

October 1977

20p

Soldier



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Contents

- 5 See-the-Army Diary
- 5 New badges poster
- 7 Museums: The Wellington Museum
- 9 SOLDIER to Soldier
- 11 Army School of Physical Training
- 14 How Observant Are You?
- 15 Humour
- 16 Scorpion and variants
- 18 New medals chart
- 19 Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich
- 20 New Baskeyfield VC print
- SOLDIER News pull-out supplement
- 27 Record reviews
- 29 Reader Services
- 33 Military models
- 34 Junior sappers' Highland exercise
- 39 Letters
- 40 Collectors' Corner
- 40 Reunions
- 43 Prize competition
- 45 Book reviews



FRONT COVER

Under the blistering African sun, a soldier of C Company, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, dashes into action on Exercise Sun River in the parched bush land of The Gambia where infantrymen hope to train again every year from now on. Picture by Paul Haley.



BACK COVER

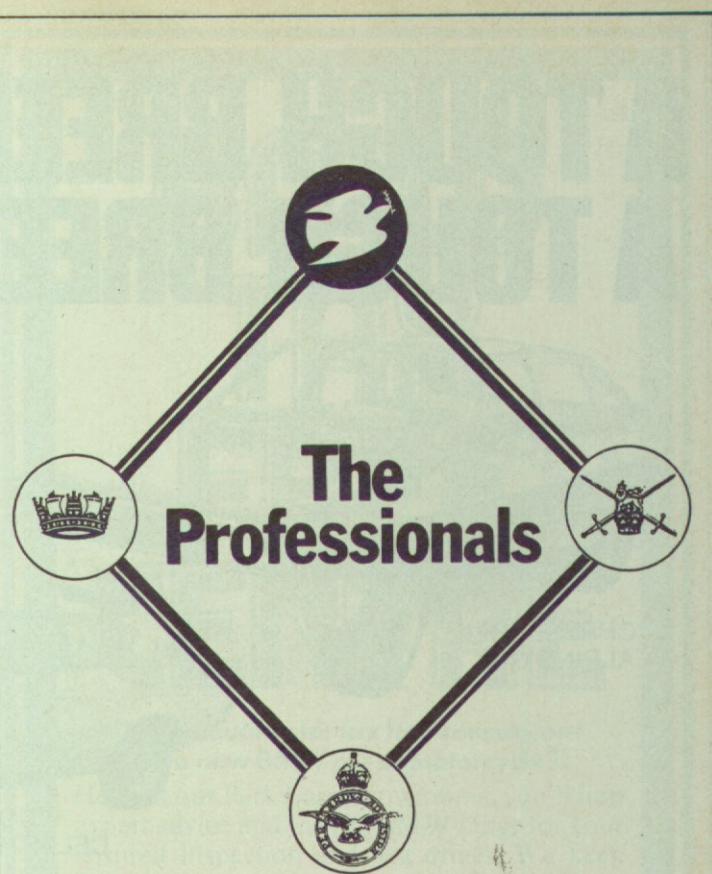
Brightening Sheffield Tri-Service Display is local beauty queen Julie Moxon, pin-up of 13th/18th Royal Hussars (see SOLDIER, July, News 1). Putting her on net with the headset is Lance-Bombardier R Jackson, Royal Horse Artillery. Picture by Paul Haley.

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

See-the-Army Diary



OCTOBER 1977

- 17 Battle Show (Red Devils).
- 25 Berlin Jubilee Tattoo, Deutschlandhalle (25-30 October).
- 29 El Alamein Northern Reunion, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

DECEMBER 1977

- 3 Gala Concert, Royal Festival Hall, London (Kneller Hall Band and Trumpeters, John Georgiadis, Patsy Gilland, London Symphony Chorus) (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).

JANUARY 1978

- 21 Scottish Military Collectors Society militaria fair, Glasgow.

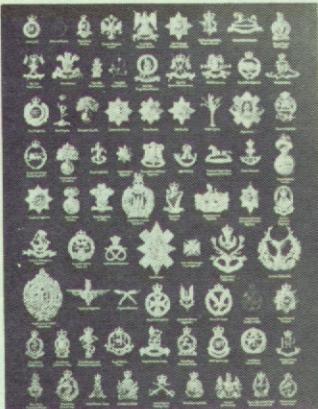
JUNE 1978

- 23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June).

SEPTEMBER 1978

- 23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Edinburgh (provisional).
- 24 Laying up of Old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Ayr, and march past (provisional).
- 25 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow (provisional).

Army Badges



Yes, you've seen this before — in your daily paper as an Army recruitment advertisement showing all the badges of the Regular Army. It proved so popular that the advertisement was reproduced in poster form and issued to the Army.

Now it is available through **SOLDIER** to the general public. If you don't know all today's Regular cap badges or if you just want an interesting wall decoration, send for this poster now. Its overall size is 30 x 20 inches (762 x 550 mm) with a picture area of 23 x 18½ inches (602 x 475 mm).

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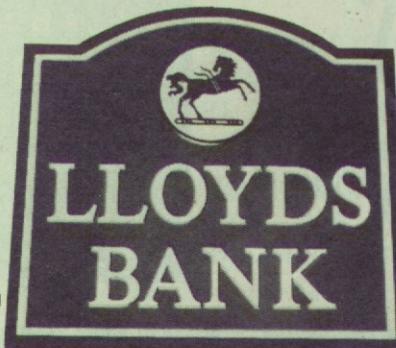
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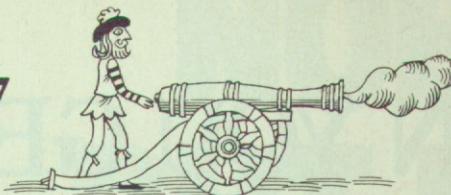
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THE WELLINGTON MUSEUM

DESIGNED BY ROBERT ADAM and once known as Number One, London, Apsley House at Hyde Park Corner was the home of the first Duke of Wellington. Presented to the nation by the seventh duke, Apsley House serves today as the Wellington Museum.

For SOLDIER readers one of the most interesting rooms is the Plate and China Room, or 'museum' as it was called in the Iron Duke's time. A wall case containing 16 swords and daggers includes the French sabre — the hilt made by Napoleon's goldsmith — which the Duke carried at Waterloo and nearby are ranged ten of his batons, including the staff of the High Constable of England and a gold field-marshall's baton presented by the Prince Regent.

The entire centre of the room is taken up by a large display case containing the Duke's orders, decorations and medals, among them the silver Waterloo Medal given at his suggestion "not only to the higher officers, but to all ranks alike, a thing unprecedented," the Orders of the Garter and Bath, the Spanish Order of the Golden Fleece, the Russian Order of Saint Alexander Nevsky, the Prussian Order of the Black Eagle, the Danish Order of the Elephant and the Austrian Imperial Order of Maria Theresa. Another important exhibit is the Collar of Honour of enamelled gold presented by George IV.

Here too are personal relics and other objects of interest such as the Duke's travelling canteen, his dressing case with shaving brushes, razors and medicines; his telescopes and snuffboxes; the key of Ciudad Rodrigo, presented to him after the capture of the city; Napoleon's court sword taken from the Emperor's carriage after Waterloo; slips of prepared skin bearing pencilled orders by Wellington to his unit commanders at Waterloo; and two trays of bronze medals commemorating British victories in the reign of George III.

One of the most important exhibits in the house completely dominates the vestibule. This is the colossal nude statue of Napoleon Bonaparte carved from a single block of Carrara marble by Antonio Canova and standing more than 11 feet high.

The main staircase, with its cast-iron panels bearing the repetitive design of the ducal crest, leads to the main rooms, all of which have their quota of the magnificent and varied collection of pictures acquired by

the Iron Duke, including works by Rubens, van Dyck, Correggio, Lawrence, Reynolds and Velazquez.

Most important of the first-floor rooms is the 90-foot-long Waterloo Gallery where the Duke held his famous Waterloo banquets from 1830 to 1852. The original banqueting table and chairs and the 26-foot-long centrepiece of the silver and silver-gilt Portuguese service presented to the Duke in 1816 by the Prince Regent of Portugal are now in the dining room.

In the Striped Drawing Room can be seen selections from the Saxon service of Meissen porcelain presented to Wellington by Frederick Augustus IV of Saxony and the Austrian service of Viennese porcelain presented by Francis I of Austria. Not to be overlooked is the silk tricolour standard, one of which is traditionally presented by the Duke of Wellington to the Sovereign on each anniversary of Waterloo.

A glazed alcove leading to the dining room shows off a bronze statuette of Field-Marshal Prince von Blücher, Wellington's ally at Waterloo. Among the many relics in this room, in which the Waterloo banquets were held until 1829, are the Duke's massive oak sideboard which still stands in its original position, a Sèvres breakfast set presented by Louis XVIII, another breakfast set in its specially fitted travelling case which was taken from Joseph Bonaparte's abandoned carriage after the battle of Vitoria (1813), and the silver-gilt Waterloo Vase presented to the Duke of Wellington in 1825 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.

John Jesse

Officer-in-charge: Mr H V Percival
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The 1978 Army Calendar takes job opportunities as its theme and develops this from a cover montage of advertisements by pinpointing each of the 12 full-colour photographs of men and women soldiers at work with a typical 'situation vacant' clipping from a newspaper. Each month's picture is 15½ inches (392mm) wide by 9¾ inches (250mm) deep with below it a calendar strip with the dates and days picked out in yellow (Saturdays and Sundays) and white on a black background.

January features an Abbot self-propelled gun with a young subaltern and crew of the Royal Horse Artillery in Germany, the 'situation vacant' advertisement calling for 'Manager required to take charge of wide range of equipment and small team of specialists.' February, seeking an aerial rigger with 'an interest or qualifications in technical subjects essential,' depicts a Royal Signals rigger at work in Hong Kong.

The March cover, of a Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters infantry patrol in Northern Ireland, stresses 'initiative and ability to work under pressure as a member of a team.' A Royal Engineers ferry in Germany pinpoints in April the opportunities for training as an engineer while May highlights 'International police work' with a picture of Royal Military Police in Berlin.

June turns to the Women's Services with an advertisement for a qualified state registered nurse and a picture of a Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps nurse in Cyprus. July switches to the ceremonial — a Queen's Escort of the Household Cavalry in Edinburgh. Men of the Queen's Regiment in Belize's jungle illustrate August's 'lively young people needed for exciting but demanding job' while September offers training to become a technician 'in a large organisation handling specialist equipment' — the picture is of Royal Corps of Transport and Royal Army Ordnance Corps men unloading ammunition in Hong Kong.

'Drivers needed for all types of vehicles... Experience not necessary as expert training will be given' is illustrated in October by Chieftain tanks of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in Germany. November shows a soldier of The Light Infantry in Hong Kong ('Good facilities for sport and recreation') and finally December features men of The Royal Anglian Regiment on exercise in snow-bound Norway.

Order your Army Calendar 1978 now — it will be despatched to you as soon as it is available from the printers. Send a UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order for £1.15 (UK), £1.05 (BFPO) or £1.35 (elsewhere) to **SOLDIER** (AC 178), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

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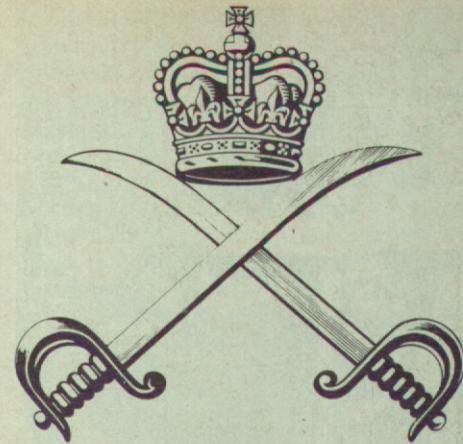


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Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt

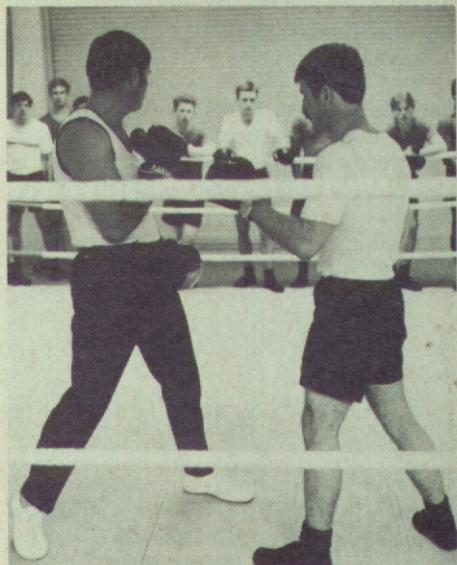


IT'S NO CAKEWALK trying to get into the Army Physical Training Corps. For as a student instructor at its Aldershot school you have to run between lectures and lessons. Only the staff can walk.

But, as the Army School of Physical Training's commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel John Moore, points out, it is brains as well as brawn that assures a place in the corps' strength of 400 or so and the intake represents about five per cent of the 300-plus applicants bidding for the three annual courses for would-be instructors.

The school is still affectionately known as 'the muscle factory' by its staff. But a much greater emphasis than in the past is now placed on the academic aspects of physical training. Said Colonel Moore: "We used to think of physical training instructors as muscle from ear to ear. Nowadays we require very high standards of intelligence as well as physical capacity."

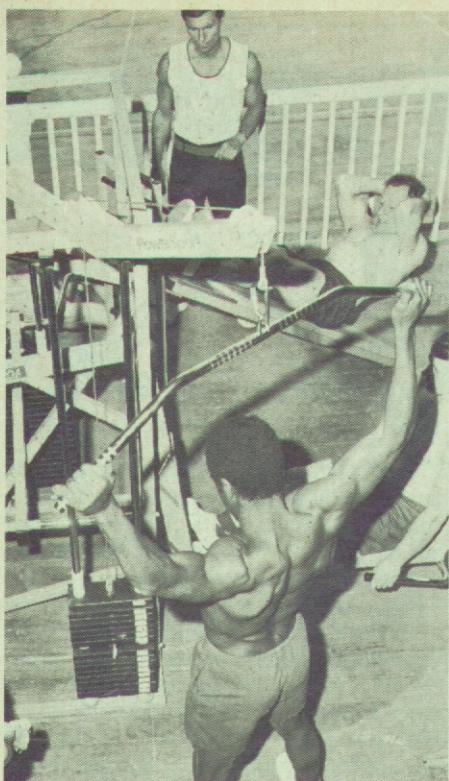
In effect, the school is a teacher training college — this year it will for the first time award its own diplomas. And it is a source of constant chagrin to qualified PTIs that their skill and expertise is not yet recognised as a teaching qualification in Civvy Street. Colonel Moore commented: "In a civilian PT college it takes three years to get a teacher's degree. Instructors come out of the corps aged 35 to 40, after 21 years in the Army and 17 years' PT training, with a lot of qualifications — and a 22-year-old with a bit of paper gets the teaching job."



Above: Ex-Welsh boxer QMSI 'Chalkie' White in the ring (left) with one of his A1 students.

Top left: Confidence as well as muscle being built in the gymnasium with backward somersaults.

Left: Life-saving techniques are taught in the school's swimming pool. Civilians use this too.



Above: QMSI Barry Johnson looks on as a squad of Ack-Eyes works out on one of the multi-gyms.

Top right: Students learn human physiology in a class led by their instructor, SSI Cass Clay.

Right: Fencing master QMSI John Larkham in the school's fencing room with students.

Bottom right: The girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps pick up a few tips for badminton.

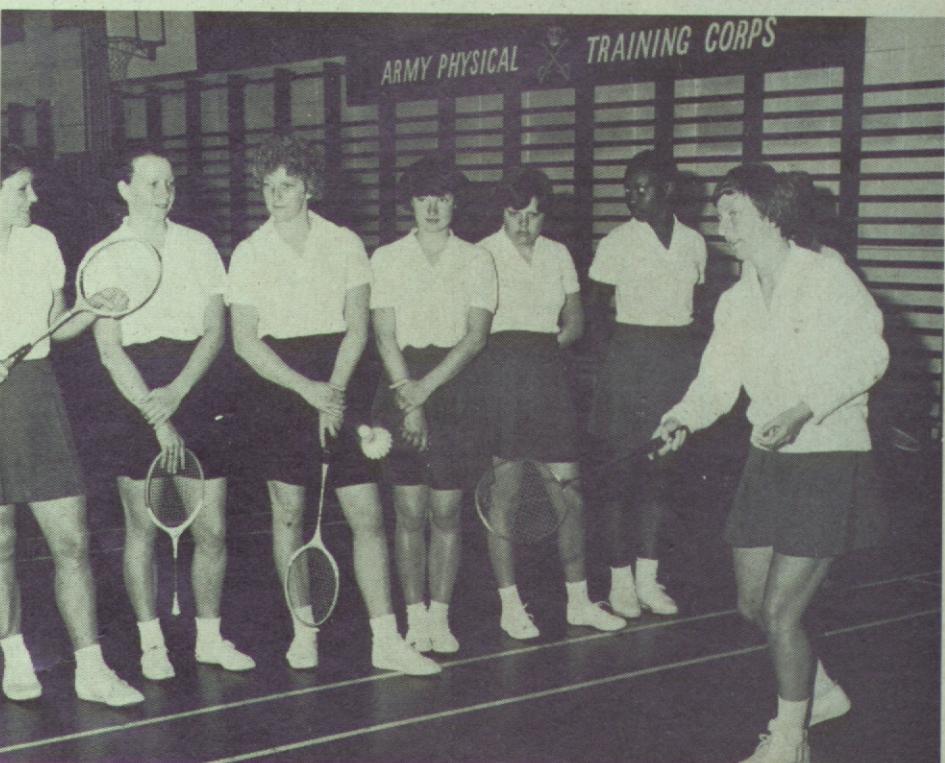
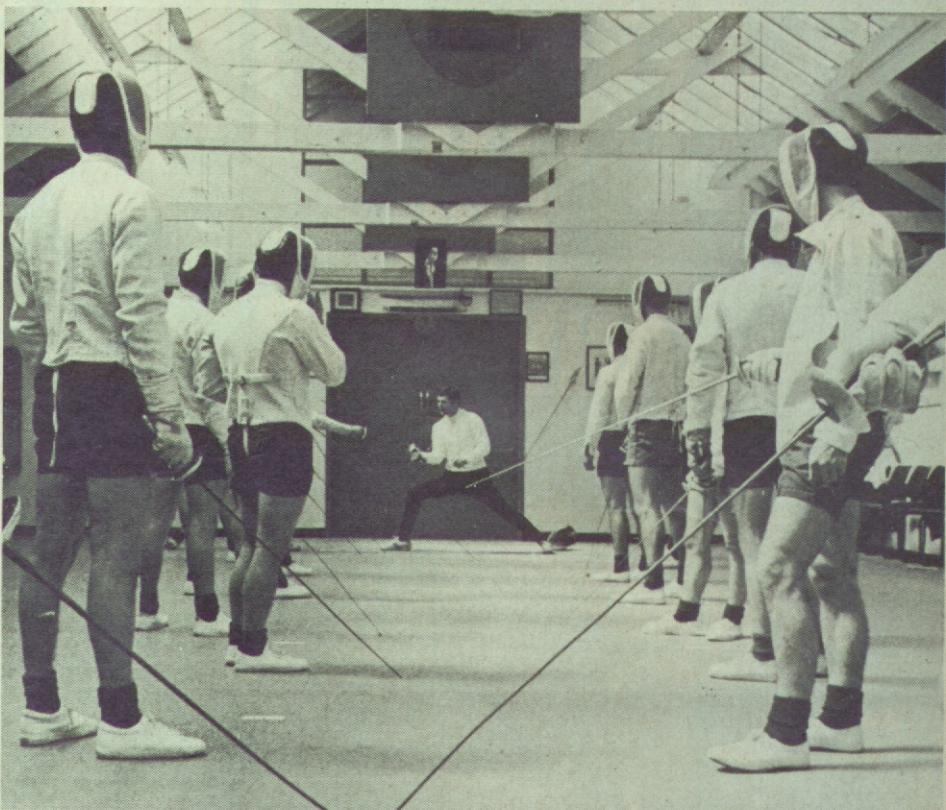
The basic job of the school is to select and train PTIs for the APTC. To this end, three courses a year share some 360 'Ack-Eyes' (assistant instructors) — the young hopefuls at the rank of corporal or lance-corporal who have risen from the ranks of their units to help out the fully qualified PTI there.

Once on the course, the Ack-Eyes are carefully graded and the very best are put on a year's probation with their units to work under their PTIs. Then they come back to the school as advanced AIs for a further weeding-out process. By this time the original 120 are whittled down to 40 or so.

A further ten may well drop out after another three weeks or so and the rest stay on for another three months — the duration of the initial Ack-Eye stage at the school. One third of the group then stay on and the rest go back to their units as advanced AIs. As junior probationers at the school, the remainder stay on another three months and the cream then spend a similar time as senior probationers. This ultimately leaves some 12 to 18 highly trained experts to go on to join the corps' 364 non-commissioned officers and 34 officers.

The school aims to train PTIs as physical fitness experts, not specialists in specific sports as used to be the case. It is expected that enthusiasts in units will be able to coach in specific sports. The PTI will work closely with him to ensure that sportsmen get the right kind of training to suit their particular pursuit.

On a broader scale, a commanding officer looks to his PTI to keep all his men fighting fit. So a PTI has to be prepared to produce a schedule of training that will suit a battalion posted from Rhine Army to, say, Belize with





The Army Physical Training Corps came into being in 1860 as the Army Gymnastic Staff when Major F Hammersley, of The West Yorkshire Regiment, and twelve selected non-commissioned officers — ever afterwards dubbed 'the twelve apostles' — attended a course at Oxford University.

They set up the School of Physical Training in Wellington Lines, Aldershot, and the now modernised headquarters, depot and school still bear Major Hammersley's name.

Appropriately, the Army's fitness specialists in those early days went from strength to strength and numbered 172 at the outbreak of World War One. By 1918 their numbers had swelled to 2299. Post-war demobilisation cut the figure to 150 by 1922. The Army Gymnastic Staff was renamed the Army Physical Training Staff; it became a fully fledged corps in 1940.

During World War Two the corps grew once more to a strength of some 5000 and some 22,000 students passed through the Army School of Physical Training; scores of others attended sub-

sidiary schools and courses. Corps members fought and sometimes died beside the men they trained and they won 82 gallantry awards and commendations. Some became paratroopers and four were killed and 16 captured at Arnhem. In North Africa some went behind enemy lines to distinguish themselves with the embryonic Special Air Service regiment.

Peacetime once more brought a diminution of the corps. Regimental amalgamations in the late 50s, followed by the end of national service a few years later, further honed down the strength. The APTC has now stabilised at its present level of just under 400 officers and NCOs.

Aldershot is still the focal point of the corps today and its courses for would-be instructors include students who have spent their first three weeks at the Rhine Army School of Physical and Recreational Training at Sennelager. An adventure training wing in Ripon, Yorkshire, trains specialist instructors while United Kingdom district or area schools administer courses for Army sportsmen across the board.

its tropical environment, or plan a programme to keep up to the mark men confined within cramped conditions in makeshift camps and barracks in Northern Ireland.

As fitness specialists, the school's students have to grasp a firm knowledge of anatomy, physiology and the psychology of sport. Many national and international sportsmen know and respect this expertise. They come back time after time to prove it.

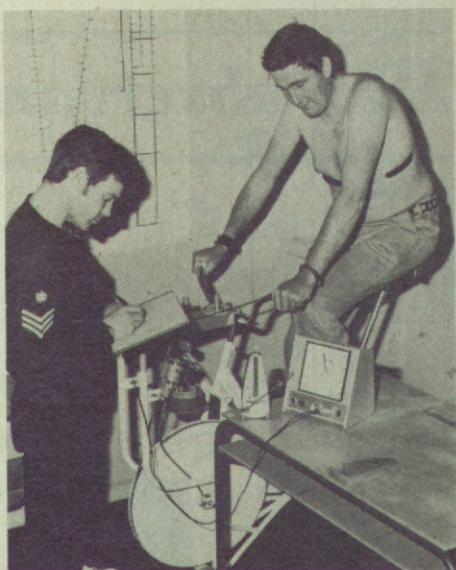
For the school does not only deal with the Army. Some 1200 civilians a week use it for training. Apart from the local sports organisations, which include two athletic, five badminton, two fencing, two boxing, three judo, two football, two gymnastic, two netball and four swimming clubs, national teams too make use of the school.

At weekends, national gymnasts, hockey players, pentathletes, handball players, fencers, boxers and judo experts are there. They are joined by the national biathlon team (organised by Colonel Moore), skiers and Olympic wrestling, hammer and pole vault squads.

The school staff boasts a number of top-class performers too. There is an ex-England pole vaulter, a Great Britain orienteer, an ex-Wales boxer and a British pentathlete. Colonel Moore himself has taken part in three Olympic Games as a cross-country skier and fenced for Great Britain for some time.

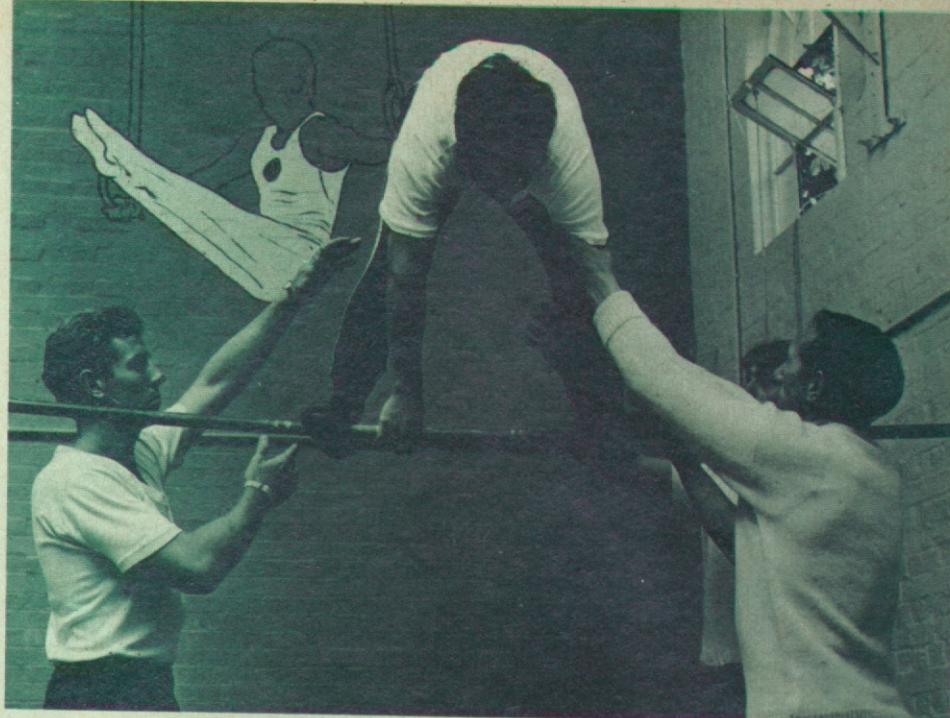
Research plays a large part in the school's activities and benefits sport as a whole, not just the Army. Building is due to start next year on a biological laboratory which will house all manner of measuring and testing apparatus as well as five large lecture rooms, each of which will literally have a skeleton in its cupboard . . . for study purposes.

This project is Colonel Moore's pride and joy and he confidently predicts it will be "easily the most advanced laboratory of its kind in Great Britain." But keen as he is on progress, he does not advocate change for change's sake. He blocked plans to demolish and rebuild some of the fine old Victorian facilities at the school. Fox Gymnasium and some of its surrounded specialist rooms still



Top left: The Army excels at gymnastics and QMSI Jim Wilson (in sweater) is an expert.

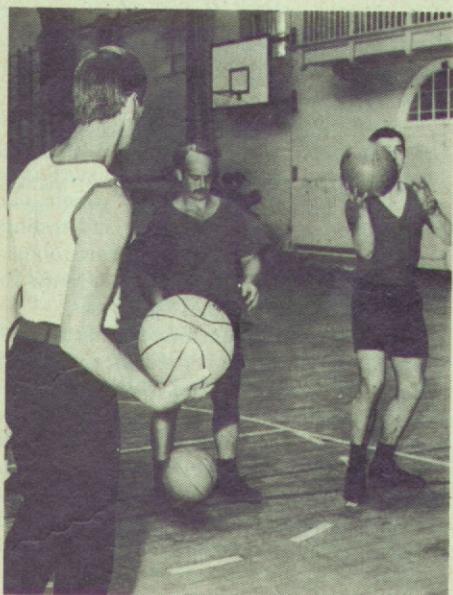
Above: SSI Frank Mudie puts a well-padded Mike Starke through some VO2 test paces.



Top left: An improvised raft for a 'guinea pig' on the life-saving course in the swimming pool.

Above: Perched on a bar, a student teeters on the brink while his gymnastic style is improved.

Left: A basket ball session in the gym for this group of Ack-Eyes taking the school's course.



sturdily carry out their functions as well as, if not better than their flimsier modern counterparts.

The school's staff of some 30 — including three Women's Royal Army Corps instructors, a Royal Marine and an Australian soldier on exchange — find themselves personally bound up with the new technology of sport. They carry out regular tests on 'guinea pigs,' using the VO₂ system which tests the potential of the heart and lungs, and many keep records of their own performances on the apparatus to gauge the effi-

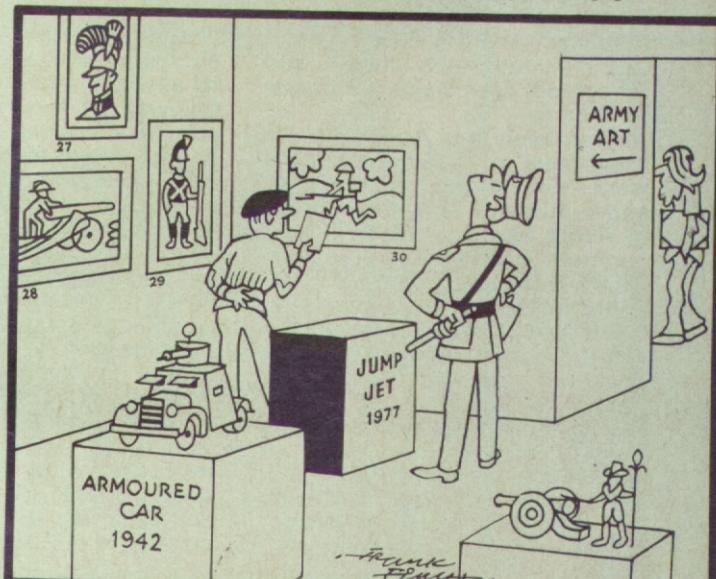
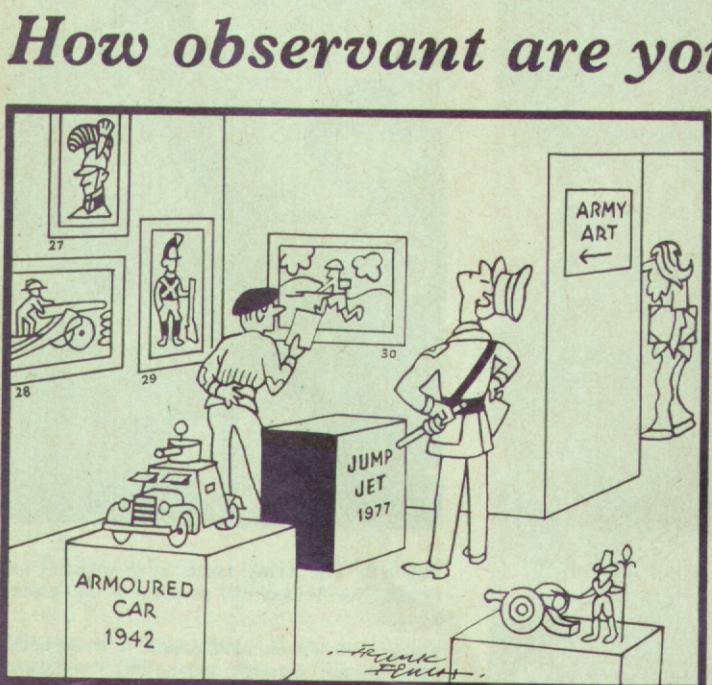
ciency of their own personal fitness training.

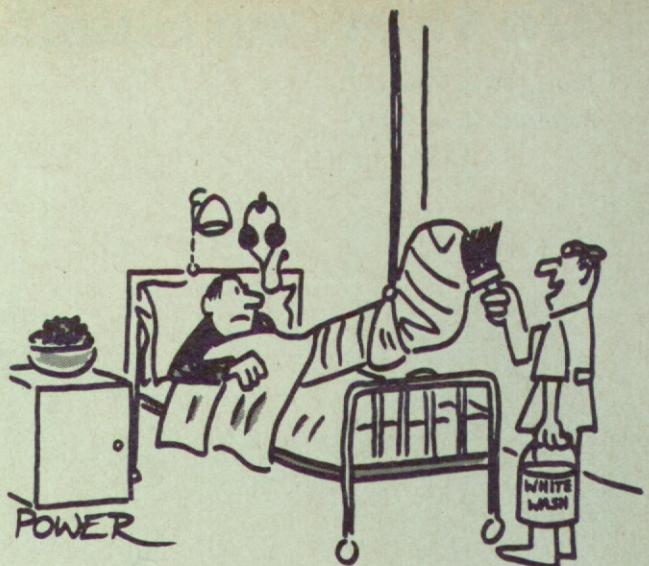
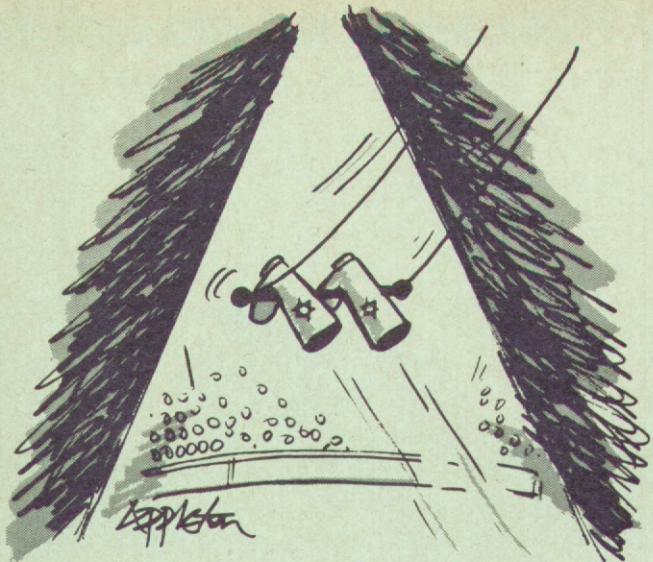
There will be facilities for taking microscope samples of muscle tissue to determine its suitability for various sporting events. And at present the school is carrying out a research programme to try and discover a method of testing whether or not the controversial blood-doping technique of storing 'peak-fitness' blood for later re-infusion can be detected.

"Our sergeants know more about advanced physiology than many national coaches," said Colonel Moore. This assertion was corroborated recently when the BBC television sports circus, Superstars, brought top athletes to the school for filming. One of the instructors was to be seen explaining the muscular physiology of the arm to world light heavyweight champion boxer John Conte.

Physical fitness is the name of the game and it is a game the Army School of Physical Training plays to the full. "Quite simply," said one staff member, "we are THE fitness specialists."

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 40.

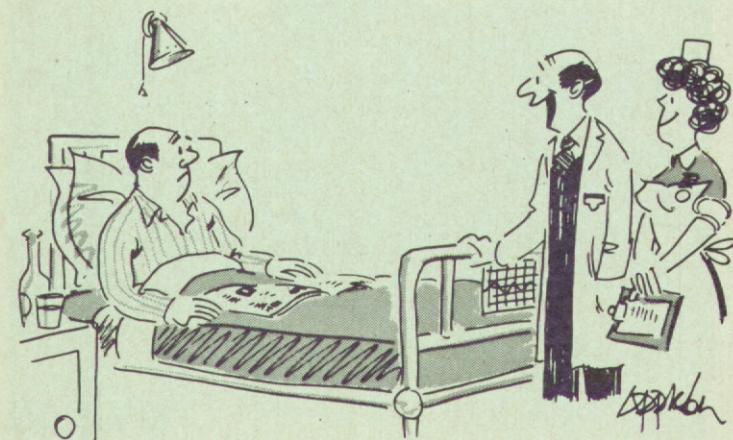
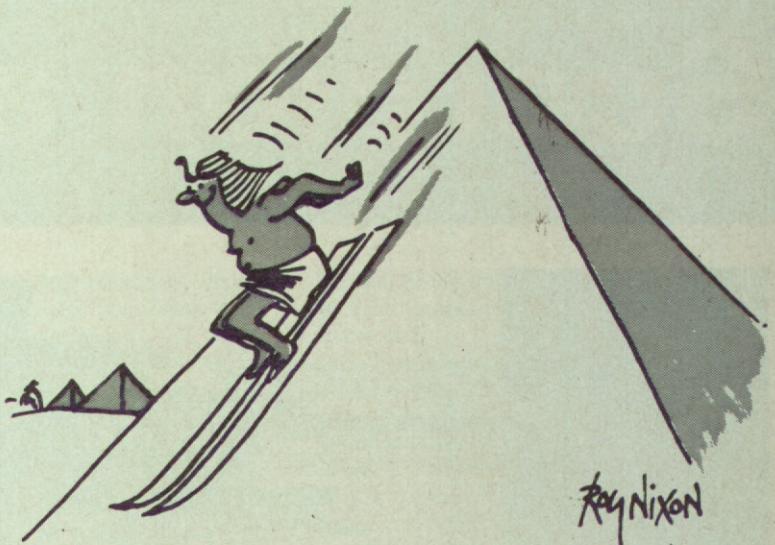




HUMOUR



"MMMM! I love the smell of goulash!"



"... and if that doesn't work, we can always try euthanasia!"



"Take one when you go to bed and one if you wake up in the morning."

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt



Scorpion and sons



SCORPION

A NEW FAMILY of tracked vehicles roared over a Salisbury Plain horizon into the British Army as a whole new generation to equip soldiers of the Eighties.

Leading the way, with a 76mm gun sting in its tail, was the Scorpion tracked reconnaissance combat vehicle (CVR(T)). Although most easily defined as a light tank, Scorpion is designated as a reconnaissance vehicle for its Rhine Army role with the British forces (see *SOLDIER* December 1973).

Scorpion has a fully traversing turret like its predecessor, the wheeled Saladin still in service. But the gun has been updated and is much lighter than the Saladin's, although it retains the four-kilometre range. The new

vehicle can carry 40 rounds of 76mm ammunition and is further armed with two 7.62mm machine-guns.

Speed and mobility plus airportability are highlights of the Scorpion whose 4.2-litre Jaguar engine — a derated version of the standard civilian car engine — can power the 7.93 tonne aluminium armoured hull in battle at speeds in excess of 50 miles an hour.

Next in line came Scimitar, similar to Scorpion in all but its armament — a 30mm Rarden semi-automatic gun particularly effective against armoured personnel carriers at ranges of one kilometre plus. It carries 165 rounds in clips of three.

The same basic hull, but with a radically different superstructure, went to make

Spartan, the armoured personnel carrier version of Scorpion. Its main task is to detect enemy movement under all conditions and it carries devices such as the super-sensitive ZB298 radar. Some are also being fitted with Blowpipe air defence missiles and Spartan is armed with the 7.62 machine-gun with day and night sights and the ability to fire from under armour.

Sultan is designed as a command vehicle and is not unlike Spartan in profile. But it has high sides to give added room inside to accommodate its four-man crew and radio equipment, which is capable of operating three networks although only two are commonly used — one rearwards and one forward. A collapsible penthouse extends from

the rear of the vehicle, when it is stationary, to make more room available for the command staff.

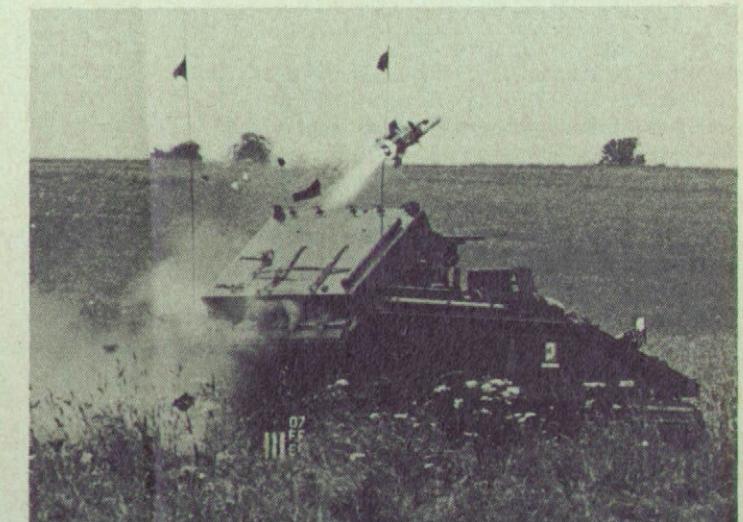
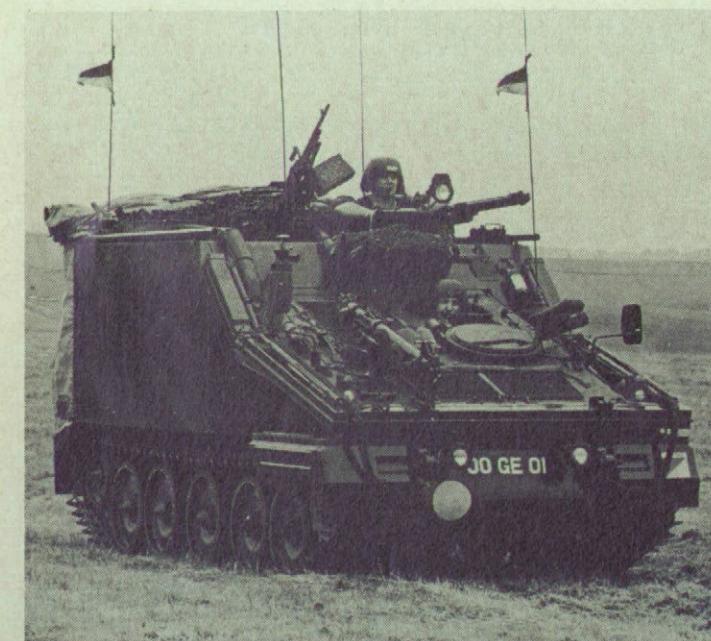
Striker mounts five anti-tank Swingfire missiles in launcher bins on its roof plus five extra missiles in reserve inside the vehicle. The operator can steer the wire-guided tank killers either from the vehicle sighting system or from a separate position some way away. Swingfire, with the deadly purr of a souped-up sports car in flight, can destroy any known enemy tank to a range of four kilometres.

As its name implies, Samaritan is the ambulance version of the series. Similar

over ▶

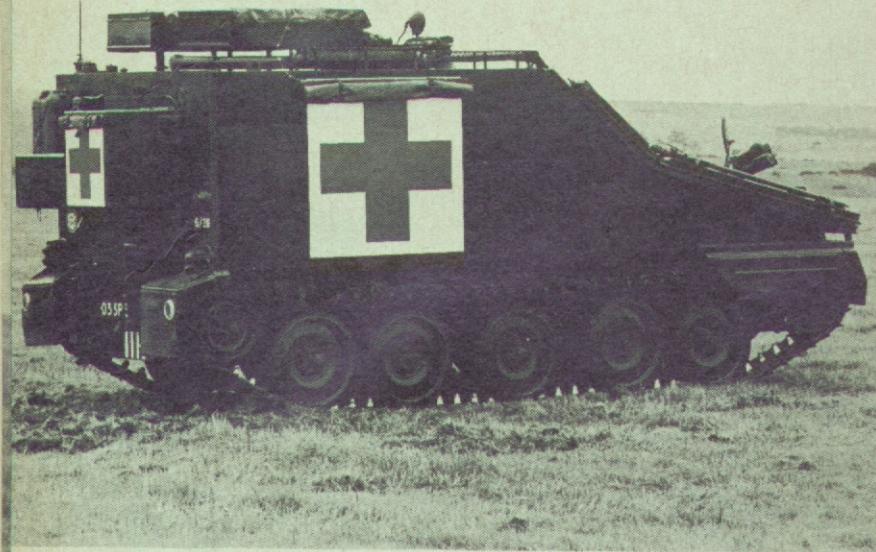


SCIMITAR



SULTAN

STRIKER



from the outside to the high-sided Sultan, it has a crew of three — two of them medics — and will take four stretcher-borne or four sitting casualties. The casualty compartment is fitted with air cooling — an innovation for this type of vehicle in the North-West Europe theatre.

Finally came Samson — the muscle behind the punch of the Scorpion series, designed as a recovery vehicle with a winch capable of a three-ton direct pull. It is not limited solely to Scorpion recovery and can work on any bogged or broken-down vehicle in the 12-ton pull limit. It can also lift up to 1000lbs for performing assembly changes in the field.

All seven Scorpion variants use the same basic components, which makes for ease of maintenance and logistic support.

Initially the United States of America, Canada and Australia showed interest in this British design, perfected at the Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment and built by the British firm of Alvis.

Firm orders were placed by the British and Belgian armies and so far both have received their full complement of Scorpions and Scimitars.

Spartan and Striker go into service soon and Sultan, Samaritan and Samson will follow in that order.

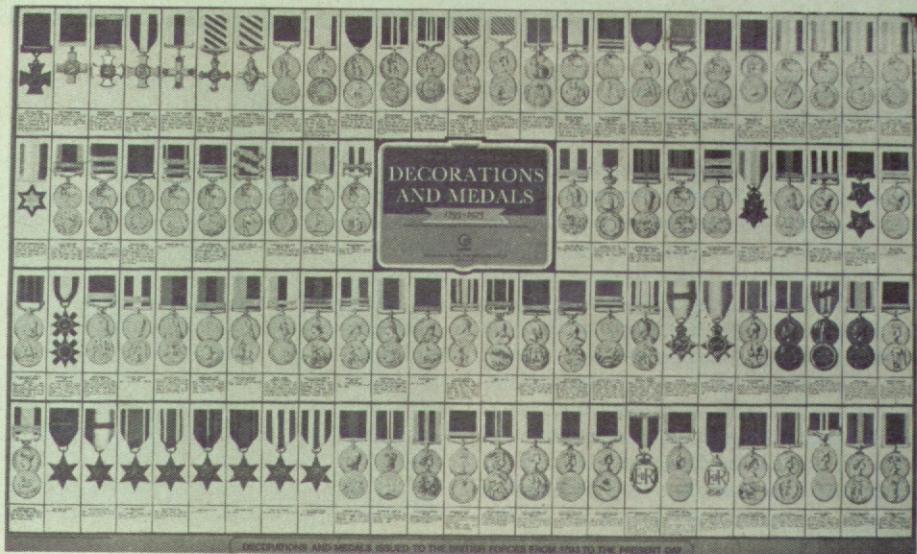
It is hoped that delivery of all variants will be completed in 1980 when more than 2000 Scorpion variants will be deployed in the two armies.

Other overseas countries have added the Scorpion families to their shopping lists. Some 400 — mainly Scorpion itself — have already been sold. The turret, which can be mounted on other vehicles such as the United States' M113 armoured personnel carrier, has also sold well.

In the British Army, Scorpion is deployed in divisional reconnaissance regiments for medium-range reconnaissance tasks. Scimitar is also centralised on such regiments but deployed to battle groups within the division as its close recce force. Striker is added to the Royal Artillery's armoury of anti-tank weaponry and the support vehicles Sultan, Spartan, Samaritan and Samson are then to be deployed to these same regiments and some other units too.

SAMARITAN

SAMSON



FORCES MEDAL CHART

Calling all medal collectors. **SOLDIER** is now marketing this reprint of the well-known Gale & Polden chart showing 'Naval, Military and Royal Air Force Decorations and Medals' awarded over

the two centuries from 1773 to 1973. This full-colour chart has an overall size of 34 x 21 inches (856 x 532 mm) and is just the thing to adorn your den. Don't miss this opportunity.

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QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

FIVE INTO ONE will GO



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Paul Haley

FIVE ARMY HOSPITALS have either closed or are about to close. And in their stead is a spacious, ultra-modern complex of buildings spreading out on the old Shrapnel Barracks site at Woolwich — the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The hospital is not yet finished — still in the course of construction are staff accommodation, a nurses' training school and the futuristic nine-storey tower block officers' mess.

But when it is finally completed next year, the multi-million pound new hospital will take over completely the functions of the five hospitals it has displaced. And it will leave only three Army hospitals in the United Kingdom, the others being at Aldershot and Catterick.

Already closed are Millbank (London), the Royal Herbert (Woolwich) and the Military Maternity Hospital, also at Woolwich. Following shortly will be the Colches-

ter Military Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley — the Army's psychiatric centre.

Brigadier R H Freeman, commanding the new Woolwich hospital, sees the rationalisation as a considerable measure of economy. He points out: "The staff of the five hospitals was 1500 and for this we need only about 800. And of course all the other overheads will be less."

Any change brings forth gripes and these have been strong from Colchester. But Brigadier Freeman says there is no question of abandoning the Essex garrison town.

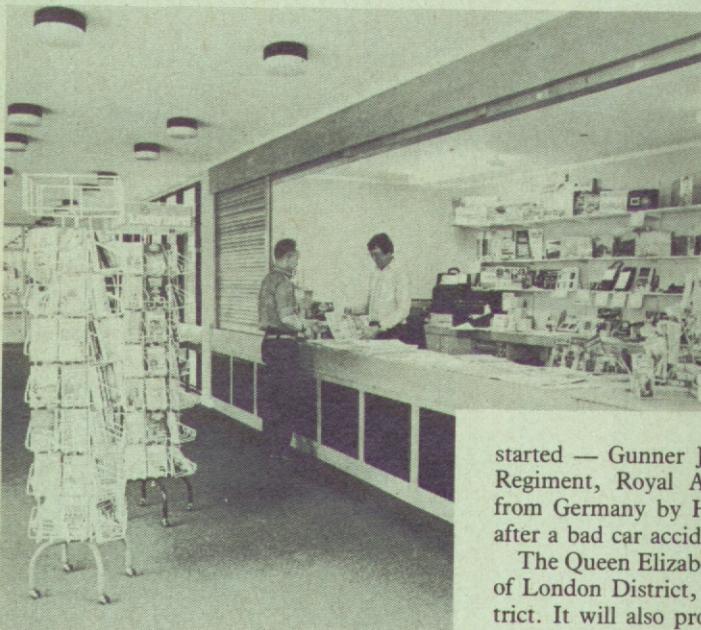
"We are definitely going to provide an out-patient facility at Colchester for soldiers and their dependants and there will be sufficient visits from our consultants to cover it. In addition there will be a medical reception station with a doctor and it is only for hospitalisation that patients will actually come here."

Planning of Queen Elizabeth Hospital started in 1970 and Brigadier Freeman feels that in terms of new hospital building a seven-year timetable is very good. For the first time, Royal Army Medical Corps personnel were on the planning team for a new military hospital.

During the whole of the changeover period, patients still had to be cared for. Millbank closed on 1 April this year and its long-term patients were moved to the Royal Herbert for the interim period until the opening of the Queen Elizabeth in late June.

So just what does the new hospital offer? Well, for a start there will be 464 beds (of which some 300 are now open). It will be the Army's main reference hospital with a team of specialist consultants including the only plastics and burns surgeon and the only neurosurgeon.

All patients evacuated from overseas will go to Woolwich and this process has already



Above: A newsagent's store sells books, gifts and newspapers to all in the new hospital complex.

Top left: A view of Queen Elizabeth Hospital from the nine-storey officers' mess next door.

Top right: Warrant Officer 2 Dave Jordan gives therapeutic instruction in the new gymnasium.



started — Gunner John Muir, of 27 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, was flown in from Germany by Hercules and helicopter after a bad car accident.

The Queen Elizabeth will cover the whole of London District, Kent and Eastern District. It will also provide facilities for local disabled civilians as it has excellent rehabilitation facilities including a large gymnasium and a therapy pool.

Says Brigadier Freeman: "Our primary task is to treat servicemen and families but we shall also continue the work done at Millbank of treating a large number of

retired Army people and Ministry of Defence civilians. As long as we have room here we shall continue to take these people, but with one proviso — they must be referred here by their own doctor."

The hospital is very spacious and light. Built by modern methods, it is on two floors connected by a series of ramps. This design avoids any problems with lifts, and patients, food, bedding and equipment are easily transported. The hospital is also carpeted throughout to reduce noise to a minimum.

Food is perhaps a little more interesting than in most hospitals. The patient selects

BASKEYFIELD VC



In this new full-colour print, artist Terence Cuneo vividly illustrates how Lance-Sergeant J D Baskeyfield, of 2nd Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment, won his Victoria Cross at Arnhem.

During a heavy German attack, Sergeant Baskeyfield's gun destroyed two tanks and a self-propelled gun by allowing them to approach to point-blank range. He was severely wounded and his detachment dead or seriously wounded but he manned his gun alone until it was put out of action.

The 21-year-old sergeant then crawled to another gun and, still single-handed, stopped a self-propelled gun. While preparing to fire again, he was killed by a tank shell. His citation ends: 'The superb gallantry of this NCO is beyond praise. During the remaining days at Arnhem, stories of his valour were a constant inspiration to all ranks.'

Overall size of this print is 26 x 21 inches (658 x 537 mm) and the picture area measures 20 x 15½ inches (557 x 386 mm).

To: SOLDIER (VC1), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU
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Name

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his meal, from a choice of 20 dishes, by marking a card. This is taken to the kitchens and back comes his chosen meal. This service does not of course extend to patients on diets!

Under the household management system operated at the hospital there is no more bed-making, food serving or other chores for the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Service nurses — they are thus able to get on with their medical work.

All of what the brigadier refers to as "the hotel side of the work" is done by QARANC stewardesses. One of them, Staff-Sergeant Yvonne 'Sam' Jenkins, has found a new way of brightening the lives of child patients. On the windows of the children's ward she has painted excellent reproductions of cartoon characters. She first did some of this work on her previous posting at Catterick and her fame spread before her — soon after arrival at Woolwich she was asked to get out her brush and poster paints again.

Said 'Sam': "The children's ward is in my area and I feel I am improving it. Now I've been asked to do 'Page Three' girls in wards seven and eight but I don't think I'll be doing that!"

The wards are nothing like the traditional long rooms down which Hattie Jacques marches in 'Carry On' films. They are sub-divided into what are virtually private rooms. This means that wards are not segregated by either sex or rank. There are some areas with five beds and some with only one. But in each ward there is a central nursing

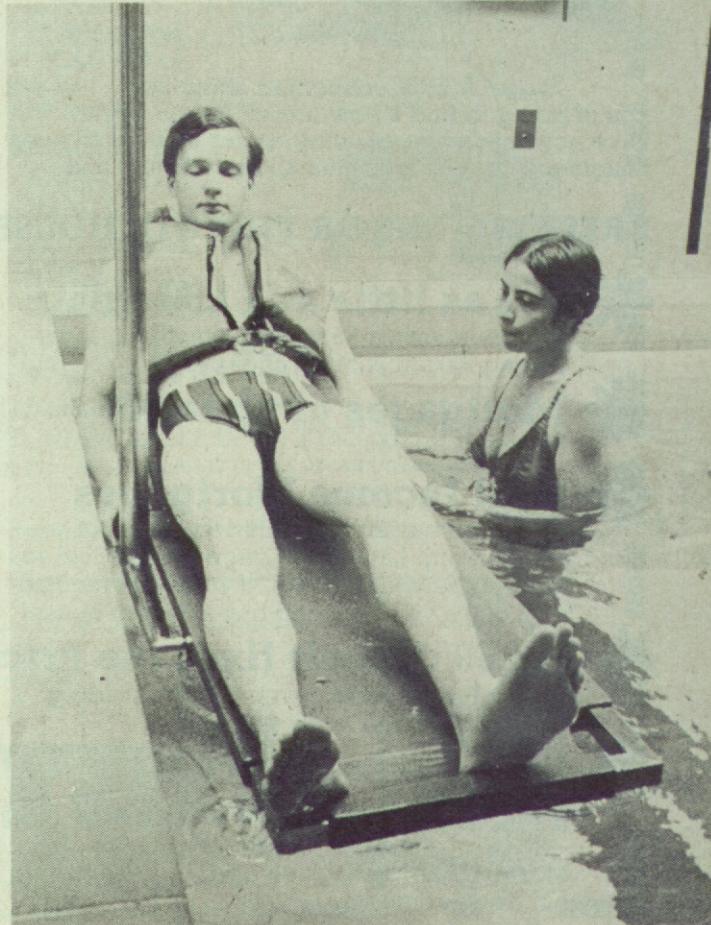
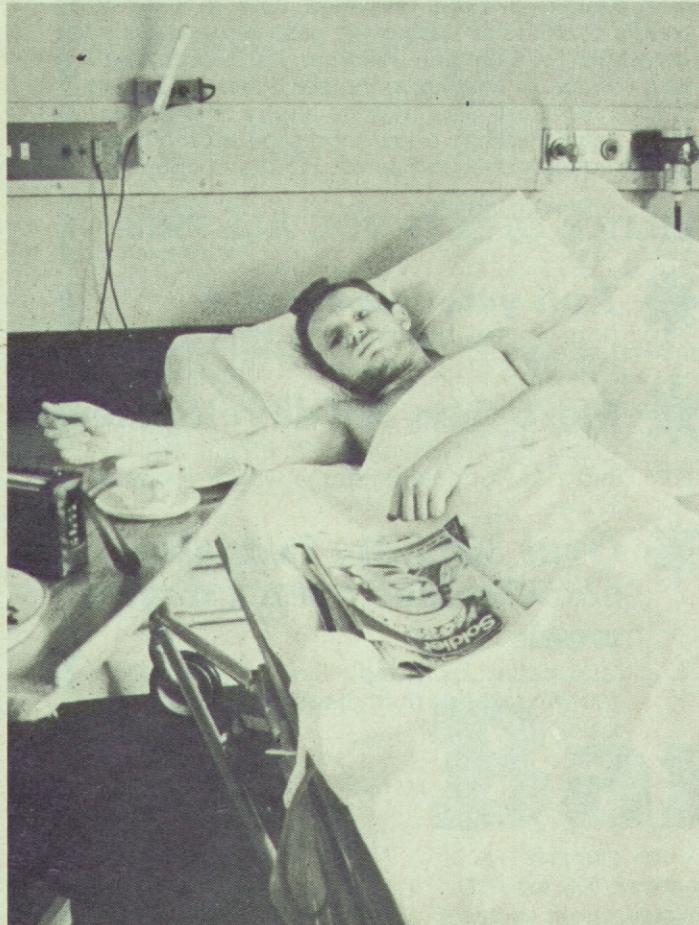
control station and buttons over each bed provide quick contact.

A florist's shop, a newsagent, ladies' and gents' hairdressers and even a bank, complete the facilities. What Florence Nightingale would have made of it all is anyone's guess — but the modern facade and facilities are only aids for continuation of the same selfless work to which she devoted her life.

Above: A light and spacious dining room has been provided for the hospital's busy staff.

Below left: Gunner John Muir recovers from a car accident with SOLDIER by his side in bed.

Below: A patient gets into the swim with Mrs Carol Ross, a physiotherapist, to help him.



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Melbourn	7,250	
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	18,500	
Cheshire		
Broughton—Woodlands	9,500	Melton Mowbray—Dalby Road 7,015
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Irby	10,400	
Marple Hall	*	
Moreton—Garden Hey	11,100	
Noctorum—West View	*	
Poynton—Brookside Farm	*	
Runcorn—Clough Wood	12,500	
Runcorn—Paddock Moor	9,250	
Stockport—Heaton Mersey		
	10,550	
Tattenhall	19,500	
Upton—Wirral	10,400	
Warrington—Locking Stumps	8,750	
	*	
Leicestershire		
Boston—Butterwick	*	
Boston—Fishtoft	11,325	
Chapel St. Leonards—Holiday Village	4,150	
Chapel St. Leonards—Sea Road South	9,280	
Cranwell—Church View	8,900	
Cranwell—Willow Lane	14,700	
Fleet—Eastgate Gdns.	*	
Grantham—Harrowby Lane		
	8,255	
Heckington—The Willows	9,260	
Hogsthorpe—Chestnuts	9,125	
Langtoft—West End	8,690	
Leasingsham—St. Andrew's Close	14,700	
Lincoln—Doddington Park		
	7,845	
Lincoln—Greenslade	7,745	
Lincoln—Sudbrooke Park	20,750	
	*	
Lincolnshire		
Lincoln—Triton Gdns.	8,045	
Lincoln—Wragby, Nettleham Road	8,725	
Metheringham—Church Close	8,760	
Metheringham—Metherdale Gardens	*	
Middle Rasen—Orchard Close	15,000	
Sleaford—Lincoln Rd.	8,795	
Stamford—Pembroke Rd.	9,000	
Waddington—Cliff Gdns.	8,980	
Norfolk		
East Dereham—Beetley	9,250	
Heacham—Lodge Road	8,710	
North Walsham—Yarmouth Rd.		
	9,350	
Tasburgh—Treetops	9,830	
Thetford—Cedar Gdns.	9,070	
Northamptonshire		
Brixworth	9,350	
Northumberland		
Bedlington—Bower Grange		
Crook—Thistleton	7,550	
Esh Winning—Ivesley Park	*	
Ryton—Westwood	9,550	
Ryton—Woodside	8,300	
Stanley—Burnside	6,600	
Essex		
Clacton	14,900	
Colchester—Wivenhoe	10,415	
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Hull—Springhead Grange		
	12,850	
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Pocklington		
Burnby Wold Park	8,595	
Scunthorpe—Bottesford	7,145	
Scunthorpe—Reavesby Avenue	*	
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Burnley—Reedley Park	9,450	
Chorley—Astley Park	8,450	
Huyton—Whitefields Park	10,250	
Scotland—Central		
Ayr—Doonbank	19,750	
Blackwood—Heathfield Park	10,450	
Dundee—Inchture	*	
Dundee—Pitcothie Park	10,250	
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Ecclefechan—(nr. Lockerbie)	8,250	
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Edinburgh—South Gyle	*	
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Glasgow—Darnley Park	12,250	
Kilmwinning—Kilmorack Park	*	
Law—Brackenhill	11,400	
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Aberdeen—Lang Stracht	11,950	
Aberdeen—Skene	9,795	
Auchterlonie—Hillview	*	
Banchory	9,495	
Cruden Bay—Braehead	8,150	
Elgin—Linkwood Rd. West	8,650	
Elgin—Springfield Park	10,145	
Ellon—Castl Park	*	
Craigiehall—The Rock	*	
Ellon—Meiklemill	8,150	
Ellon—Bridge View	11,850	
Fraserburgh—Craigview	9,595	
Inverness—Culloden	*	
Inverness—Glenview	9,250	
Inverness—Torvean View	*	
Inverurie—Netherfield	10,495	
Kemnay—Park Hill	11,195	
Lhanbryde—Kirkland Hill	8,650	
Lhanbryde—Gordon Park	*	
Montrose	8,150	
Mosstodloch—Moss Mill Park	9,500	
Nairn—Acharaich	*	
New Elgin—Ashfield	*	
Peterhead—Glendale	10,195	
Stuartfield—Millpond	10,995	
Turriff—Delgaty Cres.	7,500	
Somerset		
Coxley—Harters Hill	17,700	
Milborne Port		
Gainsborough	10,200	
Wedmore	10,750	
Staffordshire		
Uttoxeter—Byrds Lane	6,800	
Suffolk		
Bury St. Edmunds—Northgate Avenue	10,320	
Bury St. Edmunds—Horringer	9,350	
Needham Mkt—Chain Ho.	9,935	
Sussex		
East Grinstead	*	
Teesside		
Darlington	*	
Billingham—Grange Park	8,650	
Eaglescliffe	*	
Guisborough—Kempian Park	8,450	
Nunthorpe—High Gill	17,900	
Stockton—Elm Tree Park	9,950	
Stockton—Elton Park	9,650	
Yarm—Ingleby Grange	9,650	
Nottinghamshire		
Awsworth	7,500	
Eastwood—Derby Road	9,150	
Mansfield—Chestnuts	10,750	
Mansfield—Old Mill Lane	7,350	
Newark	*	
Shirebrook	7,750	
Northamptonshire		
Brixworth	9,350	
Northumberland		
Bedlington—Bower Grange		
Crook—Thistleton	7,550	
Darras Hall—Ashbrooke	28,500	
Darras Hall—Meadowvale		
	27,600	
Darras Hall—Eastern Way	*	
Darras Hall—Western Way	*	
Heddon Village—Pastures	24,750	
Killingworth—The Faddock	8,950	
Newcastle—Denton Burn	7,450	
Wallsend—Redesdale Park	7,450	
Essex		
Clacton	14,900	
Colchester—Wivenhoe	10,415	
Gloucestershire		
Newent	*	
Gwent		
Chepstow	10,350	
	</	

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Soldier news

CONTINUING HER PROBE INTO THE ARMY'S UNEMPLOYED YOUNGSTERS, ANNE ARMSTRONG FINDS...

Rhine Army jobless toll mounts

At the end of the summer term in Rhine Army, 254 youngsters were left without a job to go to — 98 boys and 156 girls, 51 of them in the massive headquarters at Rheindahlen.

As reported in August, these hapless school-leavers can expect no supplementary benefit to support them — unlike foreign youngsters in the same predicament in Britain.

SOLDIER News exclusive

But I have blacker news too. They cannot at present benefit from the successful job creation schemes and work experience projects that have sprung up back home in the United Kingdom to ease the young unemployed crisis.

This came to light when I attended a one-day youth employment educational and training conference organised by the National Association of Youth Clubs and Youth Aid.

Speakers included members of parliament and Mr Geoffrey Holland, head of planning at the Man-

power Services Commission.

This conference prompted me to do further research into ways jobs could be created for our unemployed youngsters abroad.

I asked myself two questions: Have we done all we can to take up appointments offered by the Government? and: If not, how can we implement both job creation and work experience programmes in Rhine Army?

I then asked Mr Holland to explain how these schemes work in UK. First, job creation. Groups and

organisations wishing to set up a project which will benefit their community can apply for money to do this provided they will employ young unemployed people to do the work.

All sorts of unusual and interesting jobs are involved in these tasks and the jobs are paid. Of course, they last only as long as the project.

I went to see one of these for myself at the Pollyfields adventure playground in Bideford, Devon. Here the assistant play leader was on *Continued on News 2*

New tank-killer decided

The American TOW system is to be the anti-tank weapon fitted to the new Lynx helicopters. This was announced by the Ministry of Defence as part of a £400,000,000 package of new and improved missiles for all three Services.

The package, involving four projects, will create about 3500 jobs in the aerospace industry and about the same number indirectly in supply contracts.

Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, who announced the missile shopping list, said the intention was to provide essential weapons at a price that could be met despite defence constraints.

TOW — an acronym for tube-launched optically tracked, wire-guided — has a range of up to 3750 yards and is believed to have a speed of about 625 miles an hour. The American missile has been chosen instead of its Franco-German rival HOT.

At one time HOT came top of the list because of its superior range and partly because the French and Germans said that Britain must buy their system before being allowed to join in developing the next generation of European anti-tank guided weapons.

However this was before the Hughes Aircraft Company updated TOW's performance, and Britain has to some extent placated Europe by buying Milan, a manportable anti-tank missile.

Operationally either weapon would have met British requirements but TOW is cheaper overall and in foreign exchange costs. A substantial part of the equipment is to be made in Britain under licence.

The only other contender, the all-British Hawkwing missile system developed by the British Aircraft Corporation, was scrapped two years ago.

Dr Gilbert went on to say that the new system will help in standardisation with other Nato countries and will ensure that the British guided weapons industry is given sufficient development work to maintain its design capability, and also "provide the industry with a balanced programme of work covering both development and production extending well into the 1980s."

The other orders are for an air-launched anti-ship missile to replace Martel, improvements to Sea Dart (the Navy's area air defence surface-to-air system) and the US-designed Sidewinder as a short-range air-to-air missile for Phantom aircraft.

Right: A Jeep-mounted TOW missile launcher on Salisbury Plain. The American troops were on an exchange exercise.



Hoots! Elaine's the first

This year the Edinburgh Military Tattoo has made history by introducing for the first time in its 27-year run a lady piper.

All the world knows of the 'Lone Piper' who plays a haunting lament at the close of the show each night from a platform high up on the castle ramparts. On a windy night, playing the bagpipes 100 feet above the hushed audience calls for a cool head and nerves of steel. One Lone Piper is chosen from each participating band and they take it in turn to perform the duty — to thousands the highlight of the show.

This year the Highland dancers include girls from Scottish university officer training corps and the Aberdeen contingent includes a Women's Royal Army Corps Officer cadet who is also a first-class piper.

Eighteen-year-old Elaine Marnoch is a student nursery nurse at Aberdeen Technical College. Her piping history is, in itself, unusual; there is no record of any interest in bagpipe music in her entire family — there's not even a Scottish soldier in the family tree! Elaine says that as a wee girl of seven she was taken by her parents to a show in Aberdeen which featured a girls' pipe band. Her fancy was taken and her father bought her a drum! She didn't like drumming and insisted, as wee girls do, on learning to play

the pipes. Learn, and learn well, she did. She has won four gold medals at junior level at the National Mod and in 1975 was the Scottish ladies' champion piper.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Murray, assistant producer of the tattoo, and one of the finest pipers and judges of the art in the world, insists that Elaine's inclusion in this year's tattoo is no gimmicky sop to women's 'lib' — "Officer Cadet Marnoch," he tells us, "was chosen on merit. The Lone Pipers are the best and she is up there in her own right."

Elaine's reaction: "On the first night, I was terrified at first, but once you start, you concentrate on your piping and forget where you are."



a year's job creation scheme and had two summer helpers working there too.

A memorandum to the MSC for one area in UK quotes figures of 154 people from 17- to 24-year-olds, some with degrees and some with no qualifications at all, who have been found ancillary jobs in youth and community agencies. This too is an area Rhine Army could look at.

The work experience programme started in 1976. Businesses and industries can apply to take youngsters on under this scheme, which caters for 16- to 18-year-olds. Training is for six months and sometimes leads to a permanent job. But in any case it provides valuable experience for a young school-leaver.

And while the course lasts, the trainees get £18 a week — a considerably better deal than supplementary benefit or nothing.

There are difficulties over payment to youngsters but there must be a way round this to meet the needs of Service families in Germany.

I believe that a wide variety of jobs could be available — conservation and environmental tasks, clerical and social work plus workshop and construction activities. All these could be available in Rhine Army.

The Manpower Services Commission is sympathetic to the situation and says it is willing to discuss this with the Ministry of Defence.

The MSC has produced explanatory booklets: 'Where do I go from here?' and 'Opportunities for Young People,' which give the reference numbers and addresses of the various schemes available. Job centres can provide copies or the Manpower Service Commission itself at Selkirk House, 166 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6PF.

Knife fight bravery rewarded

Bravery awards have gone to two Merseyside gunners from the same north-west Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit for their courage, in separate incidents, in tackling armed men.

The Volunteers, Neil Webster (20) and Brian Williams (31), who serve in batteries of 103 Light Air Defence Regiment (V), gained their awards following high commendation from the Merseyside Constabulary and each was awarded the Queen's Commendation for Bravery, the Merseyside Police Committee Award (an inscribed gift) and the Provincial Police Award (a certificate).

The awards were presented to the two men in a ceremony at the Merseyside police headquarters by Sir Douglas Crawford, Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside.

In the first award, Gunner Webster, a general labourer in private life and a TAVR Volunteer since April 1976, following three years in the Army Cadet Force, was commended for disarming a man who had already stabbed his wife with a large carving knife during a violent scene at the wife's home.

In the words of the police citation "he displayed considerable courage in going, without consideration for his own safety, to the assistance of a member of the public who, but for his prompt action, may well have been more seriously injured." He is single and lives in St Helens.

Gunner Davey, of Wallasey, a married man and a joiner in civil life

who has served, with breaks, in the TAVR since 1963, was having a quiet drink in a Liverpool pub when a man re-entered the pub armed with a sawn-off shotgun following an earlier fight on the premises. He threatened the customers and then, with menacing words, held the shotgun at the head of the pub manager.

Gunner Davey grabbed hold of the gun by the barrels and despite suffering a cut to his forehead succeeded in disarming the man, then overpowering and detaining him. It was not until then that the shotgun was found to be unloaded.

The police cited Gunner Davey's display of courage and great presence of mind, in approaching and disarming an enraged man armed with a sawn-off shotgun, as worthy of high commendation.

Depot to close

The Central Ordnance Depot at Chilwell, Nottinghamshire, is to close as part of the planned reduction in civilian staff supporting the Services.

Depot functions will be transferred to Donnington, Salop and Bicester.

Proposals were published by the Ministry of Defence in February 1976 for a restructuring of the Army's logistics which indicated that COD Chilwell should be closed.

The closure of Chilwell was selected as the best way of achieving the maximum economies within the central ordnance depot organisation. Every effort will be made to keep the number of redundancies to a minimum and offer alternative jobs in other defence establishments or with other Government departments. No redundancies are foreseen before 1980.

IN PARLIAMENT

Services angry, says old salt

It was 7.33 am and the House of Commons had been sitting all night when old salt Rear-Admiral Morgan-Giles (Conservative, Winchester) rose to apologise for keeping members out of their hammocks. He wanted to talk about what was wrong with Service pay.

Rear-Admiral Morgan-Giles said that at all levels in the Services there seemed not only to be disappointment but a worrying sort of silent, clenched-toothed anger. Under phases one and two of the Government pay policy, average industrial earnings increased by 22½ per cent in 21 months while the forces had received only 14·9 per cent over 24 months.

"The forces are being squeezed into the straightjacket of the Government's incomes policy whereas everyone else in the country seems to be managing to avoid it," he declared.

He suggested that the Pay Review Body should change its terms of reference so that it would come up with a figure that would give true comparability with industry. The Government could then apply pay restrictions if necessary and take the political odium for doing so.

Mr David Hunt (Conservative, Wirral) said he had received a letter containing three pence in stamps. The writer asked him to pass them on to the Prime Minister as this was the amount of pay increase he had just received.

Replying, Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, said the cornerstone of the present pay policy was strict observance of the 12-month rule. Therefore he could not see any way in which servicemen could expect an additional award before their traditional pay review date next April.

But their difficulties were recognised and as soon as the constraints were eased the Government would do what it could to get pay towards comparability. But clearly it was not possible to recoup what had been lost over two years from a tight incomes policy.

Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, provided Mr Bruce Grocott (Labour, Lichfield & Tam-

worth) with some information on Ministry of Defence railways. He said that in Britain and Germany the Ministry owned four steam and 225 diesel locomotives. There were 607 miles of standard gauge and 100 miles of narrow gauge railway track in current use in rail-served installations.

Armalite (AR 15) rifles had now been authorised for issue on a limited basis to the Security Forces in Northern Ireland, Mr Brown told Mr John Biggs-Davison (Conservative, Epping Forest). He said that for certain operations it had been decided that the Armalite was the best available weapon for defence against terrorist attack.

Mr Ken Weetch (Labour, Ipswich) asked if testing procedures for recruits could be reviewed so that youngsters who had been taught only metric measurements in schools would not be at a disadvantage when facing questions set in yards, feet and inches. Mr James Wellbeloved, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the RAF, said tests containing imperial measurements were already being reviewed.

Mr Brown told Mr J Roper (Labour-Co-Op, Farnworth) that 1153 officers and soldiers serving in BAOR and Berlin had reached a recognised level of proficiency in German. He added that a study was well in hand on ways in which German language training for officers could be improved.

Mr Joel Barnett, Secretary to the Treasury, told Mr Emlyn Hooson (Liberal, Montgomery) that the Inland Revenue had had considerable and detailed discussions with the Ministry of Defence about whether the allowance paid for the cost of a serviceman's travel to place of duty should be taxed.

He continued: "A serviceman normally lives in his unit. The fact that he sometimes lives outside his unit does not affect his being on duty. His travel from outside his unit to the main place of duty is thus between places of duty. Reimbursements of the expense of such travel, therefore, continue not to attract tax liability."

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Guns get own division

For the first time, the British Army has a division of artillery in its order of battle. The Artillery Division has formed in Germany, with its headquarters at Bielefeld.

Its role in battle will be to provide long-range heavy fire-power for 1 (British) Corps. It will also locate and engage enemy artillery and other targets, and provide air defence cover for the corps. In war it would be reinforced from Britain by artillery regiments of the Regular Army and the TAVR.

The division's fire-power will be considerable. It will have a regiment of Lance nuclear missiles, a regiment of heavy 175mm guns with a range of

30 kilometres, a locating regiment with Drone pilotless aircraft and two regiments of Rapier air defence guided missiles.

Pallet pays off

The Committee on Awards to Inventors has made an additional award of £975 to Major H E Attenborough, Royal Engineers, for a suggestion relating to a palletised demolition system. Major Attenborough, who at the time was with Engineer Branch, HQ BAOR, had received an earlier award of £25.

His palletised demolition system (concrete) is a direct replacement for the previous system used for the rapid demolition of some types of bridges, principally masonry and concrete, in time of war. It improves operational readiness and is more efficient and cost effective.

Alf brings home the bacon

Probably the first-ever Army aerial pig-hunt took place in Wiltshire after an accident involving a 32-ton lorry.

The vehicle, carrying 120 pigs from Andover to a bacon factory at Trowbridge, overturned at Everleigh. Ten pigs were killed and 110 escaped into a 26-acre barley field.

Sergeant Alf Elphinstone, a former Blue Eagles pilot, happened to be overhead on a training flight from Netheravon in a Sioux of 2 Flight, Army Air Corps. He saw the runaway pigs and the crashed lorry and landed to offer help.

Police and workers from a nearby farm were having difficulty locating and rounding up the strays, so Alf took off, guided them to the barley field and hovered there until all were collected and carted off in other vehicles.

Created as a result of the restructuring of the Army after the 1975 Defence Review, the new division will be formed from the 1st and 7th artillery brigades, which have recently disbanded with a consequent saving in overheads.

Its commander, Major-General Geoffrey Wilson, has been in Germany since last year as Major-General Royal Artillery with responsibility for the technical proficiency of all artillery in the British Army of the Rhine. In future he will combine the two jobs.

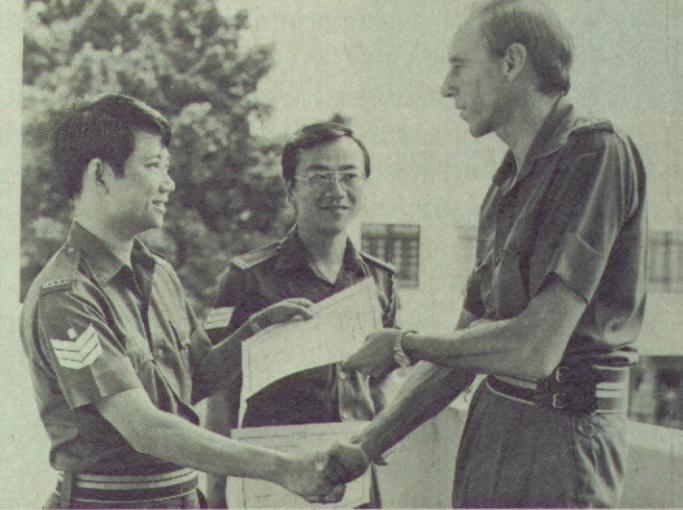
The division's emblem is to be the spear of 1 (British) Corps, on the red-and-blue background of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

New teachers pass their exams

The first two Chinese instructors from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps to obtain civilian teaching qualifications are presented with their certificates (below).

While instructing at Army education centres in Hong Kong, Staff-Sergeant Chan Chi Keung and Sergeant Yam Ming Cho have been taking the Hong Kong Government's two-year in-service course.

Members of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps but serving with and cap-badged by the Royal Army Educational Corps, the two were presented with their certificates by Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Oxley, Chief Education Officer, Hong Kong.



New rifle bang on target



What a difference there is between the standard Army SLR and the 4.85mm calibre British entry in the Nato rifle stakes, as Captain A P Domeison, of The Royal Anglian Regiment, recently found.

He fired the new weapon shortly after his success in the Army skill-at-arms competition at Bisley.

Despite lack of familiarity with the unconventional configuration (the weapon has no butt), Captain Domeison quickly adjusted to the weapon and remarked how comfortable it was to handle and fire.

He then went on to prove his point by firing at a target at 300 yards range with the result shown inset in the photograph.

For comparison, Captain Domeison then fired 7.62mm 'high accuracy' ammunition from an Envoy target rifle with only a very slight improvement over the standard 4.85mm weapon and ammunition.



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To be included in the Register of Electors which comes into force on 16th February 1978, and all subsequent registers while you continue to serve, you must, provided you are 18 years of age by 15th February 1979, make a SERVICE DECLARATION on form F/Vote/33 which you should have received by now from your Unit or Ship. If not, ask for one. (You should, if you are married, also receive form F/Vote/34 for your spouse to complete.)

- * Wives or husbands of members of the Armed Forces are no longer able to register as civilian voters and it is important that you obtain a form F/Vote/34.
- * The forms must be signed and dated not later than 10th October 1977 (15th September 1977 for N. Ireland constituencies).
- * You should then send the form to the Electoral Registration Officer at your local council office at home *, using envelope F/Vote/37 provided, to reach him not later than 16th December 1977.
- * If you, or your spouse, are not 18 years of age by 15th February 1979 you should complete form F/Vote/33 (and your spouse should complete form F/Vote/34) now. This will ensure that, provided you are still serving, you will be included in the Register of Electors and be able to vote as soon as you are 18 years of age.

Fill in your form NOW or you may lose your vote.

*Chief Electoral Officer Belfast by 15th December for N. Ireland residents.

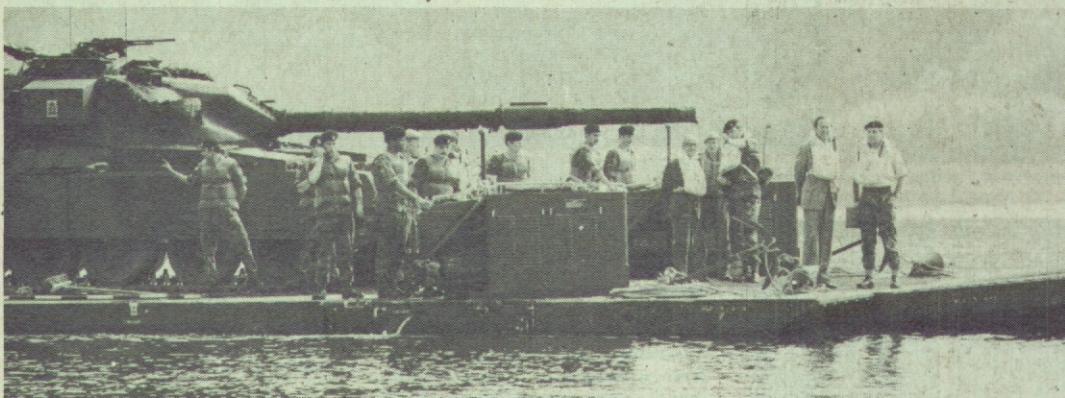
**Your vote matters
-don't lose it**



Latimer moves to Greenwich

The National Defence College is to move from Latimer, Bucks, to Greenwich, London, next summer. As part of the quest for economies a new style shortened course will be launched at Latimer in January and the move will take place in July of August. Meanwhile the senior officer war course at Greenwich will be discontinued.

The Latimer site will be offered for disposal. The decisions fit in with MOD's policy of concentrating the tasks of small autonomous units at major establishments in order to economise on administrative overheads and make the best use of land.



Silver farewell



Husband and wife team Sue and Frank Riley make it a silver farewell to the Far East as they display the second Silver Comstar award to be presented to the Joint Service Communications Centre at Victoria Barracks, Hong Kong, within 12 months.

Signalman Frank and Lance Corporal Sue, who are leaving for home at the end of August, are both data telegraphists who have been working on the same shift in the Centre — without, we are assured, the rank differential causing any problems at all!

Glosters' clerk is commended

A veteran of The Gloucestershire Regiment who fought in World War II and the Korean War, and served during the troubles in Kenya, Cyprus and Aden, has been awarded the Commendation Certificate of the Commander-in-Chief, United Kingdom Land Forces.

The certificate, awarded for outstanding service by civilians employed by the Army, was presented to Mr Reg Panting at the Territorial Army Centre in Gloucester, by Brigadier Tony Arengo-Jones, Colonel of The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Reg retired from active service in 1965 after 32 years but still serves the Glosters as chief clerk at their regimental headquarters in Gloucester.

He joined the Glosters in 1932

and after training at Bristol and Catterick was posted to the 1st Glosters in India in 1934.

He served in Burma during the first campaign of the 1939-45 war, returned to England in 1943 and landed with the 2nd Glosters in France on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He was awarded the Commander-in-Chief's Certificate in 1945 for meritorious service during the war in France and Germany.

After serving in Jamaica from 1947 to 1949 he went to Korea with

the Glosters in 1950 and was captured at the Battle of the Imjin River in April 1951. He was mentioned in despatches in 1953 for service in Korea.

He served in Kenya during Mau Mau, in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles, and won the Radfan Medal in Aden.



Ferry across the Havel

During his recent visit to Berlin the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, began a day's tour of the units of Berlin Field Force by crossing the River Havel on a heavy ferry manned by 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, which was carrying a Chieftain tank of B Squadron, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

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37/10

Continuing the series on pay and allowances, here is the first of four articles on pensions. This one, in question and answer form, deals with soldiers' pensions. Rates quoted are for men — amounts for women are slightly less.

Whether you're thinking of signing on, already serving, or getting married, you should know what your pension rights are.

Money matters

What pension do I get if I complete a full career?

Your pension will be payable immediately on discharge.

If you do 22 years from at least age 18, your pension will be about 32 per cent of the pay of your rank at the time of your retirement. If you have more service than this, you'll get a bigger pension.

The top rate of pension is about half pay. You get this if you have 37 years' service from age 18.

As well as your pension you will be given a tax-free terminal grant of three times your annual pension. For example, a sergeant, at as early as 40 years old, with 22 years' service, will be paid a pension of £1325 a year and a tax-free terminal grant of £3975.

I've done 22 years or more. Does my pension increase after I'm discharged?

Yes, increases can be awarded to you every year. At present the percentage increase is the same as the annual percentage increase in the retail price index. But the increased pension is not normally paid until you are 55.

Nevertheless, under the present rules this does mean that at 55, and from then onwards, your pension will have kept pace, and will continue to keep pace, with the cost of living.

Do people always have to wait until 55 to be paid the increased pension?

No. At present, if you are invalidated out, the increases are paid straight away, whatever your age.

What happens if I do less than 22 years?

If you do at least five years and leave when you are at least 26, you will get what is called a preserved pension and preserved terminal grant. These are not paid on discharge but when you are 60. The amounts of the pension and terminal grant are at present increased every year in line with the retail price index.

Will I get a resettlement grant?

If you are given a preserved pension and preserved terminal grant and are aged over 30 with at least 12 years' service you will get an immediate resettlement grant. The current grant is £1269 — and tax-free.

What happens if I die from natural causes while still serving?

If you are single, a lump sum is

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offered to single man in exchange for help with housework and garden. Ability to drive essential. No objection to other part-time employment being sought. Alternatively, modest wage could be negotiated for full time assistance. Pretty village four miles from Guildford. References required. Box No. 154.

payable to your heirs — about 97 per cent of a year's pay. But, if you have done at least five years after becoming 18, your heirs may instead be paid a gratuity of three times the annual pension you would have got if, instead of dying, you had been invalidated out.

If you are married, with at least five years' service over the age of 18, your widow (or dependent children if there is no widow) will get a lump sum, a short-term family pension and a forces family pension.

The lump sum is either twice the annual pension which you would have got had you completed 37 years' service (for a corporal the lump sum would be £3712) or, if it is bigger, the terminal grant you would have received if, instead of dying, you had been invalidated out.

The short term family pension is your basic rate of pay and is paid for 91 days after your death. After then the full forces family pension starts being paid. In general, this gives the widow half the pension which her husband would have got if, instead of dying, he had been invalidated out of the Army. In addition to a pension for the widow, each dependent child, up to a maximum of two, is entitled to one quarter of the pension their father would have received on invaliding out. This means that a widow with two dependent children gets a total pension of at least that which would have been payable if her husband had retired on the day he died.

Is the forces family pension index-linked?

Yes. At present, both the widow's and the children's elements are increased annually in accordance with the percentage increase in the retail price index. So their pensions keep pace with the cost of living right from the word 'go.'

Anything else?

In addition, your widow may be entitled to a widow's allowance or a widow's pension from the State.

What if I am killed or invalidated out?

Part II of this article, next month, will tell you what benefits you will get if you are invalidated out of the Army and what pension your widow and children will get if you are killed due to Army service.

A last word

It is not possible in a short article like this to give all the ins and outs of the detailed rules — it takes 100 pages of the Pension Warrant to do that. Nevertheless, what you have just read gives a general idea.

It should not necessarily be taken as gospel in your own particular case. If you want more details of your own position, don't hesitate to ask your paymaster.

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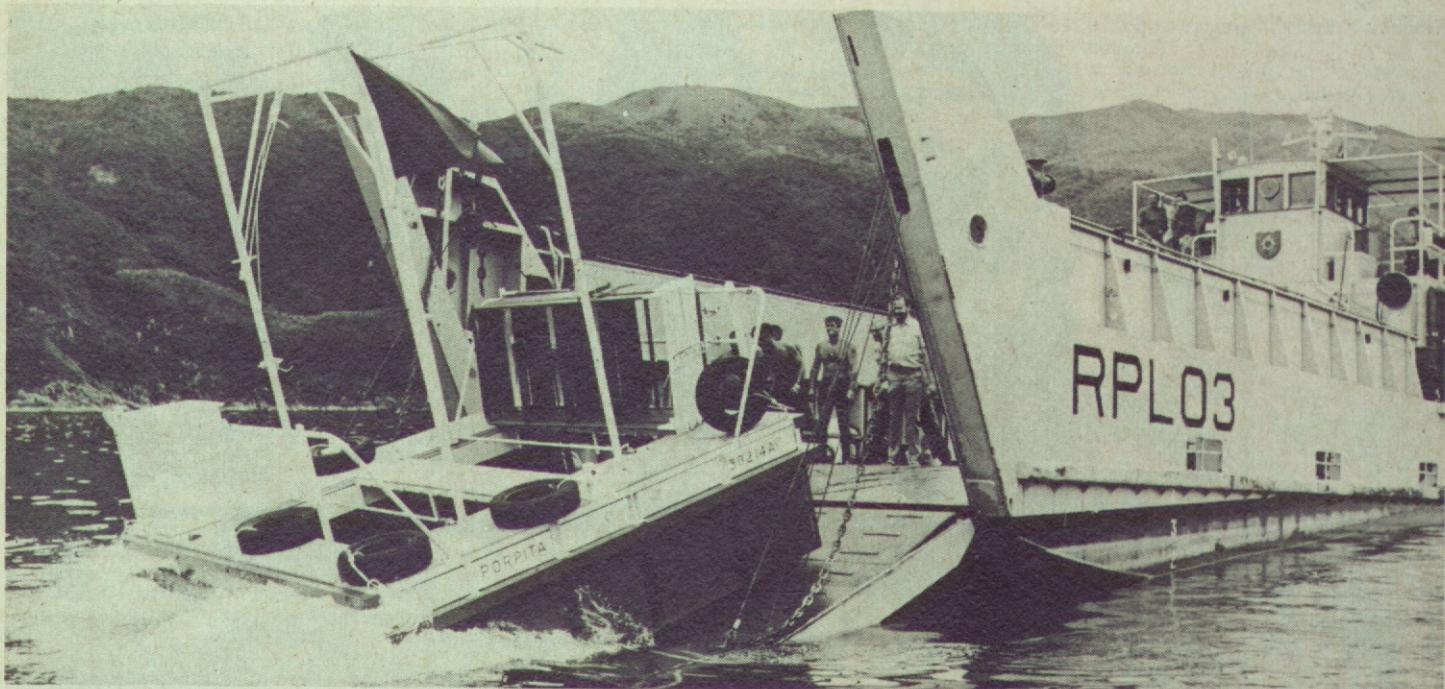


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Landing craft launches raft



The landing craft of Hong Kong's 415 Maritime Troop RCT undertake many unusual tasks in the colony's crowded waters—carrying water and water tanks to drought-stricken villages, taking long-distance swimmers to their start points, escorting canoeists, even on one occasion transporting a double-decker bus to an outlying island—but this is believed to be the first time that one has been used as a launch platform for another vessel.

The raft 'Porpita,' seen here taking to the placid waters of Tai Tam Bay on Hong Kong Island, was built by Hong Kong University as an experimental platform on which to

test the corrosive effects of sea water and marine organisms on materials commonly used in the sea, such as wood, metals, plastics and paint.

Hong Kong is particularly well

suited for this kind of research because it is located in the subtropics where the sea is affected by temperature and tropical marine organisms, and also because it is an

important centre of maritime activities.

The Army was called in to carry the raft and its mooring block from the university to Tai Tam.

As one door closes, another opens. That's life.



Are you in the same position that I was a couple of years ago? Approaching the end of your service career and wondering just how and where you were going to make your way in "civvy street"?

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intensive training, I earned over £6000 by advising people on the right financial security programmes for their needs.

These are just a few of the "facts of ManuLife". If you would like to know more I know John Roberts will be pleased to help. You can ring him on Stevenage 56101 or write to him at ManuLife, ManuLife House, St George's Way, Stevenage SG1 1HP.

Sincerely

Volunteer's red-letter day

Bristol welcomed the Queen with all the enthusiasm she has seen throughout her Silver Jubilee tour, and her visit gave the volunteers of all the Services the opportunity to show something of the strength and versatility of their contribution to the armed forces.

A day of engagements began when the Queen stepped ashore from the Royal Yacht Britannia, to be greeted by a guard of honour of the 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and opened a new dock at Portbury at the mouth of the River Avon.

Meanwhile in the city centre Volunteers were assembling to man a display of stands which they had spent the weekend erecting, which ran the length of the paved area and gardens of Colston Avenue and St Augustine's Parade. At the south end, where an arm of the floating harbour runs up to the city centre, was moored the Severn Division Royal Naval Reserve ship HMS Upton, and close by on Narrow Quay a troop of 266 (Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery) Battery, Royal Artillery, with three 25-pounders fired a 21-gun salute to signal the arrival of Her Majesty. The Queen was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh. Prince Edward had arrived earlier by a different route and had already had a guided tour of the exhibition.

The volunteers on parade and



manning the stands represented the reserve forces of the County of Avon, which embraces Bristol, Bath, Weston-super-Mare and adjoining areas.

After inspecting a guard of honour of the 6th Battalion, The Light Infantry (V), the Queen toured the display, escorted by the GOC South

West District, Major-General Bob Lyon, while the Duke of Edinburgh, on a slightly different route, was guided by the deputy commander, Brigadier Neil Fletcher. The royal progress was in both cases subject to many diversions as the Queen and Duke turned aside to speak to people in the huge crowds.

Major David Ryan shows the Queen round A Company, 1st Battalion The Wessex Regiment (Rifle Volunteers). It was Major Ryan's second royal occasion within a few months because in June he commanded the South West contingent in the Queen's review of the reserve forces at Wembley.

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Paul's the boss for a day

Instant promotion, that's what happened to 18-year-old Paul Holland, who shot up from rifleman to the giddy heights of major — all in one day.

But unfortunately for Paul his promotion lasted only two days, then he was back in the ranks again. It all happened when 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, was on Exercise Pond Jump West 2 in Canada. Major Vere Hayes, a company commander, demoted himself and all his officers and non-commissioned officers to the rank of rifleman for 48 hours. His riflemen voted each other into the vacant posts.

"It was a lot of fun," said Vere, "but the purpose behind Operation Turnabout was to remind officers and sergeants of what it is like to be a rifleman and vice versa."

The riflemen took great pride in the election to high office, he said. "They didn't want any officers or NCOs to be able to say I told you so."

The hardest part of the exercise for the company commander was cookhouse fatigues. "We had the most high-powered fatigue party going, with myself, the platoon commanders and the sergeant-major all working on them. I was scrubbing dixies, but I think we got through them in record time.

"It was very hard work and there was a queue behind one bush to take photographs of us."

Generally the exercise went well, but one point that did come across was that orders were not being passed right down the line to riflemen. "From the start of the exercise to the end, I wasn't told a thing," he said.

But for the rifleman promoted to major, it was all in a day's work.

"It was a difficult job and I couldn't be expected to do it perfectly," said Paul. But as a former junior RSM at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Shorncliffe he had some experience of leadership. "No one got funny about taking orders, although Major Hayes stepped in a couple of times to control things."

Perks of the job included travel by helicopter and Land-Rover. "It was much better than tabbing it," he said.

He also visited the officers' mess for a briefing from the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Dunphie, and a drink and dinner at the mess.

"The presentation of the food was a lot better there," he said, "but there wasn't as much choice as in the cookhouse."

The battalion spent five weeks in Canada, training at Wainwright, adventure training in the Rockies plus a visit to the Calgary stampede during a short spell of leave.



Medicine you can bank on!



A new 'clinic' has opened in the new Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital at Woolwich, but it will not dispense medicine, just money.

Brigadier R H Freeman, commanding officer of the hospital, officially opens the new 'clinic', a branch of Barclay's Bank, appropriately enough by cutting a surgical bandage. Watching is Mr Richard Barclay, local director of the bank.

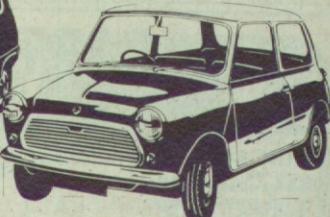
The new bank, the first ever in a military hospital, will serve the whole of Woolwich Garrison. Open on two days a week it will also operate a financial 'clinic' once a month to give advice on money and banking.

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A twelve-man crew of soldiers ranking from major-general to lance-corporal sailed the Joint Services Sailing Centre yacht British Soldier in this year's 605-mile Fastnet race, described by organisers as "the classic ocean race."

As the final stage of this year's Admiral's Cup competition, the Fastnet field included teams from the 19 nations competing as well as individual entries from all over the globe. A fleet of some 300 boats set off from Cowes in a staggered start in what was to prove one of the longest Fastnets on record. The race has been known to take as little as just over three-and-a-half days. But this was not to be this year and the first boats home had been on the water nearly a week by the time they reached the finish at Plymouth after rounding Fastnet Rock off the south west coast of Ireland.

British Soldier was one of the bigger boats to take part. A 55-foot sloop built in 1971, she is happiest in stronger winds when she shows a clean pair of heels to many a racing thoroughbred. But the 1977 Fastnet

with its light airs did not bring out the best in her.

Nonetheless, the prime object of the exercise for the crew was adventurous training and the problems posed by the light breezes taught them much about ocean sailing they might not have learned had the boat been spanking along from start to finish.

For two crew members at least it was a pipe-opener for the Round-The-World yacht race which starts at the end of August. Corporal Ian Spilsted, an instructor at the Royal Military Police headquarters in Chichester, and Captain Michael Summerfield, Welsh Guards, currently serving with 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers in Germany, are both joining the Joint Service entry Adventure — another

55-foot Nicholson yacht — for one of the four legs of the event.

There was a Round-The-World veteran in the crew too. Lance-Corporal John Le Maitre, an Army Catering Corps cook, rounded Cape Horn on the Sidney to Rio leg of the 1973 race as a member of the Army crew.

Older crew members Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Rogers, from the Joint Services Sailing Centre in Gosport; Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Eve, of the Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill; and Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Le Fontaine, commanding 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, shared a wealth of experience of ocean racing

to bring to the Fastnet, and the skipper, Lieutenant-Colonel James Myatt, had done the race 12 times — first as a lad of 16. The navigator's table was occupied by the most senior man aboard,

Story by Mike Starke

Major-General Marston Tickell, Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.

The rest of the crew consisted of Major John MacLean, of 1st Division HQ and Signal Regiment in Germany; Corporal Harry Holder, a mental nurse from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley; Lieutenant

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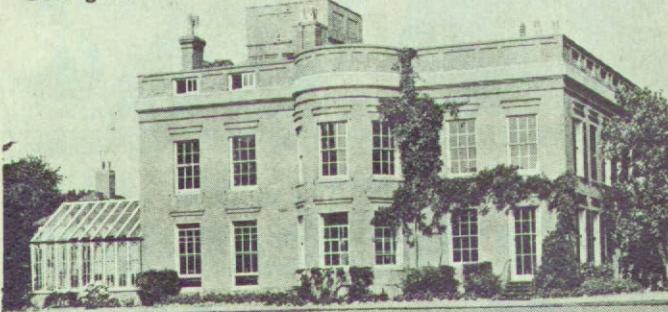
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Peter Knipe, of The Life Guards; and the only civilian aboard, Mike Starke of SOLDIER.

After three days of intensive training in the Solent and the Channel, the crew sailed to Cowes to join the festivities before the Fastnet race. A spectacular firework display heralded the next day's thrilling start when the massive fleet jostled for position at the staggered starts in the afternoon.

British Soldier tacked down the Channel in fine style, keeping up with some of the best and even overtaking a few highly-rated yachts. By the next day Land's End was in sight but the wind dropped away to almost nothing and Land's End was a sight the crew had to get used to for hour after hour.

Monday brought no more wind and the yacht drifted on over an oily looking sea. The day was spent seeking the slightest zephyrs with the lightest sails. Some excitement was injected into the proceedings by the appearance of a six-foot shark which lazily circled the boat for a while.

With Tuesday still calm the news was that more and more yachts were being forced to retire from the race. British Soldier decided to carry on

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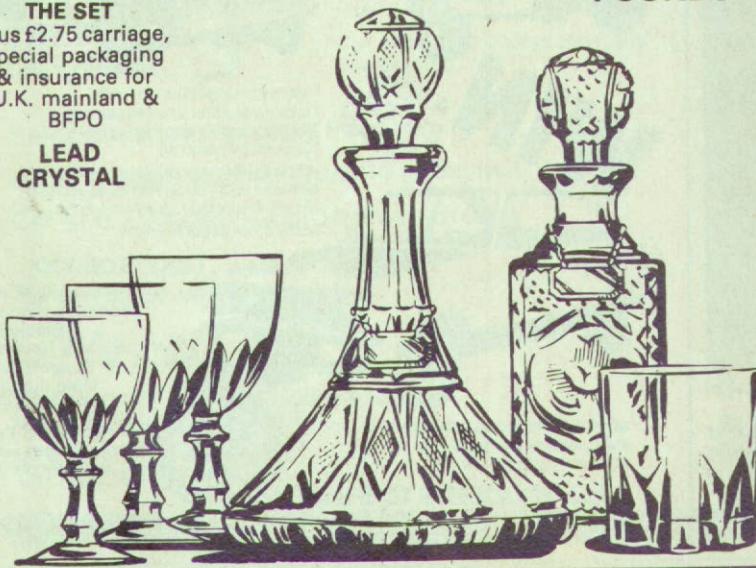
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and the stores designed for four days at sea were rationed to stretch as far as a week. This was so finely judged that the crew crossed the line at Plymouth with a few dry biscuits and two cups of fresh water left after their final breakfast a little earlier.

In the Irish Sea the wind got up at last and at 1425 on Wednesday, British Soldier rounded the Fastnet Rock and set sail for the 'downhill run' back past the Scilly Isles to Plymouth. Once the Bishop Rock lighthouse at the western end of the treacherous waters around the Scillies had been rounded, the wind



Water runs short on Army sailors

began to die again and flat calm once more bogged down the boat.

Muttered incantations to Neptune and even peace offerings of tea-spoonfuls of sugar and mixed spice failed to raise the wind until late on Friday night when the boat was just a tantalising 30 miles from the line and had to anchor rather than drift away from Plymouth on the tide.

At last the line loomed out of the early morning mist of Saturday and British Soldier crossed it at 0737 to the pop of a champagne cork from a bottle given by a well-wisher in Cowes a week earlier. A rousing chorus of 'Rule Britannia' — the theme song of the passage for the crew — cheered the boat to its mooring where, although not a

prizewinner, British Soldier found herself among the select company of the few top yachts that had managed to finish.

The crew were well satisfied with having finished what had proved to be a gruelling test for even the best boats with the highest-trained crews. "We persevered where lots of others turned back," said Corporal Harry Holder proudly, "and one of the main reasons was because we had a really good crew all working together."

Facing page: British Soldier setting out from Cowes.

Above: A relieved crew celebrates the end of the race.

Left: Maj-Gen Marston Tickell at his navigator's table.

Below left: Skipper Lieut-Col James Myatt at the helm round Fastnet Rock.



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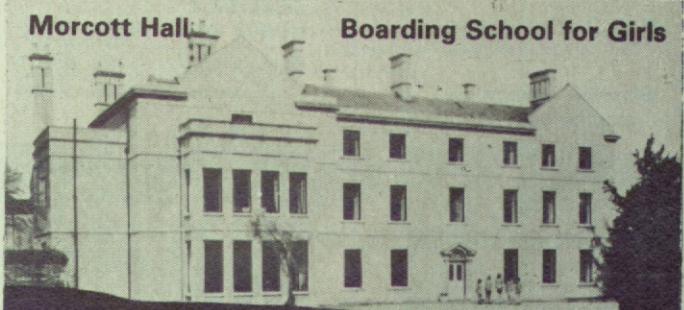
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RAFT men beat the Army

With paddles and sails, 13 British teams, nine of them from Army units based in Germany, took part in a first-ever marathon raft race on the River Rhine.

They were engaged in a 130-mile Mannheim to Bonn sponsored race to raise money for a handicapped children's holiday hostel at Solihull, Birmingham, and for German charities.

During their journey the ten-man crews negotiated some of the most beautiful stretches of the Middle Rhine.

Of the Army entries, two gained respectively third and fourth places — 4 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, who took 26 hours and five minutes to complete the course; and 11 Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, with 27 hours and 33 minutes.

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First two places went to RAF teams — RAF Gütersloh (24 hours) and 16 Squadron, RAF Regiment, RAF Wildenrath (25 hours, 21 minutes).

Fifth place was secured by civilian challengers, a team from Solihull, whose raft completed the route in 28 hours, 10 minutes.

Man behind the race, which intrigued and delighted German spectators along the picturesque route, was Solihull Borough Councillor Mr Leslie Pitt. Afterwards he spoke of the "marvellous" support given to the venture by the Services and in particular by Warrant Officer 1 (SSM) Tony Ford, the secretary of the BAOR Canoe Association, who was responsible for co-ordinating arrangements in Germany.

It was as a result of a previous venture on the River Severn last year, against an Army unit which they defeated, that the Solihull team accepted the challenge of a "return match" on the Rhine, at the instigation of Mr Pitt.

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Completing the entry was a youth team of servicemen's children from the Portsmouth Youth Club at Münster, sponsored by 8 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport.

The 4 Field Squadron team paddles past the attractive setting of the Middle Rhine during the third leg of the raft race, between Geisenheim and Boppard.

Juniors with polish



Two lads who really shone during their junior leader training at the Guards Depot, Pirbright, are Junior Lance-Corporal Geoffrey Wright and Junior Sergeant-Major Dale Brunt (left).

And to prove it they have been awarded special prizes for their 'bull' — the Kiwi Spur and Trophy. Dale won the trophy awarded to the junior trooper or junior guardsman whose personal turnout had been consistently of the highest standard during the term, and Geoffrey the spur, awarded to the mounted Household Cavalry junior whose personal kit and horse furniture had been consistently of the highest standard during his time at Pirbright.

When he leaves the Guards Depot, Geoffrey will be sent to the Household Cavalry in London to complete his mounted training and Dale will be posted to 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards, on public duties at Windsor.

The spur and trophy will remain on permanent display at Pirbright.

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TV star recruits

Think back to that bewildering first day you spent in the Army and spare a second thought for recruit intakes 7715 and 7716 at 11 Signal Regiment, Catterick Garrison when they learned that in addition to their transformation from civvies to soldiers they were to be the actors in the Tyne Tees Television 'Lifestyle' series — a film with the provisional title of 'You're in the Army Now.' For their first two weeks in the Army the recruits would have a TV film unit practically living with them both on and off duty.

And so it was — in the barrack room, on the square, commanding officer's opening address, meals in the dining hall, beer in the Naafi, 'jabs' in the medical centre, haircut, conversation, argument, opinion and instruction. It was a very thorough job.

Neither researcher Mike McHugh nor director Francis Fuchs was old enough to have seen National Service.

Open minds

"We come to you with open minds," they said. "We don't want contrived situations."

"Please be natural, don't alter your routine. Accept us, forget us and after a while you won't notice us."

It was not always easy to forget the team, especially if you were an instructor immediately before a weapon training period when a clapper board snapped in front of your face and a voice intoned:

"Scene 89, take 1, rifle aiming holding and firing in the prone position."

Alternatively, as a recruit, it could be disconcerting after a good night's sleep to open your eyes and find the camera looking straight at you.

"That's fine," the director would say, "just carry on as usual."

Some things were impossible!

After the first couple of days it had all settled down and even the most persistent self-appointed TV 'stars' had stopped their 'accidental' lazy saunter into camera view.

Discipline, contrary to gloomy forebodings, did not suffer. In fact the reverse applied because, let's face it, nobody wanted to look a slob in front of the cameras. Instructors, recruits and TV team each got on with their own jobs and a good working relationship existed. No doubt this was the sort of situation the director hoped to achieve, an ideal one for this type of film.

Confident

The first weekend came and went. The recruits, contrary to popular thinking, had been allowed to go home if they wished to do so. Later it was interesting to learn during a recorded conversation among recruits that the first week had not been as bad as anticipated and they were confident that during the weeks ahead things would get easier as they became accustomed to the Army way of life. None wanted 'out.'

The change in the recruits could be seen. After only a week they had become an integrated unit, there was an easy camaraderie and to the outside observer — and presumably to the TV team as well — there were no obvious misfits. One up to the Army's selection system.

Friday of the second week saw the final day of filming which continued until 6.30pm, when it was goodbyes all round. Members of the TV team gave several of the lads lifts to their various weekend leave destinations, which was considered a very friendly gesture.

The film, being edited now, will

be seen on Tyne Tees TV early next year. If all goes according to plan, viewers in the Yorkshire and Anglia TV regions will also have the opportunity to see those first two weeks of recruit training.

So what does everybody think about it?

Praise

The staff involved were unanimous in their praise of the filming team, their courtesy and professionalism. A really great bunch and not at all what was envisaged.

As for the team — what did they think of the Army?

Of course they had no pre-conceived ideas on the subject — remember? They say they enjoyed their time at Catterick and were impressed with the methods and high standard of instruction. The overall organisation and the smooth but relatively painless process of turning civilians into soldiers also made its mark.

When the film is shown the recruits will have finished their basic training and have a foot on the first rung, at least, of their Army career ladder. If nothing else, seeing themselves as they were will bring back memories.

Beauty bows out



The present Miss Chilwell, Mrs Pamela Richards (left), is expecting a happy event around Christmas, so has handed over the title, sash and diadem to Miss Beverly Britton. The sash and diadem were placed on the new Miss Chilwell by Brigadier Iain Macdonald, Garrison Commander (right).

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To up sticks and move house to Germany happens to hundreds of Army families every year. For some it's a new experience. For others it's all too familiar.

What will life be like in a strange country? What will the quarter be like? And the schools, the entertainment, talking in a foreign language? Or will it really be just like at home? So many people have told you how terrible the place is and others how great it is, but in the end you know it is entirely up to you, the individual.

During my visit I was amazed by the talent, versatility and friendliness of the families I met. Yes there are difficulties, separation for some can be for as much as eight months in a year, many times over Christmas and school holidays. Such long periods inevitably lead to loneliness, particularly on the married patches far from main garrisons.

But people do care. Wherever I went there were people trying to fill the gap, to organise playgroups, youth clubs, Scouts and Guides, those who run the wives' clubs, thrift shops, bingo, whist and coffee mornings, and above all those who are just good neighbours.

The Ssafa sisters, the Ssafa social workers, are thin on the ground compared with social services in UK. WRVS and YWCA too are sparsely spread. To them, overtime is something they have to do without financial reward. Station staff officers, and estate wardens are all on hand to help but again are bedevilled by limited resources.

The majority of all projects and activities in BAOR are without grant aid from UK. Not for families in Germany is there help from the state or local authority, not to mention the hundred and one other organisations accepted as normal in Britain.

In BAOR, self help with very limited grants from Service sources is the norm, so families are forced to work together as a community. When the going is rough only esprit de corps pulls them through. But remember that the load is increasing all the time, and one day self help might not be enough.

I hope that recognition of this urgent problem comes soon, for surely as every serviceman is a tax payer he is entitled to the welfare benefits those taxes bring, whether he lives in Germany or UK?

Anne Armstrong

It looks as if the scheme for unfurnished quarters is to be extended to Germany.

This follows a plea from wives in BAOR in the August edition of *SOLDIER* that the scheme, which has proved so popular in Britain, be extended to Germany.

Basically the scheme for unfurnished quarters means that an occupant can return most items on the inventory. For a full list of what can go and what stays, see your barrack officer.

Longer tours in Germany have meant an increasing number of families wanting to buy their own furniture abroad.

"Although the unfurnished scheme has been operating in UK for some time now," said a spokes-

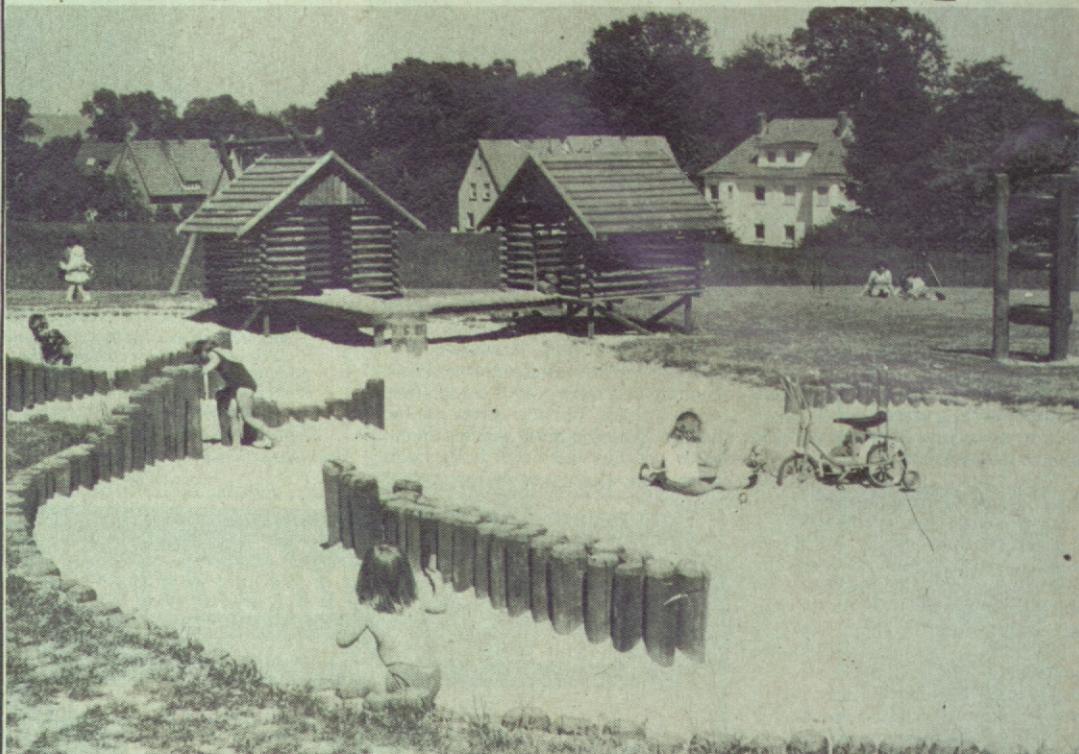


ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

High-rise self-help



One of the big problems of living in a high-rise estate is what to do with toddlers. To some extent this has been overcome at Obergrunne, a flats complex outside Herford by an Anglo-German playground.

Everyday domestic life in a foreign country is a matter of self-help and community spirit, as Army wives all over Germany have found out.

In one such complex of houses are 250 families at Hubbelrath, half an hour's drive away from the main garrison in Düsseldorf. It was cold, wet, windy and dismal when I visited the small married patch.

Mrs Jean Mills was hard at work in the community centre there. She runs the YMCA book shop and canteen, and has recently helped started a Guide company with Mrs Hillary Howarth. Hillary and Jean had no previous experience but now they look after 20 young Guides.

"It's not easy to start a guide company," she said, "and one does feel a bit cut off, but we do have plans in store. One thing we are going to do is hold a bazaar for the Silver Jubilee appeal. I am sure that this will soon be a thriving company."

But the main disadvantage of living "out in the sticks," says Mrs Annette Everett, is the feeling of being cut off from everyday events in camp. If there are functions laid on to Duisburg or Mülheim, people from Hubbelrath have a long journey before their evening begins, often being forced to leave before children are in bed, and of course an equally long journey home again.

Another worry for the wives is the long journey husbands have to make to their respective camps, especially in the winter months

when snow, ice and fog make driving hazardous.

But on the other hand there are a lot of pluses, says Annette. "Out here we have the beauty of the countryside, lovely walks and quiet surroundings, but a 20-minute bus ride takes us to the heart of Düsseldorf. Public transport is excellent and there are two Army buses from the three largest estates each week to the Düsseldorf Naafi."

"We have our own small Naafi, a YMCA, tea-room, kindergarten, library, thrift shop and community centre, plus our own First school. Having our own school means that the younger schoolchildren do not have to travel every day."

Different units and squadrons all live together on the estates, so the men see a variety of different people, instead of working and living with the same faces all day every day.

"Although there are many people who find the pace of life out in the sticks slow and boring, there are many more who enjoy the quiet life."

Rent reduction in Germany?

man in the Ministry of Defence Personnel Services Branch, "it has not been possible so far to allow any married quarters overseas to be unfurnished.

"However, the possibility of extending the unfurnished married quarters scheme to be run on the same basis as in UK, has been under consideration for some time in the MOD. It is hoped that these rules will soon be changed."

If the scheme is accepted, families will be in line for a rent reduction. For example a Type C quarter rent could go down by 67p a day. This is exclusive of garage charges.

At present there is a 'wharf' scheme in UK and overseas which allows for some individual items to be returned. Again, see your barrack officer for details.

Athletic moneymakers wanted



The 1st Lisburn Brownie Pack has raised £70 from a sponsored silence, which was made doubly difficult for the girls because their hut is right next to the noisy garrison heli-pad.

The money raised was given to a Northern Ireland holiday home.

Bright ideas for money making are wanted to help send a team to the national championships of the English Schools Athletics Association from Service schools in Germany.

BFES sent its first team this year and, although no firsts were won, the whole team profited from the experience. Each team member had to pay £20 towards the mini-bus trip, and provide his own kit.

The relay team, which had never run together before, finished 16th overall.

Next year the championships will be held in Derbyshire, and if anyone has some money-raising ideas, Mr Tony Harmon, team manager, at Prince Rupert School, BFPO 29, would like to hear from you.

Picture shows Mark Lee (left) and Nicky Milne from Cornwall School who both belong to German athletic clubs and found the experience invaluable. Both say that they would welcome the chance of courses in UK. Mark recorded his best time of 4 minutes 10 seconds in the 1500 metres heats and is 16th in the English ratings this year.

We were most interested to read Anne Armstrong's article in your July edition about the establishment of the five Sailors and Families Advice Bureaux (SAFAB), and in her suggestion that the Army should set up similar information centres in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Families information centres are already being established throughout the United Kingdom but, because we have no additional manpower to run them, they are based on housing commandants' offices or on wardens' posts or offices. Where there is not a room available, notice boards are being put up to display the more important information together with the name of the person to contact if further details are required. Information centres have been set up already for example in the housing commandants' offices at Warminster and Bordon, while in Catterick and Uckfield, empty married soldiers' quarters are being used.

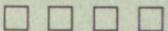
The Army is also considering setting up offices in the United Kingdom, on the lines of SAFAB, to which housing commandants and wardens running information centres might refer the more difficult queries and from which information sheets could be issued to the centres. Here again, however, the main difficulty is the additional manpower required.

In the Army our married quarters are far more dispersed than those of the Navy which tend to be located around the main port areas. Although the SAFAB system with five permanently staffed centres may be adequate for the needs of naval families, a small number of centres of this type would not match up to the Army's requirements.

We believe that the system we are setting up is more suited to the many dispersed stations occupied by the Army and will provide a more individual service to our families. It would obviously be helpful to have one or more central offices as well, but these cannot be set up at the present time.

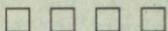
Meanwhile, if any of your readers have any suggestions for improving the information service given by the Housing Commandants' Organisation, we should be pleased to hear about them.

Major D A Whitehouse
AG Secretariat



Wives, did you know that you can now earn up to £845 without it affecting your husband's tax?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has also announced that child benefits are to be increased from April 1978 to £2.30 a week for all eligible children. However, income tax allowances for children will be reduced.



Good news from British Rail is that under-18s can qualify for half-fare Awayday, weekend, monthly, economy and standard returns, if they are members of specified organisations and who are travelling individually to a central point "to take part in an organised activity."

This includes conferences, courses, expeditions and camps.

Groups of ten or more people travelling together can usually get reduced rates. Cheaper still if the group members are under 18.

For more information contact your local station or the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services, 26 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3HU, (tel: 01-636 4066).



The 1st Lisburn Brownie Pack has raised £70 from a sponsored silence, which was made doubly difficult for the girls because their hut is right next to the noisy garrison heli-pad.

The money raised was given to a Northern Ireland holiday home.

Quarters 'drab and down at heel'

Shortage of cash is the reason why so many married quarters in Germany look so shabby.

Fun of the fayre

This year's Ssafa Autumn Fayre looks like being a bigger attraction than ever before.

It will be held as usual at RAF Stanmore Park on Saturday October 1 and among the many attractions during the afternoon will be country dancing by local schoolchildren, Morris dancing, a Punch and Judy show and a grand raffle.

There will be static displays from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, RAF recruiting and Royal Signals.

There will be no admission to the fayre, so it is hoped that a record amount of money will be received by the combined Services and Ssafa Appeals Committee, to raise the income for work in Middlesex.

"The policy is that we have to save

This reason was given by a spokesman in the quartering department at HQ British Army of the Rhine who said that he was "heartily sick" of seeing British quarters drab and down at heel.

"As you are aware we are in a period of financial restraint and whilst external decoration is desirable, it is not always essential and it has to compete against many other conflicting priorities," he said.

"The policy is that colour washing should be carried out about every 10 years. PSA are at present investigating the possibility of using more expensive but longer lasting material such as Sandtex, as, although this will be more costly initially, it will last far longer.

"Perhaps I should mention that we do not colour wash building except where they have been previously treated.

"The policy is that we have to save

money somehow — our maintenance funds have been cut some 20% below our bid this year and PSA cannot skimp on, for example, roof repairs, plumbing, electrical safety etc.

"I am heartily sick of seeing British quarters drab and down at heel and feel every bit as strongly as other occupants, and indeed it reflects badly on the British abroad. We only wish something could be done more quickly, but it cannot be while money is short."

'It's not fair'

Dear Anne,

My sister and I are at school in England and my parents are attached to the French Army. Why is it that my friend's parents who are in Germany can use the forces air letters which are only 6½p yet when I write to Mummy and Daddy we have to put on 10½p. Mummy's letter to us cost her 18½p (1f.40). This means that our friend's parents also use forces air letters so can get three letters to our one in the week. This is not fair.

Sara and Teresa
France.

Redcaps take wing



Pretty women Redcaps Jane Sowden and Marian Guthrie seldom get up in the air over things. Theirs is a job which requires their feet to be kept firmly on the ground.

But they will get up in the air over money — as long as there's a lot of it. Three thousand feet up, in fact. Over Hong Kong. And ready to make their first-ever parachute jumps.

Jane (20) and Marian (22), both corporals with the Hong Kong Provost Company, Royal Corps of Military Police, 'volunteered' to make sponsored parachute jumps to raise money for the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen's Families Association (Ssafa).

With each of them carrying a burden of several thousand Hong Kong dollars-worth of sponsorship, promised by Service personnel and their families, the girls underwent a week of training with the Hong Kong Joint Service Parachute Centre. Then, as the temperature climbed to a blistering 100 degrees Fahrenheit on Sek Kong airstrip in Hong Kong's New Territories, they apprehensively donned parachutist overalls for the first time and climbed aboard the borrowed Cessna light aircraft.

As it made its take-off run, Marian, from Southport, and Jane, from Norfolk, could be seen nervously giving the thumbs-up.

Ten minutes later, they were back on the ground, once again giving the

thumbs-up — only this time, Ssafa was several thousand dollars better off.

Marian, nervousness gone, had the final word: "It was great. I can't wait to do it again."

Picture shows Marian ready to step into space.

Fewer get fell in

Recruiting figures for the Army for April to June this year at 4338 were 22 per cent down on those for the same period of 1976. But this was due to reduced entry requirements.

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Northern Ireland awards

The following awards have been made for service in Northern Ireland between 1 February and 30 April 1977.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire: Lieutenant-Colonel D Patrick, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.
Member of the Order of the British Empire: Warrant Officer 2 A T Jackson, Royal Signals; Warrant Officer 2 G V A Williams, Intelligence Corps.

Air Force Cross: Flight-Lieutenant A D Brown, RAF.

Queen's Gallantry Medal: Sergeant M P G Fitzgerald, The Light Infantry; Staff-Sergeant D J Hills, Intelligence Corps; Staff-Sergeant G D Kerr, Warrant Officer 2 C B Lambert, Warrant Officer 1 C P McKernan, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

British Empire Medal: Lance-Corporal S P Pratt, Royal Engineers.

Military Medal: Fusiliers W Reid, The Royal Highland Fusiliers; Staff-Sergeant A W Richards, Welsh Guards.

Mentioned-in-Despatches: Major I G S Cartwright, Fusilier J Y Ferguson, Warrant Officer 2 M G Fyfe, all The Royal Highland Fusiliers; Warrant Officer 2 A E Dedman, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Corporal P J Ede, Royal Tank Regiment; Corporal D Grainge, Royal Engineers; Major A W de V Hunt, Royal Signals; Sergeant L L Johnson, Intelligence Corps; Major (QM) R Kitching, The Light Infantry; Warrant Officer 2 D F Murphy, Lieutenant-Colonel D M Naylor, both Scots Guards; Warrant Officer 2 P E Roberts, Royal Corps of Transport; Private J L Watson, The Gordon Highlanders; Marine M C Whysall, Royal Marines.

3000 see boys' show

Boys of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, thrilled 3000 spectators with a two-hour display of martial, musical and athletic skills when they held their last summer-term At Home in their present camp at Norton Manor, Taunton — next April, after 17 years in Taunton, the regiment moves to Azimghur Barracks at Colerne, near Bath, a refurbished ex-RAF station.

Graduating

Among the crowd were some 200 parents and families who earlier watched the end-of-term passing-out parade from which 156 junior leaders were graduating at the end of their third term.

These now join the detached driver training squadron at Driffield in North Humberside, to complete their training at the Army School of Mechanised Transport at nearby Leconfield, where all RCT driver training is now centralised.

The parade was inspected by Major-General Bob Lyon, GOC South West District, who later distributed prizes in the camp cinema.

Qualified

The commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Wright, said that since 1961, when the regiment moved to Taunton from Bordon, 3500 drivers had qualified.

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A mixed Army cricket bag

The Army cricket eleven beat Civil Service and an MCC junior team in recent matches but lost to Essex and Hampshire second XIs.

Daniel won the toss for the Army against the Civil Service and Gilson and Allerton opened with a stand of 48. Then Allerton and Sanderson added 124 for the second wicket before Allerton was bowled for a very good 93. Luck was on his side at times but he hit a six and 11 fours.

Sanderson was fourth out at 197, having also hit 11 fours. The Army score looked to be some 20 runs short of a winning total, particularly when the Civil Service had 120 on the board and only two wickets down.

But steady Army bowling backed up by good catching and ground fielding contained the opposing batsmen and then Gilson took charge. In 3.4 overs he took seven wickets for seven runs, finishing with five for no runs in ten balls including the hat-trick. This remarkable feat assured the Army of a victory over the Civil Service for the first time since 1971.

Army 217 for five (55 overs) (P J

W Allerton 93, L M Sanderson 72, M Lenine four for 63). Civil Service 153 (46.4 overs) (E Gobin 50, R A Gilson eight for 47). Army won by 64 runs.

The Army met Essex Second XI in a new fixture on the card and steady bowling by Shore and Sanderson kept the Essex batsmen down to three runs an over until the ninth wicket pair added 24 in the last three overs. Even so, a total of 193 did not seem too formidable. Plumb, who has played for the first XI, made an aggressive 60.

After opening for the Army with a sound stand of 38, Brooks was unfortunately run out. Gilson was third out at 61 and Daniel — after showing his real form after a run of low scores — was caught and bowled with the score at 101 for five.

With Sanderson's dismissal to a poor stroke at 138 for seven the end was in sight although the 'tail' batted spiritedly. Thus a game which

the Army should have won ended in defeat by 24 runs.

Essex 193 for eight (55 overs) (S Plumb 60, R G Shore three for 44, L M Sanderson three for 47). Army 169 (52.1 overs) (L M Sanderson 38, G H Daniels 36, R A Gilson 30, M McEvoy five for 45). Army lost by 24 runs.

Brooks and Gilson opened for the Army against MCC Young Cricketers with a stand of 45. Brooks batted very soundly for 45 and Lerwill was going well until losing his leg stump. Allerton and Dove-Dixon added 43 for the seventh wicket but the final total was disappointing.

But Shore, Sanderson and Gilson pinned the MCC YC down, helped by good ground fielding, and Daniel had a good spell of bowling. This was a match well won and Brooks had the side very well.

Army 177 for seven (55 overs) (R M G Brooks 45, P J W Allerton 32, A T D Lerwill 31). MCC YC 148 (52.5 overs) (A Wagner 40, G H Daniel four for 35, R G Shore three for 38). Army won by 29 runs.

The Hampshire second XI fielded a strong side with Barry Richards,

although suffering from a strain, in majestic form for nearly an hour. Handicapped by the withdrawal of Shore the day before the match, the Army's four bowlers stuck to their task well on a hot day and the final total did not look unbeatable.

But Gilson was bowled in the third over and Sanderson was never on form, batting 45 minutes for seven runs from three scoring strokes. Brooks was batting well until he was fourth out just before tea. Although Allerton batted well and last-minute replacement Dobbie added 25 with Sharland, the Army were a long way behind the scoring rate required. The Army fielding was extremely lethargic.

Hants 208 for eight (55 overs) (A Murtagh 59, B Richards 35, G H Daniel three for 66). Army 157 for nine (55 overs) (R M G Brooks 47, P J W Allerton 30, A Murtagh three for 27). Army lost by 51 runs.

Army major unit cricket champions for this season are 8 Signal Regiment who scored a convincing victory over 12 RSME.

The Signals scored 162 for eight and had 12 RSME all out for 85.

BAOR heavies win



For the fifth year in succession, 39 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, came top of the heavy mob by winning both 560 and 640 kilo Rhine Army tug-of-war championships.

Eight teams contested at each weight, and so consistent were the gunners that they never even conceded a single 'end' throughout the competition.

Runners up at 640 kilos were 40 Field Regiment RA with E Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, runners up at 560 kilos.

39 Regiment will defend its Army

championship title at Aldershot and then the inter-Service title at the Braemar Games in September.

Picture shows 39's 640 team in action. The team was coached by Captain C J Lawson who will be going to the Army championship for the 15th consecutive year.

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Prospectus: The Secretary, St. John's College, Coolhurst, Horsham, Sussex.
Tel: Horsham 2424.

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Fencing champs

"We are the champions!" is the proud boast of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, who have carried off both the junior and senior Army fencing titles.

This is the second year running that the junior team has won the trophy and only the second time the corps has won the senior event.

Fencers from the regiment, of Norton Manor, Taunton, have now crowned a successful season by winning the inter-Services unit team championship.

Their run of successes began at Army zone level and continued at Aldershot when they made history by being the first unit to win both senior and junior Army team championships.

The senior team went on to beat



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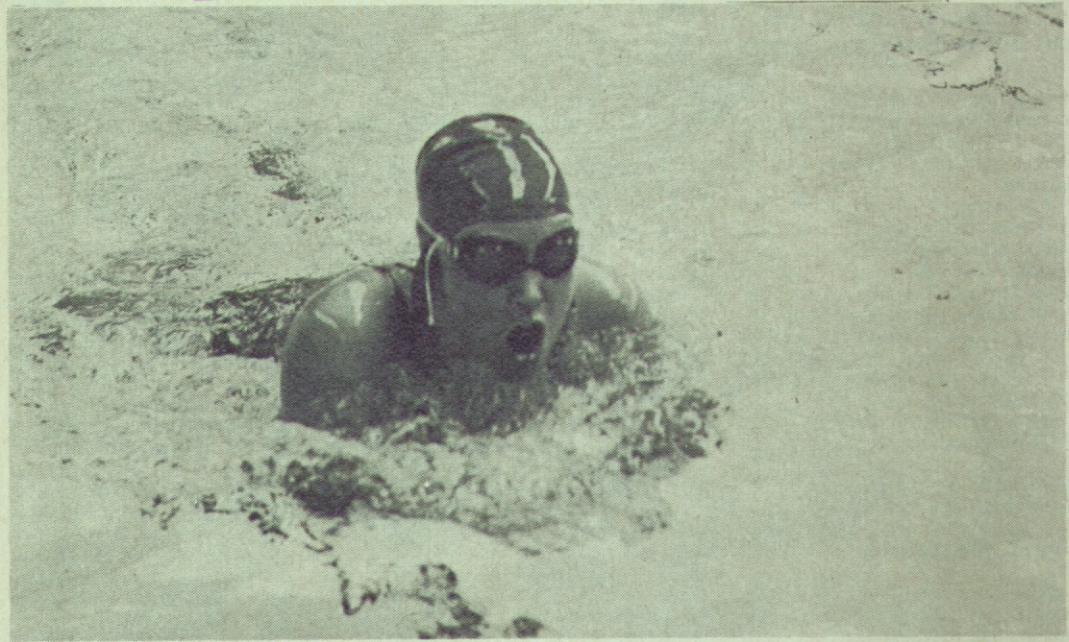
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Navy swamp opponents



The Royal Navy found themselves in their element at the inter-Services swimming championships and dominated the field in many of the events.

The Navy came first overall in the diving events with the Army and RAF tying with 14 points each behind them.

The RAF won the water polo with 15 points and the Navy was second with ten. The Army trailed third with five points having lost both its matches.

The Navy again triumphed in the swimming with 81 points. The RAF was second with 74 and again the Army came last with 64.

Army women did better than their male counterparts, winning their diving events with 21 points. The Navy and RAF women tied with ten.

But in the swimming they came third with 34 points with the WRAF first on 57 and the Navy girls second with 51.

There was some consolation for

the Army in a few individual performances which toppled existing Army records, subject to ratification. In the 110 yards free-style, Trooper Heron came second with a new record time of 58.6 seconds. A first place for Junior-Bombardier Wake in the 110 yards backstroke set a new Army time of 1 minute 7.2 seconds. Signalman Steel in the 220 yards breaststroke was only third but his 2 minutes 49.7 seconds earned him an Army record holder's laurels. Trooper Heron scored again in the 220 yards free style with a new record time of 2 minutes 13.6 seconds.

For the women, Corporal Robb set a new best time of 1 minute 13.2 seconds in the 110 yards free style.

and Corporal Maisey made a record swim in the 110 yards butterfly in 1 minute 25.9 seconds.

Kick-off for rugby museum

An Army rugby museum is to be set up at Aldershot complete with an honours board for international caps.

The museum is being put together by Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Dawson, secretary of the Army Rugby Union, who has contacted current and former soldier internationals, asking for jerseys and other insignia they may care to present.

The honours board should be on display by February to coincide with the UK Army Cup Final.

Smallbore shooting

Three Regular soldiers were selected to represent Britain at shooting after the annual long-range smallbore rifle championship at Bisley and the team they joined broke the British record for the event — a three-position international postal match.

Major Peter Martin, 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, Captain Alan Glasby, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and Warrant Officer 2 Joe O'Brien, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, were selected after taking part in the National Smallbore Rifle Association's meeting which attracted more than 1900 competitors. They were among 20 serving soldiers taking part.

Captain Glasby is the Regular Army's leading smallbore rifle shot, having represented Britain in the Nordic championships last June, and was selected to represent Britain again in the European shooting championships at Bucharest last month.

He is also in training for the European 300-metre championships to be held later in Switzerland. He shot consistently throughout the Bisley meeting and won the Marquess of Salisbury Challenge Cup for the champion long-range shot of the Regular Army. He also took two seconds, two thirds and a fourth place in individual matches.

There is growing enthusiasm for long-range smallbore rifle shooting, which is quite a different matter from the popular image of smallbore shooting as a pastime for wet winter evenings in dismal 25-yard indoor ranges.

Long-range shooting is at 100 yards and 50 metres with the targets of 1.2 inches diameter and .5 inch diameter for the ten ring. Shooting at 100 yards with a smallbore rifle target rifle has been compared with shooting at 1000 yards with a 7.62 target gun.

These targets are so hard to hit that even in still air conditions only a perfectly fired shot will score a ten. Out of doors, the marksman has to allow for wind and light as well. This is a real challenge and is hailed as excellent training for the military marksman.

Most of the shooting is from the prone position but there are also competitions for three-position shooting (prone, kneeling and standing) at 50 metres. The free rifle event is decided with 40 shots being fired from each position. Outstanding fitness and concentration are needed to succeed.

This year at Bisley a very strong United States team entered. More than half were serving members of their country's Regular or Reserve forces. They dominated Class X (the top marksmen) but still the British Regular Army scored some more notable successes in other classes.



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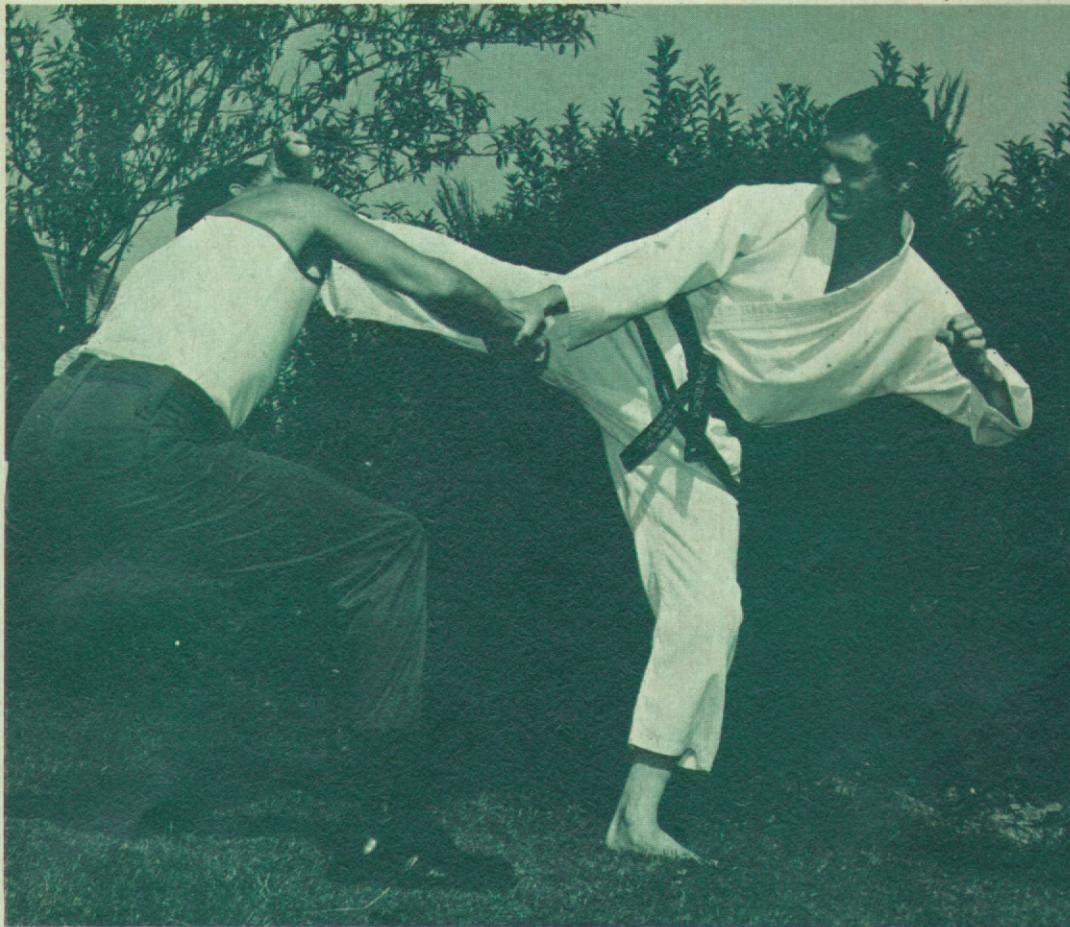
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Hampshire hapkido



Private Ken Burchall, of 1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment, is now the reigning world hapkido champion. He took on the greatest contestants from the Eastern countries and beat them all, in Geneva, at their own sport.

Ken was chosen to captain the British team after winning the European championship in November last year. At the world championship there were 16 in the British team and 20 countries entered. The British team, mainly thanks to Ken, won the team event. Before the event the Koreans were favourites and the British team was rated 4th.

There are no weight divisions in hapkido which is an ancient form of

Korean self-defence utilising the kick form of karate.

On returning to duty with his battalion's A Company, he said "It is great to be world champion. The championship was terrific. The Koreans were hardest to beat especially Sergeant Pak who I met in the final."

Picture shows Ken (in white jacket) practising his skills with another Black Belt, Private John Black.

Mark jumps through critics

Captain Mark Phillips delivered a metaphorical "two-finger" gesture to its controversial exponent, Harvey Smith, by beating the bluff Yorkshireman in a major show-jumping event after suffering a barrage of criticism over his horse-riding abilities.

At the Royal International Horse Show in Wembley's Empire Pool, Captain Phillips won the Matthew Norman Clockmakers' Top Score contest with a convincing 1090, riding Hideaway. Caroline Bradley was second on Tigre with 1050 and a visibly fuming Smith came third on Graffiti with just 1000 points.

Captain Phillips admitted afterwards that he had had some difficulty working out the pacing of distances between fences but that he had received help from David Broome before the event.

Both had come in for heavy criticism in Harvey Smith's column in the Sun newspaper.

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Bob boots on



Even without boots, Bobby Charlton can fairly kick a ball, as he ably demonstrated when he kicked off the final of the Rothman six-a-side competition in Hong Kong.

The competition, a new event and held at the Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas, replaces the Tony Porter Memorial Trophy which, on disbandment of the Sham Shui Po sergeants' mess, was returned to the Army Catering Corps Depot.

Bobby, his brother Jack, Ian Callaghan and Alex Stepney watched the final between Queen's Gurkha Signals and 2nd/2nd Gurkha Rifles. The footballers were in Hong Kong with the Bobby Charlton XI.

During the interval, Bobby

Fred set for world record

The Army's star ultra-long distance runner, Staff-Sergeant Fred Howell, of 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, has realised his ambition to be invited to take part in this month's (October 15-16) international 24-hour track race at Crystal Palace.

Fred set his sights on the event at the beginning of the season and due largely to his creditable performances in several major runs during the year was asked to join the élite athletes who will chase the current world record of 161 miles for the gruelling 24-hour race.

Most recently, Fred scored a fourth in the 'Two Bridges' international 36-mile race around the Firth of Forth. There was a record entry of 96 runners and the field included three different world record holders as well as last year's winner. Fred's time of three hours 29 minutes 51 seconds was only some two-and-a-half minutes

addressed the spectators and was presented with a kukri by Lieutenant-Colonel M C Furney, Commandant, Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas.

The Gurkha Rifles won the competition final 3-1.

The four were flown back to Hong Kong Island after the day's festivities in a Gazelle of 11 Flight, Army Air Corps, and that evening the Bobby Charlton XI played the Hong Kong national team.

behind the winner, C Woodward of Leamington Athletic Club, who holds the world 50-mile, 100-kilometre and 100-mile records.

The inter-Services trophy went to Fred for his performance.

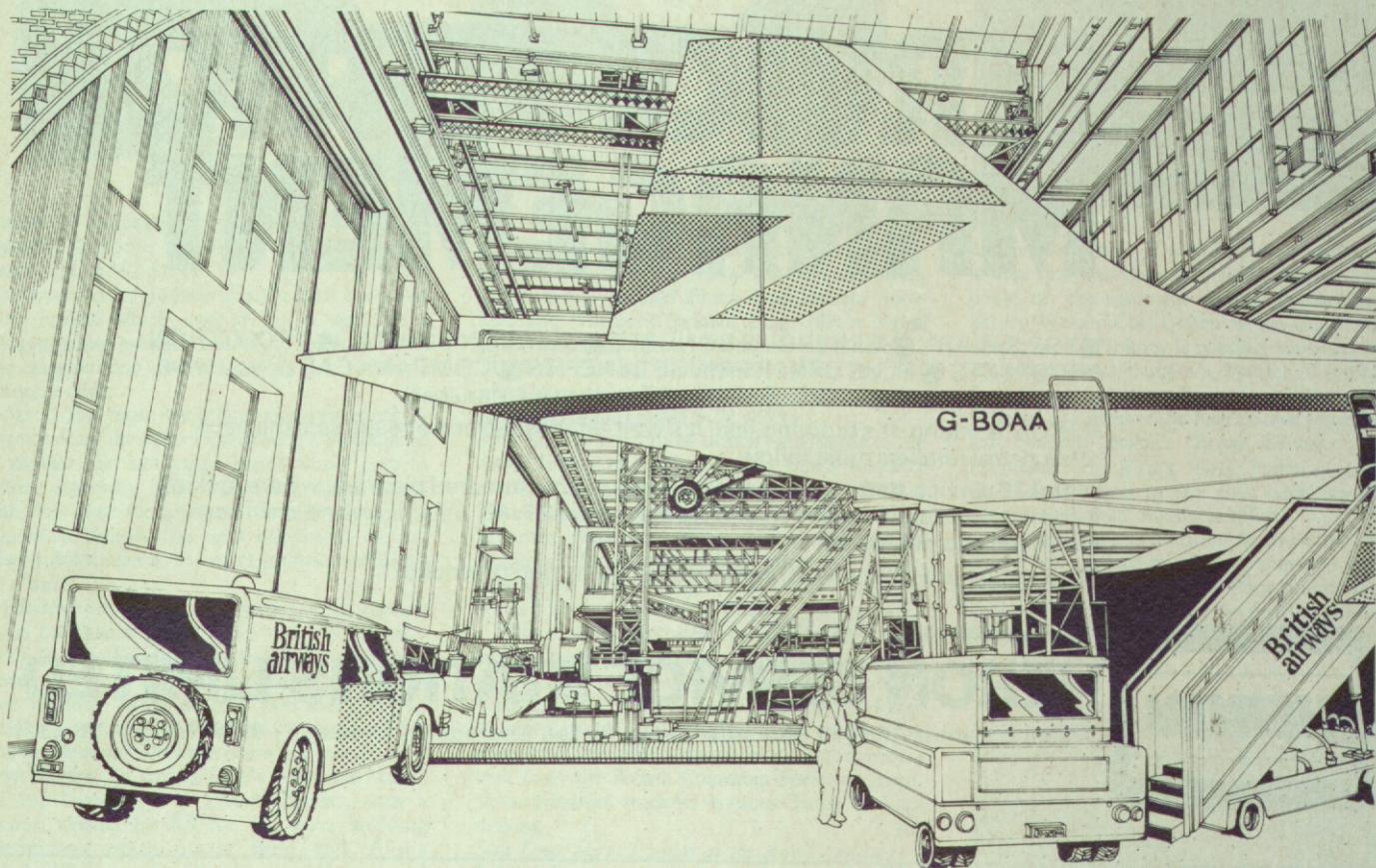
His present posting to 1st Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment, gave Fred the opportunity to take part in the Northern Ireland championships over 26 miles.

The favourite, J McDonald of North Belfast, was beaten into third place by Fred, who was second overall, and another serviceman, D Nicholson, of Depot, The Royal Irish Rangers, who was first.

The Crystal Palace marathon will feature the world's best runners for the event and Fred is determined to make a world record attempt himself to crown a successful year of ultra-long distance running.

RWYR positions

The Services entry in the Round-the-World yacht race is well up with the leaders and, for readers following Adventure's progress on SOL-DIER's special chart, the first reported positions to plot are for noon on 31 August 1977 — 43 degrees 30 minutes north and 08 degrees 40 minutes west, and 7 September — 27.30 N and 17.40 W.



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RECORD

'Salute to Pageantry' (The Band of the Scots Guards) (Director of Music: Captain Duncan Beat) (EMI EMC 3179)

Not much left of Jubilee Year so here are a few more records which, with a nod, a wink, or a sledgehammer present their wares for your patriotic consideration. But beware: all that glitters is not pure silver.

Much the most ambitious and rewarding is this one from the Scots Guards with a programme of rarities that not many bands would care to tackle, especially in a year which leaves bands with little time for rehearsal. Only one item, if I remember rightly, has been duplicated on any other Jubilee record, and most are first recordings by a band.

Fanfares are of course obligatory when pageantry is the theme, so we begin with Sir Anthony Bax's 'Royal Wedding,' written for the Queen's wedding. The Coronation is recalled by Sir William Walton's 'other' march, 'Orb and Sceptre,' which has never quite equalled in popularity his 'Crown Imperial' although it is a fine march and a great change. Sir Arthur Bliss's 'Interlude Music' for the Investiture of Prince Charles, then a fanfare written by RB for the silver wedding celebrations which quotes from both Bliss's march 'Welcome the Queen' (on side two) and one of Bax's fanfares mentioned above. A grand march which deserves, and would undoubtedly have, were it not so tiring to play, much greater popularity, is Dr James Gayfer's 'Royal Visit,' written for the royal tour of Canada in 1957.

Side two opens with another RB offering, this time for the wedding of Princess Anne, a 'Toccata for Trumpets' leading direct into Widor's thrilling 'Toccata' from his 5th Organ Symphony, timed nicely to see the happy couple arrive at the west door on the final chord. Eric Coates, great composer of light music as he was, cannot live in this company, and Captain Beat makes the same error of judgement as I did by including his march from 'The Three Elizabeths.' Even my own feeble contributions, and Captain Derek Kimberley's march-fanfare 'Silver Jubilee' which ends the programme, are updated enough to leave Coates well and truly in the 1930s.

Not for the first time I have to hand the Scots Guards the palm. It hurts, yet with the generous representation of the Grenadiers affecting me not two iota, I hand it willingly.

RB

'The Silver Jubilee Year Royal Tournament' (Bands of the Royal Marines School of Music, Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, Flag Officer Naval Air Command; Silver Trumpets of the Royal Marines School of Music; Band of the Australian Army Band Corps; British Columbia Beefeater Band) (EMI SCX 6588)

Very little of this can be directly attributed to the Silver Jubilee except perhaps the timely majority accorded to producer Michael Parker. Such a young and handsome man too. I well remember my own realisation of impending old age on becoming 'Mon Commandant' instead of the vitalising and rejuvenating 'Monsieur le Capitaine' when I happened to be in France.

This is a well-produced record of its kind with interest mainly for those anxious to recall a pleasant hour or two spent in Earls Court. Lots of tunes played by the massed bands of the Royal Marines, the Australian Army Band Corps (with dieridoos and much matey-ness), and a return visit from the British Columbia Beefeater Band, those Canadian students in mock Tower of London rig.

RB

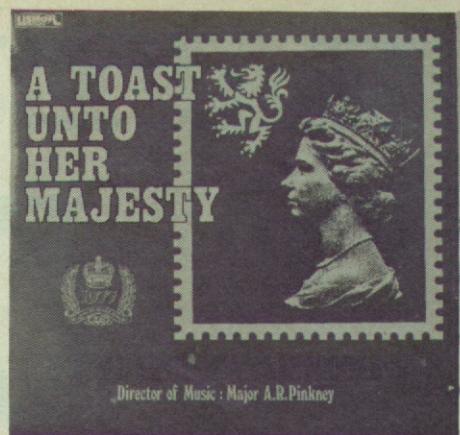
Side One: Massed bands of the Royal Marines — Jubilee Tournament (fanfare), Army of the Nile, Sailing, Brass Buttons, Silver Bugles, Glorious Victory, A Life on the Ocean Wave, Sarie Marais; Australian Army Band Corps — The Road to Gundagat, The Queensland Drover, The Shearers Song, Never Never, Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport, Botany Bay, Dying Stockman, Land of Hope and Glory, Waltzing Matilda.

Side Two: British Columbia Beefeater Band — Everything's Coming up Roses, Tuxedo Junction, New World Symphony, St Louis Blues, Medley on Alouette, I'm on My Way, They Call the Wind Maria; Royal Marines massed bands — Heart of Oak, Blaze Away, Sea Shanties medley, Rule Britannia, Shenandoah, Sunset, God Save the Queen.



'A Toast Unto Her Majesty' (The Royal Artillery Alanbrooke Band) (Director of Music: Major A R Pinkney) (Lismore LILP 5078)

This is a well thought-out programme too and, but for the luck of the draw, might have pipped us all to the post. The band is in good form and gives nicely characterised performances of several classic band items, especially in Gordon Jacob's Overture and March from his 'Music for a Festival.'



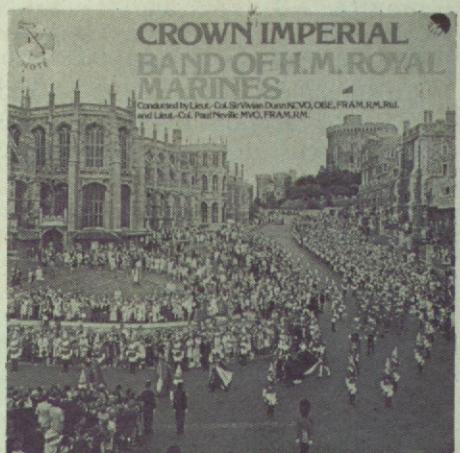
Director of Music: Major A.R. Pinkney

Maybe the march is a trifle Green Jackety (160 and all that) but slick and vividly played. I wish I could say the same for another performance of Bliss's 'Welcome the Queen' which dies a sluggish death; Major Pinkney is possibly confused by the inter-regimental changes of director of music suffered. Green Jackets to Gunners can't be easy.

Sousa's 'Fairest of the Fair' (a nice compliment) and Frederic Bayco's 'Royal Windsor' march, introduced by Bliss's 'Gala Fanfare,' make a foot-tapping start to the disc, with the Coates 'Queen Elizabeth' march to follow.

On side two, in addition to those mentioned above, are a march-medley, arranged by the conductor, called 'Music of the Four Countries,' the Epilogue from Bliss's suite for the film 'Things to Come,' and Gordon Jacob's Coronation version of the National Anthem.

RB



'Crown Imperial' (Band of HM Royal Marines conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn and Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Neville) (EMI NTS 123)

This is a band-wagon record and, of course, being bits and pieces from earlier discs it is all very acceptable. In case you've forgotten, the Royal Marines recorded 'Crown Imperial' under Vivian Dunn in 1961, a year of no great import, but EMI wisely rehashes it, warts an' all, for the current flag-waving exercise — and lo, thou hast a fine record title.

Bax's fanfare (see Scots Guards record) is performed with little sense of occasion or form and heralds Paul Neville's hornpipe concert march 'Sword of Honour.' The rest of the programme comprises suitable titles from old records and includes some of the sound track from 'Young Winston,' Arnold's 'Homage to the Queen,' and Henry Wood's 'Fantasia on British Sea Songs.' Side two is almost completely the tear jerkers beloved of tattoo producers, with a cut version of 'Orb and Sceptre' immediately followed by 'Crown Imperial.' Even sir William himself would find this a bit much.

RB

Also on this record: 'Triumphal March' (from 'Caractacus'), 'Nimrod' (from 'Enigma Variations Op 36'), 'Pomp and Circumstances No 4,' 'Rule Britannia,' 'Heart of Oak,' 'Land of Hope and Glory,' 'Cockaigne,' 'Crimond,' 'Sunset,' 'Salute to the Colours,' 'I Vow to Thee My Country.'



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Hampshire (1st Bn); Staffordshire (1st Bn); Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Durham Light Infantry; Royal Green Jackets; Rifle Brigade; Parachute; 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles; 6th QEO Gurkha Rifles; 7th DEO Gurkha Rifles; 10th PMO Gurkha Rifles; Gurkha Engineers; Ulster Defence Regiment (3rd (Co Down) Bn, 6th (Tyrone) Bn, 7th (City of Belfast) Bn, 10th (City of Belfast) Bn, or 11th (Craigavon) Bn).

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Miscellaneous: Honourable Artillery Company; Household Division; Staff College; Royal College of Defence Studies; Army Catering Corps Apprentices College; George IV; Royal Jersey Infantry; Royal Navy; Royal Marines; Royal Air Force; Atholl Highlanders; Royal British Legion Scotland; University of London OTC.

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SOLDIER PRINT SOCIETY

Full colour lithographs

by Charles Stadden

(16 x 11 ins, 405 x 278 mm)

1 Drum-major, Royal Marines, 1973	□	12 Drum-major, Queen's Regiment, 1974	□
2 Officer, King's Troop, RHA, 1972	□	13 Fusilier, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 1975	□
3 Officers, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, 1922	□	14 Private, 41st (Welch Regiment), 1854	□
4 Officer, Royal Artillery, 1772	□	15 Drum-major, Welsh Guards, 1975	□
5 Private, Company of Artificers, 1772	□	16 Standard-bearer, Blues and Royals, 1973	□
6 Drum horse, Life Guards, 1972	□	17 Drum-major, Scots Guards, 1975	□
7 Drum horse, Blues and Royals, 1972	□	18 Sailor, Royal Navy, 1975	□
8 Paratrooper, Parachute Regt, 1975	□	19 Piper, Ulster Defence Regiment, 1975	□
9 Mounted sentry, Life Guards, 1974	□	20 Standard-bearer, Life Guards, 1973	□
10 Mounted sentry, Blues and Royals, 1974	□	21 Drummer, Royal Anglian Regiment, 1974	□
11 Pipe-major, Black Watch, 1975	□	22 Private, 24th (South Wales Borderers), 1879	□

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 1 Sergeant, 95th Foot, 1809
 2 Rifleman, 60th Foot, 1812
 3 Drummer, 29th Foot, 1694
 4 Private, 46th Foot, 1746
 5 Officer, R Irish Rifles, 1900
 6 Officer, 27th Foot, 1733
 7 Officer, 87th Foot, 1809
 8 Officer, 82nd Foot, 1829
 9 Corporal, 47th Foot, 1770
 10 Private, 5th Foot, 1773
 11 Drum-major, 6th Foot, 1800
 12 Sergeant, 7th Foot, 1814

Set 2
 13 Officer, Argyll & Sutherland, 1972
 14 Bugle-major, R Green Jackets, 1972
 15 Grenadier, 37th Foot, 1759
 16 Guardsman, Scots Guards, 1972
 17 Private, 33rd Foot, 1702
 18 Officer, 34th Foot, 1702
 19 Private, 31st Foot, 1702
 20 Caliverer, 3rd Foot, 1572
 21 Drum horse, 3 POW Dragoons, 1896

22 Trooper, 2nd Dragoons, 1805
 23 Bugle-major, 68th Foot, 1846
 24 Officer, 20th Foot, 1769

Set 3
 25 Drum horse, Blues & Royals, 1972
 26 Drum-major, 9th Foot, 1810
 27 Officer, King's Troop RHA, 1972
 28 Officers, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, 1922
 29 Officer, Royal Artillery, 1772
 30 Pikeman, 1st Foot, 1633
 31 Drum-major, Devon & Dorsets, 1973

32 Standard-bearer, 15th/19th Hussars, 1973
 33 Officer, 4th/7th Royal Dragoons, 1743
 34 Officer, 1st KDG, 1815
 35 Standard-bearer, Life Guards, 1973
 36 Standard-bearer, Blues & Royals, 1973

Set 4
 37 Drummer, R Regt of Wales, 1973
 38 Private, 19th Foot, 1873
 39 Piper, 25th Foot, 1770
 40 Guardsman, Welsh Guards, 1973
 41 Mounted trooper, Life Guards, 1973
 42 Goat-major, R Regt of Wales, 1973
 43 Drum-major, Royal Marines, 1973
 44 Officer, Royal Jersey Militia, 1772
 45 Drum-major, Staffordshire Regt, 1972
 46 Officer, R Irish Rangers, 1972
 47 Drum-horse, Life Guards, 1972
 48 Airman, Queen's Colour Sqn RAF, 1973

Set 5
 49 Officer, 39th Foot, 1757
 50 Drum-major, Welsh Guards, 1975
 51 Private, 41st Foot, 1854
 52 Drum-major, Scots Guards, 1975
 53 Private, 24th Foot, 1879
 54 Fusilier, R Regt of Fusiliers, 1975
 55 Officer, 23rd Foot, 1854

56 Pipe-major, Black Watch, 1975
 57 Officer, 30th Foot, 1742
 58 Sailor, Royal Navy, 1975
 59 Paratrooper, Parachute Regt, 1975
 60 Private, Company of Artificers, 1772

Set 6
 61 4 RM in Zeebrugge raid, 23 Apr 1918
 62 RM Bde in Belgium, Aug 1914
 63 RM and Light Inf changing sentries, 1855
 64 RM commandos, 1944
 65 Marine marksman, 1799
 66 RM bugler, 1793
 67 Officer of Marines, 1799
 68 RM at Battle of Tamai, 13 Mar 1884
 69 Grenadier, Villier's Marines, Gibraltar, 24 July 1704
 70 RM landing craft deckhand, D-Day, 1944
 71 RM Forces Volunteer Reserve, 1948
 72 RM at capture of Oswego, 5 May 1814

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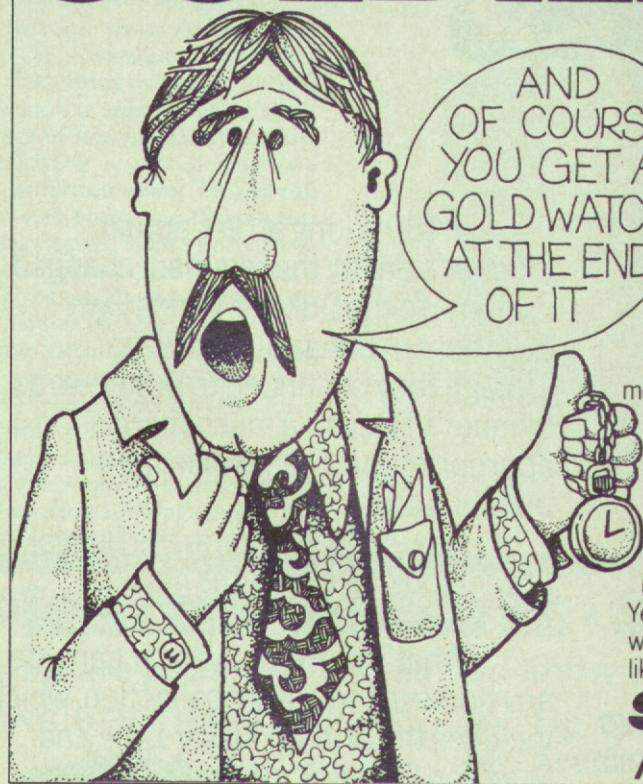
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FROM OUT OF THE DESERT sun they swooped, with blood-curdling cries and flame-spitting machine-guns . . . only to disappear within moments back into the swirling sands. The soldiers of the Axis supply column thought it was all a mirage — until they turned round to see the debris of blazing vehicles and dead comrades.

For the men of the Long Range Desert Group it was a routine 'beat-up.' In camouflaged Chevrolet trucks, faces masked with beards and arab headdress, they operated like pirates in the sea of sand. Indeed, they used logarithm tables and a specially developed sun compass to navigate over the vastness of undulating sand dunes like mariners through waves of the open sea.

Their best 'beat-up' was at Barce, a town in the plains of Cyrenaica. There they circled the airfield, firing incendiary bullets, and drove around the streets lobbing grenades at the legs of fleeing enemy soldiers. However the LRDG — official insignia a scorpion — performed fewer hit-and-run than hide-and-seek operations. They transported espionage agents, helped prisoners to escape and carried out a census of Rommel's columns with binoculars from concealed positions for months on end.

This phantom force has at last been captured — as a static model in 1:35th scale. It comes as a kit of plastic parts for £2.70 from the Japanese firm of Tamiya.

The kit shows Tamiya's usual attention to detail, with a finely moulded transmission assembly and a wealth of fittings such as the

sun compass; Lee-Enfield rifles, Lewis gun and Boys anti-tank rifle; headphones and radio; and pierced steel plating for 'unsticking' the vehicle from soft sand. One criticism is that the two figures provided have long trousers and ammunition boots whereas shorts and suede ankle boots were more popular dress. The side hat and cap comforter worn could be replaced by arab headdress made from tissue paper and twine

to produce a rather more exotic 'uniform.'

Tamiya, whose kits are marketed in this country by Richard Kohnstam Ltd, of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 3AD, also do a series of extra accessories for diorama displays. They include packs for tents, sand bags, jerricans, brick walls, barricades, and German road signs, all in 1:35th scale and varying in price from 49 to 65 pence.

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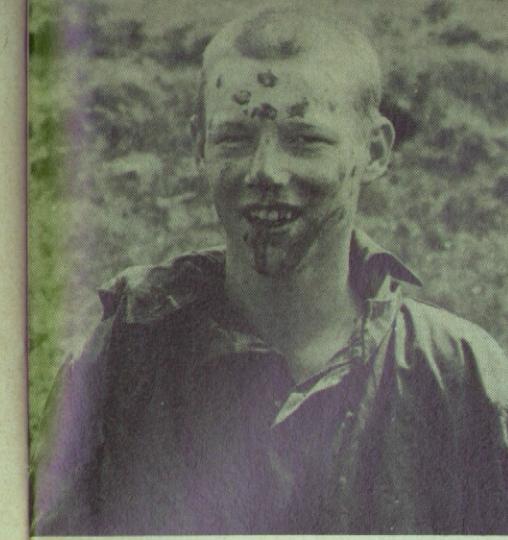
EXT:



Exhausted but still alert, the young sappers wait for the 'enemy' to reach their ambush point.

And after the battle there is real blood on the face of an 'insurgent' who was resisting arrest.

Cold comfort from a mountain stream as troops dash into a highland glen towards an objective.



Story: Mike Starke/Pictures: Paul Haley

'HIGHLAND ENDEAVOUR'



The pack ponies bring up the rear party — and their kit.

THE LATEST EXPLOIT of Army explorer Lieutenant-Colonel John Blashford-Snell was to lead some 400 raw recruits into the trackless wastes of the Scottish Highlands for a two-week lung-busting, muscle-crushing forced march that covered some 60 kilometres of rugged mountain wilderness and 15 kilometres of travel by assault boat across crag-lined lochs.

The young soldiers, who were joined by two dozen adventurous training students from the Metropolitan Police Cadet School at Hendon, were from the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, based at Old Park Barracks, Dover.

Colonel Blashford-Snell, who commands the regiment, conceived the exercise some twelve months before it took place, drawing on his experience as an explorer in such hostile environments as the foetid Darien Gap in Central America and the raging torrent of the Zaire River in Africa.

The majestic Highland deer that roam the peaks and the soaring golden eagles wheeling in the sky above held none of the menace of the wild beasts the colonel has encoun-

tered on more exotic trips. But Exercise Highland Endeavour was no cakewalk for the young recruits, many of whom had been in the Army for only two-and-a-half to six weeks.

A burst of summer sun warmed the often rain-drenched crags but overheated a number of the kit-laden soldiers and the small medical team that accompanied them was hard-pressed at times coping with exhaustion cases. And the tiny support unit in the base camp had a job to keep up with the re-supply of boots worn out on the granite crags.

The heat brought another hazard too. Horseflies harassed the tiring troops with the zeal of Highland clansmen of Bonny Prince Charlie's day teasing the flanks of the British Redcoats. Suffering his umpteenth sting of the day, Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Graham Harrison commented: "If these horseflies were any bigger you could saddle 'em!"

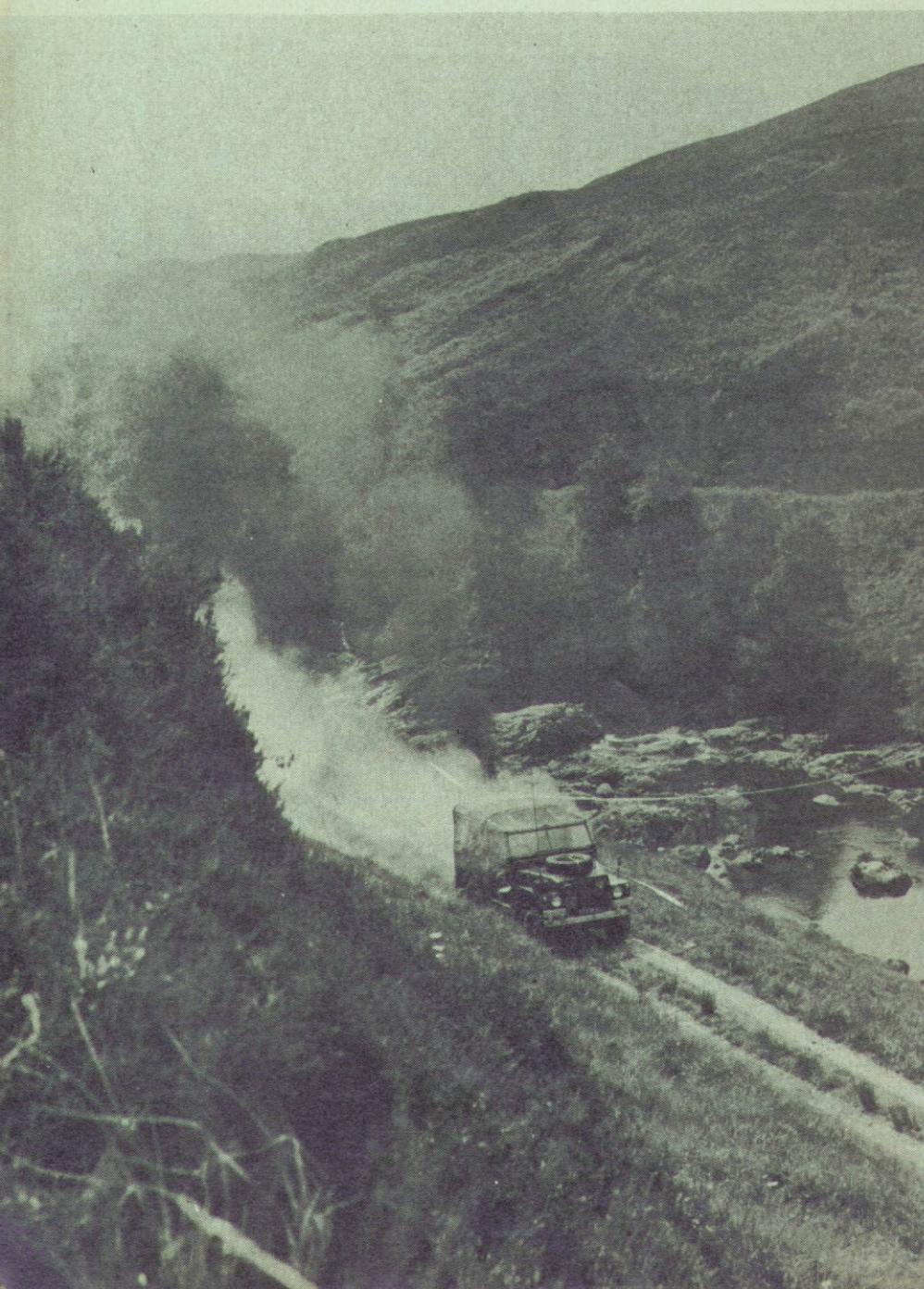
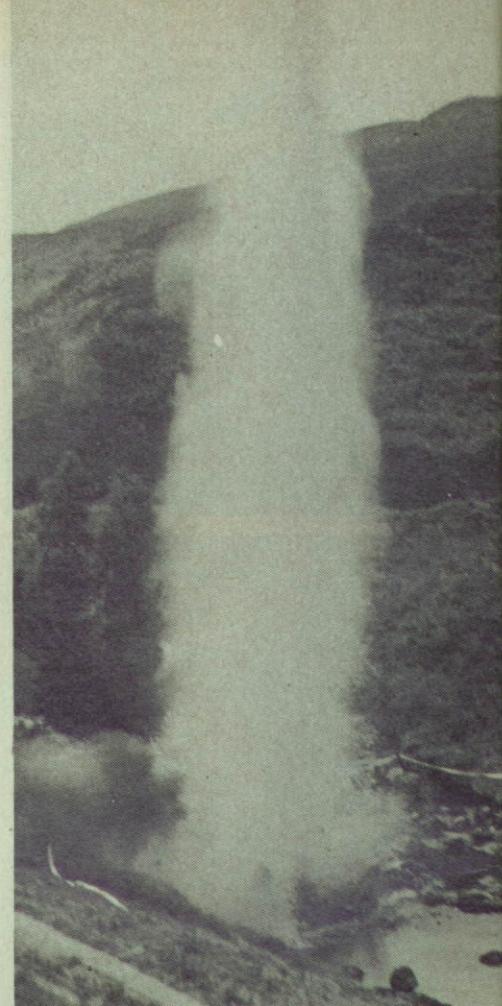
An added delight for the horseflies was the presence on the exercise of real, live horses. Local trekking ponies had been



Just weeks after leaving school, these lads are battle-hardened.

Belching smoke from a grenade, a Land-Rover speeds from the scene of an exercise battle.

A spectacular controlled explosion simulates an air strike by RAF Jaguar fighter-bombers. ▶

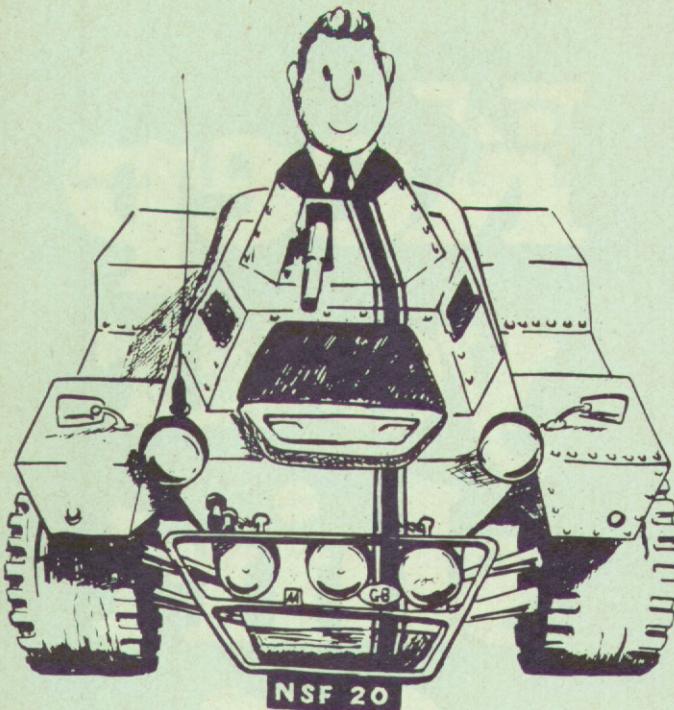


hired as pack animals and — unused to heavier duties than carrying young holidaymakers over the hills — they were given representative loads to support the march. Colonel Blashford-Snell explained: "They were introduced to give the boys a little added interest." But the ponies' interest was concentrated on tent guy ropes over which they developed a habit of tripping at night.

The exercise started with a journey by assault craft across Loch Mora followed by the spectacular demolition with explosives of a dangerously derelict house. There followed a four-day march to Shiel Bridge where assault craft were again used to cross Loch Quoich. The troops — styled the Fantasian Army for the duration — finished up in the breathtaking Attadale Forest private estate where they fought a simulated battle before settling down to the final phase of the exercise — refurbishing a mountain track to practise their sapper skills and by way of a 'thank you' to the estate owner for allowing his land to be used.

It was a haggard and footsore Junior Leaders Regiment that entrained in the Highlands for the return trip to Dover after one of the toughest tests young soldiers have undertaken. Colonel Blashford-Snell explained that shortly after selection for Army service, each recruit had been written to and warned about the exercise and told to get fit to face it. "They responded extremely well," he said, "and the majority prepared themselves beforehand."

Certainly, their introduction to Army life in the field was as hard as most situations they are likely to find themselves in as they go on to man's service in the Army.



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... and we shook hands upon it, he telling his companions that I was a good soldier, could drink and dance today and fight and die tomorrow ...

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LETTERS



Island of Adventure

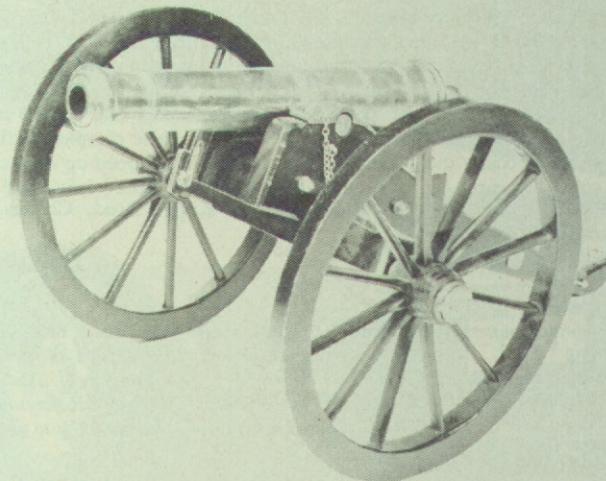
I was very interested to read your article 'Island of Adventure' (SOLDIER August 1977) on the weekend training of RCT recruits since it was established during my tour with the Depot Regiment RCT in January/February 1972. It was the brainchild of the officer commanding C Squadron (then Major J M Bowen) and I, as his second-in-command, was responsible for getting the project under way.

The small Newtown training area was discovered and considered to be an ideal location for adventure training. But it was owned by the Eastern Wessex TAVR Association and we had to seek authority to use it. We were therefore indebted to the secretary of the association, Brigadier J B Oldfield, who granted us permission. Once established, we wished to build our own base and, again, we were indebted to the brigadier since it was

he who obtained permission from Colonel The Earl of Malmesbury who, as one of the vice-presidents of the association, was responsible for the Isle of Wight. The Royal Engineers' 3 Training Regiment agreed to build the hut and cookhouse area as a training exercise. I am delighted to see that the project has grown since those early days and I wish the venture continuing success.—**Maj C J Constable, 20 Squadron RCT, Regents Park Barracks, Albany Street, London, NW1 4AL.**

Calling the Galloway Battalion

It is proposed to hold a reunion of all ranks who served in 7th (Galloway) Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, in World War Two. Arrangements are being made for a



A one-third scale model of an early 19th century Galloper field gun with a bronze barrel fetched £185 at a recent auction by Weller & Dufty Ltd, the Birmingham auctioneers.

special showing of the Arnhem film 'A Bridge Too Far' at the Cinema, Newton Stewart, immediately before the reunion.

No comprehensive list of wartime members of the battalion is available and the organising committee would be grateful if those who served in the battalion then would send their names and addresses—and those of any wartime comrades known to them—to the address below. If there is sufficient response, invitations to the proposed reunion will be sent out.—**Maj S R Blackley, Corsbie West, Newton Stewart, Wigtonshire, Scotland.**

Wrong tank

In the August issue of SOLDIER you referred to a picture taken at Aldershot Army Display as being of a '50-ton Chieftain tank.' I would like to point out for the benefit of the uninformed that this tank was in fact a Centurion. Chieftain is not equipped with such items as external turret stowage bins, a 105mm gun, fishtail external exhausts, unpadded tracks, and right-hand gun crutch.—**Tpr F J**

Norris, HQ Royal Armoured Corps, HQ 1 (British) Corps, BFPO 39.

**Thank you, Trooper Norris and other readers. Centurion it was. In reply to a reader who asked why a Centurion should be appearing at a modern Army display, the answer is that the tank was being used purely for a demonstration of training in loading and offloading a tank transporter.*

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.

Gerry Ewing, c/o Staff, HM Prison, Brixton, London. — *Seeks prison badges, prison relics, also picture postcard views of prisons worldwide.*

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Four colourful and contrasting Christmas cards have been chosen for sale this year by the Army Benevolent Fund in aid of Army charities. Card A at 15p is a reproduction of C Bowles' beautifully perspectived period study of St James's Palace. Card B at 12p is Frank Holl's 1877 Royal Academy exhibit 'Going Home,' a charming portrait of a Chelsea Pensioner on the arm of his grand-daughter in a country lane. Card C at 12p is a Rubens' 'The Adoration of the Magi' and Card D at 8p is a delightful water colour wash of a winter scene complete with horse-drawn coach and a Victorian couple on foot wrapped up against the cold. The cards can be ordered from the Army Benevolent Fund, G Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4SP.

postcards, prints, posters, photos, models, anything.

Cpl P Davies, 713 TACP (FAC), c/o 5 Fd Force Sig Sqn, BFPO 36. — Seeks WW2 POW Stalag and Oflag identity tags, Lagergeld, letter cards and photographs. State price required.

Carlo Walter, Haenlinstrasse 12, 8070 Ingolstadt, Federal Republic of Germany. — Seeks book (AFHQ) 'The Chetniks.'

S R Smith, 1 Parsons Hook, Coventry, CV2 4QY. — British military cap badges and brass shoulder titles for sale or exchange. My interests British campaign medals especially general service medals. Large sae for list.

R Neilson, 2 Cot Lane, Biddenham, Ashford, Kent. — Wants to exchange British Army badges, mostly Staybrites. Good condition. Willing to buy and sell.

Ronald C Haydon, 9 Church Close, Westhouses, Derbyshire, DE55

SAQ.—Seeks US rank insignia in decal/transfer form as used on steel helmets/liners. Best prices paid. Also has back issues of *SOLDIER* for sale or exchange from October 1970 to now.



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British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association

GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE— PLEASE

Reunions

Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, Old Boys Association. Reunion of members and associate members, 15-16 October, to include sports versus the apprentices and a dinner. Accommodation available. Recent apprentices particularly welcome. Details from Hon Secretary OBA, Army Apprentices College, Arborfield Camp, Reading, RG2 9NJ.

14/28 Field Regiment RA (1,3, 5 and 57 field batteries). Annual dinner, Saturday 5 November, at HQ RA Sergeants' Mess, Woolwich, 2000 hrs. Names and cash to Mr A Dufall, 39 Waiblington Way, Devizes, Wiltshire.

Royal Army Veterinary Corps Association. Annual general meeting and reunion dinner, 1 October, RAVC Training Centre, Melton Mowbray, Leics. Details from Hon Secretary, RAVC Association, MoD

(AVR), Droitwich, Worcs, WR9 8AU.

Beachley Old Boys Association. Annual reunion, 30 September, 1 and 2 October. Particulars from Hon Secretary, BOBA, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 7YG.

Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Regimental Association. Annual reunion, Saturday 12 November, at Slade Park, Oxford. Details from RHQ, RGJ, Slade Park TAVR Centre, Headington, Oxford.

The West Yorkshire Regiment and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Annual reunion and White Horse Ball, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Streatham, Saturday 1 October. Particulars from Secretary, West Yorkshire and PWO Regimental Association, Imphal Barracks, York, YO1 4HD.

82nd Armoured Engineer Squadron RE Old Comrades' Association. 32nd annual reunion buffet, Saturday 12 November, 1800-2300, at Royal Green Jackets Sergeants' Mess, 56 Davies Street, London W1. Contact: Lionel T Crate, 364 King Street, London, W6 0RX. Telephone: 01-748 6755.

1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron/Parachute Squadron RAC Old Comrades. Reunion buffet evening, Union Jack Club (Gascoigne rooms), Waterloo Road, London SE1, Saturday 22 October, 7.30 pm. Apply (£3.50 per head) Hon Secretary, D Holt, 49 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1JT (Tel: 01-492 1050).

The Welch Regiment Old Comrades. Reunion dinner, Saturday 15 October, TAVR Centre, Broadway, Pontypridd, 7.30pm. Tickets (£2.50 each) from V D Williams, 41 Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8EZ (with sae).

Competition

The May numerical crossword (Competition 227) was fairly tough and resulted in fewer entries than usual. Conversion from the numbers to letters (0 was H, 1 D, 2 R, 3 A, 4 I, 5 S, 6 N, 7 E, 8 O and 9 T) gave in the ringed letters IRONSIDES, the name of a body of soldiers. The answer to the competition's question of who commanded them was of course Cromwell. Prizewinners:

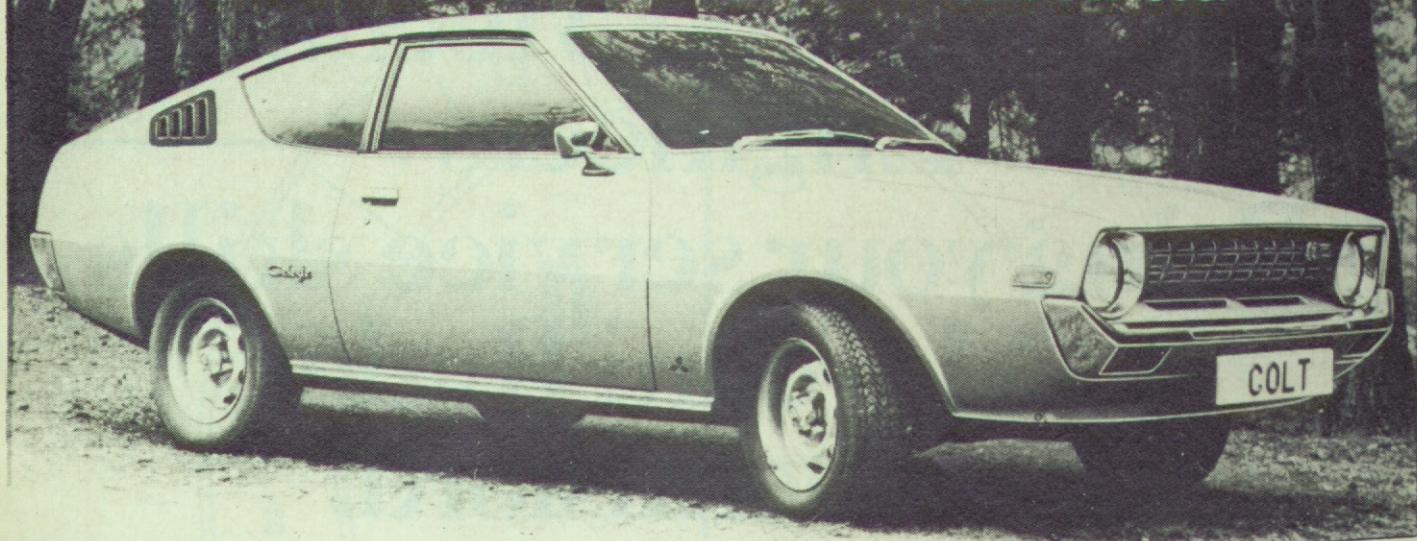
- 1 J W Elliot, 12 Rowantree Crescent, Linlathen, Dundee, Scotland.
- 2 Sgt T Smith, Sgts Mess, Imphal Barracks, Fulford Road, York.
- 3 WO2 J Simmonds, SSO Detmold, BFPO 41.
- 4 Maj R S King, DSCS, Block 4, Craven Hill, Bicester, Oxfordshire.
- 5 W S Brownlie, 19 Hunterhill Road, Paisley, Scotland.
- 6 G Maynard, 45 Barfield Road, Thatcham, Newbury, Berkshire.
- 7 S/Sgt R F Hind, 53 Sy Sect, Int and Sy Gp (G), BFPO 39.
- 8 Cpl R I Brown, B Troop, 3 Tk Tpr Sqn RCT, BFPO 16.

How observant are you?

(See page 14)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Sandbags in painting 28. 2 Musket barrel in painting 29. 3 Viewing soldier's thumb. 4 Foot of soldier in painting 30. 5 Officer's cap badge. 6 Width of officer's Sam Browne. 7 Officer's right heel. 8 Arrow on notice. 9 Statuette's hat. 10 Armoured car's gun muzzle.

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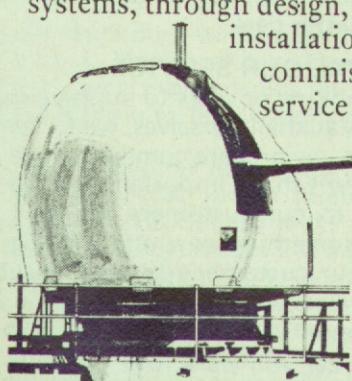
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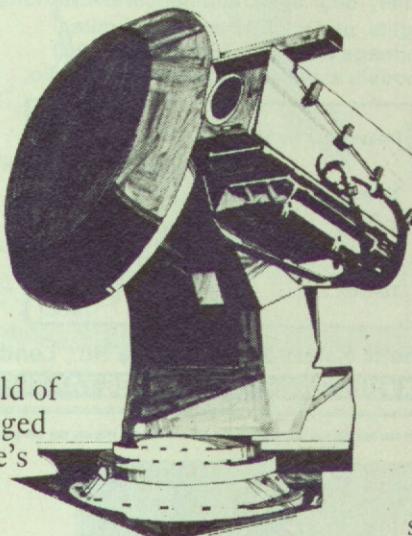
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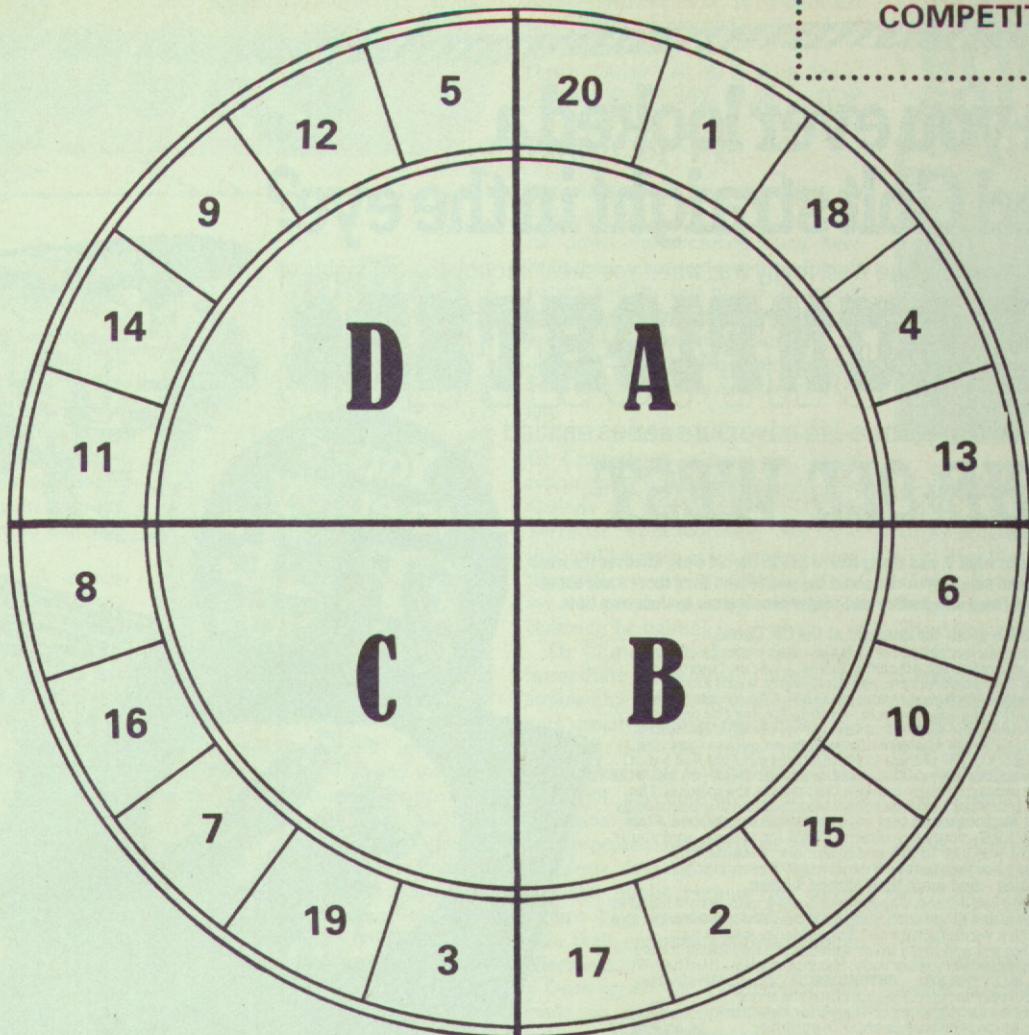


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Fallen archers

THIS DIAGRAM, a cross between a compass, sundial and dartboard, represents the deployment of four mutually opposing companies of archers. The companies are numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 and occupy areas A, B, C and D, but not necessarily in that order.

Each company comprises five bands and the number of archers in each band is as shown in the diagram. Each company is hit by two salvos of arrows and any band hit by both salvos is deemed to be wiped out. Each salvo hits four bands.

The two salvos against Company 1 'score' 37 and 50

The two salvos against Company 2 'score' 44 and 40

The two salvos against Company 3 'score' 37 and 39

The two salvos against Company 4 'score' 36 and 52

At the close of action, which company is left with the greatest number of archers? What is that number? Which area does this company occupy? Write your answer like this — 3-48-A — and send it, with the 'Competition 231' label from this page and your name and address, on a postcard or by letter, to:

Editor (Comp 231)

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Ordnance Road

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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 12 December. The answers and winners' names will appear in the February 1978 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 231' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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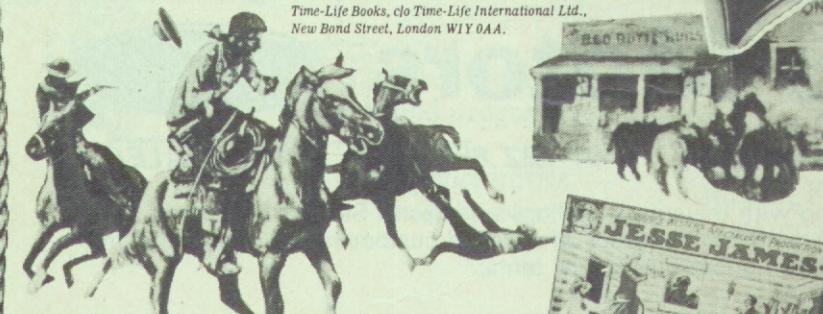
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Books

Escape

'Five Roads to Freedom' (George Beeson)

'In Pursuit of Freedom' (Jack Bishop)

Mr Beeson was a Royal Army Ordnance Corps sergeant when he was captured at St Malo in 1940. He was carted off to a camp in Poland and there began his painstaking career as an escaper. His simple philosophy was "If you can't dig your way out, kid your way out, and if that fails think again."

He made five escapes, all meticulously prepared. On one he posed as a German sergeant-major only to be arrested and locked in a cell at the top of Stuttgart police headquarters at a time when RAF bombs were raining on the city. His last escape was from a camp near Munich. He reached France, teamed up with the Maquis and had many hair-raising adventures before being repatriated. Later he received the Military Medal.

Mr Bishop was a survivor of the submarine HMS Oswald, sunk in the Mediterranean after claiming a heavily loaded trooper. He was held in a variety of Italian prison camps and took to the road after the Italian armistice was signed. With a companion, he was well on the way towards the allied lines when he was betrayed by an elderly Italian woman. For the first time he found himself in thoroughly unpleasant German captivity.

He ended up, however, in a camp commanded by a German naval officer who had been a prisoner in England in World War One and, happily for his prisoners, had himself been well treated.

As Germany's defeat drew nearer, the prisoners were marched away from the advancing allies only to be strafed by the RAF to whom the columns would look like marching troops. He was finally liberated at Lubeck.

Both these books, though not literary masterpieces, are well worth reading. They are the stories of ordinary men who, though in adversity, did not lose their spirit.

1 Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.95
2 Seeley Service & Cooper, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.95

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Formidable

'The Russian War Machine 1917-1945' (Edited by S L Mayer)

When the Red Army smashed its way into Berlin in 1945 it was probably the world's most formidable fighting force. By a miracle of arms production, and aided by her allies, Russia had built a superb army which contributed more than any other to the defeat of Germany. It had reeled back in confusion and defeat to the gates of Moscow but, through that uniquely Russian mixture of fear,

confidence ebbed as the advance went on. One division thought its surrender demand to General Percival had been premature; it seemed they would be the ones to surrender. Little wonder they doubted their ears when they heard that British peace envoys wished to cross the lines.

Professor Allen brings the whole drama vividly to life and in a chapter headed 'Afterthoughts' discusses the descent of the Jap army from the

decency it displayed during the Russo-Japanese War to the brutal atrocities it committed in Singapore and elsewhere.

Davis-Poynter Ltd, 20 Garrick Street, London, WC2E 9BZ, £6.50

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Power of TV

'Guerrillas and Terrorists' (Richard Clutterbuck)

All down the centuries there have been those who used terror to disrupt society and the rule of law. In recent times, however, the power of the terrorist has grown, magnified by modern weapons and technology, both of which he has learned to exploit.

After an erudite historical survey, Dr Clutterbuck re-examines several recent cases — the Palestinians, the factions in Northern Ireland, the 'terrorist international.' We find that, unlike some of his predecessors, the modern terrorist is likely to alienate the people on whose behalf he claims to be fighting.

Dr Clutterbuck shows that while immediate objectives might be attained by terrorism, in the long run it is usually counter-productive. He declares that the most powerful weapon available to both sides — the forces of law and of terror — is television. He advocates a more positive approach to television by governments, law enforcement agencies and the public because the terror groups have learned more quickly than their opponents how to exploit television.

Once again Dr Clutterbuck has made an extremely valuable contribution to the debate on terror.

Faber & Faber, 3 Queen Square, London WC1, £4.25

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terror, patriotism and ideological conviction, it recovered and marched all the way to victory in Berlin.

Yet its origins had been shaky, its organisation weak and its ability to defend the Soviet Union was in doubt for many years. It was bloodied in civil war, viciously purged by Stalin in the Thirties, and when World War Two began was in urgent need of reorganisation.

In this splendid, profusely illustrated book, John Bradley, Ian Hogg, Antony Preston and Douglas Lee Welsh present a history of the Red Army from its formation under Trotsky to the first rumblings of the Cold War after 1945. They describe its weaponry, its problems, the purges, the emergence of the men who were to lead it to victory, and the spirit in which it fought.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1PR, £5.95

JCW

Humiliating

'Singapore 1941-1942' (Louis Allen) Few incidents in British history have been more humiliating than the fall of Singapore. It is a sorry tale, but never more compellingly told than by Professor Allen who, as a Japanese scholar, has been able to pursue his researches to much better effect than some writers.

On the British side there was the ill-founded confidence — "I do hope, Sir, we are not getting too strong in Malaya, because if so the Japanese may never attempt a landing," said the CO of the Argylls — that was so quickly shattered.

In Japanese command circles, confidence ebbed as the advance went on. One division thought its surrender demand to General Percival had been premature; it seemed they would be the ones to surrender. Little wonder they doubted their ears when they heard that British peace envoys wished to cross the lines.

Professor Allen brings the whole drama vividly to life and in a chapter headed 'Afterthoughts' discusses the descent of the Jap army from the

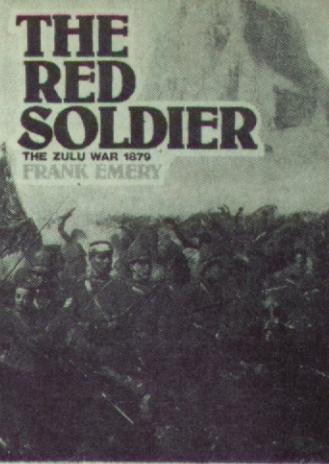
treasure trove to the military historian and a just reward to Mr Emery for his years of searching. He uses them as a framework in this scholarly and fascinating history of a war which started disastrously for Britain.

The British Army totally underestimated the Zulus. Isandhlwana, at which more officers were killed than in the whole Waterloo campaign, stunned Britain. Lord Chelmsford, commander-in-chief, was sacked and, greatly reinforced, his successor, Sir Evelyn Wood, eventually crushed the Zulus at Ulundi.

In these letters, Queen Victoria's soldiers show themselves to be keen observers, eloquent writers and men of compassion and feeling. Their tragedy was that they were poorly led, at least initially, and brave and loyal as they were, they were filled with foreboding.

Hodder & Stoughton, 47 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3DP, £6.25

JCW



Tabletop

'Airfix Magazine Guide 24: American Civil War Wargaming' (Terence Wise)

'Morale Rules for Wargaming' (Ian G Wright)

The American Civil War was the first 'modern' conflict. Vastly increased firepower swept away Napoleonic battlefield tactics, infantry could no longer appear in mass and, for those who could see it, the writing was on the wall for the cavalry.

It is thus a handy war for the tabletop and this excellent Airfix guide, with its concise notes on organisation, tactics, outline of the war, and summary of wargaming rules, is an ideal introduction to the hobby.

Mr Wright's contribution is a duplicated pamphlet, the first of a series in which he sets out to explore more fully certain aspects of warfare often treated almost as afterthoughts by wargamers. He examines all the factors determining the state of morale — commitment to a cause, national characteristics, leadership, comradeship, logistical competency, training, discipline, quality of equipment — and presents rules for gauging morale in terms of wargaming.

1 Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, £1.60

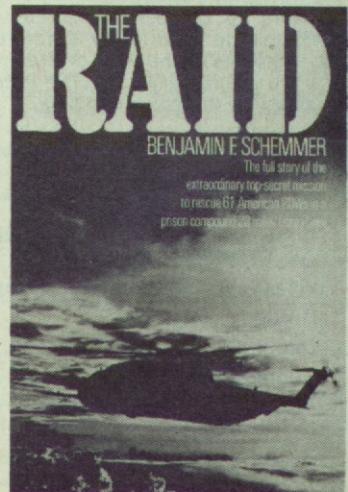
2 Skirmisher Publications, 21 Park Lane, Pinhoe, Exeter, Devon, £1.00 post free

JCW

Helicopter assault

'The Raid' (Benjamin F Schemmer)

In November 1970 a highly trained assault team of American raiders landed by helicopter at Son Tay, just 23 miles from Hanoi, the North Vietnamese capital. Their mission



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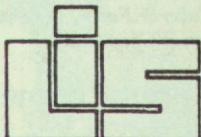
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was the rescue of 61 American prisoners-of-war held in Son Tay prison. After a fierce battle the raiders withdrew — without a single freed prisoner.

After five years of intensive research, Mr Schemmer has produced a splendid reconstruction of the raid from its conception to its aftermath. Fascinating, detailed and superbly carried out, it was a military masterpiece.

One helicopter landed on a secondary school 400 metres from the Son Tay compound. It turned out to be a heavily guarded barracks. Between 100 and 200 of the inmates were killed and it was later learned they were either Russian or Chinese troops who were training the North Vietnamese. The helicopter pilot's 'mistake' probably saved the lives of half the raiders.

Much later, returning prisoners testified that news of the raid gave them the biggest morale boost of their captivity. For my money, this is the best and most exciting incident of the Vietnam war; and the same goes for Mr Schemmer's book.

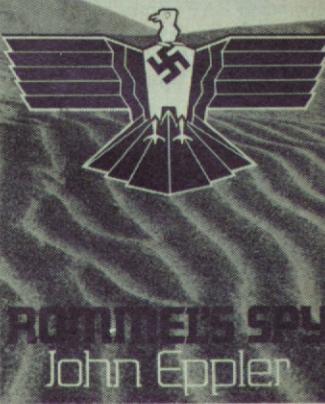
Macdonald & Jane's, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £4.95 JCW

His story takes us on journeys all over the Middle East and as far as Berlin. Operation Condor, in which he was to maintain contact from Cairo with Rommel who was fully expected to capture Cairo in the near future, seems to have been stillborn because on the day Mr Eppler reached the Egyptian capital the British captured the group's code book.

Mr Eppler, who spins a good yarn, ended up in British custody, avoiding the hangman through his stepfather's friendship with the British. He writes confidently of events in the Middle East, but for a spy he seems hazy about what he was seeking.

Perhaps Mr Eppler was no James Bond, but his affair with the beautiful belly dancer Hekmat is certainly in the best secret service tradition. *Macdonald & Jane's, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £5.95 JCW*

OPERATION CONDOR



ROMMEL'S SPY
 John Eppler

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'The German Bayonet' (John Walter)
 Unlike most of the world's armies, the German Army between 1871 and 1945 used a fantastic array of bayonets. They included the infamous 'butcher knife' bayonet of World War One with its back edge of double saw teeth, not intended, as some propagandists claimed, to inflict terrible wounds, but merely to saw through the wooden posts on which enemy barbed-wire entanglements were supported.

Perhaps the best was the highly advanced Eickhorn-made S-42 tool bayonet of World War Two, with its detachable tool unit in the hilt. It had a knife-blade, bradawl, screwdriver, corkscrew and bottle opener — but not the 'thing to get stones out of horses' hooves.'

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1PR, £5.75

Cairo agent

'Operation Condor: Rommel's Spy' (John Eppler)

This is the autobiography of the German-born adopted son of a wealthy Cairo family who, we are told, was once described by a British intelligence officer "as the most dangerous agent working in Egypt." Certainly he had a taste for adventure and when, with war looming, the German Abwehr approached him, he agreed to become an agent.

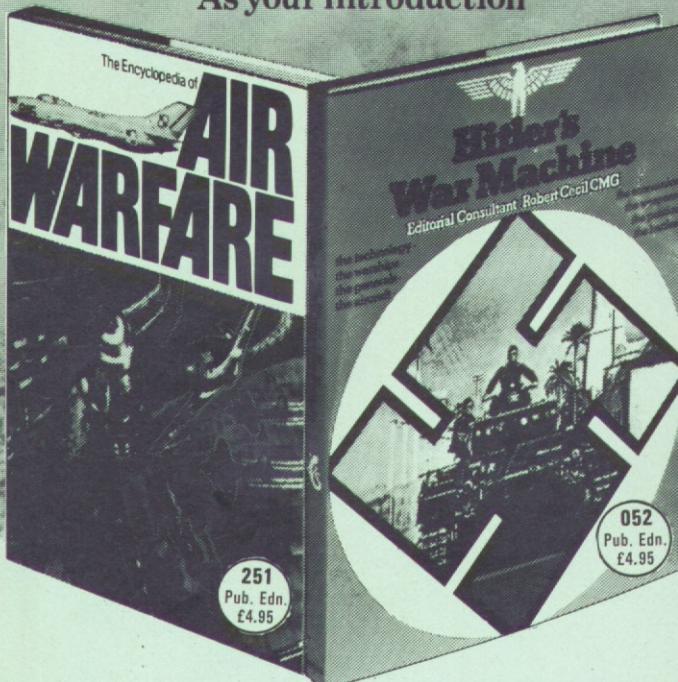




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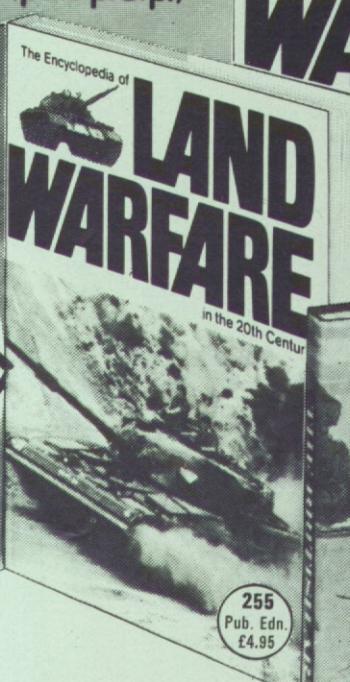
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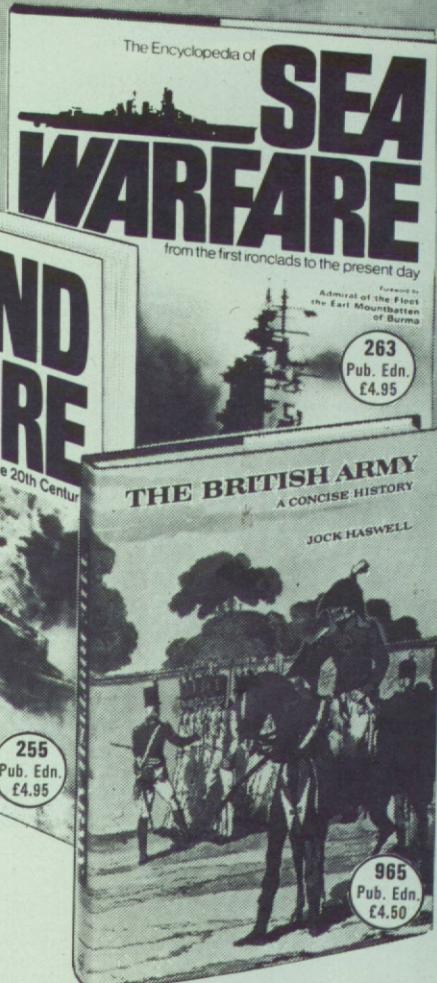
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