

Soldier

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MARCH 1981



TOUGHENING UP TOMORROW'S
COMMANDOS
VIEWS FROM THE
ROCK

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Picture by Paul Haley



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Picture by Paul Haley



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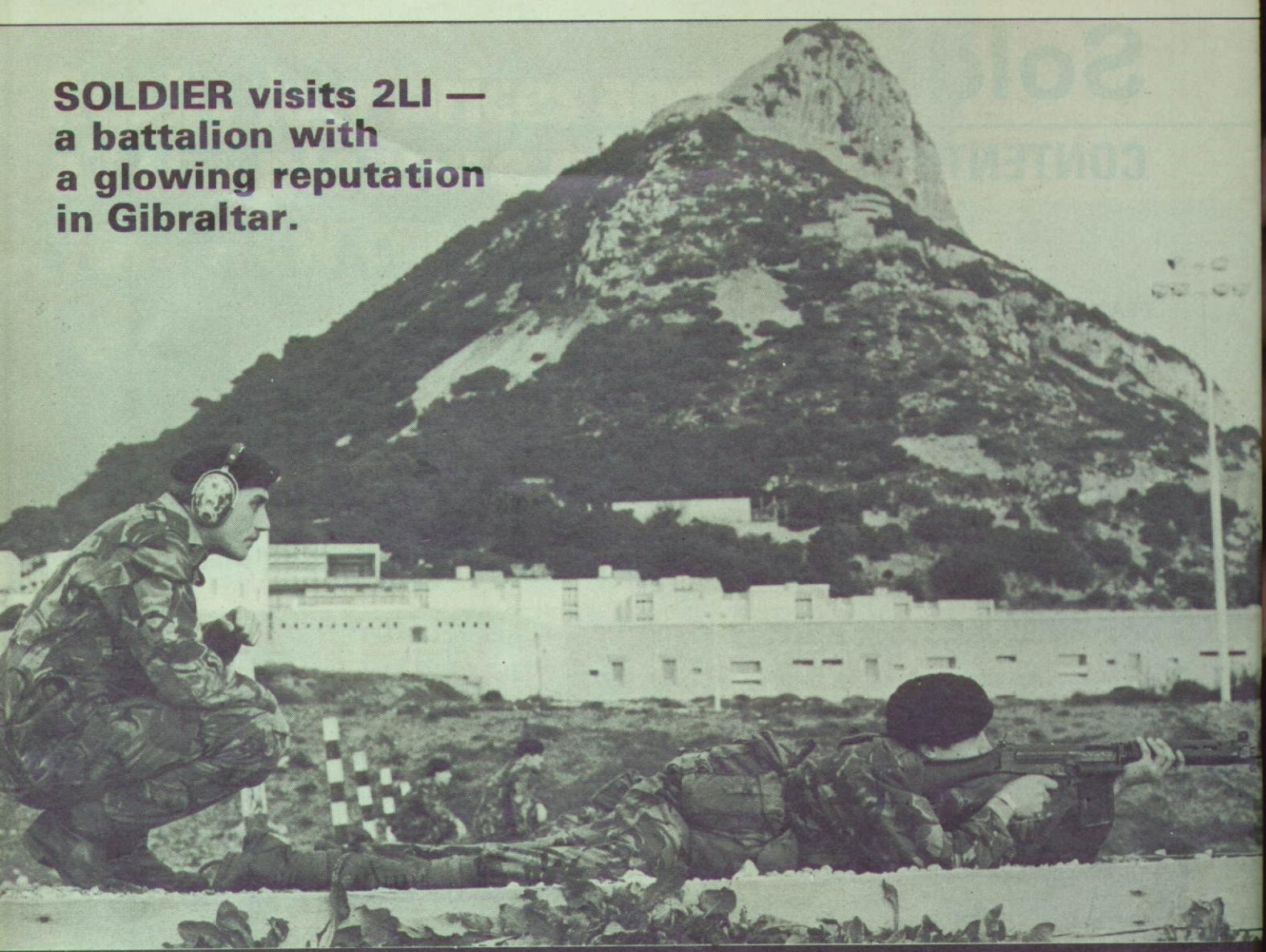
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SOLDIER visits 2LI —
a battalion with
a glowing reputation
in Gibraltar.



SHINING LIGHTS



THE SECOND BATTALION, THE LIGHT INFANTRY, have won a fond place in the hearts of Gibraltarians as firm and as permanent as the lofty, 1396-foot Rock itself.

For, it is claimed, 2 LI is probably one of the most favourably talked about units to have been garrisoned at the fortress gateway between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic during the past decade.

But 2 LI, veterans of nine tours spanning nearly four years in Ulster and as familiar with the sun-bleached Sahara as windswept Salisbury Plain, have had to earn this gilt-edged reputation bestowed on them by the 29,000-plus locals during the tenure of a two-year tour which draws to a close this summer.

Tactically, Gibraltar has only one small training area suitable for observation post exercises and associated limited tactical scenarios perched on top of the sentinel, rocky peninsula. Accordingly, the main

**Story: Graham Smith
Pictures: Paul Haley**

Above: Live action along the 135-metre ETR.
Left: Farringdon's OP overlooking La Linea.

military training effort is concentrated by companies into month-long periods in the UK.

Last November, 2 LI spent such a month based at Salisbury Plain's Westdown Camp firing SLRs, GPMGs, 81mm mortars and 120mm anti-tank guns as part of Exercise High Tide which started at platoon and section levels and ended with a three-day battalion-size manoeuvre. Men from 8 Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, RE, from nearby Pelham Down, acted as the enemy and were still fresh from putting up S-wire at Rollestone Camp during the national prison officers' dispute.

Usually, while 2 LI are in the UK, replacements on the Rock are furnished by TA Companies. But before this, specialist cadres, upgrading training and command post exercises planned to compensate for the local shortages of training terrain, keep 2 LI busy and in a state of readiness.

The battalion, which recruits largely from Yorkshire, Durham, Cornwall, Somerset, Shropshire and Herefordshire, have utilised their combined technical and tactical expertise to improve on existing training facilities in Gibraltar.

They have, for instance, a seven-lane, 135-metre ETR (Electronic Target Range) simulating a 300-metre distance on which SLRs, GPMGs and SMGs are fired, using standard ammunition. A nearby twin-Pipe range has also recently emerged from its planning stages.

Other facilities include a 30-metre range, a .22 range in a location called Harley Street Tunnel and an Indoor Training Theatre complemented by cine projection aids.

There is also an improved fully operational urban CBQR (Close-Quarter Battle Range) — known as Beefsteak Range — left on legacy and spread among eight caves by a previous battalion. In them, are adaptable scenarios, populated by pop-up targets, unobtrusive cabling and assorted building frontages through which three-man patrols practise their skills using .22 blank ammo. Briefing and de-briefing rooms are also incorporated among these subterranean set-pieces which can simulate night or day conditions.

Al fresco skirmishes are regularly fought out at Buffadero Village, an untidy cluster of dilapidated buildings sited at the bottom of Windmill Flats, open ground flanking the ranges, and dubbed 'XMG-by-the-Sea' by

the Ulster doyens who use it for house clearing and urban patrolling sequences.

As Major Tim Barker, second in command, confirms: "Much of the training value depends on the imagination and ingenuity of the instructors plus the application by the men. Although major training facilities are lacking, much is done to make training enjoyable."

Ceremonially in keeping with forerunners of British military presence on the Rock since 1704, 2 LI shows off its hall-marked 140 paces-to-the-minute precision marching each Monday morning when it mounts a 25-minute guard-changing crowd-pulling pageant in front of the Convent, the Governor's Residence — an event which prominently involves the battalion's band and bugles.

The showpiece spectacular last year, however, under the impresario-style sponsorship of 2 LI, was the Salamanca Tattoo, the Light Infantry's Regimental Day, which was put on with various tableaux including a lorry-borne replica of a Belfast street scene, an internal security operation in four sketches

(bomb incident, rural ambush, comic riot control performance and a street patrol) plus, of course, the band and bugles.

Some 600 people had been directly involved with the Tattoo presentation which, ultimately, attracted 6700 spectators over three days to raise money for charity.

Another highlight of the production was the re-enactment of the Great Sortie of 1781. Costumes were borrowed and flown out from England together with an historical adviser from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

Captain Peter Garner, the 2 LI unit press officer, recalls: "The lead-up months to the Tattoo saw the battalion in a frenzy of activity. Regimental pioneers built the Belfast street scene aboard the lorry while the assault pioneers wielded picks and shovels knee-deep in trenches all around the battalion square.

"Maintaining a sharp, slick performance while, simultaneously, transforming an asphalt rectangle into, firstly, rural South Armagh and then into an urban ghetto,

continued on page 6



Right: Mounting Guard at Governor's residence.
Below: Engine repairs at Watermans Centre.



created problems for the stage crew. We wanted to show to a Gibraltar audience what life as a soldier in Ulster can be like."

Three other battalion ceremonials undertaken by 2 LI were the commemoration of Gibraltar Day in October (the first battle honour to be awarded to any of the former Light Infantry regiments), the Ceremony of the Keys on the Rock (2 LI had featured in half a dozen of these until last autumn) and the Queen's Birthday Parade. The last time the battalion had trooped the Colours was during public duties in 1971 though they were paraded on their own at the Queen's Jubilee Review at Sennelager in 1977.

Socially, the battalion enjoys a good relationship with the Gibraltarians on the three-by-three-quarter mile porous escarpment which is umbilically connected to the Spanish mainland by a mile-long, low-lying sandy isthmus though the guarded frontier gates are still politically closed.

Inevitably, boredom does occur and there are isolated cases of rowdy behaviour among the narrow, climbing streets, though the Gibraltarians rarely make issues out of them.

The Licensed Victuallers' Association area crams an acknowledged 90 bars, ten hotels (all with bars), 47 private clubs and 29 Service messes into a parish equivalent to a merged Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

Other, unofficial, estimates put the number of drinking establishments on the Rock as more than there are days in the year — a Leap Year!

Brigadier Geoffrey Duckworth, the Deputy Fortress Commander, says: "2 LI have a high reputation among the locals for good behaviour coupled with an excellent standard of turn-out for drill and ceremonial occasions.

"But, with the frontier closed, they might as well be living on an island in the Mediterranean. There will always be soldiers in any unit who will find places boring around the world. Good battalions, like 2 LI, find things for the soldiers to do off duty to make life interesting. 2 LI try to make the most of the facilities which are on offer here."

SOLDIER found a few cases where niggling winter boredom had permeated through to some of the wives clustered, by geographical necessity, into a cheek-by-jowl community.

Mostly, they live in comfortable two-year-old married quarters or older-style colonial accommodation — all rather different from the past when many of them had been subjected to the restrictions of Ulster.

None of the maladies of boredom seemed too incurable. Even so, Susan Allison, the wife of a lance-corporal, summed up her attitude thus: "I liked it at first because of the sun but I've been here nearly two years and there's nowhere to go. I preferred Northern Ireland."

Likewise, private's wife, Ann Robinson: "It's boring. It's good when you first get out here with the sunshine. After a bit, the novelty wears off. I haven't got around to going to Tangier yet."

Caroline Savage, whose husband is a regimental policeman, offered: "I don't think much of it out here. You can't get away from anybody. Servicemen are there all the time when you're out with your



husband. I don't think much of Tangier either. You are pestered from the moment you land there. But I do like the sunshine here. The beaches are nice but I shall be pleased to go."

Mrs Savage's next beach is likely to be that fronting Blackpool's garish Golden Mile. 2 LI moves into Weeton Camp this summer!

MT corporal's wife, Jackie Diamond, said: "Shopping is expensive in Gibraltar and there's not much night life, either. You've got to go looking for it. I always meet up with the same people when we're out. A year here is long enough. I liked Northern Ireland — it wasn't too bad."

June le Cuirot, mother of three and wife of a cook, had a more favourable view of the Rock. "I like it here. I like the climate, too. The place is what you make it," she said. "I would rather be here than in Northern Ireland. I don't want to leave, actually."

She went on: "I've been to Tangier three times and bought ornaments, rugs, pouffes and lots of fresh vegetables — and I shall go again. If you come over here miserable, you will be miserable and expect to be disappointed with everything."

Her feelings were echoed and endorsed by Major Barker, who reminded: "We exercise a social policy out here for the battalion — half of them married — and their dependants. We have a community centre, a creche, a thrift shop and a Services club. Also, we have always tried to encourage people to do things for themselves. Being here in Gibraltar, after two years in Ulster, gives greater family stability and continuity, too. When a soldier comes home at night he is at home and not likely to be suddenly called out as in the past."

Some wives complained to SOLDIER about the old British TV programmes being beamed into their homes. But a more general source of discontent was the absence of Mum, missed at times of family tensions as anywhere in the Serviceman's world.

Maternal separation need not be such a

problem though. After all, mum and even dear old dad, are only a 1000-mile, three-hour flight away by twice-weekly scheduled service from Gatwick and many 2 LI families have their parents out for holidays on the Rock which would, commercially, set them back hundreds of pounds for the privilege.

The Rock — which dominates the world's second busiest waterway after the Dover Straits — guarantees the men of 2 LI and their families some ten hours of sunshine a day during the height of the summer. It also offers abundant British-style High Street shopping, restaurants with no language snags and meals just like mother used to make (foreign fare, too, if craved).

There are even subsidised leave schemes for families which are worth nearly £250 a year, provided the journeys begin in Gibraltar.

Service families regularly start off down their own very personalised Road to Morocco — by air (20 minutes), ferry (2 hours 20 minutes) or hydrofoil (60 minutes) to North Africa.

Their adventures may start, for example, with a landing at the tout-ridden Tangier dockside where pestering, polyglot, youths coax, and then volubly coerce potential customers for their 'escort' services to the copper-pan-alleys of the Casbah.

The whole routine is about as welcome and as traditionally tough to deter as a handful of nits, but there is no lack of diversion for the visitor on a souvenir-seeking sortie.

Men from 2 LI and their families have made trips to Casablanca, sadly for film buffs, without the tinkling keyboard of the white-jacketed Sam 'playing it again' for a baleful-eyed Bogart on behalf of a beautiful Bergman. But there are still the market souks and mint tea to be enjoyed.

Yet other alternatives taken by the resident battalion on their two-year 'perks' tour have been visits to the flamenco-staccatoed Spanish oak table tops of nearby Andalucia



Above: Getting to grips with Gibraltar rock.

across the Bay, longer excursions to the lush, volcanic Canaries or the bronzing days of a club holiday at M'diq near the Moroccan littoral — just a hydrofoil ride away at the Spanish enclave of Ceuta.

For Service water-sports enthusiasts, Gibraltar's agenda has most of them listed. There are even extras like archery, clay pigeon shooting and, most appropriately, rock climbing.

This is a subject on which 2nd Lieutenant David Coward, has something to say. He has not only climbed the North Face with ace alpinist Don Whillans but has also clambered about on the *inside*.

David advocates the introduction of a rock climbing training centre, complete with instructors. "We have the enthusiasm

here and what we can do is very limited, but the Rock is superb for climbing," he said. "There are lots of cliffs which have not been touched. There are some superb routes."

But for those with well-defined sea legs, there is the Fortress HQ-funded Army Watermanship Training Centre which is run by 2 LI. An officer and 16 men maintain the boats and teach aspirant sailors. At any one time, up to 40 soldiers are taught various seamanship skills.

A 27-foot ocean-going yacht is available for offshore sailing on which novices carry out five-day courses en route not only to being competent crew members, but to such places as Estepona in Spain and Ceuta.

Other aquatic crafts imparted at the AWTC include canoeing, wind surfing,



Above: Anti-tank guns on Salisbury Plain.

water-skiing, dinghy sailing, sub-aqua and snorkelling.

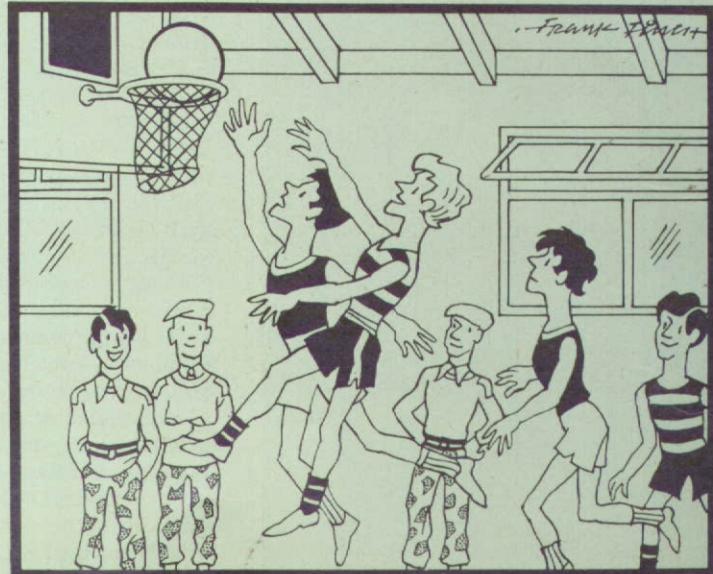
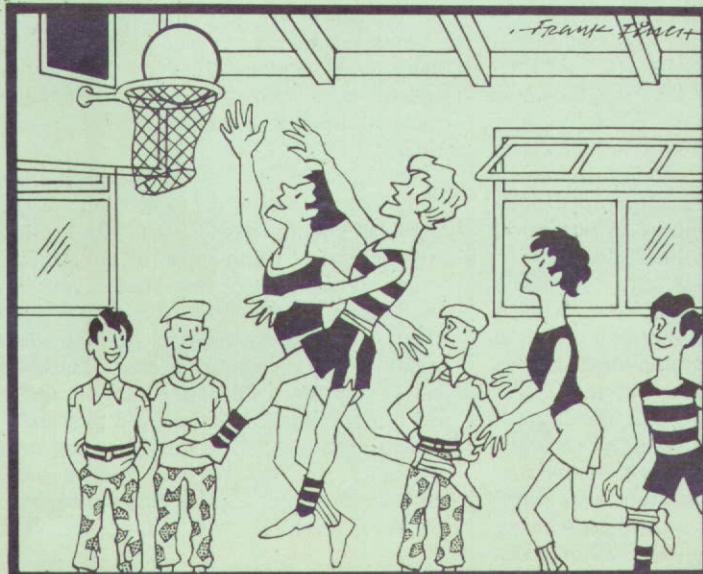
Gibraltar, as 2 LI well know, can be a fun posting. Boredom is the burden of the unimaginative.

Perhaps the best formula for mutual happiness on the Rock is succinctly spelled out by Glaswegian publican Fred Donnelly, 'mine host' at the Angry Friar for the past four years.

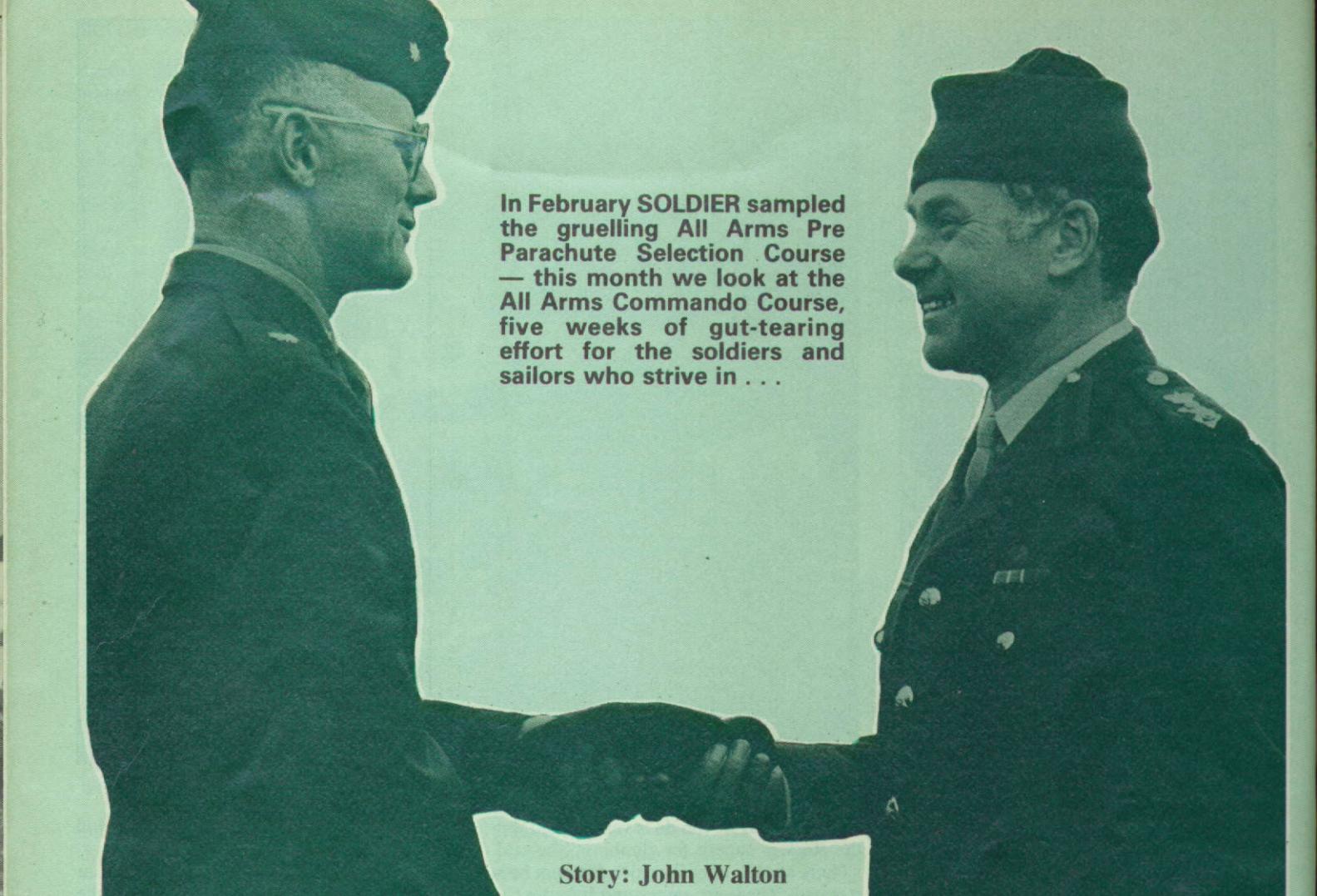
He says: "Friendship in Gibraltar is always on offer. If you want to accept this friendship — then you are made."

Which is probably how 2 LI did it. They made themselves known to the locals by inviting them to their messes and organising charities which have raised thousands of pounds for worthy causes.

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 turn to page 53.



In February SOLDIER sampled the gruelling All Arms Pre Parachute Selection Course — this month we look at the All Arms Commando Course, five weeks of gut-tearing effort for the soldiers and sailors who strive in . . .

Story: John Walton

GAINING THE GREEN BERET



SOMETHING VERY SIGNIFICANT happens on the first afternoon of each all-arms commando course held at the Royal Marines' training centre at Lympstone near Exeter.

The 50 people on the course — up to a third of them sailors, the rest from the Army but covering the range from sappers to gunners to REME and signals technicians to Army Catering Corps cooks and including a number of officers — are sent out to the nearby estuary.

There, with the tide out, they go on a 'mud run' — returning exhausted and filthy. The idea is to bring them together as a corporate body and to start infusing them with the famous 'commando spirit'. That spirit embraces cheerfulness in adversity, courage, leadership and unselfishness.

Six times a year the all-arms commando course encapsulates into five weeks what a Royal Marine commando recruit is taught in six months — the longest and most arduous basic training in the British Services.

Composition of courses can vary but all include officers, through senior NCOs down to young men fresh from their basic Army recruit training or from junior soldiers' units. About three-quarters of those who are actually accepted at Lympstone will pass out at the end of the course and be entitled to

wear the coveted Green Beret. All of them will be serving with Commando Forces — either with 29 Commando Regiment, Royal Artillery, 59 Independent Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers, the Commando Logistic Regiment or with Headquarters Commando Forces.

The all-arms commando course and the two Territorial Army courses run each year at Lympstone are only a small part of the training there. Every year something like 4500 men, including 1500 recruits, go on courses at the Devon training centre and there are usually 2000 or so there at any one time.

Unlike other Services, the Royal Marines train their officers at the same centre as the men. Says Major Alan Hooper (whose father was an Army commander at Achtnacarry when commando training started early in the Second World War): "Training side by side is particularly relevant to commando training. It is all about team work. The tasks have not changed since they were devised at the beginning of the last war and they are so designed that most average fit young men will pass. But they do need help at some stage in their course from their colleagues.

"Because recruits and officers see each

Above: Colonel Ian Baxter right, at 43 easily the oldest man on the course, gets his Green Beret.

Right: Strength exercises during the 'Mud Run'.
other going through the same strenuous training side by side, it is the genesis of mutual respect which is the foundation of the commando spirit."

Virtually all of the non-specialist training in the Royal Marines is concentrated at Lympstone with five wings covering officers, NCOs, specialists, signallers and clerks and recruits. Because of the centralisation it is easy to monitor standards and standardise training throughout the establishment.

The soldiers and sailors on the all-arms course do have some advantage over the raw recruits — not least in that they are usually pretty fit. Warrant Officer 1 Peter Brown, assistant inspector of PT at Lympstone: "Recruits come in from civilian life having had little physical preparation with a few exceptions. We have to inherit what could be 18 years of neglect and in 26 weeks turn them out as commando soldiers."

The system which is used is of Swedish origin and consists of 45 minute gym periods in which all the main muscle groups of the body are gradually developed. Chest exercises, mobility exercises, ropes and vaulting are all employed and eventually the recruits do them with their boots on and finally with full equipment.

The all-arms course members have to meet the same physical standards at the end of their five weeks. They have to pass on the tree-top level 'Tarzan' course, the assault course and then both courses combined. For the latter the pass time is 13 minutes — except for officers who have to manage it in 12 to demonstrate their physical leadership.

Climbing a 30 foot rope in fighting order with rifle; going along a rope in full kit then falling off to a hanging position before regaining a position where they can continue to pull along; carrying a colleague with full kit by fireman's lift for 200 yards in 90

Below: Climbing up the wall on assault course.



seconds — these are the sort of achievements required to earn a green beret.

Then, because of the amphibious nature of the Marines, they have to pass a battle swimming test. Wearing denim or combat suit fighting order with rocks weighing nine or ten pounds in the pouches and carrying a rifle, they jump from a diving board into the deep end of the camp swimming pool. They must then swim 30 yards, release their equipment and rifle and remain afloat for three minutes.

Gunner Adrian Sweet (17), from the Junior Leaders Regiment Royal Artillery via

a three months pre-commando course at Plymouth, was one of the last to pass on the course which SOLDIER visited.

"I finally cracked it. I could swim but I have found it difficult because I had never done the breast stroke before I came here," he said. Breaststroke is the only stroke allowed because it is less tiring and is also quiet — stealth is an essential ingredient of a commando operation.

The fifth week of the all-arms commando course sees a series of tests designed to show if the would-be commando has earned his

continued on page 10





Above: On the 30 mile run across Dartmoor.



Above: A cross country run including obstacles.

Green Beret. The endurance course is held at Woodbury Common — a four mile walk from the camp.

After marching out, recruits go on a six-and-a-half mile cross-country run with obstacles. These include wading through a pond known as 'Peter's Pool' while keeping their rifle and themselves in reasonable condition and passing through tunnels — including one which is under water. The run goes on whatever the weather — people on courses in the winter often have to break the ice first before going under water.

The pass time for the course is 72 minutes. If a candidate fails he has to have another try. And even after he has completed it he must run four miles back to camp, soaked through, to fire ten rounds on the 30 metre range with at least six hits on target.

There's also a speed test — nine miles in 90 minutes in full kit — and the culmination of the course is a trek across the wilds of Dartmoor. Some concession is made to winter conditions on the moors. For summer courses the route is two-thirds moorland and one third road or track. In winter, the ratio reverses.

But it is still no joke to cover 30 miles in eight hours in full fighting kit. The men go out in syndicates of four and do their own navigation.

The actual aim of the all-arms course is to prepare officers and men of the other Services, already trained in their respective

Below: Gasps for air after swim in icy tunnel.



Above: A cold drop if your hand slips from bar.

specialist skills, for service in Commando Forces.

Says course officer, Lieutenant Mike Woolley: "While we acknowledge that we cannot produce a commando infantryman in five weeks, the aims are to get them to our physical standards, to have them attain the same degree of proficiency in weapon handling and to acquaint them with the type of operations and the life they can expect within Commando Forces."

The ideal commando is of medium height and stockily built. All the experts at Lympstone agree that the tall heavyweight finds problems because of the amount of muscle and bone weight he is carrying while the small man has difficulty because of short legs and with load carrying.

Because they are trained ranks the all-arms men are going to be much fitter when they arrive at Lympstone than the average recruit. And they will have been on a pre-course 'beat-up' with their parent unit in Commando Forces beforehand. Most potential failures are weeded out at that stage hence the very low fall out on actual courses. In fact, most of those who do fail to complete the course do so because of injury — and they return for another go when they have recuperated.

There is constant pressure throughout those five weeks, with an exercise involving sleeping out during each of the first four weeks. And the venues include Dartmoor, hardly one of the most hospitable parts of the west country. So how do soldiers feel as they near the end of the gruelling course and take their final tests?

Colonel Ian Baxter, aged 43, was the oldest man on the recent course. He had failed his Tarzan and assault course that morning after tumbling off the monkey bars into muddy water. But soon afterwards, with dry clothes and spurred on by the rest of the course, he passed with flying colours.

"I'm too old to do this," he grinned. "At the beginning of the course we were asked for our names, regiments and ages. Afterwards a soldier came up to me and said, 'do you know you're older than my Dad, sir?' Throughout that course he has really looked after me and pushed me and that has summed up the spirit."

Colonel Baxter, of the Royal Corps of Transport, added: "A week after I gave up commanding a regiment 560 strong I was a rifleman and it's done the world of good. I have really come down to the absolute basics of understanding the problems a soldier faces."



"It has hurt physically but I feel I have had the advantage mentally. We spent 16 nights sleeping out and I have been able to cope with that far better than a young man. In the speed events under three miles the young man has found no problem but over longer distances I find I am much stronger and I think that is mental."

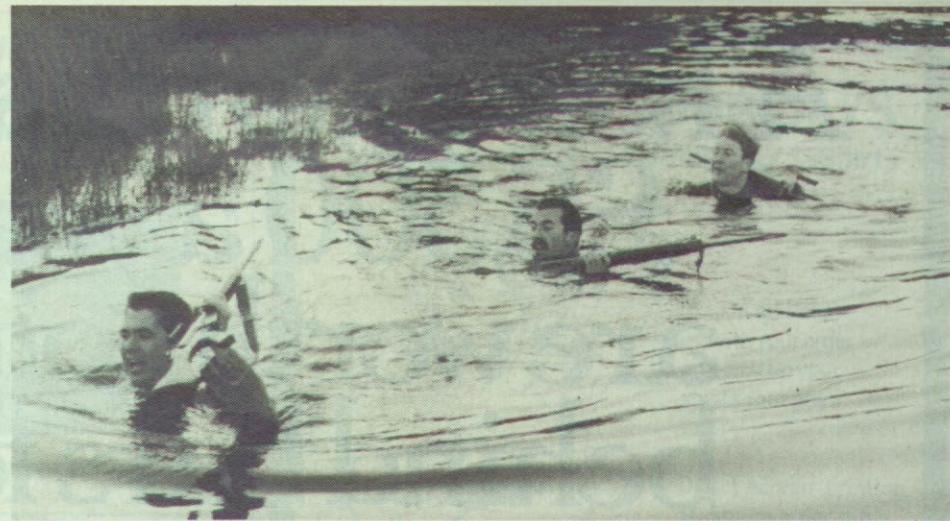
"What has impressed me is how good the Marine corps instructors are. They are nasty when necessary but they leaven and balance it with tremendous encouragement and humour. They want you to pass and they try every way they possibly can to get you through."

Colonel Baxter said the most frightening experience had been roping down from a helicopter — "forty feet but I felt as though I was stepping down from the angels." Another highlight had been an assault on an old Napoleonic fort, which provided the culmination of the fieldwork. After approaching by rigid raiding craft they had attacked at 4.30 in the morning.

"We have to sell this course to the Army because it is a tremendous challenge. It would be particularly good for young officers — they don't actually have to be coming for a job in the Royal Marines. If any young officer can persuade his CO to let him go away for eight weeks he should do so. When my knees stop aching I shall look back on this and say how much I enjoyed it."

That instructors' sense of humour came to the fore when one instructor told 23-year-old Private Gordon Caren: "I have a fishing rod for you and a big bobble hat."

The 'gnome-sized' Private Caren, at a mere 5ft 1½ inches tall and weighing only eight-and-a-half stone, was the smallest man on the course. But the grit of the little man,



Above: Keeping weapons dry in Peter's Pool.

who only joined the Gunners for basic training last April, got him his Green Beret.

"My main problems have been with load carrying, including the battle swimming test, and with marching because of my short legs. But it has been a lot easier getting through tunnels because I don't have so much bulk."

One man, Gunner Glenn Pennington (24), thought the course was not tough enough! "It's not as hard as I thought it would be. In the first couple of weeks my attitude was wrong and I started arguing. I had been taught some things one way and they taught another. But since I realised it was like going back to basic training I have found it good fun and I've learned a few things about fieldcraft."

Another mature soldier, 24-year-old Corporal Clifford Tregidga, a REME armourer

Below: Sure footed high among the treetops.



bound for the workshops in Plymouth, said: "I've just come back from Germany where it is good living and the course definitely gets you up to standard. You learn a lot of tactics, which is good because a basic tradesman does not learn them in his training."

But he felt that young recruits should spend some time with a unit before they came on the course. "Some of these lads don't know what the Army is like. When they get their green beret they think they are better than guys out in Germany — which they are not because the guys in Germany know their jobs."

Two days later, the members of the all-arms commando course paraded in cap comforters. And each man in turn was to remove his headgear and don the hat which would make him part of an elite — the Green Beret. Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Beverly, who commands Lympstone, describes Army personnel serving with Commando Forces as: "of very high calibre and distinguished by a very good spirit — the commando spirit." And it takes five weeks of struggle against the odds to earn that accolade.

Left: Pte Gordon Caren — little but determined.



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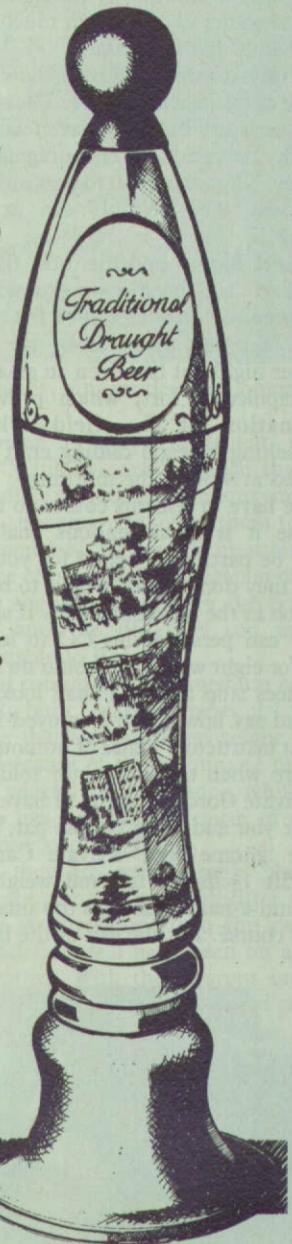
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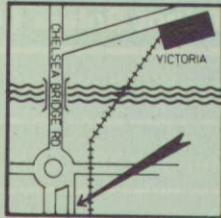
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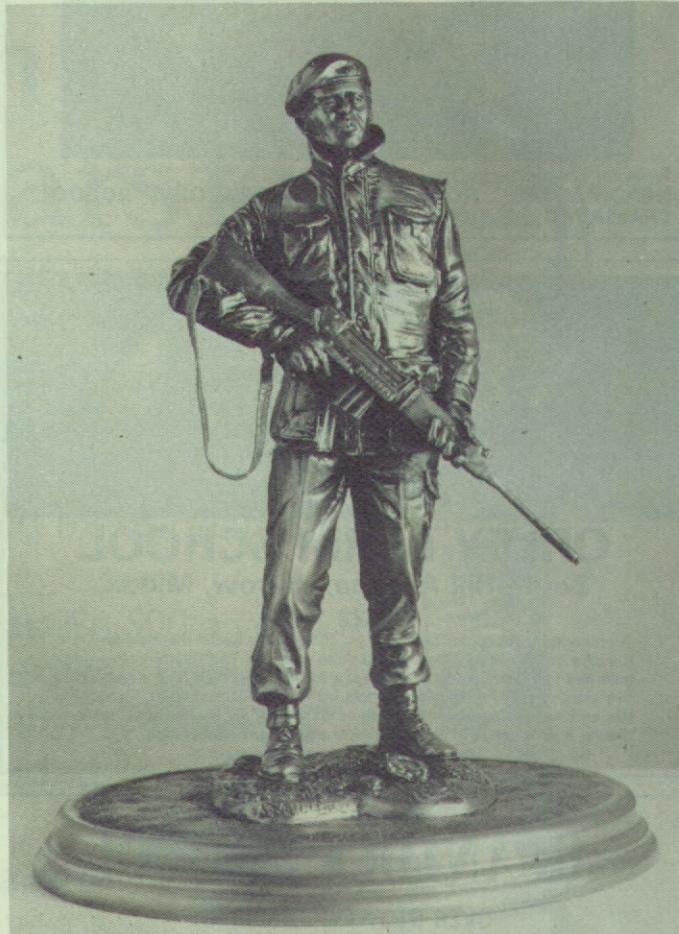
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BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

SOLDIER to Soldier

FOR the Services, like everyone else, these are trying times, with the latest round of defence cuts highlighting the economic difficulties that face us all. But at a time when so much is being scrapped or scaled down, it's good to find an organisation devoted to Services welfare that is actually *expanding* its activities.

The organisation is Ssafa — the Soldiers Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association — which has just announced that the families and dependants of all past and present Territorial and Reserve forces are now to be eligible for its help, including advice, counselling, general welfare and even cash grants.

Ssafa's aim is always to help people help themselves. Many of its workers — there are some 6000 voluntary helpers in the UK and Ireland — have been in the Services themselves. Often they plug away at housing departments, fuel boards and local authorities, or see a family through problem after problem for years.

Families needing Ssafa's help should contact their local Ssafa representative whose address can be found at main Post Offices and Citizens Advice Bureaux.

HERE are Army 'white elephants' going to help real live elephants? The answer is Uganda.

During Idi Amin's brutal regime and the civil war that ended it, Uganda's wildlife was decimated by uncontrolled poachers running riot with deadly new weapons. Seven years ago there were 12,000 elephants in the Kabalega Falls and Ruwenzori National Parks. Today there are only 300. And similar carnage has been wreaked among the populations of White rhino, hippo, buffalo and gorilla.

Now the World Wildlife Fund has

launched a £100,000 anti-poaching programme in a desperate bid to halt the slaughter — which is where the white elephants come in. For the Army's decision not to proceed with its new-style green parade dress has left it with 1000 unwanted shirts of that shade and these — together with out-dated Army shorts and trousers — are to form a cut-price £6.50 uniform for rangers in Uganda's three national parks and 15 game reserves. Definitely a Jumbo-sized bargain.

★

SERVICE parents with handicapped children will wish to know that the Guild of St Helena is once again sponsoring a week's free holiday for children of moderate disability.

The holiday will be based at Napier Barracks, Shorncliffe, Kent, from 22-29 June and is for children between 9 and 14 who do not require regular specialist medical attention or continuous medical care. Applications should be forwarded as soon as possible, and not later than 30 April, to: Services Children's Education Authority, School Branch (Special Education Section), Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5NR.

★

OUR story in January about Skinner's Horse attracted a lot of interest at the former RAF station near Saffron Walden, now the home of 13th/18th Royal Hussars who are featured on page 38 of this month's issue.

For the two regiments are officially affiliated and, at the time of writing, the British cavalry officers were eagerly awaiting a supply of Skinner's Horse cummerbunds which they intend to wear on Mess occasions.

★

To be a success in the Modern Army you have to be pretty switched on — and lots of encour-

agement is given to tradesmen to get qualifications. But surely no-one can equal the record of a 57-year-old American reservist whose myriad achievements are reported in a recent issue of the *United States Army Reserve Magazine*.

Specialist 5 Joseph R Wheatley claims to have taken all the sub-courses available to enlisted personnel from the US Army's Psychological Warfare, Army Security, Provost Marshal and Artillery Schools. He has a stack of certificates recording that he has completed such courses as photographic and laboratory technician, military justice, basic munitions, basic weapons repair and intelligence operations specialists — to name but a few.

He has gained further education from the Infantry School, the Signal School, the Army General School, the Adjutant General School, the Army Medical School and Medical Field Service School.

Not to forget his diploma as a taxidermist, another from the Kepel School of Dentistry, Philadelphia, a third from the National Optical School in the same city and a bachelor's degree in law.

He was a flier while in India during the Second World War and was an interpreter for Hindu, Urdu, Hindustani and Chinese.

It seems very unlikely that anyone in the British Army has such a wide ranging collection of diplomas and other educational qualifications. "It would be a gross waste of the taxpayers' money" is the attitude of the Royal Army Educational Corps. To borrow a phrase 'Unless you know different...'

Oh yes, the multi-qualified, many faceted Joseph Wheatley is currently employed by the 442nd Field Service Company — as a laundry specialist!

★

THE recent round of postal increases means, we regret, that subscriptions to *SOLDIER* and *SOLDIER NEWS* will now cost slightly more. For UK/BFPO readers the new magazine subscription will be £5.15 and for overseas readers £6.10. News subscriptions go up from £5.60 and £6.00 respectively.

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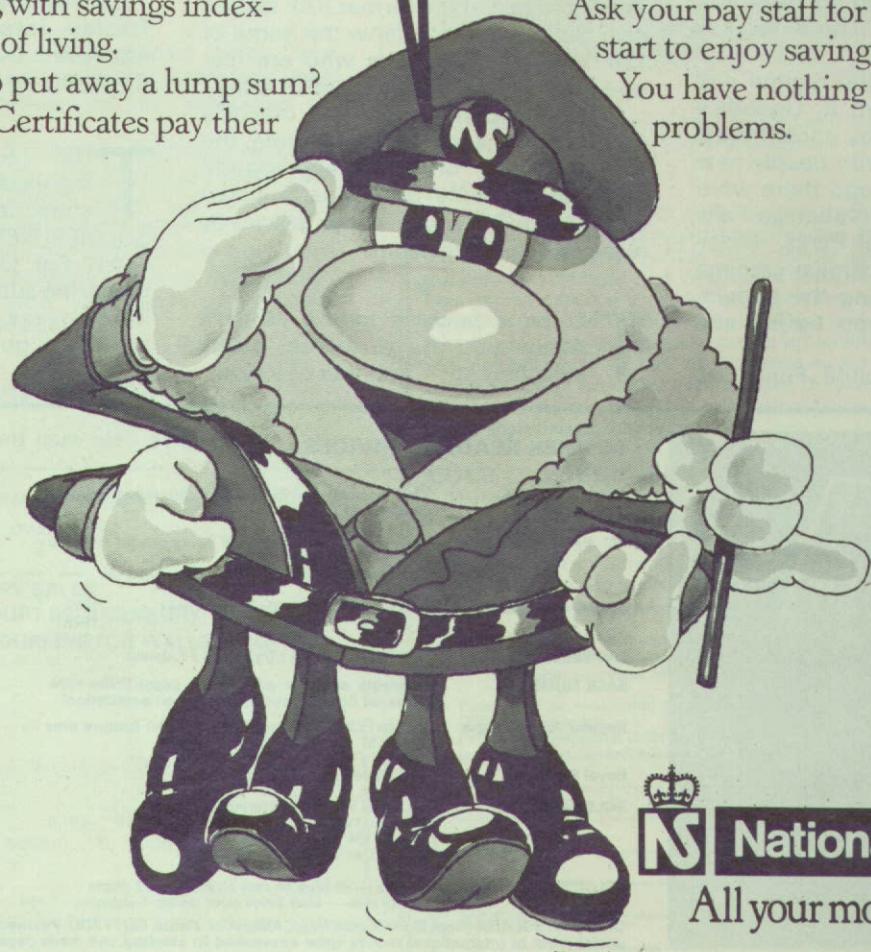
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TOW-

NEW STAR IN THE ARMY'S HIT PARADE

**BAOR's anti-tank
strength gets a massive
boost this month with the
arrival of a new missile system . . .**

THE ARMY'S LATEST heli-borne tank-buster weapon, the 1000-feet-a-second American-designed but British-modified TOW missile system, bought 'off the shelf', will be settling into BAOR service this month with its battlefield Lynx helicopter launch platforms of 654 Squadron, part of 4 Regiment, Army Air Corps at Detmold.

TOW (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided) is to replace the anti-tank weapon system throughout BAOR currently carried by Scouts with their 15-year-

WESTLAND PHOTO NEWS



Above: Firing TOW from Lynx during its recent trials on Salisbury Plain. The missile is circled.



old SS 11 wire-guided hardware. It will give the region what the Ministry of Defence terms as a greater anti-tank capability in 'quality and quantity'.

After just four months of user evaluation trials by Middle Wallop's Army Air Corps Demonstration and Trials Squadron when the Lynx/TOW partnership was exercised over the Larkhill Ranges two or three times weekly, and even by night, the Ministry of Defence's Acceptance Committee formally approved the adoption of the system last month.

Earlier, TOW's tactical attributes had won a close contest for its eventual acceptance into Army service against contenders like the British HAWKSWING and Franco-German HOT systems.

Westland Helicopters, for instance, manufacturers of the Lynx, had started trials in February of last year with eight firings of TOW — seven from the hover and one from forward flight. TOW, they say, proved 'consistently accurate'.

But the Army's decision to opt for TOW was not only based on its overall performance of high reliability and accuracy. As Major Tony McMahon, of the Ministry of Defence's Operational Requirements Branch pointed out, "straightforward economy" was also a factor in its final acquisition.

He said: "It was the cheapest and most effective weapon system going and it suits our tactical needs better to have a helicopter concealed behind trees with minimum visual exposure of the aircraft."

Other TOW trials, prior to those by the AAC's Demonstration and Trials Squadron, had been very successful, he said, and proved the system had been "very cleverly and sensibly" adapted to the twin-engined Lynx.

He added: "TOW has performed extremely well and has resulted in its unrestricted release into service. Our own trials, combining the Procurement Executive and the Army Department, started last autumn. Such fast development trials would not have been possible without the excellent, close co-operation by the Hughes Aircraft Corporation, makers of the missile, Westlands, British Aerospace and MOD's Procurement Executive. Had there not been this co-operation we would not have got half the distance we did."

Minor modifications to the American system were made to improve the missile controlling equipment incorporating a periscope gyro-stabilised sight developed from the chin sight of the Bell AG-1G Huey Cobra 'gunships' which used air-to-surface TOW to great effect in the Vietnam spring offensive of 1972 against tanks, supply depots, and other emplacements.

Meanwhile, the US Army in Europe (USAREUR) conducted Cobra/TOW evaluation tests at the same time with the West Germans and Canadians.

Since then, TOW with its 46-inch long, 56-lb missiles has earned itself a reputation for reliability, accuracy and cost-effectiveness as a system which is both easy to fire and steer.

The simplicity stems from the electronics and guidance built under licence in the UK. These transmit all the steering corrections of

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the flight path along the control wires. All the gunner has to do is keep the cross-hair of his optical sight on the target and guide the missile to it.

Furthermore, the system's 'black box' can compute the information received and decide when each missile should be launched.

Sergeant John Blyth, 30, a weapons instructor, endorses the claim. "I've fired a dozen of the 300 mph-plus TOW missiles and it's a very simple and accurate system. The Lynx carries eight missiles — four each side."

This view is shared by Trials pilot, Captain Tony Hayhurst, 34, who has logged up some 420 hours since 1977 on the Lynx.

He says: "The Lynx/TOW system is very easy to fire from the pilot's standpoint. It's just a case of keeping the aircraft in constraint. Apart from that, there's nothing to it. The Lynx is a stable and manageable weapons platform."

Further endorsement came from Major Neal Baldwin, OC TOW Service Trials Unit: "Basically, the system is simple. We bought it off the shelf with basic minimum modifications to be put on our Lynx helicopters. It works very well and is cheaper than the SS 11. It's entirely self-contained, comes in solid packaging and never needs servicing."

The TOW missile has two motors — one for its launch, the other for flight. Their initial combination of energy lasts a scant 1½ seconds as the missile speeds to its target on a flight path that often lasts less than 30 seconds.

Another trials member, as if to emphasise the simplicity of operation, tells of the US Army general who, after a 10-minute briefing on TOW, hit a target on his first attempt.

"This was taken as a good indication of that simplicity," he grinned.

With first generation missiles it was usually necessary to follow the tail flame and steer it directly to the target. This meant compensating for the movement of three elements — helicopter, missile and target — but with TOW these are reduced to two.

Helicopter-launched missiles give a battle commander much more flexibility than ground-based weapons. 'Choppers' armed with missiles can be quickly deployed, move easily across country and have a wide choice of positions from which to attack. They are especially valuable for stopping an unexpected advance by an armoured unit.

Lynx with TOW aboard presents a low silhouette and, with the aircraft's precision handling, can move about almost undetected making use of available ground cover.

Future operators of the TOW system are already being trained at Middle Wallop on month-long courses. They use a classroom simulator and TOWATs (TOW Airborne Trainers) which are units in the Lynx themselves comprising TV cameras alongside the sight and video equipment.

Major McMahon again: "We have got a very accurate and reliable system and we can make the most of it by finding vulnerable parts on tanks. If we cannot take out frontal armour we can go for turret rings, knock driving wheels off and, at least, slow them down. If it were not for the accuracy of TOW I would not have the confidence to say that."



A VIP visitor to a recent Press facility showing the static TOW on its final day of 'appro' to the Acceptance Committee was Major General Bill Withall, Director of the Army Air Corps.

He said: "We are very, very encouraged. The results of the trials have shown a very high hit rate. I am happy that our equipment today is effective anti-tank equipment. I believe it's yet to be quantified and TOW will do its stuff. I think anti-tank flying requires special skills from the gunner's point of view."

Major General Withall added: "Certainly, there are problems with frontal armour but,

Above: Demonstrating TOW firing position.

as you know, there are many ways of skinning a cat."

Another Trials Unit tester unofficially confided: "TOW may not always knock out a potential Warsaw Pact T72 — but it will certainly make its crewmen spill their vodka!"

Story: Graham Smith

Pictures: Paul Haley



The Battle of Waterloo was said to have been won on its playing fields and Eton has been producing military leaders ever since, including the present Chief of the General Staff. Ann Beecham visited the Combined Cadet Force of the most famous school in the country and found it is still a ...

CRADLE OF COMMAND

Left: James Moore's traditional Eton image.
Below: James under canvas at Blairquhan.
Bottom: Cadets form up outside college HQ.



Pictures: Paul Haley

ETON COLLEGE COMBINED CADET FORCE has a problem. As Jumbos and BAC 111s take off every two minutes from nearby Heathrow over those very playing fields on which the Battle of Waterloo was supposedly won, drill instructors have to pause in mid-command, yielding to overwhelming odds and powerful jet engines.

But this is only a minor irritation for Etonian staunchness and the admirable stiff upper lip of one of the best schools in the country. Eton is one of the greatest of British institutions with its roots deep in the history of the country and in its service.

It was in the Lent half of 1860 that the Eton College Volunteer Corps was formed with a strength of 350. After seven years, the Corps became 8 Company, 1st Bucks Rifle Volunteers and masters took over the role of officers from the boys.

By 1887, 20 years on, the Corps had graduated to a separate battalion as the 4th (Eton College) Volunteer Battalion, Oxfordshire Light Infantry. And four years later, in July 1891, it was party to an incident that

would have overshadowed even Waterloo in its impact on the course of history.

The battalion were drawn up at their smartest for the Emperor of Germany who was making an inspection when suddenly there was a loud report as one youthful private inadvertently fired his weapon and narrowly missed the Kaiser.

Happily the Corps survived to become Eton College Officers Training Corps in 1908, Eton College Junior Training Corps in 1940 and finally, Eton College Combined Cadet Force in 1948.

Predictably, perhaps, the history of the Corps has been littered with famous names. Many distinguished military careers started at Eton before rising later to dizzy heights. General Sir Oliver Lees was only a captain in the Coldstream Guards when he was appointed Adjutant to the Corps in September 1922. Another brilliant career began on 1st October 1936 when Edwin Noel Westby Bramall — now CGS — became cadet No. 1133.

There are about 1250 boys at Eton at present and 200 belong to the Corps. This represents 40 per cent of those eligible to join and last year's intake of 125 recruits was the largest so far. 'O' levels must be out of the way before a boy is allowed to join in the activities offered by the Corps.

This stipulation has the added advantage that the boys are of about the same age and training them is therefore much easier. According to their CO, Major David Morkill: "The boys rattle through a training syllabus, which is supposed to take a year or more, in the first term."

Major Morkill came to Eton to teach Physics. An ex-member of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, he was asked if he would also command the Corps. He smiles slightly at the memory. "I could hardly say no when the Head Master asked me if I would be prepared to take the CCF!"

That was eight years ago. But much of the routine administration work is done by the Adjutant, at present Captain Robert Mason of the Welsh Guards. The CCF also boasts a permanent RSM and RQMS on the staff. "I couldn't teach full-time and run the CCF as well," admits Major Morkill.

But the 'exigencies of the Corps' loom large during term time. "We reckon to give our time fully to the school in term time. It's just a question of what you do. My thing is the CCF and golf." Running the Corps entails weekend courses and camps as well as the annual summer camp and the regular Monday afternoon training sessions.

The boys sign on initially for one year. After that they have the option of joining for a further year. The recruits are put through a rigorous programme of drill and basic weapon training before they are offered a wider choice of studies in the second year. Boys can choose from signals, unarmed combat, motor maintenance, weapons, armoured cars, riding and cadre courses. Those courses that cannot be taught at Eton itself are taken by regular units such as the Welsh Guards and Household Cavalry, or at Sandhurst.

On a Monday afternoon, boys from the College can be seen heading in a multitude of different directions to follow their particular interests. Outside the CCF HQ, the cadets mass for parades and drill in their three companies. The system of training is



Colour party parade in School Yard — in the background statue of Henry VI and Lupton's Tower.

carefully controlled and the boys separate into platoons under the watchful eye of their officers, or men from the Regular Army who come to help with their training, mostly from nearby barracks at Windsor.

The officers watch as the cadet officers take the boys through their paces. It is mutual training and works well. The NCOs' course is popular among the boys and 40 aspiring leaders are in their second year with the CCF. "They are a good lot this year" said Major Morkill.

Cadet Officer Thomas Graham is in his third year with the CCF; "We are lucky in our squad as we stay and command recruits in our own company, so it is in everybody's interest to get as good as possible." Like a number of others in the Corps, Thomas is

considering joining the Grenadier Guards.

The links with the Army are close and there is a tradition of entry into the Cavalry, The Household Division or the Royal Greenjackets. Around ten per cent of boys leaving Eton go into the Army and most of those were members of the CCF at some time. Short Service Commissions are a popular choice for the first step in a career.

The Corps also emulates the social aspects of military life. The Corps Dinner, held twice a year in the Michaelmas and Lent terms, has been established for two years now. "It gives us a chance to thank commanding officers in the Army who have helped us and to entertain school dignitaries formally," explained Major Morkill. "It is

continued on page 24



Right: Quickest way down — by death slide.

also a good excuse for a party and good fun!"

In the summer, the CCF works towards presenting a tattoo or miniature Trooping of the Colour. This is usually an occasion marked by another dinner given by the Provost of the College. And no formal Corps' meal would be complete without the Corps' silver which makes an impressive display.

For training sessions though, the attitude is one of rigid discipline and hard work. Ceremonial glitter dulls into khaki battle-dress which is the official uniform for the Corps and gives it a rather old-fashioned air in contrast with its activities. "We will keep the battle-dress until they wear out," said Major Morkill. "I don't believe that you can do drill in casual sweaters."

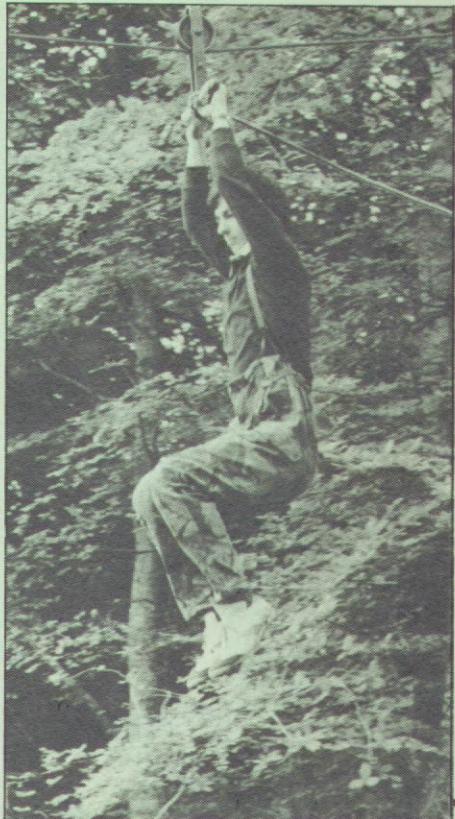
Above the drill square, in the heart of the haphazard cluster of buildings that characterises Eton College, is the .22 range. It is housed in the attic of the gym. The target setting machinery is now over 70 years old, but it still works as efficiently for today's aspiring marksmen as it did for the thousands that have passed through the range.

As shots echoed around the dusty rafters, Cadet Henry Cole paid the Corps perhaps one of the most sincere compliments. "It's really good fun and I really like the people in my platoon. It does take a bit of getting used to though when boys you speak to normally are ordering you around."

Henry's father was the driving force behind his son's initially reluctant enrolment in the CCF. James Greenwood joined to see what a military career might hold in store.

"I thought it might give me some idea of the Army if I joined the Corps and in seven weeks we have done drill, weapon training and training for the Empire test, shooting with .22s. I think it's a good start."

But for most of the boys in the Corps, the summer camp is the highlight of their year's training. The Corps follows a circuit of camp sites in Devon, North Wales, Scotland, France and even Norway so in the normal



two-year cycle of membership, the boys are unlikely to camp in the same place twice.

The emphasis is on adventure training as well as the normal military training aspect of living under canvas. This makes for an action-packed two weeks for the hundred or so boys who pile into trucks for the long trek from Eton. There are also a limited number of places available for cadets to go to a regiment, usually in Germany, to spend some time with the Regulars.

Summer camp for 1980 was in Scotland, in a field on Blairquhan Estate. The 'Laird', Mr James Hunter-Blair is ex-Scots Guards and an old Etonian. He regularly makes the facilities of his estate available to the boys and has even installed pipes for running water in one corner of the field, a luxury scorned by those who preferred to use the natural resources and wash their hair in the nearby river.

Left: Canoe flotilla in the harbour at Girvan.

The weather was not kind, but though ankle deep in mud and drenched by heavy showers, the boys kept smiling. The assault course, constructed in the depths of the estate woodland, was a challenge of the first order and the team spirit necessary to tackle it prevailed over any cold, as well as wet, feet. The death slide, slung across a river valley, was a daunting prospect and PT instructor Bob Taylor admitted that he had almost frightened himself when he tested it. However, with a stop added to it, there was no danger as long as the boys followed instructions and took their courage in both hands. "Nobody is forced to go down," said Bob, "but you find most of them do go in the end, spurred on by their friends."

Competition between platoons was fierce and honours not easily won. Team and individual performances on the assault course were watched and timed carefully as the platoon commanders urged their boys to their last ounce of effort.

In comparison, raft building was fun, as long as the finished feat of engineering remained afloat long enough to complete the course — some designs worked better than others. Meanwhile at nearby Girvan, the tried and tested design of canoes was providing fun and training for a small group of boys and entertainment for the holidaymakers strolling along the walls of the tiny fishing harbour.

The neighbouring estate of Kilkerran, home of Sir Charles Ferguson, another old Etonian, was the scene for yet another activ-



Above: Parascending is popular with cadets.



Above: RSM keeps an eye on the high-flyers.



Since its foundation, the Corps has been an integral part of Eton College life and has played its part in the turbulence of world events since 1860.

There is a wealth of history lurking in the CCF premises at the College. Apart from the detailed records of each member of the Corps, there are many old photographs of cadets from different years and some of the items of uniform they wore. An old spiked helmet and a neat pillbox hat, both in excellent condition, are among the treasured possessions.

The Corps still has an emblazoned bass drum which dates from the 4th Volunteer Battalion days and the old Corps colours from 1860 still hang in the chapel.

The Colours are presented to the Corps every 30 years and are due for renewal in 1990. Apart from the Queen's Colour, the Corps possesses the School Colour with the motto *Floreat Etona* represented on a white background.

The chapel houses a special memorial to the old boys of Eton and bears witness to the importance of military tradition at the College. The First World War claimed the lives of over 1000 Etonians and one window in the chapel has all the names listed on it in alphabetical order. Next to it is a stained glass window, installed in 1924, with a blood red cross depicting soldiers through the centuries.



Above: 6 Platoon survive the assault course.

Below: 6 Platoon in their accustomed habitat.



ity — parascending. An RSM who is an ex-Para, coupled with facilities for parascending, has to be an asset to any CCF, and Jim Corbett drove a rather battered Land Rover miles up and down a field as he lifted boys into the air for a two-minute descent accompanied by an inimitable blend of instruction, encouragement and comment.

An important member of Eton CCF summer camps with a challenge of his own is Ken Mears, who caters for over a hundred healthy appetites sharpened by the outdoor life and serves up a large helping of jokes, laughter and good humour as well as some first-rate food.

Ken and Jim typify the Corps' good fortune in the number of enthusiastic and willing supporters on whom it can call, particularly for camps but also for normal weekly training. The help they receive from the Army has to a certain extent camouflaged the ever-decreasing number of ex-Regulatrs within the College itself, but it is a problem that many similar organisations are having to face and one which will inevitably affect the development of the Corps at Eton.

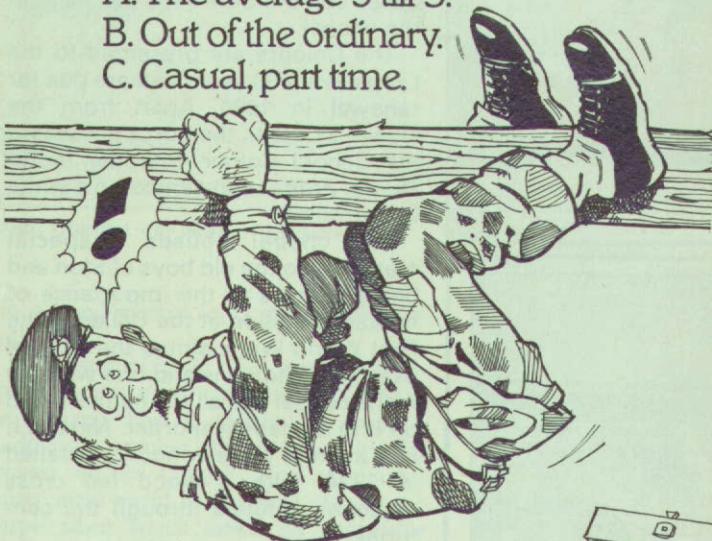
"Masters are not trained now as they were in the days when everyone would have done his National Service," explained Major Morkill. "I might even be the last CO with an Army background."

But whatever difficulties it may face in the future, Eton CCF will always have its proud traditions to hold on to and inspire it. Today, clearly, membership of the Corps is still something the boys enjoy and are proud of — a challenge to be met with their legendary Waterloo spirit.

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- B. Out of the ordinary.
- C. Casual, part time.



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- A. In the middle of an assault course.
- B. When they come to take it away.
- C. Never. I've issued NatWest with a Standing Order and they remember for me.

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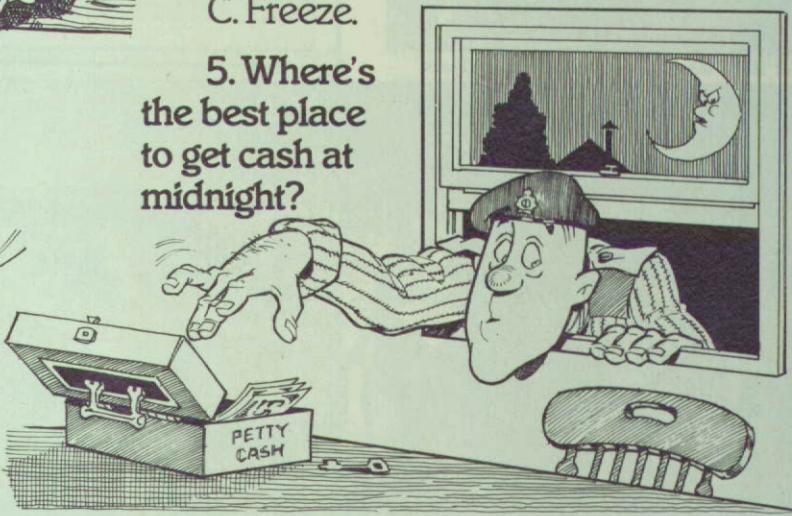
4. The electricity bill has come as a shock. What are you going to do?

- A. Run and hide in the mess.

B. Nothing. I have a Budget Account at NatWest so I can spread the cost of my large bills over 12 equal payments.

- C. Freeze.

5. Where's the best place to get cash at midnight?



- A. From the petty cash box in the C.O.'s office.

- B. Borrow it again.

- C. From a NatWest Servicetill.

Scores: 1. A1, B2, C0. 2. A1, B0, C2.

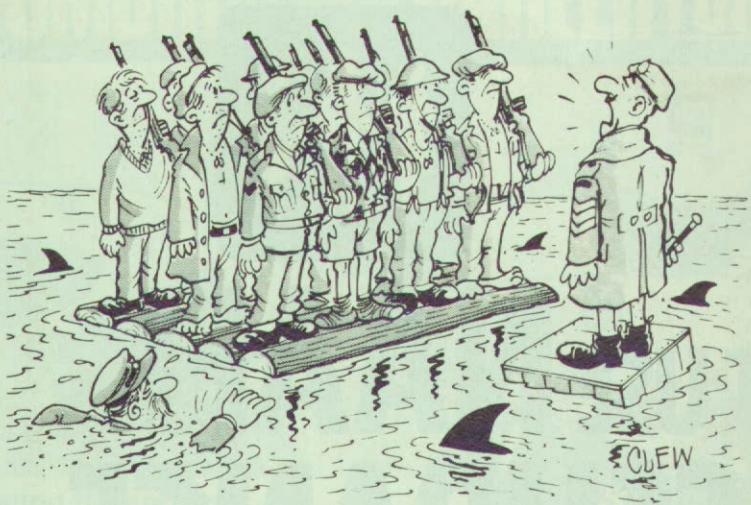
3. A0, B1, C2. 4. A0, B2, C0. 5. A0, B0, C2.

5 and under: You're not really very good at money matters, are you?

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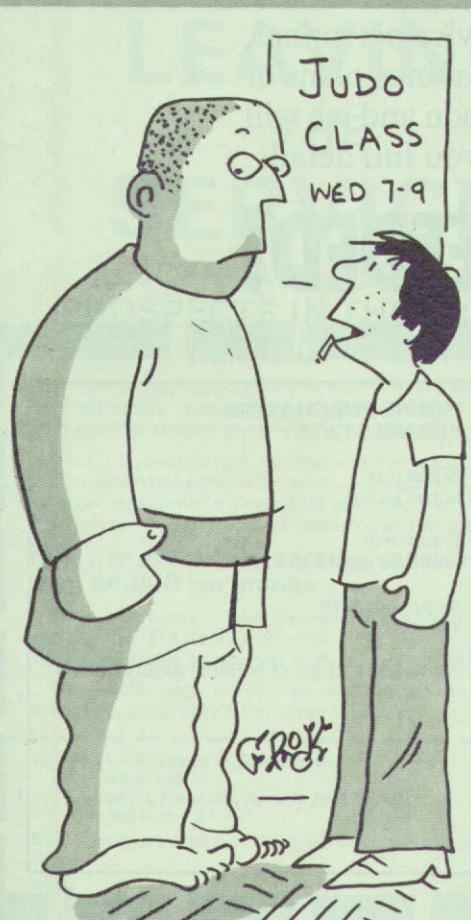


"For inspection, open order-r-r . . . march!"



"Come on, slowcoach — I'll give you a hand up."

Humour



"How long before I'm able to overpower the birds?"



"Behind every successful man there's a woman, Fiona — but she mustn't find out about you."



"This is the last time I'll pick you up from work, Hilda."



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Joe Mercer, one of the most famous names in English football, is a Vice-President of the Army Football Association. In this interview, behind the scenes of a First Division match, Joe tells John Walton that he owes his managerial success to what he learned from the Army.

Genial Joe-A Legend in his Lifetime

JOE MERCER is everybody's idea of a favourite uncle. A face creased by laughter lines, a wisecrack for every occasion and a riveting after dinner speaker. But behind the geniality which has made him one of football's best loved characters there lies a shrewdness which enabled him to go on to an outstanding managerial career after his playing days were over — something which many football stars try without success.

Not for him the heartache of the old pro footballer with nothing left but his memories, the sort of chap so vividly described in Harvey Andrews's song *He Played for England* — "We saw him on the newsreel, He was talking to the King, He played for England once, But now it doesn't mean a thing."

Joe Mercer has been a name in English football since before the First World War. Not the present one of course — he wasn't born until the 1913-14 close season. But his father was the mighty centre half of the Nottingham Forest side of those days — standing 6ft 2½ inches and weighing 13 stone.

So football was in Joe junior's life right from the cradle. In the First World War his father joined the 'footballers' battalion' — the 17th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment and was wounded and captured by the Germans.

After the war Joe senior went to Tranmere, then in the Central League. He was still with the side when they gained Football

League status but died at the early age of 37. Joe junior joined Everton at 16 and became a professional the following season. At first he became a forward but converted to wing half — equally at home on either side.

By the 1938-39 season Joe was already a star player and he notched up five international caps that season. But war clouds were gathering and soon he was to start his long and close link with Army football.

"Well before the war we always had an annual match between Everton and the Army at Aldershot and we used to enjoy it. When the war broke out I joined up on September 18 and found myself at Aldershot with a lot of old footballers on a coaching course."

"We passed out as sergeant instructors. I thought the Army was marvellous. We were just football. We visited regiments and played and were responsible for coaching and organising football and boxing. At no time were the enemy in any danger!"

"The old lady used to swank about me. She used to say 'I've got two sons in the Army and one in the Physical Training Corps.'"

The football stars of the day who were in khaki used to tour behind the lines and play matches. If Joe was not appearing for the Army it was for Southern Command or in wartime internationals.

"The Army had a fair side. Swift was in goal, we had Jimmy Carabine, Andy Beat-

tie, Cliff Britton, Stan Cullis, Billy Elliot, Matt Busby and occasionally Denis Compton. He was a great player from 1939-43. And so different to his cricket — his football was right down the line.

"The RAF had Eddie Hapgood, Frank Soo, Stan Matthews, Neil Franklin, Peter Doherty, Raich Carter . . . but they never got a look in. We used to do them regular!"

Joe Mercer is a reporter's dream. Ask him an eight word question and the quotes flow thick and fast. "What was the pay like in those days?"

The face crinkles into the well known grin. "During the war we got thirty bob to appear in internationals. We would be playing before 100,000 people at Wembley for thirty bob. All of a sudden some general got to hear of it and said 'soldiers being paid for playing football — we must stop it!' The next game was the first one in which I've ever played when nobody tried. We soon got the 30 bob back!"

After the war Joe returned to Everton — but not for long. A disagreement saw him go to Arsenal — and further success — including skippering an FA Cup winning team in 1950.

At the same time he was in business with his father-in-law in the grocery trade. "I passed out as a certified grocer on an Army correspondence course. During the time I was at Arsenal we were running three retail shops and a wholesale business. I had all the qualifications and my father-in-law had all

The many faces of Joe Mercer. Pictures show (clockwise): Presenting the trophy at the Army Cup Final in 1975; Moment of triumph with FA Cup in 1950; Wartime shot with England cricketers Leyland and Worthington; and the most famous grin in football.

the knowledge. He was a great grocer. I remember spending hours dressing the window of one of the shops and he appeared and said 'Son, as a grocer you are a bloody good footballer . . .'!"

His playing days over, Joe moved into management. "A very poor substitute for playing. It's the next best thing I suppose, but it's all reflected glory."

His first managerial job was at Sheffield United and he had a rude awakening. "I got the job on a Thursday and football started on the Saturday. We got beaten 4-0 and were lucky to get none. There were 17 directors on the board and the chairman said 'Well, Mercer you are going to manage because I know b--- all about this game and they know even less.'"

Soon he moved on to manage a bigger club — Aston Villa — with his 'Mercer Minnows' as rivals to the 'Busby Babes' of Manchester United. Then he took over at Manchester City, where his assistant was that

continued on page 33



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expansive personality who is still stealing the headlines — Malcolm Allison.

He recalls being on tour with Manchester City in America when Bobby Kennedy, namesake of a contemporary City star, was assassinated. "It came on the television and I just had to ring someone up. 'Mr Chairman, Bobby Kennedy's been shot!' And he replied, 'What's he doing out at this time of night?'"

Now Joe Mercer is a director of Coventry City Football Club. "I'm still in the game but I got fed up with the tension. It's a young man's game."

He's also retained a keen interest in Army football as an honorary vice-president. "There's QMSI Mercer and Sergeant Major Matt Busby and the rest of them are generals."

Joe is now the proud owner of an Army FA tie but, according to the story he tells with that mischievous twinkle in his eye, he had to put on some pressure in high places to get it.

"I said to General Jim Wilson 'How do I get a tie? I've played for the Army more times than Billy Wright has played for England and no b---- will give me a tie!'"

Joking apart, Joe is quick to acknowledge that his successful managerial career owed much to what he learned from the Army.

"The Army provides the best training scheme in the world for managers. After all, they have had 1000 years' experience of teaching. Just as in the Army we discuss new tactics for the battlefield — what the clever people do is to copy the leading experts and modify things to the resources they have got. So many of the great managers had this Army discipline and thought in the building of things."

Just for the record, Joe won six championships as player or manager, was in seven



How small boys knew them. Top in 1939, right in 1949 and (bottom) Joe's dad featured on a rare 1914 cigarette card.

Cup Finals and only on the losing side in two of them. He got five pre-war England caps, played in 29 wartime internationals, five Victory internationals and captained England.

It was time to go out and watch the First Division match between Coventry and European Champions, Nottingham Forest. As Joe walked along the passageways to the directors' box there was a nod and a short chat for everyone who went by, from Forest's assistant manager, Peter Taylor, to Coventry's long serving Mick Coop (himself

only a tiny lad when Joe was playing) down to fresh faced youngsters with their future before them.

I was reminded inescapably of more lines from *He played for England*. ". . . but legends mean so little, And memories grow cold, As boys create new heroes, And men forget the old."

Except that Joe Mercer is a legend who still means a lot to everyone in British football — not least to the Army soccer players to whom he gives such enthusiastic support.

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Sgt. Butt. Sgt. Ins. Arthur. Sgt. Ins. Boyes. Q.M.S.I. Mercer (Captain)
(Blackburn R) (Stockport) (Everton) (Everton)

L/S Davies Gdsn. Walker L/Cpl. Henshaw Gdsn. Mackie Sgt. Sharpe
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DEFENDERS OF THE ROCK

DRILL NIGHTS for The Gibraltar Regiment, a nearly all-volunteer 'Terrier' type unit, are certainly different. One of the Mediterranean's loftiest military organisations — geographically, that is — its men practise theory on anti-aircraft and field guns mostly in the floodlit dark because they keep late hours every Thursday — until midnight.

Practically, however, the 236-strong, bilingual regiment (motto: *No Enemy Shall Expel Us*), a combined infantry and artillery unit, flies over to the UK for training camps each year from its 1396-foot-tall fortress Buena Vista barracks between the Atlantic and Mediterranean. There, for example, the gunners of the LAD Troop can pump off some 2000 rounds — ten times more than they can back home using splash targets towed along the waterway where Europe almost nudges Africa.

The Artillery Battery, equipped with four 40mm L/70 Bofors and a couple of 105mm L5 Pack Howitzers, have been attending such UK camps for 12 years, going mostly to Manorbier, near Tenby, south Wales and the Royal School of Artillery at Larkhill. This autumn, gunners will be going to Hythe in Kent.

The regiment's infantry section comprises a rifle company made up of three platoons but without support weapons.

Otherwise, the equipment is compatible with a normal UK-based TA unit with SLRs, GPMGs, SMGs and 9mm pistols. The training commitment is similar, too, with 12 days voluntary, 12 mandatory and 15 days annual camp. In all, the regiment attends five camps each year.

Back at The Rock there is a heavily-subscribed recruit camp where some 40 of them will be under training this year. The

Above: With Miss Gibraltar on the rifle range.

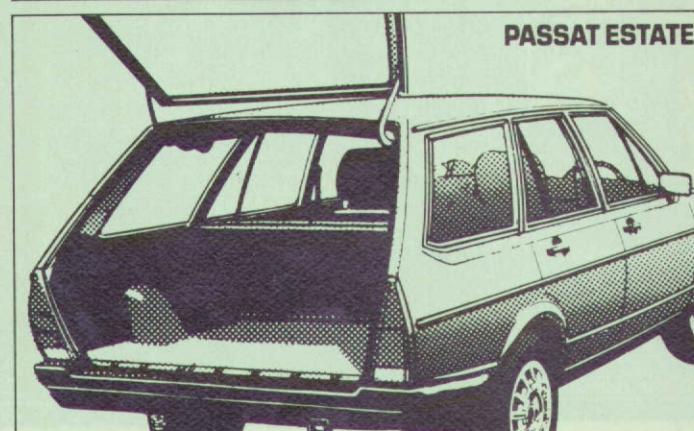
waiting list to join is never short.

The Gibraltar Regiment is liable, under local law, for call-up commitment overseas and its officers hold the Governor's Commission and not that of the Queen. Warrant officers hold the Governor's Warrant.

There is a regular cadre of five officers and 40 other ranks with 14 volunteer officers and 177 part-time soldiers making up the numbers of the regiment which, since 1968, has had an affiliation with The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Major Ernest Britto, 37, the second in command, says: "There is a continuing desire to join the regiment and our figures show it. We have even had people attached to UK units training in Germany and Kenya."

continued on page 37



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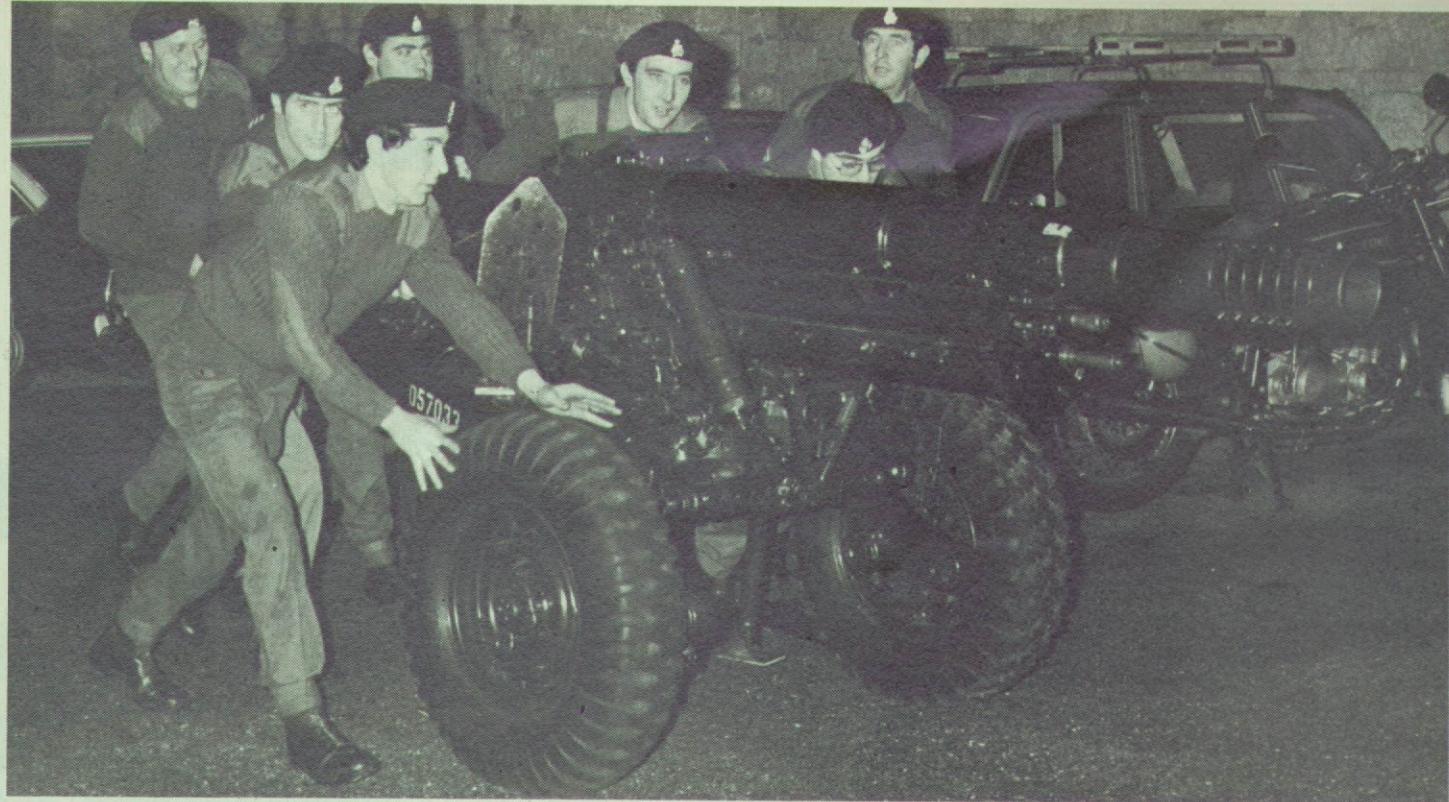
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"Whenever we have trained side by side with UK units we have always found we have measured up to the same standards and never been second rate."

The regiment derives its origins from the Volunteer Corps formed in 1914 which was disbanded in 1919. Twenty years later, on the outbreak of war, the Gibraltar Defence Force was set up which provided a composite military unit of anti-aircraft, coast artillery and motor transport sub-units.

Its original members, 50 of them and all in 'civvies', paraded for the first time in April 1939. Evening and Sunday morning drills were held regularly from then onwards and the first annual camp was held in July of that year.

The force was by then a trained section of AA artillery and when war broke out they were deployed to their first station near the Admiralty oil tanks on the east side of the Rock, manning two 3-inch, 20-hundredweight High Angle guns.

Throughout the war, the anti-aircraft section, though part of a regular regiment of artillery, retained its individual identity with officers commissioned from within its own ranks. This became the corner-stone from

which The Gibraltar Regiment of today was to emerge.

The force was in action against enemy aircraft on many occasions and shot down its first plane in August 1940 with the 3.7-inch HAA guns.

By the end of 1943 the strategic importance of Gibraltar lessened and the force decreased with only a cadre remaining.

A year later civilian families began returning to the Rock and the Gibraltar Defence Force returned to active life in a new role — training the youth of Gibraltar on National Service lines during six months' mandatory call-up, later cut to four months.

At the end of the war, with the run-down in military forces, it was decided to retain the Gibraltar Defence Force on the Garrison Order of Battle.

The establishment of this unit was based on providing for a permanent cadre designed to train national servicemen who, after completing initial training, were committed to serve for two weeks' compulsory reserve training every two years.

By raising additional volunteers in the senior appointments the GDF, when



Above: Target checking after rifle practice.

Above: Hauling an L 105mm gun into position.

embodied, were able to muster a force consisting of a heavy artillery troop and four infantry rifle companies.

As from August 30, 1958, it changed its name to The Gibraltar Regiment and its role to that of an infantry unit incorporating a 9.2-inch coastal battery.

In 1969 the regiment was once again detailed to train recruits in light air defence, this time, with L40/70s.

Two years later, Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Varyl Begg, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, presented Colours on behalf of the Queen to the Gibraltar Regiment.

From July 31, 1972, when compulsory military service on The Rock had already ended, the regiment was manned almost entirely by volunteers but continued to make an important contribution to the garrison. It comprised a rifle company and an artillery battery of one heavy troop and an air defence troop.

Lt-Col Domingo Collado, CO of The Gibraltar Regiment, said: "My men enjoy their part-time soldiering and take it very seriously. Now, it's just a question of progressing in equipment, getting into line with the UK. We have L40/70s which are out of line and we are hoping to progress to Blowpipe or Rapier."

The Regiment, he reminded, had a 'special relationship' with the people of Manobier going back ten years. They had also trained at Folkestone, Otterburn and Sennybridge.

"It is valuable for us from the training point of view to go to the UK because we don't have the space for full troop training," he said. "In the UK they can fire away to their hearts' content. From the morale point of view, it's good to get away from Gibraltar and of tremendous benefit to work with resident British units."

Brigadier Geoffrey Duckworth, the Deputy Fortress Commander, Gibraltar, said of the Regiment: "They are very keen and very professional in their attitudes and their standards of training."

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WHERE EAGLES DARED



Top left: Traditional spit and polish on parade.
Top: New quarters for Scorpions and Scimitars.
Right: Foxes lined up on the windswept runway.

**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt**

WHAT OUR PHOTOGRAPHER Doug Pratt wanted was to see the old RAF station where he served his last few months of National Service 20 years ago. But when we arrived at the old RAF Debden, near Saffron Walden, he found it almost unrecognisable.

For RAF Debden is now Carver Barracks, home of 13th/18th Royal Hussars, the first cavalry unit to serve in Essex for many years. And a remarkable transformation has taken place from the days when Doug was an RAF policeman.

There is still a small RAF presence. Tucked away in the corner of the airfield is a small building and an inflatable hangar. It contains gliders — used by local Air Training Corps at weekends.

But only one of the original three giant hangars remains and around it are new, smaller ones housing the regiment's Foxes, Scorpions and Scimitars. The original 50 RAF married quarters have been supplemented by an entire estate of new homes. And there is a brand new gymnasium.

RAF Debden played an important role during the Second World War. It was the base for the Eagle Squadrons of Americans who came over to help Britain before the United States came into the war. Later the official American Air Force arrived, and this July the Yanks will return in force to erect a memorial to those who flew from there and gave their lives.

The original buildings were erected in 1936 and many still remain in use. Other relics are also useful — old ammunition bunkers for storing hay and old garages as stables for the regiment's horses.

An armoured reconnaissance regiment needs a bit of room to move and the 400 acres of the old airfield with its 4800 ft long main runway provide just that. There is also a small wood for practising camouflage techniques.

Says the adjutant, Captain William Shuttleworth: "The fact that the runways are still here is a great advantage to us. It's ideal to have such a large expanse of land on your doorstep although, of course, it's not totally right for everything."

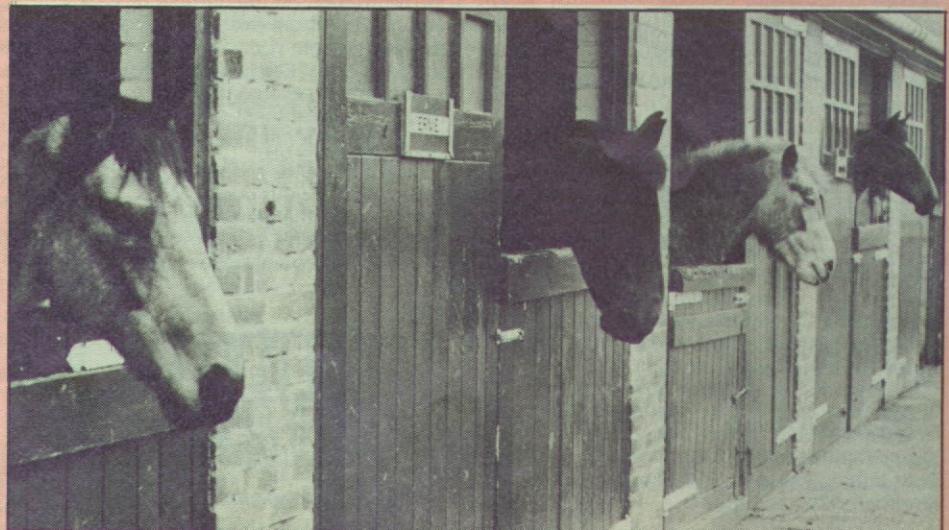
When the wind is in the east the old airfield can be a pretty bleak place. But the south Yorkshiremen, who make up the bulk of the regiment, are very happy in their home in Essex.

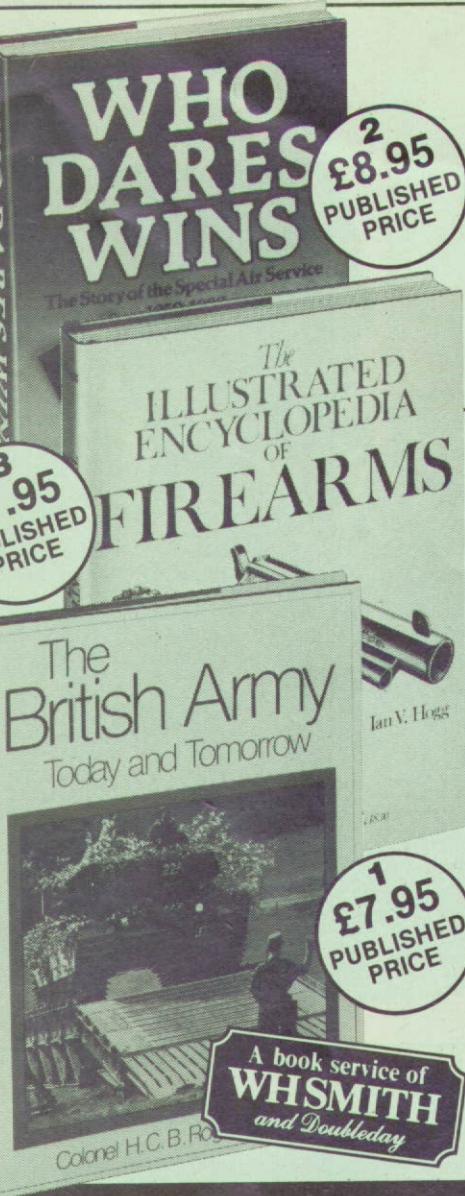
Says Lieutenant Simon Ledger, the assistant adjutant: "Nearly every unmarried soldier has a girl friend locally. When this camp is finished it will be one of the best armoured camps. And for the first time in years we have not had to share with anyone else. It really binds the regiment together as a family and the soldiers love it."

One squadron of 13th/18th Royal Hussars is permanently in Cyprus. Even so, there were 150 vehicles stretched out along the main runway as the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel George Stephen, took the salute at a dress rehearsal for the visit of 7 Field Force Commander, Brigadier Keith Spacie.

Old RAF stations up and down the country have been tried with varying success by Army units. As the seemingly endless parade of vehicles rolled down the runway, it was obvious that for the cavalry Carver Barracks is just the right spot.

Centre: Old bunkers are ideal for storing hay. Right: Garages are home for polo ponies.





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The dramatic rescue of the hostages at the Iranian Embassy in May, 1980, brought the activities of the S.A.S. dramatically into the public eye. It also roused a storm of controversy. What manner of men are these shadowy figures whose toughness and efficiency have become legendary? Do they

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MILITARY MUSEUMS

THE STAFF COLLEGE



THIS MUSEUM, comprising a number of large glass cases standing in a corridor leading to the Staff College library, aims to present both an historical survey of the college itself and to recall by mementos and portraits some, at least, of the many senior officers who have passed through its doors.

The exhibits start off with a case devoted to Major-General John Gaspard Le Marchant (1766-1812), described by Wellington as "a very able officer" and to whose energy and foresight the Staff College owes much. Author of a number of military books, he is particularly remembered for an anonymous work outlining a regular course of military instruction for officers. It appeared in January 1799 and by the beginning of May the first course was being held in the Antelope Inn, High Wycombe, an old print of which can be seen. An 1808 coloured statuette shows Le Marchant in the uniform of a Light Dragoon and there are several items drawn from his home life in Guernsey. The family crest of an owl, which features as an exhibit, is now incorporated in the Staff College badge.

The next case is devoted to souvenirs of Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery who was closely connected with the Staff College both as a student and as an instructor. A large map signed by Monty pinpoints his wartime movements and an autograph album is open at a page signed by the Chiefs of the Allied Supreme Command. There are the signatures of the Supreme Commander, General Eisenhower, Admiral Ramsay, Naval Commander-in-Chief, Montgomery Army C-in-C, Leigh-Mallory, Air C-in-C, and Coningham, on behalf of the Anglo/US Tactical Air Forces. Also on view are some humorous references to Monty the student in the college magazine and typescript copies of telegrams between Montgomery and Churchill relating to the Ardennes offensive.

Case number three is largely concerned with the history of the Staff College and mementos of officers who have studied there. An exercise book and work papers used by Field-Marshal Sir William Robert-

son, a paper written by Lord Wavell and a sword belonging to Field-Marshal Sir John Dill, who was commandant of the college from 1931 to 1934, are typical reminders of the many high ranking officers who have passed through the college. Other items include two swords and a set of medals belonging to General Sir Patrick Macdougall, who was the first commandant of the Staff College following its establishment at Camberley, and the steel helmet worn by General Lord Rawlinson in the first World War.

Various grades of staff officers' epaulettes are among a number of pieces devoted largely to items of militaria of the Victorian era. A commission signed by Queen Victoria, an undress cap worn by the Duke of Connaught and a major-general's plumed cocked hat and field service cap (1890) are typical. Sir William Robertson's field service tunic is also displayed here and more uniforms of senior officers will be exhibited as soon as space permits. Five original Simkin water colours too, are shown to advantage.

The museum is particularly rich in its collection of campaign medals and clasps ranging from the Peninsular War to World War One while another exceptional display is a complete set of Indian medals presented to the Staff College by the Indian Government starting with a 1795 medal "for service in the island of Ceylon" and the Seringapatam medal of 1799.

A seventh case contains a mid-19th century general's scarlet coatee in splendid condition, cocked hat, sword belt and gold sash and a major-general's dark blue frock coat of 1911.

John Jesse

Curator:

Mr K M White

Address:
Staff College
Camberley
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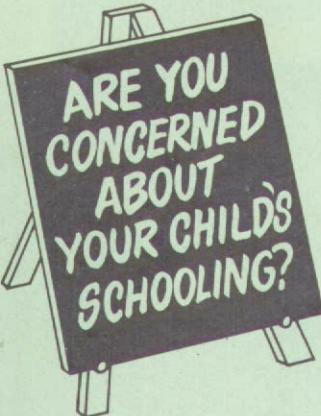
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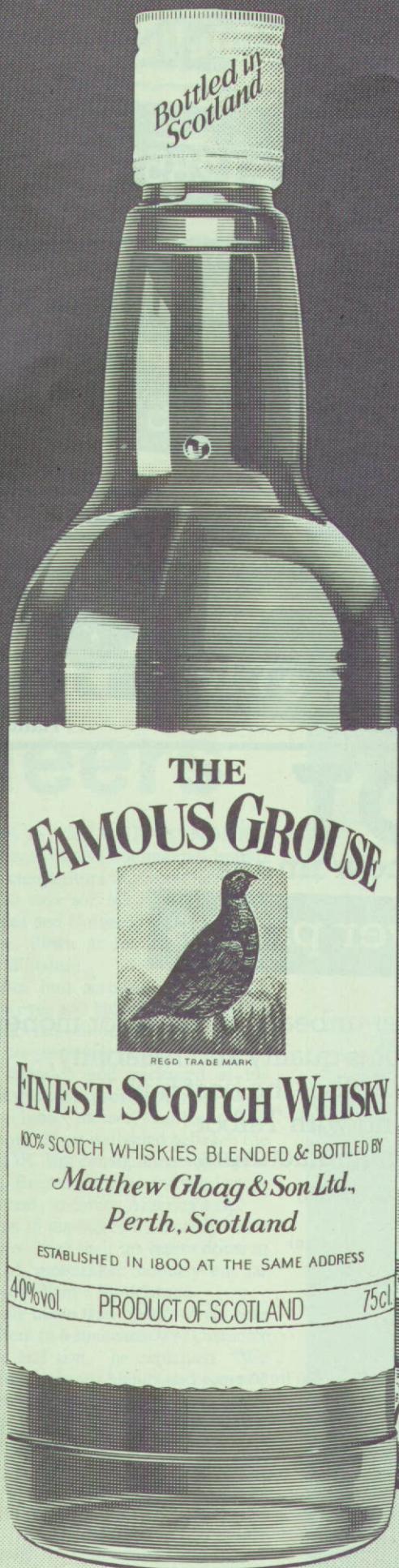
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NAAFI TEA IS "SECOND-TO-NONE". In fact, it leaves its five commercial brand-name major competitors stone cold for sheer quality. Who says so? Mr Bill Payne, the Institute's Tea and Coffee Divisional Buyer and Blender, down at his tea factory in Amesbury, Wiltshire.

By all taste bud accounts, Bill's acute palate, sharp eyes and bloodhound-sensitive nose have enforced this opinion over the past 20 years in his particular posts.

His tea, blended and packaged at his Amesbury warehouse, goes all over the world to Service clubs, messes, canteens and Families' shops. Most is divided between the UK and BAOR. But consignments go out to Hong Kong, Brunei and even the windswept Falkland Islands at South America's tip.

Bill and his 15 tea-bag folk certainly know a thing or two about their tea leaves down in the depths of 'moonraker' country not far from Salisbury Plain's Stonehenge.

"We simply make trial blends of tea here and grade them to a consistency of character according to leaf size," he explained. "We have more than a dozen blends and some 20 different teas in each blend. Tea varies according to the season and, subsequently, its very character alters."

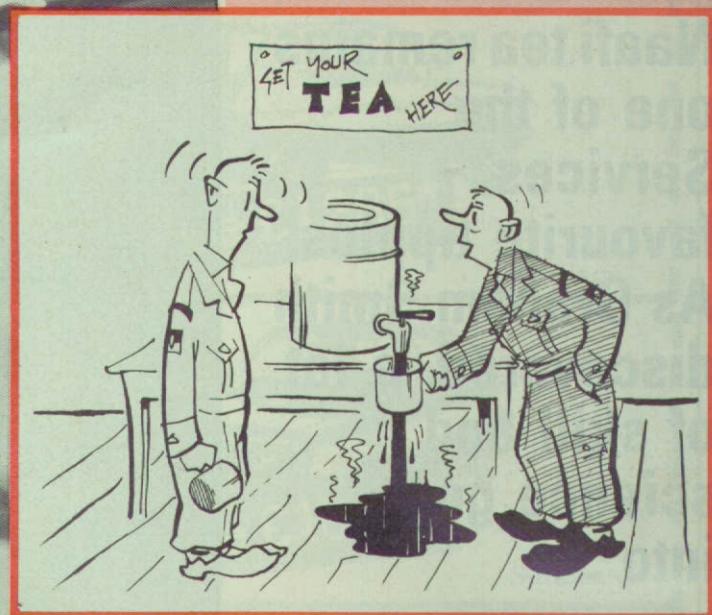
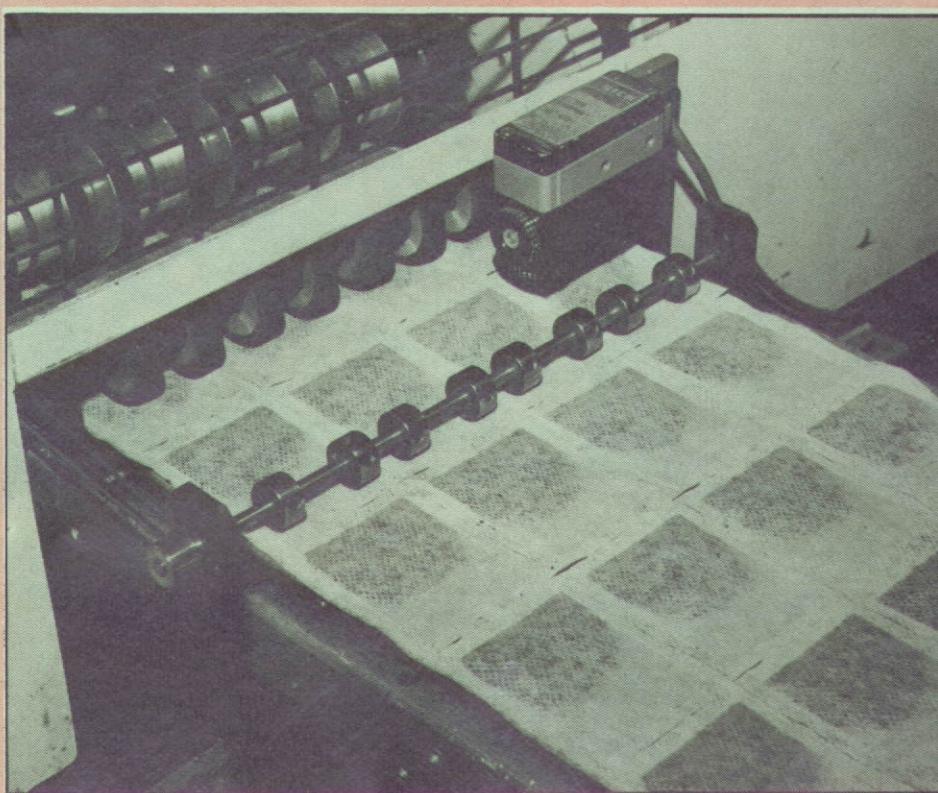
Some of the names alone are enough to make the mouth water. Broken Orange Pekoe Fannings (BOPS in the trade) . . . Pure China . . . Earl Grey Mixture . . . Lapsang Souchong . . . Pekoe Souchong . . . all have to be carefully catalogued and blended together in just the right amounts to produce the distinctive Naafi flavour.

Bill politely declined to be 'drained' on just

Right: Wartime cuppa for Queen Elizabeth, now Queen Mother, at Naafi training centre, Woking.



Left: Bill Payne savours one of his blends.



"Just how I like it — really strong!"

how much tea, bought during tea auctions at a London Thames-side office, tumbled from chests into two one-ton hoppers before final packaging and despatch through the Wiltshire factory's gates bound for tea cups virtually everywhere.

"It's a fairly hefty business, though", he conceded.

Each week at the London Tea Auctions some 50,000 chests go under the gavel for later savouring from well-trundled tea-trolleys, transport cafes, afternoon tea shoppes, offices, hospitals, hotels and so on.

In 1979, the British slurped down 170,949 tons of tea in strict competition from alcohol, soft drinks and, yes, coffee. Of the 200,000 tons imported annually, half of that finds its way to the London Tea Auctions which is where Bill and his assistant do their bidding.

Tea, incidentally, made its first London appearance in 1657 where, it is claimed, it was recommended for 'gravel, scurvy, loss of memory, looseness, griping of the guts and collick.'

Today, 70 per cent of the nation drinks tea. In yesteryear, Samuel Pepys felt compelled to record the experience in his notorious diary and Samuel Johnson professed to be a 'hardened and shameless' tea drinker though adding it was a 'liquor not proper to the lower classes of people'.

Bill pointed out: "There is nothing wrong with our tea. It's the way it is made and administered which makes a bad cup or mug of tea."

He added: "The best tea is served in bone china cups with a wide brim. This gives a nice colour, reflecting the light. It makes for a nicer looking cup of tea."

The Queen's afternoon tea at Buckingham Palace, for instance, is made with a silver Victorian spirit kettle. She uses Darjeeling tea grown high in the Himalayan foothills.

But back to the Naafi. Bill said: "Our tea is second-to-none in my opinion. I doubt very much if there are many blends that can compete in the price and quality range. I shouldn't think there is another tea bag in the country that can compare with the quality of

Left: Tea Bags churn out at 1200 a minute.



ours. Tea bags make up 83 per cent of our output here."

So, how does he do it all?

Once in receipt of the tea in huge, 53-kilo chests which have been lying in docks before the London Tea Auctions, Bill classifies and grades the tea according to leaf size.

Then comes the delicate tasting, a truly palatable task learned over many years. Bill looks at the dry leaves to see how much dust, stalk or fibre there is in them — then makes himself a cup of tea!

But it does not end there.

The age-old custom of the tea trade lays down a certain weight of tea — about that of a sixpenny piece or a farthing — that must be carefully weighed out on Dickensian-type scales, brewed in a cup of standard size for four minutes and then poured off into a bowl. A tea bag, incidentally, weighs in at 1/9th of an ounce.

Reverently, Bill spoons a little of it up, suds it — and spits it out.

Immediately, he knows the pungency or astringent effect on the mouth, whether it is flat or dull and the general strength or body of the liquor.

The process is not yet finished. He examines the infused leaf, which tells him more about its quality, and smells it. Then comes the decision on which teas to blend and their proportions which are tasted against a previous blend to ensure continuity of the Naafi blend produced.

Finally, he tries it with milk, to make quite sure what he thinks the blend should be.

And how should a cup of tea be?

Bill said: "A tea blender can spend hours and hours producing a really good tea and then the final making can ruin it. I've had some terrible cups of tea, flat and watery, that could have been good if only they had been made properly."

"First, then, heat your tea-pot. Have

freshly boiled water and pour it out on the tea immediately it reaches boiling point. Don't let the tea brew more than four minutes — otherwise you get too much tannin."

And he should know. His factory with its 15 staff packages 30,000 lbs of tea each week. Tea bags with those 'little perforations' churn out at 1200-a-minute.

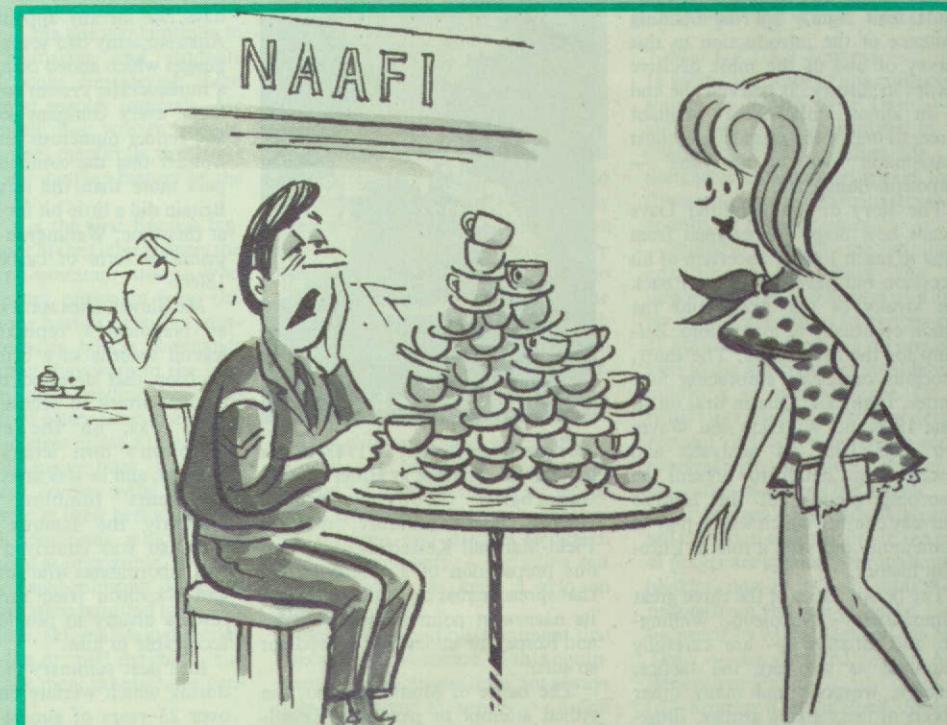
Bill himself likes his cup of tea — he drinks five of them daily — and he always takes his wife up a 'cuppa' in the mornings.

But tea tasters can have off-days. "You can taste too much tea at times and become fed up," he freely admits. "Strong food such as

curries or onions, a binge on the night before and colds can cause disruption in the mornings when tasting is done."

Bill can find it embarrassing, too, when taking tea at friends' houses. He is embarrassed because he knows they are embarrassed and they usually ask him to make the tea with some excuse that they don't like making it.

A former National Serviceman with the Life Guards, Bill has had his share of Naafi canteen tea. How was it, then? "I can't remember," he grinned. "It was so long ago."



"I thought you'd never come!"

BOOKS

Waterloo double

'Waterloo' (David Howarth)

Not only is this beautifully produced booklet a guide *par excellence* to the battlefield of Waterloo, it also presents a concise, authoritative and uncontroversial account of that fateful Sunday, 18 June 1815. Its author, David Howarth, is one of the greatest living experts on the Battle of Waterloo whose books include *Waterloo — A Near Run Thing*. The booklet itself is the brain-child of the Waterloo Committee, an Anglo-Belgian group formed by the present Duke of Wellington seven years ago.

The guide takes the visitor to the five best points from which to view the battlefield, still much the same as it was in 1815 thanks to its protection under Belgian law. First the Lion Hill from the top of which the whole battlefield can be seen. There follow viewpoints from Hougoumont, La Haye Sainte, the lane to the west of Lion Hill, scene of massive attacks by French cavalry, and a vantage point near the old inn of La Belle Alliance. There are descriptions of the battle as seen from each position, notes on tactics and weapons and a final page of useful tourist information to complete this richly illustrated guide. The illustrations, incidentally, are of outstanding quality and interest.

Pitkin Pictorials Ltd, 11 Wyfold Road, London SW6 6SG, 90p. JFPJ

'Waterloo: The Hundred Days' (David Chandler)

"No battle has received more attention from soldiers and historians, or evoked greater popular interest and recognition, than Waterloo". Thus reads, and rightly so, the opening sentence of the introduction to this survey of one of the most decisive battles in history. It marked the end of an almost unbelievably brilliant career of one of the greatest and most charismatic men of all time — Napoleon Bonaparte.

The story of the Hundred Days recalls how Napoleon escaped from Elba to reach France uncertain of his reception but nevertheless won back the loyalty of the Army and the nation eventually to march into Belgium for the final battle. The short, ferocious campaign embracing four battles, Ligny and Quatre Bras on 16 June 1815 and Waterloo and Wavre two days later, is analysed and described in detail to present an absorbing account of the historic four-day conflict which was to play so momentous and vital a role in European history.

The personalities of the three great commanders — Napoleon, Wellington and Blucher — are carefully examined as also are the tactics, strategy, weapons and many other aspects of the warring armies. Illustrations are plentiful and there are 28 clear and explicit maps outlining

troop movements and manoeuvres.

David Chandler, who is head of the Department of War Studies at Sandhurst and author of several books on the Napoleonic period, has written an extremely readable and entertaining work which will inevitably have a wide appeal. There is also an appendix giving useful tips for a two-day tour of the battlefield plus a helpful sketch-map.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP — £9.95

JFPJ

Back to source

'A Source Book of Military Support Vehicles' (Bart H Vanderveen)

In recent years a growing number of enthusiasts have become aware of the historic value of military vehicles, particularly those types used in the two World Wars. Technically, military designs are, as often as not, more interesting than conventional civilian vehicles and with that in mind this guide gives general and technical details covering a wide range of 'soft-skin' wheeled military vehicles produced during the 20th century, all of them illustrated.

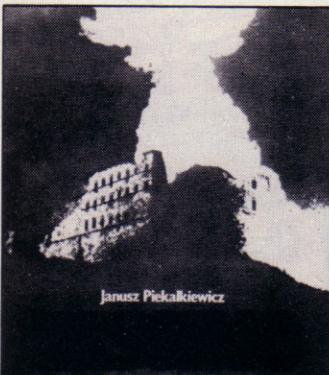
Among several early examples is an intriguing shot of steam traction engines on exercise at Aldershot at the beginning of the century, a 1916 Ford and a Pavesi twin-unit articulated tractor. Nearly a hundred vehicles of various nationalities — from a 1906 French Panhard-Levassor open car fitted with a machine-gun to a 1980 all-purpose Brazilian truck — are dealt with and there is a good selection of British vehicles, among them the ubiquitous Land-Rover, Alvis Stalwart with amphibious capability and the Leyland Crusader. A quick and useful reference.

Ward Lock Ltd, 47 Marylebone Lane, London W1M 6AX — £2.95

JFPJ

Soft underbelly

'Cassino: The Anatomy of the Battle' (Janusz Piekalkiewicz)



Anatomy of the battle

The campaign in Italy in 1943/44 was an attempt to strike at Hitler's 'weak underbelly' through southern Europe. Unfortunately, due to Field-Marshall Kesselring's meticulous preparation of a defensive line that spread across the width of Italy at its narrowest point between Naples and Rome, the underbelly proved not so soft.

The battle of Monte Cassino, the Allied attempt to penetrate Kesselring's line between January and May 1944, continues to fascinate his-

torians. The strategic decisions which led to the choice of Cassino as a battle site have been called into question, and the allied tactical direction remains controversial. Hotly debated, too, was the decision to bombard the Benedictine Abbey situated high on the hills overlooking the battle. One of the oldest monastery sites in Europe, founded in 524 by St Benedict himself, the monastery had survived a history of previous assaults but was razed in February 1944 by American bombers.

Mr Piekalkiewicz gives us a blow-by-blow account of the battle, after briefly setting the scene geographically and militarily, by quoting contemporary day-to-day reports from a variety of sources on both sides. Despite Mr Piekalkiewicz's linking text, this approach occasionally sacrifices narrative flow for an excess of terse factual reporting, but it does present a very detailed picture of the action as it evolved. Extensive illustrations, linked to the text, bring the fighting to life.

Orbis Publishing Limited, 20-22 Bedfordbury, London, WC2 — £8.95.

IJK

Critical look

'Warfare in the Age of Bonaparte' (Michael Glover)

This latest in the *History of Warfare* series concentrates on the way armies and navies fought, how they were commanded, their logistics and their communications. (In the case of the armies, the last can almost be summed up, 'A man on a horse'). Like other books in this series, it is delightfully illustrated but could do with more maps.

One factor to emerge often from the text is the bumbling incompetence of those occasional anti-French allies, the Austrians. One vital decision was delayed until too late because an army commander, an epileptic archduke, was having a fit. Another plan went awry because the planner relied on the Russians without noticing that they were still using the Julian calendar and would be 12 days late for any appointment. The Austrian army had seven official languages which added complications to a bureaucratic system so tight that it made every company keep 72 files and render numerous returns. Small wonder that the company clerk was paid more than the sergeant-major. Britain did a little bit for bureaucracy at this time: Wellington was using a primitive form of carbon paper in 1809.

Mr Glover takes some critical looks at Napoleon's reputation. What legend records as a brilliant, quick decision that defeated the Austrian counter-attack to relieve Mantua in 1796 was, on the evidence of Napoleon's own letters, his third attempt, and he was saved only by his opponents' fumbling hesitation. Similarly the famous victory of Marengo was contrived mainly by two subordinates who got little credit and Napoleon tried three times to rewrite history to provide a version acceptable to him.

In a neat summary of the period, during which warfare changed little over 23 years of almost continuous fighting, apart from the increased size of armies, Mr Glover points out

that his enemies learned much of the art of war from Napoleon. It was his bad luck that at Waterloo he faced the two most conspicuous of the Allied generals who "refused to be frightened beforehand".

Mr Glover's section on naval warfare of the period is interesting background for readers of novels of the Hornblower school.

Cassell, 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG, £8.95.

RLE

Dressing up

'Army Uniforms Since 1945' (Digby Smith)

A book on uniforms with a difference in that brief accounts of recent wars and hostilities serve as useful background to the illustrations of dress. In all, 142 uniforms worn by officers and soldiers of some 45 nations are pictured in full colour while weapons, equipment, shoulder flashes and badges of rank are dealt with in black and white. Unusual items in the latter section include a rice-carrying bandolier used by North Korean and North Vietnamese

Digby Smith — Michael Chappell

ARMY UNIFORMS since 1945



troops and the Viet Cong jungle boot.

Each uniform and piece of equipment is complemented by a description in the second half of the book to round off a useful reference for student and researcher. Both the author and Michael Chappell, whose illustrations are for the most part based on personal experience, served as regulars in the British Army.

Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £3.95.

JFPJ

Fighting men

'The Sharp End of War — The Fighting Man in World War II' (John Ellis)

"Human experience", says the dust-jacket, is Mr Ellis's theme. He covers it under the headings of induction and training; physical settings of campaigns; infantry, artillery and armour in combat; casualties, discipline and morale; relaxation; and attitudes. He limits his scope to the British and American armies, with some diversion to Commonwealth forces but nothing at all about other allies or about enemies.

It is a very miserable picture of human experience that emerges. With no other knowledge on which to judge, you might get to the last chapter wondering how men lasted for weeks in sharp-end units, let alone for years, but finally the author gives his answer: comradeship. "In

the midst of seeming chaos it was the love of individuals, one for another, that enabled them to carry on." Right, up to a point, but there were other essentials. What, for example, about humour? It was much valued (and boasted about) in both British and American armies. A few pages on the subject would not only have been appropriate but a welcome leavening.

Mr Ellis has made a valuable contribution to the study of the fighting man and, though there is a lot more to be said, he has something worth reading on every page. He also has many a memorable phrase, quoted or his own, to give it bite. An American spoke of "scar tissue forming around



the heart" to help a replacement become a useful fighting man. The author himself says of the cramped, knobbly accommodation inside tanks, "fighting in such vehicles had much in common with playing squash in an 'iron maiden'".

He also has some good anecdotes, including one about a Regular officer posted to the 5th Black Watch who was greeted by his colonel, "I should like to make it quite clear that this is a Territorial battalion and we don't like Regular officers". What is startling about this is that it did not occur in Perth or Aldershot early in the war, but in Normandy.

David and Charles, Brunel House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £8.95 RLE

Devil of a gun

'The Stuart Light Tank Series'; 'The Panzerkampfwagen IV' (both by Bryan Perrett)

The Stuart was the official British name for the World War Two American M3 light tank series, but unofficially it was known as the 'honey', for its good handling and reliability. In early rounds of the Western Desert campaign there was a whole brigade of Stuarts, but heavier machines took over as main battle tanks and the Stuarts were relegated to light squadrons and reconnaissance. They also served Britain admirably in Europe and Burma. Stuarts were widely sold during and after the war to Allied armies and Mr Perrett adds vaguely, "a number are believed to be still active today."

The Panzerkampfwagen IV was known to British troops as the Mark IV. It was at first fitted with a 75mm howitzer for close-support work, but in 1942 Mark IVs appeared at the battle of Alam Halfa with a long-barrelled 75mm. "It looks the devil of a gun," reported a British brigadier; it

was, and in a few minutes had destroyed 12 of his tanks. The British called the up-gunned version the Mark IV Special and it appeared on many battlefields. There were Mark IVs dug in on the Golan Heights in 1967, and the last to die in action succumbed to a long French 75mm gun carried on an Israeli Sherman.

In these two books, latest in the Osprey Vanguard series, Mr Perrett reports on the development and varieties of his subjects, and gives detailed descriptions and an account of their employment. There are black-and-white pictures and each book has an eight-page colour section by David E Smith — all good stuff for the enthusiast and much of it of interest to the casual browser.

Osprey, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP — £2.95 each. RLE

Panzergrenadiers

'Panzergrenadiers in Action' (Ronald L Redmon and James F Cuccarese)

Panzergrenadiers were the foot soldiers who went into battle as an integral part of a panzer division in the German Army of World War Two. They were trained in close support of armour and how to adapt their own tactics to those of the tanks. At first they went to battle in trucks and were intended to fight from their vehicles, but armoured half-tracks superseded the trucks and the troops usually dismounted in battle and fought as infantry, supported by machine-gun and light cannon fire from their vehicles.

This wide-page paper-back devotes a couple of pages to the history and development of the panzergrenadiers and the rest of the book consists of well-captioned black-and-white pictures and a colour centrepiece, mainly of uniforms.

Squadron/Signal Publications, 1115 Crowley Dr., Carrollton, Texas 75006, \$4.95.

RLE

Mountain warriors

'Alpine Elite; German Mountain Troops in World War II' (James Lucas)

For some reason, the elite units of the Nazi army in the last war continue to fascinate historians and students alike, and books considering them still appear at regular intervals. Mr Lucas himself has written several before this one; mercifully, his latest is at least not another history of the SS.

In fact, it is the first English language account of the Gebirgsjäger, the little-known mountain troops who fought in every campaign from the opening of the hostilities with a courage and tenacity which commands respect. Often they were in the vanguard of an attack, leading the storming parties; at other times they were employed to great effect stiffening up wavering defensive lines. From the mountains of Tunisia to the Polar circle, they were at their best in the sort of rugged conditions which lesser units regarded as impossible. In addition to the usual soldierly skills, the Gebirgsjäger were required to be able to rock-climb, ski, maintain direction in Alpine fog or total darkness, and survive in the most inhospitable conditions.

From its origins in the days of the Imperial German Army, through its

major battle honours — Crete 1941, Uman in the Russian Campaign where nearly a million Red Army troops were surrounded, Austria, where the Gebirgsjäger fought a suicidal rearguard action against the resurgent Russians — Mr Lucas takes us through the history of the corps in a vivid and exciting style, clearly influenced by his own personal experience of fighting the Gebirgsjäger in Italy in 1944 and by the reminiscences of over 200 of its ex-members whom he interviewed.

There are maps of the major campaigns and actions in which the Gebirgsjäger fought, and many incidents are recorded in photographs — though it perhaps ought to be said that some of these were clearly 'snaps' taken under difficult circumstances, and are not always of the highest quality.

An interesting and highly readable account of one of Hitler's more respectable, and respected, elite corps..

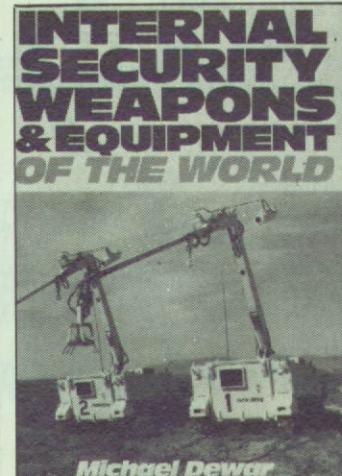
Jane's Publishing Co Ltd., 238 City Road, London EC1V 2PU — £8.95.

IJK

Violent means

'Internal Security Weapons and Equipment of the World' (Michael Dewar)

The years since the close of World War Two have seen what ex-Prime Minister Edward Heath has described as "the growth of a cult of political violence". Whilst it cannot be said that political violence is a new



Michael Dewar

phenomenon — revolution is as old as government — there has certainly been a shift towards the assumption that violence can be an effective means for a minority interest to achieve its aims. At one extreme there is the protest march which degenerates into a clash with rival protesters or the police; at the other, there is the philosophy of the IRA and the Red Brigades.

This slim volume is a frightening indictment of our times, for although it is by no means a history of recent urban terrorism, it clinically itemises the weapons and devices to which many governments — including our own — resort to keep a grip on internal security.

Despite his cautious comment that "because of the nature of this equipment, manufacturers have not always been at liberty to supply . . . full specifications of their equipment", Mr Dewar has managed to compile a

very thorough account of 'IS' hardware — everything from South African 'Volumantic Bomb Suppression Blankets' to Japanese anti-riot armoured cars. Riot shields, helmets, bullet proof vests, gas grenades and more sophisticated items such as radar listening devices, night viewing equipment and electronic and infrared intruder-detectors are briefly considered, their specifications listed, and illustrated in black-and-white. Mr Dewar's research is very detailed, and his book will be invaluable to anyone interested in this rather grim aspect of military life today.

Ian Allen Ltd, Shepperton, Surrey — £4.95

IJK

Cold shoulders

'Collecting Metal Shoulder Titles' (RA Westlake)

From mounted and foot regiments to Territorials, women's units and training establishments, this remarkable work covers a new field for the militaria enthusiast — metal shoulder titles. It is the first comprehensive guide to a fast-growing hobby and it gives details of the shoulder titles worn by more than 1200 military units supplemented by 1858 photographs. Its scope is comprehensive and far-reaching.

Ever since the metal shoulder title was introduced shortly after 1881 for officers' tropical uniform, it has gone from strength to strength until today it is virtually universal. Many indeed are the variations in regimental or corps titles and it is here that the collector will be tested.

Another aspect of this book which helps to make it such an invaluable guide and reference is the listing of the lineage of every military unit. This all-important feature, allied to the shoulder titles, makes this book an eminently useful addition to the collector's bookshelf.

Published by Frederick Warne Ltd, 40 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HE as a Leo Cooper book, £12.95. JFPJ

Obeying the call

'Called Up' (G J Scriven)

In telling the story of one conscripted soldier in World War Two — the author — from enlistment to discharge back into civilian life, this delightful little booklet speaks for all those who were called up to serve their country in the war years.

Primary training, the issuing of equipment including the all-important rifle, is followed by a chapter on defence duties in various parts of Suffolk and the need on one occasion to dig slit trenches at Aldeburgh following an invasion scare. Of particular interest is the short yet detailed account of Gordon Scriven's service overseas with a harrowing insight into his duties as a stretcher bearer.

Mr Scriven's strength as a professed Christian and his faith in the value of prayer are apparent throughout the booklet, now in its third edition. All profits from the sale of *Called Up* — foreword by Major-General Sir Nigel Tapp — are donated to the Army Benevolent Fund.

G J Scriven, 8 Orion Road, Rodwell, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8LG — 50p plus 11p postage

JFPJ

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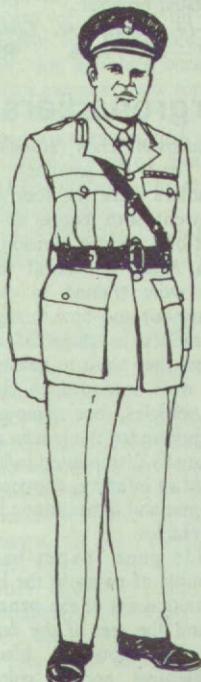
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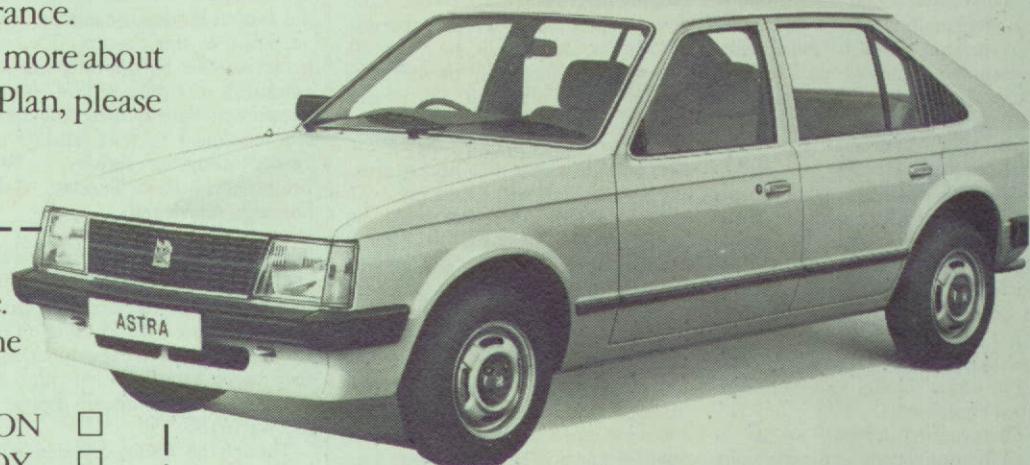
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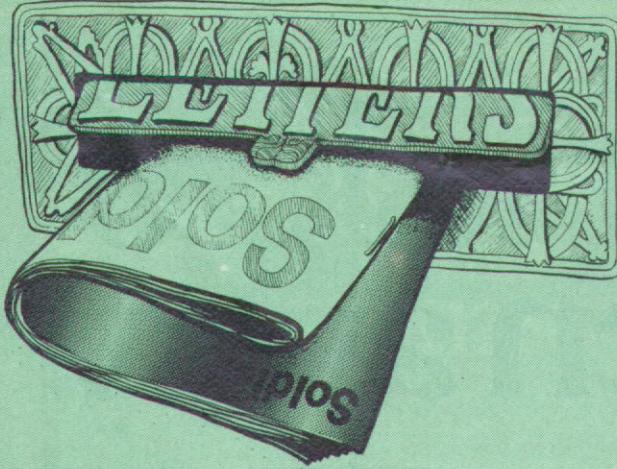
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Dunkirk debate

May I make a few observations on Mr Simpson's letter (January) 'Time for Truth'.

Whilst I agree on certain points, such as equipment, I totally refute the statement that Dunkirk was a 'disorganised rabble'.

The 26th-27th May was the final straw; the collapse of the Belgian Army left a 25-mile gap on the left flank of the BEF which was only plugged at the last moment by Lord Gort who moved the 3rd and 50th Divs through the BEF lines of communication to take up the defence of that sector. This, coupled with the loss of the base supply depot at Amiens, which put the British Forces on half rations (food and ammunition) and hemmed it in on three sides in a corridor about 10 miles wide, necessitated some weeding out of transport and heavy weapons.

I fully agree about the equipment of the BEF. The small arms were much the same as our fathers used in 1918, which made the evacuation of 330,000 troops all the more amazing.

I was a Regular soldier having just returned from India in 1939 and was attached to 19th Fd Regt RA, 1st Div 1st Corps. I can assure you that the 19th Fd Regt were at Brage Dunes 1st-2nd June with 22 guns out of 24 still in action (hardly a case of abandoned equipment).

'Disorganised rabble?' — no, it was a fighting retreat all the way from Louvain, with the threat of encirclement all the time hanging over one, but brought to a successful conclusion by the discipline of the fighting troops. The line was pushed back all the way but never broken. If it had been, the bulk of the BEF would have been PoWs. — F Faulkner, 16 Tavistock Road, Bolton, Lancs BL1 4SG.

As a pre-war Regular I agree with some of Mr Simpson's sentiments. I

was in Malta for Dunkirk, and Italy for 'D' Day, but, technically, went to war in Malta, (where the sun was really shining) with all my brasses highly polished. Woe betide you, if your brasses were dirty! Never mind about the enemy seeing you!

I could slope arms (and still could if required) like a guardsman, but had no field training, whatsoever. No pistol, grenade or bayonet training, except for fix and unfix. I got dirty looks (very) for advocating later: 'An officer, a WO, SSgt or Sgt, Cpl and/or L/Cpl, and driver/private, should, in my opinion, be sent to the nearest infantry battalion, for some real soldiering! When they pass (and stay there if they don't) another batch should go!' I nearly caused a riot! A supply sergeant (clerk) was very bitter as late as 1957 (I was demobbed in 1958). As Chief Clerk, he had to go on a ceremonial drill parade! The shock! I was all for it! On church parade, pre war, we were strapped up (in winter) in SD tunic (choker collar) and great coat (two hooks, neck, in each) belted, with side arms, with long puttees. If you fell over, you could not rise, unassisted. We could march, swing our arms and breathe — with difficulty!

If you could get some pre-war troops together, and ask about 'bull', you might get a shock. In the Guards, I think, you had to ask permission to speak sometimes. Conditions are much better now, of course, and I would still re-enlist, if possible. I was born in 1914. Any chance? — R J Shears, 51 Norwood Road, Leicester.

Drawn not towed

Your reporter Graham Smith, writing about the King's Troop, RHA in January, must be very much of this generation when he refers to guns being 'towed'. They were always 'drawn' in my day, by whatever animal, and I would have used that word

when it was a tractor.

Aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus. (The greatest writers are not always perfect.) — Major J W G Cocke (Retd), 1 South Side, Wimbledon Common, London, SW19 4TG.

Fresh-faced Graham Smith says: "Thank you for towing this to my attention! Poor marks for Latin syntax, though, Major. Surely maligned Horace, in his 'Art of Poetry', mused: 'Indignor quandoque bonus dormitat Homerus' ('I'm aggrieved when sometimes even excellent Homer nods')."

Brits Free Corps

With reference to Mr Bingham's letter (December) I was a PoW in Stalag VIIIA after capture at Anzio in Italy. I was later transferred to a propaganda camp at Genshagen (Berlin) for a 'holiday'. We occupants were from the countries of the then Commonwealth and were treated with every courtesy. Entertainment and food was liberally supplied, contact with civilians was possible and we met personalities like Max Schmeling. We were all aware that this treatment was softening up before the suggestion of the British Free Corps was put to us. During my stay at the camp nobody volunteered but during a visit to the dentist in Berlin a group of us saw five people in German uniform and a Union Jack emblem was worn by them.

I think I am correct in saying that the proposed British Free Corps was not a success and that the few who did volunteer were suitably punished on return to this country. This was made possible by the diligence and patriotism of a certain BSM 'Bunty' Brown who was captured at Dunkirk and continued to work against the enemy during his captivity. — W E Brighton, 14 Reid Terrace, Guisborough, Cleveland.

With regard to Mr Bingham's enquiry, some British PoWs did indeed serve in the German Armed Forces during World War Two. Along with other European nationals they were recruited not into the Army but into the 'foreign legions' of the Waffen-SS.

Though the Waffen-SS intended to raise a Division from British PoWs, by late 1944 no more than three platoons had been raised for the 'British Free Corps'. The 'Corps' uniform was identical to that worn by the German SS except for the addition of a Union Flag shield on the upper left arm, and the replacement of the SS runes on the collar patch by a three lion design.

The 'British Free Corps' was amalgamated into the Panzer-Grenadier Division 'Nordland' in March 1945. It is unlikely that many 'Free Corps' members survived the war, since in April the 'Nordland' Division was all but annihilated in the battle for Berlin. — David Carr, 56 Paddocks Lane, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 4NX.

Fighting spirit

Do any readers know whether the following Order, ascribed to an Australian artillery officer during a critical time in the Spring Offensive 1918 (possibly at Villers Bretonneux), is fact or legend, please?

The Spirit of the Gun: "This gun will face the enemy at all times; it will not be moved unless it goes forward; it will remain in action until the enemy retires; it will only stop firing when the last shell is fired or the crew dead." (The title was not part of the Order, and the wording of the latter is from memory only).

I consider it the very essence of implacable determination against overwhelming odds — true at the time — and in any event a fitting epitaph to the gunners who went west during what may fairly be called an 'Artillery Man's War'. Comments will be gratefully acknowledged. — J. Wilkinson, Hon Sec, FAITH, 56 Fall Birch Road, Lostock, Bolton, Lancs BN6 4LG.

Off course

Referring to my letter which you kindly published under the heading 'Riding the Off' (December), I have received letters direct from two readers confirming that the picture shown on the book cover was a reversal of the original painting. In fact this has been my own first thought on the matter. Further proof, if such were needed, of the military adage 'Time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted'. I should have known better!

However, I would still appreciate any information as to whether the off horses were ridden in a gun team by the RHA, probably in the early 1900s and in India. Experience of the teller persuades me that I was not told a barrack room yarn but I will concede that the tale could have emanated from someone's knowledge of the one time practice, in the Bengal Horse Artillery, of all the horses in a gun team being ridden as mentioned in my original letter. — James Ward, 9 Southfield Gardens West, Edinburgh EA15 1RL.

Murphy's record

I am trying to piece together the military record of my uncle, Sergeant John Vincent Murphy, 292854, 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. It is possible that there are still some veterans of pre-World War Two Palestine around but, more likely, veterans of the Italian campaign who may have known him.

I would welcome letters from anybody who may have known him and will refund postage involved. Further details that I have are: enlisted into the Regiment 3 Sep 1934; served during Palestine campaign 1936; purchased discharge circa 1937/38; recalled to the Colours 1939; died of wounds received whilst serving with the Central Mediterranean Forces 10 March 1944 and buried in Cassino War Cemetery. — Anthony J Murphy, 18 Hollingbury Place, Brighton.

Smash hits

I agree that Aldershot Army Display was a smash hit. It is right in the middle of Army land, near the M3 motorway and Rushmoor is a good arena with plenty of car parking areas — so why can't we have more Displays? Say one or two a year, if not more? Your Military Museums feature is also a smash hit. Keep up the action! — S Mountain, 44 Abbotsbury, Great-Hollands, Bracknell, Berkshire.

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Wings query

I have acquired a pair of parachutist's wings, but I should be very happy if any readers could enlighten me as to their origin.

They are 4cm long, enamel on brass, having red wings, white canopy and black cord and air space, with parachutist (brass) spread-eagled holding the cord ends. The letters G & Q in black are more or less central on either side of the chute cords. On the back is 'GQ Parachutist'.

I understand that these wings were given by the firm manufacturing the parachutes to each qualified man — presumably only a certain number, and in the early days of airborne forces — but I should like to know a lot more about them, in particular the date they first appeared. — Mrs R Stephen, 12 Wannock Close, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

Beating the drum

I belong to a group of enthusiasts who are all members of the Corps of Drums Society and serving members of the Regular or Territorial Army. We are anxious to record every aspect of the Corps of Drums with the aim of producing a book which would be of assistance to 'drummers' everywhere.

I am particularly keen to obtain photographs of individual drummers and flute players, and Corps of Drums. Any photographs sent would be well looked after and returned after perusal. — Major (QM) J A Barrow, DERR, The Junior Soldiers' Battalion, Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 6PF.

Reunions

14/28th Field Regiment RA. Annual dinner of the OCAs will take place at HQ Sgts Mess RA, Woolwich, on Sat 14 Nov. Names to Mr A Duffal, 30 Hillworth Road, Devizes, Wilts.

The York and Lancaster Regimental Association. Annual reunion on Sat 25 April at the Phoenix Rooms, Sheffield Road, Rotherham. Details from the Regimental Secretary, RHQ The York and Lancaster Regiment, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

Anyone who served at No 3 ITC, Gibraltar Barracks/West Lines, Bury St Edmunds 1945/46. Contact John H Ellis, Goddington House, Court Road, Orpington, Kent if interested in possible reunion this year.

The Royal Hussars (PWO). Annual Reunion at Barker's Penthouse Restaurant, Kensington at 7.15pm on Sat 2 May. Tickets from Home HQ The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Barracks, Winchester.

Competition

Most people worked out the name of the book — *Red Gauntlet* — and its author — Scott — in our 'Compass Points' competition (268). But getting all the answers to the clues right proved more difficult, even though there were possible alternatives in a few cases. Correct answers were: N/Briar; NNE/Badge; NE/Blood; ENE/Bhang (Bourg); E/Barra; ESE/Bantu; SE/Baron; SSE/Beget; S/

Babel; SSW/Baize (Beige); SW/Blast; WSW/Brass; W/Basic; WNW/Banjo (Bongo); NW/Beset; NNW/Boast.

Prizewinners: 1 WO2 F Lounes, 28 Atlanta Terrace, Pyne Nest, Halifax, W Yorks, HX2 7JN.

2 Mr C F Secker, 211 Durham Road, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland, TS19 0QA.

3 Mrs J L Kleyn, 19 Hollytree Gardens, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey.

4 Mr R Farley, 46 Flaxley Road, Selby, N Yorks, YO8 0BW.

5 Col R P Leake, Garrison Medical Centre, Arborfield, Reading, Berkshire.

6 Mr Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0AQ.

7 Major R O Nebel, 69 Farley Road, Selsdon, S Croydon, CR2 7NG.

8 Mr C G Andrews, 16 Blossom Waye, Heston, Hounslow, TW5 9HD.

How observant are you?

(see page 7)

- 1 Far left window pane.
- 2 Left shoulder-patch of left soldier.
- 3 Notch in shorts of player second from right.
- 4 Right stocking of fair-haired player.
- 5 Tie of spectator second from left.
- 6 Right cuff of spectator on right.
- 7 Nose of spectator second from left.
- 8 Left leg of shorts of player on right.
- 9 Neckline of vest of player second from right.
- 10 Mouth of player nearest net.

Collectors' corner

Mr M C Warden, 35 Beavers Crescent, Hounslow, Middx. TW4 6ET. Wants information and examples of British Army cloth and plastic cap badges issued for Northern Ireland. Will buy or exchange.

Gary Want, 128 Gravel Hill, Tile Hill South, Coventry, CV4 9JN. Seeks any regimental cap badges, especially RMP, Para Regt and the 22nd SAS (regulars and TAs).

H J Pike, 35 Hauteville, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Wants Canadian Expeditionary Forces badges, numbers: 9, 12, 34, 40, 42, 48, 64, 71, 73, 80, 84, 86, 95, 105, 114, 118, 122, 135, 141, 143, 146, 152, 155, 157, 160, 162, 167-169, 177, 179, 182-184, 186, 189-191, 194, 197, 201-203, 205, 209, 211, 212, 214, 215, 218, 219, 225, 230, 233, 234, 236, 239, 240, 242-244, 247, 248, 250-256, 258, Battalion.

Military Heraldry Society: Formed in 1951 to enable collectors and others interested in cloth formation signs to get together to exchange information and material. Four journals published each year. Apply for application form to the Publicity Officer, Military Heraldry Society, 37 Wolsey Close, Southall, Middx, UB2 4NQ.

T Weston, 65 Spitfire Close, Princes Park, Chatham, Kent. Has books for exchange: 'Down Ramps' (History of Landing Craft), 'History of the Royal Sussex Regt' (1701-1926) plus four books by 'Gun Buster': 'Victory Salvo', 'Zero Hours', 'Return (via) Dunkirk', 'Battle Dress'. Wishes to exchange for collar badges, shoulder title brass or A/A

See-the-Army

DIARY

This month we welcome back our popular feature that keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, parades, displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. The people who collate and compile this information for us have had some problems this year and the list of events below is only a preliminary one. We shall be adding more events and more details in the months ahead. Events are sometimes altered, postponed or cancelled however so please check with local organisers before setting out. We hope too that organisers will advise us of any changes so that we can keep readers fully in the picture.

MAY 1981

23 International Clan Gathering, Edinburgh (23-30 May)
30 Rehearsals for Queen's Birthday Parade (30 May; 6 June)

JUNE 1981

9 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards Parade: Queen's Division and Household Division (9-11 June)
13 Queen's Birthday Parade
14 Glencorse Open Day (Scottish Infantry Depot)
20 City of Leicester Tattoo
23 Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh (23-26 June)
27 Wembley Military Musical Pageant (40 bands, Corps of Drums, Pipes and Drums) (27 evening — 28 afternoon June)

JULY 1981

1 Royal Norfolk Show (1-2 July)
10 Southampton Show (10-12 July)
11 Royal British Legion, Scotland, Royal Review Holyrood Park for Her Majesty, The Queen.
15 Royal Tournament (Massed Bands, Royal Signals Band, Netherlands Marine Corps Band, Display teams: Field Guns, Kings Troop, White Helmets, RAF Queen's Colour Squadron. (15 July-1 Aug)
24 Northampton Show (24-26 July)

AUGUST 1981

6 Cardiff Tattoo (6-15 August)
12 Edinburgh Tattoo Bands of Scots Guards, Royal Highland Fusiliers, Black Watch, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and 1 Para. (12 Aug-5 Sep)
14 Reading Show (14-15 Aug)

of Welch, SWB, RWF, Monmouthshire Regt.

Mr Walter Barrington, 103 Cremer, St Mary's Road, Eccles, Manchester. Has (for exchange only) genuine cap badges, H/M SIL Connaught Rangers, Firm & Son 1918, H/M SIL Army Air Corps, Gaunt & Son 1942. CEF 126 Peel-157, Simcoe Foresters, OTC Barnard Castle, OTC OSD St Lawrence Ramsgate. Wants volunteer items, Loyal N Lancashire Regt.

SFC Mike Johnson, Btry A, 2 Bn, 56th ADA, APO New York 09095 or 27 Romerweg Apt A-3, 6728 Germersheim, West Germany. Requires following Nato Command Badges: Maritime Air Forces Mediterranean (metal), Mediterranean Northeast (metal and cloth), Fifth-Allied Tactical Air Force (metal and cloth). Benelux Sub-Area (metal), United Kingdom Air Forces (metal), Programme Training Center (metal); Stand-

ing Naval Forces Channel (metal), Allied Land Forces Zealand (metal and cloth), Nato Schools. Also wants information on all Nato Commands and their badges. Can copy and return originals.

Bill Duggan, 21 Essex Walk, Walcot, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 3EY. Wishes to swap anodised Innis Fus cap badge for same of any Lancashire Regiment (pre-amalgamation) barring E Lancs — good condition please.

Peter H Starling, 2 Pendlebury House, Master Gunner Place, Woolwich, SE18 4NQ. Wants all military insignia of Sultanate of Oman. Especially cap badges, metal shoulder titles and para wings. Willing to purchase.

T M Bradshaw, 2 Vicarage Gardens, Farset, Peterborough, PE7 3AW. Requires formation signs for 1st, 2nd, 10th and 79th Armoured Divs, also 8 Corps and 12 Corps. Will pay reasonable price.



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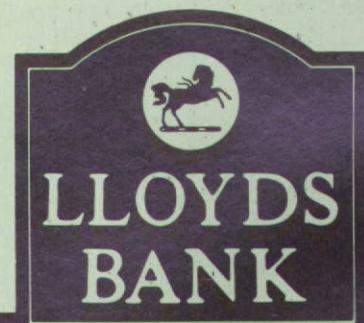
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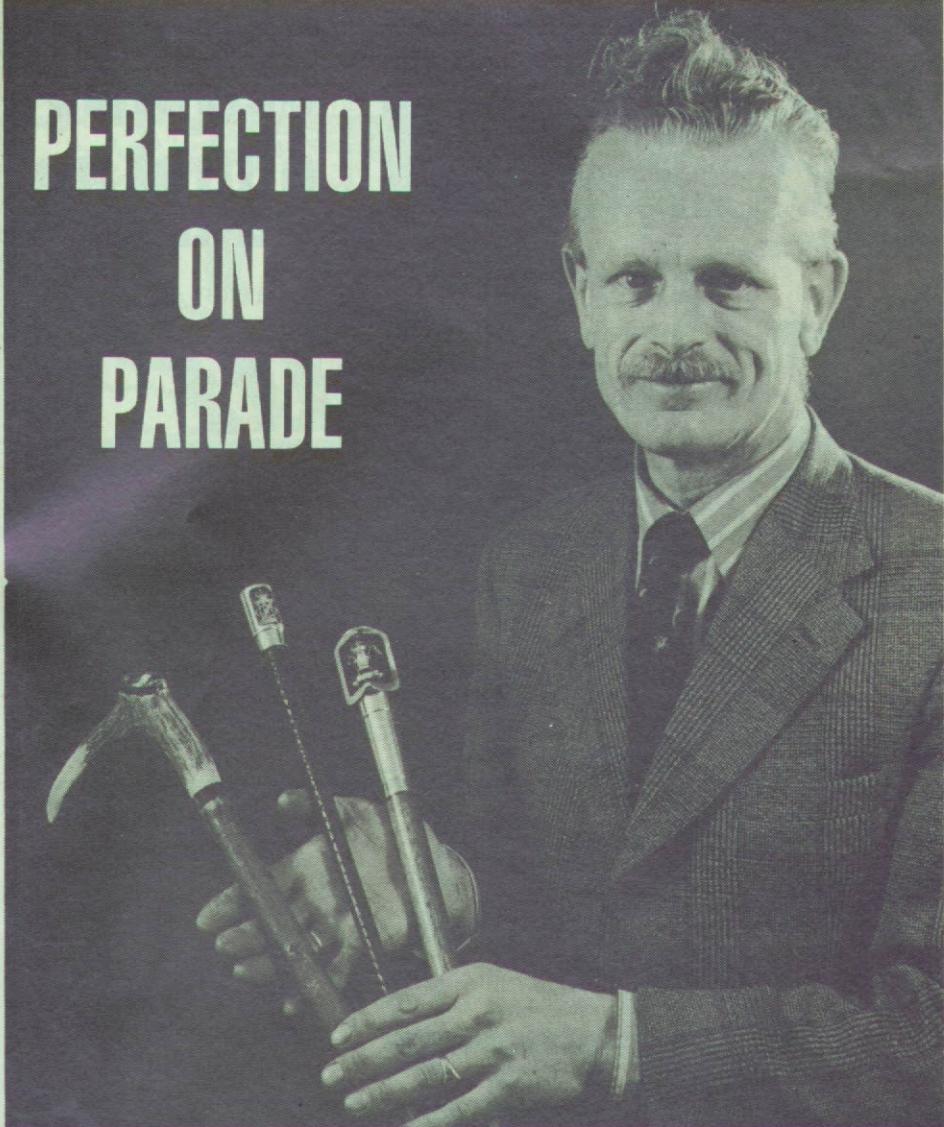
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PERFECTION ON PARADE



A 49-YEAR-OLD ACCOUNTANT from Escrick, near York, has been giving the Army a 'lot of stick' for the past year — and the arrangement has been mutually enjoyable.

For Mr Peter Wiles, a former RMP National Serviceman and a one-time 'Terrier' for ten years, has an unusual but profitable hobby — he makes personalised drill

Story: Graham Smith

and parade sticks from rosewood with alloy heads incorporating regimental badges.

It all started when he visited Bovington to see his two sons — Stuart and Robert — in a Junior Leaders Regiment parade.

"There were two stick orderlies and two silver guards on the particular parade and

they were all carrying different parade sticks," Mr Wiles recalls. "The four lance orderlies, by comparison, were carrying matching lances. I decided then and there that I would present four matching drill sticks to the JLR at Bovington. The making of sticks really took off from there."

Since then, Mr Wiles has made more than three dozen specially-ordered sticks for satisfied customers with the likely promise of many more to come to grace parade squares at home and overseas.

Each stick is made from rosewood and tipped by heat forging of a high duty alloy onto which the badges — either singly or in groups of four — are painstakingly added.

The rosewood is bought by Mr Wiles from a timber merchant. Each three-foot length sets him back about £5 and, when finished, he sells the ten-ounce pieces of polished craftsmanship for about £35 to £40 each. About eight hours' work goes into each one and many of the sticks, in their presentation walnut cases, end up being kept with the regimental silver.

Among the regiments who already have samples of Mr Wiles' work are the Royal Tank Regiment, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, The Queen's Dragoon Guards; 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, 9th/12th Royal Lancers, The Life Guards and the Army Air Corps.

Mr Wiles thinks he is the only man in the country to make such personalised drill sticks. And his talents do not stop there. He makes walking sticks from ash wood topped by stag's horn handles — retailing at about £16 to £17 — the horn taken from fallow deer and embellished with regimental badges, and leather riding crops, again sporting regimental insignia.

Once he gets a commission, he sends for the regimental badge and sets to work in his spare time. The average delivery time for one of his parade sticks is about seven to ten days. One of the longest tasks is to place four badges on the alloy head of the stick.

"I suppose the sticks will take on special value in years to come because of their rarity and individual nature," said Mr Wiles, "and just to make sure I have been down to the Patent Office!"

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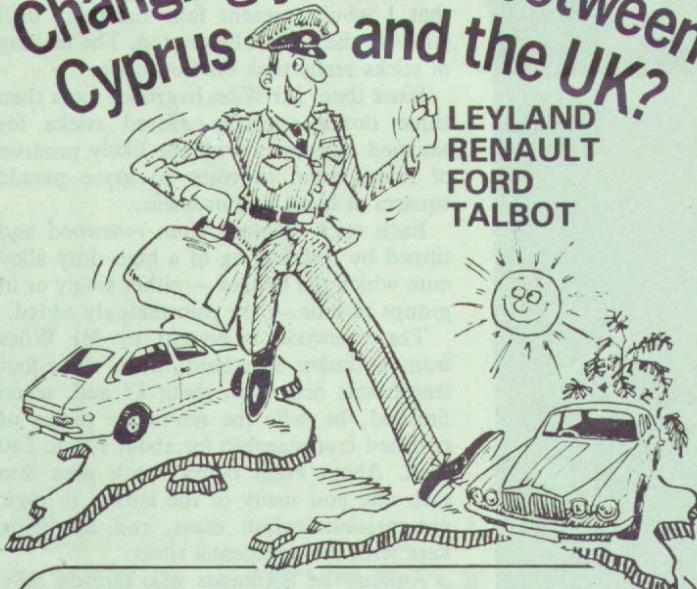
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COMPETITION 271

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW the Army's current corps and regimental badges?

On the left are sections from eight different badges but each contains enough detail for you to identify the whole. When you've worked them all out just answer one further question: Which current badges (not necessarily shown here) bear the names of foreign countries?

The competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday, 4 May. The answer and winners' names will appear in the July issue of SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 271' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Send your answers by postcard or letter with the Competition 271 label from this page and your name and address to:

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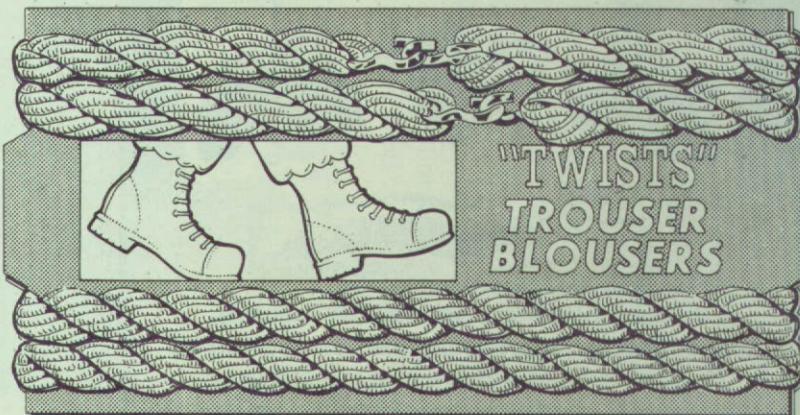
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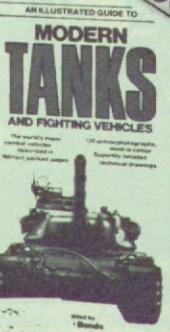
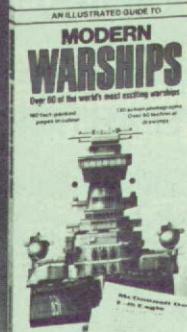
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