

JANUARY 1973 ★ 7½p

SOLDIER





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FRONT COVER

Flames flicker underwater from a cutting torch defying the laws of nature in the hands of experts at the Royal Engineers Diving School. In the school's "clear" tank divers demonstrate one of the many skills a sapper diver must master before he qualifies.

Picture by Arthur Blundell.

Editor: PETER N WOOD
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE
Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH
Research: JOHN JESSE
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS
Photographers: ARTHUR BLUNDELL, MARTIN ADAM
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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.

JANUARY 1973

30 Adoption by Ashford UDC of Intelligence Corps.

MAY 1973

- 4 Newark Show (band) (4-5 May).
- 14 Brentwood Carnival, Essex (band).
- 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 16 West Midland Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (band) (16-17 May).
- 16 Focus on Manchester 73 (band).
- 19 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 19 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band, Blue Eagles helicopter display team, White Helmets motorcycle display team).
- 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 25 Lord Mayor's Procession, Birmingham (bands).
- 26 Tidworth Tattoo (26-28 May).
- 26 Second (dress) rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 26 Watford Carnival (band).
- 28 Wells Moat Race and Youth Fellowship (band).
- 30 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 30 Suffolk County Show (bands) (30-31 May).

JUNE 1973

- 1 Manchester Services Display (bands, Blue Eagles, White Helmets, Red Devils freefall team) (1-3 June).
- 1 Impel 73 Doncaster Civic Week (bands) (1-9 June).
- 2 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 2 Stevenage Day (band).
- 2 Beating Retreat, Edinburgh Castle.
- 6 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 8 Chasewater Festival (bands) (8-9 June).
- 9 Catterick Army Display (9-10 June).
- 9 Glasgow Military Display (bands, Blue Eagles, White Helmets) (9-16 June).
- 9 Birkenhead Army Display (Red Devils) (9-10 June).
- 12 Monarchy 1000, Bath (bands) (12-16 June).
- 13 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 14 Installation of Governor, Edinburgh Castle.
- 14 Beating Retreat, Chelmsford.
- 14 Coventry Carnival (band, Red Devils, RA motorcycle display team) (14-16 June).
- 15 Essex County Show (band) (15-16 June).
- 16 Open Day, Depot The Queen's Division, Basingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts.
- 16 Cadet Forces Tattoo, Swindon.
- 16 Wrexham Garden City Fête (Red Devils).
- 17 Welsh 3000s (17-18 June).
- 20 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 22 Edinburgh Air Show (bands, Blue Eagles) (22-24 June).
- 22 Aldershot Army Display (22-24 June).
- 23 Pontypridd Chamber of Trade Fête (RA motorcycle team).
- 27 (Provisional). Freedom of Aldershot, Royal Army Medical Corps.
- 27 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Show (band) 27-28 June.
- 30 Hucclecote Fête, Gloucester (band, arena display).
- 30 Open Day, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate (band).
- 30 Tamworth Carnival (band, Red Devils, White Helmets).

JULY 1973

- 4 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 6 Kirby Show, Liverpool (band) (6-7 July).
- 6 Birkenshaw Show (band) (6-7 July).
- 7 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).

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DIARY

continued

- 7 Newport, Mon, Carnival (RA motorcyclists) (7-8 July).
- 7 Exeter Air Day (Blue Eagles).
- 10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (band) (10-12 July).
- 11 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 11 Royal Tournament (11-28 July).
- 11 **Massed bands display, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill.**
- 13 Cheltenham Tattoo (13-14 July).
- 13 Pudsey Show, Leeds (band) (13-14 July).
- 13 **Masham Traction Engine Rally (band) (13-16 July).**
- 13 **Nottingham Festival (band) (13-16 July).**
- 14 **Basingstoke Tattoo**
- 14 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 14 Plymouth Air Show (band).
- 14 Weston-super-Mare Dairy Festival (bands) (14-21 July).
- 14 Open Day, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
- 14 Calne Carnival (band, arena display).
- 14 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
- 17 East of England Show (bands) (17-18 July).
- 18 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 19 Liverpool Show (bands, RA motorcyclists, Red Devils) (19-21 July).
- 20 Teesside Show (band) (20-23 July).
- 21 Stroud Show (band).
- 21 **Bristol 600 (21 July-12 August) (King's Troop RHA 6-11 August, Red Devils 21-26 July, White Helmets 6-11 August).**
- 22 Corby Highland Show (band).
- 23 **Wigan Pier Display (bands, RA motorcycles) (23-24 July).**
- 25 **Driffeld Show (band).**
- 26 Manchester Flower Show (band, Red Devils, White Helmets) (26-28 July).
- 26 St Helens Show (band, Red Devils, RA motorcyclists) (26-28 July).
- 27 Northampton Show (band) (27-28 July).
- 28 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop.
- 28 Gloucester Carnival (band) (29 July-10 August).
- 30 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (bands) (30 July-5 August).
- 30 Open Day, RAC Centre, Bovington.
- 31 Royal Lancashire Show (band, Red Devils) (31 July-2 August).

AUGUST 1973

- 1 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (1-4 August).
- 1 Rutland County Show (band).
- 2 Hull Show (band) (2-4 August).
- 3 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (3-11 August).
- 7 Bingley Show (band) (7-8 August).
- 9 Darlington Army Week (band) (9-19 August).
- 15 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-8 September).
- 18 Crewe Carnival (band) (18-19 August).
- 18 Pontypool Carnival (Red Devils).
- 19 Hartlepool Show (band).
- 22 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 Southport Flower Show (band, Blue Eagles, Red Devils) (23-26 August).
- 24 Bebington Carnival, Wirral (band, Red Devils) (24-26 August).
- 24 Leeds Gala (band) (24-27 August).
- 26 Aylsham Show (band).
- 27 Swansea Carnival (Red Devils).
- 29 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 29 Sheffield Show (band) (29 August-1 September).
- 31 Keighley Show (band) (31 August-1 September).

SEPTEMBER 1973

- 2 Hinckley Steam Fair (band).
- 5 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 7 Blackburn Army Display (7-9 September).
- 10 DLI Festival, Co Durham (10-12 September).
- 12 Kneller Hall grand (band) final concert.
- 12 Cambrian March (12-16 September).
- 13 Kendal Gathering (band) (13-15 September).
- 15 Welwyn Garden City Water Festival (band).
- 28 City of Leicester Show (band).

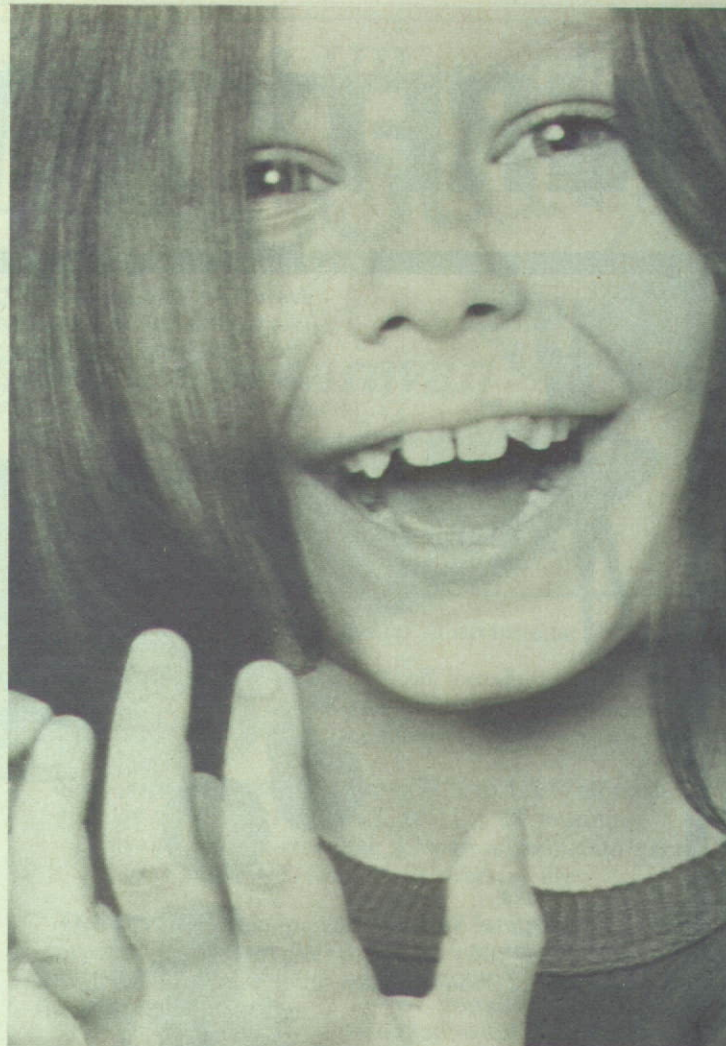
NOVEMBER 1973

- 4 Berlin Tattoo (4-6 November).
- 10 Festival of Remembrance, Bristol.
- 11 Remembrance Day Parade, Bristol (band).

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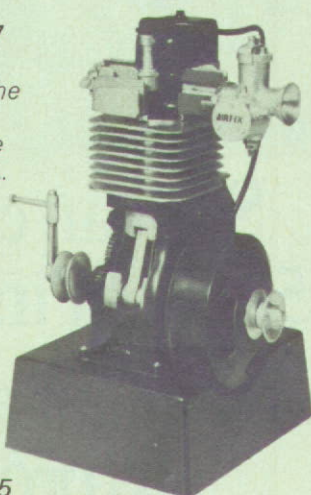


AIRFIX NEWCOMERS

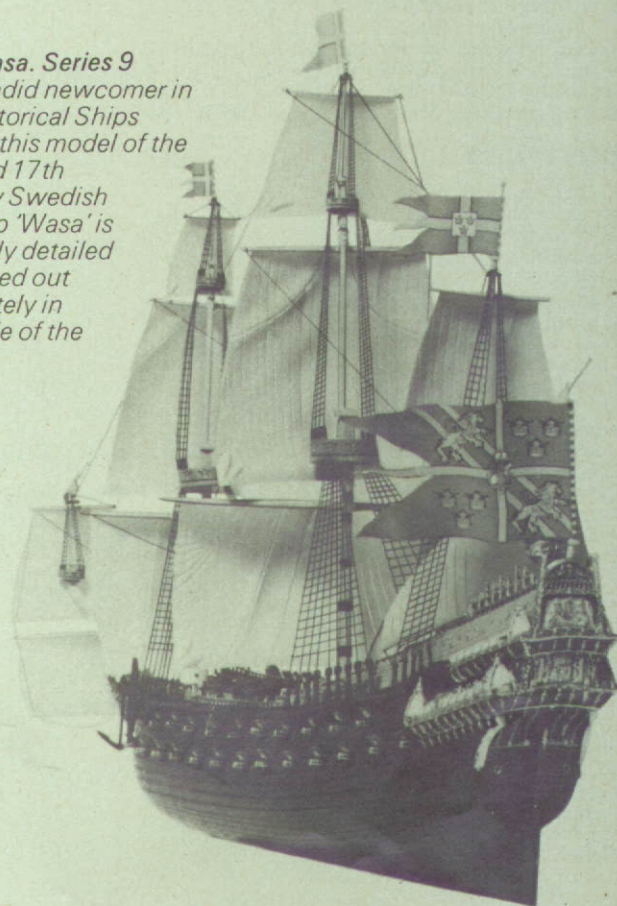


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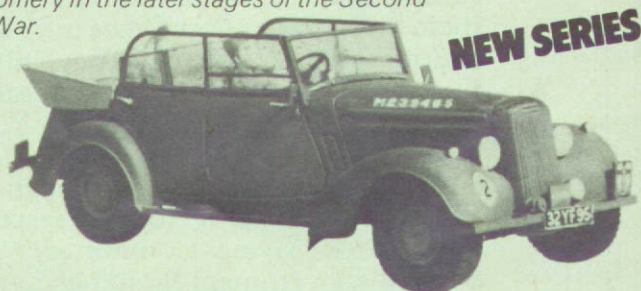
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Details of the Nuffield Centre at 8 Adelaide Street, London, were given in the December SOLDIER News. The centre has now closed but it is not the end of this service to soldiers. It is hoped that a new centre will open in June or July this year in new premises in London.



Bound volumes of last year's issues of SOLDIER will shortly be available at £3.50 each including postage and packing world-wide. The 1971 and 1970 volumes are also available at the same price and those for the years 1969, 1968, 1967, 1966 and 1965 at £2.50 each. These volumes are all bound in red buckram with title, volume number and year in gilt on the spine.



Bound volumes, Easibinder, regimental drum ice buckets, wine mats, colour prints of military paintings, the range of 20 prints of military uniforms and many other items will all be on display and on sale on the SOLDIER stand at three major Army displays this year. They are the Aldershot Army Display (22-24 June), Army Air Day at Middle Wallop (28 July) and the Royal Artillery At Home at Woolwich. We look forward to meeting you at the SOLDIER stand.



The following extract from the Russian Odessa News has been widely publicised but still bears repetition:

"The English officer is least of all an officer. He is a rich landowner, house-owner, capitalist, or merchant.

"He knows nothing about the Services and is only seen on parade and reviews. From the professional point of view, he is the most ignorant officer in Europe.

"The officer considers himself irresistible to the fair-haired, blue-eyed English ladies. He has a spoilt, capricious and blasé character and loves pornographic literature, suggestive pictures, recherché food and strong drink.

"His chief amusements are gambling, racing and sports. He goes to bed at dawn and gets up at midday."



Tickets will shortly be available for the military musical pageant at Wembley Stadium on Saturday, 7 July. They can be obtained from agencies or direct from the Box Office, Wembley Stadium, Middlesex (cheques payable to Wembley Stadium Ltd).

Seats are priced at £2.50, £2.00, £1.50, £1.00 and 50 pence. For the first four of these categories there are special party rates (for parties of 20 or more) at respectively £2.40, £1.90, £1.40 and 90 pence. There will also be standing room on the terraces at 30 pence with a limited number of cushions for hire at tenpence.

More than a thousand Army musicians—massed bands, corps of drums and pipers, with horses and guns—will take part in this spectacle of colour and pageantry which, as for the performances in 1969 and 1971, is in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

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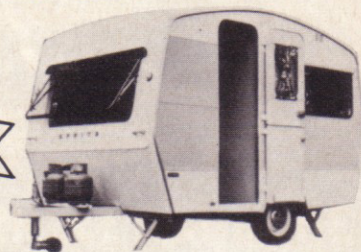
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VOLVO

The Durham Light Infantry

One of the most modern military museums in Britain—purpose-built, light and spacious with a distant view of Durham Cathedral—houses the regimental treasures of The Durham Light Infantry. It is part of the County Education Authority's £75,000 Arts Centre, pleasantly sited in a setting of gently sloping banks and green hillocks transformed from what was once the murky desolation of disused mine workings.

The entire ground and lower ground floors are the realm of the DLI. The main part of the museum follows the history of the regiment from its origins as the 68th Regiment of Foot in 1758 until it became part of The Light Infantry in July 1968. Well-arranged display cases, linked by strategically placed information boards giving simple background explanations, record every important event. Separate cases for the Peninsular, Crimean, Maori, Boer and Arab wars contain examples of the uniforms worn at the time, medals awarded, weapons, maps, photographs and battle illustrations interspersed with captured items—a Dervish smock, Arab gun, Maori battle axe, Boer cartridge belt.

World War One is covered in greater detail. Exhibits include a 13mm single-shot German Mauser anti-tank rifle, a British Lewis gun, a German cow hide knapsack complete with hair for better waterproofing and a captured trench cosh used in hand-to-hand combat.

World War Two dominates the lower gallery with exhibits covering DLI service in North Africa, Italy, Burma and North-West Europe. An impressive array of equipment ranges from a diminutive Japanese light machine-gun to a 17-pounder anti-tank gun bearing the double T (Tyne and Tees) insignia of 50th Northumbrian Division, or the Mark II universal carrier, a favourite with visitors who are allowed to clamber over it and sit at the controls.

Here too is perhaps the museum's most treasured possession—the two-pounder gun manned by Private Adam Wakenshaw, of the 9th Battalion, when he won the Victoria Cross at Mersa Matruh, North Africa, in June 1942.

In this new series, on military museums, guardians of regimental tradition and history from the beginnings of the British Army to the present day, the spotlight falls first on the The Durham Light Infantry museum. Next month's issue will feature the museum of The Middlesex Regiment.

In other parts of the museum: A collection of military headdresses from 1790 to the present day; a display of uniforms of Regular, Militia and Volunteer units from 1780 to modern times and a case of miniature figures showing the evolution of the DLI uniform from the foundation of the regiment to World War One; regimental silver; a model of Brancepeth Castle, the regiment's old depot and home of the museum before the move to Durham, with figures in the foreground recalling more than 200 years of regimental life; and a section covering The Durham Light Infantry's service in Korea.

Tucked away in the impressive array of medals won by members of the regiment, including four Victoria Crosses, is an intriguing regimental medal for abstinence dutifully earned by Private J Martin, Maori war campaigner. Soldiers who could keep off the bottle for five years, as did Private Martin, qualified for the medal's red ribbon. Seven years' abstinence earned a green ribbon and ten years qualified for the medal's crimson ribbon!

A 30-minute film, which briefly tells the story of The Durham Light Infantry and ends with the laying up of the Colours in the regimental chapel in Durham Cathedral in 1968, can be shown to parties by prior arrangement.

John Jesse

Keeper-in-Charge: Miss Nerys A Johnson
Address: DLI Museum and Arts Centre
Aykley Heads
Durham

Telephone: Durham 2214
Open: Tuesday to Saturday 1000 to 1700
Sunday 1400 to 1700
Closed: Mondays except Bank
Holidays

Admission: Adults 5p; Children and OAPs 2½p

Amenities: Coffee bar and ample car parking facilities

How to get there: Bus to County Hall or ten-minute walk from Durham railway station

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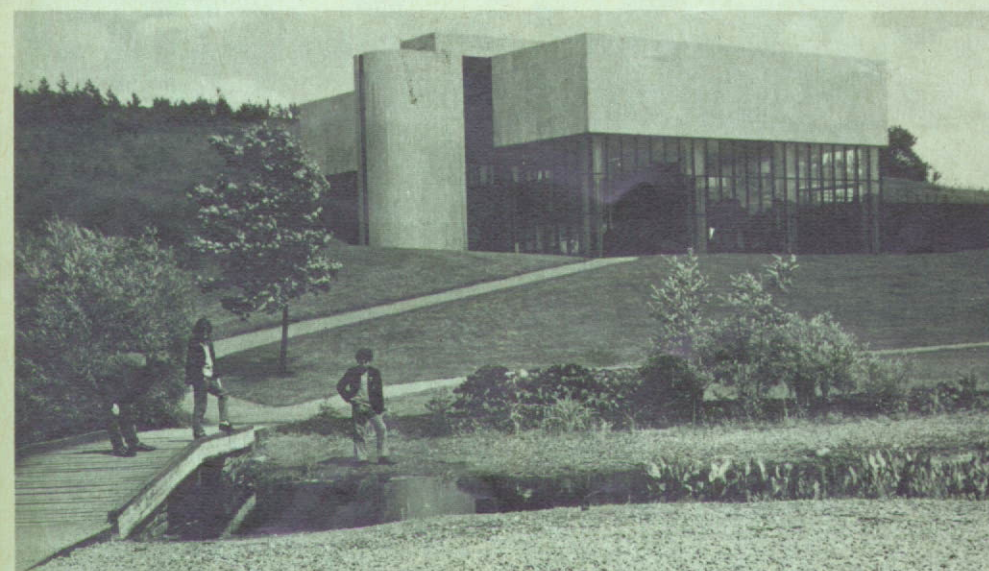
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"Fly Navy" say the car stickers. And in the traditional naval area of Portsmouth/Southampton the Army responds with "Sail Army" and

"Dive Army"

WAY back in 1839, divers of the Royal and Honourable East India Company's Sappers and Miners cleared Spithead anchorage of the wreckage of the sunken warship Royal George. In 1972, Royal Engineers divers surveyed the route of a fresh-water pipeline on the sea bed between the Orkney islands. For more than 130 years the civil and military communities have been served by men with the motto "Dive Army."

The equipment used by Army divers nowadays is far more sophisticated than that donned by their predecessors groping in the murky waters of Spithead and the special techniques involved are taught at the Royal Engineers' Diving School—REDS for short—at Marchwood, Hampshire, which provided the team responsible for the Orkney survey.

Mains water has been denied to the 350 people and nearly 6000 beasts living on the island of Shapinsay until now, but the North of Scotland Water Board plans a pipeline from the Orkney mainland. Before the pipe could be laid, the one-and-a-half-

mile sea-bed route had to be surveyed—no mean task with seven or eight knot currents ripping through the channel.

Which is where the experts of the sappers' diving school came in. Eleven of them, led by the chief instructor, Captain Dick Mason, took on the task. They could work only for short periods each day at the turn of the tide when the fierce currents slowed sufficiently for safe diving. Captain Mason said: "The currents were amongst the most severe we have encountered in any of our diving jobs so far, but we were surprised that the water was so warm and that visibility was so good. In fact at the greatest depth a diver could see about 50 feet all round him."

The divers hope to go back to do similar surveys in the area this year. Captain Mason added: "This type of job provides valuable experience for our Army divers and is a good exercise in liaison between military and civilian authorities."

But the main task at Marchwood is the training of divers in the military skills of reconnoitring rivers for bridging and

vehicle crossings, helping with the recovery of "drowned" vehicles, searching for equipment lost in water, using tools underwater ("You name it and we teach them to use it"), mastering underwater demolition and building obstructions.

On top of this the Army compressed air diver, to give him his full title, must study the physics and physiology of diving, learn how to handle a small boat and know how to cope with a victim of drowning. To make himself independent of outside aid, he also learns how to maintain his own diving equipment and compressor.

Volunteers from other than sapper units fill the 20 vacancies offered on each novice course at Marchwood. The Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Artillery, Royal Armoured Corps and the Special Air Service Regiment have been represented on recent courses. Every sapper regiment has its team of Marchwood-trained divers.

"You don't even have to know how to swim, although it helps," said Captain Mason breezily.

Cpl Ray Hannan, diving instructor. The gas bottle at his waist can be used to inflate his suit and buoy him up on to the surface.

But medical requirements are strict. Many otherwise perfectly fit candidates are turned down due to the effects of pressure on their systems. "Because of this, only 40 per cent of the entire population CAN dive," explained instructor Sergeant Roy Davies.

This largely accounts for the fact that fewer than half the intake of novices entered for the eight courses a year pass into the ranks of Army divers, so few in number that many of the 300-plus members of this close-knit brotherhood know each other personally.

Even if a novice passes his tough medical, he may find himself gripped by the strange fears that can dog a man underwater. In cloudy water, claustrophobia or dread of the dark can attack the hardiest diver. Seasickness can strike as a man bobs about on the surface in his suit. Even an experienced diver like Captain Mason admits that with head half submerged it can be an "anxious time." He explained: "You get the feeling you ought to be drowning, but of course that's impossible."

Once on the sea or river bed the diver is in his element. His only contact with the world above is a rope tied to his chest with which he can "talk" to the surface using a series of 26 pulls and sharp tugs or "bells" in a code of signals.

It takes four weeks to turn a novice into a diver and from there he can go on to take the school's advanced diver's course and later the diving supervisor's course. Once qualified, a diver must spend at least 90 minutes a month underwater to practise his hard-won skill.

What makes a diver? Captain Mason explained: "Physical fitness and confidence together with an aptitude for hard work. Although things are lighter to hold underwater you need a fair amount of stamina to stay down there."

The school's "medic," Sergeant George Yarranton, agreed. "A lot of diving is just humping things around. I lost three-quarters of a stone on the course alone."

Sporting a well-worn pompon seaman's hat ("It has 1001 uses") one of the school's instructors, Corporal Ray Hannan, added:

Going down . . . a student diver strides into space. Note the rope fixed to his chest—this is his slender link with the surface.

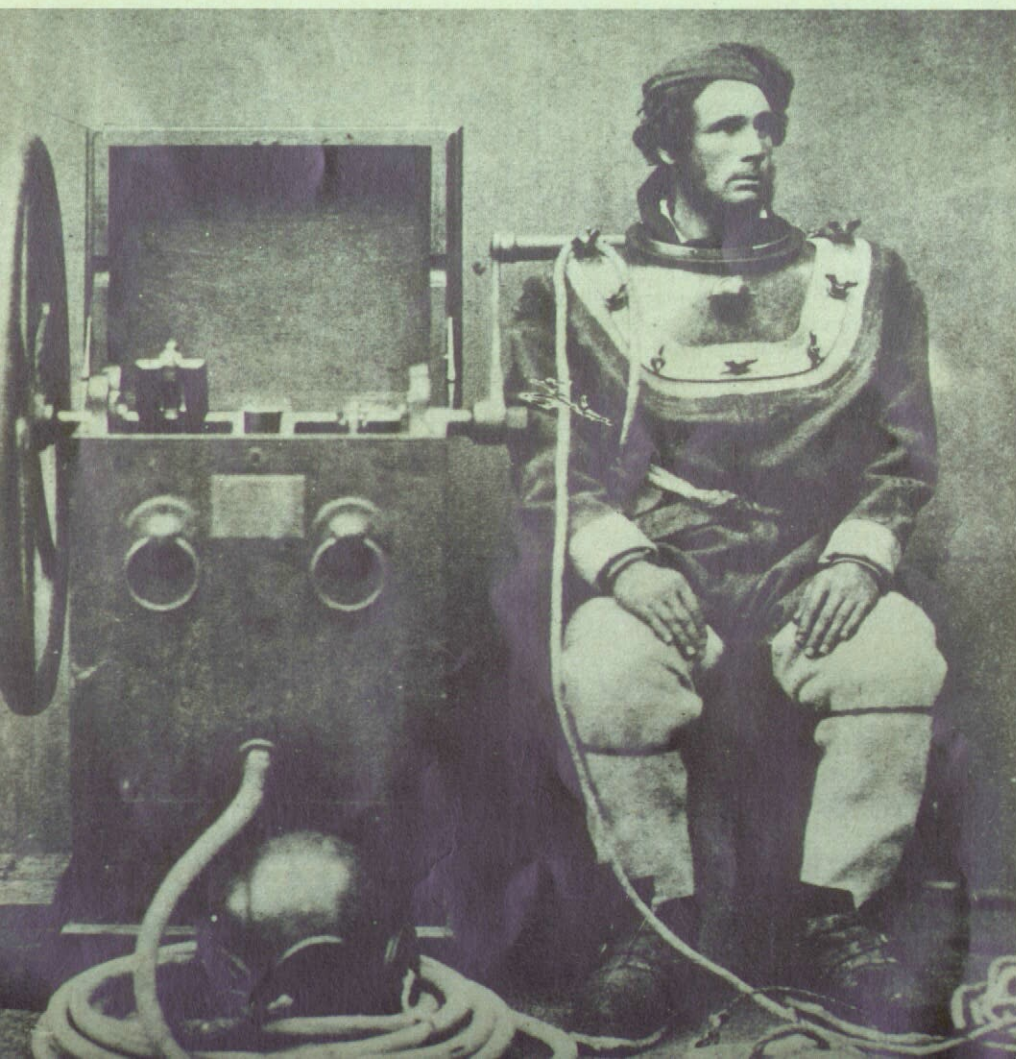
"I enjoy this job—there's something different happening every day."

Much of this variety must stem from the individuals passing through as students, like Royal Navy Leading Radio Operator Leslie Chadwick (25) getting the Army to teach him a skill more often associated with the Senior Service. He is attached to 95 Commando Forward Observation Regiment, Royal Artillery, and is a trained parachutist. Why was he keen to dive? "I've come down from the sky, now I want to see the other side of the coin. The first time you dive it's weird, your sense of direction just goes. Diving is getting more and more popular in units and I got interested from other blokes telling me about it."

Gunner David Gregge (23), also in 95 Regiment, thought diving would appeal to him too. He was not disappointed when he got to Marchwood. "It's an exciting sort of thing to do. I didn't think it would be as pleasant as it is. But it's very cold—I expected to be warmer in a rubber suit."

The school is the only Army establish-

Coming up . . . returning from the deep, this student clambers up the ladder helped by a heave on the lifeline rope tied to him.





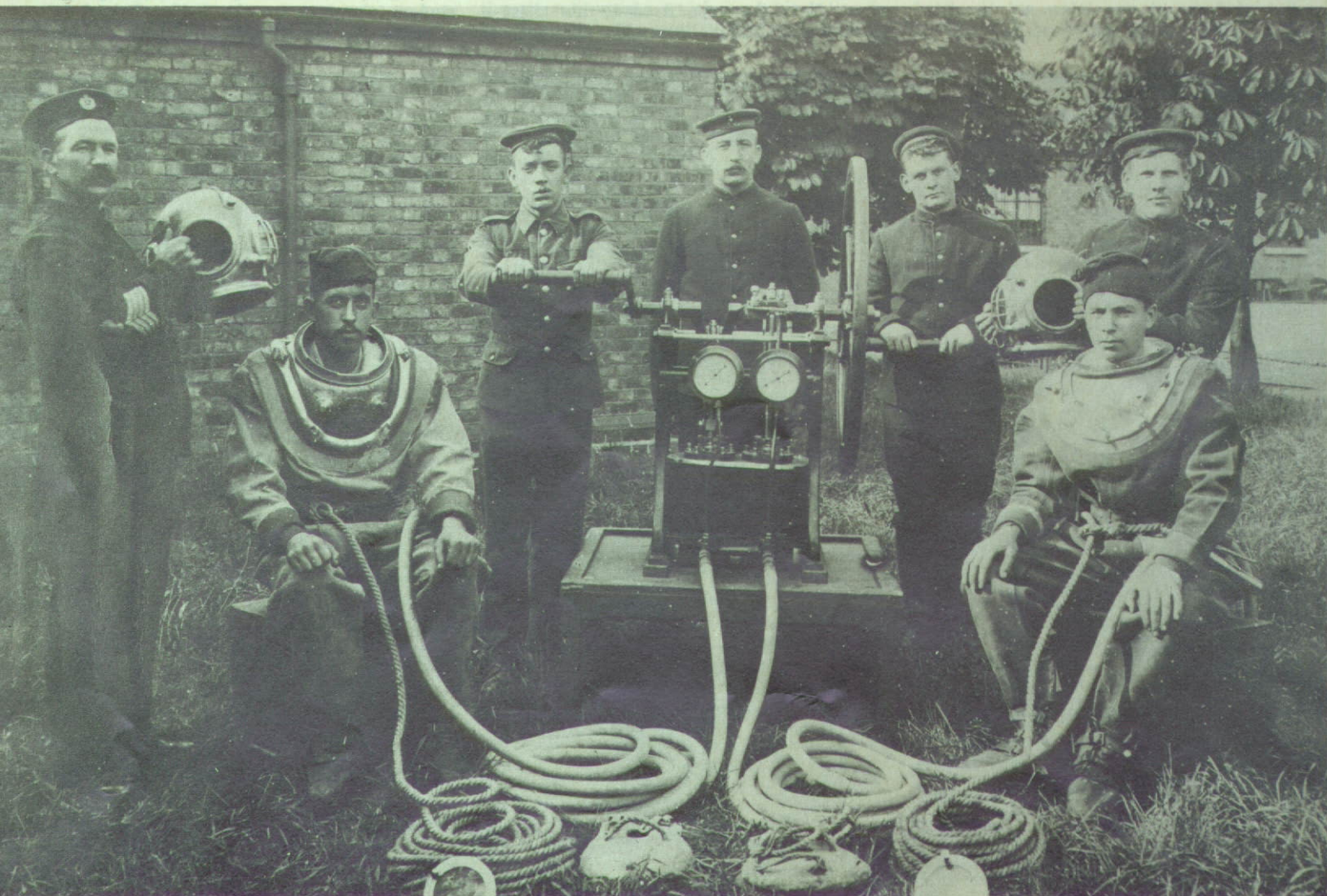
Above: Gone fishing? Hardly. The "catches" at the end of these lines are hefty diving students training in Marchwood's Army port.

Below: Early sapper divers pose with their bulky equipment. The "Standard" diving suits seen here are still used in modern diving.

ment of its kind, complemented by the Kiel Training Centre Diving Wing in Germany. It is one of four south coast diving schools, two others being run by the Navy and one by the Royal Marines.

The Marchwood school was set up in its present form in 1961 and run for eight years by an officer with the apt name of Captain David Jones who introduced many divers to his namesake's locker, although the school exists to train divers for fresh-water rather than sea water descents. The sapper divers are taught to work in currents of up to three-and-a-half knots. Other divers only operate in currents as low as half a knot at times.

The present officer commanding at Marchwood, Major P Clarke, summed up the school as creating "an extension of the role of the combat engineer into an underwater environment"—a modest appraisal of the complex skills which divers need to master to take their place among the professionals of today's Army.





Above: Sergeant George Yarranton is the school's medical sergeant. He is also qualified to dive—the tough training lost him weight.

Right: Divers can practise in this clear water tank or a nearby one full of muddy water to simulate underwater conditions.

Below: It's a tricky operation getting a fully kitted diver on board this "Gemini" boat, but these are school staff experts.



Enrolment increased last year by 25 per cent
in the 16 contingents of
the Army's University Officer Training Corps...

BOOM on the campus

Story by John Walton/Pictures by Arthur Blundell

STUDENTS and the Army. Like oil and water you might think. Yet in Britain's universities at this moment 2000 students are members of a military organisation which provides a steady flow of highly educated officers to both the Regular Army and the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve.

The University Officers Training Corps is currently enjoying a boom—in the last academic year membership soared by 25 per cent and indications are that this year the number of students enrolling will rise even higher.

Why this spectacular growth in an organisation which many might imagine out of place in today's universities? Major Ian Patterson, staff officer responsible for co-ordinating university OTC policy and activities, feels that Northern Ireland has helped.

"Many students no doubt had the image of the Army officer as a red-faced hunting blimp but all of the officers who have appeared on television have been ordinary straightforward chaps. Undergraduates have no time for pretension or pomposity."

Pretension and pomposity have certainly no place in the UOTC as SOLDIER discovered in visits to the Bristol contingent at its summer camp on the edge of Exmoor, its training centre in the middle of the city and on the range a few miles outside. The first realisation is that while there is discipline it tends to be self-imposed. Long hair and beards are permitted except when on attachments with the Regular Army or at annual camp.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Bryant, a TAVR officer and businessman who commands the Bristol University contingent, puts it this way: "Students are obviously at a very critical stage in their lives and we don't think the best way to influence young men would be to say they could join only if they had short back-and-sides. We are very conscious of the fact that for 95 per cent of their time they are students."

A cosy club atmosphere is essential in making a success of an organisation like a university OTC. At Bristol, as elsewhere, the corps has its own mess and members come along every lunchtime for cheap snacks, a chat or a game of snooker. An added attraction for the male student is that the UOTC boasts a lot of pretty girls—34 of them this year out of a total strength of 120.

Girls, in fact, are often the keenest members of the UOTC. They drive, operate communications and shoot with rifles. Most have no Army ambitions but they will take a leaning towards the Army into their future careers as school-mistresses and mothers.

Eighteen-year-old Janet Williams, an attractive dark-haired engineering student from London, was on her first visit to the range when she met the SOLDIER team. She was quite frank about her reasons for joining.

"In the UOTC you can go gliding, shooting and parachuting. And the money is an attraction—after all you have to pay to join the university rifle club. Everybody



Above: An officer cadet on reconnaissance patrol in a Land-Rover takes careful aim.

is very friendly and I've already learned a lot about the Army. But I don't imagine I will have any more to do with the Army when I leave university."

For students on a grant the pay can be quite an incentive. An annual bounty of £8.25 for the male officer cadet and £7 for the female is supplemented by pay for evening and full-day sessions. Most keen UOTC members can earn well over £100 a year.

Training sessions on the ranges are certainly busy. While new members fired on the rifle range for the first time, girls operated radio equipment and other officer cadets manoeuvred a Ferret armoured car across some hillocks. Meanwhile members of the sapper troop were carefully preparing to "blow up" a bridge across a nearby brook.

Earlier, at the TA centre in Bristol, SOLDIER saw second and third year officer cadets giving basic instruction on rifles to the newcomers. Indoor training, which includes firing on a .22 rifle range, simulated firing control on a Raikes range and classroom instruction, takes place twice a week.

Like most universities Bristol has its group of politically active students who are hostile to the Army and the UOTC. But this year the opposition seems to have quietened down and there were no incidents when the corps held its open day for newcomers.

This year at Bristol about 20 officer cadets are expected to be commissioned into the TAVR. Many of the cadets commissioned in this way will probably have no further contact with the Army for several years while they establish themselves in new jobs but eventually they are likely to return and play an important role in the country's part-time forces.

Some officer cadets decide to opt for a Regular Army career and the corps is also responsible for Army training for about 100 Regular officers and 100 university cadets who are studying at universities.

Every year more than 300 UOTC officer cadets carry out individual paid

The Officer Training Corps was founded in 1908 as part of the Haldane Reforms. It then consisted of a junior division in the public schools and a senior division in the universities. The aims were defined as "providing students at school and universities with a standard measure of elementary military training with a view to their becoming special reserve or Territorial officers."

In 1938 the junior division became the Junior Training Corps and subsequently the Combined Cadet Force while in 1948 the senior division was reconstituted as the University Officer Training Corps. In both world wars the OTC acted as officer-producing units; in World War One it produced 30,000 officers. Today there are 16 contingents embracing 25 universities and 30 polytechnics and other colleges.





Above: Girl officer cadets learn how to run communications from the command vehicles.



Above: Reconnaissance Land-Rover bristling with rifles comes tearing across the range.

Left: A patrol of grim-faced officer cadets uses a ridge of long grass for protection as they keep a watch out for the "enemy."

Below: A patrol of officer cadets advances across a field in open formation while the commander of a Ferret keeps a wary eye open.



attachments with the Army, the majority of them overseas. They train with the unit on field exercises and as officer cadets live in the officers mess. Says Major Patterson: "We get a report from host commanding officers and they are usually quite impressed with the cadets' calibre. The cadets are also invariably impressed with what they find."

For more than 60 years the University Officer Training Corps has played an important role in finding highly intelligent and educated officers for the reserve forces. It has also managed to give thousands of students a more realistic image of the Army which they carry through their lives. But in the coming years the role of the Corps is likely to be even more vital—in finding top-class officers for the professional Army.

Says Major Patterson: "In the last few years there has been a considerable expansion in Britain's universities. As a result there are far more university places available and boys are not so keen to go straight to Sandhurst. Now they can go to university, get a degree and keep their options open for a longer time. The University Officer Training Corps gives them the opportunity to study the Army at close hand without any commitment."

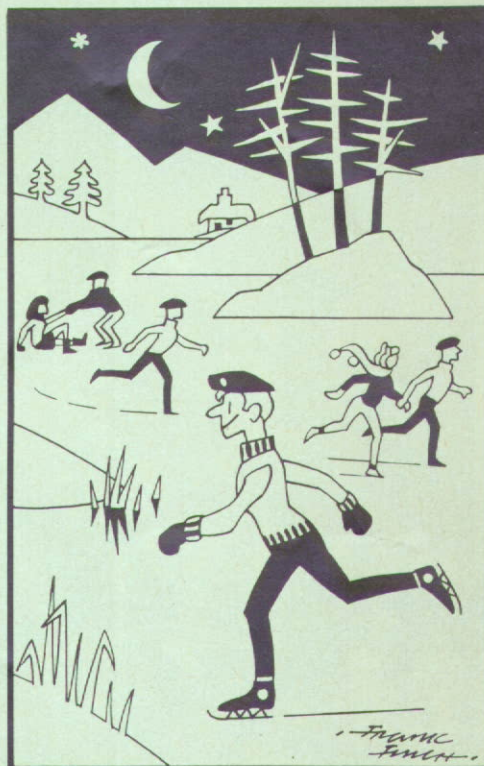
Right: Sapper officer cadets get ready to "blow up" the bridge over a brook while their rescue boat stands by for trouble.



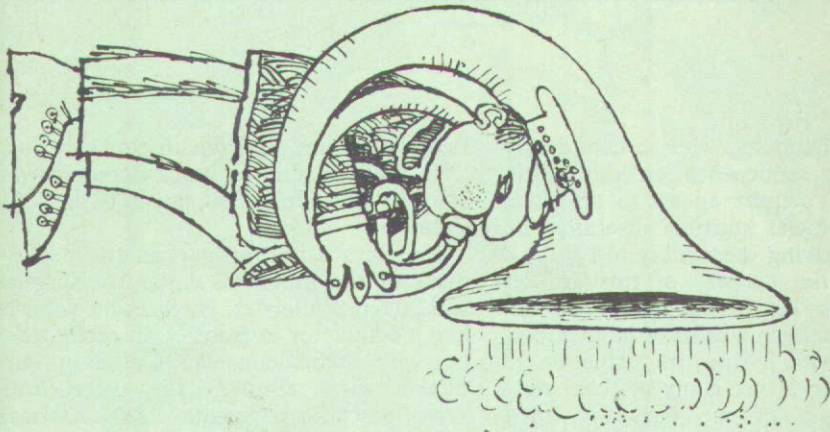
The Officer Training Corps at Cambridge University holds a battle honour received in South Africa. A small contingent of 28 from the Cambridge Union Rifle Volunteers took part in the South African campaign and formed a platoon. This forerunner of the OTC was formed in 1860 but there are records of some volunteers training at Cambridge during the Napoleonic Wars.

HOW
OBSERVANT
ARE YOU

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



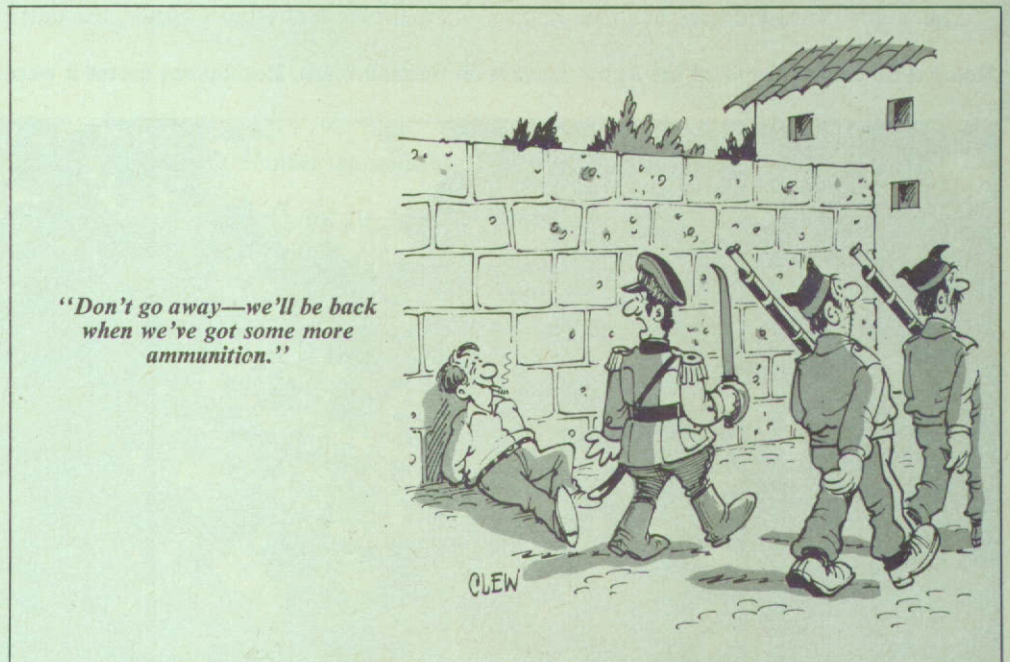
HUMOUR



"He's playing hovercrafts again, sir."



"Of course I'm worried, we play the same team next week but not in a friendly."



"Don't go away—we'll be back when we've got some more ammunition."



"It stops crumbs!"



"You're company commander? Is that the same as company director?"



"This man—rusty on parade!"

ACHTUNG PANZERTRANSPORT

Story by Mike Starke/Pictures by Martin Adam

ATANK squadron commander stands on a desolate German heath, alone but for the tank transporter commander at his side. "When are your vehicles going to arrive?" he asks. The transporter commander checks his watch: "In about three minutes." Three minutes later to the second the Antar tank carriers rumble over the hill.

This precision timing is the pride, joy and reality of the mainly Polish-staffed 617 Tank Transporter Unit, Royal Corps of Transport, a unique Mixed Service Organisation based at Hamm, Germany.

The unit's British officer commanding,

Major Mike Bennetts, who so confidently predicted the rendezvous on the heath, explained: "It's quite an art to get these very large vehicles starting absolutely on time and arriving absolutely on time." The key to the mastery of this art lies in the unit's continuous years of experience. More than a third of its members have served with it since its formation 25 years ago. Before that many of them were prisoners-of-war of the Germans, their military careers having started in pre-war Poland—the homeland to which they can never return.

Superintendent Rudi Celtner, the unit's

Polish transport co-ordinating officer, said: "We must operate on quick decisions—on efficient decisions—that are 100 per cent right."

He plays a leading part in the deployment of the unit's 60 Antar transporters and 30 ten-ton lorries. He faces his vehicles like a conductor in front of an orchestra—but with a whistle instead of a baton—and directs them through the diesel-drone symphony of movements on the German roads with the precision timing demanded of musicians in a concert hall.

Staff Superintendent Henry Wesoly, the senior Polish officer, said simply:

Motor cycle escorts shepherd the Antar convoys on German roads. Regulations decree a warning blaze of headlights.





A piggy-back ride for a Chieftain tank ends as it edges off a transporter under the eagle eye of Superintendent Celtner (far left).

"We've got to stick to timing two minutes ahead of or behind schedule." Timing and communications are of the essence when the cumbersome transporters have to drive through Germany to collect or deliver Rhine Army's tanks. A prime consideration is minimal disruption to civilian traffic so a close liaison has to be kept up with the German authorities. This is not just a matter of carefully planning routes and times. This year alone the unit's drivers had to master 38 new pages of traffic laws.

However carefully each "lift" of tanks is planned, there can be last-minute changes ordered by civil or military authorities.

This might throw the average planner into confusion . . . not the Poles. Staff

Superintendent Wesoly said laconically: "We always aim to expect up to 25 amendments to movements for an exercise. I tell the OC, 'When we get to amendment 26, the exercise is over.'"

Getting from A to B is only half the battle for 617 Tank Transporter Unit. Once at the pre-arranged pick-up area a clockwork-precise "filter point" procedure swings into operation. Columns of transporters and tanks line up ready to converge at an intersection of their paths. On the command of Superintendent Celtner's ubiquitous whistle the first transporter moves forward and a tank tucks in behind. The procedure is repeated for each loading in sequence to achieve the near miraculous . . . a squadron of 15 tanks and one armoured recovery vehicle loaded up and shackled

down in just 15 minutes. The procedure is reversed for off-loading.

The unit also faces the constant process of keeping its vehicles mechanically fit to keep rolling. A Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers section sees to this and it was a tribute to their work that Staff Superintendent Wesoly was able to say half-way through a six-week period in the field that there was a 95 per cent availability of vehicles for immediate deployment.

In charge of the section is Captain Terry Jones who confessed he was cynical about the legendary reputation of 617 Tank Transporter Unit before he joined it recently. But he admitted unreservedly that his qualms had been unfounded. "We don't have to tell them how to do a thing—they



Supt Celtner's whistle and hands "conduct" the Antar orchestra. He served in the pre-war Polish Army.

Right: Maj Bennetts joined up in 1947, the year his unit was born.

Far right: Chief Supt Wesoly was also in the Polish Army in 1939.



ACHTUNG PANZERTRANSPORT

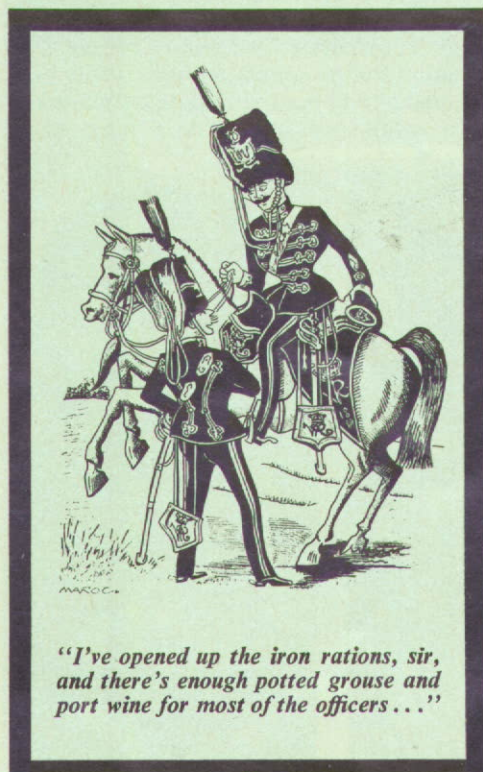
continued



The unit's motor-cyclists play an important part in smoothing the way on the road and contribute much to the split-second timing.



Some less-known MILITARY PRINTS



"I've opened up the iron rations, sir, and there's enough potted grouse and port wine for most of the officers..."



In three weeks, REME section did 355 jobs from changing Antar engines with cranes to delicate bench work on smaller components.

Above: How to "lose" 60 tons of Antar in a wood—deliberately for camouflage purposes.

know," he said. "Younger military tradesmen would need closer supervision but these men have been with this equipment since it came into service ten years ago."

The average age of the men in his troop is 52. There are of course younger men serving. Some are post-war refugees and a few are following in their fathers' footsteps—born and bred in Germany and inspired by their fathers' dedication to their work.

One of the handful of British senior non-commissioned officers, Artificer Sergeant-Major R F Gregory, summed up: "It's not like a military unit in many ways. They are civilians in uniform and you've got to use good man-management techniques and be more tactful than with soldiers. I've been with the unit for four months and I've found the morale and loyalty quite amazing. They'll work, joke and just keep on working—we get on fantastically well. Most of them don't speak any English but they all speak German."

It was the reputation of the unit which prompted Major Bennetts to ask to command it.

"These men are very highly thought of by anyone who has had anything to do with tanks," he said.

They spend ten months of the year enhancing this reputation on operations and their efforts reflect the toast they raise their glasses to after a long "lift" "Na zdrowie" . . . "Good health."



Changing a radiator is a major task for the mechanics of 617 Tank Transporter Unit MSO.

Below: Jan Polak—his name gives away his nationality—is the proud owner of no fewer than three nations' World War Two medals.



617 Tank Transporter Unit MSO evolved from the Watchmen units formed by Rhine Army after the war from predominantly Polish nationals wishing to stay in Germany rather than return home. The unit started life in 1947 as 317 Transport Unit, changing to its present name and role of tank transporting in the following year.

Today the unit comprises a small British supervisory element with an officer commanding, second-in-command and four senior non-commissioned officers. The Mixed Service Organisation is 76 per cent Polish, the remainder being Yugoslavs, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Czechs, Hungarians and Ukrainians. There are just over 400 men in the unit and nearly 150 of them have been with the unit since its formation and have received the commander-in-chief's award for 25 years' service with Rhine Army.

The unit comprises three tank transporter troops and a transport troop of ten-ton lorries. Each troop is commanded by a superintendent. The unit has carried nearly 40,000 armoured vehicles representing 778 armoured regiments and driven nearly 24 million miles in its 25 years of life.

The unit boasts a special standard woven painstakingly by nuns and dedicated in June 1972. In accordance with Polish military rules, the standard is one metre square and is fastened to its wooden staff by 21 nails. One side is dark blue and bears the unit name and corps. The other side has a field of red with a central motif of the white Polish eagle with golden claws, beak and crown (the crownless eagle emblem of modern Poland is referred to irreverently as "The Goose" by unit members). To the right of the eagle is an embroidered portrait of the unit's patron, Father Kolbe, a Pole martyred in a concentration camp when he took the place of a fellow prisoner sentenced to death. Left of the eagle is the patron's name and dates of his birth and beatification. One corner bears the dates 1947 and 1972 in honour of the unit's silver jubilee. The other three proclaim the words of the unit's motto "Bog, Honor, Ojczyzna"—God, Honour, Fatherland.



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Here's power. Here's luxury. Here's a zesty, zingy performer with a great new sporty personality.

The new Viva 2300 with a new twin-carb, overhead camshaft power unit that develops 122 bhp at 5500 rpm.

Here's power in profusion. Acceleration power. Uphill power. Overtaking power...and the low-down torque makes this a very flexible 'top gear unit' in traffic.

Matching the power of the new Viva 2300 is a beefed-up mechanical specification including front and rear anti-roll bars, heavy duty clutch, gearbox and back axle. As well as powerful disc/drum servo brakes.

And you can have the new Viva 2300 as a 2-door or 4-door saloon. Or an estate.

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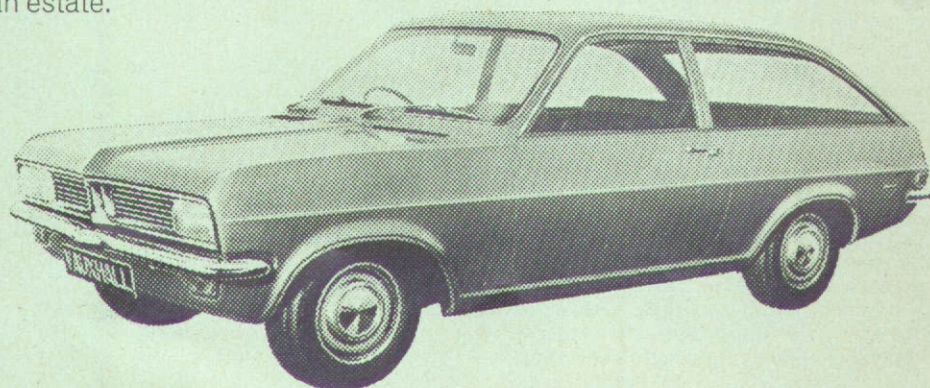
flexibility and pulling power throughout the speed range.

New Viva 1800 2 or 4-door saloons and estates, all in de luxe and SL versions.

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Viva Viva



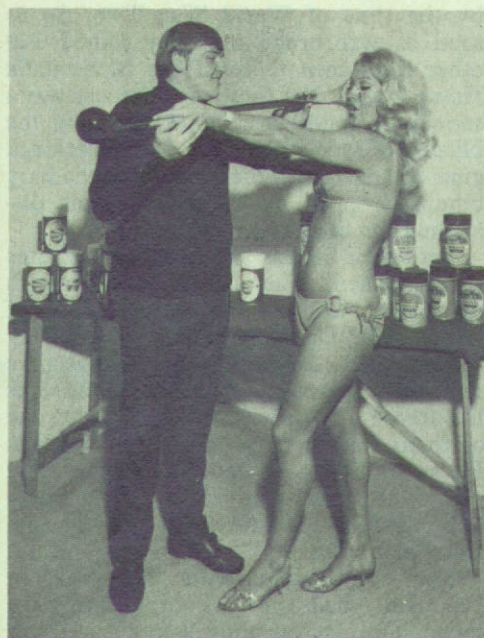
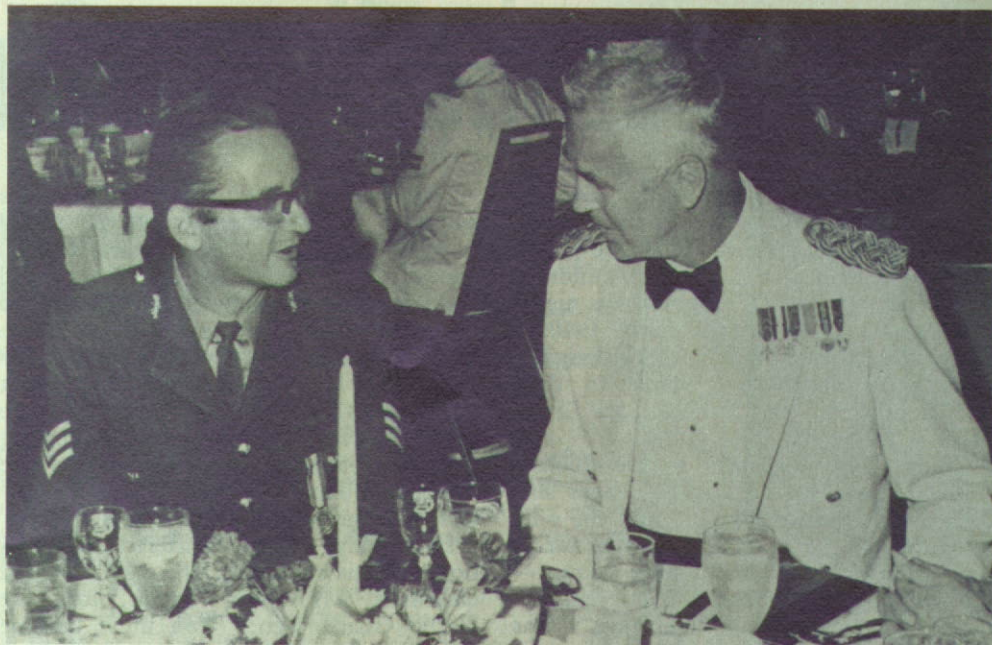
VAUXHALL



Purely Personal

"As I told the General..."

► **Sergeant Vince Wells**, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, pictured chatting to **General D V Bennett**, Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, in the Korean capital, Seoul. The dinner where the two met was held in honour of all servicemen on duty in Korea.

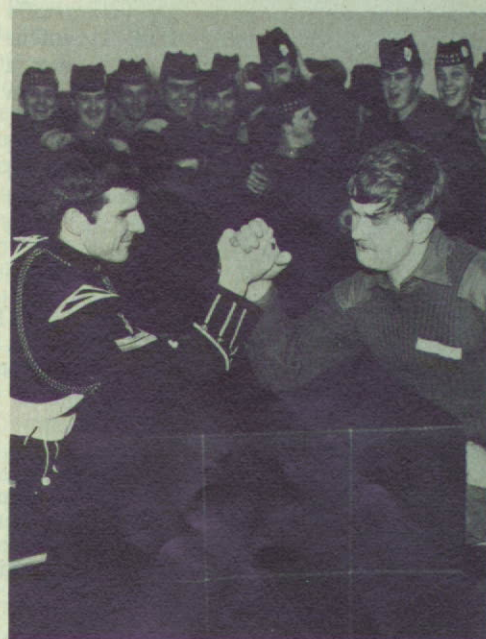


A miss is as good as a yard

◀ A challenge for champion beer drinker **Corporal Bill Uff** came in the shapely form of actress **Angie Pitt** who took some tips from the champ as she tackled the task of downing a yard of ale. The bikini is not just for show . . . it saves clothes from spillage. Well, that's Grenadier Guardsman Corporal Uff's story.

Heap big heave

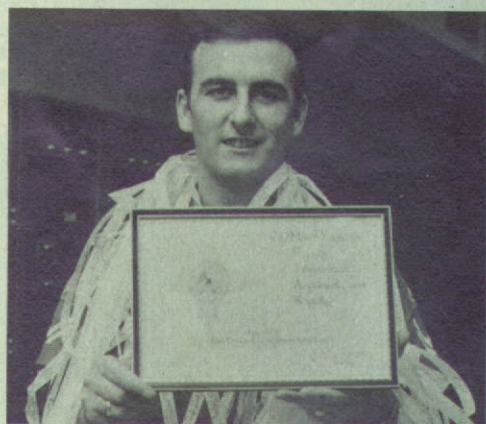
► Finalists in the Royal Scots Indian wrestling championships recently were **Corporal Stephen Carter** (left) and **Private Jack Taylor**. The eventual winner, Private Taylor, who lives at Tidworth, will represent the regiment in the Scottish Army final. The overall Army winner will take part in the Scottish national elbow wrestling championships. Proceeds are for spastics and 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, has so far collected more than £60.



Men of the Year

▼ **Major John Blashford-Snell**, Royal Engineers, leader of the British Trans-Americas Expedition which successfully crossed the Darien Gap during last year, represented the Army at the Men of the Year luncheon in London. He was nominated for his "high standards of courage, achievement and enterprise" when leading the expedition.

The luncheon is organised by the British Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, which selects the Men of the Year from nominations submitted by the Home Office, the Services and the Press. The Royal Air Force man of the year is **Wing Commander Kenneth James Ernest Hannah**. The Royal Marines representative, **Lieutenant Richard Clifford** (far right), was one of the four QE 2 heroes who parachuted into mid-Atlantic when the liner was threatened by what turned out to be a bomb hoax.



Comcen Comstar

▲ Festeoned in celebration tickertape, **Corporal Charles Murray** proudly shows the commendation to the Land Forces Headquarters Communications Centre, Hong Kong, for "signals transmitted accurately and rapidly." In the four-month period January to April 1972 the centre registered only one error in a daily handling of some 500 to 600 messages. Corporal Murray was superintendent over three teleprinter operators at the time.

Storm in the Home Guard teacup

SEARCHLIGHTS picking up German bombers as they dropped their deadly cargoes on Merseyside, the night sky aglow with the glare from hundreds of incendiary bombs. This was the nightmare scene which in the early 1940s a group of part-time soldiers watched nightly from three observation points in their tiny farming village 13 miles from Liverpool.

These were the men of the Bickerstaffe Home Guard. Few of them had ever worn a uniform before and the only reason they were not in the Regular forces was because farm workers were exempt—the powers-that-be realised that agriculture was just as important to Britain's war effort as fighting men.

Recently the men of the Bickerstaffe Home Guard came out of their retirement and fought their last battle—to save a £208 nest egg which had accrued from their wartime fourpence-a-week tea fund. The parish council, faced with local government reorganisation, decided it could no longer act as trustee for the fund and invited the Home Guard to decide what to do with the money.

Thirteen of the wartime comrades gathered in Bickerstaffe's village school to meet the parish council and, led by one of their former officers, 78-year-old Tom Houghton, went into the attack. The parish council could not confiscate the money, he declared.

But the Home Guard men could not agree on what should be done with the fund. As every man suggested something different (bus shelters, swings, the village football club and so on) the parish councillors' faces grew longer and longer.

Eventually, after a muttered conversation with his colleagues, the parish council chairman, Mr Owen Taylor, told the Home Guard men: "You must become trustees of the fund. You can form a committee and then do what you wish with the money."

In stepped 77-year-old Mr William Lancelot Singleton to solve the tea fund dilemma. He suggested that the Bickerstaffe British Legion branch administer the fund for the benefit of the old Home Guard members.

Mr Singleton, who has been British Legion secretary and treasurer in the

village for almost half a century, intends to use the money to make grants to members covering sickness, hard times and perhaps to provide an extra bag of coal in winter.

During World War One he served with four different regiments—he was wounded four times in all and each time he returned to the front and found himself with a different unit.

Tom Houghton, spritely and forthright in his views, is also a World War One veteran. As a company sergeant-major with 4th Battalion, The King's Liverpool Regiment, he won the Military Medal near Arras when he reorganised the defending forces so that they held a piece of trench under heavy bombardment.

Both men were too old for active service by the time of World War Two. So as soon as war broke out they joined 120 other local men to form the Bickerstaffe Home Guard. For these men the war was a serious business—as well as watching the blitzing of Merseyside they manned ack-ack guns and dealt with thousands of incendiary bombs dropped by German aircraft unloading for their return journeys.

Yet their sense of humour remains undiminished. They laugh at the antics of Arthur Lowe and his colleagues of television's "Dad's Army."

Says Mr Ralph Smith, a wartime sergeant-instructor: "We had some lads like those on television. One night one of them was on duty and heard a noise. He said 'Who goes there?' and the reply was 'The vicar'—he let fire! The same lad once fired his gun with a pull-through stuck in the barrel."

Tom Houghton, with the rank of lieutenant, had the task of training the men. "Our lot certainly weren't a Dad's Army. Many of them were young lads not old enough to join up. It took a while getting them used to a bit of discipline but it was no more difficult than the job the Regular Army had at that time."

Mr Tom Ellard, then a lance-corporal dispatch rider and a Mills bomb instructor, tells of the nearest thing to a serious casualty which the Bickerstaffe Home Guard encountered. "One of the men was going to let off a Mills bomb but dropped it. He whipped off his tin hat, put it over the bomb and stood on it as it went off. He was unhurt—the helmet saved him!"

For the farm workers, who had to start work soon after daybreak, those five years were a time of long hours and little sleep. Mr William Southworth wouldn't do it again if he had the choice. "We had two training nights a week and two nights on duty. After we finished we might snatch two hours' sleep then it would be off to work."

Perhaps today's image of the Home Guard is that of a television farce. But the light in the eyes of 13 men as they spoke of comradeship and duty struck a chord in those too young to remember the last war.

Story by John Walton



Left: War hero Mr Tom Houghton, last surviving officer from the Home Guard at Bickerstaffe.



Right: Man in charge of the tea fund is British Legion secretary Mr Wm Lancelot Singleton (77).

Below: Crossed bayonets from Home Guard men at the wartime wedding of one of their pals.



SOLDIER

NEWS

Pull-out supplement SOLDIER January 1973

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Logisticians in charge of equipping the Army run the gauntlet of three major pressures in the race to fulfil the military version of laws of supply and demand. The opinions of users of equipment vary. The time lapse between something being fully developed and later accepted may mean the item will not entirely suit the new generation of worldwide users two years or more removed from those involved in initial trials and development.

Cash restraints dog the logisticians as much as anyone else and they have to be sure to keep within a strict budget. If something new is needed, something else has to be given up. The battle for financial approval of a new item must be fought with detailed arguments made out by the user to justify the claim.

Production capacity is the third factor. Industry is geared to large orders and production runs. Individual Service requirements—especially in the clothing field—are often small compared with Civvy Street. So logisticians have to keep a tight management control to see that ranges of items are kept within reasonable limits and that there is no duplication. The best way to achieve this is with inter-Service standardisation; this gives manufacturers their larger orders and longer runs. Logisticians are anxious to preserve tradition while urging standardisation and want it to apply to patterns and materials rather than, say, colour.

Logisticians insist they neither manage for management's sake nor standardise for standardisation's sake and they fight their hardest to stretch budgets in a bid to bridge that gap between demand and supply.

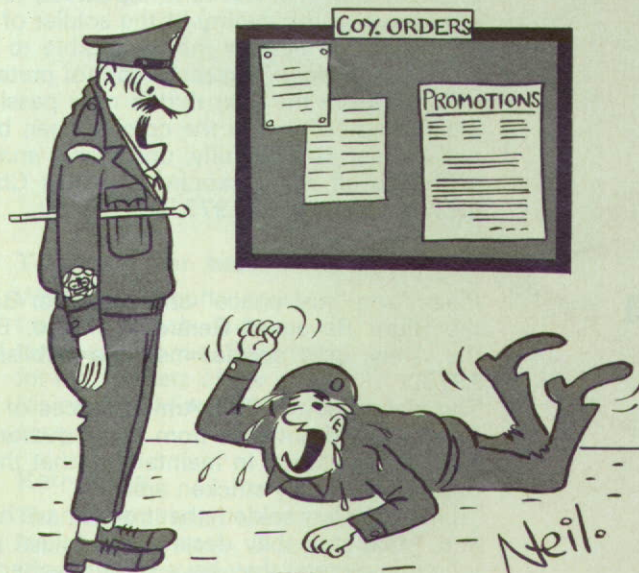
(D of CP)

APPOINTMENTS

Major-General J W Younger, Director of Army Quartering at the Ministry of Defence, is to be Director, Management and Support of Intelligence, from next month when he takes over from Air Vice-Marshal I R Campbell. General Younger, who is 52, was commissioned into the Coldstream Guards in 1939. During World War Two he served in the Western Desert and Italy. After going to the Staff College in 1949 he took up regimental duties in Germany, Palestine and North Africa. From 1956 to 1966 he held various staff appointments and was promoted to brigadier in 1967 when he became Deputy Director of Army Staff Duties at the Ministry of Defence. He took up his present appointment in 1970 and was promoted to major-general when the post was upgraded in October 1971.

The new Commandant of the Royal Army Medical College and Director of Studies is to be Brigadier T W Carrick in the rank of major-general. He takes over in March from Major-General J P Baird who is to be Director General of Army Medical Services as a lieutenant-general. Brigadier Carrick (57) was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940 and saw war service in India, Ceylon and Singapore. At one time he had special responsibility for medical supplies to South East Asia Command. He was Assistant Director of Army Health in Scotland 1964-65 and later posts included Director of the Army Personnel Research Establishment and Professor of Army Health at the Royal Army Medical College. He took up his current post in 1971.

(DPR)



"Come, come, Private Hoskins, we can't all be lance-corporals."

APPOINTMENTS

(continued from previous page)

This month General Sir Antony Read takes up the appointment of Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies for a year, taking over from General Sir Mervyn Butler who is retiring. General Read was previously Quartermaster-General at the Ministry of Defence. He was born in 1913 and commissioned into The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1934. During World War Two he served in Africa and Burma and in August 1945 commanded 6th West African Brigade. After the war he held various staff and command posts in Germany and Cyprus before taking over the School of Infantry at Warminster in 1959. He was promoted major-general in 1962 on becoming General Officer Commanding Northumbrian District. From 1964 to 1966 he was Vice-Quartermaster-General before being promoted to lieutenant-general as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Command where he played a large part in organising the Investiture of the Prince of Wales at Caernarvon Castle. He became Quartermaster-General in 1969.

CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF BROADCASTS

In his Christmas broadcast to the Army, transmitted on all BFBS stations, the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Michael Carver, said:

"The last time that I broadcast to you was in April when the Widgery Report on the Army's operations in Londonderry had been made public. You may remember that I told you then how delighted I was that the Army had come through that very difficult period with an untarnished reputation.

"Since then much has happened in Northern Ireland, and I suppose that the most noteworthy part which the Army has played in that time has been the successful execution of Operation Motorman. But you and I all know that the stress and strain on the soldiers in Northern Ireland is not by any means confined to such major operations as Motorman, which are highlighted in the Press, but that they continue 24 hours a day and seven days a week all through the time they spend in Ulster. I can only tell you that it is my view, and a view shared by everybody who talks to me about it, that the Army's reputation, which came through Londonderry untarnished, has been, if anything, enhanced by the way in which our troops have conducted themselves in this past year. I am personally very proud of the Army today and it is a pride in which I suggest you should all share.

"However, I would hate you to think that sitting here in London my thoughts are directed only towards that part of the Army which is operating in Ulster. During the year I have paid many visits to Army units in other parts of the world—recently I have been to Cyprus and to Canada—I am shortly to pay another visit to Rhine Army. On every visit I have made, I have been delighted to see the efficient manner in which the Army has been carrying out its varied duties in such totally different environments.

"At Christmas time we all hope to spend as much time as possible with our families. I know very well that there will be many Army families separated over Christmas. In some cases the husband will be abroad while his family is separated from him overseas, particularly in Germany. I would like you to know how very much I and the other members of the Army Board appreciate the strain and sadness which such separation imposes on you. The cheerful way in which so many of you put up with these difficulties is something which we all admire very much indeed. I know that you realise the need for these separations, but it doesn't make them any easier to undergo. When you add to this the anxiety which many of you feel for your absent husbands and sons, I know that we are asking a very great deal of all of you. The fact that your reaction to it has served to heighten the excellent spirit of the Army is a measure of the quality of the soldier of today and of his family.

"It would be nice for me to be able to hold out to you hopes of much improved times in the New Year, but I cannot pretend that I think that 1973 will be very much different from the year that is now passing. I am sure that similar demands will be made on all of you in the coming year, but I am equally certain that those demands will be met as cheerfully, unselfishly and bravely as they have been in 1972. May I wish you all every happiness at this Christmas time, and my very best wishes to each one of you for 1973."

CATHOLIC PEACE PLEA

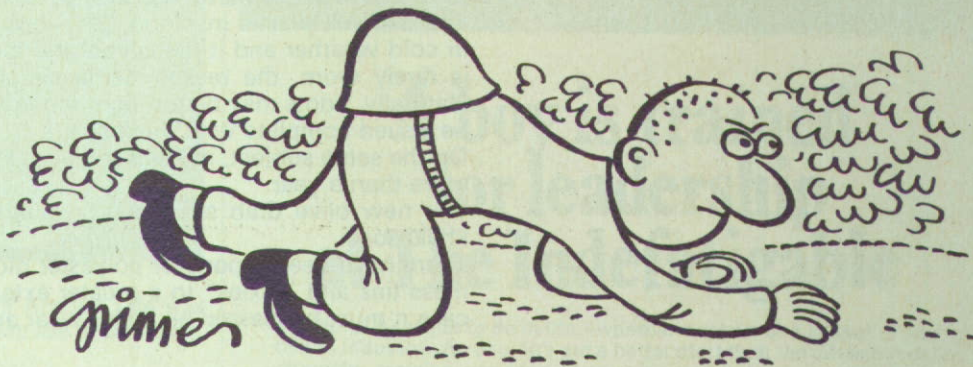
Pleas for a "just peace" and praise for British troops in Northern Ireland come from the Right Reverend Gerard W Tickle, Bishop-in-Ordinary to Roman Catholics in the Army, in a special message published in the Forces' Catholic Yearbook for 1973.

The bishop says: "The Armed Forces of Her Majesty the Queen have been subject to attack and criticism from some quarters for the part they are playing there, but I have no hesitation in maintaining that their whole objective is to restore peace and order in this sadly stricken area.

"It must be very seldom that troops have had to operate under such difficult conditions and I feel sure they deserve the fullest praise for their efforts and for the restraint which in general they have shown—often under unfair provocation."

COMBAT CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENTS

Northern Ireland and its problems feature in a number of articles in this, the second such year book. Among other topics dealt with are directions for application to attend the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes in May.

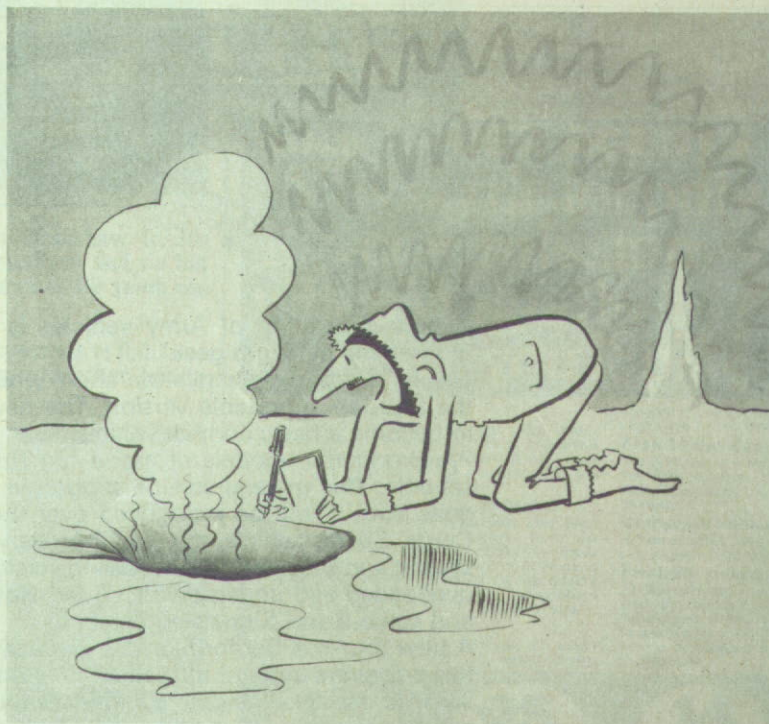


Helmets

A new three-point suspension harness has been successfully tested and is now being issued in Northern Ireland to improve stability of the helmets fitted with visors. The chinstrap is easy to adjust and still allows the helmet to be put on and taken off quickly.

Heated clothing

Heart-warming news for Army motorcyclists and armoured fighting vehicle crews—electrically heated clothing is on its way. Trials took place in Germany early last year and a foot-heating insole has been accepted for service. The trials showed a need for a heated mitt rather than a glove and this is being assessed on further development trials this month. No further development of full body heating equipment will go on at present. But a quilted body cover has been developed which when worn with normal clothing and the heated insoles and mitts should be enough to keep out the cold.



*"Private Brown,
can I have
your comments on
the new issue
winter clothing?"*

Trousers for barrack dress

Work has begun on developing a new pattern of temperate climate barrack dress trousers which, subject to Treasury approval, will replace lightweight trousers in temperate zones. The new trousers are also meant to provide a suitable substitute for the trousers of the second suit of No. 2 dress which will not be on issue in future for most soldiers. User views on the new trousers will be sought before they are accepted.

Raincoats

The material used for men's and women's Army raincoats is to be changed to that used by the Navy, Royal Marines and RAF. The colours will stay the same. The reason for the change is to ease production problems by standardisation. (D of CP)

POINTS TO PONDER

Queries on equipment crop up all the time. Here are a few answers.

Windproof and waterproof smocks and trousers were developed for use in Northern Ireland only and they have proved very popular. But they are unlikely to be approved for use elsewhere partly because of cost, partly because of production difficulties.

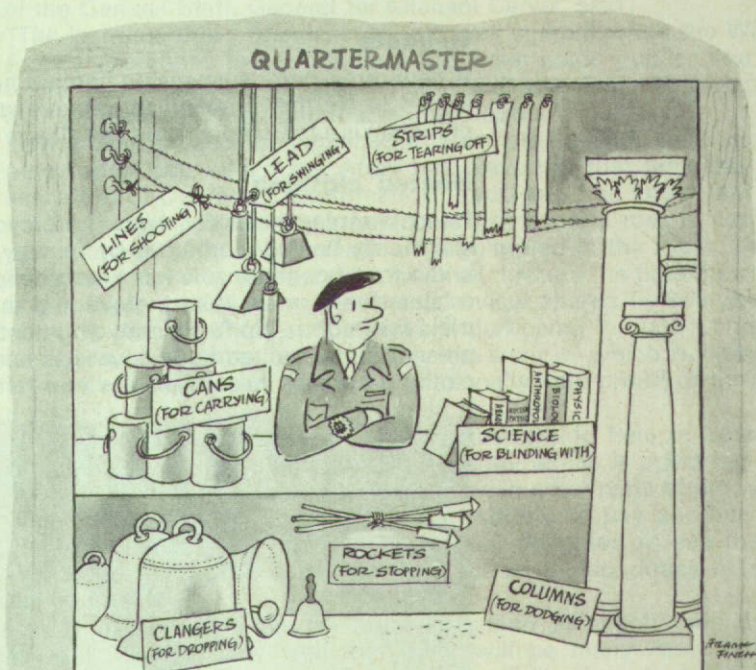
The SARAN plastic insole in DMS boots is provided mainly to keep the feet warm in cold weather and it helps cool the foot in hot conditions. It seems that the insole is rarely worn, the reason being simply that the boots are issued without them. Naturally, boots may be too tight when the insoles are fitted after issue. Boots should be issued complete with the insole.

On the same subject, nylon boot laces have been on issue instead of leather ones for more than a year.

The new olive drab sock will be made of polyester staple fibre as is the current khaki sock.

There have been reports of polyester gloves being damaged by heat from cigarettes, mess tins and "dixies" to a greater extent than the old woollen gloves. If this is the case it must be classed as unfair wear and tear and greater care must be taken

(D of CP)



NEW VEHICLES

A new generation of Army vehicles is growing up as the massive modernisation programme gets into gear.

Nearly all the old quarter-ton short-wheelbase Land-Rovers have been replaced by the half-ton airtransportable version. The new vehicle can be stripped down in minutes to become a basic combat vehicle.

Pre-production models of a one-ton Rover truck are now appearing in some arms schools. This general service support vehicle and the one-and-a-half-ton trailer that goes with it will be introduced over the next two years with the Royal Armoured Corps' Striker vehicle, the Royal Artillery's new 105mm light gun and Rapier missile system and the infantry's Beeswing version of the Swingfire missile. It will also replace overloaded and underpowered Land-Rovers used to carry infantry support weapons, and some Royal Signals equipment.

A new four-ton Bedford lorry is gradually replacing the old version. The new vehicle has a forward-control tilt-cab chassis fitted with a drop-side body and powered by a six-cylinder diesel engine suitable for multi-fuel operation. All-round vision from the cab and improved seat and control layout will make driving less tiring and thus safer.

A new ten-ton lorry, the AEC Militant Mark 3, is being used with the ageing fleet of ten-tonners in Rhine Army to bridge the gap until the proposed eight- and 16-ton vehicles enter service.

In an effort to save money for spending on general service vehicles, more use is being made of the cheaper commercial equipment where it fills the bill. (AG Sec)

SOLDIER NEWS

If you've read this far, you've read most of SOLDIER News. Perhaps there are other topics you would like to know more about, whether they have been mentioned here or not. Contributions or queries are welcome and should be sent to Michael Starke, SOLDIER News, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot, Hampshire. Phone: Aldershot Military (GPO Aldershot 24431) Ext 2590.



Above: The dotty characters of television's "Dad's Army." Life was more serious for the real Home Guard but they enjoy the programme.



Left: Mr Jim Bradshaw in his Home Guard uniform and tin hat and (above) as he is 30 years on.

Below: The men of the Bickerstaffe Home Guard on parade to fight one last battle—to stop their tea money from falling into other hands.



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The Duchess visits her girls in green



INFORMALITY was the keynote of a visit by the Duchess of Kent to members of the Women's Royal Army Corps at Bicester. There would have been a special parade, but the Duchess—the corps' Controller Commandant—preferred to meet and chat with the girls at work.

The 145-strong company at the Central Ordnance Depot includes storewomen, clerks, drivers, medical orderlies, pay clerks and physical training instructors.

Their tasks involve checking and processing unit requests for stores, radio control of all types of transport in and around the depot, the receipt, issue and packing of clothing and equipment for units throughout the Army and, of course, the highly specialised accounting.

An Australian commands the company. Major Judith Munday, of the Women's Royal Australian Army Corps, is on a two-year exchange duty which is now almost over.

Recreation is not forgotten for the hard-working girls at Bicester and they can swim, orienteer, parachute, sail, glide and learn unarmed combat to their hearts' content. For the indoor type, the modern accommodation block has rest rooms and a television room. Washing machines and spin dryers are on hand for the chores. Individual barrack rooms cater for four girls—making the old nissen hut seem like a bad dream.

Left: The Duchess chats with Corporal Sally Doxsey and Lance-Corporal Anna Downes.



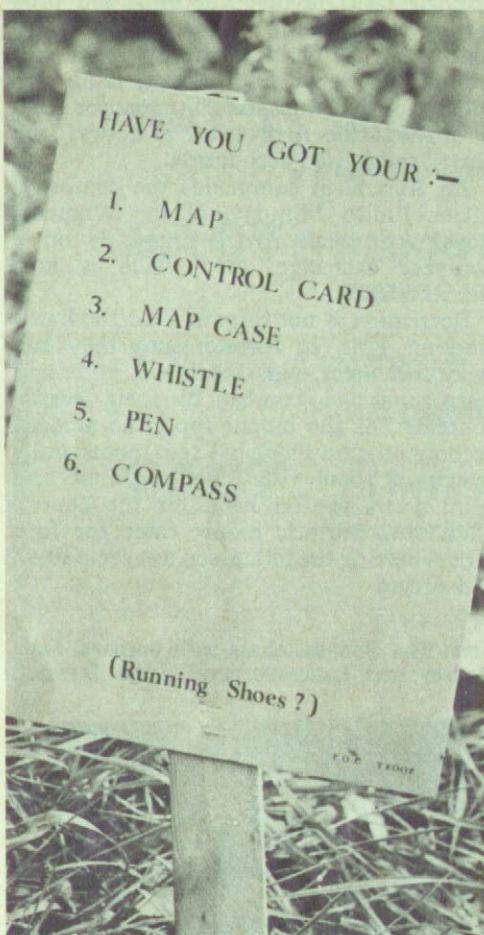
Above: Maj Judith Munday, the unit's officer commanding, welcomed the Duchess to Bicester. The major comes from Queensland.

Above right: The busy stores stop work for the Duchess who passed through on her tour. Informality was the keynote of her visit.

Right: The girls wave goodbye to their royal Controller Commandant as a helicopter speeds her from Bicester after her full day there.



IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS...



THE panting figure plunged through the bracken heading straight for a mud pond. But he paused, then made a detour on dry ground. "That's what you call a thinking orienteer," said the checker at the control point which was the target of the headlong dash.

This incident during the Army's orienteering championships, held this year in a spectacular corner of the Surrey woodlands, illustrated the essence of the skill behind what is hailed by devotees as the fastest-growing sport in Britain. Orienteering demands a balance of physical and mental fitness for success. Competitors face a cross-country course which they have to follow with the aid of map and compass to find the best route to give them the quickest time. They must pace themselves to meet their own personal strengths and weaknesses and it is not necessarily the strongest athlete who wins.

Orienteering is a Scandinavian import (see *SOLDIER*, December 1966) which has caught on with Army enthusiasts in recent years. For the past five years men and women of both the Regular Army and the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve have competed in annual championships.

The sport has obvious attractions for the soldier but it has not been given the status of an official Army sport. The Army orienteering adviser, Captain Mike Roach, who planned the course for this year's

championships, explained: "Orienteering is classed as military training only, but we are pressing for it to be recognised as an official sport." It is argued against this that cross-country running fills the bill. Orienteers contest this.

The 350 finalists from all over Britain and Rhine Army found at least one improvement on recent years. In the past they have had to make do with black-and-white reproductions of Ordnance Survey maps to guide them around the courses, but this year proper orienteering maps were provided. These are drawn to a scale of three inches to the mile, allowing smaller features to be shown, and on a grid based on magnetic North to aid navigation using the plastic mounted "Silva" compasses which are an essential part of an orienteer's kit.

Equipped with these compasses, maps, map cases, control cards for check points, pens and whistles (in case they get lost or hurt) the orienteers jogged off from the start at one-minute intervals to head for the master map centre where they plotted their routes. Two minutes here is considered a reasonable time to get bearings. The competitors then set off—often in different directions depending on the route personally preferred in this sport of individualists—clad in stout-soled running shoes and light but sturdy clothing which has to stand up to the ravages of brambles, bracken and branches and needs good-

sized pockets to carry the impedimenta of orienteering.

What attracts young and old of both sexes to this sport? Corporal Sheila McIntyre (22), serving with the Women's Royal Army Corps at the Central Ammunition Depot, Kineton, said: "Basically, I do this for enjoyment. It calls for alertness and fitness. I find it a good background for athletics. It's better than cross-country because the course is not marked out for you—you've got to find your own way."

Lance-Corporal Margaret Birt (20), of 8 Signal Regiment, Women's Royal Army Corps, added: "The more you do orienteering, the more you learn—I'm always learning something new."

Captain Roach enjoys the feeling of being out on his own in the woodland. "I enjoy training to an end and once I get in the forest on an orienteering course I get great satisfaction from finding control points spot on—this is the big attraction for me."

Three times Army champion, Mr A Wale, a former warrant officer who left the Army in August 1972, was on hand to see who would take over his title. He spoke of the mushrooming interest in the sport in civilian life as well as the Army. With an estimated 5000 to 6000 orienteers pitting brain and brawn against courses throughout Britain he said confidently: "This is the fastest growing sport in Britain without a doubt."



Well... have you? A timely sign at the start reminds orienteers to be ready for anything.

Below: On the prayer-mat. Prostrate entrants get their bearings at the master map point.



Below: Tension mounts as competitors await the "go" signal at intervals of one minute.



Right: Dry leaves crunch underfoot and the breathing is harder as the course goes on.



WINNERS in this year's championships were:

Major units team trophy:	... School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield.
Minor units team trophy:	... 11th Armoured Brigade Headquarters and Signal Squadron, Rhine Army.
Regular soldier individual trophy (<i>SOLDIER</i> Magazine cup):	... Sergeant J A J Darby, School of Electronic Engineering, Arborfield.
Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve team trophy:	... 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers, York.
Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve individual trophy:	... Lance-Corporal A G Jones, B Company, The Mercian Volunteers, Kidderminster.
Women's Royal Army Corps trophy:	... Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Training Centre, Aldershot.
Women's Royal Army Corps individual trophy:	... Captain P R Pearse, 39 (City of London) Signal Regiment, London.
Women's Royal Army Corps, TAVR, individual trophy:	... Officer Cadet E Hume, Queen's University Officer Training Corps, Belfast.



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Meeting the Common Market halfway

Story by Mike Starke/Pictures by Martin Adam



Housewives' choice



Local-born Mrs Heidi Parker has no trouble with language or foreign money. Wives from England say they soon get the hang of it.

Above: Election posters don't concern Army wives out shopping but many vote "yes" for the German consumer goods in local shops.

WITH Britain on the brink of Common Market entry there is a group of housewives already getting to know what everyday living in Europe is like. They are the wives of troops serving in Germany.

SOLDIER went shopping with some of these ladies in Bielefeld. They were among the surprisingly few who take advantage of twice-weekly Army buses which take them to town from their married quarters estate. Of the 300 or so housewives on the estate, fewer than 20 were on the bus SOLDIER met. It was explained that the majority found their needs satisfied by the choice of

goods and generous terms offered by Naafi.

But, said one shopper in a town centre arcade whose stores included the homely names of C & A and Woolworths, "I think they're missing something. If you're in someone else's country you might as well go out and meet them."

What about those two basic barriers of foreign money and language? "You get the hang of prices in Deutschmarks in a couple of days. Most people speak some English. There are a few who just won't speak it, but if you see what you want you try to get through to them."

Foodstuff weights, although again differ-

Housewives' choice *continued*

ent, present no problem. Items are packaged in portions the housewife can easily relate to the amounts she would get at home. Beef and pork are especially good, they say, but lamb is impossible to get.

There is a wide variety of smoked meats to try for a change.

Naafi is universally preferred for frozen food shopping. In town this is very expensive and there is less choice. Those who shop in town buy fresh vegetables there.

Mrs Jean Moore, whose husband serves with 9 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, summed up: "On the whole there's more variety of food in the town and it gives you a chance to experiment."

Mrs Val Storey, whose husband is in the same unit, added: "Some things are a bit dearer, some a bit cheaper, but it works out about even. Luxuries cost less as a rule, I find."

The German calculation of clothes sizes is another thing soon mastered and although garments are generally more expensive than in England the shoppers agreed the workmanship was better.

What about service in German shops? "The assistants want to help you," the wives said. "After all, they want you to spend your money."

One wife added: "They think a lot of children over here—more so than in England. You can take children anywhere in Germany, they can go into any restaurant

for instance, but they don't serve half portions as in England."

Families find it an advantage to have a car, not only for shopping but for sight-seeing which often involves a journey of some distance along autobahns. Cars eat kilometres on these fast highways and, as elsewhere, drivers talk in terms of journey time rather than distance.

German traffic law is complex for all road users, including pedestrians. Mrs Storey gave an example: "If a policeman sees you go across a zebra crossing against the traffic lights you're fined on the spot."

One wife in a good position to see the general picture of the side-by-side German and English communities is Mrs Heidi Parker, nine years married to a Royal Military Police staff-sergeant. She was born and brought up in Bielefeld.

She said: "Most local people accept the English and many local girls have married soldiers. Some families actually mix socially, but not many. The English families have their messes to go to which are cheaper for one thing."

Coming from England, Mrs Moore's opinion was: "You get along fine as long as you accept it's an entirely different way of life here." Mrs Storey added: "If you come out here with the idea you're not going to like it, you never will. As for me, I went on leave to England for three weeks recently for the first time since coming to Germany. I couldn't wait to get back here."



Mrs Jean Moore rarely misses a chance to go down to town for her shopping using the bus the Army runs twice a week for wives.

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additions to this World War Two series. They are moulded in a soft rubbery plastic which is particularly difficult to work. The "flash" on the mould line, which unfortunately runs down the centre of the face of several figures, has to be removed with sharp nail scissors since the material cannot be scraped with a craft knife.

However, there are some dramatic poses including paras lobbing grenades, Germans running with fixed bayonets and a Jap officer brandishing a samurai sword. And you get a whole platoon in a box for 36 pence.

Wargamers will be pleased to learn that Waterloo British infantry and artillery are

now available in HO/00 scale (one-inch high figures) at 19 pence for each set. The superb 54-millimetre "Collectors' Series," crisply sculpted in hard white plastic, has been strengthened by the addition of a sturdy 42nd (Black Watch) Highlander at 19 pence and a gallant Scots Grey costing about 25 pence.

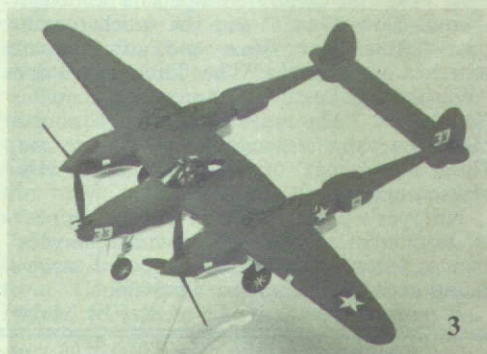
For those who want to make up dioramas with these figures, Airfix offers La Haye Sainte farmhouse in HO/00 scale at 47 pence and a ruined building of war-torn Europe in 1:32nd scale at 49 pence. Modellers should not be disappointed to find this latter kit contains broken tiles and brickwork. It is meant to be like that. **HH**

Five new additions to the hangar of the armchair aviator from the range of models produced by Airfix Ltd at prices even the most frozen pockets can afford. Some classic aeroplanes feature amongst these latest models.

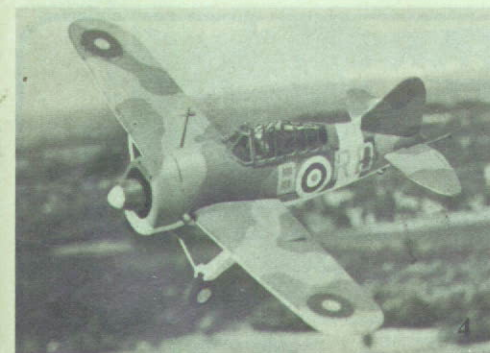
For wargamers there are the figures below to swell the tabletop armies doing bloodless battle in past wars.



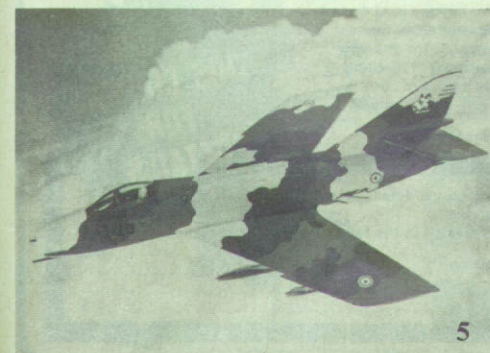
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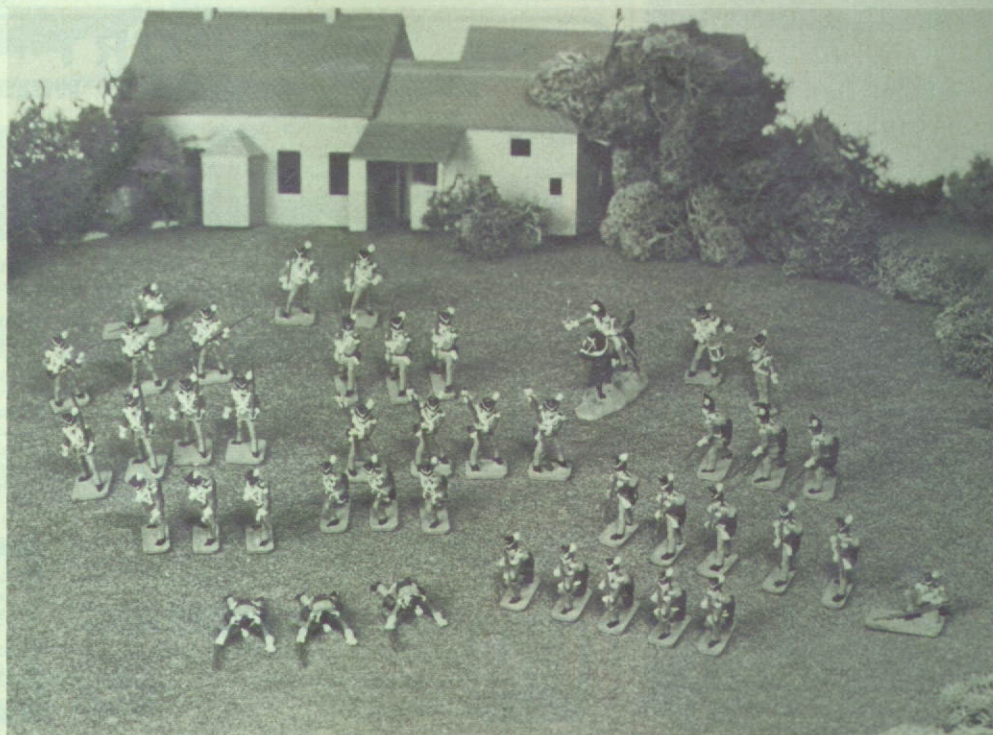
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5



On record For all old troopers

"The Band of The Life Guards" (conducted by Captain W Jackson) (Eclipse ECS-R 2103)

Captain W Jackson is now Major W Jackson (Retired) so here is a chance to obtain a re-issue of one of his early discs, previously numbered ES 7048. Apart from the "Post Horn Galop" the programme is of marches from ceremonial "slows" to cavalry canter and throughout there is a whiff of stables and rattling harness.

Regimental music includes the quick march-past "Milanollo" (shared with the Coldstream Guards) and the "Slow March" which has no name. The "Trot and Canter Medley" is played as usual non-stop and is always a hard day's blow for the band, especially when mounted. Even here in the studio the strain tells.

Parade marches included are the Brazilian "San Lorenzo," the Spanish paso doble "El Abanico" (You'll be far better off in the mush), Alford's "The Thin Red Line," Charles Payne's old favourite "Punjaub" (Come and draw your rations), King Palmer's "Sousa on Parade" medley and Arnold Steck's "Birdcage Walk."

Three concert marches complete the album—Albert Matt's "Fame and Glory," Frederic Bayco's fine "Royal Windsor" which deserves to be more played than it is, and finally an uproarious American rodeo march by Don Gillis from his symphonic suite "Tulsa."

RB

"The Band and State Trumpeters of the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues)" (conducted by Major J E Thirtle) (Eclipse ECS-R 2104)

This particularly fine old recording, a companion piece to The Life Guards disc, comes from the same stable(s) and was first issued as ES 7038. The sleeve notes slightly confuse the issue by giving a history of the new regiment, The Blues and Royals, but of course Major Thirtle made this long before the amalgamation. What a great band he had too, for most of the items are perfect in conception, arrangement and performance with some especially fine woodwind playing.

Major Thirtle begins with his own "Westminster" fanfare on valved herald trumpets and ends with probably the best of all the Evening-Hymn-and-Last-Posts, his "Eventide" of "Abide With Me" and the "Cavalry Last Post" on cavalry trumpets. The "Regimental Slow March" and the quick march-past "Aida" are there and other quick marches are Sousa's "The Thunderer" and "Washington Post." Of the concert marches Schubert's "Marche Militaire" of course takes the palm although a new one to me, Haley's "College of Heralds," is a well-written example of the genre.

Knipper's patrol "Cavalry of the Steppes" is brilliantly played but the real horses' hooves set a disconcerting tempo—I always found coconut shells more adaptable!

A perfect little gem of a medley by Major



Thirtle of three Scottish airs, "Westering Home," "Come o'er the Stream Charlie" and "Comin' Thro' the Rye," and a fine arrangement of Elgar's "Nimrod" are included both for their beauty and as contrasts to the remaining lively music on each side. Of their kind these are first-rate examples—a cornet duet "The Two Troupers" by Harry Dexter, the famous "Fandango" by Frank Perkins and an overture for Offenbach's "La Belle Hélène" by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Pope. The old cinema organist Frederic Bayco provides an item on both records, this time a tremendously exciting "Tarantella."

Although The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals have since made some outstanding records these two re-issues are the ones all old troopers should have since they give definitive performances of the regimental music and include attractive fillers more or less associated with the regiments.

RB

"Highlights in Brass" (The Grimethorpe Colliery Band) (conducted by George Thompson) (Polydor Carnival 2928 008)

This great Yorkshire championship band adds further to its reputation in this popular mixture of old and new. One of the miracles of the British way of life is how such musicianship and technical ability spring from coalface, pithead, cotton mill and factory floor.

Two very good marches give each side a martial start. The late George Hawkins's "San Marino" and "British Mouthpiece" by W Doughty are more tuneful than is usual with brass band marches. Brian Cooling is the brilliant cornet soloist in "Showers of Gold," by Herbert L Clarke, with such controlled technique as is rarely heard these days. Control, too, is the feature of "Song of India" by Rimsky Korsakov. I just couldn't imagine it as a trombone solo but John Pollard gives a brilliant performance, completely disarming and wholly acceptable.

It is usually only in the "classical" repertory that I have any quarrel with brass bands, or rather their arrangers and conductors, for sometimes taking unnecessary liberties. There are one or two examples in the three overtures which complete this record. "Light Cavalry" is, I suppose, fair game for a conductor's private quirks but "1812" and "Rienzi" are a different matter. Marvellous playing though, with some really stunning effects. Also on this record is "Ocean Bounce," a novelty.

RB



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"Pride of the North" (Besses o' th' Barn Band) (Carnival 2928 011)

Probably the most famous band in the world, Besses have somehow slipped from public view in recent years but come storming back with this very fine mixture of old and new. And, unless the recording engineers deceive, I detect a fine old-fashioned willingness to "have a blow"—some modern bands have become a little too "refined," too polished, for my taste.

Their programme opens with a T J Powell march, "Castell Caerffili," and one of Hartmann's triple-tonguing polkas called "Lizzie," dazzlingly played by principal cornetist Brian Mather. Strauss's "Pizzicato Polka" of course fails at the very first chord and wasn't worth arranging for brass band. But two arrangements by conductor Frank Bryce were well worth doing—Jerome Kern's lush melodies are just right for brass and this fairly long medley shows the band off in lighter vein and features some skilled soloists, particularly the trombonist Frank Crofts. The Lennon-McCartney tune "And I Love Her," with its rather melancholy mood, is also well suited to the medium.

The meat of the programme is a vivid performance of two concert overtures. Vilem Tausky's first work for brass band, "Concert Overture," makes up for lack of title by some very graphic writing. Although sombre in mood there are plenty of fireworks and a beautiful Dvorak-inspired slow section. The other overture, Frank Bryce's "Promenade," is I'm afraid embarrassingly akin to Vaughan Williams's "The Wasps" and in many places could be mistaken for it. Even so it makes pleasant listening and gives a fine record by a fine band a vigorous and lively ending. **RB**

"Young Winston" (original soundtrack recording) (Composed and conducted by Alfred Ralston with excerpts from the works of Sir Edward Elgar) (HMV CSDA 9002)

"A Pageant of Marvellous British Marches Based on 'Young Winston'" (The Band of HM Royal Marines (Royal Marines School of Music), conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel F Vivian Dunn, Principal Director of Music, Royal Marines) (The Central Band of the Royal Air Force, conducted by Wing-Commander J L Wallace, Organising Director of Music, Royal Air Force) (The Band of the Royal Military School of



Music, Kneller Hall, conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Basil H Brown) (Starline SRS 5123) EMI as always right on the band wagon with two offerings to catch the film-going public and as many others as possible. That from the original sound track sounds like it, being a mere hotch-potch of snippets of little significance unless you saw the film and wish to wallow in nostalgia. The other hangs on the peg of "Young Winston" some reissues of old recordings. If you worship Winston, if music can create and recreate images for you, if you love Elgar messed about a bit, or if you are a Harrovian, these records are for you.

The sound track is, I imagine, a skilled patchwork (when heard in the cinema) of extracts from the more popular works of Elgar and other tunes loosely associated with young Winston. Elgar, more statesman than musician, was an obvious source of contemporary music with Empire overtones and suffers a few indignities at the hands of arranger-composer-conductor Alfred Ralston, as does the Harrow School Song.

This LP begins with a scrappy overture with bits of "Forty Years On," a hunting tune, the "Imperial March" and "Boys and Girls Come Out To Play." The trouble with film music is that it is usually as fragmentary as the scenes it portrays.

"Young Winston With the Army in India" is represented by the "Triumphal March" from "Caractacus," followed by "Battle in an Indian Village." "The Electioneering Se-

quence" includes "The Lincolnshire Poacher" and Ralston's love motif associated with Jennie, a young love of Winston. "The Harrow Examination Room" leans heavily on the school song again; "Jennie's Theme" is then given the full works followed by "Randolph and Winston," a vivid duologue between strings and woodwind. Side one ends with "Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4" tailored to fit the screen action.

The "Entr'acte" sets the South African scene with "British Grenadiers," the Boer folk song "Sarie Marais," and "Soldiers of the Queen," all arranged to excellent effect. "The Desert," "Winston's Ride to Kitchener and the Approach of the Dervishes," "Cavalry Charge and Ambush of the Armoured Train," and "Winston's Escape from the Boers" comprise an almost continuous montage of unsatisfactory bits and pieces of the "Imperial March," "British Grenadiers" (played by the Royal Military Academy Band) and the "Cockaigne Overture," with Pipe-Major Iain Macdonald-Murray's pipes adding colour here and there.

Then "Winston with Lloyd George in the Commons" and finally "The Dream and End Titles" which purports to be "Nimrod" from the "Enigma Variations" but isn't. All very Elgarian though and a fairly satisfactory conclusion to an unsatisfactory LP.

Much more satisfying musically because all the items are complete is "A Pageant of Marvellous British Marches." Even so you have heard it all before and there is only a very tenuous connection between most of the music and young Winston. The sleeve mentions Carl Foreman and Richard Attenborough twice each, John Mills and Simon Ward appear attired as Kitchener and Young Winston—and the three bands involved rate three squares inches precisely.

The Royal Marines play "Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4," "The British Grenadiers," "Rule Britannia," "A life on the Ocean Wave," "Sea Songs March," "Sarie Marais," "Lilliburlero," "Colonel Bogey," "Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1" and "March of the Peers" from "Tolanthe."

The Royal Military School of Music plays "Evening Hymn and Last Post," "Prince of Denmark's March" and "Queen Mary's Funeral March." The Central Band of the RAF plays "RAF March Past," "Imperial March" and "Scipio" march. **RB**





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Left, Right and Centre



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh (right) saw guns, rockets, mines and ammunition designed by the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment when they visited the establishment at Fort Halstead, Kent. An outdoor demonstration included the new 105mm light gun and mine-laying techniques.

A new record was being celebrated (below) by Scottish recruiters when they claimed to be the first team to operate so far north on the United Kingdom mainland, but they were happy to sign anyone on wherever they came from.



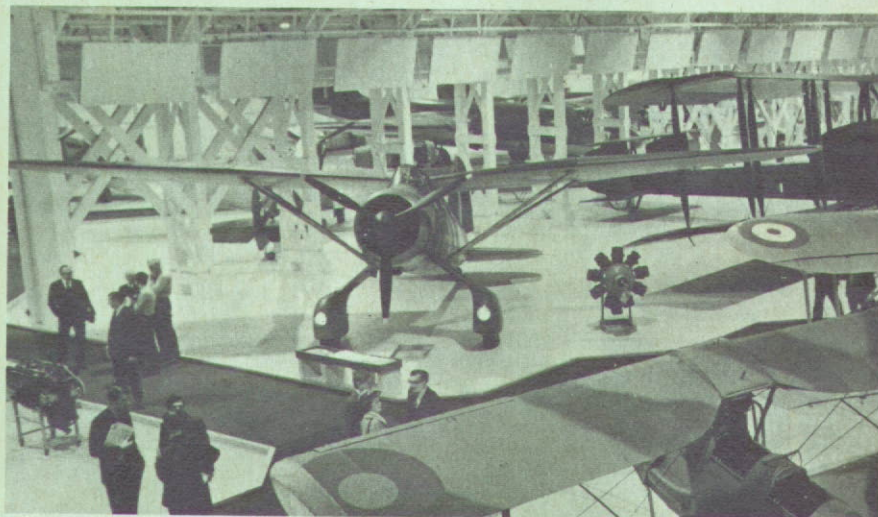
Shortly after a four-month tour in Northern Ireland, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, was visited by its Colonel-in-Chief, the Queen Mother. Her four-hour stay at the Kingsmen's Weeton Camp, near Blackpool, included a look at displays and a parade. The battalion now faces a two-year tour in Hong Kong. Right, the Queen Mother, accompanied by the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Davis, and the regimental colonel, Brigadier Eric Holt, chats with Company Sergeant-Major Ron Kenny.





Prime Minister Mr Edward Heath paid a visit to troops in Ebrington Barracks, London-derry (left), during his fact-finding tour of Northern Ireland.

More than 40 aircraft spanning the history of British military aviation are exhibited at the Royal Air Force Museum at Hendon which was opened by the Queen. The museum is built around two hangars dating from 1917. Picture below includes a Tiger Moth, Gladiator, Camel, Lysander and Vimy.



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It was quite a 16th birthday party (above) for Fiona Fullerton, star of the film "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." True, there was no Mad Hatter or Dormouse but there were lots of wonderful Gurkha soldiers as well as a cake which she cut with a kukri. The party was given by men of 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles to show their appreciation—the film had a royal première in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal Fund.

Royal Marines (right) with a ship (. . . of the desert) in London's Lord Mayor's Show. The new Lord Mayor, Lord Mais, made the traditional ride in the two-ton golden state coach from the Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand.

The Royal Tank Regiment presented a silver statuette (below) of a Chieftain's crew to the Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, to mark her silver wedding anniversary. The date has another significance for the regiment as the 55th anniversary of the battle of Cambrai. The Queen has agreed to allow each tank regiment in turn to keep the statuette on her behalf.



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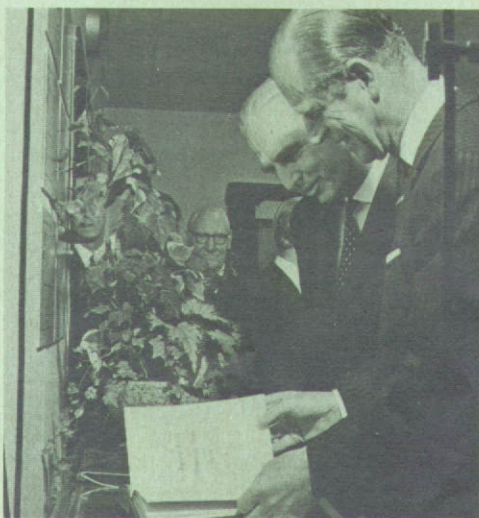
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Big hearted Arthur Askey chats (below) to John Cusack, Chelsea pensioner and author, at the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association Christmas Market at Chelsea Barracks, London. Mr Cusack autographed copies of his recent book "Scarlet Fever: A Lifetime with Horses" (reviewed SOLDIER, October) and gave a percentage to SSAFA funds. The Christmas Market raised a record total.



The massive administration problems involved in the smooth running of Naafi's services to the Services will be eased by the new £650,000 office block (above) opened by the Duke of Edinburgh in Kennington Lane, London. The block contains all the latest in office comforts and an air-conditioned suite for a pair of VIP'S in the organisation . . . two computers. Left: Prince Philip and Naafi's chairman, Sir Humphrey Prideaux.



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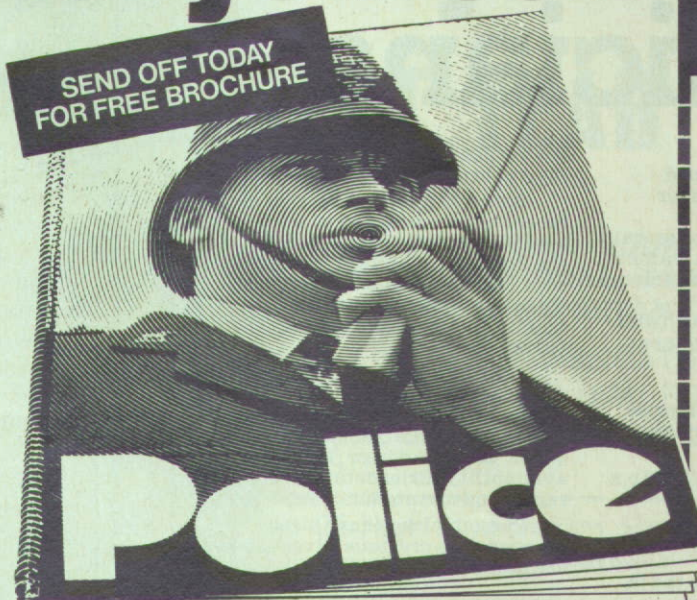
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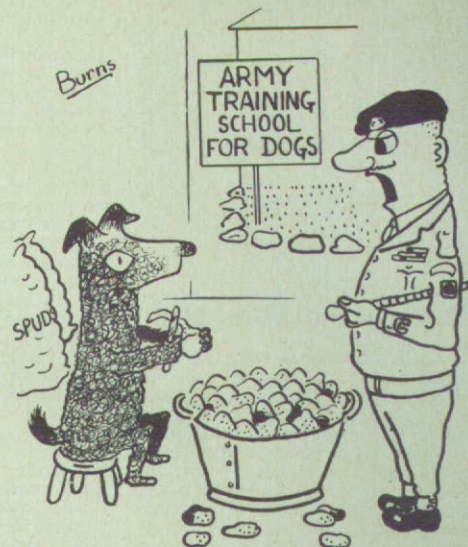
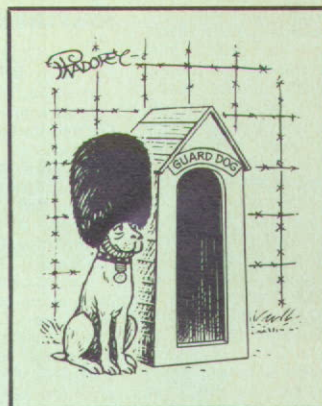
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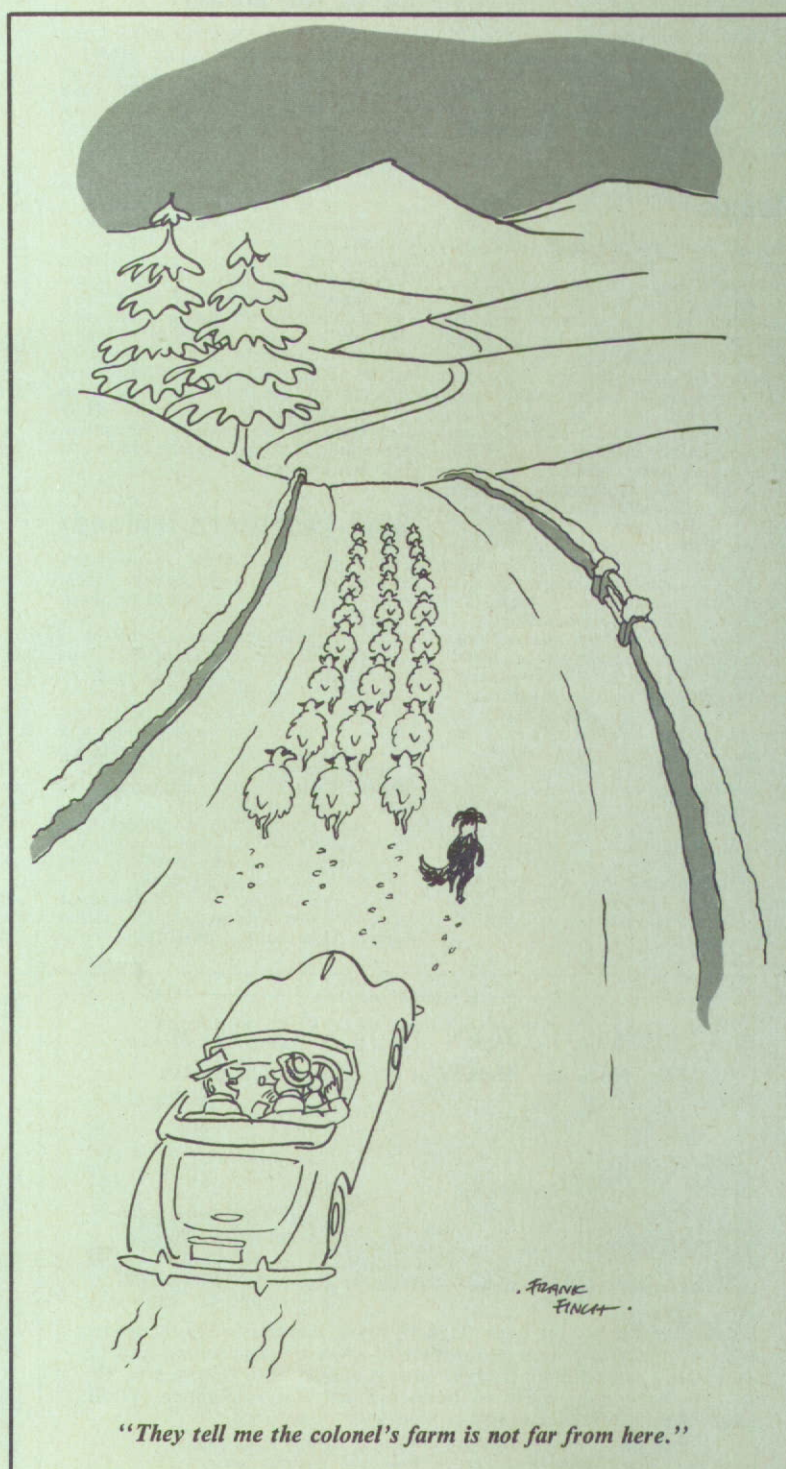
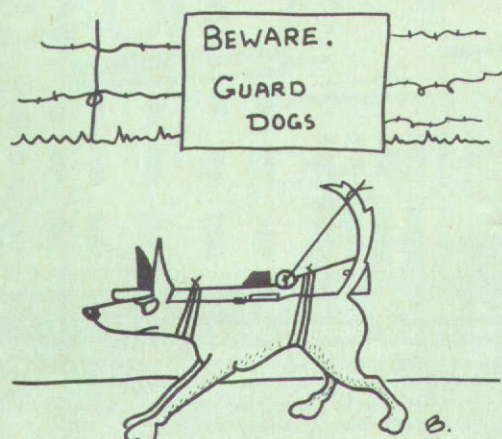
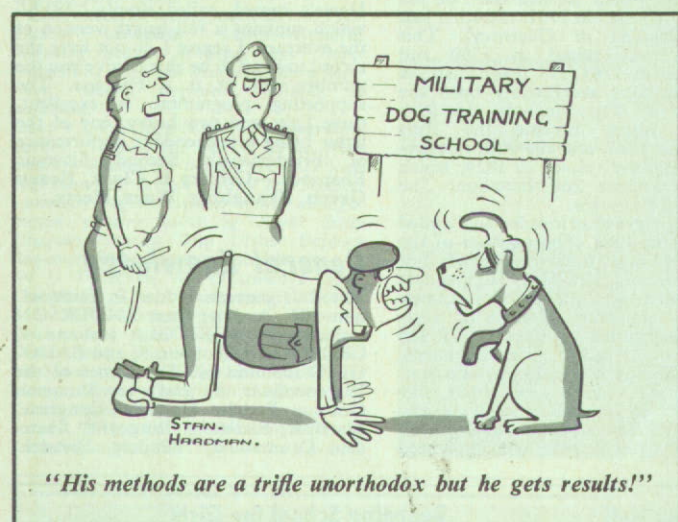
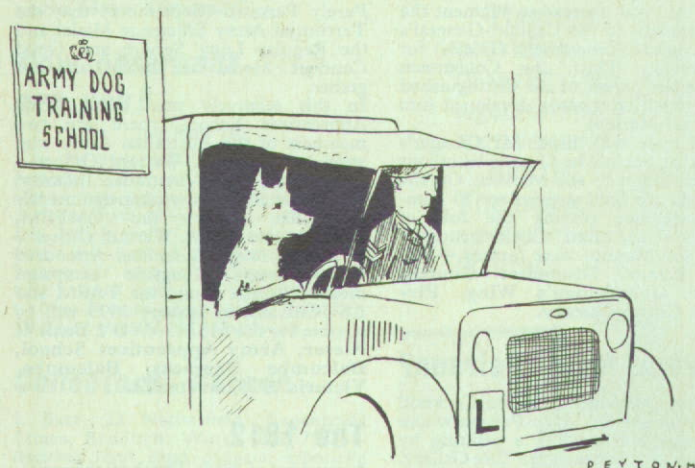
Sub-section: Dogs

Sub-sub-section: Guard dogs, war dogs, "sniffer" dogs, tracker dogs... Not all of them every man's best friend but a favourite cartoon subject. Here is a selection from SOLDIER's files...



"Well, write to your MP and see what good it does you."

TO THE DOGS!



Letters

Where's the oompah?

I wonder if I am the only military band fan who deplores the conversion of The Life Guards magnificent band into a rather ordinary orchestra. To me, the addition of a string section completely destroys the characteristic military band "sound" which, I submit, is what the fans buy such records for. Many of the items thus treated could have been obtained long since orchestrally by anyone who wanted them for their own sakes. Also some of them have been seriously hacked about, large sections having been excised, which is rather disconcerting to the listener. I think some mention of the added section should be made in the catalogue, otherwise, failing to find the record in the local gramophone, you order it, then feel in honour bound to accept it and thus get lumbered with a record which is not what you anticipated and which you don't like.—**Geoffrey H Clark, Bozen Green, Braughing, Ware, Herts.**

Medals

Poor Mr Bidmead, his letter (June) has provoked a storm of protest. And yet what was wrong was not what he said but the way in which he said it. I do not think for one moment that he intended to suggest denying the Naafi staff their medals, but was rather pointing out that certain classes of service are deserving of some extra visible, signal mark of recognition, where such service has been carried out under conditions of greater danger and hardship than is experienced by others. There is nothing unusual in this idea. The Americans wear combat stars and other symbols on their campaign ribbons. Those engaged in the Battle of Britain wear the rosette on the ribbon of the 1939/45 Star. The mighty Wehrmacht had separate decorations for combatants and non-combatants. Mr Bidmead says that our medals "hold little significance in their present form" but then goes on to say "Why bother?" But people do bother about such things as is evidenced by the volume of correspondence in SOLDIER every month. We read that holders of the Albert and Edward medals for gallantry are now holders of the George Cross by exchange. These people had been campaigning for this for many years because they felt that the significance of their award had passed into obscurity and therefore the honour which was, and still is, their due was being denied them. They bothered.

Mr Albert Parker states (July) that he is the holder of the Dunkirk Commemoration Medal 1940. This medal was instituted in 1948 under the patronage of the town of Dunkirk and was made available to members of the French Forces who served in the Dunkirk sector. In 1971 it was also made available to members of the British Forces who qualified and after this announcement there were some 300 applications daily for the award! I might add that it took the Dunkirk Veterans Association some 31 years of "campaigning" via many unsuccessful approaches to various British governments before this award could be made. So, Mr Bidmead, someone again must have cared and bothered.

To answer Mr Parker's point about post-nominal letters, he can put after his name anything which he personally considers suitable as long as his intention is not to deceive in order to benefit materially from the use thereof. He can also wear, with pride, his Dunkirk Medal (but not on official uniform) because he possibly did more for it than some have done for their "official" campaign medals.—**John B Morris RARO, Hillview, Daventry Road, Kilsby, Rugby, Warwickshire.**

LS & GC Medal

As a holder of the Regular Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal I have followed the correspondence in SOLDIER on this subject with some cynicism although I would not accuse your correspondents of sour grapes. The letter from "Hadrian" (October) has brought me to write to you particularly on the "acquisition of qualifications in a highly competitive society." In addition to the Oxford University diploma in economics I also hold the diploma of the Institute of Health Service Administrations. Thus I refute the premise made by "Hadrian" that the acquisition of qualifications and training for one's career in a highly competitive society makes continuous service an impossibility. It is possible to do both but you must really make up your mind what you want to do.—**H W Downes, 20 Greenhill Crescent, Merlins Bridge, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.**

GSM (Northern Ireland)

I note from SOLDIER News (November) that the General Service Medal is to be awarded for service in Northern Ireland. There is no doubt that this award is fully deserved in respect of all troops and police who have taken part in operations against terrorists, but it raises an interesting point. Why was there no similar award to the troops and police who served in Ireland during the rebellion between 1916 and 1922? It was understood at the time that active service against rebellion or civil disturbance was never commemorated by the grant of medals and, so far as I am aware, no medals were awarded, even for acts of bravery in the field. Can anyone explain this sudden change of policy?—**W L James, 35 Burnham Drive, Manchester, M19 2JJ.**

Marines and Guards

Mr D J Croager's letter (October) states "as an ex-RAF Regular I stand open to correction." May I please therefore correct him in his belief that one of the Guards battalions owes its origins to the Marines.

The 3rd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, was accorded the privilege of playing "Rule Britannia" before the National Anthem on ceremonial occasions to commemorate having fought in ships during the Dutch Wars 1666-67. There is insufficient evidence as to which companies took part but it is known that the 21st company under the command of Sir Ralph Sydenham embarked on HMS Pembroke on 13 July 1666 and the next day captured a Dutch 22-gun ship, the troops acting as boarding parties.

This battalion originated in 1656 in Bruges, Flanders, when Charles II raised the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards. On disbandment of the 3rd Battalion in 1960 the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Caspar John, very kindly asked that the tradition of playing "Rule Britannia" be carried on. It is now performed by the 2nd Battalion.

Also concerned in fighting at sea were the Coldstream Guards. In the early part of 1664, 500 additional men were raised by royal warrant to augment the establishment of the Captain-General's Foot Guards (Coldstream Guards) for sea service. Thus, the Coldstream became the parent of the distinguished corps which afterwards developed into the Royal Marines.

This I hope will dispel Mr Croager's belief that one of the Guards battalions owes its origin to the Marines. On the contrary, we hold a privilege to commemorate our playing the role of soldiers at sea from which eventually the Royal Marines were formed.—**WO II J Evans, Grenadier Guards, Junior Guardsmen's Wing, Pirbright Camp, Surrey.**

Who was Major Peirson?

In Letters (November) Colonel Cockerill asked who was the Major Peirson whose death was portrayed in a painting by Copley which hangs in the Tate Gallery. Major Peirson commanded half the 95th Regiment, which formed part of the garrison of Jersey in 1781 (the other half was disbanded in Guernsey). This regiment was raised in 1780 and disbanded in 1783. No fewer than six regiments have successively borne the number 95. They include the 95th (Rifles), which became the Rifle Brigade in 1816, and the 95th (Derbyshire) Regiment, raised in 1824, which in 1881 became 2nd Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters.

A French expedition invaded and landed in Jersey in 1781. The garrison of the island at that time comprised five companies of the 78th Highlanders commanded by Captain Robert Lumsden, five companies of the 83rd Regiment commanded by Captain William Campbell and half the 95th Regiment, commanded by Major Francis Peirson. In addition there were about five companies of Invalids, a small detachment of the Invalid Battalion and 3000 Militia. Major Peirson was appointed

OC Troops and showed great bravery and initiative. In fact it was almost entirely due to his courage and resourcefulness that the invasion was repulsed. Unfortunately he was killed in action in his hour of triumph.

The Lieutenant-Governor and C-in-C of the island at this time was Major Moses Corbet. His action in the whole affair was such that he was afterwards tried for high treason. He was acquitted but deprived of his lieutenant-governorship. This fascinating story can be read in a short article in the TAVR Magazine of February 1968 or in "A History of the Island of Jersey" by G R Balleine.—**Col C R Buchanan, Hawthorn Cottage, Beech Road, Haslemere, Surrey.**

On holiday in St Helier a few years ago, I discovered Peirson Square and from the then landlord of a pub called, I think, The Peirson, I learned that fighting took place in this square. To prove it the landlord proudly pointed out the bullet, or rather musket, holes in the walls of several buildings. These are preserved!—**Capt (Retd) A Brookes, 1 Hampton Road, Folly Hill, Farnham, Surrey.**

Rare pair

I have to disagree with the statement in Purely Personal (September) that the Territorial Army Efficiency Medal and the Regular Long Service and Good Conduct Medal are rarely seen together.

In this relatively small unit, Army Apprentices School, there are two members of the Australian Army who wear both medals. Warrant Officer 1 N Heritage, Royal Australian Infantry, wears, alongside many campaign medals (Australian Army) the CMFEM, LSGCM and MSM. Warrant Officer 2 B Nieser, Royal Australian Armoured Corps, wears alongside campaign medals (British Army) the TAEM and LSGCM and in January 1973 will be eligible for the MSM.—**WO 2 Basil G Nieser, Army Apprentices School, Balcombe Barracks, Balcombe, Victoria 3935, Australia.**

The 1812

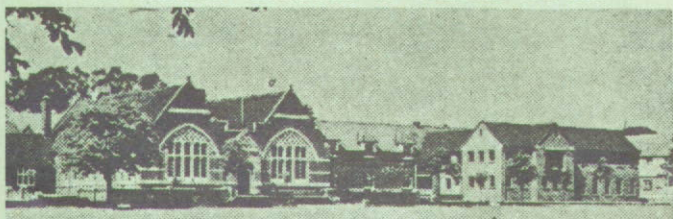
In your list of 1812s (October) there was, I think, one important omission—Jimmy Howe's record, called simply "1812," which contains a full-length version of the overture. I regret I do not have the record to hand to be able to give you the number, but it is a Fontana. The supporting programme is excellent, three light and two heavy, one of the latter being a tremendous performance of Friedemann's Second Slavonic Rhapsody.—**Geoffrey H Clark, Bozen Green, Braughing, Ware, Herts.**

General Knowledge

The four generals hidden in Competition 171 (August) were ANDERSON (column 3), AGRICOLA (column 4), CROMWELL (column 5) and BADOGLIO (column 6). The names of the 25 generals in the grid were Shrapnel, Graziani, Pericles, Hannibal, Congreve, Marshall, Radetzky, Burgoyne, Sheridan, Drummond, Hamilcar, Dietrich,

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- 3 Lieut-Col D S Hutton RAMC, Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, London SW1.
- 4 C G Lay, 5 Keats Close, Olivers Battery, Winchester, Hants.
- 5 S/Sgt Baxter REME, Sgts Mess, 2 RTR, BFPO 17.
- 6 S/Sgt J N Sheldon, 25 Laverstoke, Whitchurch, Hants.
- 7 2/Lieut Alastair Penman ACF, Merredon, Robb Place, Castle Douglas, DG7 1AD.
- 8 P D Wood, Barracks Office RAOC, BFPO 40.
- 9 Mrs J W Kleyn, 19 Hollytree Gardens, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey.
- 10 WO II W J Parker-Wade, Det 4 Comms Unit, Garats Hay Barracks, Woodhouse, Loughborough, Leics.
- 11 Rev J V Dearden, North Newington Vicarage, Albert Avenue, Hull.
- 12 H P Millard, Dawn Mist, 2 Roslyn Avenue, Milton, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset.

How observant are you?

(see page 18)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Star at top right. 2 Branch second from top on right of right tree. 3 Angle of raised leg of skater third from left. 4 Right girl's forward ankle. 5 Right man's left hand. 6 Number of reeds in bottom left corner. 7 Skate on nearest man's raised foot. 8 Left end of island. 9 Line beneath skater third from left. 10 Short slope of hill below moon.

Collectors' Corner

L Bott, 22 Netherfield, Greenlands Estate, Redditch, Worcs, B98 7RD.—Requires Nazi dress daggers, especially SS 1936 model with chains, naval officers and any other models.

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Capt V J T Sharpe (Retd), 31 Riverview Street, Tamworth, NSW 2340, Australia.—Wishes buy badges pre-1922 Irish regiments; all British cavalry and Scottish yeomanry regiments, and newly amalgamated cavalry units eg Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. Also Ulster Defence Regiment. Will pay reasonable price.

W H Twitche, 42 Whiteladys Lane, Cookham Rise, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 9LP.—Wishes purchase following British cloth titles: Royal Leicestershire, Devon and Dorset, Northamptonshire, Hereford LI, Cambridgeshire, Bucks and Herts, East Yorkshire, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

John R Williamson, 14 Warbon Avenue, Peterborough, PE1 3DS.—Has cavalry,

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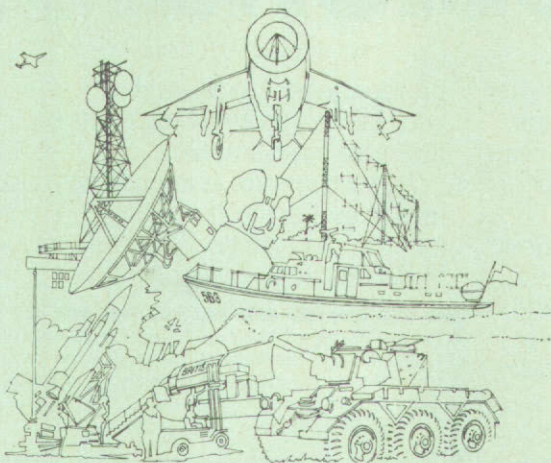
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Cloes Lane, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.



Gurkhas guard the Queen

For the first time in their 157 years of service with the British Army, Gurkhas took over public duties in London on Christmas Eve 1971 (see **SOLDIER**, February 1972). The 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles commissioned artist Terence T Cuneo to commemorate their take-over from the Grenadier Guards in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace. In the foreground the ensign of the old guard patrols with Major (QGO) Asalbhadur Limbu.

This full-colour print of Mr Cuneo's painting measures 30 x 19½ inches and is available, including postage and packing, at £6.35 (UK and BFPO) and £6.75 (elsewhere). Orders, with postal order (UK/BFPO only), UK cheque or international money order payable to Central Bank 7 Gurkha Rifles, should be sent before 31 March 1973 to Cuneo Print, 7 DEO GR, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants. There is only a limited supply of this print.

Collectors' Corner—continued

Highlanders, infantry cap badges and shoulder belt plates 50p to £30. SAE for list. UK correspondence only.

John A Jackson, 13331 96 Street, Edmonton T5 E 4B5, Alberta, Canada.—Requires six Grenadier Guards buttons suitable for sewing on blazer; also shoe and head for 1868 pattern British lance.

W P Hancox, 58 Queens Tower, Duddleston Manor Road, Birmingham 7.—Requires photographs British Army vehicles showing modern serial plates especially: GMC 15cwt truck armoured GMI5TA 4x4; Atkinson Omega 6x4 artic; Atlantic Lomont; Super Atlantic 6x4 ballast; GR7 Atlantic 6x4 ballast; Viscount 10-ton truck 6x6; Berliet TBU15 CLD recovery 6x6; Leyland Martain 10-ton road surfacing unit; Mercedes Benz riot truck 4x4; Allis Chalmers M6 tractor artillery towing; Ford 3-ton 4x4 FV 13301 container stores binned, converted to mobile dormitory, mobile kitchen, mobile kitchen diner, mobile libraries. Will buy or copy.

John Hartwell, 6 Pleasant Valley, Saffron Walden, Essex.—Collects pre-1970 DC and Marvel comics. Will buy or exchange for used British postage stamps. Martyn Thomas, 1 Bramley Drive, Love Lane, Bodmin, Cornwall.—Wishes purchase collar badges of infantry brigades (1959-69 period)—other ranks anodised aluminium in good condition, singly or pairs.

M Olivant, 7 Stirling Avenue, Waterloo-ville, PO7 7NH.—Wishes purchase copy of "Shoulder-Belt Plates and Buttons" by Maj H G Parkyn. All letters will be answered.

N Smith, 27 Winchester Way, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 8DD.—Requires hussars cap lines and cavalry white cross belt and pouch.

J Davies, 123 Morley Street, Greenfield Park, PQ, Canada.—Has Canadian cap badges for sale or will exchange for Commonwealth Scottish regimental badges. Cpl David Acres, 166 Waverley Street, Room 10, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.—Wishes exchange Canadian Army insignia for British.

F Dickenson, 20 Winton Court, Petersfield, Hants.—Wishes purchase 2nd Life Guards cap badge. Please send details.

Edwin De Groot, 9000 Gent Visserij 70, Belgium.—Requires camouflage uniforms

and headgear, also headgear and badges of special units. Can offer various types both Belgian and foreign in exchange. All correspondence answered.

WO(1) F A J Wright, 4700 BI Maisonneuve, Westmount, Quebec, Canada.—Collects Canadian, British and foreign badges. Has several Canadian badges available for exchange. Correspondence from other collectors welcomed; all letters will be answered.

John Heydenrych, 63 Camps Bay Drive, Camps Bay, Cape Town, South Africa.—Wishes buy or exchange badges, medals, particularly S African and British; also anything of military interest to display in "my little museum."

Mrs M J Shields, 17 Pellew Way, Teignmouth, S Devon.—Wishes purchase British military buttons (pre-1950) for private collection. Especially interested in cavalry buttons.

W G Fleckney, 14 Buckland Path, Buckland, Portsmouth, PO2 7DB, Hants.

—Wishes purchase photographs of pre-war British Army and RAF other ranks; also pre-war photographs of men and women in uniforms of private firms.

Capt B S du Preez, North Western Command, Military Base, Potchefstroom, Transvaal, S Africa.—Will exchange South African military badges for following items which must be in good condition: full set of pattern '08 web equipment, British Army khaki uniform (tunic and trousers) and British, German and French steel helmets. All foregoing as worn in World War One. Also World War Two German Army steel helmet with double decal.

Sgt M G Chapple (loW ACF), 13 Oakfield Road, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6DX.—Requires disruptive pattern combat cap. Will buy or exchange for set of staybrite Queen's Regiment buttons.

DA Lister, 11 Oakfield Avenue, Gilstead, Bingley, Yorkshire.—Urgently requires for private collection Indian Mutiny medals, singles or in groups, especially medals to officers. Also any diaries, letters, photographs, books on the mutiny. Good prices paid. Please write giving full details.

Björn Mårtensson, Atterbomsgr 16 75430 Uppsala, Sweden.—Wishes purchase copy of Robin Adshead's "Gurkha, the Legendary Soldier;" complete volumes **SOLDIER** 1950-54 and following issues: Mar, Apr, Jul, Aug, Dec 1955; Jul 1957; Jan, Jun, 1958; Mar, Jul 1961. All letters answered.

Advance and retire

BACK again to that somewhat perverse race, the Ancient Mundavians, who will insist on doing everything the other way round. And who, as is well known, could count only on the fingers of one hand and consequently were unable to count beyond four.

Their language has defied translation for centuries. It is thought that this has been due to the desire of the Mundavians to keep their written documents secret. They achieved this by the simple expedient of always omitting one letter from every two consecutive written words although, of course, this letter was never omitted in the spoken language.

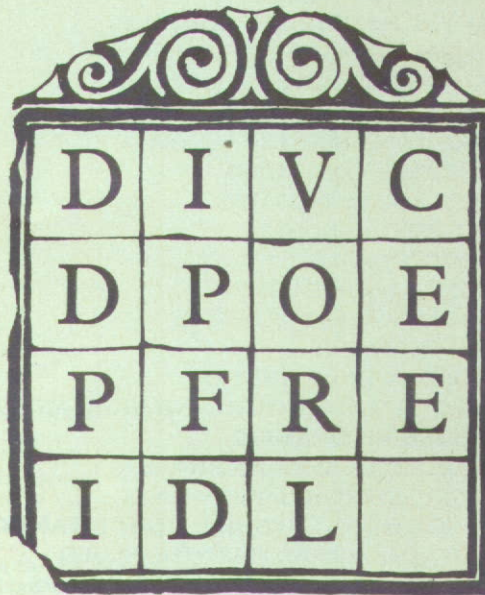
A breakthrough was recently announced by Professor Heston who discovered that an author could be written in Modern Mundavian as

CRAELDSCIEKSN

Heston produced as proof the tablets (also in Modern Mundavian) illustrated here and showed the connection between them and the two words above.

The professor had already discovered that contrary to their usual practice, and perverse as ever, the Mundavians had lettered the tablets in orthodox fashion from left to right, top to bottom.

Can you translate the two tablets and then say what letter has been omitted from each? Send your answer (just the two letters) on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 176" label from this page and your name and address, to:



SOLDIER (Comp 176)
Clayton Barracks
Aldershot
Hants.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 16 April. The answers and winners' names will appear in the June SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 176" label. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.



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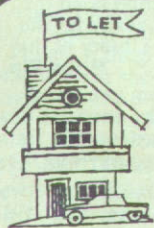
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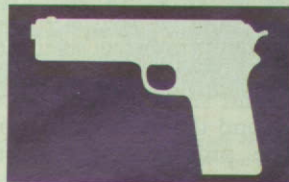
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Books

The War Ministry of WINSTON CHURCHILL

Neither servant nor dictator

"The War Ministry of Winston Churchill (Maxwell Philip Schoenfeld) Sir Winston did not approach military matters from a professional standpoint. "He venerated tradition but ridiculed convention," said Lord Ismay.

His experiences of the Army of 1914 and before made him suspicious of generals. He often ignored the chain of command. He questioned his advisers to the point of exhaustion before agreeing to their views. There were storms with the chiefs of staff, but he did not ignore their advice and out of controversy came thoroughly considered decisions. It was Churchill's way: "We have worked together in perfect harmony," he told the Commons in 1944.

Churchill, as he admitted in his memoirs, had not kept up with the technical progress of war. He gumbled to Alanbrooke, "The Army is like a peacock, nearly all tail," to which Brooke replied, "The peacock would be a very badly balanced bird without its tail." Churchill, running the war on narrow resources, was perfectly right to examine the relative numbers on ration strength and combat strength.

Professor Schoenfeld writes as an unashamed admirer of Churchill but is not shy of indicating his lapses, notably his treatment of Wavell.

"There are worse ways to run a war than the way Churchill did," he says with untypical understatement. "In Japan, politicians became the servants of the military and entered a war which they lost. The German military became the servants of Adolf Hitler, willingly or otherwise, and fought a war they lost."

Churchill was neither servant nor dictator but a leader who never forgot his responsibility to Parliament and the people.

Iowa State University Press, Press Building, Ames, Iowa 50010, USA, \$9.95 RLE

The Third Reich

"The Conspirators: 20th July 1944" (Roger Manvell)

"SS and Gestapo" (Roger Manvell)

"Warsaw Rising" (Günther Deschner)

"The assassination must be attempted at any cost. Even should that fail, the attempt to seize power in the capital must be undertaken. We must prove to the world and to future generations that the men of the German Resistance movement dared to take the decisive step and to hazard their lives upon it." These words of Major-General Henning von Tresckow, one of the principal conspirators of 20 July, sum up pretty accurately the spirit of those who decided that if German honour was ever to mean anything again, Germans should rid themselves of the criminal madman who ruled them.

In his broadcast after the assassination attempt, Hitler claimed it to be the work of a small clique of officers, but Mr Manvell shows that the conspiracy involved people from all walks of life. He gives a vivid description of the hatching of this and several other earlier plots.

The bloody aftermath of 20 July forms a vital chapter in Mr Manvell's other book, "SS and Gestapo," now re-issued. It details the whole frightful story of the multitudinous crimes committed in the name of the Third Reich.

And it was the SS too which put down the abortive Warsaw rising, ably described by Herr Deschner with a glowing tribute to the heroic men and women who sought to liberate their own capital in their own way.

The German SS general was so impressed by the Polish heroism that he permitted an honourable surrender. Officers kept their small arms, only Germans guarded the Polish prisoners and, when the city was evacuated, evacuees took with them objects of artistic, cultural or Christian value. All women prisoners were put into officer camps. For once, the SS kept its word.

Pan/Ballantine Ltd, 33 Tophill Street, London SW1, 50p each JCW

March to Tokio

"New Guinea: The Tide is Stemmed" (John Vader)

"New Georgia: Pattern for Victory" (D C Horton)

It was in the appalling climate of New Guinea, with its diseases and pests, its steaming jungles, mountains and ravines that Australian and American troops first stemmed the Japanese victory march. Mr Vader tells their story in a lively and efficient manner and frankly tells of the problems of having MacArthur as C-in-C, of his complete lack of understanding of this unique battlefield, of his impossible demands for spectacular advances and how the magnificent spirit and laconic humour of the Australians surmounted even this.

The New Georgia operation, on which Mr Horton presents a really fascinating narrative, was different. If Guadalcanal was the first step, New Georgia can justly be described as the second on the long road to Tokio. It was hard going, with the attackers finding that the fanatical resistance experienced in Guadalcanal was not isolated but general.

The Japs had to be burned and blasted from their bunkers and, when surrounded, they took to caves in the Kokengolo Hills. After

refusing calls to surrender, they were entombed as the cave entrances were dynamited.

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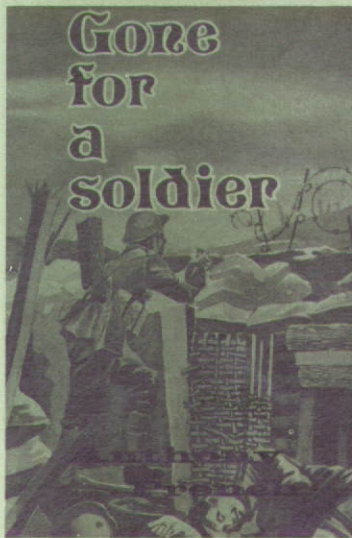
At platoon level

"Gone for a Soldier" (Anthony French)

In this splendid little memoir Mr French recalls his service in the ranks during four years of World War One in a London Territorial unit recruited mainly among members of the Civil Service. He takes us through training, or at least what there was of it, through his baptism of fire, taking his place in the line and the blessed moment when the reliefs arrived. Inevitably he is badly wounded.

Told from platoon level, this is a poignant description of life and death in the trenches. But through it all runs the golden thread of soldier humour and reminiscence. His account of his late-on-parade arrival by taxi at Chelsea Barracks is a gem. Can you imagine a taxi pulling up between the mounted colonel and the front ranks of his parade? Especially as the passenger is a mere attached infantryman.

The Roundwood Press, Kington, Warwickshire, £2.25 JCW



Caught at Tobruk

"The Police Brigade" (Brigadier F W Cooper)

Brigadier Cooper has produced a chatty account of the 6th South African Brigade, which he commanded from mobilisation until it went into Axis prison camps after the fall of Tobruk in 1942.

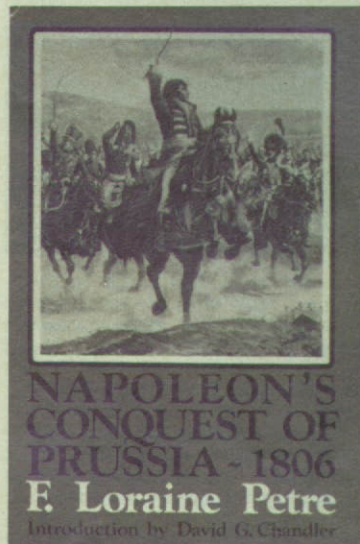
It was formed from the South African police, which had a military tradition and was trained to arms. Two days after volunteers were called for, the mobilisation order was given along with an order for a camp to be ready for the brigade in three days.

The first war casualties it saw were the crew of a German aircraft, shot down near the brigade's training camp in Egypt. The Germans were rushed to the field ambulance and an orderly sent to find an "I" officer to interrogate them. He returned with an ophthalmologist.

The brigade helped to build the Alamein defences before moving up the desert to distinguish itself at the fall of Sollum and Halfaya. In the siege of Tobruk its units had had

little contact with the enemy before the garrison, its other brigades overrun, capitulated. The author has firm answers for people who declare that large stocks of supplies were left for Rommel's men or that the garrison had the means to evacuate itself.

Constantia Publishers Ltd, PO Box 5, Cape Town, South Africa, R3.00 RLE



Blitzkrieg

"Napoleon's Conquest of Prussia, 1806" (F Loraine Petrie)

Historians often regard blitzkrieg tactics as the product of the German military mind. In fact the Germans probably copied the idea from the 1806 campaign conducted against Prussia by Napoleon. In 1805 the Austrians were defeated by the French and Prussia began to realise she was next on the list. There seemed little to fear. The Prussian war machine had been devised by the 18th century's finest commander, Frederick the Great. His soldiers were dedicated professionals and the cavalry was outstandingly good.

The Prussians were in for a very unpleasant surprise, however. Napoleon discounted 18th century military theory as archaic and believed in mobility and firepower. He had devised plans for massed artillery bombardments followed by rapid penetrations in depth. His infantry especially could cover the ground at an incredible speed.

Early in October 1806, Napoleon's armies went into the attack. Within a week two Prussian armies were shattered at Jena and Auerstadt and shortly afterwards Dresden, Leipzig and even Berlin were captured. Prussian losses were enormous: 25,000 killed and wounded, 140,000 prisoners and 2000 cannon.

This is an interesting reminder of what can be achieved by forces equipped to fight modern battles. In this reprint of a book originally published in 1907 it is a pity that the maps and plans have not been updated.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3, £3.00 AWH

Down with the ship

"Drums of the Birkenhead" (David Bevan)

"Two-hundred-odd men, on the deck of a troopship, standing to attention to a roll of drums while the ship went down. It's not on. It's

Drums of the Birkenhead



DAVID BEVAN FRGS FRSC

just not on." Thus Mr Bevan a year ago when he first came across the story of the Birkenhead. He began a little research which grew into a lot of research and ended in this book.

The Birkenhead, for those coming to the story even more recently than Mr Bevan, was a troopship which sank after hitting an uncharted rock off the South African coast in 1851. Her inadequate boats got away mostly filled with women and children. The soldiers remaining on board stood firmly in line on her poop and went down with the ship. Of 638 on board, 445 died, 363 of them Army officers and soldiers. Their superb discipline and selflessness were held up as a model to Victorian Britain.

Mr Bevan re-tells the tale very readably with an enthusiasm that shows him well convinced that it is "on."

He also reproduces survivors' reports, an account of the naval courts-martial that followed the disaster, nominal rolls of the people aboard the ship and, for good measure, potted histories of the ten "Birkenhead regiments."

Larson Publications, 353 West Barnes Lane, New Malden, Surrey, £3.25

RLE

Was it worth it?

"The Flames of Calais" (Airey Neave)

Three thousand British troops and 800 Frenchmen fought a four-day battle against hopeless odds to the bitter end at Calais in May 1940.

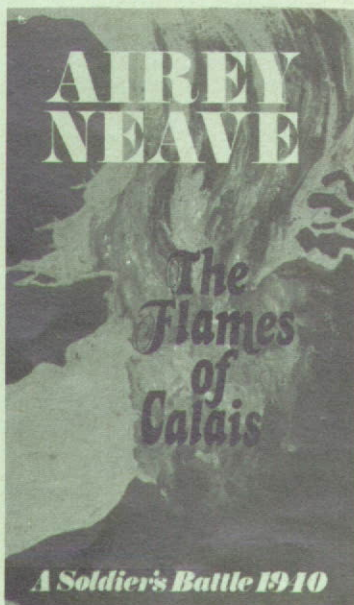
Was it worth it? Did the sacrifice of this dedicated garrison make the evacuation of Dunkirk possible?

After the war, Winston Churchill maintained that Calais had bought time to build up the Dunkirk perimeter. Liddell Hart was one of the critics who thought of Calais as a "useless sacrifice." The author, wounded and captured at Calais as a green Territorial subaltern in a searchlight unit, is emphatic that resistance at Calais was far from useless. "It hampered Guderian (the German tank commander) during crucial hours," he says.

The debate will long continue. It cannot bring credit to the staff officers who threw units into Calais with orders based on inaccurate or out-of-date information. It can bring only sympathy and admiration for Brigadier Claude Nicholson who fought his troops doggedly to the last and died in the ensuing captivity. It cannot diminish the glory of the Regulars and Territorials who fought bravely to the end.

Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, St Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London EC4, £3.50

RLE



A Soldier's Battle 1910

Chaldees to Chieftain

"The Guinness Book of Tank Facts and Feats" (Edited by Major Kenneth Macksey)

Editor Macksey has rounded up

The GUINNESS Book of

Tank Facts and Feats



Kenneth Macksey

like-minded officers—Major James Bingham, Colonel P H Hordern, Major W F Woodhouse and Colonel E F Offord—to do for the tank what this book's stablemate did for records.

All have served or are serving in the Royal Tank Regiment and they have unearthed some odd facts about armoured warfare. In Britain, for instance, we like to think we invented the tank. Maybe we did, but around 3500 BC at Ur of the Chaldees they had a four-wheeled vehicle drawn by four onagers. Its sides were armoured by stiffened hides. It had a crew of two armed with spears.

Old Leonardo da Vinci had a go in 1484. He devised an armoured vehicle in which men could move to their objective under covered protection and yet be able to fight through slits in the sides.

It is interesting to see how well the Russians emerge: First tanks carried by aircraft (slung beneath T-27 and T-38 bombers in 1936); best tank (the T-34—45,000 were built); and victory in the greatest tank battle, Kursk in July 1943, when 6000 Russian and German machines clashed.

To Britain goes the palm for the most powerful tank in service with any army today—the mighty Chieftain.

The Americans took the first tank ride in a nuclear irradiated zone, in a Sherman immediately after the Alamogordo test.

This excellent book is supremely informative and very well illustrated. It is a tank history and text book rolled into one and will give its readers many hours of enjoyment.

Guinness Superlatives Ltd, 2 Cecil Court, London Road, Enfield, Middlesex, £2.75

JCW

Soldier v politician

"The Maurice Case" (Edited by Nancy Maurice)

"It is customary for soldiers to damn politicians. While this is very natural, it has never seemed to me to be a very useful practice, for no soldier has yet invented an efficient substitute for the politician. It is more profitable, therefore, to try to make politicians better than to condemn them to perdition."

Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice, who wrote those words in 1922, had four years earlier failed notably to make politicians better. When the British armies on the Western Front took a hard knock, Prime Minister Lloyd George told Parliament that their fighting strength was greater at the beginning of 1918 than a year earlier and quoted figures to suggest that few white troops were engaged in the Middle East sideshow.

General Maurice, who had just left his post as Director of Military Operations, knew these statements to be wrong. He felt the Government

THE MAURICE CASE

Nancy Maurice

was blaming the Army for ministers' mistakes. So he wrote a letter to the Press. He hoped to get a judicial enquiry but failed.

General Maurice's daughter has produced an untidy and repetitious book which none the less provides justification for a gallant and self-sacrificing officer.

Leo Cooper, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.50

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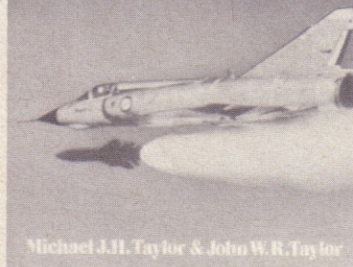
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MISSILES of the world



Michael J.H. Taylor & John W.R. Taylor

In brief

"Ferrets and Fox" (R M Ogorkiewicz)

A generation of armoured cars is the subject of the 44th in the Profile series on armoured fighting vehicles and weapons which will eventually cover all the major fighting vehicles of the world and many of the weapons used in two major wars.

Mr Ogorkiewicz's data-filled and interesting narrative has a large number of big photographs and a coloured centre spread.

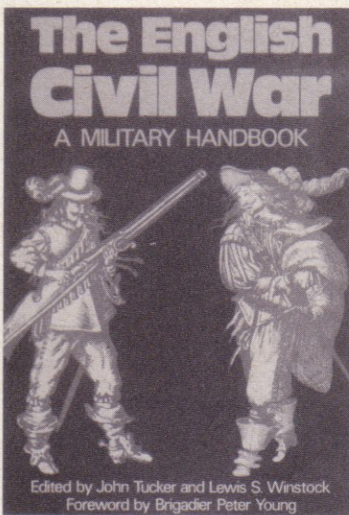
Profile Publications Ltd, Coburg House, Sheet Street, Windsor, Berkshire, S14 1EB, 40p

"The English Civil War: A Military Handbook" (Edited by John Tucker and Lewis S Winstock)

The activities of the Sealed Knot and the growing popularity of wargaming will guarantee the success of this slim volume which aims to provide a handy reference for the colourful period of Cavaliers and Roundheads.

Although the appearance of this "miniature encyclopaedia" is welcomed, the book itself is marred by irritating minor errors and a tendency to "overprint" pictures on the text and thus obscure the reading matter. There is barely a mention of Scotland, apart from a few lines on Montrose. Most military commentators would rate him as equal to Cromwell and, without the appearance of Scottish troops at Marston Moor, Parliament might well have lost the war.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3, £1.70



Edited by John Tucker and Lewis S Winstock
Foreword by Brigadier Peter Young

"Battles for Wargamers: The American Civil War 1862" (Terence Wise)
This handy little paperback covers five American Civil War battles fought in 1862—Kernstown, Winchester, Cross Keys/Port Republic, Gaines Mill and Cedar Run—and each is accompanied by a map and a photograph of the battle as reconstructed for a wargame.

The briefing covers the aims of the forces engaged, forces in support, the terrain (including man-made defences) and major outside events influencing the commanders' decisions. Mr Wise then gives an account of the battle, pointing to the mistakes and results which provide lessons for players, and sums up with special reference to moves which decided the outcome.

Casualty lists and losses of equipment and artillery complete the picture. Finally he supplies painting guides for models, lists of regiments engaged and an organisation guide. Model & Allied Publications Ltd, 13/15 Bridge Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, 75p

JCW

were subsequently copied by the armies of other countries.

Rank distinctions, insignia and infantry weapons are also included to make this a handy reference, especially for the keen modeller.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 270 Burlington Road, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4NL, £1.50 (paperback), £2.00 (hardback)

A Source Book of Military Wheeled Vehicles



"A Source Book of Military Wheeled Vehicles" (Edited by B H Vanderveen)

Current interest in vehicles, both tracked and wheeled, stems largely from their growing historical value. Take for instance the Kubelwagen, the military version of the pre-war Volkswagen. Once the most common vehicle in the Wehrmacht, it is today a collector's item.

This wide-ranging little book covers military vehicles of all sorts and of all nations from the Austro-Daimler Panzerspahwagen—a 1903 armoured car developed in Austria—to the latest vehicles of the Seventies. Profusely illustrated, it will be of value to all students of military transport and to all those modelling wargamers.

Ward Lock Ltd, 116 Baker Street, London, W1M 2BB, 95p

"A Distant Drum" (Captain J Pereira)

"War is only an incident in the history of the Coldstream Guards," wrote Captain Pereira in the final World War Two issue of the 5th Battalion's news-sheet.

So it is part of an incident he describes in this personal, mildly reflective, account of the battalion's journey from Normandy to Cuxhaven. It was a hard-fought trip, relieved by the hilarity of the liberation of Brussels. It added a Victoria Cross to the Coldstreamers' honours and cost them 230 dead. In 1948, when his book was first published, the author added to his comment of three years earlier, "But my, what an incident!" Pedestrian, perhaps, but his honest story needs no bolstering.

SR Publishers, Ltd, East Ardsley, Wakefield, Yorkshire, £3.00

U.S. ARMY UNIFORMS

1939-1945

Roy Dilley



Including combat dress, rank distinctions, insignia, and infantry weapons



ALMARK PUBLICATIONS

"United States Army Uniforms, 1939-1945" (Roy Dilley)

This well-illustrated 80-page book provides a concise coverage of the uniforms worn by the United States Army in World War Two. There are more than 110 photographs, some showing uniforms being worn in actual combat conditions, as well as line drawings and six colour pages. The supporting text describes the various types of clothing and their development and shows how the somewhat clumsy combat dress in use at the time American troops entered the war evolved in a very short time into an eminently practical fighting outfit, facets of which

Awesome armament

"Missiles of the World" (Michael J H Taylor and John W R Taylor)

This is the only book presently in circulation which contains details and photographs of all guided missiles known to be in service or under development throughout the world. The authors (they contribute the missiles section to "Jane's Fighting Ships" and "Jane's All the World's Aircraft") have standardised their descriptions so that the engineer or military student can compare the weaponry of the various owning states.

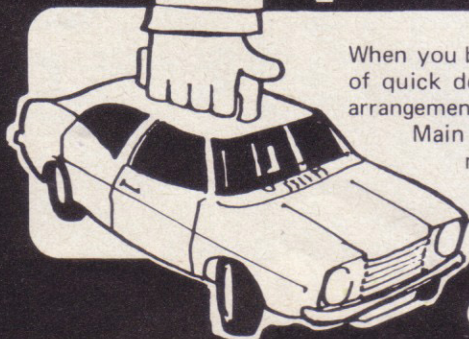
The information is presented in a way that can be understood by the non-technical minded. No reader will fail to be awed by the immense destructive power of these weapons. They are so terrifying that one must believe they have made a major war impossible. There are round-the-corner missiles to knock out the heaviest tanks, missiles to destroy aircraft, missiles which have replaced aircraft, air-to-surface missiles, missiles which can deliver a 25-megaton H-bomb, and missiles to intercept missiles.

The answer to "When is it all going to end?" can only be that the world would be wise not to let anything start. One cannot believe there would ever be a second chance.

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