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# SOLDIER







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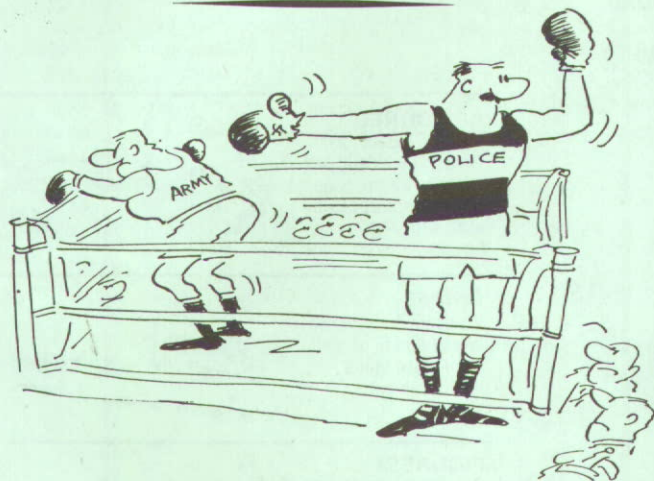
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S.27



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**POLICE v ARMY by LARRY (p 15)**

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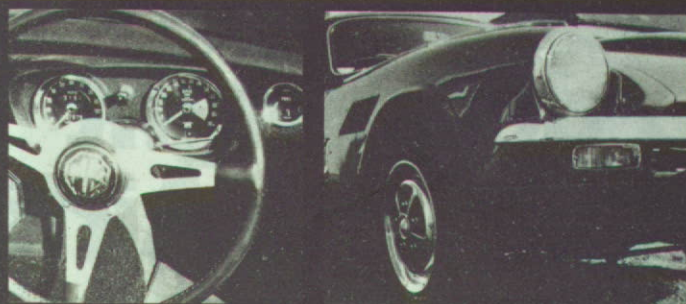
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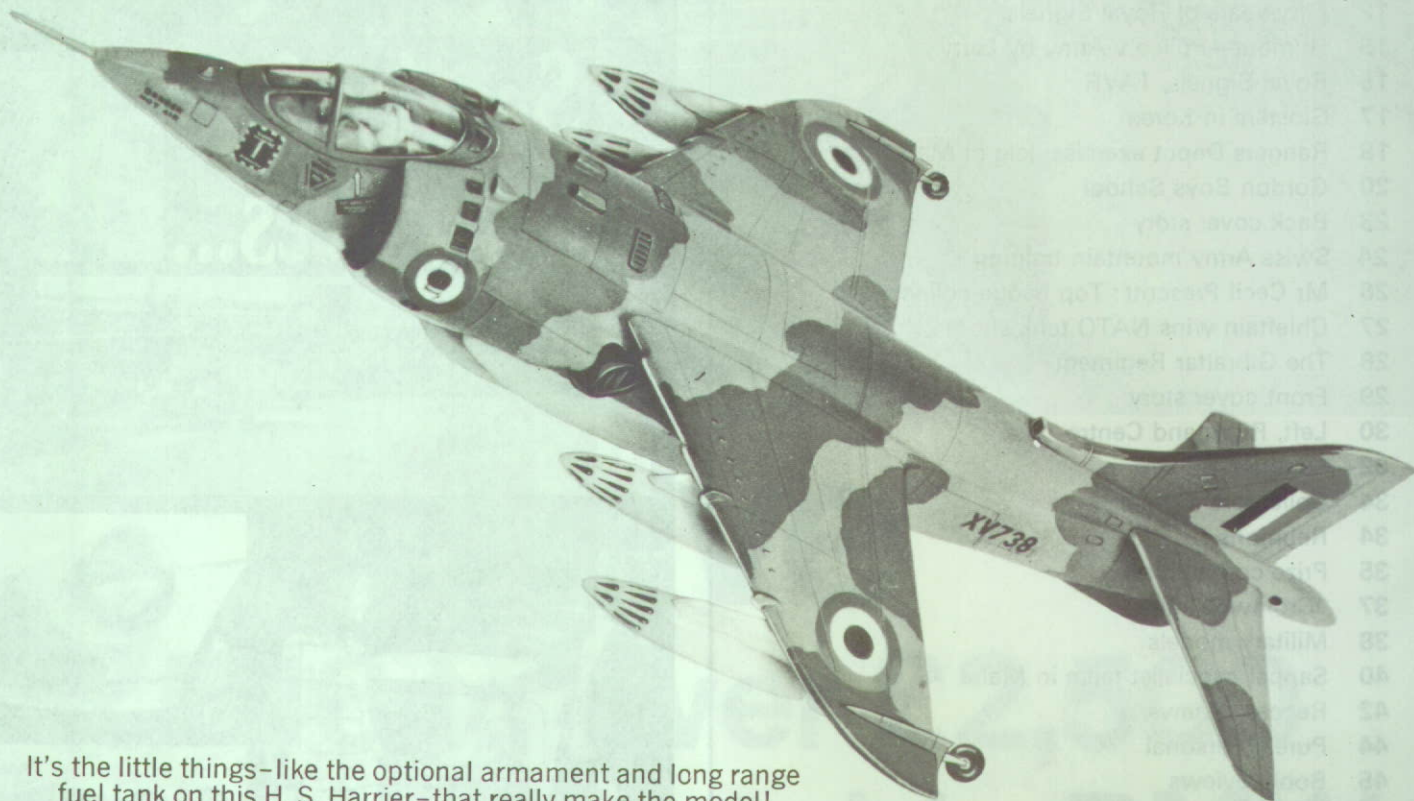
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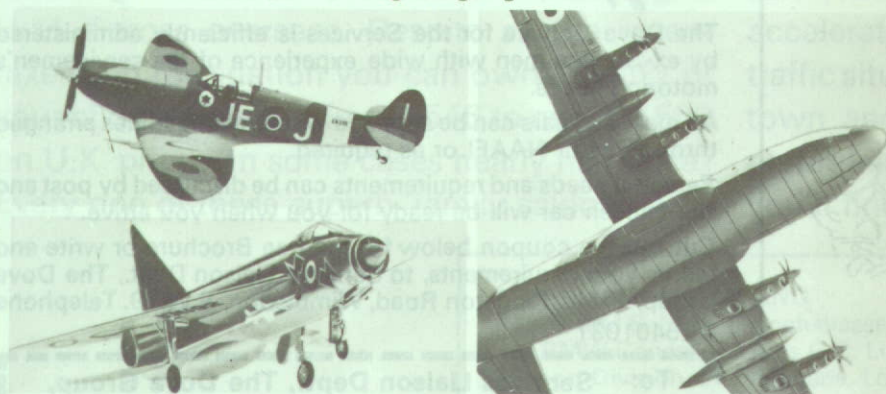


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Top left: Spitfire. Bottom left: E. E. Lightning. Right: Hercules



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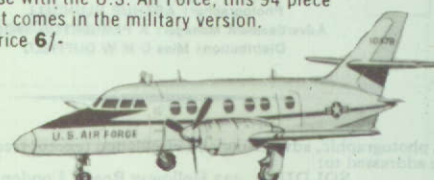
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# See-the-Army DIARY

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

Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

## AUGUST 1970

- 15 Friern Barnet show (infantry stand, parachute tower).
- 16 Royal Army Veterinary Corps open day, Melton Mowbray.
- 21 Burnley Army display (Blue Eagles, Red Devils, motorcycle team, band) (21-23 August).
- 21 Edinburgh tattoo (21 August-12 September).
- 22 Rochdale Army display (Blue Eagles, Red Devils, motorcycle team, pipes and drums, band) (22-23 August).
- 26 Hayling Island carnival (motorcycle team).
- 28 Leeds gala and Army week (2 bands) (28 August-1 September).
- 29 Farnham Town show (band) (29-30 August).
- 29 Newport Pagnell carnival (motorcycle team).
- 31 Aylesham show (band, tentpegging).
- 31 Edenbridge show (band).
- 31 Henley-in-Arden carnival (motorcycle team).

## SEPTEMBER 1970

- Early September: Massed bands display, Dortmund.
- 2 Sheffield show (band) (2-5 September).
- 2 Keighley Army week (band) (2-6 September).
- 5 Amalgamation at Portsmouth of The Gloucestershire Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment.
- 5 Liberation of Antwerp (band) (5-6 September).
- 5 Guildford show (3 bands, tent-pegging) (5-6 September).
- 11 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment open days, Shoeburyness (11-12 September).
- 13 Brent show (band, infantry stand, parachute tower).
- 20 Enfield show (Red Devils, band, infantry stands).
- 26 Open day, 47 Light Regiment RA, Houndstone Camp, Yeovil, Somerset.
- 30 Mayflower 70 closing, Plymouth (band, bugles).

## OCTOBER 1970

- 28 Red Cross centenary celebrations, London (band, state trumpeters).

## NOVEMBER 1970

- 7 Lord Mayor's Show, London (7 bands).
- 7 British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 8 Remembrance parades, London, Bristol, Chester, Cardiff, Manchester.
- 8 Royal Artillery ceremony of remembrance, Hyde Park, London.

## JULY 1971

- 2 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (2-27 July).
- 29 Cardiff tattoo (29 July-7 August).

## AUGUST 1971

- 10 Edinburgh tattoo (10 August-12 September).

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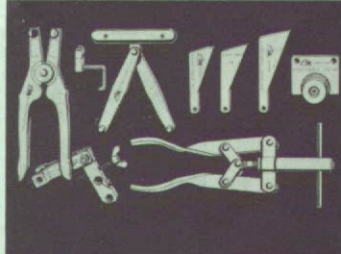
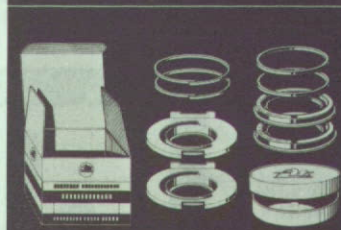
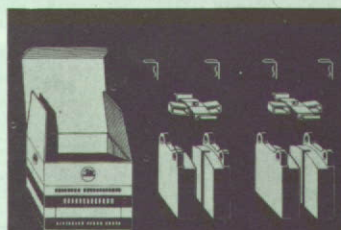
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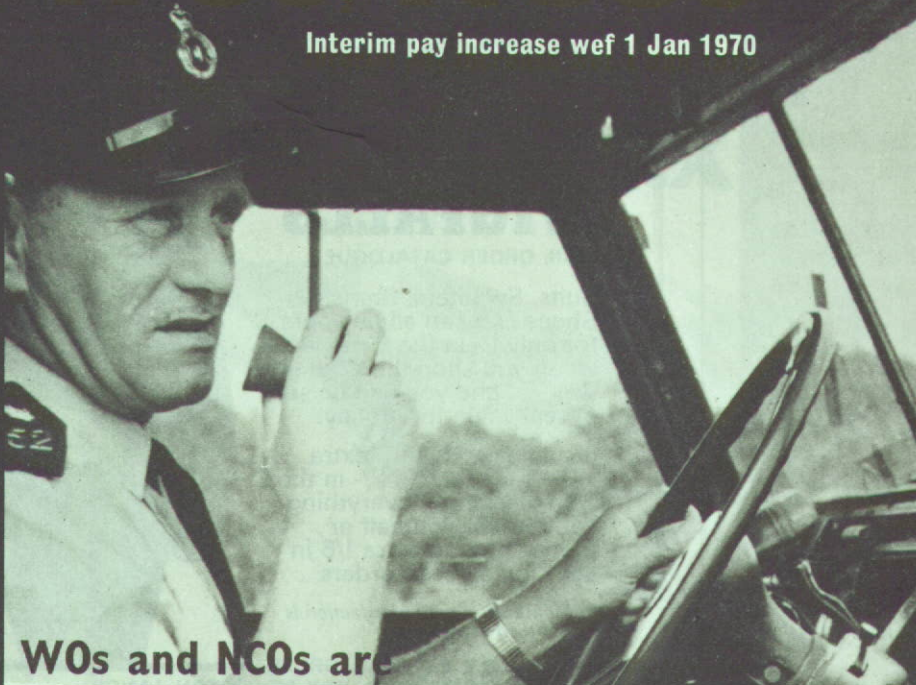
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# WOs/NCOs

Interim pay increase wef 1 Jan 1970



WOs and NCOs are given preference on leaving the Service for vacancies as Constables in the Army Department Constabulary. Appointments are guaranteed prior to Service discharge.

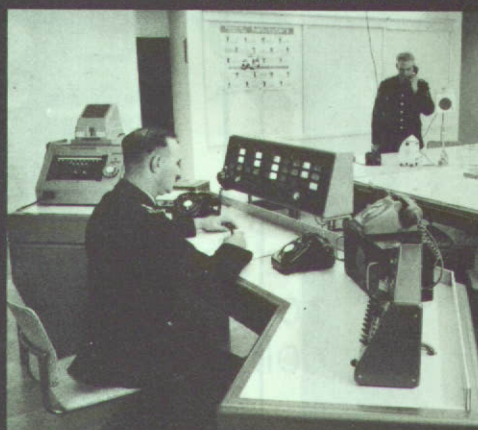
Wireless patrol Dog patrol Vehicle checking



Cash Escort



Station Wireless Control Room



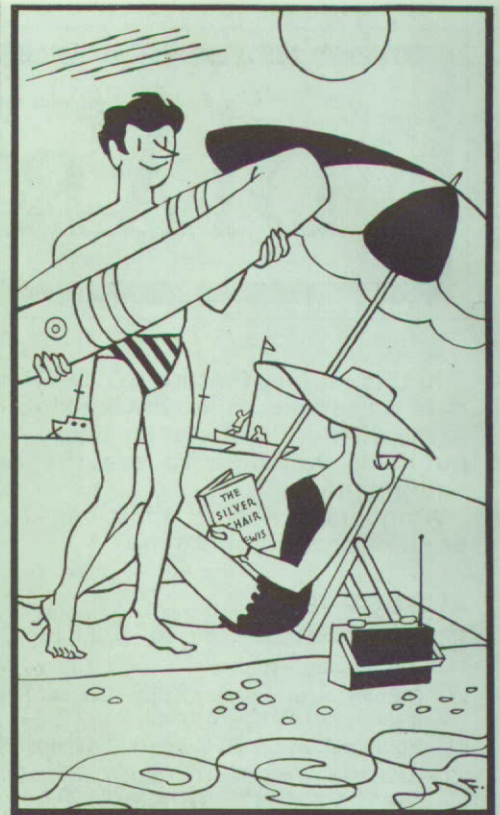
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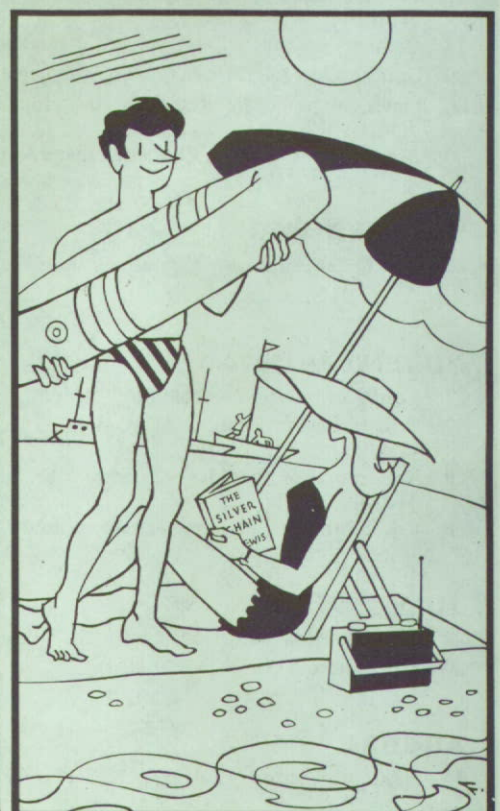
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## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 34.





# SMART MOVE



## The Audi 100LS at £943

The 100 LS has a big, comfortable interior which holds five. It does a smooth 106 mph, powered by a 1.76 litre engine, with front wheel drive. Its heating/ventilating system changes the air every 15 secs at 60 mph. The 100 LS has all sorts of 'no-nonsense' safety factors like disc brakes, and radial tyres. A smart move buy at £943.

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 **Audi**

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This is Ron Cathcart, 33. Married with five children and, until recently, a telecommunications instructor in the Royal Corps of Signals.

Feeling the need for the more settled domestic life that 'civvy street' offered, Ron left the RCS after many enjoyable years and, eight months ago joined the Michelin Tyre Company on an 'open' basis, after passing through the Company's selection procedure; Ron's qualities were assessed and he was helped to choose a suitable career. He is at present undergoing training for a post as a production supervisor at the Stoke factory.

This is what Ron Cathcart says about his new career.

*"The first thing that struck me about Michelin was the friendly atmosphere, and a real team spirit which I did not expect to*

*find in industry. Responsibility is given as soon as you are ready for it and, although friendly advice is always available, you are given a job and left to get on with it.*

*I found the transition to civvy life helped greatly by the very thorough training programme which allows you to set your own pace, within reason.*

*Fringe benefits such as the canteen services and the sports and social amenities are of a high standard and Michelin adopts an understanding attitude to any personal difficulties – as I found to my advantage.*

*The opportunities for promotion are good and I see my career with Michelin as an exciting challenge."*

Ron Cathcart is doing well and has found himself a career at Michelin and not just a job.

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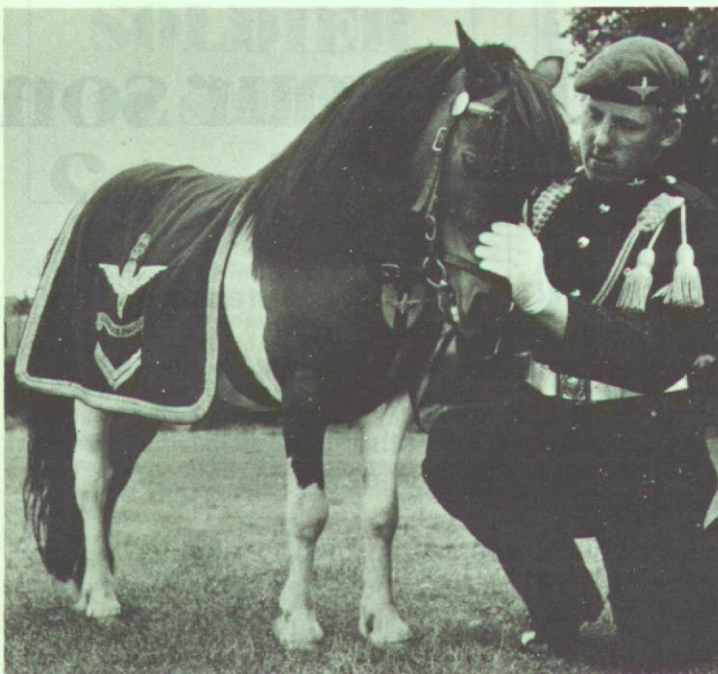
**(This Army man did)**



**MICHELIN IS WHERE THE CAREER JOBS ARE**



## Military mascots



### GROUNDNED PARA

**H**E has eight years' service and wears "wings" and a couple of stripes on his maroon uniform coat. But Corporal Ringway of The Parachute Regiment has never been in an aircraft.

He is not ordinary paratrooper, at 13 years old, ten hands high and four-footed—Corporal Ringway is a skewbald miniature shetland stallion and the regimental mascot. He is named after the Manchester airport which was originally a parachute training school during World War Two. He was bought for £75 by the Parachute Regiment Association and at a special parade in Aldershot in 1962 was ceremonially enlisted into the Junior Parachute Company at the age of four.

His army life is marked by regular routine. Reveille is at 0715 hours when his handler, Junior-Drummer Matthew Patrick, feeds him breakfast of oats, bran and linseed mash in his centrally heated stable at Browning Barracks, Aldershot. Then he has 15-minute grooming with bristle and rubber brushes and a steel comb. Next comes a three-mile run followed by a rub down.

The rest of the day is spent leisurely grazing, at the end of a 30-foot rope, on succulent Aldershot grass. At 2000 hours comes the evening meal, a menu similar to breakfast but including various additional courses of barley, stud nuts and sugar beet pulp. Finally Drummer Patrick tucks him up for the night in a blanket over the straw.

Drummer Patrick was specially picked as pony-major because he used to look after shetland ponies on his uncle's farm in Skye before joining the Army. Sometimes he "scrounges" carrots from the cookhouse or brings Ringway an apple from the Naafi. But his charge is not always properly appreciative. Once Drummer Patrick was at the end of a bad-tempered kick and had to go on light duties for a week with a swollen ankle.

Ringway has taken over all mascot duties for The Parachute Regiment's three regular battalions, appearing with the pony-major on all important parades. There have been five other shetland pony mascots: Pegasus (1st Battalion), Bruneval I and II (2nd), Samswan (from Wales) (3rd) and the TAVR 10th Battalion's Sergeant Arnhem and 17th Battalion's Geordie.

Of these, Pegasus was the most distinguished. Named after the winged horse of Greek mythology, he served in Cyprus and Egypt and won a rosette at the Ponies of Britain show in 1955.

Bruneval I was something of a turncoat. He left the Army and joined the Royal Air Force when an outbreak of African horse sickness in the Near East in 1961 led the Ministry of Agriculture to prevent him returning home from Cyprus. So his battalion handed him over to 70 Squadron RAF at Polemichia. And at a special ceremony, to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne," they changed his maroon coat for a pale blue RAF one.

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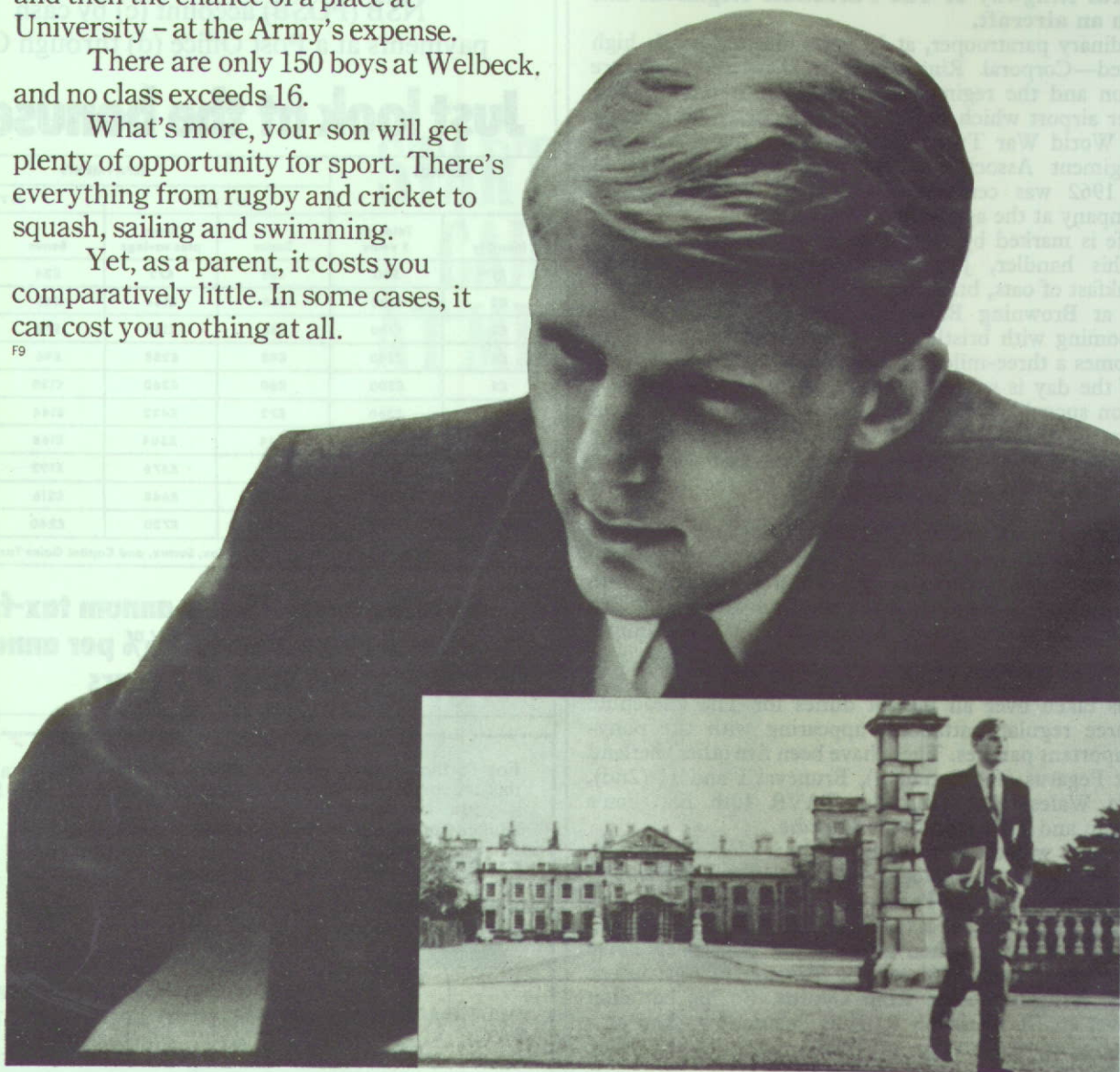
So talk it over with your son and see how he feels about it.

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# SOLDIER to soldier

The National Army Museum, boyhood dream of Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, is taking shape at Chelsea and will be a permanent exhibition that affects every individual in the Army.

Here is being assembled for all time relics of men and units whose names, deeds and histories helped to build up those traditions of courage, loyalty, comradeship and forbearance that have made the British Army great in battle and respected in peace.

The handsome £1,000,000 building, specially designed for the purpose and standing within the perimeter of the home of the scarlet-coated Chelsea Pensioners, has been handed over officially to the museum trustees. The relics assembled at Sandhurst are being moved into the 20,000 square feet of exhibition space and historic paintings are being hung in the picture gallery.

The exhibits, arranged in 80 sections, will tell the story of the Army from the 16th century to the outbreak of World War One. The Imperial War Museum, Lambeth, continues the story from 1914 through the two great wars and subsequent campaigns. Earlier, mainly medieval, history of soldiers is recorded in the Tower of London.

The National Army Museum records the formation of the militias in 1573 and covers the whole history of the Standing Army from the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, also of the Militia, Yeomanry, Volunteers and Territorial Army in war and peace.

The main exhibition will tell the story of the Army to 1914 but there will also be permanent sections dealing with uniforms, badges and medals, weapons, transport and communications. Students will be able to read and research and a photographic library and service will be available.

The museums of the disbanded Irish regiments, the Honourable East India Company, the Indian Services and Colonial Forces are part of the National Army Museum but are remaining at Sandhurst.

Some 70,000 people a year visited the National Army Museum at Sandhurst, 30 miles from London. It is estimated that in its new central environment it will probably attract 500,000 annually.

The cost of maintenance and staffing is being met by Government funds but the cost of the site, building and equipment depends on private subscriptions. Already £1,000,000 has been received or promised. Another £300,000 is needed. The Army's own museum deserves the support of every soldier.

★

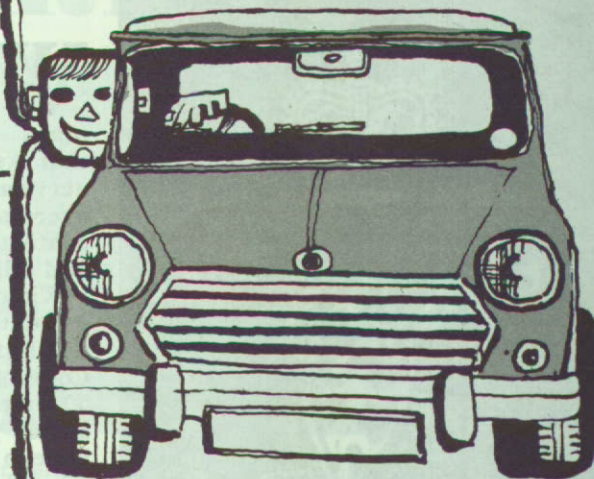
The Society of Friends of the National Army Museum offers membership at a minimum annual subscription of £1. All contributions are used to purchase relics and research material that might be lost to the nation. Friends get priority of help in research and are invited to an annual reception in the Museum in September.

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# CERTA CITO—

**W**ORLD-WIDE, multi-tongued, "swift and sure," the Royal Corps of Signals organises and mans the communication networks that keep the Army working, gives nerve and verve to the Royal Air Force overseas and maintains close efficient contact with British Commonwealth and allied armies everywhere.

Without fast, effective and secure communications no modern army could function and yet the highly professional Royal Corps of Signals has been in existence only 50 years. Indeed, not until 1790 when armies grew larger because conscription came to France did Wellington introduce a scheduled despatch system—by dragoons in the Peninsular War.

Two years later the French were using a signalling device, with an immense book of phrases, to pass messages on routes radiating from Paris. In 1797 the English chaplain-general, the Reverend John Gamble, sold his own radiated telegraph invention to the Army. It incorporated five arms which could be positioned in the upper quadrant and it could spell, although this ability was not looked upon with great favour. An earlier lettering machine, invented by the Venerable Lord George Murray, Archdeacon of Man, was set up at Blandford in 1798 and gave the name to Telegraph Clump.

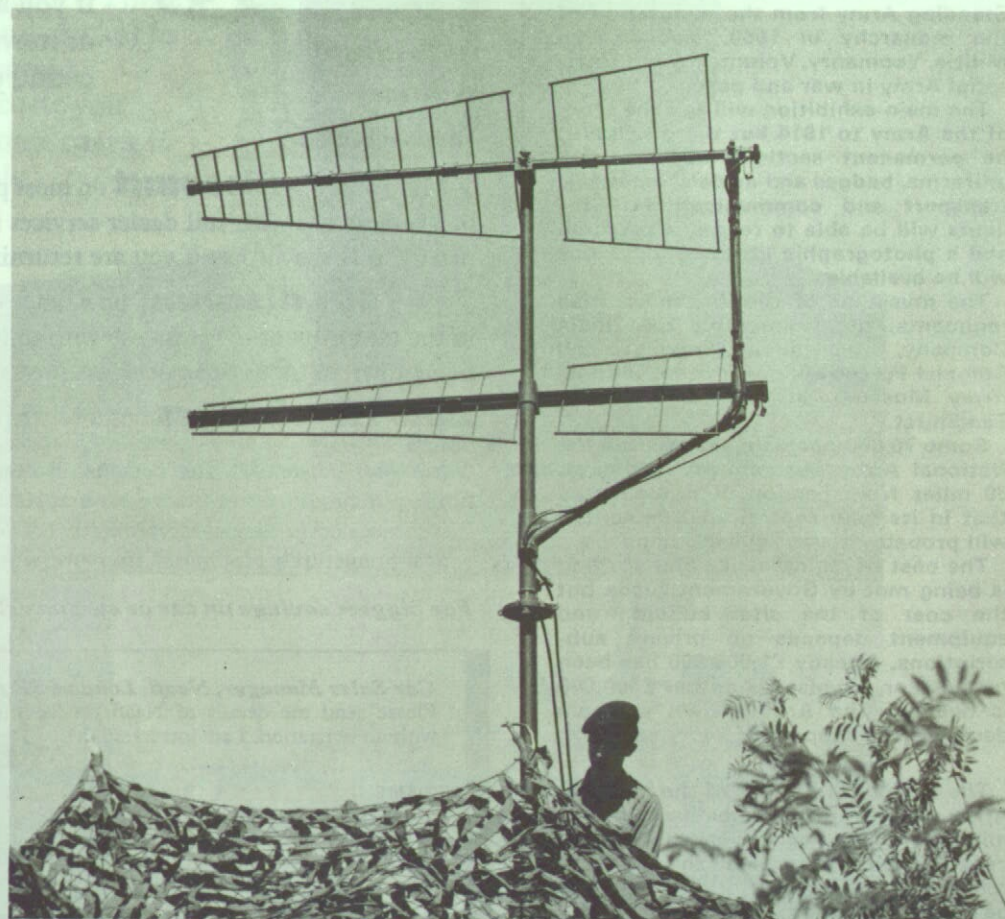
The invention of the morse code in 1837 coincided with the development of the electric telegraph which was used in the Crimea in 1854. General Simpson, at the

Balaclava end of the line from Whitehall, felt it was less than a blessing. "The confounded telegraph has ruined everything" he declared as his small staff tried to deal with a mounting mass of minor queries from England.

By the time of the South African War (1899-1902) wireless was in experimental use. Marconi had already spanned the English Channel but the new invention was a failure at the siege of Ladysmith. This war proved that the telegraph had become essential for tactical purposes and 13,500,000 messages were handled during it. The Telegraph Battalion, which started with 12 officers and 331 soldiers, had expanded to 24 officers and 2424 men.

By the end of World War One the signallers required for an army of two corps, as in South Africa, had increased to 168 officers and 4380 men. For the successful battle of the Somme in 1916, 43,000 miles of overhead wire were erected and 7000 miles of cable buried. This in addition to lamps, shutters, discs, carrier pigeons, wireless, messenger dogs and message-carrying rockets, as well as the motorcyclist despatch rider.

The Signal Service, responsibility of the Royal Engineers from the early days, had expanded to 70,000 men. Improvements in transport and the development of aviation also called for highly efficient and progressing communications which, it was realised, should be the responsibility of a service in which signalling efficiency and development would have top priority.



Aerial for "Bruin," the sophisticated field telephone system of today that operates by radio and includes subscriber trunk dialling plus teleprinter and picture facilities. A big advance on 1914.

# SWIFT AND SURE

story by George Hogan



Princess Anne, wearing winter uniform, drives a Snocat tracked vehicle during a visit to the School of Signals at Blandford Camp, Dorset.



At the trial of the Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg the signal section transmitted millions of words in seven languages by teleprinter over land lines and repeated by radio. The messages went out at 150,000 words a day as records to Whitehall and as stories to the newspapers of the world.

On 28 June 1920 a separate Corps of Signals was formed and within six weeks was designated "Royal." The corps at once set out to prove itself, entered wholeheartedly into building a sound structure and a family spirit and took part successfully in all kinds of sport.

It sent drafts to the Indian Signal Corps, which also had been the responsibility of the sappers, and soon one-third of the strength of the Royal Signals was based in India. The Signal Training Centre moved from Maresfield to Catterick in 1925 and, although the School of Signals moved south to Blandford in 1967, training still continues at Catterick while apprentices to the corps are trained initially at the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

In 1929 King George V approved the corps motto of *Certa cito* ("reliable information quickly," more concisely and aptly interpreted as "Swift and sure"). The Princess Royal, appointed colonel-in-chief in 1935, held the post for 30 years.

Meanwhile Royal Signals personnel were serving with the Army everywhere, often in small numbers and desperate situations, in Burma, the Saar, Turkey, Palestine and on expeditions through the North African desert, to Mount Everest and to the Arctic and Antarctic where polar medals were won. Praise was given for admirable work at the time of the disastrous earthquake at Quetta in 1935.

When World War Two began the corps comprised 2000 officers and 35,000 soldiers.

By its end there were 8518 officers and 142,472 men excluding the Indian Signal Corps. Radio and radar had matured and the armoured command vehicle, in which the commander conducts the battle sitting beside his radio operators, had been developed. The 1944 D-Day assault was based on radio as was the rapid advance eastward across Europe.

Nevertheless, cable and landline carried heavy administrative traffic, the despatch rider in jeep, train, boat and aircraft kept the old personal service very much alive, and carrier pigeons were still being used. One, William of Orange, retained in Arnhem by signalmen who remained with the wounded after the airborne divisions' withdrawal, was awarded the Dickin medal



Ploughing a channel for a land line in North Africa in World War Two. The signaller's job has always been much more than tapping a key or lifting a telephone. Later the plough was mechanised.



Line-laying in the desert outside Derna. Dress mattered less in 1942 than the job to be done.



The Woman's Royal Army Corps and the ATS have always worked closely with Royal Signals.



(the animal VC) after flying the 260 miles to England in 4 hours 25 minutes.

Since the war the corps has been actively employed wherever the British Army has been operating including Korea, Malaya, Kenya, Congo, Cyprus, Suez, Brunei, Borneo, Aden, Anguilla, in Germany and Northern Ireland. It has also worked on many smaller outposts and projects such as Gan, St Kilda, Tristan da Cunha and Beef Island and been responsible for communications during nuclear tests in the Pacific, the Berlin airlift, the Empire Games and on state occasions like the Queen's coronation, the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill and the investiture of the Prince of Wales.

The corps' responsibility for the Commonwealth communications army network includes the Singapore switchboard where girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps work alongside Chinese, Malay, Indian and Filipino operators. The WRAC has a close association with the corps and

operators of their ATS predecessors were, with signalmen, the last allied troops to leave Paris in 1939 less than an hour before the German encirclement.

The ability to cope with languages was also demonstrated at the Nuremberg trials in 1946 when eight teleprinter lines and a high-speed radio section transmitted 150,000 words daily in seven languages.

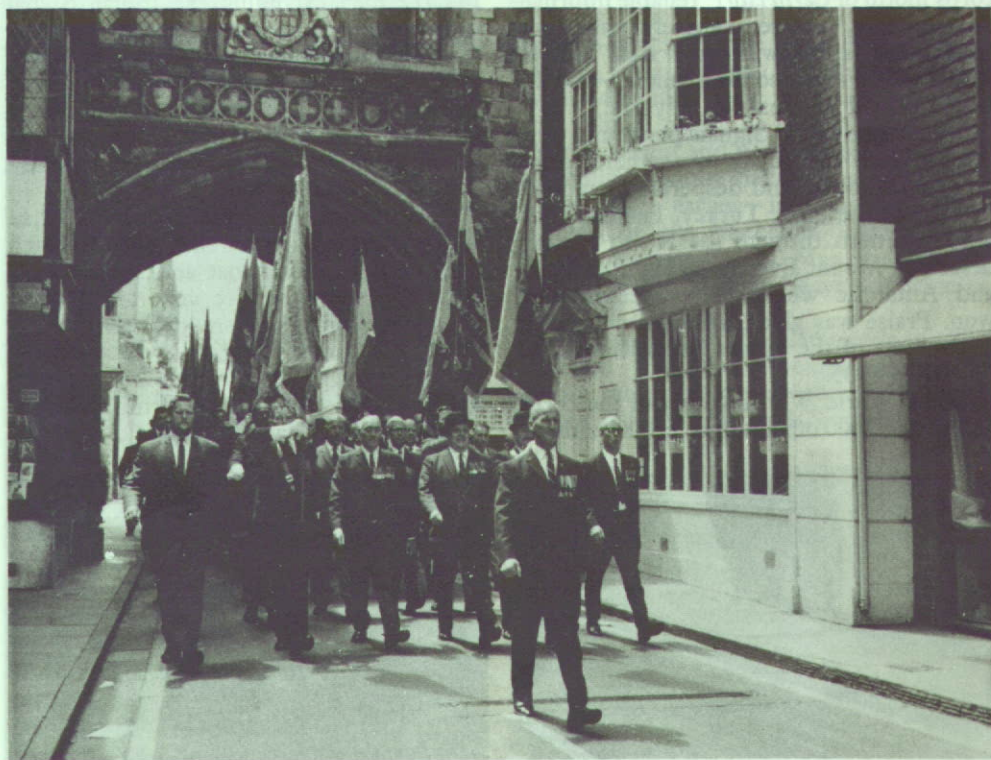
The need for reliable, immediate and secure communications has developed beyond any dream or idea that might have been prophesied in the Peninsula when the horsed dragoons carried messages for Wellington. Today the corps is a vital integral part of the Army's teeth, tail and pulsating elastic body. It has the most highly developed modern equipment such as Bruin (see SOLDIER, September 1968), the unique British radio telephone dialling system for use in the field which also has teleprinter and picture facilities. It is working direct to space with Skynet (SOLDIER, May 1970) and the defence

satellites which can transmit voice and high-speed teleprinter material loud and clear around the world.

With internal and external responsibilities so extensive it is no wonder that every ninth man in the Army belongs to the corps. The proportion is even higher in the TAVR where the 11 Volunteer signal regiments, highly equipped and modernised, are a vital force allocated and trained for immediate service in emergency.

Recruits are coming, but not fast enough, although those who serve as electricians, draughtsmen, drivers, linemen, radio relay technicians, cipher operators, electronics technicians and in other trades know that after Army service they will be knowledgeable craftsmen still young enough and fully qualified for a second career in civil life.

From iddy-umpty the Royal Corps of Signals has progressed to bleep-bleep but there is no fiction in this science of a new age for which the corps was born for leadership just 50 years ago.



Above: The men who helped to build the corps celebrated the 50th anniversary with serving members in Salisbury Cathedral on 21 June.



Left: X Branch Signals, Malaya, co-ordinated patrols like this during the Malayan conflict in one of the world's most difficult radio areas.

Right: "Bruin" message centre during an exercise in Rhine Army. The unique equipment is almost 100 per cent British. Other armies are envious.

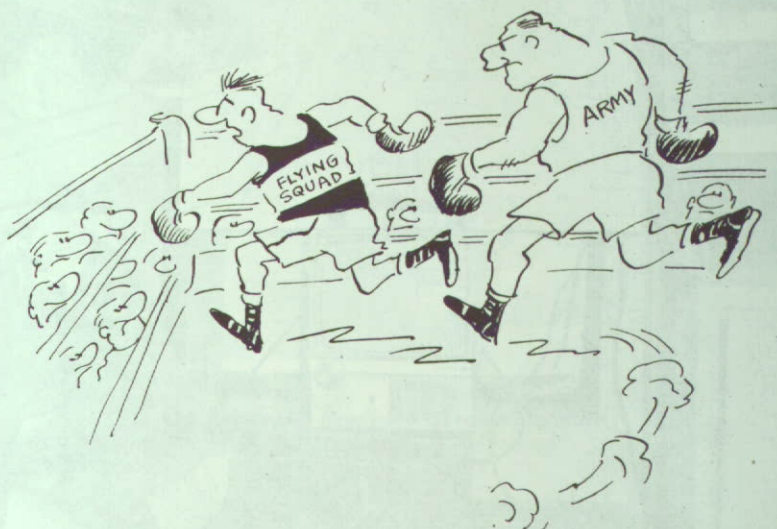
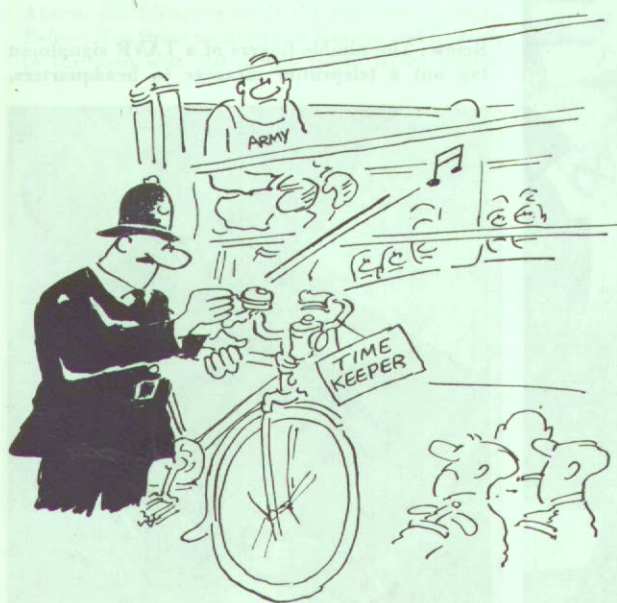
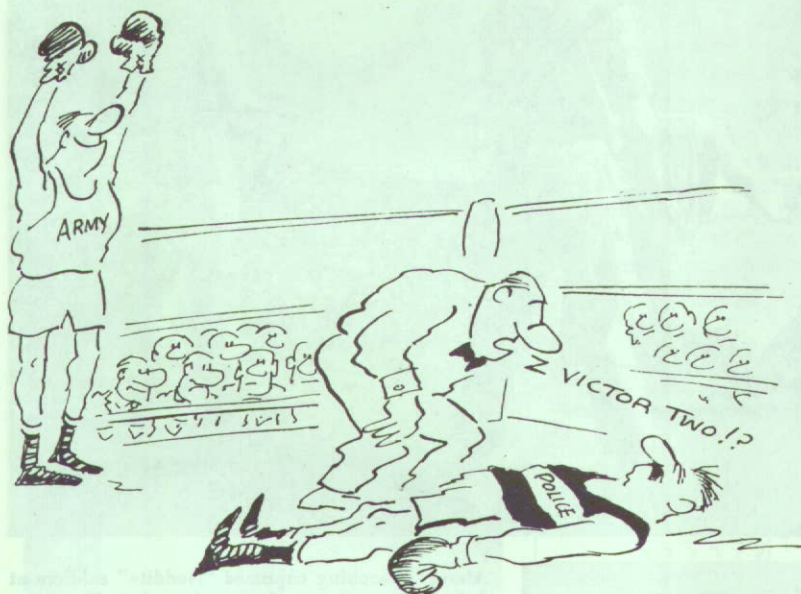






# POLICE v ARMY

by LARRY





# WIDE AWAKE IN THE LAND OF NOD

**P**ORTAGING the river Forth in assault boats, trekking 30 miles over the mountains near Aviemore, operating teleprinters through the night and then taking trade tests.

These were a few of the achievements packed into the annual camp of 13 Signal Group (Volunteers). The Group, which has headquarters in Glasgow, was formed less than two years ago. This was the first time that its 2000 members—with jobs like computer engineering, insurance, plumbing and the post office—had all come together for an exercise.

Codenamed "Red Shoes," it covered the country from Inverness to Devon. Its main

purpose was to operate a nation-wide communications network. The group's wartime role is to provide communications between seats of government throughout the United Kingdom.

For exercise purpose their task was signals support for a hypothetical United Nations team investigating a newly discovered country called "The Land of Nod." As a test of security they were harassed and infiltrated by elements of "Noddite Revolutionary Army" provided by Royal Signals Regulars from Catterick.

Despite the 24-hour watch system the volunteers kept alert sentry-go. One officer provided a closed-circuit television

system for watch on his camp perimeter and a Women's Royal Army Corps girl managed to take a "Noddite" soldier prisoner with a pitchfork!

The Volunteers have up-to-date high-frequency radio equipment, similar to the Regular Army's, which is used predominately for transmitting and receiving messages by teleprinter. Training teleprinter operators is a major problem because of the short time available, but they have managed to solve it by adapting the civilian "sight and sound" system for teaching typewriting. This consists of an electrically illuminated keyboard simulator used in conjunction with a tape recorder.



Above: Searching captured "Noddite" soldiers at Cultybraggan Camp, the location of 69 Squadron.

Left: Guard duty by closed circuit television.

Below: The nimble fingers of a TAVR signalman tap out a teleprinter message to headquarters.



# A HILL IN KOREA

**I**N a remote part of Korea stands a rocky, rather inconspicuous hill. But at its foot is a memorial stone cut with the words "... surrounded and greatly outnumbered they fought valiantly for four days in defence of freedom."

This is Gloster Hill where so many of 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, perished yet earned undying fame for blocking 30,000 fanatical Chinese troops hell-bent on reaching the capital of Seoul in time to celebrate May Day.

Now, after 19 years, two survivors of the Battle of Imjin River have gone back—making what is probably the first and last visit by members of the regiment.

Then platoon sergeants, they are now Regimental Sergeant-Major Norman Tuggey, stationed at the Jungle Warfare School, Johore Bahru, West Malaysia, and Regimental Sergeant-Major Ivor Dee, of Headquarters, Far East Land Forces, Singapore.

Said Mr Tuggey: "It has seemed like a dream returning here. It was so quiet and peaceful on Gloster Hill that I could hardly believe a world famous battle took place there."

Mr Dee added: "When I went up to D Company position, I could virtually see the face of every man in my platoon although it all happened 19 years ago. It was a most moving experience."

After laying a wreath at the foot of the memorial stone, they described that three-day battle to the party of officers and Servicemen accompanying them.

The Glosters, as part of 29 Brigade, had

been holding Solma Ri straddling a supply route south vital to the Chinese. Their task was to delay the enemy long enough for the Americans to establish a position just north of Seoul. They were attacked by wave after wave of Chinese, supported by accurate mortar fire non-stop for three days. An American brigade, whose tanks they could hear, tried to reach them but were forced back. However, they did receive support from British artillery and the United States Navy and Air Force who laid on bombing strikes.

Finally a message came through from the American commander that they were to withdraw if not subjected to attack in the next two hours. "They were easily the longest two hours I've ever spent in my life," recalled Mr Tuggey.

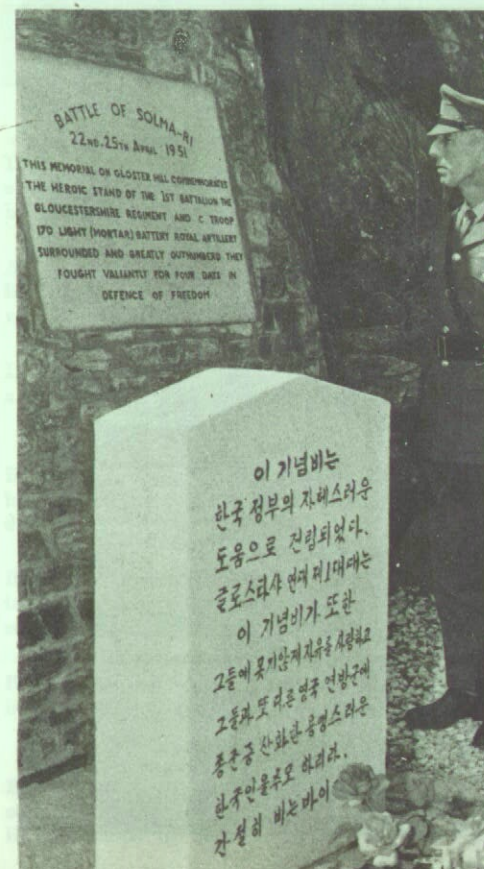
Most of the Glosters were captured during the withdrawal. Mr Dee, who had a mortar fragment in his leg, and Mr Tuggey were interned in a prisoner-of-war camp on the Yalu River. Neither was harshly treated but both were subjected to a six-month period of brainwashing—without success. They were eventually repatriated in 1953 via Freedom Bridge, which is close to the house at Panmunjon where the armistice agreement was signed.

The visit came at an appropriate time. Next month the regiment that 30,000 Chinese could not destroy, will die. But it will be re-born by amalgamation with The Royal Hampshire Regiment to form The Royal Regiment of Gloucestershire and Hampshire.

From a report by Joint Services Public Relations Staff, Hong Kong.



Above: In a simple ceremony at Solma Ri, RSM Dee lays a wreath at the foot of the Gloster's monument. He is accompanied by RSM N Tuggey.

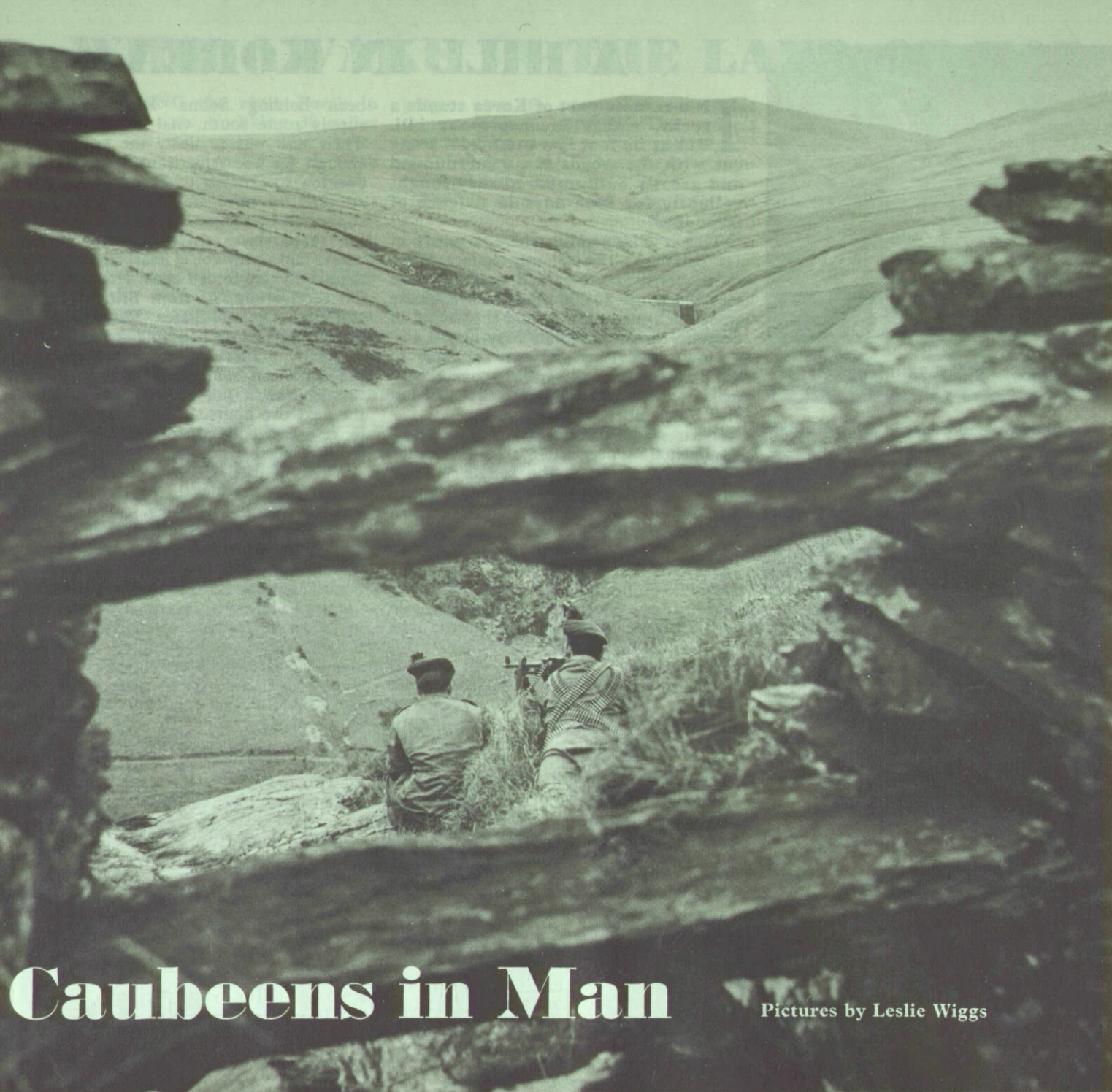


Above: RSM Tuggey reads the inscribed epitaph. Below: Touching memorial in Korean and English to the men who fell at the Imjin River Battle.



"We're either sailing into a fiendishly clever trap, or someone has boomed badly with the map reference!"





# Caubeens in Man

Pictures by Leslie Wiggs



**L**IFE in a training depot can tend to be routine, hence the gentle taunts from soldiering soldiers that the permanent staff has an "easy number," never gets outside the range and drill square, and so on.

At Ballymena the depot of The Royal Irish Rangers, like other depots, trains recruits for the regiment's battalions. Because it is the only depot in Northern Ireland, it also trains Irish recruits for the Irish Cavalry Regiments, for the Irish Guards and for the Royal Artillery.

And Ballymena likes to get its permanent staff out and about beyond local training areas and the Mountains of Mourne.

Which is why Tourist Trophy riders and spectators, holidaymakers and Manxmen caught a weekend's glimpse of Irish caubeens in unlikely places in the north of the Isle of Man.

A Royal Naval Reserve minesweeper

and the cross-channel ferries sailed 100 Ballymena men to Peel for an escape and evasion exercise.

On the attack, to blow up a derelict croft masquerading as a radio station on a hilltop near Man's highest point, Snaefell, were the permanent staff, grouped in small parties and making their way across country from Peel.

On the defensive were patrols of recruits, civilian police and military policemen of a Scottish Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit, 243 Provost Company, on annual camp.

Honours were about even with the target duly demolished in the early hours and only one sabotage group emerging completely unscathed and free from the rigours of capture and interrogation.

So back to Peel and Ballymena—with aching limbs, sore feet but a welcome whiff of fresh mountain air to put new life into the daily round of depot life.



The regimental sergeant-major with a radio operator checks on patrols returning to Peel harbour after exercising on the Isle of Man.

Above, right: Royal Naval Reserve minesweeper Kilmorey sails for Belfast after the exercise with Royal Irish Rangers staff and recruits.

Left: Two of the depot staff in position near a "radio station"—target of the saboteurs.

Below, left: An "agent" with whom the saboteurs had to make contact near a farm—back at the depot he is Company Sergeant-Major W J Kidd.

Right: Soldiers of the depot training company in a defensive position. They guard the "radio station"—but raiders got through to wreck it.

Below: Going aboard Kilmorey after the weekend battle. Note red hand of Ulster on the funnel.

Below, right: The weak end after a long weekend on Man. Waiting on the quayside at Peel for a lift to Belfast by courtesy of the RN Reserve.





# Pride of them all

Story by George Hogan

Pictures by Leslie Wiggs



taken the place of ranks in day-to-day affairs of the school, although all boys belong to the Combined Cadet Force which teaches naval and air skills as well as Army abilities and gives the Gordon Boys' School a place in the Army list. Head boy Stephen Newton is company sergeant-major of the school contingent.

Applications for entry to Gordon are no longer restricted to "necessitous" lads, although the boys must still be "of sound physique and good character." Entrance age is from 12 to 14 and the boys must stay until at least 16—some go on to 18. A number qualify for Welbeck College, Mons Officer Cadet School and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

The strength of the school is about 230 and with most of the classes under 15 strong it is possible to give close attention to individuals. There is a turnover of about 70 lads a year and 80 per cent of entrants are sons of Servicemen, many of whom are still serving.

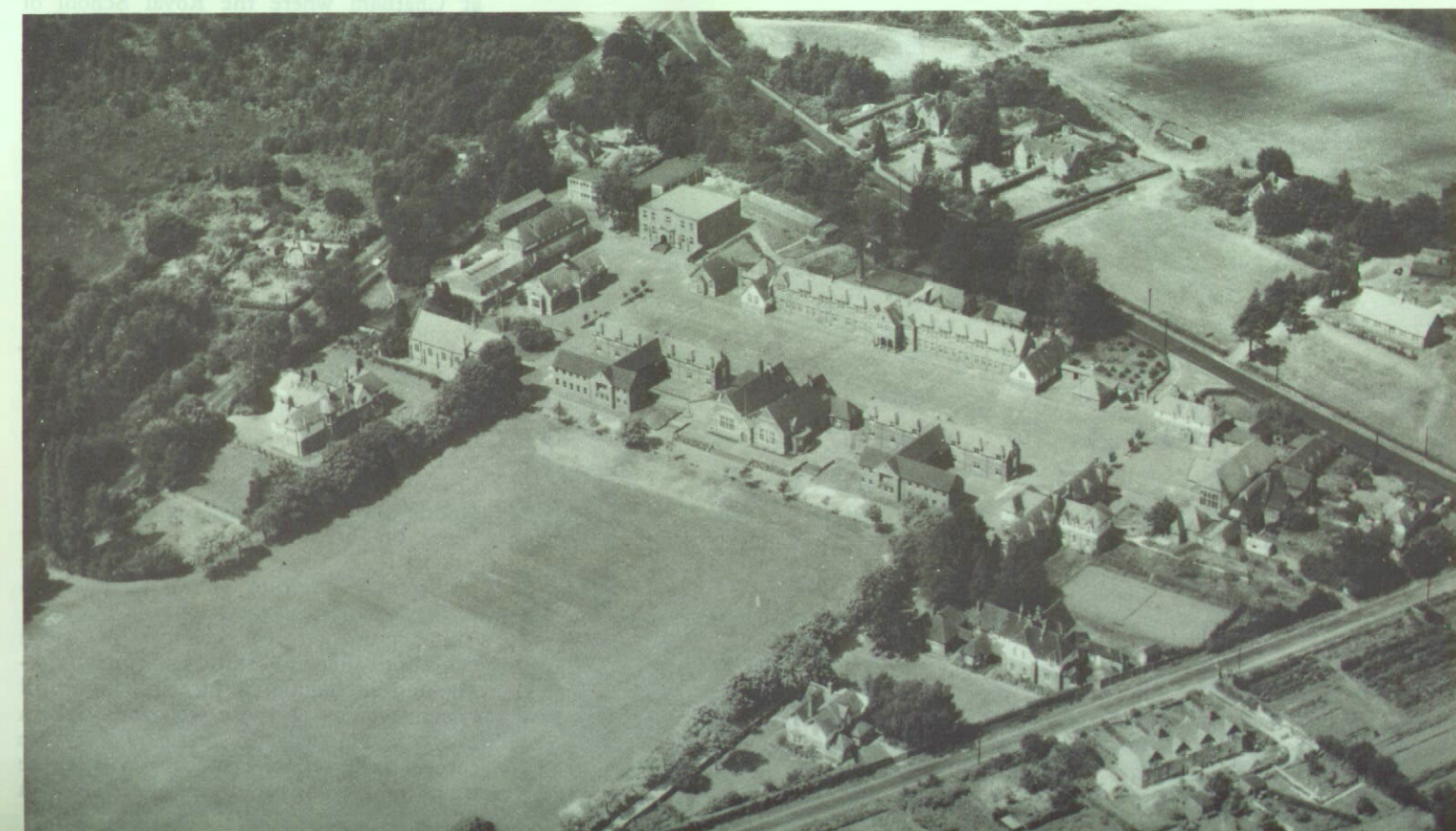
On leaving, about half go on to colleges and grammar schools, a quarter become trainees and apprentices in industry and the remainder start careers in the Services, most of them in the Army.

The school reduces its fees in certain circumstances through bursaries channelled through the Army Benevolent Fund and Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

Since 1885 nearly 7600 lads have been educated at Gordon. Today they can study up to 14 subjects for the General Certificate of Education O levels and the

This fine statue of General Gordon on a camel is a centre of attraction to boys and visitors. It was transferred from the Sudan 11 years ago.

The school stands in 50 acres of quiet Surrey countryside. Modern additions match the old houses and there are extensive playing fields.



**L**IFE is organised by the bugle at the Gordon Boys' School, Woking, where a long military tradition is still jealously guarded. Reveille is at 7 am and the lads work an eight-hour day that runs smoothly and is full of interest.

Dormitories are called "dugouts" and the dining hall has never been referred to as anything but "cookhouse." When retreat is sounded at 8.15 pm all in the grounds stand and face the school flagstaff.

This military tradition stems from the life of the general after whom the school was named in 1885 but today this is a boarding school with normal educational aims.

It has never been a military establishment but until only a year ago it was still under the dual control of a commandant, always a distinguished soldier, and the headmaster. Since then, headmaster Mr George Leadbeater has been responsible for the complete day-to-day running of the school. He has been at Gordon 25 years, as head since 1952.

Generous donations and legacies help to maintain the school funds and reduce fees. The list of donors for any year includes most of the regiments and corps of the Army and there are many soldiers in the long roll of private subscribers headed by

the Queen, who is the school's patron, and the Duke of Gloucester.

General Gordon gained great renown in the latter half of the 19th century as a soldier in the Crimea, South Africa, China and the Sudan. He was assassinated in Khartoum where he bravely faced his killers on 16 January 1885, two days before the relief of the town. He was honoured as a national hero who had displayed courage, humanitarianism and keen perception throughout his life.

The school was founded at the express wish of Queen Victoria as the nation's memorial to continue the work Gordon had started when a junior Royal Engineer officer stationed for six years at Gravesend. There he had formed into a "ragged school" unkempt, under-nourished boys he had found in the slums. He washed, fed and sheltered them, introduced them to reading, writing, arithmetic and religion and taught them a trade.

The Gordon Boys' School prospered at Woking for many years as a trade training school. Deprived youngsters of sound physique and good character were admitted at about school-leaving age. Gaps in their general education were filled and they were trained as carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, blacksmiths and motor-mechanics. Some gained knowledge and a trade working in

the school bakery and kitchen, in the fields and piggeries, on building maintenance and on the school's drainage and sewage farm and electricity plant.

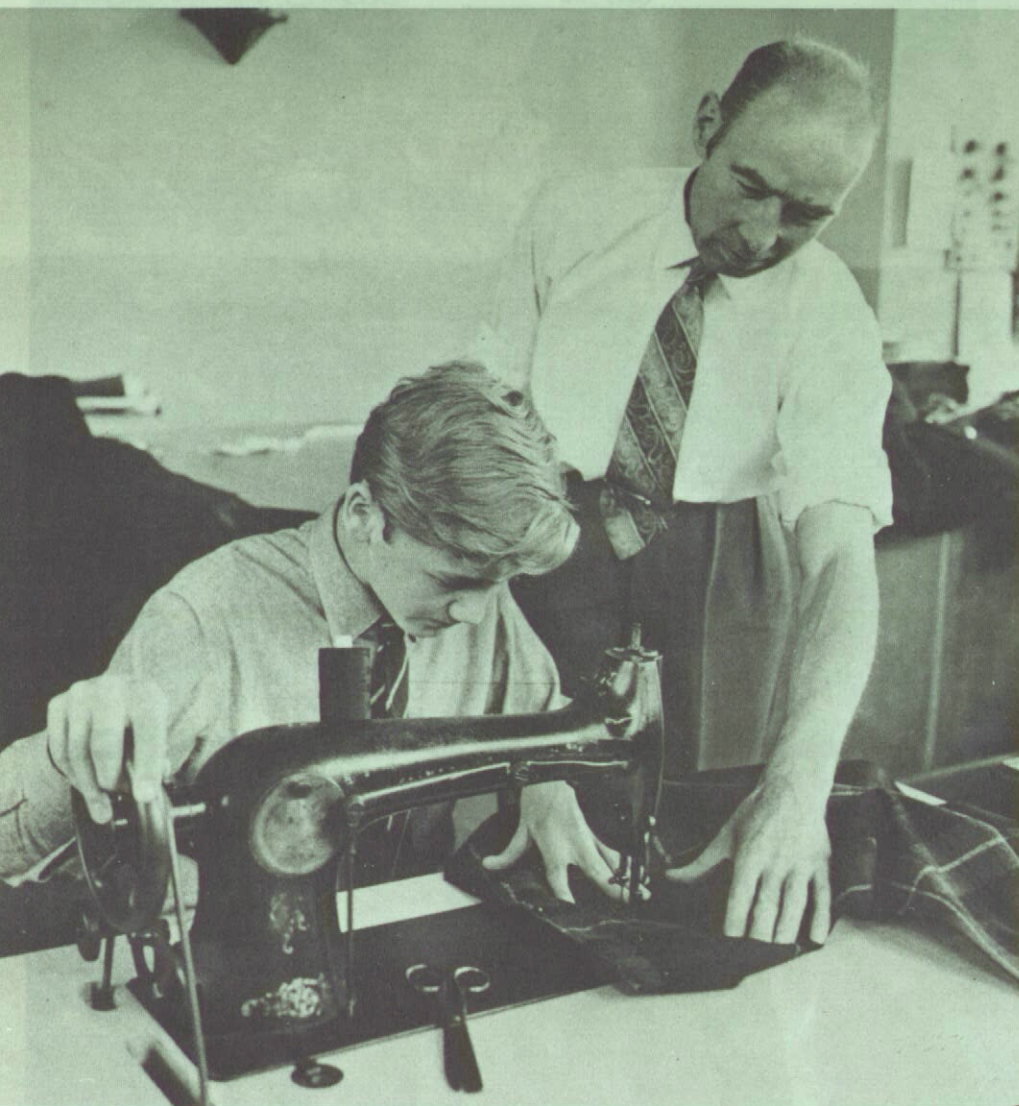
The school was organised as a company of the Army Cadet Force and uniform was the normal daily dress with denims for rough work. In 1947 this was B Company, 2nd Cadet Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment, which SOLDIER reported at that time as "one of the most efficient companies in the ACF." The senior boy held the rank of colour-sergeant and the lads walked out in blue tunic, Gordon tartan trews and tartan Glengarry.

Pocket money was paid according to rank: 3d weekly for newcomers and 2s for sergeants, with 3d extra for each six-monthly good conduct stripe. Now new entrants receive 3s.

Today's Gordon Boys' School is based on four houses, each named for a period in Gordon's life—China, Khartoum, Gravesend and Woolwich. The cadet uniform has been superseded as everyday dress by a blue blazer with the school crest and motto "Semper fidelis," grey flannel trousers and a tie in the school colours of green and yellow.

Uniform is now worn only for cadet parades including the weekly church parade. "Head boy" and "prefect" have





Michael Belcher, son of a REME warrant officer, won an award from the Guild of Bespoke Cutters. He is supervised by Master Tailor Mr Parry.

Below: Mr C Mann, ex-Loyals and APTC, teaching survival in the heated swimming pool. Every lad swims and there are good facilities for all sports.



Certificate of Secondary Education. Those capable of A levels are encouraged to continue their studies. The conventional classrooms are augmented by language, chemistry, physics and biology laboratories, a modern art room with an all-weather sketching verandah, metalwork, woodwork, technical drawing and music rooms, a large library, a gymnasium and a heated, covered swimming pool.

Every boy in the school can swim. Newcomers soon learn under the expert tuition of Mr C Mann, ex-Army Physical Training Corps and warrant officer I in the Combined Cadet Force. As well as the usual school sports and physical training activities, such as football, rugby, athletics, cross-country running, basketball, tennis, badminton and hockey, the boys practise orienteering and archery and have keen rifle-shooting teams which do comparatively well at Bisley against older boys from public schools.

Some lads attend outward bound courses, cadet leadership courses, skiing instruction and the annual CCF camp. A sponsored walk which raised £160 for the Pestalozzi International Children's Village Trust emphasised the great effort, even courage, that is embodied in the spirit of these youngsters.

When the Duke of Edinburgh visited Woking to present his awards to youth he found that 32 of the 36 qualified youngsters were Gordon boys.

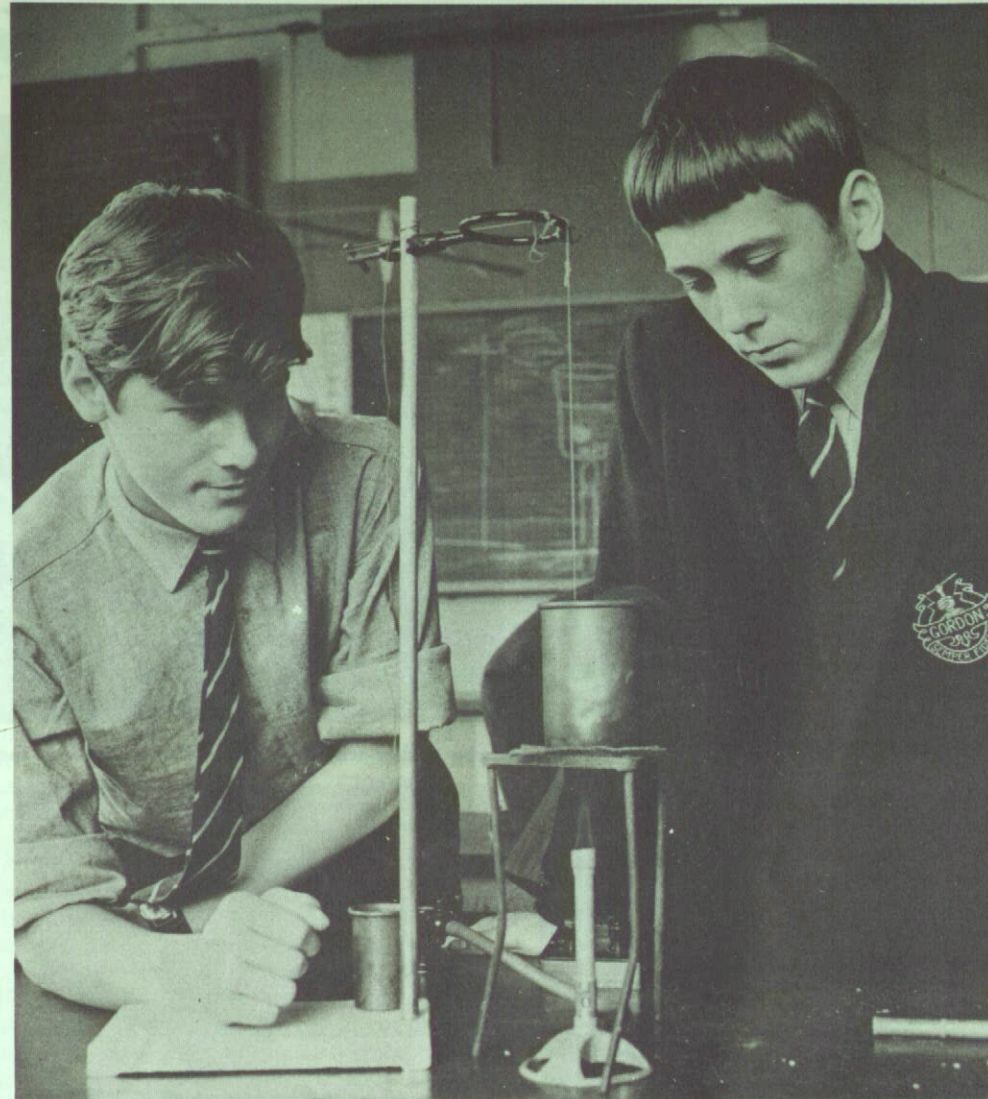
There is a strong and active old boys' association, many of whose members write or keep in touch by visiting, quite apart from the annual Old Boys' day in June. The school chapel contains pews presented by old boys, regiments, and even old troopships like the Dunera.

The statue of Gordon mounted on a camel overlooking the playing fields on the south of the school was transferred from Khartoum 11 years ago. There is a duplicate at Chatham where the Royal School of Military Engineering takes a keen interest in the welfare of the Gordon boys. The 1st Training Regiment, Royal Engineers, at Cove, Hampshire, helps to train the lads as cadets and the school attends the RE demonstration at Cove each year.

The school museum houses the largest-known collection of Gordon relics including the General's robes as the only white mandarin of China. Also, among valuable pieces presented to Gordon by the Emperor of China, is an old teapot that the young engineer lieutenant used in Gravesend over a century ago—to feed the poor lads of the slums whose lot he did so much to improve.

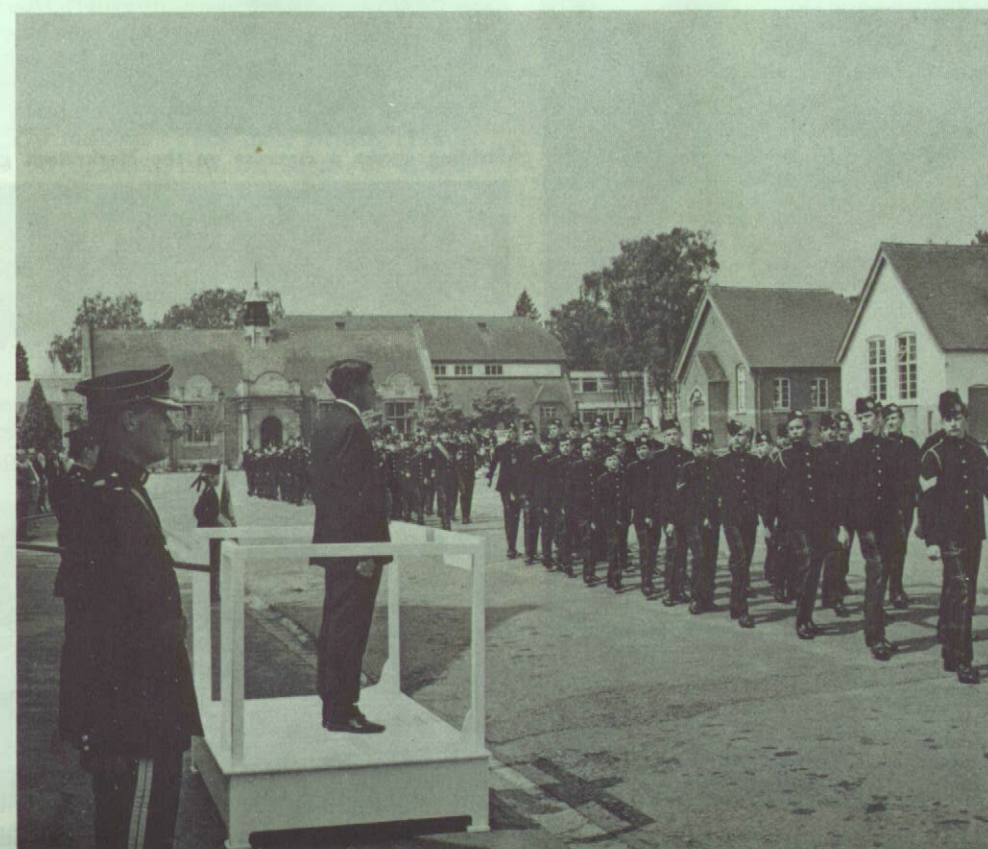
In Khartoum he is reputed to have said: "I cannot even sew on a button. If I had a boy I would have him taught to tailor." Indeed the craft of tailoring is still being taught at Woking as a voluntary subject and some of the lads become proficient enough to go on to posts in Savile Row.

In spite of great changes in social conditions General Gordon's sound thinking and humanitarian principles are still effective today as those who follow them assist young lads to attain worthwhile careers. The school has changed with the times but the fine reputation of the Gordon boys is as high as ever.



Students in the physics laboratory learn how to determine the specific heat of brass. Others work in wood or metal, some study music or art.

Headmaster George Leadbeater takes the salute after church parade in the school chapel. There is a fine band and corps of pipes and drums.



## Back Cover

"The Germans Surrender," the latest addition to SOLDIER's range of full-colour prints, is reproduced on this month's back cover. The print, from an original oil by Terence T Cuneo, shows Field-Marshal Montgomery signing the surrender terms at Luneburg Heath on 4 May 1945 after members of the German delegation had signed. The proceedings, taking only ten minutes, delivered into allied hands more than two million men of the Wehrmacht.

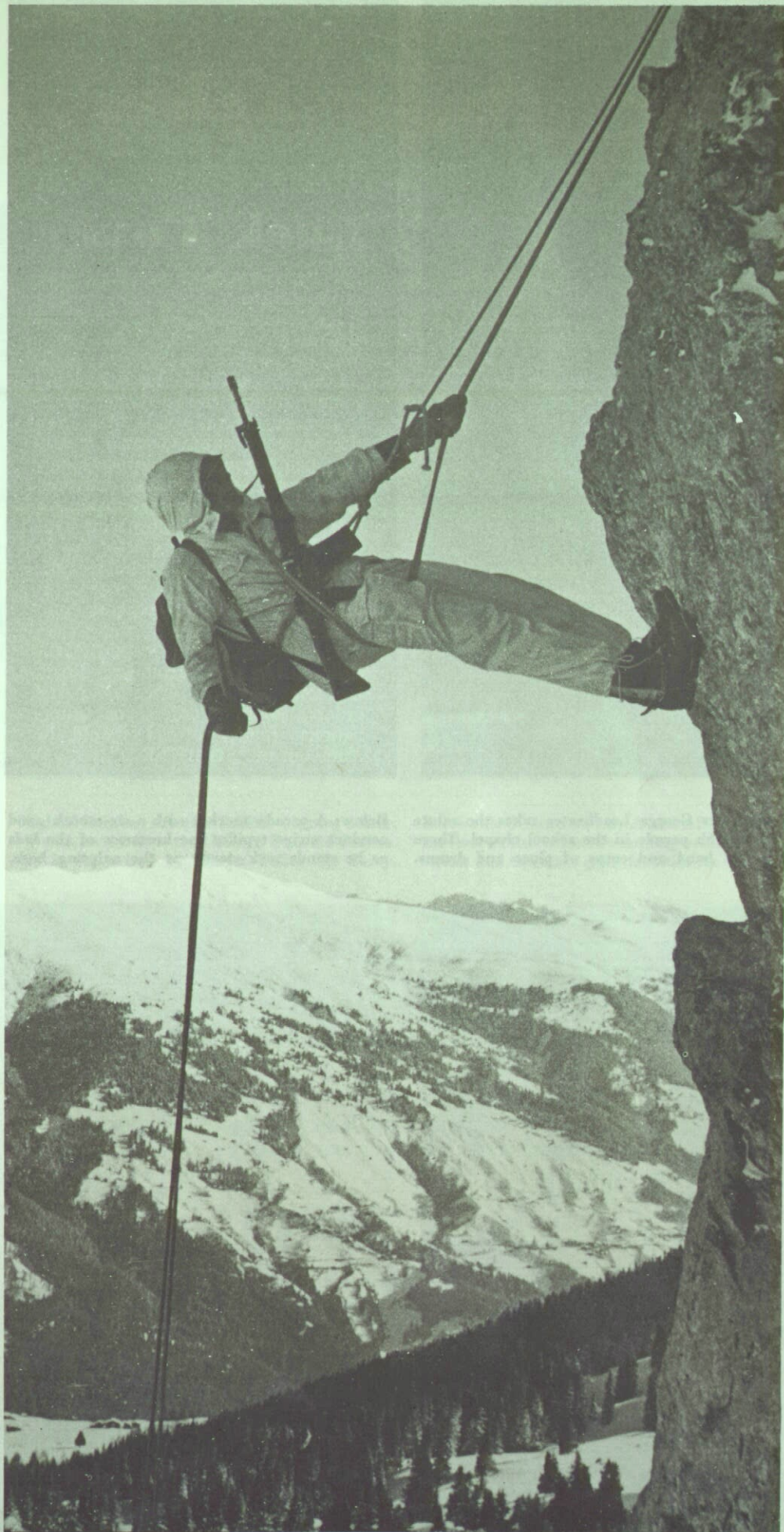
This print measures 27½ by 21 inches and overall, including the white border, 32 by 28 inches. It costs £5 including packing and postage to any part of the world. Orders should be sent to SOLDIER (Print GS2), 433 Holloway Road, London, N7 6LT. Cheques, postal orders, money orders or international money orders should be made out to "SOLDIER."

Below: A parade marker with a six-month good conduct stripe typifies the keenness of the lads as he stands rock steady at the saluting base.





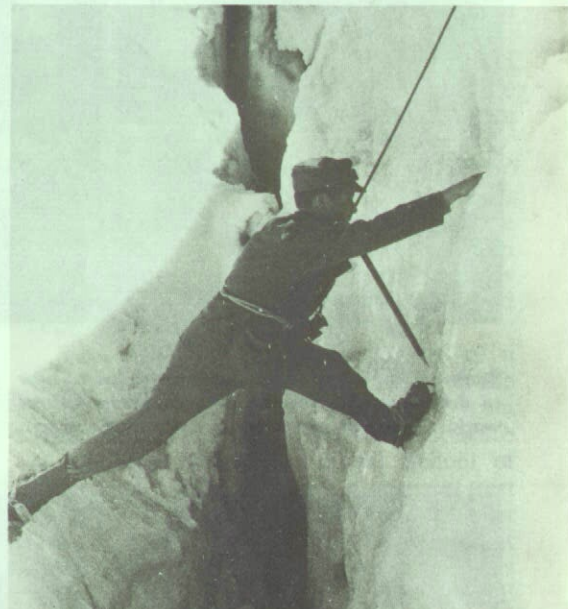
# CIVILIAN SOLDIERS



Rockclimbing and abseiling are part of a Swiss soldier's training—and not easy with pack and rifle.



Swiss soldier with his light machine-gun—in the rain.



Striding across a crevasse on the Morkratsch glacier.



Digging a track for horses which will bring up supplies.

**T**HEY train thousands of feet up in the mountains, living in igloos and snow shelters, negotiating crevasses and rugged rockfaces sometimes in almost zero visibility at cloud level, and carrying machine-guns where a single shot could set off an avalanche.

Such are the Gebirgsinfanterie, the mountain troops of the Swiss Army, pictured here by Swiss freelance photographer and Army reservist Peter Frey who did his annual training with them near St Moritz and Lenzerheide.

Each private soldier has a Sturmgewehr (Swiss-made light machine-gun), short-style wooden skis and a pack. Camouflaged like chameleons, they sweep through the snow in white over-smocks or clamber over rocks in brown-and-green flecked combat suits.

Swiss soldiers are nearly all civilians. The regulars—just 2500 of them—exist primarily as an instruction cadre. There are at present about 17,000 conscripts under training and some 570,000 reservists.

All fit men undergo four months' basic training at the age of 20 and do eight three-week refresher courses spread over the following 12 years. After that they remain liable for call up and do further compulsory training courses until reaching 50 (55 for officers). Reservists receive only nominal pay—a private gets a couple of francs a day pocket money—since their civilian wages are paid while they are at camp. Each soldier takes his Sturmgewehr home and is obliged to shoot a specific number of range courses at a local rifle club.

Switzerland, which has a population of 6.2 million, can mobilise 644,500 men in 48 hours. This comprises the army, air defence force and air force. Landlocked Switzerland has no sea-going navy but has a few patrol boats on its border lake.

The 1969 Swiss defence budget was £170 million. They have British Hunter F 58 fighters, two battalions of Bloodhound 2 missiles and 300 Centurion tanks, plus French tanks, American armoured personnel carriers and self-propelled guns, and the Swiss-built PZ61 medium tank. A new version of this, the PZ68, is about to go into service.

Although German, French and Italian are all spoken in Switzerland, there is virtually no language problem in the army as each individual unit is confined to men speaking the same tongue.

The ranks, however, are a mixture of French and German, for example sapeur (sapper), caporal (corporal), fourrier (quartermaster-sergeant), Gefreiter (private), Feldwebel (sergeant), and Hauptmann (captain).

Despite their military preparedness the Swiss do not contribute to the United Nations—which even the neutral Swedes do. Switzerland was not militarily involved in the two world wars. In fact the Swiss have not fired a shot in anger since the Congress of Vienna guaranteed their neutrality in 1815.



"Over the top" scene as Gebirgsinfanterie, in camouflage smocks and trousers, scramble up rocks.

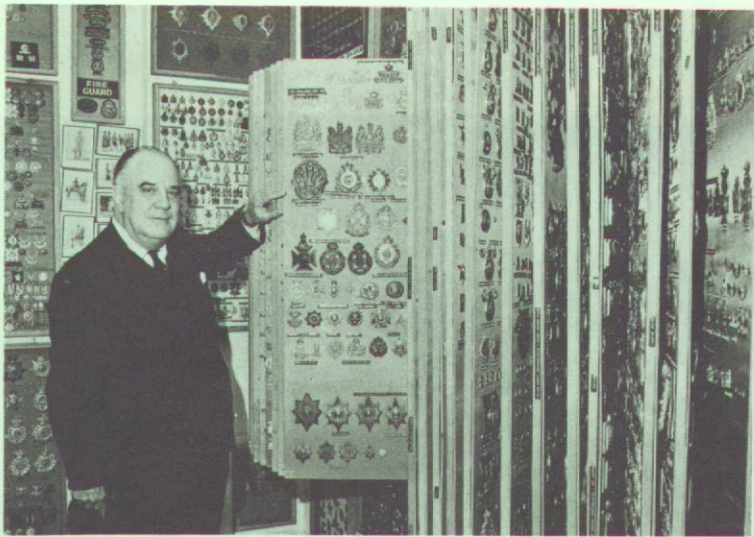


In cold weather rig to withstand the razor-edged blizzards which blow across the Swiss mountains.



Making camp among tourist scenery above the Julierpass, near St Moritz, at a height of 3750 feet.





## Badges galore

**E**VER since he can remember, military badges have had a special appeal for Mr Cecil Eric Prescott, a leading Gibraltarian businessman and proud owner of one of the world's largest and most famous private badge collections. Occupying an entire room of his home on the Rock, his collection is worldwide in scope and comprises more than 16,000 different badges.

As a ten-year-old schoolboy Mr Prescott wore a leather belt which he carefully studded with a few painstakingly acquired army badges. That was how it all began—and this day he still has the Royal Engineers badge which once adorned his belt and the Bedford OTC badge which he later wore as a public schoolboy.

Acquiring and assembling this vast collection—and it is still growing—has meant dedication, perseverance, much patience and a lot of hard work. Mr Prescott's badge-seeking correspondence runs to hundreds of letters a year and it took him ten years to track down and acquire just one badge—the rare 22nd, Sam Browne's Cavalry.

His display room is a treasure house of militaria beyond the wildest dreams of the average collector. From floor to ceiling the walls are covered with row upon row of badges, all neatly classified and easily identifiable. In addition there are man-sized red display boards each filled with the badges of the armies of the world. As well as the insignia of all the British cavalry and infantry regiments there are badges from the USA, Russia, Biafra, France, Libya, Denmark, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Kuwait, Portugal, Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, Spain, Eire, Pakistan, India, South Africa—and most of them complete.

There are shako and helmet plates, one worn at Waterloo, even bed plates; complete collections of pre-1881 Glengarry badges and buttons, British Territorial Army and school OTC badges, World War Two Canadian Expeditionary Force badges, Scottish regimental and yeomanry badges, including the rare Tyneside Scottish; and all the Scottish regiments scattered across the world such as the Canadian Scottish and Calcutta Scottish.

There are collections of shoulder flashes, regimental numbers worn on pillbox hats, police cap and helmet badges and an almost complete collection of badges of the former Nizam of Hyderabad's army. The Australian section includes the little-known emblem of the Australian Army Psychology Corps, one of the rarest of present-day badges.

Thorough to a degree, Mr Prescott is not content with one example of a particular badge. Where there have been changes of sovereign, for instance, he will have examples of the same badge with different crowns—Victorian, Edwardian, Georgian or that of the present Queen.

Virtually priceless and containing many irreplaceable pieces, his collection can be seen only by invitation. The most expensive single item is an 1800 Royal Irish Regiment (18th Foot) shoulder belt plate for which Mr Prescott paid £55.

Through his hobby he has acquired a considerable knowledge of military history and his great ambition is to complete the gap in his British collection between 1660, the date which marks the start of the Regular standing army, and 1794.

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## NATCS

National Air Traffic Control Service



# Chieftain knocks spots off the Leopard

**F**OR a third time in eight years the British Army has won the annual NATO tank gunnery competition—this year with the Chieftain tank competing against its rival, the German Leopard, and the British Centurion.

The competition's Canadian Army Trophy, a silver replica of a Centurion, was won by 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers on the Hohn ranges in Rhine Army. The competition began in 1963 and was won by The Royal Scots Greys in 1965 and by the 13th/18th Royal Hussars the following year.

This year the competition took a new form of fire and movement by pairs of tanks. They had to engage 15 pop-up dummy tank targets and two machine-gun targets at distances of up to 2000 metres. Points were awarded for hits, with bonuses for the time taken to register results and for conservation of ammunition.

For three days they fought it out. On the final run, the 16th/5th's youngest commander, Lance-Corporal Geoffrey Lewis, and colleague Sergeant David Lock, looked set for the highest-scoring pair award. Then a couple of Leopards pipped them with a bonus for a faster time and unexpended ammunition.

The panzer crews, who had gunsights operating like zoom lenses, fired more quickly but the British had the edge in accuracy. The Germans, represented by 33 and 34 Panzer Battalions, were placed second, and Lord Strathcona's Horse, for Canada, came third.

The result could boost Chieftain exports. British arms salesmen have been troubled by the Leopard's success in winning orders from Belgium, Holland, Norway and Italy. Now Chieftain has been proved against the Leopard officially for the first time.



Above: Triumphant team with their trophies. One of their Chieftains is buried beneath.

Below: Congratulations for Lance-Corporal G Lewis, youngest and most junior commander.

Below: Praise from General Jürgen Bennecke, C-in-C AFCEM, who presented the trophies.

Bottom: Ready for action. A Chieftain tank waiting alertly at the first firing point.





# No enemy will expel us

Story by John Jesse  
Pictures by Trevor Jones

**"WE** are here to defend Gibraltar." Just six simple words spoken by the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel JJ Porrall, but they tell the story and perfectly sum up the role of The Gibraltar Regiment.

Equally brief and to the point is the regimental motto "Nulli expugnabilis hosti"—no enemy will expel us—and none could be more appropriate at the present time as one looks out across the closed frontier with Spain. No mere words, they express something deeply felt by every member of the regiment—a commitment, a duty, a reality.

With the exception of the regimental sergeant-major everybody in the regiment is locally recruited including the permanent staff of five officers and about 40 soldiers. But the RSM is always a Regular from the British Army serving a three-year attachment.

Currently he is RSM G Veitch, The Royal Anglian Regiment, one of whose allied regiments is The Gibraltar Regiment and whose badge incorporates the castle and keys of Gibraltar.

Male Gibraltarians are liable for service on reaching the age of 18. Apprentices are called up on completing their apprenticeship but dockyard workers are exempt. Average intake is about 80 a year and the four-month training period is divided into two months basic and two months continuation. In addition there is a fortnight's camp which members of the regiment must attend every two years up to the age of 28. Final discharge from the reserve is at 41.

For their initial training recruits live in the 200-year-old Buena Vista barracks, drawing £1 10s a week all found. Apart from its infantry role the regiment mans the light anti-aircraft and heavy coastal guns on the Rock and has signallers, drivers and other specialist personnel.

The Gibraltar Regiment traces its origin back to World War One when the Gibraltar Volunteer Corps was formed on 3 July 1915 from a nucleus of rowing enthusiasts belonging to a local club. Enlistment, at first, was restricted to club members but this rule was soon dropped to extend membership to all British subjects with the result that the strength quickly topped the 400 mark. Discipline was maintained through the purse with penalties ranging

from £50 or six months' imprisonment for a major offence such as failure to report for active service, to 10s for drunkenness and 2s 6d for appearing on parade with a dirty firearm.

The corps was disbanded in 1919 and 20 years later, in 1939, the Gibraltar Defence Force was formed as a territorial unit by General Sir Edmund Ironside, then Governor.

From 1940 to 1943 the Defence Force was repeatedly in action against enemy aircraft, scoring its first "kill" in August 1940. By the summer of 1943 hostilities in North Africa had ceased, the route to Malta and Egypt was open, Gibraltar had played its part.

By the end of the year, the Defence Force found itself reduced to a mere cadre, a state of affairs, however, that did not last long for on the return of the civilian population in 1944 compulsory military service was introduced.

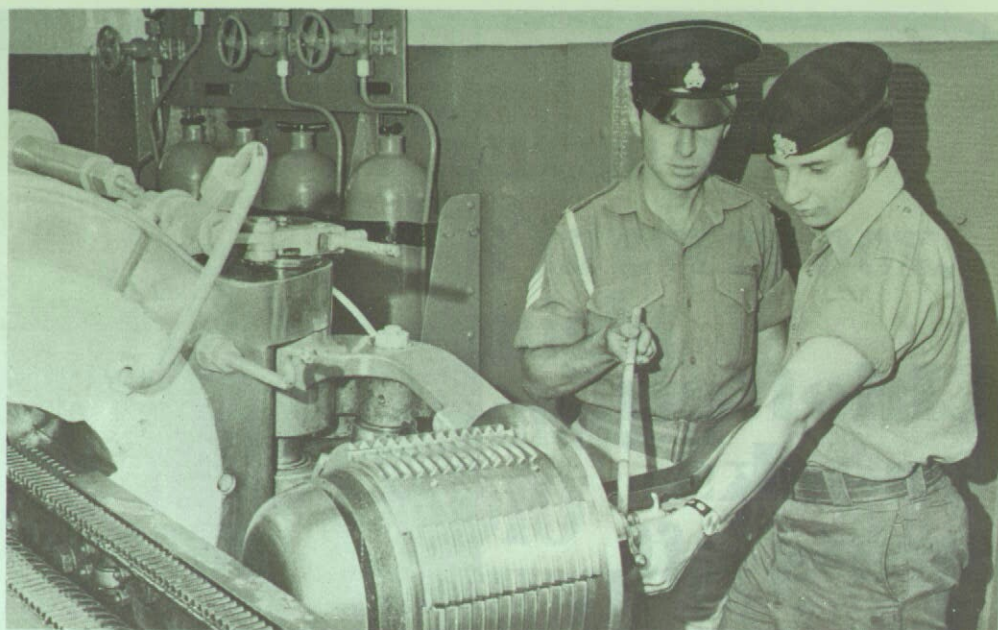
The next phase in the regiment's history dates from 30 August 1958 when the Gibraltar Defence Force was renamed The Gibraltar Regiment—an infantry unit with a 9.2-inch coastal battery as an integral part. The gunner troop is trained by a small Royal Artillery team.

One job The Gibraltar Regiment took over from the gunners was the care of the famous Rock apes—the appointment of officer-in-charge apes is held by the commanding officer.

Legend has it that if ever the apes leave Gibraltar the British will go too, but Sergeant Alfred Holmes, keeper of the Rock apes, has no qualms. "As long as I am here they will not die out," he said. "I would like to see a hundred of them." In fact, the present establishment is 29, including the latest addition, Rosemary, named after the Governor's wife. Val, just a year older, is named after the Governor himself, Admiral Sir Varyl Begg. Naming them is the prerogative of the Governor to whom likely names are submitted by the officer-in-charge apes.

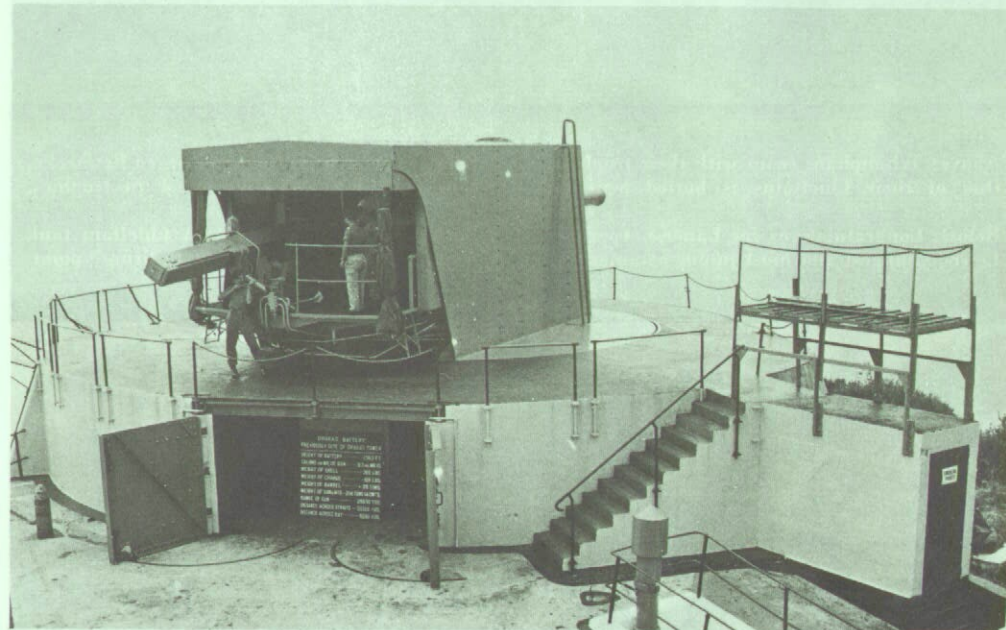
There are two packs and each roams the Rock free. Sergeant Holmes knows all his charges by name and feeds them twice a day.

He knows their individual likes and dislikes; he tends the wounded in the rare event of a confrontation between the two packs and the inevitable battle that ensues.



Right: A Gibraltar Regiment sergeant instructs a gunner at the breech of a 9.2in Mk10, one of the guns crewed by RA-trained men of the regiment.

Below: Atop the Rock with gun crew in position, O'Hara's Battery stands guard over the Straits.

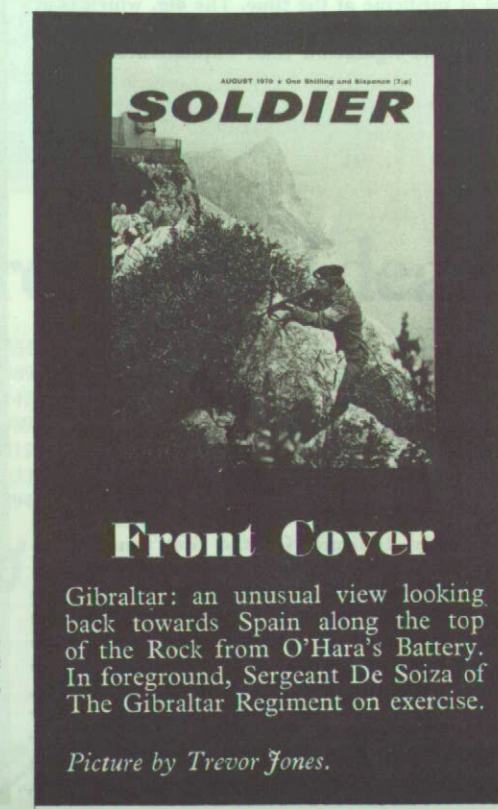


Left: Soldier and civilian combined, Robert De Soiza is a sergeant in The Gibraltar Regiment and a draughtsman in a busy planning office.

Right: Band of 3rd Bn, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, leads The Gibraltar Regiment's Keys Platoon at a rehearsal of the Ceremony of the Keys, now held twice a year. In background the Royal Naval Hospital and above, to right, the more modern buildings of Lathbury Barracks.



Left: Royal Anglian RSM Veitch on attachment to The Gibraltar Regiment drills successive squads of recruits fresh from civilian life to a high pitch of parade-ground precision. Here he briefs NCOs. Note the distinctive grenade collar badge.



## Front Cover

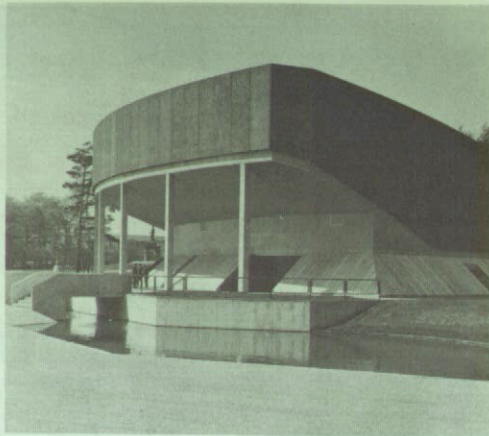
Gibraltar: an unusual view looking back towards Spain along the top of the Rock from O'Hara's Battery. In foreground, Sergeant De Soiza of The Gibraltar Regiment on exercise.

Picture by Trevor Jones.



# LEFT RIGHT & CENTRE

A young man who had led an "idle, useless, unprofitable life" managed to scrape into Sandhurst at his second attempt, with low marks, 92nd on a list of 102. Within six weeks his father changed his opinion and was able to report: "He holds himself quite upright and has got steadier. Sandhurst has done wonders for him." That young man was Winston Churchill. He eventually passed out 20th of 130. Now, 75 years later, they have named a new lecture hall after him. A commemorative plaque was unveiled by his youngest daughter, the Hon Mrs Christopher Soames, wife of the British Ambassador in Paris. The hall, which seats 1200, is built in the form of a triangle with a stage at the apex. It is equipped with three cine screens and audio-visual aids.



Archaeologist John Tunstall has come back from Egypt with a rare find—a Naafi crest. He found it propping up the roof of an Arab nomad's shack. Mr Tunstall, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and member of the Egypt Exploration Society of London, handed it over to Mr R C McKechney, Naafi's chief public relations officer, at Naafi headquarters in Kennington, London (right, above). Also in the picture is Osman Abdel Moneim Osman, an Egyptian who joined Naafi in Egypt when he was 12 and now, at 50, works as a barman in the headquarters. The sign—enamel on tin—has survived the ravages of sun and sand for more than 30 years. Mr Tunstall's present project dates back a bit further than that. To 2980 BC, to be precise. He is recording the excavations for the tomb of Imhotep, god of medicine at the time. The dig, which is at Sakkara, 20 miles south east of Cairo, is expected to be more significant than Tutankamen's tomb.



It may seem that the man on the right fancies himself as a Sir Malcolm Sargent. He is in fact a tic-tac man. The occasion was the Epsom races, and the real conductor is out of sight at the left of the picture.

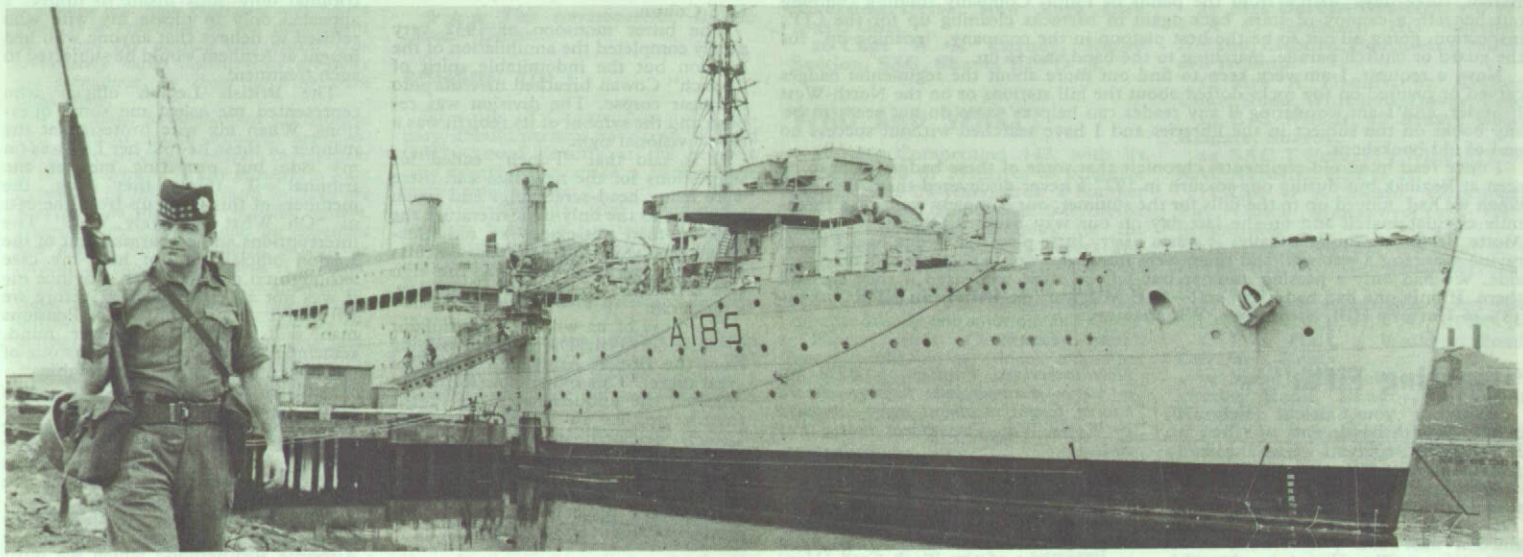


Veteran campaigner Frederick Shears was completely disarmed for the first time in his life—by the shy smile of a six-year-old girl. They met during the Founder's Day Parade at the Royal Hospital. Frederick, who is 94 and the oldest in-pensioner on parade, was obviously the right person to explain what was going on. He was in the former Royal Warwickshire Regiment. But little schoolgirl Barbara Wells, whose father is serving with Rhine Army, has a partiality for another regiment. At least it seems so, wearing that Royal Tank Regiment badge on her lapel.



With a snip of a pair of golden scissors, BBC compère Michael Aspel cut the tape to open the new studios of the British Forces Broadcasting Service in Malta. The buildings, at St Francis Ravelin, Floriana, are entirely air-conditioned. Much of the radio equipment is transistorised and there is a library of 20,000 records which is added to daily. The aerial tower for two new VHF transmitters dominates the skyline at Mtarfa. Services broadcasting in Malta began back in 1932 when a young fleet wireless officer was told by his flag officer to broadcast the first Christmas message by King George V to all ships docked at Malta. It was the beginning of a regular Fleet Broadcasting Service. That young wireless officer was later to become Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Mountbatten of Burma.

Maidstone Barracks, Belfast, has an armoury, quartermaster's store, pay office and guard room. A typical army barracks, you might think. Except that it is a ship. It was rescued from a scrapyard last year to provide emergency accommodation for troops during the Northern Ireland emergency. It is now a billet for 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots. The Maidstone, an 11,810-ton former submarine depot ship, is still maintained by a small Royal Navy detachment but in all other respects it is an army establishment. Even the life belts have been re-lettered "HMS Maidstone Barracks." But they will never be used at sea since the ship is staying in Belfast docks.



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# LETTERS

**SOLDIER** welcomes letters. There is not space, however, to print every letter of interest received. All correspondents must, therefore, give their full names and addresses to ensure a reply. Answers cannot be sent to collective addresses. Anonymous or insufficiently addressed letters are not published. Please do not ask for information which you can get in your orderly room or from your officer commanding. **SOLDIER** cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit.

## THOSE FRONTIER BADGES

As an old rifleman of the 60th (74 next birthday) I often look back on the good old days serving abroad in India—the wonderful hill stations of Gharial, Kuldana, Barian, three days' march from the plains of Pindi. Company training camping out beneath a canopy of stars, back again in barracks cleaning up for the CO's inspection, going all out to be the best platoon in the company, "pushing up" for the guard of church parade, marching to the band and so on. Now, a request. I am very keen to find out more about the regimental badges carved or painted on the rocks dotted about the hill stations or on the North-West Frontier, and I am wondering if any reader can help as there do not seem to be any books on the subject in the libraries and I have searched without success no end of old bookshops. I once read in an old regimental chronicle that some of these badges were to be seen at Razmak but during our sojourn in 1927 I never discovered them. In 1925, when we had moved up to the hills for the summer, our company went on a three-mile circular march and on the last day on our way back to Gharial we passed Motto Bridge at Chungla Gally. It was a pretty little place—a bridge over a small ravine spanning a waterfall and there were numerous crests on the rocks on either side. We had only a passing glimpse but I have often wondered if they are still there. If only one had had a camera!—G E Milgate (ex-Rifleman KRRC 1919-38), 46 Battery Hill, Stanmore, Winchester.

## "Fighting Fifth"

Reference your article (Feb '70) about the disbandment of the 5th Royal Tank Regiment we would like to point out that your use of the title "Fighting Fifth" was incorrect. This title has been used for 300 years by The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers since it was made 5th of Foot on its return from The Hague in the 17th century. After the battle of Wilhelmstahl the Duke of Wellington used this nickname to refer to the regiment.—C/Sgt D Holliday, Sgt W Stenhouse and Sgt D Jamieson, Army Careers Information Office, 7 Ridley Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 8JA.

Northumberland Fusiliers, 5 RTR has a very distinguished fighting record having fought in almost every campaign in World War Two except in the Far East.

## Black cats

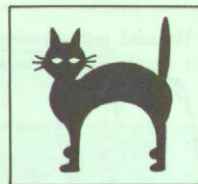
As one of the original "black cats" may I presume to correct the statement in "Twilight of the Black Cat" (May) that the 17th Indian Division adopted the black cat sign on its formation in July 1941. The 17th Indian Division was formed in Ahmednagar under Major-General H V Lewis and comprised 44th, 45th and 46th Indian infantry brigades. The first divisional sign was a flash of lightning on a black background. In December 1941 divisional headquarters moved to Burma and was followed by 46th Brigade, 44th and 45th brigades having been diverted to Malaya. The 46th Brigade ceased to exist after the Sittang Bridge battle in February 1942

and when the division reached Imphal on 25 May, at the end of the first Burma campaign, it comprised the 48th and 63rd Gurkha brigades and was commanded by Major-General D T Cowan.

The bitter monsoon of 1942 very nearly completed the annihilation of the division but the indomitable spirit of "Punch" Cowan breathed new life into the near corpse. The division was re-born and the symbol of its rebirth was a new divisional sign.

It is said that "Punch" called for suggestions for the new sign and there were many head-scratchings and much reference to the only light literature the division then possessed—an old illustrated catalogue from a famous Calcutta store. It was from this that the sign was chosen—a picture of a soft toy, a black cat.

To those of us who had the honour to serve in 17th Division its passing from the British Army is a matter of great regret. This remarkable formation reflected the unquenchable fire of the British peoples in World War Two. Utterly defeated, it rose to exact a terrible vengeance. But it may not be entirely forgotten among fighting men for I understand that a 17th division has an honoured place in the new Indian Army.—"Oldest inhabitant."



★ **SOLDIER's** information, from Army Public Relations, Far East, was accepted as correct and not specifically checked.

## Loyal service

I would like to offer some further information and advice to anyone eligible for the King's Badge for "Loyal service." I received one, with a 20% disability pension, following a normal discharge in 1947. Every two years, despite it being called a "life" pension, you are subject to a medical examination. Every pensioner knows that if you want to retain your pension you must keep reporting sick to your local doctor and have as much time off as possible. If you make every effort to work hard and lead a normal life you will lose your pension—as I did.

They reduced my rating to "6.14% indeterminate." This system encourages malingerers as does social security as every layabout in the country knows to his advantage. You can of course appeal against loss of pension but the subsequent "Star Chamber" treatment of the tribunal only adds insult to injury. I appealed only to please my wife who refused to believe that anyone who had fought at Arnhem would be subjected to such treatment.

The British Legion official who represented me asked me some questions. When my wife protested at the manner of these he told her he "was on my side but preparing me for the tribunal"—I think they dug the members of this junta up from the cast of "Oh What a Lovely War." The interruptions and embarrassment of the Legion official did not help my case although no one will ever convince me it was not all cut and dried before we left home. As the Ministry of Pensions man said afterwards, "Never mind, remember we still regard you as one of our boys." My reply is unprintable.

Perhaps it is our fault for being heroes in the age of the anti-hero. The Americans get a medal for being wounded and the Germans get a very soldierly badge the value of which is related to the gravity of the wound. We got a piece of frayed gold thread in 1945.

On the same page as the King's Badge letter is an appeal to support the Airborne Brotherhood which we must do to help our less fortunate comrades. It shames this country that such appeals are necessary.—James Sims, 111 Hollingbury Road, Brighton BN1 7JN, Sussex.

★ The Department of Health and Social Security makes these four points in reply to Mr Sims:

1 The King's Badge, also mentioned in the letters of Mr Ford (August) and Mr Frances (November) is given to ex-Service men disabled by service in World War Two. Invaliding out of the Forces does not by itself qualify an ex-Service man for the badge.

2 The term "life" pension is misleading in relation to World War Two pensioners and is never used by this department. "Final" awards are made in respect of small and stable disabilities for which gratuities are paid. All other disabilities due to service are compensated for by pensions which are renewed at two-yearly intervals, sometimes but not always after medical examination. This gives the opportunity for pensions to be varied if necessary because the pensioner's disability has changed and it gives the pensioner a fresh opportunity to approach the department, or the independent pensions appeal tribunal, about the rate of his pension.

3 The amount of disability pension is related to the pensioner's condition compared with that of a normal healthy person of the same sex. It is quite untrue that pensions are taken away unless "you keep reporting sick . . . and have as much time off as possible." Pensions are reduced or turned into final gratuities only where there is a reduction in the disability for which the pension was given. Unfortunately many disabilities are only too permanent, as those suffering from them know.

4 It cannot be emphasised too strongly that pensions appeal tribunals are completely impartial and entirely independent of this department. Their members are not appointed by this department but they are part of the country's judicial system. Hearings are informal and an appellant can present his case himself or call on anyone he chooses to present it for him. Representatives of ex-Service organisations, trade union officials, lawyers and members of war pensions committees are amongst those who undertake this task. Quite apart from this it is the duty of the tribunal to assist any appellant who appears to be unable to make the best of his case.—I M Gillis, Chief Information Officer, Department of Health and Social Security.

★ ★ A British Legion spokesman said that generally speaking the Legion's representatives are undoubtedly highly skilled and have been engaged on this kind of work for a considerable number of years. Always the representative attempts

to put the case in the best possible way for the appellant. It may well be that the appellant does not always appreciate the legal terms that are being used and the relevance of some of the more important issues. In any event the decision is made by the tribunal which normally examines an appellant who is disagreeing with his assessment, and from medical examination forms an opinion as to the true assessment.

Mr Sims, said the spokesman, had only comparatively recently taken his complaint to the British Legion; more than seven years after discharge the onus of proof is on the claimant. The Legion interviewed Mr Sims for 20 minutes and referred to a consultant physician who had previously treated him. The Legion took the case to the tribunal "without supporting medical evidence" and it was put by a "first-class man." The British Legion, said the spokesman, was sorry that it had not been able to help Mr Sims more.

★ ★ ★ This correspondence is now closed.—Editor.

## SQUARE UP!

The title of Competition 140 (January) should perhaps have read "Round Off!"—aimed directly at the printers who contrived to make a hash of the magic square clues.

All competitors who submitted a solution based on the false data were promptly given the correct clues and the opportunity to try again. The clues were also amended in the March issue and the closing date extended by two months.

Slightly more than half the entries were correct—the answer was that FAB was equivalent to 334 which, as a regular competitor pointed out, added up to No 10 or could be SOLDIER's Holloway Road number in reverse. Nothing quite so subtle—your compiler has been too bemused recently by printers' devils to indulge in whimsies and double-bluffs.

Detailed answers: M (CDXI minus 403), 8; O (3K), 3; C (1001), 9; K (less than 2), 1; G (two-digit prime), 11; L (B O O B E D minus K I M), 12; I

(dwarfs, deadly sins, seas, muses), 7; D (M), 8; E (added to numerator and denominator of 3/14ths equals 45%), 6. Prizewinners:

1 Sgt John Waters, HQ ACMAF, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey.

2 Maj Val Noble, Welton House, Magdala Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham NG3 5DE.

3 D H White, Melrose, Furlongs Road, Sutton-on-Sea, Lincs.

4 Col J E Russell, Longmynd View, All Stretton, Salop.

5 J Giblin, 14 Oxendene, Warminster, Wilts.

6 Cpl J S Sargent, Unit Pay Office, 12 Lt AD Regt RA, BFPO 20.

7 R G Rigelsford, 17 Rue Theodore Deck, 75 Paris 15.

8 Maj J Emerson RAEC, Education Branch, HQ Western Command, Chester.

9 Rein and Jutta Virkmaa, 24 Riverside Drive, New York City 10023, USA.

10 Capt W H Turney, Radio Section, SSG, Shape, BFPO 26.

## WHO AND WHAT?

March's Competition 142, with its bumper crop of 25 prizes to celebrate SOLDIER's 25 years, drew a bumper entry with only ten per cent in error, the majority of these plumping for the craftsman both drinking beer and owning the poodle. A few competitors fell into confusion by taking orienteer to be a rank. The competition was capable of only one solution, as follows:

House 1 (left): Craftsman (rank), beer (drink), yellow (door), dalmatian (dog), orienteering (sport).

House 2: Rifleman, lager, blue, beagle, cricket.

House 3: Trooper, shandy, red, mastiff, rugby.

House 4: Sapper, whisky, white, alsatian, judo.

House 5: Gunner, gin, green, poodle, fishing.

Prizewinners: 1 Maj I G Wilson REME, 23 Base Wksp REME, BFPO 20.

2 G A Parsons, 23 Mitton Way, Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 8AW.

3 Lieut-Col E T Taylor, 96 Rhodeons Avenue, Chessington, Surrey.

4 J Rayburne, APM's Office, HQ Army Strategic Command, Erskine Barracks, Wilt, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

5 Rodri Protheroe, Whites House, Valley Lane, Middle Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.

6 Mrs R L Simpson, Cornerways, 153 Leaffield Drive, Plymouth PL6 5EY.

7 Mrs S E Ellis, 632 Sig Tp, RA Range (Hebrides), Benbecula, Outer Hebrides, Scotland.

8 B T Pittaway, 26 Tennyson Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

9 WO I (ASM) H J Andrews, HQ REME, 1 (Br) Corps Tps, BFPO 29.

10 A W Harding, 66 Rose Crescent, Perth, Scotland.

11 Mrs Doreen Graham, c/o WO I A C Graham, HQ Northern Ireland, Lisburn, Co Antrim, Northern Ireland.

12 Mrs A Dennis, 62 Archers Court Road, Whitfield, Dover, Kent.

13 E C Willett, 28 Stuart Road, Reigate, Surrey.

14 SAC T Frears, 3 Wing MTSS, RAF Akrotiri, BFPO 53.

15 Cpl G A Swain, Command Pay Office Singapore, c/o GPO Singapore.

16 Miss S Bryan, c/o Maj K F Bryan RE, HQ Hamelin Garrison, BFPO 31.

17 L/Cpl G Grimison, 6 Inf Bde Inc, 1 BR (CVC), 17 BVD, BFPO 40.

18 R F Hall, 4 Walkley Road, Dartford, Kent.

19 Mrs Joan Mahood, 36 Donaghadee Road, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland.

20 Lieut P James, 61 Army Youth Team, King's Division Depot, Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Lancs.

21 D Bradley, Officers' Mess, DERR, Alma Barracks, Catterick, Yorks.

22 Lieut G J Rawlins REME, AETW REME, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants.

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25 Mrs E Potter, 5 Reddon Court Road, Romford, Essex RM3 0UR.

## JACKPOT

The current jackpot began with Competition 133 (June 1969—Togetherness) and has still not been won outright. The June and July (134—Nor all that glitters, gold) competitions won six-month free subscriptions to SOL-DIER for 26 competitors and August (135—Get ahead!) and September (136—Take your choice) reduced the field to three, each of whom was awarded a £2 cash prize.

One of the three, Mr R Redmile, fell by the wayside but Major Val Noble and Mr J Giblin have weathered competitions 137 (October, Letters patent), 138 (November, Acrostic code),

139 (December, Watch it!), 140 (January 1970, Square up!), 141 (February, Acrostic code) and 142 (March, Who and what?).

Major Noble and Mr Giblin continue to fight it out with at stake a winner's prize of £15 and £5 for a gallant runner-up. While the battle goes on a new jackpot starts with this month's competition (page 35).

## REUNIONS

**Beachley Old Boys Association.** Annual reunion 25-27 September. Particulars from hon secretary BOBA, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Mon.

**1st/4th Battalion, The Buffs (1914-19).** Reunion dinner Saturday 19 September, Country Hotel, Canterbury, 6 for 6.30 pm. Tickets 15s from local secretary or Lieut-Col H L Cremer, Hampton Gay, 40 New Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent.

**East Yorkshire Regimental As-**

**sociation.** Annual reunion 12-13 September. Apply secretary, 11 Butcher Row, Beverley HU17 0AA.

**Dorset Regiment Association.** Annual reunion and dinner 12 September, TAYR Centre, Poundbury, Dorchester. Details from secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset.

**14/28 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.** Annual reunion dinner Saturday 3 October, Depot RA, Woolwich. Overnight accommodation can be arranged. Dinner tickets 30s. Details from secretary 14/28 Fd Regt RA Old Comrades Association, TAYR Centre, Church Walk, Devizes, Wilts.

**Royal Army Dental Corps.** Reunion 12-13 September, RADC Training Centre, Aldershot. AD Corps/RADC ex-Service members invited. Details from secretary, RADC Reunion Club, Ministry of Defence (AMD 6), Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA.

**Royal Tank Regiment Association.** Winchester branch annual dinner-dance 26 September, Sergeants' Mess, Royal Army Pay Corps, Worthy Down. All old comrades welcome. Details from secretary, A Tremee, 5 Edwards Terrace, Sun Lane, Alresford, Hants.

**Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association.** Annual reunion and AGM 5 and 6 September, The Barracks, Wrexham. Tickets and programmes from branch secretaries or, where no branch, from General Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarvon. Dinner tickets 10s.

Charles Xuereb, 4 Ruby Street, Yagoona, NSW, Australia.—Wishes purchase or exchange all types British Army and Commonwealth military badges for pre-Territorial glengarries 1874-81 of 2nd (Queen's Royal), 3rd (Buffs), 4th (King's Own Royal), 5th (Royal Northumberland Fusiliers), 7th (Royal Fusiliers), 8th (King's (Liverpool)), 9th (Royal Norfolk), 14th (West Yorkshire), 15th (East Yorkshire), 18th (Royal Irish), 23rd (Royal Welch Fusiliers).

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(see page 6)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Curves at far right edge of sunshade. 2 Pennant of boat. 3 Title of book. 4 Transistor aerial. 5 Man's right forefinger. 6 Toes of man's right foot. 7 Width of crown of girl's hat. 8 Base of girl's back-rest. 9 Left end of sunshade. 10 Right arm of man in boat.

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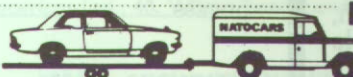
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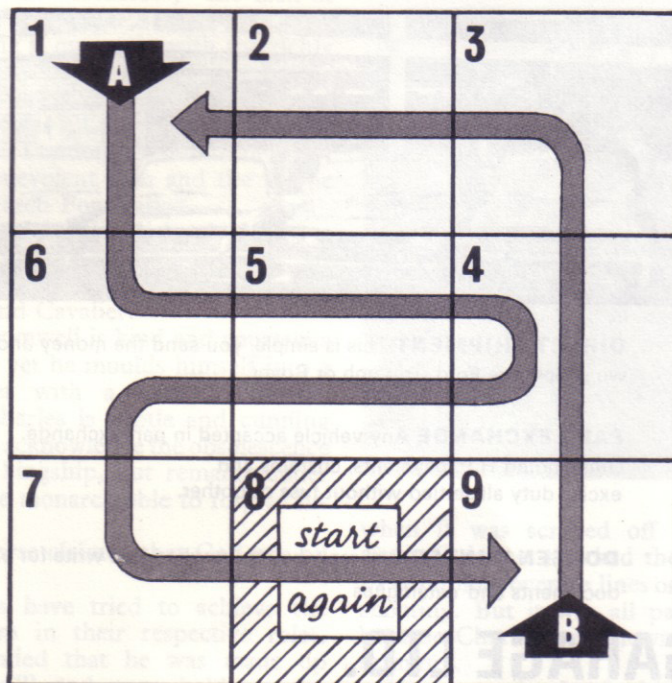
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# COFFEE AND ROLLS



**C**ORPORALS Anderson and Brown were rolling a die to determine who should pay for the coffee. They had only one die with sides numbered one to six and a board with directional markings.

Anderson was to move from 1 to his "home" (9) via squares 6, 5, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; Brown from 9 to his "home" (1) via 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2. This meant nine moves for Anderson and five for Brown but they rated their chances as equal. The first home was to pay for the coffee.

Then Lance-corporal Carstairs arrived and said he was confident he could get home first if he was allowed to move three spaces at a time every time an odd number came up and not move at all when an even number showed. He would move from 1 to 9, taking no account of the directional markings on the board.

Each player was to move on every throw

of the die and in the order of Anderson, Brown, Carstairs. Any player who threw more than needed to get him home had to stay put until the next throw.

Although he did not really have the odds in his favour Carstairs was first home and bought the coffee. He completed the course in the least possible number of moves for his purpose except that an even number turned up on the third throw.

During the game no number was rolled twice, the first throw was not a three and the last was not a five. Can you say in what order the numbers were rolled?

Send your answer on a postcard or by letter with the "Competition 147" label and your name and address to:

Editor (Comp 147)

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 9 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in the January 1971 **SOLDIER**.

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# CROMWELL RIDES AGAIN

**T**HEY praised the Lord and passed the ammunition. These russet-coated troops neither gambled, drank nor swore and sang hymns as they marched into battle.

Such were the "Ironsides," the men of Cromwell's New Model Army. Soon they will be fighting it out again with the richly caparisoned cavaliers at your local cinema. They are appearing in Columbia Pictures' lavish spectacular "Cromwell" which had its première in London last month in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund and the Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation.

The two lead actors, Richard Harris as Cromwell and Alec Guinness as Charles I, in many ways epitomise the dichotomy of Roundhead and Cavalier.

Harris's Cromwell is kind and courteous and a pacifist yet he moulds himself into a fiery martinet with a taste for battle. Guinness's Charles is subtle and cunning and refuses to acknowledge the obsolescence of autocratic kingship, but remains under duress a noble monarch able to forgive his enemies.

Each of course claimed that God was on his side.

Both actors have tried to achieve the utmost realism in their respective roles. Harris demanded that he was made up "warts and all" and once held up the company half a day to have one replaced

Below: The epitome of elegance, King Charles I leads his men into battle on his white charger.



when it was scraped off by his helmet visor. Guinness shocked the camera crews by stumbling over his lines on the first day of shooting. But it was all part of the plot because Charles was known to have a bad stammer.

However, the battle locations are not authentic. They were filmed in Spain,

Below: Blood, iron, fire and the acrid stench of gunpowder as Roundhead clashes with Cavalier.



on a plateau high in the mountains near Pamplona. The reason is that Spain is the only country in western Europe that can supply film makers with large numbers of trained soldiers as extras. In fact the Spanish Army loaned 4000 men and even trained them in contemporary tactics and weapon handling.

Above: In strictly functional uniform, Cromwell (Richard Harris) orders the charge at Naseby.

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# PANZER PARTNER

**M**ILITARY tacticians of the early 1930's were still thinking of the tank as an infantry support weapon slowed down to walking pace.

One notable exception was Captain B H Liddell Hart who foresaw that a tank army could steamroller over vast areas at high speed like the Mongol hordes of Genghis Khan had done 700 years earlier. Such an armoured spearhead should, however, be supported by mobile infantry, artillery and engineers to enable it to operate independently.

Hitler's blitzkrieg on Poland and his thrust through France—especially where the Panzergrenadiers had to fight from their moving vehicles sweeping along with the panzers—emphasised the need for armoured support vehicles.

The Hanomag half-track Sonderkraftfahrzeug 251 emerged as the most effective and numerous vehicle in this role. This versatile vehicle was produced in more than 20 versions for artillery and engineers, as a rocket launcher and mortar carrier and as an ambulance, communications and command vehicle.

The ubiquitous SdKfz 251 served everywhere from the Western Desert to the

Eastern Front. It was popular with the Wehrmacht and remained in action right up to the end of the war—all despite the fact that it was under-powered, had an open top which made it vulnerable to air attack, gave limited vision through observation slits and hatches, and the awkward backward-sloping steering wheel made handling difficult.

A kit of this Hanomag half-track has been produced by the Japanese Nitto Kagaku Kyozaï Company and is marketed in England by Riko of High Street, Hemel Hempstead. It is good value at 25s 11d and makes a refreshing change for modellers who have already built up a collection of conventional tanks.

The kit comes complete with a Mabuchi electric motor which is actually fitted under the bonnet. However, neither the motor nor gearbox is accessible after assembly and motorising necessitates using a cumbersome, incongruous battery box mounted inside the model.

Other minor criticisms are that the machine-guns are too bulky and out of scale, the rubber track is rather taut and restricts the movement of the drive wheels, and the bumper and front axle assemblies

are very fragile (I broke both and had to re-cement them, building up the joints afterwards with epoxy resin).

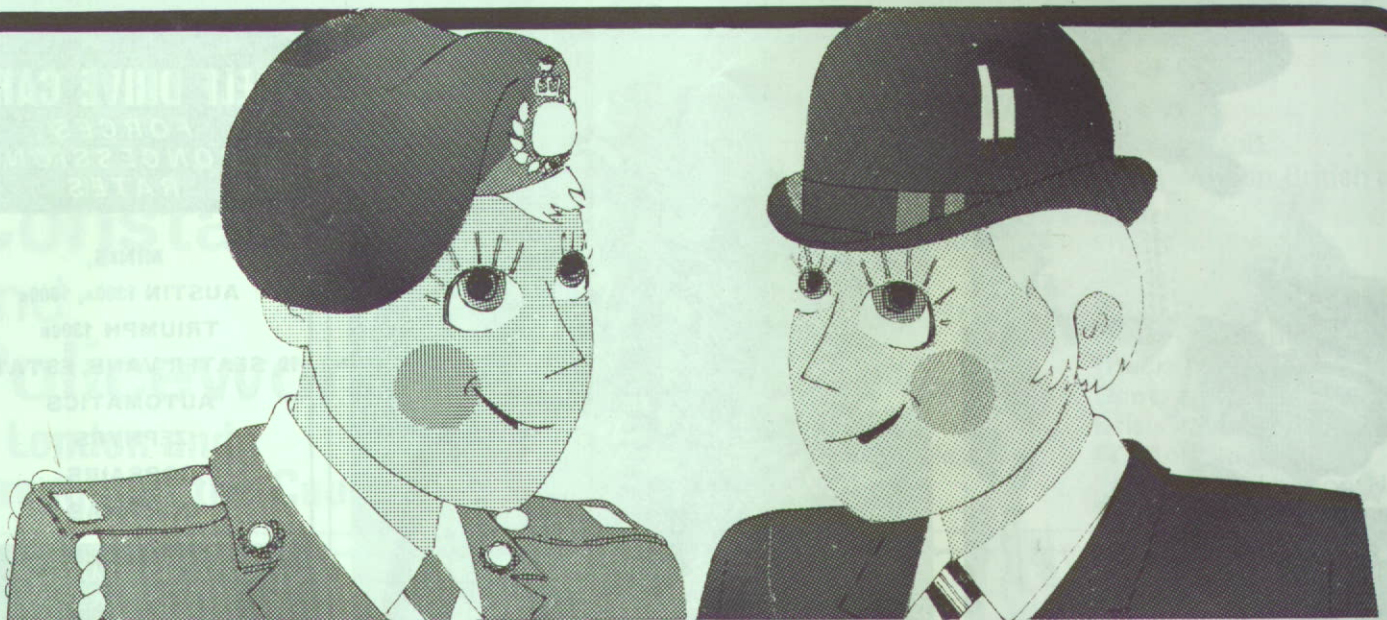
The kit, in 1:35th scale, is moulded in a sandy yellow plastic. Although it is a similar colour to that of the Afrika Korps, the model looks unrealistic if left unpainted.

It can be finished in three alternative colours according to theatre whether Russia, Europe or North Africa. Humbrol do small tins of paint in suitable colours—matt white, German Panzer grey and Afrika Korps desert yellow.

A remarkably comprehensive selection of transfer markings comes with the kit. It even includes Afrika Korps swastika palms, SS number plates and the "coal-scuttle" helmet insignia of the Grossdeutschland Regiment.

**H.H.**

Hanomag, non-motorised, painted Humbrol panzer grey. Decals are motorised infantry insignia, SS number plates and a G for Guderian Army Corps. The tools are actually removable.



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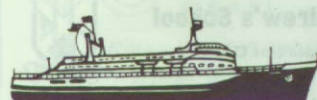


Wehrmacht officer from Douglas Miniatures. It is 54mm high and reasonably priced at £4 5s 0d painted and 14s 11d unpainted. The makers, based at Narborough, Leicester, also produce out-of-the-ordinary figures such as a Mahdi Dervish, Chinese Boxer, Russian Streletz and Aztec warrior. They are available by mail from Michael's Models, 646 High Road, London N12.

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# SAPPERS IN

**T**HEY have swapped berets and battledress for fibreglass helmets and sports jackets and gone into the building business on the sun-drenched island of Malta, GC.

Twenty sapper officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers—members of 524 Specialist Team, Royal Engineers—are advising the local Ministry of Public Works and Buildings in the planning and construction of two industrial estates, a panoramic road, a new housing development and an arterial road flyover.

The purpose is to assist the Maltese Government to gain economic independence by developing industry, communications and tourist facilities. It was an idea initiated by a joint mission to Malta under the chairmanship of Lord Robens in 1967. The Mission suggested the loan of professional and technical specialists; the sappers arrived in May 1968.

Eight factories put up on the Marsa industrial estate are already in operation. Work has begun on the 15-mile road along the south-west coast of Malta and a similar nine-mile road is planned for the sister island of Gozo. The Hamrun bypass includes a 284-foot flyover, supported by 40 columns, requiring 3600 cubic yards of concrete and 268 tons of reinforced steel. But the latest and most important project is the £2 million Bulebel industrial estate comprising 42 factories.

The team, accompanied by families, has

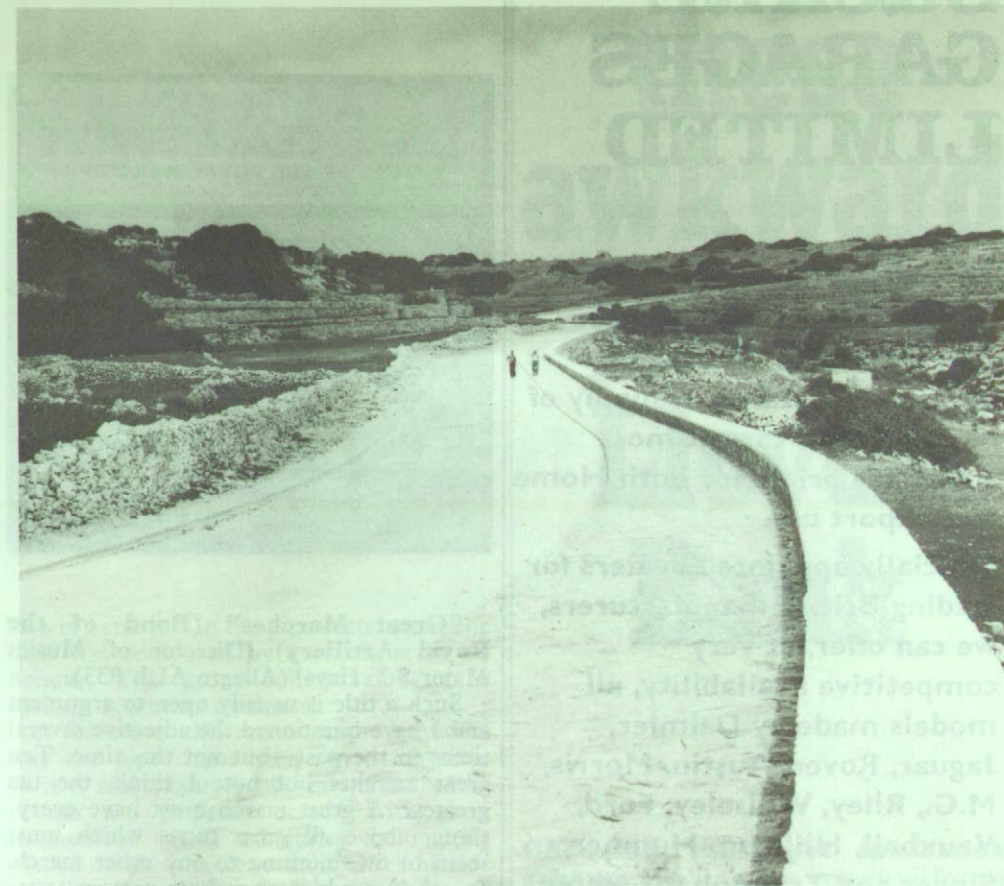
# “CIVVIES”

been asked by the Malta Government to stay on another two years. Which will be no hardship to at least one member of the team, Captain Pat Staples. His father was deputy commander Royal Engineers Malta during World War Two and Captain Staples is a fluent speaker of Maltese.

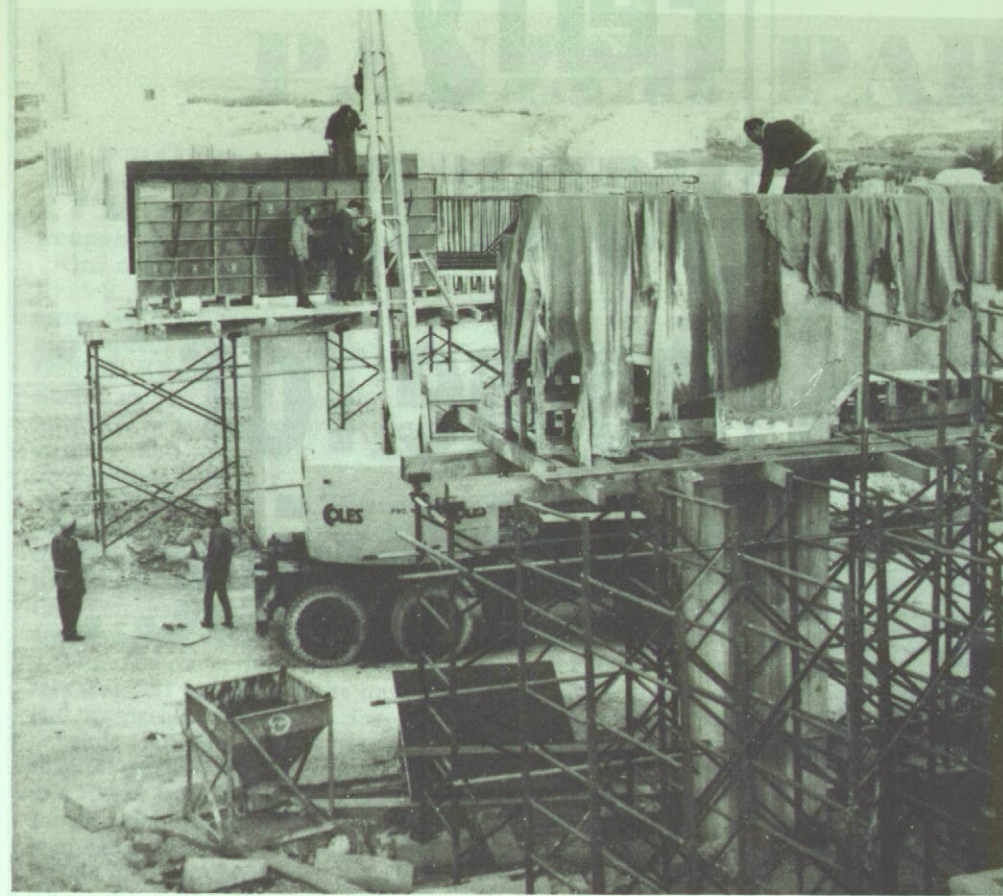
*From a report by Army Public Relations, Malta.*



Staff-Sergeant Barnard directs work at Bulebel.



Another Fox project, with Staff-Sergeant Dodd. Panoramic road from Zurrieq to Ghajn Tuffieha.



Building the flyover at Hamrun. Work supervised by Warrant Officer Fox and Staff-Sergeant Wells.

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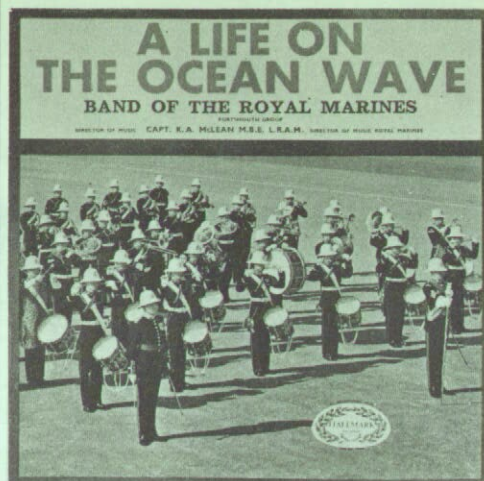
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## ON RECORD

**"Great Marches" (Band of the Royal Artillery)** (Director of Music: Major S V Hays) (Allegro ALL 833).

Such a title is usually open to argument and I have questioned the adjective several times in the past—but not this time. Ten great marches but not, I think, the ten greatest. A great march must have everything, above all great tunes which must seem to owe nothing to any other march. In other words it must be a pattern-setter and not a pattern-follower, it must be rhythmically perfect with the harmony seeming to create the tune and drive the rhythm, not merely following the tune like a lame dog.

There must be splendid and original features of tune and structure which no one dare imitate for fear of immediate recognition and (far worse for the composer) the knowing wink. And of course it must be famous. No great symphony or march lies unknown and unsung.

Side one. "National Emblem"—a pass in all subjects, a great and original tune in structure and drive. "Old Comrades"—the longest great march and possessing all the virtues in abundance. "Marche Lorraine" and "Stars and Stripes" also national certainties for greatness but how many people give the latter its correct and great title, "The Stars and Stripes Forever"?—not the gunners anyway. "Under Freedom's Flag" does not quite qualify on all counts but is still a fine march.

Side two opens with the great "Wellington" by the great Zehle, an original in all senses and a composer who, although not prolific, never failed. Then "On the Quarter Deck" and "The Great Little Army" by our own greatest—Kenneth Alford. The former is to me (apart from "Colonel Bogey") his greatest, being more tunelessly simple and less melancholy than others. "Entry of the Gladiators" fails in that it is like the curate's egg—the trio tune is too chromatic and mushy for most people. Finally "New Colonial"—too lightweight perhaps for true greatness; "Light of Foot" (not on this LP) is a better 6/8 march in this style I think.

So, readers, what of your best ten?

Send your list, and your opinion of each choice, to Editor (Best Ten), SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London N7. Remember, they must all be famous. Incidentally my ten would include "El Abenico," "With Sword and Lance" and "Washington Grays." **RB**

**"Musical Highlights from the Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo 1969"** (HMV CSD 3662).

Another LP of a tattoo made at an actual performance. Good no doubt for those who want to recall memories of a tattoo they have seen but hard listening for those who weren't there. Bands involved are the 686th United States Air Force, Royal 22nd Regiment of Canada (the Van Doos) and several British bands led by the Welsh Guards.

The drums, cymbals and glockenspiels seem, as usual, to be those of every fighting force in the world. Thirty items of music are listed on the sleeve but I could have sworn most of them sounded alike.

If you take the fanfares, national airs, sunsets, regimental marches and national anthems for granted you are left with remarkably little—"Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Tiger Rag," and "St Louis Blues" from guess-who; "Faster March," "Y en a pas comme vous," and "Canada" from you-know-who; and "The Huntsmen" (post horns), "Mac and Mac" (xylophones), "Stars and Stripes," "Our Director" and "Fame and Glory" from all and sundry.

A mess of a record I'm afraid. **RB**

Other items: "Cymru" (fanfare), "Norman Flourish," "Fanfare," "On This Day," "Preobrajensky March," "The Prince of Wales March," "We'll Keep a Welcome," "Vive la Canadienne," "The Maple Leaf Forever," "Cwm Rhondda," "The Star Spangled Banner."

**"A Life on the Ocean Wave" (Band of the Royal Marines, Portsmouth Group)** (Director of Music: Captain K A McLean) (Hallmark HM 525, available UK only).

I think the most charitable thing I can say about this rather old record, made in Captain Kenneth McLean's day, is that it



has all been done better in recent years by other Royal Marine bands. Some of the items are first-rate examples of their genre and are justifiably famous, others should be confined to Davy Jones's locker or wherever sailors dump their rubbish.

One of the very finest of marches, "Viscount Nelson," which also contains the cleverest and shortest "bridge passage" of any march, is here completely ruined and even "Shiver m'Timbers" which follows is an oldie which was considered poor stuff even in the year of its birth long ago; when played stodgily and without humour it really does give one the shudders. So does Sidney Torch's clever and lively "Shortcake Walk" when played as a doughnut dawdle. Side one is completed with "Three Jolly Sailormen"—a cornet trio which I can only believe to be an early discarded "take" which was put on the disc by mistake. It's happened to me.

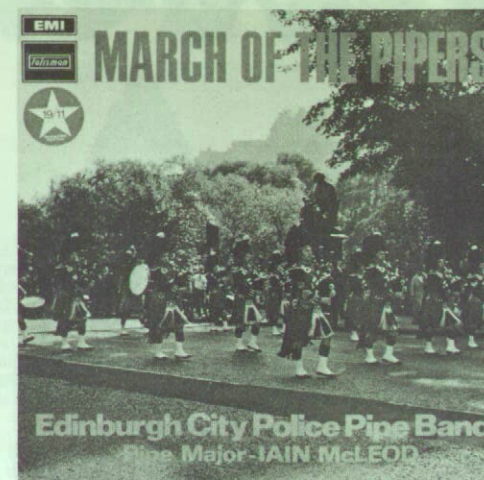
After Binding's old melody from which the album gets its title, side two fares us slightly better with Alford's "HM Jollies" and a severely cut version of Haydn Wood's "Seafarer Rhapsody." Alas, Leo Stanley was no match for his brother Kenneth Alford so his post horn gallop "The Huntsman" falls at the first ditch and never really recovers. Tribute is then paid to the US marines and navy with the marches associated with them.

Life on the ocean wave is, I'm sure, more joyful than depicted here but if you are not too critical, as reviewers should be, then these tunes will take you on a pleasant armchair trip over the briny. **RB**

**"March of the Pipers" (Edinburgh City Police Band)** (Pipe-Major: Iain McLeod) (Talisman STAL 5003).

It is value for money indeed, at 19s 11d for this re-issue of a disc cut ten years ago, to hear the playing of the champions of champions for 1969. This was the first LP made under the present pipe-major and the pipe band was as proficient then as it is now.

The selections begin with a fine group of 6/8 time marches—"Caverhill," "The Maids of Kintail" and "Rab's Wedding."



Rab is a stalwart in the pipe section and the tune was composed by a colleague in his honour. This group rollicks along at a spritely 108 beats a minute.

A feature of this record is the beautiful way the pipes have been tuned together. It is a real example of "in unison"—the drones are perfectly steady with their harmonious sound enhancing the melody played on the chanters. Band three of side one illustrates "The Fair Maid of Barra" and not of "Arra" as on the record sleeve—the pipers alone play this slow air and then the drums join in for the fine group of jigs, "John MacDonald's Exercise," "Walking the Floor" and "The Irish Washerwoman."

Side two's band three is a fine example of music specially composed for the bagpipe and not, as happens in many instances, music adapted from Scottish song airs, such as "Scotland the Brave."

The Edinburgh Police Pipe Band handles this difficult music in masterly fashion and the group comprising "Pipe-Major John Stewart," "Inveraray Castle," and "John Morrison of Assynt House" is quite delightful.

By and large this is a record of very high standards. I did not like the drum fanfare—it lacked variety, light and shade—and I thought the tempo of the Retreat marches was much too fast, thus losing for me the fine melodic line of that type of bagpipe music.

There are also some "credit" inaccuracies on the record sleeve.

Other tunes on this record are "The Royal Scottish Pipers' Society," "Struan Robertson," "The Sheepwife," "Orange and Blue," "Miss Margaret Brown of Cramond Brig," "Maggie Duncan," "The Rose Among the Heather," "Pipers Waltz," "Miss Kirkwood," "Nary Darroch," "The Saffron Kilt," "Seumas MacNeill," "Monte Catarelto," "The River Creed," "The First Jig," "Bobs from Balmoral," "The Curlew," "Heroes of Vittoria," and "The Dunkirk Boatmen."

So, for a penny less than a pound, here is a great addition to one's pipe band record collection. **JM**

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# Purely Personal



## Gurkha gift

A health to your generalship! **Lance-Corporal Jai Parsad Rai**, 10th Gurkha Rifles, thanks **Major-General D G T Horsford**, Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas, for presenting him with an inscribed tankard. Corporal Rai has been the general's orderly for a year. Such presentations have become a tradition. For many years the MGBG's personal and domestic staff have received similar gifts on returning to regimental duty.



## Eyes front

**Brigadier E J S Burnett**, commander of 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade, "dots the eyes" of a dragon boat, the sea-racing craft of a coastal community at Tai Po, Hong Kong. "Eye dotting" is a traditional launching ceremony signifying that the dragon can "see" and the boat has come alive. The brigadier was asked to perform the ceremony by the Tai Po Dragon Boat Association, one of whose new craft was donated by the Gurkha brigade.



## Heroism in floods

A gunner pilot who picked up flood victims from the roofs of their houses in his Scout helicopter during a rain storm at Kluang, Malaysia, has been awarded the Air Force Cross. He is **Major Alwyne Holtom** serving with the Royal Artillery in Singapore. Floods last December had threatened to sweep away the flimsy houses at Kluang. Major Holtom decided to attempt rescue operations despite the driving rain and limited visibility in a cloud base of 100 feet. He stripped his helicopter of seats and doors and took off with a fellow pilot as crewman. The operation was endangered by a forest of television aerials and radio masts towering into the low cloud and sheets of corrugated iron torn from the roofs in the down-draught. Nevertheless, they managed to rescue 78 people.

Four other soldiers were gazetted for gallantry during the floods. **Sergeant Chu Chu Tamang**, Gurkha Engineers, receives the British Empire Medal. He commanded an assault boat operating in a very rapid current among a mass of floating trees and debris. **Lance-Bombardier (now Bombardier) Michael Thompson** of 25 Light Regiment Royal Artillery, Hong Kong (above right), receives a Queen's Commendation. He swam to the rescue of eight young children when their rescue boat capsized. Two Gurkha sappers, **Lance-Corporal Milanchandra Gurung** (above left) and **Sapper Tikabahdur Sahi**, also have Queen's Commendations. They each operated the outboard motors of assault boats. More than 400 people were rescued by the Gurkha Engineers.



## Even Evanses

If the RSM found out, you might think, he would have them inside at the double. But identical twins **Denise and Julie Evans** borrowed a Ferret scout car and two berets with full military approval. They were, you see, guests at an open day held by 31 Armoured Engineer Squadron, Royal Engineers, at Hollenstedt in North Germany. And after all their father Harold is a sergeant in the squadron.



## Sold on soldiering

Even lying about his age could not get him into the Army. For **Andrew Wood** is only seven. Not that that stopped him from completing a recruiting advert in a national newspaper and sending it in. His application was passed to **Sergeant Jack Blood**, 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, at the Army Careers and Information Office in Blackburn. Sergeant Blood could not allow him to sign on for 22 years, but he did let Andrew "join" the Army for one day. Andrew even borrowed the sergeant's hat to do a spot of guard duty in the grounds of Blackburn Cathedral (above). He eventually went home with an armful of recruiting pamphlets and a fund of military reminiscences to relate to his chums at Grindleton Lane Ends Primary School.



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# Books

## Eightieth year

"Brassey's Annual: The Armed Forces Year Book" (Edited by Major-General J L Moulton, Brigadier C N Barclay and Air Vice-Marshal W M Yool)

Celebrating its eightieth year of publication, this edition is dedicated to the memory of General Dwight D Eisenhower. As always, Brassey's Annual presents a lively, up-to-date review of defence affairs and problems with particular emphasis on the role of Britain's armed forces.

Besides the three editors, distinguished officers and civilians contribute a series of thought-provoking essays on widely diverging aspects of defence. In his article "British Defence Policy 1969" General Moulton declares: "It is no good withdrawing into Europe and expecting to find there a strategic function ready made for Britain... If we in Britain want to find our strategic function, we must do so for ourselves, not neglecting the proper interests of our allies, but not expecting them to tell us what our national role is."

He considers the weakness in British defence policy is the acceptance of conventional wisdom and the failure to examine basic premises. He warns sternly against the failure to re-think strategic problems in changing circumstances. His review of defence policy is masterly and worthy of the deepest consideration.

Other articles cover the politics of European defence; first 20 years of NATO; Czechoslovak crisis; defence of NATO's central region; NATO's northern and southern flanks; the sea life-lines of Britain and her neighbours; evolution of the Warsaw Pact; developments in maritime forces, aircraft, missiles and land forces; Australia and Vietnam; the space race and army recruitment.

Each is a valuable contribution to the discussion of defence matters and should be required reading among those whose duty it is to formulate and implement Britain's defence policy.

William Clowes & Sons, 84s JCV

## Needed hero

"The Montgomery Legend" (R W Thompson)

No one since Chester Wilmot has championed the British soldier's part in the 1944-45 European campaign as has Mr Thompson. In his "Battle for the Rhineland" he showed the sufferings of the ordinary British soldier under terrible conditions. And he sees

the weakness of the men he admires.

In his latest book he tackles their leader, Field-Marshal Montgomery, starting with Montgomery in the desert, taking over command in 1942 when the war had reached a decisive phase. It was a period when Britain, after three years of defeat, badly needed a hero. That hero was Montgomery, and in the author's opinion it is a crowning irony of history that the hero should have been a birdlike, eccentric bishop's son with phobias about drinking and smoking.

Mr Thompson writes: "It was undeniable, as General Sir Alan Brooke observed, that Montgomery had never

## MONTGOMERY THE FIELD MARSHAL

R. W. THOMPSON

lost a battle. He had inherited not only a winning position against a beaten enemy but an overwhelming strength never before at the disposal of a British commander."

The Americans had observed with amazement that Montgomery would not move without such a superiority in every arm as to render defeat impossible. The only exception to this rule was the fatal Arnhem operation, which, according to Thompson, "was as startling as it would have been for an elderly and saintly bishop suddenly to decide to take up safe-breaking and begin on the Bank of England."

After examining the field-marshal's conduct of the battles in Europe in 1944-45 in detail, Mr Thompson accepts the harsh verdict of the American historian, Martin Blumenson: "He was not great... He is, I think, vastly overrated, the most overrated general of World War II." Mr Thompson himself writes: "The fortunes of war were kind to Field-Marshal Montgomery."

I think Montgomery's special contribution was on the human level. For the first time in the war he inspired an army to believe it could win a battle and above all he made the average British soldier think someone was taking care of his welfare and ensuring his life was not thrown away needlessly.

A very readable and important book, well written and thoughtful, and at times even moving. It is a book that deserves popular success.

Allen and Unwin, 50s

CW

## Tank & anti-tank

"British and American Tanks of World War II" (Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis)

"American Armoured Cars 1940-1945" (Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis)

"Fighting Vehicles of the Red Army" (B Perrett)

It seems strange that the tank, predictable cornerstone of allied victory in World War Two, should have to wait almost a quarter of a century before the appearance of a comprehensive reference book, but "British and American Tanks of World War II" has been well worth waiting for.

Researching details of all the tanks and their armoured variants in use in the British, Commonwealth and American armies was a mammoth task but Mr Chamberlain and Mr Ellis have completed it with commendable efficiency, producing a fascinating record of every tank type produced in Britain, America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand—more than 2000 in all.

Reading this book brings home just how neglected this avenue of military history has been. One could choose many examples but the development of the Archer and Bishop self-propelled guns is outstanding. Relatively unimportant in itself, the Bishop—a Valentine chassis as the carrier for a 25-pounder—was the first British-designed SP vehicle. It was sought by the Eighth Army after the successful use of self-propelled guns in support of German infantry had been noted. Compared with later models the Bishop was a crude and unsophisticated extemporisation, but it was nevertheless a leader in its field.

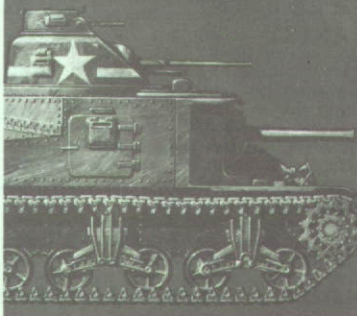
The same well-proven Valentine chassis was used for the Archer which carried the 17-pounder high-velocity anti-tank gun comparable in hitting power to the famous German 88mm.

Another important aspect of this book is the authors' attention to the "ones that got away"—the pilot models which never went into production. The Tortoise, for instance, would have been Britain's answer to the German King Tiger and Jagd Tiger. Nuffields were asked to produce a tank mounting a 3.7 inch 32-pounder and armour-proof against any known German anti-tank gun. But the six pilot

## British and American Tanks of World War II

The complete illustrated history of British, American and Commonwealth tanks, 1939-1945

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models, not delivered until 1946-47, proved too slow and too large. The Tortoise is however noteworthy since it fell completely outside the sequence of British tank policy and procurement.

In the second book by these two authors they review American armoured car development between 1940 and 1945—the only period of really concentrated development of this class of vehicle in the history of the US armoured forces. Both books will appeal to armour enthusiasts, historians and military modellers; they are essential works of reference.

Mr Perrett's splendid little volume is an authoritative and comprehensive reference work in English dealing with the Red Army. Mr Perrett, a Royal Tank Regiment officer, has condensed into 104 pages the history, design and development of the Soviet armoured forces from the Revolution to the present day. He discusses in some detail the strength and weaknesses of Russian armoured vehicles and his text is backed by an excellent selection of photographs, many of them not previously seen in this country.

- 1 *Arms and Armour Press*, 105s
- 2 *Almarks Publications*, 12s 6d
- 3 *Ian Allan*, 25s

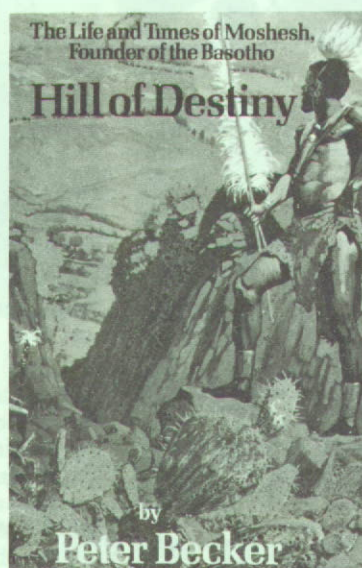
JCW

## Expert railwaymen

"All Rank and No File" (Major C E C Townsend)

In the middle of the 19th century Charles Manby was secretary of the Institute of Civil Engineers. As an enthusiast for the Great Exhibition, Suez Canal, gas lighting and iron steamships he had a well-deserved reputation among his colleagues. Nonetheless they were startled to discover in 1860 that he had proposed to the government the formation of a "Volunteer Engineering Staff Corps for the Arrangement of the Transport of Troops and Stores, the Construction of defensive works and the destruction of other works, in case of Invasion." The War Office agreed to the scheme and one of the most unusual units in the British Army was launched.

It had been obvious for many years that the introduction of railways meant the more rapid movement of troops in an emergency but little could be done to persuade the hundred bickering railway companies to co-operate. Fear of French invasion and the great response to the call for volunteers



encouraged Manby to act. By 1865 the Engineer and Railway Staff Corps of the Royal Engineers comprised 21 volunteers, all officers, all highly qualified engineers and all unpaid.

They quickly proved their worth by planning an exercise involving the transfer of 280,000 men and their supplies throughout the country. Vast numbers of rolling stock had to be assessed and complex timetables worked out. The War Office gratefully accepted their massive report.

By 1889 the experts in the corps were analysing the plans of potential enemies on the Continent and by the outbreak of the Boer War formed a reserve of railway tradesmen to man the vital supply lines in South Africa. Later, in 1914, they played a vital part in getting the Expeditionary Force to France.

The corps was an intimate little group of experts each of whom bore the whole cost of his uniform and in return was allowed "considerable latitude" in its design! Only 417 men served with the corps from 1865 to 1969 and their cost to the nation through capitation grants was a mere 4s 4d a day—surely the best investment ever made by the Treasury?

This unusual and interesting volume

is fully appended and very well indexed.

Engineer & Railway Staff Corps RE TAVR, Abbey House, 2 Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1, 63s AWH

## Father of Lesotho

"Hill of Destiny" (Peter Becker)

Thaba Bosiu they called it. The Hill at Night. It was roughly a mile in length, half a mile wide and 300 to 400 feet high. It was bordered by precipices 40 to 50 feet high and accessible only through six easily defended passes. It was just the place for refugees and Moshesh and his clanlet were just that.

Moshesh and his handful of followers were on the run, fleeing from the Wild Cat People, the bloodthirsty warrior of the female conqueror Mantatisi. The time was *difaqane*—the dark age—of South African tribal history, a horrifying era of inter-tribal warfare which resulted in the extermination of 28 district clans. Crops and cattle were destroyed, hunger reigned. Hordes of hungry refugees roamed the tribal lands and some hunger-crazed tribes turned to cannibalism.

On Thaba Bosiu, his impregnable fortress, Moshesh at last found safety and time to consider the future and his ambitions. On Thaba Bosiu he founded the Basotho nation and his leadership was to place him among the immortals of the South African tribal scene.

Dr Becker does full justice to a remarkable leader—for in those violent times Moshesh stood out as a man of peace. Shaka and Dingane of the Zulus and Mzilikazi of the Matabele ruled great tribes by fear. Moshesh, the wise and kindly potentate, ruled by reason. He saw that the white man had much to offer the black man. He was never afraid to seek friends and guidance from the white strangers.

Moshesh was a natural diplomat. All his life he sought peace yet when forced to do so he defended his country against the British and the Boers as well as against other enemies.

Today the descendants of Moshesh and his clansmen still tend their herds and export hides, wool and mohair. They live in the land Moshesh gave to them—Lesotho—an independent sovereign state, an enclave in South Africa. That is, perhaps, the best measure of Moshesh's greatness.

Longmans, 50s

JCW

## Spill the Pot-Ale

"Standing Orders and Regulations for the Army in Ireland"

This facsimile edition—the original was produced in Dublin in 1794—is an absolute gold mine for anyone interested in the social history of the Army or in the development of military law.

In 1794 one of the Army's duties in Ireland was to search for illegal stills. By a General Order issued on 1 September 1794 a sergeant could make 11s 4½d, a corporal 8s 1½d and a private 5s 5d if they were lucky enough to seize a still, head and worm from a moonshiner.

Vessels used by a moonshiner were also to be destroyed and "the Pot-Ale spilled."

This was the age of the press gang for the Navy but the Army, it seems, was as particular as ever.

Recruiting regulations demanded a height of five feet seven inches and the recruit had to be healthy, able-bodied and in every respect fit for service. "Remarkable clever growing young men under Twenty Years of Age" could however be accepted at only five feet six.

All recruits were to be examined by the surgeon "to see that they have no running Sores, or other Complaints, that they have concealed."

For £5069 you could buy a lieutenant-colonelcy in a dragoon regiment and in return receive the princely sum of 19s 4d a day.

Other bargain offers in the dragoons were: Major £4110, captain £2960, captain-lieutenant £2002, lieutenant £1205 and cornet £928. In the infantry you could snatch up a lieutenant-colonelcy for a mere £3657 and receive 17s a day pay.

An order dated 17 June 1775 prohibited any commissioned officer being appointed quartermaster in future, "His Majesty not thinking the Office very fit for Men of better Extraction, and consequently very improper for a Captain."

It added that "the Proper Persons to be appointed quartermasters are active Sergeants."

Other regulations cover clothing and accoutrements, bread money and small necessities, musters, applications to sell and purchase (commissions), detachments, baggage, ammunition, returns, duties of various officers and guards and the making up of regimental accounts.



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The Holding system of preparing and cutting every kind of garment for the Services is carefully explained and the elaborate minutiae of collars, cuffs, lacing, braid and accoutrements are set out in their many variations of regiment, service and rank. Every branch of the Army is covered and there are separate sections on naval, court, consular, military band, masonic and some foreign uniforms.

Frederick Muller, 130s

*"The American Revolution"* (compiled by David Johnson)

One of the great boons of exploring the past by modern methods has been the Jackdaw, a wallet containing pictures and facsimiles of documents from the pages of history.

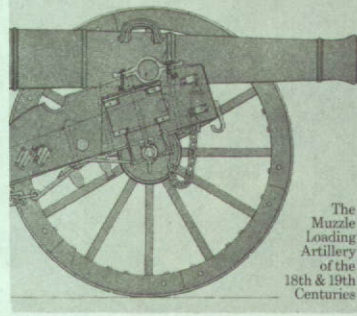
This one re-creates the years of struggle from 1773, when the Boston Tea Party highlighted the colonists' dissatisfaction with British rule, to 1783 when Britain acknowledged American independence.

Contents include a letter from George Washington, pages from a British officer's journal, a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence, a proclamation from George III, a propaganda handbill, military orders, cartoons and contemporary battle plans. A thoroughly useful exercise in sort-it-out-for-yourself history at a very reasonable price.

Cape, 14s

Major-General B. P. Hughes C.B., C.B.E.

## British Smooth-Bore Artillery



The  
Muzzle  
Loading  
Artillery  
of the  
18th & 19th  
Centuries

*"British Smooth-Bore Artillery"* (Major-General B. P. Hughes)

The author, a distinguished gunner and now curator of the Royal Artillery library and collections, writes authoritatively about the muzzle-loading artillery of the 18th and 19th centuries. An extensive series of reproductions of contemporary scale drawings, prints and photographs of actual equipments present in this well-produced book a most comprehensive picture of smooth-bore ordnance, carriages, ammunition and ancillary gear.

Statistical tables give a wide variety of information such as the remaining velocities of guns at various ranges, types of brass and iron guns and mortars, howitzers and carronades in service between 1750 and 1860, scales of ammunition, weights and performances of guns and mortars and performance comparisons of French, Prussian and Russian ordnance of the period.

In addition to siege and field artillery General Hughes discusses mountain, seaborne and coast artillery and how to bring them into action, including such diverse means as by horse, mule, camel, elephant and special ships. There is a first-class bibliography. Altogether an excellent, thoroughly interesting and useful work. Strongly recommended.

Arms & Armour Press, 85s

## In Brief

*"Bellona Handbook No 3 (A summary of the transport used by the British Army 1939-45)"*

Parts 1 and 2 of this handbook are both in the 11 x 5 inch format and compiled by M. P. Conniford. Part 1 covers tank transporters, recovery vehicles and machinery trucks; Part 2 deals with gun tractors, bridging vehicles and ambulances.

This handbook deals with main design types and a few "specials" and does not claim to cover all the British Army's World War Two vehicles. Indeed it is doubtful whether any publication could or would want to—one recalls the early days of hired transport when, for example, a Territorial Army brigade headquarters in early 1940 had no issue vehicles but "relied" on a vintage Railton, one or two other dubious runners and too many clapped-out non-starters!

Machinery trucks have certainly changed but the semi-trailer tank transporter and Scammell heavy breakdown are still familiar after more than 25 years. Part 1 lists, with description and data, nine basic transporters, 17 recovery vehicles and eight machinery trucks with their variants.

Part 2 lists some 15 gun tractors including the well-known Morris C8 field tractor. Bridging vehicles detailed were designed to carry pontoons and rafts, folding boats and box girders. Ambulances covered include the adapted jeeps and the three-ton Austin and Bedford, best known of all ambulances in service during and since World War Two.

Bellona Publications, Badgers Mead, Hawthorn Hill, Bracknell, Berks, each 8s (UK)

*"Schools and Masters of Fence"* (Egerton Castle)

This new edition is reproduced in facsimile from the first edition of 1885 and takes note of subsequent corrections. It has nearly 150 drawings and a new foreword by R. A. Lidstone, a member of the British Academy of Fencing. There are also six special plates on weapons.

The period covered is from the Middle Ages to the end of the 18th century. The author describes the evolution of sword play in detail through the various schools and according to the precepts laid down by the masters of fence. This is a very esoteric subject in which etiquette and rules of honour played a very great part. A gentleman used his sword more often to protect his honour than his person.

This is an expensive book and only for the specialist.

Arms & Armour Press, 126s

*"Uniforms of the British Army, Navy and Court"* (T. H. Holding)

This is another of those fascinating facsimiles of old military books. Reprinted from the 25s edition of 1894 and including all the illustrations and original advertisements—such as a rear and front view of the "Lawrence" patent braces with a testimonial from Oscar Wilde—this is a book written by a tailor for tailors.

Mr. Holding, who was editor of The London Tailor and Record of Fashion, says in his introduction: "It will go without question that the British soldier is the best dressed warrior in the world, and in proportion he is otherwise the most costly to support, and the most effective in his work."

All part of life's rich pattern, as my old sergeant-major used to say. This book is expensive but makes very rewarding reading.

Frederick Muller, 150s

JCW

## Individualists

*"The Berliners"* (Walter Henry Nelson)

The Berliners are the most un-German of Germans. Unlike the majority of their compatriots they are individualists, men and women of independent mind with their own brand of humour which has stood them in good stead down the years.

Carl Zuckmayer epitomised it in "The Captain from Kopenick," a play based on the hilarious truth of a rogue who in 1906 dressed up as an army officer, rounded up a squad of soldiers, marched them to Kopenick town hall, arrested the mayor and appropriated 4002 marks and 12 pfennigs from municipal funds. The "captain" was a shoemaker, Wilhelm Voigt, of the Kopenick district of Berlin.

This is one of hundreds of incidents in the long history of the city recalled by Mr. Nelson in his book, an encyclopaedic mountain of facts and facets and a most enthralling portrait of a city and its people. He has even tracked down an eyewitness to the Kopenick affair—Otto Mohler, an octogenarian who lives in an old people's home in the district. He was one of the soldiers whom Voigt recruited.

It is such keen attention to detail, an eye for the unusual and the timely use of anecdote which make this story of the Berliners from the Middle Ages to the present day such a pleasure to read.

Like most capital cities, Berlin has always had its tiers of society and Mr. Nelson paints a memorable picture of the different strata from the influential military class to the lower reaches of the Berlin underworld. And Berliners have seen the conquerors and the tyrants come and go—Frederick the Great, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, Hitler, Zhukov, Ulbricht.

In the East, beyond the infamous Wall, the Berliners' independence of mind was shown in the 1953 rising against Communism. But the Berliner is ever a realist. In 1944-45, with death sentences being meted out on defeatists, the Berliner, when asked if the Nazis could still win, merely wisecracked "I'd rather believe that than run around with my head chopped off."

Mr. Nelson has produced an excellent book the value of which would have been greatly enhanced by a few pictures. One can think of few subjects which lend themselves more to illustration. The lack of them chops half the value from an otherwise splendid effort.

Longmans, 50s

JCW

WALTER HENRY NELSON

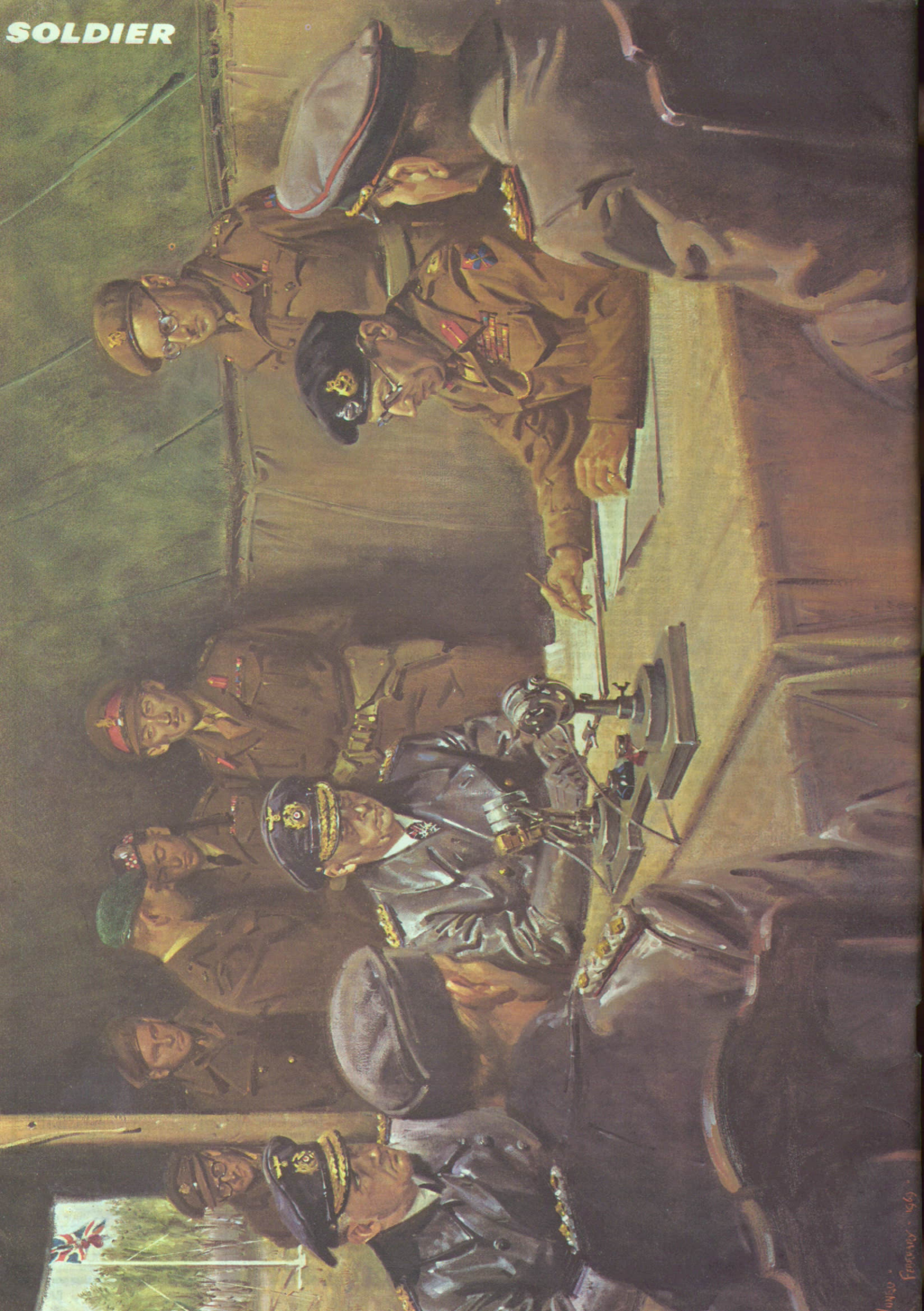
## THE BERLINERS

Portrait of  
a people and  
a city





**SOLDIER**



Jan 20. 1963