

SEPTEMBER 1972 ★ 7½p

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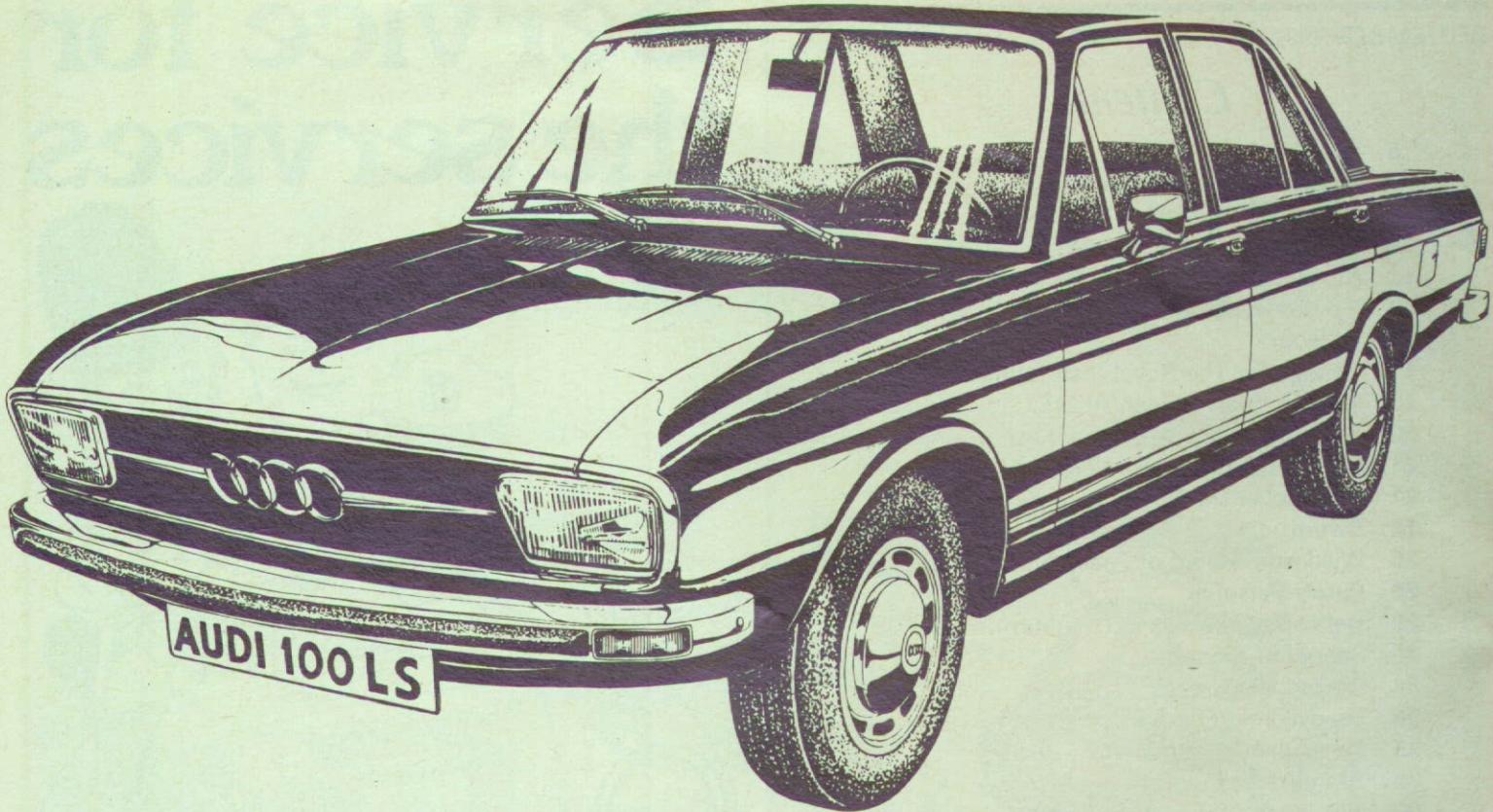
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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

SEPTEMBER 1972

- 9 Freedom of Bury, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.
- 9 Freedom of Preston, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment.
- 12 Barrow-in-Furness Army display (12-13 September).**
- 13 Kneller Hall grand (band) final concert.
- 15 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (15-16 September).
- 16 Army recruiting display, Liverpool (16-17 September).
- 16 Water Carnival, Welwyn Garden City (3 RHA, Para display team, Red Devils).
- 19 Centenary, Roundhay Park, Leeds (or 22 September) (bands).
- 21 Thame Royal British Legion Fête (band).
- 21 Cambrian March (21-24 September).
- 22 Centenary, Roundhay Park, Leeds (if not 19 September) (bands).
- 23 Army recruiting display, Wrexham (23-24 September).
- 23 Open day, The Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury.
- 24 TAVR freedom of Cambridge.
- 30 Hereford Military Tattoo (30 September-1 October).

OCTOBER 1972

- 13 Freedom of Blandford, Royal Corps of Signals.**

NOVEMBER 1972

- 11 Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 11 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 12 Remembrance Sunday.

MAY 1973

- 26 Tidworth Tattoo (26-27 May).**

JUNE 1973

- 9 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 16 Aldershot Army Display (16-17 or 23-24 June).
- 16 Open Day, Depot The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts.**
- 17 Welsh 3000s (17-18 June).

JULY 1973

- 11 Royal Tournament (11-28 July).**

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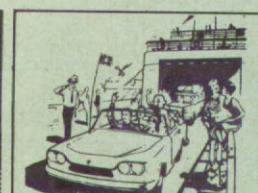
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Appointments and Awards

Lieutenant-General Sir Harry Tuzo, General Officer Commanding and Director of Operations, Northern Ireland, is to become Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine, with the rank of general in May next year in succession to General Sir Peter Hunt. This is one of a number of senior appointments announced by the Ministry of Defence.

Lieutenant-General Sir Frank King, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, United Kingdom Land Forces, succeeds Sir Harry in Northern Ireland from February 1973. Lieutenant-General Sir Allan Taylor, General Officer Commanding, South East District, succeeds General King at UKLF while his place at South East District will be taken by Major-General T D H McMeekin, Commandant, National Defence College.

Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea, Deputy Colonel, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, is to be Lieutenant of the Tower of London on 10 September 1972 in succession to Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Goodwin.



The British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Military Division) has been awarded to Corporal Anthony Bourne, a Royal Corps of Transport marine engineer, for bravery in attempting to save a colleague's life in rough and icy seas off South Uist in the Outer Hebrides.

Last January Corporal Bourne and three volunteers set off in a dory to recover a small pilotless aircraft which had come down in



the sea. All wore lifejackets but one man could not swim. The boat capsized three times and on the third occasion Corporal Bourne and the non-swimmer were swept out to sea. The corporal remained with the man, helping him to keep afloat, until both eventually lost consciousness. He was in the sea for 40 minutes before he was rescued.

The citation states: "Although Corporal Bourne failed to save his comrade's life his attempts to do so were made to the extreme limits of his powers. . . even though he knew that these attempts placed his own life in much greater jeopardy. . . he displayed courage, fortitude, resolute determination and comradeship of the highest order, greatly exceeding the demands of duty."

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Foreign service or Wolseley pattern helmet 1934

The body of this helmet was of cork covered in white or khaki cloth in six seams. The brim was bound in buff leather and measured three inches in the front, four inches at the back and two inches at the sides. The helmet was ventilated by means of a zinc khaki or white cloth-covered button set into a collet riveted into the top. The chinstrap of brown leather was $\frac{1}{8}$ ths of an inch wide.

As a substitute for the white helmet the khaki one with a white cover and puggree could be worn. Distinctive patches were worn by most regiments with the exception of the following who were allowed their own device: Brigade of Guards—regimental pattern plumes and pugree badges; Royal Fusiliers—white plume; Black Watch—red hackle; Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry—red feathers; Lancashire Fusiliers—yellow hackle; Royal Berkshire Regiment—a $1\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide strip of red cloth worn on the right side of the helmet. All other regimental patches were worn on the left side. In 1937 The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers were granted permission to wear a grey plume.

General and staff officers wore white swan feathers with red ones underneath whereas military secretaries and ADCs wore the red feathers over the white. General officers' plumes were ten inches long, brigadiers' and colonels' eight inches and those of officers below the rank of colonel six inches long.

White puggrees were worn at all stations abroad with the white helmet with the following exceptions: The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)—buff-coloured puggree; Northumberland Fusiliers—red-and-white puggree; Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry—red puggree. Plain khaki puggrees were worn with the khaki helmet. Badges were worn on the front of the helmet in the centre of the puggree.

In cavalry regiments a spike and base were worn, the spike being bright metal and the base having an acanthus leaf pattern. A ball and cup was worn by the following: Royal Horse Artillery, Royal Artillery, Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, Royal Army Veterinary Corps and the Army Dental Corps. The following wore a bright metal spike mounted on a bright dome base: Royal Engineers, Infantry, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Army Educational Corps.

From 1 January 1939 officers serving in Burma and India were allowed to wear the "hat, pith, solar, khaki" in place of the khaki Wolseley helmet.

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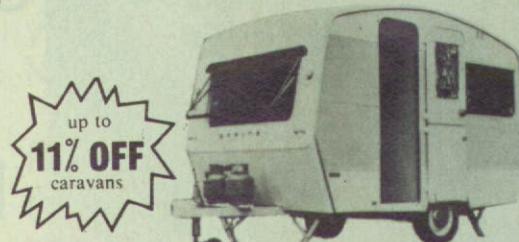
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He explains that he chose employment with a life assurance company for two basic reasons: money and job satisfaction. "My earnings depend entirely on my personal effort and allow me to plan my working day. I enjoy this freedom, but more important than this, I am building my own business with the backing of the company." This issue of the Resettlement Bulletin—number 4 of 1972—also contains articles about careers in computers, the Stock Exchange, Prison Service, radiography, social work and as an instructor at a government training centre. It is available free of charge from your local Royal Army Educational Corps officer.



SPOT THE DELIBERATE ERRORS. . . . we invited **SOLDIER** readers in July underneath a picture of two men of 23rd Special Air Service Regiment checking each other's kit for "give-aways." Unfortunately when readers turned to Page 47 for the answers they found a not-so-deliberate error—they had been left out! With apologies to the scores of readers who telephoned in

and those who didn't but were frustrated we now list the errors. The man on the left has a shiny tip to his webbing strap which should be taped over



black and also has a shiny top to his water bottle, which should be matt black. His companion has his gun suspended on webbing, which is taboo, and also has a shiny tip to the webbing. He has a thunder-flash attached to his zip (prohibited) and his watch and compass should not be on his wrists but on a string around his neck, under his clothing.



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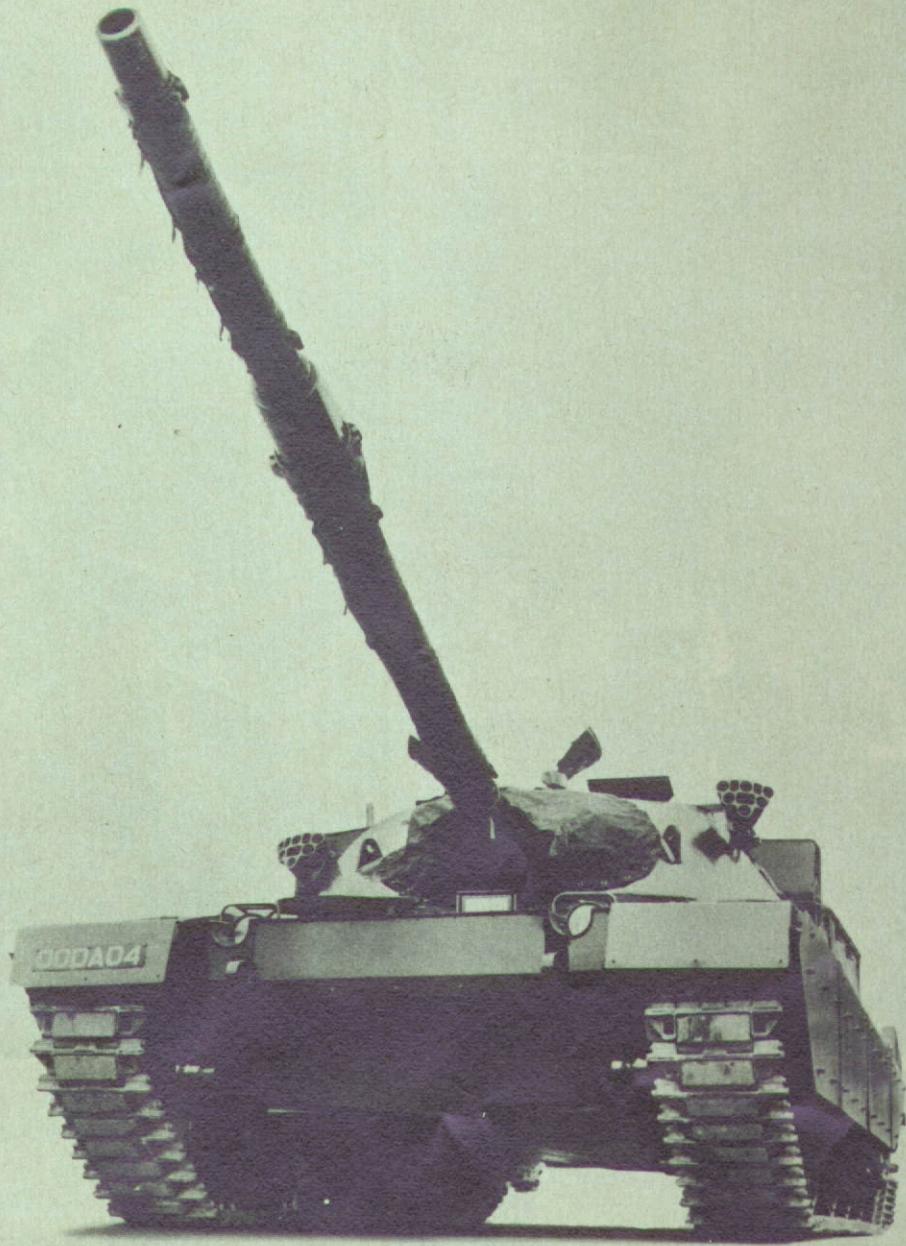
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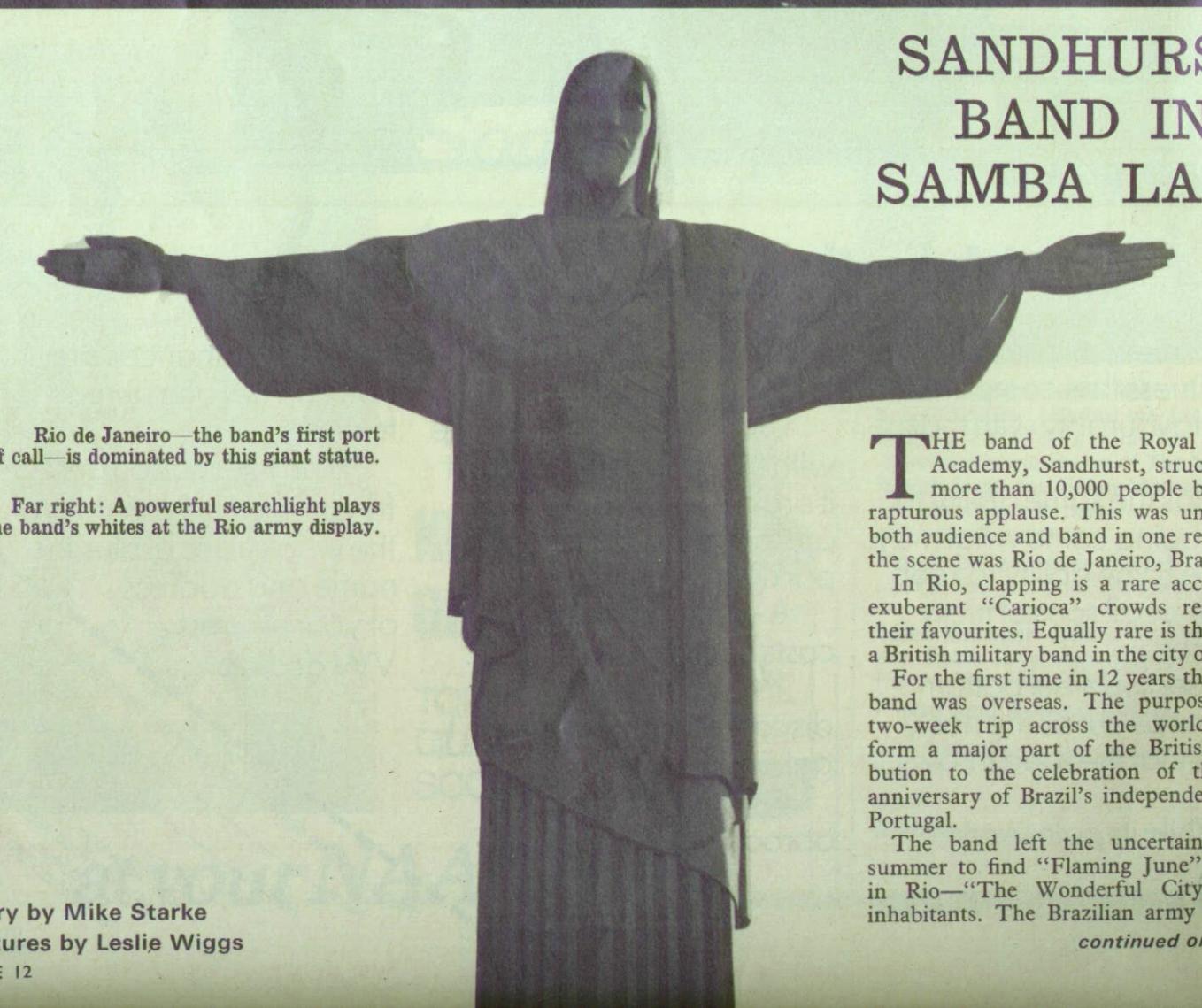
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SANDHURST BAND IN SAMBA LAND

Rio de Janeiro—the band's first port of call—is dominated by this giant statue.

Far right: A powerful searchlight plays on the band's whites at the Rio army display.



Story by Mike Starke

Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

PAGE 12

THE band of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, struck up and more than 10,000 people broke into rapturous applause. This was unusual for both audience and band in one respect... the scene was Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In Rio, clapping is a rare accolade the exuberant "Carioca" crowds reserve for their favourites. Equally rare is the sight of a British military band in the city of sambas.

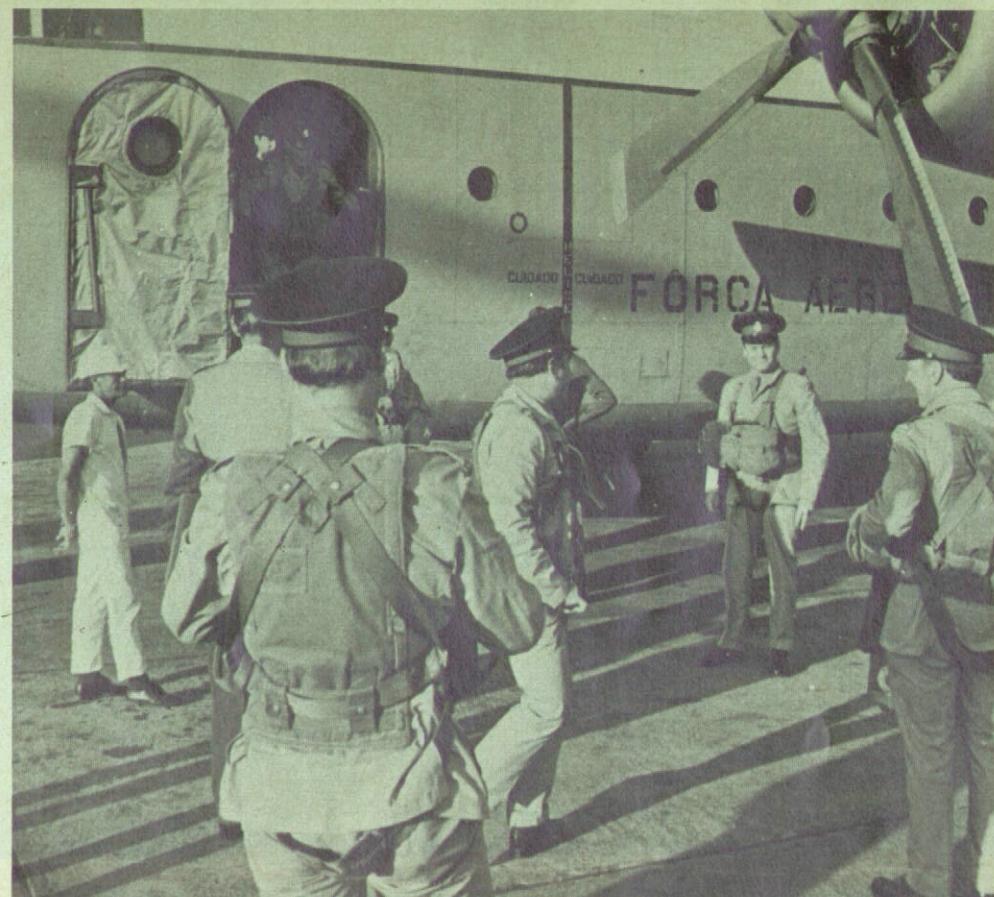
For the first time in 12 years the 38-man band was overseas. The purpose of the two-week trip across the world was to form a major part of the British contribution to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of Brazil's independence from Portugal.

The band left the uncertain English summer to find "Flaming June" a reality in Rio—"The Wonderful City" to its inhabitants. The Brazilian army was host

continued on page 15

Left: The band plays on into the warm evening at an open-air concert. Temperatures in the day soared into the eighties in the middle of what was winter to tropical Brazil.

Below: Travel inside Brazil was by two paratroop aircraft. Thirteen musicians in the older one had to don parachutes as a precaution against crashing into dense jungle.



FRONT COVER

Whites gleam in the tropical sun as the band corps of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, entertains a lunchtime crowd of Brazilians in the nation's brand new capital, Brasilia. The uniforms and music from half a world away fascinated the South Americans, but the band made them feel at home with renderings of their own national anthem and Hymn of Independence which they readily joined in with singing.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs.



SANDHURST BAND *continued*



The wide open spaces of Brasília dwarf the band playing in the space-age city centre.

Left: Drum-Major Ralph Ford is besieged by youngsters admiring his colourful regalia.

Right: Atlantic rollers broke on the sands in Rio as musicians relaxed between shows.

Far right: The band's Brazilian Army hosts played a warm welcome in the capital city.

Below: A map shows Brazil swallowing every European nation within its vast frontiers.



to the band for its official introduction to the public at a massive army exhibition. Crowds swarmed to catch a glimpse of the musicians marching and counter-marching in their white tunics and scarlet belts before a stage performance inside the show stadium.

The second performance was in a park valley amphitheatre where the 10,000-plus audience gave the band its unprecedented welcome in a blaze of gay coloured clothing caught in the rich light of the evening sun.

In between engagements there was time for the band to visit some of the sights of "The Wonderful City" including the breathtaking Corcovado mountain rising a sheer 2300 feet out of the city and topped by a massive statue of Christ.

The party began to get an impression of the size of Brazil when flown on to "nearby" São Paulo—some two and a half hours away by air.

After a one-night stand playing between races at the local jockey club, the band then flew on to Brasília, the 12-year-old capital city carved out of the scrubland in the heart of Brazil, a monument in concrete and steel to the latest and boldest in town planning and architecture.

The musicians marched and played to two private audiences—one at the British Embassy and another at the residence of the Ambassador, Sir David Hunt—and to the public before a crowd made up mostly of youngsters outside a school and in the city centre against a backdrop of ultra-modern architecture.

The regular tempo of march tunes was

very popular but younger members of the audiences were surprised and delighted when the band played "Jesus Christ, Superstar" from one of the latest hit musicals.

The Director of Music, Captain Derek Taylor explained: "We're bang up to date. We play for young people as cadets at the academy so it's only natural we should play young people's music." But the traditional was not forgotten and the hard work the band put in perfecting the Brazilian national anthem and the special Hymn of Independence was repaid with universal local acclaim.

Home for three days was a cavalry barracks housing one of the oldest and proudest Brazilian army units, the 1st Regiment of Cavalry Guards, "Dragoons of Independence," which boasts a major part in wresting the nation's freedom from Portugal a century and a half ago. In the international language of music, the Sandhurst band exchanged notes with their opposite numbers from the cavalry whose hospitality forged many friendships between the two bands.

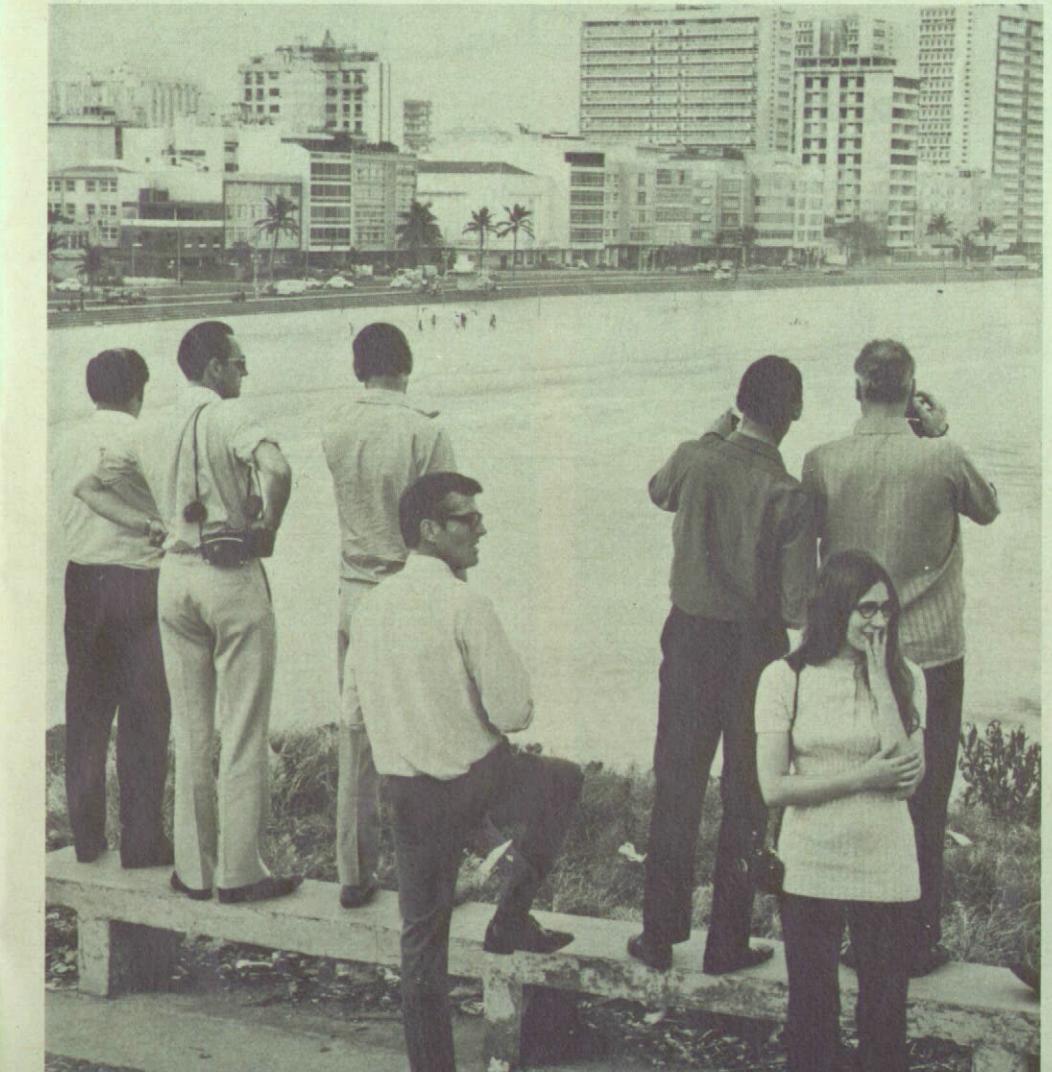
The band flew on from the newest city in Brazil to one of the oldest—Belem on the Amazon delta—for its last two concerts. There was a warm send-off from the Saturday night crowd at the final show. Captain Taylor said: "The natural shyness of the Belem people gave way to—by Belem standards—tumultuous and prolonged applause. We were told that band concerts in the town are not normally applauded at any stage."

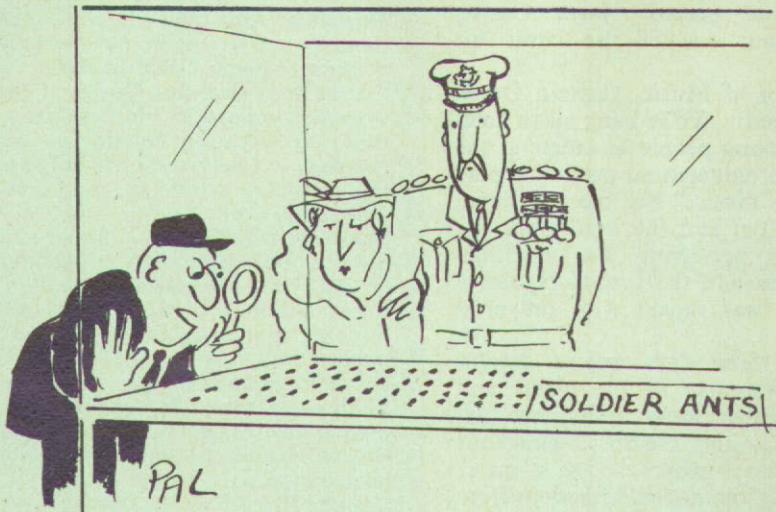
The crisp performances of the RMA musicians with their versatile repertoire of music—including a specially composed piece, "Trip to Brazil," by the resident arranger, Corporal Terry Creswick—spoke to the Brazilians of the long tradition behind the band which is in fact a separate corps and the smallest corps in the British Army.

The band dates back to the late 18th century. Before moving to Sandhurst in 1813 it was stationed with the Royal Military College at Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and comprised 14 musicians led by a bandmaster. The first known bandmaster was Thomas Sullivan, father of Sir Arthur Sullivan whose musical genius took shape in the bandroom of Sandhurst where he grew up.

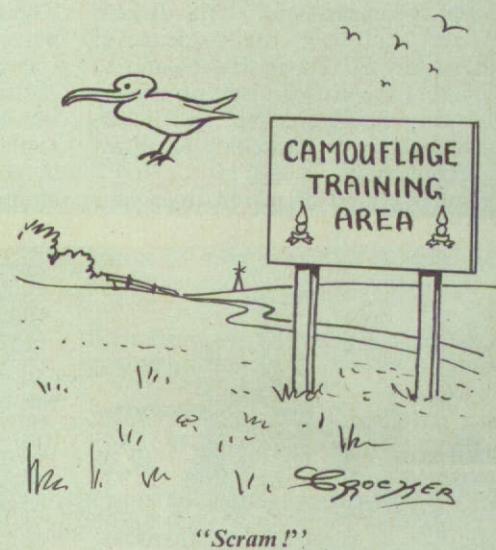
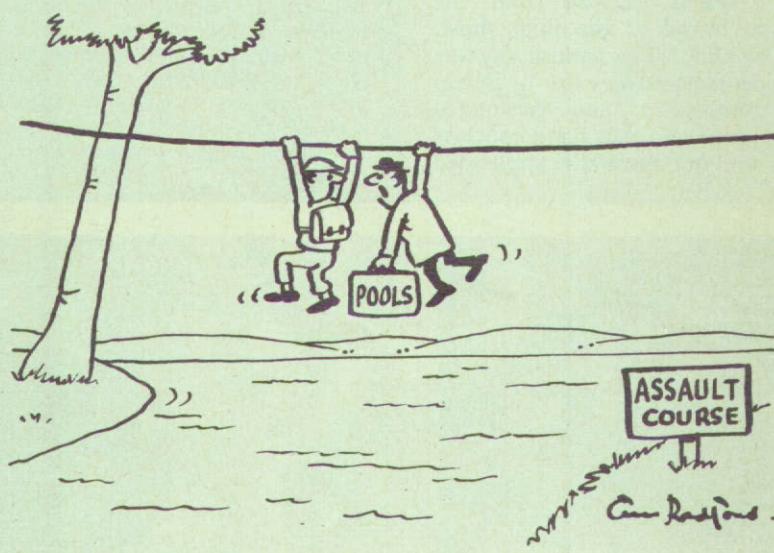
Unlike other Army bands which were maintained by the officers of their regiments, the Sandhurst band was paid directly from the War Office. As well as providing music for Sandhurst parades, the present-day band corps includes a team of fanfare trumpeters, dance band and orchestral sections. All of these talents were exploited for the benefit of the Brazilian audiences.

The band's Brazilian Army liaison officer, Major Osmar Cruz Souza, remarked: "Colonel Bogey—that is the most marvellous tune." Tastes in music varied, but "marvellous" remained the keynote of reaction to the tour.





HUMOUR



FIRST COLOURS FOR THE RANGERS

Story by John Jesse
Pictures by Martin Adam

Below: The Duchess of Gloucester presents new Colours at the parade adding an extra page to the history of the British Army's last Irish infantry regiment of the Line.

THREE battalions of The Royal Irish Rangers, a regiment new in name but with a wealth of tradition behind it, received their first Colours from the Duchess of Gloucester, deputising for the Colonel-in-Chief, the Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, on a windswept parade ground at Battlesbury Barracks, Warminster, Wiltshire.

They were the 1st Battalion, stationed at Hemer in Germany; the 2nd Battalion, the current demonstration battalion at the School of Infantry; and The North Irish Militia, the 4th Battalion, a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit headquartered at Portadown, County Down.

Detachments from all three battalions made up a Colour parade 120 strong which was equalled in numbers by the green-clad massed regimental military bands, pipes, bugles and drums. No other British infantry regiment has in its band these four separate musical sections.

After the service of consecration by the Chaplain-General (the Venerable Archdeacon J R Youens), the Duchess, with a formal inclination of her head, presented the Queen's Colour and the Regimental Colour to each of the three Colour parties.

Then the advance in review order with officers and soldiers smart in the regiment's distinctive green trousers; finally the march off to the strains of the regimental march "Killaloe" and led by the new Colours borne proudly aloft and flying bravely in the wind.

The Royal Irish Rangers formed on 1 July 1968 from The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (27th and 108th), The Royal Ulster Rifles (83rd and 86th) and The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's) (87th and 89th). The new regiment inherited the traditions, customs and renown of these three famous regiments whose achievements span an unbroken period from 1689 and whose battle honours total 157.

To perpetuate their memory all ranks wear the castle of the "Inniskillings," the black buttons of the "Rifles" and the green hackle of the "Faughs," while the pipers carry on the kilt the cap badges of all three regiments.

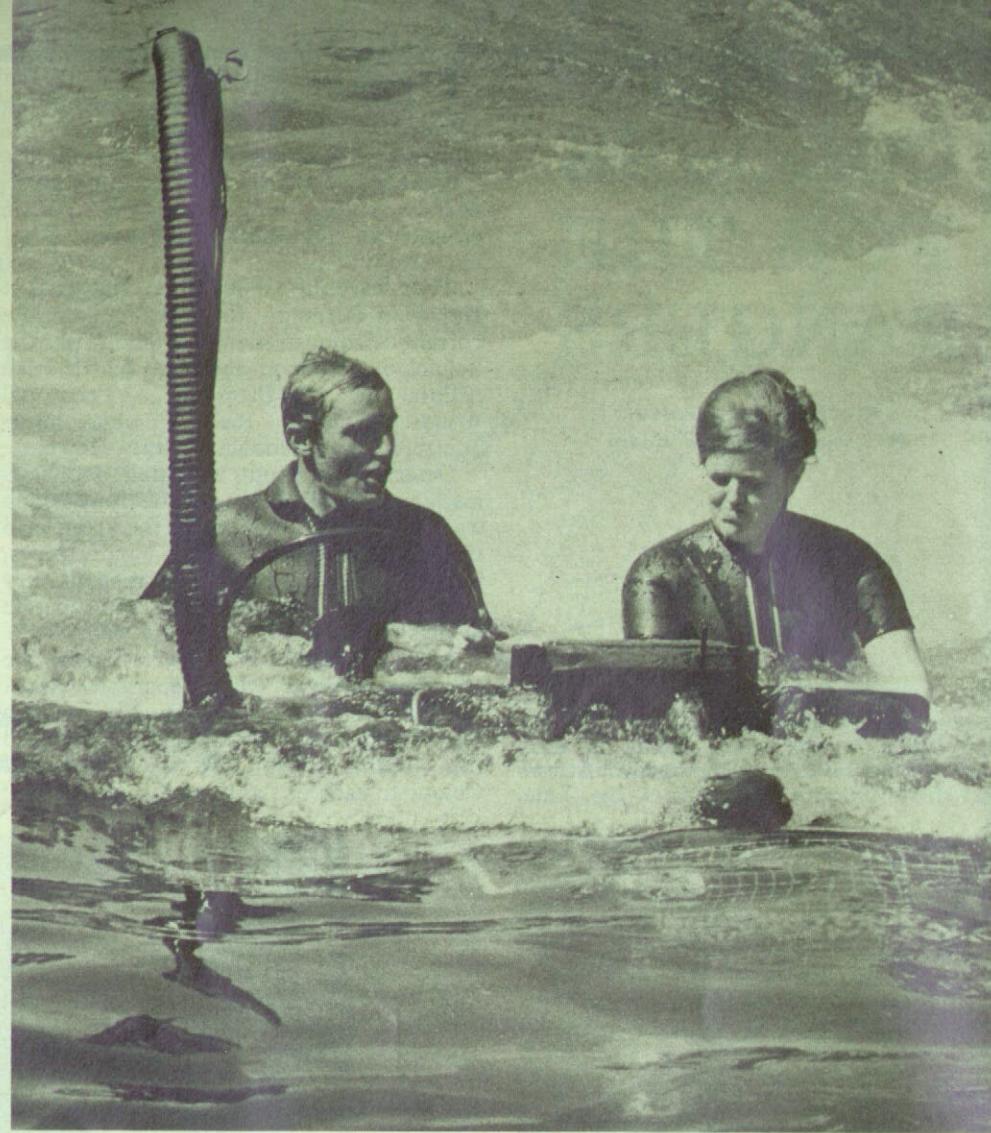
The Royal Irish Rangers are now the last Irish infantry regiment of the line in the British Army and as such regard themselves as the custodian of the history of all those gallant Irish infantry regiments which have been disbanded over the years.



Fording Trials Branch

Like DUKWs to Water

Story by Mike Starke
Pictures by Martin Adam



Above: Quite something these motorway flash floods! Judging by the expression on the lady's face she got wetter than expected while out with the Fording Trials Branch.

Below: A member of the branch's seven-man diving team tries out frogman gear (left) while (right) another diver demonstrates his fast-becoming-obsolete deep-sea suit.



THE staff of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers' Fording Trials Branch have to take to their work like a DUKW to water, for as often as not they will find themselves up to 18 feet deep in the river estuary they use for tests at their base in Instow, Devon.

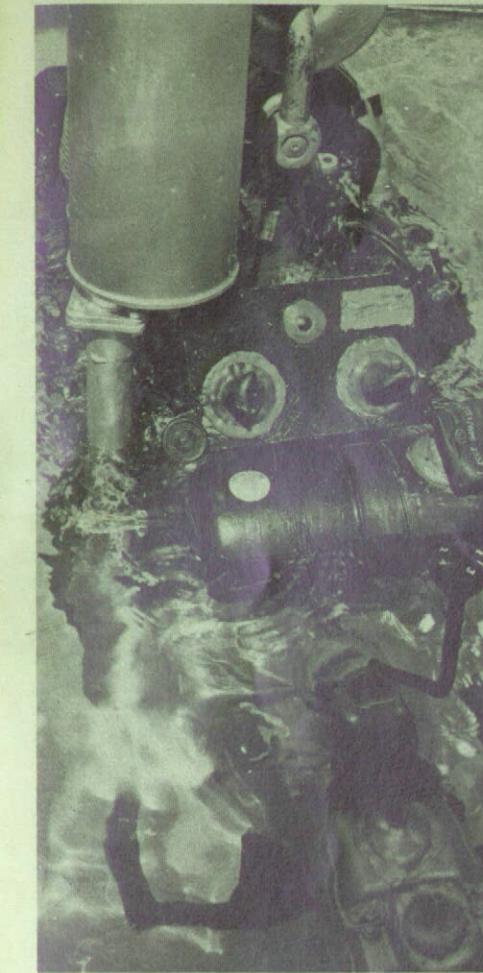
Major J Moore, who commands the unit, explains that the job of its 80 or so specialist soldiers and civilians is three-fold—to design and develop waterproofing kits for service vehicles allowing them to be driven from ship to shore in amphibious assaults, to train soldiers in waterproofing skills and to develop techniques for retrieving damaged vehicles from water.

The Fording Trials Branch started life in the later years of World War Two as a full-scale rehearsal stage for the D-Day landings. Troops involved learned with exact reconstructions the hazards and obstacles they were about to face on the beaches of Normandy.

The senior non-commissioned officer, Staff Sergeant D S Taylor—the only qualified service diver in a team of seven at Instow—said: "We have a very interesting job here with new trials all the time. You never know what you're going to be doing from one day to the next." His words took on a special significance at the branch's first open day when the unit's vehicles on view to the public in holiday mood suddenly became part of a deadly earnest combined service operation.

An RAF air-sea rescue helicopter from nearby Chivenor was called out to search

Below: This engine will still keep running while under water as a result of waterproofing techniques perfected by Fording Trials Branch, REME, at its Instow base.



Above: Development work on snorkels by the branch now enables beach armoured recovery vehicles to be effectively used for work in water depths of twelve to fifteen feet.

Below: Hot air technique is used to weld the various thermo-plastic materials which are now becoming more widely used in the waterproofing of a number of vehicle components.

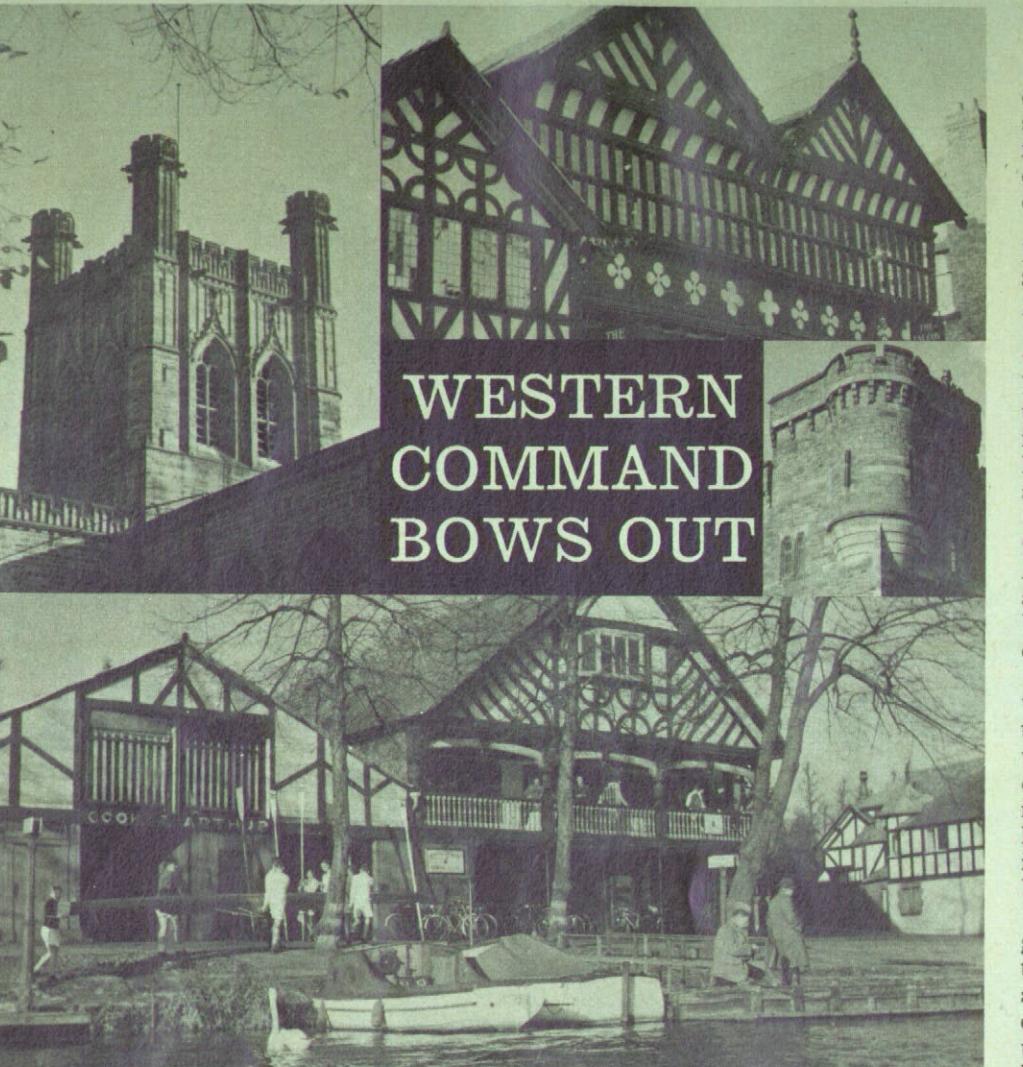


for some young swimmers lost in the rip tide of the river estuary at Instow. A radio call sent a Trials Branch DUKW roaring down to the water's edge to join the search. The DUKW got stuck in the shifting sand of the treacherous beach and a BARV (beach armoured recovery vehicle)—a massive track-laying, amphibious breakdown vehicle—was sent to release its stricken sister.

Staff Taylor said: "We often go to help swimmers in trouble. The current in the estuary is very treacherous and we keep an eye open for people in difficulties when we're working on the beach." This practical application of the branch's expertise is a happy coincidence for both unit training and careless holidaymakers, but the real work of trials and development using the nearly mile-wide stretch of river estuary as a testbed has given the Army an arsenal of ingenious amphibious methods.

Huge black snorkel tubes and PVC plastic waterproofed engines allow anything from a Land-Rover to a Chieftain tank to take river fordings or beach landings in their stride. Recovery methods include float-mounted shackles which means that the heaviest vehicle can be retrieved from a watery doom even in currents where divers cannot work.

In an atmosphere of constant experiment, the Fording Trials Branch plays a small but important part in seeing that the soldier of the seventies stays mobile—even when he seems to be sunk.



WESTERN COMMAND BOWS OUT

THE rustle of hinged body-armour and the rhythmic pace of leather sandals on cobbled Roman streets echoed down the ages as 2000 of today's soldiers marched through Chester on a farewell parade to a city whose 20 centuries of military occupation make it the second oldest garrison town to Colchester.

This July parade marked the end of Headquarters Western Command, set up 83 years ago and now superseded in the Army's new command structure.

But the "Salute to Chester" march, which followed in the very footsteps of the Roman 20th Legion which occupied the town—then called Deva—for 278 years from AD 90, does not mean the Army is leaving although its age-old importance as a major garrison is gone.

A pay and records office is moving into Queen's Park, the headquarters of 23 Artillery Brigade stays in Castle Street and both Regular and Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve units will continue to occupy The Dale and Gilwern Park.

Nearly 2000 years ago a Roman camp was set up as an advanced supply base on the River Dee. It is from *castra*, the Latin word for camp, that the name Chester derives. The permanent Roman garrison—its tour of duty was nearly 300 years—was kept busy campaigning in Wales and sending fatigue parties north to build Hadrian's Wall to hold back the wild Picts.

In the Middle Ages the people of Chester gained a reputation for "violence, bloody turbulence and martial skill." Henry III and Edward I set up a line of Welsh border castles from Chester to Chepstow and—using Chester as a base—peppered North Wales with fortifications. Knights, men-at-arms and particularly skilful bowmen from the city were sent to fight all over Wales, Scotland and France. The archers of Cheshire played a major part in the defeat of the Scots at Flodden Field in 1513.

Chester took the King's side in the Civil War and after a morale-boosting visit by Charles I in September 1645 the garrison, asked by the monarch to hold out for ten more days, resisted the Roundheads for a further five months.

The year 1689 saw the arrival of the Dutch King William III who was raising regiments to rid Ireland of King James's power. A regiment of pikemen, musketeers and grenadiers, mostly from the Wirral, camped for the first time on the Roodee at Chester in August. They went into action the same year in Northern Ireland, beginning the 283 years' service of The Cheshire Regiment.

Battle honours tracing the military history of Great Britain throughout the world crowded into the regiment's Colours and were acknowledged by the city's grant of its "freedom" in 1948.

Volunteers from Chester and its mother county have always come forward in the nation's hour of need and were well represented by units of the modern Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve in the Salute to Chester parade.

Representatives from 31 Regular and reserve units took part in the massive parade which included a 60-vehicle mechanised column. The troops were led by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,

Story: Mike Starke/Pictures: Leslie Wiggs



A replica of Roman legionary stands as a reminder of Chester's military past whilst two of the city's present-day inhabitants (right) say farewell to the modern soldiers in the "Salute to Chester" parade in July.



Command of Chester's garrison was given to the judge during Assizes in a ceremony discontinued last year.



BACK COVER

The ancient facades of Chester's Eastgate Street resound to the tramp of marching soldiers' boots and the music of military bands as they have done for centuries. Crowds of people braved the July drizzle to say farewell to Headquarters Western Command epitomised in the "Farewell to Chester" parade of some 2000 troops.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs.

... AND YORKSHIRE DISTRICT TOO



Western Command, Lieutenant-General Sir Napier Crookenden, and Brigadier John Badley, Chester Garrison Commander, on horseback. Brigadier Badley now becomes the senior Army officer in Chester.

The farewell ceremonies were rounded off with an evening promenade concert by the band of the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

Just eight days before the Chester farewell a ceremony in York marked the closing of Headquarters Yorkshire District based at Kirkleavington Hall, Yarm.

The ceremony took the form of beating Retreat by the bands and drums of 1st Battalion, The Green Howards; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; and 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, in the heart of the city of York.

Yorkshire District originated in 1959, with its headquarters at Catterick, when HQ 50th Division/Northumbrian District was split in two. The divisional HQ moved to Yarm and in April 1967 the two headquarters at Catterick and Yarm exchanged districts. Thus HQ 50th Division became HQ Yorkshire District taking responsibility for Regular and reserve units in the East and West ridings.

Above: As Retreat is sounded the flag of Yorkshire District is lowered for the last time.



AND THEY STILL MAKE



Above: One of many processes in the birth of a sword. Mr Peter Flynn is shown here hardening a blade in a tank of whale oil.

Left: A steady hand is necessary to fit the grips to military swords. Silver and gold wire is used to provide a handsome finish.

Right: Mr James Smart, the chargehand of the forge, rydering (using a form of mechanical hammer) the tang of an infantry sword blade.

Top right: Mr Sid Carter, who is a craftsman polisher, watches carefully as he polishes the inside of the guard of an infantry sword.



SWORDS



GARDEN tools, shaving equipment and military weapons are on the face of it unlikely bed-fellows. But their common link of the cutting edge has made the name of Wilkinson Sword internationally known and respected.

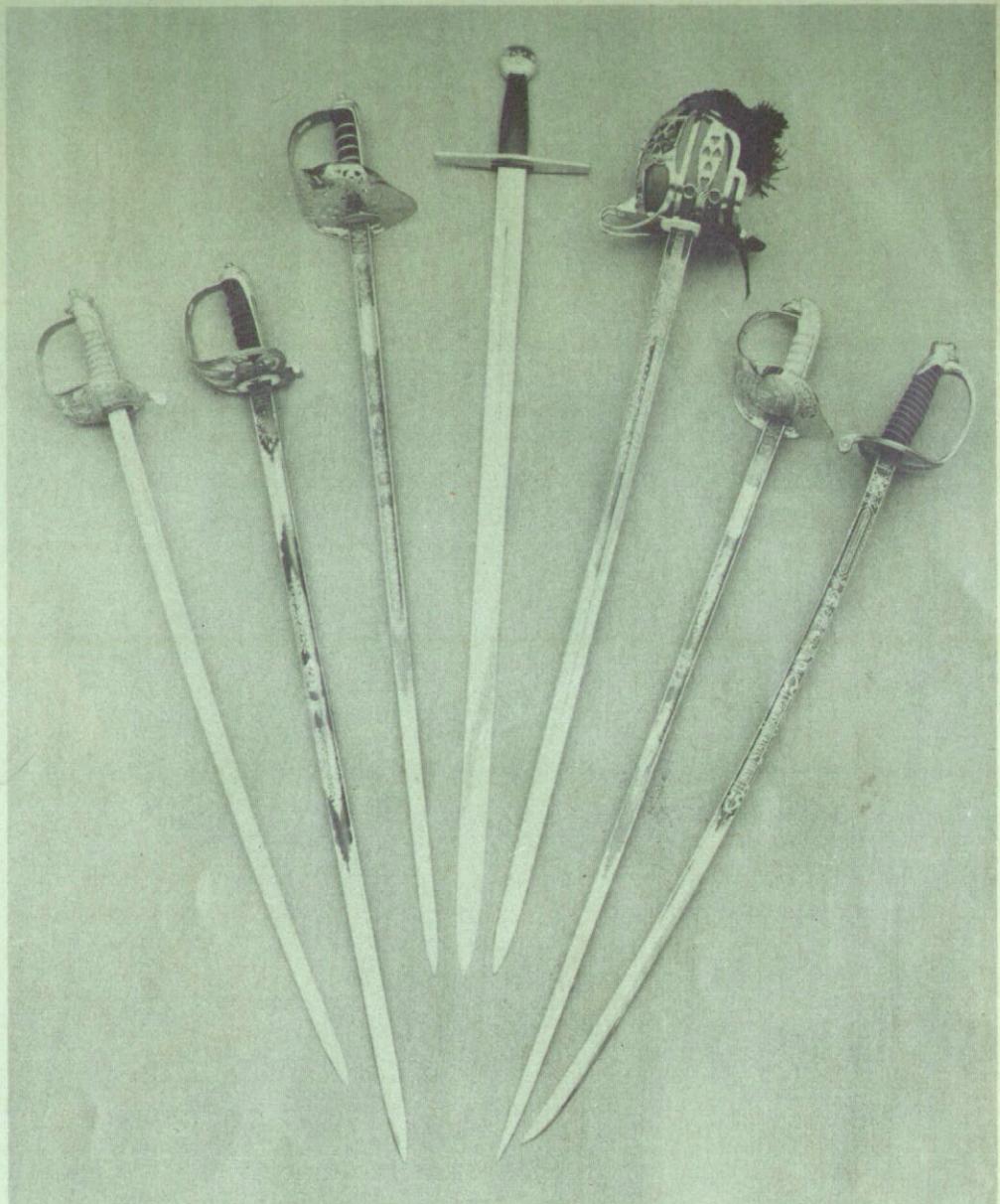
Wilkinson Sword Ltd, which this year celebrates its bicentenary, has been making swords for 150 years and still turns out around 8000 a year, all of them to fighting specification even though they are no longer drawn in warring earnest. And while razor blades are mass-produced in an age of automation, technology and cut-throat competition, in complete contrast no more than a platoon of craftsmen steadily works on the traditional hand-making of swords.

Specifications, methods and machines change little. The bar of manganese carbon steel is still hand-forged (though the forge is now gas-fired), still "rydered" into rough shape by a century-old hammering machine, still hand ground and tested by eye. And the records (registers of proof) are still maintained of each numbered sword as they were in the days of the hand written entry of proof number 32936—Light Cavalry—P Tang (patent tang)—W Spencer Churchill—4th Hussars—19 December 1894.

But inevitably there have been changes. Swords have bestowed their cutting edges on, and ceded industrial growth to, razor blades, garden shears and pruners but retained pride of place in the title and newly granted armorial bearings of the Wilkinson Sword Company. As with the razor blades, most of the sword production is exported, but only half is now devoted to meeting military, court, diplomatic and masonic requirements. Tradition has had to combine with the commercialism of commemorative swords but even so the standards are never allowed to decline and the barest hint of bazaar-type souvenirs is anathema to a firm which leads the world in sword making and stakes its continued reputation on quality.

That quality is the same in the standard Service blade as in the Sword of Stalingrad, Britain's recognition of the city's gallant defence, as in the Sandhurst Sword of Honour and the commercially-produced swords commemorating the Battle of Britain (a limited issue of 1000 with ten in solid gold at £1000 each, ten in solid silver, and others of silver gilt), the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Tewkesbury and the founding of York 1900 years ago. Of the same quality too are the swords marking the Calgary Stampede, those given as trophies for sport and even those presented by one firm as incentive rewards to its salesmen. Swords for governors, lords-lieutenant, for the police forces of emergent African states, for Indian rajahs, Middle East sheiks and sultans . . .

Like the registers of proof, the patterns and official specifications go back 150 years and the sword factory in West London, at Brunel Road, Acton, can still make swords to any of these designs—and refurbish the many old swords which come in from all over the world. Today the firm supplies swords to every regiment of the British Army, to Commonwealth armed forces, to the Royal Navy, to the Royal Air Force (which unlike the other two Services



Above: A selection of modern swords made by Wilkinson's including (centre) that commemorating the Prince of Wales's investiture.

Left: One of the firm's female employees, Mrs Bull, uses a needle and thread as she works on the scarlet liner of a broadsword.

Top left: Mr Zbigniew Adamowicz concentrates on the delicate operation of transferring the very intricate blade-etching designs.



It all began in 1772 when a notable gunmaker of the day, Henry Nock, established a shop near St Paul's Cathedral in the City of London with workshops in Mount Pleasant and Whitechapel. When he died, his apprentice and subsequent partner, James Wilkinson, inherited this business and established the company name. His son Henry, following on, and a specialist in swords, put the company on a sound commercial footing. In 1889 the firm became the Wilkinson Sword Co Ltd, and in 1955 took its present title of Wilkinson Sword Ltd.

The firm holds royal warrants as sword cutters to the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh and in this its 200th year has been awarded the rare distinction for a commercial concern, of the grant of armorial bearings with the added and rarer distinction of "supporters."

The crest of the armorial bearings—commonly called a coat of arms—is appropriately a hand holding a Henry Nock pistol.

This month the firm is to hold a bi-centenary commemoration dinner; guests will include veteran and retired employees and representatives of other firms which have held royal warrants for a century.

issues swords to its officers), and to overseas governments. Every country has different designs, some widely disparate from the traditional British floral patterns, no two regiments have identical swords and customers often require special embossing on the blades. And today's customer, mindful that the standard sword is polished but not rust-proof, frequently demands chromed or nickel plated finishes.

Nearly half of those 40 craftsmen have served the firm for 20 or 30 years, some following their fathers and grandfathers. There is no apprenticeship to the craft and in fact recruiting, which is no problem, is mainly from men who have served their time in engineering.

The sword-makers are only a handful of the Wilkinson Sword group's 3400 employees at home and in its overseas subsidiaries. The Cramlington factory near Newcastle-upon-Tyne turns out millions of razor blades weekly and there is a second production line at Solingen in West Germany supplying European markets. Wilkinsons have been making shaving equipment since 1890 when the firm introduced a "cut-throat" razor, following this in 1898 with the world's second safety razor, and in 1929 with a self-stropping hollow-ground blade.

During World War Two razors and blades gave way to armaments and, because of a shortage of brass, production ceased again in 1948, re-starting eight years later with the revolutionary stainless steel blade. Then came the coated blade in 1961, a blade with chrome-coated cutting edges in 1969 and last year the bonded blade system which earned a Council of Industrial Design award.

Automated and technological all this may be, but the real test is in daily use—which is why many employees turn up for work unshaven. They are members of a test shave panel and their first job at work is to shave, using a "control" blade of known performance on one side of the face and a test blade on the other.

And for all those soldiers with their tales of making blades last indefinitely by cleaning, not cleaning and so on, the firm has only one advice for coated blades—just rinse in hot water.

An equally natural transition from the cutting edges of swords took Wilkinson Sword Ltd in 1920 into garden tools with now a range of about 60, the latest of which is a cordless electric grass shear.

It was the cutting edge too that sponsored the long-forgotten diversions of ice-skates and surgical instruments, but no-one now quite knows how swords influenced the production at one time of the Wilkinson Sword motorcycle or, in 1905, the Deemster motorcar.

Nor has the sword any connection with the other current activity of the group, the manufacture at Colnbrook, near Slough, of civil and military fire protection equipment and safety systems under the name of Graviner, a company with which Wilkinson Sword became associated in 1934.

But the sword still holds pride of place and that cutting edge, always the province of the regimental armourer, can still be ground to the sharpness of days when it left its scabbard for more lethal purpose than pure ceremonial.



SWORDS OF PEACE

SERVICE to the community in strife-torn Northern Ireland and at their home base in Colchester has won for 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, the 1972 Wilkinson Sword of Peace award to the Army. It was received by the present commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Budd, from the Duke of Edinburgh, at a luncheon ceremony in the Cutlers' Hall in the City of London.

Prince Philip had earlier visited the sword factory at Ealing of the Wilkinson company and, in commemoration of its bicentenary, he was himself presented by the firm with an inscribed poignard bearing his crest on the scabbard and his armorial bearings on the blade, and with a cheque for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Guests at the lunch and presentation included Lord Balniel (Minister of State for Defence), senior Service officers and 12 of the 15 previous recipients of Swords of Peace.



Top: Duke of Edinburgh presents Wilkinson Sword of Peace while (above) Sergeant Jim Barrow, 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, talks to two mentally handicapped children at the Dunedin nursery in Northern Ireland.

The Duke of Edinburgh was welcomed by Mr R J Randolph, president of Wilkinson Sword Ltd, and the citations for the three awards were read by Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer.

The 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, was posted to Northern Ireland for a four-month tour in September 1970 to assist the Royal Ulster Constabulary in an area comprising most of County Armagh and a third of County Tyrone.

On operational duty the regiment attempted to reduce tensions and improve relations between civilians and the Army and where possible between Catholics and Protestants and, off duty, made every effort to assist the local community. This included work for handicapped children in a hospital, a centre and special care unit, work for youth and old age pensioners and a social club.

While in Londonderry, during the floods the regiment switched from riot control to relief tasks, sterilising water supplies, providing clean water and drying hundreds of carpets.

Work in Colchester included building an adventure playground, arranging sports activities and running a riding school for 200 local children.

The largest project was in practical help at Wakes Hall, a residential home for adult spastics.

The Royal Navy Sword of Peace was awarded to HMS Kirkliston for community service in and around Hong Kong and for rescue work among wrecked and stranded ships during a typhoon.

RAF Kinloss earned its award for the work of the station's mountain and air-sea rescue teams and charitable activities. Previous Army winners of the Sword of Peace have been 253 Signal Squadron (1971); 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (1970); 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry (1969); 19 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery (1968); and 40 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery (1967).

Purely Personal



ON THE BALL

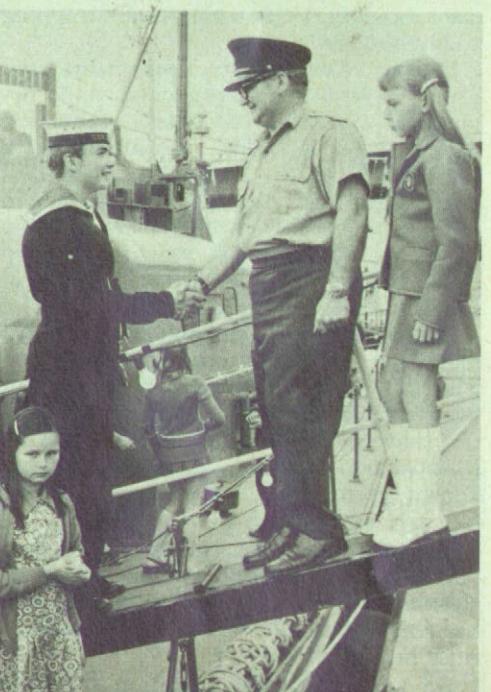
Lance-Corporal O Harrison, 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry, was right on the ball with his mark in a Colchester Evening Gazette "Spot the Ball" contest which won him a brand new Ford Cortina car. The lucky corporal and his family were given the keys to the car by the Marchioness of Tavistock at a special presentation in Colchester (left).

MARK III SAILOR

The Orton family comes from a long line of sailors broken only by Warrant Officer II Gerald Orton, now serving with the Royal Signals in Germany. His 15 year-old son, Mark, is carrying on the family tradition of his grandfather and great-grandfather as a junior seaman training in HMS Ganges. Visiting Germany in the Minesweeper Flintham, Mark, was welcomed ashore by his father (below).

CENTURY MAKER

Miss Maud Elizabeth Suckling (below) was one of the first women typists employed at the War Office. She recently celebrated her 100th birthday in a hospital near Ramsgate. The daughter of a retired Army captain, she joined the War Office as a "female typewriter" in 1891 at a wage of 14s a week. She retired in 1932. Picture shows Miss D L Wood presenting her with a birthday bouquet from the Ministry of Defence.



ACTING SERGEANT

To the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Sergeant Graham Stock (above) was a staff clerk with HQ Land Forces, Hong Kong, until he left for England in July. But for thousands of young viewers of the colony's television he was "Uncle Bernie," a tea-time story teller. Acting is not Sergeant Stock's only talent—he is an accomplished cartoonist of some standing and, undisguised, he appeared as his cartoonist self in the same "Five O'Clock Club" programme.



AT THE TRIPLE!

Right: Three brothers set on making the Royal Corps of Transport a family affair. After their intake's passing out parade at Aldershot, Robert Reeves (19) (centre) and Reginald Reeves (18) (right) were congratulated by Brigadier Tom Savage, Commandant of the RCT Training Centre. There to watch the parade was the two boys' brother Fred (24) who is already serving with the corps at Bulford.



BOOM BOOM!

One of the most important and certainly the prettiest guest that men of 27 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, had welcomed for a long time was 22-year-old Linda Allen (left). Linda was chosen as regimental pin-up while the regiment was serving in Northern Ireland last Christmas. Now back in Lippstadt, Germany, the Hampshire Gunners entertained her for ten days.

RARE PAIR

Alongside his World War Two campaign medals Sergeant Jack Cooke, Royal Corps of Transport (below), now wears a pair of medals he believes are rarely seen together. They are the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal for 12 years' service and the Regular Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. The latter was presented to Sergeant Cooke by Brigadier Tom Savage, Commandant of the RCT Training Centre, Aldershot. Sergeant Cooke joined the Royal Army Service Corps in 1938 and served with the BEF in France, where he was wounded at Dunkirk, in Egypt with Wavell's "30,000," at Tobruk with the Eighth Army and in India and Burma with the Chindits. He volunteered for the airborne assault on Arnhem, but was seriously hurt during training. Back in civilian life after the war, he re-enlisted in the Territorial Army in 1948 and returned to full-time soldiering in 1953.

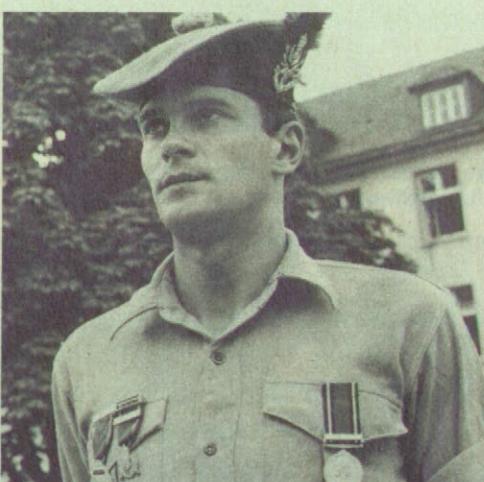


PIPES ABOARD

When the frigate HMS Rothesay sailed on a two-month tour of Australia, the Philippines and Hong Kong, she was piped in and out of each port of call by Piper Ronald Maitland (above), who is based in Singapore with 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, as part of the ANZUK force.

THE SMALLEST?

Drum-Major Narbahadur Gurung (left) of the Gurkha Signals pipes and drums, is claimed by his unit to be the smallest drum-major in the British Army. Standing just five feet two inches tall, Drum-Major Narbahadur has served with the Brigade of Gurkhas for 12 years.



TOP MARKSMAN

This year's best shot in the British Army—the Queen's Medallist at Bisley—was 22-year-old Lance-Corporal Malcolm Earsman, 1st Battalion, Queen's Own Highlanders (right). Malcolm, one of three brothers to serve with the regiment, is the first Queen's Own Highlander to win the Queen's Medal. His previous successes include being one of the winning machine-gun pair at Bisley in 1970 and a member of his battalion's winning team in the Cento shooting contest, NISHAN VIII, in 1971.

'CHOPPERS' AT WAR

Story by John Walton

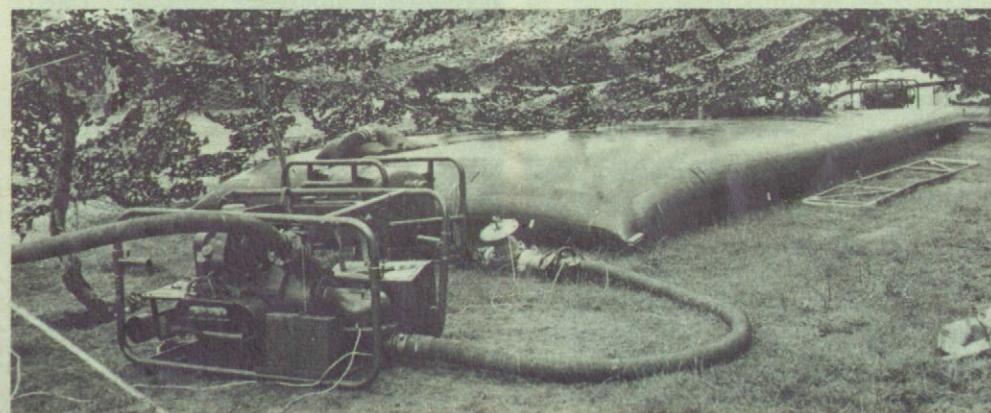


Above: Scout helicopter with SS 11 anti-tank guided missiles mounted.



Above: Men of 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, race across to a waiting Puma.

Below: Heavily camouflaged "pillow tank" used for refuelling in the field.



THE company of soldiers waited pensively in their well-camouflaged positions under trees. Suddenly the sky seemed full of whirring blades and only three minutes later the troops had gone—on their way to a fresh battlefield position by helicopter.

The airlift of men from 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, using the new Anglo-French Puma helicopter, was only a small part of a six-week trial in the rugged Cheviot Hills near the Scottish border. Yet it graphically illustrated the whole point of Exercise Sky Warrior—the need to increase battlefield mobility to match the giant increases in firepower since World War Two.

Sky Warrior, billed as "one of the most significant battle trials to be held in Europe since the war," involved some 3500 men of all three Services as well as more than 70 helicopters.

The aim was to thoroughly test the use of helicopters in battlefield conditions of the type likely to be found in a European war. In Borneo, Aden and above all Vietnam, helicopters have been used in this role in recent years but in every case the enemy has been unsophisticated and air superiority has been absolute.

The advantages the helicopter has over ground transport are obvious—it can fly over rough country, it can resupply remote and difficult positions and it can deliver guns to those positions. But will it be vulnerable to the sophisticated low-level air defence weapons likely to be found on a European battlefield? And what if air superiority is not always possible?

The trials began at a low level and gradually built up over the six weeks to full brigade size operations. The most up-to-date camouflage techniques were used to hide helicopters and every effort was made

to make the tactical situation as realistic as possible.

The Royal Air Force's Tactical Supply Wing, formed at the beginning of this year, broke all records for helicopter refuelling operations. By the end of the trials the time for refuelling a Puma using flexible "pillow" fuel tanks was averaging around two minutes. Using the old system of 45 gallon drum tactical bowsers the refuelling operation would take around 20 minutes.

Observers during the trials came from the United States, West Germany, France and Holland. The Americans, Army experts from Fort Hood, Texas, where similar trials are being carried out, were said to have been "intrigued and impressed" by the British approach.

No American helicopters took part in the trials but on the final two days an American HH53 "Jolly Green Giant" showed its paces in the skies around Otterburn.

Royal Air Force elements taking part included two Puma squadrons (No's 33 and 230), 72 Squadron (Wessex), and 240 Operational Conversion Unit (Pumas and Wessex), all from No 38 Group at Odiham,

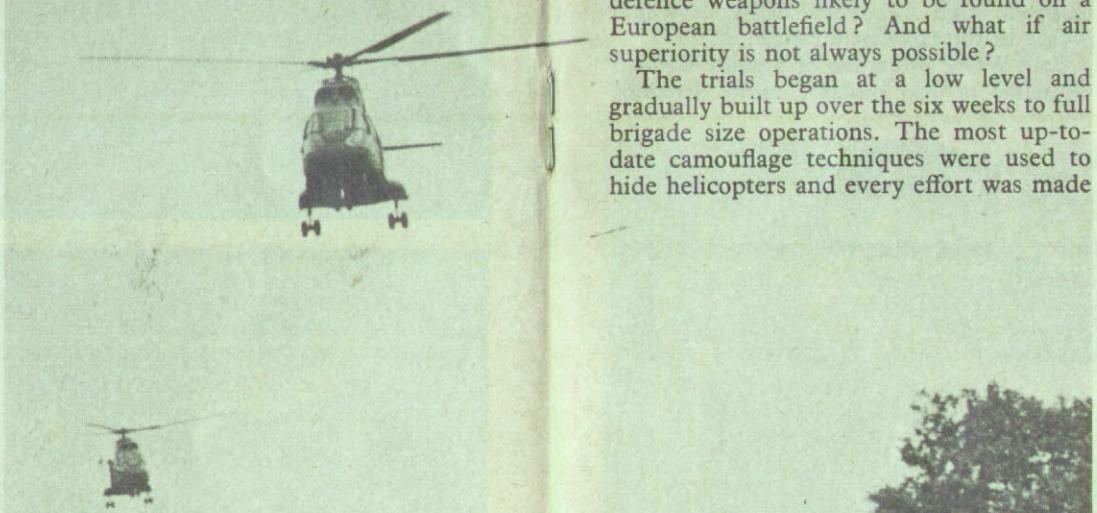
Hampshire as well as 18 Squadron (Wessex) from Germany.

The Royal Navy was represented by detachments from 848 and 846 naval air squadrons flying Wessex V helicopters while Scout and Sioux helicopters of the Army Air Corps performed reconnaissance and anti-tank roles.

Ground forces under the command of Brigadier Oliver Pratt, Commander 5 Airportable Brigade, included elements of The Royal Hussars; 25 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery; 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, as well as the Staffords.

Major Jim Cooke, the trials co-ordinator, feels that the helicopter is now in a similar position to the tank in the 1930s when no-one is sure of its exact role in a future war.

"These trials are to see if it is really viable at this stage. A report will be produced by the end of the year. Co-operation between the three Services has been tremendous and even if nothing else emerges from these trials our ability to train together has once again been demonstrated to the full."



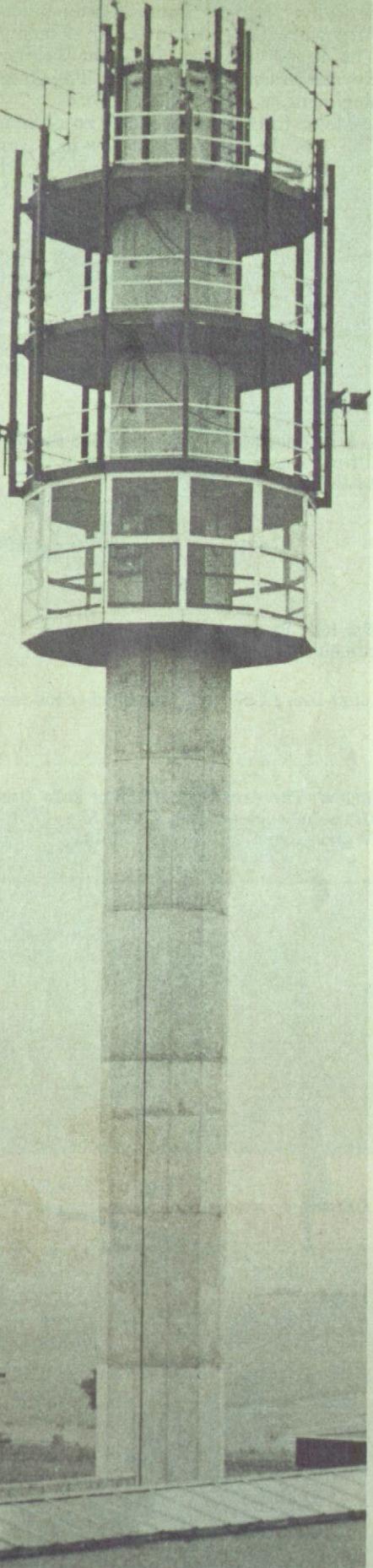
Left: Camouflaged troops wait for the big lift-off operation to another part of the battlefield.



Far left: Pumas coming into the field refuelling station.

Below: The American HH53 or Jolly Green Giant helicopter which visited Sky Warrior from its base in Suffolk.

Communications



HIGH on a hill at windswept Blandford Camp on the edge of Salisbury Plain and not far from where Marconi made his first primitive radio experiments, a group of highly trained and skilled electronics experts is working on communications systems for the soldier of the 1980s and nineties—the School of Signals.

Developments in signalling are now so rapid that even a short spell away can mean that a signal expert is out of date. It took thousands of years for beacon fires

to be superseded by semaphore and morse but with the Clansman range of equipment, shortly to come into service, even the "over-over" radio system becomes old hat.

During the recent transatlantic yacht race Lieutenant-Colonel "Jock" Brazier, Royal Engineers, in the "Flying Angel," was in contact with the school using a manpack high frequency radio set which is part of the Clansman range.

Said WO I (Foreman of Signals William Graham, of the school's radio division:



Left: Blandford Camp's own "mini-Post Office Tower", an ultra-high frequency antenna.
Above: Signallers from four different regiments carry out trials on new portable field radios.

of Tomorrow

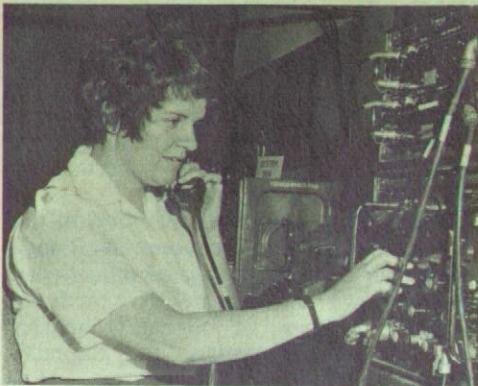
"Every day we had solid contact with the yacht and on some days it was so good we were able to tape record it. We gave Colonel Brazier information on Atlantic weather conditions and the radio was always there in the event of an emergency. For instance off Newfoundland he sailed into fog which persisted for over 56 hours and in those circumstances the radio was an additional safety factor."

Trials of the new range are also being carried out under the direction of the school's trials squadron by teams of

signallers from various units likely to be using them when they come into service.

Strictly speaking the School of Signals is not just a school—but a signals centre for the Army. Although instruction takes up a large proportion of the work at Blandford much of the Army's development and research in the communications field is also carried out there.

All Royal Signals officers are trained at Blandford. From Sandhurst they do a six-week course before joining their regiments for the first time and they later



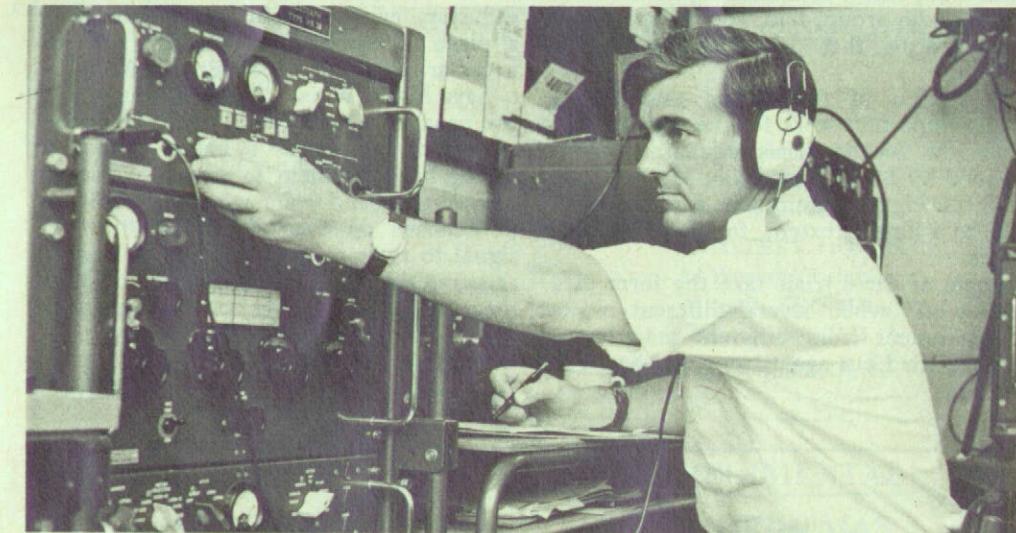
Captain Katie Meachem, first woman officer on the school's captains' course, tuning a radio relay set of a type currently in use.

return for captains' and squadron commanders' courses. During his career an officer is likely to go to the school again for refresher and senior officer courses.

The most advanced course which the school offers is for selected officers around the 29-33 age bracket. The course, in telecommunications engineering management, lasts two years for the non-graduate and a year for the graduate. Lieutenant-Colonel Peter MacGillivray, of the school's training department describes its role as "to produce somebody who can see the whole problem of today's highly complex communications."

The Women's Royal Army Corps also has a young officers' qualifying course at the school; this concentrates on traffic handling at large communications centres.

However, this summer a young WRAC



Foreman William Graham gets in touch with the yacht "Flying Angel" during the final stages of the transatlantic sailing race.



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captain broke new ground at the school by becoming the first girl soldier to take part in the captains' 12-week course. Captain Katie Meachem was the girl chosen to see if there were career possibilities for WRAC officers in the more specialised communications centre tasks at present carried out by Royal Signals officers.

Said Katie: "The course was not as difficult as I expected and certainly not beyond me or the WRAC. Although I'm not a Women's Lib type this is certainly a great step forward for my sex."

Officers are not the only members of the corps to benefit from courses at Blandford. Senior non-commissioned officers can take one of two courses which give them the title of "Yeoman of Signals" (master operator) or "Foreman of Signals" (technical engineer).

After graduating from the long and thorough course at the school the qualified yeoman or foreman has an excellent chance of further promotion. The yeoman's channel of promotion is to traffic officer while the foreman can become a technical officer communications.

Other courses are held for NATO senior officers, overseas signal officers (mainly from the developing countries), the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, Army Cadet Forces and University Officer Training Corps.

Not surprisingly in an ultra-modern establishment as is the School of Signals, modern aids such as closed circuit television are used in classroom instruction. The whole building is wired to take television and its main uses are for

introduction of instructional films into lectures, magnification of small parts of equipment and reproduction of things which are difficult to draw on blackboards.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ronald Holmes, senior instructor of the communications systems division, says that signal training today aims at keeping abreast with a technology which doubles every five to ten years.

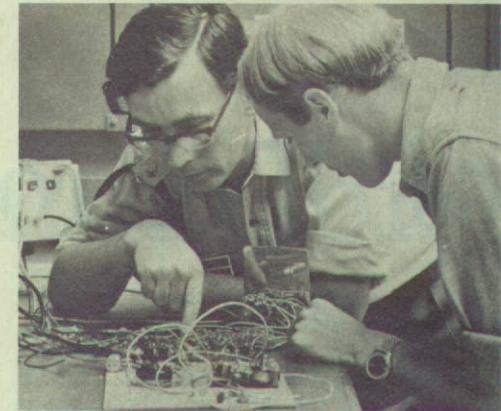
"What is significant is that as the inside of communications equipment gets more and more complex we are also working on the outside to make it simpler for the soldier and more easy to use."

Having so many communications experts at one camp can be a great help when the Army needs something in a hurry. For instance last year the school's radio division received an urgent request for radio equipment to be used in Northern Ireland.

Within a week the equipment had been designed and produced at Blandford and was on its way. The team, led by Captain John Daw, officer commanding the medium power radio group, had worked up to 120 hours during that period to perfect the system.

A section of the school undertaking vitally important work for the signallers of tomorrow is the trials squadron, commanded by Major Lew Wood. Its job is to field test signals equipment for the Army and, to a limited extent, for the Royal Air Force.

Some of these trials take the form of a "shoot off" when several different pieces of equipment from different manufacturers are tried out against one another. For



Capt Clive King (left) shows a foreman of signals student how synthesised frequencies within the new Clansman range are produced.

these trials signallers from the various potential user units test them under trials squadron supervision.

In addition the squadron carries out, as a service to the British electronics industry, private venture trials. In these a piece of equipment is tested, but not necessarily for use by the British Army.

Says Major Wood: "If the manufacturer can produce a trials report from the School of Signals he stands a better chance of selling his equipment to armies overseas."

Two thousand years ago Roman soldiers lit beacons on the hill at Blandford to signal to their comrades. Today's heirs to this tradition use modern electronic equipment which would have been unimaginable only a few years ago. And tomorrow . . . who knows?

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Wanting an official anthem as an outward sign of Europe United (just think—an anthem that all the disparate peoples of the continent could fervently sing as one), the Council of Europe commissioned the famous conductor Herbert von Karajan to arrange the main theme from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—the choral movement.

And the result? A wordless anthem of such feebleness that I fear for the future of this growing entente. The great march writer W

Zehle, of Viscount Nelson and Wellington fame, prophet that he was, composed a "Europe United" many many years ago which is more rousing than Herr K's colourless concoction. Surely a new adaptation of Schiller's ode, which includes such resounding phrases as "All mankind are brothers plighted" and "O ye millions I embrace thee," is needed to give meaning to what is at present the only national (or international) anthem I know without words. The greatest national anthems were not written by the great composers. Bandmasters seem to make a better job of them.

The anthem lasts 2½ minutes so to complete side one there are the anthems of the 17 member countries—Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Even here the maestro is at his most perverse. His tempi are sometimes eccentric and the word "fervour" is not in his vocabulary.

On side two, which is devoted to his justly famed recording of the whole finale of the Ninth, with the Berlin Philharmonic and four famous soloists, Karajan is fervent and at his most brilliant.

RB

The rest of the programme, apart from a cornet trio "Three of a Kind" by Jack Helyer, comprises three medleys of a kind, bringing together all those well-loved London songs which, like "Old Father Thames" here included, will no doubt go rolling on and on: "When the Guards Are on Parade," "They're Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace," "The Changing of the Guard," "There's Something About a Soldier," "Soldiers of the Queen" and a clever medley by Ronald Binge called "Old London."

RB

"In London with the Coldstream Guards" (The Band of the Coldstream Guards conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas A Pope) (Eclipse ECS 2101) This re-issue is no doubt intended for the foreign tourist—and none the worse for that. In fact it's a better buy for Britons looking for some of those Cockney favourites which recapture the gay atmosphere of the earlier part of the century. What Elmer J Wright Jun or Joshi Hakomitsu would make of dear



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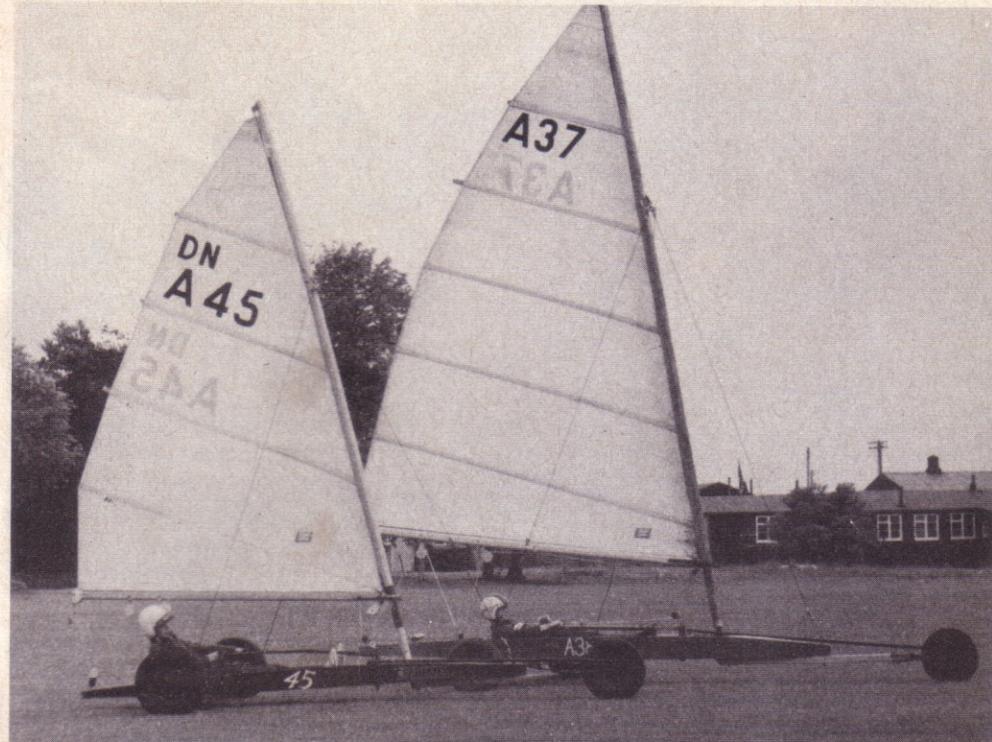
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PLAIN SAILING

LANDLOCKED at Larkhill, with no reasonable stretch of water within easy distance, Army sailing enthusiasts have taken to grass—sails scudding across the windswept Salisbury Plain herald the coming of landyachting.

The Larkhill Garrison Landyacht Club was formed in June as the brainchild of Warrant Officer II Trevor Spurr, of the Tactics Wing, Royal Artillery School, Larkhill.

Mr Spurr's interest in landyachting goes back to 1969 when he was stationed in Blackpool. After joining a local club he and a number of other soldiers competed across sand or tarmac in major regattas including the world championships.

He brought his four yachts with him to Larkhill on posting there this year and saw an ideal opportunity to start a club. Although there are many clubs sailing on sand and tarmac, no-one has tried grass before. Experiments on a football pitch did not produce the 60 miles an hour speeds common on hard surfaces, but they proved grass yachting worked. Mr Spurr's ambition now is to organise a cross-country marathon race along the tank tracks of Salisbury Plain.

The Larkhill club already has a dozen enthusiasts training in the strange art of sailing on dry land. Warrant Officer Spurr is the first to admit it is far from a soft sport—he suffered a fractured arm in the British open championships. In a sport where participants can travel a mile in a minute on three-wheeled craft with no brakes there is bound to be an element of danger. But the founder of the Larkhill club, who is also a rally driver, is convinced the combination of speed and danger give landyachting its appeal.

Landyachts consist of a long plank-like

body with one wheel for steering at the front and two rear wheels on a long axle. It is the wide track of the axle which makes the craft easier to sail than its waterborne counterpart. At reasonable speeds it is less likely to capsize and it can corner considerably faster than a car.

There are three classes of yacht—seven-metre, ten-metre and 15-metre sails. The Larkhill club has two each of the smaller classes but there are high hopes that as membership grows the variety of technical skills at Larkhill Garrison can be used to pioneer some revolutionary designs and a large fleet of yachts.

Transatlantic single-handed race

Two Army officers, two Royal Marines and a Royal Navy lieutenant took part in the 1972 Observer single-handed transatlantic yacht race. They were competing not only against the world's top yachtsmen but had also to fight the hazards of fog, gales and ice. All five completed the course from Plymouth to Newport, Rhode Island—in itself no mean achievement.

Despite losing his self-steering gear in a gale in the early stages of the race, Major Martin Minter-Kemp, 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, sailing Strongbow, still managed to finish 7th of the 55 competitors who originally set sail. His time of 28 days 12 hours 44 minutes compared well with the French winner's record-breaking crossing of 20 days 13 hours. Captain Mike McMullen, Royal Marines, finished 13th in Binkie II in 31 days 18 hours 10 minutes, followed by Lieutenant-Colonel "Jock" Brazier, Royal Engineers, who sailed Flying Angel into 15th place in 33 days 9 hours 21 minutes. Lieutenant Guy Hornett, RN, in Blue Smoke, was 22nd in 36 days 21 hours 26 minutes. Lieutenant Richard Clifford, Royal Marines, in Shamal, finished 25th in 38 days 10 hours.

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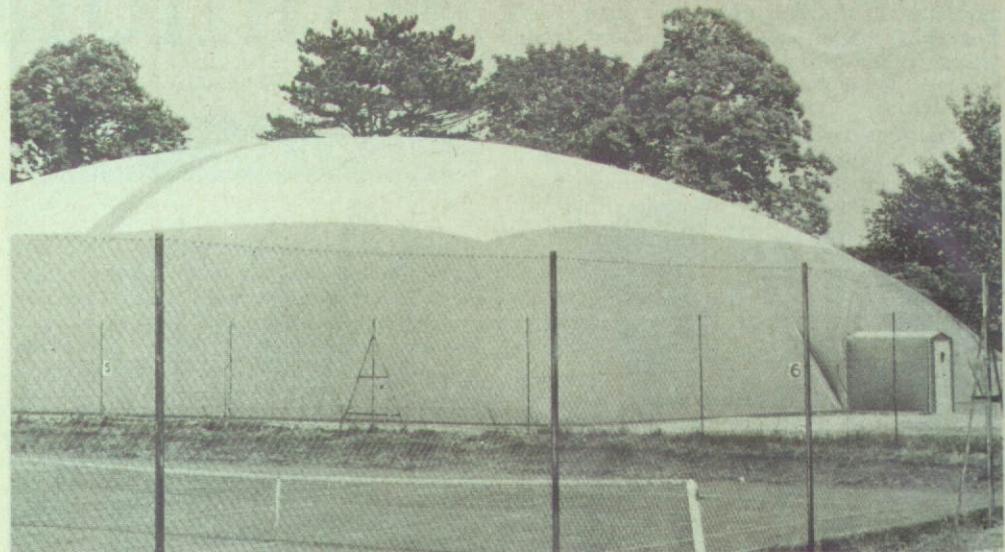
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Right: The green "balloon" with its translucent canopy. Note the airlock entrance.

Tri-Service service

BALLOONS—meteorological and para-dropping—are not uncommon sights over military Aldershot. Now there is a permanent "balloon," firmly anchored over two "Tennis Quick" courts in the Officers' Club grounds, giving the Army Lawn Tennis Association its first purpose-built indoor courts and enabling all-the-year round coaching, practice, play and matches.

The inflated plastic airdome, made by a Swedish firm, features a translucent canopy enabling daytime play without artificial lighting. This created a new problem since in most tennis "balloons" playing



time is metered by the lighting. The answer came from 41 Command Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, at York, with a coin-operated meter which collapses the net at the end of a session.

Several thousand pounds were saved by help from other Army units—43 Command Workshop, Aldershot; 1 and 3 Training Regiments, Royal Engineers, Workshop; 9 Independent Para Squadron; Royal Military School of Engineering; Depot Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, and 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

The Army Lawn Tennis Association has

offered the use of the courts for coaching and matches to the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force associations which were represented by both officials and players at the opening ceremony. The opening service in the opening men's doubles came from the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Michael Carver (he held it by game to 30), partnering Major J R McManus against Royal Navy and Royal Air Force opponents.

The new courts will be used for coaching, practice and matches and will also be available for other players. When money is available, a third court and changing room will be added.

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LEFT RIGHT & CENTRE

Old soldiers turned "salts" for the day when a party of In-Pensioners (above) from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, were guests of the Royal Navy's submarine depot at Gosport, Hampshire. The outing was one of a number the pensioners enjoyed during a three-week Hampshire holiday.

A parade (below) at Shamshui Po Camp, Hong Kong, celebrated the first anniversary as a sapper squadron of 54 (Hong Kong) Support Squadron, Royal Engineers. Previously known as Hong Kong Support Squadron RE, the redesignation perpetuates the title "54" which—apart from the period 1947 to 1950—has been borne by a sapper company or squadron since 1900.



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LEFT
RIGHT
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CENTRE
continued

One of the most colourful displays at this year's Royal Tournament at Earls Court was a frog dance (left) by the Singapore Armed Forces. The dance has a practical application as a physical training exercise.



Only a month after being formed, a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve company was chosen to mount an honour guard for the Queen (above) when she opened a new shopping "city" in Runcorn. E Company of The Mercian Volunteers, which came into being on 1 April, was reinforced by men of A Company for the special duty. The battalion's Colours were presented at Wolverhampton in May by Lieutenant General Sir Napier Crookenden on behalf of the Queen. At Runcorn the honour guard was dressed in disruptive camouflage combat kits and Mercian blue cravats, instead of service dress and like The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, wore oakleaves behind the cap badge.

The British Jousting Society—its members are the world's only professional jousters—put on a show of their medieval skills (right) at the Tower of London as part of the City of London Festival.



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Opening next month in London is a new hotel (left) which has taken its name from The Royal Scots. The 349-bedroomed hotel, called "The Royal Scot," is in King's Cross Road. Its Dumbarton Drums restaurant takes its name from a regimental march and the Crown and One cocktail bar is named after the regimental insignia of a "1" (1st of Foot) surmounted by a crown. The new hotel is owned by Thistle Hotels, a subsidiary of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Edinburgh, one of Britain's six major brewery companies.



Eight former Albert Medallists and two Edward Medallists (above) exchanged their old medals for the George Cross at an investiture by the Queen. The oldest medal of the ten goes back to 1908 when it was awarded to Mr Thomas McCormack (standing fifth from right).

The 17th/21st Lancers had a royal visitor in the form of their Colonel-in-Chief, Princess Alexandra (left), at Northampton Barracks, Wolfenbuttel, Germany. The princess spent a full day with the Lancers during which she inspected the squadrons and took the salute at a march-past, saw a display of regimental property, met regimental personalities, watched children's sports and toured a garden fete.

This year's Rhine Army summer show, with dog racing and tent pegging as well as show jumping events, attracted a large crowd during its three days. Right: children's obstacle race.



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Write for a prospectus: The Headmaster, Quantock School, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset, U.K. Tels: Nether Stowey 252 and 423.

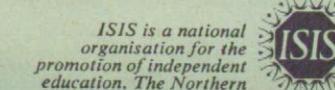
WHICH SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD

The decisions you and your husband take this year will affect your children for a lifetime.

Next to family life education is probably the largest single influence shaping a child's future. Yet how often it has been left to chance—simply because facts and practical information have not been readily available to parents.

ISIS exists to inform parents about independent education. A booklet has been produced giving details of different types of schools, financial advice, and a directory of participating schools throughout the North.

Write for a free copy to Independent Schools Information Service Dept SD1 Television House Mount Street Manchester M2 5PP



ISIS is a national organisation for the promotion of independent education. The Northern branch includes 70 leading preparatory and public schools for boys and girls.

Wooden swords, wicker shields

THE Aztecs had no iron and so went to war with wickerwork shields and wooden swords. But these were not the wooden swords wielded by infant infanteers. They were set with saw-edged teeth of obsidian, a volcanic glass.

Their conquest by the conquistadors was not just due to the physical superiority of cannon, muskets and swords of Toledo steel, but to the superstitious fear of centaur-like gods with weapons of thunder and lightning. For they knew nothing of horses and gunpowder.

This campaign inspired by the greed for gold is epitomised by some new miniatures cast in lead. They comprise six figures in 54-millimetre scale: Cortes

himself, a musketeer and halberdier, a plumed warrior and eagle and jaguar knights.

These fascinating figures cost £1.26 each unpainted and from £5.30 to £5.71 painted, plus 30 pence post and packing. They are new releases of the London firm of Rose Miniatures who have recently moved into new premises at 15 Llanover Road, Plumstead, London, SE18 3ST.

Do-it-yourself *aficionados* will be pleased to know that there is an easy way of reproducing the Spaniards' arms and armour. The relevant parts of the casting are covered with thinned-down matt black paint which, when dry, is buffed up with fine steel wool. A thin clear varnish can then be used to prevent the metal dulling over. HH.



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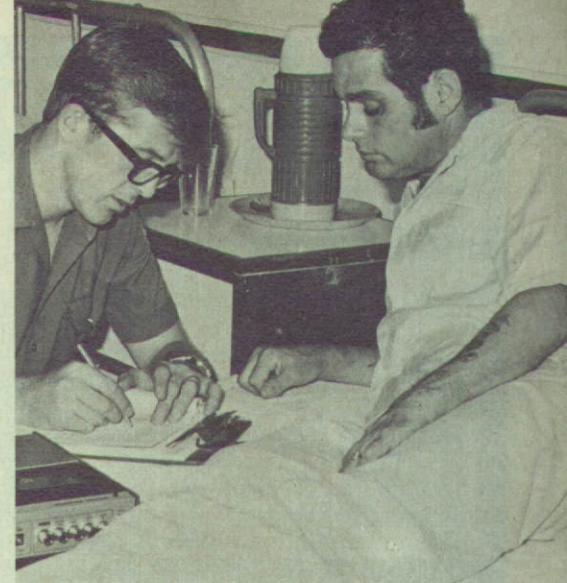
Tri-Service three-nation hospital

THE ANZUK Military Hospital stands on a hillside at Changi on the north-east tip of the island of Singapore. From its windows patients can look out over the straits of Johore and the Malaysian coastline. The building itself is set in tropical surroundings.

This serene setting has seen darker days. A short distance from the hospital stands the infamous World War Two Changi Jail, the main Japanese prisoner-of-war camp set up in Singapore.

After the war the RAF came back to Changi and set up their largest base on the island. Until October 1971 the hospital was run by the RAF. When the Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom (ANZUK) force arrived, it took over the hospital.

The 150-bed hospital provides specialist care for soldiers, sailors and airmen from all three countries and is staffed by all three Services of the three nations. The United Kingdom staff accounts for about a half of the hospital strength including most of the professional and administrative appointments.



Above: Captain Sylvia Capsley, a midwife with Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, looks after a new-born baby in one of the hospital's incubators.

Top right: On his second tour of Singapore is 27-year-old Sergeant Allan LeQuelenec, here sorting out a problem with one of the patients in the new international hospital.

Right: Reassuring word for patient from Captain Patricia Robinson who joined the QARANC after being a nurse in civilian hospitals.



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Letters

Smallest corps

The Royal Military Academy Band Corps is proud of the fact that it is the smallest corps in the British Army. It is also one of the only ones without a museum and this we would like to put right before too many items of interest from its past history are lost for ever.

If any readers happen to have items such as old photographs, badges, buttons, medals won by ex-members, uniforms—no matter how old or small—which they would like to hand in for safe keeping by the band, please write and let us know. We would also like to keep in touch with all our past members.—**L/Cpl J R Hare, RMA Band Corps, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey.**

★ Although the RMA band's duties are mainly at Sandhurst, it is a marching band and can take its place on any military occasion. The band has just been to Brazil (see front cover and pages 12-15 of this issue).

Long-haired cadets

For a number of years it was my pleasure to command a very good troop of Royal Regiment of Artillery cadets in Derbyshire; they were exceedingly keen boys and very smartly turned out. There is no ACF unit in this small town but the grammar school does have its CCF unit which wears the flash of the famous Foresters. Almost without exception the cadets have very long hair, some shoulder length, and this prompted me to enquire into the state of cadet hair length in general. I am told that it is the rule rather than the exception for

very long hair among cadets today and that if they were made to cut it they would leave their respective units. Now I readily agree that the length of hair does not affect the type of cadet but surely it is time to change the headdress. A beret of any colour sitting on a pile of locks looks ludicrous and anything but smart. Would it not be better dress to re-introduce the shako of the light infantry cadets, a dress cap for armoured regiment cadets, etc? The cost would be offset by asking for a uniform deposit as is already the practice with sea cadet units. I am sure it would add a little distinction to a

cadet's turnout and at the same time fit snugly over the longer hair.—**R Kenneth Kendall, Ashbourne County Secondary School, Old Derby Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 1BN.**

★ A spokesman for the Combined Cadet Force Association commented that this was a nice suggestion but it was unlikely that the Ministry of Defence would alter existing dress regulations regarding head-dress.

Dress sense

Reference Lance-Corporal Smith's letter (March) concerning dress sense, I am in complete agreement with him on the drabness of the No 2 service dress. The simple addition of a flash on the sleeve denoting corps or unit would break this drab outline. As these flashes are already worn on combat kit and are available in all units it would entail no further cost on design. Now that the Ministry of Defence has brought salaries into line with civilian scales, why not give uniforms an uplift? As regards the 1937 pattern webbing, it must have been designed in the enemy's favour. Diving flat on the ground with a pouch full of magazines is just asking to be gutted!—**Tpr D C Creed QRIH, C Company, Rheindahlen Garrison, BFPO 40.**

As a British Army cadet I can understand how Lance-Corporal Smith feels for I too have to wear a KF shirt. However, I am allowed to wear a cotton shirt, but don't forget I still have to wear BD instead of No 2 dress. Again I agree with him about webbing. I bought my own '58 webbing and it cost me £4.78 as follows: belt 28p; kidney pouches, straps and basic pouches £2; canteen £1; big pack £1.50. I have also bought my own denims which cost me over £3. So we cadets don't get the best of things either. We have just been issued with lightweight pullovers.—**Cadet L Cpl P Gosnell, 66 Huntingdon Close, Pollards Hill, Mitcham, CR4 1XL.**

Prisoners-of-war

I have been commissioned to write a wide-ranging and internationally flavoured book on prisoners-of-war. My intention is to concentrate on World War Two with a lead-in from World War One and the Geneva Convention. At the other extreme I should like to cover the plight of prisoners taken in Korea, Vietnam and the Arab-Israeli conflicts. I hope to deal comprehensively with the legal, military and psychological problems confronting both captors and captives—from the moment of surrender (of interest in itself) to the difficulties of rehabilitation. Consequently I shall be grateful for any information from readers regarding their experiences as prisoners or as guards—the effect of monotony on temperament, the attitudes that develop, the songs, the comfort or otherwise of religion, the channelling of creative talent into escape attempts, the good and bad times that are remembered.—**Lieut-Col A J Barker, 53 Beechwood Court, Queens Road, Harrogate, HG2 0HD.**

Bond of friendship

In his review of the record "Marching with the Coldstream Guards" (May), RB mentions the march "Bond of Friendship" as having been written by Mackenzie Rogan while serving with the Coldstream Guards. In fact it was written in 1886 while the composer was bandmaster of 2nd Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, ten years before he was appointed bandmaster of the Coldstream Guards. The circumstances surrounding the origin of the march are very interesting, as Mackenzie Rogan relates in his autobiography, "Fifty Years of Army Music." His battalion was on its way down the Hugli river from Calcutta en route to Burma when one of his bandsmen, Murray, died of heat exhaustion. The same evening the vessel struck a sandbank. Mackenzie Rogan went to his

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cabin and sat thinking of Murray's death. As he did so he began humming a melody which he wrote down. He then sketched out a march of which the original melody became the trio. The march was later developed and named "Bond of Friendship." —R von Motz, 15 Oakdale Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 0UJ.

Rum

Reference Major Ridgway's letter on rum (July). While serving with 29 Field Regiment in Cyprus during 1958-59 we were issued with rum on all internal security patrols and on cordon-and-search operations. It did us the world of good in the middle of the night when it became very cold. I shall always remember the strong tea and rum.—R J Rogers (ex-gunner, now private TAVR), 226 Lyndhurst Avenue, Tice's Meadow, Aldershot, Hants.

Hell hole of Shaiba

On reading "The Red Devils" in Leo Cooper's "Famous Regiments" series I found a rather blatant mistake on page 177. The author states that during the Kuwait campaign the Red Devils were rested at the "seaside" rest camp at Shaiba! Good heavens! As an old Iraqi Levy I can assure him that Shaiba is not near any sea, river or lake. In my last sojourn there with the Iraq Levies 1943-45 it was always known to be one hell-hole.

As one of my men so aptly remarked: "Shaiba was the remnant of God's effort at making the world and having finished it He cast the rubbish out and called it Shaiba. He had two scrub palms left over and He cast them in for good measure and by chance they landed outside the officers mess!"

No sir, there was definitely no seaside at Shaiba. The nearest water was Ashar, Marqul-Basrah. As we used to sing: "Here's to you who have just arrived:

Take a tip from one survived: Don't volunteer for another year—at Shaiba!" Those were hardship days.—J Wilson, Northern Ireland (full address supplied).

They also served

The June letter under the heading "Medals," ending with an observation that a Naafi girl may sport the same number of medals as a disabled soldier, is too sardonic. Campaign medals are to commemorate a specific period in certain areas. It would be impossible to examine the hundreds of thousands of individual claims; to award a campaign medal to all who served well is quite fair.

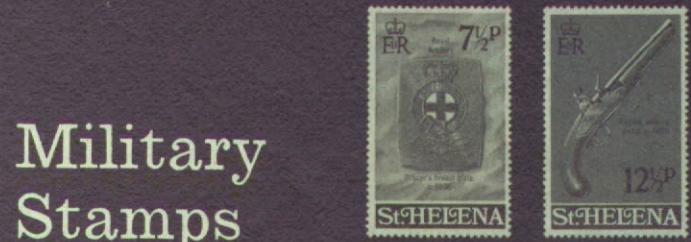
Naafi employees in the "Expeditionary Forces Institutes," when in active service zones, shared danger equally with troops, seamen and the nursing services while travelling in troop transport and in forward areas. Many lost their lives.

Locally enlisted employees of Naafi overseas were not entitled to any British campaign commemorative medal. To be a British female Naafi employee serving overseas was no sinecure. Too many jibes are made about Naafi employees who have, and do, an essential job.—R Rimmer, 21 Glyn Garth, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5RY.

Medals

Numerous letters have been published recently in SOLDIER on the subject of medals but no mention has been made of the payment of an annuity for holders of the Meritorious Service Medal.

This medal is normally awarded after 27 years' outstanding Regular Army service and in addition the recipient must be in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and have been a member of the WOs and sergeants mess for at least 15 years. In all it is extremely hard to get and, even if qualified, he or she could possibly



Military Stamps

Further series of stamps with a military motif have been issued by Gibraltar, Antigua and St Helena. The first two feature uniforms while the St Helena issue depicts 19th century items of equipment.

The Gibraltar stamps, fourth in the series, are in values of 1p, 3p, 7p and 10p. The 1p shows a soldier of Fox's Regiment in 1704. Raised in 1702 and known later as the 32nd Foot of Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, it was at the capture and subsequent defence of Gibraltar in 1704-5. On the 3p stamp is an officer of The King's Royal Rifle Corps (1830) while the 7p features an officer of The North Hampshire Regiment in 1825. Raised in 1702 and known as Ponsonby's Regiment, it became the 37th Foot in 1782 and absorbed the 67th Regiment in 1881 to become The Hampshire

Regiment, later The Royal Hampshire Regiment. Finally, the 10p; this stamp shows a sailor of the Royal Navy of 1972.

The Antigua stamps are in values of half a cent (an officer of the 25th Foot, 1815); 10c (sergeant of the 14th Foot, 1837); 20c (private of the 67th Foot, 1853); 35c (officer, Royal Artillery, 1854); 75c (private, 29th Foot, 1870).

The four St Helena stamps are a militaria issue in values of 2p, 5p, 7 1/2p and 12 1/2p depicting respectively a post-1823 soldier's breastplate of the Royal Sappers and Miners, an infantry sergeant's spontoon (about 1830), a Royal Artillery officer's breastplate (about 1830) and an English military pistol of 1800 vintage.

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wait years until a vacancy arises through the death of a former holder. As a holder myself I wish to bring up the point of payment. On being awarded my medal shortly after my service terminated I was given to understand that I would get an annuity of £10. After nearly 12 years I am still waiting. Likewise, so I am led to believe, are several others. Surely a holder of such a rare medal deserves a quicker payment?

And now, perhaps, another point. This medal was awarded originally during the reign of Queen Victoria and the amount, to the best of my knowledge, has never been increased. I would put £10 in those days to be somewhere nearer £100 now.—E Gay (ex-drum-major, Worcestershire Regiment), 63 The Hill Avenue, Bath Road, Worcester.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE

The answer to the question in Competition 167 (April) of which village was cut off, was Brougha. The second answer required, of which soldiers were involved, was Gurkhas.

The clues were in terms of altitudes which were given or could be derived. The last digits of the altitude figures established the order of points visited and therefore Brougha. The first one or two digits of each height, when assigned numerical places in the alphabet, spelled out "Ayo Gurkhali," the war cry of the Gurkhas.

Prizewinners:

- 1 Cpl H A Lovegrove RAOC, HQ NORTHAG (EP5), BFPO 40.
- 2 S Sgt A Smith, 12 Fd Wksp REME, BFPO 36.
- 3 AQMS B Stacey, 3 RHA LAD, Colchester, Essex.
- 4 Master Paul Harrison, Wavell House, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire, Scotland, FK15 OSY.
- 5 C Hobson, 48 Brighton Road, Godalming, Surrey.
- 6 B W Pound, Arnwood, 74 St James' Road, Sutton, Surrey.
- 7 WO I (Cdr) P L Windebank RAOC, 19 Empire House, Weir Hall Avenue, Edmonton, London, N18 1EA.
- 8 Maj C J Castle, Directorate of

Military Studies, PO Box 8230, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia.
9 Sgt R Harrison 14 20 H, ACIO, 20 Great Moor Street, Bolton, Lancs.
10 Miss June McKee, 6 St Georges Close, Rectory Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

- 11 Master K Isdale, Wavell House, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, Perthshire, Scotland, FK15 OSY.
- 12 WO I (Cdr) R D Marshall RAOC, COD, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

R Verner, 1 Yeovil House, Hornsey Road, London N7.—Requires badges and medals; has few for sale or exchange.

S D Stone, 20 Buckingham Road, Petersfield, Hants.—Collects Army cap badges and collar dogs, also any special regimental insignia, pre-World War One walking-out canes and whips. All letters will be answered.

P J Mercer, Trafford House, Queen's Park, Chester.—Requires any items connected with 45th/95th Foot (not Rifle Brigade) Sherwood Foresters, Notts and Derby Regiment.

B A Mitchell, 6 Bellhouse Villas, High

Easter, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4RA.
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Garth W E Adamson, 10 Newton Terrace, Bishophill, York, YO1 1HE.—Collects all types medals and badges any period. Specially required, items relating to Yorkshire regiments. Will buy or exchange for general militaria.

J T Doran, 4 The Cottages, Common Lane, Kings Langley, Herts.—Wishes purchase any bound volume of SOLDIER covering years 1945-1964. Please quote price each volume.

S Dinsdale, 79 Thirlestane, Lemsford Road, St Albans, Herts.—Wishes exchange, for Army cap badges, 58 copies of SOLDIER (two complete years 1970-71). Maj R B Auchterlonie, CFEPU, CFPO 5000, 763 Lahr/Schwarz, West Germany.—Will exchange Canadian cap badges for those of Gurkhas, World War Two British infantry and armoured units and present-day Scottish regiments. Attractive Canadian exchanges available for badge of 1st Canadian Armoured Personnel Carrier Regiment (Kangaroo) or for CEF Highland battalions.

G Ewing, c/o Staff, HM Prison, Brixton, London SW2.—Seeks prison badges/insignia all countries especially Far East

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CHRISTMAS cards again, and this year the Army Benevolent Fund is offering a selection of five: "The Adoration of the Magi" by Paolo Veronese (1528-1588), price 5p (overseas 4p); "A survivor from the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava" by A J Elsley (1878-1903), also 5p and 4p; "Sons of the Brave" by Phil Morris (1836-1902), 4p (overseas 3p); Queen Victoria making the first presentations of the Victoria Cross in Hyde Park on 26 June 1857, by George H Thomas (1824-1868), 4p and 3p; and a landscape, "The Fingers of Frost," by Terence Cuneo, 4p and 3p.

Packing and postage rates are as follows: 10 cards 12p, 20 cards 21p, 30 to 40 cards 30p, 50 cards 35p, 60 to 100 cards 45p, 101 to 250 cards 65p, 251 to 500 cards £1.20, 501 to 750 cards £1.75, 751 to 1000 cards £2.25, 1001 to 2000 cards £4.25.

Cards can also be collected direct, thus saving postage, either from The Forces Press (Naafi), Crimea Road, Aldershot, Hants, or from the Army Benevolent Fund, G Block, Duke of York's Headquarters, King's Road, Chelsea, London SW3, between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday (in this case cheques should be made payable to The Army Benevolent Fund).

In all other cases cheques and postal orders should be made out to The Forces Press and crossed "A.C. payee only."

Any profits from the sale of these Christmas cards will be distributed by the Army Benevolent Fund to Army charities.



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and South African countries. Good prices offered..

R Bacon, 65 Station Street, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts.—British Army cap badges and general militaria for sale or exchange.

Sgt D Palmer RAMC, 18 Fd Amb RAMC, BFPO 1.—Requires any items of tropical natural history (rocks, minerals, stuffed animals, insects, sea shells etc) for school displays and talks in UK. Miss L Markham, 40 Bellingham Walk, Emmer Green, Reading, Berks.—Wishes purchase cap badges Royal Marines, Scots Guards, Grenadier Guards, Parachute Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, Army Air Corps. Letters, giving prices, first please.

REUNIONS

Beachley Old Boys Association. Annual reunion 29-30 September, 1 October. Particulars from Hon sec, BOBA, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Mon.

1st/4th Battalion, The Buffs (1914-1919). Reunion dinner 23 September at County Hotel, Canterbury, 6 for 6.30pm. Tickets 75p from local secretary or from Lieut-Col H L Cremer, Hampton Gay, 40 New Dover Road, Canterbury, Kent. **The King's Regiment Comrades Association, Liverpool Branch.** Annual reunion dinner and dance at Liverpool, Saturday 7 October. Details from Secretary, Deysbrook Barracks, Liverpool 12.

Royal Norfolk Regimental Association. Golden jubilee thanksgiving service Saturday 30 September, Norwich Cathedral, 2.45pm, followed by tea in cathedral cloisters. All ex-members of regiment and families welcome. Annual reunion dinner at TAVR Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich, 30 September, 6.30 for 7pm. Details both events from Secretary, Britannia Barracks, Norwich Norfolk.

Boys' Battery, Royal Artillery (numbers commencing 1151-1157). Fifth annual reunion dinner Saturday 18 November at 1930 hours, Headquarters WOs and Sgt's Mess Royal Artillery, Woolwich. Details from Lieut R J Crawshay RA, Junior Leaders Regiment RA, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warks.

Welsh Guards Association, Monmouthshire Branch. Annual reunion dinner, County Hotel, Ebbw Vale, Mon, Saturday 28 October. Details from Secretary, Roy Lewis, 29 Beaufort Terrace, Ebbw Vale.

14/28 Field Regt RA (1st, 3rd, 5th, 57th field batteries RA). Annual reunion dinner 14 October at Headquarters RA Sergeants Mess, Woolwich. Dinner £2. Overnight accommodation can be arranged. Details from A Dufall, 51 Church Walk, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 3AA.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 49)

The two pictures differ in the following respects:

1. Cuff of shirt in window. 2. Soldier's right elbow patch. 3. Pattern of middle stripe. 4. "T" of "Ties". 5. Position of coat in window. 6. Bumper of car. 7. Lower end of rope at ankles of parcel. 8. Girls' jacket. 9. Crossbar of "A" in "MAN". 10. Front edge of girl's skirt.

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Pictures: Arthur Blundell



"IT was just something to pass the time," Fusilier Don Charlton murmured modestly, his words muffled by the bushy growth billowing out from his upper lip into a set of ginger mutton-chop whiskers which had just earned the title "best novelty moustache."

Unheard of, damme... Queen's Regulations, and all that... paragraph 1015. . . "If a moustache is worn, it will be trimmed and of moderate size". . . where's the sergeant-major?

Sergeant-Major David Shaw? . . . his immaculately curled waxed black moustache had just been voted the most regal.

What? Summon an officer! Will Captain Keith Cook do? Don't be put off by the inverted hairy horseshoe looped over his

lip. . . he's rather proud of it and it was adjudged the best droopy moustache.

The Commanding Officer must hear of this! Too late, actually. . . as wearer of what was chosen as the best military moustache, Lieutenant-Colonel David Woodford was quite aware of what was going on. . .

It was a competition organised by the chaplain of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, the Reverend John Bolton, to keep the unit smiling through four hard months in Northern Ireland. When the battalion returned to its barracks in Colchester, local beauty queens and the CO's wife, Mrs Mary Woodford, were called in to judge the men's efforts.

Colonel Woodford: "The padre decided

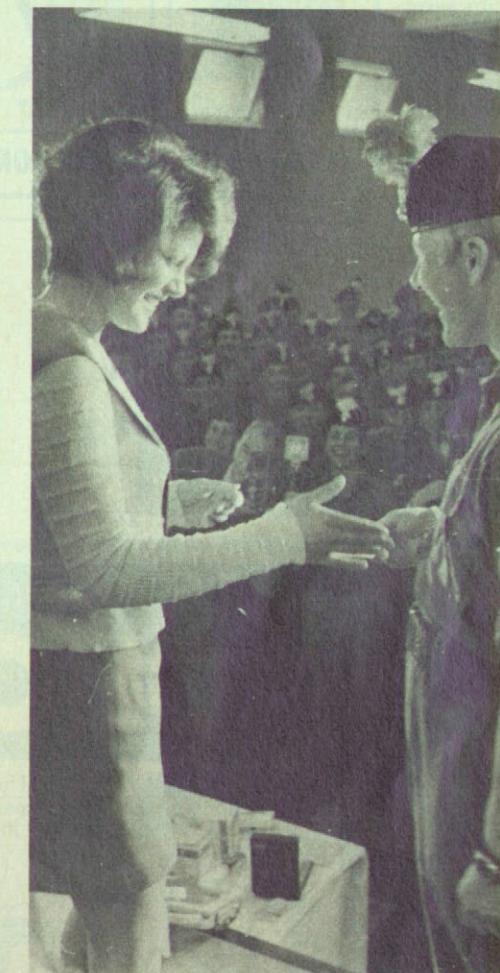


Above: The most regal moustache wins congratulations and a beer mug trophy from the CO's wife to Sgt-Maj D Shaw.

Left: A collection of bristling lips belonging to the fuzzy fusiliers back from four months in Northern Ireland.

Far left: The very sight of all these whiskers makes one of the judges have an itch on her own lip to scratch at!

Right: Four months' hard growing and nary a wisp of a whisker on Fusilier John Angus's lip; booby prize for him!



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COMPETITION 172

HERE was at first much opposition, on the grounds of cost, to proposals that the local public library should become fully automated by the installation of a computer. This opposition has now faded partly because of the fun the local people are having in operating the computer themselves and partly because of the obvious savings in time (creating even more leisure for reading) and the reduction in staff.

For the reader, a visit to the library is now a matter of extreme simplicity. In the building the reader is faced with the computer's display panel which is mounted above a conveyor belt. As will be seen from the illustration, this panel has ten numbered press buttons plus two others marked IN and OUT. The large figures around the perimeter represent the computer installation number and are read, starting with the 4 in the north-west corner, in a clockwise direction.

When returning a book, all the reader has to do is place it on the conveyor belt and then spell out the author's name by depressing the appropriate keys in succession. Then he presses the IN button and the computer combines its own installation number with the numbers pressed by the reader. The book then moves away into the library and the computer stores the fact that the book is back in stock.

Should the reader wish to borrow another book he again depresses those keys which will spell out its author's name. He then presses the OUT button causing the computer to combine its own installation number with that "punched out" by the reader. This combination, which can only be addition or subtraction, produces a new number which turns out to be the book title required by the reader. The book then appears on the conveyor belt. And all this occurs in a matter of seconds.

A recent visitor to the library depressed buttons in the following order: 3 4 5 1 9 7 3 6 2 3.

Can you say (a) what was the title of the book concerned and (b) whether he was borrowing it or returning it?

Send your two answers, with the "Competition 172" label from this page and your

name and address, on a postcard or by letter, to:

Editor (Comp 172)
SOLDIER
 Clayton Barracks
 Aldershot
 Hants.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 11 December. The answers and winners' names will appear in the February 1973 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 172" label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.

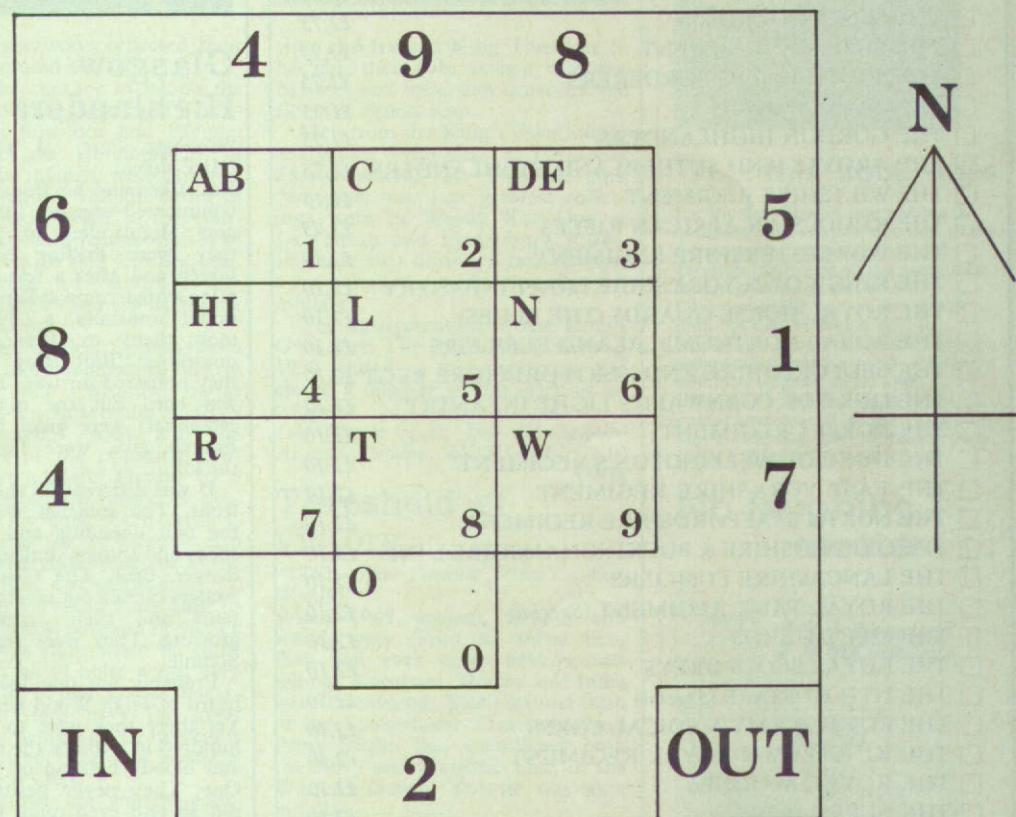
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5-6 Three books

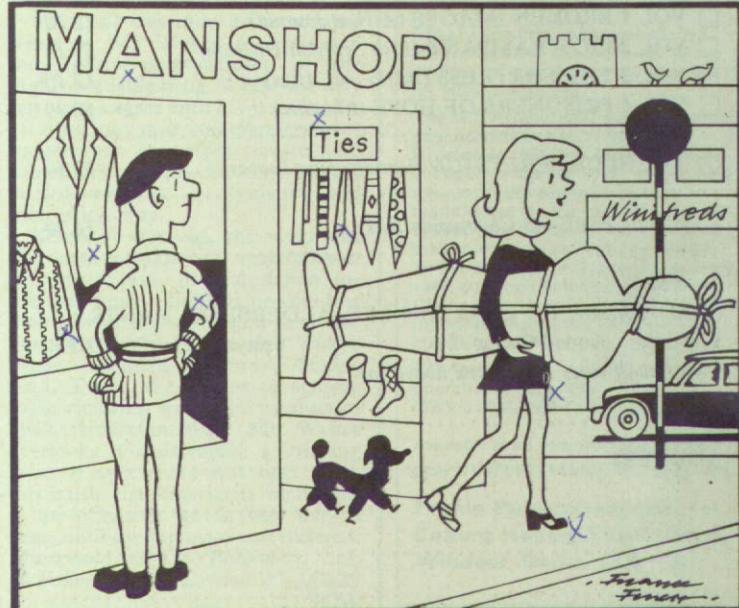
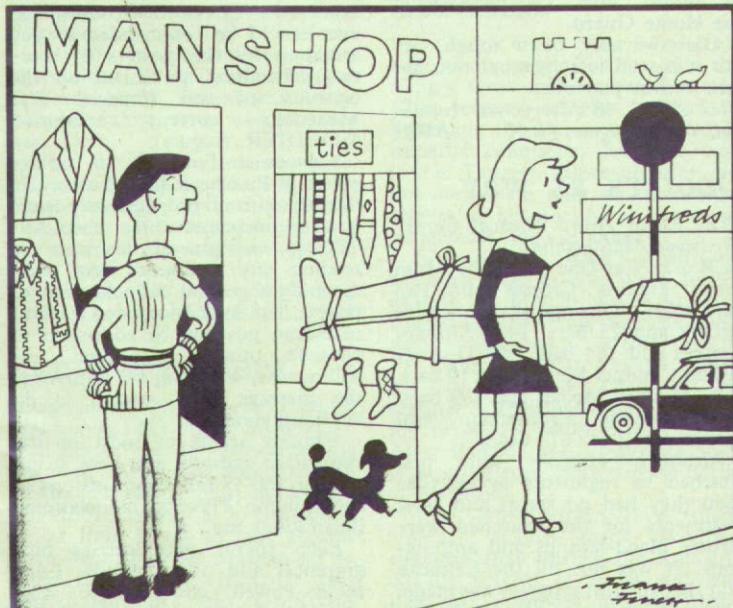
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These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 45.

How observant are you?





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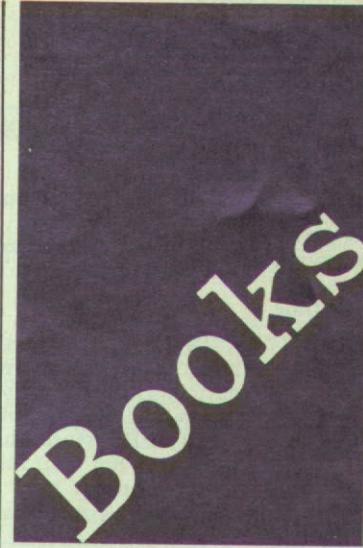
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The Royal Irish Fusiliers

by Harry Harris



in 1846 and the establishment of an Army medical school and nursing service vast improvements had been made by the time of the Boer War in which 850 doctors served. Even then far more men died from disease than in action.

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Posters in war

"First World War Posters" (Joseph Darracott and Belinda Loftus)

"Second World War Posters" (Joseph Darracott and Belinda Loftus)

In World War Two, films and radio partly superseded posters as ways of giving information. This fact, from the introduction to "Second World War Posters," should not be taken to suggest that posters are no longer powerful means of communication. Even TV-conditioned eyes would be commanded to pay attention by the posters in these two collections, published on the occasion of the Imperial War Museum's current exhibition (SOLDIER, August).

Cartoonist Fougasse, a former editor of Punch, is quoted as saying that the aim of propaganda posters was to overcome three obstacles: "Firstly, a general aversion to reading any notice of any sort; secondly a general disinclination to believe that any notice, even if it was read, can possibly be addressed to oneself; thirdly, a general unwillingness, even so, to remember the message long enough to do anything about it."

Famous artists of most of the combatant nations are here firing away in the 47 full colour posters in this volume. There are monochrome illustrations too.

Each colour page carries biographical and other details. Lord Baden-Powell could draw with either hand, painted posters and sold

Dettingen 1743



drawings to illustrated journals "to supplement his meagre army pay." One ATS poster of 1941 was withdrawn after Parliamentary criticism that it was too glamorous.

Cartoonists and Academicians are represented in these 8½" x 7½" paperbacks. The colour reproduction is excellent.

Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1, 85p each FRF

Faugh-a-Ballagh

"The Royal Irish Fusiliers" (Henry Harris)

War with France in 1793 meant the raising of many new regiments, among them the ancestors of The Royal Irish Fusiliers, the 87th and 89th. After a bad start in Holland and the West Indies, where disease killed far more men than the enemy, the Fusiliers were sent to the Peninsular War. At Barrosa their ferocious skill with the bayonet to savage cries of "Faugh-a-ballagh" (clear the way) made them one of the most feared units in the British Army. The capture of a French eagle standard and a marshal's baton showed the reputation was justified.

During the 19th century the Faughs, as they were called, played their full share in building up the Empire; they defeated the Americans at Niagara Falls, fought Gurkhas in Nepal, took convicts to New South Wales, formed squares against dervishes in the Sudan and earned a reputation second to none for hard drinking and toughness.

That toughness was certainly needed in 1914-1918 at Ypres, Gallipoli, Somme, Ginchy and Passchendaele. By the end of the war 18,000 Faughs had been killed or wounded. In World War Two, at Dunkirk, Malta, Tunisia and Sicily, wherever they were needed they were there.

Now the Faughs are no more. Their story and legends will never die as long as there is still an Irishman left to tell them and fortunately there are plenty of them in The Royal Irish Rangers.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £3.15 AWH

For wargamers

"Oudenarde, 1708" (Eversley Belfield)
"Dettingen, 1743" (Michael Orr)

Students of the art of wargaming will find these two volumes well worth adding to their collections. The 18th Century is a fascinating period from which to take a campaign because of its conventions so unlike modern war. In those days men fought in rigid formations



which in many ways reflected their tightly structured society.

It was the century in which the infantry suddenly discovered mobility through flint-lock and bayonet and before the development of artillery. The infantry were supreme and close fighting was the order of the day. Victory went to the commander who could handle masses of foot-soldiers with skill and decision. Cavalry were of comparatively little use against the new technique of platoon firing.

Of the two battles, Oudenarde is by far the more interesting and in some ways this is also the better book. After an interesting analysis of the weapons used and the personalities of the opposing generals (always a useful feature in a wargames book) the battle is described step by step. Each crisis is therefore seen in perspective and one is left with admiration for Marlborough's sheer professionalism.

Dettingen is a much more difficult task to tackle and perhaps Frederick the Great was right when he commented: "A lot of noise about very little and a lot of men killed uselessly." But it does have the great attraction of being a battle notorious for its bad leadership and mistakes made by both sides.

Both volumes are worthy additions to Knights' "Battles for Wargamers" series, equipped as they are with maps and diagrams.

Charles Knight, 11-12 Bury Street, London, EC3A 5AP, 90p each AWH

Rearguard at Corunna

"The King's Own" (Howard Green)

Like many other British units the King's Own were founded in the 17th century to play a part in defending the increasing number of imperial conquests. In their case it was Tangier. However, they did not stay there long as there were revolts to be crushed at home—at Sedgemoor and Culloden.

Although the King's Own saw active service in the West Indies against the French and in America against the rebellious colonists, their greatest hour was in the early days of the Peninsular War. On the retreat to Corunna they acted as the rearguard; their gallantry and sacrifice saved the whole British Army. After Badajoz and Salamanca they went on to even more stirring deeds at Waterloo.

The 19th century saw them matched against many colourful enemies: they pushed the Russians off the heights of Alma and laid siege to Sevastopol, invaded Abyssinia and tracked King Theodore to his lair, met Zulu assegai with the bayonet and were shot down by the Boers at Spion Kop.

1942: The Turning Point Alan Wykes



sinia and tracked King Theodore to his lair, met Zulu assegai with the bayonet and were shot down by the Boers at Spion Kop.

Men from the King's Own fought in the two world wars, at Ypres and Passchendaele, at Dunkirk and Montone, but their greatest sufferings were in World War One at Le Cateau and Frezenburg Ridge. In these two disasters two of their best battalions were virtually annihilated.

The amalgamation of the King's Own with The Border Regiment in 1959 ended a fine regiment and closed a chapter in the story of an empire.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £2.10 AWH

Threshold of victory

"1942: The Turning Point" (Alan Wykes)

When 1942 opened, Britain and Russia were closer to defeat than they had ever been. Malaya was falling, Singapore, Burma and India were threatened. The Channel dash of the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen had humiliated both the Navy and the RAF and, in the Western Desert, Tobruk was soon to fall.

At sea the Battle of the Atlantic was going badly for Britain and, in her efforts to aid Russia, Convoy PQ 71 had sailed to disaster. German troops were advancing on the Volga and though America was in the war she was still reeling under the Japanese onslaught.

Yet 1942 was indeed the turning point as Mr Wykes so ably and forthrightly demonstrates in the highly readable book. While one may not always agree with his assessments of situations and commanders—his judgements are often severe and sometimes cynical—he sums up that fateful year in a dramatic and interesting way.

Before it was out, the victorious Germans and Japanese were to know the bitter taste of real defeat for the first time. The Axis powers lost their forward momentum and the long marches to Berlin and Tokyo began. Alamein, Midway, Stalingrad, Tunis, the battles to achieve these victories, were all a product of 1942. Unaccountably, Mr Wykes overlooks Guadalcanal, a turning point if ever there was one. With this battle the Americans went over to an offensive which was not to cease until the Japanese surrendered.

Macdonald, & Co (Publishers) Ltd, 49 Poland Street, London W1, £3.25 JCW

Do you know...

How many Sherman-equipped units were there in 21 Army Group?

What was the designation of the 32nd Army Tank Brigade before Oct 1941?

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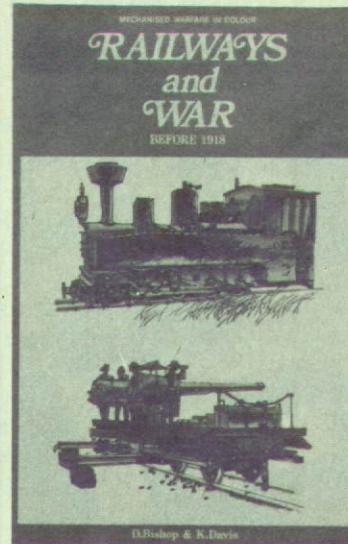
Available from your bookshop or in case of difficulty contact the publishers.

Profile Publications Ltd., Coburg House, Sheet Street, Windsor, Berks. SL4 1EB

Edited by
Lieutenant Sir Brian Horrocks

The Royal Marines

J. L. Moulton



D.Bishop & K.Davis

"Sea soldiers"

"The Royal Marines" (J L Moulton)
The Marines have fought in every engagement involving British arms, on land and sea, since the 17th century. Raised in 1664 as "Sea-Soldiers" in the Admiral's Regiment, it was not long before men were calling them "Marines." They were a glamorous unit right from the start—they captured Spanish treasure ships, seized Gibraltar and held it, fought at Quiberon Bay, endured shipwrecks and perfected cliff-climbing techniques as early as 1761.

Marines explored Australasia with Cook, escorted convicts to Botany Bay, stormed up Bunker Hill and dragged their guns across the Iberian Peninsula in support of Wellington. Between the Crimean and Boer wars, while most regiments moped in garrisons in Ireland and India, the Marines saw lots of action. During the 19th century their enemies included men of every colour and creed; corsair, sepoy, Cossack, Ashanti, Zulu, dervish, Boer and Chinese.

Their contribution in two world wars has been outstanding; their achievements at Gallipoli, Zeebrugge, Crete, Port-en-Bessin and Hill 170 will never be forgotten. In Korea as soldiers, they won the much-coveted American Presidential Unit Citation.

And in the 1970's the reputation of this, the most versatile fighting force in the British Army, remains undiminished.

Leo Cooper, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £2.10

AWH

Thin steel line

"Railways and War Before 1918" (Denis Bishop and W J K Davies)
The American Civil War saw the first real attempt to use railways for war purposes. It was also a planned feature of the Franco Prussian War, particularly on the Prussian side. Short-sightedly, the French found them useful for shifting refugees—a foretaste of things to come in two World Wars—and it was only later they appreciated their military potential which they developed so effectively in time for World War One.

This little book gives a broad outline, spanning the years up to 1918, of how railways have served the military and the various vehicles which found their way on to the tracks.

The authors would have been well advised, however, to have checked their dates. They say that British troops were carried by rail in 1838 to cope with the Peterloo incident at Manchester. But Peterloo was in 1819, six years before Stephenson's passenger railway between Stockton

and Darlington. Maybe they mean the Chartist riots which occurred in Birmingham in 1839.

They say that "perhaps" the first attempt at a truly military railway came in 1882 during Kitchener's Egyptian and Sudan campaigns. But they overlook the splendid Zulu to Koomayli railway built by sappers in 1867 to supply Sir Robert Napier's expedition to rescue European prisoners of the mad Emperor Theodore of Abyssinia.

These things apart, the authors have produced a useful introduction to the development of military rail usage with special emphasis on the establishment of various armies' railway units.

Blandford Press, 167 High Holborn, London WC1, £1.50

JCW

Armour in war

"Profile Book 2—British and Commonwealth Armoured Formations 1919-46" (Duncan Crow)

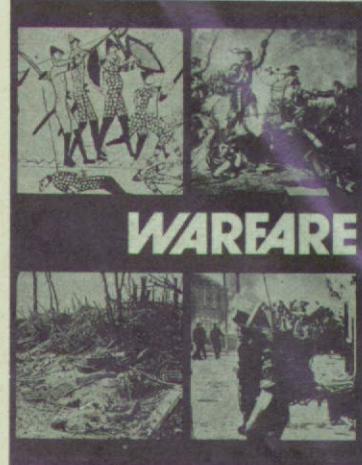
"Profile Book 3—79th Armoured Division: Hobo's Funnies" (Nigel Duncan)

In the whole history of the British Army there can have been few upheavals more controversial or more stoutly resisted than the conversion of cavalry regiments to armour. The cavalrymen's loyalty to horse and regimental tradition was boundless. "When the old die-

hards reluctantly accepted the principle of conversion," says Mr Crow, "the Tank Corps had become a powerful and established arm of the service, and the cavalry had lost an opportunity which was never to recur".

The horse v tank battle which bedevilled the British Army in the inter-war years forms a large part of this excellent book and though one cannot hope to give a comprehensive survey in a mere 104 pages, Mr Crow presents a superbly illustrated account of the development, organisation and service history of all the British and Commonwealth armoured formations which came into being up to 1946. He also includes short biographies of each armoured division, armoured brigade and tank brigade.

Major-General Duncan concentrates on the "funnies" of the unique 79th Armoured Division which with its special fighting vehicles was continuously in the van of the assault from the landings in Normandy to the crossing of the Elbe. He commanded the division's 30th Armoured Brigade and does full justice to a formation which invented its own technique, modified or invented equipment to meet the unexpected and, though hampered by weather and ground conditions as well as by the enemy, never failed to carry out its tasks.



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BATTLES with MODEL SOLDIERS

Donald Featherstone



The 79th was formed as a normal armoured division at Leeds in 1942, but in the spring of 1943 its role was changed—it became the key which opened the doors of Hitler's Festung Europe. The Normandy bocage, minefields, assorted rivers—the 79th dealt with everything, more often than not under fire. Their tanks carried guns, mortars and flame-throwers—and words like crab, crocodile, snake, conger took on new, military meanings.

It was appropriate that command of this unique division should go to Major-General Sir Percy Hobart, the man to whom Britain's tank formations owed so much. General Duncan's book stands as a sterling tribute to him.

Crow: Profile Publications Ltd, Coburg House, Sheet Street, Windsor, Berks £2.25
Duncan: Profile Publications, £1.95
JCW

In brief

"Warfare" (Michael Palmer)

This interesting book could well be sub-titled "From Babylon to Belfast." It is the latest in a worthwhile series called "Past to Present" intended primarily for secondary schools, particularly those geared to Certificate of Secondary Education courses. Each volume deals with a different aspect of daily life and shows how the present has grown out of the past.

Mr Palmer carries the story of man against man on land, at sea and in the air, from ancient times to the embattled towns of Vietnam and Northern Ireland. He tells it with verve and polish and is certain to capture his reader's interest. He rounds off each chapter with lists of books for further reading.

B T Batsford Ltd, 4 Fitzhardinge Street, London, W1H 0AH, £1.30

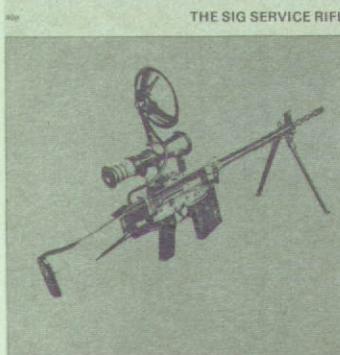
"Battles With Model Soldiers" (Donald Featherstone)

If ever there is another war the Army would be well advised to see that any dedicated wargamer is drafted into the Navy. Otherwise the generals are not going to get a look in and every unit will need a tactics suggestions box!

This wargaming business is snowballing. Models need no longer be valuable collector's items; there are some excellent paint-'em-yourself plastic ones about. And no lack of books on the subject.

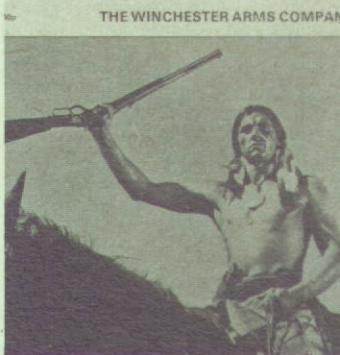
Mr Featherstone's, one of the best, now goes into its second impression. It contains concise information on all aspects of wargaming—situations, the construction and use of scenic boards, advice

SMALL ARMS PROFILE 10



THE SIG SERVICE RIFLE

SMALL ARMS PROFILE 11



THE WINCHESTER ARMS COMPANY

Books and news from home



not been for the size of successive generations of an Italian family. This is explained in Small Arms Profile 9 which deals with the Beretta pistol—Bond's favourite weapon.

A J R Cormack traces the family business responsible for a long line of pistols bearing the Beretta name back to 1680 and attributes the company's success in remaining a family business with the fact that "each of the marriages during the early years turned out to be blessed with large numbers of children."

The story of Beretta keeps up the high standard of this series and contains the wealth of black-and-white and colour photographs collectors have come to expect.

From railway carriages to the Rolls-Royce of rifles is the story of the Swiss SIG factory (Small Arms Profile 10). Mr Cormack tells of near panic in the world of gunsmiths to find an alternative to the Prussian Dreyse needle fire rifle which dominated military rifles in the 19th century.

In 1860 the challenge was taken up by a tiny railway carriage firm on the Rhine Falls and a generation of military rifles was born to grow side by side to this day with the original and less warlike products of the factory. The hallmark of SIG weapons has always been quality and Mr Cormack thinks the SIG rifle today is "the best finished military weapon available and as efficient as all."

Profile 11 also concentrates on rifles with the fascinating story behind a breed of weapons intricately bound up with the romance of the Wild West.

A successful shirt maker, Oliver Fisher Winchester, bought shares in the Volcanic Arms Company which he finally purchased outright when it went bankrupt in 1857. Under the new name of The New Haven Arms Company business thrived, thanks largely to the talent of a young shop superintendent, B. Tyler Henry, who quickly perfected a .44 rim-fire metal cartridge and adapted Volcanic weapons' mechanism to fire it. The seal was set on a golden age of American guns with the formation of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company in 1867. The company's perfection and refinement of the rifle have gone on to this day. A brief end-of-century excursion into the production of pistols was abandoned in favour of the guns Winchester knew best—repeating rifles.

Profile Publications, Coburg House, Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1EB. 40p each

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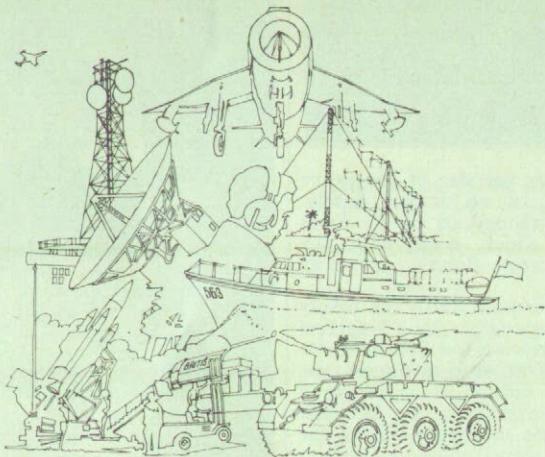
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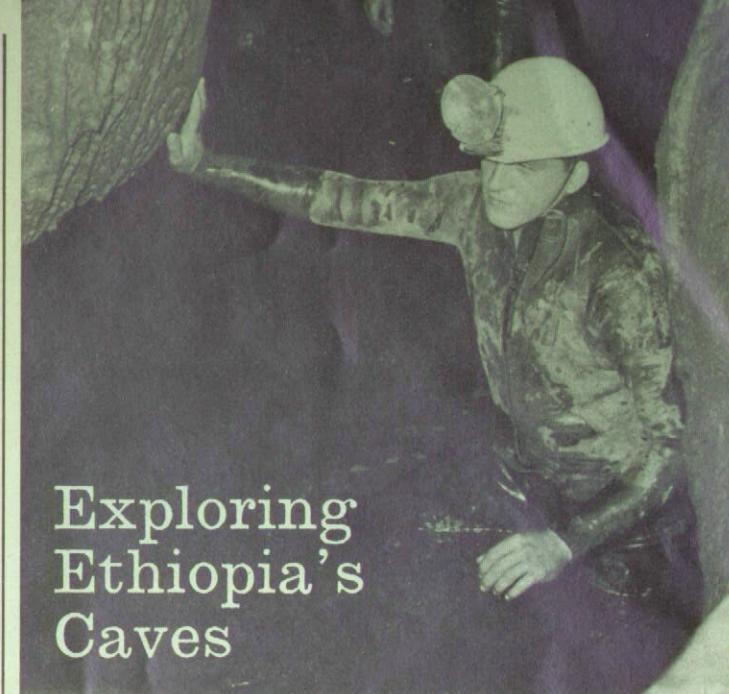
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Exploring Ethiopia's Caves

AREST as "mercenaries" and fifty days' hard driving through Europe and Africa were just the preludes to adventure deep under the sun-scorched Ethiopian landscape for a seven-man British caving expedition. The team of members of the Dutch Speleological Society, included one serviceman, Trooper Terry Rayner, 9th/12th Lancers. He proved a special asset not only as one of the society's caving instructors but as a man used to living rough in strange countries with the Army. Terry went into his first cave at the age of nine and after some 4500 descents into caves and potholes all over the world he was keen to explore what Ethiopia had to offer.

An ex-RAF crash ambulance tender took the party through France, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Niger, Chad and the Congo. There the cavers hit trouble. Their Services-type vehicle and ammunition boxes containing their caving equipment aroused the suspicions of the authorities who promptly arrested the Englishmen as "mercenaries." The confusion was resolved, but not before they had been ordered to leave the country within three days.

A broken chassis delayed departure and eventually they reached their destination after another series of break-downs.

In the caves of Ethiopia the team faced thousands of bats which make their homes there. Bat droppings massed over the years caused the cavers to wade sometimes waist deep. One cave was some 18 feet deep in dung and impossible to explore.

After surveying caves in various parts of the country, the team took samples of bats, insects and microscopic bugs for Sheffield University and the British Museum. Some samples were given to Addis Ababa University. The heavily battered vehicle was declared unfit for the journey home so the seven made their own way back to England. Now Trooper Rayner is back with his unit in Germany after his "chance of a lifetime".

Top: Trooper Terry Rayner wading through water in a German cave and (below) driving the expedition over rough roads in Ethiopia.



Gurkhas Win the Welsh 3000s

Above: Men of 216 Parachute Signal Squadron battling their way through Snowdonia mist.



Above: Going great guns on the run, boys of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery.



COMPETING for the first time, a Gurkha team won the tenth "Welsh 3000s" Snowdonia mountain race. This is one of the Army's toughest mountaineering competitions run over a 24-mile course along a string of 3000-foot peaks.

In an event dominated in past years by "home" teams from Welsh regiments, veterans of the course were no match for the mountain men of Nepal to whom the mountains of Snowdonia must have seemed mere hillocks compared with their native terrain in the foothills of the Himalayas—the roof of the world.

The Gurkhas, from 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, were in one of 21 teams which started the course and



Champagne for the champions. The Welsh 3000s trophy is filled with the customary bubbly.



A winning line-up. Four of the successful team leaders pictured with the trophies.

SOLDIER

