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SOLDIER



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Editor: PETER N WOOD
 Deputy Editor: GEORGE HOGAN
 Feature Writer: HUGH HOWTON
 Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH
 Research: JOHN JESSE
 Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS
 Photographers: ARTHUR BLUNDELL
 TREVOR JONES

Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD
 Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD

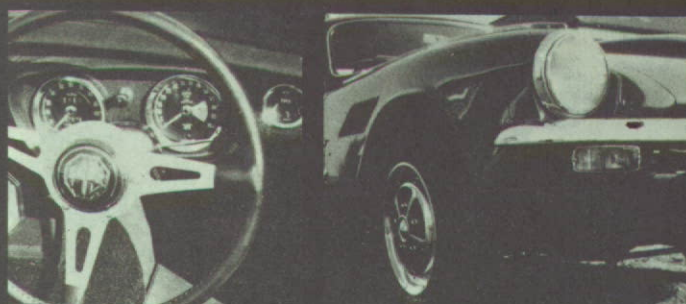
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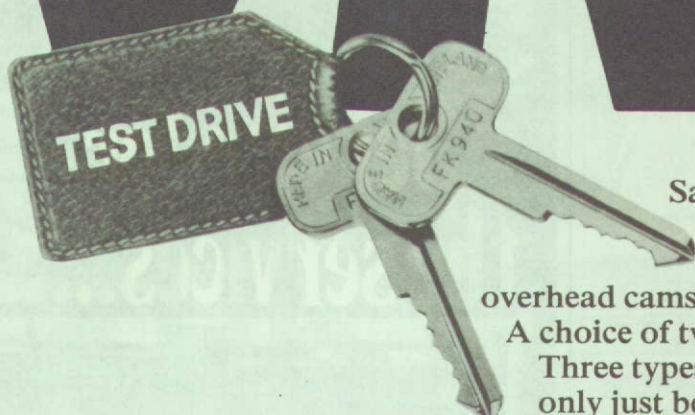
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See-the-Army DIARY

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

Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in *italics*.

FEBRUARY 1970

- 14 1 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, centenary, Colchester (14-15 February).
- 18 Festival of Military Music, Antwerp.

MARCH 1970

- 23 25th anniversary of Rhine Crossing—1st Airborne Division pilgrimage.

APRIL 1970

- 21 British National Day, Osaka World Expo (or 23 April).
- 25 Kneller Hall Band concert, Royal Albert Hall, London (for Army Benevolent Fund).

MAY 1970

- 8 25th anniversary VE Day.

JUNE 1970

- 5 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (5-6 June).
- 13 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 19 Bexley Tattoo (19-21 June).
- 20 Aldershot Army Display (20-21 June).
- 27 Army recruiting display, Cardiff (27-28 June).
- 27 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (for Army Benevolent Fund).

JULY 1970

- 4 Army recruiting display, Swansea (4-5 July).
- 4 School of Artillery Open Day, Manorbier.
- 11 Army Display, Nottingham (11-13 July).
- 15 Royal Tournament, Earl's Court (15 July-1 August).
- 18 Royal Artillery Larkhill Day.

AUGUST 1970

- 5 Colchester Tattoo (5-8 August).
- 24 Command exhibition, Birmingham (24-29 August).



SERVICES

JOBFINDER

SEE ALSO PAGES -

8, 10, 32, 33, 36, 38, 39, 40, 42 & 44.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Book the date. Saturday, 27 June 1970. Note the place—Wembley Stadium. The event is the military musical pageant in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

And on parade will be more than a thousand Army musicians. There will be seats at 30s, 20s, 16s, 10s and 6s with party rates (for 20 plus) of 26s, 18s, 14s and 8s. Book the date and start saving up for the evening of the year!

★
In the first ten months of this year, 110 recruits have been enlisted in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve in the Greater London area—the highest recruiting figures in London for ten years. Some units are now recruited to more than 100 per cent although there are still shortages in some corps.

The new TAVR can take heart from the knowledge that despite the re-organisations of the last few years and the overall reduction from the old Territorial Army, the Reserve Forces still hold their attraction.

★
Yet another rationalisation of the three Services will come into being in February with the opening of the Services Booking Centre at King's Building, Dean Stanley Street, Westminster. The Centre will be the one organisation arranging the normal movement by sea and air from the United Kingdom of all Service personnel and sponsored civilians.

The Services Booking Centre will be staffed by the present members of the three individual booking organisations. The Navy, Army and Air Force will work side by side and will readily be able to offer places to each other to achieve a saving in movement capacity by, for example, filling the aircraft seats which at present inevitably fall empty.

At the moment the Joint Services Continental Booking Centre handles bookings of the three Services and central staff to Rhine Army and Berlin and all other Army bookings. The naval movements branch looks after the movement of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines while the Royal Air Force movements branch deals with its own personnel worldwide plus central staff to theatres other than Rhine Army.

In the early stages the separate Services will continue to use their own procedures but these will give way to standardised booking.

The "customer" will see only a change of address and later of booking forms, but it is perhaps not too much to hope that this streamlining will be extended to the "pipeline."

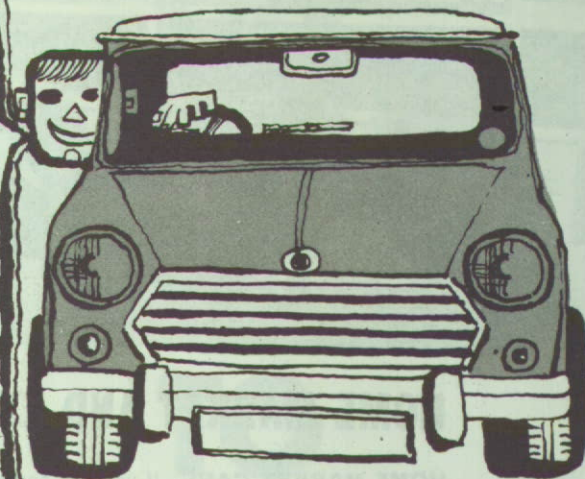
Military flying, cannot compete in luxury and convenience with civilian airlines but there are surely ways in which it can be made less of a chore. A new RAF passenger terminal is being built at Brize Norton and another in London for charter flights to Germany.

The latter will particularly be appreciated by those who have been dumped by coach from Luton somewhere in the bowels of the new Euston station between the Post Office van bays and the taxis' underground access road!

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MILITARY MASCOTS



THEY wear uniform and have won medals; they make first-class sentries and morale boosters; they have remained cool under fire yet attacked the enemy with tooth and claw.

"They" have been dogs, cats, goats, rams, antelopes, bears, ponies, cows, geese, lions, tigers, elephants and even snakes.

Military mascots are a long established tradition, having served with the army, navy and air force of all countries right down the centuries. From next month a new series in SOLDIER will feature the mascots of the British Army.

The oldest story is from Roman legend, of cackling geese which in 390 BC warned the defenders of the capitol that an assault force of Gauls was approaching. The earliest mascot in the British Army is believed to be the goat of The Royal Welch Fusiliers which was present at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775 during the American War of Independence.

At present the British Army has seven official mascots: the antelope of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, goat of The Royal Welch Fusiliers, another goat of The Royal Regiment of Wales, ram of The Sherwood Foresters, Irish wolfhound of the Irish Guards, Shetland pony of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and another Shetland pony in The Parachute Regiment.

These seven mascots have official recognition as regimental baggage—thus they are entitled to the "storage space" of a kennel, hut or stable. They are not on ration strength so their food cannot be paid for out of public funds. While in transit through the United Kingdom and abroad they are quarantined with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

Some mascots have been dignified by almost human status. For example, the Derby ram of 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, has the rank of private and his own pay book, and when Derby XX died in 1966 flags were flown at half-mast in the battalion's barracks in Germany. Yet not all mascots are animate. One junior tradesmen's regiment has adopted a Rolls-Royce.

Some prefer beauty to the beast. Soldiers and sailors have elected "official" pin-ups with names like "The girl most likely to . . ." and "The girl I would most like to be alone with."

Petting and pampering is a privilege of office. Rudolph, a pink-nosed white rabbit belonging to a battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces had his coat combed and brushed daily, his bedding changed every night and owned a red velvet coat with his name embroidered on it in gold. But mascots have provided material comforts for soldiers too. Two stranded cows adopted by 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, in Flanders in 1914 provided their rescuers with fresh milk every day out of gratitude. During the Crimean War some frozen Russian soldiers buttoned kittens inside their coats to keep warm.

One mascot actually made a kill. He was Crib, a bull terrier who fought with The Buffs in the Peninsular War. He ventured into no man's land and dispatched an enemy French poodle in paw-to-paw combat.

Another terrier called Bobby distinguished himself when serving with the 66th Foot (later the Royal Berkshire Regiment) in the Second Afghan War. He rallied remnants of his regiment with his "up-and-at-'em" bark and went into action biting the enemy. Wounded and returned to England, this 'hero' was awarded the Afghan medal by Queen Victoria.

Sometimes too they have disgraced themselves. The Welch Regiment has had goats which have munched the adjutant's pyjamas, devoured a subaltern's identity card and chewed up the regimental sergeant-major's pace stick. Then of course in other regiments there are their horned counterparts notorious for their penchant for tightly-stretched trousers.

One mascot even retained his partiality for the military after retirement. Rawly, a Fourth Army wild boar named after General Rawlinson, would graciously bend towards anyone in khaki who came to see him in London Zoo.

Even after death the mascot's memory has lingered on. When Bobby, the terror terrier of the Afghans, died, he was stuffed and given a permanent place of honour in the Berkshires' barracks. And hoofs of the two Scots Guards' cows were made into snuff boxes.

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F4

Captain Story, now 29, left Welbeck in 1956, and was commissioned in the Royal Signals after two years at Sandhurst. The Army then sent him to Cambridge where he gained 2nd Class Honours in Mechanical Sciences. Since then he has commanded a High Frequency Radio Troop, and served with the 4th Guards Brigade in Germany. His estimate of what Welbeck did for him is borne out by the figures: each year as many as 66% of ex-Welbeck boys go on from Sandhurst to read for a degree. A remarkable achievement.

Welbeck College was started, in 1953, to give boys precisely what it gave Christopher Story, a Science Sixth education, and a guaranteed place at Sandhurst for the successful – the best possible start towards becoming an Officer in one of the technical Corps of the Army. This excellent preparation for a great career costs parents comparatively little, and in some cases (according to means) nothing.

Applications for entry in September 1970 must be in by 10th January 1970. Boys born between 1st July 1953 and 1st December 1954 are eligible. They should be up to 'O' level standard (or equivalent) in Maths, a Science which includes Physics, English Language and some other subjects, of which Chemistry and a foreign language are desirable.

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INTRODUCING FOX

A NEW combat reconnaissance vehicle—aptly named the Fox—is to come into service with the British Army in the early 1970s.

At present it is under development at the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment. It has been made by Daimler of Coventry in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence and FVRDE.

Fox is a successor to the Ferret scout car but is capable of undertaking some roles which previously required larger and heavier vehicles. The Ferret, and the Saladin and Saracen, will however "continue well into the late '70s." Fox is one of a new family of aluminium alloy combat vehicles, which includes the tracked Scorpion.

Apart from armed reconnaissance, Fox can be adapted for liaison use with the infantry, artillery, sappers and other arms. For its main role it is equipped with a 30mm cannon, a 7.62mm general-purpose machine-gun, smoke dischargers, three

9mm sub-machine-guns, hand grenades and comprehensive sighting and vision instruments. It is very manoeuvrable and, with a high power/weight ratio, has excellent cross-country characteristics. It can negotiate three feet of water without preparations and is supplied with flotation equipment for swimming under its own power.

The power unit is a militarised version of the 4.2 litre Jaguar engine. It develops 195 brake horse power at 5000 revolutions per minute. Being in commercial production, spares are readily available. The engine can be withdrawn as a complete unit for ease of maintenance.

Fox is designed to operate in temperatures from 50 to minus 40 degrees centigrade. It is airportable. Three can be carried in a Hercules aircraft and, using a lightweight platform and special parachute equipment, two per aircraft can be parachuted.

Protection: The hull and turret are of

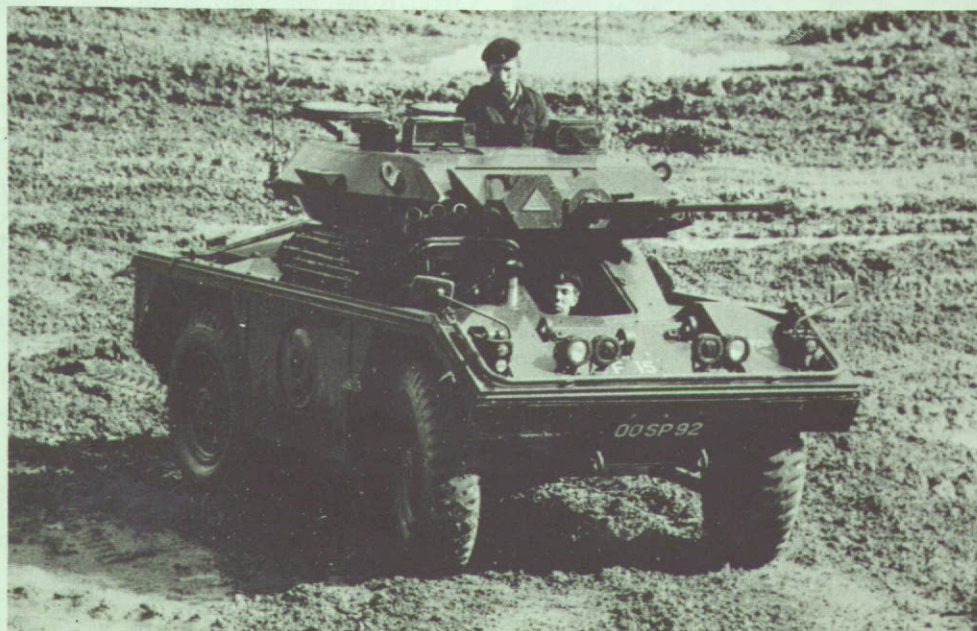
aluminium alloy which protects the three-man crew against medium and heavy machine-gun fire, from ground burst or air burst shell splinters, and minimises injury from anti-tank mines.

Armament: The Rarden 30mm cannon will destroy any known or foreseen light armoured fighting vehicle from a range of more than 1000 metres and, loaded with improved ammunition now being developed, is expected to be able to penetrate heavy armour. It has an elevation from plus 40 to minus 14 degrees. With such high elevation it can even deal effectively with low-speed aircraft.

Amphibious operation: The flotation screen, which can be fitted by the crew in 69 seconds, is high enough for entry and exit on 35-degree banks. There is a built-in bilge pump of 45 gallons a minute capacity. Propulsion and steering are by means of the road wheels and a water speed of 3½ miles an hour can be attained.

Crew: Driver, gunner/operator and commander/loader. All controls and ancillary equipment are arranged to allow for reach of one man, if necessary.

Optional equipment: Choice of radios, ZB 298 radar, a Sperry navigator, warning systems for nuclear and bacteriological warfare with respirator pressurisation units for each crewman, infra-red sight, periscopes and spotlight.



Fox has a Daimler pre-selective epicyclic five-speed gearbox and a transfer box providing five forward and five reverse speeds on all wheels.

FROM THE SQUARE TO THE RING

THE voice that once galvanized squaddies on the square now sends a thrill of delight through boys and girls round the ring.

For the stentorian tones of ex-Regimental Sergeant-Major Herbert Barden herald "The Greatest Show on Earth"—Billy Smart's Circus.

It was in 1965, after 28 years' service, that he packed up his kitbag and left the Army, dismayed at the abolition of "bull" and short haircuts. "The circus, like the Army, needs discipline," is his comment on the exchange of a pace-stick for a ringmaster's whip.

So RSM Herbert Barden became "Major" Dick Barton—the circus has a penchant for stage-names and precedent for self-promotion (George Sanger dubbed himself "Lord"). The new ringmaster, who changed from sombre khaki to a tailcoat of scarlet and sequins, lent the circus the dignity of military bearing, the courtesy of the doffed top hat and the efficiency of the military mind.

He is addressed as "Ringmaster" or "Mr Barton" by the circus staff and keeps everything in good order and military discipline. Before each performance he "falls in" the artistes to see that they are all present, and checks the safety net, wiring and rigging and the security of the tigers' cage. He draws up contracts for workmen like tent peggers which state that they "must be a credit to the circus, both in dress and behaviour." For breaches of discipline he puts them on report before the directors.

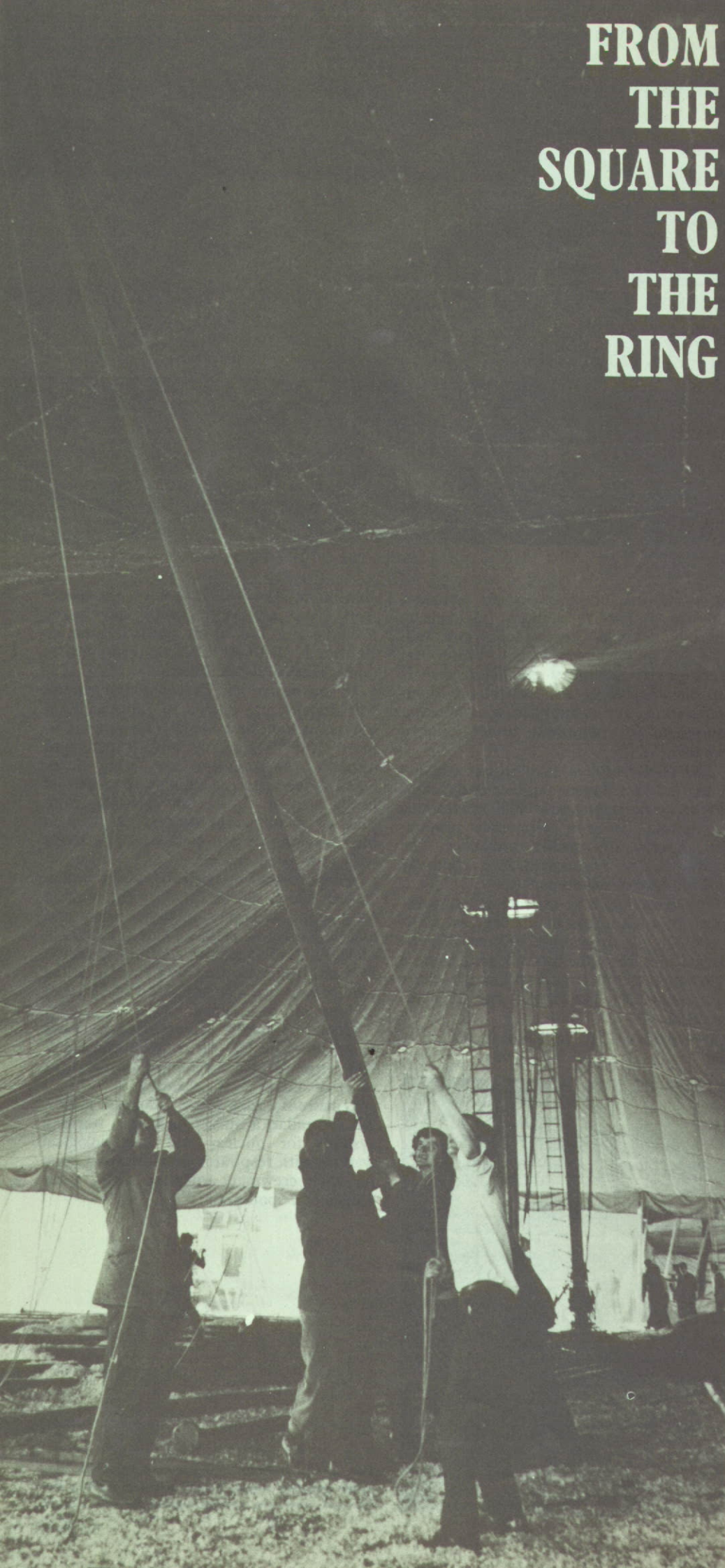
An act performing in the ring is directly under his command. He is able to foresee mishaps and intervenes to prevent them. "As ringmaster I am in charge of the show," he explained. "I have to see that the artistes do their act as contracted and do not lengthen or shorten it unless I say so."

Like the Army, circus is distinguished by a "do-or-die" spirit. Mr Barden has known trapeze artistes perform with sprained wrists, a lion tamer who was mauled yet carried on, and has himself put on a brave smile in the ring, later to discover that he had pneumonia.

Is circus a job for the Services' resettlement book? "Ex-soldiers are just the men we want," says Mr Barden. "They are smart. Keen. Not afraid of discipline. Circus is like the Army, clean, neat, well-painted. And done and dusted daily."

It was just 200 years ago that another ex-sergeant-major, Philip Astley of the 15th Dragoons, put on the first-ever ring circus. He started a riding school with a white charger given him by his commanding officer, but found displays of trick riding more profitable and took on a clown and other artistes. Business expanded and he opened a vast indoor arena in London called Astley's Royal Amphitheatre of Arts. The programme included "Great Military and Equestrian Dramas" the greatest of which was a colossal reconstruction in 1825 of Waterloo.

One of Astley's descendants is Toto the clown who performs with Billy Smart's circus. Toto—real name Maurice Yelding—was once a top bare-back rider but gave it up "when I became too old." He is an ex-Army man too, having served in The King's Shropshire Light Infantry, The Durham Light Infantry and Royal Engin-





Above: The voice that rivalled the blast of a 25-pounder now reverberates round the big top. Former gunner RSM Barden has been known to playgoers in Salisbury as Blore in "The Ten Little Niggers," to club audiences in Southampton as comedian Dick Comet and to circus fans as Hobo the clown. His theatrical talents came in useful when he escaped from Stalag 16 in Bavaria. He was dressed as a girl (with a pair of socks providing the feminine figure). He and his Anzac travelling companion were away for 19 days but were offered "hospitality" by two farm workers who gave them up.



Right: Christine, lithe and lovely, on the *corde lisse*. Granddaughter of Billy Smart, she began training for circus at the tender age of three.

Left: The big top goes up with military precision. It takes 60 men just six hours. The big top at Billy Smart's, which accommodates 6000, has more than 6000 square yards of canvas, 15,500 feet of rope and 256 poles. "I thought I had seen the last of bivouacs on Army exercises," said Ringmaster Herbert Barden, "but we have the largest big top in Europe."

Below: Spreading sawdust under the big top for a show on Clapham Common.





Above: Captain Phayre was in the cavalry when they converted from horses to tanks and some officers ordered left-turn with "Pull in left rein!" He escaped Germans in Greece by swimming to assault craft and had mention-in-dispatches.



Left: His sparrow's kneecaps earned Sgt Wardell the nickname "Spuggy." Enlisting at 17½, he was soon promoted. "I was as green as grass but I had to take some old sweats out to Suez," he said. "We patrolled the pipeline at Port Taufiq." Today he delights children with an outsize collar flicking up into his face and a burlesque of Batman. Now, as a chief Auguste clown he wields an extra large shillelagh as a mark of his seniority.



Above: Former RASC sergeant John Blake thinks circus is more free and easy than the Army—"If you don't feel like wearing a tie you don't wear one." Below: 18-stone electrician Slim Cree was a lance-corporal in Royal Army Ordnance Corps,

eers from 1939 to 1946. But Toto, a diminutive five feet two inches in WD socks, confessed that he had been "a bit of a clown in the Army."

He recalled with a chuckle: "My first uniform was far too big and when I went on guard I had to grip my rifle through the sleeve. What with that and having one pouch high up and another low down, the duty officer put his hands over his eyes and said, 'You can't put that man on guard.'"

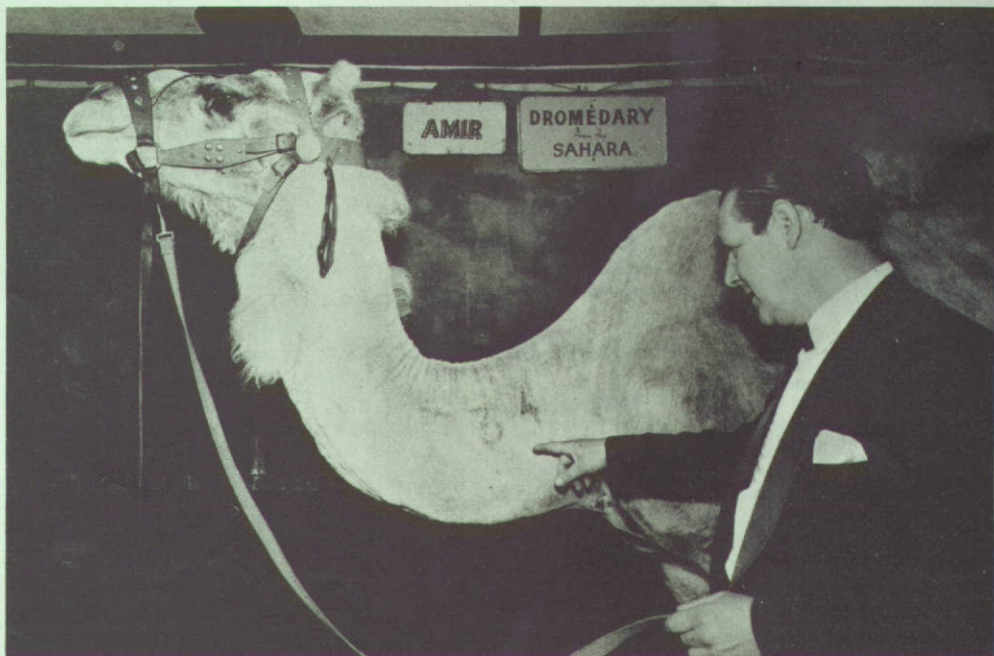
Toto, whose circus costume includes 18-inch boots, was always putting his foot in it. Like the time he upset the paymaster's table on pay parade, and the day a wad of forged leave passes fell out of his wallet—"Lucky the redcaps didn't find them on me."

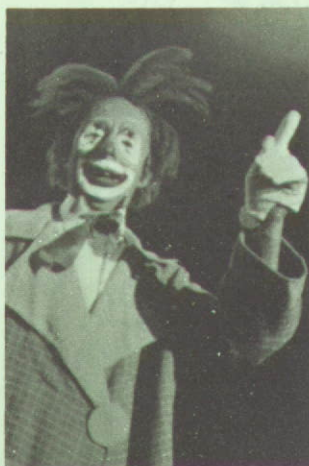
But Toto, whose naturally comic features include a punch-like nose and squeezed-lemon face, had a deadly serious job in the Army—mine detecting. Once, with his dog Ricky sniffing out mines at the end of his lead in Nederweert, Holland,

there was an explosion behind them. Another soldier had trodden on a mine and had his leg blown off. Despite a two-inch gash over his ear, Ricky led his master to safety past 17 other unmarked mines. Sapper Yelding and some fellow soldiers went back to rescue the injured man. "Ricky was absolutely fantastic but I was frightened to death," said Mr Yelding. Ricky, who had five stitches in his wound, was later awarded the Dickin Medal.

Fellow clown Spuggy, alias Sergeant Charles Wardell, an ex-Regular, got his nickname in the Army. "Spuggy" is a north country term for a sparrow and Sergeant Wardell had spindly legs sticking out of his generous shorts. He served in 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, commanding a security platoon round Government House, Singapore, during moslem riots and leading recce patrols in the jungle for weeks at a time. As a senior Auguste clown (the slapstick ones with ladders and water-buckets) he carries an outsize shillelagh tucked under his arm,

Below: Dromedary from French Foreign Legion. Stablemaster Ares de Wit points out the brand. Dutch Resistance man Wit escaped German train and joined circus train across the platform in 1944.





BACK COVER

Portrait of a clown, Toto, of Billy Smart's Circus, brings colour and tradition to SOLDIER's December issue.

Picture by TREVOR JONES.

sergeant-major fashion, as a mark of office.

It may seem exotic, this life beneath the Big Top with the sparkle of sequins, trumpeting of elephants and musty tang of sawdust. But many key jobs in Billy Smart's are held by former soldiers. There is the general manager, Leonard Phayre, ex-Regular captain in the Royal Tank Corps, who publishes staff instructions like part one and two Army orders. "Circus is big business. It costs us £1500 a day to run," he said, puffing a plump Havana cigar.

Head doorman Sid Wilkinson was also a Regular in the Royal Tank Corps but wears Royal Signals buttons on his commissionaire's uniform—"Actually it came from the tailor's like that. I suppose I ought to take the buttons down as they are illegal."

Chief electrician is William Cree, a former three-year Regular in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. He weighs 18 stones and is known as "Slim." Maintenance man "Geordie" George Hepple, ex-Royal Artillery and Highland Light Infantry, says you need three qualifications to be in circus—"a sense of humour, a raincoat and a pair of wellington boots."

Security officer Robert Campbell, a one-time bombardier, was once clawed on the ankle by a leopard when checking the cage and thrown up in the air by a baby elephant when adjusting a chain on its leg.

But the man with a really hair-raising job is Dave Anderson, South African Army parachutist turned trapeze artiste. "I don't worry when I drop from a plane over 1000 feet up as I feel I have so much time to play with," he said. "But you feel insecure between 20 and 40 feet and I have butterflies in my stomach in every show."

Box office manager John Blake, who joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1920, is about the oldest soldier. His comment: "Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I would be tied up with circus."

Yes, even the dromedaries are ex-Army. They came from the French Foreign Legion.

Story by Hugh Howton

By Permission of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor.

THE LAST WEEK BUT ONE OF Ducrow's Royal Amphitheatre.



THIS PRESENT

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday,
October 26, 27, and 28, 1829,

Will be brought forward a new Grand Equestrian Entertainment, wherein Mr. DUCROW will appear Three Times in some Classical Scenes not yet performed in this City, commencing with a Splendid Allegorical Cavalcade, in which the Stud will appear mounted by the ideal Representatives of all Countries—called

The Union of the Nations,

The Personages splendidly attired, the Steeds harnessed and bedecked in a costly style, and replete with Character.

After which, first time, The

Young Lancer and his Charger,

BY MASTER BROWN.

To be followed by a Mimic Equestrian Scene, executed by THE INFANT EQUESTRIAN PRODIGY, and arranged expressly for her, called THE

Countess of Lilliput.

Likewise, first time here, a New Comic Extravaganza, by the Equestrian and Aspirants of the Troup, called

My Grandmother on Horseback.

After which, for the first Time, Mr. DUCROW'S Classical Exercise of

THE ROMAN

Gladiator,

In the Performance of which he will display a Series of those beautiful Attitudes which have served as Copies for modern Artists, the major part of which, from the Master-Pieces of Grecian Art, and in every Portfolio, and will be immediately recognised. The whole Exercise for Attack and Defence will be comprised as was in Use among the ancient Greek and Roman Lictors and Gladiators. Also, for the first time, Mr. D. will represent

**The FLIGHT of
MERCURY**

A Copy of that Masterpiece of JOHN of BOLOGNE, supposed to have been cast by him in Bronze (and which is now in the Gallery of Florence), such, the Figure found among the Ruins of the Villa Hadrian, at Rome.—To be followed by

Exercises upon a Single Horse,

BY THE GERMAN LUFTSPRINGER.

Who will, among other Tricks, display much Dexterity with the Brass Balls, tossing them in sundry Devices, the Horse at full gallop.—In continuation

MR. DUCROW IN THE CHARACTER OF A

GREEK SOLDIER,

Will bring forward, first time, his favourite PACK HORSE, which he instructs in the Companionable Qualities recorded of the Steeds used by the Greeks, and Albanians in Mountain Warfare, and Predatory Expeditions.

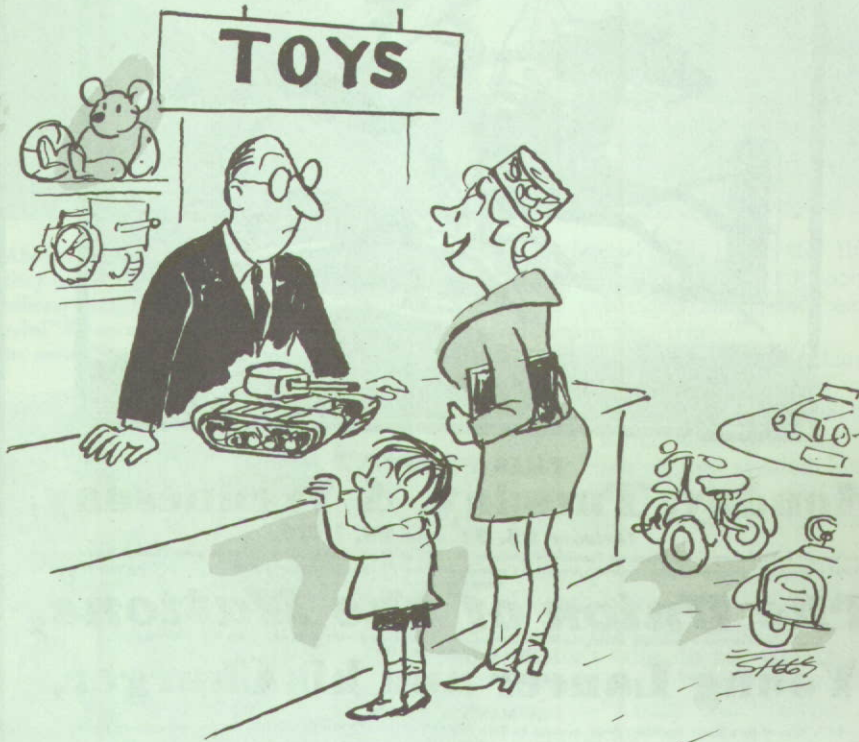
BY DESIRE OF SOME FAMILIES, FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF THE YOUNGER BRANCHES,
THE DIMINUTIVE AND ASTONISHING

FAIRY HORSES,

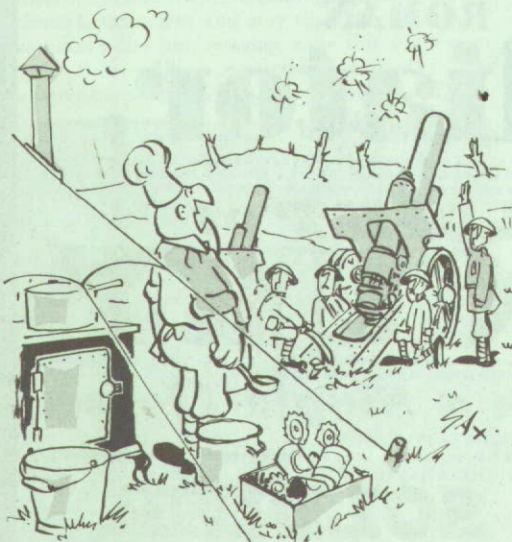
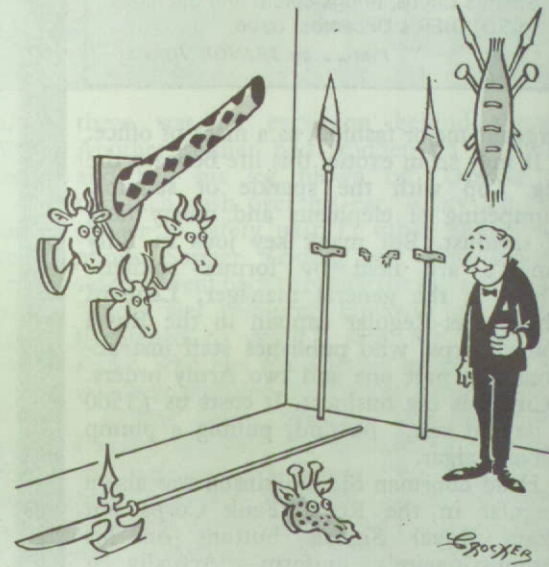
Will, among other stunts, perform a

Fading poster of the past. Ducrow, a famous horseman, took over Astley's amphitheatre in 1830 giving military/equestrian melodramas. (Courtesy Circus Fans Association Great Britain.)

Christmas HUMOUR



"Have you anything cheaper? He only wants it for manoeuvres."

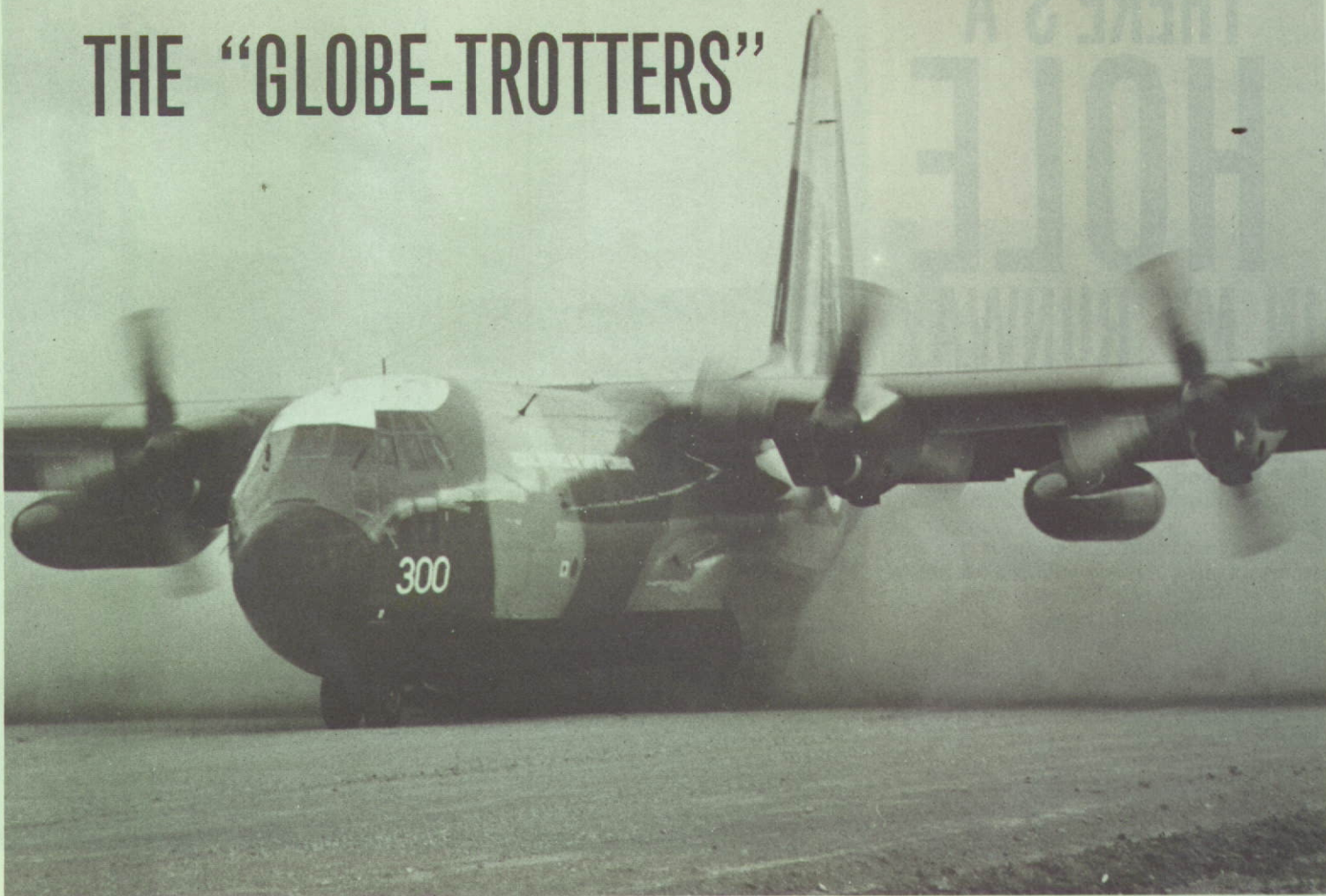


"Not now—I've got a cake in the oven!"



"Damn it! Foiled by a drop-leaf table!"

THE "GLOBE-TROTTERS"



THEY are among the first to fly in when trouble threatens. They are needed to keep the channels of communication open. They claim to be the most travelled regiment in the British Army. They have seen all overseas stations from Aden to Zambia, from the Caribbean to Berlin, serving in 31 countries in the past seven years.

The 30th Signal Regiment, Royal Corps of Signals, stationed at Blandford, Dorset, is part of Strategic Command. It moves detachments in support of units of the

command in emergencies and on exercises and moves them quickly. It sent 50 men to Northern Ireland in the first 72 hours of the crisis there.

It also has permanent commitments overseas. Two officers and 60 signalmen with the United Nations force in Cyprus are unaccompanied by their wives and change over every six months. Other detachments have tasks in Gibraltar and Anguilla. Although The Parachute Regiment has left Anguilla the Royal Engineers are still there and 30 Signal Regiment

keeps the telephone and radio links working.

At Blandford a spearhead detachment with radio stations mounted in Land-Rovers stands by for any quick move. The men are fully trained in handling messages, driving, radio and teleprinter operating.

For exercises alone they have this year been to Cyprus, Canada, Norway, Holland, Denmark, Germany, France, Greece and Libya. They have been called the "Globe-Trotters" but they understand that if they "train hard" today they can "fight easy" when the necessity arises.

One more task. Troops of 30 Signal Regiment arrive in Anguilla in a Hercules transport aircraft of Royal Air Force Air Support Command.

Signalman Wilfred Lyons of Newcastle-on-Tyne adjusts the antenna on a spearhead (stand-by) vehicle. He is a driver/operator and a parachutist.

Corporal Michael Kynaston and Signalman David Bartlett make ready their communications set in the back of a vehicle. Both are ex-boy soldiers.



THERE'S A HOLE IN MY RUNWAY

THE Israeli Air Force's success in destroying Egyptian airfields with special "dibber" bombs in 1967 has caused a major re-think in the techniques of rapid runway repairs.

British and NATO engineer officers were told this when they attended feasibility trials at Waterbeach Barracks, near Cambridge, run by 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields) in co-operation with MEEXE (Military Engineering Experimental Establishment).

Conventional methods of repairing bomb craters in a runway were no longer satisfactory, they were shown. Two craters—each 38 feet across and 11 feet deep (simulating the damage caused by a 500-1000 pound bomb)—were cleared up,



Above: Hydraulic excavator removes soil from a flooded crater. Below: Cyclopean fragments of broken concrete are lifted out in a tractor's bucket. Above right: Crushed granite ballast is nosed into a deep crater by a bulldozer blade.



filled and surfaced within six hours by a field squadron (airfields). However, the surface of bitumen "blinded" with stone chippings was still too soft 20 hours later. An aircraft wheel, loaded to simulate the weight of a Lightning jet plane, caused a deep rut when rolled across it.

By the use of on-site plant and stockpiles of material, clearing and filling had been reduced to a minimum time. The problem now was to find a quick way of making the final surface. Four new methods were demonstrated:

Epoxy resin mixed with alag (blast furnace ash); American AM2 mat (aluminium alloy planks fitted together, and secured at either end by ramps bolted into the concrete); Class 60 tank access trackway (corrugated aluminium alloy sheets rolled out like a carpet); and Barpak (rapid-hardening cement applied by spray gun).

The resin-ash surface did not prove successful. It set hard in ten minutes but the Lightning wheel rutted it. This method was still in an experimental stage. A sapper officer said he believed it would be suitable when the optimum mixture of resin and ash was reached, it could be laid to a sufficient depth and a suitable means of application was found (during the trials it was laid with rakes).

An advantage of the AM 2 mat was that it had been proved in the United States and Vietnam. But it was expensive, costing about £30 a square yard, and was two inches thick with ramps at either end. "Not all aircraft may be able to accept this," pointed out the sapper officer.

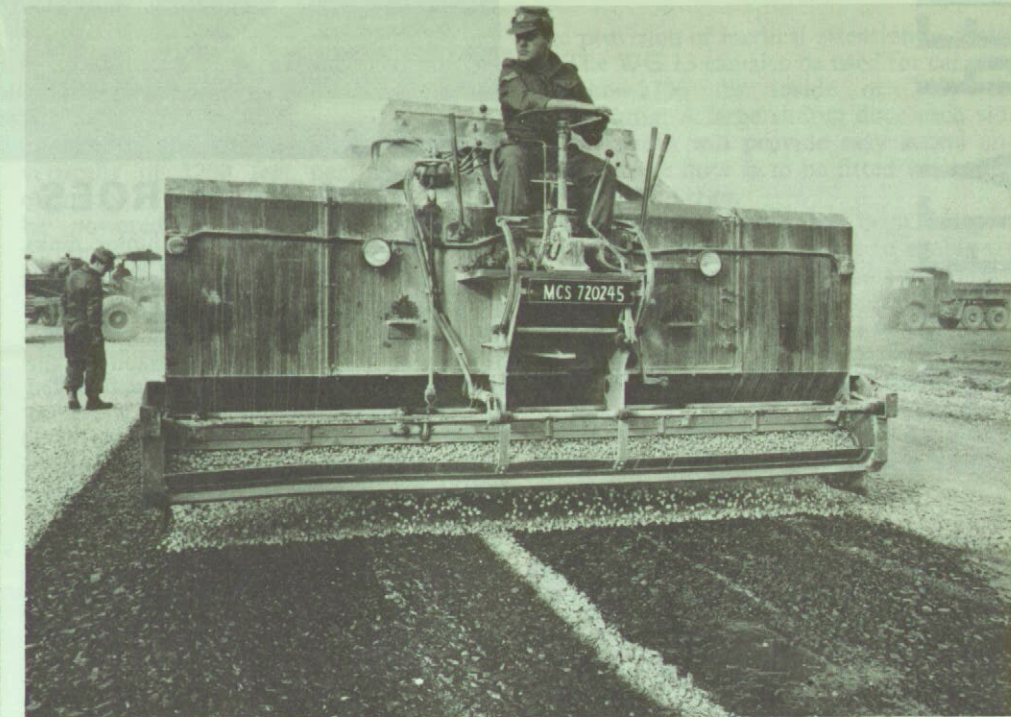
The British class 60 trackway was able to be rolled up so that it could be laid quickly. It provided a flat surface which did not rut under the wheel simulator but it has not yet

been sufficiently proved with real aircraft.

The rapid-hardening cement set hard in ten minutes with a satisfactory strength. However the depth to which it was laid was difficult to control and the use of only one spray gun was rather slow. Improvement was possible though.

Both the rapid-hardening cement and epoxy resin were satisfactory for small holes less than one foot deep, explained a sapper lieutenant-colonel. Such holes—made by clusters of bomblets—could burst the tyres of a high performance aircraft. Both substances produced a surface of adequate strength in half an hour.

The NATO officers flew home with much food for thought. But a member of 39 Engineer Regiment afterwards eyed the gargantuan excavations and said sadly: "They will have spoilt all our mushrooms."



Left: A bitumen distributor trails acrid fumes and smoking pitch. The stationary angle-dozer on the right has been used to level the surface.

Top: Gritter lays stone chippings. Two 38-foot diameter craters were repaired in six hours by conventional method. Each extra takes one hour.

Above: A high pressure hose gun vomits rapid-hardening cement. Cement "capping" has to be 2 ins deep—a slow process with only one gun.

Right: Technical teach-in for sapper officers of NATO and the Press. They are standing on a crater filled, then capped with the US AM 2 mat.





AIR CRASH HEROES

Two sappers sitting in the junior ranks club and a civilian groundsman at work on the sports field at Chattenden Barracks, Rochester, Kent, jumped to their feet when they heard the mid-air collision of two helicopters. As the aircraft crashed to the ground they rushed to the scene and pulled the occupants from the burning wreckage, extinguishing the clothing of two of them. **Lance-Corporal Malcolm Sindall** (left, above), **Sapper Geoffrey Pedley** (centre), both of 12 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment, and **Mr Terence Percival**,

were awarded the British Empire Medal for their heroism. They themselves might have been badly burned and there was a very real risk of the helicopter fuel tanks exploding. The helicopters' three occupants were dead but, the citation states, the rescuers did everything humanly possible to save life. The soldiers "acted with the utmost speed and resolution" and "in accordance with the highest traditions of the service." Mr Percival "displayed great courage" and all three showed complete disregard for their personal safety in a dangerous situation.



PIPES AND AWA'...

The Junior Ranks Club, Headquarters Far East Land Forces, Singapore, fixed a novel farewell to the camp commandant, **Lieutenant-Colonel G P Wood**, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. They called in the Singapore Girl Pipers whom the colonel had been helping to train. The surprise was complete and the sound irresistible—**Colonel Wood** (above) was soon playing his own farewell lament.

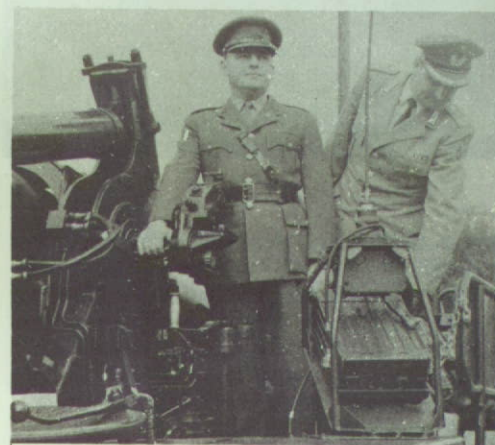


PLAYED AND OUT

For 36 years **Warrant Officer John Plant** has been concerned with military music. He joined The King's Own Royal Regiment as a bandboy at the age of 15, graduated from Kneller Hall in 1947 to become bandmaster of The Dorset Regiment and was posted to The Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1958. In 1962 he became bandmaster of The Wessex Brigade Depot, now Wessex Depot, The Prince of Wales's Division. During the past seven years he has trained between 200 and 300 boys as musicians for the four Wessex regiments. He received the MBE for services to music in the 1969 New Year Honours. He was the British Army's senior bandmaster when he retired in September and was presented (above) with a saxophone by **Lieutenant-Colonel John Wellings**, Royal Hampshire Regiment, commander Wessex Depot.

SHOOTING PRINCESS

Corporal Linda Edwards, Women's Royal Army Corps, serving in Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine, has achieved "royal" status. After 12 months as a member of the Schützenverein (shooting club) of nearby Dorthausen, the 20-year-old enthusiast has been selected as the club's new Princess (left) and took her place of honour at an Anglo-German shooting festival. German



SELF-PROPELLED

"I have always prided myself that I knew exactly what was going on in the regiment but I must admit this was a complete surprise. I must be losing my grip and it is time I left," said **Lieutenant-Colonel Geoffrey Wilson**, after handing over command of 20 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Fallingbommel, Germany. The regiment's farewell included a ride by Land-Rover through lines of cheering gunners of the unit and its affiliated 31st Feldartilleriebataillon of the German Army. This led to the assembled guns where the local burgermeister, **Herr Otto Holman**, and German officers under **Oberstleutnant von Rohr** said goodbye. Then Colonel Wilson boarded a 175 mm self-propelled gun and (above) with the commanding officer of the 31st was driven in a column of guns to inspect a guard of honour.



shooting clubs date back to the 11th century and with their Fanfarenkorps (drum and bugle bands) are still the centre of village communal life in many parts of Germany. The Dorthausen club is noted for its warm hospitality to its neighbours in the large Rheindahlen military enclave, many of whose leading personalities have been invited to take part in its colourful activities.

New multi-purpose helicopter

THE Westland WG 13 high performance helicopter, planned for delivery to Army Aviation in 1974, is a multi-purpose aircraft capable of carrying 12 fully armed and equipped troops, plus the pilot.

Westland Helicopters expect it to be in worldwide demand both by military forces and civilian operators. The British Army is to use the WG 13 as a general-purpose machine that can be armed with guided missiles. Internal and external fixed fittings will enable a wide range of weapons to be carried.

The WG 13 will operate at an all-up weight of 8000 lbs with a maximum speed of 160 knots and a range of more than 500 miles on its 1600 lbs of fuel carried in five

tanks. The range can be dramatically increased by the installation in the cabin of an overload tank with a capacity of 1650 lbs.

This helicopter is designed to climb vertically at 1200 feet per minute and obliquely at 2500 feet per minute. It is to be powered by two Rolls-Royce free turbine engines mounted side by side immediately behind the main rotor and which have been specifically designed to meet the requirements of this versatile high-performance craft.

The large capacity cabin allows many variations of seating including the carriage of three stretcher cases with up to three seated casualties. The stretchers will be arranged at an angle to permit easy loading and

the provision of medical attention in flight.

The WG 13 can also be used for carrying freight—2738 lbs inside or 3000 lbs underslung. A large sliding door each side of the cabin will provide easy access and exit and the floor is to be fitted with rings to tie down cargo.

A special mini-hoist has been designed to fit on the side of the craft to enable the removal of engines, rotor head and gearbox in the field, while specially designed fore and aft jacks can be attached to the frame to allow renewal of a complete undercarriage assembly under field conditions.

The WG 13 is also being produced for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. The French Navy has ordered a number for an attack role.

An artist's impression of the Army's new WG 13 helicopter. The Royal Navy will use a variant for anti-submarine operations; the RAF for training.



MADISON SQUARE TO MONTREAL

FOR nearly three months in 28 cities across the American continent thousands of Americans and Canadians have thrilled to colourful, exciting, dramatic presentations of British Army combat and efficiency skills and musical expertise.

From Madison Square Gardens, New York, to the famous Cow Palace, San Francisco, from Vancouver to Montreal the bands of 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Parachute Regiment, with the band, pipes and drums of The Royal Scots Greys and the drums and pipes of The Gordon Highlanders have provided the martial music, the skirl of the pipes and the swing of the kilt that both Americans and Cana-

dians love so well. They have been supported by dancers of the Scottish units, gymnasts of The Parachute Regiment, the Army Physical Training Corps and Women's Royal Army Corps and the Royal Corps of Signals' motorcycle display team, the White Helmets.

The Parachute Regiment's Red Devils free-fall team brought daring and incredible accuracy to the outdoor shows, while 16 Royal Air Force police dogs delighted audiences with their ability and enthusiastic enjoyment.

This 1969 tournament and tattoo of 270 performers was the largest such group ever to tour North America. The gymnasts, trained by Warrant Officer II

Michael Munn, Army Physical Training Corps, provided a highlight of the programme with unusual aerial jumps and vaulting feats at high speed. Among the stars of the display were five Women's Royal Army Corps girls.

So realistic were the demonstrations of unarmed combat by men of The Parachute Regiment that audiences were calling "stretcher bearers!" when the victim of a "savage" attack took a little longer than usual to get to his feet.

The music of the pipes and drums of The Royal Scots Greys and The Gordon Highlanders was fully appreciated—it seemed that Americans just could not hear enough of it. The many hundreds of Scots

descent relished the historic touch of these two regiments appearing together. At Waterloo 154 years ago the Greys made a thrilling charge to capture some 3000 French prisoners—and hanging on to their stirrups were the fighting Gordons.

The Royal Corps of Signals gave the world's first motorcycle team display in 1928.

On this 1969 tour the Americans rose to the White Helmets' performance. The fire jump and 40 mph leap over a Triumph car brought special applause.

The tattoo travelled 7000 miles in two and a half months with one trip of 1500 miles between shows. Special supplies of American dog food were earlier flown to

Britain so that the RAF Alsatians could get used to it.

A family spirit glowed brightly despite stresses and strains. Responsible for administration and day-to-day running of the highly complex operation were the producer, Colonel John Graham, who is regimental colonel of The Parachute Regiment, and Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Corbould, commander of the tournament and tattoo.

The hard-working musical director, who arranged a number of musical items to help weld the show together, was Lieutenant-Colonel Basil Brown, formerly chief instructor of the Royal Military School of Music.



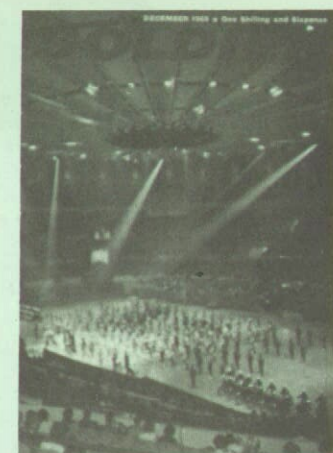
Royal Air Force police Alsatian Snow carries a lighted reel in a fire drill exercise without fear or hesitation, not once placing a paw wrong.

The quick-moving act of the mixed gymnastic team earned generous applause. In dark vests are the girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps.



Dancers of The Royal Scots Greys (Private Colquhoun and Lance-Corporal Robertson) are backed by pipes and drums. Below: A police dog hurtles through a hoop with ease. Audiences were captivated by the animals' ability, keenness and obvious enjoyment of the tasks they were called upon to perform.

Top right: Just one of the hair-raising spectacles that thrilled spectators across North America. Fire, smoke and heat meant nothing to the Royal Corps of Signals' tough motorcycle display team.



FRONT COVER

In Madison Square Gardens, New Yorkers thrilled to the colourful brilliance of the largest British tattoo and military tournament ever to tour the United States and Canada. Bands, gymnasts, motorcyclists and police dogs shared in a success that echoed across the continent.

Picture by Peter Stevenson.



Blonde WRAC recruit Patricia Anne Rosewell goes picture hunting in New York City with Sergeant Elder, Royal Scots Greys. Patricia enlisted nine days after her 17th birthday and four weeks later was performing before thousands in North America. This did not worry her—she had starred in a gymnastic team since she was 14.

left, right and centre

King Olav V of Norway presented Long Service and Good Conduct medals to Regimental Sergeant-Major Colin Helm, Colour-Sergeant Dick Hogarth and Band-Sergeant Fred Raynor when he visited 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, at Colchester before the battalion moved to Germany as part of Rhine Army. King Olav inspected a battalion parade held in his honour and spent some time among the families and old comrades. He has been the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief since 1957.



A United States M48 tank from the Patton Museum, Fort Knox, being handed to the Royal Armoured Corps tank museum at Bovington by Colonel J Daulton, of the United States Army (centre). The gift, accepted by Brigadier H G Woods, Commandant Royal Armoured Corps Centre, was in exchange for a Centurion Mark V tank presented to the Patton Museum (Left, Right and Centre, September). Other officers in the picture (left to right): Lieutenant-Colonel G Shalcross (US Army), Colonel G P Wheeler (Deputy Commandant RAC Centre), Lieutenant-Colonel B D Hughes (US), Colonel A A V Cockle (Commandant Armour School, Bovington).



Pipers of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders marching through Hamburg drew crowds to Haus Vaterland, the town's leading restaurant, where all-British menus prepared by Army Catering Corps personnel were presented each day during British Textile Week. Two lovely girls, Miss

Black and White and Miss Lipton, travelled over from Britain to offer samples of whisky and tea. The ACC representatives were Warrant Officer I Woodward, 1 Division, and Corporal Malkinson, 28 Field Ambulance. They also prepared an English banquet for the opening of Textile Week.



The flag has been lowered for the last time at the Far East Training Centre, Nee Soon, but thousands of soldiers of four races will long remember the schools and the transit camp. Since 1960, when this Singapore centre was formed, 29,000 Malay, Chinese, Gurkha and British soldiers trained here and 132,600 passed through the camp. Many of them served in Borneo. The centre incorporated the Malay Basic Training Centre which had been formed in 1948 at the start of the Malayan Emergency, the Royal Army Service Corps school, Army Catering Corps Centre, a school of health, a language school, an Army air transport training wing and the transit camp, which alone remains. The accommodation is being taken over by Australian and New Zealand troops who are moving in from Terendak. Nee Soon has an unusual stairway with irregular steps said to have been designed by Australian prisoners-of-war in the knowledge that their short-stepping Japanese captors would lose all dignity when descending from the officers' mess to the Centre.



The soldier wearing the sulu belongs to the Fiji Military Forces in Suva. He is explaining the layout of Queen Elizabeth Barracks to Lance-Corporal William Gerrard, who with 14 other signallers of 249 Squadron, Royal Corps of Signals, was there to set up a radio station for a

month to link Fiji with Melbourne and thus into the Commonwealth defence communications network. This was for an exercise in which a company of 2nd Battalion, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, from Hong Kong, acted as enemy to New Zealand and Fiji troops.



The Royal Air Force's best football team in Singapore is an Army team—55 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, which won the RAF Changi League without dropping a point and with a goal average of 38-4. They then represented Changi in a short league of the champions of the three RAF stations in Singapore, again winning every match and scoring 20-goals to three. Their prize, the Ivor Stanley memorial trophy, was handed to them after winning a

Champions versus The Rest game 16-0. The squadron won every competition it entered in 1969 including the Chief Transport Officer's cup for Royal Corps of Transport units in Singapore and West Malaysia, the Singapore District Division II League, the RAF Changi Knock-Out Cup and the Singapore District Minor Units' competition. Above, Corporal John Brown (captain), displays the Ivor Stanley trophy. The squadron works and lives with the RAF Changi.

When General William C Westmoreland, Chief of Staff, United States Army, paid a private visit to the British Army at the invitation of General Sir Geoffrey Baker, Chief of the General Staff, he was received at the Ministry of Defence by a guard of honour mounted by 1st Battalion, Irish Guards. He told pressmen that he wanted to find out about Britain's all-voluntary Army, "how well it works, the problems, the advantages and disadvantages." In two interest-packed days General Westmoreland also visited Headquarters London District, Household Cavalry, Royal Military Academy, Staff College, Camberley, and 16 Parachute Brigade. Above: General Sir Michael Carver, COC Southern Command, greeting General Westmoreland (right) at London Airport.

ROYAL OCCASION

EVEN the weather shed a tear for the passing of the 10th and 11th Hussars. For the amalgamation parade of these two famous regiments to form The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) was held at Tidworth under a grey, rainy sky—the first break in the sunshine of a prolonged Indian summer.

The day was 25 October, a date already memorable for The Royal Hussars, for this was the anniversary of Balaclava in which the 11th Hussars distinguished themselves in the charge of the Light Brigade, and it was in this same week of October that the Battle of El Alamein took place in which both regiments fought with distinction.

There was sadness and poignancy as the Guidons of the 10th Royal Hussars

(Prince of Wales's Own), presented to the regiment in 1961 by its Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Gloucester, and of the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), presented by the Queen Mother four years ago, were marched off the Tidworth tattoo ground, each with a mounted escort—the only horses to appear on this classic cavalry terrain and to take part in this great cavalry occasion. But there was elation and forward-looking confidence as the Duchess of Gloucester, first Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Hussars, presented her regiment with a new Guidon emblazoned with the battle honours of the old 10th and 11th.

Draped over piled drums, it was consecrated by the Chaplain-General to the Forces, the Venerable J R Youens, and ceremoniously trooped past the Duchess, who was dressed in cerise pink as a tribute to the regimental colour. Then the four squadrons re-formed and advanced in review order, the band played the Royal Salute and the regiment marched off, with the Guidon in its midst, to make way for the old comrades who formed up in sober-coloured contrast—a phalanx of bowler hats, rolled umbrellas and charcoal city suits—to the plum-capped and trousered hussars.

Led by Lieutenant-General Lord Norrie, who as a young officer in the 11th Hussars commanded the troop which captured the

first German guns in World War One at Nery, the old Comrades marched past. For Lord Norrie himself the day was specially memorable. He had two sons on parade—his eldest, Major the Hon G W M Norrie, formerly of the 11th Hussars, and his youngest, Captain the Hon G B Norrie, formerly of the 10th Hussars. Another father to see his son take part in this historic occasion was Major-General Sir David Dawnay, the first Colonel of The Royal Hussars, who watched his son, Major H Dawnay, command No 4 Guard. The first commanding officer of The Royal Hussars is Lieutenant-Colonel C H Robertson.

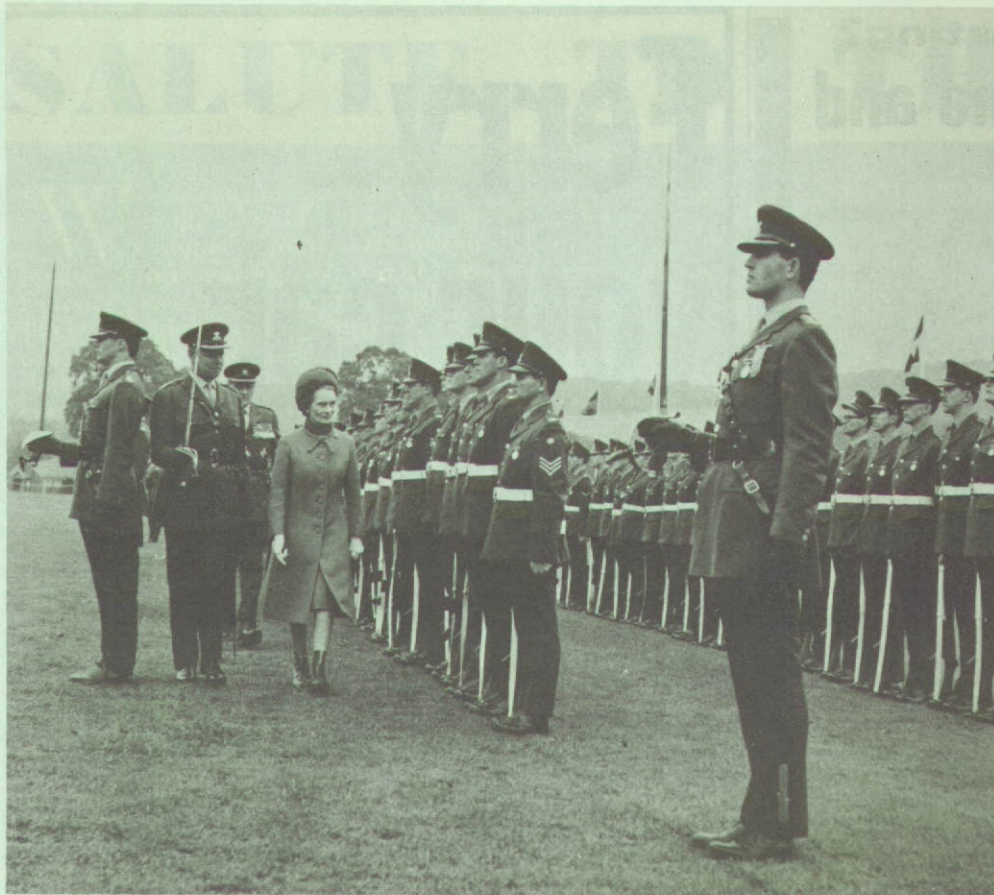
For all its pathos the amalgamation is a logical and a happy one for historically both the 10th and 11th Hussars have much in common. Both were raised for the Jacobite rebellion in 1715, both won their first battle honour at Warburg and they fought together at Waterloo and in many other campaigns.

Today the regiment born of their union wears the cap badge of the 10th Royal Hussars, the Prince of Wales's feathers, and the crimson trousers of the 11th Hussars as part of its new uniform. Also retained is the characteristic brown beret of the 11th Hussars—but with a difference. Instead of being badgeless, the beret now carries the new regimental badge.



Above: The Duchess of Gloucester, first Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Hussars, former from the 10th and 11th Hussars, watches the amalgamation parade at Tidworth tattoo ground where (right) she presents her regiment with a new Guidon.





Top left: The Duchess inspects a squadron of The Royal Hussars. Right: The old Guidons of the 10th and 11th Hussars are marched off with their mounted escorts. Above: Captain HRH Prince Michael of Kent, ex-11th Hussars, now The Royal Hussars, stands beside the saluting base He was equerry in attendance to his aunt.

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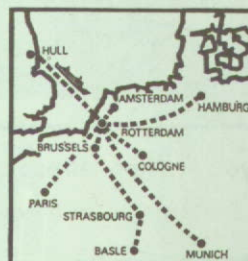
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SALUTE TO THE 34TH

WE mean to go out with a bang," said Lieutenant-Colonel John Hamilton-Jones, commanding 34 Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery. Their neighbours at Dortmund, Germany, 19 Field Regiment, made sure that they did just that by firing 34 ear-shattering blasts with their Abbot self-propelled guns when the 34th held their last parade.

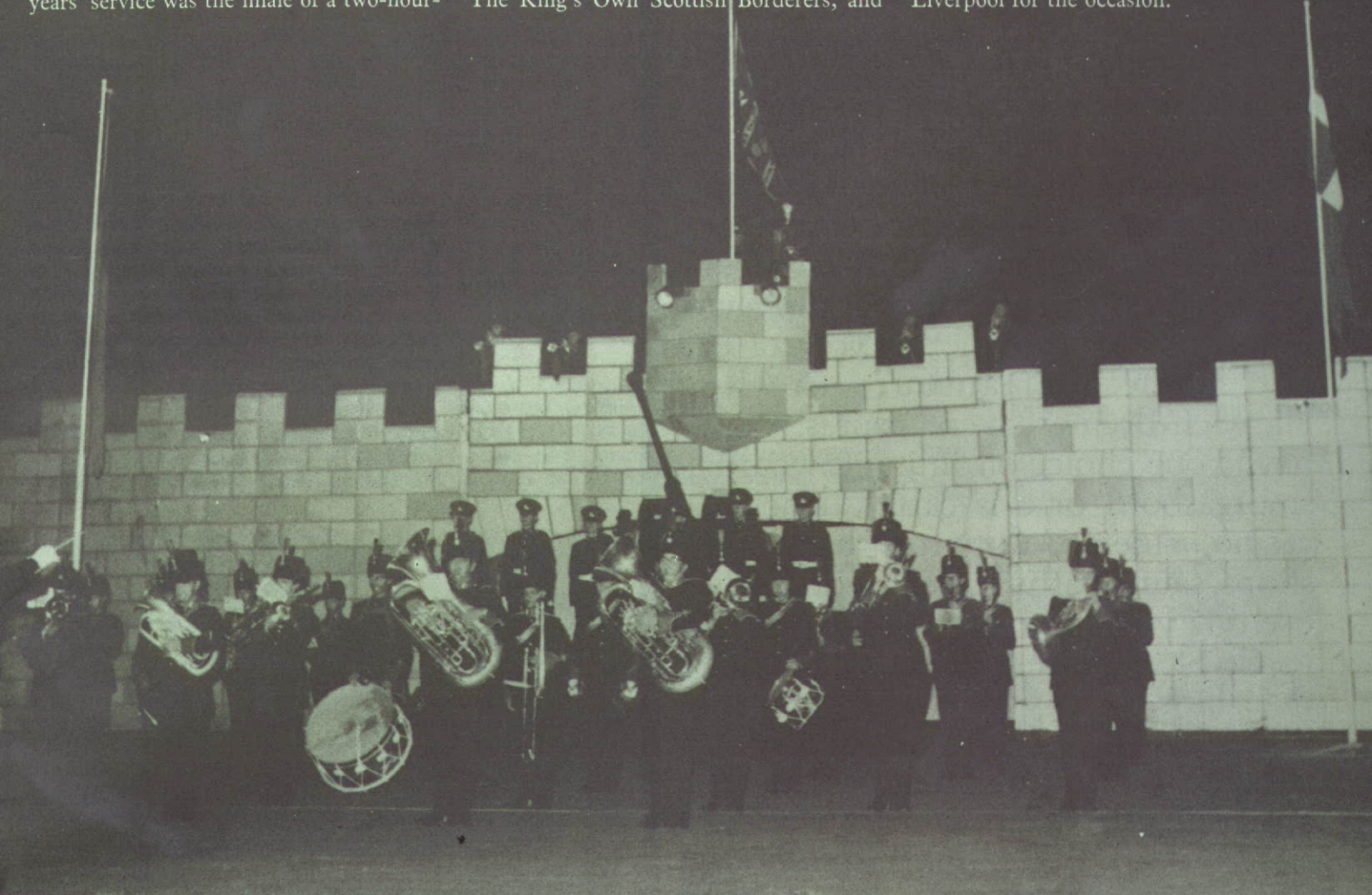
This salute to a regiment with 161 years' service was the finale of a two-hour-

long floodlit parade and pageant that recalled the story of the unit and its two batteries, 11 (Sphinx) and 58 (Eyres). Although the regiment disbands on the last day of 1969, the batteries live on and remain in Dortmund transferred to other light air defence regiments, Sphinx Battery to the 22nd and Eyres Battery to the 12th.

The presence of German and Danish contingents emphasised the 34th's last task as a unit of NATO. Present from 1 (British) Corps were troops of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and

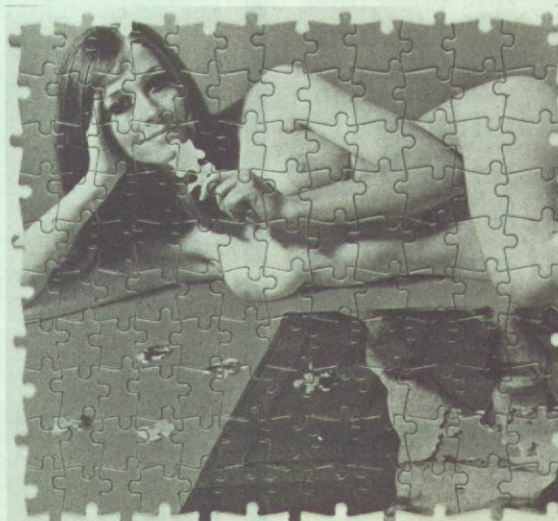
6 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, both units having had particularly close ties with the gunners.

A Bofors gun was trooped through the ranks and the salute was taken before 1000 spectators by General Sir Reginald Hewetson, a former Colonel Commandant of the Royal Artillery. The Royal Regiment's mounted band played during the evening and the pipes and drums of the affiliated 103 Regiment, Royal Artillery, The Lancashire Volunteers, came specially from Liverpool for the occasion.



A piper of The Lancashire Volunteers (on centre tower) plays a lament as the regimental pennant of 34th Regiment is lowered on the last parade.

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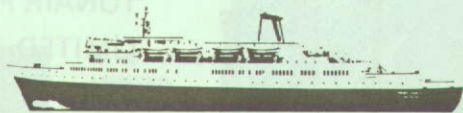
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PRINS FERRIES

HIGH WITHOUT OXYGEN

Three Army officers who in July conquered the 25,230-foot Tirich Mir, a major Himalayan peak, completed the ascent without using oxygen. This is a considerable achievement which took them to the height limit of safety and adds lustre to the success of the team sponsored by the Army Mountaineering Association.

The three are Captain Henry Day (27), Royal Engineers, Cyprus, Captain Gerry Owens (31), The Worcestershire Regiment, Singapore, and Lieutenant Richard





Summerton (24), Royal Engineers, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover, the still cameraman of the team.

The full party of seven soldiers and a sailor was led by Major Jon Fleming, 31, a Regular officer of The Parachute Regiment, now adjutant of 15th (Scottish Volunteers) Battalion, Glasgow, and a veteran of Army expeditions to Mount Kenya and East and West Greenland.

After being flown to Pakistan by the Royal Air Force the party set out with 8000 lbs of equipment, first in Pakistan

Army vehicles and later with mules and porters. A base camp was established in the foothills at 9500 feet and then progress was made gradually up to camp VIII at 22,600 feet.

As an acclimatisation exercise the expedition tackled and successfully scaled the hitherto unclimbed 20,800-foot Little Tirich. The final assault on Tirich Mir was made by the three officers from a night camp at 23,000 feet.

The other members of the team were: Medical officer, Surgeon-Lieutenant Noel

Dilly (34), Royal Naval Reserve; botanist, Captain Bryan Porter (29), Royal Artillery, 2 Army Youth Team, York; cine-cameraman, Captain John Cranmer (29), Royal Artillery, 13 Squadron, Army Air Corps, Sharjah; and baggage master, Corporal Andy Anderson (25), Royal Engineers, 7 Field Squadron, Ripon, who was in charge of 100 mules and porters. Captain Day was deputy leader and Captain Owens, ornithologist, was responsible for food.

The 1970 Army expedition to 26,604-foot Annapurna is to be built round this team.

Descending the ice slope from camp III (13,500 feet). Left, below: The towering snow-covered 25,206-ft east peak of Tirich Mir with the 25,230-ft objective, west peak, beyond (left edge of picture). The way up was (left) through the valley behind the first (lower) crest to the South Barum Glacier.



Left to right: Major Jon Fleming, Parachute Regiment, leader; Lieutenant Richard Summerton, Royal Engineers, cameraman; Captain Henry Day, Royal Engineers, deputy leader; Captain Garry Owens, Worcestershire Regiment, ornithologist. The last three climbed to the top of Tirich Mir.



Left to right: Corporal Andy Anderson, Royal Engineers, in charge of porters and mules; Captain Bryan Porter, Royal Artillery, botanist; Captain John Cranmer, Royal Artillery, Army Air Corps, cine-cameraman.

Right: One of a line of porters leaving camp IV at 16,500 feet. They carried 3000 lbs of stores and equipment but only to camp V (17,330 feet) where the last seven were paid off. Then it was 45-lb loads—that felt like 90 lbs at that height—for all in the party.





LANDING DRY SHOD

HOME in Britain after nearly two years in the Far East, 200 Hovercraft Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, is looking back on a very successful tour. The squadron, of nearly 60 officers and men, 20 of them Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, left Britain for Singapore in February 1968 to conduct troop evaluation trials of the SRN 6 and SRN 5 hovercraft in tropical conditions.

Major Mike McIndoe, who took over as squadron commander in January 1969, said of the amphibious exercises in the trials: "The Royal Navy liked the part we could play but nobody was more pleased with us than the soldiers. We land them with dry feet, unlike landing craft, and this can mean a lot to a soldier who may have to march a long way."

The unit was equipped with a ten-passenger SRN 5 and three SRN 6 hovercraft each capable of carrying 30 fully armed and equipped soldiers. Their high cruising speed of

45 knots and 60 knots maximum and ability to travel over shallow water, sandbanks and swamps without slowing down, contributed to the success.

Radar also gave them an advantage and the squadron operated normally in conditions of visibility that grounded helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. Canoes could be taken to within six miles of the shore and guided to their objectives and back again without lights.

Although the noise of a hovercraft advertises its presence the trials proved that its direction cannot be estimated in the dark until a craft is within about 50 yards.

Hovercraft were found to be "ideal" for patrolling coasts and river estuaries and for putting raiding parties ashore behind enemy positions.

Major McIndoe said conditions in the Far East were first-class. The tropical climate made almost no difference although, as with other vehicles, a little power was lost. The Bristol Siddeley Marine Gnome engines were thoroughly reli-

able. The craft were "just about unsinkable."

In addition to "warlike" trials, 200 Hovercraft Squadron proved its worth in more peaceful activities. A medical party was rushed to an urgent case on an island off Mersing, survey parties were ferried to off-shore islands near Singapore and civilians were taken from Hong Kong to remote islands to replenish beacons and accomplish in three to four hours what normally takes a full day.

The squadron also took hovercraft to Australia, Indonesia, Brunei and Japan where officers and men acted as demonstrators for the manufacturers, British Hovercraft Corporation. An SRN 6 was on show during British Week in Tokyo.

Now back at their old base at Browdown, Hampshire, officers and soldiers of 200 Hovercraft Squadron are looking forward to continuing trials in British waters.

From a report by Army Public Relations, Far East Land Forces.



Major Mike McIndoe, commander of 200 Hovercraft Squadron. Left: 84 Survey Squadron sappers work with Singapore Department of Survey on islands reached by an SRN 6.

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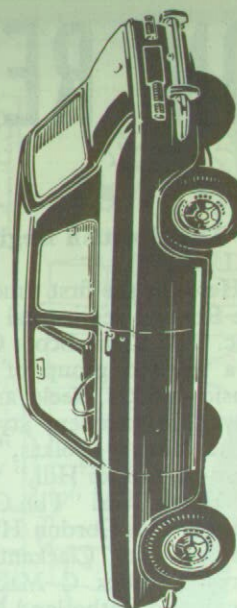
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ON RECORD

"The Scottish Regiments" (Waverley SZLP 2116).

Here for the first time is the music of all the Regular regimental pipe bands on one disc. The Royal Scots Greys' contribution is a spirited group of lighter pipe band music—polkas, reels and strathspeys—all played in excellent style. The tunes are "The Victory Polkas," "Thick Lies the Mist on Yonder Hill," "The Roe's Among the Heath" and "The Ceilidh Reels."

Both The Gordon Highlanders ("Major Manson at Clackantrushal," "Dornie Ferry," "Alick C Macgregor") and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders ("Miss Elspeth Campbell," "Lady Madeline Sinclair," "The Marquis of Huntley," "The Piper of Drummond," "The Fairy Dance," "Highland Laddie," "The Princess Street Parade") have selected competition-type music with the Argylls deciding on a slower tempo for these difficult pieces.

An excellent selection comes from the Scots Guards—"El Alamein" in slow time, "Brae Riach" and an example of bagpipe "pop" music, the rollicking hornpipe "Jim Tweedie's Sea Legs." The Royal Scots ("The Heroes of Kohima," "The Royal Scots Polka," "Dumbarton's Drums") and The King's Own Scottish Borderers ("The Borderers," "The Battle of the Somme," "The Blue Bonnets") content themselves with music of their regiments and again it is interesting to note the difference in tempo favoured in these stirring tunes.

The Black Watch ("Derrator Bridge," "Duntroon") and The Queen's Own Highlanders ("A Hebridean Air," "Pipe-Major Donald MacLean of Lewis") both favour "middle-of-the-road" tunes and introduce a new tune each in "The Toronto Scottish Regiment" by John Wilson, a pipe-major of The Cameron Highlanders in St Valery days, and "Major-General Hunt's Welcome to The Queen's Own Highlanders," composed by the present pipe-major of the regiment, Pipe-Major A Venters.

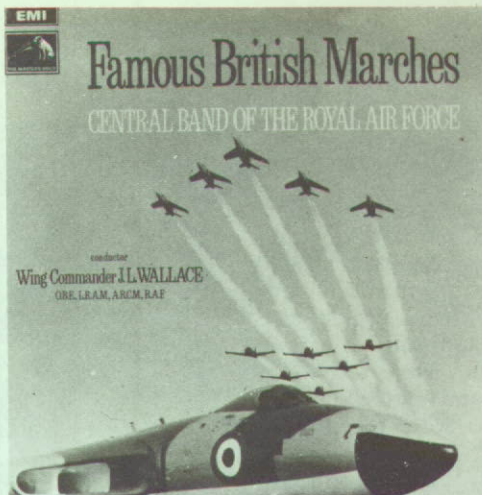
The Royal Highland Fusiliers' selection ("The 74th Slow March," "The Kilted Runner," "The Lady in the Bottle," "Barbara's Jig," "The Heroes of St Valerie") mixes old and new in a fine group of well-played tunes. The record's finale, a selection by the massed pipes and drums at the 1968 Edinburgh Tattoo, is an example of the high quality of the music played by the massed Scottish regiments.

JM

"Famous British Marches" (HMV CSD 3658).

This disc is Wing-Commander Wallace's swan-song with the Central Band of the Royal Air Force—and what a fine record on which to end his career as director of music. Here are some great marches very skilfully played with every section distinct and beautifully balanced. The famous tunes are played with a natural lilt and genuine marching tempo.

PAGE 34



Famous tunes? Not all. Conductors of military bands receive countless letters from zealots asking "why don't you record such and such a march? I need it for my collection." For every good march there are a thousand bad ones—mere sequences of clichés, the musical equivalent of "we will explore every avenue and leave no stone unturned in our effort to provide equality for all..."

There is a good example of the cliché march on this record and it provides the answer to why only certain marches are recorded time and time again. Cliché marches just don't stand up to repeated hearing, which after all is why one buys a record. Another march in this album tries so hard to avoid clichés that it sounds too clever by half—and I'm not referring to the final medley which I rather enjoyed.

For your collection here are "The Champion," "Our Director," "The New

Colonial," "Sons of the Brave," "Arromanches," "Colonel Bogey on Parade," "March of the King's Men," "Second to None," "The Red Cloak," "King o' the Clouds" and "Guards Armoured Division." Is "New Colonial" a British march? And is "Our Director" a suitable march to precede it? Both are six-eight and very similar in style—a small criticism of so fine an album. I wish I had made it.

RB

"Marching and Waltzing" (Band of the Coldstream Guards (Director of Music, Captain T L Sharpe) and Geoffrey Brand and his Concert Orchestra) (Pye NSPL 18312).

With the best will in the world I can give few marks for the production of this album. The BBC programme of the same name makes some effort at continuity so I would have thought a few of the marches might have melted direct into their fellow waltzes; each item however has its usual "scroll" of silence to follow.

The waltzes are too dramatic in style, lacking romance, warmth and melliflence; the marches were mostly too fast for my taste and the cornet section might have been on leave for all I heard of them. The orchestra sounded metallic and martial, the band woolly and bottom heavy. Different studios or what? I don't think we can blame the artistes here.

Marches on this disc are "Radetzky," "America the Beautiful," "Soldier's Medley," "Old Comrades," "Commonwealth Medley" and "Rakoczy." Waltzes: "Gold and Silver," "Belle of the Ball," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Westminster."

RB

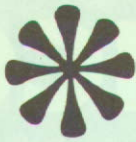
"In Concert—En Route" (Band of 1st Battalion, The Black Watch) (Bandmaster: Samuel P Holmes) (Columbia Studio 2 Stereo TWO 277).

In which the military band of The Black Watch certainly takes us far and wide in search of variety of rhythm, tempo and mood. The titles promise a gay and abandoned orgy of sound—"Brass Aflame," "Boom Bang-a-Bang," "Summertime in Venice," Love Theme from "La Strada," "Anema e Core," "Western Dance," "Danish Dinner," "Strawberry Fair," "Cha Cha for Band," "Bravura for Trumpets," "Hoopla," "Swedish Wedding," "Can Can for Band," "The Stoutest Man o' the Forty-Twa," "Twa Recruiting Sergeants," "My Love is Like a Red Red Rose."

But it is all a little shy, polite and restrained, just like an aristocratic colonel I once saw trying to enjoy a night out in a Reeperbahn night joint. The mixture of accordion and band is very attractive and really achieves an atmosphere in a couple of pieces by the great Tollefsen. A French tune such as "Midnight in Paris" would have been welcome on this combination, perhaps in place of a vapid and tasteless arrangement of "Strawberry Fair."

But turn the volume up and enjoy it all.

RB



WATCH IT!

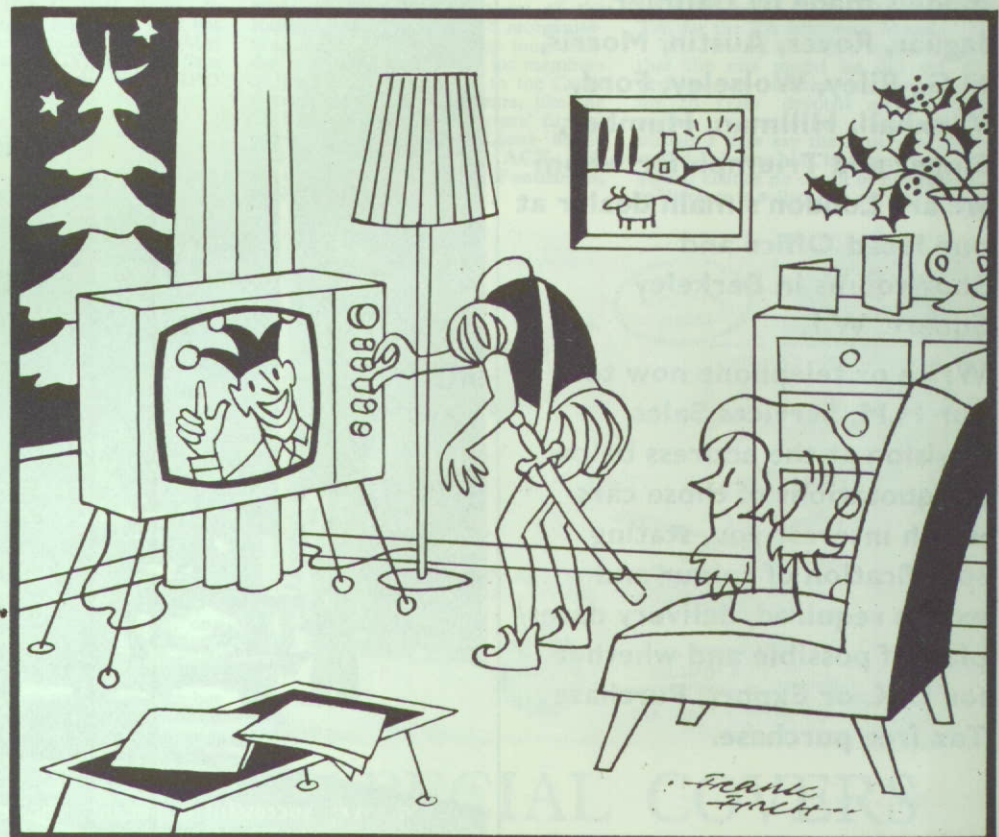
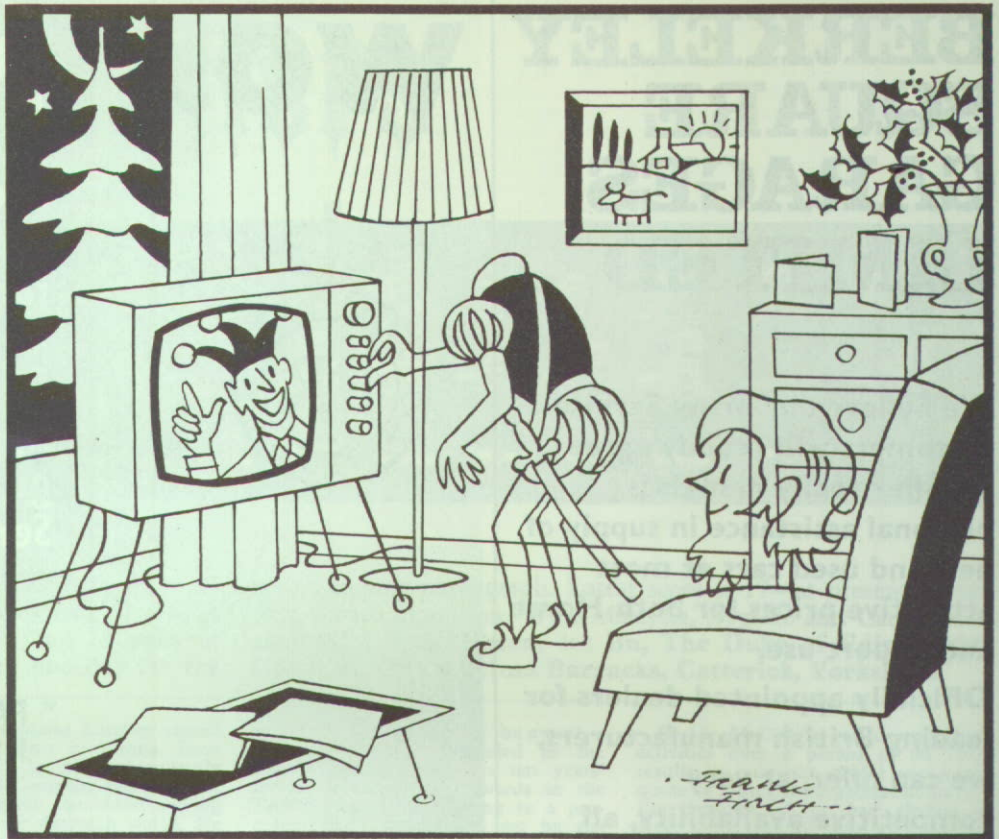
GHOSTS, traditionally linked with Christmas, inspired Art Editor Frank Finch to produce this bumper "How Observant Are You?" type of competition, with a bumper selection of prizes, to test all the readers who enjoy his monthly puzzle.

Unfortunately he has just left on a visit to Outer Mongolia to study the local humour there and forgot to say how many variations he has introduced into this month's competition. Normally there are ten differences but there are obviously more in these two drawings.

Study them carefully then send your list of differences, on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 139" label from this page, and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 139)
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London N7.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 9 March 1970. The answers and winners' names will appear in the May SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 139" label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.



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Letters



BROTHERS-IN-ARMS

We were interested to see the letter (September) from 27 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, stating they had 14 sets of brothers. In Minden, recently, this battalion had 19 pairs of brothers of whom we managed to muster 15 one day for the

accompanying photograph. Latest score is 17—at present spread over British Honduras, West Malaysia, Bogside and Catterick.—**Lieut-Col T A Gibson, 1st Bn, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Alma Barracks, Catterick, Yorkshire.**

Dak and dagger boys

As I am at present commanding 55 Air Despatch Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, I was very interested to see the letter (July) from Lieutenant-Colonel R L Wallis RCT, who used to command this unit. I was a member of 55 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Air Despatch), from 1957 to 1960 and left in June of that year. During this time I did not hear the term "Dak and Dagger Boys" used and the first I knew of this was seeing it in SOLDIER in 1960.

I believe the term originated from our relationship with XIV Army in Burma, whose operational sign incorporated a dagger or sword, or possibly 7th Indian Division, whose operational sign was a hand holding a dagger. This is supported by one of my senior NCOs, Sergeant Bracey, who first heard the term used by Major C P Langley in 1951. Sergeant

Bracey believes Major Langley served with 799 Company in Burma. Incidentally, Major Langley subsequently commanded 55 Company and Sergeant Bracey is probably the oldest serving soldier in the air despatch world. He made his first sortie in 1947. We would like Colonel Wallis to have a good look at his 55 tie, as it has silver and not golden kris.—**Maj J G L Murray RCT, 55 AD Sqn RCT, RAF Changi, c/o GPO Singapore.**

King's Badge

I read with interest the letter from Mr Keith E Ford (August) regarding the award of a silver badge for "Loyal service" for ex-Servicemen prematurely discharged because of disability incurred during service.

SOLDIER readers may be interested in the following information. This badge is called the "King's Badge" and is intended for disablement incurred as a result of war service covering the period 3 September 1939 to 8 May 1945 in the case of the war in Europe or to 2 September 1945 in the case of the war against Japan. Anyone eligible should apply to the Department of Health and Social Security, Norcross, Blackpool FY5 3TA.—**D Bell (ex-S/ Sgt RAMC), 18 Raby Place, Bathwick Hill, Bath BA2 4EH.**

Airborne Brotherhood

More than 100,000 men served in airborne forces during World War Two and many thousands more have belonged to airborne forces since 1945. A large proportion belonged to regiments, other than The Parachute Regiment, and corps eg Royal Artillery, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Engineers, Infantry, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Army Medical Corps. Whilst these men are justifiably proud of their regiments or corps, to which they owe their first loyalty, nevertheless they look upon their service with airborne forces as an important period of their lives.

It has therefore been decided to form an Airborne Brotherhood to maintain the strong *esprit de corps* of all who have served in airborne forces, and to raise funds for the Airborne Forces Security Fund which since 1942 has spent more than £500,000 in helping the less fortunate airborne brethren and their dependants.

All who have served in airborne forces, Regular or Territorial, are eligible to join the Brotherhood. It is not another association—there are to be no rules, no formal meetings. The cost of joining is 10s, about half of which will go to the security fund. In return, brethren will receive a mini-lapel badge of the airborne forces sign—a blue Pegasus against a maroon background.

Applications to join the Brotherhood, giving number, rank, name, airborne unit and address and enclosing 10s, should be sent to Airborne Brotherhood, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

without any cheapening of the award.

Changes are also needed in the Reserve. A reduction to ten years' service to qualify for awards in the TAVR and ACF is fitting as a precedent has already been set by the awards, for only ten years' service, made to redundant members of the Reserve following the 1966 reorganisation of the TA. One change long overdue is to make it possible for members of the ACF to gain a bar to the Cadet Forces Medal after six years, like the TAVR, and not after 12 years' further service as at present.—**Lieut M R Doley, Staffordshire ACF, 68 Birches Barn Road, Pennfields, Wolverhampton.**

If Mr McEvoy's varied uniformed activities over a period of 26 years results in only one medal one might quote "a rolling stone gathers no moss." For instance, if he had elected to serve more than 18 years as a Regular soldier he could have qualified for the LS & GC or, by serving 12 years in the TA, for the TA Efficiency Medal.

The tone of his letter would suggest that the one medal he did get was perhaps not sufficient to compensate for 26 years' devoted service. If a person is keen to get a breast full of medals I dare say the American Army would welcome him, but there would be a good chance no doubt of having to go to Vietnam to collect one or two of them.

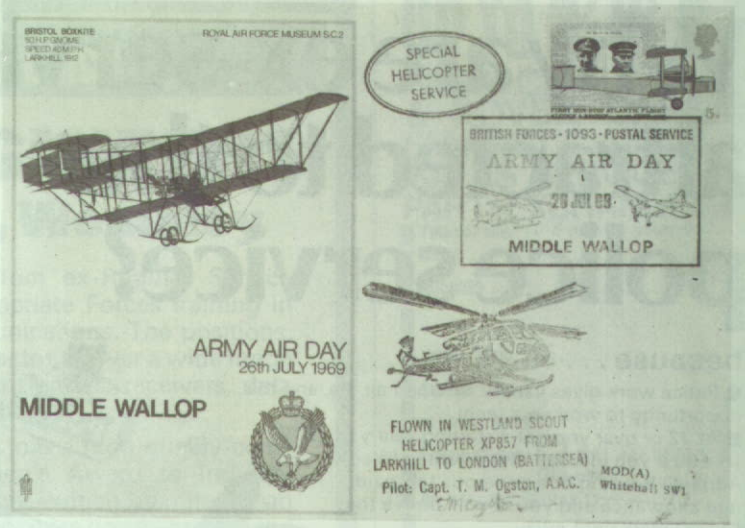
That one medal

Having read about Mr McEvoy's "one medal in 26 years" (September Letters) I would point out that this need not have been so. He says he served with an Army Cadet Force unit from October 1950 until April 1953, thereafter serving with the Territorial Army then on to a short-service engagement until December 1966 when he commenced service again with the ACF.

Perhaps he is unaware that all Regular and reserve forces service counts towards the Cadet Forces Medal provided such service, unbroken, began with and ended with the ACF, which from Mr McEvoy's information seems to be the case.

The question of medals is undoubtedly a very sore point. Stories about the allocation of Coronation medals are kept alive to this day. Many would agree that we British are under-beribboned. Without becoming mobile fruit salads, as one correspondent put it, a few changes could be made.

These could be the retention of the General Service Medal for service comparable to Malaya, Borneo and Aden, and a new award for police operations like those in Hong Kong, Mauritius and Anguilla. The LS & GC award is a shade too long for a young man's Army; 15 years (nine and six years) is possibly right. Doubling for active service would shorten the period



SPECIAL COVERS

The Royal Air Force Museum has over the past nine months sponsored a number of philatelic covers to commemorate historic aerial events. On 26 July, in co-operation with the Army Air Corps, Middle Wallop, a number of special covers was flown by an Army helicopter from Larkhill (where the inaugural review of the Royal Flying Corps took place in 1912) to Battersea Heliport and delivered to the Ministry of Defence.

Specimens of this cover (above) are still available at 4s 6d from Lieutenant-Colonel C D Stokes, REME, 44 Ellenbridge Way, Sanderstead, Surrey, CR2 0EU. Proceeds from the sale of this cover are being devoted to the Army Air Corps Benevolent Fund.

Another Service philatelic cover of outstanding interest is that commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first England-Australia flight by the brothers Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith and their two mechanics, Sergeants Bennett and Shiers, all of the Australian Flying Corps. They left Hounslow on 12 November 1919 and landed at Port Darwin on 10 December 1919 to win the Australian Government's prize of £10,000 for the first all-Australian crew to fly from England to Australia in fewer than 30 days.

It is planned to fly commemorative mail in a Comet IV of RAF Support Command from England to Australia and, as far as possible, follow Ross Smith's original route. A special BFPO handstamp will be used to cancel the 1s 9d Ross Smith commemorative stamp on the pictorial cover. Informative cachets will be applied to the front of the cover and backstamp at a number of selected places en route.

Costing 5s 6d, the covers can be obtained from Colonel Stokes.

Like C J McKay, another correspondent in the September SOLDIER, I think our system is the best—at least a medal on a British soldier's breast means something, even if it is only a "mere" GSM.—**C McDonald (Ex-Sgt RA) 38 Doddshill, Dersingham, Norfolk.**

Surely reader McEvoy would be entitled to the Defence Medal if he served in the JTC or ACF during the war!

I also served in the ACF until I enlisted in 1947 and I remember some cadets wearing the Defence ribbon later. Entitlement was because we also assisted the Home Guard and fire services.—**Cpl S Slater, 20 Sqn RCT, Regents Park Barracks, London NW1.**

Pithy!

The Royal Marines "in pith helmets..." (August SOLDIER) Surely not! —**T S Cunningham, 6 The Lindens, Prospect Hill, Walthamstow, London E17.**

★ Indeed, not! They were wearing helmets white, WP (Wolseley pattern) or, as they are termed below deck, pith-pots!

Giddy goat

I regret that I am unable to assist Lance-Corporal Gardiner (Letters, August) in solving his problem about drill for goats on parade, but the accompanying picture (below) may help to persuade him that the problem



is not insoluble and indeed may serve to indicate the kind of virtuosity to which he may aspire.

The photograph was taken during the French victory celebrations in Paris on 18 June 1945 and shows the goat mascot of a French colonial regiment marching at the head of the band—without a goat-major or any leading rein. This animal marched thus the length of the Champs Elysées and, to the best of my belief, executed the appropriate turns to negotiate the Place de la Concorde.

Let Corporal Gardiner not despair. Evidently some goats are amenable to military discipline.—**Gerald East, Helford Cottage, 43 Manor Road North, Hinchley Wood, Esher, Surrey.**

★ Corporal John, Goat-Major of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, has this advice for Corporal Gardiner: "For saluting, don't take any chances with a risky hand salute. A smart eyes right is the answer. To ensure that your goat gives no trouble when it comes to that tricky right turn, try and anticipate the command by a few seconds, as I do, and get the goat moving in the right direction fractionally before the rest of the parade. It's a question of timing and it comes only with practice."

LS & GC

I read with great interest Mr Keith R Ford's letter (August) in reply to an earlier letter of mine on the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal and I feel that the following correspondence will interest him and many other readers.—**J J Stokes, 15 Charterhouse Road, Stoke, Coventry.**

★ Mr Stokes wrote about the LS & GC medal to his MP, Mr R H S Crossman (Coventry East), Minister for Health and Social Security, who took the matter up with Mr Denis Healey, Secretary of State for Defence. Below, we print Mr Crossman's reply (incorporating Mr Healey's comments) to Mr Stokes.

Dear Mr Stokes,
... I have just heard from the



KAUCHANABURI CEMETERY

Mrs Edyth Harper, 159 Havant Road, Hayling Island, Hants, recently visited the Commonwealth cemetery at Kauchanaburi, Thailand. She writes:

"Near a river, the cemetery has an atmosphere of peace that is impressive. It is beautiful with streets of flowers and kept in first class order. Relatives of men buried there who would like a photo please contact me enclosing 6d (cost price of a print) and a 4d stamp."

Defence Secretary about the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and I understand that the Ministry has been considering most seriously the criteria for the award of this medal.

Mr Healey goes on to say, however, "The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal has long been eagerly sought after and highly prized simply because the conditions attached to its award are such that it is not a medal which may be easily won, and the standard of an irreproachable record of conduct required of successful candidates has resulted in its award being an indication of the proved integrity of the recipient."

"It has accordingly been the consistent policy of the Ministry of Defence not to detract from the value of this medal as would be the case were it to be awarded for only 12 years' service without any specific requirement of an

irreproachable record of conduct—in fact any such reduction of the standards of eligibility would be likely to incur the resentment of the many proud holders of the medal. I can assure you that there is sympathy for those who for reasons outside their control fail to complete the qualifying period, but I am afraid there will always be hard luck cases whatever the time qualification; the qualifying conditions cannot, of course, be altered to meet individual cases."

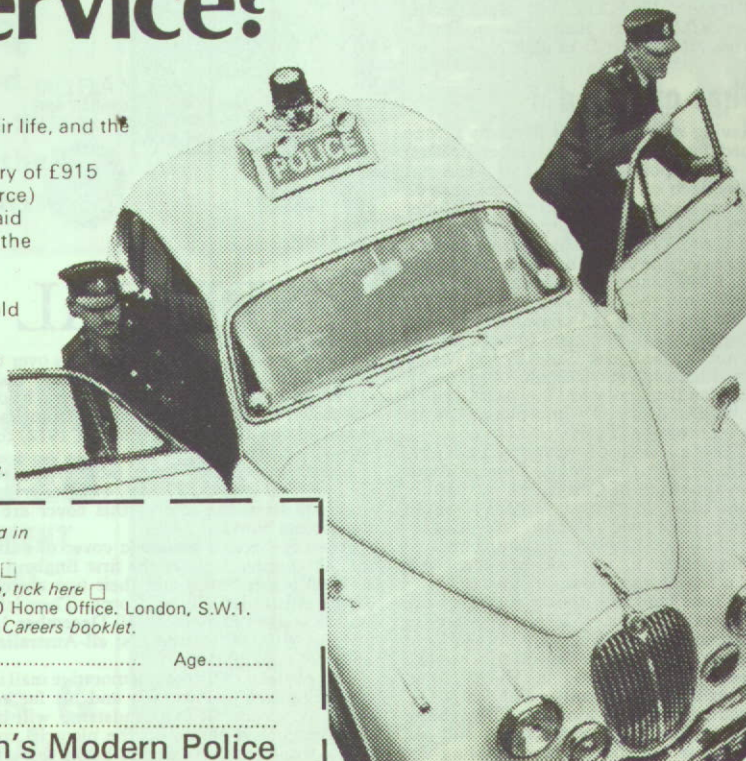
Unfortunately, there are of course anomalies in the present arrangements, but, as Mr Healey also points out, when considering alternatives it is only too easy to create new anomalies, and great care has to be taken not to cheapen an award in the eyes of those who have earned it under the previous conditions...

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Dick Crossman.

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Board vacancies

The Army Chess Association is anxious to recruit players of strength for the current season. Serving members of the Army answering this description should write for further particulars to Maj H T Walker RCT, Hon Chairman, Army Chess Association, HQ Transport Officers-in-Chief (Army) (Transport 2c), Longmoor, Liss, Hampshire.

Unsung medics

When I came to the "Army's Part in the Investiture" (September) I eagerly read through it but to my disappointment found no mention of the Royal Army Medical Corps. What about the 70-bed field hospital at Caernarvon? This was a completely tented hospital with X-ray facilities and an operating theatre staffed by a field surgical team from 12 Company, RAMC, Woolwich.

The hospital itself was staffed by 2 Casualty Clearing Station, RAMC, soldiers from the various military hospitals in the UK and five QARANC nursing sisters. Perhaps SOLDIER should have gone further behind the scenes?—Pte P Starling, 12 Coy, RAMC, Operating Theatre, Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, London SE18.

★ *SOLDIER'S* team regrets not seeing the hospital at Caernarvon. A pity no-one approached the team which was around the camp for several days.

D-r-i-n-k-i-n-g

As a member of a folk music club I often hear "D-Day Dodgers" and "The Jocks' Farewell to Sicily." I can recall the Welsh Guards with their "Sospn Bach" enlivening The George at Croydon and I understand from an ex-Seaforth Highlander that 51st Highland Division in 1940 had a divisional drinking song with a "punch line"

appropriate to each regiment. Inquiries suggest that very little is recorded of regimental drinking songs and I wonder if any readers could help on this subject. Who knows, there may be enough material for a book?—R G Field, 22 Delamare Crescent, Croydon, Surrey CRO 7BU.

Champion surfers

We enjoyed reading the article on the Army Outward Bound School (September); the photographs were particularly good. It may interest readers to know that the National Canoe Surfing Championships, held at Bude in September, brought three wins for members of the school: National canoe surfing champion 1970, Capt M S Wright, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment; winner of the surf rescue race, Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor J C Reilly, Army Physical Training Corps; winners of the surf relay race, Army Canoe Union team.—Brig J A Marchant (Retd), Principal, Army Outward Bound School, Morfa Camp, Towyn, Merioneth, North Wales.

Naafi "life"

It was with keen interest that I listened to the publicity given on BFBS by Naafi's managing director on the "successful negotiations" conducted by Naafi for life endowment assurance through the Guardian Assurance.

The case quoted as an example was a sergeant aged 25 who would pay £3 10s monthly by allotment from his pay for a £1000 policy—an annual premium of £42.

Any insurance broker would obtain terms at least as good and perhaps better. I quote one: In 1964, as a staff-sergeant aged 32, I obtained a £1500 endowment policy with profits from a Canadian assurance company at a premium of £28 2s 11d per half-year—a total of £56 5s 10d per annum which

equates at £37 10s 6d per annum per £1000. There are no geographical restrictions nor any extra premiums because of my occupation—a selling point stressed on the BFBS programme.

Many of its services are very good but Naafi should not, in my humble opinion, enter the insurance field.

I have no connection with any assurance firm but have had good professional advice on this subject on several occasions. This is a specialist field where every client needs advice tailored to his own needs and plans for the future.—WO1 J D Whittall, RAMC Military Hospital, Terendak c/o GPO Malacca.

★ *Naafi's Public Relations branch says:* "Differing costs provide an incomplete basis for the comparison of life policies. When one is paying for the right to share in profits in addition to the guaranteed sum, the company selected should have proven its ability to maintain a satisfactory level of profit on its life funds so producing satisfactory values at the end of the specified terms. The Guardian group has shown its ability to do this in the past and we are confident

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The special allowance paid to all Service personnel in Northern Ireland during the current emergency is in recognition of the exceptional strains under which they are working while engaged on internal security duties and the extremely uncomfortable conditions under which many of them are having to live.

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| Corporals and below | 3s. 6d per day. |

The allowance is payable from 1 August 1969 and is subject to a qualifying period of 14 days' service in Northern Ireland. It will continue until the new Services pay structure is introduced or until the end of the emergency conditions, whichever is the sooner.

that current policy holders will benefit in the same way. One also needs to be sure that the comparison is for like periods—Mr Whittall does not make this point clear in his letter.

"Naafi does not deny that some customers could, by taking time and trouble, find policies tailor-made to their particular circumstances and requirements. These could prove marginally better than those offered under the Naafi-Guardian schemes but not all our customers have the time or inclination to do this.

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Services tailoring

One of our members has suggested that the following information concerning the Combined Services Tailoring Organisation might interest SOLDIER readers.

Army and Royal Air Force tailoring contractors formed their own organisation early this year as they felt they had no proper representation. Most of them belong to the Federation of Merchant Tailors to whom the Ministry of Defence had always referred their queries. Now the Combined Services Tailoring Organisation does this work and its members meet regularly, usually at Leicester, to discuss their problems and air their grievances. The officers liaise with the Ministry.

It is hoped this organisation will enlarge its activities as time goes on and as secretary I would like to hear from anyone in the business who is interested in joining.—**Ann Andrews, Hon Sec, Combined Services Tailoring Organisation, Linley, Downsway, Great Bookham, Surrey**

COLLECTORS' CORNER

A Birmingham, PO Box 142, Ryde, NSW 2112, Australia.—Urgently wants in good clean condition military recruiting posters, wall charts of badges, buttons, uniforms etc, postcards, badges and buttons (KGC). State price including postage. Write airmail with full description.

Sgt G Tyson, 1st Bn, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, BFPO 53.—Requires details of dress worn by drum-major and drummers of 34th Foot in 1811.

A E Stonestreet, 29 Chaplin Road, Willesden Green, London NW2.—Requires cap badge of Queen's Royal Rifles (London TA).

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G Robb, 17 Hillhead Road, Craighall, Ellon Aberdeenshire.—Wishes sell pair British officer's World War One black leather calf-length gaiters in very good condition, or will exchange for British web belt and waterbottle of modern design.

L/Cpl C Orr, (ACF) Royal Scots Greys, Smithstone House, Kilwinning, Ayrshire.—Wishes purchase reasonably priced German Army steel helmet (1939-45) in good condition complete with badge(s), lining and chinstrap.

H Krijnen, 44 Warmonderweg, Oegstgeest, Netherlands.—Collects anything connected with 1940-43 desert campaigns eg maps, documents, badges, books as preliminary to further study. Correspondence welcomed from former members WDF, 13 Corps and Eighth Army. Also collects badges of other British and Commonwealth units as well as information on AFVs.

NOR ALL THAT GLISTERS, GOLD

Coded groups, alphabet, wheels—a host of information with a sprinkling of red herrings including that fifth wheel which was in no way involved in Competition 134 (July).

Most competitors worked it all out but others took a look at the oddly phrased "I spin to equal his money" and took the short cut, discovering this to be an anagram of the solution, "Honi soit qui mal y pense."

Prizewinners:

1 L Cpl P S Leach, 4 Army Youth Team, c/o ACIO, 33 Westgate, Bradford 1, Yorks.

2 Sgt H Driver, Mercian Depot, Prince of Wales's Division, Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Staffs.

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6 A D Wine, 59 Graham Avenue, Mile Oak, Portslade, Sussex BN4 2WN.

7 Colin Borland, 141 George Street, Glasgow C1.

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9 S Sgt A Cunliffe, 5 Inf Wksp REME, Catterick Camp, Yorks.

10 F H Brearey, 30 Grosvenor Road, Ettingshall Park, Wolverhampton.

11 Brig C Buttenshaw (Retd), CYLO, HQ Southern Command (West), Erskine Barracks, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts.

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CHASE THE JACKPOT

As announced in the September issue, competitors who submitted correct entries for the June ("Togetherness") and July ("Nor all that glisters, gold") competitions, win a special prize. The 26 who so qualified are being given a six-month free subscription to SOLDIER and will continue to compete for the jackpot.

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THE GOOD SAMARITANS OF

BADDOW ROAD

A LITTLE girl knelt beside her new soft bed with a borrowed golliwog and prayed: "Thank you God for the lovely furniture."

She and four brothers and sisters had left rooms with bare floorboards to stay with some kind "aunties" in the country. The "aunties" are staff of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association who run Springbok House, a short-stay home for children in the pleasant Essex countryside just outside Chelmsford.

The little girl and her brothers and sisters were in need of care. Explained the house-mother, Miss Elizabeth Duke-Turner: "It seemed the only furniture they had was a radiogram on hire purchase. The father was hardly ever present and the mother could not cope with them. The children told us their mother had put her stiletto heel through a policeman's helmet and broken a milk bottle over a lodger's head."

This was an extreme case which happened four years ago. But the children come to Springbok House for many reasons. One family, whose mother had left home, stayed eight months while their father searched for her. A boy of six, who spoke only German, stopped en route from his mother's home in Berlin to join his father in Hong Kong. "He was very good," said Miss Duke-Turner. "He only once complained, which was when I turned out the light and he said 'Zu dunkel' (too dark)."

Other children simply come for a holiday. Servicemen stationed abroad are

allowed to have their children sent out on free passages from boarding school in England for two holidays a year. Remaining school holidays may be spent at Springbok House.

The home was a gift from the South Africa Aid to Great Britain Fund. It used to be a large mansion at Great Baddow, Essex, accommodating 30 children, but moved to smaller premises at 440 Baddow Road, Chelmsford, in 1958.

Here the children are looked after by Miss Duke-Turner ("They call me Auntie Billie as they can't pronounce Elizabeth"), one assistant housemother and part-time voluntary helpers. They have meals with the children and take them shopping, swimming, on picnics and country walks, and to the pictures on Saturday mornings. Children who are there in term time go to a local school. They can play in a games room indoors; with swings, see-saw, sand-pit and slide in the garden; or in a "Wendy" house complete with dolls, cots, a mini-tea service and plastic telephone. Then they are tucked up in bed with a golliwog or teddy bear.

Although the home can cater for 12 children at a time, they seldom have that number. At a recent open day there were only four children—a guardsman's 20-month-old daughter whose mother was ill and three children from a fusilier regiment whose mother was in hospital.

These days most of the children come from ex-Service families. Some are nominated by the children's officer of a local



Top of page: The cosy playroom with toys and games for everyone. Above: A bedtime story read by Miss Duke-Turner. They call her Auntie Billie.

council for reasons such as the birth of a new baby, desertion of the mother or eviction.

Fees are £10 a child per week but this may be reduced for parents of small means. The age limits are boys from about two to ten and girls two to 12. Bookings can be made through the Case Secretary at SSAFA head office, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1.

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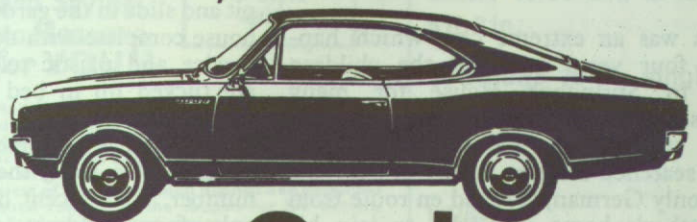
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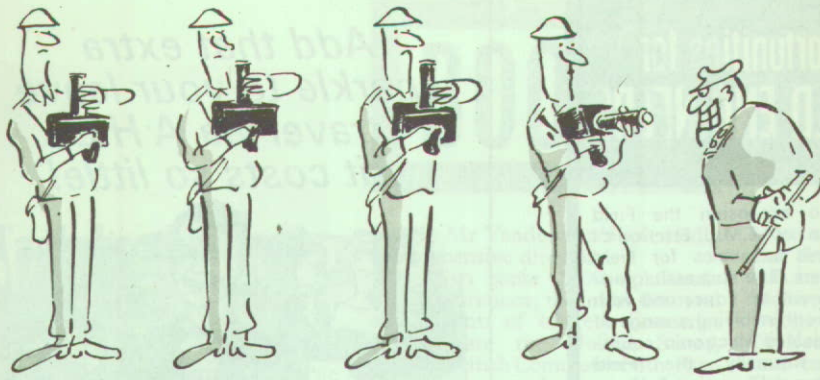
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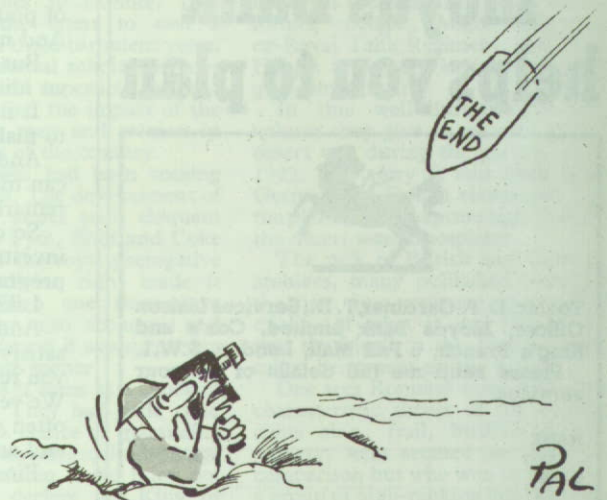
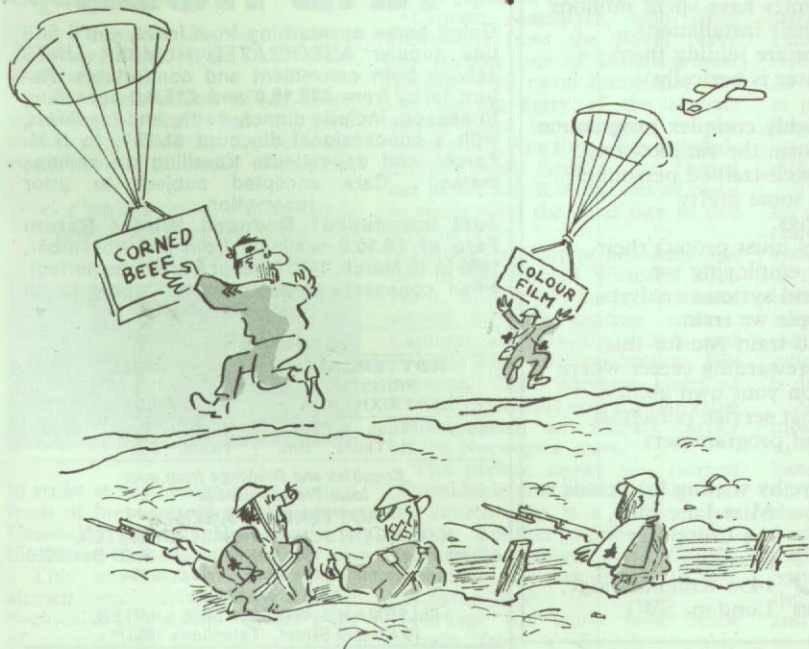
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BOOKS

Tank brotherhood

"Panzer Division: The Mailed Fist" (Major K J Macksey)

In the inter-war years, writers like Liddell Hart and generals like Fuller, Martel, Hobart, Broad, Pile and De Gaulle were kicked variously upstairs, sideways, out or simply ignored because the imagination and foresight which made them protagonists of armoured warfare was unpalatable to authority. The unjust treatment meted out to them is now a matter of history.

Germany, on the other hand, remembered the devastating effect of the 1918 tanks. Maybe the fact that they had been on the receiving end sharpened the lesson for them. Germany gave birth to the panzer division, with Guderian, Rommel and Manstein using them as admirals used battle fleets.

In this Purnell Weapons Book No 2, Kenneth Macksey presents a fascinating survey of panzer warfare, following their tracks across the fields of France, the sands of North Africa and the steppes of the Soviet Union. Until recently a serving officer of the Royal Tank Regiment, and its historian, he is uniquely placed to compile such a survey.

He describes graphically the panzers' progress from their secret birth in the late twenties to their fighting death in the mid-forties. And there emerges the story of an élite force of formidable morale whose spirit was founded on the comradeship of a vehicle crew and the tactical unity of sections right up through battalions, regiments and divisions to army level.

The panzer men were something apart from the rest of the German armed forces; a brotherhood unfettered by outmoded rules and curbs of other arms. Their tragedy was that they served a criminal madman.

Macdonald, 8s 6d

JCW

"Vehicular equipment"

"The Observer's Fighting Vehicles Directory, World War Two" (Bart H Vanderveen)

"The contribution of an overwhelming air force and the great mobility provided by the vehicular equipment of the army enabled us

THE OBSERVER'S FIGHTING VEHICLES DIRECTORY



to strike at any chosen point along a front of hundreds of miles," wrote General Dwight D Eisenhower in his book "Crusade in Europe."

This was Ike's tribute to his airmen and drivers. His term "vehicular equipment" covers a lot of ground—just how much can be

seen in Mr Vanderveen's splendidly comprehensive directory.

He lists some 1000 specimens with illustrations, technical data and other points of interest. Countries covered are the United States, Britain, British Commonwealth, Russia, Germany, Italy and Japan. He might have included France whose army owned some very interesting vehicles though when the French got back into the war they had American and British equipment.

Most books on military vehicles concentrate on the "glamour brigade" of the tanks, armoured cars and self-propelled guns. Mr Vanderveen casts a far wider net to cover field cars, ambulances, fire engines, crash tenders, tank transporters, TCVs, tractors, snowploughs—right down the line to the lowly three-tonner.

This book is a valuable reference work which will be welcomed by historians, collectors, scale modellers and dealers.

Frederick Warne, 25s

JCW

Decisive

"Aircraft Carrier: The Majestic Weapon" (Donald Macintyre)

Of all the weapons of history, with the possible exception of the atomic bomb, the aircraft carrier has proved to be the most decisive. British carriers drew first blood in this new type of warfare, knocking out three Italian battleships at Taranto; and it was a British torpedo plane which slowed the Bismark to allow the main fleet to catch and sink her.

But the laurels for carrier warfare must go to the Americans and the Japanese. They placed an entirely new meaning on naval warfare; battles to the death were fought without the opposing fleets sighting each other.

Midway, 4 June 1942, was perhaps the greatest carrier battle. Overnight, by sinking four Japanese carriers, US Navy airmen achieved the most decisive victory since Trafalgar, redressing the balance of naval power in the Pacific and breaking the back of the Japanese naval air force.

Captain Macintyre, who since retirement from the Royal Navy has become one of Britain's most distinguished naval historians, tells the stirring story of the aircraft carrier from its inception to the present day. At a time when Britain's carriers seem fated to be phased out of service, it is not out of place to study what the allies owe to this type of ship.

Captain Macintyre has done just this in this Purnell Weapons Book No 3. It is a pity he is not better served by his caption writers. Captions are slovenly written and in some cases very misleading. For instance, "The warships Duke of York, Formidable and Indefatigable cruising with an aircraft carrier off the Norwegian coast."

The picture shows two carriers (Formidable and Indefatigable) and the fourth ship is a county class cruiser. Another caption refers to "a British carrier." The ship is undeniably the Ark Royal, so why not name her?

Perhaps the worst boob reads "Shells from a British warship

score a direct hit on the Bismark." Far from being hit, the Bismark was in fact firing at the Hood; the picture was taken from the signal bridge of the cruiser Prinz Eugen by Yeoman 1st Class Fritz Bunsert and came to light only when the Prinz Eugen was on her way to Bikini after the war to be a guinea pig in the atom bomb tests.

Macdonald, 8s 6d

JCW

Shrewd analysis

"The War in the Desert" (Brigadier Anthony Farrar-Hockley)

This is yet another of those accounts of the Eighth Army's battles in North Africa which still seem to fascinate military historians, perhaps because the desert war was a "tidy" one uncomplicated by civilians and ending in a clear decisive victory.

Though the author, who served with both the Gloucesters and The Parachute Regiment in World War Two, is covering ground already well covered by others before him, he still captures the reader's attention.

His style is fast, personalised and exciting. He has learned the lesson of such professional popular military writers as Cornelius Ryan and John Toland, who give their readers a picture seen from the worm's eye and bird's eye point of view. He gives us a shrewd analysis of the major leaders involved but does not neglect the humble Tommy and his German equivalent. With some excellent maps and illustrations, this book is good value for anyone who wants a concise and authoritative account of the war in Africa between June 1940 and May 1943.

Faber and Faber, 16s

CW

King or Parliament

"Civil War in England" (Jack Lindsay)

The civil wars of the 1640s are remote enough to be impersonal and perhaps this is why so many writers have found them such attractive topics to explore. Jack Lindsay is the latest to cast a critical eye on those turbulent years. As a good classical scholar he tries to probe behind superficial generalisations and find the impact of the new ideas on men and women in different parts of the country.

The civil war had been coming for a long time. The development of common law under such eloquent spokesmen as Pym, Eliot and Coke in the face of the royal prerogative based upon divine right made it inevitable. When one remembers that there were also economic and religious grievances it was surprising it did not come sooner.

Nonetheless it came as a shock to most people. They had little time to reflect on a choice as marauding bands from both sides took advantage of their indecision. Like it or not they had to declare for King or Parliament. Although there were important exceptions the general pattern was soon apparent. London, the bigger towns and ports, the navy and the merchant classes, especially in the south and east, were for

Parliament; Wales, Cornwall, the north and west, the landed gentry and their servants were for the King.

Although the war seemed to hang in the balance until the Scots flung in their lot with Parliament, it was only a matter of time before money brought success to the Roundheads. The appearance of Cromwell and his tough New Model Army just made victory all that more positive. The king was executed and a republic declared which was compelled to resort to military dictatorship until overthrown by the nation.

The fighting had been hard and often vicious with most of the bad marks going to the Royalists. Rupert massacred his opponents at Bolton and Liverpool while the brutal Goring looted Leicester. Acts such as these did not win many of the still undecided to the king.

Written with vigour and clarity, this book is worth the attention of any reader interested in the 17th century.

Frederick Muller, 35s

AWH



"Up the blue"

"North African Campaign" (Major J Bingham and Werner Haupt)

This interesting and welcome experiment in the writing of military history is the combined effort of two former enemies, Major Bingham, ex-Royal Tank Regiment, and Herr Haupt, a former German anti-tank gun commander.

In this well-illustrated quality volume they give an account of the desert war during the period 1940-1943. The story is told from both German and British viewpoints and the photographs capture significantly the desert war atmosphere.

The pick of British and German archives, many published here for the first time, recreate the special quality of what it was like to be "up the blue" as the Eighth Army called being sent up the line.

One sees Rommel again with that characteristic thrust of his pugnacious chin; frail, birdlike Montgomery, who seemed so puny in comparison but who won in the end; a group of high-ranking 4th Division officers in that characteristic motley of assorted uniforms so typical of that time and place; and everywhere the bronzed cheerful faces of anonymous figures in khaki—Italian, German and British from all corners

BOOKS

continued

of the globe—plodding up the damned coastal road that led to death for so many of them.

Definitely a good present for any old Eighth Army man.

Macdonald, 50s

CW

Southerners and Lowlanders

"The Wiltshire Regiment" (Tom Gibson)

It all began in 1756 in the sleepy cathedral town of Exeter to the roll of drums and the hoarse cries of recruiting sergeants. Country lads, fresh from haymaking and turnip hoeing, decided to give the Army a try. Soon, numbered the 62nd Foot, they were off to Cape Breton Island and later Quebec. Although mainly used as marines their reliability and skill with the Brown Bess musket marked them out as highly efficient soldiers.

Unfortunately most of their fighting was against the diseases which made the West Indies a living hell. Ironically their greatest hour in America was also their first, but honourable, defeat. Near Saratoga, despite great bravery, the 62nd were compelled to surrender to a vastly superior American force.

The 19th century saw more scientific wars fought on a wider scale—crushing revolts in Ireland, invading Maine, occupying France, storming the Great Redan in the Crimea and enduring snowstorms in Canada. Again they had their moment of glory, at bloody Ferozeshah against fanatically brave Sikhs.

Meanwhile, in Glasgow in 1824, the Governor of Mauritius had raised a fresh Lowland regiment, the 99th Foot. They escorted convicts to Australia, stormed Maori forts, with their elegance won the nickname "The Queen's Pets" at Aldershot, defeated Tartar cavalry to sack the Summer Palace at Peking and fought off Zulul at Etshowe with Gatling guns.

The marriage of the 62nd and 99th seemed ridiculous. But the recipe was ideal for an efficient fighting force as they showed in India and South Africa. It was even



more useful for the harder work ahead after 1914.

Between the wars were garrison duties in Dublin, Egypt, Malaya, Hong Kong and Shanghai, then the challenge of 1939 with tough rear-guard actions in France, landings in Madagascar and Sicily, crossing the Garigliano and training in Bengal.

Since the war there have successful guerilla hunts in Cyprus and postings to Hong Kong. On 9 June 1959 the regiment formally amalgamated with The Royal Berkshire Regiment to form The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

Like all the volumes in this very fine "Famous Regiments" series this one has lots of illustrations.

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Stabilis

"The Suffolk Regiment" (Guthrie Moir)

Between 1949 and 1952 Britain fought a miniature Vietnam war in the dense jungles of Malaya. One regiment was particularly effective in this hostile terrain and accounted for 198 terrorists. This highly skilled

jungle fighting force was The Suffolk Regiment.

Fighting guerillas has always been a speciality of the old 12th Foot. Shortly after their formation in 1685 they were searching Irish bogs for the hard-fighting Rapparees. They earned the motto "Stabilis" ("Steady") at Dettingen, Fontenoy and the savage Minden Heath.

Their first battle honour came in 1779 for a gallant part in the Great Siege of Gibraltar. So useful were they in the field that they were soon shipped off to India. Long years in the East and in humdrum garrison posts meant their absence from the more spectacular events of the Peninsular and Crimean wars.

But it was their kind of service that held the Empire together for so long. In South Africa they smashed Seyolo and his fierce Kaffir warriors; in Australia they kept an eye on convicts; in New Zealand they forced the likeable Maoris to accept British laws; in India they died of cholera yet marched to Kabul.

Then came 1914, with 27 Suffolk battalions and 7000 dead. The war over, the Suffolks continued to patrol the hills of Malabar in India against the fanatical Moplahs and show the flag at Gibraltar and Malta.

World War Two began badly for the 4th and 5th battalions. In Singapore's dying agonies they fought bitterly but hopelessly against the Japanese. Changi Jail became the first stop in a journey to the dreaded Burma railway. Hundreds of Suffolks died from disease and cruel neglect but they were avenged—by mounted infantry in North Africa, at Overloon, Venray and Bremen, at the Hitler and Gothic lines and at Imphal.

The epilogue has been mainly security operations—fighting the Stern Gang in Palestine, patrolling the Canal Zone area, tracking down EOKA terrorists in Cyprus and keeping the peace in Trieste. In August 1959 they amalgamated with the Royal Norfolks to form the 1st East Anglian Regiment, to be followed in 1964 by incorporation into the first "large" regiment.

This excellent book in the "Famous Regiments" series has a fine collection of photographs.

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Rome Fell Today

Robert H Adleman & Colonel George Walton



Clark's switch

"Rome Fell Today" (Robert H Adleman and Colonel George Walton)

The battle for Italy was easily the most controversial campaign of World War Two. General Mark Clark's decision to race for Rome instead of marching across Italy to trap the German forces retreating from Cassino is by far this campaign's most controversial incident.

The authors examine his conduct in some detail. They conclude that Clark was an embodiment of the young Americans sent to Italy—politically unsophisticated, brash and avid for publicity.

Opinion on Clark's change of direction varies. On one side it is regarded as gross insubordination, on the other as good judgement in going after the prize of the campaign. The authors seem to agree with Alexander who wrote: "I had always assured General Clark in conversation that Rome would be entered by his army; and I can only assume that the immediate lure of Rome for its publicity value persuaded him to switch the direction of his advance."

Their comment: "For Sir Harold



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Alexander, whose military pronouncements even on the beaches of Dunkirk were consistently understated, this represents a rather grave indictment."

Truscott, Clark's favoured subordinate and successor in command of the Fifth Army, wrote: "There has never been any doubt in my mind that had General Clark held loyalty to General Alexander's instructions, had he not changed the direction of my attack on May 26, the strategic objective of Anzio would have been accomplished in full. To be first into Rome was poor compensation for this lost opportunity."

General Truscott reports that Clark feared the British were laying devious plans to be first into Rome. Clark's friend, Ambassador Robert Murphy, recalled: "There was a strong feeling that the British wanted to lead the procession into Rome just as Montgomery later wanted to capture Berlin. There's no doubt about that one—I think Alexander wanted to get into Rome first." Murphy's suggestion that so upright and dedicated a soldier as Alexander would stoop to such a thing is objectionable in the extreme.

This book is bound to open a few old wounds. In that respect it is fortunate that its authors are American. Their coverage is crisp and hard-hitting and they successfully capture the atmosphere, colour and confusion of that hard slog up the leg of Italy. A book to be read many times over.

Frewin, 40s

JCW

Soviet saviour

"*Marshal Zhukov's Greatest Battles*"
(Georgi K Zhukov, edited by Harrison E Salisbury)

The brains behind Russia's victory over the Wehrmacht, Marshal Zhukov was the greatest of a galaxy of Russian commanders who emerged from World War Two with glory. In the final analysis he might well prove to be the greatest military commander of his day. Almost singlehandedly he saved his country from utter defeat in the summer and autumn of 1941, thereafter planning and mounting the crushing offensives which ultimately led to his victory in the dramatic battle of Berlin.

Moscow, Stalingrad, Kursk, Berlin are milestones in his military career. His accounts of these battles are taken from the military history magazine *Voyenno - Istoricheskii Zhurnal* and assembled by Mr Salisbury, assistant managing editor of the *New York Times* and one of the world's foremost authorities on Soviet military affairs. Mr Salisbury's lucid introduction and perceptive commentary enhance the book, largely defeating what he calls "higher Communist Party censorship" to which all Russian writers must submit.

Zhukov emerges as a commander cast in the same mould as Suvorov, though he lacked Suvorov's feeling for his men. Even the merciless ruthlessness with which he pursued his aims does not detract from his standing when one considers that

no commander before or since manoeuvred such vast numbers of men.

The German Army's eastward march was one of unrelieved success until it came up against Zhukov at the gates of Moscow. In a brilliantly conceived counter-attack he hurled the Germans back, inflicting on them their first major defeat. At Stalingrad, Zhukov's pincer movement surrounded and defeated Paulus and the 250,000 men of Sixth Army.

But perhaps Zhukov's greatest feat of generalship was Kursk. He accurately forecast German intentions and the Wehrmacht walked right into his trap. In a battle of 6000 tanks and millions of men the Germans suffered an appalling defeat so staggering that Hitler was never again able to take the strategic initiative in Russia. The marshal then set the seal on his triumph by planning the assault on Berlin.

One of Zhukov's most important victories is rarely mentioned yet it was probably instrumental in keeping Russia's Asian "back door" intact. It occurred during an undeclared war between Russia and Japan in 1939. At Khalkhin-Gol, on the eastern approaches to Mongolia, Zhukov shattered an invading Japanese army, hurling it back into Manchuria with severe losses.

The Soviet Union owed its survival to Zhukov. Little wonder that first Stalin and then Krushchev sent him into the wilderness after the war. He was a man to be feared.

Macdonald, 45s

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