

July 1977 20p

Soldier



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FRONT AND BACK COVERS

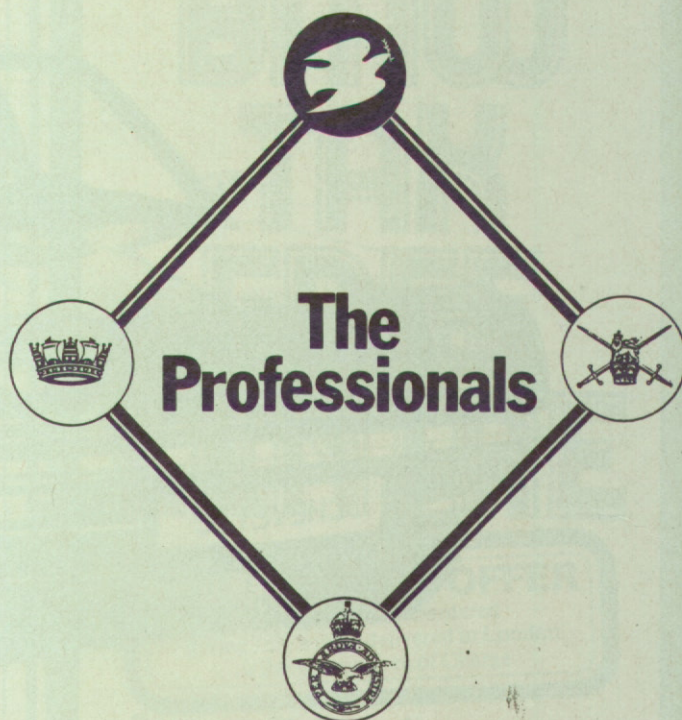
Her Majesty the Queen in two contrasting moods. The front cover picture by Doug Pratt shows a smiling Queen at the presentation of new Colours to 1st Battalion, Scots Guards. On the back cover is Her Majesty in more formal mood taking the salute at Trooping of the Colour, the only occasion when she wears uniform. Her uniform is that of the Scots Guards, whose Colour was trooped in this Silver Jubilee year.

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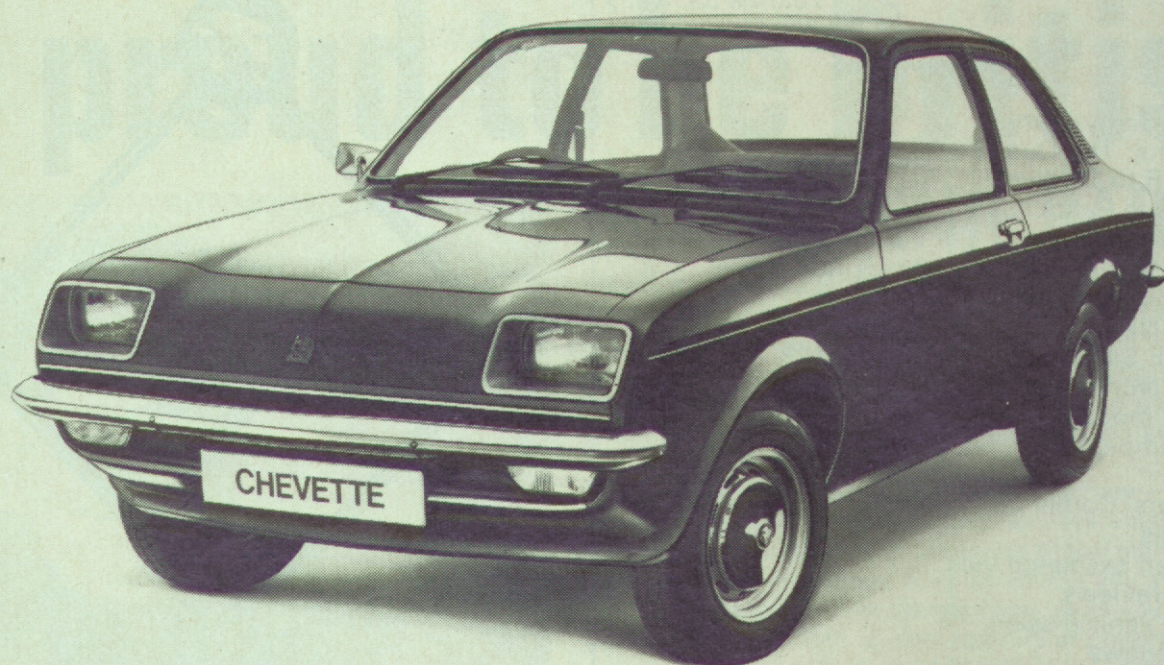
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In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

See-the-Army Diary



JULY 1977

- 2 Exeter Air Day (Army Air Corps static display).
- 2 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon Weekend Open Day.
- 2 Plymouth Services Week (2-9 July).
- 2 Chichester Gala (Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' gymnastic team).
- 2 Fête and Gala Day, Cwmbran ('Red Devils' freefall team).
- 4 Royal Show, Stoneleigh (4-7 July) (Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display).
- 6 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 6 Second royal tour of London.
- 7 Queen reviews the Army, Sennelager, West Germany.
- 8 Edinburgh Army Display (8-18 July) ('Golden Lions' freefall team; Red Devils; band).
- 9 Eynsham (Norfolk) Carnival (Red Caps).
- 9 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 9 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 9 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 9 Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre Open Day, Northampton (band).
- 9 Welbeck (Nottinghamshire) County Fair (9-10 July) (Royal Army Ordnance Corps 'Cannonballs' freefall team; two bands).
- 9 Derby Steam Rally (9-10 July) (band).
- 9 Dagenham Town Show (9-10 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus).
- 9 Shell Sport, Ellesmere Port (Red Devils).
- 10 Hatfield (Hertfordshire) Event (Red Caps).
- 10 Royal Tournament preview march, Horse Guards Parade.
- 11 Royal tour of Suffolk, Norfolk, Humberside, Yorkshire and North East Counties (11-15 July).
- 12 BMW car presentation, Brands Hatch (Red Caps).
- 12 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (12-14 July) (Adventurous training display).
- 13 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 14 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (14-31 July).
- 14 Nottingham Military Display (14-16 July) (Red Caps 14 July; Pegasus 14-15 July; Royal Green Jackets freefall team; unarmed combat team; battle scene; Junior Leaders Royal Artillery, physical training display; Royal Marine motorcyclists; six bands).
- 16 Basingstoke Carnival (Household Cavalry Quadrille).
- 16 Corby (Northamptonshire) Highland Games (16-17 July) (Household Division freefall team; Red Devils (17 July)).
- 16 Fordingbridge (Hampshire) Show (Red Caps).
- 16 Laying up Colours of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Buffs; 4th Battalion, The Buffs (TA); 5th Battalion, The Buffs (TA), Canterbury Cathedral.
- 17 Ealing Show, Greenford (Red Caps).
- 18 Dundee Army Display (18-21 July) (Golden Lions; band; pipes and drums).
- 19 Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells (Household Cavalry Quadrille).
- 19 East of England Show, Peterborough (19-21 July) (Royal Artillery motorcycle team; Pegasus; Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers 'Pentastars' freefall team; two bands).
- 20 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 21 Sheffield Services Display (21-24 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus; three bands).
- 21 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 21 Manchester Show (21-23 July) (Red Devils; combat display; two bands).
- 21 St Helens Show (21-23 July) (Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle team; Red Devils; two bands).
- 21 Aberdeen Army Display (21-25 July) (Golden Lions; band).
- 22 Stafford Carnival (22-23 July) (band).
- 22 Northampton Show (22-24 July) (band).
- 22 Tenth anniversary Open Day, 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields), Waterbeach.
- 23 Lambeth Country Show, Herne Hill (23-24 July) (Red Caps).
- 23 Cleveland Show, Middlesbrough (marching display; two bands).
- 24 Open Day, Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury.
- 24 Teignbridge Fair, Newton Abbot, Devon (display).
- 26 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (26-30 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus; band).
- 26 Inverness Army Display (26 July-6 August) (Golden Lions; Royal Artillery motorcycle team; band; pipes and drums).

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Diary continued

- 27 Ilfracombe Jubilee Tattoo (27-29 July).
- 27 Royal tour of West Midlands, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (27-28 July).
- 27 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 28 Deal Regatta (28-29 July) (Red Devils 28 July; Household Cavalry Quadrille 28 July; band).
- 30 Air Display, Blackbushe (30-31 July) (Red Devils).
- 30 Open Day, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover.
- 30 Gloucester Festival Fortnight (30 July-14 August) (band 12 August).
- 30 Silver Jubilee Show, Bexhill (Red Devils).
- 31 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington (Red Devils).
- 31 Whitstable Regatta (band).
- 31 Knebworth (Hertfordshire) Air Display (band).
- 31 Royal Military Police centenary march and march past mayor, Chichester.

AUGUST 1977

- 3 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (3-6 August).
- 3 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 3 North Devon Show, Bideford (display).
- 3 Tetbury Festival (display).
- 4 King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen Mother's birthday).
- 4 Royal tour of Devon, Cornwall and Avon (4-8 August).
- 4 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (4-13 August).
- 6 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop.
- 7 Air Day, Doddington (Red Devils).
- 7 Ottery St Mary (Devon) Fête (display).
- 8 Queen reviews County of Avon Volunteer forces, Bristol.
- 10 Royal tour of Northern Ireland (10-11 August).
- 11 Bournemouth Fiesta (11-13 August) (motorcyclists; freefalling; displays).
- 12 Stoke-on-Trent Carnival (12-13 August) (band).
- 13 Car Club Show, Yeovil (Red Devils).
- 13 Wootton Bassett Show (Red Caps).
- 13 Sedgfield Show (band).
- 14 Lambeth Show (Pegasus).
- 14 Yeovil Festival of Transport (Red Caps).
- 17 Cromer (Norfolk) Carnival (RA motorcyclists; two bands; pipes and drums).
- 19 Edinburgh Tattoo (19 August-10 September).
- 19 Reading Show (19-20 August) (White Helmets; band).
- 20 Darlington Show (band).
- 20 Hartlepool Show (20-21 August) (band).
- 21 Family Funday, Waltham (Red Caps).
- 21 Wimborne (Dorset) Rotary Club Show (Red Devils).
- 21 Crewe Carnival (Red Devils).
- 22 Oulton Broad (Suffolk) Regatta (22-30 August) (Red Devils 29 August).
- 24 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 27 South Tyneside Flower Show, South Shields (27-29 August) (band).
- 27 Morecambe and Lancaster Army Display (27-29 August) (Red Devils; Pegasus; White Helmets; four bands).
- 27 Town and Country Festival, Coventry (27-29 August) (Light Infantry freefall team; band).
- 27 Expo Steam, Peterborough (27-29 August) (RGJ freefall; King's Troop; band).
- 27 Quexpo 77, Birchington (Kent) (27-29 August) (Cannonballs).
- 27 Harlow (Essex) Town Show (Red Devils; Red Caps).
- 29 St Albans Carnival (RGJ freefall; Red Caps).
- 29 Eye (Suffolk) Show (Household Division freefall).
- 29 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 29 Carlisle Historical Pageant, Carlisle Castle (29 August-3 September).
- 31 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.

SEPTEMBER 1977

- 1 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (band).
- 2 Watford (Hertfordshire) Show (2-4 September) (band).
- 2 Birmingham Show (2-3 September) (band).
- 3 Brighton British Legion Show, Hassocks (Red Caps).
- 3 Seaham (Northumberland) Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 3 Richmond (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 3 Buckinghamshire Show, High Wycombe (band).
- 4 Burma Star Association Day, Waterbeach (RA motorcyclists; Pegasus; five bands; pipes and drums).
- 5 Wolverhampton Tattoo (5-10 September).
- 7 Kneller Hall Band grand (final) concert.
- 8 Glasgow Army Display (8-20 September) (White Helmets 12-20 September; Red Caps 12-14 September; band).
- 9 Cardiff Army Display (9-13 September) (band).
- 10 Horse and Horticultural Show, Henley-on-Thames (band).
- 10 Welwyn Garden City Hospital Fête (Red Devils).
- 10 Romsey Town Show (Red Devils).
- 11 Woodley Tattoo, Reading.
- 15 Swansea Army Display (15-17 September) (band).
- 15 Thame (Oxfordshire) Agricultural Show (Cannonballs; band).
- 17 Luton Musical Pageant.
- 17 Basingstoke Show (17-18 September) (RA motorcyclists).

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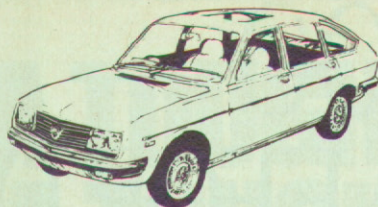
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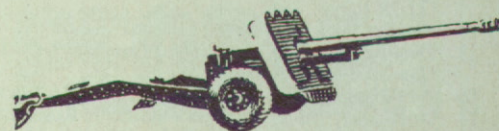
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Military Museums 54



The Queen's Regiment

MEDALS, UNIFORMS, headdresses, weapons and many other items are displayed in this interesting museum to tell the story of The Queen's Regiment. Here is one of the first 20 Victoria Crosses to be struck — that won by General Sir Mark Walker at Inkerman when he was serving as adjutant of the 30th before transferring to The Buffs, one of the six old regiments from which The Queen's descend. The other five are The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surreys), The Royal Sussex Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment.

In addition to General Walker's there are three other VCs in the museum, those of Private A Wright (77th) and Colour-Sergeant G Gardiner (57th), both won in the Crimea, and that awarded to Drummer D Stagpoole (57th) for bringing in a wounded comrade under fire at Pontoko, New Zealand, in October 1863. The two latter are of particular merit as the VCs are in addition to the DCM already won on the field of battle.

A fine collection of medals ranges through every theatre of war from the Peninsular to Korea. Noteworthy are two old medals of The Queen's Royal Regiment showing the pascal lamb and silver cross; the orders and medals of Major-General J G Baumgardt, featuring the 2nd class badge, collar and star of the rare Order of the Dooranee Empire and the India General Service Medal (1799-1826) with bars for Laswaree and the capture of Dieg; and the decorations of Major-General J H Rocke with his Nile Medal and Tel el Kebir bar and the Turkish Medjidieh collar and star.

Some 40 uniforms include a complete range of officers' pre-amalgamation mess kits, six scarlet tunics representing all six regiments with collar badges and sashes, and six models of soldiers dressed in uniforms ranging from Boer War khaki to present-day camouflage kit.

The six regiments are again represented in a good display of shakos, officers' helmets complete with helmet plates and chains, peaked caps dating from 1883, forage caps and two general officers' plumed cocked hats.

Weapons ranging from an early Brown Bess flintlock musket to a No. 4 rifle of 1940 are shown alongside foreign rifles,

machine-guns and examples of the German Spandau. This display is nicely complimented by a collection of 19th century bayonets.

A band section boasts a drum made during the Waterloo period and a series of old drums all with the rope tension as opposed to today's steel tension, a drum-major's mace and a 1910 glockenspiel. Miscellaneous exhibits include a cartouche of George III's coat of arms which was installed in the officers' mess at the old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury; a beautifully made Maori fishing spear and a pre-Maori warrior's wooden spear; and a particularly interesting collection of battle souvenirs from Waterloo and the Crimea to Tobago and South Africa made by Colonel Sir James Sleeman, late of The Royal Sussex Regiment.

From the Boer War there is one of six woollen khaki scarves crocheted by Queen Victoria with her monogram worked in silk for presentation to the 'best soldier in the regiment.' A memorable World War One exhibit is the football kicked 'over the top' on 1 July 1916 by Private A Fursey, of B Company, 8th Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment, during the attack from Carmony Valley to Montauban.

Prominent among a group of miscellaneous items is the magnificent gold plate and tray presented to the depot officers' mess by General Sir Arthur Paget, Colonel of The Buffs from 1914 to 1928. There is also a small collection of pistols and revolvers and around the walls of the museum are listed the battle honours of all six regiments forming the Queen's.

A good library of regimental histories and other military books is available for consultation.

John Jesse

Curator: Major E A McCarthy
Attendant: Mr G Randall
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Next month: The Royal Army Chaplains' Department

SOLDIER to Soldier

Yet another milestone in SOLDIER's comparatively brief history is marked by this July 1977 issue in which the magazine joins the country and Commonwealth in congratulating Her Majesty the Queen on the silver jubilee of her reign and wishing her continued health and happiness.

Before she was called to the throne, the Queen had already identified herself with the Army by joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service, forerunner of the present Women's Royal Army Corps. Since then she has always taken a particular and personal interest in her Army whether on ceremonial occasions or informally meeting soldiers' wives and families.

Every regiment and corps will long treasure the memories of her visits — her often-surprising knowledge of things mechanical, her charm and graciousness and above all her abiding interest in people.



With this issue, too, SOLDIER's price goes up to 20 pence. As has already been explained in this column, increasing printing costs have made a price rise inevitable. But although it ought to have been more, for the moment the increase has been restricted to only five pence — and SOLDIER still costs less than the proverbial pint of ale. For that 20 pence the reader is getting more pages and in the new and successful SOLDIER News pages is being kept abreast of Army activities worldwide and informed on official decisions affecting his Service career, pay, allowances and living conditions. SOLDIER News offers too the only coverage of sport at Army level and of course includes the new families pages in which Anne Armstrong carries a torch for the Army wives. Already her delvings and wrestling with officialdom have produced concrete results — cutting red tape, putting wrongs right and spotlighting genuine grievances for which, before the advent of this feature, there was no clear-cut channel. In reverse, the families pages are now providing a useful feedback to the authorities on the 'shop floor' reactions of Army wives.



With publications from other European countries, including Austria and Switzerland, SOLDIER has become a founder-member of a new association of European military editors. The first convention, in Rome and sponsored by the Italian Army to celebrate the centenary of the Italian 'Revista Militare,' decided to hold annual meetings in member countries and to broaden representation by inviting into membership navy and air force journals.

It is hoped that an early benefit of the new association will be an exchange of material between member journals.

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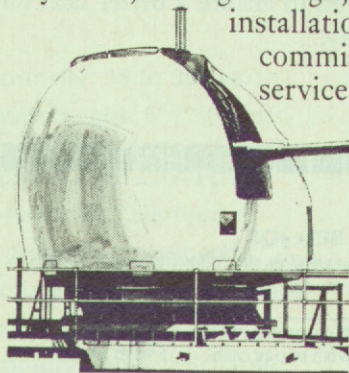
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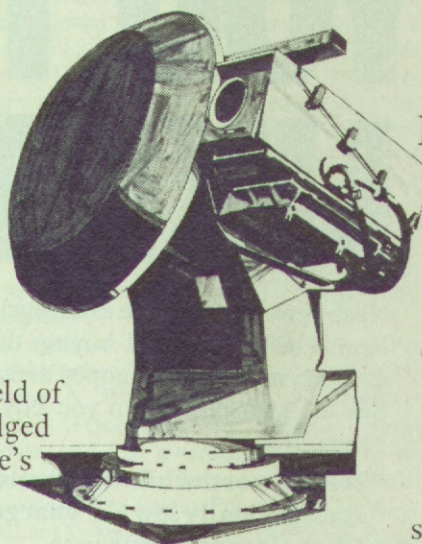
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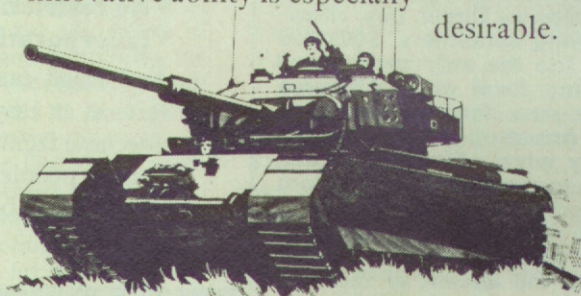


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Against the clock and the rains, sappers out in Belize transform a central American swamp into a company camp with every 'mod con'



Story: Doug McArthur
Pictures: Doug Pratt

A RACE AGAINST the clock and the pitiless elements of the Central American jungle has been won by the Royal Engineers, but not without deprivation and seven days a week unstinting back-breaking toil.

Sappers of 32 Field Squadron, part of 38 Engineer Regiment, first heard they were going to Belize, the last British colonial toehold on the American continent, last October. Their task was to create Rideau Camp, a brand-new home for a company of soldiers.

It really was a race against the clock. The camp had to be built in just five months before the rains made construction work impossible. Their heavy plant and equipment arrived in Belize in January and now, in June, the camp is ready to be handed over to its first occupiers.

Rideau Camp is a monument to sapper skills. Now that it is built it is difficult to conceive that the area was once a swamp, incapable of taking anything but the lightest atap native hut. Now there are air-conditioning, electricity, sophisticated sewage disposal, running water and, most important of all, efficient drains capable of dealing with monsoon rains.

The rains proved to be the sappers' worst enemy. The dry season in Belize lasts from late January to early June so it was imperative that drains were laid before then. In that part of the world, the term dry season is a bit optimistic. It still rains, though not as much as in the wet season.

To make matters worse, the sappers had very little time in which to make preparations. Usually they can expect nine months to lay down drawings and get together the necessary plant, equipment and stores to be

shipped out in one cargo. This time, stores had to be collected and sent out whenever ready.

"When we arrived the place was a quagmire," said Major Tony Pigott, the squadron commander. "We were living in tents which were constantly soaking and vehicles could not go off the road, because they just bogged straight in."

"The first priority was to get the drains in. The first three weeks were dry, then in February we had nine inches of rain in nine days. All we could do was to pump out and keep laying cement until it hardened."

The drainage system was finally finished and working properly in April. The difference in working conditions was dramatic. Now that surface water was just a bad memory, the work could forge ahead. Trucks and plant still got bogged in when it was raining but as soon as the rain stopped, out came the vehicles again.

The camp is predominantly of Nissen huts but they are surprisingly cool and adapt well to equatorial conditions. The huts were built up on pegs to allow the soaking ground underneath to dry out. Then, when the soil was relatively dry, footings and the concrete pad were laid underneath.

Materials were a real problem. Belize City and Airport Camp, the Army's main camp in the colony, were a 208-mile round trip away by jolting, spring-cracking jungle cart track. Cement had to come from Belize City and there was a regular civilian barge traffic by sea, bringing down cement blocks, timber and stores. All stores and spares had to be sent out from Britain.

Fittings, such as copper piping and brass plumbing connections, flushing toilet sys-

tems and shower valves costing more than a £100 apiece, put the camp in Belizean terms into the five-star hotel category. Especially when compared with the nearest town of Punta Gorda where the family toilet is a wooden shack perched on the end of a jetty in front of each house.

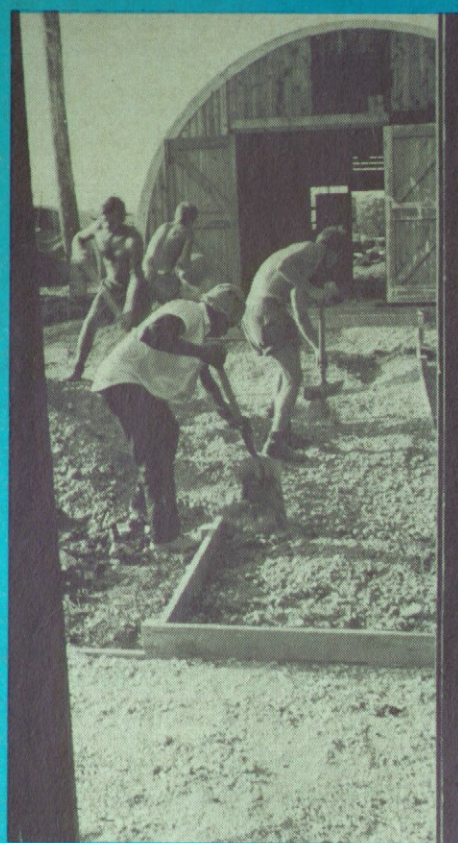
Even the soft wood used for window frames and doors had to be imported from the UK — the local mahogany hardwood is just too difficult to work.

This reliance on a 5000-mile communication line posed logistic problems. Jobs were held up for want of materials and often had to be shelved for a week or so until a part ordered weeks before could be flown out from home.

"The engineering task here is fairly simple," said Major Pigott, "but because people have had to improvise and use their ingenuity to get round problems this makes it a very good training task."

An unusual material problem for the sappers was the lack of stone. Usually they buy it from a working quarry. In a country of dirt roads and wood and atap or tin houses there is not much need for stone. But there was one small quarry used by the local public works department. The sappers took this over and set up a high-powered operation.

Six Bedford tipper trucks ran a constant shuttle service from the quarry to the new camp. They were brand-new when they rolled off the landing ship at Belize in January. By the time the job had finished they had covered some 15,000 miles apiece with the drivers doing about 100 miles a day in ten round trips in their 12-hour day. Except when more stone was needed and



Above: Local labour pitches in with the sappers.

Below: Charging lead check before blasting.



Above: Local kids are quick to make friends.

Below: Stone crushed ready for use at the camp.



Above: Sapper Tony Kirk shows that it's no pushover as a quarry dozer driver.

shifts were organised to keep them rolling through the night.

"Quarrying is something we don't often have to do. It's certainly the first time I have ever done it," said Sergeant John Coupe who ran the quarry. "Overall I think we have cleared about 17000 cubic metres of stone.

"The trucks take a real pounding here. The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers have done wonders keeping them rolling. We try and repair the road ourselves, but the trucks really get some hammer."

The rock was blasted to shake it free and then pushed down the side of the quarry face by Sapper Tony Kirk in his monster D6 Caterpillar. His was a job that few would relish but he was quite nonchalant about the whole thing as he balanced the mighty monster on top of the rock pile, sending tons of stone crashing down the face.

Once free, the stone was crushed into

either one-inch stone for concrete or three-inch for sub-bases for roads. The road to the camp ammunition store would be worth a fortune in Britain — its half-mile length is almost entirely made up of onyx. The blasters came across a wide seam of onyx in the quarry, but it all went into the crusher just the same.

"We sometimes help the locals on a self-help basis," said Sergeant Coupe. "For instance a local school wanted 25 loads so we gave it to them, but they had to deliver another 25 loads to Rideau. We are happy to help and, although we cannot take money for the stone, people are only too happy to help us in some way as payment."

One aspect of Royal Engineer work that never changes is the way men switch from trade to trade whenever necessary. "I am a carpenter by trade," explained Lance-Corporal Pete Asbury, "and I made up some shuttering for concrete the other day. Whereas in civvy street that would have

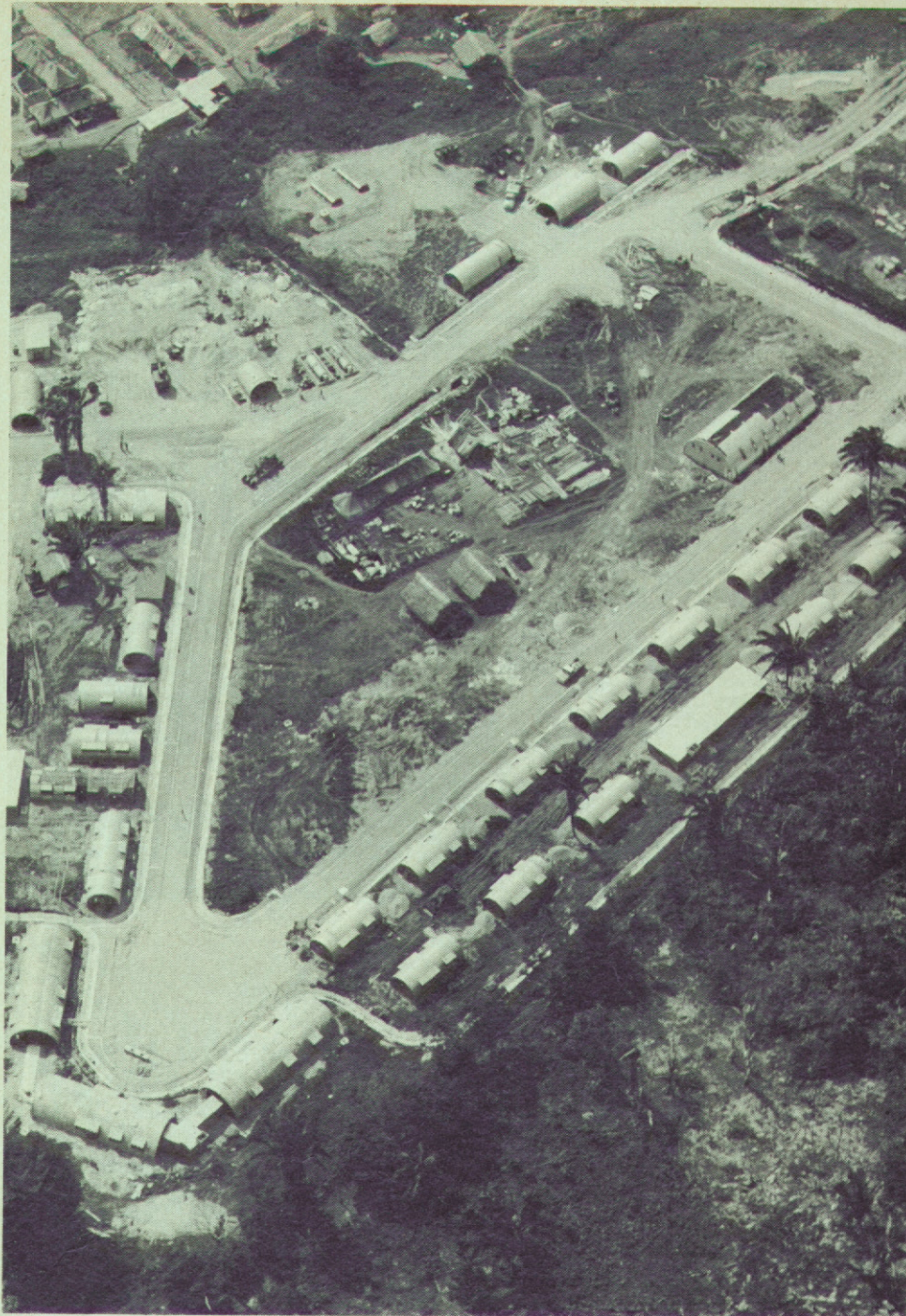
been the end of it for me, I then mixed up the concrete and poured it myself. We have to do the lot.

"The job itself has been really good. We have been working 12 hours a day, sometimes more, for seven days a week, so it's been all go all the time."

For Sapper Ron Harman, Rideau Camp was his first experience of work in the field. He had just finished trade training as a design assistant/draughtsman. But because the job was short of surveyors he had to turn his hand to surveying. This was good news for him because eventually he hopes to become a surveyor.

"I knew the theory of the job," he said, "but this is the first time I have put it into practice. I have done quite a few new things, like setting out monsoon drains, so it has been very interesting."

But for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer detachment there was nothing new in their work. The only difference was



much more of it, and improvisation was the order of the day to keep the plant rolling.

"We have to improvise kit all the time," said Sergeant Bill Slater. "Normally there is a queue of work for us. Fuel tanks are always shaking loose, and most of the tipper truck chassis have cracked at some time or another, and if we want to lift anything to get underneath it we have to use the big crane."

"During the heavy rains we were working in a swamp because there weren't enough pumps to go round. But a lot of the lads are just out of training, so it has been particularly good for them."

"But the wagons really do take a pounding. We have to service them on every round trip to Belize City and the local drivers don't help much either. At first the tippers would get to the side of the road to let cars past, but in the rains they were just sliding straight into the ditch so we soon learned to drive like the locals in the middle of the road."

It is a sad fact of life that while sappers build comfortable bases for other troops they are usually living in tents themselves and rarely enjoy the fruits of their labours. So it was with Rideau. The new camp has fans in every hut, except in air-conditioned rooms. The Naafi canteen, doubling as a hurricane shelter, is light and spacious; the kitchens have all the latest cooking facilities and could comfortably feed a battalion. The dining room is lit by four-bulb chandeliers. The medical centre is air-conditioned, with drug store and two sick bays and all facilities for sterilisation units.

The REME detachment has proper facilities including a reinforced concrete inspection ramp, and there are air-conditioned company offices.

Because of the political situation in Belize, the squadron had to keep up its infantry training so that it could deploy as an infantry force if necessary. But as one sapper remarked as the work was drawing to a close: "I don't think any of us mind about not getting a chance to live in the camp for a bit because by the time the first mob moves in here, I will be back in Ripon — and that's what I have been looking forward to for months."



The off-duty boredom of a six-month unaccompanied tour was offset in a slightly unusual way for some of the sappers. They became tarantula fanciers. Chief clerk at Rideau, Staff-Sergeant Mick Lobb, was president, chairman, secretary and treasurer of the Rideau Tranny Club. Its aim was to advance the science of breeding and preserving this most frightening species of spider. "It all started when I caught a tarantula and decided to send it back home to Ripon for my child to take to school. I kept finding more, then some of the lads started catching them for me, and it's just gone on from there."

As well as mounting the spiders on card or making them into plastic paperweights, he also ran a farm.

He kept two fully-grown spiders in a partitioned box — a huge hairy female called Freda and a much smaller male, Monty, who would quickly become Freda's dinner if Mick allowed it.

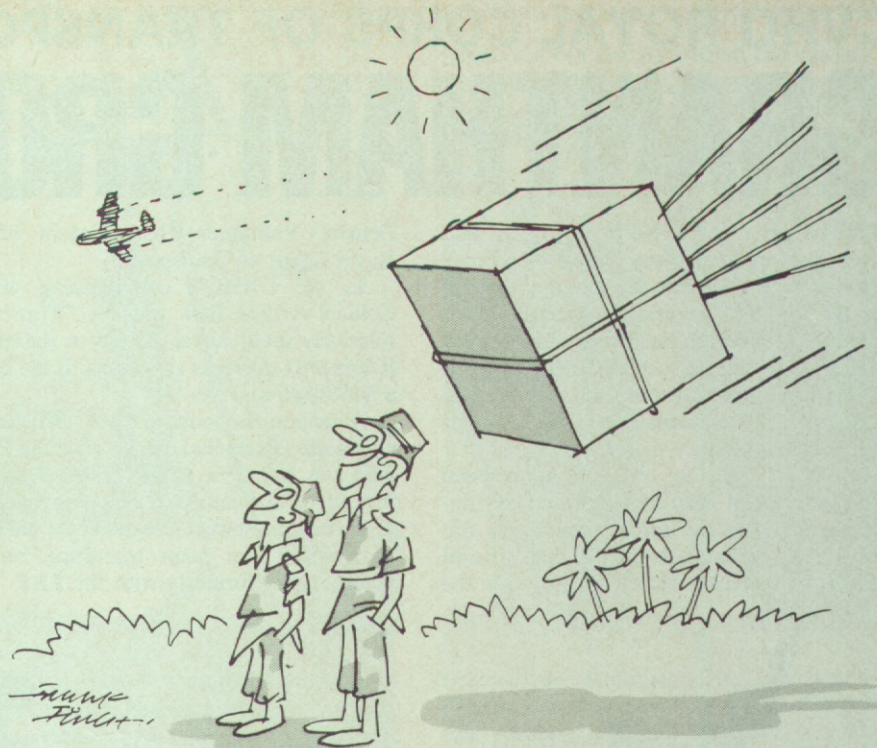
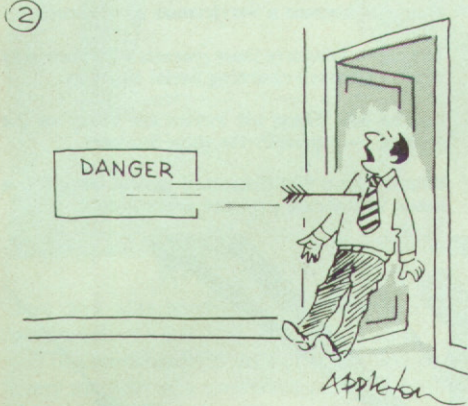
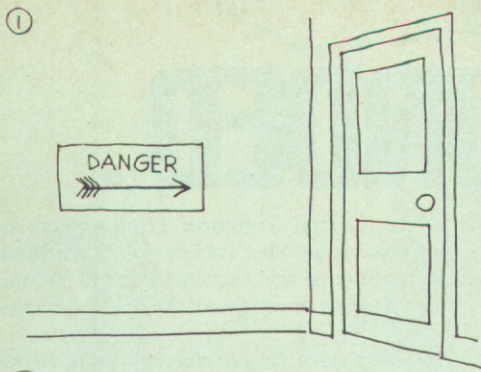
"They're a fair little hobby," he said, "and

they won't hurt you if you don't antagonise them. Like most things in the jungle, they will try and keep out of your way if they can." But despite these brave words Mick received a nasty bite from Freda which laid him low for an afternoon. "If they do bite, they won't kill you, just give you a nasty headache."

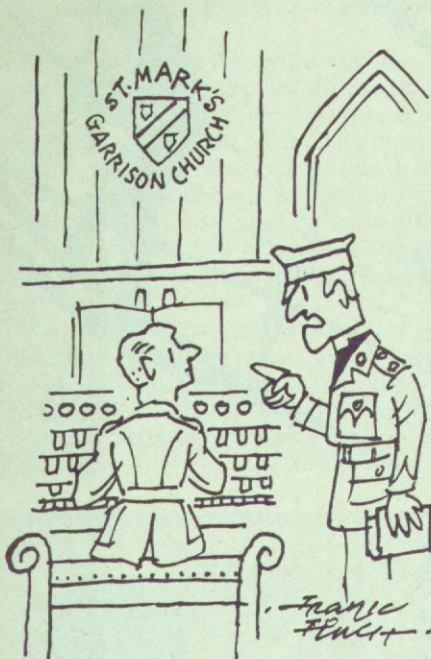
An empty compo tin provided a useful battery hatching nest for some eggs he found. In the tin hatched dozens of tiny tarantulas which, as they got older, started to eat each other so that only the strongest survived.

"I just wanted to see if I could breed them. This is the sort of thing that can really get hold of you. I have read up on the subject and I certainly intend to keep it up when I go home, although I don't know whether I will have any live ones in Ripon."

Which will probably be a relief for Mrs Lobb who might otherwise be getting some furry little presents from Belize which she didn't bargain for.

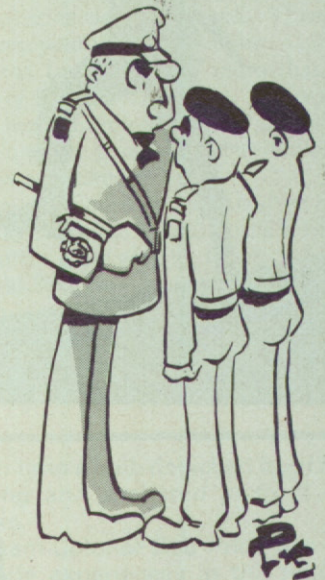


"Should be a food-drop any time now — that'll put us on our feet again."



"Finally, as the troops withdraw by the West Door, rake them with a barrage of Bach's Toccata and Fugue."

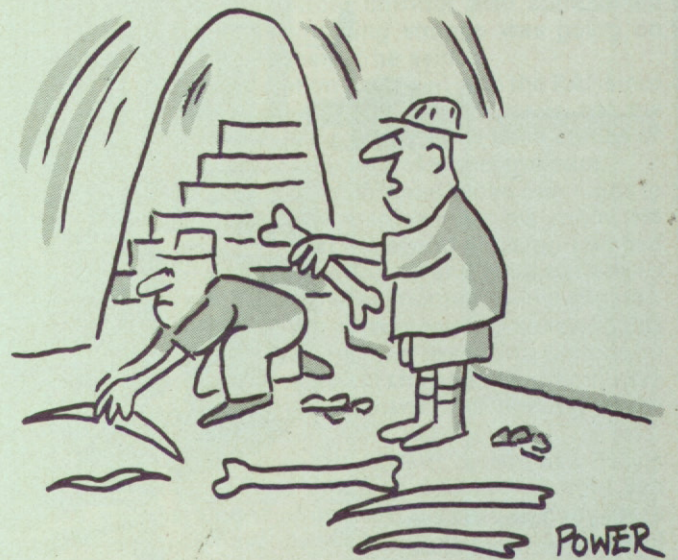
HUMOUR



"All men are created equal . . . but I am more equal than others!"



"You mean you've never seen a soldier ant before?"



"You're right, they are plastic!"

CVHQ ROYAL CORPS OF TRANSPORT GRANTHAM GROUNDED

OVER THE LAST FEW years, up and down the country many Royal Air Force stations have echoed to the sound of aircraft for the last time — and in their place has come the Army. An Army only too pleased to vacate wartime camps with decrepit spider huts and coke stoves and to move into permanent and spacious accommodation left by the boys in blue.

Nowhere has the transformation been more successful than at Grantham in Lincolnshire where the former Spitalgate station, a training camp for the Women's Royal Air Force in recent times, now houses the

Central Volunteer Headquarters of the Royal Corps of Transport.

As the CVHQ's commanding officer, Colonel Arthur Bell, puts it: "This was a relatively small Royal Air Force station but it is exactly the right size for us. It fits us like a hand into a glove."

Spitalgate is now Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, named after the Prince who was killed in an air crash. The RCT moved in last autumn, bringing only five of the civilian staff employed at the old camp at Bedford but soon recruiting replacements, many formerly with the RAF.

The Central Volunteer Headquarters is responsible for what are known as sponsored RCT units of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve throughout the United King-

Top left: One of the part-time soldiers takes the plunge to become a Serviceman at weekends.

Top right: Gingerly these recruits edge their way along a stomach-churning aerial ropeway.

Bottom left: These old lorries are heavy on the steering — especially for these learners.

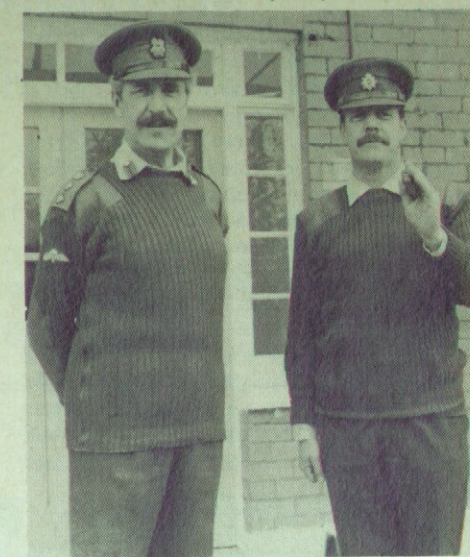
Bottom right: Not exhausted assault coursers: a lesson in external pressure resuscitation.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley



Left: One's high and dry . . . one's low and wet!
Below: Col Bell and WO1(RSM) Don Lovatt.



dom and acts as a drill hall for all their personnel.

The commitment is an annual 19 days and every member of a sponsored unit will probably pass through Grantham several times a year.

The population is forever fluctuating — it may be as low as 100 one day and have risen six-fold the next. And weekends are often the busiest part of the week. The instructors, all highly qualified, are all able to live on the station with their families but long hours and a seven-day week mean that they do not see too much of them. There are three natural breaks in courses at Easter, Summer and Christmas.

The corps also has independent units and these men come to Grantham only for their initial military training. But as the ex-marine in charge of training, Warrant Officer 1 Harry Havelock, says: "This

means that we have more than 9000 people passing through here in a year."

The recruit training aims to give men who are often already skilled drivers some military expertise as well. Ages range from teenagers to men of 40 but all receive the same treatment.

As recruits staggered across a fearsome assault course, Mr Havelock commented: "Over the last three courses we have not lost a man, which is great. Every obstacle on this assault course is different. A lot of people say what do the RCT want this for? I reply that we are the RCT but we are fighting soldiers as well."

Former paratrooper Warrant Officer 2 Dennis Priestley did not know quite what to expect when he moved from Aldershot to be sergeant-major for military training. But he was pleasantly surprised.

"The thing I admire about these blokes is

that they are volunteers. They are trained in the same way as Regular soldiers except for the amount of time. But the way they bounce back after we put pressure on them is beyond belief. They are Regular soldiers for 15 days and they will do the job required. They are not just part-timers."

Competition is encouraged. There are squad competitions with trophies, a champion recruit for each squad and a champion recruit of the year. There are also trophies for the best movement operator of the year, best shot of the year, best sponsored recruit and best sponsored driver.

The assault course was constructed before the Army moved in — and it was a difficult job. For the grass airfield, which dates back to World War One, had been strengthened by heavy steel mesh underneath. Oxy-acetylene cutters had to be used to make holes for the obstacles.

Below: Strain shows when the ladder's reached.



When the Army moved its Central Volunteer HQ, Royal Corps of Transport, into the former RAF station at Spitalgate, Grantham, last autumn, one person is thought to have taken exception. He is (or was) Mr 'Tiny' Harris, a batman who worked for the RAF in the officers' mess.

Mr Harris died in the 1960s and it is his ghost which is thought by staff to be responsible for a series of unearthly happenings in the mess recently. Chief mess steward, Mrs Pat Miller, told SOLDIER: "Soon after Tiny died we began to feel his presence in the wing of the mess where he worked. We used to talk to him as we walked along that corridor and say 'don't worry, Tiny, it's only us.'"

"But since the Army came here he's become a bit naughty and we can only think that he hasn't taken to them." Tiny made his presence felt at the first Army mess dinner night. The table was laid and the guests were about to sit down when a candle came out of its candlestick and dropped on the table. On another occasion, mess staff were talking about the ghost when a glass standing on a table suddenly disintegrated for no apparent reason. And

another time a bulb detached itself from its fitting and shattered in front of a waitress.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Price has also had eerie experiences in the haunted wing. Once the lights were suddenly switched out on him and another time he could not get the light switches to work. "The painters who redecorated that bottom corridor also complained that something strange was going on down there," he said.

The station had been with the RAF since World War One. And Tiny is not the only visitor. There have been stories of a grey lady and of a spectral pilot. Major John Winand woke one night to hear men marching by his room. He then heard the sound of piston-engined aircraft starting up and went out armed with a 12 bore shotgun to investigate. "I'm not a person given to believing this sort of thing," he says. "But although I could still hear the sounds of both men and aircraft there was nothing to be seen."

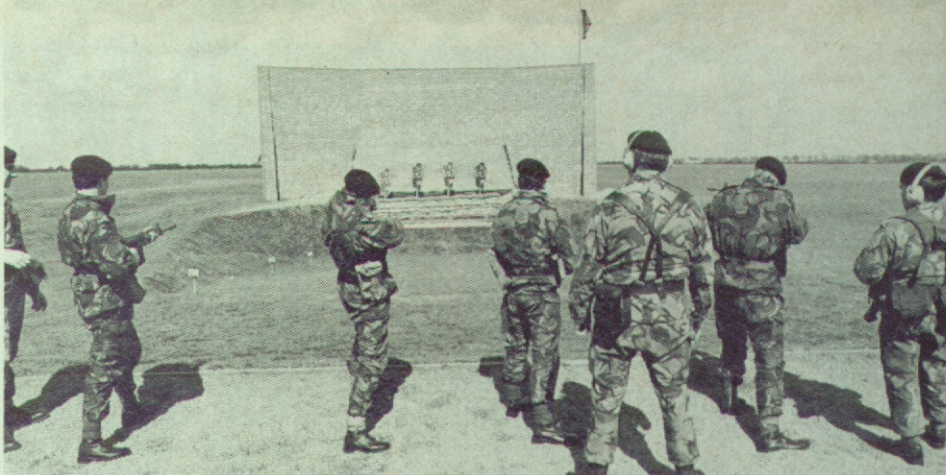
Back to Mrs Miller: "I once saw Tiny's outline sitting on a bed in his wing. But none of us are frightened of him. There have always been weird and wonderful things happening on this station."

Girl soldiers also come on courses for trade training as movement operators and clerks.

Movement operators are often drawn from people already working in the movements world — a railway booking clerk is cited as the ideal recruit.

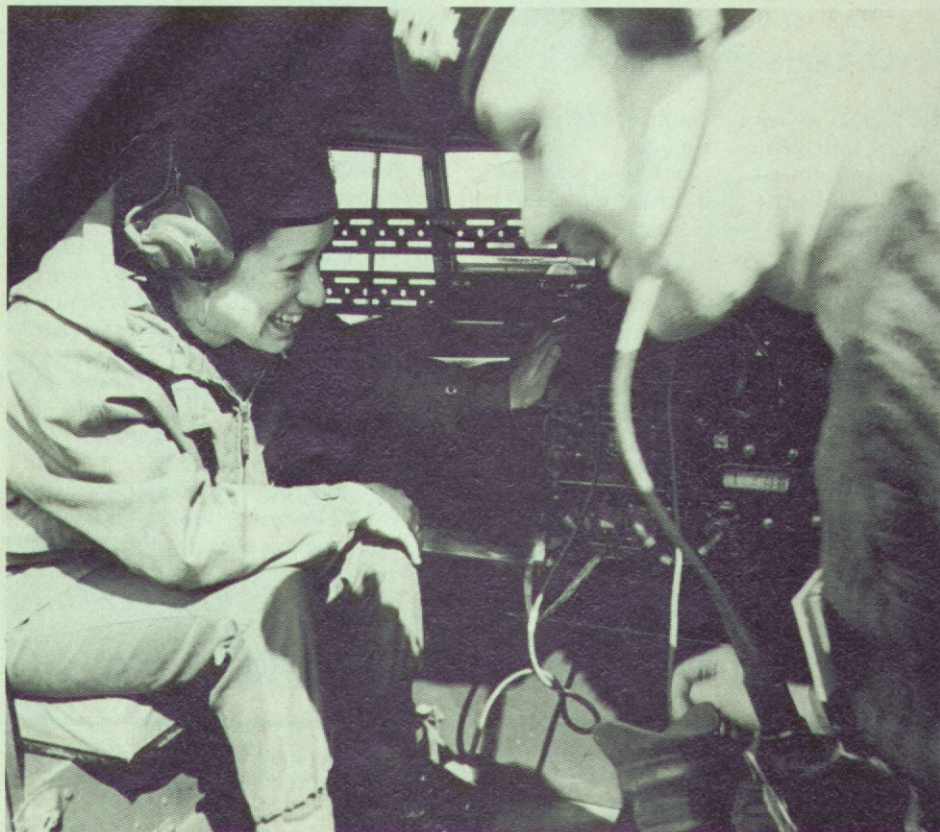
There are also cookery courses for Army Catering Corps personnel of the sponsored units and mechanical courses for men of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. And map-reading courses, for what use is a driver who cannot find his way.

Driving, of course, is what the Royal Corps of Transport is all about. Warrant Officer 2 Charles Harrop, who is responsible for the heavy goods vehicle driving, told SOLDIER: "We get a lot of bus drivers through here — they are usually very good although we have to cure them of any bad



Below: Pte Delia Brooks finds signals a laugh.

Above: Students get their first rifle lesson.



habits they pick up on the buses. But they are all as keen as mustard."

When the recruit arrives at the camp for his training he has no uniform. On his first Sunday afternoon a tailor visits and looks at the whole recruit course — perhaps 60 to 70 people. He takes the uniforms they have been issued with and brings them back a perfect fit in time for the passing out parade.

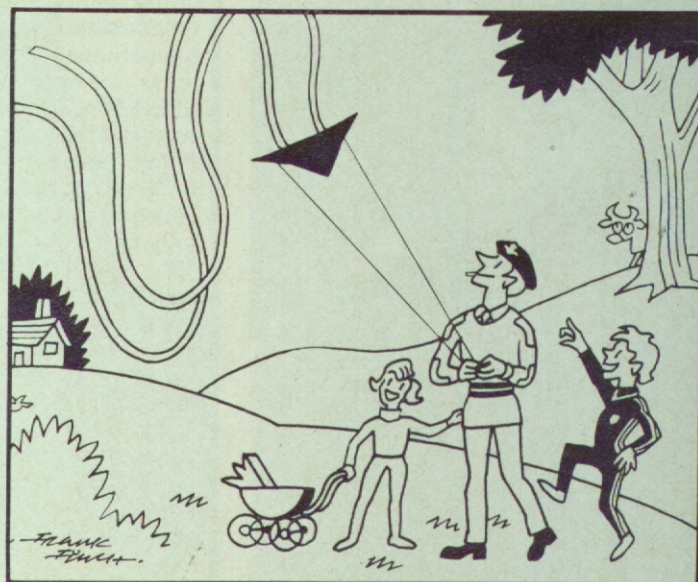
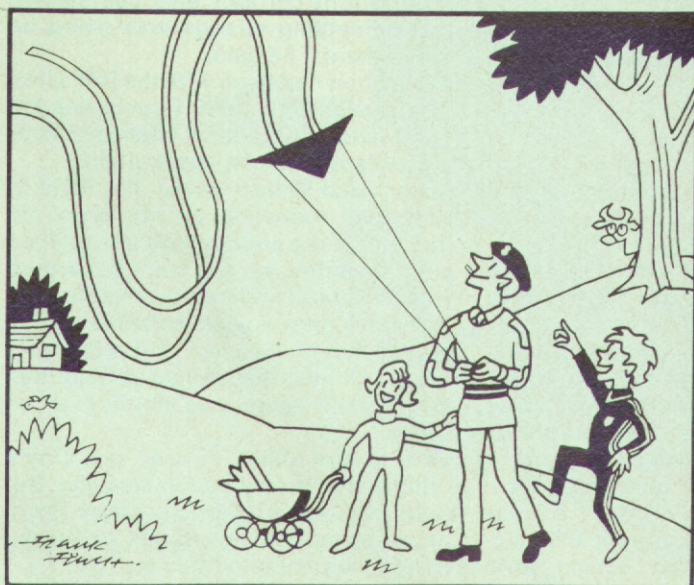
During the TAVR exercise season in the summer, Grantham is full of vehicles gathered from various vehicle depots. As sponsored units go off to Rhine Army for their annual camps they all pass through Grantham, picking up vehicles on the way. All units, large or small, leave fully equipped for whatever they have been tasked to do.

The Royal Air Force has left surprisingly little trace of its 60-year tenure. And with a busy Army camp following in its wake one would not expect much time to be spent remembering what went before.

But Colonel Bell is determined that the station's history shall not be forgotten. After all it was only just down the road that the Dambusters raid was planned. He intends to have a number of Air Force pictures put up and says: "We may be Army now but we want to keep our history — and it will be a good thing for the volunteers to see."

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 27.



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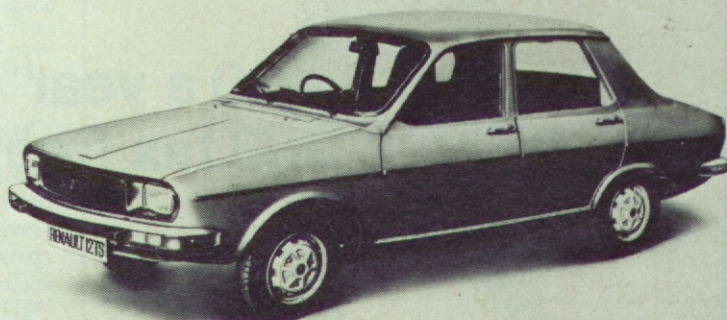
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Soldier news

Chepstow's rescue heroes

Six young soldiers from the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, have been hailed as heroes for their part in two mountain rescue operations on the Isle of Skye.

The apprentices were on a mountaineering exercise on the remote Scottish island when the call came for volunteers to rescue an injured climber high on An Garbh-choire. An RAF Wessex helicopter took the local mountain rescue team and the Chepstow party to the cloud level on the mountain.

Both groups then moved on foot up the corrie to the injured man and carried him down for evacuation by the helicopter below the cloud level.

The 'chopper' then came back for the rescue party to ferry them back to Glenbrittle. Rain, wind and low cloud dogged the rescuers' efforts, making conditions very difficult for them. The injured man was soon recovering from collar bone and back injuries in hospital.

Two days later an evening call alerted the rescuers once more to go to the aid of another climber. They carried rescue equipment up to the lochan on Coire Lagan then bivouacked there to help carry the equipment further in the morning.

But a helicopter was able to reach the injured man and the Chepstow party returned to camp after a night out on the mountain-side.

Mr J H Jessop, warden of the mountain camp site at Glenbrittle, said in a letter afterwards: "... The first call involved waking the party at midnight and asking them to be ready to go out at first light and the weather can only be described as foul.

"The second call was an all-night affair in fine but very cold conditions. Although I did not take part in the actual operations in the mountains, others who did have since come forward full of praise for the willing and efficient way these youths carried out any duties assigned to them."

A letter of thanks from the party to which the first casualty belonged added: "I would like to thank them for their selflessness and commend their discipline and courage in difficult circumstances."



The five and their leader: A/CSM James, A/Tdsm De Silva, Capt Alec Stalker, A/Tdsm Beale, A/L/Cpl Gilbert, A/L/Cpl Kenny.

Gurkhas are 'Royal'

In her Silver Jubilee year, the Queen has honoured two regiments of the Brigade of Gurkhas in Hong Kong with a new royal title in recognition of their distinguished service.

In a signal to the Commander Land Forces in Hong Kong, Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer, the Queen said she intended that in future the Gurkha Engineers and the Gurkha Signals should have the prefix Queen's attached to their titles.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers were formed at Kluang, Malaya, in 1948 and are descended from eight regiments and corps which remained with the Indian Army on Independence. All of them bore a royal title then as Gurkha Royal Engineers.

In 1955 they became an integral part of the Brigade of Gurkhas as the Gurkha Engineers.

Under that name they served in Malaya, Borneo and Hong Kong as well as Aden, the British Solomon Islands, Fiji and the New Hebrides. Detachments served in Korea and the Philippines.

In addition to their purely military role, Gurkha engineers — like their British counterparts — have completed many civil engineering tasks to help local communities.

They are now the only engineer regiment of the British Army serving east of Suez.

The Queen's Gurkha Signals were raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, in 1948. They owe their origins to the Indian Signal Corps in which Gurkhas have served since 1921.

After Indian Independence in 1948 the first signal units of the Brigade of Gurkhas were formed from Gurkha soldiers serving with infantry battalions. The name Gurkha Signals dates back to 1955.

Since formation, Gurkha signalers have dealt with the day-to-day communications within the Brigade of Gurkhas. In addition, the regiment has served in support of units on operations in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Borneo.

1st Day Cover

A commemorative first-day postal cover has been issued to celebrate the 25th anniversary of HQ Northern Army Group and HQ Second Allied Tactical Air Force in Germany. The joint covers depict the NATO star and badges of the two HQs surrounded by the flags of Belgium, Holland, Germany and Great Britain. Date of issue was 23 June and date stamps were in the four national languages. Further details from Philatelic Officer, HQ NORTHAG, BFPO 40.

Dressed to kill



Soldiers figure on being good at camouflage... but you can't camouflage a good figure. Pin-up Julie Moxon found this out when she designed her own disruptive pattern material outfit to celebrate her appointment as glamour girl of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars. The Sheffield beauty queen intends to surprise the lads of the regiment this month by wearing her home-made 'uniform' when she visits them in Germany. Even after this sneak preview, we are sure Julie will still cause a sensation with the hussars.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

The need for both civilian and Army information and advice to be available to the Service community was highlighted by the Army Welfare Inquiry Committee which recommended the setting up of information centres, especially in isolated military family areas.

This would enable soldiers and their families of all ranks to find out about a wide variety of topics from consumer information to hire purchase problems and, of course, military matters.

In 1974 the Royal Navy had a similar report highlight the same area of concern so when Lieutenant-Commander John Hughes asked me to go down to see one of the five new sailors' and families' advice bureaux in Portsmouth I was delighted. They were set up in two-and-a-half months and opened on 1 April.

I was most impressed by the highly professional approach — bright and attractive with well-lit display stands full of posters, leaflets and information covering everything

from holidays to DHSS pamphlets, HP to the Queen's Silver Jubilee, housing to finance, plus an excellent reference library which includes the Navy's Fact Sheets.

The Portsmouth office is manned on a shift basis by chief petty officers in civilian clothes. It is open from 0800 to 1900 Monday to Friday and after hours there is a telephone answering service. The petty officers are ready to see personal callers and answer the non-stop phone. And if you so wish, no name or number is taken.

The five new Navy centres are in touch with the citizens' advice bureaux and other agencies such as the DHSS. The new Naval and Personal Family Service incorporates the five centres which are linked with the main centre at Portsmouth.

At the end of each month it produces a table of the enquiries received and keeps the other centres up to date with new information that might be needed.

I returned after three weeks and found that in that time more than

800 calls — 62 per cent from families — had been received.

The mobile display unit had been out and about publicising the work of SAFAB.

If the Army could set up even just five centres — say one in Northern Ireland and the rest in Rhine Army and the UK I am sure it would help enormously.

It is especially vital nowadays when more and more legislation on consumer protection, for instance, is being passed and needs to be made known to the people it affects.

But with purse strings tight we must avoid falling into the trap of setting up mediocre ad hoc information centres. I am sure a few professionally run centres like the Navy's and some small local ones in isolated areas are a 'must.'

I have raised a point of view. Now let me know your feelings on the subject.

If you are in Portsmouth, Plymouth, Rosyth, Chatham or Faslane, Lieutenant-Commander Hughes has said you are welcome in the Navy's centres.

PS I did enjoy my time in Rhine Army and the August edition of SOLDIER will carry my reports from there.

Anne Armstrong

The wives without wheels

Dear Anne,

The wives who don't have transport of their own in Northern Ireland have to plead with the Army. And when you've got an appointment and are left waiting for promised transport that doesn't turn up . . . well, what can we do? We're told that being out here is just like the rest of UK in that respect. But when you're actually here it's very different altogether!

Mrs E. Anne says: Good point, Mrs E! The problem of transport was raised in February this year. MOD has now contacted the other two Services in an effort to get a tri-Service policy on this urgent matter. I raised it myself with the powers-that-be after my visit to Northern Ireland.

Quarters' crocks chopped

As soon as present stocks are exhausted the following items will be withdrawn from married quarters: Dish cover, mincing machine (both types), saucepan (steamer), coffee cups and saucers, tea pot, toast rack, tray, medicine cabinet.

The bathroom cabinet will remain. This cabinet will be a hanging wall cupboard with mirror and child-proof latches.

Do ensure that you have a bathroom cabinet before the medicine cabinet is withdrawn, to ensure that your children cannot get at your medicines.

Welfare farewell

Not many women can stop an airliner on the runway or divert VC10 jets en route to enable a Northern Ireland casualty to board. But it was all in the boundless powers of a lady who has just retired after 40 years of serving the Army.

Miss Eleanor Zelma spent her last ten years in charge of the casualty branch of the Ministry of Defence's Personal Services branch. And for helping Northern Ireland casualties she was awarded the MBE.

Many people gathered to pay tribute to Miss Zelma when she retired and gave her a shower of handsome and well-deserved gifts.

Among the many verbal tributes perhaps the most telling was from the wife of one of the victims of Northern Ireland she helped: "We must thank Miss Zelma for our house, our job . . . well, just everything. And I know she did much

more than her actual post required."



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Full particulars from the Headmaster.

Horseplay helps disabled



L/Bdr Chris Levett and Sue Hanna adjust Belinda's stirrup

"Hello! What's your name? I'm going to ride a horse," beamed Peter. "It's your turn to ride Bella," said Mrs Sue Hanna, the instructor. Peter put on his riding hat and was away . . . one of 35 handicapped children from three schools who spend every Tuesday morning in the saddle.

They are members of the Aldershot Riding for the Disabled group which meets at the town's indoor riding school. The group was the idea of Lance-Bombardier Chris Levett and his wife Jenny who late in 1975 decided there was a need for this kind of help. With their own pony Bella they formed the nucleus of a club. Now, 14 months later, the group has enabled 15 children to pass their Grade 1 certificates, and has bought a caravan to be used as a warm waiting room and as a fund-raising platform.

Last year they raised £1000 so Chris and Jenny — who have left for Rhine Army now with 7 Field Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, which was in Aldershot — know that the group will continue to give help and pleasure to many handicapped children in the area.

I visited a second group, now in its fourth year, at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The motto for those who turn up one day every week is "Never miss a Thursday!"

This group is under the expert guidance of Mrs Sue Baddeley and Mrs Viv Ansell. They cater for 32 children in three half-hour morning sessions. Half the pupils have passed their Grade 2.

Activities are numerous and the group has just come fourth in the fancy dress competition at Windsor Horse Show.

They all learn to groom, ride to music, trot and jump. So whether spastic, hyperactive, mentally retarded or whatever, all these children develop a sense of awareness, self-confidence and concentration.

One pony belongs to the group but all the other ten are loaned by kind people, Mrs Sarah Hall told me. She is one of the many volunteer Army wives who help. She summed it all up: "I just felt I could do something for someone else and as I like horses this was ideal. But it doesn't just stop at that, we have training sessions, films, discussions, all designed to help us to help these children."

Finance is always a problem but this group has the support of the Staff College, Camberley, plus that of the Sandhurst Hunt and Pony Club. Polly Hudson, whose father is in the Army, told me: "We have just finished a sponsored obstacle race and raised £3000. Half will go to the Sandhurst branch of Riding and Driving for the Disabled. The handicapped girls from Yateley enjoy the driving section."

One more example of Army wives and children helping the local community. I hope both groups will flourish for many years.

Noah 'sees' for Sheila

"I opened the gate to let Gary drive the Land-Rover through. Suddenly the general's horse rushed out up the village street and ended up on the vicarage lawn. Disaster! Then there was the time the buses decided to have doors in the middle. That really threw me."

What an amazing person Mrs Sheila Coles is. What courage she has. I talked to her and her husband Gary while they were putting the finishing touches to their quarter before handing it over and going to Rhine Army with their four-year-old daughter Julie and, most important of all, Noah, a golden retriever.

For Sheila is blind and Noah is her guide dog. No crate for Noah on the flight but a space beside Sheila, "I hope he won't mind flying. It's a new experience for him."

Gary and Sheila met 13 years ago at a Valentine dance. "That was it," said Gary. "We moved about like any other Army family but Sheila was very restricted. Now her life in the last 18 months has changed. I never know where she is!"

How did all this come about, I asked. Sheila took up the story: "Well, my social worker in Shropshire suggested it. I'd had an unsuccessful eye operation and before I knew it I was doing a month's training at Leamington Spa at the guide dog training centre. There they matched my temperament to the dogs and I came back with three-year-old Noah."

"I do all the shopping, take Julie to nursery school, see my friends

and twice a week I go to Ash on the bus to see my mother."

Rhine Army brings one problem for Noah — cars driving the 'wrong' way. But retrained and tested, he passed with flying colours.

There are no titbits for Noah. "A strict diet. Eight ounces of biscuits,

12 ounces of meat — every pound he puts on is a year off his working life," said Gary, a chef in the ACC.

Sheila has a Braille machine bought with Army help and plans to learn to type and speak German.

When she has settled in she has promised to write and tell us how she and Noah are getting on. I am sure all readers join me in wishing the Coles family — not forgetting Noah — a very happy posting.



Signs of the times

The Army won't want your autograph so often in future when you take over all the bits and bobs you are responsible for in a quarter.

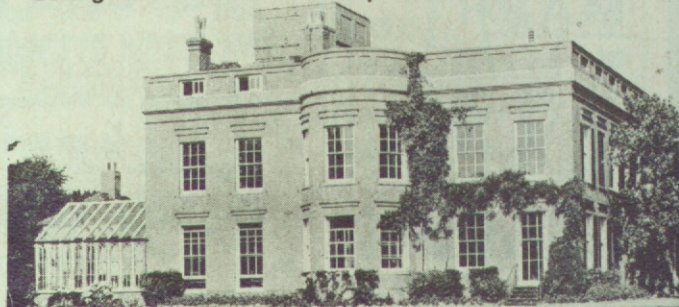
At present you have to sign many times on each page of the inventory book but the powers-that-be have come up with a new system they hope to introduce in the next couple of years which will make it simpler.

A prospective occupant will be

asked to say what items of furniture and fittings he does not want when he applies for a quarter. Then when he takes over the quarter he will merely sign for these items — the others having been removed — just once on the inventory form.

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Prospectus: The Secretary, St. John's College, Coolhurst, Horsham, Sussex. Tel: Horsham 2424.

Look in on new-look hostel

Honest I must be. For many years I used to do everything possible to send families in transit anywhere rather than the Corsham Families' Hostel in Wiltshire.

But I now retract all my previous thoughts and can write about the new-look hostel — Lypiatt Families Centre — which has a brand new image. With a new commandant, Colonel Bill Fenn, and the personal interest of Major-General Bob Lyon, the centre has taken a great leap forward.

The improvement programme is not yet complete but to date the newly planted trees, shrubs and flowers, new lounge and bar complex with a recreation hall and stage for the energetic, are finished.

Waiting

Further work includes a day lounge, play group, play room and sewing room.

During my visit I talked to many families from all corners of the Army throughout the world. Wives and families come to the centre while most of their husbands are already at their duty station waiting for a quarter. Some 15 per cent stay between one night and four weeks while 30 per cent stay for three months and a few longer still.

Great

Mrs Christel Wood, who has three children aged 16, 13 and six — told me: "I wouldn't mind staying for much longer but we are off tomorrow after three-and-a-half weeks. I can remember the old hostels ... well! This place is great; cheap, and all you want is here — Naafi, laundrette, hairdresser, doctor, nurse, amenities centre. There's plenty to do."

Andrew Wood chipped in: "And we can cycle all round the countryside. If you have not brought your own bike you can hire one. Then there are all the other activities for your age group."

Charming

One person many families will remember is Mrs Joan Grimley. "I came for three months and am still here 20 years later," she said. She is charming, kind and understanding and I was told she can work wonders with 'impossible' problems.

Joan added: "I feel much tension could be avoided if families know

they can come here. Two women in a kitchen, let alone children sharing an already crowded house, does cause tension with parents and in-laws; a worry, too, for those who have nowhere at all to go between postings.

Facelift

"Now this centre has had a facelift I do hope families will forget the old image and come here and enjoy their stay with us." Joan then

hurried off to help a newly-arrived family. I can assure you that to Joan and the rest of the staff nothing is too much trouble.

Agree

All you need to do is to get in touch with your families officer, housing commandant, SSAFA or anyone in authority who can contact Lypiatt Families Centre. Your husband must agree to your going.

Wives and families can be accepted with a minimum of warning from 0800 to 1630 hours Monday to Friday and in emergencies on Saturdays. If you arrive after 1630 a food pack is left in your rooms.

Health

Sister Gladys Roach looks after the health of the families on weekdays: "Our English climate is so unpredictable that I also run a clothing store for families arriving from warmer climates or to help out when that pair of trousers just wears through. I always need long trousers, shoes and boots to fit up to eight-year-olds. Prams and pushchairs can be hired out at a nominal sum."

Bouquet

In the lounge I talked to Mrs Beverley Gallagher, now in a quarter in Devizes. Holding her six-month-old baby born at the centre, she told me: "I received a huge bouquet from staff and friends at the centre. Everyone was so kind. I found plenty to do — I did enjoy the mini-bus trips to Bath and Devizes and they were free."

Playground

Talking to Tracy and Debbie as they spun around on the playground roundabout, they said: "We like it here. We have all this large area of ground to play on. Those logs over there were the first things to arrive for the new play area."

What about schooling for your family? I asked Mrs Catherine Phillips who was about to leave for Germany. "Since we have been here the children started school at the local primary school run here at the centre. It's excellent so no child misses out during term time, which is important."

"The older children go to the local comprehensive. Like the primary pupils, they can start the day after they arrive."

Holiday

If you are having to stay more than a week it may seem strange, especially if newly married. But it does take a week or two to settle in wherever you go. So do give it a try and I am sure you will find the old rumours are so untrue and it's more of a holiday.



Miss Joan Grimley chats with children.

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A brochure will be published at the end of the year to tell everyone about the new centre. One thing did strike me, and I make an appeal to all regiments, corps and individuals. If anyone has any pictures which would be suitable to brighten up the individual sitting rooms whose walls are bare at present, please send them to: Lieut-Col (Retd) E W Fenn, The Lypiatt Families Centre, Corsham, Wiltshire.

They kept one move ahead

Behind the simple-sounding decision 'reinforcements will be sent to Northern Ireland' during the recent abortive 'Loyalist' strike lay a staggering logistical exercise for the Army.

Three infantry battalions, a few hundred technical experts from England and Rhine Army plus their vehicles and stores had to move almost at a moment's notice.

The back-room boys of the operation were from movements operations branches in HQ United Kingdom Land Forces and Rhine Army who completed the task without any major hitch, enabling the Government to confidently face the daunting task of maintaining vital services should the strike take effect.

The reinforcements arrived in Ulster from the mainland and Germany by air and sea. Over 100 flights were made by C130 Hercules and VC10 transport aircraft from Brize Norton, Lyneham and Germany bringing in the three battalions plus experts from the Army, RAF and Royal Navy.

Sailings from Liverpool by LSL brought 170 prime-mover vehicles and more than 100 trailers — together with thousands of gallons of diesel fuel and 42 tons of stores. Pictured right are troops on arrival.

Movements staffs from both the Royal Corps of Transport and RAF worked round the clock to make the massive move so smooth.

In a signal of congratulation the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Roland Gibbs, said: "It reflects great credit upon the profes-

sionalism of our Services that at very short notice a reinforcement operation on this scale and of this complexity was conducted with speed, efficiency and without incident."

Look out for SOLDIER's stand at the Sheffield Services Display at Norfolk Park from 22-24 July. Arena events will include the ever-popular military bands, spectacular gymnastic and freefall parachuting displays plus motorcycle and helicopter performances. This is the Army's main public display in the north east this year. Admittance to the arena shows — one on Friday and two on Saturday and Sunday — will be free.



Para pares pounds

A Parachute Regiment corporal's loss was charity's gain when he decided on an 'in for a penny, in for a pound' slim-in to cut his waistline and build up charity funds by getting people to sponsor his effort.

When first pictured in April, Corporal Dave Longstaff weighed in at a belt-busting 18 stones. But when he went back to the MI room to be weighed out by Sergeant Bob MacDonald a couple of months later he was a trim 14½ stones, and his waistline had shrunk six inches.

Dave's strict diet involved not only cutting out starchy foods but going 'on the waggon' too which

meant nights out with the lads on only tomato juice or — as an occasional treat — bitter lemon.

The only really bad time he recalled as far as weight losing was concerned was when he had to spend a week in hospital and put on seven of the pounds he had so painstakingly sweated off with his five-mile-a-day runs and no beer.

In the end it was all worth it. For

the British Heart Foundation benefited to the tune of £157 from the sponsors Dave got for his efforts.

Jocks tak' the high road

A party of 30 Scots Guards set out from Blair Atholl to retrace the route of the Duke of Montrose in 1644 when he led a force of 3000 across country to engage the Duke of Argyll's men.

With more peaceful intent, the Scots Guards party were taking part in a physically demanding training exercise — dubbed High Cavalier — involving mountain walking.

The route passed through Schiehallion, Aberfeldy and Killin. The walkers, preceded by a piper, marched into Inveraray where — unlike their warlike predecessors — they left the town unharmed to return to their round of public duties in London.

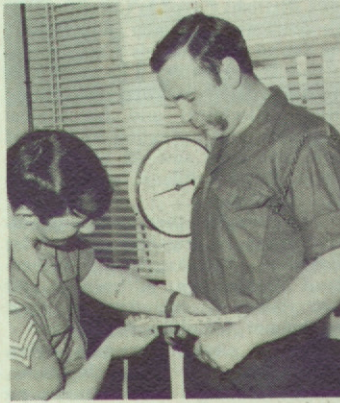
Infantry Freedom

The Light Infantry has received the Freedom of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. This confers the right on the regiment to march through the town with 'band playing, colours flying and bayonets fixed;' less formally, it is official recognition of close bonds between the regiment and this part of the world.

A framed illuminated copy of the Freedom Resolution and an engraved bugle called The Stockton Bugle were presented to the regiment by the local council. In return, the regiment gave Stockton framed pictures of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother — Colonel-in-Chief of The Light Infantry — and of Princess Alexandra who is Deputy Colonel-in-Chief.



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Irish birds of a feather

The 'Greenfinches' are the women of Ulster Defence Regiment. Their nickname originated with their radio call-sign but has now become familiar province-wide (writes Anne Armstrong).

It was 11 o'clock on a cold night with heavy drizzle when I went out with two Greenfinches, Carolyn and Ruby. At a vehicle checkpoint I watched while two other girls, Kate and Pat, carried out their searches. These girls are often out for six hours at a time and cups of tea are few and far between.

After spending an all-too-short time with the Greenfinches in Belfast, I was overwhelmed with admiration for them. They are not armed but are expected to play their part alongside the men of the Ulster Defence Regiment on operations, patrols and searches as well as working in headquarters.

Grandmother

Ruby is a grandmother — in fact if anybody is a 'super gran' it is her. She is purposeful — "If a job has to be done and I am around I will do it." She has a job and a house to run and being a Greenfinch leaves very little spare time. Yet she also manages to run a tea stop for soldiers.

This dedication to duty is found throughout the Greenfinches. They come from all walks of life and yet, whether they are 18 or 49, their life pattern is the same. They go to their daily work and then go on duty as Greenfinches in the evening — perhaps not seeing their beds until three am.

A platoon goes out with its 10lb flak jackets and blankets and I hope they will have a quiet night. In the operations room another Greenfinch, Jill, answers calls over the various radios nets and mans the telephones.

Shattered

I asked her what made her join up. Replied Carolyn: "I had been a member of the St John Ambulance Brigade since I was 16. Two years ago a bomb explosion inflicted terrible injuries on a member of my family. This shattered us. I had seen such things with my ambulance work but this made me feel that

perhaps I could contribute more as a Greenfinch to help our troubled country.

"The girls are marvellous. We have one corporal who lost her husband — shot dead beside her. She is one of our best. They work hard, never question the extra duties or the dangers involved."

Carolyn told me that most men in the UDR accept Greenfinches on their merits. "I think they like to hear a girl's clear voice on the radio," she added.

Courageous

The company I visited holds the Liddle Cup, awarded to the best Greenfinch team on signals, map reading, searching, first aid and driving. I am only sorry that I am unable to use full names or describe in detail the various commitments which these courageous women undertake.

Many of the Greenfinches are married to members of the security forces, which places a tremendous strain on them. Others are married to men with no forces connection and this has its own strains. But there is a tremendous bond between all of them.



Above: Greenfinch searching in Belfast.

'General' Jim goes to Germany

Donning a general's combat jacket, Premier Jim Callaghan visited units of 1 (British) Corps in Germany. His first call was in Bergen Hohne where he found some of his Cardiff constituents among The Queen's Dragoon Guards. Then he visited a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer unit operating in its field role and later saw 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, on the ranges at Munsterlager.

Mr Callaghan then flew on to Soltau where he watched men of 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, in training and saw some of the Army's latest equipment, including Blowpipe.

Picture shows Sergeant Brian Penk, from 27 Field Regiment, demonstrating the Blowpipe launcher to the Prime Minister.



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IN PARLIAMENT

Tory attack

Conservative critics were quickly to the fore during a defence debate which raged over two separate days. The following extracts are from just some of the dozens of speeches made in the Commons following this year's Defence White Paper.

Mr Ian Gilmour (Conservative, Chesham and Amersham): "We shall not return to the places from which the Labour Government have withdrawn. We regret the withdrawals in many cases but we cannot have our forces going backwards and forwards."

Colonel Sir Harwood Harrison (Conservative, Eye): "The Territorial Army is the cheapest way — if one is concerned about cost — of getting a body of trained, disciplined troops and the Territorials have twice served this country well this century."

Mr Anthony Buck (Conservative, Colchester): "It is not good for morale if the Service pattern is to be Northern Ireland with an occasional visit to Germany and the rest of the time spent at Colchester, Aldershot, or elsewhere. It is not an attractive pattern if the unaccompanied tours to Northern Ireland become ever more frequent."

Mr Michael Mates (Conservative, Petersfield): "On support equipment could we not go on to the civilian market much more than we do, adapting its products which have been tried and tested under commercial conditions? Did we not perhaps err in trying to ask too much of our last load carrier? Did it have to be able to swim and do all the things that we built into the Stalwart, when for a fraction of the cost we could have picked up a tried and tested workhorse from the civilian market and adapted it?"

Mr Emlyn Hooson (Liberal, Montgomery): "I wish that there was a way of our having a separate vote on the expenditure on our troops in Northern Ireland, because their activities are not part of the defence effort as such. Service in Northern Ireland is a heavy additional burden imposed upon our armed forces which is separate and distinct from their real job."

Mr Frank Hooley (Labour, Sheffield Heeley): "It is proper that the record should be put straight. In

1972-73 when the Conservatives had an overall majority of 30 or 40 members in this House ... they reduced expenditure on defence at constant prices by £162,000,000. In 1973-74 they reduced it again by another £40,000,000 ... we are still spending money in maintaining troops in Hong Kong. That is a totally ludicrous defence posture. That colony, if attacked, could not be defended."

About 4.4 per cent of men in the United Kingdom between the ages of 18 and 45 were in the Regular and reserve forces, said Mr James Well-beloved, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the RAF, in reply to a question from Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth).

In 1976 some 413 Servicemen and women died and of these 71 died accidentally while on duty. The figures were given to Mr Onslow by Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence.

Mr Brown told Sir Frederic Bennett (Conservative, Torbay) that by June this year approximately 114,000 or 81 per cent of the Regular Army and approximately 40,000 or 66 per cent of the TAVR would be equipped with the modern webbing equipment. It was planned to reequip the balance by the early 1980s.

Language training interested Mr Roderick MacFarquhar (Labour, Belper). Dr Gilbert gave him figures for Service officers who last year received language training "to a certain level of proficiency." German topped the list with 1270 students followed by Arabic 88, French 55, Russian 40. Other languages included Chinese, Japanese, Persian, Polish and Portuguese.

In a written question, Mr John Biggs-Davison (Conservative, Epping Forest) asked why Armagh Barracks had been designed to last for only 20 years. Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, said the new accommodation at Armagh was designed with a view to speedy and economical construction.

Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking) was told by Mr Brown that the deferment in the timescale of procurement of an anti-tank guided weapons system for Lynx helicopters was between one and two years.

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Tin tips the scales

Just a small tin. But inside is enough money to provide a hospital facility which is so common in the sophisticated world that almost every bathroom boasts one.

Nurse Margaret provides the only civil medical cover in an area almost the size of Wales in the southern jungles of Belize, and her equipment is almost non-existent.

But thanks to Sergeant Stan Smith, the cook at the British Army's Salamanca Camp, near Nurse Margaret's 'clinic,' she will now at least have a set of bathroom scales so that she can weigh mothers and babies.

"We heard about the problems

here," said Stan, "and decided that we could help. We had a barbecue at camp. I cooked the food and the cash raised was all given to Nurse Margaret."

The barbecue was given a boost by 88 Arracan Battery, also at Salamanca, who provided the drink.

With Stan making the presentation is John Early, the Department of the Environment engineer based at Salamanca.



Medal mystery



Medal collector Mr Len Matthews unearthed a real find when he bought a Crimea Medal with four bars from another collector recently. For after copious research Mr Matthews has discovered that the recipient, Captain Charles Hampden Turner, was the man who carried the Regimental Colour of the Grenadier Guards for six hours during the battle of Inkerman on 5 November 1854.

The contemporary narrative records that while the Colour was in the hands of the then Lieutenant Turner the enemy, often on three sides, vainly endeavoured to capture the trophy.

Another chronicler, General Sir George Higginson, wrote: "I shall never forget the cheer with which the returning Colours were welcomed by all ranks. HRH the Duke of Cambridge being almost moved to tears, for, as they all said, 'we had given you up for lost'."

Now Mr Matthews, of 10, Black Pond Lane, Farnham, Surrey, hopes to discover more about the mysterious Captain Turner.

Can any reader help?

Guards gleam

The Grenadier Guards have won the Egon Ronay — British Steel Corporation's Stainless Steel Clean Kitchen Award for their guardroom kitchens at Windsor Castle and St James's Palace.

Noted gourmet Egon Ronay presented steel plaques to the two head cooks on duty when the kitchens were inspected — Sergeant Philip Bray and Sergeant Thomas Calvert, both Army Catering Corps.

Other Army kitchens to receive the award have been the Women's Royal Army Corps' Duchess of Kent Barracks and The Parachute Regiment Depot, both in Aldershot.

New station

A new Army Fire Station at Bovington has been opened to replace outmoded accommodation in a converted hut.

Station Officer David Gaddas has a staff of 21 who are responsible for the Bovington and Lulworth garrisons as well as the adjoining ranges.

The new station is the third to be built in the south west of England for the Army Fire Service since World War Two. The others are at Ashchurch in Gloucestershire, and Tidworth.

Lights out for tattoo

The Ministry of Defence has announced that the 1978 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo will be the last to be held as an annual event.

Manpower reductions as a result of defence cuts mean that commitments such as Army displays and tattoos have had to be pruned throughout the country.

As far as Colchester is concerned, it will no longer be possible to mount the tattoo each year as before. Now it will be held once every three years.

Similar plans have been announced for the Cardiff Tattoo and Catterick Army Display.

As for Colchester, the tattoo is sponsored by the town's Community Fund Committee as part of the Colchester Carnival Week each year as a charity cash-raising scheme. So in future a smaller Army participation, such as Beating Retreat, is planned for the two years between tattoos to provide the traditional military participation.

So-long to Longmoor

Longmoor Camp in Hampshire, which is currently being vacated by the Army School of Transport, is to be used as a training camp. In November the training camp at Church Crookham will move to Longmoor.

Longmoor will continue to provide accommodation for troops of the Regular and reserve armies and cadet forces while they are training. The training camp will occupy all the long-term barrack accommodation in addition to making full use of the ranges and training areas there.



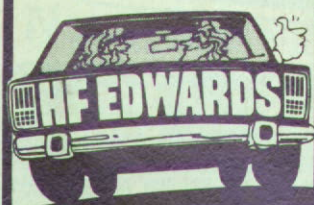
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The Queen and Her Army

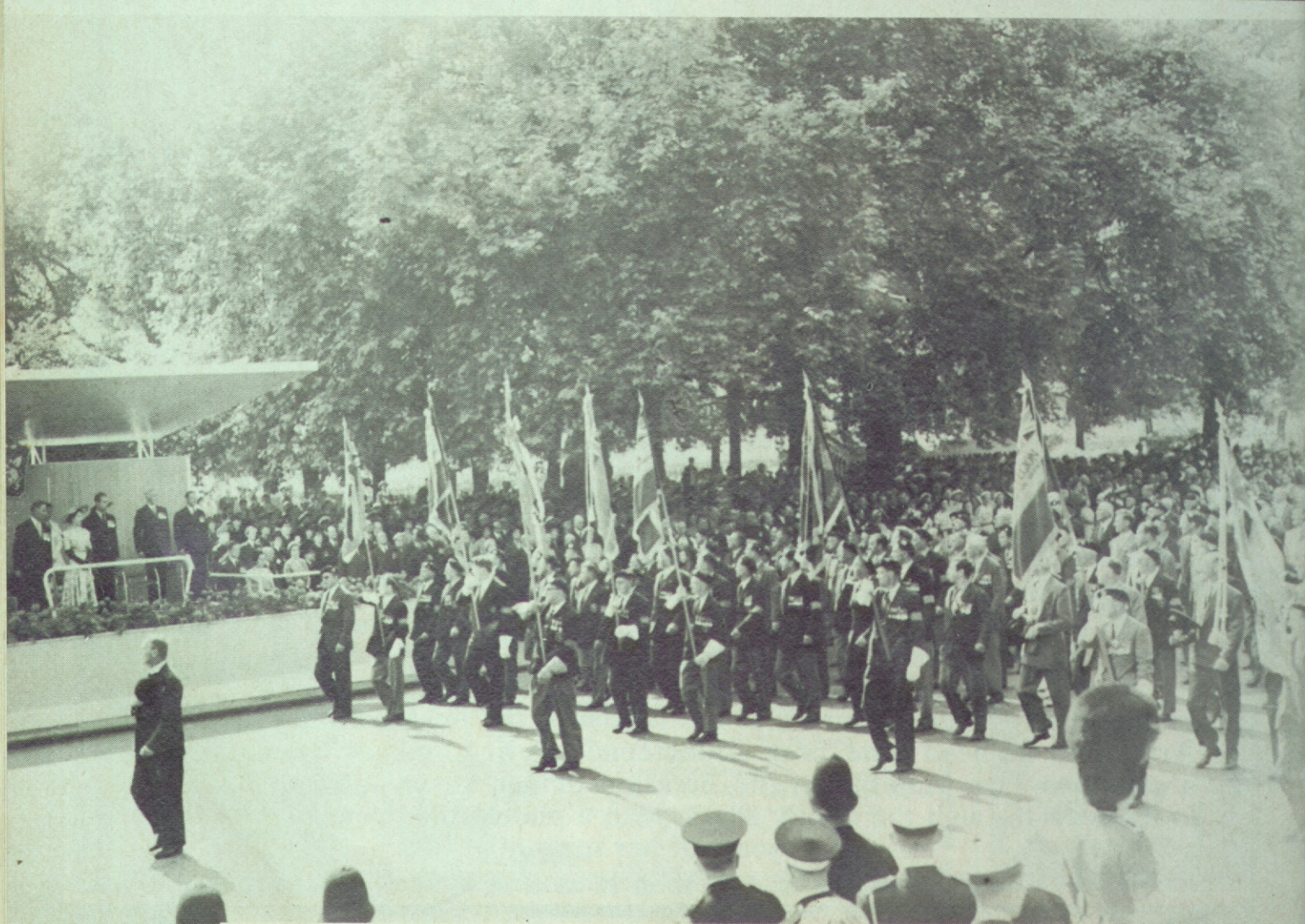


TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ago the young Queen Elizabeth came to the throne, having already served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service, the forerunner of the Women's Royal Army Corps.

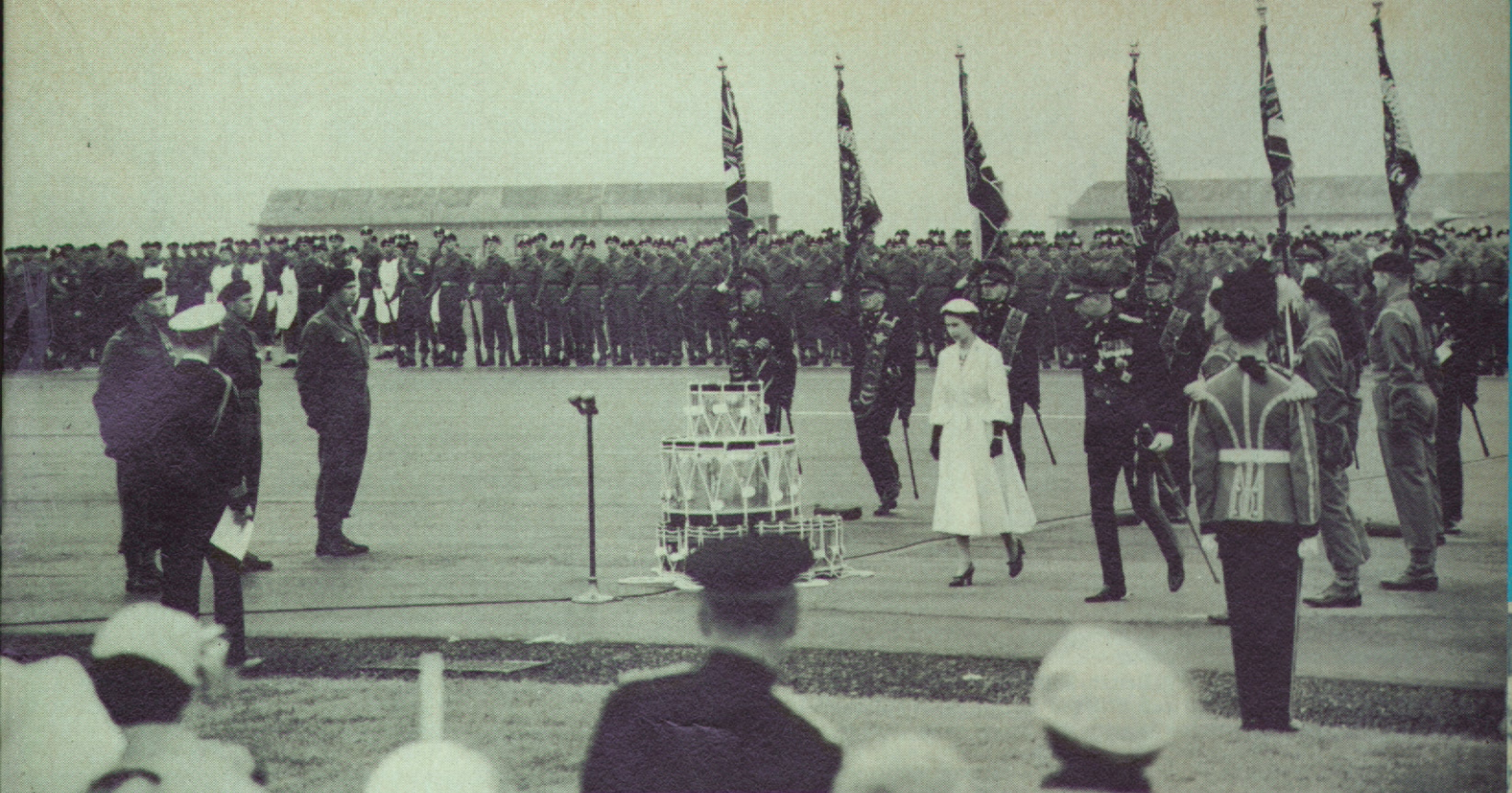
In the quarter of a century that has followed, the links between the British Army and its head have been strengthened in hundreds of ceremonies. As a salute to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee, SOLDIER looks back through the family album with a photograph from each of the 25 years of her reign.



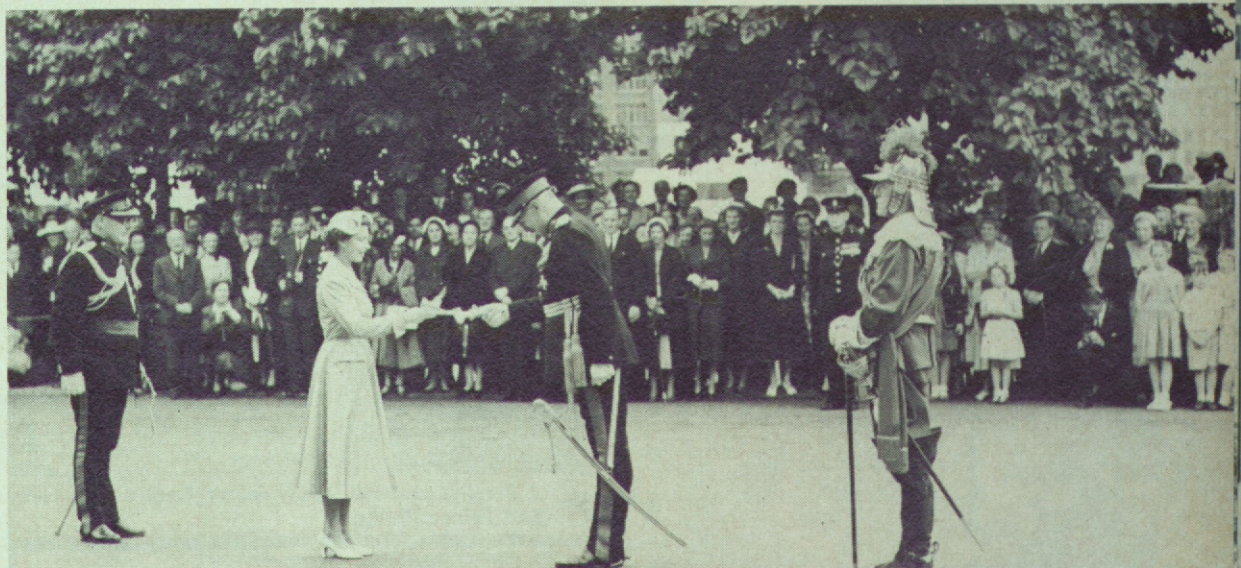
1952 The new Queen inspects the Grenadier Guards at Windsor in April, only two months after her accession.



1953 Old campaigners from the dominions and colonies march past in the royal review of ex-servicemen in Hyde Park



1954 Presentation of new Colours to The Royal Welch Fusiliers at Wroughton, Wiltshire (note battledress).



1955 As Captain-General of the Honourable Artillery Company, the young Queen presents new Colours to the historic unit.

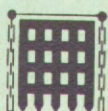


1956 A steam engine caught her eye when the Queen went to the open day at Chatham of the Royal Engineers.





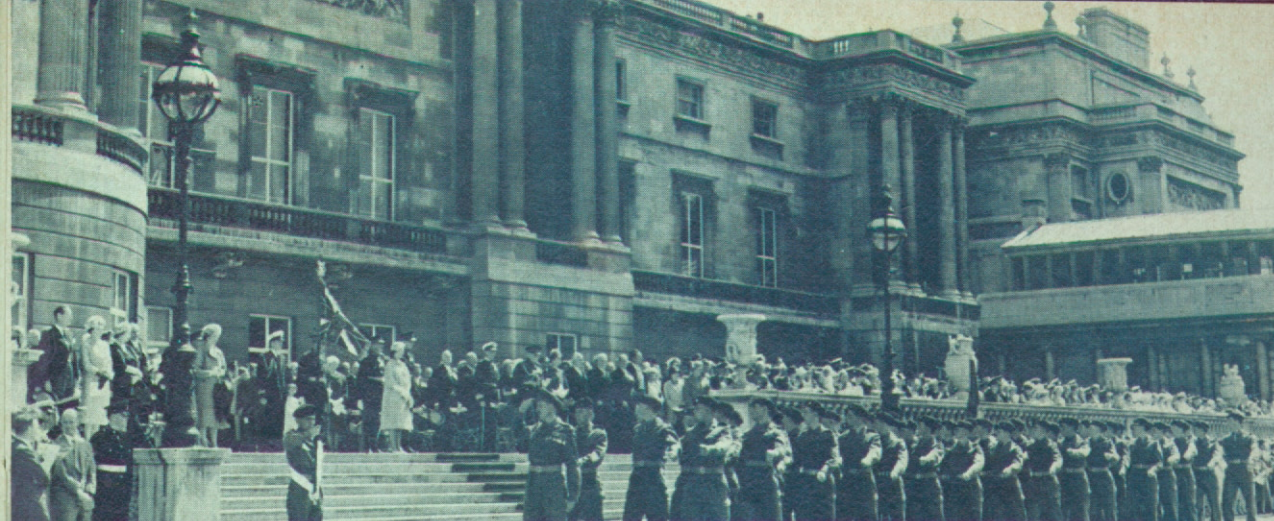
1957 In those days Britain still had many colonies. Here the Queen inspects men of The King's African Rifles at Buckingham Palace.



1958 Aldershot and the Army soccer final — the referee is presented to the Queen and Prince Philip.



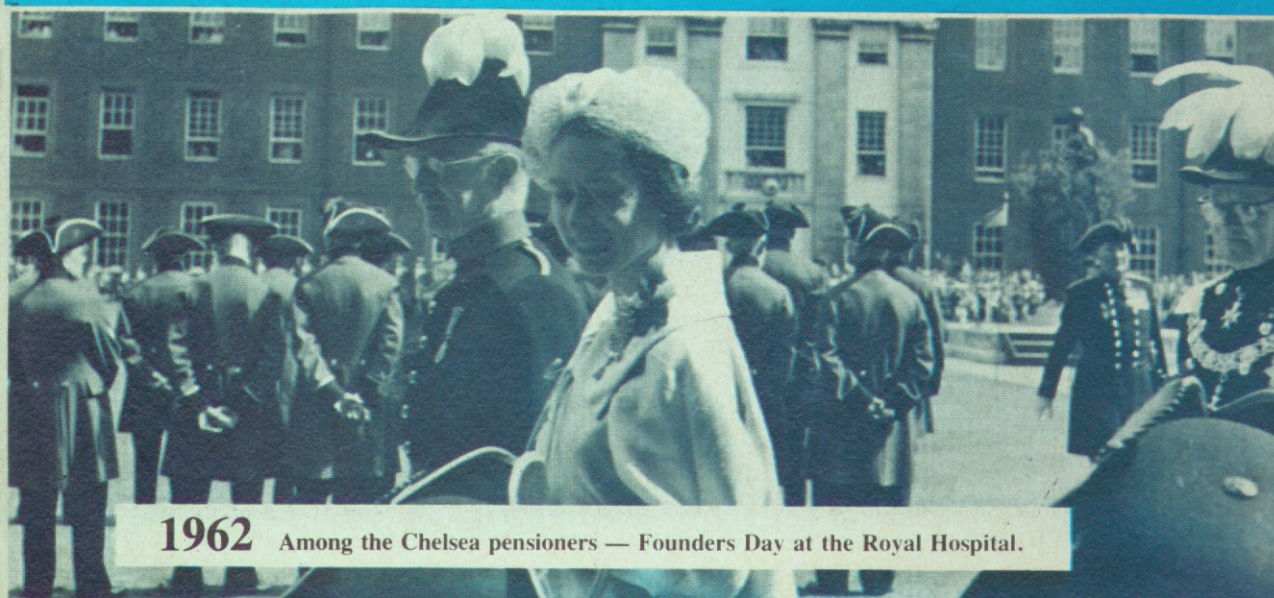
1959 Inspecting the 16/5th Queen's Royal Lancers in London.



1960 Centenary of the Combined Cadet Force — the boys march past at the Palace.



1961 Trooping the Colour — the Queen inspects the Guards after her arrival on Horse Guards Parade.



1962 Among the Chelsea pensioners — Founders Day at the Royal Hospital.



1963 Commissioning parade at the former Mons Officer Cadet School.



1964 Opening the new Women's Royal Army Corps Depot at Guildford.



Queen Elizabeth

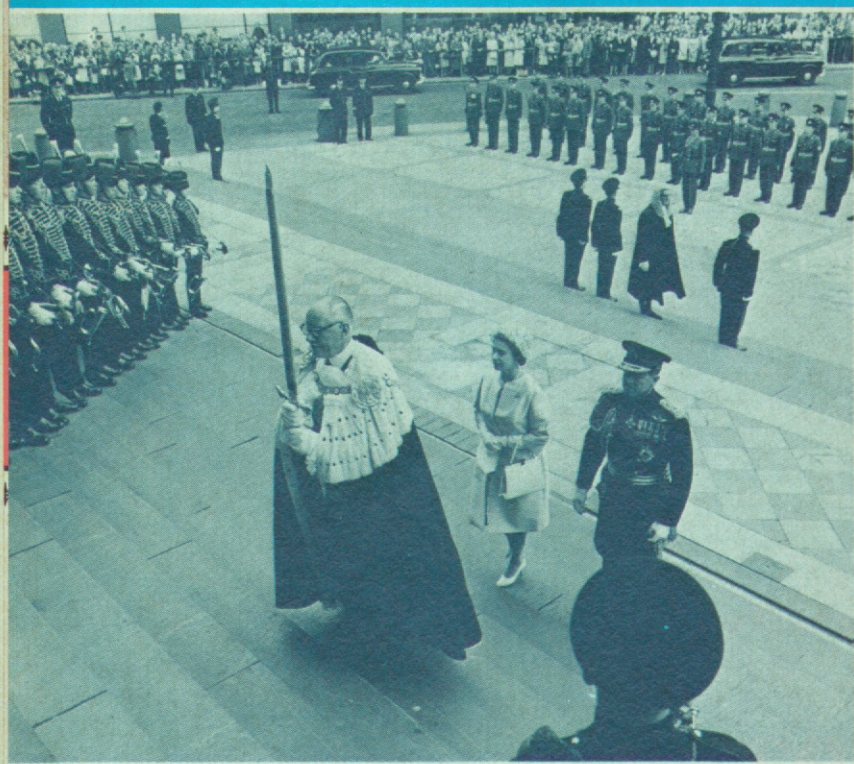
Queen Elizabeth is Colonel-in-Chief of The Life Guards, The Blues & Royals, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, Royal Tank Regiment, Corps of Royal Engineers, Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards, Welsh Guards, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, The Royal Green Jackets, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry and The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.

She is Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, The Honourable Artillery Company and the Combined Cadet Force. She also holds similar appointments with a number of Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and other Commonwealth units.





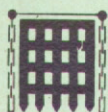
1965 History repeats itself this July. Here the Queen reviews her troops at Sennelager.



1966 The Captain-General attending the Royal Artillery's 250th anniversary service at St Paul's.



1967 A mass drop by paratroopers and a helicopter borne assault by two companies of troops were watched at Aldershot by the Queen and Duke.



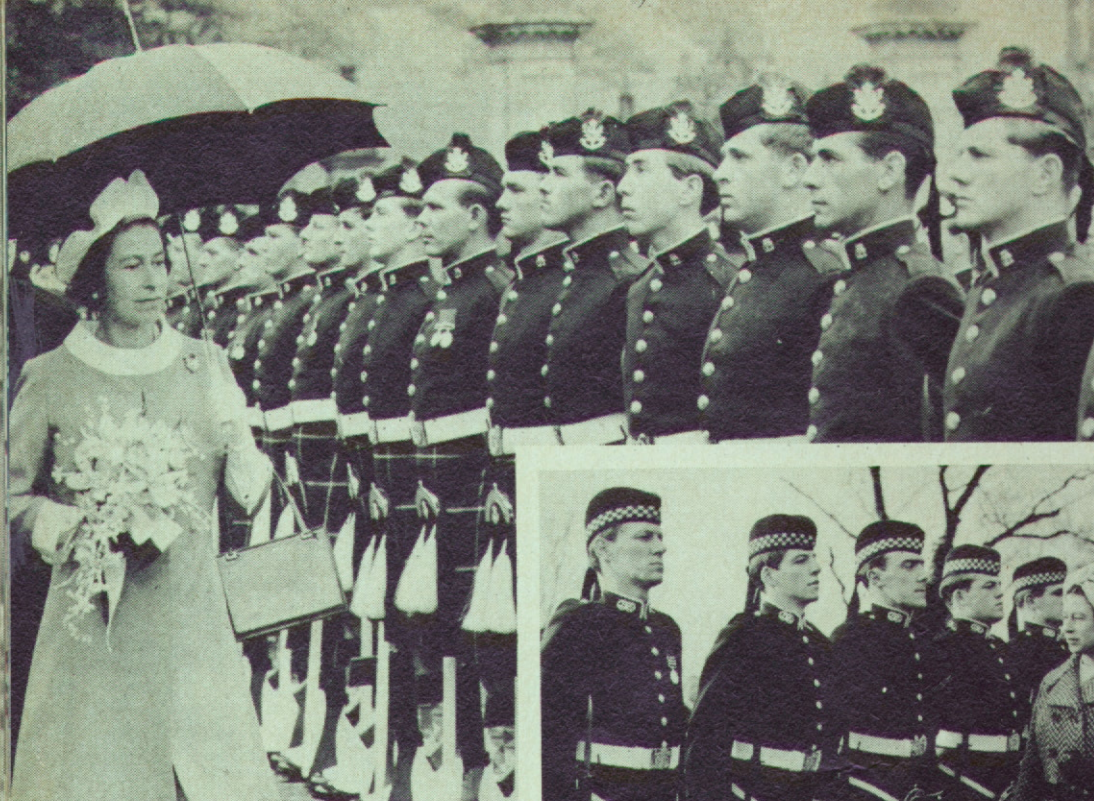
1968

The Queen salutes as the Household Cavalry ride past the Palace following Trooping the Colour.



1969

As Captain-General, visiting the home of the Royal Artillery at Woolwich.



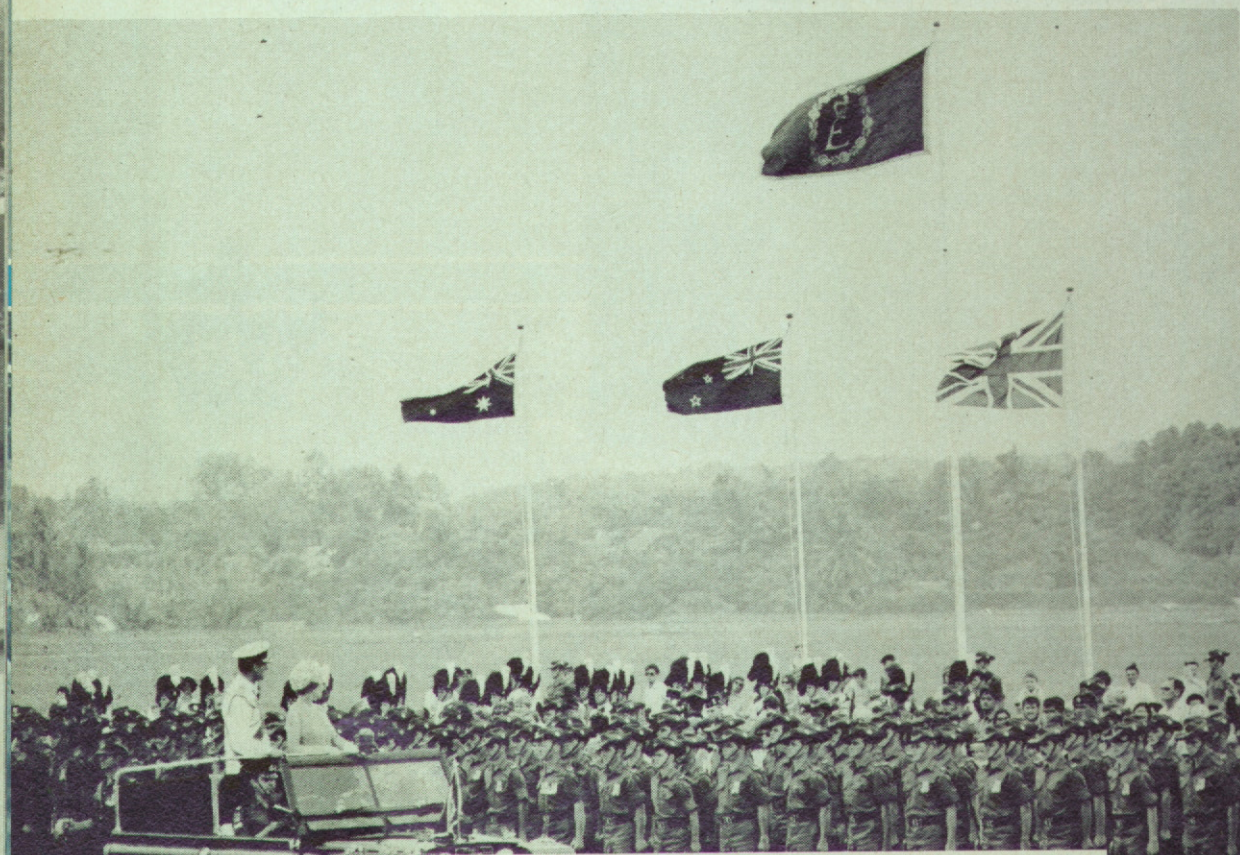
1970

At Holyrood House in Edinburgh, inspecting a Guard of Honour mounted by the 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders.



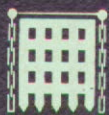
1971

Another Scottish occasion — with 1st Battalion, The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, at Stirling.



1972

In Singapore, inspecting an ANZUK Force parade, of some 800 soldiers, sailors and airmen. Pictured are men of 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment,



1973 With 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, at Tidworth.

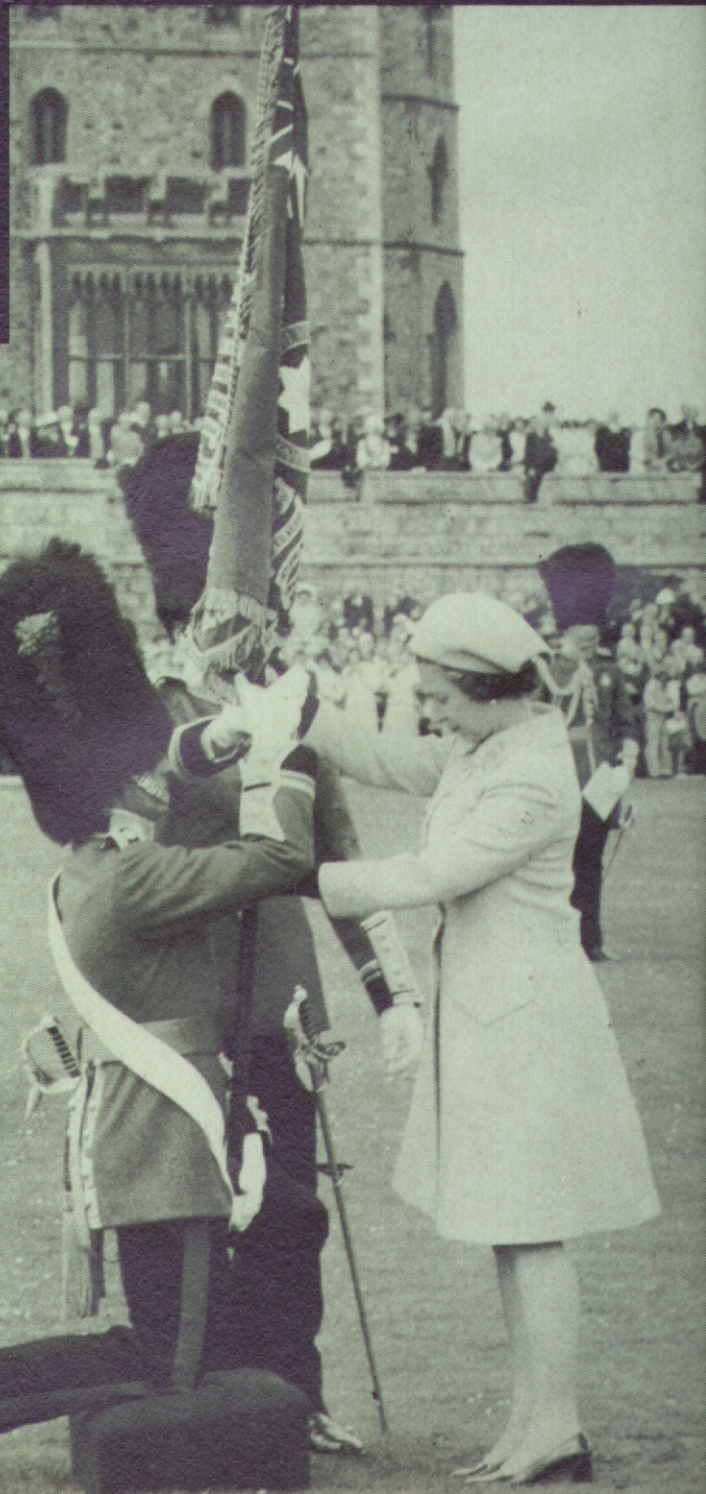


1974 Happy waves from the Royal couple from the Palace balcony after Trooping the Colour.

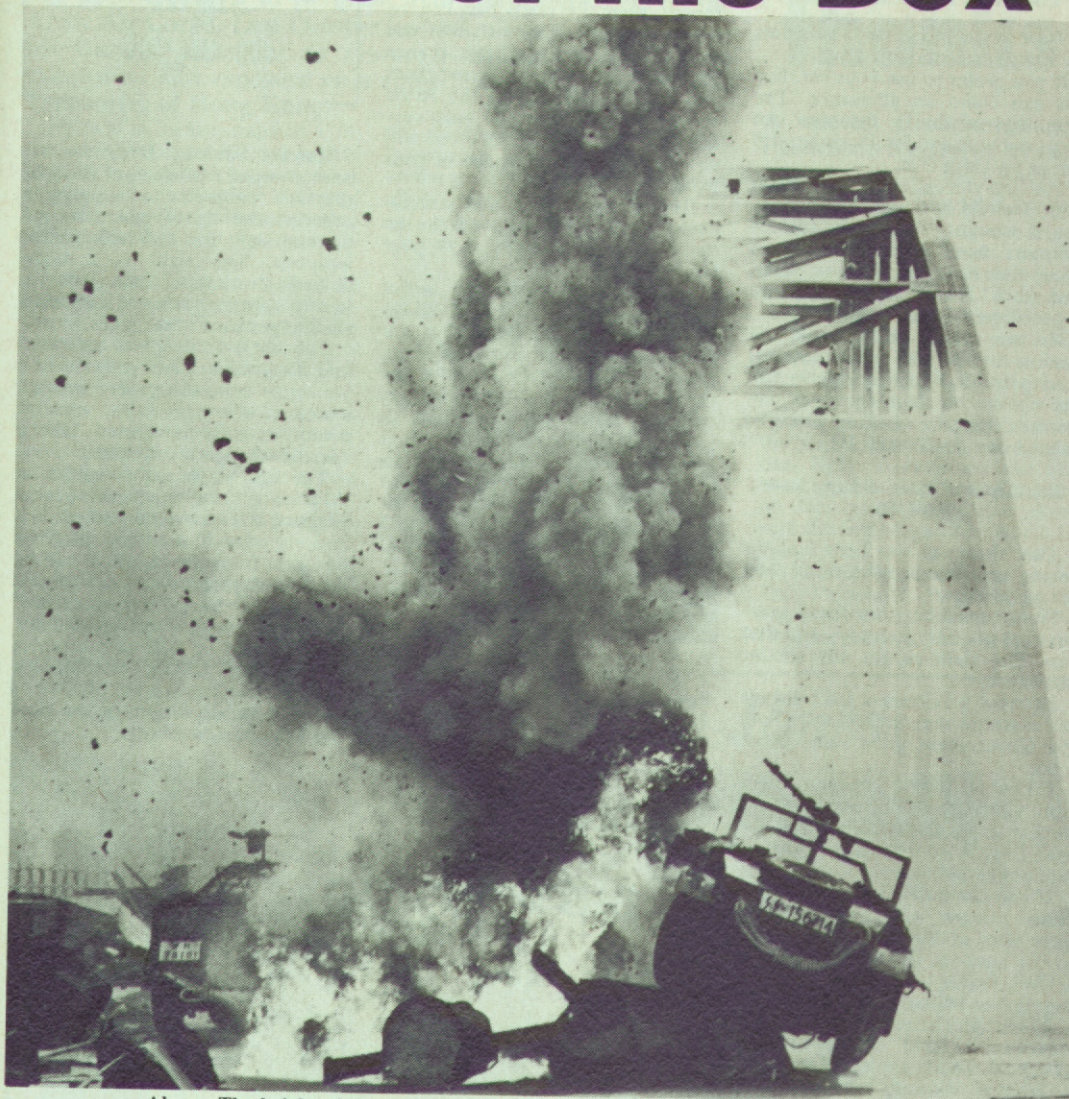


1975 Chatting to families at Catterick during her visit to commemorate the 50th anniversary in Catterick of the Royal Signals.

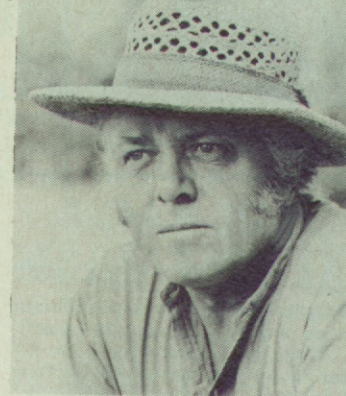
1976 Dwarfed by the Queen's Company, 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, at Windsor Castle.



Battle of the Box-Office



Above: The height of the action — cinema style. Top right: Director Attenborough.



At the time of going to press the world première of Sir Richard Attenborough's Arnhem epic 'A Bridge Too Far' had not been held — yet already a new battle was going on between those who regard it as "the most definitive war film ever made" and critics who dismiss it as just another war movie aimed at the American cinema audience.

Whatever the truth the film is certainly compulsive viewing.

Operation Market Garden was a daring gamble which could have ended the war quickly. The fact that it did not was due to a lot of circumstances admirably chronicled in Cornelius Ryan's 'A Bridge Too Far' book. Sir Richard has followed Ryan's reasoning fairly faithfully — although at times we have cinematographic licence. After all millions of pounds have been poured into the film's making and box office appeal must play its part.

The Americans involved are generally handsome, shrewd and decisive. Robert Redford charges about with a 'go, go, go' attitude — shaking his head in disbelief at the more cautious British.

Ryan O'Neal looks about 17 in his helmet and is strangely cast as Brigadier-General Gavin. And the British eccentricities which the book noted, such as waving brollies and blowing hunting horns in the midst of battle, are played for all they are worth.

But Anthony Hopkins is magnificent as the British bridge hero, Lieutenant-Colonel John Frost, and ex-007 Sean Connery is suitably strong and silent as Major-General Urquhart.

The Germans are shown as chivalrous (Maximilian Schell) and stupid (Walter Kohut as Field-Marshal Model.) The latter raised practically the only laugh of the whole film when he sat in his head-

quarters considering why the Arnhem landings had been made.

In a scene reminiscent of Monty Python the field-marshal worked it out thus: "They are after something important. What is important? I am important. They are after me!"

It is the portrayal of General 'Boy' Browning which has so far caused the most controversy. Dirk Bogarde presents him as a hidebound, obtuse man who arbitrarily dismisses reconnaissance photographic evidence of the presence of German armour in the Arnhem area. And at the end he is shown washing his hands of the whole affair with the phrase: "I always said we were going a bridge too far."

How all this squares up to reality is a matter for the participants and historians to squabble over. But for the lads of The Parachute Regiment who took part and for anyone else who likes what used to be called 'a rattling good yarn' the film 'A Bridge Too Far' must be seen. JW

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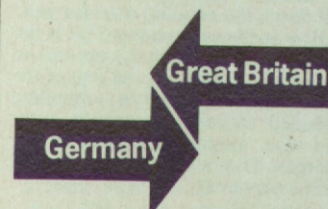
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Probably no other subject raises so much interest among soldiers and their families than money and matters related to it. Now **SOLDIER NEWS** has started a new column, which over the months will bring you all possible information about pay and allowances.

Money Matters

MILEAGE ALLOWANCES

Why have we got so many different rates of motor mileage allowance?

What can I claim when I use my car on duty, for leave, or for getting from my home to my place of duty?

Why don't the rates fully cover the running costs of my car?

These questions are raised regularly by servicemen with their pay offices, so here are the facts.

There are four different rates of motor mileage allowance (known as MMA). Let's look at each one in more detail.

Official Duty Rate (ODR)

If you are sent on a duty journey by your CO and he certifies that Service transport cannot be provided, you may be eligible to use your own car and claim ODR.

Your CO must also certify that public transport was unsuitable to allow you to perform your duties satisfactorily.

You see, then, that you should normally travel on duty either by Service transport or public transport. Only if this is not possible can you claim ODR. Remember too, you need to be comprehensively insured.

Because it is expensive (currently, for a Ford Cortina 1600, you could claim 11p a mile) the authority to claim ODR is very restricted.

Make sure then, before you use your car on a duty journey, that ODR will be authorised — otherwise you may be out of pocket. You may have to fill in a form before you go, so see your pay office — they will check the detailed rules for you.

How is the rate assessed? It is the actual cost of running the car and, in addition to paying for the cost of the petrol and oil, there is something included to cover insurance, wear and tear, maintenance and service charges. The rate is the same for all public servants.

Public Transport Rate (PTR)

If you are going on a duty journey and you choose — to suit your own convenience — to use your own car in preference to using public transport, then you cannot, in all fairness, expect the Army to pay you ODR.

But the Army is prepared to pay you roughly what it would have cost if you had gone by bus or train.

So you can claim the PTR, which is a rate based on the average cost of public transport countrywide. This is currently 4.9p a mile.

Remember that if you choose to use your car on an occasion when Service transport is provided, you can't claim.

So, if a Service bus is laid on to take your unit to the ranges for example, and you use your own car — perhaps because you want to drop your wife off to visit her mother or sister who live on the way — then you can't claim.

The rule is: If Service transport is

provided, you can't claim PTR, but if you opt not to use public transport, you can claim PTR.

Converted Leave Rate (CLR)

We can all have travel warrants for four leave journeys a year.

If you prefer to use your car then you can claim an allowance. The advantage of this is that you can take your wife and family along with you at no extra cost.

The rate you can claim is based on what it would cost the Army to give you a warrant. The Army gets its warrants from British Rail at a cheap rate because it uses so many, and the CLR of mileage allowance is based on this cheap rate.

No one would pretend that the current rate of 3.3p a mile pays for your petrol — but it does give you the option of claiming something towards the cost of using your car instead of using British Rail.

Residence to Place of Duty Rate (RPOD)

This always causes hard feelings among servicemen, who think they get a raw deal.

First, remember that these journeys are not duty journeys, and that very few civilians get any similar allowance.

Because servicemen can't always select where they are going to live, the Government gives some assistance.

If you use public transport to get from your quarters to your place of duty, you get the full refund of the cost (less a contribution which is mentioned below).

If you use public transport to get from private accommodation to your place of duty you are restricted at the moment to a claim of £8.60 a week (again less the contribution mentioned below).

In certain circumstances, you can qualify to have this restriction removed. This is explained later on.

What if you want to use your car for residence to place of duty travel? Well, the same basic rules apply about contributions and restrictions on travel from private accommodation, but you can claim an allowance for using your car instead of claiming rail or bus fares.

This allowance is currently 4.1p a mile and is based on the average cost of second class rail, bus and underground fares at season ticket rates. Clearly, this does not cover the motoring costs but, in fairness, this is what the Army would have had to pay if you went by public transport. Remember, you chose to use your car for your convenience.

Now, what about contributions? In 1970, the National Board for Prices and Incomes (NBPI) looked at Service pay and introduced the military salary. (Incidentally, the NBPI no longer exists, and Service pay is now looked after by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body).

The NBPI decided then that as most civilians had to pay their fares to work, it was only right that Army personnel should make some contribution. This is why you now pay £1.25 a week towards the total cost of your travel to work.

What about people in private residences who are currently restricted to £8.60 a week (less their contribution)? The Government considers that if you choose to live in private accommodation some distance from your place of duty, then you should be allowed to do so providing your CO says that it is all right. What they will not agree, is that you should receive a refund of your expenses beyond a reasonable

distance of your place of duty. This is the reason for the restriction.

What has been agreed is that if you are posted from one place to another, and you don't move your family, then the restriction can be lifted. This is on the basis that you will not be drawing disturbance allowance nor removal expenses and are therefore saving the Army some expense. Your CO must certify that the distance involved will not affect the performance of your work.

RPOD allowances are complicated, and you should check the details of your own case with your pay office.

These are the allowances, and a little about them. What about keeping the rates up to date? They are frequently reviewed and, if there is a movement in the basis on which any of them are fixed, the rates get changed. You may not think so sometimes, but the Ministry of Defence is on your side. Both civilians and Servicemen are involved in assessing the rates so the problems of the man on the ground are fully taken into account.

Lastly, this article has only covered the outline of a very complicated subject. The details are contained in Regulations for Army Allowances and Charges, Chapters 3, 4 and 5. Don't try to struggle through these by yourself. If you have a problem, consult your pay office.

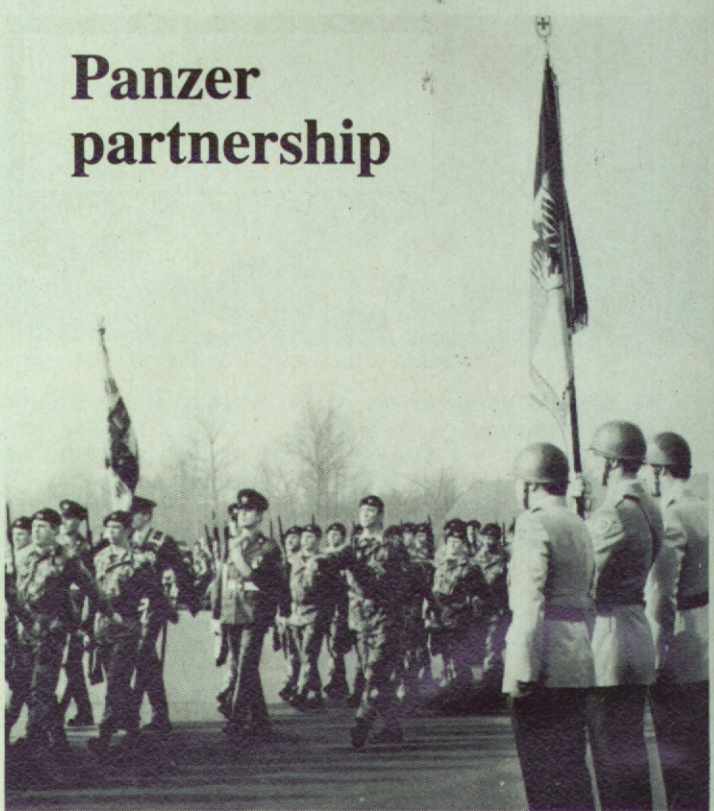
Infra-red sight in sight

Hawker Siddeley Dynamics has been awarded a Ministry of Defence research contract to supply an experimental lightweight infra-red thermal sight for anti-tank guided weapons. The sight is a high-definition weapon-aiming device said to have a number of significant advantages over other types.

The unit is entirely self-contained and designed to fit directly on to a variety of anti-tank guided weapon systems, although later versions could be fully integrated into a specific weapon if required.

The lightweight sight enables an AFV target to be identified at a range of at least two kilometres. It is entirely passive, detecting infra-red emission from the target. It can be used in daylight or total darkness with no need for illumination and will detect targets through smoke, haze or dust or against a complex background. Unlike conventional low light devices, it is not blinded by searchlights, explosions or the glare from the missile motor.

Panzer partnership



A British Army battalion has formed an official partnership with its West German Army counterpart.

The 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, and Panzergrenadierbataillon 21 have had an unofficial affiliation and apart from meeting on the sports field and socially they have

trained together many times. Now the liaison has been made official with an exchange of scrolls at a parade at Wesendorf, the home of the German battalion.

Picture shows the Regimental Colour of the 1st Battalion being marched on to parade past the German battalion's 'Truppenfahne.'



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Air hero honoured

The Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air has been awarded to Sergeant Ivor Johnstone (29) of the Army Air Corps. Last October he took off on a night flight in his Gazelle helicopter to rescue a soldier suffering from exhaustion and exposure on a ridge 2000 feet up in the New Territories of Hong Kong.

He flew in darkness and at 1700 feet went into cloud. He was unable to climb high enough to see torches shining on the landing site but heard by radio from the soldiers there that visibility at that spot was up to 50 yards.

Using the helicopter's landing light, Sergeant Johnstone 'hover-taxied,' hugging the steep hillside until he emerged from the cloud, found the site and made a difficult landing among boulders.

Once the casualty was on board, cloud and rain completely enveloped the spot and the pilot 'slid' down the slope a few feet above the ground until he came out below the cloud base and was able to resume normal flight.

The citation states: "Sergeant Johnstone showed exceptional skill and courage. By his actions the casualty received medical attention

far more quickly than would otherwise have been possible, and in doing so he acted beyond the call of duty."



BLESMA says thanks to Paras

A special illuminated scroll has been presented to the Parachute Regiment by the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association — BLESMA — in recognition of the help the organisation has had from the regiment in the past.

The regiment's world-famous freefall parachute team, the Red Devils, has been particularly active in helping BLESMA with fund-raising and publicity ventures.

On one occasion, the team trained and dropped Sir James Stuart-Mentieth (pictured presenting the scroll to Regimental Colonel Gerald Mullins) by parachute over the sea... Sir James, president of the East Berkshire BLESMA branch, has no legs having lost them on the Anzio beachhead serving with the Scots Guards in World War Two.

There at the presentation too was The Parachute Regiment's own limbless member, Sergeant Albert Hooker, who is the Red Devils'

highly qualified parachute rigger. Albert has one leg and still has done well over 50 freefall jumps.

The special scroll is now housed in the Airborne Forces Museum in Aldershot.



Never-say-die Dai Jones



Edward Ardizzone's sketch 'West Country Manoeuvres' — We are held up by ferocious Home Guards' admirably illustrates a recent incident related to one of our roving reporters in the remote South Wales village of Llansawel. One of the residents declared: "There was a crunch, crunch of martial hobnails through the village this morning and we were all puzzled to see a gentleman who lives alone somewhere up the hill marching through in full private's gear, including greatcoat, forage cap, gas mask holder, the lot.

"The postman asked the question for us all, 'What's all this then, Mr Jones?'"

"'I'm celebrating the formation of the Home Guard (1940). Hitler was never afraid of the British Army but he was bloody terrified of the Home Guard!'"

"You know now why Llansawel was never invaded."

Their bite's worse than their bark

The British Army's dogs of war — four-legged and strictly canine — have turned out on specialist tasks in Northern Ireland no fewer than 1200 times in one recent month.

Battle honours for the first three months of this year included 56 tracker dog jobs with search dogs accounting for 26 weapons found, 593 rounds of live ammunition found, 185 kilograms of explosive found, 139 bomb-making items found and 217 other items of interest accounted for.

As a result of this sniffing, 12 arrests were made... and it's a dog's life for a terrorist when he's caught.

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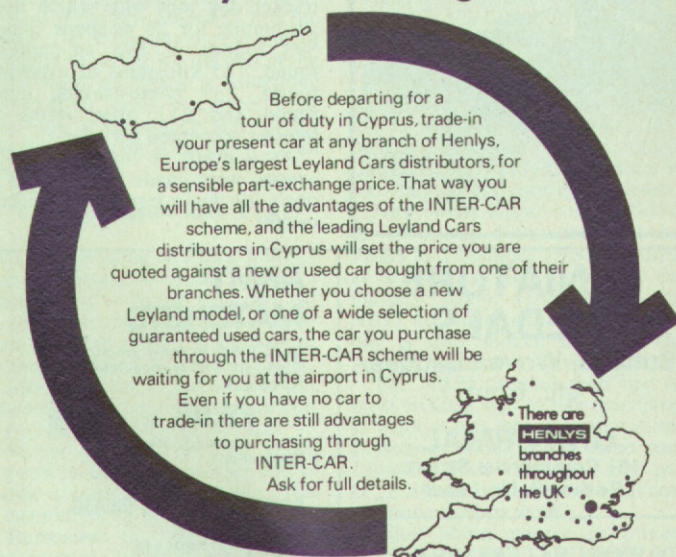
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Months of severe water shortages in three villages in Hong Kong's New Territories ended recently with the delivery by the Army of emergency water tanks and the water to fill them.

Three of the 2500-gallon inflatable tanks were shipped to the villages Shuen Wan, on High Island by a landing craft from 415 (Maritime) Troop, Royal Corps of Transport.

After installation by 13 sappers from the newly-re-titled Queen's Gurkha Engineers (see page 1), the tanks were filled with fresh water brought to the island in the landing craft's tanks.

About 350 people live in the three fishing communities. Usually they draw their water from a natural reservoir on the island but as Hong Kong's longest drought for many years continues — there has been no significant rainfall for ten months — the reservoir has dried up.

The villagers have had to resort to

bringing in fresh water by boat from more fortunate areas. Army assistance was requested by the Hong Kong Government which is arranging for the tanks to be replenished. The picture shows younger villagers enjoying the first splashes from the pipe provided by the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Meanwhile more soldiers were tackling another kind of problem in another Hong Kong village, Tin Fu Tsai, in a valley on the slopes of the colony's highest mountain.

An electrical generator, given to the villagers by the Army five years ago, was overhauled by men of 50 Command Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, in Kowloon and re-installed.

X marks the spot

Men of the Ulster Defence Regiment and 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, went into operation on the border in South Armagh recently with a variety of weapons — and one UDR man carrying a bucket of yellow paint!

The bucket carrier's job was to repaint the yellow crosses which mark the approach to the approved border crossings in certain areas. The UDR men came from the 7th (City of Belfast) Battalion and were flown in by helicopter while The Black Watch are based in the area — the scene of considerable terrorist activity.

Commonwealth bands will be show stars

The Australian Army Band and the British Columbia Beefeater Band from Canada are the overseas attractions for this year's Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London, from 14 to 31 July.

The Royal Tournament, which has been running for more than 90 years, will this year be headed by the Navy. Army participation includes the musical ride by the King's Troop, Royal Artillery, and a display by the White Helmets motorcycle team.

Model parade

The 'Home of the British Army' had its very own Silver Jubilee parade of some 750 soldiers including a coronation coach and full mounted gun detachment... and they all fitted into a shop window.

For one of Aldershot's long-established outfitters, Jerome's, mounted their own 'parade of the toy soldiers' as a tribute to the Queen as a display in their town-centre store.

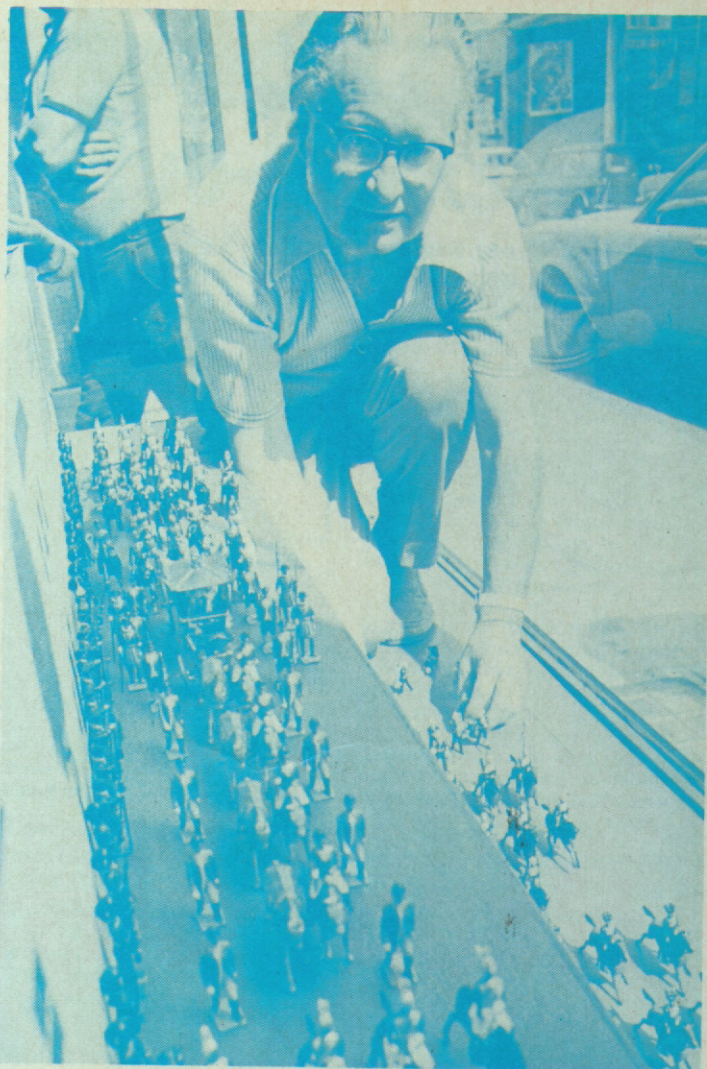
The lead soldiers were collected by the present owner's father, Mr Edgar J Jerome, and some — including the gun team — date back to 1900. Centrepiece of the display was a 1937 Coronation coach.

Nearly 1300 pieces make up the collection but only those in best condition — about half of them — went on display. "Sotheby's valued them at £3000," said Mr Edgar Jerome Junior (pictured arranging his window display).

He went on to explain that his father took more than a collector's interest in the Army having served with the Hampshire Carabiniers and The Royal Scots in World War One and taken part in the 1919 Archangel Expedition to Russia.

The family connection with Aldershot — a town whose name is synonymous with the British Army — goes right back to the foundation of the Army camp in 1853.

The Jeromes were then, appropriately, in the building trade and travelled from Gosport at the other end of Hampshire to take their part in the mushrooming growth of the then boom town of Aldershot which had been a tiny village.



Where REME dared

A visit to the castle where the film 'Where Eagles Dare' was made was on the itinerary for four Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who 'dared' to trek through Germany on an initiative test.

The quartet from 1st Division HQ and Signal Regiment's Light Aid Detachment travelled from their base in Verden to South Germany — some 1250 miles — and then, to complete the test, had to recount their experience for the British Forces Broadcasting Service.

After getting a lift to the start, the four had to visit the site of Dachau

concentration camp then go on to Neuschwanstein Castle at Fuessen where the famous film was made. They then returned via the Rhine Valley to Cologne where they did their radio star bit.

Pictured left to right: L/Cpl Mac McIntosh, Cfn Nigel Bayston, L/Cpl Paul Harvey and L/Cpl Richard Bailey.



Commissionaires move their home

After nearly 120 years at the headquarters where it was founded in 1859, the Corps of Commissionaires, the world's leading organisation responsible for finding jobs for ex-Service people, has moved. Its head office is now at 3 Crane Court, Fleet Street, London EC4. Last year the corps filled nearly 40,000 jobs.

Pioneers' 'Father' opens barracks

Seventy-five-year-old Brigadier H H Blanchard, who is considered to be the 'father' of the Royal Pioneer Corps, went out to Nienburg in Germany to open some barracks named after him. The new barracks are the home of 445 Mobile Civilian Labour Group, Royal Pioneer Corps.

Brigadier Blanchard was commissioned into the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps on 1 September 1939 although the corps was not officially formed until 17 October that year. He served with the AMPC until 1953 and was director when the corps became part of the Regular Army in 1946.

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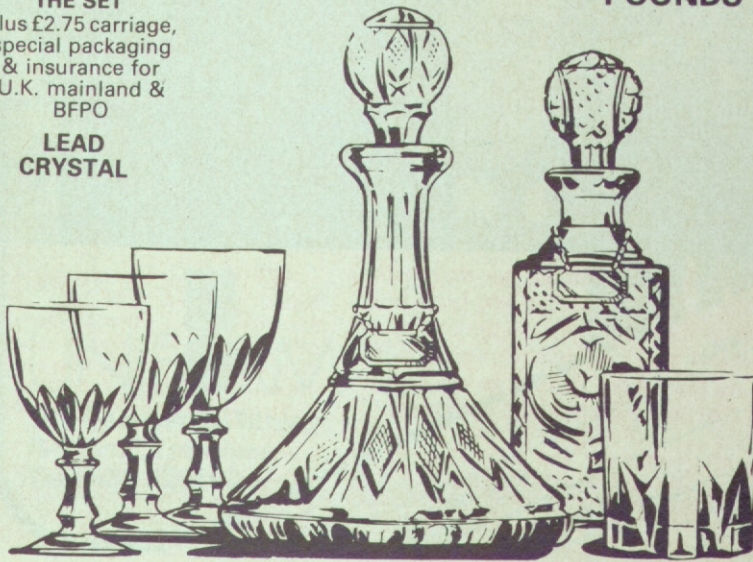
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UDR's biggest ever call-out

The Ulster Defence Regiment faced its biggest-ever call-out when Northern Ireland was threatened with the blackmail of the Reverend Ian Paisley's 'loyalist' strike.

All eleven battalions of the regiment were called out for full service for "not less than seven days." This was the largest operation since Operation Motorman swept the streets of terrorists and the part-time UDR men relieved Regular troops all over the province to be deployed elsewhere during the self-inflicted wound of the emergency.

Each of the battalions provided the equivalent of a company of men and women per day.

Meanwhile, the Regular Army had to reinforce too. First in on the Spearhead duties was 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, followed by 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, and 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

In the end, the rabble-rousers' intimidation had less effect than expected and the 'strike' fizzled out in a blaze of ignominy.

**Go West
young
men!**

Staff at the Regimental Pay Office, Taunton, have been told that the office will move to Exeter by 1981. The move was first forecast eight years ago and the plan is to co-locate the office with the Manning and Record Office at present in Higher Barracks, Exeter. They will occupy Wyvern Barracks which was vacated by the Wessex Depot of The Prince of Wales's Division in 1974.



CGS General Sir Roland Gibbs jokes with UDR.

Happy birthday, boys!



Identical twins, Brandon and Lyndon Huish, serving with 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in Germany, had been looking forward to celebrating their 18th birthday so they were not pleased to be confined to camp and ordered to report to the RSM's office — especially as they were due to go on a four-months emergency tour in Northern Ireland in 48 hours.

But their spirits improved when they were told to expect a telephone call from their parents, Mr and Mrs Alf Huish, from their home far away in Glamorgan.

The call duly came through and the two lads enjoyed a birthday chat

with mum and dad. Then, in an altogether better humour, they strolled across to the junior ranks club and opened the door to be greeted by a rousing Welsh chorus of 'Happy birthday!'

And there too were Mr and Mrs Huish (pictured with their sons) who had in fact come all the way from Wales to be with their sons on their birthday. The greetings telephone call had been made from no further away than the next door office.

A large iced birthday cake was demolished by hungry gunners as the surprise party went on far into the night.

"Best birthday we've had," declared the two lads, "It's just

marvellous," added Mrs Jackie Huish as she talked about the planning of the birthday trip.

"We wanted to go out to see the boys on their birthday and before they left for Northern Ireland. We wanted it to be a surprise and the regiment kept our secret and made it all easy for us."

"It was certainly a surprise," said the birthday boys. "When we were summoned to the RSM's office we were expecting a surprise of a different kind!"

Army retains judo crown

Just to end the season on the right note, the Army judo team took on both the RAF and the Royal Navy — and whitewashed them both nine contests to nil. This means that they keep their firm grip on the inter-services trophy.

This was a comprehensive team victory, but especially worthy of note was Private Arthur Mapp who brought off two good waza-ari (seven point) throws to win his contest in only one-and-a-half minutes.

Corporal Henry Prow, who seems to gain in strength and technique with every contest, convincingly beat his opponent with a submission, while Warrant Officer 2 Dave Lyon won with a combination of ground work holds which were an example to all less-experienced contestants.

Another Army team veteran, Staff-Sergeant George Bryson, brought off an excellent reverse strangle to win his bout in only one minute 40 seconds. Lance-Corporal Jeff Archer produced a dazzling run of throws to gain a koka (three points), yuko (five points) and koka in quick succession. He finally threw Leading Aircraftman Frey for a wazu-ari (seven points) and followed up with a ju-ji gatami (arm-lock) for ippon. Devastating stuff for a brown belt.

The match against the Navy was more memorable largely due to the strange refereeing. It started in the first contest when Arthur Mapp was penalised with a kei-koku (seven points) for stepping off the mat. This seemed a little hard as no previous warning had been given and meant that Mapp had to produce an ippon (ten points) to win. He duly obliged with a volley drop throw (seven points) and a lifting hip throw for an ippon.

In the second contest Sergeant Terry Dolan produced one of the best throws of the day with a shoulder throw — exceptional in a heavy contestant.

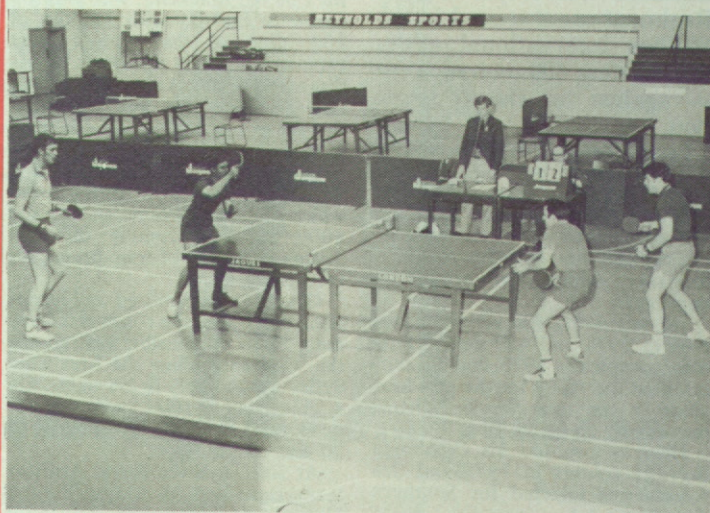
Henry Prow, Dave Lyon and Gordie Bryson again won convincingly with ten-point wins, but top honours went to lightweight brown

belts Jeff Archer and Lance-Corporal Tony Franklin who both beat black belt opposition in close contests.

Our slip showing

The gunners of 5 Regiment, Royal Artillery, have taken a well-deserved long-range snipe at us for saying last month that they were beaten by RAPC Worthy Down in the Army major units hockey championships. In fact, the gunners won 2-1 so it's sack-cloth and ashes for our sports writer. Thank you, 5 Regiment, for putting the record straight — and our apologies. Incidentally, we are still waiting for RAPC to deny they are the champs!

Tabletennis title



The final in play. Army duo on left.

The Army's tabletennis partners, Lance-Corporal B Varnham (2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers) and Signaller P Giles (Royal Signals), have done the double by winning the inter-Service doubles title for the second year running.

In the finals they defeated the much-fancied RAF pair, SACs P Cook and G McCullough, 20-22, 21-11 and 23-21.

Varnham, Giles and Corporal KP

Harrison of the Royal Military Police have been selected to play for the first-ever Combined Services team in its first match.

Single-handed sailing

For the first time the Army Sailing Association's single-handed championships are to be staged at Netley Sailing Club this year.

The 'choice of weapons' is the responsive — and unforgiving — Laser and the races will be under the boat's class rules except that entrants need not be members of the Laser class association.

The championships are to be on 8 and 9 October with the first race at 1000. The entrance fee is £3 and entry forms can be had from Major Roger Grannum, RAPC Computer Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants, SO2 2RG.

This will be the third major event Netley Sailing Club will have staged in the season, the others being the army individual dinghy championships last month (to be reported in the August issue) and the national championships of the Kestrel class to be held at the end of this month.

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Mark's time

Runner Walker

A 23-year-old soldier of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment came second in the Phillips international athletics meeting 400 metres event — against top-class opposition.

Lance-Corporal Walcott Taylor was just beaten by Roger Jenkins but in clocking 47.8 seconds he set up a new Army record.

Walcott (below) was invited to run the 400 metres on his past performances which have been very impressive.

He was Army 400 metres champion in 1974 and 400 metres hurdles champion in 1975, and has represented the Army for the past four years in the inter-Services championships.

He was awarded his Combined Services colours in 1975 and this season was selected for Southern Counties AAA.

His sister Gladys is a British international athlete and in the British 4x400 metres relay team.



The Medical Services team led by crackshot Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Mackeith, Royal Army Medical Corps, won this year's inter-corps target rifle match at Bisley. The medics finished 14 points clear of the Royal Army Pay Corps.

It was their first success in the match and was a personal triumph for Colonel Mackeith, who was top scorer of the day with 181 out of 200. One of the Army's most experienced target rifle shots, he has represented the Army, Great Britain and Scotland and has been invited to captain the British team to visit Canada in August 1978.

The match was held in fine weather but with a strong wind which made conditions at 900 and 1000 yards extremely difficult. Teams consisted of four firers plus two reserves.

Coaching is permitted and in difficult conditions the coach is the key man. He is responsible for judging the wind and telling the firer what deflection to apply to his sights. On a windy day at 1000 yards this can be as much as 25 minutes of angle or 20 feet off aim!

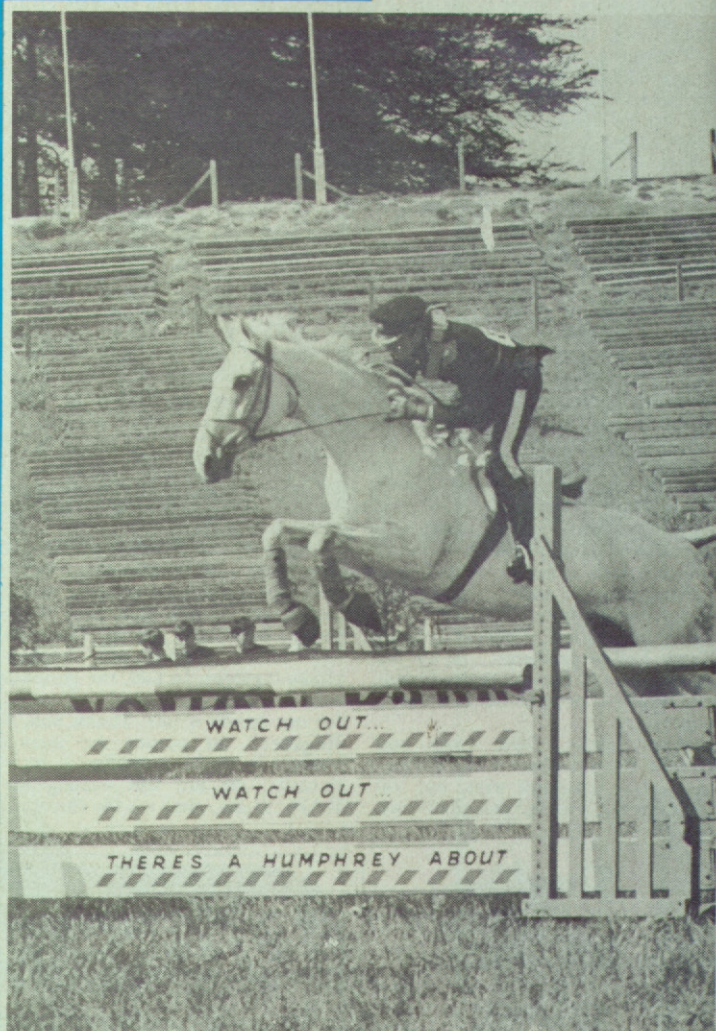
At 300 yards the Royal Artillery team captained by Major Roland Greenwood took a three-point lead with a score of 187. Four other teams were on 184 and the Medical Services were then sixth with 183.

But at 600 the medics struck. With a brilliant score of 192 they moved into joint first place with the gunners. Meanwhile the Pay Corps, led by Warrant Officer 1 R J D Hawes, had moved up from ninth to fourth.

At 900 yards the RAMC team went ten points clear while the Pay Corps moved up to second place with a score of 177 — the top at the distance. And the final shoot at 1000 yards saw the positions maintained with a four-point increase in the Medical Services lead.

Taking part for the first time were the Household Division and the Small Arms School Corps. But the small number of infantry teams taking part was a disappointment to the organisers.

The winning team received the Army Rifle Association trophy and gold medals from General Sir Hugh Beach, Master-General of the Ordnance.



Even if mothers-to-be have to stop riding there are no restrictions on expectant fathers. Captain Mark Phillips, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, on the Queen's horse, Columbus, sails over in fine style at the Aldershot Military Horse Show. He won the Buller Services Grade C jumping competition. Princess Anne was among the spectators.

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Calling all sailors

Next month sees the start of the marathon Round-the-World yacht race which is once more having Army participation. This time the three Services have combined to produce joint crews who will sail the Royal Navy's 55-foot Nicholson 'Adventure' in the race. Next month's SOLDIER will include a special pull-out nautical chart on which enthusiasts can trace the progress of the circum-navigators. The chart will also carry details of 'Adventure', the race and the crews. Don't miss the August SOLDIER!

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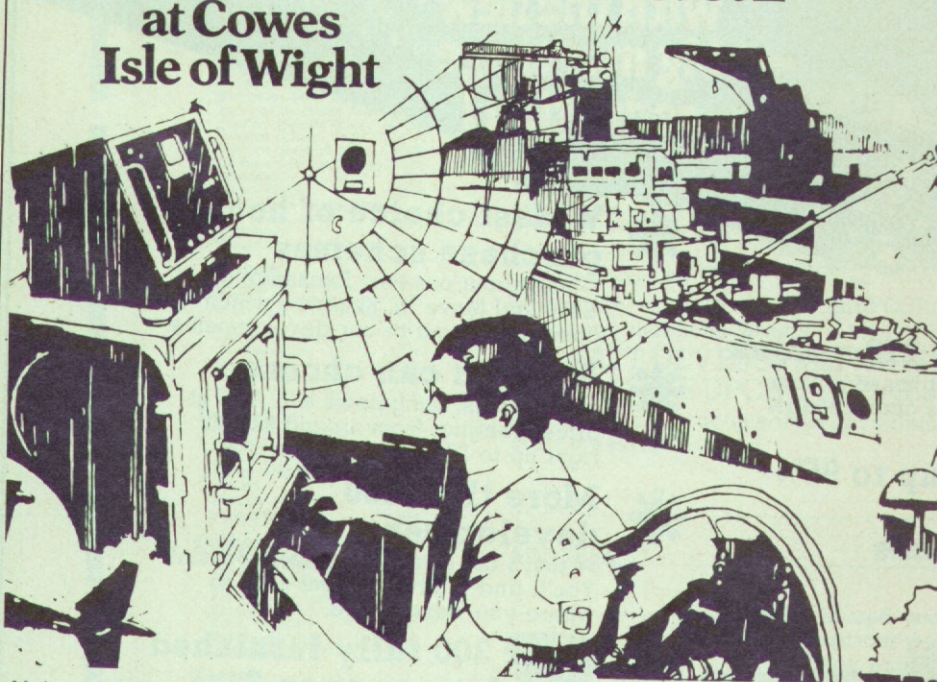
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 **PLESSEY**

Military Models

General's gadabout

AMID SWIRLING SAND, in the heat of battle, sped a slab-sided scout car. Standing atop was one of the most colourful characters of World War Two, General George S Patton Jnr.

The White Scout Car, designated M3A1, was used by the general as his personal command vehicle during the North African campaign. It was modified by the addition of a three-star plate above the cab, a 12.7-millimetre machine-gun with an armoured shield fixed at the front and a similar weapon mounted centrally for anti-aircraft use.

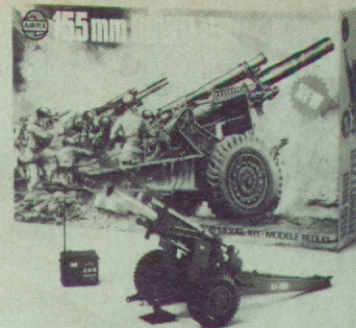
This famous vehicle has just been produced as a military model by Airfix in 1:35th scale as a kit of more than 200 plastic parts at £1.90. The model can be built either as a combat version with machine-guns or non-combat version with simulated tarpaulin roof. There are transfer decals for the com-

mand car as well as for vehicles used by allied armies of the United States, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the Soviet Union. Figures are provided for a driver and two machine-gunners. With only minor modification, one of these could be made into General George. Small white stars should be painted on the front of the steel helmet and scrap plastic sprue can be used to make his distinctive cigar and the ivory-handled six-shooters worn in leather holsters on his belt.

Another big shot of World War Two was the 155-millimetre M1-A2 howitzer. This too is the subject of a new kit from Airfix, also in 1:35th scale at £1.90. As a new departure the firm has included metal fittings in a plastic kit. These are tubes and springs used to make the barrel and working recoil mechanism. US Army transfer decals and a miniature field radio (not working) are also added. This model gun can be towed by the Dodge command car or weapons carrier previously produced by Airfix.

Turning to the Axis, Airfix has come up with an action-packed set of six German infantry figures of 1939-45. They are moulded in hard white plastic in 1:32nd scale and cost a mere 68 pence. The figures are in the 'multipose' series, so called because the interchangeable limbs, torsos, heads and weapons can be used to make a wide variety of poses such as an officer shouting a command, a non-commissioned officer firing a Schmeisser machine-gun or a soldier lobbing a grenade from a lying position. Even the faces have different expressions — open-mouthed and tight-lipped, drawn and sagging — dramatically betraying all the tensions of battle.

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COMPETITION 228



WORDS ASSOCIATED with the Queen's Coronation form the basis of this month's Silver Jubilee bumper-prize competition. Their letters are represented by the black-and-white squares, circles and triangles. Heavier lines in the grid separate two or more connected words.

When you have worked out what letters the symbols represent and identified the words, which read from left to right, turn to the left-hand vertical column. In it, reading downwards, and with their letters in correct order, are three more words very closely associated with the Coronation ceremony.

Send these three words, with the 'Competition 228' label from this page and your name and address, on a postcard or by letter, to:

Editor (Comp 228)
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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 12 September. The answers and winners' names will appear in the November **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 228' 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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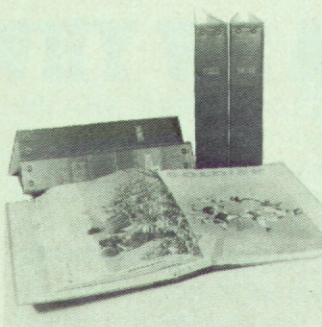
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Letters



Medal mania

With reference to previous correspondence concerning the Dunkirk Medal. The names of the recipients are to be found in the Book of Gold which is kept in the Hotel de Ville, Paris. As to Mr Trivias wondering if consideration could now be given to the wearing of the Dunkirk Medal on the same bar as campaign medals. The answer is in the negative.

There seems to be some mania for medal wearing. The latest medal is the King Leopold III Medal — this is a spurious medal. Let those who wear it read pages 249-50 of Gregory Blaxland's 'Destination Dunkirk.'

There it states that the Belgian Prime Minister and a government deputation begged the King to go with them to London as the head of a government in exile, as did the King of Norway and the Queen of Holland. Without sitting down to discuss the matter, King Leopold declined. That is the despicable man who was a disgrace to his honoured father King Albert and in whose honour this new medal has been struck.

Does reader Jubb wear the King Leopold medal? — **Edward Foulkes DCM MM, 40 Harold Street, Archer Park, Middleton, Manchester.**

Prisoner's plea

Having been obtaining your marvellous magazine since I re-enlisted in 1953, I have come across a large number of letters from readers trying to contact old pals and encourage a reunion of ex-World War Two prisoners-of-war.

My family have now encouraged me to try and fulfil my dream to contact some of the POWs of Stalag XIA who were transferred to a working camp in 1943 in a place called Aschersleben and then transferred again up the road to a place called Gross Schierstedt where, unfortunately, we were made to work in a salt mine.

At the time my nickname was Smokey Joe and I was the camp interpreter. If I recall correctly, some of the prisoners were part of the Maltese Garrison captured in one of the Dodecanese islands called Laros. I am sure some of them were from The Royal West Kent Regiment.

M M A (Ex-S/Sgt RASC/RAOC) Attard, 132 Medway Road, Tricketts Cross, Ferndown, Dorset.

Reunions

49 Field Regiment RA. Reunion and open day 27 and 28 July in Campbell Barracks, Hohn. Wed: Arena displays, static displays, all ranks dance. Thur: Sports, competitions, family entertainment. RA Mounted Band will attend both days. All ex-members and parents of soldiers welcome. Contact 2ic or RSM, 49 Fd Regt RA, BFPO 30.

Army Physical Training Corps. Annual reunion dinner 17 September, ASPT, Aldershot. Tickets and details from Association Secretary, ASPT, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot. Phone Aldershot 24431, ext 2131.

Royal Military Police Association. Centenary reunion dinner 30 July at RMP Training Centre, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex, 1900 for 1930. Tickets £4.50 from Secretary RHQ RMP, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester. Wives (and lady members' husbands) welcome.

The West Yorkshire Regiment and

The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Annual reunion and White Horse Ball, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, Saturday 1 October. Particulars from Secretary, West Yorkshire and PWO Regimental Association, Imphal Barracks, York, YO1 4HD.

The East Yorkshire Regimental Association. Annual reunion 10-11 September. Apply Secretary, 11 Butcher Row, Beverley, North Humberside, HU17 0AA.

Competition

"Phew, a bit of a sticky one, I thought," was the comment of the first prize winner of March's Competition 224 and the mere 97 entries for it confirmed Mr Magee's verdict. The full answer was: 'Warrant and non-commissioned officers and men may when taking cycling exercises wear the following dress: blue cloth knickerbocker breeches with departmental or regimental stripes or welts, puttees (mounted infantry pattern) or dark blue stockings and brown canvas spats, black shoes. Cyclists belonging to the same unit must be dressed alike. The field service dress may also be worn.'

Prizewinners:

- 1 D Magee, 29 Rochester Road, Taunton, Somerset.
- 2 A Gardner, Penllan, Netting Street, Hook Norton, Oxon.
- 3 E F Shaw, 34 Leighton Road, Toddington, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.
- 4 George W Andrews, 7 Hayman Road, Minehead, Somerset.
- 5 Cpl M J Hughes, Det 93 Sy Section, HQ Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.
- 6 A K Shepherd, Moredon House, Fettes College, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 7 Cpl B M Clark, T M Troop, 13 Signal Regiment, BFPO 40.
- 8 Mrs Y A Buckland, REME LAD, 1 King's Own Border Regiment, BFPO 29.

How observant are you?

(See page 18)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Soldier's badge. 2 Soldier's right shoulder patch. 3 Girl's left cuff. 4 Front axle of pram. 5 Cow's leg. 6 Bird below house. 7 Soldier's cigarette. 8 Back of boy's head. 9 Right root of tree. 10 Chimney of house.

Homage of an Empire

The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 marked the high point of the British Empire and 20,000 troops from all corners of it processed before their Queen/Empress at St Paul's Cathedral in London. Other military events were the review of the Army at Aldershot and a garden party at Buckingham Palace for the colonial troops. All this and much more is recalled in the special 'Homage of an Empire' exhibition now being mounted at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HT.

Collectors' Corner

Mrs H Roake, 16 Cedar Crescent, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 3QP. — *Military books, badges, Britain's lead soldiers, for sale. Sae for lists.*

G E Lanning, Military Studies Wing, JLR RAC, Bovington Camp, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 6JB. — *Seeks issue one (1956 or 57) and 1961 issue of 'Conqueror,' magazine of JLR RAC, for regiment's archives.*

P W Mills, 1 Medway Close, RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 6HT. — *Requests offers with sae for Welsh Horse brass shoulder titles.*

R Holroyd-Best, 33 Hollinsend Avenue, Intake, Sheffield, S12 2EL. — *Wants to buy books 'Hodson's Horse 1857 to 1922' by Maj F G Garden (Blackwoods 1928), 'Eye Witness to the Indian Mutiny' by Hewitt (Osprey & Co).*

S Broomfield, 20 Garlic Row, Cambridge, CB5 8HW. — *Wishes to buy cap, collar badges, shoulder titles, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt) and London Regt TF. No anodised or re-strikes.*

C Stevens, 307-2050 W 2nd, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1J4, Canada. — *Wants SOE items. Also WW2 Commando, PPA, SRU, SBS, RSR, SRS, SAS, COPP, FSSF, RMBPD, SOE items. Has some trad-*

ers.
R L Platt, 12 Portsmouth Street, Swindon, Wilts. — *Wishes to buy out-of-print Leo Cooper 'The Bedford-*

shire and Hertfordshire Regiment.'

Gary Packer, 61 Birchgrove Road, Swansea, SA7 9JR. — *Wants to buy any WW1 pairs or trios awarded to South African troops. Also WW2 SA uniforms and badges.*

Dr J D Bird, 86 Cross Road, Myrtle Bank, Adelaide, S Australia 5064. — *Will buy pre-1942 Australian military badges. All letters answered.*

Kenneth Forsyth, 1 Fife Place, Fairlie, Ayrshire, KA29 0BU. — *Seeks to buy formation signs and large buttons, especially Yeomanry. Or will exchange for formation signs and cloth shoulder titles.*

Mr A N Ponting, 9 Matford Hill, Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wilts, SN15 3NX. — *Has for sale SAS beret with cloth badge. Also Gordon Highlanders metal badge.*

D V Sarney, 116 Oldfields Road, Sutton, Surrey. — *Wishes buy GSM, LCSM (1962) medals to SAS, either singles or groups. Write for offer or state price.*

Steven Davis, 15 Dixon Street, Swindon, Wiltshire. — *Wishes swap RAMC No. 2 dress tunic for camouflage jacket or para smock.*

J D Fisher, 28 Lilburne Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 4LY. — *Wants to buy any plastic economy badges WW2. Good exchanges to offer for right badges.*

J B Allen, 38 Lon Cadog, Sketty,

Swansea, West Glamorgan. — *Wishes buy cavalry/artillery trumpet and/or silver bugle.*

Myles G Penny, 273A Stanley Street, Brantford, Ontario, Canada. — *Seeks Gurkha Military Police cap badge to complete Gurkha collection. Willing buy or trade.*

S R Jackson, 17 Greenholme, Heathside, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1RR. — *Seeks books on WW1, WW2, inter-war and post-war periods, especially German language books on WW2. Has some books for sale or exchange. Sae for list please.*

Paul A Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, N Yorkshire, WF12 1ET. — *Has for sale Hessen issue 1814-15 Waterloo Medal with ribbon £20.*

Martin Zemancik, 10050 St Denis, Montreal, H3L 2H7, Canada. — *Scout leader wishes trade Scout badges and equipment. Particularly interested in trading with Commonwealth collectors.*

Neville F Lane, 39 Dolphin Drive, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. — *Wants to buy 'The Household Brigade Magazine,' all issues 1951, 1952, 1953, 1956 and Autumn 1957.*

H G Ureman, Brantsen Parv 7, De Steeg, Holland. — *Seeks books on 79th Armoured Division (published 1945), 50th Division ('The Path of the 50th,' by Maj Ewart W Clay, 1950) and 52nd Lowland Division ('Mountain and Flood,' by George Blake).*

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IT HAS BEEN referred to as "the best damned unit of its size — ever" in the United States Army. It has played important roles in the Indian Wars, Civil War, Philippine Insurrection, World War Two and in Vietnam.

It is Troop B, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry. And in April the United States and the United Kingdom made a small unit exchange, A Squadron, The Lifeguards, going to Fort Riley, Kansas, and Troop B coming to Combermere Barracks in Windsor.

The purpose of the exchange was to increase the expertise of the two units, develop an understanding of the tactics and techniques used by other forces, gain experience in the field under varying conditions of terrain and climate and provide meaningful contact between the US and British armies.

Meeting those objectives was a long and arduous process, but with the experience of non-commissioned officers, initiative of the soldiers and guidance of the British, Troop B accomplished the mission in a manner representative of their fine heritage.

The first few days spent in the UK were utilised getting American soldiers settled in at their new surroundings and for a bit of sightseeing which included the Tower of London, the British War Museum and Buckingham Palace.

Troop B soldiers, who are accustomed to the desolate plains of Fort Riley, were a little

surprised to have Windsor Castle almost in their backyard. "I loved it. It was beautiful," exclaimed Private First Class (Pfc) Robert Casey of Troop B. "It was great seeing the castle and thinking about how it used to be there."

"I haven't had the opportunity to see many castles before this trip and I thought it was outstanding," added Sergeant Louis Fathree.

Following the long Easter weekend it was back to work for the American soldiers. Training began with familiarization of British small arms weapons including the 7.62mm self-loading rifle, 7.62mm general-purpose machine-gun and the 9mm sub-machine-gun. Then it was off to Ash Ranges for a little practical application with the weapons.

"It's a good weapon," Sergeant Richard Preece said of the SLR. "Our rifle is not quite as heavy but the SLR is easy to take apart and assemble as well as being easy to clean. And it's highly accurate," he added.

Of the three British weapons Troop B soldiers fired, the sub-machine-gun seemed to be the most popular. "I thought it was great. And I think it's much better than our sub-machine-gun. It fires from automatic and semi-automatic and has a better sight system," Specialist 4th Class (Spec 4) David Spittler said.

According to Corporal-of-Horse Mick Stay, of C Squadron, The Life Guards, the US soldiers had no trouble with British

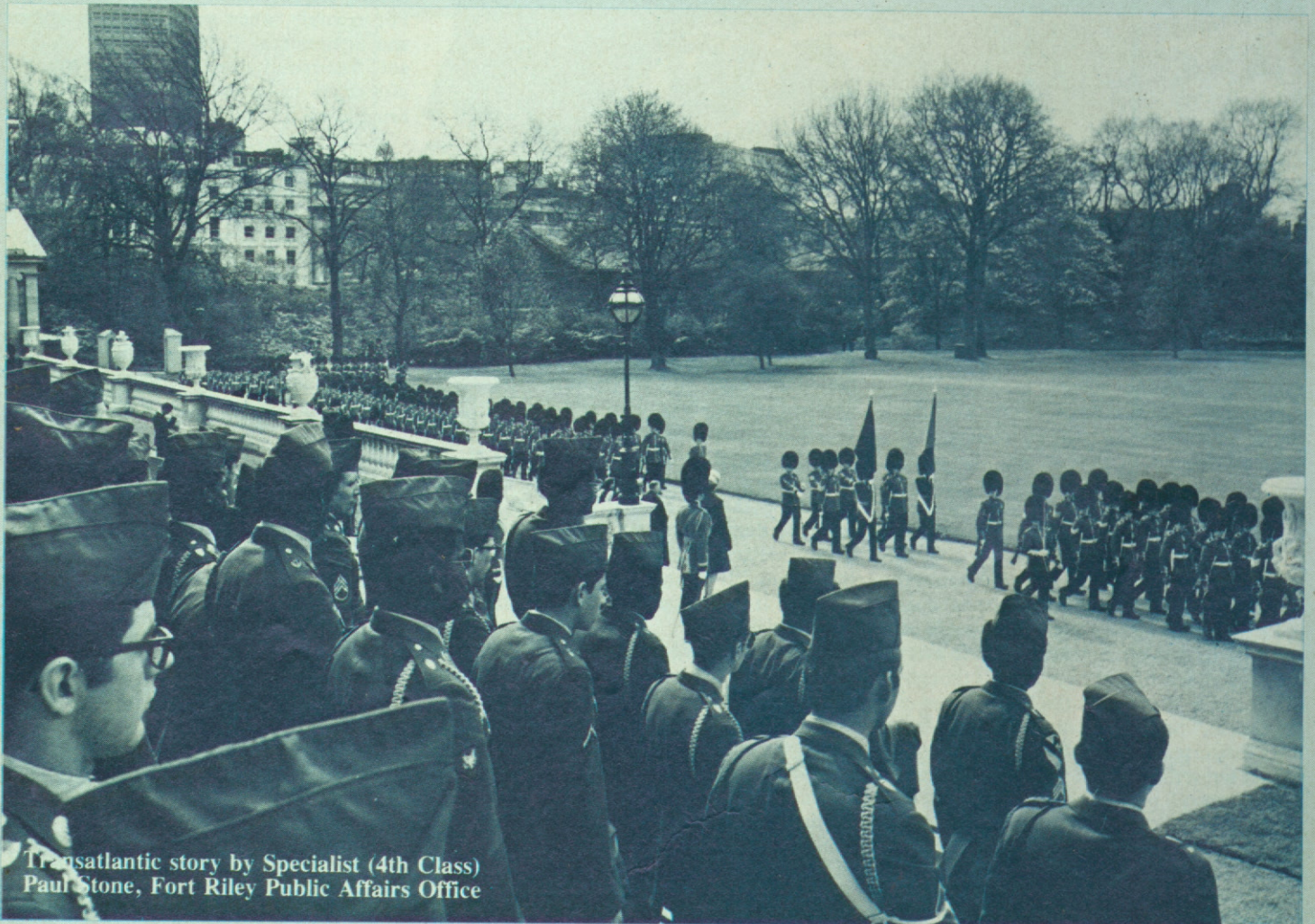
weapons. "The men were fantastic," he said. "They had very little training with the weapons and still fired well. Considering the time spent with the British weapons I don't think they could have done any better."

The following week offered a full slate of training for Troop B soldiers. The assault force (infantry) were invited to Buckingham Palace to view the pageantry of a rehearsal of changing of the Colors for the 1st Battalion, Scotch Guards. "It was a very pretty ceremony," Sergeant Fathree said. "For us it was good because we'll probably never have a chance to see anything that can compare with it."

Other Troop B soldiers had their first close-up look at the British armored reconnaissance vehicles — the 30mm Scimitar, 76mm Scorpion, Ferret Mark Five and Saracen armored personnel carriers.

In addition, throughout the week, soldiers experimented with British radio equipment and were introduced to driving vehicles on the 'left,' not the right-hand side of the road, as they are used to. For some of the American soldiers, learning to drive the vehicles was a problem, for others a challenge, and for most a lot of fun.

"I enjoyed driving the vehicles," Spec 4 Kevin Mortensen said. "The roads are narrower here and the Scorpion is a smaller vehicle than ours so it was easy to handle and fun to drive." "Because we had to drive on the left here, I think it made us more attentive," Sergeant Edward Ridgway said.



Transatlantic story by Specialist (4th Class)
Paul Stone, Fort Riley Public Affairs Office



The assault troop had their share of challenges that week when they went through the airborne confidence course. "The course is designed to put recruits and those recruits going to airborne school in shape for parachuting. There is no pre-training for the course which hopefully leaves soldiers with more confidence in themselves," Sergeant Allen Vincent, a Quarter Master Service Instructor, said to Troop B soldiers as they gazed at the towers they would soon be climbing.

The first part of the course involved climbing a series of towers constructed of poles that stood 30 feet high and crossing on top only to find other obstacles to do away with before reaching the ground. "I thought climbing the towers was the hardest part of the course," Spec 4 Antonio Delosantos said after mastering the obstacles. "I was scared at first but it did give me more confidence."

The second part of the course involved running a path that had a series of fences to go over, poles to climb and water holes to jump. Soldiers finished the course, water and mud covering their trousers, and with some sore muscles.

Next on the agenda for Troop B was a road march to Weymouth where they set up a base camp by the English Channel, somewhat new terrain for the soldiers. During the four days at Weymouth, soldiers watched a mobility demonstration of British vehicles, sharpened driving skills on a mobility course and fired the Scimitars and Scorpions.

Despite the constant drizzle and wind from the English Channel, Troop B soldiers were reluctant to leave Weymouth for Salisbury Plain. "It was kind of nice being by the channel. It was certainly different than Fort Riley's plains."

"I wonder," one lieutenant said as the convoy rumbled early through the streets of Weymouth, "if those people who are up realize how much work is involved in getting a convoy ready?" There's vehicle maintenance, packing, more vehicle maintenance, cleaning, maintenance, getting the convoy in line to move out and still more, last-minute maintenance. "Or do they just think of the convoy as something that robs them of their sleep?"

A three-day field training exercise at

Salisbury Plains which involved using the tactics and knowledge they gained while here, in a field environment, concluded the training for Troop B soldiers. Perhaps it is only appropriate that since the visit began with a few days to travel, that it ended in the same manner.

"I had a chance to visit Liverpool and several places in London," Sergeant Paul Hobbs said. "In fact, I went to a town and met some people who had not seen Americans since WWII. They were really interested in me."

"I'll always remember the hospitality of the British," Sergeant Fathree said. "A couple of us went into a café in Windsor and an elderly gentleman asked us to go to the castle with him. He told us all kinds of historical information and then showed us various monuments in Windsor. After, he bought us lunch and invited us to his home the following weekend. It was quite an experience."

"For many young soldiers it was their first chance to go overseas. It gave them a chance to see how another Army works," Sergeant Keith Florence added.

As far as training is concerned, Troop B soldiers felt it was beneficial to them as individuals and as a unit. Pfc Casey said: "Using the British equipment and working with British soldiers has definitely helped us. It gave us an insight on how their army operates and showed us the capability of their equipment. That's important in case we fight with them in a war."

"The trip gave the soldiers a chance to see another culture," said Lieutenant Timothy Jobe, executive officer of Troop B. "The experience accentuated the good points of our soldiers and pointed out parts that needed improvement. I think we did well. For example, when we fired the Scorpions and Scimitars at Lulworth, many soldiers got first-round hits. And the gunnery instructors had good comments about the firing as well!"

For Fort Riley it was the first time such an exchange had been attempted. "I think exchanges like this should continue," Lieutenant Jobe added. "The British Army has been good and helped us in every situation. I feel it would be good to have similar exchanges with other Nato countries."

Troop B departed England for the US carrying with them the experience of worthwhile training, memories of lasting friendships and visions of castles and ancient monuments that will stay with them forever.

Above: Life Guards in Yankee helmets in Kansas.

Far left: The Americans at Buckingham Palace to watch the Scots Guards rehearse a parade.

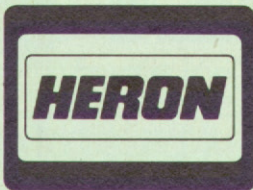
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'Coronation Ode' (Elgar) (Soloists, Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Kneller Hall Band and Trumpeters, New Philharmonia Orchestra) (Conductor: Philip Ledger) (EMI ASD 3345)

Although sponsored by John Player & Sons as part of the company's centenary celebrations, this disc happily falls into the general scheme of things this month — the Queen's Silver Jubilee and royal music of all kinds.



It is high time the Ode was given the full treatment again, for in addition to several moments of Elgarian schmalz there is some very fine music, and of course the finale is a winner all the way — 'Land of Hope and Glory.'

Felicity Lott, Alfreda Hodgson, Richard Morton and Stephen Roberts join the mass of choirs and instrumentalists in the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, in a rousing and moving performance of the Ode itself, with Elgar's fine version of the National Anthem and the Coronation Anthem, 'I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me,' by Sir Hubert Parry, as make-weights. And what make-weights. The whole project is a fine old-fashioned offering, which don't come too often these days, and you may be well advised to acquire it while the chance remains. **RB**

'Royal Music from St Paul's: The Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977' (Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, Kneller Hall Trumpeters) (Organist: Barry Rose) (Conductors: Christopher Dearnley and Lieutenant-Colonel Trevor Sharpe) (GUILD RECORDS 7010, 4 Chestnut Road Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey)

Another album recorded in a great place of worship, with music worthy of both place and occasion. The choice ranges from anthems written for the first Queen Elizabeth to those of Vaughan Williams for the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, with hymns and fanfares from the intervening centuries.

After Bliss's 'Jubilant Fanfare' we again have Parry's great anthem 'I Was Glad' with its exultant acclamations of 'Vivat, Vivat Regina Elizabetha' always the most blood-curdling and affecting moment of the ceremony. Then anthems by John Tomkins and William Byrd of the 16th and 17th centuries, John Goss's hymn 'Praise my Soul' with flourishes and descants, and S S



Wesley's 'Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace.'

From the Queen's own Coronation we have Vaughan Williams's 'O Taste and See' the Credo from his Mass in G minor, and of course 'The Old Hundredth' with its tremendous trumpet interludes. A tribute as much to the late Benjamin Britten as to the Queen is the inclusion of his 'Te Deum in C major,' the Church's great hymn of praise, which is one of the flowers of the composer's genius. The National Anthem this time is Gordon Jacob's setting, first used at George VI's Coronation. **RB**



'Elizabeth' (Band of the Coldstream Guards, London Festival Orchestra, Ambrosian Singers) (Conductors: Eric Rogers and Major R A Ridings) (Collard Investments Ltd BRI 077)

Yet more rousing and patriotic music comes from a company new to me, even if the performers are familiar. Interspersed with some obvious choices for the occasion are three ultra-patriotic choruses composed by a person called Booth — no initials or other information being given. Since a Margaret Booth is involved in the sleeve design perhaps this is a family affair.

However the programme as a whole is first class and the three new items add spice to the more ordinary fare. The three are the title chorus 'Elizabeth,' 'Britons Awake' and a 'Salute to the Prince of Wales,' all very moving no doubt for royalist old ladies who remember dear King Edward, but likely to make others of us puke. Two other rarities are Sir Ernest Bullock's fanfare

'At Crowning,' the one played at the moment of the Queen's crowning and, as a change from Walton's 'Crown Imperial,' Sir Arnold Bax's 'Coronation March' of 1953.

The remainder is the usual stuff but given an added lustre by the presence of the fine Ambrosian Singers. 'Rule Britannia' in Malcolm Sargent's Prom setting with Shirley Minty as soloist, 'Soldiers of the Queen,' the 'RAF March Past,' 'All People that on Earth do Dwell' in Vaughan William's setting, 'Land of Hope and Glory,' a very fine 'Zadok the Priest,' 'Jerusalem' and Gordon Jacob's setting of the National Anthem. **RB**

'The Sound of Pageantry: Music for a Royal Occasion' (Band of the Grenadier Guards) (Conductor: Lieutenant-Colonel Rodney Bashford) (Decca SB 715)

This month's Jubilee theme allows me to slip this one in with coy gestures of protestation to the Editor's blandishments worthy of my colleague Ranjit Banerjee, of Calcutta. He, a loyal and enthusiastic punka-wallah in the days of the Raj, turned down flat the offer to review the record on the grounds that the appearance of the word Imperial twice in the titles "was not pleasing him." So here goes.

Side one is an inspired selection of music, mostly from earlier centuries, starting with a modern masterpiece of a fanfare called 'A Windsor Flourish'. Modesty forbids (etc etc) as it does any mention of the arranger and editor of the 15th century 'Agincourt Song,' three dances from 'Royal Music of King James I,' Purcell's 'Rondo from Abdelazar' (the one Benjamin Britten used for the theme of his 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' and the 'Gracful Dance' from Sullivan's music to Henry VIII. Great stuff all this, somewhat let down by additional fillers by Elgar, Walton, Ketelbey, Eric Coates, and people like that.

They are all marches, and all associated with royal occasions, the earliest being Elgar's 'Imperial March' written for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Percy Fletcher's 'The Spirit of Pageantry,' although dating from 1909, is still as popular as ever and receives an airing on all patriotic occasions. For George V's Silver Jubilee Albert Ketelbey, of 'In a Monastery Garden' fame, wrote 'With Honour Crowned,' which is here resurrected probably for the first time since its use in the last Aldershot Tattoo before World War Two. Sir William Walton's evergreen 'Crown Imperial,' written for the Coronation of George VI, is given what I take to be the only uncut performance on record by a band, while Eric Coates's 'Youth of Britain' (dedicated to the then Princess Elizabeth) brings to an end this Jubilee offering.

So there you have it. Four seasonal offerings, all of good quality, and all potentially suitable gifts for relatives and friends abroad. There are also two fine Jubilee records from Sir Vivian Dunn and the Royal Marines, and from the RAF Central Band, which I hope to review shortly. **RB**



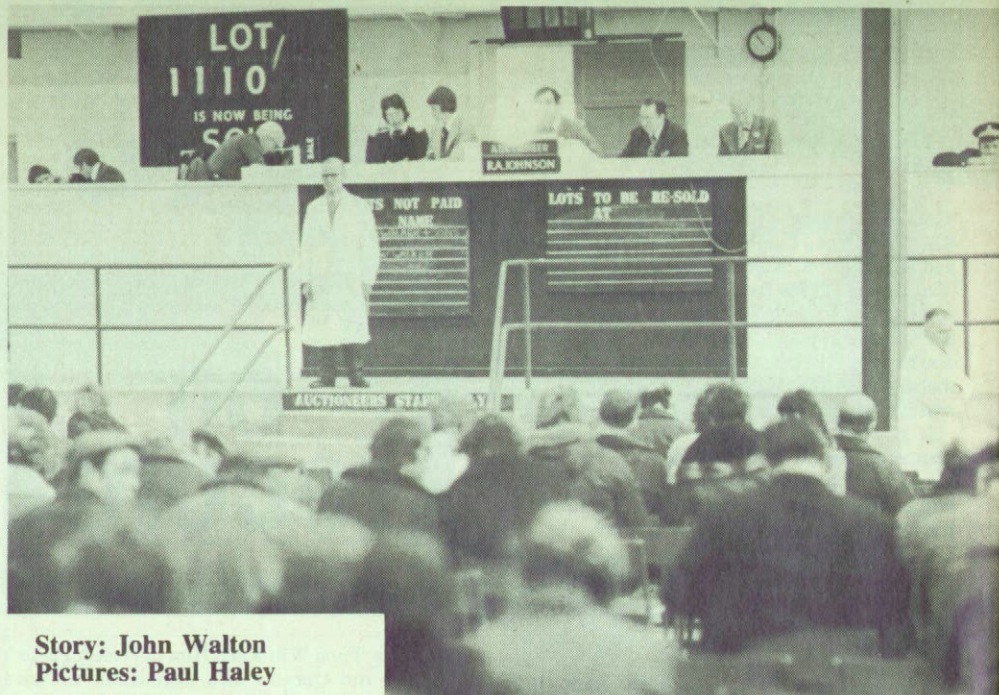
Ministry Motor Show

EVER WONDERED what happens to those Ministerial and diplomatic limousines when the Government decides they have reached the end of their working life? Or in a more humble way, what happens to a midwife's Mini when it grows old?

The answer in both cases is that they come under the control of the Minister of Defence and are included in one of the giant two-day or three-day vehicle auctions at the Ordnance Storage and Disposal Depot at Ruddington, just south of Nottingham.

Six times a year the sales are held and average takings per sale run out at something like £750,000. It's big business and buyers come from all over the United Kingdom as well as a growing number of dealers from abroad.

Mr Roland Walton, of Ministry of Defence Sales, is in effect the vendor on behalf of the Government. As he watched the Nottingham auctioneer knocking down old Bedford and Commer trucks to the bidding dealers he told SOLDIER: "We are the Steptoes of the department — but we are making a lot of money."

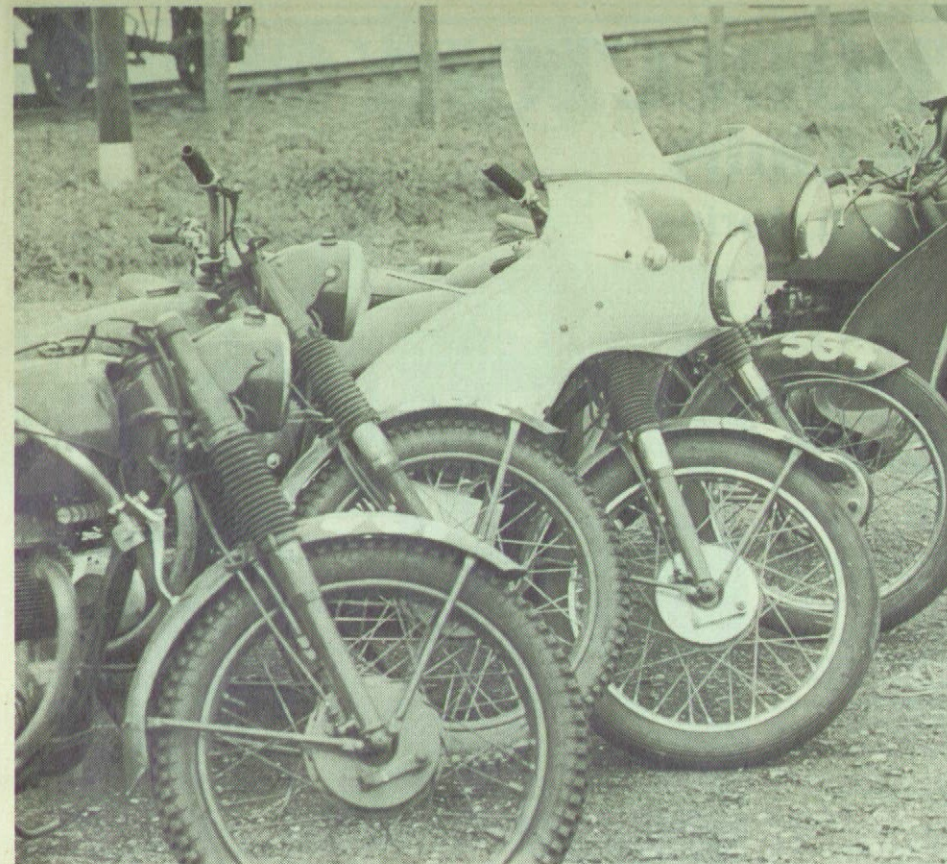


Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley

Except for the very big items — giant bulldozers, cranes and the like — all the vehicles are taken to Ruddington by either road or rail. If they have civilian licence plates then all is well, but military vehicles have to have all insignia and plates removed. Anyone buying these has to apply for a civilian excise licence and is issued with a number. Until recently this could have given the buyer an 'R' registration on what might be a five-year-old vehicle — but this has now ceased and numbers are issued according to year of make.

On the vehicle park at Ruddington was a swish-looking Daimler with flat tyres. It still had a windscreen sticker for the Lagos Polo Championships in January. Mr Walton explained that if a car could be brought back and sold for more money than it would fetch in the country concerned, then that was done.

"Our criterion is always to make the maximum amount of money we can for the goods we have to offer."



Every vehicle is sold as a single item which means, particularly when private vehicles are being sold, that the little man has every chance of getting himself a car. Of course it won't be the dirt-cheap bargain he anticipated as prices are very competitive, but as dealer Mr Arthur Mason said: "At least the mileages are genuine and they haven't been done up with fibreglass."

Mr Mason, from Lancashire, has been attending the sales for 28 years. And, although he described the vehicles on show as 'knackered,' he obviously finds it well worth his while.

Since the advent of computers there have been very few 'surpluses' of the old sort. Now if vehicles are disposed of they are either damaged, have a high mileage or are not needed because of some change in policy.

War-time vehicles still creep through the Ruddington sales occasionally. The disbanded fleet of DUKW amphibians was sold off there. Most vehicles are more modern, ranging from Antar tank transporters through fire engines and buses, Land-Rovers and down to Minis adapted for disabled drivers. Wrecks are usually disposed of in batches — generally sorted by makes so that the buyer can cannibalise them for spares.

Royal Navy vans sit cheek by jowl with RAF crash tenders. Rolls-Royce Silver Clouds disdainfully dwarf ancient Morris Minors. Hillman Avengers with 'N' registrations contrast with shattered Land-Rovers dropped by parachutes which didn't open.

You can find anything at the Ruddington motor sales and the individual lots mean better prices — and bigger savings for the taxpayer.

Top left: Battered bikes line up for the sale.

Left: A mangled wreck that could yield spares.



Above: A much-travelled windscreen advertises an exotic sport in an exotic land at the sale.

Right: Swish Rovers and modest Morrisises for sale.

Top right: Going, going, gone. The auctioneers bring a few more bargain buys under the hammer.

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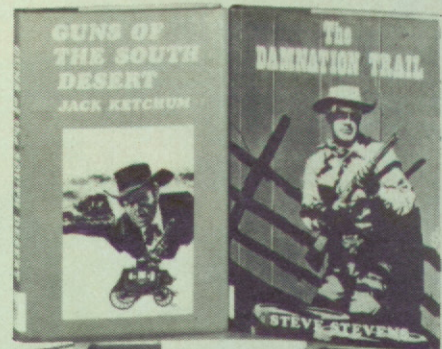
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Books

Phaleristics

'Book of Orders and Decorations'
(Václav Mericka)

This latest work on orders and decorations, compiled by a world authority and in a class by itself, is a wide-ranging international survey of phaleristics — the name for the scientific study of awards.

An instructive introduction goes into the development of awards from the days of the Babylonians and Persians through to the Crusades, the Napoleonic period and on to more modern times. Detailed descriptions of insignia and their history are supported by chapters on the correct wearing of orders and awards, the manufacture of medals, preservation and restorations, cataloguing and many other aspects of this hobby.

While a helpful section puts the amateur on his guard against copies and counterfeits, another tells us that the earliest use of the star in orders dates back to the reign of Charles I for it was then that the red heraldic cross of St George, encircled with the blue garter bearing the motto of the Order of the Garter, was set in the rays of a star. Every page has its quota of fascinating information.

The book is copiously illustrated and the colour plates are of exceptional quality and clarity.

Hamlyn Publishing Group, Astronaut House, Feltham, Middlesex, £4.50

JFPJ



Utley, Dr Peter Janke, Admiral Louis le Bailly, Worth H Bagley, John Bulloch, Michael Chapman, A E Younger, Alvin J Cottrell, S T Cohen and William Van Cleave.

The modern weapons technology section updates on weaponry, including cruise missiles and lasers, and Part III presents a round-up of defence literature and a chronology of events from June 1975 to May 1976.

Brassey's Publishers Ltd, 15 Cavendish Square, London, W1M 0HT, £12.00

JCW

Oman victory

'RUSI and Brassey's Defence Year Book, 1976/77'

Wherever Communism is making progress, it is not in Oman where the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman has been totally defeated in a guerrilla war which never made big headlines, but which must have far-reaching consequences on the future stability of the Persian Gulf area.

The PFLO was originally supported by China and later by Russia, as well as by various Arab revolutionary movements. It had some successes but, with British help, the Sultan's Armed Forces drove the guerrillas from their strongholds and in a final, concerted effort trapped the bulk of them. Mobility and flexibility were the keystones of victory.

Penelope Tremayne's account of the victory in Oman is one of the highlights of this year's Brassey though, as ever, it is packed with timely and informative articles covering a wide range of defence topics.

Generalmajor Ferdinand von Sengear and Etterlin, a Panzer expert, discusses 'Trends in the Mechanization of Armies.' He sheds much light on the current Anglo-German-American competition over the design of a new battle tank for the Eighties.

Other contributors to the strategic review includes John Morse, James Bellini, Professor John Erickson, T E

Counter-insurgency

'Bunch of Five' (Frank Kitson)

Major-General Kitson is one of the British Army's leading experts on counter-insurgency. And since guerrilla and terrorist operations form the principal type of warfare now facing Regular troops, he performs a service to his comrades-in-arms by recalling his experiences in four emergency situations — Kenya, Malaya, Oman and Cyprus.

These are the four fingers of his clenched fist which gives the book its title. The fifth is his assessment of the way in which such operations should be handled.

The general does not demand a free hand for the Army. Throughout this excellent book he emphasises that the Army should never — and in Britain can never — act in support of civil authorities against insurgency and subversion in any other than a lawful and constitutional way.

He emphasises too how vital it is to ensure that insurgents do not capture the hearts and minds of the people, and indeed that the opposite should be the case as was proved so effectively during the Communist bid to take over Malaya.

The main requirement for the conduct of successful counter-insurgency operations is a sound framework within which the campaign can be fought. Co-ordinating machinery should exist at every level,

as should an intelligence organisation suited to the circumstances and backed up by a legal system adequate to the needs of the moment.

A valuable and thought-provoking book.

Faber & Faber, 3 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3AU, £5.95

JCW

'New order'

'Guerrilla: A Historical and Critical Study' (Walter Laqueur)

The guerrilla is hacking away at the roots of our society, intent on destroying it and replacing it with his own 'new order.' He masquerades under a variety of noms-de-guerre, usually embodying the words 'freedom' or 'liberation' when 'murder' and 'terror' would be much more appropriate.

In this huge and erudite book, Professor Laqueur sets out to demythologise guerrilla warfare without belittling its importance, and in doing so he gives as good a history of it as I have read. He makes the point that there is a widespread belief that guerrilla warfare is a new way of conducting unconventional warfare, discovered by a stroke of genius on the part of Mao Tse-tung. But it can be traced back to biblical times and beyond.

Leading us down the years, Professor Laqueur is a confident and informative guide. Yet in this era of turmoil and terror, can we really accept his view that 'the age of guerrilla is drawing to a close'? Is the guerrilla really retreating into urban terror? There are those who would like to think so, but it would be the height of complacency to believe it.

As a history, this book can be thoroughly recommended, but perhaps the professor's conclusions should be viewed with caution.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £8.95

JCW



Ambition

'The Japanese War Machine' (Edited by S I Mayer)

Fearing Western colonisation, Japan set about hauling herself into the modern world. Within a generation she was a military and industrial power. She flexed her muscles against China in 1894-95 and in 1904 and 1905 stunned the world by beating Russia. She was an insistent though unwanted ally against Germany in World War One, gaining

considerably from German losses.

The seizure of Manchuria in 1931 and the war with China which followed led to a period in which army and navy leaders vied for influence. The War Machine was taking over. Yet it was stretched to its limit by the war in China, and Pearl Harbour took it to breaking point. But the amazing resilience and inventiveness of the Japanese people, as well as the fanatical courage of their armed forces, kept the allies at bay for four years and allowed Japan to dominate South-East Asia and China.

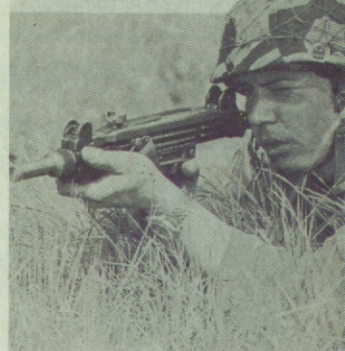
The rise and fall of Japanese militarism is splendidly described in this superbly illustrated book. Contributors are Colonel A J Barker, Ronald Heiferman, Ian V Hogg, John Grayson Kirk, William J Koenig and Antony Preston.

Each an expert in his own field, they combine to show clearly how the overweening ambitions of the 'War Party' drove Japan to destruction and humiliating defeat. Even so, she is now the third largest industrial nation in the world — and it is worth noting that this book is printed in Japan.

Hamlyn Publishing Group, Astronaut House, Feltham, Middlesex, £4.95

JCW

INFANTRY WEAPONS OF THE WORLD
Christopher F. Foss
& T.J. Gander



Weaponry

'Brassey's Artillery of the World' (Edited by Shelford Bidwell)

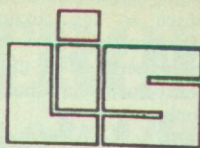
'Infantry Weapons of the World' (Christopher F Foss and T J Gander)
'Secret Weapons of the Third Reich' (Leslie E Simon)

With the help of Brian Blunt and Tolley Taylor as co-authors, compilers and consultants, Brigadier Bidwell presents what must certainly be the last word in the current tidal wave of books on weaponry.

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Books

Messrs Foss and Gander, not nearly so ambitious, conduct a survey of the infantry weapons in use in 24 countries — rifles, pistols, machine-guns, grenade and rocket launchers — and produce a useful little book for the soldier, student, modeller or wargamer who wishes to make himself familiar with the opposition's weapons.

The authors also examine some of the latest developments in the light weapons field, and one cannot end a notice of their book without complimenting them on their wide-ranging illustrations.

One of the most spectacular guns ever developed was the German Hochdruckpumpe super-gun, designed to fire an arrow-type projectile across the Channel at London and enthusiastically backed by Hitler. Basically, it was a 15cm gun made up of 40 sections with 28 powder chambers distributed along the bore so as to give successive explosions to boost the projectile as it passed along the tube.

The gun fired a 150-pound projectile eight feet long. Its tests were regarded as successful although the barrel exploded about once in every three shots.

In his informative work on Hitler's secret weapons, General Simon says that a five-tube battery of HDP guns was being constructed underground near Calais with the intention of bombarding London. The battery was bombed before it was completed.

Wind and sound guns were other experimental projects among the many described in this excellent book. As a colonel, the author was in charge of some of the US Army's investigations of German secret weaponry at the end of World War Two. His book has been out of print for 24 years and thus makes a happy return.

1 *Brassey's Publishers Ltd, 15 Cavenish Square, London, W1M 0HT, £18.50*

2 *Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £3.50*

3 *Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL* **JCW**

Hypnotic

'The Great Boer War' (Byron Farwell) This perhaps most overwritten war in British Army history holds a hypnotic fascination for historians. Mr Farwell is the latest — and one of the best. He describes the war vividly yet with detachment and balance.

Save possibly for the Zulu War, no British army ever went into battle so ill-prepared and badly led. Buller became the stereotype for brainless blundering and his Boer War failure overshadows his earlier career in which he won the VC during the Zulu War for rescuing wounded, and in which he spent a successful reforming decade at the War Office as Quartermaster-General and Adjutant-General.

Roberts and Kitchener, neither brilliant by modern standards, could do little else but shine after they took over.

Compared with Britain's casualties



in World War One, losses in the Boer War were not all that high, but the shock to British pride — to be beaten so often by a bunch of farmers — certainly hauled its army out of complacency in preparation for world war.

Mr Farwell sprinkles his story with anecdotes culled from unpublished letters and diaries which supplemented his research. He presents an excellent review of the war, particularly for those who have not read too much about it earlier.

Allen Lane, 17 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0BD, £7.50 **JCW**

Yearbook?

'War and Society: A Handbook of Military History (Volume Two)' (Edited by Brian Bond and Ian Roy)

This book follows the pattern of the previous volume (reviewed SOLDIER January 1976). The intention is to produce a yearbook although the editors admit in the foreword that its future appears a little uncertain. The articles have no specific theme and it is hoped in future editions to include contributions from outside the Anglo-Saxon world.

Venerable disease is one of the great unmentionables which rarely appears in any military book. 'The failure to resolve the problem of venerable disease among the troops in Britain during World War I' is dealt with at length. The Black American in two world wars and the use of African troops by the European colonial powers again show that the book does not shy away from controversial subjects.

Liddell Hart, the early American Navy and the Army in 17th century England all come under the spotlight in well-informed essays.

Croom Helm Ltd, 2-10 St John's Road, London SW11, £8.50 **JKW**

In brief

'Airfix Magazine Guide 22: Russian Tanks of World War 2' (John Milsom and Steve Zaloga)

This little volume falls roughly into line with Numbers 8 and 17 in this series which dealt with German and British tanks respectively.

Concise and lucidly it traces the development of Soviet armoured organisation and tactics from the civil war which followed the revolution to the victory parade in Berlin in 1945.

The star, of course, is the superb T-34, but there are many lesser-known tanks. The T-35, for instance, was an impressive land-battleship with five rotating turrets. Despite its number, it was an earlier model than the T-34, production ceasing in 1939.

Mr Milsom and Mr Zaloga have produced a valuable book, of use to students and modellers alike and, like all these guides, it is a bargain. *Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £1.60*

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