

September 1976

15p

Soldier



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Soldier

SEPTEMBER 1976

Volume 32, No. 9

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FRONT COVER

Well elevated to fly 180 yards to the target, an arrow leaves the bow of a member of the Royal Company of Archers, the

Queen's Bodyguard in Scotland, during the annual shoot in Edinburgh for the Edinburgh Arrow. This year the Royal Company celebrates its tercentenary and in October will be reviewed by the Queen.

Picture by Doug Pratt.



BACK COVER

A member of The Parachute Regiment's freefall team, the 'Red Devils,' heads for the target in the middle of the arena during the show at Aldershot Army Display. Freefallers use an adapted circular parachute (Para Commander), a delta wing configuration or a flat canopy as seen here.

Picture by Doug Pratt.

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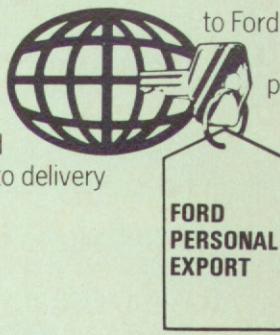


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In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists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

See-the-Army Diary



AUGUST 1976

- 27 Blackpool Services Tattoo (27-29 August) (Army Air Corps 'Blue Eagles' helicopter display team 26-27 August; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' gymnastic team; Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; **Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils'** freefall team; **mock battle**; RAC hot air balloon; four bands).
- 27 British Timken Show, Northampton (27-28 August) ('Red Devils'; Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery; RA motorcyclists; two bands).
- 28 Leeds Gala (28-30 August) (band).
- 28 Expo Steam, Peterborough (28-30 August) (Blue Eagles; band 29-30 August).
- 28 South Tyneside Show (28-30 August) (band).
- 28 QUExPO, Birchington, Kent (28-30 August) (Royal Army Ordnance Corps 'Cannonballs' freefall team 30 August; band).
- 30 Worthing Fiesta (Rotorama) (Red Devils; RAC hot air balloon; band).
- 30 Leicester City Show (30-31 August) (Blue Eagles 30 August; two bands).
- 30 Eye (Suffolk) Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 30 Aylsham (Kent) Show (band).
- 30 Hemel Hempstead Carnival (Red Devils; arena event; band).
- 30 Sevenoaks Show (Royal Corps of Transport 'Silver Stars' freefall team).
- 30 Basildon District Show (Red Caps).
- 31 Barrow Army Display (31 August-1 September) (Pegasus; Red Devils; Blue Eagles; RA motorcyclists; **mock battle**; four bands).

SEPTEMBER 1976

- 1 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 2 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (band).
- 3 Watford Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 3 Sheffield Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 4 Rye Carnival (7 RHA 'Black Knights' freefall team).
- 4 Seaham (South Shields) Show (4-5 September) (band).
- 4 Bury Army Display (4-5 September) (Red Devils; Red Caps; Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; **mock battle**; three bands).
- 4 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Steam Fair (4-5 September) (arena event).
- 4 Ampthill (Bedfordshire) Cheshire Homes Fête (Blue Eagles; Red Devils).
- 4 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 4 Richmond (Yorkshire) Round Table Show (band).
- 4 County Agricultural Show, High Wycombe (Red Devils; band).
- 5 Burma Star Association Day, Waterbeach, Cambridge (Red Devils; Blue Eagles; Royal Green Jackets freefall team; three bands).
- 5 John Carter's Historic Warplane Air Rally and National Historical Military Vehicles Rally, Booker, High Wycombe.
- 6 Guildford Town Show (Blue Eagles; Red Devils; band).
- 8 Kneller Hall Band final grand concert.
- 11 Steam Fair, Tring (11-12 September) (Blue Eagles).
- 11 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
- 11 Welwyn Garden City Hospital Fête (Red Devils).
- 11 Henley Show (band).
- 11 Glasgow Army Display (11-19 September) (Scottish Division 'Golden Lions' freefall team; Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle display team; band; pipes and drums).
- 12 Woodley (Berkshire) Tattoo.
- 13 Aberystwyth Army Exhibition (13-15 September) (Blue Eagles; Red Devils; Red Caps; band).
- 16 Thame (Oxfordshire) Show (band).
- 17 Newtown (Powys) Army Exhibition (17-18 September) (Red Devils; Red Caps; band).
- 18 Tidworth Carnival (Blue Eagles).
- 18 Ringwood Carnival (Blue Eagles).
- 18 Stokesley (Yorkshire) Agricultural Show (junior band).
- 18 Welwyn Garden City Water Carnival (Red Devils; band).
- 18 Basingstoke Show (18-19 September) (Blue Eagles 19 September; band).

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SOLDIER to Soldier

Welcome to the 'new look' Soldier! And whatever your reading habits — whether you start at the front and work systematically through the book, flick over the pages before settling down, turn immediately to your favourite feature or in Chinese fashion begin at the back — you will quickly see that everything is freshly different, yet familiar.

The radical change is in the expansion of Soldier NEWS into a newspaper within the magazine to bring you news of what is happening in the Army at home and overseas and keep you well informed of official decisions affecting the British soldier's way of life — his conditions of service, pay, pension and so on.

Soldier NEWS, running to 20 pages in this inaugural 64-page issue, takes from the magazine the long-running 'Left, Right and Centre' and 'Purely Personal' picture/caption features and presents them in newspaper style. The NEWS pages will carry more of these items than has been possible in the past. Other news stories previously used in the magazine are also transferred to the newspaper section as, too, is sport.

Since sport was re-introduced in Soldier, the breadth of coverage — at Army and theatre level — has continued to grow and will do so in Soldier NEWS, the back page of which will be the 'lead' sport page.

A first in Soldier's 31 years is the families page in the NEWS section. This will cover the activities and interests of Army wives and teenagers, help them to cope with the problems of Service life, keep them abreast of decisions affecting them and provide a forum for their views.

The magazine itself, wrapped round the pull-out Soldier NEWS, retains both its in-depth features on the Army and its regular features — See-the-Army Diary, museum series, How Observant Are You? teaser, military book and record reviews, humour, models page and competition (this month with 'bumper' prizes).

The 'new look' and re-styled Soldier NEWS are the compromise result, dictated by the current financial climate, of several years of newspaper-magazine discussion. Initially the plan was to produce an Army newspaper, in addition to the monthly magazine, at fortnightly frequency, but a recent ruling that Soldier's staff could not be increased, dictated the present compromise solution of a mini tabloid newspaper within the magazine. Throughout these discussions there was solid agreement that, whatever the outcome, Soldier Magazine should be retained and not lose its identity.

So, again, welcome to the 'new look'. Soldier's staff is confident that you will like this 'best of two worlds' innovation.

Yes, we are happy that you read Soldier. But not so happy when it is someone else's copy! If you do not already buy your own copy, take out a year's direct subscription now. Simply send a UK cheque, UK postal order or international money order today — £2.97 (UK), £2.97 (BFPO), £3.10 (elsewhere) — to Miss D M W Duffield, Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU, telling her when you wish your subscription to start. Or ask your unit to reserve your copy for you. Or order it from your newsagent. Do it today! Make sure of your Soldier!

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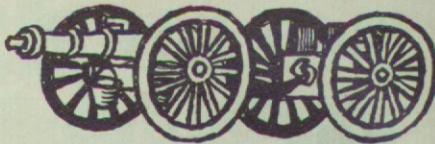
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MILITARY MUSEUMS

44



The Royal Green Jackets

THREE famous regiments are commemorated in this interesting museum: The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (43rd and 52nd), The King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Rifle Brigade, now amalgamated in The Royal Green Jackets.

The large hall housing the collections of all three regiments is dominated by a full-length portrait of Sir John Moore, Colonel of the 52nd. Nearby are the officers' sashes which were used to lower his body into the grave at Corunna. Other pictures show the charge of the 52nd at Waterloo which finally broke Napoleon's Imperial Guard; the battle of Nonne Bosschen wood, Ypres, in November 1914, depicting the defeat of the Prussian Guard by the 52nd; and the glider-borne landing and capture of Bénouville Bridge by 2nd Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, the first formed body of British troops to land in Normandy on D-Day, 6 June 1944.

Noteworthy exhibits include a miniature of Private Thomas Gould who had 13 clasps on his Peninsula Medal; the baton of Field-Marshal Sir William Rowan, who was gazetted to the 52nd at the age of 14; a King's Shilling given to the late Sergeant R C Smith when he enlisted in 1908; a sword used by Corporal Thomas Holden at the battle of Bunker Hill; the Peninsula Gold Medal, spy glass and sword of Lieutenant-Colonel John Philip Hunt; and four Victoria Crosses.

Next, The King's Royal Rifle Corps. Here we see the original regimental Colour (1755) of 2nd Battalion, the 62nd (soon to become the 60th of Foot) and a 1792 officer's uniform of the 60th Royal American Regiment (later the KRRC). It was shortly after this that the 5th Battalion was raised to be equipped as a 'rifle corps' and dressed in green — hence 'Green Jackets.' A fine collection of regimental silver has a central position and nearby is a magnificent Grand National Cup won in 1908 by Rubio, owned by the late Lord Penrhyn, an officer of the regiment.

Particularly well displayed are the medals and decorations, including his Victoria Cross, of General Sir Redvers Buller. Also on view are the uniform and decorations of Prince Christian Victor, grandson of Queen Victoria, who served with the KRRC.

South African souvenirs include a wooden pillow belonging to King Cetewayo taken

during the Zulu War and a knobkerry of Boer War vintage. An eye-catching Nazi relic is the flag of the cruiser Prinz Eugen which surrendered in Danish waters to B Company, 2 KRRC, in May 1945. A display of medals includes seven Victoria Crosses.

Finally, The Rifle Brigade. Prominently displayed in this section is one of the original Baker rifles (1800-38) with sword-bayonet fixed, the first British-made rifle to be used in the Army. Nearby is a collection of the different types of rifle used by the regiment.

Fifteen Victoria Crosses won by members of The Rifle Brigade have a case to themselves. They include the VC won in 1918 by Sergeant William Gregg, believed to be one of only four British soldiers to have the VC, Distinguished Conduct Medal and Military Medal. Here too is the VC won in South Africa by Captain, later General Sir Walter Congreve, and VC won in 1916 by his son, Major William Congreve. Of particular interest is a uniform worn by the Duke of Wellington, Colonel-in-Chief of The Rifle Brigade from 1820 until his death in 1852. Here too is a reproduction of Terence Cuneo's painting of the four-day defence of Calais in May 1940 when The Rifle Brigade, The King's Royal Rifle Corps and Queen Victoria's Rifles gained immortal fame.

In a small room apart from the main exhibition is The Royal Green Jackets section. Here can be seen souvenirs of fighting in Sarawak and other theatres as well as a comprehensive display illustrating the regiment's involvement in Northern Ireland. There is also a pictorial history of Peninsula Barracks.

John Jesse

Curator:	Colonel J Baker (Retd)
Address:	Royal Green Jackets Museum Peninsula Barracks Romsey Road Winchester
Telephone:	Winchester 61781, ext 341 or 344
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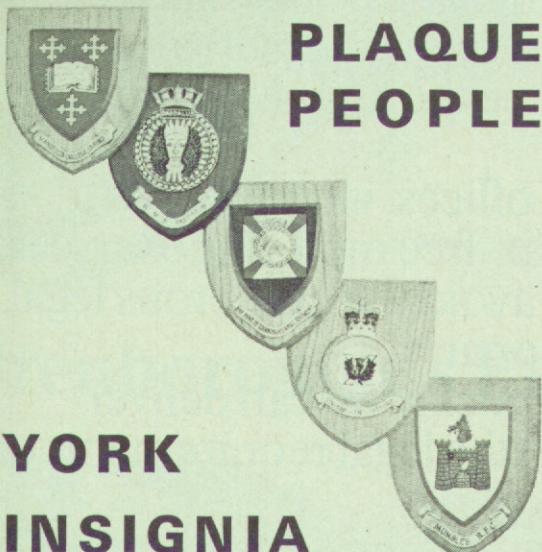
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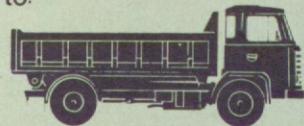
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Filming
**'A BRIDGE
TOO FAR'**

Attenborough's Private Army goes to war



Sir Richard Attenborough reviews his troops — the 40 actors now nicknamed 'Attenborough's Private Army.' Top: The German Panzer probe is thwarted by stiff resistance from British paratroopers at the northern end of Arnhem Bridge.

IT WAS one of the biggest and most audacious gambles of World War Two. Had it succeeded, the war would have ended months earlier and probably the whole map of present-day Europe would be different.

Operation Market Garden, the ill-fated invasion of the Netherlands, which included the heroic British stand at Arnhem, is now being painstakingly recreated on location in Holland in one of the most ambitious war film projects of all time. The multi-million pound epic, directed by one of the giants of the British screen — Sir Richard Attenborough — and featuring an international star cast including Dirk Bogarde, Michael Caine, Robert Redford, Sean Connery, Elliott Gould, Gene Hackman and Sir Laurence Olivier, is expected to be premiered in London next summer.

'A Bridge Too Far,' based on the best-

seller by Cornelius Ryan, will cover Operation Market Garden in depth from the British, American and German angles. Since it is impossible to use the busy Arnhem Bridge itself for filming, a quieter location has been chosen at Deventer, some miles to the north, where there is a river bridge similar to that which the British paratroopers held for days before submitting to numerically superior German forces.

Every effort has been made to ensure historical accuracy in the film. Leading survivors toothcombed the script and General 'Johnnie' Frost, Arnhem bridge hero, and now a Sussex farmer, was at Deventer to see the filming of his men's stand at the bridge.

General Frost will be played in the film by Anthony Hopkins — an odd experience to see an actor portraying oneself as a younger man. Says the general: "It did feel strange at

'A BRIDGE
TOO FAR'

first but, as the film developed, so Tony identified himself more and more with the part and I have felt increasing interest. Within the limits of space and time they have faithfully reproduced what happened. It brought memories flooding back particularly when I saw the German armour advancing across the bridge.

"This is a story of great gallantry and fortitude, which, despite the fact that it did not go as we hoped, does show the British Army and The Parachute Regiment in a very good light."

Another who took part in Operation Market Garden was Colonel John Waddy, who was given leave of absence from his job as military adviser to Westland Helicopters to become military adviser to the film company on the British and German aspects of the action.

Colonel Waddy told *Soldier*: "We have to tread a delicate balance between what is tactically and militarily correct and what is cinematographically acceptable. I am learning a lot — for instance when I see the 'rushes' the next day some of the things I worried about don't show up at all and of course 'rushes' lasting 15 minutes may well end up as 15 seconds."

Colonel Waddy added that when he arrived and saw the 40 or so actors who were to play British soldiers he was "horrified." With the aid of stuntman Doug Robinson, a former South African soldier and policeman, and three of the actors who had military experience, the men of what would soon



Left: General John Frost, Arnhem hero, gives a tip to Anthony Hopkins, the wartime Frost.

Below: Wartime RAF photo uses windmill to show a fleet of allied aircraft and gliders on the way to support airborne forces at Nijmegen.

Right: Stunt man Alf Joint plunges from a roof. His resulting injuries took him off to hospital.

be dubbed 'Attenborough's Private Army' were given weapons and fitness training and their long hair and beards disappeared to be replaced by World War Two style crops.

"Now they have got into the swing of being soldiers and look just like the lads of The Parachute Regiment," said Colonel Waddy who, one imagines, could not offer a more fulsome tribute. The men of Attenborough's Private Army indeed look the part. As they stand around between 'takes' surrounded by adoring Dutch girls, the clock turns back 30 years. One of them, David English, enthused: "This is the boyhood ambition of every one of us — to be in a war film."

It is not all fun and games making films — in fact very little of it is. Alf Joint, a veteran stunt man and stunt co-ordinator of the film, was called upon to fall from a roof after being 'shot.' Waiting below was an air bed but Alf hit its edge and was taken to hospital with shoulder and chest injuries — a few more inches out and he could easily have been killed.

It is this respect for realism and detail

which is expected to make 'A Bridge Too Far' one of the most memorable of all war films. Original vehicles are being used as much as possible and, to help with this, the directors called in Mike Ely and Charlie Mann, of the Military Vehicles Museum, Falmouth. After denuding the museum and borrowing vehicles from other military vehicle enthusiasts, Ely and Mann got them into running order. They include jeeps, trucks, motorcycles, an armoured car, ambulances and recovery vehicles. And 18 of the vehicle buffs were so keen on the project that they gave up their jobs to work on the film set as drivers and mechanics.

One of Mr Ely's treasures, a 1942 Scammel 'coffeepot' recovery vehicle, was used to winch out a Sherman tank which had been in a Belgian museum for some years.

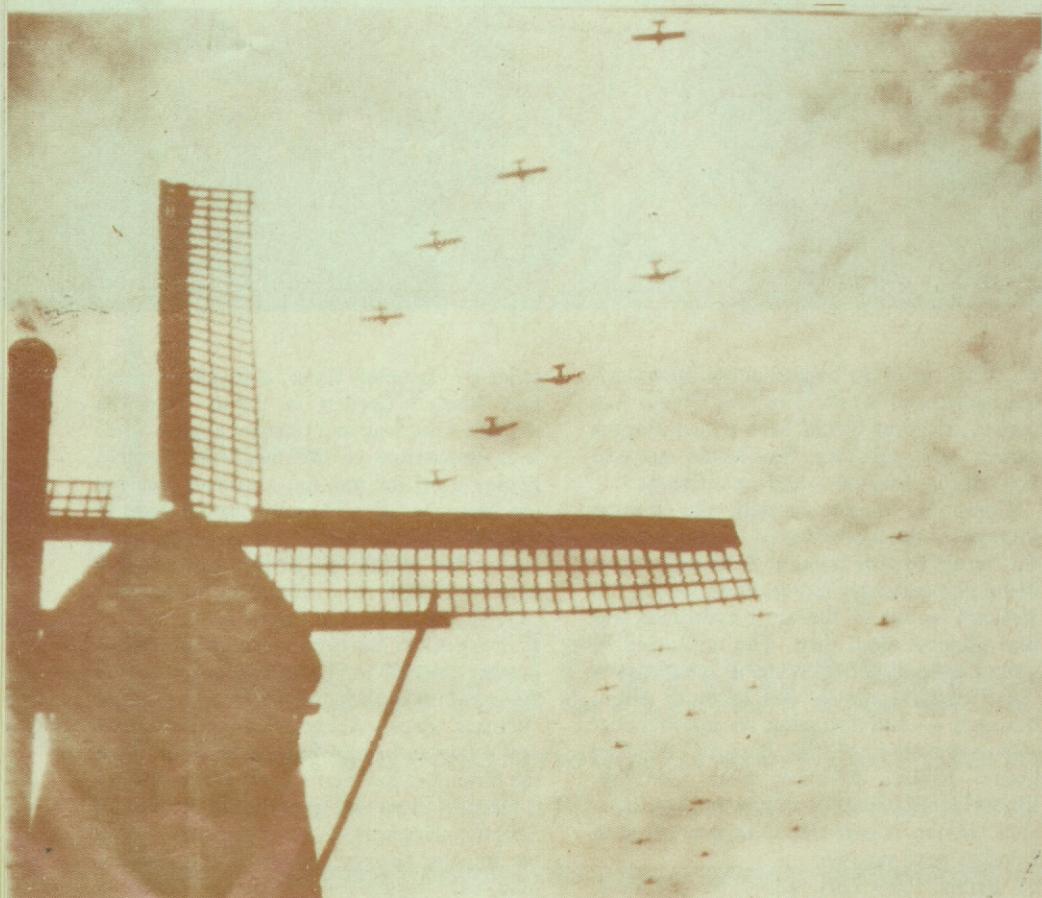
The tank workshop is in good hands — Major John Larminie, ex-Queen's Dragoon Guards and Tony Carlyle, a former artificer sergeant-major in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, know a lot about wartime tanks. Another mechanic in the workshop is Mr Jack Keats, who spent 24 years with REME until 1970.

Most of the Shermans had been standing around on plinths for years and it took three men working for an average of three weeks to get one going again. Says Jack Keats: "This is where REME training comes to the fore — we have to bodge here there and everywhere as we cannot get much in the way of spares."

Major Larminie landed his film job by a stroke of good fortune. He was in the Royal Armoured Corps Museum at Bovington reading an article on German tanks when the film company rang the museum. He told *Soldier*: "What we are doing is to reproduce what looks like an armoured squadron of 1944. In those days there would have been 19 tanks with scout cars and half-tracks. We hope to field 11 Shermans and we have found some 100 per cent genuine Humber scout cars which are very rare collectors' pieces."

As tank advisor, Major Larminie spent months visiting museums on the Continent assessing which tanks could be economically renovated. The few German tanks which he discovered were in poor condition and so it was decided to use current German Leopard tanks of the Dutch Army — because of the Leopard's family resemblance to the Panther.

The tanks are being fitted with radios so that the director can contact crews in the same way as a commander in wartime. Some are now in perfect working order although at





Deventer people have taken a keen and friendly interest in the filming.

the other extreme one Sherman had to have its defunct engine removed and replaced with one from an American car. "Now working — but rather slowly," reported Major Larminie.

Mr John Hilling, in the wardrobe department, has charge of thousands of uniforms — all of which have to be perfect in every detail. The film company bought hundreds of unused wartime parachute smocks from the Ministry of Defence and scoured London costumiers as well.

So the cameras roll, the stars make their brief but lucrative visits to the set in Holland and this month (September) the present-day British Army takes a hand. Jumping from Dakotas to simulate the Arnhem drop will be men of 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, now back in Aldershot after a tour in Berlin.

This was the operation which finally immortalised the red beret. Now the current generation of paratroopers will be immortalised on celluloid. ●

Soldier lies dead in front of producer's chair. He's only a dummy.





2 Armoured Delivery Squadron

Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Always on the move

"NOTHING ever stands still," says Technical Quartermaster-Sergeant Ray Smith of his unit, 2 Armoured Delivery Squadron. For the job of this nucleus of Rhine Army's tank fleet is to keep the armoured regiments based in Germany supplied with the tanks they need to keep up to strength in peace and war.

The squadron, less than 50 strong and made up of both British Army personnel and German civilians, is based at Hamm with a forward base at Paderborn. The tanks on charge to the squadron are the ones constantly on the move to replace those taken out of the line for one reason or another by the user regiments.

There is a constant pool of "fit repair" tanks ready for immediate issue. The unit boasts that it can have a tank on the road for delivery within an hour of a bid coming in. Delivery is done by 617 Tank Transporter Unit (see *Soldier*, January 1973), a mixed service organisation unit under command of the Royal Corps of Transport. It is right

next door to 2 Armoured Delivery Squadron in Hamm for the reason graphically explained by TQMS Smith: "They are very important to us — without them we might as well pack up and go home."

A war maintenance reserve of tanks is held by the squadron as reinforcements for immediate issue in the event of war. These tanks are kept cocooned in plastic envelopes with a 24-hour-a-day de-humidifying plant working to keep them in tip-top condition. All that needs to be added to these tanks before issue is the ammunition and small arms and they can be on their way to the front in some two hours.

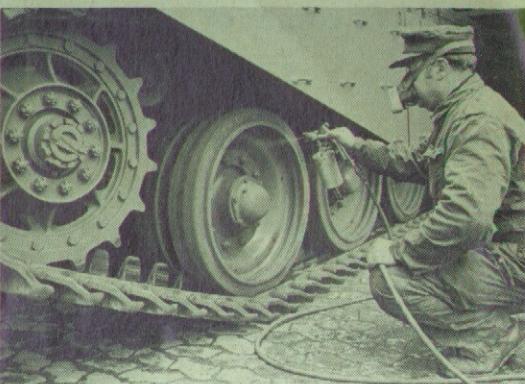
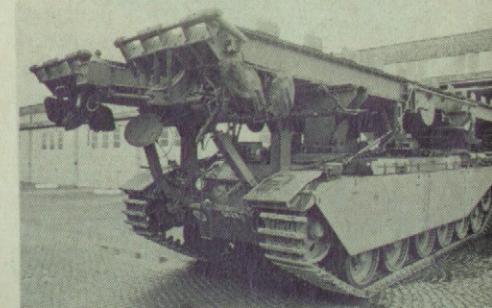
Modifications need to be made to in-service equipment from time to time and 2 Armoured Delivery Squadron has to keep this production line flowing so that regiments do not go short of tanks.

At present, new laser rangefinders are being fitted to Chieftains in Rhine Army and the squadron is working hand-in-hand with 23 Base Workshop, Royal Electrical and



Just some of the tanks held by the squadron.

Below: An old bridge layer takes a final bow. It will shortly be on its way to a museum.



In the workshops all tanks get a respray.

Below: There's intricate work as well. Mechanic works on a tank-machine gun part overhaul.



A tank is loaded and is now being sheeted down ready for its delivery to an armoured regiment.



HQ 7th Armoured Brigade
at
Sidi Rezegh
21 November 1941

Sidi Rezegh

This month *SOLDIER* markets yet another in the long line of war illustrations by Terence Cuneo. This full-colour print, from a painting commissioned by 7th Armoured Brigade, shows the repulse of an afternoon

attack by 15 and 21 Panzer divisions at Sidi Rezegh in November 1941. Standing against the Germans were the remains of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment and brigade headquarters supported by F Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. The brigade major can be seen running across to Jervis, the brigade commander's tank.

Price of the print, mailed anywhere in the world, is £3.15. Size is 26 inches by 19 inches with an actual picture area of 24 inches by 12½ inches. Orders with UK postal order, UK cheque or international money order, should be sent to *SOLDIER* (SR 1), Ordnance Rd, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

The Organisation Men

THE SETTING is partly wooded farmland in north Germany. The peace is shattered by a Chieftain tank of Rhine Army breaking from cover to start an attack.

The exercise is a vital part of the armoured unit's training and is conducted with speed and the correct use of terrain and cover. Inevitably the tank leaves its mark in the form of damaged fences and farmland. The farmer gets paid. But a bigger problem has already been posed and solved — who arranged for the land to be available for the exercise in the first place?

This problem was solved by the Joint Services Liaison Organisation (JSLO) which celebrated its 21st birthday earlier this year.

The JSLO thrives on problems — of training and accommodation requirements for the Army and RAF; of law, arising from British forces living and moving among the civil community in Germany; of wages and employment for the 31,000 Germans working for the British.

All such problems, claims JSLO, are solutions in disguise for their experts at JSLO headquarters, next door to the West German presidential palace on the banks of the Rhine in Bonn.

The JSLO is descended from the British element of the Allied Control Commission which worked after World War Two to reconstruct and restore the German

administration. It included British residents in all the towns which had large British garrisons nearby. The four-power co-operation of the late 1940s ended abruptly with the Berlin blockade which contributed to the creation in 1949 of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The new republic continued to be assisted by a British High Commission, part of which was a Services relations adviser and his staff. On 5 May 1955 the West German Federal Republic became a sovereign state and the Allied High Commission ceased to exist. On the same day the Services relations adviser and his staff, the British Residents and a number of officials who had been dealing with the problems of British forces in Germany, became founder members of the JSLO the continuity of liaison and knowledge of German civil affairs was guaranteed.

The members of the JSLO work with the German administration at all levels. It is no accident that their headquarters is close to the Federal ministerial offices and the British Embassy in Bonn.

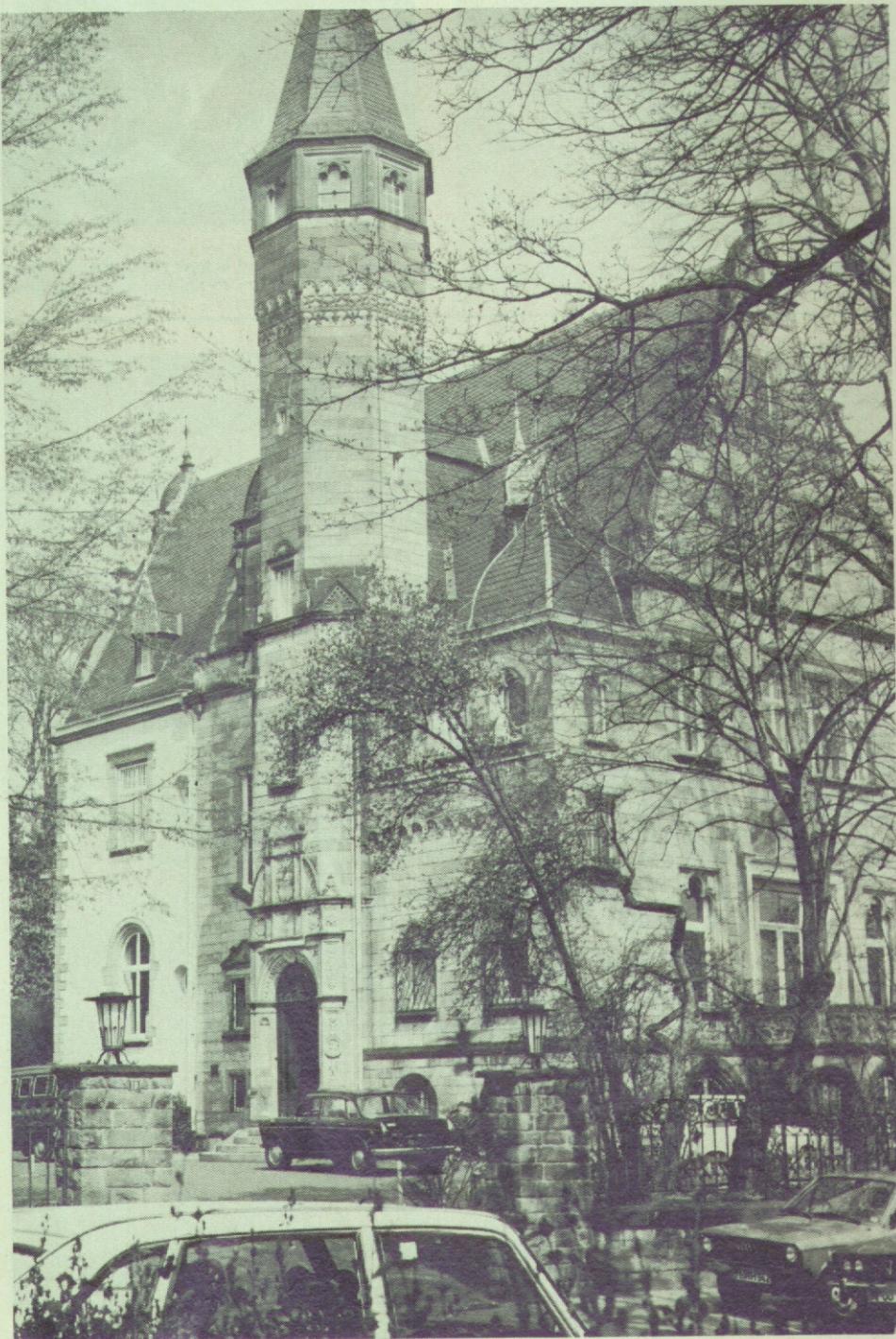
Chief Services liaison officers are in Düsseldorf and Hanover, the seats of the Länder (regional governments) of North Rhine/Westphalia and Lower Saxony. Services liaison officers are found in all the major garrison areas where British troops are stationed and all speak fluent German. Their work extends to maintaining good Anglo-German relations. They sponsor, help and encourage the forces' community relations activities. They also carefully monitor German press and radio and advise British commanders of all comment concerning British forces in the area.

The JSLO also includes the British Frontier Service whose members wear a blue naval-style uniform. Today's BFS is a trimmed-down part of the structure that existed in the early days when they were the British Ambassador's eyes and ears on the eastern border. This service is still responsible for much of the forces' customs clearance and still has members who know the border like the backs of their hands.

Major-General Oliver Roome, chief of the JSLO, says: "Our official task is to see to it that the British forces continue to secure the facilities necessary for our training and domestic needs and at the same time ensure that we pay due regard to German public and private interests.

"The Services liaison officer also sets the pace in maintaining confidence and continuity in the dealings between the Services and officials of the local German community. This is especially so in garrisons where units tend to change over.

"There is also a specific role in actively countering any bad relations that may threaten to develop. All these requirements are continuous and I believe that in resolving them this organisation has proved itself over the years to be valid and singularly successful."



'...the charming Villa Spiritus.' The Headquarters of the JSLO in Bonn.

humour



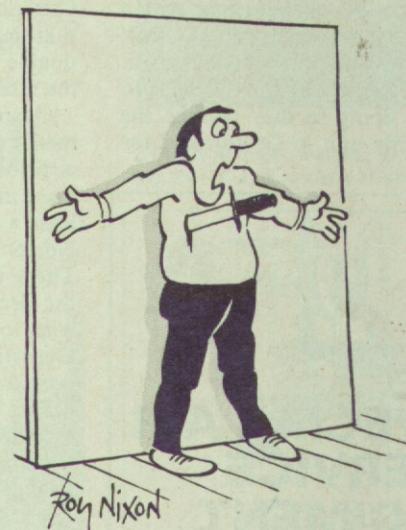
"Running Deer seems to be in trouble!"



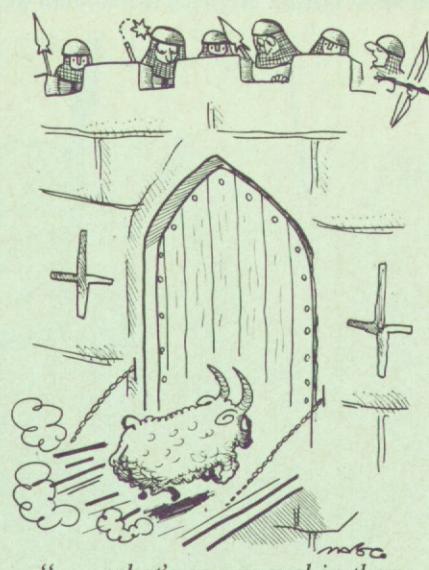
"Ah, now I think I see where I went wrong!"



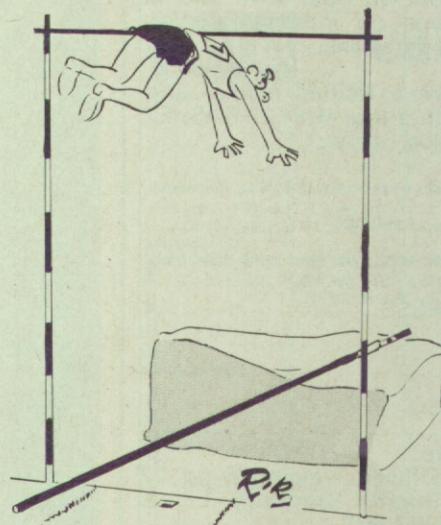
"Have you been fighting again?"



"Left a bit . . . "



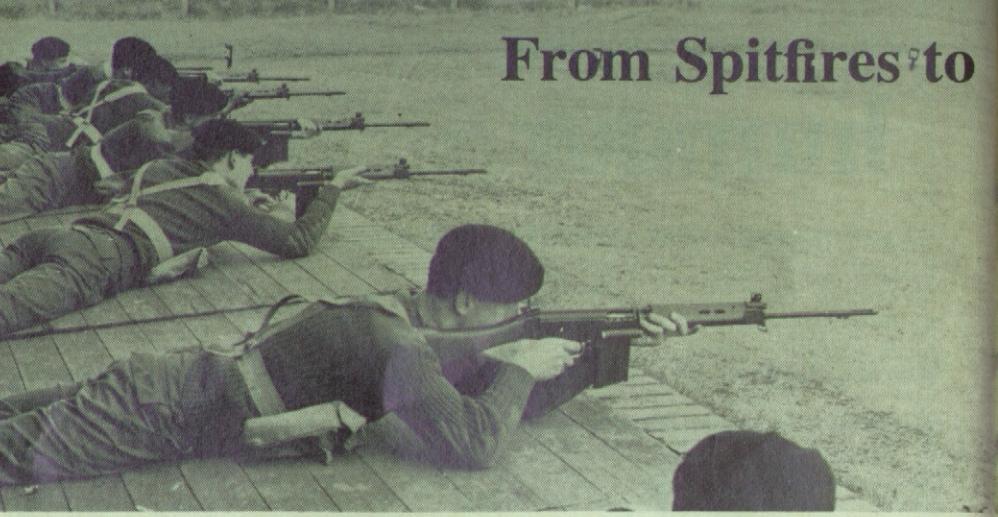
" . . . what's so unusual in them using a battering ram?"



R.E.



Junior signalmen try out their 'Noddy' suits.



Juniors try out the rifle range — a legacy from the Royal Air Force.

WHEN THEY raised the school-leaving age from 15 to 16 a few years back the outlook for junior soldier units seemed bleak. With shorter periods left for training before the boys reached man-service age it was widely predicted that there would be a slump in the number of juniors. And for a time this was so... but in the last 18 months there has been a remarkable upsurge until today junior units often have more members than before change.

The Royal Signals, unable to cope with a massive influx of juniors at Catterick, took over a disused Royal Air Force station at Ouston, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to house them. In doing so they became the first Regular Army unit in Geordieland for years.



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Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Cuerden, who commands 11 Signal Regiment, of which the Junior Signalman Wing at Ouston is a part, explains the recent history: "In the early seventies we had small dribbles of junior soldiers shuffled round from place to place. At the time the school-leaving age was raised our small numbers were combined with the Army Apprentices College at Harrogate. By September 1974 we had 200 juniors and found room for them with the regiment at Catterick. Then last year it became apparent that the next intake was going to be at least double that and we had to seek new barracks for them."

Ouston (now renamed Albemarle Barracks) was chosen from a number of defunct airfields. A wartime Spitfire base, it had been unoccupied as a flying station for at least a decade and had been used by the Northumbrian Universities Air Squadron. There were only eight weeks from the time the decision was made to move the junior wing to Ouston to the recruits arriving. But Department of Environment experts succeeded in making the station habitable before the first youngster crossed the threshold. "A fantastic job," said Colonel Cuerden.

Now the Junior Signalman Wing operates as efficiently as any other unit of junior soldiers — although its surroundings still owe

more to the Royal Air Force than the Army. But gradually a new camp is taking shape. A giant wartime Spitfire hangar is used as a gymnasium and sports hall with rooms off it adapted as classrooms.

An assault course has been built and the physical fitness improvements in recruits has pleased training officer Captain Bob Drake. There is a 30-metre outdoor range and as well as the basics in fieldcraft, drill, weapon training, physical training, map reading, signals, first aid, health and hygiene, the lads are given an insight into internal security and take part in alerts.

Of course they have all come to be signalmen but at Ouston only basic signalling skills are taught. They learn voice procedures, testing and working radio sets, manning switchboards and how generators and electricity work. A few, who are going to become telegraphists, also learn Morse. Not until the end of their (generally) two-term training will they go to Catterick for trade training.

For a wing to be so far apart from its parent unit poses problems. Colonel Cuerden says ruefully: "I have to spend a lot of my time travelling 65 miles each way up and down the Great North Road and so do many of the specialist officers such as the padre and the paymaster." To counteract this the wing has been given some autonomy under

From Spitfires to signalmen . . .



Over the wire—youngster hurls himself through the assault course.

Major Robin MacHeath although many of the administrative functions still have to be handled from Catterick.

Eventually the plan is to move the Junior Signalman Wing back to Catterick, probably in about three years' time. In the meantime there is much to be done to make Albemarle Barracks more useful in an Army context. Said Captain Drake as he looked out across the old airfield: "Can you imagine doing a section attack across there — it's as flat as a pancake and with no cover."

So the northern part of the airfield is

being allowed to revert to long grass and trees and shrubs have been planted. The airfield control tower will be turned into a cricket pavilion.

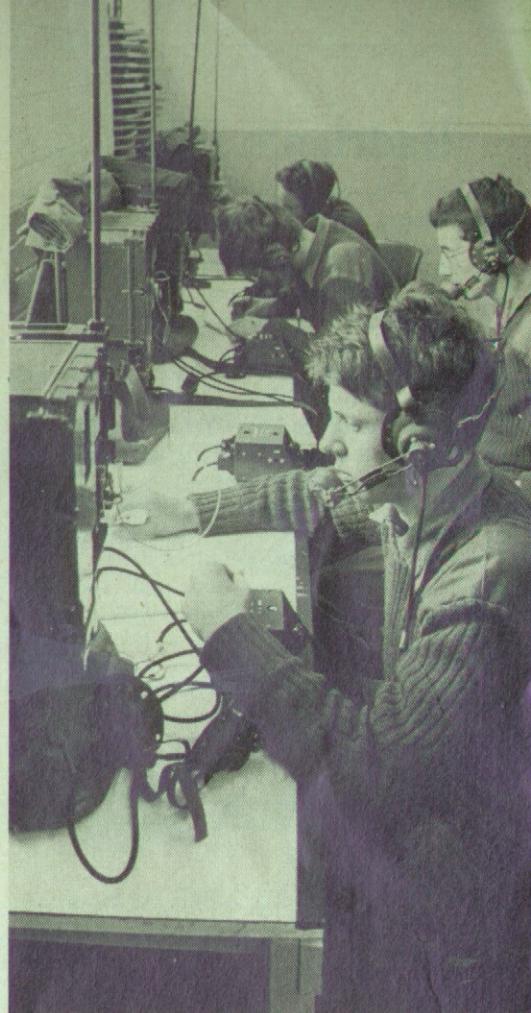
Is it wasteful to spend so much on what will be the home of the wing for only a year or two? Not so, for work will shortly begin on 25 married quarters. The junior signalmen are only the forerunners of a permanent Army presence in the area — when they move out an infantry battalion will move in and a training area of 150 acres on the doorstep will be like manna from Heaven.

. . . and back to Hadrian's Wall

YOUNG SOLDIERS of the Junior Signalman Wing of the Royal Signals will tell you, if pressed, that a standard Roman sod measures 24 x 18 x 9 inches — and takes a bit of lifting.

They know this from first-hand — and a good deal more about the life of Roman soldiers in Britain 1800 years ago — because groups of the lads have been busily cutting sods and reconstructing a Roman earth wall at Vindolanda, a Roman fort and civilian settlement not far from the young soldiers' camp at Ouston, west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Vindolanda, on the old Stanegate, forms part of the secondary fortifications parallel to and south of Hadrian's Wall. This 18-acre



There's no trade training at Ouston but the lads are introduced to radio transmission.



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Hadrian's Wall *continued*

site of a fort and frontier town — there are remains of at least five different periods of occupation — is run by the Vindolanda Trust, established in 1970 to excavate the site, conserve and display its buildings, provide facilities for training excavations and display excavated treasures in a museum.

Vindolanda now attracts an increasing number of visitors, including annually 60,000 schoolchildren for whom Hadrian's Wall is brought to life by reconstructed stone and earth sections — it is not generally known that the western third of the Wall, because stone was not readily available there, was originally built of earth.

The 15-yard-long stone wall and tower were built by the Vindolanda Trust director, Mr Robin Birley, and a mason, using reclaimed original stone — over the years much of Hadrian's Wall quietly disappeared into walls and farm buildings.

Next to this stone wall, four years ago, staff and pupils of Heathfield Senior High School, Gateshead, with other helpers, dug a standard Roman ditch, 30 feet wide and nine feet deep, and a 25-yard-long turf wall,

20 feet wide at the base, rising to 15 feet in height and capped with a six-foot crenellated timber parapet.

Unfortunately the earth wall, while of Roman dimensions, was not constructed with Roman techniques and it collapsed. So in stepped the junior signalmen — some 20 a week for four weeks — to cut new turf and re-face the 70-degree outer slope of the wall. This time, Roman methods were followed, though with a few permissible anachronisms — chicken wire reinforcement instead of brushwood and a dumper truck (when weather permitted, otherwise wheelbarrows) in place of a Roman oxcart to move turves.

Mr Birley was delighted with the young soldiers' work. "You need a large number of disciplined people to do the job," he said, "and they've done very, very well. With proper maintenance the new wall should last 40 or 50 years."

So around the turn of this century a new generation of schoolchildren may well be examining a Roman wall built by British soldiers.



Above: Did the Romans have wheelbarrows? Certainly the lads from Ouston (below) worked hard at Vindolanda.



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Soldier news

The newest ship in the Army

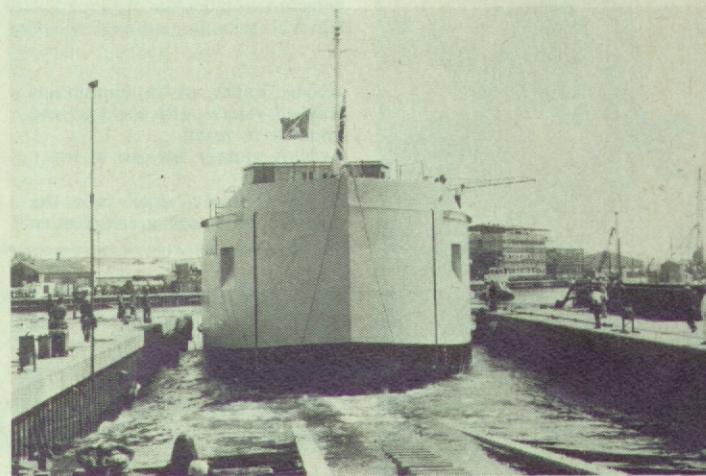
To cheers and applause, Her Majesty's Army Vessel Ardenes glided easily and quickly down the slipway of Brooke Marine's shipyard at Lowestoft. The prayers and dedication, the naming and launching by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, with the time-honoured 'May God bless her and all who sail in her,' the champagne bottle broken on the bow... all were in the tradition of a shipyard launch.

But this was tradition with a difference — the launching of the Army's largest ship. The Ardenes, 237 feet long and of 1400 tons, will replace one of the Royal Corps of Transport's Mark VIII tank landing craft which have been in service since World War Two. Her main task will be supplying the Royal Artillery range in the Hebrides but she is designed to operate in other areas such as the North Atlantic, the English Channel, North Sea and on Nato's flanks off Scandinavia and in the eastern Mediterranean.

The Ardenes is now being fitted out at Lowestoft and after commissioning at Gosport, the home of 20 Maritime Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, she is due to make her maiden voyage next summer from Rhu, on the Clyde, to Benbecula. She will be capable of carrying a mixed load of 350 tons of vehicles and cargo or beaching and discharging 250 tons through her bow doors. The hold is 113 feet long, 31 feet three inches wide and ten feet deep. In addition to crew accommodation there is provision for carrying six officers and 28 soldiers. Living spaces will all be air-conditioned.

Major Tony Pheby, of 20 Maritime Regiment, will command the Ardenes and will have a crew of three officers and 31 soldiers, 24 of them also from the regiment and the remainder from the Royal Signals, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Army Catering Corps.

A sister ship, HMAV Arakan, is expected to be launched next January and to come into service four months after the Ardenes. The two tank landing craft they replace were, with five others, taken over by the Army from the Royal Navy in 1956 with the intention of using them as an amphibious assault force in the Suez operation. They have since been deployed on the Hebrides run, in Borneo during the emergency there and on many other tasks.



Shipyard workers joined the visiting soldiers, sailors (including the captain and engineer officer of HMS Yarmouth, anchored off Great Yarmouth) and airmen (of the Queen's Flight) to watch the first 'royal' launch in the 76 years of Brooke Marine's ship-building.

The Duchess of Gloucester, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Corps of Transport, arrived in a helicopter of the Queen's Flight and was met by the Earl of Stradbroke, Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk. Senior officers on the launch platform included General Sir William Jackson (Quartermaster-General), Major-General John Carpenter (Colonel Commandant RCT), Major-General Peter Benson (Transport Officer-in-Chief) and Major-General Freddie Plaskett (Director of Movements (Army)).

For one man, Mr Jack Cains, standing unnoticed in the crowd as the Ardenes slid down the slipway to the RCT march 'Wait for the Wagon,' it was a particularly nostalgic occasion. Mr Cains, now 73, is probably the oldest surviving member of the small band of men who served aboard Army craft and were proud to call themselves 'RASC Fleetmen.' Joining what was then the War Department Fleet as a boy in 1918, he served with Army craft until his retirement in 1963, as a master superintendent.

One of his first jobs was as a crewman on the barge Gog which, with sister barge Magog, was towed by tug between the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and the Proof and Experimental Establishment, Shoeburyness. The two wooden barges carried guns of up to 18 inches in calibre between the two establishments and had been doing so since the Crimean War.

Volcano's recce party victims

The four survivors of an ill-fated Ecuadorian jungle expedition were air-lifted to safety from the side of an erupting volcano in a hazardous helicopter rescue operation.

The two men who died on the volcano, Lieutenant Adrian Aishby-Smith (23), of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps at Bicester, and Ronald Mace (26), a freelance photographer, were on the advance recce party of the British 'Vulcan' expedition.

Leader of the six-man British team, Lieutenant Jan Iwandziuk, of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers, Dover, was flown to hospital in a serious condition.

Major Nick Cooke (35), commander of the Adventure Training Centre, Cyprus was treated for minor head and leg injuries.

The other survivors, Richard Snailham, a lecturer at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and Peter Chadwick, a cameraman of Lower Sydenham, both escaped with a broken right arm each.

The recce party was in advance of a full-scale expedition next year.

Guardsman in bomb blast fights back

High above Prince Charles on the peak of Snowdon is ex-Welsh Guardsman Paul Thomas.

But this was no ordinary climb for 21-year-old Paul because he lost both legs and an arm in the Caterham pub bomb blast last August.

Prince Charles, wearing the uniform of Colonel of the Welsh Guards on the climb, visited Paul in hospital and they met again on Snowdon.

Paul was with a party of 29 men of the British Limbless Ex-

Servicemen's Association who went on the climb to show how much can be achieved with artificial legs.

The party took the mountain train to a height of 2556 feet and then climbed the final 900 feet to the top.

Paul went by train almost to the top of the mountain and then took 100 painful steps by himself up the steep rocky slope.

Two other soldiers injured in the Caterham blast, Gareth Watkins and Stephen Ollerhead, also made the walk.



Lance has first firing in UK

Gunners of the Royal Artillery have fired Lance, the Army's new tactical surface-to-surface guided missile, for the first time in the United Kingdom. In a successful test on the Hebrides ranges a missile with an inert warhead travelling at twice the speed of sound hit the intended target out in the Atlantic. It was fired by men of 1 Battery RA (The Blazers) and gunnery staff of the Royal School of Artillery.

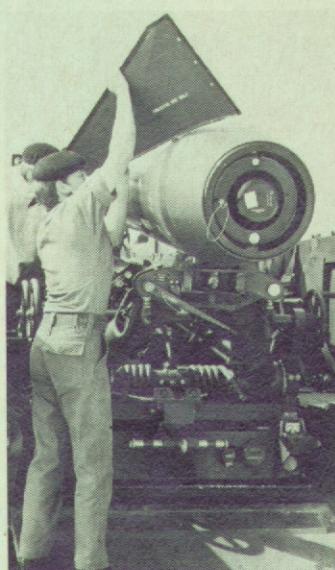
The Lance 75-mile missile system, made in the United States, is replacing the Honest John free-flight rocket, also American, which for 15 years has been Rhine Army's main means of delivering tactical nuclear weapons but lacks the range and accuracy now needed.

The 20-foot-long Lance is fired from a self-propelled tracked amphibious launcher. A second vehicle with a loading crane carries the

missile when on the move.

Lance, now replacing Honest John in 50 Missile Regiment RA in BAOR, will be used in conjunction with FACE, the standard field artillery computer equipment for calculating firing data, supplemented by the Lance monitor programmer which checks serviceability and programmes the missile before firing.

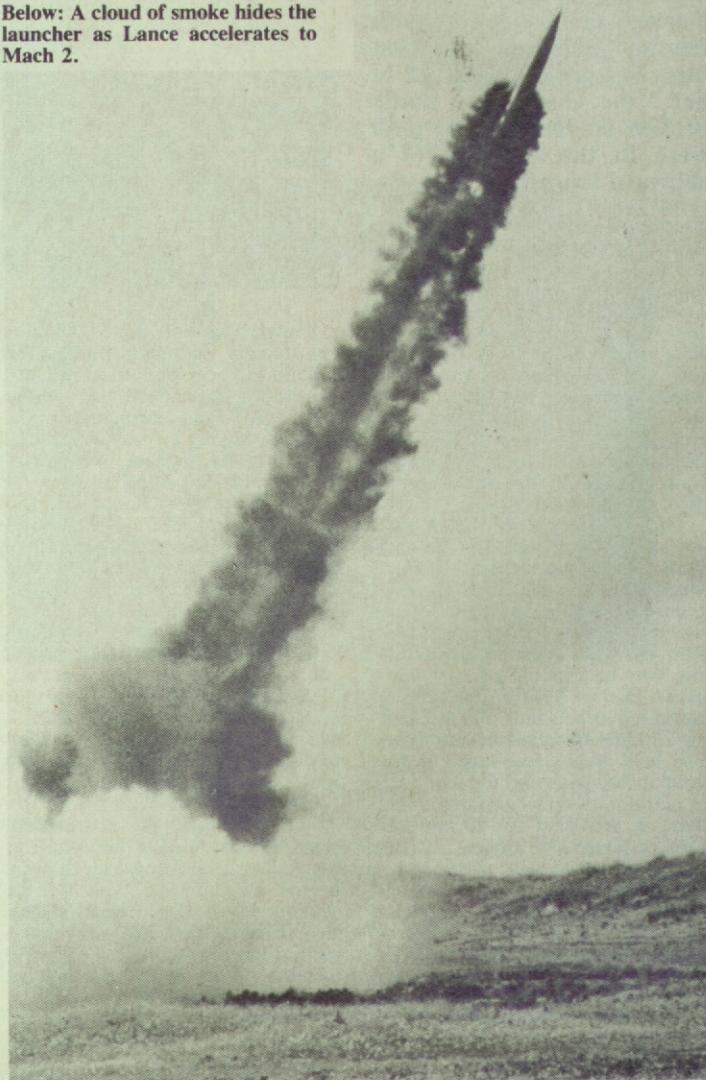
The Lance system has been bought by several Nato countries.



Above: Lance on its amphibious tracked vehicle with the warhead about to be fitted.

Left: A gunner fits one of the fins.

Below: A cloud of smoke hides the launcher as Lance accelerates to Mach 2.



Sappers save their red berets

With the role of airborne forces dwindling in the British Army, at least one unit is to retain the coveted red beret.

For 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers — currently the airborne sapper support for 16th Parachute Brigade — has won a year-long battle to retain its distinctive headgear although its new role will be different under the restructuring of the brigade system which will replace 16th Parachute Brigade with 6th Field Force.

The unit is to be known as 9 Parachute Squadron and will become part of 36 Engineer Regiment, based at Maidstone, although the squadron will stay at its current home in Aldershot.

Airborne

When some of the squadron was taken off parachuting earlier this year it was believed that the red beret would go. But a special case has been made out at top level for the sappers to keep their airborne distinction.

The squadron was raised in 1806 in Gibraltar — the Royal Engineers' home-from-home — as 9 Fortress Company when parachutes were only a worried look on the faces of students of Leonardo da Vinci. It was only in relatively recent years that 9 Squadron took to the air, and the squadron is determined that this chapter in its history will not pass into history just yet.

£6 pay rise for Army doctors and dentists

A £6 pay rise for Army medical and dental officers backdated to 1 April has been recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

The increase will take the form of a supplement to military salary which remains unchanged. This supplement will be £6 a week for all medical and dental officers currently earning £8188 a year or less, including pre-registration medical practitioners and medical and dental cadets.

Officers whose present earnings are £8500 a year or more are not to get the rise. Those who earn between £8188 and £8500 will get only a supplement big enough to bring their salary up to £8500. For this purpose earnings are calculated as military salary plus most forms of additional pay but not allowances.

Reserve officers will also benefit from the increase.*

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'Kit show' is here to stay

THE experimental British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot was an unqualified success.

At least, according to early reports from both industry and customers there was more than enough interest for Defence Sales to say that this will definitely be the first show in a regular two-yearly series.

"All indications are that the show did its job," said a spokesman. "Reactions have been all that we could hope for, especially considering that it was experimental."

"Trade people have contacted us and said how well organised they thought it was, and apparently the customers also were impressed."

A static display at Pegasus Village, next door to the Rushmoor Arena site of the concurrent public Army Display in Aldershot, was opened to top brass from some 80 nations. The illustrated brochures for this and the action-packed mobility display were in English, French, German and Spanish, as well as Arabic to woo petrodollars.

Engineers' pump goes back home

A RELIC of the days of steam is to be preserved in Leeds, where it was built 42 years ago, thanks to Army engineers in Dorset.

It is a large stationary engine which once worked a Dorset Water Board pumping station at Sutton Poyntz, near Weymouth. In 1971, having fallen into disuse, it was removed by men of 18 Command Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, from Bovington, as a training exercise.

This was no light task as the engine weighs about 20 tons and its largest component is a 5½-ton flywheel ten feet in diameter. It is a triple-expansion engine with cylinders of 12, 19 and 26 inches diameter, giving about 75 horsepower at a steam pressure of 120 pounds per square inch. The overall height is 12 feet and the baseplate measures nine feet six inches by six feet.

When the engine was moved from Sutton Poyntz it was originally intended that it should go to a projected industrial archaeology centre at Poole, but this proposal fell

Their 'family' is 13,000 limbless

A World War Two ex-serviceman who lost an arm in battle gets just over half the pension of a man similarly wounded in Northern Ireland today. And the widow of a soldier killed today in Northern Ireland gets nearly double the pension of a World War Two widow.

These anomalies — and others — are the concern of the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association which has fought to eradicate them over the past 40 years.

Benefits have greatly improved in recent years but the association

through. Now, having been restored by REME craftsmen, it is being handed over to the Museum of Industry and Science at Armley Mill, Leeds, the city in which it was built by Hathorn Davey and Co in 1934.

Sergeants step out

A gruelling 273-mile sponsored Pennine walk by two Army sergeants has raised £500 for the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association.

The Pennine Way was covered in 15 days by Sergeant Mike Winterborne, of Milton Keynes Army Careers Information Office, and Sergeant Roger Sansom, Royal Signals. The biggest single contribution was £35 by Newport British Legion.

The cheque was presented to Mr Fred Elcock, of BLESMA's Buckinghamshire branch, in the new joint services recruiting office at Bletchley.

acknowledges there is still much to be done. And wherever limbless ex-servicemen and women are found in need, the association is willing to step in. It offers many services from financial grants to residential homes to some 13,000 victims of two world wars and other conflicts including Northern Ireland. Their ages range from 18 to 88 and they come from all ranks of all Services. The one thing they have in common is a need of help to overcome their disabilities — help which can be given easily.

Pat gets the bird!



PRETTY Patricia McAuley got the bird on her wedding day at Aldershot's Garrison Church. For her bridegroom was Parachute Regiment Corporal Martin 'Dicky' Bird. And to live up to his name, Dicky's

job is with the regiment's Red Devils freefall team. So on the happy couple's big day, the team took time off from their busy display schedule to drop in at the church to give them a high-flying send-off.

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Mr and Mrs team collects the honours



Husband and wife team, Lieutenants Peter and Amanda Parfitt, honoured their new marriage in a very special way.

Peter, of the Royal Corps of Signals, and Amanda, Women's Royal Army Corps, took time off to get married while they were studying at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.

Both received honours degrees at the recent graduation ceremony and Amanda also had the distinction of being the first WRAC officer to gain a degree at the Army's 'university.'

In the picture they are being congratulated by Sir William Hawthorne, Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, who presented the certificates.

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Knockout celebrations

THERE were fun and games at the Marchwood military port when the Royal Corps of Transport celebrated the unit's 11th birthday.

Last year's birthday celebrations were so successful that the station commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Sydney Balgarnie, decided on a repeat performance with three action-packed days between 30 July and 1 August of special activities.

A splashing, hectic, military version of 'It's a Knockout' between 12 station teams, including a veterans side under Lieutenant-Colonel Brian Barrett, and a team from the Fire Service, who provided the sea water to splash about in, started the proceedings.

On the Saturday, the Grand Marchwood Military Fête was highlighted by a team of 'Majorettes' and the steam loco 'Waggoner.'

To end the weekend's festivities, 17 Port Regiment marched to Marchwood village church for the annual regimental service.

Heather's a real dead-eye

To prove how easy the new Enfield weapon is to fire, young Heather Fegan, who had never fired a weapon before in her life, became an instant sharpshooter at the Royal Small Arms Factory ranges. All ten of her rounds hit the 35cm by 35cm target in a creditable cluster from the prone position 35 metres away. The 4.85mm calibre rifle is being entered in competition with other Nato nations to find a new family of small arms for the alliance in the 1980s.

The centre section of Helen's target is inset in the picture above. She was slightly right of the mark, but the weapon had not been zeroed for her (see *Soldier*, August).

FORESTERS' COLOURS LAID UP

EVERY Nato nation in Western Europe will participate in this year's Autumn Forge series of exercises, according to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Alexander M Haig, Jr.

Autumn Forge is the codename given to the grouping under a common scenario of a number of Nato and national exercises taking place each autumn.

Included are Reforger 76, when troops and equipment from the United States are flown to Germany to train with other Nato forces; Cold Fire, a joint land-sea-air manoeuvre in the Mediterranean, involving southern region nations, the UK, United States, and ACE Mobile Force.

Autumn Forge will end in late October with an ACE-wide command post exercise, designed to train headquarters operational staff.

The Colours of 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, were laid up in Derby Cathedral at a service conducted by the Bishop of Derby.

The Sherwood Foresters were

amalgamated with The Worcestershire Regiment in 1970 to form The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, Princess Anne, as Colonel-in-Chief, presented Colours to the 'Woofers' in 1971.

The Colours laid up at Derby were presented to the Foresters at Colchester in 1965. Before the service they were marched through the city and past the Council House where the Mayor, Councillor W H Baker, took the salute, accompanied by Brigadier P J M Litton, president of the Sherwood Foresters Association.

The band and drums of the 1st Battalion played for the occasion, and the battalion's new ram mascot, Derby XXII, was also on parade.

The trail-blazers

In an age when a journey to the moon has become almost commonplace, there are still parts of our world almost totally unexplored.

Expeditions of which soldiers formed the nucleus set out this summer to explore two of them. One party led by a young gunner officer went to the British colony of Belize in Central America to make a pioneer trek across the remote Cockpit Country. And 1800 miles to the south, a group led by a Royal Scots major was struggling through Ecuadorian jungle to reach a strange region of caves in the Andes.

Into the Cockpit Country

Stifling tropical heat and the threat of hurricanes were hazards bravely accepted by a joint Army/scientific expedition blazing a trail into the hinterland of Belize.

The expedition, led by the Royal Artillery's Lieutenant Matthew Sleap, hopes to put a team on top of the 3348-foot Baldy Beacon in the Maya Mountains and bring back new information about the nearby Cockpit Country.

Said Lieutenant Sleap: "The Cockpit Country is a limestone area on the north-east slopes of the Maya Mountains and is overlooked by Baldy Beacon.

"We aim to cross the area, which is bisected by the Humming Bird Highway and two rivers — the Sibun and Caves Branch — and get to the highest point. The whole area provides an interesting challenge because of the configuration of the landscape. It has never been penetrated by a climbing and trekking team."

Universities

Seven soldiers from 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment based in Germany, two women — a nurse and a botanist — and scientists from Oxford and Cambridge universities make up the 12-strong team.

The two-month expedition spreads into the hurricane season and although the country did not suffer badly last year, predictions are not promising for the coming season in an area where whole cities have been demolished in the past by the violent storming winds.

Of the hostile climate Lieutenant Sleap said: "It is very hot with the average temperature between 72 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit and a rainfall of about 140 inches a year, with about 80 per cent falling between June and September when the hurricane threat is greatest.

"The area is largely uninhabited except at points along the routeways where there are small communities of about 15 to 20 people."

The Army expedition is covering some 107 miles at a rate of about four to five miles a day during its attempt on the Maya Mountains.

Four major lines of scientific enquiry are being pursued. The British Museum has sponsored a botanical collection, Oxford University is supporting a geomorphologist who will take measurements of the countryside, Cambridge University is interested in the area's animals and the Tropical Diseases Hospital in London is concerned with health problems.



Quest of the Oil-birds' caves

Piercing the rock of the Andes Mountains are the caves of Los Tayos, named from the birds which inhabit them — literally 'the oil-birds.'

This strange region of Ecuador in South America was the destination of a 42-strong Army contingent drawn largely from The Royal Scots and The Royal Highland Fusiliers, plus representatives of the Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, RAMC, RAOC and ACC.

The soldiers formed the main body of a 60-strong party undertaking a project directed by Mr Stanley Hall of Dollar, an engineer and archaeologist, whose team also included experts in ecology, natural history, ornithology, botany, zoology and tropical medicine.

After flying to Quito, the Ecuadorian capital, and beyond, the party continued its journey by small boat up the Santiago River and finally on foot across tropical jungle and mountain to the cave area of Los Tayos. Expert cavers were among the members of the party, which planned a complete scientific exploration of the area with the aim of providing the Ecuadorian Government with detailed information on the ecology of the region.

The expedition had the full backing of the Ecuadorian Government which reinforced the party with its own scientists and soldiers.

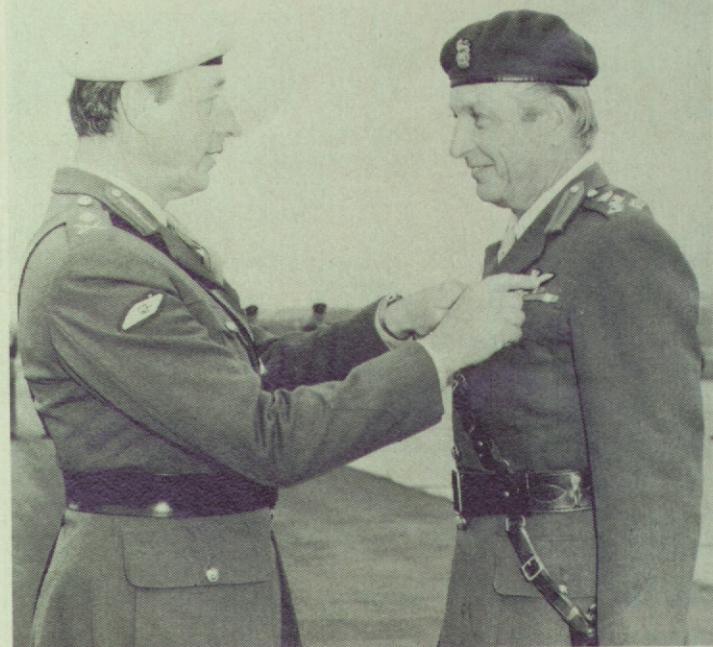
Head of the British Army contingent was Major Chris Brown, Royal Scots. The other officers were Major Alan Kennedy, RAOC, Lieutenant Mike Stuart, Gordon Highlanders, and Lieutenant the Lord Balgonie, Queen's Own Highlanders.

Under royal command



It's a big responsibility being a Fox scout car commander at the age of 14 – and the look of concentration on the face of Viscount Linley (left, in turret) shows that he was taking it seriously. The occasion was a visit by his mother, Princess Margaret, to 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars at Tidworth as their Colonel-in-Chief. The young viscount also had a go at driving a Scorpion but couldn't go very far as he was not big enough to see out. His sister, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, who is 12, was there too and enjoyed riding on armoured vehicles although she was too young to drive.

New pilot is also the new boss



ONE OF the newest pilots in the Army Air Corps is also the most senior.

Above, the corps' new Director, Major-General Tony Ward-Booth, is presented with his wings at Middle Wallop by Major-General Roy Dixon, Director until 27 July, and whose next appointment is Chief

of Staff, Allied Forces North Europe.

Major-General Ward-Booth was on the passing out parade with seven other pilots, five air crewmen and ten ground crewmen.

He took up the flying course as background to his appointment as the Army's senior aviator.

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36 years— and now it's 'Dismiss!'

There were lots of different cap badges on parade. Not surprisingly, for the ceremony at Topcliffe, Yorkshire, was a final farewell to 24th Airborne Brigade after more than 36 years' continuous service at home and overseas, during which time a high proportion of Guards and infantry regiments served with it.

The blazing sun dried any moist eyes and, after all, the units which comprised the brigade were not being disbanded but were merely coming under other commands. Nevertheless the last brigade commander, Brigadier J T Southgate, summed it up when he said the occasion was 'a pleasure and a sadness.'

Formed as 24th Guards Brigade in 1940, the brigade fought in Norway, North Africa and Italy. At the end of the war it remained in Trieste, carrying out internal security duties and border patrols.

In 1954 it returned to Britain under a new name, 24th Infantry Brigade. In 1958 it was deployed to East Africa from where it undertook internal security duties, famine and flood relief. It then moved to Aden until withdrawal in 1967.

The brigade was redesignated 'airportable' on its return home, when it settled in Plymouth as part of the Strategic Reserve with a special amphibious role as one of its tasks. Since 1969 the headquarters has been deployed to Northern Ireland three times and has moved twice – to Barnard Castle in 1970 and three years later to Topcliffe.

Eight guards totalling 300 men were in the final parade, reviewed by General Sir Peter Hunt, Chief of the General Staff. There were infantrymen from 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, and 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment; and guards from 24 Brigade Signal squadron; 24 (Airborne) Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; 666 Squadron, Army Air Corps, and 24 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.

Various traditions were observed. The 'medics' had no bayonets or swords, while the Glosters turned their rear rank about during the inspection in accordance with their unique 'back badge' tradition.

The eighth guard was a composite



There is no prize for spotting the biggest number of different cap badges, but collectors may enjoy scanning this picture of the disbandment parade of 24th Airborne Brigade to see how many they can count. Great variety was seen in a guard representing brigade headquarters, previous brigade units and the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, which also acknowledged associations with the Royal Marines and Royal Air Force by including an officer from each.

one, comprising representatives of a host of previous brigade units and men from the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve. The kilt and trews mingled with different coloured caps, but the guard, which had assembled for the first time only the previous afternoon, was as immaculate as the rest.

Eager Beavers, ambulances, Land-Rovers and other brigade vehicles staged their own drive-past while Sioux and Scout helicopters from the brigade AAC squadron and Royal Air Force Phantoms and Jaguars roared overhead.

As the parade marched off to music from the brigade's three infantry regimental bands there were lone specks in the sky – the Army Air Corps squadron helicopters. They are all that will remain at Topcliffe of the brigade, though next year they will be joined by 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery.

All seven Victoria Crosses won by Royal Scots are now in the regiment's museum at Edinburgh Castle.

The set was completed when the VC was awarded posthumously to Lieutenant D S McGregor in 1918 was handed over to the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General D T Young. The donor was Lieutenant McGregor's brother, Mr James McGregor of Gullane, who was not well enough to attend the ceremony but was represented by the minister of Gullane and a friend.

Lieutenant McGregor served in the 6th Battalion, The Royal Scots,

and was attached to the Machine Gun Corps at the time of the action in which he won the VC, and died, on 22 October 1918.

He was in command of a section of machine-guns supporting advancing troops who were subjected to intense enfilade machine-gun fire. In order to retaliate he had to move into the open to locate the enemy guns and then, having redeployed his section, continue to stay in the open to direct fire so that the advance could be resumed. About an hour later he was killed while observing fire for the trench mortar battery.

Passengers, their own worst enemy

TRAVELLING by air these days is generally safer than crossing the road or even driving a car; the crew is highly trained and their competence is regularly checked.

The aircraft, though highly complex, is well proven and maintained to the highest standards. But one of the biggest risks can come from the passengers.

Fire in the air strikes a chill into the hearts of all aviators. Fairly reliable ways have been found for detecting engine fires and putting them out but unfortunately the same cannot be said for fuselage fires, which remain a nightmare.

In a recent civil Boeing 707 accident a fire started in the toilet at the rear of the aircraft and, although the captain made a successful forced landing, 123 people died from carbon monoxide poisoning within minutes of the fire starting. The cause was almost certainly someone smoking in the toilet and throwing a lighted cigarette end into the toilet or waste bin.

Safely

The Royal Air Force carries passengers and freight to many parts of the world. If all are to arrive safely the rules about what can and cannot be carried must be observed.

In the first half of this year there

were three instances of RAF passengers carrying prohibited articles in their baggage.

In one case smoke was seen coming from a holdall as it was being unloaded from the hold of a VC 10 – a box of non-safety matches had self-ignited!

In the other two instances live thunderbolts were found during a routine security check of baggage. A further search turned up 19 boxes of non-safety matches, lighter fuel, 16 aerosols and various electronic items with batteries still connected.

Interfere

Other equally dangerous and therefore prohibited articles are fireworks, shotgun cartridges, toy gun caps, camping gas containers, corrosive chemicals including mercury (thermometers) and bleach, while transistor radios and calculators with batteries connected can interfere with the aircraft's communications system.

The next time you are preparing to travel by air, know exactly what you can and cannot carry and, if you are not sure, check with the movements staff at the departure airfield. It will save you from that awesome feeling that the fate of everyone on board could be in your hands – or your baggage.*

DFS(RAF)

Museum's VC set completed

All seven Victoria Crosses won by Royal Scots are now in the regiment's museum at Edinburgh Castle.

The set was completed when the VC was awarded posthumously to Lieutenant D S McGregor in 1918 was handed over to the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General D T Young. The donor was Lieutenant McGregor's brother, Mr James McGregor of Gullane, who was not well enough to attend the ceremony but was represented by the minister of Gullane and a friend.

Lieutenant McGregor served in the 6th Battalion, The Royal Scots,

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What a term end surprise!

WHEN 16-year-old Elizabeth Newman was called out at the end of term in front of Canterbury House at Kent School, near Rheindahlen, she did not know what to expect.

Elizabeth, whose parents are Staff-Sergeant and Mrs David Newman, was not in trouble. But she was the subject of the biggest secret of the year at the British Families Education Service school.

Each year the school presents the Lady Alexander Trophy to the pupil considered to have given the most valuable service to the community.

Only a select few were in on the secret so that when the announcement was made it came as a real surprise.

Said Staff-Sergeant Newman, who works at Headquarters, Rheindahlen Garrison, near Moenchengladbach, and serves in the Royal Army Pay Corps: "Elizabeth really didn't know. She had finished school this term and was planning to go into Moenchengladbach and we had

to arrange a story with one of her teachers that would get her to school."

Elizabeth is completing a fifth-year course at Kent School. "She has become known among staff and pupils for her pleasant, outgoing personality, her responsible and co-operative attitude and her interest in, and enthusiasm for, all aspects of school life," said Mr Ron Ions, headmaster.

"Her main contribution to the life of the community has been in the sphere of music and drama. During the year she took part in two productions and it was generally felt that her acting and singing were of a high standard. One of the producers said she was a good example to many others of hard work, cheerfulness and total involvement, she has been a most useful coach and a source of encouragement to others."



Elizabeth Newman

Surveyors' new home

Work has started on replacement premises for the School of Military Survey on the site of its present home at Hermitage, Berkshire. The rebuilding, planned and supervised for the Army by the Property Services Agency of the Department of the Environment, is expected to be complete by mid-1979. The overall cost is £5,000,000. *(DOE).

1200 free-fall drops, and now—



Jackie gains her gold lanyard

The Parachute Regiment's gold lanyard, awarded to freefallers who have made 1000 descents, has gone for the first—and possibly only—time to a girl.

FOR Women's Royal Army Corps Sergeant Jackie Smith was given this rare accolade at the regiment's annual Airborne Forces Day celebrations in Aldershot.

As a full-time member of the regiment's freefall team, The Red Devils, Jackie is already allowed to wear the distinctive maroon beret paratroopers earn when they join. The added distinction of the gold lanyard is held only by a handful of other members of

the regiment—all males and all members or ex-members of the team. She has made nearly 1200 descents.

Jackie, aged 24 and a telephonist by trade, has been a Red Devil for four years after being spotted by the then teamleader, Major Peter Schofield, as a more-than-promising youngster.

She has gone on to win a number of trophies for parachuting and is currently the British women's style champion. She came third overall in the male-dominated Army championships this year and will represent Britain at the world championships in Rome this month.

In the picture Sergeant Smith is seen receiving her gold lanyard from General Sir Roland Gibbs, Colonel Commandant, The Parachute Regiment.

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Outward bound

A big increase is reported in the number of servicemen taking part in adventurous training expeditions. This summer, expeditions have left for such exotic spots as Ecuador, Belize, Kenya, Bermuda, Morocco and India. Not all expeditions are large—two sappers, for instance, canoed 1000 kilometres along the River Vistula in Poland in 12½ days and are claiming this as a world record for long-distance canoeing.

A major recently returned from the jungles of Belize having discovered remains of the ancient Mayan civilisation. Other unit expeditions have varied from canoeing in Norway to climbing and walking in the Alps, offshore sailing in the Baltic and sub-aqua diving in Cyprus.*

Home-makers snap up those Army bargains

More than 1000 people crowded into the disused Roman Way Camp at Colchester for Eastern District's first-ever auction sale in small lots of Ministry of Defence surplus furniture. The 510 lots realised more than £5500 — several times the figure which would have been raised by the previous method of selling in bulk to the trade.

The auction was the brainchild of Major Tony Hill who commands the Ordnance Support Unit at Colchester. "I put the idea up some time ago and a trial sale was held in South-East District. This was so successful that we were authorised to go ahead with this one," he said.

Inflation

"What I felt was that soldiers and members of the public, faced with inflation, would love the chance to buy some of this household furniture. We would be able to help soldiers who were setting up house, whether they were coming out of the Army or buying their first home."

Colchester auctioneers Fenn, Wright, Garrod, Turner handled the sale. Auctioneer Mr Roger Whybrow told Soldier: "It is very clean, solid, simple and plain furniture. Most of it is an awful lot better than some of the flashy stuff you see in furniture shops."

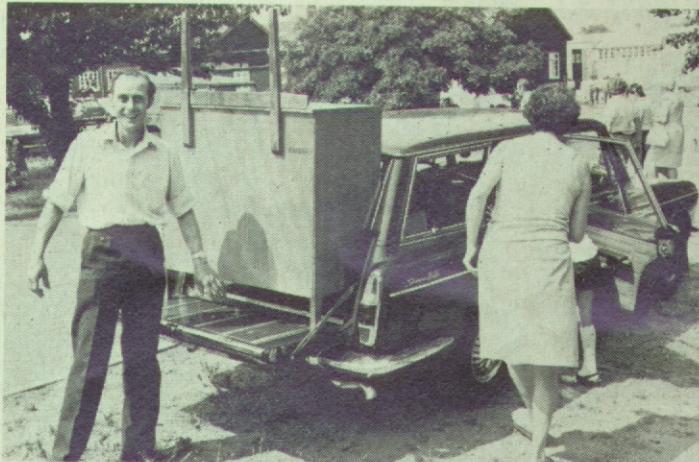
Disused

The furniture was arranged in a maze of disused spider huts and several thousand people came to view it on the two days before the sale as well as on the actual morning.

Typical viewers were Gunner and Mrs Keith Hodgkinson of 47 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, who came to look at coffee tables. But many lots were of complementary furniture — in one lot there would be for instance enough to furnish an entire bedroom.

First lot of the morning was a light oak folding table, snapped up at £5. The early bird certainly caught the worm in this case for four identical lots which followed fetched between £7 and £10. Then it was on to dining chairs and an armchair (£24) and a dark oak sideboard, dining table, chairs, carver and tray (£40 the lot).

In the crowded saleroom, Mr Whybrow found the speed not quite up to other sales because of the large number of amateur buyers, but an acceptable rate of 90 lots an hour was achieved.



Happy buyer loads his car after the Army furniture sale at Colchester.

Kay says 'bye to the 'tea and wad brigade'

MISS Kay Davies, manager of Naafi's Harewood Club at Catterick Garrison, has retired.

During her 36 years with Naafi, which started in Pontefract in 1940, Miss Davies has seen service with British forces in many parts of the world. She was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Birthday Honours of 1976.

Miss Davies's record with Naafi is a memorable one. After her initial training as a manager she was employed in Leeds until 1943 when she transferred to the Auxiliary Territorial Service and Emergency Forces Institutes and posted to North Africa.

Following North Africa there was a short spell in the UK then a move to Bunde, Western Germany; she remained in Germany for four years serving in several stations including Buckeberg with the RAF and later Celle.

Returning to the UK in 1949 she was at home for only one month before being posted to the Middle East Land Forces in Egypt where she served for two years at Fanara and Fayid.

In August 1952, after home leave, Miss Davies was posted to Paris and SHAPE and later transferred once more to Western Europe until 1954.

It was then that she came to Catterick for the first time as manager of the Harewood Club. Her tour with the club lasted for over two years until 1957 when she left the UK to become official-in-charge of the Officer's Club, Episkopi, Cyprus. A further posting followed in 1960 to the Piccalo Capri Club, Tripoli.

But this was not the end to Miss Davies's travels for, at the end of that year, she went to Kuwait on an emergency tour and stayed to serve on in Aden and Bahrain until September 1962.

Her final posting was a return to Catterick where again she was appointed manager of the Harewood Club.

Miss Davies retired on 31 July.

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Iron Duke meets his Waterloo

FOR once the Iron Duke and Napoleon were on the same side. And this time they both met their Waterloo.

Both Wellington and his archrival are statuettes and were part of one of the most treasured military silver collections which went under the hammer at a London auction last month for a golden £41,000.

Most of the items from the now closed United Service Club in Pall Mall went to dealers.

"It was terribly sad to see the silver go," said club secretary Commander James Allen.

Dogs on Benevolent 'duty run'

THE Army Benevolent Fund is £600 better off, thanks to some racing greyhounds.

For this was the amount raised at a military greyhound meeting at Reading Stadium sponsored by local firms.

The meeting, on 8 August, had eight races, each called after a different regiment, and the owners of the first dogs past the post were rewarded with a regimental drum ice bucket as well as prize money.

Major Harry Buckley, accountant at the stadium, explained that each firm put up the prize money and donated an equal amount to the Army Benevolent Fund.

New HQ for Hong Kong

Headquarters British Forces Hong Kong will have a new building in 1979 when most of Victoria Barracks, home of the present headquarters, is relinquished under the terms of a new agreement on defence costs.

In exchange for the barracks the Hong Kong Government is building a new headquarters at HMS Tamar, the Royal Navy base close by. It will consist of a 20-storey tower built over a five-storey podium and will incorporate offices, messes, quarters and recreational facilities. The cost will be more than £7,000,000.

A smaller new building on the other side of the naval basin will house workshops and other naval facilities, and its roof will be a helipad.

The Services will keep about four acres at one end of Victoria Barracks. This land is at present occupied by Dragon House, a 19-storey block of quarters finished last year. A ten-storey block of officers' quarters, a Naafi shop and families' community centre will also be built there.

Good deeds in Derry

More than £600 has been handed over for handicapped and deprived children in the Manchester and Liverpool areas from the wives of the 'home' unit just finishing an 18-month tour in Northern Ireland.

The cash was raised at a wives' club fete organised at the Londonderry base of 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment, in June. It was handed over by Regimental Sergeant-Major David Dawes and his wife Pat to the Crystal Ball Club in a community services centre in Liverpool and the Boys and Girls Welfare Society at Cheadle in Cheshire.



Nineteen-year-old Craftsman Leslie Newton, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, took his life in his hands when he drove a blazing ten-ton truck out of Soltau, Germany, to save the lives of the inhabitants. He had noticed flames coming from the back of the vehicle and, realising that his fire extinguisher would be inadequate, he made a dash to get out of the town which was crowded with people attending a festival. Police and firemen meanwhile were alerted, cleared a way for him and put out the fire when he stopped outside the town. Soltau later expressed its thanks in the form of a presentation tankard. In the picture Craftsman Newton, of 7 Field Workshop at Fallingbostel, is seen receiving the tankard from Burgermeister Rothardt of Soltau.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL



The British forces in Berlin honoured the American Bicentennial by presenting a cake to the US garrison in the city.

It was made by Warrant Officer 1 Gordon Murison of the Army Catering Corps. He is stationed at Herford in West Germany and after five days' work on the cake he took it 372 kilometres up

the 'corridor' to Berlin where he helped Brigadier C Grey, the British Berlin Brigade commander, hand it over to Brigadier-General Walter E Adams, who commands the US brigade in the city. The cake was decorated with the badges of the two brigades and topped with the Bicentennial logo in red, white and blue icing.

Tam-o'-shanters turn out in Washington

More than 300 British soldiers, mostly from Scottish regiments, appeared in a military tattoo near Washington DC to celebrate the American Bicentennial. The tattoo was arranged by the same team which will organise this year's Edinburgh Tattoo.

The two-hour spectacular was staged at the Wolf Trap Center for Performing Arts set in parkland on the outskirts of Washington. The

show had an obvious Scottish flavour with much emphasis on military bagpipe music and Scottish country dancing.

The Wolf Trap Center was packed with enthusiastic Americans for every performance and they were much more vigorous in showing their appreciation than more restrained British spectators tend to be. Many Americans declared their Scottish ancestry by turning up in kilt and tam-o'-shanter.

One sensitive transatlantic scene depicted three American Revolutionary soldiers with the 'Old Glory' flag, fife and drum playing 'Yankee-Doodle Dandy.' This was followed by three figures in British uniforms of the same period, one carrying the old British Union flag and the others, too, playing fife and drum.

The United States Army Chorus took part and was supported by military bands playing a selection of Scottish songs.

The Scottish units taking part were the bands of the Scots Guards, The Black Watch and Queen's Own Highlanders; pipes and drums of The Royal Scots, The Royal Highland Fusiliers and The King's Own Scottish Borderers. There were dancers from the Queen's Own Highlanders and the Officers' Training Corps of the universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt, Glasgow, Strathclyde and Tayforth.

From a report by PR HQ UKLF.

Welshmen follow the Saratoga trail

Thirty men of 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st Foot), celebrated the American Bicentennial by retracing the route taken by the 24th Foot during the Saratoga campaign of the American War of Independence.

The march, officially Berlin Infantry Brigade Exercise 'Ringer,' took 30 men from 8 Platoon, C Company, through the mountains and forests of upstate New York and Vermont. Logistic support - vehicles, camping equipment and rations - was provided by the Governor-General's Foot Guards of Canada.

Colourful

Lieutenant Paul Stevens, who commanded the party, takes up the story: "What started out as a fairly simple walking tour soon took on a more colourful aspect. The first camp site was at Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, where 200 years previously Burgoyne's army had inflicted a serious reverse on the Americans. Our arrival was quite unexpected and once people discovered the soldiers were British the news spread like wildfire.

"From that time on we were besieged by newspaper reporters, Bicentennial commissioners and small-town historians; by American patriots with Italian names inquiring after their Scottish ancestors; by officers of reconstituted British regiments in 18th century uniforms who explained why the green facing behind the RRW cap badge was too light; and by National Guard units who insisted on ferrying the men to their showers in fleets of ambulances."

Marching

After eight days, marching about ten miles a day, the Welshmen finally reached the Saratoga battlefield. There they were televised touring the points where the 24th had particularly distinguished itself. Afterwards they were looked after by the US 210th Armoured Regiment and were introduced on the floor of the New York State Assembly. A tour of New York City followed.

In the short space of two weeks the Welsh platoon had rediscovered a much neglected period in their regimental history and seen a wide range of American life from backwoods village to teeming metropolis.

Junior Leaders win Sword of Peace

For the first time in the award's ten years the Army's Wilkinson Sword of Peace has been won by young soldiers — the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, based at Taunton.

It was presented to the regiment's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel P J Marzetti, by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Elworthy at a lunch in the Cutlers' Hall, London, at which the guests were welcomed by Mr D Randolph, chairman of Wilkinson Match Ltd and Wilkinson Sword Ltd.

The ceremonial swords are awarded annually to a unit of each of the three Services for outstanding efforts in fostering good relations with the local community.

Reading the citation, Major-General P H Benson, Transport Officer-in-Chief, said the Junior Leaders Regiment had continually assisted the local civilian community in a variety of ways for 15 years. Citizenship training, an aspect of the training of junior leaders, was an important part of regimental life and in 1975, as in previous years, the RCT junior leaders and permanent staff organised the South West Region spastic games, the Somerset Red Cross rally for handicapped persons and the mentally handicapped children's athletics meeting.

Help given by the regiment to the local community was co-ordinated through a community assistance hobby managed by the regimental padre and members of this hobby spent most Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings assisting the old, disabled, infirm and needy. This work included clearing and fencing a play area for handicapped children, refurbishing an over-60s club, digging old people's gardens, clearing paths and visiting the old and blind.

The junior leaders helped with local events in aid of welfare or charities and the band performed at many of these. Donations from the regiment bought £400-worth of food for deserving people and at Christmas the junior leaders a party for 160 pensioners.

The continuous effort of assis-

tance, said General Benson, had earned high praise, goodwill and gratitude throughout the South West, greatly enhancing the Army's image and giving many of the older generation renewed confidence in the youth of today.

The Royal Navy sword went to the helicopter cruiser HMS Tiger for the help given by the ship's company, during refitting in Portsmouth, to old people in the area. The Royal Air Force sword was awarded to 202 Squadron for the outstanding achievements of its helicopter crews on civilian search-and-rescue missions in Scotland and the North of England.

Previous Army sword winners:

- 1975 50 Command Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (work in Hong Kong)
- 1974 1st Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire (Belfast)
- 1973 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment (British Honduras)
- 1972 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery (Northern Ireland/Colchester)
- 1971 253 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals (Hong Kong)
- 1970 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Anguilla)
- 1969 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry (Mauritius)
- 1968 18 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery (Hong Kong)
- 1967 40 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery (Sarawak)



Lightweight versus heavyweight as a young boxer takes on Richard Dunn for a sparring bout at the SAS fund-raising day.

Celebrities turn out to help SAS wheelchair soldiers

Three soldiers paralysed in accidents on duty will spend the rest of their days in wheelchairs. But they will forever have reason to remember with gratitude the way their regiment rallied round to help them.

The men, families and friends of 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, launched a massive fund-raising effort which netted some £32,000 to be divided among the three.

Toiled

The 'Regimental family' toiled in sweltering heat for more than 12 hours to keep the non-stop money-spinning events going. The lynchpin of the effort was a celebrity golf tournament at Ross-on-Wye Golf Club not far from the regiment's base in Hereford. Among the golfers were stars such as Barry John, the ex-rugby player; cricketers Ken Barrington and Ken Graveney; Michael Lunt, the Walker Cup team captain, and sports broadcaster Kenneth Wolstenholme. There, too, were 40 professional golfers and two Members of Parliament. In all, there were 54 teams of three taking part — a huge administrative task for the club which pulled out all the stops to make things run smoothly.

Heavyweight boxer Richard Dunn, a part-time soldier in The Parachute Regiment, gave an exhibition of sparring with volunteers from the audience. 'Doctor Who' in the person of Tom Bell raised money by showing the children a fantastic sea monster.

Families and friends were kept busy serving refreshments in temperatures of 90 degrees plus. Raffles were run and there was an auction sale of two patchwork quilts which wives of the regiment had spent more than 1000 hours in making.

"Sympathy had to be backed by practical help," said the organisers afterwards, "and the old-fashioned notions of esprit de corps and 'the Regiment' took on a real meaning."



Boys of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, act as hosts to old people at a Christmas Party — one of the many activities which helped to win them the Wilkinson Sword of Peace.

Green Howards say goodbye

The Green Howards said goodbye to their home area with a series of marches through their 'Freedom' boroughs before leaving for Berlin in August.

Men from Yorkshire, Cleveland and South Durham moved from the Chester base of the 1st Battalion to take part in marches, displays of equipment and Retreat ceremonies. Hospitality was accorded to them in the form of receptions and dances.

There were ceremonies at Beverley, Middlesbrough, Richmond and Scarborough, of which the Green Howards already hold the Freedoms, while at Redcar and Bridlington the new councils of Langbaugh and the North Wolds held meetings to confirm the Freedoms conferred by their predecessors, and appropriate celebrations took place.

Patchwork

Not only the stars worked hard for the cause. Some 30 men of the SAS, RAF and Special Boat Service held a sponsored run which raised more than half the total figure.

Padres' progress

THERE was more than the usual splash of colour for the 60th anniversary of the Nijmegen Marches this year—and more than the usual splash of rain.

It poured down, dampening even the spirits of the 15,000 or so servicemen and women, from both Rhine Army and the United Kingdom, whose tented camp at Heumensoord was flooded.

Veterans of the four-day 100-mile march, though, preferred the cool of the rain to the scorching heat of some previous years as 18,000 marchers from 27 countries snaked around the 25-mile course.

Up in front for much of the time was a team from 36 (Arcot 1751) Battery, 50 Missile Regiment, whilst a team from the Junior Parachute Company from Aldershot was not far behind. As usual the organisers, the Royal Netherlands League for Physical Culture,



did not award prizes to the first home, but every team and individual completing the course was awarded a medal.

To commemorate the marches' diamond jubilee, the British forces showed their appreciation for Nijmegen's hospitality over the years

when Major-General John Sturge, Chief Signal Officer BAOR, and Air Commodore Beavis, from Headquarters RAF Germany, presented the burgemeister with a silver tray.

Marching past on the final day's parade were teams from 50 Missile

Regiment, 28 (British) Signal Regiment and also chaplains (above) led by Colonel Douglas Dennis, Assistant Chaplain-General at HQ 1 British Corps.

Then came Commander Rhine Area's (over 40s) team, led by Brigadier Mike Callan.

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(M E L)

WELCOME to our new families page in this first issue of the 'new look' Soldier. I am sure all families will be pleased that among pages depicting the exploits of our menfolk we now have our own page in which we can express our views and ideas.

I hope to run regular features by interesting people, interviews with wives, and discuss current topics, both military and civilian — for example, housing, furniture, furnishings, problems of employment for Army wives and teenagers, wives' club activities, the domestic scene, and not forgetting music, art and the odd anecdote.

Future plans include an overseas column and a youth column.

This page could be a useful means of communication — always a problem because of our continuous moves.

So I do hope that all readers will find something of interest on this page every month. No doubt I shall soon know if this is not the case!

With best wishes to you all,

Anne Armstrong

HEY KIDS!

Seven-year to 16-year-olds! This is your space. I would like to hear from you. Tell me about your activities, your ideas, send me your articles and photographs. Let me know what sort of things you would like to see in your column.

I hope to publish activities and achievements of youth clubs, schools, uniformed organisations and individuals, and information and news from the national youth organisations. So, wherever you are, you will be up-to-date and in contact with all the varied opportunities available to you.

For example, David Loftus, whose father is serving with REME in London, and Martin Steer, whose father is in the Ministry of Defence, are the first boys chosen to fill the two Army youth places on the London Sail Training cruise on Rona in August. We wish them good luck.

Anne's view

Do check whether you are eligible for the new family income supplement. The levels of income below which you qualify are, for example: One child, £39.00 gross weekly; four children, £52.50; six children, £61.50. Gross earnings means pay before deductions and not take-home pay. Details are in Leaflet FIS 1 (July 1976) (Family Income Supplement), obtainable from post offices or social security offices.

All in the family with Anne Armstrong

Team work is Sheila's answer

RECENTLY a Malaysian officer student called at the office to see Mrs Sheila Huggins, a civil servant at the Staff College, Camberley. "Major Mansor tell me, 'Go see Mrs Huggins, she be your mummy.' "

This, I think, sums up Mrs Huggins, who has devoted much of her life to helping families either voluntarily with SSAFA running canteens or as a company sergeant-major's and regimental sergeant-major's wife. Indeed she is very much person in her own right although to many she is known as the wife of Academy Sergeant-Major Huggins of the Royal Academy, Sandhurst.

Before her marriage, Mrs Huggins served in the Women's Royal Naval Service. Now, 24 years later, she has no regrets at having married a dedicated soldier and would not change her life. Perhaps, way back, there might have been a small misgiving — their first quarter was sandwiched between two cemeteries in Streatham!

Team work as a total partnership between husband and wife is essential if you marry a soldier and this theme ran through all the topics we discussed. Undoubtedly this is the message Mrs Huggins would like to pass on.

After 17 moves abroad and within the United Kingdom, including 11 quarters, with three daughters and a son who between them have attended some 40 schools, she must have had many difficult times and embarrassing moments.

With two daughters married to servicemen and the youngest an air hostess, Mrs Huggins feels that young wives today have far less fun. Housing and money seem so important today, she says.

"Our first car was a £50 banger, community spirit then was greater and wives did not work, so had more time for their children and husband.

"My eldest daughter married at 18 and in four years has had more separation and stress than we have had in 24 years."

The security problems, Northern Ireland tours and financial burdens make life for the young soldier and his family much harder today, she thinks.

Sheila Huggins relaxes with her daughter's dog, Rupert.

And check too that relatives, friends and children between the ages of 15 and 50 know about the new £5.00 a week mobility allowance. Main medical conditions for entitlement are that a person is unable or virtually unable to walk because of severe physical disablement, using artificial limbs or other suitable aids if appropriate. The next group eligible to claim is five to 14 years, then those over 50 but under pensionable age.

Ask at your local social security office or Citizens' Advice Bureau for further details and advice and Leaflet NI211 (January 1976).

Can wives bid at Government auction sales? Yes — small single lot sales have been held at various OSU depots — Liphook, Colchester (see page 9 of this Soldier NEWS) and at RAF Stafford. Tables, dining and kitchen chairs, three-piece suites, wardrobes, chests of drawers, single and double beds and bunks were all available at reasonable prices for excellent quality. With few dealers present the lay bidder has an excellent opportunity to set up a home.

Keep an eye on your local and National Press for announcements of forthcoming sales.

In the near future the Army hopes to publish a 'Wives' Guide' which will be distributed to all wives. Before this guide goes to press I would like to hear from any Army wife who has any suggestions as to what kind of helpful information wives would like to find in their guide.

Write to me, Anne Armstrong, c/o Soldier, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 2DU.

Next month's tipbits: Handicapped children; helpful hints and information.



The last journey...



There was quite a ticklish problem when the late Field-Marshal Montgomery's three caravans which served as his wartime home and mobile headquarters set off to the Imperial War Museum.

Since 1945 the caravans had been in the grounds of Monty's home at Isington Mill in Hampshire — but the gates to the house had been built since that time and the three vans appeared to be just too big to squeeze round a difficult turn.

Eventually Army expertise prevailed and the caravans were taken by low-loader to Aldershot, where 43 Command Workshops, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, will restore them to wartime condition.

The caravans, which echoed many depressions as well as some of the Field Marshal's sweeter moments, were as he left them at the end of the war. Even the picture of Rommel, which Monty used to contemplate as the battles raged is still on the wall of one of the vehicles.

Two of the vehicles were captured in the deserts of North Africa, while the third was made specially for Operation Overlord, the Normandy landings. All three went with Monty from the beaches, just after D-Day, to Lüneberg Heath where he received the German surrender.

Picture: Sergeant G Capes.

£2.4m York building scheme starts

Work has started on a £2,400,000 redevelopment of Imphal Barracks at York, a project designed by the Department of the Environment's Property Services Agency.

The Army's district headquarters, a combined pay and record office and other buildings are included in the first phase of the project. The scheme consists of four office blocks enclosing a courtyard designed to blend with the existing Victorian Gothic style of the 19th century barracks. It also includes a contrasting central pyramid-shaped building covered in pre-formed copper-finished cladding panels.

The main constructional feature is the use of a pre-cast wall panel system in a regular three-storey grid design. The factory-produced components will keep costs down and speed construction.

PSA is also refurbishing the 18th century bas-relief crest recovered from the old Georgian cavalry officers' mess. Measuring 18 feet by nine, it will be incorporated into the new HQ near the main entrance.*

Fewer recruits

Army recruiting figures are down, but described as 'satisfactory' by the Ministry of Defence. In the six months ended on 31 May a total of 8904 joined up. Of these, 6763 were adults and young soldiers and 2141 juniors.

TAVR shoot was fun for Press

It's nothing new for the Press to be in the firing line — literally or metaphorically — but one Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve unit has been making sure this happens regularly.

An annual invitation is extended by E Company, 1st Battalion, The 52nd Lowland Volunteers, to members of the West of Scotland Press, radio and television to meet them for a friendly day's shooting on Dechmont ranges, near Glasgow. This was the sixth year of the shoot and 80 Pressmen and women turned up — a record number.

Shooting teams competed for a silver cup which went to Maurice and Wendy Bacon of the Thomson Foundation Television College. The men fired the SLR and the women the Sterling sub-machine gun.

In a competition simulating a night radio operation, blindfolded girls were 'talked in' by men partners on a route which ended where a prize bottle of wine was strapped to a tree. Winner was Christine Sharman of the BBC who found a surprise package awaiting her —

Sappers follow Captain Bligh

A TEAM of six Royal Engineers, specially trained in diving, is in the Pacific island of Pitcairn to improve harbour facilities.

Pitcairn has no natural harbours and the exposed nature of the island makes sea conditions very rough. The harbour jetty at Bounty Bay is to be extended and strengthened and some dangerous rocks are being removed so that long boats can use the bay in most weathers.

The team will live and work with the 60 Pitcairners — descendants of the Bounty mutineers. The Government hopes that improving harbour facilities will encourage islanders who have emigrated to New Zealand to return to the island.

River road

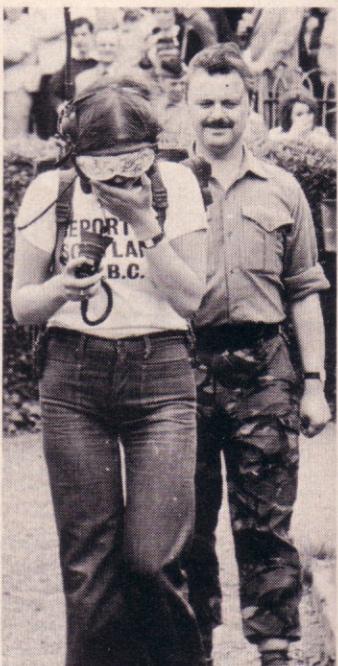
Another team of ten sappers, plus four Army radio operators, a doctor and a cook, is currently in Peru designing a road in the River Apurimac valley. The road, through thick jungle, will be 64 kilometres long and will help people to move their goods to market. At present they are taken by boat along a dangerous river, which claims many lives each year.

Two more squadrons of engineers are engaged in overseas exercises.

In Cyprus, 60 Field Squadron, from Maidstone, is building a 'roll-on, roll-off' jetty at Akrotiri, similar to those used by civil car ferries. The task includes sheet piling, bridge building and the construction of an approach road.

Meanwhile 51 Field Squadron (Airfields), from Waterbeach, Cambridge, is on a three-month exercise in Gibraltar. During its stay the squadron is improving the electric target range, modifying the airfield runway drainage system and renewing the oil sub-depot at Coalting Island.*

(HQ Engineer-in-Chief (A))



for the wine bottle was connected to a smoke grenade and she finished up in a cloud. Christine is pictured here during her blindfold walk.

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Paras— ready and united

The mottoes 'United we Conquer,' and 'Ready for Anything' made an appropriate mixture to the Belgian and British parachutists who recently exchanged visits.

C Company of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (ready for anything), were hosts to 16 Companie, 2nd Battalion Commando (united we conquer), for a fortnight or so in Aldershot.

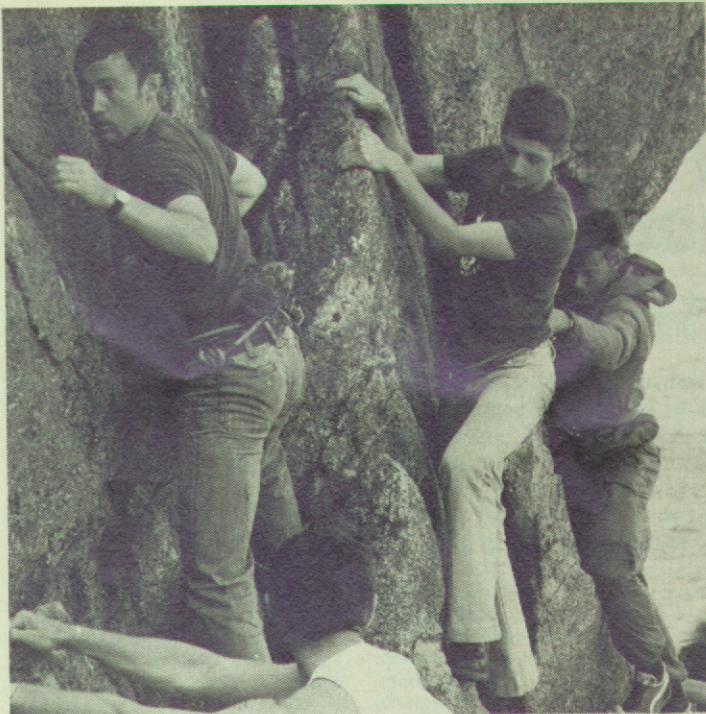
The visitors were also taken in three separate batches of 40 for extra training at Penhale in Cornwall where two-and-a-half gruelling days were packed with helicopter drills, climbing, running, fitness training, surf canoeing and abseiling.

Orienteering

Back in Aldershot there was weapon training and range work plus some orienteering. The Belgians also got a chance to win their British parachute wings by completing a course which included not only parachute drops but the testing gymnastic switchback of the Trainasium assault course in Aldershot.

All conscripts, the Belgians found themselves ready for almost anything as they were fresh from intensive training. But still they had to admire the morning fitness training of the British paras which they might incorporate into their own schemes.

Earlier in the year C Company of 2 Para paid their visit to Belgium, spending some time in the wintry Ardennes. The battalion has got used to playing host to its airborne brothers during the year, having welcomed paras from the United States, Germany and Denmark as well as Belgium.



Parachutists don't spend all their training time in the air — and judging from the intent expressions here, rock-climbing is not an activity indulged in with an easy familiarity. The climbers negotiating a traverse above the sea are British and Belgian paras exercising together in Cornwall.

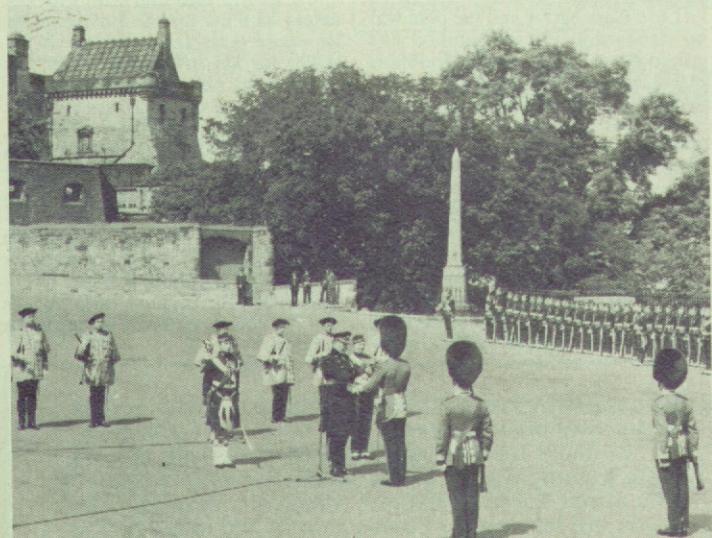
Family occasion at the Castle

A general, a captain and a private all played prominent parts in a historic Scottish ceremony — and all were from the same family.

The occasion was the installation of Lieutenant-General Sir David Scott-Barrett, GOC Scotland, as Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

During the elaborate ceremony he received the key of the castle from his eldest son Nicholas, a captain in the Scots Guards, while his second son Simon, a Territorial Army private, was a member of an escort representing the Scottish regiments.

Captain Scott-Barrett, as garrison adjutant, handed the castle key to his father on the orders of the commander, Brigadier John Swinton, who was obeying a summons by Lord Lyon King of Arms, Sir James Monteith Grant, to "make patent the port and gates" and deliver the key to the Governor.



Sir David receives the key from eldest son Nicholas. Behind Lieutenant-General Scott Barrett is Lord Lyon King of Arms, and his court. On the left is his second son, Simon, one of the escort.

Clearing the air in BAOR

Rapier, Thunderbird, Hawk, Vulcan and Redeye were all deployed in a Nato air-defence exercise named Whirlygig in BAOR.

British, American and Danish air defence units took part in the exercise and more than 700 sorties were flown in support by British, German, Dutch and Belgian pilots of 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force.

Britain was represented among the defenders by two Royal Artillery units — 12 Light Air Defence Regiment with Rapier and 36 Heavy Air Defence Regiment with Thunderbird 2. The Americans contributed a battery of Hawk missiles and one of 20mm Vulcan cannon; Denmark fielded two batteries of Redeye shoulder-launched missiles.

A helicopter force of British Sioux and US Kiowas and Bell Hueys was notable for the presence of one woman pilot — Lieutenant Sue Schoeck, one of 15 'chopper' pilots in the US Army. Four RAF Wessex helicopters also joined in.

Language was no problem. On the radio the Danes showed their mastery of English and familiarity with such American phrases as 'blade time' for helicopter flying hours and 'reefer truck' for a refrigerated ration lorry.

Brigadier Mike Steele, commanding 7th Artillery Brigade, summed up the exercise as "a most beneficial exchange of ideas between the air defenders of three Nato nations."

Great relief

During the last financial year a total of £1,042,311 was spent in relief work by corps and regimental associations and the Army Benevolent Fund.

A further sum of £290,845 was disbursed by the Army Benevolent Fund in compassionate loans to soldiers or their widows awaiting the outcome of claims for compensation arising out of death or wounds from service in Northern Ireland and to serving soldiers in need of help to prepare for their return to civilian life.

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IN PARLIAMENT

New tank armour raises questions

The announcement of the new Chobham Armour (SOLDIER NEWS, August) prompted questions in both Houses of Parliament. In the Commons, Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth) asked Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, when British tank crews would receive its protection and whether he would ensure that they did so before the tank crews of other countries having regard to the fact that the armour was of British design.

Mr Rodgers said British crews would get the protection with the entry into service of the next generation of main battle tank. Meanwhile it was right to exploit the new invention to the benefit of the British economy and balance of payments.

Mr Trotter also asked if it was proposed to make a charge, in order to recoup the cost of research and development, to Nato allies who

used the new armour. Mr Rodgers replied that the information passed on to the Americans and West Germans could be used by them free of charge for certain Government purposes under agreed arrangements for reciprocal exchanges of information. They could not use it for commercial purposes without consulting the British Government which would then expect to negotiate a royalty.

Available

In the House of Lords it was the veteran, Lord 'Manny' Shinwell, who asked for an explanation of why the project had been made available to Iran at a cost of £500,000,000 but would not be available to the British Army for ten years.

Lord Winterbottom's reply — that the cost of at least £100,000,000 to replace the turret and hull on the British Chieftains would not be cost-effective — led Lord Shinwell to ask why the money being received from the Shah could not be used to provide the British Army with similar tank protection. Lord Winterbottom said it was a question of time-scale.

Former Secretary of State for Defence Lord Carrington said that during World War Two Britain made the worst tanks in the world and that subsequently with the Centurion and the Chieftain we had made, if not the best tanks, certainly tanks among the best in the world.

Lord Wigg evidently disagreed. He said the Chieftain was another white elephant come home to roost. He added: "They are excellent showpieces but as fighting instruments today they are useless."

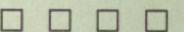
Lord Shinwell said he refuted all of Lord Wigg's statements.

A statement from Lord Winterbottom in the Lords on the new family of small arms and ammunition to replace the 7.62mm self-loading rifle, the 9mm sub-machine gun and the 7.62mm general-purpose machine-gun took Lord Shinwell back a quarter of a century.

He told the House: "... in 1951 we produced what was regarded as the most efficient rifle to date and one which took consistent ammunition, but the Americans and the Belgians rejected our request that this become a standardised weapon for Nato at that time. How are we to take care that a similar difficulty does not arise on this occasion?"

Lord Winterbottom said the plan was to standardise on whatever round or rounds were selected by the Conference of National Arms Directors. If our concept of a rifle and light machine-gun proved best in the tests which were to take place from 1977 to 1979 the Government was confident that it would prove the British weapons as perhaps the most suitable for Nato as a whole. However, if the conference decided on a larger calibre the British designs could be converted — thus avoiding the unhappy situation over the EM2 rifle.

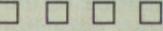
Lord Carrington said the plan was to standardise the ammunition and asked if it would not be a good thing to standardise the rifle. Lord Winterbottom replied that as long as the round was standard the major hurdle in harmonising our logistic problems had been overcome.



Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for the Army, gave Mr Edwin Wainwright (Labour, Dearne Valley) some facts and figures about the Suffield train-

ing area in Canada. He said that each year seven battle groups or about 5000 men are trained there at an annual running cost of £4,000,000 to the Ministry of Defence. Mr Wainwright asked if Mr Brown was satisfied that the cost was worthwhile and asked what facilities had been offered to other Nato countries to train with British troops in the area.

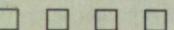
Mr Brown said it was hoped that Canadian units would take part in exercises at Suffield for the first time later this year. He said the lease expired in 1981 and Britain would have to negotiate for an extension at that time. He described Suffield as "a unique and superb training area."



Mr Dennis Canavan (Labour, West Stirlingshire) told of a visit to a school fete with his wife and young family where "I was confronted with an armoured car and other military equipment and personnel encouraging young people to play a game called 'Shoot to Kill.'" Mr Canavan asked if steps would be taken to stop what he called "this glamorisation of violence" which seemed to be aimed at recruiting young people of an impressionable age into the forces from areas of high unemployment.

Mr James Wellbeloved, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the RAF, said if Mr Canavan sent him details he would look into the matter. It was not the practice of the Department to go into schools trying to force young people to join the forces against their will. Recruiting teams and advisers were most careful to present a balanced picture of life in the forces and to point out that it was an honourable and exciting career they could enter if they wished.

Later, Mr Wellbeloved refused to speculate on what would happen if British forces were withdrawn from the sovereign base areas in Cyprus as it was "not even under consideration by the Government." There were no plans for a withdrawal.



Heath fires in his constituency on firing ranges in the Ash, Normandy and Pirbright areas concerned Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking). He asked what action was being taken to review fire precaution procedures and, particularly, to provide improved fire breaks in order to give more effective protection to private property bordering the ranges and to reduce the burden on the public fire services.

Mr Brown said that with the Secretary of State for the Environment he would undertake a review of the policy for fire breaks and other fire precautions taking into account the present series of fires.

Mr Willie Hamilton (Labour, Central Fife) asked Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, if he was yet in a position to publish a White Paper on the implications of the concept of separate Scottish armed forces. Mr Rodgers said he did not think a White Paper was called for because the idea was not, he hoped, seriously advanced by anyone.*



Members of the Preston-based 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, provided the guard of honour at the historic Tynwald ceremony on the Isle of Man.

They were invited by Sir John Paul, Lieutenant-Governor of the island, who represents the Queen at the annual opening of the Tynwald, the Manx Parliament. During the ceremony, which dates back 1000

years, the laws passed during the preceding year are read in Manx and English on Tynwald Hill.

Sixty-two men of the battalion, which has detachments at Blackpool, Burnley, Preston and Ashton-under-Lyne, were on parade under the command of Major Roger Brooks.

Music was played by the band of The Yorkshire Volunteers.

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Army beat Kent by 89 runs

The Army cricket XI has returned some creditable scores in early matches of the season, including a win against a Kent side strengthened by the presence of Christopher Cowdrey, son of Colin of county and England fame.

Played at Aldershot, the game went Kent's way at first with the Army's Brooks lost cheaply. But Peck and Sanderson added 116 for the second wicket. Nurse and Scott went on to bat with a sense of purpose and the Army declared with five wickets down. At close of play Kent were 126 for seven with only Cowdrey — with 40 — showing much form against good bowling by Presland and Mitchell and a steady spell by Sanderson.

Kent batted on next day and declared two runs ahead. Vaughan-Arbuckle and Peck were dismissed quickly as the Army replied. Brooks helped Sanderson to add 48 for the third wicket and then Dover and Sanderson put on 136 for the fourth. Sanderson was well caught for 107 made at a run a minute with 17 fours and Dover scored 56 with a six and seven fours in even time. After losing Cowdrey cheaply, Kent never looked like making the runs against excellent Army bowling — particularly by Dover — and keen fielding, and were dismissed for 115.

Results: Army 176 for five declared and 206 for four declared, Kent 2nd XI 178 for eight declared and 115 — Army won by 89 runs.

The Army was less fortunate against Lancashire's 2nd XI when Vaughan-Arbuckle had to retire hurt early in the Army's first innings after being hit behind the ear, and Davies and Sanderson did little. Peck batted admirably for 42 and Dover hit hard for his 39. But a collapse in the middle order saw the Army dismissed for 141. Lancashire's first innings brought 199 for three declared but in their second they made little of the Army bowling and were all out for 87 in the 38th over. The Army looked set for a win but were all out for a disappointing 111.

Result: Lancashire 199 for three declared and 87, Army 141 and 111 — Lancashire won by 34 runs.

Other results: Army 156 for five declared and 119 for three, Royal Military Academy Sandhurst 173 and 101 — Army won by seven wickets. Army 168 and 194, Oxford University 383 for seven declared and 188 for five declared — Oxford won by 209 runs.

Two-wheelers on trial

Just one day before the declaration of war in 1939, a team of British sportsmen was hurriedly recalled from an international event at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the heart of what was about to become enemy territory.

The sportsmen were Army motorcyclists competing in the last international six-day trial before World War Two, and although to this day their sport is classed as military driver training there can be few times when it has brought them closer to 'the front.'

Today, motorcycling is still a thriving sport in the Army even though their use in the Services has dwindled. Top competitors enter classic international events and this year the biennial Army motorcycling championship attracted well over 100 individual entries.

The first championships were in 1938. The Army Motor Cycling Association was in suspended animation during the war and was

resuscitated in 1947 'to sponsor and control motorcycle trials and formulate rules for their conduct'.

All arms and corps used to take part but nowadays — as the motorcycle has become less used by the Army — the fields are dominated by riders from the Royal Signals, Royal Corps of Transport and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, with some Royal Marines and Royal Military Police.

Highlight

For the Army championships — the highlight of the military trials calendar — Service machines must be used. These are BSA B40s and Triumph TRW 500 machines which have side valves and unsprung frames. A third machine, the Hercules K125B, came on the scene this year in the hands of Berlin Brigade.

A class for entrants with private machines is included, but they cannot pick up any of the challenge awards. Another feature of the championships nowadays is an international event against a Swedish team. This dates back to

1954 and includes the attraction of the Swedes riding British bikes and vice-versa.

The major international event in the trials world, even now, is the international six-day which began in the United Kingdom as a contest to test commercial machines. The Army took advantage of this system in the 1950s and B40s and Triumph machines made the trip to Sweden for the event. The British team was the only complete team to finish with its prototype B40s.

Unfortunately the contest can rarely 'come home' nowadays to mainland Britain. There would not be time or space on the country's roads for the six-day event although it was held in the Isle of Man in 1975. This year it is in Austria.

The Army championship at Pirbright this year was dominated by the current top three Army riders.

First in the Regular Army Class 1 event was Staff-Sergeant G E Webb, of 12th Mechanised Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron, with a mark of 70. Second was Sergeant R Belton from the MT Wing at the Army School of Transport (81 points) and third was Corporal K Ablewhite of 8 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport (87 points).

Gort Trophy

The regular Army team prize — the Gort Trophy — went to MT Wing of the Army School of Transport. Their riders were Belton, Lance-Corporal G Porter and Lance-Corporal L Pearce.

Second was the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Sergeants G Gulliver and B Gambrill with Staff-Sergeant D Beardsley). The Junior Leaders Regiment RCT was third with Corporals J Taylor and T A Mills and Lance-Corporal R Sneddon.

First place in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve team awards went to 153 Highland Regiment RCT (Staff-Sergeant J Little, Corporal A Cameron, Lance-Corporal A Smethurst), second was 150 (North) Regiment RCT (Corporals L W Urry, S Johnson, Lance-Corporal A Richardson) and third, 124 Recovery Company REME (Sergeants A Irvine, R Irvine and Corporal E P Brown).



Junior Lance-Corporal Graham Fidler set a world gymnastic record at the Royal Tournament at Earls Court when he executed a dive and tucked somersault over 30 fellow-soldiers of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers. He is seen during a practice jump over 26.

Half-ton trophy

A bid for the record as the heaviest prize in the yachting world is made by the half-ton Blake Cannon currently held by HQ 2nd Division and Signal Regiment for winning the seven-day Rhine Army Royal Signals Baltic Regatta.

The cannon, a German 19th century land artillery piece, was one of a pair buried vertically by German

gunners as doorstops outside Caithness Barracks, Verden, which was once their base.

Subsequently the barracks' new British tenants had the cannons dug up and renovated, equipped with new carriages and presented as regatta prizes — one for offshore racing and the other for dinghies. They were first presented in 1973.

Corporal Ken Ablewhite was again on top form when he won the Exercise Master Rider title for the second year at Hubbelrath, near Düsseldorf, Germany. He rode a standard 350cc B40 machine on the trial which included map reading over busy roads through the Ruhr, ten laps of punishing moto-cross and delicate throttle control and balance in the trials section proper. Ken rode for the Army in the international six-day trials in the Isle of Man last year and is hoping to make the team for Austria this year.

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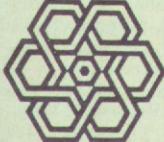
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Revenge is sweet for champs in needle tournament

For the seventh successive year 21 Signal Regiment has won the major units athletics championship.

But the final triumph at Aldershot against stiff opposition was not without a certain amount of drama beforehand. For the championship saw the clash of the ultimate winners with arch rivals 7 Signal Regiment.

It was an open secret in the stadium that a needle match was on following 7 Regiment's narrow win over 21 in the Rhine Army finals — both units serve in Germany. The favourite, 21 Regiment, had looked set for victory when one of its star performers — up-and-coming 19-year-old Signalman A D Robertson — was disqualified in one of his strongest disciplines, the 1500 metres.

Battle

This tipped the scales in 7's

favour and they went on to win. The two teams met again in Aldershot for the all-Army finals and both gradually worked their way to the head of the score sheet to do battle once more for the top two places.

For most of the day it could have gone either way and the final result — with 21 ahead of 7 — was not definite until the last couple of events. So revenge was sweet for 21 with 197 points to 7's 173. Doubly sweet as Robertson won both the 1500 and 500 metres events.

The youngster is current junior

Army cross-country champion and in the 5000 metres his team-mate, Sergeant W Venus, followed him home in third place. He is senior cross-country champion this year. Robertson is clearly a figure to watch in future athletics meetings. His slight build and Brendan Foster-ish roll of the head in action belie his speed and technical ability on the track.

Third in the major units division was the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, entered for the first time in some years. The score of 157 was enhanced by Second-Lieutenant B Muema's win in the triple jump when he smashed his own record of 14.68 metres, set earlier this year, with 14.82 metres.

Other placings were: 4th 8 Signal Regiment (149), 5th 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment (140), 6th 36 Engineer Regiment (132) and 7th 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery (114).

Record

The only other record to fall was the women's discus. Again the new distance was set by the holder of the old record, Lance-Corporal V J Head, of the Women's Royal Army Corps, twin sister of Private V A Head, the current shot record holder. The new discus record is 44.58 metres, a full 3.78 metres further than the old.

But Lance-Corporal Head's team — WRAC Centre — could still only manage fifth place with 39 points. The other women's placings were: 1st D Company WRAC (16 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps) (56 points), 2nd 12 Company WRAC (47), 3rd WRAC Battery (Royal School of Artillery) (43), 4th 16 Signal Regiment (42), 6th WRAC Catterick (38) and 7th 1st Provost Company WRAC (14).

Minor units results: 1st HP and CC Depot Royal Engineers (46), 2nd 12th Mechanised Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron (44), 3rd 4th Guards Armoured Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron (39), 4th Depot Queen's Division (38), 5th Depot Prince of Wales's Division Lichfield (33), 6th Depot POW Division Crickhowell (29).

And while the track and field championships were being fought out, another final took place — the Rhine Army versus United Kingdom tug-of-war. The two teams, which both pulled for the 560 and 640 kilogram weights, came from 39 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (Germany) and 1st Parachute Logistic Regiment. The gunners recorded convincing wins in both division with a combination of brawn — and brain to pick the right tactics — allowing 1 Para Log only one win in the six pulls.

Sports shorts

WATER POLO

The Army lost both its matches on a tour of the north-west of England. Scores: Army 6, Chainhill WP Club Manchester 9; Army 5, Salford City ASC 10. In the Army UK championships at Chelsea Barracks, groups one and two, winners 36 Engr Regt beat groups three and four winners, 3 Div HQ and Sig Sqn, 12-6.

CRICKET

The major units junior cricket final was won by AAC Harrogate at Aldershot where they met JLR RE. The junior sappers were all out for 80 and Harrogate won by six wickets after scoring 84 runs.

PARASCENDING

Training difficulties cut the number of Army teams in this year's national parascending championships at Oakington Barracks and this was reflected in the results. The under-18 individual challenge trophy went to the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion and the Army Ascending Parachute Association inter-unit challenge trophy went to North West Sector Army Cadet Force. Twenty clubs took part in the event, in which competitors are launched from the ground by parachute towed behind a vehicle.

ATHLETICS

In a three-cornered match between the Army, Civil Service Athletic Association and Surrey Amateur Athletic Association, the Army came first with a total score of 143. Second was Surrey with 131 and third the Civil Service with 113. The Army won again with 202 points in a four-cornered event also involving Achilles Athletic Club (second with 144), RMA Sandhurst (third with 140) and Southwood (Training Regiments, Royal Engineers) (fourth with 119). The inter-Services championship saw the RAF win the men's section by just $3\frac{1}{2}$ points to retain the title for the 12th year running but the Army women won their class for the sixth time in succession to make up for it. Ten records tumbled during the tournament with the Army getting the lion's share of these honours. Lieut Glen Grant (RA) was responsible for two of these new times — one minute 51.7 seconds for the 800 metres and three minutes 48.1 for the 1500 metres. Other Army record breakers were: 4 x 400m (3:15.4), women's 100m hurdles (Cpl S Facer, 15.7), women's shot (Pte V A Head, 13.96m), women's 4 x 400m relay (48.9).

In the Army junior athletic championships AAC Harrogate came first with $99\frac{1}{2}$ points, second AAC Arborfield (83), third JLR RAC (70), in the major units events. Minor units winners were W Coy King's Div Depot and Jun Para Coy both with 44, third RAMC App Coll (43).

A new crop of records was set in the junior individual championships: 1500m (Sig A Robertson 4:02.6), 5000m (L/Cpl J D Carr 15:03.6), 2000m steeplechase (Sig S Lancashire 5:56.8), 400m hurdles (A/T Sgt G Watson 57.6), high jump (Pte A Oguntipan 1.81m), javelin (Pte Annis 54.30m), hammer (A/T R Bacon 40.30m). All records subject to ratification.



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Above left: Signalman Andy Robertson finds that extra piece of energy to stay in the lead in the 1500 metres.

210 tough miles took their toll

From a report by Ron Roberts, PR HQ BAOR

In the sweltering heat of a German summer night 59 enthusiastic rally drivers set off on a 210-mile course which in the next 12 hours was to take its toll of men and machines to leave only ten finishers in the contest, code-named 'June Bug 76.'

APPRENTICES IN THE SWIM

Army juniors swimming, diving and water polo championships, held at AAC Chepstow and HMS Raleigh—

Major units team swimming: 1st AAC Chepstow (78 points), 2nd JLR RAC (61), 3rd AAC Harrogate (51). New team records were set up by AAC Chepstow in the 4 x 50m free-style relay (1min 57.4sec) and 4 x 50m medley relay (2min 13.8sec). J/Gnr Wake (JLR RAC) set a new individual record in the 200m individual medley (2min 33.1sec).

Minor units team swimming: 1st W JSC Depot King's Div (22), 2nd RAMC App Coll (17), 3rd 11 Sig Regt (Jnr Sgnm) (13). Depot King's Div set a new record in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay (2min 11.7sec).

Inter-unit team water polo final: JLR RAC 3, AAC Chepstow 6.

Individual championships—

1 metre springboard diving: 1st J/L/Cpl Phinn (Band Coy Scottish Inf Depot) (38.61 points), 2nd J/Bdsmn V Sheedy (JLR RAC) (32.86), 3rd A/T A Matthews (AAC Arborfield) (31.35). 100m butterfly: 1st J/Gnr Wake (1min 11.00sec), 2nd A/T J Frame (AAC Chepstow) (1:27.9), 3rd A/T/Cpl S Wallis (AAC Chepstow) (1:38.8).

100m backstroke: 1st A/T M S Harriman (AAC Arborfield) (1:16.5), 2nd A/T S Pointing (AAC Chepstow) (1:19.5), 3rd J/Tpr N M Scott (JLR RAC) (1:19.6). 400m freestyle: 1st J/Tpr P M Price (JLR RAC) (5:20.2), 2nd A/T N Godfrey (AAC Chepstow) (5:32.8). 220m backstroke: 1st Wake (2:33.2, record), 2nd Harriman (2:58.7), 3rd Pointing (3:00.0). 200m breaststroke: 1st A/T D Burke (AAC Chepstow) (3:00.5), 2nd A/T/L/Cpl M J Hill (AAC Arborfield) (3:15.2).

100m freestyle: 1st A/T/L/Cpl D M Palmer (AAC Chepstow) (1:04.7), 2nd Price (1:05.0), 3rd A/T/Cpl C D Bowers (AAC Harrogate) (1:06.2).

200m individual medley: 1st A/T/Cpl M Burke (AAC Chepstow) (2:35.2), 2nd Wake (2:36.8), 3rd Harriman (3:03.4).

100m breaststroke: 1st M Burke (1:24.2), 2nd D Burke (1:24.4), 3rd A/T/Sgt J Campbell (AAC Chepstow) (1:28.1).

200m freestyle: 1st J/L/Cpl C J Sadowski (JLR RAC) (2:30.2), 2nd A/T Bennett (AAC Chepstow) (2:32.1), 3rd A/T G Mitchell (AAC Arborfield) (2:32.7).

Inter-Services junior championship — Water polo: Royal Navy 2, Army 4.

Diving: 1st Sheedy, 2nd Matthews, 3rd Phinn (Army).

Army 15, RN 6.

Swimming: Navy 72, Army 68.

In the 100 metres backstroke Wake gained a new record, coming first in 1:09.7.

Major Charles Crew, secretary of the British Army Motoring Association in Rhine Army, explained the high 'casualty' rate: "Both driver and navigator are under constant pressure. The route is presented as a series of problems which demand good driving, accurate map-reading, endurance and considerable self-reliance. This June Bug was very demanding because it was well planned and well presented. There was hardly a straight stretch of road longer than 400 metres so it was very difficult to keep up an average speed of 30 miles an hour."

Since BAMA was formed 16 years ago it has worked towards getting the Royal Automobile Club to recognise the standards achieved by Army rallies. And this June Bug was at long last granted a "restricted" status by the RAC. This means that competitors completing four such events can apply for a licence to compete in national rallies. Completion of three national standard events grants access to international rallies.

To achieve success in June Bug 76, competitors had to visit four specified time controls and 60 per cent of the remaining 107 check points. The route included public and private roads, cross-country rough riding, speed sections and quiet zones.

The first June Bug rally was organised by Herford Garrison Motor Sports Club in 1969. It was so successful that it became an annual event. The original course was over 60 miles and in 1971 this was extended to 400 miles with special stages. This year's 210-mile course was shorter — but no easier. It was the first 'restricted' event to be organised by the two-month-old Corunna Motor Sports Club based on 26 Engineer Regiment.

The rally involved military Land-Rovers and American-entered Jeeps from the United States Army as well as civilian vehicles manned by Army and civilian crews.

Overall winners were the first crew away in the one-minute interval staggered start, Captain T Broughton, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, and his civilian navigator, Mr J P Nation, in a Hillman Avenger.

Other results — Class A: 1st Lieut R Cutts (29 Field Ambulance), WO1 P J Waterman (1 Field Workshop REME); 2nd Cpl M Healy (3rd Royal Tank Regiment), Mr C Gregory. Class B: 1st S/Sgt D Maguire, S/Sgt P Shotts (both 2 Division HQ and Signal Regiment); 2nd Sgt D Callear, S/Sgt G Gay (both 229 Signal Squadron); 3rd Sgt Sheila Hatchell (68 Squadron RCT), Cpl R Jennings (19 Field Workshop REME). Novice: 1st Messrs J Finch, J Peacock. Beginners: 1st L/Cpl R Hewer, L/Cpl P Wilkinson (8 Regiment RCT).



Rough ride for Lieutenant-Colonel John Hemsley and co-driver Major John Skinner in the 31st Scottish International car rally — but perhaps the Land-Rover was jumping for joy in anticipation of finishing as the first Army entry home (57th overall) and best in the Land-Rover class, for which its crew won the Provost-Marshal's trophy.

Gurkhas win in Wales

A Gurkha team of four won the Welsh 3000 mountain dash for the fourth time in the last five years.

Last year the team from 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII Own Gurkha Rifles, was pipped at the post by just one minute to finish second. But this year they made amends by romping home 14 minutes clear of their nearest rivals, 16th Parachute Brigade Headquarters.

The race started on the summit of Snowdon at dawn and took the competitors over 14 peaks, all more than 3000 feet high. All the 25 adult teams had to have taken part in at least three mountain expeditions

beforehand to establish a sound knowledge of mountain survival.

In conditions described as "average" for the event — now in its fourteenth year — the Gurkha team completed the course in seven hours 55 minutes, and walked off with the silver rose bowl trophy once more.

For the second year running, the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College won the junior section of the Welsh 3000 dash over the Mountains. The team romped through the shorter course in four hours 15 minutes.

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A gold welcome home

The Army's Olympic hero, Sergeant Jim Fox, received a golden welcome home when he returned from his Canadian triumph to Arborfield.

A squad of NCOs pulled the 'bulled-up' Land-Rover, carrying Jim and pentathlon team-mates Adrian Parker and Andy Archibald (reserve), up to the School of Electronic Engineering where the entire garrison was waiting to honour the returning hero.

Afterwards, Jim confirmed that he was retiring from the Olympic scene as a competitor. "But at the moment I don't know my future," he said.

"I would like to stay involved in pentathlon, but that will depend on the Army, and what they have in mind for me."

"Four years is a long time before Moscow and now that my Achilles tendons are going I am ready to quit. I have no plans to leave the Army."

For the present, he will stay at Arborfield and help to train the REME pentathlon team.

At a Press conference Sergeant Fox talked briefly about the disqualification of his long-time Russian rival Boris Onischenko.

"The light went on for a hit," he said, "and I knew he hadn't touched me. I just thought there was something wrong with the mechanism and asked for it to be checked. I thought no more about it; it was a real hammerblow to find out about the switch in the handle."

Fox, with civilians Adrian Parker and Danny Nightingale, left it until the last minute to clinch victory in the fifth of the pentathlon events.

After the fourth day of the event, with the riding, shooting, fencing and swimming behind them, the trio faced the cross-country lying fifth overall in the placings.

But the team was quietly confident, knowing that Parker had been picked for the Olympics for his

strength in the running section. And he did not disappoint. He powered through to finish a convincing first with Nightingale — the baby of the squad at 22 years old (who could not be at Arborfield) in fourth place and Fox sixth.

At 34, Jim Fox was the veteran of the team with some 16 years of pentathlon competition behind him. Montreal was his fourth Olympic Games and in the Munich games in 1972 he came fourth with a score of 5311 - 17 short of the bronze.

Drama

There was drama in the shooting for Fox when his new pistol, which helped him to last year's world championship success, developed a trigger fault in practice.

The week had started uneasily for

him when he scored a maximum in the riding event but had to watch slower riders overtake him on points due to the apparent simplicity of the course.

The swimming brought the team up to fifth place with Parker coming seventh, Nightingale 15th and Fox 34th. But it was the supreme effort in the cross-country against the world's top opposition that clinched the gold for Britain.

In the final individual placings Parker was fifth, Nightingale tenth and Fox 15th.

Two other soldiers took part in the Montreal Olympics, Lieutenant Tim Belson, The Gloucestershire Regiment, as a fencer, and Lance-Corporal Alan Williams, Royal Engineers, in the canoeing. Both were eliminated in the early stages of their competition.



Green Jacket bang on target

Sergeant M Dorey, of The Royal Green Jackets, was crowned top Army marksman when he won the Queen's Medal for the Army with a score of 817 in the annual Bisley shooting championships.

Close behind came Sergeant A Eggington, of The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, with 813. In a tie shoot for third between two Gurkhas, Rifleman Debbahadur, of 2nd Battalion/2nd Gurkha Rifles, emerged the winner.

Other results — Roupell Cup: 1st Capt H Babington-Smith (RGJ) and RMSI R Silk (SASC) (both 156), 3rd Rfmn Kharka Limbu (10 GR) (152).

Long-range target rifle: 1st 2 Para (138), 2nd HQ BAOR (133), 3rd 1 DERR (132). Individual: 1st Maj H J Orpen-Smellie (Para) after tie shoot with WO1 R Hawes (RAPC).

Moving target: 1st Cpl D Greatwood (4 Fd Wksp REME) (45). Triple tie for second place.

Army pistol: 1st 1 Gordons, 2nd Army School of Catering, 3rd SEME.

LMG: 1st 2/2 GR (56), 2nd 10 GR (55), 3rd 10 Para (47). All three tied before shoot-off.

Minor units rifle match: 1st Depot Para (96), 2nd Scottish Inf Dep (93), 3rd Dep Rifle Bde (90).

SMG team match: 1st QOHldrs (122), 2nd 1 DERR (122), 3rd 1 WFR (118).

Section match: 1st 1/2 GR (120), 2nd 6 GR (120), 3rd 10 GR (118).

The Light Division won the Methuen Cup with 948, gaining also the REME Trophy and the Prince of Wales Cup. The Prince of Wales Division came second (915) and the Gurkhas third (891).

Army team snap shooting match: 1st 1QOHldrs, 2nd 1 WRF, 3rd 2/2 GR. Coronation team match: 1st 2/2 GR B (264), 2nd 10 GR (239), 3rd 2/2 GR A (237).

First and last

ALTHOUGH 1 Parachute Logistic Regiment is due to disband later this year, it has made sure its name will go down in posterity by having it engraved on the South East District small arms shooting meeting Parachute Regiment Cup which it won recently for the first time.

The team, captained by Warrant Officer 1 (RSM) John Holborn, comprised Captain Jack Matthews (63 Parachute Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport) and Staff-Sergeant Eddie Wroe, (Parachute Workshop Squadron, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers).

Cadet win

A surprise highlight of the National Rifle Association meeting at Bisley was the victory of 15 teenage cadets over seven teams of adult marksmen in the inter-Services short-range rifle match.

The United Kingdom cadet team, comprising members of schools' cadet force units, scored 1136 points out of a possible 1200 to finish ahead of the Royal Air Force (1123 points), Army (1114), Royal Navy (1102), Royal Marine (1087), Royal Canadian Army Cadets (1085), Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve (1077), Canadian Forces (1059) and Royal Naval Reserve (1036).

This is the first time the cadets have won the match, in which they first started competing only a year or two ago..

AIRFIX NEW MODELS FILE

WESTLAND-AEROSPATIALE LYNX

The Westland-Aerospatiale Lynx, multi-role helicopter will form a large percentage of the British armed forces helicopter units. Lynx's manoeuvrability will enable it to fly 'pop up' missions in the tactical role - that is to rise rapidly from cover, fire its missiles and return to concealment.

Large-scale production is underway for the Army Air Corps and the Royal Navy, and for overseas customers in the Middle East and the navies of France, the Netherlands and Brazil. An advanced technology helicopter, the Lynx is the result of a successful Anglo-French partnership begun in 1967 and now involving the two largest helicopter firms in Europe, Westland Helicopters in Britain and Aerospatiale in France.

Known initially as WG13, the Lynx was designed under the leadership of Westland and with both an army and navy requirement to meet, a helicopter with a high degree of versatility and commonality was called for. Two basic versions are in production, the utility or army Lynx and the naval Lynx. Both appear similar but differ in detail.

The missile operator sits in the left-hand seat, alongside the pilot, controlling the missiles via a stabilised sight. Guns, rockets and cameras can be carried and in the transport role a section of ten men can be ferried 450 n.m. or a 3,000 lb. load, such as a

field gun, can be lifted in a sling below the fuselage. Lynx's performance was demonstrated in June 1972 when it set a new world speed record in its class of 200 m.p.h. A further remarkable feature of the machine is its ability to perform a positive g roll, a manoeuvre few helicopters can do. The secret behind this is the advanced semi-rigid rotor head which gives a marked increase in control characteristics.

The Airfix Lynx is exact in every detail and features the army version. Nearly one hundred different parts go to make this exciting kit and it comes complete with its two-man crew, sliding doors, missile containers on pylons and two rotating rotors.

For up-to-date news and details of Airfix models get the Airfix magazine.



Westland-Aerospatiale Lynx (army)
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Technical Details

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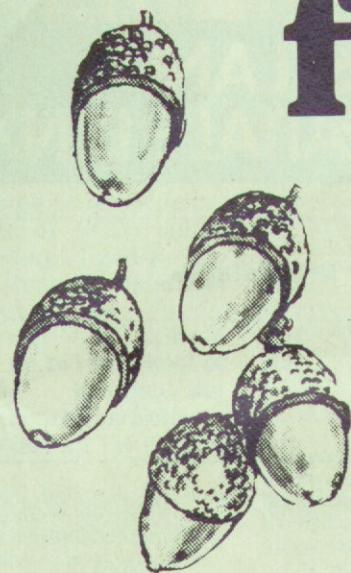
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Rotor Diameter: 42 ft.

Fuselage Length: 38 ft. 3 1/4 ins.

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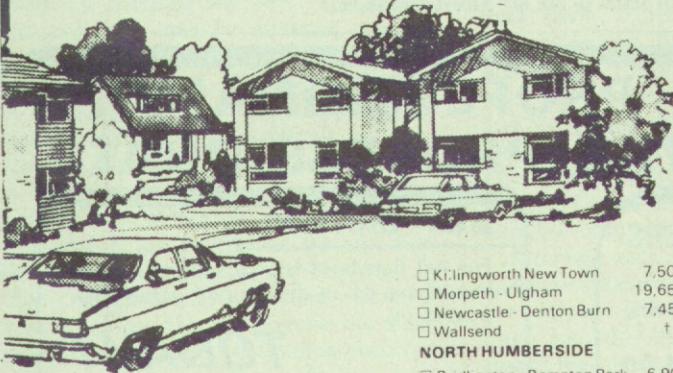
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THE PRIZE for the longest journey to Wainwright's 'fly-in' breakfast went to an aircraft that had flown 692 miles. But the visiting helicopter of 664 Parachute Aviation Squadron, Army Air Corps, that dropped in was some 7000 miles from home.

For the Sioux helicopter was one of two on detachment to support an exercise by 7th Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, in western Alberta on the Canadian prairies. The squadron works in support of 16th Parachute Brigade in Aldershot, Hampshire, from nearby Farnborough airfield.

The sophistication of the Royal Aircraft Establishment was a far cry from Wainwright Field where 50 or so enthusiasts flew in their aircraft for a get-together on a sunny Alberta Sunday. It was an annual event for Wainwright, but fly-in breakfasts — \$2 a head for adults, \$1.15 for kids, with coffee free — are held weekly somewhere or another in the district. And by district the 'distance-no-object' Canadians can mean hundreds of miles.

One of the two wooden hangar sheds was taken over for the breakfast itself. The rest of the airfield comprised two petrol pumps, a control shed, one airstrip, one windsock... and a twin-seater 'privy.'

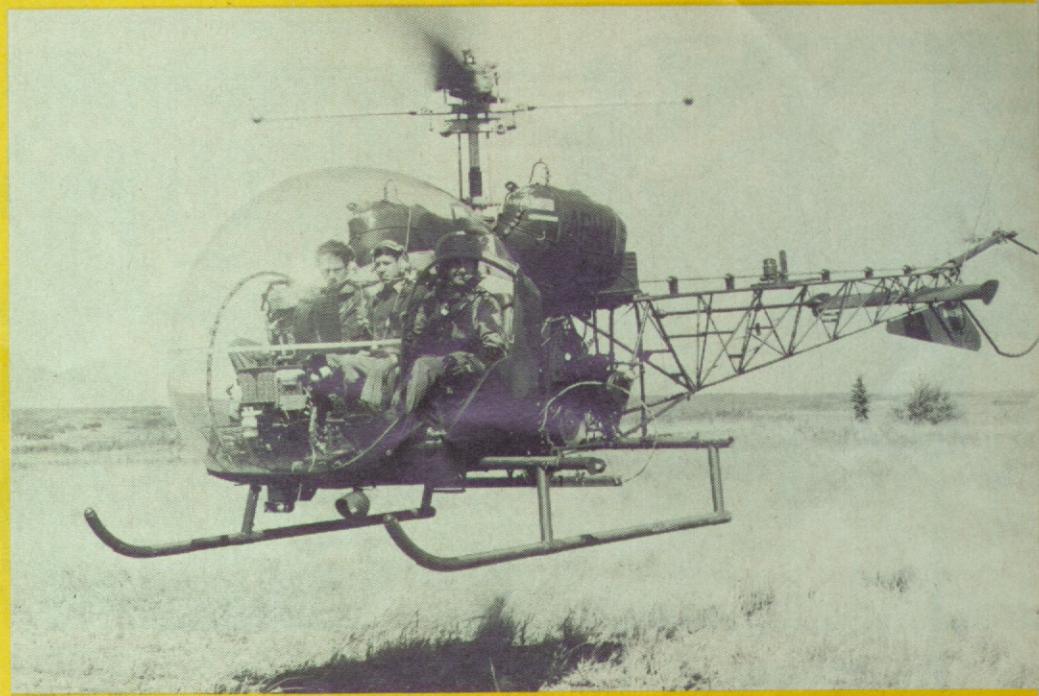
The goggle-eyed grasshopper look of the Sioux attracted much attention from the other breakfasters and there was a warm welcome for pilot Sergeant Pete Courtney who added to the entertainment by making a freefall parachute jump from one of the visiting aircraft, flown in a mere 150 miles by Mr Bill Christie ("I bought her secondhand last year — you'd never get me back in a car now!").

Soon the morning was over. The prizes were given out — one for distance, one for the youngest pilot (19) and one for the oldest aircraft (1946 vintage). And the 664 Squadron Sioux was left to get on with the job in hand as a military support aircraft.

Captain Chris Lobban, the other pilot in the detachment, and its commander, explained: "A lot of this job on detachment to an exercise is just waiting on the end of a phone or radio for something to happen." If it does, the crews leap into action without a moment's delay. On this exercise the main job was to act as aerial observation posts for gunnery positioning officers finding new places to site their guns. A constant alert had to be kept too for casualty evacuation emergencies — the 'choppers' could mean life or death to an accident victim on the ranges. There were liaison flights to make, as well as limited moves of men and material — the latter sometimes underslung, a tricky job in itself.

The crews have to keep a careful watch on flying hours, determined initially by the exercise planners. In this case, some 60 hours were flown by each aircraft. Fuel cost is a factor in determining this peacetime commitment but the most important consideration is the servicing of the 30 year-old in design, aircraft, which can have what Captain Lobban describes as 'quirks.'

Keeping a close eye on the flying hours and servicing status peg board were Sergeant 'Taff' Williams and Sergeant Jim Neilson from Mobile Wing of 70 Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, at Middle Wallop — the Army Air Corps' home. Sergeant Williams comes on one of these regular detachment trips fully prepared for almost any contingency —

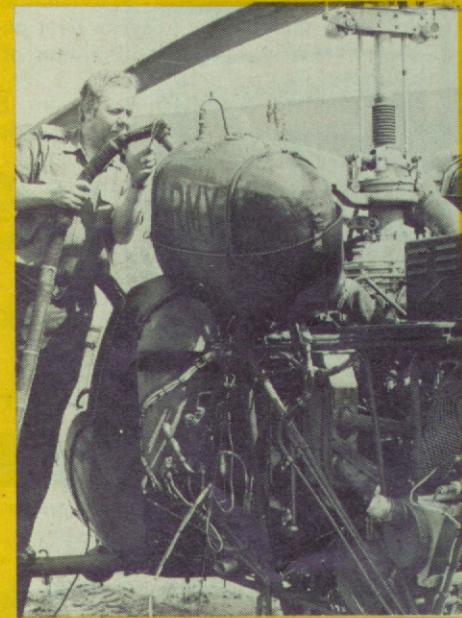


Army Air Corps pilot, Captain Chris Lobban (right) and two colleagues hovering a few feet up.

although the two aircraft had been specially selected for reliability from the squadron's half-dozen Sioux and half-dozen Scouts, his 1300lb servicing kit was there just in case.

The two Sioux were backed by two air technicians, Sergeant John Hadley and Corporal 'Scouse' Brennan plus an avionics expert (also a heavy goods driver), Corporal Sean Irwin. Corporal Robin Schnorr and Lance-Corporal Jim Renwick acted as air observers — Corporal Schnorr, too, doubles as an HGV driver. Air Troopers Tony Duff and Steve Price were there as ground crewmen to look after the aircraft before and after flight. A Royal Corps of Transport driver, Corporal Paul Richardson, also handled radio tasks.

Although each had a job to do, Captain Lobban explained that everyone has to cover for everyone else to make sure the job gets done smoothly... one reason why only one of the two Sioux could enjoy the Wainwright 'fly-in' breakfast.



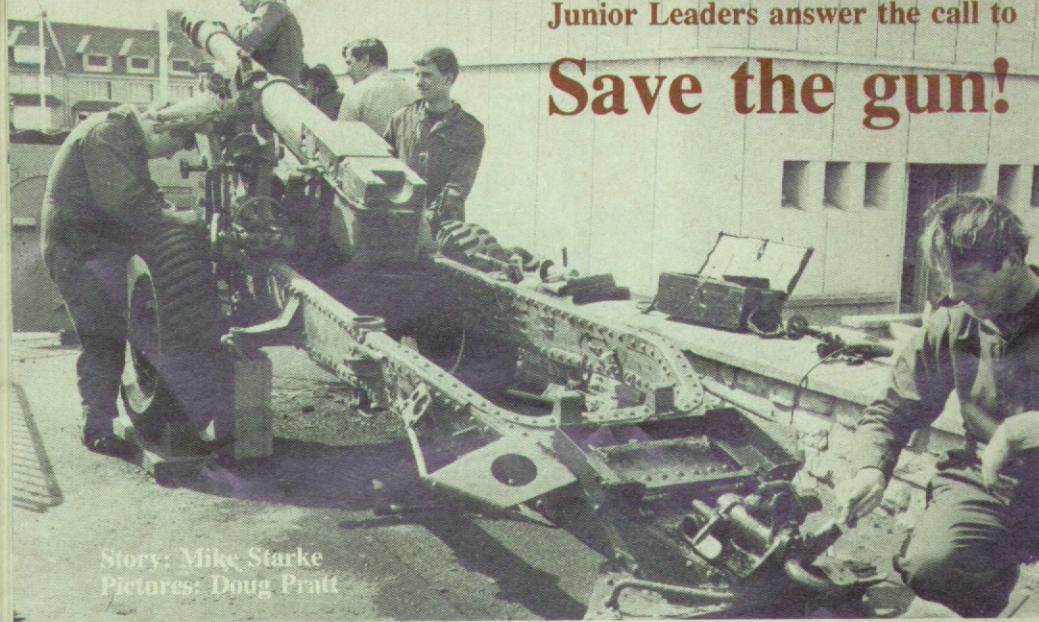
Sergeant 'Taff' Williams, from Mobile Wing of 70 Field Workshop, REME, refuels the Sioux.

Below: Sergeant Peter Courtney pilots the Sioux over the flat and featureless Albertan prairies.



Junior Leaders answer the call to

Save the gun!



Story: Mike Starke

Pictures: Doug Pratt

ALMOST 32 years to the day had passed since the 25-pounder gun, number 20131, had been one of 200 of its type to trundle ashore from the massive invasion fleet on D-Day to take part in the liberation of Europe.

It survived the war, but the ravages of peacetime wind and weather had taken their toll and the gun had become — literally — a museum piece outside the D-Day museum at Arromanches. And so a new assault, on rust and grime, was mounted from England to put things right.

The 'invasion' plan started when Essex Yeomanry old comrades visited the splendid Arromanches museum which overlooks the remains of the wartime Mulberry harbour.

They thought the 25-pounder — one of five different artillery pieces mounted outside the museum — looked in a 'deplorable' condition. So the Royal Artillery headquarters in Woolwich was alerted and a team from the Junior Leaders Regiment,

Bramcote, was sent on an adventurous training exercise to put things right.

Three teenaged soldiers, Junior Lance-Bombardiers Stephen Ward (16) and Michael Syms (17) with Junior Gunner John Dobslaw (17), were skippered across the Channel in the Royal Artillery's 30-foot yacht Bombard by the officer commanding the adventurous training wing at Bramcote, Captain Peter Youlten. Also lending a hand were Lieutenant Gerry Whiteley, Royal Army Educational Corps, and Staff-Sergeant Barry Moore from Bramcote's gunnery wing where the 25-pounder is still used in gunnery training although it is no longer in operational service with the Royal Artillery.

As on D-Day itself, speed was of the essence, with 'operation re-furbish' scheduled to take only a day and a half to complete. At first sight, the job looked impossible. Rust and grime caked the once proud field-piece. But the team set to work

with a will, using electric sanders, emery paper, hammers and chisels — plus no small amount of elbow grease.

By the end of the first day an amazing transformation had taken place. Despite Staff-Sergeant Moore's perfectionist's desire to do a 'proper job' of rebuilding the gun back in England, it was already looking passably like its original self and paint was being applied to scrubbed surfaces.

Nor had the hard-working team been allowed to spend all their time on the job in hand. For they soon attracted onlookers, a local television film crew and a newspaper photographer.

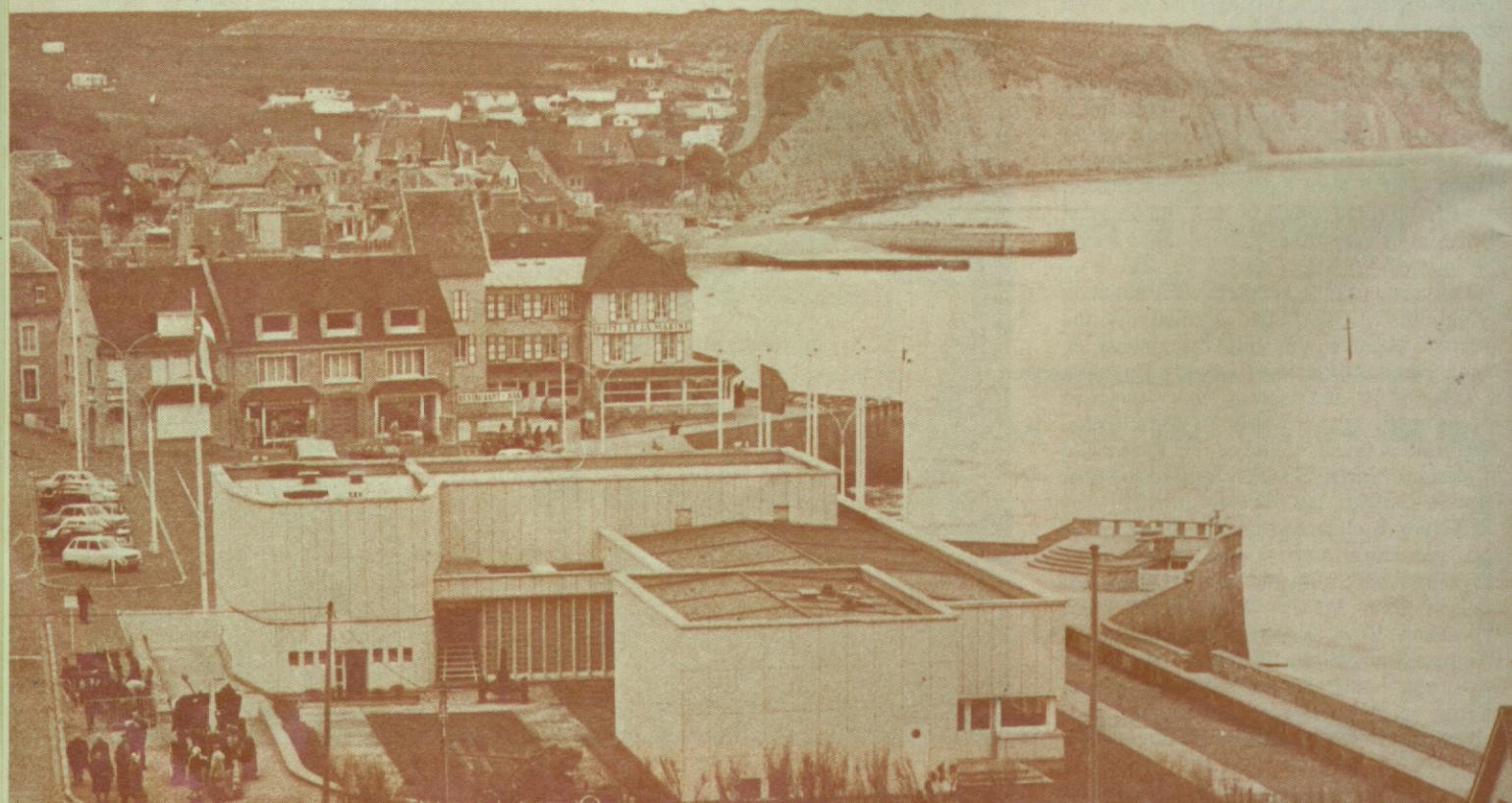
And there was the local Calvados area cuisine to sample too. The curator of the museum, Mademoiselle Antoinette de Bérenger, had seen to it that the task force was well fed at a café in the town. Here the young soldiers — all in France for the first time — added a bit more adventure to their training by eagerly sampling local delicacies.

Mlle de Bérenger smoothed the path throughout, providing food, tools and transport to and from the team's base aboard their yacht at Ouistreham some 25 miles away. Not to mention copious encouragement and deserved praise fortified with gifts of local wine and the fiery Calvados spirit.

The morning of day two of the operation sped by as two coats of green paint were applied to the gun and wheel nuts and fittings were picked out in red and white. To all but the expert eye the gun looked as good as new before the Junior Leaders were treated to their second slap-up French lunch, courtesy of the museum's curator.

A party of English schoolchildren was heard to observe: "Look at all those old guns!" then one added: "Yes, but look at that new one." Mlle de Bérenger commented to the Junior Leaders team: "That's the best praise you could have." But she added her own as well before they signed her visitors book as honoured guests and sailed home to England.

Above: Finishing touches for the 25-pounder after its re-furbishing and (below) looking out to sea over the Arromanches Museum and its guns.



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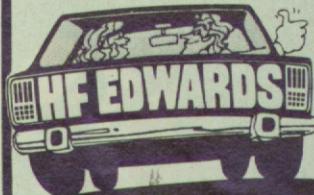


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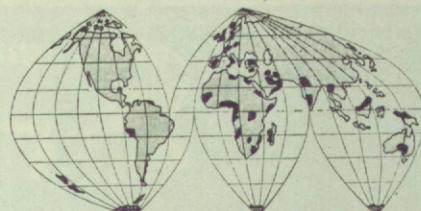
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On record

'March Glorious — Great Themes from Films and TV' (The Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards) (Director of Music: Captain R A Ridings) (Polydor 2383 372 Super)

We've had most of these items several times before, and one of them 632 times at least, but not always as well played as on this occasion. Ironically the very piece we all love to loathe, '633 Squadron,' is the least successful, being tentative and apologetic instead of full-blooded and S or B. Give me S or B every time, cracked notes and all.

Readers must be well aware of the surfeit of TV records on the market so I hope the Coldstreamers might explore their own Border region for the makings of their next disc. Or outer Siberia. Anywhere but t'box. Even so, army bands do this sort of thing extremely well and I know record companies can sell with ease, regardless of repetition.

For your delight are 'Gold' and 'The Great Escape' by Leonard Bernstein (composer, conductor, pianist and billionaire), 'The Entertainer' (Scott Joplin), 'The Brothers,' 'Luftwaffe March' (15th impression), 'March Glorious' (from 'The Great War'), 'Ben Hur,' 'The Magnificent Seven' (Elmer Bernstein), 'Eye Level,' 'High Chaparral,' 'Upstairs, Downstairs,' 'High Noon,' 'The Guns of Navarone' (RB style) and the aforesaid '633 Squadron.' **RB**

'Hands Across the Sea' (The Band of the Welsh Guards) (BBC Records REB 228/cassette RMC 4036)

Recently returned from a successful tour of the United States, the Welsh Guards are in just the mood for such a disc as this and



seem to be first on the market with a bicentennial offering. Britain's contributors had to be Purcell, Parry, Sullivan, Elgar and Vaughan Williams — and they are. Sousa, the Civil War songs, the American forces marches and 'Taps' simply had to represent the American way of music — and they do. So here is a rare opportunity to send your American friends a gift (always a problem) which you can afford and they cannot buy.

Very nicely played and presented are 'Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1,' 'The Yeomen of the Guard' overture, 'Trumpet Tune and Air,' 'Jerusalem,' the witty and melodious 'March Past of the Kitchen Utensils' (from 'The Wasps of Aristophanes' by Vaughan Williams) and 'Evening Hymn and Last Post' by Dick Tulip, late bandmaster of The Royal Fusiliers.

The other side of the sea is represented by Sousa's march, a somewhat effeminate medley of Civil War tunes, 'The Blue and the Gray,' by Clare Grundman, a much more virile medley of American marches by P B Smith, the hymn tune 'Rock of Ages' (by a New Yorker) and a version of 'Taps' by two well-known American bandmasters. **RB**

'The Regimental Band of the Scots Guards' (Director of Music: Lieutenant-Colonel S Rhodes) (Music for Pleasure Fanfare SIT 60048) (mono only)

To go with the other two Guards records this month is this re-issue of a once-famous dose of nostalgia from the Scots Guards (reviewed Soldier, February 1971) under the still lively and active Sam Rhodes. We are still performing these selections at Eastbourne and elsewhere and Sam Rhodes, from his eyrie in the north, can say "That's how we used to do it."

We do things differently nowadays, not only by up-dating our programmes but in 'rendering' such classics as these. But for all lovers of what's old (which is of course better than what's new) here are selections from 'The Desert Song,' 'The Student Prince,' 'The Vagabond King,' 'Show Boat' and 'Rose Marie.'

Sam's influences go back to the great men of the Edwardian era and before, and this may be your last chance to buy yourself back in time, yet with most of the modern aids to recording. Hear this and you are in direct touch with Dan Godfrey, Mackenzie Rogan, Geroge Miller and many another stalwart of the pierhead bandstand. **RB**



'Wingates Temperance Band' (Conducted by Hugh Parry) (Music for Pleasure Fanfare SIT 60047)

A real 19th century tear-jerker this. Marches are 'Slaiburn' and 'Black Knight' ('Night' on the label), both by Rimmer. Solos are 'Kim' (cornet) and 'Weber's Last Waltz' (euphonium). 'Skye Boat Song,' 'España' waltz, hymn tune 'Belmont,' Suppe's overture 'Tantalusqualen,' some of the 'Music for the Royal Fireworks' and the long-overdue-for-pension 'Three Blind Mice' fantasy complete this disc. **RB**

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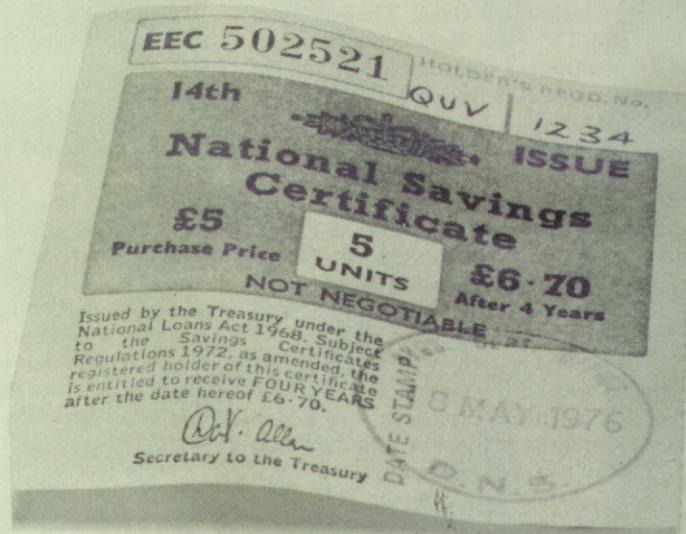
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Letters

Soldier welcomes readers' letters. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor. Anonymous letters are not published.

Soldier cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit. Serving readers should not ask for information available within their units.

Band dress

I have noticed that most Line regiments now dress their bands and drums in full dress although this is not now an official form of dress outside the Household Brigade and Royal Horse Artillery. Good. But if it is to be worn, it should be worn correctly.

Many bandmasters wear frock coat order when the band is in review order. Correctly the frock coat should be worn only when the band is wearing scarlet or No. 1 tunics and forage caps, never when wearing helmets or busbies.

I have also seen infantry bands wearing the chin chain done up on the wrong side, and No. 1 dress trousers, which is correct with the No. 1 blue tunic but not in full dress. Cannot the appropriate trousers be obtained from the Foot Guards?

I am sure something would be said if the Foot Guards paraded without white belts. Why then do the Queen's Dragoon Guards and Royal Engineers do just that? This was all right with the old laced tunics but looks silly with the tunics now worn. Full dress should be worn properly — or not at all. — A Easdown (late Band, 5th Dragoon Guards), 40 Mountbatten Avenue, Chatham, Kent.

TAVR bounty

Along with the Regular servicemen's pay increase from 1 April 1976, we of the TAVR had increases according to rank and increased training bounties of which the maximum payment for

five and subsequent years is £55 for Group A soldiers and £41 for Group B soldiers.

While one recognises that this was an increase of more than 100 per cent, the powers-that-be have never granted an increased bounty for long service. At camp this year a fellow sergeant qualified for his third clasp to the Efficiency Medal, with a total of 30 years' reserve service, yet his training bounty as a Group B reservist is exactly the same as for any Group B reservist of five years' service.

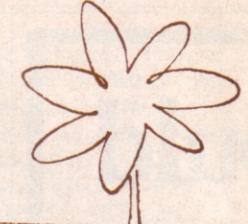
How about a long-service incremental bounty of say £50 for reservists who have served in excess of 22 years? — S/Sgt J B Harris (RE TAVR), 36 West Mills Road, Dorchester, Dorset.

Trip to India

The Military Historical Society has been running battlefield tours for its members for several years with successful trips to France, Belgium, Spain and Portugal, covering the campaigns of Marlborough, Wellington and World War One.

Next year, the 120th anniversary year of the Great Mutiny of the Bengal Army, a more ambitious trip is envisaged, to India. Precise details are not finalised at the time of writing but should be shortly. The tour will be a combination of military history and nostalgia, starting at Bombay, going on to Poona, Jaipur and Bhurtpore, the mountain stronghold taken by the British in 1826.

En route to Delhi we shall also visit



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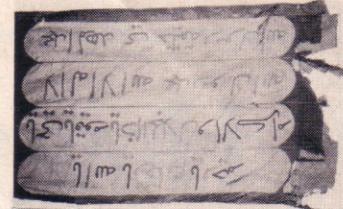


Agra to see the fort and Taj Mahal. We plan to be in Delhi to see the Republic Day parade on 26 January 1977 and will also visit Meerut where the mutiny began on 10 May 1857. Then to Dehra Dun where we hope to see, among other things, the King's Colours of the Indian Army laid up in January 1950 when India became a republic.

Other side-trips envisaged include a visit to the 61st Cavalry, India's only mounted regiment stationed in Jaipur, the Indian Parachute Regimental Centre at Agra and the Rajputana Rifles Centre in Delhi. Overall cost will be in the region of £400. Full details, including itinerary and precise price, can be had by sending me a stamped addressed envelope. — John Gaylor, Hon Secretary, Military Historical Society, 7 East Woodside, Bexley, Kent, DA5 3PG.

Board game

Among the amazing variety of items collected for the National Army Museum is a recently acquired board game dating from the 1860s — the National Volunteer Game. In a kind of military ludo, soldiers — all based on real Volunteer regiments — have to be moved across a moat and trench to the heart of a fortified town. The regiments, represented by six-man sections, include deftly modelled 45mm figures of kilted London Scots, bear-skinned men of the Honourable Artillery Company and riflemen in greens and greys.



At auction

Among items recently sold at auction by Weller and Dufty Ltd, of Birmingham, was a rare flag with four white panels (above) bearing red, yellow and blue Arabic inscriptions praising Allah, Mohammed and the Mahdi (the Mohammedan Messiah). The flag is almost certainly a relic of the followers of Mohammed Ahmed who claimed the title of Mahdi and who led the revolt in the Sudan during which Major-General Charles Gordon was killed at the fall of Khartoum. The flag fetched £42. At the same sale a high-quality reproduction, of correct weight and design, of a 16th century close helmet, fetched £200. A secrete, or metal skull cap, probably 17th century, realised £40 and a miniature silver statue of the Angel of Mons sold for £105. This statue was made to commemorate the angel who was supposed to have been seen by soldiers on the battlefield.

Competition

A fairly easy Competition 215 (May — Food & Drink) brought in a high proportion of correct answers. The food with the incorrect figure was beef — the calories should have been six and not 18. And 11 grammes of lime/milk were needed to provide 100 calories.

Prizewinners:

- 1 P Hoare, Room 434, Dept of Industry, LGC, Cornwall House, Stamford Street, London.
- 2 Mrs J L Kleyn, 19 Hollytree Gardens, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey.
- 3 Peter Armstrong, Fallowfield, The Plains, Wetheral, Carlisle, Cumbria.
- 4 M J Donovan, 23 Pagitt Street, Chatham, Kent.
- 5 Lieut K Mortimer, A Coy, 6 LI, TAVR Centre, Upper Bristol Road, Bath, Avon.
- 6 Lieut P J Farnan, WRAC, Northern Ireland.
- 7 H J Andrews, 1 Robin Hill Drive, Standish, Wigan, Lancashire.

Reader services

Since the Reader Services list was published in the June Soldier, the range of regimental drum ice buckets has been increased, a new set added to the Charles Stadden postcards of military uniforms and a new print, The Battle of Sidi Rezegh (see page 15 for details), is offered. Additions and price changes are:

Charles Stadden postcards

New Set 6:

- 61 4 RM Bn in Zeebrugge raid, 23 Apr 1918
- 62 RM Bde in Belgium, Aug 1914
- 63 RM and Light Inf changing sentries, 1855
- 64 RM commandos, 1944
- 65 Marine marksmen, 1799
- 66 RM bugler, 1973
- 67 Officer of Marines, 1799
- 68 RM at battle of Tamai, 13 Mar 1884
- 69 Grenadier, Villier's Marines, Gibraltar, 24 Jul 1704
- 70 RM landing craft deckhand, D-Day, 1944

71 RM Forces Volunteer Reserve, 1948

72 RM at capture of Oswego, 5 May 1814
Set £1.10 (UK/BFPO), £1.18 (elsewhere); single cards (minimum order five) 20p/21p.

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The Canadian Scottish Regiment

University of New South Wales Regiment

The Jamaica Regiment (3rd Battalion)

Leeson Street Patrol print

New prices: £2.10 (UK), £1.96 (BFPO), £2.10 (elsewhere).

Gurkhas Guard the Queen print

New prices: £4.60 (UK), £4.25 (BFPO), £4.50 (elsewhere).

Queen's Colours print

New prices: £3.60 (UK), £3.60 (BFPO), £3.55 (elsewhere).

Sidi Saleh print

New prices: £2.10 (UK), £1.96 (BFPO), £2.10 (elsewhere).

Ceremony of the Keys print

New prices: £0.39 (UK), £0.36 (BFPO), £0.37 (elsewhere).

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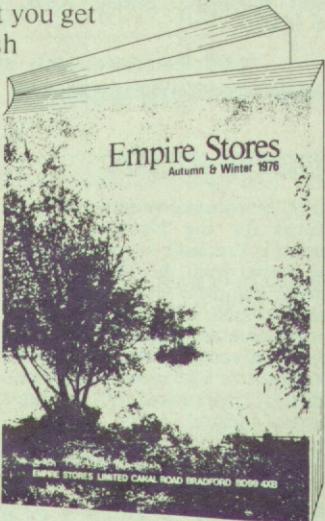
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Reunions

East Yorkshire Regimental Association. Annual reunion 11-12 September. Apply Secretary, 11 Butcher Row, Beverley, North Humberside, HU17 0AA.

The Welch Regiment Old Comrades. Reunion dinner 7.30pm, Saturday 16 October, TAVR Centre, Pontypridd. Tickets £2.00 each. Apply (with sae) to Vincent D Williams, 41 Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8EZ.

The Green Howards Association. Annual reunion 18-19 September, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall. Tickets £2.50 from Regimental Secretary, RHQ The Green Howards, Richmond, North Yorkshire.

WRAC Association. Northern Area reunion (attended by Director, Brigadier E J Nolan), 2.30 to 6pm, Saturday 25 September, Crescent Room, Royal Baths Assembly Rooms, Harrogate. Tickets 75p (including tea) from ADWRAC, HQ North East District, Fishergate, York, YO1 4AU (send stamped, addressed envelope with remittance payable to 'WRAC Association Northern Area Committee' by 16 September). All ex-servicewomen welcome, whether members of the association or not.

14/28 Field Regiment RA. Annual dinner and reunion 2000hrs, Saturday 9 October, HQ RA Sergeants Mess, Woolwich. Names and remittances to WO2 T Spurr RA, HQ BAOR, BFPO 40. Overnight accommodation can be arranged.

The West Yorkshire Regiment and The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire. Annual reunion and White Horse Ball, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensall, Saturday 2 October. Particulars from Secretary, W Yorks and PWO Regimental Association, Imphal Barracks, York, YO1 4HD.

1 Parachute Logistic Regiment. Final parade 1500 hrs 10 December, Montgomery Square, Aldershot, followed by evening stag social in Maida Gymnasium. Christmas all ranks dance evening Saturday 11 December, Maida Gymnasium. All

past and present members most welcome to all events.

The Dorset Regiment Association. Annual reunion and dinner, Saturday 11 September, TAVR Centre, Poundbury Road, Dorchester. Details from Secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset.

Coldstream Guards Band. Dinner-dance and reunion, Lyceum Ballroom, Wellington Street, off Strand, London, Friday 19 November. Tickets £5.00 each from L/Cpl R A Janes, Coldstream Band Club, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, London, SW3 4RX.

Army Physical Training Corps Association. Annual reunion dinner 7.30pm, Saturday 18 September, Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot. Tickets and details from Association Secretary, ASPT, Queen's Avenue, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Royal Hibernian Military School Association. Reunion, Duke of York's HQ, Kings Road, Chelsea, 11 September. Details from Hon Sec, E Dillon, 62 Grosvenor Crescent, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB10 9ES.

The York and Lancaster Regiment. Sergeants' Dinner Club annual dinner, Endcliffe Hall, Sheffield, Saturday 18 September, 7.30 for 8pm. Those wishing to attend should inform RHQ not later than 10 September.

The Royal Norfolk Regiment. Annual reunion dinner at TAVR Centre, Aylsham Road, Norwich, Saturday 25 September, 6.30 for 7pm. Annual association service, Regimental Chapel, Norwich Cathedral, 26 September, 10 am. Details from Regimental Secretary, The Royal Norfolk Regiment, Britannia Barracks, Norwich, NR1 4HJ.

Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades Association. London Branch 50th anniversary dinner and dance, 25 September. Ladies invited. Details from D Fitzgerald, 119 Nightingale Road, Carshalton, Surrey.

Beachley Old Boys Association. Annual reunion 1-3 October. Particulars from Hon Sec, BOBA, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 7YG.

Collectors' Corner

F A Stevens, 14 Croft Close, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 4LA. —Wanted, by purchase or exchange, uniform items of Royal Marines, particularly the bands; cap badges Engineers and MGC, both UK and Commonwealth. Peter Woodage, 27 Bourne Road, Pangbourne, Reading, RG8 7JT. —Requires any handbooks, lists etc for ex-Army 15 cwt Morris Commercial C8 or C9.

Ian F Clark, 80 Lousiville Avenue, Aberdeen, Scotland. —Private collector seeks short lengths or links old or unusual machine-gun belts, web or metal. Buy or swap.

Carlo Walter, 8070 Ingolstadt, Haenlinstrasse 12, Fed Rep of Germany. —Beginner, wishes buy English regimental badges at sensible prices; has for exchange German Army and Air Force badges.

Sgt R Donnelly, Sgts Mess, RAF Gibraltar, BFPO 52. —Wishes exchange British Army cap and collar badges, US aviation wings and breast badges for British Army cap badges,

US aviation wings, British Commonwealth wings, metal only, also WW2 plastic cap badges.

Christopher A Smith, 3030 Emory Street, Columbus, Georgia 31903, USA. — Interested in World WW2 insignia paratroops, armour, infantry; also seeking special service patches LRDG, SAS, SBS, RSR.

E Kelk, 1 Sweechgate Cottages, Broad Oak, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 0RA. —Has large number badges for exchange for CEF plastic infantry, Victorian or rare type buttons.

C Young, 102 Chiltern, Portland Street, London, SE17 2DD. —Has US Army patches 20 used colour/subdued (identified) including 1st Cav Div (colour/subdued), would suit new collector; also Military Modelling Vol 1 No. 1 to Vol 3 No. 4 (except Apr 71) and Armies & Weapons Vol 1, No. 1 only. Cash or exchange for US patches.

F Parsons, 25 Briton Road, Abingdon, Northampton. —Will pay good price for pair Para Regt shoulder titles and Airborne titles.



Military MODELS

Fighting Funkwagen

EVEN before the advent of military aircraft the Germans had come up with an ack-ack armoured car — for use against observation balloons. This vehicle, built as a private venture by the firm of Ehrhardt in 1906, mounted a 50-millimetre gun in a turret with a traverse of 180 degrees and elevation of 0 to 90 degrees.

The German General Staff was unimpressed. Various prototypes of armoured car were produced in the decade before the outbreak of World War One but none was officially adopted for use in the German Army. The General Staff maintained a blinkered

belief in horse-drawn vehicles. However, the Germans were forced to change their strategy during the advance into Belgium in 1914 when the army encountered British and Belgian armoured cars — initially improvised civilian cars mounting machine-guns and clad with boiler plate as protection, soon to be replaced by purpose-built vehicles with proper armour and rotating turrets. But by the time the Germans had produced their own armoured cars, warfare on the Western Front had bogged down into the trenches and there was scant chance of mobile operations.

World War Two was a very different story. The concept of Blitzkrieg — lightning advances by armoured spearheads — necessitated a range of armoured cars to support the tank columns. These comprised vehicles with eight, six and four wheels. The light four-wheeled vehicles, designated leichter Panzerspähwagen, were of two types: a weapons vehicle called a Waffenwagen with

a machine-gun and open-topped traversing turret (later changed to a two-man turret with a 20-millimetre gun and co-axial machine gun); and a radio vehicle called a Funkwagen.

The Funkwagen Sdkfz 223 is the subject of this month's main model. Introduced in 1938, it was specially developed to carry medium-range radio equipment and was armed with a 7.62-millimetre MG/34. It was used largely for reconnaissance missions. The vehicle's distinctive feature was a rectangular frame aerial, mounted on four hinged supports, which could be lowered to reduce the silhouette. However this antenna proved to be unsatisfactory and was later replaced with a rod aerial.

The model comes as a kit of more than 100 plastic parts from the Japanese firm of Tamiya. As usual with this firm's products there is a wealth of detail. Some of the most interesting, the transmission, is tucked out of sight beneath the vehicle. There are even parts to make a wire mesh anti-grenade screen, jerrycans, water bottles, hawser and unditching tools as well as transfer decals for the Wehrmacht, Afrika Korps and Waffen SS. This kit, which costs £1.50, is in the 1:35th scale 'Military Miniatures' series.

Tamiya, whose kits are marketed in this country by Richard Kohnstam (Riko) Ltd of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP1 3AD, have also recently released 1:35th scale models of the Panther and Jagdpanzer in the same series. Each costs £2.70.

HH



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From guns to gunwales

Story: Mike Starke

SOME 12 hours of solid work had gone into refurbishing a gun outside the Arromanches D-Day museum over a period of two days (see page 28). But nearly double that time was to go into the journey home by yacht.

Three junior leaders — Junior Lance-Bombardier Stephen Ward (16), Junior Lance-Bombardier Michael Syms (17) and Junior Gunner John Dobslaw (17) had crewed the Royal Artillery sloop Bombard across the Channel from Gosport to Ouistreham in order to reach the Arromanches museum.

Skippering the 30-foot Nicholson yacht was Captain Peter Youlten, head of the Adventure Training Wing at the boys' Bramcote base. He was assisted by Royal Army Educational Corps Lieutenant Gerry

Whiteley and Staff-Sergeant Barry Moore from the Junior Leaders Regiment Gunnery Wing. All three are highly experienced sailors. The boys had qualified as helmsmen on Bosun dinghies and, although judged the best young sailors at Bramcote, had no experience of offshore sailing. So one of the objects of the expedition was to introduce them to this.

On the last day of the gun-cleaning task, the crew had left Bombard, with John Dobslaw aboard, tied up outside the hydraulically operated lock at Ouistreham. The lock is opened for only a few minutes a day when the tide is right and the yacht had to slip out in the early morning under the lugubrious eye of French fishermen dangling lines from the quay in the hope of breakfast.

At day's end the crew rejoined the boat only to find that the low Spring tide had dropped it some 50 feet below the dockside. Equipment used at Arromanches had to be lowered gingerly to the deck by rope and the crew had to pick their way down a slippery set of metal rungs to get aboard. All was made shipshape for the return trip; ropes neatly coiled and decks scrubbed clean of slippery mud from ashore.

The crossing from Gosport in north-west to westerly winds, force five to seven, had brought the boat to France in 19 hours. So all ears were to the shipping forecast to hear if as good a crossing from Normandy home could be assured. 'Wind north westerly backing south westerly Force five . . .' It is hoped that it backs sooner than later.



A Junior Leader prepares to hoist the jib on passage across the English Channel — and home.



Coping with the paperwork — the log has to be entered up. Right: Passing through French lock.



Allowing five degrees for the tide, a course of 340 degrees is steered into the northerly 15-knot breeze with the visibility good and sun shining. The mainsail is set and the skipper decides to beat up the coast close-hauled on the port tack. He then comes about to steer 80 degrees and the wind drops. In fluky breezes the crew idly watches a shoal of jellyfish drift by like translucent submarine parachutes.

The crew is now split into two watches. One will work the boat for four hours and then be relieved by the other to work the next four hours. It was to take three stints each before Bombard reached Gosport.

Night falls on the yacht as it picks up speed to head for home. The moon rises astern and silvers the wake. But away from its cold light the heaving Channel rocks black and shiny in the dark. The silent shadows of seagulls slide in and out of the limelight of the moon's disc like mute performers in some seaborne music hall sent to entertain the watch.

Each watch gives its members an hour-long stint at the helm. Those not at the helm keep an eye out for other craft. Lighthouse beams rake the sea from east and west; white masthead lights twinkle and red-and-green navigation lights glow to tell of approaching shipping. Four hours soon pass with gentle chatter punctuating the work in the cockpit. Tea warms the watch going off and wakes the watch yawning in the cabin below.

Not so noticeable on deck, the bucking of the boat takes a little getting used to in the confined space of the cabin. But tired bodies soon welcome sleep. On deck the sails burble and the waves chuckle and clap beneath

the hull. The helmsman feels the breeze against his cheek and glances now and again at the glowing instruments on the bulkhead to check his progress.

The sun rises over the lee rail and bathes the empty sea with gold — the two-way traffic lanes of the Channel had been all but crossed in the night. With not a hint of seasickness, the crew tucks in to bacon 'butties,' compo ration sausages and beans. Ironically the wind drops to nothing and the engine is started as the sight of the Isle of Wight lying low on the horizon makes for an impatience to be home.

The engine has a fault and has to be turned off to save what use is left in it for the final leg into Gosport. Bombard wallows in the windless air; the Genoa is poled out to catch every breath that might pass. Light airs begin to nudge the boat forward and Captain Youlten pores over the chart, correcting the course to compensate for time lost in the face of shifting tides. Tell-tale clouds forecast a rising wind which soon springs up to ten knots. Bombard begins sailing on a broad reach north towards the Isle of Wight at a good six knots.

From the delicate calculations at the chart table, the skipper joins Staff-Sergeant Moore, up to his armpits in sludge-blackened oil, to try to make good the stricken engine. A loosened plate is the source of the trouble. The rising breeze is toasted with the last can of beer each and the bow headed between the Nab Tower and Bembridge Ledge to the east of the Isle of Wight. The engine chugs against the tide into Gosport.

A stickler for nautical tradition, Captain Youlten orders the blue ensign dipped cor-

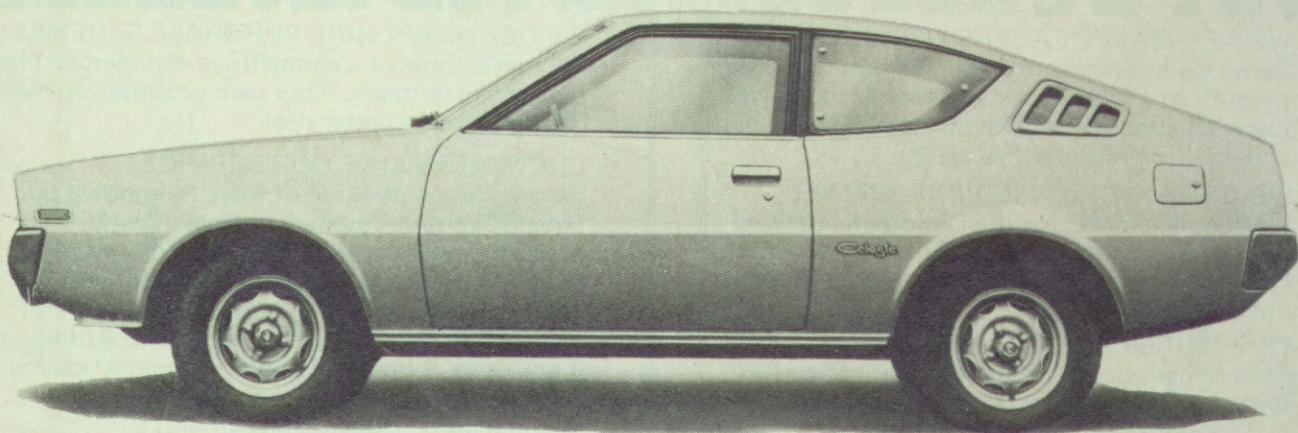
rectly in salute to the white ensign of a passing Royal Navy patrol vessel. The white-uniformed sailors appear to ignore the courtesy until, as the soldier-sailors watch with amusement, a frantically waving arm on the bridge prompts the hasty dip in reply.

For the young soldiers from Bramcote it was the end of their adventure and back to their normal duties as the Royal Artillery's soldiers of the future.

Below: Firm hand on the tiller as they sail home.



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Eyes down!

APOLOGIES to all the enthusiasts who looked in vain for the August competition. Unfortunately it was squeezed out at the last minute—but, to make amends, here is a teaser with bumper prizes to celebrate Soldier's 'new look.'

Once Again Art Editor Frank Finch has run riot with his 'How Observant Are You?' feature. Obviously there are more than the usual ten differences in the two drawings. Study them carefully then list your differences on a postcard or in a letter and send, with the 'Competition 218'

label from this page, and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 218)
Soldier
Ordnance Road
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and the closing date is Monday 8 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in the January 1977 Soldier.

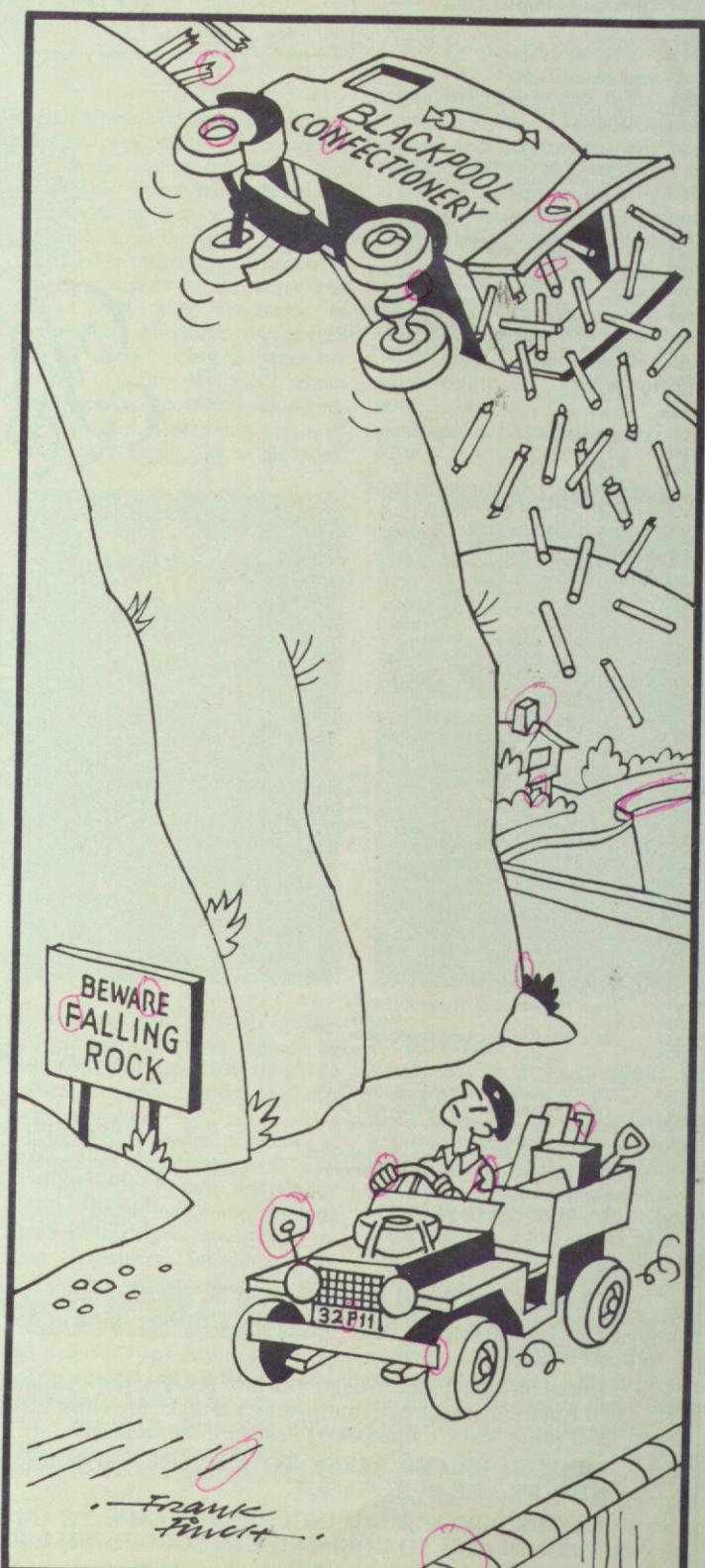
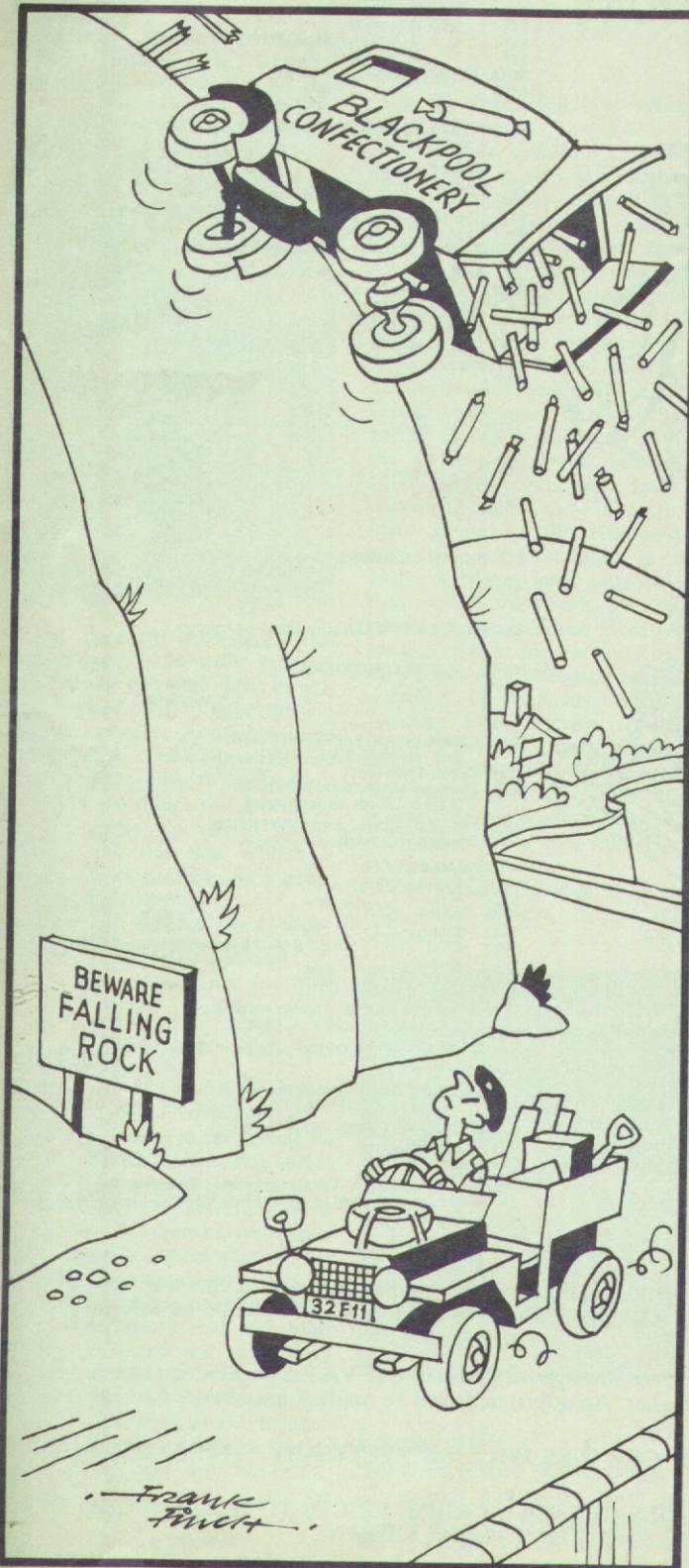
More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 218' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries.

Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Competition 218

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Fighting its way to union with the western invaders of German-occupied France, the Seventh then

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Sort-out

'Scobie, Hero of Greece: The British Campaign 1944-45' (Henry Maule)

"You are lucky to be going to Greece," British soldiers were told as they set off to unravel Greek internal problems left by the retreating Nazis in late 1944. But there has never been luck in military matters when politics complicate and cloud every issue.

The author gently and comprehensively preambles through the complexities of Greek internal politics then hurls us with General Scobie into the fray in an Athens besieged by rival Greek factions of Communists and quasi-monarchs, where British troops knew not whether man, woman or child was enemy or friend... and where the Greeks themselves were undecided.

There are parallels between Greece

Failure

'The Jacobite Rebellion' (Hilary Kemp)

The Jacobite rebellions, especially the '45, are so steeped in romance that it is sometimes difficult to see them for what they were. Hence the value of this little work which, clearly written with an eye for detail and with many a shrewd generalisation, exposes the many myths that have clung so long to the Jacobites.

The greatest problem is really why did the Jacobite rebellions fail? The answer is best found in examining the fate of the '15 rebellion rather than the '45 for it was surely doomed to failure right from the start. In 1715 everything seemed to be in the Jacobites' favour — the Hanoverians were not well established in the United Kingdom, many parts of England were seething with discontent, almost all the Highland clans were anxious to fight for the Stuarts and the French were willing to assist.

Despite all these advantages the Jacobites failed because of sheer incompetence and genuine bad luck. Poor leadership meant that troops were neither paid nor fed; not surprisingly, many just went home.

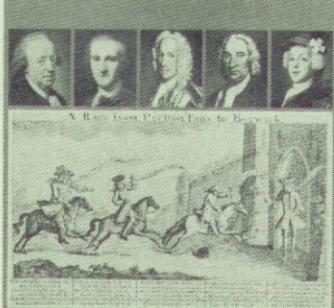
A compact little work with several interesting plates.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £5.25

AWH

The Jacobite Rebellion

by Hilary Kemp



Loyal ally

'The Horse in War' (J M Brereton)

Throughout history the horse has been man's most loyal and steadfast ally in battle. Writing with feeling, Mr Brereton, a former Regular in the



Second line

'The Volunteer Force' (Hugh Cunningham)

This most fascinating book will appeal widely to both soldiers and civilians but most of all to those who are privileged to serve in the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve. It is a history of the volunteer soldier, the man who, at the end of his working day, dons a uniform and takes his place in his country's second line of defence.

The author will not, I hope, mind my saying that this is a largely specialised book which he has tried manfully to make of general appeal. What I feel has resulted is a book which should not be absent from the shelves of the devotee but which the bedtime bookman will find requires some devotion, if not application.

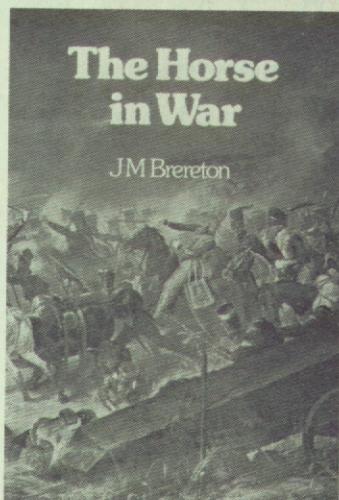
Well illustrated though the book is, I personally find its 'unjustified' type setting disconcerting (the lines of print are not justified to the right). Which has little to do with the author whose ability as a social historian is never in doubt.

Groom Helm Ltd, 201-210 St John's Road, London SW11, £6.50

PC

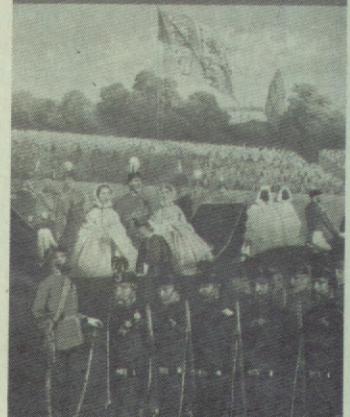
The Horse in War

JM Brereton



THE VOLUNTEER FORCE

HUGH CUNNINGHAM



Practical

'Model Soldier Manual' (Edited by Chris Ellis)

Many modellers must have lavished hours of loving care on a miniature figure only to discover later that the paint has peeled off through omission of initial priming or that the uniform is the incorrect colour for the period.

Such errors can be avoided by those who read Mr Ellis's book. Paints, primers, undercoats, varnishes and adhesives are all covered in depth. He discusses the 'Five W rule' — who, where, what, why and when — which ensures that a figure is placed in the correct context.

This very practical book — complete with black-and-white photographs and "exploded" line drawings — surveys the range of scales from sub-miniature wargame figurines to Action Man mannekins; the types of

for instance that the word stallion derives from an edict issued by Henry VII that all 'entires' should be stabled — hence 'stalled one' and thence stallion.

Napoleon's Marengo, the Duke of Wellington's Copenhagen, the Earl of Cardigan's Ronald and many others, including some famous American chargers, are treated to short biographies. Schooling, veterinary care, horsemanship and saddlery are discussed in detail. The charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava is one of many cavalry actions to be featured and the last two chapters deal with the horse in the two world wars. Beautifully illustrated, this book is a 'must' for everyone who loves horses and the part they played in military history.

David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd, Brunel House, Forde Street, Newton Abbot, Devon, £4.95

JFP

Books

continued

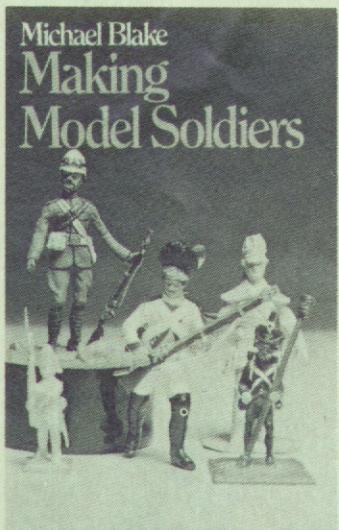
figures, including flats, card cut-outs, metal and plastic; and goes into detail about converting, animating, researching, dioramas and displays, and the use of tools and materials. *Argus Books Ltd, Station Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, £2.75* **HH**

Useful tips

'*Making Model Soldiers*' (Michael Blake)

"Painting can transform a mediocre figure into a collector's piece, but it can also turn a connoisseur's figure into a toy soldier," says the author. He is right. Mr Blake goes into some detail on the subject, giving much helpful advice. There are diagrams on the two most difficult aspects — tartan and flags — but surprisingly none on face painting which is the most basic and important of all.

His book lacks coloured illustrations but contains a wealth of useful tips about the minutiae of detail,



such as making horseshoes from plastic card cut with a leather punch and reproducing fur texture on a shabrack with the aid of a hot pin.

The conversion of cheap, commercially available cowboy figures into an elegant and dashing king's musketeer and cardinal's guard is really over-reaching things, but there are some very practical guidelines on dioramas, displays, moulding and casting. In addition there are appendices on makers' names and addresses, specialist suppliers, modelling societies, books and magazines. *Stanley Paul & Co Ltd, 3 Fitzroy Square, London, W1P 6JD, £3.60*

HH

Defeat

'*The British at the Gates: The New Orleans Campaign in the War of 1812*' (Robin Reilly)

This well-constructed book shows the New Orleans campaign in perspective against the war of 1812, of which it was a small part, and presents an honest account, stripped of romance, of what happened at the city's gates. The author has made

extensive use of contemporary manuscript material and diaries, notably the unvarnished day-to-day record dutifully chronicled by the British artillery commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Dickson, who makes no attempt to disguise the failures, including his own, which led to defeat.

The political and military manoeuvrings leading up to the campaign are ably dealt with and on the lighter side there are fascinating descriptions of the glitter and decadence of New Orleans before the battle and the exploits of the notorious local pirates and smugglers, Jean and Pierre Lafitte.

Campaign maps, illustrations depicting military personalities connected with the war, and a detail bibliography round off this useful contribution to military history. *Cassell & Co, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £6.50* **JFPJ**

Power struggle

'*The Battle for Empire: A Century of Anglo-French Conflict*' (Jock Haswell) Starting with the establishment of Duke William of Normandy's dynasty on the English throne, this conflict continued for centuries as English kings sought to defend and extend their possessions in France. They won battles — Crécy, Poitiers, Agincourt — but the winning of wars eluded them and with the loss of Calais in 1558 they finally withdrew from France.

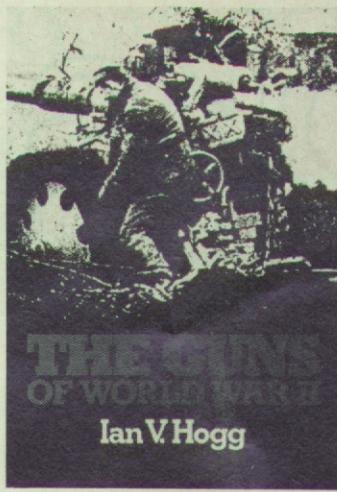
The enmity and rancour remained and the years 1650 to 1763 saw a renewal of the age-old rivalry, this time motivated by commerce and the acquisition of territories and influence in distant lands. In North America, India and the West Indies the two antagonists fought it out — this second phase provides the subject matter for Mr Haswell's book. The telling of it makes interesting and entertaining reading.

All the complexities of the Anglo-French struggle for empire and the great men who dominated the scene — Marlborough and Eugène, Montcalm and Wolfe, Dupleix and Clive and many another famous soldier, sailor and statesman — are interwoven by Mr Haswell's skilful and lucid pen to present a well-defined picture of the conflict as a whole and in particular of a period which saw Britain achieve naval supremacy and emerge as the hub of a great empire. *Cassell & Co, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £6.00* **JFPJ**

Catching up

'*The Guns of World War II*' (Ian V Hogg)

Not a catalogue of weapons but rather a review of the reasons for the use and evolution of the different calibres and types that played their part in World War Two or failed to come up to the requisite standard. Many of the guns on which the armies of Europe pinned their faith dated from early in the century. The



tions and arms describe how a regiment was formed, named and armed with spear and knob-kerrie. Zulu warriors were probably the most mobile foot soldiers in the world, being able to cover an astonishing 50 miles a day and then launch an attack immediately. The British regiments, the battles they fought and the eventual conquest of the Zulu armies are concisely but brilliantly described.

Although the Mexican-American War of 1846-48 is but briefly covered, the main interest of Mr Katcher's book lies in its descriptions of the troops taking part. Infantry, cavalry, artillery, volunteers and specialists on both sides are painstakingly and expertly described; uniforms and arms are dealt with in detail. The Mexican army may have been well-uniformed and numerically superior but the Americans, "dressed in common blue jackets and their officers en négligé," in the words of the adjutant of the 5th US Infantry, won the day.

'Napoleon's Dragoons and Lancers' is of absorbing interest. Chapter one, for instance, deals with the men who formed these crack cavalry regiments and the money they paid out of their own pockets to maintain their splendid uniforms.

Fourth in this present clutch is 'The Landsknechts,' a body of soldiers, largely German, who flourished in the 16th century — one of the most colourful periods in European military history — and their origins and organisation make fascinating reading. Campaigns and tactics are analysed and artillery and equipment discussed in detail. Weapons, especially the pike, arquebus and two-handed sword, are also examined.

Each of these four books is copiously illustrated both in colour and black-and-white by Angus McBride and G A Embleton.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP, £1.75 each **JFPJ**

Men-at-arms

'*The Zulu War*' (Angus McBride)
'*The Mexican-American War 1846-1848*' (Philip R N Katcher)
'*Napoleon's Dragoons and Lancers*' (Emir Bukhari)
'*The Landsknechts*' (Douglas Miller)

Angus McBride tells how the Zulu tribe expanded from its original territory of 1200 square miles to a huge expanse 12 times that area, and of Britain's fight against the Zulu in the late 1870s. Chapters on Zulu forma-

In brief

'*Not Without Glory: Poets of the Second World War*' (Vernon Scannell) The author reviews the output of a number of poets, dissecting and comparing their work and their progress at various ages. Among them are Keith Douglas, Alun Lewis, Sidney Keyes, Roy Fuller, Alan Ross, Charles Causley, Henry Reed and some Americans.

The author believes these to be the real poets of World War Two and, since much of their work was written after the event — unlike the poets of World War One — that it is therefore a more thoughtful kind of war poetry.

Woburn Press, 11 Gainsborough Road, London, E11 1HT, £5.95

'*The Helicopter Directory*' (Joseph Mill Brown)

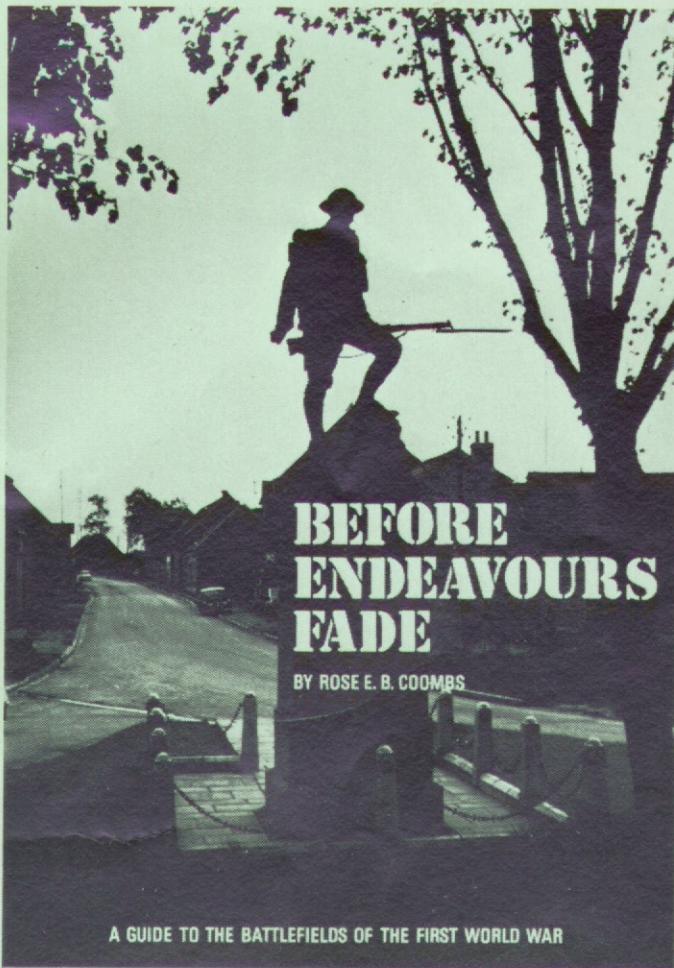
This book covers the machines of nine countries, including the Sea King, Lynx and Commando of Great

Britain. Italy's Augusta complex emerges as the most important of the European manufacturers and the Soviet Union's helicopters comprise some of the world's largest transports.

Each helicopter is briefly described and illustrated either in flight or on the ground; the versatility of the American types emerges as truly remarkable.

David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd, Brunel House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £3.95





A GUIDEBOOK TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR BY ROSE E. B. COOMBS

This guidebook to the battlefields of the First World War has been produced with all the thoroughness associated with **After the Battle** magazine. Over twenty different routes, illustrated on Michelin maps, cover all the major British, American and French battlefields. Every significant feature, memorial, cemetery and preserved battlefield is described and illustrated, some using modern aerial photographs.

Rose Coombs, now Special Collections Officer at the Imperial War Museum, has made more than one hundred visits to the areas associated with the First World War. She has attended many memorial dedications and unveilings and her unique knowledge on what can be seen today is sought after by many veteran groups and servicemen's organisations seeking to tour the battlefields. Miss Coombs has now combined years of knowledge, travel and research in this profusely illustrated publication.

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