

# Soldier

25p

NOVEMBER 1980



CRUSADER 80

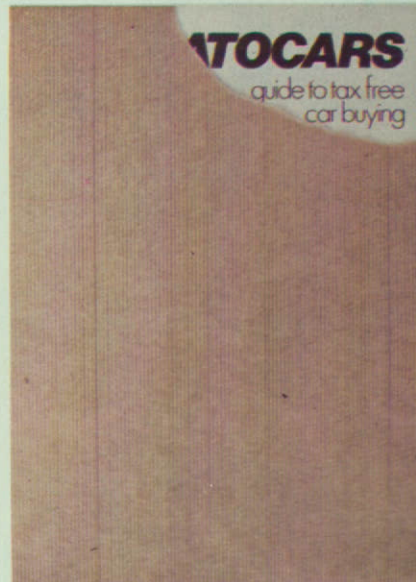




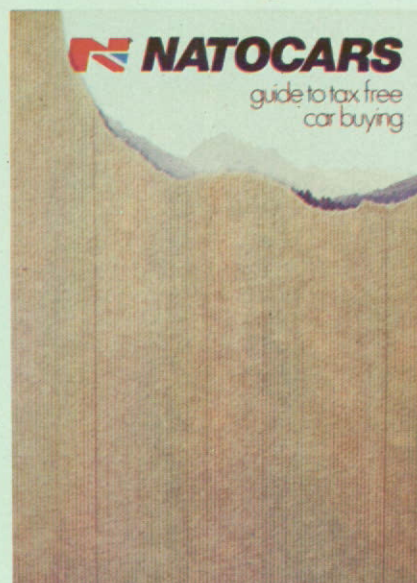
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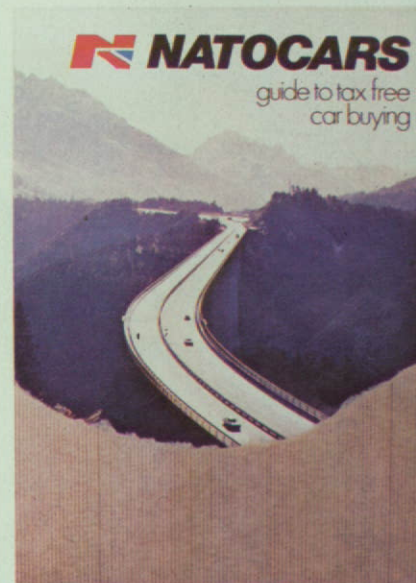
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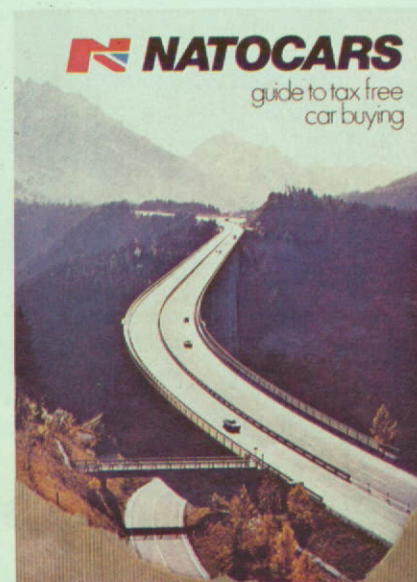
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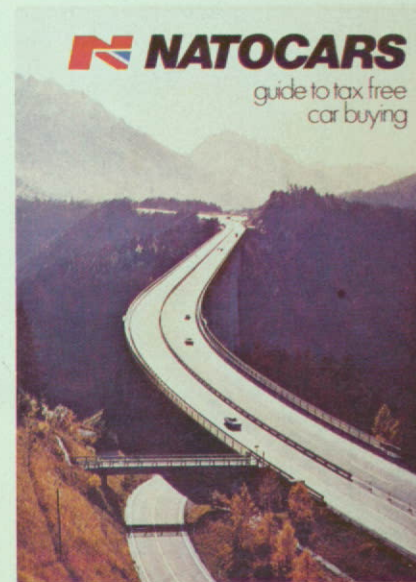
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In a muddy field in Lower Saxony men of 16 Air Defence Regiment Royal Artillery man Rapier surface-to-air missiles during Exercise Spearpoint. Story — page 27.

*Picture by Paul Haley*



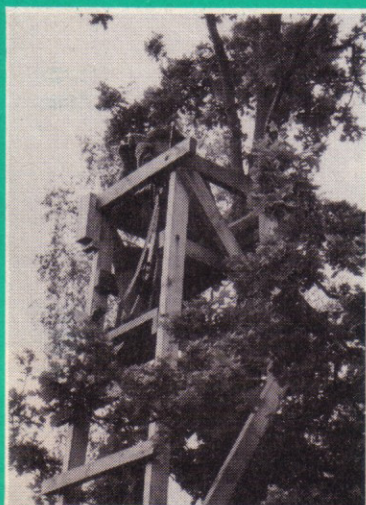
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*Picture by Doug Pratt*



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Subscription (13 issues): UK/BFPO £4.92, Elsewhere £5.76

SOLDIER News subscription (26 issues); UK/BFPO £5.15, Elsewhere £5.00.

Send UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order **expressed in sterling** and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed. Payments to be sent to SOLDIER and made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2DU (phone GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military).

SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1980.

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In far-away  
Sri Lanka three  
members of  
the WRAC are  
acting as  
'midwives'  
at the

# BIRTH OF A NEW MODEL ARMY

Story:  
Judith Stares



MARK TWAIN WAS ONCE ASKED where men would be without women? "Very scarce," he replied. "Very scarce."

Without a doubt, the British soldier would agree with those sentiments, even when he's saluting a senior WRAC officer!

Half-way around the world, three British girls are proving this point and also acting as midwives to an historical event — the birth of a new women's Army.

Sri Lanka — previously known as Ceylon — produced the world's first woman Prime Minister in 1959, but it has taken them a further 21 years to decide that women could serve their country in any other capacity.

Women soldiers were the brainwave of the island's President Jayewardene, who saw that women were proving to be excellent in many fields hitherto reserved for men only, and decided they should be given the chance to show their true colours on the parade ground, if not the battle-field.

After top-level Government consultations, the British Army was asked to assist in the formation of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps and in 1979 an exploratory team was flown out to make recommendations. Now, three members of the WRAC on Loan Service, who arrived last June, are based at the hill-top Army Training Centre in Diyatalawa, Sri Lanka's equivalent of Aldershot (but with the compensation of breathtaking scenery!).

Major Janet Lawson, Major Jackie Whitehead and Staff Sergeant 'Phil' Phillips, have been writing the syllabus, course details and standing orders for the new military baby, which claims that it will select only the 'cream' of the island's beautiful girls.

Pioneers in every sense, the three WRACs are currently the only resident females amongst 3000 square-bashing soldiers. They are busy doing the initial

Left: Sri Lankan officer cadets come to Camberley for training. Here they practise search drill.

Above left: S/Sgt Phillips, Maj Whitehead and Maj Lawson with the CO Col Thambyrajah.

spade-work and will stay for two years to get the infant Army on its feet. As Janet Lawson admits: "When we first arrived, there were whole squads walking off the side of the road as they turned their heads to look at us. But I think they're getting used to us gradually!"

Their most enthusiastic supporter is Sandhurst-trained Colonel Thambyrajah — CO at the Garrison which will welcome the first intake of the new Corps. "It's an excellent idea to have women in the Army," he maintains. "For the first few days it might seem rather strange, but I'm sure it will soon be accepted. It's a privilege to have the WRAC girls here — it makes me very proud."

But why the sudden decision to invite women into their ranks now? "I think it is a world-wide tendency," explains the Colonel. "Sri Lanka prides itself on equality for women in many ways, and it is also an excellent chance for more job opportunities for girls. There's the chance for travel, too. We've already sent six cadet officers over for training to England."

Janet Lawson explained: "We had to get our officers and NCOs from somewhere, so we advertised in the local papers. We had 300 replies for 12 vacancies! They had to meet very high specifications. All the officers have four 'A' levels. But you can't just recruit a Brigadier. The highest rank at first is going to be Major, and the Corps will be limited initially to 150. Perhaps a male officer will have to take command at first until one of the girls is ready. Unlike the WRAC which gradually grew out of other organisations, this is literally an instant army."

There has been much activity at Diyatalawa preparing new quarters for the girls. The officers will use the Officers' Mess, but a new dining room, kitchen and

Above: WRAC team watch men march past new dormitory for girl recruits — note fencing!

administrative block are being licked into shape. The new girls' dormitory is being painted a viridol green and is already surrounded by high wire fencing. There are no coy excuses given for this. "It's to keep the men out," admits Janet cheerfully.

Welfare is something which is hard to legislate for in advance, but there are certain cultural differences to be considered. "I don't think the girls will have the same amount of freedom in the junior ranks as we do in Britain," says Janet. "The British girl on the whole goes out on her own quite a lot, but the Sri Lankan girl is much more protected. We would say that the girls here have a great lack of freedom, but they don't seem to feel it. In fact, they are quite lost if there are no men around!"

One problem they do envisage is sore feet. With a tropical climate 12 months' of the year, most of the recruits will only have worn sandals since birth, but they will be expected to wear heavy shoes for drill. "We anticipate quite a few foot complaints, but we haven't appointed an official chiropodist — I think the camp doctor will be able to cope."

Taking drill in the local Singhalese tongue will be a new experience for S/Sgt Phillips, and all three girls take twice-weekly lessons in the language. "All the Sri Lankan girl officers speak English, and most of the NCOs. It wasn't specified, but we feel it is up to us to learn their language, too. We can have a trained instructor speaking perfect Singhale, but we need to understand the language to measure her progress."

One of the most pleasurable and feminine tasks has been to decide on the uniform. The new soldiers will wear a jungle green outfit which includes dresses, skirts and trousers. But the real *pièce de résistance* is the officers' mess gear — a magnificent mid-

continued on page 8



night blue sari with moonstone accessories of necklace, earrings and hairpieces. The long, glossy hair — crowning glory of all the local girls — will be neatly coiled up in a 'konde' or bun.

The structure of the new Women's Corps is almost identical to that of the WRAC with two rather revolutionary differences. In spite of being unarmed and non-combatant, the women will be paid on exactly the same scale as the men, abolishing the two-and-a-half percent differential endured by their British sisters. Also, though this is discreetly written into the very small print, officers will be allowed to return to their career after having a family. Janet explains why this could work for Sri Lanka, but not the Western world. "There is a much greater use of servants over here, so there is almost always someone to help in the home. Also,

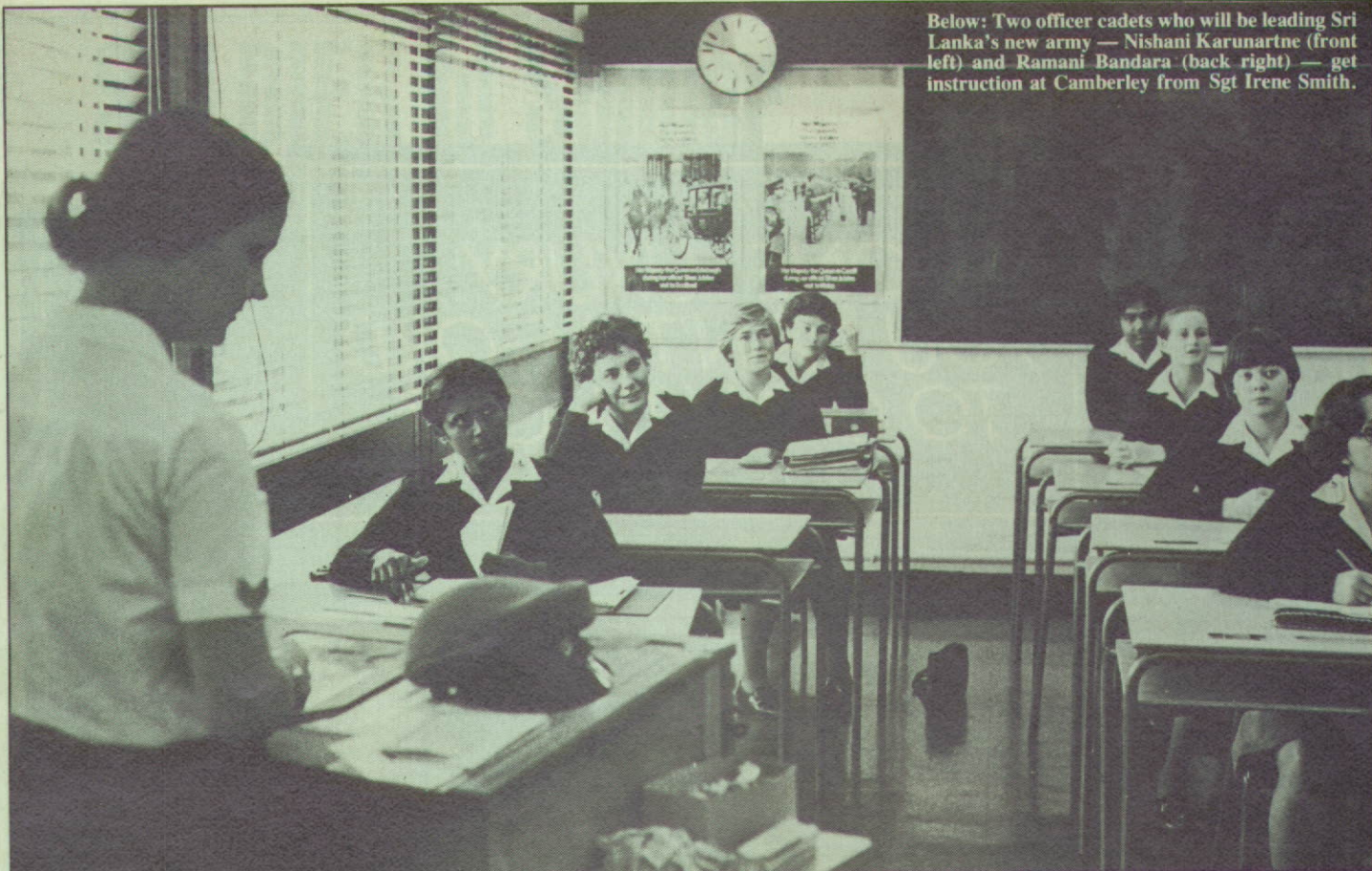


Left: Sgt Phillips looks out over parade ground.  
Below: The new bungalow shared by the team.

Above: Capt Whitehead lays a foundation brick for the new administration block at Diyatalawa.







Below: Two officer cadets who will be leading Sri Lanka's new army — Nishani Karunartne (front left) and Ramani Bandara (back right) — get instruction at Camberley from Sgt Irene Smith.

families are much closer and often actually live together, so any problems looking after children would be minimized."

Practically speaking, trained officers will be at a premium for several years, so it is natural that everything will be done to keep them in the service. "Marriage is not allowed for two years for officers, and five years for other ranks, so it's unlikely that problems concerned with maternity leave will crop up whilst we're here," says Janet with some relief. Banner headlines reading 'Mum's Army' might well cause a rift in diplomatic relations!

The initial engagement is for five years — the same as men. But women will not be permitted to work during the night. Their shifts will be between the hours of 6 am and 5 pm and all the girls will live in to begin with. "We are going to have to take things very gradually to accustom the men to the women," admits Janet. "The original reaction was that everything should be kept separate, but it makes more sense when there are relatively few women for them to be able to share some of the facilities. Undoubtedly, we shall have to alter attitudes a little bit!"

Romance among the ranks, so common back home, is unlikely to flourish in the Sri Lankan atmosphere. Most of the island is of Buddhist faith, and marriages are carefully arranged after consulting respective horoscopes. "Astrology is used to decide nearly all major domestic issues," says Jackie Whitehead. "But it certainly won't be used to select recruits!"

Success in sport is going to be much more advantageous than being born under the right star, and the requirements for NCOs alone are enough to make any casual applicant think twice. So precise is the standard, that it's worth quoting in full:

Candidates must:

*Have successfully completed a course in a*

*recognised sports/physical training institution for a minimum of six months*

*or*

*Have at least five years' experience as a sports mistress*

*or*

*Have been placed first in a particular sport in an all-island competition, or have represented Sri Lanka as a member of a sports team in an international game.*

*or*

*Have represented the school in the first team of two sports . . . . and have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an all-island interschool athletics meet.*

. . . All this plus four GCEs!

"Sri Lankans are very keen on sport, which is why such a bias has been written in," explains Janet. Then there is, of course, the Basic Fitness Test, which candidates should find a doddle!

One of the best advertisements for the 'good life', is the British team themselves. With a total of 64 years' service between them, they are proving that adaptability is the name of the game. Encounters with four-foot snakes, and putting up with the men calling them 'Sir' have all been taken in their stride.

The girls are the first residents of a new three-bedroomed bungalow which will form part of a small estate of officers' married quarters. Already they have purchased sarees, and Janet Lawson is adept at the Sri Lankan skill of eating with her fingers — and that includes the gravy!

Socially, they say that life has been something of a whirl. "We have no TV and our radio doesn't work, so we tend to visit other people a lot," says Jackie. "We can also go down to the gym or play golf — they have 'browns' instead of 'greens' here!"

With two resident house-boys who do all the cooking and cleaning, they admit that their only household chore is washing their

own 'smalls'. We work a five-day week, but expect to be on duty almost all the time once the first lot of recruits arrive," says Phil. "We're learning so much though — we're even ridden on an elephant."

Brigadier Jayasinghe is the Personnel Director in Colombo and has been helping to master-mind the whole operation. "I think the men on the whole are slightly amused, but there is the realisation that it could be a very good thing for the Army," he says. "We're building a new military hospital and we very much want to have our own nursing staff. You get more work out of them than civilians! I can foresee the Women's Corps expanding rapidly because there has been such an enormous response. We chose the British Army as a model because firstly the language is more convenient and, secondly, because we have such long associations with your country and we want to continue them. Practically all our officers were trained in Britain until 1966. We hope our first 50 recruits will be ready to parade during Independence Day celebrations on 4th February next year."

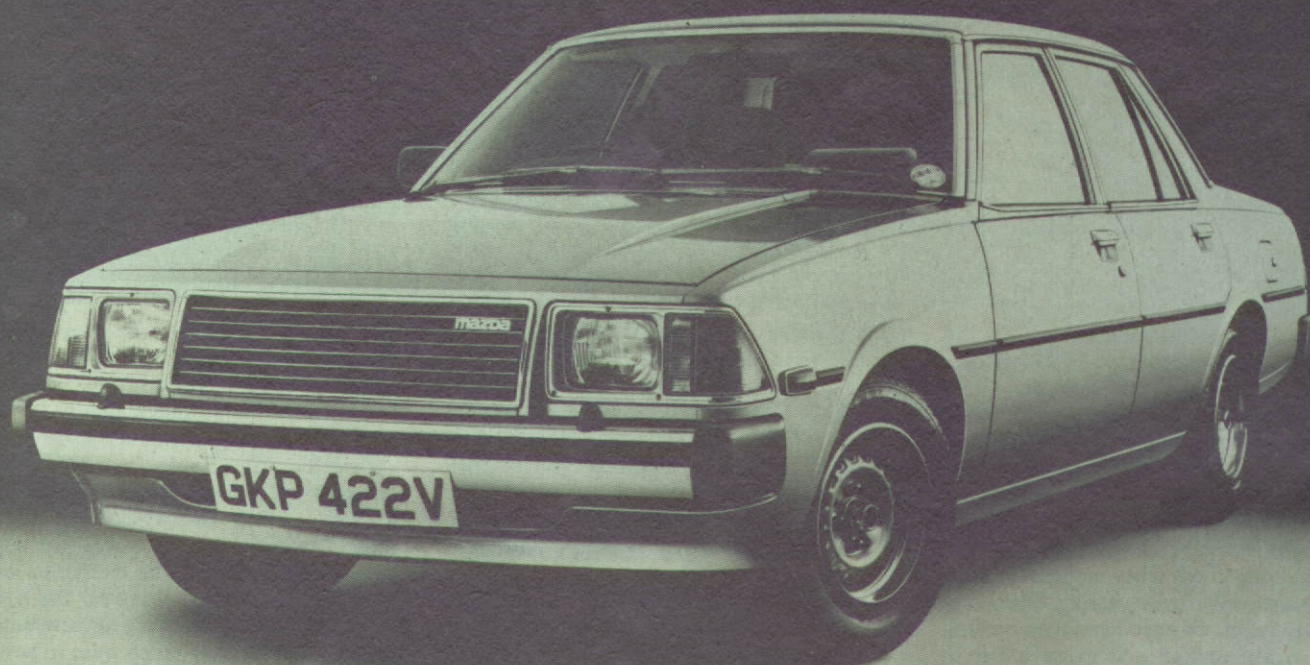
The new army has cost £3m to set up, with an additional £1.3m for clothing and equipment. The first three officers were sponsored by the UK Military Assistance Training Scheme.

In a letter home, which the Brigadier treasures, one of the young Sri Lankan ladies, braving wintry weather at Camberley, writes: "We have to do rather difficult exercises for PT and run one-and-a-half miles every day. But it is interesting . . .!"

The last word should go to Lieutenant-Colonel David Cox, Defence Adviser at the British High Commission. "The girls have added a new dimension to my life," he said with a smile. "It is a great honour for Britain. One of the nice things about Sri Lanka is the very warm affection they have for their British history."



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# SOLDIER to Soldier

**S**O, at last, Crusader 80 is all over. Preparing for the battle took two years. Fighting it, two weeks. But it was a fortnight whose lessons will go on being analysed, dissected and pondered on for many months — even years — to come.

Inevitably the battle highlighted shortages of manpower and equipment. And there were also many lessons to be learned and digested about battlefield command and tactics. But the overriding lesson remains one for the politicians — the vital importance, should danger threaten, of mobilising UK reserves and reinforcements early enough to support the Corps' forward troops. In the event, the TA made it — but only just and in a desperately tired state.

As was to be expected the soldiers taking part in the 'conflict' rose magnificently to the occasion and their effort and commitment carried tremendous conviction. It was heartening as well to see our German and American allies performing so effectively.

And an overwhelming debt of thanks must go to the local German civilians who cheerfully accepted their farms and villages being overrun by troops and armour and even welcomed battle-weary soldiers into their homes for hot drinks and hot baths.

There may never be another British exercise to match Crusader but only a cynic could doubt that it was time and money well spent. It has shown that our mobilisation and battle plans can work. It has demonstrated — to our allies and potential enemies alike — that we are a credible and convincing deterrent force. And, thanks to the massive media coverage generated by the 'war', it has graphically brought home to the British taxpayer why he needs an Army and what it is there to do. That perhaps is Crusader 80's most important and valuable lesson of all.



**N**O one was kept busier during Crusader 80 than SOLDIER's own reporting team, who spent a hectic three weeks at the Allied Press Centre in Hildesheim producing a special exercise newspaper *Spearpoint News*.

The aim of the paper was to keep troops in the field in touch with how the battle was progressing. Four issues were produced in just eleven days, a punishing schedule that meant our team working an average 14 hours a day.

The paper, which won praise at all levels, was a triumph of tri-national co-operation with American and German reporters providing copy for their own forces. Printing and production were handled by the local *Hildesheimer Allgemeine* and 50,000 copies of each issue were sent out free to troops with their rations.



As a special Crusader 80 souvenir, SOLDIER is offering — in very limited numbers — complete sets of all four issues of *Spearpoint News* for just £1. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Command Cashier UKLF and should be sent to: SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU. But hurry — stocks will not last long.



Orders are already rolling in for the 1981 Army Calendar — available again this year from SOLDIER. Each month features a different Army job with a picture of one of the men or women performing it. In full colour, the calendar measures 15½ inches across by 11½ inches deep and there is space beside each date for brief diary entries. It will make an attractive addition to the home or office and an ideal gift.

SOLDIER is offering the calendars at the same price as last year — £1.80 for UK/BFPO readers and £2.00 for those living elsewhere, post and packing included. Early orders are advised as stocks are limited. Remittances, as usual, should be by UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order *expressed in sterling*. They should be sent to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants but should be made payable to Command Cashier UKLF.

**W**HY do British tank names usually seem to begin with the letter C? This question is sparked off by a keen eyed reader, Lieutenant-Colonel W Steel Brownlie, of Paisley, Scotland, who has made quite a study of tank names.

Colonel Steel Brownlie confesses that he does not know the origins of this tradition — his guess is that it may be because many of them were developed from the American 'Christie Cruiser.'

Forty years ago we had the Covenant and the Crusader. These were followed by the Cavalier, the Centaur, the Cromwell and the Comet. Then came a name which is about to make a reappearance.

Says the colonel: "One day about April 1945 I was motoring along somewhere near the Weser when I saw what appeared to be a block of flats crossing a field to my right. Closer inspection revealed that it was mounted on a Centaur type hull and was a huge straight-sided turret, with a 17 pounder gun sticking out of the front." The name was **Challenger!**

Colonel Steel Brownlie queries why it is necessary to use an old name again. Even if the name has to begin with 'C' there are plenty to choose from. Cormorant, Condor, Cockerel, Cockroach, Centipede, Cheetah etc etc.

He suggests Carolus (Latin for Charles) as 'looking to the future.' Or as a second choice 'Congreve' the rocket inventor. We would like to hear from any reader who has what he considers to be a better idea (printable please).



**W**HAT Servicemen Down Under wear down under their uniforms is causing a bit of a furore in the letters columns of *Australian Army* our Antipodean counterpart. For female soldiers are paid \$124 (about £58) on enlistment so that they can buy underwear of their own choice while the hapless male Diggers have to make do with six sets of shorts and singlets which, according to one correspondent, "are ungainly and not worn by most soldiers."

Pommy pants policy is different our enquiries reveal. Soldiers are only issued with underwear to be worn while out in the field under combat clothing. The colour is green and the idea is that if the soldier finds himself *sans culottes* in the field or has to hang his smalls up to dry they will blend into the countryside. But back at the barracks anything goes.

Asking the WRAC about their underwear didn't prove as embarrassing as we thought. It turns out that no official issues are made and, to quote the WRAC spokesman, "this is left to female discretion." The only regulation which does apply to the girl soldiers is that their tights must conform to three shades — all basically brown.

Meanwhile the Aussies have set up a Male Uniform Review Committee and the vexed question of compulsory underwear is sure to be one of the things it will consider.



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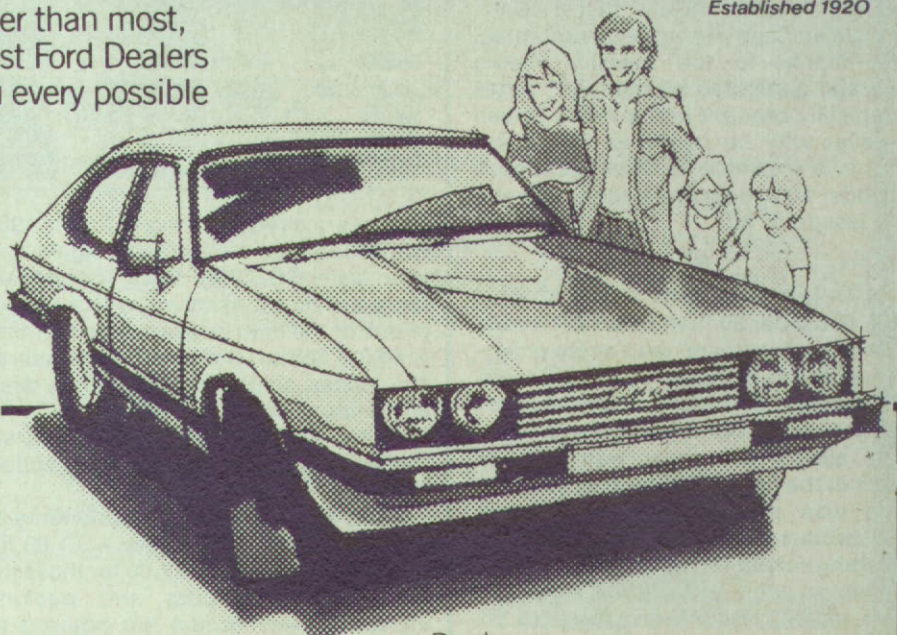
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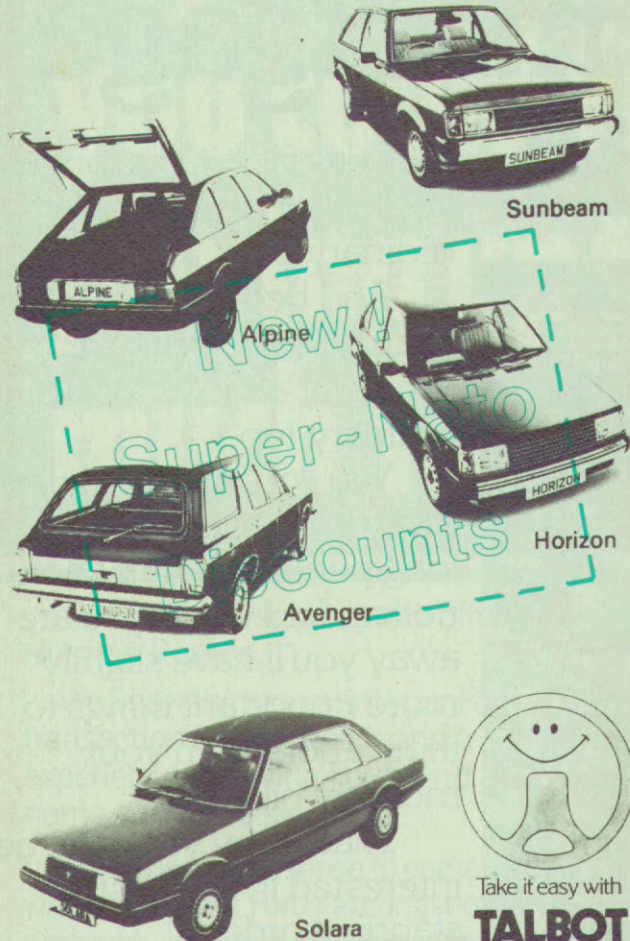


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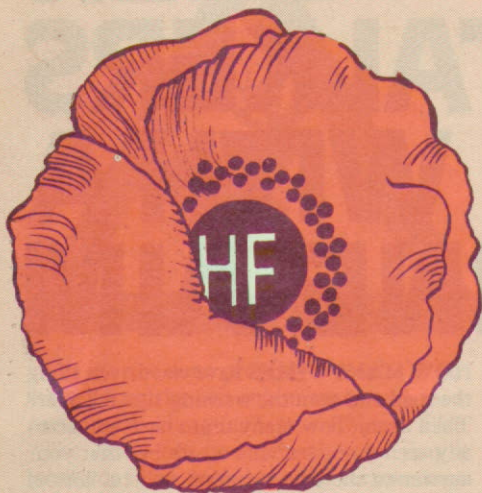
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# Poppies still flourish 60 years on



IN THE GRIM DAYS of May 1915 during the second battle of Ypres, where poison gas was used for the first time, a flower grew amongst the carnage. It was the poppy — now a symbol for the remembrance of Britain's war dead.

A Canadian doctor, who subsequently died, wrote a poem while in the dugout, which was his field dressing station, which ended with the lines:

*If ye break faith with us who die*

*We shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders fields.*

Those words were published in *Punch* magazine a few months afterwards and an American lady, Miss Moina Michael, began to wear a poppy as a symbol of keeping faith with the war dead. Soon afterwards she met a French YMCA secretary, a Madame Guerin, who conceived the idea of manufacturing poppies with profits going to assist people returning to war devastated areas of France.

For the British Legion's first Poppy Day in 1921 the poppies came from France. But the next year a factory was set up in London's Old Kent Road with five disabled men as its first employees.

Today the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory still has a human link with those early days — one of the original five workers is still there making poppies and there are two other workers who joined in 1923.



But the staff has grown somewhat over the last sixty years — now there is a total of 113 plus 17 part-timers and another 59 people who assemble poppies in their own homes. And some poppy work is also done at three British Legion homes for disabled ex-servicemen.

Each year some 45 million poppies are produced, plus 248,000 Remembrance Crosses and 70,000 wreaths. The poppies are developed from bulk bonded fibre and raw plastic. A new design out this year is for car windscreens and consists of a poppy attached to a rubber sucker of the type beloved by small boys. It is estimated that the amount of bonded fabric used for poppy petals each

year would stretch from London to Biarritz with enough black alkathene to make 200,000 washing up bowls.

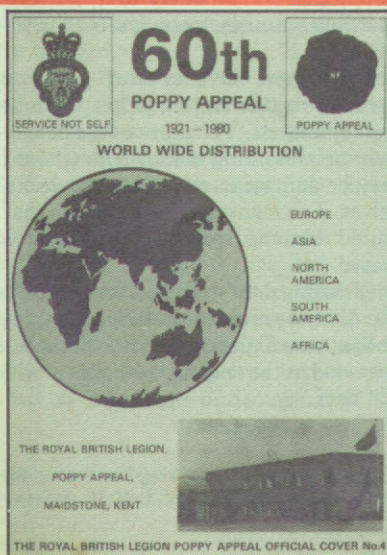
But perhaps one of the most important things to remember when you buy your poppy this year is that not only do the proceeds go to help the veterans of two World Wars but that each poppy is made by a disabled ex-Servicemen — many of whom would find it nigh impossible to find any other suitable employment.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow,*

*Between the crosses, row on row . . .*

Above: Work on wreath which the Queen will lay at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

Below: Putting in the poppy stalks and buttons.



The Royal British Legion is issuing a series of five commemorative postal covers to mark this year's 60th Poppy Appeal. The single covers are £1 and complete sets £4.50.

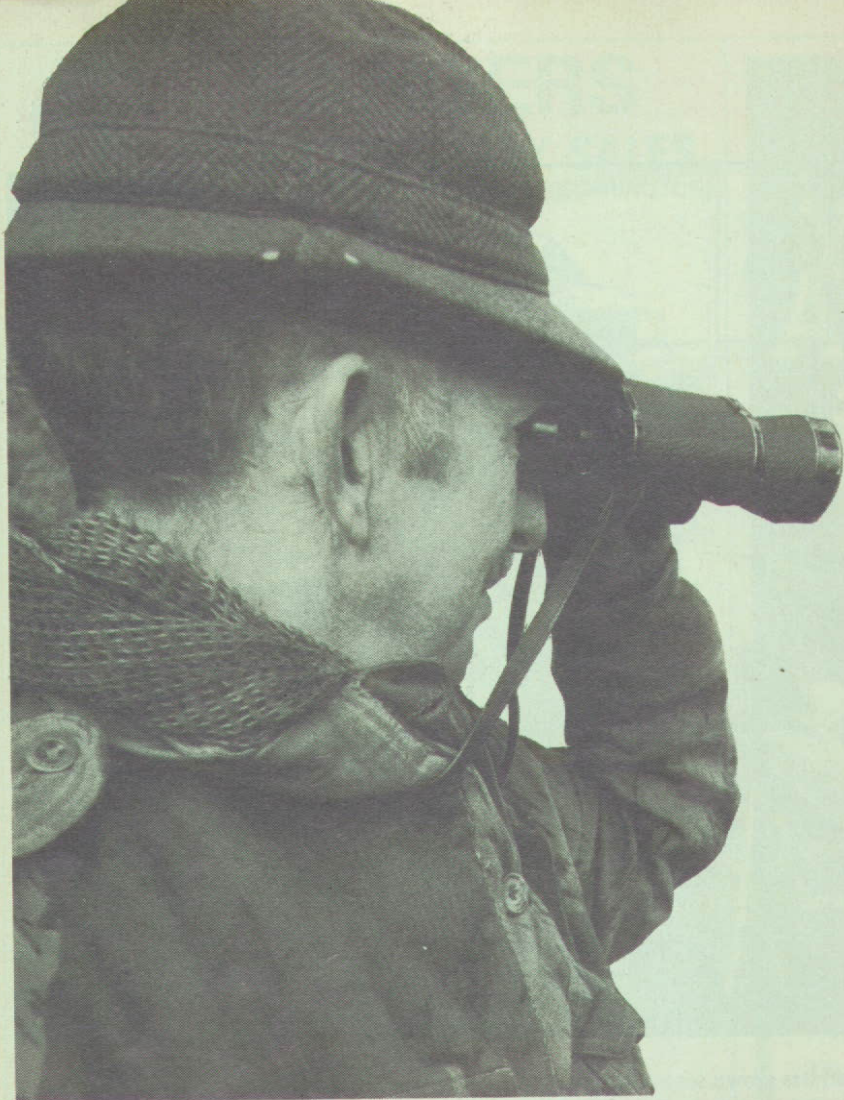
The five covers show *The Beginning* picturing the founder, Field Marshal Earl Haig; *Poppies and Wreaths* featuring a disabled worker in the Poppy factory; *Organisation*, which depicts the role of the Honorary Organiser; *Distribution*, a geographical view of the regions to which poppies are despatched (illustrated here) and *Festival of Remembrance* which commemorates the 50th Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Cheques, money or postal orders should be crossed 'A/C payee' and made payable to 'The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal' and sent to The Royal British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent.





# DEER STALKERS WITH A FINE AIM



HOW MANY TIMES have you driven along the road and seen the warning sign for deer? Then again, how many times have you actually seen any deer? It's a safe bet that your answer to the first question will be 'lots of times' and to the second 'never' or 'once or twice'.

In fact the deer population of this country is enormous as many farmers and smallholders can testify from the damage to their growing crops. But the shy, nocturnal animals rarely come into contact with man.

Ministry of Defence lands, which these days are regarded as among the best of wildlife sanctuaries, have a large share of the British deer. And, under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence Conservation Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Clayden, a management policy for controlling them has been formulated.

Roe deer, in particular, far from being threatened by extinction as the town dweller might think, have increased substantially in recent times — playing havoc with forestry plantations.

Colonel Clayden is the man responsible for the deer management policy and he maintains a register of trainee and qualified deer managers, who he liaises with and advises. But in South East District the actual control is carried out by the training department.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Clee, who until recently was the head training officer at South East District, was a man who had some experience of deer in the past. He told SOLDIER: "The public would be amazed if they knew the number of roe deer in the South of England. It is an extremely beautiful animal but it can be extremely destructive and it multiplies at a quick rate if it is allowed to go unchecked".

Thus there is a control policy which involves regular culling to keep numbers to the right levels. The motives are mixed — to help neighbouring landowners whose crops may be damaged and to help the deer themselves. Too many deer would mean that food would become scarce and animals would starve.

Choosing deer stalkers is something which the Army does most carefully. They must be able to use a high powered rifle because this is regarded as the only humane way in which to kill deer.

Top: Warden Bill Flynn keeps an eye out for deer from an observation tower. Left: Its rickety steps.



**Story: John Walton**  
**Pictures: Paul Haley**





"If it's not done properly it results in farmers doing the job inhumanely and inexpertly with shotguns" says Colonel Clee. "The Army has no interest except that as landlords if we don't keep the vermin down on Army lands we very soon become the recipients of vociferous complaints from the landowners round about."

To become a recognised Army deer stalker an applicant takes a written examination about deer and their habits. He also has to pass a marksmanship test.

Finding volunteers in sufficient numbers for the district is quite difficult. Conditions are often cold, wet and miserable and the job means getting up very early in the morning and going on very late at night because dusk and dawn are the only times to cull deer.

The number to be culled each year is carefully arrived at by examining the population from a sightings census. Then the correct number of bucks and does — of the right ages — are shot.

Colonel Clee is at pains to emphasise that the deer control scheme is not a sport. "People can't get it out of their heads that it is a thinly disguised form of sport. From Norman times the man in the street has always associated the killing of deer with sport.

"It's difficult to refute because all the people who manage the deer are volunteers. But they don't get their enjoyment from killing the animals — rather from observing and studying them and knowing they are being managed well."

The deer stalkers have to pay their own expenses, including ammunition. They are allowed to keep carcasses to defray costs — although all of them assert that this does not cover a fraction.

Major John Batchelor, who runs the Deer Conservation Group in the Bordon/Longmoor area, supports this: "The great thing we all enjoy is watching them. I always feel a pang of regret when an animal has been shot".

Major Batchelor declares: "Conservation means allowing animals to live and breed normally and culling only when absolutely necessary. This year we are going to kill very few bucks. We think we can afford a higher population than we had before because we have had no complaints of damage at all".

*continued on page 19*

Top right: Deer taking it easy (Picture D Pratt).



Right: Major John Batchelor shows the damage done by deer to saplings by eating the bark away.



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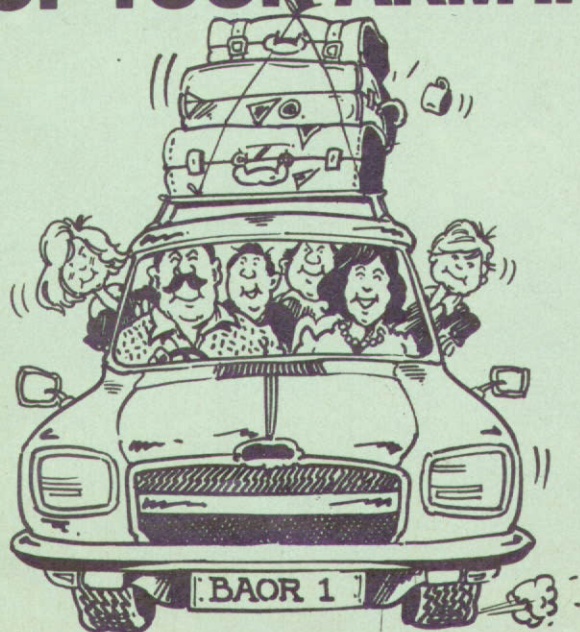
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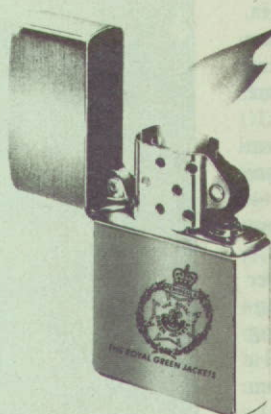
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Above: Sgt Rick Curling and different antlers.

One of the stalkers, Sergeant Alec Fulton, Royal Army Dental Corps, doesn't entirely agree about why they volunteer. He says: "There is a sporting element as well as conservation. After all, a new rifle costs £300 and I don't know of any stalker who does not do some rough shooting as well".

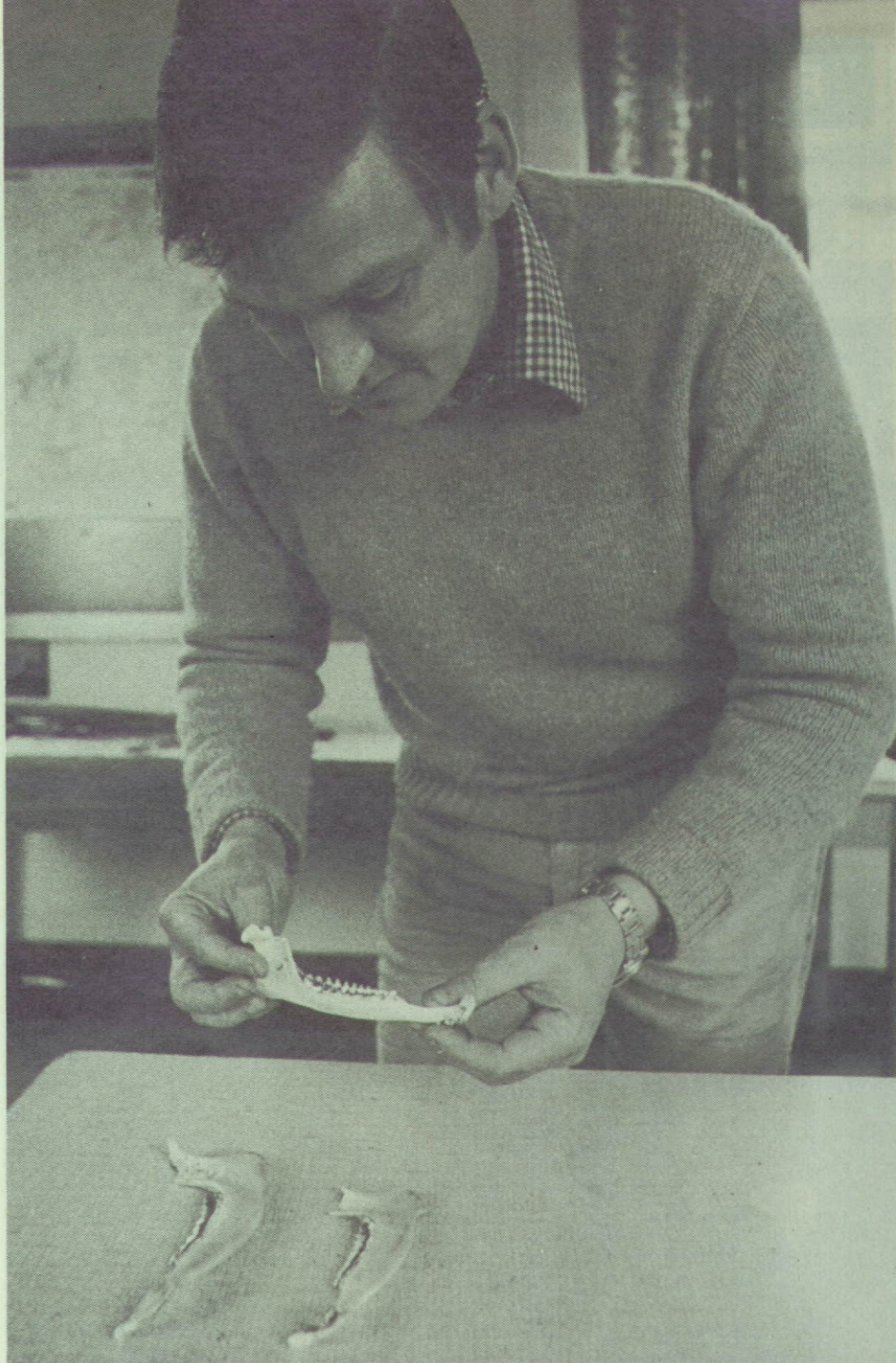
But the stalkers also spend hours watching the deer. And another of their tasks is to watch out for venison poachers on Army lands.

Says Sergeant Rick Curling, REME: "We average over 30 hours out for every deer killed. We shoot to kill and if there is the slightest doubt that we will not succeed then we leave it. We have found a number of animals in the area with lead shot in them — probably from poachers."

The age of an animal to be culled is a matter of guesswork and experience. But after it has been shot Alec Fulton uses his dental skills and drill to determine it precisely. Just like rings on a tree, deer teeth — when cut open — reveal exactly how many years their owner has lived.

The deer stalkers are united in one thing — they love the graceful animals they manage. And though a few ill-informed people may protest at any shooting of deer at all, these volunteer observers and marksmen are confident that the way they are looking after the creatures on Army lands is the best guarantee of their future.

Right: Alec Fulton can tell a deer's age by its teeth.



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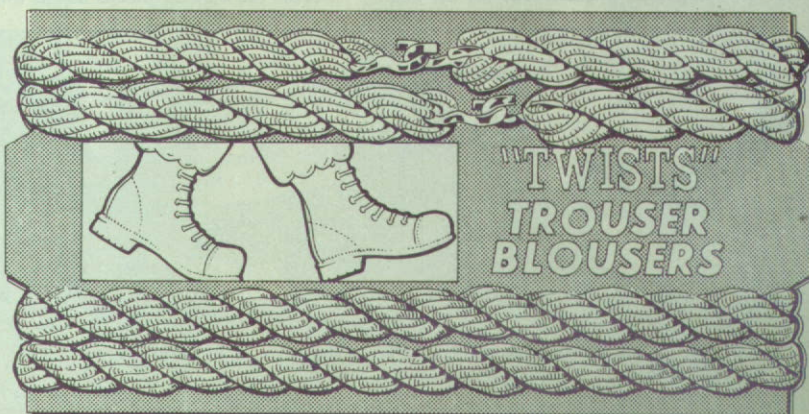
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## ELASTICS



## ELASTICS

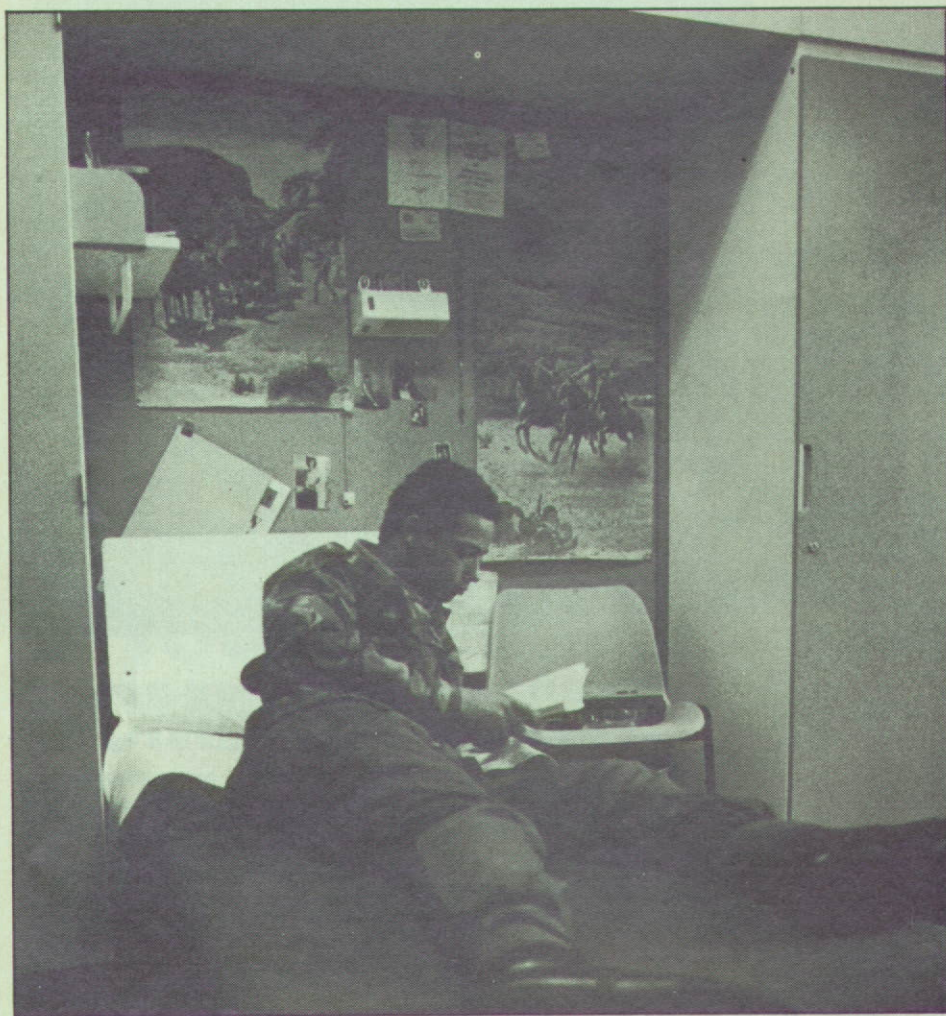
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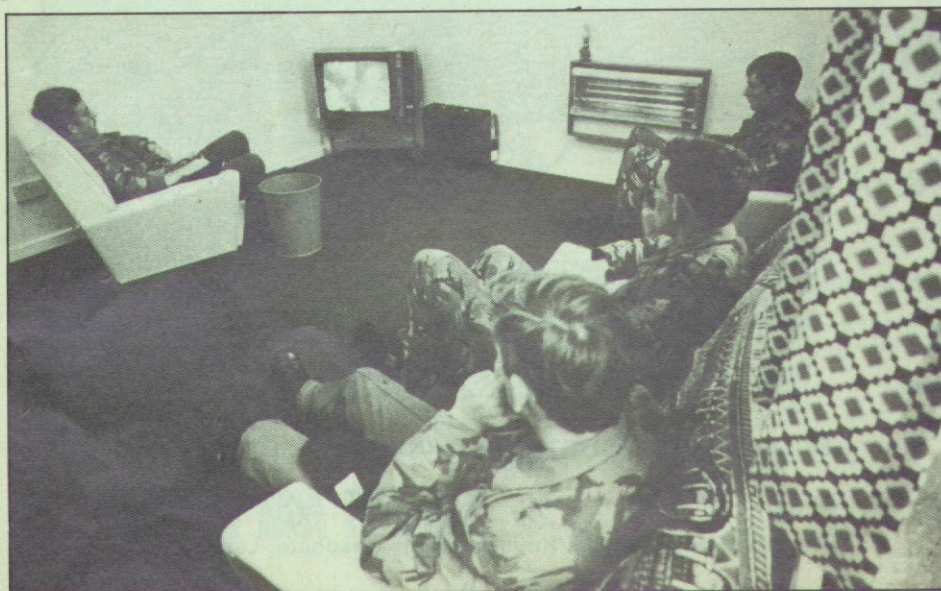
## FLAT TYPE BARRACKS REACH UK

# A TERN FOR THE BETTER



Above: Relaxing with a quiet read on his bed.

Below: Each of the blocks has its own TV room.



TELEVISION ROOMS, drying rooms with hotplate facilities, fitted carpets throughout and single rooms for lance-corporals and corporals. It's something that old soldiers of 20 years ago wouldn't have believed possible — let alone Clive of India after whom the new Army barracks at Tern Hill in Shropshire have been named.

First tenants of the new Clive Barracks are the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, fresh from a tour in Cyprus. They are taking over the old headquarters of the RAF Central Flying School vacated some four years ago and completely modernised at a cost of £7,500,000.

The RAF has retained the use of the adjoining airfield but the sprawling camp now hosts 1500 Lancastrians including families. And with the M6 only a few miles distant the soldiers find they are only 90 minutes drive away from the cotton towns of the North West.

The arrival of the Army created a mini-boom in the nearby sleepy little town of Market Drayton as the families rushed to stock up with televisions, fridges and other household items. Although a similar experiment on a former RAF station at Little Rissington in Gloucestershire failed because of its remote situation the Army is confident that with big Black Country towns like Stoke, Wolverhampton and Stafford not far away, the Tern Hill location will prove a success.

The soldiers' quarters embody the flatlet concept which has already proved such a success at some of the German stations. Each block has a number of separate rooms — soldiers sleep four to a room and junior NCOs have one to themselves.

Each flat has its own television room and the quarters are fully carpeted — no more floor polishing for their occupants. Just inside the entrance is the drying room. Here each soldier has a locker — he just hangs up his wet clothing and hot air rises through the locker floor to dry it.

And before going in to watch television the soldier can brew himself a cup of tea or make himself a snack on the two hotplates which are provided. All of which provides quite a contrast to Army life of even a few years ago.

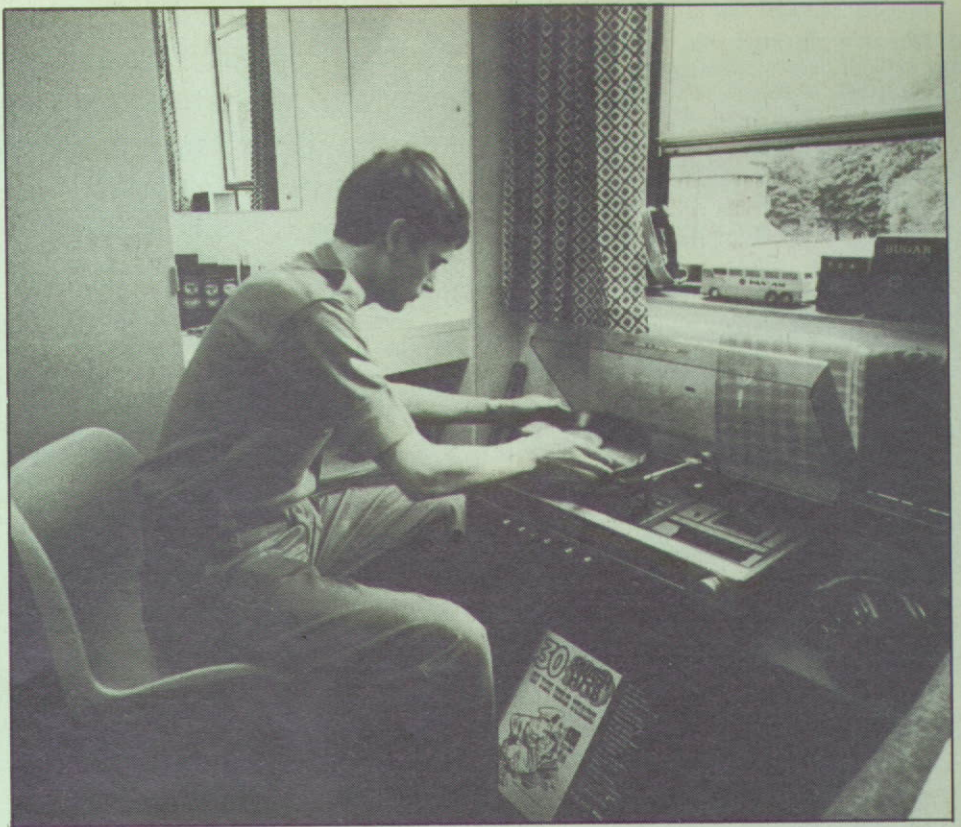
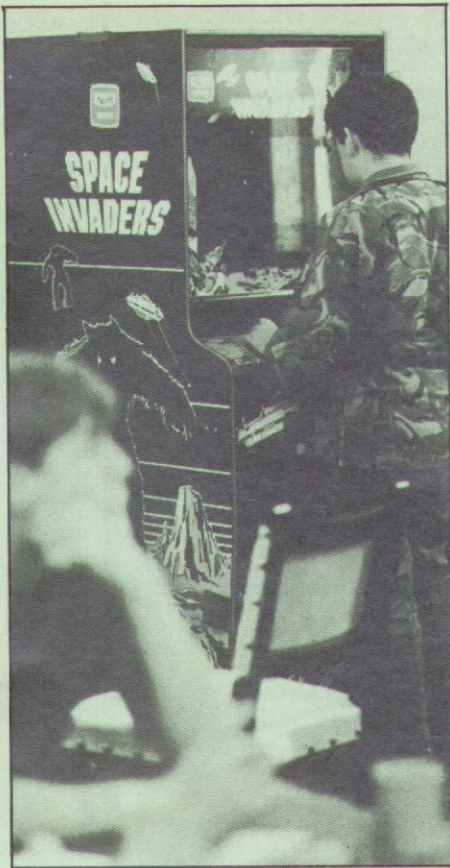
Gleaming new motorbikes stand outside the barracks and there are lots of cars in the car park. They bring a smile to the face of the regimental sergeant-major, Warrant Officer 1 Doug Skilbeck, as he remembers how he spent all his savings on an old 'banger' back in 1962 — and found himself featured in the press as the only private soldier in the regiment to own a car!

Yet, despite the three converted barrack blocks and the brand new one, there are still pressures. The regiment is currently fully up to strength and accommodation is tight — in fact some of the soldiers are having to sleep on camp beds in the television rooms.

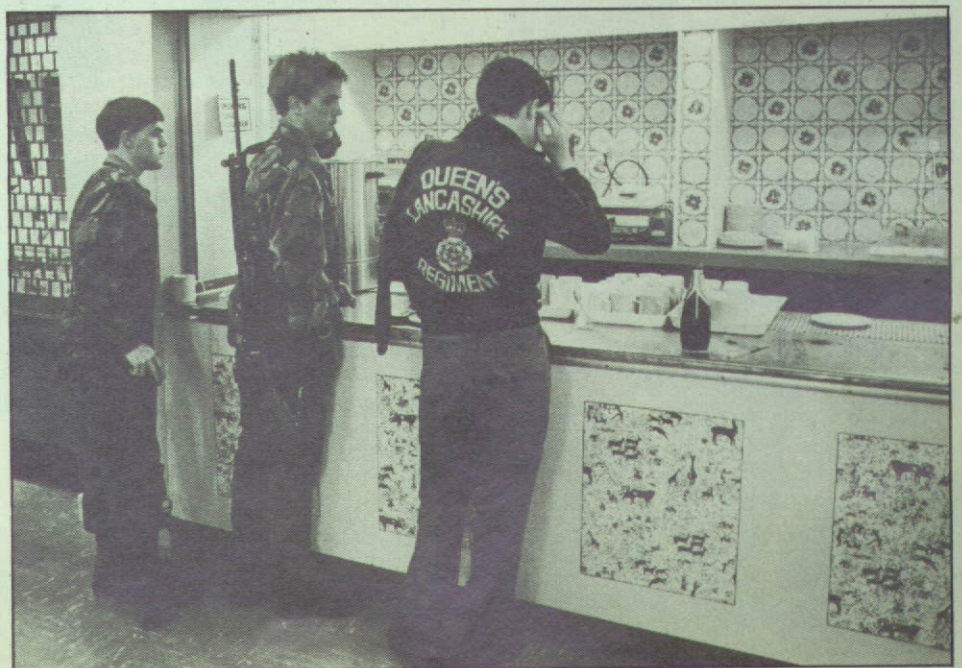
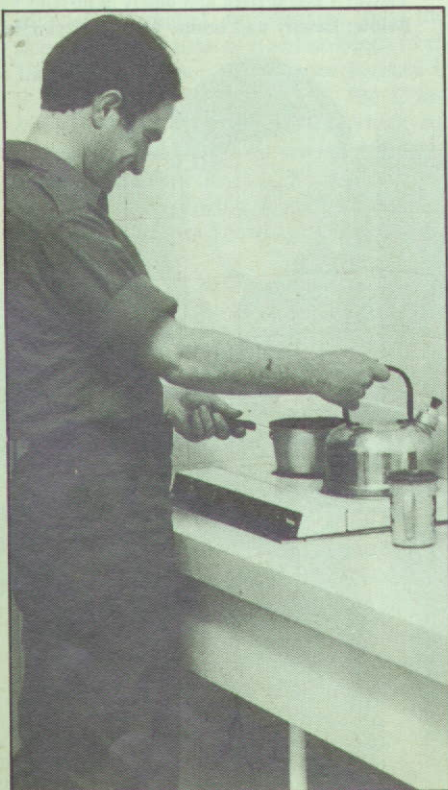
There are reminders too that life in the Army is not a bed of roses. Serious training began in the summer for the regiment's first visit to Northern Ireland in three years. At the end of October they were heading for the old mills and corrugated iron fortresses of South Armagh — where there can be as many as 16 to a room and no sign of fitted carpets!

**Story: John Walton**  
**Pictures: Paul Haley**





Above: Testing his skill against alien things.  
 Top right: L/Cpl Alan Calligan has own stereo.  
 Right: Motorbikes and cars outside the flats.  
 Below right: Getting served in the new Naafi.  
 Below: Pte Paul Buckley boils eggs for his tea.

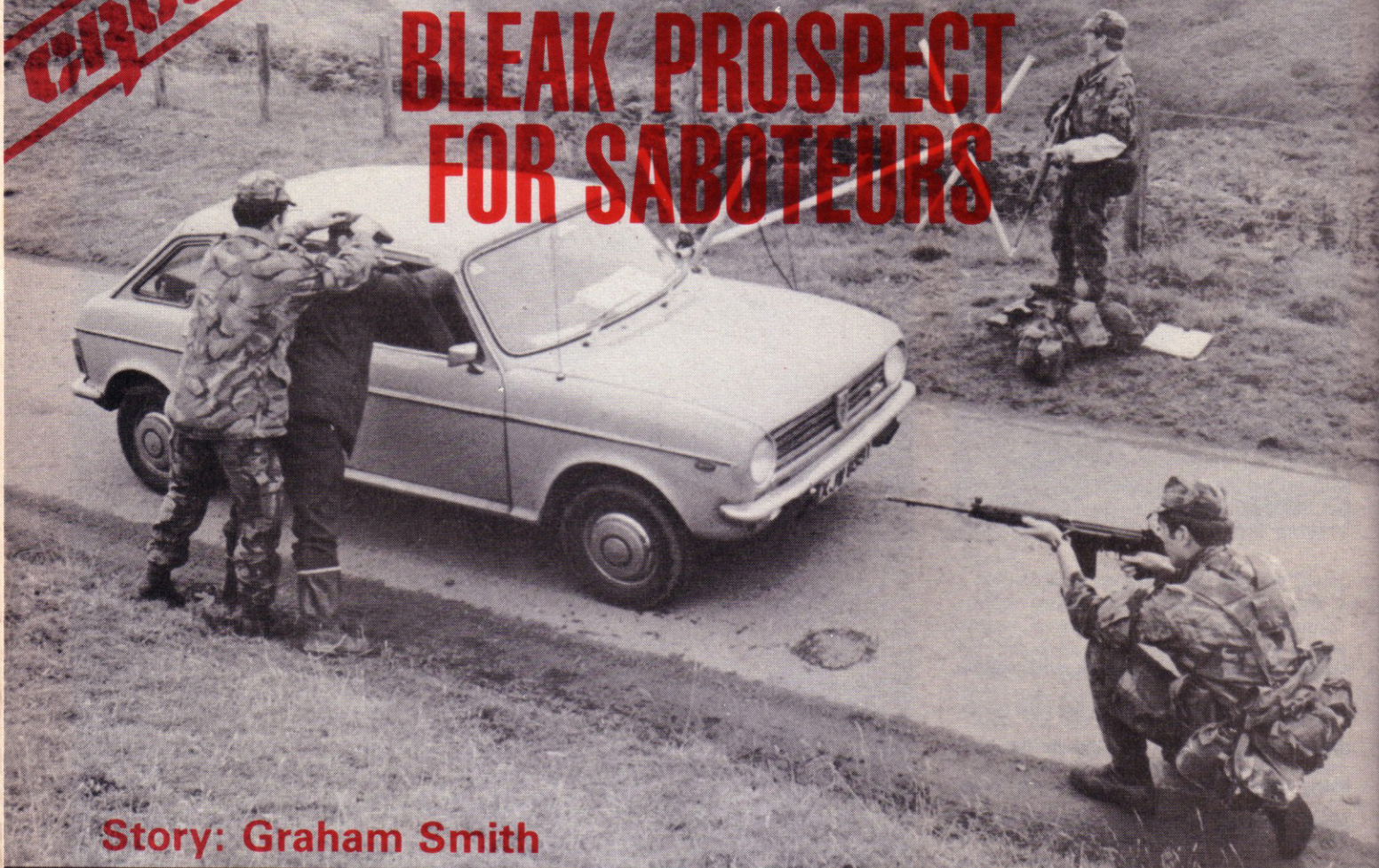




**CRUSADER 80**

Britain's biggest-ever peacetime exercise involved not only fighting a 'war' in Germany but rounding up 'infiltrators' in the UK. In the following pages we look at some exercise highlights — at home and abroad — beginning on the windy moors of Northumbria . . .

## BLEAK PROSPECT FOR SABOTEURS



**Story: Graham Smith**

BIRD TABLE INCIDENT PINS

Above: 2 Royal Irish at a lonely moorland VCP.  
Below: Beauty and brains behind York Distaff.







WITH 30,000 REGULAR AND TA SOLDIERS already deployed to the Continent for 'Crusader 80', another 8000 men plus 750 'Terriers', were in action in north-eastern counties defending 20 simulated 'vital installations' as they hunted down armed saboteurs and subversives — some of them women — during the ten-day Home Defence phase of Exercise Square Leg.

The stealthy saboteurs were furnished by the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, based on Aldershot. Clothed in Eastern European-type sand-coloured uniforms and clutching AK47 assault rifles they 'played' hard over the 26,000-square-miles of North East District, mostly during the hours of darkness.

Their task was to cause the maximum amount of disruption and chaos to the exercise-designated installations but they also had a hard time of it at the hands of the 3000 Regular troops in the area boosted by the 5000-strong 8 Field Force, the C-in-C UKLF's elite special reserve, which had been rapidly deployed to the exercise areas from the south-west.

The 'Terriers' element of the Force had been airlifted from Lyneham to Leeming by RAF Hercules.

The enemy, however, strived well to give continuous exercise play for the seven defending battalions by creating nearly 500 incidents which kept everyone's interest well-fuelled.

Part of the action took place over three days during a concentrated field exercise under wild skies on the Army's 100-square-mile Otterburn Training Area in Northumberland staged in a setting of rolling, heather-clad moorlands formerly given to sheep and cattle rustling by ancient Celtic chiefs and a one-off moonlight pitched border fray in 1388. The rustling has stopped but, as the infiltrators soon found, the sheep, the cattle and their under-foot presence are still there.

The saboteurs crawled, Indian-style, through the bracing, windswept heathlands totting their AK47s and satchels stacked with

explosive devices. Shots were fired and flares were lit in the cause of realism.

All this, in a scenario of a Britain imminently on the brink of war during a period 'of rising tension' with Orange Forces.

The Exercise aim was simple. To infiltrate, by sea or air drop, small commando groups with clear instructions to cause a swathe of destruction on selected strategic targets. The port of Middlesbrough even loaned part of its dockyard complex for the purpose.

Understandably, the enemy took to their tasks with unabashed enthusiasm as they set out to wreak havoc on 'vital installations' between South Shields and Berwick and south of Bridlington.

Their tactics were devious and novel, too.

- Like the bold infiltrator posing as a dungareed plumber with bag of tools slung across his shoulder who impatiently pushed past a fresh-faced sentry, bawling: "I don't give a fig about your Exercise, mate, or any other frigging exercises for that matter. I'm here to do a job."

He nearly did.

- Then there was the sensitive 'padre', complete with 'dog collar', who was distributing paper-backs from his bag as troop comforts in the area to "keep them entertained in this time of stress." The cheeky cleric never got to the bottom of his bag.

- The old ruse of the 'top brass' visit using staff car with bogus brigadier and fussy ADC nearly worked, too.

- Some sturdy WRAC girls manipulated their robust charms quite well by posing as "tired, lost and hungry orienteers", desperately in need of a place to stay. They were soon put in a secure place.

- Perhaps the funniest on record was the crowning glory of a young, be-wigged private, carefully infiltrated ashore with his fold-up bike, who palled-up with some jolly Middlesbrough dockers. Somewhere during the meeting, it transpired, a friendly shove or a pat on the head separated the short-haired tyro terrorist from his toupee and the matter soon came to a serious head.

Left: GOTCHA! 7LI take a pair of 'saboteurs'

Umpires for the Exercise were drawn from 4 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery and 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

Incidents ranged from the minor — a farmer reporting two men talking in a foreign language — to the major, an attack by 15 men on a key installation with explosives.

Major General Ian Baker, GOC North-East District, said: "This is a complicated exercise because we are playing it as it would likely happen with a great deal of realism injected — including a six-hour delay, pending a Cabinet decision, before 8 Field Force troops could be moved from the south-west."

8 Field Force's presence was boosted by 2650 Regulars and 750 'Terriers' as defenders. But even they were not to be unscathed as two Buccaneers scudding across the training area made a low level strafing attack on 8 Field Force HQ causing extensive damage and taking out a bridge which meant re-directing military traffic through a ford.

Security was always tight. Suspicion was rife. All of the players had become fully immersed in the exercise script.

As Major General Baker reiterated: "One of the problems has been to instil realism and with 8 Field Force coming up we had to produce an appropriate scenario. We didn't want people streaming into this area at a rate of knots. We wanted a deployment under realistic conditions."

This realism was amply supported by engineers, helicopters and logistic units.

Civilian players were identified by pieces of string tied round their wrists. This was particularly useful at VCPs — Vehicle Check Points — when the personnel manning them, often the 'Terriers', would after checking a 'stringer', pass him on for what is termed 'low level questioning' to verify a friendly or hostile demeanour.

One Cornish couple on holiday in the area, who were stopped at a VCP, were quite complimentary about it later.

"We were suddenly surprised on going round a corner to find Army vehicles there and soldiers with rifles," said Mrs Enid Wenham. "The soldiers were very nice and asked to see our wrists. They couldn't have been nicer."

And the intelligence gathering on the enemy players was good, too, as Brigadier John Learmont, Commander 8 Field Force and Deputy Commander of the Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force in Rhodesia earlier this year, was at pains to point out.

"I know more than they think I know," he said. "We've captured a lot of prisoners and questioned them. We have watched the enemy set up ambushes. We have seen where they keep their food supplies and know they must come for them at night. We know their RVs and we think we know where their para drop is going to come."

He was particularly praiseworthy of the TA and said he would stake his future career on the success of the 'Terriers' successfully guarding a certain vital installation.

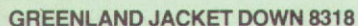
The dogged efforts by what had been described as groups of 'determined, hard-hitting raiders' were commented on, too.

Major General Baker observed: "If the

continued on page 25

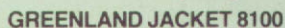


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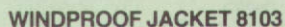
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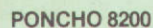
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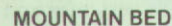
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raiders were to maintain a high level of disruption and sabotage throughout the country then it would become a thorn. But the 8 Field Force Commander has sewn it up very well. It's incredibly important, too, that you get morale right and 8 Field Force is very professional in its approach to the job."

The TA units acquitted themselves well with their part-time soldiers, some with as little as four weeks' experience. One, from Bradford, had joined his unit on the Friday, reported to base on Saturday and was deployed to the north-east on the Sunday.

Despite lack of sleep and miserable weather they staved off attacks by saboteurs and claimed their share of prisoners . . . dead or alive.

The 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, bagged seven prisoners from their desolate hill-top position in two separate incidents.

In fact, the largest single engagement of Square Leg was held over the eight counties of Northumberland, Durham, Tyne and Wear, Cleveland, North, South and West Yorkshire and Humberside.

The Brigade South action ended with a heliborne assault using three Pumas on an enemy camp located on Strensall Ranges. Brigade North concluded its particular commitment with a seek-and-destroy mission on the Otterburn Ranges, involving the 1st Battalion, Green Howards, based at Catterick and two TA units.

8 Field Force had moved out of Otterburn south of the Cheviot Hills as quickly and efficiently as it had arrived to guard yet further installations in East Anglia where Stanford Training Area near Thetford, Norfolk, was used extensively.

The major units of 8 Field Force include 2nd Bn Royal Irish Rangers, 1st Bn Light Infantry, 3rd Bn Parachute Regt, 2nd Bn Wessex Volunteers, 6th Bn Light Infantry Volunteers.

Two regular infantry battalions had already been in action in Cambridgeshire and Essex, their numbers now swelled with the arrival of the crack Field Force.

In a hitherto tranquil pastoral setting,



there was an impressive air strike by Strike Command Hunters on the now deserted range village of Tottington where the 1st Battalion, King's Own Royal Border Regiment, some of them dressed as women and one as a vicar, acted as casualties.

Vividness was not given short stint either as obliging 'victims' hung motionless from tree branches like rag dolls.

The 3rd Battalion, Parachute Regiment, based at Tidworth, carried out the casualty evacuation into attendant Pumas.

Watching all this was a team of two dozen RAMC umpires who had also helped prepare the realistic-looking casualties. Busiest man of the moment was the soldier jolting simulated blood by the stodgy fluid ounce from well-known brands of ketchup bottles.

One eye witness, said: "There was a lot of wandering around pretending to be blind."

Commenting on the performance of the Exercise in his area, Major General Dick Gerrard Wright, GOC Eastern District said:

One of the most realistic of the Square Leg home defence scenarios was enacted at Colchester where the 2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers were tasked with defending various vulnerable points in the Garrison and on the nearby ranges.

Exercise controllers confronted them with a simulated enemy air attack in which conventional bombs fell on the Garrison killing and injuring civilians.

When the Royal Irish arrived on the scene some 20 or 30 'casualties,' played by soldiers from 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, lay sprawling on the ground with delayed action bombs exploding all round them.

The Royal Irish quickly set about tending to them while calling for help to cope with any unexploded bombs and the loudly groaning injured — complete with gory make-up — were soon loaded aboard ambulances and whisked off to hospital.

"The Paras have been doing a splendid job. The whole thing was most realistic."

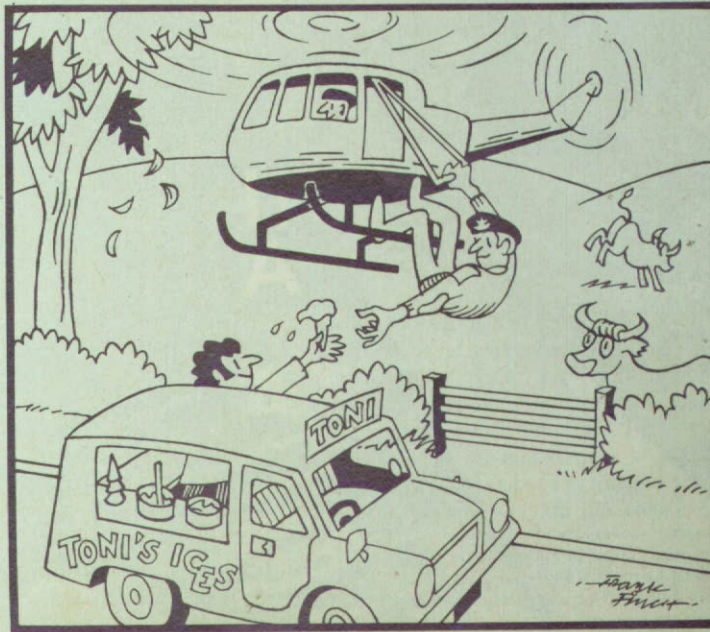
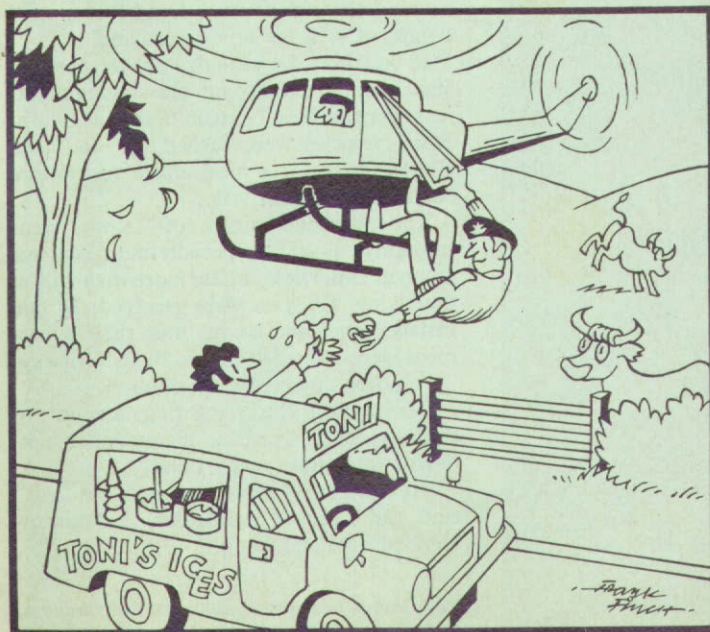
Besides 8 Field Force, other 'players' in Square Leg included 1st Bn Green Howards, 3rd Bn Yorkshire Volunteers, 7th Bn Light Infantry, 6th (V) Bn The Royal Anglian Regt, 70 (Essex Yeo) Signal Squadron, 3rd (V) Bn The Worcestershire and Sherwood 'Foresters' Regt, 1st Bn The King's Own Royal Border Regt, 3rd Bn The Queen's Regt, the Blues and Royals, 36 Engineer Regt and the Prince of Wales' Own Regt of Yorkshire.

At the same time as the Home Defence units were deploying on their tasks a Command Post Exercise was run throughout the country involving the staffs of Service headquarters in a 'telephone battle'.

In the latter stages, regional and county civil defence staffs joined in to take part in communications exercises to test plans and procedures for survival and recovery in the event of a nuclear attack.

## 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 59.





**CRUSADER 80**

## FAST JOG TO THE FRONT



ONE OF THE CRUCIAL questions asked in Crusader was "could the 1st (British) Corps be reinforced from UK in time?"

The answer was found in Exercise Jog Trot, when over 30,000 UK-based soldiers and their kit were moved to the front. At the end of the day, the answer was yes, it was done — but only just.

The politicians had given the Army 48 hours to get into position. The Army managed it, but by a hair's breadth.

During Jog Trot, units streamed across Germany by road, rail, sea and air. Many crossed the Channel on civilian ferries and even British Airways Jumbos were pressed into service.

The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars rolled 32 Chieftains, plus all their support vehicles, across Salisbury Plain from Tidworth to Southampton where they picked up the ferry across to Zeebrugge. On the other side, the tanks were put on railway flat cars for the last leg of the journey to the war.

The movement of 30,000 soldiers — most by road — was the responsibility of the British Logistical Support command. Movement control cells were set up and Royal Military Police transport points ensured that the trucks, Land-Rovers and armoured vehicles kept on moving.

In one three day period, 1200 vehicles and 5000 men moved through one staging point, just over the West German border at Leuth. Here, vehicles were fuelled up, and men allowed time for a meal and a rest before continuing on their way.

The weekend airlift of troops went smoothly, as did a specially-built baggage chute at Gutersloh, where more than half of the flying TA men were received. In one instance over 400 troops plus their equipment were offloaded from a British Airways 747 Jumbo in a record 19 minutes.

Considering the staggering amount of vehicles on the road, accidents and breakdowns were gratifyingly small.

"It was a tribute to everyone concerned," said the Corps Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Leng.

Top: Troops board civilian ferry at Southampton.  
Left: Rows of Chieftains lined up on the car deck.



**CRUSADER 80**

**SPEARPOINT-**

## LEARNING LESSONS AT THE SHARP END



IN THE LITTLE VILLAGE of Kirchosen, just up the road from the Pied Piper town of Hamelin, it is noon and all is peaceful. Women go about their shopping, children play, sheep graze by the riverbank and the occasional car or lorry trundles by.

But closer inspection reveals that this scene of bucolic calm is not all it seems at first glance. For there behind the pub wall peep the heads of helmeted soldiers and, from under a hedge, gun barrels glint menacingly in the bright autumn sun.

The weapons and helmets belong to German soldiers, all part-timers, who in the event of war would be deployed to guard key installations in the Rhine area. But today they are cast in a slightly different role, defending bridges over the Weser to the rear of the Blue Army's front line.

Though all is peaceful there is an air of expectancy in the air. The women still walk by with their shopping bags or pushing prams, but around them, peering from ditches and hedgerows, dozens of pairs of eyes scan the skies anxiously for signs of enemy Orange forces.

Suddenly the vigil is over. The sinister drum beat of whirring rotors shatters the noon-day calm and there over the water meadows are the Chinooks, their ugly bulk black against the sky, lifting in men and vehicles in a daring heliborne assault.

As the first helicopter touches down, and spews out its cargo of crouching, sprinting soldiers, the German guns are crackling out their deadly message of welcome.

Their fire is returned, terrified sheep scatter in bleating panic and the riverbank becomes an inferno of shot, shell and smoke.

In an instant the battle is over. Umpires in white armbands are signalling a halt to the action and the last wisps of green and orange smoke are drifting away on the breeze.

*continued on page 29*

**Top:** Temporary tank bridge takes the strain as Orange Force Chieftain rolls forward to battle.  
**Left:** The umpires have signalled a direct hit and a 'tankie' adds his own realism by playing dead.



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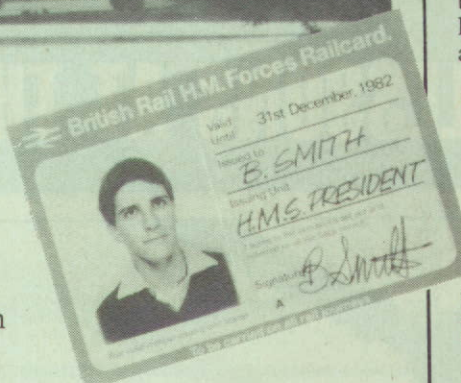
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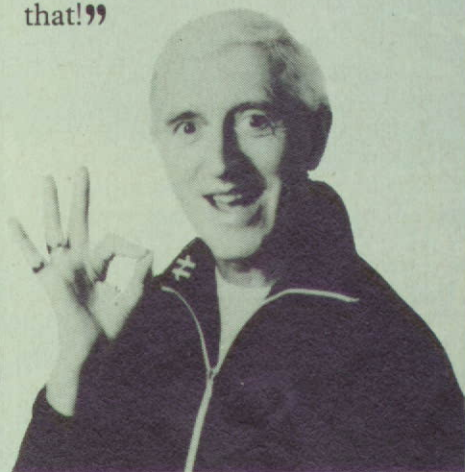
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Top: Waiting for Orange tanks with Carl Gustav.

### THE PLAYERS

The main participants in Exercise Spearpoint were divided into Blue and Orange forces with certain formations changing sides at different times during the exercise.

#### Blue Forces

1st (BR) Armoured Division  
2nd (BR) Armoured Division  
4th (BR) Armoured Division  
7 (BR) Field Force  
2nd (US) Armoured Division  
30 (BR) Engineer Group (V)

#### Orange Forces

4th (BR) Armoured Division  
2nd (US) Armoured Division  
3rd (GE) Panzer Brigade  
Disruption Brigade  
HQ 2nd (US) Airborne Brigade, 82nd (US)  
Airborne Division commanding:  
3/325 (US) Airborne Battalion  
15 (BR) Parachute Battalion (V)  
2nd (BR) Bn Royal Green Jackets  
3/39 (US) Infantry Battalion  
B Coy 1st (BR) Battalion Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment

Diversionsary Brigade  
British and American Special Forces  
Umpire and Control Organisation  
3rd (BR) Armoured Division

The Orange Disruption Brigade, in the shape of 15 (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment — all Territorials from Scotland — have overwhelmed the defending Blue forces and secured the bridge. Now it will be blown up to cut off a Blue retreat.

Watching his men with an appreciative eye is 15 Para's second-in-command Major Alasdair Hutton who normally visits the continent on more peaceful assignments — as a member of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Savouring the scene from his vantage point on the bridge, he grins: "I like the air conditioning here better than in Strasbourg. There's a lot more smoke here but a lot more hot air there!"

ACROSS THE EMPTY ACRES of stubble, nothing moves. Fields of turnips and sugar beet stretch wide and silent to merge in the morning haze with the faint outline of distant hills.

Then there is a whisper of sound and shadowy shapes begin to emerge from their misty shroud. Slowly the whisper becomes a rumble and the morning ghosts assume a

chilling reality. Orange 'enemy' tanks, their barrels pointing accusing fingers straight ahead, roll remorselessly over the empty fields. They are leading a mighty mechanised push against Blue's central defence line and their rumbling advance threatens the whole of Western Europe.

A mile or so away the little village of Dingelbe seems blissfully unaware of the approaching danger. It is only the mud and muck on the road and the smear of a track — too wide for a farm vehicle — across a neatly cropped verge that gives a clue.

There, on a tiny farm road squeezed between two houses, sits the squat bulk of a Chieftain, diesel throbbing, its barrel aimed across the turnips to the fields far beyond.

In an instant the engine revs to a furious crescendo and 50 tons of armoured might surge forward. There is a deafening roar, an eruption of smoke, and almost as its deadly load is discharged the Chieftain is speeding back to cover in the lee of the farmhouse wall. Blue is hitting back. The battle is joined . . .

Scenes like those at Kirchosen and Dingelbe were played out hundreds of times during Exercise Spearpoint. For two weeks the rural peace of Lower Saxony was shattered by the roar of battle as 63,000 troops — from three Nato armies — staged the biggest-ever peacetime war game.

Over 850 British, American and German tanks, 2788 tracked vehicles, and 18,000 wheeled vehicles massed and manoeuvred over 3500 square miles of fields and farms. Abbots and FH70s crouched beneath camouflage netting in orchards. Chieftains hid behind straw bales in barns. Every wall, hedge and ditch seemed to conceal a combat-clad soldier brandishing a rifle or anti-tank weapon.

Overhead some 350 helicopters ferried men and machines about the battlefield — often in daring heliborne assaults — while a massive aerial exercise 'Cold Fire' added a further terrifying dimension to the battle with fighters and bombers screaming through the skies.

Set against a short-warning scenario in which Blue (Nato) forces were given just 48 hours to mobilise for an Orange (Warsaw Pact) attack across the Inner German Border, Spearpoint was structured in four phases.

*continued over*

Left: War comes to Kirchosen as Chinooks fly in.





Phase One saw Blue's forward troops fight an 'aggressive delaying force' action to take some of the impetus from the Orange advance and buy time for reserves and reinforcements to be deployed. With torrential rain turning the countryside to a quagmire, this first battle was fought as a Command Post Exercise — a 'telephone war' — to prevent undue damage to farmland. But then the sun came out and the real action began in earnest.

Phase Two saw the 'break-in battle' with Orange tanks and armour forcing Blue to make a tactical withdrawal to the west of the River Leine. Then came Phase Three — the Goodwood battle — with the Orange 'enemy' advancing deep into Blue territory to be stopped in their tracks by a massive bombardment of land-based and airborne anti-tank weapons.

With Orange's supply lines now over-extended and Blue fully reinforced, it was time for the final phase with Blue hitting back to stage a decisive counter attack and win the 'war' for the west.

Whether it would really have happened like this remains an open question for the need to exercise particular skills and tactics meant that 'play' had to be pre-planned to a certain degree.

But within the overall framework of the exercise, commanders had plenty of scope to deploy their troops and armour to maximum effect and to inject the vital element of surprise that kept everyone on their toes.

Battle conditions throughout were extremely realistic. Simulated chemical warfare attacks kept many combatants sweltering in 'noddy' suits despite the rising temperatures, an impressive array of battlefield 'fireworks' provided all the sounds and smoke of real war, dummy mines had to be sown exactly as if for real and no piece of armour could fire unless its simulated ammunition was already on hand to load.

It meant that commanders had to plan their tactics against all the logistical problems that could be expected in a real war.

Controlling and monitoring the action throughout was a vast army of umpires responsible for determining the outcome of every shot and shell fired. Tanks had to 'self destruct' under the battle rules. Upon the umpires signalling a direct hit, the tank commander would throw an electrically ignited device from the cockpit that sent up a

cloud of dense smoke and a flash of flame.

Many of the tank crews added their own touch of authenticity by tumbling out 'dead' from their battle wagons. Usually though, their resurrection was swift. A couple of hours 'off the pitch' and they were allowed back into the battle.

Sadly, but inevitably, there were some real exercise casualties too. A young RCT driver was killed in a road crash and two German civilians also died in traffic accidents. But overall the toll was mercifully light and so was the damage to fields and roads.

Damage to buildings and farmland had been one of the biggest fears prior to the exercise but good weather and good sense kept it to a minimum. Mud on the roads was the biggest hazard and teams of road sweeping vehicles quickly followed in the wake of tanks to clear up the mess.

One of the most striking features of the exercise was the friendly attitude of the local civilian population. Many of them welcomed battle-weary soldiers into their homes for hot drinks and hot baths, and the only anti-war demonstration in Hildesheim drew little support — particularly from the local people.

So what did it all achieve? A lot of careful sifting and analysis will go on before a definitive assessment can be made, but Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Leng, Commander 1st (British) Corps, had no hesitation in giving his initial reaction: "It was all thoroughly worthwhile."

"We have undoubtedly made mistakes and we have learned many lessons", said the Corps Commander. "But I believe we have proved that we are a deterrent force. We have shown our soldiers that the Corps does work. We have shown our allies that we are efficient and have given them confidence."

He went on to say that it was clear that with good handling of weapons the Corps could take a "very high toll" of the enemy but more tanks and guns were needed and a marginal increase in anti-air and anti-armour weapons would be welcome.

Lack of depth had been highlighted during the 'break in' battle by inability to deal with



Above: Lining up Swingfire missile aiming unit.

enemy actions to the front and rear simultaneously. "We suffer too much from the 'Thin red line' syndrome," he said.

The Goodwood battle phase had been designed to see if a non-mechanised infantry force could delay an armoured division and he was "now quite convinced that this is a perfectly tenable concept."

Casualty evacuation had been a real problem said Sir Peter and the time taken to get men back to surgery was much too slow. Things got better as the exercise progressed but a lot more improvements were needed.

As well as praising the German and American troops for their part in Spearpoint, the Corps Commander paid special tribute to his own forces.

"I wish to emphasise how magnificently the British soldier on the exercise has responded to the challenge he was set — robust, cheerful, keen. We have shown that we can work together with our allies really effectively and I am very pleased with the results that have been achieved as a basis for further work and for further advances.

"Our reputation as a deterrent force has been wonderfully demonstrated," he concluded. "Overall I consider the exercise has gone far better than I expected."

Below: Blue forces muster for counter-attack.



## THE BATTLE IN COLOUR

PAGES 32-33



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# CRUSADER 80



Left: 7RHA patrol guards camouflaged FH70 in orchard; Above: Attack by 2nd Bn The Royal Green Jackets who, as part of Disruption Brigade, linked up with US airborne forces (right) in attack on Mitteland Canal bridge; Below right: 2RGJ again — this time in ammo store raid; Centre: Chieftain hiding in woods and (bottom) thundering through village; Below left: Directing convoy during Jog Trot.

*Pictures: Paul Haley & Doug Pratt.*







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To the Army it's a perfect site for battle training, but for others it will always be the home they left behind.

Judith Stares joined some of them on their annual pilgrimage to the village that will be . .

# FOREVER IMBER



Pictures: Les Wiggs

THE FIRST SATURDAY in every September the villagers of Imber, their children and their grandchildren, go to Church. For 26 years some 'regulars' have even attended two services in the one day.

Such piety may seem out of place in the secular 20th century, but for the dwindling numbers of this particular congregation the day represents their only opportunity to tend the graves of generations of relatives buried in the churchyard; meet childhood friends; renew old acquaintances, and dwell briefly on the past.

There is no welcome in the remaining houses. Neither can the Bell Inn supply refreshment to the weary traveller. Instead, the faithful gather together in the windowless Church of St Giles; sing hymns paying ironic tribute to the changing scenes of life; listen to words of comfort from their Vicar, then picnic on the specially-mown grass around the Church before making their return journey. For, although many were

Top: Looking round the village that was home.

Left: Not all Imber's visitors are so peaceable.





Above: Annual service evokes memories.

born, raised and married there, Imber is no longer home.

What has become known as the 'lost' village lies between West Lavington and Warminster in Wiltshire. It had the misfortune to form part of the wild expanse of Salisbury Plain, which since 1897 has been designated as a training area for troops and artillery.

In 1932 the War Office bought Imber, except for the church lands, school, chapel and the Bell Inn. Until 1943 the village remained inhabited, with a 1000 yard safety area around it, but on December 17th of that year the residents were evacuated en bloc so that their houses and roads could provide American soldiers with vital training in street fighting prior to D-day.

No one was to know then that the end of the war was in sight, or perhaps the people of Imber would not have been so co-operative. But with a patriotism hard to equal in our country's history, men, women and children downed tools and schoolbooks and uprooted themselves from the very land on which they depended for their livelihood.

Frederick Mitchell and his wife Gladys, both now 78, remember the trauma well. "Two high officials came round and told us that we must leave, but that we would be able to come back eventually," says Mrs Mitchell. "We only had six weeks to get packed up and out. I was working for the lady at Imber Court at the time, and she said that we would be back before the corn was ripe — definitely before the war was over.

"It was a big upheaval for everyone, but we had to do the best we could. We had to find new jobs and a new home. There was no compensation. We got a few pounds for the vegetables in our garden, but that was all. It was awful. My youngest girl was so upset she refused to go to her new school. People even left belongings in their cupboards because they were so sure they were coming back. I know it seems silly now to think that we left so willingly, but then we thought we might be helping with the War."

But the 'Bungeys' were destined never to return, and what was once a thriving farming community is no more. In its heyday there was a population of 510, according to the official census in 1841. The village boasted two schools, a windmill, a church and Baptist chapel, a blacksmith, bakery and some of the last Wiltshire dew-pond makers.

The local nickname 'Bungeys' came from a dog called Bungey, owned by an Imber farmer. When the dog died, the farmer skinned it and dried the skin. In summer he used it to store surplus butter and hung it up in the kitchen. In winter, when the fires were lit, the butter began to drip and the children used to stand underneath reciting: "Drop on my bread, Bungey!"

Florence Wyatt, aged 68, used to walk her baby through the lush countryside. Now she comes once a year, on Open Day, to tend her husband's grave with her son. "My husband was born in this village and we married in this church. It was his dearest wish that he would be buried here, he loved the village so much." Four years' ago Arthur Wyatt died and that wish was granted.

In every way, Imber is unique. Unlike the Larkhill range, it is a completely closed area. All the old roads used as public paths have been extinguished by a series of public inquiries. These are re-opened each Bank Holiday for visitors to drive along and reminisce, but stark red and white warnings of unexploded missiles line the roads, and the once picturesque village is now strewn with the remains of battered buildings. Many have disappeared completely to be replaced by building shells, for over the past decade the Army has used the village as a battle training area.

It is now 37 years since Imber was 'temporarily' evacuated, but it was not until the induction of a new vicar, Canon Ralph Dudley, that the idea of an Open Day was established 26 years ago.

"Even though the village had to be abandoned, it still had its own vicar, like every other bit of land in the country," says Canon

Dudley. "The last vicar had to move out, too, and he went to live in Bournemouth, where he died, but the title did not cease." The Canon is now vicar of the neighbouring village of Edington as well as Imber, and thinks that the yearly ceremony is an important one.

"The arrangement made was that the church should be preserved, and for the £50 a year it costs to keep it going it might as well be used at least once. There is also the possibility that Imber could come back. The Army doesn't know what is going to happen in 50 years time, does it?"

But most villagers have abandoned all hope of return, although they claim that they were initially promised they could. A pressure group called Imber Shall Live fought to reclaim the village, but a public inquiry ended in victory for the Ministry of Defence.

It was this promise of return, never to be honoured, which caused much bitterness. Mrs Mollie Archer-Smith was born in the village and can still see her bedroom window at Seagram's Farm from the spot where she now picnics annually. The farm is 300 years old, and was her home until she was 28. Ironically, she was 'military' herself at the time of the evacuation.

"I was a FANY with the 7th Wilts", she says. "I was simply shocked and horrified at what happened. I suggested to my parents that they get everything down in writing because I didn't trust verbal promises, and it turned out I was right. When the Army bought the land we were given a contract that we would have six months' notice if ever we were required to move, but we only had six weeks. A lot of people had never even seen a train before, and the thought of moving out from their rural lives was too frightening for words. I remember my father saying: 'We will definitely be coming back — the General has shaken my hand'. In the end, he had to go to the Houses of Parliament to try and get compensation. They compensated us for our crops, but we even had to pay tax on that! If only the Army had treated us all like adults there



would not have been so much bitterness. If they had not wanted us back they should have told us — we would rather have faced it.”

Not all Bungeys have regrets, though. Kenneth Mitchell was only 16 when he left the village. He still feels sentimental enough to come and tend the graves of his grandparents and great-grandparents, but mostly he remembers being glad of the move. “Being 16 years old and living in a place like this, we were rather elated to be leaving. Most of the youngsters my age were. We had to travel to Warminster or Devizes then to even visit a cinema, so it meant the chance of a bit of life for us.” His only anger is the lack of compensation for his family. “Nobody did anything for them. My father was gardener at the vicarage, and my grandfather was the village blacksmith — he died of a broken heart.”

Mrs Gladys Sutton, now 89, was born at Imber Court, and although she now lives in Gloucestershire, her present home is loyally named ‘Imber’, too. She remembers days of tennis parties and cricket matches on the village green. “It was all so sad. I keep coming back for old times’ sake. We have relatives buried in that yard going back to generations.”

Suzette Johnson is her daughter, and not born in Imber, yet she, too, attends the yearly services. “I feel my roots are here. I haven’t been able to come every year because we lived abroad. But it is something so deep — I think it is born in you. You cannot forget or give it up.”

With a foot, literally, in both camps, is Major Tim Thomas, of The Queen’s Own Hussars. Unusually, he is Adjutant at the School of Infantry. They are partly responsible for cleaning out the church for the occasion, and producing the chairs to sit on. His appointment, he feels, is also due to the fact that he is ‘local’.

“My home is in a village only two miles away and I have long wanted to come to this service, but other postings have prevented me. I am here in my official capacity, but that is very secondary to my personal one. My grandmother was married at Imber, and

I have known the village since I was a child. I think most of the residual bitterness has evaporated now. Certainly, relations with the local communities are excellent. There is no chance of Imber coming back. The country’s defence role is expanding, and it is the only place in the whole of England for us to use sophisticated mechanised tanks and infantry.”

But was it the ‘right’ thing to do? “Well, we won the War, didn’t we?”

Perhaps the last word should go to a relative ‘outsider’. General Philip Palmer RAMC (retired), was on a different mission

to most. 1980 was his first visit to Imber, and he was trying to trace a distant family tree.

“I have come to find out what I can. Two families married here, then emigrated to Canada when the village was evacuated. One of those people married a great-uncle of mine, and I have undertaken the chore of tracing the family tree on their behalf. It is a very moving occasion, and a very sad history, but as I understand it, it seems what happened was a necessary evil at the time. Perhaps that old quote it the best: ‘Ours is not to reason why, ours is but to do or die!’”



Above: The villagers have departed and Imber gets back to its usual role as battle training area.

Below: Other Nato armies visit too — US troops fire TOW missile with church in the background.





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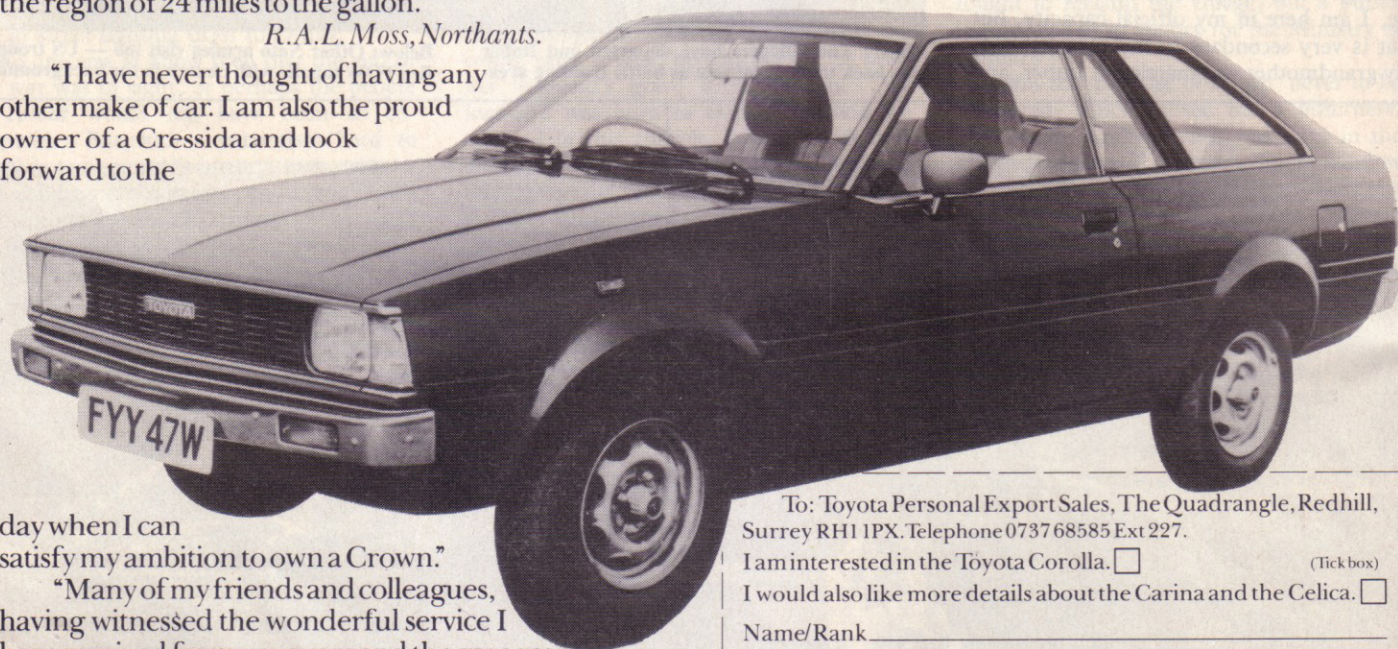
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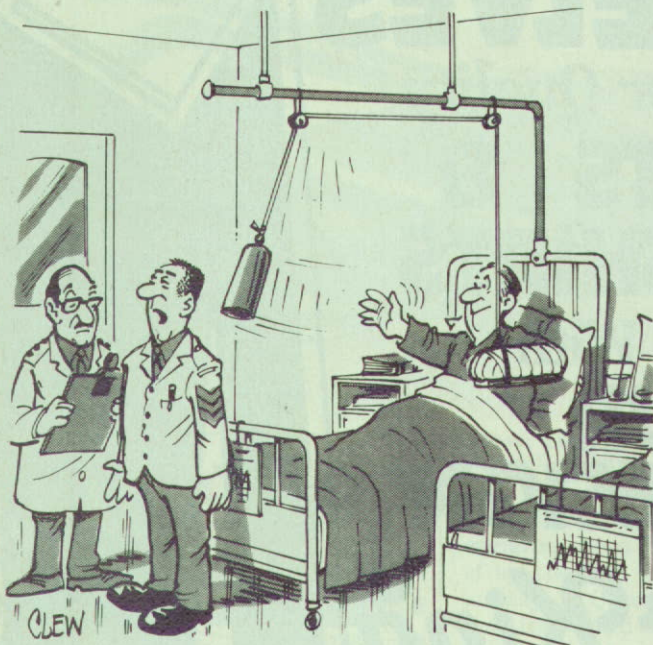


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"Look upon me as you would your father."

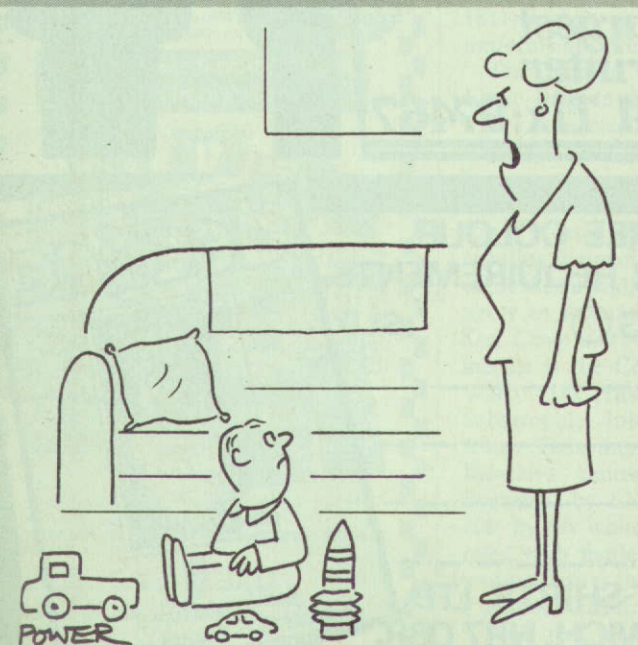
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The newly opened museum of The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own) has much to offer, many of the exhibits being of outstanding interest. Relics and mementos of two famous cavalry regiments, the 10th Royal Hussars (PWO) nicknamed the 'Shiny Tenth' and the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), the 'Cherrypickers', which amalgamated in October 1969 to form The Royal Hussars (PWO), range from the 18th century to the present day.

One of the rarest exhibits is an 11th Light Dragoons guidon of about 1785 said to be the oldest guidon in existence. Other exhibits dating from this period are a 10th Light Dragoons sword sash plate of 1784, a trooper's sword (1796) and an officer's sabre.

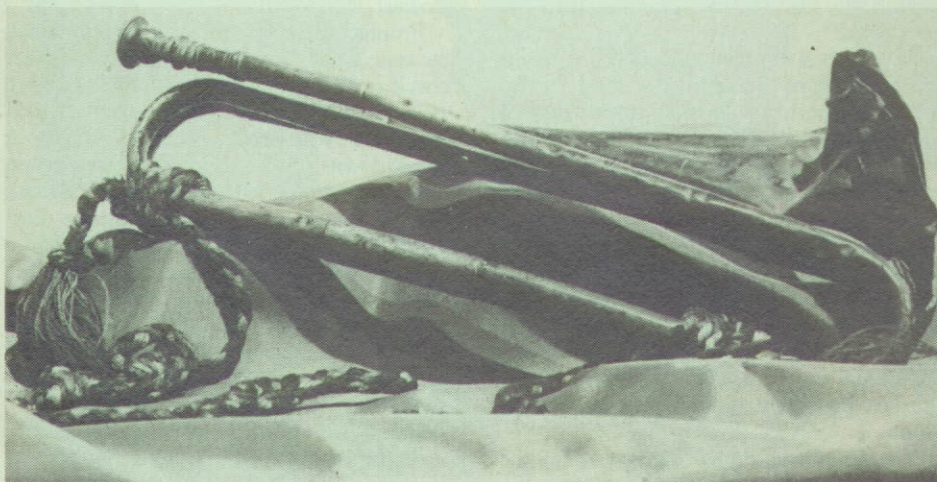
Items of uniform — including a shako, pelisse, sash and scarlet overalls with characteristic gold stripe worn by members of the

94

# MILITARY MUSEUMS

Given family between 1810 and 1855 — pave the way to the 19th century. First to catch the eye are a Squadron guidon of the 10th Light Dragoons, an 11th sabretache (1838), an officer's sword used at Waterloo and a rare Regimental Medal awarded to a sergeant in 1844.

Trumpets on show include the battered Balaclava Trumpet said to have been carried in the Charge and the trumpet used at Delhi by the chief state trumpeter when Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India.



Above: The Balaclava Trumpet — or is it? A battered exhibit in the newly opened museum.

A particularly interesting coloured engraving shows Prince Albert looking out of his coach en route from Dover for his marriage to Queen Victoria. A squadron of the 11th formed the escort and the Queen directed that thereafter the regiment should be called The Eleventh or Prince Albert's Own Hussars. Nearby is a model of a charger in cowrie shell harness first worn in 1811 and a group of models' wearing uniforms of different periods.

The Crimean War and the Charge of the Light Brigade are bound to loom large. There is an excellent diorama of the Return from the Charge based on Lady Butler's famous painting, all the more remarkable in that it was made by the 13-year-old son of a Royal Hussar officer. Clearly shown is the standing figure of Private Pennington, first a sailor then a soldier and finally an actor, who wrote an account of the Charge in his book *Sea, Camp and Stage*. Among a number of medals is the Crimea Medal of Private T Warr, 11th Hussars, with four clasps — Sebastopol, Inkermann, Balaclava and Alma. Then there is the magnificent silver Balaclava centrepiece presented to the Regiment by Lord Cardigan set against a 20ft by 9ft white damask tablecloth decorated with battle honours and portraits of leading figures in the campaign. Here too is a hoof of Ronald, Lord Cardigan's charger.

Two items of dress of particular interest are a Hussar full dress jacket worn by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) which, unlike the regular dress, has two breast pockets, and Prince Henry, Duke of

Gloucester's jacket as Colonel of the 10th bearing on the epaulettes the insignia of four sovereigns to whom he was ADC: George V, Edward VIII, George VI and Elizabeth II.

There are some fine paintings, notably a large canvas depicting the 10th routing the Sudanese army at El Teb, while a good selection of photographs includes one of a private resting in his barrack room against a background of wasp-waisted Edwardian pin-ups with his uniform and sword hanging alongside.

In a collection of fascinating documents a book of Standing Orders issued by the 11th in 1799 states that 'Marriage is to be discouraged in the Regiment, as there are already more women than could be allowed to embark for foreign service. Three or four industrious women in a Troop are a sufficient number.'

Models of armoured vehicles can be looked at through peep-holes and a historic World War Two photograph shows General von Thoma, Afrika Corps Commandant, climbing into the armoured car of Captain Grant Singer of the 10th to whom he had previously surrendered.

Finally, of the many historic and eye-catching exhibits, the most popular must surely be the man in the cupboard. He was Trooper Patrick Fowler who became separated from his regiment behind the German lines in 1915 and was hidden in a cupboard by a French widow and her daughter for three years and nine months. German soldiers were billeted upstairs yet he was never discovered and at the end of the war he emerged, thin and bearded, to greet a Troop of his own regiment. Later the two brave French women, Mme Belmont-Gobert and her daughter, were awarded the OBE and Fowler lived on to the ripe old age of 88. The actual cupboard is on display and in it is a model of Fowler showing how small his refuge was.

John Jesse

**Curator:** Lieut-Col Peter Upton (Retd)  
**Museum**  
**Guide:** Major R McDonald (Retd)  
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# Chatting up the Russians — Army style

Story: Graham Smith  
Pictures: Dave Morris

RUSSIAN-SPEAKING INTERPRETERS serving with the Army in Berlin find life is seldom dull and, quite often, full of surprises in the 'island city'. Yet, it is joked among their elite fraternity, they can go hungry at official banquets.

As Warrant Officer Ralph Johnstone, a Royal Military Police interpreter says: "When something happens it usually turns out to be interesting but never boring. You never really know what is involved until you get there."

Ralph, an interpreter since 1972, is on his second tour of Berlin. Like most of his colleagues he has a Russian vocabulary of some 12,000 words or more and he uses this word-power almost every day in situations where contact with the Soviets is necessary during access to or exit from the corridor.

Berlin Garrison has eight Russian-speaking interpreters, all qualified to exacting Army linguistic standards at the Service's School of Languages at Beaconsfield. They make up a pool drawn from various regimental units but all are attached to 247 (Berlin) Provost Company, Royal Military Police.

The linguistic duties are varied in the

British Sector of the divided city.

An interpreter, for instance, always travels on the Berlin Military Train as it crosses 145 miles of East Germany between Berlin and Brunswick in 3½ hours. His job is to deal with passenger documentation and iron out any other administrative problems that may arise with the Soviet Army officials at Marienborn railway station and he may spend up to two months a year riding the *Berliner*.

From rail to road, duty interpreters may be called out to either of the two Soviet check points at each end of the fast-flowing 104-mile stretch of autobahn to help Allied motorists who have been involved in break-downs, traffic accidents or simply run into bureaucratic difficulties there. British military personnel do not recognise East German officialdom, only the presence of a Soviet officer, under the terms of the quadri-partite agreement.

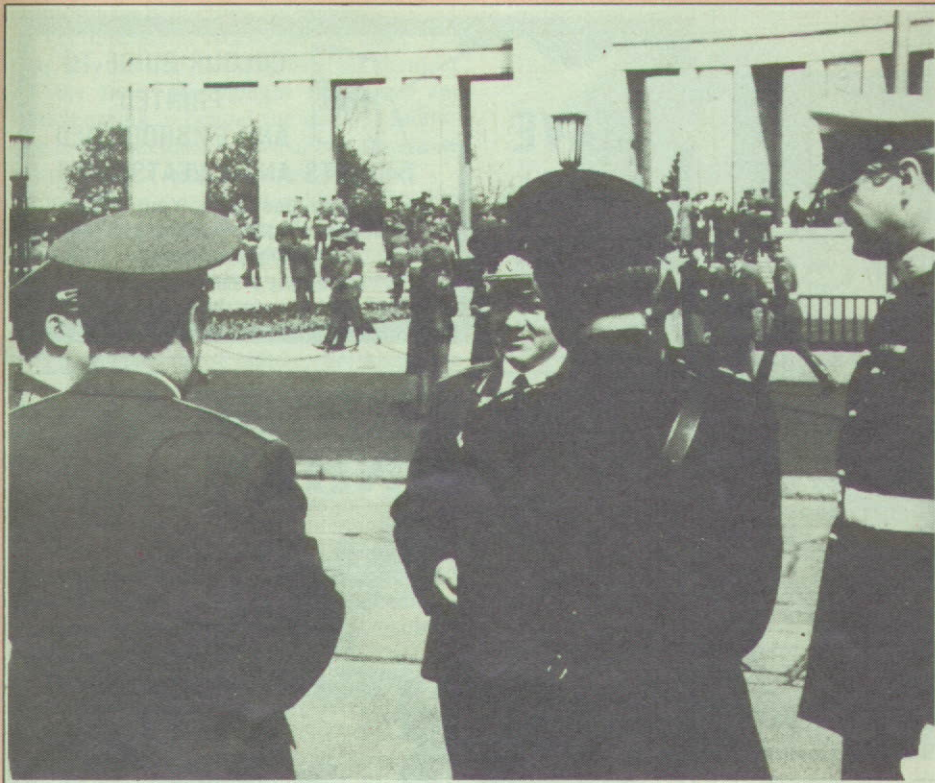
There is a continual liaison between the interpreters and the Soviet check points particularly during the processing of convoys with five vehicles or more.

East Berlin, lying across The Wall, sometimes presents its difficulties as the Army's

One of the parades at the Soviet War Memorial at the Tiergarten where British Army interpreters are usually called into vocal action.





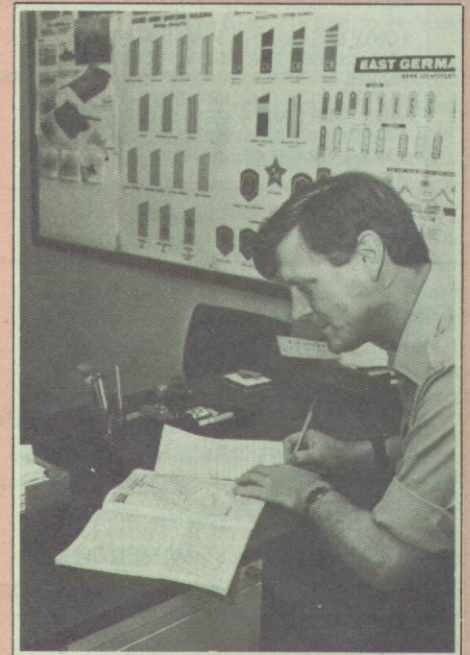
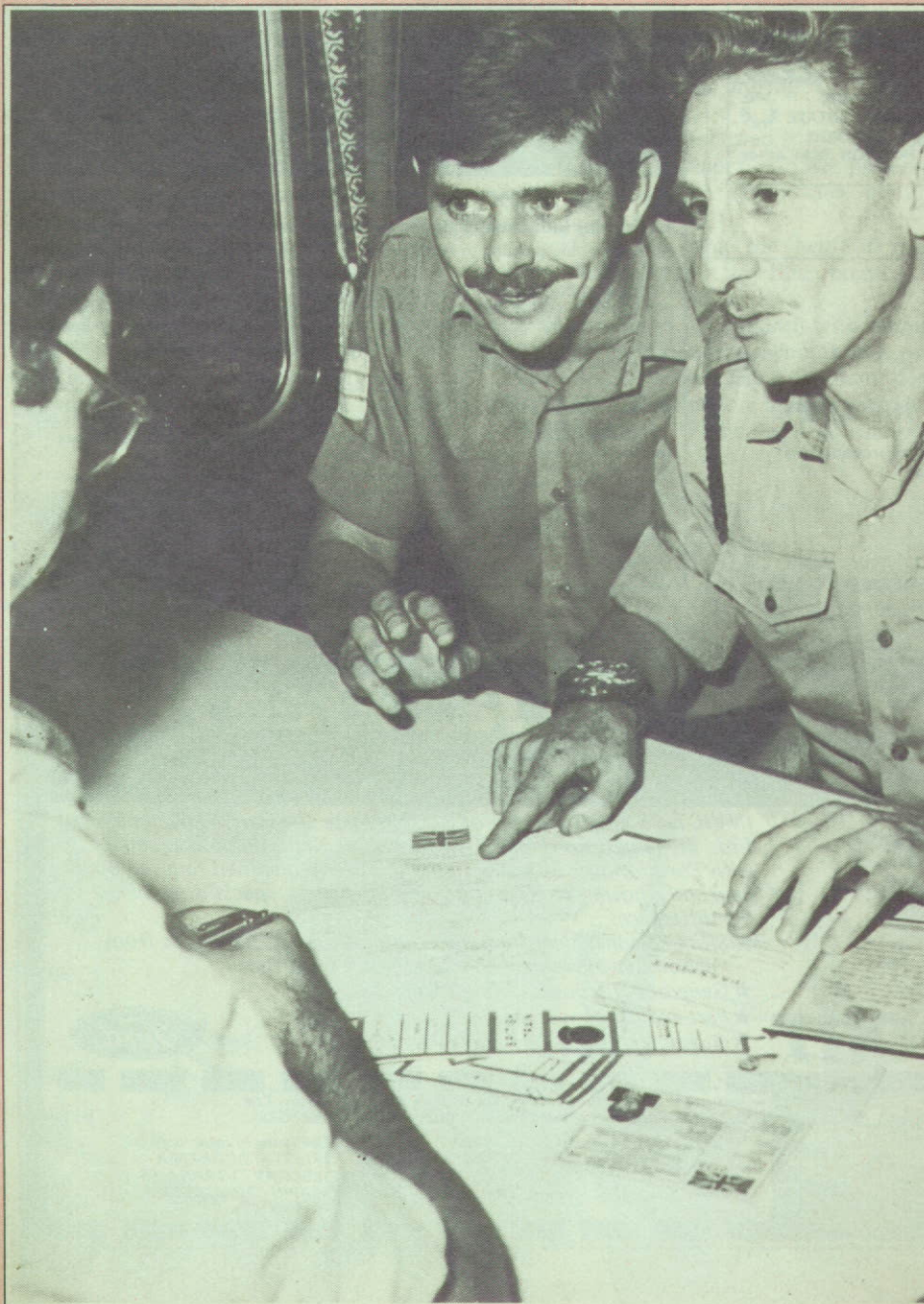


Left: Another picture of an interpreter in action. Warrant Officer Dennis Hawkesford (far right) in conversation with Russian colonel.

Russian linguists intervene to sort out a minor traffic irregularity or help inquiries into an overdue visitor to that Sector. And occasionally there are incidents of real drama such as the time, a few years ago, when an army interpreter found himself suddenly embroiled in an active defection of a uniformed — and armed — Soviet captain from a transport regiment who fled an organised coach outing to Charlottenburg Palace.

The fugitive was handed over by the West German police to the British military and an interpreter was called in. The officer, a self-confessed KGB 'recruiting officer', was loaned a plastic mac and the sanctuary of a

*continued on page 45*



Left: Warrant Officer John Henderson, Royal Engineers, interpreter in Berlin sorts out a problem with a British Travel Document.

Above: WO Hawkesford, who is from the 13th/18th Royal Hussars, keeps his Russian language written work up to scratch with homework.





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mini-bus floor to effect his escape.

The interpreter recalled at the time: "He was very nervous, looking over his shoulder all the time. He thought that every car which swung in behind the bus was following us but he calmed down after a 10-minute journey and a couple of cups of coffee."

Sometimes it is British soldiers who find themselves on the 'other side'. They stray into East Germany by taking a wrong turning on the autobahn — and it needs the military police — plus an interpreter — to get them back.

The social side of military life keeps the linguists busy too — events like the Queen's Birthday Parade and the bi-annual Berlin Tattoo at which multi-decked, be-ribboned Soviet 'top brass' turn up in numbers and have the programme's panoramic happenings translated.

One interpreter recalls the time he attended a Berlin Tattoo reception banquet with the task of translating English badinage at table for the benefit of a Russian colonel and his wife.

"I was so busy relaying what was being said by all present and the lady, in particular, was so full of questions, that I fell behind during the courses," he said. "I suppose I had two mouthfuls of the starter when, suddenly, the plates were cleared away. I never did complete that meal!"

Other big occasions in the Berlin military calendar which involve the Soviets — and Army interpreters — occur in February, May and November when the Russians parade at their War Memorial in the Tiergarten, built from the ruins of the Reichskanzlei.

Friendliness is a strong ingredient of most conversations articulated by the Army's experts in the Cyrillic-lettered language.

Major Terry Scriven, Officer Commanding, 247 (Berlin) Provost Company, RMP, who is in charge of the interpreters and is on his second tour of Berlin, used to play chess with one Soviet colonel which, he says,



Sergeant Bob Booth, Royal Artillery, catches up on current world events as seen through the editorial columns of Moscow's 'Pravda'.

helped relationships during any negotiations.

"If an anomaly followed it could be glossed over. In fact, when I left I was presented with a Russian fur hat. A nice gesture, indeed."

Incidents requiring the help of interpreters can happen at any time, pointed out Major Scriven.

"We might go for a month with nothing and then have three happenings in a row. For example, we once had a nine-hour delay on the autobahn due to a minor administrative irregularity. We had sent an American

and a British colleague along the autobahn in an American vehicle. It had to be sorted out with one of our linguists".

He added: "On the whole, the Russians on the autobahn check points are very helpful. It's a great help to an interpreter if he is cheerful in his approach. Pleasantness can take the heat from any potential situation. Be calm and relaxed in dealings with the Soviets, I tell my men. The Russians warm to that."

And so they do, it seems. One Russian lieutenant-colonel brought his eight-year-old son to a check point to watch the assembly of British convoys. The soldiers responded, in typical fashion, with sweets for the youngster.

Warrant Officer John Henderson, a former combat engineer, has been a Russian interpreter for 17 years. Currently on his third Berlin tour he said: "There are certain Soviet officers in our dealings who are very amenable. There are others who are po-faced hard-line party members and less co-operative. Most have the same interests we do, like football and so on."

One of his colleagues, Warrant Officer Johnstone, subscribed to the last view. "The Russians are pretty well the same to deal with as soldiers world-wide. They talk and think of sex, booze and sport."

Russian humour presents its problems at times. Soviet jokes tend to be lengthy sagas, say the linguistic experts, and there have been occasions when a tactful interpreter has nudged his British officer and smilingly suggested in under-tones: "Would you mind, sir, laughing . . . now!"

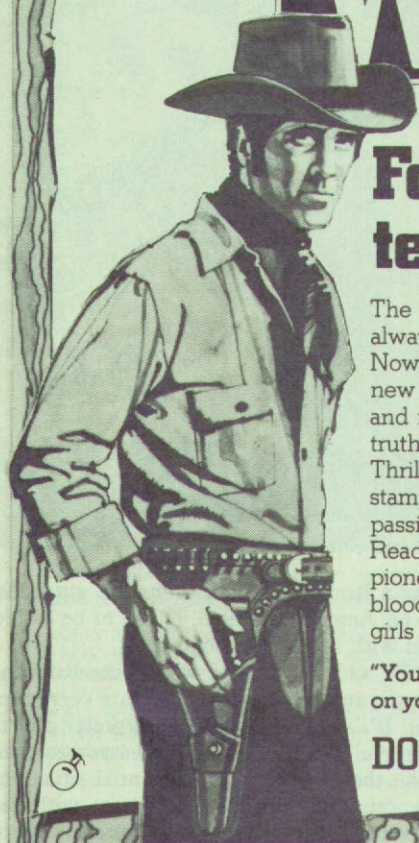
But the last word on laughter belongs to Sergeant Bob Booth, interpreter with 247 Provost Company for the past two years, who vividly recalls a jocular remark that lost something in the translation. A particularly cold spell was referred to as being intense enough to freeze the vital assets off a brass monkey. But, for Russian ears, the victim became a 'metal chimpanzee'!



Left: At Checkpoint Charlie, military policeman and linguist, Warrant Officer Ralph Johnstone chats to policeman and customs man.



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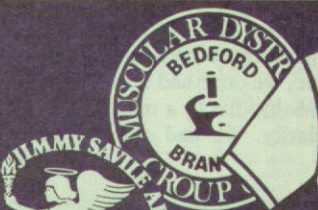
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These are two separate discs in separate sleeves but as they are from the same stable in all respects I'll muck them out together.

Since the three bands of the RTR are almost the only staff bands to have to take a turn with a BAOR posting, it seems logical for them to cater for the German market as well as our own. The titles, and contents, of these two records should do the job nicely. When I last 'trod the boards' in Germany their own few bands were no match for ours in versatility or entertainment value, even if individual skills were greater in some cases. Such a pity that our regimental bands have to appear in public with as few as twenty-four players — even less if Smith, Jones and Robinson are sick, lame or lazy.

With just over thirty players, and a Director of Music who is not afraid to put pen to paper himself, the Cambrai band can be relied upon to keep the flag flying.

Not all the items in the first programme are marches or dances, though it's just the title to attract the Germans. Gounod's *Marche Militaire La Ronde*, *Radetzky*, the *Children of the Regiment* and *El Relicario* are four marches which we British buyers hear too much of, but a much needed new arrangement of Gounod's *Funeral March of a Marionette* (Alfred Hitchcock's signature tune) is a real find. Halvorsen's gem, *Entry of the Boyards*, is always welcome, and Captain



Turner's *Huguenot* which seems to admit that the Grenadiers won the Battle of Waterloo will catch on quickly in some quarters. Drossner's *The Old Seafarer* carries too much ballast for my liking.

The dance music includes the very popular *Schneewalzer*, Leroy Anderson's *Sandpaper Ballet*, and an excerpt from Bizet's *Carmen*. Rimmer's old cornet solo *Birds of Paradise* is odd-man-out in this pleasant little programme.

A 'Platz' concert can of course include anything, and here it does, from marches to symphonic movements. The latter, the Allegretto from Brahms's *Symphony No 3* was a mistake I feel, if well intentioned. Even more so than in Britain there is always a little Herr Doktor Professor standing behind a tree, the man we conductors dread will hear us when off form, or playing something chancy; this was definitely taking a chance — and a liberty. On the other hand Mozart's *A Musical Joke* can stand any sort of treatment. As the signature tune for TV's show-jumping marathons it has to.

And of course *Under the Double Eagle*, Leroy Anderson's *Serenata*, Dvorak's *Slavonic Dances*, and particularly Paul Lincke's nostalgic old *Frau Luna* overture will go down well anywhere. Four solo items for cornet, euphonium, clarinet trio and bass tuba complete this programme.

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## This is The Royal Marines Band

(Royal Marines School of Music) (EMI This 5)

Unless I am mistaken, old Royal Marines recordings, more than any other, are being dished up for a second or third time under new titles and in new job lots. As always, though, one man's meat...

For new buyers you couldn't have a more representative selection from RM oldies than this, with all three recent Directors of Music taking their turn with the baton. For old hands at this game please pass on while I kit-out the recruits.

Marches are *The Washington Post* and *High*



*School Cadets* (Sousa), *Imperial Echoes*, *March of the Cobblers and Blaze Away*. TV and film themes are *Warship*, *Eye Level* (Van der Valk), *A Bridge too Far* and *The Guns of Navarone*.

Xylophone solo *On the Track*, post horn solo *The Huntsman*, trumpet solo *Evening Breeze*, flute trio *Penny Whistle Song*; special arrangements *Cavalry of the Steppes*, *The Piper in the Meadow*, *Alfie*, and the *Troika* by Prokofiev. And if only they would end a record with something other than *Sunset*. They don't.

RB

## 'The Centenary Royal Tournament 1980' (EMI NTS 206)

This Tournament I did see, if through the bottom of a glass darkly, so I have no excuse for pleading ignorance of the arena events portrayed by the recorded music. Not that it matters a great deal if it all sounds pertinent, significant, and (damn the word) meaningful.

Meaningful of what? the listener may well ask. After an extended fanfare for band and trumpets which refers to happy anniversaries, congratulations and all that stuff, the massed bands of the Irish Guards, Royal Marines, and Royal Air Force give a skilled marching display to *Lillibulero*, the three Service marches, Blankenburg's *Action Front*, Alford's slow march *By Land and Sea*, and the Irish pipers playing *Green Hills of Antrim* and the beautiful *Star of County Down*. On one never to be forgotten performance the RAF band were stuck in a traffic jam just west of West Drayton; with great powers of improvisation the other two bands performed the complicated march patterns



with one third of their number missing, marching off to the old favourite *The Army, the Navy, and the Air Force* with significant (not to say derisive) silences every time the words Air Force were reached. For full appreciation of the electric effect of this, imagine yourself a senior RAF officer (as it was on that night) taking the salute as they exited to *The Army, the Navy, and the...*

I confess to being otherwise engaged during the Kenya Army Band's colourful performance but I'm told it was a torrid affair during which army lasses swung more than their hips. The Household Cavalry Quadrille was as usual charm itself, with particularly charming music provided mostly, I'm pleased to say, by their Directors of Music past and present; the REME band, house band on this occasion, played to fine effect all night. The Quadrille music included the regimental marches of the *Worcestershire Regiment* and the *Gloucestershire Regiment*; the latter will, I'm sure, buy a copy of this disc if only to see their march listed on the label as *The Kynegad Flashers*.

The finale was fittingly a panorama of events over the century of the Tournament's existence with, among many other things, an elephant which trumpeted delightfully throughout *Sunset* on my night; like Sir Thomas Beecham's horse during a performance of *Aida* it let its criticism be known. On record yet another performance of the fourth *Pomp and Circumstance* march and Walton's *Crown Imperial* might seem a bore. In Earls Court's arena they provided the momentum for one of the finest emotional climaxes I have seen at such a show, and come across (as does all the music) with finer precision, clarity and immediacy than is often achieved in a studio.

RB

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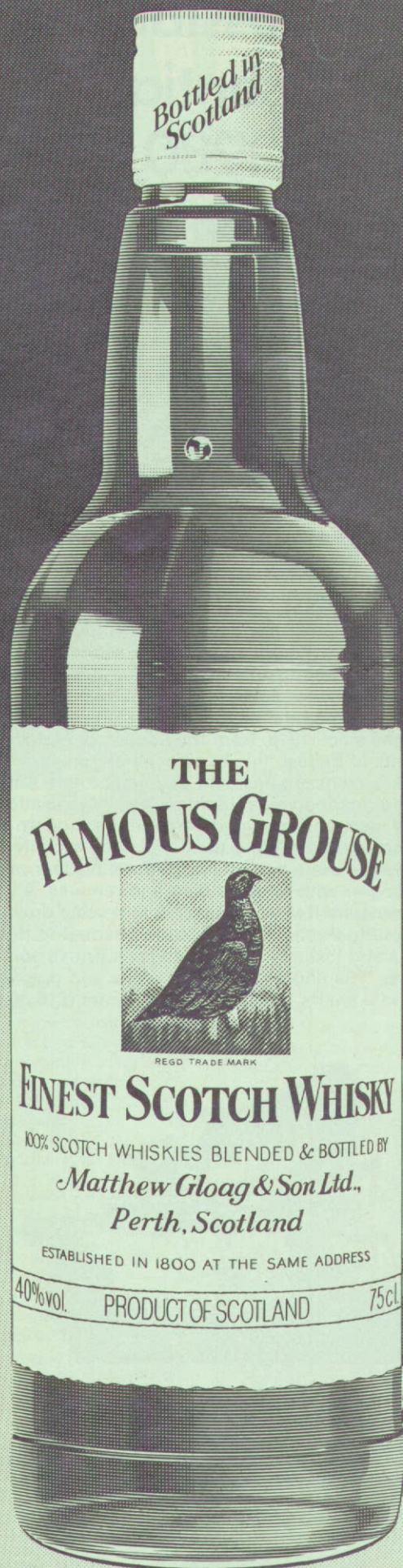
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# BOOKS

## Turning point

'Suez 1956: Operation Musketeer' (Robert Jackson)

This is a useful account of a turning point in British history — and French too — when overseas commitments were being reduced, although there was still trouble in Malaya, Kenya, Cyprus and Indo-China. Russia and the United States were taking the major — and rival — world roles while the 'Colonial Powers' were withdrawing gradually to their homelands. The 'care' of the Middle East was being eased out of the control of Britain and the Arabs were intent upon destroying Israel before the new state was fully self-protective.



So the political background set the scene and dominated this quick moving action to save the Suez Canal. The action is all here in this book and the pressing political reasons to halt a winning side and call it all off within an ace of certain overwhelming victory. Full of facts and some good photographs.

Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 8AS, £5.95 GRH

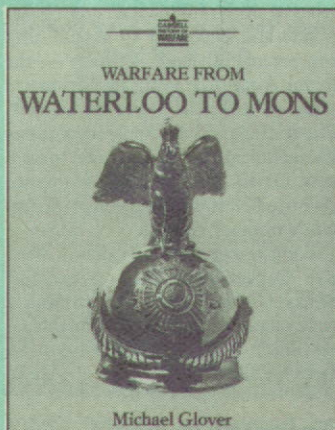
## Rich history

'Warfare in the Ancient World' (Richard Humble); 'Warfare from Waterloo to Mons' (Michael Glover)

These are two of a series of eight illustrated volumes making up the *History of Warfare* series, ranging from the Ancient World to the Modern World — the latter being the years since World War Two.

Mr Humble covers the period from the third millennium BC to the collapse of the Western Roman empire in the fifth century AD. For brevity, his territory goes no farther east than Alexander the Great's nibble at India, which is a pity because much of his ground is already well covered while the areas he misses are not. He apologises to oriental readers for omitting the military histories of Far Eastern countries; he might have extended his apologies to Scandinavian and Russian readers too.

As it is, he presents succinctly much of the riches available from the stories of the Mediterranean and Middle East — Mesopotamia, Assyria, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Persia and the great days of Greece and Rome. He describes some considerable political convolutions which are made the more confusing by a shortage of maps and lack of an index to those which do appear.



For this reviewer the highlight of Mr Humble's book is the struggle between the Persians and the Greeks from 490 to 479 BC. The period includes the Greek victory at Marathon, the stand at Thermopylae and the naval battle of Salamis. Great, stirring stuff, but the author reminds us not to be too starry-eyed about it: war in the ancient world was no chivalrous event, lust for loot and power motivated most armies and conquerors were apt to perpetrate the most ghastly atrocities.

Mr Glover's field in *Warfare from Waterloo to Mons* is also restricted, this time mainly to the forces of European powers, though he does look at a naval



battle between Chinese and Japanese, the Russo-Japanese war, some of the European powers' colonial campaigns, and the American Civil War and the Spanish-American war.

His period is one of the most attractive in military history for anyone who retains a schoolboy liking for the comprehensible gadgetry of the pre-electronic age. With Mr Glover we can enjoy the introduction of smokeless powder, steam warships and the Dreadnought, rifled and breech-

loading weapons, the telegraph and telephone, observation balloons and the early aeroplanes.

There were great strides, too, in the commissariat world — in some armies, at least. The Federal army in the American Civil War has supplies 'plentiful to the point of luxury,' with newsboys selling the latest editions to troops preparing to attack and embalmers' agents ready to cope with those who were killed. In spite of that, American troops landed in Cuba 30-odd years later to 'logistic chaos' and totally inadequate medical services.

Conditions of service saw some improvements too, notably in the Tsar's army where conscription was brought down from 25 years at the time of the Crimea to a mere six by the 1877 war against the Turks.

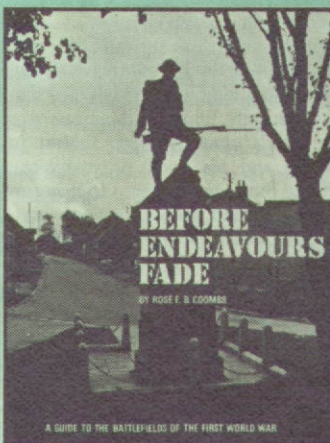
The period ended with bigger armies, better administered and armed than ever before, but none prepared for the 'siege war in open country' that was to be the Western Front.

Cassell, 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG — £7.95 each RLE

## Work of art

'Before Endeavours Fade' (Rose E B Coombs)

This is very much more than a guide book to the battlefields of World War One. Rose Coombs, who has been on the staff of the Imperial War Museum for many years and is now Special Collections Officer, has produced a meticulous work of art, crammed full with facts and photographs. She has visited the battlefields more than 100 times and her long association with the subject has enabled her to produce a work that well deserves the preservation that this hardback edition will ensure.



More than 20 routes to British, French and American battlefields are detailed and illustrated with Michelin maps. Upwards of 150 photographs show in graphic and dramatic detail features and memorials, while modern aerial photographs augment the whole, showing similarities and differences with wartime records and emphasise how the scars of war on annually ploughed fields are still not erased after 60 years.

All the famous names and places are here from Zeebrugge to Ypres, the Somme, Arras, Cambrai, Mons, Le Cateau, Amiens, St Quentin, Verdun and many more. Even the Poppy Legend, which originated in China, is explained and there are interesting and useful notes on the Demarcation

Stones which mark the limit of the German advance, Battlefield Debris and Accommodation for the pilgrim. There is a summarised diary of the battles of the Somme extending from October 1914 to 16 September 1918, while a note records that the British Military Cross and the French Croix de Guerre were conferred on the town of Ypres after the war.

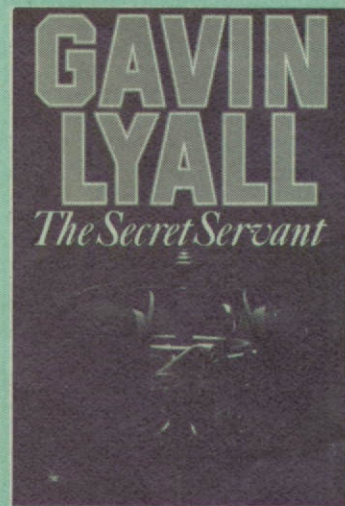
An excellent and painstakingly well researched record that will be a book of reference as long as interest in this devastating war continues.

Battle of Britain Prints International Ltd, 3 New Plaistow Road, London E15 3JA, £5.95 & £3.95 GRH

## Thrills and spills

'The Secret Servant' (Gavin Lyall)

Not often does a serving soldier feature as the hero of a thriller, but here is Major Harry Maxim showing his way determinedly into that ever-growing club of fictional tough-guys who can loosely be described as agents. He is a Light Infantryman who has had two tours with the Special Air Service. He arrives at 10 Downing Street for a rather vague appointment as an extra security man and trouble-shooter and is very quickly dealing with a grenade thrown through the door. He is given the job of looking after a womanising



nuclear warfare strategist who is in danger of being blackmailed. From then on the action is fast and bloody and takes in a long flash-back to the Long Range Desert Group in World War Two.

Maxim is a good, vigorous character with whom there is never a dull moment. Mr Lyall, who reports that he subscribed to *SOLDIER* during the years he was creating the character, tells us there is a second Maxim adventure coming soon. We look forward to it.

Hodder and Stoughton, 47 Bedford Sq, London, WC1B 3DP, £5.50 RLE

## Pistol packing

'The World's Machine Pistols and Submachine Guns' (Thomas B Nelson and Daniel D Musgrave)

Weapons which were not favoured to any great extent in World War Two, and were even considered for elimination from national armouries, have been gradually coming into their own in the past quarter of a century. Machine pistols and submachine guns, because of their lightness, com-



## MORE BOOKS

compactness and high rate of fire, have been used more extensively in limited wars and gained popularity as anti-terrorist weapons in countries where subversive elements are active.



The development and use of sub-machine guns in manufacture up to 1963 were fully recorded in Volume One of this series. This book brings the story of submachine guns up to date for the years 1964 to 1980 and also deals with the less weighty and less bulky mini-submachine gun. In addition the machine pistol, which is coming back into favour, is fully reviewed. This weapon alone takes up nearly 200 of the 680 large pages, is profusely illustrated with clear photographs and line drawings and is, for easy reference, divided into the countries of manufacture. Full designations are given and the supporting text painstakingly describes the development of the various models.

There are also chapters on pistol-carbines, muzzle devices, including silencers, and on ammunition and feed devices. Surely a book for the enthusiast and for the expert, but also clear and concise enough for the beginner with a growing interest in this subject.

Arms & Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ, £14.95 GRH

## Tales well told

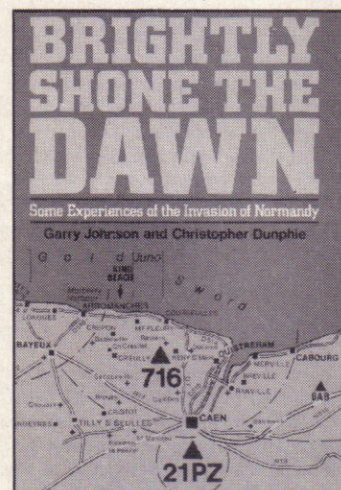
'Brightly Shone The Dawn' (Garry Johnson and Christopher Dunphie)

The Staff College's battlefield tours to Normandy, which for 30 years were popular with students and useful to them, gained much from on-the-spot accounts of the action by survivors. The experiences of eight of those 'guest artists' are now retold by the authors, both of whom are serving colonels in the Ministry of Defence. They add to the stories some most useful directions for finding the places mentioned and recognising features, with pictures and maps to help, so the book is a good aid to intelligent sight-seeing.

The tales told include those of Lieutenant (later Captain) Peter Dickens, RN who commanded a destroyer off the beaches; Major John Howard, commander of the glider troops who captured Pegasus Bridge over the Orne and the nearby canal bridge; Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) Allen Parry who with only a quarter of the planned parachute force eliminated the Merville Battery;

Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Hastings, who took the 6th Green Howards inland from King's Beach; Major (later Major-General Sir James) Jackie d'Avigdor-Goldsmid and Lieutenant (later Major) Alastair Morrison, who backed the infantry with tanks of the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards; Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) Edmund Warren of the Devons who went to watch the capture of Breville and ended by commanding it; and Major (later General Sir) John Mogg who took command of 6th Durham Light Infantry when his commanding officer was killed, and captured Lingèvres.

Frederick Warne, 46 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3HE, £7.50 RLE



## Shocking truth

'Decent Interval' (Frank Snapp); 'Ethnic Soldiers' (Cynthia H Enloe)

Two books, both by Americans, one on the war in Vietnam the other more concerned with the theory of war.

*Decent Interval*, dealing as it does with the American debacle in Vietnam culminating in the fall of Saigon, is an analytically factual report on the war, shocking in its frankness and devastatingly honest. Its author was the CIA's chief strategy analyst in Saigon and his book provoked the United States government to bring an unprecedented lawsuit against him. Meanwhile *Decent Interval* became an American best seller and is now set to storm the British market. It is an absorbing account of the hostilities and their background, interlarded with pen sketches of various personalities involved in the war, both known and unknown.

From fact to theory. In *Ethnic Soldiers* Professor Enloe carefully examines the relationship between military organisations and racial or ethnic identities. From Scottish and Irish soldiers to Gurkhas, Cossacks and Kurds, military bodies the world over are subjected to a dispassionate examination. A scholarly work for the theorist and historian.

Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, Middlesex, £2.95; Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, Middlesex, £2.90 JFPJ

## Hardware store

'The Armed Forces of the United Kingdom' (Edited by Chris Chant)

The weapons and equipment, in a word the 'hardware', of the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force are economically described in

this mini-encyclopaedic volume. Divided into three sections, the first deals with the numbers, organisation and equipment of the Army, while the second and third concentrate on the Navy and RAF.

An informative introduction prepares the ground for the first entry — Britain's main battle tank, the Chieftain, with its dimensions, performance, armament and many other points. Similarly treated are the Scorpion light reconnaissance tank, Ferret scout car, Bofors light anti-aircraft gun, 105 mm light field gun, Mobat anti-tank recoilless rifle, Swingfire, Sterling sub-machine gun and many other examples of the Army's strength and mobility.

Next, the Royal Navy and various types of ship from nuclear submarine, frigate and destroyer to assault ship and patrol craft and — finally — the Royal Air Force with an impressive array of different types of aircraft. Illustrations and diagrams accompany the technical data appropriate to each item for all three Services to give an all-round comprehensive view of Britain's military strength.

For the keen student this instructive 80-page book with its explanations of organisation and command structure should prove invaluable.

David & Charles, Newton Abbot, Devon, £4.95 JFPJ

## Colourful pen

'The Great Mutiny' (Christopher Hibbert)

Colourful, factual and entertaining this history of the Indian Mutiny is surely one of the best books of its kind to come from the pen of Christopher Hibbert, historian and biographer of the first water. Meticulously researched, it now appears in paperback and is available to an even wider circle of readers.

Accounts of battles and sieges vie with intimate descriptions of the private lives not only of leading personalities of the day but of men and women of quite humble degree. Indeed it is these intimate sketches that make this such an eminently readable book.

Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, Middlesex, £1.95 JFPJ

## Flags unfurled

'Flags and Arms across the World' (Whitney Smith)

Herein are the official flags and coats of arms of 174 countries, testifying to the great spirit of individual national aspirations dividing the world. All are shown in full colour and there are detailed explanations of their composition, including the reasons for adopting certain colours and designs, their development and the meanings of their symbols. For each country the six different kinds of flags normally used are indicated: private, public and military for use on land, and private, public and military for use at sea. Sometimes these are identical, but often different flags are used for civil, state and warlike duties.

The 174 flags signifying 'nations' or 'peoples' bonded together as states with apparently single aims, still do not reveal further divisions throughout the world. The United Kingdom, for instance, has seven national divi-

sions, each with its own flag: England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey, and there are nine dependencies from Gibraltar to St Helena. The USA has 58 states and overseas territories each with its own flag. The Soviet Union has 15 separate republic flags in addition to the national colour, while Brazil has 23 subdivisions. Even little Belgium is divided with 11 provincial flags under the well-known red, yellow and black adopted in 1831.

One interesting anomaly among the United States' flags is that of the State of Hawaii which still wears the British Union flag quartered on its white, red and blue horizontal stripes, as it has been since 1845. A useful book for reference and study with much world history concisely recorded among nearly 1000 illustrations.

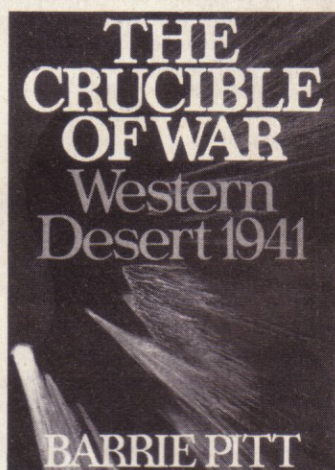
Cassell Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £4.95 GRH

## Desert daring

'The Crucible of War: Western Desert 1941' (Barrie Pitt)

While the to-ings and fro-ings in the Western Desert from 1941 to 1943 have been highly documented and discussed, the earlier Operation Compass of 1940 has received little attention. The name of Sidi Barrani even became a national joke when the *Take It From Here* team of Horne, Murdoch and Costa included it in a skit on one of their radio shows. Yet this advance by Wavell's forces was daring and productive. It succeeded beyond the most optimistic expectations, although it began as a harassing operation and the troops — to ensure the utmost secrecy — were led to believe they were taking part in yet another training exercise.

It provided Churchill with an outstanding victory — 130,000 prisoners and an advance of 500 miles to thrust the enemy right out of Egypt — just at



the time when national morale needed boosting.

This book takes the story of the North African campaigns to the end of 1941, including Operations Battleaxe and Crusader, but it is only the first part of the author's ambitious intentions. A second volume will carry the story through Alamein to the Tunisian border and a third will cover the Anglo-American North West Africa landings and the eventual capitulation of the Afrika Korps.

This volume is no dry historical record nor mere diary of events and actions, but a very readable, dramatic



narrative with personal recollections and amusing anecdotes. It is well researched and includes a backdrop of the British fighting in Egypt in 1882. The photographs and maps ably support the text.

*Jonathan Cape, 30 Bedford Square, London, WC1, £8.95* **GRH**

## Inspiration

*'All the Blue Bonnets' (Robert Woollcombe)*

The King's Own Scottish Borderers is one of those handful of regiments which have never been changed or amalgamated. Formed in 1689 they are approaching 300 years of loyal and meritorious service in all parts of the world. Here is a very thoroughly researched record of their travels and accomplishments, their less glamorous duties and their highlights of courage. All regiments of long standing have much to be proud of, but very often regimental histories tend to be of interest merely to that band of 'old and bold' and the serving members who already take pride in belonging to a brotherhood that has stood the test of the years.

Nevertheless, in among the battle honours, the troopings and the mundane duties of peacetime, unknown facts sometimes emerge that are of particular interest to all military historians. In this record the author doubts the legend of the Minden rose, so loyally commemorated each year on August 1 by a number of regiments. He says that contemporary accounts do not mention the rose and as the battle was fought over heathland it is unlikely that roses were growing there. However, on Minden Day, 1 August 1944, the 6th KOSB made an attack in Normandy and actually plucked "wild roses from the hedgerows and wore them in the netting of their helmets as they went into action". Thus the Minden legend, true or false, led the regimental comrades of World War Two to enhance their endeavours and take inspiration from their predecessors.

Minden, too, produced a new deadliness with the musket. Here for the first time muskets were raised to the shoulder and proper aim was taken. Previously such deliberate acts were considered to be unchivalrous. One other interesting episode among many, states that in 1931: "Owing to the state of the National finances certain reductions not exceeding 10 per cent" were made in the pay of personnel. An example, perhaps, to the Nation today?

*Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ, £9.95* **GRH**

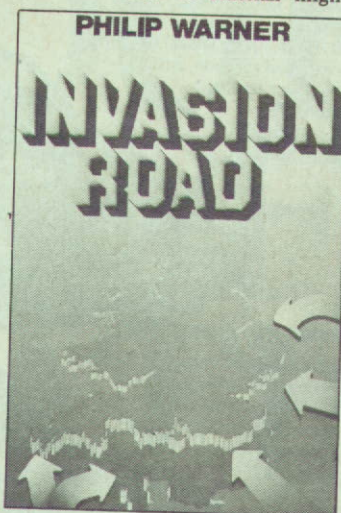
## Invaders all

*'Invasion Road' (Philip Warner)*

Every country has been invaded and there are 'invasion roads' all over the world. The earliest invaders were nomads, wandering until they found better pastures, more amicable climates. They were not warlike, nor often opposed. Their weapons were for use against animals. This book, though based largely on the history of England, reviews all aspects of invasions from the earliest times to World War Two, Korea and Vietnam. And it also looks into the future. It goes into detail about Operation Sealion,

Hitler's plan for the invasion of Britain, and recalls many other episodes, such as the Battle of Britain and David Stirling's 'private army' which penetrated deep into the desert to harass Rommel's rear areas and was the beginning of the Special Air Service.

However, the book's prime purpose is to record the full and fascinating detail of warlike invasions, including the development of weapons, defences, tactics, armies, logistics, communications, intelligence and, even, resistance. Of the future, and the dire threat of Russian might,



coupled with the communists' declared intentions to expand worldwide, the author is still optimistic. He says that "success for Russian armies in a major war would lead to catastrophe (for the Russians) and the disintegration of the Russian state". He believes Russian soldiers would be uncontrollable once they had seen the standards of the West, that the Warsaw Pact countries, or some of them like Poland and East Germany, would be prepared to throw off the yoke. Also that Europe would not be nuclear devastated because then there would be no bountiful land to occupy. *Cassell Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £7.95* **GRH**

## Deadly secret

*'The Deadly Fuze' (Ralph B. Baldwin)*

British scientists started the hunt for a proximity fuze — that is, one which would be set off by nearness to its target — in 1939. The Americans joined in the following year and, building on the work already done in Britain, developed both the fuses and the manufacturing processes.

The end product was a fuze with a radio whose waves were reflected by the target to set off the explosion. In pre-transistor days, it was not easy. Radio sets had to be small enough to fit into shells and rugged enough to stand thousands of 'G' when fired. Suitable valves were developed, starting with those designed for hearing-aids, and special batteries made. Early in 1943 an American warship fired the first VT ('Variable Time' — security code-name) fuses operationally in the Pacific.

Lest the enemy should pick up duds, crack the secret and turn it against the growing Allied air supremacy, the use of the fuze was restricted to the sea. The ban was lifted in 1944, for the battle against the V-1 in England. Both anti-aircraft and field artillery used VT fuses in the

Battle of the Bulge. They were highly effective.

Dr Baldwin, who worked on the fuze in America, tells the story of the development and use of VT fuses in great, perhaps too much, detail, and he sometimes gets a bit carried away with descriptions like — "the real Number One Secret Weapon" and "the greatest tactical advent of a new weapon in the history of warfare". But it is a fine story, and you do not need to be an expert in any scientific or artillery field to enjoy it.

*Jane's, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £8.95* **RLE**

## Crystal-gazing

*'Invasion — The German Invasion of England July 1940' (Kenneth Macksey)* Could Hitler have invaded Britain successfully if he had struck in July 1940? According to Major Macksey, the British Chiefs of Staff at the time declared that was the dangerous moment. By September, when the Germans planned to launch their Operation Sealion, Britain's defences were in far better shape than they had been after Dunkirk.

Major Macksey, in a kind of literary war-game, has produced a very interesting bit of crystal-gazing starting



with the situation slightly adjusted, in June 1940. It becomes an exciting novel in its later stages. This reviewer was getting more and more interested in speculating how the author was going to get Britain out of the mess and throw the Germans back into the sea, when... Let us give no more away than the dust-jacket, which says Sealion in July could have been a "feasible operation".

The story first goes fictional with Hitler at a conference in 21 May (before Dunkirk) enthusiastically ordering the invasion project to be re-examined. The Luftwaffe's assault on Britain is brought forward, and the RAF has still not been beaten when the invasion takes place. It does not take the Luftwaffe long to finish the job with the help of details of the RAF command and control system captured at Hawkinge — a slur on its security that service will not like. The Royal Navy, despite gallant efforts, is unable to stem the flow of German troops and supplies across the Channel in face of minefields, shore artillery and, most of all, enemy control of the sky.

So the Germans land on a front stretching from the marshes west of Hythe to the heights east of Dover. The Army fights as well as inadequate resources allow, but the German

bridgehead is consolidated and expanded. The last British hope is the so-called GHQ Line, where the Battle of Maidstone on 21-22 July is decisive.

If Britain was at her weakest immediately after Dunkirk, it is true also that the Germans needed time to recover from the strenuous fighting both their army and air force had seen in France. Even more significant is the fact that, at the time of Major Macksey's invasion, there were not nearly enough boats to carry the Germans across the Channel. Field-Marshal von Runstedt, who would have played a big part in Sealion had it ever started, was quoted in *SOLDIER* on 5 January 1946 as saying of the September plan, "It was nonsense because the ships were not available. We looked on the whole thing as more of a game..." If they thought that about September, they would have thought July absurd.

*Arms and Armour, 2-6 Hampstead High St, London, NW3 1QQ, £7.95* **RLE**

## Breakthroughs

*'War Winners' (Ronald W Clark)*

The awesome development of weaponry and the vital importance of scientific technology in war are graphically described and analysed in this aptly titled book. The undeniable significance of the machine gun — Gatling, Hotchkiss, Maxim and Lewis — is well demonstrated in the opening chapter. Attempts to counter it with chemical warfare and the tank lead on to the use of radar and the astonishing catalogue of scientific equipment with which both sides fought in World War Two.



An interesting chapter on the work of the boffins, men like Lord Cherwell and radar pioneer Sir Robert Watson-Watt, paves the way to the wizardry of Dr Barnes Wallis and the 'bouncing bomb' he invented to breach the wall of the Mohne Dam. There follow chapters on the Allied advance through Europe and victory in the Pacific, always with reference to the special techniques employed such as the Mulberry Harbour and tanks fitted with mine-exploding flails.

The many inventions which were such a feature of the war in the air are well covered with special reference to the genius of Wernher von Braun and his rockets, Group Captain Frank Whittle of jet-engine fame and many others. The atomic bomb is dealt with in some detail and this highly informative work concludes with a brief look into the future.

*Sidgwick & Jackson, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG, £7.95* **JFPJ**



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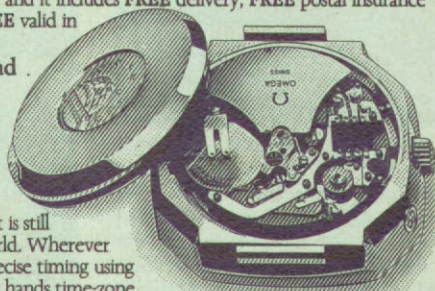
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S11



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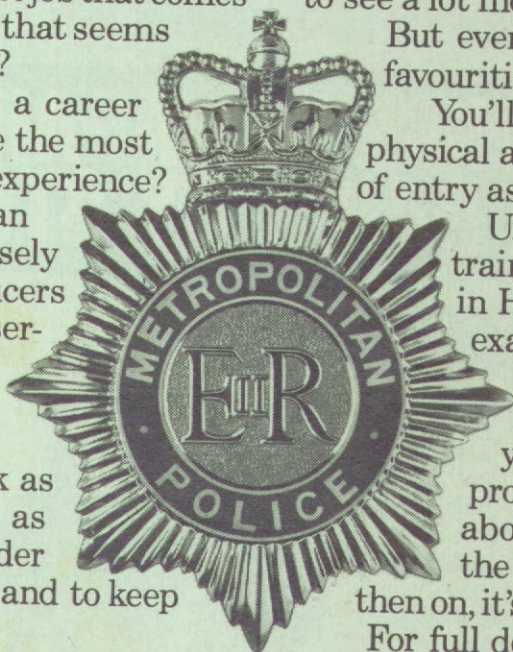
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GETTING ON FOR TWO CENTURIES after the Napoleonic period ended, the cobblestones outside the Invalides in Paris rang again to the sounds of marching and drilling by men of the 1st Regiment of Napoleon's Imperial Guard. And earlier they had paraded outside Napoleon's tomb in the Eglise du Dome and had been inspected by his descendant, Prince Louis Napoleon.

But there was a surprise for the watching Parisians as they were temporarily swept away in a fervour of Bonapartism. For the Imperial Guard, to a man, were from Yorkshire. In that dour northern county redolent of black puddings and tripe a group of men have, over the last eight years, created something which does not even exist in France. The Imperial Guard today wears exact replicas of the original uniform, uses the same drill and attempts to achieve the impossible — a completely faithful recreation of the guard as it must have been in Napoleonic times.

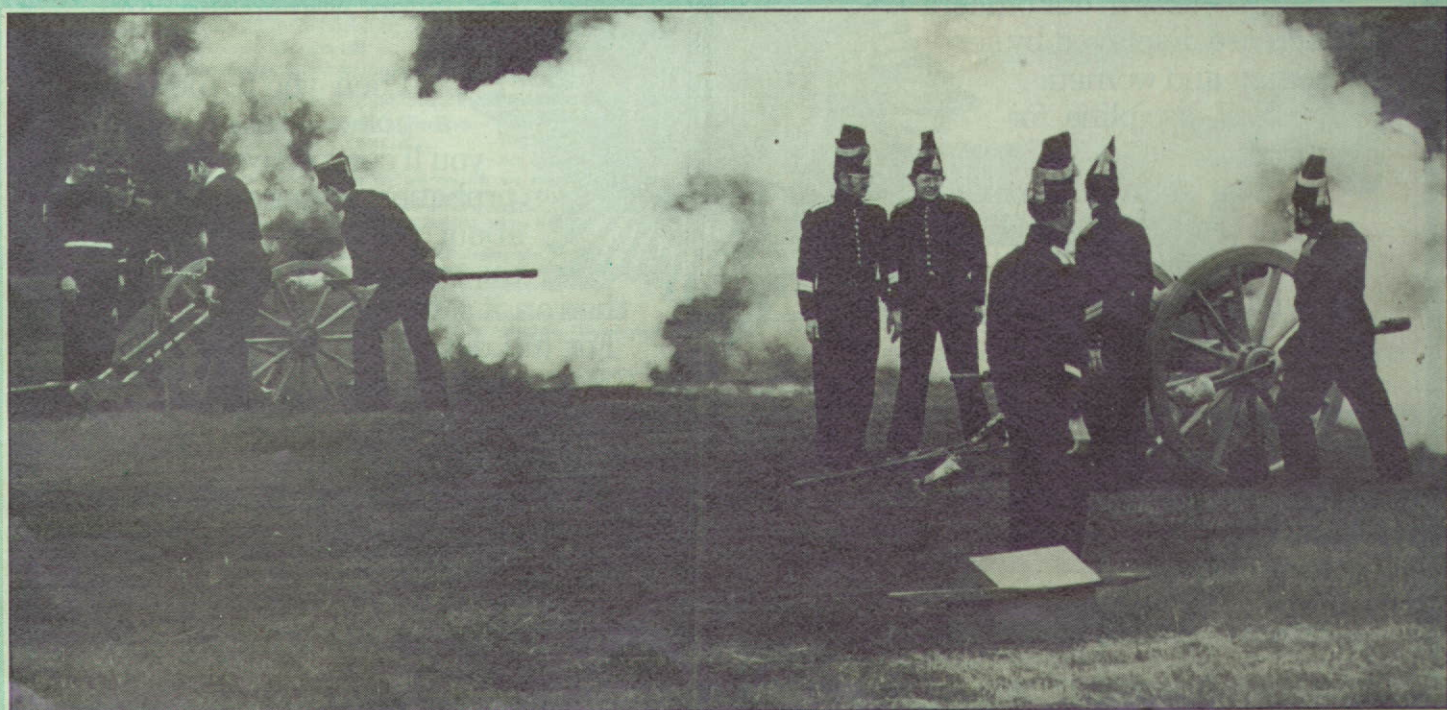
The Guard, or to give it its correct title Grenadiers à Pied de la Garde Impériale, is part of the Sabre Society, a group of enthusiasts for the Napoleonic military era. The other half of the Society represents the British First Foot Guards (and there seems to be almost as much rivalry between the two groups as there was between their original counterparts!).

'Major' Derek Mellard, a former soldier with the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, is second-in-command of the Garde. He is an unashamed Francophile and cares not a whit for such things as difficulties over lamb or Golden Delicious apples.

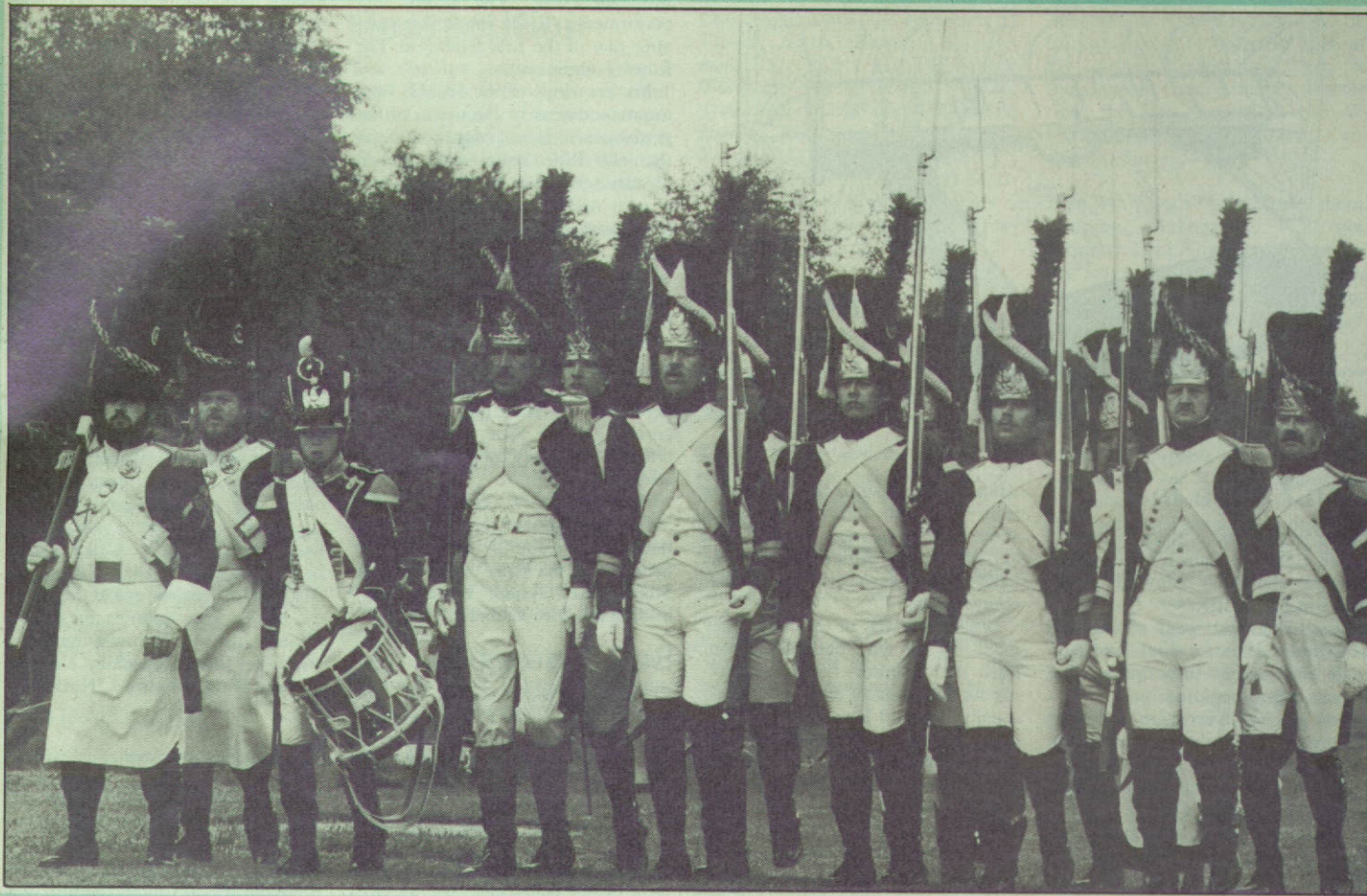
"We are really looking forward to going back to France again because we know we are going to be accepted there," he said.

Left: Haughty Grenadiers with Eagle standard.  
Below: Firing off their cannon at Pirbright.

## YORKSHIRE BONAPARTISTS TAKE PARIS BY STORM







Above: On parade — correct to the last letter of the drill manuals of the Napoleonic period.

"Within five minutes there we had more recognition than we have had in eight years over here."

For the delighted Parisians the Garde gave a display of marching, counter-marching and arms drill before concluding — with bayonets fixed — by forming a defensive hedgehog around the Eagle, the Imperial standard. Afterwards they marched into the church and laid a wreath beside the Emperor's red marble tomb.

Mr Mellard has one or two anecdotes to illustrate the reception they got. He tells of an Englishman who went over with the party and stood anonymously in the crowd. A woman standing next to him said (in French) "They make you proud to be French." On being told that the Garde were Englishmen she appeared nonplussed then declared vehemently: "Well if they aren't then they damn well ought to be!"

He also has treasured memories of the French general who said he would like to see the Yorkshiresmen in the French Foreign Legion — "and that was meant as a compliment!"

Most prized of all is a letter from Prince Louis Napoleon complimenting them on the display in Paris. "The appearance of your Grenadiers à Pieds, their foot drill and their arms drill are to the honour of your society," he wrote.

The Garde Imperiale began back in 1972 when a small group of Napoleonic devotees first got together. Initially they followed the well trodden path of period costume battle re-enactments but their activities soon struck a more serious note. Now the aim is nothing less than the re-creation of the Grenadiers and members tend to look down on other societies who 'play cowboys and Indians'.

"In our opinion there has never been a finer regiment for its dedication and devo-



Right: French general inspects the Garde on their Summer visit to Paris. (Pic C Wilkinson-Latham)

tion to the Emperor," says Mr Mellard. "We have gone for absolute 100 per cent authenticity — right down to the buttons. For instance it took four years of research into old drill manuals to get the drill absolutely right for the Napoleonic period."

Most of the group are former soldiers — and some of them still serve in the Territorial Army. Says Mr Mellard: "This is the only place I've found such an esprit de corps since I left the Forces."

The Garde Imperiale has a couple of cantinières, ladies who took along the Napoleonic equivalent of a Naafi wagon on campaigns. And Mr Mellard's son, Mark, who is 12, appears as a Pupille de la Guard or drummer boy.

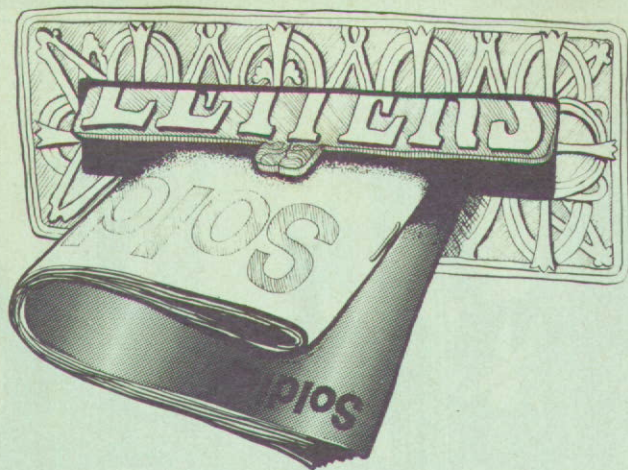
Because of their professional attitude to membership the Napoleonic enthusiasts find that they rarely get applications to join from cranks or people who just want to dress

up. Potential recruits are assessed for several months to see if they will fit in.

This is partly because they are looking for an attitude of mind — "The Imperial Garde were the most arrogant sods who walked God's Earth and we try to reflect that." But there is also a more practical consideration — all of the uniforms are made to measure by Mr Mellard's wife, Maureen, and they want to be sure that the recruit will stay the course afterwards.

If you want to join up you must be able to attend the weekly meetings in Wakefield. And you must be the sort of person who strives for perfection in his military turnout. If you think you can meet those conditions you can contact Mr Mellard at 8 Pippins Green Avenue, Kirkhamgate, Wakefield, West Yorkshire. And while it might sound a bit like the French Foreign Legion the Grenadiers say it's also a lot of fun.





## Don't cave in

I have two points to make regarding Lance Corporal Dunan's complaint (August) about too many advertisements in **SOLDIER**.

First, I do not want an ad-free magazine. Second, I would not pay triple the present subscription rate for an ad-free magazine.

You publish an excellent magazine so why not forget the grumblers and growlers. Send Dunan a Bible if he wants an ad-free publication. Keep up the good work and do not cave in! — **Gene Gall, 506 Crescent Drive, Mt Pleasant, Michigan 48858, USA.**

## Why the exotic?

I attend The Royal Tournament as regularly as circumstances permit, and have seen and heard many

strange and colourful bands, ranging from the Arab Legion Pipe Band about thirty years ago to last year's ear-shattering American College band and this year's spectacular Kenya band.

What they lack in technique they make up for with enthusiasm, but must the organisers be always looking for the unusual and exotic? Personally, I would love to see the very smart French band pictured on page 31 of the August **SOLDIER**, and I've no doubt that the Belgian, Dutch and other European countries have something to offer. It is, after all, a 'military' tournament! Let's hope the organisers read **SOLDIER** and take note.

By the way, congratulations on your colour centre spreads. Your standards are always high, but the colour makes the pictures really come to life. — **Harry B Brand, 5-25 Scrutton St, London EC2A 4HJ.**

## Musical Ride

As a long time fan of military tattoos it was most interesting to read of The Royal Tournament over the past 100 years. Your article 'Skill and Spectacle Span 100 Years', seems to indicate that the introduction of the Musical Ride was the salvation of the show and this is interesting in the light of the popularity of another Musical Ride, that of the Royal Canadian

Mounted Police. The RCMP first performed a 'Ride' about five years after that of the Life Guards at The Royal Tournament.

My enquiries to the RCMP were unproductive as to the origin of the performance. It was suggested to me that the Ride began with British Cavalry serving in India. Could any of your readers enlighten me further or suggest any sources of information?

Unfortunately the opportunities to view such performances are rather rare in Canada given the distances and the current over-commitment of what used to be the Canadian Army! Certainly the RCMP Musical Ride performs to standing room-only crowds and the Riding Academy in Ottawa is a very popular tourism attraction.

By the way, I understand that female members of the RCMP have undergone training and will be included in the Ride troop! — **F E Smith, 1513 Aspen Place, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, T1K 3V4.**

## Bullet proof

Reviewing *Combat Handguns* (this month's Bookshelf) brought back to mind a question which has haunted me on and off for nearly 40 years and which, perhaps, a weapons expert among your readers can answer.

It arose during the evacuation from Greece in 1941. A companion and I set about wrecking an abandoned staff car without setting it on fire (smoke might have drawn the Luftwaffe about our ears). When it came to the tyres, we decided to shoot holes in them. It was hopeless: the bullets from our .38 Smith and Wesson revolvers just bounced off the tyre walls. All that was destroyed was any illusion we may have had about the research behind Hollywood movies, in which a snap shot at a tyre was a common way of stopping the opposition's motorcar, as it still is on television.

So my question is: Has anybody ever punctured an inflated car tyre with a pistol shot? And, if so, what did we do wrong? — **RLE (Name and address supplied).**

## Finest hour

On this 40th anniversary of that heroic episode, The Battle of Britain, one is reminded of Winston Churchill's famous words — "their finest hour". I wonder what the surviving veterans of World War 2 consider to be their 'finest hour'.

As an infantryman for the whole six years of that war, I have since often pondered on what my finest hour was during those dangerous times, and always I have come up with the same answer.

It was, without doubt, at 1 am on 2 November 1942, when we of the 51st Highland Division reinforced the 2nd New Zealand Division, and went into the final attack at Alamein. When zero hour arrived, we fixed bayonets and went slowly forward into that silent desert night across those now cooled desert sands. But even in those dangerous moments I quickly glanced along that never-ending line of infantrymen, their 12 inch bayonets glistening in the moonlight. Without hesitation, they advanced towards the

enemy lines, and I knew that those soldiers of my own Division consisted almost entirely of young lads only three months out from Britain and under their first baptism of fire. They had replaced their famous fighting Division wiped out at St Valery in June 1940. And as they moved forward, they knew, as we all did, that many of us had only a few minutes to live, and would never again see another dawn.

It was a magnificent sight, one that we survivors would never forget, and I felt so mighty proud at the bravery of those lads as we approached the inevitable inferno of fire and grenades from the enemy. All night the fierce and bloody fighting went on, and among the many who were to die were my company commander, platoon commander, sergeant major, and my oldest and greatest Army pal. But their sacrifice was not in vain, for the next day Rommel's Afrika Corps began their long retreat to Tunis, and Alamein had become one of the greatest battles and victories in British Military history. Such was my finest hour! — **John Churchill, c/o 149 Canons Walk, Thetford, Norfolk.**

## Cover poser

In your September cover picture of The Royal Anglians, the lance-corporal bottom right is wearing a lanyard. Why? Perhaps you can enlighten me and other readers who no doubt observed it. — **B L Owen, 26 West Douglas, Cork.**

We checked with the adjutant of the 2nd Bn RAR who kindly sent us the following explanation: 'The lance corporal pictured is a member of the Battalion signals platoon, all of whom wear these lanyards; this apparently is a custom with many infantry battalions and not just 2 Royal Anglian. The initial reason for wearing the lanyard at the beginning of this century was to carry a clasp knife in the signaller's top pocket — obviously, with new and updated equipment, this is no longer necessary, but the tradition continues.' — **Ed.**

## Not a myth

On reading RLE's review of *Winged Messenger* (Books, September) I must disagree with his statement that the drawing of blood by a Gurkha before putting his kukri away is a "hoary old soldier's myth".

I served with the RBs in WW2 and met up with the Gurkhas in Italy whilst in transit in General Sikorski Camp and, in my presence, a Gurkha sergeant did in fact cut the tip of his finger before sheathing his kukri after having cleaned it.

The young soldiers who did not do this he classed as rubbish and were not in his opinion 'soldiers'. — **H Milgrom, 2 Bonser Road, Twickenham, TW1 4RG.**

## Hay truckers

I note with interest the letter from Captain W Walter of The Royal Hampshires (September) pointing out a few inaccuracies! I would like to put forward the following comments.

I was the Company Sgt Major of 105 Coy RASC, stationed at St

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Georges Barracks, Minden, and on or about 15 April 1956, we (105) moved to Oxford Barracks, Munster, to be incorporated with the (I believe) 2nd 60th KRRC — not The Royal Hampshire — to drive and maintain the 'Hay Trucks' as a new role but retaining our title as 105 Squadron RASC APC. However, I left the unit at Munster on 29 May 1956 on promotion to RSM and their move to Lemgo may have occurred later. — **Captain G G H Sneezgar (Retd), Ashley, 4 Three Post Road, Watton, Thetford, Norfolk, IP25 6LE.**

## Not the 10th

In your September article 'Cold War Cavalry', you err in stating that the 10th Hussars formed part of the Light Brigade in the charge at Balaclava. The Regiment was in Russia at this time of the Crimean War and was awarded only one battle honour, 'Sevastopol'. — **J Paine, 4 Courtney King House, 169 Eastern Road, Brighton, BN2 2AP.**

## Sennybridge

I am trying to complete the history of Sennybridge Training Area from the year 1956 when the 'Haunt of the Horse' ended, and would very much appreciate any memories, the names of those who have served there, or anything else of historical interest. — **WO2 J D Lane, Range Liaison Office, Sennybridge Training Area, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8PN.**

## Indigestible

I was most surprised to see the photograph on page nine of your September issue captioned 'Junior leader cooking in a trench'. Even if the Welsh had to resort to cannibalism, surely it is bad for recruiting to advertise the fact? — **Major T C Thornton, 24 Abbey Croft, Pershore, Worcester WR10 1JQ.**

## VC search

I am wondering whether any of your readers could offer information on the following points please?

On 2 January 1920, Lieut William D Kenny, of the 4th Battalion, 39th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army, won the Victoria Cross in an action at Kot Kai, on the North West Frontier of India. I am anxious to trace the present whereabouts of the medal, and should be most grateful for any assistance in this search. — **Dr J C Milligan, 25 Hilton St, Aberdeen, Scotland, AB2 3QT.**

## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(See page 25)  
1 Coin in soldier's hand. 2 Length of helicopter's starboard skid. 3 Number of cones in van. 4 Door handle of van. 5 Middle bar of "E" in "ICES". 6 Hub of rear wheel. 7 Shape of cone in Toni's hand. 8 Lower bar of fence. 9 Van's nearside wing mirror. 10 Soldier's right foot.

## Competition

Our *Overlaps* puzzle (264) drew a good response with all but a handful getting it right. Correct answers were: a) Scarab b) Chariot c) Chump d) Chasten e) Patent f) Pillion g) Plane h) Scowl i) Shovel j) Slime k) Twitch l) Waver.

### Prizewinners:

1 Major Moulder (Retd), Gypsy Hill, Tinnars Way, New Polzeath, Wadebridge, Cornwall. 2 Mrs M Oliver, 8 Stamborough Green, Welwyn Garden

City, Herts. 3 Mr G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 0AQ. 4 Mrs D James, 5 Winchester Close, North Bradley, Trowbridge, Wilts. 5 Mr W Wright, 66 Dundale Road, Tring, Herts. Mrs S Yallop, 227 Sig Sqn (AFCENT), BFPO 18. 7 G D Kington, G Int & Sy, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40. 8 Mr S Francis, 52 Middlemoor Road, Frimley, Surrey.

## Reunions

The Gordon Highlanders London

**Association:** Annual Reunion will be held on Friday 7 November 1980 at the London Scottish Drill Hall, 59 Buckingham Gate, London. Details from the Hon Secretary — R W Harman, 40 Strawberry Lane, Carshalton, Surrey.

**14th/20th King's Hussars:** Northern Reunion, Manchester. 7.30 pm Saturday 22nd November (Ramnugur Day). Details from Home HQ, 14/20H TA Centre, Manchester Road, Clifton, Manchester, M27 2PU (061-794 2898).

## Collectors' Corner

buttons, badges, medals, crests etc for sorting and resale to help disabled comrades. Please send to above address or ring 01-940 3314.

R N Eason Gibson, RAC Motor Sports Assn Ltd, 31 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X 8QH. Is searching for propaganda postcards produced by propaganda department in Germany between 1933 and 1945 and specifically the postcards drawn by W Wilrich.

Craig Luther, Department of History, San Jose State University, San Jose, Calif 95192, USA. Seeks contact with former Commonwealth soldiers who fought against the 12 SS Hitler Jugend Division in Normandy 1944. Plans dissertation/book on Hitler Jugend Division.

F Tidey, 78 Loder Road, Brighton, BN1 6PH. Has a complete set of the War Papers in folders (90). Offers.

J W W Collyer, 37 Maiting Close, Stoke Goldington, Bucks. Has following books for sale: *The War History of the Sixth Battalion The South Staffordshire Regiment (TF)*, published 1924; *The Regiment History of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 1741-1912* in 2 volumes, published 1933. Reasonable offers considered.

G A Jenkinson, 85 Great St James, Belleville, Ontario, Canada, K8N 3J3. Wants nominal and honour rolls

for WWII airborne units any period, obsolete EOs and REME and armourers manuals, charts/training films of the Bren LMG and special mountings such as Motley Mounts. Will purchase or exchange militaria.

E Kelk, 1 Sweetch Gate Cottages, Broad Oak, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 0AA. Wants member CI and MHS WW1 CEF cap collars/slides and WWII plastics, spare badges of all types for swap or will buy. All letters answered.

D M Whitecross, 179 Wyoming Ave, Berario, 2195 Johannesburg, South Africa. Argyll waist belt buckle wanted in exchange for disbanded (1922) Irish regimental badges. Also wishes to swap British buttons, shoulder titles and collar badges for same, all Scottish regiments.

Derek Pilkington, 38 Wolseley Road, Rush Green, Romford, Essex, RM7 0BS. Has American cloth insignia for exchange on a one for one basis for British formation signs, trade and qualification badges, and rank insignia.

Mr J A E Windmill, 10 Hope St, Chatham, Kent, ME4 5NL. Seeks Scottish badges/buttons/slides and collars etc. Has for exchange many brass buttons, some Line Regiments' old brass cap badges, and some ST's collars. Send SAE for lists.

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.

**SOLDIER** is not always notified of alterations and cancellations. Readers are advised to check with the organisers.

# See-the-Army DIARY

## NOVEMBER 1980

- 7 Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall (7-8 November) (Massed Bands, Gds Division).
- 9 Cenotaph, Service of Remembrance (Massed Bands, Gds Division).
- 9 Welsh National Service of Remembrance, Cardiff.

## DECEMBER 1980

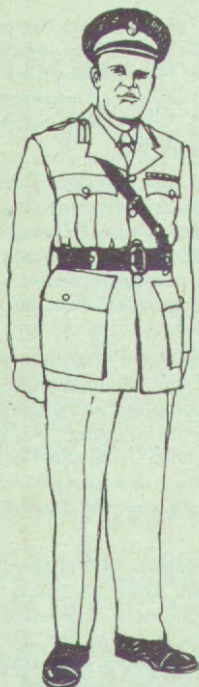
- 6 'The Guards in Concert', Royal Festival Hall (8 pm). (Bands of the Coldstream, Irish and Welsh Gds).



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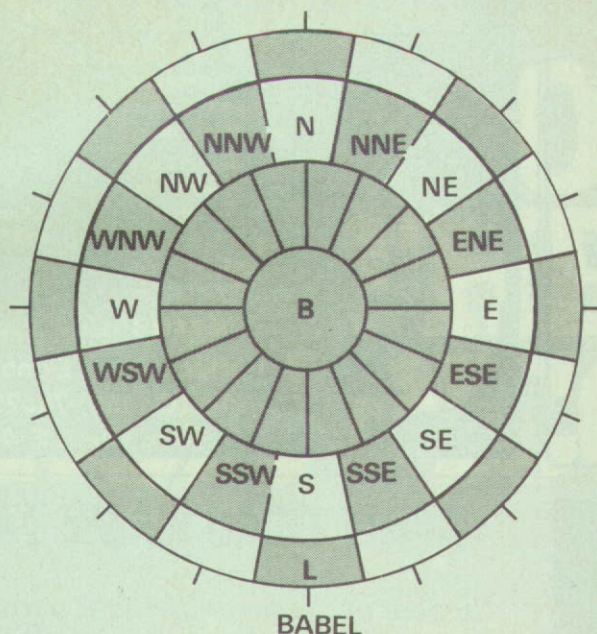
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# COMPASS POINTS



The diagram shows the sixteen chief points of the compass with a letter 'B' in the centre. All you have to do is find the sixteen words (all beginning with B and all having five letters) indicated by the clues.

As you find each word, place the *last* letter of the word at the appropriate compass point. You should then be able to read off the title of a well-known novel and the name of its author.

As an example: S = Biblical tower = BABEL. Therefore point S becomes L.

What are the correct answers to all the other clues? And what is the name of the book and its author?

The competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 5 January 1981. The answers and the winners' names will appear in next March's SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 268' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

## COMPETITION 268

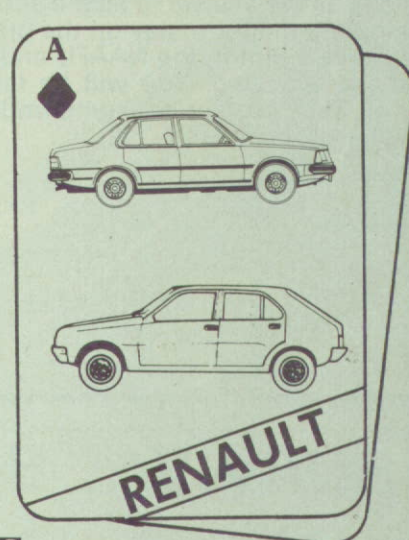
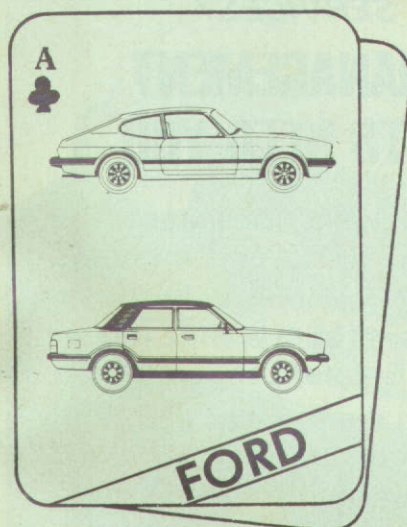
Send your answers by postcard or letter with the 'Competition 268' label from this page and your name and address to: Editor, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

### The Clues

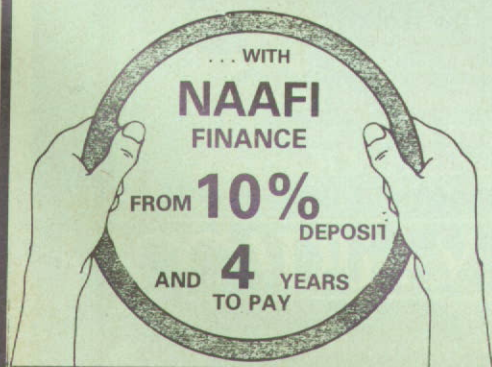
- N = Rose
- NNE = Emblem
- NE = Kind of fluid
- ENE = Intoxicating drink
- E = Hebridean island
- ESE = African race
- SE = Joint of beef
- SSE = Procreate
- S = Biblical tower
- SSW = Kind of cloth
- SW = Blight
- WSW = Copper with zinc
- W = Primary
- WNW = Musical instrument
- NW = Besiege
- NNW = Vaunt

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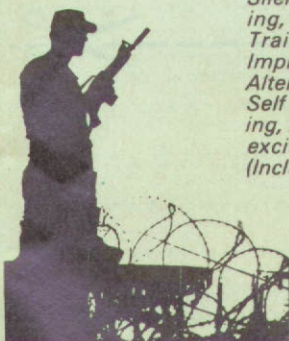
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