

December 1977

20p

Soldier



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FRONT COVER

The scarlet jackets, the glasses and the chat round the table — all part of the typical sergeants' mess dinner. But this one is different — there are television cameras present. It is a scene from 'Spearhead', Southern Television's new Army drama series, now 'in the can' and awaiting screening.

Southern TV picture



BACK COVER

Grit, determination and sheer agony of exertion are etched in the face of this young Queen's Own Highlander as he crawls under barbed wire on an assault course at the end of a five-mile run. The gruelling course was part of the Cento Nishan shooting contest in Turkey.

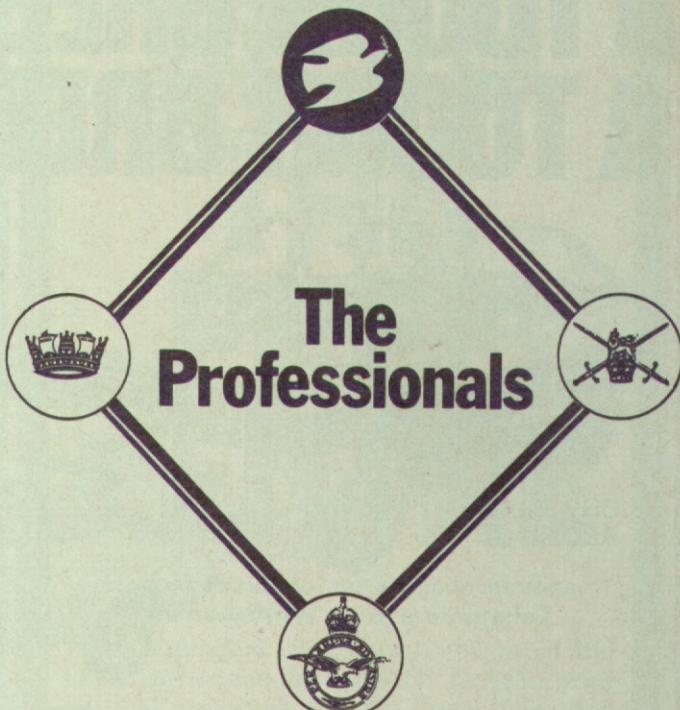
Picture by Doug Pratt.

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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.

See-the-Army Diary



JANUARY 1978

21 Scottish Military Collectors Society Militaria fair, Glasgow.

MAY 1978

27 South Midland Tattoo (27-29 May).
27 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (27-29 May)
28 Hove Lions Day (band).

JUNE 1978

3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
11 Hungerford Steam Rally (11-12 June) (band).
23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June).

JULY 1978

7 Catterick Army Display (7-9 July).
7 Southampton Show (7-9 July) (band).
8 Basingstoke Tattoo (8-15 July).
8 Airborne Forces Day.
9 Tercentenary parade, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh.
13 Kent County Show (13-14 July) (band).
16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (16-30 July).

AUGUST 1978

1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August).
2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
4 Southsea Show (4-6 August) (band).
9 Plymouth Services Tattoo (9-12 August).
18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
25 Edinburgh Tattoo (25 August-9 September).
27 Quexpo 78, Birchington, Kent, (27-28 August) (band).

WELLS CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

Co-educational Boarding and day

Annual Entrance and Scholarship tests and interviews will be held for the main ordinary academic entry on Saturday, 25th February, 1978. Four academic scholarships will be offered to those under 14 and over 10.6 on 1st September: value according to parents' income, but up to two thirds fees.

Auditions for specialist performers' course in strings for serious music course will be held over the same weekend. Instrumental training for these 60 boys and girls is integrated within the normal curriculum. Grants are available to the most outstanding.

There are just over 600 from 7 to 18; more than half are boarders. There is a Sixth Form of 90 taking a full range of 'A' Level courses; about half go to university, including several to Oxford and Cambridge.

For further details write to Head Master.

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Prospectus from Secretary. (Tel: Weymouth 2977).

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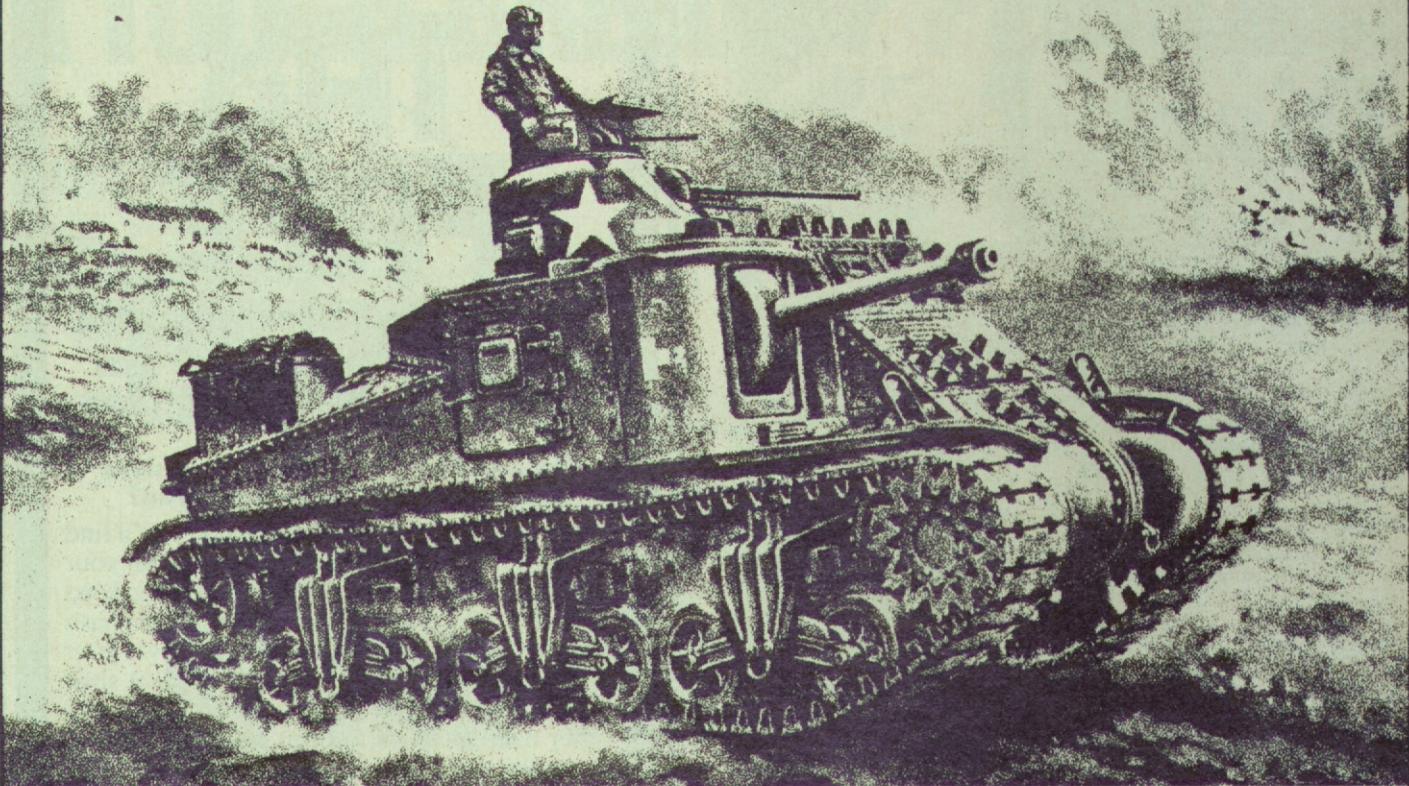
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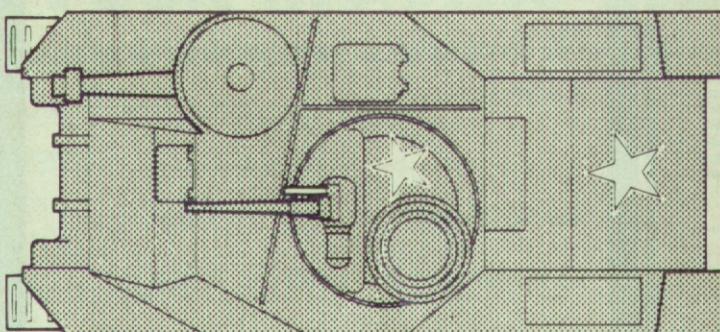
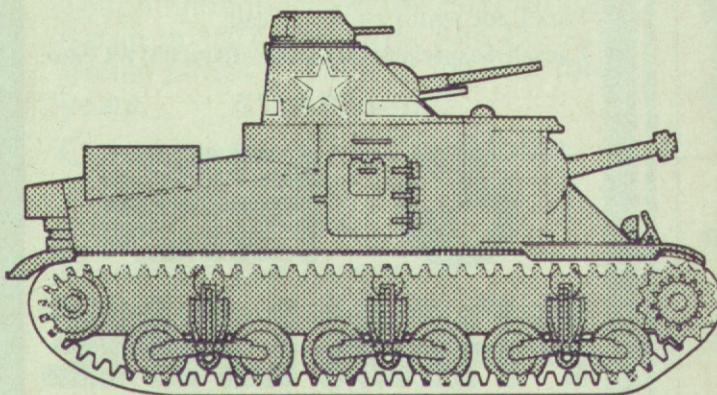
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NEW FROM AIRFIX



THE GIANT OF THE DESERT WAR.



Armed with a 75mm gun, capable of punching holes in all but the thickest armour, the American M3 Lee tank proved a formidable fighting machine in battles with the Germans in North Africa.

The Lee fought the German Panzer IV's and Tiger I's in Tunisia and despite heavy losses turned the tide of battle in favour of the Allies.

Towering some 11 feet above the ground, the Lee was, undoubtedly, the giant of the Desert War.

Now this famous tank is included in the Airfix 1:32nd scale AFV range of kits. It incorporates elevating guns, revolving turrets, flexible tracks and all the external equipment it carried in service.

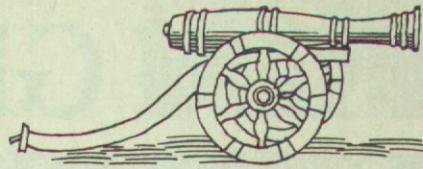
Three sets of authentic decals are provided plus a full painting guide.

Technical Details

Engine	- 400 hp air-cooled radial
Maximum Speed	- 22 mph
Battle Weight	- 60,000lb
Height	- 11ft
Armament	- 75mm gun, 37mm gun, 30 cal machine gun

AMERICAN M3 LEE TANK 1933
1:32 Scale Armour Series.





THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY

FOUNDED IN 1537 by Henry VIII as the Guild of St George, the Honourable Artillery Company has always laid claim to being the oldest regiment in the British Army. Its headquarters, Armoury House, built in 1735 just outside the City of London, appropriately includes among its treasures an order dated 5 September 1682, probably the Army's oldest, calling on the Artillery Company to "perform an Exercise at Arms at Baumes, or the fields leading to it," and urging those concerned to bring with them "fine dry Powder and even Match."

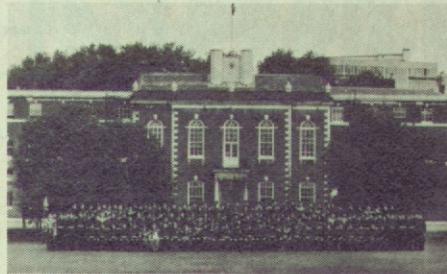
Armoury House is in effect a museum in itself. Each room has its share of historic exhibits and on the main staircase are two brass cannons presented to the Company by a grateful corporation for services during the Gordon Riots, and the last remaining stone-aiming mark or target used by archers in the 17th century.

Two magnificent mitre caps stand on an elaborately carved Grinling Gibbons mantelpiece. Both in perfect condition, one dating from about 1702 is embroidered with a silver portcullis and bears the cypher of Queen Anne; the other shows the arms of the Company in stamped metal and is the earliest known example of a metal cap badge. Dated 1714, it has George I's cypher on the flap. Nearby is a splendid suit of tilting armour (circa 1555-60) made by Jacob of Greenwich and believed to be one of the earliest-known works of that gifted craftsman.

One of the HAC's most treasured possessions is the Great Vellum Book in which the names of members are inscribed from 1611, notably that of Robert Keayne, who emigrated to America and founded the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts which today ranks as the oldest military body in the New World.

Many famous signatures appear in the book. Typical are those of John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough; Prince Rupert; General George Monk; Duke of Albemarle; Duke of Buckingham; Duke of Monmouth; and Samuel Pepys, Secretary of the Navy and a steward of the HAC. Similar volumes have been kept down the years and the name of every member is duly inscribed on vellum. In them are also the signatures of statesmen, including President Theodore Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill, and of almost every monarch from Charles II to Elizabeth II. Both Charles, as Prince of Wales, and the present Prince of Wales, signed at the age of 11.

The HAC has two Victoria Crosses, both won on St George's Day at the battle of



Givenchy in 1916 by Captain Alfred Pollard and Captain Reginald Haine. Pollard's VC can be seen in the Medal Room. The HAC is unique among regiments in having not only its own coat of arms but also the privilege, conferred by Edward VII, of wearing the ribbon of the Territorial Efficiency Decoration and Medal in his private colours, an example of which can be seen in the medal display.

In the Court Room hang regimental Colours, pictures of the HAC on parade and others showing changes in dress styles such as the authorisation by William IV that the Company's uniform be the same as that of the Grenadier Guards but with silver instead of gold lace. A rare set of regimental buttons of the same period and a magnificent 'leading staff' dated 1693 and said to be the first drum-major's stick, are among a number of interesting souvenirs.

Pictures of the balloon carrying Mr Lunardi, an Italian, as it rose from the HAC parade ground on 15 September 1784 to make the first aerial ascent by a man in the United Kingdom, should not be overlooked. Lunardi was afterwards made the HAC's only honorary member.

Pikes and helmets, rifles and swords, can be seen in different rooms while a William III gorget, an 18th century set of HAC drums, the distinctive green uniform of the Yeger (Rifle) Company and a mid-19th century officer's uniform complete down to the last detail are in yet another room.

John Jesse

Curator: Lieut-Colonel P Massey
Address: Honourable Artillery Company
 Armoury House
 City Road
 London EC1
Telephone: 01-606 4644
Visitors: By appointment
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Next month: The Airborne Forces Museum

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THE METROPOLITAN POLICE

SOLDIER to Soldier

Looking back on his Army service, Mr A Worley, a former warrant officer 1 in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, recalls that two military terms always irritated him. They were 'married families' and 'other ranks'. The first disappeared some years ago when at long last 'married families' became simply 'families'. 'Other ranks' is still with us, presumably simply because no one has been able or thought it necessary to substitute a more appropriate term, preferably a single word. "This is a shocking term and I can well imagine," says Mr Worley, "that its use was first ordered by a minister or Army commander who, with a derisory wave of the hand, declared: 'Just call them other ranks!' It sounds devoid of all thought and seems to indicate non-descripts."

Pointing out that the Royal Navy uses the "more respectable expression" of ratings and that the old Auxiliary Territorial Service referred to its junior girls as auxiliaries, Mr Worley asks: "Could not some word or words be derived, say from Latin, and adopted as a new and better-sounding term for all soldiers below commissioned rank?" SOLDIER has itself long boggled at 'other ranks' and whenever possible avoids using the term, instead referring to officers, non-commissioned officers and men, or soldiers. But neither 'men' nor 'soldiers' is the answer. Everyone in the Army, of whatever rank, is a soldier and equally both officers and NCOs are men — except of course, bless them, in the Women's Services.

What is needed is a simple term, equating with ratings in the Navy and airmen in the Royal Air Force, which can replace 'other ranks' and be clear and definitive in its application.

Mr Worley and SOLDIER are stumped, so over to you, readers, for your ideas.

★

Having always advocated that military medals, particularly gallantry decorations, should be held by military museums when recipients or their families no longer want them, SOLDIER welcomes the recent gift to a regimental museum of one of the regiment's Victoria Crosses.

But it has to be accepted that a family may need to sell a decoration and, in the case of a VC, not always can a regiment compete in the open market. When SOLDIER last mounted this particular hobby horse, medal collectors were quick to point out that in their hands decorations were well cared for and prized beyond their mere cash value. One of them, Mr Ernest Bell, now suggests that to many museum curators medals are no more than another exhibit whereas he is interested in the man, his background, his service and how he won his award. Mr Bell devotes his time to studying the Army, its men and its medals and the intensity of his interest is evident in the result of a year's labour on privately producing the oddest of all the many books on decorations and medals. It is simply a list of 18,000 names — the names of the 18,000 British soldiers who died on 1 July, 1916, the first day of the Somme.

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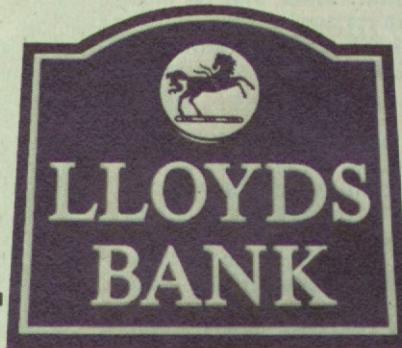
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"Once in royal Ulster's city . . ."

SEASIDE

Jolly Santas "ho, ho, hoing" at the queues filing through the steel-barred segment gates protecting Belfast's city centre from the bombers seem out of place. The frozen joviality of the painted cut-outs mocks the shoppers shuffling past the Civilian Search Unit. But soldiers on guard duty at the gates have seen the irony and got their own back on one smiling Santa. His red coat has been saucily adorned with two mistletoe berries and a twig strategically placed to give the last laugh to more observant passers-by beneath.

Rainbow twists of crêpe paper lend a few weeks' colour to the shabby décor of the bar. They dance Irish jigs on updraughts of the hot air bred of beery breath. A fruit machine jingles 'Merry Christmas' to a gleeful, dumpy wife.

Silver tinsel around the blackframed memorial photo of a gunned-down gunman stirs in a blast of winter evening air let in by the Army patrol that enters. The soldiers grin knowingly at faces in the flesh they have come to know through photographs to be the men behind the bombs and guns. Some grin back. Some turn a haughty back. The soldiers go on their way. At the door the hostile quiet is cut by a thin voice fortified with port and lemon to dare a farewell. Her "Merry Christmas, lads!" defies the frosty glares of the menfolk and stretches a seasonal hand of hope across the abyss of hatred.

Never is the ear-numbing roar of Hercules aircraft engines more welcome than when it means you are taxi-ing out of Aldergrove's dispersal area to take off for home. It is especially welcome at Christmas-time when the passengers represent the handful of lucky soldiers from each unit who draw the festive season for their leave.

They briefly exchange the chilly streets and unfriendly faces for the warmth of their own firesides and the delighted laughter of their families around the Christmas tree. But amid the free-flowing good cheer they drink a silent toast to their comrades back there on patrol and rationed to two cans of beer a day. Surrounded by gift-wrapped boxes, they spare a thought for Felix — the bomb disposal teams — turning out to deal with deadlier parcels, the presents of hate.

And warmed by fire, family and friends, they remember their colleagues' lonely vigils this Christmas-time on the chill street corners of Belfast where season's greetings all year round are the crack of the sniper's rifle and the crump of the Provos bomb.

AMPLIFIED CAROLS of peace on Earth and goodwill to all men echo hollowly around Donegal Square. They span the wintry night between the Christmas-cake crenellations of Belfast's floodlit City Hall and the slab-sided department stores opposite.

But the Herald Angels' trumpets take on the mournful twin-tone of a fire engine klaxon and the Watchnight Vigil of the soldiers on the streets becomes another night on stand-by in the fight against the terrorist. . . .

There is an eerie quiet on the toy floor five storeys above the street. The camouflage-clad figures moving slowly from display to display, guns resting across their forearms, contrast sharply with the children's games and toys. A soldier's hand, grotesquely swollen in its padded black glove, cradles a toy in an awkward-looking palm:

"My kid wants one of these for Christmas," he says. But he cannot buy it tonight. The shop is closed to all but the patrol and the onlooking manager whose nerves are jangling in tune to the keys he twitches in his hand.

For the job tonight is to search the store for small incendiary devices which may have been hidden among the displays. The horror of Christmas in Belfast is that the toy the young soldier's son craves could be the grim tinder of a fire-bombing holocaust.

NISHAN COMPETITION



FLYING SCOTSMEN'S TURKISH DELIGHT

A TEN-MAN SQUAD, dressed in full combat kit and carrying personal weapons, including a machine-gun. Their task — to run for eight kilometres (five miles) over rugged countryside in the fastest possible time. Waiting at the end of the run — a forbidding assault course and then, a few minutes later, the job of clearing 90 targets from both offensive and defensive shooting positions.

This was the requirement for this year's Cento small arms competition — Nishan — the only military exercise held annually between the Cento nations. Crack marksmen and athletes from the armies of Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, the United States and United Kingdom faced the stiffest test yet in the 13 years of the competition.

Some idea of the importance of Nishan can be gauged from the interest shown in Turkey, the host nation for this year's con-

test. Each of the two day long competitions was widely covered on both Turkish television and in the country's national press.

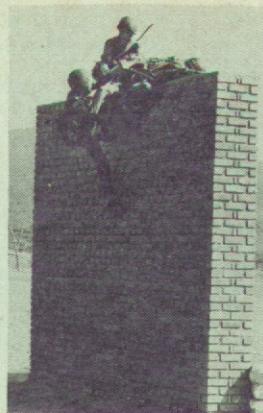
The British team, from 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders, although finishing third behind the Turks and Iranians, was not disgraced. In the running and assault course section the Scotsmen proved they were the tops by easily outpacing the other four teams.

It had all started six months earlier when the first Nishan squad was assembled at the Highlanders' battalion headquarters at Kirknewton, near Edinburgh. A hundred strong, it contained mostly Queen's Own Highlanders but with one or two men from other Scottish regiments. One of these,

Above left: The flags of the 5 Cento partners.
Above: Goose-stepping Turks at a march-past.
Below: It's kilt and khaki for the British team.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt



Lance-Corporal Desmond Gillies, a Gordon, survived to become a linchpin of the final squad.

The first main objective was Bisley and two teams entered — one as Nishan and one from the battalion. They achieved a total of 85 bars for 123 placings — emerging as champion machine-gun shots and taking third place for sub-machine-gun and fifth for rifle. The Highlanders also won the Scottish Army competition and the Bannockburn Shield — the first time this had been taken by a Regular Army unit since Queen Victoria's golden jubilee year.

After this those crack shots who were not athletes were eliminated and the Nishan squad, pruned down to 35, moved to Aldershot for concentrated training in both shooting and fitness. Sergeant Philip Doughty, of the Army Physical Training Corps, who supervised the latter aspect, told SOLDIER: "Some of them were very weak in the arms and shoulders and had difficulty in getting over the wall and in crawling." The soldiers went on a polygym course — with amazing results. Soon, in the words of the team captain, Major Jeremy Mackenzie, they were "flying over the assault course."

Exactly how many points would be allocated for the running and assault course part of the competition would not be decided by the Cento rules committee until the eve of the contest so Major Mackenzie laid great stress on the fitness of his team. This was to be the first year in which a fast time would count for points. Until 1975, Nishan was purely a shooting contest and when the running was introduced last year the only requirement was that the course should be completed within an hour.

Early in September 20 men went to Cyprus for the final phase of training and for acclimatisation. On the eastern sovereign base at Dhekelia an assault course, range and running course had been prepared to Nishan specifications.

For the next month the intensive training continued and standards continued to improve. Major Mackenzie aimed for a running time of 40 minutes, excluding the assault course, and this time was well beaten before the final 12-man squad left for Istanbul. It comprised Corporal Jimmy Milne, Lance-Corporal Wally Walker, Lance-Corporal Desmond Gillies and Privates Daniel Holt, Peter MacAskill, Hugh Cameron, Alex McGuinness, Malcolm 'Kiwi' Wallace, Bobby Costello and Charlie MacIvor. Reserves were Private James 'Mitch' Mitchell, and Private Frank Bowie.

As the team left Cyprus, Major Mackenzie told SOLDIER he was well pleased with the progress: "We could not take good athletes

and turn them into good shots in the amount of time we had, so we had to turn good shots into good athletes. What this has proved is that with just a couple of months' concentrated training we can turn averagely fit men into supremely fit soldiers."

In Turkey the team was accommodated at Tuzla, an Army rest camp on the outskirts of Istanbul. The magnificent Turkish hospitality during the ten-day stay included a tour of Ottoman palaces and museums, visits to the bazaars and entertainment by belly dancers and top Turkish television stars.

But all this had to take second place to the contest and soon men of five nations were toiling around the stony course in full combat kit and trying out the firing range. The British kit included Northern Ireland lightweight combat helmets and a tropical lightweight combat jacket.

Their opponents were Americans from the 1st Airborne Battalion 509th Infantry, stationed in Italy, members of the Pakistan Frontier Force, crack Iranian marksmen and a team from the Turkish Infantry School — on its own ground at Tuzla.

Two days before the contest began there was a controlled practice in which all five teams carried out a full rehearsal of both

Above: There's more than one way of shinning up a wall as (left to right) the Americans, British, Turkish, Pakistanis and Iranians soon showed.

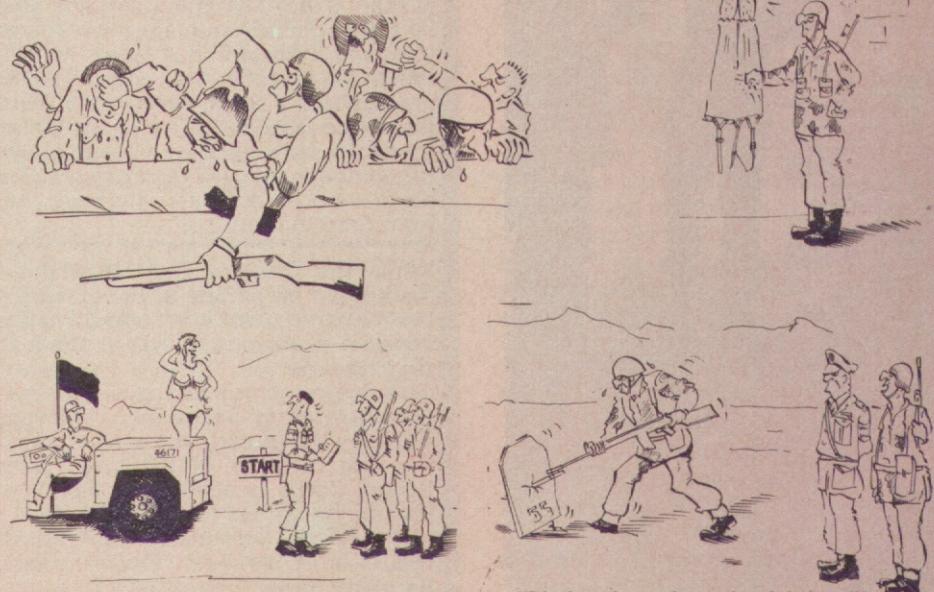
running and shooting. And while the Turks and Iranians appeared to be ahead on shooting, the Scotsmen amazed their opponents with a time of 40 minutes 42 seconds for the run and assault course.

But when the rules for that part of the contest were announced it became clear that Britain's fitness advantage would not count for a lot. Any team completing the course in 40 minutes would receive 120 points and one point would be deducted for each ten seconds lost after that. The points would be useful in the event of a close finish in the shooting — but more than 2000 points were possible from each day's firing.

And thus it proved. On the first day the Highlanders brought the crowd of visiting dignitaries (including Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, GOC Scotland) to its feet with a brilliant run of 39 minutes and two seconds. And, despite the fact that both Iran and Pakistan borrowed the British technique of carrying the machine gun ahead of the main group, none of the other teams was able to crack the 40-minute barrier.

THEY MADE THE GENERALS LAUGH

Corporal Kelvin 'Tab' Hunter, the official piper who accompanied the British Nishan team, is also a talented cartoonist. His drawings soon had generals of five nations laughing — and copies were run off by the Turkish military authorities — for the VIP guests to take home.



"It's the only way he can knock it down!"



Left: Cool in his kilt, the Highlanders' commanding officer sees his team off on the long run.

Below: The British get down to the serious business of shooting on the Nishan ranges at Tuzla.



Above: A long hot crawl under barbed wire for the American team in full kit carrying weapons.

Below: Flowers for the British team captain on his arrival at Istanbul's airport for the contest.



But in the shooting both Turkey and Iran cleared all 90 targets in the offensive and defensive phases. The British team left three standing — missing in both phases — and in addition to a penalty for each missed target lost the bonus for rounds returned.

At the end of Day One, Turkey had gone into the lead with 2162 points, followed by Iran (2137), United States (1994), United Kingdom (1860) and Pakistan (1858).

Major Mackenzie and his advisers con-

ferred and decided on a different strategy for the second and final day. Two men who were faster runners would be dropped in favour of the two reserves who were considered to be better shots. Said the major: "We may take as long as 45 minutes but the few points we lose will be more than made up if we get two clear rounds in the shooting."

As on the previous day the Turkish team was out first and despite strenuous efforts

Cento (Central Treaty Organisation) was originally the Baghdad Pact but changed its name when Iraq withdrew following a coup.

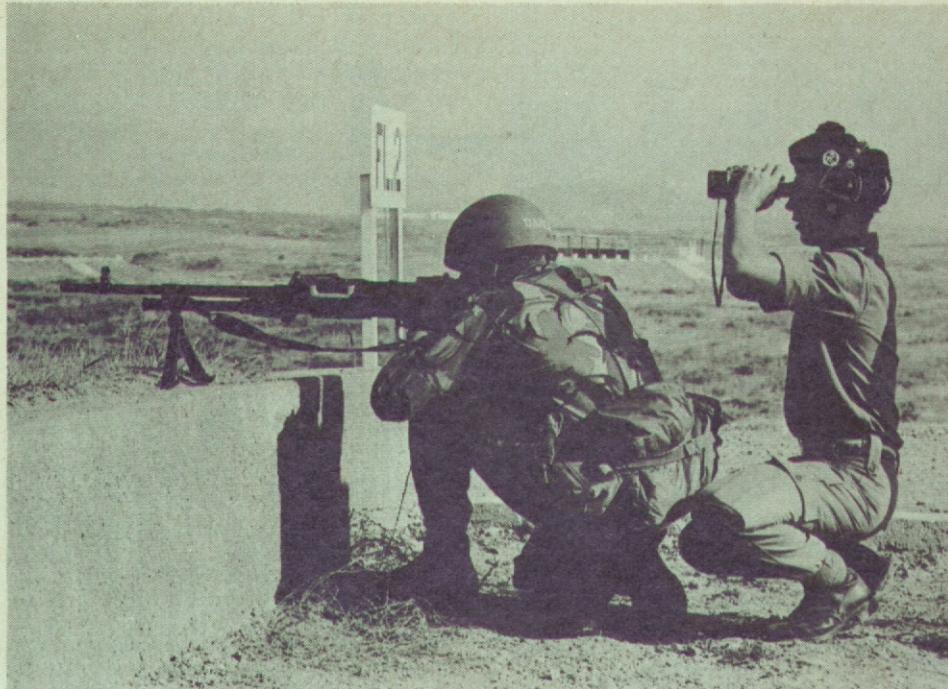
Nishan, a word meaning aim and sight in the regional languages of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan, has been held 14 times since 1964. Iran has won six times, Turkey three, the United States three (the last in 1967) and the United Kingdom only once — (Queen's Own Highlanders in 1971). Pakistan has never won — but has only taken part from time to time.

When the Queen's Own Highlanders team went on parade at the closure of the Nishan contest it included two Sassenachs — wearing the kilt in public for the first time.

The team's shooting adviser, Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Anthony Harverson, reckons he may be the first member of the Small Arms School Corps to have worn the kilt on parade. He comes from Deal in Kent.

His fellow Sassenach was Bournemouth-born Artificer Quartermaster-Sergeant Roger Traves (left).



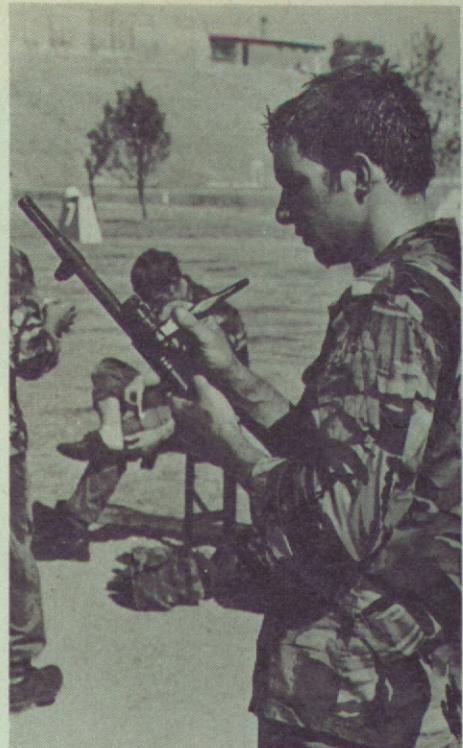


Above: Before the contest proper, the British machine gunner zeroing on the range.

Bottom: The team captains line up after the competition to receive their respective trophies.

Below left: Medals are pinned on the chests of third-placed Queen's Own Highlanders team.

Below right: The Turkish team captain being presented with winners' cup by Turkish general.



Above: Sweating after the eight kilometre run, a Jock cleans his weapon ready for the shooting.



again failed to beat 40 minutes. Next away were the British boys and a roar of cheering went up when they came into sight over the brow of a hill. The two top runners had urged along the two reserves into a run of 38 minutes and 34 seconds, a record likely to stand for some time.

In the shooting the Highlanders had mixed fortune. They missed a target in the offensive phase but recovered to down all of those in defensive, thus ensuring a respectable total of 2032.

Both Turkey and Iran again had clean shoots, Turkey emerging as overall winners because of saving more ammunition, having faster running times and no penalty points. The Americans slipped badly and their second-day total of 1844 was the lowest throughout the competition. Pakistan, too, had trouble with the assault course and despite a better shoot emerged with only 1933.

The totals for the two days were averaged to give a final order of Turkey (2171), Iran (2100), United Kingdom (1946), United States (1919) and Pakistan (1895.5).

So to the final colourful ceremony at

which the kilted Highlanders were led by a team member, Canadian Private Holt, as piper. He was deputising for the official piper, Corporal Kelvin 'Tab' Hunter, who fell and broke his arm in an unfortunate accident.

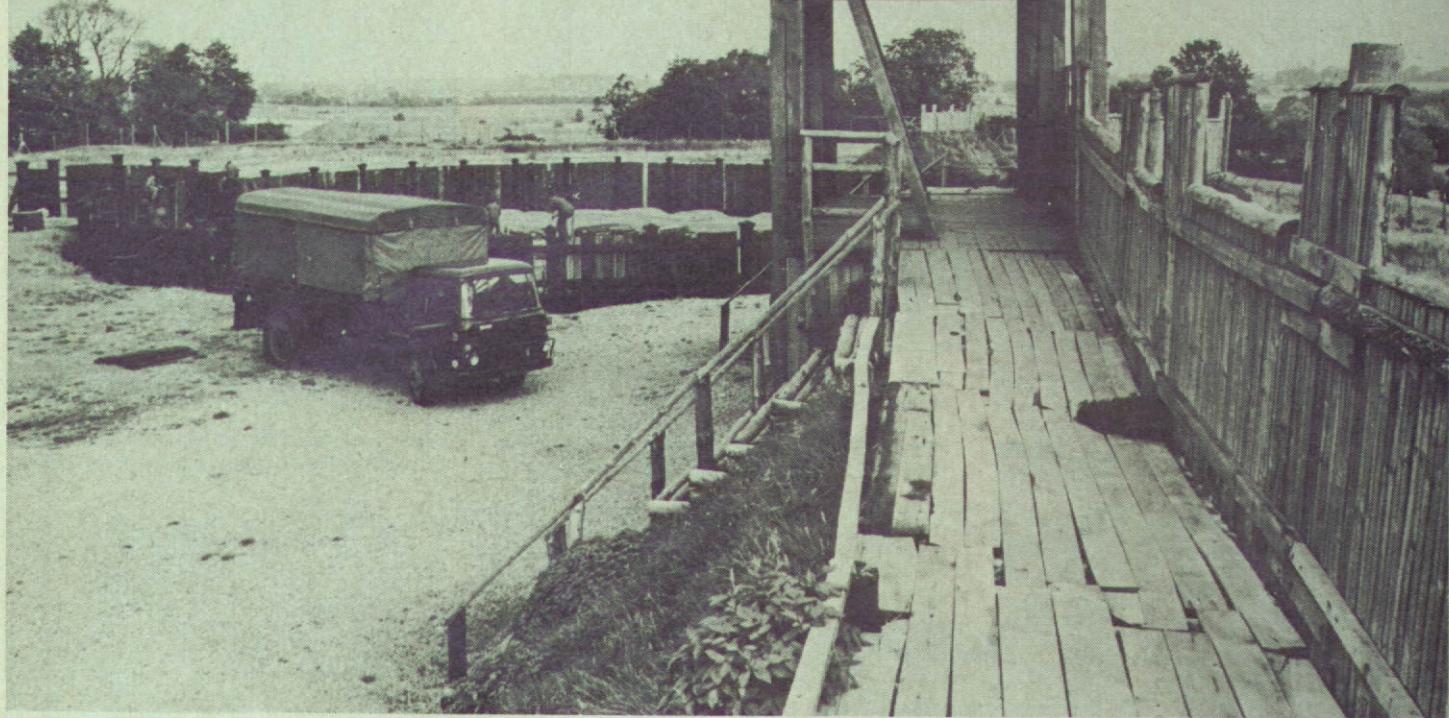
What Nishan 1977 had proved was that there was little to choose between the five teams. Only about 20 targets out of a total of 900 were not hit during the two days of competition. In a high-calibre contest one small mistake was enough to doom a team.

Now some of the five nations are lobbying to extend the competition still further — perhaps into such activities as map-reading and patrols. Nishan is the only military exercise held each year by Cento nations.

Next year it will be the turn of The Black Watch to represent the United Kingdom. They will have a hard job to emulate the achievements of the Queen's Own Highlanders — if not in shooting, then in their parade appearance, the many friends they made with men of four other nations and above all in their superb physical fitness.



Legionary Sappers



TODAY'S SAPPER, according to archaeologist Mrs Margaret Rylatt, fulfils just the same function in the British Army as the legionary in the days of the Roman Empire. And certainly men stationed with 31 Base Workshop Squadron at Long Marston in Warwickshire have much in common with the warriors of two thousand years ago.

In the middle of Baginton village, near Coventry's airport, is an old Roman fort. And gradually, with the help of the Royal Engineers, this fort is taking shape again to just as it was in the old days.

Lunt Fort was discovered by an amateur archaeologist — although, as Mrs Rylatt puts it, "Everybody knew the Romans had been in Baginton. You cannot dig your garden anywhere in the village without discovering Roman pottery."

The Coventry museum authorities, who began to excavate the site in 1965, decided to turn Lunt Fort into an open-air museum, reconstructing as much as possible of the old turf and wood fort.

In 1970 the sappers from Long Marston made their first visit to Baginton and reconstructed the fort's gateway. Three years later they were back again, to rebuild the wooden granary building. This does not contain grain but houses a museum of models and artefacts excavated on the site.

This autumn the sappers have been back to Baginton again and have reconstructed the Lunt Fort's unique feature — a circular

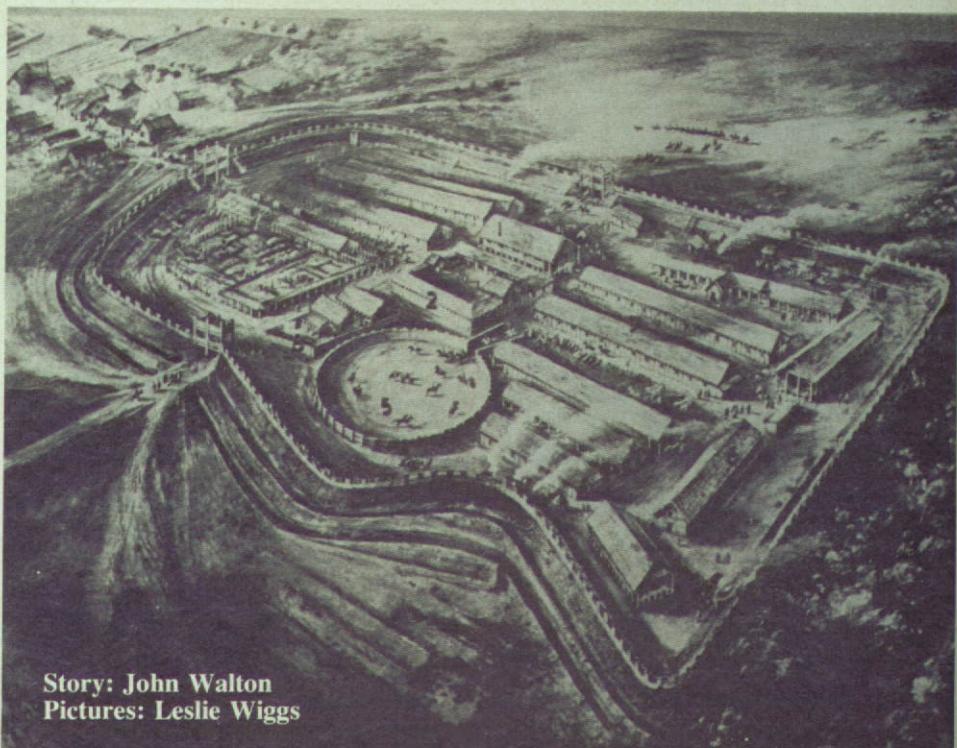
arena or gyrus. This is something which has not been found anywhere else in the Roman world.

Apparently Baginton could have been a kind of Roman equivalent of Melton Mowbray. Mrs Rylatt contends that the gyrus was used for cavalry training, possibly of officers from different units. Another use might have been for displays on feast days for, as Mrs Rylatt and the Royal Engineers

found as soon as the posts and planks were in place, it forms a perfect amphitheatre.

"It's just like a whispering gallery," she told **SOLDIER**. "You have only to speak in a normal voice on one side of it and you can be heard quite clearly on the other."

It took the sappers seven-and-a-half working days to erect the gyrus. They followed plans supplied by the Coventry authorities and based exactly on what had been disco-



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs

Above: View of the reconstructed gate towering above the sappers in Lunt's Roman gyrus.

Right: Artist's impression of the original fort.

vered by digging. Mrs Rylatt: "We followed the actual footings and were actually able to pick out the posts. In fact we have ended up with a slightly tear-drop shape, just as the Romans did."

Elm was used because that was the timber found on the site and the construction plans followed Roman Army manuals. Mrs Rylatt added: "The Roman Army was just like that of today — it had manuals and some of these have survived. And everything had to be written in triplicate!"

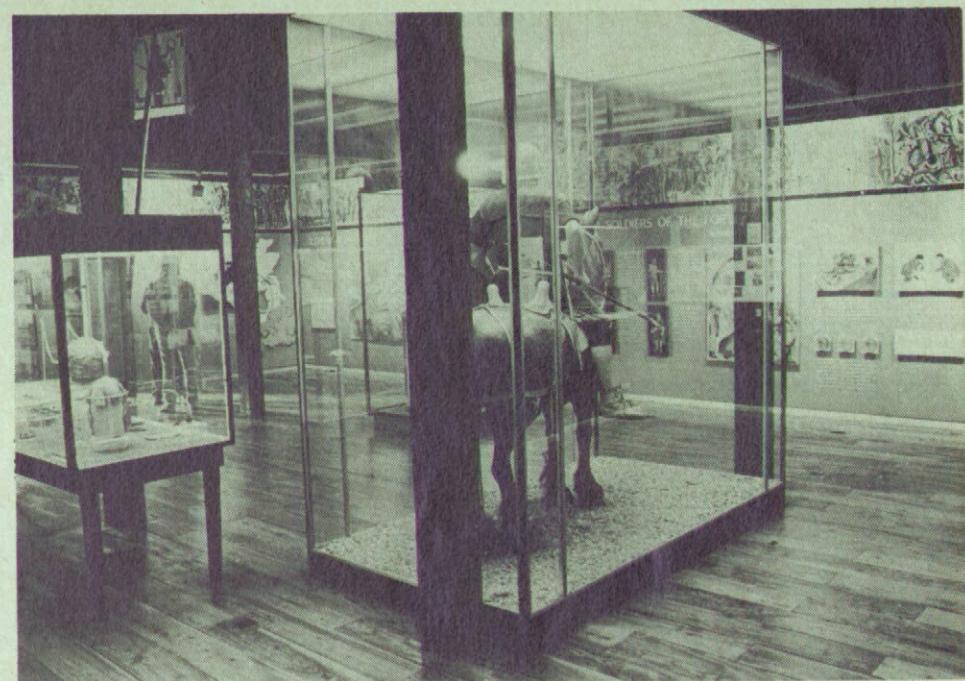
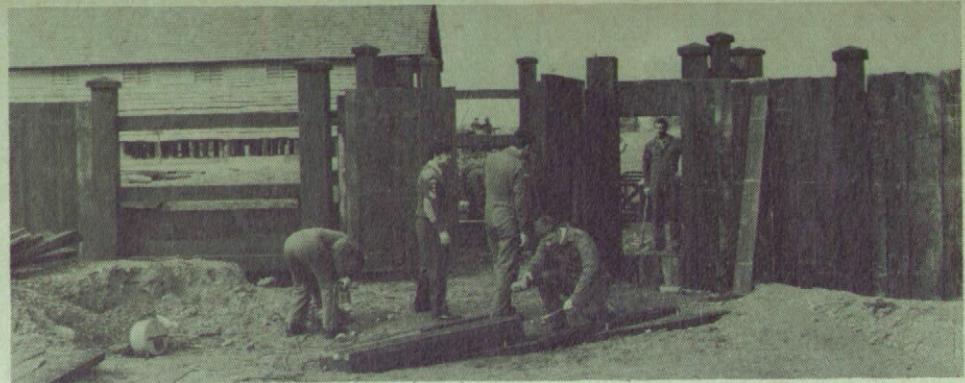
She says she is "99½ per cent certain" that the reconstruction is exactly as the fort would have looked. Further reconstruction work is planned, including workshops, and again Major George Sedman is keen that the squadron shall help. "It is, of course, something which we have to fit in with all our other tasks in serving the corps worldwide," he said. "It has to take a low priority but it is good training and gives the men a break from the workshops."

All the materials were provided by the Coventry authority but the timber was cut up at Long Marston. "We don't envy the Romans having to do it without power tools — we burned through a couple of saws," said Major Sedman.

Staff-Sergeant Brian Smith led the on-the-spot team of volunteers. They included carpenters, joiners, fitters and even electricians. Most of them volunteered to work on a Saturday to get the project finished.

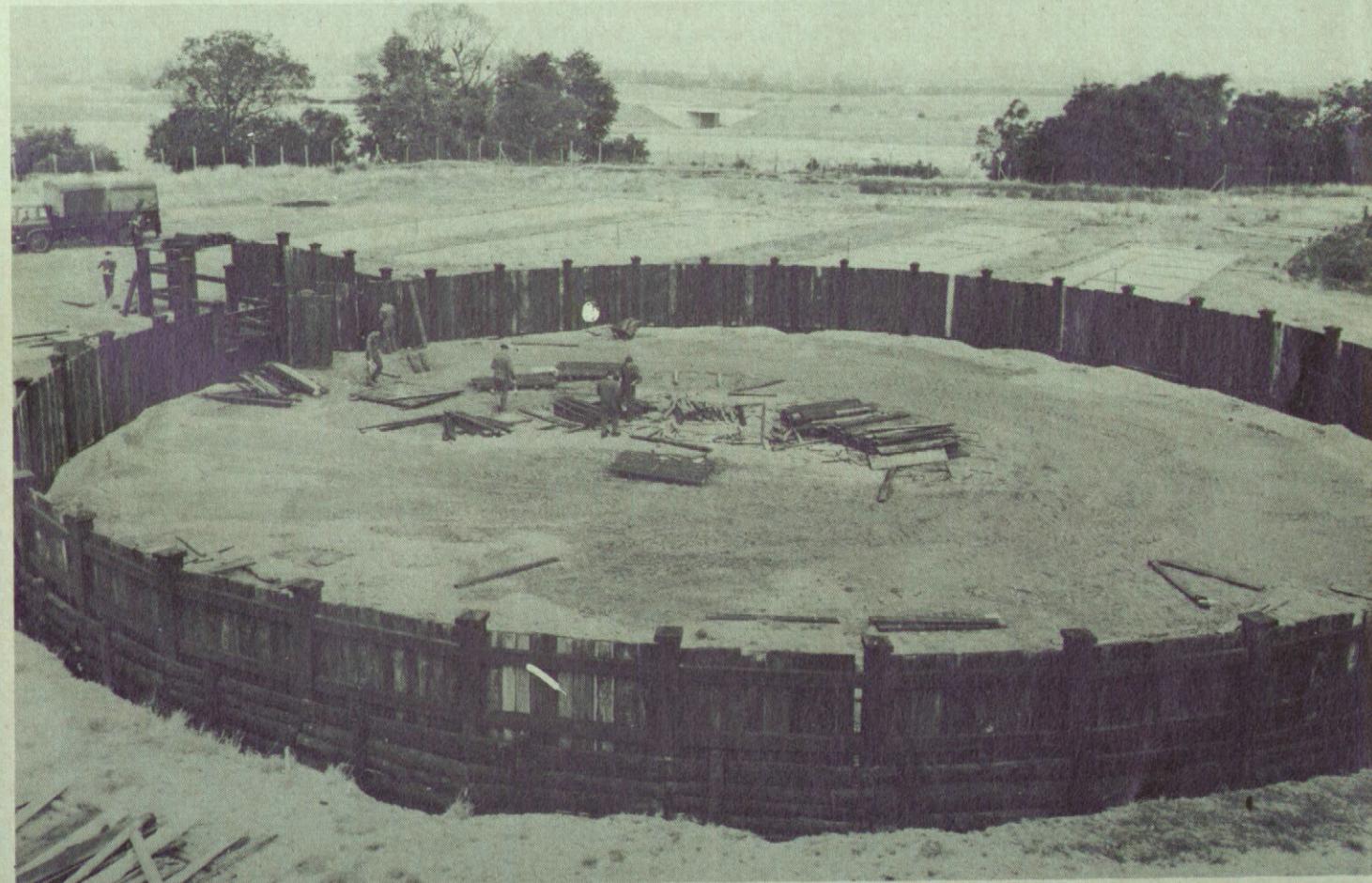
Said Staff Smith: "It's been a nice break from the workshops. Normally we never see the customer but here we can meet them with the finished article."

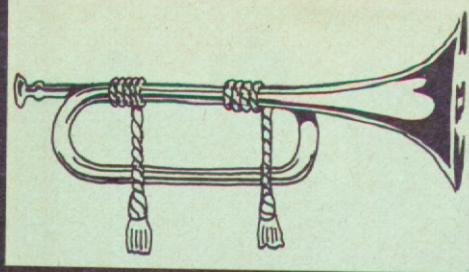
As the last nails were hammered into place a delighted Mrs Rylatt whooped: "I could jump up and down just to look at it. If it were not for the Army this would never have been built."



Above: Reconstructed granary now a museum.
Below: The gyrus is nearly complete. It is easy to picture the horses going through their training.

Top: Hammers and nails like the Romans — but the sappers also had their power drills.





CALL OF THE TRUMPET

AS 450 RECRUITS, with a mere six weeks in the Army, paraded before the Royal Artillery's only living Victoria Cross holder, Colonel Patrick Porteous, one small knot of men stood out among the 2000 spectators.

All in their fifties and sixties, their eyes were misted over as they watched the smart young men on parade. But their minds were really far away in time from the Farren Parade at the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Artillery, Bramcote.

Back in time . . . to the 1920s and 1930s when they had been boy soldiers themselves. At Woolwich as trumpeters, from where they graduated to sound Reveille and all the other traditional calls throughout the British Empire.

In 1939 the training of trumpeters ended and eventually the practice of live trumpet and bugle calls vanished from the curriculum of most military units. The hundreds of trumpeters continued in their Army careers (many reached officer status) or returned to civilian life.

But six years ago a group of ex-boy trumpeters decided it was time to have a reunion. Now the 'Fiddlers Club', as their association is known, is thriving and picking up new members all the time. Says one of its leading lights, Major Joe Dobbs, (64) of Farnborough, Hampshire: "There must still be a lot of ex-boy trumpeters who don't even know we exist and we should be glad to hear from them."

Sixteen of the Fiddlers (or 'Badgies' as they call each other) went to Bramcote, near Nuneaton, for their nostalgic get-together. As well as being entertained in the sergeants' mess they met some of the trumpeters from the current junior leaders band — and blew a few notes with them.

Mr George Collins, of Southend, had a tattered copy of a letter which his mother received from Woolwich when he enlisted. As well as outlining the syllabus it pointed out that smoking was forbidden and asked for permission to cane the boy if necessary. "It is sometimes considered in special cases that a few strokes of the cane would be more beneficial than CB or detention and that it is quickly over and is not recorded against the boy. We only cane boys very rarely. . . ."

This brought a wry smile to the face of another Southend visitor, Mr Fred Pidgeon (58). He told SOLDIER: "I think I must hold the record. I was caned very often — for smoking, for playing the 'Bugle Call Rag' on my trumpet among other things. They used to come down pretty heavy — it was six cuts across the bare buttocks."

Mr Vic Bloomfield, of Hayes, Middlesex, recalled that parental consent was needed for a posting abroad when a boy left Woolwich. Mr Bloomfield went to Hong Kong at 15.

Major Dobbs agreed that life was tough at Woolwich but added that the subsequent posting was little easier. A 21-day journey in a packed troopship to India would be followed by six years on the sub-continent in temperatures ranging from 120 degrees to four feet of snow in the hillstations. And all the time the trumpeter would be sounding the calls, from Reveille to Last Post, which governed the life of the regiment.

Now, of course, the daily trumpet calls are no more. As Major Dobbs joked: "Nowadays they don't get up." But as the old soldiers chatted to their successors two generations on, it was clear they did not really believe any such thing. The boy trumpeters were back in camp again and that was what really mattered.

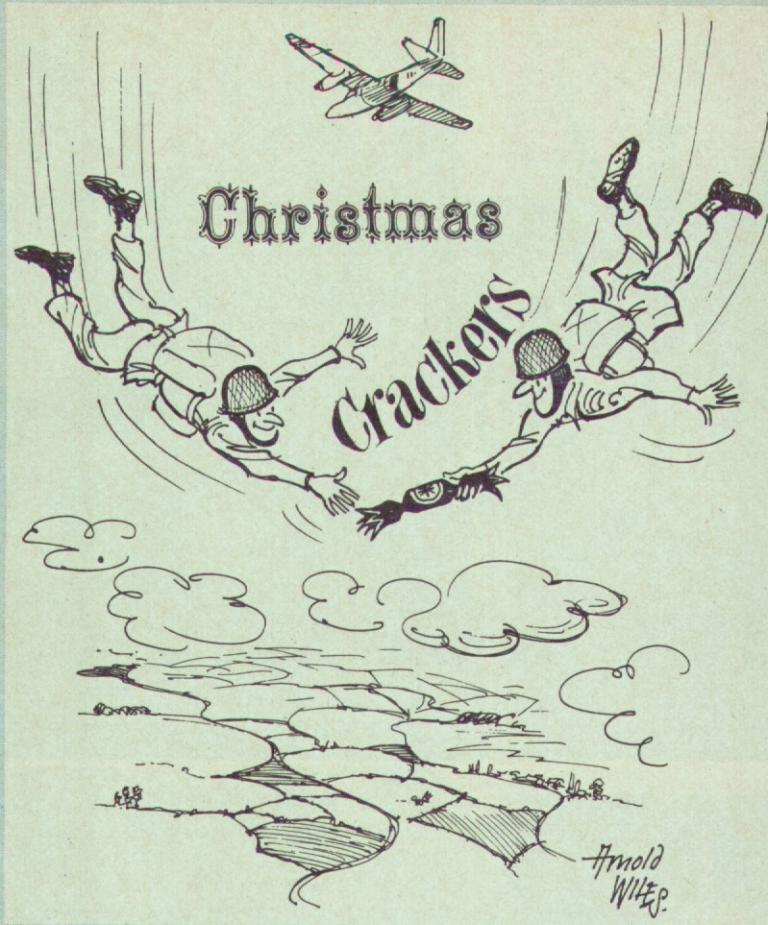


Above: Major Joe Dobbs as he was half a century ago — in the uniform of a boy trumpeter. Until 1939 they were posted to units at 8s 2d a week.

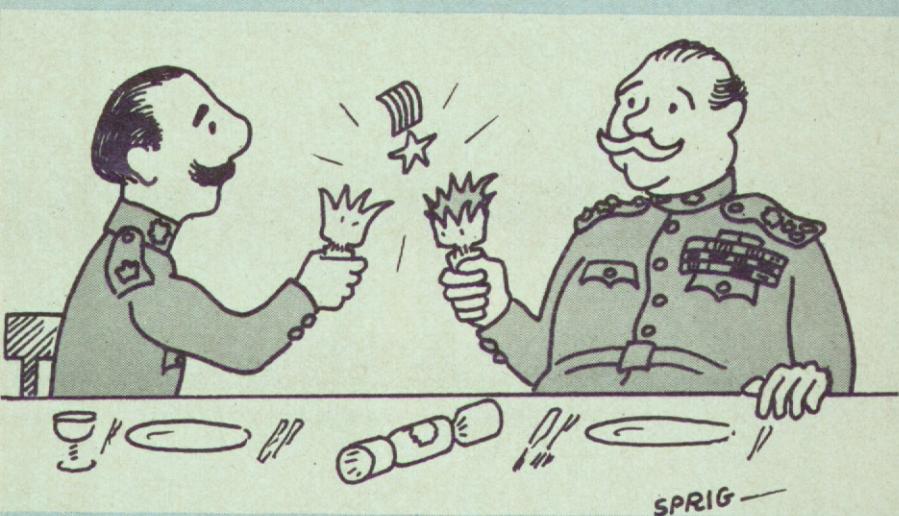
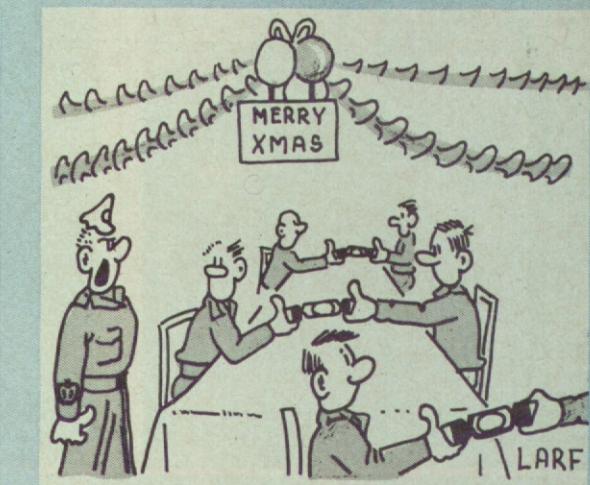
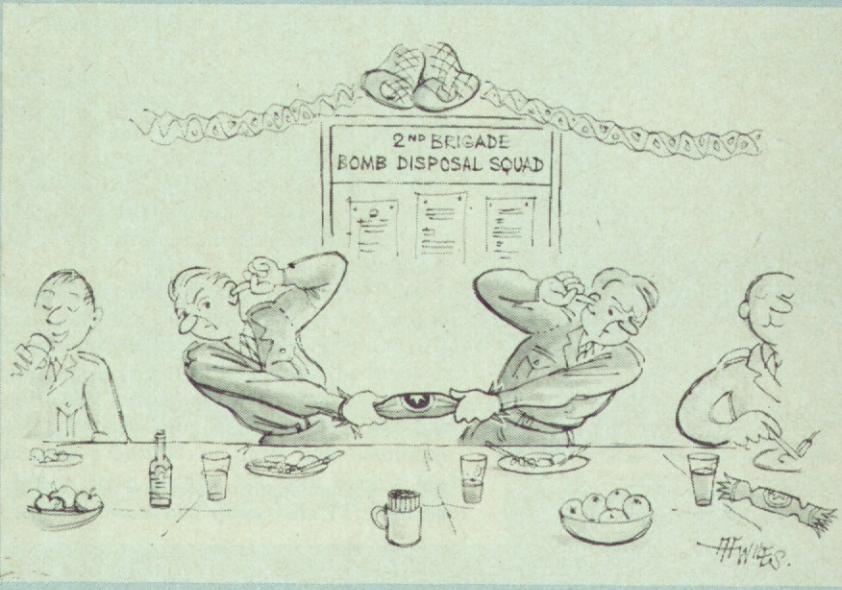
Below left: How it all began? Captain 'Badgie' Ramsbottom blows on a horn while visiting the present day junior Gunners at Bramcote.

Below: "This is how we used to do it" — Major Dobbs talks to an admiring audience consisting of current members of the Junior Leaders' band.





Dipping into the files, **SOLDIER** comes up with this selection of cartoons and the wish that your Christmas may go with a bang — albeit a small one!



'SPEARHEAD' TV SERIAL



Top: Producer James Ormerod checking a point with actors before Southampton street shooting.



Left: Michael Billington plays C/Sgt Jackson.
Above: Mrs Jackson is played by Jackie Tong.

A NEW TELEVISION SERIES, which intends to do for the Army what 'Warship' did for the Navy is to be launched by Southern Television in the New Year. The first series of 'Spearhead,' comprising seven one-hour programmes, has already been filmed, with advice and help from 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

The series is the brainchild of Simon Theobalds, a former Royal Green Jackets officer who is now head of press and public relations for Southern TV in Southampton.

He told SOLDIER: "After seeing 'Warship' I thought we ought to be able to do something equally good and exciting about the Army. And I felt it should be about the Army as it is today."

Mr Theobalds approached the Ministry of Defence and Brigadier Martin Farndale, Director of Public Relations (Army), agreed to act as advisor. He then talked to the programme controller of Southern Television and soon a scriptwriter, Nick McCarty, was appointed and went to Northern Ireland.

Below: A Southampton street takes on a martial air as the TV crew shoots and records a scene.





Above: Three of the main characters — Michael Billington, Roy Holder and Lawrence Davidson.



Above: (l to r) CSM Gilby, Pte Gadd, C/Sgt Jackson, Pte Mayhew, Sgt Billinski, Pte Twiss.

Left: Men of B Company, The Royal Wessex Rangers, dismount from helicopter in training.



Below: Actor Michael Billington using a loud hailer as a street clearance sequence is acted out.



Below: All action, for the actors and camera crew, as a street scene is shot in Southampton.

gathering background material.

As the ideas came together it was decided that the dramatic situations should be as realistic as possible. While a drama series has to be dramatic, manufactured and unlikely situations were avoided.

"We felt it would be dramatically more interesting based on a sergeants' mess rather than an officers' mess," said Mr Theobalds. "This was solved by the concept of a colour-sergeant as a platoon commander."

Michael Billington plays the colour-sergeant. The series deftly explores his relationships with his platoon and with his company sergeant-major (played by Stafford Gordon) and company commander.

The seven episodes cover a tour in Northern Ireland, leave, 'spearhead battalion' call to Northern Ireland in an emergency, a court-martial, a barrack thief and adventure training in Wales.

Filming took place in Southern's Southampton studios, in Southampton back streets and in the Tidworth area. More work was done in Portsmouth and Wales.

'Spearhead' is described by its producer, James Ormerod, as "a document of today's Army." It reveals complex emotions, is at times highly dramatic and, while entirely fictitious, portrays events which could occur at any time in the Army. The episodes are interesting and often gripping. **SOLDIER** readers will be able to judge for themselves in 1978.



Above: Fall in for filming, in the Tidworth area.

Left: Pte Gadd (Charles Cork) being dragged from a bombed 'Pig' in Northern Ireland scene.

Below: In-the-field discussion on venues for scenes, with (right) John Dilly, the design head.



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 40.



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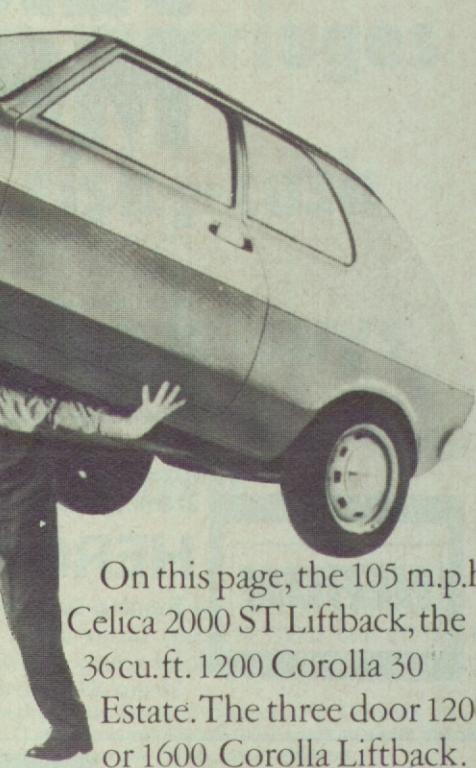
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Soldier news

Jill's a 'wellie'



Meet Jill Mathewson, a girl just back from a trip to Northern Ireland where she rejoiced in the somewhat dubious title of 'Wonderful Wellie'.

Jill was invited to become pin up of 1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment after being spotted on *Seaside Special*, the TV summer variety show. She is 21 years old and comes from Wibsey, near Bradford. She is a part-time secretary and part-time photographic model.

When she visited the battalion in Londonderry she visited all the company locations, rode in a helicopter, went on patrol and was even persuaded to fire a rifle on the ranges.

She is seen here getting to know Private John Craven.

More marriages

at risk—cash

to blame says

Ssafa

Marriage problems now account for over 30 per cent of all cases handled by Ssafa social workers. And one of the big causes of breakdowns is young soldiers being forced to take on a second job to make ends meet.

The 91st annual meeting of the Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association heard that 41,000 cases were handled by Ssafa workers last year, of which well over half were from the Army, or ex-soldiers.

This comes at a time, when Ssafa has stopped recruiting social workers, both at home and abroad because the Government is unable to agree with the Ministry of Defence and Ssafa over proposals to pay correct professional scales of pay to social workers.

Vacancies are now occurring, especially in BAOR and Hong Kong where there are no civilian social services to fall back on.

"We are doing everything we can to put this right, but until the pay scales are reviewed, this situation must exist," said Lieutenant General Sir Napier Crookenden, Ssafa Chairman.

According to the report, financial strains in the family had their effect on marital relations and a "surprisingly large" number of junior ranks with large families are entitled to Family Income Supplement.

"In many instances domestic problems are aggravated by financial difficulties necessitating one or other partner having to work evenings to supplement income," said an Aldershot Ssafa worker.

"This often builds up resentment in the one left at home with the family, the wife being the worst hit as it means the husband is hardly seen. It appears to be a growing practice for young soldier/husbands to do an extra job — barman, taxi driver, bingo hall etc., this is usually at a critical time in the marriage when it is essential to get to know and understand each other."

Reverse charge calls to Northern Ireland and units in the rest of UK were stopped by The MOD last year.

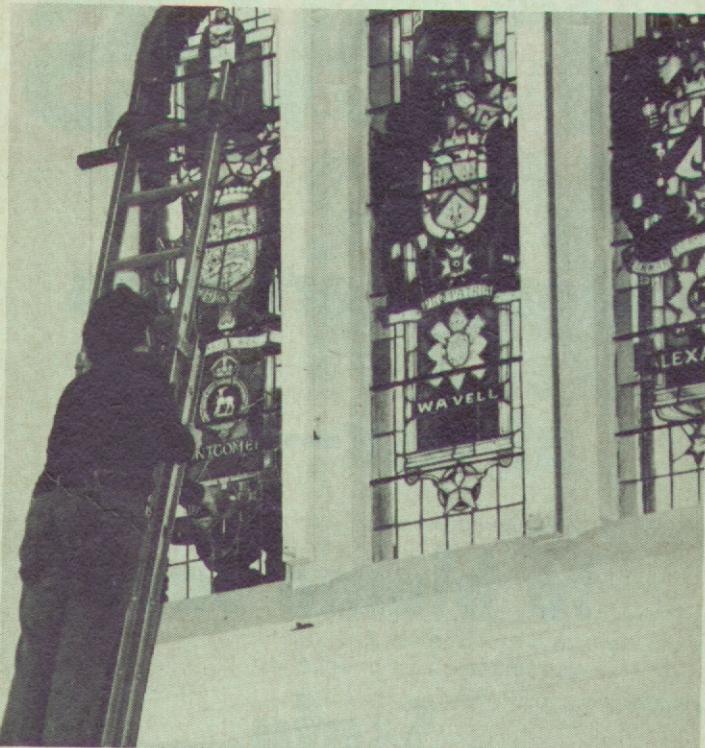
"This means," said a social

Artillery of the eighties



These are the first pictures released in UK of the prototype 155mm self-propelled Armoured Howitzer (SP70). SP70 is a collaborative Anglo-Italian-German venture full development of which started in 1973 and which will enter service in the 1980s. It is intended that in the Royal Artillery SP70 will replace the 105mm Abbott and the 155mm M109 American Howitzer. Germany is developing the ordnance, the main engine power pack and the chassis, Italy the cradle, recoil system, elevating and balancing gear, the auxiliary power units and the fuel system while the United Kingdom is responsible for the turret, including the ammunition handling and sighting systems. Firing and mobility trials of the prototype started in Germany early this year. SP70 mounts a similar ordnance to that of the new Anglo-Italian-German FH70, a towed howitzer which is shortly to enter service in all three Armies, and will use the same ammunition and charge system.

Monty's window



Finishing touches are made to the Montgomery window in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst before the dedication ceremony.

The stained glass window, in memory of Field Marshal, The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein joins the other eight 'Field Marshal' windows in the chapel. All the windows have been designed by Mr Lawrence Lee, who was also responsible for the windows in Coventry Cathedral.

The dedication was made by the Chaplain General, The Venerable Archdeacon Peter Mallet. Field Marshal The Lord Hardin of Petherton gave the address.



Hospital is to close

One of the British Army's seven overseas hospitals, the towering 250-bed British Military Hospital at Dhekelia, Cyprus (above), is to close in the New Year. In recent years the number of patients has gradually dwindled until in-patients average only 25.

The hospital, opened in 1958, will still house a medical reception centre for the 3500-strong Dhekelia Garrison. But all hospital cases will go to the Royal Air Force Hospital, Akrotiri, in the western sovereign

base area. This hospital will have some Army medical staff.

Meanwhile, the Dhekelia building will be converted into married quarters.

Colonel Joe Crowdy, who relinquishes his title as officer commanding the hospital, will remain on the island as senior medical officer, Land Forces Cyprus.

He told SOLDIER: "It's sad to see such a beautiful, purpose-built hospital being emasculated. But it has run down a lot in the last few years."

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BFBS goes out IN the air

British Forces Broadcasting Service at Dhekelia in Cyprus came down to earth with a bump recently when six of the staff made parachute jumps with the local parachute club.

It was all the idea of Jenny Young, a pretty studio manager, who has become so keen on the sport that she has made 140 jumps in the last 18 months. She persuaded five of her colleagues to have a go and after training they all took the sky plunge.

The new parachutists were Rosie Ogden (announcer), Nicky Grace (assistant librarian), Andrew Hillary (disc-jockey), Gill Butcher (magazine producer) and Alan Cuthbertson (news reporter).

Continued from News 1

worker, "that when we have a case in England, and we want to ring the husband's unit say in Northern Ireland, we now have to pay the cost of the call ourselves. Most Ssafa workers are paying their phone bills out of their own pockets, on a voluntary basis, so this is proving crippling.

The majority of Ssafa workers are on civilian numbers, and generally work in the mornings. Since the MOD ban on making outside phone calls in the morning, this is preventing us carrying out our work efficiently. Units just cannot get hold of us."

Naval Personal Services accept reverse charge calls from Ssafa.

Ssafa sisters have staggeringly high case loads. In Western Europe alone, sisters who were responsible for 97,176 dependants paid 128,764 home calls, visited 4,683 new babies and saw 30,665 children at school

and 175,219 at clinics, gave 28,227 immunisations and 8,578 hearing tests, took 1,101 health education sessions yet only £6 per medical centre is allocated for non-expendable items. This sum was set in 1944.

The 14 social workers in Germany dealt with 5,463 cases during the year, the one in Cyprus with 275 and the two in Hong Kong with 619.

From a fund-raising point of view, the association had a good year. Properties no longer needed were sold, thousands of events were held, the proceeds of the Royal Premiere of "Aces High", the film about World War One fighter pilots were donated, the first TV appeal and the Ssafa air display all helped to break fund-raising records.

Just two examples of fund-raising were two boys who raised £233 by walking the Pennine Way and £1000 donated by grateful soldiers in Northern Ireland.

War pensions up by 14%

The war disablement and war widows' pensions payable to 387,000 war pensioners and war widows have been increased by more than 14 per cent.

Mr Alfred Morris MP, Minister for the Disabled, and minister with special responsibility for war pensions, said: "These increases are expected fully to compensate for the increase in prices over the period November 1976 to November 1977. Over the period since the present Government took office in February 1974, war pensions will have gone up by 125 per cent compared with a price rise to date of 82 per cent. We shall continue to do all we can further to improve provision and to make life better for war pensioners."

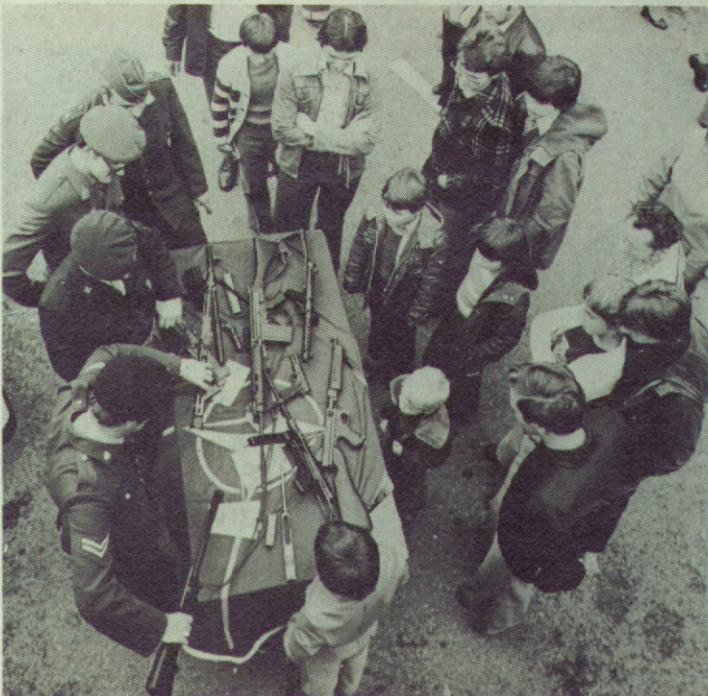
Full details of these increases are set out in the War Pensioners (Amendment of Previous Instruments) Order and the Personal Injuries (Civilian) Scheme published by HMSO.

The basic rate of disablement pension for a private soldier whose war disablement is 100 per cent is increased from £25 to £28.60 a week. Lower assessments are increased proportionately, for example 20 per cent assessments rise to £5.72 a week. Supplementary allowances payable with disablement pensions are increased.

A 100 per cent disabled unemployed pensioner from World War Two with a dependent wife gets an increase of £7.50 a week from £53.15 to £60.65 free of income tax. If he is entitled to invalidity allowance or constant attendance allowance, there will be additional increases for those benefits.

The standard weekly rate of war widow's pensions is increased from £19.80 to £22.70. There are increases in children's allowance and the maximum rent allowance. A widow with two children who gets maximum rent allowance will receive £50.20 a week, including child benefit, compared with £43.10.

Fistful of arms



There's an SLR, and that looks like a Thompson sub-machine-gun, and bits of an Armalite. In fact a veritable arsenal of arms.

The display was put on by HQ Northern Army Group/Second Allied Tactical Air Force Transport Company who were demonstrating weapons used by their individual nations at the open day of Ausbildungs Bataillon 10, Germany.

Ausbildungs Bataillon 10 is a training battalion of the West German Army and has close training and sporting links with the transport company.

Soldiers and airmen from Belgium, Great Britain, The Netherlands and West Germany form the transport company based at Monchengladbach. The company's task in peace and war is to provide transport support for HQ Northern Army Group and HQ Second Allied Tactical Air Force.

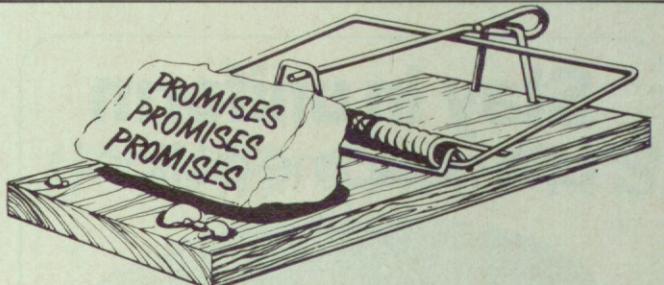
And pud as well?



"Hmm, this is nearly as good as I make," might have been the thought in this young wife's mind when 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, invited its wives and children on exercise.

The open day, on a training area in Germany, gave the families a chance to have lunch with hubby, look at all the various vehicles and kit, and relax in the sunshine.

"A very good idea," was one wife's verdict, "and my son always loves being able to see his father 'at work' like this."



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Scouts (self help) honour

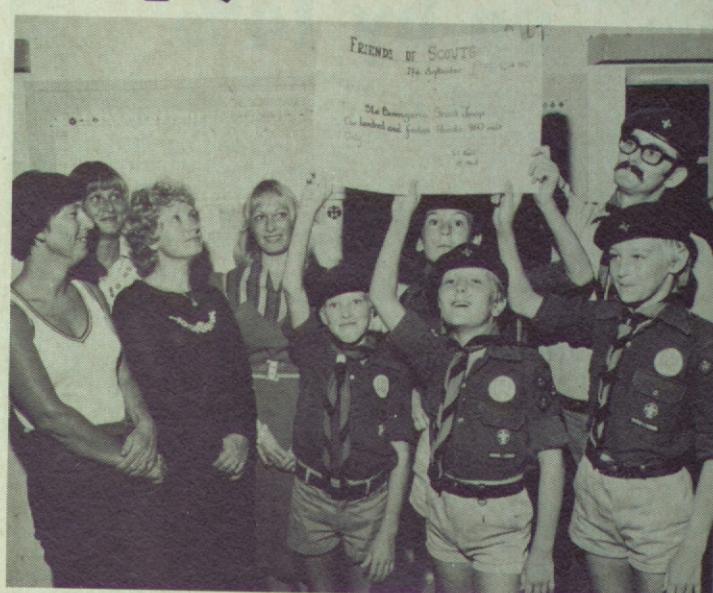


Ten-year-old Adrian Walpole receives his Chief Scout's Certificate of Meritorious Conduct from Brigadier Brendan McGuinness, Commander Royal Artillery, Headquarters 1st Division, at a parade of the 1st Verden Scout Group, British Scouts Western Europe.

Adrian, the son of Captain and Mrs Peter Walpole, lost the sight of one eye following an accident. He underwent a series of operations which in the end were unsuccessful. Regardless of the pain and discomfort he remained cheerful and patient and now, despite his disability, he is leading a normal life and taking part in all the usual activities, both at home and at school.

Presenting the award, Brigadier McGuinness said Adrian and his parents had set the finest example to all, whether soldiers, scouts or parents. "They have shown us that with courage, difficulties can be overcome."

Adrian's father is serving with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Verden.



When five wives in Army married quarters at Berengaria Village near Limassol, Cyprus, heard that their local Scout troop was short of money they decided to lend a hand.

The wives, four of whom have sons in the 51st Berengaria Scout Group, set out to raise money in the village — which mainly houses families from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Mrs Renate Peck went round collecting tins of food and then raffled them off, Mrs Ruby Hill organised a sponsored swim and Mrs Patricia Cocksedge, Mrs Joanne King and Mrs Sheila Watson went to the villagers and collected cakes, which were also sold.

As a result they were able to present Scout leader Private John Owen with a monster 'cheque' for £114,960 Cyprus. Said Mrs Peck, who first thought of the fund-raising idea: "I just didn't realise we could raise that amount of money."

Stay in uniform and get some action



You may feel that going back to Civvy Street means starting a dull life. Not so.

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West Midlands Fire Service

'Belt up' Princess told



This graphic example of what can happen to car crash victims not wearing seat belts is meant to ram the point home forcibly. It obviously impressed Princess Margaret.

She was visiting the Army's stands at the Motorfair in London after officially opening the fortnight-long exhibition which covers the whole range of motoring interest from the very latest designs, through custom cars to vintage thoroughbreds.

The theme of the stands, 'Drive Alive with the Army,' highlighted a number of ways to be a safer driver. A favourite on the stands was a simulated traffic circuit where children could be taught the rudiments of road safety.

Members of the Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Military Police and Women's Royal Army Corps were on duty on the stands. Project officer Captain J Astbury, Royal Corps of Transport (left), showed the princess over the stands.

All aboard the giant



SURVIVORS RETURN TO FRANCE

When the 581 men of 2nd Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment, faced a German onslaught in France on 27 May 1918, they unfalteringly carried out the order to hold their ground and delay the enemy advance as long as they could. Very few lived to tell the story.

But nine survivors of that momentous battle of Le Bois des Buttes, now in their eighties, have been back to the place where 59 years ago they and their comrades

won for the battalion the supreme French honour of the Croix de Guerre avec Palme — a distinction still witnessed by the red-and-green ribbon worn by today's Devonshire and Dorset Regiment soldiers on each sleeve.

The veterans were members of a Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association party who went to France for the rededication of a memorial to their fallen comrades of the 2nd Devons. The memorial was erected in 1921 but in recent years, being on the edge of a car park by a main-road cafe near Rheims, had suffered some damage. With help from the people of La Ville aux

Bois, a new site was found in the centre of the village. There the old comrades were joined by a party from 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, from Osnabrück, Germany, led by Major Julian Field, with the regimental band and drums and a detachment of French troops. After the ceremony they were entertained by the villagers.

A 30-knot wind caused a swift change of plan when 44th Parachute Brigade, TAVR, deployed three battalions and supporting units on Salisbury Plain in Exercise October Fest.

All drops were cancelled — including that planned for a company of the 272nd Fallschirmjäger Battalion of the Bundeswehr which had flown into Britain from a base near Bremerhaven. Instead, assault landings were carried out by helicopter — German CH53s (Jolly Green Giants) and Pumas.

The Germans landed at Everleigh, covered by 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, descended from the 10th Battalion which fought at Arnhem.

In the action that followed, the Germans worked alongside the British Paras as they advanced westwards over the Plain. Opposing them were men of 1st Battalion, The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers) who were 'lifted' by armoured personnel carriers of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment. In support of the Wessex were German anti-tank platoons armed with Milan and Tow missiles.

For Brigadier Peter Chiswell and the staff of HQ 44th Para Bde the occasion gave rise to mixed feelings.

The headquarters is to be broken up next year though the three Volunteer parachute battalions, the 4th, 10th and 15th, will remain, retaining their berets, badges, parachute capability and parachutists' pay.

British paras emplane on the Jolly Green Giant. Picture by permission of the Southern Evening Echo.

Delivered, one bike



The Royal Army Ordnance Corps is proud of its record for delivering the goods and to prove it an officer of the corps has despatched an Army issue bicycle from Bicester to Germany... by riding it there himself.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Shircliff (46) decided on the economy class troop transport to get him from his old job at Bicester to a new post at Rhine Army Headquarters in Rheindahlen as Assistant Director of Ordnance Services there. And on the way he took the opportunity to raise some £200 for the Queen's

Jubilee Appeal Fund in sponsorships for the miles he rode.

The route took him from Oxfordshire to Marchwood military port near Southampton where he boarded a logistic craft for its run to Antwerp.

Once more in the saddle in Holland, the colonel pedalled via Leopoldsburg to Roermond and then across the border into Germany at Elmpt near Rheindahlen.

The colonel was fighting fit after his trip, "I could turn round and do it again," he quipped. Instead, he handed over his trusty steed to its new users in the headquarters and contented himself with a brisk walk to the bar in his new mess for a refreshing glass of beer.

IF THE CAP FITS



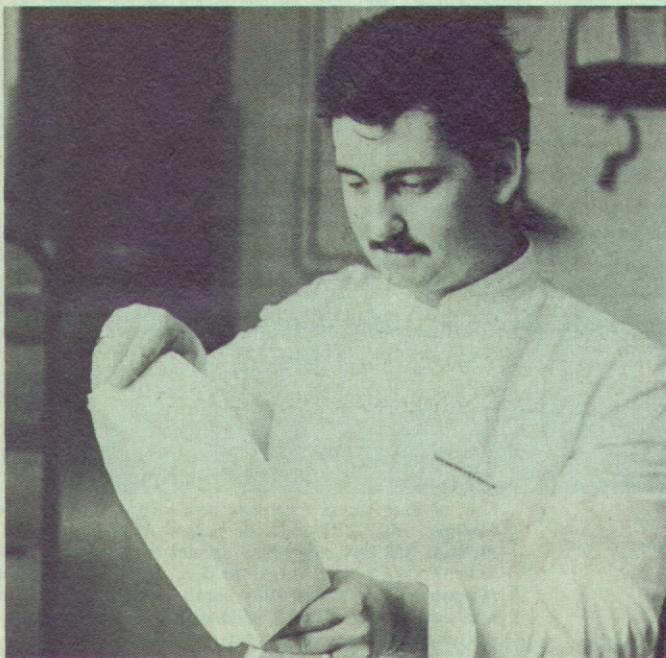
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General standards are 18½ - 30 years of age, 5' 9" tall (men) 5' 4" (women), physically fit with normal uncorrected vision

Hats on for cooks



Too many cooks spoil their hats. And that's why the Army has launched a full-scale trial of throwaway paper chef's hats at units in England, Northern Ireland, Rhine Army and Cyprus.

The idea is to save on laundry costs and during the four-month trial each cook will wear a new hat every day. At the end of the trial questionnaires will be completed and the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment at Colchester will assess the results.

Units taking part are the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, Bramcote; HQ Lisburn Garrison; 7 Signal Regiment and 3 Tank Transport Squadron in Germany; and a nominated unit in Cyprus.

Above: Private Barry Blackbird tries his new hat for size.

Museum started in the gutter

Forty years ago young Roy Butler caught sight of a Royal Highlanders feather bonnet peeping out of an empty cigarette packet lying in the gutter.

Whether or not it was because this cigarette card, from a John Player series of 'Military Headdress', was a change from the usual footballers, film stars or flowers, the feather bonnet sparked off a lasting interest and led to one of the finest collections of military headdress outside the National Army Museum.

As his collection grew and became more and more difficult to display, Mr Butler used to carry a set of photographs round with him. When he was asked to display his collection in a tent at a charity garden fete, during the mid 1950s, the idea came to him of starting a military museum. That dream has now come true in The Military Heritage Museum, housed in the new premises of Regency House, Albion Street, Lewes, Sussex, of Mr Butler's firm of Messrs Wallis & Wallis, the militaria and arms sales auctioneers.

The new museum was still a dream until Mr Paul Cole-King, a student of military history, undertook to design and arrange it as a spare-time project — which took him two years. The museum comprises an entrance foyer and two rooms, the first of these containing a brief history of the British Army from 1660 to 1914. The second room features cavalry and artillery with a display of headdress from 1800 to 1914.

Unveiling a commemorative plaque at the entrance to the new museum, Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer said that only in comparatively recent years, certainly not more than 30, had there been "this extraordinary upsurge of interest in

Top driver John

Lance-Corporal John Lynch, of the Royal Corps of Transport, is the British Army 'Lorry Driver of the Year.'

He won the award after a series of tests, both written and practical, at a competition held in Rhine Army which attracted entries from Royal Corps of Transport units from all over the world.

John has a vast experience of driving all over Europe. He is presently based in West Germany.

He has recently returned from Czechoslovakia, where he was part of the support crew for the Army motorcycle trials team at the international six-day motorcycle trials.

An Army corporal represented Great Britain in an international trucking competition and at 22 was the youngest driver taking part in the lorry driving test in which his team came sixth.

Corporal Peter Wilkinson, of 8 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, based in Munster, was one of the British team that joined representatives from ten other countries in Lausanne, Switzerland, for the fourth international driving championships organised by the International Union of Route Drivers.

The British Continental Freight

Drivers Club selected the team and chose Corporal Wilkinson on the strength of his performance in the Rhine Army safe and skilled driving competition in 1976 and 1977.

The contest began with a written question on Swiss law which gave the home team — and eventual winners — the edge.

After this each member of the nine-man team took ten tests of skill and judgment at the wheel. An 'It's a Knockout' flavour was lent by some tests including one where drivers had to balance their vehicles on a seesaw.

School year

Parents of girls starting secondary education in 1978 who wish to send their daughters to the Royal Soldiers Daughters' School in Hampstead should apply to the secretary before January 31. This is due to the high demand for places at the Inner London Education Authority schools used by the RSDS.

The Royal Soldiers Daughters' School is for the daughters of soldiers whether serving or ex-service. The school has places for 135 girls and accepts girls from the age of

five, the upper age limit for entry being normally 11 or 12, depending on when a girl's secondary education starts.

Girls may stay until school-leaving age, and any girl recommended and qualified to work for her EEC or A level examinations may remain to do so.

Further details are available from the Secretary, Royal Soldiers Daughters' School, 65 Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, London, NW3 5UD, or from unit offices.

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Army restructuring has sounded the death knell of yet another regiment. This time it is the turn of 32 Engineer Regiment at Hohne in BAOR.

The salute at the final parade was taken by the Director of Personal Services, Major-General John Page, who commanded 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment from 1964 to 1967.

During his visit he presented nine Long Service & Good Conduct medals to senior non-commissioned officers. The parade was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Coe.

The regiment was formed in 1943 as 42 Assault Regiment, Royal Engineers, and served in North-West Europe as part of 79th Armoured Division. In 1948 it was re-designated 32 Assault Engineer

Regiment and returned to England where it disbanded in 1957.

The only surviving squadron of the regiment, 26 Armoured Engineer Squadron, returned to Germany in the autumn of that year and in 1964 was joined by 2 Armoured Engineer Squadron to form 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment. Again 26 Squadron outlives the regiment and moves to Munsterlager early next year.

The other two squadrons, 30 and 7 field squadrons, move to Iserlohn and Nienburg to become part of 26 and 21 engineer regiments respectively.

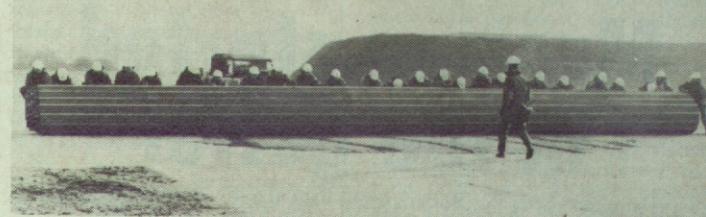
Sappers say hallo



Before



After



One of four Royal Engineer units whose key priority wartime role is the instant repair of damaged RAF airfields has just completed annual training in BAOR.

From Waterbeach, Cambridge, 53 Field Squadron (Construction) carried out a bomb crater filling exercise and other tasks at RAF Wildenrath — the station the unit is tasked to maintain for operational use.

More than 100 men were engaged in an exercise in which a large crater (above), created it was assumed by a 500lb bomb, had to be quickly filled and the 'runway' restored for use by aircraft.

An observer said afterwards the work was completed "well within" the time scale laid down by Supreme Allied Command Europe.

Personnel of 53 Field Squadron have to be capable of repairing and restoring damaged electrical power cables, petroleum installations and public utility services normally found on an air base.

Below, the aluminium 'mat' is rolled out to neatly cover the filled crater.

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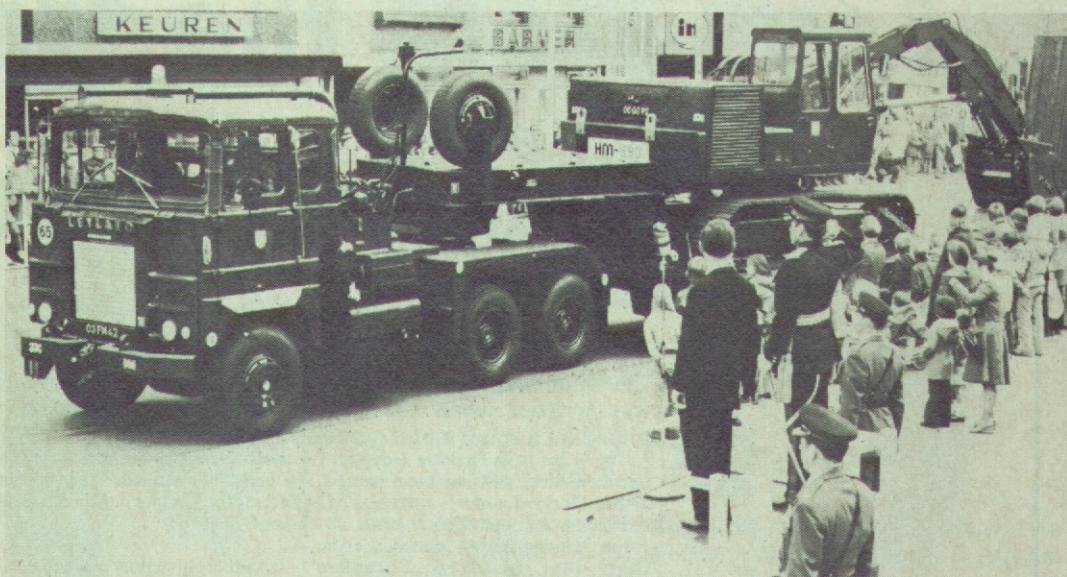


£1176.59 (married) or £588.29 (single). These are maximum allowances dependent on rent/rates paid.

In addition, there is a London Supplement payable of £245 per annum and, after the training period, regular overtime will be worked.

Please apply in writing to Chief Inspector S. W. Crafter, (Recruitment and Training), Port of London Authority Police, Police Headquarters, Gallions Entrance, Royal Albert Dock Basin, London, E16 2QD.

— and goodbye



At one time, 22 trains a day used to run on Longmoor Military Railway. One of them, the Bullet, ran 19 times a day between Longmoor and Liss, carrying a daily total of 3750 passengers.

Now that has gone. Defence cuts and a changing Army have sounded the death knell for the military railway. And it seemed appropriate that the demise of Longmoor camp, traditionally the home of the military railway, should coincide with the remembering of those days of steam by the unveiling of a plaque at Liss Station, still used by hundreds of British Rail commuters daily.

The military railway actually died in 1972, but a year later the idea of the commemorative plaque was made during the reconstruction of the present British Rail station at Liss. One of British Rail's staff employed on the project, Colonel Derek Brough, a former Royal Engineers officer who had served at Longmoor, suggested that a plaque should commemorate the Longmoor Military Railway and British Rail connection.

The idea caught on and serving, reserve and retired officers and men of the Royal Engineers and Royal Corps of Transport got together with their regimental associations and clubs to raise the money for British Rail to go ahead with design and installation.

If any one man could be said to have grown up alongside the military railway, then it is Brigadier Charles Langley who unveiled the plaque (right). Brigadier Langley was commissioned in the Royal Engineers in 1915 and was first posted to the Railway Training Centre, Longmoor, in 1922 after distinguishing World War One service.

The railway actually started in 1906 when a standard gauge line was built between Bordon and the camp at Longmoor. When completed in 1908 it was called the Woolmer Instructional Military Railway and in 1935 the name was changed to the Longmoor Military Railway.

The WIMR acquired its first steam locomotive in 1906, named Bordon. Thereafter, both new and redundant mainline locomotives were bought at varying intervals during the line's existence.

But it was in 1914 at the outbreak of war that the railway came into its own. It was used to train men destined for the RE railway companies in France and then the Railway Operating Division of the Royal Engineers was formed at Longmoor in 1915. About 3180 military railwaymen were trained there at that time.

Between 1919 and 1939 the WIMR suffered mixed fortunes, from being run down to practically nothing by 1922, to being built and extended in the 1930s. Bordon station was extended to take extra freight and passenger traffic and the Hollywater loop started. The Longmoor to Liss line was completed in 1933 but there was no physical connection between the two stations until 1942. It was in that year also that the Hollywater Loop was completed.

The years from 1939-1945 were the railway's finest. During World

War Two the railway fulfilled the twofold purpose of training and carrying thousands of passengers and tons of stores from the Longmoor and Bordon camps.

With the closure of the Bordon branch and the re-examination of roles and organisation within the Army in the Sixties, it was decided that the limited requirement for military railways did not warrant the extensive facilities provided at Longmoor. So it was that the LMR officially closed on 31 October 1969. The Bullet was to run no more, and the lines were finally lifted three years later.

An association of nearly 30 years between the Royal Engineers and the West German township of Willich will be carried on with the formation of 21 Army Support Squadron.

The squadron came into being officially in October when, in Willich town square, it inherited the rights, privileges and responsibilities of the Freedom of the Stadt from the unit which gained the honour in 1973, 40 Army Support Regiment, Royal Engineers.

German citizens and members of the English community packed the square for an occasion tinged with sadness and pride — sadness because it was to be the last appearance of 40 Support Regiment which ceremonially disbanded; pride at the continued presence of sappers as 21 Squadron's officer commanding, Major Christopher Davies, received the Willich Freedom Scroll from Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Eagle.

Those leaving the 'old' regiment trooped through the ranks of 21 Squadron and of men from Willich Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who now continue their work at Willich as a single unit. Willich Workshop in their turn trooped through the ranks of 21 Squadron and marched off parade.

As a finale some of the heaviest and largest Royal Engineer equipment operated by the British Army, maintained and housed at the Willich base, was driven skilfully through the town centre (left).



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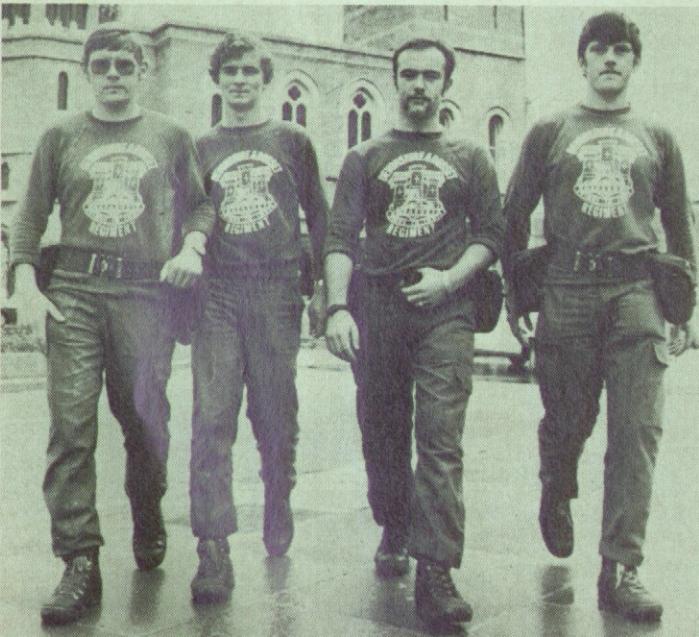
D and Ds step it out

Four soldiers of 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, step smartly through the centre of Plymouth for a welcome by the Lord Mayor at the end of their 1200-mile walk from Osnabrück.

The four, Lance-Corporals Martin Mooney and Robert Strickland and Privates Michael Vincent and Ross Laine, made the trip during their leave to raise money for charities including the Army Benevolent Fund, the Lord Mayor of Plymouth's Fund and other causes nominated by Freedom towns in their two home counties which they passed through on their walk.

Before reaching England they already had money or promises totalling about £2000. Collecting in England was harder as they found other Servicemen with similar ideas had recently preceded them in some areas, and public resistance to sponsored walk appeals is hardening—but they managed to add about £500 to their total.

The walk lasted 36 days, by a route through Münster, Venlo, Brussels, Zeebrugge, Dover and along the South coast of England. Escorting them by car and arranging their administration was Lance-Corporal Jack Russell.



Love from the trenches remembered



By Harry Diamond

The final chapter in one of the great love stories of the century was written when the names Lauder and Thomson were linked on a small metal plaque on the wall of a hospital ward.

The ward is in Erskine Hospital for disabled ex-servicemen at Bishopston, Renfrewshire, and has been named The Lauder-Thomson Ward in memory of Sir Harry Lauder's only son, Captain John Lauder, who was killed in France by an exploding shell on 28 December 1916.

For almost three decades from that day, Mildred Thomson cherished the memory of the 22-year-old Argyll and Sutherland Highlander to whom she was engaged for only a few months. And when she died in London in 1975 at the age of 83, still unmarried, she left the residue of her sizeable estate to Erskine Hospital . . . "to provide some amenity for the hospital in memory of my late fiancé . . ."

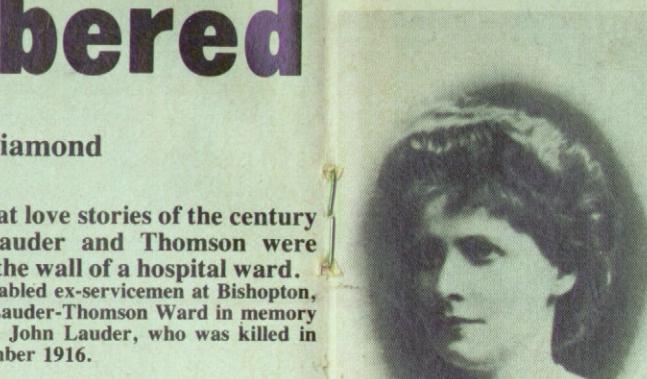
The ward was officially named by Sir Harry Lauder's niece, Mrs Elizabeth Lauder Hamilton.

Mildred Thomson lived in London most of her life. She came to know of Erskine Hospital through Sir Harry who had visited the hospital many times and who constantly praised it for the work it was doing to rehabilitate injured and ailing servicemen. Although she promised to go back to Erskine with Sir Harry one day she never did so—but she never forgot the things Sir Harry had told her about it.

The love story of John Lauder and Mildred Thomson began, though they did not know it, when they were children. They met when she lived with her parents in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, and John with his parents a few miles away in Hamilton. When Mildred's father retired from farming the family went to live in Peckham, London.

Later the Lauders bought a house in Tooting and the two young people met again. In the late summer of 1916 they became engaged while John was in the Army. The two families were delighted.

When Harry Lauder was knighted in 1919 for his work for the troops and the allied cause, his wife said: "How my boy would have rejoiced at this royal recognition of his father's worth and work." Lady Lauder died in 1927 and her husband in 1950 at the age of 80. But the story of his love for his son and Mildred Thomson's undying devotion to his memory, lives on . . .



it said 'John killed.'

Harry Lauder was numb with grief. A steady stream of London society came to his hotel to offer him their sympathy but the man who had made millions laugh all over the world was unable to see any of them—with one exception, the girl who was to have been his daughter-in-law.

She stayed with him for several days, intercepting the many telegrams and letters of condolence delivered to the hotel.

Only hours after being given the tragic news, Mildred had received John's last letter from France.

Mildred never recovered from her grief. For 58 years she kept a leather-bound scrapbook containing 280 newspaper cuttings about John's death. She must have spent months collecting them, pasting them in the book, and carefully recording each entry with a fine pen. Along with the scrapbook were pictures of her and John, Harry and his wife, and other family items including a book of poems from Lady Lauder inscribed 'To darling Mildred in loving memory of the dearest boy that once lived, my son Captain John Lauder.'

When he went into the Army his father said, "I am pleased to give my son to my country although he is the only hope I have got. But if every father and mother will make as big a sacrifice as we have done, when the war is over they will, as we shall, have no regrets."

When Harry Lauder was knighted in 1919 for his work for the troops and the allied cause, his wife said: "How my boy would have rejoiced at this royal recognition of his father's worth and work." Lady Lauder died in 1927 and her husband in 1950 at the age of 80. But the story of his love for his son and Mildred Thomson's undying devotion to his memory, lives on . . .



Transport with a difference

The Gurkha Transport Regiment was only too pleased to show its familiarity with all kinds of vehicles when it entered the annual Hong Kong sedan chair race—and soundly thrashed all opposition.

The eight-man, one-woman team, led by Lieutenant (QGO) Jitbahadur Thapa, smashed all records for the charity event, breaking the course record by four seconds with a time of 17 minutes 30 seconds, a full 23 seconds ahead of the runners-up. Not content with just winning the race, the team's intricately decorated pagoda also collected the other major prize for the best decorated chair.

The race, on Hong Kong's Peak, is fast becoming one of the high spots in the colony's calendar. Teams from pubs, clubs, TV stations, commercial companies and military units all compete against the clock over a twisting, hilly 2½ mile course lined by hundreds of cheering spectators.

One of the civilian employees at the regiment's Gun Club Barracks headquarters, Mrs Ah Sin, was the lady who got the bumpy ride on the four brawny shoulders.

The race has its origins in the days before Hong Kong had a proper road system and sedan chairs were one of the main forms of transportation for the wealthy.

Introduced in 1840 during the very early days of the colony, sedan chairs remained in everyday use until at least the 1920s when customers could ring the 'dial-a-chair' service, and rent out a chair and four Chinese runners for four Hong Kong dollars (about 50 pence) a day.

Other military teams competing in this year's race came from the Royal Military Police and the British Military Hospital.



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Rain did NOT stop play

A modern Army tattoo needs the showbiz touch. Then, as the song says, there is no business like it . . . the bands, colour, spectacle, skill, precision, teamwork.

And even despite the weather, 13 Signal Regiment's first-ever Birgelen International Tattoo was a big success.

Torrential rain pounded the square on the second night of the tattoo but in true showbiz spirit the show went on.

The United States Army in Europe precision drill team had never performed in such conditions before—but the display was faultless.

The famous Royal Signals motorcycle display team, the White Helmets, gave their celebrated display as if the sun was shining.

The band, pipes and drums of The Royal Scots and regimental band of The Cheshire Regiment, with the 1st Battalion's corps of drums, never faltered in their well-drilled musicianship.

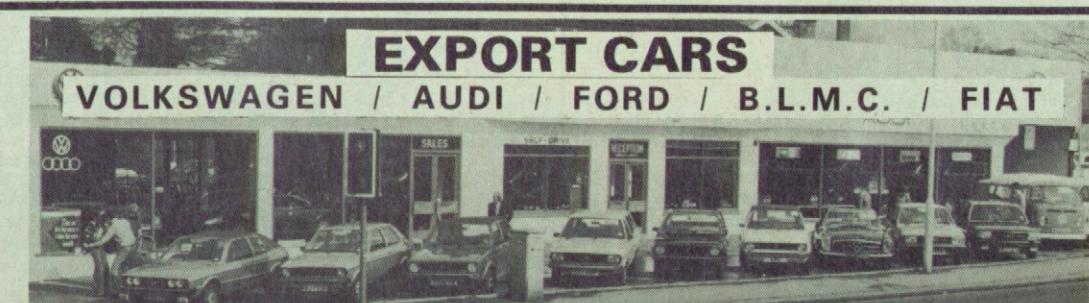
The Bundeswehr Missile School of Artillery provided four teams with self-propelled 100mm multiple rocket launchers in an amusing competition in which crews had to dress publicly before tackling the more serious task of firing the weapons.

There was a first appearance of 'non-expert characters' from 13 Signal Regiment in a light-hearted display on their 'economic PSA (Property Services Agency) bicycles' and other displays of 'local' talent including gymnastics.

A Fijian song and dance troupe—soldiers and their families who joined the British Army in 1961—gave a colourful performance (picture).

Dutch national champions, the Roermond PTI Band, played before performances.

Major Gavin Mackay said afterwards it was the proposed visit of the White Helmets, celebrating their golden jubilee this year, which sowed the seed for staging a mini-tattoo which grew into one with an international flavour.



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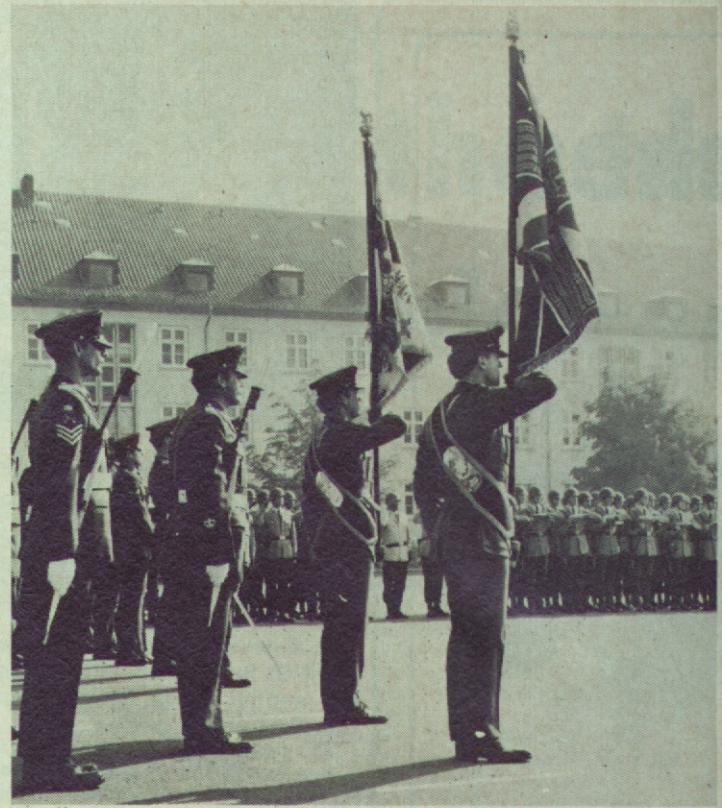
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General change

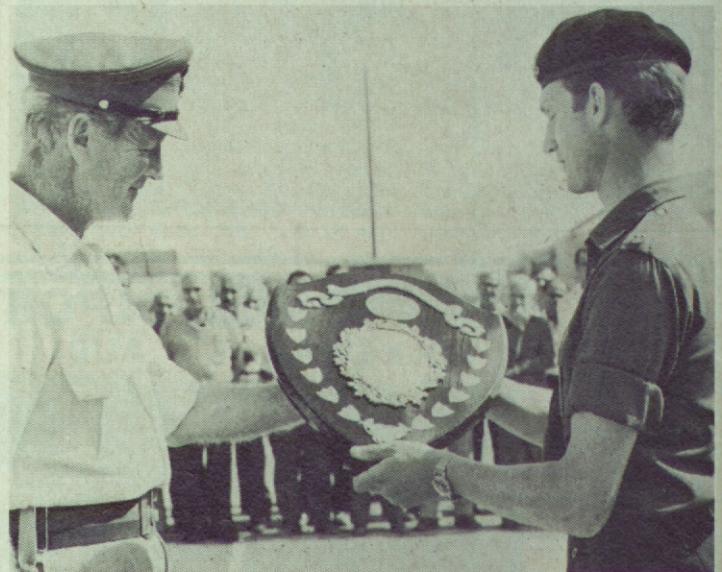
A small detachment from C Company of 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, represented the British 1st Division at a German change of command parade in Hanover.

Both the Queen's and Regimental Colours were carried on the parade in Prinz Albrecht Kaserne, head-

quarters of the 1st Panzergrenadierdivision.

The parade was held to mark the change of command from General-major Wilhelm Garken, who has commanded the German division for the last three years, to General-major Christian Schuenemann. The 1st Panzergrenadierdivision has a partnership with the British 1st Division and the Yorkshire battalion is partnered with Panzergrenadierbataillon 21.

Top squadron



This coveted shield presented annually for aid to the civil community has been awarded to 62 (Cyprus) Support Squadron, Royal Engineers.

During 1976 the squadron completed 48 separate tasks of which ten were in aid of the Cypriot civil community. All these jobs were in addition to the squadron's normal military tasks.

Brigadier JHB Acland, Commander Land Forces Cyprus, said when presenting the trophy that the squadron set "an exemplary example to units in Cyprus with the highest standards of military skills, sporting achievements and all round unit proficiency."

All squadrons in the Royal Engineers are eligible to enter for this competition which is judged annually by a panel of officers in London.

Cheers! What a way to say thanks

Cheers! Or possibly Prost would be more appropriate, for these happy soldiers of 4th Division HQ and Signal Regiment in West Germany are slaking their thirst through the generosity of a prominent German landowner.

It all started when the 60-strong communications centre, complete with 25 assorted vehicles, made a 24-hour stop in a wood during exercise Autumn Sales.

All those men and vehicles can be expected to cause some damage to property and inconvenience to the owner. Most property owners, therefore, while appreciating that an army must hold the odd training exercise, do not take kindly to hordes of men and machines making free over their land. Claims for compensation as a result of damage during exercises are commonplace.

So on this occasion it was hardly surprising that the landowner visited the wood on a number of occasions just to keep an eye on things. And he was so delighted at the care being taken of his property and by the consideration and politeness of everyone in the squadron, that he made then a gift of 40 marks (about £10) so that all his visitors could have a drink.

"We told them that we couldn't accept the gift," said Sergeant Brian Matthews, "but they insisted. All the lads appreciate their generosity and are only sorry that they have said they want to remain anonymous."

Robbery foiled

Two corporals serving in a Liverpool-based Army Youth Team showed typically quick 'scouse' wits and guts when they thwarted a daringly planned robbery in a pavement punch-up.

Corporal Eddie Adams (23) and Mick Noon (25), both married and serving in The King's Regiment, are with 64 Army Youth Team at Deybrook Barracks, West Derby, in Liverpool. They had taken a few minutes off to call at their local bank when two men attacked a couple about to enter the bank, snatching a shopping bag from one of them.

The woman screamed and the two raiders raced off with the bag, heading towards the two corporals, but they had not reckoned with some neat Anfield or Goodison Park footwork. Felled by a well-directed boot from Eddie Adams, the first raider threw the bag in desperation to his accomplice, who was brought down very smartly by a robust tackle from Mick Noon. Both corporals then leapt on him, pinning him with the shopping bag to the pavement while an un-cooperative crowd watched the resulting mêlée.

Now appeared a third villain who had been waiting in the wings with the gang's getaway car — a stolen Rover 2000. He drove on to the pavement at the struggling group, forcing it to break apart and scatter.

The raiders escaped but they left behind some good descriptions and nearly £2000 — less about £19 that blew away — in the firm grip of two rather bruised and cut-about corporals, who now look like having open house. For the victim of the attack was a local licensee about to bank his bar takings.



Rhine crossing

West German troops played a vital role in getting men and vehicles of 1 (British) Corps across the River Rhine during a corps exercise.

Troops from 832 Flusspioniertruppe, based at Krefeld, manned six ferries to carry 2000 vehicles and armoured personnel carriers and 7000 men across the waterway.

The two crossing points, Unkel and Rolandseck, are close to the site of Remagen Bridge, a landmark which became famous during the closing stages of World War Two in North-West Europe.

The exercise, which was conducted by the staff of HQ 1 (BR) Corps under command of Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Worsley, started in the West German Eifel and concluded in the Sauerland.

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Husbands take home pay controls the housekeeping budget. Service families are no exception and the worry of "how are we going to manage this Christmas and next year" is in the minds of many service families. This worry is putting a tremendous strain on family life.

For 90 minutes I talked with the Adjutant General, General Sir Jack Harman about topics such as this, and issues and problems have been raised during my visits to families in UK, NI and BAOR.

The AG told me that he did appreciate the difficulties. "As a married man, even though my family is grown up, my wife does tell me about rising prices. I know that families are finding it hard to manage."

Talking about the problems of moving from place to place, Sir Jack said: "I do remember an incident which occurred after I had handed over my regiment in Germany; I drove back to England, and my wife was to follow on the families' military flight. A few weeks later I received a letter — 'I regret to inform you that your wife was overweight and the extra payment due is . . .'. I wrote back apologising for my wife and said I would ensure that next time she travelled on the military route I would put her on a diet."

I did not ask the AG how his wife felt about this.

I should point out that my interview with the Adjutant General was on 24 October and that there may of course have been further developments since then on some of the issues I discussed with him.

I would like to thank the many people who have helped me during 1977, the Ministry of Defence, HQ United Kingdom Land Forces, HQ British Army of the Rhine, HQ Northern Ireland, and Ssafa for the time and trouble spent in finding facts and figures, helping to put matters right, and in giving the information which I can pass on to the families.

Without that help and the time and trouble taken in arranging my various visits, life would have been very difficult.

I would also like to thank the staff of the Department of Health and Social Security for their help in unravelling the various problems which I have raised with them during the past year.

In the months to come, I hope to get around and see as many families as possible, but in the meantime the only way we can gauge how successful the families' pages are is if you write in, so keep those letters coming.

Anne Armstrong



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

At this time of year when we all have extra financial commitments, we are reminded more than ever of our money problems. I know very well how worried many of you are. As a result of the Incomes Policy the Armed Forces have lost comparability with civilian earnings, but we still have to pay 'comparable' charges for accommodation and food, and everything else for that matter. Yet our military salary was based on comparability with civilian earnings.

Due to low pay an increasing number of families in the Army are in receipt of rent rebate and other benefits. I am also well aware of your worries over heating bills. Either you keep your houses too cold for comfort or you face heating bills which you have great difficulty in meeting.

Yet your husbands may have to pack up and leave overnight for duty away from home as they have done to Northern Ireland and Belize this year. And right well have your husbands performed, displaying their customary courage, fortitude and cheerfulness.

That we know your problems is one thing; how and when we can do something about them is another. Due to our current difficulties and for very

understandable reasons there is lack of confidence in those like myself who are responsible for our pay and allowances. I therefore welcome this opportunity to send a Christmas message to the families of the Army. I do assure you that my colleagues on the Army Board and I are doing everything in our power to get the best possible deal that will be permitted under Phase Three of the Government's Incomes Policy.

Obviously our first priority is the restoration of comparability of pay to the Armed Forces as soon as possible. This will not be an easy battle to win and I, certainly, do not expect an immediate return to comparability at our next pay award in April. But we will be doing our best on behalf of the Army.

It has been my privilege to meet many wives of Servicemen during the year in various parts of the world. May I say how much I applaud their spirit and cheerfulness in coping in such difficult circumstances.

It is therefore with a deep feeling of respect and admiration that I send you my best wishes.

Talk to Harman

Pay comparability with civilian earnings is the vital issue

SOLDIER: In the edition of Royal Air Force News published on 3 August Sir Neil Cameron said — "The attainment of pay comparability is the vital issue of the day and I cannot stress this too strongly." What steps have the Army Board taken to achieve this? AG: He was absolutely right, it is the vital issue. In terms of pay comparability with civilian earnings we are now somewhere between 15 and 20% behind. We shall fall even further behind if we only get the 10% increase in pay which is recommended as the maximum under the Pay Policy. However we are pressing the Armed Forces Pay Review Body to publish, in their report next April, the pay scales which would bring us back on par with the equivalent civilian rates. It is important to understand that under the Pay Policy many of the allowances we would like to improve could only be increased at the expense of a pay rise. Army Board members are very determined that whatever increase we can get next April should go wholly on basic pay rather than some on pay and some on allowances. In that way we can help everybody with more cash in their pockets. The increases will then also help those leaving on pensions because these are based on pay at the time you leave.

SOLDIER: Many soldiers have a take home pay of under £40 per week, thus their wives have a very tight budget. Most people try to afford some forms of Life Insurance,

but soldiers are additionally expected to pay for many extras, some of which are: World-wide kit insurance and personal effects insurance, ADAT, regimental associations, medical insurance (when abroad additional cover to that provided by DHSS), insurance for the repatriation of deceased dependants (when overseas). Families ask me if these charges and



the lack of provision of Free School Meals and Supplementary Benefits (when overseas) are included in the X factor? I understand that they are not taken into consideration when LOA is calculated. Many families cannot afford even to pay the premiums for insurance.

AG: It is true that these items are not considered in the LOA calculations under the present scheme. However,

we are looking into the whole question of LOA and we shall certainly see whether we can take them into account in the future. It is also true that they are not at the moment considered when the size of the 'X' factor is fixed although many other conditions of service which adversely affect the serviceman and his family are — for instance the constant moving around, the long hours many of them work and so on. We are at the moment trying to get the 'X' factor increased and I will see if we can use these examples to strengthen our arguments. One further point. We are taking up the problem of supplementary benefits for families overseas with the DHSS.

SOLDIER: SSAFA is demoralised. WRVS are being withdrawn from BAOR, welfare problems are on the increase, what is the overall plan for social work provision for the families of soldiers in UK, Northern Ireland and overseas?

AG: There are certainly problems in this field. The overall plan is being sorted out and more details on social work provision should be out next year but there are two difficult problems you mentioned — Ssafa social workers and the WRVS. Although there is now to be a full-time qualified social worker at Ssafa HQ and a senior social worker for Germany it has not been possible to increase the Ssafa social workers pay to the correct professional level because of the Government Pay Policy. Under-

standably Ssafa feel that in the circumstances they should not recruit any more and, in any case, the workers are understandably reluctant to serve on low pay. On the credit side we hope to be able to up the number of WRAC Welfare Assistants and this will be a help.

SOLDIER: During the past four years many families have been questioned by a number of committees and working parties, ie Spencer, Leitch, Wood and others authorised by MOD and UKLF. Families have not been told the outcome of any of these committees, although by paying £2.60 to HMSO they could read the recommendations of AWIC. Many families are rather cynical about these committees, I am asked if the findings on family welfare in the Army is a Top Secret matter; civilian committees invariably publish their findings, good or bad. For example the Army Board turned down the main recommendation of the AWIC and opted for Ssafa and WRVS support about a year ago, but families have not had one word of explanation and they have not had the alternative systems explained to them. What steps can be taken to improve communications to families?

AG: There have indeed been several committees and working parties of the type you mention and many of their reports are still being worked on by MOD and Commands. The reports help us enormously in assessing the problems and arriving, where we can, at solutions. Inevitably this does take time especially when we have to relate the various recommendations very carefully to the money we have available to spend. To publish the reports before we have reached decisions could raise hopes unfairly. Of the two pilot schemes set up following the Army Board's rejection of the main recommendations in the Army Welfare Inquiry Committee's report, the Ssafa scheme is in abeyance and the WRVS scheme is progressing. Headquarters have, as far as possible, been kept in the picture but I think perhaps you are right and that we should see if we can improve the communications to families on these matters.

SOLDIER: Families are finding it increasingly hard to understand the welfare system. They are liable to find different systems in operation every time they receive a posting to a new station, such as Unit Families Officer responsible to his CO, WRAC Welfare Assistant responsible to Housing Cdt/Ssafa social worker, Ssafa social worker responsible to Ssafa HQ, WRVS responsible to WRVS HQ, local authority services responsible to Area authority. At present many families feel that each organisation is working to a different set of guidelines. How is this to be resolved?

AG: Because of the geographical spread of many of our units and the financial and staffing positions of some of the organisations that help us with welfare, we must make the best use we can of our limited resources. Families will as a result find that they do deal with different organisations on family matters if they are posted. However there are committees and meetings which all those involved with families attend to try to use the existing services to their best advantage and to ensure where possible a common approach.

SOLDIER: What about policy decisions at MOD level?

AG: The Director of Personnel Services and his staff work very closely with all the various organisations.



SOLDIER: In recent talks with the various departments of the DHSS various anomalies came to light, in particular the lack of Supplementary Benefit for teenagers, Family Income Supplement, unemployment benefit for wives and the old Family Allowance; all these being applicable to those overseas. Is there any one person in the Ministry of Defence who is responsible for ensuring that new DHSS legislation takes into account the particular problems of Service families overseas?

AG: No. The DHSS is so vast and the legislation so complicated that perhaps we should have one person or department specialising in this field to make sure that families don't lose out. I will look into this.

SOLDIER: There is considerable publicity over the number of surplus married quarters in UK. Many councils are adopting the policy of selling council houses to tenants, often with subsidies of up to 40 per cent. Many families have difficulty in finding houses when they leave the Service, particularly as there is no unified system of being allotted a vacancy on a housing list. Has consideration been given to selling surplus quarters to Servicemen?

AG: Housing is always a problem and if we can help the serviceman in any way, we will. At the moment we are working towards giving him first choice to buy surplus married quarters before they are put on to the open market. Although he won't be able to buy the house cheaper than a civilian would, he will at least be able to get his bid in first.

SOLDIER: There are proposals to extend the existing Housing Commandants' organisation to become Housing and Families Welfare Organisation. Could you please find another word to replace "Welfare" or drop the word Welfare completely? The RAF and Navy do not use the word Welfare because of its connotations.

AG: I think this is a very good point. We all know what we mean by it, but I do agree that on the Welfare is an expression used to mean other things. I can see that Army families may feel that the word 'welfare' indicates second class citizenship. After all most of the problems and questions they take to the housing and families organisations are not truly welfare ones.

AG asked the Director of Personnel Services, Major General John Page,

"If this word is omitted, will it make any difference?" He replied: "No, it could just be 'The Housing Commandants and Families Organisation', which sounds better".

To which AG answered: I will look into it".

SOLDIER: Many married WRAC in BAOR have asked me when the anomalies in their LOA are to be resolved. Some of them have been waiting for over two years and are losing a great deal of money. Consequently some of them are leaving the Service only to carry on with the same job as a civilian on higher rates of pay.

AG: I quite agree that there are anomalies in the LOA system which affect WRAC married to servicemen when they are in Germany. In these cases the husband draws the full rate of LOA for the family, but this means that the pay in DMs of the WRAC wife is not protected when the value of the pound falls. We have tried to put this right by increasing the husband's rate of LOA by 20%. However, we have been told that this



would be against Pay Policy. We are now looking for other ways to solve this problem.

SOLDIER: Good communications to the families from various civilian and Army agencies are essential. Therefore could we follow the Navy's idea of having Fact Sheets on specific subjects?

AG: We are also very keen to introduce fact sheets and have plans to do something on these lines once we have got the Information Centres working properly.

SOLDIER: There appears to be insufficient knowledge within the Army on the role, capabilities, qualifications and attitudes of civilian agencies. There is room for improvement in the liaison between the Army and these agencies. How can this be achieved?

AG: Unit Families Officers, WRAC Welfare Assistants and Housing Commandant organisations are fully conversant with the capabilities of the social services and have a good liaison with them. However, efforts are continually being made to improve this liaison, the WRVS pilot scheme being a good example.

SOLDIER: The full potential of the Service wife has not been acknowledged in military circles. Soldiers are trained to help the Army fulfil its role of defending the country, they are not trained for social work! In BAOR Garrison Consultative Committees for married

quarter furnishings have wives serving on the committees. Wives are now consulted over designs for furnishings. What about the more important factors? Decisions are made at high levels within the Army, over such problems as battered babies, depression, facilities for families social support etc. Many wives are highly qualified and experienced, they could help enormously. Do you think that they could be co-opted or serve ex-officio on policy Committees?

It was reported in the Daily Telegraph of Oct 20 that the public have been offered two seats on the Post Office Board. General, I am not asking for wives to be on the Army Board! But the GPO have seen the need to have consumer advice.

AG: (laughing). "Wives on the Army Board could be interesting! I am sympathetic and do realise the fact that wives could be of great help when it comes to policy decisions affecting families."

"If wives had been consulted over the issue of chairs instead of sofas I am sure that the ghastly and costly mistake would not have been made."

"What committees do you suggest?" asked AG.

"Those involved in furniture and furnishing of married quarters and those committees which PS4 are involved with. Those that encompass the term Family Support, Pre-School Playgroups, Youth activities and those in which PS are involved."

AG: What about a panel of wives who could be consulted before appropriate policy decisions are made? I am sure that this could be a possibility. I will consider it."

SOLDIER: A civilian social worker receives a minimum of two years training followed by a probationary period in the field. Our very good WRAC welfare assistants only receive 6 months training. Their qualifications do not compare with civilian social workers. Are you not



placing a very unfair responsibility on their shoulders by asking them to deal with complex problems such as battered babies? Will the new Head Social Worker at Ssafa HQ give guidance, advice and direction to the WRAC Welfare Assistants?

AG: This is a common misunderstanding. The WRAC Welfare Assistants are doing a very good job — but we are not asking them to deal with battered babies etc. They know when a problem is beyond their scope — but they identify the problem and make sure it is dealt with by someone qualified to deal with it. Training is now being expanded — The first WRAC Welfare Assistant has started on a 2 year part-time course for the Certificate in Social Service. More are starting next year.

All in the family

Centre for London?

It is not generally realised that there is a need for social centres for service families in London. Now one wife, whose husband is away on his fourth tour in Northern Ireland is trying to get a flat allocated to the wives as a place to meet.

Clarice, who lives in Stillington Street, behind Victoria Station, London sees a need for somewhere for wives to meet, despite all the bright lights and things to do in London. I have visited Stillington Street and met a few of the 170 families there, and I agree with her.

Many of the husbands are due to go to Northern Ireland over the next eight months and a mini activity centre would help wives left behind, especially if a telephone could be installed. I think that the wives do have a case here and their application should be reconsidered most sympathetically.

In the meantime, Clarice has found a building which is big enough to house a crèche, play group, and youth club, besides educational and information facilities, discount shopping and possibly a cinema.

Membership would be limited to service families and possibly pensioners. The general public would pay non-member prices.

"This would it is hoped help to bridge the very wide gap now existing between the Service family and our civilian neighbours," she said.

"The next move must be to form

a committee from the different fields to be involved in this centre so that each may be assured that their requirements are being catered for. Then we will apply to register as a charity.

"But costs are very high and funds are nil, so even at this early stage sponsors and donations are needed to help us to achieve our goal of serving Service families and the community as a whole.

"We should be very pleased to hear from any of you who feel you can assist us in any way at all. You may contact us at 121 Queen Mary's Bldgs, Stillington Street, London SW1."

Roll up small-bores!

To date the following clubs are interested in a wives small-bore shooting competition: 2 Battalion The Parachute Regiment wives BFPO 45, 28 (BR) Signal Regt (Northag) BFPO 35, 4 Field Workshop REME BFPO 41, Donnington Garrison Rifle Club (wives) group. B Company 2.2 Rifle club TAVR.

I am sure there are other groups of wives or individuals who would like to join in. I would like to see an entry from Northern Ireland, Cyprus and I am sure that we could get a few more from UK.

A special wives' guide to the Army has been written by SOLDIER's Anne Armstrong.

The guide is designed to give girls newly married to soldiers an initial insight into life in the Army.

"As a civilian with no knowledge of the Army, the section about the Army is most helpful," said Mrs Jayne Bateman who has been married six months to Private Dennis Bateman at Depot The Parachute Regiment.

Mrs Julie Brown, who is still a private in the Women's Royal Army Corps, is married to Lance Corporal Thomas Brown of 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal

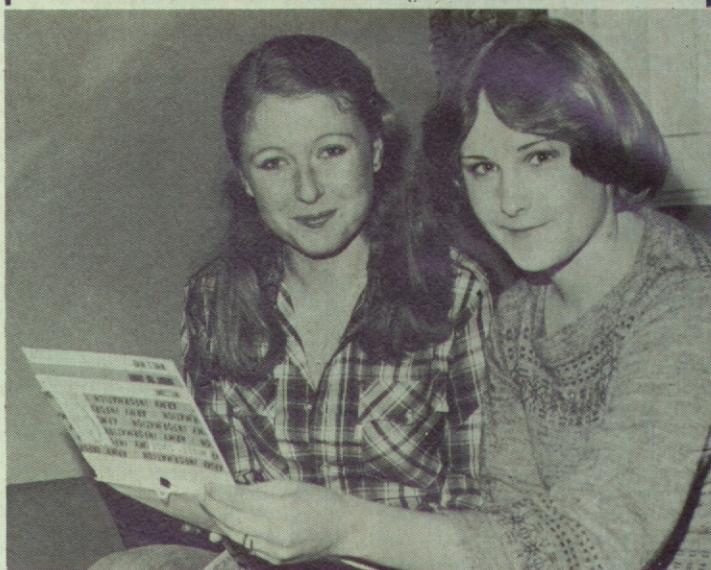
Engineers. She thought the guide a very good idea.

"I have been married only a month," she said and referring to the Emergency Services for Families card inside the guide added: "If Mum had been ill I would have been so worried about her I would not even remember my husband's number."

The card has spaces for useful telephone numbers and husband's personal identification details, so important in an emergency.

100,000 copies have been printed and to get the guide, Units and formations must indent as directed in a forthcoming DCI.

Guide to the Army



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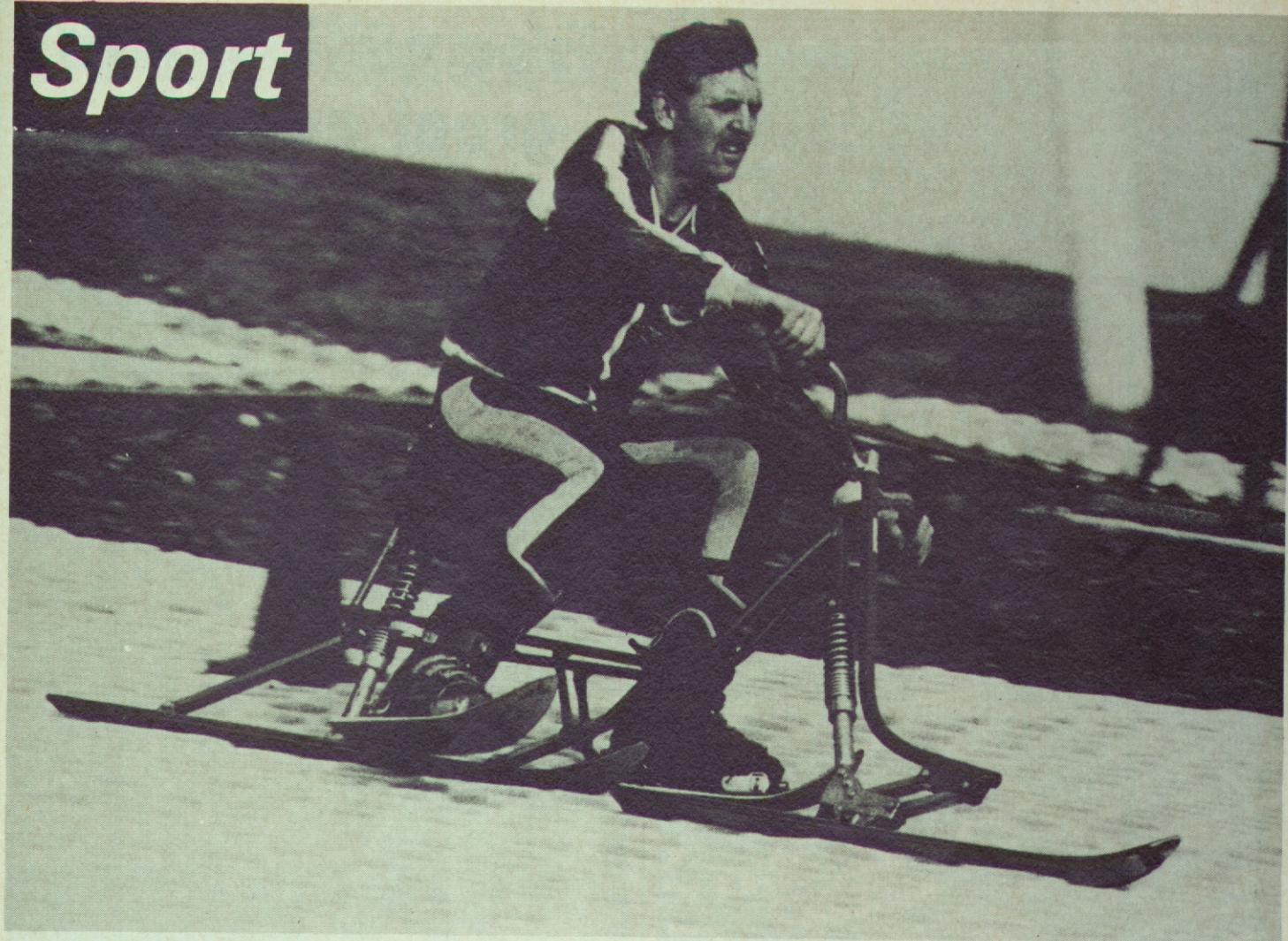
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Best of British

British indoor ski-bob champion is a lance-bombardier in the Royal Artillery who took time off from a tour of duty in Northern Ireland to scythe through stiff opposition to carry off the trophy.

Lance-Bombardier Geoff Wall now looks forward to getting among the medals at this year's world championships — he was 18th last year. And the omens are good for his world-title bid as he won the Pernod international guest race against top challengers from overseas at the same Olympia meeting where he won his British crown.

Terriers are on the march

For the first time ever a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit has organised a major marching event on international lines in Britain.

The Barnsley-based D Company of 3rd Battalion, Yorkshire Volunteers, organised the new South Yorkshire march with the help of the local county council.

The event attracted more than 800 entrants from all over the British Isles and included some 40 teams and a number of civilian individual and team entries.

Three routes were selected for different classes — eight, 20 and 28 miles long. Each individual received a specially struck commemorative medal and teams were presented with engraved plaques.

It is hoped that the march will now become an annual event.

Six day m/cycle marathon

The British Army crashed through the Iron Curtain to be the only purely Service team to enter the International Six-Day motorcycle trials in Czechoslovakia.

There were 323 entries from countries as far apart as Japan and Russia. The competitors represented the world's top endurance riders and reports of the massive crowds that attended the meeting are proof of the local enthusiasm for the international gathering.

The four-man Army team of Sergeants G Webb and R Belton (Royal Corps of Transport), plus G Gulliver, Royal Marines, and Lance-Corporal G Porter, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, showed they had the fitness and stamina needed for this annual tournament which the Army has entered since 1937 — except for the years of World War Two — but it was their machines that let them down this year and robbed them of line honours.

Adventure leads the world field

The tri-Service entry in the Round-the-world yacht race finished fifth on handicap in the first leg which ended at Cape Town.

The Dutch yacht Flyer was first to cross the line and first on handicap too. She sailed the 6650 miles in 38 days 21 hours, beating the existing record by three days. Adventure, the Services yacht, came in six days later.

Second on handicap was King's Legend, third Gauloises II and fourth Traité de Rome. Adventure, in fifth place after this first stretch, was by no means disgraced in a field of 15 yachts all crewed by highly expert crews.

The second leg to Auckland, New Zealand, started in late October with Adventure skippered by the first of the two Army skippers, Staff-Sergeant Dave Leslie.

The 15 contenders, including the tri-Service entry Adventure, set off from Capetown for Auckland, New Zealand, at 1300 on 25 October.

Although it is summer in the southern hemisphere, the shortest route to the next port of call takes the yachts into Antarctic waters where a seasonal chill may blunt their Christmas spirit.

The course follows the blustery Roaring Forties winds which will speed the boats along running before the wind. And while this is a fast and exhilarating point of sail, it carries the danger of letting the yacht 'broach,' or be forced beam on to the wind by the forces of air and

water. So helmsmen have a particularly tough job ahead.

After two days of light airs at the start of leg two, Adventure hit the Roaring Forties and soon started creaming along. The best day's sailing at the time of going to press was 232 nautical miles.

As for Adventure, she weathered wind and water... but hit a pilot whale. Luckily it was only a glancing blow and no damage was done. And it did not affect her position on handicap at the head of the field.

Adventure's position on 31 October was 43.43 South, 33.10 East.

For readers plotting progress on the SOLDIER chart, final positions for Adventure approaching Cape Town were: 28 September — 18.56 South, 09.56 West. 7 October — 39.39 South, 05.42 East. She reached Cape Town at 1152 hours on 11 October.

ASA AGM

Members of the Army Sailing Association are urged to attend the association's annual general meeting at Empress State Building, London, at 1130 on 11 January 1978. The meeting is timed to coincide with the Boat Show at Earls Court where members can drool over the latest craft after their deliberations.

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Free sailing goes great gunners



The new sport of free sailing, or wind surfing, has caught on with the Army and leading the field at present is 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, whose traditional reputation for being 'first and fastest' is obviously well suited to this speedy sport.

The regiment already has the nucleus of a competition team led by the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Jones, pictured at the 'helm' during the John Player regatta at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham.

Free sailing calls for a high degree of balance and agility to control the single sail with its mast pivoted at the step. The 'helmsman' becomes part of the running rigging himself as his arms act as the sheets for the sail.

Fencers' sharp start

The Army's fencers gave a good account of themselves by winning their first match of the season — against Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst — by 19 victories to eight.

Behind the scoreline was the further encouragement that the Army team contained some new blood which bodes well for the strength of the team's performance in the future.

Wielding his foil to good effect as usual was Sergeant Syd Evans, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancasters, who won all three of his bouts. Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Derick Truman followed with two wins and Sergeant Instructor Tim Johnson, not quite finding form, had only one victory. This gave the Army a 6 — 3 win.

The épée match looked as though the Army was going to be up against very strong opposition from the RMA whose team included Officer Cadet Rollo, an ex-Cambridge University fencer, and Officer Cadet Logan, a former schoolboy champion.

But these two proved not to be on top form. Warrant Officer 1 Clive

Eldridge, a very experienced Army fencer, fenced well, though, and won all three bouts for his team. Driver Tim Watson, Royal Corps of Transport, the under-20 inter-Services champion, arrived as a spectator and was persuaded to fence although his result would not count in the match. Only Officer Cadet Rollo managed to beat him.

Lance-Corporal Archibald fenced very well and lost only to Rollo. Craftsman Chesham, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, gained one victory. The result was Army 6 — RMA 3, as in the foil.

In the sabre match the Army had a 7 — 2 win brought about by Staff-Sergeant Jim Campbell, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Sergeant Instructor Hanniver, Army Physical Training Corps, and Sergeant Instructor Evans.

A large crowd enjoyed this convincing win for the Army team.

Rugby standards soar

If this year's rugby trials are anything to go by, the Army squad should be in for a very successful season.

According to new coach Major Noel Slater, the standard of play at the trials at Aldershot was much higher than in previous years.

Last year the Army lost more games than it won, and although beating the RAF, went down to the Navy. But this year, there was a definite rise in standard at the trials, compared with last year which bodes well for the future.

"We have seen more than 80 players," said Major Slater after the trials, "which in itself is very encouraging. We now have a very good idea of our potential but there will be yet another trial before announcing the team.

"This year we have much greater depth and more ability and we will definitely do better against the civilian sides we play. As to the Service games, they are completely different, and I would make no prediction at all about them.

"There were four of last year's colts out on show and they were certainly not out of place. It was a good colts side last year, and these guys are certainly coming along."

Chairman of selectors Colonel Peter Crooks added: "This was one of our most successful trials, and I am sure that a lot of the praise must go to the commanding officers who released men to come and play,

otherwise it could have been a very different story."

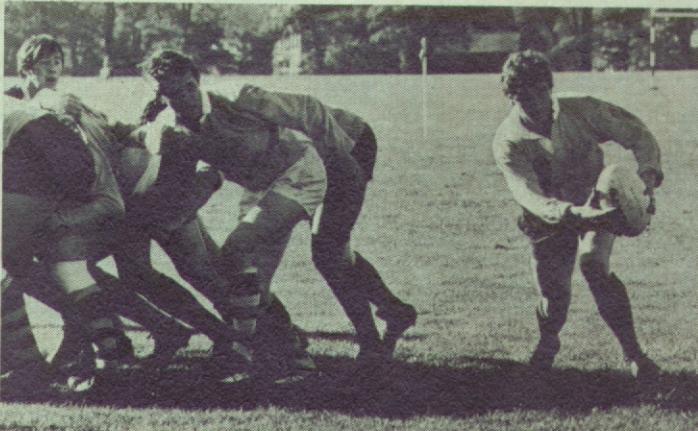
Fears are mounting that top rugby talent may be lost to Army representative teams when players are posted to minor units where they cannot develop their skills.

As trials for this coming season get under way to select a squad to play for the Army, in competition often with leading civilian as well as Service clubs, the Army Rugby

Union has launched a campaign to urge units to let the ARU selectors know of good players through their formation rugby officers.

The ARU is at pains to stress that it is in no way criticising the "quite magnificent efforts" of formation and unit rugby officers and its sole intent is to foster and strengthen the interest in representative rugby at Army level.

But the fear is that good players may get submerged either in a unit too small to field a XV or forgotten in a unit which concentrates on other sports.



Scrum-half Gareth Davies in action

Sports shorts

Squash

The Squash world is being rocked by the shooting stars of the Army team who are making an indelible mark on the prestigious Cumberland Cup national league championship.

The Army entered the contest for the first time last year at the bottom in Division Five and swept the board to emerge league leaders. So far this year the newcomers have made great strides in Division Four winning four out of their five games to date.

So squash bounced straight into top gear for the Army who have started their season with a series of impressive wins. The Fire Service and RMA Sandhurst went down 4-1 each and North Middlesex was beaten 3-2, the same result as that against the Civil Service later. The only loss in early games was against Oxford University who romped home with a 5-0 whitewash. The fixture against Pipp's Hill was cancelled.

Army lost to Cambridge University 2-3.

Golf

The Army and RAF shared top honours in the inter-Services golf tournament with both teams convincingly seeing off the Royal Navy.

The RAF beat the Navy by seven matches to five and the Army by 10½ to one-and-a-half. The joint champions appropriately halved their meeting with six matches each.

Teeing off for the Army were: Majors Dick Carroll (Royal Signals), Richard Drake (Royal Army Pay

Corps), Ron Rush (Royal Army Ordnance Corps), Chris Wallace (Royal Green Jackets), Captain George Jones (Royal Artillery), Warrant Officer 1 Bob Hanna (Royal Military Police), Sergeant Chris Carveth (Royal Signals) and Lance-Corporal Ian Gray (RAOC).

Soccer

The Army Youth soccer side took on Aldershot Football Club's youth team and beat the junior members of the Fourth Division Club 3-2. Meanwhile, the senior Army side drew with the Prison Officers' Association 1-1 and beat Sussex 2-1. A scheduled game against Oxford University was not played.

The Army was beaten by the Civil Service 3-1. Meanwhile skipper Cpl Micky Doig and Cpl Dave Blanche were selected to play for the Football Association XI against Oxford University — a considerable honour for them, Army soccer officials reported.

Beds & Herts held the Army Youth side to a 3-3 draw on their own ground.

Sailing

The Royal Navy narrowly beat the Army in the Services' offshore sailing race which criss-crossed the Channel to France during its course. Representing the Army were the Joint Services Sailing Centre's British Soldier — a 55-foot Nicholson sloop, plus two 32-footers; the Royal Engineers' Right Royal II and the Royal Military College of Science's Trumpeter.

British Soldier, skippered by Lieutenant-Colonel James Myatt who was just back from taking her round the classic Fastnet course, was tipped for a win until she was maddeningly becalmed off France and had to watch her rivals sail through.

It has been decided that next year's SOR in June will not 'go foreign' and will be sailed from Gosport to Dartmouth.

A new dinghy sail training centre has been established at Chepstow — home of the Royal Engineers' Army Apprentice College. This brings the number of Army Sailing Association dinghy clubs up to 47. So no surprise that administration of the Army's dinghy section in the association has been extended with the appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Grannum as Secretary in place of Derry Martin who becomes Sail Training Secretary. Colonel Grannum sails regularly at Netley Sailing Club where he is a founder-member and flag officer of the club.

Netley Sailing Club hosted the Army single-handed sailing championships this year when gusty conditions on Southampton Water took their toll in capsizes of the lively Laser boats. Sappers were well represented in the honours with Captains Mike Brooke first and John Rayner third. Second was S/Sgt Ray Bright (REME).

Shooting

The Army swept the board at the inter-Services smallbore long-range target rifle championships, winning all the major events.

In the main event, the inter-Service championship itself, the Army scored 10,964 out of a possible 11,200, well over 150 points clear of the second-placed Royal Navy with 10,812.

The Army went on to win the long-range match (highest possible score 6400) with 6259, the 50-metre match (HPS 4800) with 4705 and the inter-Services prone, standing and kneeling match (HPS 3600) with 3240.

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Boxing Opportunity Knocks

Army experts had a chance to weigh up new boxing talent during an entertaining evening provided by the intermediate championships.

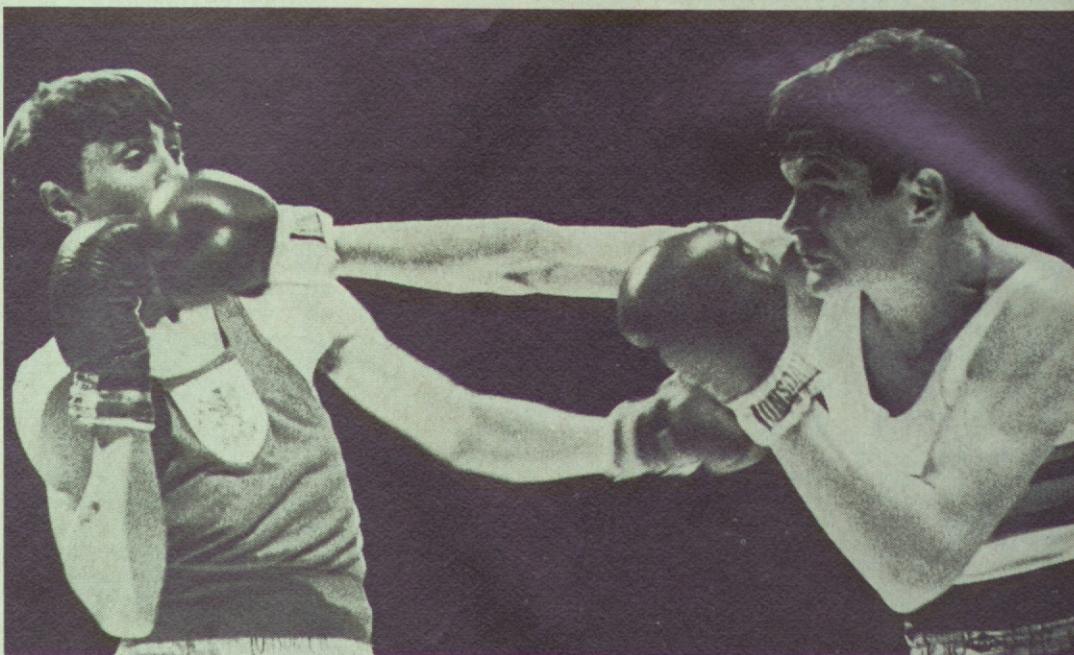
New too was the Army coach, Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Dennis Dent, who had just taken over from QMSI Joe Kiernan who has gone to Rhine Army after four years in the job.

And so talent spotting was the name of the game for QMSI Dent and other Army experts with several young up-and-coming boxers stepping into the intermediate ring.

At welterweight, Junior Corporal S Green, of Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, took a stylish stance against a more experienced Fusilier A Perry, of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Perry appeared more game for a scrap but had to be warned twice for using the inside of his gloves while the newcomer Green seemed a trifle apprehensive — a trait which only experience will cure. Once he learns to go for his man more determinedly there will be a good future for him in the ring. As it was, he still did enough to win a majority decision against Perry.

All eyes were on the tall, gangling welterweight Private P Cocoran, of Depot The Light Infantry — a youngster only just out of boy's service with great boxing potential. In the championship he faced a fierce and stocky opponent in Lance-Corporal J McIntyre, of 1st Battalion,



Above: A right cross from Green connects with Perry's chin.

The Royal Highland Fusiliers, whose terrier-like style contrasted with the deceptively slow weaving of Cocoran.

When the youngster connected, it was clear he had power behind his punch and McIntyre was put down in the second round. He was soon on his feet again and made the desperate mistake of trying to windmill his way to a quick decision in his own favour.

Instead, the inevitable happened and the more skilful Cocoran waited

for his moment. It came when McIntyre seemed to dive headlong on to a crisp upper-cut which lifted him clear of the floor on which gravity unceremoniously deposited him a split-second later.

At light middleweight, Private J Astbury, of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets — once more making their bid to dominate Army boxing — proved an aggressive and stylish performer. He set out to beat Corporal S Marguson, Royal Signals, from the bell and achieved his ambition before the end of round one, the referee stopping the fight when Marguson could clearly take no more punishment.

In what was more a competent scrap than a boxing match, Lance-Corporal G Storrie (3 RGJ) stopped Fusilier W McAree (1 RHF) in the second to take the featherweight medal.

At middleweight, Lance-Corporal A Gilbert (Depot LI), slugged relentlessly at Lance-Corporal L Viettie (R Sigs) who retreated into a head-hugging defence before finally sinking to the canvas. Viettie seemed to be badly hurt early on and after the referee put an end to his misery before the first bell the unfortunate boxer had attention from the ringside doctor.

A recommended newcomer, Second-Lieutenant P Adams, from Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, robbed spectators of a chance to see his skills by damaging a hand before the event. But it's an ill wind . . . and his failure to appear meant a walkover at light heavyweight for Corporal M Bowering, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

There were walkovers too for Sapper T Marriner (heavyweight) and Lance-Corporal J Kilpatrick (lightweight).

There was a disappointing entry for the championships and so few bouts could be arranged for this early season event that it gave the Army Boxing Association a chance to stage three open trial bouts between more seasoned campaigners who provided some good boxing and entertainment for the crowd at Aldershot's boxing centre.

Split-second puts Gus ahead

Aggregate times for the teams in the Army cycling hill climb championships could not have been closer with just 0.6 of a second separating the winners and runners-up.

Army Apprentices College Harrogate took the title with total times of 23 minutes 10.6 seconds with AAC Arborfield second in 23:11.2.

Individual winner was Apprentice Tradesman Gus Watkinson (AAC Harrogate) who rode very well to cover the one-mile hill, starting at one in six and levelling out to an average one in nine, in 7 minutes 19.1 seconds. Second was Lance-Corporal Hawkins (16 Battalion, RAOC) in 7:29.8 and third A/T Peter Lee (AAC Arborfield) in 7:42.5.

The event was the decider for the Fraser Cup for the best team for the season which went to AAC Arborfield with 2631 points. Second was AAC Harrogate (1996).

Corporal John White (AAC Arborfield) won the Army open 30-mile road time trial in one hour nine minutes 24 seconds. A/T Lee was second (1:20.09) and Cpl Hawkins third (1:22.05).

Team winners were Arborfield with an aggregate of four hours one minute 41 seconds. The Army junior league was decided at the meeting and Arborfield emerged winners with 1780 points with Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, second with 1711.

Inter-Service champs

The Army emerged inter-Services cricket champions after beating the Royal Navy by 28 runs and the RAF by nine wickets. The Royal Navy also beat the RAF, this time by a margin of eight wickets.

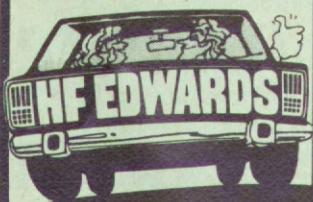


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Disappointment for Fred

Ultra-long distance running star Staff-Sergeant Fred Howells (pictured) did not achieve his ambition to break the world 24-hour running record at the Crystal Palace track race. But he did manage to come third in a top-class international field.



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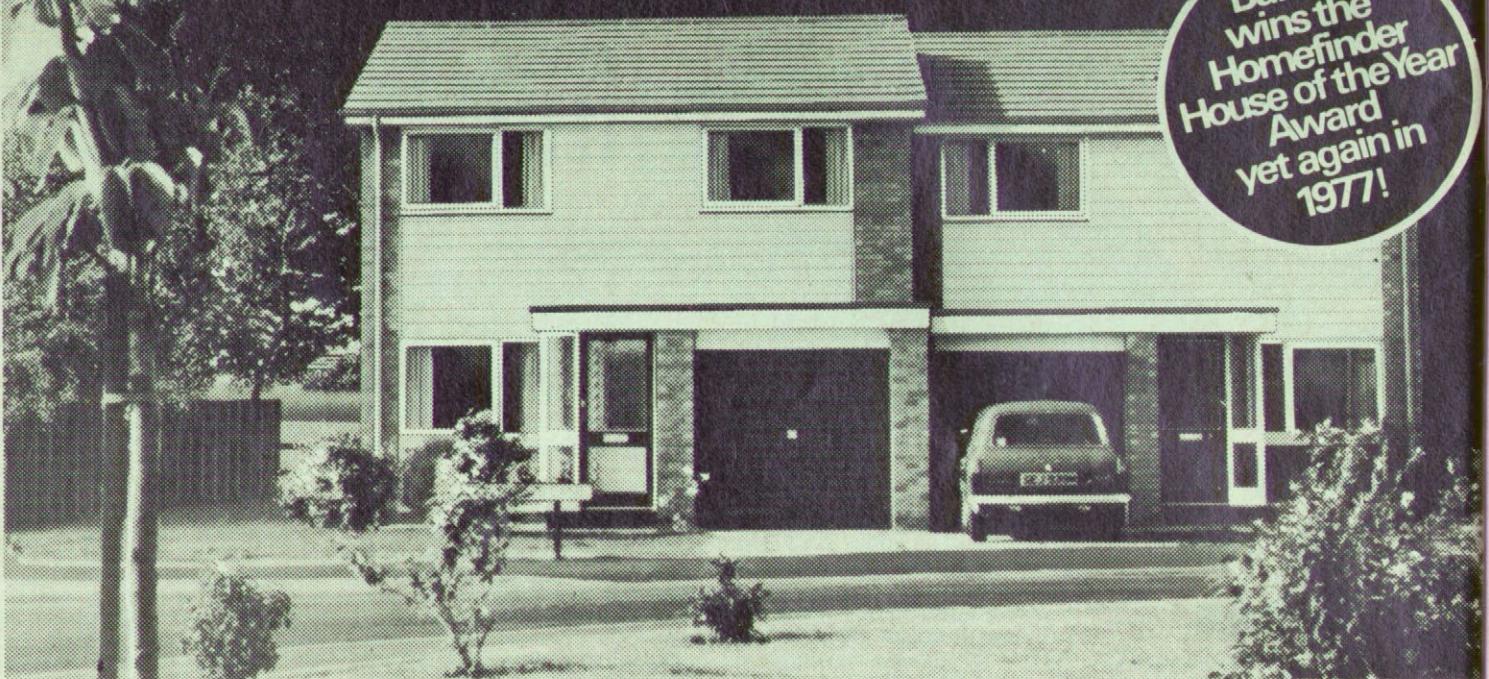
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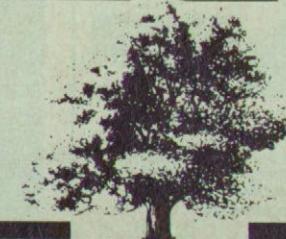
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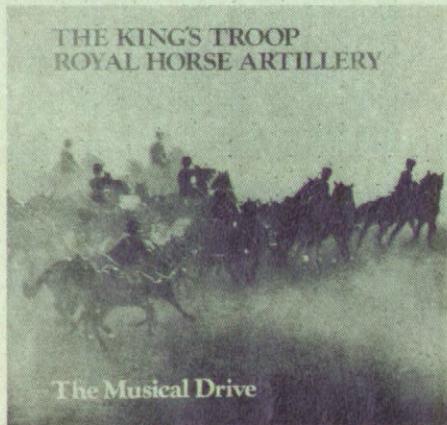
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On record



'The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery: The Musical Drive' (The Royal Artillery Band) (Director of Music: Major R Quinn) (Spectacular Sounds LR 103)

The trouble (for me) with this kind of record, and tattoos in general, is epitomised in the name of the record company, Spectacular Sounds. Can sounds be spectacular? If you can jump that hurdle then this may well be right up your horse track, for the whole of side one is devoted to the King's Troop's famous drive, with blazoning trumpet and bugle calls, preparatory jingling of harness, crowd participation, and a fine kaleidoscopic swirl to the whole display. Yes, I must admit you can almost see the ruddy thing.



If only the six marches on side two had been more imaginatively chosen I could have wholeheartedly given the disc five stars, to cavalrymen if not to foot-sloggers like myself. As it is (the music for the Drive being necessarily well known), I'm afraid 'Viscount Nelson,' 'Army of the Nile,' 'Blaze Away,' 'Action Front,' 'Standard of St George' and 'Wellington' fail to complement either the record or the King's Troop.

Just think of the horsey tunes we could have had: Old Grey Mare, several of Sousa's cavalry marches, Spindler's great Cavalry Trot, not to mention (although I will) my own Cavalry Walk and Cavalry Ride marches. And what about Eilenberg's The Uhlans' Call, which is ever being requested but never recorded, and a hundred others that readers could readily name?

If side two attracts you then the disc is available from 14 Avenue Mansions, Sisters Avenue, London SW11, price £2.99 plus post and packing.

RB

'The Regimental Music of the 1st Bn, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment', played by the **Regimental Band and Corps of Drums** under the direction of Bandmaster D E Price (Music Masters 0521)

One of the few surviving unamalgamated regiments comes up with its store of regimental tunes — more than any other regiment in the British Army, or any other army come to that. When we used to broadcast 'Music of the Regiments' in the 1940s and 50s, the Cheshires were always a problem for producer Harry Mortimer — what to leave out?

Here there is no problem and, apart from the bugle calls, you have the 'Assembly March,' all the trooping music, and of course the old and new regimental marches. The charming waltz-troop, 'The Duke of York,' is not to be confused with the other slow march of the same name, and deserves more performance than it probably gets.

The band is somewhat tentative but is quite right to play within its limits, the overall result being wholly acceptable and a welcome production for all members of the regiment.

Side two shows the band off in its concert role, and it is here that one would have expected a lighter and more modern touch. A march paraphrase on themes from 'The Gypsy Baron,' the medley 'Sounds of Simon and Garfunkel,' 'A Bit of Beguine,' a trombone solo 'Cool Breeze,' and a march 'Hall of Fame' prove this to be a rather bland band, but it's better to be bland than blatant.

Available from RHQ, 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, The Castle, Chester. Price £3.00 including packing and postage.

RB

'The Two Minsters' (The Band of the 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire) (Conductor: Bandmaster R A Martin) The minsters are York and Beverley of course, in the parishes of the old West and East Yorkshire regiments. Not that the programme is all gas and gaiters. Would that perhaps it had been for this obviously young band makes heavy weather of some light music on side one and does not really come out well until side two with pop music and a few electronics. One or two stylish players carry the day and, when the dance sections off-load the weaker military band performers, all is professional-sounding.

On side one are the bandmaster's 'Regimental Fanfare', a medley of regimental airs, the regimental slow ('XV von England') and quick ('Ca Ira' and 'The Yorkshire Lass') marches and a couple of solo items in 'El Tempesto' for trumpet and Ronald Binge's 'Romance' for saxophone. The solos are nicely played but Frank Erickson's 'Toccata for Band' suffers from intonation and ensemble problems.

The pop tunes — 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'The Hustle' and 'Popcorn' by the dance orchestra and 'He Ain't Heavy' and 'Music' by the Red Mafia beat group, are put across with gusto and colourful orchestrations, with only a hint here and there of the inexperience of side one.

But a record is always worth making, if only as a salutary exercise in ultimate requirements.

This record is obtainable, at £3.20 including postage and packing, from Regimental Headquarters, The East Yorkshire Regiment, 11 Butcher Row, Beverley, Humberside, HU17 0AA, or from Regimental Headquarters, The West Yorkshire Regiment, Imphal Barracks, York.

'3 Valves and 88 Keys' (Cornet by Jim Shepherd) (Piano by Kieth Swallow) (Fanfare International MS 65)

Lovers of bands of all kinds must, by implication, accept the cornet as a natural solo instrument. Whether they are prepared for a cornet 'recital' (ie with piano accompaniment) is another matter. If it does attract you, then Jim Shepherd is just about the best around and in addition to being able to lay on the fireworks he plays with great finesse and feeling anything that gives him the opportunity to do so!

His background is champion soloist of Great Britain via the Royal Army Medical Corps Staff Band, Carlton Main, and of course Black Dyke. His virtuosity is in the mainstream tradition of the Distins, Mackintoshes and Mortimers, with the added benefit of better recording techniques than those masters had. Old hands may miss something of the sheer bravura of earlier players but this is as good as they're likely to get in the foreseeable future.

3 VALVES AND 88 KEYS



Fanfare International

Oldies are 'Il Bacio,' 'Alpine Echoes,' using echo cornet, and Arban's 'Fantasy and Variations.' There are the Spanish 'La Vurgen de la Macarena,' the Mexican 'Chiapaneca,' the Italianate 'Introduction de Tavantilla,' and more modern pieces in Charles Aznavour's 'She,' Harold Arlen's 'Somewhere Over a Rainbow,' the Hebrew 'Hava Nagila' and Roy Newsome's 'Concorde.'

RB

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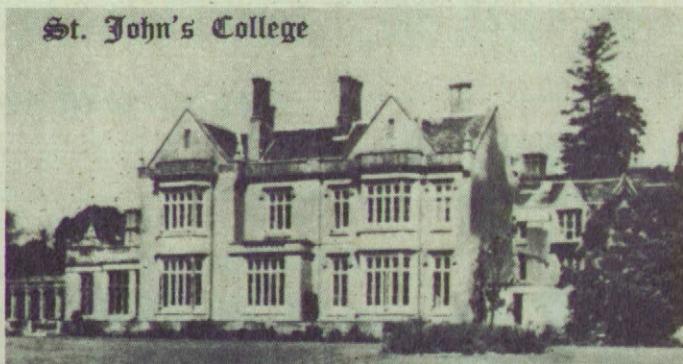
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Royal Irish
Rangers



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt

GREEK CYPRIOT FARMER Frixos Argyru was deep in the heart of his citrus plantation watering some grapefruit which he would soon be picking for market. A few yards away was Royal Irish Ranger 'Elvis' Bell with a loaded rifle and a radio.

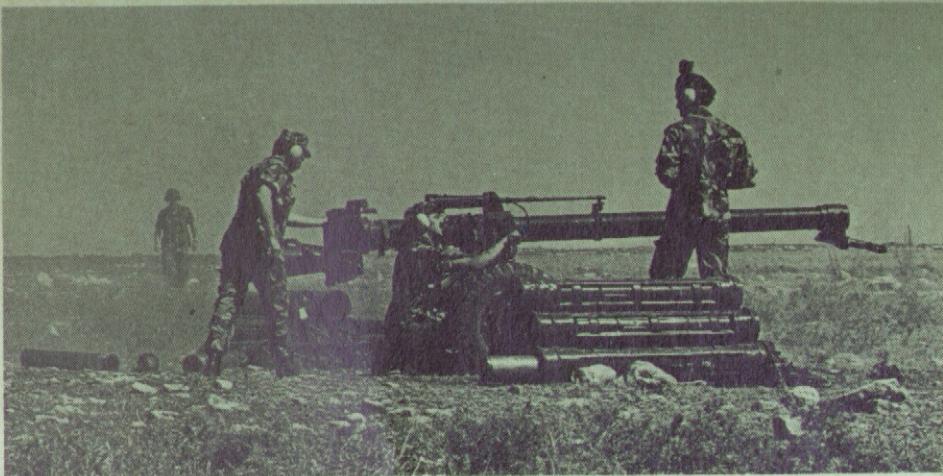
Mr Argyru is one of scores of farmers whose land now lies in the United Nations-manned buffer zone between the Greek National Guard and the Turkish forces who occupy the northern part of Cyprus. And every time the farmers want to tend their fields they have to be accompanied by a United Nations escort — both for their own protection and to prevent them from straying on to other fields over-close to the Turkish positions.

The United Nations corridor runs for 129 miles across the island and takes up 3.7 per cent of the island's arable land. So the farmers who own it want to keep the produce flowing.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, has just returned to its former Royal Air Force station home at Little Rissington in the Cotswolds. But the battalion's summer and autumn was spent in the fierce heat of the divided sunshine isle.

Above: Riding shotgun for Irish escort as Greek Cypriot farmer drives his tractor to the fields.

Left: Lunch for Ranger 'Elvis' Bell is provided by farmer Frixos Argyru — it's watermelon.



Battalion headquarters and two companies were attached to the United Nations forces in a sector west of Nicosia while the remainder were stationed at the eastern sovereign base area at Dhekelia. And for the first time a company rotation was allowed — both A and C companies spent three months with UNFICYP and three months at Dhekelia, all thus qualifying for a UN medal.

Headquarters of the infantry battalion in the British contingent of UNFICYP is at St David's Camp — a hutt complex which dates back to colonial days but was christened by the Welsh Guards when they first occupied it in 1975 after the big exchange that autumn when more than 8000 Turkish Cypriots, as well as small numbers of Greek Cypriots and a handful of expatriate Britons, moved to the Turkish-controlled north.

There were no minority pockets left to protect so the United Nations forces were reduced to their present level of 2700, of which Britain provides just over 800 men. Each of the UNFICYP nations — Denmark, Britain, Austria, Canada, Sweden and Finland — then took on a section of the ceasefire line. Their tasks are to prevent a repetition of fighting, to assist with humanitarian relief programmes and to contribute towards a return to normality.

During the Royal Irish Rangers' six months on UN duty there were no major flare-ups and along the whole line the number of shooting incidents dropped to about four a week. Said Lieutenant Philip



Top left: Rangers in Dhekelia get the chance to fire Combat on the ranges. A break from routine.

Above: Something else unusual. Rangers on UN duty practise abseiling from RAF Whirlwind.

Left: One of the abseilers is on his way down while the rest discuss their respective descents.

Below: This old lady, one of the refugees at Anzio, earns a little cash by lacemaking.



Left: Shepherd and escort prepare to visit fields.

Above: Sovereign base troops check vehicle.

Below: Rangers Hull and Leahy keep watch.

Baxter: "When we arrived, both sides decided to test us. They each moved forward a few paces but we soon found out and moved them back."

At Dhenia, SOLDIER found 13 men living in a commandeered house. Their main task had been to supervise Greek shepherds with their large herds of sheep and goats grazing in the buffer zone and to prevent them straying towards the Turkish lines. At the same time they had patrolled two buffer-zone villages and occasionally ejected Greek National Guardsmen who had popped in for a forbidden drink. "It's been a bit cramped here because this house was only built for a family — but it's not been too bad," said Corporal Leon Small.

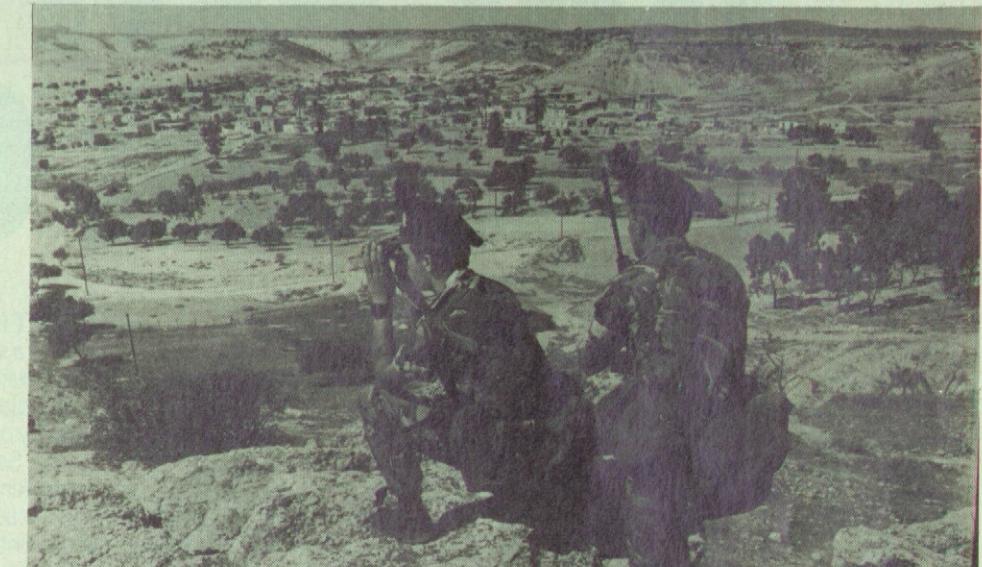
A few miles further west is Avalona, a village which was last year settled by Turkish farmers. Occupying the UN observation post here were men of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment. They were among 35 Lancastrians attached to the Irish unit for the Rangers' UN tour. Said Lieutenant Mike Gouldstone: "They've enjoyed it here but are looking forward to going back. Six months is a long time to be separated from your battalion."

It is in the area occupied first by A company and then by C company that much of the farmers' escort service is carried out. Major Mike Robjohn, company commander explained: "South of a line they are allowed to farm as and when they like. Then there is a line where they need permits and can farm only in daylight hours. North of the escort line they need another special pass and have always to have an escort. They ring up and book their escort a few days in advance then come and collect him in their farm vehicle. He spends the whole day with the farmer who usually gives him lunch."

C company was based in a former box factory at Pano Zodhia. When SOLDIER visited the factory in the Spring of 1975 the hundreds of fruit boxes had been used to provide 'rooms' for the troops. Now all this has changed. Proper wooden accommodation has been provided inside the factory and each unit has improved the facilities. These now include a gift shop and snack bar with pinball machines provided by an enterprising merchant named Solly.

Many of the improvements have been made by the 12-man detachment of Royal Engineers which accompanies each of the UN infantry tours. They are also employed on sapper projects up and down the line and are on call for mine detection work.

Colonel French said there had been six major incidents during the Royal Irish Rangers' tour with minor incidents too numerous to detail. Potatoes, bricks and a shot had been fired at passing cars on the



Meanwhile, back at Dhekelia, Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur French, normally second-in-command of the Rangers, was in charge of security of the sovereign base area. The troops under his command included the two companies of Royal Irish Rangers and a company of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment — the resident battalion at the other end of the island in Episkopi.

All along the eastern end of the Dhekelia base are Turkish observation posts — something like 100 of them. In addition to the British troops and families in Dhekelia there are the local residents and refugees, all under British protection.

The Greek Cypriot farmers who have land bordering on the Turkish lines have to be given confidence. Their fears that their livestock, produce and machinery will disappear over the border have to be allayed — this was done by a few static observation posts and constant patrolling elsewhere.

About once a fortnight Colonel French went across to the Turkish side for talks on anything ranging from military incidents to the control of mosquitoes. If any trouble arose there were quicker negotiations conducted by shouting across the fence separating the Turkish forces from the sovereign base.

Colonel French said there had been six major incidents during the Royal Irish Rangers' tour with minor incidents too numerous to detail. Potatoes, bricks and a shot had been fired at passing cars on the

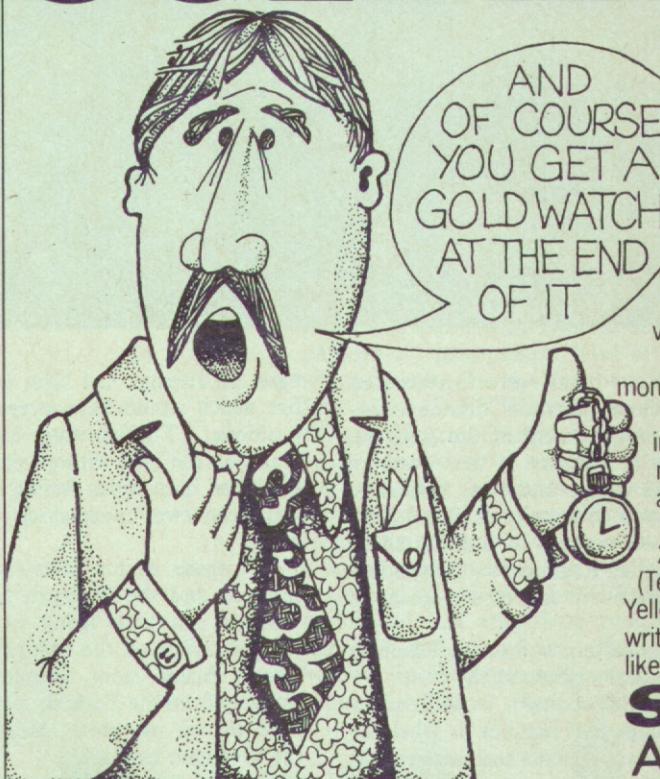
base, an attempt had been made to start a fire which would have swept into Turkish positions, a Turkish water carrier had been found on the base without permission, livestock had been stolen from a farm and there had been two unexplained shooting incidents.

But these events were mostly quickly resolved and the Irishmen found time for training, anti-tank firing and visiting the refugee camps on the base. Anzio Camp, a former Army camp, contains nearly 250 refugees from the Turkish zone, all of whom have British passports. Most work within the sovereign base area.

Commanding the camp is a former British Army officer who is himself a refugee. Mickey Gibbs, a former captain in The Green Howards and The Parachute Regiment, and an Arnhem veteran, has lived in Cyprus for 28 years and formerly had businesses in Famagusta and Kyrenia, both now in Turkish hands.

He told SOLDIER: "Gradually the numbers are coming down as the Cyprus Government builds more houses for refugees. But we realise that those who are living in tents must have priority."

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German Jeep

THE VOLKSWAGEN 'BEETLE' — possibly the most popular car of all time — was initiated by Adolf Hitler in 1933. Its design has remained basically the same right up to today, with the exception of wartime military versions such as the Kübelwagen, and when it was recently decided to cease production in Europe, 19,250,000 'Beetles' had been built. Production continues in Mexico and Brazil on licence.

Hitler ordered Dr Ferdinand Porsche, designer of the present-day sports car, to make a utility vehicle, to be called Volkswagen ('people's car') for the average German family. Work began in 1938 at a purpose-built factory in Wolfsburg. The car was to be sold for 1000 marks (then about £90). More than a quarter of a million people paid in advance for their cars — but never got them.

Production was suddenly switched to a military version, with the streamlined body replaced by a box-like structure of flat panels for ease of production and assembly. The vehicle was called Kübelwagen after the Kübel or bucket seat.

Some ordnance officers were troubled by its small, rear-mounted engine and lack of four-wheel drive. Their fears were unfounded. The vehicle's light weight of half a ton precluded it from bogging down and, even if it overturned, it could be man-handled upright by two men. The Kübelwagen was one of the few vehicles which could negotiate both the sands of the North African desert and the snow and mud of Eastern Europe. Its roles included staff car, ambulance, engineer vehicle and carrier for personnel, fuel and ammunition. By the end of the war, production figures had run into more than 52,000.

The Kübelwagen, the German equivalent of the Jeep, is the subject of a superb model from the Italian firm of Esci Modelistica. It comes as a kit of plastic parts in giant 1:9th scale at a recommended retail price of £9.99.

Such a scale lends itself to a great wealth of detail. Even the maker's name is moulded on the rubber tyres. There is real canvas for the hood, opening doors and working suspension, and an engine so realistic it seems about to roar into life.

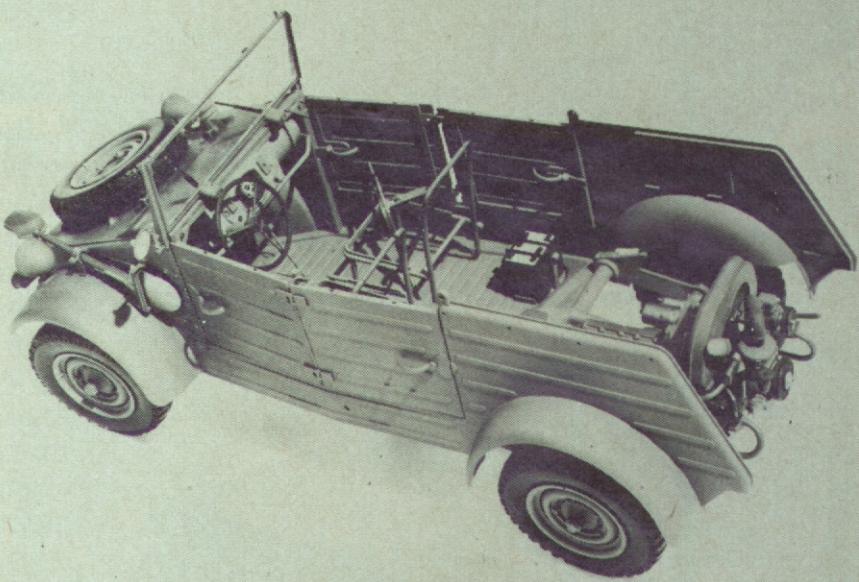
Transfer decals are included for a Luftwaffe paratroop brigade, Afrika Korps postal unit, SS 'Totenkopf' Panzer Division, 15 Panzer Division reconnaissance unit and Panzergrenadier 'Grossdeutschland' motorcycle unit. Humbrol paints 'German panzer grey' and 'Afrika Korps desert yellow' are recommended for vehicles of the European and North African theatres respectively. As

final touches, a coat of matt polyurethane varnish should be applied to the final paintwork to give a metallic appearance and a wash of Indian ink on the engine cooling fins for an oily effect.

Esci's other recent releases include 1:35th scale German 'Green Devil' paratroops at 80 pence and 1:72nd German Hanomag half-track, British Churchill tank and Bishop self-propelled gun, each at 60 pence.

These kits are available by mail order from Beatties of London Ltd, 112 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6JS. Prospective purchasers should write to the firm requesting postal charges.

HH



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S 01

TOM'S A MODEL RECRUITER

TOM DAVIES was convinced he could make a better model than the Jeep he spotted in his local Army recruiting office window . . . and he told them so. The recruiting officer retorted: "If you can do better — be my guest."

He took up the challenge and proved he COULD do better, drawing on his experience as a structural engineer and as a hobbyist model maker. That was three years ago and since then Tom has made a dozen or so one-twelfth scale models of the mighty Antar tank transporter and several armoured personnel carriers to grace recruiting displays of the Army's shop windows in the Midlands.

In his tiny garden shed at his home in Birstall, Leicester, Tom — now 38 and claiming 30 years' model-making experience — creates his highly detailed replicas from scratch, using thin plastic sheet as the basic raw material.

After making careful measurements and working drawings, Tom sets to work cutting and heat-welding the components. Tyres and wheel hubs are moulded in master casts he has made himself. Track for the APCs is made in individual sections linked up like the real thing and Tom's wife Valerie is recruited to the production line to give a hand with this task.

Sons Michael (7) and Richard (8) are allowed to watch dad's models taking shape but are too young yet to help him with the delicate and precise business of making exact miniatures of the massive vehicles.

This hasn't stopped the lads following in father's footsteps, though, and he is full of praise for their efforts with commercial kits. "It's amazing what youngsters can do if they try," he says.

The demand for models of tank transporter variants is growing now and Tom currently has some 20 or 30 of his mini-vehicles on his plastic production line. This takes up a lot of his time. "I try to get in about three hours a night at it," he said. "But sometimes I don't feel like touching them for a bit. In any case, it works out that

I spend about 35 hours a week on average in the shed."

Modesty leaves the quiet model-maker somewhat bemused by the admiration his creations attract but there is no doubt the standard of his hand-made vehicles is extremely high.

His own personal favourite is an intricate piece he is working on at the moment. This is an Antar with a Chieftain tank aboard. But unlike the other Antar models, this will

be a working one incorporating some £700-worth of radio control equipment.

Tom explains that one of the problems with working models is to get them to steer realistically — they are usually unweighted and so do not react to controls like the real thing — so he is putting a lot of work into getting this right. And to cap it all, not only will the Antar and Chieftain engines work, but so will the stop, brake and indicator lights.



Above right: On a visit to Bulford, Tom Davies touches up a model that he gave to a unit there.

Right: Back home in his tiny garden shed, Tom experiments with weights in model Antar's cab.

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MEDICS GIVE KISS OF LIFE TO HOSPITAL



AN ARMY medical team which went out to Belize during the reinforcement earlier in the year has done so much to help a local hospital that it has made a significant contribution to health in the area.

The Field Surgical Team from 2 Field Hospital, Aldershot, and the Spearhead Section of 19 Field Ambulance, Colchester, went to provide field surgery facilities at forward locations in any possible battle.

It was equipped with vehicles, tents, field medical equipment, dental kit, medicine and basic emergency surgical packs. Leader, Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Johnston, explained: "We would operate like the casualty department of a hospital, carrying out life-saving surgery close to the battle zone and preparing patients for the journey back to a base hospital."

On arrival in Belize the team chose an existing hospital on the important Western Highway as its initial location. If there had been a clash, this highway, running across the north of the country from the border town of San Ignacio to Belize City and one of the only three rough and ready major roads in the colony, would have been an obvious battle area.

Left: Dentist, Major Dick Mathews, gets to work on a patient's mouth in the Belmopan hospital.

Below: Captain Dominic McCreadie tends a man who lost a finger in the gears of a sawmill.



The hospital was situated in a forward position along the highway and had buildings providing comfort and hygiene. There was also ample space for a helicopter landing pad.

Thankfully there was no armed conflict with the Guatemalans so the medical team took the opportunity of helping the local community. The hospital, although well equipped and staffed, had been underutilised. Potentially it could serve not only the population of the colony capital, Belmopan and surrounding areas but could take some pressure off Belize City Hospital which has a long waiting list.

For seven years there had been empty beds in the new hospital and only a small trickle of patients. It had been difficult to change people's habits and persuade them to use the new facilities.

But the arrival of the British team changed all that. People started coming to the hospital and asking for the Army, queues began to form in the surgery waiting rooms and the operating theatre and maternity wards came into use on a daily basis. The team's dentist, Major Dick Mathews, also had plenty to do.

Dr Roy Clare, who runs the Belmopan hospital, believes that the effect will last and that now people are using the facilities they will continue. So the medical team — called out at 24 hours notice from the United Kingdom — has helped the health and welfare of the people of Belize in a completely unexpected way.

Right: Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Johnston, team leader, examines a small Belizean child patient.



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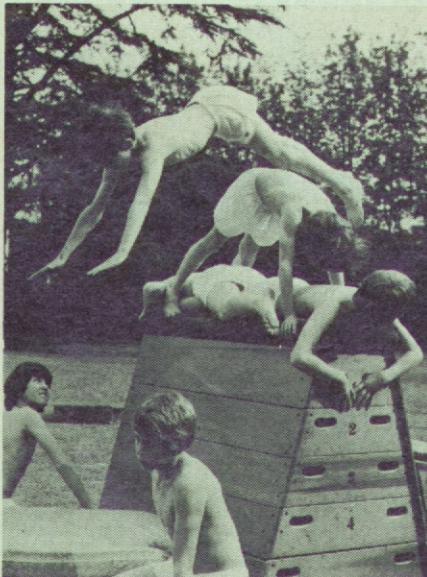
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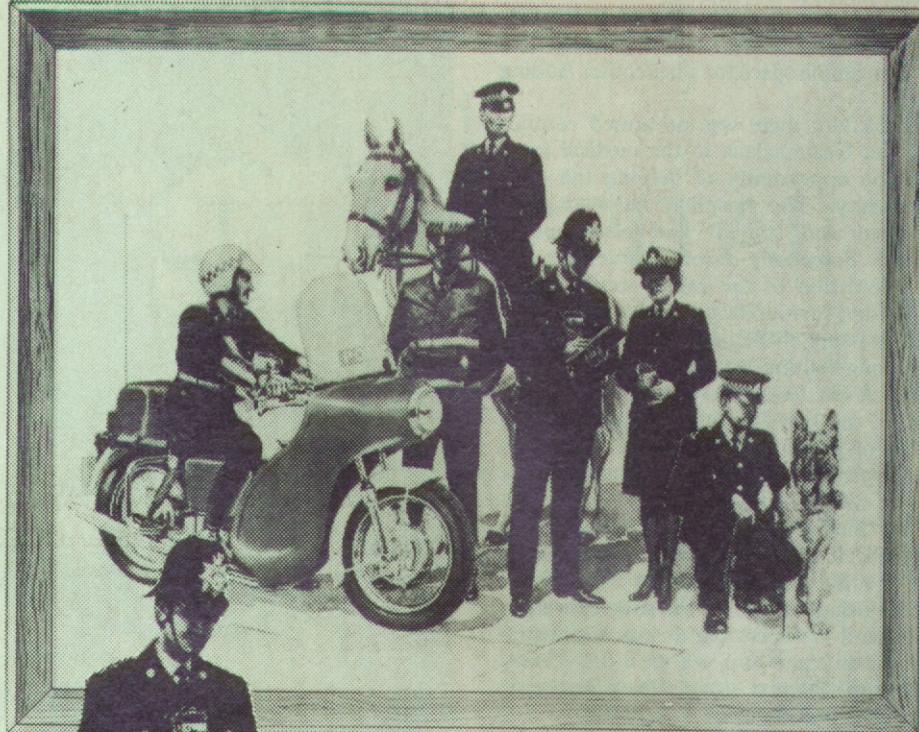


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Mr Bob Johnson, Recruiting Officer
Dept TS
Sussex Police Headquarters
Malling House, LEWES
East Sussex BN7 2DZ



Letters

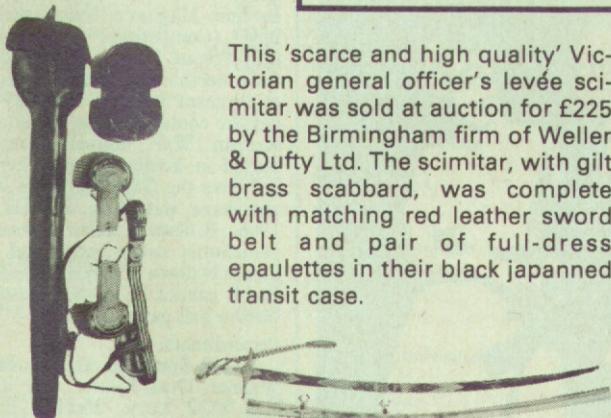


Gun Club Barracks

Many readers who have served in Hong Kong will know Gun Club Barracks in Kowloon. My regiment recently moved into these excellent barracks and I am trying to establish the history of the camp. So far, from Hong Kong sources, I have managed to find out very little.

I am particularly interested in the origin of the barracks and in details of what units occupied it over what periods. I have not even been able to find out what the barracks were used for during the Japanese occupation. I would be grateful for any help in filling the many gaps. — Lieut-Col D M Ivison RCT, HQ The Gurkha Transport Regiment, BFPO 1.

At auction



This 'scarce and high quality' Victorian general officer's levée scimitar was sold at auction for £225 by the Birmingham firm of Weller & Dufty Ltd. The scimitar, with gilt brass scabbard, was complete with matching red leather sword belt and pair of full-dress epaulettes in their black japanned transit case.

The Rock in war

I am compiling a radio series on Gibraltar during World War Two. I would be glad to hear from anyone with wartime memories of the Rock, especially from the other ranks' viewpoint, and in particular would welcome any sound recordings. — Richard Parker, British Forces Broadcasting Service, BFPO 52.

after World War One it has, by comparison, faded into obscurity. — Paul Plumb, 61 Winstanley Road, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2PW.

Elles Barracks

At the end of this year, 20 Ordnance Field Park becomes 4 Division Armoured Ordnance Company. To mark this occasion we hope to produce an historical record of the units that have been situated, and the major events that have occurred, in Elles Barracks, Detmold, since 1953. I would be glad if any Royal Army Ordnance Corps personnel who have served in Elles could furnish any photographs, anecdotes and suggestions they feel could help to make this a memorable publication. — Maj E Champion RAOC, 20 Ord Fd Pk RAOC, BFPO 41.

First Colours

In 'Jubilee Colours for Mercians' (NEWS, September) it was stated that 2nd Battalion, Mercian Volunteers, was the first TAVR battalion to receive Colours from the Queen. Drawing on a sketchy memory, surely in 1974 the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was presented with new Colours by Her Majesty? — Spr S J Apanowicz, 2 Tp 23 AES, 28 AER, BFPO 31.

★ You are absolutely right. The misstatement in SOLDIER News arose from the usual source of errors — 'duff gen.' This was reinforced by the Queen's speech in which she said, "I am very pleased that, in my Silver Jubilee year, I have had this opportunity to present Colours, for the first time, to a battalion of the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve, and I congratulate you all on the high standards which you have achieved."

The Queen's "for the first time" did not mean that she herself was presenting, for the first time, Colours to a TAVR battalion, or that this was the first time Colours had been presented to a TAVR battalion, but in fact that she was presenting the 2nd Mercians with their first Colours.

Your old unit?

For some time now, a number of us who served in 7 (Base) MTSD, Royal Army Service Corps, have met each year at the Pack Horse Hotel, Staines, Middlesex, for dinner and renewal of our friendship. Our number, which was never large, has for a variety of reasons diminished over the years and we are most anxious to hear from anyone else who would like to join us. Our unit was formed in Staines in 1940. — K G Lines, 142 Shorncliffe Road, Coundon, Coventry, CV6 1GP.

Bantams

'The Bantams' was a special force recruited by the British Army in World War One and composed of soldiers below average height. I am engaged in researching a book about these men and would be most grateful to receive any information which readers might be able to provide — personal reminiscences, family anecdotes, letters, old photographs, book references, diaries, regimental histories, even 'pub tales'.

The Bantams were an unusual and valiant brigade and their story is well worth telling. I would welcome any information on this unique piece of military history and would take the greatest care of any material offered. — Sidney Allinson, 102 Owen Boulevard, Willowdale, Ontario M2P 1G3, Canada.

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A E Payne, 3 Cross Oak Road, Berkhamsted, Herts. — Seeks Coldstream guardsman's walking-out cane, bed plate, valise star.

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Hussars, King's, Devon & Dorset, RHF, RRW, DWR, RMA Band Corps, MPSC.

C J J James, 54 Wellington Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs. — Seeks Rhodesian camouflaged coat and hat and webbing. Can exchange camouflaged South Viet uniform, or pay cash.

R Hazenberg, PO Box 14058, Panmure, New Zealand. — Seeks Dutch metal/cloth formation signs 1945-50.

P Banyard, 24 Holmedene Avenue, Herne Hill, London SE24. — Offers

fair prices for WW2 German army equipment and uniforms also German naval rating's cap.

T C Savage, 23 Penwithick Road, Penwithick, St Austell, Cornwall. — Seeks, at reasonable price, Vol 3 'King's Own Royal Regiment,' by Col Cowper, published by Gale & Polden. Fred Walker, 8 Briar Close, Hemdene Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7QH. — Collector seeks any bayonets, daggers, swords, helmets, British war medals, German war souvenirs, flags, British badges. Condition unimportant, any considered. Phone Reading (0734) 474242.

Capt S R Roberts, 21 St David's Avenue, Llandudno Junction, Gwynedd. — Seeks urgently one infantry officer's sword suitable for parades. Please state price. Phone (after 1700) Deganwy 84119.

Haydn Platts, 6 Nottingham House, Gayhurst Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP13 7XE. — Seeks dispatch rider uniforms (leather) or photographs of same.

J Hadden, c/o Farrell, 3/8 Piershill Square East, Edinburgh, EH8 8BD. — Seeks records, programmes and slides of Edinburgh, Cardiff, Ssafa, Colchester tattoos, Royal Tournament, and Scottish Regular and Territorial regiments.

W G R Skillen, 16A Hallowell Road, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1DW. — Seeks copy of 'The Gambardier' (Mark Severn), published 1930 by Ernest Benn, on loan or sale.

Gnr G Pisani, Proof & Experimental Establishment, Port Wakefield, South Australia 5550. — Wishes correspond with collectors and collectors' associations interested in British military long arms and their bayonets.

Leonard Peltier, 644 Isbister Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2Y 1R1,

Canada. — Seeks military/civil police cap/collar/breast badges, belt buckles, helmet plates. Has for trade US patches, distinctives and US/Canadian police patches, also fire and some prison.

A C Tebbutt, 33 Creffield Road, Ealing, London, W5 3RR. — Seeks information on badge of 'Wandsworth Scottish' and anything pertaining to this regiment. Postage refunded.

Peter Keen, 4 Brinkburn Street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Tyne & Wear, NE6 2DH. — Good price paid for new or newish current British Army issue (DPM) camouflaged combat cap size 7.

Henry Dawkins, 71 Gafzelle Drive, Canvey Island, Essex. — Wishes buy four chronicles KRRC for years 1942-45 (printed by Warren & Son).

H T Mackinnon, 1 Eastleigh Drive, Romsley, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62 0PA. — Wishes buy David Shepherd print 'Arnhem Bridge.'

Cpt Don Valentine, Society of Vietnamese Rangers, PO Box 29965, Atlanta, Georgia 30359, USA. — Will trade, buy or sell US Ranger items for SAS, Para, Commando, Gurkha, Sikh items.

S/Sgt Wayne Le Gros, 4 COD, ATG, Waiouru, New Zealand. — Seeks badges and helmet plates New Zealand regts, corps etc, also photos English regts which served in New Zealand during Maori Wars 1845-66. Has misc badges/helmet plates available.

MUSCAT MEDAL

The Queen has granted unrestricted permission for the acceptance and wearing of the As Sumood Medal, instituted by the Sultan of Muscat, by British Army personnel seconded to the Sultan's Forces.

The As Sumood Medal is of gilt bronze and bears on its obverse crossed swords encircled by an inscription in Arabic denoting His Majesty the Sultan's name and title. On the reverse there is an artistic arrangement of the Arabic words 'Wisam As Sumood', meaning 'Endurance Medal'. The medal is suspended on a ring from a ribbon which has a broad red centre vertical stripe symbolising the Sultanate Land Forces, flanked by light blue and dark blue vertical stripes denoting the Sultanate Air Force and Sultanate Navy.

Award of the medal may be made to all British Army personnel seconded to the Sultan's Forces who, in the Dhofar operations between 23 May 1965 and 2 December 1975 (both dates inclusive), completed 30 days' service or received an award for bravery or were killed or wounded in action.

The medal and/or ribbon will be worn after all UK and Commonwealth awards.

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Help, BLESMA, please. We need money desperately. And, we promise you, not a penny of it will be wasted.

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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

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Reunions

Signals Platoon, 4th Battalion, The Dorset Regiment. . . . A reunion is being organised for late 1978. Details from R J Gapper, 1 Peckmead, Rousdon, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Competition

In Tom Hughes's 'Knapsack know-how' (Competition 229, August), only Private Perkins could become a field-marshal. Craftsman Cox failed at sergeant because, only 25 years old, he could not have served in the Korean War. Gunner Gray was barred at lieutenant since he could not have the GSM Northern Ireland and have served in Zambia since 1966. Rifleman Roberts wears his parachutist sleeve badge and therefore falls down at major while Sapper Smith cannot be colonel because he plays a ball game, snooker.

Prizewinners:

1 C R Starr, 16 Archery Square, Walmer, Deal, Kent.

2 WO2 Lock, Medical Branch, HQ 1 (Br) Corps, BFPO 39.

3 Cpl P Fishwick, W Coy, Junior Soldiers, King's Division Depot, Strensall, York.

4 Mrs Page, 26 Oaklands Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire.

5 Leslie L Howells, Careers Officer, Mid Glamorgan CC, Sunnyside, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

6 Andrew Smith, 8 Trentdale, Whitby, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

How observant are you?

(see page 22)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Size of corner flag. 2 Length of left player's stick. 3 Centre bar of skate of player second from left. 4 Lower stripe of player fourth from left. 5 Goalkeeper's hair lines. 6 Goalkeeper's left skate. 7 Left knee pad of nearest 'Eagles' player. 8 Ice line at bottom left. 9 Cap badge of left spectator. 10 Beret of spectator next to dog.

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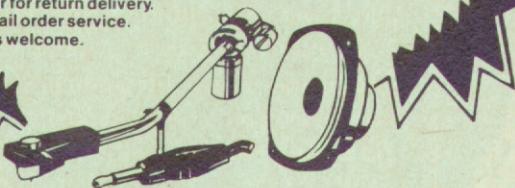
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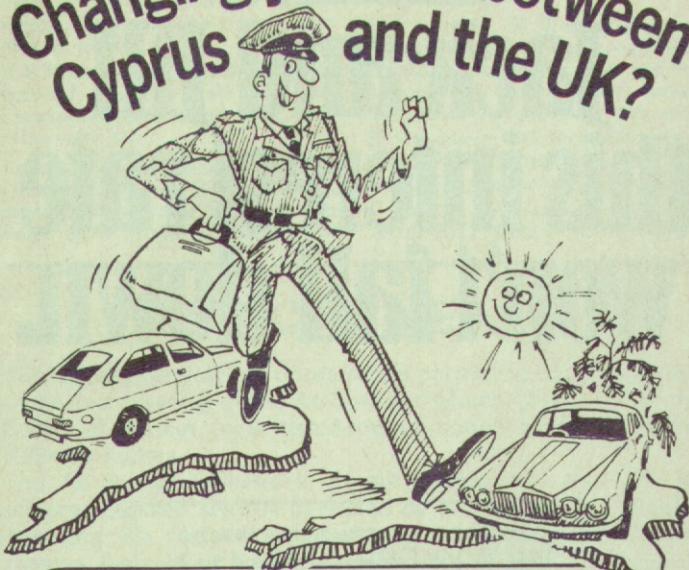
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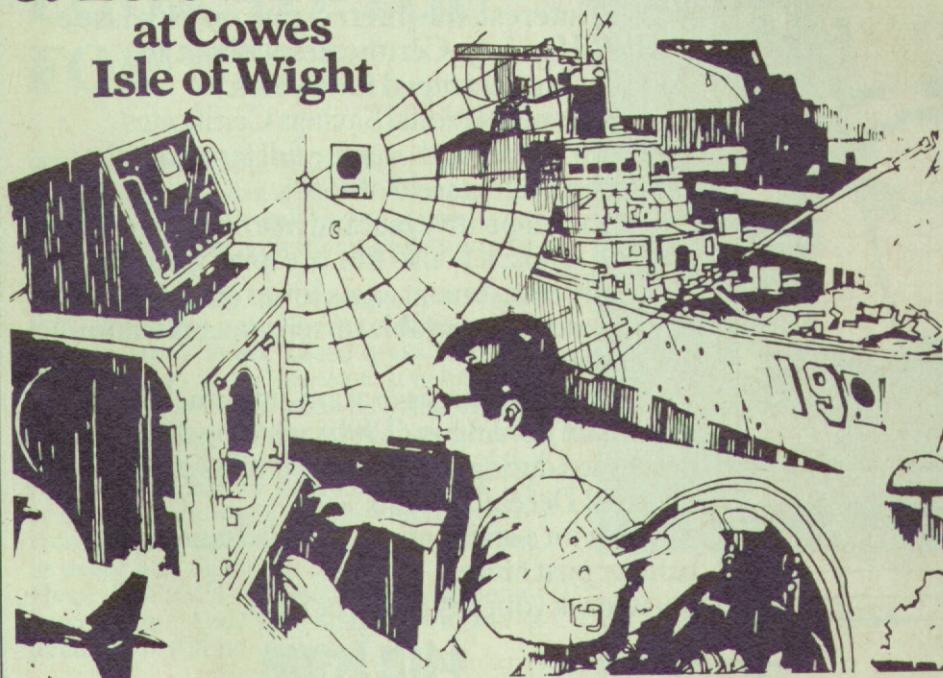
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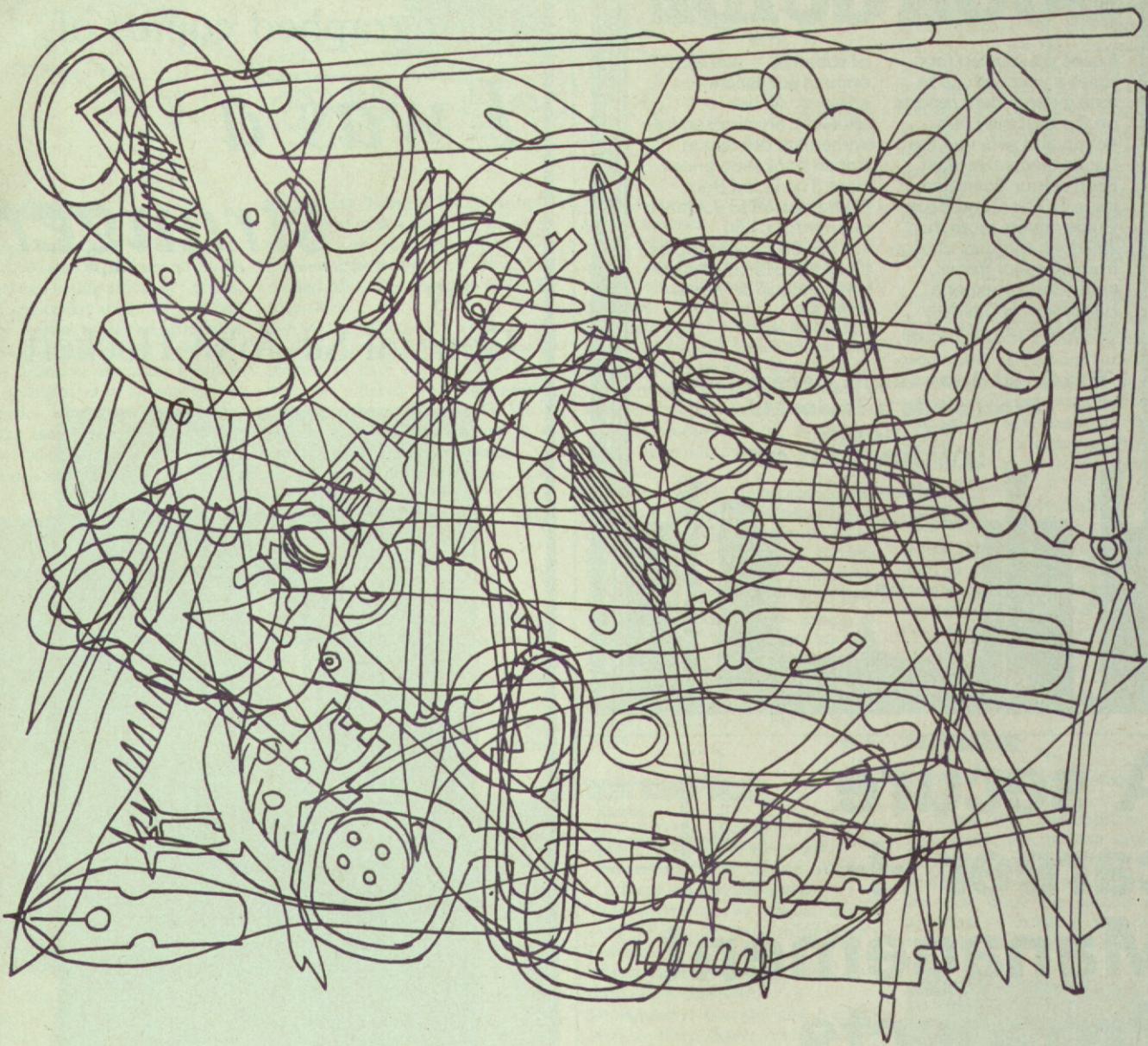
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Send your list, with the 'Competition 233' label from this page, and your name and address, to:

Editor

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 13 February 1978. The answers and winners' names will appear in the April 1978 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 233' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from all-correct or nearest-correct entries.

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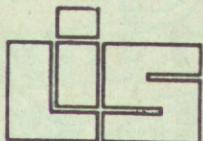
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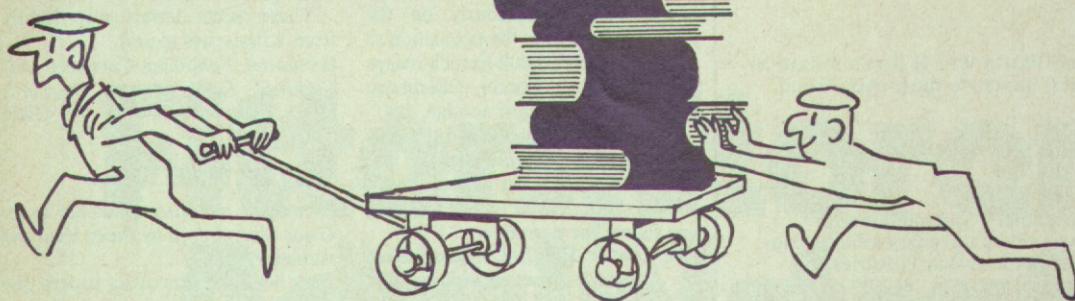
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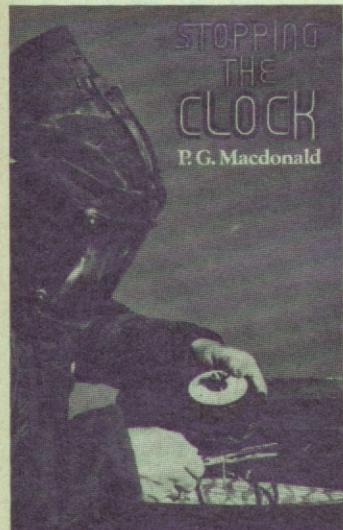
BOOKS



Bomb disposal

'Stopping the Clock' (P G Macdonald)

With first-hand experience of bomb disposal as a young officer in Cyprus, and of day-to-day direction as a colonel in Northern Ireland, Brigadier Macdonald goes into the EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) business very thoroughly in so far as it relates to terrorist bombing. He describes how the men who do the job are chosen and trained, and their philosophy and techniques, as well as those of the terrorists.



Inevitably, Northern Ireland takes up much of his book. Between 1969 and 1976, 20,000 bomb incidents were recorded in the Province, with more variety of bomb construction and bombing methods and more impact on the economy and the public than in any other terrorist bomb campaign.

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the terrorists wage a campaign of scientific and tactical stroke and counter-stroke in which, over the seven years, almost half the bombs were neutralised (at one time in 1974 it was more than two-thirds). Countermeasures have made things more difficult for the bombers, who have had to use fuses with short delays — tricky with improvised bombs — and blown up more of themselves.

Even the grim task of bomb disposal is not without lighter moments. In Aden an ammunition technical officer searching a Naafi shop found two slabs of TNT with a time pencil and fuse which had pestered out before reaching the detonator. The shop staff had taken it 'on charge' two months earlier as 'two bars of soap and some black string.'

In Hong Kong a bomb disposal man coped with a bomb by the starting gate of the race-course five minutes before the first race, and walked off to the applause of 26,000 spectators.

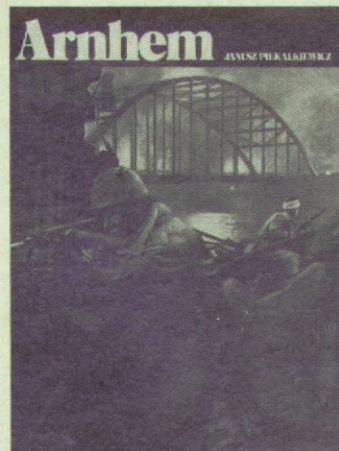
And in Northern Ireland, the owner of an Indian restaurant was so pleased to have his premises saved that he offered the ammunition technical officer free meals for life — only to lose the place completely to another bomb 90 minutes later.

Robert Hale, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R OHT, £3.95 RLE

Market Garden

'Arnhem' (Janusz Piekalkiewicz)

"Because of the insatiable ambitions of individual Allied commanders, the Allied airborne army . . . was nonchalantly sacrificed," writes Mr Piekalkiewicz. But he offers no evidence to back this charge and does not name the ambitious commanders.



The only senior commander with serious misgivings about the hurriedly-devised plan for Arnhem, he says, was his compatriot, Major-General Sosabowski, commander of the Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade. He thought the allies underestimated the importance the Germans attached to Arnhem as a gateway to Germany and the resistance they would put up; he criticised the plan to land 1st Airborne Division ten kilometres from its objective, with consequent loss of surprise, and he was worried about the role given to his own command.

General Sosabowski was accused of showing no understanding of the urgency necessary during the operation, and he was relieved of his command. He asked for a court of

enquiry to clear his name, but it was never convened.

Mr Piekalkiewicz has produced a short, day-by-day account of the operation, illustrated by many dramatic photographs, newspaper and radio reports, official daily operational summaries issued at the time and, surprisingly in so short a book, he reproduces in full the Luftwaffe's secret instructions for defence against airborne troops and the Royal Air Force notes for pilots of the Horsa gliders.

He ends with a remarkable quotation from a letter Sir Winston Churchill wrote to General Smuts: "The battle was a decided victory, but the leading division, asking, quite rightly, for more was given a chop. I have not been afflicted by any feeling of disappointment over this and am glad our commanders are capable of running this kind of risk."

Ian Allen Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £5.95 RLE

Well illustrated

'Men-at-Arms: Montgomery's Desert Army' (John Wilkinson-Latham)

'Men-at-Arms: The Indian Mutiny' (Christopher Wilkinson-Latham)

'Men-at-Arms: The Royal Navy 1790-1970' (Robert Wilkinson-Latham)

'Men-at-Arms: Napoleon's Line Chasseurs' (Emir Bukhari)

Montgomery, Rommel and Auchinleck — three desert leaders whose names will always be associated with the war in North Africa — have chapters to themselves but it is Monty's desert army that holds the interest in John Wilkinson-Latham's knowledgeable book.

Particularly interesting is the chapter on El Alamein which outlines Eighth Army's intensive preparations, describes the battle and lists the severe losses sustained by both sides. A succinct section on Rommel and the Afrika Korps gives the other side of the coin and a remarkably good snapshot of Monty posing in front of 'his' Grant tank in typically casual dress is only one of many photographs highlighting aspects of the desert campaign.

How the 'Devil's Wind' swept across Bengal, threatening the end of British rule in India, is graphically described in Christopher Wilkinson-Latham's book. With Meerut, Delhi, Cawnpore and Lucknow the focal points around which the mutiny is analysed, the chapter on Delhi is of special interest and includes a fascinating eye-witness

account chronicled by Lieutenant Edward Vibart of the 54th Native Infantry. The short section on Lucknow includes a vivid extract from Mrs Harris's diary of the siege and the arrival of General Havelock's relieving force.

Robert Wilkinson-Latham's contribution compresses maximum information into minimum space — a mere 40 pages of text and illustrations. His opening chapters deal with the evolution of naval uniform from the provision in 1623 of 'slop' clothing by the Navy Slop Office through to the early 19th century and the birth of the modern Navy with the launching in December 1860 of the first iron-hulled armoured frigate, HMS *Warrior*. This thoroughly worthwhile little book concludes with a brief review of today's Navy.

Dress and equipment are painstakingly covered in the early pages of Emir Bukhari's Napoleonic book which also gives a brief description of saddles and harness and then the war records of 21 chasseurs à cheval regiments. These comprised between four and six squadrons and the regimental chain of command was identical to that of the heavier cuirassiers and carabiniers.

The illustrations in all four books, both black-and-white and colour plates, are well up to the high standard of this popular series. For the convenience of Continental readers, captions are repeated in French and German at the end of each book.

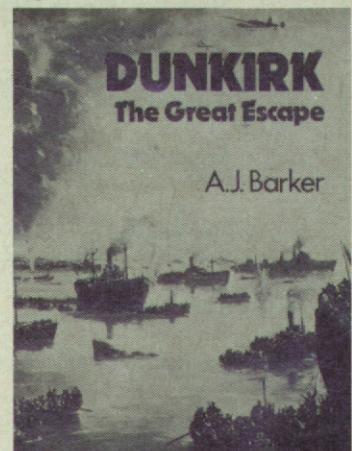
Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP, £1.95 each

JFPJ

Evacuation

'Dunkirk: The Great Escape' (A J Barker)

In World War Two folklore, Dunkirk was the epic of 'little ships,' but Mr Barker points out that it was the peace-time Channel and Irish Sea ferries that made the success of the operation — an Isle of Man pleasure steamer evacuated 7500 men in five trips.



This is no way detracts from the gallantry and usefulness of the work of pleasure boats and fishing craft, coasters and London fireboats, or from the equal gallantry and professional skill shown by the Royal Navy.

The author, a Regular soldier who saw something of the Dunkirk campaign, also gives credit to the Royal Air Force for its largely unseen contribution to saving the British Expeditionary Force.

Mr Barker fairly records that

What did you do in the War, Grandad?

There is still so much nostalgia about World War II that it is hard to realise that personal recollection of it is limited to those over 30 and participation to those over 45.

What did you do in the War, Daddy? has now become *What did you do in the War, Grandad?*

Young people – not least the modern soldier – find interest and excitement in first-hand accounts; their elders still enjoy mulling over their experiences. For either activity the official War Histories are perhaps a little heavy going.

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Dunkirk was far from the all-British effort it is sometimes thought to be. French, Dutch and Belgian craft also took part in the evacuation; French troops fought tenaciously on the perimeter to enable the evacuation to take place; and 24,000 French troops were carried to Britain, Cherbourg and Le Havre to fight another day.

His account of the land fighting is quick-moving and enlivened by survivors' anecdotes, but suffers from a lack of the right sort of maps to help one follow the narrative.

J M Dent & Sons Ltd, Aldine House, 26 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 4QY, £5.95

RLE

Potted history

'The Fighting Soldier' (Howard Johnson)

This is a very creditable attempt to present in one small volume the British Army regiment by regiment and corps by corps, a task entailing a great deal of research and cooperation from every unit and formation listed. The histories are necessarily very brief, of one page each, but the result is a neat, colourful production that fills a need. The profusion of excellent photographs, mostly in colour, give a fair impression of the life and tasks of today's British soldier.

It is a pity that the row of medal ribbons on the cover shows the DCM and MM misplaced. Also the MSM ribbon is shown when, presumably,

the BEM (for valour) was intended. The Military Cross illustrated in the book has the wrong ribbon and this is repeated on the cover.

These points detract only slightly from a first-class record.

Greenacres Publishing Company Ltd, Cuckfield Road, Ansty, Haywards Heath, Sussex. £1.75

GRH

Why or What for

'War Aims and Strategic Policy in the Great War' (Edited by Barry Hunt and Adrian Preston)

This book consists of six papers presented at an international symposium in Canada and devoted to the World War One aims and strategy of Britain, France, Canada, the United States, Italy and Germany.

Recent research has destroyed the fallacy that governments went into the war without knowing why or what for, say the editors. Britain's most constant aim was the destruction of German militarism, which meant different things to different people. Most generals thought it could be done only by decisively beating the German armies, concentrating on the Western Front rather than attacking through the Balkans. In the end they had to settle for armistice rather than victory as they looked at a new danger, "Not the Boches but Bolshevism."

Croom Helm Ltd, 2-10, St John's Road, London SW11, £6.95

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IN BRIEF

'The Machine Gunner' (Arthur Russell)

Although the Lewis gun – an air-cooled automatic rifle or light machine-gun – was used by frontline troops in World War One, there was no liking for the heavy, water-cooled Vickers machine-gun. It was not until the Germans had proved the value in battle of a similar weapon that the British Machine Gun Corps was formed in October 1915.

The corps eventually totalled 130,000 officers and men and suffered more than 62,000 casualties. A machine-gun section was known as the 'suicide squad.'

This is the story of a Yorkshireman who served with the corps on the Western Front and saw action in almost every battle. An interesting tale and a record of the times, with some good pictures and maps.

The Roundwood Press (Publishers) Ltd, Kineton, Warwickshire, £5.00

THE



ARTHUR RUSSELL

'Jane's Pocket Book 17: Rifles and Light Machine Guns' (Edited by Denis Archer)

A useful book of 231 pages but, because of its purposeful pocket size, limited to rifles and only light machine-guns. Nevertheless it covers the world and gives full details and illustrations of manually operated, self-loading and automatic weapons.

The volume includes two new British 4.85mm weapons undergoing trials – the individual weapon which it is proposed should replace the 9mm SMG and 7.62 SL rifle, and the light support weapon to replace the 7.62mm Bren LMG and 7.62mm GPMG.

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