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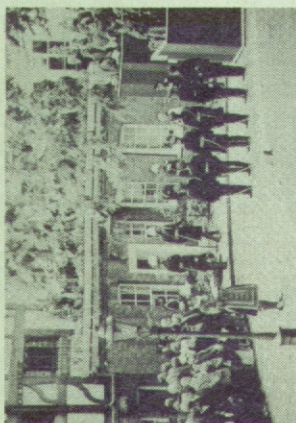
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FRONT COVER

Corporal Brian Wilson, from 24 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, gives a protective injection to a little Indian girl not far from Holdfast Camp in up-country Belize. Brian, attached to 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, for their six-month tour, is one of a group of Army medics who have been helping to fight disease among local Indian families.

Picture by Paul Haley.



BACK COVER

Field-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker returns to the Queen's House at the Tower of London after his installation as Constable of the Tower. A guard of honour was found by King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, and 2nd (Baker) Battery of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery. A detachment of the Honourable Artillery Company and the Yeoman Warders were also on parade.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs.

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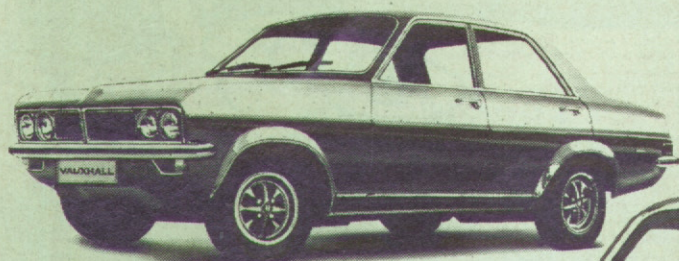
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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

APRIL 1976

- 24 Freedom of Delyn (Clwyd), The Royal Welch Fusiliers.
- 24 Presentation new Colours, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Gloucester.
- 25 Laying up old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Gloucester Cathedral.

MAY 1976

- 3 Bridgend (Glamorgan) Army Exhibition (3-5 May) (Parachute Regiment "Red Devils" freefall team; Royal Signals "White Helmets" motorcycle display team; band).
- 7 Swansea Army Display (7-9 May) (Red Devils, White Helmets, Royal Military Police "Red Caps" mounted display team; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery; band).
- 12 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 13 Devon County Show, Exeter (13-15 May) (band).
- 14 Biggin Hill International Air Fair (14-16 May).
- 15 Boldon (Co Durham) British Legion Festival (band).
- 15 Medway Steam Fair, Gillingham (15-16 May) (arena event; band).
- 15 South Suffolk Show, Bury St Edmunds (Red Caps; band).
- 17 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (17-18 May) (Red Devils; band).
- 19 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 19 West Midland Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (19-20 May) (White Helmets).
- 19 Birmingham Careers Exhibition (19-21 May) (Royal Green Jackets freefall team; band).
- 21 Warrington Army Display (21-23 May) (Junior Parachute Company "Pegasus" gymnastic team; Red Devils; Red Caps; White Helmets; five bands).
- 22 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Show (Royal Corps of Transport "Silver Stars" freefall team).
- 22 Oxford Federation Young Farmers Agricultural Show, Oxford (Army Air Corps "Blue Eagles" helicopter display team; Royal Army Ordnance Corps "Cannonballs" freefall team; band).
- 26 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 29 Tidworth Tattoo and Fair (29-31 May).
- 29 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 29 Combined Cadet Tattoo, Gosport (29-31 May).
- 29 Glasgow Army Display (29 May-13 June) (Scottish Division "Golden Lions" freefall team; White Helmets 6-13 May; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 29 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band).
- 29 Worcester City Show (29-31 May) (band).
- 29 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (29-31 May) (Red Devils; Blue Eagles 29 May; White Helmets; five bands).
- 30 Currington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (Cannonballs; band).
- 31 Southam (Warwickshire) Carnival (JLR RA PT display; band).
- 31 Selby Carnival (band).
- 31 Surrey County Show, Guildford (arena event; band).
- 31 Pershore (Worcestershire) Show (RGJ freefall).
- 31 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (arena event; band).
- 31 Oulton Broad Fête (arena event).
- 31 Watford Borough Carnival (arena event; band).
- 31 Dunstable Fête and Carnival (arena event; band).

JUNE 1976

- 1 Household Division massed bands beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (1-3 June).
- 2 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 2 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (2-3 June) (Red Devils; band).
- 4 Ripon Weekend (4-6 June) (band).
- 5 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 5 36 Engineer Regiment freedom march, Maidstone.
- 5 Stanley (Co Durham) Community Centre Show (band).

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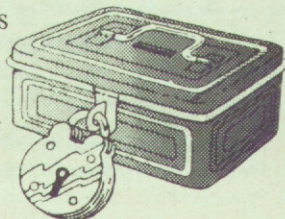
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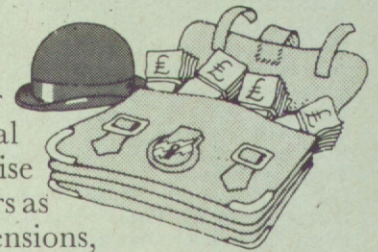


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DIARY continued

- 6 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse (Golden Lions; displays; bands).
- 7 Coventry Carnival (JLR RA PT display; band).
- 9 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 12 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 12 Branksome, Darlington, School Fair (band).
- 12 Wolverhampton Fiesta (Red Devils).
- 12 Ilkley Show (band).
- 12 Nuneaton Carnival (band).
- 12 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (Red Devils; band).
- 12 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (Pegasus).
- 12 Kings Lynn Round Table Carnival (Silver Stars; band).
- 16 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 18 Beating Retreat (Army Benevolent Fund), Weston Park, Staffordshire (five bands).
- 19 Royal Engineers At Home, Barton Stacey.
- 19 Open Day, Light Infantry, Shrewsbury, (Blue Eagles; RGJ freefall).
- 19 Scunthorpe Families Day (19-20 June) (band).
- 19 Leighton Linsdale (Bedfordshire) Carnival (Pegasus; junior band).
- 19 Rainham (Kent) Spectacular (band).
- 19 South Tyneside Sports Week (band).
- 19 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
- 21 British Army Equipment Exhibition, Aldershot (21-23 June).
- 23 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 23 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (White Helmets; Blue Eagles; two bands).
- 25 Aldershot Army Display (25-27 June) (Red Devils; bands).
- 26 Lord Mayor's Parade, Cardiff (two bands).
- 26 Rushden (Northamptonshire) Show (arena event).
- 26 Chesterfield Borough Carnival (Silver Stars; White Helmets).
- 26 Cardiff Military Exhibition (26 June-1 July) (band).
- 30 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 30 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (30 June-1 July) (Silver Stars; two bands).

JULY 1976

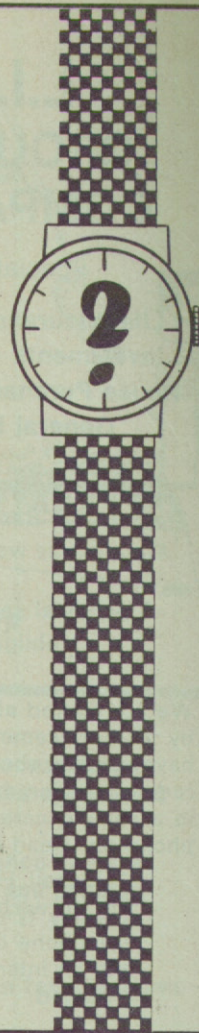
- 1 Plymouth Army Week (1-3 July) (two bands).
- 2 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (2-3 July).
- 2 Hook, Goole, Gala (2-4 July) (band).
- 2 Newport (Monmouthshire) Military Display (2-4 July) (Red Devils, band).
- 3 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 3 National Military Historic Vehicles Rally, Winkfield, Berkshire (3-4 July) (band).
- 3 Aveling and Barford Show, Grantham (Silver Stars).
- 3 Eynsham (Oxfordshire) Carnival (arena event).
- 4 Leeds Horse Show (band).
- 5 Bedmond (Hertfordshire) Village Fête (Silver Stars).
- 7 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 9 Catterick Army Display (9-11 July) (White Helmets; Red Devils; Pegasus; ten bands).
- 9 Southampton Show (9-11 July) (Red Caps; band).
- 10 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 10 Bedford Regatta (Red Devils; band).
- 10 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 10 Pudsey, Leeds, Show (band).
- 14 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 14 Royal Tournament, Earls Court (14-31 July).
- 15 Liverpool Show (15-17 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; band).
- 16 Cheltenham Tattoo (16-17 July).
- 16 Corby (Lincolnshire) Show (16-17 July) (Queen's Division junior PT team; three bands).
- 17 Masham (Yorkshire) Traction Rally (17-18 July) (band).
- 17 Hatfield Carnival (band).
- 17 Beaumont School Fête, St Albans (junior display, junior band).
- 19 Cleveland Army Week (19-23 July) (two bands).
- 20 East of England Show, Peterborough (20-22 July) (Pegasus; Red Caps; Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Blue Eagles; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery; band).
- 21 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 22 Manchester Show (22-24 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; band).
- 22 St Helens Show (22-24 July) (Red Devils; two bands).
- 22 Bournemouth Fiesta (22-24 July) (Silver Stars; band).
- 22 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 22 Deal Regatta (22-24 July) (freefall; band).
- 23 Northampton Show (23-25 July) (Red Caps; Cannonballs; two bands).
- 25 Cleveland County Show (two bands).
- 27 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (27-31 July) (two bands).
- 28 Driffeld (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 30 Hull Show (30-31 July) (band).
- 31 Edinburgh Army Display (31 July-8 August) (Golden Lions; Blue Eagles 2-6 August; band; pipes and drums).

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An updated list of SOLDIER's reader services on page 12 of this issue reflects price increases in some items and small additions in postage to "elsewhere" addresses necessitated by the Post Office's latest overseas increases.

The six new Stadden prints are listed and all recent additions to the range of regimental drum ice buckets — South Alberta Horse and Liverpool Scottish (added November), 4th Royal Tank Regiment (December) and now The Dorsetshire Regiment, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles and The North Irish Militia (4th Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers). There are now 100 designs from which to choose.

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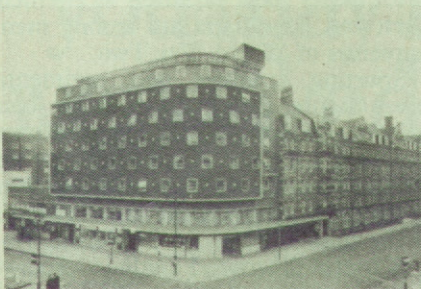
On page 42 of this issue is a new price list covering photographic prints obtainable from SOLDIER. This is the first increase since June 1973 — the previous one was in January 1970 — and takes into account current postal charges and cost of photographic paper.

SOLDIER cannot supply prints of other than its own pictures but is happy, when required, to give details of where non-SOLDIER can be obtained.

★

The record "Marches Militaires Américaines" (Music des Gardiens de la Paix de Paris) (Disques Serp MC 7027B), reviewed in October, is produced by Disques SERP, 6 Rue de Beaune, 75007 Paris, France.

THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB



Have you heard of the Victory Services Club and what excellent value it gives? The club, which is situated in the heart of the West End of London — only two minutes from Marble Arch — offers extremely good facilities to all ranks, both serving and ex-service, including the Women's Services, their wives and their husbands for an Annual membership fee of only £3 (excluding VAT) This is less than 1p per day.

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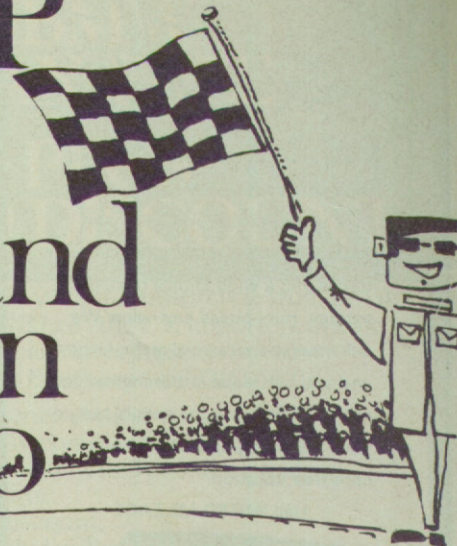
We also have fully licenced bars, dining rooms and cafeteria, comfortable lounges and television room etc.

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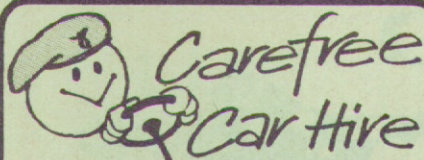
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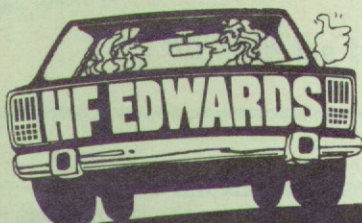
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Military Museums: 36

The King's Shropshire Light Infantry

MORE than 200 years of service in all parts of the world are proudly—and affectionately—recalled in this typical regimental museum housed in the Keep of Sir John Moore Barracks, Shrewsbury. Three regiments are concerned: The King's Shropshire Light Infantry and its two mid-18th century forebears, the 53rd Shropshire Regiment and the 85th King's Light Infantry.

A feature of the museum is its fine collection of Colours, notably the Colour of the James City Light Infantry captured by the 85th at the battle of Bladensburg (1814) which preceded the storming and capture of the Capitol and other government buildings in Washington. The staff carried by the bugle-major when the 85th burned the White House can also be seen. There are the Colours borne by the 53rd throughout the War of American Independence, three sets belonging to the 85th covering the period 1819–1860 and the 53rd's Colours carried during the Sutlej campaign and Indian Mutiny.

The portable field canteen of silver plates, cutlery and flasks used by General Viscount Hill at Waterloo and the royal Standard he carried at the funeral of William IV are mementoes of a famous son of the regiment—Lord Hill served as a lieutenant in the 53rd in 1793 and 24 years later became its colonel.

One of the oldest items is the bell of the Ville de Paris, once the flagship of the French fleet but in 1783 serving as a British trooper with the 85th on board homeward bound from the West Indies—a voyage destined never to be completed. The ship foundered off Newfoundland, taking with her 300 officers and men.

A collection of regimental badges, insignia and lace includes sealed patterns of KSLI badges and buttons and a piece of the 53rd's original brick-red facing cloth. It was this red facing worn on a scarlet jacket that earned the regiment its nickname of "The Old Brickdusts" and which caused Napoleon to refer to it as "The Red Regiment."

Of the various items of dress the most noteworthy are two coatees worn by the 53rd's regimental surgeon, Colonel Pollok, while serving in India in the early 19th century. Both are in exceptionally good condition and can be seen with the colonel's swords, cocked hat, shoe buckles and a handsome gold cup presented to him in 1817 as a tribute to his services to the regiment and his "eminent professional acquirements." His treatment books, preserved in the museum library, throw much light on the difficulties of soldiering in India 150 years ago.

The museum has two of the regi-

ment's ten Victoria Crosses, both won at Lucknow by Lieutenant A Ffrench and Private C Irwin, and some examples of the not-often-seen Hong Kong Plague Medal. During an outbreak of the plague in the colony in 1894, 1st Battalion, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, volunteered to bury the dead and disinfect houses. In recognition of this the Hong Kong government presented every officer with a gold medal and every soldier with a silver one. Among other interesting medals are Brigadier E A Wood's Distinguished Service Order with three bars and the World War One Military Cross won by Regimental Sergeant-Major Moore, believed to be the first MC awarded to a warrant officer.

Souvenirs of service in India include two rare brass badges of office (circa 1840) worn by commanding officers' peons (native messengers), the oval badge of a paymaster's peon (circa 1878) and, for protection against the Indian sun, an officer's embroidered spine pad.

World War One relics include the battle-scarred remains of a Lewis gun gallantly manned by men of the 7th Battalion in the Ypres salient, and the candle-lantern used by the 1st Battalion medical officer. Three Nazi headquarter flags captured at Bremen, Caen and Panettaria are among many souvenirs of World War Two.

Sporting trophies and regimental silver figure prominently. Less conspicuously displayed but not to be overlooked is a lock of Napoleon's hair cut off as a souvenir by Captain Poppleton, of the 53rd, who was his orderly officer at the time of death on St Helena.

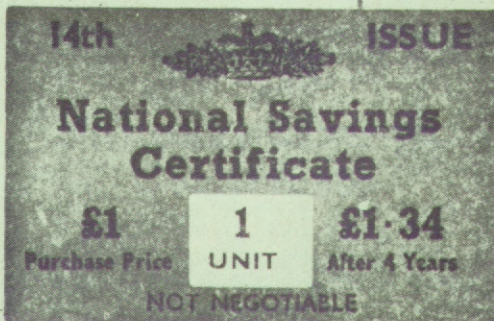
A useful illustrated guide incorporating a short history of the KSLI is available to visitors.

John Jesse

Curator: Mr Maurice E Jones
Address: KSLI Regimental Museum
Sir John Moore Barracks
Cophorne
Shrewsbury
Telephone: Shrewsbury 4427 ext 271
Open: Monday to Friday, 1000 to 1200
and 1400 to 1600
Closed: Saturday, Sunday and public
holidays. Parties welcome by
arrangement
Admission: Free
Amenities: Car park
To get there: Bus S13 from Barker Street bus
station to the barrack gate.

Next month:
The Light Infantry Museum

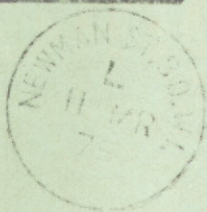
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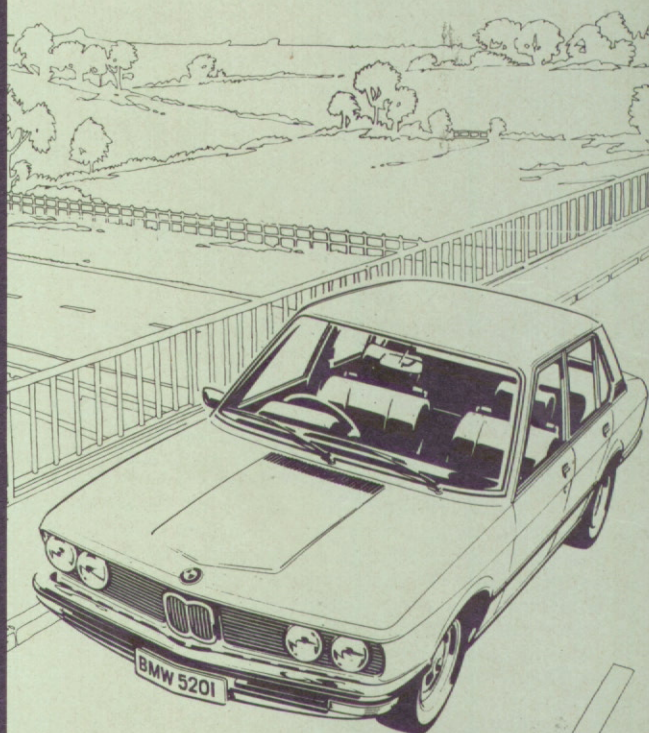
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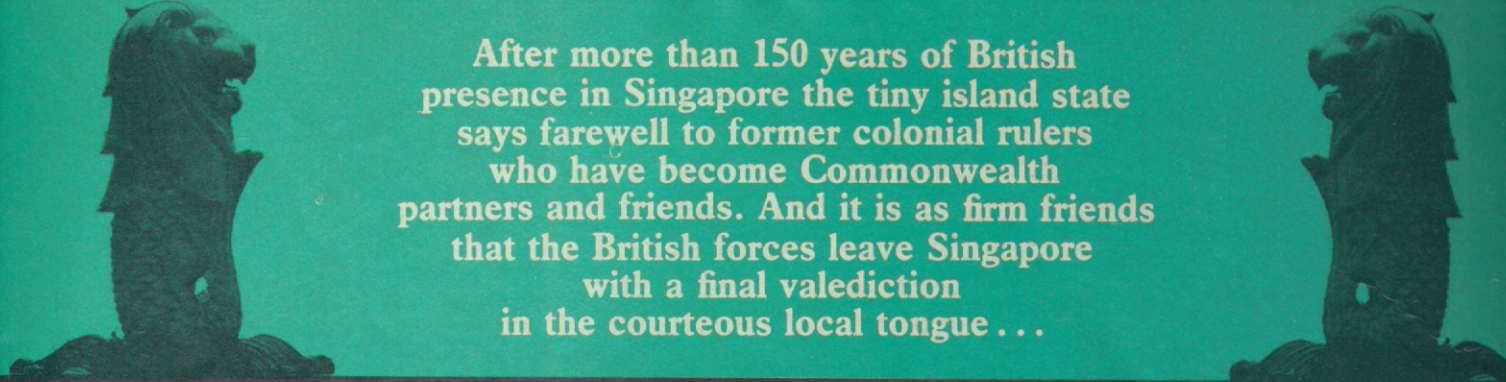
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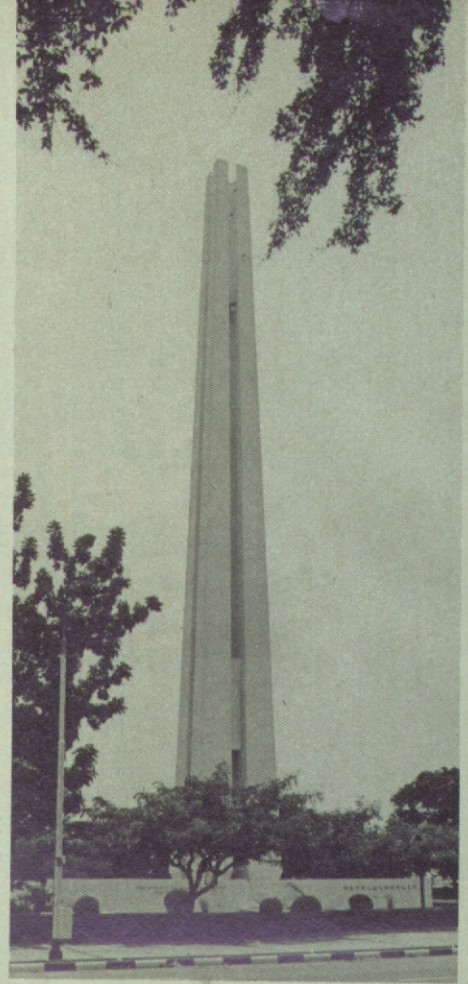


After more than 150 years of British presence in Singapore the tiny island state says farewell to former colonial rulers who have become Commonwealth partners and friends. And it is as firm friends that the British forces leave Singapore with a final valediction in the courteous local tongue . . .

Selamat Jalan – Selamat Tingal Singapura

Story by Mike Starke Pictures by Leslie Wiggs





Above left: The world-famous Raffles Hotel named after Singapore's founder—memento of bygone colonial days.

A giant war memorial points a finger to the sky as a reminder of the way the city suffered during the occupation.

Left: Naturally the British brought cricket with them. The pavilion and pitch are now dwarfed by skyscrapers.

ALTHOUGH our settlement here has not been established more than four months," wrote Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of the British colony of Singapore in 1819, "everyone is comfortably housed, provisions are in abundance, the troops healthy and everything bearing the appearance of content."

Were this enterprising East India Company official to return to the now-independent Singapore today he could pen the same words to describe the happy and prosperous little state thriving on an island the size and shape of the Isle of Wight some 80 miles from the Equator at the southernmost tip of the Malaysian peninsula. Or almost the same words. For the "appearance of content" is tinged with sadness as the last remnants of Britain's once enormous military presence in Singapore dwindle to nothing in a withdrawal brought about by British defence cuts and due to be completed by the end of March.

The short, sharp winter monsoon thunderstorms crackled their own sonnet of farewell to the departing troops as SOLDIER witnessed the last stages in the rundown. A sense of vacuum pervaded the once-teeming mili-

tary cantonments now virtually untenanted or being handed over to the smart young servicemen of the Singapore Armed Forces who will now bear the full responsibility for the defence of their prosperous republic.

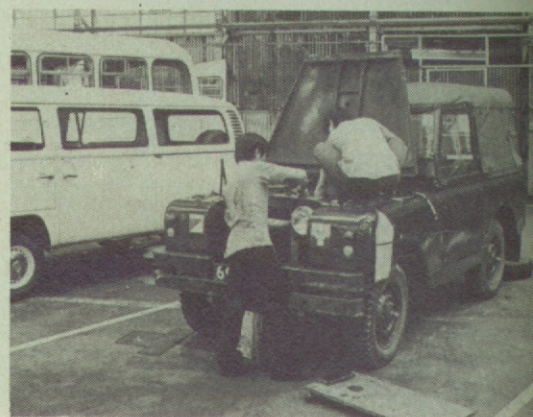
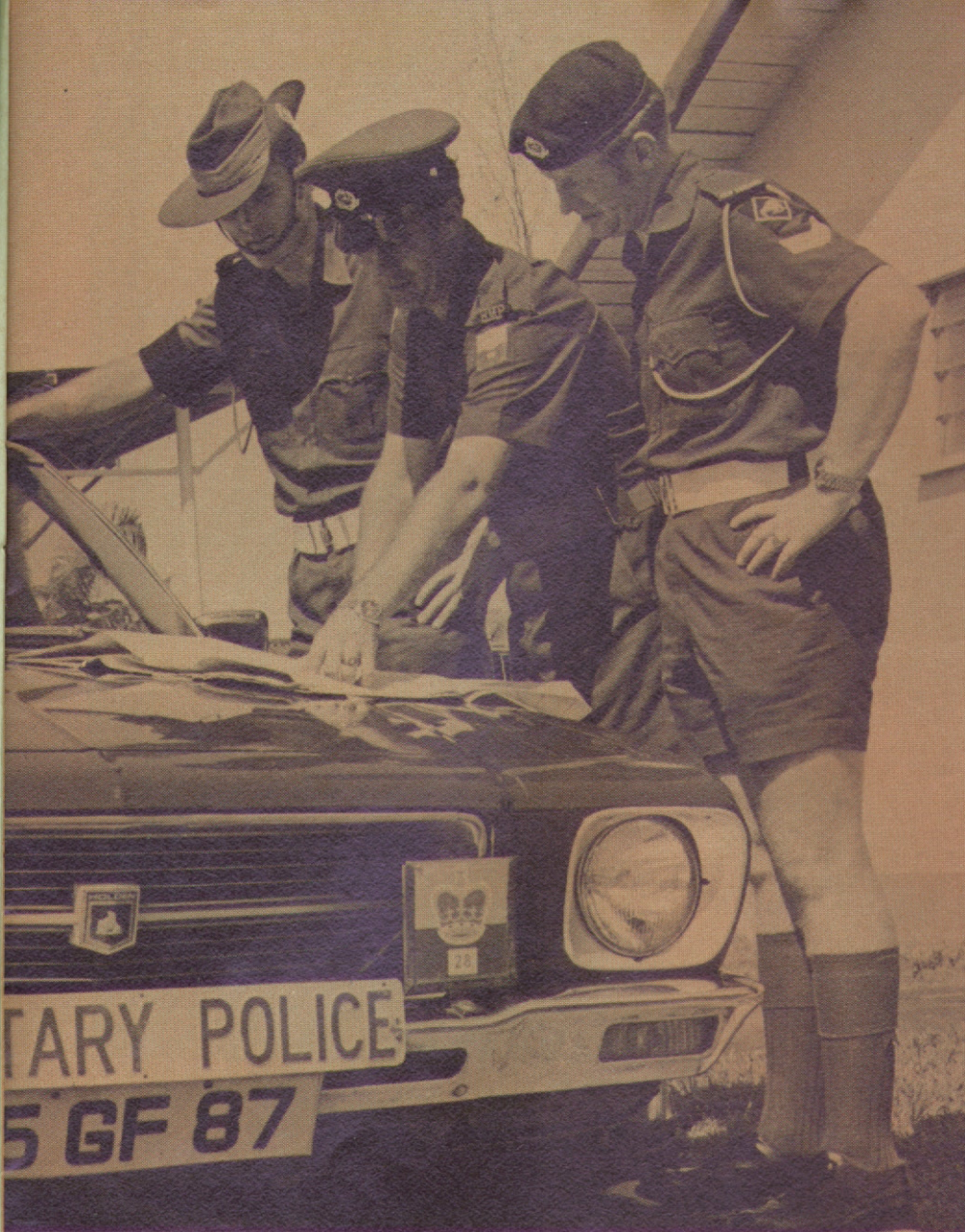
Unlike the hasty and sometimes bloody withdrawals from other colonies, the departure from Singapore has been a carefully planned and orderly operation geared to take place over a period of some eight months. The keynote for all three British Services has been to emulate the setting sun and "sink slowly in the West" with the minimum of fuss. The last Royal Navy task group of a destroyer, five frigates and three Royal Fleet Auxiliaries passed through Singapore in late October 1975 in the wake of the island's guardship HMS Mermaid which steamed away on the first of the month. It is as a strong naval base that Singapore will be best remembered.

The Royal Air Force's 103 Helicopter Squadron of Wessex aircraft departed on 1 August 1975, leaving a signals unit responsible for communications up to the last and a busy movements staff at RAF Tengah to handle the shuttle of transport flights ferrying servicemen and their families to new postings.

The Army, whose influence wielded from Singapore once covered all commitments in the Far East, was represented by the remnants of a variety of units whose skills were essential right up to the end of the withdrawal. But the once massive sprawl of bases and quarters at Ayer Rajah in the south of the island and the transit camp at Nee Soon, whose Meerut Square felt the tread of thousand upon thousand of boots as troops came and went, no longer flew the Union Flag. With room to spare, the last few of the many were housed in the naval basin area in the north and in the airy quarters of the HMS Terror shore base.

A rueful Major Barney Cottam, adjutant of 28 Admin Support Unit, charged with the co-ordination of the Army withdrawal, commented: "Once the Gordon Highlanders have gone, we're down to tens rather than hundreds here." The Gordons' 1st Battalion was the last "teeth arm" unit in Singapore and the last British unit to occupy Nee Soon Barracks. With 1st Battalion, The Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, the Gordons formed the backbone of 28th Infantry Brigade on the island.

At the start of their two-year accom-



Above: Two aspects of work in the REME workshops. Civilians make seat covers and repair a Land-Rover.

Left: A three-man patrol brings MPs from Australia, New Zealand and the UK together—soon the RMP leave.

panied tour, the Gordons had no idea they would close a chapter of Army history as the last British infantrymen in Singapore. The 2nd Battalion was there when the island fell to the Japanese in World War Two; the 1st Battalion passed through in 1951 and 1952 during the Malayan Emergency and again later during the Borneo Confrontation.

The emphasis was on jungle warfare training during the last two years with excellent opportunities just two hours away across the Johore Straits in West Malaysian "ulu" — the local word for jungle which is a legacy of years of service in Singapore and Malaya and irrevocably established in the British soldier's vocabulary.

One of the biggest losses to the Army in the withdrawal from Singapore is the School of Infantry's Jungle Warfare Wing which closed early in the run-down. The lessons learned during 12 years of the Malayan Emergency became an international textbook of jungle operations and were taught by the Jungle Warfare School, first in Malaysia itself and from 1971 in Singa-

For the service corps elements of the Army in Singapore the pull-out was not just a matter of shutting up shop and

shipping personnel home. They benefited from past experience of a major withdrawal in 1971 after which, for three years, a compact ANZUK Commonwealth tri-Service force of Australians, New Zealanders and Britons operated from Singapore. In 1974 Australia withdrew from ANZUK; in the same year New Zealand set up its own national force presence and is expected to stay in Singapore for at least another two years. Currently it is represented by an infantry battalion and a squadron of Bristol freighters and Iroquois helicopters. Australian ships will still call at the naval base and the RAF station at Tengah will be home to a detachment of Mirage jets from a squadron based in Malaysia.

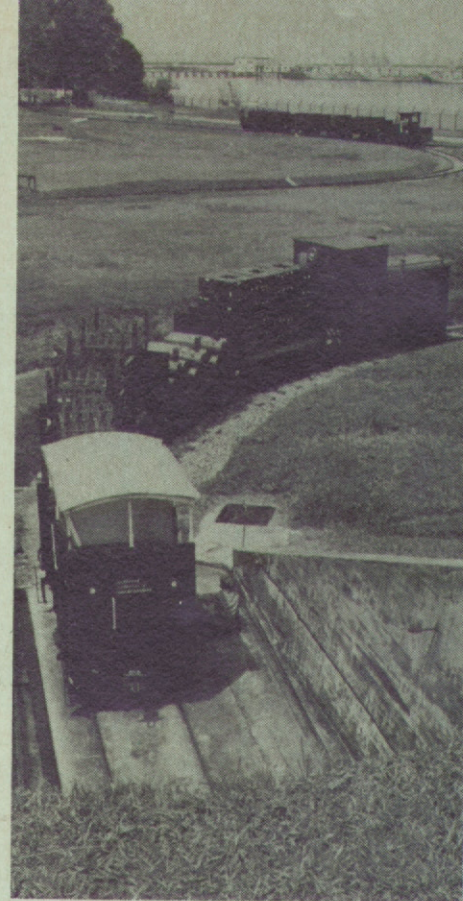
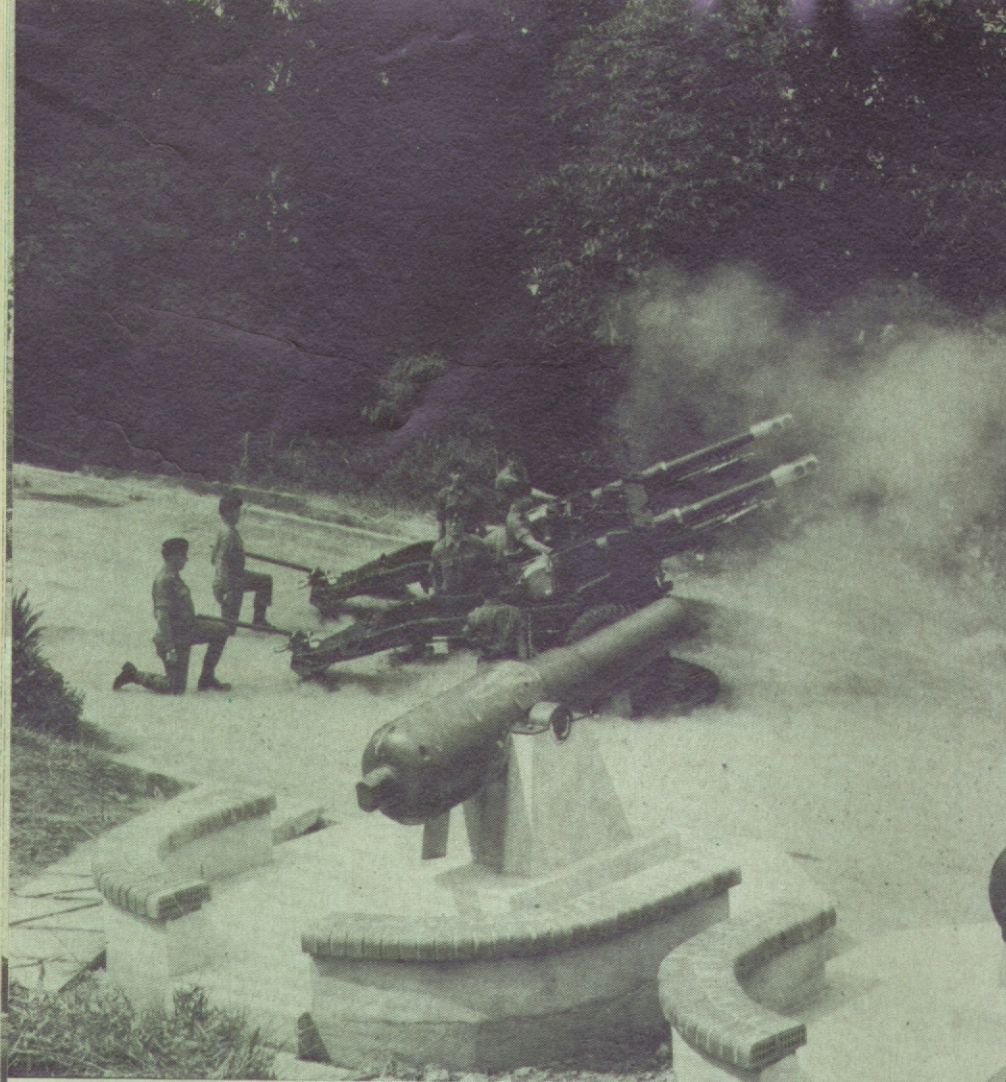
Major Cottam said: "The biggest group of Army personnel left is Ordnance Services Singapore who have to do all the final wrapping up and hand-over." Probably the largest ordnance depot in the world was that at Ayer Rajah in the old days, he added. In charge of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps' last task in Singapore was Lieutenant-Colonel Colin Rogers who remembers what it was like from a previous posting: "There were a lot more of us, of course, and this meant a lot

more life and activity. The great thing I recall was the vastness of the installations."

"In those days this was the empire of 3 Base Ordnance Depot, set up after World War Two. Eventually its stores were spread throughout the island, holding matériel for all the Far East as well as maintaining ammunition and vehicle depots. The withdrawal brought a shift of emphasis and one of the main jobs became the redeployment of stores to Hong Kong and the United Kingdom and local disposal of the residue. Lieutenant-Colonel Rogers added: "One major problem has been the question of handing over married quarters to the Singapore authorities after we had taken them over from their British tenants. This was done at a rate of 300 a month for three months. We set up a special system to cope with this and it has kept us very busy."

He also voiced the universal praise for the local civilian workers: "Here we have some 400 civilians, many of whom have been with us for 30 years. They are very loyal and have stuck with us throughout. In an organisation like this we couldn't function without them."

One group of soldiers, of 35 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, planned



Left: 1 Light Battery (The Blazers) fire 25-pr guns which they refurbished.

Above: Train loaded with ammunition beginning the long journey back to the United Kingdom. Pictures by JSPRS.

A member of the staff of 28th Infantry Brigade, Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Pennell, has made a study of Singapore's military history. He gave *SOLDIER* these facts from his notes:

Looked at from the points of view of all three Services, Singapore has been best known as a naval base. But it is evident that troops were garrisoned there from the earliest days of the colony founded by Sir Stamford Raffles on behalf of the East India Company in early 1819. The garrison was never very large in the early days and a local force was raised, officered by Britons from the Indian Army as well as from England.

The mighty naval base was planned in 1923 and the first stage finished in 1936. By then the Army in Malaya and Singapore had built up considerably and from 1939 onwards the reinforcement of the garrison was undertaken as a definite exercise. By 1941 this was 3 Indian Corps comprising two divisions. By the time of the Japanese invasion on 7 December 1941, 3 Corps included 8th Australian Division, Singapore Fortress and 12th Independent Infantry Brigade. Then 18th Division came in as reinforcement, making 88,500 British, Australian, Indian and Malay troops who surrendered on 15 February 1942. Japanese strength was estimated at 60,000 although the Japanese themselves claimed their forces to be half that figure.

After the war the reoccupation and invasion was planned as part of South-East Asia Command's advance against the Japanese and was due to take place at the time the atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and then Nagasaki. The Japanese surrender forestalled an opposed landing on Singapore.

Between 1945 and 1946, operations were mounted in Indonesia, Thailand and French Indo-China (Vietnam) from General Headquarters in Singapore. In 1948 the Malayan Emergency brought about a gradual build-up of the Singapore garrison with troops for the

mainland funnelling through the island. At the emergency's peak some 17 battalions were deployed, eight of them Gurkha battalions, and into the fifties National Servicemen came and went through Singapore. Given independence in 1951, Singapore became one of the federated states of Malaysia on 16 September 1963 but seceded from the federation by mutual consent on 9 August 1965 to become a republic and a full member of the Commonwealth in her own right.

The total of troops in Singapore during the Borneo Confrontation from 1962 to 1966 rose again considerably to cope with this new crisis. Afterwards the forces were reduced and a change of government in Britain in 1967 brought the decision to withdraw East of Suez. This policy was all but achieved by 1971. Another policy change led to the setting up of the ANZUK force representing Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom so a British presence remained on the island although withdrawal from Malaysia was complete.

The latest defence review decreed a total withdrawal from Singapore which is due to be completed by 31 March 1976.

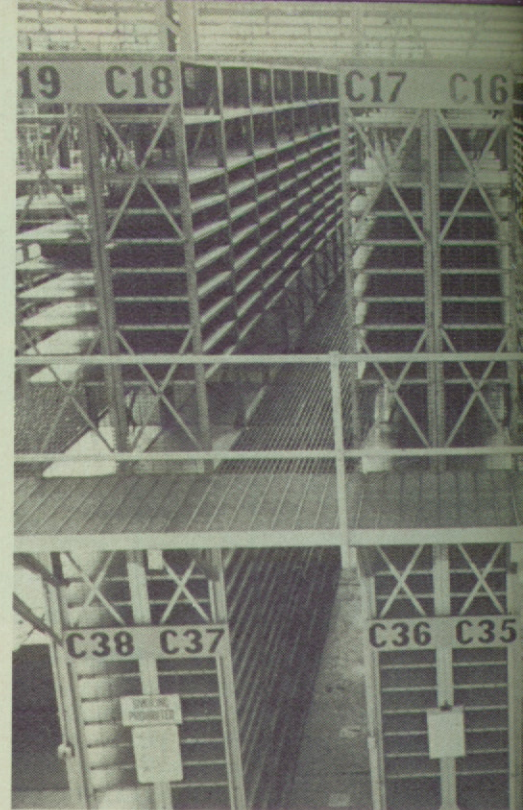
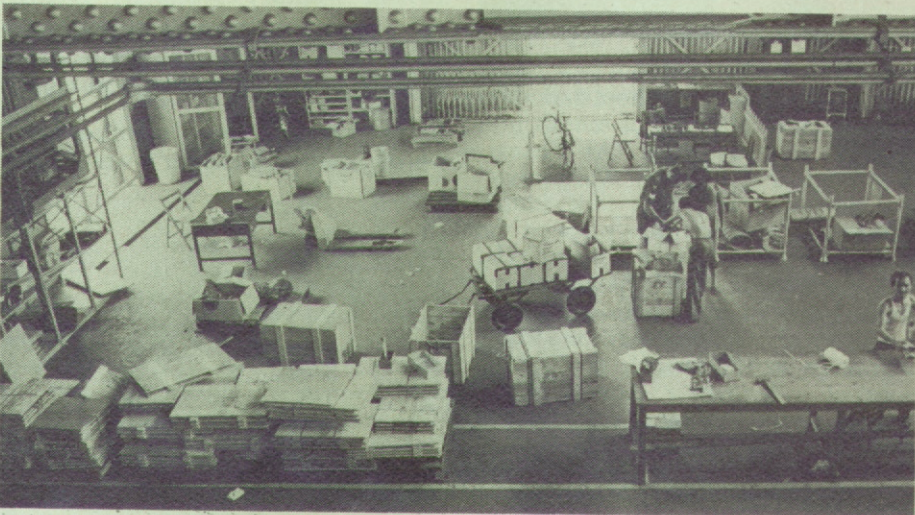
The 28th Infantry Brigade in Singapore was formed in 1949 to reinforce Hong Kong. It served in Korea as a Commonwealth brigade from 1951 to 1955 and moved to North Malaya in 1956, then to Singapore in 1970. Australia withdrew by 1974 and New Zealand set up her own national force in Singapore in the same year so the brigade became solely British from 1 February 1974. It now ceases to exist, coinciding with the abolition of the brigade level of command in the British Army. General Headquarters Singapore was the headquarters for the whole Far East with Hong Kong under command until 1971. The Jungle Warfare School was in Malaya until 1971 having been formed there in 1949. For the last four years it was based in Singapore as a wing of the School of Infantry.

a two-and-a-half-month overland route home, using two military Volkswagen minibuses. Adventure training exercise Tinker's Tale took the eight-man team, with three members from other units, by sea to India before starting the long haul by road through Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Austria and Germany.

Meanwhile the remainder of the squadron kept Singapore's servicemen and their families on the move right up until the end of the month. Although 35 Squadron had operated for only a year following the break-up of ANZUK, its vehicles travelled some 1,250,000 miles in everything from its fleet of military school buses, now destined for Hong Kong, to its Australian General Motors Holden staff cars as well as Land-Rovers, minibuses, four-ton lorries and ambulances.

The squadron commander, Major Tony Todd, was on his third tour in Singapore and during his total of six or seven years on the island had married a local girl. What impressions does he take away with him? "Singapore food is wonderful and will never change despite the rapid progress the country is making. Traffic problems are worse now and that aspect of life is getting difficult to live with. In as little as two years the whole vista of the city has changed with all the high-rise buildings — I've got lost here after being away for a few years."

Working close to 35 Squadron in the last days was a single Royal Electrical



Above left: Next stage for the cases of ammunition—transfer to a Royal Fleet Auxiliary for backloading to the UK.

Above: Row upon row of racks which used to be jammed with stores and equipment—now completely empty.

Left: A packing nightmare nears its completion. The Ordnance stores already have a bare appearance.

and Mechanical Engineers workshop, remnant of a once-mighty organisation based at Ayer Rajah in the old days. In charge was Major Stan Swain who will remember Singapore as a good posting from a family point of view with plenty for children to do, plenty of sport and good accommodation. "Singapore is the shop of the world. You can get everything here you want and it's handy for Malaysia for holidays by the sea."

Shopkeepers take pride in their work and give customers the service that in the western world is now a fond memory. The traditional bargaining over a price — intimidating to a newcomer used to price-tags at home — soon becomes a way of life and the proof of customer satisfaction among servicemen is proudly evidenced on Singapore's little side-street stalls in the form of plaques from ships and units with which they have dealt.

But even with the bargain prices of Singapore, where a made-to-measure suit can still cost as little as £23 and a pair of hand-made leather shoes a mere £6, the Service family needed to be sure its money was coming into the bank regularly. This was the responsibility of the last of four Royal Army Pay Corps officers who, with their senior civilian staff-man, Mr Choo Eng Hock, boasted a total 166 years' service with the Army and took in their stride the handling of some £1,500,000 a month as the withdrawal operation drew to a close. Time was when some five times that amount was being handled each month.

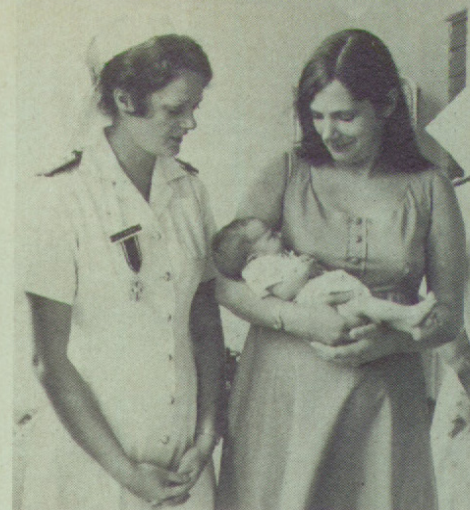
With Royal Navy and Royal Air Force finances also becoming the responsibility of the Army Pay Office, Captain Les Pemberton — with nearly 29 years' service under his belt — had to get used to scaling Jacob's ladders and swinging precariously from breeches-buoys in order to do business with the Senior Service. His chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Guy Long, was stationed in Singapore with the Royal Artillery between 1950 and 1952. "Since then," he said with understatement, "they have built some buildings. And the Army set-up here is minuscule to what it was then. I think there has been more change in the last ten years than before independence and it's incredible how clean the place is kept." (There is an automatic 500 dollar (£83) fine for dropping a cigarette end in the street.)

A man who has seen the British military presence in Singapore come and go is Mr Frank Lang (63) who leaves his job as assistant regional estate surveyor with the Department of the Environment to finish his service in Hong Kong. He first came to Singapore in 1933 as a sapper with 41 Fortress Company, Royal Engineers. The last representatives of his corps on the island, in 28 Postal Courier Communications Unit, stay until the end serving the three Services of the three nations that once made up ANZUK.

Mr Lang was detached from his company in the thirties as an electrical engineer for Tanglin, once home of the

General Headquarters, and Fort Canning. His transport was a bicycle: "On my bike I got to know Singapore very well — what there was of it. It was all isolated villages then. One thing though, it was safe in the city on your bike then! You could hardly say that nowadays with the traffic." He helped in the building of the Changi cantonment which was finished just before World War Two and became notorious as a prisoner-of-war camp after the allies surrendered to the Japanese in 1942. Mr Lang missed this ghastly episode. He had been posted back to England and as a wounded member of the British Expeditionary Force was evacuated from Dunkirk. He returned to Singapore in the sixties with what is now the Department of the Environment and stayed on.

"You can't compare it with what it was like in the thirties," he declared. "It has gone from a small seaport into a thriving country. In the old days a soldier had only the Union Jack Club, the Great World and New World for dances and cinemas. There were no big hotels and such like. He had a very solitary life. There was no local leave, only public holidays, and some areas were out of bounds. Raffles Hotel was reserved for officers and there were no swimming pools. The only swimming was on the coast behind shark nets. Now a soldier can go out in civvies and can go anywhere providing he's got the money... and nowadays he's GOT the money."



Above: Genevieve Alexander who was the 300th and last baby to be born in British Military Hospital, Changi.

Left: Remembrance Day in Singapore and those red poppies are as significant in the balmy tropics as back at home.

Below: The Merlion, a mythical beast which guards Singapore's waterfront.

Many thousands of Regular and National Service postwar soldiers came to know Singapore and, though the military presence is to be no more, many a Memory Lane will echo with names, sights and sounds. There are Nee Soon, Ayer Rajah, Tanglin and Tengah, Raffles Hotel and the Tiger Balm Gardens, exotic Bugis Street with its nightly parade of stunningly dressed transvestites, now as much a tourist attraction as king-sized prawns. There are the colourful Chinese ceremonies and the piquant Chinese food, eaten at pavement stalls by the light of hurricane lamps in the steam-heat of evening. There are the cavernous monsoon ditches that channel torrential downpours of almost daily rain away from quarters and barracks and the pool-side sunbathing with a glass of Tiger beer to hand.

But there were hard times too. Fighting the double enemy of jungle and terrorists during the Malayan Emergency and Borneo Confrontation. And the Kranji war memorial is a gaunt reminder of the unthinkable privations of prisoners of the Japanese who languished their war away in Changi, ironically the site of the British Military

Hospital as the final pull-out took place.

A lasting reminder of those dark days is the unique collection of murals in a chapel at what was once RAF Changi. Here Bombardier Stanley Warren begged, borrowed and even stole simple materials to paint vivid pictures on the walls depicting a religious theme. His blue, for instance, was crushed billiard chalk. Many of those with less happy memories of Singapore have made the pilgrimage to the chapel, now in the heart of a Singapore Armed Forces training camp. Typical of comments in the visitors' book was one from October 1973: "Ex-PoW, moved beyond words. Hope this room will be retained as memorial to all my comrades whose sacrifices should not be forgotten."

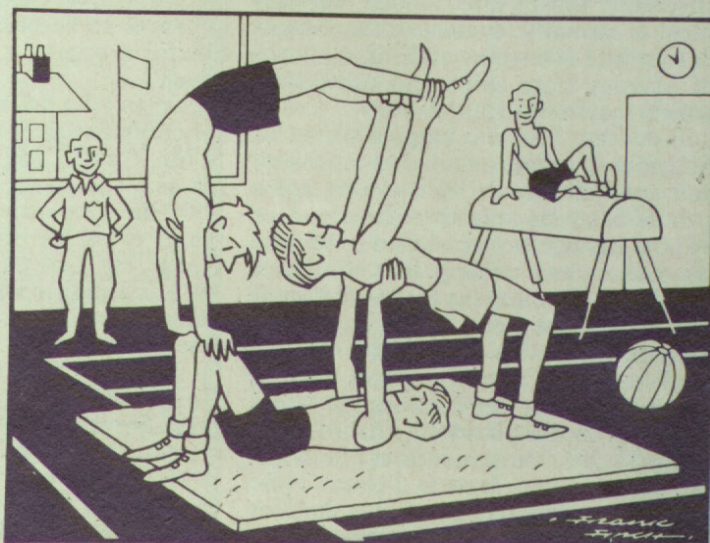
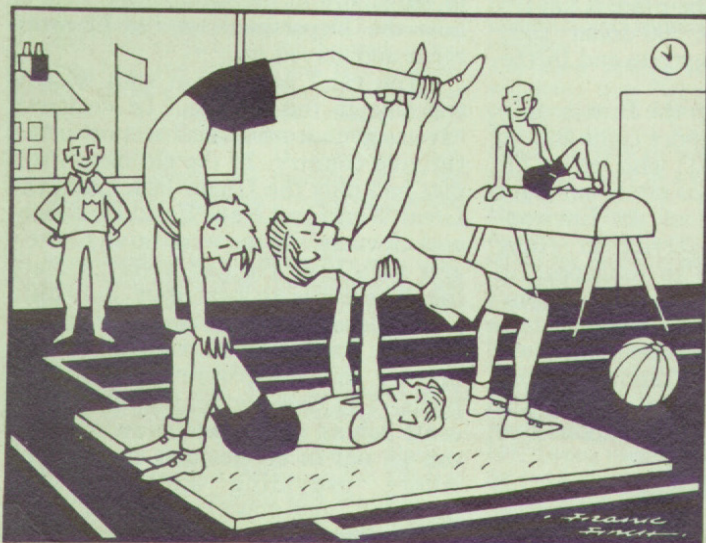
For its good and bad times, Singapore will never be forgotten by those who served there and the universal feeling of the last departing remnants of that presence is one of regret. Said one soldier: "Singapore is a delightful place and it is good for families. By getting out we are losing a tremendous amount of expertise which in a few years' time, as an Army, we won't be able to have again."

Selamat Singapura . . .



How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 41.



"We've got your number"

by John Power



"If it's the wrong number, why did you answer?"



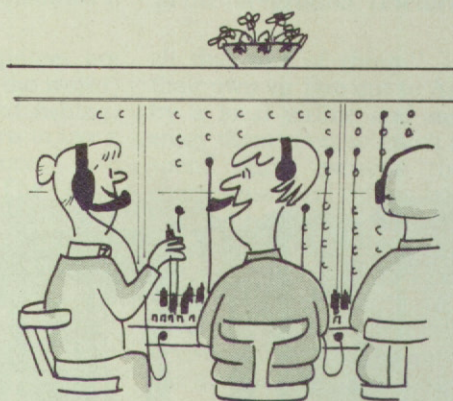
"Supe! It's the SO2 Sigs."



"You have a nice voice too — what's your eyesight like?"



"Good morning, School of Education," she said in a refined voice."



"I've got the G1 talking to himself again."



"Relax, you'll soon get the hang of it."



"School of Artillery — bang, you're dead!"

POWER

FACED with increased Guatemalan military activity near the border with the Central American dependency of Belize (formerly British Honduras), the British Government rushed reinforcements there to increase the 600-strong British garrison.

Two companies of 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, flew out to Belize, on a second visit in less than three years, to augment the dependency's garrison of two companies of 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

In addition a detachment of RAF Harrier jump-jets flew out to provide air cover and naval vessels were ordered to the vicinity. A British Foreign and Commonwealth Office statement said the Government had taken the step reluctantly and the additional forces would be withdrawn as soon as the Government was satisfied that their presence was no longer required. British policy is to bring Belize to independence through negotiation with Guatemala.

A short time before the reinforcement, a SOLDIER team of John Walton and Paul Haley was in Belize. Even then the adventure training and other activities in which Belize abounds were being restricted. Royal Air Force Pumas from 33 Squadron, Odiham, arrived and were soon flying.

Belize...



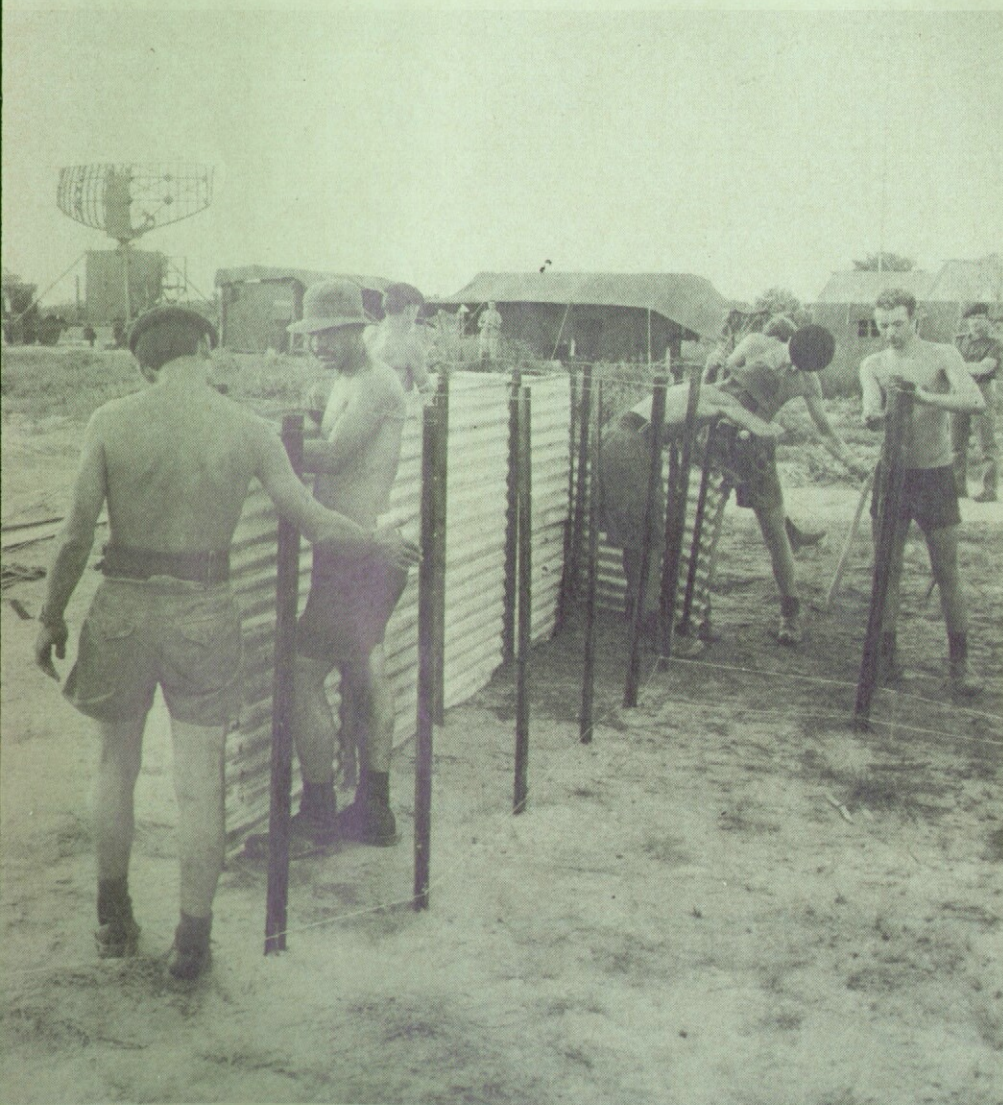
Above: Adventure training for Glosters with fishing boat or snorkel in crystal-clear waters full of marine life.

A hurricane exercise was curtailed at short notice (Belize is in the middle of the hurricane zone) and sappers from the Belize garrison under Captain Alwin Hutchinson were constructing commanding defensive positions round the airport perimeter. The shelter trenches were more akin to World War One breastworks for the ground around Airport Camp tends to be swampy and digging to any depth leads only to flooding. The sappers were naming them after London Tube stations, intending when time and situation allowed, to erect Underground-type signs.

The defensive work had brought to a standstill another sapper job — the building of an adventure training centre out at St George's Cay. Belize has excellent facilities for adventure training and during their six-month tour the Glosters hoped that every man would spend a week on some adventurous pursuit, either sub-aqua, canoeing, sailing, water-skiing or climbing.

Out at Ambergris Cay, SOLDIER found Sergeant Dave Webb preparing to take out yet another party on a "desert island survival course." Ferried by boat to a remote part of the Cays, soldiers are given one day's rations to last them for five days. They have a blanket, two waterbottles, machete,

Left: More serious activities. Sappers busily constructing defensive works all around the perimeter of the airport.



... on the boil



Left: Desert island survival courses include hunting for food. Latter-day Crusoe is Cpl Norman Chambers.



mosquito net (Belize's mosquitoes are among the most ferocious in the world) and weapons for hunting and fishing. Then they are left on their own to live a Robinson Crusoe-style existence.

Said Sergeant Webb: "The mosquitoes can drive you mad but otherwise it is very good out there. We catch deer, pig, pelican and iguana, which tastes a bit like chicken. We can also fish with hand lines or a spear gun and catch snapper, barracuda, lobster and

Below: Jungle training instructor Sgt D Cooke in boat watches river crossing. (Picture by Pte George Millman).



Above: One of the newly arrived Harriers at Belize Airport with a Ferret in the foreground. (Picture: Army PR).

all that sort of thing." The men pay their own air fare out to Ambergris Cay by a local airline and many of them enjoy themselves so much that they also spend leave periods there. Sailing courses use local fishing boats which are like nothing the Glosters have ever sailed before but which can travel quite fast. The best sailors from three one-week courses then do a further-advanced sailing course.

Even without the frequent excursions and alarms from the Guatemalans, who have Belize written into their constitution as a province of Guatemala, there are plenty of opportunities for training. When the Jungle Warfare Wing in Malaysia closed recently, Belize was the last jungle training centre left for British troops. On one of the last Malaysian courses this summer were three Glosters, Lieutenant Peter Littlewood, Sergeant Derek Cooke and Sergeant Martin Aston. They have now taken on the role of instructors at the jungle warfare centre up country at Sibum.

Although it is different from Malaysian jungle, with a far lower canopy, the Belizean variety gives soldiers the opportunity to learn jungle survival and basic tactics. Among natural hazards are jaguars, snakes which include the deadly fer-de-lance, and scorpions. And of course the ubiquitous mosquitoes as well as an unpleasant affliction called beef worm.

A typical expedition was mounted by Second-Lieutenant Guy Hony, who took 14 men and an assault boat all the way down the Belize river from San Ignacio, a few miles from the Guatemalan border, to Belize. The three-and-a-half day trip covered some 125 miles along a river swollen by rain — although this was partially a blessing as at one stage they passed over, without any problem, what was usually a waterfall.

"In most of the places the jungle was right down to the banks, although we did pass a few villages on the way," said Lieutenant Hony. "What interested me was the birdlife — they were of every variety and colour with parrots, parakeets and toucans and a lot of water birds.

One thing everyone was amazed at was the iguanas who sat on bushes and trees at the side of the river. The largest



Above: "Postmaster-General" WO 2 Ernest Tomlin weighs the varnished coconuts bound for families in the UK.



Left: Pain-killing injection by Capt Richard Lemesurier RAMC before stitching vicious-looking hand wound.

Below: Disc jockeys Dave Beardsley (left) and Norman Wright broadcast from Airport Camp radio station.



of them were five feet long but they were really scared of us and often lost their grip on the branches and dropped into the river."

There are two main camps in Belize — the second, at Holdfast, is 70 miles from Belize City and not far from the Guatemalan border. Here the medical men, including Corporal Brian Wilson, of 24 Field Ambulance, and Private Phil Greer, a Glosters medical orderly, have been carrying out medical work among local Indian families. Corporal Wilson explained: "We get a lot of people coming to see us because there is no doctor in the area. They have coughs, colds, sores, rashes and so on and no access to medicine. We also go out visiting in Mayan areas."

Back at Airport Camp, things are a little more urban. It is only a short drive into Belize City and the British soldiers get on well with local people. Radio Belize, the local radio station, carries its own forces' request show and disc-

jockeys for this are the two men who run the Army's latest radio station — Radio APC. The station is a rediffusion service for the entire camp. It was made possible by a welfare grant from the Army Central Fund and features mostly music with the occasional programme supplied by the British Forces Broadcasting Service. Resident disc-jockeys Staff-Sergeant David Beardsley, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and Sergeant Norman Wright, Army Catering Corps, operate it on a strictly non-working hours basis and everybody within the camp makes a small contribution towards its upkeep.

Staff Beardsley is kept very busy in his own job with the REME detachment. Rough roads call for constant vehicle maintenance and the detachment's Bedford light recovery vehicle, "Swamp Rat," is kept at full stretch as it also helps in recovery operations of local vehicles such as light aircraft stuck on runways, lorries in ditches and

under bridges. Often the mechanics have to work all night and most of the day — a recovery operation can be 300 miles away over dirt tracks.

One of the most important men on the camp is Warrant Officer 2 Ernest Tomlin. As the man in charge of 468 Postal Unit he is known by the Belizeans as the "Postmaster-General" and this title has stuck in the camp. In addition to being responsible for mail, he handles the arrival of British newspapers as well as documenting incoming and outgoing passengers by both Service and civilian aircraft.

In the early days of their tour the Glosters spent many hours varnishing and decorating coconuts which were duly addressed, stamped and posted back to Britain. The tension in the little British dependency meant that there was less time for fun in the sun. Force commander Colonel Duncan Green and his enlarged garrison had more vital things on which to concentrate.

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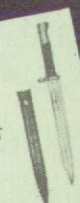
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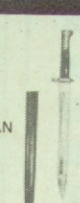
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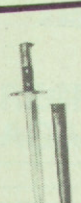
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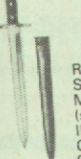
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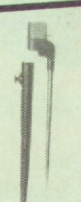
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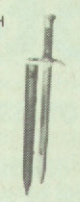
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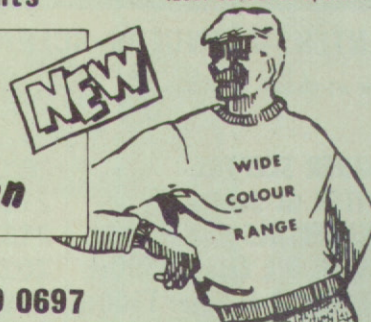
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POLITICS OF DEFENCE

Extracts from an address by Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, at Camberley, to Service staff college courses:

"Logically, of course, we should not allow the people's opinions—which could be mistaken—or our own economic resources to determine the size and shape of our defence forces. The resources we devote to defence should, I have been told, be decided by the threat and by the forces of those who confront us.

"As with most logical arguments there is some truth in this proposition. But it is not by any means the whole truth. We can provide for defence—as for anything else in the government's programme—only what we can afford to provide. And what we can afford is ultimately a matter of judgement: of political judgement reflecting, however imperfectly, the will of the people of this country.

"The threat we face is a very real one. The Warsaw Pact countries have, and are continuing to build, large forces. And their size seems to be well in excess of any estimate of what is required purely for defence. "The old argument that Warsaw Pact quantity is necessary to match NATO quality is being discredited by the qualitative improvements in the equipment of the Eastern bloc in recent years.

"Adequate deterrent forces are a very important insurance and insulator against political pressure backed as it would be by military force. But the existence of a sufficient level of forces is not, by itself, enough.

"Not only do military men have to have sufficient weapons and confidence in their weapons; but the people who provide those weapons and forces have to be convinced first that they are necessary, second that they are sufficient and third—and perhaps most important—that they are not too large, too luxurious and too expensive. And because all people do not have the same threshold of conviction, the politics of defence do not have the beautiful simplicity of the military balance.

"It seems to me not at all a bad thing in a democratic society that the government and parliament should agonise about whether we should spend £X millions on defence equipment; about whether we should buy a single modern strike aircraft or build a secondary school, and probably a primary school as well, for the same price; or whether we should build a modern frigate or a medium-sized hospital costing about the same.

"It is this that brings defence out of the rarefied atmosphere of international policy and down into the midst of the day-to-day political battle—the battle about the allocation of scarce resources.

"All NATO countries are subject to political and economic pressures to reduce their expenditure on defence. So we all need to find ways of getting better value for the money allocated to us. For this reason I and other NATO ministers of defence are trying to increase standardisation of armaments in NATO. If we could get only half-way towards the degree of standardisation achieved in the East, the alliance's military capabilities would be enormously increased and we should all feel a lot safer."

RECRUITING UP AGAIN

The main junior intake into the Army in September was 6332, a record which even surpassed the high intakes immediately before the school-leaving age was raised in 1973. In the period July-December the total number of recruits at 10,325 showed a 23 per cent increase on 1974.

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT



"No, it wasn't spiritual help I had in mind, padre."

● About 5800 servicemen profess no religious affiliation or their religion is not known, Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, informed Mr Tom Litterick (Labour, Selly Oak).

● Spandau Prison, Berlin, where former Nazi leader, Rudolf Hess, is still incarcerated, was the subject of questions by Mr Cyril Townsend (Conservative, Bexleyheath). Mr Robert C Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, said that the guard provided, when it was Britain's turn to look after Hess, comprised an officer and 25 men carrying weapons. In the last 12 months a British guard was maintained for 92 days on a 24-hour basis but precise figures for hours worked were not readily available.

● Tenders for the supply of a Lynx helicopter simulator for the Army Air Corps are being considered and it is expected that an order will be placed early in 1976. Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, gave this information to Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking).

● Complaints against members of the British Army and the Ulster Defence Regiment serving in Northern Ireland were the subject of a question from Miss Jo Richardson (Labour, Barking). In his reply, Mr Brown said that from 17 June 1971 to

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT *continued*



"Ouch!"

30 September 1975 a total of 8585 complaints had been made. Of these, 1039 were substantiated and 1499 partly substantiated. Of the remainder, 4730 were found to be unsubstantiated and 190 were still under investigation. Records did not exist as to the outcome of the balance.

● Details of Hong Kong garrison reductions were given by Mr Rodgers to Mr Townsend. The Minister said agreement had been reached with the Hong Kong Government that a future garrison would comprise four infantry battalions (three of them Gurkha), an engineer squadron, five naval patrol craft and a squadron of RAF helicopters. This, together with interim reductions already announced, would cost an estimated £42,000,000 a year, a saving of £20,000,000 on the original garrison.

● There was no joy for Mr Alexander Fletcher (Conservative, Edinburgh North) who wanted a postal service for servicemen at second-class rates. Mr Rodgers refused, saying that forces postal rates were based on the principle that a serviceman should not incur greater postal costs by being based overseas. The concessionary rates were made possible by subsidies which the Government could not justify increasing at the present time.

● Mr John Hunt (Conservative, Bromley Ravensbourne) asked if steps would be taken to ensure that the changing of the guard ceremony at Buckingham Palace could be fully maintained on a daily basis in 1976. Mr Brown replied that regrettably the level of operational and other unavoidable commitments falling on The Guards Division and other troops would not permit this but every effort would be made to ensure that the ceremony took place daily during the April-September tourist season.

Mr Hunt: "Does he realise the intense disappointment caused to tourists and many other visitors to London who come to the Palace only to find that there is no ceremony on that day? Surely our defences must be in an even more parlous state than we had imagined if we cannot muster a handful of men just once a day to perform this ceremony which is such a major tourist attraction for our country?"

Mr Brown said Mr Hunt underestimated the effort that went into the ceremony. While the primary role of the Household troops in London was the performance of public duties it was necessary to train for operational duty and allow for periodic leave. In addition there were commitments to Northern Ireland and the United Nations forces.

Mr Marcus Lipton (Labour, Lambeth Central), asked how much it cost to put on the ceremony. He said it was one of the main tourist attractions in London and Mr Brown's indecisive reply was going to cause a lot of disappointment to children and adults. Mr Brown could not give the cost offhand but he said that it was well worth it.

Mr Townsend wanted to persuade the Minister to review the situation and said that no fewer than 100 Regular troops were employed on guard duty at London and Windsor on an average day. He said it was time some of these duties, particularly in winter, were taken over by "such personnel as Beefeaters." He concluded: "It is high time that fit, experienced and well-trained soldiers were employed on operational duties and not solely on static ceremonial duty."

Mr Brown: "We have just about got it right."

VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

Existing members of the Victory Services Club in London will not have to pay the new annual membership rate of £3.24 until 1 April. The new subscription rate is one of a number of increases which the club has made to counter inflation. Current bedroom charges are: Double rooms for married couples from £2.05 to £2.80 per person; single rooms for either sex from £1.10 to £2.80; sharing room for men in old clubhouse, 85p per person; sharing rooms for women, 85p. Rooms may be booked for periods of up to only ten days.

FROM HQ TO PAY OFFICE

The old Western Command headquarters building in Chester is to be completely revamped to become the Regimental Pay Office, Chester, and its associated records offices. The headquarters closed under command re-organisation in 1972 and the contract with R Costain and Son (Liverpool) is to alter the present building and to erect another beside it linked by a covered way. High priority is being given to protection of local amenities — all existing temporary buildings and huts will be demolished, new bricks will blend with old and all trees will be retained. The work is expected to be completed by mid-1977.

ARE YOU IN ADAT YET?

During the first two years of operation of the Army Dependants' Assurance Trust, 477 Army personnel died—only 36 of them were members of the scheme. Their dependants are sharing £1,527,223 in ADAT payments. The latter half of the claims list reads as follows:

Rank	Age	Cause of death	Units of benefit	Total payments due
Gunner	20	Traffic accident	2	£74,619
Staff-sergeant	30	Explosion (EOD)	3	£62,297
Staff-sergeant	35	Explosion (EOD)	2	£29,506
Colonel	44	Heart attack	2	£21,447
Warrant officer 2	32	Explosion (EOD)	3	£55,579
Sergeant	30	Traffic accident	3	£61,630
Corporal	26	Accident	2	£68,852
Major	36	Heart attack	3	£58,721
Gunner	20	Accident	1	£36,816
Colonel	54	Heart attack	2	£7,007
Gunner	39	Accident	1	£10,957
Rifleman	22	Accident	1	£33,210
Major	41	Cancer	2	£18,878
Warrant officer 2	45	Natural causes	2	£19,172
Private	19	Traffic accident	2	£77,276
Rifleman	19	Accident	1	£40,177
Major	37	Natural causes	4	£50,300
Warrant officer 1	41	Cerebral thrombosis	2	£18,733
Major	45	Cancer	2	£12,485
Ranger	26	Traffic accident	1	£27,675
Lance-corporal	23	Traffic accident	1	£33,362
Major	37	Explosion (EOD)	8	£103,975
Warrant officer 2	35	Explosion (EOD)	7	£153,196
Private	26	Traffic accident	1	£27,540

Can you afford not to be a member?

FILM PROFITS FOR SERVICES CHARITIES

James Quinn, producer of the award-winning D-Day film, "Overlord," has devised a new way of raising money for Service charities. Instead of a West End premiere, "Overlord" will bring in money for the charities for as long as it continues to be shown. All profits accruing to the production company in perpetuity will be given to Service charities selected by the trustees of the Imperial War Museum Trust, of whom James Quinn is one. "Overlord" is the first feature film ever to be made under the museum's auspices and it makes full use of the IWM's unique collection of documentary and photographic records of World War Two. (SSAFA)



Producer James Quinn (left) and Sir Arthur Drew, a member of SSAFA Council, at a preview of the film.

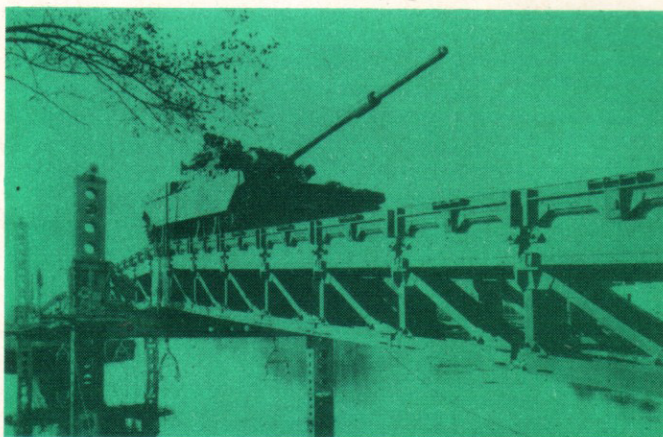
STAR AND GARTER

The Star & Garter home for disabled ex-servicemen will receive £25,000 from the Army Benevolent Fund towards its £500,000 appeal for ward modernisation. A spokesman for the home, which was established at Richmond-upon-Thames in 1916, said the sum included donations from all ranks now serving in the corps and regiments of the British Army. The Army Benevolent Fund gave £10,000 for the home's physiotherapy department which opened in 1971 and has generously supported the home over many years.

MEDIUM GIRDER BRIDGE SALES

Export orders for the British medium girder bridge, which was developed by the MVEE at Christchurch, amounted to £22,000,000 last year. The total was reached with a £4,500,000 order from the Australian Army to Fairey Engineering, of Heaton Chapel, Stockport—the firm which acquired the commercial exploitation rights from the Ministry of Defence in 1972.

The bridge is in full production at Stockport and the first of the Australian Army



bridges is about to be delivered with completion of contract around the middle of 1977. Since Fairey Engineering signed its first contract in 1972, 260 medium girder bridges have been sold to 17 countries.

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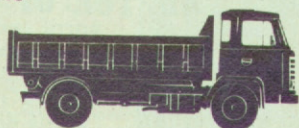
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Miss Metal Box

For soldiers living in the corrugated iron "silver city" temporary camps of Northern Ireland and patrolling the streets enclosed in armoured cars, it was appropriate that their pin-up should turn out to be Miss Metal Box. For **Shirley Cavanagh**, selected as the glamour girl of 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was already the pin-up of that famous firm. Shirley paid a visit to her new admirers in Londonderry when she was presented with a bouquet and a prize cheque for £10 . . . as well as receiving the red carpet treatment.



At large in Hong Kong

Dave Allen, the Irish comedian, gave an unusual autograph to **Private Hamilton Patterson** when he visited the British Military Hospital in Hong Kong. Private Patterson's plaster armour is the result of a spinal injury. He is from 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment.



Gosh—a quosh

Swampy, one of the residents of Holdfast Camp in up-country Belize. He is a quosh, a Belizean animal of the mongoose family, and is the pet of **Craftsman Jim Stewart**, Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. Jim is hoping to bring Swampy home with him when his tour ends — although his pet's favourite diet of roast pork over melon may not be so easy to obtain in Britain.



Old hero — old master

An old war hero became an Old Master (well, almost) at the 50th anniversary exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society. A painting by **Major Chris Miers**, of The Royal Green Jackets, of the oldest living Victoria Cross holder, **Major-General Dudley Johnson**, was one of the exhibition highlights. General Johnson won his VC in 1918 leading the 2nd Royal Sussex in an attack. Among the exhibitors was 82-year-old **Major Gilbert Catley**, who also took part in the first exhibition in 1925.

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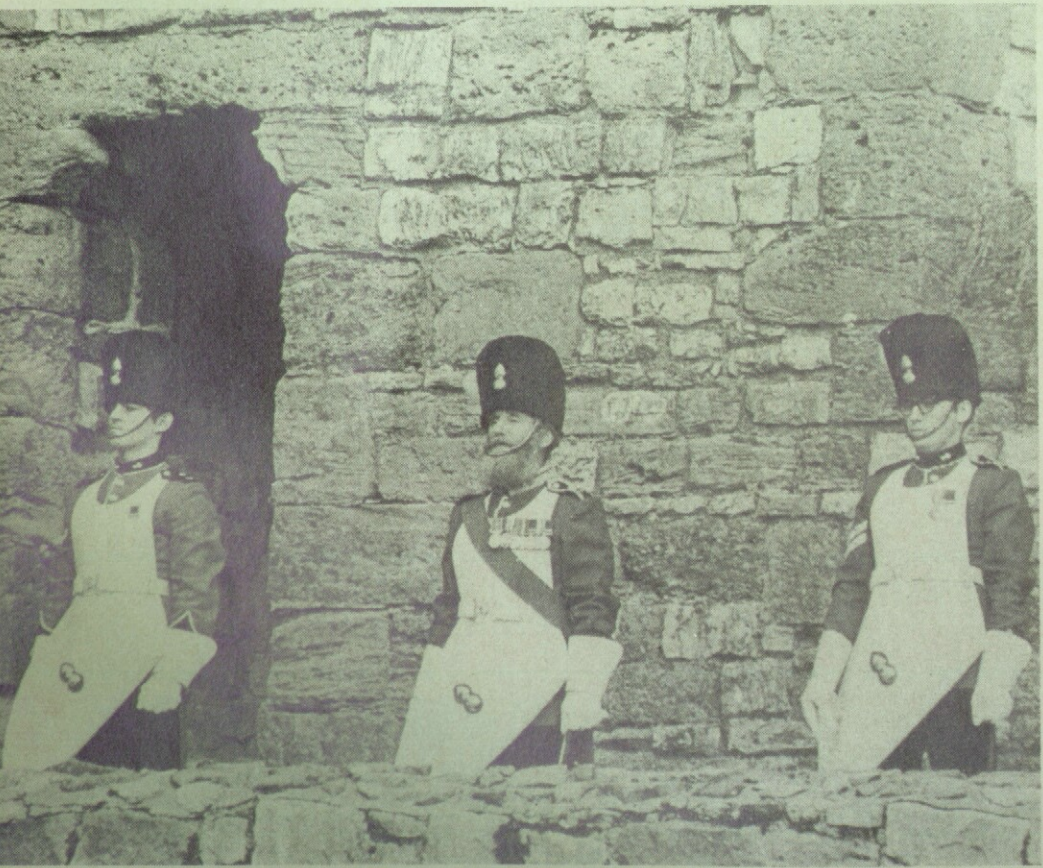
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Autumn colours at Caernarfon

Above: Consecration of the Colours. Story by Mike Starke
Below: 1st Battalion pioneers (sergeant with "full set") up on the battlements. Pictures by Doug Pratt



B RILLIANT autumn tints coloured the royal occasion in contrast with the gaunt grey stone of Caernarfon Castle where the Queen presented new Colours to 1st and 3rd battalions, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, as the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief.

It was the first time a sovereign had presented new Colours to the regiment in Wales and the Queen said, "It is a great pleasure to see the regiment on its home ground," in her address after the presentation.

A poignant silence, heavy with memories, hushed the soldiers, ex-servicemen and guests ranged around the simple slate platform set in the lawns inside the high walls of the old castle after the old Colours—presented by the Queen in Wiltshire in 1954—were marched off to "Auld Lang Syne."

Outside, on the Slate Quay beside the river Arfon, crowds of spectators buzzed with excitement as the royal procession approached. Local dignitaries met the Queen at the castle's Water Gate where she was offered the keys by the Constable, Lord Snowdon, who had arranged the positioning of the ceremony inside the castle walls.

Dressed in a tangerine ensemble, the Queen moved to the slate dais where the presentation of the new Colours took place. Before going on to visit the regi-



Above: The Queen presents the Queen's Colour to the 3rd Battalion. Below: The Colonel-in-Chief's address. Right is the Colonel of the Regiment.

mental museum in another part of the castle, the Mayor of Caernarfon, Councillor R Harlech-Jones, conducted Her Majesty to Queen Eleanor's Gate to look out over the town centre and beyond to Snowdonia's distant peaks.

After her short look at the museum, the royal visitor left the castle by the Postern Gate to inspect a parade of the 1st and 3rd battalions drawn up on Slate Quay. She then drove through Caernarfon to the regimental headquarters where she met representatives of the two Regular and Volunteer Reserve battalions and planted a tree on the lawn outside the drill hall.

The presentation of new Colours was the climax to a week of honours for the regiment which had been granted the freedom of the borough of Arfon and had exercised its right to march through the streets "with drums beating, flags flying and bayonets fixed" in both Bangor and Caernarfon.

Since 23 July 1954 when the Queen presented new Colours to the 1st, 2nd and 4th (TA) battalions, the 2nd and 4th have ceased to exist as has the 6th/7th (TA) Battalion which was formed in 1956 and received its Colours in Caernarfon Castle on 5 July 1958.

The Colours of the 1st Battalion only were left to be replaced on 7 November 1975 in Caernarfon. The 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, formed in 1971, was receiving Colours for the first time.



Above: Her Majesty inspects men of the two battalions on Slate Quay. Below: The 1st Battalion's old Colours marched off to "Auld Lang Syne".





Meet Miss TAVR 1975, 21-year-old Sgt Penny Brettell, and her fiancé, Sgt Graham Chapman; in the same unit.



Marry me, Sergeant? —certainly, Sergeant!



Pretty Penny after her victory.

FIRST the bad news: Pretty Penny Brettell (21) and her fiancé Graham Chapman have had to cancel, as a result of Penny's service as an acting sergeant in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, the booking they made for a honeymoon in Malta after their wedding next August.

Now the good news:

Only the *booking* was cancelled. The honeymoon will still be in Malta—as the bride-to-be's first prize for being voted Miss TAVR 1975. She also received a bouquet and a cheque for £20.

Penny and Graham—who is also a sergeant in the same unit, 54 Squadron (Volunteers), 36 (Eastern) Signal Regiment—hugged each other with delight after the contest when they realised that the honeymoon they had planned, and was going to take a large lump out of their nuptial nest egg, would now cost them nothing.

During a nerve-wracking day at the Duke of York's Headquarters, London, Penny, a county council clerk from Bedford, had paraded in civilian clothes and in uniform with 27 other Territorial belles before a panel of judges, including a Chelsea Pensioner, and been subjected to questions to assess personality.

The competitors came from as far afield as Belfast and Dundee to take part and their civilian occupations ranged from housewife and mother to chemist's assistant, psychology student and one girl who told the panel: "I help the Greater London Council prosecute people for not taxing their cars!" She came eighth in what the judges declared was an extremely close contest.



Above: Vice-chairman of the TAVR's Council, Colonel Geoffrey Dicker, presents second prize to Officer Cadet S A Easter. On her right are Lance-Corporal K A

Mooney (third) and Private M A K Lewis who took fourth place.

Below: Chelsea Pensioner Sergeant G Osbourne, one of the judges.



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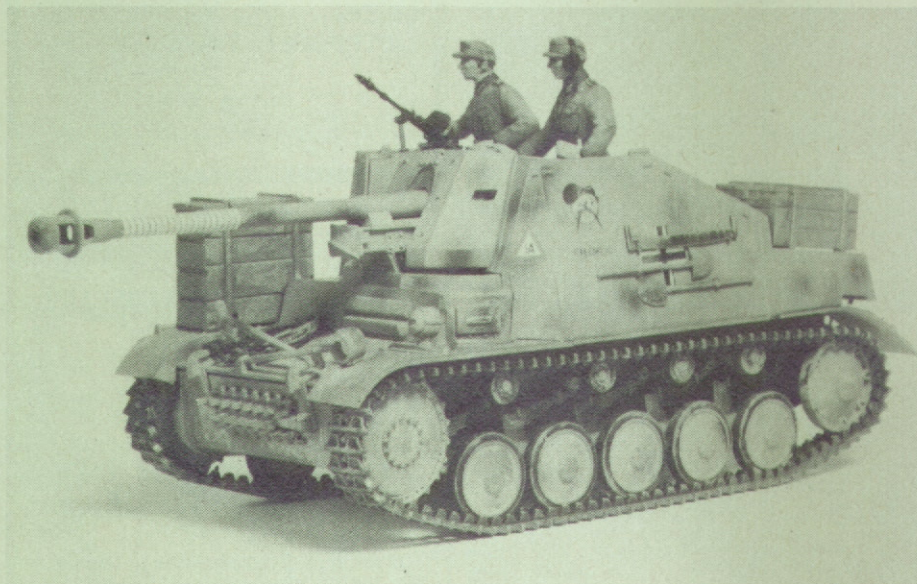
IN a last desperate gamble the Germans played a king — a King Tiger (Königstiger); the heaviest and most powerful tank to fight in World War Two.

The King Tiger weighed 68 tons in battle trim and its 88-millimetre gun could penetrate four inches of armour plating at a range of about 1100 yards. However it was to have no significant impact because of its late arrival in limited numbers, its clumsiness, scant top speed of 17 miles an hour and the shortage of petrol.

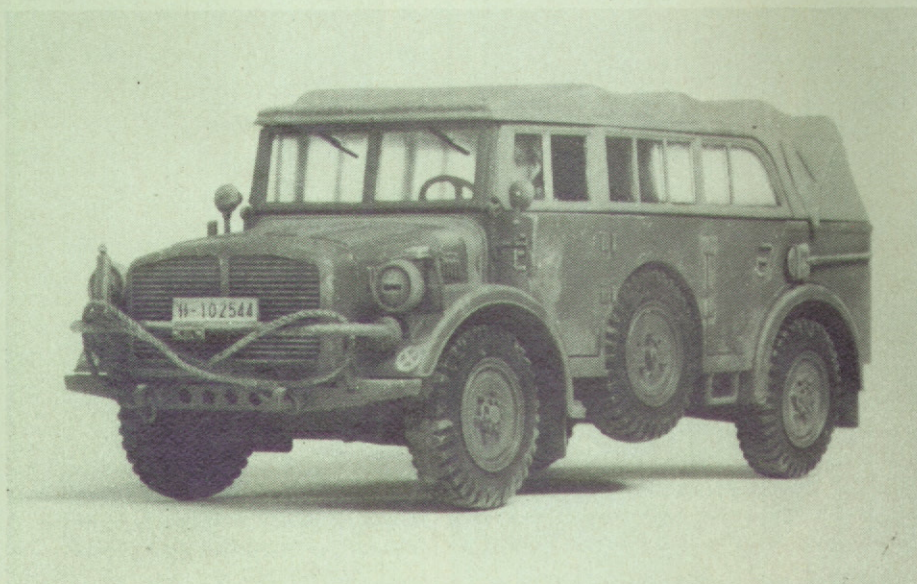
A substantial rear hatch on the turret, intended for the disposal of empty cartridges, incidentally provided a means of escape for the crew. It was needed. One of the few King Tigers encountered in France was knocked out by Sergeant Roberts of A Squadron, 23rd Hussars. The King Tiger figured most prominently in the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest in December 1944 where one of its roles was to transport paratroops as "tank marines." However it was vulnerable to certain natural tank



Above: Tamiya 1:35 model King Tiger.



Above: The tank destroyer Marder II. Below: Horch type 1a personnel carrier.



traps and its crews often simply dug it into shallow pits for use as an improvised pillbox.

A diminutive memorial to this mighty tank has been produced in the form of a 1:35th scale plastic kit by the Japanese firm of Tamiya. The kit is available in three versions with twin motors and remote control at £4.40, with a single motor at £3.30 and as a miniature display model (without motor) at £2.70.

The moulding is of Tamiya's usual high standard with detail right down to weld marks on the tank body and proficiency badges and decorations on the figures. I do not particularly like the headphone wires being moulded as an integral part of the figure — they are difficult to paint and I personally prefer to make them up from cotton or fuse wire and attach them to the figure after painting. Also included are transfer decals for five Waffen SS Panzer divisions and a set of "kill" marks (white rings behind the muzzle brake indicating enemy tanks destroyed).

Many King Tigers were painted in a distinctive camouflage pattern of irregular brown and yellow stripes although later models were grey overall, resulting from bombing raids on German paint factories.

Tamiya, whose kits are marketed in this country by Richard Kohnstam ("Riko") Ltd of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, have also recently released 1:35th scale kits of a Horch type 1a personnel carrier at £1.80; Marder II at £1.99; Russian T 34/76 of 1943 at £2.50; a set of eight Panzer grenadiers at 80 pence; and an intriguing Wehrmacht mounted infantry kit (55 pence) which has 48 parts allowing the horse and figures to be constructed in a variety of poses.

HH



Peace Haven for happy spirits

Hei Ling Chau is the Isle of Happy Spirits in Hong Kong. And what more appropriate name for the site of a Services' leave centre. The "Peace Haven" centre caters for those up to the rank of staff-sergeant or equivalent and takes warrant officers if underbooked at any time.

The centre occupies a promontory on Hei Ling island—pronounced in the same way as the Hampshire holiday resort of Hayling. The rest of the island is mainly a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts and until last year it was a leper colony. Happier spirits will be those enjoying leave at the Services' centre.

Tom and Edna Hamblin, who had run Singapore's Sandes Home for the previous seven years, got the centre going. Peace Haven offers accommodation for ten families and 16 single men and women. On its promontory and its own beach, the leave-takers have complete privacy. There are swimming, fishing, boating, walking, badminton, film-show and indoor games facilities.

Above all Peace Haven lives up to its name. In contrast to the hustle and bustle of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon it offers quiet. It has no cars and no telephone but does have a donkey, a tame pigeon and a family of white rabbits. For even quieter moments there is a small library which includes bound volumes of *SOLDIER* going back to 1955 and reported to be favourite reading with visitors from all three Services as well as their wives.

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



Above: Bombardier John Falzon and his wife Victoria, both from Malta, found "perfect peace" at Peace Haven.

Left: "This is truly a wonderful place for a Holiday" was the verdict of Corporal John Fryer, here with his wife Sandra, Donna, baby Jeanette, Paul.

Below: Hei Ling Chau—the buildings on the headland to the left of the jetty make up Peace Haven. The centre's own beach hides behind the headland.



SPORT

Angling for recognition

HUNDREDS of Service and civilian anglers turned out for a record Rhine Army angling championship and they reinforce the bids being made for the sport to be recognised officially by the Army.

Twenty-nine-year-old Corporal Leon Drewnicki, a storeman in 2nd Division, who was introduced to fishing as a five-year-old sitting on his father's knee, is the new Rhine Army angling champion. He won the title in chilling fog competing against a field of 465 military and 105 German civilian anglers. His catch in five hours of 177 roach and bream weighing 23 kilos 220 grammes was a Rhine Army record.

His secret was casters—"turned" maggots. He said: "I was fishing in three feet of water and started catching after 20 minutes. I used 1.8 line and got through six pints of maggots, three-quarters of a pint of casters and ten pounds of dry mix ground bait. I managed to get the casters just right. I took them out of the fridge on the Friday night before the match and they turned during the weekend. I put four casters at a time on the hook."

Leon's favourite stretch of water is the Severn back in England where he goes for chub. But he won his laurels in Rhine Army on an eight-kilometre length of the river Hase at Bersenbrück, north of Osnabrück.

The winning Rhine Army team was Osnabrück Garrison B team led by Corporal Jim Gillespie, Queens Own Highlanders, supported by Colour-Sergeant Tom Grant and Corporal William McCrimmon, both of 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Private Ted Hewitt, Army Catering Corps, and Sergeant Paul Trouve, Royal Signals. They netted 104 points.

The overall match winner was guest angler Gerhardt Schleef of ASV Kirchleugern whose 211 fish were spilling



World champion Ian Heaps (left) gives Cpl Drewnicki his BAOR trophy.

over the edge of his net at the finish. They weighed in at 31 kilos 350 grammes. Second overall was another local man, Günter Karrasch of ASV Bunde, who caught 23 kilos 650 grammes. The Rhine Army champion was placed third overall.

The two top-placed anglers were using Continental roach poles 26 feet long with fixed lines ideal for speed fishing and they fished from adjacent pegs. This meant that they landed more than one hundredweight of fish between them in a 40-yard stretch of water.

Prizes were presented by the world champion angler, Ian Heaps from Stockport, Cheshire, who won his title in Poland last September with 22lb 8½oz in three hours.

The Rhine Army championship was only the third ever held. The first, three years ago, was unofficial with 300 rods turning out. Last year it was made official and the entry was 500. This year, with 570 anglers, it became an established event as the biggest match to be held in Germany in 1975. The German national had only 200 rods.

So now there are high hopes the Army will recognise angling—the biggest participation sport in the United Kingdom—as an official Army sport. Rhine Army Fishing Association secretary Major John Newers said: "The Rhine Army Sports Board has recommended angling as a recognised sport in Germany and the Army Sport Control Board hopes that it will be recognised throughout the Army soon."

Fox wins world bronze

A BRONZE medal for Britain in the modern pentathlon world championships in Mexico crowned yet another good season in this taxing sport for the Army's Sergeant Jim Fox, of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Sources close to Fox declare ruefully that at 34 he is facing just one more season as a top pentathlete in international competition. But this showing against the world's best proves that he is still a force to be reckoned with. His consistency and reliability under pressure scored precious points throughout the five disciplines in Mexico and he was the mainstay of the British team which tied fourth overall with West Germany.

SERGEANT Jim Fox was just pipped for first place in a triangular international match in San Antonio, Texas, by fellow-Briton Adrian Parker, the reigning British champion and member of the World Championship team. In the tournament against the United States and Finland the two Britons had been neck-and-neck throughout four days of tough competition. Both finished with 5274 points but Parker had better overall placings than Fox and so took the first place. Their joint efforts contributed to Britain winning the team event, aided by Corporal S Birley (REME) and D Nightingale. Birley's individual placing was 23rd and Nightingale's 10th.

The Hammerli Pistol Company has awarded one of its annual gold awards for modern pentathletes for the outstanding achievement of Second-Lieutenant P A Wall (RE) in the sport in 1974. Wall was selected to represent Great Britain in the world junior championships in Moscow when he scored 197 out of a possible 200 in the pistol event and gained 1066 pentathlon points from a maximum of 1132. He is currently studying at Cambridge University.

Good luck! and here's how!

LORD Hunt has given a copy of his book on the first ascent of Everest in 1953 to Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Streather, leader of this year's joint British Army and Royal Nepalese Army assault on the peak.

"Through the Khumbu Glacier, sharp right up the Ice Fall, straight on through the Western Cwm, bear right up the Lhotse Face, turn left across the South Col and straight on — you can't miss it," Lord Hunt told his successor.

The 1976 expedition will be the last British attempt on the world's highest peak before the late 1980s and the first to be made up of members of the small Army Mountaineering Association. Colonel Streather is the Army's most experienced Himalayan mountaineer and was the first man to climb two peaks in the range over 25,000 feet. His party will follow in the footsteps of Lord Hunt's 1953 expedition which put Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing on top of the world to crown with glory the coronation month of Queen Elizabeth II.

BAOR Angling Championship team winners: Osnabrück B, left to right: C/Sgt T Grant, Cpl Bill McCrimmon, Cpl J Gillespie, Pte T Hewitt, Sgt P Trouve.





Lord Hunt (left) raises a laugh with a copy of his book for Col Streater.

The Army's 33 climbers are each being given two months' pay towards expenses and they will reduce costs by ferrying many of the necessary heavy loads up the mountain themselves. Fund-raising is still the expedition's major problem.

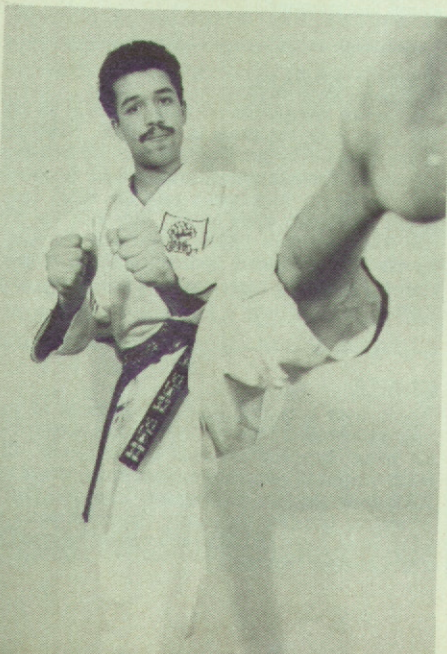
Karate gold

TWO gold medals have been added to the already groaning shelf of trophies won by Private Eugene Wooding, of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, whose 14 years' dedication to the sport of karate is paying off handsomely. The latest medals, presented to 21-year-old Eugene in London, mark his recognition as the best instructor and best competitor in the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

In between his duties as a soldier — which has included a four-month stint in Northern Ireland — Eugene has defended his European champion's title this year (see *SOLDIER* May 1975) and visited the United States for an international contest in which he came third of 3000 open championship competitors.

This month he is off to the States again to compete in the world championships. He is also busy passing on some of his high-grade expertise to his fellow soldiers in a karate club he has just started in his battalion.

Karate's Wooding in fighting form.



Kuala Lumpur's Padang rings with the crack of leather on willow.

Winter whites

IT'S not cricket to hear the crack of leather on willow in the depth of winter, but there are still far-flung outposts where the sun never sets and a game is still possible when snows and blows are blighting Blighty.

Such was the case in Kuala Lumpur when Major Alastair Cumming, 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, turned out for a combined Selangor Club and Commonwealth Diplomat's eleven. Major Cumming is this year's British Army officer at the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College. He scored 13 runs to help his side to victory in a match against a team from HMS Glamorgan and HMS Plymouth which visited Port Klang.

The Selangor Club is an old haunt of the writer Somerset Maugham and gained worldwide recognition under its nickname "The Spotted Dog." Built in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, the club faces the Padang with the impressive Arabic-styled government buildings opposite.

Two thousand down

ARARE parachuting achievement was honoured at the Royal Corps of Transport's Aldershot headquarters when Staff-Sergeant Bob Card was presented with a tankard to mark 2000 freefall descents.

Making the presentation, Depot Regiment commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Wilson calculated: "That's one drop a day for six years." Quipped Staff-Sergeant Card in reply: "In that case, I'd just like to say I'd like my money back!" Some of his 2078 jumps were clocked up as chief instructor at the parachuting centre in Cyprus. He now serves in 42 Squadron RCT at Bulford.

Also honoured at the same time was Sergeant Martin Togher (pictured in freefall on the front of *SOLDIER* December 1975) who was adjudged the best RCT competitive parachutist of the year, having been in the third-placed teams in the British national championships for ten-man relative work and four-man sequential jumping.

The corps' Arman Trophy for the most improved parachutist went to Corporal Jeff Chandler who has carved out his name as an expert with just 299 jumps under his belt.

SPORTS SHORTS

BOXING

A much improved TAVR team in strong form defeated the Regular Army by six bouts to four in the annual clash staged at Harrogate. Results (Regular Army boxers first):

Flyweight: L/Cpl J Lucas (1 RWF) lost to Pte J Wainwright (4 Para). Bantamweight: Pte R Lindsay (1 DWR) lost to Pte J Feeney (4 Para). Featherweight: Walkover for Rgr K Bruce (R Irish). Lightweight: L/Cpl B Curran (12 RSME) beat Cpl R Davison (2 Yorks). Light welterweight: L/Cpl C Sexton (1BW) lost to Rgr K Campbell (R Irish). Welterweight: Cpl M Dowland (Depot Queens) lost to Pte M Durkin (4 Para). Light middleweight: Rfn T Williams (1 RGJ) beat Pte D Bickerdyke (4 Para). Middleweight: Gdsmn J Spencer (2 Coldm Gds) lost to Rgr A Neill (R Irish). Light heavyweight: Rfn H Miles (1 RGJ) beat Rgr C McIlkinstrey (R Irish). Heavyweight: L/Bdr C Williams (5 Hy Regt RA) beat Pte R Molinovi (4 Para). Extra bout at light welterweight: Tpr S Holdsworth (QRIH) beat Cpl G Fitt (4 Para).

Under the sponsorship of the Lancashire Constabulary, Chorley, a dinner and amateur boxing evening was held at the Rivington Barn, Horwich. Of the eight Army boxers invited to appear, six actually boxed against a Lancashire Constabulary selection with the following results.

Light welterweight: Pte W Malarkey (1 BW) beat K Lavin, Pte S Holdsworth beat A Millett, L/Cpl C Sexton lost to P Hogah. Light middleweight: Rfn G Harrison (1 RGJ) lost to W Hickman, Gdsmn J Spencer lost to R Davies. Light heavyweight: Rfn H Miles beat S Carnell.

Oxford Select team v Army Select at Oxford. Bantamweight: L/Cpl J Lucas (1 RWF) unmatched; Pte R Lindsay (1 DWR) contest withdrawn. Featherweight: L/Col H A Hough (Gds Depot) beat C Lawrence. Lightweight (special): Pte W Malarkey (1 BW) beat Tpr S Holdsworth (QOIH). Light welterweight: L/Cpl C Sexton (1 BW) beat M Corrigan. Welterweight: L/Cpl J Dolan (1 Div HQ Sig Sqn) unmatched. Light middleweight: Gdsmn J Spencer (2 Coldm Gds) beat A Boon. Heavyweight: Bdr C Williams (5 Hy Regt RA) beat E McLean.

North East Division of North East Counties

ABA v Army representative team, match held in Sunderland. Bantamweight: Pte Lindsay beat V Kerr. Lightweight: L/Cpl R Curran (RSME) beat R Davison. Light welterweight: L/CoH Hough beat N Morton, Pte Malarkey beat A Croft. Welterweight: Tpr Holdsworth beat E Fleary, L/Cpl Dolan beat D Stewart, L/Cpl Sexton beat T Conroy. Light middleweight: L/Cpl G Williams (1 RGJ) beat D Stait, Gdsm Spencer beat K Wade. Light heavyweight: Rfn H Miles (1 RGJ) and A Collins, double disqualification. Heavyweight: Bdr Williams unmatched.

SQUASH

Army 2, National Westminster Bank 3; Army 4, Pipp's Hill 1; Army 0, United Hospitals 5; Army 2, Oxford University 3; Army 4, Wiltshire 1; Army 2, Civil Service 3; Army 4, Cambridge University 1; Army 3, Holland 2; Army 3, Surrey 2; Army 3, Wimbledon 2; Army 2, RAC 3; Army v Middlesex cancelled; Army v Hertfordshire cancelled. Army A 4, British Petroleum 1; Army A 2, Weybridge 3; Army A 0, Blackheath 5; Army A 2, RMAS 3; Army A 5, Old Tonbridgians 0.

The Army women started their away matches of the season by beating a Sindlesham team 4½ points to ½ a point. They continued their success the next day by beating a Winchester team 4-1.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Results of UK inter-district team cross-country championships and Army trial, held at Aldershot. Team (finishing positions in brackets): 1st SE District A (2nd, 3rd, 4th), 2nd London District A (1st, 5th, 18th), 3rd SE District B (8th, 12th, 21st).

Trial: 1st Lieut G A B Grant (Depot Regt RA) (33min 45sec), 2nd SI S Harrison (Depot and Trg Bn ACC) (33:45), 3rd WO2 T Davies (7 Para Regt RHA) (33:53).

GYMNASTICS

Army senior gymnastic and trampoline championships (men and women), held at Aldershot. Army Olympic Six competition (voluntary exercises only): 1st SI J Purvis (APTC), 2nd SI A McLean (APTC), 3rd SI J Moger (APTC). SI Purvis, although placed first, but having won the championship twice before, kindly allowed the Barclay Trophy and individual prize to be awarded to the next competitor, SI McLean. Army 1st grade gymnastic competition: 1st Spr B Jones (RE), 2nd L/Cpl B W Beck (DWR), 3rd L/Cpl K Lynch (RCT), Army 2nd grade gymnastic competition: 1st SI D Rogers (APTC), 2nd Dvr O Smorthit (RCT), 3rd L/Cpl T Fold (RE), Rings and pommels (optional): 1st Fold, 2nd Rogers, 3rd Smorthit.

Army senior team trampoline: 1st DWR, 2nd Inf Jnr Ldrs Bn, 3rd JLR RCT. Army senior individual trampoline: 1st Beck, 2nd Pte T Fry (LI), 3rd Rogers. Army senior individual intermediate trampoline: 1st Pte P Cartwright (Cheshire), 2nd Cpl Campbell (ASPT), 3rd L/Cpl J Sharpe (DWR).

Women's Services vaulting, agility and beam: 1st Pte L Lonsdale, 2nd Pte F Anderson, 3rd Pte M Blair. Womens Services trampoline: 1st L/Cpl B Marrinor, 2nd Anderson, 3rd L/Cpl L Thurston.

Swansea gymnasts beat Army and Army A teams into second and third places in a match on their home ground in Wales. Points scored were: Swansea 186.50, Army 177.65, Army A 113.75. Individual placings of Army competitors: SI J Purvis (APTC) 2nd, QMSI J Wilson (APTC) 5th, SI A McLean (APTC) 8th, SI J Moger (APTC) 9th, Sgt G Sharp (Para) 10th. Army A: Spr G Jones (RE) 11th, Sapper G Gore (RE) 14th, L/Cpl T Fold (RE) 13th, SI D Rogers (APTC) 12th.

FENCING

The Army suffered a crushing 5-22 defeat in the match against Cambridge University at Fenners. The Cambridge swordsmen included the present Army foil champion, TAVR officer 2/Lieut M K Chetwood RA, plus internationals, and their

superiority against a weakened Army side missing QMSI Truman through injury was marked. Representing the Army were Maj A M Bell (RE), Lieut N A Sutherland (RE), SSI P J Brierley (APTC) and Pte S Kelly (R Anglian).

JUDO

L/Cpl Steve Travis (RPC) gained a bronze medal in the middleweight division of the European judo championships in Helsinki. His achievement is thought to be the best-ever performance by an Army contestant at this level of international competition in judo.

International armed forces judo tournament at Venlo: Army lost to France 1-2, Germany 1-4, Holland 2-3. In the individual events Sgt S Browning (Para) and L/Cpl S Travis (RPC) both won silver medals in their class. Also representing the Army were: SSI T Hewett (APTC), SI G Bryson (APTC), and SI C Johnston (APTC), Cpl M Coles (R Sigs), Cpl M Williams (RE), Bdr W Connor (RA), Pte J Cureton (RAOC) and Pte R Hodson (RPC).

SOCCER

The Junior Parachute Company emerged this year's Junior Soldiers' Cup winners by beating the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Apprentices College 2-1 in the final.

Other results: Army Youth 2, Hertfordshire Association of Boys' Clubs 3; Army 0, Cambridge University 0; Army 2, Northern Universities 1; Army 2, Oxford University 0; Army 2, London University 1.

BASKETBALL

The Army team triumphed in its tour in Jersey by beating the Jersey Basketball Association side 78-29 and the Jersey Select 79-38.

HANDBALL

Six Women's Royal Army Corps girls were in the British handball team which beat the Luxembourg side 12-5 at Bascharge. Among the other six were two ex-corps members including the captain, Josette Beard. The British goalkeeper was Cpl Anne Patterson who was voted player of the match. The other serving players were: Cpl Carol Skrzypczak, L/Cpl Maria Bass, S/Sgt Susan Taylor, Sgts Elaine Boden and Susan Russell. The other ex-corps member was Barbara Taylor.

BALLOONING

A Royal Armoured Corps major was one of the three-man crew of the hot-air balloon Heineken which beat the world endurance record with a flight of nearly 20 hours from Dorset to a spot near Angers in western France. Major Christopher Davey trained in the RAC's own hot-air balloon, Chieftain, which thrilled crowds at Army shows last summer.

TABLE TENNIS

Tri-Service recognition for table tennis as an official sport is on the cards as the RAF, Navy and Army prepare to get together for the first-ever Combined Services competition at RAF Stanmore Park in April. At present only the RAF Sport Board recognises table tennis. But with the RN and Royal Marines Sports Board and the Army Sports Control Board approving the combined contest, there are high hopes of full recognition soon.

CHESS

There were a record 20 Army entrants in this year's Combined Services chess championships — six more than the previous best turn-out. But sheer weight of numbers was not enough and the RAF took the first five places. The SOLDIER Magazine Cup for the Army champion went to Capt Steve Jones (REME) and runner-up was Cpl Phil Callaway (RAMC).

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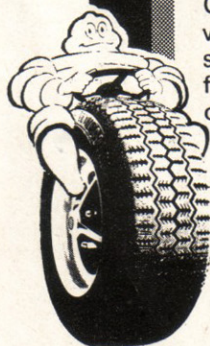
The instructor, probably in his late twenties, will be responsible for formal physical education, some mountain leadership courses and, in conjunction with other training staff, the regular assessment of apprentice development.

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MICHELIN



NATO

Women's Lib

THE pomp and circumstance of sovereign's parades at Sandhurst may be graced with the feminine touch as members of the Army's women's services pass off its hallowed square as officers, according to the Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, Brigadier Eileen Nolan.

At the end of the NATO senior women's services officers' conference in London she declared: "It is very possible one of these years that we'll have women at Sandhurst. Our female doctors and dentists are doing short courses there already and our Women's Royal Army Corps college for officers is very closely aligned with Sandhurst."

A total of 28 directors, or their equivalents, from Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, United States of America, Turkey and the United Kingdom met for the conference hosted by the United Kingdom contingent as their contribution to International Women's Year. The international women represented number some 120,000 throughout NATO.

The conference was arranged by the committee on women in the NATO armed forces which was set up in 1973 in Brussels to keep a contact between the Services concerned and to make recommendations for women's forces within the alliance. Chairman for the next two years is Brigadier Nolan who takes over from Colonel Else Martensen-Larsen, Women's Danish Air Force Director.

Before relinquishing the chair, Colonel Martensen-Larsen explained: "Women should not be used in a combat role unless the national situation demands it. Women are trained in self-defence in many countries and we stick to that."

Nevertheless, some nations in the alliance keep women at combat readiness and representing the Turkish Air Force's women was mother-of-three Major Senay Gunay who is married to an air force electronics officer and has gained her wings as a fighter pilot. She has flown five types of aircraft including the T33 and F104.

One of the major preoccupations of the three-day conference was the progress of integration of women's and men's services in NATO nations. The United States appears to lead the field in this. Of the United Kingdom's advance, Brigadier Nolan said: "In Britain each



Brigadier Eileen Nolan, Director WRAC, forecasts women at RMA.



A woman's place is... in the sky for fighter pilot Major Senay Gunay (above)... or in an Army kitchen.



Service works in a different way. Of the three, the Women's Royal Air Force is closer to full integration than the rest because of the nature of the Service.

"There is a completely different system in the Army where progress is slightly slower. The same is true of the Navy too. But we're all progressing along that line and we are getting women into our military schools and into wider experience in their Services to get them in a position to take on high command."

When questioned about the image of the British women's services as merely back-up organisations to their male counterparts, the brigadier added: "Most women in the Services find themselves in executive positions very much earlier than their civilian equivalents. This is what they are looking for."

Questioned by *SOLDIER* about the possibility of more trades and skilled posts being opened up to all ranks of the Women's Royal Army Corps in the near future, Brigadier Nolan referred to a committee at present sitting to consider this very matter.

A number of trades are already open, she claimed, including engineering skills. And she quoted a recent instance of a girl coming top in a course at the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineering's training establishment at Arborfield. She looks forward to an ever-widening choice of job opportunities opening up for members of the 4,000-strong WRAC.

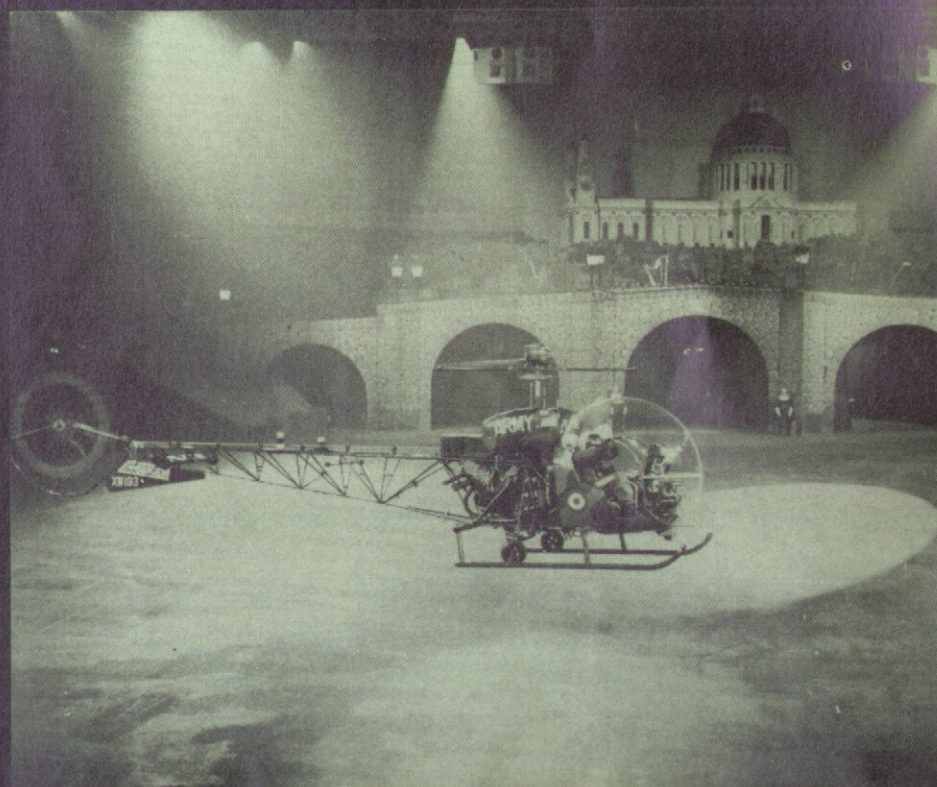
Left . . .

Godfather on parade — Regimental Sergeant-Major John Perry, of 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, looks over his five Godchildren and three members of his mess who were baptised in a mass service at Tidworth Garrison Church. In all, 23 children and five adults were baptised in a service attended by more than 150 relatives and friends and with the battalion band in attendance.



. . . and centre

Schoolboy Julian Thompson, of Upchurch, Kent, heard that the Royal Artillery was using radio-controlled model aircraft for anti-aircraft target practice. He wrote expressing his interest in this and other gunner training and as a result was invited to the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill where he was given the opportunity both to fly the aircraft and to fire a machine-gun at it.



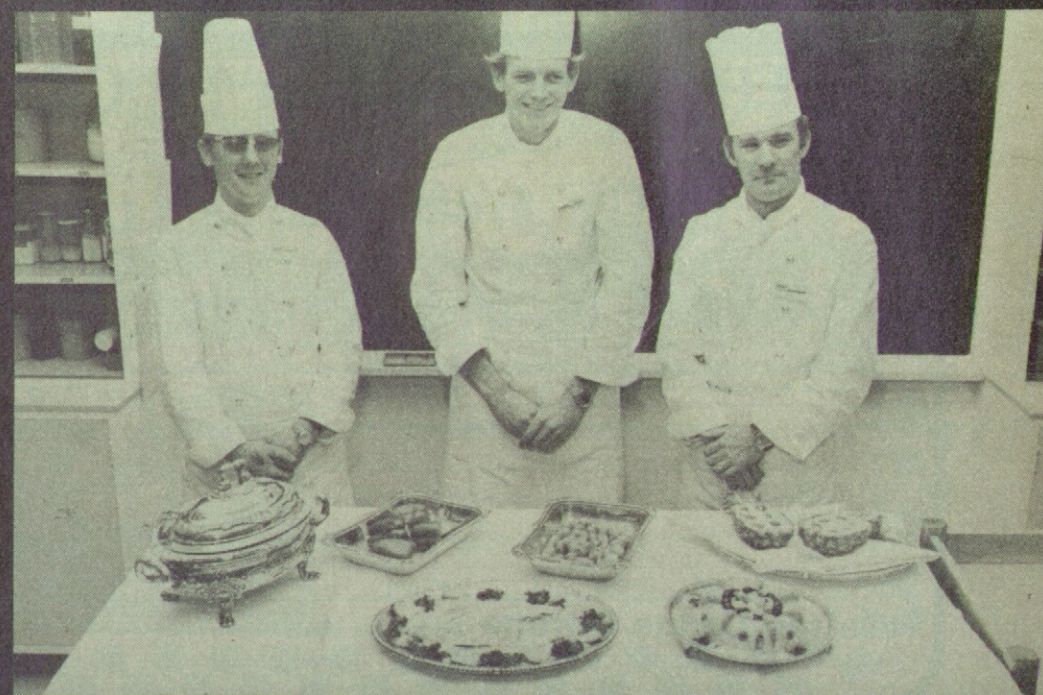
A Sioux helicopter flies around — indoors! This feat of precision flying was inside the Deutschlandhalle in Berlin as part of the Berlin Tattoo attended by a record 53,000 Berliners. Altogether 1300 soldiers, including 700 musicians, took part and the Prince of Wales attended the final performance.

. . . right

An Englishwoman, Mrs R H B Price, of Camberley, was so grateful for the attention she received when admitted to the British Military Hospital in Hong Kong that she asked her son David to paint a picture for it. The painting, of the Royal Military Academy, was handed over to Colonel C W Bowen (right), the hospital's commanding officer. Also pictured here are Mrs Price's two grandchildren, Sophie and Christopher Pett, and two of the nursing sisters who looked after her.

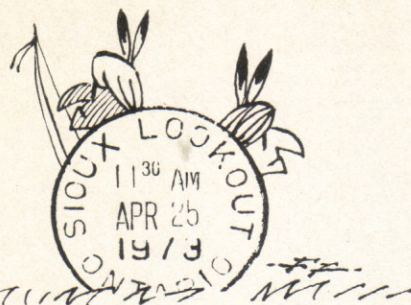


At the start of a four-day visit to Germany the Duke of Edinburgh went to Cornwall School, Dortmund, to meet 240 schoolchildren from British forces schools in Germany who were taking part in his award scheme. He spent two hours visiting 18 stands illustrating the activities with which children gain their bronze, silver and gold awards.



Three Army chefs reached the final of the Northern Ireland "Chef of the Year" contest. Pictured with their mouth-watering concoctions are (left to right) Sergeant Alan Dewhurst (placed 7th), Corporal Maurice Conway-Lee (5th) and Warrant Officer 2 David Nutter (2nd).

Letters



Wembley on record

After reading the article on the Military Musical Pageant in the September **SOLDIER** I couldn't wait to buy the record and, believe me, recording is a mild word to use for this fabulous record — I've never heard anything like it in my life. I've got 43 long-playing records of tattoos, tournaments, pageants and even two of the Canadian tattoos but, compared with the Wembley Pageant, they sound tame. Even the cover carries an excellent picture of the massed bands.

I am sincerely glad that Pye decided to make a double album of the event and I hope that future recordings of tattoos and pageants are produced as double albums. My one slight disappointment was that the record does not give the march "San Lorenzo" in toto. I heard it played at Trooping the Colour many years ago and ever since have hoped I could find a recording by the massed bands. This time I thought I had got one — never mind, as far as I am concerned this record is not only a collectors' piece but a masterpiece.—**W Perry, 15 Queens Drive, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.**

**SOLDIER agrees that this is a splendid memento of a superb occasion — and in the acclaim due to the pageant's director, producer and 2000 performers, takes a teeny weeny credit*

for the record sleeve colour photograph, taken by the magazine's Picture Editor, Leslie Wiggs.

Where's Duncan's medal?

I am trying to trace the Crimea Medal of a kinsman of mine, Duncan Ferguson of the 93rd Highlanders. It was in the possession of a male member of the family but it is thought that when he died it was sold to someone outside the family. I would appreciate any information which **SOLDIER** readers may have on this medal.—**Elizabeth M Hunter WRVS, Army Apprentices College ACC, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.**

Baçi for a Beaver

You stated in your article "Baçi for a Beaver" (October) that Major Shield established the Beaver detachment in Laos in 1968. This is incorrect. The RAF had maintained a Single Pioneer in support of the British Embassy in Vientiane for a number of years and when the Pioneers became obsolete the task was taken over by 130 Flight RCT. Major M N V Dudderidge was commanding the flight at that time and undertook the initial reconnaissance. Subsequently Major Dud-

deridge established the detachment, the first pilot in the theatre being Captain Hazelton, the second myself. Major Shield arrived in Singapore during Captain Hazelton's tour.—**Maj M H Burton RCT, 15 Squadron RCT, BFPO 36.**

SOLDIER is happy to put the record straight. Probably the mists of antiquity and a succession of duty tours clouded SOLDIER'S well-meaning Far East source.

No gong for the jebel

I was interested in the Soldier to Soldier column of the November issue in which you drew attention to the situation over the award of medals for service in Oman. It might interest you to know what happened when I was Commander of the Sultan's Armed Forces from 1958 to 1961.

After the capture of the Jebel Akhdar in January 1959 the then Sultan wanted to award a Jebel Akhdar campaign medal to all troops who took part in the action. Although the CIGS told me at the time he would recommend this, it transpired that neither the British officers seconded to the Sultan's Armed Forces nor any of the British troops who took part were allowed to accept this medal. I believe this was on Foreign Office instigation as they wished to play down the fact that British troops had taken part (even though a DSO, eight MCs and a number of other decorations were awarded for the operation).

As a result the medal was awarded only to the Sultan's own troops and to British contract officers serving in his forces. It took me nearly two years of writing to the Press and lobbying MPs before I heard that a General Service Medal would be issued with a clasp "Arabian Peninsula." However I feel that the medal lost its impact, first by being issued almost two years after the event and secondly because it was awarded to all personnel who served for a limited period in the Arabian Peninsula. Thus it was given to office personnel who had served in Bahrain or Aden and that gave umbrage to

those gallant men of the Special Air Service Regiment and Life Guards who fought on the Jebel Akhdar under extreme conditions of danger and hardship.—**Col D Smiley, Casa Beniome, Beniarbeig, Alicante, Spain.**

Life assurance

I feel that the item on life assurance in **SOLDIER** News (October) gives a false impression. I would query the sweeping implications and claims that the offer by Naafi represents something entirely new, that all servicemen had been charged extra premiums for service in Northern Ireland until now and that such extra premium could be avoided now only if the contract was obtained through Naafi.

This company and other advisers can affirm that these implications and claims represent a far too generalised view. Life assurance without extra charge on a wide range of contracts has been available through certain life offices for some considerable time, and throughout the whole period of troubles in Northern Ireland. While obviously the facility offered by Naafi must be welcomed, I feel that the implications of the article must be viewed as somewhat overstating the present position and unique nature of the facility offered.—**T H Howell, Managing Director, Wilson & Co (Insurances) Ltd, Ox Row, Market Place, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 1TS.**

**A spokesman for Naafi (source of the item) says it was not intended to give a false impression.*

Abbreviated brass

Among my collection of brass shoulder titles I have the following which I cannot identify. I wonder if any reader could give me any information about them please—they are CAPB, POC, URT, SRF and GRT with a crown.—**A J McKechnie, 2 Kings Arms Cottage, Chulmleigh, North Devon.**

Forward the ladies

Congratulations to Sergeant W S Sanders on completing 21 years' service with the TA/TAVR (Letters, November). I am afraid it is no record however as our own Staff Sergeant Ivy Moore QARANC(V) is in her 26th year of service and has recently been awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal for the second time.—**Maj A P Willman RAMC, 219 (Wessex) General Hospital RAMC (V), TAVR Centre, Ashmead Road, Keynsham, Bristol, BS18 1SX.**

Mystery plaque

I enclose a photograph of a block of wood which was found in the crypt of Rheims Cathedral between the wars. It measures nine inches by six inches and is three-quarters of an inch thick. It was thought at the time to be a cavalry record of horses and/or men billeted there rather than a casualty list. I wonder if any reader can identify this plaque or whether anyone who was stationed in Rheims knows of any unit that used the cathedral as a billet or

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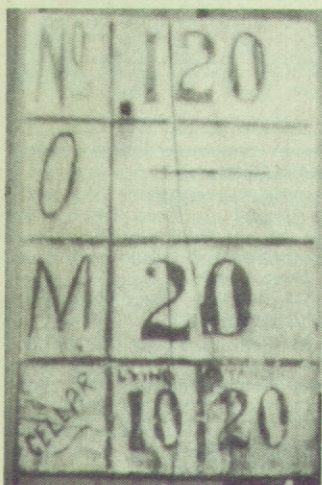
name		address	
rank		tel	
make of car	model	mileage	
first registered	extras	colour	
lhd or rhd	tax paid yes/no	mot yes/no	
condition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> poor <input type="checkbox"/>	average <input type="checkbox"/>	good <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/>

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casualty station. Written on the back of the plaque are the letters SDO & STRG.—C T Walker, 11 St Aubyns, Hove, Sussex, BN3 2TG.



- 8 Cpl D G Piper, HQ Coy, 1 DERR, BFPO 503.
9 Mrs J Crosby, CRLS Clerks, Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire.
10 John Lewis, 70 Mill View, Maesteg, Glamorgan.

Collectors' Corner

C F Kooger, Ch Leickertstraat 34 III, Amsterdam-West.—Wishes to correspond with collectors of machine-gun cartridge belts.
W A Townsend, Westhoven, 7 Well Lane, Curbridge, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX8 7PB.—Seeks medals, books, badges and other militaria, 43/52 Foot Ox and Bucks LI. Will buy or exchange.
M E Stephenson, 83 Greenbank Road, Darlington, DL3 6EN.—Wishes purchase officer cap badges in bronze or gilt of Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps and Royal New Zealand Army Ordnance Corps also officer and OR

badges South African Army Ordnance Corps.

H J Pike, 35 Hauteville, St Peter Port, Guernsey, CI.—Seeks CEF badges especially artillery, Southern Rhodesian badges 1939-45, also badges Australia, Canada, New Zealand, OTC, JTC, CCF and Cadet Corps.

Irvin L Mortenson, PO Box 237, Everglades City, FL 33929, USA.—Requires Vols 1-5 and Appendix of Annals King's Royal Rifle Corps, also officer's busby KRRC. Good price paid or will trade for other militaria.

How observant are you?

(see page 18)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Width of flag. 2 Bottom left window of building. 3 Right boot lace hole of prone man. 4 Shape of upper man's left boot. 5 Length of upper man's forelock. 6 Instructor's collar. 7 Crease on shorts of man on vaulting horse. 8 Heel line of man on horse. 9 Upper man's neckline. 10 Shorts waistline of prone man.

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Reunions

9 Indep Para Sqn RE. Reunion 13 March 76 for serving, ex-service and commissioned senior NCOs. Details from WO 2 R H Richards RE, 9 Indep Para Sqn RE, Rhine Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2AX.

Competition

It must have been too easy. . . . Almost all entries for the September Competition 207 (Fly me!) correctly identified the two aircraft hidden in the vertical columns of the grid as Victor (United Kingdom tanker) and Gannet (United Kingdom reconnaissance plane). Completed grid:

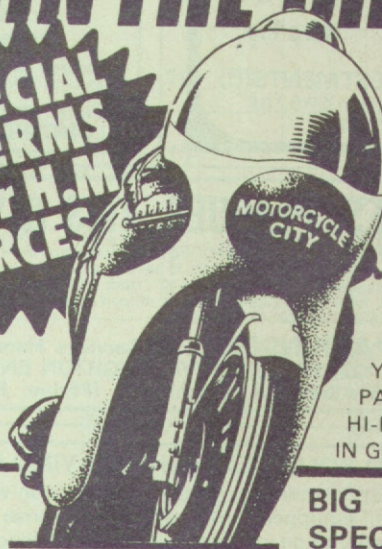
L A N S E N	(Sweden)
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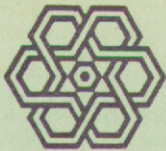
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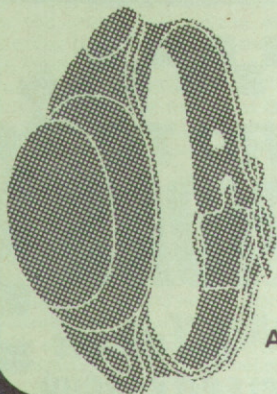
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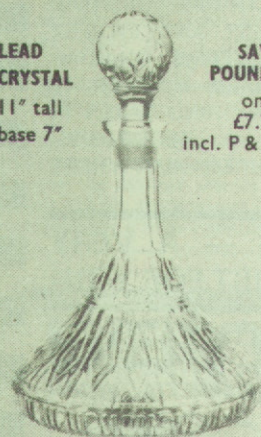
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Acrosticcode

IN this month's two-stage teaser of acrostic and simple substitution code the required answer is the decoded sentence. This is a quotation from a novel, the title of which (two words) forms the first vertical column (A) of the acrostic. The author's name is in the fourth vertical (D).

Enter your answers to the clues in the acrostic. Then transfer the letters from the acrostic to their appropriate squares in the coded quotation and finally decode.

Send your answer (the quotation) on a postcard or by letter, with your name and address and the "Competition 211" label from this page, to:

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 8 March. The answer and winners' names will appear in the May SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 211" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Acrostic clues

- 1 (left) Acted
(right) Silly animal
- 2 A hundred spoken about, take note, for Greek advice
- 3 New, but it can wear off
- 4 Colloquially finished, from end to end or side to side
- 5 A case for arrows
- 6 European lance-armed cavalryman
- 7 Sir Walter Scott novel
- 8 Ancient athletes' covered exercise area
- 9 Consisting of bone
- 10 Isn't twig turning about
- 11 (left) Stop here
(right) Used to be

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2	O	R	A	C	L	E		
3								
4								
5	Q	U	I	V	E	R		
6								
7	I	V	A	N	H	O	E	
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10	T	W	I	S	T	I	N	G
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E2	A2	C9
	O	

F9	C7	G3	H10
	A		G

E10	B6	F4
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E7	D5	B3	G7	F2	C1
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B4	F10
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C6	E9	D10
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C5	F3	G10	D7	E8	F11	B2	A1	G4
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A6	C10	D4
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E3	A9	G1
		S

B11	F1	A7	B9	E1	D9	B10	H4
	S	I		A		W	

A8	C2	E5	F5	D8	E6	B5	C11
	A	E	R			U	

Books



Bomb disposal

"Bombs Have No Pity"
(Lieutenant-Colonel George Styles GC)

There is a brand of courage that turns normal men's stomachs to water. It is not heat-of-battle frenzy, a welling of hatred, the coolness of midjet-submariners, nor a courage engendered by war. This brand of courage is the prerogative of a few men like Colonel Styles who approach what the Victorians called "infernal devices" and calmly make them inoperable.

George Styles, whose George Cross is the highest award for gallantry so far made in Ireland's troubles, was in charge of the Army's bomb disposal squads before retiring. He and his teams tackled 6000 bombs. General Tuzo wrote: "How many lives you saved and how much damage you have prevented is beyond calculation."

This is a gripping book written with a modesty equalled only by the extremes of danger which daily faced the author. It is also written

with the greater freedom of retirement and is a highly opinionated book that has already stimulated comment.

Bob Perrin, known to millions who have television sets, has put this splendid book together though it reads like an autobiography. Its superb illustrations include four pages in full colour.

When Colonel Styles heard of his George Cross award, his comment was typical: "They had to pick some idiot to hang the medal on. It's really for all the men in bomb disposal." I'm sure he would say the same of his first-class book.

William Luscombe Ltd, Artists' House, 14-15 Manette Street, London W1, £3.95 PC

FAMOUS REGIMENTS

Edited by
Lt General Sir Brian Horrocks

The Rifle Brigade

by Basil Harvey



Sharp shots

"The Rifle Brigade" (Basil Harvey)
The principle of combining mobility with accurate firepower dawned on the British Army early in the 19th

century — the result was The Rifle Brigade. The best men from 14 regiments were sent to Shorncliffe in 1802 to be trained by Sir John Moore. Right from the start the 95th were intended to be an élite force of fighting men. Trained to use their initiative and encouraged to be self-confident, discipline was hard.

There was plenty to be done — raids on Spain and Buenos Aires, Baltic forays, bloody battles in the Peninsula, fighting cholera and Cosacks in the Crimea, marching across the searing plains of India, tracking down Fenians in Canada, bush-fighting Ashantis in West Africa or snipers on the North-West Frontier.

World War One brought even greater challenges at Passchendaele and Lys, Ypres and the Somme. Ten Victoria Crosses and 11,575 dead are everlasting memorials to endurance and bravery. World War Two added new names—the "holding action" at Calais, Tobruk and Sidi Rezegh, "The Snipe" and Hill 112. Even the so-called peace years meant virtually constant action for the "Green Jackets" in Kenya against the Mau-Mau, in Cyprus and in Sarawak.

Like all the volumes in the "Famous Regiments" series this book is well-written, furnished with excellent plates and is exciting reading. Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.50 AWH

High fashion

"Women in Uniform through the Centuries" (Elizabeth Ewing)
From medieval nun, Victorian parlour maid and Boer War nurse to the stylishly garbed servicewoman, police girl and air hostess of today, the story of women in uniform is entertainingly told in this well-researched work.

A fair proportion of its 160 pages is devoted to the evolution of female dress in the WRNS, WRAC and WRAF and their associated nursing services. In 1963 the Women's Royal Army Corps forsook khaki in favour of a fashionably up-dated uniform in Lovat green and members of the corps will be interested to see a detailed sketch of their Nor-



man Hartnell No 1 dress introduced in 1965. The WRAC officer's couture mess dress is described by Elizabeth Ewing as the "ultimate in the apotheosis of uniform into contemporary fashion, a bold step forward in a trend which has been growing steadily throughout women's uniforms."

A chapter recounting the 17th and 18th century exploits of those redoubtable women who served in the Army and Navy disguised as men, provides a touch of spice—characters like Mrs Christian Davies (Mother Ross), who served under Marlborough, was wounded at Ramillies and ended up a Chelsea pensioner; Hannah Snell, who fought as a marine at Pondicherry; and Mary Ralphson (Trooper Mary), who rode at Dettingen with the 3rd Dragoons.

Not least of this commendable book's assets are the 170 illustrations—mostly photographs—with which it is generously laced. B T Batsford Ltd, PO Box 4, Springwood Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex, £5.50 JFPJ

Victorian hero

"Gordon of Khartoum" (Patrick Turnbull)

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If he were eccentric as well, then he was almost worshipped. Such a man was Charles George Gordon. Slenderly built, shy and hesitant, he became somewhat surprisingly a "rebel." In 1860 he volunteered for service in China where he found that the secret of success in war was firepower and mobility backed by ruthless discipline. Before long men were calling him "Chinese Gordon" and speaking in awe of his destruction of Peking's Imperial Palace.

Gordon refused to accept his countrymen's acclaim. Childishly petulant at times, he developed a religious melancholia and, as if actually courting death, rushed all over the world to find a place where his destiny could be fulfilled. This was to be the Sudan.

No sooner had Gordon crushed slave-trading than the Mahdi threatened to destroy all his work. The British Press hysterically demanded that Gordon be sent to Khartoum to salvage what he could. The Prime Minister, Gladstone, clearly ordered Gordon to abandon the city to its fate but this Gordon would not do.

His death — at the top of a flight of stairs, immaculate in white uniform and scarlet turban, unarmed and unafraid — was in the noble tradition of heroes. Although we may regard him as a psychiatric enigma with a death-wish, our grandfathers saw him as the symbol of their national character.

Of the many recent works on Gordon this must be one of the best. *Bailey Brothers & Swinfen Ltd, Warner House, Folkestone, Kent, £2.90* AWH

Lack in leadership

"No Surrender: The Siege of Londonderry 1689" (Tony Gray)

The "siege mentality" of Ulster Protestantism, which shuts out co-operation with Catholics, originated in the 105-day defence of Londonderry against Catholic James II in 1689. During the previous year, rumours and letters from well-wishing Catholics told of a plot to massacre Protestant settlers throughout Ireland. On 9 December 1688, Irishmen were to "fall on and kill and murder man,

wife and child." In the north the Protestants withdrew for safety to Londonderry where apprentices shut the gates against an Irish regiment, the mob acting when the citizens' leaders dissembled and feared to commit themselves.

Nearly 300 years later, in 1969, now predominantly Catholic Londonderry began another "siege" when stones were thrown at the apprentice boys' annual procession, which led to British troops being sent to Northern Ireland to maintain order.

In this volume the 1689 siege is dealt with in detail, revealing inefficiency, delay and lack of decisive leadership on both sides. There was a better, larger force inside Londonderry than without, yet the besieged suffered heavily and were reduced to eating dog and rat while a relief expedition of 30 ships lay in sight of the city.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £3.95 GRH

WARS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

WORLD WAR I
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THE MIDDLE EAST WARS

By David Steiner Ronald Heiferman SL Mayer

Sixty years

"Wars of the 20th Century" (Edited by S L Mayer)

This ambitious project (60 years of modern war in one volume) has succeeded to a very great extent. It shows the changing balance of power, the emergence of super powers, and lights the struggle between ideologies that is still unresolved and very active.

As a record of events, the work is clear and concise and contains more than 900 photographs, many in colour, in its 500 pages. The illustrations are often dramatic and include propaganda cartoons and posters as well as depicting the horrors and devastation of war. The 50 maps well support the text and the special drawings and details of aircraft, tanks, guns and ships give a clear indication of the armament of the times.

Not a book to take to bed (13 inches by nine and weighing six pounds), it is nevertheless easy to read and digest. The two world wars, Korea, Vietnam and the recurring struggle between Jews and Arabs, are all carefully and pictorially chronicled.

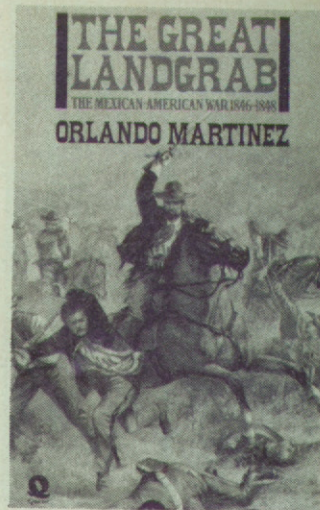
The viewpoint is mainly American and perhaps this, apart from space limitations, accounts for omissions such as the heroic role of Malta in World War Two and the British struggle against terrorism in Malaya. The 20-year guerrilla war against the French in Algeria is dismissed in part of a sentence. Nevertheless, this volume is worth having and a bargain at the price. *Octopus Books Ltd, 59 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DA, £7.95* GRH

Cut by half

"The Great Landgrab: The Mexican-American War 1846-1848" (Orlando Martinez)

Finally independent from Spain, but still in infancy, Mexico entered into an agreement with the United States which enabled Americans to live in its north-east, an area to become Texas. Eventually the now American population of "Texas" demanded the right to be part of the United States, which Mexico strongly resisted. America first tried to buy Texas, failed, and later the Mexicans withdrew their permission for Americans to live there as an absolute right.

The new Texans then declared independence from Mexico, which President Jackson "recognised." This was all too much for poor Mexico. War broke out and the riff-raff of the great United States set off for Texas for the fighting, the loot, the wanton destruction, the



rape and the smashing of Mexico.

The whole war was the most disgraceful episode in American history, a view endorsed by the late President Jack Kennedy. It results were staggering. Mexico lost more than half its country — an area larger than France and Germany combined. The United States won Mexico's richest cattle and fruit-growing lands, including California, Texas, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and all New Mexico.

Within ten years of the treaty being signed, more than 555 million dollars worth of gold had been mined in California alone. It was the greatest landgrab of all time.

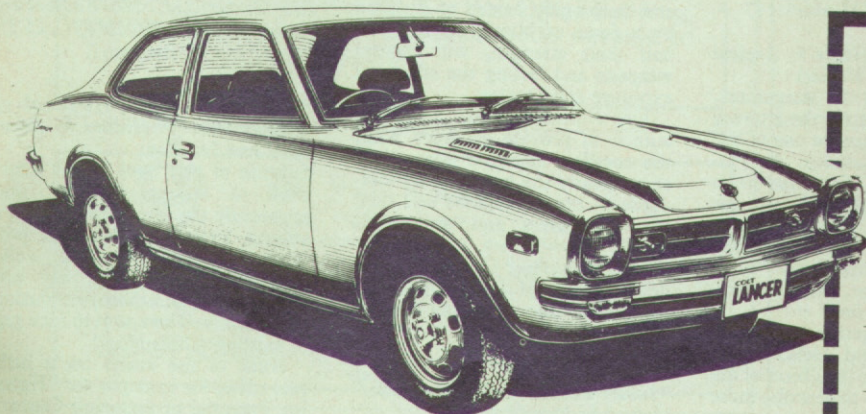
Quartet Books Ltd, 27 Goodge Street, London W1, £4.50 PC

Private view

"Long 'Un — A Damn Bad Soldier" (Bernard Livermore)

Bernard Livermore was always very tall and very thin, hence in part the odd title of this simple little book recounting the life of a private soldier in 20th Battalion of the London Regiment during World War One. Long 'Un's war took him to Vimy Ridge in France, to Salonika and Egypt.

His self-assessment of being a damn bad soldier is scarcely born out by the narrative. He was never particularly well and the rigours of



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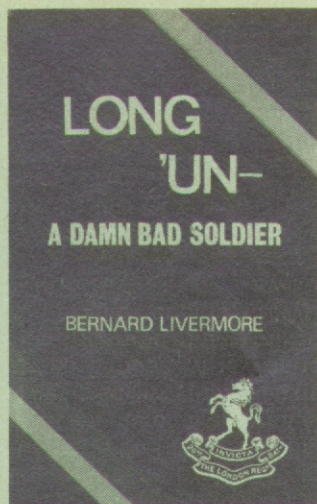
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war did nothing to help him. After a sticky time in French mud he found himself scarcely alive following a tremendous blizzard in Salonika; malaria and dysentery put a halt to proper soldiering in Allenby's army.

But it is a tale readily understandable to every private soldier and immensely readable. Livermore paints a picture free from any viewpoint save his own and the illustrations are both amateur and refreshing. The only mystery which Long 'Un does nothing to explain is why he, a respectable middle-class audit clerk, articulate and interested, not only refused to consider taking a commission but also repeatedly refused promotion.

Proceeds from the sale of this book go to regimental charities of the Queen's Own Association. Harry Hayes, 48 Trafalgar Street, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7HA, £3.70 PC



Nostalgia

"Keep Smiling Through: The Home Front 1939-45" (Susan Briggs) When I finished this absolutely superb book by the wife of Professor Asa Briggs I recalled my own boyhood during the war and was totally convinced that the old days were the good days — I wish there was as much spirit among the population today.

This is a profusely illustrated "look-back" to England during Hitler's war, when walls had ears, letters arrived "opened by the censor," careless talk cost lives; an age of rationing, clothing coupons, salvage, iron raling collections, air-raid sirens and evacuation. Here it all is: Fougasse cartoons, utility dresses, sadness, humour, the sheer

determination of King and commoner to fight and scrimp (remember the Squander Bug?), the appeal for binoculars—and the Americans.

Then there was Dig-for-Victory with municipal parks and even suburban street edgings dug and planted. Oranges were "for children only" and I can't recall seeing a banana until I was eight. Relief was provided by Tommy Handley, Vera Lynn (who writes a foreword to the book), Tommy Trinder and Carroll Gibbons, the pianist who carried on playing when the Savoy Hotel received a direct hit during an air raid.

For those involved in the war, at home or abroad, this book will provide tremendous joy, as simple nostalgia or as a chronicle of times past well worth recalling. For those too young to remember, it is an eye-opener.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London, SW11 1XA, £4.95 PC



Wargaming again

"The Battle of Waterloo" (B J Hurren)

"The Battle of Fontenoy" (Charles Grant)

"The Battle of Salamis" (Richard B Nelson)

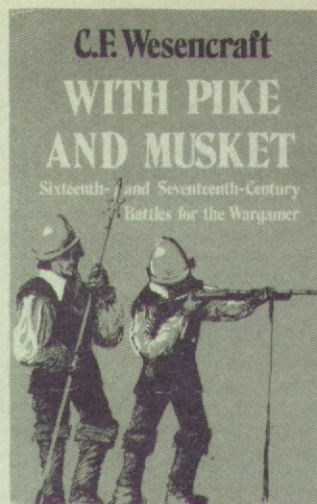
"With Pike and Musket" (C F Wesencraft)

"Airfix Magazine Guide 9: Ancient Wargaming" (Phil Barker)

Treasure trove for the wargamers, all valuable additions to the growing library on what must be one of our fastest-growing pastimes. As Patrick Henry said: "The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone: it is to the vigilant, the active and the brave." A good enough text for a wargamer, but as Robert Southey said: "Now tell us about the war, and what they fought each other for."

Put the two together, as Messrs Hurren, Grant and Nelson have done, and you have the object of the first three books — to describe those battles in detail for the wargamer and modeller. And there are plenty of opportunities to change the course of history.

Mr Wesencraft concentrates on 16th and 17th century battles, tracing the courtship and eventual marriage of the handgun and the pike through 100 years of English warfare. Again, directed specifically at the wargamer, his book tackles weaponry, historical organisations, preparation, weather, movement,



unit efficiency rating, personalities and casualties. Twenty-seven battles are reconstructed.

Phil Barker is a founder member of the Wargames Research Group and winner of the wargames championship "ancients" trophy so he is well equipped to advise on fighting it out with Greek, Macedonian, Carthaginian, Roman, Persian, Celtic or Byzantine armies. This is an excellent introduction to ancient wargaming. Ideal for beginners, it will be welcomed too by the more experienced wargamer seeking greater depth and realism in his battles.

1, 2 and 3: William Luscombe Publisher, Mitchell Beazley Marketing, Artists House, 14-15 Manette Street, London, W1V 5LB, £4.50 each

4: The Elmfield Press, Elmfield Road, Morley, Leeds, LS27 0NN, £5.50

5: Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £1.20 JCW

In brief

"Great Battles: Flodden" (Charles Kightly)

A well-written account of the battle of Flodden in the Anglo-Scottish War of 1513 when the Scots under James IV sallied south across the border with the best-equipped and largest force ever to invade England. They were out-manoeuvred and thoroughly beaten at Flodden by a force of North Countrymen half their strength, with poorer weapons and feeling the effects of exposure and hunger.

Eye-witness accounts aided the author to provide accuracy while the excellent coloured illustrations show clearly the banners and standards of the adversaries and their weapons, dress and armour in detail.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £1.25 limp edition, £2.25 cased

"Jane's Pocket Book 10: Missiles" (Edited by Ronald Pretty)

Ever since men first threw rocks at each other, missiles have been getting more and more complicated and profuse. At one end of the scale is the anti-tank missile. It costs but a few hundred pounds and a squaddie can knock out a tank worth half a million pounds or so. At the other end are the vastly-complicated, super-sophisticated weapons which lurk beneath the sea for months at a time and are capable of destroying a

city on the other side of the globe.

Everything between those points is covered in this little book. It does not make comforting reading, but we may as well know what's likely to hit us.

Macdonald & Jane's (Publishers), Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £2.50 cased, £1.75 pvc

"Airfix Magazine Annual 5 for Modellers" (Edited by Bruce Quarrie)

Modellers who find making up a plastic kit straight from the box no longer a challenge could well sample this book for useful tips on scratch building and conversion.

For example it demonstrates step-by-step how to make a miniature 1:76th scale Russian T28 tank from plastic card, sprue, thread and parts of old kits; how to convert an Airfix Scout helicopter into a Westland Wasp; and how to construct a Polish Lancer of World War Two by cannibalisation.

The annual's two well-established and attractive features — "Pick of Photopage" and "What? Where? When? Photo Quiz" — are this time entirely devoted to aircraft. The main criticism is again the absence of coloured illustrations, apart from the cover.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £1.95

"India's Paratroopers" (K C Praval)

India's 1st Battalion, Parachute Regiment, celebrated its bicentenary in October 1961. Known earlier as the 67th Punjab, it was part of the East India Company in the days of Robert Clive. India's first parachute brigade was created in 1941 from British, Indian and Gurkha battalions. It trained hard, expanded into an airborne division and fought meritoriously in Burma.

After partition in 1947, Indian paratroopers were soon in action in Kashmir. A parachute field ambulance did sterling work in Korea from 1950 to 1953; two parachute battalions took turns on UN peace-keeping duties between Arab and Jew from 1956 to 1958.

The story of the paratroopers of India is well told in this volume which is fully illustrated with maps and pictures.

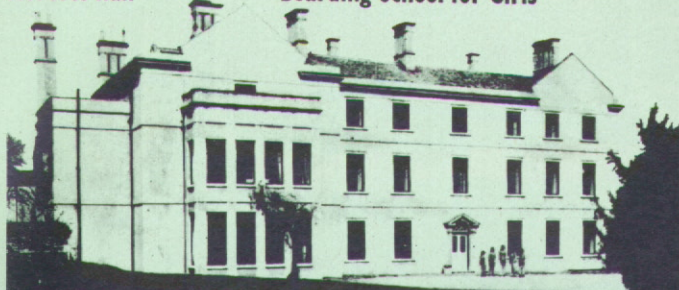
Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £5.25

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

Subtitle of this book is "A Yearbook of Military Society" and apparently the idea is to produce a volume annually. This is a pot-pourri of learned and well-documented essays on war and armed forces and their relationship with society. The aim is to fill a gap in existing scholarship.

Some of the essays are a little recondite, for example the "Fighting Potential of Sixteenth Century Venetian Galleys" with its long lists of wages paid to crew and weapons carried. Best for the non-specialist are "The English Civil War and English Society," "Attitudes to War in Late Victorian and Edwardian England," "The Czechoslovak Army and the Munich Crisis" and "The Debate on Wartime Censorship in Britain 1902-14."

Croom Helm Ltd, 2-10 St John's Road, London SW11, £7.95



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ZAIRE RIVER EXPEDITION

True to the Royal Engineers' motto "Ubique" a sapper postal NCO was among the intrepid explorers on Major John Blashford-Snell's Zaire River expedition in the footsteps of the adventurer/journalist Stanley.

A British Forces Post Office was specially set up to follow the expedition and special commemorative postal covers were carried in the Beaver aircraft, aboard the inflatables and on the logistic train. The covers made a set of eight designs and were post-marked at various points along the expedition route; some at local post offices and some at the BFPO. Getting the 5,000 sets safely through their journey and home was an administrative nightmare. But it was achieved and the sets are on sale at £9.50 each or £15 in a special hard-backed album and signed by Major Blashford-Snell. Only a few of these hard-backed mounted sets remain.

The money raised by the sales goes to offset the expedition's outstanding deficit.

Also on sale is Major Blashford-Snell's book, "Where the Trail Runs Out." This tells the story of many of the expeditions he has been involved in, including the Blue Nile, the Dahlak Quest and Darien Gap. The book costs £4.15, including post and packing, and the author will autograph copies on request.

Orders should be sent to Zaire River Expedition, Ministry of Defence (RM 5B), Old War Office Building, Whitehall, London SW1. Cheques made payable to Scientific Exploration Society.



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