

FEBRUARY 1969 ★ One Shilling and Sixpence

# SOLDIER





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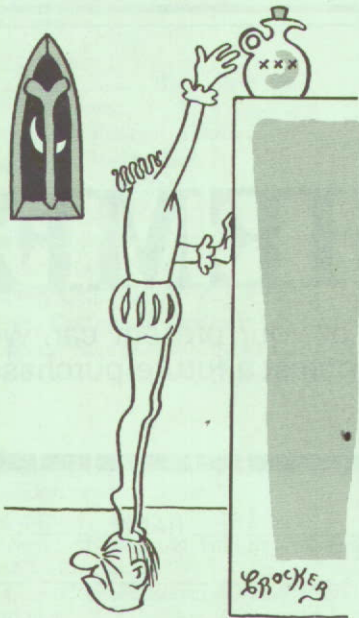
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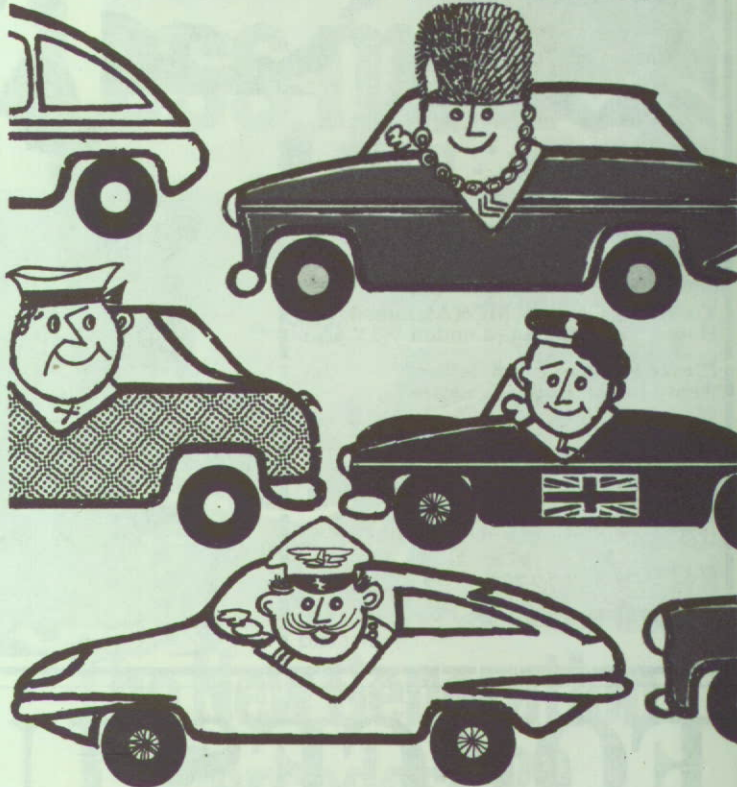
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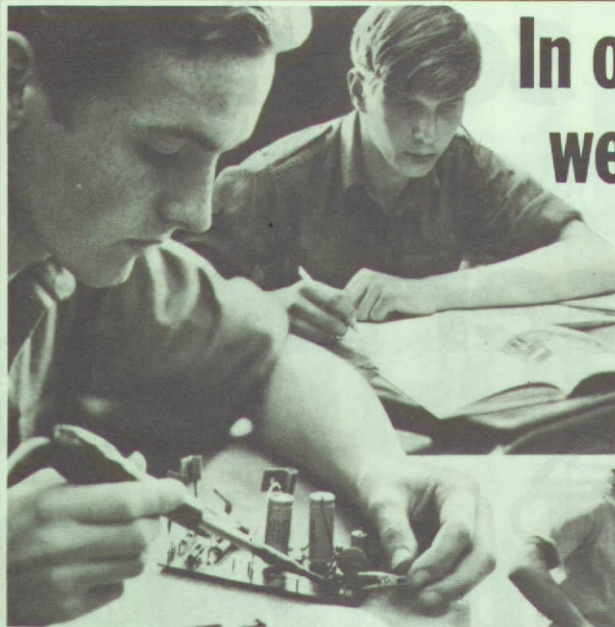
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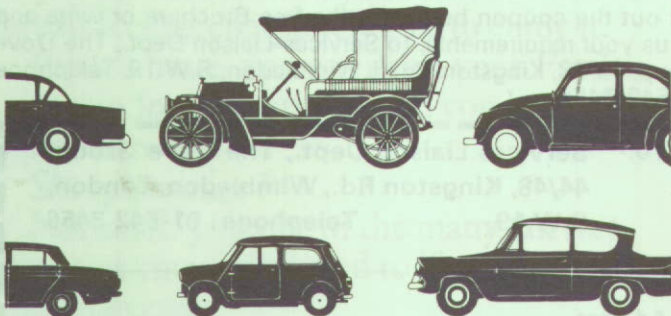
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## See-the-Army DIARY

SOLDIER readers, particularly those who travel around, are always anxious to know when and where Army occasions are happening.

In this regular feature SOLDIER will keep you posted up-to-date. Events will be listed up to a year ahead and repeated monthly. Amendments and additions are indicated in italics.

To make this feature as valuable as possible to the reader, SOLDIER invites the co-operation of organisers of tattoos, Army displays, exhibitions, at homes, open days and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment.

### MARCH

- 11 250th anniversary, The Welch Regiment, Chelsea Barracks, London (11-13 March).
- 31 4th Battalion, The Light Infantry, disbands, Colchester.

### APRIL

- 16 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, "Fall in the Stars."
- 25 Anzac Day, Horse Guards Parade and Cenotaph, London.
- 27 *Laying up of Colours, 6th Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers, Rochdale Parish Church.*

### MAY

- 10 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, gala concert, Royal Festival Hall, London.
- 11 Music festival, Le Bourget, France.
- 16 Tidworth Tattoo (16-18 May).
- 17 Lord Mayor's Show, Belfast.
- 26 New Addington Fair.
- 26 Reigate and Redhill Show.
- 26 Surrey County Show, Surbiton.
- 27 Army Display, Catterick (27 May-7 June).
- 28 British Week, Dortmund, Germany (28 May-4 June).
- 31 Devon Traction Engine and Veteran Car Rally.
- 31 *Trooping the Colour rehearsal, Horse Guards Parade, London.*

### JUNE

- 3 Massed bands Household Division beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (and on 5 June).
- 5 Recruiting display, Glasgow (5-11 June).
- 6 25th anniversary Normandy landings, Normandy beaches and Portsmouth Cathedral.
- 7 Machine Gun Corps observance, Boy David Memorial, Hyde Park, London.
- 7 *Trooping the Colour rehearsal, Horse Guards Parade, London.*
- 11 Amalgamation of The South Wales Borderers and The Welch Regiment into The Royal Regiment of Wales, Cardiff Castle.
- 13 Essex Show, Chelmsford (13-14 June).
- 13 Recruiting display, Edinburgh (13-15 June).
- 14 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 14 Aldershot Army Display (14-15).
- 16 NATO Sticking Taptoe, Arnhem (16-21 June).
- 19 Recruiting display, Dundee (19-21 June).
- 20 Suffolk Tattoo, Christchurch Park, Ipswich (20-21 June).
- 20 Bexley (Sidcup) Tattoo (20-21 June).
- 21 (Provisional) 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, Open Day, Kirkee Barracks, Colchester.
- 21 25th anniversary, Army Benevolent Fund, Musical Pageant, Empire Stadium, Wembley.

*continued on page 7*

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# DIARY *continued*

## JUNE

- 23 *NATO Sticking Taptoe, Brussels (23-26 June).*
- 24 *Dover Tattoo, Crabble\* Ground, Dover (24-26 June).*
- 26 *Carisbrooke Castle Tattoo (26-28 June).*
- 26 *Army Display, Belle Vue, Manchester (26-29 June).*
- 28 *North Wilts Army Cadet Force Tattoo, Swindon.*

## JULY

- 1 *Investiture of Prince of Wales, Caernarvon Castle.*
- 2 *Royal Progress through Wales (2-5 July).*
- 4 *Recruiting display, Kilmarnock and Ayr (4-9 July).*
- 4 *Recruiting display, Coventry (4-6 July).*
- 5 *Open Day, 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields), Waterbeach, Cambridge.*
- 6 *Open Day, Depot The Queen's Regiment, Canterbury.*
- 8 *Recruiting display, Stoke-on-Trent (8-9 July).*
- 9 *Royal Tournament, Earls Court (9-26 July).*
- 11 *Cheltenham Tattoo (11-12 July).*
- 12 *Summer Show, Croydon.*
- 12 *Basingstoke Tattoo.*
- 12 *Recruiting display, Liverpool University (12-13 July).*
- 12 *Dagenham Town Show (12-13 July).*
- 16 *Recruiting display, Liverpool Show (16-19 July).*
- 19 *Larkhill Day.*
- 21 *Army Week, Dover (21-26 July).*
- 25 *Nottingham Army Display (25-27 July).*
- 26 *Army Air Corps Open Day, Middle Wallop.*
- 30 *Colchester Tattoo, Castle Park, Colchester (30 July-2 August).*

## AUGUST

- 1 *Cardiff Tattoo (1-9 August).*
- 2 *Strensall Army Display (2-3 August).*
- 2 *Chatham Army Display.*
- 3 *Royal Armoured Corps Open Day, Bovington.*
- 11 *Army Week, Darlington (11-16 August).*
- 15 *Edinburgh Tattoo (15 August-6 September).*
- 27 *Army Open Days, Plymouth (27-29 August).*
- 29 *Army Week, Leeds (29 August-2 September).*

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 *Army Week, Keighley (3-7 September).*
- 4 *Army Week, Sheffield (4-6 September).*
- 5 *Recruiting display, Glasgow (5-7 September).*
- 6 *Shoeburyness Garrison (including 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery) At Home.*
- 13 *Recruiting display, Rochdale (13-14 September).*
- 16 *Recruiting display, Blackpool (16-18 September).*
- 18 *Military Band Festival, Berne, Switzerland (18-21 September).*
- 19 *Berlin Tattoo (19-20 September).*

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There is also always a need for ex-Warrant Officers or senior NCO's to act as instructors in the ACF, which could provide you with a really stimulating interest.

Uniform is provided, and Regular Army pay and allowances are given for attendance at camps and training courses. Otherwise the work is entirely voluntary and unpaid—but that doesn't mean it's unrewarding!

If you would like to know more, please contact your local ACF Unit Commander, the Secretary of your local Territorial Association (address in the telephone directory), or write to: The Director, Volunteers, Territorials and Cadets, Dept. 613, Ministry of Defence, London, S.W.1.

**Army Cadet Force**







# A GEORDIE FOR ME

**I**T is a cold foggy day in the heart of the land of the Geordies and The Durham Light Infantry is turning the last page of its glorious history.

The soldiers marching through the streets of Durham are of 4th Battalion, The Light Infantry—but to the hushed crowd on Palace Green, hard by the Cathedral, they are still the DLI, a fine gang of Geordies. Six months after light infantry reorganisation cost the Durhams their identity, their Colours are to be laid to rest in the Cathedral.

There is a great sadness in the crowd on Palace Green. "Their attachment to the DLI was tremendous," says a light infantry officer.

These are the people who served or whose relatives served in the Durhams' 39 battalions in World War One and 20 battalions in World War Two; these are the people who, while the DLI was in Korea, sent a Christmas parcel to every man and a radio to each platoon. Now they are saying a last farewell.

One who waits is Mr John Winter, who served in the Regiment in World War One and later entertained Durham clubland in the role of comedian. His repertoire includes a song that was once a proud boast but is

now an epitaph. He sings it to the tune of "A Gordon for Me."

"The words of this song I'll not say they're wrong,

There's no doubt about it the Gordons are strong.

But let's not begrudge them this wee sentiment,

A credit to Scotland this fine Regiment. But much nearer home we all know of some

Second to nobody, let them all come, Brave bonny lads, true sons of their dads; Three cheers for the Durhams, let's beat the big drum.

A Geordie for me, a Geordie for me, We're proud of our Geordies and well we may be.

The others are grand, here give them a hand;

But our own DLI are the best in the land."

As the sun weakly penetrates the lingering fog the VIPs assemble on Palace Green and the Regiment marches on. Princess Alexandra, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Infantry, and formerly Colonel-in-Chief of The Durham Light Infantry, is there in a light infantry green coat and wearing a bugle badge.

"A sad day but a new beginning," says an officer handing out programmes.

Now the men are formed up on parade. Television cameras sweep their ranks.

Mr Richard McKenna, ex-sergeant, 1st Battalion, DLI (1936-1945), watches 4th Battalion, The Light Infantry, critically. "This new mob has got to start all over again and prove itself," he observes.

During a general salute a young officer nervously drops his sword and a murmur ripples through the crowd. The sun is now shining half-heartedly. Somebody says: "Did you hear that the railway engine The Durham Light Infantryman was derailed at Darlington yesterday?" The irony does not escape you.

"It's progress, isn't it?" says Mr Howard Wetherell, who boasts he was born in the 1st Battalion and served in the 2nd up to the rank of sergeant from 1919 to 1932. "The world's changing every day. We're shedding a few tears but we're soldiers not babies."

Princess Alexandra is inspecting the troops now and the Band is playing "Lasses of Tyneside."

"Something should have been done to keep the DLI alive—opposition should have been stronger. I never expected this to

Geordies gather on Palace Green (above) in the heart of Durham City to watch the end of a proud era.





Above: Princess Alexandra inspects the men who were, a few months ago, The Durham Light Infantry. And (below) she lays a wreath on the DLI's World War Two memorial before the ceremony.



happen. The history of the Regiment speaks for itself." Mr Albert Mains, ex-Terrier of 6th Battalion, DLI, speaks with feeling. But his remarks are only a parting shot. The Colours of the Durhams are on their way into the Cathedral now, carried at light infantry pace by Lieutenant Tim Harris and Second-Lieutenant Rex Stephenson. The DLI is fading rapidly into history.

Sergeant Jim Murray, 4th Battalion, The Light Infantry, who has been on crowd control, watches with a long face as the battalion enters the Cathedral. "We all feel rough," he says. "It's terrible. We were like a family. I don't look forward to the idea of going to another unit but I have 12 years to do yet and I shall soldier on until my time's up." They all march past him, each wearing the United Nations medal for Cyprus, where they were serving in July when the DLI's flag was lowered for the last time.

In the Cathedral's vast echoing interior, lit by fierce television lights, the drama nears its inexorable climax.

Major-General A H G Ricketts, formerly Colonel of the Durhams, reads the lesson. "Then, like a good soldier of Jesus Christ, take your share of hardship."

The Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Reverend Leonard Wilson, a World War One second-lieutenant in 13th Battalion, DLI, declares from the pulpit: "Today is a day both of remembrance, sad memories and sometimes happy memories of the past—but at the back of our minds a feeling almost of resentment at times that this should happen to our Regiment . . .

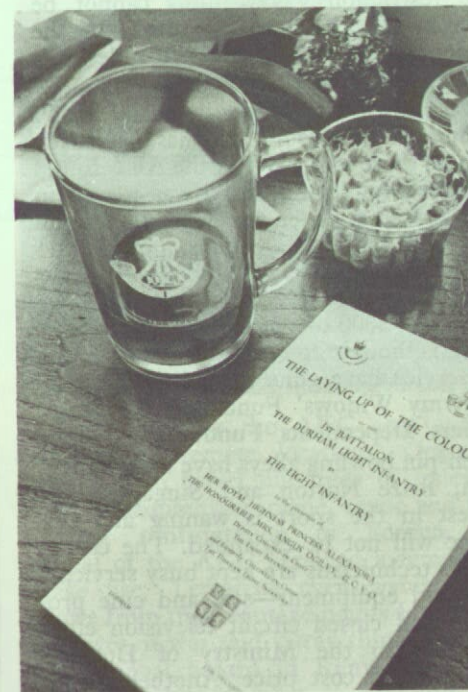
Whatever they may do on paper they cannot expunge from us the love of our own county."

Then the Colours are handed to the Dean by Lieutenant-Colonel J H Jacob, commanding officer of 4th Battalion, The Light Infantry. "These consecrated Colours, formerly carried in the service of the Sovereign and the Commonwealth, I now deliver into your hands for preservation and safe keeping in our Regimental Chapel."

Over to Bede College, Durham, where the battalion is the guest of Durham County. There is as much beer and food as the men want—and for each soldier a tankard inscribed with a silver bugle and the motif 1758-1968. Princess Alexandra comes to see them in their paper hats and merry-making and they give her a rousing welcome—a welcome that would not have disgraced the old Durham Light Infantry.

And that is that. The end of the DLI. Let us just recall two more statements. One by Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein: "It (the DLI) is a magnificent Regiment, steady as a rock in battle, and absolutely reliable on all occasions. The fighting men of Durham are splendid soldiers; they excel in the hard-fought battle and they always stick it out to the end. They have gained their objectives and held their positions even when all their officers have been killed and conditions were almost unendurable."

And an official statement: "The 4th Battalion, The Light Infantry, which is stationed at Colchester, will be disbanded at Colchester on 31 March 1969."



Far left: The Colours are borne into the Cathedral. Top: The final act—the Colours are handed to the Dean by the commanding officer. Above: They will look at this tankard and remember.

Details of light infantry reorganisation were given in the September 1968 **SOLDIER**. The Durham Light Infantry was featured in **SOLDIER'S** Your Regiment series in December 1965.

# SOLDIER TO SOLDIER

"Naafi Reports 1968" is hardly an attractive title. It may dissuade many Servicemen from taking an interest in an informative, well-designed and splendidly produced publication which ought to be near the top of everyone's reading list.

Whether he has any brief for Naafi or not—and it has always been regarded as a fair target for criticism—the Serviceman should know just how the organisation operates and what it means to him.

At the end of 48 years Naafi faces a tough problem, as General Sir Alan Jolly, president of the Naafi Council, says in his foreword, "in maintaining its profitability in the face of the contraction and redeployment of the Forces; it is important to us in the Services that it should succeed. In many circumstances we depend on the services Naafi provides; and we rely on the money it earns for the larger part of our welfare funds."

In the year ending April 1968 Naafi's turnover was £76,842,908 (£8,391,343 from the Navy and £68,451,565 from the Army and Air Force). The trading surplus of £3,281,447, smaller than the previous year, was increased to £3,851,833 by export rebates and interest on investments. A rebate of £298,970 went to the Navy and £744,994 to the Army and Air Force, and discounts were respectively £56,786 and £1,970,284.

With a turnover of £76 million, Naafi is big business.

Did you know that:

Service families made the largest contribution to the increase of £1,193,669 in the turnover.

New clubs were completed at Singapore, Gibraltar and Sharjah plus 14 at home.

Consumption of British keg beer in Rhine Army has gone up from 3000 to 10,000 gallons a week.

Vending machine sales increased by more than 25 per cent. Developments being tested include a bulk milk dispenser, leaf-tea brewing, canned and draught beer machines.

The 600 messes in the United Kingdom buy most if not all of their wines, spirits and other bar supplies from Naafi.

Car hire-purchase business increased by ten per cent—Naafi saved its customers some £40,000.

A shipment of canned fruits from Australia to Cyprus is still locked in the Suez Canal.

The foot-and-mouth outbreak resulted in a German Government ban on meat imports from Britain—a Naafi sausage factory inspector was rushed to the Continent to teach the Germans how to make an English sausage. A factory in Germany and another in Denmark produced 15 tons of sausages to accompany the Christmas turkey.

These are just a few extracts from "Naafi Reports 1968." You must get hold of a copy and read it!



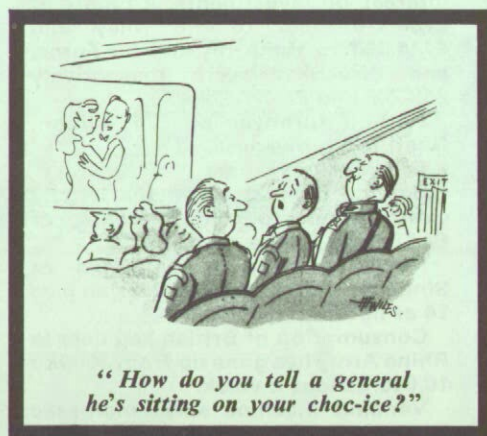
Services cinemas have now amalgamated. In 1968, the last of its 22 years' existence, the Army Kinema Corporation played to an audience of more than six million. And in some directions

# IT OUTRANKED J ARTHUR

**I**T began in nissen huts with Abbott and Costello and starlets with peek-a-boo hair-styles and platform shoes. Last year the Army Kinema Corporation had a turnover of nearly £2 million. But now it is no more.

The AKC, with the Royal Air Force Cinema Corporation, has had to keep in step with the march of time. The Ministry of Defence ordered integration. And so on 1 January 1969 they amalgamated to form the Services Cinema Corporation.

But Service cinemagoers will not notice any change, SOLDIER was told by Major-General Sir John Hildreth, managing director of the new corporation and a former director of ordnance services. There would however be a saving of about £80,000 a year.



Administered from Dover Street, London W1, former headquarters of the AKC, the new SKC is controlled by a council of senior Army, Navy and Air Force officers and civilians under the presidency of the Adjutant-General. Only ships at sea are outside their scope. The Royal Naval Film Corporation, which handed over its shore cinemas to the AKC two years ago, will continue to be responsible for them.

The new SKC runs 155 cinemas, two ten-pin bowling alleys, a television rental service and a film library for small units, maintains the Services' projectors and visual aid equipment, and is responsible for making Army training films. Like its predecessors, it is a non-profit-making organisation with the legal status of a charity. Nevertheless last year the AKC had a trading surplus of £97,000 and the Royal Air Force Cinema Corporation £12,000. This has all to be ploughed back.

PAGE 12

Some has gone towards equipping the air-conditioned cinema just opened at Muharrag, Bahrain—the first under the new SKC. The 416 seats alone each cost £6 10s.

Although there are still a few draughty ex-ENSA halls and the odd Romney hut, the rule today is plush velvet or leather seating and cinemascope screens.

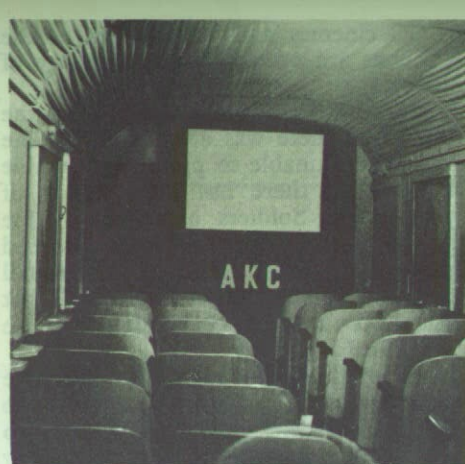
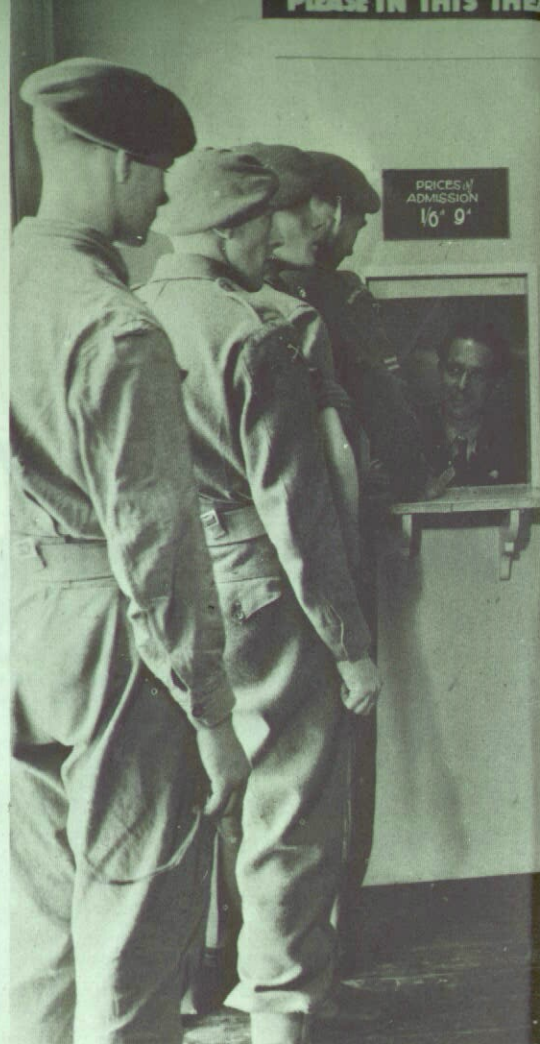
In some ways the Army Kinema Corporation even outranked J Arthur Rank. Its service was worldwide, prices were cheaper and programmes more varied. The AKC seats from 2s 3d to 4s 6d compared with 5s to 7s 6d in a commercial cinema. The average AKC cinema had nine programme changes a fortnight—five new films for two nights each and four old films for one night each. New films were shown overseas only one month after the London release. But in Britain there are stringent trade restrictions. New films cannot be shown by the SKC for six months after the London release and within two miles of a commercial cinema.

Eyes down for bingo in many badly patronised commercial cinemas has made business there look up. But the AKC found little need for it and bingo was played in only three of its cinemas in Britain. Television rental has been a much better proposition. About 11,000 sets were hired out in Britain and Germany in 1968, an increase of 3000 on the previous year. The ceiling is thought to be 20,000. Profits from this service have gone to such charities as the Army Widows' Fund and the Single Soldiers' Dependents' Fund.

Ten-pin bowling alleys have been built at Aden, Brize Norton and Singapore but interest in the sport is waning and this service will not be expanded. The corporation's technicians are kept busy servicing visual aid equipment—still and cine projectors and closed circuit television etc—belonging to the Ministry of Defence. It is done at cost price. Another service provided for the Ministry of Defence is training films. Although the shooting is done by a commercial firm, the AKC has acted as producer, director and editor.

These films last about half an hour and include such subjects as airborne operations, tank driving and how to fire a gun.

Film libraries are maintained in every command. Units which are out of reach of a cinema—for example the Royal Engineers squadron building an airfield in the Virgin Islands—can hire 16mm entertainment films.



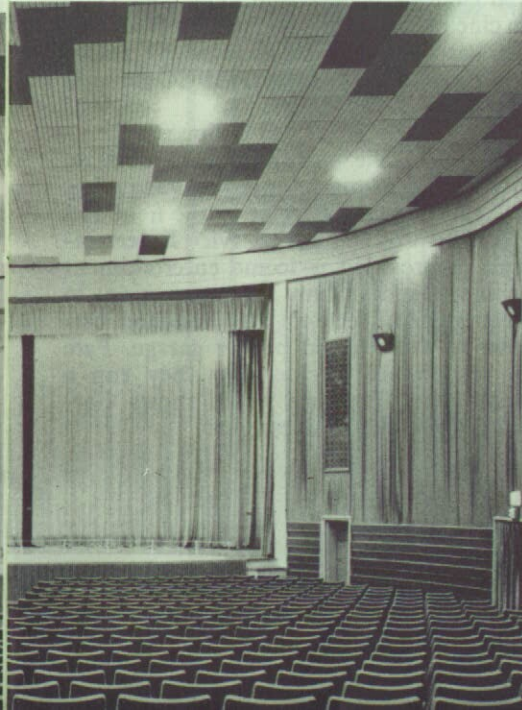
Above: Cinema on a train. It helped to relieve the tedium of the slow 300-mile journey from Hamburg to Krefeld in 1948.

Left: In the days of battledress and hob-nailed boots, expensive seats were 1s 6d. National Servicemen on 25s a week paid 9d.

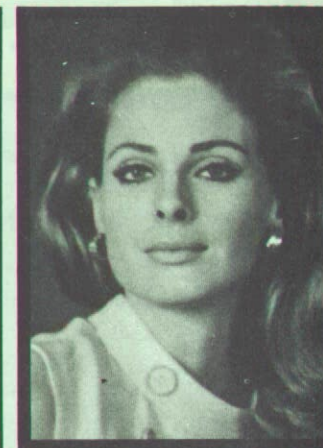
Below: Ultra-modern exterior of the Kent combined cinema and bowl in Singapore. In the tropics cinemas are air-conditioned.

Below right: The inflatable cinema with a caravan as projector room, and equipment servicing at the AKC workshop, Chalfont.

Foot of page: Plush interior of the Globe, Rheindahlen. There is no smoking here. All the smokers go to the nearby Astra.



The changing face of fashion—stars seen at the AKC since it began in 1946. They are Jean Kent, Colleen Townsend, Margaret Lockwood, June Laverick, Daliah Lavi and Camilla Sparo.



Until recently the AKC sent mobile cinemas to remote locations. Operators would often travel hundreds of miles by jeep, helicopter, aeroplane, canoe and raft. During confrontation in Borneo, the arrival of the AKC heralded a temporary cease fire. Terrorists even watched the shows from their vantage points high up in the trees, it was said. Stray rhinos were an occupational hazard in Kenya but AKC operators learned what to do—stop the vehicle, switch off the engine and hoot softly—not loudly because this would frighten them.

Cinemas are suited to all climates from equatorial to arctic. They are open-air in the Gulf, air-conditioned in Malaysia and centrally heated in Germany. There were unsuccessful experiments with "plastic" cinemas in the tropics. A metal framework covered with 1/16-inch-thick plastic sheeting accommodated 500. But hailstones as big as ping-pong balls came through. The

roof, bulging with rainwater after a storm, would burst and give the audience an unwelcome shower.

The corporation has two mobile inflatable cinemas—a nylon cover supported by rubber tubes filled with air and held down by guy ropes. It is air portable and can be put up and be showing films in an hour. It has been used at the Aldershot Show, the School of Infantry at Warminster and in "Keep the Army in the Public Eye" exhibitions. One will be used as a cinema for the 3500 troops who will be at Caernarvon for the investiture of the Prince of Wales on 1 July.

Globe and Astra are the conventional names of Army and RAF cinemas. But there are more exotic ones like the Sampan at Singapore and the Jerboa in Berlin. Rhine Army Headquarters at Rheindahlen has both a Globe and an Astra. The Astra gets all the smokers because there is a no-smoking rule at the Globe. All the

PAGE 13





Personal appearances were once popular in Rhine Army. Here Yvonne Furneaux signs autographs for men of The Royal Scots Fusiliers in the Jerboa, Berlin, after "The Master of Ballantrae" in 1953.



Above: The AKC at the sharp end in Borneo. This Scout helicopter takes the operator and his equipment to a remote jungle location. Terrorists hiding in the trees also watched the show, it is said.

Right: Badge of the AKC with the motto "Light in darkness." The tiger, symbolising the feline ability to see in the dark, is surrounded by a wreath of oak leaves above crossed broad-swords.



Below: Potential projectionists. They are trained by the AKC at a special school in Minden, West Germany. Each lieutenant-colonel's command has a 16mm projector operated by a soldier.



RAFCC cinemas and 80 per cent of the AKC ones are owned by the Ministry of Defence.

Some have been specially built by the AKC where there was a demand but the Ministry was unable to provide a suitable building. But there has been plenty of improvisation. Soldiers at the Sea Blue Rest Camp at Salonika in 1948 watched films projected on to a whitewashed wall scarred with bullet holes. Nazis had shot political prisoners and child hostages there during World War Two.

Land at Larnaca bought to build five bungalows for the staff was found to be the site of a military cemetery dating back to 700 BC. There was labour trouble shortly before the official opening of the Unity Cinema at Labuan, Borneo, in 1966. The area manager found the foreman asleep in the \$1.50 seats and the workmen snoring away in the \$1.00's. With the oriental predilection for inversion they had interchanged the "vacant" and "engaged" indicators and put an "Exit" sign on the main door into the cinema.

"Australia Hall," the main AKC cinema in Malta, was so named because it was built by Aussie soldiers stationed there during the Gallipoli landing in 1914-15. Malta has strict censorship. Even serious photography magazines are impounded for containing what, by British standards, are innocuous nudes. Some "X" films are banned and many expurgated to a normal British "U". However, films shown in the AKC cinema are subject only to the British Board of Film Censors.

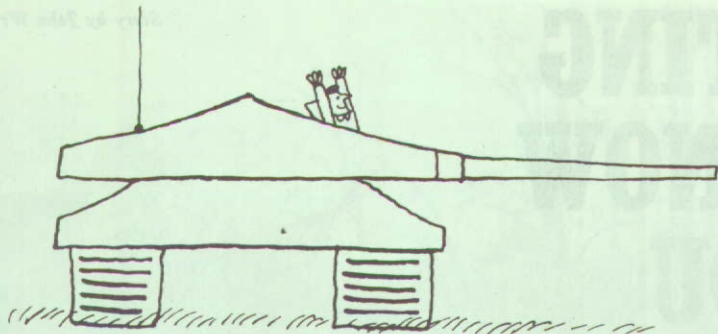
The Army Kinema Corporation had its own badge, the motto *Lux in tenebris* (Light in darkness) and "battle honours." At least, says the AKC's 20th anniversary news-letter published in 1966, "If we had regimental Colours, would perhaps the following battle honours be emblazoned thereon?—Palestine, Berlin Siege, Malaya, Korea, Egypt, Kenya, Cyprus 1955-59, Libya, Borneo, Cyprus 1963-64, East Africa and Aden".

The staff have served where there has been rioting, civil war and emergencies. In the Canal Zone in 1951 an employee of the Royal Air Force Cinema Corporation got out of convoy and was killed by terrorists who dragged him from his car. Pressure was put on local employees and all 140 of them left almost overnight. The New Garden cinema at Ismailia had to be surrounded with barbed wire and guarded by tanks. Yet not one of the AKC or RAFCC cinemas lost a show.

The Army Kinema Corporation was formed in 1946 to take over from the Directorate of Army Kinematography at the War Office, the Army Kinema Service in the field and Department of National Service Entertainment. It provided welcome entertainment for the restless army of occupation in Germany. At Iserlohn they watched film shows in a converted panzer garage. Fate has turned full circle. Now they run a cinema near Hamburg which shows German films to the Bundeswehr.

Story by Hugh Howton





STOWEN

# HUMOUR

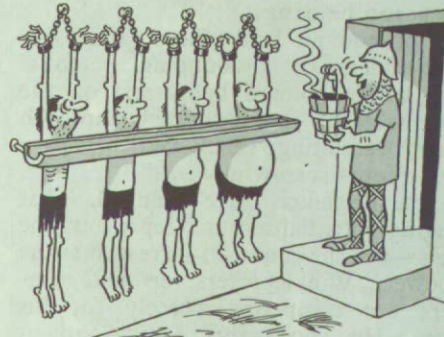


PAL

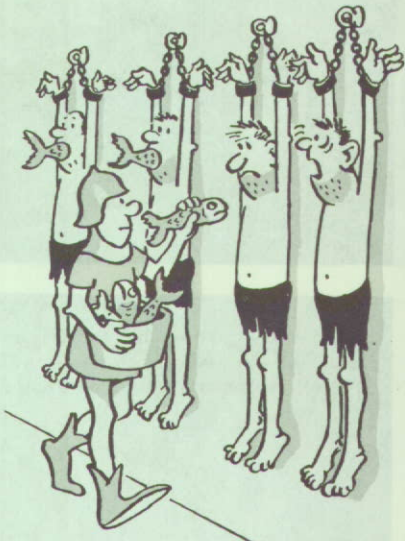
"Household Cavalry speaking."

## SUSPENDED ANIMATION

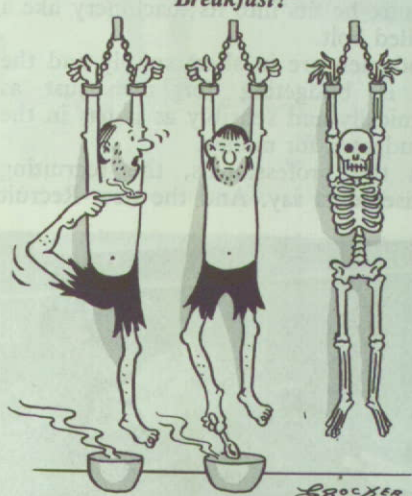
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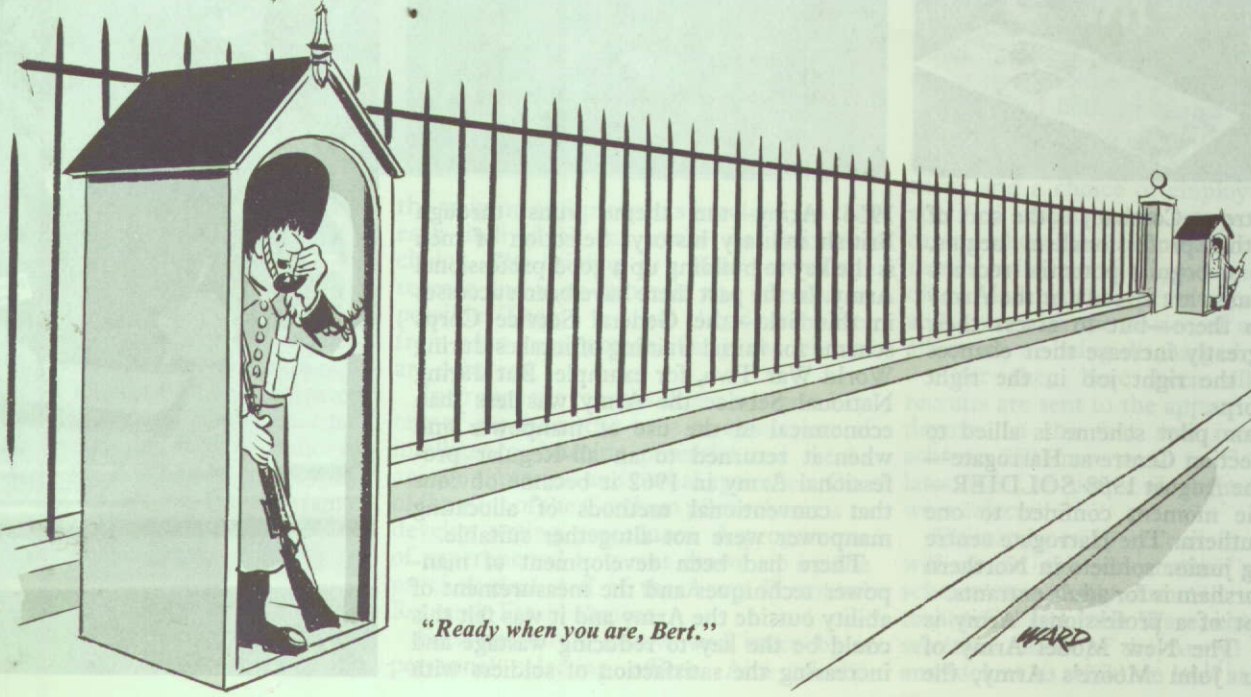
"Breakfast!"



"I hate Fridays!"



"Poor Charlie—he never quite got into the hang of things!"



"Ready when you are, Bert."

WARD



# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**A** RETIRED brigadier wrote to the *Daily Telegraph*: "Your illustration of the new Recruit Selection Centre at Corsham, Wiltshire, takes some beating."

"An obsequious field officer bends over the shoulders of a lounging potential recruit whose pointed boots rest on the nearest table. If that is the new approach to Army recruiting, thank God we have a Navy. Yours sorrowfully . . ."

Times, Brigadier, have changed. That "lounging potential recruit" represents the Army's—and the country's—greatest asset: manpower. Winklepickers or not, employers are competing fiercely for his services. He chose the Army—and at Corsham the Army is trying its best to make sure he fits into its machinery like a well-oiled bolt.

Good men are in short supply and the Army is budgeting for men just as economically and sensibly as it has in the past budgeted for money.

Join the professionals, the recruiting advertisements say. And the new Recruit

their jobs, on which their morale and efficiency depends.

A system of centralised selection was evolved. Harrogate and Corsham are the result. If the pilot schemes are successful it is intended to spread centralised selection of adult and junior entrants countrywide.

Under the present recruiting system—which will continue in other areas for the time being—a recruit goes straight to a training depot of a specific unit from a local Army Careers Information Office.

Corsham provides an important half-way house between the Army Careers Information Offices and the training depots. Those recruits who wish to join a specific unit are enlisted into it before going to the centre; those who simply wish to join "the Army" go to Corsham in the General Service Corps. The aim of the centre is to ascertain whether the committed men are suited to the unit of their choice and what unit the undecided men should go into. An important element of the scheme is the recruit's views on his future. And if things do not work out to his



Above: The picture that the brigadier did not like—an officer discusses with one recruit the important matter of unit choice.

Right: A battery of recruits being tested.

Left: Two recruits discuss their future.



Selection Centre at Corsham is the sort of place where this professionalism begins. Its aim is not to beguile potential recruits—in fact, the men are already in the Army when they go there—but to assess their abilities and greatly increase their chances of going into the right job in the right regiment or corps.

The Corsham pilot scheme is allied to the Youth Selection Centre at Harrogate—described in the August 1968 *SOLDIER*—and is for the moment confined to one command, Southern. The Harrogate centre is for selecting junior soldiers in Northern Command, Corsham is for adult entrants.

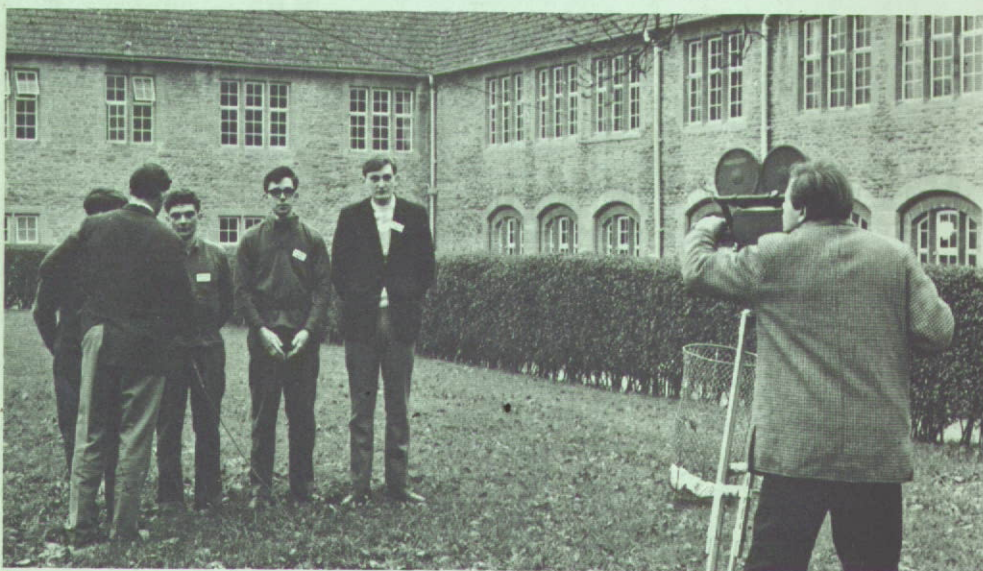
The concept of a professional Army is nothing new. The New Model Army of Cromwell, Sir John Moore's Army, the

1914 Army—the theme runs through British military history. Selection of men is the key to building up a good professional Army. In the past there have been successes in this field—the General Service Corps scheme for initial training of intakes during World War Two, for example. But during National Service the Army was less than economical in the use of manpower and when it returned to an all-Regular professional Army in 1962 it became obvious that conventional methods of allocating manpower were not altogether suitable.

There had been development of manpower techniques and the measurement of ability outside the Army and it was felt this could be the key to reducing wastage and increasing the satisfaction of soldiers with







The new scheme attracted much publicity. Left: TV cameras at work. Above: On the march.

and the Army's satisfaction he can leave the Army after his week at the centre.

The centre, capable of dealing with 60 recruits a week, receives an intake on a Monday and kits the men out in a paramilitary garb. Said Major Alan Willdridge, The Royal Anglian Regiment, the senior personnel selection officer: "They are treated as soldiers from the word 'Go'—marched around, given a haircut, told to stand to attention; but we don't give them any military training except on the .22 range and in the gymnasium. We find they love all this. They join the Army expecting to be soldiers."

The next day they are given their job-briefing—told in the clearest possible way the nature of various jobs in the Army and

the training and prospects involved, so that each individual can make an informed choice. The briefing is a vital part of the scheme and is as dynamic and effective as possible. Then a medical check establishes from what employment, if any, the recruits are debarred.

In groups the recruits then undergo a battery of psychometric tests to assess general intelligence, learning potential and mechanical, numerical and verbal aptitudes. One of the aims of the Corsham pilot scheme is to develop testing procedures. A programme of experimental tests was drawn up by the psychological staff of the Army Personnel Research Establishment.

Each recruit is interviewed twice by a personnel selection officer. Aim of the

first interview is to assess and make an unbiased judgement of the man's interests, preferences and motivation. The officer records a rating of each man's chances of success in each of three choices of employment—and, if necessary, records two more employments and the man's prospects.

The recruit is then allocated to an appropriate regiment or corps at a special weekly allocation conference. The recruit's choice plays an important part in the decision. The aim of the conference is to bear in mind the needs of the Army and see that as far as possible the supply of men matches the demand both in quantity and quality.

During the second interview the recruit is offered a career in a specific regiment or corps and a choice of employment in two specified employment groups. In difficult cases, where the proposal is against the man's wishes, the personnel selection officer discusses the problem with the man and gives him the choice of accepting the allocation or being discharged.

After they have been allocated, the recruits are sent to the appropriate training depots. In the first two months of the scheme 259 men went to Corsham—236 later went to corps or regiments and 23 were rejected.

Ultimately every recruit in the country will go to this or another centre. The scheme was neatly summed up by Lieutenant-Colonel John Ware, chief personnel selection officer of the Army: "You come and look at us while we look at you."



# LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE

A feature of soldiering in Berlin is the annual round of international exercises between the British, American and French forces. Each acts in turn as "host" and in the American-British exercise this time it was the task of the Americans to "write" and direct the exercise. And this is when the British officer learns among other things that the American equivalent, though larger, of the British brigade, is commanded by a brigadier-general and includes a full colonel as deputy commander and several lieutenant colonels on its staff. The appointment of an American officer as second in command of a British company and the placing of British units under American command and vice-versa may seem confusing but is much less so than the presence of Berliners in every exercise—training areas in Berlin are necessarily small and the soldiers find themselves fighting mock wars in areas to which civilians have full access (as on right), where no digging is allowed and smoking and litter invoke on-the-spot fines.



Ten gunners of 17 Training Regiment, Royal Artillery, were actors for a day when "The Battle of Britain" was filmed at Pinewood Studios. They manned a 3.7-inch AA gun used in World War Two and set up to depict a scene

(above) at a gun site in Hyde Park in the summer of 1940. There is a galaxy of film stars, both British and German, in this production, which is due for its world première during the Battle of Britain commemoration ceremonies this year.





The children of two Malaysian villages have new facilities for education and recreation thanks to 14 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, whose gunners worked from dawn to dusk for a week clearing scrub, building a school, laying out a new playground and constructing swings and ladders. Picture above shows Chinese children at Senai, Johore, where 46 men redecorated the school chapel, converted a room into a bright and colourful nursery school and provided a safe-playground in place of tangled bush. In neighbouring Kulai another party sweated in the hot sun to build a hut with concrete blocks for use as a village school and by the local Boys' Brigade. Full and enthusiastic co-operation was given by the gunners' commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel J G Parham, and the local authorities after a request for help, made through the Regiment's padre, Major Alan Spivey, had been approved.



After two years' service with 54 (Louisburg) Battery, 22 Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, now at Tonfannau, Wales, Honorary Sergeant Yogi has been discharged—simply because he was feeling lonely. A four-year-old honey bear, which the Battery adopted while serving in Sarawak, Yogi is now at the Belle Vue

Zoo, Manchester, where he has made the acquaintance of three other honey bears. His handler, Gunner S Myers (above), accompanied him to his new home, where he was handed over by Lieutenant Pat Scott-Cumming. Yogi Bear was awarded the General Service Medal for his period on active service in the Far East in 1966.



Exercise Stratolight brought United States troops to Britain on a three weeks' exchange visit in December. Above, Corporal G Stocks, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, explains the use of equipment on a Centurion tank at Tidworth to men of America's 3rd Battalion, 77th Armour. At the same time on the Perham Down ranges, instructors of 1st Battalion, The Royal Green

Jackets, were training personnel of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment, in the use of the general-purpose machine-gun and the Carl Gustav 84mm anti-tank weapon. Meanwhile 185 officers and soldiers of the same British units were exercising with their opposite numbers at Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, where they found the weather was even colder than in Britain.



A battery command post trainer (left) developed by EMI for the School of Artillery can handle data for 100 targets and can use live radar or a simulated version as required. It is designed to train command post personnel in tracking processes, in target selection and tactical control, and in the use of electronic countermeasures, moving target indication and various forms of signal processing. When an exercise is completed the trainer produces a tape with an analysis of the battery command post operator's full performance.



# AFTER 210 YEARS

**I**T was a bitterly cold day. A bustling shopping-for-Christmas day. Not a day for standing, waiting and watching.

But Sheffield's people paused, stood and watched as their own regiment marched by for the last time. A new city centre—a 210-year-old regiment.

It was the day The York and Lancaster Regiment laid up its Colours. You watch the regiment march proudly past, then back to the shopping and lunch and off to Hillsborough football ground. You lose a regiment, you win a match.

Applause for an impeccable parade but no demonstrative emotion, no panache.

This was as private and personal a day to the people of Sheffield as the first of July 1916 when the city lost the greatest number ever of its men. That day was the start of the Somme, a battle in which fought eight battalions of their regiment. A war in which the regiment won four Victoria Crosses and in which 8814 of its officers and men died.

Sheffield paid its final tribute quietly because this is the Yorkshire way. Their regiment no more sought the limelight of disbandment than it had sought publicity down the years.

Though it earned the unique battle honour of Arabia, though it was awarded

the unique honour of a salute of guns on its departure from India, though its 22 battalions won 59 battle honours—more than any other regiment—in World War One, though its badge incorporated uniquely in the Union Rose the white rose of Yorkshire and the red rose of Lancashire, publicity it never sought. Proudly and with dignity The York and Lancaster Regiment served its country for 210 years.

As the Provost of Sheffield Cathedral said in his address:

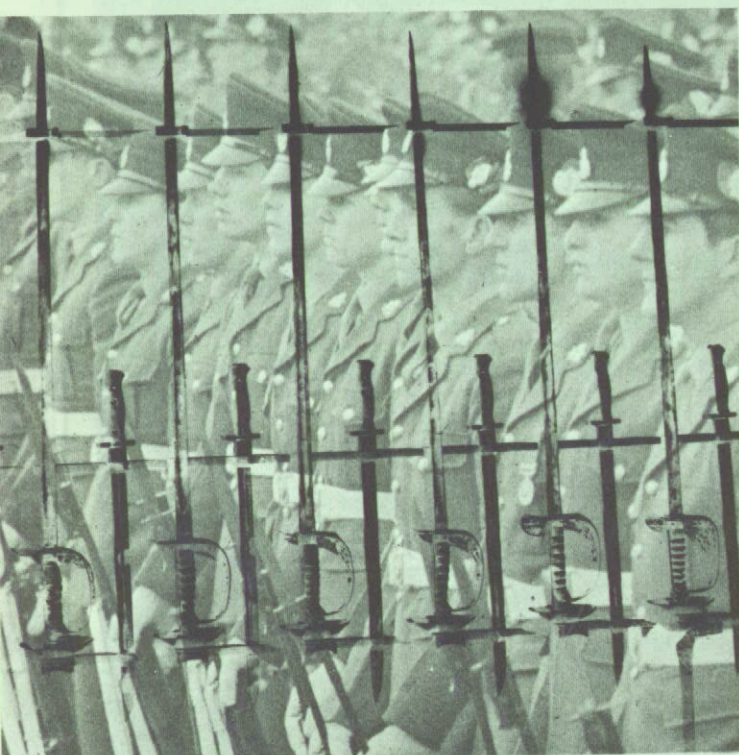
"You, as you lay down your arms and lay up your Colours, do so with that same superb dignity and discipline as has marked your service from the beginning."

Left: Exercising its "freedom rights" the Battalion, with Band, Drums and the Colours, marches past the City Hall to the Cathedral.

Right: The Commanding Officer, Lieut-Col P A Winter, hands a Colour for safekeeping to the Provost, the Very Reverend I D Neill, former Chaplain-General to the Army.

Top right: The Bishop of Sheffield dedicates the memorial screen in the Regimental Chapel. The screen, of swords and bayonets, is the gift of the Regiment.

Below: Address by the Provost during the service, in which families and many old comrades joined the 1st Battalion.



Above: The Regimental Chapel screen of swords and bayonets, superimposed on parading York and Lancasters, symbolises their laying-down of arms. Below: Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Mrs P Sheard) takes the salute, accompanied by the Earl of Scarbrough, at the City Hall.



FRONT COVER



The Colour party of The York and Lancaster Regiment waits under the new tower of the west end of Sheffield Cathedral before slow-marching the Colours of the 1st and 2nd Battalions to the chancel steps to be handed over to the Provost for safe keeping in the Regimental Chapel. Picture by Trevor Jones.



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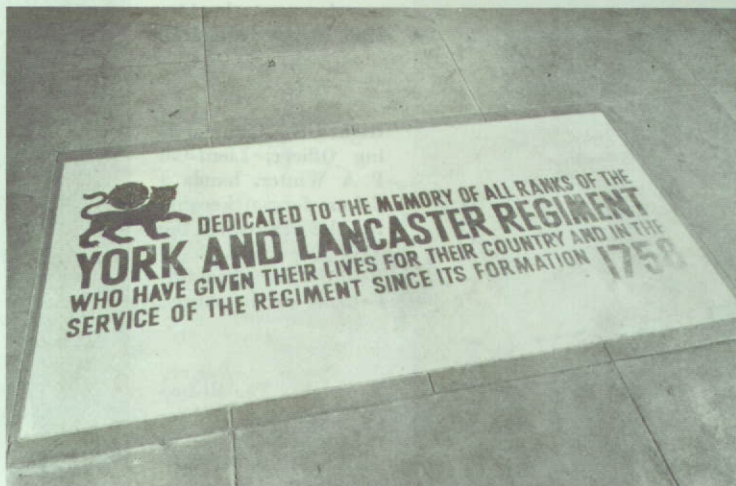




Before the final Sheffield parade the Band, Drums, Colours and detachment made "freedom" marches through Pontefract (above), Barnsley (below). . .



. . . and Rotherham (above). In each town the mayor took the salute outside the town hall. Below: Memorial plaque in the Regimental Chapel floor.



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## Plastic perfection for half-a-crown

**T**IN tanks that clog up the Hoover and plastic soldiers in a mouthful of cornflakes—this is perhaps the conventional image of military models.

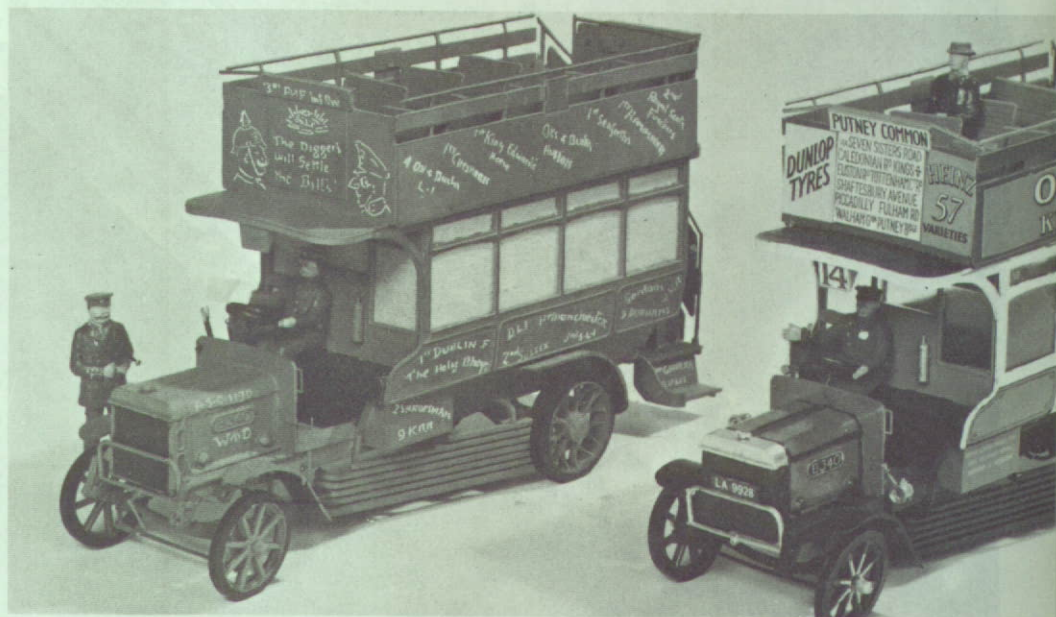
But in recent years there has been a greatly increased interest in military modelling which has become as serious and absorbing a hobby as philately.

While some plastic kits can be bought for half-a-crown in Woolworths, there are tank kits with remote-control tracks costing more than £5, superb miniature brass cannon at about £7, assembled or as a kit, and hand-made model soldiers in authentic period uniform up to £35 and more.

To cater for the military model enthusiast, SOLDIER is introducing a regular series which will survey the range of military models and appraise new additions and developments. This month's first feature looks at the products of Airfix, a major British firm manufacturing plastic model kits.

Airfix produce 300 kits and models, many of them military, with prices from 2s 6d to 32s 6d. The military kits are entirely plastic, with the exception of rubber tank tracks, and none are motorised.

The range includes seven-inch stand-up figures (Cromwell, Napoleon, Caesar, Black Prince, Richard the Lion Heart, Yeoman of the Guard, Joan of Arc, Lifeguard trumpeter and Coldstream guardsman); aircraft (a comprehensive selection from



Above: The passengers wore bustles or toothbrush moustaches. The B Type London bus of 60 years ago and its military conversion as used in Flanders. Each kit, costing 9s 6d, can be assembled in a week.

the RE 8, used for artillery observation in World War One, to the Westland Scout of the Army Air Corps); tanks, lorries, jeeps, armoured personnel carriers, guided missiles, guns and amphibious vehicles (of the British, German, American and Russian Armies); small gauge soldier sets of the "cornflake" type (Desert Rats, commandos, US marines, Afrika Korps, and

British, Japanese and German infantry); and assembled, unpainted armoured vehicles (with oversimplified detail more suitable for teething children and elderly wargamers than the serious modeller).

Even with the cheap kits there is plenty of scope. The 2s 6d Westland Scout, for example, can be finished with either British or Jordanian Army camouflage and markings. This particular model is rather small, intricate and even finicky to make, but when completed has a satisfying degree of authenticity. Perhaps the most interesting model is the 1914 "Old Bill" bus, the open top tuppenny bus of the London General Omnibus Company which was converted for use in Flanders as a troop transport and ambulance. With regimental nicknames scrawled on the sides, boarded-up windows and Tommy figures in battledress, it is a nostalgic memento of World War One.

Airfix kits are comparatively easy to make with step-by-step instructions and exploded diagrams. Concise historical background and technical data are included. Airfix also produce a useful selection of matt camouflage paints as well as the normal gloss finish.

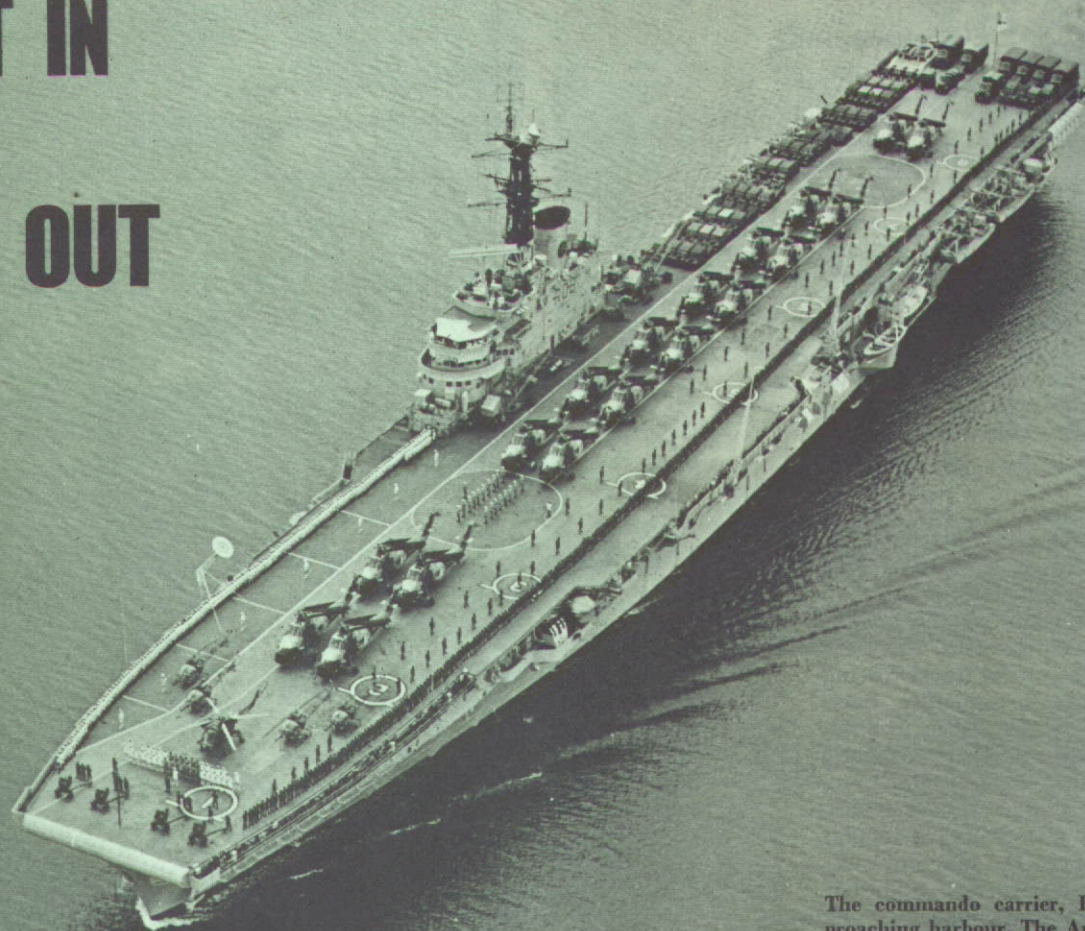
For the really serious enthusiast there is an admirable book called "How to Go Plastic Modelling" written by Mr Chris Ellis, the Editor of *Airfix Magazine*. It should become the classic reference work for the plastic modeller and deals with such niceties as simulating the chalky soil of the Somme on the wheels of World War One vehicles and converting a T 54 Soviet tank into a T 62.

Below: With rotors spinning in space, this neat little model of the Westland Scout looks very like the real thing. The kit, which is 1/72nd scale with 46 parts, takes only a few hours to assemble and paint.





# FIRST IN AND LAST OUT



The commando carrier, HMS Bulwark, approaching harbour. The Army's naval gunfire support observers go into action aboard her.

**"STAND by."** The voice of the gunnery officer in the bowels of the destroyer HMS Barrosa came crisply over the bridge intercom. "Engage." The metallic "ting-ting" warning was followed by the tremendous thud of the 4.5-inch guns and the pause of seconds while the shells tore towards Filfla, the rocky naval target off the coast of Malta.

A pall of dust on the summit of Filfla and a plume of spray off the adjoining rocky outpost of Little Filfla brought corrections, instantly acted upon, from the observation post ashore.

In the destroyer's operations room Major Brian Jackman, liaison officer of the Malta-based 3rd Commando (Amphibious Observation) Troop, Royal Artillery, checks the safety aspect of the next salvo. This is not the straightforward task it might appear

to be. Not only must the cliff-top observation post manned by Captain Christopher Morris and his party make sure there is no shipping in the area but flights in and out of Luqa airport must also be checked. Frustrating delays can occur as airport traffic lumbers in and out—but safety is paramount.

This is an important task of the Malta naval gunfire support forward observers who act as intelligence officers and the naval captain's link with the troops his ship is supporting.

Why is there always such keen competition in the Royal Artillery to take on what is often an uncomfortable and grueling task? First, as Bombardier Hood, one of the troop's nine men, puts it: "You have got to be a good kid."

This is a typical Commando understatement. He means you must be rugged

enough to complete a Royal Marine Commando course, win the green beret, have a head for heights (parachute training is required), enjoy water sports (there is an amphibious course) and be sharp enough to learn naval procedures, operate a radio and learn to survive independently for long periods.

Malta's present amphibious observation troop moved from Singapore to Malta last April and with the increasing tensions in the Mediterranean it has been on the go ever since, including coping with the extra burdens of wide-scale exercises such as the November NATO exercise.

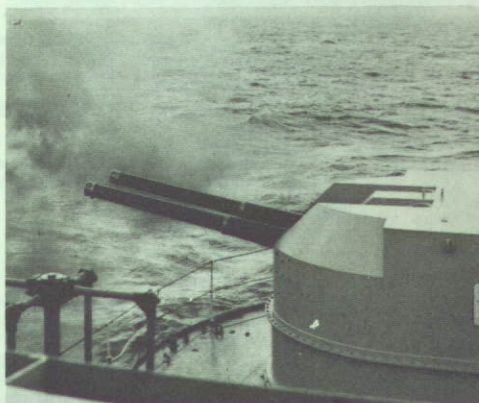
The troop is part of 148 (Meiktila) Commando (A) Battery of 95 Commando Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, based at the Royal Citadel, Plymouth. It is a highly skilled and specialised unit with a clear purpose—"First in and last out."

The naval gunfire support parties go in with the first assault by helicopter, landing craft or parachute and from the beachhead help direct fire on to targets. When they go forward they are equipped and trained to direct naval gunfire, conventional artillery or close air support.

The naval gunfire support forward observers—they used to be called forward observers, bombardment—are no strangers to Malta. They landed with Nelson's shore party in 1802 and while naval target practice continues they will stay on the island through the rundown into the Seventies, maintaining the proud tradition of "First in and last out."

From a report by Army Public Relations, Malta.

Below, left: Maj Brian Jackman consults with the gunnery officer of HMS Barrosa on safety aspects of the naval Filfla range off Malta's coast. Below, right: HMS Barrosa's forward gun turret fires.





# PURELY PERSONAL



## Singapore Reunion

It was a family reunion in Singapore (above). **Sergeant Keith Hewlett**, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, and his wife, **Margaret**, welcomed Dad, **Leading Seaman Bob Hewlett**, when the frigate HMS Aurora came into harbour.

Mum, too, was there, having flown out from Liverpool for two months' holiday. As an example of the friendly rivalry that exists between soldier and sailor a football match was arranged between Bob's unit, 3 Base Ordnance Depot, and Aurora, and pennants were exchanged before the match. The Army won by four goals to three.



## Brigadier goes underground

As chairman of the standing committee responsible for a £4,000,000 rebuilding project at the Central Ordnance Depot, Chilwell, the Commandant, **Brigadier George Ayton**, had a special reason for visiting the coalface at Gedling Colliery, Nottingham.

Four coal-fired boilers installed at the Depot will consume 20,000 tons of Gedling singles yearly and are automatically fed and cleared.

The Brigadier had a miner's lamp lit for him (above) before spending two hours at the fully mechanised coalface 450 yards below the surface.



## "I know that he knows"

Two girls of the Women's Royal Army Corps are top of the Forces' pop world after beating 400 soldiers, sailors and airmen in a song-writing contest which attracted entries from all over the world and took the adjudicators four months to judge. Their song, "I Know That He Knows," is to be recorded by a star singer.

**Lance-Corporal Bobbie Allan** and **Private Vera Beeden** (above) are stationed at Bicester, while Vera's husband, John a Royal Army Ordnance Corps Corporal, was posted to Sharjah just six weeks after they were married.

Asked in a radio interview what she would like most, Vera replied: "To spend Christmas with my husband." The Army arranged it and the couple were together for ten days in Bahrain.



## Berlin visit

Never having seen his 28-year-old son box, **Mr Jim Gaze** of Christchurch, Hampshire, fulfilled an ambition when his son's unit, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, flew him to Germany to attend the Berlin Brigade inter-unit boxing finals. Although **Corporal Gerald Gaze** lost, the referee publicly congratulated him and his opponent, **Corporal James Mathews**, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, on a hard fought bout. Mr Gaze, who is 68, is a World War One veteran of The Royal Hampshire Regiment, which is due to amalgamate with the Glosters in the near future. Above, Corporal Gaze and his father at the Brandenburg Gate.



## Gunner Piper

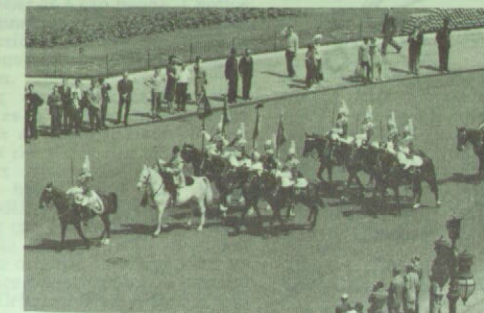
19 Field Regiment at Dortmund, Germany, claims to be the only Regular Royal Artillery regiment with a piper. **Gunner David Milroy** joined the unit last June on the disbandment of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and made his first appearance as regimental piper in December when he paraded (above) with the quarterguard for the annual inspection carried out by **Brigadier D F A T Baines**, Commander Royal Artillery 4th Division. Although permission has been given, this is an unofficial appointment and the officers provided the pipes while PRI purchased the dress. Gunner Milroy, who was a piper with The Cameronians, wears The Black Watch tartan, as do some Scottish TAVR pipe bands. 19 Field Regiment recruits in East Scotland.

## The British Empire Medal

has been awarded to **Staff-Sergeant John Henry Phillips**, Army Physical Training Corps, for gallantry while serving in Libya. He rescued a Libyan who got into difficulties while swimming in a rough sea off Tripoli, and then joined a New Zealander in an attempt to rescue a Canadian. The Canadian died in spite of their efforts to resuscitate him. The citation records that Staff-Sergeant Phillips "went into a rough sea with a fierce undertow without thought of his own safety."



# THE LIFE GUARDS



Left: With flurrying hooves and clang of sabres on cuirasses, The Life Guards rout the French at Waterloo. Above: Pomp and circumstance in The Mall after the Queen presented new Standards to the Household Cavalry on Horse Guards in 1963.

included a brigade of Life Guards, put them to flight. Dettingen 1743 was the first battle honour of the regiment.

At Waterloo their commanding officer led them in a heroic charge shouting "Come on, Cheesemongers!" The Household Cavalry Brigade charged four times, with fearful losses, but finally broke the battering ram of French infantry and cavalry which Napoleon had directed against the weakened British lines. On their return the Duke of Wellington saluted them and said, "Thank you, Life Guards." Typical of the courage and coolness on that day was Corporal John Shaw of the 2nd Life Guards, a renowned prize fighter.

He killed nine Frenchmen during the first charge alone, decapitating them with mighty blows. Finally, surrounded by ten of the enemy, he accounted for half of them before breaking his sword and being felled from the saddle and left for dead. A French drummer boy pistolled him where he lay, but still he managed to drag himself back to headquarters where he died later from loss of blood and more than 30 wounds.

There was not much need for horsemen in World War One. The Household Cavalry exchanged their scarlet and blue uniforms for drab khaki and fought it out in the trenches with a ready adaptability. They mowed down the enemy with machine-guns, pounded him with artillery and broke a massed German attack on their bayonets at Klein Zillebeke. The wavering British and French infantry on their flanks were rallied by their example.

"Hanging the brick" is an age-old Christmas custom in the Warrant Officers' and Non-Commissioned Officers' Mess of The Life Guards. The ceremony began in The Life Guards and was later adopted by other regiments but its origin is unsure. One authority says it began in 1760 when members of the mess wanted to keep it open after hours and asked the senior member for permission. He held a brick over his head saying as long as it remained there the mess could stay open. Whereupon an enterprising corporal-of-horse came up behind him and tied the brick to the rafters.

Another theory dates it from 1889 when, in the words of a music hall song, two workmen decided to throw a brick in the air and if it did not come down they would have the day off. The ceremony is performed by tradition by the oldest surviving regimental corporal-major. Here 72-year-old Mr A W Eason anoints the brick with whisky. The "brick"—now made of wood and suspended on gilt chains—remains hanging in the mess during the Christmas break.

They suffered the first gas attack at Ypres, withstood 14 days of continuous shelling to take the strong-point of Roex and themselves remained unshaken while holding Poelcappelle during the bitter fighting at Passchendaele.

In 1939 the Household Cavalry were still horsed, almost the last of their kind. They took their mounts to the Middle East but had to exchange them for ramshackle requisitioned lorries and cars. They drove across the desert and along the flooded rivers of Mesopotamia, occasionally becoming boatmen and raft crews to crush the conspiracy of Rashid Ali in Baghdad and relieve the besieged RAF station at Habbanyah.

The 1st Household Cavalry Regiment—The Life Guards and Horse Guards again formed a composite regiment as they had done in World War One—took part in the victory of Alamein, this time in armoured cars. The 2nd Household Cavalry Regiment headed the chase across the Seine and Somme and broke through to the surrounded airborne division at Arnhem.

Post-war active service has been in the Canal Zone, Cyprus, Aden and Oman. The Life Guards have been stationed in their new barracks at Windsor since October last year as an armoured car regiment of Strategic Reserve equipped with Saladins, Saracens and Ferrets.

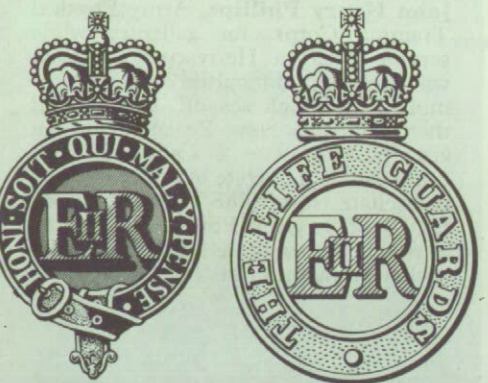
The exhausts of armoured cars and fanfare of state trumpeters—the duties of The Life Guards are divided between service and ceremonial. Their rich pageant of history is reflected in their state uniform—the wearing of the cuirasse earned them the nickname "Tin Bellies"; the oak leaf motif (on the state helmet and tips of the aiguillettes) is a symbolic reference to the oak tree in which Charles II sheltered after his defeat in 1651 and thus signifies loyalty to the sovereign; as a mark of royal favour (the Prince Regent was so impressed with their behaviour at Waterloo that he appointed himself their colonel-in-chief) the non-commissioned officers wear a crown above their chevrons. There are even subtle dress distinctions within the Household Cavalry—The Life Guards wear the strap of their helmet resting on the lower lip whereas the Royal Horse Guards have theirs on the point of the chin!



## PRIVATES AND GENTLEMEN

THE Life Guards were forged when the Army was in the melting pot. England had been subject to the harsh martial law of Cromwell for five years so, when Charles II had been restored, Parliament decided in 1660 to disband the standing army. Even the King's personal bodyguard of cavalier gentlemen, who had accompanied him in exile, was to be axed.

But the Army was saved by civil dis-



Complete with the royal monogram, the badges of the Household Cavalry (left) worn in forage cap and Life Guards (right) in SD hat and beret.

order. Some religious fanatics, who had vowed to kill the King and aristocracy, were put down with difficulty by civilian-trained bands and remnants of the military.

King Charles, seizing the opportunity, ordered the formation of three new detachments of soldiers—a troop of horse called the King's Troop (later to become The Life Guards), a regiment of horse (predecessor of the Royal Horse Guards) and a regiment of foot (later the Grenadier Guards). The King's Troop—soon to be augmented by further troops—was largely formed from the King's original bodyguard. They were modelled on the Maison du Roy, the royal guard of Louis XIV, who had impressed Charles during his sojourn in Paris.

Recruitment was by birth and breeding. For more than a century the ranks were filled by "Private gentlemen" (a term later abbreviated to Private) who provided their own horses and forage and paid 100 guineas each for the privilege of enlisting. Non-commissioned officers were not appointed until 1756. The rank of sergeant (from the Latin *servire*—to serve) was eschewed, it is said, because the term implied subservience and the status of a servant. In the King's Troop all the original corporals had been colonels in other regiments and a major-general was content with a lieutenant's commission (which cost £5500 in 1766). Uniforms were in marked contrast to those of the drab Ironsides—feathers decorated the cavalier hats, the tunics of royal scarlet were set off with gold lace and fringed sashes, cuirasses, jack-boots, leather gauntlets, and buff breeches completed the outfit.

The Life Guards were considered the flower of the Army. Their principal duty is to guard the sovereign. Because they have done this longer than anyone else The Life Guards are the senior regiment. They accompany the Queen whenever she rides on a horse or in a horse-drawn carriage as at the State Opening of Parliament and Trooping the Colour. They mount Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards (the site of the entrance to the former Palace of Whitehall which was the royal residence until it was burnt down in 1699). They carried out this guard duty on their own from 1660 until 1821, since when they have shared it with the Royal Horse Guards.

The Sovereign in turn is colonel-in-chief of The Life Guards. The offices of Goldstick-in-Waiting and Silverstick-in-Waiting, personal bodyguards of the monarch which had existed since 1528, were vested in senior officers of The Life Guards by King Charles because of assassination plots. Goldstick, carrying an ebony staff with a gold head bearing the royal cipher, had to attend the King from waking until bedtime. His deputy, Silverstick, relieved him on occasion. These days the Colonel of The Life Guards is automatically Goldstick. The joint office is at present held by Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten, incidentally the only naval officer to be the colonel of a British Army regiment.

Household Cavalry, a term which includes The Life Guards and their brother regiment of the Royal Horse Guards, is something of a misnomer. They are in fact troops of the royal household mounted or dismounted as the Sovereign directs. They

have fought on board ship against the Dutch in 1665, on horses under Granby, Roberts and Allenby, on camels under Wolseley, on foot and bicycles as infantry under Haig in World War One, in lorries in the race to relieve Baghdad in 1941 and in armoured cars in the desert, Italy and North-West Europe.

The Duke of Monmouth was one of their first leaders—and enemies. The Duke purchased command of The Life Guards for £10,000 and led them to victory in the Dutch War, personally heading an assault on the port of Maastricht. Soon after Charles II's death in 1685, Monmouth—the illegitimate son of Charles—declared himself the true king. He led the Protestant rising against the Roman Catholic James II, but his men were armed mostly with scythes and pitch-forks and were hopelessly beaten at Sedgemoor by the royalist army which included 150 Life Guards.

The Life Guards earned their first nickname—"The Cheeses"—when horse grenadiers joining them said they were not gentlemen but "cheesemongers." It had become a practice for rich merchants to buy their sons commissions in this elite regiment as a means of entry into society.

The "Cheeses," short of food and forage with many raw recruits, were marched into a narrow defile between a river and high ground near Dettingen where the French had prepared a defensive position called a "mousetrap." But the ever-confident French advanced too far, masking their own guns. Accurate British fire threw them into confusion and the cavalry, which



## Buttoned up ?

I have been a reader of **SOLDIER** for a long time and in your postbag have seen the answers to many strange questions.

I have asked all over, without success, why shirt buttonholes are upright. The buttons slip out too easily at times but this would not happen if the buttonholes were crossways as on uniforms, civilian jackets and overcoats. Why upright?—**Sgt A Birch, 4th (V) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, 4 Norbury Close, Halton View, Widnes, Lancs.**

★ *The Army's Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment says that the front edges of a shirt are cut straight and the vertical buttonholes therefore allow the shirt front to settle evenly when fastened. The foreparts of a jacket or overcoat are invariably shaped and horizontal buttonholes ensure that the fronts remain level when fastened.*

## They were there

I read with interest your coverage (**SOLDIER**, November) of the tragic flooding at East Molesey and the sterling help given by the Services. It was with great regret, however, that I noted the almost total omission of the part played by the DUKWs and crews of 18 Amphibian Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.

May I fill in the details so that the work of this small band of soldiers does not become blurred alongside that of their mightier comrades in the Royal Engineers or 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

The squadron was called in to help at East Molesey on Monday, 16 September, at 10.30am. From a normal working day this, the only amphibian squadron in the Regular Army, galvanised 13 DUKWs from North Devon to East Molesey where, a minute before midnight on the same day, they were ready for rescue work. Initially only four DUKWs were used. Liaising directly with the police, they made a reconnaissance of the area.

Rescue operations were started immediately and soon 12 DUKWs were fully engaged. From early on Tuesday morning until evening of the following day these amphibians were the only vehicles able to cross the flooded areas. In their first 12 hours the DUKWs evacuated the sick, aged, infirm, babies and pregnant mothers, and doctors were taken out to treat urgent cases. An entire hospital was evacuated.

Later, food supplies, fresh and hot, were distributed by the ton as well as cooking and heating oils, baby foods, water etc. Those who wished to be taken from their homes to safety or to relations in another area were removed via the rescue centre at Imber Court and the borough surveyor, electricity, gas and water board personnel were taken

to areas from which danger reports had been received. With each DUKW there was a policeman with local street knowledge and another operating a radio link.

The crews of the DUKWs were ably assisted by police, civilians and soldiers from the Royal Engineers and 7 Para RHA who acted as "humpers and waders" in the waist-deep water—an unenviable task. But without the DUKWs at the crucial time, when the flood water was at its height in hours of darkness, all the "humpers and waders" would have been useless.

Whereas soldiers from other units could be rested from time to time, the DUKW detachment of 40 officers and soldiers operated almost continually. It is not generally realised how much effort is devoted by the amphibian

crews and their Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers comrades to keeping these 25-year-old DUKWs operational. It can best be summed up by one incident during the Molesey emergency. Under appalling conditions the amphibian REME workshop party of a corporal and eight men "dropped" a DUKW clutch, renewed the thrust bearing and had the vehicle back on the road for rescue work within hours.

East Molesey was the fourth call to 18 Amphibian Squadron in 1968 to assist in a civil emergency. The others were the rescue of animals in the River Exe floods in January, ferry work when Bideford Bridge collapsed in the same month, and the Bristol floods in June.

My qualifications for writing this are very humble—I had the privilege of being the amphibian operating officer at these events.—**Capt I G M Bamber RCT, HQ 155 (Wx) Regt RCT (V), Burton Place, Taunton, Somerset.**

★ **SOLDIER's** November feature presented an overall picture of the Army's help. If the DUKWs and crews of 18 Amphibian Squadron received less mention than their share of the work justified it was because the squadron and its DUKWs are expected to be involved in any flood relief. But **SOLDIER** is happy to publish Capt Bamber's letter plus this picture of a DUKW near the Imber Court control centre.



## Mortarboard next ?

Really—a sapper laying bricks with gloves on! ("A sapper loose about the hoose," December). It's enough to make we "burnt clay artists" foam at the mouth! But jolly well done, sappers; a first-class effort.—**C T Waring LIOB.**

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**Army Fire Brigade**

With reference to the Army\* Fire Brigade in Turkey (December letters) I recall that as a small boy in 1907 I attended the Guards Brigade Garrison Children's School situated at the Farnborough end of Queen's Avenue, Aldershot. Practically next door was the military fire station. In those days the fire engines were horse-drawn. The crews were attached from various units and the warrant officer in charge

belonged to the garrison staff and wore the royal cipher as a cap badge. I notice that the original doors of the fire station have been bricked up and the building has been converted to a garrison court martial room.

Regarding the reference to GHQ British Forces in Turkey and the Army Fire Brigade at Scutari, I served with the Army of the Black Sea in 1919 and for a short time was stationed at Scutari. A battalion of The Royal Dublin Fusiliers was then stationed there under the command of a Lieut-Col Bonham Carter. The Battalion occupied the original buildings used by Miss Florence Nightingale as a hospital during the Crimean War. Adjacent was the British cemetery for those who died in the hospital.—**Maj QM C Partington (Retd), late RASC, 72 Dales Drive, Colehill, Wimborne, Dorset.**

**D-DAY FELLOWSHIP**

This year sees the 25th anniversary of D-Day, and in Portsmouth, from which the bulk of the allied forces set sail for France in 1944 and where an ambitious project is afoot to complete the Cathedral as a D-Day memorial, an organisation has been formed to keep alive the memory of D-Day and all it stands for.

Membership of the D-Day Fellowship is open to members of the Services and Merchant Navy who took part in the D-Day landings and subsequent operations up to 19 August (when the Battle of Normandy ended) and their parents and other relatives. The life subscription is £1 and those joining will receive a certificate of membership. Linked with the Fellowship will be an annual service in Portsmouth Cathedral on or about the anniversary of D-Day and a special book con-

taining the names of members will be placed in the cathedral.

The funds raised will help to complete the nave of the cathedral which will seat 1500 and have a roof span of 78 feet, nearly double that of St Paul's Cathedral. Empanelled in the ceiling of the ambulatory surrounding the nave will be the crests of units of the allied nations which took part in the D-Day operations. There will be space for 400 badges. Design and layout plans are in the hands of a Services committee.

Those wishing to join the D-Day Fellowship should write to the Organiser, Portsmouth Cathedral Completion Appeal, Flat 2, Cathedral House, St Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the D-Day Fellowship.



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**HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?**

(see page 33)

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

**COLLECTORS' CORNER**

F Fortune, Smithfield House, South Lane, Elland, Yorkshire.—Requires 210th Frontiersmen Battalion badge, Canadian Expeditionary Force 1917. Must be in good condition; state price. All letters answered.

Maj N W Poulson, Provost Branch, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40.—Requires British MMP, MFP, CMP or RMP (less EIRR) cap badges, buttons and shoulder titles; also old British military police manuals or pamphlets.

Stephen Pardoe, 8 Park View Terrace, Brighton, Sussex BN1 5PW.—Wishes exchange officer's leather belt with revolver holster and bullet pouch for collection of Army cap badges or similar.

D Frost, 882 Parkdale Street, Winnipeg 22, Manitoba, Canada.—For sale or exchange, full dress uniforms of 9th and 12th Lancers in mint condition. Also regimental histories for both regiments.

Dean C Smith, 17 Fifth Avenue, Haskell, New Jersey, USA.—Requires following SOLDIER back issues: March, April, July 1955; July 1957; June 1958; January, February, March 1959; August, September 1960; January, March, June 1961; June, July 1962; February 1964. All letters answered.

Gene Christian, 200 East 21st Street, New York 10010, USA.—Wishes purchase insignia, headdress, banners, accoutrements etc relative to French and Spanish foreign legions; French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Belgian, German Imperial colonial forces; Camel Corps, Shanghai Defence Force, gunboats; mercenary, African, Arabian, East African Forces (World War One); any and all exotic militaria. All correspondence welcome.

G Lyles, 2a Salisbury Road, Walthamstow, London E17.—Wishes buy books, manuals etc, particularly "In the Wake of the Tank," "Panzer Leader" and "Fighting Tanks Since 1916." Condition unimportant.

Master P W Browning (aged 12), c/o F/S Browning, Sergeants' Mess, RAF Tobruk, BFPO 56.—Will purchase or exchange British and Commonwealth Army badges. All letters answered.

E P d'Andria, c/o Northern Factoring Inc, Suite 343, 3410 Geary Blvd, San Francisco, California 94118, U.S.A.—Requires Britains Ltd model soldiers, vehicles, tents, buildings, airplanes.

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**

Competitors had apparently little difficulty in finding the 25 capital cities in Competition 125 (October)—London and Madrid, with their repetition of symbols, were the give-away. But by no means all entries found the correct hidden capitals of Algiers and Caracas.

Among the unacceptable offerings were Canton, Oran, Accra, Aden, Berlin, Tehran, Riga, Ottawa, Bangoi, Aussen, Panama, Hawaii, Agra, Rome, Cairo, Regina, Taipei, Lusaka, Durban, Venice, Washington, Canberra, Bamako, Kigali, Taiz, Amman, Pankow, Victoria, Angoto, Ibadan, Sana, Paris, Ratenh and Istanbul!

- Prizewinners:
- 1 Cpl P Robson, 3 Sqn, 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 53.
  - 2 Cpl J McEwan, 205 Postal Unit, BFPO 33.
  - 3 M Lockie, 37 Cleveland Road, Catterick Camp, Yorks.
  - 4 S/Sgt M J Burnett, 50 Mov Control Det, McMullen Barracks, Marchwood, Southampton, Hants.
  - 5 Mrs M D White, 22 Norton Drive, Fareham, Hants.
  - 6 Cpl J McLeod, 3 BOD Wksp REME, Tels Sec, c/o GPO Singapore.
  - 7 Cpl A P Rogers, Central Engr Park, Long Marston, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick.
  - 8 C Bell, 19 Bolley Avenue, Bordon, Hants.
  - 9 D J Bridge-Williams, Manager, Naafi, Wagon Lines Club, School of Artillery, Larkhill, Wilts.
  - 10 A/T K J Ford and A/T T H Eveleigh, C Squad, J Coy, Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, Reading RG2 9NJ.
  - 11 W J Burden, Estwood, Norris Hill, Southampton SO2 4JH.
  - 12 S Robinson, 131 Venner Road, Sydenham, London SE26.

**REUNIONS**

14/28 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Annual reunion dinner at Depot RA, Woolwich, on Saturday, 4 October. Tickets 30s. Accommodation can be arranged at Depot. Further particulars from Secretary, Old Comrades Association, 14/28 Field Regiment RA, TA Centre, Church Walk, Devizes, Wilts.

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# Books



## A SOLDIERS' GENERAL

"Rommel" (Ronald Lewin)

For generations to come military historians will ponder on the hypothetical problems of what would have happened if Rommel had fought on the Russian front or on the Rhine. Perhaps Montgomery's penetrating comment—"too impulsive for a setpiece battle"—may be the solution. This interesting addition to the Military Commanders series would seem to support that view.

As a young officer in World War One in the Carpathians, Rommel learned to control his men from the front, make unexpected thrusts on the flanks and above all to be flexible. On the whole he had a good war and never suffered the trench warfare that crippled the imagination of so many of his contemporaries.

In the inter-war years his progress was slow and although he commanded the Führer's bodyguard in Czechoslovakia and Poland he was never a Nazi. Indeed Rommel, the fervent patriot, seems to have been politically naive.

In the 1940 Blitzkrieg his famous 7th Panzer Division earned itself the nickname of "The Ghost Division." Under his dynamic and aggressive leadership it scythed its way through France taking 100,000 prisoners, 300 guns and 450 tanks for the loss of 42 tanks and 3000 men.

Appointed to North Africa in

February 1941, Rommel seemed like a tornado compared to the sluggish Italians. With his amazing ability to rapidly appreciate a situation and calculate tactical possibilities he launched an immediate



offensive; Benghazi, Tobruk and a clutch of British generals were soon in his hands. He showed his mastery of desert warfare—the use of massed firepower, the clever interplay of guns and armour—skills

which under his determined leadership led to situations like "The Cauldron."

But time was running out for Rommel as 1942 drew to a close. His supply problems had become impossible, many of his best officers had been killed or captured, the Luftwaffe had failed to crush Malta and he himself had developed a severe gastric upset. Worst of all, Montgomery had appeared. Supremely confident, equally flexible, and massively supported by Churchill in men and equipment, he was to prove the antidote to Rommel's success. El Alamein was the result.

Rommel never again had a victory apart from his limited success over inexperienced troops at Kasserine Pass. With his health failing rapidly and at loggerheads first with Von Arnim in Tunisia and then with Von Rundstedt in Normandy, he began to have doubts about Hitler's leadership. It was a short step to involvement in the officers' plot of July 1944, detection and then suicide as an alternative to being branded a traitor.

History will probably judge him as he would have wished—"a very competent professional, a soldiers' general!"

A most interesting volume enriched with fine, clear maps, interesting photographs and a very good bibliography.

Batsford, 63s

A W H

## EIGHTEEN MEN AT WATERLOO

"A Near Run Thing" (David Howarth)

There have been more books about Waterloo than any other battle in history yet each addition seems better than those before. This is certainly true of this exciting new volume.

The author concentrates on what the shock of battle meant to a handful of fighting men on both sides. Skilfully weaving together the eye-witness accounts of 18 men—Sergeant Morris, the argumentative Cockney who likes a good grouse and a nip of gin; Ensign Leeke, only 17 and terrified of letting down the side; Captain Kincaid, the dour Scot in The Rifle Brigade... he presents a continuous and dramatic narrative.

These were the days when it was considered cowardly to duck an oncoming projectile or flinch when a limb was removed without anaesthetic, when gaudy uniforms were accepted as symbols of masculinity and bravery, when standards were held in the highest esteem as sacred tokens of patriotism, when wounded lay for days without attention and the dead were looted without hesitation.

The book highlights some of the more interesting episodes—the bloody stand of the Guards at Hougoumont and that of the German Legion (bravest of the allies) at La Haye Sainte, the terrifying moment when the Pas de Charge was sounded on the drums and masses of French infantry moved to the attack, and finally that inspiring charge of the Highlanders and Scots Greys when Sergeant Ewart captured the golden eagle of the "Invincibles."

Why did the French lose? The author notes that Napoleon was not at his best that day, suffering as he was from piles and cystitis, and he remained in moody seclusion far from the field. Thus he failed to synchronise the movements of his artillery and infantry and even allowed the folly of attacking in column.

Even Ney was out of sorts. His relations with Napoleon were at that time strained and he ordered a useless cavalry charge in a petulant fit of anger.

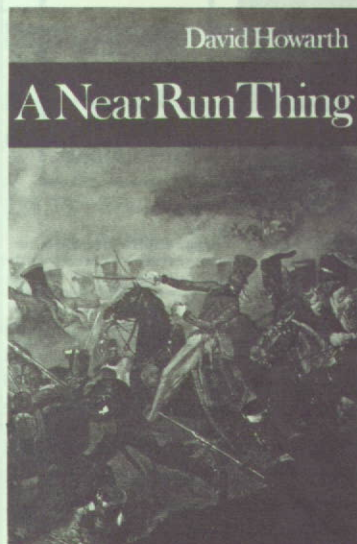
The reasons the British won were Wellington's foresight in placing his troops just over a ridge and out of sight of the French gunners and the thousands of men like Morris,

Leeke and Kincaid who were damned if the French would beat them.

This very well written book has a superb array of illustrations and maps.

Collins, 45s

A W H



## "THIS CONTEMPTIBLE LITTLE ARMY"

"The British Army of 1914" (Major R Money Barnes)

Major Barnes has written in this, Volume IX in the Imperial Services Library, a lucid and succinct account of the development of the Army from Waterloo up to the opening battles of 1914. He has included descriptions of the allied and enemy armies, illustrated by excellent coloured and monochrome plates of uniforms and weapons. The coloured plates by the author are particularly fine.

Of particular interest is his description of the administrative reforms gradually introduced as a result of lessons learned from the shambles of the Crimea and to a lesser extent from the South African War. These reforms led to the formation of the comparatively well-equipped and administered British Expeditionary Force. This force, of four infantry and two cavalry divisions, was thus able to play a major role, incommensurate with its size, in the defensive battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne and so help to form the line which eventually stretched from Switzerland to the sea.

The major part of the book is devoted to each corps and regiment—potted history, badge, titles, station at outbreak of war, Colours, battle honours, uniform, nickname, allied regiments, militia and Territorial regiments.

This is a splendid reference book for all military historians.

Seeley, Service & Co, 50s R H L

## TURNING POINT

"The Guadalcanal Campaign" (Major John L Zimmerman)

The United States attack on the British Solomon Island of Guadalcanal in August 1942—just eight months after Pearl Harbour—was the first amphibious offensive operation launched by America.

With the victory of Midway—the sea battle in which the United States Navy's aircraft changed overnight the balance of naval power in the Pacific—the capture of Guadalcanal was the turning point of the war against Japan.

This volume is the official United States Marine Corps account of the battle. Originally published by the Marines' Historical Branch in 1949, it has been reduced slightly in size but the contents remain the same. It is by an officer of the Marine Corps Reserve and is an outstanding contribution to World War Two history. Major Zimmerman is a gifted writer and first-rate historian who loses none of the drama of this great victory.

For the marines on the beach and on the jungle-clad hills it was touch-and-go many times. The Japanese rarely retreated, dying where they stood. The object of Guadalcanal was to safeguard America's imperilled lines of communication to Australia and New Zealand which were vital to other projected operations in the South Pacific.

Had the marines been thrown back into the sea the Japanese march of conquest could well have continued. The brilliance with which the operation was conducted by General Alexander Vandegrift and



his men, and the supporting naval and air forces, is emphasised by the fact that this was a hastily mounted attack set in motion at short notice with very limited means.

Lancaster Publications,  
Chicago, \$7.95

J C W

## SOLDIER— STATESMAN

*"The Captain-General" (Ivor F Burton)*

Few commanders have attracted so much venom as John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough, Captain-General of the British Army and C-in-C in Flanders 1702-11. He is remembered as a kind of Vicar of Bray who deserted his patron, James II, for William of Orange and then intrigued against his new master.

Even as a soldier in the field he is said to have seriously considered a massive bribe of £150,000 offered by the French, misused public monies for his own ends and to have become involved in petty disputes over army promotions. Thus his titles and palaces became the target for the scorn of Swift, Pope, Thackeray and Macaulay. The balance was redressed by Winston Churchill in the 1930s but Marlborough now seemed more like saint than sinner. Perhaps then it is time for a fresh look at this soldier-statesman.

As a soldier Marlborough was essentially a professional with more than 30 years' experience under his belt before his great challenge came in Flanders. He saved Holland from

invasion and coaxed the cautious Dutch to do more than besiege a few fortresses on their frontiers. His march to the Danube and the speedy way he disposed of Bavaria were bold and unorthodox. At Schellenberg he showed his offensive spirit and at Blenheim demonstrated his tactical genius whereby he shook the morale of the French, invincible for nearly half a century.

In all his other famous battles, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, he displayed the same high standard of skill and that ability that often distinguishes a great commander—a readiness to suffer heavy initial casualties till the moment to strike appears.

Marlborough was a great success as a soldier and a failure as a politician. His career stands as a warning to any other prominent military figure who would venture into the field of politics. Yet he was a man of European stature who saved Europe from Louis XIV of France.

The author has tried to take a new look at Britain's part in this conflict and finds it to have been a major one. Critically examining the somewhat unreliable contemporary battle accounts he notes that Marlborough was stronger in cavalry at Blenheim than had previously been realised. He also stresses the devastating effectiveness of the British "firing by platoons."

This volume succeeds in filling in the complicated backcloth of diplomacy that led to the War of the Spanish Succession. The notes and bibliography are extensive but the maps are a little disappointing.

Constable, 42s

A W H

## IN BRIEF

*"Armour on the Eastern Front" (Walter J Spielberger and Uive Feist)*

Volume 6 in the Armor Series has a splendid selection of pictures linked by the inevitable blow and counter-blow of war.

Panzer Is and IIs overwhelm the Russian T-28 (based on a Vickers design) and BT7; the first T-34s render German anti-tank weaponry useless; Panzer IVs immobilised in snow; T-34s fall to captured Russian weapons; a Sturmgeschütz knocks out a T-34 by ramming it; the heavily armoured KVI (predecessor of the Stalin tank) is too much for the Panzers; British Valentines and Matildas reinforce the Red Army tank potential.

But while an initial German force of 2500 AFVs took on 10,000 Russian tanks issued to troops and 10,000 in reserve, claiming 18,000 destroyed or captured from 22 June to the end of October 1941, the Russians went over to the offensive in November 1942 with the revolutionary T-34 and by the end of 1944 had an overwhelming strength of 25,000 AFVs in 175 tank brigades, 180 tank regiments and 150 assault gun regiments.

Coloured plates in this volume are of the Panzerkampfwagen IIIF, Kliment Voroshilov KVI, Samokhodnaya SU85 (assault gun) and Jagdpanzer Tiger (P) Elephant.

Aero Publishers, California (overseas agent, W E Hersant Ltd, 228 Archway Road, Highgate, London N6, 24s 6d post paid)

*"Vietnam Task" (Robert J O'Neill)*

Of the many books spawned by the Vietnamese war few have given much idea of the soldier's view and the methods of fighting. This is where Major O'Neill scores. He was intelligence officer of 5th Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment.

## VIETNAM TASK

The 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Robert J. O'Neill



His appointment enables him to view operations from the battalion as well as the personal standpoint and he produces not only a factual account of the battalion's activities over the year but also a compelling soldier's story.

The battalion's 800 men landed at Nui Dat air base in Vietcong territory on 24 May 1966. Their task was to restore peace, civil law and regular commerce to Phuoc Tuy. It was the first battalion of Regulars and National Servicemen that Australia committed to operations in Vietnam and it acquitted itself in the best Aussie traditions.

When it arrived only 24 hamlets and a population of 24,775 were under Government control. When it left, the number of hamlets under control had risen to 105, with a population of 98,408. Considering the area had been under Communist influence since 1945 it was a notable achievement.

Cassell, 50s

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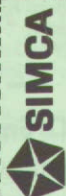
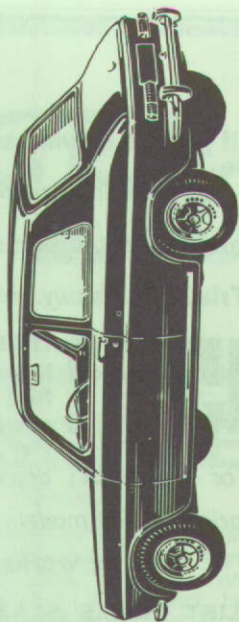
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# Of course!

## COMPETITION 129

**M**R and Mrs Armitage invited their friends, Major and Mrs Brooks, to dinner at a restaurant—and obligingly brought back the menu so that **SOLDIER** could use it as the basis of this month's competition.

After the dinner they found that for each person two of their courses had the same initial letter; Mrs Armitage doubly so. Mr Armitage settled the bill with three £1 notes and told the waiter to keep the change—the service had been good and the waiter had promptly removed the two unused soup plates and a set of fish knives and forks.

**SOLDIER** also discovered that:

The ladies were teetotallers and both thought soup was too fattening.

Major Brooks's meal cost 2s less than Mrs Armitage's.

Two persons took cheese, two had the pudding and only two coffee cups were used.

Mrs Armitage's second course had the same initial letter as her third course.

Mrs Brooks's meal cost 2s more than her husband's.

The first course cost 3s 6d and the major drinks only tea after meals.

Mrs Brooks passed the horse-radish sauce to Mr Armitage.

Mrs Armitage has a good appetite and enjoyed every course, particularly the Gorgonzola; the others had only four courses.

No two persons had the same meat or fish course.

What **SOLDIER** now wants to know is: Who ate and drank what?

Send your answer, on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 129" label from this page and your name and address, to:

**The Editor (Comp 129)**  
**SOLDIER**  
433 Holloway Road  
London N7.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 21 April. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 129" label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries. Answer and winners' names will appear in the June 1969 **SOLDIER**.

### Menu

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| *  |     |
| SOUP of the day or   | 1/- |
| Fruit JUICE  | 1/6 |
| *  |     |
| PLAICE and chips or  | 4/- |
| OOD and chips or   | 4/- |
| SOLE (special)   | 5/3 |
| *  |     |
| BEEF, PORK, LAMB or CHICKEN<br>(with choice of vegetables) | 6/6 |
| *  |     |
| RICE pudding de luxe or                                    | 2/- |
| CHEESE and biscuits  | 1/9 |
| *  |     |
| COFFEE (black or white) or                                 | 1/6 |
| BRANDY (per glass)   | 2/6 |

## Prizes

- 1 £10
- 2 £5
- 3 £3
- 4-5 £2
- 6-8 £1
- 9-10 Three books
- 11-12 **SOLDIER** free for a year
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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 29.





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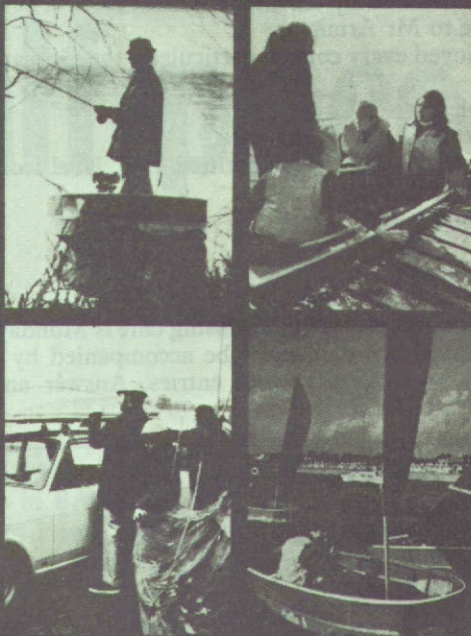
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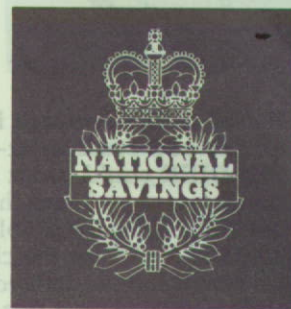
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This is the view the "chopper" saw that brought the school that sappers built at Ulu Sat.

# A school for Ulu Sat and a bridge for Marang

**U**LU Sat needed a school; Marang was short of a bridge over the River Merchang. 'Could the Royal Engineers help?' asked the District Officer.

At the time, 17 Division was on exercise in this area of Malaysia and 59 Field Squadron was only too glad to be of help. The villagers of Ulu Sat had been troubled by a tiger which eventually killed one of the children while walking along four miles of jungle path to the nearest school. Since then the children had been confined to their *kampung*. The district officer found a teacher but could not build a school because every bit of material had to be carried in on footpaths.

The squadron designed a school, built it—with helicopters of the Royal Air Force and 848 Naval Air Squadron lifting in 25 tons of stores—and furnished the building down to desks, chairs and playground

equipment. Lieutenant Richard Oliver designed the school and commanded 1 Troop which built it. The troop normally supports 40 Commando, Royal Marines.

At Marang the villagers were using a heavy and cumbersome ferry to get across the river to their school and fields. Previous bridges on the site had been repeatedly washed away during the monsoon. Captain Bill Eggleston designed a bridge to span the 150 feet of water and 2 Troop, under Lieutenant Robin Carr and Second Lieutenant Charles Moorhouse, worked on site for a month to erect a 195-foot span walkway suspended from four 3½-inch cables on each side, with a further 100 feet of elevated approach walk.

Particular care was taken to preserve two fine coconut palms flanking one entrance to the bridge. The design catered for the heaviest loading—of all 250 villagers using the bridge at the same time.

Below: Marang's villagers can now walk across the sapper-built bridge to their school and fields.



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# THE ABBEY ON THE HILL

**O**N 14 February 1944 a United States aircraft flew over the Benedictine abbey of Monte Cassino in Italy and dropped a mass of leaflets. "To our Italian friends," the leaflets read. "Against our will we are now obliged to direct our weapons against the monastery itself... save yourselves."

Twenty-three years later a party of 82 British Army staff and promotion candidates from Malta and Cyprus gathered at Cassino to discuss the battle that so closely resembled the hand-to-hand trench warfare of World War One. Cassino stands at the gateway to Rome and is dominated by the abbey, which has been rebuilt exactly as it was before the heavy bombing of 15 February 1944.

During the visit it was easy to see how the monastery commanded such attention among the men who fought the four battles for Cassino. Its windows looked down like eyes on the surrounding countryside and its white walls, glistening in the winter sunshine, could be seen for miles around.

The controversy about whether German troops used the monastery for gun positions or an observation post has raged ever since. One member of the party, Colonel John Gratton, who commanded A Company of 1st Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment, during the action, swore that he saw helmeted, grey-coated soldiers leaving one of the abbey entrances and that his company sergeant-major was able to fire several long bursts at them with a light machine-gun. The colonel was also convinced that after the bombing what closely resembled an observation post could be seen in the badly-damaged cupola.

Another member of the party, Brigadier Jack Glennie, who commanded 1st Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment, at Cassino, was certain of the necessity of destroying the monastery—if only to convince the soldiers whose comrades were being killed and wounded in large numbers that the commanders thought more of their lives than a building, however beautiful.

In the monastery itself the party found a monk who was one of 12 volunteers to stay behind during the bombing. He told the story of how the abbot said as the first wave of aircraft drew nearer: "Let us go down to St Benedict's cell..." They did—and in a short time the place where they had been standing was a pile of rubble. None of the 12 monks was hurt and St Benedict's tomb remained undamaged.

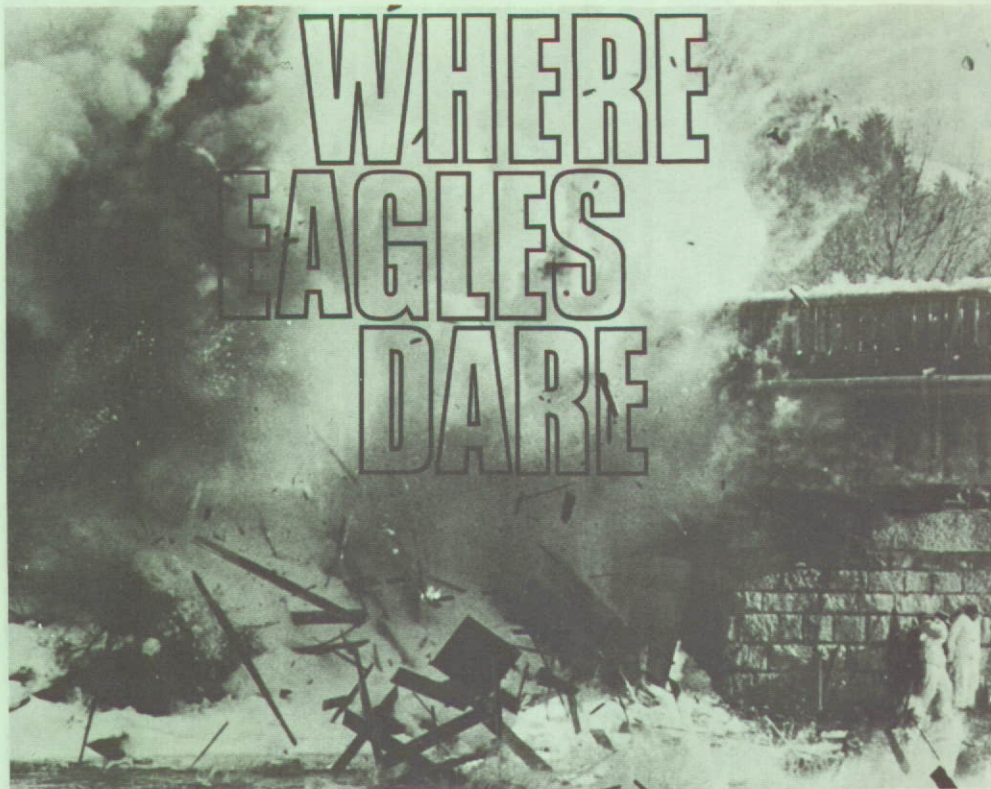
Summing up the battlefield tour, Brigadier R E C Price, commanding British Troops Malta, said staff candidates should remember that the battalion and company commanders at Cassino were of comparable age to themselves—and that the soldiers were in their late teens and early 20s.



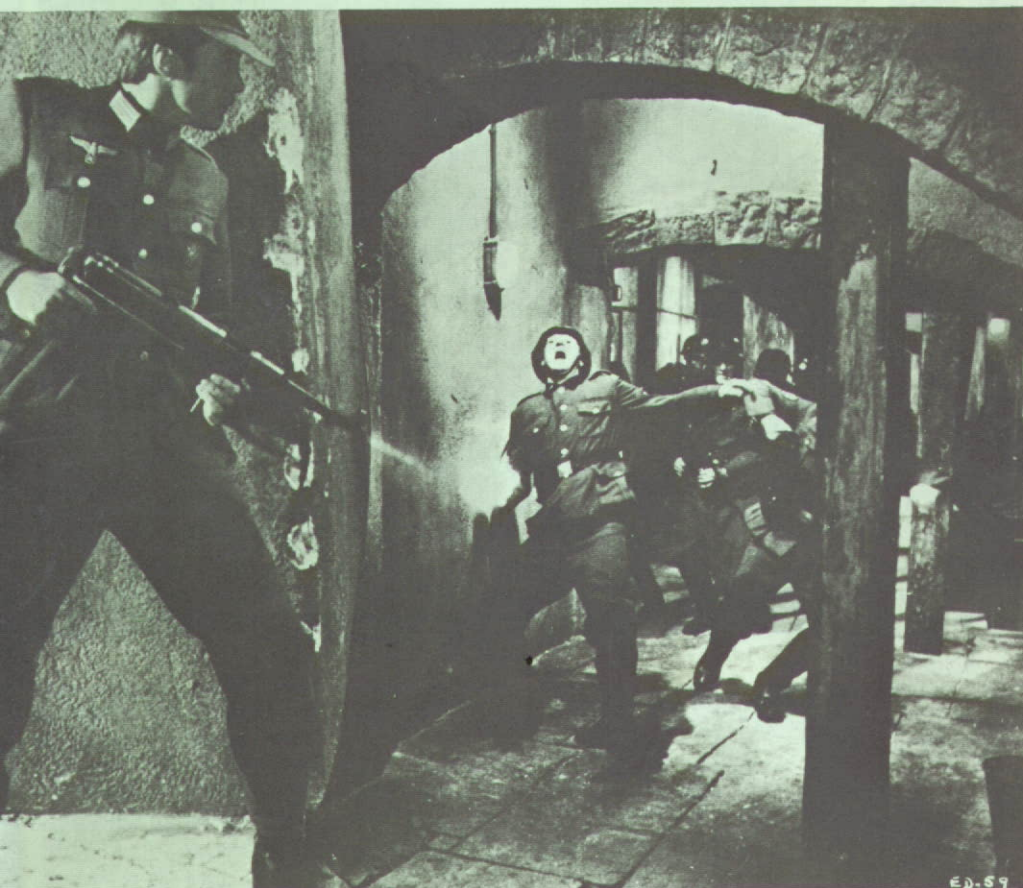
Above: 1944—Cassino after the battle. Left: 1968—the Commonwealth cemetery at Cassino; Brigadier Price lays a wreath for British troops.



# WHERE EAGLES DARE



Above left: A peaceful alpine village explodes into smoke and flames as a chain of booby-traps goes off. Above: Eastwood deals with Nazi officer.



More Germans die in a hail of bullets (left). Above: Burton makes plans while Mary Ure guards the traitors. Below: Victims of a trip-wire.



**H**IGH drama at 1000 feet. A British major struggles with three traitors on the roof of a moving cable-car. The scene is the Austrian Alps and the time during World War Two. This is the high spot of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's new action-packed adventure film "Where Eagles Dare."

The film, in colour, was made on location near Salzburg and cost more than £3 million. Princess Alexandra attended its London première last month.

Alistair MacLean's book of the film is already a best-seller. The story, com-

pletely fictitious, is about a British major, an American lieutenant, four British non-commissioned officers and a girl agent who are sent to rescue a captured United States general from an impregnable mountain fortress called Schloss Adler (Castle of the Eagles). There are double-agents and a double-double-agent.

Richard Burton is the major from MI6, Clint Eastwood plays the American lieutenant and Mary Ure the girl agent. They parachute out of a tri-engined Junkers 52, a wartime Luftwaffe transport plane. The actual parachuting was done by Swiss Army paratroopers from one of three

Junkers 52s now in the possession of the Swiss Army from whom it was hired by the film company.

The fairytale castle of Hohenwersen, used for the Schloss Adler sequence, is in fact a training barracks for Austrian military police. Men of the Austrian Alpenkorps helped the film makers by carrying cameras and other gear up the mountains on their sledges.

When the parachutists land, one of the non-commissioned officers is killed. Burton suspects he has been murdered by the other three and his suspicions are confirmed when he and his men are rounded up by the SS





in a café. Burton and Eastwood escape and with the help of Mary Ure break into the Schloss Adler.

The plot twists and turns—the “general” turns out to be a corporal, the traitors are already in the castle—and eventually the heroes escape but their prisoners, the three traitors, break free and make off in the cable-car, with Burton hanging precariously on to its roof.

He gets one with a knife and another falls. Burton plants an explosive charge, leaps to the passing car, and the third traitor meets a fiery end.

The cable-car sequence was performed

by stunt men, but they were accompanied by cameramen. “There were occasions when they were in 60 mile-an-hour winds on top of that car,” says director Brian Hutton. “Often they were working without protective lifelines. They took unbelievable risks.”

“They knew that if they lost their footing there would be no point in sending for an ambulance.”

The double-agents have all been dealt with but there are more adventures and escapes before the final *dénouement*—the unmasking on the aircraft home of the double-double-agent and arch-traitor.

“Where Eagles Dare” tells how Richard Burton helped to win the war. But the Army showed him how it is really done.

The Parachute Regiment—taking up a challenge from Richard Burton issued through MGM—put on an exercise code-named “Eagles Dare.” The Red Devils free-fall team dropped 10,000 feet on to Eagle Moor near Lincoln. They handed over exercise instructions to four three-man teams from the Depot of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

The teams then set out on a five-day, 150-mile march to London, sleeping in bivouacs at night. Their destination was the Empire, Leicester Square, where they were presented to Princess Alexandra at the premiere of the film. Their arrival was heralded by the band of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment.

Captain Derek Jackson, who is adjutant at the Depot in Aldershot, organised the exercise. He explained: “It is the first time we have done anything like this. We decided to accept the challenge from Richard Burton because the publicity will be good for recruiting. Not only that, it is all for charity.”

Money raised from the sale of seats at the premiere goes to the Richard Burton Haemophilia Fund.

Left: One has his legs and the other grabs his arm, but Burton has a knife in his free hand. Below: 75-foot drop into the river and escape.



## BACK COVER

Coal-scuttle helmeted German soldiers scurry about as flame and smoke billow into the night sky. Allied soldier-secret agents, played by Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood, sabotaged a railway station and there was a chain reaction in a nearby ammunition dump and anti-aircraft emplacement. It is one of the dramatic scenes from the MGM film “Where Eagles Dare.”



**SOLDIER**

