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FRONT AND BACK COVERS

Queen's Gurkha Engineers working on Kat O Chau (Crooked Island), an offshore island in Hong Kong's New Territories, are kept supplied with water brought from the mainland by one of the Royal Corps of Transport's ramped powered lighters. The sappers' task on Kat O Chau is expected to take about a year — they are building a police post and accommodation.

Picture: Paul Haley.

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4 Queen's Gurkha Engineers

Their job is to support the Gurkha Field Force in Hong Kong. But other tasks take these sappers to some of the most exotic South Sea islands.

10 Royal Army Pay Corps centenary

The very word 'soldier' derives from a Latin term for money paid to legionaries. And money has been the business of the RAPC for 100 years.

19 Army School of Mechanical Transport

With the streamlining of the driver training organisation, this new school — almost a university — has taken life in Yorkshire.



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Far from their homes in the Nepalese hills, men of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers are permanently based in Hong Kong. But their many peacetime projects take them to the Solomon Islands and New Hebrides as well

Pacific sappers

IT WOULD APPEAR difficult for the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, now permanently stationed in Hong Kong, to live up to their corps' motto of 'ubique' (everywhere) with only the small Far East colony as their stamping ground.

But undeterred, the unit finds its own way to live up to the motto by sending its sappers on projects in the remote and exotic Solomon Islands and New Hebrides in the Pacific. A speciality is the building of suspension bridges for local communities there although many other helpful tasks fill up the time away from the routine of Hong Kong.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers (they were honoured with the royal prefix in 1977) have been in existence for some 30 years. They saw service in the Korean War, Malayan Emergency and Borneo Confrontation as well as on internal security duties during riots in Hong Kong itself in 1967-68.

Up to the late sixties the unit numbered about 1500 but this has now dwindled to around 550 Gurkhas augmented by some 150 local Chinese civilians. All the officers are seconded from the Royal Engineers to serve alongside the Gurkhas.

Since 1970 the regiment has been concentrated in Hong Kong and its two Gurkha field squadrons — 67 and 68 — are being settled into Perowne Camp on the west coast of Hong Kong's New Territories with Headquarters Squadron, or Support Squadron as it is to be re-named,

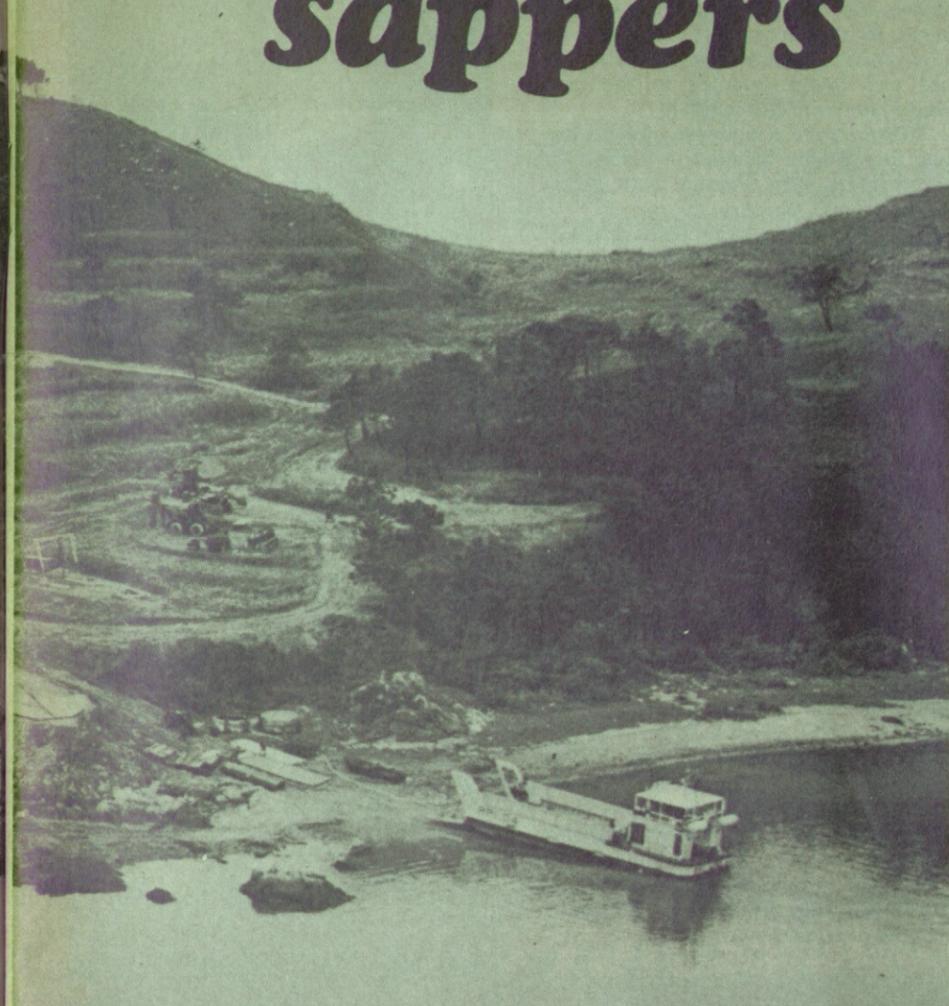
Left: Kat O Chau — Crooked Island — hunches its back around the sapper camp in its bay.

Far left: Men of Support Squadron lifting an outboard engine from its cradle for testing.

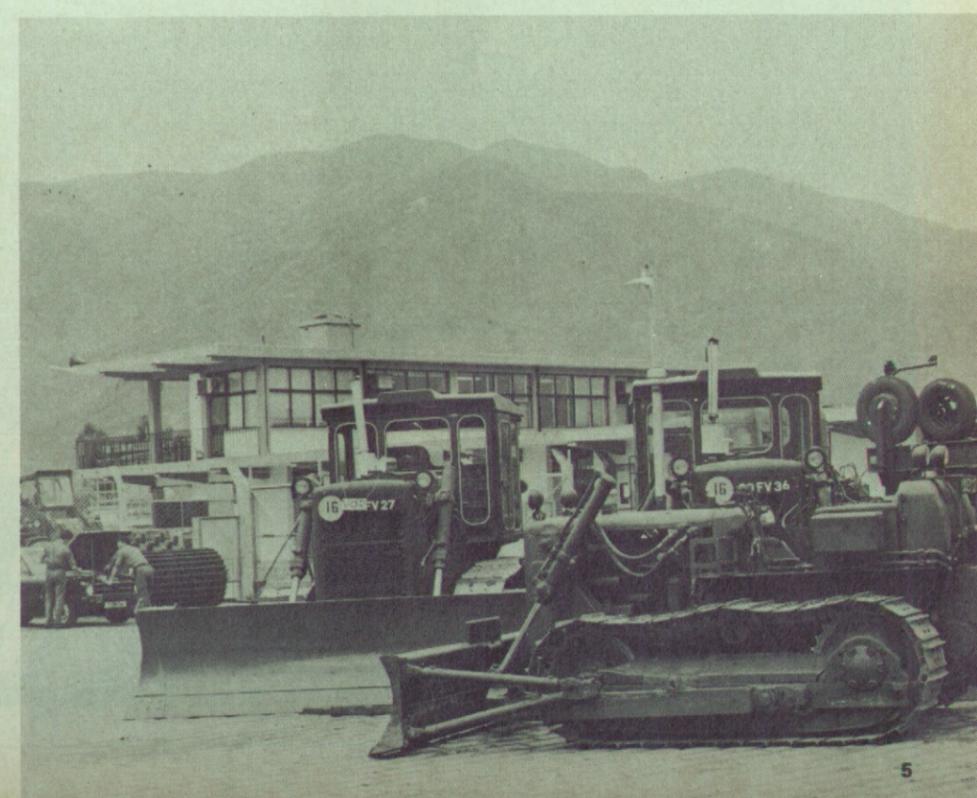
Far right: Water for the camp at Kat O Chau has to be brought by sea aboard an RCT RPL.

Below left: Methodical Gurkha Engineers have made a model of their jetty at Tai Mong Tsai.

Below: Heavy plant and support of all kinds is held at Support Squadron's Sek Kong base.



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley



based inland at Sek Kong. The all-important Headquarters Squadron comprises a design team, resources troop, workshop troop, plant troop, light aid detachment and the unit's training wing.

The training wing is particularly vital as it moulds into engineers the relatively raw recruits from Nepal. They are selected in Nepal and come to the Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas, in Hong Kong, badged as Queen's Gurkha Engineers. After a year's basic training at the depot they move on to the QGE for six months' trade training.

During this time they are taught combat engineering, signalling and a number of more unusual trades including those of piper, drummer and diver. A team from the Royal Engineers Diving School at Marchwood visits once a year to train the regiment's own diving team. The instructors are confronted with the psychological barrier that the majority of Gurkhas are reluctant to take to the water, but nonetheless the Gurkha diving team is highly proficient and much in demand for specialist tasks.

Some of the more advanced trades, such as surveyor and draughtsman, are taught to the Gurkhas in the United Kingdom at Chatham. The unit now has its first Gurkha clerk of works (construction) and clerk of works (electrical). Of course all engineer skills learned by the Gurkhas during their time with the regiment come in useful to them when they return to their mountain homeland after their service.

The Queen's Gurkha Engineers exist to provide engineer support for the British garrison in Hong Kong and for the Hong Kong Government too. In addition, they have to be prepared to take on an infantry role in the event of internal security operations. The regiment helps the British infantry battalion on border duties by building and maintaining the accom-

modation and border defences overlooking Red China from the mainland New Territories.

There are also engineer project works to be done. These may include the construction of police posts for border patrols, requested and paid for by the Hong Kong Government. But there are projects for the Services too, such as work on camps and ranges in the colony. The Hong Kong Government may also ask for help with road and bridge building in the more remote corners of the colony.

Then there are community relations projects such as the building of clubhouses. At present a jetty is being built for an outward bound school on the coast.

Last, but by no means least, the regiment is on standby to help the Hong Kong Government in the event of natural disasters. Hong Kong is prone to violent weather producing landslips and floods, the disastrous effects of which can be eased by the expertise of the Queen's Gurkha Engineers. They may also be called out to disasters elsewhere in the Far East should the need arise.

As well as handling these peacetime tasks, the regiment is geared up to a different stance for internal security operations when it would be called upon to provide both an engineer field squadron to support the garrison, and a company of infantry. Specialist search teams and advisers would go to infantry battalions and the regiment would be expected to defend its own 'real estate' covering some 13 miles of the New Territories. In the unlikely event of war, the combat engineers would come into their own with mining, demolition and defence operations.

Whatever the job, the Gurkhas' own engineers are kept busy in their Hong Kong home as well as elsewhere in the Far East where they live up to the boasted ubiquity of sappers worldwide.

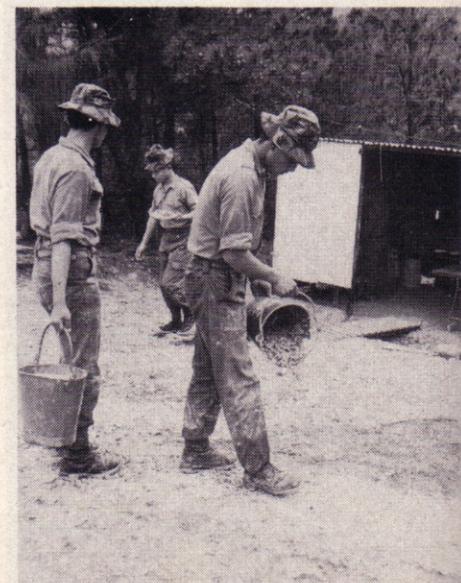
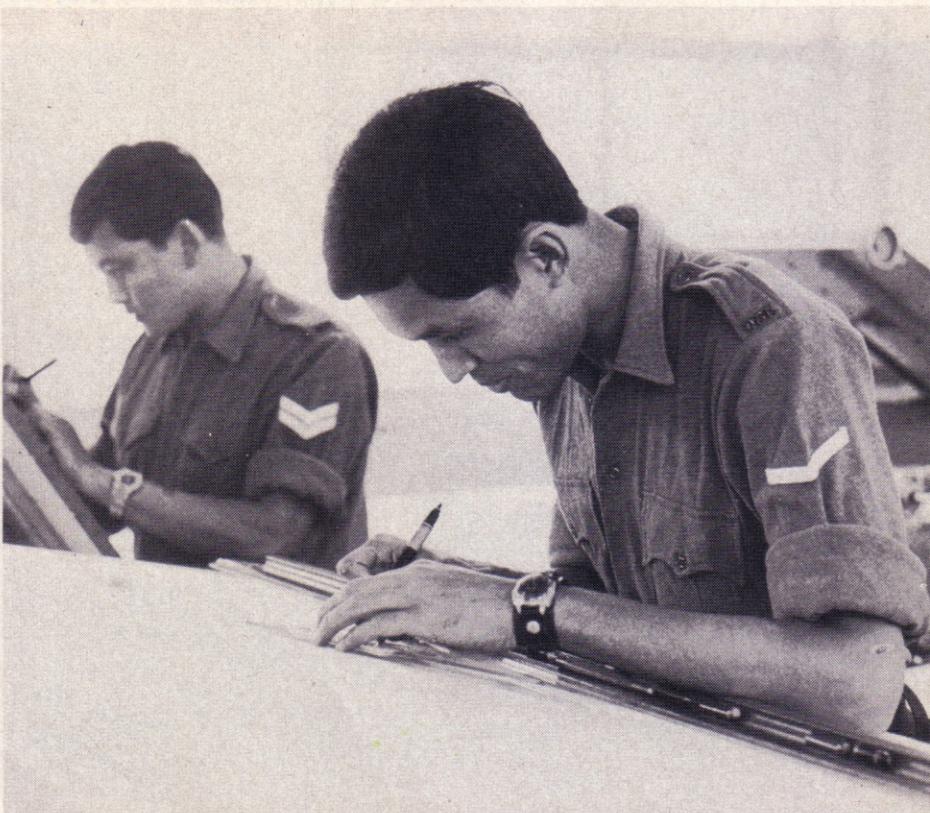


Top: A Chinese civilian of Support Squadron works on a notice board for a Gurkha unit.

Above: Years of skill and experience are in the gnarled hands guiding a carpenter's plane.

Left: Gurkha specialists hard at work in the design department planning the new projects.

Below: Gravel paths make life easier in the sappers' camps where they live while working.





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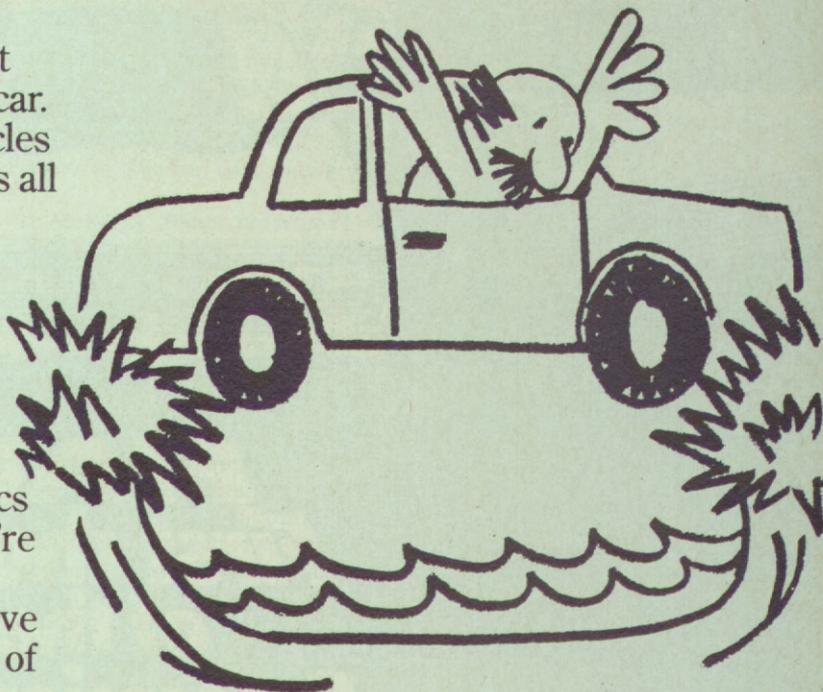
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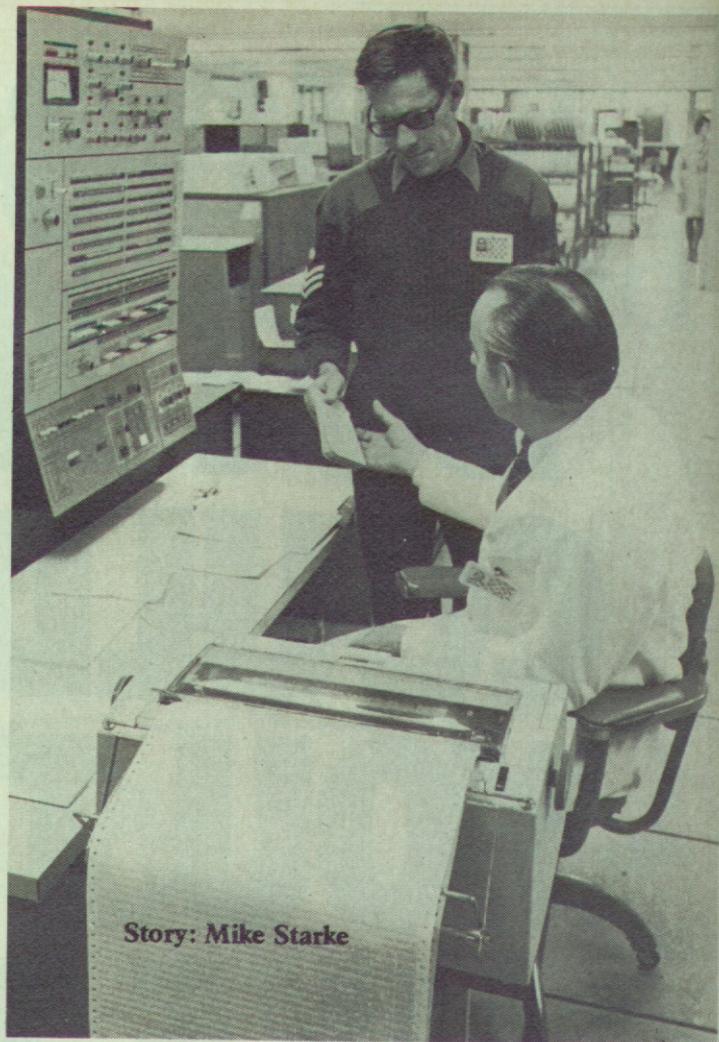
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After centuries of soldiers being paid — and sometimes not being paid — today's Royal Army Pay Corps celebrates 100 years of...



Story: Mike Starke

FRONT-LINE FINANCE

THE 'QUILL DRIVERS' of the Royal Army Pay Corps may not seem to have the most dashing duties in the passage of arms. But the importance of their work is emphasised by the fact that the very word 'soldier' has a financial root.

'Soldier' is derived from the Latin 'solidus' — a piece of money. In England this was first used to describe one who fought for money. Indeed, pay duties have an illustrious pedigree in the bygone legions of the Roman Army. The conqueror of Britain, Julius Caesar, himself held the paymaster post of 'quaestor' before his promotion to commander.

The Anglo Saxons accepted the principle of a paid army and this is supported by the fact that Harold employed Scandinavian mercenaries at the Battle of Hastings and paid them 2d a day. History does not record the speculation that had Harold's equivalent of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body recommended 3d a day, the outcome at Hastings might have been different!

Throughout the Middle Ages and for a long time after, the Army in England was run on a feudal basis and its members regarded themselves as followers of their overlord rather than as soldiers of the King, unless they were part of the sovereign's personal bodyguard.

As few of the rank and file were able to read and write, the clergy were often in

charge of the pay department. Since the overlord was responsible for the payment of his own followers there was no need for the elaborate centralised pay organisation that characterises modern forces.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I an official known as the Treasurer-at-War and a Paymaster were appointed in 1580. They issued cash for wages, based on the last muster roll, to the Captains of Companies. These rolls were checked every six months when soldiers' accounts were balanced and settled. These officials could be claimed as the regimental ancestors of the RAPC of today.

When Good Queen Bess sent a force to help the Dutch it was accompanied by a Treasurer-at-War, an Under-Treasurer, three Paymasters and 30 armed men to guard the bullion.

Although the title Paymaster was first used during Queen Elizabeth's reign, it was not until the Stuart period that the duties of paymasters were defined in the then Queen's Regulations. During the war with Scotland a Treasurer was appointed to pay the Army and he was allowed to augment his salary by deducting one penny out of every hundred that passed through his hands — a practice that would hardly find favour in Whitehall today.

Oliver Cromwell, with his New Model Army, was the first to recognise that a

soldier must be well paid and, perhaps more important, regularly paid. On 12 May 1649, Parliament passed an Act raising Army pay all round. From then on the Army was no longer paid from the privy purse of the sovereign or feudal leader.

King Charles II appointed a civilian Paymaster-General to conduct his business for him. The king was usually in debt to his Paymaster-General and the latter was always one year in arrears with the issue of money due to soldiers after all deductions had been made.

Included in these deductions was one penny a week for 'loss of exchange' which went towards the expense of maintaining a Regimental Surgeon and a Regimental Paymaster. Also, the Paymaster-General was allowed to retain one shilling in every pound for his pains. The Colonel of a regiment was also allowed a clerk to look after his accounts and the clerk's salary too came out of the soldiers' pay.

Whatever other grumbles from the ranks this system produced, three are chronicled. In 1695 an Army chaplain was sent to the Tower for querying his pay and two commanding officers were cashiered for withholding the pay of their officers and men.

Over the years a system of central financial control evolved which, with many modifications, continues to this day. In 1780, Edmund Burke proposed that the finances

The Royal Army Pay Corps Headquarters was centralised at Worthy Down in December 1960 and the ancient city of Winchester nearby honoured its association with the corps in 1970 by granting the Freedom of the City to the RAPC. The corps joined The Royal Hampshire Regiment, The King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Rifle Brigade as the only Army units to have been so honoured by Winchester. A 'Freedom march' through the city on 1 July 1978 will be a highlight of the RAPC centenary celebrations.

Worthy Down's connection with finance goes back many centuries. In the 1920s, thirteen iron currency bars dating from the Iron Age were discovered near the site of the present-day computer centre. The bars are thought to have been a crude form of currency used by the ancient stockmen of the area to guard their wealth against marauders.

Before the RAPC came to Worthy Down it was a Royal Naval air station — HMS Kestrel. There was amusement among the Senior Service ranks in World War Two when the notorious Nazi propagandist 'Lord' Haw-Haw' crowed about the 'sinking' of the HMS Kestrel after an air raid.

The corps itself has had its share of front-line limelight. Lieutenant L E James, of the Regimental Pay Officer, Leicester, impersonated Monty during a visit to Gibraltar in 1944 and helped to mislead enemy intelligence. Major A C Herring VC started his Army career with the Army Pay Department in 1914 before transferring to The Northamptonshire Regiment with whom he won his Victoria Cross. At the end of the war he transferred to the Corps of Military Accountants which, on its disbandment in 1927, became part of the RAPC.

of the Army and Navy should be put in the hands of officers specially trained for that purpose and, on Christmas Day 1798, paymasters with special commissions as such were appointed to regiments and a paymaster sergeant was added to the regimental establishment. They wore the uniforms and badges of the units with which they served.

In 1815 Lord Palmerston announced the adoption of the 'soldier's small account book.' The specimen showed the soldier's name as Thomas Atkins. This was chosen, the story goes, by the Duke of Wellington, remembering the name of a faithful soldier who had served under him during his campaigns. And thus the British 'Tommy' was born.

With the increased Parliamentary control of military spending, accounting became more elaborate and in 1878 the Army Pay Department was formed from the paymasters of regiments and establishments and civilian officers from the Control Department of the War Office. It is the centenary of these events that the modern Royal Army Pay Corps celebrates this year.

In 1893, the staff clerks who had assisted the officers of the Army Pay Departments were given a distinct existence as a body when the Army Pay Corps was formed. During World War One the department and corps expanded with 10,000,000 accounts



Left: Uniforms of a staff quartermaster-sergeant and staff-sergeant in early days of the RAPC.

Below: Extract from a pay sheet 100 years ago showing daily rates (left) and annual payment.

<i>BLACKNESS CASTLE.</i>		3	8	$\frac{1}{2}$	24	15	10
<i>Governor and Captain</i> - - - -	-	16	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	300	-	-	-
<i>Lieutenant</i> - - - - -	-	4	-	73	-	-	-
<i>Serjeant</i> - - - - -	-	1	6	27	7	6	-
<i>2 Corporals 1st Each</i> - - - -	-	2	-	36	10	-	-
<i>Drummer</i> - - - - -	-	1	-	18	5	-	-
<i>Master Gunner</i> - - - - -	-	2	-	36	10	-	-
<i>Gunner</i> - - - - -	-	1	-	18	5	-	-
<i>15 Soldiers, 8^d Each</i> - - - -	-	10	-	182	10	-	-
		17	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	692	7	6	



Left: A traditional pay parade — untraditional surroundings: on board ship. But the men of the RAPC are used to improvising an office.

The RAPC will celebrate its centenary at Worthy Down with a musical display on 30 June when it is hoped to present a pageant of uniforms of paymasters throughout the ages. One of these uniforms, that of an officer in the Army Pay Department in the 19th century, is depicted in a handsome statuette the corps has had specially made to commemorate the centenary. Other mementoes include engraved crystal goblets and tankards.

Before the corps celebrates at its home, members serving throughout the world will have staged simultaneous celebrations of their own. The corps will mark its close connection with Winchester by exercising its right as a holder of the Freedom of the City by marching through it on 1 July.

being processed throughout the world.

In 1920 the department and corps were each given the title 'Royal' and later the same year the two were merged under the title Royal Army Pay Corps. During World War Two, officers and soldiers of the RAPC served in every theatre of operations throughout the world.

The RAPC of today is represented in all but the smallest of units. It was in the early 1950s that history repeated itself and the system of having a paymaster with each major unit was re-introduced. Their duties are widespread with the issuing of pay only a part of their job. They are involved in using the latest management techniques and equipment to see that the Army and the taxpayer get value for money.

Members of the corps are currently serving in 26 countries, not only with the Army but on the staffs of diplomatic missions overseas.

Computerisation came to the corps in 1961 and the machine at Worthy Down — the home of the RAPC nowadays — is one of



A unique function of the Royal Army Pay corps is the payment of pensions to ex-Gurkha soldiers back home in their Himalayan country of Nepal. Beneath the Pension Paying Tree in the Dharan Cantonment in the east of Nepal's terai plainland, RAPC staff are on hand to pay out the pensions.

Many of the pensioners walk for days from their mountain villages to collect their money. Not long ago a Victoria Cross pensioner turned up to collect his VC gratuity after seven years. The pensioners congregate around the tree every day and their numbers can vary from a dozen to as many as 400.



Left: Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, The King's African Rifles, paid on a Nairobi airfield.

the largest in Government service. Its electronic brain retains details of all officers' and soldiers' pay, records and pensions.

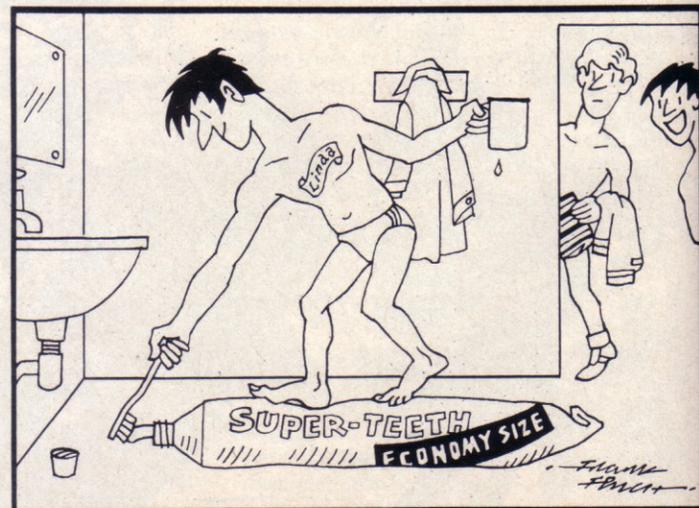
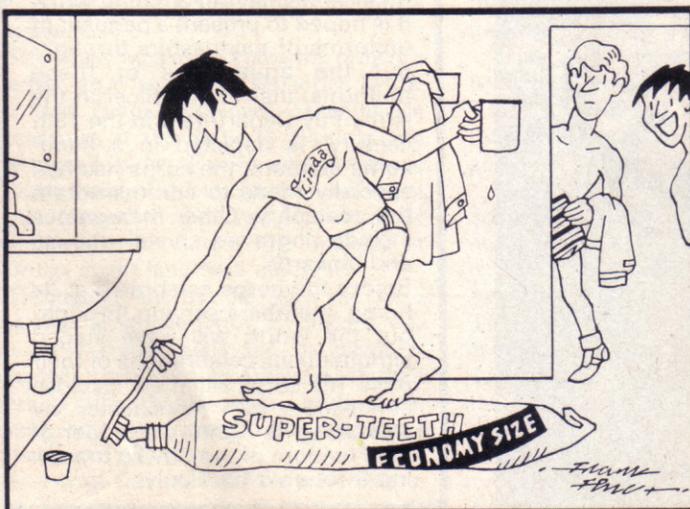
Backing the computer centre are RAPC offices at Ashton-under-Lyne, Brighton, Chester, Leicester, Taunton and York which collate the documents on service and pay which become the input for the computer.

Also at Worthy Down is a massive Command Pay Office which is switching into top gear to handle all payments and receipts made on behalf of the Army. And, as the corps' headquarters, Worthy Down is where direct-entry adult recruits plus officers and recruits on transfer from other corps and arms do their training. An apprentices college deals with younger recruits.

Even in the hundred years of its formal existence, the RAPC has come a long way from Harold doling out his 2d a day to those mercenaries he might have felt (had he lived through it) did not quite earn their money in the field at Hastings.

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 41.



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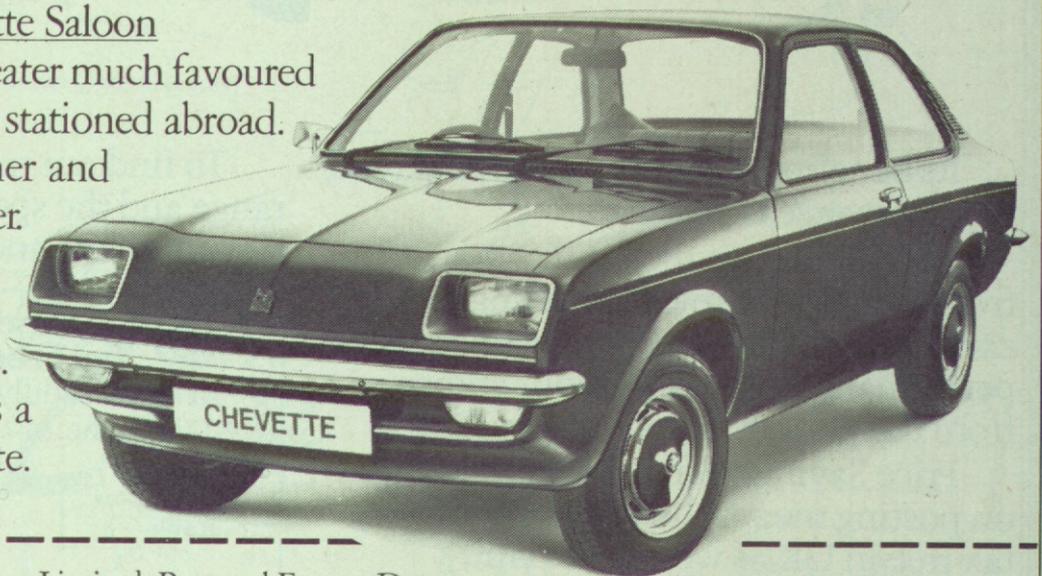
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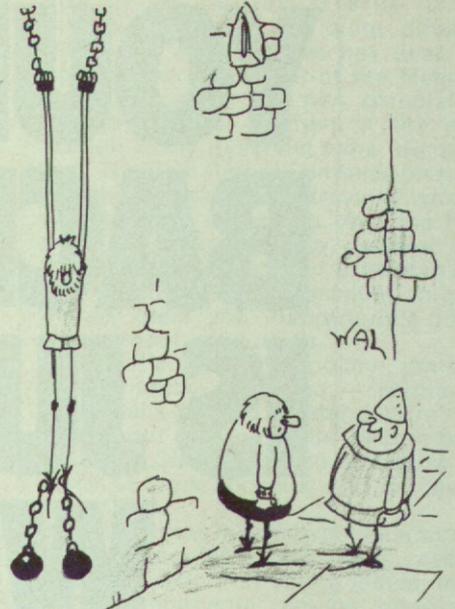
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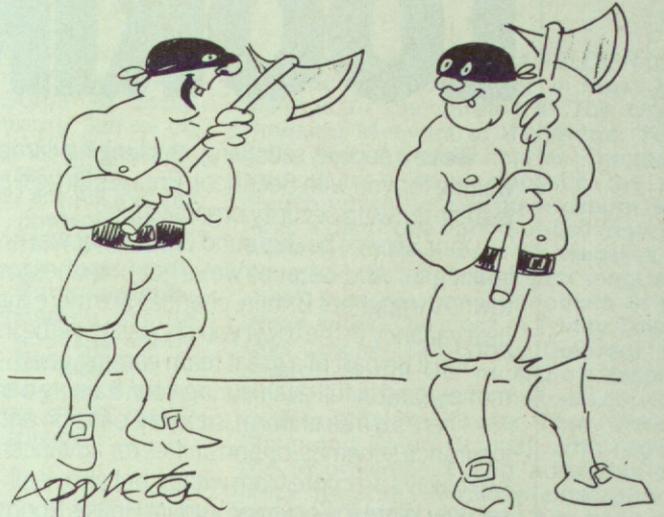
Appleby

"Any more ready for the basketball team?"



Nixon

"I could have sworn the ramp was facing the other way!"



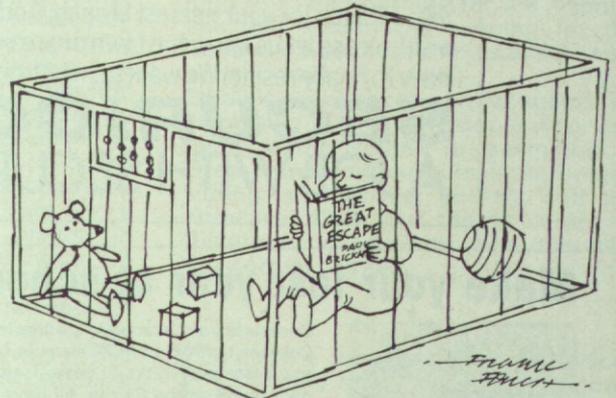
Appleby

"OK - I'll give you a head start!"

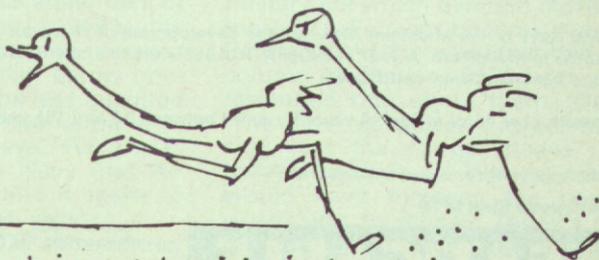


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Frank Finch

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Although the Army's recruiters have never been entirely convinced that pay is a major persuasion to signing on, Dr Ian Bellany, senior lecturer in the Department of Politics at the University of Lancaster, finds that a ten per cent increase in Service pay relative to civilian pay will bring a seven per cent rise in recruitment. If Service pay lags behind civilian pay, recruitment figures will fall at the same rate.

In a statistical analysis of the factors affecting voluntary enlistment into the three Services, Dr Bellany argues that increasing the relative value of Service pay will increase the rate of re-engagement for additional terms by existing servicemen and make it easier for the Services to retain manpower. Studying enlistment rates between 1960 and 1976, Dr Bellany has also discovered a strong connection between enlistment levels and the rise and fall in the level of armed hostilities. "The conventional wisdom is that a little war somewhere is the best recruiting sergeant and it seems there is something in it."

He says there is no evidence to suggest that hostilities in Northern Ireland have been any less effective spurs to enlistment than hostilities in Aden. Moreover, the announcement of cuts in bases east of Suez in 1968 discouraged enlistment in that year. Dr Bellany says that when there is a clear need for servicemen, volunteers appear and, when there is no clear need, they hold back. He suggests something more substantial is therefore needed to persuade people to enlist than the prospect of an exotic posting or a sunny lagoon.

A statistical test on the relationship between Army enlistment and the amount spent on advertising showed that enlistment rates governed the advertising expenditure and not the other way round. Between 1960 and 1976, advertising was intensified in any one year when enlistment rates had fallen in the previous year.

Dr Bellany has also found that unemployment is of no consequence in determining Army enlistment rates except among young entrants below the age of 17½. Each percentage point movement in the unemployment rate in the 18-19 age groups of the work force produced on average a two per cent movement in enlistment by recruits.

The reason for the discrepancy between the Services, Dr Bellany suggests, is connected with the significant difference in the educational attainment of young entrants. A survey in 1969 by the National Board for Prices and Incomes showed the typical soldier below non-commissioned rank to be less qualified educationally than his counterparts in the Royal Navy or Royal Air Force. Young entrants to the Navy and Air Force would therefore find it easier to obtain jobs in the civilian sector.

Figures from 1970 to 1976 showed that the broad features of pay and unemployment influenced regional enlistment in the same way — after adjusting for regional differences in pay levels

and unemployment, the Welsh showed a strong liking for the RAF while, contrary to popular belief, the Scots were not as keen to join the Army as people elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Dr Bellany suggests that a Government policy of doing nothing about relative pay except to keep Service wages more or less in line with civilian pay may produce results, but some of them will be unintended. During periods of hostilities, when there was a genuine need for men, more volunteers would come forward, though they might not appear in sufficient numbers and it would take time to train them. The Army could also expect to attract more than its fair share of young entrants during periods of high unemployment — but this might have the effect of throwing the Army's age structure out of balance.

On the other hand, Government policies designed to alter conditions in the economy would be bound to affect enlistment rates unless compensatory action were taken. Some of these policies, such as statutory limits on wage increases, could make it impossible to improve forces' recruiting.

In conclusion, Dr Bellany argues that his study confirms the control which defence policy makers have over enlistment rates through their command of pay variables. But a moderate need for more servicemen would encourage enlistment and spare-time policy makers the embarrassment of having to raise Service pay so high to relative civilian earnings as to justify jibes about mercenary forces.

★

When SOLDIER's editorial and photographic teams are out on their travels, a subject which frequently comes up during social conversation is the magazine's former pin-ups. This despite the fact that it is now 12½ years since the last of the film stars, starlets and models peeped coyly from the magazine's back cover.

At the time it caused a furore in the national Press. The 20-year-old tradition of having a soldier on the front and a pin-up on the back was broken in November 1965 because the Editor felt that what was no more than a pretty picture — and not always pretty enough — and certainly not a pin-up in the accepted sense, should give way to the military scene. There was, and still is, a choice of many good photographs of military life which demand more than a mere 12 full-colour pictures a year.

Perhaps now the words written in this column in January 1966 have an old-fashioned ring about them. We said: 'The older soldier will regret her passing, but the pin-up means less to today's soldier ...' Who at that time would have foreseen the revolution which was to follow? Today's explicit pin-ups which find such a wide following in and out of the Army today would have been beyond belief. Even the Page Three topless beauties make old SOLDIER pin-ups of Betty Grable,

Cyd Charisse et alia appear Victorian. Now the Pentagon has banned the pin-ups from United States Army magazines, but for a quite different reason — Women's Lib has dealt the body blow. An official of the National Organisation for Women complained that pictures of women in the publication *Army Reservist* were 'demeaning'. The Civil Rights Commission ruled that the magazine's portrayal of women was sexually degrading. And the Pentagon, in issuing its veto, declared that 'the graphic treatment of women in certain instances was demeaning, in poor literary taste and inappropriate for a government publication.'

SOLDIER's editorial policy remains unrepentantly the same — neither to bring back the old 'pretty picture' nor branch out into the 'girlie' picture business. SOLDIER's function is to show the Army at work and play and its covers reflect this.

But while there is no current intention to return to regular cover pin-ups, readers will have seen that young ladies, most of them regimental pin-ups, frequently pop up in the News pages and indeed last year two of them 'made' the back cover in colour.

★

In the February issue, a SOLDIER team made a 'heartfelt plea' in these columns to the curator of The Green Howards Museum in Richmond, Yorkshire, to fix his clock chimes. The team, staying in a hotel opposite the old church which houses the museum, suffered a disturbed early Sunday morning when the chimes were 'on teacakes.'

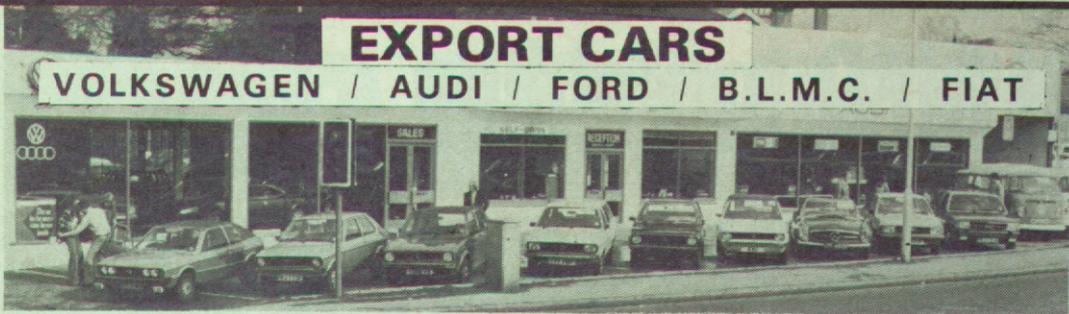
The plea, though made with tongue in cheek, has not gone unnoticed in the broad acres. The clock in Trinity Tower, says Colonel J M Forbes (Retired), the curator, is not the museum's responsibility — it belongs to the town council. Over to Mr Harry Fowler, Town Clerk of Richmond Town Council, who regrets the inconvenience and adds that the clock became temperamental after a series of power cuts but has been serviced and is now chiming satisfactorily. The chimes at 8am and 9pm are always long — in the morning for the Apprentice Bell and in the evening for the Curfew. It was these chimes which were at fault, says Mr Fowler.

So all is now back to normal again. The increasing number of people who visit the splendid — and prize-winning — Green Howards museum in its unique setting of a former church, and the attractive town and tourist centre of Richmond, will have to cope only with the normal chimes.

★

Readers of a national newspaper recently may have been intrigued to read that the Government Deputy Chief Whip, Mr Walter Harrison, a wartime RAF corporal, has founded a 45-strong Parliamentary RAF group for former boys in blue. The reason, according to the newspaper, was that the junior Service had been neglected in that the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Marines all had such groups.

Not so. SOLDIER's enquiries reveal that only the Green Berets have a Parliamentary group. Neither the Royal Navy nor the Army has a formal grouping of this kind. Perhaps some ex-soldier MP might follow Mr Harrison's example in the near future?



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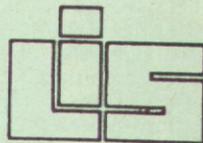
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Story: Doug McArthur
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs



IMAGINE A TEN-MILE stretch of road with upwards of 60 learner-drivers on it all at the same time and you have some idea of the job facing the Army School of Mechanical Transport.

The school, which is more a 'university' of driving, was created at two ex-RAF stations, Leconfield and Driffield in wind-swept North Humberside, less than a year ago. It was formed from a number of driver-training units to provide, for the first time in one central location, a range of courses for officers and soldiers concerned with the driving, maintenance and operation of the Army's wheeled vehicles.

Leconfield, near Beverley, was renamed Normandy Barracks when the Army took over and its ten miles of runways and perimeter tracks were converted into a nursery driving circuit. Driffield, ten miles to the north, became Alamein Barracks and its runways and grass surrounds were bulldozed into a cross-country circuit.

The whine of jet fighter engines has been replaced by the throatier rumble of powerful trucks, but at Leconfield at least there is still an RAF presence in B Flight of 202 Search and Rescue Squadron, on standby to answer distress calls from the North Sea.

Not long ago, Lightning jets screamed off the Leconfield runway. Now it has been transformed into a nursery driving circuit which includes every variation of road junction, sign and hazard found in Britain. It was never meant as a substitute for experience on public roads, but it does allow learners to quickly gain the confidence they need before facing the hazards of the open road.

But private circuits are useful only for teaching the very basics of driving. There is no substitute for driving on the public highway and as soon as possible the students are taken on to suitable local roads to learn what real driving is all about.

During the planning and build-up phases of the move from the south, considerable liaison took place with local authorities to work out training routes and also allay fears that public roads, particularly around nearby Hull, would be swamped by learner-drivers. Now there are more than 100 different routes radiating for more than 100 miles from Humberside, easily absorbing the large number of vehicles in use daily.

Generally, traffic density in the north east is less than in the south of England. This works in the school's favour because a student does not get driving practice sitting in a traffic jam, yet there is normally enough traffic around to keep pupil and tutor on their toes.

At nearby Driffield, Royal Engineers created the cross-country circuit (see SOLDIER, December 1976). This provides three miles of hard going with 17 tailor-

Top: Ramps were built on the runway for learner-drivers to practise their clutch control.

Centre: Drivers must be expert in handling even the larger vehicles over rough ground.

Left: The doughty Stalwart makes short work of even the steepest and wettest hill face.



made hazards designed for drivers to practise the special techniques needed to negotiate rough ground in two- or four-wheel drive. Amphibious Stalwarts, wheeled armoured personnel carriers and trucks can really be put through their paces by drivers new to the art of cross-country driving.

The majority of the 340-odd civilian driving instructor posts were filled by men electing to move with their units from the south. This proved a great wrench to many of the instructors, particularly the middle-aged family men with children at school. But now, a year later, cheaper housing and an easier pace of life from the frenetic south have changed most minds. "You wouldn't catch me moving back now," was one comment.

The school is designed to train a total of 7500 students a year — 2500 attend the courses for instructors, testing officers, MT sergeants and MT officers conducted by Advanced Training Wing, and 5000 the all-arms basic military driving course and qualification courses run by Driver Training Wing.

Advanced Training Wing is basically the MT Wing of the old Army School of Transport at Bordon in Hampshire. It also took in the Signals Training Troop of 12 Driver Training Regiment RCT, from Aldershot, but lost armoured personnel carrier training to the Royal Armoured Corps. The wing has four training divisions with 60 military instructors — wearing 16 different cap badges — and 12 civilian instructors who in a year train about 2400 students on 34 different courses.

The wing's main job is to run courses for unit MT instructors and for those who will manage, control and maintain B vehicles throughout the Army. The wing is also responsible for training drivers and instructors on a wide range of specialist vehicles such as Stalwart, Saracen, Eager Beaver and the Volvo Snocat. The qualified testing officers courses provide commands and UK districts with officers and senior non-commissioned officers qualified to test Service drivers on heavy goods vehicles. Additionally the wing gives specialist training to Royal Corps of Transport officers and master drivers and conducts the eight-week course for RCT driver-operators.

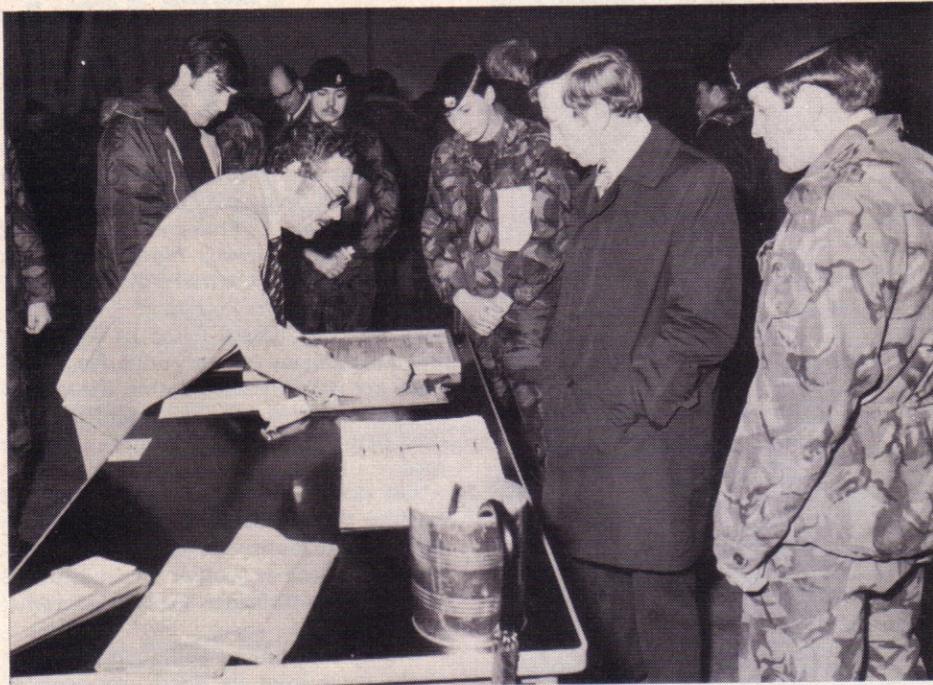
Driver Training Wing has three training divisions. Initial Training Division covers basic driving, including theory, ordinary licence training and heavy goods vehicle class 3. There is a detachment of the wing at Catterick to carry out the light vehicle training of Royal Signals drivers. Continuation Training Division teaches combat driving skills and runs trade upgrading, staff car and heavy goods vehicle class 2 courses plus tri-Service training for HGV 1 licences. Testing, Staff Training and Research Division tests all the students passing through Driver Training Wing. It also looks after 'in house' training and studies the progressive and long-term development of training techniques.

The basic driving course is designed to

Top: The disciplines of convoy driving can be ironed out on the closed runway roads.

Centre: Drivers team up with instructors, log books are collected and the day's work begins.

Left: Combat troop learns how to stack and handle pallets of stores on their vehicles.





Above: Signals training for RCT and RAOC drivers includes classroom and field exercises.

Left: The special technique of driving through water has to be practised until perfect every time.

produce a driver capable of 'operating his vehicle in the support of military operations' — it is not simply a question of passing the appropriate licence test. Basic students arrive from their various depots after completing recruit training and begin the open-ended course with a theory phase covering general mechanical principles and the Highway Code before starting the Department of Transport ordinary licence phase on cars and light vehicles. They then progress to HGV 3 on four-tonners and the final five days are spent with Combat Troop where the young student practises the skills needed by a military driver. This phase covers vehicle camouflage, map-reading, convoy drills, tactical driving at night (with and without lights) and culminates in an 18-hour exercise.

The all-arms basic driving course has 'Special to arms' modules which can be varied to suit the needs of particular arms and services. These are open-ended so that the trainee can progress at a speed matching his aptitude and previous experience. Some take only three or four weeks if they already have an ordinary licence and some experience of heavy vehicles, but the average is seven weeks.

Administration of the students, permanent staff and vehicles is centralised in Administrative Wing. There are 800 students under instruction at any one time and, with about 100 arrivals and departures each week, the administrative burden is considerable. The cheerful Women's Royal Army Corps staff of the reception centre make light work of a complex and difficult task.

The impressive fleet of 600 training vehicles, ranging from motorcycles and cars to Stalwarts and 20-ton articulated vehicles, covers about every type of B vehicle in use in the Army. These training vehicles are looked after and closely controlled by the

Transport Support Group. The vehicles have to respond quickly to the varying needs of the many different course programmes and a highly developed control system keeps constant track of the use of each vehicle.

A lack of garage space means that the training fleet has to stand outside in all weathers — no joke when winds and snow are whipping across the driving circuit straight off the North Sea.

The large Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers workshop is well housed in a heated hangar with every modern aid to keep the vehicles rolling — very necessary considering that ten per cent of the fleet is usually off the road awaiting repair or service. The 16 military and 40 civilian vehicle mechanics face their task manfully — any more than ten per cent off the road would cause a hold-up in training. "Of course with so many learner drivers we expect bumps and scrapes," said Staff-Sergeant Dave Wright, "but really it's the high mileage

rather than student damage which keeps us busy."

One vehicle still in service which proves a constant headache in the workshops is the flat-fronted AEC truck. Now about 20 years old, these workhorses are frequently off the road with a string of minor faults.

The exposed position of the school on the raw edge of the Humberside means that the weather is a factor which cannot be ignored. The former runway at Leconfield is eight feet below sea-level and dense fog can drop from the North Sea in minutes, effectively blanketing the area.

Winter rain, sleet and snow pose problems for student drivers — although not a day's training was lost in the school's first winter in Humberside — but nothing to what they may meet in their Army driving careers. Equipping them to face every military driving problem, anywhere in the world, is the job of the Army School of Mechanical Transport.

When the Royal Corps of Transport formed in 1965, the Mechanical Transport School became a wing of the newly formed Army School of Transport which, based on Bordon and Longmoor, was responsible for teaching transportation and movement operations and Army air logistic support.

Before the new school opened last year, most Army drivers were trained in their various arms and corps. On formation of the new school at Leconfield and Driffield, the units integrated were Headquarters, Army School of Transport, Longmoor; 12 Driver Training Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, Aldershot; MT Wing of the ASMT, Bordon; 401 Troop RCT, South Cerney; Driver Training Wing of the Junior Leaders Regiment RCT, Taunton; and driver training elements of the Royal Armoured Corps Training Regiment, Royal Army Ordnance Corps Training Battalion and the Royal Signals Training Regiment.

While the headquarters moved north almost intact, the MT Wing, which was to become Advanced Training Wing, was reorganised. The Armoured Personnel Carrier Division remained in Bordon but its sponsorship was transferred to the RAC Training Centre, now responsible for all A vehicle driver training. In its place the wing took on the Signals Training Troop of 12 Driver Training Regiment.

The new school runs advanced training for all arms and teaches basic driving to all except the Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Pioneer Corps, Royal Military Police, Intelligence Corps and infantry.

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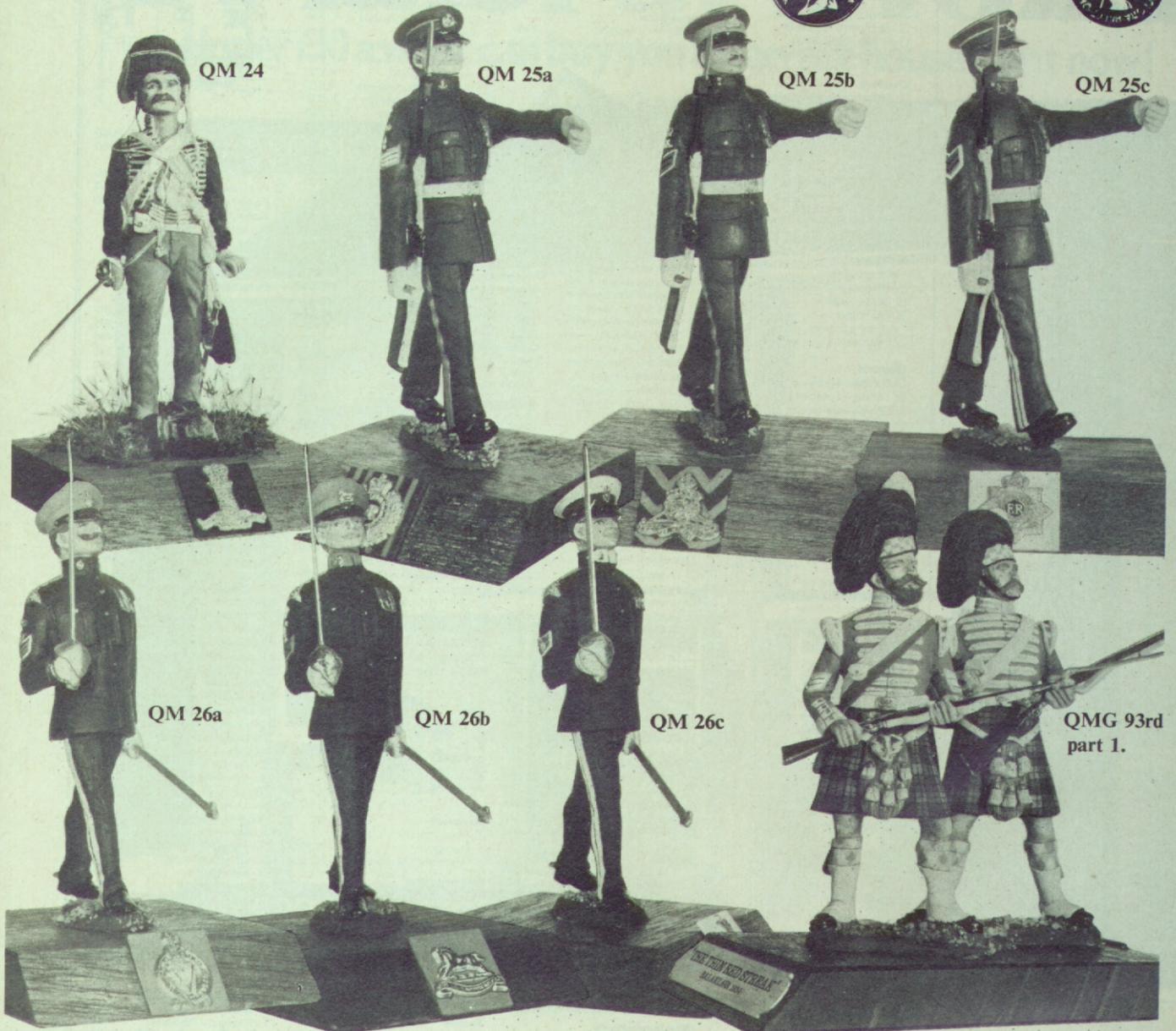
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	Chapel St Leonards—				
Hampshire	Sea Road South	9,850			
	Cranwell—Church View	9,440			
	Fleet—Eastgate Gdns	*			
Hampshire	Grantham—Harrowby Ln	9,400			
	Hogthorpe—Chestnuts	10,265			
	Langtoft—West End	10,135			
Hampshire	Leasingham—St Andrew's	17,063			
	Lincoln—Doddington Pk	8,657			
	Lincoln—Greenlands	8,553			
Hampshire	Lincoln—Triton Gdns	8,867			
	Lincoln—Glebe Park	10,495			
	Matheringham—				
Hampshire	Church Close	8,300			
	Sleaford—Heckington	9,775			
	Sleaford—Lincoln Rd	9,902			
Hampshire	Stamford—Pembroke Rd	10,345			
	Waddington—Cliff Gdns	9,910			
	East Dereham—Beetley	11,100			
Hampshire	Heacham—Lodge Rd	9,800			
	North Walsham—				
	Yarmouth Road	10,950			
Hampshire	Tasburgh—Church Rd	*			
	Thetford—Cedar Gdns	10,750			
	Thetford—Blakeney Rise	*			
Hampshire	Norwich Stoke—Holy Cross	*			
	Bedlington—Bower Gr	7,950			
	Darras Hall—Ashbrooke	30,500			
Hampshire	Darras Hall—Queensway	*			
	Darras Hall—Western Way	*			
	Heddon Village	30,500			
Hampshire	Killingworth—Paddock	10,350			
	Newcastle—Denton Burn	8,650			
	Walsend—Redesdale Pk	8,250			
Hampshire	Awsworth—Willow Farm	7,750			
	Eastwood—Derby Rd	9,650			
	Mansfield—Old Mill	7,650			
Hampshire	Nottingham—Newthorpe	12,500			
	Ayr—Doonbank	22,750			
	Bothwell	*			
Hampshire	Blackwood—Heathfield	12,450			
	Carlisle—Parkfield	10,850			
	Coatbridge—Hilpark	9,800			
Hampshire	Condorrat—Woodmill	9,900			
	Dunblane	*			
	Dundee—Inchture	10,100			
Hampshire	Edinburgh—Craigievar	14,750			
	Edinburgh—South Gyle	12,500			
	Galston	*			
Hampshire	Glasgow—Deaconsbank	12,700			
	Kilwinning—Kilwinner	11,700			
	Law—Brackenhill	16,250			
Hampshire	Lockerbie—Ecclefechan	8,675			
	Lnithgow—Bridge Ct	10,300			
	Renfrew—Fairways	16,750			
Hampshire	Strling—Broomridge	9,950			
	Uddingston—				
	Spindleshove	10,000			
Hampshire	Uphall—Millburn Park	10,300			
	Irvine—Middleton Pk	10,500			
	Aberdeen—Bridge of Don	9,950			
Hampshire	Aberdeen—Westhill	10,500			
	Aberdeen—				
	Bonnymuir Croft	12,995			
Hampshire	Alness—Inveriside	23,500			
	Balalier—Braemar Road	23,500			
	Banchory—East Arbroath	10,650			
Hampshire	Brechin	8,995			
	Cruden Bay—Braehead	8,995			
	Dingwall—Academy Park	*			
Hampshire	Elgin—Linkwood	8,900			
	Elgin—Springfield	20,000			
	Elton—Castle Park	*			
Hampshire	Elton—Hillview	13,995			
	Elton—The Rock	*			
	Elton—Meiklemlie	11,995			
Hampshire	Fraserburgh—Craigview	9,900			
	Inverness—Culloden	8,995			
	Inverness—Glenview	12,250			
Hampshire	Inverness—Highfield	*			
	Inverness—Lodge Park	*			
	Inverness—Torvean View	10,250			
Hampshire	Inverurie—Netherfield	21,295			
	Kemnay—Park Hill	19,995			
	Llanbryde—Kirklandhill	9,200			
Hampshire	Llanbryde—Gordon Park	*			
	Montrose—Craig Park	9,995			
	Mossblodnoch—Mossmill	10,180			
Hampshire	Nairn—Archard	*			
	New Elgin—Ashfield	12,750			
	Peterhead—Copelandhill	*			
Hampshire	Peterhead—Glendale	10,750			
	Strathpeffer—Strathview	*			
	Stuartfield—Millpond	13,000			
Hampshire	Milbourne Port—				
	Gainsboro	11,300			
	Wedmore—Mendip Vw	21,950			
Hampshire	Uttoxeter—Byrds Lane	8,400			
	Bury St Edmunds—				
	Northgate Avenue	10,700			
Hampshire	Bury St Edmunds—				
	Glastonbury	10,550			
	Needham Market—				
Hampshire	Chain House	10,950			
	Grinstead—Estcots Oaks	12,150			
	Billingham—Grange Pk	10,450			
Hampshire	Darlington—The Links	*			
	Darlington—Haughton	*			
	Eaglescliffe—Coatham	*			
Hampshire	Gusborough—Kempham Pk	11,150			
	Stockton—Elm Tree Pk	14,295			
	Stockton—Elton Park	9,950			
Hampshire	Yarm—Ingleby Grange	13,500			
	Prestatyn—Crud-y-Craig	7,750			
	Woolton Bassett	10,250			
Hampshire	Redditch—Tree Tops	*			
	Harrrogate—Fairways	7,950			
	Harrrogate—Forest Vw	12,250			
Hampshire	Harrrogate—Grantley Park	*			
	Leeming Bar—Paddocks	10,295			
	Pickering—Firthland Rd	12,250			
Hampshire	Pickering—Middleton Rd	14,495			
	Richmond—				
	Brompton On Swale	*			
Hampshire	Scarborough—The Orchard	*			
	Selby—Orchard Lodge	*			
	Stamford Bridge—				
Hampshire	Beagle Wood	13,495			
	Slamford Bridge—				
	Burton Fields	13,250			
Hampshire	Skipton—Dales Gate	9,995			
	Thrsk—Dover Lane	11,450			
	Whitby—Eskdale Pk	9,295			
Hampshire	York—Coppantheorpe	13,450			
	York—Eastfield Farm	9,595			
	York—Haxby Holly Tree	17,995			
Hampshire	York—Skelton	9,950			
	Doncaster—Cantley	7,995			
	Rotherham—Wickersley	8,995			
Hampshire	Sheffield—Eckington	7,750			
	Sheffield—Mosborough	7,750			
	Sheffield—Waterthorpe	13,400			
Hampshire	Baldon—Springfield	15,350			
	Bingley—Southway	*			
	Bingley—Warren Pk	15,350			
Hampshire	Birstall—Brookroyd	*			
	Bradford—Lidget Grm	*			
	Bradford—Valley View	9,995			
Hampshire	Burley in Wharfedale	18,400			
	Calverley—Carr Wood	14,950			
	Clayton West—Dearn Pk	19,500			
Hampshire	Clayton West—				
	Denby Dale	12,250			
	Gildersome—Greenacres	9,950			
Hampshire	Halifax—Heathmoore	10,995			
	Horsforth—Wood View	10,995			
	Huddersfield—Lindley	*			
Hampshire	Huddersfield—				
	Grimscar Valley	*			

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Soldier news

Veterans get their 'lost'

cash at last

Twenty-five ex-officers have received back payments of pensions dating from World War Two after the intervention of the Ombudsman.

The Department of Health and Social Security has been 'severely criticised' for failing to pay a rank element with the pensioner's disablement pension since he left the Army in 1949.

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, wrote to the officer and explained that after it came to light that the case had been treated wrongly since 1949, all relevant files and index cards — some 20,000 in all — were checked through and revealed another 24 similar cases.

"It was only because of your persistence that the unfair treatment which you have suffered was brought to light," said Mr Ennals.

"These ex-officers have now had the arrears due paid to them and in view of the exceptional circumstances, they too will be receiving ex-gratia payments."

The total payments in each case are likely to vary from about £150 to more than £3500.

Prince among the painters

Three paintings by Prince Philip were among the 400 exhibits at the 47th annual exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society at The Mall Galleries, London.

The paintings by Prince Philip were all in oils. They are titled 'Steel Mill in India,' 'Cumberland Lodge' and 'Windsor Castle.' This is the first time that works by him have been included in the exhibition, opened by Prince Michael of Kent.

The society evolved from the Army Officers Art Society, founded in 1925 by two retired officers in Chelsea with the object of encouraging art in the Army. In 1963, the constitution was changed to include all three Services.

The society's aim is to encourage members and former members of the Services to draw and paint and give them the opportunity to make contact with each other and exhibit their work in a leading London gallery, while at the same time demonstrating to the public that the pursuits of arms and the arts are by no means incompatible.



Meet Jones the beauty

If it were not for her sex, lovely Elizabeth Ann Jones might well have been a soldier in a Welsh regiment. Instead she has got to settle for being Miss Wales.

Elizabeth's great-great-grandfather was a bugler at Rorke's Drift when 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded for bravery in stemming an attack by thousands of Zulus. So it was appropriate that when she visited The South Wales Borderers museum at Brecon she should try on the uniform of the 24th of Foot — exactly the same as her great-great-grandfather wore in the Zulu campaigns.

She explained afterwards that for as far back as her family can remember the males of the line have traditionally served in a Welsh regiment. She is the first girl, so went into the beauty business instead.

But as a kind of consolation, Elizabeth (19) has joined the WRVS and hopes to go to South Africa next year for the centenary celebrations of Rorke's Drift.

Tank chase commendation

Stopping a careering Chief-tain tank in full flight in a busy and unlit street has earned Commander-in-Chief's commendations for two instructors of the Royal Armoured Corps training regiment.

Corporal-of-Horse Harry Marshall of The Life Guards, and Corporal George Hawkesworth, The Queen's Dragoon Guards, gave chase in a Land-Rover after the tank had been stolen.

Corporal-of-Horse Marshall managed to grab the gun barrel and swing himself towards the engine deck but was thrown off. At the same time Corporal Hawkesworth climbed on to the tank and scrambled into the turret where he closed the emergency stop switch.

Major-General Henry Woods, General Officer Commanding North East District, also presented a gallantry commendation to Corporal David Kendall of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Corporal Kendall, a skill-at-arms instructor, was in charge of recruits during live grenade throwing. He was instructing a recruit in the throwing bay when, in the act of throwing, the recruit let the grenade slip from his hand. It struck the wall of the bay and rolled into one of the two exits — the pin had been released and the four-second fuze was burning. Corporal Kendall bodily picked up the recruit and ran with him through the second exit into the safety bay. The grenade exploded.

Immediate reaction following a traffic accident has earned Air Trooper Michael Manning a commendation from the General Officer Commanding 1st Division, Major-General Dick Lawson.

The commendation followed an accident in West Germany when a woman was knocked down and badly hurt by a hit-and-run driver. Michael recorded the car's number. His information led to the arrest of the driver.

It's country time again

One of the big attractions for Services folk enthusiasts last year was the Services folk competition.

The finals were staged in Germany when Eynesbury Giant took the Professional Folk Artists Challenge Cup — plus a cheque for £250 — as the winning folk group.

Now it's all happening again this year and, as entries close on 19 May, folk performers should hurry and write for their entry forms. Any BBC local radio station in the UK can give you a brochure with all the details. If serving in Germany, just

call, or write, to the Services Folk Competition 78, BFBS Cologne, BFPO 19. However, many contestants may find it easier to write to BFBS in London — the address is Services Folk Competition 78, BFBS, PO Box 1000, London SW1.

There are categories for solo folk performers, folk groups (2-6 persons) and folk song composers. Entrants have to be servicemen or servicewomen based in Germany or the UK.

You will need a recording of your work to send in with the entry form — so now is the time to start rehearsing. The recording can be on

open reel, cassette or disc. The best of the recorded entries from each area in Germany and the UK will be featured and judged in a series of radio programmes to be broadcast at home and overseas. The winners of the semi-finals will then perform 'live' at the folk finals, to be staged at RAF Gütersloh on 25 October.

Geoff Love and star folk artist Wally Whyton will again be among the judges, and the prizes are £250 for the best group, £150 for the best solo performer, and £100 for the writer — or writers — of the best original composition, plus a challenge cup to be held for a year.

Moving in the House of Commons the endorsement of this year's Defence Estimates, the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, said the White Paper reaffirmed British determination to make a full and effective defence contribution to Nato as well as to seek, in conjunction with her allies, realistic measures of arms control and disarmament by international agreement.

Mr Mulley said that recent Soviet improvements in quality of forces

160,000, and 300,000 men on reserve instead of the present 130,000.

But Mr J P W Mallalieu (Labour, Huddersfield East) said that in his experience the armed forces did not want National Service.

Mr Doug Hoyle (Labour, Nelson and Colne) returned to the question of trade unions for the Services. He said a survey carried out by an American organisation had investigated 60 soldier associations in countries where there were trade

Worcester) said that when the Government had the defence review in early 1975 they based it not upon their assessment of our enemies but on what our allies were doing. He described the current Soviet build-up as "certainly the most frightening military spectacle we have seen this century."

For the Liberals, Mr Emlyn Hooson (Montgomery) welcomed the agreement for an annual increase in defence expenditure in real terms of about three per cent

recalled by Mr Michael Mates (Conservative, Petersfield). He said the next generation of Servicemen might sing a new version to their children:

"Sleepy Uncle Fred,
He sacked 10,000 men,
And when he saw the size of the threat,
Enlisted them again."

Mr Winston Churchill paid tribute to the 29 servicemen killed in Northern Ireland in the past year. He said the Government took them for

IN PARLIAMENT

were particularly disturbing — the capability of the Warsaw Pact was formidable, and growing. Their forces had received a great deal of new advanced equipment which had very greatly increased their offensive capability.

Moving an amendment which regretted that Government policy over the last four years had damaged British security and harmed the prospects of international agreements on arms control and disarmament, Sir Ian Gilmour (Conservative, Chesham and Amersham) spoke of an unprecedented crisis of morale and the Services' lack of confidence in the Government.

"Our armed forces feel quite understandably, that they suffer from a lack of recognition by the Government of their proper status and value," he said. "As a result, there has been a serious exodus from the Services of skilled and experienced officers and men and very many of those who remain are fed up with the way they have been treated over pay and the way the Government has put defence at the bottom of their priorities."

Declared Sir Ian: "The past four years have been just about the most disastrous which our armed forces have suffered since the days of Lord North 200 years ago."

The opposite point of view was put by Mr Frank Allaun (Labour, Salford East) who said he was supporting an amendment signed by 75 Members which had not been called. This declined to take note of the White Paper because it provided for a real increase in arms spending, which would heighten world tension, divert resources urgently required for social needs and "contravenes Her Majesty's Government's election pledge to reduce military expenditure . . ."

Mr Allaun said the arms race was getting out of control. It was like a coach taking mankind towards the precipice and, instead of applying the brakes, the drivers were accelerating. He said there were fine words about disarmament in the White Paper but they would remain little other than hypocrisy so long as the accompanying policy was to increase arms spending and develop new weapons.

A return to some form of National Service was advocated by Mr Hugh Fraser (Conservative, Stafford and Stone). He said a Select Committee must look into manpower requirements and he believed it would find that even on the basis of present commitments there should be 220,000 effective soldiers instead of the present

unions in the Services — Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, West Germany and Holland.

"The conclusions of that survey were that unions improved internal commitments and morale, created more democracy and enlightened service and improved the attractiveness of a military career," he reported.

Mr James Wellbeloved, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Royal Air Force, said that this year anti-tank guided weapons systems in Rhine Army would be increased by 60 per cent compared with 1974, and the air defence of the United Kingdom, dismantled and discarded by the previous Tory Government, was being restored.

Mr Wellbeloved said he accepted that there had recently been a disturbing increase in the number of people wishing to leave the Services prematurely. Anxiety about pay and conditions of service and turbulence caused by various emergency duties were no doubt significant considerations in many individual decisions to seek early release.

"We are not complacent about the present situation and are keeping a close watch on trends in this area," he said.

Mr Wellbeloved hit out at Mr Winston Churchill (Conservative, Stretford) and said it did the morale of the Services no good at all to have their equipment and efficiency constantly criticised by him.

Mr Michael Stewart (Labour, Fulham), a former Foreign Secretary, said that neither pay policy nor defence could be run on the basis that whenever the Opposition thought it was on to something popular it demanded increases of pay but sneered at, discouraged and resented any improvement in the standard of life of ordinary industrial workers.

"Efficient defence does not only depend on the morale of men in the Services, important as it is," he said. "It depends also on the morale of coal miners, engineers and a host of other workers. This question has to be tackled far more seriously and responsibly."

Mr Philip Goodhart (Conservative, Beckenham) said it was clear there had been a collapse of youth recruitment into the armed forces.

"The armed forces should be providing the apprenticeship schemes that unfortunately seem to be diminishing in the rest of industry, instead of the Government paying young people £43 a week to count lamp posts," he declared.

Mr Peter Walker (Conservative,

from 1979. He attacked the Conservative opposition for playing politics with the armed forces.

Mr Hooson said the percentage of the defence budget allocated to the three Services had remained fixed for the past 23 years despite the enormous changes since then. This showed that there was something basically wrong with decision-making at the Ministry of Defence.

Mr Hooson also spoke of complaints he had received from servicemen moved from Germany to Northern Ireland emergency duty. Although their wives and families remained in Germany they immediately lost their £4 a week overseas allowance — which the 50p-a-day Northern Ireland special payment did not even replace.

Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking) refuted Labour claims that "Conservative members go round sergeants' messes stirring it up." He said when they got there the messes were already in simmering revolt.

Mr Roderick McFarquhar (Labour, Belper) wondered how long into the 1980s Britain could continue to carry a foreign exchange cost amounting to more than £500,000,000 and still rising.

"It seems to me that a major reduction in BAOR is thinkable in defence terms if the foreign exchange savings are to be devoted to the strengthening of our other, more traditional, role in Nato — naval defence in the Eastern Atlantic and the Channel," he said.

He added that such a reduction would be unthinkable if it were not compensated for by a tightening of the political links between this country and Germany via the EEC.

Mr Jerry Wiggin (Conservative, Weston-super-Mare) who is a member of the TAVR, said he had always felt that the tripwire philosophy — which envisaged that once a Russian put his foot into allied territory it would bring on Russian heads and all-out nuclear attack — was the factor that had kept the world peaceful since 1945.

He said the allocation of Jubilee medals had been hurtful to the reserve forces. A total of 25,000 went to the Regular Army but each reserve unit received only a handful, one of which was given to the commander.

Mr Andrew F Bennett (Labour, Stockport North) described forces' accommodation in Northern Ireland as "appalling". He said if the temporary accommodation stretched to years there must be a firm decision to upgrade it.

The Grand Old Duke of York was

granted and treated them as a "dirty job squad" while making sure they were screwed down on pay more tightly than any other section of the community.

The Minister of State for Defence, Dr John Gilbert, said Mr Hooson's point on the division of the Budget between the three Services deserved investigation.

The Conservative amendment was defeated by 285 votes to 246 and the Government's motion was then carried by 276 votes to 246.

Some 8000 Service personnel were in receipt of rent and rate rebates at 1 December 1977, Dr Gilbert told Mr Michael Brotherton (Conservative, Louth).

The Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, in a statement on the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, said it would play a crucial role in the nation's defence in war. To carry out its role it had to be, and was, a modern, highly efficient force.

"It is well trained and, in general, issued with the same equipment as regular units," he said.

Mr Callaghan said the TAVR was at present recruited to about 83 per cent of establishment. In order to improve on this a major national publicity campaign, backed by the Government, would shortly begin.

"I hope that this campaign will receive a good response throughout the country and in particular from employers and trades unions, whose active support is vital to TAVR training," the Prime Minister concluded.

A bid to "restore the honourable name of the Cameronians to the Army by so designating the new infantry demonstration battalion" was made by Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth). But the Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, Mr Robert Brown, rejected the move and said the new battalion would be a composite unit drawn from the infantry as a whole.

Deliveries of the MILAN anti-tank weapon had been accelerated, Dr Gilbert told Mr Winston Churchill. The Minister said MILAN entered service last November, six months ahead of schedule, and deployment to Rhine Army was beginning. By the end of this year, equipment would have been issued to more than half of the BAOR infantry battalions planned to operate the system. This represented a rate of deployment more than double that envisaged in the original plan.

In a statement on the Northern Ireland security situation, the Sec-

retary of State, Mr Roy Mason, said that already this year the police had charged 177 people with terrorist offences, including seven with murder, 12 with attempted murder, 48 with firearms offences and 32 with explosives offences. Finds by the security forces included 51 weapons and more than 6000 rounds of ammunition and 100lbs of explosives.

Mr John Cartwright (Labour, Woolwich East) was told by Mr Wellbeloved, that the Army had accepted that soldiers at Woolwich should, like their civilian counterparts, pay the £30 deposit imposed by the London Electricity Board on all new customers. There were currently 700 Service families in Army quarters in the Woolwich area and there was a yearly changeover of about half. Mr Wellbeloved said he would not try to secure withdrawal of the deposit requirement.

Dr Gilbert told Mr Tom Litterick (Labour, Selly Oak) that 207 Servicemen were currently serving sentences of up to one year in military corrective training establishments.

Mr Frank Hooley (Labour, Sheffield Heeley) asked Mr Mulley if he would have discussions with other Common Market defence ministers on joint exercises designed to train forces in the techniques of United Nations peacekeeping. Mr Mulley said the Government attached importance to that type of training but he saw no requirement for such talks.

Mr Hooley said that some of the countries of Western Europe, including the United Kingdom, were well placed to play an intermediate role in peacekeeping operations in areas such as the Horn of Africa. Mr Mulley replied that any such discussions were better undertaken in Nato than within the Common Market, which had no defence obligations. He did not think the carrying out of exercises in circumstances quite different from those that would happen on the day would take things any further forward.

After Mr Brown had said he was satisfied with the operational state of Chieftain tanks with Rhine Army, Mr David Mitchell (Conservative, Basingstoke) asked if he denied that the tanks were having to be cannibalised to keep them going? "How does he reconcile that fact with the assurance he has just given?" he

continued. "Is he the only person who is not aware how serious the situation is?"

Mr Brown said he did deny it. There was no question of any shortage of spare parts at present. He added that the continuing programme of modification to improve the reliability of the L60 engine was going well. The mileage achieved was of the same order as that of other Nato tanks.

Mr Churchill said the average for most of the British Chieftain tanks was well under 1000 miles per failure of engine. That was substantially lower than the rate of our allies and was about a quarter of that achieved by the engines being supplied to the Shah of Iran. Mr Brown described Mr Churchill as "ill informed" and said it was not true that engine failure rates occurred at well under 1000 miles.



Mr Robert Brown

Said Mr Goodhart: "Is the Minister aware that, if the Chieftain tank is to be effective on the battlefield, it has got to get there? Many of the tank conveyors are older than their drivers, and some conveyors have travelled more than 250,000 miles. When will these tank conveyors be replaced?"

Mr Brown said it was true that the

transporters were getting towards the end of their normal life but they were being re-worked all the time. He assured Mr Goodhart that he had no doubt that, should the need arise, the tanks would be in the right place at the right time.

About 18,800 Service married quarters were vacant in the United Kingdom on 15 January 1978, Dr Gilbert told Mr Bruce Grocott (Labour, Lichfield and Tamworth). Dr Gilbert said it was assessed that 6800 were empty for normal management reasons, an estimated 4000 were held for known and possible future deployments within the next four years, and some 3000 had been offered to local authorities on a short lease, of which 490 had been accepted, 1030 rejected and 350 were still under negotiation.

Mr Grocott said this meant that 15 per cent of the department's housing stock stood empty. He asked if Dr Gilbert would agree that this was an unacceptable figure and would he instruct his local housing officials to liaise with housing departments of local councils in order that the houses could be used to help with housing waiting lists, even if on some occasions this could be only on a temporary basis?

Dr Gilbert said he took the point, but added that among the problems were that the houses tended to be in small packages, local authorities did not have the funds and the houses were in inconvenient areas.

Mr Cranley Onslow asked if any effort had been made to find out how many of the houses were empty because servicemen could not afford the rents.

Dr Gilbert said studies had been started into trends in home ownership in the forces and the Ministry was trying to make forecasts for several years ahead of the availability of surplus accommodation so that it could be disposed of as soon as possible.

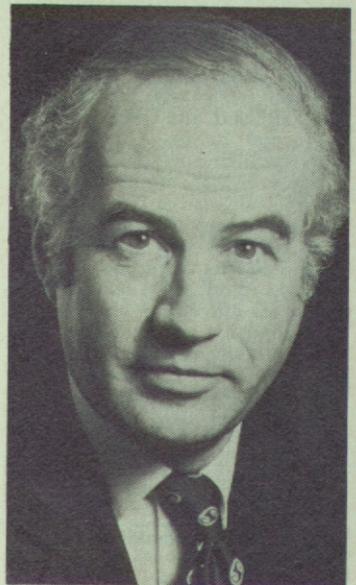
Decisions by individuals to vacate married quarters were determined by a complex of decisions by individual families and it was not possible to simplify such matters.

On the purchase of American Chinook medium-lift helicopters, Mr Churchill asked what consideration had been given to buying secondhand Chinooks so as to avoid a three-year delay in their deployment to Rhine Army. Dr Gilbert said enquiries were made, but suit-

able secondhand aircraft were not available.

Mr Wellbeloved reported that 1840 people were recruited from careers information offices in Wales last year. His questioner, Mr Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Carnarvon), said there was dismay in many parts of Wales at the fact that as quickly as unemployment figures rose so did the number of hoardings urging people to join the armed forces as a career. Did Mr Wellbeloved accept that the best kind of people to join the armed forces were not those forced into it by economic circumstances but those who wished to make it their career?

Mr Wellbeloved's own definition of the best people to join up was "those with a dedication to the protection of freedom in this country, including the Principality of Wales, and the motivation and desire to be of service to this country."



Mr Philip Goodhart

The Reverend Ian Paisley (Ulster Unionist, Antrim North) wanted to know whether the Ulster flag was prohibited from display in Army billets occupied by men serving from Ulster — and if so, why? Mr Brown said it was not prohibited by regulations but the commander of a military unit could forbid the display of any object where good order or military discipline required it.



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Desert Rat bows out

The jerboa, the famous little desert rat, has finally bowed out after 38 years' service with the Army. Adopted in 1940 as the sign for the newly formed 7th Armoured Division in North Africa, it led to the nickname 'The Desert Rats.'

The familiar little red rat on a black background was worn as a shoulder flash, painted on vehicles and moulded into silver to stand on mess tables. He watched over the comings and goings at guardrooms and flew high from flagpoles.

Correctly known as *Jaculus Orientalis*, or the greater Egyptian jerboa, he took part in every battle from his adoption through the North African campaign, to Italy, from Normandy through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany to the Baltic and Berlin. A cousin, 7th Armoured Brigade, fought in North Africa, in Burma, proudly wearing a green jerboa, and in Italy.

After the war the Desert Rat lived on in Rhine Army, recently as 7th Armoured Brigade at Bournemouth Barracks in Soltau, West Germany, where, for the past 29 years, all the high standards and traditions have been carefully nurtured. It is here that the name will remain, in the British Forces Education Service's Jerboa School and, perhaps better known, in the Jerboa Cinema in Berlin's Theodor Heuss Platz.

The passing of 7th Armoured Brigade from the order of battle of



the British Army sees the majority of the reorganisation of the Army complete, with 1st Division becoming 1st Armoured Division.

Picture shows Brigadier Patrick Palmer, the last brigade commander, catching the flag before it is folded for the last time.

Light gun goes skiing



A 105mm field gun in its unusual arctic 'scrim' and skis prepares to fire while under gas attack.

The gun detachment, from 13 (Martinique 1809) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, the UK Ace Mobile Force (L) battery, was on Exercise Arctic Express in the Tromsø area of

Northern Norway. The aim of the exercise was to provide joint defence training under severe winter conditions.

Countries taking part, besides Norway and UK, were Canada, Italy, USA, West Germany and Holland.

NI AWARDS

The following awards have been made for service in Northern Ireland between 1 August and 31 October 1977. Officer of the Order of the British Empire: Lieutenant-Colonel E D Cameron, The Black Watch; Lieutenant-Colonel C F Eaton, Royal Tank Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel G D Johnson, The Royal Green Jackets; Lieutenant-Colonel D R G Seidl, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Member of the Order of the British Empire: Major T E A Hawkins, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Captain R P Jennings, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Warrant Officer 2 I Langstone, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment; Major A M Nightingale, late Intelligence Corps; Warrant Officer 2 L R Trower, The Royal Green Jackets; Major K J West, Royal Signals; Major A R Withers, The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

Queen's Gallantry Medal: Warrant Officer 2 A J Burgess, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lance-Sergeant B Cathrine, Coldstream Guards; Lance-Sergeant E J Murrison, Scots Guards.

British Empire Medal: Staff-Sergeant R Calder, Royal Military Police; Staff-Sergeant D E Dickens, Corporal W P J Lord, both The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Staff-Sergeant N Donald, Warrant Officer 2 W M McGill, both The Gordon Highlanders; Corporal D R Evans, Staff-Sergeant G A Krought, both Intelligence Corps; Staff-Sergeant F P Greaney, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Corporal R Hudson, Corporal F Watson, both 9th/12th Royal Lancers; Corporal H Ingram, Royal Engineers; Corporal J L Johnson, The Parachute Regiment.

Mentioned in Despatches: Major P D D J Andrews, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Private B K Bedford, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment; Warrant Officer 2 A D Bowen, Royal Army Veterinary Corps; Corporal M R J Bruce, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars; Major I W T Croke, The King's Own Scottish Borderers; Major T H G Duke, Major G H Peebles, both The Gordon Highlanders; Sergeant J Edwards, Staff-Sergeant G P H Gillion, Sergeant B Henderson, Warrant Officer 2 J D McVeigh, Staff-Sergeant M S Smith, all Intelligence Corps; Warrant Officer 2 J Hodgins, Army Catering Corps; Corporal J E Hope, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; Corporal P R Jones, Women's Royal Army Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel J Hemsley, Captain N R Kench, Lance-Corporal H J Weir, all The Light Infantry; Major R H Ker, Sergeant K A P Stevens, both The Royal Green Jackets; Lieutenant-Colonel R G Long, Corporal C J McLaughlin, Lieutenant N A Sim, all The Royal Hampshire Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel J L Moffat, Royal Military Police; Corporal J W Nicholson, Captain D G Sayers, both Royal Marines; Lieutenant A Piska, Royal Navy; Lieutenant-Colonel H W K Pye, 9th/12th Royal Lancers; Lance-Corporal K Southart, Corporal B J Swift, both The Parachute Regiment; Lance-Corporal R L Thorpe, Sergeant D J Turner, both Royal Corps of Transport; Major W H White, late The Light Infantry; Warrant Officer D A Williams, Corporal J Wintour, both Royal Engineers.



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Jasper's 'New Wings' a winner



Army Musician Jasper D'Arville was out shopping when inspiration hit him.

Now the work that sprang from among the grocery shelves has been selected by the RAF as the official music to celebrate its diamond jubilee.

Jasper's 'New Wings Suite' was played before the Queen Mother at the Royal Festival Hall in London, and he is better off by 250 guineas, the prize for composing the winning piece.

Twenty-four-year-old Jasper, a cornet and trumpet player, said: "The best time for ideas seems to be when I'm shopping or strolling — it must be something to do with the rhythm of my walk."

He finished the work, for a 45-piece symphonic wind band, in a week.

Then he used his spare time while he was on firefighting duty in Edinburgh to write out the separate instrument parts.

The first time he heard it played was when the RAF Central Band made a recording for the judges. Until then he had carried it all in his head.

The suite, with four movements describing the building of an aeroplane, won the judges' votes in the open competition because it was adventurous and did not write down to the musicians.

By the last movement — 'Take Off' — the band has to do a lot of improvising. "It turned out just the way I expected it to," said Jasper. "But I was shocked when I heard I'd won because I've found a lot of my band work has been technically difficult to play. This piece is very rousing in parts but it has some tricky moments. They thought it was a great bit of public relations for an Army man to win an RAF competition."

Jasper is serving in the Royal Tank Regiment's Rhine Staff Band at Tidworth.

He said: "My family's not musical. I started playing trumpet at school because I fancied an extra hobby. When I was 16 I started composing. I've done 200 works, mostly choral. I'm a baritone myself. But this is the first piece I've had published."

And there is a chance the nine-minute, 58-second-long piece — two seconds inside the competition's limit — might be put on record.

More graduate recruits

The Army is attracting more graduate officer recruits, thanks to the university bursary scheme.

The scheme was started in 1976 and has now been established on a long-term basis. Put simply, a bursary holder undertakes to complete

three years' military service after graduation in return for an annual grant — at present £900 — for each of his three years at university.

Selection is dependent on passing the Regular Commissions Board and the Army University Awards

Board. Bursary holders are encouraged to join the university officer training corps because successful completion of military training will earn a six-month antedate for seniority and pay purposes on eventual commissioning. But the emphasis is on the award of a good degree, which may mean conflicting calls on spare time, frequently for activities which may be of ultimate benefit to the Army.

The scheme has already had a marked impact on officer recruiting, giving the Army a fair share of graduates in competition with civilian jobs.

From the bursary holder's point of view the period of military service offers 'an immediate, rewarding and responsible job after graduation with an opportunity to convert to a full career if selected.' An antedate system ensures that his seniority and salary are adjusted to make good the time spent at university and to recognise the level of degree obtained.

Figures down

Recruiting figures for the October-December period of 1977 ran at a satisfactory level — although slightly below that of the previous year. The Army recruited 3529, all adults and young soldiers apart from 63 juniors.

'Snow Queen' visits



Her Majesty really became the 'Snow Queen' when she visited the Royal Military Police at their home, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester.

With simulated snow in the background and wearing a white Russian-style fur hat, she talked to Redcaps turned into white caps.

The Queen is Colonel-in-Chief of the Military Police and during her visit to the depot she met the ACE

Mobile Force police section and their display of arctic kit.

Hobbs' choice

Hobbs Barracks, a disused Army camp, at Newchapel, near Lingfield, Surrey, has been sold at auction for £75,500. The 61-acre woodland site was bought by a demolition contractor.

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VC remembered

When the new landlord at The Black Boy, Upper Halting, Kent, uncovered some old oak beams during renovations he sparked an interest in the past among his customers which had some surprising results.

Those with a knowledge of local history found that the pub had its own hero, Sergeant Thomas Harris, who had once lived in the cottages opposite. Sergeant Harris, of The Royal West Kent Regiment, was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously, just three months before the end of World War One, and now he has been remembered in the pub by a memorial plaque and an oil painting.

Sergeant Harris won the VC for his successive attacks on enemy machine-guns which were causing heavy casualties among his battalion.

Sam clocks up 8000

Eight thousand flying hours — that is the achievement of Major Sam Law, commander of 12 Flight, Army Air Corps.

The reception party waiting for his Gazelle helicopter was something of a surprise. "I thought something was up when the control tower asked me to circle a few times until the station commander arrived," said Major Law.

Besides a welcoming kiss from his wife Margaret, he was presented with a picture by Group-Captain John Mitchell (right), a tankard by his fellow pilots and a handsome carriage clock by his unit.

Major Law has seen some changes in Army aviation during his flying career. He started flying Austers in Malaya and then moved on to the Beaver, in East Africa and the Middle East. That was followed by a tour on helicopters doing research and development at Middle Wallop. Now he flies Gazelle.

"I am a fixed wing man at heart though," he said, "and am looking forward to flying Beavers again soon."

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Bank raid foiled

Disarming a bank robber has earned a Commander-in-Chief's commendation for Sergeant Victor Rodda, a recruiter in Basingstoke.

Sergeant Rodda was at work in the Army Careers Information Office in the town when he heard a radio message giving news of an armed robbery in progress at a nearby bank.

He rushed towards the bank and saw a man running away, pulling off a gas mask and holding a pistol. Two civilians were attempting to stop the man.

Sergeant Rodda, assisted by another NCO, grappled with the gunman and after a violent struggle disarmed him. He was taken to the ACIO and held there until the police arrived.

Picture shows Sergeant Rodda, with commendation in hand, receiving another kind of commendation from his wife Janet.



Roddy gets his degree

Roddy McLeod, a 56-year-old hospital patient paralysed from the neck down, has gained a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from the Open University.

Roddy has been a patient at Erskine Hospital for disabled ex-servicemen, near Glasgow, for nearly 13 years, as a victim of multiple sclerosis. The subjects he had to pass to gain his degree were foundation mathematics, linear mathematics, mechanics and applied calculus and an inter-disciplinary course in statistics. The course took him three years.

And if that were not enough, Roddy intends to carry on for another two years for honours in mathematics.

Because of his paralysis, all Roddy's reading is done with automatic page turners, one of which he designed himself. His written work is done with a mouth-operated computerised typewriter, the keys of which are activated by a highly complex series of sucks and blows.

Roddy served in the Royal Corps of Signals in the 1940s and in 1950 graduated bachelor of science at Glasgow University. He was teaching physics at Johnstone High School in Renfrewshire when he was struck down by multiple sclerosis.

Erskine Hospital, his home since 1965, is outside the National Health Service and is maintained by public subscription. It is now costing £800,000 a year to look after its 380 disabled patients, most of whom will be there for life.

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Pay Corps closes its books

To the strains of the Last Post and the overhead thunder of transatlantic jets, the Royal Army Pay Corps bowed out of Hounslow after 80 years.

Although no records exist, Pay Corps historians believe that there has been a station pay office at Hounslow since 1898, and certainly since the beginning of the century there have been pay offices, record offices and command pay offices. Of these the Command Pay Office at Cavalry Barracks was the last.

When the command structure in UK was reorganised in 1972 to amalgamate five commands into one, the command pay offices closed and the work centralised into the Command Pay Office UKLF, Hounslow, which moved from Hounslow Heath to Cavalry Barracks, then the home of Eastern Command pay office.

Nile box

Occupying a privileged position in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps museum at Deepcut is a plain, black-painted box. But this is no ordinary box, for it went with Private John Luck on the ill-fated expedition up the Nile to try and relieve General Gordon at Khartoum.

Private Luck made the box shortly after he joined the Ordnance Store Corps as a wheelwright at Woolwich at the age of 18.

Apart from one batten the box is in its original condition and has been given to the museum on permanent loan by Flight-Lieutenant Cyril Hart (Retd), Private Luck's grandson.

The box, now nearly 100 years old, is accompanied by a photo of Private Luck, taken in Cairo and showing him wearing the Egyptian Medal and Clasp awarded for his Nile service.

Fangs for the memory



More than 60 years ago, a private serving in Kitchener's army in the Sudan stole a souvenir from a museum in Omdurman. It was a tooth from the skull of the camel on which the Mahdi used to ride.

But hearing a radio talk on the Sudan, the old soldier, now 82, was overcome with remorse and sent the tooth to the BBC with £2 to pay for the cost of returning it to the museum.

The tooth, which was handed over by Paddy O'Keefe of the BBC to Sudanese Press attaché Mr Sayed Osman El Dirdin El Mubarak (above) at Broadcasting House, is now on its way back to the Sudan.

Hounslow was the place chosen for the introduction of machine accounting in 1935, referred to at the time as 'The Brighter Accounting Movement' and 'The Hounslow System.'

History repeated itself because, 40 years later, the CPO UKLF converted to computer processing, the foundation of the present RAPC accounting system.

The CPO has now moved to Worthy Down, headquarters of the Pay Corps.

More officers 'in distress'

The total number of ex-officers and widows helped financially by the Officers' Association rose slightly last year to 1164. The association's annual report says that the trend of an increasing number of widows and a decreasing number of ex-officers continued and adds 'this is inevitable as First World War veterans increase in age.'

Some 1219 people were registered for employment and of these a total of 948 found employment — about a third directly placed and the others finding jobs after being given advice.

Due to worldwide inflation the number of people living abroad, who are assisted, has risen. During the past year the association helped ex-officers and widows living in Australia, Canada, South Africa, India, Burma, Thailand, Israel, Mauritius and most European countries.

'Because of inflation, those who used to be able to live in comfort abroad on pensions and a small investment income are finding life increasingly difficult,' the report says.



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Mobile, thanks to the Buffs

A soldier who may never walk again after being struck by a terrorist bullet in Northern Ireland has been bought a £330 motorised wheelchair by the 'Buffs.'

He is Trooper Derick Burt, aged 22, of 1st Royal Tank Regiment, stationed in Rhine Army.

Though the shooting happened last summer, Trooper Burt is still undergoing treatment at the Joint Services Rehabilitation Unit in Chessington, Surrey.

His regiment went to Londonderry on a four-month emergency tour and, while on a routine patrol, Trooper Burt was shot. The bullet damaged his spine and his injuries mean that he is never likely to walk properly again.

His fiancée, a nurse, stayed by his side, and they were married in February.

Trooper Burt's case was brought to the attention of the small New Leaf RAOB lodge in Herford, Germany, whose Army members are drawn from local units.

Barnsley march

The TAVR organisers of the second South Yorkshire March, over routes of eight, 20 or 28 miles, expect even more entrants this year than the 1000 who came from all over the British Isles for the first march in 1977. The 1978 event will be on 10 September at Barnsley, Yorkshire. Teams or individuals wishing to enter should contact the Secretary, South Yorkshire March, TAVR Centre, Eastgate, Barnsley, S70 2EU.

Where did you get that hat?



Could this be the new uniform for high-ranking officers? Perhaps not, but these Nigerian chieftain's robes certainly seem to fit Brigadier Tony Boam well. And they certainly seem to go down well with Brigadier Geoffrey Ejiga (right), Commandant of the Nigerian Army Command and Staff College.

Brigadier Boam, who helped to set up the Nigerian Army Command and Staff College two years ago, was the first commander of the British Army Advisory Team to the college. When he handed over his command the Nigerian Army renamed their central presentation hall at the college to Boam Hall.

New lease of life for mace

A vintage drum-major's mace has travelled half-way round the world to become the prize possession of Hong Kong's newest pipe band.

The mace, which languished in an officers' mess in London for nearly a quarter of a century, is now in use with the fledgling pipes and drums of the Gurkha Transport Regiment at Gun Club Barracks, Kowloon.

During the search for instruments, uniforms and accoutrements for the band, the regiment's second-in-command, Major Iain Bamber, recalled that one of his former units, 562 Parachute Squadron, RCT(V), a part-time Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit, had a mace at its Southall, London, headquarters. A tactful enquiry went off to Britain.

The result was the arrival in Hong Kong of the British unit's squadron commander, Major Alastair Adams, who presented the newly-refurbished mace — worth approximately £200 — to the regiment.

The exact age of the mace is something of a mystery. It is known that it dates from at least the 1940s and was used by the band of the 16th Airborne Division Column, Royal Army Service Corps (Territorial Army), until the column's disbandment in the mid-1950s. Since then it has been on display in 562 Parachute Squadron officers' mess.

"We were delighted that the mace should at last be put back to its proper use," Major Adams said. "We have had it on display for many years but we now feel it would be far



more appropriate for it to be put to its true purpose." Picture shows Sergeant Balaram

Rai, drum-major of the embryo pipes and drums of the Gurkha Transport Regiment, displaying the

mace at Gun Club Barracks after its presentation by Major Alastair Adams (right).

A chance to stay on longer

The Long Service List gives a chance for men to continue in the Army beyond their 22 years on the notice engagement, to the age of 55.

But while no absolute guarantee of continued employment to that age can be given, acceptance to the list does mean a longer career to the age of 55, provided the soldier remains fit and efficient. It does not constitute an unbreakable commitment and those on the LSL who wish to leave the Army can do so on six months' notice.

Although he will still wear the badges of his own regiment or corps, a soldier accepted for the LSL in effect leaves his own arm and is transferred in administration to the Central Clearing Wing, Exeter. Apart from normal posting, when necessary, to his regimental depot between postings, he will not return to his parent arm except for eventual discharge.

Long Service List soldiers are employed in any arm (E2) posts, mainly in static establishments. While most of these are in the United Kingdom or Germany, there are some chances for service elsewhere overseas.

Most LSL posts are general duty or administrative and, apart from clerical jobs, there are no vacancies for tradesmen or members of the women's services.

But there are two other types of employment — LAL recruiters who normally remain throughout their service in the LSL in the posts for which they were accepted, and estate wardens in BAOR who, apart from a few similar posts in Hong Kong, are reposted only within BAOR. With these two exceptions, soldiers serving on the LSL remain liable for worldwide posting in the usual way on completion of a normal two- or three year-tour. There is normally no interchange between these three types of job and soldiers remain in the one for which they have been accepted, although transfers can sometimes be arranged.

There are few LSL posts below sergeant so it follows that recruitment is largely restricted to warrant officers and senior NCOs and whenever possible they are offered posts in their existing ranks. When this is not possible they have to drop to the rank of the post offered. This drop does not normally exceed one step in rank nor does it occur more

than once during LSL service. In these cases, those who revert in rank continue to wear the badges of their former rank, which they retain as local rank, and their former rank is restored on final discharge.

Only in very exceptional cases is any further promotion authorised for men on the LSL, but this does not prevent a warrant officer being considered for a commission if he has been recommended for it.

At the same time, LSL posts by their nature qualify for pay only in the lower pay bands — warrant officers, band five; staff-sergeants and sergeants, band four; corporals and below, band one. But there are periodical pay increments for men who revert in rank, and service on the LSL is reckoned at a higher rate for pension than service during the normal 22 years.

There is a continuing need for the skills and experience of older soldiers who are under 50, of very good character, efficient and fit for worldwide service. Anyone within his last 18 months of service and interested in extending his career can get more information from his orderly room or through Army General and Administrative Instructions, Vol. 2, paragraphs 46.051-087.

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Kit of the future?

A truck which can shed its body just as quickly as its load could provide the answer to the Army's future logistic problems.

The vehicle, the Ampliroll Swap Body System, was previewed along with two telescopic handlers — possible successors of Eager Beaver — in a showing of likely future logistic equipment.

Ampliroll is the name given to the mechanical and hydraulic kit fitted to a standard vehicle chassis (right), enabling a number of different body types to be picked up and grounded very quickly in one operation.

For instance, the demonstration showed its capability in loading and carrying combat vehicles, ammunition resupply, and as a tipper.

The telescopic handler — two were on display — is simply a forklift truck with a telescopic boom, which proved versatile in loading and unloading from difficult angles.



Below: The Liner 'Giraffe' with two tons of ammunition on its forks.

Below: The JCB 520 lifts a full 2000-litre fuel pod.



Named again



Locomotive No 196, once one of the Longmoor Military Railway fleet, proudly wears its nameplate again.

No 196, which was named Errol Lonsdale in honour of Major-General E H G Lonsdale, Transport Officer-in-Chief, Army, was sold privately when the military railway closed in 1970. Now it has been repaired and re-painted in its Army livery of deep blue and is being kept busy on the Mid-Hants Railway's private 'Watercress' line.

Switched on salute



A lovely salute from a lovely lady. Miss ATV, Lyn Perry, from West Malvern, was visiting the 'Birmingham Gunners,' 39 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, during their Belfast tour.



Sioux bows out

The last of the British Army's Sioux helicopters in UK to be retired — the Sioux has had 14 years' active service throughout the world — made their farewell 'demob' flight over the quiet North Yorkshire market town of Thirsk.

Crewed by 666 Squadron, Army Air Corps, the six helicopters, based at nearby Topcliffe, 'signed off' in V-formation over the town centre.

Treble Six is the final squadron to hand in the piston-engined Sioux helicopters before receiving the new jet turbine Gazelle.

Said Major Bill Carling, the squadron commander: "We have close links with the town of Thirsk so we decided to make a farewell flight, as part of a last training sortie, to give residents their last look at our retiring helicopters. Three of the aircraft taking part returned from the Sudan only five days previously."

Squadron pilots later flew the retiring Sioux — the last of more than 200 made for the Army — to Wroughton, Wiltshire, where they will await a buyer.

Shoulders back!



Determined to hold their own in the Gilbert and Sullivan navy are music teacher Hugh Finnegan (left) and engineer Jeff Mills, 'marines' from HMS Pinafore, who are getting some tips on comportment from Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Mike Whitehouse.

Hugh and Jeff volunteered for

training at Somme Barracks, Sheffield, in preparation for their performance in Sheffield Light Opera Company's production of 'HMS Pinafore.'

After several sessions on the barrack square, the QMSI's verdict was still, 'Straight off a chocolate box lid.'



Jack drops in . . .

Sergeant Jack Hiley, of the Royal Corps of Transport's Silver Stars freefall display team, drops in on Brigadier Roy Kendrick to receive his Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.

Jack, who is now a British Parachute Association qualified advanced rigger at the Joint Services Parachute Centre at Netheravon, has been with the team since 1966, apart from a two-year break in Germany.

. . . and so does the brigadier



The Deputy Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Brigadier Derek Crabtree, brings a moment of light relief during tank-killing training.

These men from 50 Command Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, who normally spend their days in the workshop, were undergoing their annual training camp when the brigadier, who commands all Army support units, flew from Hong Kong Island to visit them.

He found this party preparing a one-man 66mm anti-tank weapon for firing against simulated tank targets on Castle Peak ranges.

During their three-week camp they underwent basic infantry training and intensive firing practice on various types of weapon.

TEN PER CENT PLUS NOW —

PARITY IN 1980

The Services have won an immediate pay award amounting in all to 14 per cent. In addition they have been promised full comparability with civilian earnings within two years - to have achieved this immediately would have meant increases of more than 30 per cent, according to the Review Body on Armed Forces Pay.

The 14 per cent comprises the ten per cent within the pay guidelines, a further three per cent on the 'X' factor, which is designed to take account of the disadvantages of Service life, and one per cent in increased allowances.

These include a 50 per cent increase in flying, diving and parachuting pay, doubling of the Northern Ireland daily allowance, and an increase in separation allowance of approximately two-thirds.

LEGAL EXPENSES

Food charges have gone up from 93p a day to £1.12 but accommodation charges are to mark time - the Review Body queried the present basis for assessing them.

Loan service pay will also go up - details are to be announced later - and the Government has agreed to the reimbursement of legal expenses resulting from repossession of their houses by servicemen returning from abroad.

PUBLIC CONCERN

The Government is considering separately the implications of the pay

award on pensions for those retiring after the operative date of the pay settlement - 1 April 1978.

In its report the Pay Review Body said it had been left in no doubt of the concern about pay during its visits to Service units. There was mounting public concern too and the widespread interest and sympathy indicated a growing public determination to see a square deal for the armed forces as a first priority in the period ahead.

'SHORTFALL'

The principal problem facing the Review Body was the extent of the 'shortfall' and steps needed to eliminate it. The introduction of restraint measures which came into operation almost as soon as they were announced, as in 1975, interrupted the comparison process and created a gap which sooner or later had to be bridged.

Service pay was last brought up to date in April 1975 and settlements outside made before the introduction of restraint that August would normally have been reflected in the 1976 recommendations. 'Because of the operation of the restraint measures they have not, even now, been reflected in full in the military salary; this is the origin - but not the only cause - of the shortfall.'

NO OPTIONS

The report points out that even with strict application of the measures, earnings continued to increase outside

from increased overtime or shift work or from changing jobs - options not open or readily available to servicemen.

The £6 policy, which represented an average increase in wage settlements of nearly 11 per cent, produced an increase in earnings for the year of about 14 per cent. The increase in earnings in the Services was 9.6 per cent. The same pattern was bound to apply to the second round in which the Service pay increase averaged 4.8 per cent.

'FRUSTRATED'

'It is clear to us that, within the community as a whole, the armed forces are entitled to expect immediate recognition of what is due to them, and a firm commitment on the date when up-to-date rates of military salary will be given full effect, if confidence is to be restored in a system which is widely recognised as the most suitable, but whose operation has been frustrated in more years than not since its introduction in 1970.'

In some areas, shortage of special skills had become serious and unless corrective action was taken quickly the Services would lose more and more of their best men, particularly in the technical branches.

'OVERSTRETCH'

The report said it would be a shortsighted policy to allow the very significant investment in training to be wasted in the loss of highly trained and experienced officers while at the same time incurring further vast expenditure in training their replacements - perhaps only to lose them in turn.

The deteriorating manpower situation brought about by various factors had created 'overstretch.' The report concluded: 'In our judgement the flexibility displayed by the armed forces in these circumstances would, in any other context, be held to justify the introduction of some form of recognition as "productivity."

X FACTOR

The X factor presented further problems in that it recognised the dis-

advantages of Service life by, in general, a standard addition of ten per cent for men and five per cent for women. This broad brush approach was not designed to cover cases of exceptionally long hours working habitually for long periods. If this situation was emerging for particular groups, such as in Northern Ireland, or from particular trades, then consideration might have to be given to whether the system provided less than adequate rewards for some servicemen for demands made on them.

The Review Body said that evidence based on job evaluation indicated that the median levels of salary in outside jobs that used to establish salary scale mid-points had risen since 1975 by between 36 and 44 per cent, both in terms of basic salaries and adjustments, including the X factor.

PAY SUPPLEMENTS

Its recommended figures from 1 April ranged from 35 to 43 per cent over the April 1975 figure. However, pay supplements had been paid in the past two years at salary levels up to the mid-point of the colonels' scale. As a result, increases over current pay levels would range from 19.5 per cent at second-lieutenant to more than 30 per cent at the mid-point of the major's scale and above. These represented shortfalls, justified by outside evidence, ranging from 16 to 26 per cent.

Privates were assessed in a different way, following evidence that some 21 per cent at Class IV were currently aged 20 or more. Previously comparisons were made with the average earnings of full-time employees under the age of 21 - now they were designed to broadly reflect average earnings at equivalent ages to privates.

JUNIOR MANAGEMENT

The report noted that the rewards for technological skills outside had increased relatively to the rewards for junior management. Translated into Service terms, this meant that the military salaries of senior non-commissioned officers and warrant officers should be given a 'lift up' against those of junior and middle-rank officers.

Some movement in this direction is included in the report but the Pay Review Body intends as the next step to undertake a detailed comparison of jobs and earnings at these levels.

The Review Body's recommended salaries range from private 4 at £2953 through corporal 1 at £4438, sergeant £4749, warrant officer 1 £5497, lieutenant (on appointment) £4650, major (on appointment) £7300, to brigadier at £13,501. These include an X factor based at ten per cent. The report says that until a more detailed examination has been carried out it cannot recommend any change in the level of the X factor.

ADDITIONAL PAY

On additional pay, such as for flying and parachuting, the report says that these should in principle be brought up to levels equivalent to 1975 - in broad terms a 50 per cent increase. It also accepts the Ministry of Defence case for an increase in Northern Ireland pay from 50p to £1 a day.

An increase in food charges is recommended from the current 93p a day to £1.12. The report describes this charge as reasonable and the food purchased with it as very good value for money.

BY 1 APRIL 1980

Taking into account Government pay policy, the report recommended that in the first instance the increase should be no less than the increase in average earnings from settlements under the current guidelines since August 1977, and that the Government should give a firm commitment that fully up-to-date rates of pay would be implemented by 1 April 1980 at the latest.

'FAIR AND SENSIBLE'

Announcing the pay award in the House of Commons, Premier James Callaghan said: "I believe the great majority of people in this country will believe we have taken what is a fair and sensible decision, coupled with the firm pledge to bring them up to full

comparable levels within the next two years."

But the Opposition Leader, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, denounced it and said: "We are deeply disturbed that the forces have been let down in matters of pay and this statement means they will be let down for some time to come."

RESPONSIBILITY

Mr Alan Lee Williams (Labour, Hornchurch): "It would be disastrous for the armed forces if this issue were to be exploited by the Opposition at a time when the counter-inflation policy of the Government is working."

WELCOMED

Mr Emlyn Hooson (Liberal, Montgomery) welcomed the announcement and said that although it was well above the ten per cent the country would accept it because of the particular circumstances of the forces. The findings showed that the forces in particular suffered from intermittent pay policies and their effects and illustrated the need for a permanent pay policy.

BEHIND

Mr Donald Stewart (Scottish Nationalist, Western Isles): "This is anything but a square deal for the forces. If military pay has fallen behind by 32 per cent they should be paid 32 per cent now. It is time governments accepted that the armed forces and police are or should be outside the restraints of incomes policy, voluntary or otherwise."

USUAL

Mr Michael Stewart (Labour, Fulham): "The Opposition are following their usual line on defence questions of saying they would spend more than the Government without specifying how much. It is declared Conservative policy that such extra expenditure should be met not out of taxation but by reduction of the social services, which means that although Opposition MPs make a great deal of fuss about defence they are not prepared to put their hands into their own pockets."

Examples of the pay award are:

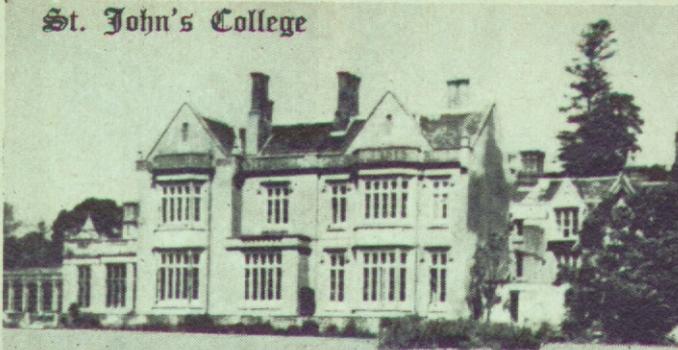
	Old	New
OFFICERS' PAY	£	£
Second-lieutenant	3136	3478
Lieutenant (on appointment)	3819	4249
Captain (on appointment)	4641	5179
Major (on appointment)	5623	6296
Lieutenant-colonel (on appointment)	7262	8169
Colonel (on appointment)	8689	9746
Brigadier	10209	11545

SOLDIERS' PAY

(Weekly rates on Scale B. For Scale A subtract £2.10, for Scale C add £3.15)

Private Class 4 Band 1	43.46	48.44
Private Class 3 Band 1	43.16	51.52
Private Class 2 Band 1	48.40	54.25
Lance-corporal Class 3 Band 1	50.78	57.19
Lance-corporal Class 2 Band 1	53.34	60.41
Lance-corporal Class 1 Band 1	56.21	63.91
Corporal Class 2 Band 1	59.73	67.83
Corporal Class 1 Band 1	63.48	72.03
Corporal Class 2 Band 2	63.78	72.87
Corporal Class 1 Band 2	67.53	77.07
Sergeant Band 4	68.04	77.14
Sergeant Band 5	72.45	82.60
Staff-sergeant Band 4	71.42	80.99
Staff-sergeant Band 5	75.83	86.45
Warrant officer 2 Band 5	79.43	90.58
Warrant officer 2 Band 6	84.27	96.46
Warrant officer 1 Band 5	83.18	94.85
Warrant officer 1 Band 6	87.84	100.73

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Independent boarding and day school for boys 7-18. Preparation for G.C.E. 'O' by qualified staff in small classes. The College is set among 75 acres of beautiful Sussex countryside 1 mile from Horsham, with extensive playing fields and sports facilities. Special provision is made for the sons of parents stationed abroad and an efficient courier service is provided to and from air terminals. Prospectus from: The Secretary, St. John's College, Coolhurst, Horsham, Sussex. Telephone: Horsham 2424.

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Prospectus from Secretary. (Tel: Weymouth 2977).

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PRIORY COLLEGE, STAMFORD, LINCS

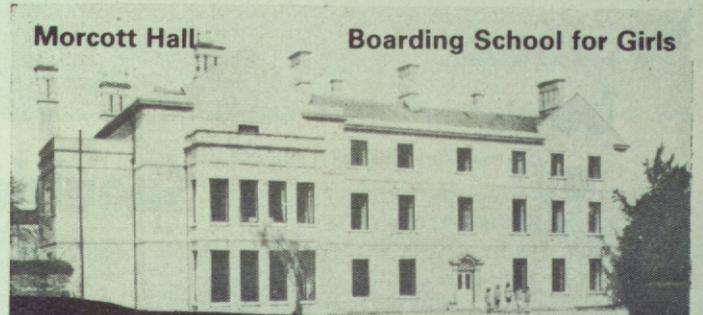
(administered by Priory Educational Trust)

Independent co-educational school for boys and girls from 11 years upwards. Day Pupils and boarders. Recognised by the Department of Education and Science. The discipline is "kindly but firm." Readily accessible from London. Separately administered Preparatory Department (4-11 years). A number of scholarships offering reduced fees are available to children of members of Her Majesty's Forces.

Prospectus obtainable from the Headmaster. Tel.: Stamford (0780) 3140.

Morcott Hall

Boarding School for Girls



The School is fully Recognised as Efficient by the Department of Education and Science. Boarders are accepted aged 8 to 15 years. There are five separate Boarding Houses arranged according to age. There is a separate Junior School for girls aged 8 to 11 years and the Senior School is an approved Centre for G.C.E. 'O' Level and 'A' Level Examinations. Fees allied to Forces Grants. Escorted Parties by Rail to Main Line London Station, St. Pancras. Apply—The Secretary Morcott Hall School Nr Uppingham Rutland.

ECCLES HALL SCHOOL QUIDENHAM, NORFOLK

(Recognised by Department of Education and Science)

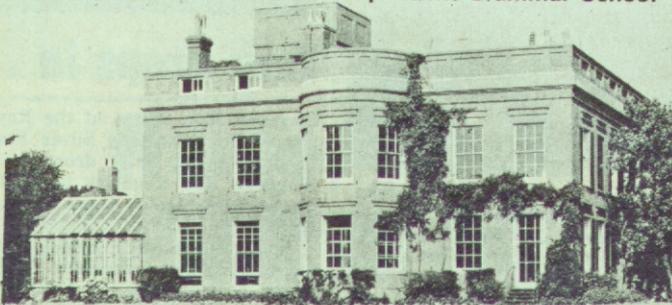
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Reduction in fees for members of Services' children.

Prospectus from Secretary at the School.

Goring Hall

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Sandes Home open for business again

The Sandes Home at Ballykinler, destroyed by a massive car bomb, has been rebuilt and now re-opened by the Duchess of Kent.

The Duchess arrived at Abercorn Barracks by helicopter to re-open the soldiers' home destroyed in 1974 when two soldiers were killed and 29 more, with two civilian staff, injured.

Inside the bright new building the duchess met Mr James Buckley, chairman of the Sandes Homes Committee, and Mrs Ruth McClintock who was severely injured in the bomb blast while working as a cook.

In unveiling a commemorative plaque, the duchess said how happy she was to be in Northern Ireland to open the new building and expressed the hope that the Sandes Homes would continue for many years to come.

Right: Seven-year-old Carolyn Agnew presents the duchess with a bouquet. In the background is Ruth McClintock.



Below: the original Sandes Home.



Three-star Bulldog

Amateur pilot Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer, Commander British Forces Hong Kong, listed a new type in his log book when he flew in a Bulldog training aircraft of the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force.

Sir John who has now returned to Britain to take over as Commander-in-Chief, UK Land Forces, qualified as a pilot many years ago and has always maintained a keen interest in light aviation.

He was invited to fly in the newly-delivered Bulldog, similar to those used to train RAF pilots, by Hong Kong District Court Judge Ross Penlington who, as a part-time wing-commander, leads the Commonwealth's sole remaining operational auxiliary air force.

The RHKAAF operates as the air arm of the Hong Kong Government but, under certain circumstances, its helicopters and aircraft come under Sir John's operational command.

The force took delivery of the two British-made Bulldogs last November and has used them for basic pilot training since Christmas.

Sir John's one-hour sortie included aerobatics and practice landings at Kai Tak international airport, one of the world's busiest, where he had to take his turn with Jumbo jetliners to land on the man-made finger runway jutting out into Hong Kong harbour.

"The Bulldog is a very pleasant little aircraft and an absolute delight to fly," Sir John said after landing.

Picture below: Under the eye of RHKAAF Training Officer (Basics), Flight-Lieutenant Mike Wightman, Sir John (right) carries out a pre-flight check on Bulldog HKG 5 before his one-hour sortie from Kai Tak.



Redcaps march on

So popular did the Royal Military Police centenary march round Chichester prove last summer that it is now to be held annually.

Last year more than 3000 marchers — some of them from abroad — completed the walk, followed by a parade through Chichester.

This year the march will be a joint RMP and Chichester City effort with a choice of four distances ranging from 40 kilometres down to ten

kilometres through the rolling South Downs.

The march, on Sunday 6 August, will be open to both civilian and military teams and individuals. Entrance fees are £2.50 for adults and 75p for under-16s.

For more information and an entry form, contact the secretary, RMP and Chichester March, Rousillon Barracks, Chichester, West Sussex.

Books Belize-bound

More than three hundred books, magazines and games have been collected for soldiers currently serving in Belize.

An article in the Swansea edition of the 'South Wales Evening Post' which drew attention to the scarcity of material and facilities available to troops in Belize, sparked off a reaction led by Cyril and Elaine Connors of Swansea. Their son, Craftsman Connors, of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, is currently serving in Belize with 29 (Corunna) Field Battery of 4 Regiment, Royal Artillery. The battery, normally based in Aldershot, will be in Belize for six months before returning from the sun-soaked Caribbean shores.

Over the last six months a number of issues have been raised in these pages, some of which have been reported in the national Press and even mentioned in Parliament.

So to try and keep you all up to date I have summarised progress on some of the more important topics.

The lack of a free school meals allowance overseas is under active review and a case has gone to the Supplementary Benefits Review Commission on benefit for a teenager living with his Service family abroad and unable to get a job. The commission's report will appear as a Green Paper later this year.

Families receiving a family income supplement who are moving abroad will continue to receive benefit until the book runs out. Families eligible to apply while abroad can now complete FIS 1 if they return to UK temporarily, say on a course or on leave. A claim can use a temporary UK address but the overseas address must be included.

The Department of Health and Social Security is looking at the problem of child benefit payments. If a wife wants to have her payment direct she has to have it three months in arrears, or one month if it is paid through her husband's pay. The DHSS has agreed this is too long.

All the problems raised on unemployment benefit have been passed on to the DHSS, and I am hopeful for some answers soon. In addition the Ministry of Defence is about to take up this question with DHSS.

Cubic capacity of refrigerators in Cyprus is under review by the Ministry of Defence, and a fresh case on excess baggage charges is being worked out.

Three DHSS leaflets which you may find useful are 'New Pensions: A Better Deal for Women' (NP 31), 'New Pensions: National Insurance Contributions' (NI 208), and 'National Insurance Guide for Married Women' (NI 1 Feb 78). Any difficulty in obtaining these leaflets, write to me.

Anne Armstrong



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

Variety is the spice of life



Members of Pergamos Wives Club enjoy a kitchenware party.



14-years-old Mandy Bailey has her harness checked before making her first ascent as a parascender. Behind is mum, Mrs Carol Bailey. Dad, Sergeant John Bailey, is with 275 Postal and Courier Communications Unit, Royal Engineers.

Service families in Cyprus cannot forget the troubles of war, particularly as the Greek-Turkish dividing line runs the length of the northern edge of the Dhekelia Sovereign Base Area.

Barbed wire gun emplacements, patrolling United Nations forces and refugee camps all help to remind families of the constant friction. Families live and work in a very tightly enclosed community with the delights of resorts like Fama-gusta and Kyrenia out of bounds in the Turkish sector.

Dhekelia is a small town in its own right with its own Naafi, medical reception centre and schools. There is also a helicopter 'flying doctor' service linking patients with the hospital at Akrotiri.

Chatting to wives in the Trellis Disco Room, where the atmosphere was charged with fun and the room echoed with jokes and laughter, I was amazed at the variety of interests with which wives filled their days, particularly as jobs are so few and far between.

"Here we can do things like gliding, go-karting and parascending that you would never dream of doing at home," said one wife.

Hockey, netball, volleyball, squash and rifle shooting are favourite activities. Even the assault course has its devotees among the wives. And with the close proximity of the Mediterranean, water sports abound.

Obviously some families do miss

home. Television and the newspapers are particularly missed. Although newspapers are available, they are expensive and usually out of date.

There are no paid youth leaders but the variety of children's activities is wide. Guide and Scout groups and youth clubs are plentiful and all run by voluntary leaders.

Mrs Marilyn Tassell recently arrived at barbed-wire surrounded Pergamos from Northern Ireland and quickly immersed herself in the base area social whirl. One week she was in a car treasure hunt then in a match with the ladies' darts team. "Great fun — especially when we win."

As always the British soldier and his family make the best of wherever they are sent. Cyprus is a beautiful island in the sun, but there are disadvantages. Even so, most people are very aware of the advantages of their posting and make sure that they live life in the Mediterranean to the full.

Helen's in the local swim

Teenager Helen Johnson could not swim a stroke before she went to Cyprus. Now she is a member of the Cyprus Nautical Club and is to represent Cyprus schools in a swimming tournament in Greece this summer.

Life for Helen and her family differs from normal Service life on the island because the Johnsons live away from the main British communities in a hiring in Limassol.

"As we are living among the Greek Cypriots, we have to get to know them," said Mrs Shirley Johnson. Already Shirley has become very knowledgeable about Greek Cypriot cooking and customs, and her three daughters all have local friends.

"We all enjoy their company," she said. "They are extremely friendly and helpful."

In nearby Berengaria the 200 British families have created what amounts to an English village in Cyprus. As one wife said, "It's no use just sitting back and saying we are cut off; we have to do something about it."

A village-like atmosphere has been created among the single-storey houses, gardens and spotless streets. So much so that at first glance Berengaria looks like a holiday camp.

Here again, self-help is the order of the day. A flourishing wives club, charity fund-raising and an energetic netball team keep wives fully occupied. Inter-street netball competitions (right) foster the community spirit and the swimming pool is a great consolation.

Sadly, drizzle and mist shrouded the landscape as I drove up the corridor road to Ayios Nikolaos, the last village in the southernmost tip of Cyprus. It is understandable that British families suffer a sense of isolation here, which is why the

community plays such an important part in their lives.

Because of the complete lack of jobs for wives in this isolated community, there is plenty of spare time in the day to fill. One highly qualified wife sighed for the routine of working life "Three years away from any kind of work is awful," she said.

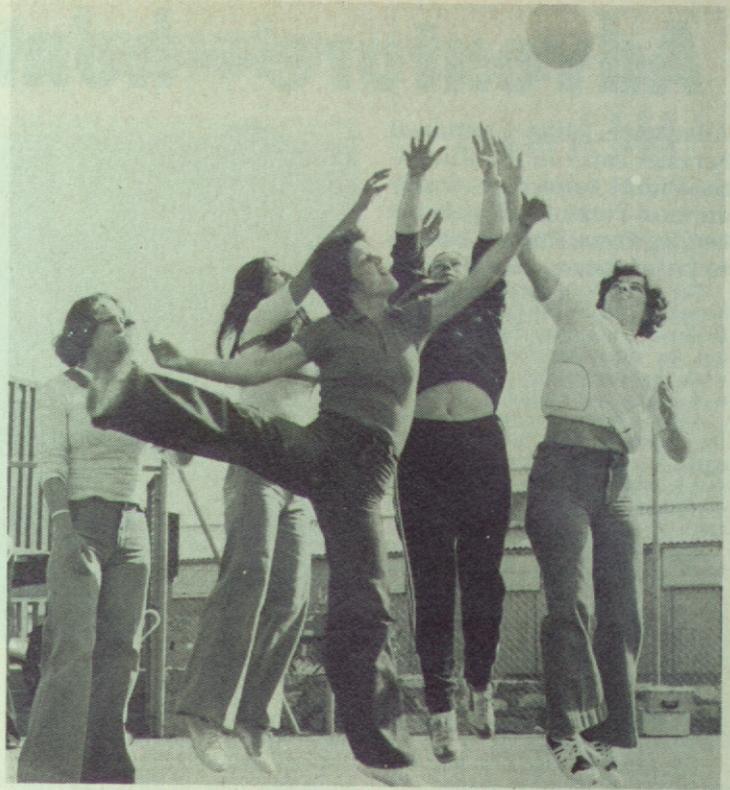
This extra time means that gardens in Ayios Nikolaos flourish, pets are frequent and the more active pursuits abound.

Talking to the wives in the newly opened community centre, I discovered some of the things that make living out on this limb more palatable.

Some of the wives have taken up golf while others are active members of the drama club. There is a strong netball team and several of the wives are learning to drive so that they can widen their horizons.

The Ssafa loan store comes to the rescue with wheelchairs, prams and vacuum cleaners and the busy thrift shop is always full. With a refugee camp close by, the wives are constantly dreaming up new and novel methods of fund-raising to buy books and sports equipment.

Like everywhere else, Ayios is what you make it, said one wife. "Our husbands work hard, so it's not all one great big holiday, and there is no doubt that lots of us miss home, even the weather."



Following my recent revelations about baggage allowances, Mr Robert Banks, Conservative MP for Harrogate, asked if Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, was satisfied that the proper levels had been chosen when fixing the entitlement to free movement of servicemen's baggage by weight and volume in the light of the big increases for excess weight and volume. And, I'm pleased to report, Dr Gilbert said he was not satisfied and this was one of the areas in which he hoped to see improvements as soon as pay policy permitted.

Dear Anne,

Only serving members of HM Forces may cash a postal order in a Service post office or bank.

This apparently is in line with BAOR standing orders (and is also applicable in Hong Kong, I hear). Our local post office in Bielefeld quotes standing orders from 1968 and has no revised publication.

Only up to £2 may be cashed by serving members of HM Forces in any one day. This is a directive from the Treasury. And this little gem is more than 18 years old. Apparently, people who receive postal orders send them either to their banks or back to the person who issued them. But really it is iniquitous that individuals have to go to this trouble when the rule of thumb is so old.

When the term 'dependants' is considered, not only 'wives of' are included but individuals here in their own right, such as teachers, Ssafa, PSA, BSA, PCLU, SKC, firemen, Naafi etc.

Whole units of troops have been away from camp, in Belize for six months, Northern Ireland for four months, and firefighting. It can be difficult to rustle up a male left on a rear party to sign for a £2 postal order. Cooks and those under 18 years are the usual choice available.

Mrs Barbara Saunt
BFPO 39

The problem has been raised by the MOD before but, says the Treasury, the 1968 ruling still applies. I took this letter to the Treasury but to date no answer has been forthcoming.

★

Dig this, it's great fun!



The ghosts of long-dead Roman legionaries may still patrol near the Temple of Apollo at Curium, in Cyprus, but now they are likely to hear the somewhat unlikely strains of military band music.

There may be as many as five archaeological periods buried on this site, and gradually they are

being cleared and sifted by a willing band of helpers.

Fascinating

But even while work is going on, the spacious amphitheatre provides a marvellous outdoor setting for drama or music.

For the last three years, wives from the British sovereign bases have been giving up their spare time to go to Curium to help the Cyprus Department of Antiquities in painstakingly sifting through the soil for vital clues to the past. And they love every minute of it.

"In spite of the heat, you get so

absorbed that you just don't realise how quickly time is passing," said Mrs Diana Kinlock, who with her friend Mrs Sylvia Pownall (pictured here) has been helping to uncover columns, shards of pot building foundations.

"It's all so fascinating you just can't keep away," said Sylvia.

Adventure—home again

JUDO

Adventure, the Combined Services entry in the Round-the-World yacht race, finally docks at Portsmouth after the last leg from Rio de Janeiro to a champagne reception.

The tri-Service entry, skipped home by Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Duchesne, was lying fourth on the last leg when her forestay parted while she was making eight knots in a 20-knot easterly wind.

About a week later, after crossing the Equator, the forestay broke again and further slowed the yacht down while careful repairs were made to ensure there was no recurrence.

But soon, Adventure was catching up the field again, making as much as 360 nautical miles in one two-day period.

Adventure's position on 22 March was 38.00 North, 20.52 West and she crossed the line off Southsea on 28 March at 2306 GMT — just past midnight and a few minutes into the 29th, local time.

She finished overall 7th in a field of 15 with her positions at the end of each individual leg 6th, 6th, 14th and 8th — against some of the world's top ocean racers.

Adventure averaged 7.08 knots



Waiting with the champagne were some lovely lasses from British Caledonia — co-sponsors of the Combined Services entry.

for the 27,000-mile course (the highest average was 8.35 and the lowest 6.84). Leg two gave the highest speeds with Adventure averaging 8.45 knots for the 7400 miles.

In the course of the race Adventure used 40 sails, consumed more than four tons of food and had more than five tons of freight flown overseas. There were 41 servicemen in

the four crews of whom 19 were from the Royal Navy, 14 from the Army and eight from the RAF.

Results of the Army individual judo championships: Special Kyu class A: 1st Pte J Campbell (1 PWO), 2nd Gnr F Clark (47 Fd Regt RA), 3rd Tpr R Thomas (ODG). Class B: 1st L/Bdr O Carr (49 Fd Regt RA), 2nd L/Cpl D McKaigg (26 Armd Eng Regt RE), 3rd Capt S Halligan (RAEC). Heavyweight: 1st Cpl A Mapp (RAPC), 2nd Bdr B Herron (40 Fd Regt RA). Light heavyweight: 1st Cpl A Travis (RPC), 2nd Pte H Prow (1 Para), 3rd Sgt C Millings (2 Para Band). Middleweight: 1st Pte R Hodson (RPC), 2nd Gnr C Blackwell (47 Fd Regt RA), 3rd L/Bdr S Fray (47 Fd Regt RA). Light middleweight: 1st SI M Williams (APTC), 2nd Sgt C Henderson (ACC), 3rd L/Bdr R Jeffries (JLR RA). Welterweight: 1st Rct E Mullen (SG), 2nd L/Cpl D Young (RE), 3rd L/Cpl A Thomas (R Sigs). Lightweight: 1st Rfn P Ridgeway (3 RGJ), 2nd S/Sgt P Hull (REME), 3rd O/Cdt J Gibb (RMAS). Open class B — 1st Mapp, 2nd Travis, 3rd Millings. Open class A: 1st Mullen, 2nd Thomas, 3rd Young.

What a fine nag!



Brigadier John Waldram could probably be accused of flogging a dead horse when he retired from the Army as Inspector of Physical and Adventurous Training (Army).

One of his last tasks was to visit

the Army Physical Training Corps' Fox Gym and afterwards his steed was prepared for him to officially ride out of the Army.

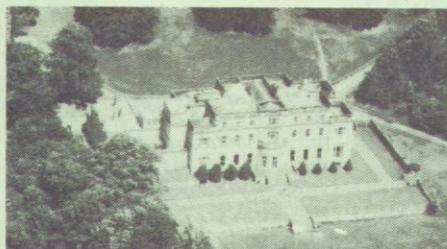
His 'mount' was a vaulting horse specially prepared for the occasion.

Cherie's a giant



Accompanying her father to the Triangle Ski Club meeting in the Austrian Tyrol, eight-year-old Cherie Allen delighted both competitors and spectators when she competed in the all-comers giant slalom event. Although the smallest competitor and the youngest by at least ten years, she completed the course without mishap and she wasn't last! Her father, Staff-Sergeant Derek Allen, serving with 21 Engineer Regiment, is a member of his regimental ski team and decided to take his family with him for the meeting.

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One goal decides stalemate

So evenly matched were the two teams in the Army Challenge Cup soccer final that the game was drawn at one all — both goals coming in the last minutes of extra time — and just one goal decided the replay next day.

In the end, 39 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, wrested the title from the holders, 28 (BR) Signal Regiment (Northag), who had been in the final three times in the last five years, excluding last year's win.

Both teams came from Rhine Army this year whereas there is usually one from United Kingdom Land Forces. This was because the gunners were serving in Northern Ireland away from their home base in Germany and so qualified in the list of UK teams.

Both teams fielded tight defences and both suffered from erratic shooting. Scoring chances came but were not taken.

Disallowed

The Signals actually got the ball in the net just after the interval, following an indirect free kick. But the ball was lobbed accurately, but directly, into the net and so was disallowed.

Signals piled on the pressure and in the 21st minute of extra time it paid off. Signalman Poulton broke down the right and caught the gunners wrong-footed and out-



Gunners' goalie Steve Meaton makes a fine save under pressure.

numbered. He crossed hard and low and the gunners' Lance-Corporal Dave Johnson, hard pressed by opponents Lance-Corporal Murray and Private Cole, could only deflect the ball into his own net to give Signals the lead.

Lance-Bombardier Bill Lacey was a constant danger to the Signals and it was only fitting that he should equalise after a mistake by Signals goalie Lance-Corporal Rosslee who failed to punch clear a harmless-looking cross in the 26th minute of extra time.

The replay at first looked as if it might lead to another stalemate.

Danger-man Lacey was the architect of the gunners' ultimate victory. In the 51st minute he passed through to Gunner 'Chalky' Stair who cleverly side-footed the ball past Rosslee for the only goal of the game — and the goal that removed the Challenge Cup from the Signals' trophy cabinet.

Charity walk — record bid —

The world record endurance walking title holder — a serving soldier in Hong Kong — is all set to smash another record in aid of charity.

Staff-Sergeant John Brooks, of the Composite Ordnance Depot in the colony, is one of only a handful of men and one woman worldwide who have cracked the 300-mile barrier in this severe test of fitness and stamina.

Since 1976, Staff Brooks has held the world record with his walk of 305 miles in 75 hours around the Aintree racecourse where he also gained the British and Commonwealth record of 290 miles earlier.

The Hong Kong sponsored walk, in aid of the local Community Chest charity fund, is over a 24-hour period and Staff Brooks hopes to top 133 miles and thus snatch the existing 24-hour record set in the 1960s by the captain of the Surrey Walking Club back in England.

A number of units have fielded six-man teams for the event and Staff Brooks is one of the few individuals who have entered too.

Cadets denied cups

A team of unseeded schoolboys carved through the field to put up the best times in the Scottish ski meeting at Aviemore and caused red faces among the older competitors on the piste.

Strathallan School Combined Cadet Force became cadet team champions and 18-year-old Corporal Frank Benzies won the best Army cadet prize. The lads did not qualify for the adult prizes as cadets, so extra blushes were spared at the prizegiving.

Speaking of his win, Frank Benzies said modestly: "For me to put in the best time, the other competitors couldn't have been that good." But he went on to reveal that he had been skiing for 12 years and was junior champion of Dundee Ski Club two years ago. He hopes to make a career in sport after leaving school.

But officials were pleased with the standard of skiing in the contest this year and commented on its improvement giving the week-long event a polished appearance.

There was a total of 382 entrants

for the competition with no fewer than 673 starts in four days. One day had to be abandoned due to bad weather and the 'white out' conditions that dogged Cairngorm threatened to affect other days too. But all the major events were raced.

Results. Army junior inter-unit champions: JLR RA. Army junior individual champion: J/Gnr Poppitt. Women's Services (Regular) inter-unit champions: WRAC Zone A (A). Women's Services (Regular) individual champion: Sgt Pat 'Budgie' Rosewell. Regular Army inter-unit champions: 7 (Sphinx) Cdo Bty RA. Regular Army individual champion: Lieut Marvin; runner-up, Capt The Lord Balgonie, 3rd Lieut Anstey. TAVR inter-unit champions: HAC A Team. TAVR individual champion: L/Sgt Coats.



Junior Gunner T Mcauley, JLR RA, on his way down the slope.

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Crash threatens finals

A traffic accident threatened to scupper the Army badminton women's open doubles when a lump of masonry fell on the car carrying three of the contestants to the competition.

Smashing

The masonry fell from the back of a lorry and landed on the roof of the car, smashing the windscreen. The three girls were taken to hospital but released shortly after treatment for shock.

The contest was put back, and it says something for the girl's resistance that two of them, Sergeant Rochelle and her front seat passenger, Corporal Rolfe, got through to the finals, while the other girl in the car, Private Luk, made it to the semi-finals.

Intensive

The Army championships ended an intensive six days of badminton which started with the inter-Service tournament. The highlights of this match was the Army team's triumph in winning the inter-Service womens' cup for the first time in 30 years.

Stalwart

Private Salem won the men's singles for the third successive year and that stalwart of Army badminton, Sergeant Feehilly, once again



Craftsman Cryons (REME) serves to winner of the junior singles, Private Weaver (Duke of Wellington's Regiment).

partnered Staff-Sergeant Rasell to win the men's unit doubles for the Royal Army Medical Corps Training Centre.

Albeit with different partners, Sergeant Feehilly again won both the open mixed doubles.

Right

Two new bright stars appeared on the ladies scene in Private MacFarlane, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, and Private Jeffrey, Women's Royal Army Corps. The two girls met in the finals of both the singles and the mixed, but Private MacFarlane had the edge in both events.

Centre are the tops

The girls of 12 Company, Women's Royal Army Corps, from Mill Hill, make a determined attack on the 10 Company (Aldershot) goal in the Army women's inter-zone hockey championship.

The Mill Hill girls needed a 3-0 win from this game to win the competition on aggregate but could manage only a one-goal win against one of the hottest sides in the tournament. This put them in second place behind the WRAC Centre, Guildford.



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Navy sweeps the board



While the centenary game between the Army and the Royal Navy at Twickenham may have been slightly short on skills, it left nothing to be desired in excitement, guts and sheer endeavour.

Incredibly the lead changed hands no fewer than seven times before the Navy ran out winners by a single point at 17-16.

The Army were extremely lucky not to be points down in the first ten minutes as the Navy pack asserted their domination. But after settling down, the Army pack came back into the game and play started to flow back into the Navy half.

In the 26th minute a glorious movement started when the naval fullback took a pass on the half-way line and ran twenty yards before passing to his pack who were supporting him all the way, who in turn passed to English on the right wing to score in the corner.

Play continued at a furious pace with the Army coming back well. In the back row, Williams, Hoon and Baxter were always in the thick of the action. In the 39th minute the Army was awarded a penalty fully 45m from the line, right off the posts. Cpl McCracken, who took the kick, must have one of the most awkward styles in the game, but on this occasion, although the ball tossed and turned in the air, it went over, reducing the Army arrears to one point.

One minute after the restart, the Army was given the chance to go ahead from another penalty just left of the posts. This time McCracken missed badly, but two minutes later the Army scrum-half, Davies, made a break and dummied twice before passing out to Bowles who was stopped short of the line. A scrum was awarded which the Army won, Hoon picked up at the back, broke round the left of the pack and passed to Davies who went in for a good try. Again McCracken missed the conversion, but for the first time the Army was in the lead.

The Army then visibly eased off and the opposition was quick to take advantage. Their front row was again prominent in their punishing attack and in the tenth minute of the half, Jones, the Navy centre, found himself in possession. He made a great deal of ground before passing to left wing Hamlett who went over wide out, and the lead changed hands once again.

Once again the Army came back with a first-class move which started from a tap penalty. The ball passed through several pairs of hands in a flowing forwards' attack. Hoon and Bowles, particularly, made a lot of ground, then right wing A'Hearne skipped beautifully around two defenders to score. Left-footer Atkinson, the Army fly-half, converted.

Again the Army went ahead and again the Navy came back, this time by Navy lock Richards who crashed through from a tap penalty. The conversion put the Navy ahead again 14-13.

Atkinson put his side ahead after an off-side infringement deep in Navy territory but in the 31st minute the Navy came back with

their own penalty 40 metres out, this time against an Army forward rolling over the ball in a loose maul.

The Army kept the pressure up and in the 35th minute were right on the Navy line. A scrum was awarded to the Army who tantalisingly lost against the head for only the fourth time in the game.

In retrospect the Navy deserved their victory, but only by as narrow a margin as the score suggests.

Army: Lt P J Wright KOB, Cpl K A A'Hearne RRW, Cpl S G Jackson RAMC, Lt D E Stevens RE, Cpl D B Reynolds REME, Lt W A N Atkinson DWR, Cpl G Davies QDG, Cpl N J Gray RE, Cpl R J Matthews RE, Cpl M Jenkins RRW, Cpl D P McCracken RMP, Capt J M Bowles RCT, Cpl G O W Williams DWR, Lt J Baxter RA, Capt A J Hoon (Captain) RE.

Navy: Lt P R Lea, Lt C R English, PO J Hopkins, Lt Cdr A G Jones, PO A Hamlett, Sub Lt J Leigh, Lt K H Martin, LPT T H W Davies, Lt P Plumb, Lt J C Ackerman, CPO M J Lane, Lt C A Richards, CPO P Dunn (Captain), L/Cpl R Tinson, Lt L C P Merrick.

Above: Army forwards prepare to block yet another thrust from the Navy.

Below: The Navy is robbed of the ball in a mid-field tussle.

A lack-lustre one-all draw was enough to give the Royal Navy their revenge for defeat last year in the inter-Service soccer championship when they snatched the trophy from the Army holders at Aldershot.

At the end of a disappointing season, and already defeated in the championship by the RAF, the Army team did not appear to have the required drive to get on the attack. For their part, the Navy knew they need only draw to grab the title so there was little incentive for them to probe the Army's defences too hard.

The result was a mid-field stalemate finally broken by Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Alf Coulton in the 42nd minute when he headed a ball on for Corporal Dave Blanche to kick into an open goal.

One up at half-time, the Army seemed unable to consolidate their lead in the second half and the Navy sprang offside traps for Coulton more than once to negate his attacking value at the front.

Then, in the fourth minute of injury time, the hard-pressed Army relaxed their vigilance long enough for Bugler J O'Connell of the Royal Marines to equalise and wrest the trophy from the Army's grasp.



Sights are set on Olympics

Britain's entry in the world biathlon championships — the Cinderella of winter sport — was an all-Army team.

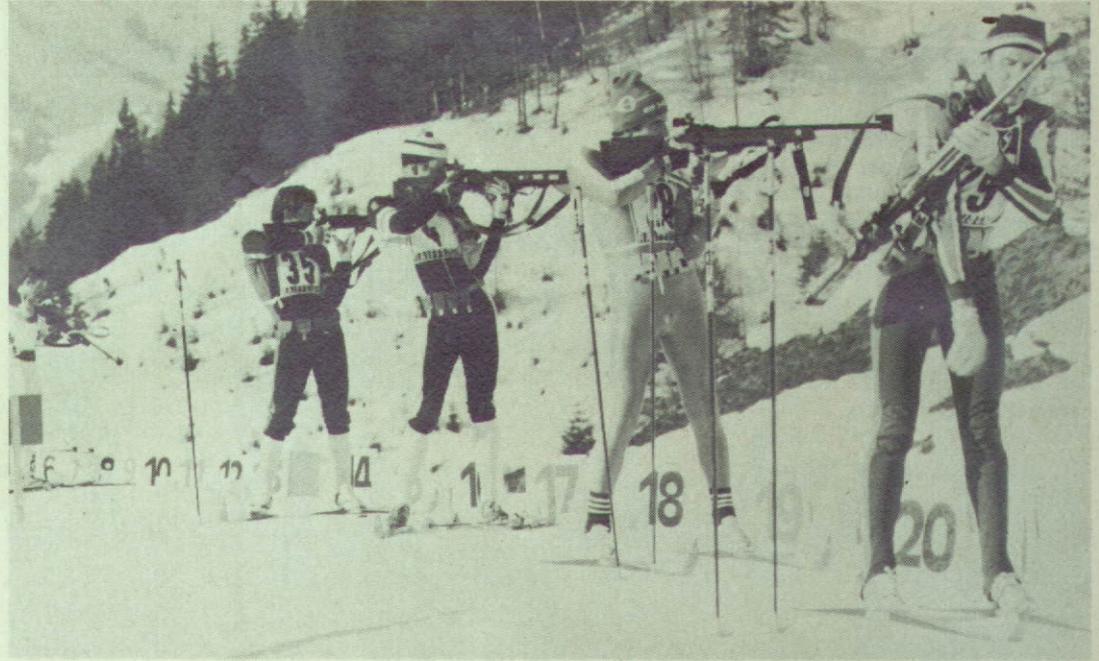
This year, for the first time, the competition used smallbore rifles and it was for this reason that Austria had been awarded the championships as they had hosted the first world meeting in 1958.

Alan Notley, British team trainer, had been told at the end of 1976 that his aim was to produce a team at its peak for the 1980 Olympic Games. Working on a four-year plan, he spent the first two years concentrating on strength training and basic technique. This year he was able to build up speed training so a better result than last year's was expected.

The championships opened in glorious sunshine with the 15km junior race. Charlie MacIvor, probably the best British junior, was for once let down by his shooting and he finished 33rd out of 57 starters. The race was won by Andreas Hess from East Germany, with another German second, and a Finn third.

Keith Oliver proved to be the best British hope in the 20km individual race. He was unfortunate in having to start early as the first six competitors had to cope with heavy shadow across the range and he lost two minutes on the shooting as a result. Had it not been for this shadow he might have achieved a higher placing than 24th. Graham Ferguson was 35th and James Wood 37th. The other runner, Michael Goode, finished 63rd and then went off to bed with a heavy cold. There were 96 starters in this race, won by Odd Lirhus of Norway, with an incredible young man called Frank Ullrich from East Germany, second.

This same young man won the senior sprint over 10km and behind him, making a clean sweep of medals for East Germany, were Roesch and Siebert. British runners were



Sergeant Keith Oliver (second from left) during a standing shoot.

Graham Ferguson (37th), Keith Oliver (38th) and Philip Jackson 69th. There were 94 starters.

This race was immediately followed by the junior 10km sprint and once again Charlie MacIvor, had a very bad shoot and finished 22nd out of 60. Although this was still a very creditable effort, if he had reached anything like his normal standard he would have come in the first six.

Twenty-four countries lined up to start the relay and Britain's first runner, Paul Gibbins, had been saved specifically for this race. Unfortunately he did not have a good start and ran the slowest time in the team that day. But because he

was the starter, he did have slightly farther to run than anyone else.

Second runner was Keith Oliver, who as always produced a very consistent result. He was followed by Graham Ferguson who made the fastest British time of the day and handed over in a very good position to James Wood. He also ran a quite magnificent leg and when he left the range for the last time was lying in 9th place. Unfortunately, over the last two kilometres he was overtaken by four other teams, the Poles actually passing him on the winning line, which pushed the team down to 13th place.

The fact that the British team was only five minutes behind the silver medal winners whereas last year the gap was 13 minutes, is an indication that training plans are beginning to bear fruit.

Scots' hopes dashed

Scotland arrived in force, confidently expecting to repeat their 1977 fencing victory over the Army in Aldershot. But it was not to be their day.

Sabre started the match and it was soon apparent that the Army sabreurs were on form, out to show that last year's defeat by seven bouts to two was pure bad luck.

Mitchell, Scotland's team captain, fenced very well and took the first fight 5-3 against Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Derek Truman (Army Physical Training Corps). However, the following bouts proved too much for the Scottish fencers who went down by two bouts to seven, Sergeant-Major Instructor David Hughes (APTC) scoring three wins, QMSI John Larkham (APTC) two wins and QMSI Truman two wins.

Scotland's best foilists beat back a sustained effort from the Army team who lost the first five bouts in a row. Staff-Sergeant Instructor Peter Brierley (APTC) came to the rescue and fenced very well to win two bouts, followed by Apprentice Tradesman Ferrid Kanuga, who managed one win, and QMSI Truman who failed to score.

The épée match was very exciting against good Scottish opposition. Craftsman Tony Woodall (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) won his three bouts convincingly. SSI Peter Brierley surprisingly lost one bout and Lance-Corporal Tony Watson (Royal Corps of Transport) fenced very well to score one victory.

Result: Army 16, Scotland 11.

Roller champs

The SOLDIER Magazine team cup for the Army roller cycling championships went to Army Apprentices College Harrogate with 594 points. Second was AAC Arborfield (557) and third SEME Bordon (463).

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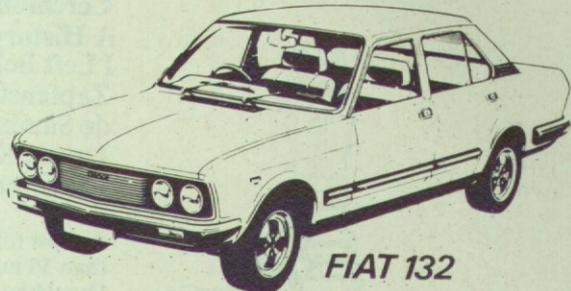
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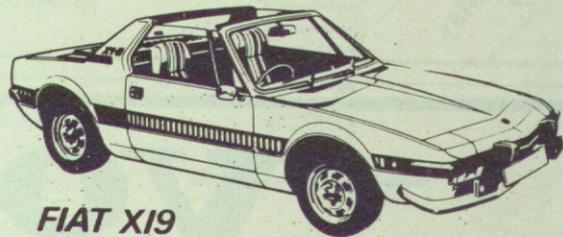
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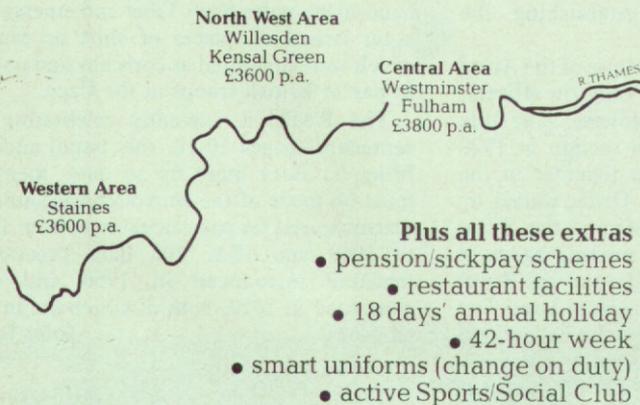
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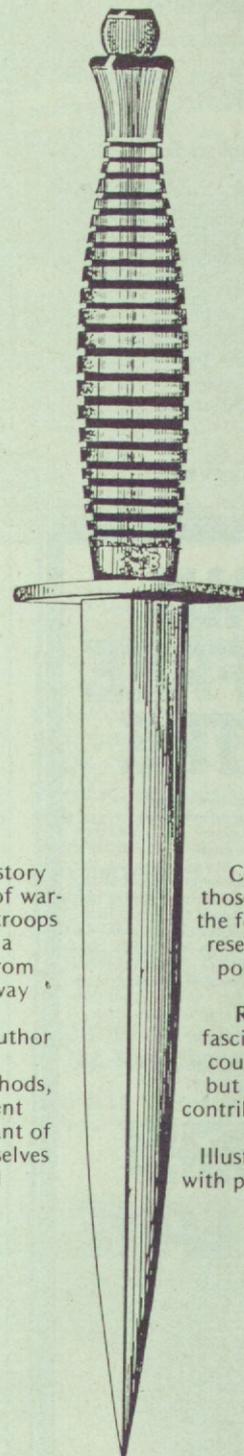
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MILITARY MUSEUMS: 64

Royal Army Pay Corps

MILITARY PAYMASTERS have been in existence for hundreds of years — Julius Caesar was one before he became a general — and British paymasters can trace their origins to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Though without relics of the Elizabethan era, the Royal Army Pay Corps museum can boast documents signed by Charles II under the Act of Settlement by which he made land available to his soldiers in lieu of pay and allowances.

The museum is divided into two parts. One tells the story of the corps and its forebears through regalia, uniforms and other souvenirs; the other, still being formed, aims to show methods by which soldiers were paid throughout the centuries.

Not surprisingly, documents are among the rarest and most valuable exhibits — for example, a War Office letter of 1747 concerning new Army establishments; a signed and sealed Paymaster's declaration of 1797; the original draft of a circular to colonels of regiments concerning the introduction of paymasters into regiments; a memorandum dated 13 April 1812 and signed by Lord Palmerston which laid down that a paymaster could be removed from his post only by court-martial or order of the sovereign; a Royal Warrant signed by William III dealing with, among other things, the rates of pay of soldiers serving in Ireland; and another, bearing George II's signature, concerning the practice of entering fictitious names on muster or pay rolls.

Other documents include War Office papers concerning the formation of the Army Pay Corps in 1893, a ledger maintained in impeccable copperplate handwriting showing the records of officers who transferred to or were commissioned in the Army Pay Department, and Queen Victoria's Royal Warrant establishing the Department in 1878.

Badges on show include those of the Army Pay Department, manned only by officers, and Army Pay Corps (soldiers). The title Royal was granted to each section in 1920 and the two were brought together in the same year under an Army Order signed by Winston S Churchill to become the Royal Army Pay Corps, whose present badge is exhibited alongside the badges of the Royal Australian and Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps. Here too can be seen the badges and shoulder titles of the Corps of Military Accountants, formed in 1919 for the purpose of costing the Army and disbanded in 1925, and the musical score of the RAPC's first regimental march, 'Primrose and Blue,' composed in 1936 by Warrant Officer 1 H Lovering.

A good collection of uniforms includes the sealed patterns of the tunic and trousers of an APC private in 1894, an officer's full



dress sleeves (1878) and the APD mess kit of the same year.

Noteworthy in a small collection of medals are the decorations of Brigadier R H Smyth, which include the Order of Wen Hu (5th Class) awarded for service with the North China British Volunteers from 1912 to 1914, and the Crimean medals of Captain W J Carden, paymaster of the 77th Regiment of Foot.

Other items to catch the eye are an abacus used for 50 years by a Chinese clerk in the Command Pay Office, Hong Kong, a Japanese hara-kiri knife and a cheque for £600,000 payable in gold sovereigns and issued during the South African War. There are examples of all the different types of paper and coin currency handled by paymasters, including hand-made notes from Tibet and emergency notes issued on pieces of shirt or canvas which were honoured as currency and issued as pay to British troops in the Cape.

The RAPC is currently celebrating its centenary (pages 10-12, this issue) and, to bring its story more up to date, mention must be made of the Burroughs accounting machine used for pay calculations from 1945 to 1960 and IBM 705 data processing machine introduced in 1960 and discontinued in 1970, both of which are in the museum.

John Jesse

Curator: Major F C J Walker (Retd)

Address: Corps Headquarters
Royal Army Pay Corps
Worthy Down
Winchester

Telephone: Winchester 880880 ext 2435
Open: Monday to Friday, 1000 to 1200 and 1400 to 1600

Closed: Weekends and Bank Holidays, but museum can be viewed by appointment

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Next month: Royal Army Medical Corps

3RD ARMoured DIVISION

Putting Iron into the Spearpoint



ON A COLD, GUSTY DAY Major-General Mike Walsh stood in front of 726 men, 122 tracked and 79 wheeled vehicles, faced General Sir Richard Worsley, Commander of 1 (British) Corps and reported: "You directed us to prepare for our role within 1 (British) Corps. With the successful conclusion of Exercise 'Seconds Out' that preparation is now complete. I ask you to accept 3rd Armoured Division into 1 (British) Corps as fully operational."

The parade, on windswept Rheinsehlen Camp in the Soltau training area, was the culmination of months of hard work in gathering together and training units already

Top: Fully operational at last. Chieftain tanks of The Royal Hussars rumble on their way.

Left: RAF Wessex helicopters fly over parade with 2 Royal Irish Rangers in foreground.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs



in Rhine Army as well as those brought across from England when 3rd Division moved from Bulford under the Army restructuring plan.

Now the British Army has four divisions in Germany — still within the Rhine Army manpower ceiling but with 3rd 'Iron' Division covering an area from Paderborn and Sennelager in the east to Duisburg and Mende in the west. It comprises men and units formerly with United Kingdom Land Forces, 2nd and 4th divisions, artillery and 6th Armoured Brigade.

The new armoured division formed within Rhine Army on 1 January with the target of being fully operational by 1 April. Before Exercise Seconds Out, which preceded the Rheinsehlen parade, there had been three months of hard training at unit level as well as exercises for each of the two task forces in the division.

Some 4000 men of the 10,000 in the division took part in Seconds Out. In a 45-kilometre-long training area the two task forces faced each other with orange forces invading from the East. For 36 hours the battle raged, involving both armour and infantry, attack and counter-attack and a helicopter-borne assault on a strategic bridge which General Walsh told SOLDIER was "a highlight of the exercise."

Although live firing into the 'battle' zone was out of the question, gunners of 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, were able to fire their Abbot self-propelled guns during the exercise. Their targets, over 10,000 metres, were on the Munster South artillery range. Probably the only woman taking part in the whole exercise was Second-Lieutenant Karen Findlay, assistant adjutant of the Dortmund-based gunners, who helped to control the firing from the regimental control post.

The Chieftains and Scorpions which provide the division with its 'armoured' title were active throughout the 36-hour exercise, which ended with a counter-attack and an honourable 'draw.' General Walsh kept a firm finger on the pulse of the battle, often taking to the air by helicopter as well as travelling with his tactical headquarters in armoured vehicles.

He was delighted with the success of the exercise. He told SOLDIER: "This exercise has been designed to bring all arms to work together as one and they have been tested in a realistic war setting and have proved that they are fit for an operational role.

"We have moved a large distance from our home bases, deployed as for war, fought a two-day battle and maintained and replenished ourselves in the field. I have been very impressed with the spirit and determination shown by the soldiers taking part — particularly the younger men, many of whom have not been on a two-sided exercise of this type before."

A particularly daunting task faced the men of the new division's Headquarters and Signal Regiment. They not only had to provide communications for both sides in the battle but operate the tactical head-

Top: General Sir Richard Worsley inspects the assembled men and vehicles from a Land-Rover.

Centre: 2/lieut Karen Findlay and WO2 Mike Tindall discuss the Abbot firing details.

Left: Minutes later the guns of 2 Field Regiment start live firing into the Münster range.

The history of the 3rd Division is summarised by a theatres and locations board reproduced in a new book, 'Iron Division' by Robin McNish. Briefly it is:

1809-1814	The Peninsula and France
1815	Waterloo
1854-56	The Crimea
1899-1900	South Africa
1902	Bordon
1907-14	Bulford
1914-18	France, Belgium and Germany
1920-39	Bulford
1939-40	France and Belgium
1940-44	Scotland
1944-45	France, Low Countries and Germany
1945-47	Suez Canal and Palestine
1951-1977	Colchester, Suez Canal, Port Said, Cyprus, Bulford
1978	Soest

quarters communications as well as those for umpires and damage control inspectors.

Said Major Hugh Nelson, second-in-command: "We are a new unit with large chunks of old units thrown in and we are in the process of welding ourselves into a cohesive whole. Progress has been good and while I think it will take a little time yet to get to the standard we would wish, we will get there. The general has set a hard pace but we have done well. After all, when you have tanks and armoured personnel carriers racing at each other from various directions, there is always the potential for disaster."

For the newly formed 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps, the good weather throughout the exercise meant a lot of flying for its Scouts and Gazelles. Said the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Deakin: "A high flying rate means that we can more quickly learn how the division wants to operate, what its requirement is for us and how to anticipate that requirement."

On 1 April the regiment's squadrons took on their old titles from England — 653 for the anti-tank squadron of Scouts (soon to be replaced by Lynx) and 663 for the reconnaissance squadron. "The titles are coming home," said Colonel Deakin. It was the regiment's last period together as a whole until early 1979, because of commitments in Northern Ireland and Canada.

At the end of the exercise, three-quarters of the men and vehicles hurried back to their bases for the first divisional sports meeting in Germany. The remainder had just 24 hours to prepare for the parade.

Clearly pleased with what he had seen both on parade and on his tour of the battle zone two days earlier, General Worsley told the men of 3rd Armoured Division: "I congratulate you in coming straight off the training area and putting on such an effective and impressive parade today. Brigades as such have moved away and we now have a

new era in front of us. What I have seen today convinces me that you are more than ready to take your rightful place by the 1st, 2nd and 4th divisions."

Then, to the skirl of pipes from the pipes and drums of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, the parade began. Harriers and Wessex helicopters of the Royal Air Force passed overhead, followed on the ground by tanks from The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, The Royal Hussars and 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars. M (Attack) Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, followed in Strikers and FV 438s, and 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, with Spartans, FV 433s and FV 432s. Then came the engineers and the signalmen with their vehicles.

Three infantry battalions — 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment; 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; and 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers — passed in armoured personnel carriers, followed by men of the Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Royal Military Police, all in their appropriate vehicles.

As the parade drew to a close the 12 helicopters flew past — six Scouts in the form of a diamond followed by six Gazelles in a cruciform. The symbol they represented in the skies over Rheinsehlen was the Spearpoint of 1 (British) Corps — 3rd Armoured Division had joined up.



Above left: Scouts and Gazelles of 3 Regiment, Army Air Corps, fly in Spearpoint formation.

Above right: Maj-Gen Mike Walsh who took 3rd Division from Bulford to its BAOR position.

Right: Churning up the mud as The Royal Hussars counter-attack in an effort to beat invaders.

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They are among the first figures in a new range of model soldiers called 'Sovereign Miniatures.'

The sole distributor is Mr Lynn Sangster, of Historex Agents, 3 Castle Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1QJ.

Sovereign Miniatures are sculptured by Mr John Tassell, a Grenadier guardsman turned professional modelmaker, who

lives near Chatham. His figures have the facial features of battle-hardened veterans — a gaunt expression of pronounced cheekbones, thin nose and narrow lips. Care has been taken with the uniform too. There is perceptible detail in the feather and horse-hair crests and even the centurion's cloak falls into natural folds.

The range also at present includes a Gallic chieftain with horned helmet, a bare-chested warrior from southern Gaul and an odd-man-out Russian infantryman of the Russo-Japanese War of 1905.

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SPECIAL ARMY SCULPTURES

MILITARIA ENTHUSIAST Jim Richards is an unashamed admirer of the Special Air Service Regiment. So much so that he has his own four-man patrol in his sitting room . . . modelled by him in Plasticine.

The foot-high figures are part of a collection of sculpture carvings Jim is building up. At present he is working on a larger tableau of two troopers emerging from a jungle creek with a canoe which he has entitled 'stealthy assault.'

Although modestly dismissing his work as that of an amateur, Jim spares no pains to get every detail of his statuettes just right. He says: "I can knock up a model in four to five hours. But before that I may well have spent some 55 hours studying photographs to get it just right."

He has moved on from Plasticine as the medium for his work to modelling clay, which he carves using just an old penknife. But even the stitching on his SAS troopers' uniforms is included. He achieves this effect using a cog wheel taken from the movement of a clock. His only other tool is a battered pair of calipers he uses for scaling his figures.

All Jim's troopers are frozen in action poses which are uncannily lifelike. The weight of a bulging bergen on the back of one is clearly discernible from the bend in the back and the set of the legs. Jim points out that he has had no formal art training or anatomy study to help him. He takes all his poses from photographs — many of which he has obtained from *SOLDIER* — and adds his own observations of soldiers on the march. On top of this, he has his first-hand experience to draw on. For Jim emulates the lone exploits of his heroes by going for hikes in the country around the tiny Oxfordshire village of Great Coxwell where he lives.

He carries his own 45lb bergen on his back on these treks and justifiably claims this is what keeps his 40-year-old frame fit. A panel maker in a fencing firm by trade, Jim was brought up on the land and thinks that his 18 or so years as a farmhand have given him an awareness of the great outdoors and the loner's mentality that are part of the SAS attitude he so admires.

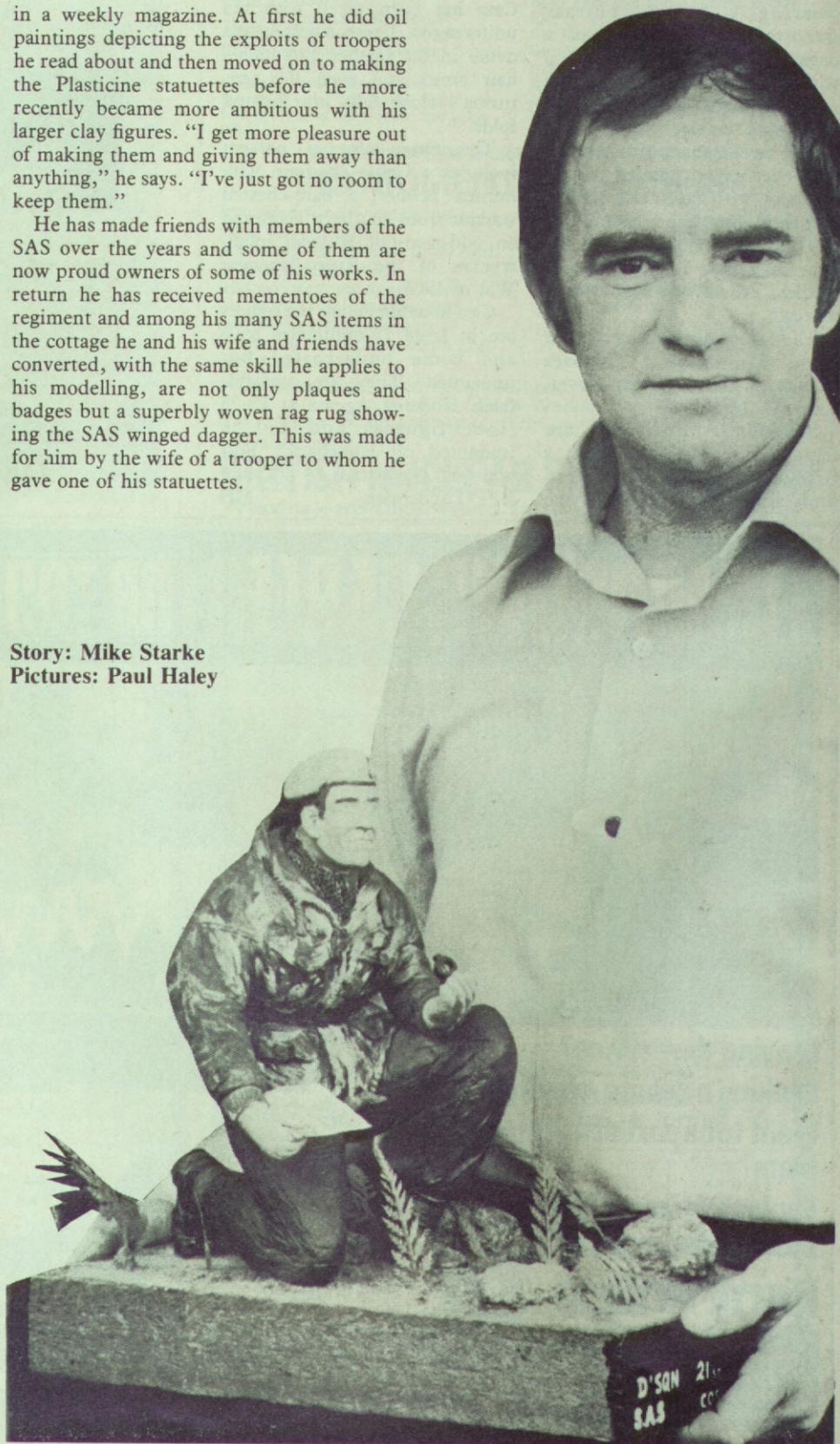
"Out on my runs on my own I find my mind starts working. I might see a foxhole and work out how I could conceal myself in it if I was being pursued as a trooper on a mission. And I've found out for myself that by walking on my heels I can go through the woods without breaking twigs. The feel and the atmosphere I create all comes back to helping me making the models."

Jim's interest in the SAS goes back to 1964 when he read an article on the regiment

in a weekly magazine. At first he did oil paintings depicting the exploits of troopers he read about and then moved on to making the Plasticine statuettes before he more recently became more ambitious with his larger clay figures. "I get more pleasure out of making them and giving them away than anything," he says. "I've just got no room to keep them."

He has made friends with members of the SAS over the years and some of them are now proud owners of some of his works. In return he has received mementoes of the regiment and among his many SAS items in the cottage he and his wife and friends have converted, with the same skill he applies to his modelling, are not only plaques and badges but a superbly woven rag rug showing the SAS winged dagger. This was made for him by the wife of a trooper to whom he gave one of his statuettes.

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley





His own wife, Freda, far from merely tolerating his fanatical admiration of the SAS, actively supports him in his efforts and takes a keen interest herself.

Jim says: "I worship the ground that girl walks on. But she knows that with me the regiment comes first. If we were going out for a wedding anniversary dinner and one of my SAS friends came to the door, she knows I'd just have to call it off and stay home with him.

"Some people might think I'm a bit of a nutter — perhaps I am. But with me the regiment is practically everything."

And no expense is spared either. Despite the cost of practically rebuilding his cottage, he still manages to scrape together enough money from his panel-maker's wages to buy his modelling clay at £1.25 a packet. He reckons one of his figures costs anything up to £50. But when it's finished, he doesn't count the cost and merely takes pleasure in giving it away to one of his SAS friends or their unit. "I only ever keep about ten per cent of my output," he says.

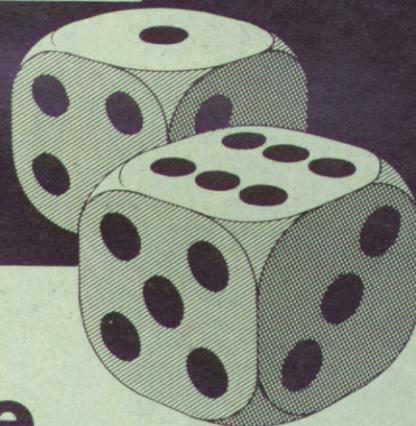
Like the soldiers he admires, Jim believes in keeping a low profile on his military modelling and he believes few of his neighbours know about it. But his sculpturing skill is well-known locally and several of his figures adorn the mantelshelves of other than Army friends.

He made a horse and ploughman for his local pub, The Plough, and has modelled racehorses with jockeys on their backs for people in the Vale of the White Horse where he lives and where some top stables train racing mounts.

But he always comes back to his first love — the SAS. "My heart and soul's in the military," he says. "I eat it and sleep it — people say I'm brainwashed!"

Jim's next ambition after his 'stealthy assault' model is to carve two troopers abseiling down a rockface. And his ultimate ambition is to have his work on display at an SAS headquarters where the objects of his admiration can enjoy his tributes to their very special form of service.

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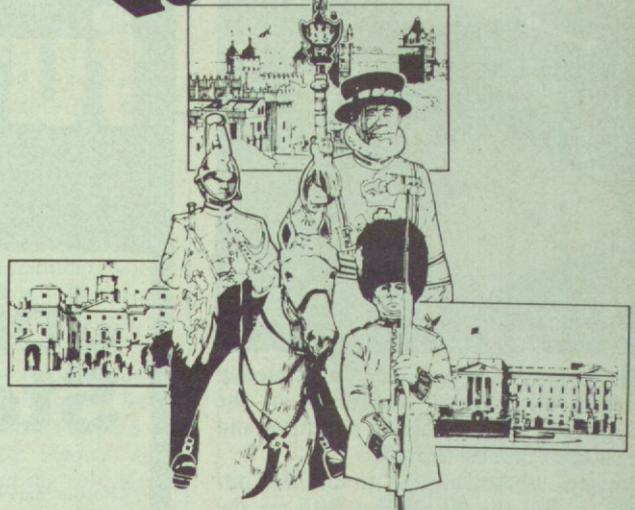
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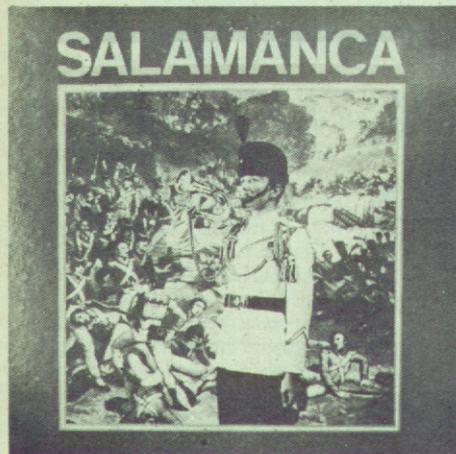
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Salamanca centre piece

'Salamanca' (The Band and Bugles of the 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry) (Conductor: Bandmaster Kenneth W Napier) (Bugle-Major: Warrant Officer 2 Gerry E Hill)

I hope Mr Napier will not mind me revealing that he and I were not exactly bosom pals during his student days at Kneller Hall. I now bend the knee, knuckle the forelock and bid him 'Come home, Ken, all is forgiven.' This record is what bandmastering is all about and proves the point that a student is merely a caterpillar waiting the moment to shed its academic bonds before blossoming into a butterfly (or moth, it says in my dictionary).

I'm not often stumped for words and rarely in these columns need to search for superlatives, but on this occasion we have a programme by a regimental band of only thirty which, for sheer imagination in making the best of what you've got, would be hard to beat. The addition of a dozen buglers, in true light infantry fashion, effectively colours the two marches and the centre-piece of the programme, 'Salamanca.'



Beginning with an Alf Young march, 'Queen and Prince,' the band gives a worthy display of its talents on a series of modern classics — Erickson's 'Toccata for Band,' Frank Parkin's 'Fandango,' the theme from 'Shaft,' 'Instant Concert' switch, 'Lawrence of Arabia,' 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and a French chasseur bugle march, 'La St Cyrienne.' All normal so far, even hackneyed, though coming across as fresh as a daisy.

Salamanca is of course a famous Light Infantry battle honour and perhaps the fateful year of its action, 1812, has been overshadowed and out-gunned by Tchaikovsky. Mr Napier's 'Salamanca,' although not symphonic in texture, is in four movements — Dawn, Troops Muster, The Battle, and Victory. In the course of these four sections he skilfully weaves the Durham Light Infantry hymn, Rouse, the Marseillaise, British Grenadiers, the marches of all the 19th century light infantry regiments, Sunset, Rule Britannia and nostalgic snatches of bugle calls and fanfares, so that all is blended into a true, kaleidoscopic scene of battle as a privileged onlooker might have seen and heard it from dawn to dusk on 22 July 1812. And all done without recourse to sundry bangs, thumps, spurious clash of steel, fireworks and the neighing nag.

This may well serve as a much-needed addition to tattoo and Retreat ceremonies and, with just a wee addition to the battle section, find a permanent place in Kneller Hall's grand concert nights. Fireworks and all.

Not a moth, Mr Napier, a butterfly — White Admiral at least. **RB**

Record (or cassette) available only from PRI, 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, Hampshire, at £3.00 plus 50p postage for disc and 20p for cassette

'The Services' Silver Jubilee Musical Pageant and the Silver Jubilee Reserve and Cadet Forces Review by Her Majesty the Queen, Wembley, 1977' (Producer: Major A F Jackman) (Musical Director: Lieutenant-Colonel T L Sharpe) (Pye Records Special PKDX 2002) (Cassette ZCPBD 2002)

Impossible as usual to name all the performers individually, for in addition to the pageant we have the review of the Reserve and Cadet Forces by the Queen, which took place on the first evening of three Pageant performances. And, as I always say, you know what it's all about by now and need little encouragement from me as to whether it is a good buy or not.

For the few who don't know, I merely repeat that this is the biggest and best military musical show on earth, this year using massed bands from the Army, Royal Marines and Royal Air Force — four from the Marines, four from the RAF and 42 military bands plus pipes and drums, corps of drums and trumpeters from the Army — getting on for 2000 musicians in all. How do you control so many when the left-hand trombonist is a hundred yards from his right-hand colleague? Don't ask me, I conducted only two such pageants. Sheer professional instinct on the part of the players, I guess, such as you will find in few other forces in the world.

The pageant comes in a two-record album and, given an extra ration of patriotic applause, it being Silver Jubilee year, you should be able to hear the following:

The Silver Jubilee Reserve and Cadet Forces Review — Inspection music 'Royal Review'



(Steck); march past to 'Heart of Oak' (Royal Naval Reserve and Women's Royal Naval Reserve), 'Life on the Ocean Wave' (Royal Marines Reserve), 'Great Little Army' and 'Voice of the Guns' (TAVR), 'Guard of Honour' (Sea Cadet Corps, Combined Cadet Force, Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps), 'RAF March Past' and 'Skywatch' (Royal Auxiliary Air Force and Royal Observer Corps), 'Standard of St George' (women officers); march off of massed bands, pipers and drummers to 'Scotland the Brave.'

Musical pageant opening fanfare — 'Prelude to Pageantry' (Sharpe).

'All the Queen's Men' (combined marching display) — Entry to 'The Army, the Navy and the Air Force,' slow march 'Preobrajensky,' quick marches 'To Your Guard' and 'The Pathfinders,' band and trumpet march 'Knights of the Queen,' march off to 'A Life on the Ocean Wave,' 'When the Guards are on Parade,' 'The Royal Air Force March Past.'

'The Skirl o' the Pipes' (display by Scottish, Irish and Gurkha bands, pipes and drums) — Entry to 'Teribus,' slow march 'Flower of Scotland,' march off to 'Bugle Horn,' 'Killaloe' and 'The Black Bear.'

'Crown Imperial' (tableau to music by Malcolm Arnold and Elgar) — Extract from prelude to 'Homage to the Queen,' 'Pomp and Circumstance No. 1.'

'Silver and Green' (display by The Light Division) — Bugle calls 'Light Division Assembly' and 'Advance,' entry to 'Secunderabad,' slow marches 'Bugler in Vienna' and 'Royal Green Jackets.'

'Happy and Glorious' (concert of popular music) — 'Shrewsbury Fiar,' 'Congratulations,' 'Long Live Elizabeth,' 'Coronation Bells,' 'Bells Across the Meadow,' 'Let the Bells Ring,' 'Symphonic Salute' and 'Mexican Hat Dance.'

Grand Finale — Assembly of all participants to 'Cavalry Walk,' 'Royal Scots Polka,' 'Wembley Way' and 'Sambre et Meuse,' Laurie Johnson's 'Vivat Regina,' fanfare 'Salute the Sovereign,' 'Rule Britannia,' 'Abide with Me,' 'Sunset,' 'God Save the Queen.' **RB**

'The Very Best of Gilbert & Sullivan' (Morrison Orpheus Choir (Choral Director: Leslie Ryan) and the Band of HM Royal Marines (Royal Marines School of Music) (Conductor: Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Neville)) (EMI Studio 2 Stereo TWOX 1066)

The combination of Welsh choir and military band does work, as we know from many a record reviewed in these columns, but I don't recall such an ambitious programme as this where large chunks of light opera are performed. And very effectively too, even if genuine Savoyards might shudder — still, they've been shuddering with self-righteous and holier-than-thous condescension for many years at desecrators of their privately owned G & S.

The overall quality of performance and recording is very fine and the venture is much indebted to the imaginative arrangements of the whole programme by Ray Woodfield. The only comment I have is that the choir lacks a degree of professional tone and cutting edge, though even that may be a strength in this context. Their diction, attack and ensemble are excellent and they and the band sing and play with skill and humour these greatly loved tunes — and had even this sourpuss humming and foot-tapping.

A most admirable production all round, with



many moments of sheer delight and, best of all, lacking those exasperating 'bits of business' that so alienate me, and probably you, from the Savoy recordings.

All the favourite excerpts from the following operas are included, with the girls' songs, such as 'I'm Called Little Buttercup' and 'Three Little Maids' transcribed for the band: 'The Mikado,' 'Iolanthe,' 'The Gondoliers,' 'The Pirates of Penzance,' 'HMS Pinafore.' **RB**

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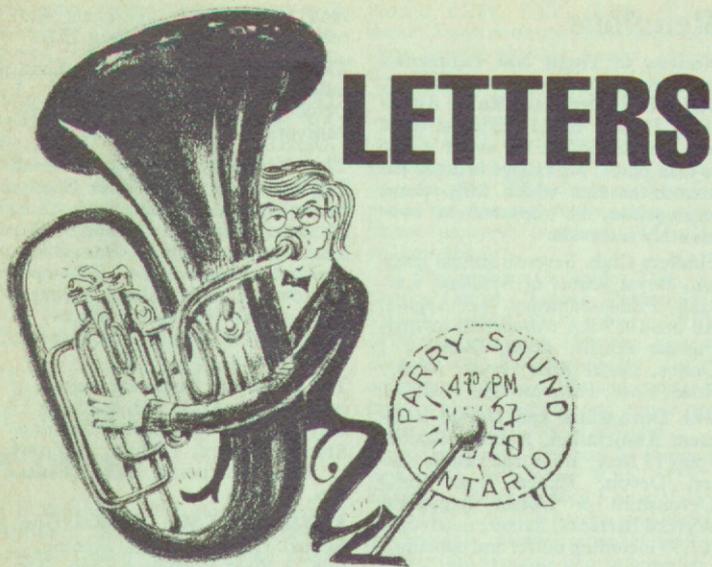
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LETTERS

Fags out!

In your article on smoking (March) it is mentioned that Service personnel tend to smoke heavily because cigarettes are so cheap (22¢ for 20). While I appreciate that duty free goods are one of the few perks of the serviceman abroad, surely it is time to stop encouraging soldiers to ruin their health.

I would like to see servicemen abroad paying the full UK price for cigarettes and for the extra money not to be paid as excise duty but to be donated to Service charities such as the Army Benevolent Fund or individual regimental charities. This, I am sure, would reduce the amount of smoking and provide extra income to these worthwhile causes.—**Capt M J Everett, 6 Park Glade, Tintern, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 6TX.**

'Demo' battalion

We read that a new infantry battalion, made up of drafts from the remnants of the infantry of the line and rejoicing in the name 'Demonstration Battalion,' is being formed. For many years now, I (and no doubt others) have watched the machinations of the War Office/Ministry of Defence (Army) in their pathetic attempts at amalgamation, disbandment, formation of 'large' regiments and general decimation of the infantry of the line with a great deal of scepticism and not a little alarm, needing little to convince me that the pundits who order (?) these events are lacking in fundamental intelligence. I now know they're crackers. Surely if any increase in the infantry strength is deemed necessary (and not before time) one need not resort to this nonsense. Have the Beds and Herts, Leicesters, Middlesex, Cameronians and DLI all been forgotten so soon?

What was wrong with the former systems of finding the 'demo' battalion from a line battalion on a rotational basis? This meant that new methods could be worked out with a field formation and any snags or difficulties would be the same as met throughout the infantry. With the formation of a 'professional' demonstration battalion these advantages would seem to me to be eliminated. I

have written to my MP on this but he, having served in the RAF, does not, I feel, quite appreciate the situation. Nevertheless, perhaps if others in sympathy with my views did likewise, maybe good might come out of folly.—**R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hampshire.**

MSM

I would like to make a point to those concerned with the recommendation and award of the Meritorious Service Medal. The present system is unfair to many warrant officers and senior non-commissioned officers on the extra-regimental employed list because they happen to be employed in very small units, and in some cases isolated jobs, where they are under command of officers below field rank who are unaware of either the soldier's service record or the necessity for submitting recommendations. I would suggest that it would be fairer if these WOs and NCOs were the responsibility of officers i/c records (LSL), who presumably have copies of their records, for submitting names for consideration for award of the MSM.—**J G Stone (BEM MSM), 6 Linden Close, Braunton, North Devon, EX33 1AW.**

Overweight Matilda

I was most interested to read about the new type pontoon bridge ('Sapper Terriers bridge gap,' February News) and in the photograph of the Chiefstain crossing the bridge.

In 1941 I had the dubious honour of driving my Matilda II tank over the first pontoon bridge designed to take the 25-ton weight of a Matilda. This was not far from Castle Goring, near Worthing. I was almost across the pontoon when it started to break up. I accelerated and managed to scramble up the river bank just in time. The next problem was to get back across the river. The only alternative to a long detour was a bridge with a limit of something like four or five tons. I volunteered to 'have a bash' at this bridge, took it by storm flat out at about 22 miles an hour — and

made it before that poor bridge had a chance to think about what was happening. What a day! — **J Bingham, 24 Cloisters Road, Luton, Bedfordshire.**

Drum and flute

Best wishes to The Corps of Drums Society (Letters, February) and I hope it has some success in promoting drum and fife bands in infantry regiments.

As a layman I have never been too keen on the fife but was most impressed by an item featuring massed fifes and drums at a Wembley musical pageant three years ago and now feel that they have something after all. So let's hear more of them and get to know them better (bandmasters and tattoo directors, please note). — **M Wood, 9 Crofton Rise, Dronfield, Sheffield, S18 6RH.**

Restoration

I am currently engaged in the restoration of a 1943 Dodge ¾-ton ambulance, many of which were delivered to the Royal Army Medical Corps under Lend-Lease. I am particularly anxious to receive any information on this vehicle and its use, especially photographs, so that I may complete its restoration accurately and fit it out with medical equipment of the period. Any help will be gratefully received and all photographs will be returned. — **J Lovegrove, 81 Ridley Road, Bromley, Kent, BR2 0EU.**

Doolally Tap

Your nostalgic article 'In command of the language' (March) is wrong on Doolally Tap. This was a description of a muscular twitch affecting some soldiers which resulted from fever due to long service in a bad climate. You attribute the name correctly to Deolali Camp, where the numbers of those afflicted would be more in evidence while assembled awaiting embarkation at Bombay. Deolali was also the acclimatisation and training camp for regiments arriving in India in the last century.

I believe ackers began as Indian annas before becoming applicable to Canal Zone piastres and other coinage.—**D A Pringle, The Old Rectory, Knights Enham, Andover, Hants.**

★ *SOLDIER's less prosaic origin of*

Doolally Tap came from the magazine's files. Other readers may have heard of other versions.

Where are you?

As an ex-corporal of B Squadron, 10th Royal Hussars, I would like to make contact with a few old mates, namely Ted Hickson, Danny Doogan, Eddie Higley (all of whom were fellow corporals in the regiment way back in 1950) and Ray Weston. It would be marvellous if we could all make contact again. I have managed to locate ex-Corporal 'Tug' Wilson who I am sure would look after us — he is a police chief inspector now. Iserlohn and Hemer were grand places in those days and it would be good if we could arrange a long weekend there sometime. — **L Hillaby, 85 Ward Point, Hotspur Street, Lambeth, London SE11.**

Battle Axe Company

To complete the history of 74 (The Battle Axe Company) Guided Weapons Battery, Royal Artillery, I would be grateful for any information, souvenirs or known history of the battery from any ex-members or historians. Any personal mementoes ie medals, awards, documents etc that are available will be copied and originals returned.—**Sgt M Harkins, 74 (The Battle Axe Company) GW Bty RA, 32 GW Regt RA, Wing Barracks, Bulford Camp, Salisbury, Wiltshire.**

Come back...!

I am writing in the hope that this will help to trace some boys of 74 Company RASC, 3rd Infantry Division, who were stationed at South Benfleet Camp, Essex, between 1950 and 1951. My wife and I recently celebrated our silver wedding and at the celebration a number of the boys with whom we have kept in touch over the years, and the commanding officer, Colonel Hatherley, all agreed a reunion would be just the thing.

If any of the boys read this and are interested, perhaps they would contact either myself or Bob Cockings, 22 St Andrews Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex (tel Hornchurch 50455). We are most eager and willing to arrange a reunion.—**Harry Chafer, 49 Parkfields, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 3YU (tel Southend-on-Sea 555450).**

NEW GALLERY

Commemorating the 900th anniversary of the Tower of London, a new history gallery has been built on the site of the long-vanished medieval great hall in the moat of the White Tower. The gallery explains the unique national significance of the Tower and the famous personalities and events associated with it and also its architectural development in relation to the many roles it has served.

During excavation of the foundations for this gallery, archaeologists discovered remains of the Romans' river-side wall. This has been incorporated into the history gallery and visitors can view this previously unknown wall. The new history gallery was designed by architects of the Department of the Environment's Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings and built at a cost of £100,000.

Commemorative covers



HM Tower of London
900th Anniversary 1078-1978

This painting of the Tower of London, a yeoman warder and an original guard, which adorns the commemorative cover (see 'Commemorative cover,' Letters, March), is by Mrs Alexandra Brembridge who is the wife of Major T J Brembridge, Royal Artillery, and daughter of the present Constable of HM Tower of London, Field-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker.



Last month's SOLDIER gave details (page 40) of the souvenir philatelic cover being issued to commemorate the visit of the Queen to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Bicester on 16 May 1978. This cover, bearing the 8½p Silver Jubilee stamp, is now Cover A. Cover B will be serviced with the new 9p Tower of London stamp as the Tower was the first ordnance depot in the UK.

Competition

For time and space reasons, publication of the answers and winners of

the January Competition 23 (One for one!) is held over to the July edition of SOLDIER.

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

See-the-Army

DIARY

MAY 1978

- 4 Evening of Nostalgia (in aid of Ssafa), Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 5 Plymouth Services Tattoo (5-6 May) (band; pipes and drums; Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team; Royal Signals White Helmets motorcycle display; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training display).
- 5 Newark Agricultural Show (5-6 May) (band; static displays).
- 6 Goodwood Air Pageant (6-7 May) (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team).
- 10 Tri-Services Day, Selby (White Helmets).
- 12 Burslem Show (12-14 May) (band; static displays).
- 13 Market Rasen Show (13-14 May) (junior band; White Helmets; static displays).
- 13 Harpenden Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
- 17 Shropshire and West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (17-18 May) (junior band; Red Caps; The Light Division 'Flying Bugles' freefall team).
- 20 Long Eaton Carnival (20-21 May) (band; The Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team; static displays).
- 20 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo.
- 20 Hadleigh (Essex) Farmers Club Show (Red Caps).
- 20 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 20 Combined Forces Show, Duxford (20-21 May) (White Helmets).
- 20 Mitcham Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
- 21 Brentwood Tattoo.
- 23 Massed bands, Household Division, beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (23-25 May).
- 24 Queen's Birthday Parade, Berlin.
- 24 Stafford Show (24-25 May) (band; corps of drums; White Helmets; Red Caps).
- 26 Aldershot Horse Show (26-28 May) (Royal Corps of Transport 'Silver Stars' freefall team; band).
- 27 Cannon Hill Festival, Birmingham (27 May-3 June) (band; junior band; RA motorcyclists; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, physical training display).
- 27 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.

Reunions

Notices of corps and regimental reunions should be sent to Editor, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, at least two months before the event is due to take place. No charge is made for announcements which will, where appropriate, be repeated at two-monthly intervals.

Fiddlers Club. Seventh annual reunion, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Friday-Saturday, 4-5 August. All pre-1939 RA trumpeters invited. Further details: Major (Retd) J J Dobbs, Easter Ross House, Minley Road, Cove, Farnborough, Hants.

The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment Association. Annual reunion, 7pm, 13 May, St George's Hall, Exeter, Devon. Tickets from RHQ Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, in advance (£2.50 including buffet and dancing).

The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment Association. Annual reunion, Sunday 18 June, Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster. Details from Hon Secretary, Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2ER.

The Wiltshire Regiment Old Comrades Association. Annual reunion, 10-11 June, Devizes. Details from

Hon Secretary, Le Marchant Barracks, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2ER.

The Welch Regiment Old Comrades. Annual reunion, Saturday 7 October, TAVR Centre, Broadway, Pontypridd. Details later.

The XVIIIth, The Royal Irish Regiment and South Irish Horse. Annual reunion dinner, Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, London SW1, 8pm, Saturday 3 June. Annual service of remembrance, Cenotaph, Whitehall, London, 11am, Sunday 4 June. Details from P J Boyce, 13 Sticklepath Terrace, Barnstaple, North Devon; EX31 2AY.

The Middlesex Regiment. Service of remembrance, 2.30 pm, Saturday 13 May, St Paul's Cathedral, London. Annual reunion, 7.15pm, Saturday 13 May, Portchester Hall, Queensway, London.

Airborne REME Association. Annual reunion Friday evening, 7 July, 3 Field Workshop Club, Bordon (opposite fire station). Accommodation available and hopefully transport to Aldershot on morning of Saturday 8 July for Airborne Forces Day. For details contact S/Sgt E Wroe, A Coy, Trg Bn and Depot REME, Rowcroft Barracks, Arborfield (phone Arborfield Military (760421) ext 293. For information on

- 27 Anglo-American Air Festival, Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire (27-28 May).
- 27 Montgomery Agricultural Show, Welshpool (Red Caps).
- 27 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (27-29 May) (three bands; junior band; White Helmets; Red Devils; Pegasus).
- 27 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (27-29 May).
- 28 Hove Lions Day (band).
- 28 Carrington Park Rally, Boston (28-29 May) (band; Flying Bugles).
- 29 County Centenary Show, Derby (two bands; Flying Bugles).
- 29 Scottish/American War Memorial service, Edinburgh (junior band).
- 29 Surrey County Show, Guildford (Red Caps).
- 30 Royal Marines massed bands beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (30 May-1 June).
- 31 Royal Bath Show (31 May-3 June) (White Helmets).

JUNE 1978

- 3 St Neot's Riverside Carnival (3-5 June) (band; Red Devils; Pegasus).
- 3 Nuneaton Carnival (junior band; JLR RA PT display).
- 3 Wolverhampton Fiesta (3-10 June) (band 3 June; Pegasus 6 June; band 10 June).
- 3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 3 Open Day, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
- 4 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot (Glencorse) (Scottish Division 'Golden Lions' freefall team; bands).
- 8 South of England Show, Haywards Heath (8-10 June) (White Helmets).
- 10 Coventry Carnival (junior band).
- 10 Perkins Families Day, Peterborough (band).
- 10 Wolverhampton Fiesta (RA motorcyclists).
- 11 Gosberton Open Day (RA motorcyclists).
- 11 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (11-12 June) (band).
- 11 Hungerford Steam Rally (11-12 June) (band).
- 12 Edinburgh Army Display (12-17 June) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 16 Essex Show, Chelmsford (16-17 June) (band; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, musical ride).
- 17 Lydd Club Day (RA motorcyclists).
- 18 Putney Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 18 Nottingham Water Spectacular (Royal Green Jackets freefall team).
- 23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June) (15 bands; six Corps of drums; pipe band; Red Caps; Pegasus; King's Troop; RA motorcyclists; Red Devils; Hong Kong Police display team).
- 24 East Midlands Gas Gala, Leicester (junior band; Red Devils).
- 24 Shoreham Air Day (24-25 June) (band).
- 25 Ssafa Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.
- 26 Chesterfield Carnival (band; pipes and drums; Red Devils).
- 28 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (28-29 June) (two bands; Pegasus).

JULY 1978

- 1 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (1-2 July) (band; Guards freefall team; static displays).
- 1 Royal Army Pay Corps centenary freedom march and cathedral service, Winchester.
- 2 Wilton Spectacular, Wilton House, Salisbury (in aid of Ssafa) (Red Caps).
- 2 Winchester Cadet Tattoo.

statuettes, colour prints, ties and hopefully sweatshirt, contact Capt A Jones, 9 Fd Wksp, Bordon (phone Bordon Military ext 443).

Wartime Boys' Battery. Eleventh reunion, Saturday 7 October, RA Sergeants' Mess, RA Barracks, Woolwich. Cost, including accommodation Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning, £6.50. All who served in the Boys' Battery, or were members of its permanent staff, between 1942 and the battery leaving Woolwich, are eligible. Details from T C Holden, 6 Ingres Walk, Sholver II, Moorside, Oldham, Lancashire.

Collectors' Corner

J P McIlwaine, 208 Donegall Road, Belfast, BT12 5NE, Northern Ireland.—Collects British Army Stay-brite cap badges. Will buy.

J T Doran, 4 The Cottages, Common Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire.—Wishes purchase 'Panzer Leader' (Capt Liddell Hart) and 'The Lindemans Affair' (A Laurens).

Sr Roberto Gambine Moreira, Av NS de Fatima No. 74, Apto 401, Rio de

Janciro AZ86, CEP 20.000 (RJ), Brasil, South America.—Seeks symbols, crests, shields, shoulder patches, insignia, emblems, cap badges, lapel badges, ribbons and medals of Household Cavalry, Guards Division, Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards.

G Ewing, c/o Staff, HM Prison, Brixton, London SW2.—Seeks worldwide prison insignia and prison relics, also picture postcards views of civil and military prisons.

S G Biggin, Flat 13, Ashley Dale, 5 Station Road, Lower Parkstone, Dorset, BH14 8UA.—Ex-sgt RE WW2 contemplating collecting photos British and Commonwealth army uniforms, especially DRs and cavalry, would appreciate spares and advice on where such photos can be obtained.

Jerry Jenkinson, 85 Great St James, Belleville, Ontario K8N 3J3, Canada.—Restoring MG Fraser/Nash nose turret Lancaster bomber and seeking manuals, photos, technical information; also manuals and information on Lancaster rear turret and any other turret of Commonwealth and USA bombers or fighters. Will buy or trade other militaria for required material.

Tpr T Hurst, C Sqn, QOY, 14 Eaton Road, Handbridge, Chester.—Requires 13/18 Hussar or 17/21 Lancer No. 1 dress, 38in chest, 32in waist, 32in inside leg. Best price paid.

E Kelk, 1 Sweeneygate Cott, Broad Oak, Canterbury, Kent, LT2 0NA.—Has large number cap badges etc to swap for WW2 plastics and WW1 CEF cap, collars, S tiles. A few plastic and CEF to swap. Sae please.

R Rees, 11 The Crescent, Kettering, Northamptonshire.—Seeks two out-of-print French Foreign Legion books: 'Out of the Gun' (D A Warner, 1956) and 'The White Képi' (W Kamitz, 1956).

R Hincliffe, 27 Thick Hollins Drive, Meltham, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD7 3DL.—Requires military, naval or Boy Scout postcards. Purchase or exchange for metal military figures.

R Campbell, Old Main Road, Fosdyke, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 2BH.—Spare British and overseas cap badges for sale, also other items. Sae for list. No dealers.

F A J Wright, RR2, Knowlton, Province of Quebec, JOE 1VO, Canada.—Wishes trade two RCAF metal wings (pilot) plus RCAF cloth instructor's 'crest' (wireless) for cap and collar badges officers KC of le Régiment de Maisonneuve or RAF Ferry Command items.

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How observant are you?

(see page 12)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Shape of water tap. 2 Little finger of left soldier's left hand. 3 Amount of toothpaste leaving tube. 4 Button on left cuff of shirt. 5 Position of drip from mug. 6 Left end of middle soldier's towel. 7 Middle soldier's heel. 8 Left soldier's left ankle bone. 9 Line below U in SUPER. 10 Last letter of artist's signature.

- 3 Royal Show Stoneleigh (3-6 July) (White Helmets 3 July; RGJ freefall 4-6 July).
- 4 Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
- 7 Catterick Army Display (7-9 July) (White Helmets).
- 7 Southampton Show (7-9 July) (band).
- 8 Basingstoke Tattoo (8-15 July).
- 8 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 8 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (two bands; RGJ freefall; RA motorcyclists; JLR RA PT display; static displays).
- 8 Teesside British Steel Show, Redcar (Red Caps).
- 9 Tercentenary parade, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh.
- 9 Ancaster Gala (RA motorcyclists).
- 9 Bromley Family Day, Croydon Road (RGJ freefall).
- 11 Great Yorkshire Show Harrogate (11-13 July) (RA motorcyclists).
- 12 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (12-29 July).
- 13 Norfolk Army Display, Earlham Park, Norwich (13-15 July) (four bands; corps of drums; Red Devils; Pegasus).
- 13 Kent County Show (13-14 July) (band).
- 13 Massed bands and bugles, Royal Green Jackets, sound Retreat, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester (13-15 July).
- 15 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 15 Highland Games, Corby (15-16 July) (junior band; pipes and drums; RA motorcyclists 16 July).
- 15 Open Day, Prince of Wales's Division Depot, Crickhowell (Red Caps).
- 15 Masham Rally (White Helmets).
- 16 Shobdon Air Display (White Helmets).
- 18 Dunfermline Army Display (18-19 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 18 East of England Show, Peterborough (18-20 July) (band; Red Devils; Red Caps).
- 20 Burntisland Army Display (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 20 Malton Agricultural Show (White Helmets).
- 21 Greater Manchester Band Pageant (in aid of Variety Club of Great Britain and Army Benevolent Fund) (21-23 July) (11 bands; corps of drums; two pipe bands; JLR RA PT display; Red Devils).
- 22 Aberdeen Army Display (22-23 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 22 Open Day, Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury (bands; Flying Bugles).
- 22 Bournemouth Air Pageant (22-23 July) (White Helmets).
- 22 Open Day, Marchwood Military Port (fairground; static displays including steam train, small marine craft).
- 22 Vintage Vehicle Show, Goodwood (22-23 July) (RA motorcyclists).
- 26 New Forest Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 26 Stranraer Cattle Show (White Helmets).
- 27 St Helens Tattoo (27-29 July) (three bands; Red Caps; Red Devils; Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; Royal Armoured Corps hot-air balloon).
- 27 Manchester Show (27-29 July) (band; corps of drums; Red Devils; White Helmets).
- 30 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps, Bovington Camp.

AUGUST 1978

- 1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August) (White Helmets).

- 2 Redcar Carnival (RGJ freefall).
- 2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
- 3 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (band; Flying Bugles).
- 4 Southsea Show (4-6 August) (band).
- 6 Bromley Family Day, Norman Park (RGJ freefall).
- 7 Keith Show (7-8 August) (White Helmets).
- 9 Cheltenham Tattoo (9-13 August).
- 9 Bingley Centenary Celebrations (White Helmets).
- 10 Bournemouth Fiesta (10-12 August) (White Helmets).
- 11 Stoke-on-Trent Carnival (11-12 August) (band; corps of drums; Flying Bugles).
- 11 Shrewsbury Show (11-12 August) (two bands).
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-9 September).
- 18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
- 18 Gloucester Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
- 19 Lincolnshire Steam Spectacular, Lincoln (19-20 August) (RA motorcyclists).
- 19 Skegness Carnival Week (19-25 August) (band; Pegasus; static displays).
- 19 Doncaster Horse Show (19-20 August) (Red Caps).
- 25 British Timken Show, Northampton (25-26 August) (Guards freefall; static displays).
- 26 Expo Steam, Peterborough (26-28 August) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists).
- 26 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (26-28 August) (Flying Bugles).
- 26 Preston Tattoo (26-28 August) (three bands; corps of drums; two pipe bands; Red Devils; Pegasus; Red Caps; RAC hot-air balloon; White Helmets).
- 27 Quexpo '78, Birchington, Kent (27-28 August) (band; RGJ freefall).
- 28 Leicester City Show (28-29 August) (Guards freefall).
- 28 Walsall Show (28-29 August) (White Helmets 29 August; Pegasus 29 August).
- 28 Erith Show (RGJ freefall).

SEPTEMBER 1978

- 1 Birmingham Show (1-3 September) (band; RA motorcyclists; Pegasus).
- 2 Hinckley Steam Engine Rally (2-3 September) (White Helmets).
- 2 Guildford Town Show (2-3 September) (band).
- 2 Cosgrove Park Carnival (2-3 September) (band).
- 7 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (Red Caps).
- 9 South Midland Tattoo, Banbury.
- 9 Freedom of Nottingham, 17th/21st Lancers.
- 9 Romsey Agricultural and Horse Show (Red Caps).
- 9 Theale Horticultural Show, Reading (RA motorcyclists).
- 10 Epping Forest Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 15 Welwyn Garden City Water Show (RGJ freefall).
- 21 Thame Show (band).
- 23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Ayr, and march past.
- 25 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow.

OCTOBER 1978

- 14 Queen's Own Highlanders bicentenary parade, Elgin.

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COMPETITION 238

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Send your 34 words, on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 238' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 238)

SOLDIER
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This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 10 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in the September SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 238' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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Books

'Diehards'

'The Middlesex Regiment' (Gregory Blaxland)

The Middlesex, like so many other famous regiments, is gone now, but its achievements are remembered and its traditions live on in *The Queen's Regiment*. Not least in the annual celebration of the battle of Albuhera, fought on 16 May 1811, at which the 57th Regiment of Foot gained the honoured name 'The Diehards.'

Many died hard that day and many have emulated those early heroes in later campaigns. In World War Two the Middlesex had a similar 'impossible' task in Hong Kong which ended in capitulation. Later, in captivity, Colonel Lance Newnham GC died by firing squad five months after his captors began to torture him for information. The 'die hard' spirit extended to individuals.

This history of the Middlesex, beginning with the 57th and 77th of Foot, is a dramatic record of heroic episodes in the Iberian Peninsula, India, America, the Crimea and South Africa, then through two world wars and later to Korea. They fought at Dunkirk, at Alamein and on the beaches of Normandy, always with determination and tenacity. During their 1950-51 campaign in Korea the 'Diehards' gained seven battle honours.

Lieutenant-General Sir Brian Horrocks, who has written the introduction to all the volumes in this 'Famous Regiments' series, has taken particular pride in this one — for the Middlesex was his own regiment.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £6.95

GRH

Corps history

'Spearhead' (Desmond Bastick)

The story of 1 (Br) Corps ought to offer a good opportunity to any military historian. Few people who have not been directly concerned with an army corps headquarters understand its role; it would be interesting to discover the influence of corps commanders and their staffs on training and battle in the two world wars, and the contribution of 'corps troops' to the fighting.

Colonel Bastick examines none of these things however. He discovers the location of his corps in the two wars, perfunctorily names a few commanders, briefly mentions the battles of some divisions under command and indulges in a great deal of remotely relevant general material. Not all of the last is to be trusted — Miss Mae West, for instance, will be astonished to learn that impersonations of her were popular at divisional concert parties in 1914, twenty years or so before talking films brought her international fame.

Publications Office, 1 (BR) Corps PCCU RE, BFPO 39, £3.75 (DM15)

RLE

'The Faughs'

'Say not the Struggle...'

JOHN HORSFALL



'Say not the Struggle' (John Horsfall) A fine story of the battle of France, ending with the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940, and especially of 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Fusiliers, long popularly known as 'The Faughs.' As rearguard of 25th Infantry Brigade, they were in close contact with the enemy and learned the many-sided arts and skills of war.

This is especially the story of D Company, which the author commanded, of the individuals who gave character and soul to the battalion and of the general attitude of these Irish soldiers to their difficult task in unprecedented circumstances. Their fortitude and determination saw them through and their native wit and special brand of happy discipline held together a formidable band of brothers.

The half-dozen maps are a valuable addition to the dramatic story. *The Roundwood Press (Publishers) Ltd, Kineton, Warwick, £3.75*

GRH

Brassey's

'RUSI AND Brassey's Defence Yearbook, 1977/78'

This is the fourth issue of Brassey's to be edited by the Royal United Services Institute and again the major part is devoted to a strategic review.

Field-Marshal Lord Carver looks at Britain's defence effort, putting into perspective the changes caused by concentration on Nato and cuts in the resources available. He sets out the problems, but offers no easy way out — if we want the peace of Europe preserved by the cohesion of Nato, we must give defence expenditure the necessary priority.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth discusses defence and the European Community; there is a German view of the strategic situation in Central Europe; other subjects include the Belgian land forces, South America, the Falklands, China, a comparison of the forces of India, Pakistan and Iran; airships; nuclear terrorism; international relief and standardisation.

Discussing the current Nato tank gun controversy, the weapons section describes an American 105mm anti-tank shell filled with depleted uranium which reacts with the tank's armour, creating more heat than a

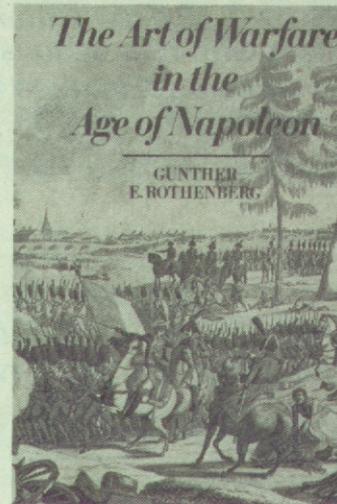
normal impact. However, the ammunition is toxic, needs careful handling and, as it 'verges on the nuclear explosion,' may be politically unacceptable.

Another interesting American development is the laser homing and warning system. This not only tells you that you are being illuminated by enemy laser, but shines a much more powerful laser beam back at the enemy. This makes his optical sight useless, causing his beam to wander and his missile to miss you. It also destroys the retina of his observer's eye.

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RLE

Wear and tear



'The Art of Warfare in the Age of Napoleon' (Gunther E. Rothenberg) Professor Rothenberg adds to the 300,000-odd books on the wars of the Napoleonic era to discuss the French army and its major opponents 'at the fighting level.'

One conclusion from his pages is that those prints of smartly-uniformed soldiers in elaborate hats are misleading. In the unlikely event of a soldier having started out with full regulation uniform, wear and tear would have demanded replacement from whatever source, and of whatever kind, was available. The tentless soldiers would have spent the night before battle, and probably many nights, curled up in rain or dew with their legs tucked into the sleeves of their reversed greatcoats. They would have been roused an hour before dawn to stand to until a white horse could be seen a mile away.

Muskets were slow, with a rapid-fire rate of two or three rounds a minute, and so inaccurate that at Vittoria it took 450 rounds to inflict one casualty. Rifles, though more accurate, were even slower and soon fouled up. 'Cold steel' was almost a myth. When regiments charged each other with the bayonet, one or other turned and ran before they got close enough to do any mischief.

This book is interesting and a valuable work of reference. *B T Batsford Ltd, 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London, W1H 0AH, £6.95*

RLE

Trade and fight

'Britain's Army in India' (James P Lawford)

A useful record of British trading and fighting in India from the time of the founding of the East India Company under charter from Elizabeth I on 31 December 1600 to the consolidation of power in 1764.

By the time England, Holland,

France and Portugal began trading in India, Muslim invaders had divided most of the states between them. There were internal antagonisms and aspirations and a private army was necessary to safeguard warehouses and eventually to defend wider interests, not only from rival native princes but also from French forces with territorial ambitions.

The 17 maps support the accounts of the various battles including Plassey, Wandewash and Buxar and the sieges of Madras and Pondicherry.

Officers of relatively low rank had high responsibilities in those days. At the battle of the River Soan in 1761, Captain Knox, with 200 Europeans, a battalion of sepoy, 300 horse and five guns 'maintained himself for six hours' in a 'very warm action' when totally surrounded by 12,000 men with 30 guns. He killed 200 to 300, routed the remainder and captured eight guns.

At Buxar in 1764, the British force of 8000 was commanded by a major, with three majors commanding divisions. The author says: 'Britain was fortunate in the quality of many of the young men she sent out to India.' *George Allen & Unwin Ltd, Ruskin House, 40 Museum Street, London, WC1A 1LU, £7.95*

GRH

Boffin battle



'The Secret War' (Brian Johnson)

This is an expansion of the material used in a BBC television series produced by the author.

Full chapters, often enthralling but occasionally baffling to the non-technical, set out the battles of the boffins over beams to guide bombers, radar, the German terror-weapons, U-boats, and the story, only recently and not yet fully told, of how Britain broke German codes with Polish and French help.

Another chapter deals with miscellaneous items like magnetic mines, 40-ton German gliders, rocket-powered fighters, the remarkably unenthusiastic attempts by both sides to develop jet aircraft, and that hilarious failure, the Great Panjandrum — a rocket-powered catherine-wheel intended to carry a ton of explosives across a beach to blow up concrete defences, but which came nearer to blowing up its creators and sponsors.

The book leaves unanswered the question of what, if anything, the boffins were doing to help troops fighting in the Middle and Far East. One might wonder who dreamed up those regiments of inflatable tanks that fooled the Afrika Korps before Alamein. And how the Royal Air Force came to snatch glider-loads of wounded from the Burmese jungle with passing Dakotas.

BBC Publications, 35 Marylebone High Street, London, W1M 4AA, £6.50

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