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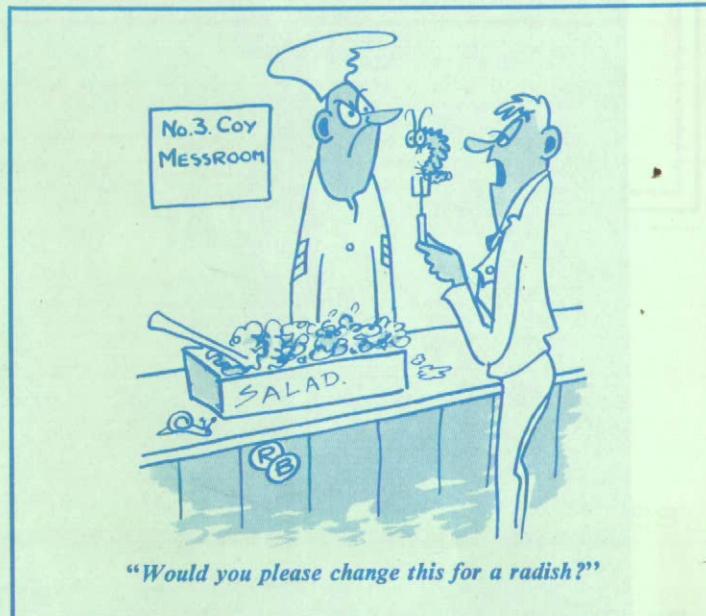
SOLDIER

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"Would you please change this for a radish?"

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SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, is published for the Ministry of Defence by HM Stationery Office and printed by Harrison & Sons, Ltd, 133 Blyth Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

EDITORIAL inquiries: Editor, SOLDIER, 433 Holloway Road, London N7 (ARCHWAY 4381).

CIRCULATION inquiries (except trade): Circulation Manager, 433 Holloway Road, London N7 (ARCHWAY 4381). Direct postal subscription: 13s 6d a year (including postage).

TRADE distribution inquiries: PO Box 569, London SE1.

PHOTOGRAPHIC reprint inquiries: Picture Editor, 433 Holloway Road, London N7 (ARCHWAY 4381).

ADVERTISEMENT inquiries: Combined Service Publications Ltd, 67/68 Jermyn Street, St. James's, London SW1 (WHITEHALL 2504 and 2899).

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BRITAIN'S BIGGEST EXERCISE FOR TEN YEARS INVOLVED 5000
MEN AND COVERED ELEVEN COUNTIES—BEFORE IT ENDED EVEN
THE COOKS, CLERKS AND STOREMEN WERE CALLED ON TO FIGHT!

Storm King

"FANTASIAN FORCES LANDED SOUTH
DORSET STOP TAKE ACTION STOP"

THIS was the signal which launched 5000 troops into Britain's biggest joint Service manoeuvres for ten years—Exercise "Storm King." Addressed to 19 Infantry Brigade Group—a home-based Strategic Reserve formation—the signal was the curtain raiser to three weeks of tough training for the Brigade's Infantry battalions and supporting units, and elements of the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

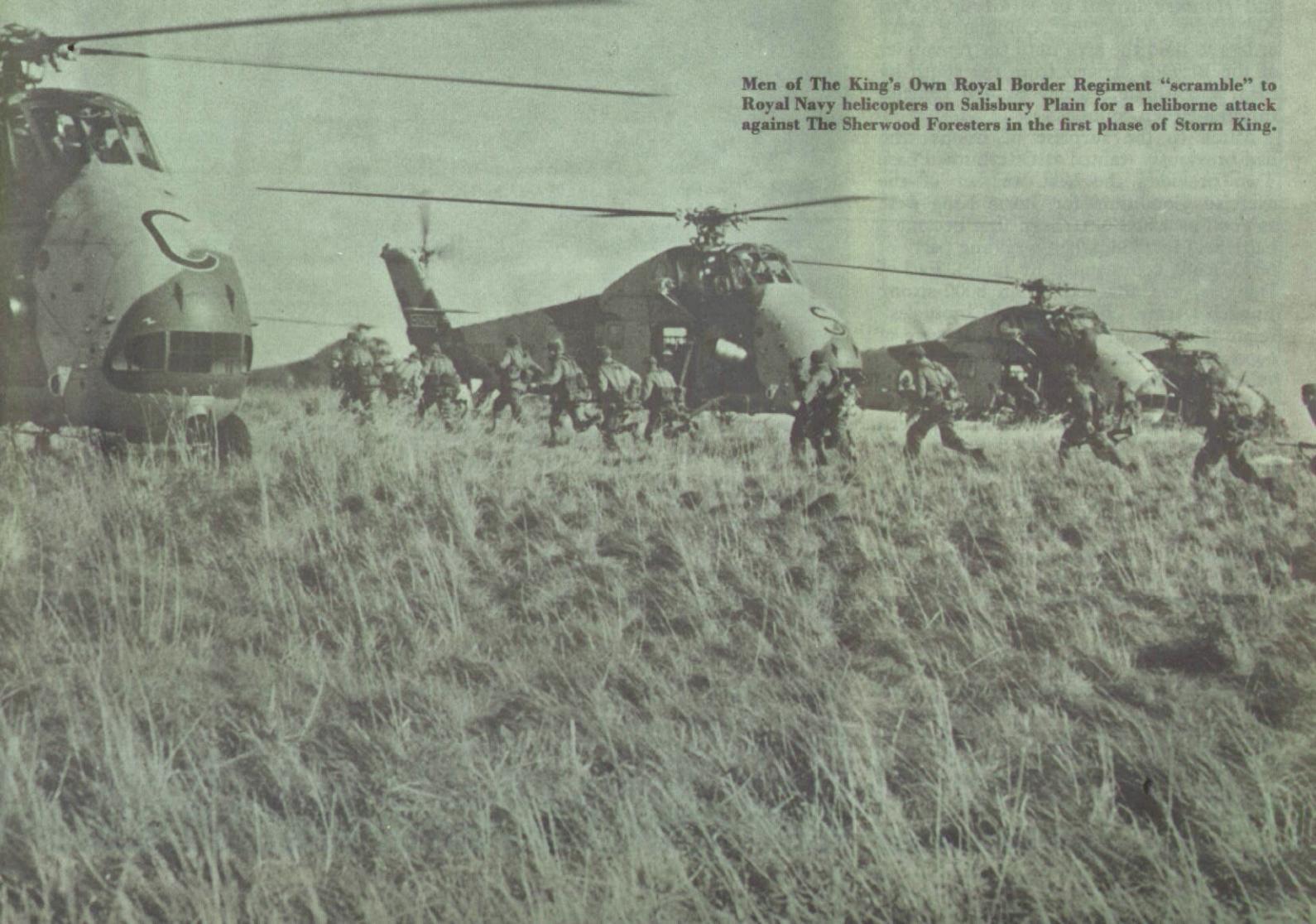
Despite a forecast that "the Indian summer will continue for the next 30 days," gale-force winds and rain lashed Salisbury Plain when 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, made the first contact with an enemy recce platoon of 2nd Green Jackets.

The fast-moving enemy invasion force of "Fantasians" was already forging northwards through Wiltshire when 19 Brigade's Commander, Brigadier D W Fraser, launched his first major attack, centred on the abandoned ghost-village of Imber. The weathered, greystone tower of the 14th-century St Giles's Church, nestling in its sheltered valley in the centre of the Plain's training area, became a vital feature for the 3700-strong defenders and the 800 Fantasian invaders.

Aimed at testing the combat readiness of the Brigade, Storm King was deliberately planned by Brigadier Fraser to stretch men and equipment to the fullest extent in a limited, non-nuclear war. And the first two-day phase certainly gave the troops a taste of Salisbury Plain at its worst.

With an enemy thrust pushed back by a British counter-attack this phase ended with

Men of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment "scramble" to Royal Navy helicopters on Salisbury Plain for a heliborne attack against The Sherwood Foresters in the first phase of Storm King.



Storm King

continued



Above: First casualty in the exercise was Cpl Brian Cole, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, who broke his collar bone in a heliborne assault.

Left: Commanders of a *Centurion* and a *Ferret* scout car stop to discuss tactics after a tank-supported Infantry advance across Salisbury Plain.

Right: Here comes breakfast! A Royal Air Force *Wessex* on a food supply drop to the Brigade Headquarters—one of the many day and night sorties.

Below: Heads down—and bombs away! A mortar platoon gives support to a Sherwood Foresters' assault on the open moorlands of Otterburn.

the Brigade going into reserve for a rest and refit. Phase One was overshadowed by the death of an American pilot, killed when his F100 fighter crashed during one of the tactical air strikes by 3rd United States Air Force, in support of the British forces.

But while the Brigade rested the Fantasians "dropped" a large force of paratroopers in the Otterburn area of Northumberland, as a preliminary to a seaborne landing on the north-east coast.

Phase Two opened with 1000 troops and vehicles flying north in *Beverley*, *Argosy* and *Hastings* aircraft of 38 Group, Royal Air Force Transport Command, with orders to hold the area until the remainder of the Brigade arrived from the south by road, a 350-mile journey by 450 vehicles through eleven counties.

Much to the surprise of troops who had previously trained at Otterburn, Phase Two provided the best weather of the exercise. Conditions for Storm King were as good as when Otterburn first became a battlefield in 1388, when a raiding party of 6000 Scots, commanded by James, Earl of Douglas, was attacked by an 8000-strong English Army. Froissart's "Chronicles" relate that "Knightes and squyers were of good courage on both parties to fyghte valiauntly, cowards there had no place, but hardyness rayned with feates of arms."

And during the 1964 battle of Otterburn both "parties" certainly lived up to their heritage and "faughte valiauntly", with the Fantasians (1st Battalion, The King's Own Border Regiment) pitting themselves against the Sassenach forces of 4th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters.

Undoubtedly highlight of the exercise was the amount of inter-Service co-operation. This was particularly evident at the Brigade's northern airhead at the Royal Air Force Station, Ouston, from where fuel, ammunition, food and equipment, airlifted from the south, were sent on to forward units by helicopter. At its peak the joint staff dealt with more than 150,000 pounds of freight a day.



continued on page 8



Men of the 4th Royal Anglians (below) advance northwards, across open country, at Otterburn.



STORM KING'S SECRET WEAPON?

A WAY from the limelight which surrounded many of the major units in Storm King were two large enclosed vehicles which could easily have been mistaken for some new secret weapon brought to Britain by the invading Fantasian forces.

For 24 hours a day the vehicles throbbed and vibrated. From inside them could be heard the hum of machinery and the gurgling of boiling liquid. Outside, steam spurted spasmodically from two pipes in the roof while from underneath the vehicles an ominous-looking, grey, frothy sludge oozed from rubber hoses and slid into a nearby river.

Closer inspection revealed, however, that this was no atomic-age device but was in fact the Army's mobile "Laundrette"!

Run by men of 1 Laundry Platoon, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and operating round the clock shifts, the huge rotary washers and drying machines dealt with more than 9000lb of laundry during the three-week exercise, including 5000 pairs of very dirty socks!

Formed only 12 months ago, the Platoon is based at Blackdown, Hampshire, and its normal function is to provide bedding washing facilities for the Brigade's casualty clearing station.

The only casualty during the three-week operation was a pair of red, Bri-nylon underpants. These went unnoticed into the machine with the rest of the owner's wash and shrank considerably. Anyone with a three-inch waist?

concluding Storm King

For the first time in this type of exercise in Britain, full-scale night supply sorties were flown by Royal Air Force helicopters. This proved extremely successful and increased tremendously the pace of the exercise. Helicopters also moved troops over moorland inaccessible to road transport.

The major action of Phase Two was the battle for Thirl Moor, a 1833-foot high feature commanding the western side of the training area. After the Fantasians had been pushed off this position, British day and night patrols, backed by artillery and low-level strikes by the Americans, winkle out their strongholds. More than one soldier from the Border Regiment had to suffer the indignity of being marched as a prisoner-of-war through the British lines.

After two days' rest the Brigade Group was ordered to Norfolk to assist 54th Division in dealing with a large Fantasian "landing" on the north Norfolk coast. This marked the end of the exercise for The King's Own Royal Border Regiment. While their vehicles and a large party of men went on a recruiting and "flag flying" drive through north-east England, the rest of the Battalion returned to Devon by troop train.

But for the remainder of the Brigade, after a 300-mile journey south to the Stamford training area in Norfolk, where they were joined by The King's Own Scottish Borderers, 43 Royal Marine Commando and a company of 2nd Battalion,

Right: Sgt S Kinson enjoys a smoke and cleans his Sten gun during a lull in the battle. Below: A Devon-bound special train.



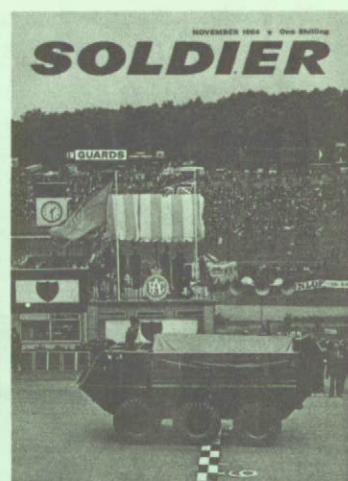
Grenadier Guards, it was a case of into battle again—but not before they had been stopped short of their objective by a bridge over the River Trent "blown" by saboteurs.

For Sappers of 20 Squadron, Royal Engineers, who fought as Infantrymen during the last night offensive of Phase Two, it was a "hard day's night." In a race against the clock they threw a 250-foot pontoon bridge across the river in less than four hours, watched by 1000 spectators from the nearby village of Hoveringham and relatives of the Sherwood Foresters—the crowd's interest was so great that 500 news sheets were hurriedly printed and distributed to tell them what was going on.

After the convoy of 380 vehicles had crossed, the bridge was removed. Speed was essential during the bridge-building because the Army had agreed to remove it before dawn to ensure that traffic on this busy waterway was not interrupted.

The lush, rich countryside of Norfolk provided some of the best cover during the exercise. In the first two phases the British

forces had taken the initiative, but in the third and last phase they were extremely hard pressed by a major attack during which the enemy made a mass breakthrough to the east and west of the Brigade Group position. The situation deteriorated and eventually the Brigade found itself completely surrounded. The exercise ended with arms being issued to the administrative echelons and "everyone having a go."



COVER PICTURE

THIS month's front cover picture, by SOLDIER Cameraman FRANK TOMPSETT, shows the scene at the European Grand Prix meeting at Brands Hatch, when the Army staged a motorcade of old and new vehicles to mark 50 years of co-operation between the Services and the British automobile industry. Passing over the starting grid is *Stalwart*, the six-wheeled amphibious load carrier. Taking the salute (right of dais) is the Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Mountbatten of Burma, who is also President of the Royal Automobile Club. Thousands of race fans who attended the meeting also saw a mock assault by heliborne troops, a free-fall demonstration by four men of The Parachute Regiment, a static display of the Army's latest equipment, and heard concerts by the bands of The Royal Dragoons and 1st Battalion The Royal Scots. Herald trumpeters of the Royal Artillery announced the major events of the day.

IT'S THE POWDER-PUFF BARRACKS



Bright green bedspreads, dressing tables, colourful rugs on the floor and only four beds to a room—the living accommodation is a far cry from the barracks of yesterday.

They may be soldiers, but they are girls too, and in their own club there is a fully-equipped hairdressing salon.



YELLOW and blue baths... special basins for hair shampooing... sun lounges... cocktail bars... dustbins screened from view by coloured bricks... even the electricity sub-station is lilac and grey!

This is the £1,000,000 barracks with the feminine touch—Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Guildford, new home of the Depot and Training Centre, Women's Royal Army Corps.

It's a revelation and a revolution. The first barracks ever created specially for girls, it kills stone dead the popular image of bleak, forbidding buildings grouped round a desolate square.

With colour, imagination and forethought, the new barracks lets girls be girls AND soldiers. It is new thinking that bodes well for the future of the Women's Royal Army Corps. The old training centre was in wooden huts at Lingfield, Surrey—now raw recruits nervously facing the Army for the first time will do so in surroundings that even their Mums will envy.

The living accommodation is built in lilac, orange and grey bricks with light and dark blue fibre-glass panels separating the picture windows. Each block houses a complete company with separate rooms for the non-commissioned officers and four-bed rooms for the privates.

They are furnished with the new-style Army furniture, in use for the first time. Each girl has her own dressing table and a two-tone wooden wardrobe (no more steel lockers). Bedside lights and cupboards are built in above each bed, there are coloured rugs on the blue linoleum, bedspreads, a table and four chairs in each room and big sliding windows.

A completely new idea is to screen off the wash-basins with lockable cubicles giving privacy to every girl. In addition the wash-rooms have special wide bowls with hand showers for hair shampooing, all the baths are either yellow or blue and there are stainless steel bowls for washing "smalls."

Informally positioned so that every bedroom catches the morning and evening sunlight, each block has a rest room comfortably furnished with carpet and armchairs where the girls can sit and chat in their curlers.

If the girls don't want to spend their spare time in the privacy of their own lounge, they can go off to the splendid Junior Ranks' Club a few minutes' walk across landscaped gardens.

There they can entertain their boy friends, have a drink in the tavern (if they are old enough) or a meal in the canteen, watch television, play games or just sit and read in one of the quiet rooms.

The rooms at the club have folding partitions to make the accommodation flexible for parties and the monthly dance.

An attractive spiral staircase leads up to the corporals' sun lounge with a balcony overlooking the square. In addition the club has a NAAFI shop and a fully equipped hairdressing salon.

Across the square from the club are the Regimental Headquarters, approached by an imposing Y-shaped open stairway. The offices are on the first floor overlooking attractive raised and sunken gardens and below are the stores and equipment branches with delivery facilities at the rear.

Next door is the museum where the permanent display of WRAC treasures is visible through the fully glazed walls. Opposite the museum and adjacent to the main entrance gates is the guard house.

The medical and dental centre is faced with lilac and orange bricks and inside twelve beds are provided, some in private rooms. There are two dental surgeries fitted with the latest equipment and the centre is built about a spacious internal court to ensure quiet and privacy.

The dental officer, Captain Geoffrey Smart, Royal Army Dental Corps, is one of the handful of men working among the 800 women in the barracks and is unanimously voted by the girls to be "smashing—but married."

In the education centre are eight large classrooms where the girls can also follow their hobbies of kitchencraft, home management and dress-making. Most popular spare-time occupation is roller skating in the gymnasium.

Interesting "folded slab" roofs are incorporated in the dining hall and in the sergeants' and officers' messes. In the dining hall, light grey and blue chairs and tables and yellow curtains help to create comfortable informality.

In both the sergeants' and officers' messes, the sleeping quarters are in a separate block sited at right angles to the living accommodation. Both messes are fitted with the new Army furniture which has a good appearance and is comfortable.

The sergeants' mess is particularly spectacular with one huge wall of sliding plate glass overlooking a landscaped orchard. Both messes have screens of trees planted to ensure privacy.

The whole barracks is centrally heated and even the new electricity sub-station is enclosed by walls of lilac and charcoal bricks. This, and the screening of dustbins outside the living accommodation, is typical of the meticulous attention to detail that is discreetly apparent everywhere.

All the established trees on the 48-acre site have been carefully preserved and more planted to create an easily maintained landscape. The recreational facilities include a miniature rifle range, squash and tennis courts, sports pavilion and an eight-acre sports ground.

Queen Elizabeth Barracks is certainly a showpiece and living proof that the traditional image of a barracks is gone forever. For the architects, Scott, Brownrigg and Turner, it was an interesting challenge and the result is military—but gay and feminine too.

And lads, don't give up hope. Future barracks for men are likely to be just as well designed and comfortable—although they may not be fitted with basins for hair shampooing!





Above: Bright colours create a comfortable, informal atmosphere in the dining hall. In the medical centre (below) patients are treated in quiet wards fitted with every modern facility.



Left: From the balcony of their sun lounge corporals watch roller skating—the most popular hobby among the girls. In the Junior Ranks' Club (below, left) girls can entertain their boy friends. Startling feature of the dining hall (below) is the attractive folded slab roof.



SOLDIER to Soldier

By reducing the enlistment age to 17 and introducing the Junior Army Association to cater for interested boys before they are old enough to join junior units, the Regular Army has now bridged the gaps during which potential recruits were apt to lose their enthusiasm.

Now the Territorial Army comes into line with the Regulars, and with the earlier maturity of adolescence, by also allowing the enlistment of 17-year-olds as young soldiers. For the six months until they come on to normal Territorial service they will receive minimum training pay at the same rate as 17-year-old Regulars undergoing basic training, but will be liable for service only at home unless they volunteer for overseas and parental permission is given.

Their training, clothing and equipment will be on the same scale as adult volunteers but, because of their age, they may not enlist (for two, three or four years) without the written consent of parents or guardian. Similar consent is required for inter-unit transfer or parachuting.

This should all help considerably both Regular and Territorial recruiting. Adventure, excitement and technical equipment have a much stronger appeal to the teenager than the sense of duty and the camaraderie which attract the older man, and many a youngster keenly interested in the Army has had to be reluctantly turned away at a display with the suggestion that he comes back when he is old enough.

A still bigger fillip to Territorial recruiting is likely to emerge from the increasing opportunities to train overseas. A few years ago Territorials went out to Singapore and Malaya for their annual training—but they were parachutists. Others have been fortunate enough to train with Rhine Army units but for the majority it has been the usual routine fortnight's camp at home.

Last month, however, nearly 3000 men of the Reserve Forces took part in "Travel Man," an exercise which tested the reinforcing in emergency of Rhine Army and also gave the part-time soldiers valuable training experience with modern weapons and equipment alongside Regular soldiers. And airtrooping, by now "old hat" to most Regulars, is still something of a novelty, and a new technique to learn, for most of the Reserve Army.

After "Travel Man" the Territorials will be keener than ever to train overseas and keener still to have their equipment brought up-to-date and in line with the Regulars alongside whom, in emergency, they would take their place.

TAMING THE DRU

Lance-Corporal Roy Smith of 48 Squadron, Royal Engineers, recently became the first soldier to climb the 3000-foot sheer north face of the Aiguille Dru in the Mont Blanc range of the Alps. During the climb he was showered by falling rock and spent a night on an 18-inch sloping ledge of ice dangling his feet over a vertical drop of more than half a mile. This is Lance-Corporal Smith's own story of the climb:

FOR days cloud hung low over the mountain. The north face of the Dru is quickly affected by bad weather—no sun ever shines on it, snow on the ledges takes days to clear and the top is rarely free from snow and ice.

Finally the weather broke and we (Lance-Corporal Smith and civilian climber Barry Cliff) took our first good look at the mountain. The face looked in reasonable condition although the lower half was still plastered in snow. Tired of waiting, we decided to make an attempt and rope down if it proved too difficult.

At Chamonix, where we had our tent, we hurriedly packed our sacks with an assortment of gear necessary for the climb. We estimated the climb and descent would take two days, but we packed food for three days.

It was 6 pm before we arrived at the glacier that runs along the base of the Dru. With only 2½ hours of daylight we put on the pace and arrived at our intended bivouac spot just as the sun sank over the horizon.

Within minutes we were bedded down on a level rock mattress with overhanging rock as a roof and after a quick meal we settled down to a cold, uncomfortable night.

It was still dark the following morning when we threaded our way up the glacier. As we neared the face it became steeper and we had to cut steps in the hard ice. By this time the sun had started to rise, lighting the summits of the surrounding peaks.

The first three pitches on the face were up a 300-foot corridor choked with snow and ice. We kept as much as possible to the snow where it was possible to make fairly rapid progress. From the top of the corridor we cut steps across a short steep icefield and were once again back on the rock.

By now the sun was higher and looking into the valley 7000 feet below we could see the village of Chamonix enjoying the morning sun and across the valley Mont Blanc, with its hundreds of peaks and pinnacles, was cloaked with glaciers and hanging snowfields.

The climbing was continuously sustained, pitch after pitch of near vertical rock plastered here and there with snow and patches of verglass.

By 1.30 pm we were at a steep snowfield about half-way up the face. The angle was steep and the snow hard. I cut across making a right-ascending traverse. Occasional patches of hard ice slowed progress

and for the first time I was sweating with exertion. The full pitch was 150 feet and at this point we had our first break.

Falling stone put a sudden end to our rest. Rocks came hurtling down the face missing us by inches and from first hearing the whistling noise we had just 1½ seconds to shelter by pressing ourselves against the face. Fortunately we were wearing helmets for Barry was struck on the head.

Back on the rock again we found ourselves, without realising it, on a long, hard pitch that we had planned to avoid. Famous for its exceptional length and sustained severity, the pitch is 140 feet long. The top section was the most difficult with a considerable amount of exposure and very few holds.

This slowed us considerably and by 8 pm we were still 4-500 feet from the summit, making it certain we would have to bivouac.

Suddenly it was dark and we were still climbing on rock that offered no place to bivouac—the ledges were not even wide enough to sit on. On my left I noticed a small scoop on the face filled with snow and ice.

Delayed by Barry I traversed across, banged a peg in a crack, clipped myself on and set to work chopping the ice and snow to make a rough platform where we could sit down and spend the night.

Barry climbed across and attached himself to the peg and together, on a sloping ledge about three feet long and 18 inches wide, we spent the night. Only the solitary piton stopped us hurtling down the face.

Our stove ceased to function before the water ice was even warm and we had to make do with cold Ovaltine. Fumbling around in the dark with our torches we knocked most of our food off the ledge and mournfully thought of it disappearing through nearly 3000 feet of black space.

At sunrise we moved off without breakfast. The weather was good and all we had to worry about were numb fingers and getting to the summit. Towards the top snow patches became more frequent making progress very slow. The final 300 feet took us almost half a day and the final pitch to the summit was up an overhanging crack choked with ice.

At 4 pm we were on top—what tremendous relief! We had been climbing continuously for two days up steep, unrelenting rock on snow, ice and verglass, with numb fingers and without food for the last day. But now it was all below us and worth while.



The towering, terrifying Aiguille Dru conquered by Lance-Corporal Smith. He climbed it by way of the north face (in shadow on the left side).

Moment of success for the 9th/12th Royal Lancers as they reach the summit of the Matterhorn. Threatening weather forced them to begin the descent immediately.

Below: Three members of the Guildford climbing party who were forced back by the weather—Bob Watson (left), Lieutenant Colin Mowatt (centre) and Mike Kingston



STRUGGLES ON THE MATTERHORN

FREAK storms can turn the magnificent Matterhorn into a death-trap for climbers—many foolish mountaineers have learned this and paid for the information with their lives.

For the weather virtually decides who shall conquer the peak. This happened when two parties involving soldiers made separate attempts—the first was successful in good conditions and the second failed, beaten by appalling weather.

The first party was the Recce Troop of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, from Osnabrück, Germany. After four days' training on the slopes around Zermatt, six soldiers and four guides on four different ropes made the actual climb.

Starting at 3.30 am the party climbed up the rock face and across ice-fields with the air becoming thinner and thinner. Two hundred feet of almost vertical rock face was followed by a snow-covered ridge with a 10,000-foot drop on either side. Then they reached the summit—a narrow ridge about 50 yards long, half in Switzerland and half in Italy.

Taking no chances with the weather, the party began the descent after a few minutes rest and arrived safely back by mid-afternoon.

The six soldiers in the party were Captain Simon Burne, Second Lieutenant Peter Norman and Troopers Patrick Mulcahy, Michael Carruthers, Terry Stow and Ernest Alexander.

The second attempt later the same month was by a team of youth leaders from Guildford which included Lieutenant Colin Mowatt and Lance-Corporal Mick Morley, both of the Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment, attached to the 41st Army Youth Team at Brighton.

Months of tough training in Wales and

Cornwall preceded the move to Zermatt for training in ice-field climbing, step-cutting, crevasse rescue and general safety techniques on the peaks near Zermatt.

On the day of the attempt the party climbed in a raging storm with thunder, lightning and hail to a hut at about 9000 feet. Early next morning four members of the party, including Lieutenant Mowatt, decided to make an attempt at the peak—but the conditions were poor, with a heavy snowfall and hard frost.

When they had not returned by early evening anxiety became acute, but at 9.15 pm they walked into the hut after climbing for 14 hours—they had been forced back by the weather at 13,000 feet.

Because of shortage of time, the attempt was abandoned—but the Matterhorn will still be there next year.



Bob Kilby, one of the climbers in the Guildford party.



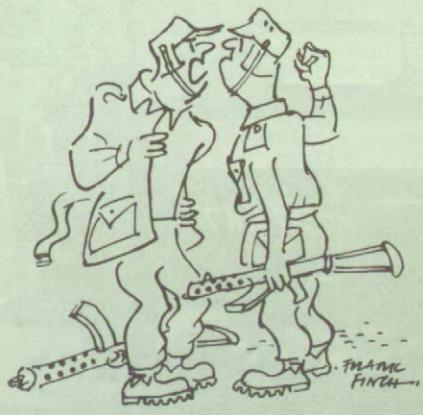
Jim Smith, leader of the unsuccessful Matterhorn climb.

A LAUGH ON EVERY PAGE

IF you want a jolly good laugh you couldn't do better than get your own copy of "SOLDIER Humour", a 64-page booklet containing more than 100 of the best cartoons published in SOLDIER over the past few years.

There's a chuckle or two on every page—which is excellent value by any standards for 1s 3d.

"SOLDIER Humour" is on sale at bookstalls at home and overseas. Unit PRI's and individual subscribers may order copies direct from: H M Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1.

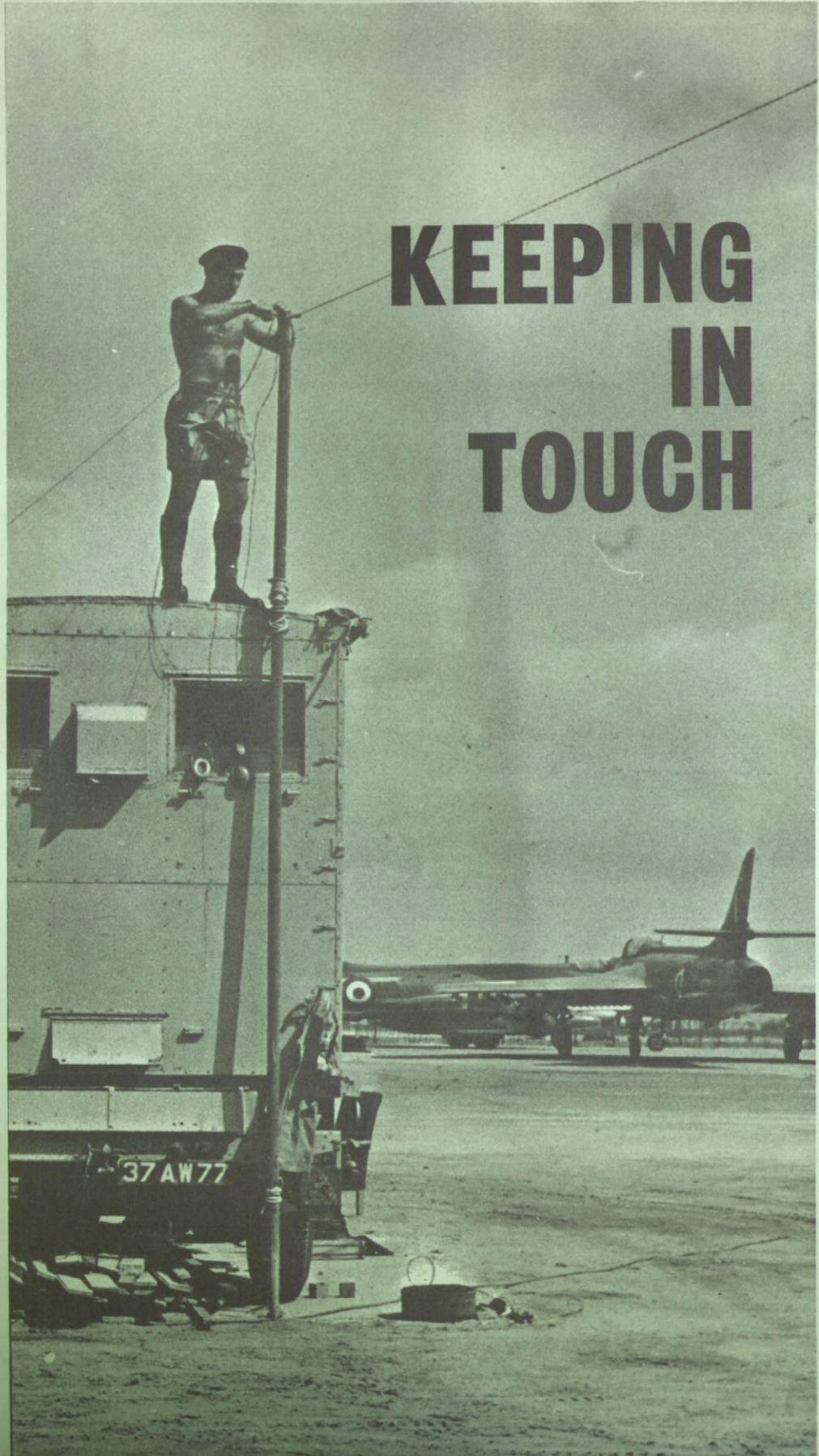


"OK - get out of that combat suit and fight"

Middle East

In the deserts of Arabia, the unsung men of the Royal Signals quietly get on with a job so vital that without them Middle East Command would crumble

KEEPING IN TOUCH



THE world spotlight is frequently focussed on the Middle East with its furnace deserts, photogenic robed Arabs and bronzed fighting soldiers. Yet always out of the lime-light, quietly getting on with their job, is a body of men without whom the whole structure of Middle East Command would crumble.

They are the unsung men of the Royal Signals. On their efficiency in maintaining communications under all conditions everything depends—from the lives of a tiny patrol up-country to the security of vital British oil interests.

For in the hostile Arabian Peninsula, normal overland methods of communication are both difficult and dangerous. When a patrol goes up-country its safety depends as much on its radio as its rifles.

The Royal Signals freely admit they are far from the glamour boys of the Army. Their job is much the same wherever they are in the world and it is hardly spectacular—nevertheless that does not make it any less vital, particularly in the Middle East.

Currently two major events in that part of the world are making big news for the Signals. First is the formation of a new signal regiment made up of the majority of Signals units in the area. Designated 15 Signal Regiment it embraces the squadrons and troops that have been working more or less independently.

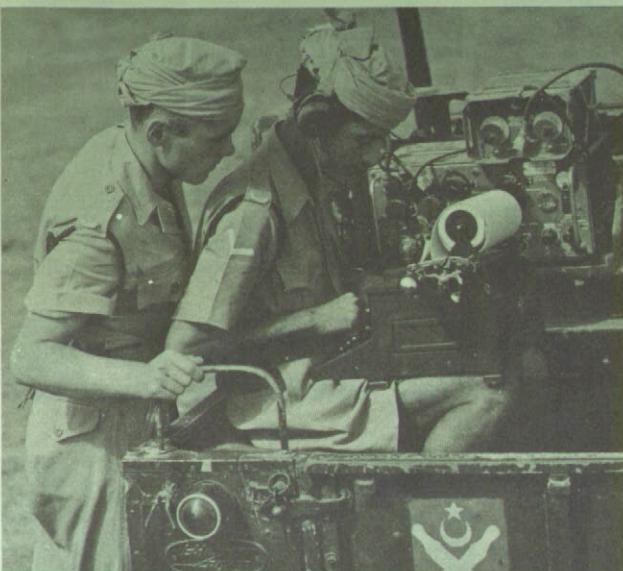
The second item of news will interest every Serviceman who has ever tried to make a telephone call in Aden. For the Colony's military telephone system was adjudged to be about the worst in the world—it had almost become a standing joke. But now work has started on the installation of a vast new automatic tele-

MEDALS

by Major John Laffin

35

CENTRAL AFRICA 1891-98



Above: Federal Regular Army signallers receive a message up-country. Right: In Aden, Major Stephenson, formerly OC air formation signal squadron, comforts his pet Yemeni baboon.

Left: Report cards on the wall of the Aden "ham shack" show the successful contacts made by signallers in their spare time.

Far left: Helping to maintain airfield communications for the Royal Air Force in Aden is a lineman from 222 Signal Squadron.



phone system which includes 1200-line and 700-line exchanges.

The mammoth task of laying cables for the new system is being undertaken by the Line Squadron of the new Regiment, which will also maintain the system after it has been installed.

The establishment of 15 Signal Regiment with four squadrons was officially approved in August. Three—Headquarters, Radio and Line—are based in Aden and the fourth is in Bahrain, converted directly from 255 Signal Squadron.

Besides routine work, the Radio Squadron of the new Regiment will be responsible for providing mobile radio rear links for all parties of British troops—no matter how small—moving outside the Protectorate without their own radio communications.

Radio for many men of the Regiment is not only their work but their hobby. A "ham shack" equipped with begged or borrowed equipment operates on most evenings and more than 60 countries throughout the world—including Russia—have been contacted. Occasionally they get through to their opposite numbers at Catterick in England!

The only large Signals unit that has not been enveloped in the new Regiment is 222 Signal Squadron (Air Formation) which comes under the control of the Royal Air Force. This squadron is responsible for laying and maintaining land lines on Royal Air Force airfields throughout the area. It means that the Squadron is split up over thousands of miles and when the officer commanding wants to visit his men, a 6000-mile round trip lasting about ten days is involved.

On many of the remote desert staging posts the man from 222 Squadron is the only soldier in the place and he has sole responsibility for maintaining the land lines on the airfield against constant attacks from wind, weather, corrosion or sand.

To make up for the isolation, the

Squadron Headquarters in Aden has its own club—the "Gentlemen's Rest," complete with thatched roof bar and velvet curtains. The Squadron entered its pet pigeons for a race and enthusiastically sent off 50 only to discover, too late, that they were not homers. Eight returned.

Perhaps the Royal Signals men with the most arduous task are those attached to the Federal Regular Army Signal Squadron, supporting the battalions in up-country operations. There are 30 British soldiers in the Squadron, many employed instructing Arab recruits in the mysteries of signalling. From not knowing a single word of English to transmitting and receiving Morse at about 15 words a minute takes about three months intensive instruction—but even then the operator has no idea what he is writing down; he just transfers the Morse into English letters.

Recent operations by British and Federal troops in the Radfan have high-lighted the importance of signals work in the vast areas of Arabia. Since April, radio links between units in the mountains and between Radfan and Aden have been working non-stop. Upon the efficiency and speed of the signallers depend the success of calls for artillery and air support; the evacuation of casualties and the re-supply of troops.

Initial signal arrangements in the Radfan were made by 254 Signal Squadron who were subsequently relieved by 213 Squadron from Northern Ireland. Considerable work has been done throughout the operations by 603 Signal Troop.

In 24 days during the height of the operations 1681 messages were passed between Radfan and Aden, of which 1061 contained 119,480 crypt groups.

Moved by anything from a camel to a helicopter, men of the Royal Signals have spent months broadcasting from lonely mountain pinnacles in the hostile Radfan. For them it has been a trying year—but a rewarding one.

THE well-meaning but sometimes ill-informed people who criticise Colonialism could learn much from a study of some British medals. The Central Africa Medal of 1891-98 is a good example, for at least ten of the expeditions for which it was awarded were against native chiefs who were cruelly ill-treating slaves.

Hundreds of thousands of slaves welcomed the approach of British troops who could always be counted upon to put in an appearance to suppress brutality and oppression.

On the obverse of the medal is the diademated head of Queen Victoria, wearing a veil. The reverse has a scene of bush fighting with a wounded British soldier and a wounded native. It is the same design as for the Ashantee Medal 1873-74, but of course the ribbon is different—equal widths of black, for the Zanzibar troops engaged; white for the British; terracotta for the Indians, who were mostly Sikhs.

The medal, with a swivel ring, was first issued in 1895 to commemorate ten campaigns between 1891 and 1894. The British forces engaged were small, pathetically so in some cases. For instance, in November, 1891, Captain Maguire led 30 Sikhs in an expedition to Kawinga to free slaves. Maguire was killed in action, but the slaves were freed.

In 1899 the medal's only bar was issued and, so that it could be attached, the swivel ring was replaced with a straight suspender. The bar—Central Africa 1891-98—commemorated nine expeditions and campaigns between those years. They involved action against at least 16 separate tribes and over an area of 250,000 square miles.

For example, in December, 1895, a party of 34 men, British and Sikhs under Lieutenant Gilmour, marched on the stockaded village of Matipwiri where the chief not only kept slaves but made attacks against other tribes in the region. Gilmour tried parleying with the chief and when this did not work he resorted to threats. Finally, although outnumbered 100 to one, he stormed the village, arrested the chief and his councillors and released the slaves.

Gilmour was typical of many British soldiers who fought these small wars without heroics and without publicity. Royal Navy men won 21 medals and about 12 went to the Royal Marines. Naming is in impressed capitals or script, but not all medals are named.



Left: Major William Rooney MM, Irish Guards, the officer commanding Headquarters Wing . . .

. . . and the Wing being inspected on its annual church parade on the famous square at Sandhurst. ▶

BEHIND THE SCENES



"Back-room boys" at work as carpenters . . .



. . . in the steam and heat of the cookhouse . . .



. . . and under vehicles in the busy MT wing.

ONCE a year there is a unique parade on the famous square of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. For once, not a single cadet is involved—the occasion is the annual church parade of "back-room boys," the men who work behind the facade to keep Sandhurst moving.

On the square that day almost every regiment and corps of the British Army is represented and among the ranks of the 350 men on parade every Army cap badge can be spotted.

This is no coincidence. For the men of

Headquarters Wing are hand-picked to represent their regiments at the Academy and to set an example to the cadets. Some of their tasks may be humble but they are all expected to live up to the highest standards.

The Wing comprises clerks, drivers, storemen, grooms, regimental police, signallers, drill, physical training and weapon training instructors, cooks, medics, mechanics, musicians and a handful of specialists with odd jobs. Without their work, out of the limelight, the Academy would come to a standstill.

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Band Corps—the smallest corps in the British Army with an establishment of only 38 men—practises for a big parade in the privacy of its own quarters.



From the Academy Sergeant-Major downwards, all non-commissioned permanent staff at Sandhurst belong to Headquarters Wing, under the command of Major William Rooney MM, Irish Guards.

The jobs involved behind the scenes are many and varied. In the Methods Workshop two carpenters, a painter and two draughtsmen of the Royal Engineers, design and construct all the Academy's training aids.

Under Staff-Sergeant Dennis Scott, this cheerful team relies very much on its own ingenuity to produce what is required. Recently it designed and built a catamaran for the rowing club, but its proudest achievement was a patent snake catcher produced for the Academy's expedition to Ethiopia.

In charge of the stables is Corporal-of-Horse Boris Thompson, The Life Guards, a well-known Army rider. He also runs a thriving riding school for the cadets which invariably has a waiting list. An old building has been converted into an indoor riding school so that instruction can continue all year round.

Attached to each of the Academy's three colleges are about 30 permanent staff, mainly drill and weapon training instructors and a few clerks. Experts from the Small Arms School Corps direct the weapon training.

Headquarters Wing also boasts the smallest corps in the British Army—the 38 musicians who form the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Band Corps. They wear the Academy cap badge and play at all the big parades, including the Wing's church parade.

The Royal Army Pay Corps personnel



AT SANDHURST

organise the pay for Headquarters Wing and in addition operate a private internal bank through which cadets, with special cheque books, can draw their pay.

Twelve Army Physical Training Corps instructors are responsible for bringing every cadet up to a set standard of physical fitness with training which allows each cadet to progress at his own speed and yet ensures that everyone reaches the required minimum standard.

The largest self-contained unit at the Academy is the Royal Signals section which is responsible for signal training of cadets in the classroom and in the field.

In addition the Royal Signals maintain the internal public address systems and telephones and are traditionally responsible for providing the artistic design, lighting and decor at the three cadet balls every year.

The pace is fast at Sandhurst and every man in Headquarters Wing, no matter what his job, must keep up with it. But the posting has its compensations—all the permanent staff, except for essential duty personnel, get generous leave at the same time as the cadets. It usually means about three weeks in the spring, five weeks in summer and a fortnight at Christmas.

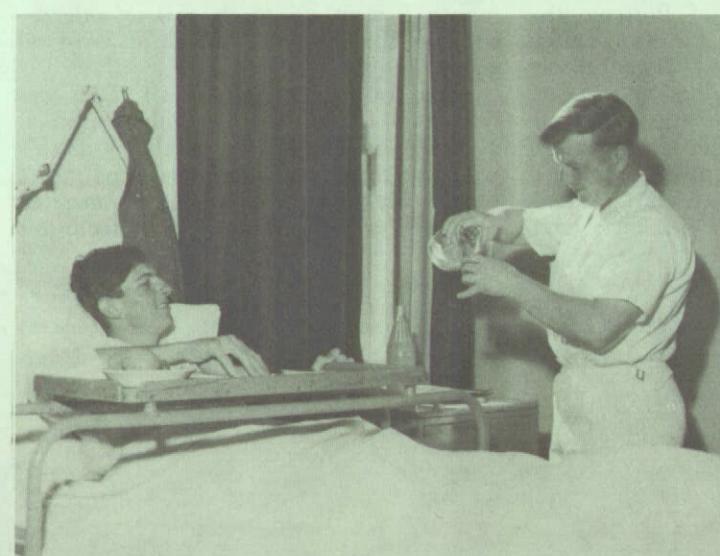
For the married man the posting is attractive as it is a three-year tour with a good chance of staying in one place for those three years instead of being rushed off to some remote trouble spot.

Too frequently, units like Headquarters Wing tend to be ignored and overshadowed. At Sandhurst it is, of course, natural that the cadets, as the future leaders of the Army, should be constantly in the lime-light.

Nevertheless, men of the Academy's permanent staff are doing their bit, not only by keeping things running smoothly, but in helping to mould the young men of today into the leaders of tomorrow.



Above: Two staff-srgts are responsible for the valuable ordnance stores.



Left: The Medical Centre has 11 RAMC nurses.

It happened in NOVEMBER

Date	Years ago
1 Battle of Coronel	50
2 M1 motorway opened	5
5 Battle of Inkerman	110
5 Britain declared war on Turkey	50
14 Field-Marshal Lord Roberts died	50
15 Brazil became a Republic	75
16 Suez Canal opened at Port Said	95
25 London Irish Volunteer Rifles formed	105
27 Treaty of Neuilly signed	45
30 Sir Winston Churchill born	90



Sir Winston Churchill, pictured here crossing the Rhine in triumph in 1945, will be 90 years old later this month.



Gordon Coles

PRISON OFFICER

IT may sound a bit corny, but when I left the Army I definitely found myself missing the comradeship. I drifted from job to job but I could never settle down. I felt like a stranger; a fish out of water."

Gordon Coles, former sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was explaining the problems he faced when he retired after 21 years' service.

He had joined the Army in 1939 as a boy of 14. And when, as a man in his middle thirties, he faced civilian life for the first time, it hardly welcomed him with open arms.

He finished his service on a Friday in the spring of 1961 and started work on the Monday as a storeman with a plant hire firm in his home town of Portsmouth. "I realised straight away that things weren't going to be as I imagined. Somehow it seemed that there was no system or organisation. After a few months I left and took a job as a petrol pump attendant. I didn't mind too much at that time what I did or what name it had—what I wanted was a good job to keep me busy and interested.

"Still I couldn't settle down. From the garage I tried my hand at selling soft drinks and then went back to being a storeman with a refrigeration company. But the truth was that I was missing the Army more than I realised."

Then Mr Coles saw an advertisement for the prison service. Its advantages became more attractive the more he thought about it. He applied and was accepted, starting with a no-obligation month trial period at a Borstal in Portsmouth.

He had found himself a niche. The prison service was offering just the things he was missing so much—a routine, similar codes of discipline and conduct, a uniform and, above all, comradeship. "After a month I knew it was the job for me. After the trial month I went up to the prison officers' training school at Wakefield to learn all about the job."

After training, Prison Officer Coles was posted to Camp Hill Training Prison at Newport on the Isle of Wight. With his wife and three daughters he moved into a house ("it's just like an Army married quarter") a few minutes' walk from his work.

Now he is happily settled down and well embarked on a second career. He has a pensionable job with a future; with his pay and Army pension he is comfortably off; he has a pleasant house in a beautiful area and enough spare time to tinker with his car and cine camera.

"There is no doubt that my Army experience helped me to settle down quickly in the prison service—it is similar in many ways. You are used to handling men, accepting discipline and dispensing it."

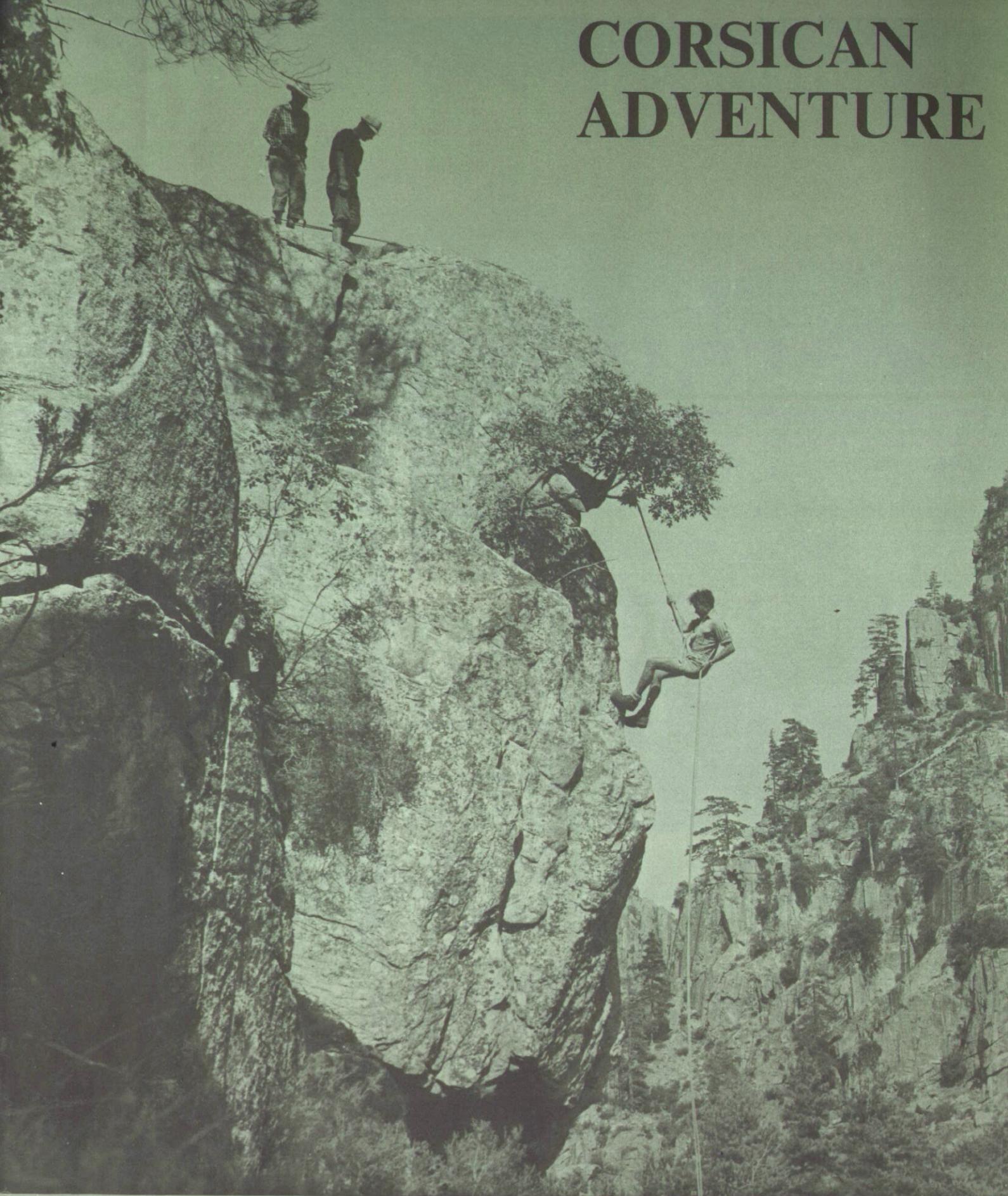
At Camp Hill, prisoners are trained in a variety of trades from bricklayers to blacksmiths to help them when they are released. At the moment Prison Officer Coles supervises parties of prisoners working on the farm outside the main wall of the prison, but his duties change about every six months.

Socially he has found again the comradeship he lost. "Living in the prison village is very much like married quarters. All your friends are around you, you see people going to and from work; neighbours help each other and call in for a cup of tea and a chat. It's just the life we wanted back again."

Prison Officer Coles supervises prisoners working on the farm outside the main wall of Camp Hill.



CORSICAN ADVENTURE



THREE weeks climbing in an idyllic pine and orange-scented island paradise in the sparkling Mediterranean all for £24 a head—this was the Army Boys Expedition of 1964.

Specially selected from units throughout Britain, the expedition comprised 30 junior soldiers. Their destination—Corsica.

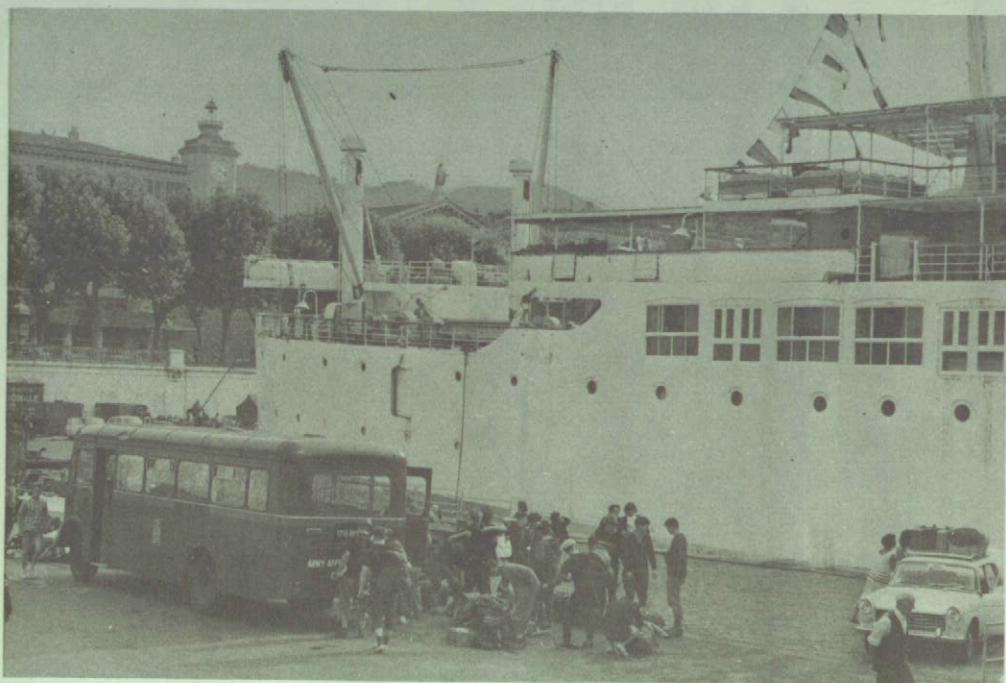
They slept under the stars . . . swam in cool mountain streams . . . climbed among breathtaking craggy peaks. It was the holiday of a lifetime.

Corsica was selected by the leader of the expedition, Major I. Leigh, Royal Engineers, the Military Training Officer at Chepstow

Above: Leading a rock-climbing patrol 3000 feet up in the Gorges de la Restonica, Major Ted Warrick abseils down a huge boulder.

CORSICAN ADVENTURE

continued



Above: Unloading the bus on the quayside at Nice, in the south of France, the boys prepare to board the ship bound for Corsica.



Left: On board the ship, Corsica is sighted and gallant J/Pte John Whenlock lends the telescope to a pretty French girl.

Below: Loading the diesel railway car which carried the boys from the coast to the centre of Corsica.



Army Apprentices School and secretary of the Army Climbing Association.

He had long dreamed of the climbing possibilities in that lovely island and when he was asked to lead this year's expedition he knew exactly where he wanted to go.

Many months of careful planning preceded their departure. The boys were selected from Army Apprentices Schools, Junior Leaders and Tradesmen's Regiments and Infantry Brigade Depots, the costs worked out and pared down to just £24 each and the complicated travel arrangements were finalised.

Finally, they were on their way in a minibus and school coach borrowed from Chepstow. They crossed the Channel by ferry from Dover and then drove 850 miles south through France to Nice where they boarded the boat for Corsica.

Through some administrative confusion, 17-year-old Junior Tradesman Harry Gray from Troon arrived too late to join the expedition but, nothing daunted, he chased them alone across the Channel and through France, finally joining the party minutes before the boat sailed from Nice.

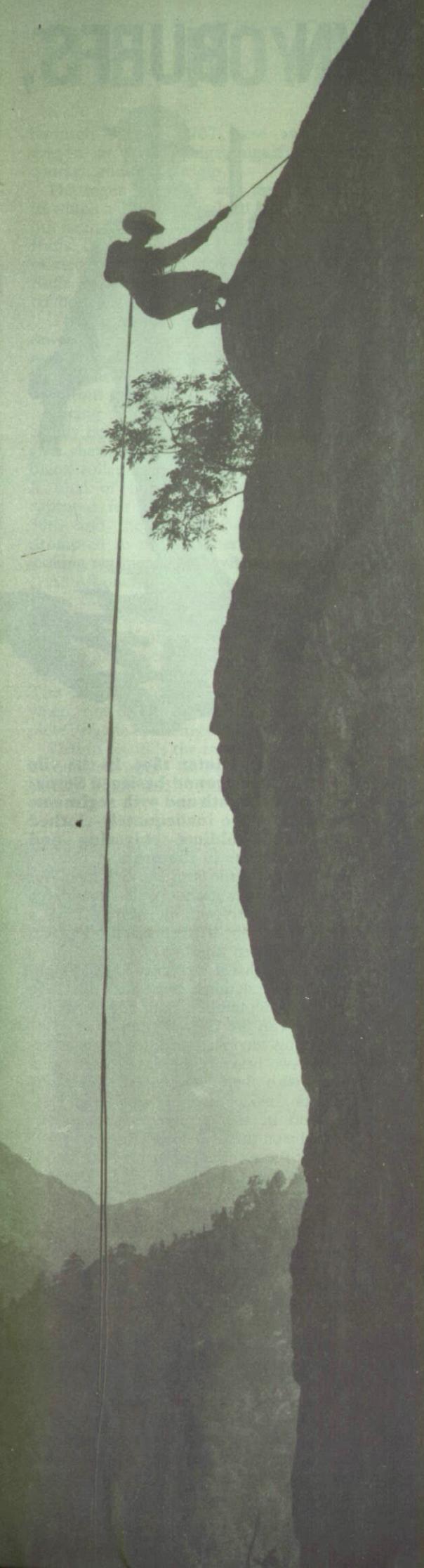
Arriving at Corsica the boys spent two days on the palm-fringed beaches and then headed by train towards Corte, in the centre of the island, where they pitched camp under pine trees at the side of a tumbling mountain stream and in the shadow of the towering peaks and ranges.

The aims were to bring out the qualities of initiative, leadership and endurance and to give the boys experience in mountaineering. Split into six patrols they settled down to do just that.

Up half an hour before the sun and asleep half an hour after it disappeared,

High above the base camp, Apprentice Bernard Sprague, from AAS Chepstow, practises abseiling.

Pictures by PETER O'BRIEN



In the shade of pine trees, the boys settle in at the base camp at Gorges de la Restonica.

the boys explored and climbed under the scorching Mediterranean sun.

They dammed a river to make a swimming pool, bought their own food in the village and spent many hours plotting, scheming and attempting to climb an imposing 400-foot high pillar towering straight up from the river not far from their camp.

Days passed quickly and happily in the sharp mountain air until, leaving the local village completely sold out of breakfast cereal, the expedition returned to the coast for sightseeing, relaxing and swimming.

They left Corsica at dusk with the whole town waving farewell on the quay. And as their ship slowly steamed away from the twinkling lights of the waterfront, the Army Boys Expedition of 1964 settled down on the deck to savour their memories.

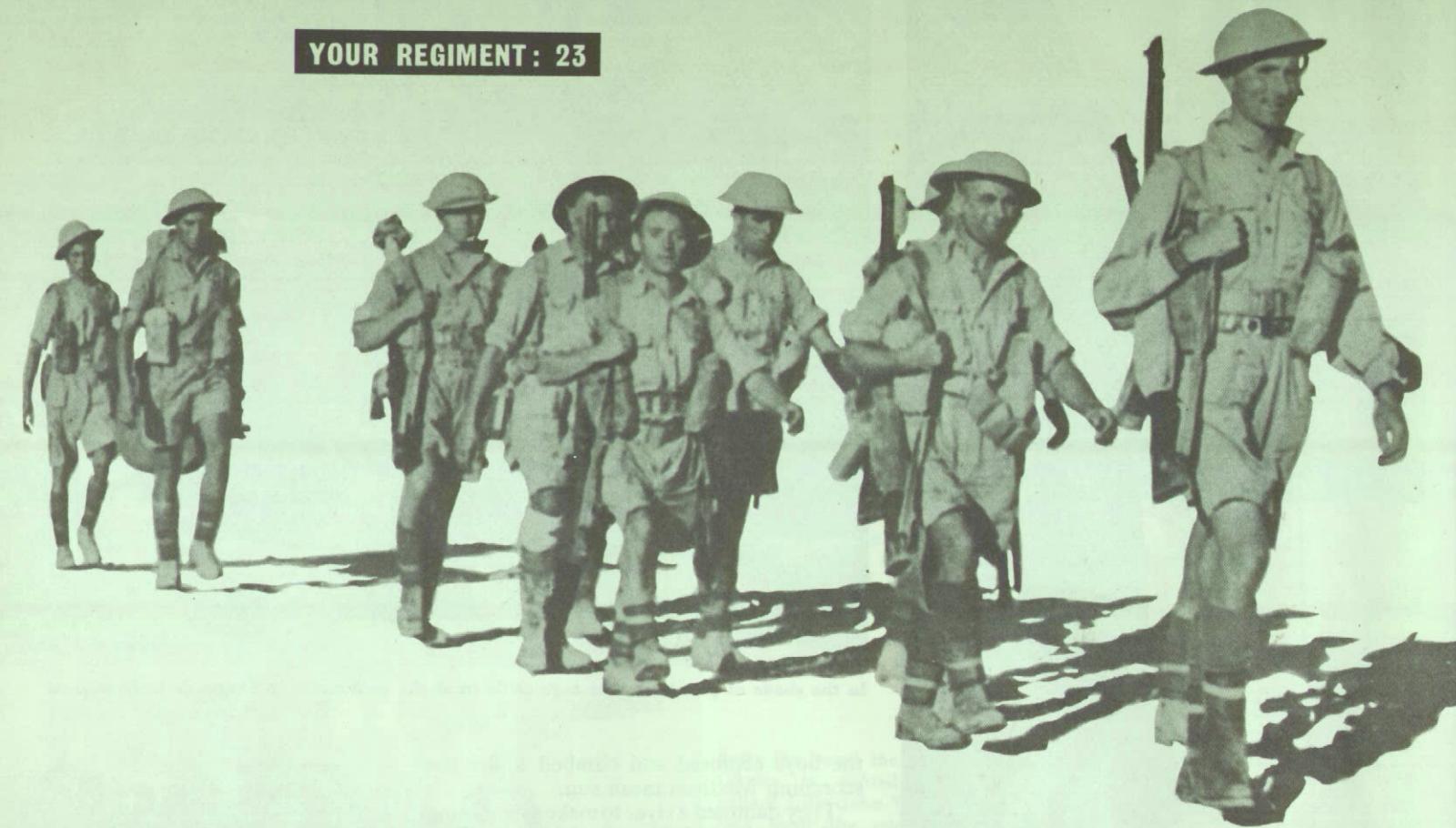


On the way home there was time for a swim in the Mediterranean. J/Gnr Edwin Hammond cements Anglo-French relations (below) by demonstrating the latest dance to French girls and his friends.



THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS,

YOUR REGIMENT: 23



CRIMEA, winter 1854. In the vile trenches around besieged Sevastopol the 50th and 97th regiments were among the inadequately-clothed and ill-fed soldiers shivering and dying of disease in the mud.

In six months the 50th lost 340 men, but the terrible conditions could not break the British spirit and in March 1855 a detachment of the 97th smashed a Russian raiding party ten times its size.

In May the 3rd of Foot arrived and fought many minor actions alongside the 97th until, on 8 September, both regiments led the assault on the Great Redan.

Suffering terrible casualties from cross-fire, the two brave regiments crossed open ground with their ladders and scaled the ramparts. Inside, they set upon the Russians and in the desperate fighting that followed won three Victoria Crosses.

Today those three regiments that fought so well in the Crimea—the 3rd, 50th and 97th—are one, the result of an amalgamation in 1961 to form The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment. And they still remember their combined gallantry at Sevastopol by celebrating 8 September as a regimental day.

The oldest of the three, the 3rd, known as The Buffs because of the colour of their facings, claim their origin in Tudor times—they are directly descended from a regiment raised under Elizabeth I to fight the Spaniards in the Low Countries.

On the bloody battlefield at Landen in 1693 The Buffs were savagely mauled and lost, hacked from the ensigns, their three Colours. Later they fought with terrific gallantry under the incomparable Marl-

“...But devilish steady”

Both regiments fought in North Africa during World War Two. Above: A section of the Queen's Own moves up to the assembly area before a night attack. Below: Later in Sicily Bren-gun carriers move into Centuripe.



Queen's Own Buffs collar badge features the white horse of Kent, an emblem dating from 16th century.



THE ROYAL KENT REGIMENT

borough and in 1707 were awarded a dragon as their badge, signifying their courage and royal origin.

Dettingen in 1743 was the last battle in which a King of England led his troops, but he may never have done so without The Buffs. George II's horse bolted and almost carried him off the battlefield before a Buffs captain grabbed the reins and restored the royal dignity.

Thirteen years later the 50th Foot were raised and black was chosen as the regimental colour, resulting in the nickname the "Dirty Half-Hundred" when the dye from their cuffs begrimed their faces.

Facing 5000 men in Portugal, the 50th calmly held their fire until the last moment and shattered the enemy with a point-blank volley followed by a bayonet charge. A total of 1360 attackers was killed or captured for the loss of 44 men by the 50th and the Duke of Wellington was prompted to remark later: "Not a good-looking regiment, but devilish steady."

At Albuhera, Spain, in 1811, The Buffs were eating breakfast when they were suddenly ordered into the attack. Through the first lines of Spaniards they charged, fired two devastating volleys and then, in pouring rain, went in with their bayonets. The enemy guns were almost within grasp when, out of the smoke and hail, a complete brigade of enemy cavalry appeared...

Within seconds the steady attack became a confused mêlée as Buffs fought forlorn battles all around. "Only with my life!"

yelled Ensign Thomas, a lad of sixteen, to a demand for the Regimental Colour—he died immediately.

The King's Colour was grabbed by Lieutenant Latham when its bearer fell, but the Cavalry swooped on him. Under a hail of blows he sank in a jostling mass of lancers and hussars—but when the battle ended he was found alive. Inside his tunic, torn from its pike, was the tattered and blood-spattered Colour.

In 1824 the 97th were raised and soon earned the nickname "The Celestials", from their sky blue facings. After their immortal gallantry in the Crimea, they served in India and then in 1881 were amalgamated with the 50th to form the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment. At the same time the 3rd officially became The Buffs, East Kent Regiment.

In World War One the two regiments fought close together in the grim trenches and after the first gas attack at Ypres both were thrown into a useless counter-attack which cost many brave lives for little gain.

With the arrival of Kitchener's battalions, the 8th battalions of both regiments were thrown straight into the battle and within an hour or two had suffered together 1200 casualties and each had only one officer left.

Battle followed battle until September 1918 when the Queen's Own and the Buffs helped move the British line forward

to end the war. The cost for the Kent regiments was 12,735 lives.

At the outbreak of World War Two both regiments fought gallantly before Dunkirk and then in North Africa where the Kent Brigade, comprising 2nd Buffs and 4th and 5th Queen's Own, fought with the famous Eighth Army.

Later, while fighting the Japanese in Burma, Lance-Corporal Harman of the 4th Queen's Own crept forward with a grenade, wiped out a machine-gun crew and returned with the gun. The following day he charged alone with a rifle and bayonet and killed another crew, but was himself shot while walking back. "It was worth it," he gasped as he died in a trench, unaware that he would win a Victoria Cross.

After the war the Queen's Own spent three years in Malaya where they killed 106 terrorists without losing a single weapon, while the Buffs served in the Canal Zone and saw action against Mau-Mau in Kenya.

In 1961 the two regiments were amalgamated. It was a delicate and difficult task that went off without a hitch and two months later they were flown off for service in Kenya. The old regiments still exist in the Territorial Army—the 4th/5th Queen's Own is based at Tonbridge and there is a 4th Buffs at Canterbury and a 5th Buffs at Broadstairs.

Currently The Queen's Own Buffs are serving in British Guiana, but they are due to return home next month.



The Buffs' flame-throwers support the attack on St Joost in January 1945.



Famous picture of a Queen's Own patrol in ruined Cassino in 1944.

The Queen's Own Buffs still maintain a strong connection with Denmark that was born when Prince George of Denmark was appointed Honorary Colonel of The Buffs in

1689. During World War Two many brave Danes escaped from their invaded homeland to serve in their King's English regiment. At the amalgamation in 1961, King Fred-

erick IX of Denmark was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the new regiment and last year the 1st Falster Foot flew to England from Denmark to train with The Queen's Own Buffs.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike, but they vary in ten minor details. If you cannot detect all the differences, turn to page 34.



COMPETITION 78

Prizes

- 1 £10 in cash
- 2 £5 in cash
- 3 £3 in cash
- 4 £2 in cash
- 5 Three recently published books and a 12 months' free subscription to **SOLDIER**
- 6 A 12 months' free subscription to **SOLDIER** or a **SOLDIER** Easibinder.

FALL IN - IN THREES!

SOLDIER competition fans apparently found the recent "Pubs and Pairs" puzzle a trifle difficult. So here is an easier problem on similar lines. All you have to do is group 39 of the 40 words listed here into well-known phrases—for example, "animal, vegetable and mineral."

Rules

Send the left-over word, with your name and address and the "Competition 78" label from this page, by letter or postcard to:

The Editor (Comp 78)
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

Closing date for this competition is Monday, 28 December, and the solution and names of the winners will appear in **SOLDIER**'s January issue.

The competition is open to all readers. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 78" label.

IF YOU OWN A CAMERA—READ THIS LETTER!

"I should be happy for you to use my last letter in one of your advertisements, and would say it is a pity that more of us Servicemen do not know about your Courses". This letter was from a Member who had no free-lance experience when he enrolled for one of our Courses. After just five months' training he was able to write—"Have had my photographs accepted by the editor of *Promotor* and been asked for anything else I might have with a 'Ford' flavour...—just received 8 guineas for an article and photographs on training police dogs...—have now earned enough to enable me to buy a new camera—a *Mamiyaflex C3*...—thank you for your tuition and help. This has been a great spur in my attack on free-lance markets". This is the sort of letter YOU could write. Our Head Tutor Mr. Ian Dickins, is a Member of the Institute of Incorporated Photographers and a City and Guilds Finalist in Photography, so you will be trained by professional photographers. All you have to do is to send for our FREE brochure and Leaflet giving details of how you may apply for an educational grant, allowing you to take any of our courses at HALF PRICE. Send today to

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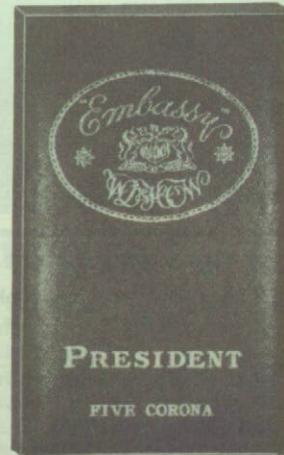
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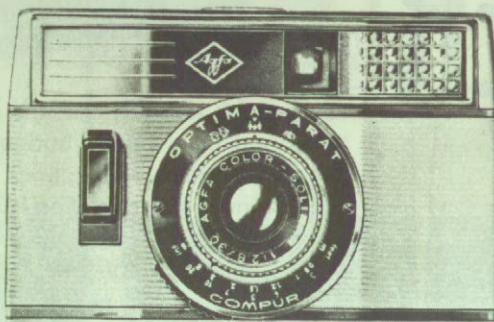


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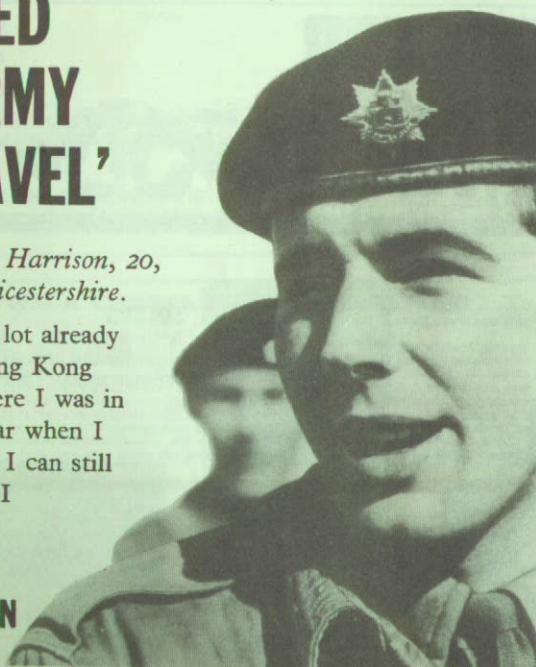
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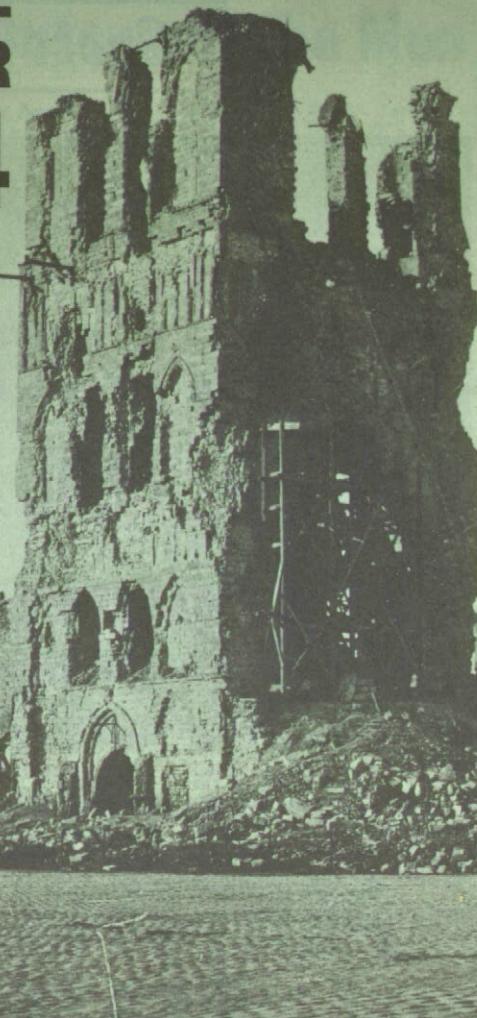
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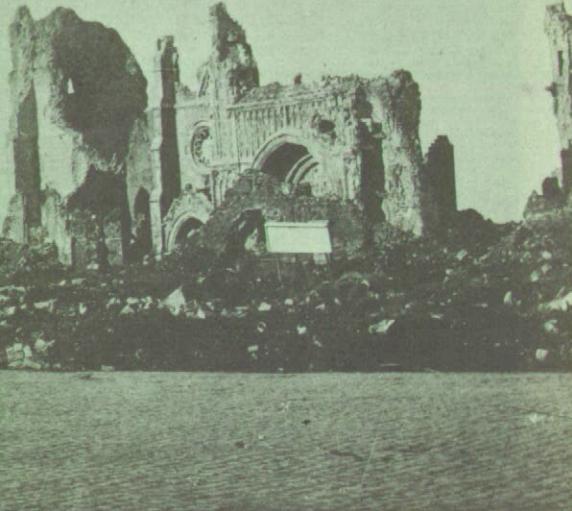
NOVEMBER 1914



AS the first winter of World War One turned the battlefields into blood-soaked quagmires of mud, the name of a Belgian town first appeared in the British Press. Ypres, known to front-line troops as "Wipers," was to make headlines many times.

During the early days of November the Germans, urged on at the front by the Kaiser himself, continued their big push towards Calais and the sea. The climax of the first battle of Ypres was on November 11 when two brigades of the élite Prussian Guard were hurled into a "death or victory" attack. Outnumbered and outgunned, the British held their positions and the mass formations of Prussians were mowed down in ranks and companies.

This year Ypres has been commemorating the early battles with exhibitions in its museums and special reception committees have welcomed visiting parties of ex-Servicemen. Buildings and monuments have been illuminated and the town has echoed to the sound of bells during carillon recitals from the Belfry Tower of the famous Cloth Hall. One of the main attractions for visitors has been the moving ceremony of the Last Post, which is sounded every evening at sunset at the Menin Gate British Memorial.



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Sport



OLYMPIC PENTATHLETES BEATEN

A ROYAL AIR FORCE sergeant beat all Britain's Olympic pentathletes to win the Inter-Services title at the British, Inter-Services and Army Modern Pentathlon championship at Aldershot.

Sergeant Alec Wilson totalled 4745 points and beat the British captain, Sergeant Mick Finnis, The Middlesex Regiment, by eight points. Winner of the British title was an Italian, Alfonso Ottaviani.

The Army, represented by Lieutenant M G Howe, The Parachute Regiment, Sergeant Finnis and Lance-Corporal J R Fox, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, retained the Inter-Services team title for the third year in succession.

Trooper Ron Waldon, Royal Horse Guards, took both the Army Intermediate and Junior Championships and came first in the riding event. Sergeant J A J Darby, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Training Centre, led in the fencing and shooting.

The Army Inter-Unit Team Championship was won by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Training Centre, followed by the Royal Army Service Corps Training Centre and 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, the Rhine Army champions.

Above: Olympic team captain Sergeant Mick Finnis at the start of the cross-country and (below) the winning Army team of (left to right) Lieut Michael Howe, Parachute Regiment, L/Cpl J R Fox, REME, and Sgt Finnis.



The Boys Outswam The Men

FOR the first time in Army sport an Army senior championship has gone to a junior unit. The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, Oswestry, swept the board in inter-unit team swimming, Diving and Water Polo Championships, held at Eltham.

The Battalion, junior champions for the past four years, won all six events at Eltham and in so doing set up Army and Army junior records in the freestyle relay and the two backstroke team events, and a junior record in the breaststroke relay.

Junior/Private Hill, the team captain, and five other record-breaking team members, Junior/Private Langrick, Junior/Fusilier Roeser, Junior/Rifleman Hunkin, Junior/Rifleman Gray and Junior/Lance/Corporal Lundie, were later selected as possibles for the Inter-Services Championships.

Junior/Private Langrick set up a new Army junior record in the individual 100 yds freestyle. In the women's events Private Higham, WRAC, broke the 66½ yds breaststroke record and the Southern Command team improved on its 1963 record in the inter-command freestyle relay.

The record for the men's inter-unit freestyle relay (major units) was equalled by 1 Training Battalion, Royal Army Service Corps, and in the 4 x 66½ yds freestyle relay team championship the first three teams all beat the Army record set up in 1959.

Outstanding in the individual events was the "hat-trick" by Corporal Colin Phillips to retain his diving titles. Swimming non-competitively, the Welsh international, Lieutenant M Edwards, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, was first in the 220, 440 and 880 yds freestyle races, but was unable to improve on his 1963 record times.

RESULTS

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

100yds freestyle: 1 2/Lieut Cooke, RMA Sandhurst, 56.2sec; 2 Lieut Williams, 17 Trg Regt, RA; 3 J/Pte Langrick, Inf Jnr Ldr Bn, 56.4 sec (Army junior record).

100yds backstroke: 1 2/Lieut Lundie, 1 Loyals, 63.8 sec; 2 O/C Rimmer, RMA; 3 J/Fus Roeser, Inf Jnr Ldr Bn. 100yds butterfly: 1 Bdr Price, 17 Trg Regt, 63.0sec; 2 J/Pte Hill, Inf Jnr Ldr Bn; 3 Gnr Thiedeman, 47 Regt, RA. 200yds breaststroke: 1 L/Cpl MacDonald, 216 Sig Sqn, 2min 46.3sec; 2 J/Rfn Gray, Inf Jnr Ldr Bn; 3 J/L/Cpl Lundie, Inf Jnr Ldr Bn. 220yds freestyle: 1 Dvr Lillywhite, Jnr Ldr Bn, RASC, 2min 24.2sec; 2 Sgt Johnson, 2 Para; 3 J/CSM Morris, Jnr Ldr Bn, RASC, 440yds freestyle: 1 Dvr Lillywhite, 5min 27.0sec; 2 Sgt Johnson, 3 L/Cpl Devenish, 1PWO. 880yds freestyle: 1 Dvr Lillywhite, 11min 29.7sec; 2 Sgt Johnson, 3 Bdr Price. Medley: 1 2/Lieut Lundie, 2min 33.2sec; 2 Dvr Lillywhite; 3 J/CSM Morris. Diving, one metre: 1 Cpl Phillips, 23 Para Fd Amb; 2 Cpl Cox, 38 Corps Engr Regt; 3 Cpl Ganning, 1RNF. Three metres: 1 Cpl Phillips; 2 Sgmn Regan, 24 Sig Regt; 3 Cpl Gibbons, Rheindalen Grn. Five metres: 1 Cpl Phillips; 2 Sgt Butters, 2 Para; 3 Cpl Gibbons.

MEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Freestyle relay (2x100yds, 2x200yds): 1 Inf Jnr Ldr Bn, 6min 42.4sec; 2 Jnr Ldr Bn, RASC; 3 1PWO. Breaststroke relay (4x66½yds): 1 Inf Jnr Ldr Bn, 3min 19.8sec (Army junior record); 2 1PWO; 3 Jnr Ldr Bn, RASC. 100yds backstroke (A team): 1 Inf Jnr Ldr Bn, 66.5sec (Army and Army junior record); 2 1PWO; 3 24 Sig Regt. 100yds backstroke (B team): 1 Inf Jnr Ldr Bn, 70.6sec (Army and Army junior record); 2 24 Sig Regt; 3 1PWO. Freestyle relay (4x66½yds): 1 Inf Jnr Ldr Bn, 2min 30.8sec (Army and Army junior record); 2 Jnr Ldr Bn, RASC; 3 1PWO. Medley relay (4x66½yds): 1 Inf Jnr Ldr Bn, 2min 53sec; 2 Jnr Ldr Bn, RASC; 3 1 Kings.

Inter-unit freestyle relay (6x66½yds), major units: 1 1 Trg Bn, RASC, 3min 52.9sec (equals Army record); 2 17 Trg Regt; 3 AAS, Chepstow. Inter-unit freestyle relay (4x66½yds), minor units: 1 Wesser Bde Depot, 2min 48.2sec; 2 20 Coy (MT), RASC.

Inter-unit water polo final: 2 Para (holders) beat 38 Corps Engr Regt, 19-3.

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

66½yds backstroke: 1 Cpl Dalton, 15 Indep Coy, WRAC, 52.7sec; 2 Pte Wyles, QARANC, PTS, Aldershot; 3 L/Cpl Jackson, 3 Indep Coy, WRAC. 66½yds breaststroke: 1 Pte Higham, 8 Indep Coy, WRAC, 54.8 sec (Army record); 2 Pte England, WRAC, 24 Sig Regt; 3 Pte Jordan, 6 Indep Coy, WRAC. 100yds freestyle: 1 Pte Wyles, 74sec; 2 Cpl Crawley, WRAC, ASE, Beaconsfield; 3 Cpl Vickers, 23 Indep Coy, WRAC.

Diving, one metre: 1 Pte Higham; 2 Pte Hamilton, WRAC, 68 Coy, RASC; 3 L/Cpl Jackson. Five metres (new event): 1 Pte Higham; 2 2/Lieut Tye, WRAC, 24 Sig Regt; 3 Pte Wood, 23 Indep Coy, WRAC.

WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Inter-command freestyle relay (4x33½yds): 1 Southern, 1min 24sec (Army record); 2 Western; 3 Eastern.



Inter-Services champion Sergeant A Wilson, RAF, is presented with his trophy by Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer DSO.

More than 200 vehicles entered the Rhine Army driving championships this year. The four-day event took competitors from central Germany to the Belgian and Luxembourg borders and back again with secret checks and driving tests of all descriptions on the route. Overall winners were 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars who were neck and neck throughout the contest with 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders.

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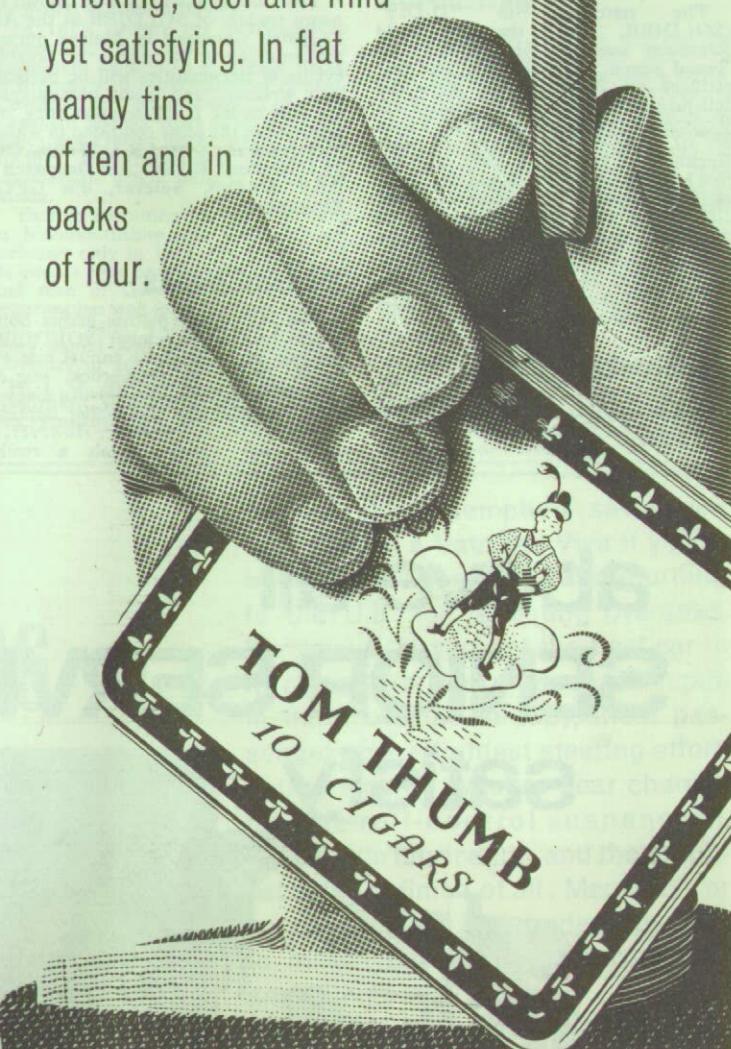


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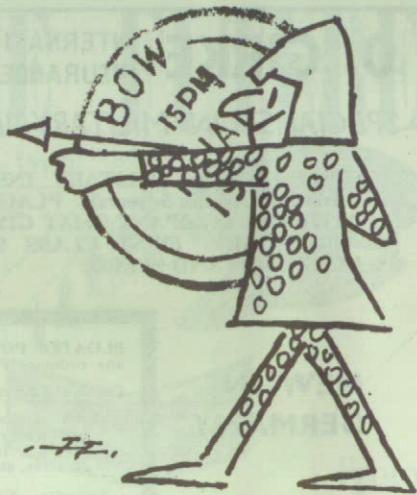
PAGE 31

KNOCKING THE NAGGERS

I wonder if other readers of *SOLDIER*, like me, find the perpetual nagging and carping at generals intensely boring and offensive. I cannot fathom why the criticisms of Corelli Barnett, for one, have largely gone unchallenged. In his book on the desert generals in World War Two, for example, he takes "Monty" to task for omitting to employ the 3.7in anti-aircraft guns in the Egyptian Delta in an anti-tank

role during periods of emergency. In fact, almost all these guns were of the fixed type and quite unsuitable for a mobile field role.

This apparent lack of research in such matters is one of Barnett's less endearing qualities as a writer. His books seem to me to reek of anti-British prejudice.—**R J C Holmes, 20 Oakfield Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne 3.**



LETTERS

First guns ashore

The statement in "D-Day" (*SOLDIER*, June) that 76 Field Regiment was the first artillery on Sword Beach is not correct. The first artillery on Sword Beach were the self-propelled guns of 20 Anti-Tank Regiment, and in particular H Troop of 67 Anti-Tank Battery of that Regiment. These guns were also the first artillery off the Beach and were used as assault guns in support of Lord Lovat's Brigade. The photograph on page 11 of the June *SOLDIER* shows two of the guns near a Churchill tank.—**C Clancy, 55 Furzehill, Chard, Somerset.**

Unit history

I am at present preparing an up-to-date history of 55 Company, RASC, and I should be very pleased to hear from

anyone who may have items which he thinks may be of interest.

The Company will be well known to many readers of *SOLDIER* as the Air Despatch Company in Malaya during the emergency. Memories of notable events or personalities will be particularly welcome, and if any photographs are sent to me I will see that they are returned in the same condition in which they reach me.—**Maj R L Wallis, OC 55 Company, RASC (Air Despatch), RAF Station, Seletar, c/o GPO, Singapore.**

Massed bands

The full colour picture across both covers of the September *SOLDIER*, showing 2nd Division's annual massed bands display at Osnabrück, was a splendid idea, and a first glance gives a most colourful and spectacular impression of the bands on parade. However, a closer look surely reveals a really

remarkably unmilitary musical spectacle.

Although presumably the bands pictured had not been marching together and were appearing only for the finale of the display, the layout and presentation of the bands seems totally to lack any planning or coordination. Drums, for instance, feature in six different ranks and trombones and basses in four or five. The rear of the bands—particularly the ranks of buglers at either end of the parade—appear from the picture to be very uneven.

In the centre front of the parade, bandmasters are in the same rank as drum-majors, while on the flanks they more correctly form a rank of their own. The dressing of the bands as a whole was not good, principally because there is no white line on the ground to mark the position of the front rank of the bands, who would form the key to the dressing of the whole parade. The dressing of the line of bandmasters and drum majors was also far from impressive.

There may be an explanation for this

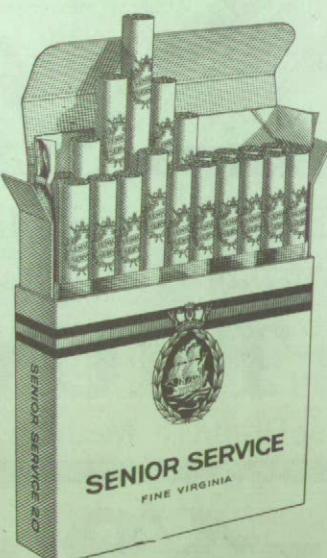
layout of the bands pictured, but I have never before seen massed bands looking less spectacular on parade.—**Capt A F Jackman, Lansdowne Grove Hotel, Bath, Somerset.**

★ **Capt Jackman is well-known in the West Country as the director of the Bath and Cardiff Tattoos. *SOLDIER* shares his views on the dressing of the bands but felt that this picture was too good to miss for this reason. The picture was not taken at the display but at a rehearsal.**

Unsung heroes

In the article "War Against the Red Wolves" (*SOLDIER*, July) mention was made of all the other regiments and corps for their good work during the emergency, but no mention was made of the two sections of 522 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps, who are out here on emergency draft from Kineton, Warwickshire. These lads are very

above all SENIOR SERVICE satisfy



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proud of their unit and Corps and were disappointed at not receiving a "mention" in SOLDIER. These two sections have worked for as long as 14 to 16 hours daily, handling food, water, petrol and ammunition to keep the fighting troops going. In one period of 12 days they handled 380 tons of ammunition, not to mention other supplies.—Cpl R Gregson, 518 Company, Royal Pioneer Corps, BFPO 69.

"Men Only"

I have a library of "Men Only" covering the period 1947 to 1960 and wonder if any readers of SOLDIER, either individually or as a unit, would be interested in acquiring this collection. It covers a very interesting period socially and politically and the articles, comments and cartoons provide a commentary on the period such as can never be gathered together again.

I would like to suggest they should go to the highest bidder, the proceeds to be divided equally between the Royal Corps of Signals Benevolent Fund and the Army Benevolent Fund.—John Billett (ex-Royal Signals and Forces Broadcasting Service, 1940-1946), 46 Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

"Waltzing Matilda"

Mr M Stephenson's mention of "Waltzing Matilda" as an old marching song (SOLDIER, August) prompts me to quote a fragment I remember having read many years ago and which would place the tune as being older than the Napoleonic Wars. It goes like this:

"Once a Jolly Fuzileer marching out of Rochester,
Off to the War in the Low Country,
Sang as he marched . . .
Who'll come a soldiering with
Marlborough and me?"

The number of male State Registered

RSM for sale!

Readers of SOLDIER may be interested in the following advertisement which appeared in the *Kentish Express* of 10 July, 1964:

"For sale RSM. 4 spout 180 gallon RSM: overhauled: sand blasted: painted, new bearings, chains, sprockets, belts, agitator shaft, etc. Tel. Sutton Valence . . ."

—Lieut C J Pearson, The Queen's Own Buffs, Home Counties Bde Depot, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.

Male Nursing Officers

I have recently heard of a scheme in the United States whereby male officers of the Army Nurse Corps are trained for the wartime role of airborne nursing officers.

The number of male State Registered

Recently a unit of the Scottish North-Eastern Area, Army Cadet Force, affiliated to The Gordon Highlanders, applied to be named after a battle honour of the Regiment. This was granted and now the former Torry Platoon, 1st (City of Aberdeen) Battalion, has been redesignated Torry (El Alamein) Platoon. I wonder if this is the first ACF unit to be named after a battle honour of the "parent" regiment? —2/Lieut W P Paul, PRO, Scottish North-Eastern Area, ACF, 25 Holburn Street, Aberdeen.

Another first?

It is interesting to speculate as to whether he was a Fusilier of the 7th, 21st or 23rd as these, I think, were the only Fusilier regiments in existence as such before Marlborough's death in 1722. Perhaps a reader can supply the missing part of the verse.—C W Mann, 461 Malton Road, Yorks.

Nurses in this country exceeds that in the USA and it seems a pity that our military medical and nursing authorities have failed to give this scheme consideration. However, I do understand that the question of commissions for male SRNs is being considered by the Army Department, and this would seem to be an appropriate time to put forward the proposal of male airborne nursing officers.—S Armitage, City General Hospital, Sheffield 5, Yorks.

★ The Ministry of Defence (Army Department) has already approved the commissioning of male State Registered Nurses for duties in major military hospitals and this scheme may be extended to other medical units at a later date.

"Zulu"

In his letter on the 24th Foot at Rorke's Drift (SOLDIER, May), H N Peyton states that "no doubt at the time many recruits were obtained from Birmingham and district." He also suggests that the Regimental Colour of the period should be kept in Coventry Cathedral and not in Wales.

In 1873, despite the Warwickshire connection, the 24th Foot found themselves allotted to a brigade depot at Brecon, with the counties of Brecon, Cardigan and Monmouth. Thus the Regiment had six years of recruiting in Wales and Gwent before Rorke's Drift in 1879, and during this period saw considerable action both in India and Africa.

Though recruiting for the Regiment in Monmouthshire and Wales started seriously only in 1871, the majority of its awards have been won by Welshmen and men of Gwent; only one other regiment has won more Victoria Crosses than the 24th. The Colours and the glory should most certainly NOT go to Coventry or any other foreign part.—Pte J G Marshall, 1st Bn 24th Regiment, The South Wales Borderers, Stanley Fort, BFPO 1.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

The diversity of educational facilities in the United Kingdom offers opportunities for children of all abilities, but this variety can itself be confusing to parents. The Institute of Army Education provides a service of advice to serving Army parents on all matters relating to the education and future careers of children, especially those who suffer mental and physical handicaps, at home and overseas.

If you require advice you should apply through the Chief Education Officer to the Commandant, Institute of Army Education, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9. All enquiries are treated in confidence.

Borderline

I should like to point out that the picture accompanying the article on The Cheshire Regiment (SOLDIER, July) was, in fact, that of 2265764 Pte A Capstick, A Company, 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment. It was taken during Brigade Exercise "Diamond II" in the Jebel Attaka area south of Suez, in January/February, 1954. Other units in this exercise over the features "Razor Back Ridge" and "Cheddar Gorge" were 1 HLI and 1 East Surreys, with 1 Green Howards acting as the enemy.—Capt K B Slee, D Company, 4th Battalion, The Border Regiment (TA), Queen Katherine Street, Kendal.

★ Thank you, "Capt Slee and other readers. The picture was used as an expedient, there being none available of The Cheshire Regiment in this context.

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Information

I am collecting information for a biography of my grandfather, the late Lieut-Col F C Kilburn, RE, and wish to contact anyone who may have known or served with him.

Lieut-Col Kilburn enlisted in the Royal Engineers in 1884 as a boy telegraphist at the age of 13, stating that he was 14 in order to be accepted. In 1914 he brought the first contingent of Canadian troops to England and later served with them in France. He served in many campaigns including the Sudan and the South African War and retired about 1924. I should be very glad to hear from anyone who may have relevant information, documents or photographs.—Charles Anthony, 151 Lower Wear Road, Countess Wear, Exeter, Devon.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 24)

The two pictures vary in the following respects: 1 Position of walking soldier's arms. 2 Valve and finger nearest instrument mouthpiece. 3 Centre rung of chairback. 4 Tunic braid resting on right leg. 5 Oblong shape on tape-recorder. 6 Left boot laces. 7 Shin line of right trouser leg. 8 Right leg of music stand. 9 Front of tunic collar. 10 Window sill depth.

PUBS AND PAIRS

The entry for SOLDIER's Competition 75 (August) was disappointing—apparently the pairing of public house titles was too difficult for most readers. Winners were:

- 1 Pte A R Venters, QM's Branch, HQ 1 (Br) Corps, BFPO 39.
- 2 WO1 G A Gladman, 35 Central Wksp, REME, Old Dalby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.
- 3 Maj G R Howard-Vyse, HQ RSLMF, Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- 4 D. M. Crook, Wayside, Wilberfoss, E Yorks.
- 5 G E Brown, 7 Dene Road, Headington, Oxford.
- 6 S/Sgt Hoyland, 8 Int Pl (Corps), BFPO 39.

The word left over was "Swan." Correct pairings were:

Adam and Eve, Angel and Harp, Anvil and Blacksmith, Army and Navy, Bat and Ball, Block and Cleaver, Bottle and Glass, Bride and Groom, Bull and Bush, Cart and Horses, Cat and Fiddle, Cat and Kittens, Chaise and Pair, Coach and Horses, Cock and Bull, Crab and Lobster, Cradle and Coffin, Crown and Anchor, Crown and Cushion, Cupid and Bow, Darby and Joan, Dog and Partridge, Duck and Drake, Eagle and Child, Elephant and Castle, Ewe and Lamb, First and Last, Fox and Grapes, George and Dragon, Goat and Compasses, Hare and Hounds, Hen and Chickens, Horse and Groom, Horse and Jockey, Lion and Unicorn, Malt and Hops, Mare and Foal, Moon and Stars, Oak and Ivy, Parson and Clerk, Pig and Whistle, Plough and Harrow, Rose and Crown, Shepherd and Crook, Ship and Pilot, Slow and Easy, Smith and Forge, Sole and Heel, Stag and Hounds, Star and Garter, Sword and Buckler, Waggon and Horses, Well and Bucket.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

C W Goodridge, 3A Beckenham Grove, Shortlands, Kent.—Requires British campaign medals, Nazi Mauser bayonet and de-activated long Martini-Henry rifle. Interested all facets of military history.

A Pope, 1 Arne Close, Tonbridge, Kent.—Collects worldwide regimental cap badges, and for these will exchange military type Dinky toys.

M Fox, 1 North Street, Crookhall, Consett, Co Durham.—Collects beer-mats, exchanges welcome.



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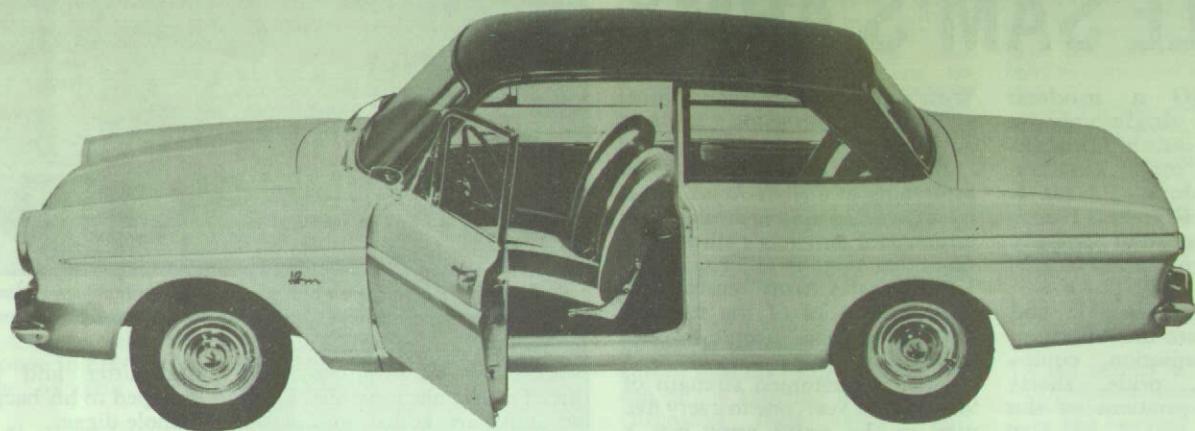
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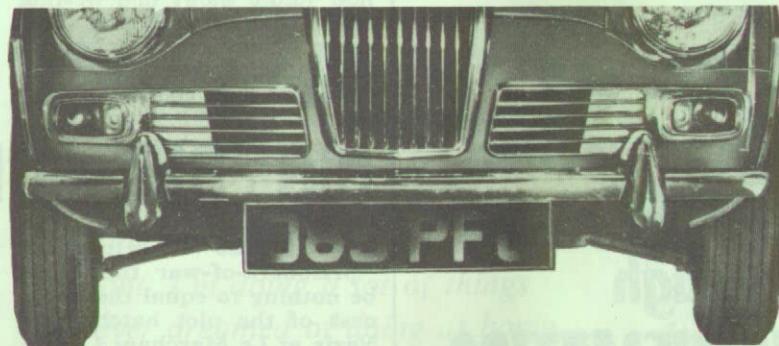
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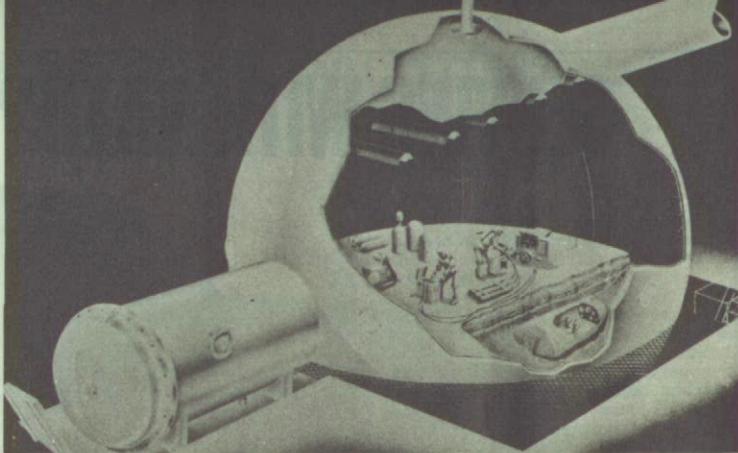
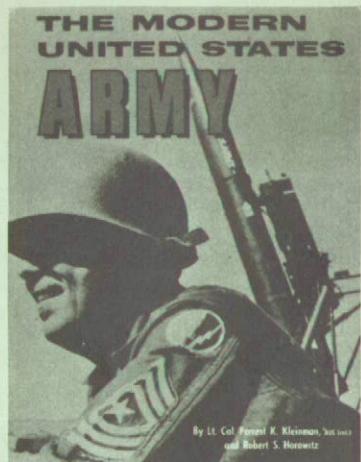
Here, in very readable and realistic terms, are the doctrines, problems, organisation, equipment, training, pride, shortcomings and aspirations of the

West's most powerful land force.

To those who soldier in more austere military vehicles, the United States Army appears to be something of a *Rolls-Royce* (or at least *Cadillac*) among armies. It is salutary for America's allies to be reminded that, as in Britain, the United States Army represents a far greater slice of the national cake than the people would lightly give up.

Of a programmed strength of 960,000 last year, one in every five men in the active army was a conscript and fewer than 40 per cent of active duty officers were members of the Regular Army. Behind the active army stood a reserve of more than two million, of whom 700,000 go to compulsory training every week.

The authors give a clear picture of the way in which this great army is organised. Of particular interest are the details of the new ROAD division (Reorganisation Objective Army Division), which has recently been devised to replace the Pentomic division with something more flexible. ROAD divisions have a common base, including artillery, armoured re-



An artist's conception of a moon environment simulator developed by US Army engineers to simulate probable conditions on the moon.

connaissance, and aircraft, and three brigade headquarters. Combat units are added to suit the division's assignment, the type of warfare it is fighting, the terrain and the enemy it faces.

The Signal Corps has about 250,000 different items of equipment, including an 18lb walkie talkie radio with 170 channels, and a 10lb radar set. Clocks in its units around the world are synchronised to one tick in five minutes.

In a peep into the near future, the authors mention a project for magnifying starlight or moonlight so that soldiers can see at night, an air-portable tank which can swim and mobile nuclear reactors (already developed) to reduce demands for fuel in the field. A picture of a soldier of the near future shows him wearing armoured vest and groin protector, thermal mask to deflect heat radiation from nuclear explosions, helmet containing radio

transmitter and receiver and, strapped to his back, an explosive foxhole digger.

For the 1980s, predictions include a tank with a turret which can be detached to make its own aerial reconnaissance; pipelines from Pittsburgh and Detroit to Amsterdam carrying packages of supplies instead of petroleum, and concentrated beams of light to be used as "death ray" weapons and for communications.

Meanwhile, a combat developments expert is quoted as saying that "nukes" may demand smaller and smaller weapons and even a tank may be too big and vulnerable for the field. A future battlefield would consist of one man against another man. They might have rocket-belts or other anti-gravity devices but no heavy stuff because speed and mobility would be their best protection.

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BIG BID FOR FREEDOM

IN all the literature of prisoners-of-war there can be nothing to equal the boldness of the plot hatched by Nazis at Le Marchant Camp, Devizes, in 1944.

They planned to overwhelm the guards, seize the camp's arms, take over Sherman tanks of an American division and Mosquito aircraft of a nearby Air Force station. With prisoners from other camps, they were then to march on London.

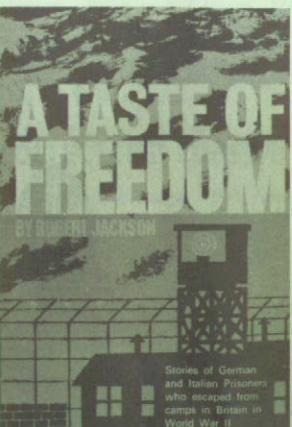
Nine prisoners broke out and made a reconnaissance. Suspicions were aroused when those not rounded up meekly sought readmission. This, and some careless talk, led to the ring-leaders being found and sent to Scotland with the camp interpreter, a non-Nazi warrant officer whom the plotters suspected of giving them away. He was brutally murdered and five of his killers were hanged.

This is one of the tales Robert Jackson recounts in "A Taste of Freedom," which is devoted to stories of Germans and Italians who escaped from camps in Britain in World War Two.

One of the best-known

escapers, the flamboyant airman, Franz von Werra, nearly succeeded in stealing an aircraft. Later he escaped from a camp in Canada, crossed into the United States (then still neutral), jumped bail and got away to Germany.

Less well known were two other pilots, Wappler and Schnabel, who stole a trainer aircraft near Carlisle and flew across Britain. They had too little petrol to cross the North Sea, landed in East Anglia and,



Stories of German and Italian Prisoners who escaped from camps in Britain in World War II

posing as Dutchmen, asked the Royal Air Force for fuel!

In the Vale of Glamorgan, 67 Germans got away through a tunnel. In the man-hunt which followed, a Canadian deserter shot his mistress and told the police she had been murdered by

two of the escapers.

This book is a tribute to those unsung soldiers who spent months and years guarding prisoners-of-war. It must have been a boring and nerve-racking existence.

Barker, 21s.

R L E

GHOSTS AND GALLANTRY

WORLD WAR ONE yielded more in the way of folklore than any other war, and this makes a rich vein for Arch Whitehouse in his "Epics and Legends of the First World War."

Some legends seem astonish-



A hero of World War One, Sgt Alvin York, who gained British, French and American awards for gallantry.

ingly naive today—the angel leading the Coldstream Guards to safety at Mons; the ghostly piper who headed the Black Watch attack on Polygon Wood; the equally ghostly soccer player who set the East Surreys dribbling a ball across no-man's land at Amiens in 1918.

The author paints a broad picture of some of the British

THEIR NAME LIVETH

Descriptions and photographs of more than 80 war cemeteries and memorials in Belgium and France are contained in the latest parts (II and III) of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's series "Their Name Liveth." These are the second and third of the series to be published this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War One.

Though some World War Two cemeteries are included, the majority

represent such phases of World War One as Mons, the Marne, Loos, the Somme and Ypres.

There are more than 2000 cemeteries in Belgium and France devoted entirely or mainly to the missing generation of 1914-1918, and the excellent photographs of those described here show the care lavished upon them by the Commission.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 32 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, 5s 7d (Part II) and 5s 9d (Part III) including postage.

D H C

RIFLE WITH AN OVAL BORE

IN the middle of last century, the British Army gave up the smooth-bore musket which had served it so well, and the rifle ceased to be the exclusive mark of elite regiments.

The change-over provides a rich field for collectors of historic weapons, and it is mainly to them that Dr C H Roads's "The British Soldier's Firearm, 1850-1864" will appeal. This work is mainly technical and illustrated with 360 photographs and many drawings.

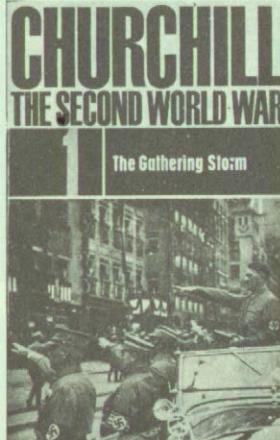
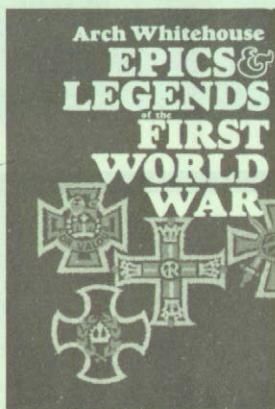
A strong contender for the Army's favour was a rifle with an oval bore. It had an increasing spiral and the bore was smaller at the muzzle than at the breech. It outshone its rivals for accuracy when new, but its performance deteriorated rapidly with wear, and conventional grooves won the day.

However, the inventor supplied oval-bored carbines to the Devon Volunteer Rifle Corps and got a consolation prize in a substantial order for carbines for the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners.

Herbert Jenkins, 70s.

R L E

R L E



WORLD WAR TWO

AT long last the first complete and unabridged paperback edition of Sir Winston Churchill's classic memoirs, "The History of the Second World War," has appeared in 12 volumes, with a total 3692 pages of text, 200 photographs and several maps.

The volumes are: 1 "The Gathering Storm"; 2 "The Twilight War"; 3 "The Fall of France"; 4 "The Commonwealth Alone"; 5 "Germany Drives East"; 6 "War Comes to America"; 7 "The Onslaught of Japan"; 8 "Victory in Africa"; 9 "The Invasion of Italy"; 10 "Assault from the Air"; 11 "The Tide of Victory"; 12 "Triumph and Tragedy."

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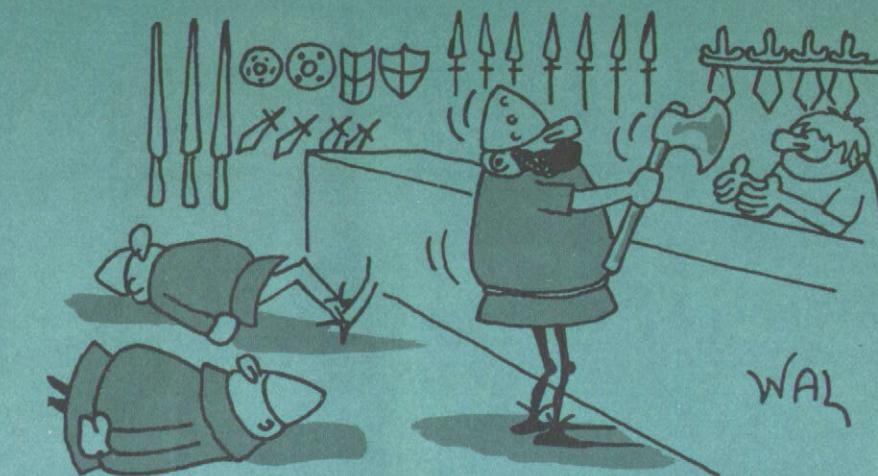
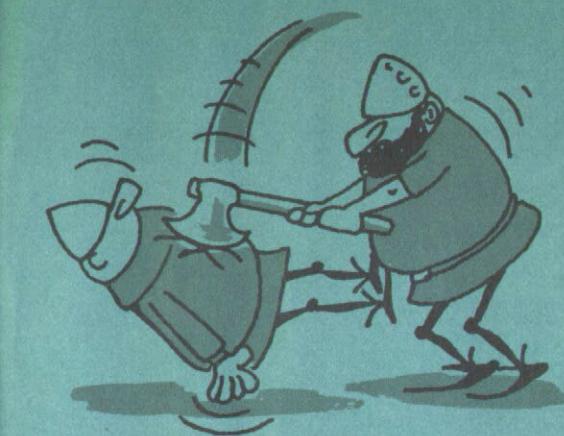
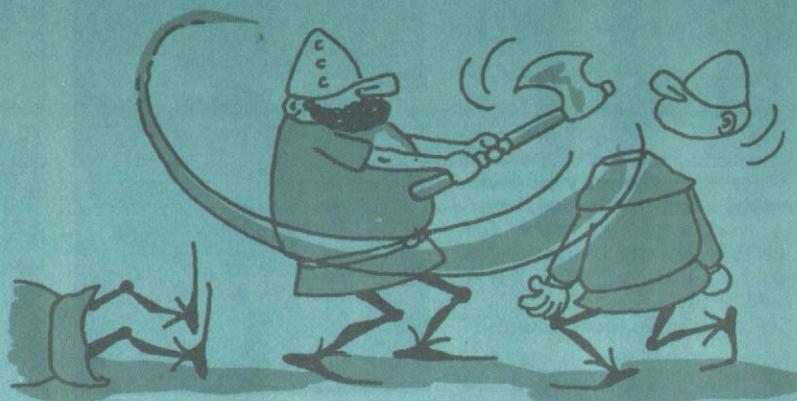
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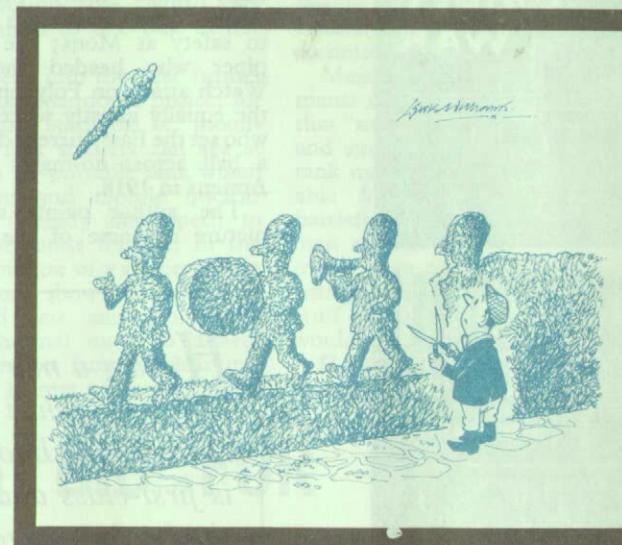
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"... I'll take that one!"



"Phew!! What I wouldn't give for a good hot bath right now!"

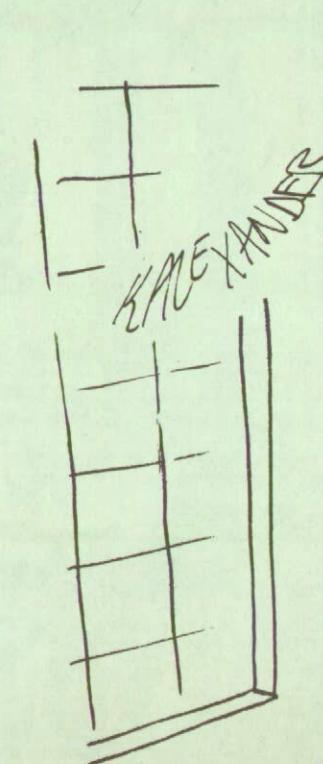
"Squeeze the trigger, lad - don't pull it!"



"I've said I'm sorry!"



"Do you come here often?"



"How many teeth did you say you have, General?"

SOLDIER



JOEY HEATHERTON

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