not in spirit — by the brutality, he yet made repeated and spirited attempts to escape, but on each occasion was eventually overpowered by the weight of numbers against him. After several hours in the hands of his captors, Captain Nairac was callously murdered by a gunman of the Provisional Irish Republican Army who had been summoned to the scene. His assassin subsequently said: "He never told us anything."

'Captain Nairac's exceptional courage and acts of the greatest heroism in circumstances of extreme peril showed devotion to duty and personal courage second to none.'

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SOLDIER to Soldier

THIS March issue marks the end of a six-month trial period during which SOLDIER News has been published as a tabloid with the magazine, and at no extra charge.

Now, unfortunately, the honeymoon is over — in future, starting next month, SOLDIER News will be a separate publication and will sell at eight pence. The April News will be published at the same time as the April magazine, in mid-March, and three weeks later, it is planned, SOLDIER News will change to fortnightly frequency, starting on 6 April, with the next issue 20 April and so on. There will therefore be 12 magazines and 26 News issues a year. The magazine has always had to meet a requirement that the cost of paper and printing by a commercial firm should be met by revenue from sales and advertising. It has been ruled that the same requirement should equally apply to the newspaper — this dictates the price of eight pence an issue.

While SOLDIER News will be basically the Army's house newspaper, it will, we hope, still be available to all readers through all the current outlets. Both the April magazine and the April newspaper will be distributed against current demand. Recipients, other than subscribers, who wish to vary their requirement of the two April publications, are asked to inform, as soon as possible, SOLDIER's Distribution Manager, Miss D M W Duffield. The address is SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2DU. Her telephone extensions are 2592 or 2587 on Aldershot 24431 (military network — Aldershot Military).

Readers who buy SOLDIER from a bookstall or newsagent should place a separate order for SOLDIER News.

Although the price of the monthly SOLDIER Magazine is due to be increased, it will remain for the time being at the present 20 pence.

★

MANY a romance blossomed in the dark days of World War Two but one of the most lasting must surely be that between countless thousands of gunners and their 25-pounders. This gun made its appearance in 1940 and quickly its mark — literally — on battlefields in all theatres of the global conflict. Its appearance on the scene had been hurried as the storm clouds grew. Trials had not been completed when the gun was hustled on to the field of battle, but gunners soon came to know and love the sturdy field gun.

In the United Kingdom alone, 12,500 were produced and many more went to equip allied armies. Long after the war

the trusty 25-pounder served on but in 1967 it was finally bade a fond farewell by Regular units of the Royal Artillery — to 14 Field Regiment went the honour of firing the final salute.

Many thought that was the end of the era. Far from it. Many ex-gunners will be delighted to know that the 25-pounder is still alive and kicking. The Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve's 266, 269 and 307 batteries and The Honourable Artillery Company still work with 25-pounders. So, too, do the officer training corps of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Northumbria, London, Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol universities.

The Royal Regiment's junior leaders at Bramcote train with them and 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, still sport some for saluting purposes. Furthermore, the links with World War Two are maintained by the gunners of the Driving and Maintenance School, Royal Armoured Corps, at Bovington where a 25-pounder, complete with limber and 'Quad' tractor is wheeled out, with detachment in full World War Two uniform, for display purposes on special occasions.

Almost certainly there are other 25-pounders proudly nosing their muzzles skywards all over the world. As they say in the trade, 'Old soldiers never die . . .'

★

JOKES about the Irish, despite the current fashion, are not a recent phenomenon. Here is one from 200 years ago, culled from 'The Mirror's Image,' a reprint of Captain Francis Grose's 'Advice to the Officers of the British Army: With the Addition of Some Hints to the Drummer and Private Soldier,' published in 1782.

An Irish sergeant, told to practise his men in shooting, put up a pole for them to fire at, stationing half of his men on one side of it and the other half on the opposite side. Before shooting began, an officer appeared and stopped them, pointing out that they were bound to wound or kill each other. "Kill each other!" exclaimed the sergeant. "Why, they are all our own men!"

★

STORIES about the tricks and devices of bygone recruiting sergeants are legion. Many are apocryphal but one that is true and must surely cap the lot concerns a modern recruiter, Sergeant Angus Kerr, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, of the Army Careers Information Office in Crewe. Not content with displaying the 'Queen's Shilling' as

bait, he went higher — twenty thousand times higher, such is the impact of inflation.

Early last November, an eighteen-year-old presented himself as a would-be recruit into The Cheshire Regiment. It was his second attempt — his first enlistment, at 17, had ended, by choice, after three months' service. Of necessity his second enlistment demanded a 'special write-up' and that's where a bit of the blustering bonhomie of the old-style recruiter came in.

For, by chance, Sergeant Kerr had just received a batch of Christmas draw tickets to sell. Priced at tenpence each, they were in aid of the Variety Club of Great Britain Manchester Committee's work for deprived children. And, as the jocular price for his 'special write-up,' Sergeant Kerr demanded that the new recruit buy the very first two tickets of the batch. Which he did.

With the result that, shortly after the draw and a few handy days before Christmas, a flabbergasted Cheshire Regiment recruit received the biggest and shiniest 'Queen's Shilling' ever — the draw's top prize of £1000. Hopefully, it is an 'acorn' that will eventually grow into a satisfyingly big 'oak tree' — as befits a soldier in the 22nd of Foot.

★

NEW designs have been added to the range of regimental drum ice buckets. They are of 4th (County Fermanagh), 5th (County Londonderry) and 9th (County Antrim) battalions of the Ulster Defence Regiment, The Blues and Royals, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and the Royal 22e Régiment (Canadien Français).

Two designs — The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment (2nd Battalion) and The York and Lancaster Regiment (1st Battalion) are no longer available.

★



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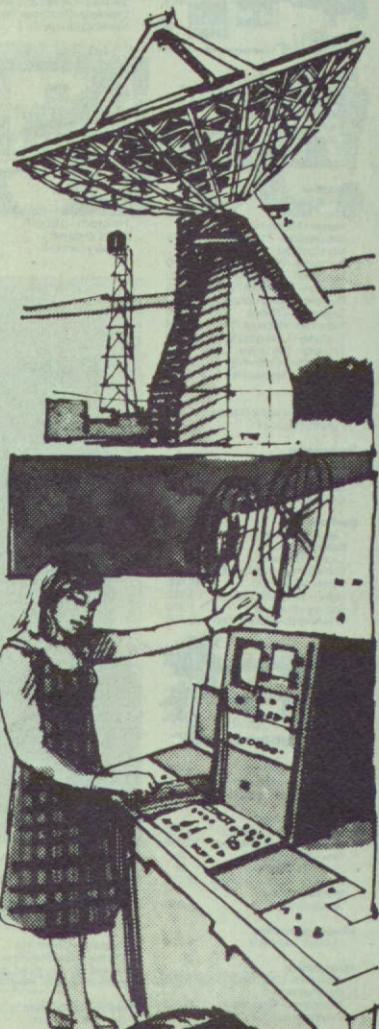
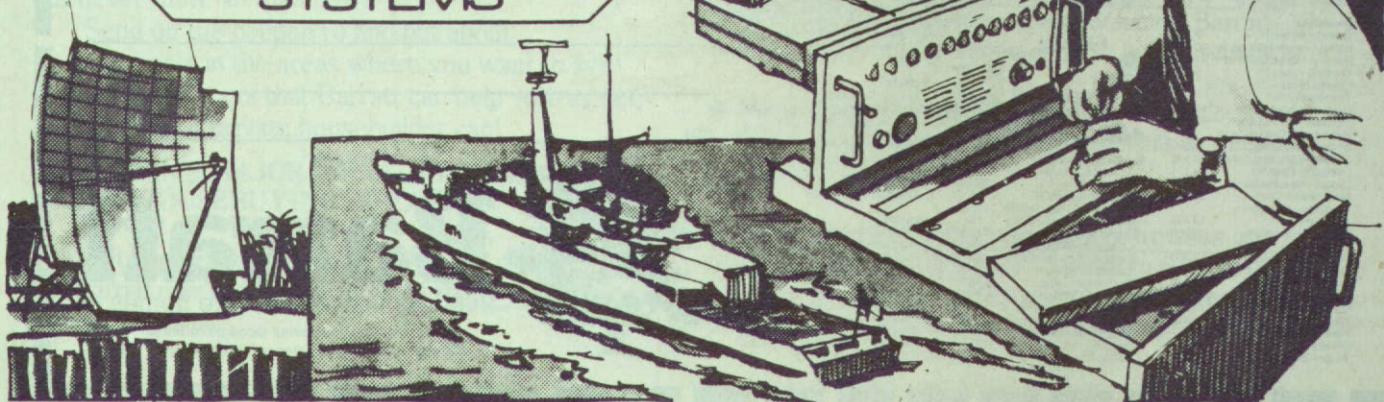
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Top: Tombstone of a centurion, an impressive memorial to the centuries of Roman presence.

Above: Uniform of Col Kesterman, commanding the Loyal Colchester Volunteers, 1797.

More than 1900 years ago Colchester was garrisoned by the Romans — today it is still an important military centre

MARCHING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

IRON AGE tribesmen, Romans, Danes, Roundheads and Cavaliers, Victorian and modern soldiers — there is one posting they all have in common. And that is Colchester, Britain's oldest recorded town still operating as a borough, and currently headquarters of the Army's Eastern District.

Like all Britain's garrison towns, Colchester has its civilian and military populations living amicably side by side. Which is hardly surprising when soldiers have been stationed there on and off for more than 2000 years.

The first known inhabitants of Colchester were the Trinovantes, an Iron Age tribe which undoubtedly picked the site for its natural protection. They were followed by another tribe, the Catuvellauni, who called their fortress Camulodunum.

By the time the Romans invaded in AD 43 the town had become the capital of a large part of southern England. The Emperor Claudius came in person to lead the conquest and a legionary fortress was built, traces of which have been discovered by archaeological digs. Six years later the troops were withdrawn and the fortress adapted for use by a colony of veteran soldiers who imposed Roman law and order on the surrounding countryside.

In the town's museum there are many relics of the Roman occupation, none more impressive than two gravestones discovered when the Roman cemetery was unearthed — one for a centurion and the other for a cavalry officer.

Around AD 60 the town was attacked and sacked by Boadicea — the first of many such attacks over the centuries. After defeating the warrior queen the Romans began to rebuild Colchester and surrounded it with a wall at the end of the second century.

Mr David Clarke, curator of Colchester Museum, says the walled town was undoubtedly a fortress after that time but there is no indication as to the size of the garrison. Between the third and fifth centuries, when the Romans finally withdrew, there would

have been frequent Saxon piratical raids.

"By that time the Romans had developed catapults which they would load with large lumps of rock and aim at ships," he said. "Any piratical ships within range would be in for a thin time."

There is little information about Colchester during Saxon times but in the early tenth century the Danes occupied the town before they were eventually driven out.

After the Norman conquest in 1066 the victors built Colchester Castle on the site of the old Roman temple. It did not see any military action until the reign of King John when a detachment of Frenchmen aiding the rebel barons garrisoned the castle. A siege began on 29 January 1216 and ended on 14 March when the French surrendered to the King in person.

During the Civil War, Colchester supported Parliament but in 1648 the town was captured by the Royalists. It was then besieged for two-and-a-half months until food and ammunition supplies ran low and the Royalists surrendered. The town still bears today the scars of the siege in the patched belfry of St Mary's Church and actual marks of shot at Siege House.

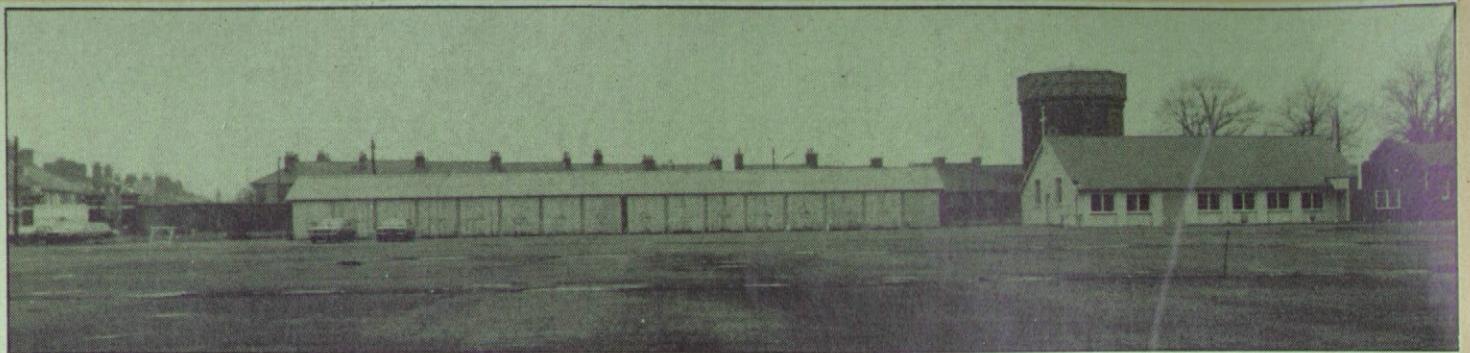
From that time on, Colchester maintained a military role although it was not garrisoned. It became a transit camp for billeting troops on their way to the Continent. This was not locally popular — in 1778 the Ipswich Journal reported that 'the burden of the soldiery in Essex is found insupportable; particularly in Colchester where the principal inns have 150 men each; a petition has been sent up to the war office praying relief.'

In 1741 a camp was built at Lexden Heath, just outside the town, to accommodate a large force on its way to the Continent. By early August, 10,000 men had assembled there although in the end Britain did not take part in the battles of that year.

In 1770 an advertisement appeared in the local newspaper offering 'young men of good character and figure' places in the

Story: John Walton

Modern pictures: Paul Haley



Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards. A postscript worthy of modern advertising agents told readers: 'Any young Man, troubled with inquietude of mind, from association with the Fair Sex, or any uneasy circumstances whatever may, by enlisting in this Corps, find a Release from his Cares, and enter a life of Ease and Jollity.'

The first proper barracks were constructed in the late 1790s with the forerunners of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment as first incumbents. By 1803, Napoleon was threatening and the barracks had been expanded to a capacity of 700 cavalry and 6000 infantry. The town raised its own volunteers — 600 infantry and two small troops of cavalry — which were disbanded after the threat subsided.

After Waterloo the 2nd Battalion of the

Above: An impressive display of horse-drawn artillery in a square little changed today.

Below: This very early photograph shows the camp used by the Hanoverians in Colchester.

73rd Foot returned to Colchester to be welcomed by large crowds and went to the barracks for a much-needed rest. The barracks were demolished in 1817.

Half a century passed before the first steps were taken which led to the modern military Colchester. Between 1854 and 1856, with the advent of the Crimean War, a camp was built between the Mersea road and the old heath.

Comprising wooden huts, it remained in use until the end of the 19th century. Colchester's only relic from those days is the garrison chapel.

First arrivals were the 11th (North Devonshire) Regiment, by coincidence the first unit in the previous barracks. Soon they were inspected by Prince Albert 'on a handsome brown charger.'

After the Crimean War ended, Britain had large numbers of foreign soldiers without a role. Several regiments of Hanoverian troops were sent to Colchester while their future was considered. Altogether 2000 men were accommodated in tents on the site of

the present recreation ground. Problems arose in that some of the European governments were refusing to take back troops who had served a foreign power. A scheme was launched whereby many of the Germans were shipped as military settlers to Cape Colony — the remainder returning to Germany.

To begin their new life in the veldt, many of the Germans wished to go as married men and Colchester appears to have been thoroughly scoured for eligible young women. During a single fortnight there were nearly 150 marriages in the camp church — including one day when 64 weddings took place.

Colchester was now a peacetime garrison town although an uneasy relationship existed during those early years. More barracks were being added and trouble broke out between different units. Brawls lasting two days between men of the 18th and 33rd regiments were reported around Christmas 1869.



Colchester's military hospital was built in 1895 and continued in use until last year, when it closed after much local protest. It still contains a medical reception centre and the building is scheduled for further Army use — probably as some sort of headquarters building.

By the time of the South African War a Colchester garrison had taken shape which would be recognisable today. Most of the wooden huts had given way to brick buildings, there were married quarters, messes, a gymnasium and a number of barracks accommodating infantry, cavalry, artillery and the various corps.

World War One arrived in Colchester in the middle of a weekly garden party at the Officers' Club. Before long, between 30,000 and 40,000 men were training in the garrison. The military hospital soon filled with wounded from the front and a school had to be requisitioned as an additional hospital.

During World War Two the town was again an important base and training area, but with armoured units replacing the cavalry of the earlier war. Since then the garrison has been steadily modernised. Hyderabad and Meanee barracks were updated in 1960, Roman Barracks shortly afterwards and the rebuilt Goojerat Barracks now house the headquarters of 7 Field Force.

There are in fact three headquarters in Colchester — the others are of Eastern District, covering a wide swathe of eastern England from just north of the Thames to south of the Humber, and of Colchester Garrison.

Garrison Headquarters has the job of keeping a smooth relationship between town and Army. Not that this is a very hard task — certainly during this century they have got on very well together. After all, some 1250 civilians are employed by the military in Colchester, working side by side with about 4000 troops.

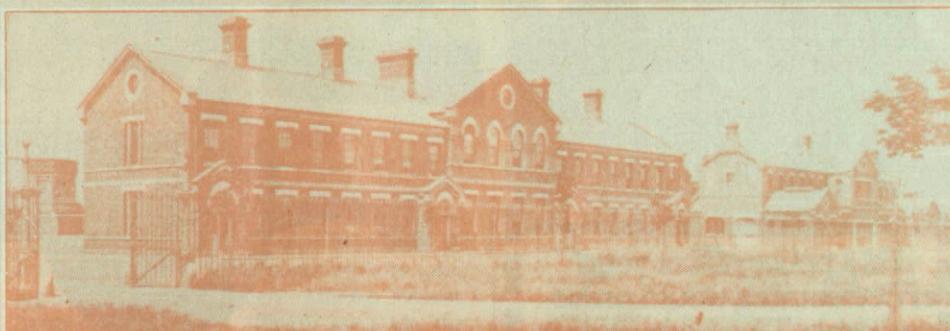
Brigadier Mervyn McCord, the present garrison commander, feels that the closeness of the garrison to the town has been translated into the relationship. "People in Colchester understand soldiers and they are very proud of the garrison," he said. "There is a tremendous will to keep the two together and not allow a 'we' and 'they' situation to develop."

There are still many reminders of the Victorian garrison although most of the more antiquated buildings have been modernised or demolished. A Colchester Garrison planning group, comprising both town and military planners, meets regularly to plan the shape of things to come.

Says Brigadier McCord: "One part of their aim is to preserve the status of the garrison as part of the town. Where possible we shall modernise rather than destroy. We want to retain the historic atmosphere of Britain's oldest garrison while bringing it up-to-date."

Top right: The garrison chapel is the only relic from the camp which was built in the Crimean War times — it has changed little.

Right: But quite substantial changes to the officers' mess — railings moved and notice an entire extra section has been built on left.



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THIS COMPARATIVELY new museum — opened in 1970 by Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, a former Director of Military Intelligence — portrays events and incidents connected with the development of military intelligence from the Elizabethan era onwards.

Photographs, engravings and drawings of numerous personalities connected with military intelligence abound. There are pictures of Sir Francis Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth I's head of intelligence; Christopher Marlowe, the 16th century poet and dramatist who was also a secret agent; Daniel Defoe, of Robinson Crusoe fame and author of 'A Scheme for General Intelligence'; John Thurloe, Oliver Cromwell's Chief of Intelligence; Sir Samuel Luke, Scoutmaster to the Parliamentary Forces (1645); Lieutenant-Colonel Colquhoun Grant, Wellington's intelligence chief and the Army's first field intelligence officer; General Sir George Murray, Quartermaster-General to Wellington and founder of a 'Corps of Guides for the Collection of Intelligence'; and a sketch of a certain Captain Robert Stobo, an intelligence scouting officer in the Virginia Militia who was captured by the French at Quebec but managed to escape and reported valuable information to General Wolfe on how to scale the Heights of Abraham by a secret path. There is also a photograph of Field-Marshal Lord Wavell as a temporary major during the short period he served in the Intelligence Corps.

A false bullet used for carrying intelligence messages can be seen in the Boer War case which also features a portrait of Lieutenant-Colonel (later Lord) Baden-Powell of Boy Scout fame, who as one of the first field intelligence officers in the South African war became famous for his exploits in obtaining information about enemy commando activities.

Among a number of World War One souvenirs are an Imperial German naval ensign, another German flag taken from a fort on Lake Victoria Nyanza in June 1916, photographs of officers interrogating prisoners and a snapshot of a group of wireless experts including Marconi. A copy of the Paris peace conference security seal and the uniform of Lance-Corporal Castle, 17th Lancers, complete with Intelligence Corps armband, also merit attention.

One of the most remarkable World War Two exhibits refers to Captain (later Colonel) Patrick Clayton, one of the four founder-members of the Long-Range

Desert Group. While in an Italian prisoner-of-war camp he managed to draw detailed escape maps on pieces of lavatory paper; examples of his handiwork, and his medals, are on view. A picture of Churchill, Truman and Stalin at Potsdam, with discreet Intelligence Corps and other bodyguards in close attendance, is among a number of eye-catching photographs such as the arrest of von Ribbentrop at a Hamburg flat, the papers of a Nazi general being examined by an Intelligence Corps officer on the surrender of the Channel Islands and a rare shot of King George VI inspecting an intelligence unit before the invasion of Italy.

Among several miscellaneous exhibits are a set of instructions written on linen for dropping supplies and making intelligence reports in Burma and a map, covering 180 square miles and 66 long houses in Borneo, used by an Intelligence Corps corporal whose job was to get basic intelligence about enemy movements across the border.

The worldwide activities of the corps are well illustrated by pictures of field security in action in Korea, port security in Cyprus, interrogation of terrorists in the British Cameroons (1961), the Intelligence Corps at work in Malaya and Singapore and, from Aden, a terrorist flag and booby traps are reminders of the 1967 conflict.

A well-displayed collection of corps badges and buttons, uniforms and headgear lead up to a large mural illustrating the history of the Intelligence Corps and including a picture of Colonel (later Brigadier) W F Jeffries, its first commandant and regarded as its founder. Among various items of dress are an officer's mess kit, the service dress of Major-General F H N Davidson, colonel commandant of the Intelligence Corps from 1952 to 1960, and the No 2 dress of a warrant officer.

John Jesse

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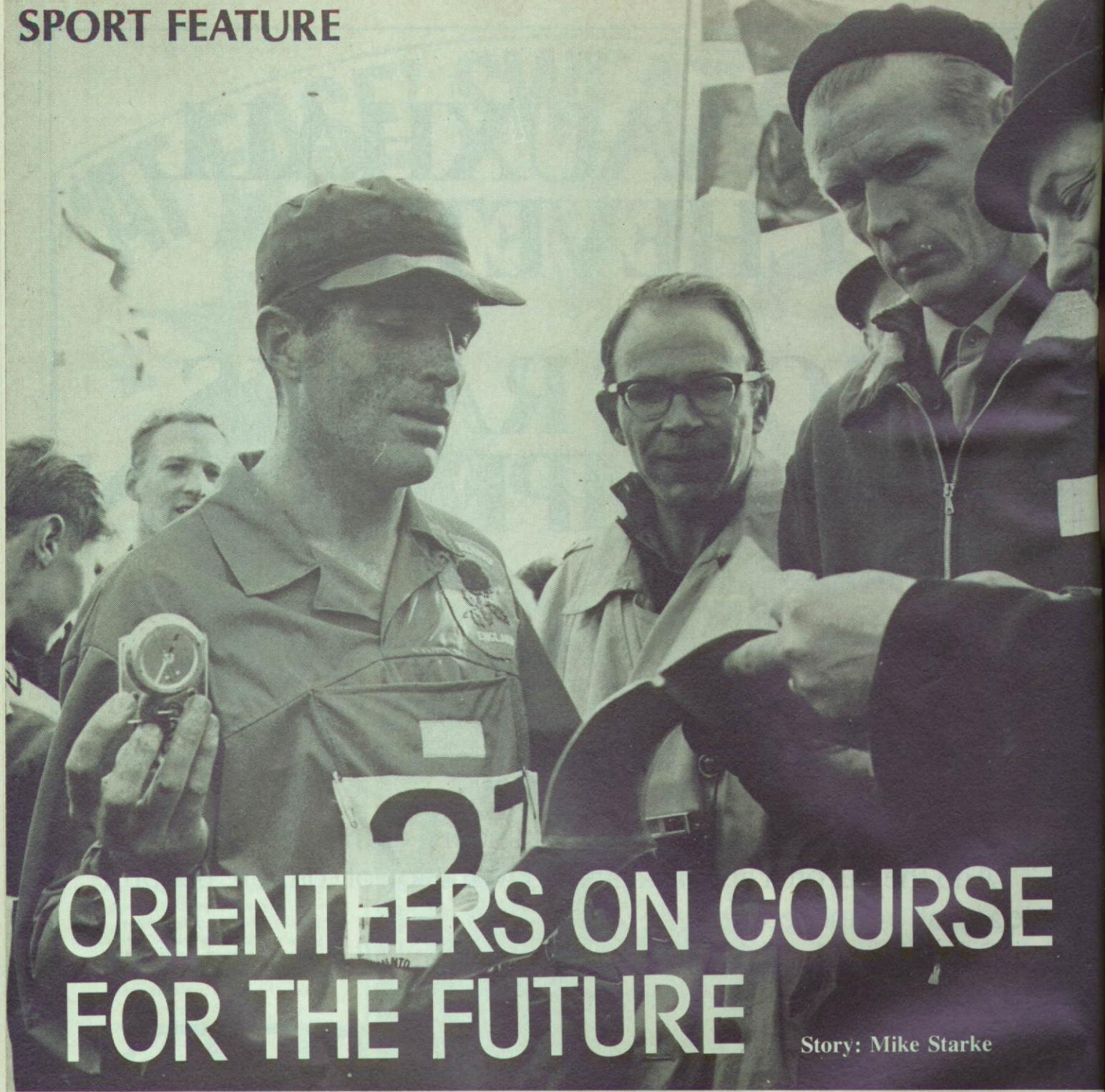
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21 ORIENTEERS ON COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

Story: Mike Starke

FROM TENTATIVE beginnings twenty years ago, orienteering in the British Army has progressed to such an extent that its exponents were recently asked to organise and manage a major national championship.

Combining the physical fitness needed to cover rugged cross-country courses and the mental agility to map-read and navigate accurately at speed, this Scandinavian sport has proved ideal as both training and recreation in the Army.

It is thought that the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards were the first to have a go at orienteering when they 'borrowed' the sport while serving in Germany in 1959. The value of orienteering to soldiers quickly caught on and soon Reservists of the then 51st (Highland) Division and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, took up the challenge.

In the late sixties, SOLDIER campaigned on behalf of orienteering (SOLDIER December 1966) and was instrumental in getting it established as a recognised training

activity as well as a sport for the Army.

On the sporting side, corps and regiments formed their own orienteering clubs and interest steadily grew into the seventies with orienteers spread far and wide — if thinly — throughout the Army. At this stage a breakaway faction lobbied for orienteering to be linked with shooting as a biathlon event for the Army but the purists — the devotees of orienteering for its own sake — won the day.

In 1976, Major Alan Meekings, now a member of the national squad, instigated the co-ordination of Army sport orienteers into the British Army Orienteering Club. This now runs alongside the corps and regimental clubs and is the body which staged the first-ever British night orienteering championships at Mytchett in Surrey this winter.

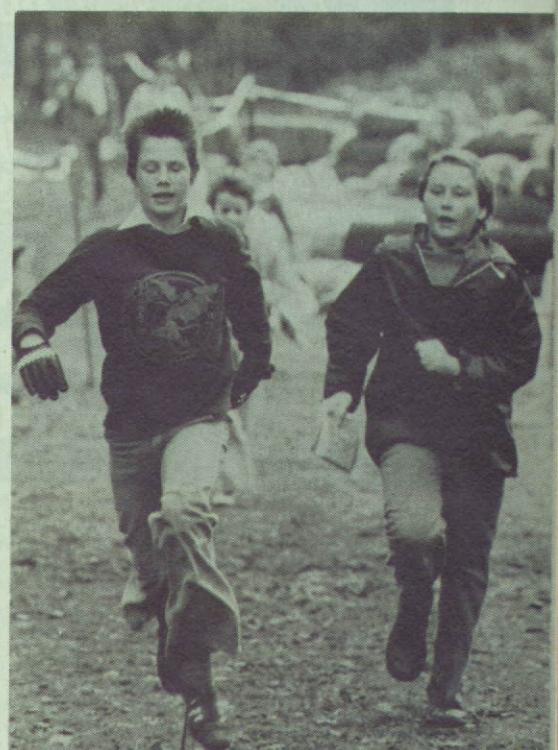
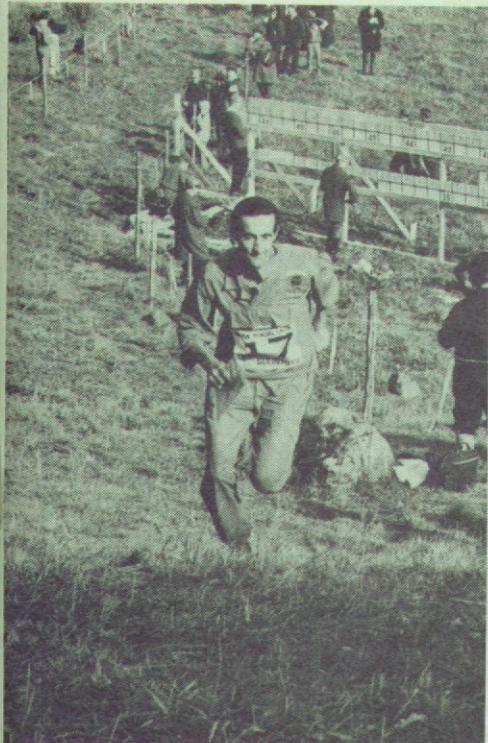
A good deal of success of this major event was due to the meticulous specialist mapping of the whole training area in this part of the country by Quartermaster — Sergeant Instructor Hugh Drummond and Major

Mike Roach — two more dedicated followers of the sport.

The BAOC — whose president is ex-international runner Chris Brasher, a keen orienteer from the start — has a membership of some 200 and operates both in Rhine Army and the United Kingdom with secretaries in both theatres. The club is open to families as well as soldiers, emphasising the unique spirit of orienteering which is often treated as a family affair with mum, dad and the kids all taking part.

Last year an orienteering league (South Central Training League) was set up as an Army training activity, taking place regularly on Wednesdays. Although not a BAOC responsibility, it naturally fell to the club's leading lights to be the organisers. So the two aspects of orienteering in the Army run parallel at present.

Civilian sceptics soon had their fears dispelled as the young Army club took its place among the nation's orienteering clubs. As organisers of the Southern championships in



April 1978, the Army club showed it could not only cope with the problems on the course but those off it too — it is no mean feat to provide adequate facilities, including communications and car parks, for a field of hundreds and their supporters. At the later night orienteering championships no fewer than 400 competitors were scheduled to take part.

The Army has gained respect by its par-

ticipation too. Alan Meekings and Second-Lieutenant Chris Hirst are both in the national squad at the moment and Army orienteers have shone following the acid test of competing recently on the sport's 'home ground' in Sweden.

This was not the first time a British team had been invited to take part in the Swedish Army championships but this year a jubilant Mike Roach was able to report in 'The Navigator' — BAOC's own printed newsletter — 'We took fifth place in the individual race and won the relay in which we had been entered.'

All credit went to Meekings and Hirst plus Sergeant Mick Stocks from the United Kingdom as well as Captain Dick Hoyle, Second-Lieutenant Tony Potter and Sergeant Graham Wilding from Rhine Army, who made up the team representing the Army.

Those connected with the sport in the

Top left: Gordon Pirie at the 1966 Finland world championships — the Army was there too. **Top right:** Off into the gloom go competitors in the 1978 British night championships. **Bottom left:** Organisers (left to right) Bob Ord, QMSI Hugh Drummond and Sgt Tim Sands. **Bottom right:** Orienteering attracts people of all age groups.

Left: Chris Brasher (in glasses) pictured in Finland in 1966. He is now BAOC president.

Army speak enthusiastically of the 'mushrooming' of orienteering in recent times. The UK secretary of BAOC, Major Robert Hart, said: "It's really taken off in the last few years. I think it's a lot of fun without needing too much organisation and training to take part at some level or other. This is why commanding officers find it useful in training." The counter argument, detractors say, is that orienteering is for those who aren't good at anything else. But this argument is effectively demolished by the overwhelming list of international athletes who have taken to the sport.

In 1966, *SOLDIER* commented prophetically: 'It will be perhaps ten years before the United Kingdom can hope to challenge at international level.' This has now become reality — with Army orienteers well to the fore in the race for international honours in this intriguing combination of physical and mental skills.



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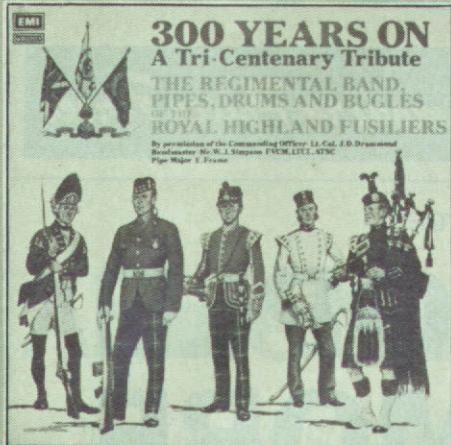
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ON RECORD

'300 Years On: A Tri-Centenary Tribute' (The Regimental Band, Pipes, Drums and Bugles of The Royal Highland Fusiliers) (Bandmaster: Mr W J Simpson) (Pipe-Major: E Frame) (EMI Waverley SZLP 2156)

The Royal Scots Fusiliers were raised in 1678 and amalgamated with The Highland Light Infantry in 1959 to form the present regiment.

For a tercentennial celebration I find the choice of music odd in that all regimental stops were not pulled out, with every scrap of regimental music made available for all fusiliers and posterity. As it is, the bandmaster has supplied a fanfare 'Highland Fusilier' and a march 'The Two Maroons,' and with the pipe-major a pipes and band tune called 'Three Hundred Years On.' Two of Leroy Anderson's more somnolent efforts, 'Trumpeter's Lullaby' and 'Forgotten Dreams,' hardly set the Clyde alight, and Percy Grainger's great 'Irish Tune From County Derry' (his setting of Londonderry Air) is given a painfully lethargic performance.



The rest of the programme is much more in keeping with the celebratory mood, with the pipe band giving two selections of tunes and the pipe-major two solos with the military band — '74th Farewell' and 'Rhu Vaternish.' The old march 'San Lorenzo' is rearranged to accommodate the pipes and bugles to rousing effect, and 'Burns on the March' is always topical, especially as I write on a snow-bound and bleary New Year's Day. Sidney Torch's 'Evening Hymn (The Day Thou Gavest) and Last Post' and 'Scotland the Brave' round things off in well-tried and tested manner, the whole just missing the target by a wha'hae or two.

Pipe music: Gallowa' Hills; Golden Wreath; Corkhill; Waters of Kylesku; Dalnahassraig; Captain Horne; Pigeon on the Gate; Miss Girdle; Dream Valley of Glenaruel.

'In Concert' (The Band of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers) (Conductor: Bandmaster P Renn) (Music Masters 0535)

No need here to mention the origins of the regiment, which are clearly implied in its title, and this disc misses no targets in a programme designed merely to divert. Even so the regimental slow and quick marches are included.

In spite of some loss of definition in a somewhat swimmy acoustic the band achieves some pleasant sounds. Nevertheless the title of one item has always mystified me, appearing as it does on so

many records these days. 'New Sounds of the Carpenters,' I mean — pleasant perhaps, but I detect nothing new here. For new sounds we have to go to 'Star Wars' where the band produces some of what I take to be the original sound-track effects, with gratifying results.

Mr Renn provides the opening fanfare, 'Colonel of the Regiment,' on cavalry trumpets of course, and follows it with a spirited rendering of the march from 'Things to Come.'

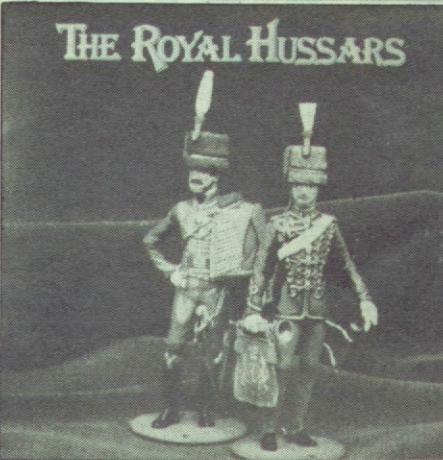
The trombone section has a day out with the



classic 'Lassus Trombone' and the trumpets with 'Trumpeters' Holiday' and Carpenter's 'Trumpet Prelude.' The more substantial items are Alan Street's attractive suite called 'Nott'nnum Town' and two medleys of American tunes, Clare Grundman's on Civil War songs, 'The Blue and the Gray,' and P B Smith's on the four official marches of the US Navy, Marines, Army and Air Force, with an evocative setting of 'Taps' thrown in for contrast.

And contrast is the watchword at this point, for immediately after these flashy tunes we hear the regimental marches. I must confess, at the risk of offending my American friends, that with the latter I see soldiers marching and, with the former, Fred Astaire et al prancing their way down that grand MGM staircase. Dear Sousa, you have a lot to answer for.

RB



'The Regimental Band of The Royal Hussars' (Conductor: Bandmaster A R Jeffs) (Private recording RH 002)

Unlike the Lancers' record reviewed above, the Hussars suffer from a too-tight acoustic, resembling one of those old 78s of former days. And quite pleasant I found it after a few minutes, as a change from all those multi-tracked monstrosities. Just like old times.

And how well it suits Mr Jeffs' programme which, apart from a few moments in two of the items, is what some of our readers would call the good old-fashioned band programme they so crave for. Here it is, very well played, and only £3.25 inclusive from PRI, Athlone Barracks,

BFPO 16; worth it for a masterpiece of a sleeve alone.

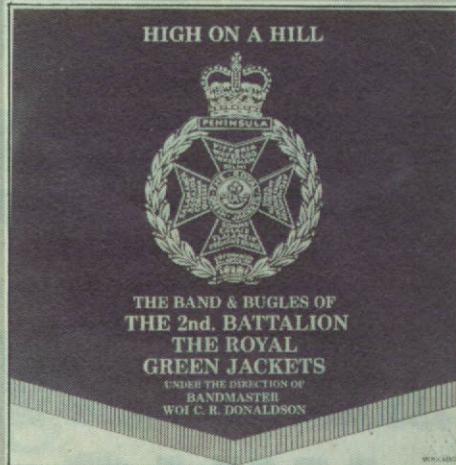
I most admired the no-nonsense style of the conductor, with brilliantly chosen tempi and straightforward but effective performances by the band. Although the Flash Harrys of our trade are a welcome sign of the times it is good to go back a few decades occasionally and hear what, for want of a better term, we might call a regimental band.

Having said that much, I will not spoil it by even mentioning Mr Jeffs' own 'Jubilee Fanfare' (why no cavalry trumpets?) and move on to the 'Luftwaffe March' and the 'Grenadiers Waltz,' which gain much from said style and choice of tempo, as do all the marches including 'Wien Bleibt Wien,' 'The Staffordshire Knot,' 'Army of the Nile' and regimental slow and quick marches — 'Coburg' and 'The Merry Month of May.'

'New Baroque Suite' sounds suspicious but is in fact a clever pastiche in Bach's style by an even more suspicious-sounding composer — one Hugens. The 'Post Horn Galop' (if you wants yer traditionals you 'as to 'ave yer Post 'Orn Gallup), two pleasantly modern pieces in 'Black Magic Woman,' the theme from '2001' (Also Sprach Zarathustra) and 'Regimental Hymn and Cavalry Last Post' fill the remainder of the disc.

For its sins the regimental band still plays two hymn tunes twice a week on the barrack square and it is one of these that the bandmaster has masochistically used as an effective and affecting accompaniment to Last Post.

RB



'High on a Hill' (The Band and Bugles of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets) (Conductor: Bandmaster C R Donaldson) (Music Masters 0531)

In view of my remarks above I suppose this must be a Flash Harry record! But it gives me great pleasure to report that this particular band is in the same form as it was nearly half a century ago, when I joined it as a frightened bandboy, even if its programmes are 'different.'

The bandmaster then was a martinet who would conduct nothing lighter than a Wagner overture or tortuous tone-poem, even at the seaside, and sat for three or four minutes between items glaring at the audience, daring them to show restiveness. David McBain by name, and it was he who composed the opening march 'Sergeant-at-Arms,' a bugle-march of course, at the first performance of which, in the presence of its dedicatee, I well remember making a mess of the fourth-horn part.

Forgive the reminiscences, but there is little to say about the music except that it is well played and uses the regiment's traditionally fine buglers in two other marches — Mancini's 'Swing March' and the 'Clochmerle' tune — and unexpectedly in the title piece 'High on a Hill.' On the (much) lighter side are 'Tijuana Holiday,' 'Elizabethan Tapestry,' 'Latin Lullaby,' 'Eldorado,' and another work by the suspicious Ted Huggins mentioned above, 'Chorale and Rock Out,' also in quasi-baroque style.

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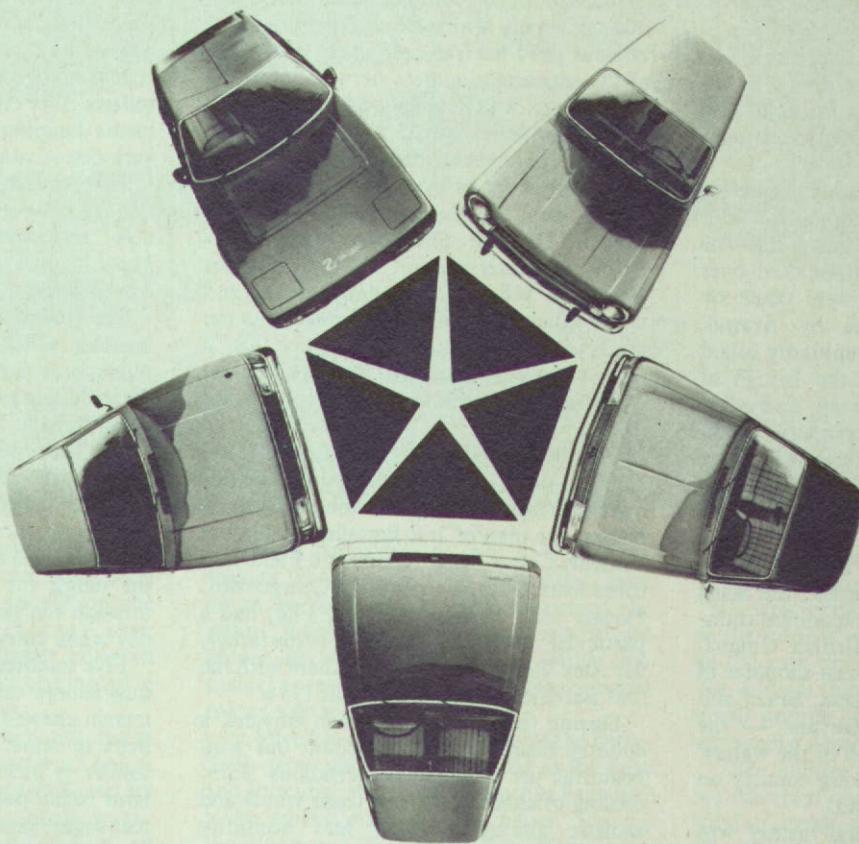
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From D Company, 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, based at Catterick, the Scots carried out their jungle and expedition training in Guyana (formerly British Guiana) which perches on the north-east shoulder of South America with Venezuela, Brazil and Surinam for neighbours. Guyana — the name is Amerindian for 'land of the waters' — is the only English-speaking country on the South American mainland.

The moment of regimental history was the laying of a bronze plaque commemorating a daredevil double swim by a former Black Watch National Service private 23 years ago across the Potaro River near the lip of the raging 741-foot-high Kaieteur Fall (it is 464 feet wide at this point), the world's largest single-drop waterfall, which boasts a height nearly five times that of Niagara. 'The most dangerous swim,' as it is recorded

in the Guinness Book of Records, was by Robert Howat, a private serving in 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch, then stationed in British Guiana.

The Amerindian, who still uses the rivers as roads in his 30-foot-long, silver bali wood, dug-out canoe, is an expert of the rain forest and has plied his frail craft along every inch of the seemingly endless network of rivers and creeks which criss-cross the 80,000-plus-square-miles of Guyana's sprawling jungle and grassland interiors.

Hosting the month-long stay by the Black Watch was the Jaguar Battalion of the Guyana Defence Force — the People's Army — which was set up in November 1965, the year before independence, and which officially has a 'function related to the needs of the country.' The force has a women's corps, a marine wing and an air arm and prides itself on being 'fit, hard and mobile.'

The 'Jocks' were billeted in the same barrack block, a two-storey wooden building capped by a corrugated iron roof, which housed the men of 2nd Battalion in 1955 at Timehri Camp (then Atkinson's Field), 26 miles from Guyana's capital of Georgetown. Private 'Eck' Welsh of Leven, Fife, had a particular interest in the camp — his father, Mr Alex Welsh, was stationed there with the 2nd Battalion for six months in 1954.

During their first ten days in Guyana, a country nearly as big as Britain but with beautiful yet climatically perfidious skies, cooling offshore north-east trade winds and sadistic alternating heat and humidity inland, the Scots soon busied themselves in familiarisation with weapons in use with the Guyana Defence Force, jungle tactics and watermanship, coupled with all-important basic survival.

Open-air classrooms in jungle clearings were perfect settings as the local force's fieldcraft instructors told the young Scots of the many cardinal rules for self-sufficiency

and survival in the country's primeval forest. The dangers lurking within it include six main types of poisonous snakes — the bushmaster, fast and striking without provocation; the parrot snake, hanging languidly from branches and lunging at passing heads; the coral snake, fortunately lethargic and striking only when provoked; the rattlesnake; the inquisitive water snake which follows river craft and will happily strike at hands dangling in the tempting waters; and varieties of venomous laboria snake.

The Amerindians, who start tracking at the age of seven, swear by the simple antidote for snake bite. Find an earthworm. Mash it up in a glass of water. Drink it. It works without fail, they claim.

The 'Jocks' also learned about other 'wee beasties, which prey on the unwary — scorpions, bees, inch-long ants, unpleasant spiders including the hirsute tarantula, and even vampire bats.

On the credit side, the visitors were taught that the capadilla vine makes an excellent beverage, and that herbs such as lucas bark, sarsaparilla, monkey ladder and granny's backbone can ensure survival in the jungle for the soldier forging his way through the undergrowth at 3000 metres a day while carrying rifle and equipment.

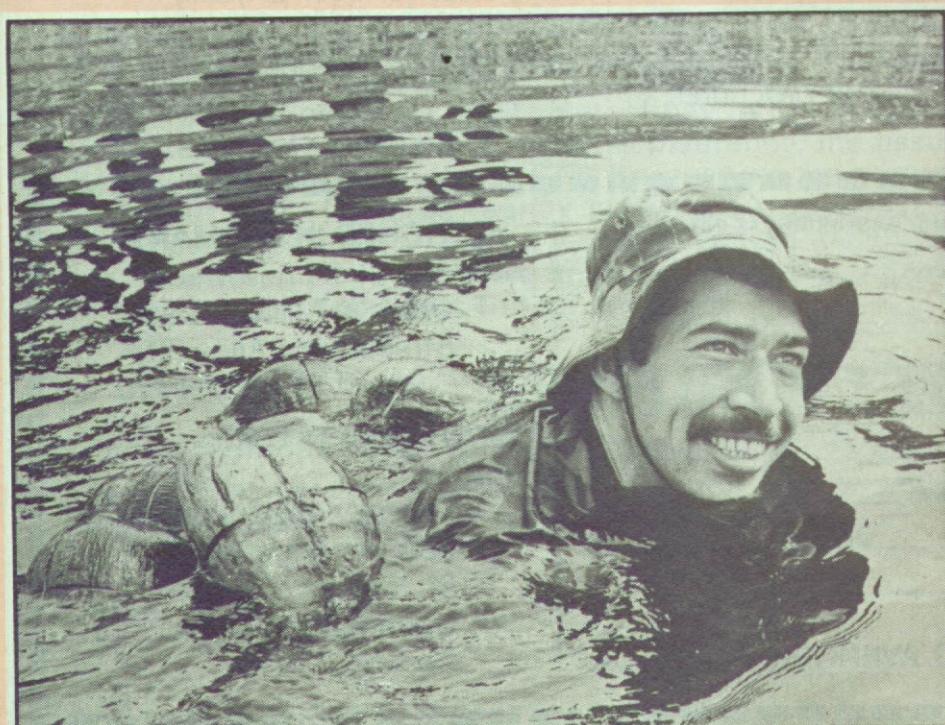
Five hundred years ago, the Spanish conquistadores campaigning in similar jungle terrain chewed snake skins and even sword belts to stave off hunger. Today's British soldier is luckier. The 'Jocks' carried 24-hour ration packs of soups, oatmeal blocks, tea, sugar, sausages and beans, beef spread, bacon grills, steak and kidney puddings, spaghetti and tomato juice, baconburgers, chocolate and, for moments of quiet contemplation, even chewing gum.

The young 'Jocks' quickly learned how cruel the jungle can be to the uninitiated. On the move, foliage thrashed their faces. Slender vines tripped and teased as they entwined themselves round ankles. Acid from trees dripped on to up-turned faces. Dead leaves and other debris disturbed from the canopy above dodged the protective bush hats to fall irritatingly down the backs of shirt necks.

Luckily, cuts and other abrasions were few. The Amerindian remedy for cuts has long been adopted by the Guyana Defence Force's jungle fighters — plug the wound with a spider's web!

Three at a time, the 'Jocks' were taught how to make, in only 60 seconds, an improvised stretcher from their 'poncho' rain capes, robust vines and four pieces of timber or cane hacked by machete from nearby forest. Crossing the creek without a boat was demonstrated as each man dog-paddled his way across, buoyed up at the waist by eight empty aluminium or plastic water bottles. Another variation of the same system used four football-sized dry-water coconuts.

Empty plastic or steel five-gallon jerricans were also used as improvised flotation gear and two-layer bamboo rafts were built to carry the kit of four men. 'Jocks' were literally cruising down the river, side-by-side, on such packs with the minimum visible signs of activity in the water. Some of





these novices were even non-swimmers.

Still on the water, the Scots were soon effortlessly practising river patrols on the mile-wide Demerara River near Georgetown, using 36-foot boats powered by 48 horsepower engines and carrying up to eight men and their equipment.

One week of the stay was spent training at the isolated, no-trimmings battle school at Takama, in the heart of the savannah and six miles along a bone-jolting unmade track. Some 70 of the Scots arrived aboard an offshore patrol boat after an eight-hour trip 85 miles up river. Fifty less fortunate 'Jocks' took two hours longer to arrive by trawler along the same meandering river route.

At the battle school the 'Jocks' were split into four platoons and moved out three to ten miles to set up jungle bases. Meanwhile, a five-man training team had been detached to Montserrat, in the Leeward Islands, to teach basic infantry skills to a senior non-commissioned officers cadre drawn from the defence forces of Antigua, Dominica, St Kitts, Nevis and Barbados.

During the third phase of the exchange programme, the Black Watch set out on expeditions up country, led by Amerindian guides. One part went to the remains of the original Dutch settlement on islands at the mouth of the 400-mile-long Essequibo River, then along jungle trails to the Amerindian settlement of St Francis and by boat north up the Mahaicony River.

The most spectacular scenic expedition was the five-day 200-mile-trek to the moody and magnificent Kaieteur Fall where Major Edward de Broë-Ferguson, commanding D Company, affixed the bronze plaque marking Private Howat's two-way swim in April 1955.

Also at the ceremony was a 42-year-old woman who, as one of 18 high school girls on an overland trek in 1955, witnessed the swim. "I thought I was going to see Private Howat go over the top of the brink and rushed to see his body go over. His eventual rescue was touch-and-go."

Involved in ceremonial too were the battalion's pipes and drums. Because of the heat and humidity the pipes' sheepskin bags had to be moistened daily with water. Among the pipers was 36-year-old Pipe-Major Alan Dippie who was the soloist on the record 'Scotch on the Rocks,' which reached number seven in the pop charts.

The exchange programme was rounded off when the Black Watch took on the best of the Guyana Defence Force in a four-day exercise incorporating lessons learned during the visit.

Major de Broë-Ferguson, who has served in Malaya, said of the exchange programme: "We were grateful to get the chance to train in the tropical rain forest. It is only by living in the rain forest that we are able to make the soldiers think for themselves, operate in small groups and look after themselves in extremely unpleasant conditions.

"We believe it is character-building and we can train our junior commanders in this kind of terrain and benefit from the training though using different tactics back home."

Another view of jungle survival was expressed, tongue-in-cheek, by an instructor: "Jungle survival? It's really a more severe version of the Boy Scouts."

Story by Graham Smith, pictures by Mike Abraham, Army Public Relations, HQ United Kingdom Land Forces.



Left: 'Oh, what a lovely bunch of coconuts' — especially when they're used as an improvised lifejacket! Top: A river patrol carves through tropical waters on exercise. Right: A lone piper plays at the spectacular Kaieteur Fall.

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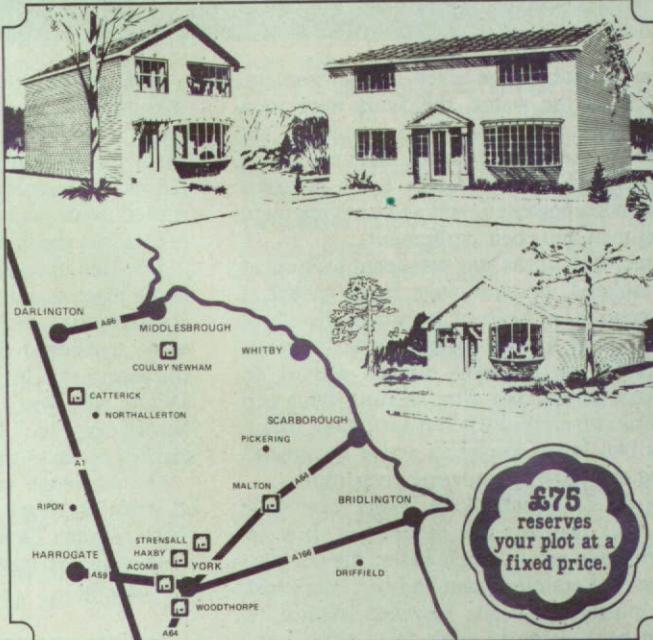
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LETTERS



EGGING READING
BERKS
6 - PM
9 JAN 63



SOLDIER welcomes readers' letters. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor. Anonymous letters are not published.

SOLDIER cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit. Serving readers should not ask for information available within their units.

'Determined kids'

I was very impressed by the sincere tribute recently paid in his column by Mr Robert Glenton, the Sunday Express motoring correspondent, to today's Army. My immediate thought was that this should be read by the young soldiers of today and the old soldiers of yesterday. So I phoned Mr Glenton and obtained his permission for his article to be reproduced in **SOLDIER**. — Harry B Brand, Production Director, Wheeler Green Ltd, 5-25 Scrutton Street, London, EC2A 4HJ.

Mr Glenton had this to say as introduction to his car review of 26 January: 'I was parked near the back door of Windsor Castle when the Army ambulances went by on Monday morning. Off to the strange confusion of the City and Heaven knows what stomach-turning duty. They were driven by determined kids.'

For that is what so many of them looked like.

Kids who risk their lives fighting fires with ramshackle tackle when the proper equipment is strikebound. Kids who shield London Airport when terrorists are feared.

Kids who have humped frozen sides of beef and cargoes when the dockers have refused.

Kids off last Monday morning to meet emergency, heart attacks and bloody injury for, perhaps, the first time. The same kids who will soon be back to Ulster and the gunners.

You may have thought that in the last week there has been little in Britain for which to give thanks.

But if you had been in Windsor when that convoy went by, you would have raised your ice-frosted, furry hat in pride.'

Naafi

Major S C Doble, writing on Naafi (Letters, February), raises some important questions.

First, the matter of rebate. Naafi returns all its profits to the three Services in one form or another. For the last financial year this meant nearly £9,000,000 being paid out as rebate and discount, £500,000 allotted to the three Services as extra

rebate (almost half going to the Army Central Fund) and £1,000,000 set aside for future rebate.

Major Doble seems to be making the point that all the items which are currently provided out of rebate and extra rebate should in future be paid for out of the defence budget. That day may eventually come but, until it does, I suggest that Naafi rebate will continue to make a significant and necessary contribution to Services' welfare. Certainly the majority of commanding officers (according to a recent Ministry of Defence survey) took this view and I am sure the trustees of the Army Central Fund feel the same.

Major Doble's views on the benefits of 'an efficient and self-supporting Naafi, in genuine competition with other firms' also calls for comment. Naafi operates on co-operative principles and provides a service where there is a welfare need, irrespective of profitability. At the last count, 138 of its shops and clubs in the United Kingdom were meeting the needs of such small numbers of servicemen or families that they had no chance of making a profit. To be self-supporting in the way Major Doble suggests would mean closure of these establishments and the end of other welfare services.

Despite these handicaps, Naafi runs a corner shop business on a supermarket price structure; surely that is efficient and competitive enough for anyone? — R Walker, Chief Public Relations Officer, Naafi, Edinburgh House, London SE11.

'Welshness'

I have been interested in the letters bearing upon the Welshness of the 24th Regiment of Foot during the Kaffir/Zulu campaigns of 1877-79. It is true that although the regiment did not become The South Wales Borderers until 1881, the depot had been at Brecon since 1873 and inevitably there was a higher proportion of Welshmen in the ranks than in most British regiments. Nevertheless, probably only 15 per cent of the men serving with the 1st and 2nd battalions at Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift were born in Wales.

In the course of concentrated research into military records at the Public Records Office of the men who fought at both actions, I traced the discharge papers of 60 soldiers of the 24th who were present at the defence of Rorke's Drift. These show that 36 were English, 13 Irish and nine Welsh, one was a Scot and another was born in India. The pap-

ers of the other 24th defenders have not survived.

Since the papers of deceased soldiers have not been preserved, the birthplaces of those killed at Isandhlwana generally cannot be determined, but it is reasonable to assume that the proportions of the different nationalities would not alter significantly if these details were available.

Incidentally, surnames are no reliable guide to birthplaces of the men at Rorke's Drift — William Jones VC came from Evesham, William H Davis was a Londoner and John Thomas a Liverpudlian. — Gordon Everson, 111 Station Road, West Horndon, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3NB.

'Back-and-sides'

I have read with great interest the many letters on haircuts. As a serving senior non-commissioned officer, I feel that I am a better judge of Army haircuts than any old soldier, no matter how experienced.

Today's soldier is more intelligent, literate and self-reliant than his counterpart of 20 or 30 years ago. He does not want to look like a refugee from Belsen nor does he wish to look like an out-of-work scarecrow. All he wants is to be able to walk down the street without being exposed to ridicule, or worse, by long-haired youths to whom the idea of self-discipline is abhorrent.

I notice that the only people in favour of a short-haired Army are those who did their stint a long time ago and for whom there is no possibility of further service. Ensconced comfortably in their favourite armchairs, they do not realise or will not accept that today's Army is a volunteer Army of dedicated, hard-working young men to whom the Army is an attractive career. To enlist and keep young men of the right calibre, the Army has to move with the times, not stagnate, as many of your correspondents seem to desire.

In my opinion, to go back to the 'pudding basin' type of haircut would be a retrograde step. The standard of haircuts throughout the Army today is such as to ensure that a soldier still looks smart at all times but enables him to mix freely with his civilian counterparts. — Sgt M Ashworth, Sgt's Mess, 7 Sig Regt, BFPO 15.

As one of a bygone age may I recall my experiences of short 'back-and-sides.' I enlisted in the early thirties and on joining my training squad at the Woolwich depot we were immediately marched to the barber's. He asked a question, put the sheet round, asked just two more questions and your hair was cut, right to the bone and with horse clippers. His fee was fourpence. Next day was kit issue and the first things thrown at you were hair brush and comb! We were marched to the barber's every week on the dot — twice a week if you fell foul of the drill sergeant.

I agree with Mr B G Butcher — a bit nearer the scissors would give you a trimmer appearance, lads. But God forbid that you go back to our style. You do a great job — wish I was only young enough to be one of you. — R

Littlewood, 90 Mansfield Road, Blackpool, FY3 6HZ.

Mapmaker

It was good to know of the centenary exhibition in Cyprus (News, February) of Lord Kitchener's work on mapping the island, a task which took him five years. During this time, the young lieutenant made many friends on the island and the result of his work is treasured to this day, though not easily obtainable in print.

Lord Kitchener used standard topographic techniques for his map of Cyprus to the scale of 1:31,680, and until 1942 it served as the most accurate map of the island. By 1936 the British Army saw the need for improvement and started vertical aerial photography which was imposed to cylindric projection to produce a map to the scale 1:50,000. This work was completed none too soon and maps were issued to the Army and Royal Navy by 1942. Scout troops were also allowed copies for their particular localities but otherwise the use of this map remained restricted until Cyprus became a republic.

In 1940, Hitler threatened the Cypriots with an air invasion by women paratroops. This set the Cypriots feverishly ironing baggy trousers and sharpening knives while the Royal Engineers had once again to use Kitchener's map to locate suitable hideouts for ammunition and explosive dumps to be used by a Cyprus resistance force officered by British Army Regulars.

After the fall of Crete and the disastrous effect this had on German airborne troops, it became obvious that an air invasion of Cyprus would not happen and the dumps were never used, though some Cypriots might have said later that they were not completely wasted.

Many a British soldier will be remembered in Cyprus with love and affection, but none so much as Herbert Horatio Kitchener. — L E Nicolaides (ex-British Army), 63 Rowstock Gardens, Camden Road, London, N7 0BH.

Reunions

Fiddlers Club. Eighth annual reunion, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Fri/Sat 10-11 Aug. All pre-1939 RA trumpeters invited. Details: Maj (Retd) J J Dobbs, Easter Ross House, Minley Road, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire.

The Royal Hussars. Annual reunion, Barker's Penthouse Restaurant, Kensington, 7.15pm Sat 5 May. Tickets from Home Headquarters, The Royal Hussars, Lower Barracks, Winchester, Hampshire.

Armourers and Artificers Weapon. Silver Jubilee reunion of Armourers Dinner Club, 1830 hrs, Sat 19 May, Victory Services Club (Carisbrooke Hall), 63-79 Seymour Street, London. Details from secretary, R J Manning, 4 North Bank Close, Strood, Kent, or c/o Weapons Branch REME, Ha Ha Road, Woolwich, SE18 4QE.

The Queen's Own Hussars. Reunion dinner, Sat 5 May, The Empire Rooms, 161 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 9LJ. Dress optional. Tickets £4.00 from Maj J S Sutherland.

continued over

land (Retd), Home Headquarters, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EW.

32 Regiment, Royal Artillery. Sergeants' Mess reunion, 6-7 Oct, Bulford Camp. Ex-mess members and their ladies most welcome. Further details from BSM D A Dufall, Sgt's Mess, 32 Regt RA, Wing Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire.

Competition

Only two competitors came up with the right answers for the November 'Double Bill' Competition 244. The first teaser, by simple substitution of letters for figures, produced the words mock, gases, magic, smoke, camise, images, miasma, mcock and misease, of which the two closest in meaning to each other were smoke and gases. The word square produced sator, arepo, tenet, opera and rotas, with sator the required answer. First and second prizes have been awarded jointly to Maurice and Patricia Dight, 55 Corbett Road, Hollywood, Birmingham.

How observant are you?

(see page 6)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Seats of boat on far shore. 2 Legs of seventh rower in leading boat. 3 Name on following launch. 4 Ripple below cox of leading boat. 5 Twigs above bird on tree. 6 Left car of nearest boat. 7 Right boot of left soldier in foreground. 8 Right arm of right soldier in foreground. 9 Chimney of tea room. 10 Serrations on window awning of tea room.

RORKE'S DRIFT

Two philatelic covers have been issued to commemorate the centenary of Rorke's Drift (see pages 4-8, this issue). The covers depict the battle and a Victoria Cross with the names of the officer and six men of the 24th Regiment of Foot who won the award.

Unsigned covers are available at 50 pence a cover. Signed covers (set of two), signed by Major D de G Bromhead, a descendant of Lieutenant G Bromhead VC and a serving member of the Royal Regiment of Wales (an amalgamation of The Welch Regiment and The South Wales Borderers, former 24th), cost £1.50.

Orders to Major A J Martin, Stamp Officer, 1 RRW, Normandy Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Collectors' Corner

W G Fleckney, 24 Buckland Path, Buckland, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO2 7DB. — Wishes to hear from fellow collectors interested in uniforms of mounted regts between world wars, also private company uniforms, police and RAF. Seeks uniforms or photographs; buy or exchange.

R A Rayner, 79 Ashleigh Close, Tamerton Foliot, Plymouth, Devon, PL5 4NZ. — Seeks belt buckle 17/21 Lancers.

Rod MacNeil, 6/33 Gladstone Street, Balmain, New South Wales, Australia 2041. — Seeks pre-1976 issues of Castle, Journal of R Anglian Regt, also other unit magazines dealing with service in Aden 1964-67 and Northern Ireland since 1969.

S A Gray, 14 Money Hill Road, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 2EQ. — Requires tie of 3rd East Anglian Regt (16/44 Foot) and of 28th Commonwealth Bde.

Marc Demoitié, 19/052 Quai Saint-Léonard, B-4000, Liège, Belgium. — Seeks British decorations (will exchange one for one for Belgian orders or medals), British Army or police cap badges (for Belgian Army badges), headdress British police (in exchange for headdress Belgian Army officers and NCOs). Particularly seeks all headdress, all insignia of police worldwide.

L A Mayor, 27 Riverside Gardens, Hammersmith, London, W6 9LF. — Seeks WWI trios to 1 LF at West Beach landing, Gallipoli, 25 April 1915; 1 R Dublin Fus, 2 Hampshires, landing from River Clyde; also any trios to Australian and New Zealand bns at Gallipoli. Buy or exchange for British medals.



Capt K Rhodes, Old Sandons, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 2EZ. — Anyone have WW2 cloth formation sign 10 Corps for sale or exchange?

Mike Bayne, 49 Mountbatten Square, Windsor, Berkshire. — Has for sale British ceremonial and mess dress uniforms 1900 to 1936; write for details. Wishes buy daggers Third Reich 1933-45.

A Fern, 182 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, TW12 1BG. — Wishes to buy Royal Malta Artillery plastic cap badge; possible exchange. Also seeks brass shoulder titles T/10/County of London and T/16/County of London.

Carlo Walter, PO Box 2824, 83 Landshut, West Germany. — Seeks South African, Rhodesian cap badges and shoulder flashes, also para wings and élite unit flashes worldwide, especially South Africa. Has German badges for exchange, or will pay reasonable prices.

Peter Woodage, 27 Bourne Road, Pangbourne, Reading, Berkshire, RG8 7JT. — Requires SOLDIER 1945-53, Sapper 1945-53; any items 79th Armd Div; any vehicle manuals US or British WW2.

K Scharley, RRI Carrying Place, Ontario KOK 1LD, Canada. — Seeks Waffen-SS tunic, camouflage smock; Rhodesian camo; any other camo; worldwide para uniforms, equipment, Arnhem memorabilia; German WW2 posters. Will buy or trade.

Larry King, Box 1118, Kemah, Texas 77565, USA. — Seeks Waterloo Medal to E M Sparks, Asst Comy, Fd Tn, Dept of the Ordnance, and would like to buy.

A F Clarke, 341 Muirfield Road, South Oxhey, Watford, WD1 6JZ. — Seeks LPs 1 HLI on Polydor, 5/6 HLI on Scotia, R Inniskilling Fus on Fontana, and Glosters. Write stating price; will pay postage.

A J Kelly, 26 Howard Road, Plymstock, Plymouth, PL9 7DT. — Wants to buy regimental magazines, Sprig of Shillelagh, of R Innis Fus.

D Pickles, 11 Erlesmere Avenue, Denton, Manchester, M34 3FD. — Seeks genuine WW2 printed pairs of Pegasus, 44th Indian Airborne patches and printed titles Airborne, Parachute Regiment, Glider Pilots Regiment with and without glider, also all Polish airborne.

D C Wallis, 10 Glenavie Park, Jordanstown, Newtonabbey, Co.

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SAE WITH ENQUIRIES PLEASE

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

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

MAY 1979

4 Newark Agricultural Show (4-5 May) (static displays).
 5 Burslem Show (5-7 May).
 10 Queen presents new Colours to 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Lancashire Regiment, Preston.
 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
 16 West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (16-17 May).
 19 Scout Show, Harlington (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team).
 19 Harpenden (Hertfordshire) Carnival (band).
 19 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo (Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, physical training team; two bands).
 19 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (19-20 May) (Red Devils; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training team; two bands).
 19 Brighton Festival Tattoo.
 20 Imperial War Museum Display, Duxford (RA motorcyclists; Red Caps).
 22 Pageant of the Horse, Doncaster (Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team).
 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
 23 Stafford Show (23-24 May) (RA motorcyclists).
 25 At Home, Royal Artillery, Woolwich (25-26 May) (RA motorcyclists).
 26 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (26-28 May).
 26 Hertfordshire Agricultural Show, Redbourn (26-27 May) (RA motorcyclists).
 26 Blackburn Army Tattoo (26-28 May).
 26 Cannon Hill Festival, Birmingham (26 May-2 June) (RA motorcyclists 29 May-1 June).
 26 Dudley Spring Festival.
 26 Mexborough (Yorkshire) Gala.
 26 Military Pageant, Winthorpe Showground, Newark, Nottinghamshire (26-27 May).
 27 Dodington Show (27-28 May) (Red Caps).
 27 Hertfordshire Show, St Albans (RA motorcyclists).
 28 Barnet Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
 28 Hove Lions Day.
 28 Open Day, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow.
 28 Derby County Show (band).
 28 Surrey County Show, Guildford.
 30 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
 30 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (30-31 May) (static displays).
 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) (Red Devils; band).
 2 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
 3 Ssafa Air Display, RAF Church Fenton.
 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 Livingston 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) (junior band).

9 Horley Carnival (Red Caps).

9 Nuneaton Carnival Gala (RA motorcyclists).
 10 Bromley Show (RA motorcyclists).
 10 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse.
 10 Glasgow Army Display (10-15 June).
 12 The Light Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (12-14 June).
 12 Three Counties Show, Malvern (12-14 June) (Red Caps).
 13 Kneller Hall band concert.
 15 Essex Show, Chelmsford (15-16 June) (static displays).
 16 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
 16 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.
 16 Fareham Show (Red Caps).
 16 AC Delco Sports and Social Club, Southampton (RA motorcyclists).
 17 Ford Sports and Social Club, Romford (RA motorcyclists).
 20 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (20-21 June) (Red Caps; two bands).
 20 Kneller Hall band concert.
 23 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
 23 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (23-24 June).
 23 Rotherham (Yorkshire) Tattoo (23-24 June).
 23 International Air Tattoo, Greenham Common (23-24 June) (RA motorcyclists).
 23 Ashford Extravaganza (23-24 June) (Red Caps).
 27 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
 27 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (27-28 June) (Red Devils; Pegasus; band).
 29 Hook (Yorkshire) Gala (29 June-1 July).
 30 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (Lincolnshire) (30 June-1 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus; band).
 30 Ssafa Aldershot Tattoo (30 June-1 July).

JULY 1979

2 Millennium celebrations, Isle of Man (2-3 July) (RA motorcyclists).
 4 Kneller Hall band concert.
 7 Birkenshaw (Yorkshire) Show.
 7 Open Day, Depot Queen's Division, Bassingbourn (Hertfordshire) (RA motorcyclists); (three bands; static displays).
 7 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Wootton (Northamptonshire) (JLRA PT; Light Infantry 'Flying Bugles' freefall team; RA motorcyclists; two bands).
 7 Town and Country Show, Stafford (7-8 July).
 8 Royal Tournament March, The Mall, London.
 8 Lymington Sports Club, Lymington (RA motorcyclists).
 10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (10-12 July).
 11 Kneller Hall band concert.
 11 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (11-28 July).
 12 The Rifle Depot band concert and Retreat, beating, Winchester (12-14 July).
 14 Corby (Northamptonshire) Tattoo and Highland Games (14-15 July) (static displays; two bands).
 14 Durham County Show, Middlesbrough.
 14 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
 14 Bristol Steam Rally (14-15 July).
 14 Basingstoke Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
 15 Dagenham Town Show (RA motorcyclists).
 17 East of England Show, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (17-19 July) (Red Devils; Royal Signals 'White Helmets' freefall display team; band).
 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.
 24 Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells (24-26 July) (RA motorcyclists).
 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) (Pegasus 28-29 July; Royal Green Jackets freefall display team 27 and 29 July).
 27 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop (27-28 July).
 28 Cleveland County Show, Middlesbrough.
 28 Worcester City Show (28-29 July).
 29 Open Day Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
 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 Leicester Army Display (2-4 August) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists; Junior Signallers display team; static displays; three bands).
 2 Plymouth Spotlight Spectacular (2-5 August).
 3 Hull Show (3-4 August).
 8 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
 8 Shrewsbury Show (8-11 August) (Flying Bugles 10-11 August; Red Caps 10-11 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).

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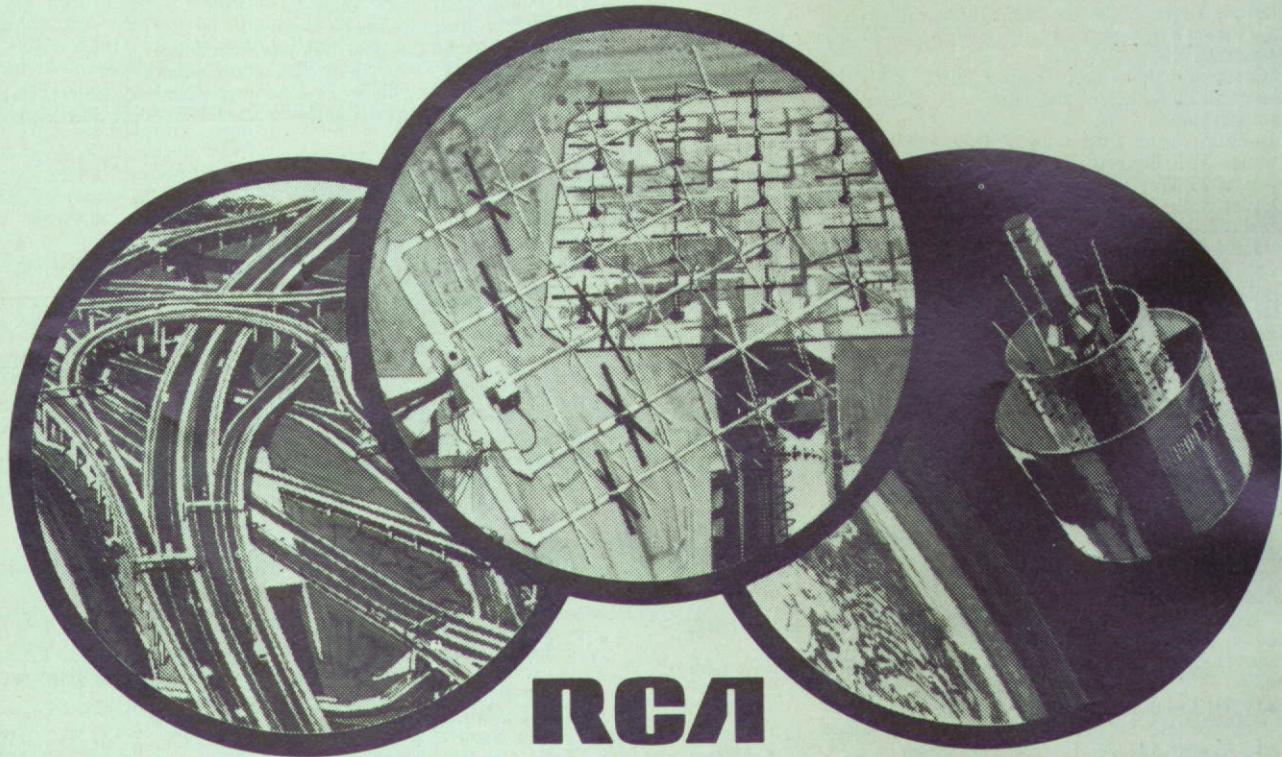
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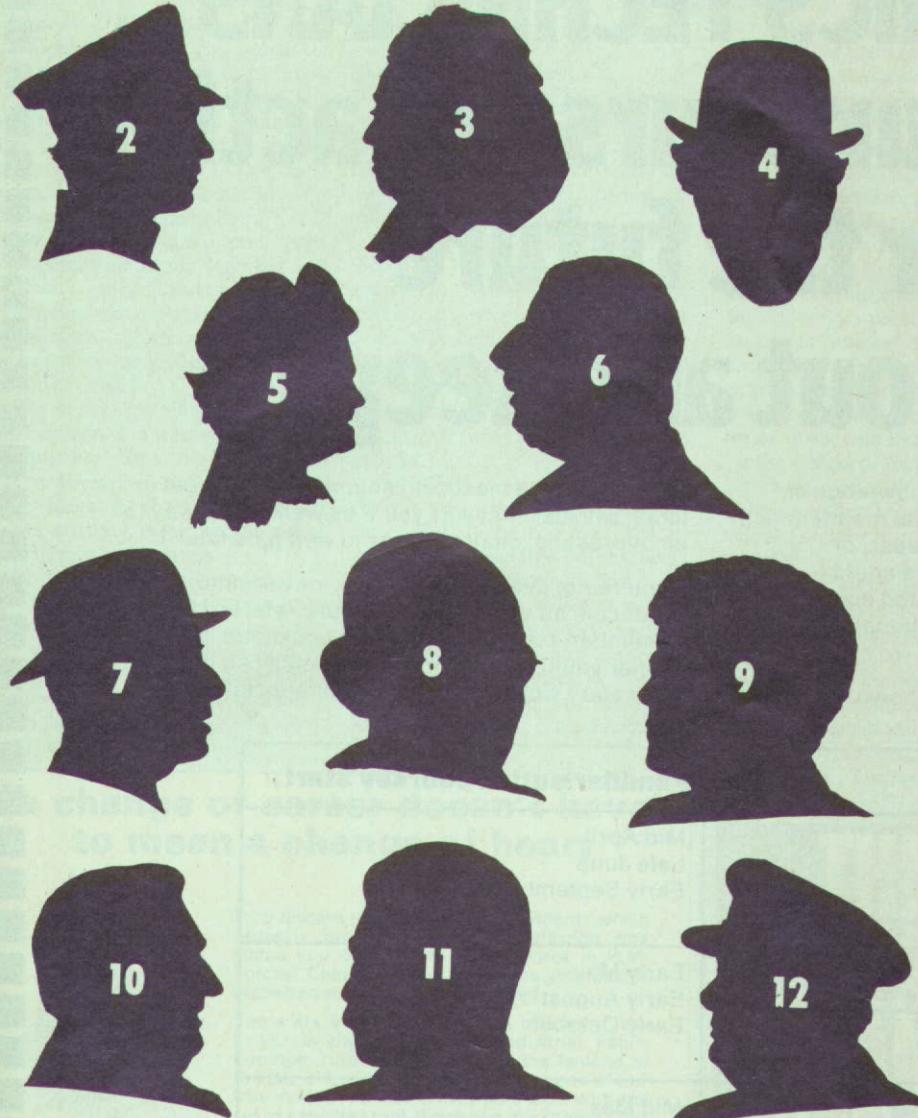
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This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 14 May. The answers and winners' names will appear in the July **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 248' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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Books

Vanguard

'Vanguard 1: British 7th Armoured Division 1940-45' (John Sandars)

'Vanguard 2: Panzer-Grenadier Division Grossdeutschland' (Bruce Quarrie)

The story of the 'Desert Rats' is one of almost continuous front-line service in Italy, the Desert, Normandy and Germany. It is fully, though economically, set down in this interesting 40-page booklet, the first of a new series from Osprey Press.

Tanks and armoured cars, guns and mortars are amply described and in many cases illustrated. Colour prints show the evolution of the divisional sign, vehicle signs and cap badges, dress camouflage and various points of detail.

The second in this series describing key units and weapon systems of World War Two deals with the Panzer-Grenadier Division 'Grossdeutschland,' an élite unit with many duties included providing the guard for Hitler's headquarters.

An introduction outlines the division's early history and subsequent sections tackle its activities on various battle fronts, notably in Russia. Uniforms and headgear, badges and insignia, equipment and weapons, tanks and vehicles are all discussed and analysed.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2 9LP JFP

Old Ireland

'Ethnic and Racial Studies'

The October issue of this quarterly magazine carries a study, by Arthur N. Gilbert of the University of Denver, headed 'Ethnicity and the British Army in Ireland during the American Revolution.'

The Irish were sympathetic to the American rebels and had their own grievances. Trouble seemed likely, particularly when the garrison was reduced to help fight the French. To keep order, the landowners formed their own units of volunteers, which came to outnumber the regular garrison several times and took a hand in politics.

Mr Gilbert shows, with tables, that the predominantly English Regular force of 1775 became by 1780 an army in which the Irish outnumbered the English by eight to five. The Government sought to keep a balance by importing more Scots, particularly officers, but senior command was always in the hands of Englishmen. Peace was kept in Ireland, but mainly by political compromise and conciliation.

Routledge & Kegan Paul, Broadway House, Newtown Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1EN, £3.00 RLE

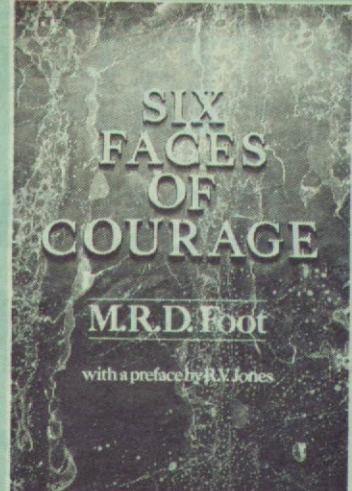
World forces

'The Military Balance, 1978-79' (International Institute for Strategic Studies)

Inevitably the balance between Nato and Warsaw Pact forces in Europe dominates the thoughts of British students of this carefully compiled inventory of facts (and occasional estimates) of the men and equipment available to the armed forces of the world. As the editors point out, it is an acutely difficult balance to measure, even though the calculations must omit such factors as training and general efficiency.

On the whole, numbers are much on the Warsaw Pact's side, particularly the often-quoted supremacy of three-to-one in main battle tanks. But the editors point out that Nato's forces are designed for defence and are of a size and quality to make aggression unattractive, as an attempt to breach them would need a major attack with incalculable results for the attacker. They also warn that Nato's emphasis on quality, especially in equipment and training, to offset numbers is now being matched.

Outside Europe, perhaps the most disturbing figures are those given for the overseas deployment of Cuban troops — 23-25,000 in Angola and 16-17,000 in Ethiopia, as well as advisers and technicians in ten other African countries and South Yemen. Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ, £4.95 RLE



The author's other subjects include Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, who ran an intelligence service of 3000 souls; Andrée de Jongh, who organised escape routes from Belgium to Spain for shot-down airmen; Harry Peuleve, leader of guerilla forces; Victor Gerson, Special Operations Executive's travel agent in France; and finally Witold Pilecki, the most astonishing of all.

This junior cavalry officer deliberately got himself arrested and sent to the Auschwitz death camp, so that he could tell the outside world what happened there and organise resistance among the prisoners. By the time he was so well-known among his fellows as a resistance leader that it was prudent for him to leave, he had organised several escapes and four 'battalions' of resisters. He was executed in 1948 while on a mission to Russian-occupied Poland for the exiled government in London.

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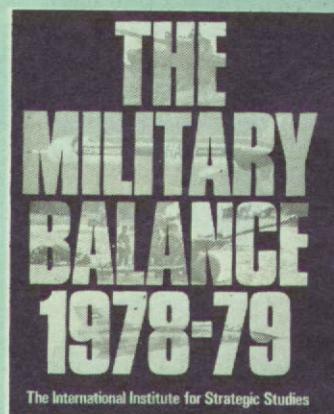
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Resistance

'Six Faces of Courage' (M.R.D. Foot)

In a long work on resistance to the Nazis, Professor Foot had to skimp accounts of 'people of quite astonishing capacity and courage.' This book now tells the stories of six of them.

The most important is Jean Moulin, who was prefect of Chartres when the Germans moved in. He stayed at his post, despite a suicide attempt after being beaten up by the Germans, until they sacked him. Then this senior civil servant devoted himself to resistance, becoming General de Gaulle's principal delegate in France. He united the resistance factions and the author credits him with saving France from civil war. The Germans got him in June 1943 — he was last seen unconscious and badly battered in the hands of the SS.

Threat and counter

'RUSI and Brassey's Defence Yearbook, 1978-79'

The strategic section of this edition is almost entirely concerned with the Soviet threat and its counter.

Dr Gerard Keith Burke points out the danger of developments in Southern Africa and John Stairs the Soviet intervention in the troubled Horn of Africa. John Bulloch examines shifting alliances in the Eastern Mediterranean and Richard Cox looks unhappily at the British withdrawal from Malta.

Dr J.M.A.H. Luns, Secretary-General of Nato, sees 1978 as the year Nato took measure of Soviet military capabilities and began re-establishing a military balance. Major-General Peter Blunt writes of Nato logistics and Air Chief-Marshal Sir Ruthven Wade on the rationalisation of Britain's logistics since 1957.

That restrained nuclear weapon, the neutron bomb, weighs heavily on the authors of the weapons technology section. They deplore that, helped by Soviet propaganda, it had 'an emotive effect on the general public and the more gullible politicians' and that President Carter stopped development. They feel Nato must have a weapon of this type in the long run, if the alliance is to survive.

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Advice

'The Mirror's Image' (Francis Grose and D J Cragg)

Captain Francis Grose's 'Advice to the Officers of the British Army: With the Addition of some Hints to the Drummer and Private Soldier' was published in 1782. Its sardonic advice is still fun today. Samples:

To Commanders-in-Chief: Be sure to give out numbers of orders . . . The more trifling they are the more it shows you attend to the service.

To the Private Soldier: You should consider all your officers as your natural enemies . . . constantly endeavouring to withhold from you all your just dues and to impose on you every unnecessary hardship.

Captain Grose's was highly popular and sold several editions in the next 40 years. It was re-issued in America in 1867 and last published in Britain in 1946, when SOLDIER Bookshelf summed it up in the headline, 'With Malice Towards All.'

In America there is a Francis Grose society, on whose behalf Mr Cragg has produced this new edition, with an introduction setting the military scene of Grose's day and a biographical sketch of the author.

Captain Grose was a conscientious Militia officer who never saw a shot fired in anger. He was a distinguished antiquarian, author and illustrator, a wit and an over-weight lover of food and drink.

Owlswick Press, Box 8243, Philadelphia, PA 19101, USA, \$9.50 RLE

in Brief

'The Kapyong Battalion' (James J Atkinson)

This is the story of one of the great battles of the Korean War and in particular of the part played in it by 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment. Here, in an 80-page booklet, we have a concise history of the battalion's service in Korea, a roll of its members who fought at Kapyong and details of the United States Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation awarded to the battalion after the battle.

New South Wales Military Historical Society, 12 Irvine Crescent, Ryde, NSW, 2112, Australia, \$A7.50 postage 65c

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'Building Your Own Home' (Murray Armor)

Do-it-yourself home building can take many shapes. You may do everything yourself; or employ people to do all, or some, of the work; or pool your skill and resources in a self-build association. However you go about it, the author says, project planning is everything. Compared with that, the construction work is almost fun. His guidance ranges from planning to the completed home, and is supported by case histories.

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