



DECEMBER 1971 ★ 7½p

# **SOLDIER**



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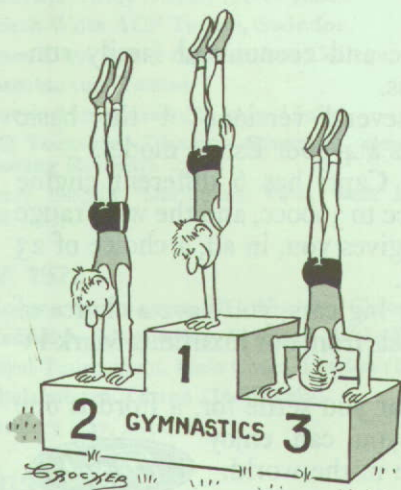
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Editor: PETER N WOOD  
Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH  
Research: JOHN JESSE

Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS

Photographers: ARTHUR BLUNDELL, MARTIN ADAM  
Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD  
Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD

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S3

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# ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ **SEE - THE - ARMY** **DIARY**

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

## **MARCH 1972**

200th anniversary, Corps of Royal Engineers.

6 Royal Engineers bi-centenary parade, Gibraltar.

## **APRIL 1972**

22 Perth Festival (bands).

27 Irvine Tattoo.

## **MAY 1972**

13 Allied Forces Day, Berlin (bands).

20 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade London.

27 Second (dress) rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.

27 Tidworth Tattoo (27-29 May).

## **JUNE 1972**

3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.

10 Catterick Open Day.

17 Aldershot Army Display (17-18 June).

17 North Wilts ACF Tattoo, Swindon.

17 Open Day, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.

24 Dumbarton Tattoo.

26 Dover Army Week (26 June-1 July).

30 HQ Yorkshire District, Strensall, closes (massed bands, beating Retreat).

30 Army Display, Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich (30 June, 1-2 July).

## **JULY 1972**

8 Closure ceremonies, HQ Western Command, Chester.

10 Massed bands display, Larkhill (10-11 July).

12 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (12-29 July).

14 Cheltenham Tattoo (14-15 July).

15 Artillery Day, Larkhill.

## **AUGUST 1972**

2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).

4 Nottingham Army Display (4-6 August).

6 Old Contemptibles Association annual parade and service, Aldershot.

18 Edinburgh Tattoo (18 August-9 September).

## **SEPTEMBER 1972**

14 Carlisle Tattoo (14-16 September).

15 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (15-16 September).

## **NOVEMBER 1972**

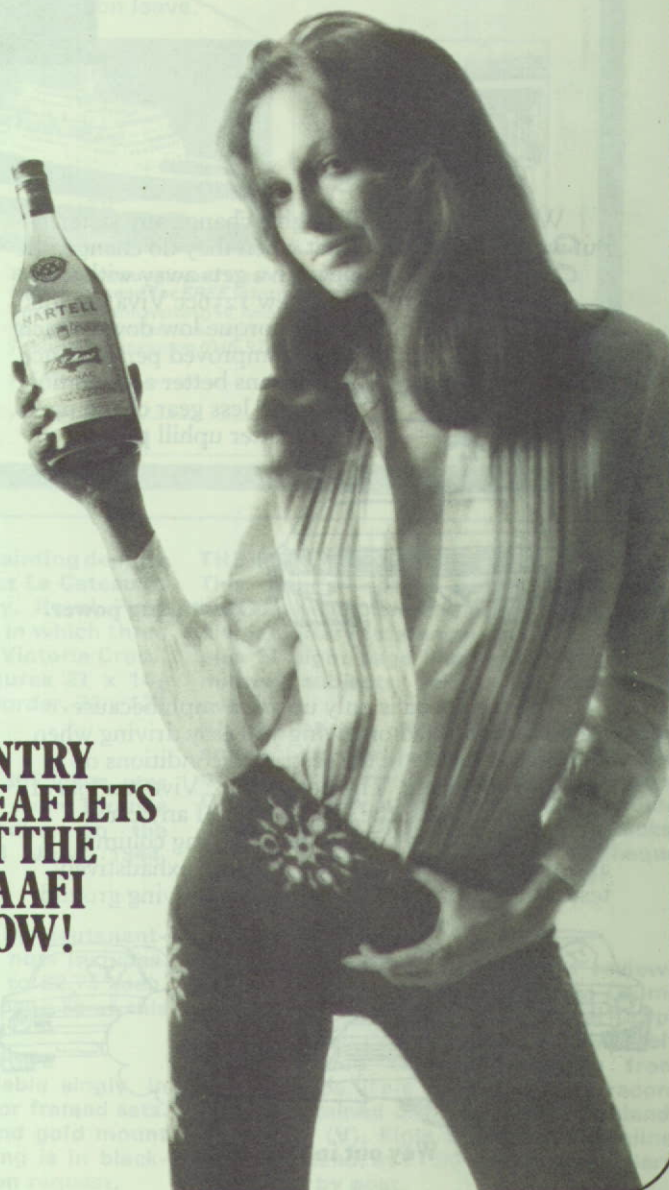
11 Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.

12 Remembrance Sunday.

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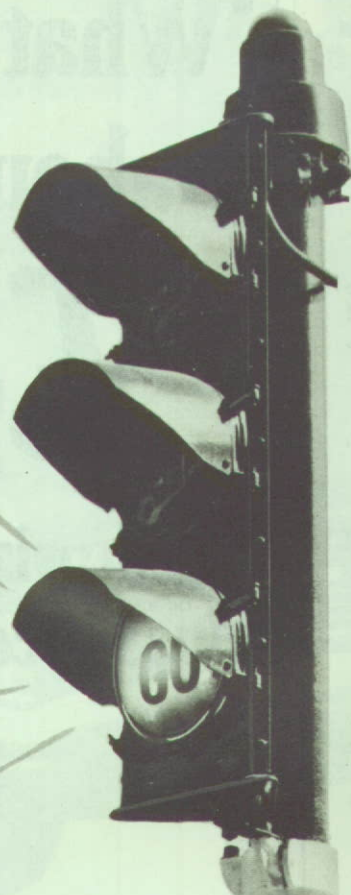
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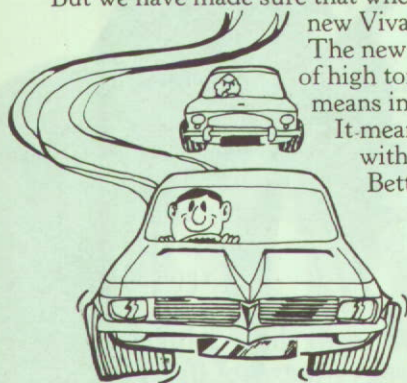
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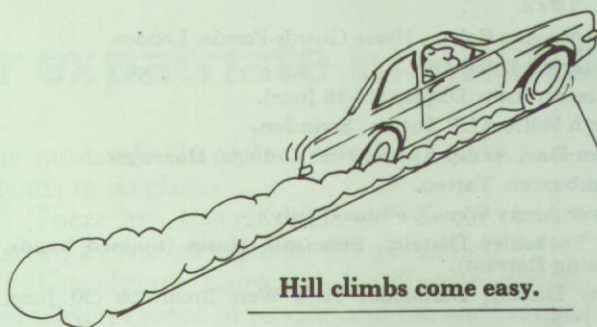


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## SOLDIER to Soldier

Because of the Army's commitments, particularly in Northern Ireland, four infantry battalions are being re-formed from independent companies. They are 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards; 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, and 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

Originally six battalions faced amalgamation or disbandment. The Royal Hampshires were to amalgamate with The Gloucestershire Regiment in September 1970 and the Argylls elected to disband two months later.

Then came a "qualified" reprieve under which five of the battalions could elect for reduction to company strength instead of disbandment. The Glosters and Royal Hampshires decided not to amalgamate, the Glosters remaining as a battalion and the Hampshires reducing to an independent company—1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Minden Company.

The Argylls reduced to 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's Own), Balaklava Company, in January at Stirling Castle in the presence of the Queen, their Colonel-in-Chief.

The Scots Guards' 2nd Battalion was to have gone into suspended animation in March this year but remained as 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, Company.

Formerly due for disbandment in March 1972, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, paraded for the last time at Tidworth in June when the regiment reorganised into 1st and 2nd battalions and the new unit, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets Representative Company.

The other two battalions which reduced to company strength last year—4th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and 4th Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, are not affected by this latest reorganisation and therefore continue as independent companies. Respectively they are The Royal Anglian Regiment Tiger Company and 4th Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, Albuhera Company.



There's still just time for that last-minute Christmas shopping. Let SOLDIER solve the problem for you with these suggestions:

### SUBSCRIPTION TO SOLDIER

One year, £1.05; two years, £2.00; three years, £2.88. A subscription can start retrospectively, currently or in the future.

### SOLDIER BINDER

Easibinder Mk II, 63p. This holds 12 issues by metal rods and has a red leathercloth spine and milskin covers with the magazine title in gold and a panel for adding volume number and year. The Easibinder keeps copies in mint condition and the pages readily flatten out for easy reading.

### "THE GERMANS SURRENDER"

Full-colour print 27½ by 21½ inches and overall, including white border, 32 by 28 inches. This is a reproduction of an original oil painting by Terence T Cuneo, based on a wartime photograph, of Field-Marshal Montgomery receiving the surrender of the German commanders at Luneburg Heath on 4 May 1945. Price £5.00.

### "CALAIS 1940"

From another Cuneo original, of the Calais battle in which The Royal Green Jackets bore the lion's share. This full-colour print measures 16 x 11½ inches and is set within a white border. Price £1.00.

### "SAVING THE GUNS"

Commissioned from Terence Cuneo by the

Royal Artillery, the original painting depicts the World War One action at Le Cateau in which 37 Howitzer Battery, Royal Field Artillery, saved its guns and in which three men of the battery won the Victoria Cross. This full-colour print measures 21 x 14½ inches and, with its white border, 23 x 17½ inches. Price £2.10.

### "D-DAY"

This full-colour print, 20 by 30 inches, was commissioned by SOLDIER from Terence Cuneo and depicts a landing on the Normandy beaches on 6 June 1944. Price £1.00.

### "FAMOUS REGIMENTS"

This series of books edited by Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks now includes 39 titles. Prices from £1.25 to £2.75 each. Full details and coupon on page 53 of this issue.

### BRITISH MILITARY UNIFORMS

A series of 18 prints available singly, in sets of six, as framed pairs or framed sets. Prints have a blue, black and gold mount and historical notes. Framing is in black-and-gold Hogarth. Details on request.

# \*REDUCED FARES

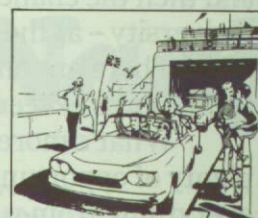
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### THE ARMY DIARY 1972

This year's special offer—handsomely bound, with planning pages, page-a-day diary, military references and information, plus 11 eight-page illustrated features on military subjects. Price £3.00 UK, £2.50 overseas.

All the above prices including postage and packing worldwide. Rates in currencies other than sterling available on application. Orders for any of the above items should be sent to SOLDIER (X), Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hants, accompanied by cheque on UK bank, postal or money order.



In the October SOLDIER record reviews it was stated that "The Pipes and Drums of 153 (Highland) Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers)," a "privately made" stereo LP, was available from music shops. This is not so. The record can be obtained only from 153 (Highland) Regt RCT (V), Elgin Street, Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, at £1.80 to personal callers, and £2.00 by post.



# This year, shouldn't your son be trying for Welbeck College?

If he's up to 'O' levels, and he's interested in Maths and Physics, maybe he should. But it depends on what you want for him, and what he wants for himself.

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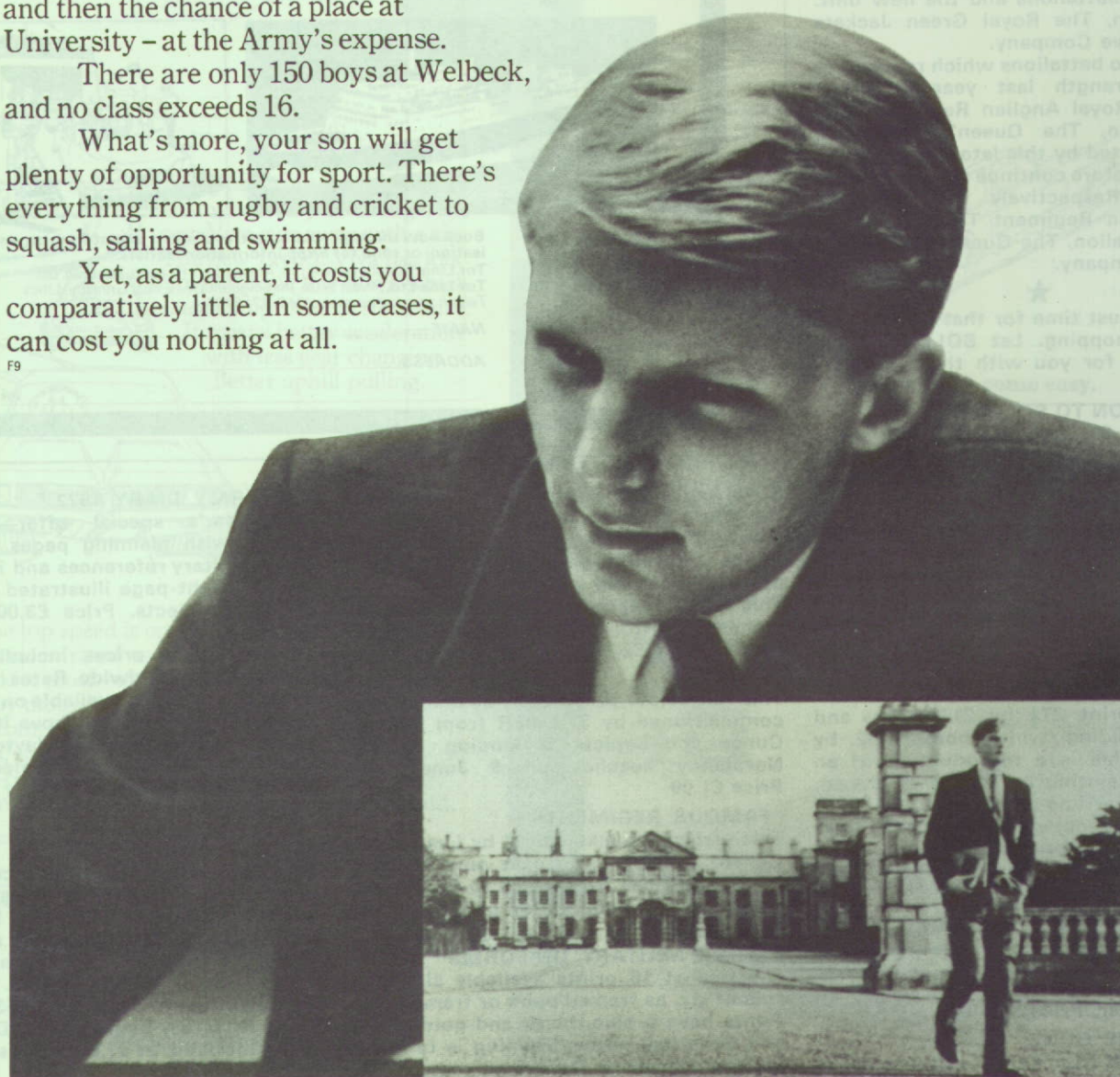
So talk it over with your son and see how he feels about it.

Applications for entry in September 1972 must be in by 10th January 1972.

Boys born between 1st July 1955 and 1st December 1956 are eligible for entry.

Your son should be up to 'O' level (or equivalent) in Maths, a Science which includes Physics, English Language, and some other subjects, of which Chemistry and a foreign language are desirable.

**For more details of Welbeck, write to the Bursar, Dept. 2109, Welbeck College, Worksop, Notts.**





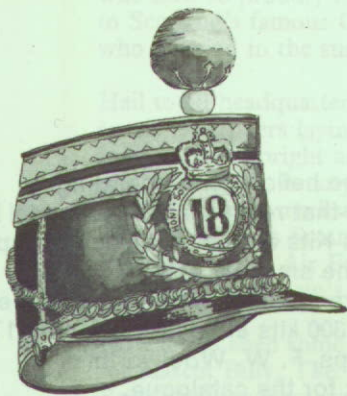
## 1869-1878 pattern infantry shako

The 1869-78 pattern shako was copied from the contemporary French shako and was introduced for wear by the British Army on 1 June 1869.

Its body, made of blue cloth for regular infantry and of green cloth for light infantry, measured four inches high in the front and 6½ inches at the back. The shako was ornamented with gold braid a quarter-inch wide round the bottom, up the side and back and in two lines round the top.

The shako differed slightly when worn by officers of field rank in that majors had a line of half-inch gold lace instead of the top line of braid and colonels and lieutenant-colonels replaced both rows of braid with two rows of half-inch lace.

The chin chain was of half-inch wide gilt interlocking rings backed with black velvet and was attached to the shako by means of gilt rosettes at either side. The back of the



shako was ornamented with a gilt lion head and hook on to which the chin chain could be fastened when not required to be worn under the chin.

A ball tuft was worn in a gilt metal holder on the top front of the shako. Colours were as follows: Royal regiments and the 46th Regiment, red; light infantry, black; all others, red and white.

The shako plate was in the design of a wreath of laurels surmounted by a crown with, in the centre, the regimental number, pierced out, surrounded by the Garter belt and royal motto.

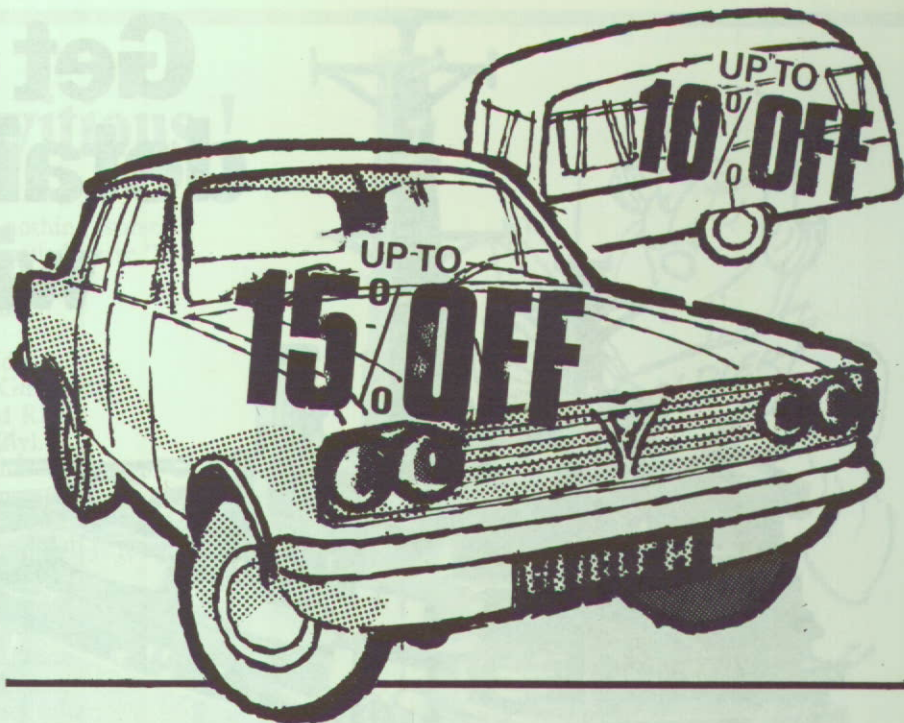
The following regiments included devices on their plates as well as numbers: 1st Regiment, royal cypher and crown within the Garter of St Andrew; 2nd Regiment, lamb in silver; 3rd Regiment, dragon in gilt; 4th Regiment, lion in gilt; 6th Regiment, antelope in silver; 8th and 14th Regiments, white horse in silver.

9th Regiment, Britannia in silver; 10th Regiment, sphinx and "Egypt" in silver; 17th Regiment, tiger in silver; 18th Regiment, harp and crown in silver; 27th Regiment, castle in silver; 41st, 77th, 100th Regiments, Prince of Wales's plume in silver; 98th Regiment, Chinese dragon in silver.

In addition to the above the 28th Regiment wore a small gilt plate with the number on the rear of the shako.

Although superseded by the home service helmet (SOLDIER January 1971) the shako was worn by depot companies until 1881.

C Wilkinson-Latham



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State model.....
- ☐ New touring caravan
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- ☐ Deposit saving (to enable me to build up a deposit for a future purchase)

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Please tick whichever applies

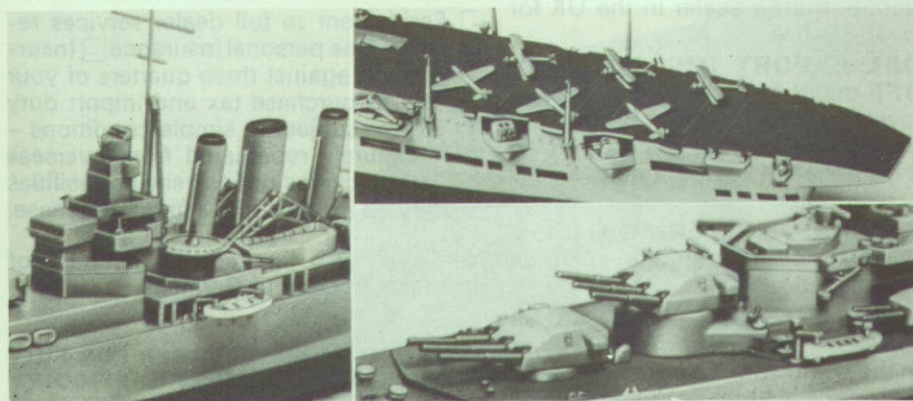


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Left: Suffolk. Bottom Right: Scharnhorst. Top Right: Ark Royal.



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# Propitious witious !

As Shakespeare said, "There's nothing worse than SOLDIER's annual mis-spelled verse."  
But never mind, at least we rhyme  
and after all it's Christmas thyme!

So let us send our greetings wide  
to Venture Corps, Boy Scout, Girl Gide,  
to junior tradesman (Troon and Rhyl),  
Cadet Force—every Jack and Jhyl.  
And here's a greeting to the other Times—of Omagh  
(With the Lancers now in Germany, surely a misnomagh?)  
The very best to everyone, from Derry to Ardoyne  
where every night is gelignight and all is tough hard goyne.

Hail to all Nijmegen marchers  
(troubled not by fallen archers)  
and those who follow a kindred cause  
in Welsh 3000s, Devon's Ten Tause.  
Well done you men who, without falter,  
climbed the north face of Gibraltar.

Congratulations too to Yorkshire Volunteers  
who now so proudly march with Mk 1 Colours new,  
to Scotland's famous Greys and dashing Carabineers  
who married in the summer with panache and dazzling hew.

Hail to all headquarter types,  
specialist sappers laying pypes,  
junior leaders bright and keen,  
mascot, pin-up, beauty qeen.  
Hail to Bisley's marksmen true,  
Army Air Corps Scout and Siue.  
Welcome too to Air Force Puma—  
and long live Britain's sense of huma.

Now let us shed some passing tears  
for mascot Billy, The Welch Fusiliers.  
Recall with sadness tinged with pride  
the Far East saga. Dewy-ide  
remember too the Middle East  
and here again a labour ceast.

Hail to Kingsman, Sapper, Ranger,  
Gunner, Sergeant, Craftsman, Mager,  
Trooper, Driver, Fusilier,  
whether stationed far or nier;  
professionals all, bereft of fier.  
The British soldier—without pier.

Greetings to the Dental Corps  
on reaching 50 years; and morps  
good wishes too to good old Naafi  
with thanks for shop and club and caafi.

Hail to all who work with other nations  
(lesson one is not to show impations)—  
ALFSOUTH, NORTHAG, SEATO, Bonn,  
SHAPE and AFCENT, greetings everyonn!

Spare a Christmas wish for our soldiers in Honduras,  
think indeed of all the troops who steadfastly assuras  
of peace in which to spend protected leisure  
this happy Christmas-tide in thankful pleisure.

PNW



...as Shakespeare  
said...



Nijmegen  
marchers...



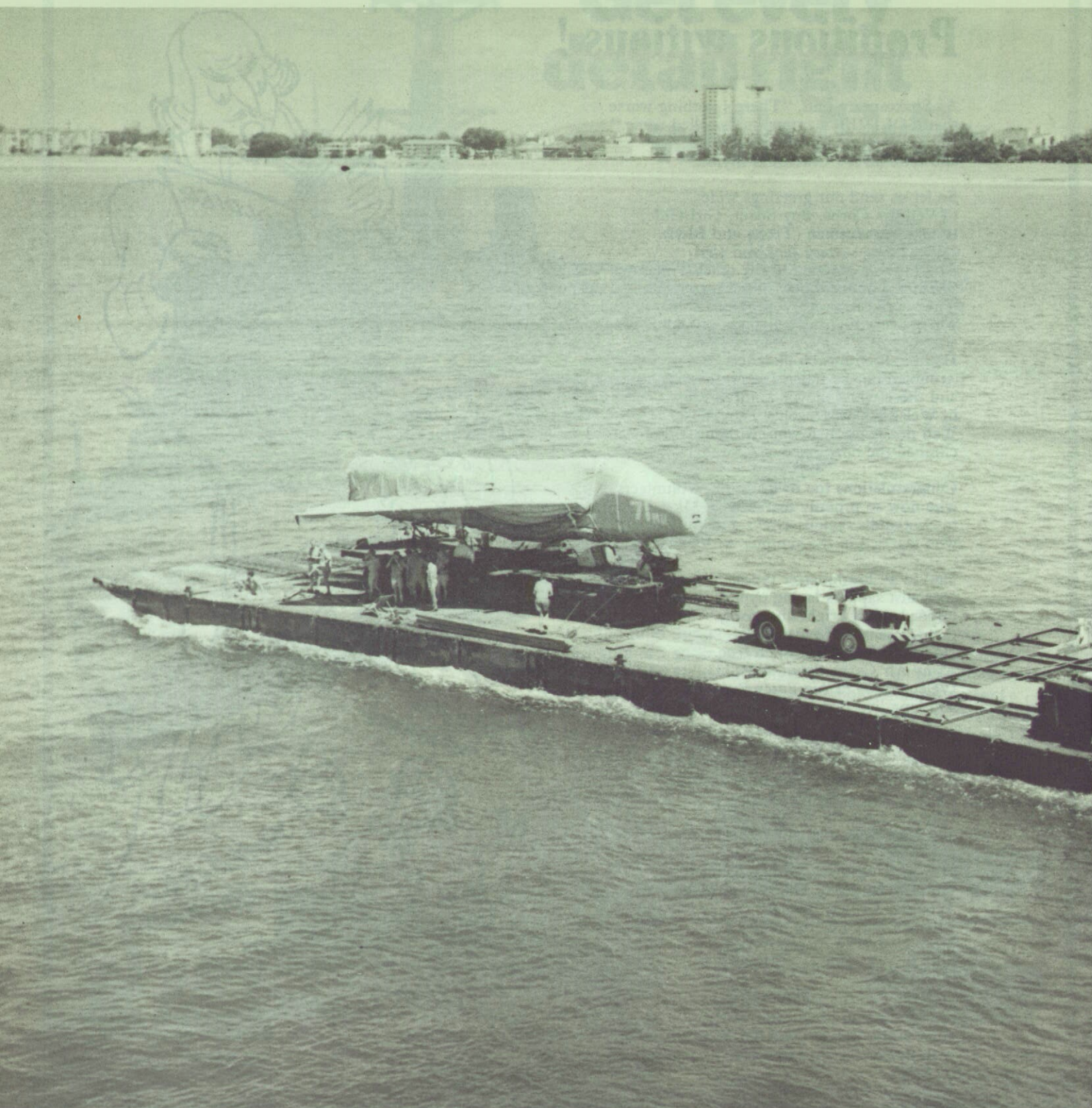
well done  
you men...

Specialist sappers



Dental Corps...





## “END OF A CHAPTER”

**Q**UIETLY, but with lavish use of the well-worn cliché “end of a chapter,” Far East Land Forces closed down on 1 November. On the same day Far East Command, Far East Fleet and Far East Air Force also went out of business.

For Far East Land Forces it had been a three-year rundown. The command shed its responsibility for Hong Kong in April 1970. It removed its units from West Malaysia until by the middle of this year there was little left apart from the Jungle Warfare School in Johore—this will be handed over to Malaysia this month. The remainder had

concentrated in Singapore around the great base which was itself being methodically reduced.

The chapter started when Allied Land Forces, South-East Asia, moved in as part of South-East Asia Command and began restoring peacetime order after the Japanese surrender in 1945. To support the postwar role of the Army in the Far East a new base was planned in Singapore which would replace the installations left behind when the British left India in 1947.

Most of the new buildings for the base were on 2600 acres of old rubber plantation

in the Pasir Panjang area. Stores, workshops, barracks, quarters and all the amenities to go with them were built. These included playing fields in which every root of grass had to be planted by hand because Singapore's heavy rainstorms would have washed seed into patches.

The new buildings were conveniently near the pre-war military hospital, the ordnance depot and Gillman Barracks (where 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment, made an historic last stand against the Japanese in 1942).

The base earned its keep. It supported

Unfit to fly, the last Lightning of Far East Air Force—a two-seater trainer—was ferried out (left) to a cargo ship on a Mexeflote of Far East Maritime Troop, Royal Corps of Transport. The Mexeflote picked up the Lightning over the beach from RAF Tengah which has now become a Singapore Armed Forces base though retaining an RAF support unit to service aircraft on training flights or exercises.

Right, Corporal Lim Kok Heng (left), of 5th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment, and Rifleman Santabhadur Thapa, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, test the sharpness of kukri and bayonet—an informal moment during the Gurkha handover of Slim Barracks to the local regiment.

On behalf of the Buddhist Union the Venerable Dhammarakshita receives from Brigadier Denis O'Flaherty, Singapore Area commander, a cheque for 3164.30 Malaysian dollars. It was one of ten cheques presented to Singaporean charities from redundant funds of the Thrift and Loan Society of the disbanded British Army Department Police.

Below: Students on the last instructors' course at the Jungle Warfare School learn how to cross a river. They included the advance party of Anzok's 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers.





troops in the Malayan Emergency and the Confrontation in Borneo and those who took part in the Korean War, as well as many lesser activities. The last operation mounted from Singapore was relief to the flood-stricken areas of East Pakistan at the end of last year—an appropriate finale to the benevolent role the British Services have played in the Far East.

Now it is over. The last Army combat unit, 1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, moved out at the end of September leaving Farelf 40 Commando Group, Royal Marines, for a few weeks before the commandos came under Royal Navy control. The Gurkhas gave up Slim Barracks, which had been their "home" since 1949, occupied alternately by 1st and 2nd battalions of the 2nd Gurkhas. About 4000 2nd Gurkha babies were born there over the 22 years; some of them grew up and returned to the barracks as young soldiers in their fathers' regiment.

By the end of October most of the base had been handed over to the Singaporean authorities. Those units which had not moved away had been disbanded.

There remained a few winding-up services. At 3 Base Ordnance Depot, which had ceased issuing stores, materiel was still being taken in from units. The people who were to hand over real estate, pay bills or settle the affairs of the last local civilian employees, were still functioning. But by Christmas the last uniformed member of Farelf will have gone.

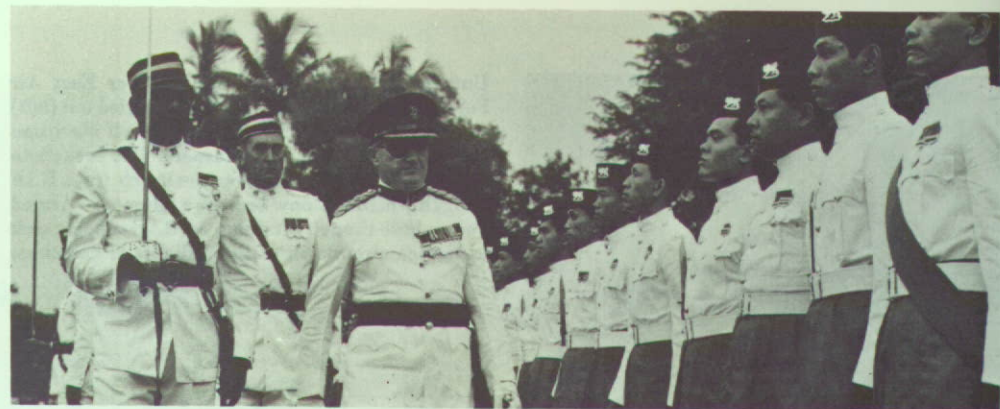


Above: Final issue from 3 Base Ordnance Depot—by its commandant, Colonel Geoffrey Parsons.

## Introducing ANZUK

ANZUK (Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom), born as Farelf died, is a new kind of tri-nation, tri-Service military organisation. It is a result of the decision by the three countries that they can contribute to the stability of South-East Asia by stationing forces there. The forces are to operate within the framework of the Five Power arrangement, in which the other two partners are Malaysia and Singapore. If one of the nations considers itself threatened with external aggression, the Five will consult on what joint action to take.

Anzuk itself is an administrative convenience, not an independent force. Because Australia, New Zealand and Britain have the problems of stationing troops overseas, which are not shared by Malaysia and Singapore, their forces are being linked for economy and efficiency. There will be a tri-national, tri-service headquarters in which the senior posts will be held in turn by officers of the



All but a handful of the men on parade wore at least one medal when, a fortnight before its disbandment, the 23-year-old Singapore Guard Regiment staged its farewell at Colombo Camp, Singapore. Brigadier Denis O'Flaherty, Singapore Area commander, inspected the regiment (above) and presented four Long Service and Good Conduct medals. The flag was then ceremonially lowered. The regiment was born as the Locally Enlisted Personnel Guard Unit (Royal Military Police) in Selarang Barracks with men transferred from the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps and a nucleus of old soldiers from

former Malayan and Singaporean units. It took its present title in 1955 when it severed its connection with the military police but retained the red *songkok* and whistle and chain as a reminder of its origins. For seven years during the Malayan Emergency the regiment provided detachments for operations in Malaya and it grew to five companies. From 1960 to 1963, detachments served on pioneer duties in Sabah and from 1964 to the end of Confrontation there were operational detachments in Sarawak. Over the past two years of rundown the regiment had been engaged on guard duties at Terendak and Kluang as well as in Singapore.



It was champagne for all when the adventurous ten of 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, reached Singapore aboard the landing ship *Sir Lancelot*. The adjutant, Captain Patrick Channer (left), was there to greet them after their 7600-mile drive across Europe and Asia to Calcutta and *Sir Lancelot*. Led by Lieutenant Angus Ramsay (centre, back, with glasses), the party left Dover 15 strong with four Land-Rovers, two trailers and two Minis-mokes. Two days later a burst tyre caused a crash and fire in which three were injured and

sent back to Britain. In Greece a nine-year-old Land-Rover gave signs of age and Lieutenant Paul Strutt returned with it to Dover. A lost passport in Turkey prevented Fusilier McCorquodale from crossing the Iranian border and he too set off home. In some parts of India the vehicles had to be manhandled through mud but the party survived in spite of all difficulties and reached Calcutta in four-and-a-half weeks.

Picture above shows a recalcitrant Land-Rover getting a push after off-loading at Singapore.

three countries. The first commander is an Australian, Vice-Admiral David Wells. In the same way, command of the land and sea components and the support group will "rotate" between the three countries.

The land component will be 28th Anzuk Brigade, direct successor to the old 28th Commonwealth Brigade. Its first commander is a Briton, Brigadier Mike Walsh, who earned the DSO in command of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Aden.

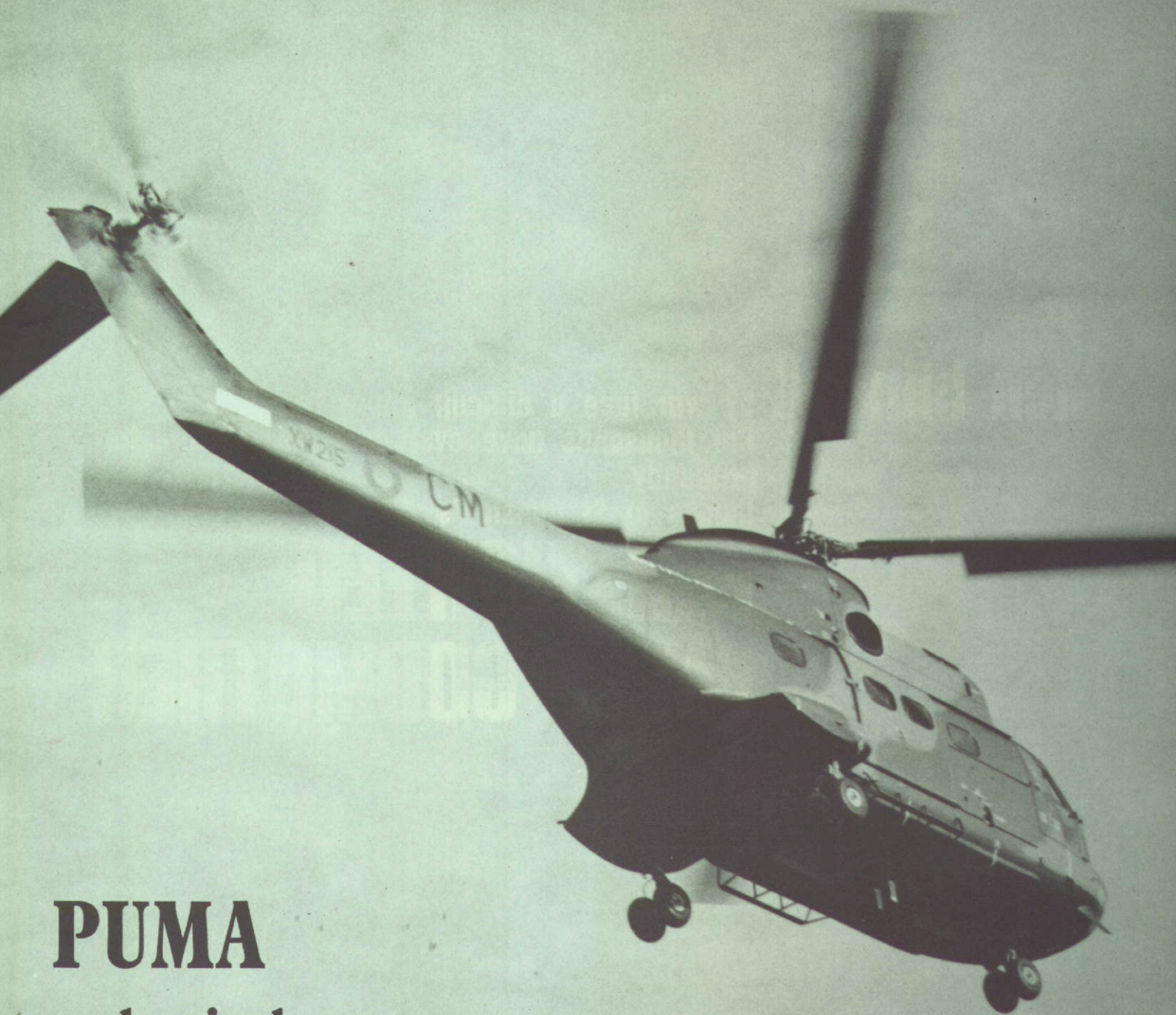
Britain's contribution to the land forces totals about 1400 men including 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers; 1 Light Battery (The Blazers), Royal Artillery; a troop of Royal Engineers and an air platoon, which are part of the brigade. In the brigade and the Anzuk support group, British troops work alongside Australians and New Zealanders in joint medical, ordnance, transport and other support units.

Anzuk's headquarters have been established at the naval base, part of which will also be used by the Anzuk naval component. The brigade headquarters and part of the brigade, including 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, and 1st Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, are to be accommodated in Sembawang, a modern camp which used to be known as HMS Simbang and was the Far East Fleet's amphibious forces base, accommodating 3rd Commando Brigade.

The Royal Highland Fusiliers and other troops of the land component are next door in Nee Soon Barracks, long famous as the Far East Training Centre and a transit camp and now modernised for their new role.

In addition to the British troops resident in Singapore, about 3000 a year will visit Johore from Britain and Hong Kong to train at the Jungle Warfare School which will be run by the Malaysian Army.





# PUMA

## makes its bow

**P**UMA, the first Anglo-French aircraft to enter service with the Royal Air Force—it will soon be followed by the Jaguar—is now fully operational in 33 Squadron at RAF Odiham.

The squadron, re-formed after temporary disbandment, has 13 Puma helicopters (each costs about £300,000) and there are five more in the training wing at Odiham.

A versatile helicopter, the Puma carries up to 16 fully equipped soldiers—the equivalent of three Whirlwinds, the type it supersedes. And the troops are quickly landed through two sliding doors on either side of the fuselage. The Puma can transport a Land-Rover underslung, lift a 105mm pack-howitzer and its gun detachment, serve as a gunship with two general-pur-

pose machine-guns, or be used for casualty evacuation or as an air ambulance carrying six stretchers with still space for four seats for medical attendants or walking wounded.

Powered by two Turbomeca Turmo engines—it can fly well on only one—the Puma has a maximum speed of 167 knots, fast cruises at 145 knots and has a range of about 300 nautical miles. Extra fuel tanks can quickly be fitted to double this range and the main rotors, rotor head, wheels and tailboom are removable, enabling one Puma to be carried in a Hercules transport and three in a Belfast.

Distinctive features of the Puma are its retractable undercarriage—double main and double tail wheels—and the five-bladed tail rotor.

The re-forming of 33 Squadron continues the link the Army has had with Odiham since 1920 when Army co-operation squadrons were based there. Odiham served as a fighter station during World War Two and opened as a helicopter station in 1960.

Roles of 33 Squadron are the transport of troops, guns, cargo, ammunition, water and rations within the forward area or in support, and casualty evacuation. Lifting troops and cargo are the main tasks. Its men wear combat clothing, train in the use of weapons and their equipment includes tents and field cookers.

In addition to fitters for servicing the aircraft it has its own cooks, clerks and an RAF Regiment section whose men also act as drivers.



**Men blinded**

by war face a difficult future.  
But thousands have overcome the catastrophe  
brilliantly,  
thanks to St Dunstan's . . .

# **FAR-SIGHTED FAIRY GODMOTHER**

*Story by Trevor Holloway*





**B**ILL Griffiths was unlucky. At the age of 21 he found himself in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. One morning his captors ordered him to make safe a booby trap. His life was never the same again. There was a violent explosion that left Bill without sight or hands and with many other injuries.

But for the intervention of the Australian medical commandant, a Japanese sentry, as an act of mercy, would have killed Bill on the spot. Somehow he managed to survive the next three-and-a-half years until repatriated to England and admitted to St Dunstan's home for the war-blinded at Ovingdean near Brighton. Here they began the difficult task of helping him to rebuild his shattered life and set up as partner in a haulage business.

Encouraged by his girl friend of school days, whom he later married, Bill became a fine baritone singer of professional standard. But instead of turning professional he accepted an offer from St Dunstan's to be a staff speaker and since 1965 he and his wife have covered more than 50,000 miles on lecture and singing engagements for the organisation.

Through the electronic rifle competition at the annual reunion of handless St Dunstan's Bill became greatly interested in sport. He took up running, walking, long jump, discus, swimming and diving, and proved remarkably proficient in all of them. And in 1969 he was voted Disabled Sportsman of the Year.

Bill Griffith's story is no isolated example of how St Dunstan's turns tragedy into triumph. Hundreds of sightless and doubly handicapped servicemen—and women, too—have been rescued from despair.

Even if Britain has no more wars there will still be a job for St Dunstan's beyond the turn of the century. At present the institution cares for more than 2000 men and women blinded on war service. Although the total is declining, new admissions include young men blinded on recent active service. And St Dunstan's concern for the war sightless is not merely during the training period—it is life-long.

When Sir Arthur Pearson founded St Dunstan's in 1915 he was already president of Britain's National (now Royal) Institute for the Blind and he realised that a separate and more specialised organisation was required for the large influx of blinded servicemen. They differed in so many ways from the country's civilian blind, mostly elderly people whose sight had failed in old age. These men were not only young, they shared a zest for life allied to physical fitness and, in many cases, high ambitions unfulfilled.

It has always been St Dunstan's policy to find employment for the war blinded in open competition with sighted people and there have never been any sheltered workshops. Today its men work as telephonists, industrial operatives, farmers and, in the professions, as ministers of religion, university lecturers, physiotherapists, schoolmasters and solicitors.

Others have found their niche in occupations surprisingly novel for the blind. They include a film company production manager, guest house proprietor, travel agent, dark-room assistant, wholesale fish merchant—and even a grave digger.



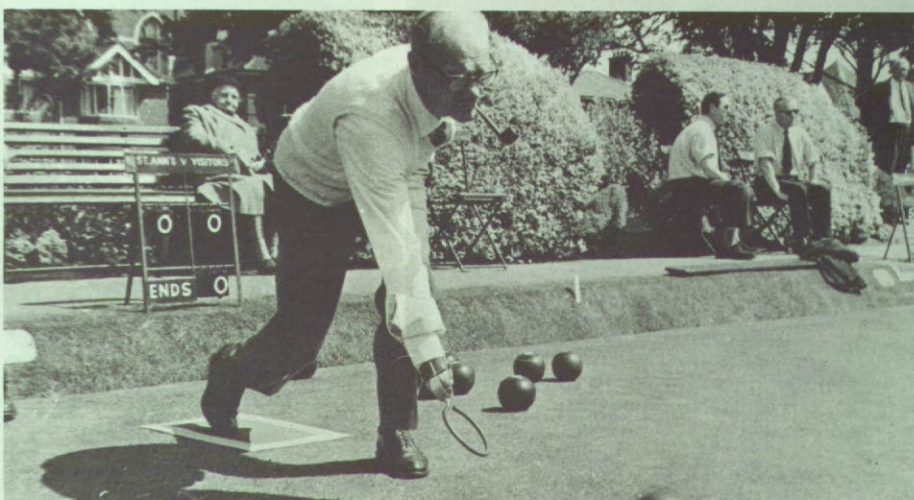
A war-blinded worker tries out a new Braille micrometer. Many gadgets have been made to help the blind "read" by touch and by ear.



In their excitement at his questions pupils forget that Frank Cross, teacher of immigrant children, cannot see their upraised arms.



Mick Sheehan, blinded in World War Two, now keeps a shop in London's East End. Below: Handless as well as blind, this player uses a special device at bowls.





Some men from World War One are now too old to work full-time but most are fit and active and pursue hobbies such as carpentry, weaving, making mats and string bags, or cultivating flowers and vegetables in their gardens and greenhouses.

There are around 30 women at St Dunstan's, most of them totally blind and some with severe disabilities including loss of both hands, usually the result of accidents with detonators in munitions factories.

The main home at Ovingdean, situated on the Downs overlooking the sea, has several functions—to provide holiday and convalescent periods; to act as training centre for men with recent sight loss and re-train men changing employment; to be venue for numerous events held annually; and to give accommodation to men, mostly elderly, who no longer have a home of their own. Currently they are enlarging and modernising Pearson House at Kemp Town, Brighton, to provide a home for elderly St Dunstaners who are frail and disabled and need special care.

In the entrance hall at Ovingdean is a scale model of the whole building. By sense of touch the newcomer can obtain a good idea of the general layout. On staircases the handrail is fitted with raised studs—two for the second floor, three for the third and so on.

Preliminary training takes from six to 12 months. During this period most students learn to type and a large percentage master Braille. The blind man learns to shave himself, walk alone with confidence and care for his clothes and personal appearance.

He is also encouraged to try crafts such as woodwork, rug-making, modelling, basketry and string work. Choice of recreations ranges from chess, draughts and dominoes to active pastimes such as swimming, horse riding and rowing.

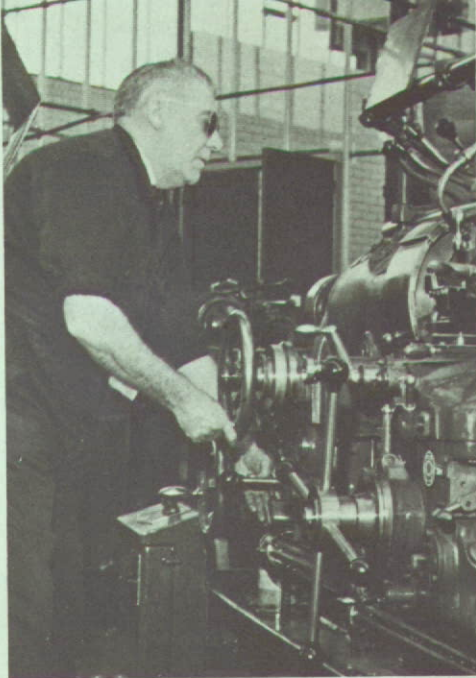
St Dunstan's has its own research and inventions team constantly evolving a wide range of ingenious gadgets for the blind. Gauges, scales and other equipment used in industry have been modified so they can be read by the finger or ear.

To help the doubly handicapped—blind persons who may have lost one or more limbs—the back-room boys have devised ways of adapting radio sets, record players, talking books, bathroom taps, electric shavers, soap and toothpaste dispensers and so on. There are special devices to enable the doubly handicapped to type, use the telephone, operate a switchboard and a wide range of tools.

There is even a rifle range for the blind. The rifle is "sighted" by an electronic device producing a series of variable-toned oscillations. When the blinded man's ear tells him he is on target he fires and hopes for a bull. He shoots by sound instead of sight. Darts is also popular and the workshops have come up with a device to enable handless blind to hold and throw their darts.

So today, 56 years after its foundation, St Dunstan's seeks to aid the war blinded in every way. In the words of its chairman, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, "Without being grandmotherly we try to be fairy god-mother and smooth out the aggravating difficulties of everyday life."

And no one knows better just what these difficulties are. Lord Fraser was blinded in the Battle of the Somme in 1916.



Charles Clarke, the first war-blinded man to operate an eight-speed pre-set turret lathe.



Lord Fraser chats with guest George Fallowfield at a blind-deaf reunion.



Switchboard operator John Whitcombe consults his dialling code list.



Competitor at St Dunstan's electronic rifle range takes aim by ear.

Proud St Dunstaner with his son at Ovingdean international sports weekend.





# Purely Personal



## GALLANTRY AWARDS

**Lance-Corporal Dorian Bennett** (above) was still a private soldier of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, when he won the George Medal for gallantry in Belfast.

A gunman's bullet felled him when he was chasing in the Falls Road area a terrorist who had tried to throw a grenade at his patrol. Although suffering from a wound in his right arm, Lance-Corporal Bennett got to his feet and engaged three other bandits still firing on the patrol, hitting one and possibly a second. He would not go back for medical attention until a replacement arrived. Before that happened the patrol was attacked again, with nail bombs and firearms. He again went into action and is believed to have hit another gunman.

His citation records: "By his courageous example and prompt action. . . . he undoubtedly saved his patrol from further casualties. His refusal to retire from the scene of the shooting for medical treatment ensured that the small patrol was not weakened at a critical time. Throughout the action Bennett showed initiative, courage and devotion to his comrades." Lance-Corporal Bennett is aged 20 and is now serving with his regiment in Germany.

Appointed Members of the Order of the British Empire for gallantry in Northern Ireland are **Captain John Hart**, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, who showed bravery, leadership and personal example on several occasions; **Captain David Roberts**, 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, for bravery and outstanding leadership on several occasions.

**Captain Murray Stewart**, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, for bravery when dealing with six gelignite charges in the generator house of a factory; and **Captain Richard Poole**, 173 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, who when a regimental sergeant-major performed several acts of bravery including saving two Royal Marines attacked by a vicious mob.

The British Empire Medal for gallantry is awarded to **Private David Bennett**, 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, for bravery under fire on two occasions; and to **Staff-Sergeant Michael Nugent**, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, for bravery including an occasion when he acted as decoy to lure an ambush gang into the open.



## Silver and bronze

A silver medal won by **Staff-Sergeant Tom Fayers** (above), 8 Signal Regiment, and a bronze by **Corporal Bob Belton** (right), 10 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, helped to ease the disappointment when the third Army member of the Great Britain team suffered a broken wrist in the Auto Cycle Union's international six-day trial held in the Isle of Man. The Cheney-Victor machines were prepared by the Mechanical Vehicles Experimental Establishment.—Picture by Motor Cycle.



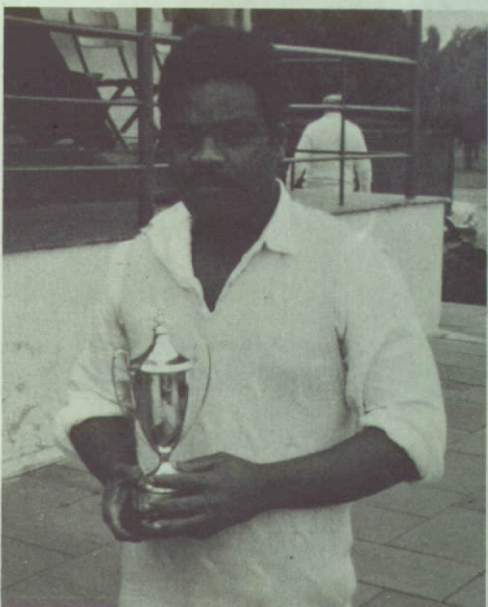
## Gold and silver

This little fellow (above) lost no time in striking gold. **Matthew**, baby son of 22-year-old **Fusilier Alan Ashton** and **Mrs Patricia Ashton** (24), timed his arrival into the world to win a commemorative gold medallion presented by a Gibraltar newspaper to the 100th baby to be born to 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, during the battalion's two-year tour on the Rock. Full VIP treatment was accorded. Gibraltar's Chief Minister, **Major Robert J Peliza**, turned up at the Royal Naval Hospital to make the presentation and the Minister for Medical and Health Services, **Miss C Anes**, gave Matthew an inscribed silver christening mug. The proud parents are both Londoners.



## Silver salver

For 20 years Mr Foo Tiang Shang was mess caterer to the warrant officers and sergeants of 3 Base Ordnance Depot, Singapore. When the mess closed he was presented (above) with a silver salver and a cheque contributed to by serving and former mess members. The presentation was made by **Brigadier Bill Eccles**, Director of Ordnance Services Far East Land Forces, guest of honour on the last formal dinner night.



## Cup for cricket

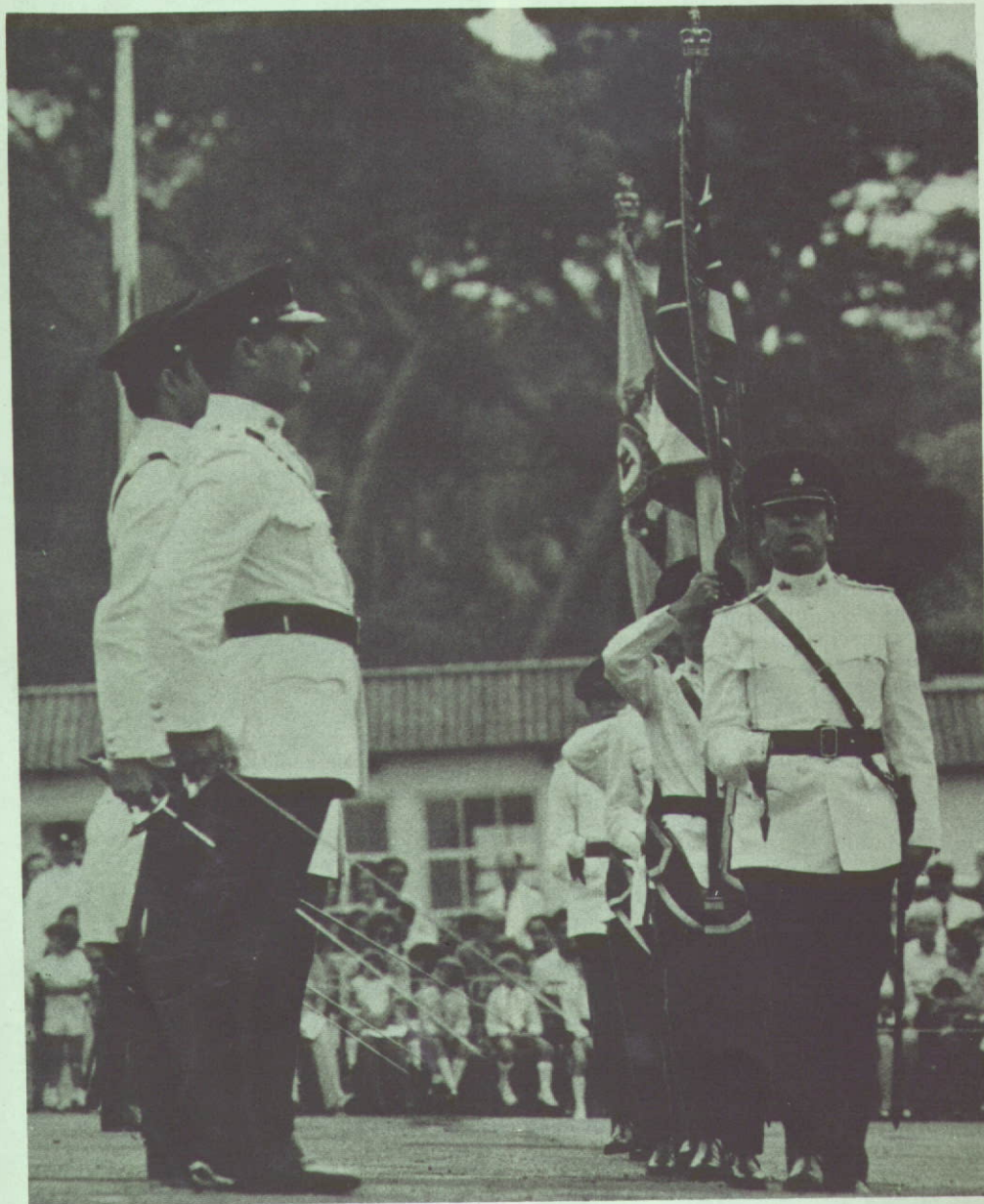
**Corporal "Chubby" Roberts** (above) of 19 Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who comes from Barbados, is Rothmans Army cricketer of the year, having won the award for the best all-round performance by any member of Rhine Army Service team. Achievements included 105 for his regiment and nine wickets for 35 for his corps against the Royal Corps of Transport. The award has previously been held by two other Barbadians, Osbourne St Clair Gooding and Horace Bradshaw.



Story by John Jesse  
Pictures by Martin Adam

# GIBRALTAR

## honours her regiment



Above: The Colours are trooped to "The Grenadiers March" and to applause from the audience. The regimental Colour bears the castle and key motif centrally.

Right: In Main Street, outside the House of Assembly, Lieutenant-Colonel J J Porral signing the "Roll of Honorary Freeman" watched by the Mayor of Gibraltar, the Hon Alfred J Vasquez.



Opposite: Men of The Gibraltar Regiment formed up for the Colours ceremony on Grand Parade.

FOR the people of Gibraltar this was a day to remember, a day of pride, the day on which The Gibraltar Regiment, their own regiment, received its first Colours.

On a parade ground in the shadow of the great Rock they are pledged to defend, 150 men of the regiment, immaculate in white uniforms, formed a hollow square. Drums were piled with the Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour draped over them ready for the service of consecration.

Blessed and "set apart," the Colours now assumed their true significance as the Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Varyl Begg, prepared to hand them over. Congratulating the regiment, the Governor said: "I trust that the Colours I have presented this morning on Her Majesty's behalf will not only establish your identity in the British Army, but will also serve as a rallying point in Gibraltar for those who hold that the ancient virtues of loyalty, integrity, discipline and service to the community are still as vital in a modern society, if that society wishes to preserve its free and democratic institutions."

Replying on behalf of what he described as a regiment young in age and spirit, the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J J Porral, referred to Gibraltar as "a fortress which has stood firm over two-and-a-half centuries and which, God willing, with the combined efforts of the people of the United Kingdom and of Gibraltar will continue to stand firm for evermore."

The Colours were then trooped and from all sides came spontaneous applause from the spectators—a rare occurrence indeed on such an occasion. The regiment advanced in review order and then marched off, appropriately, to "The Great Little Army."

As yet The Gibraltar Regiment has no band of its own. The band of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, played during the Colours parade then led the regiment on its march down Main Street with "Colours flying, swords drawn and bayonets fixed" to the House of Assembly, there to be honoured for the second time in one day with the conferment of the Freedom of the City of Gibraltar.

GIBRALTAR  
REGIMENT

Presentation of  
Colours

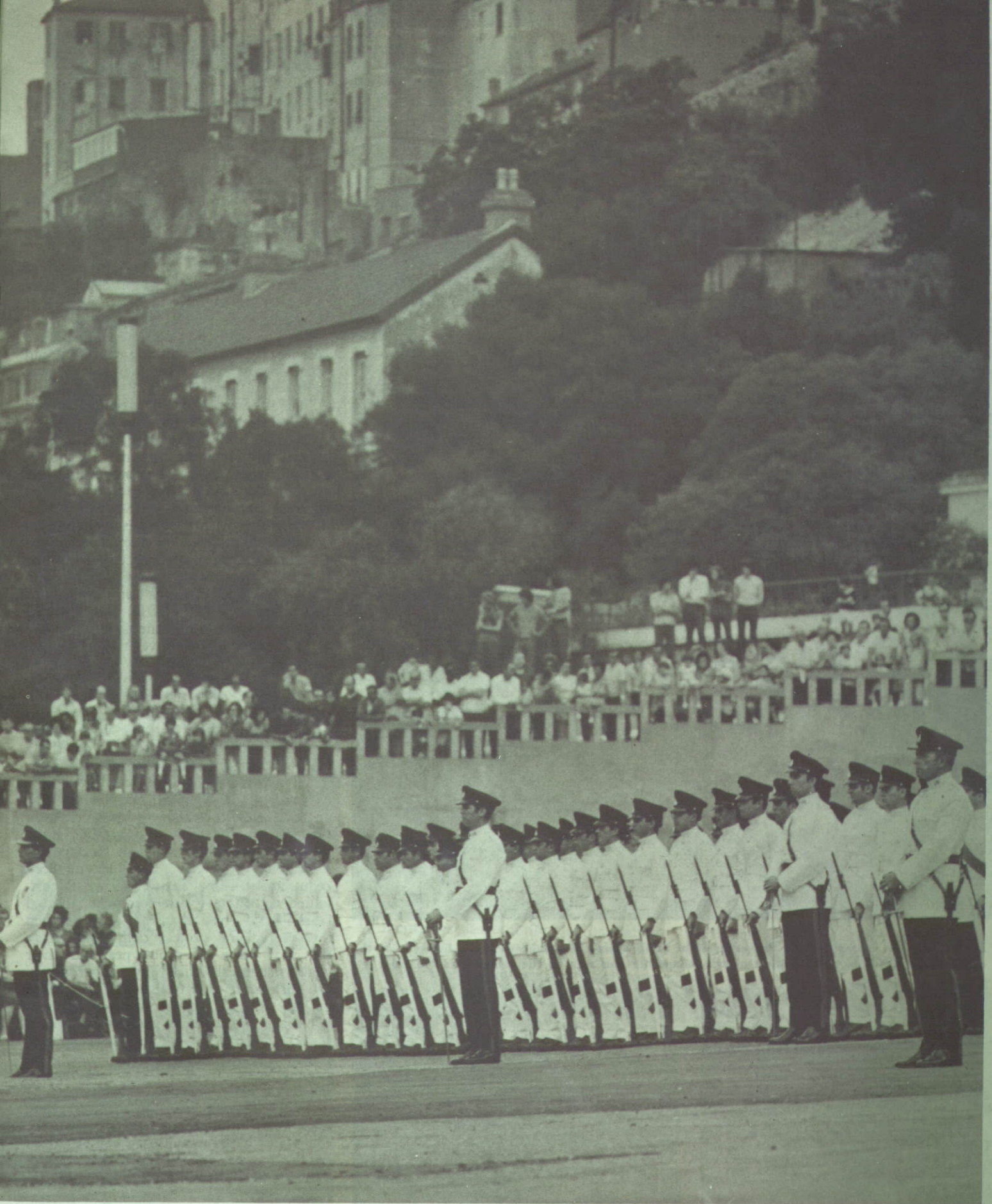


Regimental - First Day Cover

This souvenir philatelic cover illustrating the badge of The Gibraltar Regiment and the new Colours was specially produced to mark the occasion. It carries a commemorative 3p stamp and there is a printed card insert giving a brief history of the regiment. These covers, cancelled by a one-day British Forces hand-stamp depicting the regimental grenade collar badge, cost 25p each.

The Philatelic Officer is Captain J Rosado, The Gibraltar Regiment, Buena Vista Barracks, Gibraltar, to whom enquiries should be addressed. All proceeds from sales go to regimental funds.





## New role

With the abolition of compulsory military service on the Rock, The Gibraltar Regiment has assumed the role of a TAVR unit. Previously it was based on two establishments, the training centre (of five officers and 41 other ranks) and the regiment itself, made up of a headquarters company, four

rifle companies and an artillery battery. Its new establishment comprises headquarters, one infantry company with three platoons and one artillery battery with a heavy troop and light air defence force. Its complement is 18 officers and 211 men, both Regular and Volunteer.

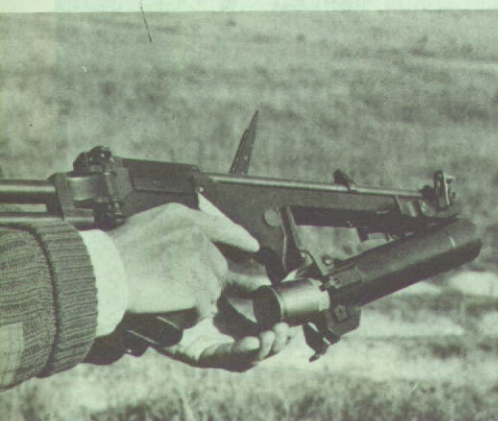


# ITDU

## Infantry's "Which"



Instant rain. An example of the thoroughness of ITDU's trials as a soldier turns a hosepipe on the camouflaged FV432 to test the effect of camouflage net and rain on the vehicle's ZB298 radar set.



ITDU made comparative tests of grenade launchers. Above: Inserting the 40mm grenade into the breech of the FN grenade launcher.



Above: Disposable type launcher (disposable barrel cartridge area target ammunition) attachment here seen mounted on the American M16 (Armalite) rifle.

**B**LESSED, perhaps, are they who know their abbreviations. And thrice blessed are they who know the full titles and what they are all about.

Take the ITDU, a 30-strong unit of soldiers and civilians sitting independently in the middle of the School of Infantry at Warminster.

Score a point for identifying ITDU as Infantry Trials and Development Unit and earn a bonus of three for naming any one of its seven tasks.

For although the Infantry Trials and Development Unit puts through its paces every piece of equipment which might conceivably increase infantry firepower and efficiency, oddly its existence and role are less than adequately recognised even within infantry itself.

"Anything infantry gets has not happened by chance but by a very careful policy and has been carefully checked," says the commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel John Weeks, The Parachute Regiment. "For that checking the ITDU provides the staff, the expertise and the time."

Time is the operative word. It still takes something like seven years for an idea to blossom into issued reality. For the ITDU it is a seven-year itch not of its own making—the unit naturally itches to speed up the cycle and its soldiers would like nothing better than to see something come to fruition within their tour of duty. Theirs is truly the lot of the dedicated.

New infantry equipment starts with an idea which is then written up as a General Staff target—and at this early stage ITDU is first involved. Next comes a feasibility study, then the General Staff requirement—how many, at what cost, issued to whom—with comments invited from ITDU. In some cases the cycle is then interrupted for project definition before the next stage of prototypes and their trials—technical trials by experimental establishments, user trials by ITDU, based on the General Staff requirement, and, if necessary, troop trials. Technical and user reports are taken together at acceptance stage which is followed by tender and production contract. All of which takes a minimum seven years.

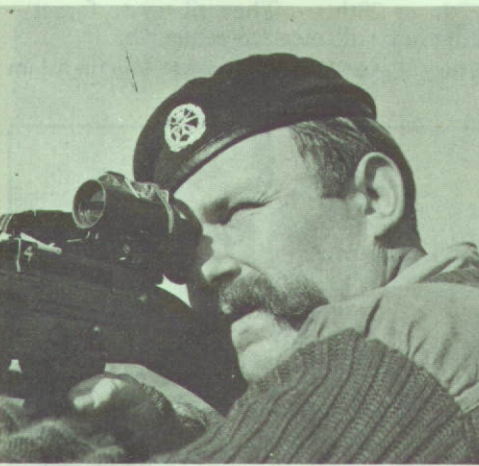
This long cycle makes it imperative that trials are thorough and far-seeing. Take for example the camouflage set produced by the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment, one of the many organisations with which ITDU works closely. At first glance there seems little difference from the hessian strips of World War Two slung over vehicles, pegged out to break up outlines and then adorned with natural foliage. But now the camouflage strips are of plastic, the net is draped over "mushroom" capped poles of variable length slotted into brackets on a vehicle.

The Infantry Trials and Development Unit puts the set (net, 12 poles, 12 "mush-





Clansman headset test—taking message during firing of machine-gun and rifles. Below: Mr Jack Dyer (fitter) and AQMS I Spencer examine SCAT.



This is the RARDE optical small arms sight with (under the Small Arms School Corps badge) QMSI Eric Ford. The sight is on an Australian rifle.

Today's infantryman carrying one of tomorrow's lightweight manpack radios of the new Clansman series, now being tested, superseding Larkspur.

rooms") through obvious basic tests—how easily carried, erected, dismantled. Then goes on to the less obvious—does it, for example, affect the operation of a radar set mounted on an FV432, can a gun be fired through it without setting it on fire, will the Wombat back-blast whip it off, mushrooms and all?

Most trials—ITDU has conducted 117 in the past two years—are of a comparative nature, against an existing equipment or between alternatives, and are conducted both on the ranges and in quasi-battle conditions.

Range work on weapons includes familiarisation, zeroing, accuracy, an appropriate range course, handling and maintenance. Battle tests cover position disclosure, robustness, field firing and close-quarter effectiveness.

All is carefully recorded, including weather conditions, and the unit rings the changes on soldiers borrowed from the School of Infantry's demonstration battalion and other units in Southern Command so that a cross-section of results is obtained and the operators do not become "trials minded."

The ITDU's military personnel are a mixture of infants on tour from their regiments and Small Arms School Corps warrant officers headed by Warrant Officer One K J Argent, the Army's only technical sergeant-major, who previously spent six years at the Jungle Warfare School in Malaysia. They are organised in mobility, support weapons, surveillance and small arms sections each headed by an infantry major.

In addition ITDU has its own small but comprehensive workshops with civilian fitters, carpenter and metalsmith under a REME warrant officer, and a headquarters section which includes a sapper draughtsman and civilian photographer.

Besides experimental establishments, ITDU has close contact with the Royal School of Artillery and with the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington. Nor is its work confined to Warminster's ranges or other areas of Salisbury Plain. In the past 12 months it has sent four of its staff to Rhine Army, three to the United States,

three to Sweden, two to Northern Ireland and one each to France and Norway.

But although ITDU has undoubtedly the staff, the expertise and the time, it still wants other people's ideas. There is always something somewhere, perhaps so simple as to have by-passed experts, like the World War One sniper-spotting device, a biscuit tin on a pole. The sniper fires; put a curtain rod through the bullet holes and you have a bearing on the sniper.

And those seven tasks for your bonus points? Here they are, with some examples of ITDU's work.

First, a General Staff requirement—trying out the image intensifier weapon sight and the FV432 Rarden (a Fox turret and Rarden 30mm gun mounted on a 432).

Loaned equipment from the Quadrupartite countries (Australia, Canada, United States and United Kingdom)—Colt AR15 Armalite rifle, M79 40mm grenade launcher.

Commercially produced items—V40 Dutch mine grenade, FN 40mm bouncing grenade, BL754 radar.

"Bread board" models or mock-ups on which user advice is requested—Blowpipe missile, 51mm mortar, Beeswing (Swing-fire missile mounted on B ("soft-skinned") vehicles).

Items in service showing defects—general-purpose machine-gun trigger mechanism, 81mm mortar breech sealing.

Determining whether a requirement should or still exists—comparative effectiveness of point target and area target weapons, eg grenade launchers and rifles with launcher attachments.

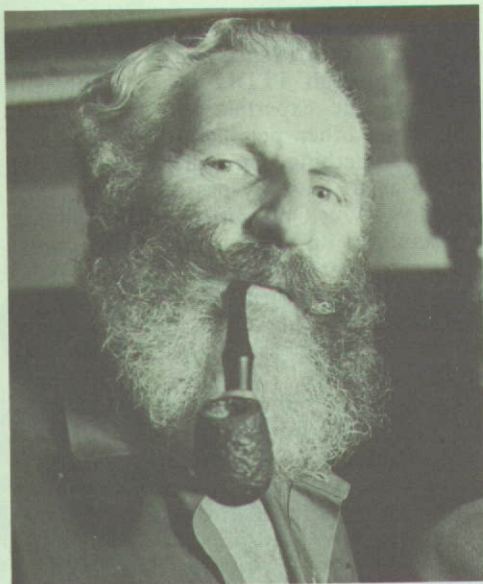
Finally, self-generated trials—"miser" mount, now in service, for Wombat on FV432; trilux foresight, also in service; anti-aircraft mounting for B vehicles and the SCAT twin general-purpose machine-gun anti-aircraft mount for FV432.

Back to abbreviations again. SCAT? Something cheap and tatty? No marks and forfeit any you have earned. SCAT, The Infantry Trials and Development Unit's own abbreviation for its own invention, stands for "Shouldn't cost a tenner."

Perhaps you can add optimism to ITDU's enthusiasm and dedication!







Ex-Sgt Roy Lewis was in a guerilla raiding patrol in Burma, 1942-43, and went on to Sumatra. Now a head forester in the Forestry Commission.



In six years only two commanding officers: Col V J F Popham (left, with the 6th OCA standard) raised the battalion; Col R S Cresswell (right) disbanded it. Their handover was in June 1943.



Ex-CQMS Vivian Crocker, who won the Distinguished Conduct Medal, conducted the battalion choir. It made two broadcasts in India: Vivian Crocker is trying to trace the recording tapes.



Of course they still keep together—signallers, mortars, transport. This is A Company's own corner.

## Where's old Fred these days?

**T**HEY talked. They ate and they talked. They listened to a few brief speeches. They talked again. And drank. And talked. And talked. . .

Of this year, last year, any year, but mainly of those six years which bound together in hardship and fellowship these men of 6th Battalion, The South Wales Borderers. Six years from 3 July 1940, forming under canvas in Glanusk Park, South Wales, through



Ex-Sgt Ted Edwards (left) and ex-Sgt Bill Woodhouse both won the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

India and the Arakan to disbandment in Sumatra on 15 March 1946.

Just the old comrades of just one infantry battalion of World War Two. A battalion which won two DSOs, an OBE, an MBE, six MCs, four DCMs, 16 MMs and a bar, eight mentions, a US silver star and bronze star. A battalion which lost eight officers and 81 men killed, three and 18 died on active service, 16 died of wounds.

Just a short-lived wartime battalion. But one that has lived on in its annual reunions to this its 25th. And proudly claims a reunions record for a unit of its size—a peak of 250 and an average attendance of 200.

Between reunions the 6th Battalion old comrades join in parades in Newport, Monmouthshire, and send a contingent to the Burma reunion in London. And they loyally take part in regimental functions of The Royal Regiment of Wales to which 6th Battalion, The South Wales Borderers, branch is affiliated. But the amalgamations and disbandments of recent years are today's history. The 6th Battalion, The South Wales Borderers, 24th Regiment, will never be other than that to the men who served during those six years and who have met every year since.

Except old Fred. Where is old Fred these days? Missing this year again? Never mind, he'll be back for the 26th next year, or the 27th, or 28th. . . They all try to forget—but they still meet to remember.

**Story: Peter Wood / Pictures: Martin Adam**

### Pedigree

Born at Glanusk Park, Crickhowell	3 Jul 40
Named 6th Battalion, The South Wales Borderers	
In 12 Beach Group	Sep 40
In 212 Brigade, Lincolnshire Division	Feb 41
In 212 Independent Brigade	Nov 41
Renamed 158 Regiment RAC (The South Wales Borderers)	15 Jul 42
India	Dec 42
In 225 Armoured Brigade, 32 Indian Armoured Division	Dec 42
Reverted to 6th Battalion, The South Wales Borderers	Mar 43
In 72 Brigade, 36 British Division	Mar 43
Arakan	Feb 44
Burma (Northern Combat Area Command)	May 44
In 71 Brigade, 26 Indian Division	Jul 45
Sumatra	Oct 45
In 4 Brigade, 26 Indian Division	Nov 45
Died (disbanded in Medan, Sumatra)	15 Mar 46





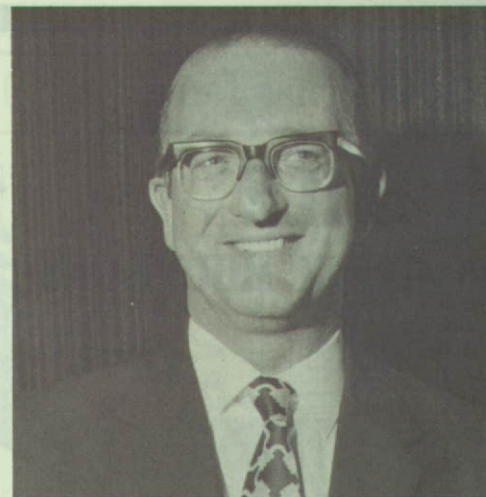
Eight members of the battalion rugby team which was captained by the adjutant, now Lord Chalfont. The 36th Division cup was presented by the divisional commander, now Fd-Marshal Sir Francis Festing.



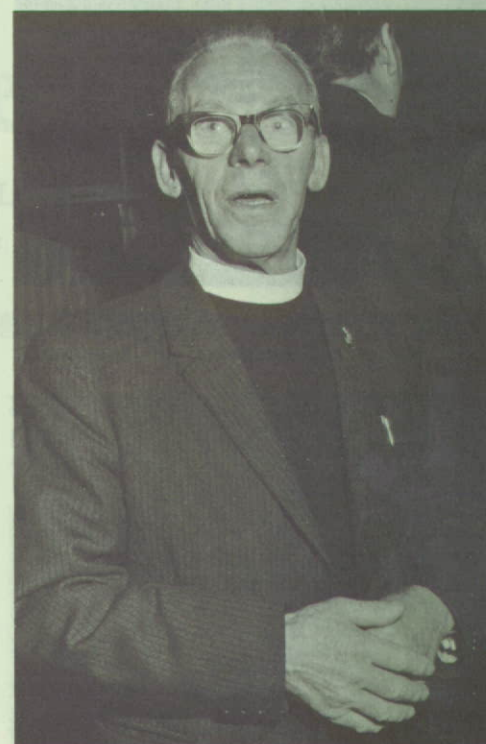
Left half (ex-Cpl Jim Morton), centre half (ex-Cpl Edgar Price) and right half (ex-Cpl Ron Crew) of the battalion soccer team which in India, 1943-44, lost only one in more than 30 matches played.



And these are the signallers—thirsty work this talking, whether it's over the air or over the table.



Maj C J Vivian DSO MC was awarded his DSO for a series of actions with the unit in Burma, 1944.



Padre James Wood, at his very first reunion, was the farthest traveller, from Glasgow. A missionary in India, he joined the 6th in India and went through the Arakan campaign. "I had no church or organ so I used my own concertina to lead the services. The concertina was just like my wife—the more I squeezed, the more I got out of it!"



Len Nuth (seated) would not have missed this 25th reunion for anything. He was in hospital but was specially allowed out for the occasion.

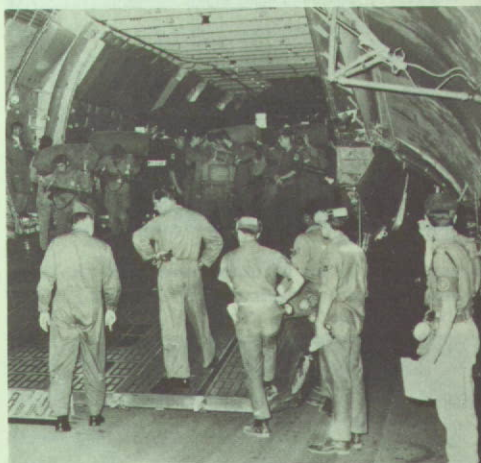


## NATO flying force

# MOBILE IN GREEK MOUNTAINS



Logistic ship Sir Geraint offloads Royal Scots, their vehicles and equipment at Thessaloniki.



Unloading American Galaxy, world's largest aircraft, at Thessaloniki international airport.

Belgium, Germany, Italy, Britain and the United States.

British troops included soldiers from 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots; A Squadron, The Blues and Royals; 13 Light Battery, Royal Artillery; 2 Aviation Flight AMF(L), Army Air Corps; and 27 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport—which formed the logistic support battalion. Other British corps were represented within the logistic battalion and in force headquarters.



104 Postal and Courier Communications Unit, RE, London, set up a post office for all nations.



Sappers of 33 Field Squadron, RE, installed and maintained water pumps for units on exercise.



Two gunners of 13 Light Battery, RA, fill their trailer at a United States Army water point.



Two British military policemen of 3 Division Provost Company check with a Greek colleague.



One of four Sioux helicopters with 2 Aviation Flight, AAC, takes off in the Macedonian Hills.



General Goodpaster, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, talks with Corporal D Ward, Royal Scots.



A section of 30 Signals Regiment provided communications for the German Army field hospital.



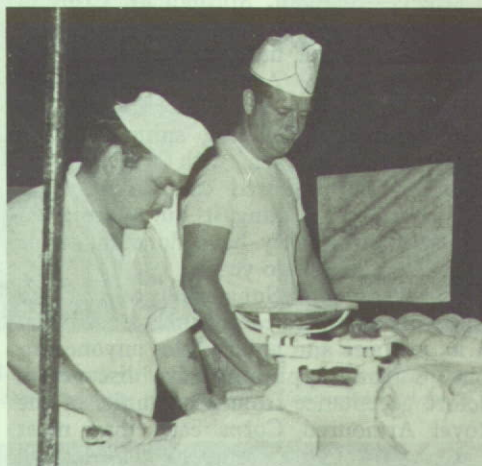


## How observant are you ?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 43.



A driver of 42 Squadron, of the logistic support battalion, issues fruit to German parachutists.



Twenty-two bakers of 350 Field Bakery, RAOC, in two 12-hour shifts baked 5000-6000 loaves a day.



All nations used petrol point run by 47 Company, RAOC, which issued up to 10,000 gallons a day.



Mechanics of 9 Field Workshop, REME, and the US 123 Maintenance Battalion tackle a problem.

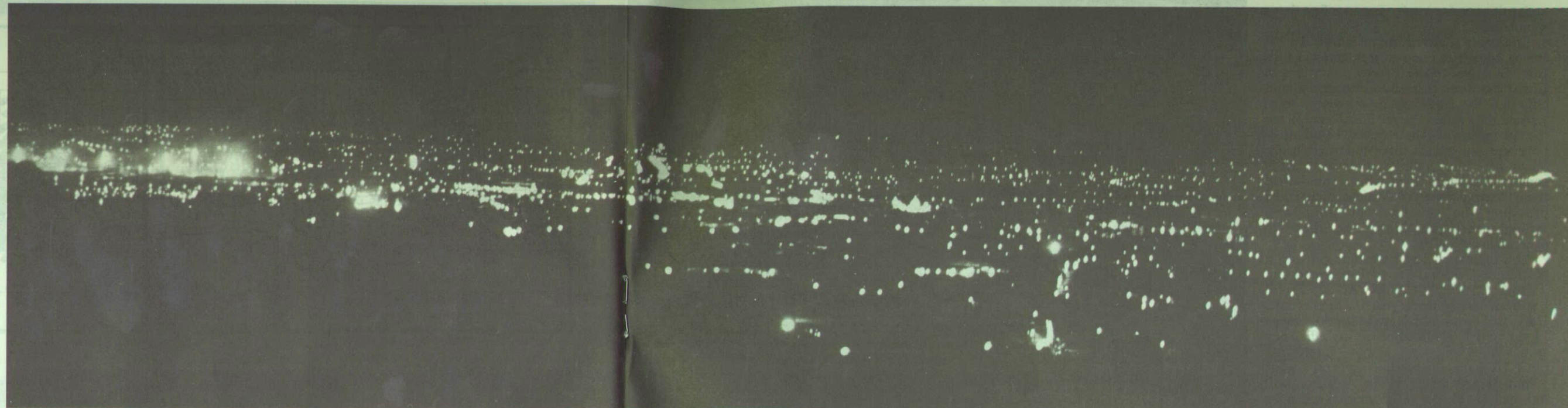
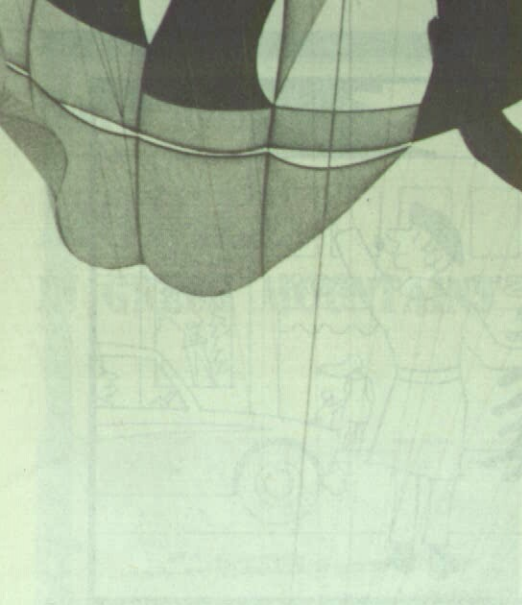


Royal Scots' Land-Rovers and Blues and Royals' Ferrets pass right-handed in Greek mountains.



A convoy of Royal Scots in their Greek armoured personnel carriers wait in a picturesque lane.





# NORTHERN IRELAND

The Parachute Squadron RAC



# Cavalry of the clouds

Pictures by Arthur Blundell

Above: AQMS Douglass landing after a freefall.

Top, right: Night lights of Belfast with dome of City Hall centre and dockyard lights left.

Bottom, right: Saracen commander keeps watchful lookout in lights of Belfast shopping centre.

FROM high up on the Ligoniel road leading from Aldergrove down into strife-torn Belfast the city's twinkling lights present a fairyland look belied, at close range, by burned-out buildings and the blind eyes of boarded-up windows.

It is difficult to relate the beauty of the night view to the horrors acted out hourly in streets—Shankill, Springfield, Crumlin roads, Unity Flats, the Ardoyne and too many more—that men of The Parachute Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps, and other troops, patrol at night.

Into situations of riot, sniping, bomb throwing, these men with their Ferret and Saracen armoured cars bring order and sanity. Not liking it but getting on with the job as they have done for three tours in the past two years.

The Parachute Squadron has a fierce pride and *esprit de corps* and a firm belief in its purpose and ability. Not anyone can join, as many applicants have discovered. Before acceptance from other units of the Royal Armoured Corps each man must first pass through P Company at Aldershot and, if he is wise, will prepare himself over a period of months—the course is tough!

A three-week pre-parachuting course begins on the first day with 45 minutes of battle physical training in the trainasium. During the next two weeks there are road walks, early morning runs, endurance marches building up from five to ten miles, swimming tests, abseiling, confidence tests high above ground, orienteering, battle handling exercises with anti-tank weapons, grenade training, patrolling, dropping zone drills, first aid and resuscitation procedures.

The third week of the course is based on Cwm Cwdi, Wales, where practical exercises include a ten-mile tactical approach march, the clearing of a terrorist hideout, live firing, a large area sweep for terrorists, attack at first light and a withdrawal with casualties.

Those who pass go on to Abingdon for further training at the Royal Air Force Parachute School and eight jumps before acceptance as troopers in The Parachute Squadron. Some then go to the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington, for

training in the use of Swingfire—the most sophisticated and effective anti-tank weapon in service today—before joining the unit.

Typical of the soldiers in The Parachute Squadron is Sergeant Roger Bentley who has been with it since formation. In 1961, after two years in the Royal Tank Regiment, he applied as a trooper for transfer to the Special Reconnaissance Squadron because he felt the need for adventure and travel. He was one of four selected from 45 applicants in Rhine Army by a board of Special Air Service Regiment officers who understood the high standards and specialised training required in a squadron of about 85 whose task was deep penetration and patrolling behind enemy lines.

The Special Recce Squadron disbanded about two years later but the experience was not wasted and P Company, the pre-parachute training and hardening unit, joined with some of the personnel of Cyclops, the experimental airborne armoured unit, to form The Parachute Squadron, RAC.

Major-General J A d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, who had done so much to get the new squadron formed, inspected the unit at Tidworth. Among the 100 officers and men on parade was Roger Bentley. Within three years he was a sergeant. After three three-year tours he now leaves the squadron regretfully, at the age of 31, because he wants to "settle down a bit and give the youngsters a chance."

Also his ankles are suspect—he broke one and damaged the ligaments of both when he landed badly.

He has seen action in Aden and the Radfan and was a member of the Airborne Forces team that took third place in the international class of the Para Neige at Pau, Southern France. This involved parachuting into the mountains and then skiing down snow-covered slopes to the finishing point.

Last year the squadron won the Northern Ireland major units Army rugby cup and the 3rd Division and South-West District athletics and swimming championships. This year they are rugby champions of South-West District, having won the major



Artificer QMS Colin Douglass, REME, has over 200 jumps to his credit.



Sergeant Roger Bentley, in the unit since formation, seeking adventure.



Lance-Corporal David Littlewood is hoping to become a helicopter pilot.



Trooper Bernard "Paddy" Collins, who jumped "too soon" over Cyprus.



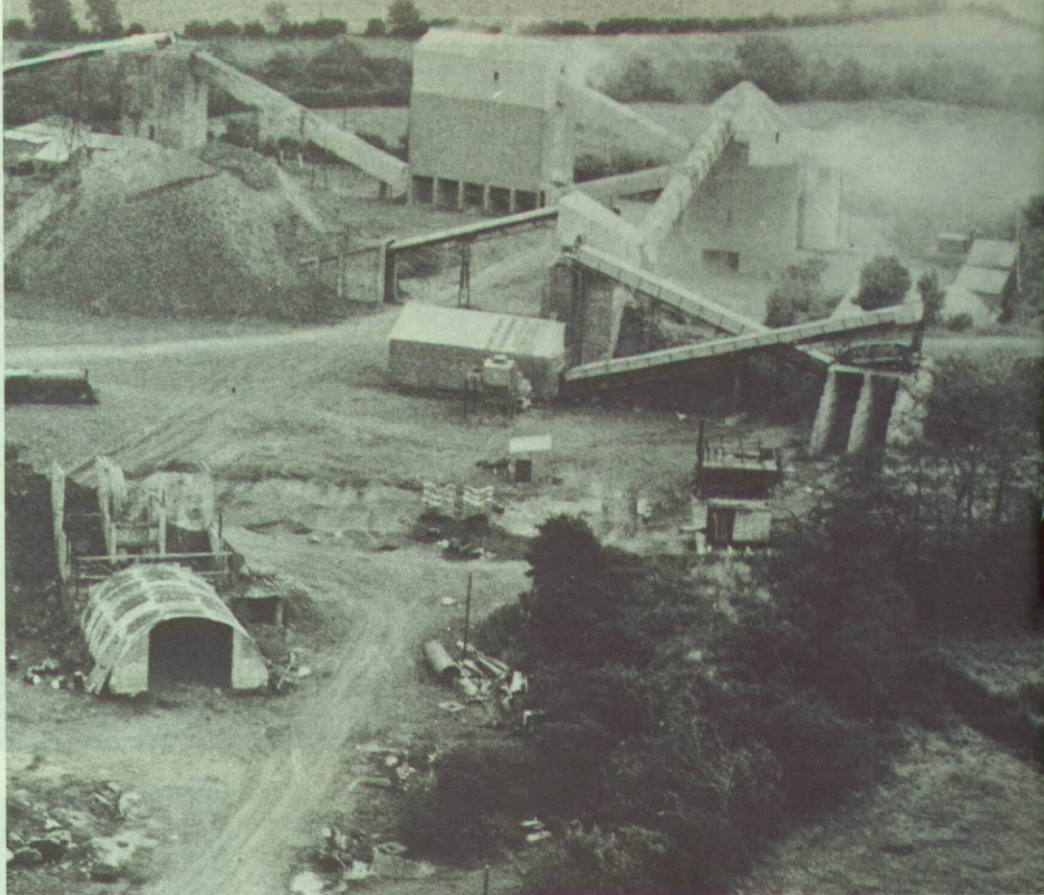


and minor units rugby cup—a first by a minor unit.

The spirit of adventure encouraged a 15-strong squadron team to trek across Libya from El Adem to the Tibetsi mountains in Chad. They navigated by sun compass and, although the El Adem desert rescue team warned they would “never do it,” completed the task in less than three weeks. They suffered severe sandstorms, three-ton trucks broke down and their radio sets seldom made contact. American desert oilmen entertained them “extravagantly.” Against such odds, including the entertainment, they won through—their training fitting them to overcome difficulties.

Also typical of The Parachute Squadron are Lance-Corporal David Littlewood and Trooper “Paddy” Collins. At 22, David has been nearly three years with the unit. He joined from 17th/21st Lancers because “I thought I would improve my efficiency as a soldier and have a more interesting job.” He believes that having been a non-commissioned officer in the squadron will improve his chance of promotion when he returns to his regiment. He now controls a Swingfire but his long-term aim is to be a helicopter pilot.

“Paddy” Collins, aged 31, of The Queen’s Royal Irish Hussars, is on his third tour. He was “very chuffed” when selected



Air view of a vulnerable point—one of many quarries which terrorists may raid for explosives. Below: The squadron finds time to give help to mentally retarded children at Muckamore Abbey.

Below: Major David Mallam, commanding The Parachute Squadron, briefs a patrol leader.



nearly nine years ago, is still “chuffed” and has no intention of leaving the squadron. He served in Aden and the Radfan, has been in the Far East and was one of the team that trekked to the Tibetsi mountains. When parachute jumping over Cyprus in 1967 he anticipated the instructor’s “Go!” signal and jumped as soon as the red light came on.

He said: “When I was half-way down I realised what I had done and that I was the only one to jump. I had visions of being alone in Cyprus and was very relieved indeed to see the rest come down after me.”

The Parachute Squadron believes in itself as a special force with a tough task within the Royal Armoured Corps. It has operated in Europe, Asia and Africa, in desert, countryside and township. In Northern Ireland it has adapted yet again and is taking a full share of armoured patrol work in both town and country.

In their spare time—when there is any—their men still think of their main task and practise freefall parachuting.

While, no doubt, their minds re-echo with their squadron march, “Cavalry of the Clouds.”



## Front cover

Captain Chris Brightman, air adjutant of The Parachute Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps, acts as observer in a Scout helicopter flying over Northern Ireland. The pilot was Major Alan Bower and the object to patrol over vulnerable points such as electricity sub-stations, water pipelines and quarries.

Picture by Arthur Blundell.



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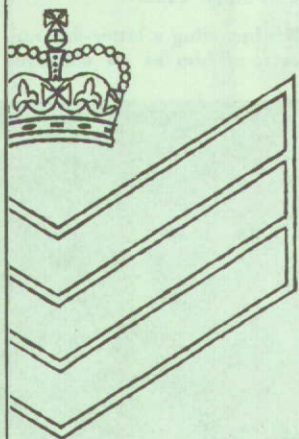
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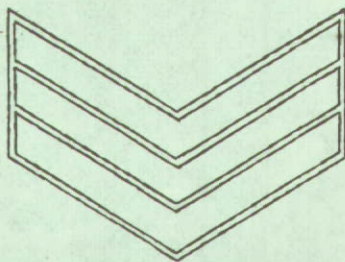
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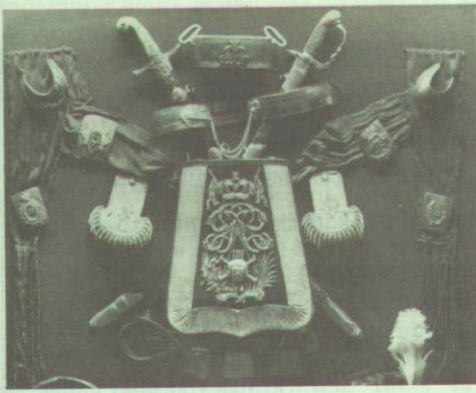
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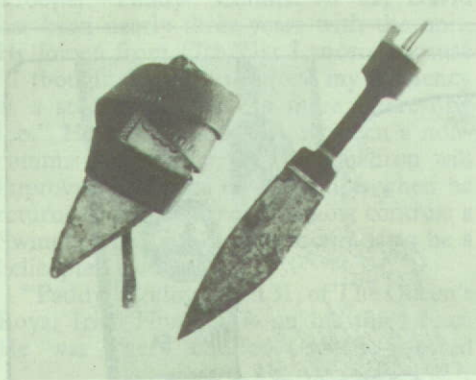
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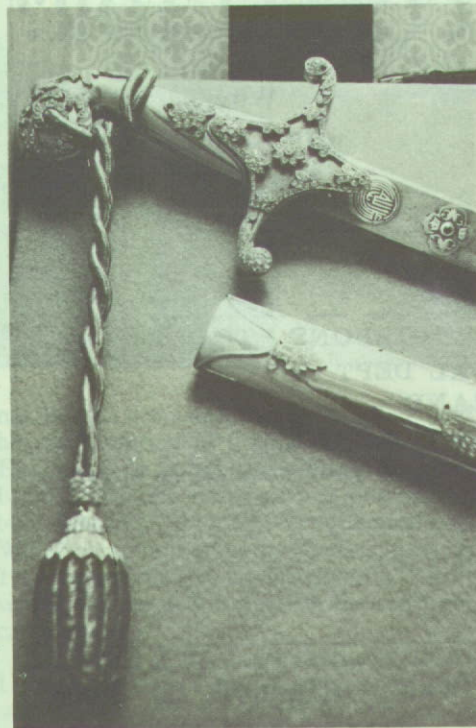
# Story of the Army



Sashes, sabretaches, epaulettes, gorgets, badges, all in a representative group of period militaria.



Abyssinian dagger and leather sheath captured during fighting in the "Mad Mullah's" rebellion.



The decorated hilt of Lord Wolseley's sword.

By pressing a button, visitors to the Story of the Army gallery in the National Army Museum, opened last month by the Queen, can tour the gallery to an accompaniment of contemporary Army songs chosen for their appropriateness to selected exhibits.

In the Afghanistan section, for example, there is "Bang upon the Big Drum," written for a camp fire sing-song when the British occupied Kabul in 1879; "Soldiers of the Queen" is inevitably one of the songs to be heard in the Boer War corner; and the "Downfall of Paris" is featured in the Napoleonic wars area.

The "Story of the Army" describes in more than 90 display cases the development of Britain's land forces in chronological sequence from Tudor times to the outbreak of World War One when the story is taken up by the Imperial War Museum. Chapter by chapter the tale unfolds—the English Civil War, the Jacobite rebellions and the period of Scottish unrest, Marlborough's campaigns, the Duke of Wellington, the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny and through to the

South African wars. Other sections deal with various aspects of the Army reforms following the Crimean War, the development of the specialist corps and the story of the auxiliary forces from the days of the "trained bands" and including the militia and volunteers.

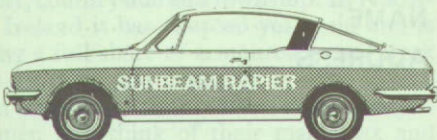
Some of the individual exhibits have a special fascination. There is the cloak in which General Wolfe is said to have been wrapped when he fell mortally wounded on the Plains of Abraham in the battle for Quebec; the sash which Sir John Moore is thought to have worn when he was shot at Corunna and the prayer book used at his burial service; in the Waterloo corner, the telescope used by Wellington, a rather cumbersome top hat which may have been worn in the battle by General Sir Thomas Picton; and the saw, handkerchief and glove used on the battlefield for a leg amputation on the Earl of Uxbridge, later Marquess of Anglesey.

The exhibits are presented in the modern style. Uncluttered and well lit, they are clearly described by narrative scripts outside each show case.

Below: Russian trophies captured in the Crimea. Right: Wellington relics including a latter-day uniform, basalt vase shaped in his profile, Peninsular painting, and statuette of him as an old man.



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# Arthur Wellesley Duke of Wellington 1769-1852



India 1794-1805

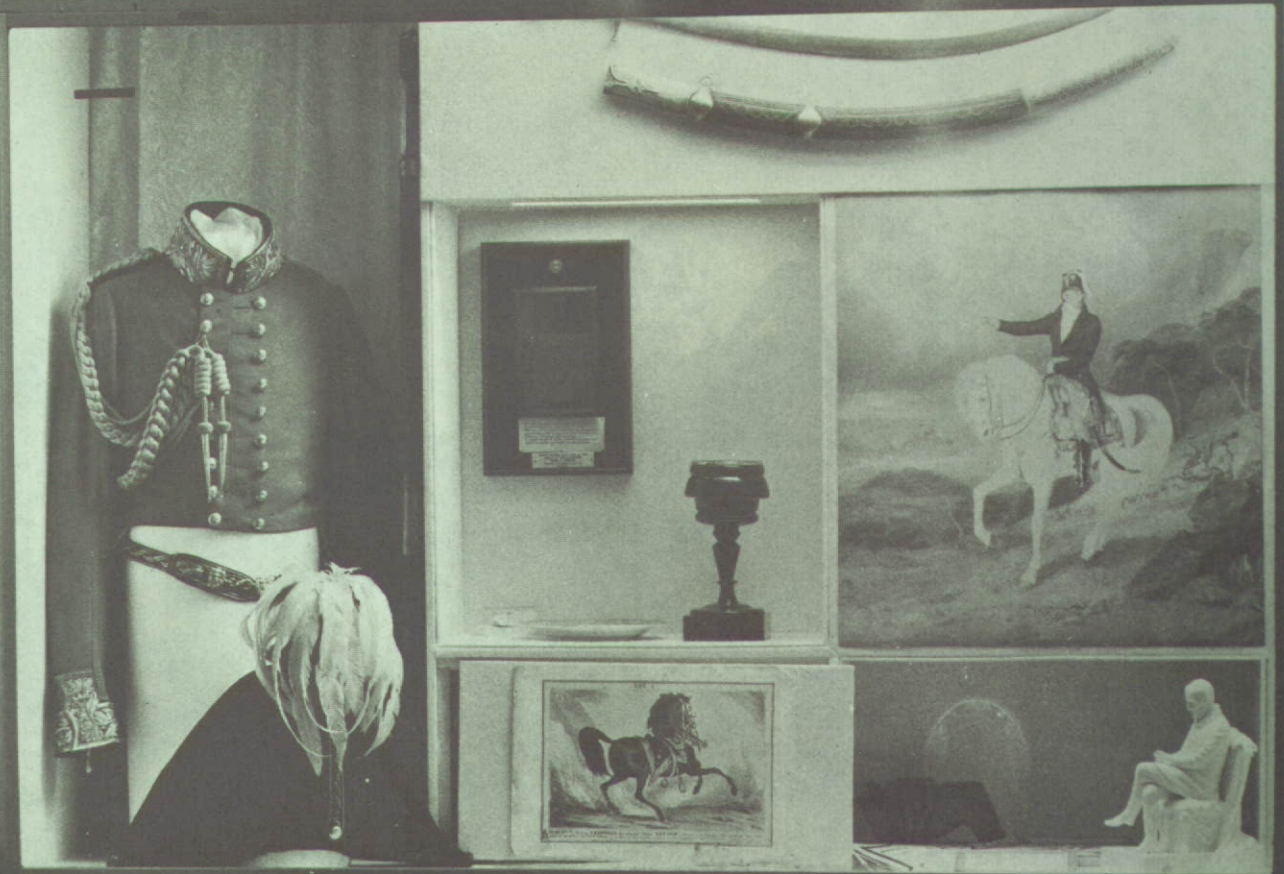
England 1805-8

Peninsular War 1808-14

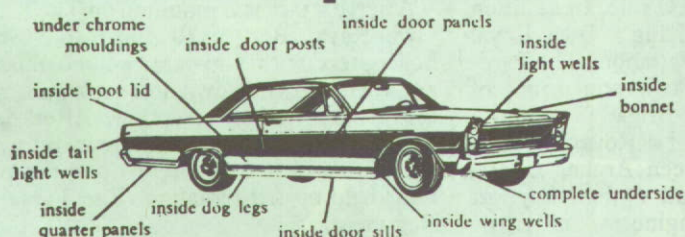


Waterloo 1815

See 25



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# DRUIDS ON THE PLAIN

**W**ITH many of its units in Northern Ireland and a substantial overseas training programme, 3rd Division has few opportunities to train at brigade level for its priority commitment to support NATO in Europe.

Exercise Druids Castle provided such training in conjunction with units of 38 Group, Royal Air Force, which with 3rd Division is the major part of the United Kingdom mobile force available to Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

The division, commanded by Major-General Glyn Gilbert and with headquarters at Bulford, Wiltshire, is geared for highly mobile operations. It is almost completely air-portable and not equipped with the weight of armoured support common to British divisions of Rhine Army.

"Druids Castle," planned jointly by Headquarters 5th Airborne Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Oliver Pratt, and Headquarters 38 Group, provided training in tasks akin to the NATO role. In addition to 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and two squadrons of armour, 5th Airborne Brigade had under its command elements of a Royal Artillery light regiment, two Green Archer radars, two field squadrons and a field support squadron of Royal Engineers, an Army Aviation squadron of Sioux and Scout helicopters and logistic support units.

Incorporated into The King's Own Royal Border Regiment was C Company of 5th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (Volunteers).

The enemy was found by 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and C Company of 4th Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets (Volunteers), with elements of supporting arms. Units assembled in the Aldershot area but the main action took place on Salisbury Plain two days later after movement by road and air.

Sappers laid 4000 bar mines across a three-battalion front and the King's Own and 3rd Para dug in. At first light next morning 15 Hercules aircraft flew over Imber village dropping-zone and the sky was suddenly full of blossoming parachutes as officers and men of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, with vehicles and equipment, made an impressive landing. They quickly secured Imber then moved against the defended line, having been re-

inforced by Centurion tanks of B Squadron, The Royal Hussars, A Squadron, 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, and the company of Royal Green Jacket Volunteers.

A fierce attack was mounted on The King's Own Royal Border Regiment but Scout helicopters with anti-tank guided missiles and the regiment's own anti-tank guns gave the armour a hot reception. After fierce fighting the attackers withdrew, reformed and threw their full weight upon the positions held by 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Again the air was alive with the rattle of machine-guns and the clattering throb of the tanks. Clouds of smoke from coloured pyrotechnics rolled across the battlefield, producing strange patterns against the orange glow of the setting sun. And again the attack was beaten off.

Exercise Druids Castle provided all who took part with a very real impression of what defensive operations could be like in the European theatre. It also helped to cement the already close co-operation between Army and Royal Air Force. Certainly the troops appreciated the work carried out by the aircraft.

Two Andovers landed up to 40,000lbs of freight daily, 17 Hercules dropped troops and logistic loads, Phantom jets were used for reconnaissance and in realistic ground attack roles. Support helicopters included the well-tried Wessex and, for the first time on a full-scale exercise, the impressive Puma (see page 15).

From a report by Major Lewis Huelin, Public relations, 3rd Division.





**Above:** Soldiers of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment ready to give enemy a hot reception.

**Left:** Night sight. At last light, as the attack goes in, a Centurion tank moves forward against the setting sun to support advancing infantry.

**Right:** These machine-gunners of 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment found plenty of action.



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When Princess Anne, as Colonel-in-Chief, presented its first Colours to 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, the Colours of the two old battalions were first trooped and marched off parade. The regiment formed in February 1970 by the amalgamation of The Worcestershire Regiment and The Sherwood Foresters. The Colours ceremony (right) took place at Warminster where the battalion is the School of Infantry demonstration battalion.

# Left, right and centre

Armoured vehicles (below) of Denmark, Germany and Britain stretched for a mile-and-a-quarter when they lined up after Exercise Forefront Six in Rhine Army. It took the inspecting officer, General Sir Peter Hunt, Commander Northern Army Group, half-an-hour to drive along the line in his armoured personnel carrier, and an hour-and-a-half for the vehicles to pass the saluting base. The exercise involved 1000 armoured vehicles and guns manoeuvring over 4500 square kilometres intersected by the rivers Weser and Leine. British sappers used M2B amphibious ferries and medium girder bridges to get them swiftly across. In the forefront of the picture are Leopard tanks of 100 Panzer Regiment. British 4th Division tanks are the bridgelayers in the middle distance.

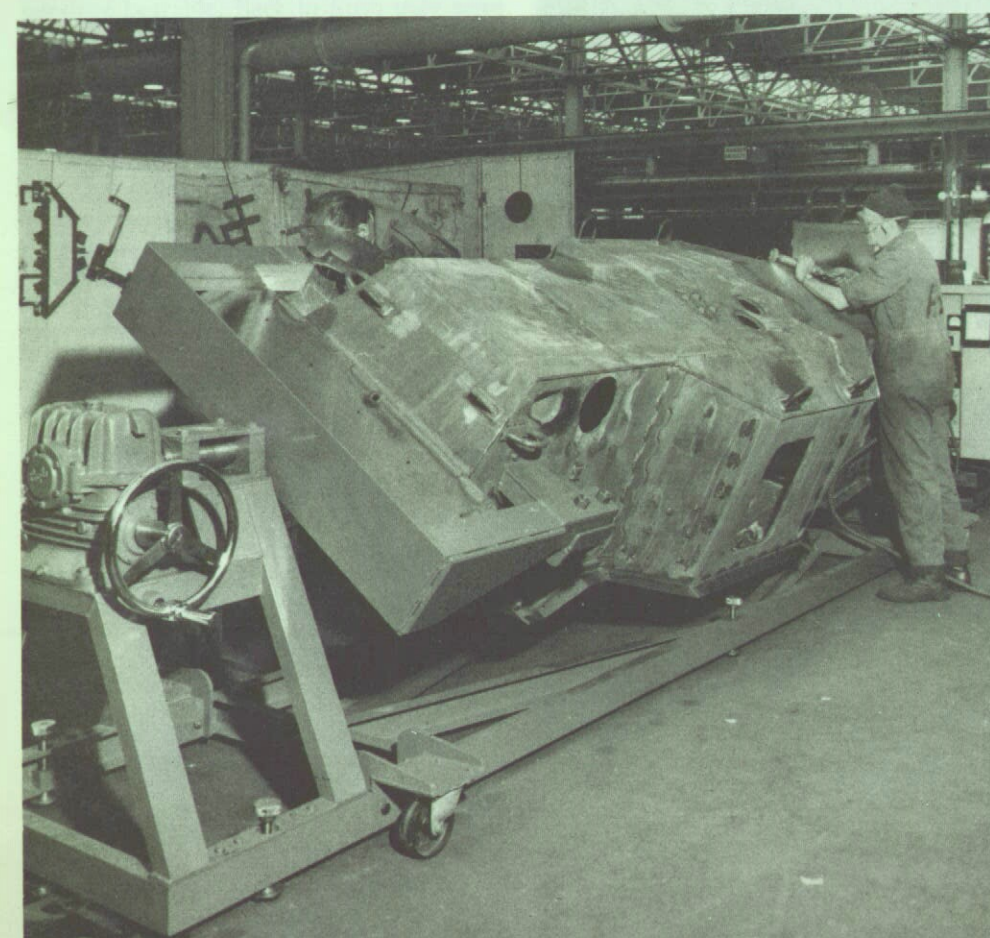


The 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, now stationed at Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Hampshire, are on an 18-month tour of duty in Britain. This includes public duties in London—the first time by a Gurkha battalion. Above, a Gurkha during battle training.



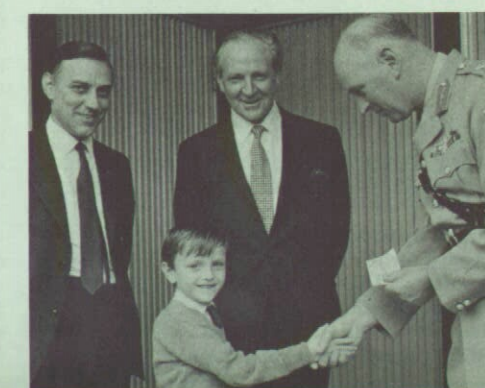
The capes of the pipers swung in unison (above) and giant Brian Boru, Irish wolf-hound mascot, appeared to match step for step when 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, marched into the forecourt of Buckingham Palace at the start of their tour of public duties in London. They relieved 12 Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Buckingham Palace, St James's, the Bank of England and the Tower of London.

Six-year-old Peter Jarman, the youngest walker to complete a 25-mile course round Manchester, hands (left) a cheque for £880 to Major-General James Wilson, GOC North-West District. The money, for the Army Benevolent Fund, is half the amount collected by the sponsored walkers. The other half goes to Manchester YMCA. The GOC also took part in the walk—on his 50th birthday. Also in the picture, left to right: Peter's father, Mr Roy Jarman, who is general secretary of Manchester YCMA, and its chairman, Sir William Mather.



A cradle designed by draughtsmen of 38 Central Workshops, REME, at Chilwell and made for them by Reliance Sheet Metal Ltd of Nottingham, enables Ferret scout cars to be turned spit-wise for welders to operate in safety. It obviates the use of a crane and danger to men working under a one-ton hull.

Sospan I, first goat mascot of the newly raised 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, was handed over (left) to Goat-Major Corporal Keith Thomas at Whipsnade Zoo by Mrs Rosalind Wingate, the children's zoo hostess. Sospan, a gift from the Queen, was chosen from the royal herd of Cashmere goats and was at Whipsnade only a few weeks. Corporal Thomas, who has the task of training and looking after the year-old mascot, is a packer in a metal box company in Neath.



Dad's Army of television fame selected (left) Officer Cadet Margaret Dow of London as Miss TAVR 1971. They chose her from nine finalists assembled at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, and selected from 81 entrants from units all over Britain. Also in picture, left to right: Ian Lavender, James Beck and John Laurie.



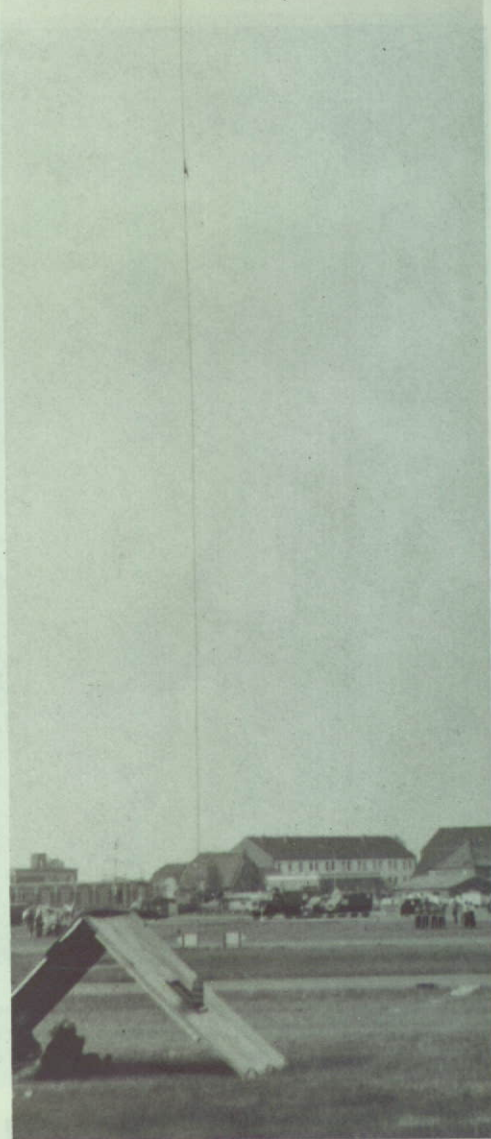




The Prime Minister, Mr Edward Heath (above), at Catterick where he opened the Royal Signals Trade Training School in Vimy Barracks. The building (end view in background) cost £714,368 and is equipped with modern training aids and electronic equipment worth about £3,000,000. The Prime Minister met the troops and is here speaking to Corporal G Holverson, Royal Signals.



Alexander Barracks (above), Pirbright home of the Guards Depot, have won the Royal Institute of British Architects South-East Region 1971 architecture award for the designers, Architects Co-Partnership. The jury commented on the £2,450,000 project: "This is a very large complex which has been carefully planned to take account of the character of an existing landscape of grass, heathland and wooded areas. The new buildings themselves, designed in a restrained and simple manner, have been integrated into this scene. All in all this scheme, although containing buildings for a very wide variety of purposes, has a total unity."



Manoeuvring a sack through a skylight window was one of the rescue tasks set the 37 entrants from 11 countries in the first helicopter world championships, held at Buckeburg, Germany. This effort is by Corporal-of-Horse Max Bailey and Staff-Sergeant Gordon Blackman in their Sioux. Other events included roof-top rescue (above), "slalom," timed style test and cross-country flight with sealed orders. Britain provided 22 of the 72 fliers, ten of them from the Army. The first world champion is Otto Brauer, German Army, who piloted an Alouette II.



# Flight to Fiji

**W**HEN you have been in the "concrete jungle" that is Hong Kong for two years it is pleasant to get out into the real jungle to stretch your legs, especially when it is a few thousand miles away in the blue Pacific's romantic Fiji Isles. Soldiers of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, mostly from A Company, welcomed the Hercules flight that took them to Suva for the month-long Exercise Cope.

They were hosted by the Royal Fiji Military Forces, some of whom accompanied them on the exercise and helped them differentiate between edible and poisonous plants. They also enjoyed a week of rain which, with a low humidity, kept the temperature bearable. Back in Suva they were trounced on the rugby field by a very strong Fijian side but beat a team from a New Zealand infantry regiment both at rugby and shooting.

They found that Fijian men and women do wear grass skirts—when entertaining tourists—but they were specially pleased to see a particularly neat row of European skirts worn by members of their own Welsh women's hockey team touring the Far East. Exercise Cope was good training and Fiji a good break that most of the troops could have endured much longer.

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



Above: The villagers of Vulagi greeted The Welch Fusiliers with singing, garlanded them with flowers and then proffered the local root drink, yagona. Below: Sergeant Ron Granfield explains to a Fijian soldier how a battalion radio set is constructed. Fijians helped in jungle training.



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## The Rifle Brigade

Having heard the good news that 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets—The Rifle Brigade—is to be increased from company to full battalion strength, I feel that a step further should now be made and The Rifle Brigade brought back as a regiment in its own right.

It is just over three months since it was reduced to company strength at Tidworth. Lo and behold the powers-that-be now feel the need for it to be brought back to full battalion strength. In view of such a short lapse of time there must surely now be a case for the regiment to be re-established properly with all the traditions and "esprit de corps" that a regiment such as this inspires.—D A Haighton, 34 Morden Way, Sutton, Surrey.

## Durhams' Durham

I recently visited The Durham Light Infantry museum and was very interested in the photographs of Corporal-of-Bugles James Francis Durham, an Arab whose father was killed in the Battle of Ginnis. Then two years old, he was found by a mounted force under Major Smith Dorrien after the battle and was kept and schooled at the expense of the sergeants of the regiment at their own request. He enlisted in due course, married an English girl and died at Fermoy in 1910.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who might have served with or have information on Durham.—George Robinson, 36 Grove Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8AZ.

## Historic tattoo

On 29 April 1972 the Governor-General's Foot Guards, Ottawa, will present a 100th anniversary celebration tattoo—2360 Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa Cadet Corps have volunteered to do a drill and rifle movement display from the GGFG 1872-1885 period.

# Letters

We would like to contact SOLDIER readers both in Canada and abroad for assistance in locating drill and field exercise manuals, uniforms, accoutrements and weapons of this period to be used in the tattoo. Special arrangements will be made for the safety and security of all equipment. All letters will be answered and any assistance will be greatly appreciated.—Capt J L Colville administration and training officer, #2360 Cadet Corps, Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, Cartier Square Drill Hall, Ottawa 4, Ontario, Canada.

## General Service Medal

Major Austin suggests reissue of the British South Africa Company medal to cover Suez Canal Zone operations during the 'fifties.

More appropriate, modern and quite suitable, would be the current Africa General Service medal last issued for Kenya Service against terrorists during the 1950s and for which thousands of civilians also qualified. During that active service period I was on military duties in Kenya from tougher active service in the Canal Zone but my period in and around Nairobi was too short for qualification for that medal.

Award of the still current and available Africa General Service medal would also cover tough Canal Zone operations from 1951 to evacuation; also the post-war operations in Eritrea against the fearless and well-armed Shifta until federation of that territory with Ethiopia in 1950.

Many British lives were lost on active service under hard conditions in the Canal Zone and Eritrea operations, both areas being within territorial limits of

Africa. Awards of the current Africa General Service medal with appropriate clasps would justly commemorate the last proud and loyal efforts of our servicemen in that continent.

Like your previous correspondent on this subject, I too have no axe to grind, also holding the same GSM with bars, but trust that wider distribution of service medals will be made to the patient and deserving servicemen of our still proud country. So many others share this sentiment.—R Rimmer, 21 Glyn Garth, Chester, CH1 5RY.

## Shades of Weedon

As Mr A D Hall (Letters, September) was presumably a regular visitor to the Royal Tournament before the war he will remember that in the jumping competitions civilian pattern saddlery was then used just as it is today. For the sword, lance and revolver competition at that time, as now, military equipment was compulsory. For show jumping,

however, the universal saddle, particularly with its high front arch, is entirely unsuitable.

Military equitation at the present time differs little from that taught by British Horse Society instructors and several Army instructors have civilian as well as Army qualifications. In spite of this, the seat on parade, with a few minor variations, is practically identical to that practised at Weedon before World War Two, not World War One as stated by the director of the Royal Tournament mounted events. Weedon did not exist as an equitation school until the early 1920s.

Taking into account the small number of mounted soldiers who now remain, the proportion, particularly of non-commissioned ranks, who compete in civilian events is much higher than before the war. The considerable success they have achieved, notably in horse trials from novice to international events and the Olympic Games, would not have been possible if the Weedon system, which still largely forms the basis of modern



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equitation, had not been adapted in some degree to meet present day requirements. —Maj R A Hill RCT, equitation officer, Army Equitation School, RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray, Leics, LE13 0SL.

## Combat badge/GSM

Although I must confess to being a somewhat intermittent reader these days, the inclusion in the August SOLDIER of two letters on subjects on which I have some first-hand knowledge prompts me to write to you.

I was somewhat amused by your answer to the letter concerning the close-combat badge considering that this controversy first started at least 27 years ago! On that occasion, after the battle of Anzio, the proposal (backed by the Americans) was for the British divisions which had been under command of the American Fifth Army to receive the American close-combat badge. This did not materialise but I believe then the minimum qualification was 30 days in the forward positions, not easily achieved by everybody, even in an infantry battalion.

Concerning the award of the General Service Medal. In 1957, having done a tour in the Canal Zone from 1952 to 1954 and having taken part in the action at Port Said in 1956 (for which the medal was awarded), I wrote to my Member of Parliament with the request that he would enquire of the Minister why the medal was not awarded for service in the Canal Zone. My concern then, as now, was with the parsimonious official attitude towards the National Servicemen and short-service Regulars who did sterling work during that time and many of whom lost their lives.

The short official answer (which I still have) was that at no time during the period under discussion was the Canal Zone of Egypt officially designated an active service theatre of operations. —D C Turner (ex-infantry and Intelligence Corps), 5 Fern Park, Ilfracombe, N Devon.

## Rifle buckets

The rifle bucket shown in the photograph accompanying Mr J H Leadbetter's letter (October) is of the type used for long rifles, the buckets of the deep (ie muzzle downwards) type being suitable only for carbines and, later, the SMLE rifle which of course replaced the cavalry's carbines. On a closer examination of the photograph I am quite sure the rifle in the bucket is an SMLE.

Photographs of the personnel of mounted infantry companies, the first of which were created in 1884, show the shallow bucket. Incidentally I remember seeing Regular cavalry with this type a few years before 1914 but whether or not buckets housed long or short rifles I cannot, I am afraid, recall. —T S Cunningham, 6 The Lindens, Prospect Hill, Walthamstow, London, E17 3EJ.

I am sure the photograph shows the Yeomanry and Colonial pattern saddle with the 1884 short-but rifle bucket. This pattern had become general issue to the yeomanry from large stocks accumulated during the Boer War and continued in issue until about 1916 when it was replaced by the UP '02 and '12. These latter patterns did, as Mr Leadbetter suggests, have the deep rifle bucket.

I notice that in the photograph the rifle is supported by the sling being passed through the upper sling swivel and the piling swivel which must surely have made the weapon unhandy and indeed inaccurate in use. —R H G Travers, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hants.

The rifle bucket in the photograph was part of the equipment of the special reserve cavalry in pre-1914 days. The South Irish Horse came under this heading and I can well remember them arriving on the Curragh of Kildare in 1913 when I was stationed there. My eyesight not being what it was (whose is at 78?), I cannot be sure, but I have a feeling that this is a photo of a chap I knew in the South Irish Horse and I

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## more letters

think I can distinguish the green band on the cap and red stripe down the leg of the riding pants.—**W F Pielow, 1 Thornton Close, Hillcroft, Washington, Lincoln.**

I think the soldier in the photograph was an Essex Yeoman. I remember reading some years ago, probably in their regimental history, that some time about 1907 the Essex Yeomanry experimented with a rifle bucket of that type invented by their then commanding officer. The old long British cavalry bucket was

a beautiful piece of leather but heavy. Probably the best answer would have been a canvas sleeve as was used by the US cavalry, though I realise that it's a bit late to think of that now.—**Dr G E Stoker, 1 Webb House, The Bury, Odiham, Basingstoke, Hants.**

## Two hands

Mr John Tiley (Letters, October) is quite right—the Army doesn't take pistol shooting seriously. Why else should revolvers be issued to the Intelligence Corps? The revolver is intended for quick self-protection for those ranks whose job is rather the control than the provision of firepower. When I last went into action I carried three weapons—a thick cudgel for quick bashing, a rifle because I could rely on it and a revolver because it was "regulation." I never used any of them, my job being to control an airborne radio network.

But the real "Circus act" of revolver shooting went out with the horsed cavalry. All sergeants and upwards armed with this perilous weapon fired a short course from the backs of selected old horses. One understood then why it takes such a weight of lead before the galloping sheriff kills the villain in a TV western!—**Lieut-Col R J T Hills, 4194a Hau, Waldstrasse 33, Germany.**

In my view Mr Tiley is wrong and the Army is right. Is it logical to assume that both hands will be available in a real emergency? Far better to train the hard way and use two hands if luck permits. Anyone can shoot well with both hands without much practice. I believe there is one major fault in rifle and pistol training—the failure to appreciate that at 18, when most men enlist, the natural muscular flexibility and automatic mental reflexes are already slowly declining. Preliminary

training assists this rather than reverses it. It stresses accuracy at first and uses static holding exercises which do not train ex-miners, stevedores and other artisans.

The best exercise is to hold the weapon in the standing-load position and jerk the muzzle or pistol about violently and always in straight lines. The energy expended produces heat in the muscles, the molecules in the tissues are agitated—hence the preliminary shakiness—the muscles try unsuccessfully to expand and the molecules are lined up, as it were, in a new and unfamiliar pattern. The muscles are thus artificially cramped into the shooting position and a rock-steady grip is obtained.

Moreover the soldier basically trains himself to lay an aim quickly. He can intensify this calisthenic by adding extra weight to the weapon or holding arm. An intensive daily half-hour of this produces in a matter of weeks a remarkable improvement in shooting.



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Two people can elaborate on this by facing each other and taking turns in following each other's muzzle movement. An improvised aiming mark in the form of a white handkerchief wrapped around each muzzle helps. Grand training stuff! There are so many apparently trifling omissions in rifle training but these aggregate to deprive the soldier of much useful technique. So many soldiers try to make up for sloppy holding with a superfine trigger pressure etc.—**J C Holmes (ex-KRRC), Ellan Vannin, Balbair, Conon Bridge, Ross-shire, Scotland.**

## Desert Rats

I am obliged to Major McIntosh (Letters, October) for his extremely interesting letter on the origin of the title "Desert Rats" and for the correction he makes in so far as my remarks (Letters, July) concerned the 7th Armoured Division and Eighth Army. However, his letter strengthens still further the claim of 25 Company, RASC, to be the original "Desert Rats."—**Lieut-Col I G Thomas, Fairway, 3 Highlands Road, Heath End, Farnham, Surrey.**

Quite a bone of contention one way or another! The jerboa in the original signs of 7th Armoured Division and 4th Armoured Brigade of my collection are different, particularly in the tail of the desert creatures. My 4th Armoured Brigade sign is similar to that shown on the cover of the brigade history by Brigadier Mike Carver but I would say that the jerboa of 7th Armoured Division shown by SOLDIER (October) is an aberrant! It is recorded that in South Africa in 1900, HQ 9th Division had no flag so the senior staff officer of the HQ (a Cameron who later became adjutant-general) tore out the red lining of his greatcoat, a calico figure IX was sewn to it and it was then lashed to a lance to become the divisional headquarters flag. History repeats itself!—**Maj (Retd) Leonard Ridgway, 657 Foxhall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.**

## KEY WORDS

Competition 158 (July) proved to be tough and there were fewer correct entries than prizes—a rare occurrence. Nearly 20 different pairs of words were offered, the popular choices being spirits/pleased, pleased/spencer and person/others. But these were all direct from the text. The preamble stated clearly that the key words were made up of letters taken from groups of three consecutive words. They were in fact anagrams — **KALEIDOSCOPE** ("I pleased; Cook") and **PERSEVERANCE** ("a spencer. Ever").

Prizewinners:

**1 P J Fahey, 13 Mosedale Road, Liverpool 9.**

**2 Miss J C Collins, 347B Harlesden Road, Willesden, London NW10.**

**3 H P Millard, 2 Roslyn Avenue, Milton, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset.**

**4 Cpl B R Furlong, 223 Sigs Sqn (R), Bushfield Camp, Winchester, Hants.**

**5 G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0AQ.**

**6 A J Sudborough, 552 Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 3JA.**

**7 C B Holman, Officers Mess, 13 Signal Regiment, BFPO 40.**

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**Danny Marlow, 24 Whitewell Road, Colcot, Barry, CF6 7TU, Glam.**—Will exchange copies of 1914-1918 "War Illustrated," oil paintings and movie film of RAF at home for super-8mm movie films of Durham Light Infantry.

**Gene Christian, 3849 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463.**—Requires all militaria related to following units: British Indian and Arabian, Shanghai, Camel Corps, 25th Royal Fusiliers, Imperial German Colonial, Foreign Legion, French Colonial. All European colonial and exotic units.

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**J E Baird, 361 The Parade, Kensington Park, South Australia, 5068.**—Requires following SOLDIER back numbers: Feb, Mar 1954; Jan, Feb 53; Mar 52; Nov 51. **R M Bassett, 3 Jubilee Road, Falmouth, Cornwall.**—Collector-researcher will purchase any Nazi or Imperial German flags, books, swords, daggers, medals, badges, helmets, uniforms, photographs, magazines etc. Also requires information and photographs relating to "British Free Corps" of Britons fighting for Germany.

**P Barr, 7983 Newland Circle, Arvada, Colorado 80002, USA.**—Buy, sell and exchange Victorian badges, helmet plates of line and volunteer British infantry. **M T Williams, 40 Marl Road, Netherton, Bootle, Lancs, L30 8SD.**—Wishes buy KRRC officers mess kit and No 1 dress (large sizes), also sword and breast plate badge (will exchange badge for current RGJ pattern).

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## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 27)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Bumper of car on left. 2 Coat sleeve of man behind left car. 3 Right light under porch of cinema. 4 Corner of window by soldier's finger. 5 Scarf of man behind left car. 6 Soldier's coat at bottom left. 7 Buttons of girl on cinema poster. 8 Bottom right branch of tree. 9 Number of soldier's fingers. 10 Corner of left shop window.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Due to an oversight the packing and postage rates were omitted from the details (SOLDIER, September) of this year's Army Benevolent Fund Christmas cards. These are: For ten cards 12p; 20 cards 21p; 30 to 40, 30p; 50, 35p; 60 to 100, 45p; 101 to 250, 65p; 251 to 500, £1.20; 501 to 750, £1.75; 751 to 1000, £2.25; and 1001 to 2000, £4.25.

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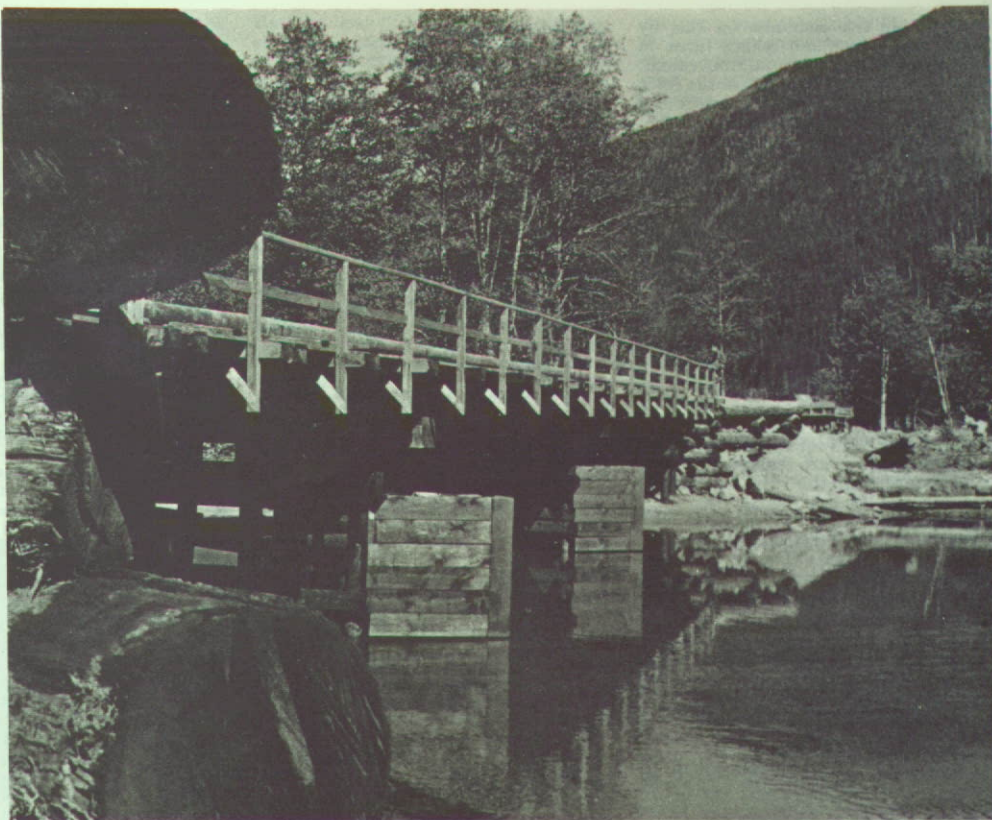
**B**ESIDE the picturesque Chilliwack Lake, under the shadow of Paleface Mountain, 200 sappers from Kent made their own contribution to British Columbia's centennial year celebrations.

They built two timber bridges, shaping their wood from great Douglas firs they cut down near the banks of the Chilliwack River. They moved thousands of tons of rock and earth to complete a winding mountainside road and laid out a car park with picnicking facilities.

The sappers of 50 Field Squadron, 36 Regiment, Royal Engineers, Maidstone, under command of Major David Williams, flew to Canada for the operation and were supported by small detachments of the Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The task took two-and-a-half months and 500 Chilliwack townsfolk arrived for the opening ceremonies attended by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, the Hon John Nicholson. Major-General F G Caldwell, Engineer-in-Chief, and Lieutenant-Colonel John Hooper, commanding 36 Regiment, cut tapes to open the bridges, after which the sappers performed their own ceremonial "snake dance" with suitable chanting, usually reserved for notable mess occasions.

A salmon barbecue by the lakeside ended the day but during the whole of their stay the engineers had been made very welcome—a "sapper to supper" scheme opened many homes to the soldiers who have long and strong links with British Columbia.



The Victoria Bridge, opened by the Engineer-in-Chief, spans a river running into Chilliwack Lake.



A taste of honey for Rupert, a cub bear which "adopted" the sappers and visited each morning from its forest home. Caterer: Sgt Peter Vant.

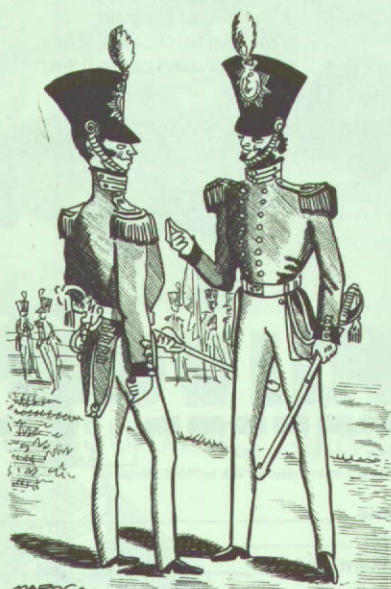


Major-General Caldwell presents a sapper action picture to the Lieutenant-Governor who praised the Royal Engineers' pioneering work in Canada.

The Engineer-in-Chief leads sappers and Canadian officers in "the snake" over the Victoria Bridge.



## Some less-known MILITARY PRINTS



"... actually I had meself fitted out in a little place I know in Carnaby Street."



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**SOLDIER**  
 Clayton Barracks  
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 Hants.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 13 March 1972. The answers and winners’ names will appear in the May 1972 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a “Competition 163” label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.

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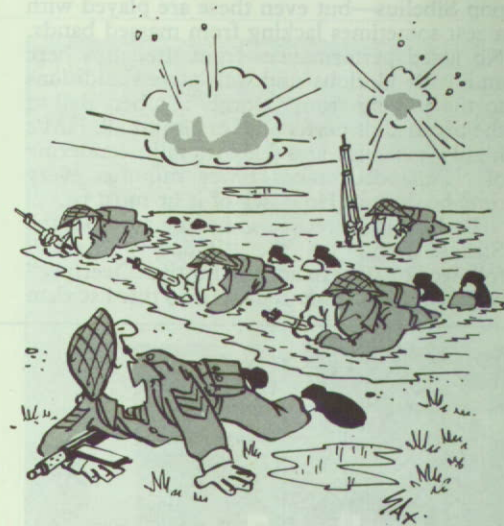
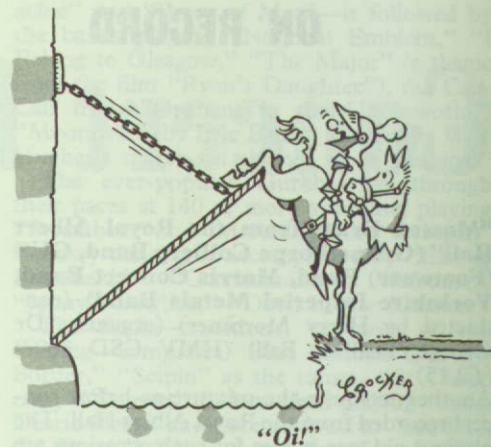
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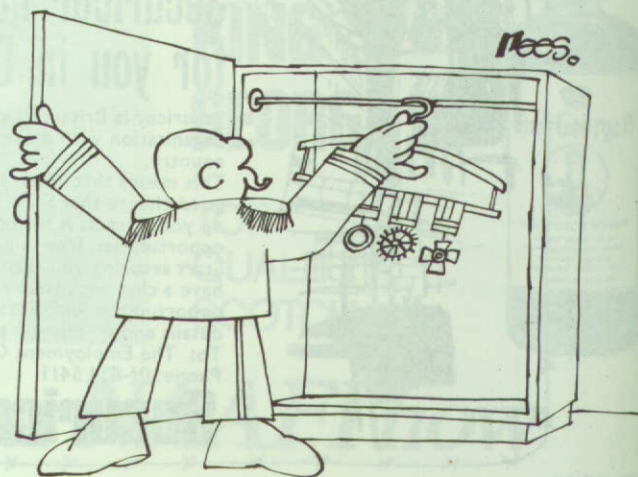
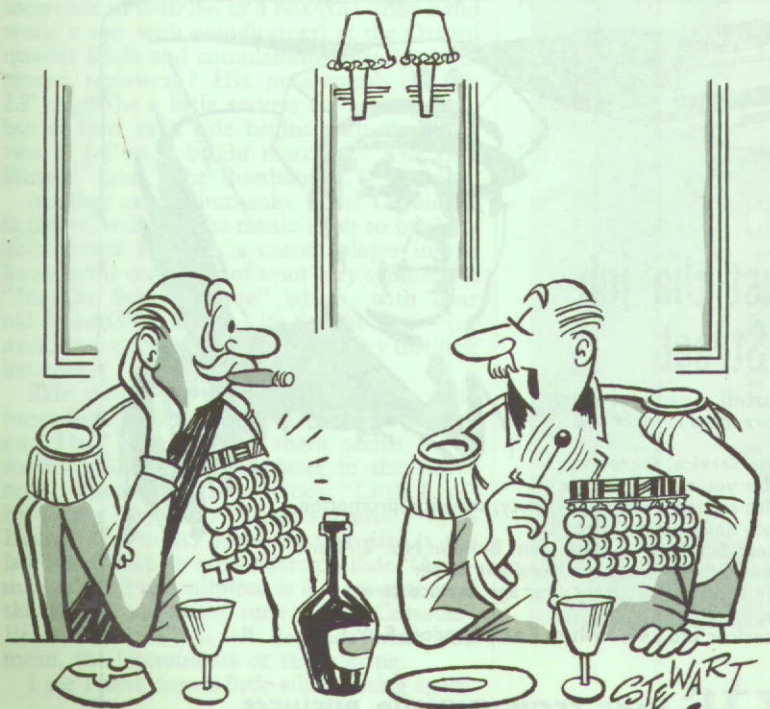




# Christmas humour . . .



## . . . and some decorations





## ON RECORD

# Concert hall and television

**"Massed Brass from the Royal Albert Hall"** (Grimethorpe Colliery Band, GUS (Footwear) Band, Morris Concert Band, Yorkshire Imperial Metals Band) (conducted by Harry Mortimer) (organist: Dr George Thalben Ball) (HMV CSD 3697) (£2.15)

Another not-quite-the-mixture-as-before concert recorded from the Royal Albert Hall. The obvious old war-horses for such occasions are there—G & S, Handel, Jeremiah Clarke and pop Sibelius—but even these are played with a zest sometimes lacking from massed bands. No jaded performances from tired lips here and with glorious and well-placed additions to the scoring from George Thalben Ball at the organ all is perfection, or almost all. HM's highly personal and idiosyncratic rendering of "Finlandia" takes fewer minutes every time he does it. How sick of it he must be.

Brahms is on record as having admired the Strauss family so the "Radetzky March" followed by the "Academic Festival Overture" makes a less incongruous start to the disc than

appears at first sight. The dark and surprisingly sombre colouring of this overture suits the brass band very well, but what cruel mind juxtaposed Saint-Saëns' "Marche Militaire Française" with the Brahms? How similar in mood and style they are, yet one is a silk purse and the other a sow's ear. Handel's "Minuet from Berenice," all serene and sonorous, is followed by a "Ride of the Valkyries" to end all rides—and how these men of brass trill and tremolo with wild and wanton effect. Not Wagner, but thrilling stuff.

Side two is rather more bandstand than concert hall, and a "Mikado" overture by Frank Seymour (the aliases chaps use!) gives it a fine start. MacDowell's delicate "To a Wild Rose" is not an obvious euphonium solo but Gounod's "Judea" is fine on organ and brass. The "Trumpet Voluntary" gets its umpteenth airing and this exhilarating concert ends with Bizet's "Agnus Dei" from "L'Arlesienne" and a five-minute "Finlandia."

You can't help but join the audience in loud applause. **RB**



**"Music on Command"** (Band of the Welsh Guards) (Director of music: Captain D K Walker) (BBC Records REC 121S) The BBC TV series "Music on Command" and "Music from the Castles" are the starting point for this LP which features one of the bands involved. Viewers will no doubt remember that superb backdrop, Caerphilly Castle, which the Welsh Guards had.

It is years since I listened to six Alford marches straight through but I recommend it as a salutary experience for all would-be march writers. What a genre genius Alford was—not a note in the wrong place, not a rhythm miscalculated and an inevitable flow of melody and counter-melody that is almost unbelievable considering the time and care he, like another genius, took over each composition.

After the Jaeger fanfare which opened every programme in the TV series, Captain Walker and his band give us stirring perfor-

mances of "Colonel Bogey," "Army of the Nile," "The Mad Major," "On the Quarter Deck," "The Voice of the Guns" and "The Thin Red Line."

On side two the conductor appears as arranger in seven of the eight items starting with march rhythms in Sousa's "The Liberty Bell" and the 17th century tune "Lilliburlero." There follows a series of Welsh offerings beginning with the beautiful "Amazing Grace," performed here by oboist Anthony Corio, then a march medley of tunes under the title "Triple Crown," by Ernest Waite. Papa Haydn then appears in the unaccustomed role of march composer with his "The Prince of Wales" and I can't help thinking he would have expected it faster and livelier than here.

This attractive album ends with the usual trilogy of "God Bless the Prince of Wales," "Cwm Rhondda" and "Land of My Fathers." **RB**

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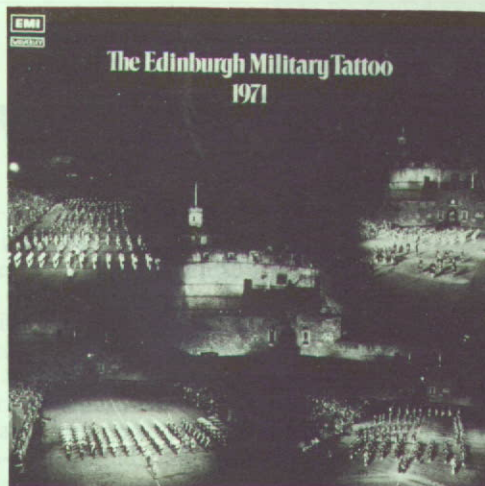
MAKE SECURITY YOUR BUSINESS



**"The Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1971"**  
(Producer: Brigadier J S Sanderson) (Director of music: Flight-Lieutenant E Banks, Royal Air Force) (Waverley SZLP 2128) (£2.15)

This year's record of the Edinburgh Tattoo is more or less of the usual pattern—massed bands, massed pipes and drums, guest band and grand finale. As always with such records it is more a souvenir for those attending the tattoo than a serious essay in recording. And while a tattoo director is always desperate for new non-musical items, the music must be familiar or at least familiar in style.

Flight-Lieutenant Eric Banks has written the opening fanfare "Heart of Midlothian" which celebrates the bicentenary of Sir Walter Scott. A medley of pipe tunes which even I know almost from memory—"Leaving Port Askaig," "Westering Home," "Back of Ben-



achie" and "Braes of Mar"—is followed by the bands playing "National Emblem," "I Belong to Glasgow," "The Major" (a theme from the film "Ryan's Daughter"), the Can-Can from "Orpheus in the Underworld," "Moonride" (by Eric Banks) and finally W T Hughes's march on themes from "España."

The ever-popular Gurkhas go through their paces at 140 or more a minute, playing "Steamboat" and "Marching Thro' Georgia." Country dancing is accompanied by "Earl of Mansfield," "Corriechoillie's Welcome," "Jenny's Bawbee," "Devil in the Kitchen."

The finale—traditional set-piece of the evening—comprises "Blue Bonnets O'er the Border," "Scipio" as the salute, "St Clements," "Sunset," the lone piper playing "Sleep Dearie Sleep" and the march off to "Scotland the Brave," "Auld Lang Syne" and "The Black Bear." **RB**

**"Trumpets Wild" (The Cory Band)**  
(Conductor: Major H A Kenney) (Polydor 99 Fanfare 2485 014)

Two records this month from the same stable, both by famous brass bands. A miniature contest in which I will forbear to adjudicate—perhaps you would care to.

The Cory Band, Welsh champions, have chosen a varied and bright programme with

a meaty piece to end each side. A former Cory conductor, Tom Powell, contributes three of his many marches on both records, with "The Spaceman" giving Cory's a good start. It is followed by two short pieces, Sid Phillips's "Escapada" and Lou Boccherini's celebrated "Minuet." Then two Welsh pieces—the hymn tune "Calon Lan" and a very fine fantasia on national tunes called "Land of Song" by Ian Parrott—between which is an exceedingly "Bombastic Bombardon" (and a very agile one) by Edrich Siebert.

Major Arthur Kenney conducts his own march "St Julian" on side two and a euphonium solo "Spanish Serenade." The piece from which the album takes its title is then played by six cornets, being Harold Walters's slick arrangement of Schumann's piano piece "The Wild Horseman." The showpiece finale is Leidzen's "Sinfonietta" with which the band recently won a contest. And I can quite see why. The Cory Band could well unseat a few national champions on this evidence. **RB**



**"Brass Supreme" (Fodens Motor Works Band)**  
(Conductor: Rex Mortimer) (Polydor 99 Fanfare 2485 015)

This band, again named after its founder, is under one of the ubiquitous Mortimer clan—this time Rex. I wonder if he remembers being incarcerated with me in a box (the brass band world's way with adjudicators) at the Oxford quartet finals and complaining bitterly about record reviewers? His programme on this LP might be a little serious for some people but at least each side begins with the other two T J Powell bright marches, "The Gay Hussar" and "The Bombardier."

Another euphonium solo, "The Cavalier," is played well but the music is oh so predictable. Frank Hughes, a cornet player in the band, is the composer of a not very symphonic "Marche Symphonique" which, with dear old Mike Glinka's "A Life for the Czar" (or a selection therefrom), makes not very thrilling listening.

Side two perks up a bit with the waltz tunes from "Die Fledermaus" known as "Du und Du," about which there seems to be some confusion in two places in the sleeve notes. Then two little novelties, "Little Lisa" by James Warr and "Jamie's Patrol" by S Dacre. The meaty piece on this disc is the late Peter Yorke's symphonic prelude "Automation" and the tailpiece is a mere snatch of the band's signature tune "The Cossack." Brass Supreme? It all depends what you mean, the instruments or the playing.

I see I have done a little adjudicating again. **RB**



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The Scots Greys are the first British soldier figures to be made by the Paris-based firm of Historex. Until now, all have been on the Napoleonic side.

It is due to the enterprise of the firm's British agent, Mr Lynn Sangster, 3 Castle Street, Dover, that they have been persuaded to undertake this new venture. Despite the 156-year period since the Battle of Waterloo their timing is appropriate. The Scots Greys were amalgamated last July with the 3rd Carabiniers to form The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. And Mr Sangster says he has sold five times more Scots Greys in two weeks than ever fought on that famous battlefield. . . .

The kits, of an officer, guidon, trumpeter and dragoon, are of the usual Historex excellence with small items such as stirrups, swords, plumes and straps all moulded separately. The kits, which include coloured cards and assembly instructions, cost £1.65 mounted and 80 pence for foot figures. Mr Sangster operates a by-return-post service and a further eight pence should be added for orders under £5.

For the more modern-minded, the Saladin is neat, compact and easy to build. It is made by Tamiya and distributed in this country by Riko of High Street, Hemel Hempstead. Transfers and a battery-operated motor are included in the 1:35th scale kit which costs a reasonable 99 pence. One criticism is that the rubber tyres are a trifle square.

AFV enthusiasts will be interested to know that Mr Sangster markets plastic "Armour Accessories" in 1:35th scale to replace those items like picks and petrol cans lost or damaged during construction. He also sells transparent plastic display cases for mounted and foot figures and excellent coloured reference books on model soldiers by the Belgian publishers, Casterman. The latest addition to this library is the two volumes of "L'Uniforme et les Armes des Soldats de la Guerre 1914-1918." Each costs £2.22½ with postage and includes more than 70 full colour plates, close-ups of badges of rank, weapons and equipment, with notable portraits of an unshaven *poilu* puffing a pipe and a Prussian officer stiffly adjusting his monocle.

HH



Above: Chameleon camouflage. The Saladin has appeared in many colours. During a recent tour in Sharjah, the Scots Greys even painted them pink.

Above right: A dramatically animated Scots Grey by Mr Shepherd Paine of Chicago. He has added a haversack, and campaign cloth over the bearskin.



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# BOOKS



## TANK WARFARE A HISTORY OF TANKS IN BATTLE KENNETH MACKSEY



with its great experience, today enjoys a monopoly of tank production in the East; nationalistic notions of prestige and competition seem to limit western co-operation. There has been some of course. A Franco-German collaboration got half-way before diverging to produce the Leopard and AMX-30. The German-American scheme for the Type 70 main battle tank came to nothing because of opposing views as to its purpose. And he reports talk of a possible German-British development to use the best features of Leopard and Chieftain in a tank which would come off the assembly lines in the 1980s.

Mr Foss also touches on armoured vehicle development but this very valuable book really is a tank-spotter's handbook. It gives a rundown on all armoured vehicles currently in service from the old war-winning Sherman to the German Leopard and beyond. The veteran Sherman, rebuilt and modified, still forms an important part of Israeli armoured forces; with well-trained crews it has taken on and defeated some of the latest Soviet tanks.

In storage the Israelis have a number (unspecified) of a tank called the T-1967. That was the year of the June war which brought the Israelis to the banks of the Suez Canal. The T-1967s are in fact rebuilt Soviet T-54s and T-55s, rearmoured with a 105mm gun, and with new fire control and electrical systems and air conditioning.

Mr Foss's book contains more than 200 photographs.

Mr Perrett's review of NATO armour brings home the fact that since the end of World War Two the only NATO countries able to afford to produce armoured vehicles are Britain, the United States, France and West Germany.

No single army can claim to be entirely equipped with AFVs of domestic manufacture though the French come near to it. British guns are used in some German and American tanks, German tanks are now in Belgian and Scandinavian units, American self-propelled guns are used in many NATO armies and the Dutch Army has the French AMX range of vehicles. It shows a measure of co-operation but there is room for more if the NATO countries are to get the best for their money.

Mr Perrett presents a well-

## MORE TANKS

"Tanks: An Illustrated History of Fighting Vehicles" (Armin Halle)  
"Armoured Fighting Vehicles of the World" (Christopher F Foss)  
"NATO Armour" (Bryan Perrett)

Captain Halle, an officer of the West German armoured forces and currently a spokesman for the ministry of Defence in Bonn, has produced one of the best tank histories one can hope for. Always lively and authoritative, and superbly illustrated by Carlo Demand, it spans the centuries from the first armoured vehicles of the Persians and the Babylonians, and those mentioned in the Book of Judges, down to the present day when a tank must be proof against atomic, bacteriological and chemical warfare.

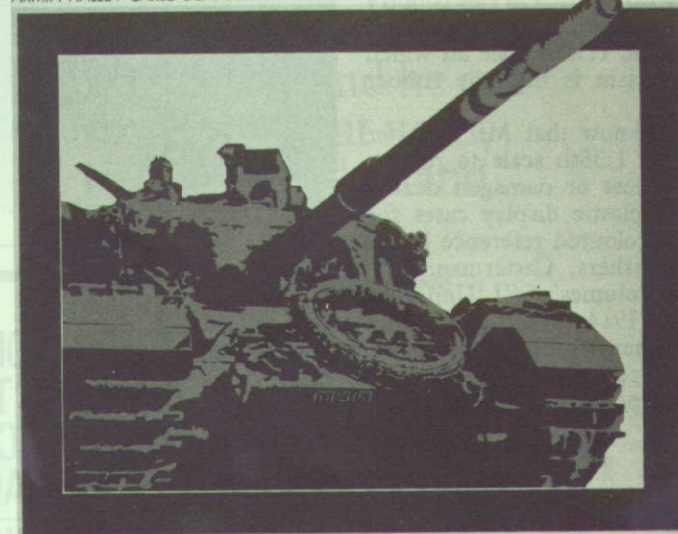
He traces the development of the tank and the tactics for its use; even after more than half a century one can still wonder at the military blindness which consigned to the shelf for many years Swinton's original theory of increasing the new weapon's impact by using it in a massed formation to achieve decisive penetration and breakthrough. Though De Gaulle, Liddell Hart and Guderian advocated massed formations, only the latter had the "pull" to get his theories accepted and the satisfaction of putting them into practice.

Captain Halle notes that Russia,

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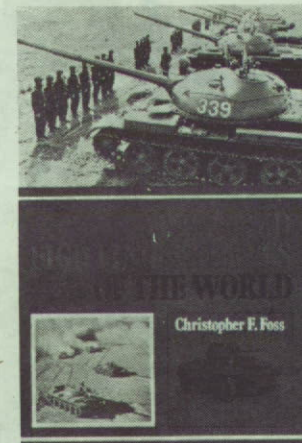
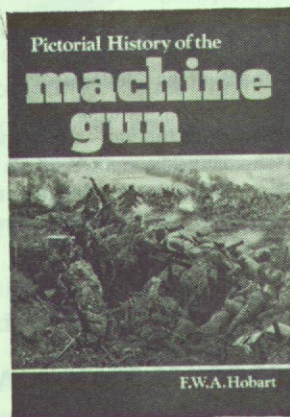
The history and development of the machine gun in words and pictures, from the origin of gunpowder, through the slow evolution of firearms, to the modern weapons in use today. The author sets out to provide information of interest to expert and amateur alike.

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A compact, but fully detailed reference book on all armoured fighting vehicles at present in service, from the old Sherman to the Leopard and beyond. Tanks, armoured cars, light fighting units, armoured personnel carriers, self-propelled guns and specialised vehicles are included.



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balanced picture of the West's armoured forces which will be a valuable companion volume to his "Fighting Vehicles of the Red Army."

Halle: Patrick Stephens, £9.80

Foss: Ian Allan, £2.10

Perrett: Ian Allan, £2.10 JCW

## Still more tanks

"Tank Warfare: A History of Tanks in Battle" (Kenneth Macksey)

"Tank Force: Allied Armour in the Second World War" (Weapons Book 15) (Kenneth Macksey)

"T-34: Russian Armour" (Weapons Book 21) (Douglas Orgill)

Until man learns to wage war entirely by remote control, there will be a place on the battlefield for the tank, says Major Macksey. His study of tank warfare is probably more valuable than most because he bases his analysis on a sceptical view of existing histories mostly written by men intimately concerned with the evolution of the tank.

He feels that accounts of the tank's progress have become enshrined in myth, that the famous tank men—Churchill, Swinton, Martel, Fuller, Liddell-Hart, Guderian and De Gaulle—were in their writings understandably guilty of bias in emphasising their successful contributions to the exclusion of their errors. We find that Patton once denied the possibility of long-range tank operations; that Guderian contradicted himself in pre-war and post-war writings and that similar discrepancies can be found in the works of all the others.

Major Macksey covers the story from the inception of the tank to the present day and parades the great tank generals in success and failure.

With "Tank Force" Major Macksey tackles a narrower canvas, describing the achievements of allied armour in World War Two. He skims briefly through the chequered pre-1939 history of the tank and into the early war years where the allies learned the bitter lessons of defeat, seeing the Germans put into practice the theories preached by such people as Liddell-Hart and De Gaulle. It is still surprising how slow Britain, France and even America were in appreciating the value of armour.



## BRITISH GALLANTRY AWARDS

P.E. Abbott  
J.M.A. Tamplin

Major Macksey takes us into action with the tanks in France, North Africa, Italy, North-West Europe and the Far East. Of all the principal warring nations only Japan failed to make a significant contribution to tank warfare.

But it was on the vast Russian plains that the tank really came into its own; Douglas Orgill presents a splendid account of the Eastern Front battles in "T-34: Russian Armour." Nothing shocked the German soldier more than his first encounter with a T-34, described by Von Kleist as "the finest tank in the world." Strong in armour, rich in power plant and of deadly lethality it incorporated only essentials and could therefore be built in masses. The Russians enjoyed a five-to-one production superiority over the Germans and used their T-34s in masses. A third of the Red Army's tank strength was hurled into the battle of Kursk which Mr Orgill describes as "a Panzer Verdun."

He concludes that Russia made the most enduring contribution to the theory and practice of armoured warfare. Apart from the sheer drama of the Eastern Front tank battles, Mr Orgill's book is worth studying by anyone with an interest in this form of warfare.

1 Hart-Davis, £2.95

2 Macdonald, 50p

3 Macdonald, 50p

JCW

## Medals

"British Gallantry Awards" (P E Abbott and J M A Tamplin)

The value of this richly produced volume lies in the detail of the specialised information it contains—the keen medallist would find it at least inconvenient, if not difficult, to come by it elsewhere. For example many of the rarer rolls are quoted in full and there are several specific citations to illustrate representative circumstances meriting various awards.

The last of the 34 chapters deals with the Victoria Cross. Normally one would expect this highest of gallantry decorations to be first on the list but the authors, aiming perhaps wisely at making reference simpler, have chosen to describe the awards in alphabetical order, starting with the Air Force Cross. Of particularly high quality are the illustrations, especially those in colour, and there is a handy ribbon chart.

Mentions-in-despatches, the order of wearing decorations and medals, and post-nominal letters, are among the subjects covered in the five appendices which round off this commendable publication.

Guinness Superlatives and  
B A Seaby, £6

JFPJ

## UN peacekeeping

"Soldiers Without Enemies" (Larry L Fabian)

The United Nations was formed by the victorious powers after World War Two to keep the peace for evermore. It didn't, but it was a step in the right direction. Korea showed it to be more than a jazzed-up version of the League of Nations and since then it has notched up several notable successes—India-Pakistan, Cyprus, Congo, Middle East.

But the United Nations' peacekeeping capability is weak and improvisational. The organisation's entry into its second quarter-century is perhaps an opportune moment to examine the means by which it can be strengthened.

In this valuable book Mr Fabian explores the prospects for strengthening international peacekeeping forces with special attention to the diplomacy of preparing the UN for

peacekeeping and to the problems of mobilising the necessary men and equipment. After tracing the evolution of the peacekeeping concept, he examines the national readiness programmes of more than a dozen medium-sized nations which have been most active in the peacekeeping field.

Canada leads both in effort and preparedness; the Scandinavians offer guidance in that they alone train for this task and maintain standby units. The Dutch and Austrians have a good record; so do the Brazilians, Irish, Finns, Indians and Yugoslavs. More often than not, peacekeeping forces depend on US or British transport.

From Mr Fabian's analysis emerges a framework for evaluating alternative peacekeeping policies in a changing United Nations.

Brookings Institution, Washington DC, USA, \$7.50 JCW

## For wargamers

"Saratoga 1777" (John Sweetman)

"Borodino 1812" (E R Holmes)

One of the greatest problems facing any prospective wargamer is to know which campaign he should select for study. A beginner would do well to choose from the years 1708-1863 when armies consisted essentially of horse, foot and guns. Rules are therefore easily devised. To help such beginners a new series, "Knight's Battles for Wargamers," has been specially devised. Well-written by experts and furnished with clear maps, it should be of enormous help.

During the period 1708-1863 the British Army fought many battles, most of them victories, but suffered one shattering defeat in America at the hands of the rebels—Saratoga 1777. This battle was the result of an intelligent plan to split the rebel forces in two. "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne was to march south from Canada with 7000 men and link up with Howe's army at Albany. Both were then to swing eastward into New England. Unfortunately, Burgoyne's army of British, German, loyalist Canadian and Indian forces was overloaded for a long march through swampy woods. They eventually ran out of food and ammunition. Heavily outnumbered, they fought hard at Freeman's Farm and Benis Heights but had to surrender.



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## BOOKS continued

No doubt wargamers will reverse the result!

Borodino was the climax to the French invasion of Russia. With an army of 100,000 men and 587 guns Napoleon faced Kutusov's 120,000 and 640 guns. Normally it would have been a walkover for Napoleon but he was in poor health and could think of nothing but a frontal assault. The result was a ghastly carnage in which 80,000 fell, including 49 French generals. Technically Napoleon had won the battle as he occupied Moscow; in reality he had lost the war.

A well-written little book with clear maps.  
*Charles Knight, 90p each* **AWH**

### "Men-at-arms"

"Foot Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard" (Charles Grant)

"The Stonewall Brigade" (John Selby)

"French Foreign Legion" (Martin Windrow)

"The Black Watch" (Charles Grant)

If the first four titles in this new "Men-at-Arms" series are anything to go by, military enthusiasts, collectors of militaria and wargamers are in for a feast. Each title gives a brief history of a famous fighting unit, but interesting though these undoubtedly are, the chief attraction for many will be the colour plates. These are of outstanding quality and the meticulous attention to detail will be invaluable to the perfectionist modeller.

In the "Foot Grenadiers" the reader accompanies the regiment to Ulm and Austerlitz, Eylau and Friedland, to Russia and Waterloo. Drawings of equipment and separate items of uniform include bearskins, coats, buttons and an officer's belt buckle.

"The Stonewall Brigade" opens with a short biography of the brigade's creator, Thomas Jonathan (Stonewall) Jackson. Again the illustrations are first class, especially those in colour, and the informed descriptions of various Civil War actions are brief and to the point.

The book on the French Foreign Legion covers the history of this famous body of fighting men from its earliest days. For collectors there are some interesting illustrations of badges and, as in the "Grenadiers" and "Stonewall Brigade," Michael Roffe's colour plates are admirable.

Finally, "The Black Watch." Here the colour plates by Michael Youens, remarkable for their clarity and sharpness, are invaluable to keen wargamers. The regimental history describes such famous battles as Fontenoy and Ticonderoga, Alexandria and Quatre Bras, and follows the regiment to the Iberian Peninsula, the Crimea, India and the desert in World War Two.

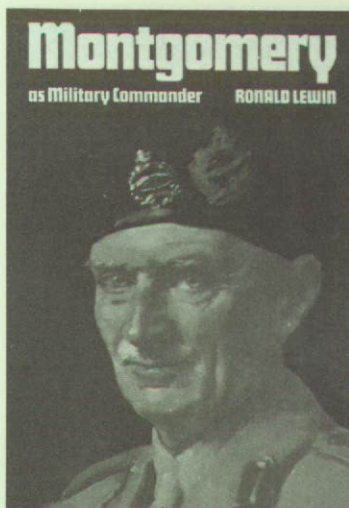
*New English Library, £1.25 each*

**JFPJ**

### Battlefront hero

"Montgomery as Military Commander (R Lewin)

In 1942 Britain had her home front hero, Winston Churchill, but needed one on the battlefield where for the last three years there had been failure after failure. Then came El Alamein and Bernard Law Montgomery. For the rest of the war "Winnie" and "Monty" dominated the British public and its attitude to the conflict.



This new hero was unlike any before him. He was small and skinny, did not chase women, went to sleep at ten every evening on a glass of warm milk and forbade tobacco in his presence. There have been few biographies of this strange, cocky, image-conscious general; Montgomery was too hard a man to approach. Now ex-artillery officer and military historian Ronald Lewin has attempted the task and made a very readable, thoughtful job of it.

Unlike the two previous major biographers, Alan Moorhead and R W Thompson, he cannot get close to Montgomery emotionally. His approach is more objective and for that reason a little duller but it still offers a penetrating study.

In 288 pages the author devotes only 17 to the Ardennes battle and the crucial last six months of the war. Instead Mr Lewin concentrates on old stories of the desert.

One might also criticise the captions of otherwise excellent photographs—Field-Marshal Kesselring labelled as Admiral Doenitz, Coesfeld written as Goesfeld, and in one case (page 193) two completely wrong captions.

Perhaps this is carping. Mr Lewin's book is an exceedingly valuable one and well worth reading.  
*Batsford, £3.50* **CW**

## Indonesia and Vietnam

"The Undeclared War" (Harold James and Denis Sheil-Small)

"A Distant Challenge"

Nobody ever called it a war—it was Confrontation. But in every other respect it was a war, an all-out struggle as important as the Malayan Emergency of the 1950s.

It sprang from the grandiose visions of Sukarno, the Indonesian president who, even before the Japanese were driven from South-East Asia, was dreaming of an independent empire comprising Indonesia, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. As Malaysian aspirations for independence began to take shape he fostered a rebellion in Brunei and launched his guerillas wherever there seemed an opportunity of quick success.

For four years British, Gurkha and Commonwealth troops held a frontier 1000 miles long. Guerilla attacks were incessant and bitter but the superbly trained and versatile defenders contained every assault. The counteraction of the British and Commonwealth forces was masterly, planned and executed to perfection. But for excellent leadership, those troops could well have found

themselves in another Vietnam. They gained almost total mastery in this jungle war, playing and outwitting the enemy at his own game.

Mr James and Mr Sheil-Small, former brother officers in the Gurkhas, recall many a stirring tale of high courage, particularly that of Corporal Rambahadur Limbu who won the only VC of the campaign. As in the Malayan Emergency the Gurkhas were a source of inspiration to their comrades-in-arms.

This is the first account of the secret war. In presenting it the authors perform a service to British military history as well as paying a tribute to the men who fought and died to keep Malaysia among the free countries of the world.

Had Indonesia been a communist state it might have been a different story. Vietnam is a prime example. "A Distant Challenge" comprises a series of detailed personal accounts of combat from 1967 to 1970 by men of all ranks and units.

In effect this is a remarkable inquest on military experience. No better picture of the US infantryman at war is likely to appear. Heroism, mistakes, professionalism are all depicted. The combat examples are of particular interest with the advantages and shortcomings of various tactics—air support, artillery, air mobile operations etc—clearly illustrated.

This book, a successor to "The Infantry in Vietnam," is a valuable addition to any military bookshelf; I imagine General Giap will get hold of a copy somehow.

1 *Leo Cooper, £2.75*  
2 *Infantry Magazine, Box 2005, Fort Benning, Georgia 31905, USA, \$6.50* **JCW**

## General Eisenhower

"The Supreme Commander" (Stephen E Ambrose)

The author, an American historian, deals with the career of Dwight D Eisenhower from 1942, when the American Chief of Staff General Marshall decided that the youngish brigadier-general would be his man in Europe, to May 1945 when five-star General Eisenhower was Supreme Commander of a great 4,000,000 strong Allied army and the mightiest war machine the world has ever seen.

In theory this could have been a very important book indeed. It is the first to devote itself to Eisenhower's decision-making as a commander and the author (currently Eisenhower Professor of War and Peace at Kansas State University) had all the Eisenhower official papers at his disposal.

In practice Mr Ambrose has devoted a great deal of labour to his lengthy volume (732 pages) but has no feel for the time and when in doubt seems to accept the "official" version of Eisenhower's actions.

In particular the controversial decision to halt on the Elbe and not to attempt to capture Berlin is accepted as if nothing new has been discovered on the subject. Mr Ambrose accepts Eisenhower's post-war explanation that he made the decision strictly on military grounds; that he was too naive to be concerned about the political advantage of possessing Berlin; that the problem of a fanatical last-ditch stand in the Bavarian-Austrian Alps seemed more important to him at that time than the capture of Berlin. Mr Ambrose hardly touches the influence of Bradley on that fatal decision.



For this reviewer, a disappointing book.  
 Cassell, £4.00

CW

## For tyro or expert

"Military Badge Collecting" (John Gaylor)

In 1881 there were 109 separate British infantry regiments plus cavalry and corps. Compared with that splendid array one might think the modern streamlined Army has little to offer the badge collector. Yet, paradoxically, or perhaps just because of this very paucity, there has been no flagging of interest in military matters. Rather has it

increased and nowhere more than in the field of badge collecting.

Mr Gaylor, who is secretary of the Military Historical Society and an acknowledged authority on his subject, has produced a much-needed book of outstanding merit. Every aspect of this fascinating hobby is dealt with clearly and informatively. There are photographs of more than 600 badges, from 1881 to 1970, each readily identifiable. The beginner is told how to start a collection and other introductory sections discuss the evolution of the cap badge, the significance of crowns and the possibility of forgeries.

Individual badges are described in detail and the 18 chapters include such diverse headings as "Airborne Forces," "Territorial Infantry

Badges," "Women's Units," "Pipers," "Kitchener's Army," "Military Cyclists," "The Home Guard," "War Raised Units," "Popski's Private Army, V Force etc."

Seven appendices include lists giving the order of regimental precedence, the names allocated in 1881 to the 109 previously numbered regiments of foot, the 1971 infantry line-up, brass and plastic badge issues and foreign language mottoes conveniently translated. Finally there is some useful advice on the acquisition, mounting and display of badges and, most important, the author has seen to it that the book is well indexed.

An ideal Christmas present for beginner and experienced collector.  
 Seeley Service, £3.25 JFPJ

## IN BRIEF

### AFV/Weapons Profiles

Sweden's revolutionary S-tank, described by R M Ogorkiewicz, is the subject of Profile 28. The S-tank differs from all other tanks in having no turret, which gives it a very low silhouette and makes it a more difficult target, and in its gun being fixed in relation to the hull.

While the fixed gun needs less space within the hull because there is no breech movement, and also allows of automatic loading, the gun can be elevated or depressed only by altering the hull's pitch and traversed only by turning the whole tank.

Profile 29, by Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis, deals with the American M4 medium tank, the famous Sherman. This tank was produced in greater numbers than any American tank before or since and became the standard medium tank from 1942 to 1944.

Total production was 43,685 tanks of which 32,405 were armed with the 75mm gun, 6600 with the 76mm and 4680 with the 105mm howitzer. Special variants included the assault Jumbo, British-named Firefly with 17-pounder gun, tank recovery vehicle, DD swimming tanks, rocket launchers, Callie and Whiz-bang, flame-thrower Crocodile, mine ex-ploders Aunt Jemima and Crab, and a series of self-propelled guns and howitzers.

Profile Publications, 35p each

"Battery Records of The Royal Artillery 1859-1877" (Lieutenant-Colonel M E S Laws)

This detailed and accurate collection of battery records is a continuation of an earlier volume published in 1952 covering the period 1716 to 1859. Printed in a limited edition, volume II continues the story up to 1877, clearly setting out the record of every Regular battery—excluding Royal Horse Artillery units but including the artillery of the Honourable East India Company which transferred its batteries to the RA in 1862.

One of the most useful sections in the book is the index of units table which traces each battery's nomenclature, supplementing this with a potted history. Expensive though it undoubtedly is, this mine of information is an essential aid to both gunner historian and student of artillery.  
 Royal Artillery Institution, Woolwich, £12

"The Royal Marines"

This brief history of the Royal Marines from 1664 to 1971, in the Pitkin "Pride of Britain" series, is generously supported by black-and-white and coloured illustrations and

attractively presented in only 24 glossy pages.

Some of the pictures are well known but several have never before been published and should be of particular interest to students of military history. The last page is devoted to details of badges, Colours, regimental marches, memorable dates and a list of Royal Marines who have been awarded the Victoria Cross.

Curator, Royal Marines Museum, Royal Marines Barracks, Eastney, Hants, PO4 9PP, 20p (plus 4p postage)

### Bellona Military Vehicle Prints

Series 24 features super-detailed drawings in 1:76 and 1:48 scales of three French tanks—the chars mitrailleur FT17 (8mm), canon FT17 (37mm) and signal FT17 TSF—and the Italian carro armato M11/39.

The cover illustration, by George Bradford, is of a canon FT17 with its 37mm cannon in an octagonal rivetted turret. The Renault FT17 multi-purpose tank was designed in 1917, fought in early 1918 and lasted as a series until 1945. Drawings and historical research here are by Christian Henry Tavad.

The carro armato, designed to support infantry, came into service with the Italian Army in 1939. Drawings here are by Phil Dyer, with historical research by Phil Dyer and Nicola Pignato.

Series 25 features the Soviet T-34/76A medium tank (1939), Churchill bridgelay and American T18E2 armoured car, Boarhound.

About 1100 T-34/76A tanks were built and they began to appear shortly after the German invasion of Russia in June 1941. This was the first model of one of the most revol-

utionary and successful tank designs in the world.

Bridge-laying tanks first appeared just after World War One. The one-piece bridge was successfully tried on the Churchill chassis in 1942 and saw service in North-West Europe and the Italian campaign.

To meet the need for a large radius of operation in the Western desert, the United States turned again to armoured cars, which had been dropped in 1937 in favour of fast light tanks, and produced two vehicles for the British and American forces. The medium version became the British Staghound. The heavier eight-wheel TE18E2 missed the desert war and only the pilot car and 30 production cars were shipped to Britain to become Boarhound. They were never used in action and only one now survives—in the RAC Tank Museum at Bovington.

Model & Allied Publications Ltd, 13-35 Bridge Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, 25p each (UK)

### "Indian Cavalry Regiments 1880-1914" (A H Bowling)

All the dash and glamour of India's famous cavalry regiments are reflected in this well-illustrated 72-page book. There are 114 pictures of individual uniforms in colour plus a splendid full-page colour plate of a mounted 15th Bengal Lancer officer. Other illustrations include groups of detailed figure drawings showing variations of dress and photographs of individual soldiers and regimental groups. Some 45 different units or regiments are covered in this concise guide which also includes a list of equivalent Indian and British ranks and a glossary of Indian clothing terms. A useful and quick reference.

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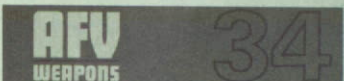
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