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FRONT COVER

The pomp and tradition of the British Army epitomised in the gleaming ceremonial dress of these troopers of the Blues and Royals — a contrast to the drab camouflage clothing they wear when on operational duty as tank crews in the cavalry.

Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

Sergeant Jack Fowler of The Parachute Regiment reaches successfully for a 'dead centre' landing on the small disc target during the accuracy contest of the Army parachuting championships at Netheravon.

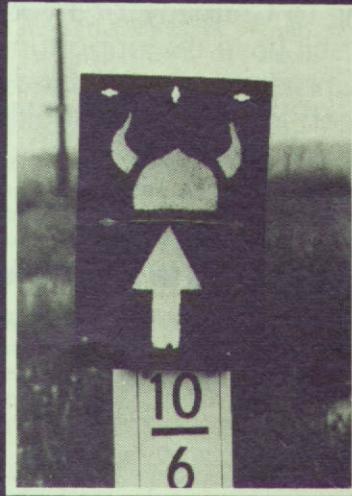
Picture by Paul Haley

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25 Commanding officers get a taste of adventure as they pit themselves against the elements.



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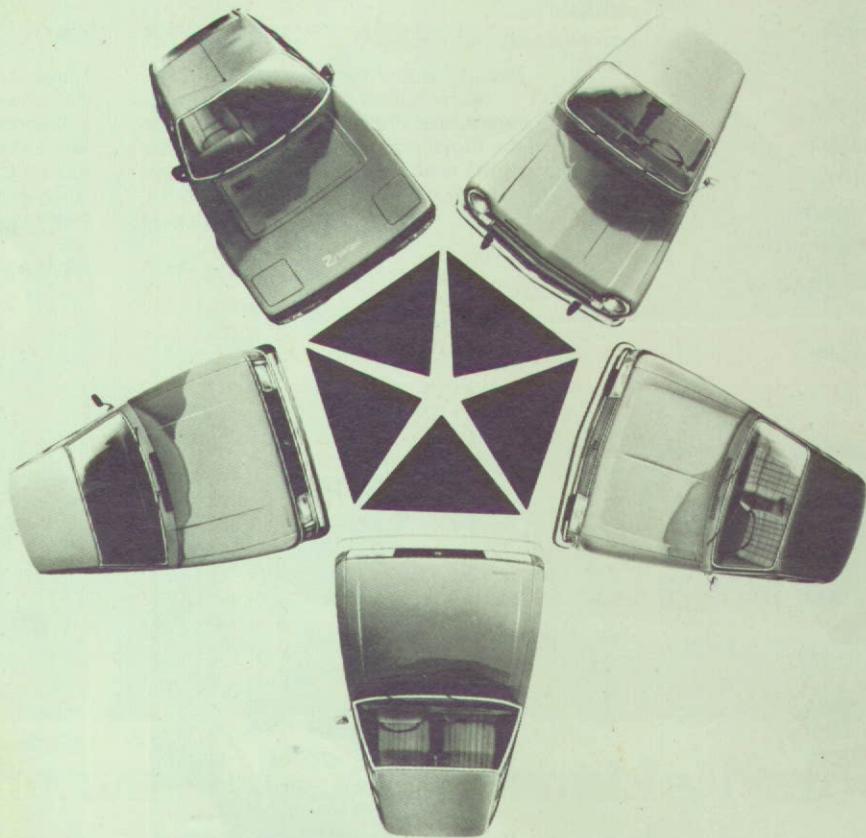
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TOP BRASS

An interview with the new Chief of the General Staff

by Maureen Cleave

GENERAL Sir Edwin Bramall is now the Chief of the General Staff, which is to say head of the Army. He is 55 and has been a soldier all his working life, even from small beginnings when, as an Eton schoolboy on his 17th birthday, he became a sergeant in the Home Guard.

The summer before, he had had two of his paintings hung in the Royal Academy, its youngest exhibitor. Wilfrid Blunt, who taught him at Eton, once said how grateful he was to him for making the Drawing Schools respectable — which he had done by also being Captain of Cricket.

If you sat next to General Bramall on a bus tomorrow, you would never guess he was a soldier — let alone in charge of 165,000 of them. He has nothing of the martial air in private life, no imposing stature, grand voice, nor — as he himself points out — a leg for a boot. He does, however, have a good deep chest for medals, and commands a wonderful loyalty and respect in men who have served under him.

"Isn't it splendid," one of them said, "to have someone as nice as that in charge of the Army?"

Fair in blame and fulsome in praise, he has a tendency to pop his head round people's doors rather than summon them to his presence. But he is impressively able and quick-thinking, courageous in argument, and steely and formidable as the occasion demands. His most attractive quality, among many, is his total lack of self-consciousness.

He was there to meet me at Andover Station, deep in conversation with the ticket collector and a lady who happened to be standing nearby.

He introduced me to Adam, his very old King Charles Spaniel, and we set off for the garrison town of Tidworth.

Tidworth, he said, was built to be within easy riding distance of Salisbury Plain, "an attractive setting but isolated. They brought the Kaiser down here in 1911, and he said: 'You're mad, tucking your army away down here.' I agree with that. It's far better to integrate the Army with normal society. Now I'll take you past what I call Coronation Street."

There it was, clean new prams in almost every garden, the gardens tended but not loved, for nobody was staying long. And it wasn't Coronation Street but Delhi 1-24, Jellalabad 1-24, Kandahar 1-24. The General said that nowadays people wanted to buy their own houses, which he could well understand — he would rather like to own a house himself — but that it broke up the team spirit.

"The Army," he said, "depends on

people living together. When I took over my battalion I had known the sergeant-majors as lance corporals, I had been to their weddings, and Avril, my wife, knew their children by name. This is a profession of total commitment. It has to be, and a wife has to understand that."

Lady Bramall has reared a family and set up house 27 times in 30 years. She has followed the flag from Colchester to Hong Kong and was preparing to follow it next week to a flat in Ennismore Gardens. She is calm, pretty and sympathetic; and very proud of her husband. "He has never changed," she said, which one could well believe.

He became a soldier himself not from choice (although he might well have chosen) but because he was overtaken by events, i.e., the War.

His is the last generation of senior command to have fought in the War; everybody coming after him will be too young. He landed in Normandy at the age of 19 and had been wounded twice, won the Military Cross and been made a Major when, at the age of 21, his place at Christ Church came up. He just felt he could not go back to school.

"Like most of my generation, I suppose, I have a love-hate relationship with the Germans; they fought so bravely and, with the exception of the SS, so cleanly."

After lunch we sat outside in the hot sun. The General, having offered us Cretan brandy, disappeared briefly and reappeared lugging several canvases through the French windows. Lady Bramall looked on, amused.

"I've brought you all sorts of things," he said and flung the pictures on the grass. "Very uninhibited, you see. I couldn't paint that stuff now. This one's called Diggings For Victory; the allotments are all blue, very *avant garde*."

"And here's the photograph album: this is Flagstaff House, where we lived in Hong Kong, and look! — I'm the only General to be on Page Three of *The Sun*: ORGIES IN THE ARMY: DRIVEL! SAYS GENERAL. Here are some of the medals you asked about. "This is the collar of the GCB. It's worth £5000, but we have to give them back. Here are the instructions . . ."

COLLAR DAYS, it said. The Collar should be worn on certain occasions, e.g., Christmas Day or the anniversary of the Restoration of the Monarch (May 29), on parade and before sundown.

"Never on horseback," the General said. "When we had the Army Review in Germany for the Queen's Jubilee, all the Generals and Field-Marshal flew out specially; they gave us one big changing room, and we



were all saying 'Where do you put this?' and 'Should I wear this with that?'"

Leading an army in war is a very different thing from keeping it at the ready in peacetime.

"Leadership in war is a thing you can't describe: like an electric force, it surges out. Certain men like Napoleon, Rommel, Patton have the ability to dominate a situation and make men win a battle they should have lost. Wellington was the perfect general and he did it all before he was 46. He and Napoleon were the same age.

"Command is a young man's game, before you get soft and it becomes an effort to bed down on the wet grass.

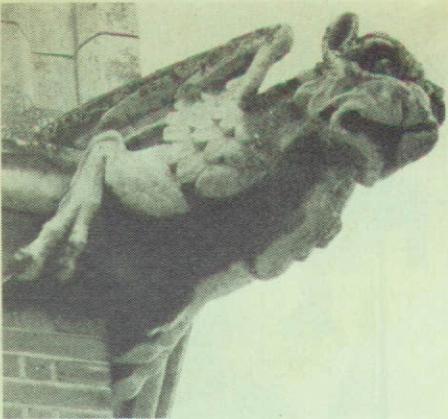
"Leadership in peacetime, however, is an intellectual process: a leader has to work out what the urgencies are, where everybody's going. He has to decide: 'This is my job.'"

The other part of leadership is the men.

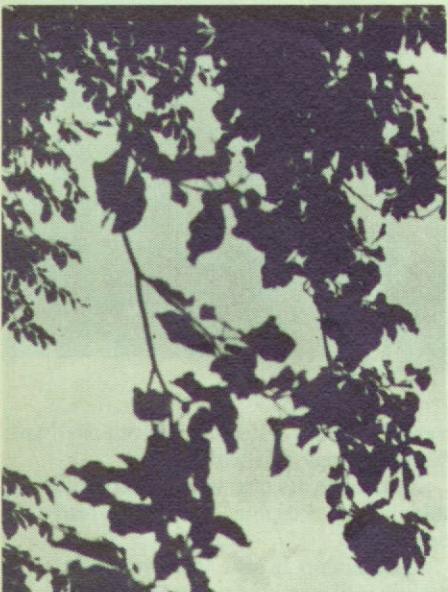
"Suppose you're in some workshop and the heating drops below a certain level according to some union rule, in the Army you don't say: 'Everybody OUT!' You say: 'Put your sweaters on, bite on the bullet, work on, and I'll have this boiler fixed in ten minutes!'"

Generals are in a good position to give advice to the young, and they often take advantage of it. Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell advised his two young orphaned nephews to read their Bibles and shoot well ahead of the cock pheasant. (One of them went on to win a VC in the First World War.) General Bramall roared with laughter and said the Field-Marshal had been in his own regiment, the Green Jackets.

"What I say to a young soldier is this: 'You've joined the most marvellous outfit; be proud of it; do what you can to make it even better — and you'll walk 10 feet tall'."



Above: A Bagshot gargoyle. Below: The house.



Chaplains' centre keeps up with the times

MULTI-COLOURED RHODODENDRON BUSHES, plump as summer clouds, line the road approaching the Royal Army Chaplains' Department Centre in its Victorian splendour in Bagshot Park, Surrey.

But the splendour of the one-time stately home set in its scrupulously manicured grounds — once owned by the Duke of Connaught — belies the matter-of-fact activities that keep the centre a hive of activity all year round.

The centre's warden, The Reverend Clifford Jobson, took time out from his busy schedule to tell *SOLDIER* that some 10,000 to 11,000 Army personnel of all ranks pass through the centre each year on a variety of Christian Information Courses, lasting from a few hours to a week.

"This is our bread and butter," he said. "We relate our religious experience to the everyday life of the soldiers by inviting them to come here. We open up our house and

talk to them about everyday life — and death. In fact, everything that comes under discussion in day-to-day conversation wherever you are is given an airing at Bagshot Park."

The week-long courses are residential and some 35 to 45 people at a time arrive to join in the lectures and discussion groups provided. And being residential, experience has shown that each day is rarely just a nine-to-five timetable as debates run on deep into the evenings.

The Reverend Jobson explained: "It's all part of the Army training system with the emphasis here being on character and morale building and to offer another perspective on life today which is less materialistic and more spiritual."

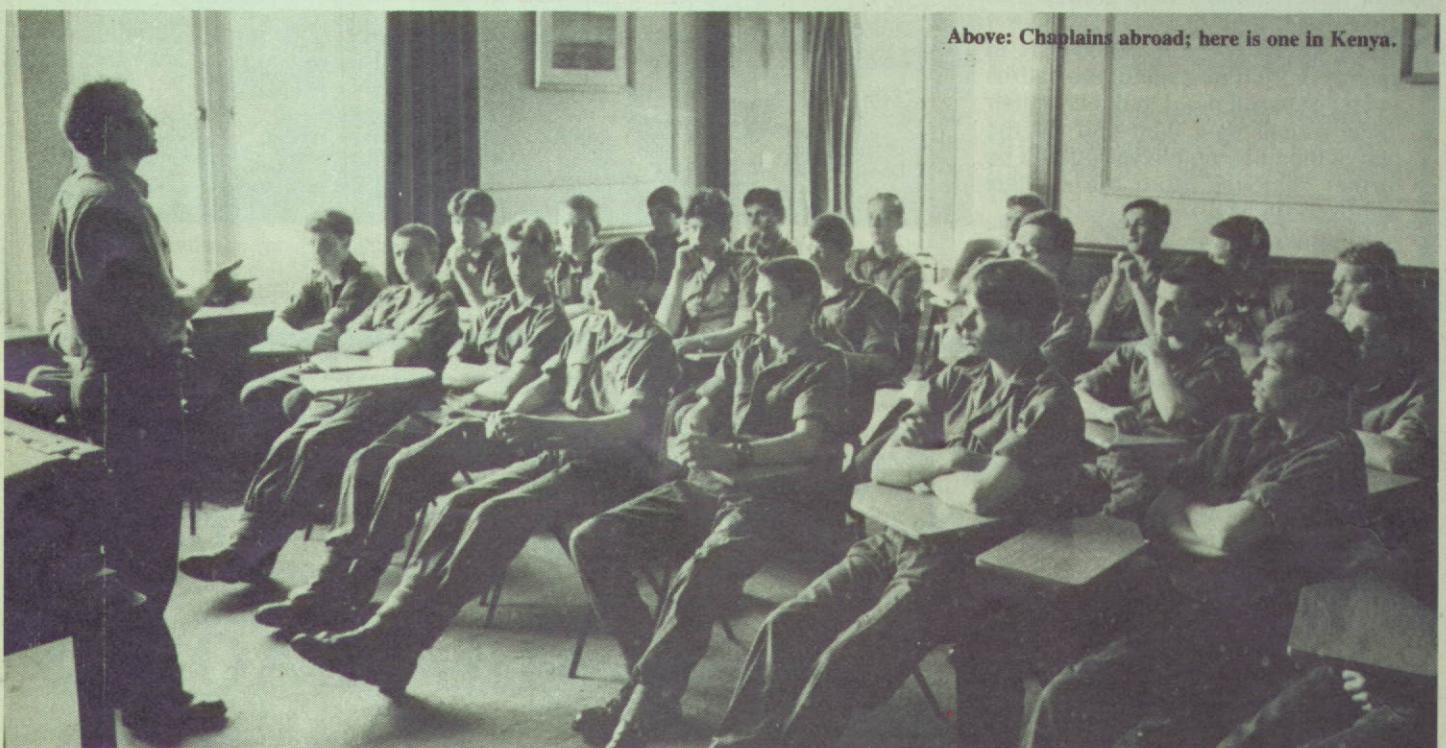
Senior chaplains get together once or twice a year to make their bids for places for members of their garrisons to come on these courses. Then Bagshot's staff of seven military (including an organist) and 21 civilians



Story: Mike Starke Pictures: Doug Pratt and Andy Burridge



Above: Chaplains abroad; here is one in Kenya.



Above: Young soldiers on a course at Bagshot.
Below: Archdeacon John Youens, when Chaplain-General, in the field with chaplains in 1968.



set about the task of preparing their programmes for each intake.

Often the first contact visitors have with Bagshot Park is the centre's Administrative Officer, Mrs Pat Fisher: "They're often a bit taken aback to find that I am a woman — 'No dear, I want to talk to your boss' one officer said to me recently!" But it takes more than this to muffle the cheerful Mrs Fisher.

Chaplains themselves, of course, occupy much of the rest of the staff's time in the centre's packed curriculum.

Before World War Two many chaplains joining the Army were simply told to buy their uniforms and report directly to their units. The result was that over-eager padres sometimes took a long time to adjust while others missed opportunities because they did not know the ropes. The need to train chaplains in the art of camouflage and field-craft was essential.

So, eventually a training centre and battle school was opened at Church Stowe near

continued on page 9

Like any corps or regiment in the Army, the Royal Army Chaplains' Department has its Corps Day for members and friends to meet socially on home ground.

Home ground in the Chaplains' case is the magnificent Bagshot Park where the annual day for the RAChD falls in June when the magnificent rhododendrons are in full bloom and the spacious gardens are at their best.

The stately Victorian environment lends itself admirably to the high spot of the day when the chaplains and their guests indulge themselves in that most British of traditions — a strawberry and cream tea.

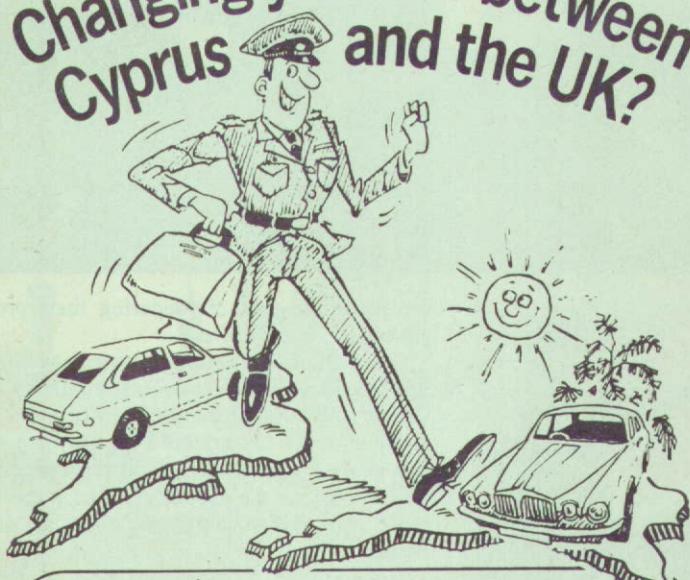
This year some 550 bowls of the succulent scarlet fruit were laid out for the delectation of the chaplains whose sober suits and dog collars contrasted with the summer dresses and hats of their ladies gathered in the sunshine for the day.

But with a pang of conscience in keeping with their calling, the padres are quick to point out that this is their 'once a year day' fling and for the rest of the time their lives couldn't be further removed from the genteel atmosphere of a 'vicars' tea party'.

Certainly no-one would begrudge them their one day of fun . . . more tea, vicar?



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Above: Some Army apprentices having a lecture.

Weedon and the process began of easing chaplains into the ways of their new Army environment.

The Reverend John Youens (later Chaplain General) first developed the notion of a battle school designed to integrate chaplains and the soldiers they would work with. Chaplains had been accustomed to Church Houses for many years and many of them were very grateful for these oases in the desert of war.

After the war the training centre moved to Bagshot to take in chaplains of all denominations. Said The Reverend Jobson: "We are thoroughly ecumenical here. In fact, we're miles ahead of the civilian church in this respect."

Nowadays two intakes a year come to

Below: Part of the packed museum at Bagshot.

Bagshot in February and September for three or four weeks to introduce them to the life of an Army chaplain. They are already clergymen in their own right but it is considered of vital importance that they should be able to integrate and identify with their new Army surroundings and the people in them.

They follow their Bagshot course with a month or so at the nearby Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, where — like other non-combatants such as lawyers, doctors and dentists — they learn the finer points of military dress, discipline and deportment together with the more military aspects of their newly chosen sphere of duty.

Following this, the new padres are posted — preferably abroad — to give them as broad an experience of the Army as possible

in their first three or four years as short service commission officers. There are currently some 185 padres serving worldwide and the RAChD is busy recruiting as hard as any line regiment in order to swell the numbers.

As with any Army 'trade', chaplains' careers can take them through four or five phases of continuation training to achieve greater knowledge of their particular trade, along with a greater understanding of their particular environment. The Reverend Jobson added: "All training is designed to make them more effective in their desire to be of service to the soldier and his family."

Bagshot is, again, the cornerstone of this career structure with continuation courses run every few months to keep padres up-to-date in every aspect of their work. Week-long courses are run in a wide variety of



The Royal Army Chaplains' Department has a light-hearted claim to have pioneered three other corps in the Army.

The Keeper of the Wardrobe in days gone by was often a cleric and his duties included paying military expenses and issuing stores. So he may have originated the Royal Army Pay Corps.

In 1796 The Reverend John Gamble was appointed the first Chaplain-General. But he was better known for his work in the development of telegraphy. Hence the claim that the Chaplains' Department provided the first Chief Signals Officer of the Army.

A later Chaplain-General, Prebendary G R Gleig, doubled his appointment with that of Inspector of Military Schools and so has a claim to have done some spadework for the Royal Army Educational Corps.

Because the clergy were among the few people who could read or write, they were among the Army's earliest staff officers. After the Norman Conquest it was their duty to raise and train forces for the king. In some areas it was the tradition that the bishop should train and lead his own men.

When the Scots invaded England they were repelled by a force of four divisions commanded by the Bishop of Durham, the Archbishop of York aided by the Bishop of Carlisle, the Bishop of Lincoln and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Nowadays, padres are strictly non-combatant although they pride themselves on keeping up to date with military operations by going on annual field exercises involving first aid, driving, map reading and signals skills.



Above: The serenity of Bagshot Park's chapel.

subjects including management, first aid, public relations, methods of instruction and the philosophy of defence. There are the increasingly popular marriage guidance courses, too, to help with welfare work, known as Personal, Family and Marital Relationship Courses to which are invited Army wives or soldiers who may like to assist in welfare at the garrison or unit level.

The permanent staff run many of the courses themselves but outside experts from universities and other sources are brought in to cover specialist subjects.

Bagshot Park also acts as a resources centre for chaplains worldwide producing audio/visual aids and lecture notes, plus a chaplains' 'mine of information' booklet with ideas and stories suitable for use during 'padres' hours' with soldiers. There is a well-stocked library for visitors to browse

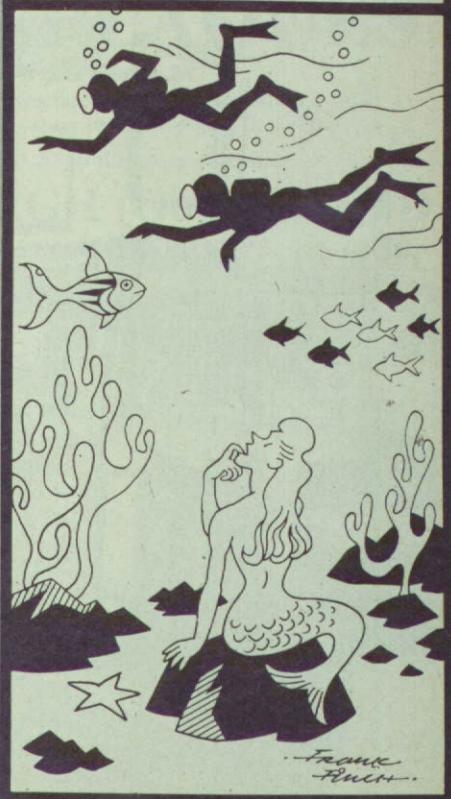
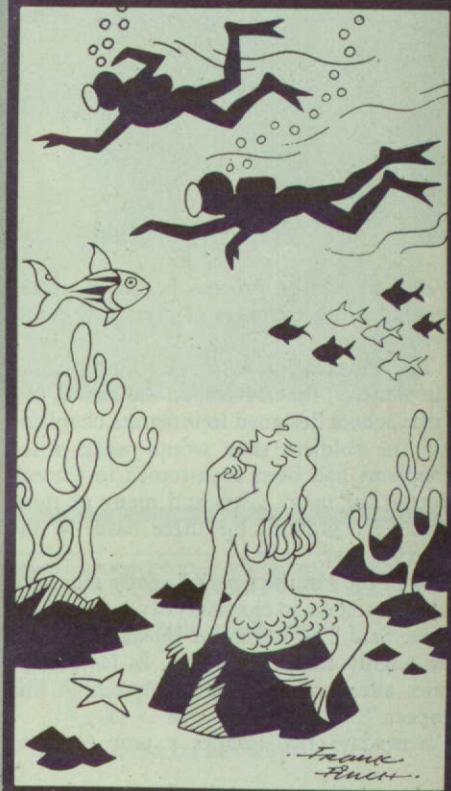
through too, as well as a museum. The Reverend Chris Tomlinson, Deputy Warden, is largely responsible for ensuring that everything is up-to-date.

The quietest time at Bagshot is when silence is imposed on the stately house during conferences for study and spiritual refreshment with their colleagues. Army ordinands and lay preachers are looked after there too. There are some 50 or 60 of them from privates to full colonels serving. But all in all the centre exists so that chaplains can keep pace with the speed of modern life in the Army of the fast-approaching eighties. "We've come a long way in modernising our attitudes and our teaching methods," said The Reverend Jobson.

And behind the Victorian facade of Bagshot Park, he and his colleagues work non-stop to see that what is best in the twentieth century is appreciated, if not exactly absorbed, by layman and clergy alike.

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 50.



The thin green line steps out



Story: John Walton

Pictures: Paul Haley

FROM A DISTANCE it could easily have been a Canadian Forces parade. A battalion of men standing in dark green uniforms — and not a sign of khaki. But this was Bulford and the soldiers parading were 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire — guinea pigs in a year long trial which will decide the uniform of the British Army for the 1980's and beyond.

The Yorkshiremen and 70 members of 160 Provost Company, Royal Military Police from Aldershot (some of them were also on parade) had been wearing the new barathea parade dress uniform on parades for six weeks. Now they were on the square again in front of an audience comprising 400 men of all ranks up to general and drawn from a wide variety of units within a 100 miles radius of Bulford.

The British media were also well represented and Lieutenant-Colonel James Barden came along from the Ministry of Defence to explain the thinking behind an experiment which was first conceived as long ago as 1973 and will take until 1986 if the Army is to change completely.

Colonel Barden said the present No 2 dress was 20 years out of date and many people no longer liked khaki which, he told the uninformed, had first arrived in India when officers' white duck was dipped in tea to make them less conspicuous.

He emphasised that the Canadian dress revolution (later modified) which saw a single common uniform, was not about to be repeated. Differences between corps and regiments were very important and there was no intention to interfere with such things as kilts and trews and head-dress — although some of the many variations could be reduced where differences were small.

The audience would be asked to fill in pro formas on their impressions of the uniform but "we don't expect senior members to express opinions. It's the young ones who will have to wear it."

The Bulford/Aldershot experiment will last a year. Next winter another series of parades will be held at Bulford to see how the uniform stands up to wintry conditions and there will also be special demonstrations in London, other parts of Britain and in Rhine Army.

Dark green was selected as the colour for the trial after an opinion poll which looked at various colours and combinations including chocolate, mixed dark and light green jacket and trousers and chocolate jackets with fawn trousers. There was no overall majority but dark green was a clear leader and it was felt that it presented a better background for badges and embellishments.

Another radical departure is that the uniform will be the same for both officers and soldiers. The cost of a soldier's uniform will be marginally more than the present No 2 dress uniform (£35 against £30 on present

prices) but there will be big savings for officers who at present go to military tailors and are given an allowance.

These days the clothing manufacturing trade tends to be much more automated and the new uniform will allow the Army to take full advantage of this. Embellishments and accoutrements can all be added later. Said Colonel Barden: "Unless the method of manufacturing of uniforms is changed to modern techniques we will receive less and less value for money."

Another question to be considered is whether the new uniform could also replace No 1 dress, currently worn by 27 percent of the Army, and on this aspect particular attention will be paid to the views of members of the sergeants' mess.

Definitely excluded from the considerations however are full dress by the Household Cavalry in London and No 1 dress for public duties in Scotland.

The decision will be taken by the Army Board some time in 1980. But, as Colonel

The jacket and trousers of the new uniform are in an 18 oz all-wool barathea dark green cloth, four ounces lighter than the present No 2 dress. The breast pockets have been raised and the hip pockets lowered. The back has the distinctive patrols style. The trousers are self supporting and rest on the hips.

The cap is similar to the latest No 1 dress cap and is made in the same dark green cloth as the jacket. Regiments and corps may wear a traditional coloured cap band and field officers' caps have an embellished peak.

The shirt is similar to the present No 2 dress shirt in light green but a lighter colour may well end up being chosen, possibly white. The tie is made in polyester in a different shade of dark green and has been redesigned in a modern style.

Soldiers on parade wear a new white plastic belt and metal belt plate. The bayonet frog and rifle sling are made to match. There is a new gold coloured polyester chevron on a regimental or corps traditional coloured background for non-commissioned officers.

Barden stressed, the odds on dark green being finally selected are as difficult to gauge now as they were when the project was first

mooted. A lot of eyes will be focused on Bulford and Aldershot during the next 12 months.





What they said in the mess...

After the parade SOLDIER ventured into the battalion's sergeants' mess where green clad senior NCO's were engaged in a vigorous debate on the merits and demerits of the new uniform. As this unattributed selection of their comments shows, there is still no consensus of opinion on it after six weeks of wearing.

"It is unacceptable to wear. You tend to sweat a bit on parade and it starts to cling to you. It just doesn't feel right..."

"The design is far better than No 2 dress but the material is not very good..."

"The jacket pockets are not big enough. The original material would stay pressed but after we had paraded in a thunderstorm in this it took hours to get creases which were still not very good..."

"I think the reason it won't press is because it's new. After a while it will wear itself in and I think the colour is a good colour. But I don't like the hat and belt..."

"The hat is an abortion..."

"The soldiers don't like the tie but I think that's because blokes don't wear ties off duty any more..."

"The two tone uniforms are too much like the Yanks..."

"It's not really what I wanted. I think there should have been a greater consensus of opinion taken on what was required..."

"I think it looks smart and is easier to make smart than No 2 dress..."

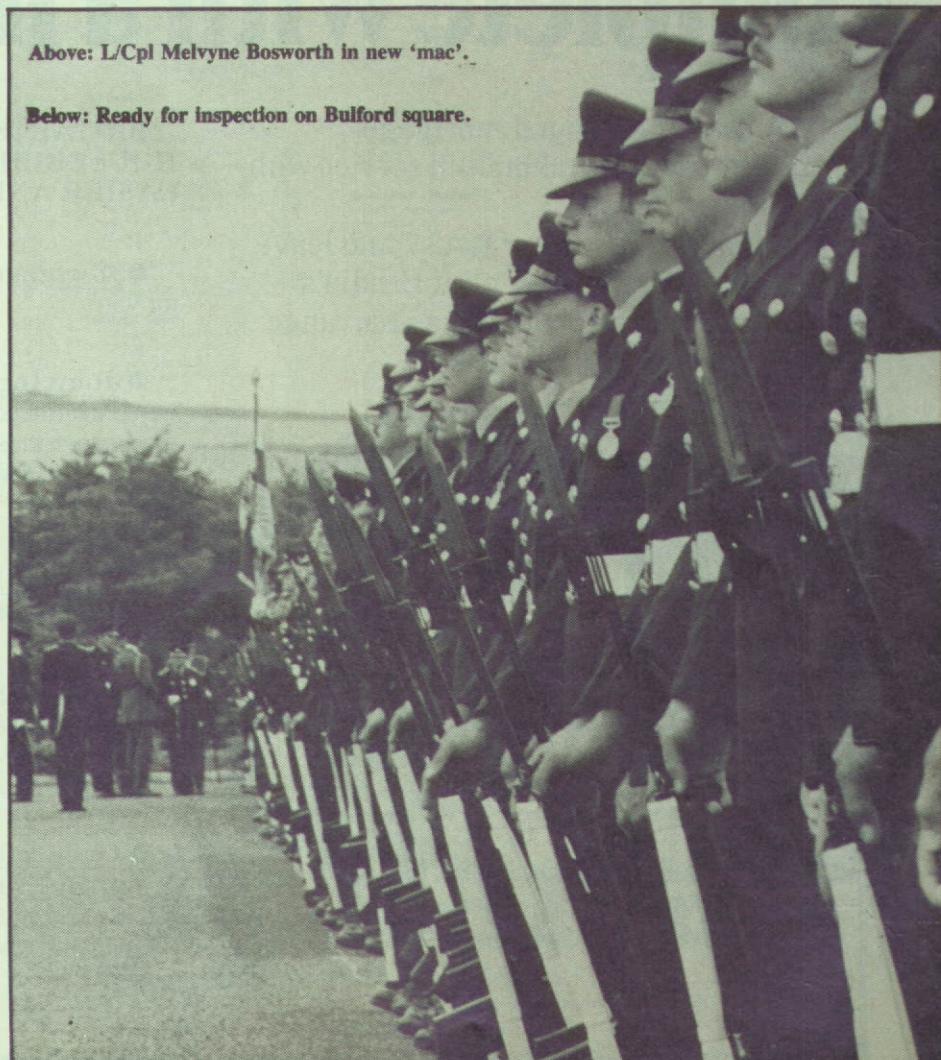
"I think the style is good and I might get used to the colour in time. But really, for the number of times a normal infantry battalion wears a No 2 dress, it's a waste of money. The soldiers are not allowed to walk out in it now because of the security situation..."

"If we accept it the Army will have it. We have to make sure it's right because we are very conscious that the whole Army could be wearing this for 20 years as a result of this trial..."



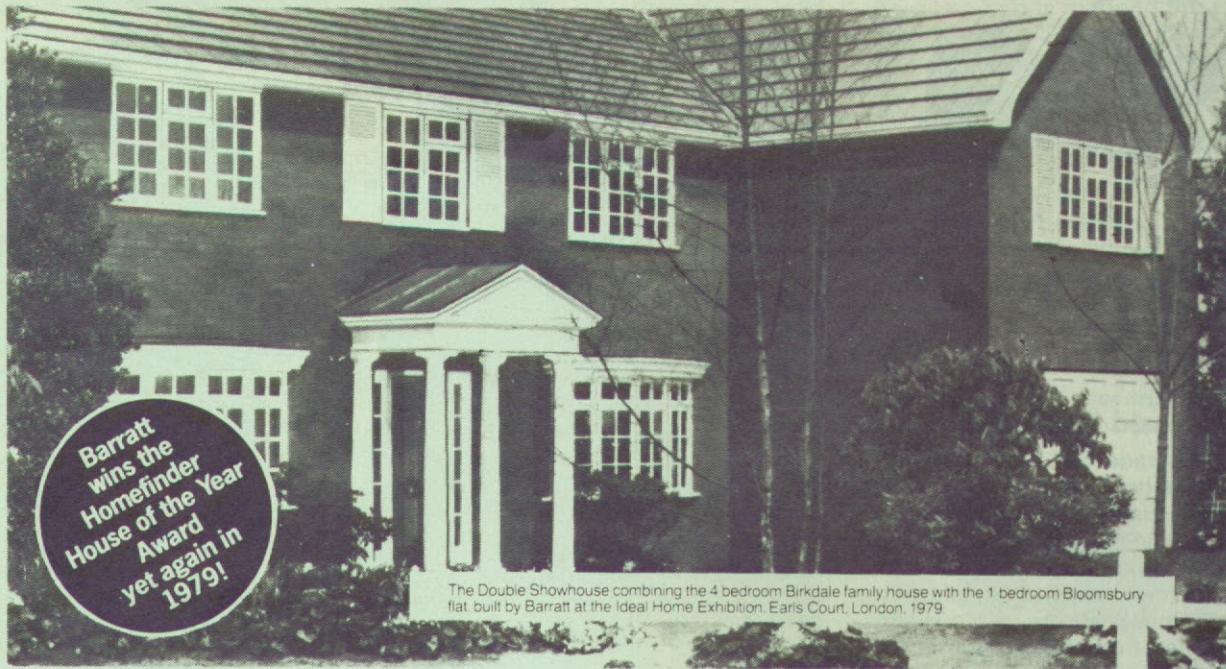
Above: L/Cpl Melvyn Bosworth in new 'mac'.

Below: Ready for inspection on Bulford square.



Left: Four of the choices (left to right) dark green, chocolate and lighter trousers for both.

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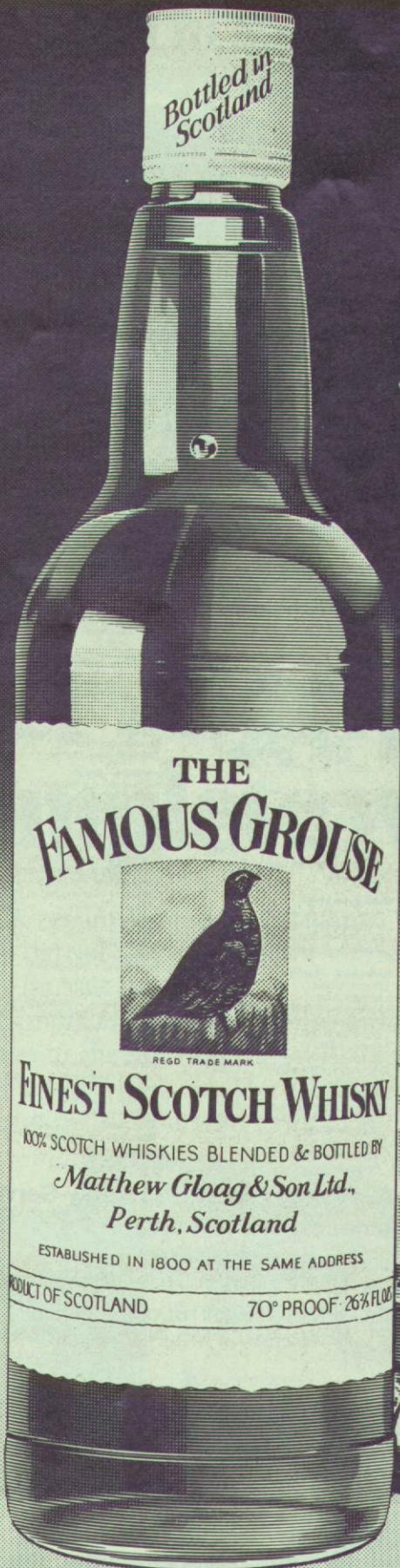
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Lincolnshire	
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Boston - Fishoft	21

The exception
that could prove
to be your rule.



Quality in an age of change.

Backroom boys keep things moving



Story: John Walton Pictures: Doug Pratt



IT WAS LIKE A SCENE from 'The Dirty Dozen.' A crumbling, ivy covered Victorian farmhouse guarded by sentries with officers coming and going down its steps, cow pens full of military vehicles and all the signs of a busy operational military headquarters.

And there were both Germans and Americans in the picture too. But there the resemblance ended — for this was today and the Germans and Americans, together with Britons, Belgians, Danes and soldiers from Luxembourg were using the decaying facilities of the old farmhouse at Birkdegaard Farm in Denmark as the base headquarters for the latest Ace Mobile Force exercise 'Agate Exchange.'

Agate Exchange was a command post exercise which meant that there were not all that many troops on the ground. But one unit who were fully represented were the unsung backroom boys of the AMF(L) — the HQ Logistic Support Battalion.

These are the men who see that the supplies get through on time and in sufficient quantity, that the vehicles are kept up to scratch and supplied with petrol, that soldiers at the front can get showers from time to time, and who provide a host of other services which help to make Ace Mobile Force more efficient while at the same time maintaining high morale.

The front line was some 50 miles away and the battalion had established a forward administrative area about 12 miles to the rear. Throughout the ten day exercise supplies rumbled down the road from the base headquarters — for although much of the movement was on paper the actual troops on the ground had to be kept fed and showered and supplied with fuel.

Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Whittall was full of enthusiasm for his new unit. He told SOLDIER: "This unit is what a man joins the Army for. It has travel and excitement. I've been with them for two months and already I've been on nine international flights with six different airlines. Today we are in Denmark, in two months we will be in Greece and not longer after that we will be in Norway."

"We are playing real logistics. If we don't do our job the troops don't get their rations or their petrol and if we don't provide a bath unit they don't get their showers."

Scattered around in various barns and tents, amongst piles of old straw and rusting farm machinery with the all-pervasive farmyard scent, were butchers, bakers and men whose job it was to get the rest of the goods supplied.

Adjutant Captain Mike Farmer explained that there was no way in which food could be supplied to cater individually for all the various national gastronomic tastes. But the other nations supplied men who integrated into the battalion — and this helped in a number of ways.

Top left: The derelict ivy-covered farmhouse.

Left: Lt-Col Tony Whittall briefs officers from different nations on the progress of exercise.



Giving the men their daily bread. The British bakers first mix the flour, then roll and shape the loaves and finally pop them into the oven.

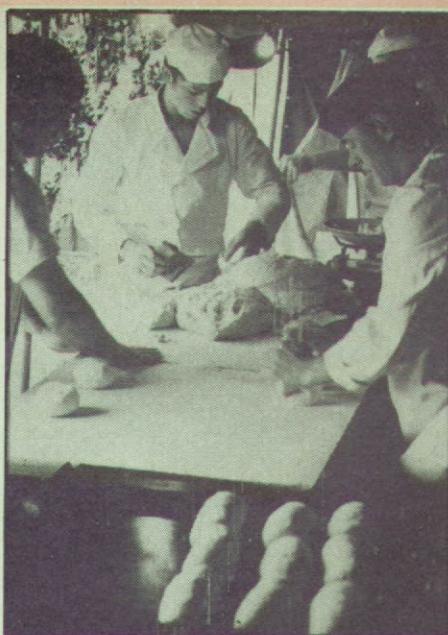
"For instance, if the Luxembourg battalion want a back axle, that's sidestepped to the Luxembourg representatives and they either supply it or send back to their own resources for another."

Captain Farmer said that a command post exercise on paper was more difficult than it was for real. They came out very lightly scaled and it was not possible to bring, for instance, every vehicle spare which might be needed.

In the bakery, Warrant Officer 1 Jack Redfern, a master baker, watched his team of bakers (all British) mixing dough and popping loaves and rolls in and out of ovens and declared with pride "British bread is the best in the world." His unit is capable of producing 5,400 units of bread a day.

Rations are bought from a local contractor to specific national orders. The Americans like a lot of ice cream (even when on Arctic exercises in Norway!) and different spices,

Below: Filling up a jerrycan (UKLF PR picture).
Right: General Sir Jack Harman pays a visit.



but the European orders tend to be similar. The biggest problems occur with the Italians (who were not in Denmark) and their partiality for pasta.

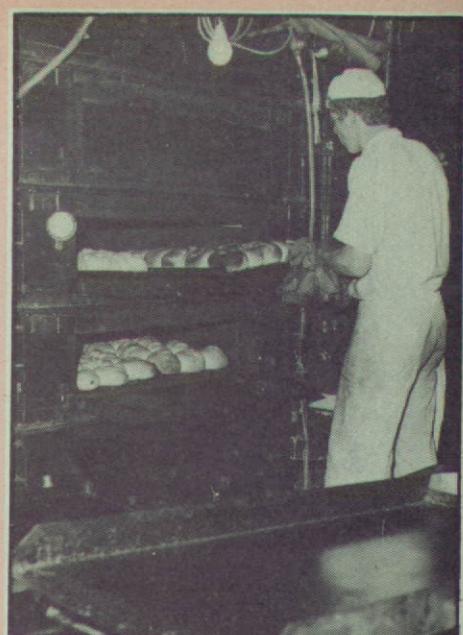
The battalion also has its own pay section operated by Captain Rick Dunn and a staff sergeant and driver. It is currently the only Field Cash Office in the Regular Army.

Says Captain Dunn: "In times of mobilisation I am the link between the units in the front line and bulk cash offices in the rear. We also do the training required by AMF(L) such as learning to ski."

The cash office has to deal in a number of different currencies as it acts as a liaison office for the other nations on financial affairs and payments during an exercise.

A few miles away at Smakkerup Farm Major Alan Sharman was operating second line repairs for the equipment of all the Allies taking part. His British mechanics worked side by side with Americans, Germans and Belgians.

"The problems we suffer from arise from the lack of standardisation of equipment in that we cannot use each other's spare parts



and don't even have the same expertise. But we do mix them up by having, say, a British man working with an American on the same vehicle — they enjoy this as they learn something."

In the cookhouse chefs of all nations practised their culinary arts side by side while a multi-national spud peeling session went on round the back. Bob Hardman, the Army Catering Corps captain in charge, notices lots of differences in approach.

"A typical example would be that if you look at a British cookery book for apple pie it would first say go and pick an apple — the American one would say lift the top of the deep freeze. Basically we serve British food. But if a particular nation wants something special, I let them do it if I think it will be generally acceptable."

It is that sort of multi-national co-operation which most characterises AMF(L) and the Logistic Support Battalion epitomises it. The second-in-command is always an American exchange officer and every man in it knows the truth of the old saying 'United we stand — divided we fall.'



United in defence

THREE HUNDRED BRITISH TROOPS made a 60-hour crossing by landing ship to Europe's oldest kingdom over a sea route once regularly pioneered in bold yet back-breaking fashion by conquest-hungry Vikings in their sleek longships of 1000 years ago.

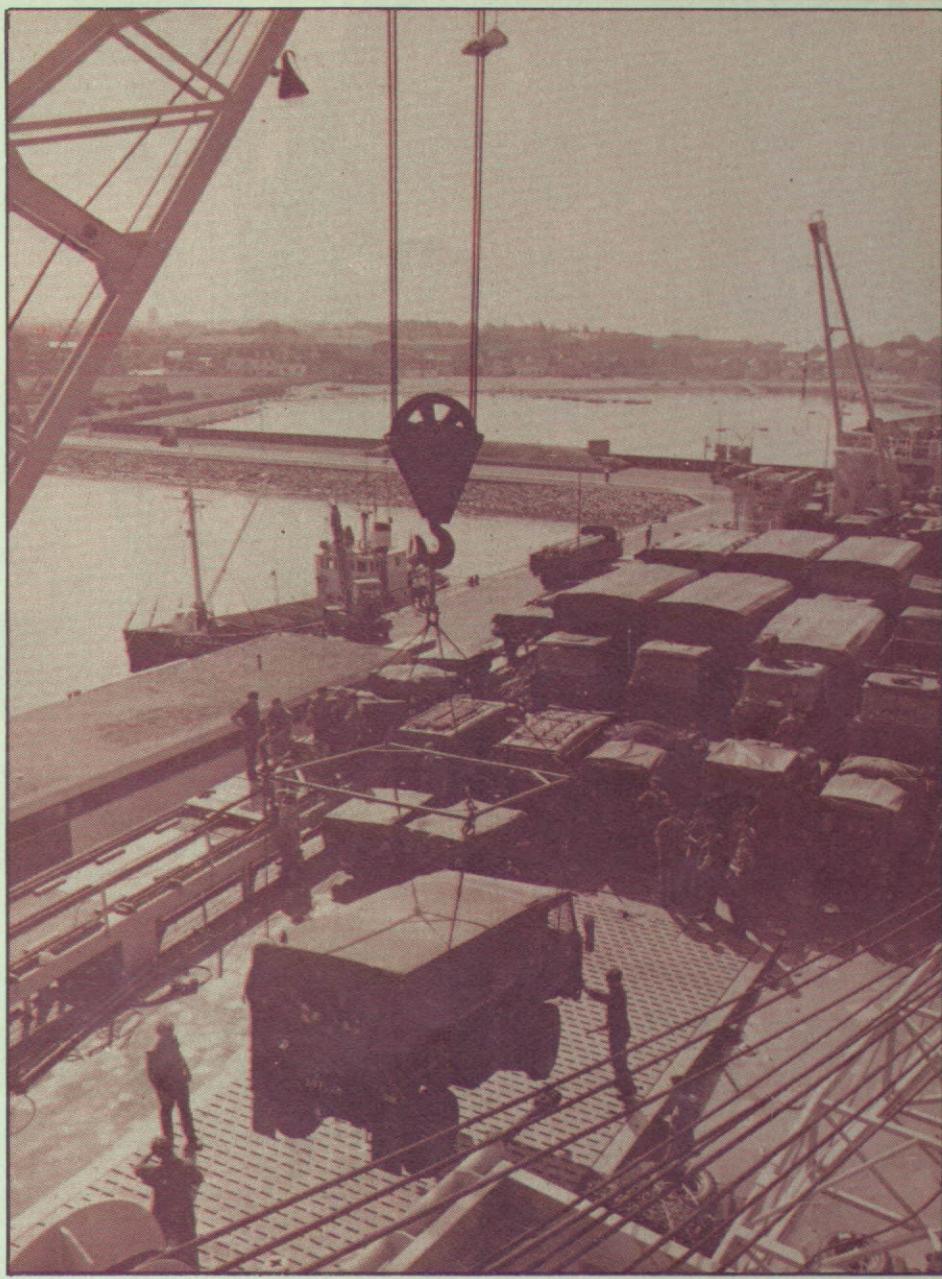
The young soldiers on this voyage of discovery were part of Britain's contribution to Nato's Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) component, (ACE Mobile Force), who were scripted and scenaried for a ten-day, six-nation command post exercise, 'Agate Exchange' in Denmark.

The exercise was set up on Zealand, an island about twice the size of Majorca and from the host nation about 700 troops took part plus Home Guard.

It was an exercise where the 48-strong Luxembourg contingent was given the 'day off' to go home, courtesy of a Nato-funded RAF flight, to vote in the Euro-elections. It was an exercise where the biggest crisis, apparently, was the breaking down of a fridge when another was hired locally because the cost of repair was thought prohibitive.

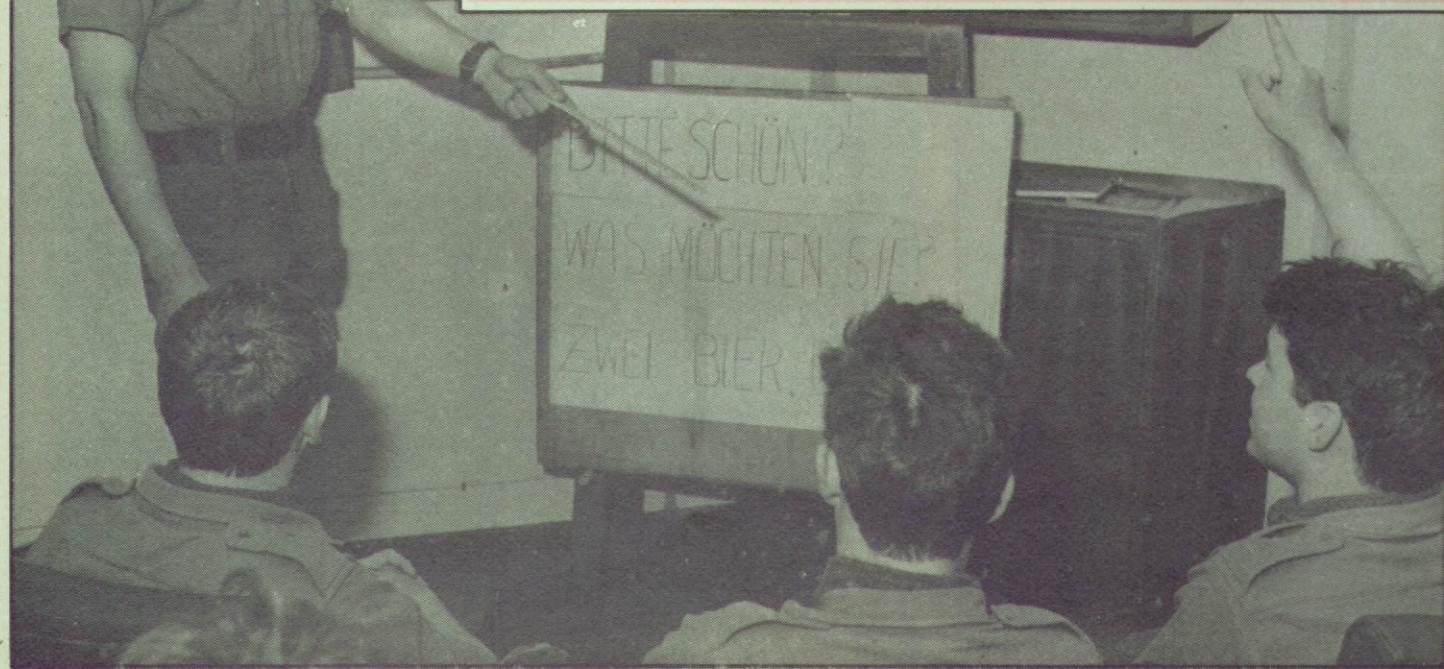
In all, 1250 soldiers and 500 wheeled vehicles from Britain, the USA, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark were involved although the 70 or so Italians withdrew at the last minute because of elections at home.

The 600-troop-strong British commitment to 'Agate Exchange' — an exercise ten



Story: Graham Smith Pictures: George Moffett

Above: A one ton lorry prepared for swinging over side of Sir Lancelot. Below: Shipboard lesson.





months in the planning and designed to train the AMF(L) together for the defence of an area where the Force might be sent in a time of tension — comprised men from HQ Logistic Support Battalion; a radio troop — men of 249 Signal Squadron; and part of an infantry battalion, nearly 200 men from 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire; a Force Artillery Headquarters from 19 Field Regiment, RA; and a reconnaissance squadron, 'B' Squadron, 17th/21st Lancers.

Some 320 officers and men made the 580-sea-mile odyssey under benign skies and mill-pond surfaces from Marchwood, near Southampton, aboard the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service's venerable 5550 ton landing ship, the *Sir Lancelot*, which has plied nearly all the world's oceans in military quests since its commissioning in 1963 and is one of six such craft contributing to the Army's 'navy.'

Crewed by 19 Merchant Marine officers and 50 Chinese — the latter all 'signed on' in Hong Kong — the LSL, affectionately known to its men as one of the 'Sir-boats,' also carried 71 Land Rovers, 20 trucks, 65 assorted trailers and an ambulance across the English Channel and North Sea at a stately 15.4 knots.

But it was the last sixty miles, according to the LSL's Chief Officer, which proved the most tricky. For four hours the crew's navigators gently nudged the *Sir Lancelot* through a channel of buoys barely two ship's lengths apart into Korsor harbour, the port of disembarkation for the British task force.

But sailing time among the troops aboard the veteran vessel during a somewhat pedestrian trip had not been wasted. One unit smartly took to the aft heli-pad in PT kit in tone-up fitness feats for their task ahead.

249 Signal Squadron, the radio men, ever-mindful of their nato commitment in the world of communications even held a language class, complete with improvised visual aids, below decks for a quorum of



Above: Redcaps take a break in Danish country. students eager to keep up German knowledge.

In the initial arrival stage of the exercise, the rest of the British contingent were landed by alternate ferry or by RAF Strike Command Hercules tactical transport aircraft.

In most cases farm out-houses, barns and woods provided sources of accommodation in the exercise areas which stretched from Kalundborg in the north-west to Naestved in the south (where the Distaff was located in a barracks) to Roskilde, 23 miles west of Copenhagen.

At Roskilde, the fiord-flanked home of a Viking ship museum and of the 800-year-old cathedral where 37 of Denmark's kings lie buried, 'B' Squadron, 17th/21st Lancers, were operating from a Home Guard District's barracks.

Above: WO2 Charlie Scott and his shopping list.

The exercise apart, many of the British soldiers had a chance to see some of the world-famous landmarks and notorious sights of Copenhagen. Landmarks such as the Little Mermaid of Hans Christian Andersen fame, the Danish war-time Resistance Museum, the changing of the Life Guards at the Royal Residence of Amalienborg (once guarded in darker times by the jack-booted Wehrmacht) and the Tivoli Gardens, the city centre amusement park.

As AMF(L) Commander, Major General Alexander Weyand commented: "Once again, as usual, the Danes have made us very welcome in their country and we are glad of the opportunity to be here. The host nation support has been superb. The presence of soldiers from many different member nations should cause a potential aggressor to think again."



Danish liaison officer for the battalion is Captain Hans Christian Andersen, a direct descendant of the famous story teller. In SOLDIER's picture Hans Christian obligingly regales British troops with an account of 'The Ugly Duckling.'

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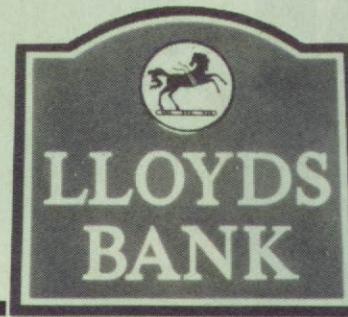
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SOLDIER to Soldier

"Come in, Number Five!"

Dear Reader

I hope you will forgive my taking up this space to tell you that with effect from this August 1979 issue I am no longer Editor of SOLDIER.

This message comes to you, in fact, by courtesy of my successor, Bob Hooper, who has been posted in from the Department of the Environment.

I emigrated from Yorkshire 21 years ago to join the magazine as a feature writer and, succeeding Mr E J Grove on 2 April 1962, have been SOLDIER's Editor (its fifth) for 17 years — just over half the magazine's life.

Looking back, there have been brief spells of plain sailing but for the most part it has been a constant struggle to maintain standards and to operate commercially within the framework of an official publication. Regular readers know the difficulties we have had with shortages of and changes in staff, and have become all too familiar with printing and distribution problems, many of which have become so commonplace today as regrettably to be almost acceptable.

With the evolution of SOLDIER NEWS from a stitched-in monthly news supplement in the magazine via a loose-inserted monthly tabloid newspaper to today's separately distributed fortnightly paper, came a new challenge. Like others before it, it was met. The switch from 12 to 38 publications a year took place on time — although without the additional promised staff.

But 'Number Five's' time was indeed running out. A heart attack, induced by stresses, put me into Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, for a fortnight and I now write this message during a lengthy convalescence at home.

I am sorry that my long sojourn with SOLDIER had to end suddenly and at a time when, with extra staff due, so much could be done to improve further the service to readers. And here, particularly, I must apologise for the inability to cope with readers' queries.

But, notwithstanding the ups and downs, I have enjoyed those 17 years, knowing that each issue has entertained, informed and given some small pleasure to thousands of readers. None of which would have been possible without the loyalty of SOLDIER's small and hardworked staff, the willing co-operation of so many other people in every stage of production, and the support of you, the reader.

My thanks to you all, for all your help and encouragement.

Finally, may I add at first hand to the centenary tribute to Cambridge Military Hospital in last month's SOLDIER my personal gratitude for the cheerful and professional care of its staff. Thank you, Ward 2 — my time is not up yet!

*Yours sincerely
Peter N Wood*

Life will never be quite the same at SOLDIER with the departure of long-serving Editor, Peter N Wood. For seventeen years Peter stamped his personality indelibly on the magazine and made the production of a first class SOLDIER his main priority in life.

He was a man who worked long hours, who rarely took the leave to which he was entitled and who concerned himself with all aspects of production, distribution and administra-

tion. A familiar sight in the SOLDIER car park each evening was the Editor carrying a large cardboard box full of work to be done at home that night.

Meticulous almost to a fault, he demanded the same standards of others and the result was that SOLDIER always kept abreast of changes in magazine appearance and production as the years slipped by.

As Yorkshire as Geoffrey Boycott and Pontefract Cakes his dry sense of



Peter Wood on Arctic duty.

humour was not always understood and appreciated by new members of staff. But Peter N Wood (he always used the middle initial — it stands for Nevil) was a man who could show great compassion when a colleague had personal problems.

SOLDIER, its readers and its staff owe a great debt to Peter. Now others must shoulder the burden which brought his reign to an end. If they maintain the high standards which he set, no-one will be able to justifiably complain.

Keen eyed readers will notice that on this month's 'See-the-Army-Diary' there is a warning that events may be cancelled or altered at short notice. We have found it necessary to insert this following an Open Day at Bassingbourn, which was cancelled some time before. A number of readers turned up on the day and were rightly fuming at the wrong information they had got from SOLDIER.

Unfortunately, we were not notified of the cancellation until after the appearance of the June issue and the July one was too late to help.

Readers should check at the venue before setting out but we would also like to urge all show organisers to notify us immediately if shows are cancelled or re-arranged.

A very confusing situation has arisen with some SOLDIER subscribers with the advent of our sister publication SOLDIER NEWS. When the latter was launched as a separate fortnightly publication this Spring SOLDIER assumed that most of its subscribers would also wish to take the newspaper.

Therefore a letter went out telling them that if they wished to receive SOLDIER NEWS they should do nothing and it would be sent to them — followed by a bill later. This was met with storms of protest from some subscribers who accused us of pressure sales methods.

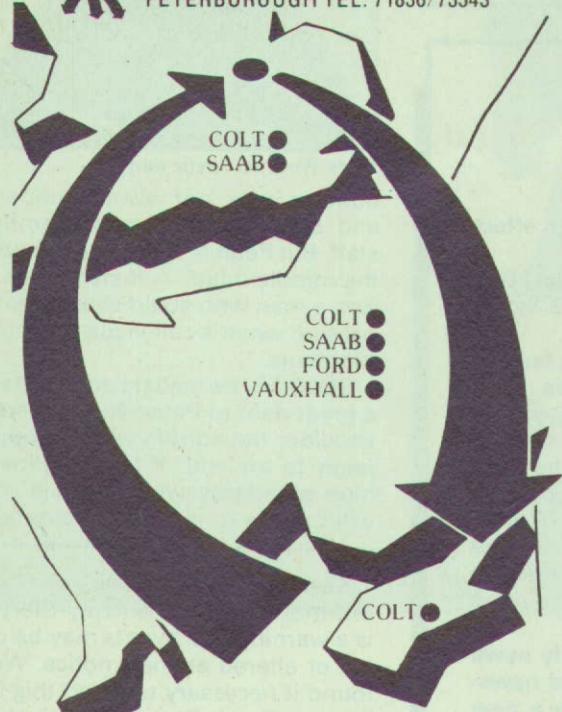
We subsequently stopped sending SOLDIER NEWS to all except those who had asked for it. Now this has also caused problems for many SOLDIER subscribers. We are being inundated by complaints from people who are NOT receiving SOLDIER NEWS.

May we appeal to SOLDIER subscribers who wish to subscribe to the newspaper to write in and we will immediately restore the service and invoice later. We can also supply back numbers of SOLDIER NEWS where they are required to complete a collection.

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The call to adventure



Story: Mike Starke
Tywyn Pictures: Paul Haley

A BITING WIND LASHED the cloud-capped peak of Snowdon and stung the faces of the small band of walkers trudging the last few hundred yards up the final ridge to the summit. Their leaden legs — drained of strength after the trek up the 3500 feet peak — responded only to an effort of will to push on to the top.

Once in the relative comfort of the restaurant refuge atop the mountain, the group reflected on the taste of adventurous training they were experiencing as members of one of the periodic Commanding Officers and Staff Officers courses at the Joint Service Mountain Training Centre in Morfa Camp, Tywyn, designed to clarify the aims and objects of adventurous training to senior officers of all three services — and to let them experience some of its challenge themselves.

"I think every commanding officer should do this sort of thing," said Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Jordan, an officer on the staff of Headquarters, United Kingdom Land Forces. "A CO can't find out the strengths and weaknesses of his men from behind a desk. But on adventurous training you learn a hell of a lot about the people around you as well as about yourself."

Fellow course-member Major Sean Kibbey, of 7 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, in Colchester added: "A major value of adventurous training is that it can be used to bring out the man who is a bit inclined to sit back in barracks and not do much.

"The unit 'gladiators' are fine; they are the unit's footballers, cricketers, athletes, and so on according to season. But it is the guy who doesn't make any attempt to join in this sort of thing who you want to encourage to do adventurous training. Because he's the one — if you're not careful — who'll let you down when the crunch comes. And then the whole unit can suffer."

It is all too easy to dismiss adventurous training as a relaxing leisure pursuit (although one of the senior officers on the Tywyn course commented wryly from his rain-soaked tent on Snowdon's slopes: "This is not so much a 'swan' as a rubber duck!").

In fact, the object of the exercise is to present participants with a high degree of challenge to their mental and physical abilities. It is even argued that in a peacetime army, the levels of stress and danger offered by adventurous training are the closest thing a soldier can get to the demands on his mind and body that would be made in war.

The natural elements are 'recruited' to act as 'enemy' on adventurous training exercises. Unlike the human 'enemy' provided for military manoeuvres, these natural forces oppose the adventurous trainee with all their fearsome might with the stakes often raised to the level of a life-or-death struggle.

Pursuits approved for adventurous training in the Army have been carefully selected to offer not only the challenge of danger but

Continued over



Above: A tight squeeze for a caving novice.

also to develop the techniques and skills to overcome the hardships presented.

They consist of mountaineering and rock climbing, canoeing, caving, skiing, offshore sailing (surprisingly, dinghy sailing is excluded as not sufficiently dangerous), gliding, free-fall parachuting and sub-aqua diving.

All three services participate in these activities and, in addition, the Army offers its personnel trials motor cycling.

Adventurous training expeditions — the ultimate aim of the intensive training of students and instructors that goes on at a number of joint and single service centres at home and abroad — are geared to develop self-reliance, confidence and an awareness of potential in those taking part.

Adventurous training is geared to indi-

vidual proficiency rather than universal excellence so that everyone involved can achieve a sense of challenge and satisfaction at his own particular level. Non-commissioned officers and officers are encouraged to train by stages at the centres and be able to go back to their units, train their own novices and lead expeditions.

In practice, many do achieve excellence — spurred on by their own enthusiasm for the pursuit they take up — and go on to represent the Army and even their country at competitive level. It is no coincidence that the entire British biathlon team (skiing and shooting) are all from the Army and servicemen are found among the top prizewinners nationally and internationally at canoeing and parachuting.

This level of competition not only reflects internally on the high standard of training but also externally to those outside the Army

as an indication of the level of achievement of those serving.

The basic skills and craft needed for challenging pursuits in a natural environment have been found to greatly enhance the complementary military skills essential to a professional soldier.

Interestingly, these skills are basically those of a traditional countryman and are found less and less in the young people of today brought up in an increasingly urban environment. But so often they touch on the vital matter of survival in environments far from the creature comforts of heat, light and shelter taken for granted in the concrete jungles of cities and towns.

As well as building confidence and self-reliance, adventurous training forces those taking part to accept responsibility — both for their own and others' safety — and make decisions often hinging on survival itself. This is considered invaluable in the development of potential leaders.

So these opportunities provided by challenging pursuits are considered important enough for the Army to make participation an 'on duty' activity rather than spare time recreation and adventurous training is an integral part of the overall training plan.

It is surprising, therefore, that adventurous training is sometimes misunderstood and even relegated to being considered as a mere extension of Rest and Recuperation. This can come about when the essential element of challenge is allowed to slip from the scale of priorities on an expedition or when a unit, hard-pressed for time in a busy military training or operational schedule, is forced to treat adventurous training as an afterthought and ends up with too many



Above: An unnerving abseil into a black abyss.

doing too much under the instruction of too few.

Instruction itself can sometimes present its own problems with experts naturally tending to mount expeditions with other experts rather than taking novices with them to teach.

There is also the perennial problem of units losing their good instructors on posting and many are, understandably, creamed off for duty on the staff of junior units.

Leaders in the field of adventurous training are also aware of the pressure to stress the safety factors which can — they believe — become counter-productive to the all important element of challenge in the pursuits concerned.

According to Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Winterton, veteran mountaineer and skier and Commandant of the JSMT at Tywyn: "The limits are too great on adventurous training often cocooning it and taking the 'adventure' part out of it."

But under the guidance of the Army Physical Training Corps — which administers it — and the teams of dedicated staffs at training centres, adventurous training is gathering momentum all the time as a vital part of the Army's training programme.

Last year some 21,000 soldiers took part in expeditions, not counting unit-level activities and courses, which are often over-subscribed at the various centres.

The Inspector of Physical and Adventurous Training, Brigadier Aubrey Fielder, sees to it that commanding officers designate are lectured on the importance of adventurous training before taking up their commands and there are two senior officers' courses — combining theory and practice — each year at both Tywyn in Wales and the British Outward Bound Centre in Kristiansand, Norway. The latter is considered a particularly good centre as it offers a degree of remoteness that emphasises the essential elements of self-reliance and survival.

Tywyn's Chief Instructor, Major Colin Pape, said of these introductory courses: "They are basically to acquaint senior officers with adventurous training. Hope-



Tywyn's senior officers' course proudly atop Snowdon. Back row (left to right): Maj Richard Hall, W/Cdr Brian Johnson, Lieut-Col Robin Jordan, Lieut-Col Ian Ledger. Front Row: Maj (Ret'd) Brian Martindale (Instructor), Maj Malcolm Steggles, Maj Sean Kebbey, Mr Paul Lund (Civil Service).



Above: Col Winterton gives canoe instruction.

Below: Canoe-straddling requires some balance!



fully they get the feeling of the challenge involved and see that it's not just a way for a man to get out of everyday duties, and that they capture some of the enthusiasm for the skills involved."

To this end, the senior officers spend a week not only discussing the wider issues of adventurous training but the detailed problems involved with equipping and mounting expeditions, and sample for themselves the various activities offered. The course at Tywyn which took its members up Snowdon also introduced them to rock climbing, canoeing and caving — the latter in a disused slate mine.

Moments of anxiety on drizzle-greased rock faces, under capsized canoes or in claustrophobic underground tunnels prompted one course member to comment: "Some people can't see the military value of all this — they look on it as R and R. But that's not what it's all about at all. I've learnt a lot about adventurous training and a good deal about myself during the week."

He went away with the satisfaction of a challenge met and mastered. The challenge now facing him and others in command is to see that as many soldiers as possible are encouraged to take up the gauntlet themselves.

continued on page 29

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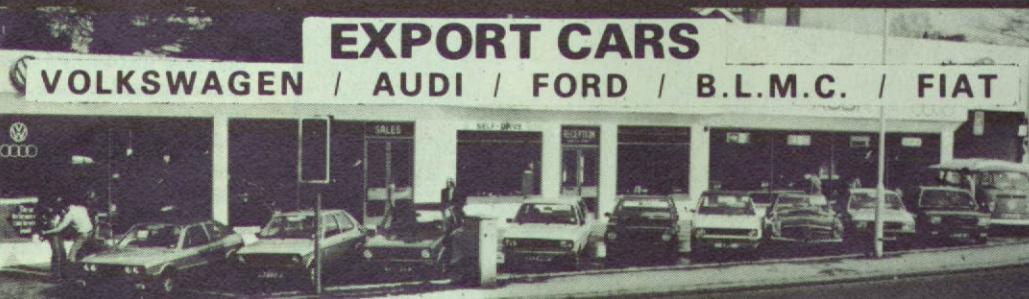
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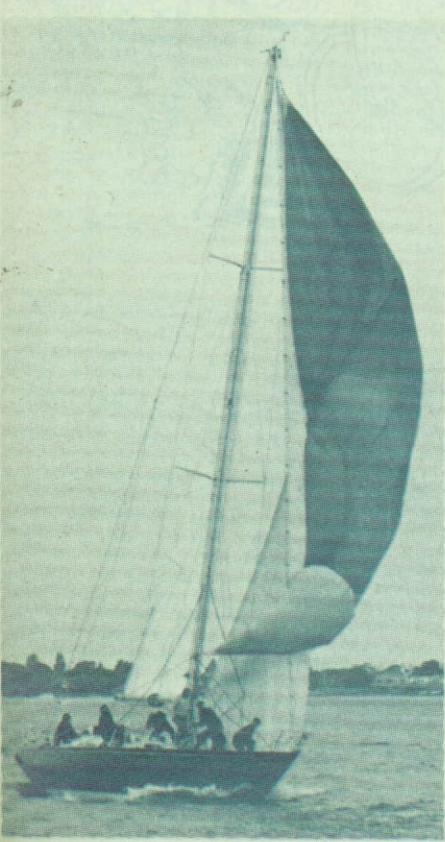
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Joint Service Mountain Training Centre (Scotland), Fort George, Inverness, Scotland IV 12TD — (mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing).

Joint Service Mountain Training Centre (Wales), Morfa Camp, Tywyn, Gwynedd — (mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing).

British Outward Bound Centre Norway, Isefjaer 4600, Kristiansand, Norway — (mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing, cross-country skiing).

Joint Service Parachute Centre, Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Wiltshire, JSPC Lippspringe, BFPO 16, JSPC, Weston-on-the-Green, JSPC, RAF Abingdon, Oxfordshire — (all free-fall parachuting).

Cyprus Joint Service Adventurous Training Centre, Dhekelia, BFPO 58 — (free-fall parachuting, sea canoeing, subaqua diving).

Joint Service Gliding Centre, RAF Soaring and Gliding Centre, RAF Bicester — (gliding).

Single Service Centres

UKLF School of PT (North), Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York YO1 4HD — (caving, canoeing, rock climbing, dry skiing).

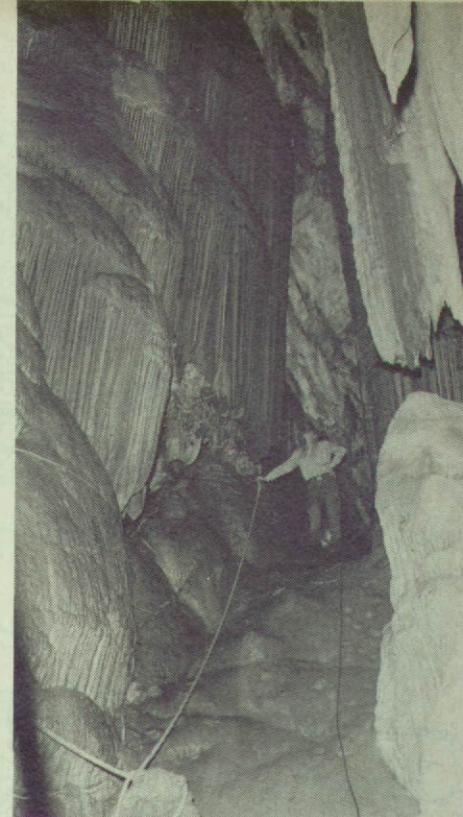
Army Mountain Training Centre, Silberhutte, BFPO 27 — (caving, rock climbing, canoeing, trekking, downhill and cross-country skiing).

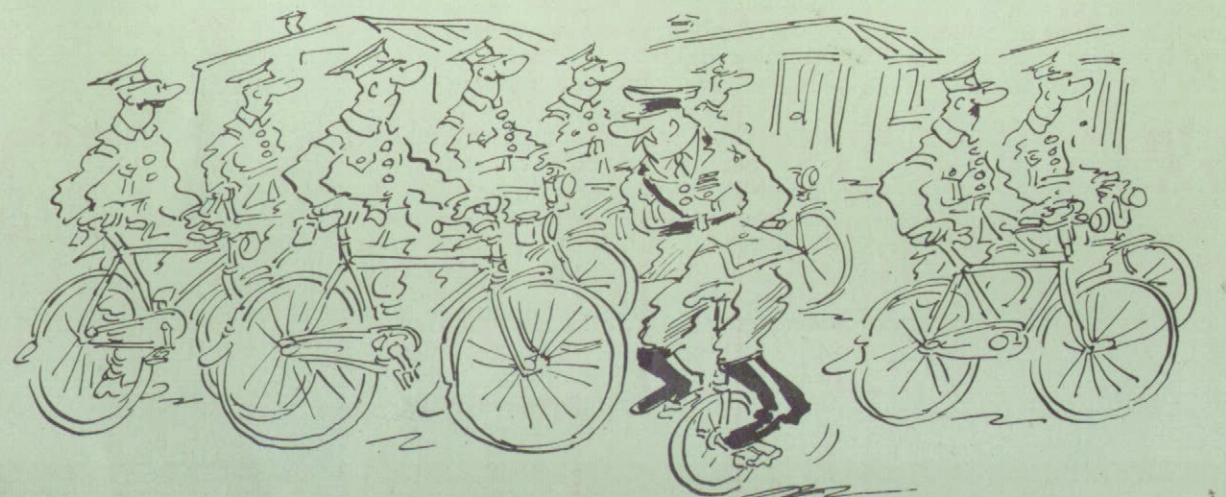
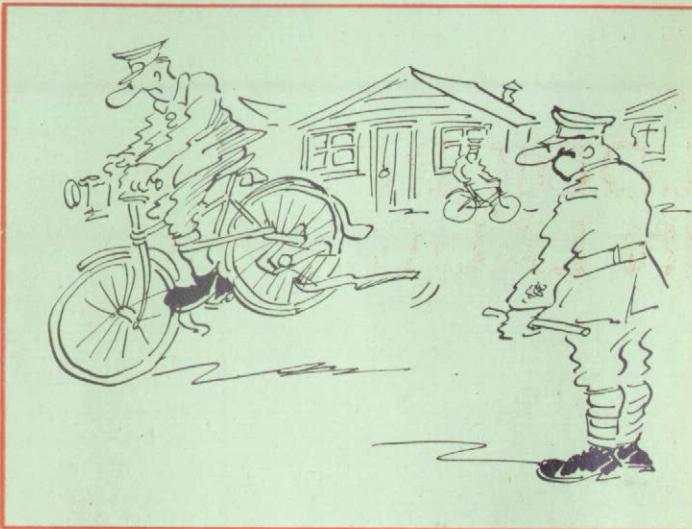
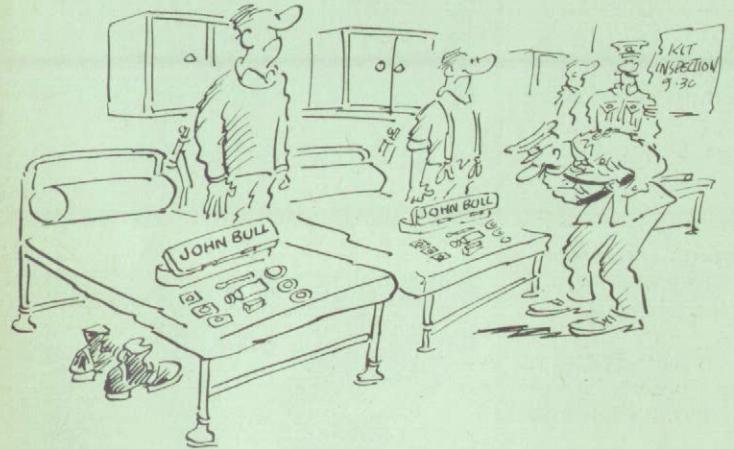
UKLF School of PT (South), Ward Barracks, Bulford, Tidworth, Wiltshire — (snorkelling, subaqua diving).

Kiel Training Centre, BFPO 108 — (offshore sailing).

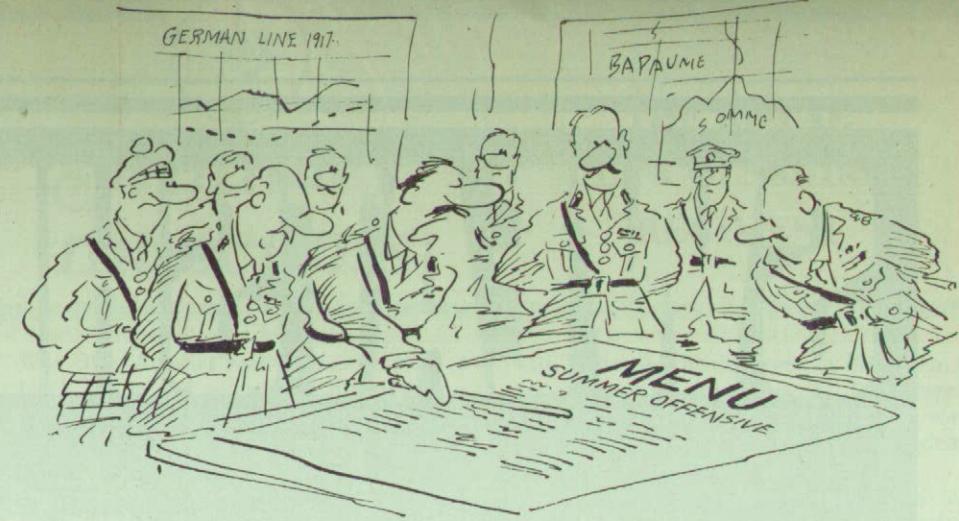
RAF Outdoor Activities Centre, Llanrwst, Wales and

RAF Outdoor Activities Centre, Grantown-on-Spey, Invernesshire, Scotland — (RAF mountain rescue teams, mountaineering, canoeing, subaqua diving, RAF aircrew survival).

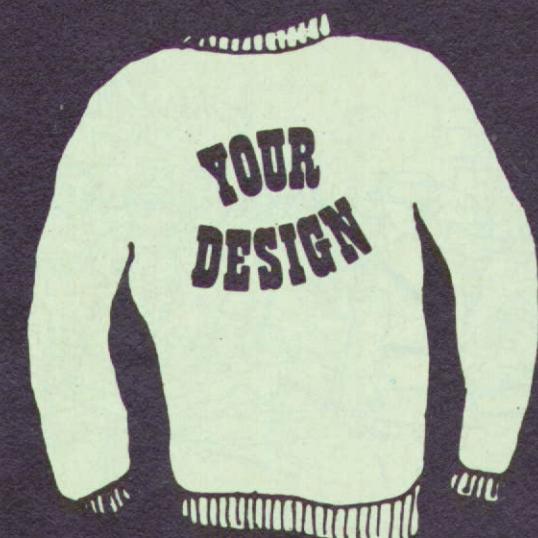




SOLDIER dips into its archives and resurrects some of the funniest pictures by cartoonist Larry — taking a look at wining and dining on the Western Front and the Cyclists' Battalion...



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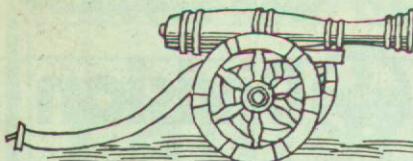
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Military museums

OF A NUMBER OF FASCINATING RELICS of the past in this museum one of the most interesting is undoubtedly the elaborately fitted travelling case of Major-General Sir Frank Harte Franks, who commanded the Lincolns from 1845 to 1849, an historic period which included the battle of Sobraon (1846), now the regiment's main battle honour. Packed into the wooden case are a multitude of items among them two account books, writing implements and the general's single-sheet passport signed by the Earl of Clarendon.

A good display of medals includes seven replicas of Lincolnshire Regiment Victoria Crosses spanning a century from the first awarded to Private John Kirk for an act of bravery during the Indian Mutiny to the VC won by Major C F Hoey in World War Two. A Russian flintlock converted to percussion (1852) is one of a number of rifles from different countries set against a background of regimental Colours while a useful collection of revolvers can be seen nearby.

A fine collection of uniforms includes a scarlet tunic worn by a major of the 10th Foot in the second half of the 19th century, a private's tunic (1898) with 'Lincoln' stitched in white on the shoulder flaps, a militia captain's patrol jacket and mess dress (1890) and a 1953 brigadier's full dress tunic. Here too are a handsome pair of epaulettes (1840) worn by a 10th (North Lincoln) subaltern and a Lincoln Rifle Volunteers officer's blue plush and gold braided pouch (1870).

An unusual exhibit is a German bugle made of iron and bearing the monogram of Frederick II. It was subsequently reconditioned and dated 1916 for service in World

War One. Another relic of this period is a black, white and red striped Imperial German flag. A selection of British and German bayonets from the end of the century to World War One, an almost complete collection of regimental badges and buttons all in the 1880 period, a 19th century brass cross or 'bed card' which was suspended from the shelf above a soldier's bed bearing his name, regimental number and battalion and a four-pouch 'housewife' beautifully embroidered in different colours by a soldier at the time of Sobraon, are among a number of unusual pieces. Another Sobraon souvenir is a musket and powder horn picked up on the battlefield.

A varied array of Dervish mementoes includes a primitive sword, a three-strap body belt, an ornate water carrier, spears used at Atbara and Omdurman, a tom-tom, two helmets with nose guard and attached quilted curtains and a horse's leather neck-band enclosing several talismans.

From the first world war there is a German binocular trench periscope, a range finder, a porcelain pipe decorated with a coloured portrait of von Hindenburg, fragments of stained glass from Ypres Cathedral, the key of Chanak fort and a case full of German militaria from both world wars. World War Two is also represented by a variety of items such as a German sub-machine gun fitted for firing from the shoulder, a Malayan blow pipe and a French steel helmet. A reminder of gas warfare is a British gas mask and haversack with eye shields, anti-gas ointment and anti-dimming paste.

By far the most valuable Far Eastern exhibit is a 400-year-old Japanese sword

THE ROYAL LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT

with its flawless blade forged by Kamento, a famous sword maker of his day. It belonged to Major-General Kimio Omoto and was taken after the Japanese 25th Independent Brigade surrendered in Sumatra.

A tenor drum bearing the cypher of George III, a side drum of the 1st Lincolns (1889-1904) and a set of silver drums commemorating the 250th anniversary of the raising of the regiment on 20 June 1685 — the title Royal was granted in 1946 — form yet another historic contribution to the general interest of this well presented museum.

Also in Burton Road is the Old Barracks where the Lincolnshire Imperial Yeomanry have a room in the Museum of Lincolnshire Life. The various exhibits include two LIY kettle drums and an oil painting of the 'Transport Mercia' being shelled by a U-boat in the Mediterranean. The captain seriously wounded, the ship's wheel was taken over by Trooper Edwin Thompson whose photograph stands nearby. Another remarkable item is a magnificent dark green officer's mess jacket richly embroidered with silver.

John Jesse

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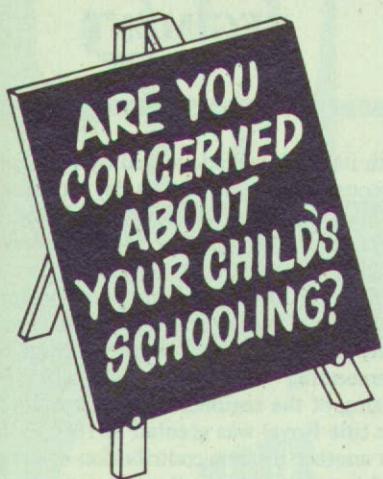
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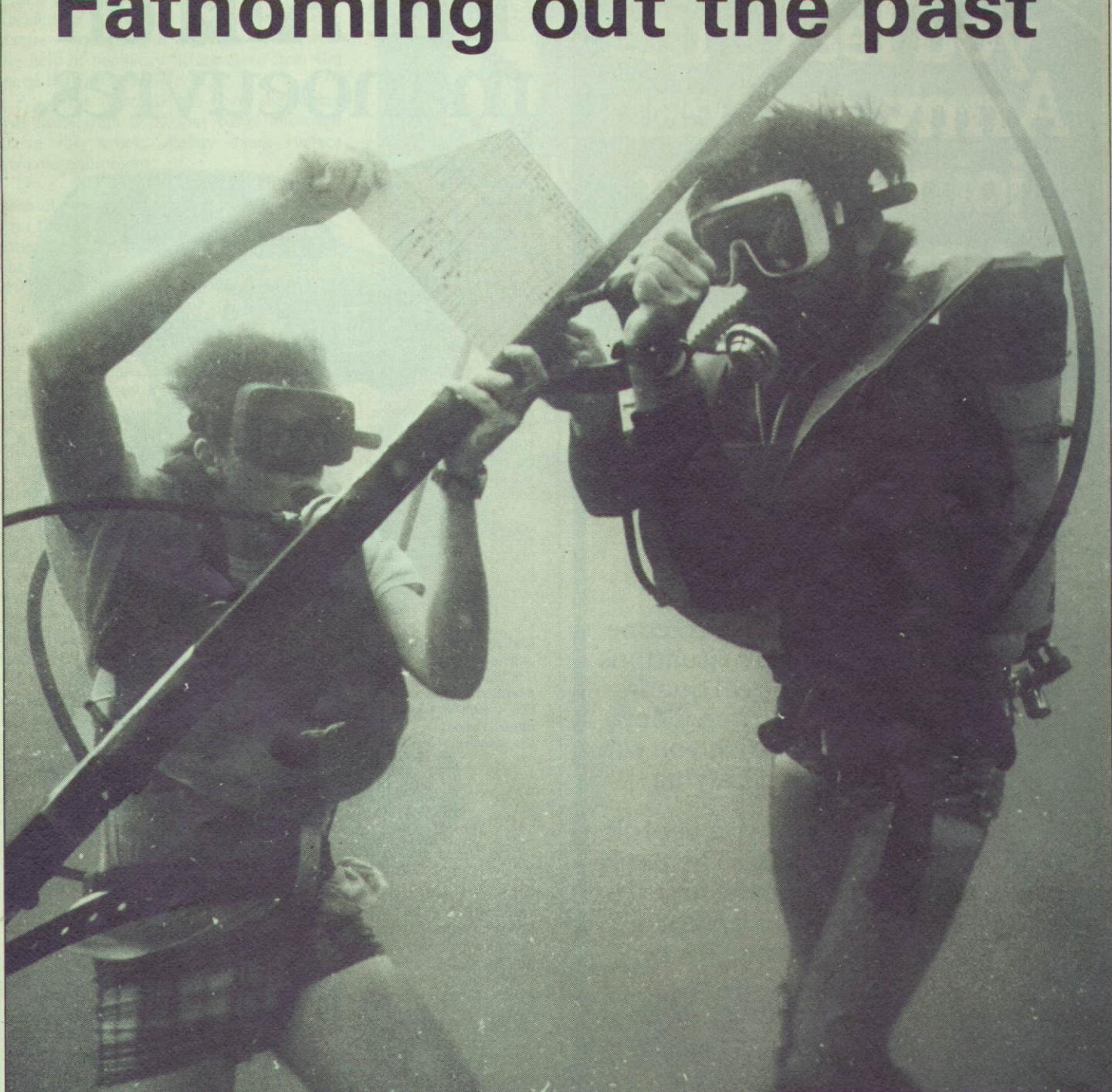
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Beneath the waves of Mombasa Harbour, Kenya, sapper divers have been helping to unravel a nautical mystery

Fathoming out the past



A QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE about an ancient Portuguese vessel sunk in mysterious circumstances more than 280 years ago took a party of Sapper divers to the east coast of Africa to try to get some answers.

Careful planning led to a team of five divers and one non-diving administration officer being got together to travel to Mombasa, Kenya, to assist in the third season of the underwater excavation of a 17th century Portuguese frigate lying in 20 metres of water in Mombasa Harbour.

The ship was a 42-gun ship believed to be the *Santo Antonio da Tanna* which sank mysteriously in 1697 while trying to relieve Fort Jesus from siege by Omani Arabs.

The official records of the ship were destroyed when the maritime record office in Lisbon was gutted by fire in the 18th cen-

tury. The ship was branded unlucky by its crew and there have been conflicting reports of how it came to sink.

Expedition leader and diving officer Staff-Sergeant Tony Liddicoat said at the outset: "We hope the excavations will shed some light on the reason for the sinking and on many other unknown data from that time."

Having got the necessary clearance for exploration from the Institute of Nautical Archaeology, Tony Liddicoat's group — consisting of himself, Lieutenant Colin Ward, Lance-Corporal Dave Cook (all from 73 Independent Field Squadron, Royal Engineers) plus Warrant Officer 2 Terry Newbery, of 4 Armoured Division Engineer Regiment, Sapper Bill Comerford, of 65 Corps Support Squadron, Royal Engineers;

Above: Lieut Colin Ward and L/Cpl Dave Cook make trilateration measurements over the ship.

and Craftsman Colin Watt, of 28 Amphibious Workshops — set off for Mombasa.

The bad luck attributed to the ship dogged the expedition when they discovered that the archaeological director, Robin Piercy, had been injured underwater and confined to hospital.

An international flavour was added to the project with divers and archaeologists from Australia, the USA, South Africa and Kenya joining the British Sappers.

'On site' directions came from Mr Jeremy Green of the Western Australia Museum and the first task underwater was to remove the 'spoil' which had been backfilled into the

continued on page 37

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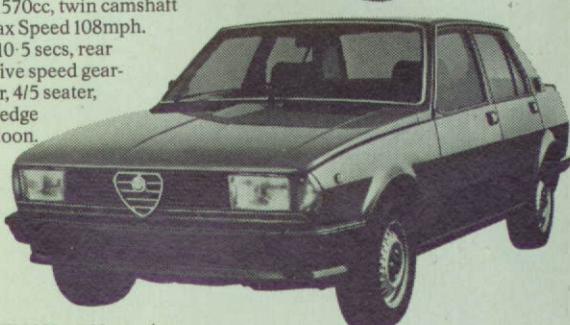
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wreck at the end of the previous season's excavation. It was all sucked away using airlifts (underwater hoovers).

Last year's excavation team had left a large collection of cannon balls welded together by the sea water into a 'concretion' which was too large to raise intact. It was decided to break it down into manageable lumps — using plastic explosive — and with the help of buoyancy lifting more than 400 metal balls were recovered.

As in the previous two years the diving was done from a 60 foot barge anchored above the wreck, mostly using surface demand equipment.

Once the wreck had been cleared of backfill, two-metre square grids were laid over the unexcavated bow section for exploration by individual divers with each making out a report after every dive giving details of artefacts found and timber uncovered.

The excavation yielded an abundance of ancient material — cannon balls, musket shot, three fine Islamic vases, cordage, pulley blocks, a medallion and silver spoon, numerous pieces of timber, pottery and glass. But the team pronounced the 'find of the season' to be a priceless Chinese Ming Dynasty bowl.

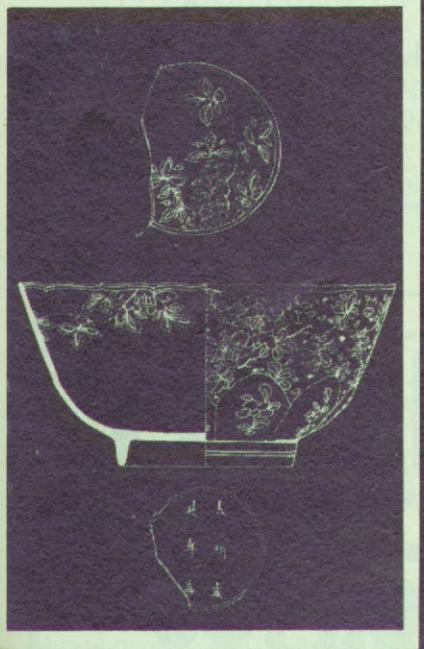
With the excavation of the bow completed, measurements were taken at one metre intervals along the keelson which were later converted into drawings to establish the ship's lines.

As the ship was lying at a steep angle it was thought that many artefacts must have fallen down the slope when the upper structure collapsed. Said Tony Liddicoat: "We knew this would give the Institute of Nautical Archaeology — who were supervising the complete excavation — an idea of the amount of timber and artefacts the area 'down-slope' would produce in the next two seasons."

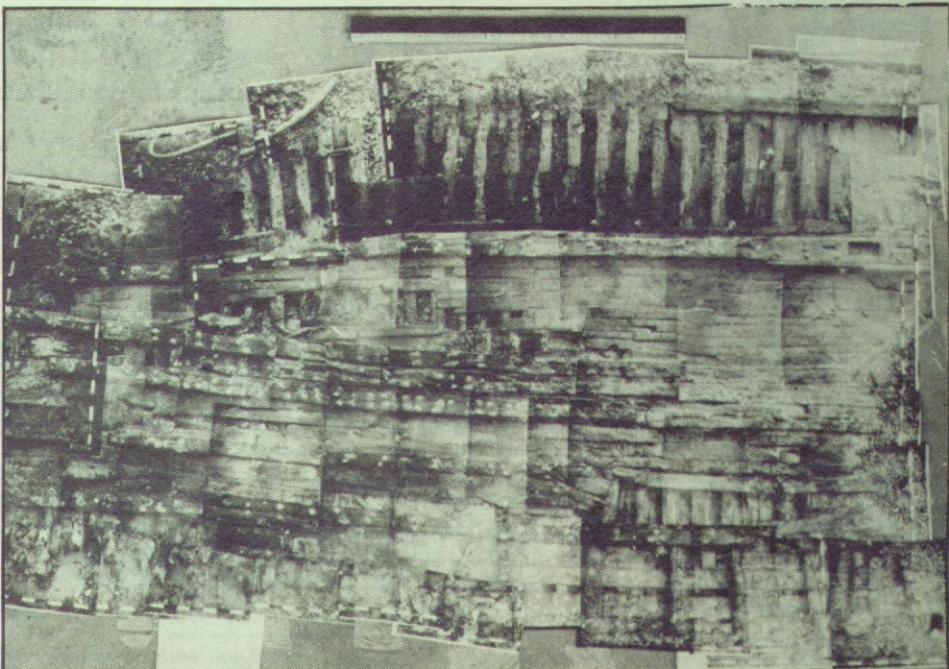
In fact, the trenches proved prolific in 'finds', among them the treasured Ming vase. And after centuries of mystery surrounding the sinking of the Portuguese ship, light on its fate is slowly beginning to glimmer below the waves of Mombasa Harbour . . . thanks largely to the Royal Engineers.



Above: A film crew records the divers. Below: Stereo photo-mosaic of some of the ship's timbers.



Above: Scaled detail of the Chinese Ming vase; an important piece found on the wreck site.



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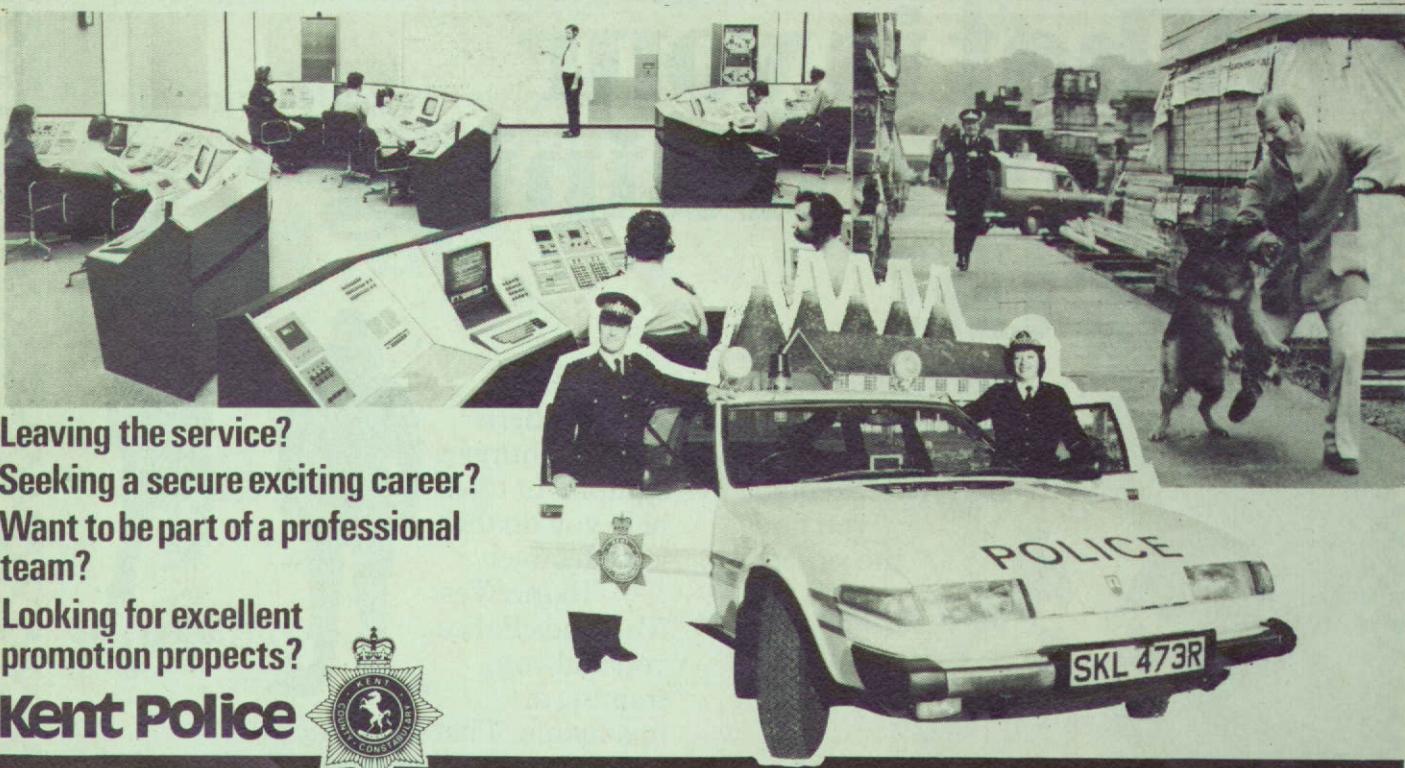
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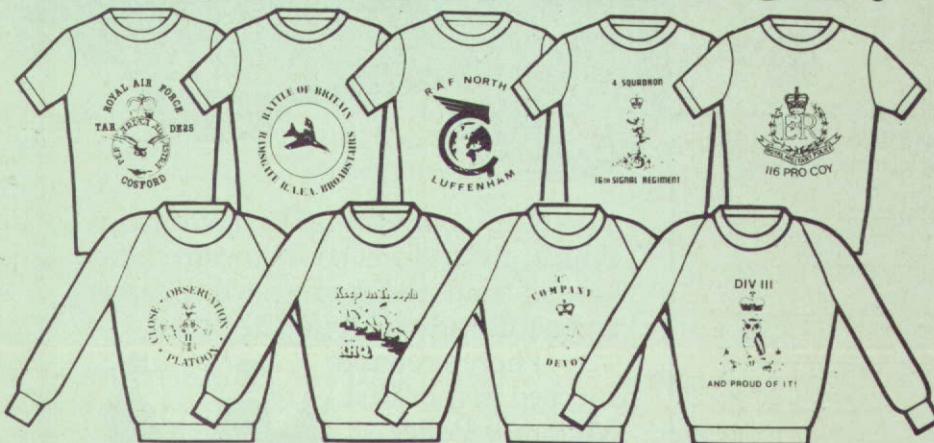


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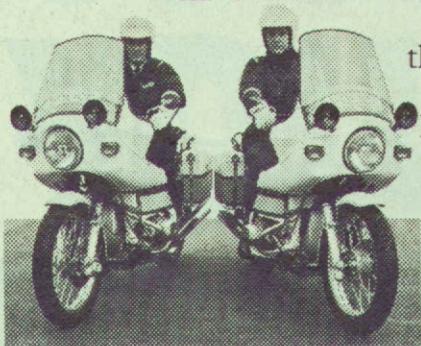
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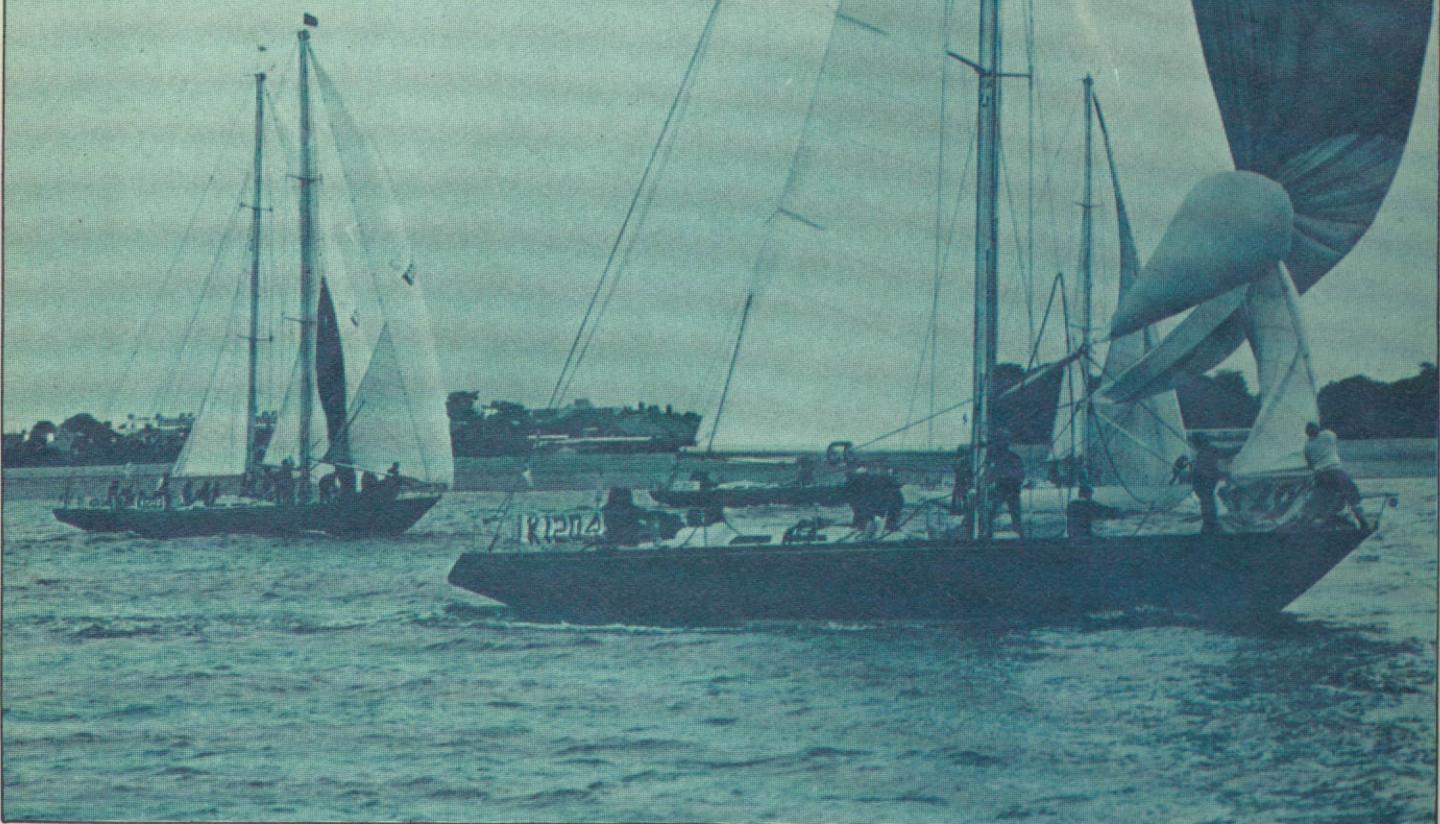
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Not all Plain Sailing



A PUFF OF WHITE SMOKE from the starting cannon — its sound muffled by the wind and waves — riveted the eyes of the 49 crews setting off on the 1979 Services Offshore Race drawn from the Army, Royal Navy and RAF to sail in the premier racing event of their calendar.

The three-class fleet left the starting line off Fort Gilkicker in the Solent to sail different courses designed to allow them all to finish more or less together off St Peter Port, Guernsey.

In so doing, sailing history was made, for this was the first offshore race recognised by the prestigious Royal Ocean Racing Club to go to Guernsey. In recent years the SOR has finished twice at Le Havre and once at Dartmouth.

The weather in the midst of an unpredictable summer was more or less kind to the Service yachtsmen. Predominantly southwesterly winds filled the sails at Force three or four, and rain held off leaving only the sea to soak the sailors. The only real hazard encountered from the elements was unnerving sea fog that shrouded the waters off Cherbourg. Navigators had to rely heavily on the accuracy of their dead reckoning and helmsmen were busy distinguishing between tankers and mere tricks of the light!

But the next day dawned bright and clear off the Channel Islands and the skippers' only concern was to gain the advantage of the speeding tide of the Alderney Race to wing them on towards the finish and the hospitable shelter of St Peter Port's snug

harbour.

Eventually all the yachts were bobbing happily on their moorings while tired but happy crews sampled the duty-free delights of shopping ashore. The seal was set on a warm Guernsey welcome by a packed reception for the yachtsmen in the Bailiff's Chambers overlooking the harbour.

The Royal Navy re-asserted their traditional dominance of the seas by featuring largely among the prizewinners. Class I, comprising seven slick Nicholson 55 yachts — sloop and ketch rigged — was won by the Navy's *Dasher* (pictured on Page 41). Class II — the largest class which featured a number of Contessa 32 yachts — was won by the RAF's *Blackarrow*. The Class III

continued over

honours went again to the Navy in the shape of the sturdy *Shah*.

Many of the yachts chose to cruise back across the Channel but for the keen racers a return 'handicap' race was organised. The Navy's Nicholson 55 *Chaser* took the top prize on corrected time with another Navy boat, *Spanker*, second and the Royal Engineers' *Right Royal* third.

The SOR — sponsored this year by the Army Sailing Association and brewers Watney Mann — came at the end of the ASA's week-long annual regatta which drew a large number of Army sailors to the Solent to compete for honours in their sport.

But the Army's soldier/sailors do not just pit their skills of seamanship against each other in racing. Throughout the year, sailing expeditions are to be found on the high seas, and two such exciting trips have been reported to SOLDIER by their crews.

Exercise Greenmantle was a 1700 mile circumnavigation of Britain from Gosport to Gosport via the Caledonian Canal. It gave more than 40 soldiers from 15 units the opportunity to take part on the different legs sailed in the Joint Service Sailing Centre's Nicholson 55 yacht *Kukri* — later one of the contenders in the Services Offshore Race.

After setting a westerly course down the south coast, *Kukri* turned the first 'corner' in a pitch black night at Land's End. The remoteness of this tip of England was accentuated by hostile flurries of hail and a blustery wind that the boat had to beat into to reach its next port of call: Fishguard in Wales.

Back out at sea the boat was driven hard to give of its best. But despite seasickness among the crew due to wind-tossed waves, *Kukri* revelled in the conditions and sped on to pass the Isle of Man and dash towards the Clyde, past the lonely Ailsa Craig, to beat the turning tide in North Channel.

Mist shrouded the islands leaving the crew to rely heavily on their dead reckoning to plot their position. Uncertainty was finally laid to rest as Campbelltown was reached with an easterly gale blowing up and



Above: Lieut-Col Julian Hallum skippered the RCT's new *Waggoner II* ketch for the SOR.

Below: Class Two in the Services' Offshore Race bunch up for the start in the Solent.



a healthy 175 miles behind the boat in one day.

After some anxious moments berthing in the screaming wind, *Kukri* set off on short tacks up the Kykes of Bute towards Rothesay. From there a course was set up the Clyde for Faslane via Gareloch.

Gremlins in the electronic navigation aids were traced to flat batteries and the problems were compounded by engine trouble. But help was at hand in the form of the Senior Service who assisted with repairs at Faslane.

The Mull of Kintyre fell astern and a brisk wind gave a lift to a fast broad reach speeding the boat along at eight knots for 14 hours. Soon *Kukri* made Fort William, catching the tides as if they had been waiting for her.

The two-day passage through the Caledonian Canal was an uncanny experience with the ladder of locks known as Neptune's Staircase lifting the 55-foot yacht a hundred feet above sea level on its watery treads.

Kukri put in to Inverness and then proceeded on her run south having reached the eastern seaboard. The approaches to Blyth and Lowestoft were dogged by the refusal of the batteries to start the engine. Sail had to be relied on for ticklish manoeuvres until mechanical ingenuity produced a 'cocktail' of different batteries that got things going.

A sortie into the Thames brought a final respite before the last leg back to Gosport and a sense of achievement at a sometimes difficult, but mostly enjoyable, circumnavigation having been successfully completed.

Another group of soldiers, meanwhile, took on a 'mercy mission' to help a stranded British yachtsman sail his 45-foot ketch from Gibraltar to England after his wife had been taken ill and flown home.

Assistance to the owner, Mr Maurice Bailey, came from men of 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, based on the Rock. The party was led by Captain John Bullock, a veteran Round-the-World yachtsman and offshore instructor who had previously spent two years on the staff of the Joint Service Sailing Centre, Gosport.

The *Aurlyn II* — a wooden craft built for



Below: *Kukri* at the St Katherine's Dock Haven.

Above: *Waggoner II* preparing for the SOR start.



cruising the Southern Oceans — set off from Gibraltar with the easterly 'Levanta' wind behind her, but progress was slow due to foul tide. After crawling up the Spanish coast, it was decided to put in to a new purpose-built marina at Villamoura on the Portuguese Algarve coast for refuelling.

Under Captain Bullock's direction the largely inexperienced crew were put through their paces ashore practising sail changes in anticipation of the long days ahead in the Atlantic.

The boat set off again and Cape St Vincent was abeam when it was decided to make a long tack into the Atlantic rather than tediously beating up the coast. But progress was still slow in lumpy, drenching seas.

A change of plan — and tack — took the boat back towards Portugal and a night ashore south of Lisbon, and on returning to sea the self-steering gear was rigged to give the crew a respite from the helm and ease the hardships of heavy weather sailing.

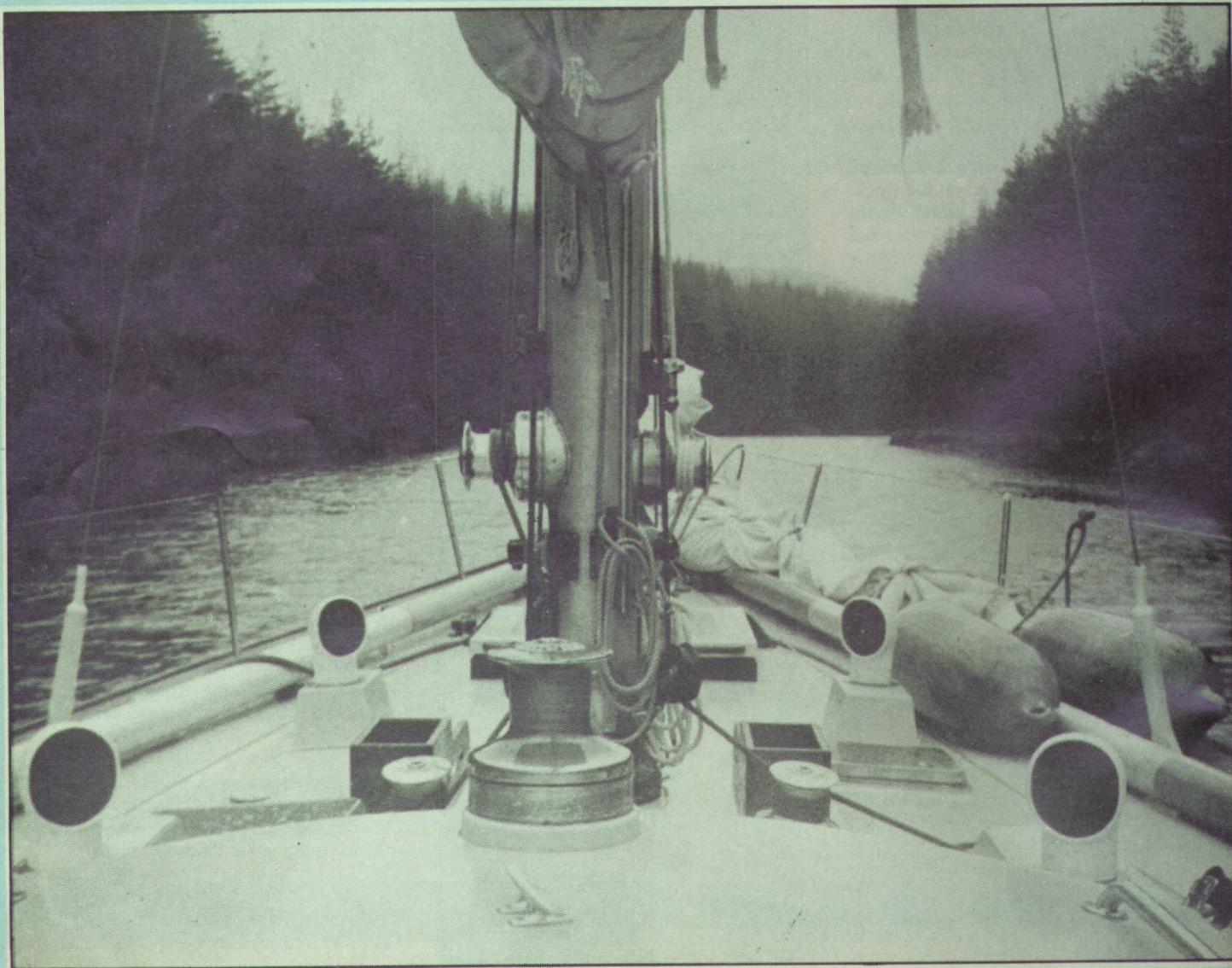
Morale suffered as the interminable beating to windward bucketed the boat into the merciless waves. The weather took its toll on

continued over



Above: *Kukri* beating down the North Sea with wind and waves lashing both crew and vessel.

Below: The peace of the Caledonian Canal was a contrast for *Kukri* to the raging of the sea.



gear as well as men — a sail blew out and the steering gear was smashed.

The northerly winds persisted maddeningly while the promised westerlies showed no signs of appearing to help the yacht make better progress. Instead, light easterlies blew up and the yacht wallowed in the ocean waves, swinging through 40 degrees at a time and making it necessary to use the motor to keep on course.

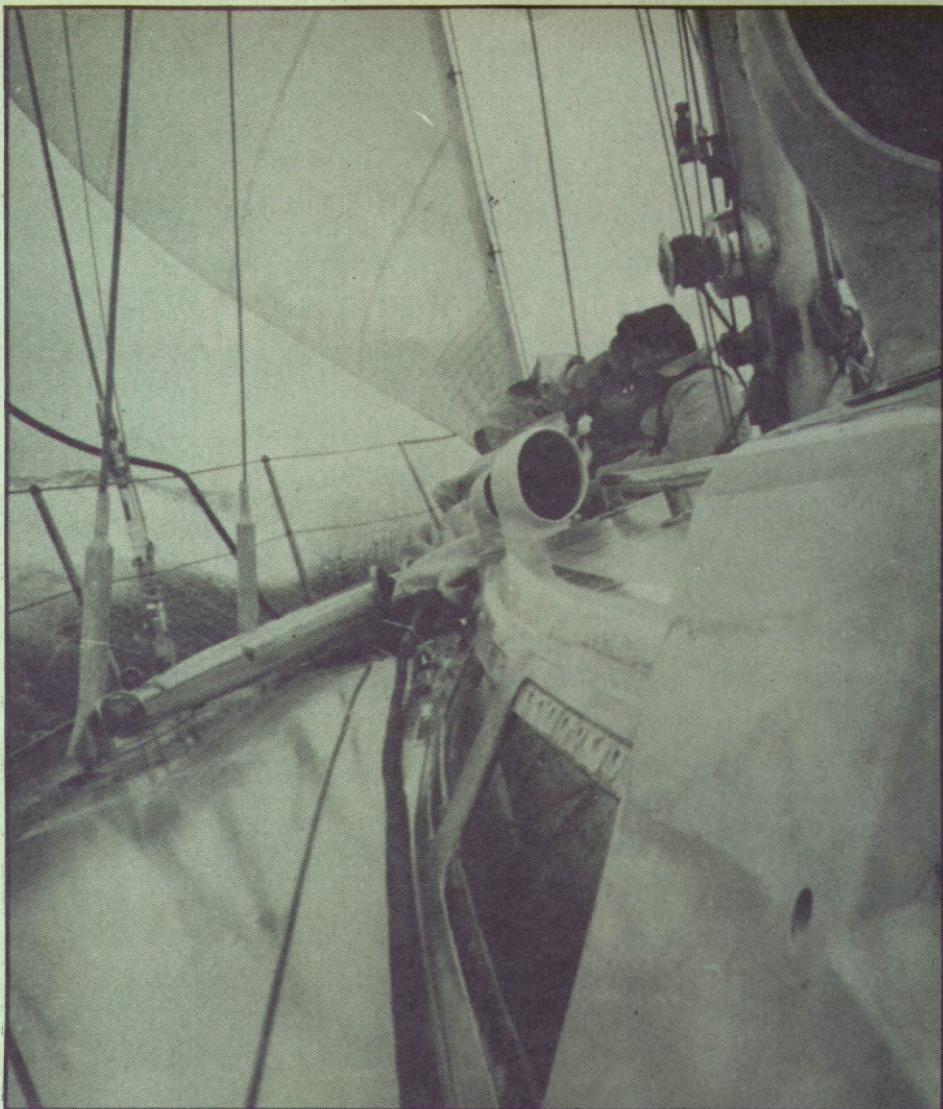
Mealtimes — normally a highlight of the voyage to get away from the wet and cold — became less of a joy as food began to run short. To add to the crew's concern, mechanical faults began to develop.

Light airs did not suit the big boat and a noon-to-noon run of only 75 miles depressed the crew even further. But the appearance of an aircraft 'buzzing' the boat boosted morale just when it was needed, creating a new topic of conversation.

With unreliable navigational aids, Captain Bullock — as navigator — was concerned about the yacht's true position. So he was doubly relieved when the Bishop Rock light, west of the Scilly Isles, came in view just an hour and a half before he estimated it should . . . after 15 days' sailing, mostly out of sight of land.

A southerly wind sped the yacht eastwards and next morning the yacht dropped anchor in Falmouth Harbour where the crew learnt that the Coastguard had been anxiously scanning the seas for them for some days.

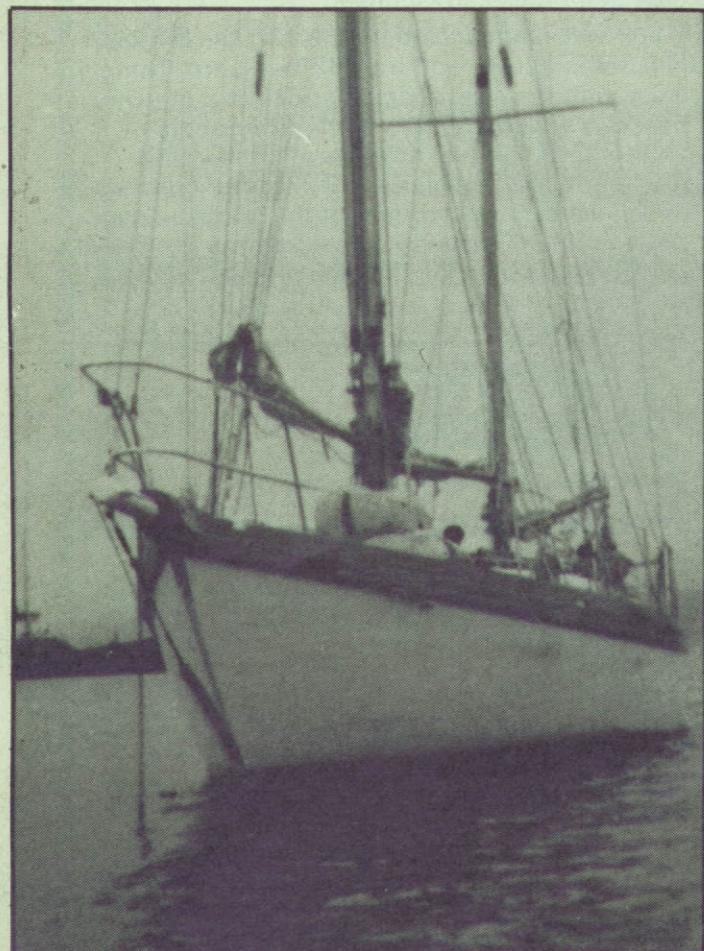
It had been no picnic and Captain Bullock commented: "Being frightened, cold and wet for days on end is no joke. The crew worked and lived as a team helping each other when things were rough. In all, a very worthwhile expedition and a wonderful experience."



Above: Head sail change on Kukri.

Below left: Aurlyn II's ordeal was not this calm!

Below: Kukri's sleek lines are emphasised in a view of her standing on the dockside for painting.



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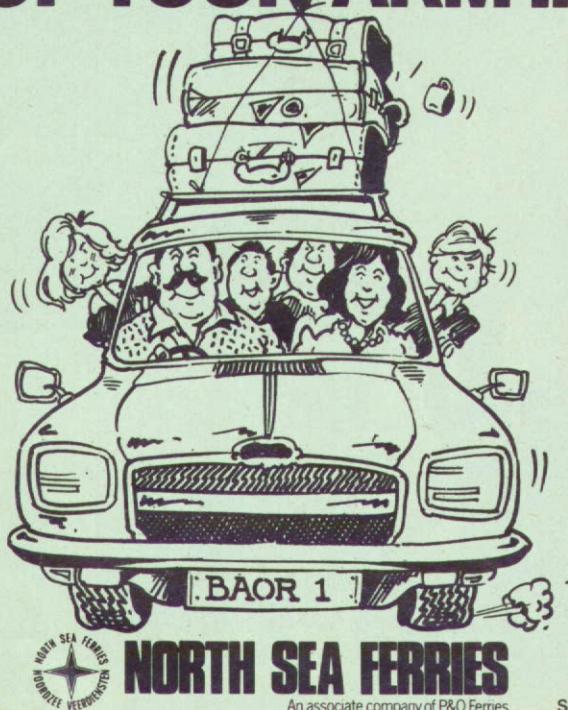
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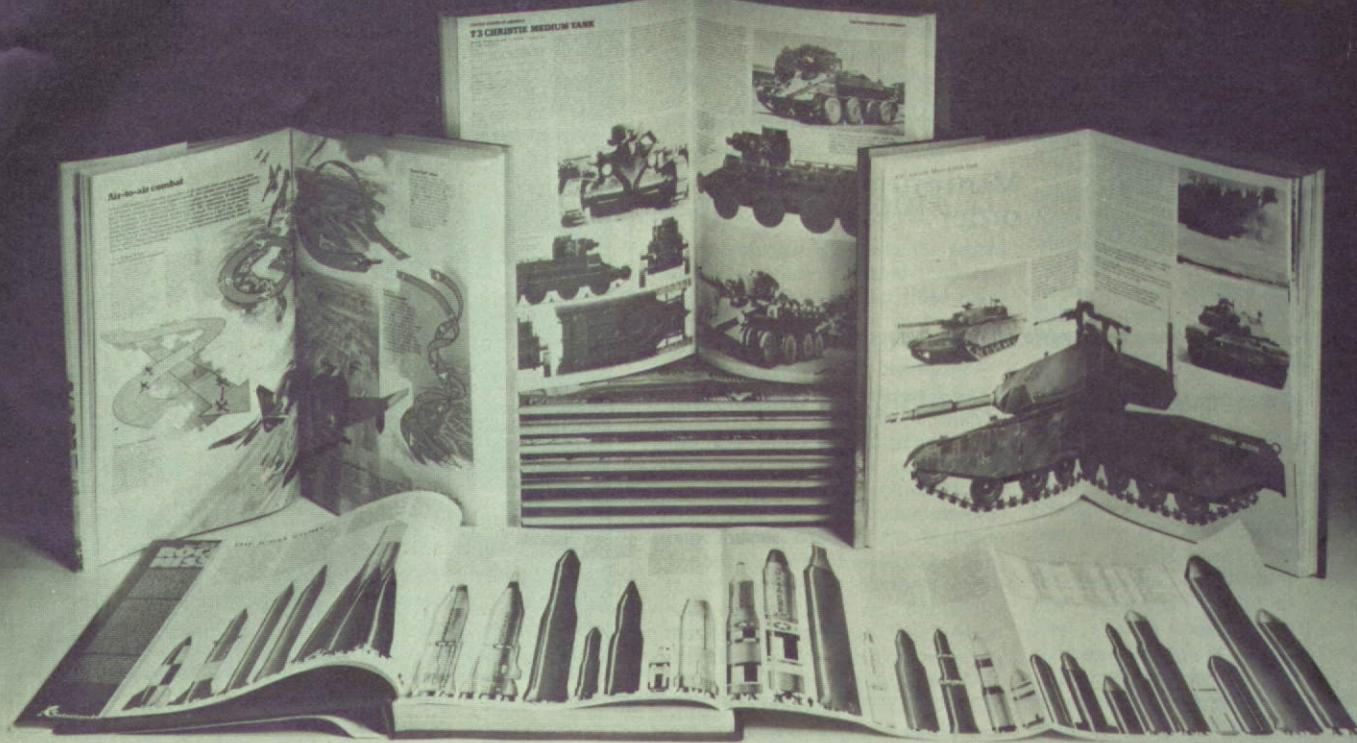
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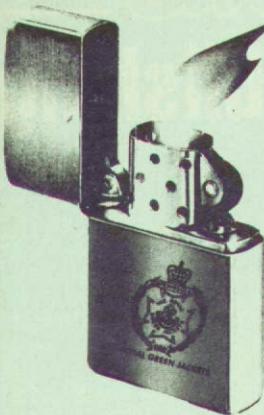
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Letters



Roses . . .

Mr H B Eaton (June) asked if out of season red roses are available in April for St George's Day.

For more years than I care to recall, I have been getting mine from John Groom's Association for the Disabled, in exchange for a donation to their funds. In their London craft centre their disabled young women have for very many years been making skilful copies of real flowers and roses are one of their best productions.

These young women also provided Minden roses and Alexandra Day Roses and the proceeds of their work help seriously disabled people within and far beyond their own association. — Charles O'Connor, 12 Arundel Gardens, Winchmore Hill, London N21 3AE.

... Roses . . .

Queen's Regulations say — or used to — that all ranks serving with a regiment other than that of their own nationality may apply to their commanding officer for permission to wear their own national emblem on their own national day.

As an Englishman serving with an Irish cavalry regiment — the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards — I applied annually on behalf of myself and other Anglo-Saxon colleagues, for permission to wear the rose on Saint George's Day.

Every succeeding commanding officer for many years denied my request for varying reasons until success at last in 1965. Lieutenant-Colonel Woods (now commanding in Northern Ireland) agreed to my application with the proviso that the roses to be worn were English and were not to be artificial.

Mr Eaton had a problem finding a rose in England in April. Has anyone ever tried to obtain an English rose in Aden at that time? — Captain R P Ives (retired), 9 Hazel Grove, Tarleton, Near Preston, PR4 6DQ.

... All the way!

Your readers may be interested to know that The King's Own Royal Border Regiment along with, to my knowledge, three other English infantry regiments, celebrates St

George's Day as one of its Regimental Days. On this day all ranks wear the Red Rose of Lancaster and the Regimental Colour is decorated with a wreath of red roses.

The tradition was inherited from The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster) and it is difficult to determine when it originated. The first written evidence appears in the Lion and Rose, the regimental journal, published in July 1909. This states that for the first time for many years the Regimental Colour was trooped on 23 April at Lucknow which indicates that the custom originated many years before that, but had lapsed, possibly for operational and climatic reasons.

It cannot be denied that fresh roses are expensive in April, but this is largely overcome by the issue of artificial ones. Nevertheless a large number of serving soldiers and old comrades make a point of wearing fresh ones on the day.

Mr Eaton's letter reminds me of a story which no doubt some of your readers from The Lancashire Fusiliers may be able to confirm. It is said that in 1950, during the Abadan crisis, a company of that regiment was on board HMS Mauritius in the Gulf and sent a signal asking for 100 roses to be delivered to them for Minden Day. In due course 100 bottles of lime juice were delivered to the ship! — Lt-Col (retired) J Petty, Regimental Secretary, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, The Castle, Carlisle.

Zulu War

I know from the interest aroused by my letter to SOLDIER that many of your readers are Zulu War enthusiasts and I would like to draw attention to a two-part article which has appeared in 'The Waggoner', journal of the Royal Corps of Transport.

Written by Lieutenant-Colonel I H W Bennett, it concentrates on those of the Commissariat and Army Service Corps who participated in the defence of Rorke's Drift and brings out the crucial contribution of Asst Comm James Langley Dalton.

Although he was belatedly awarded a Victoria Cross, the part played by Dalton has been muted. Yet it was he rather than Chard or Bromhead who insisted that a stand should be made at the mission station and he proposed that the breastworks be built of mealie bags and other stores.

Encouraged by Lieut-Col Bennett's researches, the RCT has produced a Rorke's Drift supplement consisting largely of the account of the action by Asst Comm W A Dunne which originally appeared in the ASC Journal in 1891.

Dunne's story has previously escaped the notice of military historians and consequently Ian Bennett has made important contributions to our understanding of the defence of Rorke's Drift in this centenary year. — G R Everson, 111 Station Road, West Horndon, Brentwood, Essex.

Jock's pop spot

Once again I'm writing while our programme 'Worldwide' is in its summer recess to invite any Scottish lads to send requests and dedications to Radio Clyde.

When the series returns in September we hope to have more of a commitment from the forces as this is a programme especially for them. It will go out each Sunday with a new presenter, Iain Anderson when we plan to unite far-flung families. Write to: — Radio Clyde, 'Worldwide', PO Box 261, Glasgow, G2 7LB. — Annie Wood, Radio Clyde.

Cap-badge gun

In your August 1978 issue the article on the Rotunda contained the statement "the nine pounder rifled muzzle loader . . . known as the cap-badge gun . . . was used as a model for the Royal Artillery cap badge."

The first gun to appear on a Royal Artillery cap badge, was, I believe, the gun on the bell topped shako plate circa 1829. This gun is most certainly not the nine-pounder RML but a nine- or 12-pounder smoothbore muzzle loader of the Waterloo period. The muzzle mouldings, hub, breech mouldings, elevating screw and wooden trail are beautifully detailed and there can be no doubt that the artist did his best to depict accurately a current equipment.

In 1878 the cloth helmet with spike was authorised. The gun on the helmet plate worn with this helmet is not so easy to identify. It bears a superficial resemblance to the 1829 SBML but the trail is now metal (the rivets are clearly shown), the hub of a different construction and the muzzle mouldings have gone. The breech mouldings and elevating gear have not been changed and there is a detectable muzzle swell. If this was an attempt to modernise the badge to represent the nine-pounder RML it was a careless job.

The present cap-badge gun — I suggest — is neither the nine-pounder RML nor the Waterloo SBML but a hybrid, created by an artist who was permitted too much licence. — Lieutenant-Colonel W D Thomas, Directorate of Artillery, Campbell Park Offices, Canberra, ACT 2600.

Tracing defences

The article about the last Bofors unit (SOLDIER May 1979) prompts me to bring to your attention the United Kingdom Fortifications Club that has for several years been trying to locate and record the present state of various forms of World War Two structures used in the defence of this country.

Bofors batteries like that mentioned in your fine article were based around many towns and airfields in Britain during the war.

We are searching for data about the coastal defence batteries, anti-aircraft batteries, 'Z' rocket batteries, gun emplacements and pill boxes. If

SOLDIER readers are interested, the result of this search and survey will be given to the Imperial War Museum and Royal Artillery.

All replies to our request for information will be answered. — Peter D Cobb, Honorary Secretary UKFC, 4 Mablethorpe Road, Portsmouth PO6 4LJ.

Terriers' thank-you

For our annual TAVR training camp this June we were attached to Support Forces Rhine Army with the Royal Engineers Field Post Office BFPO 23.

During this time we were accommodated by the 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and we would like to thank them for making our stay such a memorable one. Also we would like to thank the regular Posties' there. — Staff-Sergeant Jack Harris and L/Cpl Jesse Matthews, 203 PCCU, Riyak Engineers, TAVR.

ENSA reunion

Forty years ago this September the Second World War broke out. At the same time ENSA was formed and action was taken which triggered off the formation of various entertainment units which served the armed forces and war workers in all theatres right through the war and until 1947.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the network a special reunion is to be held in Salisbury in September. It begins with a concert from a lorry back on September 1, the reunion including a concert next day and a performance of 'Workers Playtime' on 4 September.

A number of wartime entertainers have already agreed to take part but the organisers are hoping to contact many more. They should get in touch with: — Miss Bette Anderson, Rectory Cottage, Boyton, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 0SS.

Unusual medal

Mr Barlee's letter (SOLDIER April 1979) refers to the paucity of service medal issues for World War One when no medal was granted for military service within the United Kingdom, even for more than four years.

It may interest readers to know that the British 1914-18 medal was awarded to Chinese, Burmese, Malayan and Egyptian Labour Corps members who were not under full military discipline. But the issue was in bronze.

Nowadays collectors may pay more than 25 times the value of a silver 1914-18 war medal for the same medal in bronze.

The British silver medal was awarded to adults who had been interned in the British section of the German Ruhleben civilian camp where they received fair treatment and were not forced to work. No atrocity allegations were made against the camp staff.

All the interned jockeys, entertainers

continued over

ers and others had been warned to leave Germany prior to war being declared but failed — or did not want — to leave.

The internee issue of the medal is perhaps one of the most unusual war medal issues. — R Rimer, 27 St George's Flats, Newtown, Chester CH1 3HG.

Ex-air-gunned

Any ex-air-gunned among your readers are invited to write to me about their experiences in training, weaponry or combat. I am researching a book about them and would welcome any comments on the subject. — Mr S Allinson, 24 Ravenscliff Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.

'Lonely Outposts'

I am writing a book called *'Lonely Outposts'* about peripheral aspects of World War Two. I would like to hear from anyone who took part in the following campaigns I am covering: — Iraq and Syria 1941, Persia and the South Atlantic supply routes (including Ascension Island) and through the Persian corridor to Russia, Madagascar 1942 and any minor operations in the Indian Ocean.

Also the so-called 'Weather War' in the Arctic, the American operations against the Japanese in the Aleutian Islands plus the activities behind the lines in the south-west Pacific and South East Asia.

I should also be interested to hear of any other exotic sidelights on the war. — J S Riggs, 188 Cavendish Road, London SW12 0DA.

Dragoons book

I have been commissioned by the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards to

write a history of the regiment from 1685 to the 1970s. If any of your readers possess — or know of — unpublished memoirs, diaries, letters or any other documentary material relevant to the present regiment or either of its predecessors I should be most grateful if they would contact me. — J M Brereton, Wern Newydd, Painscastle, Builth Wells, Powys, Wales.

'Suspicious'

I saw in the record reviews (SOLDIER April 1979) that RB thought that the Edinburgh Military Tattoo started with what sounded 'suspiciously like a mounted cavalry band.'

I wonder if the mounted trumpeters of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards who appeared at the tattoo with their drum horse were pleased or displeased by reading that they sounded 'suspiciously' like themselves! — Robert Aitken, 128 Sunnymbank Avenue, Coventry CV3 4DR.

Since the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards — drum horse and all — have not so far charged into SOLDIER's offices in high dudgeon, we can only assume that they — like so many of our readers — merely appreciated the dry wit that gives zest to RB's record reviews. — Ed.

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Competition

Congratulations to everyone who entered our April 'Jigword' competition. There were lots of you and you all got it right. We had to disqualify a lady from Leamington however for forgetting to stick our Competition Label on her entry. Remember, unless you attach the correct coupon to your answer you won't be included in the draw for prizes.

Prizewinners:

- 1 S Sgt R J White, c/o WO's & Sgts' Mess, 9th Signal Regt, BFPO 58.
- 2 D A Underwood, 13 Benson Road, Abingdon, Oxon.
- 3 Miss Lumley, 15 Horne Road, Catterick Garrison, N Yorks.
- 4 Mrs J V Shadforth, 22 Wood End, Pendine, Carmarthen, Dyfed.
- 5 Mrs Jan Tibbit, c/o Sgt K Tibbit, 112 Pro Coy RMP, BFPO 36.
- 6 P R Barton, c/o Col G H Barton, M and L. Division, IMS, NATO, BFPO 49.
- 7 Sig Postings, HQ/MT, 22 Signal Regt, BFPO 107.
- 8 Mrs M Gordon, 22 Hazel Hill Cres., Bestwood Park, Nottingham.

Reunions

Christ's College, Finchley CCF. 75th Anniversary Walk from Bisley to Christ's College. Sun 30 September. ETA at School 4.30pm. All ex-cadets welcome to reception. Further details from B W Fuller, Manorside, High St, Grendon Underwood, Bucks, HP18 0SU.

The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry. OCA Reunion Sat 10 November. Parade and lunch Chorley, supper Lancaster House. Details from RHQ, Lancaster House, Manchester Road, Clifton, Manchester, M27 2PU.

Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers). Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the foundation of the Volunteers will take the form of a Dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London on 21 September. Ex-members of the RHKR(V), RHKDF, and HKVDC should contact Messrs Bellingham (01-606 7601) or Duncan-Smith (01-930 2525) for further details.

15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association. The 60th Annual Reunion Dinner Dance is to be held at the Civic Centre Banqueting Suite, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne on Sat 22 September at 6pm for 7pm. Tickets can be obtained from Major B O Simmonds, Secretary, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4NP. Tel: Newcastle (0632) 29855.

The Duke of Wellington's Regimental Association. Annual Reunion at Prescott Street Drill Hall, Halifax, Sat 29 September. AGM at 6.30pm; Dinner 7.30pm for 8pm. Tickets (£4.00) and further details from the General Secretary, Mr A Wood, RHQ The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Wellesley Park, Highroad Well, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2 0BA (Tel: Halifax 61671).

Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon, and Pack Artillery Associations (1919-1959). 13 October at The Drive Hotel, Old Town, Eastbourne. Details: D A Knight ERD, 79 Tyrrell Ave, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BT.

Army Physical Training Corps. Annual Reunion Dinner, Sat 15 September, Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot. Tickets and details from the Association Secretary, Army School of Physical Training, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot (Tel: Aldershot Military (24431) ext 2131).

The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's). Regimental Annual Reunion Dinner, 8pm Sat 8 September, at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs, WS14 9PY. Tickets obtainable from RHQ (address as above) in advance, £2.50 each.

Army Apprentices College Arborfield. The Old Boys Association of the College intends to hold a reunion during the weekend 12-14 October. It will follow the form of the recent successful reunions and all past apprentices of Arborfield and Carlisle and past members of staff are cordially invited. Full details and application forms can be obtained from the Hon Sec OBA at the College.

Brighton Sea Cadet Unit, TS Dolphin. is celebrating the completion of its first 50 years with a grand reunion at Hove Town Hall on 20 October. Former cadets or staff interested in attending or contributing towards reunion fund, should contact Sub-Lt (SCC) R Copelin, RNR, 63 Upper Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 3FG.

The West Yorkshire Regiment and the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Annual Reunion and White Horse Ball, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Streanall, Sat 6 October. Details from the Secretary, West Yorkshire and PWO Regimental Association, Imphal Barracks, York, YO1 4HD.

79th and 80th (Medium) Regts (Scottish Horse) RA. Reunion 10-11 Nov at Dunkeld. Those who lost touch in last 30 years especially welcome and all Scottish Horse (RAC) and PSIs. Details: K Campbell, PO Box 11, Aberdeen, AB9 8AG.

The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire). London Branch regimental reunion dinner, 1900 for 1930 hours, 1 September, Victory Services Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, Marble Arch, London. Tickets £3.50. Details from Secretary, M Ryan, 18 North Drive, AERE Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0PE.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association. Annual reunion and general meeting, The Barracks, Wrexham, 6-7 October. Tickets and programmes from branch secretaries or on application to Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 2DB.

Ex-Prisoners-of-War. Annual reunion and concert, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, Fri 14 September. Details: Maj J Howe (Retd), Castleton, Hookwood, Limpsfield, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9DU.

The Dorset Regiment Association. Annual reunion, Sat 8 September, TAVR Centre, Poundbury Road, Dorchester. Details: Secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1RN.

The Welch Regiment Old Comrades. Reunion, Sat 13 October, TAVR Centre, Broadway, Pontypridd. Further information: V D Williams, 41 Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8EZ.

How observant are you?

(see page 10)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Shape of rock behind mermaid's arm. 2 Lines on mermaid's tail. 3 Lower fin of fish fourth from right. 4 Top diver's lower toe shape. 5 Lower diver's leading thumb. 6 Middle stripe of big fish. 7 Tail mark of big fish. 8 Front of mermaid's hair. 9 Mermaid's left little finger. 10 Lower right 'branch' of right plant.

Collectors' corner

Mr P E A Hall, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QT — Stamp Collector wishes to purchase King Edward VII and Queen Victoria British Empire issues singles or album collections, also envelopes, letters, and postcards.

P Woodage, 27 Bourne Road, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7JT — Wants military vehicle manuals, instruction books, etc. British and US 1939-45.

N A Rautenback, c/o Medical Centre, Simonstown, South Africa 7995 — Seek crests of ships, subs etc worldwide.

A North, 30 Preston St, Timaru, South Island, New Zealand — Seeks, NATO, SEATO, and commonwealth, elite and special forces, badges, insignia and wings. Also SAS, French Foreign Legion, and US Rangers, Airborne, seals, badges, insignia and wings. Also Rhodesian, South African, badges, insignia and wings. Has some NZ

badges for exchange, or will pay reasonable prices.

A Coilliot, 71 Rue Raoul Briquet Beaureains, France, 62000 Arras — All info wanted on different British units engaged in the actions around the town of Arras for publication of book on the battle of Arras 20/24th May 1940. As a collector of military relics, badges, equipment WWI and II (British and UK Forces), he wishes all exchanges, contacts.

H E Moss, 6 Saxonbury Gardens, St Mary's Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 5HF — Requires UK Korea medals to Middlesex, Royal Norfolk, 8th Hussars, will exchange or purchase.

Vic Brown, Brecklands, Northwell Pool, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37 7HW — Far East War 1941-45. Literally anything Allied or Japanese required for private collector's touring exhibition. Please forward banknotes, leaflets, documents, photos, postal items, swords, flags, insignia etc for offer by return or contact for further details.

B Quittenton, 2 Chelsham Close, Warlingham, Surrey — Requires Official History of Cdn Army WWII and cap badges Seaforth of Canada (with coronet) Sherbrooke Fusilier

Regt, NB Rangers. For exchange Camerons of Ottawa, Winnipeg LI, 1st Cdn APC Regt, KO Malta Regt and militia etc.

Maximilián de Elduayen, Brigade Paracaidista, Estado Mayor, 'Boina Negra', Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain — Very interested in Republican Spanish para's Wings. The Spanish para wings of civil war (1936-39). Exchange for other badges or buy. Also badges of Ghurkas, Scottish regiments, and from Hong Kong and Bahamas.

David S Hicks, 370 Upper Shoreham Road, Shoreham by Sea, Sussex, BN4 5QD — Has about 100 Canadian World War II period cloth shoulder flashes. Interested in exchanging for RFC/RAF items, badges and medals in particular.

Gene Christian, 3849 Bailey Ave, Bronx, NY 10463, USA — Wants; Badges, banners, medals, certificates, headdress, crossbelts, souvenirs, etc re: British Indian Army & Native States, Camel Corps, British Colonial Vol Corps; Shanghai-Tientsin Vol Corps, Police, etc, Yangtse Gunboats, Chinese Maritime Customs, International Brigade (Spain), Chinese Forces (pre 1949), Italian Colonial, Mercenaries, French Colonial, Foreign Legion and

School Attendance medals, British Colonial Shooting medals; Presentation & Regt marked kukris.

David Turner, 14 Ambrose St, Mt Albert, Auckland 3, New Zealand — Wants: Commonwealth and Belgium badges especially medical corps. Has buttons and badges to exchange.

Ray P Yochim, 140 Alderson Crescent, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, S7H 4C2 — Wants issue No 19 of 'War Monthly'. Any help appreciated.

Major J G Mayes, HQ 4th Armoured Division, BFPO 15 — 8th, 63rd, and 96th of Foot, The King's Regiment — is researching a new regimental history of the King's Regiment from 1685 to the present day. Grateful for any information such as personal reminiscences, family anecdotes, letters, newspaper cuttings, old regimental histories and documents, even pub tales. Any material offered would be returned.

Andrew Sinclair, 4 Dunster Gardens, Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 3LF — Wants slides of military tanks and weapons.

Mr E W Unwin, 6 Shore Lane, Upton, Poole, Dorset — Requires UN Beret size 7 1/4 or 7 1/2 to remind him of good old days. Cost no problem.

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.

SOLDIER is not always notified of alterations and cancellations. Readers are advised to check with the organisers.

See-the-Army DIARY

AUGUST 1979

- 1 North Devon Show, Bideford.
- 1 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 1 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 2 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (2-11 August).
- 2 Leicester Army Display (2-4 August) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists; Junior signallers display team; static displays; three bands).
- 2 Plymouth Spotlight Spectacular (2-5 August).
- 3 Hull Show (3-4 August).
- 5 Military Vehicle Display, Duxford Airfield, Cambridgeshire.
- 8 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 9 Bournemouth Fiesta (9-11 August) (RGJ freefall, 9 August).
- 10 Shrewsbury Floral and Musical Fête (10-11 August) (Flying Bugles; Red Caps; five bands).
- 10 Gloucester Carnival and Military Display.
- 10 Staverton Air Show.
- 10 Great Northumberland Show, Stannington (10-12 August) (RGJ freefall).
- 11 Sedgefield, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 11 Castle Howard Steam Fair, Malton (11-12 August).
- 11 Lord Mayor's Gala, Stoke-on-Trent (Flying Bugles).
- 12 Royal Military Police and City of Chichester march.
- 15 Cromer Carnival (Red Devils; static displays).
- 15 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (15 August-8 September).
- 16 Denbigh and Flint Show, Rhyl (RGJ freefall).
- 18 Skegness (Lincolnshire) Carnival (18-25 August) (WRAC band).
- 18 Darlington Show.
- 18 Hartlepool Show (18-19 August) (Flying Bugles).

- 18 Horse of the Year Show, Doncaster (18-19 August).
- 18 Fairford and District Steam Gala (18-19 August) (Red Caps).
- 18 Minstrel Carnival (RGJ freefall).
- 19 Mid-Somerset Show, Shepton Mallet (RGJ freefall).
- 22 Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.
- 23 Eastbourne Show (Red Caps).
- 24 British Timken Show, Northampton (24-25 August) (Red Devils; Pegasus; static displays).
- 25 Expo Steam, Peterborough (25-27 August).
- 25 Durham City Show (25-26 August).
- 25 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (25-27 August) (Flying Bugles 26-27 August; RGJ freefall 25 August).
- 26 Carlisle Services Display (26-28 August) (Red Caps).
- 26 Quexpo 79, Birchington (Kent) (26-27 August) (RGJ freefall).
- 27 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show (band).
- 27 Leicester City Show (27-28 August) (RGJ freefall 28 August).
- 27 Leeds Gala.
- 27 Walsall Show (27-28 August).
- 27 Open Day, Debdale Park, Manchester (Flying Bugles).
- 30 Melplash Show, Bridport (RGJ freefall).
- 31 Newport Show (31 August-2 September) (Red Caps).
- 31 Sheffield Show (31 August-2 September).
- 31 Birmingham Show (31 August-2 September) (RGJ freefall).

SEPTEMBER 1979

- 1 Seaham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Wolsingham Show, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, (1-2 September).
- 1 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 1 Guildford Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Moreton-in-Marsh Horse Show.
- 1 Malmesbury Carnival.
- 1 Guisborough Festival (1-2 September).
- 1 High Wycombe Show (1-2 September).
- 2 Luton (Bedfordshire) Show (White Helmets).
- 3 Crawley (Sussex) Tattoo.
- 8 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough (Red Caps; White Helmets; Household Cavalry trumpeters and drum horse).
- 8 Stanhope, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September) (Red Devils; Pegasus; static displays).
- 8 Trowbridge (Wiltshire) Carnival.
- 9 South Yorkshire Royal.
- 13 Cambrian March (13-16 September).
- 15 Stokesley Show.
- 15 Camberley Horse Show, Sandhurst (RGJ freefall).
- 18 HMS Vernon Searchlight Tattoo (18-22 September) (Red Caps).
- 20 Thame Show.

OCTOBER 1979

- 13 Armed Forces Service, Winchester Cathedral (900th anniversary).
- 23 Berlin Tattoo (23-28 October).

NOVEMBER 1979

- 3 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, lays up Colours, Auld Kirk, Ayr.
- 10 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 10 Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.

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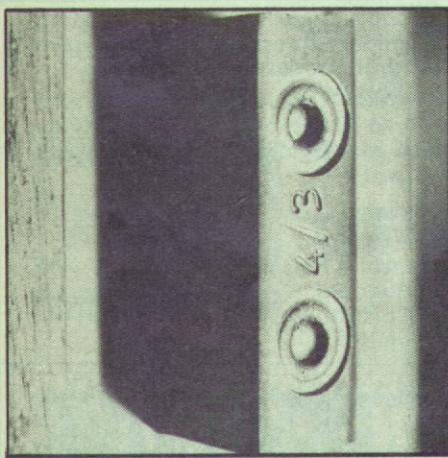
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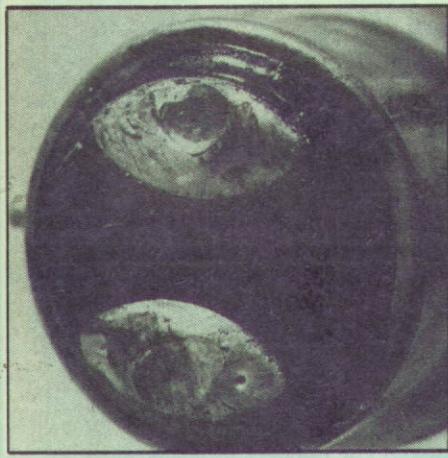
COMPETITION 253



1



2



3



4

SOLDIER's photographer, Doug Pratt, provides this month's competition with this collection of common objects magnified and photographed from unusual angles.

The competition is simple do do — or is it? Just take a look at the pictures, hazard your guesses and send them by postcard or letter with the Competition 253 label from this page to:

Editor (Comp 253)

SOLDIER

Ordnance Road,

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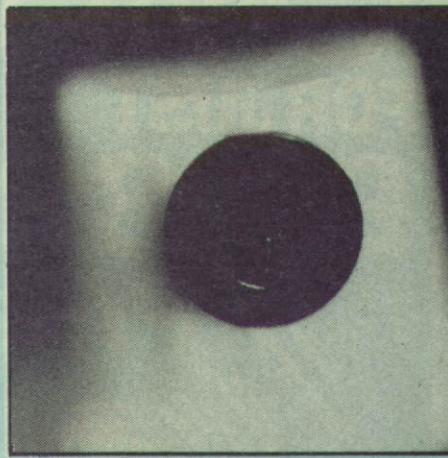
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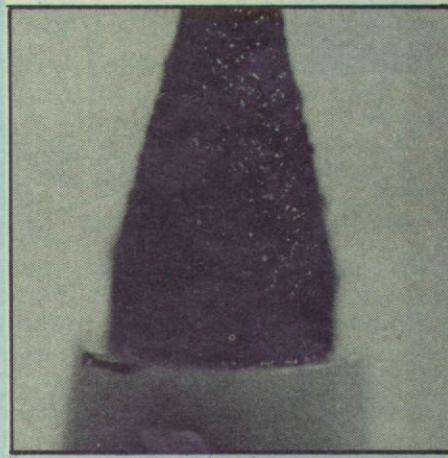
The competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 8 October. The answers and winners' names will appear in the December SOLDIER. More than one entry may be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 253' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Competitors using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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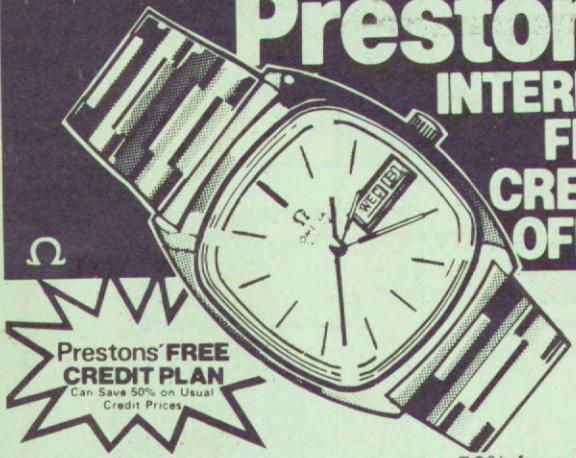


9



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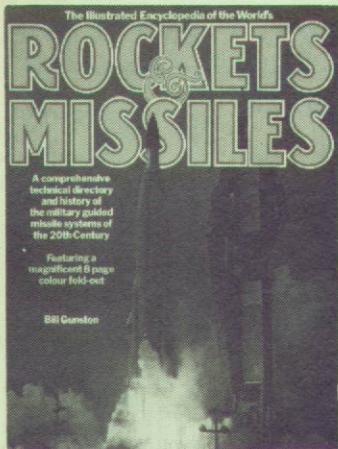
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Books



Neglected field

'The Illustrated Encyclopedia of the World's Rockets and Missiles' (Bill Gunston)

In other words, the plain man's guide to missiles and rocketry, this excellent and profusely illustrated book sets out to fill a gap. The field of guided missile and rocket technology has been strangely neglected by military analysts, possibly because of its complexity.

But Mr Gunston is a well-informed guide to a subject which has enormous significance for everyone on this planet. Indeed, the very existence of the multitude of missile systems overshadows everything else, and are central to just about every avenue of military strategic and tactical thought.

They range from the portable anti-tank missile carried by a single infantryman to the block-of-flatsized intercontinental ballistic missile.

Mr Gunston carries their story from the primitive remotely-controlled aircraft of the years between the wars, through the buzz-bombs and V-2 rocket era, and on through the post-war arms race to the devastating Phoenix system which permits one F-14 Tomcat aircraft to destroy six independent targets at a range of over 100 miles.

With this thought provoking book no-one has any excuse for not knowing what hit him.

Salamander Books Ltd, Salamander House, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3AF, £9.95 JCW

Wargaming

'Battles with Model Tanks' (Donald Featherstone and Keith Robinson)

While wargames bear only the most passing resemblance to real warfare, tank warfare is perhaps the most realistic of all wargames.

The reason is, of course, simple. Authentic, scaled-down models of

armoured fighting vehicles — tanks, armoured cars, SP guns and various armoured carriers — are much more realistic than, say, models of infantrymen or cavalrymen of whatever era.

Reinforced by this belief, the authors present a concise and informative guide to armoured wargaming covering every aspect of the subject from the weight of tank and anti-tank gun projectiles to the vital need for efficient communications.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £2.95 JCW



Who's who

'Who's Who in World War II' (David Mason)

This volume, while not the first of its kind, has the virtue of seeking to present a succinct history of the great conflict in the form of a collection of biographies, and in this it has largely succeeded.

Alexander and Auchinleck figure largely in the opening section, followed by men like Douglas Bader, Ernest Bevin and General Omar Bradley. Neville Chamberlain and, of course, Churchill, are prominent in the next session.

And so the story moves on with name after name of the famous and not so famous — Eisenhower, German air ace Adolf Galland, Hermann Goering, Hitler, Montgomery, Generals Koniev and Zhukov, Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, Douglas MacArthur, famed for his liberation of the Philippines, Jan Masaryk, Molotov, Mountbatten, Patton and Petain.

Rommel is followed by Roosevelt and Sikorski, head of the Free Polish Forces, Slim, who defeated two Japanese armies in the Burma campaign, Stalin, Tito, Wavell and Wingate, Admiral Yamamoto, architect of the Pearl Harbour attack, and General Yamashita, Japanese 'Lion of Malaya.'

These are just a few of the many personalities whose combined war-

time biographies link up to give a compact, personal history of World War Two.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £7.95 JFPJ

Bunkerized

'The Berlin Bunker' (James P O'Donnell)

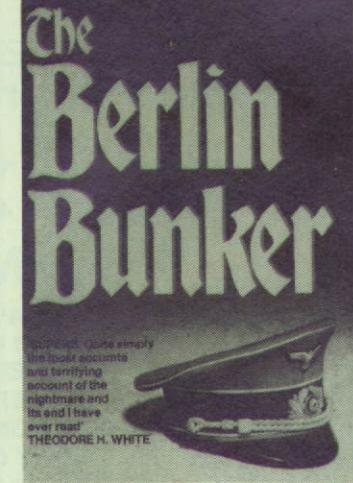
Thirty-four years ago, Adolf Hitler, Fuehrer of the German people, founder of the Third Reich, the man who led a great nation to disaster and disgrace, departed this life in a squalid, stinking bunker far below embattled Berlin.

Mr O'Donnell, unlike the other great historian of the bunker, Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper, actually gained access to Hitler's last refuge and sets out to recapture the dooms-laden, crazy half-world of the bunker and the people who lived and died there.

In no way does it supplant Trevor-Roper's classic 'Last Days of Hitler,' but Mr O'Donnell has had remarkable success in tracking down witnesses not available to the professor at the end of the war. Most were in Russian captivity. Now, many have returned, and through their eyes, Mr O'Donnell presents a convincing evocation of the end of the Third Reich.

He explores many facets — Stalin's

James P O'Donnell



ridiculous claim that Hitler had survived; the reason Doenitz was chosen to succeed Hitler; the mystery of 'Mata O'Hara,' the Irish-born mistress of Eva Braun's brother-in-law, who was a British spy; the life-long hatred between Goebbels and his wife, and the poisoning of their six children whom Magda Goebbels wished Hitler had fathered.

And he explodes the myth of the storming of the bunker by the Red Army. The Russians, we learn, never did storm the bunker. It was quietly surrendered to a team of Red Army women doctors by the only man left there — Johannes Hentschel, the engineer who had kept the power plant running as Hitler held his interminable staff conferences poring over his maps, moving long-destroyed armies, ordering non-existent formations to the relief of the capital; or spending long hours with old cronies reminiscing about the halcyon days of political struggle in

the Twenties and Thirties.

J M Dent & Sons Ltd, Aldine House, Welbeck Street, London, £6.95 JCW

'Curse to armies'

From our Special Correspondent (Robert Wilkinson-Latham)

Sir Garnet Wolseley called them "the newly invented curse to armies" and "the race of drones" when war correspondents began to accompany the British Army into the field in the 19th century. For the first time they were able to give the British public first hand dramatic stories of the fighting, descriptive accounts of the terrain and character impressions of the enemy and his home environment.

They also told of suffering, of inefficiency and of unnecessary hardships. They were critical of arms, equipment and clothing, citing instances when guns, ammunition and boots failed. But their reports reached the enemy as quickly as they did the reading public at home and revealed much information about regiments, strengths, casualties and armaments. For these reasons they were not welcomed by commanders, who gave them no privileges, endeavoured to confine them to railheads and otherwise tried to curtail their activities.

But they were a tough breed and men like Russell, Prior, Forbes, Churchill and many others, through their journalistic ability, brought the reality of war and an impression of foreign climes and native people to British readers.

This book recalls campaigns span-

ning 100 years — Spain, America, the Crimea, India, Egypt and the Sudan, South Africa and China. It is a fascinating account of the development of special correspondents, recounting their exploits; humorous, tragic, courageous and highly individual.

The many photographs and sketches help to bring them to life, as their own sketches at the time added considerably to their highly revealing prose.

Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, 47 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP, £8.95 GRH

Gold trail

'Operation Fish' (Alfred Draper)

Britain's present economic problems have recently brought forth exhortations to remember the spirit of Dun-

kirk, the national demonstration of defiance which saw us through those dark days of 1940.

But one cannot help wondering how Britons could have felt if they had known that Britain's gold reserves had been shipped to Canada and the United States.

Would they, as Mr Draper suggests, have believed that their leaders were expecting defeat? Would the Dunkirk spirit have evaporated?

With the King steadfastly refusing to leave London, and Churchill urging us to 'take one with you' I doubt it. I think it more likely that such knowledge would have emphasised the seriousness of the situation.

The gold went in a variety of merchant and warships. The biggest single consignment — £47,000,000 worth — went over in the battleship *Revenge* in July 1940.

But even before the war, in May 1939, the King's visit to the United States was used as a cover for the transfer of £30,000,000 in gold so that Britain could continue buying in North America 'in the early stages of an emergency.'

Ironically, at the same time, other European countries, concerned at the deteriorating political position, were sending their gold to London.

Not all of them, of course. Poland's gold was taken on a hazardous rail journey through Rumania as the Panzers rolled across Polish soil, that of Holland and Norway, along with the royal families, was snatched to safety by the Royal Navy as the Germans closed in.

Mr Draper tells the story of Europe's gold in a well-researched book, illustrated by quite a few photographs which should never have been taken, and really does come up with 'an untold story of World War Two.'

Cassell Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £6.95 JCW

light than has so often been the case."

Certainly it was in the interests of King James II to discredit Monmouth as so many believed him to be the rightful heir to Charles II. In fact, although it is almost certain that Charles was married to Lucy Barlow, his son's mother, he never wished him to succeed to the Crown but used him as a pawn against the ambitions of James, then Duke of York.

The author stresses that Monmouth was an able Captain-General of the Land Forces who gained a reputation for military leadership in five campaigns. He became rebel chief after being exiled by Charles, failed to be reconciled when the opportunity arose and lost all through being caught up in the power game.

The author sees him as a leader of men, faithful to his principles and courageous even on the scaffold, where he refused time and time again to repent. Even Jack Ketch was so visibly moved that he failed to decapitate Monmouth with six blows of his axe and had to sever the head with a knife.

George Allen & Unwin Ltd, 40 Museum Street, London WC1A 1LU, £9.95 GRH

Decisive strategy

'World War II — Some Decisive Episodes' (R Stanhope Palmer)

Although this volume deals with only a dozen 'decisive episodes' of World War Two, the author treats the subject from a world strategic point of view without going into detail about battles. Yet he brings out seemingly unrelated facts to show how they do eventually fit into the overall pattern. Such as the Japanese failure to sink the two aircraft carriers at Pearl Harbour, and a third en route, which later gave the Americans the ability to spare *Wasp* to carry a vital supply of Spitfires to Malta in 1942, which helped to save the Island.

The decisive episodes are the 'phoney war' period, including Norway and the fall of France; the Axis 'at the gates of Britain' after Dunkirk; the Mediterranean War, in two distinct parts; Japan's decision to attack the USA; the 'Schnarnhorst' and 'Gneisenau' the Allied bomber offensive and the U-boat war; Sicily and Italy; Kohima and Imphal; Normandy; Arnhem; and the Ardennes counterstroke.

The author believes that many assumptions about details of the war are wrongly based and are in danger of being accepted as facts. He sets out to disprove them. There are some useful maps and a number of diagrams of battleships and sea operational manoeuvres.

Arthur H Stockwell Ltd, Elms Court, Ilfracombe, Devon, £6.00 GRH

The fighting Irish

'Fling Our Banner to the Wind' (John Horsfall)

Another human document of the Irish Brigade in battle. Day to day accounts of life — and death — advancing northward in Italy in World War Two. The Irish battalions have a unique brand of camaraderie, discipline, toughness,

touchiness and gutsy regimental spirit that makes each unit a formidable fighting formation. As a brigade with veteran experience they knew they were practically unbeatable.

The author had the advantage of keeping a day to day diary and also was able to retrieve letters written home. So his account of the fighting in Italy is not only accurate from a regimental point of view but contains much detail about the characters and idiosyncrasies of individuals.

Strong humour, too, as when Major General C F Keightley, General-Officer-Commanding 78th Division, asked Brigadier T P D Scott, commanding the Irish Brigade, to think out a plan for capturing the monastery on the practically impregnable Monte Cassino that had halted the Allied advance northward in Italy in 1944. Pat Scott said: "As I did not altogether take to the idea I said that I thought the best plan was for someone else to capture it."

All soldiers will appreciate the authenticity of this very worthwhile record and will see themselves and their comrades among the characters. *The Roundwood Press (1978) Ltd, Kineton, Warwickshire. £4.25* GRH

'Crushing defeat'

An interesting and very detailed account of Maiwand, the battle between a British and Indian force and the fanatical followers of Sirdar Ayub Khan in Afghanistan in 1880. The encounter ended in a crushing defeat for British arms — the only one in the second Afghan War. During the course of the day so many things went wrong and the author has been able to unfold a positive panorama of the events that could not have been bettered by any one of the participants.

Surviving officers wrote their own accounts at the time by order. Bodies were buried where the men were cut down and a visit to the battlefield by a survey party a few weeks later resulted in what is probably a unique document recording on map the exact dispositions of guns and men, including the lines of withdrawal and

the various unit engagements and final stands.

The author has commanded a mountain battery in action near the Afghan border, served with an Indian Division and has been over the battlefield. His account makes exciting and interesting reading, with lessons for the student of warfare. It also includes events leading up to and following the battle.

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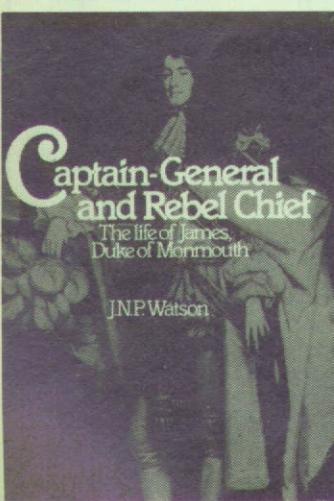
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Rebel Chief



Captain-General and Rebel Chief (J N P Watson)

It is those "on the winning side whose words are most eagerly sought and repeated by subsequent historians. As a result, lies, if such they be, become ever more firmly established." So says the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry in the foreword to this book and he goes on to thank the author for portraying his ancestor James, Duke of Monmouth, in "a far truer and more fascinating

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