

NOVEMBER 1978

20p

# Soldier



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GLOSTERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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#### 6 Glosters in Northern Ireland

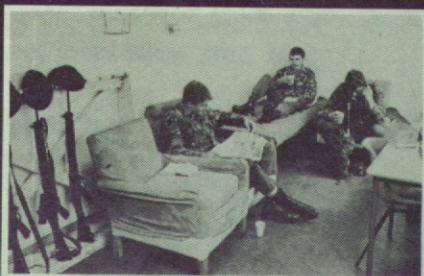
In the Republican stronghold of South Armagh, The Gloucestershire Regiment runs a gauntlet of hate to help convoys get through hostile country.

#### 10 Forty years on with Nuffield Trust

Every soldier benefits from Nuffield Trust cash. SOLDIER traces the fund's forty years of development.

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After sixty years of existence the Army Sport Control Board steers more than thirty sports for soldiers to take part in.



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#### FRONT COVER

Pennants flutter bravely in the breeze as the 17th/21st Lancers receive the civic honours of Nottingham.  
*Picture by Paul Haley.*



#### BACK COVER

Compo isn't bad at all, says Private Trudy Coe, at camp with the WRAC at Shorncliffe. Story on page 23.  
*Picture by Doug Pratt.*



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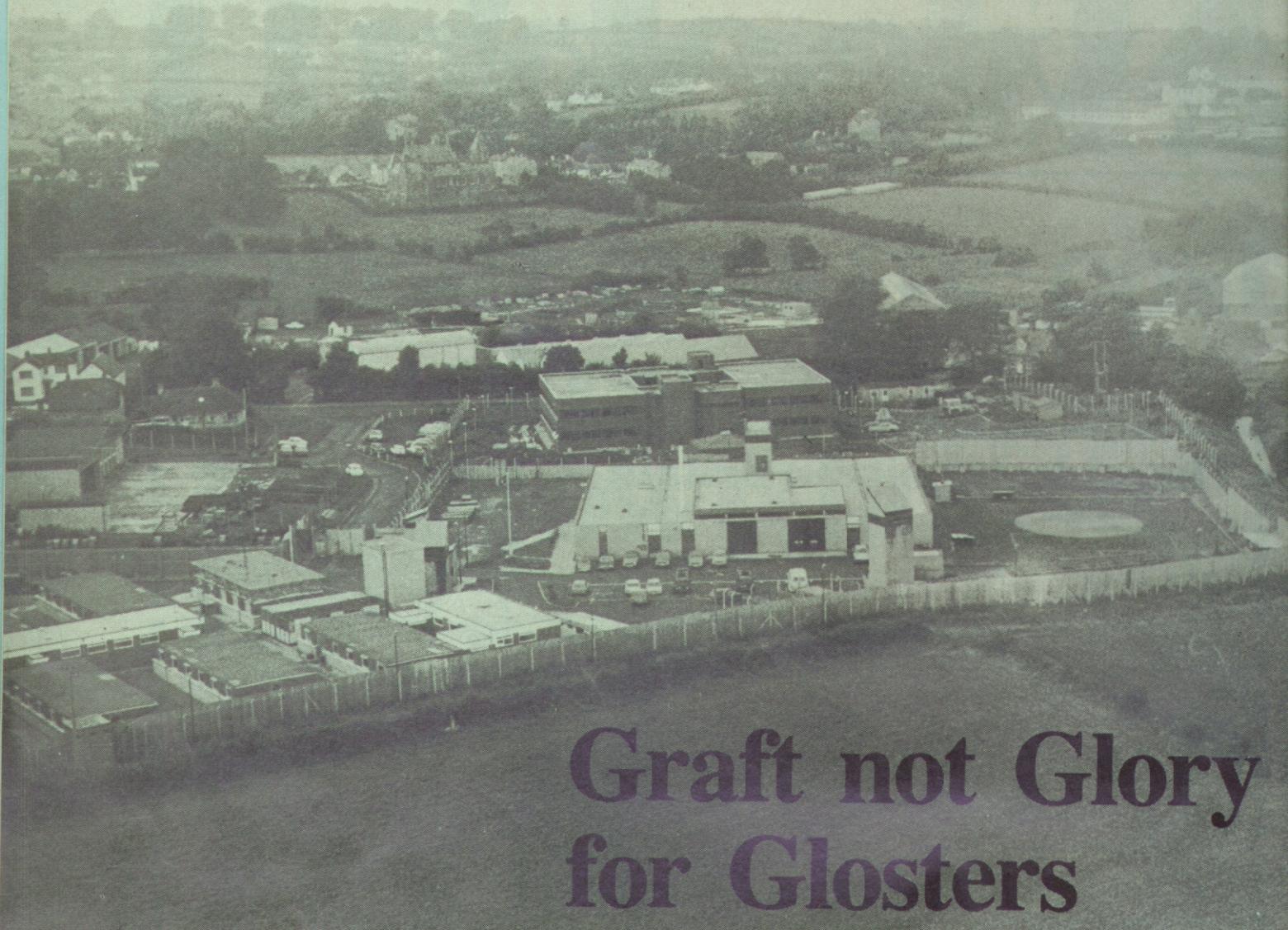
Circulation Manager: Miss D M DUFFIELD (Ext 2592)

Subscription (13 issues):

UK/BFPO £3.72; Elsewhere £4.08

Send UK cheque/UK postal order/international money order and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed.





## Graft not Glory for Glosters



Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs

THE YOUNG OFFICER peered through binoculars over a wall, down a grassy slope and into an apparently peaceful village. By his side — a soldier alert and with rifle at the ready.

For that tranquil pastoral scene was only two miles north of Crossmaglen in South Armagh, venue for years of mayhem and slaughter in the long war of attrition between the security forces and the Provisional IRA.

And this was part of a special operation — one which could be interrupted at any moment by terrorists in an area of Northern Ireland which has always been a hotbed of Republicanism. So much so that all Army reinforcements and supplies are taken in and out by helicopter to Crossmaglen because of the ever-present danger of ambush and booby trap.

But some things are too bulky to go by helicopter and from time to time special convoys have to make the road journey. This was one of those — some 1400 tons of engineer stores were to be taken into Crossmaglen and at the same time tons of rubble, silt and the debris of fighting taken out.

The men of D Company, 1st Battalion,

Above: Aerial view of the camp at Magherafelt.

Left: Radio operator on patrol in South Armagh.

Top: Glosters dug in for Crossmaglen operation.

Centre: "This your car ma'am?" — checkpoint.

Bottom: Patrolling married patch at Ballykelly.

The Gloucestershire Regiment, are not stationed in South Armagh but to the north in County Londonderry. They were here as part of a special force moved in to help 42 Commando, Royal Marines, with the task of seeing that the convoys were not interrupted by bomb or bullet during the long hours of constant to-ing and fro-ing.

Company commander Major Christopher Newbould, his face blackened, crouched beneath the low stone wall and explained what was happening. At various strategic points along the high ground flanking the main road, troops were watching and waiting.

"What we are doing is something straight out of the Victorian military textbooks," he said. "We are picketing the heights in the same way as it was done in the Khyber Pass — troops are all along the route that the convoy will take. The big difference between this and the Khyber Pass is that we have arrived by helicopter, which is quicker and means that we do not have to run up the hill and down it afterwards."

Major Newbould led a four-man patrol to other Glosters' locations. Across a field, ever on the alert, and into a close of pebbledashed houses. A woman ran into her home, leaving two toddlers who gazed impassively at the passing soldiers — even at that tender age there were no questions in their eyes. This part of South Armagh is still the scene of confrontation.

Past a derelict cow shed, on to the main road and at a run across a bridge — the fear was that it might be booby-trapped. Indeed a few hours earlier and not far away, a milk churn containing 60lbs of explosive had been found embedded in a pile of gravel on the route that the convoy would take.

In a field under a cluster of trees Lieutenant Tim Hurn and his men were dug in. He predicted: "There won't be a lot of sleep for any of us tonight. Around here the terrorists could mount a full-scale section assault on us."

We continued on the rounds — passing through hedges, bypassing potentially lethal gates and avoiding corners of fields. Every time we approached a parked car we broke into a run. Major Newbould recalled a famous soldier saying that the skills needed were those of 'stalker, cat burglar and poacher' — and in no place are those qualities more necessary than in South Armagh.

Back at his command post we learned that the convoy was still not on the move. A parked car on the road had aroused suspicions — it was being subjected to a controlled explosion. Finally word came through that it was not a bomb and the first trip was under way.

A distant rumble turned into a steady roar and the first 14-vehicle convoy of tippers, earth movers, concrete mixers and other trucks passed through the valley — overhead a Scout helicopter monitored its progress and scanned the surrounding countryside. The vehicles travelled backwards

*continued over*



and forwards between Newtownhamilton and Crossmaglen until the removal job was completed; the Glosters stayed on guard throughout.

Trips into South Armagh do not fit frequently into the Glosters' timetable as they carry out an 18-month accompanied tour based on a former RAF station at Ballykelly. But although their 'patch' tends to be somewhat quieter, their duties consist of long hours — many of them away from their wives in camp.

The commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Firth, describes the battalion's way of life as 'somewhat unusual' in that while they are often out on operational duties in County Londonderry and parts of County Antrim, barrack life continues with education, administration and even drill in Ballykelly.

Today the terrorists no longer live permanently within the area, but some of those who remain are a hardcore criminal element. Every so often, while on the run, they carry out attacks — hoping for support and help from local sympathisers.

This year the main attacks have been on targets such as the off-duty men of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Because the terrorists formerly lived in the area they know their targets well.

But the hard core has been whittled down and the Glosters took part in an operation which netted one of the most important IRA leaders in the area. Nevertheless even Ballykelly has not been immune from attack — a bomb lobbed over the security fence dam-



aged one of the sergeants' mess buildings.

This autumn the Glosters remained on full alert although the summer had been fairly quiet. "We are waiting for them to come back from their summer holidays and begin an autumn campaign," said an officer.

For the wives and families, life is made as normal as possible although it is perforce a rather strained and artificial existence. As Colonel Firth says: "The 300 wives don't see a great deal of their husbands. And when they first came they didn't know what to expect — after all we had been returning from four-month tours saying how tough it was and then told them they were coming for 18 months."

There is a special guard room for the married quarters area and there are regular armed patrols. On the Ballykelly estate there are also many families from other regiments based in Londonderry and round about — families officer Lieutenant Phil Weaving is not responsible for them but they join in entertainments and outings.

The families can shop in local towns and there is a community centre, which turns into a 'pub' in the evenings. But the wives cannot get jobs — unemployment is high and preference is given to locals. And there were trips to unspoilt beaches — on the rare days when it did not

rain in Northern Ireland this summer.

Sergeant-major's wife, Mrs Linda Wright, told *SOLDIER*: "To be honest it's just boring for most wives. We have to try to put on a lot for them and keep them happy. But the restrictions are not as bad as we expected and the women can go out. We haven't had wives going home but in fact the opposite — many who did not come at first joined us later."

Padre Mike Walters finds that family problems tend to come to light quicker in Northern Ireland. "It's an unnatural existence for a married man. There is a lot of pressure with long hours and a lot of time away and even when they are near their families they cannot have a continuous family existence. On the other hand the single boys like being out in the counties because they have a lot of interesting work to do and they feel they are soldiering."

Two of the battalion's four companies are continually deployed 'out in the counties', a third is back at Ballykelly, but on brigade reserve duty, while the fourth is in camp but employed on constant guard and other duties. Says Colonel Firth: "It's going to be a long 18 months by the time we get to the end of it."

The Glosters man bases in Magherafelt, Dungiven and Toome Bridge and now,

Top right: Major Newbould and men picketing.  
Below right: On guard near McCorley memorial.

One man who is making use of any spare time he gets in Northern Ireland is Lance-Corporal Adrian de la Ceaux from the post-room at Ballykelly. He has been making models of scenes from the Glosters' history — so far he has completed a model of the battle of Alexandria in 1801 when they acquired the right to their famous back badge and another of their formation in 1694. Now the sergeants' mess at Ballykelly is thinking of having models made for mess presentations.





more than ever, their work is in support of the RUC. Working with the police, the soldiers make use of their generally rural backgrounds as they chat to farmers about crops and farm prices, gather information, visit outlying houses, go on patrols and searches, check vehicles and when terrorists come back to the area, engage in 'lifts' and ambush-type operations.

From Magherafelt and Toome the Glosters, working with the UDR and police, are able to monitor and control movement across two strategic bridges. If the level of operations is low, efforts are made to get each married man back home to Ballykelly one night a week during his one-month stint — but when things get hotter his wife may not see him for a month.

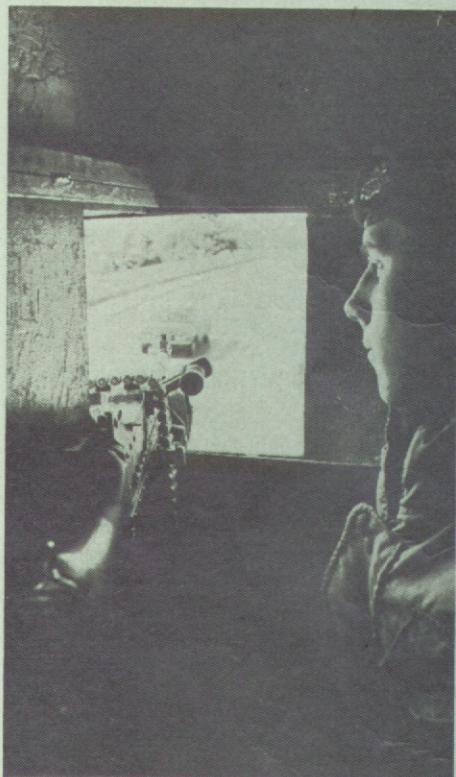
Toome has held an important place in Irish Republican folklore for nearly two centuries. At the back of the police station in which the Glosters live is a thistle field littered with scrap cars. Also in that field is a memorial to Roddy McCorley, hanged at Toome in 1798 for his part in a rising. To the Republicans that happened only yesterday and from time to time they gather in the field and sing a folksong about McCorley within earshot of the Crown's representatives inside the station.

Attitudes in Toome towards the security forces are hostile. Says Second-Lieutenant Douglas Damm: "If you meet anyone in Toome he won't talk to you although if you meet him elsewhere he probably will. But any person speaking to us in Toome is likely to get at the least a word in his ear and possibly something will happen to him."

Toome Bridge occupies an important position on the main Belfast-Londonderry road and traffic across the bridge is monitored carefully. Says Lieutenant Damm: "During the day we are very kindly in our approach but at night we become more positive and at times try to surprise people because we believe this is when the terrorists move."

Company commander Major Peter Rostrom says of the terrorists who are on the run, and some of whom have fled across the border: "There is still the potential for them to come back at any time. We have built up a picture of people of interest in this area but it is a long, slow task. Out of five or six patrols we probably pick up only one or two useful bits of information plus a few background items."

In a few months time the Glosters will move back to Rhine Army. Colonel Firth said that as well as maintaining offensive operations against the Northern Ireland terrorist, the Glosters had the added responsibility of leaving the Province as a well-trained and well-motivated battalion, able to operate effectively elsewhere. It was a matter of maintaining the correct balance between operations and training. We have found our sense of purpose in the interruption of movement by terrorists in this area and have been successful in hindering them. But for me, if anybody deserves a medal for this tour it is the wives — a remarkable bunch of girls who have remained cheerful and full of beans throughout."



Top: Four-man standby patrol takes to the sky.

Top right: 180 years ago and still they remember.

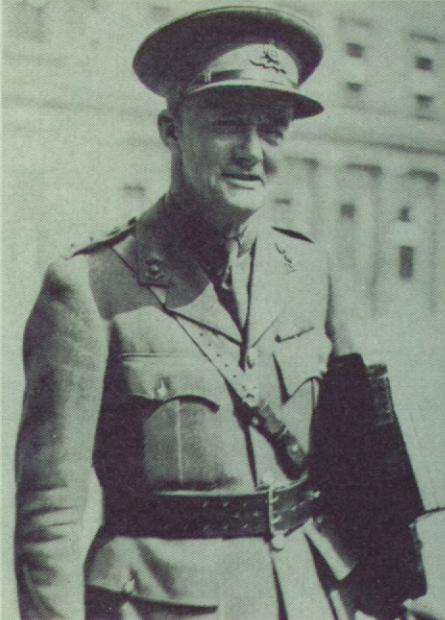
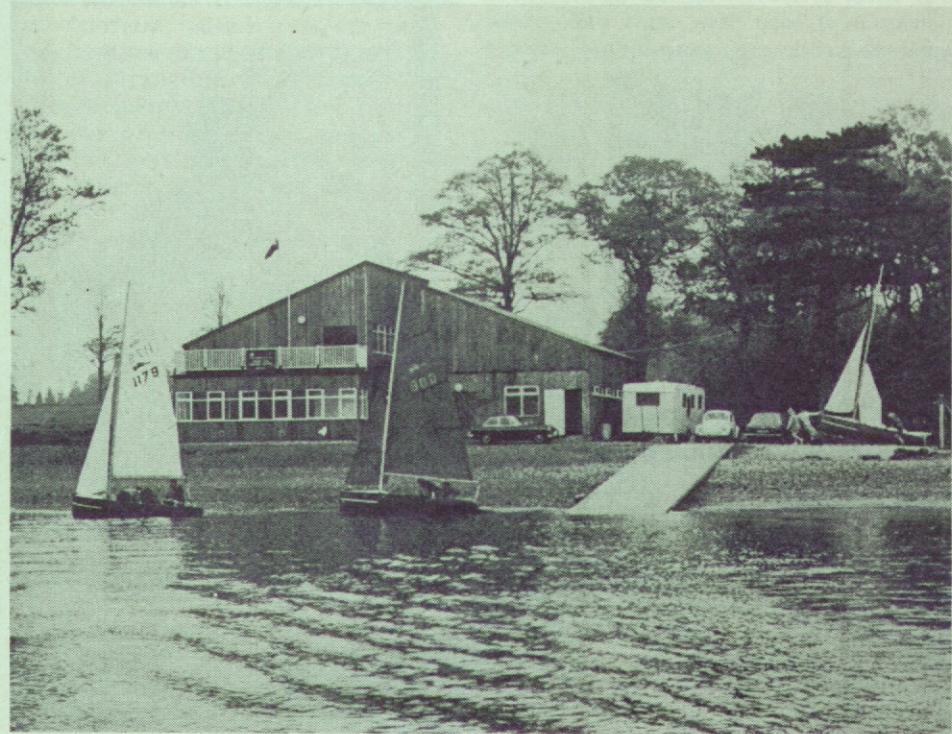
Centre: Pte Shaun Baird on lookout from sangar.

Right: Country patrol returns for debriefing.

**Forty years after it began, a charitable trust helps servicemen to be . . .**

# **ON TOP OF THE WORLD WITH NUFFIELD**

**Story: Mike Starke**



**WHEN SERGEANT 'Brummy' Stokes and Corporal 'Bronco' Lane stood triumphant on the peak of Everest in 1976 at the end of the Army Mountaineering Association's gruelling expedition to the world's highest mountain, their elation banished from their minds any thought of the lad of 15 — a bicycle repair apprentice — who played a large part in making their achievement possible.**

For that lad went on to become car-manufacturing tycoon William Morris, later Lord Nuffield, whose 'Trust for the Forces of the Crown' helped finance the Everest expedition.

Next year the trust celebrates its fortieth anniversary and achievements as large as the conquest of Everest and as small as the provision of cushions and pictures for Women's Services accommodation have benefited from the cash the trust controls.

When Lord Nuffield set up the trust in 1939 he put shares worth £1,650,000 into the kitty and they are worth some ten times that figure now. This has allowed more than £8,000,000 to be distributed in grants to finance the recreation and welfare of all three Services over the years.

The Army, as the biggest Service numerically, has benefited most with more than £2,500,000 placed at its disposal. The Royal Navy has accounted for more than £1,000,000 and the RAF some £1,500,000. Other joint and club schemes have taken up the balance.

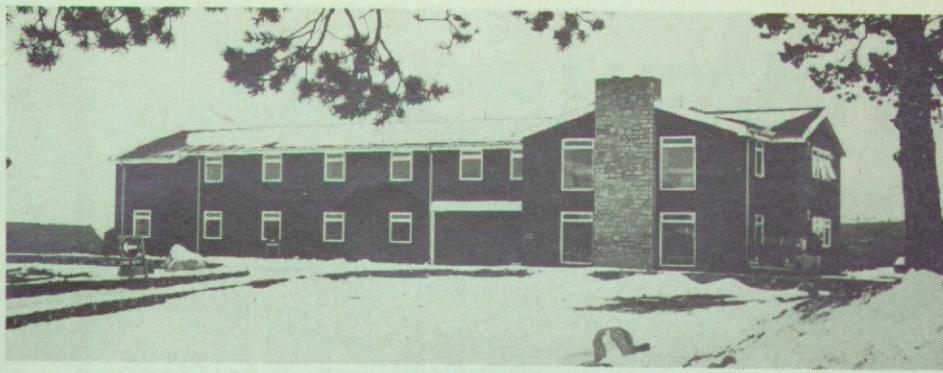
The gathering storm clouds of World War Two prompted the trust's benefactor to set up his fund. He foresaw that with the advent of conscription for the foreshadowed global conflict many thousands of young men and women would be called up, many of whom would be leaving home for the first time. He also foresaw that they would need far more welfare services than were provided by the Regular forces at that time.

So the trust was established, to quote the original deed: 'For the purpose of promoting the welfare and efficiency of the

**Top left: Corporal 'Bronco' Lane on his way to the summit of Everest, helped by Nuffield cash.**

**Top: Lord Nuffield himself in the uniform of a colonel in the Royal Artillery in wartime.**

**Left: Service sailing has benefited from the support of the trust. Pictured is Netley SC.**



Forces of the Crown either by the provision of facilities for recreation or by any other means.'

Units newly formed for the war had no funds of their own and the trust advanced £50,000 against the first year's expected profits from messes and canteens. This was later written off as a gift.

The British Expeditionary Force to France in 1939 was given thousands of radios to help men keep in touch with the Home Front and more sets went to anti-aircraft and balloon sites in Britain as well as to ships and units in the North and West African theatres plus the Middle East and Iceland. Sports gear was distributed and grants were made to set up libraries and mobile cinemas, and buy musical instruments, furniture and games.

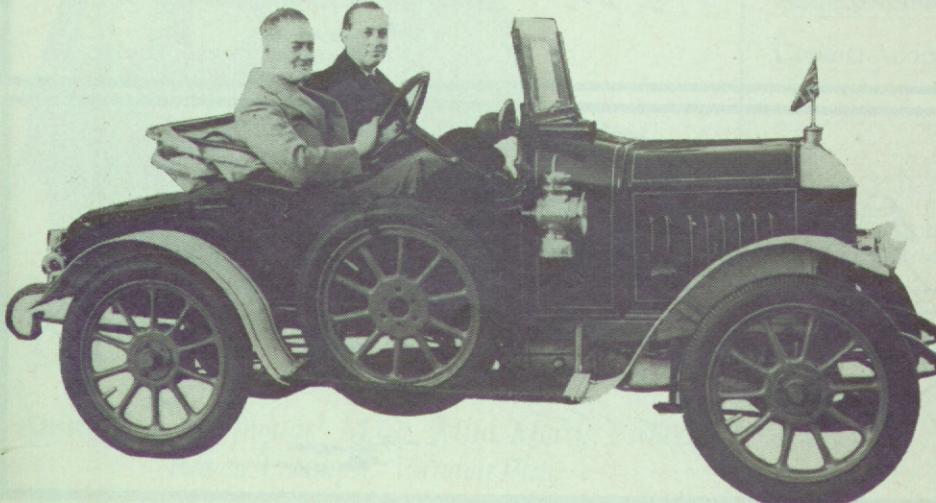
A special leave scheme was set up for bomber crews and clubs and rest centres were opened all over the world. Of the many clubs used worldwide, only one remains more than three decades later. This is the Nuffield Centre in John Adam Street, London — next to Charing Cross Station —

which provides a spacious bar, television room and restaurant. This is still a popular rendezvous for serving men and women visiting or passing through the metropolis.

Rules for the trust have always been kept to a minimum and the chief aim of the trustees has been to ensure that the items provided are those which will be fully used and either benefit a large number of people or those stationed in remote places with few amenities. At the same time, the views of Lord Nuffield himself, as expressed in his lifetime, are taken into account. For example, he was firmly opposed to grants for the provision of grounds on which to play major sports, being of the opinion that this was a government responsibility.

The Nuffield Trust is controlled by Ordinary Trustees — prominent business men who supervise the trust's investments — and by Governing Trustees of one senior retired officer from each Service who draw up the annual list of grants with the assistance of the Principal Personnel Officer of each of the three Services.

Annual expenditure for the trust



William Richard Morris wanted to become a surgeon when he left school in 1892 at the age of 15 to become the family breadwinner. But his sights had to be set lower and he started work as an apprentice cycle repairer. He left to start his own business with four sovereigns and succeeded through determination and hard work. He made his first motorcycle in 1900 but two partnerships failed and from that time on he always retained control of all his enterprises.

In 1912 his first car, a two-seater Morris Oxford, went on sale at £165. Orders flooded in and he had 400 on the books before a single model had been assembled. His policy was to plough profits back into his business and pay his employees well. In addition, he introduced holidays with pay, a welfare scheme, fully equipped sports grounds and gave each employee a paid-up life insurance policy.

Morris Motors — a forerunner of the present-day crisis-ridden British Leyland — became a multi-million pound empire, enabling its founder and guiding force to give away more than £30,000,000 in grants and aid before he died in 1963. Much of the money went to medicine but it also went in assistance to depressed areas in the mid-1930s and for the recreational welfare of the Services.

Lord Nuffield's gifts were all intended to improve the health and well-being of the recipients.

approaches the half-million mark and it is proud of the fact that — unlike some charities whose overheads represent a significant proportion of their funds — administrative expenses are kept well below two per cent of the total income.

Among the most frequent requests for grants nowadays from the forces are those for sailing craft of all kinds from small dinghies to water-ski boats and yachts; for sub-aqua equipment, without which many of the present clubs would cease to exist, and for minibuses giving mobility to those stationed all over the world.

Most of the golf courses run by the forces have been provided with the necessary equipment and machinery to keep them going and Service saddle clubs have been helped with stables, tack and even horses — the trust has a half share in one animal!

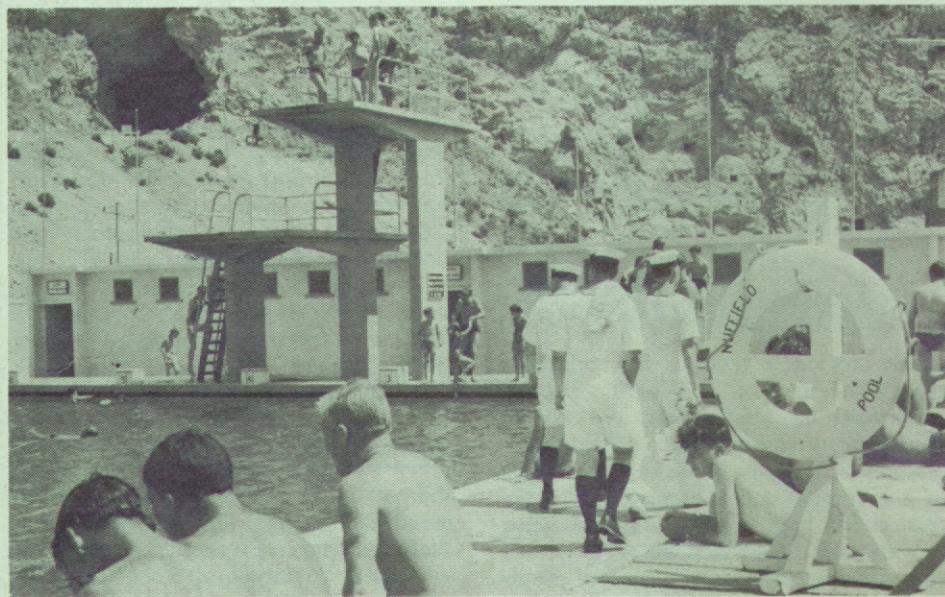
But one grant the trust believes to be among its most worthwhile has been for archery equipment at the Joint Services Rehabilitation Centre at RAF Chessington. The equipment is extensively used by even the more seriously disabled patients.

The trust boasts — with ample justification — that since it began it has not overlooked a single theatre of operations when distributing its grants. At the present time — as well as the expected places such as Germany, Cyprus and Hong Kong — the names of Nepal, Brunei, Goose Bay, Elephant Island, the Falkland Islands and Kenya are some of the more out-of-the-way places appearing in the trust records.

**Top:** Rothiemurchus Lodge — Nuffield aided.

**Centre:** Nuffield-bought diving gear in Cyprus.

**Left:** Lord Nuffield in one of his early cars.



And not surprisingly, Northern Ireland features prominently on that list. In two recent years alone more than £45,000 was granted to improve the welfare and recreational facilities of those serving there.

Be it funds for a vast expedition like that to Everest or cash for a television for hospital patients, there is inevitably a gap between what can be provided by official sources and those extras which make living and working in the modern armed Services more comfortable or recreation more enjoyable.

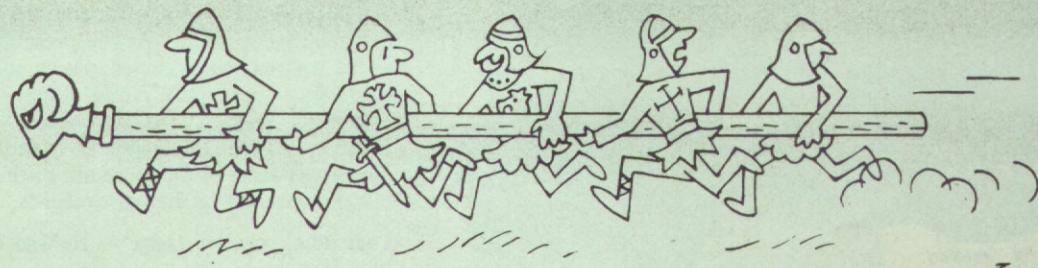
It is that gap the Nuffield Trust has always filled — and continues to fill — in the spirit of its benefactor's beliefs, whose own humble beginnings made him all the more aware of consideration for the well-being of his fellow men.

Above: Hong Kong's Nuffield junk got good use.

Left: The trust provided this Gibraltar pool.

## 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 36.



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SM/II/78

If the Russians ever attack, it will most probably be through one of the desolate lightly defended Nato flanks, say the strategists. If that happens they will have to contend with...



Story: Doug McArthur

## The readiness of AMF



NATO PLANNERS' particular concern is that the Soviet bloc will favour the northern or Southern flanks if it ever decides to attack. In these areas there are political ambiguities and possibilities for intimidation where Nato forces are not strongly represented.

But this is where the multi-national Allied Command Europe (ACE) Mobile Force makes its presence felt, because before the enemy starts rolling, the mobile force will already be in position, hopefully fast enough to persuade the aggressors to think again.

The AMF — a seven-nation strike force — is designed to move to any part of the European theatre at the first indication of possible aggression. Because it would normally be expected to operate on the flanks, either in the fierce heat of the Turkish mountains, or the desolate snowy wastes of Norway, the force is constantly training in its two specialised warfare scenes.

Like Nato itself, which was built on the creed that a strong enough show of force will deter aggression, AMF is a strong publicity weapon. Only the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (Saceur) can mobilise the force, although a political decision would be needed before troops deploy.

The American Major-General Alexander M Weyand is the land force commander and, from the Force HQ at Mannheim in Southern Germany, has the responsibility for making sure that his quick reaction force, made up of units from all over Europe, can indeed react quickly.

"If there was a push in the central European area," he said, "they would be bump-



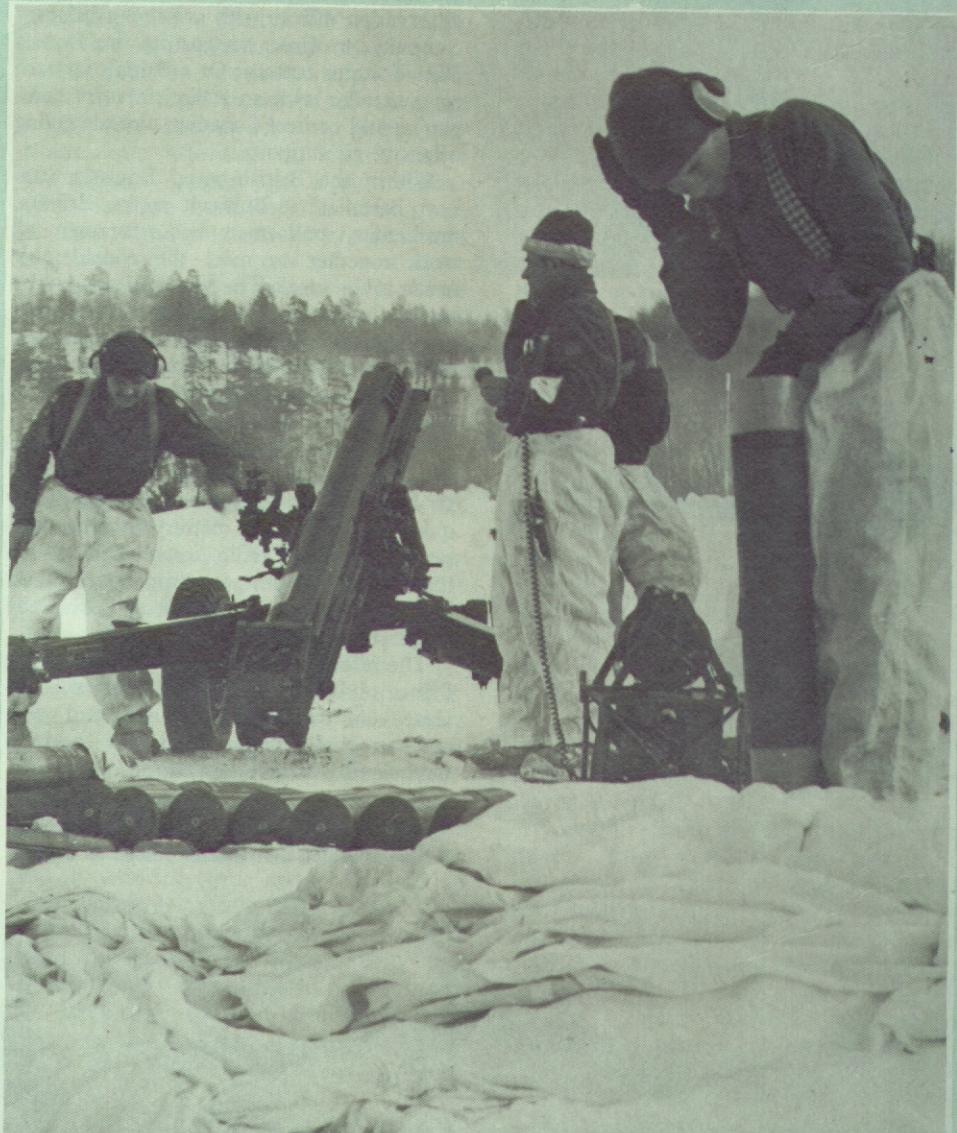
ing into the main Nato strengths. But in a vulnerable flank area, particularly where there has been some hostility in the past, there are chances of quickly severing territory then presenting Nato with a *de facto* position. "What we are required to do is get there first to discourage the attempt in the first place.

"In the old days of mass hostilities, if we were faced with an attack we would just 'nuke' them. That philosophy proved less than credible, and now we believe that to deter aggression we have to be there before hostilities start."

The authority to deploy the force is always political and must have the full agreement of the host nation. Command and control remains at all times with Nato, even though it is envisaged that there may be times when the force will have to stay on and fight a protracted engagement alongside the host nation.

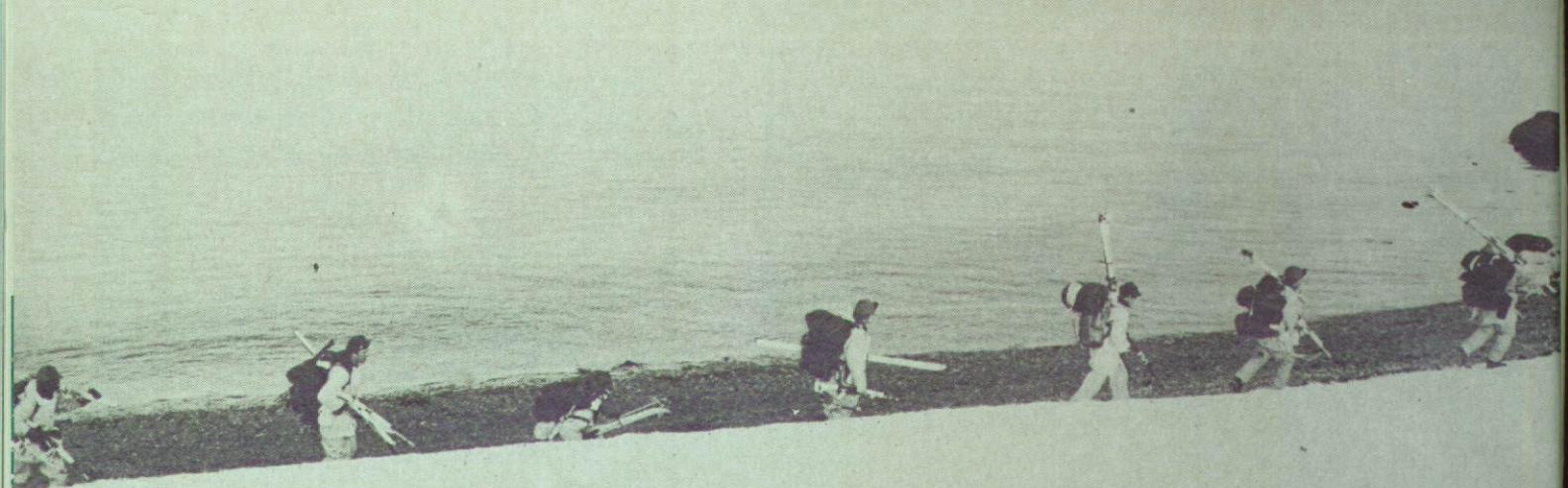
One of the important keywords in the mobile force is readiness, if it is to achieve its aim of always being the first in. To help achieve this, international air transport is on hand to fly the troops to any threatened area. Despite the fact that many of the air contingents are based in their country of origin rather than where they are likely to operate, Saceur can bring the Force to immediate readiness and complete the whole deployment of up to 4000 men and their equipment in fewer than six days.

The national battalion groups break out three to the south and four — which includes a Luxembourg battalion — to the north. When deployed in the field, headquarters controls a multi-lingual brigade-sized force which could exist only through compatible communications equipment and efficient well-trained liaison officers. A good example of this is the Force Artillery Fire Direction Centre controlling batteries of artillery from up to five different nations.



Top left: Turkish infantry with tank support.  
Opposite: Major-General Alexander M Weyand.

Top: A Gazelle flies off from a landing ship.  
Above: Canadian artillery in action in Norway.



Each nation is represented at the centre and the system enables say, a German forward observation officer with a Belgian infantry company, to direct supporting fire from a United States battery. Or a British forward air controller with an Italian infantry company could control Canadian aircraft giving offensive air support.

Within the British-based Logistic Support Battalion at Bulford, cooks, drivers, mechanics, policemen and storemen all work together to meet the considerable needs of the force. The battalion is aided by national support elements and it is here that interoperability becomes less of a word and more of a way of life to soldiers determined to make the organisation work regardless of national differences.

The United Kingdom provides a large and diversified contribution to the force of an infantry battalion, force artillery headquarters, an artillery battery, a reconnaissance squadron, radio troop, half of the force helicopter unit, air support centre, an intelligence detachment and of course the Logistic Support Battalion.

The infantry battalion, 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, took over its role this year and operates on both the northern and southern flanks and is completely airportable.

**Top:** Royal Marines move ashore in Norway.  
**Centre:** Airlifting on ice can prove hazardous.  
**Below:** Scorpion and Gazelle rescue in Turkey.

The artillery headquarters comes from 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, which also contributes 13 (Martinique) Light Battery and its 105mm light guns. B Squadron, 17/21 Lancers, stationed at Tidworth, provides the reconnaissance element; 249 Squadron, Royal Signals, the radio troop and 84 Intelligence Section, the 'int cell.'

38 Group (RAF) contributes four Puma helicopters of 33 Squadron to the force helicopter unit and also the force air support centre, which with signallers from 244 Squadron, Royal Signals, controls all flying in the AMF area.

Each year there are two or sometimes even three major exercises which familiarise all involved with the area in which they may have to operate and gives them a chance to practise liaison and co-operation with the host nation. Each participating nation is responsible for the training of its individual elements although Force HQ can and frequently does suggest the levels which should be attained.

Efficient deployment and manoeuvring of a Nato force in a remote area has a deterrent value in itself and also reassures the people of the host nation that they have not been forgotten. It also shows potential aggressors that the Mobile Force is always prepared for deployment and all members of the alliance are willing to defend themselves and go to the aid of any member which requires support.



# SOLDIER to Soldier

Within the next few months a conservation group will be formed for the Tidworth area — yet another milestone in the campaign by that tireless conservationist, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Clayden, for it means that the whole of Salisbury Plain will now be covered by groups.

As the Ministry of Defence's conservation officer, Colonel Clayden spends much of his time flitting round the country visiting existing conservation groups and forming new ones. At the time of writing the tally was 106 — with more on the way.

The fourth edition of his conservation bulletin, *Sanctuary*, outlines in graphic detail the massive contribution which the Ministry of Defence makes to the preservation of the country's fauna and flora — partly because it owns large tracts of land and thereby saves them from the voracious developer, and partly because of positive measures by conservation groups in recent times.

In the early 19th century, for instance, there were around 300,000 acres of heathland in the southern counties of Dorset, Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey and Sussex. Today this has been whittled down to 88,000 acres, of which 11 per cent belong to the Ministry, including ten areas of more than 300 acres. And one-third of all the chalk grassland remaining in Britain is on the Salisbury Plain ranges. Rare birds, snakes, lizards, toads and other species are still able to survive solely because these lands have not been broken up.

On the Stanford training area in Norfolk there are an estimated 600 roe deer as well as the rare and friendly red squirrels and an abundance of birdlife. There are bats at Warcop, water voles at Bicester, cowslips at the Royal Ordnance Factory in Bridgwater... the list and variety is endless.

Colonel Clayden is particularly interested in getting the message over to the soldier on exercise that the environment is worth preserving both on military and naturalist grounds. "I want him to be aware of what conservation means and not to unduly disturb anything and not shoot at anything which moves. Also, soldiers must avoid setting fire to hedges or eroding the land. If one lot of troops erodes an area it will become gradually worse for subsequent troops who train there."

He is working to a long-term plan for all Ministry of Defence establishments which he hopes will preserve and improve on the present environment while often in many cases providing better cover for training by the provision of more trees.

The use of land for military training has long been the subject of criticism by an ardent minority which wants to see these areas cleared and given up. Obvi-

ously for safety reasons the public cannot be allowed to wander over range areas, but limited access is allowed as, for example, in the Lulworth area. Where there is no access, and despite live firing, fauna and flora both flourish whereas, particularly in popular coastal areas, the increasing numbers of people enjoying public spaces tend to destroy the amenity they enjoy.

So far as open military land is concerned, the majority of the public are happy it be kept that way, recognising the value of open space and preferring that to the ever-present alternative of a concrete jungle.

★

**E**ven in the best-run newspaper and magazine, mistakes will happen. Gremlins abound in the printing business and one national newspaper is popularly known as 'the Grauniad' because of its alleged high number of misprints. Then, too, there are the errors made by journalists, photographers or the people who are being interviewed or photographed.

SOLDIER's readers expect and deserve a high standard of accuracy and, it often seems, scan our pages with meticulous attention to detail. Let a photograph appear of a guardsman with his shoe laces tied the wrong way or a part-time soldier with his gas mask on incorrectly and our phones buzz.

In the September issue we did something that has very rarely happened before — we made a genuine mistake in the popular and long-running 'How Observant Are You?' feature in which we list ten differences between two at-first-glance identical pictures. But in September, as many eagle-eyed readers quickly noticed, there were eleven differences.

Mr Donald Bray, of Leicester, a World War Two soldier, wrote: 'The lad at the pointed end of the boat has been instantly demoted from my old rank of bombardier to lance-bombardier.'

And Mr H Watson, of Hailsham, Sussex, gloated: 'It has taken me 20 years or more to prove that one of your "How Observant Are You?" pictures is incorrect. So it is with much smugness that I point out that the one in September's issue shows a soldier on the front of the barge wearing one stripe instead of two. This you have failed to see...'

So we lose a stripe along with the corporal spotted by Messrs Bray and Watson and other readers. Apologies to all. Let us hope it is at least another 20 years before this happens again.

★

**I**t appears too that apologies are due to a number of readers who did not receive with their October magazine the first separate issue of the new SOL-

**DIER News.** Fortunately it was clear from the magazine itself and from the SOLDIER-to-Soldier page that the News should have been included with the magazine. The omission occurred in copies sent out through trade channels to wholesalers and thence to newsagents. In this case the newspaper was folded and inserted in the magazine to try and ensure that readers received the whole package.

Because of shortage of staff, SOLDIER was unable to insert the newspaper in magazines sent to units. Instead they received equal quantities of both with a request that they be 'knitted' together before distribution. SOLDIER hopes that units will continue to co-operate in this way during the next few months, after which, it is anticipated, the newspaper will move to fortnightly frequency.

While, SOLDIER wishes neither to make excuses nor to burden readers with its problems — so neatly summed up by the daily papers today in phrases like 'production difficulties' — it has always been the magazine's policy to keep the reader informed of why something untoward has happened.

Today's, yesterday's and indeed yesterday's problems are not just those of the publishing industry but, too, of operating a commercial business within an official framework which, with the best will in the world, is not able to produce the instant decisions or allow the flexibility to meet the ever-changing needs of publishing.

Most of these problems have no apparent effect on the reader but he is directly affected by, and immediately notices, for example, delays in publication and muddles in distribution. These are almost entirely due to staffing difficulties — either temporary shortages or changes, of both of which SOLDIER has had perhaps more than its share in recent years.

Only the loyalty and willingness of the staff to give a hand wherever it is needed, as in packing and distributing the October magazine and newspaper, has kept SOLDIER in business — though it would be unthinkable that SOLDIER should ever miss an issue. It has never done so, even when, some years ago, many publications temporarily ceased during a postal strike.

It might, incidentally, be of some passing interest that instead of the regular 40-page magazine which older readers will recall, the equivalent of 84 pages is currently being handled in SOLDIER and SOLDIER News by a staff three fewer in total.

However, there is daylight at the end of the tunnel. Within the next few months it is expected that additional staff will be available to cope with the backlog of work and with the planned change to a fortnightly News. Hopefully there will then be once again the capacity to answer readers' queries, a department which has suffered since the post allotted to this was switched to producing SOLDIER News. And hopefully, too, the general service will be back to the standard which readers have always — and rightly — expected of SOLDIER.

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Above: Gold medallist Jim Fox — pentathlete.  
Right: Dave Charnley (right) in his Army days.  
Far right: Slalom canoeing — an Army sport.  
Below: Ex-Pte V A Head — Welsh international.



BRITISH ARMY sportsmen have World War One to thank for the facilities and organisation which nowadays allow them to pursue the sports of their choice under the guiding hand of the Army Sport Control Board.

This month the board celebrates its sixtieth anniversary, having been born from the bloody battlefields of France. It was there that senior officers first saw the morale-building effect on battered battalions of being able to play football, box and hold athletics matches during their rest periods from the front.

In pre-1914 days there was little organised sport in the Army owing to lack of grounds and facilities. Most regiments had football teams but for the majority of men there was little opportunity to play properly organised games.

General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, when General Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Aldershot before World War One, saw the value of games to the soldier and it was he who ordered the use of picks and shovels to construct sports fields as part of military training.

It is thanks to him and the regiments stationed in Aldershot from 1908 to 1914 that the present-day Army can stage many of its major sporting finals and championships on the fields they pioneered.

But the formal establishment of the Army Sport Control Board did not come until 1918 after peace had been declared between the warring nations of the world. General Sir Charles Harington set up the board and became its first president.

Colonel B C 'Jock' Hartley — a famous rugby player for the Army, Blackheath and England — became the first secretary and



treasurer. He later became the board's director, a post he held until 1946 when he was succeeded by another rugby international, Brigadier A R Aslett.

The original board was set up with a small amount of capital from the Central Canteen Fund (the forerunner of Naafi) and throughout its sixty years of existence money for officially recognised Army sports has come almost entirely from non-public sources.

In the 1920s and '30s many thousands of pounds were spent buying ground for playing fields in garrisons at home and abroad. During World War Two a large number of leading British sportsmen served in the Army and many matches were played at Wembley (soccer), Twickenham (rugby) and Lords (cricket) to raise money for Service charities.

During the post-war era of conscription many more top sportsmen did their two-year stint in uniform and a number still lend active support to Army teams today. Notable among these are the soccer star Charlton brothers, Bobby and Jack, both of whom have swapped their boots for the boardrooms of British league teams. Coventry City's Joe Mercer has kept up his contact with Army soccer too, having offered — among other things in recent years — training facilities to the Army side at Coventry.

Over the years the Army Sport Control Board has expanded until it now holds sway over 31 sports. These range from the 'Big Six' (soccer, rugby, boxing, cricket, athletics and swimming) to more modern sports such as gliding, judo, freefall parachuting and volleyball.

The main job of the board today, operating from its offices in Aldershot, is to

encourage as many Army personnel as possible to take part in sport of some kind. This it does by organising Army cup competitions for both teams and individuals which units are encouraged to enter and by running representative Army teams. These set a standard for units to aim at and a goal for individuals to achieve.

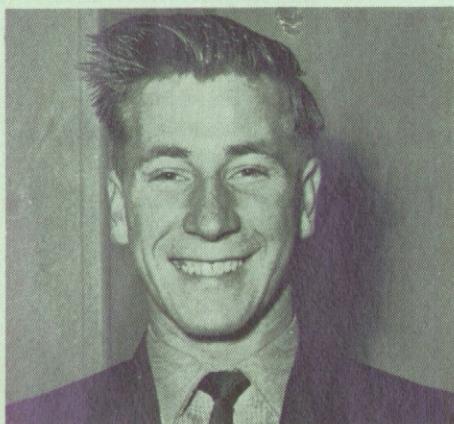
Success by Army sportsmen is reflected in their selection for national and international events up to and including the Olympic Games where Army pentathlete Sergeant (now Captain) Jim Fox gained a gold medal.

Army athletes, judo players and marksmen regularly do well in major competitions. And Britain's first-ever gold medal in the world parachuting championships recently went to ex-Women's Royal Army Corps sergeant, Jackie Smith, who mastered her sport with The Parachute Regiment's Red Devils freefall team.

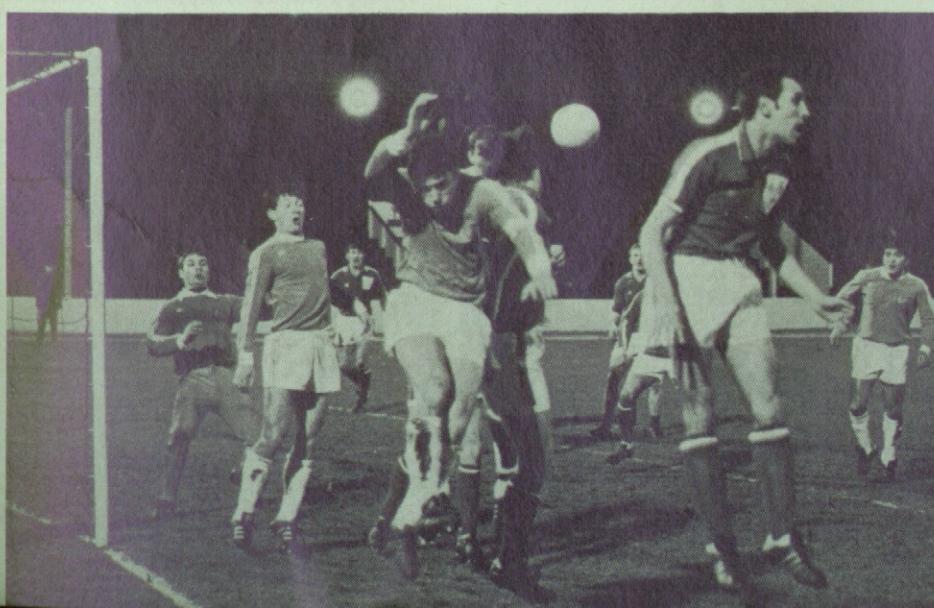
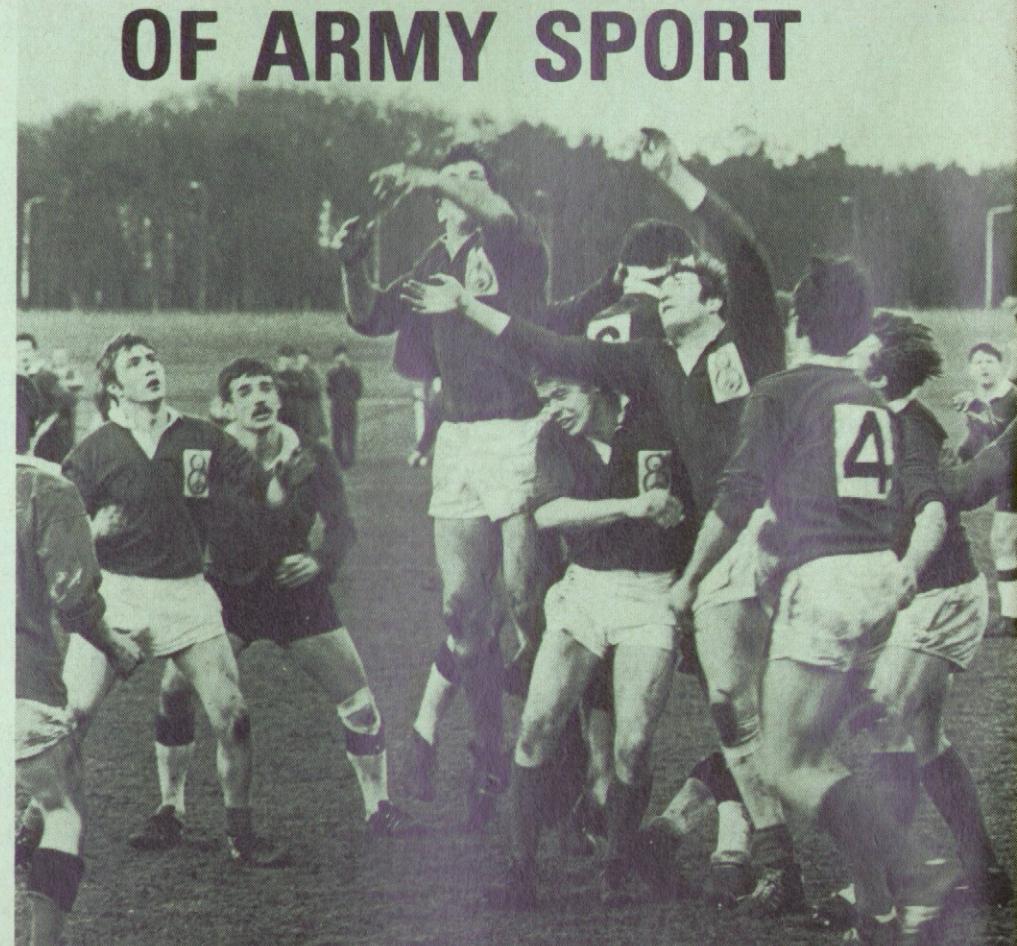
The board ensures that there is a committee for the administration of every sport it controls and provides secretarial support for the major Army sports associations and the Rhine Army sport board. It also produces the handbook 'Games and Sports in the Army' which contains not only the rules of sports associations but also the laws and regulations governing all major games.

The board meets twice a year under the chairmanship of the Vice Adjutant-General to decide policy and approve the distribution of funds, half of which have been met from public sources since 1956.

With an active past of sixty years behind it, the board looks forward to an equally active future with sport playing a larger part in the everyday life of the nation and especially that of the modern soldier with his watchword of 'fit to fight.'



Above: National Serviceman Bobby Charlton.  
Right: One of the 'big six' sports — rugby.  
Far right: Pte John Edrich in his RAOC days.  
Below: A Kentish Cup clash with the French.  
Centre: Fencing is a traditional Army sport.



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**Aches, pains and bruises, but also big smiles resulted when WRAC signals girls went soldiering.**

# COMMUNICATORS AT CAMP

"COME ON you idle shower, get a move on." The stentorian voice of the regimental sergeant major roared across the assault course, spurring his victims on to greater efforts. Most responded by pushing themselves harder, but for some the effort proved impossible. The competition, the sheer physical exercise and the fear of scaling heights never before dreamed of was all too much and tears were the result.

Because, to the astonishment of watching crop-headed Infantry Junior Leaders, their assault course at Shorncliffe was being used by girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps, who performed a series of military tasks on their annual camp that few would have thought possible.

The girls were from 10 Signal Regiment, based at Hounslow, Wilton and Aldershot, and because of the regiment's vital job, the Shorncliffe summer camp was spread over four weeks — a week each for two contingents of girls then, in the following fortnight, a week each for two lots of male soldiers.

And the theme of the fortnight for the girls was 'anything you can do we can do — if not better — then just as well.' On the rifle range, certainly, this proved to be the case because several of the girls managed top scores with the 7.62mm self-loading rifle and on the indoor ranges even more handed in creditable totals — particularly as few had even fired a weapon previously.

The highlight of the two separate weeks for the girls was the night exercise where all the training of the week was put into practice. The predetermined routes that they had to follow in pitch black were sewn with trip flares and booby traps, as well as instructors lying in wait with thunderflashes and rifles loaded — albeit with blanks.

The routes were picked out with devilish cunning to include stretches of open territory as well as thickly wooded ambush spots. One of the worst spots was a stream surrounded by ankle-sucking bog through which the girls had virtually to crawl.

And if that wasn't enough, before the girls were allowed to return to their lonely bivouac tents they had to pass through 'Bomb Alley,' a short stretch of path strewn with every pyrotechnic and booby trap the instructors could lay their hands on.

"This was one of the most enjoyable things I have ever done," said Lieutenant Naomi Ritson. "All the girls thought it was great, and I am sure that we all want to do it again."

On the night exercise, Naomi was laid low by a thunderflash which went off too close to her and which 'nearly made me jump out of my skin.'

**Top right:** Exhaustion and elation show on faces.

**Centre:** The night suddenly becomes day as girls set off trip flares during their training sortie.



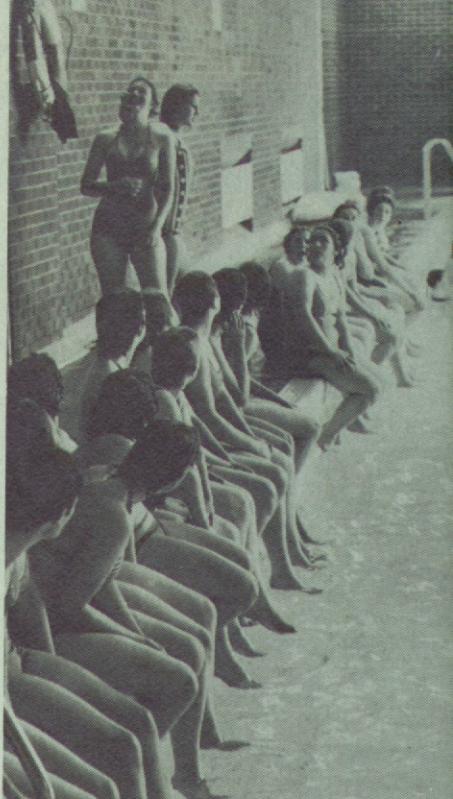
**Story: Doug McArthur  
Pictures: Doug Pratt**

The signal regiment is the only Regular regiment in 2 Signals Group and is responsible for all static Army communications in the south. Last year over one-and-a-half million messages were passed by the regiment in what must be the busiest part of the country for the Army, holding as it does the majority of units and the main proportion of schools and establishments. But if the regiment is proud of its communications ability, it is a constant source of frustration that internal communications are not quite as complete. For good reason.

The regiment is located in three main centres, regimental headquarters and 2 Squadron at Hounslow, 1 Squadron at Wilton and 3 Squadron at Aldershot. Between

them the squadrons run their commens, telephone exchanges and technical control points with a force of nearly 1000 — well over half of whom are civilians. Regimental manpower is made up of civilians, Women's Royal Army Corps and soldiers and, bearing in mind that most uniformed members work shifts, this means that commanding officers can literally go weeks before seeing some of their staff.

Basically the regiment is responsible for anything which even sniffs of communications in its area. At just about every state occasion, like royal visits, state opening of Parliament or the Royal Tournament, they provide the public address system. And although the Post Office owns and maintains



most of the equipment, 2 Squadron in London has four of its own high frequency radio vehicles on standby in case the Thames ever floods.

It is thought that one of the likely effects of flooding would be that most communications in London would be knocked out, making mobile centres a necessity, explained Major Graham Saunders. For this reason, two of the four radio vehicles moved down to Shorncliffe so that the young operators could get some practical experience of going tactical and still keep up their anti-flood role.

The large radar dish which dominates the Dover skyline is also 'owned' by the regiment and provides a communication link with British Forces Germany.

The girls' camp — which is still somewhat unusual for the WRAC — was the brain-child of Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Goldney, who commands the regiment. "To my utter shame, when I was posted here I had to ask where and what 10 Signal Regiment does. When I did find out I thought it relatively unglamorous but very worthwhile and

Top: Blackened faces as girls go through mire.

Top right: It was cleaner in the swimming pool.

Centre, left to right:

Taking the strain in a tug-of-war competition. This lady soldier found the going a bit tough. Minstrel-show-like grin from the long grass. Another smile as officer finishes tent pitching. But tears from girl who failed assault course.

Right: Sergeant-major instructs girl marksman.

24





necessary because all Army communications in the south come through us.

"Much of the day-time work is done by the large civilian element, so the shift work, by and large, is done by the military. One of the biggest problems for the officers is that because of these shifts, they never see their soldiers. I would want to know the names of most of my soldiers, but it is a practical impossibility.

"This is the first time that I have commanded WRAC and it soon became obvious that a lot of the girls felt kept down because they were not allowed to do certain things.

"After all, why do the men go across assault courses and do marches? The main reasons are that it has been proved that they build up self-confidence, so if that is the case with the men, why shouldn't it apply to the girls? Really I couldn't care less if none of the girls hit their targets; what I want to see is their self-confidence getting a boost and their young leaders getting the chance to command and control.

"Working in the commcens is all a bit matey, and a different sort of discipline prevails. But there will be times when they need to take charge and the only way they will get used to issuing orders is to stretch themselves with the kind of activities they are getting at camp."

This view was endorsed by Major Jennifer

Ault, who admitted to feeling sceptical about the whole idea before the camp. "But after it was all over I thought they could take a damn sight more than they actually did. Certainly they are all raring to go and can't wait to come here again."

Because the WRAC does so little of this kind of military work, there was trouble in getting the right kit for the girls. Right up until a fortnight before camp it looked as though all that would be available would be old battledress and lightweight trousers. Then some cadet issue disruptive pattern clothing was acquired for the majority of the girls.

One big problem was boots. After a few days several of the girls were complaining of blisters and could wear only plimsolls because their issue brown leather boots arrived only days before the exercise — too late to be broken in properly. Khaki drill shirts never arrived at all — the girls resorted to wearing PT shirts.

"We felt that if the girls were going to do a useful job then they should have reasonable kit," said Major Patrick Templeman-Evans, commanding the Aldershot squadron. "But the difficulty is that this is entirely out of their normal task, so it has been a job to find kit."

For many of the girls the camp was perhaps the first time they had seen their Regimental Sergeant Major, Danny Lamer- ton, who waxed enthusiastic over the way they had pitched in to their gruelling training programme.

"From their point of view it is of value

because they learn a lot about themselves," he said. "They learn how to work physically as a team, rather than in the narrow confines of their trade, and they have all worked very well. Now they are bitten. They have got the bug and they will want more of this kind of exercise."

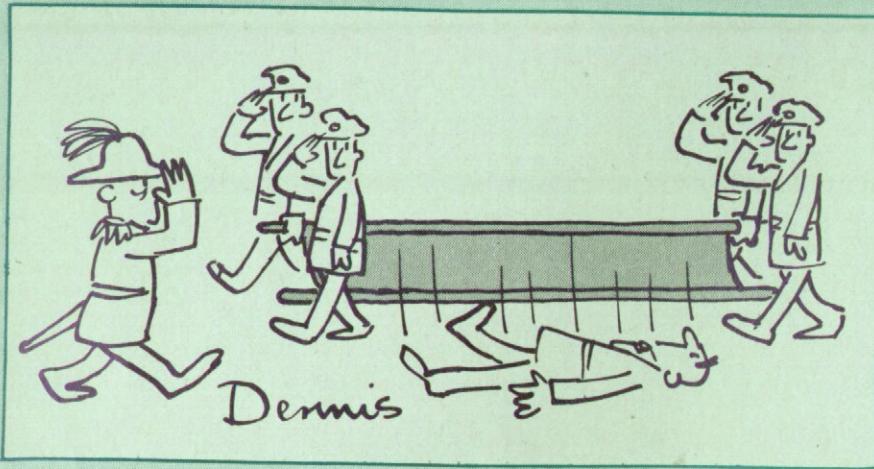
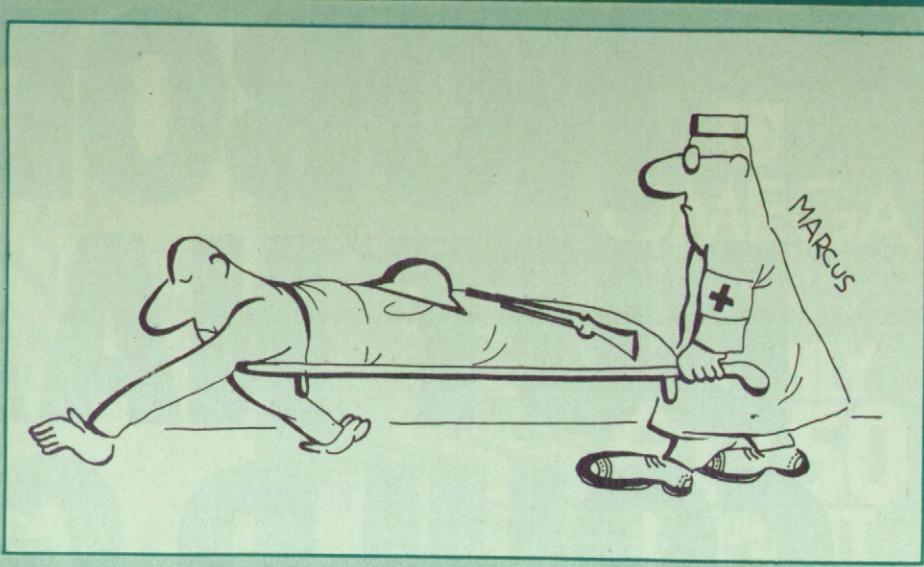
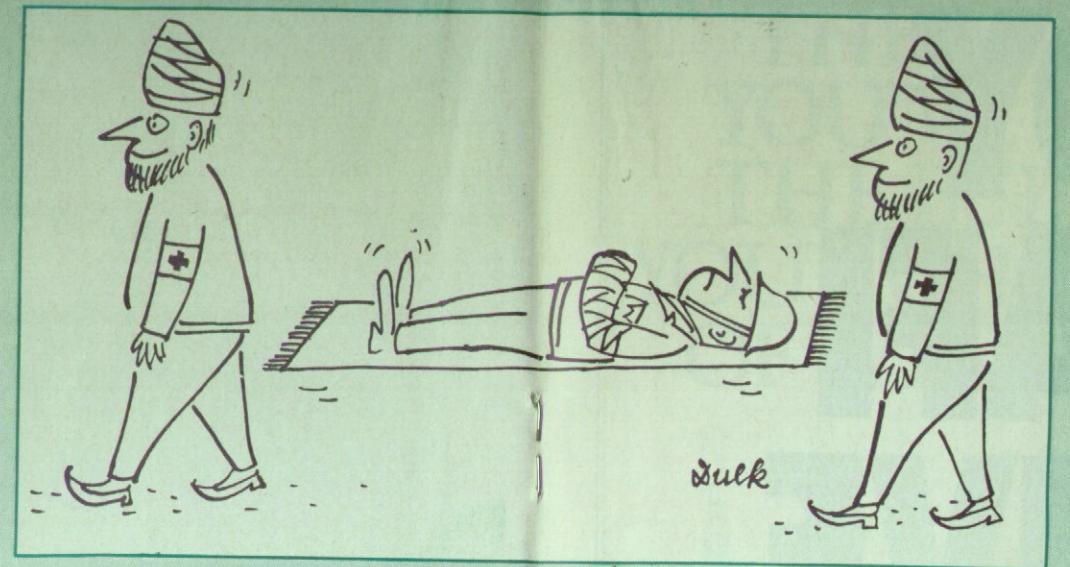
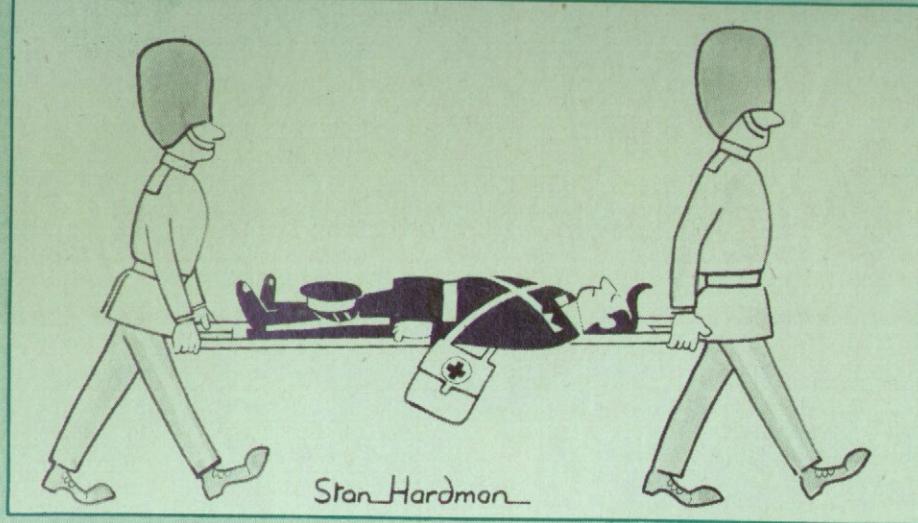
But what about the girls themselves? How did they feel about the assault course, or creeping about in the dark under attack or sleeping on the ground with only spiders and creepy-crawlies for company? The unanimous verdict was that they loved it, and the only question was — 'When can we come again?'

"I went over the assault course four times," said Private Penny Horne, based at Wilton, "and all I was nervous about was that we were competing against the others. The course itself didn't really worry me at all. One thing it does show you is how unfit you can get working in the commcen all day with no exercise."

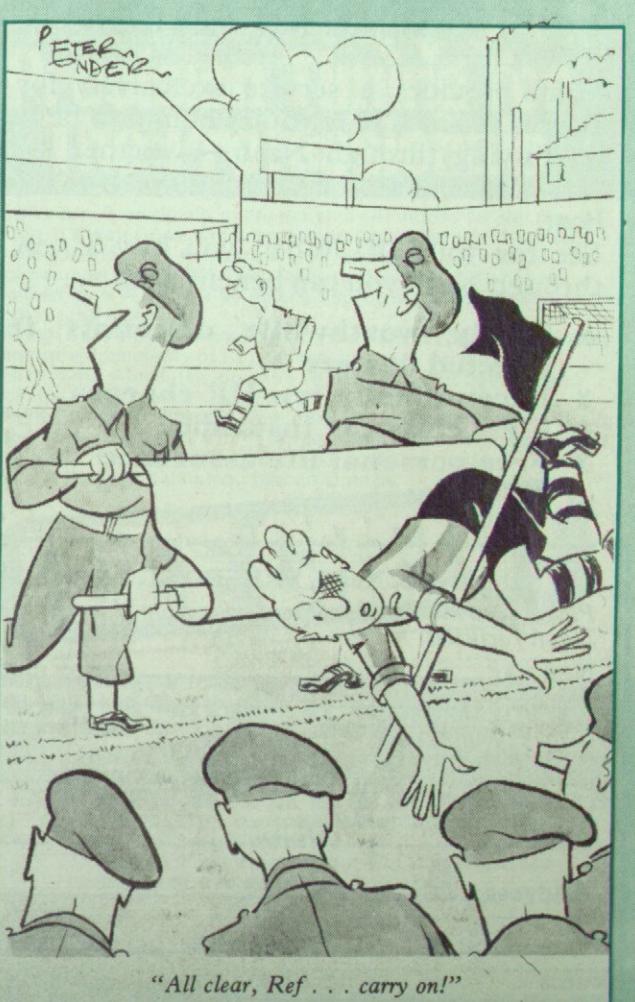
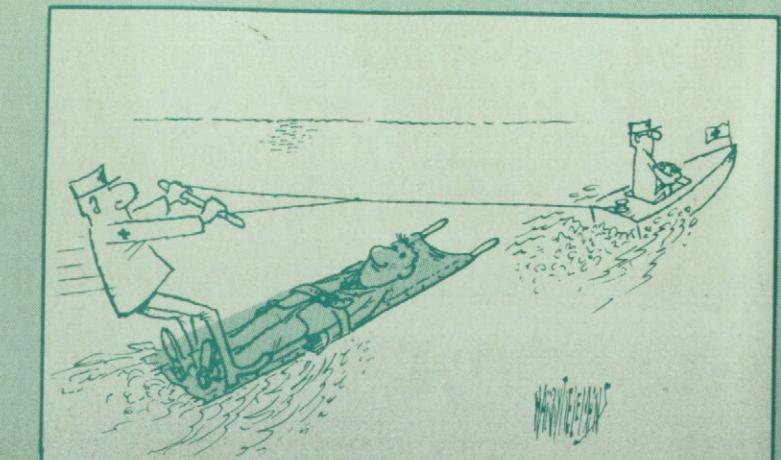
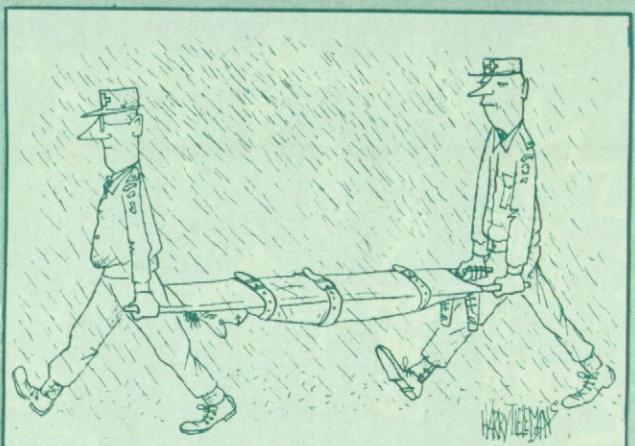
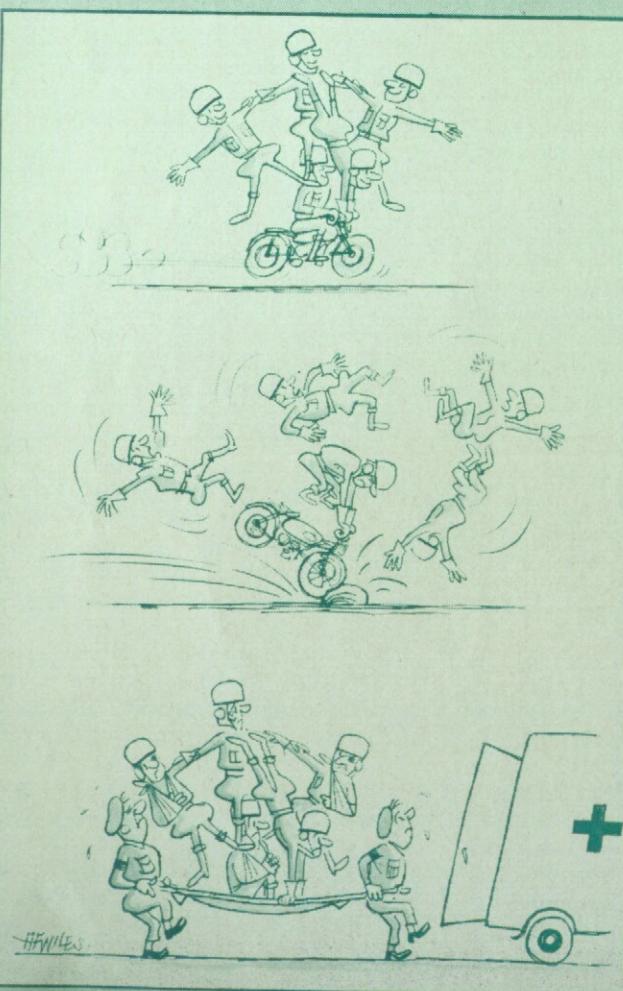
After the night exercise, Private Annette Jackson said: "I got a wet foot, put my hand in nettles and had to crawl through cow pats, but it was great fun. I wasn't nervous at all. I think we ought to do more of this."

And as for Private Linda Thompson, based at Hounslow, the week's camp gave her a chance to show off some of her more warlike qualities. "When I joined up I wanted to be a tankie or a parachutist," she said, "but they said I was a lady and had to join the WRAC. Well this week I have had a chance to do what I really joined the Army for, and it has been great."

Above: Ladders in hand, the young campers head for the assault course — note variety of shoes.



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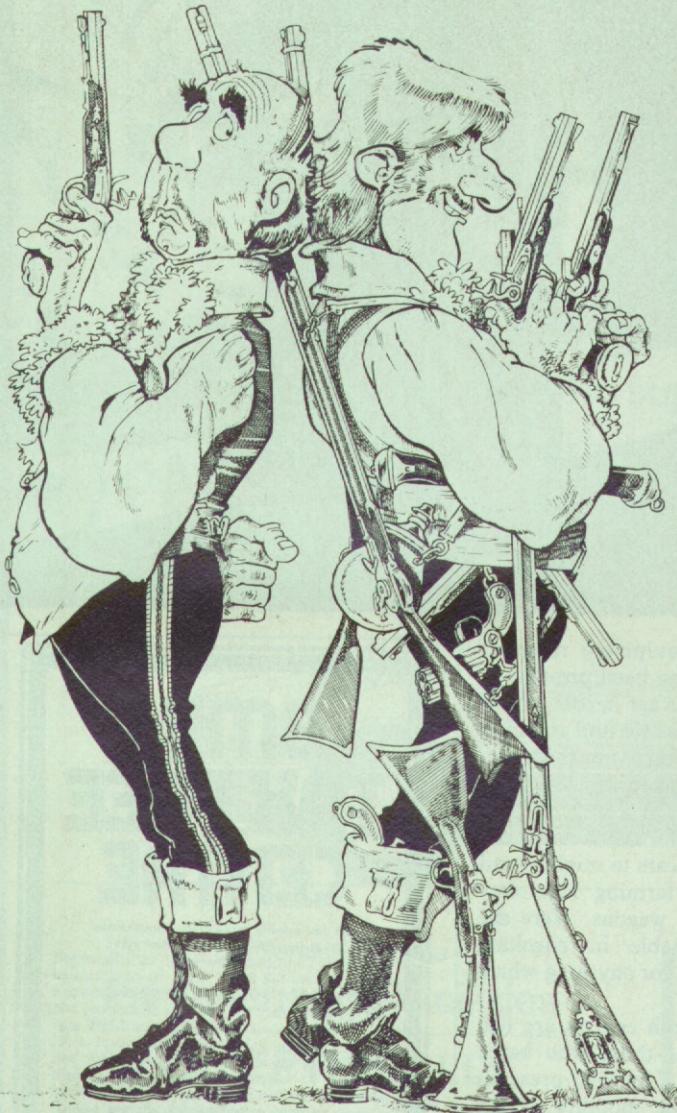
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**Londonderry  
with 2 RRF**

# The Searchers

OVER THE YEARS in Northern Ireland some nasty people have been carrying some nasty things around in cars. And although the number of bombings and shootings has diminished in recent times the security forces never forget that the price of a quieter life for the public is constant vigilance on their part.

This is why there are still permanent checkpoints in some parts of the Province as well as snap checkpoints set up on many other roads. And on the border with the Irish Republic all vehicles passing through such places as Londonderry are stopped by troops.

In Londonderry the intermediate search centre operated by 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, averages eight vehicles a day — all of which are subjected to a thorough search using highly sophisticated kit.

The vehicles can be of all shapes and sizes. Two muzzled greyhounds whined in a corner of the workshops as their owner's car, a green Ford, was checked for explosives and weapons. It was clean and half an hour later the man and his greyhounds were on their way.

According to Warrant Officer 2 Alan Clarke, who runs the centre: "Most people take this in their stride and see the need for these checks. As you can imagine, they know that if they are polite rather than rude it will take less time."

The next driver had a vanload of bacon, which had to be unloaded and inspected while another soldier went right through the van with a 'super sniffer' — a device which can trace explosives even in cavities. Only if there is a positive reading are panels removed — then Sergeant Brian Hardwick, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, is on hand to advise and make sure that no damage is done.

Terrorists are unlikely to roll up at a border checkpoint with explosives in their car — the very presence of troops is a deterrent. But four times during the first two months in which the fusiliers operated

**Below: Fusiliers and Greenfinches stop cars.**



the search centre the equipment reported traces of explosives having been present.

Said Alan Clarke: "We are here to check for the RUC and as soon as we find anything we call them in and they carry out their own investigations and send samples away for forensic analysis."

It's an interesting life for the vehicles can range from small family cars to mighty road transporters and in a farming area they include a lot of animal wagons. Here the detectors prove invaluable in checking through straw and muck for anything which may be hidden.

The intermediate search centres are just another small section of those who battle against terrorists — but if by their presence they can slow down the mobility of the bombers and gunmen they are well satisfied.

**Above: Checking through a van load of bacon.**



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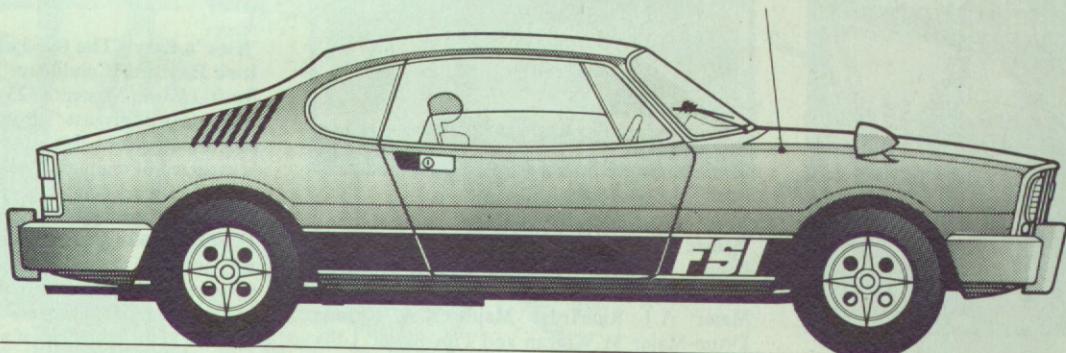


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**'Marching with the Royal Air Force'** (Central Band of the Royal Air Force) (Conductor: Wing-Commander R E C Davies) (EMI ONE-UP 2188)

If memory serves, this is a re-issue of a disc made in 1970, one of the first I reviewed for *SOLDIER*, and I make no apologies for mentioning it again.

Not often, indeed almost never, does a great new march come my way, so if you missed Gordon Langford's 'Prince of Wales March' first time round, don't do so now. This is a classic of march records and includes at least two others well worth having — Donald Bridger's 'Airborne Division' and Roy Davies's own 'Anniversary March.'



The rest of the programme is fairly extensively recorded, except for Langford's 'Marching with Sousa' and Edrich Siebert's 'The Rovers Return,' with 'Old Panama,' 'The Contemptibles,' 'Officer of the Day,' 'Belphegor,' 'On the Square,' 'Ad Astra' (a 1950s prizewinner), 'The Thin Red Line' and 'Wien Bleibt Wien.'

But I shall, as always when I hear Langford's masterpiece, lose another night's sleep tonight humming his haunting tunes. **RB**

**'Trooping the Colour 1978'** (Massed Bands of The Guards Division) (Senior Director of Music: Major R A Ridings) and **Massed Bands of the Household Cavalry** (Director of Music: Captain B T Keeling) (QBP 2)

This latest of several attempts to capture the unique atmosphere of the Queen's Birthday Parade does so with a minimum of fuss and so far as I could hear, no recording engineer's trickery. As we all know, there is little change in the ceremony from year to year, and much of the music is of course obligatory.

An innovation this year is the introduction of a slow march (to relieve the tedium of the Grenadiers March) based on Waldteufel's 'Grenadiers Waltz.'

The record has much to recommend it but I think it is a pity there was no space for the final tributes and an effective fade-out as the Queen heads her Household troops down the Mall. But with the aid of the official programme, which

comes with the disc, you have a fine representation of a great event.

As always for me, the winners are the cavalry bands, aching in every limb as they are by 1145 yet producing a sound straight from the 19th century which is now unique to Britain. Mistake it not for bad 20th century music; it is a precious relic from the past and must be cherished at all costs.

All profits from the sale of this record go to Household Division charities, so cough up all ye who suffer old men. At my age I have a vested interest. **RB**

Music on this record other than the regimental marches and hardy annuals: The Coldstreamer (Ridings), Finnish Cavalry March, Speed Your Journey (Verdi), Children of the Regiment, Thin Red Line, By Land and Sea, Guildhall (Richards), Le Cateau (Richards) and Semenowski Regiment (traditional).



Other massed band music: 'Peace to the Nations,' 'Quo Vadis,' 'Cornet Carillon,' 'Don Quixote' (Minkus), 'Vivat Regina' (Laurie Johnson) and 'Close of Day' (Torch). There is a welcome selection from the corps of drums playing 'The Great Escape,' 'The Jigs' and a drum flourish, while the pipes and drums contribute 'Highland Harry,' 'Dovecote Park' and, with the bands, 'Liberton Polka.'

Both this record and 'Trooping the Colour 1978' are available from Treasurer's Office, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AX, each at £3.50 including post (UK) £4 (overseas). Also available in cassettes at same prices. **RB**



**'Nice 'n Easy'** (The Band of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars) (Conductor: Bandmaster Roger G Swift) (Music Masters 0525)

This one will disgust 'Disgusted of Tooting' but, as I've said before, this type of programme is what is expected of regimental bands these days, in and around barracks anyway. For the price of one these lads provide cavalry trumpet fanfares, Dixieland band, dance band, piano trio and full military band in various guises, all of high quality and presented with flair and imagination.

To my friend 'Disgusted' I will say that, proud as I was to be a member of a fine regimental band in the 1930s, we bore the pants and puttees off the troops with our operatic selections, rhapsodies and variations on 'Three Blind Mice.' Our 'comic' turn, a male voice chorus, got the same treatment as does 'Abide With Me' at the cup final — drowned by the wet canteen's 'We Are Fred Karno's Army.' Versatility was not ours, although we did produce a sort of Grand Hotel string quartet for Naafi Nights.

No fear of the regimental raspberry for Mr Swift and his mere 29 lads, as against our 75. From that small number he provides two fanfares, 'Coronation' and 'Royal Ascot,' several colourful full band items, 'An Irish Rhapsody' by Clare Grundman, his own arrangement of 'I'm on Fire,' his own brilliant 'Ssafa March,' tunes from 'Shaft,' 'Cavalry of the Steppes' in a Ray Woodfield arrangement, a 'Dixieland Concerto' on Dixie band, and a trombone quartet playing the old favourite 'Laura.'

The Irish element is recognised in the name of the dance group, Shades of Green, and with the band sergeant-major as vocalist (not in my day, sir, not in my day) they give us 'Nur Ein Kuss, Magdalena' and 'The Young New Mexican Puppeteer.' And just so that we don't get bored, the bandmaster sits at the piano for a medley of oldies, accompanied by bass and drums, and a piano and band version of the theme from 'The Apartment'.

They've even the nerve to actually sing their regimental march. What next, I wonder. And wait with happy anticipation.

**RB**



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# *Jocks meet the Wolves of Tuscany*

AS A SCOTTISH boy soldier piped a lament, men of The Black Watch honoured the memory of others who had died on battlefields in Northern Italy 34 years ago. The occasion was a special double wreath-laying ceremony at Il Girone near Florence where 1637 Commonwealth soldiers lie buried, including 22 men from the Black Watch.

At the cemetery, with its backdrop of tree-clustered Tuscan Hills, were men of C Company, 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, who had recently arrived for a three-week Nato training exchange programme — Exercise Ponte Vecchio. Also on parade was a contingent from the Italian hosts, the 78th Motorised Division of the Friuli Brigade.

The Jocks had been welcomed by the Commandant of the Friuli Brigade, who recalled that he had fought alongside British soldiers at Monte Cassino. As he spoke, two pairs of glinting eyes were watching from a caged run — a pair of brown wolves which are mascots of the division.

The exchange (a similar number of 'Wolves of Tuscany' were training at Catterick) was to help the men attain what Nato's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Alexander Haig, terms as 'interoperability.'

During their training the Scots used only Italian weapons such as the 7.62mm Beretta rifle, which can also hurl a 2lb grenade to a target 500 metres away, the Spandau machine-gun, 57mm and 106mm anti-tank guns and 120mm mortars.

Company commander Captain James Duncan Miller said: "The Tuscan hills are ideal for this type of training. Among the professional long-term officers and NCOs of the Italian Army I have found a considerable awareness of the role of Nato and they attach great importance to Italian participation."

Towards the end of the visit the Black Watch were involved in a joint exercise which covered wartime ground between Florence, Bologna and the River Po, where British troops fought.

There was also time for a bit of tourism with visits to Florence and Sienna, where the Scottish soldiers were guests of an Italian parachute regiment and met French visitors from the 1st Regiment of Hussards Parachutistes.

Sports encounters included an improvised version of the Highland Games, which incorporated a tug-of-war and caber tossing. The whole visit was summed up by General Coppolla in one all embracing Italian superlative — Bellissima!



Top: Jocks join the 'Wolves of Tuscany' in the hills. Note the unfamiliar 7.62 Beretta rifles.

Right: At Il Girone, near Florence, the visitors honoured their war dead in a quiet cemetery.

Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: George Moffett

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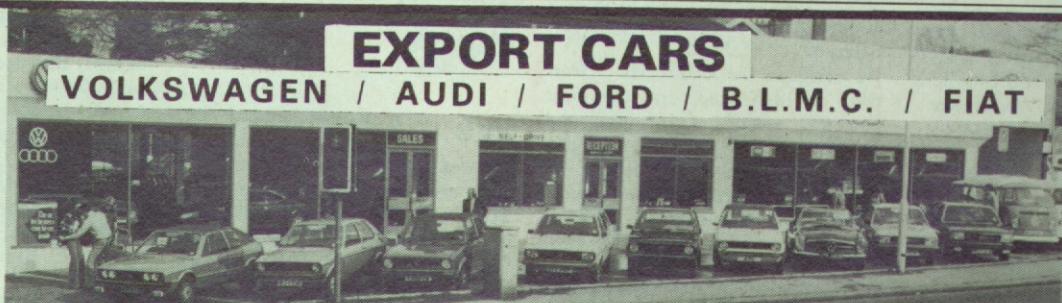
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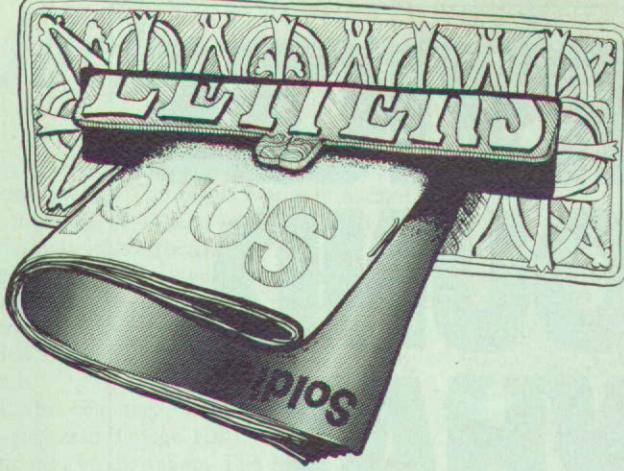
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## PBI v tanks?

I would like to take issue with your correspondent who appears to be suffering from a bad attack of the 1812 syndrome. His suggestions that old infantry regiments should be revived on the basis of tradition and at the expense of some of the finest — no, the best — tank regiments in the world I find extremely worrying. It is because of this type of thinking by a succession of different governments that we find ourselves in the ludicrous state we are in today; not enough men to man the tanks we have, underpowered engines in those tanks, aircraft carriers the Navy can't man because of the shortage of sailors and, the most ridiculous of all, 74 aircraft to defend the whole country from Soviet attack.

As far as the gentleman's attack on the 'élitist' regiments of the British Army is concerned, I believe I detect a certain amount of inter-corps rivalry and maybe jealousy here. He should realise that the Regular Army today demands more than the ability to wield a bayonet and charge yelling at the enemy. Everything is highly technical these days. In fact we need more tanks and more expansion in the paratroops department before our defences will be anywhere near the safety level for years to come.

So come on, Mr Griffin. No more of this Wellingtonian outlook. Accept the needs of today for what they are. Of course the infantry is still needed, and we still have the best. But armour is the decisive knockout puncher in this day and age; at least we should have learned that from the last war. — **Keith F Shurety** (ex-3rd Royal Tank Regiment and 14th/20th Hussars), Shepperton, Middlesex.

## The 24th

Warrant Officer 2 Derrick Smart (Letters, July) infers that the soldier ancestor of Miss Wales, by serving in the 2nd Warwickshires, was not in a Welsh regiment. He correctly informs us that the regiment became the South Wales Borderers in 1881, but the fact remains that for years before the Zulu War the regiment was Brecon-based and manned in the main by Welshmen from the Border counties, hence its future title.

The reforms of 1881 recognised the emotional ties of this regiment in the

same way as they did others, including, for example, the 20th (Lancashire Fusiliers) which in spite of its Lancaster connections was previously known as the East Devons! — **E G Tudor, Broombank, Compton, Leek, ST13 5PT.**

## Memory lane

Having recently had my civilian memoirs published under the title 'LNER Footplate Memories,' I am now writing my war memoirs, having been a sapper in the Royal Engineers. This book is concerned with railway operating and port construction and takes in Derby (Donington Camp, Baseball Ground and Weston Camp MMR), Cairnryan, Stranraer, Eastbourne and Longmoor from 1940 to 1943.

If any SOLDIER reader has photographs or stories associated with these places I would appreciate the chance to see them. — **Charles Meacher, 38 Asher Road, Chapelhall, Airdrie, Lanarkshire, ML6 8TA.**

## Calling rail fans

The thought occurs to me that there must be many railway enthusiasts among the readers of SOLDIER. In this case does anyone know of Thomas Russell Crampton who lived from 1816 to 1888 and was born in Broadstairs? He was an engineer of note, being responsible for helping to build several railways in East Kent, Belgium and Holland.

He designed the locomotive 'Liverpool' in 1848 which was the most powerful engine of its time and proved too heavy for the tracks in this country. It was adopted by France which recognised Crampton's efforts by making him an Officer of the Legion of Honour in 1855. Crampton was a prolific engineer, being also responsible for the first practical submarine cable between Dover and Calais as well as the building of the Berlin waterworks jointly with Sir Charles Fox. He was made an Officer of the Prussian Order of the Red Eagle.

He also invented a rotary dust-fuelled furnace used in Woolwich Arsenal, brick-making machinery and an automatic tunnel-boring machine

(1882) with special reference to the Channel Tunnel project. At home he constructed the Broadstairs gasworks and the waterworks, of which one building was Crampton Tower, now a listed building. A museum to house items relating to Crampton himself, railways and engineering has been assembled in this building which is open from May to September each year. Any reader who has information about T R Crampton is invited to get in touch with me at the address below. — **Mr A F Field, 20 Ethel Road, Broadstairs, Kent.**

## HMT Ettrick

I am researching for a ship-lover's journal the career of HM Troopship Ettrick and would like to hear from any officers, non-commissioned officers, soldiers and families who may have sailed in her or in her sister ship, HMT Dilwara (1936-60). Built as a troopship in 1938, managed by P & O, and of 11,279 tons, HMT Ettrick made a number of peacetime voyages to the Far East before World War Two. A week after participating in the North African landings on 8 November 1942 she was torpedoed west of Gibraltar. Eighteen ratings and six Indian members of her crew were killed — the survivors escaped in the boats. Her master was Captain J M Legg RNR. — **Michael A Houghton, Ground Floor Flat, 135 Grove Street, Liverpool, L7 7AF.**

## ACC Association

A reorganisation of the Army Catering Corps Association and its branches has led to the formation of new branches in Aldershot, Basingbourn, Brecon, Bulford, Bovington, Bicester, Catterick, Chatham, Colchester, Dover, Edinburgh, Harrogate, London, Nuneaton, Northern Ireland, Preston and Torquay. It is hoped the establishment of these 'new look' branches will attract local support from former members of the ACC and encourage both past and present members, their families and friends, to participate jointly in social activities. Information about branch contact addresses can be obtained from Secretary, ACC Association, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2BN. — **Maj E J MacDonald, HQ DACC, St Omer Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2BN.**

## We made them!

We would like to draw your attention to an error in an article on page 8 of SOLDIER News in July. In the item on the Colours presented to the Scots Guards you stated that the new Colours were made by the Royal School of Needlework. This is not so as they were made by ourselves.

To our certain knowledge every set of new Colours carried by any of the five regiments in the Brigade of Guards during the last 20 years has been made by our firm. — **R A Field, Director, Hobson & Sons (London) Ltd, 55 Greek Street, London, W1V 5LR.**

## How observant are you?

(see page 12)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Eye of battering ram. 2 Points of kilt of leading soldier. 3 Line on ankle of second soldier. 4 Lines on helmet of third soldier. 5 Base of cross on second soldier's back. 6 Square on second soldier's helmet. 7 Pattern on leg of fourth soldier. 8 Left thumb of fifth soldier. 9 Ram's ears. 10 Ram's tail.

## Reunions

**Middlesex Regiment — Remembrance Services.** Field of Remembrance — assemble Middlesex Guildhall, Westminster, London SW1, 1045 Saturday 11 November. Garrison Church, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7, assemble 1000 Sunday 12 November.

**82 Armoured Engineer Squadron RE Old Comrades Association.** The 33rd annual reunion buffet, Royal Green Jackets' Sergeants' Mess, 56 Davies Street, London W1, Saturday 4 November, 6-11pm. Members of the new 82 Sqn — the former B Squadron of the Junior Leaders Regiment RE, Dover, redesignated on 1 April — have been invited to attend. Contact: Lionel T Crate, 364 King Street, London, W6 0RX (phone: 01-748 6755).

**Duke of York's Royal Military School Old Boys' Association.** Annual remembrance reunion, Dover, 11-12 November. Details from Hon General Secretary, A Sadler, 1 Bushy Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey (phone: Bookham 52093).

**14th/20th King's Hussars.** Northern reunion, Saturday 4 November, Manchester. Details from Home HQ, 14/20H, TAVR Centre, Clifton, Manchester, M27 2PU.

## Competition

'Plain Song' — Competition 240 in the July SOLDIER — did not turn out to be so plain and simple for many readers. The solution was: Cabbage, Egg, Dace, Dab. These foodstuffs were arrived at in the following method: The 'music' was written in mock plain chant but the bottom stave was E as it is in modern musical notation. The 'notes' represent letters which spelt out the words of the solution.

Prizewinners:

1 H R Valentine, Tyn-y-Mynnydd, Dolwyddelau, North Wales.

2 Mr G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton, SO2 4GU.

3 P Hooper, Eccleshill Upper School, Harrogate Road, Idle, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD10 0JE.

4 Mr G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0AQ.

5 Mr R P Jenkins, 19A Griffith Street, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 0RL.

6 Mr L Hunter, Griffon School, BFPO 42.

7 Mr D K Sell, 20 Gaunts Way, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 4PQ.

8 Mrs Page, 26 Oaklands Drive, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG1 2SB.

9 Mr F K Forrester, 30 Great Tattenhams, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5SB.

10 Mrs D Hart, 23 Albert Road, Yiewsley, Middlesex, UB7 8ER.

## Collectors' Corner

This column is open to bona-fide collectors, not dealers. Announcements are made free of charge as a service to readers. Subsequent correspondence must be conducted direct between readers and not through SOLDIER.

Ellis E Small, 71 Boxwood Lane, Willingboro, New Jersey 08046, USA. — Requires metal WW2 OR regimental cap badges dragoons (1 RDG, 1 King's, Bays, Carabiniers, Inniskilling), Hussars (4, 8, 13/18, 14/20, 15/19), Lancers (9, 12, 16/15). Will buy, or has Canadian badges for exchange.

John D Smale, 72 Old Ford Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, BN4 5HA. — Seeks any photographs, snaps or negatives — on loan for copying or will buy — of RASC launches. In particular Dickens, Generals, Battlefields, Rivers and Derby Winners classes but all 'Fleet' vessels are of interest. Postage refunded.

T Cassidy, 15 Halton View Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 0TS. — Will exchange early 1900 Border Regt officer servant's uniform in green beige with swallow-tailed jacket and solid brass buttons for old cap badges.

Arthur H Silvester, Khanspur, 6 Old Court Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6IW. — Collects British campaign and foreign medals, particularly awards to RHA. Current needs MM (RFA or Royal Highlanders), exchange or cash adjustment; LSGC (GV, GIV, EII). For sale, commemorative medallions, value £100 plus, accept £80 o.n.o.

D Grice, 108 Thirlmere Road, Liverpool, L5 6PR. — Seeks all nations para wings, patches, special force items. Will buy or exchange.

D M Lovell, 48 Musbury Street, Stepney, London E1. — Prefers to buy para, SAS, Commando, special forces insignia, but has some foreign airborne badges to swap. Also wishes contact other collectors of airborne insignia.

Capt George Rodenburg Jr, Box 4419, Lubbock, TX 79409, USA. — Collects British medals, formation signs, cap badges. Has for trade US medals, shoulder patches, shoulder crests, badges.

Leonard Peltier, 644 Isbister Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2Y 1R1, Canada. — Wants to trade US/British élite items, Canadian airborne berets with badge, Rhodesian recruiting posters, USMC 200th anniversary KABAR knife, combat aircraft photos for French/Spanish Foreign Legion and Para items.

D Pickles, 11 Eriesmere Avenue, Denton, Manchester, M34 3FD. — Wants two UN blue berets with badges, also WW2 two-piece khaki beret.

G Altman, 22 Sandal Road, New Malden, Surrey. — Collects Household Division militaria, uniforms, badges and accoutrements. Any items including books, paintings, prints considered for cash or exchange.

F A J Wright, RR 2, Knowlton PQ, Joe 1 VO, Canada. — Will trade Canadian para wings and pilots' wings for two RAF WAG half-wings (padded). Also have rare book 'First Steps to Tokyo' (RCAF in Aleutians) 1944 illustrated, Canadian Grenadier Guards and Royal Montreal Regiment flashes for trade. Need RAF Regt and RAF Ferry/Transport items.

Maj J A Barrow, 1st Bn, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, BFPO 17. — Wants to exchange British cap and collar badges, brass S/Ts and buttons. Collects those of the Wiltshire, Royal Berkshire and Royal Hampshire Regiments plus Royal Marines.

John Hadden, 3/8 Piershill Square East, Edinburgh EH8 7BD. — Asks for programmes, LP records, b/w and colour photos of Edinburgh Tattoo also records and photos of Scottish regiments.

Peter de Greiff, Lehnstedter Weg 37, 2822 Schwanewede 1, Germany. — Collects badges and insignia of airborne forces. Offers German badges in exchange for British.

Jacques P Champagne, 85 Rue Godefroid Kurth, 6700 Arlon, Belgium. — Wants to buy or exchange British Army officers' cap and collar badges. Has large number of British, Belgian, French, Dutch, German, US, Luxembourg badges for trade.

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 1979

- 4 Newark Agricultural Show (4-5 May).
- 12 Market Rasen (Lincolnshire) Show (12-13 May).
- 19 Harpenden (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
- 19 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo.
- 19 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Farmers Club Show.
- 19 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (19-20 May).
- 26 Barnard Castle Meet (26-28 May).**
- 26 Hemel Hempstead (Hertfordshire) Carnival.
- 26 Hertfordshire Agricultural Show, Redburn (26-27 May).
- 26 Mexborough (Yorkshire) Gala.**
- 27 Carrington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (27-28 May).
- 28 Derby County Show.
- 30 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (30-31 May).

### JUNE 1979

- 2 Impel '79, Doncaster (2-9 June).**
- 2 St Neots (Cambridgeshire) Riverside Festival (2-3 June).
- 9 Halifax Gala.**
- 9 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (9-10 June).
- 15 Essex Show, Chelmsford (15-16 June).
- 20 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (20-21 June).
- 23 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (23-24 June).
- 23 Gas Board Gala, Leicester.
- 23 Rotherham (Yorkshire) Tattoo (23-24 June).**
- 24 Chesterfield (Derbyshire) Carnival.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (27-28 June).
- 29 Hook (Yorkshire) Gala (29 June-1 July).**
- 30 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (Lincolnshire) (30 June-1 July).

### JULY 1979

- 7 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.**
- 7 Birkenshaw (Yorkshire) Show.**
- 7 Open Day, Depot Queen's Division, Bassingbourn (Hertfordshire).
- 7 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Wootton (Northamptonshire).
- 10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (10-12 July).**
- 14 Corby (Northamptonshire) Tattoo and Highland Games (14-15 July).
- 14 Durham County Show, Middlesbrough.**
- 14 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.**
- 17 East of England Show, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (17-19 July).
- 21 Adwick (Sheffield) Gala.**
- 27 Northampton Borough Show (27-29 July).
- 28 Cromford (Derbyshire) Traction Rally (28-29 July).**

### AUGUST 1979

- 2 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (2-11 August).
- 2 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show.
- 2 Leicester Army Display (2-4 August).
- 4 Colchester (Essex) Carnival.
- 15 Cromer (Norfolk) Carnival.
- 24 British Timken Show, Northampton (24-25 August).
- 25 Expo Steam, Peterborough (Cambridgeshire) (25-27 August).
- 26 Eye (Suffolk) Show (26-27 August).
- 27 St Albans (Hertfordshire) City Carnival.
- 27 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show.
- 27 Moorgreen Show, Nottingham.
- 27 Leicester City Show (27-28 August).

### SEPTEMBER 1979

- 8 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
- 8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September).**

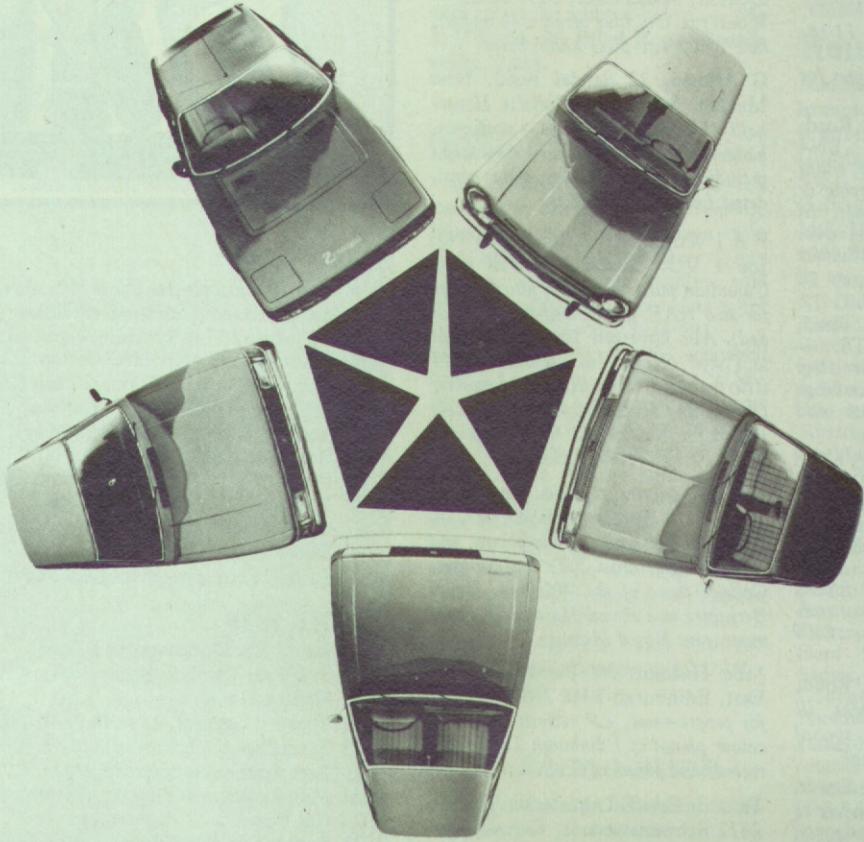
### At auction



A rare mid-19th century banner (pictured above), believed to be of The Life Guards, fetched £150 when sold at auction by Weller & Dufty Ltd, Birmingham. The same figure was paid for a rare Albert pattern helmet (top right) of The Staffordshire Yeomanry, circa 1875, and a Yorkshire Dragoons helmet (top left) fetched £140.

An extremely rare hallmarked silver ash tray (top centre), commemorating the start of production in 1939 of the 7.92mm Czech ZB53 tank machine-gun by the Birmingham Small Arms Company, realised £40.

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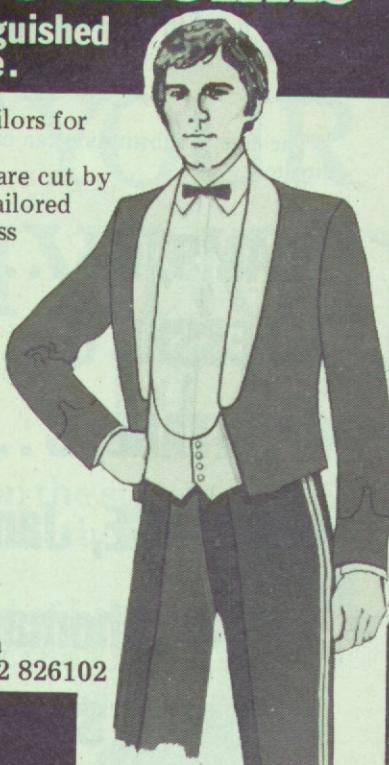
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626 Chiswick High Road,  
London W4 5RZ.

## IMS

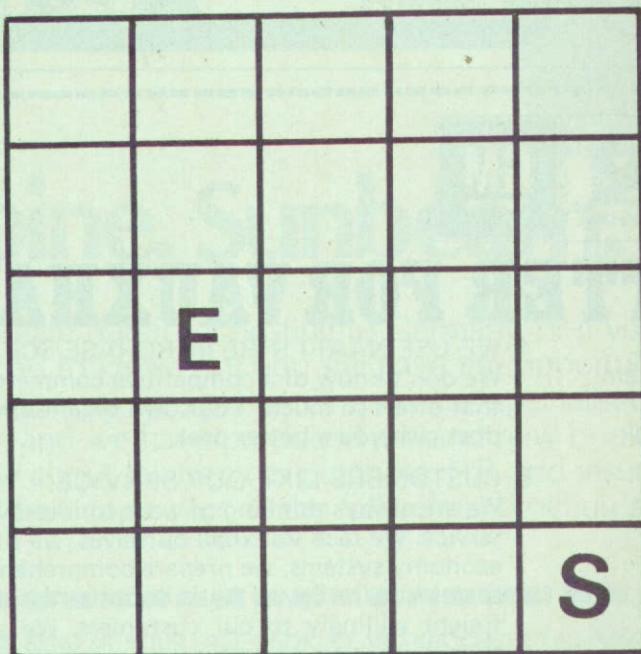
# DOUBLE BILL

THIS MONTH, by way of a change, there are two teasers — and an answer is required for both! The first problem is based on simple numerical-alphabetical substitution. First, convert the nine sets of figures into words.

460329	671715
6715	30929
96752	60341
640960	6492092
106492	

The question is, which two words of the nine are closest in meaning to each other?

Turning to the second teaser, if you can complete the word square below you will arrive at a famous square which can be found in Cirencester and in Pompeii.



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ARMITAGE, C .....	0321
ARMITAGE, James .....	0629
ASTON, Thomas G .....	6093
ASHWICK SERVICES .....	4129

Send your answer — two words from the first problem and one word from the second — on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 244' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 244)  
**SOLDIER**  
 Ordnance Road  
**ALDERSHOT**  
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**GU11 2DU.**

This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 8 January 1979. The answers and winners' names will appear in the March 1979 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 244' label.

Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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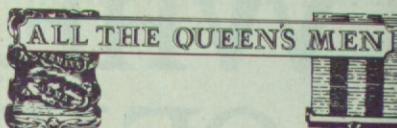
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by Alan Caton and Derek Cross



\*QM7 Trumpeter, King's Troop Royal Artillery, 1977; \*\*QM9 Corporal Drummer, Scots Guards, 1977; \*\*QM10 W.O. with Guidon, 15/19th King's Royal Hussars, c. 1973; QM12 Drum Major, full dress, Gordon Highlanders, c. 1920; QM14 Bugler, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, 1977; QM15 Drum Major, Royal Highland Fusiliers, 1977; QM25a Staff Sergeant, R.E., 1973; QM26a Staff Sergeant, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, 1973; \*\*\*QM28 Lance-Corporal Piper, full dress, Queen's Own Highlanders, c. 1977; +QM31 Dog Handler, Northern Ireland, 1977; QM33 W.O.2, Royal Regt. of Fusiliers, St. George's Day, c. 1977; QM34 Pipe Major, Royal Irish Rangers, c. 1974; <sup>#</sup>QM1 Kettledrummer, 11th Hussars "The Cherrypickers", c. 1903; <sup>#</sup>QM2 Kettledrummer, Royal Scots Greys, c. 1892.

UK kit form (\*): £4.10; painted: £13.00; (\*\*): £4.25; £13.25 (\*\*\*): £4.10; £15.00; (£): £5.35; £20.00. (£): £17.50; £85.00 ..... personal collection only. All others £3.85 and £12.50 respectively. Please add 10% p & p UK, 20% for overseas orders. Not shown but also available: QM25b Staff Sgt., R.A.; QM25c Sgt., R.C.T.; QM26b Staff Sgt., Queen's Own Hussars; QM26c Sgt., 13/18th Royal Hussars, 1973. NB: QM14 may be painted to represent other regiments. Each model individually packed, complete with separate wooden base, (except MQM 1/2), plus regimental badge, detailed painting instructions and useful historical notes.

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## THE ROYAL LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

FOR ITS FIRST 300 years Leicester's 14th century gatehouse, known as the Magazine, was a civil building and for the next 300 years its role was military, so it is not inappropriate that it now houses the museum of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment. Squat and four-square, it now stands on an island site approached only by a subway.

A magnificent silver centrepiece, purchased by the officers in 1890 to mark the regiment's bicentenary, dominates the ground floor and ranged round the walls are a number of exhibits including an early 19th century officer's coatee, a history of the regiment from 1688, when Colonel Solomon Richards was commissioned to raise it, a 200-year-old punishment book written in a meticulous yellowing hand and some blackened buttons of the 17th Foot found during excavations in New York.

There are two Victoria Crosses — one awarded to Corporal Philip Smith, of the 17th, for his bravery in bringing in wounded comrades after the assault on the Great Redan in the Crimean War, the other won by Private William Buckingham at Neuve Chapelle in 1915. A notable Crimean relic is the golden double-headed eagle taken from the Russian headquarters at Sevastopol by a party of 17th privates.

Militia uniforms, remarkable for their silver lace, sabres, breastplates and two cat-o'-nine tails are among other eye-catching exhibits. A display of small arms, ranging from an Afghan pistol inlaid with silver and a 1790 flintlock to modern automatics, is supported by a collection of swords, bayonets and daggers. Sleeve badges and other small items of dress include a drummer's lace and fringe (1820-71), a sergeant's red-and-white sash (1830-45), signallers' and bandsmen's badges, a puggaree badge (1880-82), a Glengarry badge (1871-81) and a private's forage cap badge.

A fine collection of silver includes a snuff box reputed to be the only piece of plate to survive the wreck of the troopship Hannah, en route for Bombay in 1840, when all the regimental silver was lost. Another snuff box fitted into a tiger's head, a cup made from silver lace taken from officers' uniforms, and a silver bugle are examples of the

silver which soon replaced the original collection.

A Boer War case contains among other things a wooden water bottle, an ammunition belt and an early example of the hand grenade. An unusual item is a pocket watch inscribed with the letters LEICESTER REG instead of the numerals one to twelve.

There is a portrait of Lieutenant-Colonel Philip Bent VC who at the age of 26 was said to be the youngest colonel in the British Army when he led a charge in World War One with the immortal rallying cry of 'Come on, the Tigers.' A royal Indian tiger is, of course, the main feature of the regimental badge and 'The Tigers' is the regimental nickname. Various examples of the badge can be examined at leisure.

World War One relics include an enormous pair of trench boots designed as over-boots for use in cold and muddy conditions, a war diary compiled by officers of the 1st Battalion, a field telephone, a German machine-gun belt and a wooden drill rifle used in 1915 to train recruits in Victoria Park, Leicester. Reminders of World War Two are a map case taken from a German paratrooper, a German-issue eating set comprising knife, fork, spoon and tin-opener, an Italian helmet, and a chess set made by Major I W Kennedy while in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp.

Three paintings by Terence Cuneo depict the repulse of German parachutists at Heraklion, Crete, by the 2nd Battalion, a Japanese attack being beaten off in North Burma, and Lieutenant J C Barrett winning the Victoria Cross at Pontruet on 24 September 1918 while serving with 1st/5th Battalion, The Leicestershire Regiment.

John Jesse

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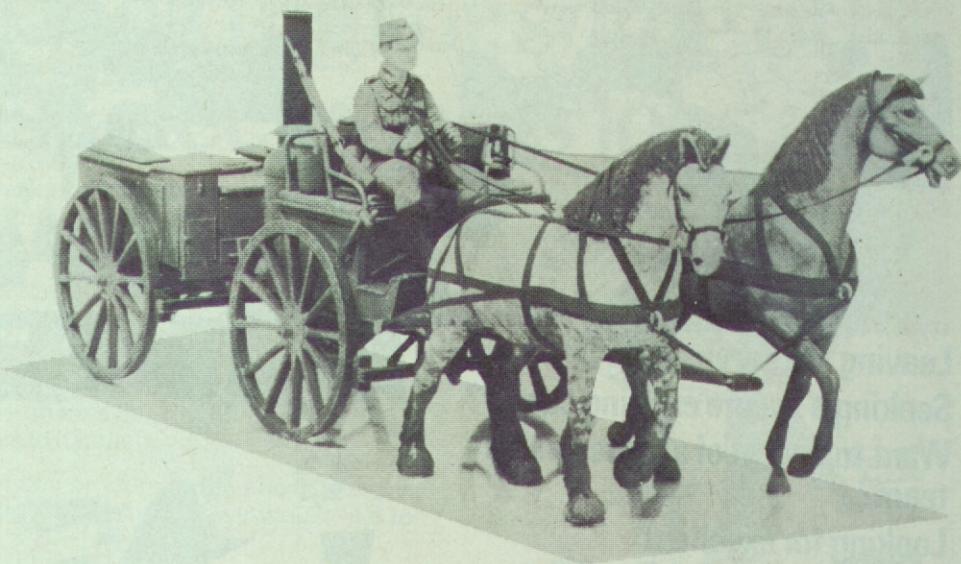
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# MILITARY MODELS

JUST AFTER the outbreak of World War Two, Adolf Hitler announced that Germany would be victorious through the use of 'new and secret weapons.' German inventiveness was to produce the world's first successful rocket-propelled combat aircraft (Messerschmitt Me 163), flying bombs such as the 'doodlebug,' the Bachstelze rotor kite towed behind U-boats for reconnaissance, and even a curved-barrel Krummlauf attachment enabling machine pistols to be fired round corners. But who would credit a goulash gun?

Such a 'weapon' existed but it was something of a joke. Gulaschkanone was a mobile field kitchen. It possibly earned the nickname from the similarity between its smoking chimney and a mortar fired on a high trajectory.

While the army marched on its stomach, the horse-drawn field kitchen trotted along behind — ready at short notice to cook up soup, spuds and sausages. The supply problem was not as simple as it seemed. In just one day a typical division would consume 12 tons of bread, 2.88 tons of meat, 2.88 tons of peas, 1.92 tons of wurst sausage as well as proportionate quantities of coffee, sugar, salt and butter.



The Gulaschkanone is the subject of a recent release from the Japanese model firm of Tamiya (United Kingdom distributor, Richard Kohnstam Ltd, 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire). It comes as a kit of plastic parts, in 1:35th scale, with a recommended retail price of £2.30.

This is an unusual model, comprising two horses, a soldier driver, a limber loaded with emergency rations, and a trailer which functioned as a cooker. Accessories include a ladle, milk churns, insulated food containers and, not forgetting that horses have to be fed as well, a sack of fodder.

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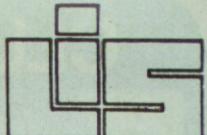
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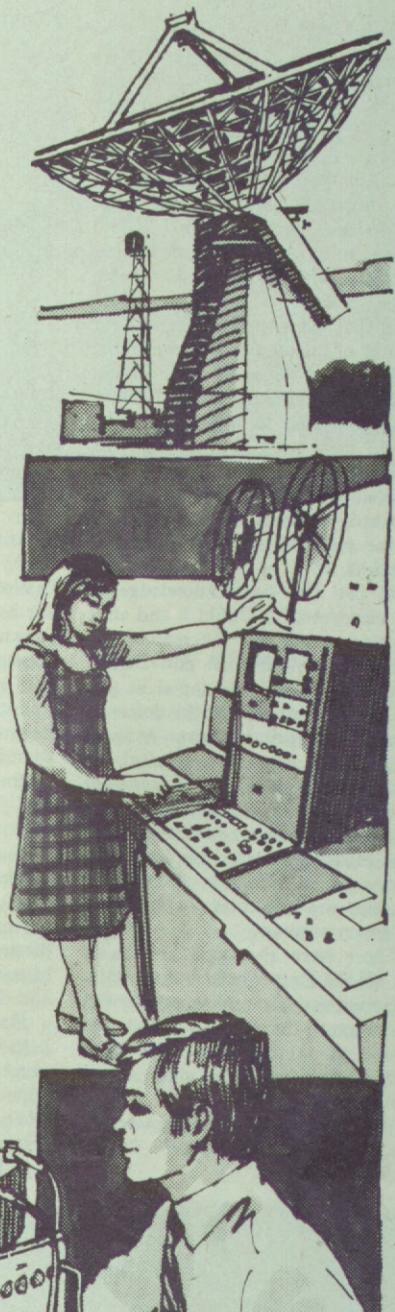
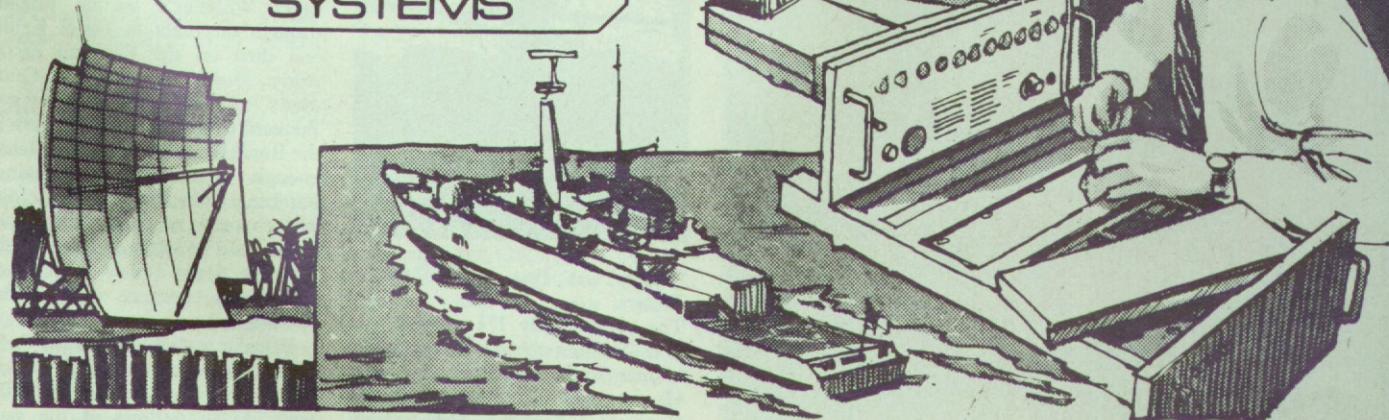
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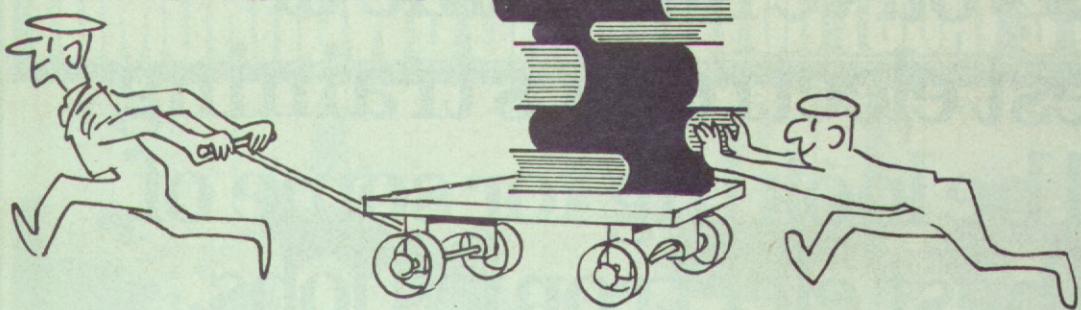
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# BOOKS



## Blitzkrieg

*'Dunkirk: Anatomy of Disaster'* (Patrick Turnbull)

Patrick Turnbull was a lieutenant with GHQ of the British Expeditionary Force in France in the early days of World War Two. When the German blitzkrieg burst through the demoralised French Army, GHQ pulled out of Arras and left behind Petrefoce with the author as a motor contact officer.

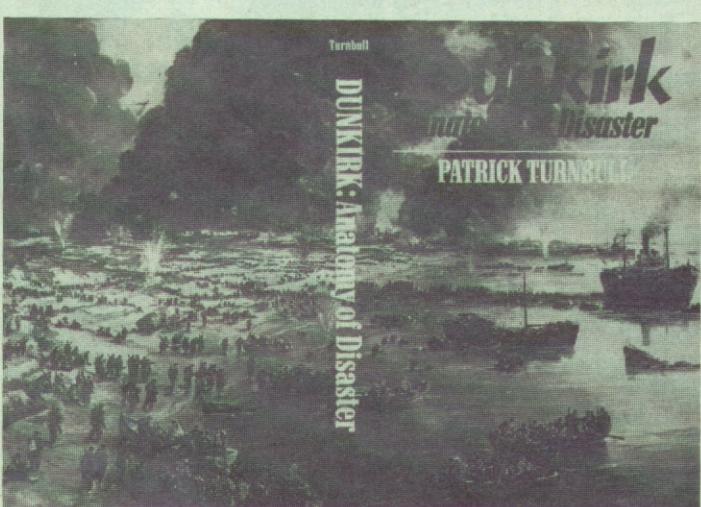
At that time he knew little or nothing of the war leaders, nor of the intrigues and denunciations, unkept promises, recriminations and inefficiency of those in high office who should have been able to stem the invading tide. In fact, he knew little of what was happening outside his own area and was often bewildered by the swift adverse turn of events within it.

He had first-hand knowledge of the withdrawal to Dunkirk and after the war sought out the reasons for this reverse of French and British arms. The facts as arranged in this book seem to prove that the defeat of France was inevitable, given its leaders, their Maginot mentality, intrigues and inability to plan and act in other than World War One concepts. Yet there were men with modern ideas and commanders and troops of outstanding ability and courage who fought hard without the necessary support.

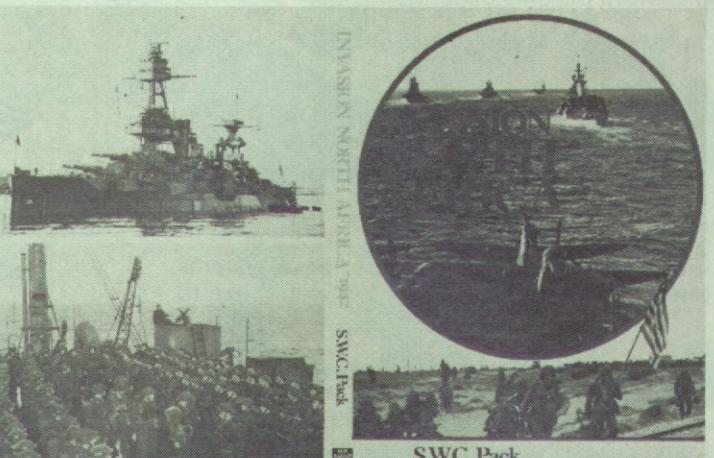
There were also opportunities to cut off the Panzer head but muddle, dithering and demoralisation allowed the enemy the initiative and the power to subdue. Only the BEF under Gort's leadership came out to fight again.

B T Batsford Ltd, 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London, W1H 0AH, £6.95

GRH



## First-hand



*'Invasion North Africa 1942'* (S W C Pack)

'5 November 1942; 4 pm: Now we are at Gibraltar wondering what happens next. The most popular 'buzz' is Dakar. 10.30 pm: We left harbour half an hour ago. All our friends (Hunt class destroyers) are with us, Zetland, Lamerton, Wilton, Bramham, Cowdray and Wheatland. 11 am: All hands have been mustered . . . We are to try and take French Morocco and Algeria . . . The Americans are to take the credit for the whole thing for propaganda purposes. This raised a laugh.'

However wrong it was to keep diaries in war, words written at the historical moment today bring life and drama to the records of events.

Many such on-the-spot accounts help to enliven this story of Operation Torch, the joint British and American landings in North Africa in 1942. This was Eisenhower's first testing as invasion commander — he was later to thrust into Sicily and

then into Normandy — and the allied venture was a purposeful try-out of land, sea, air, British, American and Free French co-operation. Overall, the almost unwieldy allied fighting and logistic structure held.

The author credits the 150 first-hand accounts that helped him in producing the book, which also highlights specific events with 150 first-class photographs.

*Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £6.95*

Regiment, and during the four years to 1918 saw service in many parts of the British line from Ypres to the Somme.

In this volume he records the life of an ordinary private soldier in an infantry battalion. He never took promotion and suffered all the buffets of the lowly. He never kept a diary so this record is remarkable for the wealth of detail remembered after 60 years. It is no war history but resounds with the authenticity of the 'squaddie' and contains a myriad of everyday facts of a soldier's life in those eventful years.

*William Kimber & Co Ltd, 22a Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AE, £5.75*

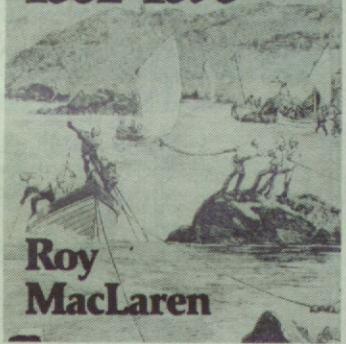
GRH

## Rapid shooters

*'Canadians on the Nile, 1882-1898'* (Roy MacLaren)

When Sir Garnet Wolseley faced the problem of getting a force up the Nile to rescue the besieged Gordon in Khartoum, he sent for some of the 'voyageurs,' skilled canoeists of the Canadian fur trade, who had piloted

## Canadians on the Nile 1882-1898



his Red River expedition to success 14 years earlier. But 'voyageurs' had been a disappearing race in 1870 and in 1884 he got, instead, men whose hazardous trade was to manoeuvre the great rafts of logs on Canadian rivers. He got 386, less a few imposters who had come for the adventure and dollars, and they took 800 boats with lubberly soldier-crews over the Nile rapids, saving many lives in the process.

But raftsmen were not the only Canadians around at that time. A Lieutenant Wyatt Rawson RN navigated Wolseley's leading brigade through the night to Tel el Kebir, and died on the Egyptian earthworks. Most remarkable of all Canadians in these campaigns was Edouard Girouard. As a subaltern in the Royal Engineers, he was colonial enough to cheek the imperious Kitchener, but fine enough soldier and engineer to build, with great speed and unskilled labour, the 350-mile desert railway that made Kitchener's conquest of the Sudan possible.

Valuable and exciting as the Canadian contributions were, they would make a thin book but for Mr McLaren's skilled outlines of the cam-

## PBI

### JOHNNY GET YOUR GUN

A Personal Narrative of the Somme, Ypres and Arras

John F Tucker



*'Johnny Get Your Gun'* (John F Tucker)

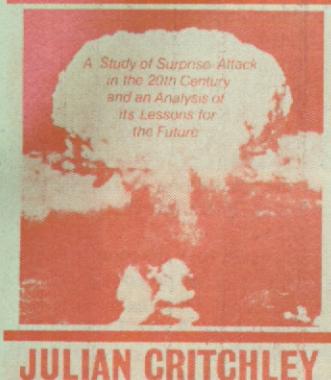
The author, only 17½ when World War One started, pretended to be 19 in order to enlist and serve overseas. He was soon in France with the Kensington Battalion, 13th London

paigns in general and their political and military backgrounds.  
*University of British Columbia Press, 2075 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, \$14.95*

RLE

## Tory view

# WARNING AND RESPONSE



## JULIAN CRITCHLEY

'Warning and Response' (Julian Critchley)

Declaring undeclared war to be a 'phenomenon of the twentieth century,' Mr Critchley offers studies of the Hitler blitzkriegs, the Japanese aggression of 1941 and the starts of the Korean and various Israeli-Arab wars.

Then he takes a thoughtful look at the present Nato position. For years, Nato plans have been based on the assumption that there would be a period during which the international situation would deteriorate and Warsaw Pact activity would give warning of imminent attack. When the attack came, Nato's technical superiority would counterbalance Warsaw Pact numbers.

Now things have changed. Warsaw Pact forces could attack from a standing start, and they are catching up technically. General Haig, the Nato Supreme Commander, puts the minimum warning time at 48 hours. Nato would have to fight with forces-in-being and would have lost the battle before reinforcements could be brought in or the politicians decided to use tactical nuclear weapons.

Among Mr Critchley's proposals is a declaration that Nato would use its tactical nuclear weapons early, if attacked, and to make this deterrent credible Nato should redeploy its nuclear weapons to less vulnerable places and add the neutron bomb and cruise missile to its armoury.

*Leo Cooper, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £5.50.*

RLE

## Hatchet job

'Bonaparte' (Correlli Barnett)

Anybody with illusions he wants to keep about Napoleon Bonaparte as a genius of a general, father to his troops and benefactor of his country, should avoid this book.

When Mr Barnett, readable and convincing as ever, has finished with him, Napoleon seems to have combined the civilised instincts of a Mongol horde with the scruples and luck of a successful con-man. He was

a self-seeking opportunist with an insatiable desire to manipulate men and nations. He rode roughshod over the rights and feelings of foreign peoples and the liberties of his own. He was a cynical treaty-breaker, ready to profess Mahomedanism or Catholicism, to shoot prisoners, close down newspapers — a one-man dirty-tricks department.

Militarily, he was a poor planner. It was a policy of the army of impoverished revolutionary France to live by pillage, but where there was nothing to pillage, as in Russia, Napoleon was incapable of organising a commissariat and his troops starved. Under his regime originated the famous 'Système D' — the D standing for débrouiller, or muddle through — of the French Army.

He was guilty of 'slapdash overconfidence,' launching attacks that could not hope to succeed. His supreme professional performance,

## BONAPARTE

CORRELLI BARNETT



Austerlitz, which Mr Barnett concedes was 'brilliantly subtle in conception and perfectly timed,' need never have been fought but for the ineptitude of Bonaparte's foreign policy.

What, then, did raise the Corsican gunner officer to Tyrant of Europe? Luck, says Mr Barnett, the mistakes of his opponents, his ability to make a quick decision in the field and manoeuvre his armies quickly to get him out of trouble, and his capacity to hold the loyalty of his soldiers.

*Allen & Unwin Ltd, Ruskin House, Museum Street, London, WC1A 1LU, £7.50*

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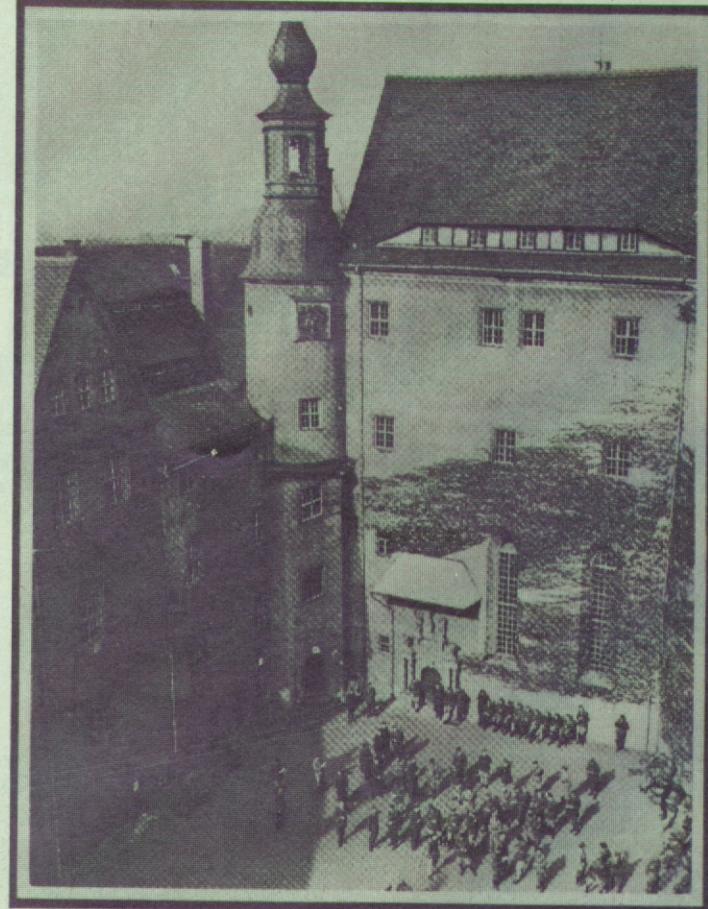
## Darker side

'Padre in Colditz: The Diary of J Ellison Platt' (Edited by Margaret Duggan)

Army Methodist chaplain Jock Ellison Platt was taken prisoner at Dunkirk because he stayed behind with the wounded. Eventually, he ended up in Colditz, the notorious castle to which inveterate escapers, 'bad boys' and VIP prisoners were sent.

Well, we have all read about, or seen on film or television, the determined and often successful attempts to escape from Colditz, and we have marvelled at the ingenious routes to freedom which the escape committees devised.

But there is another, darker side — the torment of those who stayed and endured captivity until release at the end of the war. It is this side which



occupies most of this prison diary which Padre Platt kept at Colditz.

He describes the rackets which various prisoners ran as 'unnecessary and unsavoury,' and he tells of the bitter shock experienced by newcomers when they learned of them.

He tells of the despair to which some prisoners succumbed, and of the homosexuality in which others sought relief; and he describes the constant preoccupation with food and of the prisoners' lifeline, the Red Cross parcels.

Padre Platt does not sit in judgement on his fellow prisoners. He sees them as frail human beings in unnatural surroundings resisting not only the loneliness and frustrations of prison life, but also the German attempts to break their spirit.

The padre himself emerges as a conscientious, caring pastor with a real and loving sense of responsibility towards his fellow prisoners. His diaries make rewarding reading because they tell a story of Colditz

that we have not previously heard.  
*Hodder & Stoughton, Mill Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent, £5.50*

JCW

## Modern armour

'Tanks and Other Tracked Vehicles in Service' (B T White)

Amid the plethora of books on tanks and tank warfare that have rolled from the presses in recent years there have been few actually confined to tanks in service. Most authors have felt unable to resist the temptation to go back into history, to fight old battles again, and we have been lacking a handy catalogue of who's using what.

In this excellent little book, Mr White repairs the omission by presenting an excellent, pocket-sized rundown on the most important tracked fighting vehicles currently in service.

They range from main battle tanks

continued over



B. T. White

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## BOOKS

like the Chieftain, Leopard, AMX-30, XM-1, and T-62 to the small Japanese self-propelled mounting for twin recoilless rifles and the Wheeledbarrow remote-controlled miniature tracked vehicle which, though not strictly speaking a fighting vehicle, is included because of its importance in modern security operations.

In between are amphibious tanks, infantry combat vehicles, bridging, mine clearing and recovery tanks, and a variety of anti-tank, anti-aircraft, and intercontinental ballistic missile carriers and launchers.

It is interesting to note the headway which West Germany's industry is making in the field of weapons exports. The Thyssen-Henschel company, for instance, is contracted to replace the Argentine army's World War Two Shermans with TAMs — Tanque Argentino Mediano.

The chassis of the Marder infantry combat vehicle has been used as a basis to which has been added a three-man turret mounting a 105mm gun developed in Argentina from the one used in the French AMX-13. The initial order is for 200 vehicles.

This is an interesting and worthwhile book which will be of value to everyone concerned with today's armoured scene. It is very well illustrated with a 64-page full colour section depicting over 100 vehicles. Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £3.95

JCW

### War images

'The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902: A Pictorial History' (Johannes Meintjes) It has been said that had it not been for the Boer War, the British Army would have been in no fit state to face the Germans in 1914.

Since the Crimean War — the last one in which British regiments fought Europeans — campaigns had been fought against a variety of natives including Persians, Chinese, Pathans, Maoris, Abyssinians, Ashantis, Zulus, Afghans, Sudanese, Kaffirs, Matabeles and, of course, those involved in the Indian Mutiny.

By and large, British arms triumphed wherever they went, and since the Boers were mere farmers, it was assumed they would be a walk-over.

History shows that they were anything but — and it was the shock they administered to the British Army that brought in the new thinking which prepared it for 20th century warfare.

In this splendid book, Johannes Meintjes presents a well-balanced visual and verbal account of the war, giving concise and lucid explanations of its causes and its course.

He takes full advantage of the fact that the Boer War was the first in which 'the new profession of newspaper photographer' aided the correspondent in reporting the ebb and flow of battle.

Thus, war reports acquired a new realism although in those early days, action shots were few and far between. Film was slow, lenses poor and cameras cumbersome, yet

despite a lot of obvious posing, this excellent selection of pictures certainly gives one the feel of the war.

They are augmented by the works of 'special artists,' the immediate predecessors of the photographers, of whose efforts Mr Meintjes comments: 'Not surprisingly these pictures were often distorted, not only by the patriotic imagination of the artist but also by the engraver who converted them into blocks for the press.'

However, no one is immune from accidental inaccuracy. In a paragraph relating to a picture of three Boers — an old man, one in middle age, and a young boy — Mr Meintjes quotes a New York Journal correspondent as saying he had seen grandfather, son and grandson fighting side by side, and the assumption is that the three unnamed Boers are the relatives in question.

But while they do represent three generations, they do not appear to be related at all. Their names and ages, as a line to the Radio Times Hulton Picture Library would have elicited, are P J Lemmer (65), J D L Botha (15) and G I Pretorius (43).

Macdonald & Jane's Ltd, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £5.95

JCW

### Weapon survey

'Jane's Pocket Book 19: Heavy Automatic Weapons' (Denis H R Archer) It was during the American Civil War that the Dr Gatling produced his six-barrelled, crank-driven 'machine' gun, and if I remember correctly, it was not all that accurate and was in time superseded by guns like the Maxim.

Thus, it is interesting that the Gatling principle has returned to favour in recent years, notably in the design of aircraft and anti-aircraft weapons such as the American 20mm Vulcan gun.

It is extended to the M134 Minigun, now in production and in service, with a rate of fire of 6000 rounds a minute. Under evaluation is another derivative, the 5.56mm XM-214 gun which has a firing rate of between 400 and 4000 rounds a minute depending on selection.

These are, to me at least, the most interesting automatic weapons in this valuable world survey which, among other things, once again emphasises the agitation within Nato for a greater degree of standardisation.

Macdonald & Jane's Ltd, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £3.50 pvc, £4.50 hardback

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### In brief

'Return to the Battlefields' (V A Neatherway)

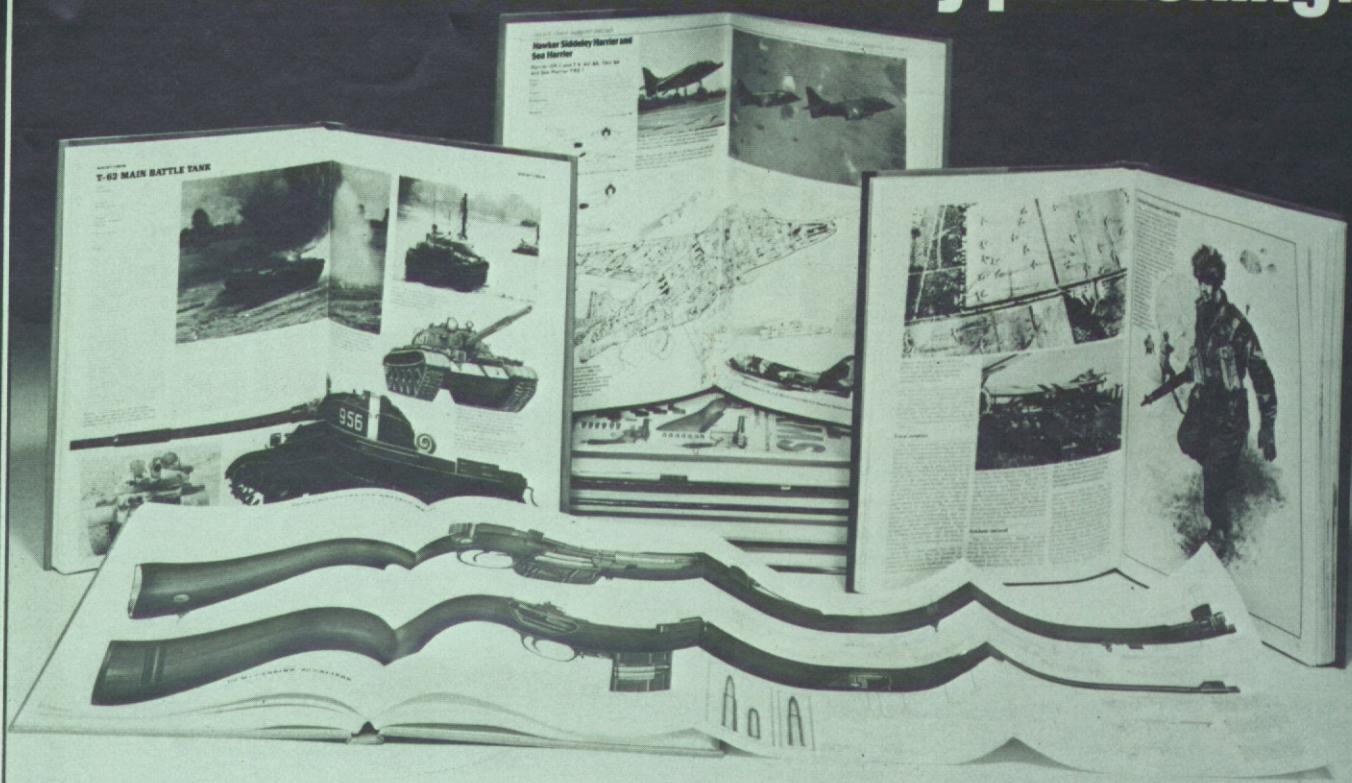
Since 1929, war years excepted, Mr Neatherway has been making an annual pilgrimage to the World War One battlefields and particularly the British cemeteries and memorials in Northern France and Belgium. This booklet, illustrated by War Graves Commission photographs, gives his impressions of some of them and could constitute a guide for others who wish to follow his example.

Paceprint, Ashby Road, Coalville, Leicester, LE6 2LE, 75p plus postage



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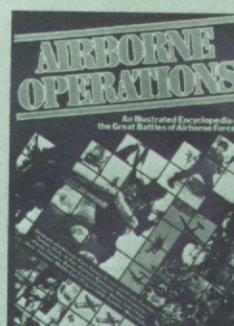


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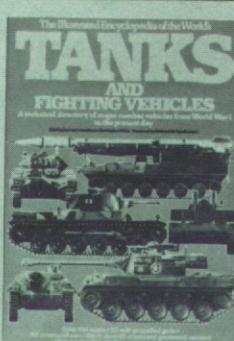
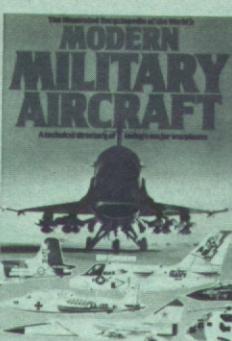


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# Soldier

