

MAY 1971 ★ 7½p

SOLDIER





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but there's more of it in the Australian Army

SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

MAY 1971

The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, royal salutes, Hyde Park, London, 2 June (anniversary coronation), 10 June (Prince Philip's birthday), 12 June (Queen's official birthday), 4 August (Queen Mother's birthday).

Household Division guard mounting from Horse Guards, London, 11, 13, 18, 20 and 25 May.

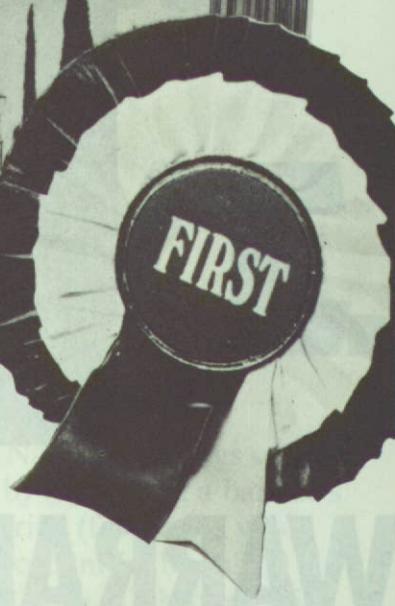
- 12 Marlborough exhibition, Burlington Arcade, London.
- 12 Royal Military School of Music band concert, Kneller Hall, Twickenham.
- 15 Gala concert by Kneller Hall Band, Royal Festival Hall, London (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).
- 19 Army recruiting display, West Midland show, Shrewsbury (19-20 May) (Red Devils free-fall team, Royal Signals White Helmets motorcycle team, bands).
- 19 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 19 Freedom of Aldershot, Army Catering Corps; and At home, ACC Training Centre.
- 22 Lord Mayor's show, Belfast.
- 26 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 27 Royal Ulster Agricultural Society show, Balmoral, Northern Ireland (27-30 May) (bands).
- 28 Military display, Dundee (28-30 May) (band, pipes and drums, motorcycle team, free-fall team).
- 28 Massed bands parade, Bielefeld, West Germany (28-29 May).
- 29 Tidworth tattoo (29-31 May).
- 29 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 29 Watford carnival and fete (29 and 31 May) (band).
- 31 Aldington carnival (band).
- 31 Three-mile parade (with 11 bands) to launch Fourth Festival of London Stores.
- 31 SSAFA international air display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.

JUNE 1971

- 2 Glasgow military display (2-13 June).
- 2 Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (2-3 June) (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).
- 2 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 3 Massed bands parade, Dortmund, West Germany (3-5 June).
- 4 11th international festival of military music, Mons, Belgium (4-8 June).
- 5 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 5 Nuneaton carnival (5-6 June) (band and drums, Red Devils, Royal Artillery motorcycle team, Blue Eagles).
- 5 Open day, Army Apprentices College, Harrogate.
- 5 Lord Mayor's parade, Sheffield (band).
- 6 Battersea parade (Royal Tournament).
- 7 Scottish Division massed pipes and drums beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (9-26 June).
- 9 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 11 Army recruiting display, Leigh, Lancashire (11-12 June).
- 11 Gosport cadet tattoo, St George's Barracks, Gosport (11-13 June).
- 11 Military tattoo/trade fair, Sidcup (11-13 June) (band).
- 12 Chingford bonanza (band).
- 12 Porchester carnival (bands, arena events).
- 12 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 12 Army display, Catterick.
- 13 Welsh 3000s, Snowdonia.
- 14 Garter service, Windsor.



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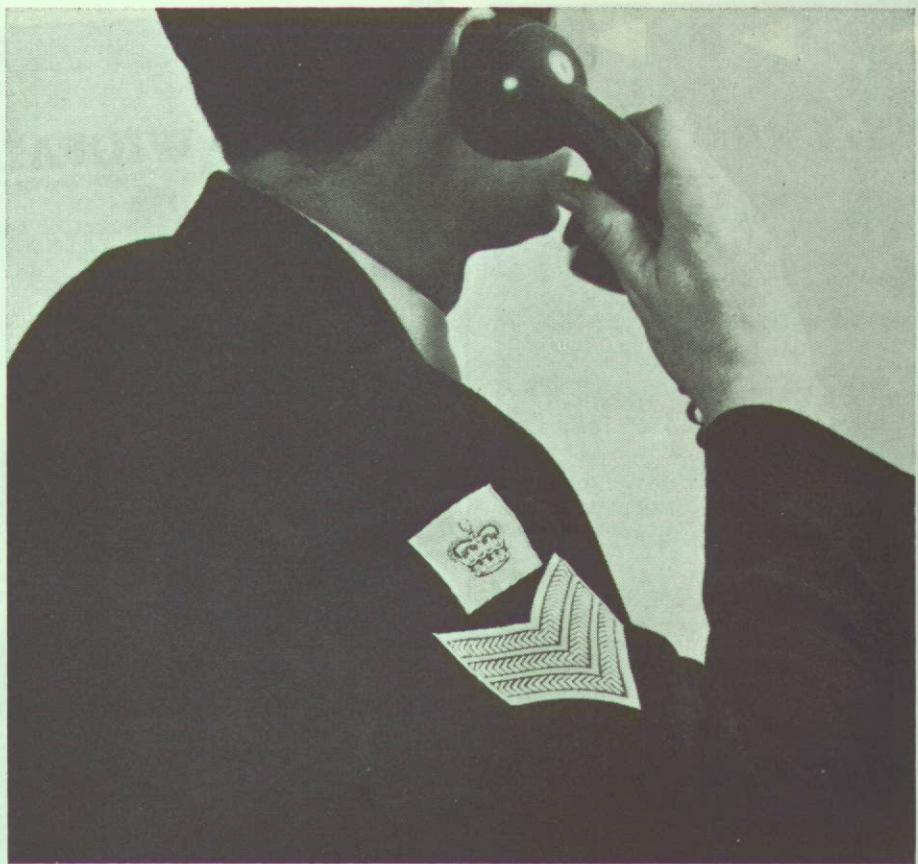
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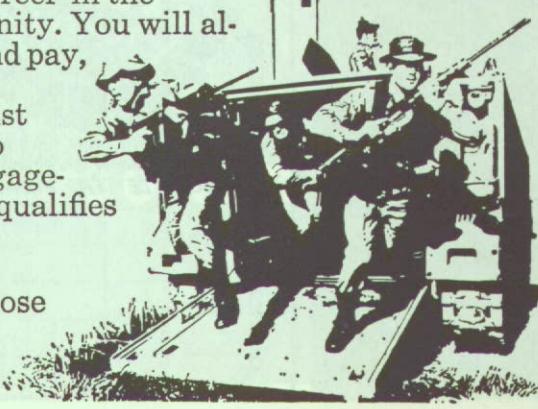
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2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356



DIARY

continued

JUNE 1971

- 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 19 North Wilts cadet tattoo, Swindon.
- 19 British Legion (County of Northumberland) jubilee celebrations, Whitby Bay (band).
- 19 Frimley/Camberley cadet fête (two bands, two arena events).
- 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 24 Carisbrooke Castle tattoo, Isle of Wight (24-26 June).
- 25 Massed bands parade, Minden, West Germany (25-26 June).
- 26 **Open day, Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury.**
- 26 Open day, Depot The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn.
- 26 Open day, 39 Engineer Regiment (Airfields), Waterbeach.
- 30 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.

JULY 1971

Open day, Royal Corps of Transport, Northern Ireland.

- 2 Amalgamation 3rd Carabiniers and The Royal Scots Greys, Edinburgh.
- 3 Army display, Tewkesbury festival.
- 3 Military musical pageant, Wembley Stadium (in aid of Army Benevolent Fund).
- 3 Civic weekend and carnival, Doncaster (3-4 July) (band, motorcycle team, Red Devils).
- 7 Colchester tattoo (7-10 July).
- 7 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 8 Sounding Retreat, Rifle Depot (Royal Green Jackets), Peninsula Barracks, Winchester (8-10 July).
- 9 Southampton show (band and drums) (9-10 July).
- 10 Aldershot Army display (10-11 July).
- 10 Pudsey show (band).
- 14 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 15 Army recruiting display, Liverpool (15-17 July).
- 16 Army recruiting display, Birmingham (16-18 July).
- 16 Cheltenham tattoo (16-17 July).
- 17 Artillery day, Larkhill (changed from 31 July).
- 17 Weston-super-Mare dairy festival (17-24 July) (three bands).
- 17 Basingstoke tattoo.
- 21 Combined services tattoo, Gosport.
- 21 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 22 Army recruiting display, Manchester (22-24 July).
- 23 Army recruiting display, Stoke-on-Trent (23-25 July).
- 27 Dover tattoo (Dover Army week) (27-28 July).
- 29 Borough show, Northampton (29-31 July) (band).
- 30 Cardiff tattoo (30 July-7 August).
- 30 Hull show (30-31 July) (Red Devils).
- 30 Folkestone tattoo (Dover Army week) (30-31 July).
- 31 Army air day, Middle Wallop.
- 31 Open day, Royal School of Military Engineering, Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent.

AUGUST 1971

- 1 Open day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 3 Tyneside summer exhibition, Exhibition Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (3-7 August) (bands, Red Devils, motorcycle team).
- 9 Darlington Army week (9-14 August).
- 9 **Battle Royal: Household Division reviewed, Aldershot.**
- 14 Darlington show.
- 18 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 20 Edinburgh tattoo (20 August-11 September) (no performances Thursdays and Sundays).
- 20 Army recruiting display, Crewe (20-21 August).
- 21 Eston play week, Middlesbrough (21-30 August) (band, motorcycle team, Red Devils).
- 25 Kneller Hall grand (band) concert.
- 27 Glasgow military display (27-29 August).
- 28 Leeds gala (28-30 August) (band, motorcycle team or Red Devils).
- 31 Watford gala (White Helmets).

SEPTEMBER 1971

- 1 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 2 Sheffield show (2-4 September) (band).
- 3 Army recruiting display, Blackburn (3-5 September).
- 4 Keighley show (band).
- 4 Guildford town show (two bands, arena event).

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Military mascots



The lady was a tramp

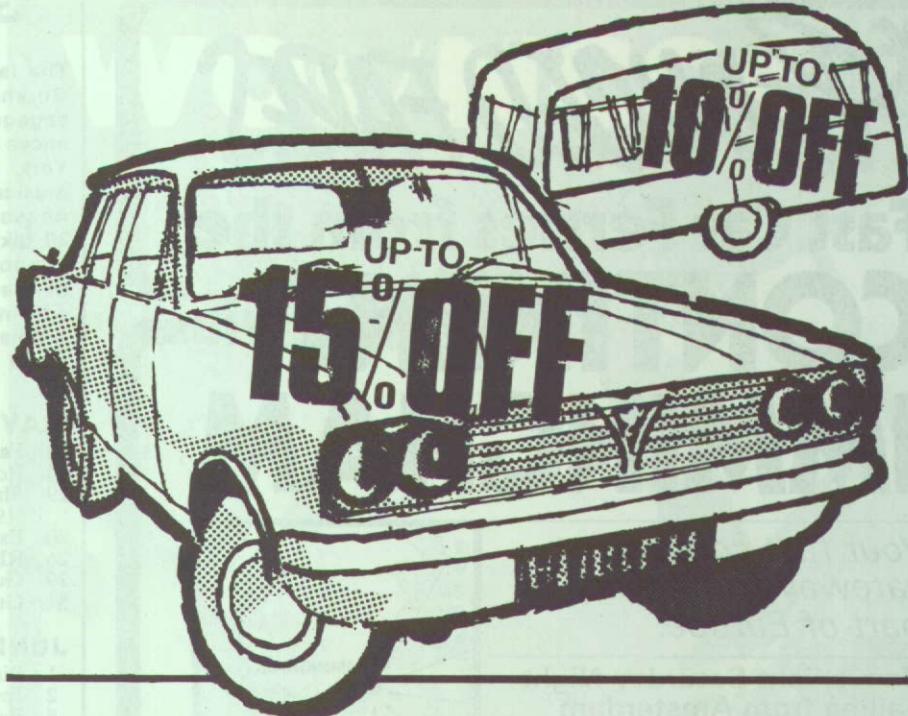
She is Hobo, a stray bitch who began life on the streets of Bahrain. Hobo was picked up by soldiers of the Royal Corps of Transport and kept on board their ship, Her Majesty's Army Vessel Arezzo.

The chestnut and golden haired mongrel so took the fancy of the soldier-sailors that they promoted her to Sergeant Hobo. Then she disgraced herself on deck and was reduced to lance-corporal.

Hobo again proved herself no better than she should be by becoming pregnant. Said Arezzo's skipper, Captain Roy Potts: "We are not sure who the father is but think it may have been an alsatian from one of the Royal Navy minesweepers."

Somewhat inconsiderately Hobo gave birth to her litter right in the middle of an exercise out at sea in the Persian Gulf. A senior non-commissioned officer was temporarily detached to act as midwife and a soldier assigned to feed milk to the puppies with a hydrometer.

The pups have now graduated from milk to galley scraps and their special box is getting too small. A new home has to be found for them. HMAV Arezzo has offered them as potential mascots—to the Royal Navy minesweepers.



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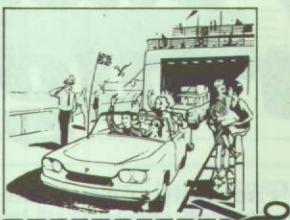
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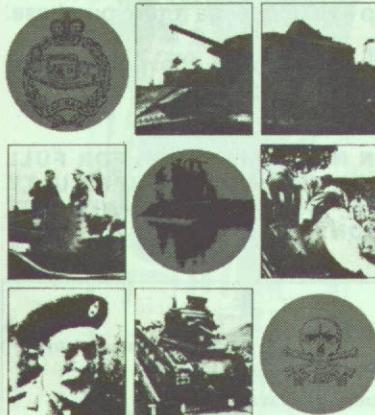
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AFV 1919/40

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British Armoured Fighting Vehicles 1919-1940

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Description: 176 pages, over 350 black and white illustrations, 16 pages of colour drawings and four pages of badges reproduced in six colours, and three indices.

Gurkha Band Tour

The largest band contingent from the Brigade of Gurkhas ever to visit Britain has more than 30 engagements during this summer, including appearances at the Royal Tournament, Edinburgh, Cardiff, York and Colchester tattoos, and the military musical pageant at Wembley.

As well as 137 musicians there is a display team of 30 taking part in jungle scenes and kukri dancing. The tour is in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal.

In the following programme, C means the whole contingent, CLPD the contingent less pipes and drums, CLDT contingent less display team, PD pipes and drums only, BB band and bugles only.

MAY 1971

- 12 Farnham: Beating Retreat (PD)
- 14 Royal Windsor Show (14-16)
- 19 Shrewsbury: West Midlands Agricultural Show (19-20) (PD)
- 20 Exeter: Devon County Show (20-21) (CLPD); (22) (C)
- 26 REME, Arborfield, Beating Retreat (PD)
- 29 Guildford: March through High Street (C)
- 31 Guildford: Surrey County Show (C)

JUNE 1971

- 1 Birmingham: International Spring Festival (PD)
- 2 Ipswich: Suffolk Show (2-3) (CLPD)
- 5 Bath and West Show (PD)
- 8 Wadebridge: Royal Cornwall Show (8-9) (PD)
- 9 Royal Tournament (9-26) (CLPD)
- 12 Coventry Carnival (PD)
- 14 Royal Albert Hall: Night of a Hundred Pipers (PD)
- 15 Malvern: Three Counties Agricultural Show (15-17) (PD)
- 20 Unveiling Indian Army memorial window RMA Sandhurst (four pipers)
- 26 Cambridge (PD)
- 28 King's Lynn (C)
- 30 Royal Norfolk Show (30-1 July) (C)

JULY 1971

- 3 Wembley: Military Musical Pageant (CLDT)
- 7 Colchester Tattoo (7-10) (CLPD)
- 10 Aldershot Army Display (10-11) (PD)
- 16 Maidstone: Kent County Show (16-17) (CLPD)
- 17 Liverpool Show (PD)
- 18 Folkestone: Beating Retreat (CLPD)
- 20 Builth Wells: Royal Welsh Show (20-22) (PD)
- 20 Chepstow (BB)
- 21 Pembroke (BB)
- 22 Aberystwyth (BB)
- 23 Llandudno (BB)
- 24 Wrexham (BB)
- 26 Cardiff (BB)
- 30 Cardiff Tattoo (30-7 August) (C)

The remainder of the tour programme will be published in the June SOLDIER.

In case of difficulty send £4.00 (to cover P. & P.) to the publishers.

Profile Publications Ltd Coburg House Sheet Street Windsor Berkshire Telephone Windsor 69777



Officer's highland bonnet 1900

THE Highland bonnet worn in 1900, and until full dress was abolished in 1914, was made of black ostrich feathers fitted on to a wire frame and measured about eleven inches in height. A vulture feather plume was worn on the left side and ostrich feather tails hung down on the right.

All regiments wore a white cut feather plume except the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch) who wore one in red. The number of tails worn was as follows: Royal Highlanders, four tails; Seaforth, Cameron and Gordon Highlanders, five; Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, six. The head band was of diced cloth of regimental pattern,—the Royal Highlanders, red, white and blue; Seaforth, Cameron and Gordon Highlanders, red, white and green; Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, red-and-white squares.

A badge of regimental pattern was worn on the left side covering the plume holder. Badges were: Royal Highlanders—in silver, the star of the Order of the Thistle; on the star in gilt metal a thistle wreath; within the wreath an oval bearing the motto "Nemo me impune lacessit"; within the oval, on a recessed and seeded ground, St Andrew and the Cross, in silver; below the thistle wreath a sphinx in gilt metal; in silver to the left of the crown, a half scroll inscribed "The Royal" and to the right a half scroll inscribed "Highlanders," to the left of the sphinx a half scroll inscribed "Black" and to the right another inscribed "Watch."

Seaforth Highlanders—in silver, a stag's head above the coronet and cypher of the Duke of Albany; below, a scroll inscribed "Cuidich'n Righ." Gordon Highlanders—in silver, the Marquis of Huntly's crest within an ivy wreath with a scroll underneath inscribed "Bydand."

Cameron Highlanders—in silver, a thistle wreath, within the wreath St Andrew and the Cross; on the lower bend of the wreath a scroll inscribed "Cameron."

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders—in silver, a thistle wreath; within the wreath a circle inscribed "Argyll and Sutherland," within the circle the double cypher of Princess Louise, the boar on the left and the cat on the right; above the cypher, on the circle, the coronet of the princess.

C Wilkinson-Latham

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Station Wireless Control Room



Cloak-and-dagger?

Story by Hugh Howton/Pictures by Leslie Wiggs



THE thickset soldier nervously ran a finger round the inside of his collar. Sitting on a hard chair in the dark, hot room, all he could see was a table covered with an old blanket, a glaring lamp and a face veiled by shadows.

"What's your number . . . name . . . rank?" barked the anonymous voice. "24197650, Bledsoe, driver," came the instinctive reply.

The questions and answers continued: What's your unit?—I, I'm not supposed to tell you.

Who said so?—My officer Suster.

Who normally sits with you in the vehicle?—Oh, Suster. He is a full colonel.

We found a couple of bottles of vodka in your vehicle. What were you doing with them?—My colonel told me to give them to the colonel of the 152nd Regiment who is a friend of his.

The prisoner had already said too much. Within minutes, by a subtle blend of flattery and deflation, overbearingness and condescension that emulated Detective-Chief-Superintendent Barlow, the interrogator had ascertained all he wanted to know—that Colonel Suster was a medical officer with 52nd Field Hospital investigating an outbreak of cholera.

This drama took place not in a grimy cellar in some God-forsaken country overseas but in a modern barrack block in the quiet Kent countryside—at the Intelligence Centre, Ashford. It was acted to a pre-determined brief by a warrant-officer and sergeant of the Intelligence Corps for *SOLDIER*'s benefit. Soldiers who come here, from recruits to staff officers, see



Above: Examples of "containers" used by foreign agents. They could hold microdots, microfilm or secret messages and formulae on fine rice paper.

Casting light on the subject. "Enemy prisoner" under interrogation (top of page) and scrutiny of some stereoscopic aerial photographs (left).

No, greatcoat and bayonet



Above: Firing pistols on the range at Ashford.
Left: Searching "suspect"—soldier in civvies.

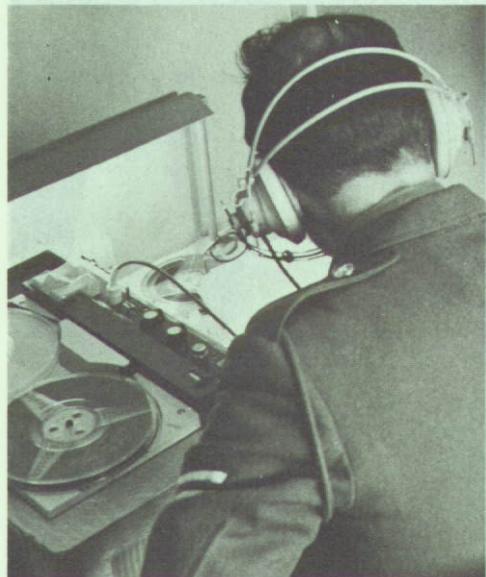


similar enactments. They are part of their education in interrogation and resistance to interrogation.

This is just one of the techniques taught to soldiers at Ashford. They also learn to fire a 9-millimetre Browning automatic pistol, drive a Land-Rover, use a camera, interpret "eye in the sky" aerial photographs, find out about "containers" like hollow bolts and coins, and may even go on to study Russian, Chinese, Arabic or other languages according to their ability. "The title 'Intelligence Corps' is still very much an attractive thing to young men. There is a certain amount of glamour about it," said Brigadier Richard Bremner, Inspector of the Intelligence Corps and Commandant of the Intelligence Centre. "There is even a story of a recruit who arrived on a Saturday and wondered on a Monday why he had not been issued with an Aston Martin and a blonde!"

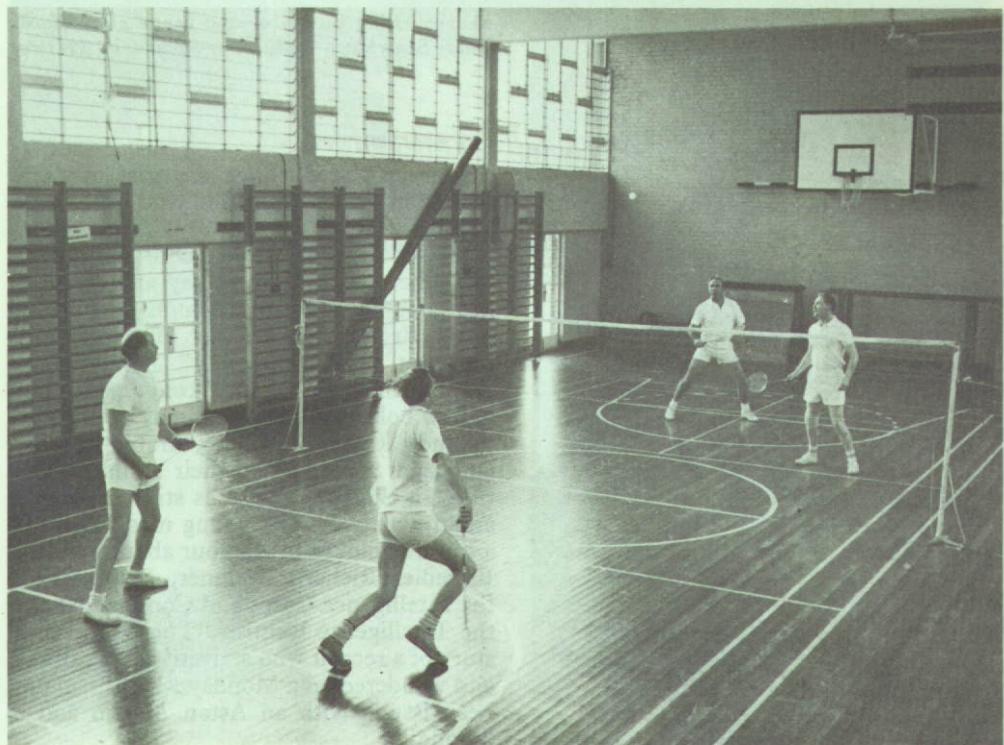


Above: Snowed up in Siberia? No, a map-reading exercise in winter weather by Ashford bypass.



Left: Learning languages with tape-recorders. There are only "brush up" facilities here. The main foreign language school is at Beaconsfield.

Below: Even intellectuals must keep fit. There are seven periods a week of compulsory PT for recruits. A game of badminton is just pleasure.



But any recruit who fancies himself with the last three numbers of 007 is soon brought down to earth—stalking a "tank" on his stomach through the mud, clambering over the assault course in the rain, sweating it out on cross-country runs and drilling on the square in boots DMS.

Intelligence Corps entrants are trained first and foremost as soldiers. Recruits do six weeks' basic training. Officers too must have a thorough regimental grounding. After Sandhurst or Mons they normally attend the platoon commanders' and small arms courses at Warminster and are then attached to an infantry battalion abroad for up to two years before their specialist intelligence training.

The Intelligence Corps lives up to its name. It takes its men from the top five per cent of Army recruits, that is only those with the highest intelligence rating. After the seven months' training the Intelligence Corps soldier is qualified for promotion to lance-corporal.

He can expect to become a sergeant in six years and a warrant officer in 12. A total of 37 per cent of officers in the Intelligence Corps have been commissioned from the ranks of the corps.

Soldiers specialise in one of two trades, analyst (special intelligence) or operator (intelligence and security). A number of these need a foreign language qualification and if they pass an examination at about ordinary level GCE standard in a difficult language they are eligible for an award of £135. First class interpreters in, say, Chinese, can get as much as £1000.

Among the skills taught to operators (intelligence and security) is the interpretation of aerial photographs. They identify a train, for example, by the smoke from its chimney, telegraph poles by the long shadows they cast, and a greenhouse by light reflected from the sun. They are shown too how to keep secrets safe by using efficient locks and security systems. In a special classroom nicknamed the "lockery" a lecturer demonstrates bad and good methods. First how heavy padlocks can be broken with a jemmy or opened with wire and a screwdriver. Then an infra-red alarm which goes off when an intruder passes through its invisible beam and a seismic alarm (consisting of a ball-bearing resting on three wires) which reacts to the slightest movement.

But the most dramatic demonstration is of a well-known maker's lock with a spring-loaded bolt which can be opened by inserting a Perspex card. It is fitted to a replica of a front door bearing the number "10" . . . The moral is that it does not matter who you are, if you do not have efficient locks you are not secure.

"Stable Door" is the apt name of a major security exercise for staff officers and unit security officers run by the School of Service Intelligence, which is one of the Centre's main wings. In this exercise they discuss the practical lessons of locks, the principles of "need to know" and policy of vetting personnel working in "sensitive" jobs.

And in syndicates of four they work out a complete security system for a formation headquarters.

Examples of other types of Army exercises run at Ashford, which are typical of

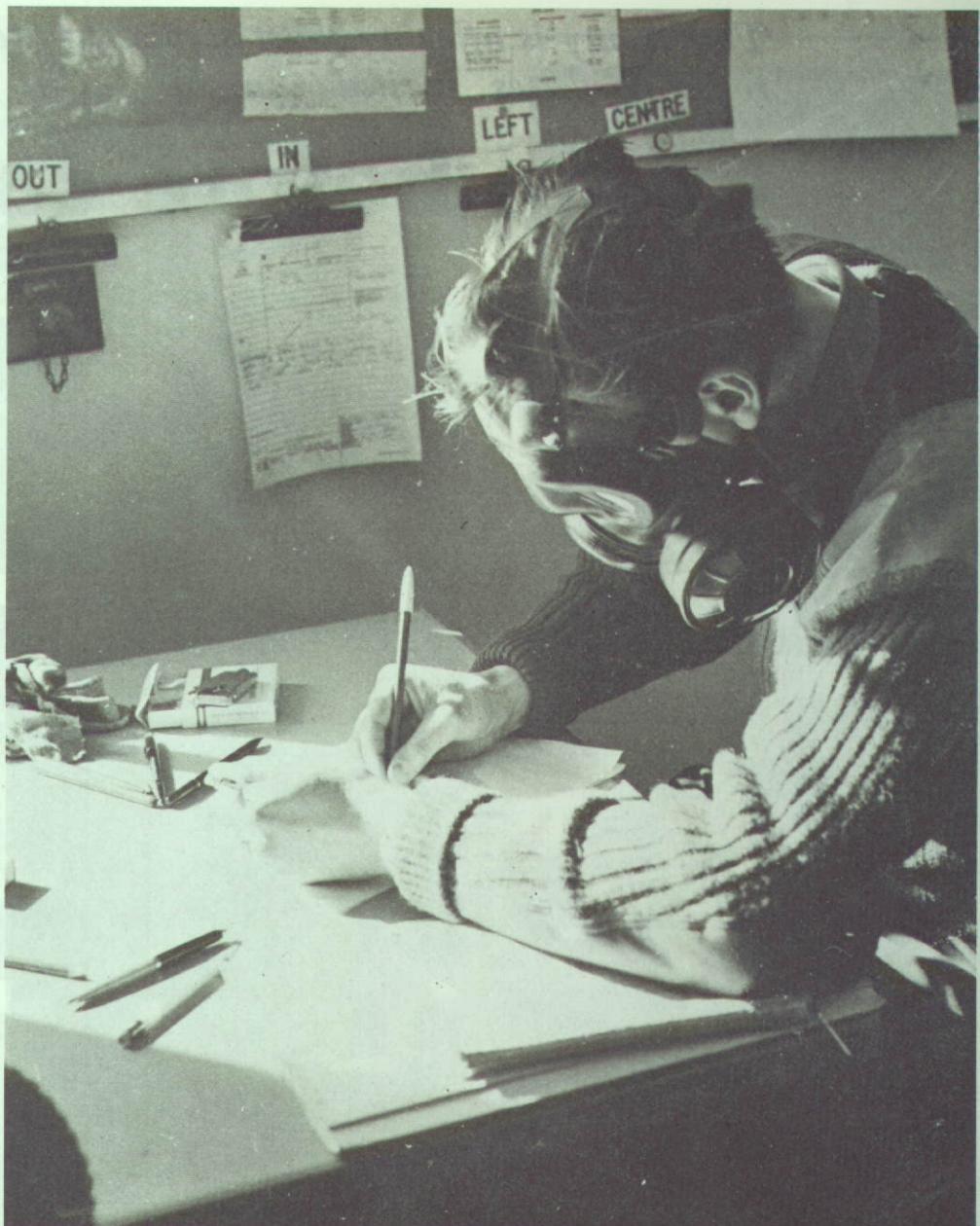
the wide spectrum of training undertaken there, are "Red Thunder" and "Heather Line."

The first involves regimental intelligence officers and non-commissioned officers in compiling intelligence data and maps during a simulated nuclear and chemical war; and Heather Line introduces them to a hypothetical internal security operation with a setting in Scotland. Heather Line exercises officers in processing information from observers, friendly locals and civil police.

A "rogues' gallery" of pictures and biographies of fictitious rebel leaders with names like Angus McHairyknees and Jamie McAlleyway has been compiled specially. Said an instructor: "It is a very good card collation system providing a first-class vehicle for instruction; on the other hand, the chaps thoroughly enjoy doing it and we could make a fortune if we marketed it like a Waddington's game." But it has a serious purpose, with practical application to the situation in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles, Borneo during confrontation and Northern Ireland today.

Staff officers of the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force also attend courses at the School of Service Intelligence before going on to a wide variety of different jobs—perhaps one to become a station security officer in the RAF, another a specialist in Soviet naval policy in the Ministry of Defence and a third to be a defence attaché or a British liaison officer with Soxmis (the Soviet Military Mission in West Germany).

Perhaps one of the future Soxmis liaison officers could put right the editors of the Anglo-Russian Military Dictionary published by the Soviet Ministry of Defence. One of its latest editions, published in 1968, refers to Maresfield Camp as the *Shkola voennoi razvedki* (school of military intelligence). In fact the establishment moved from Maresfield to Ashford two years before in 1966.



They wear respirators for two hours during "Red Thunder," a nuclear-biological warfare exercise.

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 33



The Army is offering short-service limited commissions to candidates waiting to be called to university

Camp before campus



Leaping into action from a hovering helicopter is part of the training.

PAGE 16

THREE weeks in the Army is nothing in the career of a soldier but three weeks at Mons Officer Cadet School made a world of difference to 24 young men of ability, curiosity and determination who wanted to find out what soldiering was all about.

They came in the knowledge that they were not committed for longer than a few months, but after three weeks of hard and unusual training they were more keen than ever to continue to sample a life of activity so different from their early years of study.

They came from all corners of Britain: London to Glasgow, Cornwall to Essex, Hampshire to Yorkshire, as different in background as even the most pessimistic of critics could wish but they had several things in common.

Their studies had qualified them for places in universities but they all felt they should do something worthwhile during the four to 18 months before they took up their places. The Army's new short-service limited commission appealed to them although they realised it must mean hard work, a sudden goodbye to familiar places and faces and a change from leisurely routine to energetic action.

The commission, limited to the period between school and university, gives a brief taste of the Army but there is no commitment to return after graduation.

Those who applied for the first course at Mons were assessed by the Regular Commissions Board at Westbury which selected 25 after the usual searching tests to determine character, intelligence and potential leadership ability. The lads were for the most part 18 years old and most had never been away from home before. One decided that soldiering was not for him and left soon after arrival at Mons.

The remainder spent three intensive weeks discovering the mechanism of weapons and radio, learning a little about navigation and minor tactics and finding in the course of a 16-hour day a stiffness in muscles they never knew they had—in short, learning something of the basic skills of soldiering and getting a brief introduction to the principles that make successful leaders.

Their training was hard, varied and continuous. It had to be if sufficient instruction was to be absorbed in three short weeks to enable them to be ready for further "on job" training in their chosen units. Among other things they learned how to dig defensive positions, clear approaches and move by helicopter including leaping from low-hovering craft and roping down. The climax was a 48-hour exercise which included night movement.

Not one candidate of this enthusiastic and dedicated party failed the course. All 24 were commissioned into units of their choice and go on to learn more about the Army before university life calls.



1



2



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Front cover

This is the first official portrait of Prince Charles in Army uniform. He is dressed as Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Wales. The portrait was commissioned by the regiment and painted by Maj Aubrey Davidson-Houston (Retd), formerly of the late Royal Sussex Regiment.

- 1 Stephen Jefferson joins the Grenadier Guards before going on to Clare College, Cambridge.
- 2 Simon Dimmick from Cornwall is commissioned into the Royal Corps of Transport, Germany.
- 3 Chris Lawrence, whose father is in the RAF, goes to 2nd Bn, Queen's Own Highlanders.
- 4 David Richard chose 29 Commando Light Regt, RA, before going on to Cardiff University.
- 5 Stephen Smith visits Cyprus, Germany and the Persian Gulf with the Royal Corps of Signals.
- 6 Andrew Dines from Yorkshire joins the RAOC, Germany, before going to Exeter University.
- 7 Andrew Cope is bound for London University, but will first soldier in Germany with REME.

Lieutenant-Colonel D I Mackenzie, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, deputy commandant at Mons, said: "Their intelligence and character made instruction very easy. They responded well and made good progress. We are very pleased with them."

Only five had a Regular Service background. One was George Powell, of Camberley, whose father, Colonel G N Powell, commands Victory College at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. George has been commissioned into his father's regiment, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, and joined at Catterick but may serve for a time with the squadron in Berlin. He wanted to see what the Army was like before deciding on a career. He goes to Oxford to read politics, philosophy and economics.

Others included Christopher Lawrence of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, who is to read archaeology and anthropology. He had thought of joining the Army although his father is in the Royal Air Force at

Andover, but had not made up his mind. Before going to university he wanted to see something of life overseas and was seeking that sense of responsibility he knew he could achieve through this pre-university commission. He joined in Edinburgh The Queen's Own Highlanders who have since moved to Osnabruck, Germany.

Phillip Merry, of Pontefract, Yorkshire, is to study civil engineering and asked to join 38 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, at Ripon, Yorkshire. He expects to see Canada during his attachment. Of the intensive course at Mons he said: "At times I wondered why the heck I was doing it but really we all enjoyed it and I am looking forward to joining the unit."

Simon Dimmick, of St Austell, Cornwall, is to read law and elected to join 2 Divisional Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, in Rhine Army. He wants to be a solicitor and has not ruled out the Army Legal Services. He thought this commission was a valuable way of spending the six

months before university.

Others have been commissioned into the Royal Artillery, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Armoured Corps, Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Transport, The Staffordshire Regiment, Grenadier Guards and The Light Infantry. Postings include Bahrain, Hong Kong, Germany and Cyprus.

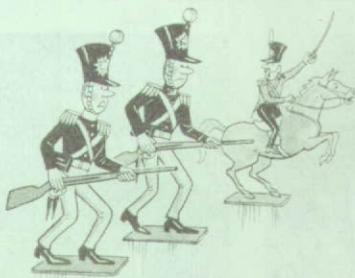
In their units these pioneers of a new kind of Army commission are under-studying junior commanders and learning something about leadership. More important perhaps is their desire to subject themselves to the self-disciplines of service and the impact that their new experiences and wider contacts will have upon their immediate future. After university they will decide upon their careers and maybe some will find their way back to the Army as Regulars or Volunteers or as officers in the Army Cadet Force.

Story by George Hogan



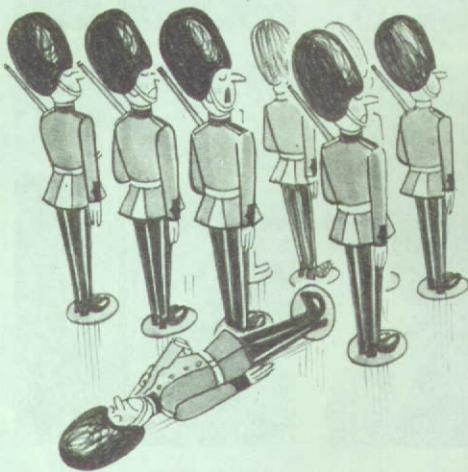
"He's cheating, sir! He's bringing up reserves from under the table."

Tabletop Talkback

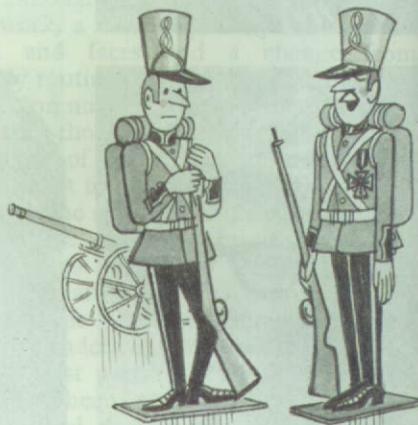


by Arnold Wiles

"I wanted to be in the hussars but they insisted on moulding me into this mob."

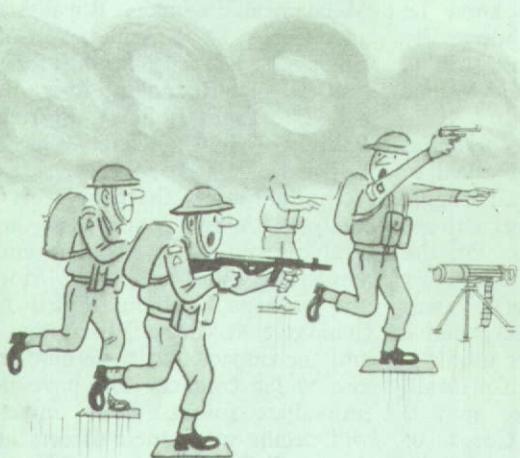


"You 'orrible löt. I've a good mind to have you all melted down!"

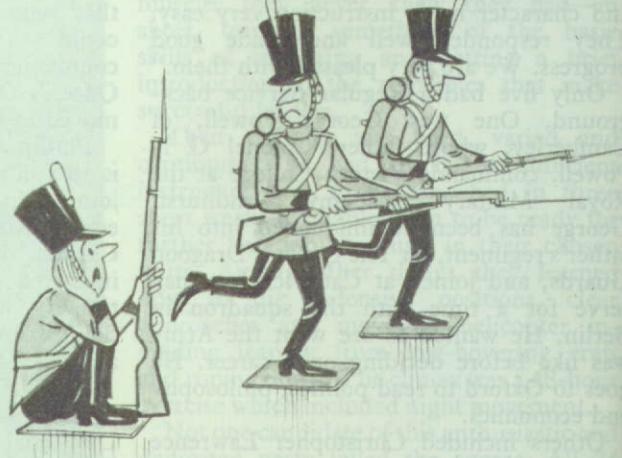


"Always the same. There's either a freezing draught from an open window or the central heating's too high."

"It was nothing, really. I managed to capture a salt cellar and mustard pot single-handed."



"How the hell can we press home the attack when he smothers the battlefield with cigar smoke."



"Desertion my foot. I just don't want to play any more."

Right: "Planting" bar mines at the Royal School of Military Engineering, Chattenden, Kent. The layers are wearing chemical protective clothing.

IT works like an agricultural planter—ploughs a furrow, lays 600 to 700 items an hour and replaces the earth. But the end product is a very lethal crop—of bar mines.

These new mines have been produced by the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead in Kent. The first ones, for use against tanks, are being issued to the Royal Engineers early next year.

A particular advantage is that they are made almost entirely of non-metallic materials such as plastic and rubber and are thus undetectable by conventional electronic means.

Because of their shape they are more



Deadly harvest

effective and easier to lay quickly than conventional disc mines.

The bar mine, 47 inches long and four and a quarter wide, has an actuation area along almost its entire length. The actuation area of the present Mark VII disc mine is a two-and-a-half inch diameter circle. Consequently only half as many bar mines are needed to lay a minefield of the same effective density.

A soldier, sitting in the back of an FV 432 or other towing vehicle, simply pulls out a safety pin and slides the mine down a chute where it is activated by a catch before being "planted."

This is similar to the old method of laying. But the new layer is smaller and can be fitted into the back of an FV 432 or airlifted by helicopter. The old system necessitated a clumsy "train"—the layer was attached to a lorry (containing the store of mines) which was again attached to a tractor. About 300 Mark VII mines can be laid in an hour in average conditions, fewer than half the number of bar mines.

The new bar mine can blow the track off any known tank and is a great improvement on anything even the Americans have. An anti-personnel mine which can be laid automatically with the bar mine is also being developed. Other NATO countries are reported to be interested.

No doubt the greatest appeal to the soldier is that the practice mines are disposable. "It is a soul-destroying job for soldiers to dig up dummy mines after an exercise," said a sapper officer. "The new ones will be made of cardboard and can be left in the ground to rot."

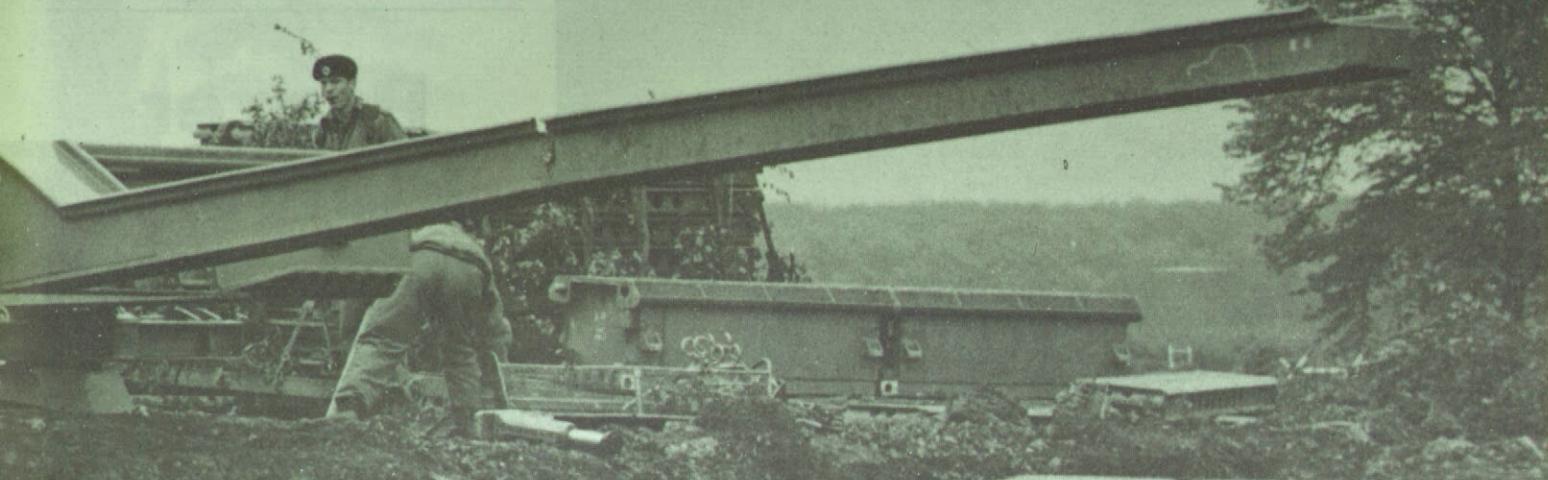


Right: Fiery funeral pyre of a Saracen armoured car. It was blown up by a bar mine in Hamelin at a demonstration by 35 Regiment, Royal Engineers.

Nine men and a bridge



Above: Assembling the bridge—launching nose in position. Below: Unloading the trailers.



Below: Hook-on handles simplify the task of carrying.

Below: Chieftain crossing the 30-foot single-storey lightweight bridge.



TEN men and a dog went to mow a meadow and the task very soon reduced them to an ineffective force. Only nine sappers, without a dog, are needed to build the Army's new medium girder bridge, now coming into service, and they can span a 30-foot gap in 14 minutes—without the use of cranes.

The magic is in the metal, the system of construction and the expert team work that has long been characteristic of the Royal

Engineers. This bridge is so good that it can be erected at high speed by even relatively untrained men. It is so light that no component requires more than four men to carry it. Movement is made easy by the use of special carrying bars and hook-on handles.

The specially developed aluminium-zinc-magnesium alloy is strong enough to build bridges 160-foot long to take 60-ton loads. In stress corrosion tests at the

Military Vehicles and Engineering Establishment, Christchurch, Hampshire, the new alloy remained unbroken after 646 days.

Its fatigue life exceeds that called for by the Army and the bridge can be erected, used, dismantled, moved and rebuilt repeatedly by day and by night. It does not require special vehicles, the 30-foot bridge being transportable on one four-ton truck with trailer.

The components are packed on pallets and the loads can be pulled off the trucks without difficulty, delay or damage—the pallets have hard rubber buffers underneath. Pallet loads can be carried in tactical transport aircraft and slung under helicopters.

The bridge can be built to span 30, 48 or 72 feet with the simple single-storey kit, while a double-storey variant can be erected over 100, 136 and 160 feet gaps.

Even longer bridges can be built on supporting piers. A team of 25 sappers can set up a 100-foot medium girder bridge in 46 minutes by day or 70 minutes at night.

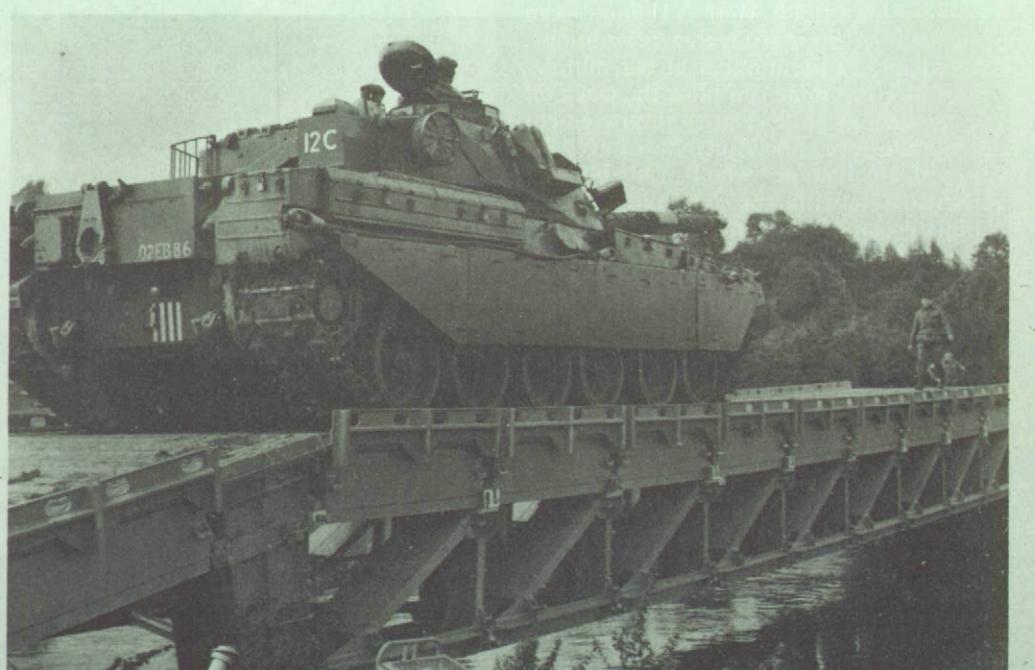
As the 30-foot bridge weighs little more than two and a half tons it can be lifted and positioned by helicopter but the speed of assembly and launching on site would usually make this unnecessary.

The new alloy was developed during close co-operation between industry and

the MVEE, where also the bridge test rig was used to proof-load both single and double storey bridges. A fatigue test included 12,000 crossings of a 30-foot bridge by a Centurion tank weighted to 60 tons, after which the bridge was still structurally sound. Field tests were carried out in Britain, in Germany by the British and German armies and in tropical conditions in New Guinea by the Australian Army.



Above: Note hard rubber buffers under end of pallet on four-ton truck. The load is anchored to the ground and pulls off as the truck moves forward. Right: A 100-foot double-storey bridge erected during a test demonstration in Germany.



Chieftain bridgelayer



The "instant" bridge unfolds its 80 feet.

A new 80-foot-long steel folding scissors bridge being developed on the Chieftain chassis can be manoeuvred into position in three minutes. It has a sophisticated hydraulic launching system designed by Lockheed Precision Products of Liverpool.

The Chieftain bridge is more than 25 feet longer than that of the Centurion bridgelayer, in service since 1962, and the chassis can be attached at either end for quick lifting and refolding.

Most British Army bridgelayers have used hydraulics. The Covenanter did so as far back as 1936. Its scissors bridge was only 34 feet long but a few were used by the Australians in Burma in 1942. The Valentine carried a similar sized bridge in 1943 and 1944 but was used mainly for training, being replaced by the Churchill for operations. The Churchill carried a one-piece humped bridge which could support vehicles up to 60 tons. Other bridging methods include the "ark" principle in which the chassis is driven into the gap, the bridge is opened and laid, and the chassis remains as a supporting centre pillar.

Launching methods have included the use of gravity, winches and a screw-thread principle. The most unusual was probably the rocket propulsion used in the experimental Great Eastern Ramp mounted on a Churchill in 1944 which spectacularly "shot" its bridge across a gap.



Fire! The armoured punch of a six-pounder knocks out another panzer. Its maximum range was 1600 yards but it normally operated at 800. Note the distinctive triple hump on the armoured shield.

Panzer Puncher

SQUAT and lethal, hidden under scrim net or shrouded by shrubbery, the British six-pounder anti-tank gun punched holes in Hitler's panzers at up to 1600 yards. The gun made its *début* in North Africa. At the battle of Alam Halfa, which marked the turning point in the campaign, the concentrated fire of six-pounders from concealed gun pits split open the orange-yellow painted *Panzerkampfwagen* III and IVs of the Afrika Korps.

It came into production in November 1941 and replaced the two-pounder (effective only up to about 400 yards) and the 25-pounder field gun being used in an anti-tank role. By April 1942 more than 1500 a month were being produced. Apart from the wheeled carriage it was also mounted turret-fashion on a ten-ton lorry; on a Humber armoured car; a lightweight truck chassis to become the "Firefly Tank Hunter" and lastly on to a 30-hundred-weight Chevrolet chassis with the designation of "Deacon."

The gun could fire 12 rounds a minute and was normally manned by a detachment of five gunners. In late 1943 it began using the ultimate tank-killer of the war—APDS (armour-piercing, discarding sabot shot). This consisted of a tungsten core in a thin streamlined steel sheath with an alloy sabot, or casing, which fell away after firing.

The six-pounder was replaced by the more powerful 17-pounder in 1944 and downgraded to a field gun after D-Day and a battery gun for shore artillery at the close of the war.

A neat and inexpensive plastic kit of the six-pounder has recently been produced. It costs 65 pence and is made by Tamiya of Japan and marketed in this country by Riko of High Street, Hemel Hempstead. The model is very simple to make with step-by-step instructions and exploded diagrams. The three gun detachment figures included have separately moulded arms and legs which means they can be made up in a combination of different positions. The reproduction of wartime photographs on the instruction sheet is a particularly useful guide.

Modellers who want value for money should buy the Airfix 00 scale M3 Lee/Grant. This was the World War Two tank which had a peculiar barbette housing for its 75-millimetre gun. Although it had greater striking power than any previous allied tank, the gun had limited traverse and to bring it into action meant exposing the tank's high silhouette—a risky business, especially in the Western Desert. The Airfix kit can be made either in the British or US Army versions and has 68 parts with detail down to rivet heads, engine louvres and towing hawsers. It costs a mere 17 pence.



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Airfix M3 in battlefield diorama. This is the US Army version with additional machine-gun cupola.



Back cover

Aerial acrobatics by Blue Eagles, the Army's helicopter display team. The five-man team was formed three years ago and performs all over the country at public shows from county carnivals to anniversary Battle of Britain air displays. Their Sioux helicopters are standard Army aircraft except for the blue paintwork and those coloured smoke generators.



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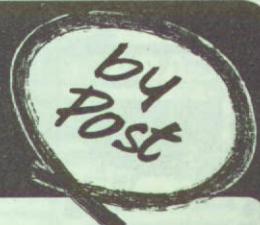


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Marching in Massawa docks. The admiring audience included the Royal Navy, on board HMS Eskimo.

On parade for the Emperor



LONG the sweltering, palm-fringed streets they marched, with beating drums, skirling bagpipes and swaying saffron kilt. The Ethiopians were enthralled. Nearly 3000 turned out to watch the band and pipes and drums of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, in the town of Asmara.

It was the first time since British troops were stationed in Eritrea 20 years ago, before that country's amalgamation with Ethiopia, that they had seen such a parade. Bandmaster Arthur Healey was later presented with a commemorative gold medallion by Asmara's mayor.

They had come at the invitation of Emperor Haile Selassie—himself an honorary field-marshal of the British Army—to take part in the fifth annual Imperial Ethiopian Navy days.

The band and pipes and drums, who had flown out from Bahrain, also performed under floodlights at the passing-out parade of cadets and ratings of the Ethiopian Navy at the Red Sea port of Massawa.

The Navy Days comprise a week of nautical, sporting and social events. Participating were the navies of Ethiopia, Britain, France, India, Iran, Italy, United States and the Soviet Union. Britain was represented, coincidentally, by HMS Eskimo.

... Or should it be tucked under the chin? Bandsman "swops" instruments with native musicians.

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Outstanding skiing regiment of 1971 is 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, whose teams did extremely well in the Army ski championships. They triumphed in the testing military ski patrol race in the Nordic section at Oberjoch, Bavaria, and won the Alpine combination, giant slalom and slalom races in the Alpine section at St Moritz, winning back the Princess Marina Cup which they had held in 1968 and 1969. Above: Captain J Black RA.



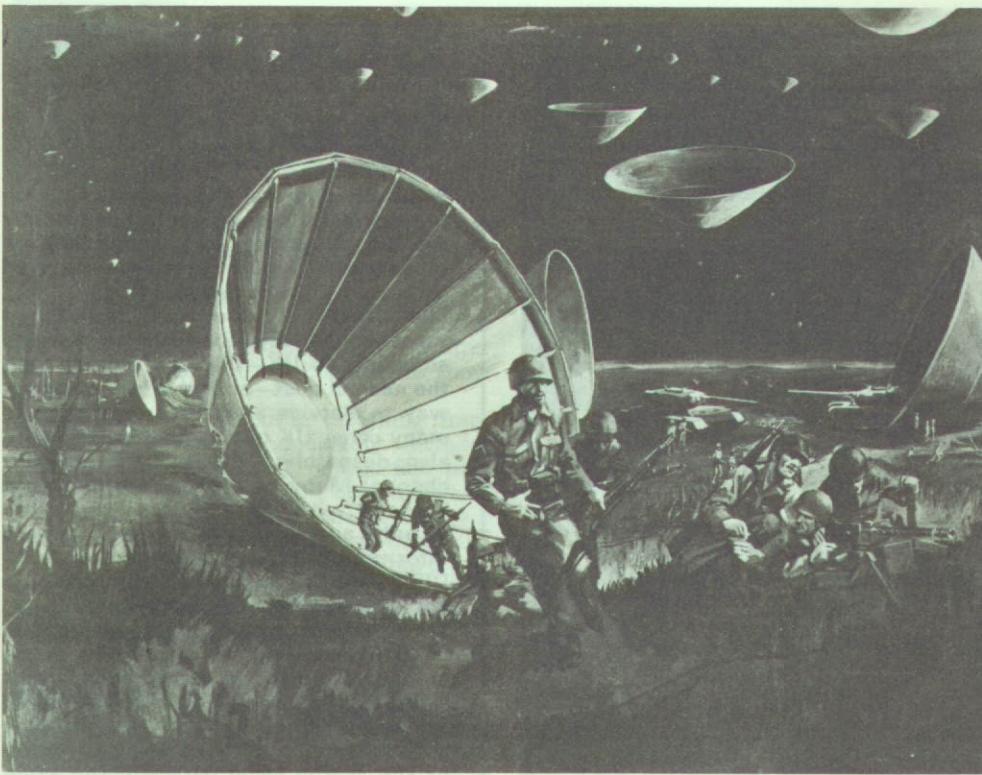
Brigadier Mike Walsh, (above, right), who gained the DSO in Aden where he commanded 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, takes over command at Singapore of 28 Commonwealth Brigade from Brigadier Bob Gurr of New Zealand. The brigade at present includes an Australian and New Zealand but no British battalion. Brigadier Walsh will in due course command the land component of the Australian, New Zealand and British forces based in Singapore under the new five-power defence arrangement. The 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, arrives in September.

The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, was happy with his shooting (right) when he spent two days informally with 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, at Osnabrück, Germany. He accompanied the battalion on training, visited married quarters and met families, attended a soldiers' talent contest and the sergeants' St David's Day ball and met the Oberburgermeister of Osnabrück in the historic town hall.

Left Right and Centre

As gunner, guardsman or comedian, Harry Secombe stands with the best. He paraded (below) with the Grenadier Guards outside the London Palladium at a press reception for the charity concert "Fall In, the Stars" sponsored by the Variety Club of Great Britain in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. On arrival in Northern Ireland to entertain the troops he was pressed to try on (right) a bullet-proof jacket—alas many sizes too small.





An American flying saucer idea (above) for the future—paracones to land troops and equipment. They are made of gas expandable material that inflates to support occupants during descent. Landing is cushioned by the compression of gases in the cone point.



The colours of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, were paraded (above) through the streets of Hilden, Germany, during Warrington Week when the Mayor and 50 leading citizens of Warrington, Lancashire, paid a visit to their "twin town." The former Lancashire Regiment was granted the freedom of Hilden in 1964 and a large German crowd turned out to cheer their successors.



More places for British schoolchildren in Germany. Left: General Sir John Mogg, Adjutant General, congratulated by headmaster Gordon Wood when he opened the Detmold school named in his honour. Right: Major-General H R S Pain, GOC 2nd Division, opened the £70,000 extension at Cornwall School, Dortmund, made necessary when 6th Brigade returned from Britain with 200 children.



Preview for Gurkhas (left) of a fashion show held in the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall, London, opened by the Duchess of Kent and organised by Marks and Spencers in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal.
(See Gurkha band contingent tour programme, page 10.)



A pipe banner was presented (above) to Herr Willy Kelch, Oberburgermeister of Osnabrück, when he inspected a guard of honour before 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, moved to Edinburgh after four years in the German city.

Left, Right and Centre

21st Panzer Brigade mounted a surprise farewell parade for Colonel D I M Robbins, Commandant of Sennelager Training Centre and Commander Lippe Garrison, who had earned the respect and friendship of German soldiers, civilians and Press during three years in the post. Right: With Colonel Robbins is Brigade-General W Renner.



Princess Margaret meets officers of Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (above) at the Dome, Brighton, at the 1971 Congress and Exhibition of the Royal College of Nursing of which the Princess was patron.



"Sound Union" (above), the pop group of 4th Royal Tank Regiment, stationed in Germany. The lead guitarist, Trooper Hughie Yardley (right), was earlier in Petula Clark's backing group and spent four seasons touring Japan, France, Belgium, Italy and the United States with the star. "Sound Union" was on a recruiting tour of Scotland when the group came across Hughie who was soon persuaded to join the Army—and the group. Hughie said: "I had already thought about enlisting. I was nearing 27 and had begun wondering what I would be doing later in life. After all, you cannot go on playing in groups for ever." The other members of the group are (left to right) drummer Lance-Corporal Trevor Thomas, lead singer Lance-Corporal Neil Hunter and bass guitarist Gunner Brian Dockery.

SOLDIER to soldier

SOLDIER regrets the interruption to the normal flow of copies caused by the postal strike and apologises to those readers whose copies were delayed or indeed did not arrive.

The February issue was despatched through military channels to Service addresses in UK—this was slower than the normal post—and sent in the normal way to Service addresses overseas. As many other UK copies as possible were also despatched through the military channel. Many of these were delivered by hand with the willing co-operation of units and the staffs of Army Careers Information Offices. Members of SOLDIER's staff personally distributed some copies in the Greater London area. Those copies which could not readily be delivered had unfortunately to be held back until the strike ended on 8 March (it began on 20 January). And of course no copies could be sent overseas to non-Service addresses. Distribution of the March issue began in the same way with copies to UK Service addresses through the military channels. The strike then ended and the remainder was posted in the normal way although not immediately accepted, because it was second-class mail, by the Post Office. The postal strike also had a disastrous effect on the already ill-fated Illustrated London News military calendar which SOLDIER offered in the December issue. The initial demand was large and supplies ran out with more than 100 orders unfulfilled. By the time a reprint had been delivered to the Illustrated London News the postal strike had started. And although the strike ended on 8 March the Post Office would not accept the calendars for posting until 18 March. Many overseas orders, held up by the strike or in the pipeline, were not received until late March and these were met as far as the reprint allowed.



Postal charges in UK were increased from Decimal Day, 15 February. The effect, for example, on a single copy of SOLDIER was an increase from 2½p to 4½p. For the time being SOLDIER is bearing the cost of the all-round UK increases, and not passing this on to readers, but to offset the rises it has been necessary to make changes in packing. The main change, regrettably, is that the single copy to subscribers has had to revert from being packed flat in an envelope to being rolled in a wrapper.



Postal charges for overseas non-Service addresses were also increased in February and will be further increased in July. Current subscriptions in this category will not be affected—these increases will be absorbed by SOLDIER—but rates for renewals and new subscribers have been adjusted to meet in part the new increases.



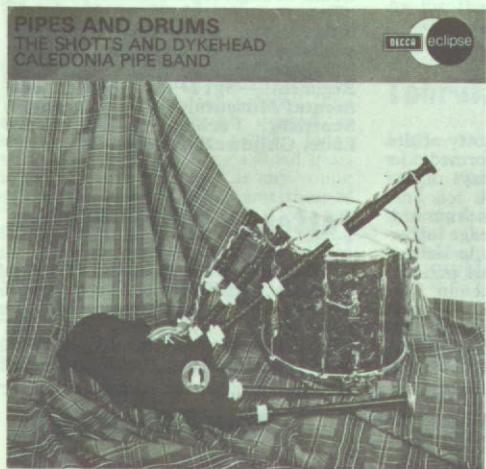
See-the-Army Diary. The Carisbrooke Castle tattoo, which has been listed in the diary for 24-26 June, is not taking place this year because commitments do not allow of military participation. The situation will be reviewed in relation to next year.

On record

"Pipes and Drums The Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band" (Decca Eclipse ECS 2043)

There is no greater name in pipe band circles than "The Shotts." They have been leaders and innovators in this field since just after World War Two and still continue to show the way.

This LP is a composite recording from previous discs and undoubtedly includes much of the best playing of this fine pipe band. The music comes across beautifully and if one were to single out any particular track I would choose the first on side one where the playing of the 3:4 time Retreat marches is just a delight and a foretaste of much excellent pipe band music as well as the medley of tunes at band three, side two.



This disc is another "must" for the enthusiast and at 99p an excellent buy. JM

Music on this record, side one: "Drummer's Salute;" march medley—"Lochanside," "Magersfontein;" slow march medley—"Mist Covered Mountains," "MacNeil of Ugadale;" medley—"Pipe-Major Thomas MacAllister," "Cameronian Rant," "Pretty Marion;" marches—"The Australian Ladies," "The Hills of Perth." Side two: March medleys—"Col Craig Brown," "Redford Cottage," "Major John McLennan;" "The Dundee Military Tattoo," "The Drunken Piper," "The Rowan Tree," "I Lo'e Nae a Laddie," "Bonnie Prince Charlie," "Up in the Morning Early," "The Old Rustic Bridge," "The Muckin' o' Geordies Byre," "Scotland the Brave;" medley—"Donald Cameron," "Blair Drummond," "The Smith o' Chilliechassie."

"Scotland Forever" (Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons)) (International INTS 1110)

The Greys do not have a long background in piping and drumming, their pipes and drums having been formed only in 1946. Under the present Pipe-Major James Pryde the band has been brought to the highest standards and the fine playing of a well-balanced, closely-knit musical unit is evident to all who listen to this recording.

"Marching tunes," at slightly below normal marching tempo, is a group containing such favourites as "Queen Elizabeth's March," "Locheil's Welcome to Glasgow" and "Glasgow Gaelic Club." Then to the "heavy stuff," so beloved by pipers—"Lord Alexander Kennedy," "Captain Colin Campbell" and "Thomson's Dirk." This group is very well played with plenty of expression and the technical accuracy of the piping comes through in fine form.

Also on side one are Retreat airs and jigs—"The Banks of Allan Water," "Craigmillar

Castle," "Donald F Ross" and "I Laid a Herring Saut." The final group of jigs is in excellent style and rhythm.

Side two begins with a drum salute. This is drumming at its best—and should be—for Corporal McCroskie, the Greys' leading drummer, is probably the Army's most expert pipe band drummer. He leads his corps through an intricate and rhythmic pattern of drum beatings. Indeed the accompanying drum rhythms for all the tunes have much to do with the success of this recording.

After the "Salute" there are three modern 6:8 marches—"John D Burgess," "Caverhill" and "Frank Thomson." The next group is again in the competition set category—"Hugh Kennedy," "Highland Harry," "The Keel Row" and "Lord MacPherson of Dru-mochter." "Hugh Kennedy" tends to sound stiff and uninspiring but, being a true solo pipe piece, the tune does not take kindly to confining drum beats and suffers accordingly. The remaining tunes of this group are bright and full of life.

The final group is largely in common time with "The Highland Cradle Song," a most beautiful slow march, the odd one out. These 4:4 marches are all very melodic and very suitable for pipe bands. Three are composed by soldiers: "Wee Highland Laddie" (Pipe-Major Donald MacLeod), "Forbes of Corse" (Pipe-Major Calum Campbell), both now retired, and "Murdo's Wedding" (Lance-Sergeant Gavin Stoddart, Scots Guards).

"The Bonnie Hoose o' Airlie," an old Scots song air, ends a record that is definitely a must for the pipe band collector. Pipe-Major Pryde is to be congratulated on producing this valued addition, a snip at £1.00 from Regimental Headquarters, The Royal Scots Greys, The Castle, Edinburgh. JM

"The Band and Bugles of The Durham Light Infantry" (conducted by the Bandmaster, Mr R C H Berry) (Jackson, JRC-S 5120)

Voices, if not from the dead, from the past. A vanished regiment informs us that a few copies of this nostalgic record are still available from The Light Infantry Office, Elvet Waterside, Durham City, price £1.25 including postage.

And what a pleasure to hear some rare marches and a couple of well-known tunes served up in the tempo and style the composers intended, with band and bugles.

Denis Plater's "Light Infantry" is beloved of all light infantrymen but David McBain's "Sergeant at Arms" is almost certainly receiving its first performance on record.

A waltz-troop for band and bugles—a rare bird indeed—called "Bugler in Vienna," by Major Alf Young, follows. He started his career in the DLI before becoming bandmaster of The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Then a march many of you have asked for—Rauski's "Le Régiment de Sambre et Meuse" in all its original glory, fast, furious and French. Ord Hume's old favourite "Bab-el-Mandeb" ends side one and will revive for old soldiers memories of forced marches long, long ago with large pack rubbing a shoulder raw, an endless road rising into the *kuds*, and a slipping puttee!

On side two the band relaxes a little and plays a few modern pops—"All My Loving" (the Beatle tune as a march), "Hippy Hoe-down" by Terence Brien and the old love song "Estrellita" in modern setting. Then three Geordie songs by the band's own choir—"Oh, Heh Yer Seen Wor Jimmy," "Keep Your Feet Still" and of course "Blaydon Races." Perhaps the axe was not certain to fall when this record was made for I think Mr Berry (now quartermastering socks with The Light Division) would have chosen a more suitable farewell than Sousa's "Kansas Wildcats" as a farewell.

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LETTERS

TAVR lapel badge

When on earth is the new TAVR lapel badge going to be issued? Four years have passed since the reorganisation of the TA and AER so what can be the reason for delaying the issue of this method of advertising. I have worn my TA badge daily for 20 years and feel that it helps keep the Service in people's minds.

I have checked with my RQMS and he has no knowledge of an impending issue.—Sgt David Le Febvre, Royal Signals (TAVR), 59 The Millbank, Ifield, Crawley, Sussex.

★ The TAVR Council says that this matter has twice come up for discussion since the formation of the TAVR and the consensus of opinion was that there is not sufficient demand to justify production of a lapel badge.

Bugle calls

Reference I J Michell's letter (March). I also would like to see and hear an LP of bugle calls, especially if some of the regimental calls were included. It could probably be enlightened/enlivened by some of the old remarks such as "You going sick today, Nobby?"—"No, I don't feel well enough?" and the boy bugler's saucy "All blown, Corp! Robinson, D Coy, said send 'em a postcard when I played 'Jankers'."—W Lawrence, 56 Lisburne Road, London NW3.

★ Prompted by Mr Michell's letter, Captain R M Goodbody RA, of 39 (Roberts) Battery, Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, Gamecock Barracks, Bramcote, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, points out that his regiment

recently produced a seven-inch LP, "Trumpet and Bugle Calls, Marches and Fanfares." This was recorded in the regimental church and of the 40 calls many are common to other arms. The record was produced as a teaching aid, for general interest and as a souvenir for junior leaders in the regiment but is now made available to SOLDIER readers. It can be obtained from 39 (Roberts) Battery at £1.05 including post and packing worldwide.

RQMS crown

I have seen the letters in your last two issues referring to the rank badge of four chevrons and crown.

There is a regular regiment in the Army where this rank is still worn. In the 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards staff-sergeants wear the normal three chevrons and crown, but squadron quartermaster-sergeants wear the four chevrons and crown—the correct way up above the elbow.

A few other cavalry idiosyncrasies—in several regiments (QDG for one) lance-corporals wear two stripes. In the 9th/12th Lancers, SSMs wear the same rank badge as an RQMS. In the QDG, 5DG, QRIH, 13th/18th Hussars and, I believe, 17th/21st Lancers, all officers and WOs I wear gold braid on the peak of the forage cap which, in the rest of the Army, is worn only by field officers.—A C Easdown, 40 Mountbatten Avenue, Chatham, Kent.

Studio or live?

I am amazed by the number of records sold under a false name. By this I mean records that are supposed to be of a tattoo or beating Retreat but are actually recorded in a studio. The recording companies must think the public are 100 per cent stupid. There may be a pretty cover with some general information to fool the buyer; one gets home and plays the record with a very

disappointing result. Why can't records be made at actual tattoos or beating Retreats? Records should always include the drum-major's commands if they are to be labelled as a tattoo or beating Retreat.—N Gravett, Brookside, Smallfield Road, Copthorne Bank, Crawley, Sussex.

★ Recordings are made at actual events—for example the Drum Major "Massed Band Spectacular" series: Colchester Tattoo 1968 (VP 283), 1969 (MCN 1), 1970 (MCN 4), Suffolk Military Tattoo (MCN 3) and "The Poachers" Band Show (MCN 2). These and other "live" recordings are of course "sub-edited" but they include applause and "atmosphere." The opposite line is taken by SOLDIER's reviewer "RB" who prefers the studio recording with its superior facilities for obtaining a balance of sound.

Sergeant at Arms

Has any one ever heard a recording of the march "Sergeant at Arms" played by the 1937 Aldershot Tattoo bands? It was listed but I have never been able to trace any collector of old tattoo records ever coming across it.—H Merritt, 1 Westbrook Farm Cotts, Elstree, Godalming, Surrey.

Rifle Volunteer Corps

I am researching into the history of the Rifle Volunteer Corps formed in Liverpool during the early days of the Volunteer movement 1859-64.

May I appeal for information from any readers who have a knowledge of or interest in the Lancashire Rifle Volunteers in Liverpool during this period? I am especially interested in the Liverpool Scottish Rifles and the Liverpool Highland Corps. Any data on the formation, uniforms, badges and personnel of any of the Liverpool corps



Commando cover

A special philatelic envelope to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the disbandment of Army commando units was issued on 1 May when the flag and battle honours of the Commando Association were laid up in Westminster Abbey.

Designed and produced by a former member of No 2 Army Commando, Mr Bert Reeves, the cover features a drawing of a wartime commando and has two 4d Churchill stamps cancelled by a special Post Office stamp.

This extremely limited issue is intended mainly as a souvenir for members and relatives taking part in the ceremony and reception. Covers, 25p each, plus postage, can be obtained from Mr A S Reeves, 33 The Green, Stratford, London E15.

would be of great assistance to me in my efforts to collate the facts about these little known corps that were soon swallowed up to form the Volunteer battalions of The King's (Liverpool Regiment).—Sgt D Reeves, c/o Regimental Museum, V Coy (Liverpool) Scottish, Forbes House, Score Lane, Childwall, Liverpool.

Pattern '37 or '58

B R Toyne is certainly not up to date in respect of webbing issued to troops of the Regular Army (February "Cri de cœur").

I have been in the Army 16 years and have yet to be issued with any other

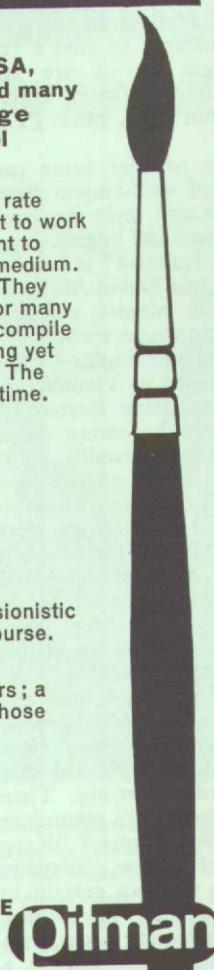
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First day cover

A first day postal cover and date stamp commemorating the formation of 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment was issued on 7 April. On the cover are the words "Formation Day 7 April 1971 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment," the corps grenade and a drawing of an M2 amphibious vehicle on the corps colours.

The covers price 25p in UK or DM2 in BAOR, can be obtained from Captain D F G Pratt, 28 Amphibious Engineer Regiment, BFPO 31. Cash with orders.

than '37 pattern webbing. I have hardly ever seen '58 pattern.—S/Sgt J G Adams RAOC, 21 Sqn Combat Supplies Pln, BFPO 34.

That long hair

Captain R Armstrong-Wilson (Letters, March) just does not understand the "wants" of the modern soldier! The senior officer, whom he quoted as saying that the young soldier today wants long hair and King's Road gear, is much nearer the truth as any young soldier will tell you. And is smartness of "paramount importance?" Did our fathers "bulb" their boots before digging the trenches in World War Two? Does long hair on a lad really mean he is undisciplined? No intelligent, thinking man would make such a claim.

The Army, as a whole, is a grand life for a lad but it is far from perfect and far from understanding the desires of the



Gurkha covers

A series of special philatelic covers is being published during 1971 to mark the visit to the United Kingdom of a band contingent of Gurkhas. Profits from sales

modern young man. It is said that the Forces are 14,000 under strength and it is wondered why, with such good pay, that this is so. I claim that most young men today will not forfeit their hair even for such good pay!

Some readers may think this is vanity. If it is, so is Captain Armstrong-Wilson's image of the soldier in "walking-out" dress with shining buttons, swagger cane, and the proud bearing it encouraged.

As for the pullover—I'm happy with it!—Bandsman E G Foxford, Band 1/RRW, BFPO 36.

Tobruk badges

Major Dean (January) maligns the unknown scrawler on the Libyan badge. "Long live the Libyan Army" (and not a word about revolution!) is the very reasonable sentiment expressed.

—Maj O Crocombe RA, British Embassy, Baghdad, c/o FCO, London SW1.

The "unidentified" badge—that of the Libyan Arab Corps—was added in 1946 at the request, to the garrison commander, of King Idris I. The wall on which the signs were painted was

will be devoted to the Gurkha Welfare Appeal. The contingent will be taking part in military tattoos, county shows and other public events (see page 10) and to raise funds and publicise the visit there will be two series of specially designed covers. One, an "all purpose" envelope with a design featuring the crossed kukri crest of the Brigade of Gurkhas, will be used for the "county show" functions.

For the military events there is a set of eight envelopes featuring the portraits of eight Gurkha holders of the Victoria Cross. These are being issued for the arrival and departure of the contingent (in each case with special BFPO commemorative postmarks).

As well as being available individually, the covers can be acquired as a set (for delivery after all have been released)—the VC portraits at £1.80 per set and the general events set at £2—from Philatelic Sales Representatives, Gurkha Welfare Appeal, 11 Bermondsey Street, London SE1.

(in 1946) that of 115 Command Petrol Depot, RASC.

I understand that the Libyan Army Commander in Tobruk at the time of the British Forces withdrawal in 1970 was disappointed that these signs had to be painted out.—P W Ridgway, c/o NAAFI, PO Box 1064, GPO Singapore.

July Militia

Not a very important point perhaps, but in the letter headed "And 32 in" (March) Mr Woodard is not correct in his assertion that the first militia men were called up in 1938. The year was in fact 1939 and the date was 15 July. The reason this date is so fixed in my mind is because on 15 June 1939 some 2000 Regular Army reservists were recalled to the Colours. I was one of them. We had an intensive period of training for a month and then the first of the militia men were called up on 15 July and we had to assist with their training.

Parliament said no militia man would be sent overseas until he had done at least six months' service. I was in

France on 12 September 1939 but the first militia men to join us there arrived in late January 1940.—Maj F H Blackburn (Retd), 53 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London, NW7 1NE.

Corps of drums

I was pleased to see that the correspondence about corps of drums had at last prompted a reply (February) from a serving soldier. It was beginning to seem as if the only interested parties were living on the other side of the Atlantic.

In reply to Drum-Major Maloney I would say that if the correct composition of a corps is so well known to his fellow drum-majors why is it there are so few flute-playing corps left among the infantry battalions of the Line?

This ties up with "RB's" frequent criticism in his reviews of "live" tattoo records that the bands are too often drowned by the drums. If the massed drums and flutes were able to play on their own it would leave the military bands free to display their musical ability and also add a new dimension to tattoos, pageants, etc which are being staged, increasingly successfully, all over the world.—D Rodgers, 18 Turnberry Way, Orpington, Kent.

Postal history

I am in the process of making an illustrated collection of postal items and covers with a military connection. This will ultimately be offered to the National Army Museum as a permanent historical record.

Among your readers there must be many envelopes and postal items sent by soldiers from the battlefields, stations and prison camps of the Crimea, South Africa, India, both world wars and many other places. Most will end up in dustbins whereas they could be preserved.

No one can drive a Mercedes-Benz down civvy street for £1,431.



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If any readers have such items which would otherwise end up as waste paper, I would be pleased to receive them along with the name, regiment and any other relevant details of the original sender which would be recorded in the collection.—Anthony J Murphy, 42 Ashburnham Road, Hastings, Sussex.

Why khaki?

Our tin lids are not the only things deserving of criticism (D C A Mann, February letters).

So much of Army clothing is either poorly designed or of poor quality. Other ranks (not officers) are forced to wear hair shirts (shirts KF) while their colleagues in the Navy and RAF wear a far more suitable heavy-duty cotton working shirt. In summer, or when wet through, the itching irritation is terrible.

We were issued with a cotton shirt for wear with No 2 Dress—but collar detached so we cannot wear it in shirt-sleeve order. They also shrink so the collar stud digs into the Adam's apple. Why cannot we wear (officially) similar pattern shirts, with attached collar, if we are prepared to buy them, and which could be used for shirt-sleeve order? Fortunately, in the six years since it was issued, I have never had to wear the new-issue raincoat. It is obviously a scaled-down bell tent with buttons and belt.

Why not a military style coat like the Bundeswehr or the Canadians have? Finally, why are we stuck with khaki? It would be marvellous, after wearing this dreary colour for long spells for training and exercises, to be able to wear a really attractive, different coloured uniform for normal garrison duties. Our NATO allies do so and outshine us doing it. Clothes may not make the man but if he looks good, he feels good.—Sgt W J R Bigg, 4 Div Pro Unit, RMP, BFPO 15.

SHIP AHOY!

Competition 150 (November) was due to close on 15 February but, as announced in the April issue, the closing date was extended to allow late entries to be sent after the postal strike ended.

About a third of the competitors came up with the right answer—a minimum 19 rounds (in addition to the given six) are needed to make sure of sinking the whole fleet. These 19 are at A4 A8 B6 B8 B9 C4 D2 D6 D8 D9 E4 F1 F2 F4 F7 F8 F9 G2 and G4.

Prizewinners:

1 D Howie, 64 Greaves Road, Lancaster, Lancs.
2 Colin Dickinson, Nene Hatun Cadde 23/2, Garzi Osman Pasa, Ankara, Turkey.
3 Mrs S Clow, 7 Haig Lines, Crookham, Aldershot, Hants.
4 J W Orr, 19 Elmstead Road,

Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex.
5 Mrs R L Simpson, Cornerways, 153 Leatfield Drive, Plymouth, PL6 5EY.

6 Lieut G H Matthews, Bennington, Orchard Avenue, Tickenham, Clevedon, Somerset.

7 Mrs D H Evans, 97, Chantry Road, Romanby, Northallerton, Yorks.

8 WO I K Williams, SSO Charlottenburg, Berlin, BFPO 45.

9 Mrs R Gray, Tannochbrae, 6 Brook Street, Warminster, Wilts.

10 Lieut-Col P W Lonnion, Ponderosa, Park Road, Ashtead, Surrey.

11 Capt C Stubbs REME, 32 Regt RCT, c/o GPO Singapore.

12 Lieut-Col F de R Morgan, Llandefaelog House, Brecon.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 15)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Leg of far left soldier. 2 Pattern on left wigwam. 3 Mouth of fish. 4 Leading soldier's left epaulette button. 5 Reflection below prow of canoe. 6 right slope of mountain range. 7 Left knee of right soldier. 8 Lines on top right rock. 9 Soldier's pocket flap. 10 Right cuff of right soldier.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

Miss Pat Edwards, Mountain Ash YMCA, Duffryn Road, Mountain Ash, Glam.—Starting youth club collection British Army cap badges and would appreciate any spares.

R C Robinson, Addis Ababa, c/o FCO, King Charles Street, London SW1.—Wishes obtain British and Empire badges Victorian era and earlier, especially helmet and shako plates.

John Jackson, 13331-96 Street, Edmonton 31, Alberta, Canada.—Collects Enfield rifles, swords, bayonets, pistols.

Tony Rogers (aged 14), 101 Flat 2, Belvedere Street, Gzira, Malta GC.—Collects World Wars One and Two items, particularly Nazi; wishes contact anyone similarly interested. Has for exchange badges, helmets, war newspapers, war stamps, etc.

Dale G Wallingford, 1818 Gilbert Avenue, Ottawa 5, Ontario, Canada.—Requires World War One German steel field helmet preferably with camouflage markings, in good condition. Will exchange or purchase (state price).

Gene Christian, Militaria Exotica, 3849 Bailey Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463, USA.—Wishes correspond with servicemen who have been attached to following units: Imperial Camel Corps, Shanghai Volunteer Corps, China Station gunboats, French Foreign Legion, Spanish Civil War international brigades, Legion of Frontiersmen (WWI) and similar units.

Prize for a march

A competition with a £20 prize is being run by The Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Yeomanry in their quest for a regimental march which they can call their own. The yeomanry, who hope eventually to have the chosen march officially recognised, seek an existing tune which has traditional associations with one or both of the counties.

The 201 (Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Medium Battery, Royal Artillery

(Volunteers), stationed at Luton, traces its history back to 1794. Originally cavalry, the yeomanry regiments of both counties were converted to artillery in 1920 and amalgamated in 1961.

Applications for competition entry forms should be sent to the Administrative Officer, 201 (Herts & Beds Ye) Medium Battery RA (V), Marsh Road, Leagrave, Luton, Beds (Phone Luton 52032). Closing date for entries is 31 July 1971.

REUNIONS

Royal Pioneer Corps Association.

Corps weekend and annual general meeting 4, 5, 6 June at Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Simpson Barracks, Wootton, Northampton. Details from secretary, RPC Association, 51 St George's Drive, London SW1; Corps Secretary, Simpson Barracks; or from corps magazine "The Royal Pioneer."

Middlesex Regiment (DCO).

Albuhera service 1430 hours Saturday 15 May, Regimental Baptistry, St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4. Annual reunion 1900 hours 15 May, Porchester Hall, Queenway, London W2.

XVIIIth Royal Irish Regiment and South Irish Horse.

Annual reunion dinner Chevrons Club 5 June. Annual cenotaph parade 1030 hours Sunday 6 June, Horse Guards. Details from P J Boyce, 13 Sticklepath Terrace, Barnstaple, N Devon.

2nd Searchlight Regiment RA.

Annual reunion 1900 hours Saturday 22 May, British Legion Hall, Wimborne, Dorset. Church service Cranborne 1100, 23 May. All ranks welcome. Details from L C Scott, Wyncroft, 13 Victoria Road, Wimborne, Dorset.

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K G Gibbon, 16 Shorten Avenue, Rynfield, Benoni, Transvaal, S Africa.—Collects medals and badges South African regiments also photographs Boer War 1899-1902. Has items available for exchange.

Lieut Douglas Aykroyd, CoF 40th Armor, APO NY 09742.—Will exchange American Berlin Brigade patches also old and new American medals for British insignia and militaria all nations.

W Ruxton, 10 Arnett Street, Pendle Hill 2146, Sydney, NSW, Australia.—Has for sale World War Two Australian Army uniforms and shoulder flashes; up-to-date regimental dress uniforms; Australian Army cap badges and collar dogs; full dress uniforms all ranks; and winter, summer, walking-out dress all ranks. Please write stating full requirements.

Peter Smith, 33 Demeone Avenue, Ballymena, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.—Requires Royal Marine and Parachute Regiment beret with badge. Good price given.

Pte L M Stillman, HQ NT Comd, Larrakeyah Barracks, Darwin NT, Australia.—Wishes correspond with badge collectors in United Kingdom with view exchanging Australian badges for British.

Capt W van der Schee, 23 Braintree Crescent, Winnipeg 12, Manitoba, Canada.—Wishes exchange recent and current Canadian cap badges for recent and current British cap badges.

SP/5 David E Smith, 300-42-5809, 1 United States Army, Reserve Officer Instructor Group, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio 44118, USA.—Wishes correspond with British soldier. Special interest World War Two.

Edmund P D'Andria, Suite 343, 3410 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco, California, USA.—Requires toy soldiers and vehicles by Britains; military postcards by Harry Payne, Gale and Polden; and Simkin Indian Army or British troop prints.

Chief Technician, P W Mills, 16 Chipmunk Road, RAF Benson, Oxfordshire OX9 6DH.—Collects British military cap and collar badges; willing to purchase.

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Mate in two or ate into?

"If you win I'll eat the board!" You could, too. It is made of fruit cake and the pieces are fashioned in sugar. Sergeant Michael Koutson (above) of the British Military Hospital, Rinteln, took the top award for party cakes with this entry in the 1971 1st Division cookery competition, held at Verden, Germany, when 400 Army Catering Corps chefs took part.

Gallantry awards

Petty Officer Medical Assistant Frederick MacLaughlin, of 45 Commando, Royal Marines, who has been awarded the George Medal for bravery and selfless conduct during riots in Northern Ireland, had a bullet in his throat and a smashed jaw when he drove his ambulance through a line of fire to pick up a civilian and take him to hospital. He had refused help and bandaged himself and only after the patient was cared for did he consent to be examined. He needed an immediate emergency operation.

Other awards include the appointment to Officer of the Order of the British Empire of Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Fletcher, commanding 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, for courageous sustained leadership. Major Archibald Addison and Lieutenant David Jack, both of 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, and Lieutenant Nigel Hine, 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, have been appointed Members of the Order.

The British Empire Medal goes to Corporal John Baseley, Royal Military Police; Private John Powell, 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment; Staff-Sergeant David Ormerod, Corporal Victor Sullivan and Corporal Geoffrey Graves, all of 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment; and Corporal Alexander McIntosh, 1st Battalion, The Royal Scots, and now with the Australian Army.

Twelve officers and soldiers were awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.



Teach-in flue...

Staff-Sergeant Michael Shimell teaching technical grade civilians of the Department of the Environment (above) how to analyse flue gases. Maybe an unusual job for a Chatham sapper but the Royal Engineers are nothing if not versatile. Staff Shimell was recently awarded the silver medal of the Institute of Plant Engineers and 20 guineas for an "excellent performance" in the City and Guilds London Institute examination.



WOs II...

Four crowns in evidence as four warrant officers of 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, rehearse (above) for their traditional St David's Day celebrations. With nearly 90 years' service between them David Ellis, David Lloyd, Dennis Tubb and Keith Jones (left to right) received an enthusiastic response from the audience of soldiers and families at Münster, Germany.



Willy flew...

When members of the Glider Pilot Regiment held a reunion dinner (left) at Osnabrück, Germany, Warrant Officer II Willy Wastell (right) recalled some exciting incidents during 7000 hours of Army flying. Like the day when he defeated a poisonous snake in the cockpit of his Auster when flying over the Malaysian jungle. The snake, on the instrument panel, watched him eyeball to eyeball for 40 minutes until Willy froze it with fire extinguisher foam. At 51 Willy is probably the oldest pilot in the Army Air Corps. He now flies a Beaver with 655 Squadron. At Osnabrück he met Sergeant Ivor Johnstone (left), who flies with helicopters of 659 Squadron.



And Andrea—phew!

Andrea Turner (above) aged 19, a typist at Horstman Ltd, Bath, for two years, knew a lot about the Chieftain but had never seen one. Her firm has made more than 200 turret gearboxes and Andrea had typed "Chieftain" many more times than that.

Then came an invitation for a director and five of the staff to meet the 51-ton battle tank at the Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington, and to lunch with the men who train Chieftain instructors for armoured regiments. Andrea enjoyed a hectic day.



Sporting Silhouettes

AS the small boy said, out first ball, "I'll take my bat home." Here, also without the wherewithal, are ten sporting types in silhouette. All you have to do is to name in each case the sport.

Send your answers, on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 156" label from this page, and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 156)
SOLDIER
 433 Holloway Road
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 N7 6LT

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 10 August. The answers and winners' names will appear in the October **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 156" label. Winners will be drawn from correct entries.

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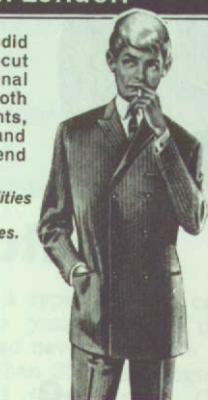
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March offensive

"See How They Ran" (William Moore)

On 21 March 1918 General Ludendorff launched his final great attack designed to put the British Army out of action and perhaps force a peace favourable to Germany before the French Army, shattered by Verdun and mutinies, recovered and the American Army was in a position to tip the scales in the allies' favour.

That offensive hit the British Fifth Army commanded by General Sir Hubert Gough. After four years of trench warfare, when gains were measured in yards at the cost of tremendous casualties, the Germans overran miles of front and penetrated far and wide into the British defences. Whole British divisions were forced to withdraw and a crisis of unprecedented proportions was created. The resultant attempt to hush the whole matter up only made

things worse and the British Fifth was made a whipping boy for the failings of the whole Army leadership.

Now, after nearly half a century of silence, Mr Moore, a senior executive in Fleet Street who had a spell at the Camberley Staff College just after the war, has tackled the subject. Discovering there was never an official inquiry into what some people regard as the most disastrous defeat ever suffered by the British Army, he delved into official documents and interviewed survivors, including General Gough. The result is a highly readable and valuable book.

Mr Moore lets us see the planning and decision-making at the highest level and gives us the reactions of those who took part in that great battle and the resultant retreat.

Lee Cooper, £2.50 CW

"Protective group"

"Hitler's SS" (Richard Grunberger)

This is a handy little account of the short-lived yet exceedingly effective Schutz-Staffel, the "protective group" which held Europe in terror for nearly six years. Mr Grunberger takes us from its start as a personal bodyguard for the Führer, who was always threatened with personal violence in the early days of the Nazi movement, up to the 1940s when the Waffen SS alone numbered 1,000,000 men.

Well illustrated and well written, "Hitler's SS" tells us little new about that formation nor does it give us the perspective of George Stein's book on the SS (surprisingly not mentioned in the bibliography), but it does provide for anyone knowing little about it a readable and entertaining introduction to the Schutz-Staffel.

Most accounts of the SS have been distorted (probably rightly so) by the misdeeds of those SS men employed as guards in concentration camps or in the Einsatzgruppen which exterminated so many people. We still await a definitive and objective account of the SS's contribution to Germany's war effort. Mr



Grunberger's book is not this but is recommended as a lively and fast-moving account of the SS. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £1.50 CW

"Victorian" general

"The Man Who Disobeyed" (A Smithers)

This new book on General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien is a somewhat pedestrian biography of the last of the really "Victorian" generals who spent nearly half a century in the Army before he had to leave France in the spring of 1915 because of differences of opinion between himself and his chief, Sir John French.

Two-thirds of the book deal with the general's long career before World War One; less than one-third is devoted to the events which give it its somewhat sensational title. Had Sir Horace not relinquished his command in 1915 under pressure from Sir John he would probably

have gone the following year (as did French) because he, French and many of the "Victorian" generals who led the BEF in 1914-15 were simply not capable of fighting a mass war of that kind.

For those of us fascinated by the pre-World War One period of British military history there is a picture of the typical British officer of the time—hidebound, completely taken up with sport, disdainful of study and naturally intensely brave. Sometimes one wonders how they won a battle, yet win them they did in conditions and climates that would make their grandchildren's hair curl.

Lee Cooper, £3.15 CW

"Ole Blood an' Guts"

"Patton: A Critical Biography" (Charles Whiting)

"Forty-Eight Hours to Hammelburg" (Charles Whiting)

Officially he was General George Patton Jun, commander of the US Third Army, 600,000 strong when it ended the war in Czechoslovakia in May 1945 and the biggest single field army ever sent into action by the United States. To some of the old Regular Army who had known him before the war he was the "Madman of Fort Clark." To those who saw his attempts to model a bright bottle-green new uniform for the US Tank Corps, complete with spaceman helmet, he was the "Green Hornet." To the great American public he was "Ole Blood an' Guts," a rip-roaring, profane, lean six-footer who wore his twin pearl-handled revolvers in the rough-tough fashion of the old American frontier.

Twenty-five years after his death in December 1945 General Patton is again very much in the news as the subject of a film seen by six and a half million people in the States and now achieving success in the United Kingdom. And now two new books on Patton help to a certain extent to deflate the legend that he would have won the war single-handed if he had not been held back by Montgomery and Eisenhower.

Charles Whiting's biography is a profusely illustrated handy little book which examines Patton's

military record in his two years of war in Europe and tries to put it in perspective. In this fast-moving paperback the author tries to assess what exactly made Patton tick and concludes that it was a desire for publicity, an overweening ego, desire to make up for the stigma of Sicily (his dismissal from command of the US Seventh Army for slapping two private soldiers), and his contempt of his associates as "desk-bound generals."

Mr Whiting's other book deals in detail with an episode in Patton's career which has been kept secret for a quarter of a century (see *SOLDIER*, March 1970). It is the disastrous attempt to send a 300 strong raiding party 60 miles behind German lines in March 1945 to rescue Lieutenant-Colonel Waters, Patton's son-in-law, and other prisoners.

Despite overwhelming difficulties the little task force actually made it, freed Waters and engaged the Germans in a last-ditch hilltop stand. This remarkable episode, which Patton's friends and associates managed to keep secret for two decades, makes compulsive reading. Together the two books present a well-researched, highly personal account of General Patton who died in 1945 in bed (as a result of an accident) and not on the battlefield.

Patton: Macdonald, 43p
Hammelburg: Ballantine, 40p CW

Change-resistant

"The British Army: Civil-Military Relations 1885-1905" (W S Hamer)

Mr Hamer's account of two decades of military and civilian relationships at a time when Britain's imperial position was at its peak is a well-documented and scholarly piece of work. The reader expecting a popular account of why Britain's Army failed so lamentably in the Boer War will be disappointed, though naturally any observer of the Army scene at that time must ask why after such thorough-going reforms as those which took place between 1854 and 1871 the Boers were able to make such fools of the British generals.

Mr Hamer does not make it explicit but it is clear from his description that the Army still regarded itself—and was regarded by the public—as a separate entity. In spite of the many attempts at

reform the Army still preserved its 18th century traditions. It has always resisted change from the outside. Mr Hamer makes it quite clear that although the reforms of the 1885-1905 period transformed the British Army from an eighteenth century force into a modern army it still had enough officers to fight—and even sabotage—the reforms.

The author's conclusion that democracies unfortunately move at a snail's pace in peacetime but in time of danger "decisions are made with whirlwind speed and institutions and plans, both good and bad, are sacrificed indiscriminately in the haste to take action" holds a lesson. Too often the Army has been neglected or "reformed," mostly because of economic necessity in peacetime, only to find it cannot carry out its wartime role.

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From Troy onwards

"Great Sieges" (Vezio Melegari)

Since the wooden horse of Troy, the earliest recorded siege, each succeeding generation has come up with more and more frightful devices of destruction—bows and arrows, spears, catapults, "Greek Fire," cannons, machine-guns, flamethrowers, atomic weapons and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Romans were reputed to have a battering ram some 200 feet long,

and a mobile siege tower 150 feet high. Even modern fortifications such as the Maginot line and Siegfried line fail to compare with China's Great Wall—1500 miles long, 20 feet high, 17 feet wide, with 25,000 towers!

The author's personal choice of sieges will not satisfy everyone but is at least interesting. Apart from Troy the ancient world provides Alesia where Julius Caesar

SOLDIER

