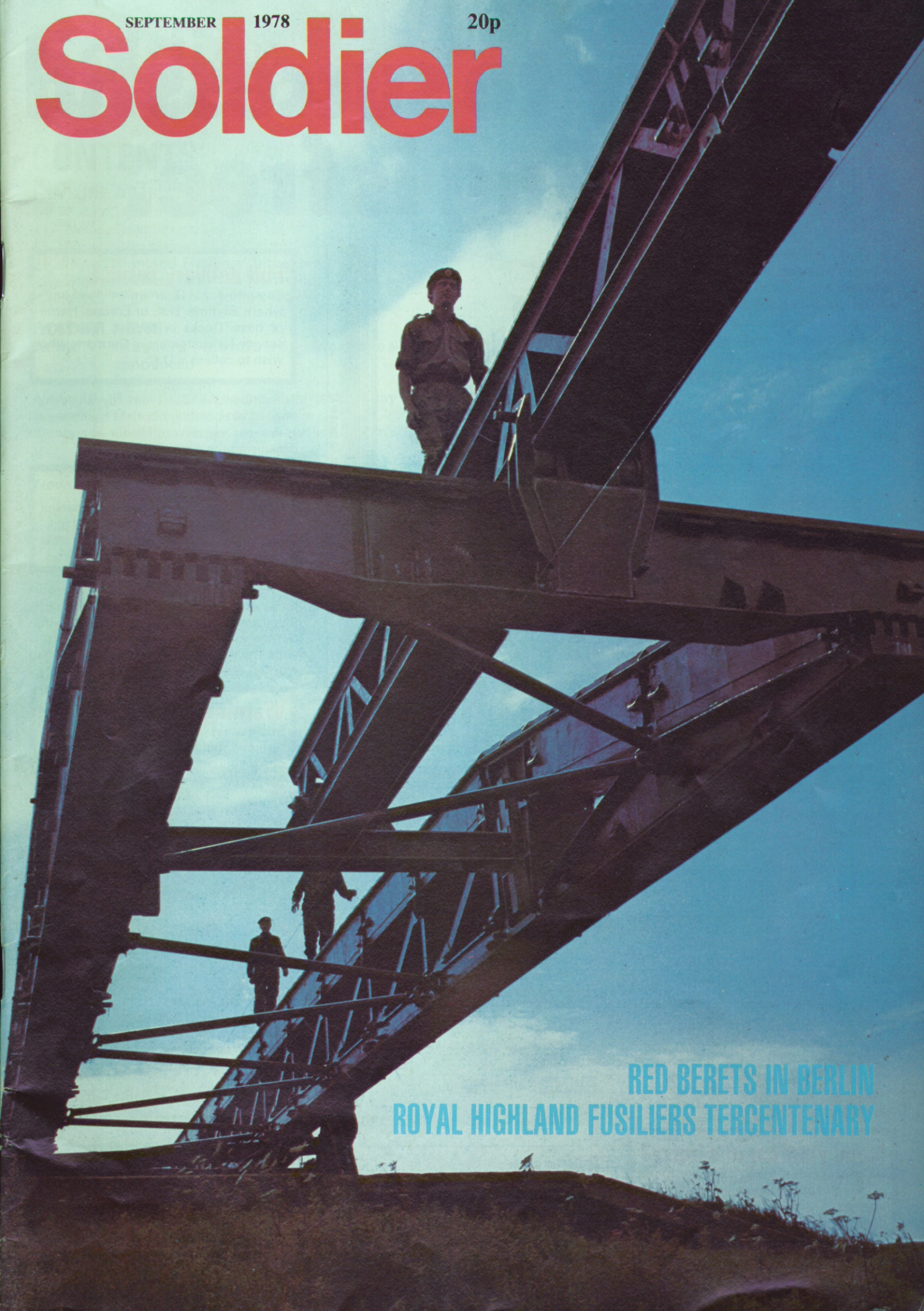


SEPTEMBER 1978

20p

Soldier



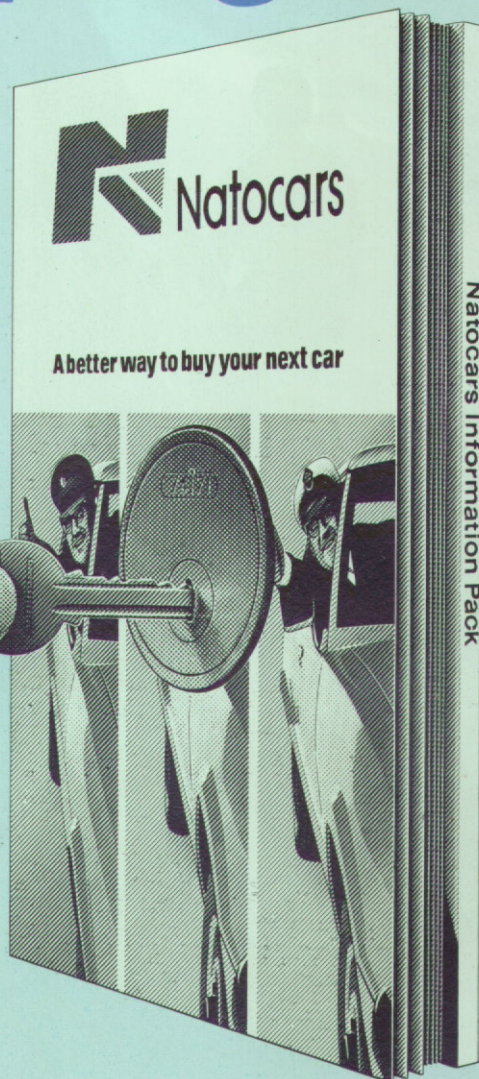
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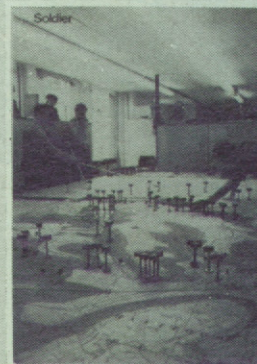
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FRONT COVER

The stark and simplistic lines of a medium girder bridge against the sky as Volunteer sappers do their annual bridging camp at Wyke Regis, Dorset.
Picture by Doug Pratt

BACK COVER

The battle is under way and in the Control Room of the Army's new Battlegroup Tactical Trainer at Bovington, staff plot troop movements on a giant map.
Picture by Leslie Wiggs



4 2 Para in Berlin

The Red Berets from Aldershot are currently in unfamiliar surroundings — the divided city of Berlin. SOLDIER travels round with them at both work and play.

11 Netley hospital closes

The closure of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley as part of the Army hospital reorganisation means the end of an era for the Royal Army Medical Corps. This feature looks back on its past glories.

21 Royal Highland Fusiliers' tercentenary

Another Scottish regiment celebrates 300 years of service to the Crown. Those action-filled centuries are recalled.

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UK/BFPO £3.72; Elsewhere £4.08

Send UK cheque/UK postal order/international money order and state when subscription is to start and to whom to be addressed.

Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2DU (phone GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military).
SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1978.

Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)

Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)

Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)

Soldier News: DOUGLAS McARTHUR (Ext 2591)

Art Editor: JOHN B RUSHWORTH (Ext 2589)

Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)

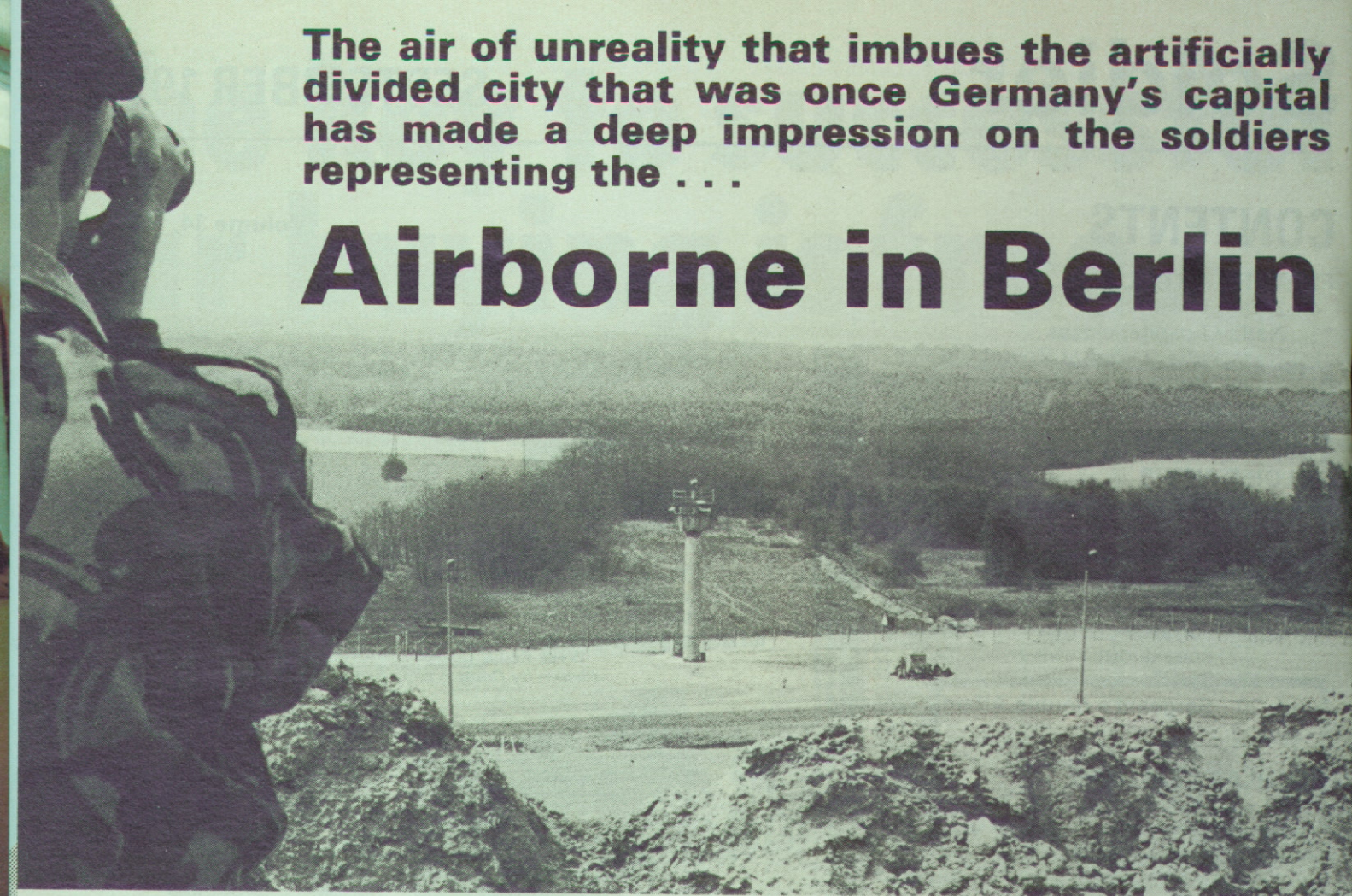
Photographers: DOUG PRATT, PAUL R G HALEY (Ext 2584)

Advertisement Manager: (Ext 2583/2587)

Circulation Manager: Miss D M W DUFFIELD (Ext 2592)

The air of unreality that imbues the artificially divided city that was once Germany's capital has made a deep impression on the soldiers representing the . . .

Airborne in Berlin



THE PARATROOPER peered through his binoculars across the sombre grey concrete slabs that form the Berlin Wall and commented with a snort of amusement that — as usual — a member of the Grenz Kommando Mitte (the East German border guards) was returning the compliment.

"All this 'us and them' thing is just unreal," the soldier added, "They're soldiers just the same as us." He rejoined his comrades in the stripped-down Land-Rover with the machine-gun mounted in front of the passenger seat in Long-Range-Desert-Group style and drove off to continue the routine border patrol his unit — 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment — undertakes as part of its duties as one of the three British infantry battalions in the divided city.

The patrol's sense of unreality is easy to understand. Their Land-Rover climbs a dusty track up a man-made mountain that is a West Berlin rubbish tip to overlook the border further on.

Below is the snaking monotony of the grey wall backed by a carefully raked stretch of sandy ground. Then comes a steep ditch with a spiked lip . . . facing east. On a further sandy strip stands a concrete tower with a green glass turret top giving all round vision. Tall lamp standards are spaced at intervals to give eternal day to this unnatural scene. Two parallel wire fences beyond the tower and lights form a permanent home for guard dogs.

The unhealed scar of the border defences gashes a jagged wound across the countryside just outside the city of Berlin and contrasts sharply with the green fields of the

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt

One of the first of many surprises Berlin offers is that 44 per cent of what is loosely called the city of Berlin is woodland and water — amenities jealously guarded by the local community. The total area of Berlin — which grew up some 750 years ago — is 341 square miles which accommodates 3,200,000 people. Some 185 square miles make up West Berlin which has 2,100,000 inhabitants.

The city is an island in the middle of East Germany — The German Democratic Republic — and the West German border is some 100 miles away. A zonal border around Berlin comprises 70 miles of barbed wire and the Eastern and Western sectors are divided by a 26.5-mile-long wall built in 1961.

In 1964, agreement was reached to let relatives and friends visit across the notorious wall. Some 800,000 Berliners were affected. This concession was allowed four times that year but never since.

The Western allies maintain a 12,000-strong presence in West Berlin — 7500 Americans, 3000 British and 1500 French. The United States sector is in the south, the British in the centre and the French in the north.

Left: Paratrooper looks over the Wall while he in turn is watched by East German guard.

Below left: The battalion Colours at Queen's Birthday Parade denote the British presence.

Top right: Exhortations for 'Freedom' and to 'Beat the Reds' among graffiti on the Wall.

Right: Lance-Corporal John Woodhouse getting in some watermanship on the river Havel.

Bottom right: Private George Dalby watches goosestepping Russians change the guard.

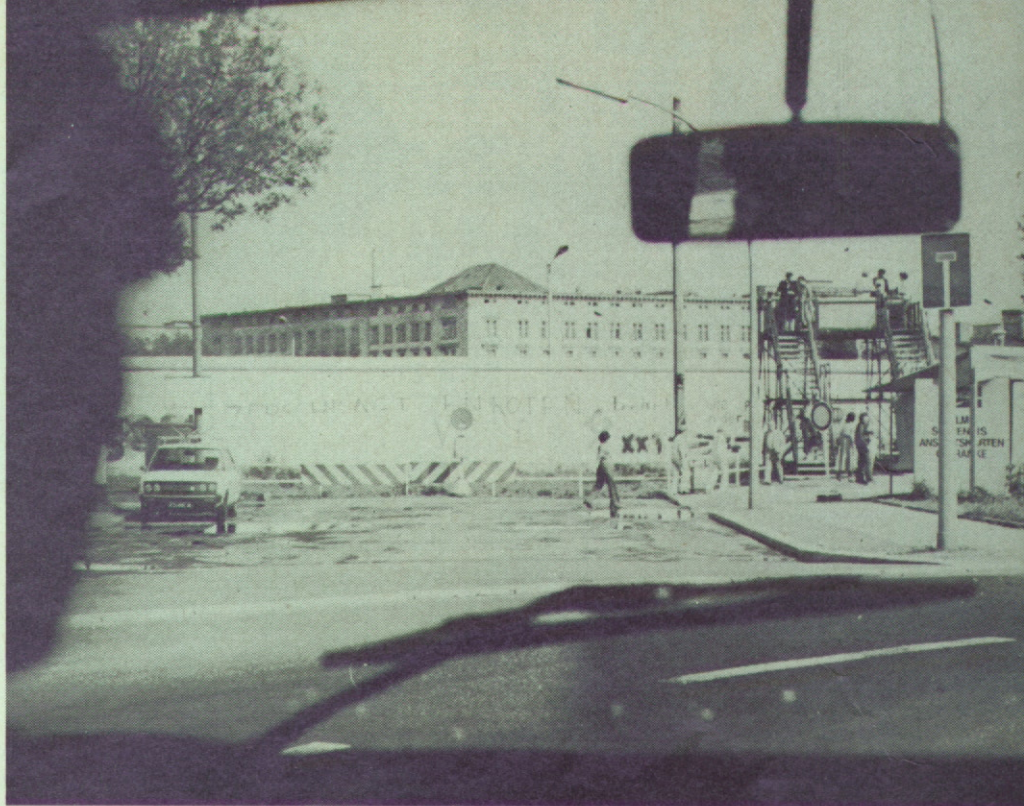
collective farm it cuts off from the West. As a final surrealist touch, in a field on the horizon two white soccer goalposts stand out.

It could all be a figment of the frenetic imagination of painter Salvador Dali. But it all becomes fearful reality when the occasional Eastern escapee makes the desperate dash across the sand which with good reason is dubbed 'the death strip.' The border guards' masters maintain a year-round 'open season' on anything that moves on the strip. So much so that it is said guards themselves refused to set foot on it to recover the body of a shot would-be escapee until written authority had been given — for fear they would meet the same fate.

So for 2 Para, whose last accompanied tour of duty outside Britain was in Cyprus 16 years ago — the same year the Berlin Wall was built — it all took a bit of getting used to. Captain Mike Argue explained: "One of our main difficulties has been to understand the political nature of Berlin. This is a two-year tour which is almost half way through and it takes this long to grasp what it all means. Before this we were in and out of Northern Ireland."

It took a while to adjust generally to being away from the battalion's base in Aldershot after the airborne forces of 16 Parachute Brigade were scattered from their home, leaving only a token presence.

But most of the soldiers have fallen back on the versatility their regiment is proud of to make the best of their new environment. One said: "When you first come to Berlin you get that closed-in feeling. But you come to terms with that after a while. We were a bit uneasy about leaving Aldershot after so



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long but we soon got used to it. If you bother to learn the German ways they've got some very good traditions and we have a good time with them. And there's plenty for the single lads to do and see in a big city like this."

The commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel David Taylor, confirmed that a significant trickle of soldiers was taking the trouble to learn basic German in order to get by in the local community and that many took advantage not only of the entertainments of Berlin's teeming night life but also of the wealth of culture available in the city's museums and opera houses.

And this not only in West Berlin. For another aspect of the unreality of the divided city is that British soldiers are allowed into East Berlin in groups of four or more and in uniform.

But these off-duty pursuits have to be fitted into a busy workload which is divided between the unique duties infantrymen undertake in Berlin and the requirements of their battalion training.

In 2 Para's case, the latter has included a dogged determination to maintain the unit's parachuting skills despite the fact that it is now 'out of role.' Already three parachuting

exercises have been mounted — they have to take place outside Berlin in 'mainland' West Germany — and the battalion's synthetic training facilities thrive under the expert tuition of RAF parachute jumping instructor Alan Wain. Sporting the red beret of The Parachute Regiment, he sees to it that the whole battalion undertakes some ground training each month and has managed a full refresher at least 14 days before each 'live' parachuting exercise.

A little over half the month is taken up with battalion duties which have also allowed a greater opportunity to train soldiers in individual skills than in the recent past when frequent tours to Northern Ireland interrupted the flow.

The machine-gun platoon of Support Company has changed its role to an assault pioneer platoon which takes on watermanship and engineering tasks specially adapted to the needs of Berlin with its wide open spaces and vast expanses of water which would become vital communication barriers in the event of an emergency.

Surrounded as it is by potential enemies, West Berlin is on constant alert for such an emergency and the troops of the Berlin Field Force have regular mobilisation exercises —



'Rocking Horses' — to test their fitness to react should the Reds' ring of steel tighten around the vulnerable island of Western culture.

The strictures imposed by this fragile existence are what govern the unique mixture of duties that keep 2 Para — plus their infantry colleagues of 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, and 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, who are also serving there at the moment — occupied for the rest of their time.

Daily border patrols keep watch on the inhuman barrier of the Berlin Wall from the roads and tracks on the Western side, armed with live ammunition and in constant contact with their base by radio. Aerial surveillance adds a loftier perspective, thanks to the Gazelle helicopters of 7 Flight, Army Air Corps, which carry observers from 2 Para or from the other battalions logging movements and changes over the border.

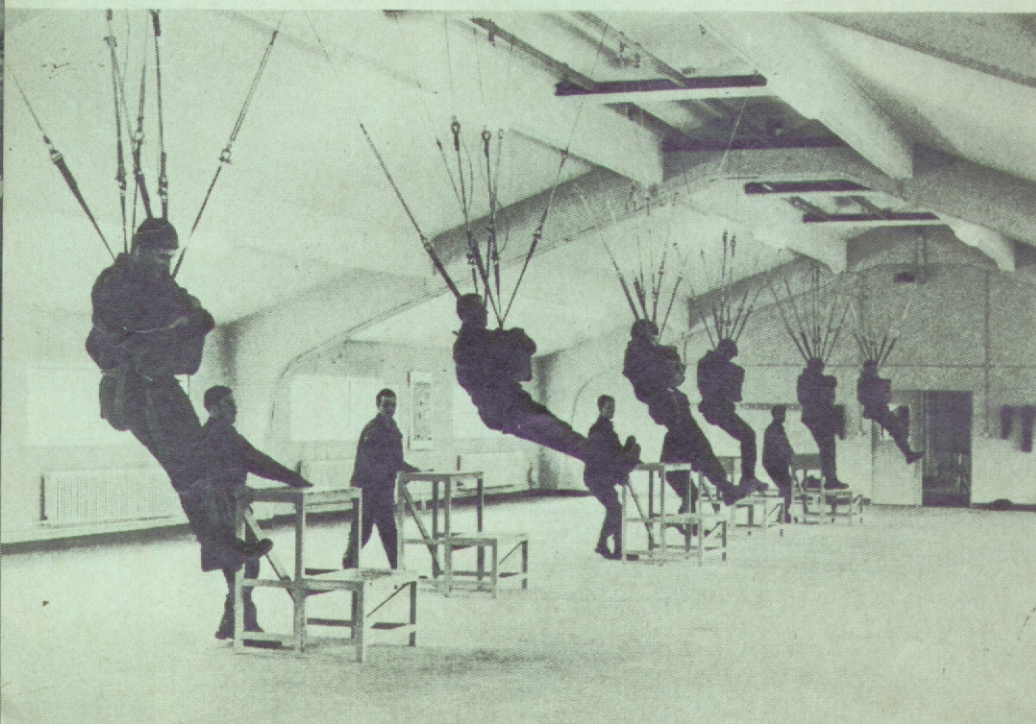
Every day of the year — including Christmas Day — 'flag tours' (literally showing the flag) make a six-hour round trip into East Berlin by staff car. The uniformed soldiers are joined in this exercise by the other two Western allies occupying sectors of Berlin — France and the United States —

Top left: Out on shopping trip to Brunswick.

Above: Keeping fit on the confidence course.

Left: Parachute training continues indoors.

Below: Corporal Ian Graham's helicopter patrol.



and Soviet troops are likewise allowed the same access to the West.

The duty battalion also has to provide a guard of one officer and eight men for the daily military train from Berlin down a railway-gauge thin corridor through East Germany the 100 or so miles to West Germany. After a stop-over for a few hours at Brunswick, the train completes a 12-hour day by returning to Berlin. This is the last Royal Corps of Transport train to run regularly in the world and the only allied rail link with the West from Berlin.

And finally there is the ritual guard on Spandau prison's only inmate — aged war criminal Rudolf Hess. The prison's grim red walls and towers are close to 2 Para's home at Brooke Barracks.

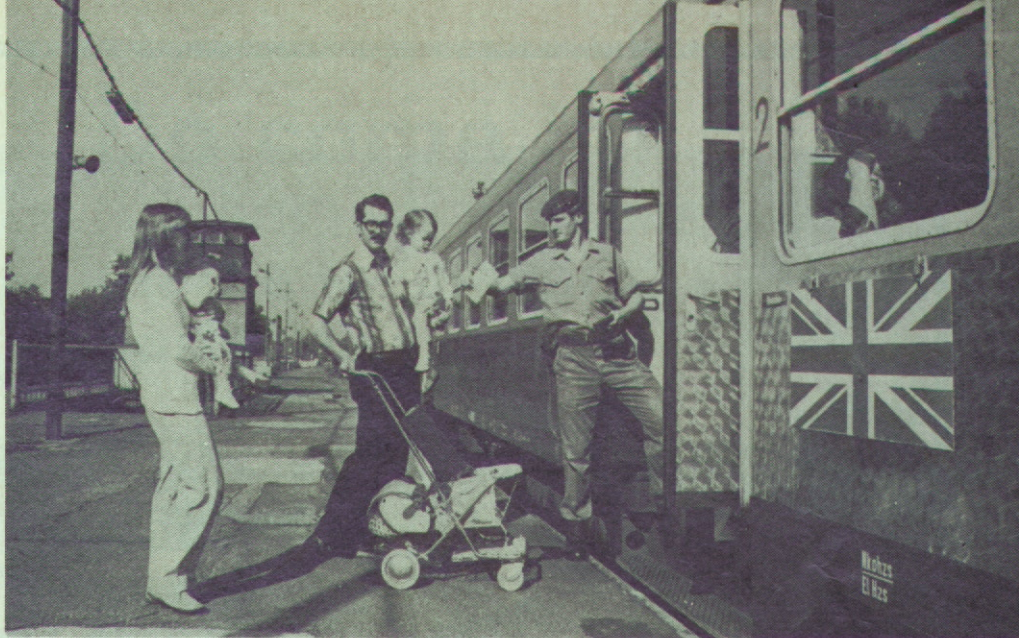
One of the disadvantages of being posted to Berlin was seen by Colonel Taylor as being the number of special duties required. He said: "Now we are a 650-strong battalion they come round more quickly. A predecessor summed it up: 'Happiness in Berlin is proportional to the number of soldiers you have.'"

Summing up for himself, the colonel added: "It's an entirely different life from Aldershot — although I must admit some of the surrounding countryside looks like Ash Ranges. The battalion's wives and families were entrenched in Aldershot and many had jobs there. Jobs are hard to get in Berlin. But the local overseas allowance is good — although you find you need it if you go out into the city to spend it."

The battalion's next posting is to Ballykinler for 18 months — so even in the unreal world of far-off Berlin, the harsh reality of a return to 2 Para's all-too familiar stamping grounds in Northern Ireland looms large on the horizon.

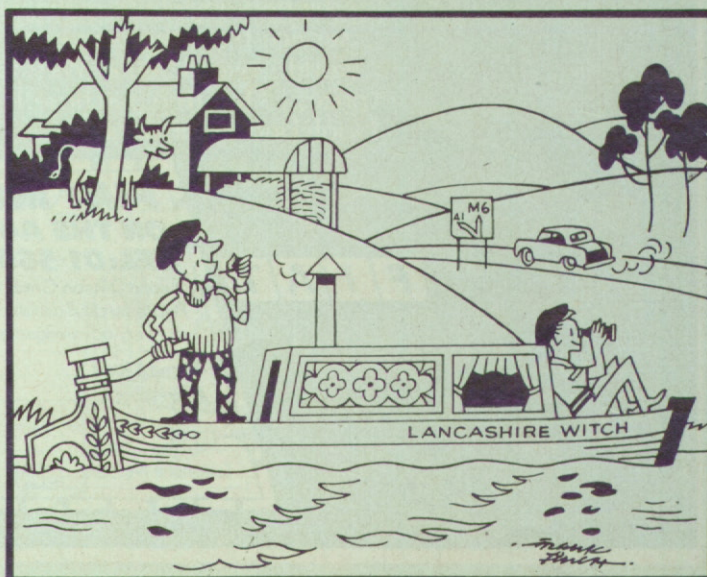
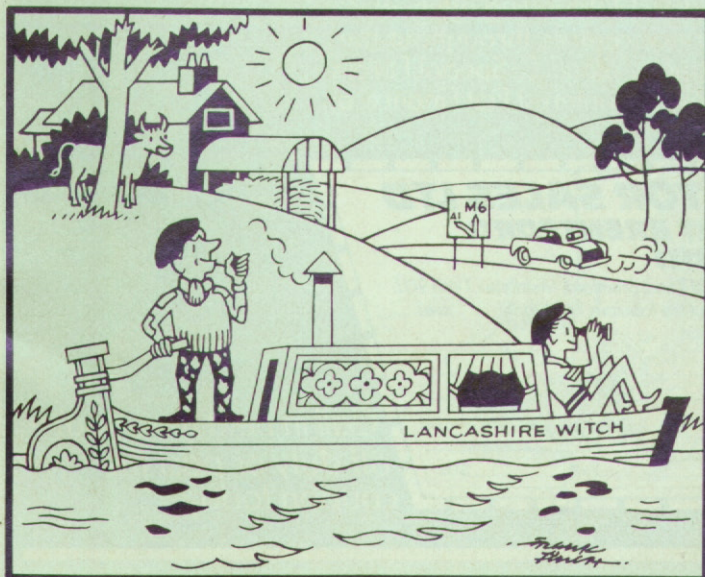
Top right: All aboard the Berliner. Private Harry Stuart checks passenger documentation.

Right: The grass men cometh. Mortar handling training at Grunewald — with practice rounds.



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 43.





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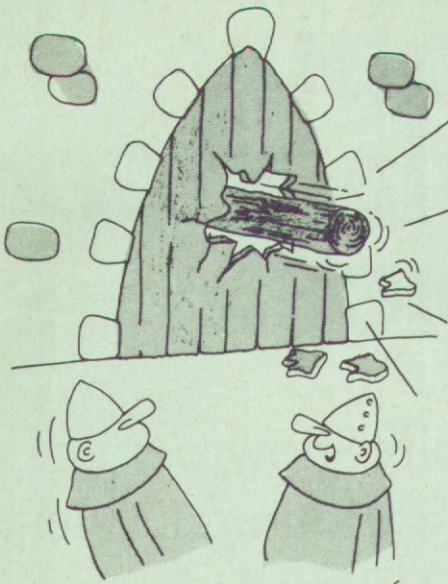
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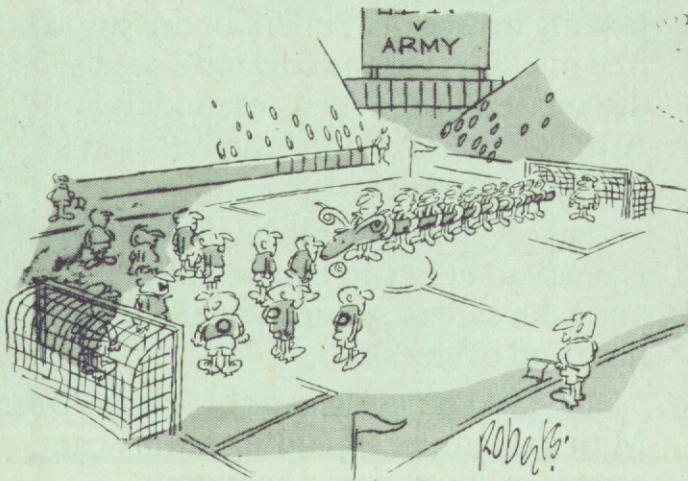
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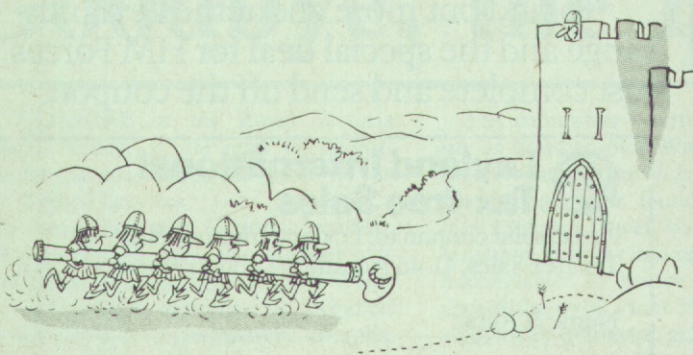


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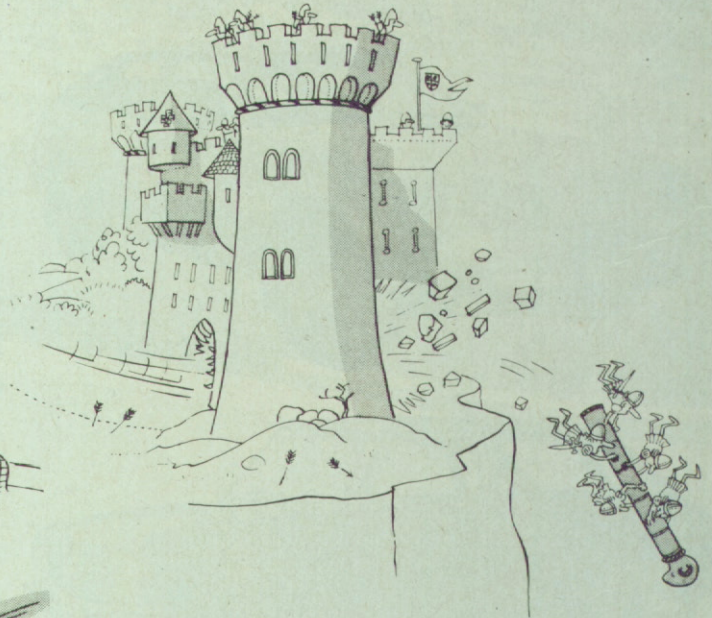
"I think there's somebody at the door!"



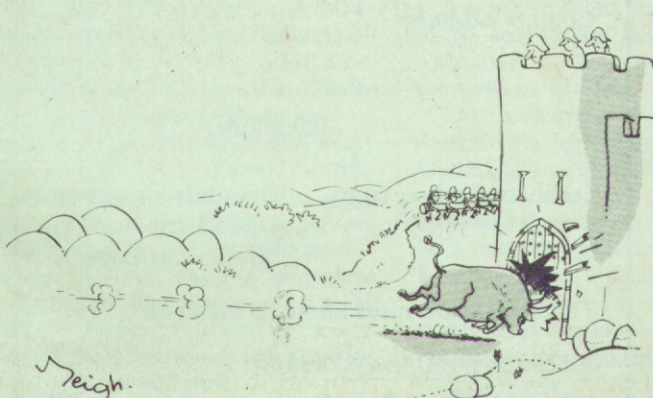
"I've a feeling they've got some new form of
attack up their sleeve!"



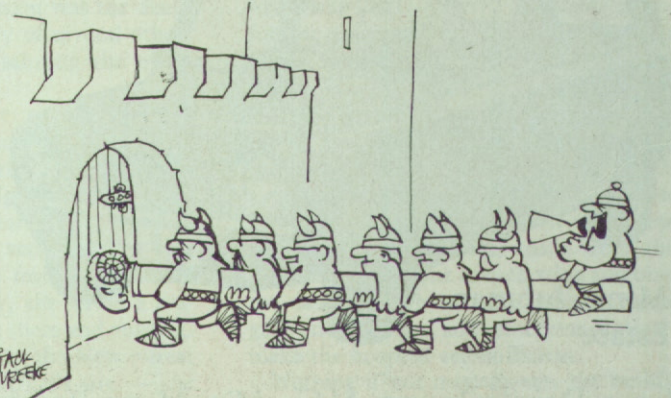
Teigh.



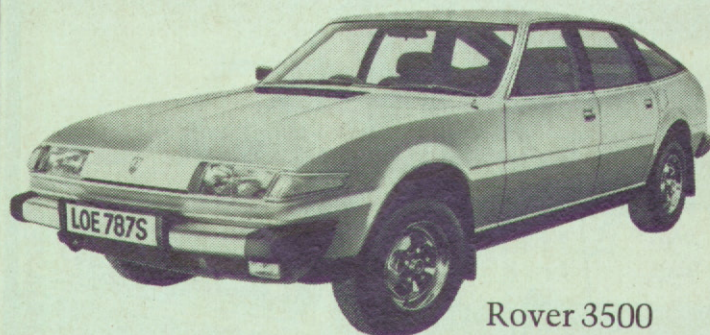
"Sir Gwillelm Fitzdarcy and party, m'Lord."



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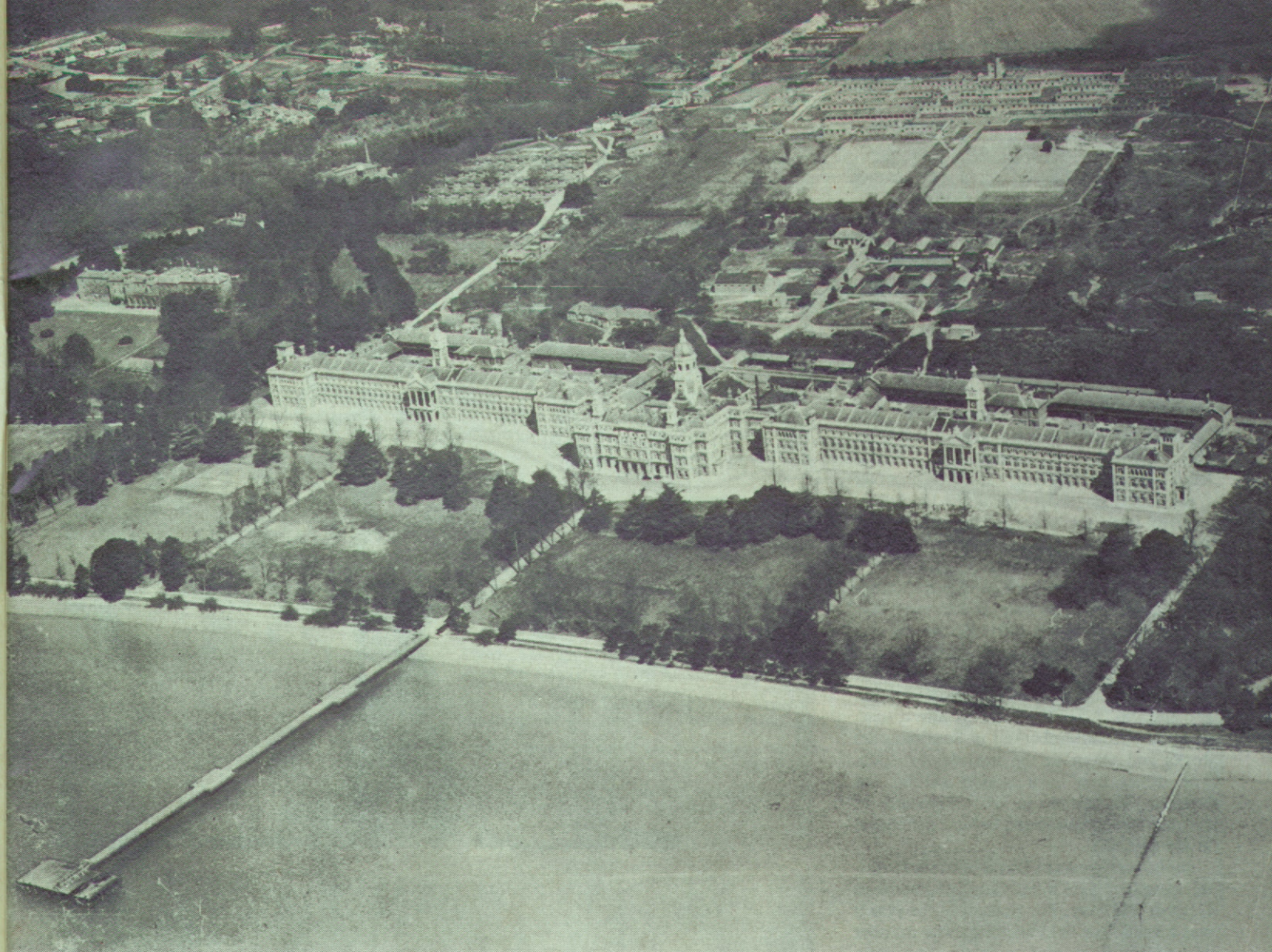
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MEDICS MARK THE END OF AN ERA

Goodbye, the Royal Victoria

THE CLOSURE of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, at the end of August marks the end of an era in the history of the Army Medical Services.

The once-grandiose Victorian edifice, which stretched for more than quarter of a mile along the front at Southampton Water in 200 acres of lush grounds, has dwindled in recent years to a single-story complex tucked away behind the original site. Now even that has been closed with the transfer of the Army and Royal Navy psychiatric facilities, the former to the new Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich.

Queen Victoria herself laid the foundation stone of the original Netley hospital in 1856. The facilities of the hospital at Fort Pitt, Chatham, and the Royal Military Asylum had proved inadequate to cope with casualties from the Crimean War and the matter became so urgent that there was a special debate in the House of Commons and a Select Committee formed to choose a site for the Victoria Military Hospital.

The committee eventually opted for the site on Southampton Water for its convenience for landing invalids direct from ships. The laying of the foundation stone on 19 May 1865 was Queen Victoria's first official ceremony after the end of the Crimean War. Accompanied by Prince Albert, she arrived aboard the royal yacht Victoria and Albert, escorted by gunboats, and the only incident to mar the splendid occasion was the death of two seamen and injury of several others when one of the guns saluting the event went off prematurely.

This ill-starred start to the project designed for 'the reception of the sick and invalid soldiers of her Army' heralded controversy as Florence Nightingale became involved with the hospital. The plans had been made and building started before this legendary nurse's return from the Crimea. Given the plans to study, she wrote a scathing report condemning them and suggesting alternatives. A native of the New Forest — quite close to the hospital's site — she had been a near neighbour of the then Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, from childhood.

The determined Miss Nightingale scythed through red tape and won over her influential neighbour to her cause. He wrote: 'It seems to me that at Netley all consideration of what would best tend to the comfort and recovery of the patients has been sacrificed to the vanity of the architect whose sole object has been to make a building which should cut a dash when looked at from Southampton River (sic) — pray, therefore, stop all further progress in the work until the matter can be duly considered.'

But this directive was shelved long enough for Palmerston to lose interest in the matter and The Royal Victoria Hospital, as it became known, was completed in 1863 at a total cost of £350,000. The vast new complex had its own ablution water reservoir and drinking water came from three artesian wells — one in each wing and one in the laundry. There were also a bakery, gasworks, stables and generator station to make the hospital self-sufficient.

Nothing if not magnificent, the building was of red brick faced with Portland stone with plinths of Welsh granite all along the basement. It comprised a central block and

Above: The magnificent Netley buildings, now demolished. Picture: *Southern Evening Echo*.

two long wings with a total length of 468 yards. More than 200 front windows were all arcaded and, with the central dome (atop the chapel — still standing — and even marked on Admiralty charts for Southampton Water as 'Netley Dome conspicuous'), plus elaborate towers, the hospital made an imposing sight from the waterway it faced.

There were 138 wards and beds for more than 1000 patients. At the rear of the main building were stores, the bakery, canteen, a school, the mortuary, married quarters and messes. The officers' quarters were in a separate building away from the main complex. The vast grounds swept down to a three-quarter-mile-long foreshore of shingle.

Discreetly placed a mile or so away, via a causeway built through trees, was the cemetery, the landscaping of which was completed in 1864. The 190-yard-long pier was finished in 1865 to assist the landing of patients from troopships. The only lunatic asylum in the Services — D Block — was added in the following year.

The transfer of patients from ships to tugs and lighters for landing at the pier was discontinued in about 1901. Before the pier was built, patients had an uncomfortable stretcher ride or march from the Queen's Stairs, a landing stage some distance from the hospital. After the pier fell into disuse, patients were disembarked in Southampton docks and taken to the hospital by train. The direct line to a station behind the hospital was finished in 1901. Remnants of the rails can still be found behind the chapel in the grounds.

In the early years of Royal Victoria Hospital, casualties were mainly admitted between October and May. For the rest of the year it was a venue for field training. The number of patients fluctuated with the frequency and ferocity of campaigns and it was the South African War that brought it into its own as the main reception hospital for casualties.

Queen Victoria always took a close interest in the hospital — it was not far from her favourite retreat, Osborne, on the Isle of Wight — and paid frequent visits. In 1882 she presented the hospital with a shawl crocheted by herself 'for the use of her most deserving soldier.' This relic is now in the Royal Army Medical Corps museum.

The years between the South African War and 1914 were the lull before the storm — the holocaust of World War One which filled Netley to capacity. It was reinforced by a British Red Cross hospital and a Welsh hospital provided by voluntary contributions from Wales. The huts and tents housing the additions swelled the Royal Victoria's capacity from 1000 to 2500 beds. In the Welsh hospital alone, 9616 patients were cared for between 1914 and 1919. In the same period the Red Cross contingent admitted 20,400 patients. The Red Cross medical staff was helped by two medical officers and 22 nurses sent from the Japanese Red Cross.

There are no exact figures for the total number of patients during this period but

they came from Britain, Australia, India, Italy, France, Belgium, Serbia and Germany — prisoners-of-war were treated there too.

Between the world wars the Royal Victoria reverted to its peacetime role as a general, psychiatric and convalescent hospital and the main reception hospital for patients from overseas postings.

The retreat from Dunkirk brought the first full activity of World War Two and Netley worked to capacity until 15 January 1944 when it was handed to the Americans for just over a year to cater for their casualties from the D-Day landings and subsequent advance across Europe. During this time the Royal Army Medical Corps retained a psychiatric wing and hospital behind the main building. The corps took over the hospital again on 19 July 1945 when it resumed its peacetime role.

Ever since the Royal Victoria opened, it has played an important part in the training of medical staff. Although formed at Fort Pitt, the Army Medical School moved to Netley as soon as the hospital was completed and its first session started on 1 April 1863.

All candidates for commissions attended the school and learned military hygiene, medicine, surgery and pathology. Until 1865 only candidates for the British medical service attended but they were joined by colleagues from the Indian medical service and later by candidates from the Naval medical service.

The Netley school was finally closed and transferred to the Royal Army Medical College on 29 June 1902. During its existence it had trained some 3218 student 'surgeons-on-probation.'

Nurses also trained at Netley after the



Top: The year is 1897 and nurses pose primly.

Centre: Moving on to 1904 and 'invalids enjoying the sunshine' on old postcard of hospital.

Right: The original pier which was built at the same time as the hospital, for landing wounded.

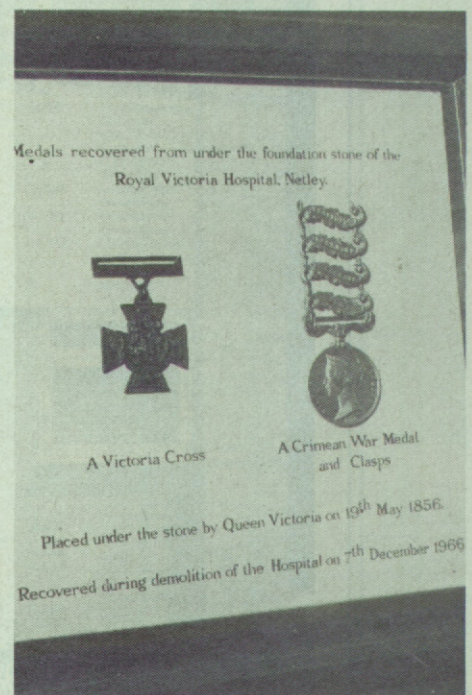


Above: The Yanks go home. A parade in 1945 when the American Army handed Netley back.

Below: The Royal Chapel is the only structure remaining of the original hospital buildings.

Right: Items recovered on demolition, now in a museum. Picture: *Southern Evening Echo*.

Bottom left: In a wheelchair herself, the old Queen Victoria on visit to wounded at Netley.



successful experiment of using their skills in the Crimea. Eventually all Army Nursing Service sisters did a probationary period of six months at Netley. This continued until 1884 when it was decreed that they should be trained in civilian hospitals before joining the Army. As the nursing service developed it ultimately became the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps of today.

After World War Two, other training schools emerged at Netley. There were the School of Physiotherapy (See *SOLDIER* July 1947) and the Clerks School, the Embarkation Medical Equipment Depot and the Trooping Medical Staff.

But even in the fifties Parliament turned its beady eye to the purse strings and questioned the enormous cost of running the Royal Victoria. In 1956 the general part of the hospital was moved to the more modern E Block behind the main building and the convalescent wing transferred to Chester. This was the beginning of the end and by 1958 the main building was disused and decaying.

It remained empty for the next eight years, apart from occasional use as a refugee centre and for Royal Engineers training schools.

The role of the hospital, now housed in the modern E Block and original D Block, changed as Netley became the main psychiatric hospital for the Army and Royal Navy — a role which it retained until its closure this year.

In June 1963 a mystery blaze badly damaged the main building and sped the decision to demolish it, leaving only the chapel standing with its copper-clad dome.

The last patients leave the Royal Victoria Hospital on 1 September but the closure has not been allowed to pass without the local community recognising its links with the distinguished past of the establishment.

The Royal Army Medical Corps band led the staff in a march through Netley village to receive a scroll from the local council on behalf of the residents — who will long remember the military neighbour they have lived and worked with for generations.

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12,600	12,500	26,950	14,500	15,950	8,195	9,250
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12,500	13,995	13,500		8,000	7,600	9,250
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8,500	10,500			8,000	8,000	8,000
□ Ryton—Woodside Grange				□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive
10,350				7,500	7,500	7,500
Essex	Greater London	Gloucester	Hampshire	Humber	Humberside	Humberside
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12,500	26,950	14,500	15,950	8,000	8,195	9,250
□ Colchester—Wivenhoe—Broadfields	□ Abbey Wood—Oaklands		□ Bournemouth—Bransgore, Rose Hill	□ Great Woodley	□ Luton—Wigmore Lane	□ Luton—Warden Hill
13,995	13,500		8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
□ Witham—Riverside Walk			□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive
10,500			7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Greater London	Gloucester	Hampshire	Humber	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside
□ Woodford Green—Frans Close	□ Newent—Lakeside	□ Aldershot—Churchside Close	□ Bournemouth—Bransgore, Rose Hill	□ Great Woodley	□ Luton—Wigmore Lane	□ Luton—Warden Hill
26,950	14,500	15,950	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
□ Abbey Wood—Oaklands		□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive	□ Southampton—Anson Drive
13,500		7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Gloucester	Hampshire	Humber	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside
□ Newent—Lakeside	□ Aldershot—Churchside Close	□ Bournemouth—Bransgore, Rose Hill	□ Great Woodley	□ Luton—Wigmore Lane	□ Luton—Warden Hill	□ Luton—Warden Hill
14,500	15,950	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Hampshire	Humber	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside
□ Aldershot—Churchside Close	□ Bournemouth—Bransgore, Rose Hill	□ Great Woodley	□ Luton—Wigmore Lane	□ Luton—Warden Hill	□ Luton—Warden Hill	□ Luton—Warden Hill
*	15,950	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
□ Bournemouth—Bransgore, Rose Hill	□ Great Woodley	□ Luton—Wigmore Lane	□ Luton—Warden Hill	□ Luton—Warden Hill	□ Luton—Warden Hill	□ Luton—Warden Hill
15,950	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Humber	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside
□ Brigg—Glanford Vale	□ Driffield—Wetwang-Wolds View	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures
8,195	9,250	7,600	9,250	7,625	7,625	7,625
Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside
□ Brigg—Glanford Vale	□ Driffield—Wetwang-Wolds View	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures
8,195	9,250	7,600	9,250	7,625	7,625	7,625
Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside
□ Brigg—Glanford Vale	□ Driffield—Wetwang-Wolds View	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures
8,195	9,250	7,600	9,250	7,625	7,625	7,625
Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside	Humberside
□ Brigg—Glanford Vale	□ Driffield—Wetwang-Wolds View	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures	□ Gillingham—The Pastures
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Battlegroups between four walls



Story: Mike Starke/Pictures: Les Wiggs

THIS MONTH an eight-by-twelve-kilometre tract of the Dorset countryside will echo to the crump of artillery and mortar fire, the rattle of small-arms and the whine of military vehicle engines as a full battlegroup defends its positions against a large attacking force . . .

But before conservationists reach for their petitions, it should be pointed out that the whole thing will take place within the four walls of a small building tucked away in Bovington Camp. For it will mark the opening of the Army's latest training aid — the Battlegroup Tactical Trainer.

The trainer is the brainchild of the Directorate of Army Training. Conceived some two years ago, it is now springing to life in the disused premises of the old Crusader Club which inspired the apt crusader emblem of the new project.

The basic concept for exercising battlegroup commanders and their staffs is simplicity itself with two 'control' and 'headquarters' elements housed in adjacent rooms in the building. The small permanent staff drawn together specifically for the task has brought its enthusiasm and expertise to bear adding refinements to make the simulator complex as realistic as possible.

Nerve centre of the trainer is the Control Room, with its focal point a vast map representing a nearby area of actual terrain. The map was magnified and mounted on boards and the staff themselves painstakingly

arranged a jigsaw of coloured Fablon over it to represent the variation in contour levels.

Ranged around the map are raised benches from which the staff direct operations on the map with movable plastic pieces representing the men, machines and equipment deployed in the 'battle.' At present the scenario is that of a defensive action but future alternative maps will exercise attacking and river crossing techniques.

On the desks in front of the staff, who act the parts of combat team commanders — and sometimes more than one commander at a time as the action hots up — are consoles built from scratch by a small team of experts from the School of Signals at Blandford, led by permanent staff member Staff-Sergeant Bruce Douglas. These feed into a line system of communication which simulates radio networks beaming information from the 'front' to the battlegroup headquarters 'behind the lines' — in reality a room next door.

During the three trials held before the opening of the trainer this month, the Royal Signals team — backed up by other experts, including those from Bovington's 18 Command Workshop — adapted and refined their one-off systems in order to perfect them.

Staff-Sergeant Douglas explained that apart from the basic communications set-up, he has introduced taped battle noises of varying volumes to feed through loudspeakers

in the headquarters simulator to reproduce in sound exactly what is being 'played out' in the battle at any particular time. He is also developing the capability to inject electronic warfare 'gremlins' into the line networks as an added touch of realism.

Overseeing the control room operations is the project manager, Lieutenant-Colonel Teddy Kent, who has at his right hand a small computer used to calculate the direction and effect of direct 'fire.' Artillery barrages are worked out manually, using tables.

The project's staff officer, Major Dick Bolton, Royal Artillery, has enlisted his off-duty talents on the amateur stage to produce — almost single-handed — the theatrical set which makes up the trainer's other major component, the battlegroup headquarters. Here students spend most of their two-day period each session takes. (There are no breaks in this battle simulation as there are in others. The entire exercise is played out in 'real time,' thanks to the design of the control and command elements).

Under the roof of the old club, the headquarters area has been painstakingly decorated to represent an old barn into which two Land-Rover shells have been introduced plus nine-foot-by-nine-foot tents identical to those used in the field. False stone and woodwork face the edifice and the whole is finished with the addition of genuine farm implements.

The headquarters looks out on to rolling Dorset landscape — all constructed indoors — and even the lights can be dimmed and brightened to show the passage of time from day to night to day again. A student remarked: "It's exactly like the real thing . . . except it doesn't leak!" This inspired the zealous staff to the fiendish consideration of introducing a sprinkler system and barrow-loads of mud to put matters right!

Instead, their efforts have gone into two other refinements positioned outside the headquarters area. These are a mock command vehicle in which battlegroup commanders can leave their base to 'travel' and, across the corridor, a sandbagged 'observation post' for them to 'arrive' at. As they peer through the embrasure in the OP wall they will see a back projection of the actual scene they wish to observe.

The trainer is designed to exercise the staffs of non-mechanised battlegroups of the type deployed for the home defence of the United Kingdom, although there are hopes that a similar trainer might be established in Germany to test the mechanised Nato-committed battlegroups.

The Bovington trainer is expected to get into full swing by the New Year when it is estimated that two Regular units and one

Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit per month will be using the complex.

On arrival, the 'playing' staff and the trainer's permanent staff — some 30 people in all — meet in the trainer's briefing room. From here the players go by road and air to recce the actual area of Dorset represented as their battleground by the map back at Bovington. The students then return for their 'orders groups' and set up their headquarters in the room provided. The operation is then played out within the two days set aside for each session.

The array of electronic and theatrical devices incorporated in the trainer building is designed to produce the maximum realism. The staff are even pitching the tones of their voices to set the scene as dramatically as possible for the battlegroup commanders at the other end of their 'radio' networks.

Mounting what is in effect a full battlegroup exercise will in future cost far less in terms of men, money and machines than the real thing, but will lose virtually nothing in terms of realism and effectiveness.

Already one of the groups taking part in the trials has asked to return when the complex is open for business in earnest. And there can be no finer advertisement for the trainer's 'wares' than the fact that it has already got satisfied 'customers.'

The permanent staff who have built up the Battlegroup Tactical Trainer at Bovington and nursed it through its trials are: Lieutenant-Colonel Teddy Kent, Royal Tank Regiment (project manager); Major Dick Bolton, Royal Artillery (staff officer); Major Ian McKay, Royal Army Educational Corps (training development adviser); Major Sam Weller, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters (weapons staff post); Staff-Sergeant Bruce Douglas, Royal Signals (communications and electronic development); and Lance-Corporal Mick Symonds, 17th/21st Lancers (chief clerk and driver). Two more majors join the project for its inauguration on 18 September to help bring the trainer into top gear for full operation early in 1979.

Opposite: Commanding officer issuing orders.

Centre left: Commode provides realistic touch.

Below: S/Sgt Bruce Douglas adds battle noises.

Bottom left: Busy scene in the command post.

Bottom right: Model Gazelle on display board.



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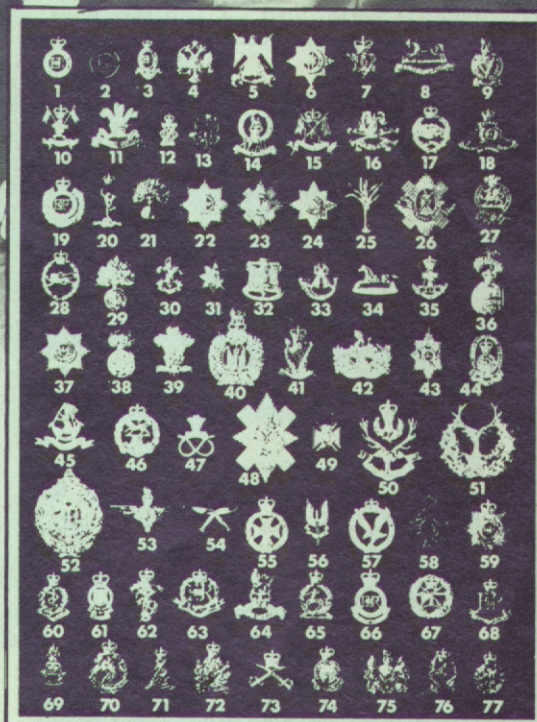


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SOLDIER to Soldier

As readers know, there has been discussion for some years now on whether SOLDIER should be converted to a newspaper or a newspaper be published in addition to the magazine.

It has now been decided that there will be a newspaper and that the magazine will continue.

When this column went to press it was not known when the newspaper would start but it was expected to be in the very near future, even possibly with this October issue. The plan is that initially the newspaper will be published monthly and issued with the magazine, and after six months be published at fortnightly frequency.

The aim of the newspaper, as that of the present SOLDIER News which it replaces, will be to tell readers what is happening in the Army worldwide and particularly to keep the Army up-to-date on matters affecting Service life.

The 20 pages of SOLDIER News currently printed in the magazine as a pull-out supplement will take the form of a tabloid newspaper. This will mean that the news, because of a quicker printing process, will be more up-to-date, particularly when the paper is published fortnightly.

The new tabloid format will also allow greater use of colour, offer more scope for brighter design and layout and more space for news stories and pictures.

During the period when the newspaper is published monthly, it will carry a price tag but will in fact be issued free with the magazine. At fortnightly stage, the newspaper and magazine will be priced and sold separately.

★

Initially there will be no major changes in the content of either SOLDIER or SOLDIER News. The

magazine will retain its special and regular features and, of course, the newspaper will continue to carry coverage of Army sport and link the Army with its wives in the Families Pages.

It is your magazine. It will be your newspaper. We seek your help in making this new venture a success. Your views and your suggestions will be appreciated.

★

There are those who have commented, a trifle aspersely, on the tendency in recent years towards long unit titles. This has mainly been the result of amalgamations and a laudable desire to retain an identity of both partners. All fair enough if the new title is not inordinately long or clumsy. Looking around at random, both The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry for example, announce their immediate ancestry neatly and more economically than others. The 'large' regiments have indeed slimmed themselves down to today's The Queen's Regiment or The Royal Anglian Regiment. Not so The North Irish Militia (4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers). Under one of the latest redesignations the full title has now become The 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, Royal Irish Rangers (27 (Inniskilling), 83rd and 87th (The North Irish Militia)). Thankfully, at least in military circles, the title may be abbreviated to 4 (V) R Irish.

★

In addition to the Army Calendar 1979 (see foot of this page), SOLDIER is now offering the LP of music played

during the arena show of the 1978 Aldershot Army Display. This was pre-recorded by the bands of the Royal Engineers (Aldershot), Royal Army Medical Corps and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and the pipes, drums and bugles of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles. This LP is available from SOLDIER at £2.32 (UK), £2.15 (BFPO, except Northern Ireland) and £2.43 (elsewhere), including postage and packing. Orders, with UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order, should be sent to SOLDIER (AAD 781), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU. There is no cassette of the 1978 Army Display.

Both the record and cassette of the 1977 Aldershot Army Display are still available, the LP at £1.50 (UK), £1.45 (BFPO, excluding Northern Ireland), £2.20 (elsewhere), and the cassette at £1.50 (UK), £1.40 (BFPO, excluding Northern Ireland) and £1.55 (elsewhere), including postage and packing. When ordering, from SOLDIER (AAD 722), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, with UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order, please indicate whether LP or cassette is required.

★

Bringing the range available to 145, four new designs have been added to the popular regimental drum ice buckets. The new ones are Women's Royal Army Corps; Royal Australian Regiment; Black Watch of Canada and 4th (Prince of Wales's Own) Gurkha Rifles. The ice buckets are available at £7.60 (UK), £7.05 (BFPO, excluding Northern Ireland) and £8.60 (elsewhere), including postage and packing.

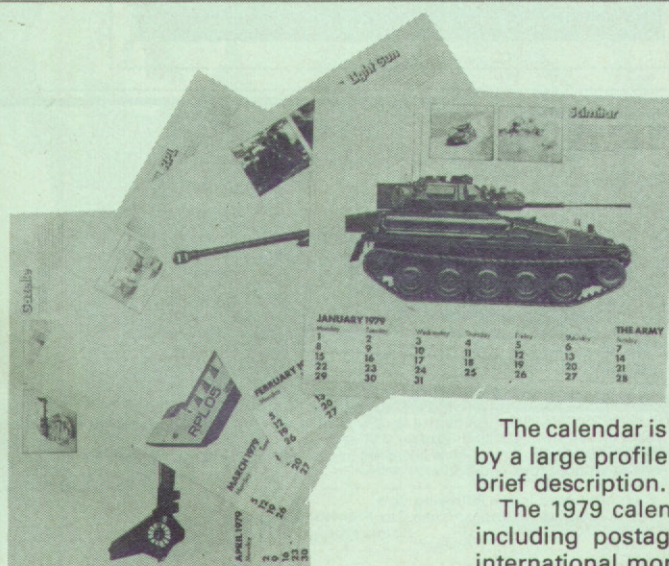
ARMY CALENDAR 1979

Yes, we are now taking orders for the 1979 Army Calendar. So get your order in now and your copy will be dispatched to you as soon as they arrive at SOLDIER's offices.

The 1979 theme, 'The Power of the Army,' is illustrated by full-colour pictures of modern Army equipment. Items featured are Scimitar tracked reconnaissance vehicle, 105mm light gun, ramped powered lighter, Gazelle helicopter, wheeled Fox reconnaissance vehicle, M2 bridging rig, Mark 7 Wheelbarrow, FV 432 armoured personnel carrier with Wombat, M107 175mm self-propelled gun, Chieftain main battle tank, 7.62 general-purpose machine-gun and the amphibious Stalwart load-carrier.

The calendar is 15½ inches by 13½ inches and a page for each month is dominated by a large profile of the particular equipment together with smaller pictures and a brief description. And there is some space for making your own diary entries.

The 1979 calendar is priced at £1.60 (UK), £1.50 (BFPO) and £1.80 (elsewhere), including postage and packing. Orders with UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order should be sent to SOLDIER (AC 792), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.



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The Scottish Soldier

IT SEEMS SOMEWHAT ironic that the Earl of Mar's regiment was raised to counter an internal security threat and that today, 300 years later, men of its direct descendant, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment), are still involved in keeping British subjects from each other's throats.

In the intervening years, however, the regiment has soldiered all over the world and taken part in almost every action in British military history. Its battle honours bear testimony to the spirit of Scottish soldiers in those dusty long-gone corners of the British Empire which they fought so hard to maintain. The Queen's Colour is packed with names like Mons, Marne and Gallipoli from World War One, and Sicily, Greece and Arakan from World War Two — names which recall the sacrifice that thousands of

tartan-clad Jocks have made through the years.

The regiment was born in the late seventeenth century in a troubled Scotland with the King's peace under grave threat from fanatical Covenanters. As part of an increase in the Royal forces in Scotland, the Earl of Mar was charged with raising a new regiment of foot and his commission as its colonel was signed by Charles II at Windsor Castle on 23 September 1678.

His regiment, which afterwards became the 21st Foot or Royal Scots Fusiliers, was then known as 'Mar's Grey Brecks' because of its hoddie-grey trews. It continued to be known by the name of its successive colonels until about 1685 when it became The Scots Fusiliers. In 1707 the name was changed to The North British Fusiliers, to which the Royal suffix was added to mark their long service in the field under Marlborough in

the Low Countries between 1702 and 1712. Among the many nicknames that the regiment has picked up over the years, 'Marlborough's Own' — after this campaign — is perhaps one of the most glorious.

The numerical title, although dating from 1688, did not come into use until the reign of George II. For ten years after its formation the regiment served continuously in Scotland and it was not until it marched south to support King James II against William of Orange in 1688 that it first crossed the border. This was to have considerable repercussions within the regiment and became the reason for the '21st' number in the order of precedence despite being the fourth infantry regiment of the line to be raised in Britain and the first in Scotland.

In 1694, the standing Regular Army had only just come into being. A board of general officers, convened to determine the order of precedence of infantry regiments, decided that Scots and Irish regiments should rank from the date they were first placed on the English establishment — the Act of Union did not take place until 1707. So because the fusiliers did not cross the border until 1688, their precedence was fixed from this date and they became 21st of Foot and not 4th, to which they were entitled by date of raising.

This decision caused much discontent at the time and as late as 1955 a petition was

Below: The Queen inspects a 1st Battalion guard of honour at Singapore's ANZUK Naval Basin.



Story by Doug McArthur

raised asking for the 4th place. This also was turned down.

The story of The Royal Highland Fusiliers is really the story of two regiments, The Royal Scots Fusiliers and The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment), which were amalgamated on 20 January 1959. The HLI was raised in 1777 as the 73rd Highland Regiment, renumbering as 71st in 1783. In 1808 it became a light infantry regiment, designated the 71st Highland Light Infantry. In 1881, as a result of the Cardwell reforms, the 74th Highlanders (raised in 1787) became 2nd Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry. The reforms amalgamated certain regiments into one regiment of two battalions and also discarded the old numerical designations. The Royal Scots Fusiliers were not affected by this aspect of the reform, having had a second battalion since 1858.

The Duke of Wellington had cause to remember his Jocks with more than affection. The then 33-year-old Major-General Arthur Wellesley got himself into a 'confounded scrape' but the bravery of the 74th and 78th Highlanders (later 2nd Highland Light Infantry and 2nd Seaforth Highlanders) turned disaster into triumph. It happened in 1803, a dozen years before Waterloo, when Wellesley, who was seeking

out a small detachment of Mahratta infantry, came face to face with the entire Mahratta army of 60,000 men, outnumbering him by ten to one.

The enemy was well-disciplined and occupied a commanding position on a slope, whereas Wellesley's force, largely of unreliable Indians, had been marching since dawn in the hot sun. The Highlanders of the 74th advanced grimly and silently save for the skirl of their bagpipes. They had to pick their way through thick cactus, flanked by panic-stricken native troops, into the mouths of the enemy cannon and muskets. Suddenly the firing stopped and whooping Mahratta horsemen charged at full gallop, waving their long curved swords.

Instead of yielding, the Highlanders closed in on the Colours, thrusting bayonets into man and horse. Every officer was killed or badly wounded and only 100 soldiers were left when the quartermaster, James Grant, who had been following up with supplies, rushed forward wielding his sword, followed by men of the baggage guard, clerks, orderlies and the sick.

The Light Cavalry, which had been waiting for hours for orders, were launched into the attack and cut the Mahrattas to pieces. With them came Captain Boswell Campbell of the 74th, who had been down-graded to

non-combatant after losing an arm in a previous campaign and breaking the other while pig-sticking. He rode into action with the reins in his teeth and his sword in his injured arm. The enemy front broke and the survivors fled. When Wellesley gave the order to pursue the routed enemy, Quartermaster Grant formed line and advanced the Colours, and at sunset led the 74th out of the action.

For this action, the 74th and 78th (who had attacked the guns), and the 19th Light Dragoons, were awarded the Assaye Colour, still trooped by The Royal Highland Fusiliers. It is carried on to the parade ground by the quartermaster, then passed by the regimental sergeant-major to a sub-altern for trooping.

The 73rd Highlanders, later renumbered 71st, were raised in 1777 and the 74th in 1787. Almost a century later, they were amalgamated as The Highland Light Infantry. The two regiments fought valiantly together in the Peninsular campaign when at Badajoz the 74th scaled the ramparts after their ladders had been flung back into the river again and again.

Piper John MacLaughlan of the 74th stopped to repair his pipes, which had been pierced by a bullet, then carried on playing on the ramparts as the garrison was chased out through the gate. At Vittoria the 71st climbed and held the Puebla Heights while the 74th advanced in line, dressing on the Colours which became a target for every French gun. A near miss struck down Piper MacLaughlan. The piper called to the colour-sergeant to prop him up and hand him his pipes, which he played until he died.

In 1852, HMS Birkenhead was carrying reinforcements for the Kaffir War when she hit an uncharted rock and began to sink. On board were two officers and 73 men of the 74th under Major Seton, who was also OC troops in view of his seniority. As the women and children were bundled into lifeboats the ship's captain urged the soldiers to follow, but Major Seton told the men to stand fast 'or you will sink the boats.' They stood silently in orderly ranks as the ship went down, and of the total complement of about 630 men, women and children, only 184 survived. They died by drowning, from sharks and in the tangle of seaweed — all within the sight of the Cape of Good Hope. Major Seton was gazetted lieutenant-colonel vice Fordyce, 64th, killed in action, but it is unlikely that he ever knew of his promotion as it was announced during the voyage.

The 21st, later The Royal Scots Fusiliers, made a heroic stand in the Crimean War at a strongpoint on the Inkerman Heights known as 'The Barrier.' This position held firm against the full weight of the Russian attack and was afterwards the rallying point for other units cut off during the fierce hand-to-hand fighting in the thick fog.

The Royal Scots Fusiliers and The Highland Light Infantry lost nearly 17,000 officers and men in the bloodbath of World War One. They were in the British Expeditionary Force which held off the Germans long enough for an army to be raised. It was at Mons that they first showed their mettle, and it was Mons which was reached by 4th Battalion, The Royal Scots Fusiliers, on Armistice Day. Between them the two regiments won more than 100 battle honours.

In World War Two, the landings in Sicily

Below: The Freedom of Iserlohn, February 1967.

Bottom: Section attack under a smoke screen.



Right: The 74th advances on the Mahratta's guns at Assaye with Colours flying and pipes playing.

Centre: Uncomfortable tin mine patrol by fusiliers in 1956 during Malayan Emergency.

and Italy involved 2nd Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry; Arakan and Burma were the main campaigns of The Royal Scots Fusiliers. The Highland Light Infantry's 1st Battalion, which suffered heavy casualties in the British Expeditionary Force, had its revenge in 1944, when it hammered the Germans back from Normandy. The 2nd Battalion was with the 5th (Indian) Division at Keren in 1940 which defeated an Italian army of 250,000.

Of the Territorial battalions, 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers proved to be one of the most travelled battalions during the war. The battalion was engaged in France in 1940, Madagascar (with 1st Battalion) in 1940, Italy in 1943-44 and North-West Europe in 1945.

But the 1959 amalgamation was so strenuously opposed by both regiments, particularly the HLI, that it very nearly caused their disbandment. Two years before amalgamation, the War Office informed colonels of infantry regiments that the number of Scottish regiments must be reduced by two and suggested that the HLI could be amalgamated either within the Highland or Lowland brigades.

The Highland Brigade decided against amalgamating the HLI with any other regiment and agreed on a Seaforth/Cameron amalgamation. The Lowland Brigade recommended that the HLI be transferred from the Highland Brigade and amalgamated with either The Royal Scots Fusiliers or The Cameronians. The Colonel of the HLI at once protested but the Chief of the Imperial General Staff confirmed that the amalgamation would go ahead of the RSF and the HLI. The Colonels of both regiments, backed by Scottish MPs, protested, and meetings and marches were held, especially in Glasgow.

The matter reached the Prime Minister but he confirmed that the decision would stand and the only alternative would be disbandment. A large majority of HLI officers preferred disbandment to amalgamation but the RSF decided on amalgamation if no other choice was available. With this in mind the Colonels reported back to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff that they were prepared to amalgamate provided the new regiment wore the kilt in a dress Erskine tartan, while retaining the Mackenzie trews. They also proposed a name. This was unacceptable to London, which insisted on the trews and told the Colonels that if they did not like it, they would have to resign. Which they did.

Essentially the struggle had been to retain the identity of both regiments and, in the case of the HLI, to continue the association with the Highland Brigade. But when they saw the cause was hopeless, both sides started to work together to make the hybrid work. And work it did.

On amalgamation the new regiment wore The Lowland Brigade cap badge until April 1970 when the home brigade system was dropped. On formation of The Scottish Division, the present badge was adopted of the Scots Fusilier grenade with the HLI crown and monogram superimposed. This badge had been designed way back in 1959 against the day when it would be needed.



Smaller versions were worn as collar badges. The badge pre-dated The Scottish Division by nine years.

Possibly the most important decision, record the Regimental Standing Orders of The Royal Highland Fusiliers, was that amalgamation should be complete. There should be no reservation of private funds,

property, museums or traditions. This meant that all traditions and customs were examined in the light of what was considered best for the new regiment and within this policy were retained as far as possible — 'The new Regiment began its life enriched, but in no way hampered, by its heritage.'

'Nobody provokes us with impunity'.



Winston Churchill (centre) who led Britain through World War Two, commanded 6th Battalion, The Royal Scots Fusiliers, in 1915. He started off on the wrong foot as an infantry commanding officer by ordering the battalion to fix bayonets while they were at the slope and later reverting to his cavalry training, gave the command: 'Three's right-trot!'

On amalgamation of the 6th and 7th battalions (owing to heavy casualties), Churchill was the junior of the two commanding officers so he took Haig's advice and returned to the House of Commons to help secure conscription. Sir Winston was later to remark: "Although an Englishman it was in Scotland that I found the three best things in my life — my wife, my constituency and my regiment."



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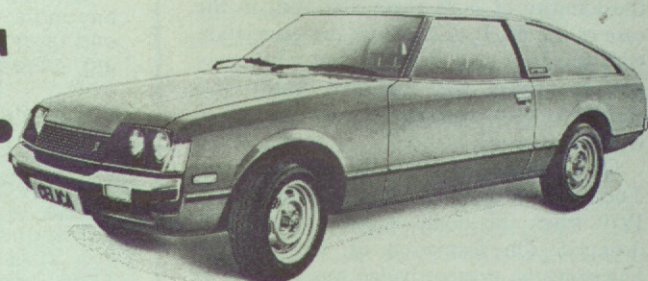
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Soldier news

Big Army manpower increase

GURKHAS SAVED FROM AXE

After successive cuts in Army strength, the government has now announced massive increases — clawing back half of the cuts of the now infamous 1974 Defence Review.

The size of the Army is to be increased by about 5000 men. Not counting 1000 men saved from this year's now cancelled cuts in Gurkha strengths, almost half of the increase will go to British Army of the Rhine. This decision, in addition to the increase of 1900 men already announced earlier this year. These moves will raise the planned size of the Army from the 1978 Defence Review of 159,000 to 165,000 by 1981. This does not include the Brigade of Gurkhas.

The good news for the Gurkhas is that they will retain an infantry battalion in Brunei for at least another five years, following talks between the British Government and the Sultan of Brunei. As in the past, the Sultan will meet the full costs of this battalion.

Plans to reduce the Gurkhas from 7000 men to 6000 men, proposed in the 1974 Defence White Paper, have also been shelved. This means that that the plan to amalgamate the two battalions of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles this year will not now go ahead.

The overall decision to boost still further the size of the Army was taken after studies of manpower requirements following the restructuring of the Army last year.

Of these new jobs, 2150 have been allocated to relieving overstretch on units unable to meet all peacetime demands; 1500 to BAOR and 650 spread through the Army.

A further 1000 posts have been

allocated to improve operational capability as new equipment comes into service and another 650 will go towards the creation of a new unit of battalion size in Rhine Army. The remaining 300 men will help to absorb work previously carried out by the Mixed Service Organisation. The MSO is a force of uniformed civilians formed after World War Two from displaced persons from Eastern Europe, many of whom are now approaching retirement age.

These plans must be seen as a definite morale booster to an Army jaundiced by successive cuts. With the guarantee of eventual comparability on pay, and the new equipment promised, manpower increases must make the Army a more rewarding career for those already serving and a more attractive prospect for potential recruits. It will certainly be a shot in the arm for the Brigade of Gurkhas.

A start has already been made on recruiting and the first priority will be to reduce overstretch, particularly in BAOR. No time scale has been set for implementing the increases but 'they will be carried out as quickly as wastage and recruiting allow'.

The cost of the increases — about £20,000,000 a year — will be met from the agreed defence budget.



Twenty-one-year-old Lindy Spinks, daughter of a retired Army major attached to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Düsseldorf, is the new Miss BAOR. Lindy, a telephonist at the Düsseldorf military exchange, won the title at this year's Rhine Army Summer Show (News 18). By the way, she has a 34-23-34 figure.

BAOR outgunned 'five to one'

A barrel superiority of five to one in some areas in Rhine Army as well as a 'profoundly disturbing' low number of anti-aircraft and anti-armour missiles are highlighted in a report by the House of Commons Expenditure Committee.

The Committee says the Warsaw Pact enjoys a substantial numerical advantage over Nato in manpower and equipment and there has been an underlying trend towards the Warsaw Pact for the last few years.

It says that the suggestion that the Warsaw Pact forces could reach the Rhine in 48 hours is extremely remote. Nevertheless the Ministry of Defence had been unable to point to any specific measures since January 1977 towards reducing the target period for mobilisation. This must remain a top priority in the British contribution to enhancing the readiness of Nato.

Continued on News 13

Fred finds a warm billet

Meet Fred the ferret, an uninvited guest at The Royal Scots Dragoon

Guards' 300th birthday celebrations in Edinburgh. Fred walked into the

guardroom at Redford Barracks, found a nice warm chair and refused to move. Fred proved docile, but even so, Trooper John Stuart kept his eye on him. Full parade story and pictures on News 10 and 11.



Roll of Honour moved

The Roll of Honour of the Intelligence Corps for World War Two has been moved from Winchester Cathedral to a final resting place in the parish church at Ashford, Kent — the home of the corps.

A special service of thanksgiving was held for the acceptance into the church of the roll of honour and for an additional roll dedicated to the memory of a further 19 Intelligence Corps members who gave their lives in post-war campaigns and emergencies.

Prince Philip, Colonel-in-Chief, was represented by the corps' Colonel Commandant, Major-General Michael Gow. A corps flag was installed in the church above the rolls of honour.

EOD unit wins Sword

For the first time in the award's 12 years, the Army's Wilkinson Sword of Peace has been won by a Royal Army Ordnance Corps unit — 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit, for its work in Northern Ireland. The sword was presented to the officer commanding, Major T B Owen, by the Chief of the Defence Staff (Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron), at the annual luncheon in the Cutlers' Hall, London.

The ceremonial swords are awarded annually to a unit of each of the three Services for outstanding efforts in fostering good relations with the local community. The Army citation, read by the Adjutant-General (General Sir Jack Harman), said that 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (pictured with 'Wheelbarrow') was established in Northern Ireland eight years ago to counter the terrorist bombing campaign. Its non-offensive, protective role was aimed solely at preventing loss of life and property. The unit was manned by officers and soldiers of the RAOC on emergency four-month tours from the United Kingdom and Rhine Army.

From 1969 to 1977 the unit dealt with some 24,500 calls, of which 9500 were to terrorist bombs. Of these bombs, 3800 were neutralised. On a calculation that every pound of explosive detonated in Northern Ireland caused £1000 worth of damage, the unit had prevented about £100,000,000 worth of damage. 'There is no doubt,' said the citation, 'that this saving of property has prevented untold human misery

and this year, for the first time, two.

To say the British Army had a difficult job of work to do in Northern Ireland was the understatement of the year. 'I personally believe that no other Army in the world could handle the situation with the good temper and patience which they have shown, to say nothing of the success,' said Sir Neil.

'Sadly it has not been without loss of life and limb and the figures

of 483 dead and 3996 badly injured speak for themselves. We must never forget their sacrifice and all they have done and are doing. I would also like to pay a tribute to the patience and long suffering of the wives who have been left behind in Germany and elsewhere. They have been magnificent.

'I personally believe that the armed forces are closer to the people of this country today than they have been for many years. This is due to Northern Ireland to some extent but also very much to the fireman's strike, when I am sure you would agree the armed forces did their stuff valiantly, even during a period when their pay also had got seriously behind that of their comparators. But on the credit side they certainly met the people of this country and the rapport was heart-warming.

'I hope the people of this country will continue to be proud of their armed forces and wish to know about their well-being and their equipment. There are many dark clouds on the horizon with a Soviet re-equipment policy going far beyond what might be necessary for a defensive posture. Also, recent developments in Africa have shown that the Soviet Union is ready and able to deploy military resources in support of its political interests in the Third World.'

The Royal Navy's Sword of Peace went to Naval Party 8901, the 42 officers and men of the Royal Marines representing the only permanent British Service presence in the remote Falkland Islands where the population of fewer than 2000 is outnumbered 300 to one by the sheep.

The Royal Air Force Sword was won by RAF Aldergrove in Northern Ireland.

Balloonists to try again

Balloon heroes Major Christopher Davey and Mr Don Cameron, who so narrowly failed to become the first to cross the Atlantic by balloon, are to try again. The team dropped into the sea only about 100 miles short of the French coastline after a four-day battle against the elements.

Major Davey, of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, has been active in hot air ballooning for several years and in 1975, with Mr Cameron, a Bristol



Major Christopher Davey

balloon manufacturer, made a successful attempt on the world hot air balloon endurance record.

Taking off from Newfoundland with cries of 'We're doing this for England', the two balloonists first ran into trouble when there was an eight-foot rip in the balloon's vital helium cell.

At that time, success was more than 1000 miles away. But the pair battled on until the final hours of drama. They were reported in radio bulletins as being low above the waves, then incredibly back in the sky. But finally buffeting winds forced the tired balloonists to surrender. They landed in the middle of a French fishing fleet in the approaches to the English Channel.



in the form of lost homes and loss of places of work and has done much to promote goodwill and friendly relations between the community at large and the security forces.'

Up to April 1977, 397 ammunition technical officers and ammunition technicians had carried out explosive ordnance disposal tours in Northern Ireland, including 45 second tours. Their successes had not been achieved without terrible cost nor had they gone unrecognised. To date, 16 operators had been killed on duty and ten injured, three seriously. Their gallantry had been recognised by the award of one George Cross, three OBEs, six MBEs, 24 George Medals, 22 Queen's Gallantry Medals, 15 BEMs, 31 mentions-in-despatches and two GOC commendations.

'The winning of the 1977 Wilkinson award of the Sword of Peace is a fitting tribute to a unit that has made an outstanding contribution to community relations in Northern Ireland over a period of eight years,' concluded the citation.

Replying to the welcome from Mr D Randolph, chairman of Wilkinson Match Ltd and of Wilkinson Sword Ltd, the Chief of the Defence Staff said that since the Sword of Peace was first awarded in 1966 there had been citations for work in Northern Ireland in 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977

Pay Corps celebrates



Exercising its Freedom of Winchester, granted in October 1970, the Royal Army Pay Corps marches through the city in the culminating central celebration of the corps' centenary this year. Headed by the band of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, the parade marched from the Rifle Depot to the Guildhall, for inspection by the Mayor (Councillor J D Flook), who was accompanied by the corps' Colonel Commandant (Major General J C Cowley) and the Paymaster-in-Chief (Major General K Saunders), and then through the city to the cathedral for a service of

thanksgiving and rededication. The three detachments on parade were provided by RAPC soldiers worldwide, the Training Centre's Recruit Company and the RAPC Apprentices College.

The weekend celebrations also included a centenary open day and musical display at the corps' home, Worthy Down. The musical display, by the band and drums of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, Rhine Staff Band of the Royal Tank Regiment and the band and bugles of the Royal Green Jackets School of Music, included a parade of uniforms down the years.



'No gag on wives'—Mulley

IN PARLIAMENT

What advice had been given by higher authorities to servicemen against their wives attending the parliamentary lobby on pay, asked Mr Patrick Wall (Conservative, Haltemprice).

The Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, said no such advice had been given. He continued: "I should like to make it clear that Service wives are completely free to speak in public, write to the Press or contact their members of Parliament and that any anxieties about possible retaliation against their husbands are completely groundless."

Mr Philip Goodhart (Conservative, Beckenham) wanted to know whether, now that the Germans appeared to have won the Nato tank gun selection competition, Britain would press ahead with its own tank gun development or whether the German gun would be accepted on the grounds of inter-operability. (The decision to go for the German gun was announced in the United States in February).

Dr Gilbert said the Government was still considering its options for the next tank to succeed Chieftain but standardisation and inter-operability was one of the factors in that decision. On the other hand he believed that the British gun 'was the best in the business.'

The Army's strength at 30 April was 159,740. Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, told Mr Ian Gow (Conservative, Eastbourne). The corresponding figures for 1976 and 1977 were 168,651 and 165,603 respectively.

Mr Gow asked if it was Government policy that the steady reduction in the numbers of the armed forces should continue? And how did the reduction compare with the increase in the armed forces of those countries from which an attack might come?

Dr Gilbert said the figures were not likely to change greatly in the near future and he pointed out that numbers were only part of the capability — equipment and training were also important.

Baroness Ward of North Tyneside (the former Dame Irene Ward MP)

drew a blank when she asked in the House of Lords "whether the academic institution set up in the south of France after the last war to which members of the armed forces of the United Kingdom went still exists; or if not, when was it disbanded?"

The Government spokesman, Lord Winterbottom said he had not been able to identify the institution, despite checking with the defence attaché's office in Paris, the Royal Army Educational Corps and its museum, the curator of the Intelligence Corps Museum, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office archivist, the RAF Director of Education and the Ministry of Defence library.

Lady Ward said she found that most peculiar and asked if Lord Winterbottom could consult her colleague, Lord Maugham — "he certainly had something to do with the institution to which I have referred; in fact I had much to do with it myself."

Lord Paget of Northampton asked for an estimate on the cost of pursuing what he described as 'this extensive, if somewhat fatuous enquiry.'

Lord Leatherland suggested jocularly that as some mystery seemed to surround the institution the Government might consider sending a delegation of members of the Lords to the south of France during August to make investigations.

Soldiers learning Chinese interested Mr Roderick MacFarquhar (Labour, Belper). He asked which posts required Chinese, how many Chinese language students the Ministry of Defence had trained in the past ten years and how many students had been trained at the Lyemun Chinese Language School in Hong Kong in the same period.

Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, said that 25 people were trained at Lyemun last year — the majority to interpreter standard. Once a serviceman had completed a tour of duty in a language post for which he was trained, any further use of his language skill would depend on his career and it was not possible to say how many had maintained their proficiency in Chinese.

About 40 posts in the Ministry of Defence currently required proficiency in Chinese.

Mr Robin Cook (Labour, Edinburgh Central) asked for a policy statement on the commercial reproduction of Army manuals and on the availability for sale in public bookshops and by mail order of the infantry weapon training manual on sniping.

Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, said policy was regulated on the classification of the manual concerned. Although an infantry training manual on sniping, first published 27 years ago, was no longer classified, its unauthorised reproduction and sale was an infringement of Crown copyright. The current up-to-date training pamphlet was classified 'Restricted' and was not on sale.

In an adjournment debate on limbless ex-servicemen, Mr Andrew Bowden (Conservative, Brighton Kemptown), said there were 2800 left from World War One and 9700 from World War Two. The average age of the former group was between 84 and 85 and it was inevitable that nearly all of them would be dead in six years.

He said there was a growing feeling among the First World War men that they were not receiving fair treatment in relation to other groups with more recent service. He said that a man on a 50 per cent disablement assessment would be receiving £17 per week compensation but the serviceman disabled between 1969 and 31 March 1973 would be getting £27 per week and the man disabled since then at least £35 per week. "I do not believe that one could say that is fair and equitable. Indeed it is intolerable and grossly unfair," Mr Bowden declared.

He suggested an extra £10 per week for life for each of the 2800 survivors, plus a £250 payment in lieu of the private car maintenance allowance paid to younger men. This would cost the Government £2,000,000 a year.

"As our country moves into calmer economic waters, those who sacrificed so much in such a bloody, ghastly war must not be forgotten."

The Minister of State, Department of Health and Social Services, Mr Roland Moyle, pointed out in his reply that there were still some 35,000 disablement pensioners from World War One along with some 19,000 widows. All told, including the World War Two, there were not far short of 400,000 war pensions in payment to disablement pensioners, their widows and other dependants.

Mr Moyle said his natural desire was to say that the Government would accede to Mr Bowden's suggestions but he could not in all honesty do that. The nub of the argument was that the benefits of the armed forces pension scheme introduced in 1973 did not apply to those who left the Services before that date.

As with all occupational pension schemes there was no retrospection so it was not just a matter of cost but a matter of principle. "I cannot accept that, because the Ministry of Defence has modernised and vastly improved the provision it makes for serving soldiers nowadays, the war pensions scheme can, or indeed should, attempt to provide the equivalent benefits," he said.

Since the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, opened in April 1977 it had admitted 1744 National Health Service patients, Mr Brown told Mr John Cartwright (Labour, Woolwich East).

There would be no changes in rates of local overseas allowances before 1 April 1979 except where adjustments are made necessary by movements in exchange rates, Mr Mulley, said in a written reply to Mr Peter Viggers (Conservative, Gosport). Mr Mulley said consideration of the basis for and rates of the allowances was continuing and the moratorium on changes would continue in the meantime.

The decision to proceed with the entire rebuilding of Wellington Barracks, London, was announced on the same day in both the Lords and the Commons. The work to plans approved in 1972 will proceed concurrently with the current contract to rehabilitate the facade block and will be spread over the years up to 1983-84.

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Defence fellowship

Colonel John Skinner has been awarded the higher degree of Bachelor of Letters at Oxford University for his thesis on 'Northern Army Group; A Study of Organisational Structures.'

Colonel Skinner, who works in the Directorate of Military Operations in the Ministry of Defence, was one of four Service officers selected for defence fellowships at universities in 1975-76. He went to Queen's College, Oxford, where he prepared his thesis under the supervision of Professor Michael Howard.



It is understood that only one other serving officer has achieved this academic distinction.

Colonel Skinner was commissioned into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and read history at Oxford. He has served outside UK in Japan, Korea, Malaya, Singapore, Borneo and Germany.

Bye-bye Bofors



Adventure ahoy

A multi-national round-the-world expedition lasting more than two years and run by veterans of Army expeditions of the past, is to start from Britain this autumn when the 150-ton brigantine, *Eye of the Wind*, sets sail on the first leg.

The expedition, Operation Drake, will involve 216 youngsters aged between 17 and 24 — of whom nearly 100 will be British. They will take part in three-month phases — 24 of them at a time — crewing the ship and helping with scientific and community relations projects in different parts of the world.

The expedition is being run by the Scientific Exploration Society, an international body of servicemen, scientists and explorers. When *Eye of the Wind* departs in October (the 400th anniversary of Sir Francis Drake's round-the-world trip) it will sail via the Canaries and Antigua to Panama.

Mr Jimmy Masters, the ex-sapper captain who is logistics and personnel officer for the expedition, told SOLDIER: "Army participation is spread pretty well across the board — although the Royal Engineers are taking more places than anyone."

Among the expedition veterans taking part are Captain Jeremy Groves and Captain Paul Turner, both cavalymen, and Major Derek Jackson from the Royal School of Artillery. Fifteen of the youngsters chosen are young soldiers.

Prince Charles, who is expedition patron, sums up: 'The greatest reward for the young explorers participating in Operation Drake and working alongside seasoned scientists and explorers will be enhanced awareness of their own personal capabilities and the practical experience of co-operation with people of other nations.'

For more than 30 years a key weapon in defence against air attack, the Bofors anti-aircraft gun made what is believed to be its last appearance on training with British Army of the Rhine during the Whirly Gig II air defence exercise in North Germany.

Volunteer gunners from the Midlands and Wales fired the Bofors on the Hohne ranges and brought it into 'action' against aircraft during an exercise in which Regular Army units of the Royal Artillery and an RAF squadron, armed with the latest Rapier air-defence missile system, demonstrated their capabilities.

The Volunteers, from 104 Air Defence Regiment (Volunteers), begin this month with another TAVR gunner unit a programme of conversion to the new Blowpipe missile air-defence system.

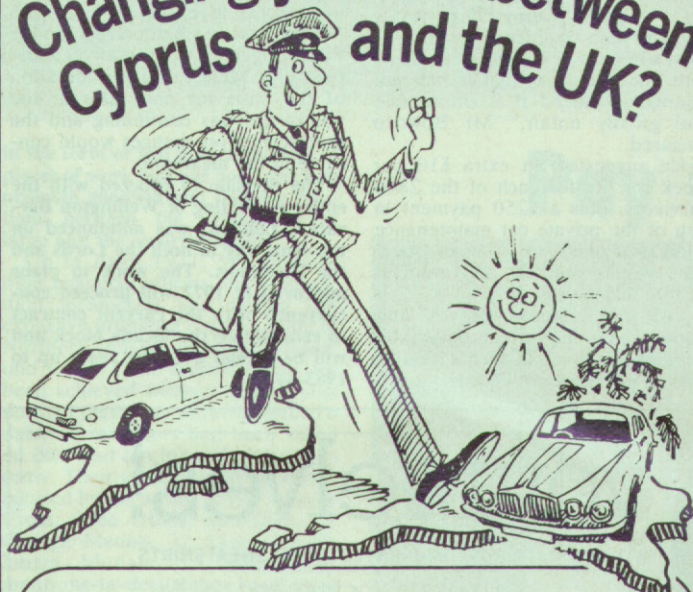
Friend and ex-foe

Prince Charles, Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment, met old adversaries Gavin Cadden (right) from Glasgow, ex-2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, and former German para Hans Teske (without beret) during Airborne Forces Day at Aldershot.

Mr Cadden was captured in North Africa by Herr Teske during World War Two.



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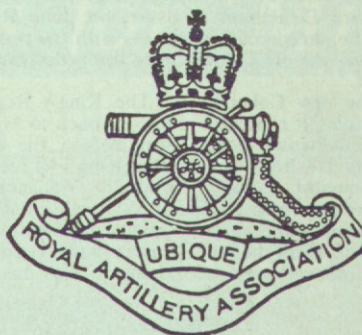
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P60c	Memo Sheets	.19	.26
P60e	Refills only	.17	.23
		.45	.69
DESK DIARIES with year-planner chart			
P46	Covers only	2.79	3.38
P46a	Refills	3.22	3.84
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S63	" " " " 3" blade	2.11	2.22
S66	Single R.A. Cypher on Blue	.91	1.11
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S16&S16a	R.A.A. " or Black	3.38	3.40
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S36	" " " (Small)	1.42	1.58
S37	Brass, Flat with engraved Cypher (Large)	.94	1.14
S38	" " " (Small)	.90	1.10
CUFF LINKS			
S44	Gilt R.A. Badge on red enamel shield with gilt surround. Torpedo fitting —per pair	1.75	1.89
S45	Rolled Gold on Sterling Silver embossed with R.A. Badge—per pair	17.21	15.55
S46	Gilt R.A. Badge on blue enamel shield with gilt surround. Torpedo fitting —per pair	1.75	1.89
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S49C	" " " St. Barbara	7.24	6.71
S110	POWDER COMPACT with R.A. Badge on Lid	3.11	3.35
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S80	Marcasite R.A. Badge, Silver	10.48	9.80
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S93B	" " " " " on light blue—perspex covered 9 1/2" x 7 1/2"	2.60	3.17
S94	" " " " " Cypher in gold on Blue background 12" x 9 1/2"	3.32	3.76
S94a	" " " " " cream Melamine background 12" x 9 1/2"	2.41	3.45
S107	DRINK COASTERS, Gun motif on Red —each	.42	.66
S107a	" " " " " Gun motif on Blue —each	.42	.66
S85	TEA TOWEL Irish Linen "The Royal Regiment of Artillery"	1.19	1.57
P48C	POCKET NOTEBOOKS	.56	.79
P48B	" " " " " R.A. Cypher—with telephone index	.52	.71
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S118	Wine " " " " —each	6.28	6.63
S123	Brandy " " " " —each	7.66	7.86
S122	Liqueur " " " " —each	6.14	6.51
S117	Oval Tray with R.A. Cypher—each	20.85	20.33
S121	Round " " " " (Gallery)—each	28.47	28.33
S69	PAPER KNIVES (Steel) with R.A. Cypher	1.16	1.31
S129	CLOTHES BRUSH, Leather covered, handle embossed R.A. Cypher	2.00	2.30
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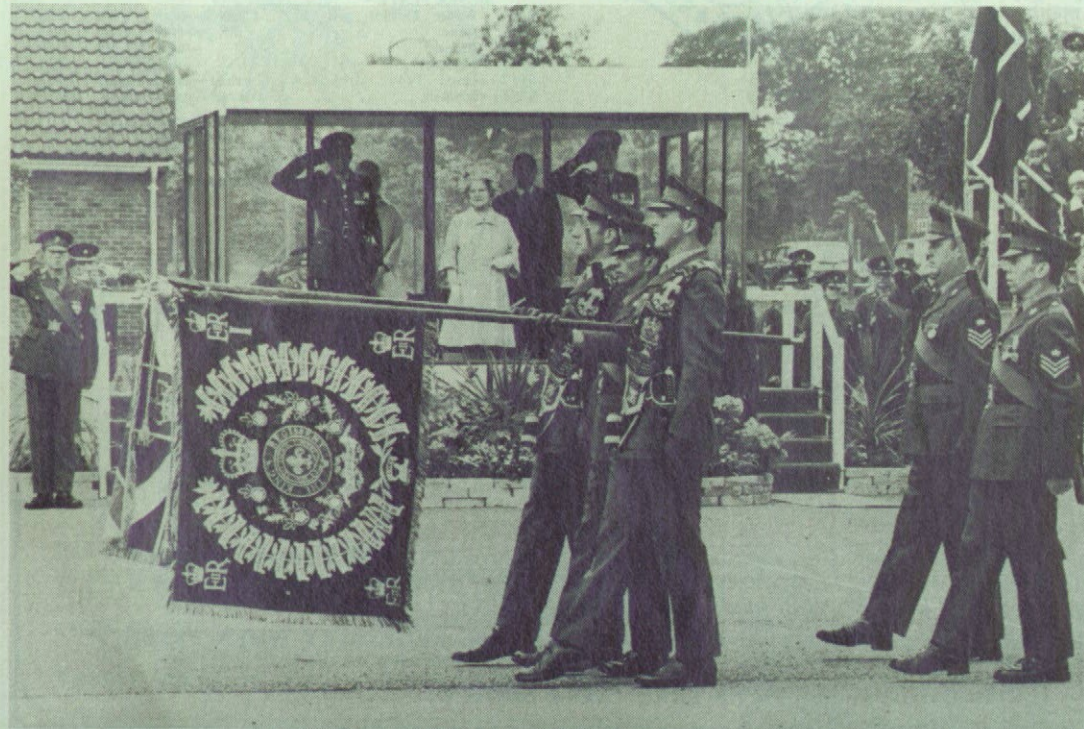
May says farewell

It was 'May's Day' and a sad moment when Junior Sergeant Gibson walked forward to pin on to May Haywood's lapel a gold brooch set with diamonds in the shape of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion cap badge.

The badge had been bought with donations contributed by all members of the battalion and many ex-juniors now serving with Regular battalions all over the world.

May, of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, joined the junior unit in March 1972 and saw it change its role in 1974 to become the present Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion. She was dedicated to the welfare of the juniors and there are many who have benefited from May's motherly advice and are grateful for her help in many ways.

May was made redundant after six years at Shorncliffe during which time she saw approximately 3000 juniors pass out to adult service.



Left: The Colours are dipped in salute to the Colonel-in-Chief as they are marched past in slow time.

'Hmm, a nice bit of schmatter'



'Never mind the quality, feel the width,' could well be what the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Roland Gibbs, is saying as he examines the prototype of the proposed 'Army dress for the 1980s' (left).

The general saw the new uniforms on a visit to the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment at Colchester. The parade uniform is to be trialled next year by 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire, at Bulford, and by 160 Provost Company, Royal Military Police, at Aldershot. The uniform may eventually replace the current No 1 and No 2 dress.

In the picture, the CGS is inspecting a model of an officer wearing the embellishments recommended for special occasions. Officer and soldier uniforms are of the same basic design and cloth in dark green in a lighter weight of wool barathea than used in the current uniform. The style is a smarter, better-cut uniform with side vents and patrol back.

Next year, regiments and corps will attend demonstrations of the new uniforms given by the Yorkshire regiment and will be given a chance to discuss how regimental dress distinctions can be perpetuated. There is no intention to dispense with the kilt, trews or coloured trousers in units where these are traditional.

Also in the picture are the Director of Clothing and Textiles, Brigadier J S Ryder, and the Director of SCRDE, Dr T Moynehan.

Cadets show their spirit



During their first-ever visit to the Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park, Surrey, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh saw a variety of activities designed to display cadet forces' aims 'to develop the qualities of good citizenship and the spirit of service to Queen and Country.'

The Queen is Captain-General of the Combined Cadet Force and the Duke of Edinburgh is Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Cadet Force. Both groups were represented.

After a private briefing the visitors watched initiative and obstacle races and chatted to the participants. They also met a group of Canadian cadets who were attending the Bisley shooting meeting.

Watermanship was displayed in an assault boat contest on the centre's lake and indoor air rifle shooting was demonstrated. A static display representing cadet activities throughout the United Kingdom — including Northern Ireland — was on show too.

The Nottingham ACF band played while the Queen and Duke took tea on the lawn and before the royal couple left they were presented with silver statuettes of cadets by the Centre's Commandant, Colonel David Lloyd-Jones.

To round off the visit, 12-year-old Antoinette Magee, daughter of Warrant Officer Roy Magee, presented the Queen with a bouquet. Cadets gave their visitors a royal send-off with three cheers as they lined the drive as the Queen and Duke drove away.

Left: Picture shows Her Majesty talking to cadets in the assault craft demonstration.

Three cheers for 'Micks'



War pensions

More than 396,000 people received pensions under the War Pensions Scheme at 31 December last year — worth payments in the previous year totalling nearly £283,000,000. There were 57,000 pensioners from World War One, and from World War Two and later, nearly 298,000.

A company of the 4th Ghana Infantry Battalion has carried out joint exercises with a company of the Irish Guards at West Down Camp, Salisbury Plain.

At the same time, a company of Irish Guardsmen went on exchange to Ghana. The Ghanaians spent much of their time in hard training and were put over an assault course at Warminster by a detachment of the Micks. They sang their traditional songs as they marched to the rendezvous but still had enough 'puff' left to give three rousing cheers for their instructors when they had completed the course (above).

Off duty, the Ghanaians visited Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral — and Windsor Castle.

They come from the Kumasi region of Ghana.

We want your girls ...please

The 1st Battalion of The Queen's Regiment has moved to Northern Ireland for a four-month tour and is looking for a girl.

While the battalion, based in West Germany, is in Northern Ireland, the men are hoping to find a 'Miss 1 Queen's' from their recruiting area of Kent, Sussex, Surrey and London.

It has become almost traditional for units serving in Northern Ireland to select a personality pin-up girl who can pay them morale-boosting visits during their tour, but the 1st Battalion has not yet found one.

"We are looking for an attractive girl who is over 18, lives in our recruiting area and could visit the battalion as our guest while we are in Northern Ireland and again when we return to Germany," explained Captain Anthony Beattie.

"Any interested young lady should send a letter giving some details about herself and a full-length photograph to me and the selection will be made by a panel representing the battalion."

Captain Beattie's address is: 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, BFPO 801.

SOLDIER'S Page 8 Girls

At first glance a Penthouse Pet of the Year and Miss 43 Air Defence Battery (Lloyds Company), Royal Artillery, might seem poles apart — but not if you're a girl like blonde (35-23-35) Jane Hargrave.



Major Ronald Smith, commanding Lloyds Company, at Sennelager, West Germany, wrote to Penthouse magazine asking if he could have a photograph of one of their Penthouse Pets to use in the battery newspaper. Penthouse went one better — they sent Jane!

During a whirlwind three-day visit, Jane was unanimously elected Miss 43 Lloyds Company, helped the battery celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo (when it won its honour title), drove a Spartan, fired Blowpipe, was guest of honour at an all-ranks' dance, attended picnics and barbecues, posed for hundreds of photographs

and signed innumerable autographs.

And she enjoyed every crowded minute of it. "It was a wonderful trip," she says, "and I wouldn't have missed it for anything. Lloyds Company are a great bunch of fellows."

Jane, whose ambition is 'to be famous,' sees her pictorial for Penthouse as just a beginning. She has her sights firmly set on an acting career and is booked to work on three films, including one by Fellini.

But she has no intention of neglecting her new-found friends. Already there is talk of a return visit to Sennelager later this year and possibly a visit to the battery firing camp in the Hebrides in November.

Sister Susie sews



There were plenty of helping hands suddenly available when Miss Wiltshire — 19-year-old Sue Horsman — found some difficulty in struggling into overalls on a visit to Support Company of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

Sue obviously looked forward to the trip because she had sewn a cushion, complete with the badge of the Duke of Edinburgh's, which she presented to company commander Major Dick Foster. Afterwards she drove both a Ferret scout car and an armoured personnel carrier and fired various weapons, proving herself a good shot with both pistol and sub-machine gun.

NEWS 8



Twenty-one-year-old Sun Page 3 girl Denise Perry has just given the men of 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, a treat by visiting them in Northern Ireland.

In return, Denise left home almost weighed down with souvenirs ranging from T-shirts and vests, suitably emblazoned with crests, to plaques and badges.

Throughout a hectic programme which took her to all the regiment's locations, Denise talked to as many soldiers as possible: "I think they do a great job out here; I like Ireland," said the pretty lass, who was delighted to hear numerous men tell her that her photographs don't do her justice!

This was not her first visit to the Province. She is also the pin-up of the men of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, who welcomed her to Londonderry some months ago.

Brigadier Reg's speech breakthrough

A top military communications expert has played a vital part in solving a speech processing problem which baffled scientists for years. At the University of Bath's School of Electronic Engineering, Brigadier Reg King's team devised a more efficient system to transmit speech by wire or radio at an acceptable voice reproduction quality. It looks like being marketed at less than a tenth of the cost of any other existing system and will be housed in a terminal smaller than a shoebox.

A prototype is being made at Bath which should be ready for evaluation in 18 months. A fully engineered version could be in gen-

eral use within the next five years. It is said to have enormous commercial potential — for instance the world's telephone systems could cope with more than four or five times their present traffic through the same number of lines. Other to benefit could be deep sea divers, the partially deaf and foreign language students.

Professor William Gosling, head of the school, said the team had achieved something which mathematicians had said could not be done. Brigadier King declared: "In the end the answer was so simple that I had trouble in convincing myself that it really worked."



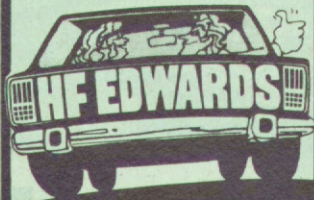
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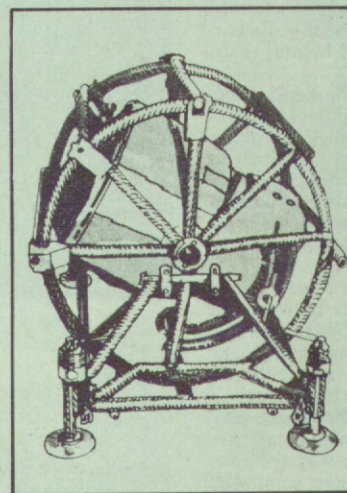
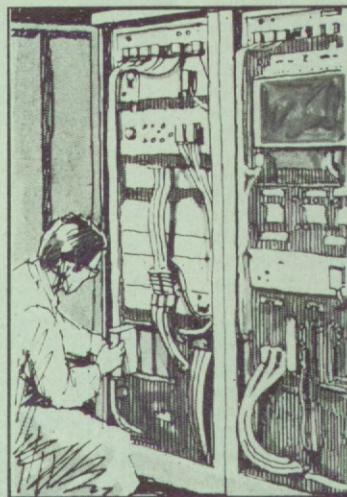
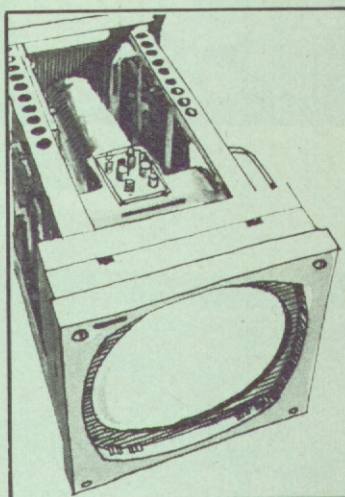
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The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Scotland's senior regiment and her only cavalry, celebrated their 300 years of service with a week that combined formality, pomp and ceremony with all the down-to-earth enjoyment of a huge birthday party.

The highlights of the week were the regimental drive-past down Edinburgh's historic Princes Street in the full panoply of modern war, followed a day later by the tercentenary parade reviewed by the Queen.

The two occasions could not have been more different. In Princes Street, thousands of people — including a strong contingent of foreign tourists — stood in slow drizzle cheering the thundering ranks of mighty Chieftain tanks as they passed before the Duke of Kent. The Chieftains, making up one composite squadron, were preceded by a composite reconnaissance squadron with Ferret, Fox, Saracen and Scorpions, advancing two and sometimes four abreast across Princes Street, with Edinburgh Castle high on its hill behind making an effective backdrop.

Before the drive-past, the Duke of Kent, a lieutenant-colonel with the regiment, laid a wreath at the Scots Greys Memorial behind the saluting base in Princes Street on behalf of all ranks and the regimental association.

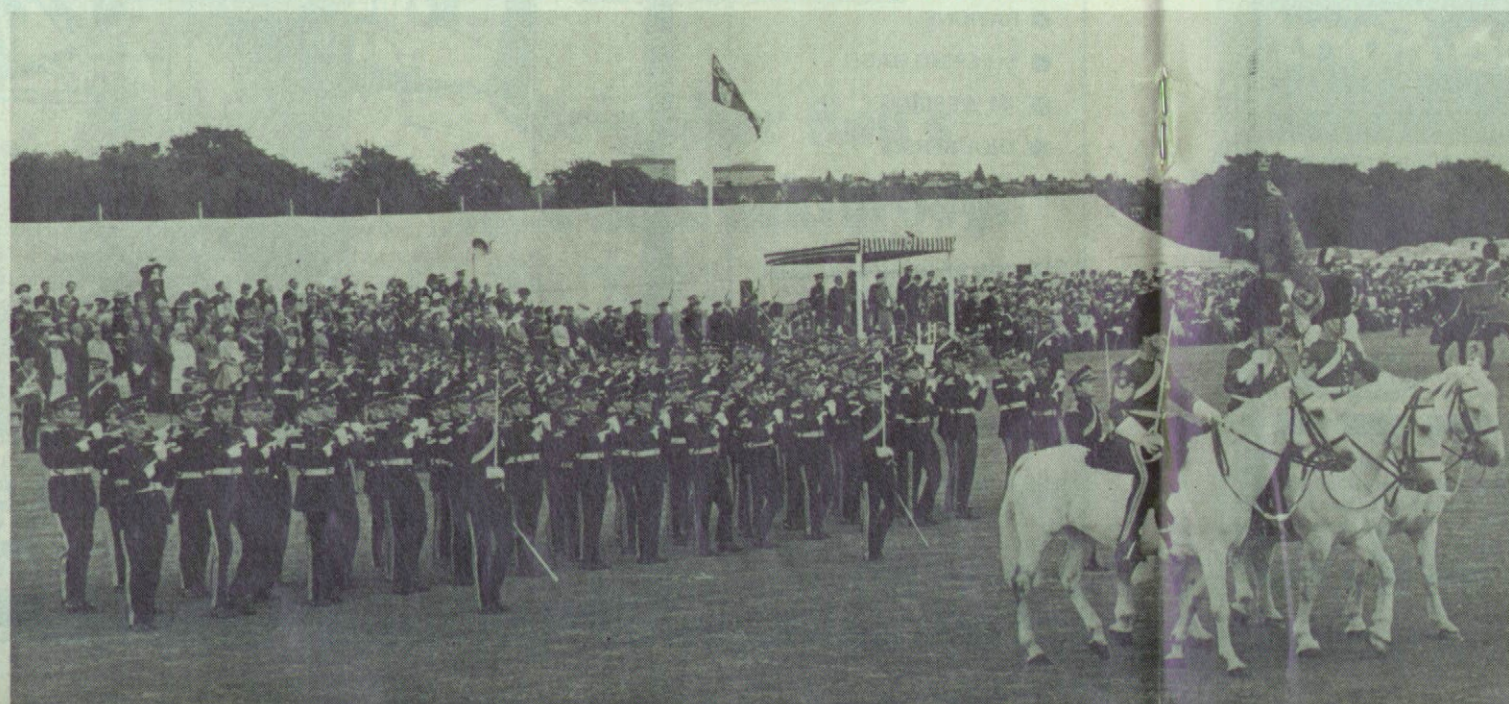
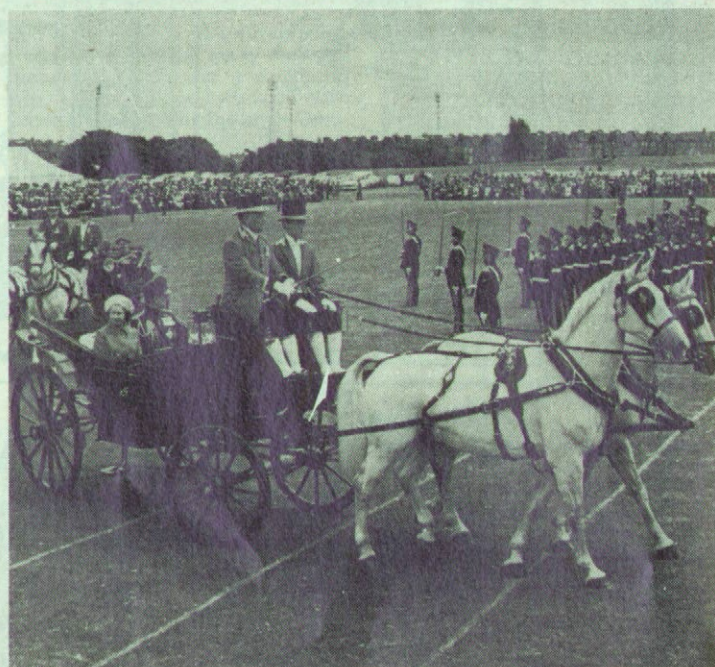
The next day's parade, behind Holyrood House, gave the regiment the chance to show off its colourful dress uniforms, a legacy of its three hundred years of service and the fusing of its descendants, the 3rd Carabiniers (itself an amalgamation of the 3rd Dragoon Guards and the Carabiniers (6th Dragoon Guards)) and The Royal Scots Greys, who were amalgamated seven years earlier on that same spot behind Holyrood House.

On parade were the band, pipes and drums of the regiment, immortalised by the hit parades of a dozen countries with their best-selling 'Amazing Grace,' the mounted detachment on superb grey horses, save for the darker Trojan, the drum horse, a gift from Her Majesty on amalgamation in 1971.

In her speech, the Queen mentioned the close links between the three regiments through the ages when they "fully maintained the reputation for dash and gallantry which has always been such a characteristic of the British cavalry."

"Modern developments may have forced horses to give way to tanks, but the record of the epic campaigns of the Greys from Palestine through El Alamein to Tripoli, Italy, Normandy and ending in the Baltic, and of the Carabiniers fighting the jungle war through Burma from Imphal to Rangoon, shows that nothing changed the indomitable spirit of the officers and men."

"In more recent times internal security duties in Northern Ireland, peace-keeping in Cyprus, defence against threats of aggression in Belize, deployment with Nato and the unlikely job of firefighting may have posed new problems and challenges, but throughout the regiment has maintained the same sense of duty, the same comradeship and the same family feeling which has always been the essential basis of all good fighting units."



Scots Dragoon Guards—Happy birthday

Top: The massed tanks thunder down Princes Street. Right: The recce squadron drives past, under Edinburgh Castle.

Left: Her Majesty reviews the parade.

Below: Several complicated drills were executed during the parade. This right-angled turn was one.

Pictures by Paul Haley

Right (inset): An exclusive picture of the Queen and the mounted detachment with (left) Lieutenant-Colonel C A Ramsey and Colonel H T Brassey. For a full-colour 10" x 8" print of this picture apply to SOLDIER (RSDG), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, enclosing £2.25 (UK), £2.06 (BFPO) or £2.16 (elsewhere).



Colours laid up at last

For the first time in 30 years The Black Watch exercised their right as Freemen of the City of Perth when they marched through the streets, 'bands playing and bayonets fixed,' bearing their old Colours to be laid up in the Regimental Headquarters at Balhousie Castle after a short ceremony in Wavell Gardens.

New Colours were presented to The Black Watch by the Queen Mother in 1975 but the laying up of the old was delayed because of the regiment's tour in Northern Ireland. Picture (left), courtesy of Perthshire Advertiser, shows the laying-up ceremony.

Meanwhile the Queen Mother, who is Colonel-in-Chief of The Black Watch, has not been neglecting them. She visited the regiment at Somme Barracks, Catterick, where she watched a demonstration of infantry skills by D Company and the marching of the pipes and drums and military band.



MOD bans whale oil

The Ministry of Defence is to phase out completely the use of sperm whale oil in both its lubricants and leather goods. This announcement, made in the House of Commons by Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, has been warmly welcomed by conservationists leading the fight to save the endangered species.

After consultation with all the major suppliers of leather to the Ministry's manufacturers of leather goods, the use of the oil has also been excluded from a large number of leather items used by the Services.

Dr Gilbert said that in the few cases where this was not yet possible he had set in hand a testing programme to establish whether leather could be produced without the use of sperm whale oil and still reach acceptable standards. General guidance was being issued to all the Ministry's procurement divisions.

"In all cases the exclusion of sperm whale oil is being achieved at no cost penalty to the defence budget — nor will the operational

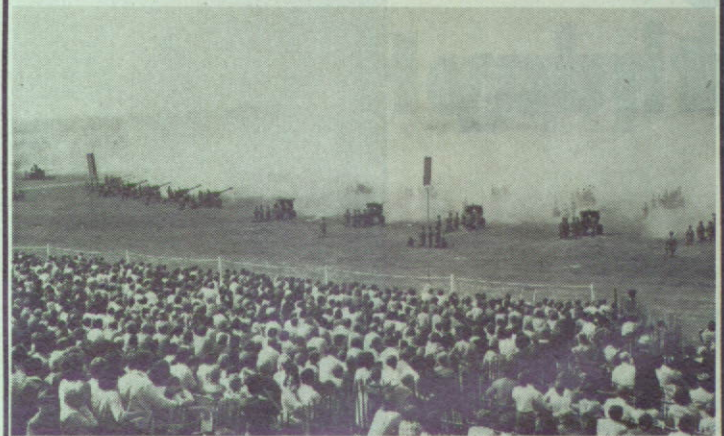
effectiveness of the Services be in any way impaired," Dr Gilbert declared.

Cornelia Durrant, wildlife campaigner for the Friends of the Earth, told SOLDIER: "We welcome this very much, particularly as the Ministry of Defence is one of the biggest users of leather in the country."

SOLDIER understands that the only major leather items containing sperm whale oil which will still be used by the Army are certain types of gloves. But manufacturers of the high-quality gloving leather used are working on substitutes which will be accepted by the Ministry providing they reach the high specifications.



A day that went with a bang



A large crowd turned out for Larkhill's annual Artillery Day. Pictured is a highlight of the event, the massed firing.

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'Outgunned'

From News 1

Expressing concern about the low number of anti-armour and anti-aircraft missiles, particularly Rapier and Swingfire, the report says that even on the most optimistic estimates of consumption rates, the stock levels prescribed by Nato are pitched unrealistically and dangerously low, yet units do not even reach these. Urgent action is recommended to increase numbers.

Deliveries of the Milan medium-range anti-tank guided weapon are said to be at an improved 'though worryingly slow' rate and the committee says it hopes the Ministry of Defence will continue further to speed up delivery and will be able to supply Milan to TAVR units with key reinforcing roles ahead of some Regular units in the United Kingdom.

On the Spartan armoured personnel carrier the report says delivery has been lamentably slow — it is only now beginning to reach operational units, more than three years overdue.

Referring to the cancellation of the RS80 rocket system, the committee says the Major-General Royal Artillery BAOR had 'portrayed graphically' the Warsaw Pact superiority in barrels which in some sectors reached five to one. The heavy artillery batteries in Rhine Army were equipped with the 175mm M107 whose performance was not in doubt but whose numbers had been described by a senior artillery officer as 'pitifully few' compared with the opposition faced. Suspension of work on the RS80 project meant that any such equipment would now have to be bought from either Germany or the United States, where work was continuing. The report recommends the Ministry of Defence to closely monitor developments in the two countries.

The continuing commitment to Northern Ireland was undoubtedly interfering with Army training in Germany. But if deployments to Northern Ireland became less frequent, as was planned when the Army got its extra 1900 men, there would be a corresponding higher demand for training in Germany. 'We trust that this problem is being anticipated and appropriate action planned.'

On manpower and restructuring, the report says it is clear that, taking into account men away on leave, training courses and in Northern Ireland, the number of troops on Rhine Army strengths on any given day must be well short of 55,000.

Trials carried out to validate the restructuring plan had shown that BAOR in its reorganised form was seriously undermanned in peacetime and the report recommends that, at the very least, 1000 of the extra 1900 Army personnel already approved should be assigned to Germany. But this should be only a start towards the figure of 2500 which the committee considers represents the shortfall.

The report also deals with morale and personnel questions. It singles out the question of excess baggage costs, already highlighted in SOLDIER News. It concludes: 'We recommend that urgent attention should be given to obtaining an immediate and sensible solution to this piece of stupidity.'

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(CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE)

SLO

During his last few busy weeks as Adjutant-General, General Sir Jack Harman found time to talk to me about matters on which I had questioned him (see **SOLDIER News**, December 1977) and to up-date me on how things stood.

He reminded me that pay was then the burning issue, and that after much hard work, long and involved negotiations, and a very hard fight, we had got a better deal than might have been anticipated.

"On the subject of pay, perhaps the most important point is the Government's forward commitment," he said. "We now have a guarantee that the Services will return to full comparability by 1980 by pay awards on 1 April 1979 and 1 April 1980 which will not only pay the balance due to the Services from the 1978 pay award, in two roughly equal stages, but will also be updated to take account of the increase in civilian earnings between now and then.

"The Government has stated that the fully comparable rates of pay will be introduced over the next two years regardless of economic circumstances and regardless of the provisions of any pay policy which might be in operation over that period."

I asked the Adjutant-General what was happening about baggage allowance and local overseas allowance for married servicewomen. He said that both these urgent matters were still being fought for but while he was hopeful that the LOA for married servicewomen would be resolved fairly soon, he could not, to his regret, be as optimistic on baggage. He was clearly in no doubt of the need for increased scales. However, he said there were some problems which were no nearer a satisfactory solution, for example the sale of surplus MOD houses to servicemen before being put on the open market. "I feel most strongly that servicemen should have priority and I am looking for a satisfactory answer as soon as possible.

"The assisted house purchase scheme is in sight although there are still a number of problem areas."

He could not, as yet, commit himself to a firm date for its introduction. "But, I hope that it will be of help to a lot of people, particularly with the current problems over council housing."

Turning to the problem of Department of Health and Social Security benefits, I asked in December about free school meals, family income supplement, unemployment benefit and supplementary benefit — some of the benefits Service families cannot receive when they are overseas. General Harman said the only areas in which real progress had been made were those of free school meals and FIS, though in both cases there were still a few hurdles to be overcome.

"On free school meals for children of servicemen in BAOR and Belgium, at Service schools a system will soon be introduced for families in these two areas who would be entitled to this benefit if they were in UK.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

'Pay comparability by 1980' —General Harman

"Furthermore, ways and means are now being examined to compensate similarly entitled families stationed in countries where there are no facilities for school meals, though this study is still very much in its early stages.

"As far as FIS is concerned, a new system is shortly to be introduced which will allow payment of the equivalent of FIS to servicemen stationed abroad who would have had an entitlement to this benefit in UK." He said that the MOD had been examining the reasons why the other benefits could not be paid to families overseas — the short answer was that changes in current legislation were necessary. I asked the General why we could not seek a change in the relevant legislation. He assured me that he was not con-

increments to Ssafa social workers in accordance with the National Joint Council of Local Authorities. He also told me that the points I had raised in December about worldwide kit insurance and medical insurance would be taken into account during the next review of LOA.

He added that my request to find some other term to replace the word 'welfare' in this connection had been considered and it was felt that the strength lay in the different interpretations that could be put on it; the narrow sense of the expression 'on the welfare' was out of date.

They had considered using 'Social Service' but that was too specific and had too precise a meaning for local authorities. Therefore he believed that the title chosen, of 'Families

As I leave the post of Adjutant-General I would like to pay tribute once again to the courage and good sense of our wives during such difficult times — I like to think that we can now look forward with confidence to a better future.

Jackie Harman



General Harman being interviewed by Anne Armstrong.

tent to let the matter rest and that discussions were taking place now to find a way to authorise the payment of all relevant State benefits to Service families overseas.

The Adjutant-General then went on to tell me that recently MOD had been successful in obtaining approval to pay the two upper

Housing and Welfare Service,' was the right one. As yet the final plans for the provision of information centres, fact sheets and communication systems to the families had not been completed; all this had taken rather longer than he had hoped originally. As soon as the plans are announced, full details will be published in the Families Pages.

Illustrating exactly what the AG is talking about on baggage charges is this letter from a wife in Cyprus...

Dear Anne,

Many thanks for your interest in my letter on excessive MFO charges which we had to pay when our crates arrived in Cyprus.

Now, after paying £144.51 only last month, my husband has been told that he has been promoted to warrant officer on posting to BAOR.

We are now faced with the fact that we will have to sell or get rid of 50 per cent of our belongings to avoid getting another large bill when we are in BAOR.

Of course we are very pleased at my husband's promotion but it's a very expensive one.

MRS I
BFPO 58

Don't forget this form

Make sure you do not lose your voting rights in 1979. Fill in F/Vote34 (Revised 1977). Official paid envelopes are attached to the card. Leaflet F/Vote/656 gives guidance on how to complete the form.

Wives now eligible, says DHSS

Wives who pay full British national insurance when they are abroad and work for a UK employer may now be eligible for unemployment benefit when they return to this country.

This follows protests that Service wives returning from abroad were treated 'just the same as aliens' (SOLDIER News, February 1978).

The CF(N)982 A form, a general questionnaire issued to anyone claiming unemployment benefit after being in an EEC country, has now been amended by the Department of Health and Social Security. When you return to UK, apply for benefit on form UB 461; in the space where it says name and address of employer, put the UK address of the employer. For example, if you worked for Naafi overseas the address is Naafi, Personnel Dept (PD/Admin/R), Upper College Street, Nottingham, NG1 5EU.

But if you then receive a further form (CF(N)982 A), you need complete only question one (parts one and two) and question nine. Those of you with experience of this form will remember that previously there were no fewer than 19 probing questions to be answered.

However, there are exceptions. If you come from Berlin you will have been paying German contributions even although you may have worked for a British employer (this applies to anyone employed outside Rhine Army but within the EEC). If you fall into these categories then you will have to complete the whole of CF(N)982 A. It will also save a lot of time if your form E 301 (the foreign insurance card) is attached to it.

But remember the golden rule. Always apply for benefit even if you are in doubt whether you are eligible. Better safe than skint!

School with no teachers

The Royal Soldiers' Daughters School at Hampstead in London is a school with a difference — because no teaching is done there.

The school is now just a boarding house for 135 girls and their educational needs are catered for in selected schools nearby. But the school has certainly moved with the times. The old Victorian building was replaced in 1969 and now offers games rooms, a TV room and lots of space to move about in, as well as a superb view over London.

The girls, whose ages range from five to 18, make the school their home during term time. Each morning sees a mass exodus as they leave for their various schools, be they secondary, primary, or even, for some of the girls, the Royal Ballet School.

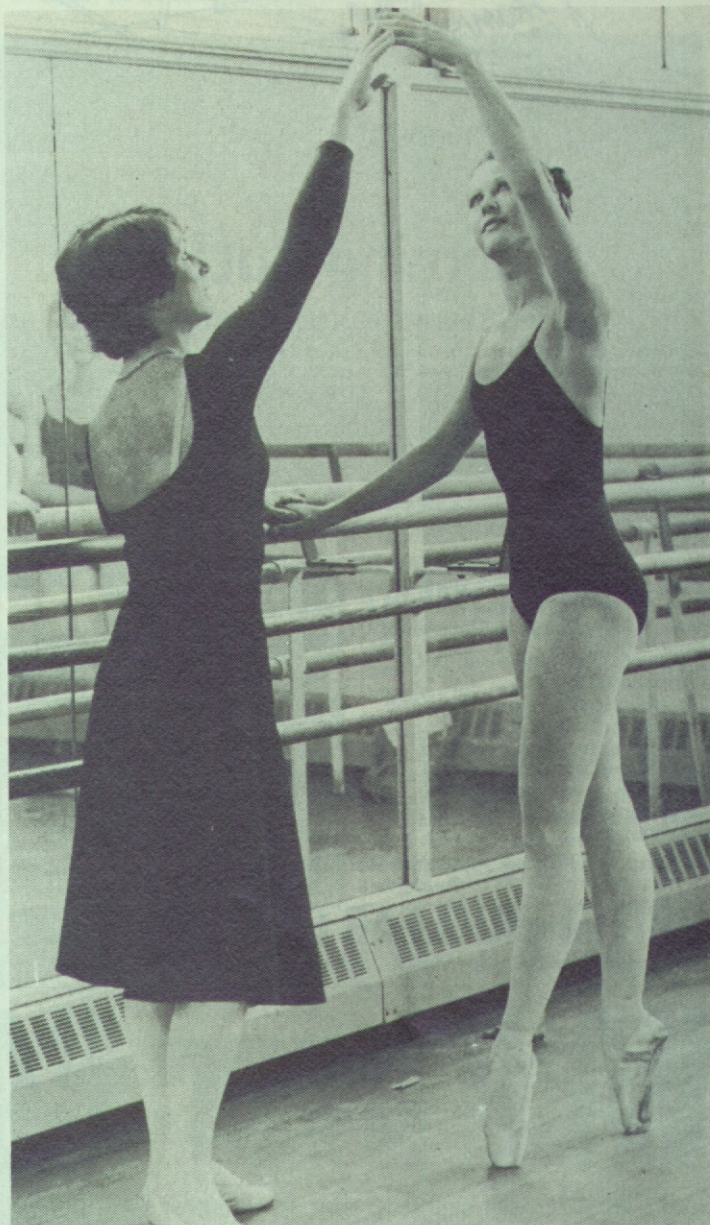
Headmistress Mrs Patricia Sibley explained that after-school and weekend activities take up much of the girls' time. As well as homework there are music, singing and dancing lessons plus special coaching in any school subject where the girls may need extra help.

"Brownies, Guides, a variety of sports and many community projects are available, and if a girl wants to learn a particular skill or craft we can always find the necessary teachers," said Mrs Sibley.

"Academic successes are many," added Colonel John Palmer, secretary of the school. "For those who wish to stay on and take A levels we have a student group, and they are treated as such. For instance, Susan Gregory (pictured), one of our group, has achieved great success with the Royal Ballet School and her sister hopes to follow her."

Younger girls are in two-bedded cubicles, moving to small rooms, each with three girls, during secondary school age. The prefects have their own single rooms.

The emphasis originally was on orphaned girls, but this has changed over the years and the school now aims to provide a guarantee of an uninterrupted education for the daughters of serving soldiers, but priority is still given to daughters of soldiers who died while still serving, or whose homes have broken up.



For more information write to Secretary, The Royal Soldiers' Daughters School, 65 Rosslyn Hill, London, NW3 5UD.

Claim changed

The ruling that wives on official welfare work such as visiting families have to clock up 45 miles before submitting a claim for motor mileage allowance has been changed by the Ministry of Defence. Now payment can start immediately, bringing the Services into line with other welfare organisations.

Surplus sale

Surplus single lot sales of MOD furniture are to be held on Thursday 12 October at Cavalry Barracks, Redford, Edinburgh, Wednesday 18 October at the Ordnance Support Unit, Liphook, and Wednesday 25 October at the RAOC Depot, Morton-in-Lugg, Hereford.

Curtains

The presentations at which more than 500 wives saw the new proposed range of curtains proved very successful and resulted in the final choice of 33 designs. However, half of the wives who attended agreed that a change from the gingham checks and stripes was needed. The Property Services Agency will shortly be looking at floral patterns to replace the gingham.



Youngsters in a school sitting-room



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SM

Tony's on his 'tod'

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Lance-Corporal Tony Woodall is the only soldier in the team selected to represent Britain in the world championships of modern pentathlon in Sweden.

Tony Woodall joins the august company of Danny Nightingale and Adrian Parker — current Olympic gold medal holders — and Nigel Clark.

But the Army is represented behind the scenes at the championships with another Olympic gold medallist, Captain Jim Fox, managing the Great Britain junior team and Staff-Sergeant Peter Younger coaching the ladies team.

Rising star Tony Woodall's Great Britain selection crowns his success in the Army individual championship which he won with 5230 points. He was joined by Corporal P Whiteside and Craftsman K Chesham in the REME team which won the Army inter-unit team championship with 14,586 points. Second was the Royal Military College of Science team with 10,109.

The intermediate individual champion was Lieutenant D Burns, of the Royal Military College of Science team, and the junior title went to Trooper T M Haddon, of 13th/18th Royal Hussars.

Predictably in a sport dominated by the British Army nationally and internationally, the inter-Service team championship went to the Army team with 14,903 points. The Royal Navy was second with 13,065 and the RAF third with 9113.

But a shock result in the inter-Services individual event gave T Kenealy of the Navy the title, beating Woodall into second place with 5187 to the REME lad's 5073.

Mixed unit steps out

HQ NORTHAG/HQ TWOATAF Transport Company, which has a 'training partnership' with 7 Company of 10 Training Battalion of the West German Army, has completed a 600-kilometre march from Fahl in the Black Forest to Rheindahlen.

The march, which took seven days, was done in relays by men of both the Transport Company and 7 Company, each man marching 25 kilometres a day.

On the winning road



Cooks collect 'pots'

Celebrating their most successful season ever are members of the shooting team of the Training Battalion and Depot, Army Catering Corps, who lifted no fewer than 30 trophies. The crackshot cooks numbered among their successes first place for minor units in the South East District meeting as well as the individual rifle championship. They then set an ACC record by coming fifth out of 38 minor units at the Regular Army Skill-at-Arms meeting as well as winning the long-range and short-range target rifle matches (the first time the same team has won these at one meeting). And in the National Rifle Association meeting they won more awards than ever before, including the 'Advancing Man' team trophy. Team is (left to right): Warrant Officer 2 Frank Tucker (master coach), Warrant Officer 2 Mark McCulloch, Corporal Eddie Middle, Sergeant Mick Turner, Major Tony Monk, Sergeant Lloyd Worrall and Corporal 'Mac' MacNeil.

One of the most successful Army cars on the rallying scene, driven by Lieutenant-Colonel J Hemsley and navigated by Staff-Sergeant Joe Minto, has won the Ecurie team award in the Royal Scottish Automobile Club international rally.

The duo, from the British Army Motoring Association (North), also took the AJS Watson Trophy and the Lombard North Trophy for coming second to the Ford works team.

The car won its class, the Appleyard Trophy, and was the leading Services crew out of 19 other entries, winning the Provost-Marshal award.



Sticky wicket

The Army cricket XI has found itself on a sticky wicket of late with only one win and one draw in seven matches.

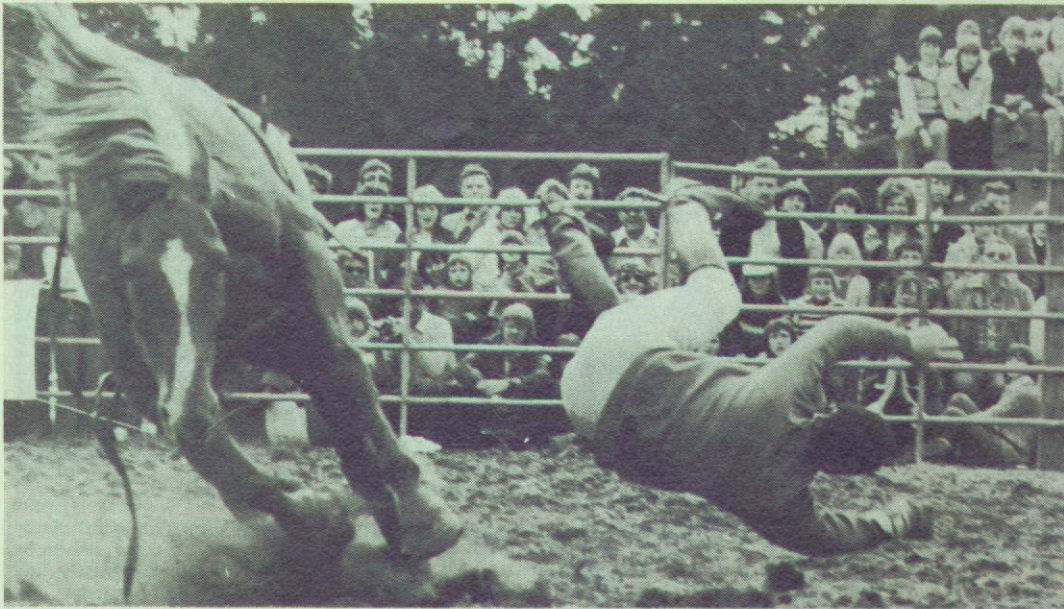
The match against RMA Sandhurst ended in a draw with the Army 227 for six declared and 191 for one declared and Sandhurst 223 for seven declared and 129 for three declared. Kent 2nd XI beat the Army by 200 for seven declared and 176 for three declared against 150 for five and 150.

The National Fire Service XI provided the Army with its lone win when they were beaten 200 for nine against 139. But ill fortune returned in the match against the Free Foresters XI which was lost 190 for four declared and 135 for five against the Army's 215 for six declared and 109.



Ouch! Down she goes

Divers in colour tests



Brahma bulls, bucking broncos and working hunters all had their place at this year's Rhine Army Summer Show. Stetsons mingled with bowlers and Robin Hood hats vied with polo topees. The great strength of the show is its variety of events, people and interest.

The organisers are always alert for new attractions and innovations however large or small. This year's Rodeo-USA attracted capacity audiences to each performance without detracting from the more formal feats of horsemanship in the three show-rings. Here again the show does not stand still and the main ring sported a water jump for the first time at Lippspringe. All the jumping courses were cleverly constructed and designed to bring out the best in both horses and riders. The fences were clean, attractive and inviting and spectators were as a result able to enjoy exciting competitions in all classes.

The star of the show was Black Chief, owned by the Household Cavalry and ridden by Corporal-of-Horse Magregor of The Blues and Royals, which won the Dunhill Trophy for the combined competition in wonderful style. The final round of the Dunhill BAOR jumping championship was won by Second-Lieutenant Adrian Ffooks, of 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, on his own horse High Knowes with some magnificent jumping as the weather darkened and the rain started.

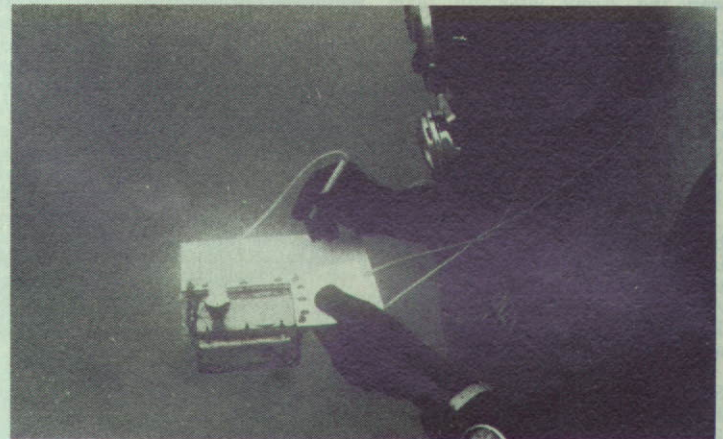
The girls in the Miss BAOR com-

petition had fought their way through regional and garrison heats to be on the catwalk at Bad Lippspringe and the finals were watched by one of the largest crowds of the show. Jim Luxton, of BFBS television, introduced the competitors. The judges finally selected a worthy title holder in Lindy Spinks, of Düsseldorf.

Polo was another great attraction and the German national team gained revenge by five goals to four over the Rhine Army Polo Association team. Last year was the first time a German national team had taken the field since 1936. Rhine Army won the B match and lost the A match, but both were hard-fought games.

Other attractions were archery, parachuting, dog shows, driving competitions, dog racing, horse shoeing, military band displays, trade stands and tug-of-war.

Above: One of this year's star attractions was the American Rodeo. WRAC Captain Linda Cowley from Bielefeld, who did extremely well in the formal show jumping, tried her hand at bronco-busting. Her brave effort lasted as long as many of the 150 cowboys who took part.



Army all at sea

The Royal Navy beat the Army by the narrowest of margins in the inter-Service junior swimming and water polo championships.

Just one point separated the two teams in the swimming events with the Navy scoring 69 to the Army's 68. The water polo match ended with an 8-8 draw but the Navy squeezed ahead in the diving with 11 points to the Army's nine.

Army Apprentices College Chepstow emerged champions in the junior inter-unit team swimming championships with 102 points. Second was AAC Harrogate with

76½ and third Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion with 73.

The minor units title went to the Royal Army Medical Corps Apprentices College with 22 points; second, Junior Parachute Company (14) and third W (Junior Soldiers) Company, Depot The King's Division (11).

Chepstow also carried off the water polo crown, beating Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, by a sweeping 19-0.

Junior Leader A Ruffley of the IJLB won the one-metre springboard diving event.

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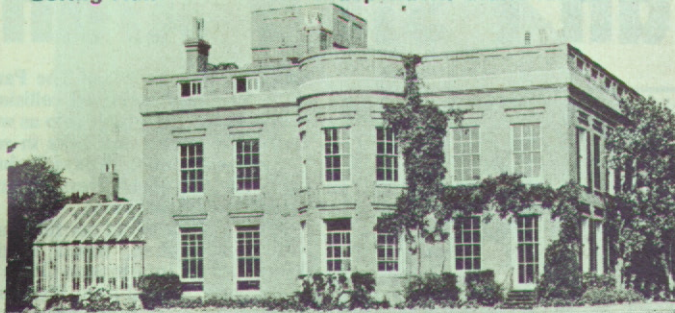
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Even whales didn't stop Alan



Rifleman Santabahadur, of 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles' rifle team (this year's Regular Army skill-at-arms meeting champions), is chaired from Century Range, Bisley, after winning the Queen's Medal for the best shot in the Regular Army.

In all, Rifleman Santabahadur won seven trophies after leading throughout the qualifying stages of the championships for which there were 720 qualifiers. Last year Rifleman Santabahadur came 31st in the Army 100.

Armoured riders the tops

The 2nd Armoured Division Transport Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, after winning the best team prize in the BAOR championships last year, completed a hat-trick by winning the RAF Brüggen trial, the 16 Signal Regiment trial and finally the British Army championship at Catterick.

The Army championship is held bi-annually and is open to all Regular, TAVR and Royal Marine units as well as an invited team from the Swedish Army. Standard issue BSA B40 machines are used.

This event, a two-day affair, was held on the Yorkshire moors over a difficult course made hard by lack of rain. More than 200 riders started the first day with a gruelling four laps which included ten very difficult sections, and which was repeated in the afternoon but with the time allowed reduced. At the end of the first day the entry was reduced by approximately half, mainly due to punctures and chain breakages.

The second day was guaranteed to sort the men from the boys with a time-and-observation circuit of four laps cross-country in a time of 2½ hours. This proved a very tight limit and in fact eliminated riders who could not keep to schedule.

On the afternoon of the second day, everything depended on the timed cross-country circuit. This proved too tough a time schedule, and after four laps two more teams



were eliminated. This left the Armoured Division team, with 10 Regiment RCT trailing on points. So another spectacular success was achieved by the highly successful Armoured Division team of Warrant Officer 2 John Nightingale, rider-manager (centre), Corporal Gwyn Barraclough, and Lance-Corporal Karl Werner.

These finished clear cut winners of the Army Championships win-

ning the handsome Gort trophy.

Before the Army championships two of the team won awards in the International Welsh two-day trial. Corporal Barraclough won a gold riding an Austrian machine, and Corporal Werner a silver on an Italian 'Villa' machine.

Both riders have been picked to represent the British Army at the International six-day trial in Sweden.

Sergeant Alan Toone, of The Parachute Regiment, survived collisions with a whale and a large ship as well as tropical storms and gales in setting a new record of 98 days, including stops, for a double crossing of the Atlantic in a small yacht.

Alan, a 30-year-old married man with two children, based at the Army Careers Information Office in Portsmouth, set sail from Plymouth in April in a 21-foot yacht, Corribee. His first leg of 1750 miles to Las Palmas in the Canaries took 17 days, which included five days of bad weather in the Bay of Biscay. The rigging was damaged and had to be repaired in the Canaries.

The Atlantic crossing from the Canaries to Antigua took 27 days for 2900 miles. But ten days out from the Caribbean island his self-steering gear was smashed by a whale.

Alan takes up the story: "I woke up and found myself literally on a whale's back. It was early in the



morning and there was an enormous crash and I rose up out of the water. I thought I had got away with it but then there was another crash. A two-inch piece of stainless steel on the self-steering gear had been sheared off and from then on I had to helm for 20 hours a day for the next eight or nine days."

When Alan arrived in Antigua the local authorities took one look at his exhausted condition, blistered face and body covered with salt water sores and wanted to detain him in hospital. But he insisted on continuing and after the boat had been fitted with spares flown out from England he set sail on the homeward journey.

Soon he was in trouble again. About two days out he ran into a tropical depression with 65-mile-an-hour gusts of wind and waves which were sometimes bigger than the boat. On one occasion the Corribee was thrown from the top of a wave straight through the air into the water. "I thought the yacht was going to be smashed to pieces but incredibly it stayed together," said Alan.

Then early one morning some form of sixth sense woke Alan and warned him of pending danger. He looked up and saw a ship about 50 yards away in the darkness and heading straight for him.

"I thought my moment had come. I frantically tried to get out of my bunk, grabbed the self-steering lines to free them and pushed the tiller over. The ship was about 180 feet long and I went up its bow wave, scraping along its side. And they never even saw me."

But the journey was not all hairy incidents. During a calm near Bermuda he went over the side and swam with a school of 50 dolphins.

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THE ROYAL ARTILLERY

FROM THE GUNS of the Rotunda (Military Museums, August), what better than to visit the nearby regimental museum of the Royal Artillery where the emphasis is more on the gunners themselves and the world-wide campaigns they fought in.

This museum is divided into three main rooms. The first deals with the Royal Regiment's history up to the Crimean War, the second covers the Afghan and Zulu wars, the Egyptian campaign, Boer War and World War One, while the last room is devoted to World War Two. Spacious alcoves concentrate on the Peninsular War, the Royal Horse Artillery, harness, and animals associated with the gunners such as horses and mules, camels and elephants.

The regimental story of the RA starts on 26 May 1716 when George I issued a Royal Warrant, a facsimile of which is well displayed, authorising the raising of two permanent companies of artillery to be stationed at Woolwich. Souvenirs of those early days are highlighted by an original drawing of the siege of Louisberg in 1756 by Thomas Davies, relics of the American War of Independence, a diorama of the battle of Minden and a series of pictures of 24-pounders mounted on the Rock of Gibraltar.

Artillery uniforms of 1816, a Royal Horse Artillery helmet worn at Waterloo, Captain (later General) Thomas Mercer's Waterloo diaries and a picture of Wellington reviewing troops on Woolwich Common are among reminders of the Wellingtonian period. An Indian section features the Mutiny and there are some splendid uniforms in excellent condition of the Bombay Artillery, Bengal Artillery and Madras Artillery.

An interesting series of pictures by Gerald Campion, a gifted painter and drawing master at the Royal Military Academy from 1841 to 1870, depicts scenes such as guns fording a river or horses being slung aboard ship for the Crimea. The Crimean War itself is recalled by pictures and a variety of items, among them a Russian bugle.

Unfortunately, only part of the unrivalled Campbell collection of artillery helmet plates, badges and buttons can be shown because of lack of space, but this will be remedied when the museum is installed in larger premises in the early 1980s. A case of miscellaneous exhibits includes a gunner officer's shako of 1846-56, an 1850 Royal Military Academy cadet's pill-box cap, a Woolwich Garrison order book of 1822, a bandsman's helmet and tunic at the turn of

the century, and sidedrums of the RA mounted band.

The RHA alcove illustrates landmarks in the regiment's history from its formation in 1793 to modern times while nearby are relics of the Zulu wars and many other conflicts the world over. A limber wheel from a gun of 66 Battery, captured by the Boers and later recovered at Colenso, an action which won the gunners seven Victoria Crosses; General Botha's personal flag and sash; and a bugle carried by Gunner W Horn, said to be the first man to be killed in the Boer War, are among several reminders of the war in the Cape. Another corner of the museum is devoted to the Volunteer Artillery, the name given to the 35 corps raised in 1859 which were the forerunners of the Territorial Army.

Moving on to World War One, life on the Western Front is vividly depicted by a series of sketches by Captain J Walford while six original drawings by Matania help to complete the scene. A realistic model of an observation post and a set of barrage maps are other reminders of this conflict.

A third room is devoted to World War Two and afterwards with a diorama of the battle of Cassino and souvenirs of the Burma campaign, while North Africa and other battle zones are prominently displayed. The wartime Maritime RA (1941-46), formed to man the guns of Merchant Navy ships, and other specialist gunner formations, are also remembered while another case illustrates the development of anti-aircraft guns from the days of improvisation to the AA guns which played a vital part in World War Two. Bringing the whole display up-to-date are models of Thunderbird and Corporal missiles.

John Jesse

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Sharpshooters' Norman conquest



Above: Entente cordiale — old soldiers together.

Below: Villers Bocage after the allied bombing.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Les Wiggs

RETIRED BUSINESSMAN Mr Stan Lockwood peered round the corner of a building and up the main street of a picturesque little Normandy town — just as he had done 34 years earlier almost to the day. But on that first occasion he had seen not the peaceful scene of 1978 — but a rampant German Tiger tank which had already 'brewed up' most of the vehicles in his regiment, 4th County of London Yeomanry (The Sharpshooters).

Stan Lockwood and some of his wartime colleagues were on a sentimental pilgrimage to Villers Bocage — the scene of a fierce battle and the killing or capture of an entire British squadron as well as its regimental headquarters.

Listening as Stan related what happened that day were many young part-time soldiers, members of the present Sharpshooters — based in Croydon and descendants of the two wartime regiments of Sharpshooters. He explained that the leading squadron and the regimental headquarters had already passed through the town without opposition when they found themselves surrounded by German tanks.

"Then a Tiger appeared and shot up the leading Rifle Brigade vehicle, set it on fire and effectively blocked the road. It then proceeded down the line of vehicles, blowing up each carrier and vehicle in turn. And finally, one by one, the Cromwell tanks were brewed up."

Mr Lockwood said that as he put the nose of his Sherman tank round the street corner he spotted the Tiger, which was busy eliminating a Cromwell in a side street.

"He was facing to the right and we were able to get off four shots to his two," he said. "I don't know if it was the blast from our seventeen-pounder or whether his first shot hit the building but the whole of the corner tumbled down — and out came a German sniper. After my last shot I could see him withdrawing and on fire, so I claimed it as a hit."

This was just one of many stories of courage from the old soldiers as they relived

Another batch of old soldiers reliving those days in Normandy were from the Dorset Regiment Association. They went to the village of Hottot-Longraye where the main street was renamed 'Place du Dorset Regiment.'

Other street-naming ceremonies in honour of the regiment were at Audrieu, Maltot and Esquay-Notre-Dame. Ceremonies and acts of remembrance were also held at the 5th Battalion's memorial at Fontaine-Eutopefour, at Eterville — taken by the 4th Battalion — and in the military cemeteries at Bayeux, Hottot and Cheux.

At the exact hour — 34 years later — the group performed a simple private ceremony on the beach at Asnelles on which the 1st Battalion landed. They also stood in for their sister Devonshire Regiment at the commemoration of the capture of the Longues gun battery overlooking the landing beaches. The veterans were accompanied throughout by four members of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment who acted as buglers and escorts for the Standards on parade.

that day in which they held Villers Bocage for nine hours before withdrawing to prevent the Germans cutting their lines of communication. The town was finally relieved eight weeks later.

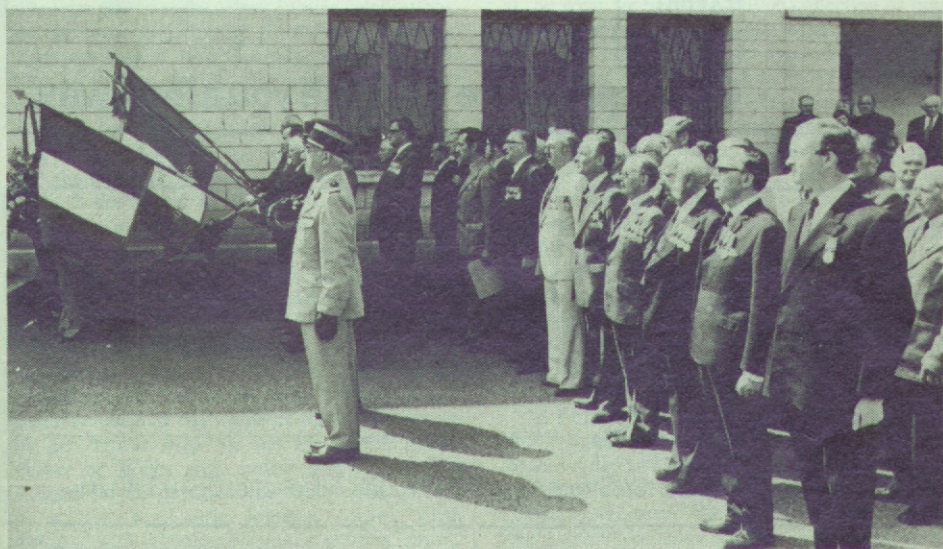
It was a day which stuck in the memories of the townspeople at Villers Bocage as well. For not long afterwards allied planes came over and bombed the town. And after all the action not much was left standing.

But today Villers Bocage is again a tranquil country town and its people have an undying affection for the British soldiers who took on the Germans that day. Hence the sentimental journey back — for Villers Bocage was to honour the Sharpshooters by naming a street after them.

More than a hundred present-day and old soldiers made the trip by coach and car to a town decorated with the Union flag and buzzing with excitement and bonhomie. After a tour of the battlefields the regimental band gave a concert in the village square, followed by a reception given by the town council at which, in addition to good food, wine and local cider, there was a display of Norman dancing, very similar to Morris dancing, in traditional costume.

Those costumes were out in force again the next morning as the townsfolk gathered for the street-naming ceremony. Adding to the colour were the Sharpshooters and their band, the British old comrades and their French counterparts, including local World War One veterans and Regular French soldiers from nearby Caen.

Colonel Jean Leveque, a Villers Bocage town councillor, told them that 13 June 1944 remained an important event in the history of their liberation and the town council had decided to commemorate it by naming the



new street 'Rue de L'Armée Britannique — Royal Yeomanry.'

He added: "I have been told that it would be closer to historical fact to call to mind the memory of the name 'Sharpshooters' — this mistake will be corrected."


After the naming ceremony and that of another street as 'Rue de 8 Mai 1945' — after VE day — the procession marched down country lanes followed by local children and the bovine population of neighbouring fields attracted by the music.

At the Town Hall, wreaths were laid on the war memorial. Then it was lunch and the long trek home. But the Sharpshooters will visit again the town which they have in their hearts as well as on their Guidon.

Said the Sharpshooters Association vice-chairman, Major John Grimwade: "The last time I saw Villers Bocage it was merely a cloud of dust obscuring the evening sun. Now we have been back to this town and seen serenity and beauty."



Top: Stan Lockwood toasts a young dancer. Centre: Costumed applause for marchers. Left: Standards dip in respect for the fallen. Above: A wreath is laid at the war memorial.



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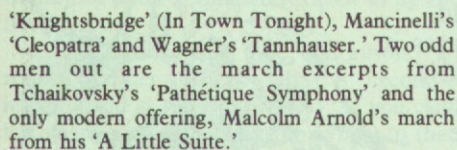
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The programme is of ten of the great concert marches, culled from opera, the theatre and the orchestral repertory. 'Fame and Glory' of course, which is played at all Royal British Legion gatherings and the Cenotaph ceremony, and Berlioz's version of the 'Rakoczy March,' the 'Marche Militaire' by Saint-Saëns, Eric Coate's



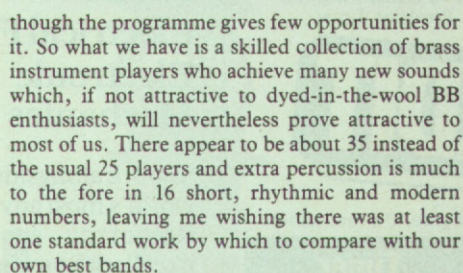
But hang about a bit while I do the aforesaid comparison. Done, and honours just about even, gentlemen — but only just. **RB**

Here is the last of the records with at least a sideways glance at the Silver Jubilee celebrations. Rarely comes an offering from Kneller Hall so collectors should take this opportunity while it lasts — it must be 12 years since 'Jiggs' Jaeger took the band to a studio.

A 'Royal Jubilee' fanfare immediately precedes a performance of the whole of the music written by Sir Arthur Bliss for the Investiture of the Prince of Wales and, unless you recorded it yourself on the day, here may be the only chance to acquire it. Laurie Johnson's suite 'Vivat Regina,' with trumpets blazing, is another 'must.'

I have already said that record producers have done a wonderful job by military bands during Jubilee year, and this is a worthy and colourful finale to a year which demanded much of our Service bands and found them not wanting. **RB**

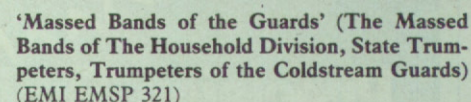
'Brass to Go' (New Zealand Army Band) (Conductor: Major J D Carson) (EMI One-Up 2206)
This is both an Army and a brass band. I feel the band to be a half-breed, as though the players are not committed brass-banders but refugees from earlier wind-band careers. The traditional and homogenous brass band 'sound' is not there



The tunes we all know from previous recordings are 'Don't Cry for Me Argentina' and 'From Scotland with Love,' (a juxtaposition which will play havoc with sales north of the Border), the themes from 'Shaft,' 'MASH,' 'The Hustle,' and from 'Jaws' of course, and the tunes 'We Love You Superstar' and 'The Homecoming.'

'A Fifth of Beethoven' is a frolic which violates the V signal, 'Mah-Na-Mah-Na' is presumably a Maori tune, and 'Holly Holy,' 'Hot Toddy' and 'Thingumbob' can speak for themselves. With 'Sweet Gingerbread Man,' 'Four to Go' and 'After the Lovin' you have a brass band programme,

This EP (45 rpm) is available from Queen's Division Junior School of Music, Basingbourn Barracks, Royston, Hertfordshire, at £1.50 plus 50p postage. **RB**



Music-wise the making of this record was not a good idea. The various bands play much better on their own (except on parade, where they produce a completely unique and perfect sound) and to have a hundred players from the three of four hundred available was asking for trouble. We have it.

In addition, all seven conductors are involved, thus causing further problems of ensemble and unanimity and, although I was not involved, I bet there was little rehearsal time. It is not exactly bad but as always with massed bands could have been so much better.

It comes in a two-record album with colourful illustrations from past and present and the programme is designed to show off the strengths of the bands. There are four fanfares, one each by Lieutenant-Colonel Sharpe, Major Ridings, Major Richards and Major Evans, and the marches 'National Emblem,' 'Marche Lorraine,' 'Spirit of the Regiments,' 'Under the Double Eagle,' 'Birdcage Walk,' 'Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch,' 'The Stars and Stripes for Ever,' 'Washington Gray,' 'Radetsky,' 'Queen's Guard,' 'San Lorenzo' and 'Fredericus Rex.'

Other music: Overture 'Themes of Offenbach,' ballet music from 'Le Corsaire,' 'The Great Gate at Kiev,' Meyerbeer's 'Coronation March,' 'Jupiter' from the 'The Planets,' 'Ode to Joy,' the minuet from 'Suite for the Royal Fireworks,' 'Farandole' from 'L'Arlésienne' and the overture to 'The Yeomen of the Guard.'

On a second listening I find it not half bad. I must remember not to review records during a hangover. **RB**

This album is also available from Treasurer, Household Division Funds, Treasurer's Office, Horse Guards, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2AX, including postage, £5.50 (UK) or £6.00 (overseas).



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SPANNING HALF A CENTURY

JUST HALF A CENTURY ago a company of sappers marched from Bulford down to Wyke Regis in Dorset to erect tents for other sappers arriving for a wet bridging camp. Now, in its golden jubilee year, the Royal Engineers Bridging Camp has acquired a new title — the Royal Engineers Training Camp — and a greatly expanded role for the years to come.

This year alone more than 30,000 soldiers will pass through Wyke Regis, mostly sappers (both Regular and reservist) but including many other corps and regiments. They will take advantage of facilities which the camp's commanding officer, Major Ernie Durey, feels are second to none in their variety.

Basic combat engineer training, range firing, infantry tactics, map reading, field defences, minelaying, demolition work, water supply, watermanship, rafting, armoured personnel carrier flotation, waterskiing, canoeing, orienteering . . . the list seems almost endless.

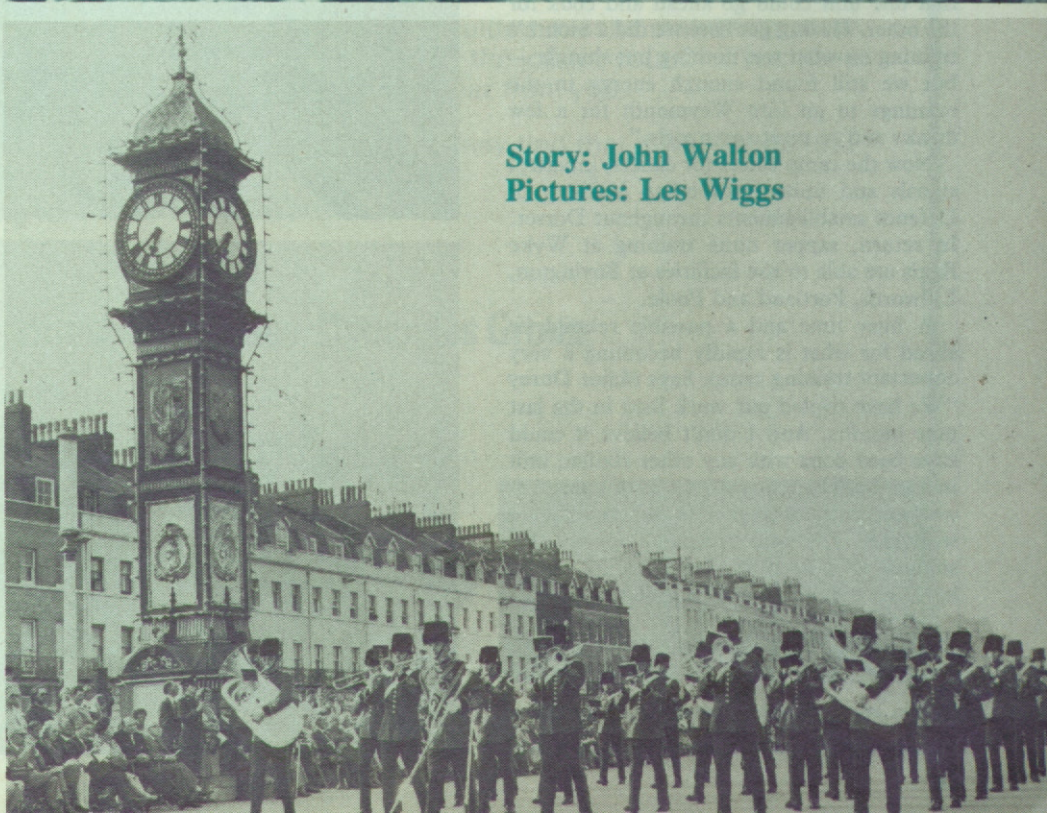
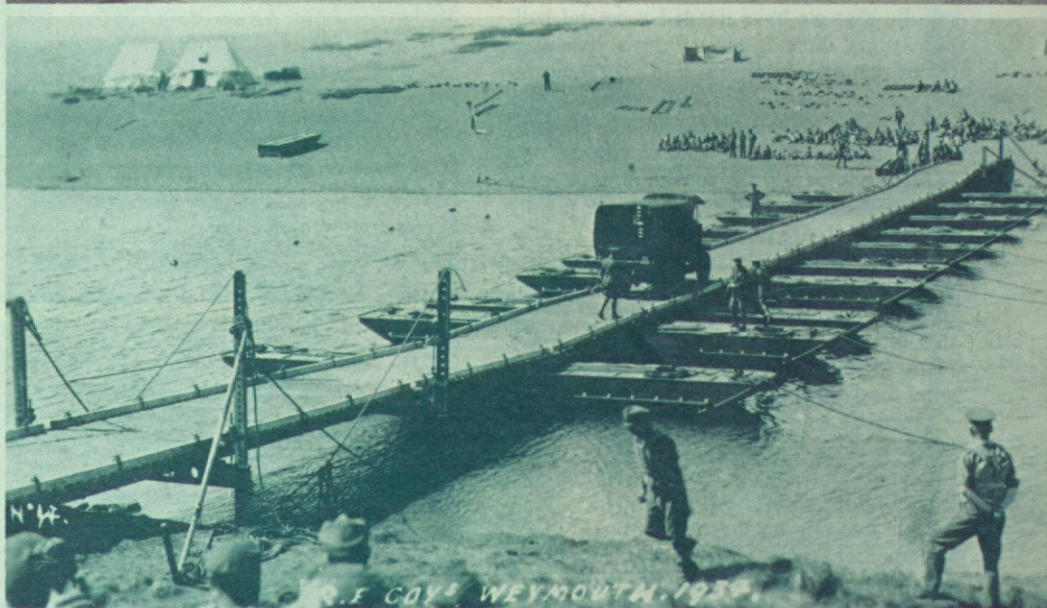
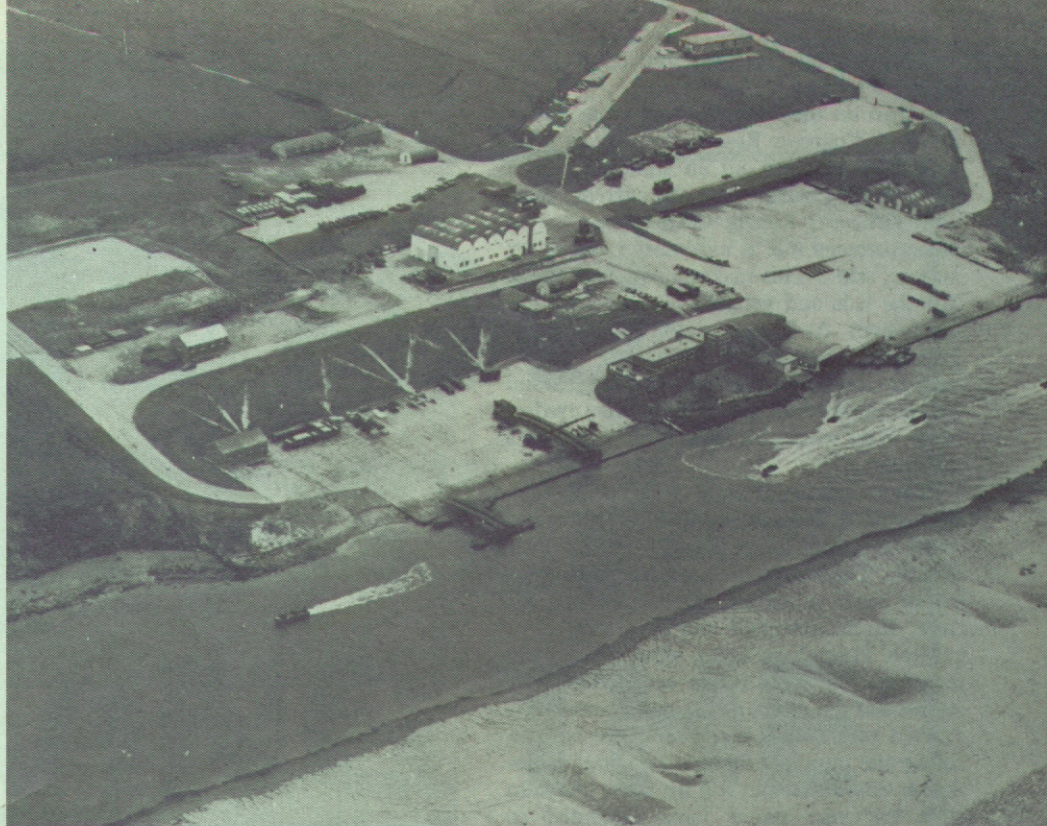
But of course bridging still takes pride of place for Wyke Regis is acknowledged as the best place in Britain for bridging. This is because the camp borders the River Fleet where the water is tidal and travels at up to five knots.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bob Ferguson, a retired sapper officer who is second-in-command at the camp, says: "If you can bridge here you can bridge anywhere in the world." The Royal Engineers take full advantage of that with every unit in Britain coming for annual bridging training.

In an average summer week there are 700 soldiers at Wyke Regis. Some are in the tented summer camp, others in permanent accommodation at nearby Chickerell. But all the units carry out their own independent training.

A typical selection of part-timers were men from three Volunteer squadrons of 73 Engineer Regiment, from London, Hull and Chesterfield. Mixed in together, these reservists, who all joined up in the previous nine months, were taking their B3 combat engineering course.

Squadron Sergeant-Major Nick Wenham, from Chesterfield, told SOLDIER: "The blokes really love it here. They work hard and there is a test every day but they look upon it as fun." His words were echoed by Sergeant Donald Wells, from Hull: "This



Top: An aerial view of the training camp shows Army boats moving along the fast-flowing Fleet.

Centre: In days gone by. Just a few tents dot the shingle at sappers' bridging camp, 1934.

Right: Camp Golden Jubilee parade on seafront at Weymouth. Picture by Dorset Evening Echo.

camp has really gone well and the facilities here are terrific."

Down on the river, sappers from Headquarters Engineer Resources at Long Marston were sending out an ambulance on a raft. As they battled with the current, Warrant Officer 2 Ronald O'Donoghue, in an unaccustomed role as hardmaster and safety officer, said: "This makes a complete break for the lads and gets them out from their workshops. At Long Marston we work outnumbered three or four to one by civilians and as carpenters, blacksmiths, welders and storemen we work alongside civilian tradesmen. Here we can go back to the Army for a fortnight."

There are only three Regular soldiers stationed at Wyke Regis — Major Durey and Staff-Sergeants Roger Humphrey and Don Felton. The rest of the staff are civilians — 31 of them, including crane operators, fitters, drivers, storemen and labourers.

Staff Humphrey looks after the troops' comforts. He sees to their accommodation, stores and the initial provision of bar stocks. "It's a very frantic life because we have to make the numbers fit the camp and sometimes this means putting up extra tents. In this last year things have expanded so rapidly that we have needed a crystal ball. Sometimes there is only a day's space between one unit going out and another coming in."

The camp holds a maximum of 400 men, with another 360 at Chickerell. In the winter, numbers drop considerably as only the permanent buildings, which are mainly at Chickerell, are in use.

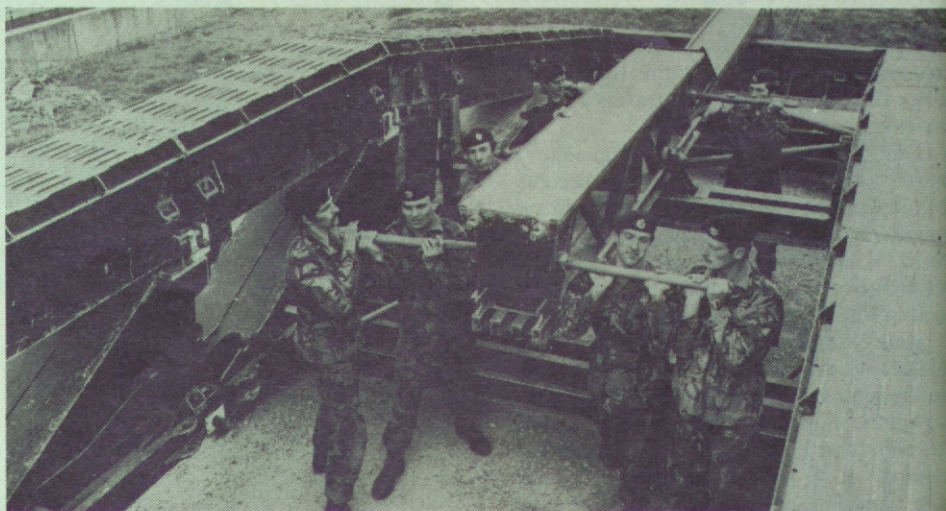
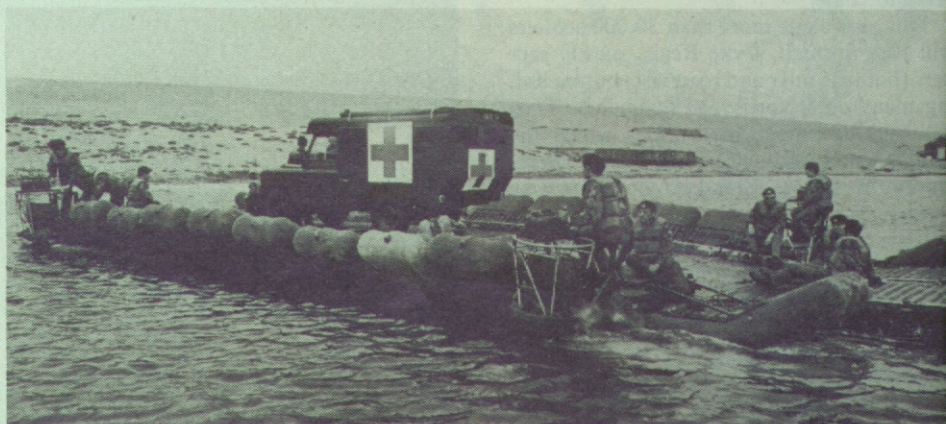
Staff Felton deals with training stores although each of the two staff-sergeants has to know the other's job. He said: "I found this job very alien at first because I am a plant fitter by trade, but it is giving me a good foothold into SQMS life."

One man who can see the changes at first hand is Colonel Ferguson. As a young sapper 40 years ago he took part in marches from Bulford to Wyke Regis.

"We had one lot marching from Bulford and another from Aldershot and it took two days," he recalled. "We used to leapfrog so that one unit could go ahead and cook for the other. Having got here we did a month's training on what was nothing but shingle — but we still found enough energy in the evenings to go into Weymouth for a few drinks and to meet some girls."

Now the camp caters for cadets, infantry, signals and units from other Ministry of Defence establishments throughout Dorset. In return, sapper units training at Wyke Regis are able to use facilities at Bovington, Lulworth, Portland and Poole.

A busy time and a possible rebuild lie ahead for what is rapidly becoming a very important training camp. Says Major Durey "We have tripled our work load in the last nine months. And I don't believe it could have been done with any other civilian unit in the British Army — we have camps at weekend, train at weekends and issue fuel at weekends but our civilians, mostly ex-soldiers who have worked here for years, have just got on with the job."



Top: Towing APC after breakdown in the river.
Top centre: How to float an ambulance across.
Bottom centre: Taking the strain on bridging.
Right: Memory corner — lunch break on beach.

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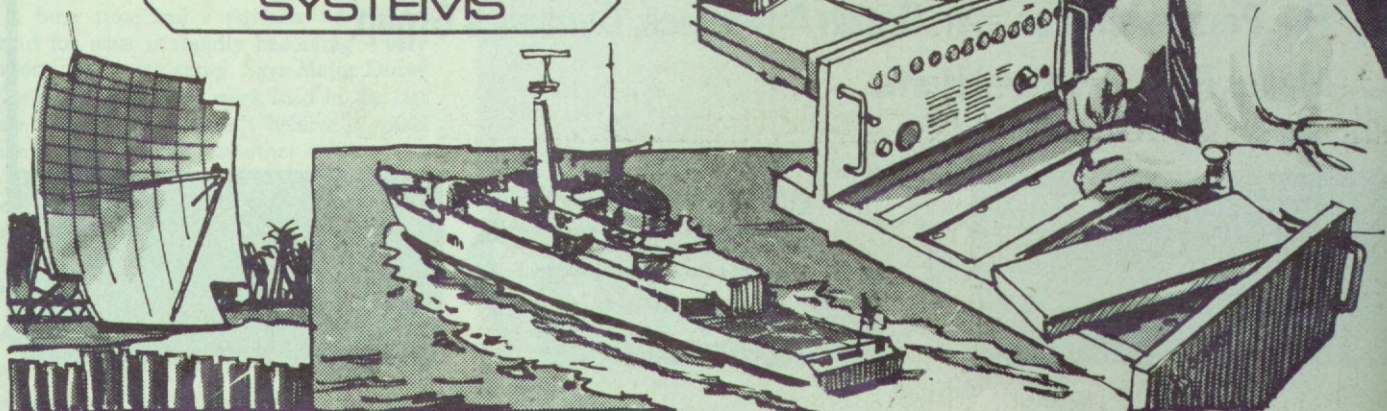
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The Gurkhas

I have read with great pride (and also sorrow) your recent articles on the Gurkhas. In the April issue you talked about the Gurkha Welfare Trust and the Brigade of Gurkhas Welfare Scheme, the latter set up in 1960 by a contribution of one day's pay from all serving officers and soldiers in British Gurkha units only. For such a worthy cause could not this scheme be extended to include contributions from all serving officers and soldiers? I realise that this suggestion may raise screams from certain quarters but on the other hand there must be thousands like myself who would give willingly. Indeed, why not one day's pay per year?

I have never served with the Gurkhas but I have met some of them during my career and tales of them during troubled times still abound throughout the Army. I think it is up to the Army to help them out — we take great pride in them so let us look after them!

I would suggest, for convenience, that all deductions go direct to the Gurkha Welfare Trust. — **WO1 R Calvert, Defence Section, British Embassy, Jakarta.**

Sixty years on

For the past five years I have been involved in welfare work for our 1914-18 veterans and have organised annual reunions for about 250 of them in Birmingham. As it is almost 60 years since the armistice I am making a special effort this year and the Birmingham Evening Mail has agreed to provide a dinner for all 350 veterans in Birmingham, to be held in the council banqueting suite.

I am trying to spread the gospel in the hope that other large towns and cities will similarly try to acknowledge and help the 1914-18 veterans while we still have the privilege and opportunity to do so. — **E Gumbley (Secretary, 1914-18 Veterans), 106 St John's Avenue, Kidderminster.**

Tradition

In support of Mr R H G Travers-Bogusz and his criticism of the enlarging of the Army's 'elitist' units, in this case the new demonstration battalion (Letters, 'May'), to the detriment of our established and efficient county regiments, I would like to add some constructive alternatives of my own.

Since the turn of the century the Guards have been swelled by 40 per cent while regiments of the line have been cut by more than 50 per cent, surely reducing the validity of the élite. My own county regiment, 'The Tigers,' was the most senior to suffer disbandment and, unlike others in

the same boat, saw their many unique customs ignored by the parent corps and supposed protectors of these. The old family traditions that made units like the Buffs, 'Shiners,' 'Jellalabad Heroes' and 'Die-Hards' give of their best now give way to clumsy titles like The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters which can instil little regimental loyalty and appease no-one.

Let us give priority for life to the regiments with the longest traditions and disband those with the shortest, including the Irish Guards and Welsh Guards. The four 'regiments' that make up the Royal Tank Regiment are senselessly occupying jobs that can now be undertaken by cavalry regiments and, as all infantry units are now trained to think for themselves and fight like the infantry of old, why should not The Light Infantry resurrect four of its former regiments and assert its special role as paras, with the phasing out of The Parachute Regiment? — **P Griffin, 22 Roydene Crescent, Leicester.**

Dunkirk

I am completing a book about Dunkirk and would very much like to get in touch with anyone who participated in those stirring days. I would greatly appreciate it if any reader can help. — **Walter Lord, c/o Penguin Books Ltd, 17 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1.**

Blue turbans

Your April *SOLDIER* News ('Croydon's seal of approval') stated that Driver Tarlochan Singh Thanjal thought he and another Sikh in 240 Squadron were the only two soldiers to wear a turban in Royal Corps of Transport blue.

There are in fact many Sikhs in the Army. I enlisted into the Royal Army Service Corps in June 1964 and, after obtaining special permission from the Ministry of Defence, have since worn my blue turban, long hair and beard and served in various countries. My son joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in January this year and is now at Leconfield undergoing driver training. — **Sgt Baldev Singh, 54 Sqn RCT, BFPO 29.**

Crown Imperial

A London and Home Counties branch of Crown Imperial, the society for the study of the history, traditions and regalia of the Crown, has been formed and will hold monthly meetings — details can be obtained from Mr R Giles, 48 Brent Road, Shooters Hill, Plumstead, London SE. Crown Imperial, formed five years ago, now has branches in London, Somerset/Dorset/Devon, Strensall (Yorkshire), Toronto (Canada) and Reading (Massachusetts, USA) — **Charles Cowie,**

(founder), 5 Warwick Crescent, Harrogate, West Yorkshire.

They are 'Royal'

With reference to your June issue ('See-the-Army Diary' and *SOLDIER* News) may I respectfully draw your attention to the fact that the Hong Kong Police are entitled to be addressed with the 'Royal' prefix — the significance of which, in a magazine such as *SOLDIER*, requires no further comment from me. — **Chief Inspector R E Green, Royal Hong Kong Police, 129/6 Grand Court, Kadoorie Avenue, Kowloon, Hong Kong.**

**Apologies to the Royal Hong Kong Police and to Chief Inspector Green.*

Jerboa lives on



As serving soldiers in 4 Field Squadron, Sapper K Louis and myself (pictured above) would like to point out that the jerboa has not disappeared from the Army ('Desert Rats bows out' — *SOLDIER* News, May) but is the adopted sign of our squadron and prominently displayed on our vehicles, squadron flag and wall plaques. — **L/Cpl D K Davidson, 3 Tp, 4 Fd Sqn, 1 Armed Div Engr Regt RE, BFPO 48.**

Gavel and mallet

As chairman of the Southampton Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association I hold a mallet and gavel made from the hoof of the horse Warrior which was wounded by shrapnel on the Aisne during the retreat from Mons in 1914. Subsequently Warrior was bought and presented to the Southampton Police. The gavel and mallet have been used at meetings of the Southampton Branch and we are hoping to find an appropriate museum which would accept these. We are also interested in knowing where the horse came from and with which unit it was serving when wounded.

We do know that Warrior was bought out of the Service in 1919 by Miss Hilda Moore and presented to the Southampton Borough Police, with which force he served until his death in August 1935. Warrior, ridden by an Old Contemptible, headed our branch's annual parade from 1929 to 1935. In January 1935, the Chief Constable accepted an attachment for Warrior's martingale, showing the 1914 Star ribbon, and after his death Warrior's hooves were given to the branch.

One became the gavel and the others, in the form of inkstands, were presented in May 1937 to the Mayor of Southampton, the branch president (Colonel H M W Parker) and the

branch chairman (Chum F H Waldren).

The mallet, presented to the branch by Colonel Parker, is made from the wood of a tent mallet which went to France in October 1914 with 112 Heavy Battery, 3rd Heavy Brigade, 7th Division Artillery. — **C G Bougourd, 205 Midanbury Lane, Bitterne Park, Southampton.**



Museum or not

As a regular reader of *SOLDIER*, which I look forward to every month, I should like to reply as a layman to the letters by Mr Bell and Colonel Newton on the subject of medals. I agree with Mr Bell's remarks about regimental museums and feel that Colonel Newton, in refuting them, is looking after his own bread-and-butter.

I congratulate Mr Bell on his book 'Soldiers Killed on the First Day of the Somme' and would point out to Colonel Newton that these men are what regimental museums were built for. I am sure their descendants are more interested in their deeds and heroism than in medals awarded in New Year's Honours lists. Incidentally, a cleaner at our local town hall was awarded the BEM last year. — **J Sydenham, 1a Albert Street, Aberdare, Mid-Glamorgan.**

On standards

With reference to the medals letter and in particular to Colonel Newton's assertion that 'the proper home for medals is the regiment in which the soldier earned them,' I was very interested to note, while attending the 29th annual reunion of the Voluntari di Bir el Gobi at Bari, Italy, that medals awarded to soldiers in some of the Bersaglieri and Italian armoured regiments are actually mounted on their standards.

The standards were not like the usual British flag-type but stiffened and mounted on the front of the pole; the medals were on these with the gold medals (presumably the equivalent to our Victoria Cross) on the top row, then the others in rows below.

One might be excused for thinking that the Italians would want to wear their medals themselves, but with a

In May letters, Mr J G Stone suggested that recommendation for the Meritorious Service Medal in respect of warrant and senior non-commissioned officers on the extra-regimental employed list should be vested in officers i/c records. This because many are employed in small units and in some cases isolated jobs under command of officers below field rank unaware of either the soldier's service record or the necessity for submitting recommendations.

The Ministry of Defence replies that Mr Stone and others may be interested to know that 'procedures on the lines suggested by Mr Stone are currently in existence.'

few exceptions who wore miniatures, they seemed to be more interested in wearing the badges of their associations. — **Alec Lewis** (General Secretary, Eighth Army Veterans' Association), 7 Whinfell Road, West Derby. Liverpool, L12 2AS.

Combattants Alliés

Readers may be interested in the Fédération des Combattants Alliés en Europe through which they can obtain various medals for service in World War Two. The only stipulations are that one must become a member of the Federation and supply photocopies of Service documents. The Federation has 90,000 members in France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Luxembourg, Monaco, Great Britain, Canada, United States, Australia, Ethiopia, Brazil, Hong Kong, Tunisia and Egypt.

Those interested can write to me (enclosing stamped addressed envelope) for further information. — **Col H Jubb**, 18 Grammar School Road, Hull, HU5 4NZ.

Forest School

Next year is the silver jubilee of the Forest School, Horsham (originally known as Forest County Secondary School for Boys) and in July 1979 we plan to hold a grand concert in which I would like to present a band comprising past and present members of the school band. A number of past members have found their way into Service bands and I would be grateful if these ex-Forest musicians, if they are interested, would contact me for further details — **V P Slater**, Musical Director, The Forest School, Comptons Lane, Horsham, RH13 5NW.

Reunions

The Sherwood Foresters Association. Reunion, Chesterfield, 21 October.

The Duke of Wellington's Regimental and Old Comrades Regimental Associations. Annual reunion, Saturday 23 September, St Paul's Street Drill Hall, Huddersfield. Annual general meeting 6.30pm, dinner 7.30 for 8.00pm. Tickets (£3.50) and further details from General Secretary, RHQ The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Wellesley Park, Highroad Well, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2 0BA (phone: Halifax (0422) 61671).

9th Battalion (1939-45), York & Lancaster Regiment. Annual dinner, Saturday 21 October, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield. Details from Regimental Secretary, RHQ The York & Lancaster Regiment, Endcliffe Hall, Endcliffe Vale Road, Sheffield, S10 3EU.

67 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (1939-45) (265, 266, 466 batteries). Reunion, October. Details from Maj M Roberts, Greenlands, Rose Bank, Fernhill, Worcester.

82 Armoured Engineer Squadron RE Old Comrades Association. The 33rd annual reunion buffet, Royal Green Jackets' Sergeants' Mess, 56 Davies Street, London W1, Saturday 4 November, 6-11pm. Members of the new 82 Sqn — the former B Squadron of the Junior Leaders Regiment RE, Dover, redesignated on 1 April — have been invited to attend.) Contact: Lionel T Crate, 364

King Street, London, W6 0RX (phone: 01-748 6755).

The Royal Scots Association. Social (male only), 7.30pm, Friday 29 September, The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh, of the association's new section — The Young Royals Section — based in Edinburgh but with countryside membership and encompassing all who have served in the regiment since 1945 to date. Any ex-member of the regiment welcome to social — bar and buffet available. Contact: Jack R Cockburn, c/o Regimental HQ, The Royal Scots, The Castle, Edinburgh, EH1 2TY.

Duke of York's Royal Military School Old Boys' Association. Annual remembrance reunion, Dover, 11-12 November. Details from Hon General Secretary, A Sadler, 1 Bushy Road, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey (phone: Bookham 52093).

Beachley Old Boys Association. Annual reunion 29-30 September, 1 October. Particulars and booking forms from Hon Secretary, BOBA, Army Apprentices College, Chesham, Gwent, NP6 7YG.

'Railway' sappers. Social, Saturday 28 October, BRSA Club, Inkerman Street, Vauxhall, Birmingham, and presentation to Col John Pollard, CO 60 Railway Regiment (AER RE), Longmoor, 1948-66, retired from British Rail Apr 78 and retiring from Colonel of Volunteers RCT October 78. Contact: R E Lowe, Area Manager, British Rail, Saltley, Birmingham (put SAPPER top left-hand corner of envelope and enclose self-addressed stamped envelope for details).

WRAC Association. Northern Area reunion, Crescent Room, Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate, 2.30-6pm, Saturday 7 October. Tickets £1.00 (including tea) from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 9BY, not later than Thursday 28 September (on holiday 7-21 September). All Army ex-servicewomen welcome.

Competition

Fortunately it was 'as plain as a pike-staff' that only 33 words and not 34 were required in May's Competition 238 ('As clear as crystal'). Readers were erroneously but generously given 'fiddle' in 'As --- as a fiddle.' There were some rather wild answers but those accepted were: As STRONG as an ox, as CLOSE as an oyster, as FIT as a fiddle, as HUNGRY as a HUNTER, as PRETTY as a PICTURE, as nice as PIE, as sweet as HONEY (or SUGAR), as ugly as SIN, as heavy as LEAD, as FLAT as a pancake, as MAD as a hatter, as LIVELY (or CHIRPY) as a cricket, as STRAIGHT as a die, as LIGHT as a feather, as slippery as an EEL, as wise as an OWL, as PROUD as a PEACOCK, as BROWN as a BERRY, as COOL as a CUCUMBER, as DRY as dust, as NEAT as ninepins, as SAFE as houses, as RICH as Croesus, as sober as a JUDGE, as drunk as a LORD, as clean as a WHISTLE, as white as a SHEET, and as playful as a KIT-TEN.

Prizewinners:

1 Maj M S Wilmot, Fetcham Lodge, Fetcham, Surrey.

2 C C Wicker, 10 Stuart Mill House, Killick Street, London, N1 9BA.

3 F/Cpl S D Brown, Comd Coy, 8 (Co Tyrone) Bn, UDR, BFPO 803.

4 Sgt W Bugg WRAC, ACIO, 37 Silent Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

5 Maj C N Cullen, 18 Fairview Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham.

6 R G Coase, 7 Highfield Court, Glebelands Road, Prestwich, Manchester.

7 Jeremy Gardner, 88 Wembdon Road, Wembdon, Bridgwater, Somerset.

8 Mrs D E Dean, 40 Pollard Close, Hooe, Plymouth.

Collectors' Corner

James Walsh, 190 McKee Avenue, Finglas, Dublin 11, Republic of Ireland. — *Seeks copy biography RSM Ronald Brittain, Coldm Gds — 'The Sergeant-Major' by James Leasor, published mid-1950s.*

J R Mander, 35 Tweed House, St Leonards Road, London, E14 6RE. — *Commanding officer and bandmaster, Tower Hamlets Corps of Drums ('The Redcoats') wishes to buy second-hand bugles and band equipment in good condition and of British manufacture for this new youth band. (Phone 01-515 2319).*

Sgt P H Starling RAMC, 2 Pendlebury House, Master Gunner Place, Woolwich, SE18 4NQ. — *Seeks*

insignia and military of Medical Staff Corps and RAMC; Lancaster sword bayonet with markings MSC or RAMC; old photos RAMC and MSC uniforms.

F A J Wright, RR 2, Knowlton, Province of Quebec, JOE 1VO, Canada. — *Has for sale or trade Nazi Party badge (1933 Hannover), oval, bronze; 1 S Staffs officer's two-piece sterling silver brooch-type; CEF 23 Montreal Bn; Regt de Maisonneuve; Canadian Gren Gds (last three KC); British and Canadian Legion of Frontiersmen. Trade for RAF Ferry/Tpt Comd items or RAF WO Blues (42) and cap (7½) — no repros please!*

How observant are you?

(see page 7)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Cow's left horn. 2 Height of roof left house. 3 Smoke from barge chimney. 4 Pipe of standing soldier. 6 Grassy bank at front of barge. 7 Shape of barge's rudder. 8 Standing soldier's left elbow patch. 9 Number of black ripples below 'Witch.' 10 Bottom left corner of road sign.

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

See-the-Army DIARY

SEPTEMBER 1978

- 1 Birmingham Show (1-3 September) (band; Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training display.)
- 2 Hinkley Steam Engine Rally (2-3 September) (Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle display team).
- 2 Guildford Town Show (2-3 September) (band; Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team 3 September).
- 2 Cosgrove Park Carnival (2-3 September) (band).
- 3 Spectro 78, Waterbeach (band; The Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team).
- 7 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (Red Caps).
- 9 Freedom of Nottingham, 17th/21st Lancers.
- 9 Romsey Agricultural and Horse Show (Red Caps).
- 9 Theale Horticultural Show, Reading (RA motorcyclists).
- 10 Epping Forest Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 15 Welwyn Garden City Water Show (Royal Green Jackets freefall).
- 16 Open Day, Royal School of Military Engineering, Chatham.
- 17 Royal Engineers' memorial service and veterans' parade, Rochester Cathedral.
- 21 Thame Show (band).
- 23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.
- 24 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Cumnock and Ayr; old Colours laid up in Auld Kirk, Ayr.
- 26 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow.

OCTOBER 1978

- 14 Queen's Own Highlanders bicentenary parade, Elgin.

JUNE 1979

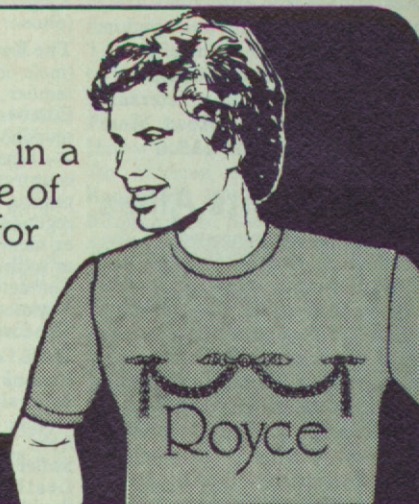
- 23 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (23-24 June).

AUGUST 1979

- 2 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (2-11 August).

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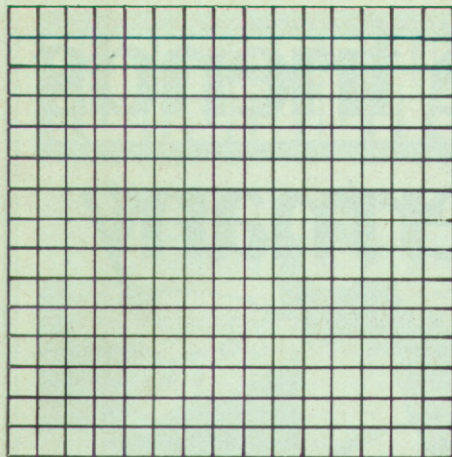
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COMPETITION 242

A BIGGER grid and one might have reached the Inn of the Seventh Happiness — as it is there are only three 'inns' in this do-it-yourself crossword. All you have to do is to assemble the 25 small squares into the blank grid and send your answer, on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 242' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 242)
SOLDIER
Ordnance Road
ALDERSHOT
Hants
GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 6 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in the January 1979 **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 242' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

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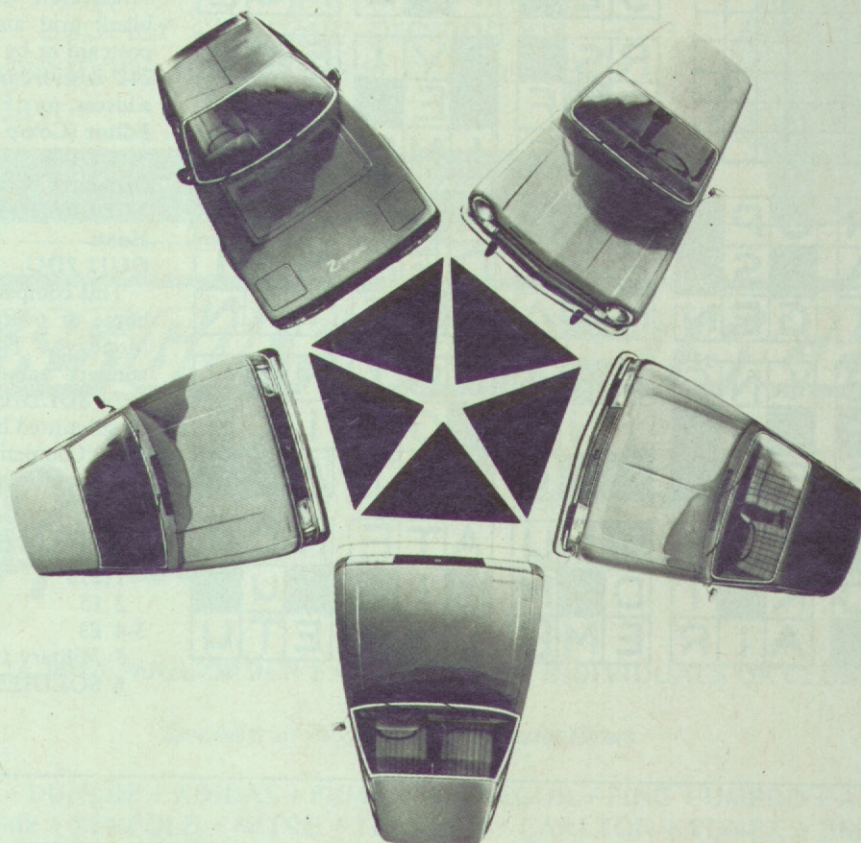
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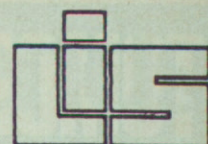
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Books

Guns and AFVs

'Jane's Pocket Book 4: Modern Tanks and Armoured Fighting Vehicles' (Christopher F Foss)

'Armoured Fighting Vehicles of the World' (Christopher F Foss)

'Jane's Pocket Book 18: Towed Artillery' (Christopher F Foss)

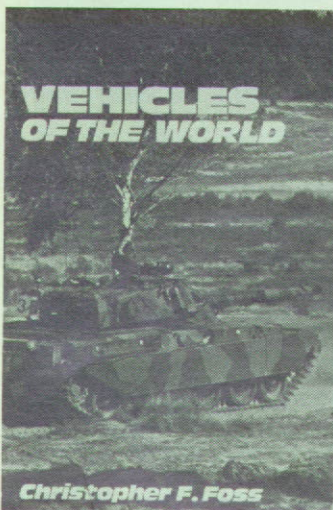
'American Half-Tracks of World War Two' (Chris Ellis and Peter Chamberlain)

'WW2 Facts Files: Allied Combat Tanks' (Peter Chamberlain and John Milsom)

Generally speaking, these books bring us up-to-date with tanks and other armoured vehicles of the last four decades. The only ones missing are the Axis combat tanks of World War Two which were the subject of an earlier WW2 Fact File.

The first two of Christopher Foss's offerings are up-dated versions of earlier books. He observes that new vehicles and variants are appearing at such a pace that, even with updating, new ones may well have appeared while his book was in the press, and others may have been phased out.

In Jane's Pocket Book 18, Mr Foss



used on a grand scale by the German Wehrmacht, with France pursuing a parallel development, the half-track caught America's eye and theirs combined German concept and French simplicity to produce a splendid compromise between fast road running and effective cross-country performance. All the many variants are described in detail.

Messrs Chamberlain and Milsom cover well-trodden ground with a run-down on French, Polish, British, Russian and American tanks of World War Two. It was the war in which the tank came into its own and, though there were better ones, the most fascinating is perhaps the five-turreted Russian T-35, a land warship which did not, however, survive beyond the Battle of Moscow in December 1941.

1 Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, Paulton House, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £2.95 pvc, £3.95 hardback.

2 Ian Allen Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £3.95

3 Macdonald & Jane's, £2.95 pvc, £3.95 hardback

4 Bellona Publications, 14 St James Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, £2.95

5 Macdonald & Jane's, £3.50 cased, £2.50 paperback JCW

Military writings

'The Sword and the Pen' (Prepared by Sir Basil Liddell Hart: edited by Adrian Liddell Hart)

The late Sir Basil Liddell Hart planned 'a selection of the great writings on military topics by historians and authorities of all nations from ancient times to the present day.' After Sir Basil's death, his son took over the task and presents extracts from nearly 80 authors.

The earliest item is from the Book of Judges, with Gideon and his 300 getting rid of the host of Midian by blowing trumpets, breaking pitchers and crying 'The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon' — surely one of the easiest bloodless victories on record. The most recent item is Sir Basil's nutshell version of his Strategy of Indirect Approach, which takes rather more digesting.

Naturally, Clausewitz, that early nineteenth-century pundit much quoted by World War Two commentators, is represented. More surprisingly, Ludendorff, World War One commander, is quoted as saying that, the nature of war having changed, "all the theories of Clausewitz should be thrown overboard."

Wellington, writing from Portugal in 1811, urges the Government to keep his army in the Peninsula, tying down 200,000 of Napoleon's troops, for nowhere else could his 50,000

men be used so cheaply and profitably. A few pages on, Napoleon is confiding to his Grand Equerry that the British were playing into his hands because Wellington's campaign in Spain was causing him far less trouble than if the British were to make expeditions against the coasts he had to defend.

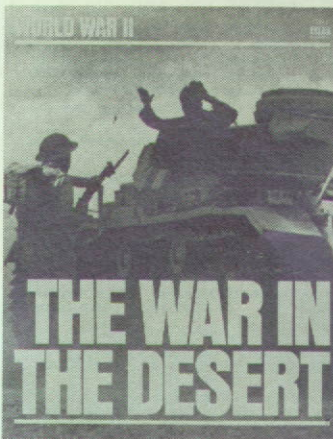
Cassell & Co Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £6.25 RLE

In the Desert

'World War II: The War in the Desert' (Richard Collier)

'Afrika Korps at War Vol 1: The Road to Alexandria' (George Forty)

Mr Collier, and the editors of Time-Life Books, present the full story of the North African campaign from the ill-fated Italian invasion to the final Italo-German defeat in Tunisia. It is profusely illustrated and Mr Collier and his co-authors do a smooth workmanlike job of describing the ebb and flow of the desert battles. The narrative is punctuated frequently with quotes and recollections from private soldiers and lieutenants, captains and colonels — indicative of thorough research — although at times, the authors appear to be confused over which units did what.



For instance, in the description of Operation Battleaxe in June 1941, we read of the German 5th Light Division being in fierce combat with tanks of 'the British 7th Armored Regiment.' They mean, of course, 7th Armoured Brigade.

Colonel Forty's book, first of two on the Afrika Korps, traces the highlights of Rommel's first momentous year in the desert. It is unique among books on the desert war in that a British author allows members of the Afrika Korps to tell the story in their own words.

In a foreword, Rommel's former Chief of Operations, General Siegfried Westphal, comments on the high standards of chivalry and morality which marked the desert battles and adds: 'Lieutenant-Colonel Forty deserves the thanks of all the old German soldiers in that he has given his fellow countrymen the view from the other side of the hill. This work should contribute to the final reconciliation of the former adversaries. For this reason alone I wish this book a wide circulation.'

It is a well-founded wish and, judging by the number of former Eighth and First Army veterans who go as

honoured guests to DAK reunions, one that is well on the way to being fulfilled.

Colonel Forty has also found a treasure trove of unfamiliar photographs of the Afrika Korps.

1 Time-Life Books, Time & Life Building, New Bond Street, London, W1Y 0AA, £6.50

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

The 'Skins'

'Change and Challenge 1928-1978' (General Sir Cecil Blacker and Major-General H G Woods)

If for nothing else, this book is remarkable in that it has been written by two generals. But then the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, whose story it is, have been more productive of generals than most regiments.

A third general wrote the history of the 'Skins' up to the end of World War Two. The present authors summarise 1685-1928 in a short preface and take the round half-century from there, going rather dully over World War Two.

It is after 1945 that their book both comes alive and covers new ground. The Skins were occupation troops in Germany, fought as a tank regiment in Korea, manned the Canal Zone in Egypt, had a spell as a National Service training 'sausage machine' at Catterick, went back to Rhine Army, and kept the peace in Hong Kong, Aden, Libya, and (as infantry) in Cyprus. They also changed from tanks to armoured cars and back again and more than kept their end up in sport.

They carefully nurtured their regimental family and there are two measures of their success — the 'astonishing' number of National Servicemen who extended their service to fight with the regiment in Korea, and the successions of fathers and sons in both the officers' and sergeants' messes. Anybody researching into what makes a good regiment tick can learn a good deal from these pages.

Home HQ, 5th R Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, The Castle, Chester, CH1 2DN, hardback £4.50, paperback £1.00 RLE

Women at War

'What a Way to Win a War' (Pat Hall)

The Mechanised Transport Corps was born at the start of World War Two as a group of women willing to spare a few hours chauffeuring, in their own cars, in the national interest.

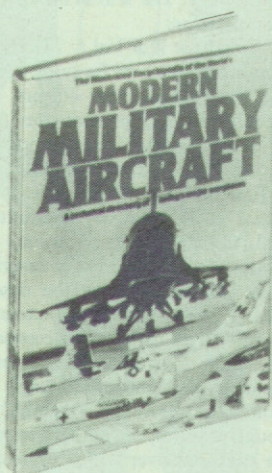
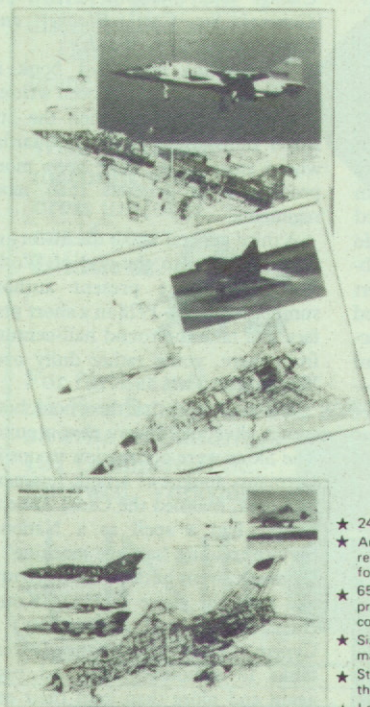
Some of them sailed as ambulance drivers to the Middle East, with Mrs Hall as their sergeant-major. They were, she says, 'self-willed women, drawn from the hunting field and the golf course, from the beauty salon and the secretarial desk.'

They were also, she makes plain, snobs, unwilling to mix with their military equals, seeking their social life in the brassier ranks. But for all their airs and graces, they worked with a will. By the time they moved to Rome in late 1944, they had clocked up more than a 1,250,000

continued over

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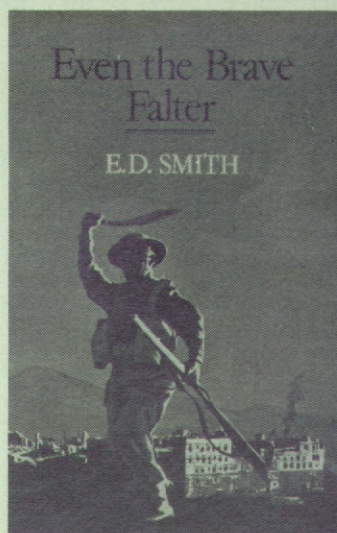
'Birdie' Smith

'Even the Brave Falter' (E D Smith) Brigadier 'Birdie' Smith first saw action in Italy in 1944 at the battle for Cassino. His apprenticeship was as a battalion patrol-master, an ad hoc appointment, making much noise to persuade the Germans that most units were still on the Adriatic coast when they had been transferred to the other side of Italy. Before his 21st birthday he was a company commander in the 2nd/7th Gurkhas.

In this absorbing book, he records his mistakes candidly. He lost his company's way as it was marching to the start-line for an attack and his senior Gurkha viceroy's commissioned officer conducted a battle for him when, ignoring advice, he allowed himself to be cut off from his company headquarters. His candour does not stop at his own shortcomings. He describes also those of his superior officers, whose names, consequently, he disguises. And, as the title reveals, he even admits that his beloved Gurkhas were not perfect.

Thus, at the highlight of the author's war, the attack on a village called Taveleto, they faltered. Weary, hungry and mistrustful of an ill-prepared plan, they did not respond to his first order to advance. So he gave them a tongue-lashing and then, instead of advancing steadily as he intended, they raced off baying for blood. The company got Taveleto, a battle honour for their regiment, a Distinguished Service Order for the author, and 50 per cent casualties.

Robert Hale Ltd, Clerkenwell House, Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £4.50 **RLE**



No powder

'Smith's Standard Encyclopedia of Gas, Air and Spring Guns of the World' (W H B Smith)

There is a large market, both in Europe and the United States, for air and gas guns, for recreational shoot-

ing, hunting, military training and target shooting. Among the reasons is the increasing cost of powder arms and the difficulties in finding ranges on which to fire them.

Not that first-class air guns are cheap. Nor are they in any way less accurate within their limited range. Whereas powder arms need stopbutts and even .22-inch shots can still be lethal at almost a mile, the bullets from air guns lose their velocity rapidly and fall to the ground within 100 yards. They are finely accurate within their limitations and can form a five-shot one-inch group at 60 feet. Within short ranges they are deadly, can be useful for game and competition and are comparatively quiet.

This volume was first published in the United States in 1957, is now a standard work and is published in Britain for the first time. It starts with the blowgun and covers weapons operated by air, steam and carbon dioxide. The 350 photographs and 140 drawings are of valuable assistance to all interested in the subject.

Arms & Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ, £7.95 **GRH**

'Trounds'

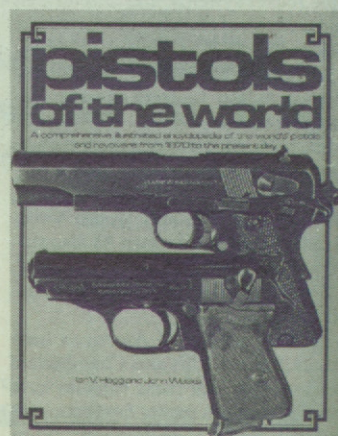
'Pistols of the World' (Ian V Hogg and John Weeks)

Here you have them all — some 2000 handguns in a 'comprehensive illustrated encyclopedia of the world's pistols and revolvers from 1870 to the present day.' They are set out in alphabetical order for easy reference and more than 600 are illustrated. They include six, eight-, ten- and 12-shot automatics and all the famous names such as Colt, Browning, Beretta, Smith & Wesson, Mauser, Webley, Enfield and Luger, as well as some not so well known which played their part in evolution.

One such was the Dardick which came on the market in 1954 but ended production in 1962. It was the first major innovation since the introduction of the automatic, being an 'open chamber' gun with some kinship to the revolver. It fired 'trounds' instead of rounds — the bullet case being almost triangular.

A special table lists ammunition by calibre, weight, velocity, length, diameter and type; the general index catalogues details of the 2000 arms.

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