

SOLDIER

FEBRUARY 1964

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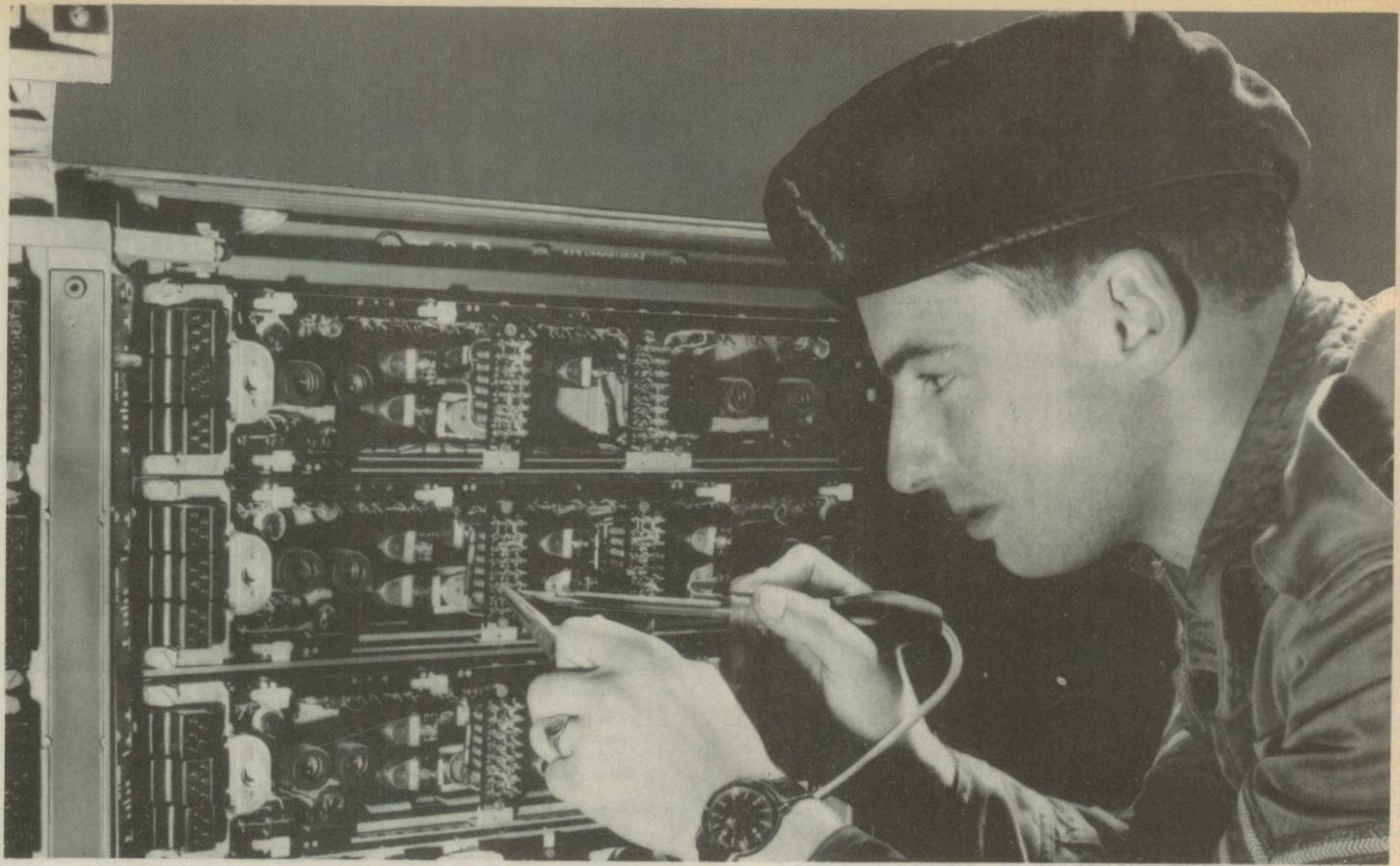
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**SIGNALS
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GUINNESS**



'I wanted to see a bit of the world —and save some money'

says Corporal Colin Gardiner from Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire—aged 24, a specialist technician on an advanced course in the Royal Signals.

'I'm a practical sort of man ...'

You take a test when you come in, to see which job you can do best; and you get extra pay when you learn a trade. One thing I like especially about the Army—promotion comes with what you know—not whom you know.'

'Drill wasn't as bad as it was made out ...'

The early stages in the Army weren't worrying at all. You don't come into the Army and say "I'm not going to do this and that." It's a necessity—so you do it and accept it. I found trade training difficult—not having any technical experience before—but I managed. I think being in the Army makes you more mature—you're broad minded, you're experienced

and you can manage people. And the Army has given me security.'

'I like travelling ...'

I left Catterick after training, and went to Singapore for 3 years. I toured twice round Malaya on a motor bike, and travelled to Hong Kong and Borneo with the Navy. We did a lot of adventure training. We were always on the go, out there in the Far East.'

'I can manage on what I get ...'

I'm getting a car soon, a Mini. I'm going to pay for the majority of it now—and the rest with small weekly payments. That's why it's good to know you're going to get paid every week. There's a lot to be said for security like that—especially if you're married and have a family.'

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BOOMERANGS

AND

SHILLELAGHS

IT was the longest ever airlift of British troops—to join the Australian Army in its biggest exercise. This was the training move which took the 1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles, half-way across the world to Eastern Australia.

The 550 officers and men, with about ten tons of equipment, flew in *Britannias* of Royal Air Force Transport Command from Lyneham, Wiltshire, to the Royal Australian Air Force station at Williamtown in New South Wales, refuelling at El Adem in Libya, Khormaksar (Aden), Gan Island and Pearce, near Perth in Western Australia.

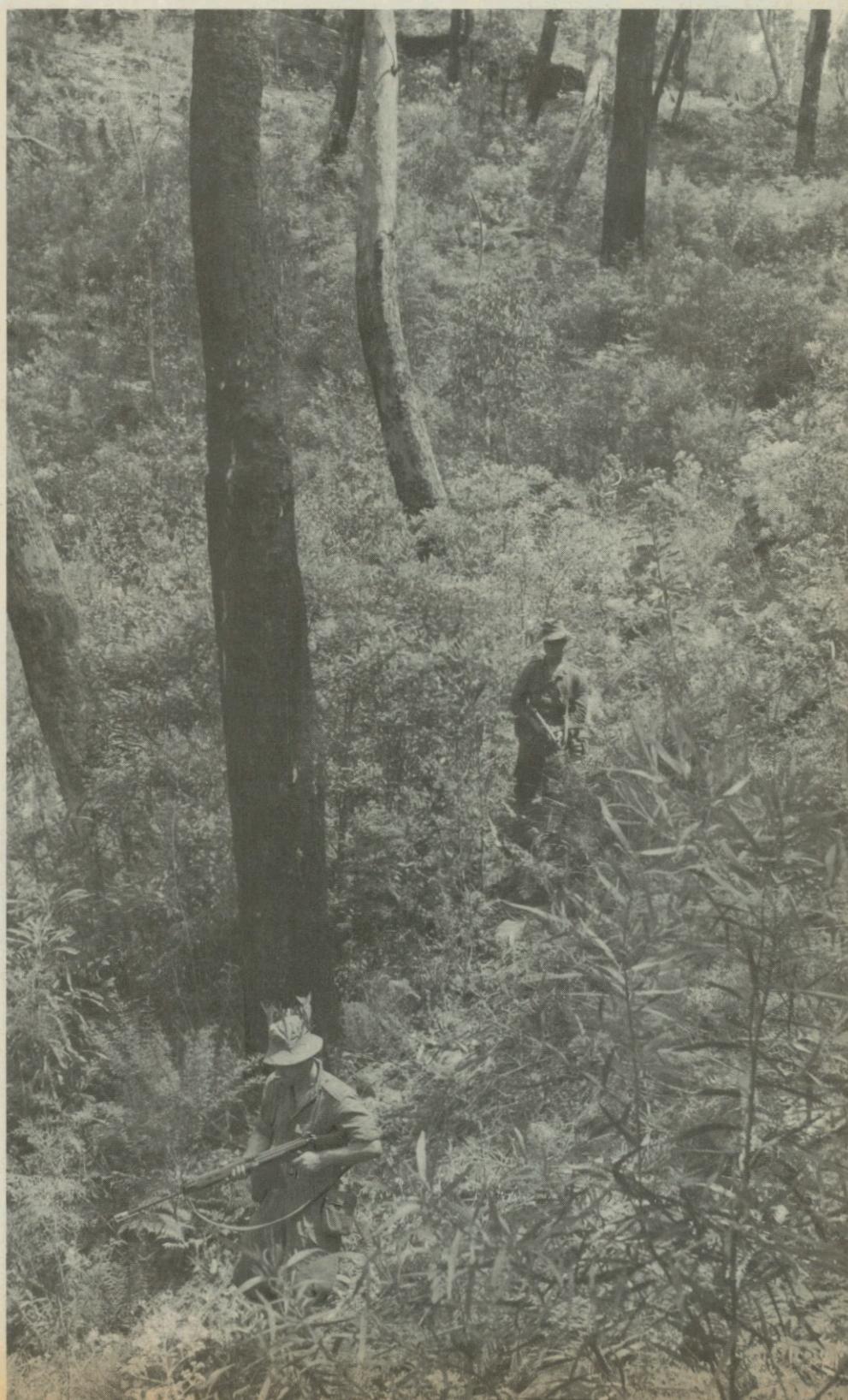
At the end of their 12,000-mile flight, the Irishmen moved by road to an Australian Army camp at Singleton, 150 miles north of Sydney and on the fringe of the rugged training area in the heart of the Great Dividing Range. Within only a few days they had been pitchforked from a British winter into the heat of the Australian bush for a battalion scheme that was doubly a "warm-up" for the main training exercise. During the battalion exercise, in what were the hottest days of the whole visit, the Irishmen were visited by the Governor-General of Australia.

Then came the main training operation, "Sky High," in which the Battalion joined Regular units of Australia's 1st Pentropic Division in the Commonwealth Army's annual—and biggest ever—exercise, involving more than 7000 troops. "Sky High's" object was to practise a task force of two battle groups in the techniques of counter-insurgency operations mounted from a task force operational base.

The Irishmen, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel C W B Purdon MC, made a simulated fly-in (actually travelling in 2½-ton lorries along one of the few tracks in the training area) to Gospers Mountain where, 2780 feet up, Australian Sappers had hacked out the bush and levelled the ground to build a 5000-foot runway.

At Gospers the Rifles relieved the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in the defence of the airstrip and Task Force Headquarters against guerillas—Australian Regulars and "Territorials"—then, as the enemy withdrew, the Rifles began the tough

Not for ninety years had
a British unit been to
Australia in peacetime.
And the "Diggers" gave as
big a welcome to The Royal
Ulster Rifles as their
farewell to the "Paddies"
of 1870, the Royal Irish.



A patrol of "D" Company, The Royal Ulster Rifles, seeking "guerillas," carefully threads its way through thick undergrowth during "Sky High."

BOOMERANGS AND SHILLELAGHS

Right: An Australian *Sioux* landing on a helicopter pad and (bottom) a pilot's view of Gospers airstrip, built by Australian Sappers in only eight weeks.



When the Irish battalion touched down at Perth, on the outward flight, Rifleman Swindells was met by his brother who had driven in to see him. And across Australia, at Williamtown, Private Michael McKiernan, 1st Division Ordnance Company, Australian Army, was waiting to greet a brother, Rifleman Tommy McKiernan, whom he had not seen for 16 years.

Among the Irishmen's visitors during Exercise "Sky High" were Australian-born Lieutenant-General Sir John Hackett DSO, MC (Deputy Chief of the Imperial General Staff) and Brigadier H C Tuzo MC, Commanding 51 Infantry Brigade Group.

SOLDIER's team of Peter N Wood and photographer Frank Tompsett took a different route to Australia and back, via the Army air trooping service to Singapore, then by Hercules freighter of the Royal Australian Air Force, with a night stop at Darwin, to Richmond, near Sydney.

advance which was to take them 20 miles across gorge-gouged, thickly wooded mountains.

Ahead of them lay only one narrow, winding track, plunging steeply into valleys and up on to ridges—dusty in dry spells yet, in rain, turning into a skating rink or a quagmire. Off the track were deep clefts scored out of solid rock by the creeks and rising from 1000 feet to between 2500 and 4000 feet on the ridges and mountain tops.

In the bracken and undergrowth beneath the gum trees lurked biting bull ants, harmless lizards, snakes (some of them poisonous), the lethal red-back spider, and always the flies—tenacious bush flies appearing everywhere from nowhere, persistently settling on hands and face and successfully resisting every effort to oust them.

Through the bush, sweat pouring from them in the daytime heat, the Irishmen pushed out patrols along the creek beds and up on to the ridges, scaling rock faces with toggle ropes; dug themselves in, and shivered in their bivouacs as the night brought down the cloud and sent the thermometer scurrying from nineties to low forties.

Overhead flew attacking *Canberra* bombers, *Sabre* jet fighters and supply-

dropping *Dakotas* and *Hercules* freighters of the Royal Australian Air Force, and Australian Army reconnaissance *Cessnas*.

Army *Sioux* and Air Force *Iroquois* helicopters shuttled backwards and forwards between Gospers airstrip and the landing pads, bringing in 105-mm howitzers of the Australian Gunners, water, and rations flown out from the 1st Logistic Support Force's base at Holswothy, near Sydney.

Then, astride the track to Mushroom Flats and within a few miles of the exercise control headquarters, perched in cloud on the 4116-foot top of Mount Coricudgy, the Irishmen lay poised for the final assault.

The enemy guerillas—2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and men of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, New South Wales Regiment, Citizen Military Forces—had already begun to pull out of the area. Only a hard core remained which the exercise's controllers expected to elude the closing net.

But Control Headquarters and the enemy had both underestimated the British Battalion's ability to adapt itself quickly to the rugged terrain. On the eve of the exercise ending, the Rifles' Tactical Headquarters, Recce Platoon and "C" and "D" companies, moved

out along a little-known route, clambering down a 300-foot cliff with the help of ropes, and with Australian Special Air Service troopers as guides, and making their way down into the Coorongooba Creek. Then they followed the creek and climbed to a ridge line to complete an eight-mile hook.

At first light the Irishmen moved into blocking positions across the track and creek—and into the cordon walked the unsuspecting guerilla company commander to be captured with his headquarters by Colonel Purdon and his Tactical Headquarters, while more than 100 of the enemy company fell to the two Irish companies.

It was a great moment for the Rifles, most of whose men were experiencing their first taste of anti-guerilla operations in a hot climate. There were many tributes to come later from the Australians, but none more sincere than that of an Australian major, umpiring with "B" Company, who called the SOLDIER team over to him during the exercise to say, simply: "They have done a great job." And they had, indeed.

Now it was time for the Battalion to move back to Singleton, shed the dust and sweat of the bush and prepare for the ceremonial parades and social invitations which had poured in so heavily as to keep two officers busily employed in making arrangements for the Irishmen to attend them all.

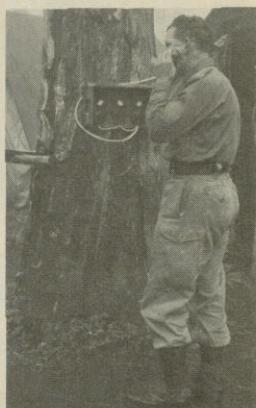
From Singleton a spruce Battalion took the train south to Holswothy, 15 miles from Sydney, where it was to be "hosted" by the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. The days were full—mornings of parades, physical training and firing; afternoons and evenings a whirl of trips to the surf beaches, barbecues and dances, with



Men of "B" Company camping in the lee of a rock just below a ridge crest. Over the other side is a sheer drop of 1000ft.



Staff officers and visitors at Control Headquarters lived in the clouds—but had some comforts, including shaving points!



Left: "D" Company prepares to move up from its position astride the track from Gospers. On the left is a mortar concentration.

the tremendous Australian hospitality lavished on the Irishmen by their host unit, the Victoria League, the Returned Servicemen's League and local branches of the Ulster Association, interspersed with sport and visits to relatives, old and new friends.

In Sydney itself, in the shadow of the great Harbour Bridge, so all-ranks of the Battalion were joined by 50 officers and men of the 3rd Battalion, New South Wales Regiment, in a parade service at Holy Trinity, Sydney's old garrison church. It was the first time British soldiers had worshipped there since the 18th Foot (Royal Irish Regiment) left Australia in 1870. The parade, commanded by Major W R H Charley, led by the Rifles' Band, Bugles and Pipes and watched by a large crowd, marched to the church at rifleman's pace, the Australians complying impeccably, and exceptionally for them, to the Rifles' commands and marching speed.

An earlier ceremony and one which made a big impact on the Australians, was the mounting of a Rifles' guard on Sydney's Cenotaph and Memorial of Sacrifice. More than 20,000 people saw the Band, Bugles and Pipes march the guard of ten, drawn from the Recce Platoon, to the Cenotaph and then to the War Memorial. The Australians

All seven Fijian soldiers serving in the 1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles, flew out to Australia with the Battalion—then missed the exercises and the social events. Instead they flew on in Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft to spend three weeks at their homes in the Fiji Islands. The arrival of the seven Fijians (each of whom had saved up about £70 for the visit) made a big impression—normally Fijians serving in the British Army are allowed home leave only once every five years.

Although without its three Fijian boxers, the Battalion boxing team defeated 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, which is more than double the Irish unit's size, by seven bouts to six in a match watched by almost the entire strength of the two battalions. The Irishmen also defeated the Australian battalion and 1 Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, in a cross-country race (first man home was an Australian Infantryman, followed by the entire Irish team), but lost heavily to the Australians at athletics.



The 74-strong Band, Bugles and Pipes of The Royal Ulster Rifles march along Sydney's Circular Quay. Right: Close to Harbour Bridge the Rifles and Australian contingent right dress ready for the combined parade to the old garrison church.

were particularly interested in the novelty, to them, of rifles at the trail, carry and support positions.

Then there were the innumerable exchanges of gifts, the major of them the British Battalion's presentation of a large silver trophy, for falling plate shooting, to the Australian Army. From the 1st Pentropic Division the Irishmen received a silver-inscribed boomerang, presented before the whole Battalion by Major-General J S Andersen. To the Division went a shield bearing The Royal Ulster Rifles' regimental arms, and to General Andersen a shillelagh.

Gifts were exchanged between the officers and sergeants of the Rifles and the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and there were shields and shillelaghs for the Australian units which "fought" alongside or assisted the Irishmen.

These were official gifts, but they were much more than tokens of passing acquaintanceship. "The whole Battalion is very grateful to the Australians for the wonderful way they received us," said Colonel Purdon. "They would give us anything and do anything for us. We felt we belonged from the moment we got there."

That warm kinship sprang up when the first aircraft touched down and Australian slouch hats were quickly swapped for the "leprechaun" hats—the Irishmen's jungle hats with a cloth shamrock sewn on at front and back. It was an immediate friendship that quickly blossomed to become the highlight of a 25,000-mile round journey.



Australian Sappers ran their own saw-mill in the exercise maintenance area.



Backing the air drops, at Richmond Royal Australian Air Force base, was the Australian Army's newly formed Army Air Supply Organisation, commanded by a British officer, Major B H Bradbrooke, Royal Army Service Corps, who is on an exchange visit to Australia. Major Bradbrooke, who has specialised in air supply, commanded 55 Company (Air Despatch), Royal Army Service Corps, during the Malayan Emergency (see **SOLDIER**, August, 1960). Three of his Australian officers and half of 40 Air Supply Platoon have served in 55 Company.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Ulster Rifles, is due to move early this month from Bulford, where it has been in the Strategic Reserve, to Hong Kong.

Nothing delighted the Australians more during The Royal Ulster Rifles' visit than the Battalion's 74-strong Band, Bugles and Pipes. Apart from the full turn-out for the church parade and Cenotaph ceremony, the Band gave a concert in Sydney Town Hall, played at Returned Servicemen's League clubs and Eastern Command Fête, did two half-hour television shows and played at the Rose Hill Racecourse, Parramatta.

SOLDIER to Soldier

In British Guiana, Swaziland, Zanzibar, Honduras, the British Army has been busily but quietly keeping the peace. The British soldier has unspectacularly been carrying out that job for which he is better fitted than any other, of standing fast and unemotionally, but with always a sense of humour, reducing fiery temper and trigger-happiness to controlled sanity.

Then irrationality seizes Cyprus and once again the British soldier is there to interpose himself between the belligerents. But Cyprus is much nearer home, the emergency and the reinforcing are on a much larger scale—and memories of the "island of hate" are still fresh.

So the spotlight falls on Cyprus, Fleet Street flocks once again to the Ledra Palace bar and politicians, leader-writers and armchair strategists once again go over the old ground. Can an under-strength Army meet all these scattered commitments? Is its ceiling high enough? Should not some garrisons be reduced or withdrawn? Is it wise to deploy the Strategic Reserve? Should not National Service be brought back or selective service introduced? Can more soldiers be replaced by civilians and the women's Services?

The answer is that first the Army must recruit to its ceiling—and that this must then be lifted if need be. There is no doubt that the Regular volunteer, of the right type, is worth far more than the conscript.

So first the Army must concentrate on restoring the diminished flow of Regular recruits. There has been an extensive and expensive campaign in the Press and on television, yet recruiting has dropped. Now there must be a close look at the reasons. Is the Army's image right? Is it still clouded by last year's disreputable events?

Much more likely, the answer is to be found in the conditions of Army life. The pay is good, as are prospects of a later civilian career. Quarters and barracks are rapidly improving, but there is still much to be done to bring all up to today's standards. And there is still insufficient acceptable accommodation for Army families.

Above all the prospective recruit must be shown convincingly that the Army is a career and that he can get his teeth into a worthwhile job. The soldier doing such a job, and well accommodated, is the best recruiting medium for the Army.

WAIT FOR IT!

In next month's issue **SOLDIER** hopes to give full details of changes in the Army pay structure which is now undergoing its biennial review.



PEACEMAKING *on the Island of Hate*

POLITICIANS who engineered the truce in Cyprus would be the first to admit that it could never have been done without the extraordinary talent of the British soldier to keep his head when all about him are losing theirs.

The hot-headed young Cypriots who grabbed their guns shortly before Christmas and rampaged through the island in an orgy of hate, slaying and arson, were cooled off by British soldiers acting with a natural tact and diplomacy that would have staggered the *Corps Diplomatique*.

When a shouting, gesticulating crowd of trigger-happy Cypriots pulled out their guns, a sergeant marched into the centre of them and said: "No shooting here. Calm down. Nobody's going to be hurt." When men, women and children were frantically looting a big food shop, an officer stalked in and

ordered: "Stop this nonsense. Leave it!" When Turk and Greek Cypriot policemen faced each other and cocked their rifles after an argument, the Royal Air Force Regiment drove between them and stayed there until the dispute was settled.

During the days of tension, it required only one soldier to put a foot wrong to set guns blazing again all over the island. No one did. And yet many soldiers have bitter memories of Cyprus. Not long ago a British uniform was a target for a bullet in the back. It says much for the character of the British peacemakers.

Four days before Christmas, after weeks of mounting tension, the first shots were fired, sparked off when Greek Cypriot police demanded to see the identity cards of a crowd of Turkish Cypriots. The gun battle which followed left two people lying dead in the street.

Within hours, gunfire was heard throughout the island. Streets in Nicosia emptied; schools were closed; shops put up their shutters and police were issued with weapons.

On Christmas Eve, Rifleman Gordon Baldwin, 3rd Green Jackets, died after being machine-gunned in the seaside town of Larnaca. With a friend he had tried to cross into the Turkish quarter to rescue a besieged Greek family. Later the same day three British airmen were wounded while on patrol in Nicosia.

Servicemen and their families in the British bases at Dhekelia and Episkopi rapidly cancelled Christmas plans and prepared for celebrations in the safety of their own communities.

Fighting between Greek and Turk became steadily worse; each side accused the other of worse atrocities. In one village all Turkish homes were

Below : Security forces moving into Nicosia on Christmas Day. Above : The first British patrol moving into the neutral zone.





A flag-draped lorry leaves the Ledra Palace Hotel, emergency headquarters of the Glosters.

burned to the ground; at least a dozen people were killed in street gun battles in Nicosia. A cease-fire was negotiated—and immediately violated.

On Christmas Day, while fighting continued unabated, a truce force was set up under Major-General Peter Young, commanding Cyprus District.

Back in Britain, during the early hours of Boxing Day, men of the 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, were being recalled from Christmas leave. Later that day one company of the Battalion was on its way to Cyprus, where 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and 33 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, had moved into Nicosia. The task of the truce force was to enforce the cease-fire, disperse "irregular" fighters and organise food, water and medical assistance.

British patrols visited Service families trapped in residential areas by fighting between Greeks and Turks. A squadron of Ferret armoured cars of 14th/20th King's Hussars arrived from Libya to help with the patrolling and all British troops were ordered not to fire unless absolutely necessary.

Mr Duncan Sandys, Commonwealth Relations Secretary, flew in on a trooping flight from Britain and while the remainder of the Foresters arrived, the Glosters took over Greek Cypriot strongpoints on the border of the Turkish-held area. One of their patrols was fired on near the Kyrenia Gate in Nicosia but did not return the fire.

While Mr Sandys met Cypriot leaders, fresh shooting broke out near the residence of the British High Commissioner. The 3rd Green Jackets moved into Nicosia with 33 Field Squadron under command in an Infantry role.

BACKGROUND TO BLOODSHED

That there was neither peace nor goodwill in Cyprus at Christmas stems directly from the agreements giving the island its independence in 1960 and ending the years of bitterness and bloodshed during which many British soldiers were killed.

The new constitution (enforcing rigid safeguards for the Turkish minority) never had the wholehearted approval of the Cypriots themselves. The only slender hope was for the 80 per cent Greek Cypriot population and the 20 per cent Turkish Cypriot population to forget their quarrels and settle down to live amicably together.

But the mutual distrust and suspicion between the two communities ripened. With a minimum of social and professional contact, efficient administration began grinding to a standstill.

Last year President Makarios announced proposals to change the constitution. The Turkish Cypriots immediately complained it was an attempt to whittle away their influence; Ankara rejected the proposals out of hand. It was the start of mounting tension.



Cpl Malcolm Foulkes, 3rd Green Jackets, takes over a control post from a Greek "irregular."

WHEN THE FIGHTING BEGAN

Britain, Turkey and Greece, as guarantors of the 1960 agreements, had immediate responsibility to end the bloodshed. The situation deteriorated. When intervention by Turkey and Greece seemed likely—with the risk of full-scale war—Britain acted . . . fast.

British reinforcements were flown into the island to end the fighting and keep the Cypriots from each other's throats. It was a task the British Army could do better than any army in the world.

The British soldier placed himself literally in the sights of facing Greek and Turkish gunmen. His calmness and courage brought the fighting to a halt; his presence enforced, without force, the uneasy truce.



Left: Maj-Gen Young, who commanded the tripartite truce force.



Right: Keeping watch from a rooftop on the Turk-Greek border in southern Larnaca.

In Nicosia it was fairly quiet as Cypriots celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany. But violence again broke out when four Greek postal workers were kidnapped. More Turkish houses were set on fire in reprisal.

Nearly three weeks after the first shots were fired, Turk and Greek Cypriot leaders agreed to pull down the road blocks and barricades manned by civilian gunmen. It was the start of genuine easing of tension with the British soldiers breaking up disturbances, dispersing irregulars and cooling tempers not with belligerent orders but with comments like: "Here mate, have a fag and clear off."

Lorries of 58 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, draped with Union Jacks and accompanied by Hussar escorts, took survival rations to isolated villages where the inhabitants had been trapped without food. Mercy errands continued with British troops restoring confidence as patrols probed further and further.

The move of troops and equipment to Cyprus was a gigantic undertaking for the Royal Air Force Transport Command. Six squadrons of Britannias, Hastings, Argosies and Beverleys lifted 3000 passengers, 120 tons of freight, 99 vehicles and three helicopters—all within ten days.



Above: Pte Barry Yates, Foresters, snatches a few hours' sleep between patrols while (left) L/Cpl Pat Burge and Pte Brian Darrin, both Glosters, keep watch from the roof of an hotel.

SERVING THE SOLDIER

Featuring each month an organisation which helps the soldier and his family.

2: HOSPITALS WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The young soldier suffering from polio in a British hospital in Malaysia needed more than medical treatment. He needed someone there to give him the will to live. His wife was called from England. She was on her way within hours and her presence turned the scales for the soldier, who has since been flown home.

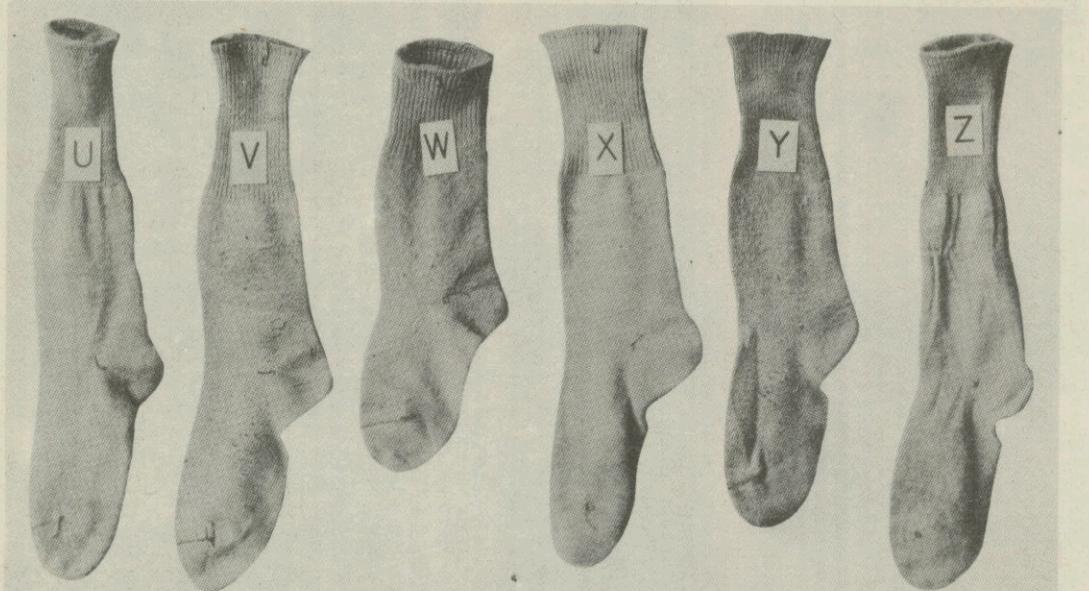
All arrangements and documentation for the wife's journey were speedily handled by the St John and Red Cross Service Hospitals Welfare Department which, while remaining small, personal and flexible, has, through its vast experience, brought hospital welfare up to a high level of efficiency. The Department has at least one welfare officer in every Service hospital at home and overseas and they are there to care for the material well-being and peace of mind of every patient.

Welfare officers run the hospital library, supervise handicrafts, write letters for patients, do their shopping and arrange entertainments and outings.

The Department provides annual grants to be spent at the discretion of the welfare officer on such things as extra games, prizes for competitions, outings, etc, and also supplies each hospital with a stock of personal effects for use in emergencies.

The Army does provide a grant towards the provision of library books, but apart from this all the welfare work and services are financed by the St John and Red Cross, whose help and comfort have brightened a trying period in the lives of thousands of Servicemen.

NEW SOCKS FOR OLD



**It was as soft as down
—And hard as a rock;
It was dirty and clean,
That grey woollen sock.
But it's now lost renown
To the sock, Terylene!**

Socks do not number—they letter. On the left are some of the experimental patterns from which the new sock emerged. Possibly the other 20 designs were liable to lead to the painstaking ceremony on the right.



There are men who need friendly help to pull on a pair of thick thigh stockings before going a-diving. And those (right) who at the finish of a 25-mile forced march are glad to limp away ...



MASS production of new socks for soldiers starts this year. Softer, harder-wearing, khaki-coloured, more comfortable, they are an overall improvement. And they are made from petrol.

Raw petroleum may be a far cry from the cosy comforts separating a soldier's tender feet from the leather of his boots, but that is how the new socks start their life. From the petroleum, ethylene and para-xylene are extracted. From ethylene

comes ethylene glycol (the same as radiator anti-freeze) and from para-xylene comes dimethyl-terephthalate. These last two are mixed and extruded to produce polyester fibre—commonly known as *Terylene*. Quite simple, really.

Socks woollen, grey, pairs, are out after a long and glorious career. Socks, *Terylene*, are in. And if no tears are shed at the passing of the sock, general service, it will be a shame—for it will go down in history as an outstandingly successful item of equipment.

If socks suffer from a bit of a complex, it's no wonder. The trouble is that no one wants to take this vital component of 20th century attire seriously—and the blame can be laid squarely at the door of the ancient Romans.

For it was they who invented the word "soccus," meaning a light shoe, symbolic of comedy, worn by actors in the Roman theatre. The poor, maligned, mundane sock has been trying to live it down ever since.

It was quite a few centuries after Julius Caesar before anyone ever seriously entertained the notion of wearing a sock as we know it today.

In Norman times, noblemen had a taste for wearing those ridiculous shoes with long, pointed, curled toes. A French courtier of the time suggested that the unwieldy contraptions were at least useful for hiding the monstrous bunions on his toes—how grateful he would have been if someone had invented the sock then.

But before any bright mind could "invent" the sock, knitting had to be invented. This was safely accomplished in the 15th century and an early reference to the forerunner of socks appears in an Act of King Edward VI, dated 1553, which refers to "knit hose."

Later, under Elizabeth I, men took to wearing stockings with their puffed and slashed breeches. Previously, cloth hose



wool but 12 per cent of dyed wool was finally introduced to improve the appearance—the result was the grey-blue colour that every Serviceman recognises.

Word of their endurance and comfort spread rapidly and many inferior imitations began appearing on the civilian market. Some found their way as complaints into the hands of Army inspectors who were able to prove they were fakes by checking if the Army's own dye had been used.

After World War Two, one unscrupulous manufacturer had the temerity to sew on fictitious military labels so that his shoddy socks could be sold as "Army surplus."

Many soldiers must cherish memories of standing unblushing at kit inspections displaying an immaculate pair of socks while their bare heels and toes were touching leather inside their boots. For socks GS, despite their undoubtedly advantages, did have an unfortunate tendency to hole and they weren't above shrinking either.

With the emergence of new synthetic fibres, the boffins began looking round for a material more suitable than wool for Army socks. Their research, tests and trials lasted eight years. The net result was a *Terylene* sock which, while retaining every good quality of the old sock GS, dropped every demerit.

It is this sock that is going into production this year. During the years of research many different types and mixtures of fibres were rigorously tested. Always *Terylene* came out on top.

The new sock is khaki-coloured to match the new No. 2 Dress. It is much softer and consequently much more comfortable than its predecessor, it will not shrink, it will wear twice as long and wash much cleaner.

It is hoped that when it has been issued throughout the Army, foot hygiene will improve—*Terylene* allows perspiration to run away, unlike the old sock which soaked it up.

The eight-year research job into the new sock was undertaken by the Clothing and Textile Experimental Unit of the Directorate of Stores and Clothing Development. These are the people who are trying to ensure that the modern soldier in the modern army is comfortably, practically and economically clothed.

The Unit also has to look after the footwear for the fashion-conscious ladies of the Women's Royal Army Corps. No sock bother here, but plenty of stocking headaches. The trouble is that fashions in stocking shades change so frequently. When it had been decided to dye the Women's Royal Army Corps stockings to a more chic shade not many months had passed before the ladies sent a hopeful query to the Unit asking if it was possible to "re-dye re-dyes"!

RUSSELL MILLER



... And there are those (Highland dancers of The Black Watch) who cavort in gaily coloured hose.



"Being popular with the men
can have its disadvantages!"

ELEVEN VCS IN TECHNICOLOR

THE defence of Rorke's Drift is a legend. "Zulu" is the film of that legend. It tells the story of the day in 1879 when a small band of British soldiers faced 4000 battle-hardened Zulus. That day 11 Victoria Crosses were won.

It happened in Natal. Rorke's Drift was a lonely, unimportant mission station defended by eight officers and 97 men of "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Foot, later The South Wales Borderers.

On 22 January a highly trained, highly

disciplined army of about 4000 warriors, commanded by the great Zulu king Cetshwayo, surrounded the mission. Throughout that day and night, wave upon wave of Zulus attacked Rorke's Drift from all sides. Time after time they were beaten off by the tiny force

of British soldiers until, when the bodies of his warriors carpeted the ground around the mission, Cetshwayo gave up and retreated.

The world première of "Zulu" was held on the anniversary of the battle last month at the Plaza Theatre in

London in aid of the benevolent funds of the Regiments of Wales, and the Army Benevolent Fund. Among those invited were the War Minister (Mr James Ramsden), the CIGS (General Sir Richard Hull) and many holders of the Victoria Cross.

"Zulu" was filmed on location in the beautiful Royal Natal National Park. It was directed by Stanley Baker and Cy Endfield and stars Stanley Baker, Jack Hawkins, Ulla Jacobsson, James Booth and Michael Caine.

In an effort to re-create with complete authenticity, the two directors worked for three years to bring the subject to the screen, constantly researching and checking to ensure accuracy down to the tiniest detail.

Rorke's Drift—including a hospital, church, store, stable and cattle *kraal*—was reconstructed on a plateau 6000 feet below the Drakensberg Mountains. Four hundred tons of earth were shifted to change the course of the Tugela River and dam it at the appropriate point. The last job was to erect a floating bridge and the final result was Rorke's Drift—just as it was 85 years ago.

Two thousand Zulu extras were hired at £12 a month to portray Cetshwayo's warriors. The arrival of the film unit certainly spread happiness among them as their pay packets went a long way towards buying sufficient cattle to exchange for a few more wives—each!

Cetshwayo's throne, carved from a solid tree trunk, was borrowed from the Natal Museum, where it has remained in perfect condition since the king's death some 70 years ago. The actor portraying the king is Chief Gatsha Buthelezi and he sits on the chair for the opening scene—a spectacular wedding dance in the royal *kraal*, when several dozen nubile maidens are given in marriage to veteran Zulu warriors.

Stanley Baker and Michael Caine play the two officers in charge of Rorke's Drift; Jack Hawkins is the missionary who tries, without success, to persuade the soldiers to lay down their arms; Ulla Jacobsson is his delectable daughter and James Booth plays Private Hook VC.

The authentic Zulu attack scenes are a terrific spectacle. "Zulu" portrays in detail and with frightening realism the ferocious hand-to-hand fighting between the soldiers and warriors, and each of the 11 Victoria Cross winners is faithfully portrayed.



One of the 2000 Zulu extras hired to play the warriors of Cetshwayo's fearless army.



During one of the attacks the Zulus break through and climb on to the hospital roof . . .



. . . where Lieut Bromhead (Michael Caine) fights with great courage to beat them off.



Once again the tiny British force fights off another fierce Zulu attack.



The warriors are jubilant after setting fire to the thatched roof of the mission hospital.



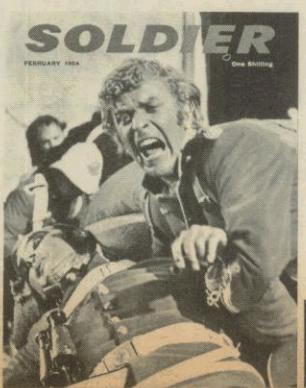
Jack Hawkins plays the part of the missionary, Otto Witt, with Ulla Jacobsson as his daughter.



Stanley Baker plays Lieut Chard VC, who commands the heroic defence of Rorke's Drift.



The moment of truth for Lieut Chard when he faces a giant Zulu warrior.



COVER PICTURE

In this dramatic moment from the film, Lieutenant Chard, wounded in one of the Zulu attacks, lies on the ground while Lieutenant Gronville Bromhead calls for a medical orderly. Lieutenant Chard is played by Stanley Baker, and Lieutenant Bromhead by Michael Caine.

WELSH PREMIERE

Because of the film's obvious interest to Wales and the Welsh regiments, a special Welsh première is to be held next month in Cardiff.

Again the première will be in aid of the benevo-

lent funds of the regiments of Wales and the Army Benevolent Fund. It will be held at the Olympia Theatre, Cardiff, at 7.30 pm on 23 March. Tickets, at all prices, are available from the cinema box office.

SANDHURST IN THE DESERT

THE platoon was on its own in the Libyan desert. The platoon commander had two aircraft—an *Auster* and a *Beaver*—and a three-ton lorry at his disposal. The disappearance and probable ambush of another Army vehicle meant moving the platoon 40 miles by air and road. The ambushed vehicle had to be found and action taken against the ambushing terrorists.

This was just one of the problems arranged for officer cadets of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, during their fortnight's winter camp in Libya. With aircraft and hundreds of square miles of desert at their disposal the cadets found Exercise "Golden Fleece" testing and exciting, with a strong competitive element adding to the keenness.

Navigation was one of the main problems. Others were those of living rough at night in temperatures plunging to zero from the daytime eighties, and setting up patrols, platoon attacks and defensive operations, all designed to test the resourcefulness of cadets in low-level command. The exercise was held in two parts to give the sixth-term cadets experience in more than one key role. Third-term cadets filled the ranks.

In the role of enemy, 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, and a platoon of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, earned high praise from the Academy for their efficiency, discipline and enthusiasm. In fact, the international, inter-Service and inter-unit co-operation received by the cadets in Libya was a feature of the trip. It reads like a list of film credits:

Accommodation between operations—

United States Air Force base, Wheelus. *Devon* aircraft for visiting VIPs—Royal Air Force.

Three *Beavers* and two *Austers*—Army Air Corps.

Airstrip construction—Malta Fortress Squadron, Royal Engineers.

Exercise control communications—14th/20th King's Hussars.

Rear links with air bases—219 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals.

Transport—38 Company, Royal Army Service Corps.

Maintenance—61 Station Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Medical treatment—Royal Army Medical Corps.

Additional catering—Army Catering Corps.

The *Beavers* and *Austers* had the added task of keeping officials in touch with the progress of the exercise. Among the VIPs visiting the exercise was Major-General H J Mogg, Commandant of the Academy, who wore a blue beret for the first time since his appointment as Colonel Commandant of the Army Air Corps.

The American airmen at Wheelus were generous and friendly hosts and the British visitors presented a drawing of the Academy building to the commander of the air base wing by way of appreciation. The Americans responded with a plaque commemorating Sandhurst's visit to Libya.

Sandhurst cadets last visited Libya two years ago; last winter's camp was in Cyprus and three years ago it was in Portugal. But the latest venture was such a success that it is hoped to stage a similar exercise in Libya next winter.



Below: Sandhurst attacking—on the Rugger field. A Combined Services side lost 12-11.



Rifle at the ready, Officer Cadet J Davies, of Seaford, Sussex, contacts another patrol.



Below: Officer Cadet Roger Baggaley asks an American airman about the F100 fighter.

RED CARPET FOR THE SMITHS

WITH the VIPs expected at any moment, the Commanding Officer was on the alert. The special guests were to join the Regiment in celebrations for its big annual day. They included an officers' cocktail party, a luncheon and an all-ranks' dance. Every man in 1st Royal Tank Regiment was on his toes and ready to meet the every wish of the guests, Mr and Mrs Arthur Smith from Prescott, Lancashire.

The Smiths were the winners of a special draw held throughout Lancashire, the Regiment's recruiting area. Their prize was a flight to Hohne, Germany, for a fort-

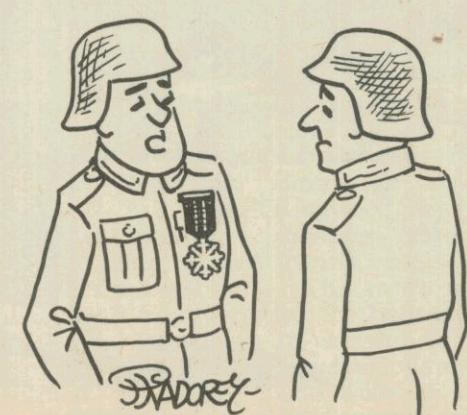
night's expenses-paid holiday with the Regiment and, especially, a fortnight with their son, Trooper Ken Smith (24), and his wife.

As well as the festivities of Cambrai Day, the couple found a fortnight's non-stop programme was arranged for them, including entertainment at the Sergeants' Mess, a tour of the camp and a shopping spree in Hamburg. While her husband tried his hand at driving the Regiment's tanks, Mrs Smith, a former nurse, visited the British Military Hospital at Hanover. She also attended the Regiment's Wives Club.

It was the couple's first trip abroad and both agreed it was the best holiday they had ever had.



The Smiths joke with Tpr Colin Maginty as he hands the Centurion over to Mr Smith.



"I got it for snow-clearing."



FRED VERLANDER

SPORTS, SOCIALS—AND TV BOXING

FRED VERLANDER had a word for everyone as he strolled down the vast assembly line of Electrolux Ltd, Luton. As recreation club secretary he knows most of the 2500 employees by name and many of their families too. In the eight years since he joined the firm—after 26 years in the Army—the activity of the recreation club has multiplied.

This 48-year-old former warrant officer is responsible for co-ordinating more than 20 sporting and recreational sections, runs a weekly bingo session for 400, a fortnightly dance that is always a sell-out, stages various events for charity, conducts parties round the factory . . . And in his spare time he is Associated Television's boxing commentator.

Yet until he left in 1955, the Army had been Fred Verlander's life. Son of a Cameron Highlander, he was

educated at the Services' Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, and began boys' service in the Royal Signals. In a career that included five pre-war years as a wireless operator at the British Embassy in Peking and war service in France and India, there were two turning points.

The first was when Sergeant Verlander transferred to the Army Physical Training Corps in 1940: He was a warrant officer within a year. The second came seven years later. While attached to the Irish Guards at Chelsea Barracks he was asked if he would take the Army boxing team to Denmark. This was the start of nine colourful and successful years as chief coach of the Army Boxing Association, handling such big boxing names as Jack Gardner, Joe Erskine, Henry Cooper, Joe Lucy and Wally Thom. His most successful year was 1955 when the Army was represented at all ten weights in the Amateur

Boxing Association's semi-finals and finals at Wembley.

It was through Army boxing that he met Harry Carpenter, the BBC's boxing correspondent, and soon afterwards worked with him, sharing the commentary in the broadcast of a promotion from Coventry in 1951. "I was terrified," the ex-soldier recalls. "With half a minute to go I seemed to have ulcers, loss of voice and fears of all kinds of things going wrong. But I got through it all right."

He joined Associated Television in 1956 and was soon doing between 30 and 40 boxing commentaries a year. He covered the Empire Games in Cardiff in 1958, went to Sweden for the Johansson-Richardson fight, and also covered Terry Downes's memorable world middleweight championship victory over Paul Pender.

But all this was just a spare-time job for Fred Verlander. It began while he

was in the Army and continued, thanks to a co-operative management, when he joined Electrolux in 1956. As with television, his links with Electrolux began in the Army, when he twice brought boxing teams to the canteen. He learned that the firm was thinking of engaging a full-time recreation club secretary and was offered the post.

He had early misgivings as, on that first morning, he was swept through the gates with 2000 other workers, but he soon settled down. With his military background he had to be careful not to give the impression of regimentation. He decided to take things steadily, first setting about the immense task of getting to know the staff, then deciding how best he could serve their recreational needs.

Though he specialised in boxing, his Army training in all sports has served him well. The firm's two-storey sports pavilion he helped to design affords a fine view of the two soccer pitches, cricket pitch, bowling green, tennis and netball courts, on all of which the home teams more than hold their own in local and county competition.

Yet it has been on the recreational and family side that Fred Verlander has had his biggest successes, with bingo sessions, family club nights, children's parties, and so on. The whole club has an annual turnover of up to £20,000.

The ex-soldier and his wife have continued to live at Welwyn Garden City, their home for about 20 years. Of their five sons, the second, Graham (21), has chosen the Army, serving in the 11th Hussars in Germany. The others are Donald (23) and Robert (19), who are both in Australia, Richard (17) and Neil (10).



Wallisdown's Sapper cadets (left) and Somerfield's RASC cadets (opposite) tuck in.

CADETS DINE IN STYLE

JUST once a year Major Stan Coyne, of Bournemouth Area Army Cadet Force, goes shopping. This winter he came home with three large turkeys, 24lb of sausages, 86lb of potatoes, 36lb of sprouts, 28lb of peas, 32lb of Christmas pudding and 130 mince pies. This was phase one in the big annual combined operation to provide the cadets with their own annual dinner.

The major, a retired Regular officer, passes the raw materials over to the cooks of 1 Petroleum Reserve Depot, Royal Army Service Corps, at nearby West Moors, where Sergeant Arthur Holmes and his staff give up their spare time to cook the dinner. The Depot's quartermaster, Captain F H E Quartermaine, supplies crockery and cutlery, the unit's hay boxes are brought out to keep the food piping hot, and an Army vehicle whisks food and cooks to the Territorial Army Centre at Wallisdown, Bournemouth.

Here, cooks carve the birds and dress the plates while officers and sergeant-majors of the Cadet Force act as waiters. Six members of the Women's Voluntary Services set the tables attractively and do all the washing up. A £10 grant from "P" Battery, 383 Regiment, Royal Artillery, Territorial Army, to which four of the six cadet troops are affiliated, helps to pay for the meal, a little more is squeezed out of the welfare account, and the remainder is paid for by the officers of the Force. Discount from shopkeepers is an added help.

Major Coyne instituted the dinner three years ago after enlisting the co-operation of the cooks at West Moors. Since then the strength of the Force

has more than doubled and two new troops have been added. A Gunner troop was formed at Ringwood Grammar School two years ago and a Sapper troop, affiliated to 578 Squadron, Royal Engineers, was formed at Wallisdown last year.

The dinner has become a big event in the Bournemouth cadets' calendar, bringing the six widespread troops together for a fine spread, and making a special occasion of the annual prize-



Maj J A C Houghton, Commanding Officer, sees Cadet-Sgt Symes receive the sword of honour from Col D J Donald, head of Army recruiting in the town.

giving, at which the boys raise the roof in support of their comrades.

The new Wallisdown troop was among the prizewinners at its first dinner, receiving two cups, including the one for the best results in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, and the Ringwood boys walked away with the shooting prizes, Cadet C Chapman scoring a maximum 80 points.

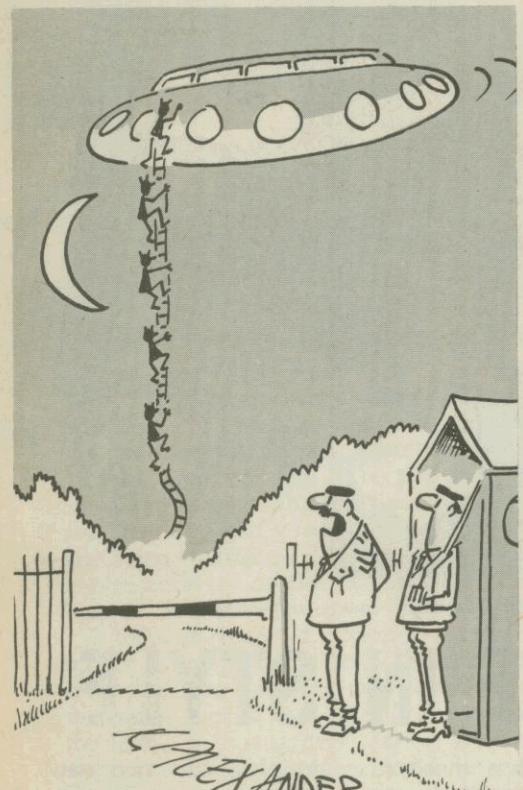
The sword of honour, belt and cup for the best cadet of the year went to 16-year-old Sergeant Adrian Symes of the Fordingbridge Troop (Gunners), who walks two miles to attend cadet nights, has hardly ever missed, and is outstanding at many of the cadets' sporting and military activities.



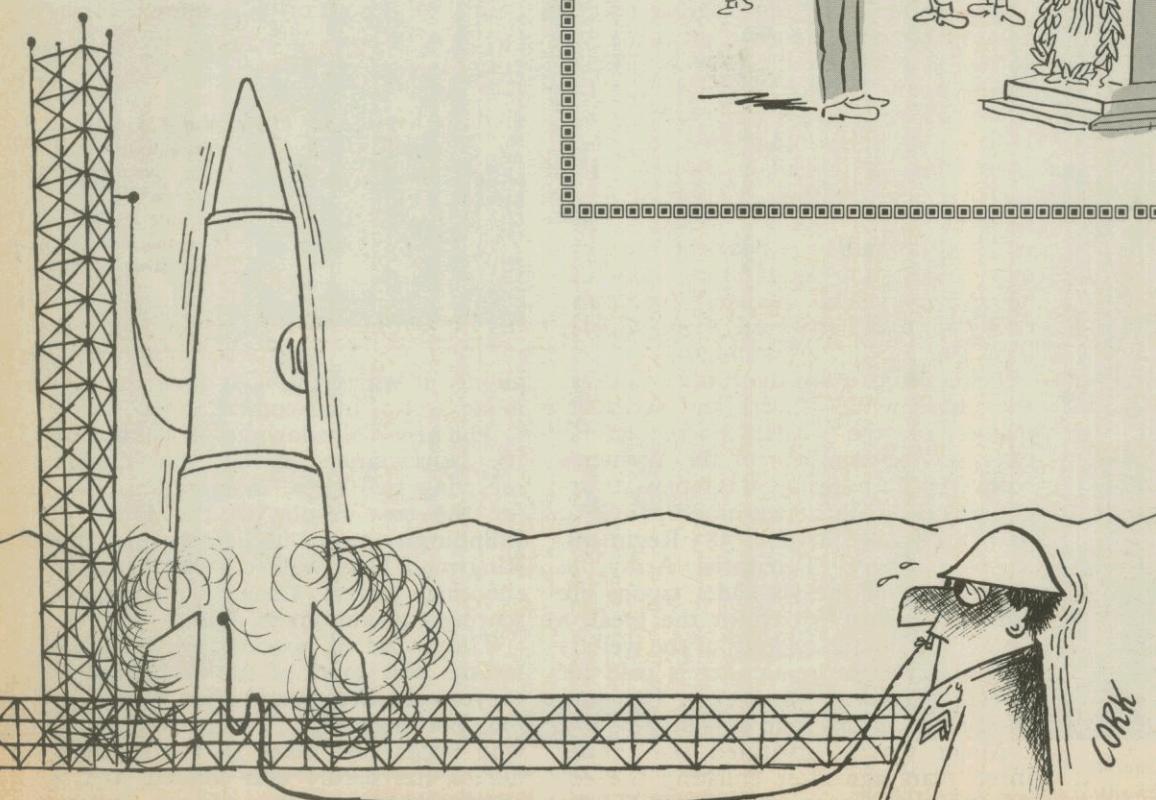
Refrigerators on a moving belt file past to completion as Fred Verlander talks to club member Mr Errington Cullis.



House called, the recreation secretary checks the card. The weekly bingo session in the canteen is a popular family affair.

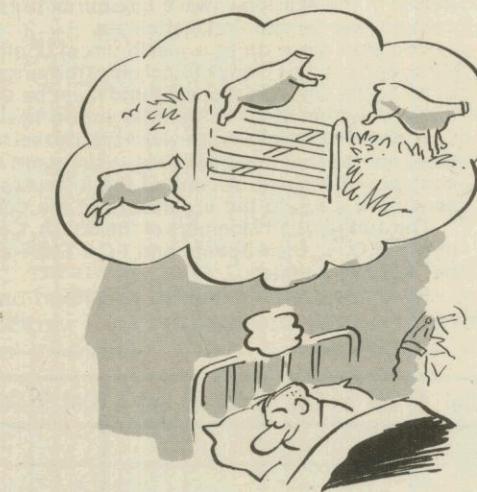


"All very well, but this is going to look damn silly in my guard report."

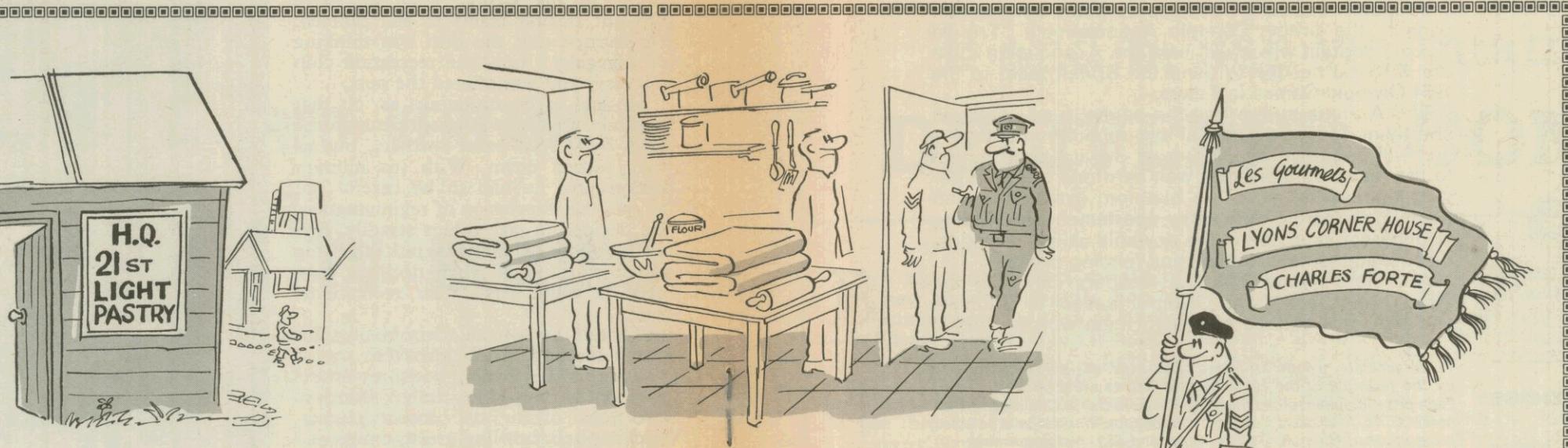


ARMY CATERING CORPS

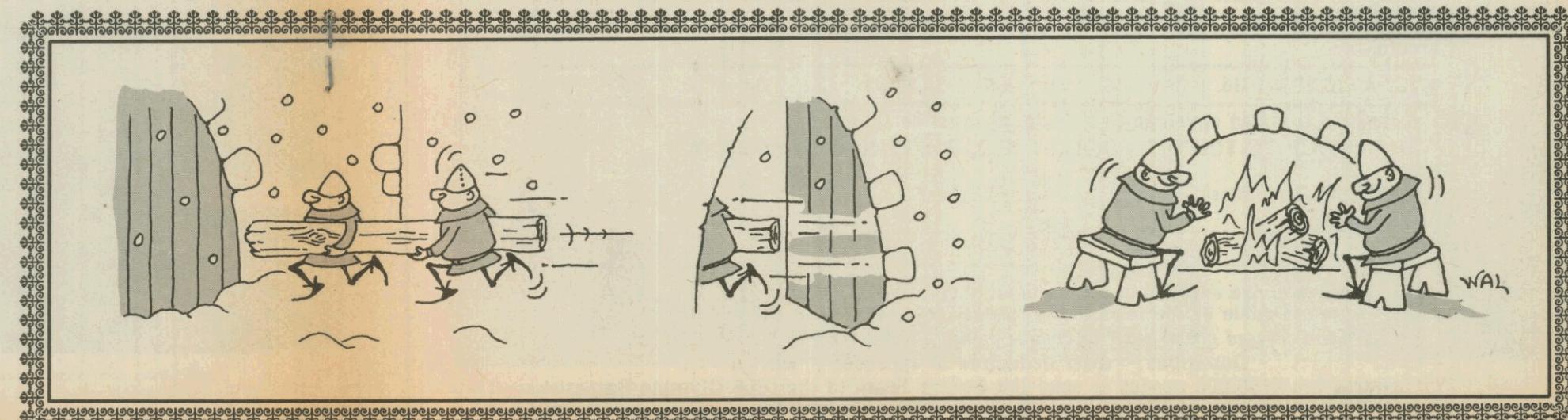
by LARRY



"Every now and again it makes a noise exactly like a shoulder-strap breaking!"



"What's it got for Taurus?"



WIN A TRIP TO TOKYO!



CHOOSE EIGHT FROM THESE

- A** More professional coaches.
- B** More mixed clubs for adults, offering various sports and social activities.
- C** Offices and paid administrative staff for all sports.
- D** More medical research into sports problems.
- E** More sports facilities for the general public.
- F** Better arrangements made for school leavers to join sports clubs.
- G** More international sports events.
- H** More sports activities and facilities in schools.
- I** More funds available to pay legitimate expenses of competitors.
- J** Grants to ensure better use of existing sports facilities.
- K** More commercial sponsorship of sport.
- L** More Government financial aid for sport.

This month, **SOLDIER** devotes its usual competition page to the British Olympic Association's "Trip to Tokyo" contest which will help the Association raise the £150,000 needed to send the British team to the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The Army is supporting the appeal fund—and will shortly make its own appeal throughout commands—and will be providing the largest Service contribution to the team. Soldiers may well earn one hundred per cent representation in the biathlon, gymnastics and pentathlon teams, and Army sportsmen are bidding strongly for selection in the downhill skiing, athletics, discus, equestrian, football and fencing events.

And here's how **SOLDIER** readers can help the Army bring back those Olympic medals to Britain—and bid for a chance of seeing them won in Tokyo:

Three separate, wonderful prizes of all-expenses-paid trips for two for the fortnight of the 1964 Olympic Games must be won. Each prize includes return flights to Tokyo in B.O.A.C.'s magnificent new V.C. 10, first-class hotel accommodation, tickets for a selected programme of Olympic Games events and £20 spending money—or you can take a cash prize of £750.

ALL YOU DO

Here are twelve suggestions designed to lead to the best possible performance by the Great Britain team at the 1968 Olympic Games. Use your skill to select EIGHT suggestions likely to be of the greatest benefit and place them in order of importance.

Print the identity letters of your selections in the appropriate places in the first downward column of the entry form. The other columns are for additional attempts.

You may make up to a maximum of 12 attempts on each entry form, and send as many official entry forms as you like. A donation of 3d. to the Olympic Appeal Fund must be sent for every attempt and a donation of 3/- will entitle you to twelve attempts.

A panel of judges will award the prizes to the senders of the three entries they consider best. In the event of ties, an eliminating contest will be held. A copy of the full rules may be obtained by sending a s.a.e. to the organisers of the contest.

The Judges, and Members of the B.O.A. Council and employees of the B.O.A., their agents and I-C-T Ltd.—and their families, are not eligible to enter.

All winners will be notified by post.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES—27th JUNE, 1964.

CUT HERE

ENTRY FORM	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7	Col 8	Col 9	Col 10	Col 11	Col 12
1st choice												
2nd choice												
3rd choice												
4th choice												
5th choice												
6th choice												
7th choice												
8th choice												
DONATIONS ►	3d	3d	3d									

Entries in a sealed envelope (3d postage) must be sent to:—

“TRIP TO TOKYO” CONTEST, P.O. Box 27/4000, LONDON, W.I.

NAME (Mr./Mrs./Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

To cover the above entries I enclose cheque/P.O. value
and I agree to abide by the rules of the contest.

Send crossed postal order or cheque payable to the “Trip to Tokyo” Contest.

Donations — after deduction of expenses — will go
towards the £150,000 needed to send the British Team to the 1964 Olympic Games

ALL ENTRIES WILL BE CHECKED BY AN I-C-T COMPUTER

Det hse, f furn, 1 sit, 2 beds,
k and b, sep wc, mains svces—

DELIVERED COMPLETE!

BY the end of next month, 150 new modern mobile homes—more than 700 tons of housing—will have been shipped from Huddersfield to Germany to help ease Rhine Army's pressing housing problem. The homes, 50 square feet larger than the caravans bought for Germany two years ago, are designed for couples with two children. More than half will go to Osnabrück.

They come from the factory completely furnished, including full-size refrigerator, cooker, bath, separate toilet, heated airing cupboard and towel rail, ventilated food store and extractor fan. The floor, walls and roof are lined and the windows double-glazed to give an insulation the makers claim is twice as good as a normal small bungalow.

Priced at under £1000, the mobile home is regarded as useful temporary family accommodation to ease the current shortage. More may be ordered during the coming financial year.

The home is permanently mounted on a steel "ski" chassis so it can be lifted, moved and sited easily on firm, level ground ready for connection to mains

services. Cooker and water heating unit are powered by propane gas, and the plumbing for kitchen, bathroom and toilet, and the wiring for lighting and heating are both ready for connection to the mains.

The door of the 36ft by 9ft home opens into the kitchen, with the door to the bathroom opposite. The 13ft by 9ft living-room is on the right, the main bedroom beyond, and the second bedroom, with its bunk beds, at the far end. The height from floor to ceiling is nearly 8ft.

A settee in the living-room can be converted into an additional double bed, and there is a sideboard, folding dining-table, two easy chairs and four dining-chairs. The War Office's strict fire-resistance requirements are met by the extensive use of plasterboard internally, and large windows in bedrooms and kitchen allow emergency escape.

The first 48 homes were earmarked for Osnabrück, the second 48 for Hameln, 14 for Verden, 10 for Herford and the final 30 for Osnabrück. Rhine Army will also have priority in any subsequent order and afterwards they may be seen in Britain.



Soldier's wife Mrs Iris Morse and Penny, her daughter, examine the roomy fridge.



One of the mobile homes on show to the Press at Wellington Barracks, London. The rounded ends of the "ski" chassis enable the homes to be slid into place.



Penny and her twin, Catherine, try out the bunk beds. These are big enough for adults.

HONOURED BY ROYALTY FROM BIRTH, THE ROYAL SUSSEX HAS PRODUCED MANY OUTSTANDING MEN—AND A FINE RECORD OF MILITARY ACHIEVEMENT OVER 260 YEARS

THE VOLLEY THAT WON QUEBEC

THE long nerve-tingling climb to the Heights of Abraham at Quebec had gone without a hitch. The British waited, their backs to the cliff. Long unbroken lines of French infantry poured forward, threatening chiefly the British right, held by the 35th Foot. Calmly and silently the British held their fire, waiting confidently for General Wolfe's order.

As the French grew nearer, the blue and scarlet facings on their white coats became more clearly defined. Soon the waiting 35th could pick out the metal buttons on the tunics, but still Wolfe held his fire. Then, with the French

only 35 yards away, the order came. One deafening, devastating volley shattered the silence. The sound of clattering arms, oaths and cries was soon drowned by the clink of British ramrods. As the smoke cleared to reveal fields of fallen Frenchmen, Wolfe led the advance. Though fatally wounded, he lived long enough to learn of the French retreat.

Victims of the disciplined muskets of the 35th were men of The Royal Roussillon Regiment, pride of France, whose white headdress plumes were taken over by the British regiment. Today The Royal Sussex Regiment still incorporates that plume in its Regimental badge.

Quebec came some 30 years before the 35th became associated with Sussex. Formed in 1701 in Belfast—the only British Army regiment originating exclusively from that city—it was favoured by Royalty from birth, William of Orange granting the Regiment the right to wear orange facings on its uniform.

Links with Sussex began through the colourful 4th Duke of Richmond, who was commissioned into the Regiment and later succeeded in having the 35th officially linked with Sussex. Another change in the title came 13 years after his death when, in 1832, the 35th became a Royal regiment.

Just 21 years later the 35th was in

The links of the Royal Sussex with the House of Orange are today treasured more than ever. The bond was made even stronger in 1953 when Queen Juliana agreed to become the Regiment's first-ever Colonel-in-Chief. Soon after her appointment she visited the 1st Battalion at Tidworth and presented a portrait of William III. Another facet of this link is the Regiment's strong participation in the Nijmegen marches.

BUGLE START

Racing at Goodwood is a British institution the Regiment takes pride in having initiated. In 1801, officers of the Royal Sussex Militia wanted to hold a horse race and to encourage them, the 3rd Duke of Richmond (then Colonel of the Militia) laid out a course at Goodwood. Within 30 years what began as a purely Regimental meeting supported by the locals had become a great social event much loved by Royalty. Today a fine Regimental club continues to flourish at the course and the Regiment still supplies a bugler to signify the start of the races, a tradition that goes back to the first meeting.



Men of the 1st Battalion in a scene from the Battle of Quebec staged in London at the 1959 Royal Tournament.

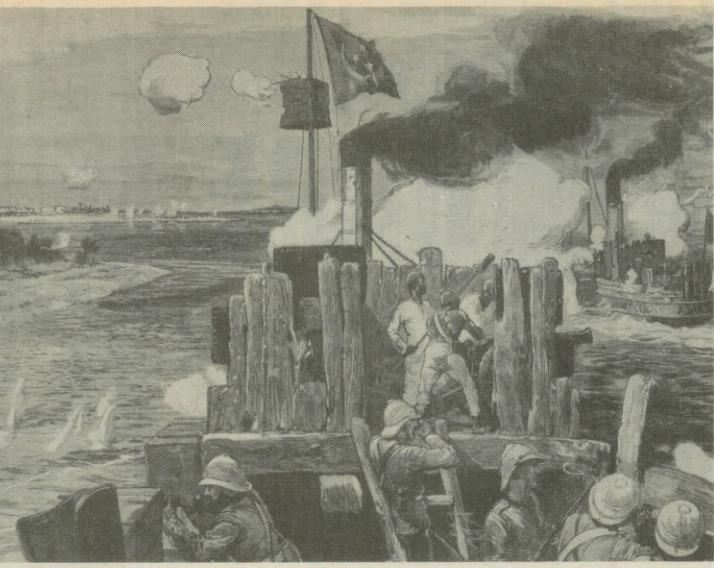
India when the 3rd Bengal European Regiment was formed, later to become the 107th of Foot. Within another 20 years the 107th was linked with the 35th and soon afterwards became the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment, with a new Regimental Depot at Chichester, headquarters of the Regiment to this day.

After much hard fighting in the Indian Mutiny, the 35th formed part of the Nile Expedition for the relief of General Gordon at Khartoum, in which the Battalion clashed fiercely with the Dervishes. The most spectacular adventure fell to Captain L J Trafford and 20 men who, with Colonel Sir Charles Wilson, set off from Metemneh in two steamers on a final bullet-showered dash to try to rescue Gordon. They arrived in sight of Khartoum only to find the city had fallen.

The South African War was notable for two years of practically ceaseless campaigning by the 1st Battalion, and by the fact that, when Lord Roberts's Army marched past its chief at Pretoria, the Battalion possessed the only bass drum. It had to be handed from band to band as the column progressed!

With the 1st Battalion having a busy but remote time on the North-West Frontier for the whole of World War One, it was left to the 2nd Battalion to represent the Regular soldiers of Sussex on the Western Front. It was soon in desperate action, losing its commanding officer, second-in-command, adjutant, six other officers and 300 killed and wounded at Marne in September, 1914.

But just four years later, on the Somme, the Battalion captured 300



This drawing, from a sketch by Capt L J Trafford, who led the Sussex party which dashed on to Khartoum, shows the boats nearing the town.

Dunkirk in 1940 and held its position until all fighting units were either eliminated or captured.

The 1st Battalion's recent move to Malta renews historic links with the George Cross island. The 35th had a leading part in the capture of the island in 1800, when the Regiment's King's Colour was the first flag to be hoisted from the ramparts at Valletta. The Regiment later presented both Colours to the island where they are displayed in the Governor's Palace at Valletta. Now the wheel has turned full circle, with the Regiment ready to play its part in the coming ceremonies to mark Malta's independence.

Royal Sussex men pass burning enemy tanks as they advance in the Western Desert during World War II. Right: Gen von Arnim's car, a trophy put to good use.



The Royal Sussex is an impressively aristocratic regiment. The present Duke of Norfolk served as a major in the 4th Battalion in France during World War Two, under General Sir Lashmer Whistler DSO, who was Colonel of the Regiment until his death last year.

Sir Winston Churchill, Colonel of the 4th/5th Battalion, Territorial Army, often wore the Royal Sussex cap badge during World War Two. Sir Ronald Howe, head of London's Criminal Investigation Department from 1945 to 1953, served as a captain in the 3rd Battalion in World War One, and another Royal Sussex man, Colonel G H B de Chair MC, was head of the mounted section of the Metropolitan Police.

During the 4th Duke of Richmond's career with the Regiment he became a close friend of the Duke of Wellington, and gave the famous ball in Brussels on the eve of the Battle of Waterloo.

One of the Regiment's most colourful characters was Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Leachman, whose work among the Arabs before and during World War One has been compared with that of T E Lawrence. Seconded from the 1st Battalion in 1915, he did invaluable work for Britain in Iraq at a time when Arab loyalties were wavering between Britain and Turkey.

Wandering among the Arabs, living as they lived, organising, compelling, acquiring priceless information, he became a dominant, legendary figure. He lived with his life in his hands and was eventually murdered during the Arab revolt of 1920.



The Regimental badge with garter star and plume, and (below) collar badge, with plume and Maltese Cross



SEVEN THOUSAND MILES IN HOPE

Three corporals—David Stapleton, Allister Fraser and John Acock—chose a long route home when 1st Battalion, The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, left Gibraltar. "Hope," an elderly, 15-horsepower *Opel Rekord*, faithfully carried them 7000 hot, dusty, adventurous miles through North Africa, Greece, Jugoslavia and Western Europe. Corporal John Acock tells the story:

When Hope first came to us in Gibraltar the steering wheel operated independently of the road wheels, the starter motor would not start and the shock absorbers would not absorb but merely shocked. We bought a set of spanners and a tube of *Bostik* and set to work.

Boot crammed, roof sagging under the luggage rack, Hope trundled off the ramp in fine style—and stalled. We pushed. At the Spanish La Linea customs post she straddled herself across a line of protesting traffic and dug her wheels in. We pushed. Hope creaked reluctantly into Spain—and out again aboard a ferryboat to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta in Morocco, home of the Spanish Ninth Army Corps.

They are a suspicious lot. Authoritative arms waved at the sight of our pass-

ports. After three hours of gesticulating they suddenly let us out into Morocco. It was something Corporal Stapleton had said in his classroom French: "Mr Acock works in a bank . . . the Bank of England . . . is the Governor . . ."

Unknown to cartographers there is a road across the Rif Mountains. It was here that Hope gave us some bad moments. The loose steering linkage would swerve her out so she could admire a 100ft drop. She couldn't wait to see round the next bend and zipped into plunging hairpins as though the brakes had failed.

Then she had a fit of pique. She had a puncture, the gear change arm fell off and the petrol gauge needle dropped to zero some 40 mountainous miles from the nearest petrol pump. With Hope parked on a large plateau and easily the

most prominent object between the horizons, we spent an unnerving thunder-torn night inside the car, watching lightning kick up the dirt round us.

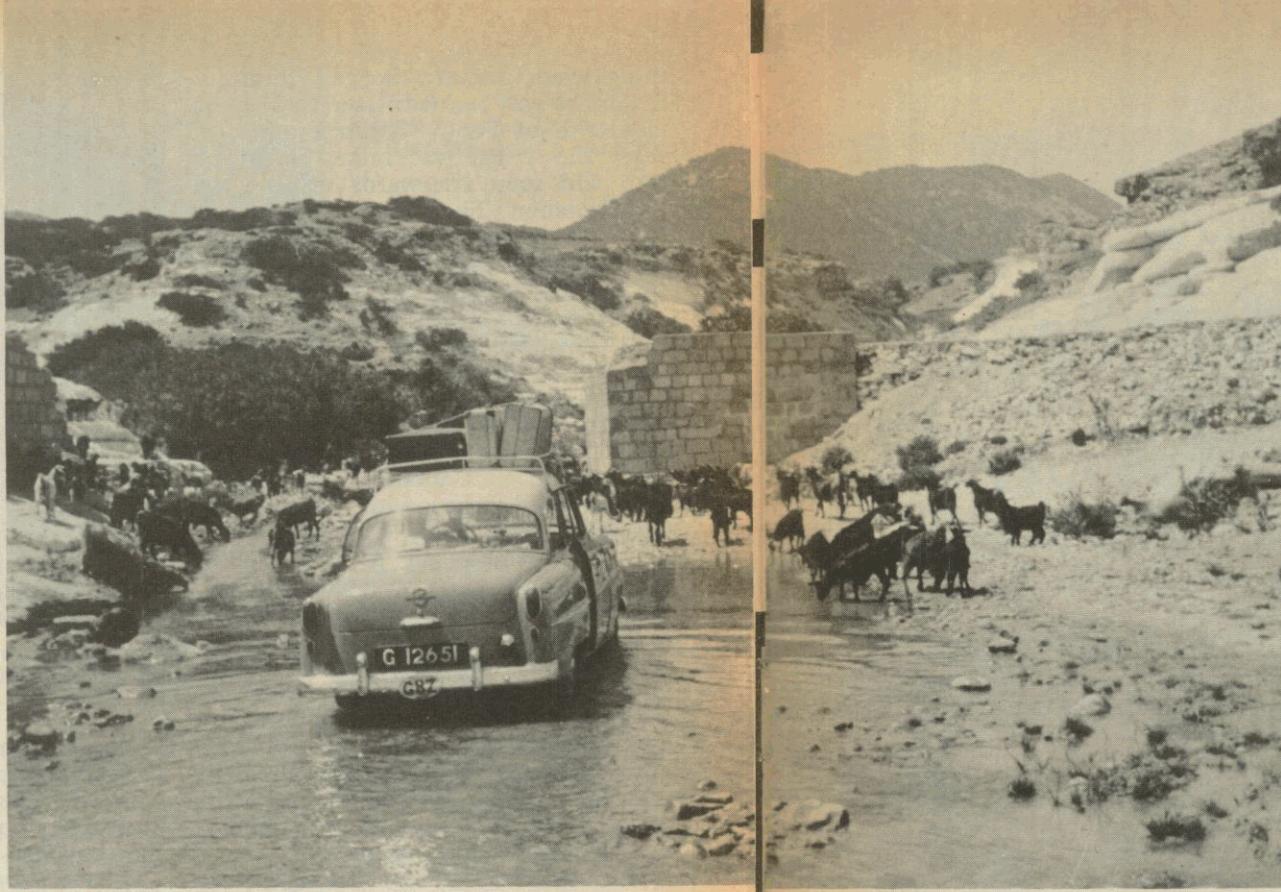
Algeria, still a land of barbed wire and soldiers, is not yet what you might call tourist-minded. Even so, the armed border officials were genuinely pleased to see British passports. Not knowing what to make of Hope's GBZ plate they played safe and saluted smartly.

At Constantine, several hundred miles along the road, Hope stopped twice to consider this elegant Roman city. A squeeze of glue, a spanner, and an old bootlace got her going again. We sped on across a high plateau where wheat fields, busily harvested by farmers and locusts, stretched endlessly. Hope squelched along at 50 mph over a carpet of locusts, many clinging against the windscreens to peer hungrily at us.

A short-cut across southern Tunisia through scrub desert took longer than we had planned because the bootlace broke, the glue came unstuck and the gear arm dangled uselessly once again. We were in a desert road, a hundred miles from nowhere, with a shade temperature of 120 degrees and no shade. Just in time, with Hope growing hotter and hotter, the right combination of spanner and curse was found, and Hope travelled the 900 miles to Benghazi without adding a single new rattle. Here we found a ship's captain willing to sail us to Greece for £30.

Small, rather old, propelled by motor, sail and a crew of six, the Greek coaster *Athanassios* left Benghazi with one toothless Greek farmer, a Libyan youngster, three British soldiers and Hope, pinched between hold and ship's rail. The vessel pitched and rolled about the Mediterranean for three days until,

Cpls John Acock (left) and David Stapleton stay close to Hope aboard the *Athanassios* bound for Greece. This was before the ship was buried in rock!



Hope edges through goats and water in southern Tunisia, where there

was also trouble with the bootlace, glue and gears.

at the island of Thira, officials came aboard, gaped at Hope, and charged us 100 drachmae (23s). Our crew said this was "an old Greek custom"—a tip!

Then the ship was manoeuvred under a chute, and an avalanche of white rock and stone poured into the holds then overflowed on to the deck, burying the vessel to the rails. For the next couple of days we sat atop a rocky, six-knot hillside cruising amid the Dodecanese. We flung a chunk of rock overboard. It floated! A comfort.

At Piraeus, port of Athens, the authorities arrested Hope, whisked her away into a compound and demanded 840 drachmae (£10) bail. As we had landed at the wrong dock, customs procedure regarding Hope was tricky and lasted five days. Between times we glowered at the Acropolis. At last, more fed up than satisfied, the customs let Hope go for the bargain price of 14 drachmae (3s 6d).

Jarred at her five days inside, Hope snarled at every gear change until, at Larisa, near Mount Olympus, she refused to engage gear at all. A garage provided a quick and cheap repair.

We found Jugoslavs tough, friendly people. Even on the rubble-edged streets of lopsided Skopje these folk forgot the earthquake for a while to smile and wave.

On through Italy to Switzerland, across France and the Channel to Dover. After nearly 7000 miles of sunshine we were back. England, through Hope's windscreens wipers—which were working!—looked good, very good.

Footnote: Hope finally blew up while taking the three corporals to their posting in Berlin. She had a long spell in a German garage while her crew saved up to pay the repair bill.

The imposing figure of Drum-Major Roy Dear at the head of the famous Pipes and Drums. Pipe-Major James Anderson is on the right.

HIGHLAND PAGEANTRY



THE display of military and Highland musicianship that has charmed North American audiences from coast to coast will be seen at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on the eighth of this month. The Pipes and Drums, Regimental Band and Dancers of 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, are featured in "Highland Pageantry," the Regiment's first public performance since the American tour ended. Proceeds are for the Army Benevolent Fund and The Black Watch and Wavell Appeal.

A fanfare of trumpets opens the varied two-hour programme featuring the 28 pipers, 12 drummers, eight Highland dancers and 48-strong military band. Highland dancing is accompanied by the pipes and drums, and there is also Scottish country dancing accompanied by the band. A featured item is the reel of the 51st Highland Division, composed by members of the Division who were prisoners-of-war during World War Two.

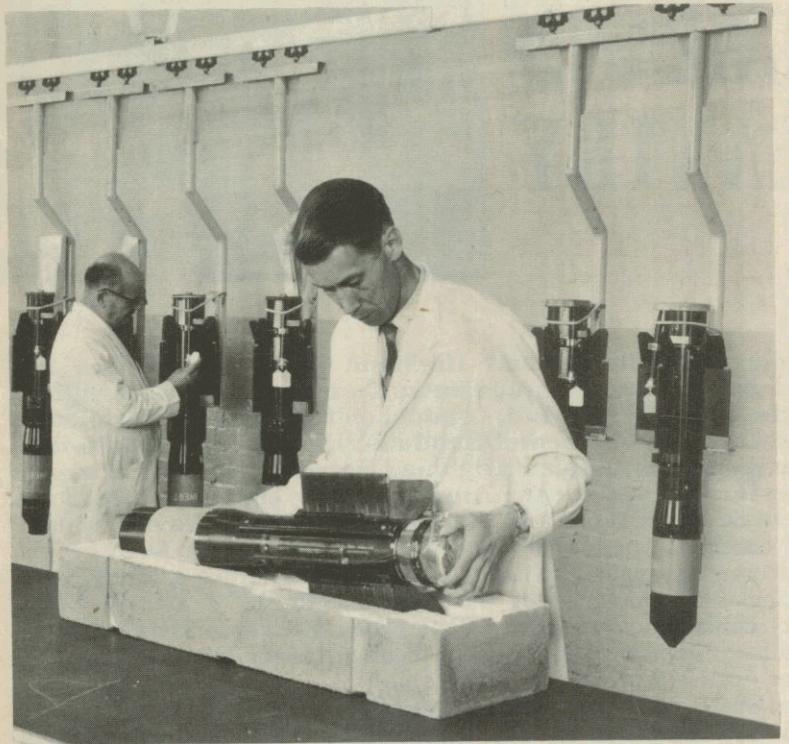
Two veteran Black Watch musicians who will be taking part are Drum-Major Roy Dear and Band Sergeant-Major Donald McLean. Both held the same posts in the Regiment's previous musical tour of America in 1957. Pipe-Major James Anderson was also on the 1957 tour, but was then a corporal piper. Bandmaster Duncan Beat took over the Black Watch baton in Cyprus in 1959, and was previously Bandmaster of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

The Black Watch and Wavell Appeal has been launched to establish the Regiment's new headquarters at Balhousie Castle, Perth, and also to create a memorial to the late Field-Marshal Earl Wavell, one of the Regiment's most distinguished sons.

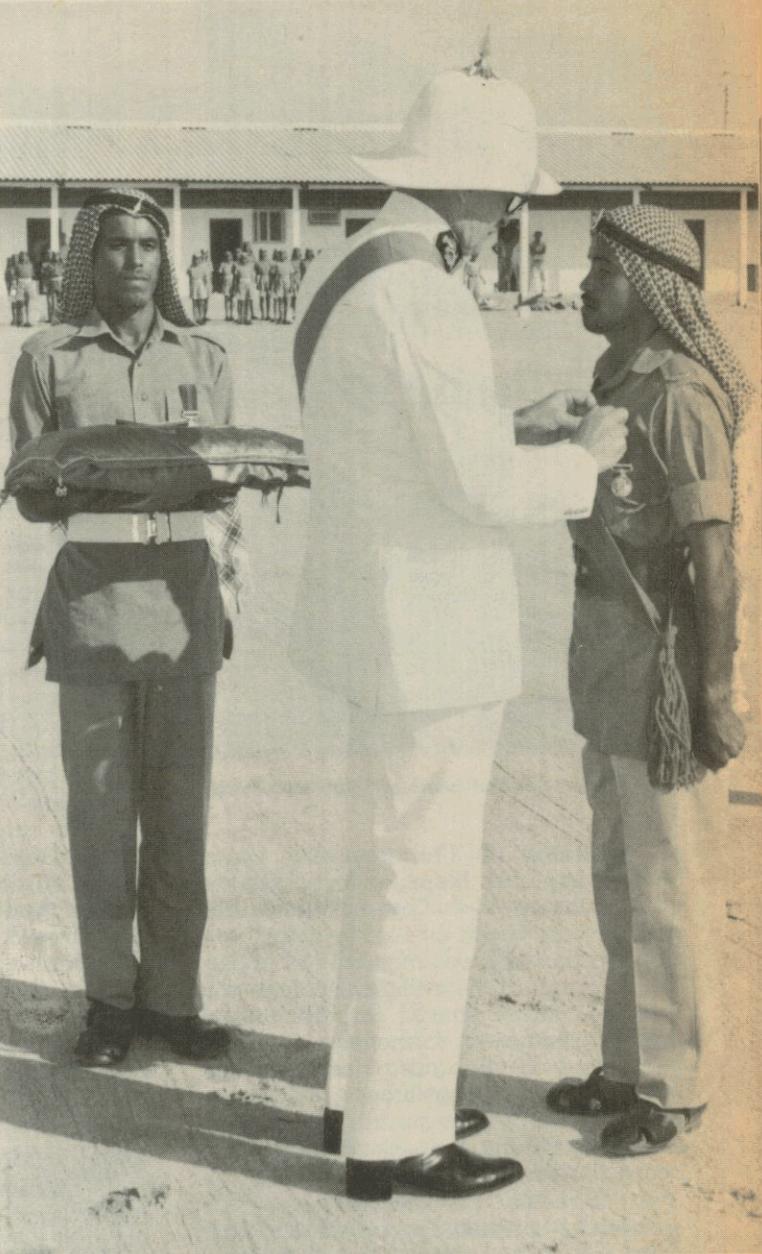
One of the Highland dances to be featured at the Albert Hall.



LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE



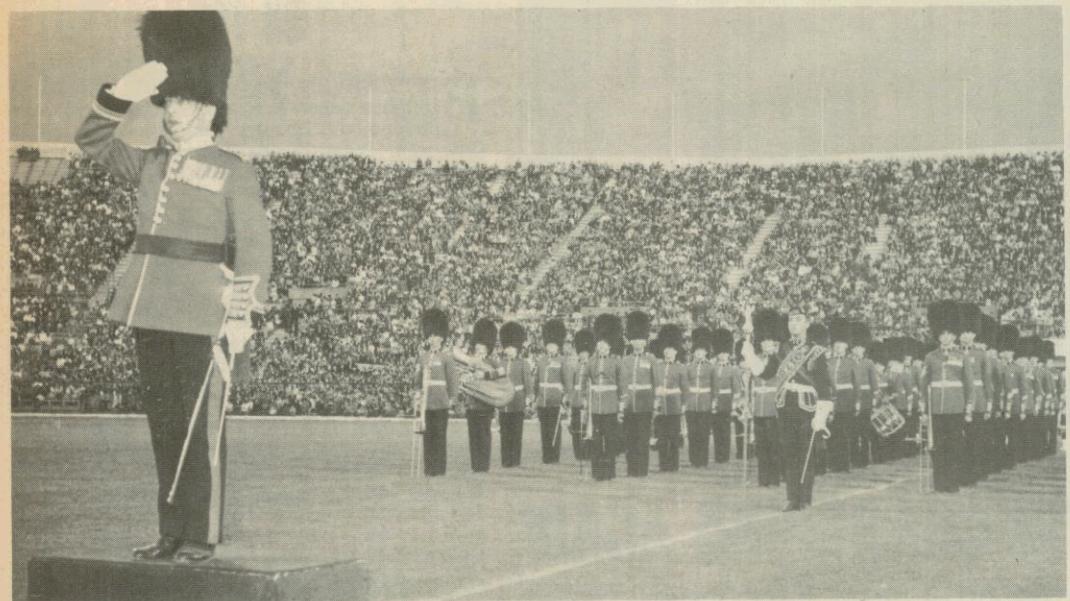
Deadly *Vigilant* anti-tank missiles are now in full production at the guided weapons division of the British Aircraft Corporation factory at Stevenage, Hertfordshire. This is the first picture to be released of *Vigilants* coming off the production line. *Vigilant* missiles are fired electronically and are guided on to the tank by a sensitive control operated by the thumb.



Wading neck deep through a raging torrent of flood water, a sergeant in the Trucial Oman Scouts struggled with a rope to where six British soldiers were stranded on two almost submerged lorries. With the help of the rope all the men pulled themselves to safety a few seconds before the heavy vehicles were swept away and smashed to pieces. It happened last year on a convoy between Sharjah and Buraimi. The two vehicles were stuck in a *wadi* after a night of heavy storms and the six men were attempting to get them out when the fast-running spate of flood water began rising quickly. Sergeant Ali bin Batti, in charge of the convoy, quickly realised the danger, and his courage in getting a rope out to the vehicles undoubtedly saved the lives of the six soldiers. He was later awarded the George Medal for his bravery and our picture shows Sir William Luce, the political representative in the Persian Gulf, making the presentation. Carrying the cushion for the decoration is Sergeant Batti's brother, also a serving member of the Trucial Oman Scouts.



Uganda's first President, the Kabaka of Buganda, has been installed as Commander-in-Chief of the Uganda Rifles with the rank of major-general. He is pictured here in the uniform of an Honorary Captain in the Grenadier Guards. The Kabaka, knighted in 1962, was educated at Cambridge and is a keen student of military strategy.



A huge crowd of more than 50,000 clapped and cheered the band of the Irish Guards and the pipe band of The Royal Scots when they played at the national stadium in Santiago, Chile. Saluting in the foreground is Major C H Jaeger, Director of Music, Irish Guards. The two bands, consisting of nearly 100 men, toured Argentina, Uruguay and Chile and were received with great enthusiasm everywhere they played.



Jocks of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders, return home to Scotland this month after three years in the Far East. They will be staying in Edinburgh for three months before going abroad again, but this time nearer home—to Germany. During the past few months the Battalion has been running its own German classes in Singapore. These have proved so popular that they are being continued in Edinburgh. Captain Don



The cowpoke casually rolling a cigarette during a break in the annual cattle round-up at the Rain Valley ranch in Arizona is a British soldier, Colonel Peter Lonnon. He is British Liaison Officer at the United States Army Electronic Proving Ground at Fort Huachuca, a remote unit at the base of the Huachuca Mountains in the plateau land of southern Arizona. It is the land



While in Russia, reader Mr James Manderson of Palmers Green, London, took this picture for SOLDIER of the changing of the guard at Lenin's tomb in Red Square. Because of the extreme cold in winter and the extreme heat in summer, the guard of two men is changed every hour throughout the day and night and during their duty the soldiers stand motionless at attention on either side of the entrance to the tomb. Specially chosen for height and bearing, the men of this select guard march in smart stiff-legged style. The guard is mounted and dismounted by a corporal and the soldiers comprising it live round the corner in the Kremlin.

where such Indian leaders as Cochise and Geronimo lived, and today many of the 500 personnel at the Fort—Colonel Lonnon among them—wear "old west" clothes with cowboy boots and wide-brimmed hats. The Colonel has been in Arizona for three years during which time he has taken an active part every year in the cattle round-ups at the Rain Valley ranch.

SPORT

ARMY MEN SHOW UP WELL

The four Army representatives in the Combined Services side which tackled the New Zealand touring team at Twickenham, and lost by 23 points to nine, all gave a good account of themselves, Lieutenant J D MacDonald (prop) scoring six of his side's nine points with two fine penalty goals out of two attempts. Captain N S Bruce several times hooked the ball against the loose head—no mean feat against the All Blacks!—and Sergeant P A Eastwood (brought in for Captain Mike Campbell-Lamerton, who was injured) showed up well in the line-out. Officer-Cadet C P Simpson had few chances on the right wing but did all he could with them.

After failing to win any of the warm-up matches—against Coventry (3-3), Newport (15-6) and a Scottish XV (20-6)—the Combined Services side was not given much of a chance against the All Blacks but played gallantly and well and was attacking at the close, with Eastwood, MacDonald and Bruce well to the fore.

BUT THE HEAVYWEIGHTS WON

Facing a strong London team including five internationals, the Army was again outclassed in its annual boxing battle with the capital, losing by ten bouts to three. But the feature of the match was the defeat of English international heavyweight Colin Woodhouse by Lieutenant Tony Brogan, The

Devonshire Regiment, first Territorial Army Officer ever to fight in an Army representative team. Aged 21 and a southpaw, Lieutenant Brogan was the Territorial Army heavyweight champion last year.

Other Army victories were gained by Sergeant Tony Pfeisser,



Capt Perkins (left) winning his fifth successive Army final in 1957.

SQUASH CHAMPIONS AGAIN

THE Army regained the Inter-Services Squash Championship in exciting fashion, gaining the narrowest of victories over the Royal Air Force (the holders) and Royal Navy. With 3-2 wins in both cases, every victory counted, but the thriller was Captain A D Myrtle's win over Flight-Lieutenant A W Fraser (Royal Air Force) after each player had twice saved match points.

It was a vital win as Major M J Perkins, fresh from his record seventh victory in the Army final, was below his best and unable to cope with a fine display by Pilot Officer P D Stokes. The Army's first string, Captain N H R A Broomfield, won comfortably to level the scores, giving Captain C M Wilcot the chance to clinch the tie.

Captain Broomfield, Captain Myrtle and Major Perkins were the Army's winners against the Royal Navy, with the Army's fifth string, Lieutenant D H Saunders, striking a bad patch after he seemed to have the match won. It was the Army's 21st inter-Service squash victory out of 30.

PARACHUTE YOUNGSTERS ON TOP

FIIFTY-SEVEN junior soldiers from six Infantry depots boxed in a new Army competition, the Infantry Junior Soldiers Individual and Team Boxing Championships, at the Mercian Brigade Depot, Lichfield. The standard in the finals was unexpectedly high and will be improved next year when at least four more brigade depots will be competing.

The SOLDIER Magazine Shield, awarded to the depot gaining the most points, was presented to the winners, the Parachute Brigade Junior Soldiers Company, by the Editor of SOLDIER, Mr Peter N Wood. The winners entered 21 boxers and scored 12 points, two ahead of The Welsh Brigade. In joint third place were The Mercian Brigade and The Fusilier Brigade.

The Depot Lancastrian Brigade Cup for the Western Command Junior Soldiers Boxing Championships was won on the last bout by The Welsh Brigade, with a single point lead over the Fusilier and Mercian brigades. This cup, and medals for winners and runners-up, were presented by Colonel J D W Millar, Mercian Brigade Colonel.

RESULTS

Class "A"—8st: J/Dmr B Griffiths (Welsh Brigade) outpointed J/Dmr Champ (Mercian Brigade). 8st 7lb: J/Dmr K Daly (Fusilier Brigade) beat J/Dmr Owen (Mercian) (referee stopped fight, second round). 9st: J/Dmr R Williams (Welsh) outpointed J/Dmr D Rafferty (Welsh). 9st 7lb: J/Sldr J Halliday (Parachute Brigade) outpointed J/Sldr J Main (Para). 10st: J/Bgrl A Baverstock (Green Jackets Brigade) beat J/Dmr J Bromley (Mercian) (stopped, third). 11st: J/Sldr D Coulter (Para) beat J/Sldr W Burne (Para) (stopped, first).

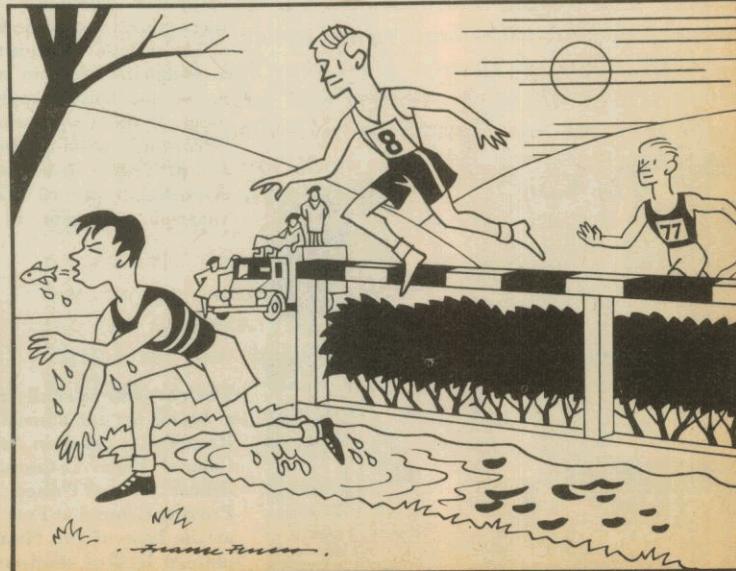
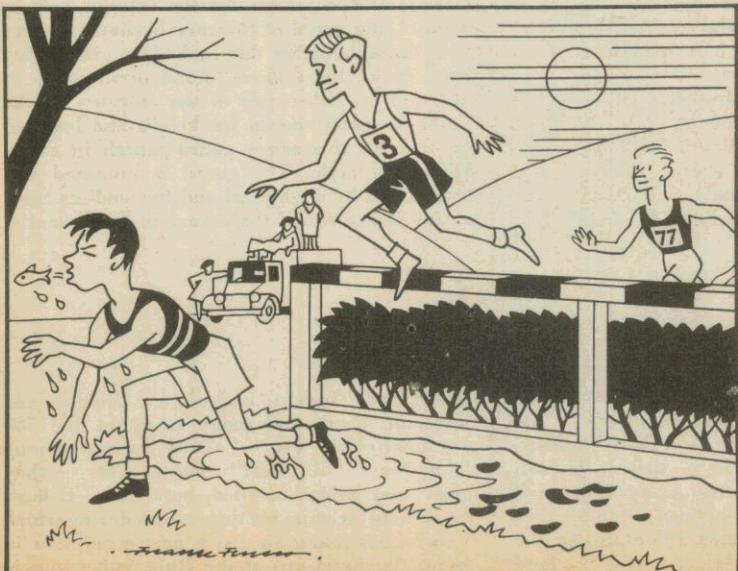
Class "B"—8st: J/Dmr T Jackson (Mercian) beat J/Bdmn C Lednor (Welsh) (KO, first). 8st 7lb: J/Bdmn D Currie (Highland Brigade) outpointed J/Dmr I Ross (Mercian). 9st: J/Dmr D Stone (Mercian) outpointed J/Dmr R Jones (Welsh). 9st 7lb: J/Dmr L Collins (Fusilier) beat J/Dmr P Teeney (Fusilier) (stopped, second). 10st: J/L/Cpl F Taylor (Welsh) outpointed J/Dmr D Gemmell (Fusilier). 10st 7lb: J/Sldr R Jacklin (Para) outpointed J/Rfn A Seaman (Green Jackets). 11st: J/Dmr B Close (Fusilier) beat J/L/Cpl A Moran (Mercian) (KO, second). 11st 7lb: J/Sldr L Whitworth (Para) outpointed J/L/Cpl G Boden (Welsh). 12st: J/Dmr C Gardner (Para) beat J/Dmr T Sloman (Fusilier) (stopped, first).



Spr Sutherley misses with a left. He didn't miss very often.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. Look at them very carefully. If you cannot detect the differences, see page 35.



It happened in **FEBRUARY**

Date	Years ago
3 Paris Peace Conference	45
3 John of Gaunt died	565
8 John Ruskin born	145
8 Outbreak of Russo-Japanese War	60
12 Alexander Selkirk ("Robinson Crusoe") rescued from Juan Fernandez Island	255
13 William III and Mary proclaimed King and Queen	275
13 Lord Randolph Churchill born	115
13 Corps of Commissionaires founded	105
17 King Albert of the Belgians died	30
18 Michaelangelo died	400
21 Battle of Goojerat	115
23 Sir Edward Elgar died	30



Two commissionaires at the Corps HQ in New Zealand House, London.



An attack by the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment is halted by a timely tackle by a Welshman.

WELSH GUARDS ON THE WAY AGAIN

THE 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, winners of the Army Rugby Challenge Cup for the last two years, reached the United Kingdom final by beating a tenacious 2nd Royal Tank Regiment by nine points to three. All the scoring came in the first half when the Guards' "25" was penetrated only once.

Guardsman B Ackerman

(right centre) opened the scoring with a try after a good combined move, but the Tanks were soon level, Trooper P Canham (full-back) kicking a penalty. A long, opportunist drop goal by Guardsman L Davies (right wing) restored the position, improved for the Welshmen when Guardsman J Geen scored a try.

SPORTS SHORTS

Sandhurst men took first, second and fifth places in the slalom and beat the cadets of the other two Services in the British cadet colleges skiing championships at St Moritz. Junior Under-Officer R M Redhead, son of Colonel R Redhead, vice-chairman of the Army Ski Association, was an easy slalom winner.

The Army Cycling Union has expanded its programme for 1964 to include time trials for juniors and seniors at ten, 15, 25 and 50 miles, a massed start road race, a track meeting, a hill climb, a cyclo-cross and a roller meeting. An inter-unit team competition and an individual best all-rounder competition will be reintroduced for both seniors and juniors.

A fierce shot from Lance-Sergeant T Melling which hit the post, bounced back and hit the goalkeeper on the head, then bounced into the net, gave the Army the lead in its soccer match against London University. It was that sort of match, but the Army was well worth its 2-1 win.

The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, gave the Army hockey side an early shock by taking the lead through Cadet Sarjit Singh. The Army won in the end, through goals by Captain J R C Watts and the elusive Sergeant G J Bailey, but the inter-Service champions had their work cut out to do so.

The Women's Inter-Command Hockey Championship was won convincingly by Rhine Army with victories in all six matches. Southern Command was second, Eastern third, Western fourth, Scottish fifth, Northern sixth and Northern Ireland seventh.

A British Army polo team is visiting India this month at the invitation of the Indian Polo Association.

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LETTERS

Bouquet

I thought you might like to know that as a result of my name appearing in "Collectors' Corner" I have received letters from England, Wales, Holland, New Zealand, Germany, Canada and Australia. These letters were from readers in all walks of life and were very interesting and welcome. Congratulations on having the best world contact column that I know of.—Sgt S H Taylor, Command Inspection Team, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.

Civvies on sentry-go

In reply to Mr R Wall's letter under the above heading (SOLDIER, November), some of your readers may be interested to know that the raising of a guard on the lines of the Canadian Fort Henry Guard is one of the aims of this Society. It is our intention that the guard should, with a variety of museums, make Fort Cumberland at Portsmouth the most outstanding military attraction in the provinces.—M J Powell, Chairman, The Fort Cumberland Preservation Society, 13 Deal Road, Wymering, Portsmouth, Hants.

* Fort Cumberland is occupied by the Royal Marines and administered by the Admiralty. The Fort has been classified as an ancient monument by the Ancient Monuments Board of England.

Unit history

Our company, 1 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, is reputed to be the oldest company in the Corps, having been formed in 1870, and we are at present attempting to produce a detailed unit

history. Very little is known of the period during and between the two world wars, though it is thought that the Company may have served in India during the 1920s.

We would be most grateful if any of SOLDIER's readers can supply information about the Company, and would also like to hear from any old members.—Capt T M Cosgrove, 1 Coy RASC (Airportable Bde), Goojerat Barracks, Colchester, Essex.

Another Army mosque

As a long-time supporter and reader of your popular magazine I venture to suggest that the writer of "Mosque With All Mod Cons" (SOLDIER, December) was under a misapprehension when he stated that "it is the only mosque ever built by the Army."

In 1935 a mosque was constructed at Changi, Singapore, when India Barracks were built to house a newly created and expanded unit of the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery, the nucleus of which was 7 Battery (HKS), RA. The construction of the entire project, including the mosque, was entrusted to me as a military clerk of works, and I enclose a photograph of the mosque taken by me on its completion and before it

● **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 own officer.

● **SOLDIER** cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit.



was formally taken into use. We were all very proud of this building, even though it did not possess all the "mod cons."

It is sad to remember that both the mosque and India Barracks were demolished by the Japanese in 1943 to make way for airfields. I was again present on that occasion.—Maj J Fleming, RE (Rtd), Gushmere, Folkestone Road, Hougham, Dover, Kent.

* **SOLDIER** thanks Maj Fleming for putting the record straight and for the picture reproduced below.

Bands and banners

The British Ex-Service Legion of Australia, Heidelberg Branch, Melbourne, has written a letter to Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery to enlist his aid and support in obtaining for us any unused or unwanted regimental banners, and also in helping us to acquire the services of a British military band to lead us through the streets of Melbourne on Australia's National Day, Anzac Day, 25 April, for the prestige and morale of the British ex-Servicemen here. We are wondering if through your magazine, to which we are subscribers, you could publicise our needs.—A Moulder, President, Heidelberg Branch, British Ex-Service Legion of Australia, 21 Dougherty Road, West Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia.

Sixty-five years

Reading your story of The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (SOLDIER, January) prompts me to tell you of a unique man who was actively connected with the Regiment for 65 continuous years.

He is Maj William Myers MBE, MC, DCM. He was born into The Northumberland Fusiliers in 1879 at Berwick-upon-Tweed, where his father was serving at



the time. He enlisted into the Regiment in 1897, was commissioned in 1917 and retired in 1934.

Thereafter Maj Myers served as secretary of the Regimental Benevolent Fund and his active connection with the Regiment did not end until July, 1962. In addition to his decorations, Maj Myers's medals include: South Africa War—2, Indian Frontier 1908—1, World War One—3, World War Two—2, the Long

THE ARMY'S MEDALS

by MAJOR JOHN LAFFIN

26: QUEEN'S SUDAN 1896-97

THIS medal went to men who fought in five battles, two of them famous, and who otherwise saw service in the Sudanese deserts, but, deplorably, no bars were issued.

The reason for this—hardly a satisfactory one—is that the troops concerned already had the Khedive's Sudan Medal, which did have bars. Unfortunately, down the years the medals have often become separated with the result that the Queen's Medal seems rather bare.

The obverse shows a half-length figure of the Queen. The reverse shows Victory, seated, with a palm branch in her right hand and a laurel wreath in her left. On either side of her are the British and Egyptian flags. At her feet is a plaque with the word "Sudan," supported by three lilies.

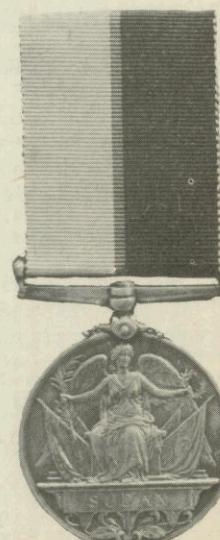
Men who received the medal

were present at one or more of these battles: Firket (June, 1896), Hafir (September, 1896), Abu Hamed (July, 1897), Atbara River (April, 1898) and Omdurman (September, 1898). It also went to those who were not present at any particular action but who served in certain parts of the Sudan in the latter half of 1897.

The two famous actions were the Atbara and Omdurman. The battle of the Atbara River took place after a long, desert night march. The Dervishes were protected by a zariba and were softened up by artillery before the Infantry assault, which was headed by Royal Warwickshires, Lincolnshires, Seaforths and Camerons. Under heavy fire, Private Cross, of the Camerons, and General Gateacre, were first into the zariba. The Dervishes lost 3000 killed and 4000 taken prisoner.

Omdurman was made famous by the charge of four squadrons of the 21st Lancers against great odds. During this battle the Dervishes lost 11,000 killed, 16,000 wounded and 4000 made prisoner. The Royal Warwickshires, Lincolnshires, Seaforths and Camerons were again present, with the Grenadier Guards, Northumberland Fusiliers, Lancashire Fusiliers, Rifle Brigade, a detachment of Royal Irish Fusiliers, Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers. Very oddly, the Khedive's bar for the battle was inscribed "Khartoum," not "Omdurman." Fifteen bars in all were issued for the Khedive's Medal, which was current until 1908.

The ribbon for the Queen's Medal is half yellow, half black, with a thin centre stripe of red. Naming is very varied and many medals were not named.



Reverse of the Queen's Sudan Medal, showing the figure of Victory holding palm branch and laurel wreath.

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more letters

Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Queen's Coronation Medal.

There can be few men with such a proud and long record of service with one regiment.—“Fighting Fifth.”

Military staff clerks

I was recently given a most unusual Army badge, that of the Corps of Military Staff Clerks. It has a crown resting on a circular band bearing the title of the Corps and in the centre is a beaver bisected by two quill-type pens. Has SOLDIER any information about the Corps of Military Staff Clerks?—Cpl J Smith, RAMC, HQ 9 Company, RAMC, Colchester, Essex.

* The Corps of Military Staff Clerks was formed on 1 July, 1881, from the General Staff of the Army. On 25 November, 1902, the Corps joined the Staff Clerks Section of the Army Service Corps, now the Royal Army Service Corps.

Military bands

Mr H Eaton describes British military band music as “dreary, stereotyped and agony to listen to” (SOLDIER, October). As one of the many thousands of military band lovers scattered over the globe I disagree. Admittedly there are quiet passages in some of the compositions they play but on the whole, to me, it is very rich, grand music.

To the ordinary soldier, bandsmen may seem to lead a comparatively sheltered life, but it should be remembered that the regimental band does much to uphold the traditions of the regiment. British military bands are justly famous throughout the world, and it would be a sad day

indeed if they were ever to disappear. Several famous British Army bands have visited Australia, the most recent being that of The Royal Ulster Rifles, which was featured prominently in concerts, open-air displays and on television. This band was anything but “dreary” to listen to, playing marches, solo items, both classical and popular music and, as an extra item, a schoolboy was invited up to conduct the band—how the audience loved that!

After the concert at our Town Hall I heard two women talking about the performance: “I enjoyed every minute of it,” one said, and that summed it up for me, too.—C Blackman, 17 Fisher Road, Seven Hills, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Bearskins

The reply to Mr Harald Hjornevik's letter (SOLDIER, January) is not quite correct. The First Regiment of Foot Guards were awarded the title of Grenadier Guards after defeating the Imperial Guards at Waterloo, but they had worn bearskin caps for some years prior to that date.

My maternal great-grandfather was Sgt J Meek, First Regiment of Foot Guards, who served throughout the Peninsular campaign. He was present at Corunna and, after the defeat of the French and the abdication of Napoleon, was discharged at his own request on 27 September, 1814.

He afterwards became a successful tradesman in London and a Freeman of the City, and spent the rest of his life bemoaning the fact that he was not with his beloved Duke at Waterloo. I know much of him as he and my great-grandmother brought up my mother from the age of a few months. I have in my possession a water-colour portrait of him

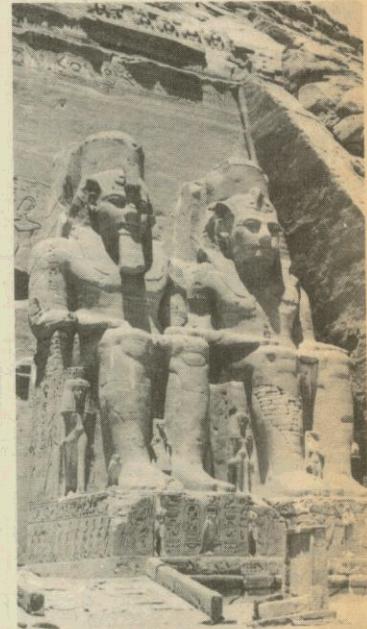
Temple grave

Prompted by Miss M R Bull's letter (SOLDIER, December) on the grave of Maj B I Tidswell, Royal Dragoons, in the forecourt of the temple of Abu Simbel, another SOLDIER reader, Mr Joseph Rochford, of 564 York Road, Leeds 14, has written to President Nasser asking if the President would take a personal interest in saving the grave from being submerged by the Aswan High Dam project. An ex-Coldstream Guardsman, Mr Rochford was in Egypt for 15 years and, as an acting regimental sergeant-major, was seconded as an adviser to the Egyptian Army, since when he has kept in touch with President Nasser.

Miss Bull's and Mr Rochford's anxiety about the future of Maj Tidswell's grave will be allayed by the following (literal) translation of an article in the Egyptian newspaper “Al Ahram,” published during the visit to Egypt of President Tito of Jugoslavia:

“If the UAR guest (Tito) turns towards the corner between the 4th huge statue and the south angle at the end of the temple facade, he will notice on the ground under the shadows—a granite lid of a coffin with an English inscription thereon—indicating the reason for its being there—for it is the grave of one of the British Officers who was wounded during the Nile Campaign, and died whilst being carried to the North. They elected to bury him, in this famous spot 77 years ago and had inscribed on the granite lid of the coffin—‘In honour of Major Benjamin Ingham Teddersol (sic) born 1850 died 1885—Member of the Nile Mission Camel Corps.’

“If you look at this strange dead, buried in a place, neither he nor his relatives could have imagined would become part of history . . . for when his relatives heard of the Aswan High Dam project . . . that the water of the artificial lake will be raised to a level of 60 metres high and there was a project for lifting the temple to a still greater height . . .



Two of the four seated Colossi of Ramses II which guard the entrance to the famous temple of Abu Simbel.

they sent to our Government enquiring. Should they remove the body of their young grandfather (35 years old) buried there? and should they come to have the remains transferred to Britain . . . from that warm part of Nubia to the foggy and cold weather of London. . . .

“The responsible authorities replied not to worry . . . he will be lifted high up as he is buried . . . at the same time as the level of the whole temple. . . .”



drawn by a comrade showing him in full uniform and wearing a bearskin cap.

The Centenary Exhibition of the Grenadier Guards in 1956 also showed examples of the headdress and in the catalogue may be seen a copy of a print of a private of the Grenadier Company of the First Regiment of Foot Guards by E Dayes, dated 1792, showing him wearing a bearskin.—W E Bailey, 2 Clive Road, Westwood, Margate, Kent.

National Service

In view of the possible reintroduction of National Service, may I suggest that every person declared fit for NS be allowed to start his service at any time between his 17th and 27th birthdays. He would be required to inform the appropriate authority of his availability; this would enable drafts to be made up and would probably entail a wait of from six to eight weeks.

The flow of recruits might not be constant, but I feel the advantages would outweigh any disadvantages, as recruits would mainly comprise men of a more intelligent and mature outlook instead of virtually school leavers. The men would be free from family problems or studying for examinations, and there would be no more of "the Army messed up my career" talk.

There are many who would not mind "doing their bit" but for the time factor. Furthermore, if this type of system were adopted there would be no necessity for deferment boards and the like.—J Echlin, 10 Cophall Road, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

SPOT THE CAR WINNERS

Just fewer than half the entries for SOLDIER's November (Spot That Car!) quiz were correct. Probably all readers were puzzled by the fact that there were only nine questions although the introduction said there were ten. One picture and question had to be dropped for space reasons and the "ten" was not, as it should have been, altered to "nine."

A few lynx-eyed enthusiasts pointed out, quite correctly, that the *Austin Healey Sprite* in question seven was in fact a Dick Jacobs MG Midget (one reader even quoted the registration number!). SOLDIER's Russell Miller, who compiled the quiz, explains that unless readers had personal knowledge there was nothing to identify the picture as a Jacobs MG Midget. In style and general design it looks like an *Austin Healey Sprite* body—all the exterior trimmings that could have identified it, from a side view, as an MG, were removed.

Honour due

I read with interest the article on the Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), "The Colours Were Buried" (SOLDIER, November). However, you state that this Regiment is the only unit, with The Middlesex Regiment, to share the battle honour "Hong Kong."

I would like to point out that these two units were not alone in the abortive battle for this Crown Colony. There were also present a battalion of The Royal Scots, a battery of Indian artillery and two Infantry battalions from Canada—The Winnipeg Grenadiers and The Royal

Rifles of Canada. Both The Winnipeg Grenadiers and The Royal Rifles of Canada were granted Royal approval for "Hong Kong" to appear as a battle honour.

As a serving soldier in the Regular Canadian Army and a former member of The Winnipeg Grenadiers, I feel that your article should be amended accordingly.—Sgt W D Orr, HQ British Columbia Area, Canadian Army (Regular), Vancouver 8, BC, Canada.

* The Hong Kong Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment are the only two British regiments to share the battle honour. SOLDIER was guilty of British insularity!

"No goddam Japs are going to push us around," said the Canadians as they disembarked in Hong Kong. But it was an optimistic comment.



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See Page 30)

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1 Number of middle runner. 2 Lower fin of fish. 3 Rear of lorry below bar of fence. 4 Nearside window of driver's cab. 5 Right leg of leading runner's shorts. 6 Black reflection on right of water. 7 Drops of water behind leading runner's left foot. 8 Left arm of soldier standing by lorry. 9 Lower twig of right branch of tree. 10 Length of black band on right of fence.



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Executive Class examination for ex-Forces candidates, June 1964 (Basic grade rises to over £1,200); good promotion opportunities. Clerical Class examination for ex-Forces candidates, October 1964. Customs Officer 18-22½, Autumn 1964 and Preventive Officer 19-21, February 1965; extension of age limits for Forces service.

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A Randon, 3 Sunsi Flats, Church Street, Paceville, Malta GC.—Requires one or more regimental magazines of The Royal Irish Fusiliers, pre-1959. Will buy or exchange for badges of Royal Malta Artillery and King's Own Malta Regiment.

H A Bulhof, 195 Maarten Lutherweg, Amstelveen, Holland.—Articles, books,

magazines, photographs on Battle of Arnhem. H Wilkinson, 12 Town Street, Ulverston, Lancs.—Collects worldwide Army cap badges, correspondence welcomed.

Maj C W Forde, Crossways, South Zeal, Okehampton, Devon.—Requires used postage stamps of any country, especially Malta, Cyprus, Gibraltar; will also exchange.

GENERAL WITH A CONSCIENCE

GENERAL Frido von Senger und Etterlin started World War Two as commander of one of the few remaining horsed Cavalry units in the German Army. He ended it as a general with a high reputation who went to Fifth Army headquarters to negotiate the surrender of the German forces in Italy.

In between, he amassed a wealth of experience, taking part in the 1940 blitzkrieg and commanding a panzer division in the abortive attempts to relieve von Paulus's Sixth Army at Stalingrad. When he took it over, the division had a mere 30 tanks, shortly to be reduced to eight, but nevertheless acquitted itself well.

He was chief German liaison officer with the Italian army in Sicily and in charge of operations of the German divisions there when the Allies invaded. He extricated the German garrisons of Sardinia and Corsica, fighting his former Italian allies as well as the Resistance. His main claim to fame was achieved on the mainland of Italy, where he commanded the corps which put up such a stiff resistance around Cassino and slowed the

subsequent Allied advance to northern Italy.

General Senger's reminiscences of these years, "Neither Fear Nor Hope" (Macdonald, 40s), are interlarded with tactical reflections on these campaigns and on the trends indicated in them.

On the military side, his book indicates some self-satisfaction, but politically his conscience remained troubled. This former Rhodes scholar (he was at Oxford from 1912 until the outbreak of World War One) rose to high rank despite the fact that he was known to be unsympathetic to the Nazi régime.

His own tragedy, he says, was the dilemma of many of Hitler's officers: "They would fight bravely for victory, while at the same time hoping for defeat—because they loved their country."

General Senger was aware of the belated conspiracy to kill Hitler on 20 July, 1944, and was worried because too many people must inevitably know of it. "It remained a sad fact," he says, "that resistance to the Hitler régime found no real response among the German people."

RLE

RLE



General Frido von Senger und Etterlin reporting the battle situation to Field-Marshal Kesselring.

THE "OFF-BEAT" ARMIES

BRITAIN's special forces in World War Two earned themselves a very high reputation, but they come under fire on one count from Otto Heilbrunn in "Warfare in the Enemy's Rear" (Allen and Unwin, 30s). He thinks they were too diversified.

There were more than a dozen of them. The author reckons a country can get by with four different kinds, one each for coastal operations (Royal Marine Commandos), land operations (Army Commandos), guerilla-type operations (Special Air Service) and operations with guerillas (Special Operations Executive).

Perhaps it was not to be wondered at that private armies thrived in British theatres of war. As Lieutenant-General Sir John Hackett points out in a foreword to this book, the British take very kindly to the oblique approach in war; special forces provided an opportunity to exploit a rich vein of eccentricity in support of the war effort.

If there should again be occasion, there would probably once more arise new and picturesque bands, full of original ideas for "off-beat" operations. Nevertheless, the author is justified in warning that too many special forces are difficult to control (in Burma, in particular, there was a deal of overlap) and special forces are uneconomic if so specialised that they cannot be easily employed.

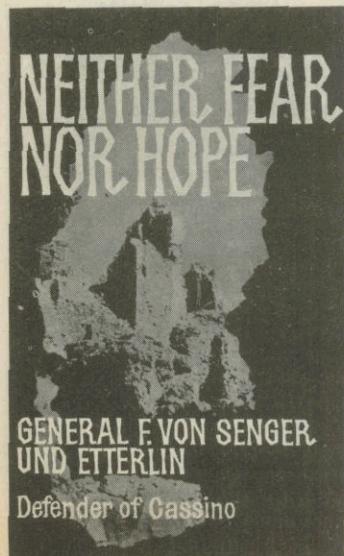
Dr Heilbrunn has produced a very useful book which summarises and examines the work of the special forces on all sides in World War Two. He has, in particular, some interesting information about the *Brandenburgers*, the Germans who often went into action in "camouflage uniform"—otherwise disguise.

He claims there were *Chindits* in Japanese uniforms and a few British wore German uniforms, and reports that the East Germans have recently formed a 2000-man unit to wear West German uniform and operate in the NATO rear. In naval warfare, he points out, it is legitimate to deceive the enemy by all kinds of ruses, including wearing his uniform, until fire is opened—and the rules for land warfare are not different.

He speculates on the uses of special forces in nuclear warfare and concludes that they will be almost immune from nuclear attack—the enemy would be reluctant to endanger his own hinterland, and special forces are usually dispersed and too small a target.

RLE

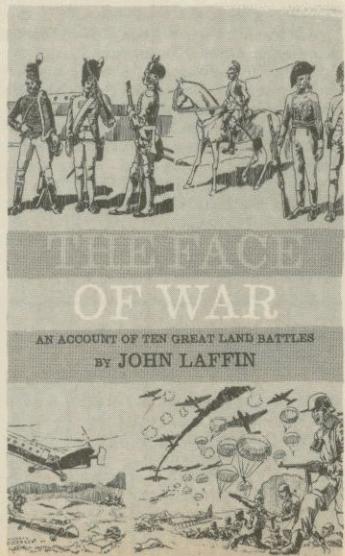
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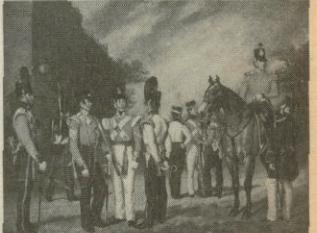
TROOPSHIPS and their history



Colonel H.C.B. Rogers, O.B.E.

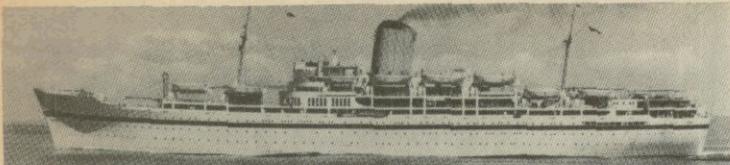


Faithful



The Story of
The Durham Light
Infantry
by S.G.P. Ward

Foreword by General Sir Nigel Poett, K.C.B., D.S.O.



The third Nevasa, 20,577 tons, carried about a thousand passengers.

"YE PLEAGUE BETWEEN DECKS"

HOW you received the news that the troopship had finally been ousted by air trooping probably depended on your own experiences. This reviewer was torn between two memories—the smell of feet and vomit, and food peppered out of eatability, on the troop-decks of the much-cursed Lancashire in the Indian Ocean and Red Sea in 1940; and the calm hospitality of the blessed Dilwara under Stuka attack during the escape from Greece in the following spring.

For Colonel H C B Rogers, with longer memories coloured by the luxuries of the first-class saloon, there can only have been regret. He had just completed "Troopships and Their History" (Seeley Service, 35s), to which the last sea-trooping voyage came as a footnote. His book is a sentimental journey over some three centuries of soldiers' travel by sea.

In the early 18th century, someone described trooping as "continual destruction in ye foretop, ye Pox above board, ye Pleague between Decks, Hell in ye forecastle and ye Devil at ye Helm." At that time an order had to be made, for the comfort of the troops, that no ship would be chartered for trooping to the West Indies if the height between decks was less than four feet six inches.

Towards the end of that century, the capacity of a trooper for a short trip was calculated roughly at one ton of ship per man. By 1912, the second Nevasa's 1000 passengers had about nine tons of ship each; the third Nevasa accommodated about the same number, but grossed 20,000

tons. Even so, movements officers were apt to point out that it was better to spend available money on barracks which men might occupy for three years than on ships they would occupy for three weeks—an argument the author neglects to quote.

Given that troop-deck passengers generally had to accept a pretty poor standard of living, troopers served the Army well, whether on a six-months' windjammer voyage to India or an overnight trip from Harwich to the Hook.

Some troopships did some pretty odd things for the Army. Those which carried soldiers to the Abyssinian campaign of 1868 remained there permanently, condensing fresh water from the sea for the soldiers and their animals as there was no water supply on land. In the assault on Tanga, in East Africa in World War One, a mountain battery went into action from the boat-deck of the Bharata. The Braemar Castle went to Murmansk in 1918 and stayed there nearly a year as a base hospital, frozen in during the winter and submitting to the indignity of having her decks boarded in for warmth.

Perhaps the most famous troopship story is that of the wreck of the Birkenhead, when the troops aboard behaved with the greatest gallantry and discipline and 450 died. Less well known are the 1917 wrecks of the Tyndareus, carrying 25th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, and the Ballarat, carrying an Australian contingent. In each case the men aboard behaved with an heroic discipline worthy of the Birkenhead, and were rewarded with a successful rescue.

RLE

TRAVEL BY DARK AFTER ARNHEM
Graeme Warrack

Foreword by H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands

RUPERT FURNEAUX

Massacre at Amritsar

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TEN VITAL BATTLES

SEEKING a pocket history of modern war for a few shillings is like looking for a needle in a haystack. But in "The Face of War" (Abelard-Schuman, 15s) Major John Laffin embodies the salient features of the profession of arms. This is not an exhaustive study. It could not be at the price. Major Laffin's method is to choose ten battles which he thinks were turning points in the use of weapons and tactics.

In these ten battles—Breitenfeld, Blenheim, Leuthen, Austerlitz, Albuhera, Vicksburg, Cambrai, Crete, the Owen Stanleys and Iwo Jima—we have, if not the full story, a very good picture of modern war. In a concluding chapter on the war of the future he brings us right up to date with Korea, the Congo, Kuwait and the Brunei rebellion.

The lessons Major Laffin draws could almost be called the ten commandments of generalship. Breitenfeld showed the need for discipline, energy and planning; Blenheim the value of aggressive spirit and the taking of opportunities. At Leuthen, Frederick the Great, setting a new pattern, demonstrated

what a numerically inferior force could achieve through mobility and, at Austerlitz, Napoleon showed how the lessons of the past could be used.

Albuhera illustrated what could be done by sheer guts, and Vicksburg, in the American Civil War, was an exercise in patience. Cambrai placed the tank firmly on the equipment list, and Crete gave valuable lessons in airborne warfare. The Owen Stanleys takes us into the field of jungle warfare and the "one-man front," and Iwo Jima into that of combined operations.

All Major Laffin's points stand up to examination, but although he refers to the value of camouflage, the abandonment of bearskins and busbies, scarlet and gold in favour of khaki, grey-green and brown would perhaps have been worthy of closer study. This change transformed the soldier from a "sore thumb" to part of the landscape. The switch of uniform colouring may not be as important as the introduction of the tank or the machine-gun but it certainly changed the complexion of "the face of war."

J C W

NO LOW BODY OF MEN

A LOW body of men, very few old, in- differently clean under arms," said a report on a new battalion of The Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1756. That "low body of men" was to ride high. Today it is The Durham Light Infantry, a regiment with a doughty record of service, a respectable number of battle honours, and 11 Victoria Crosses to its credit.

"Faithful: The Story of the Durham Light Infantry" (Nelson, 50s) is an admirably written account of those 200 years by S G P Ward, a distinguished historian unconnected with either Regiment or county.

The new battalion was shortly to become the 68th or Durham Regiment of Foot. Yet its blood-tie with the county was for long a thin one. It was not until 1806-9 that it contained a proportion of Durham men worth noting, and this was not to occur again until the end of the 19th century when the county connection was deliberately cultivated.

In 1758 the Regiment fired its first shots, in raids on the French coast. Then it had three tours in the West Indies where it was "shattered" three times by sickness and fighting. After the last of these tours, the Regiment was built up with young recruits and trained as Light Infantry, following the success of Sir John Moore's brigade.

Its first action in its new role was in the Wal-

cheren expedition, but it really came into its own in the Peninsula, where it established its reputation and was reported in the final battles to have fought "with its usual vivacity." By the 1840s, The Durham Light Infantry had become a fashionable regiment, able to pick and choose its officers, secure in its fame and discipline. It upheld its dignity worthily in the Crimea, campaigned in New Zealand, and on the way established the first regimental magazine in a Line regiment.

In 1874 it was linked with the 106th Bombay Light Infantry, formed 35 years earlier as a regiment of the Honourable East India Company. This was to become the 2nd Battalion. In World War One the Regiment raised 43 battalions, of which 22 served abroad. Its growth was not so large in World War Two but it fathered new battalions plus searchlight, Royal Armoured Corps, anti-aircraft and beach group units.

The 1st Battalion was in action again in Korea but was back in County Durham in 1958 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of its independent existence as the 68th. Its two Territorial battalions were on parade, and two Territorial anti-aircraft regiments and a Territorial parachute battalion with memories of a Durham Light Infantry past were also represented. It was no "low body" that paraded that day.

R L E



The National Bank at Amritsar after the rioting.

BLACK SUNDAY

ON the afternoon of Sunday, 13 April, 1919, a large gathering of unarmed Indians squatted in the Jallianwala Bagh, an enclosed area in the Punjabi city of Amritsar, listening to a speaker gesticulating on a platform. Unrest was widespread in India's northern provinces and only three days earlier, in Amritsar itself, some European civilians had been murdered during local riots. That very morning a proclamation had been read at beat of drum prohibiting all meetings and assemblies in Amritsar on pain of dispersal by arms.

When news of the gathering reached Brigadier-General R E H Dyer, commanding troops in the area, he moved to the Jallianwala Bagh with 90 men. There, without warning, he lined up 50 riflemen and opened fire on the assembled throng, who had no means of escape other than from four or five tiny exits, all less than five feet wide.

Fire was deliberately directed wherever the crowd appeared to be thickest and was sustained for ten minutes until the firing party's ammunition ran low. Dyer then ceased fire and marched his men off, leaving 379 Indians dead and 1200 wounded, and making no effort whatsoever to succour the latter.

In "Massacre at Amritsar" (Allen and Unwin, 25s), Rupert Furneaux provides a well-documented but somewhat disjointed and repetitive account of the slaughter. Unlike Dyer's biographer, Ian Colvin, the author makes an obvious effort to be impartial, but nevertheless leaves the reader unconvinced.

"I fired and continued to fire until the crowd dispersed, and I consider this is the least amount of firing which would produce the necessary moral and widespread effect it was my duty to produce if I was to justify my action." So said Dyer on 25 August, 1919. This statement branded him in the eyes of millions as an inhuman monster. On the other hand, many thought his drastic action had saved a second Indian Mutiny, and when he was retired on half pay a fund raised for his benefit reached over £26,000. That he was a gallant soldier with a hitherto fine record was disputed by none.

Amritsar provided the starting gun for the Indian Congress to begin its struggle for independence, a process which scarcely 28 years later was complete.

D H C

FORTNIGHT IN A CUPBOARD

HEAD of that magnificent team of officers and men of the Royal Army Medical Corps which flew into Arnhem on 17 September, 1944, with the 1st Airborne Division, was Colonel Graeme Warrack. He set off on what was meant to be a 48-hour operation. For him it lasted nearly five months, of which nine days were spent in bloody battle and the rest in captivity and escape.

He now tells his story in "Travel by Dark" (Harvill, 21s), a modest and factual personal account of determined devotion to duty and cheerful endurance. Some of it is already known from other accounts of the Arnhem battle, but there are new details. It was the author who went to the German headquarters to negotiate the evacuation of the Division's wounded and received the hos-

pitality and co-operation of the enemy—and a supply of much-needed morphia—while the battle still raged.

When the fighting at Arnhem was over, the author commanded the temporary hospital which was set up for wounded British prisoners in the Dutch barracks at Apeldoorn, and arranged escape for patients and medical staff as the situation permitted. His own turn came when the last of the patients and staff were to be evacuated to Germany.

In a space 18 inches wide, three feet high and 12 feet long, above a cupboard in his own bedroom, the author hid himself to await the arrival of the Allied armies. One night, he shared the room with a German officer who slept peacefully, unaware that a British colonel lay a few feet away.

After 14 weakening days in his hideout, Colonel Warrack eluded the German guards and in due

course came into the hands of the Dutch Resistance, an organisation for which he has the highest praise.

The rest is a more orthodox but still exciting escape story. The author was one of a large party which the Resistance tried to ferry across the Rhine but which ran into German patrols and was split, with the result that he had to go back into hiding. He peeled large quantities of potatoes for his hosts and reckoned that on a Royal Army Medical Corps colonel's pay he must have been one of the most highly paid "spud-bashers" in the world.

Finally he reached the British lines by canoe in a breath-takingly tense trip during which two companions had to be left behind for later rescue because their craft sprang a leak.

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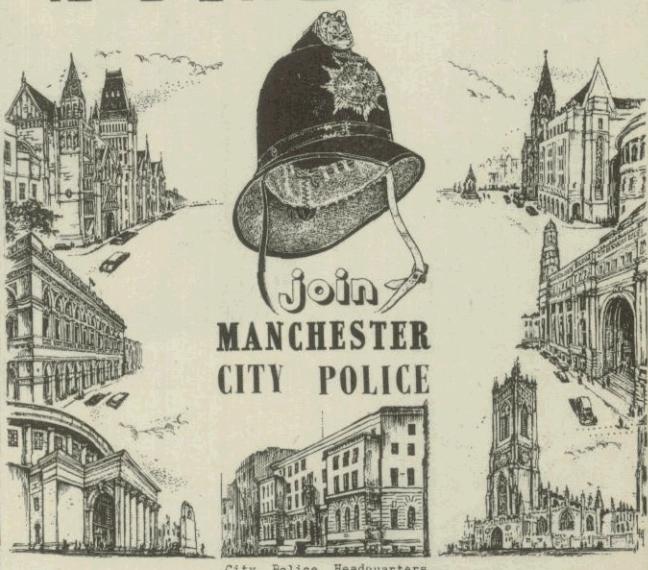
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