

APRIL 1979

20p

# Soldier



**INFANTRY  
IN THE  
BUSH  
COMPUTER  
PAYS THE  
ARMY**



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Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)  
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)  
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)  
Art Editor: JOHN RUSHWORTH (Ext 2589)  
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)  
Photographers: DOUG PRATT, PAUL R G HALEY (Ext 2584)  
Advertising/Circulation: Mrs C WILKINSON (Ext 2583/2587)  
Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD (Ext 2592)

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**FRONT COVER**

A proud Masai warrior, resplendent in his tribal regalia and carrying two perfectly matched, razor-sharp spears, looks on as men of 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, exercise their infantry skills in the Kenyan bush.

Picture: Paul Haley.

**BACK COVER**

The commander of the Staffords' C Company, Major Tim Cottis, studies a map of the trackless Kenyan bush with his Kenyan Army liaison officer, Lieutenant Isaac Khaoya of the Kenyan Defence Forces' Transport Battalion.

Picture: Paul Haley.



One of a succession of infantry units to take advantage of the unique opportunities to exercise in Kenya, 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, answered . . .

# THE STRIDENT CALL OF THE BUSH



THE SNOW-CAPPED peak of Mount Kenya coyly lifted its veil of cloud to greet the men of 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, who came to the Kenyan township of Nanyuki, nestling in the gentle slopes beneath the lofty mountain, in answer to the summons of Exercise Strident Call.

Base camp for the Staffords for their six-week stay was Nanyuki Showground — a wooden stockade overlooked by the hump-backed bulk of Mount Kenya, its snow-streaked peak jutting up from its slopes like the fin of a giant whale stranded in the sun-parched bush.

The tented camp was pitched among the wooden cattle pens and show-ring of the ground. With the Equator only a short walk away on the outskirts of the sprawling township of Nanyuki, the fierce noon-day sun beats down relentlessly. By contrast, the nights in this highland area — some 7000 oxygen-starved feet up — are as chill as the English spring the Staffords left behind.

In the shade of the trees dotted around the showground the canvas camp spread out in its orderly array of accommodation tents flanked by the full range of supply and service facilities needed to keep a battalion in the field.

Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Paul Haley

successfully air-lifting an appendicitis case from a remote bush outpost to be operated on in Nairobi.

A party of sappers from 39 Regiment, Royal Engineers, based at Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, had the task of finishing off a child welfare home in Nanyuki, a community relations project started by 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards, during a previous exercise.

There were also individual specialists such as medical staff, physical training instructors, drivers and mechanics to keep men and machines in working order throughout their stay in Kenya.

Soldiers from other units in 7 Field Force — of which the Colchester-based Staffords form part — came along to swell the ranks of the rifle companies and get a taste of the infantry life. A party from 3rd Royal Tank Regiment swore they would never scorn the Poor Blinking Infantry again after 'tabbing' across the scorched bush with them in Kenya!

Although a 'first' for the Staffords, Nanyuki is used as a base for a series of pre-planned British Army exercises in the

Left: A Gazelle of 657 Squadron, Army Air Corps, against the backdrop of Mount Kenya.

area from time to time. The regular appearance of units at the showground stockade — and their good relations with their local hosts — is graphically chronicled by the array of regimental plaques proudly displayed in local hotels.

But the Staffords are no strangers to Kenya as a whole. They were the last British infantry unit to leave the country in 1964 — after a two-year posting — before independence.

Ideal for all manner of adventurous training as well as military exercising, Kenya had plenty to offer the Staffords. A rest and recuperation camp was established near the fashionable coastal resort of Mombasa on the coast where European tourists pay hundreds of pounds to sample the pleasures offered as relaxation to the soldiers after their tough training in the searing heat of the bush.

Inland, safaris to the game parks — rich with exotic wildlife — were also available to the Staffords. Motor transport bucking over the pot-holed bush tracks, whose red dust could be turned into a skating rink of mud after a sudden equatorial downpour during these safaris, was sedate compared with the

Below: Vicious local thorn bushes were used as improvised barbed wire to protect bush camps.



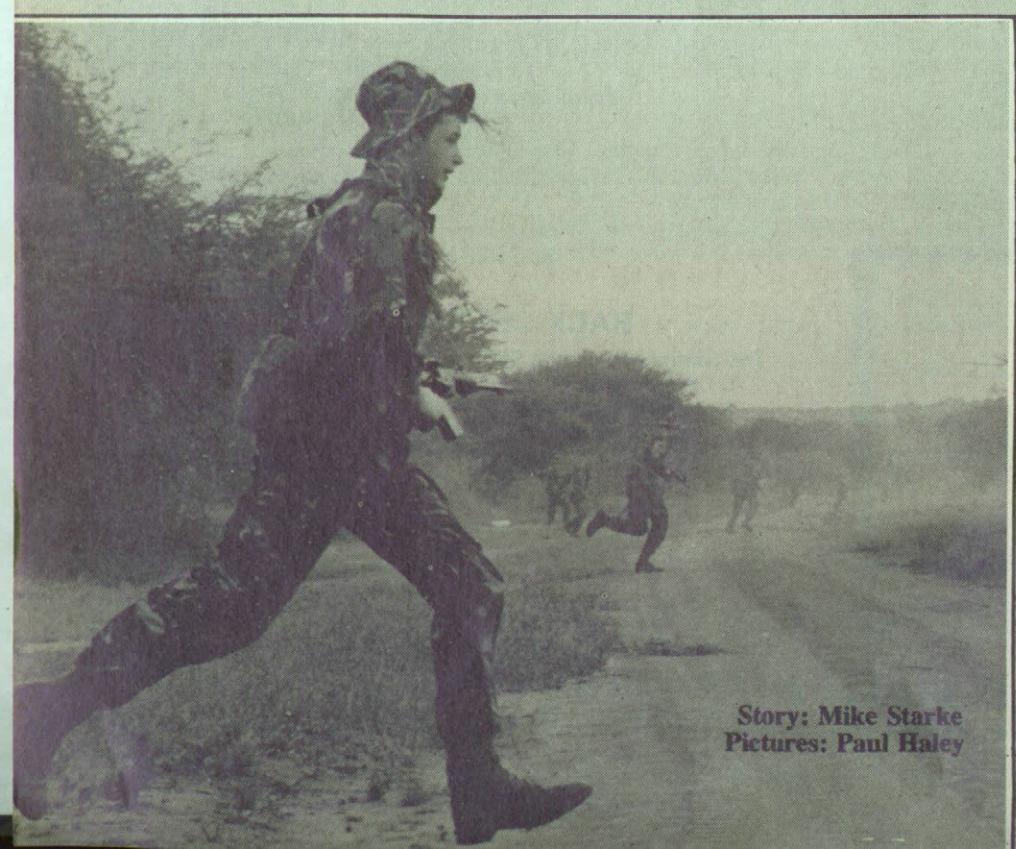
There was everything from the very necessary sun-tan lotion in the Quartermaster's stores and the exercise's own post office (BFPO 626) for those all-important letters to and from home, to the food, weapons and ammunition vital to the up-country outpost camps established by the battalion for the intensive infantry training it had come to Kenya to carry out.

Altogether, some 640 people made up the exercise troops and they were not all Staffords. The battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Hague, said: "We've got a lot of attachments to make up the numbers — some 130 all told." These included a party of Welsh Guardsmen who set off to climb Mount Kenya in time to celebrate St David's Day on the summit with their traditional exchange of leeks.

And there to provide helicopter support — a welcome alternative to the rough bush tracks negotiated by tortured Land-Rovers — was a detachment of three Gazelles from 657 Squadron, Army Air Corps, for liaison and casualty evacuation tasks.

On day one they proved their worth by

Left: A section dashes across a bush road for a live-firing session at targets in the scrub.





tipsy swaying on camels engaged for special safaris for those in the battalion prepared to brave their irascible temperaments.

The exercise plan itself dictated that each of the battalion's four rifle companies should undertake two weeks of conventional training at two base camps in Dol Dol and Impala Farm, north of Nanyuki in the hilly bushland usually peopled only by the proud nomadic herdsmen of the Samburu and Masai tribes.

Curiosity brought these statuesque local inhabitants to the Staffords' temporary camps in the bush, their deadly, gleaming spears and polished knobkerries contrasting sharply with the dull, matt black of the Staffords' modern automatic weapons.

A rapport was quickly established between the two groups of warriors from cultures a world apart and older soldiers who had been with the battalion in Kenya in the

**Top left:** Lieutenant-Colonel Hague trades his bush hat for his beret with its Stafford Knot.



sixties reminisced in English (to the many English-speaking tribesmen) and half-forgotten — but adequate — Swahili with those who remembered those days too.

Once the Staffords were acclimatised to the blistering heat of the day and the rarified air, thin in oxygen, in this rolling highland region, their fitness was put to the test on a series of exercises at section and platoon level.

In the bush, remote from the outside world, it was easy to lose track of time. Easy, too, to lose track of distance and direction among the craggy hills and dusty scrub. So emphasis was placed on practising cross-country navigation and map-reading in this alien environment.

Survival in this hostile clime was also taught. There were not only the problems of dehydration and sunburn in the dry equatorial heat to combat, but also the dangers of

**Below:** Padre John Murray and a contingent of the Staffords' band at a service in the field.

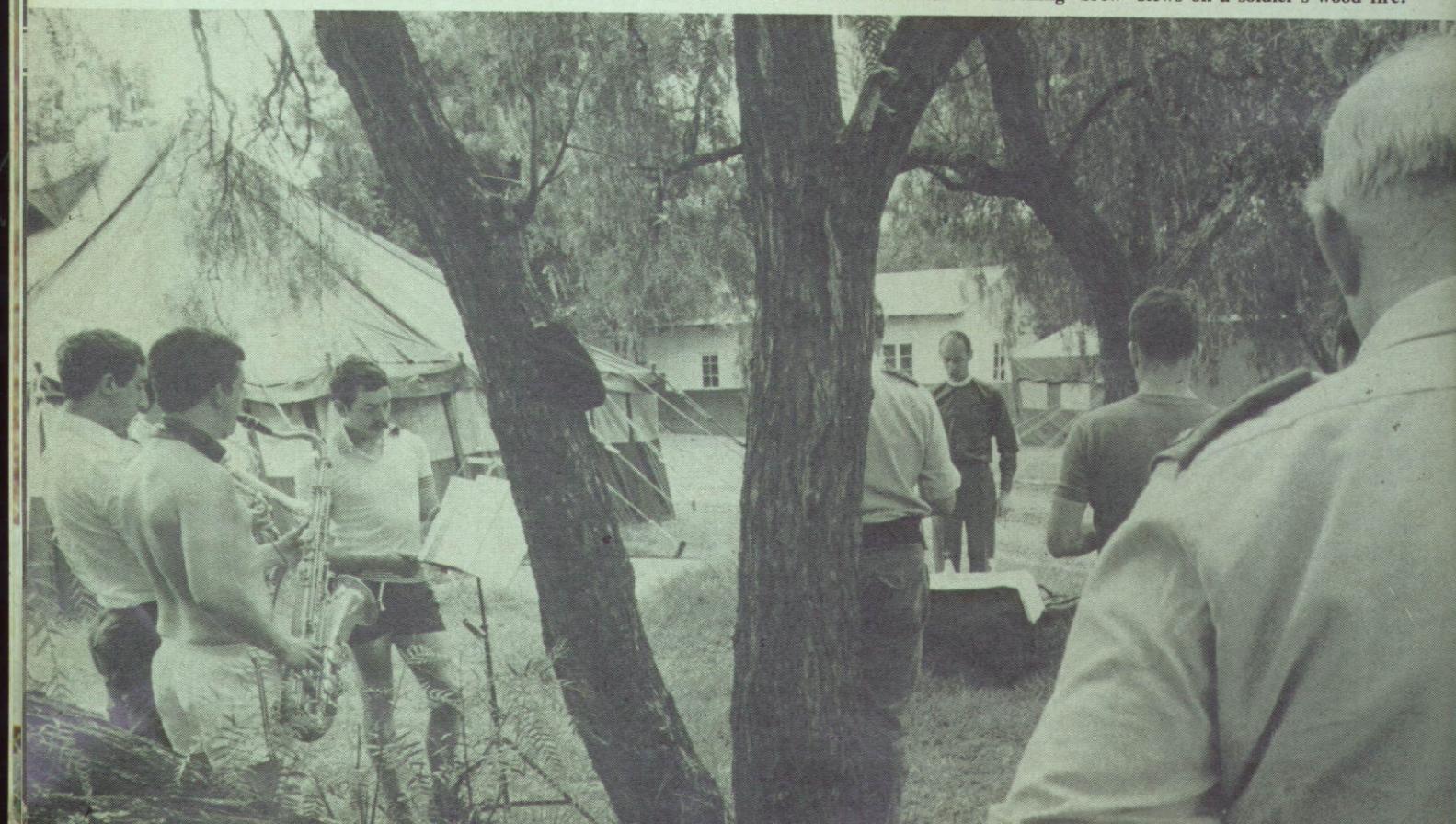
poisonous snakes, vicious stinging insects and the big game — rhino, elephant, leopard, baboons and ostrich which were liable to roam across the path of soldiers setting out on patrols, mounting ambushes and live-firing.

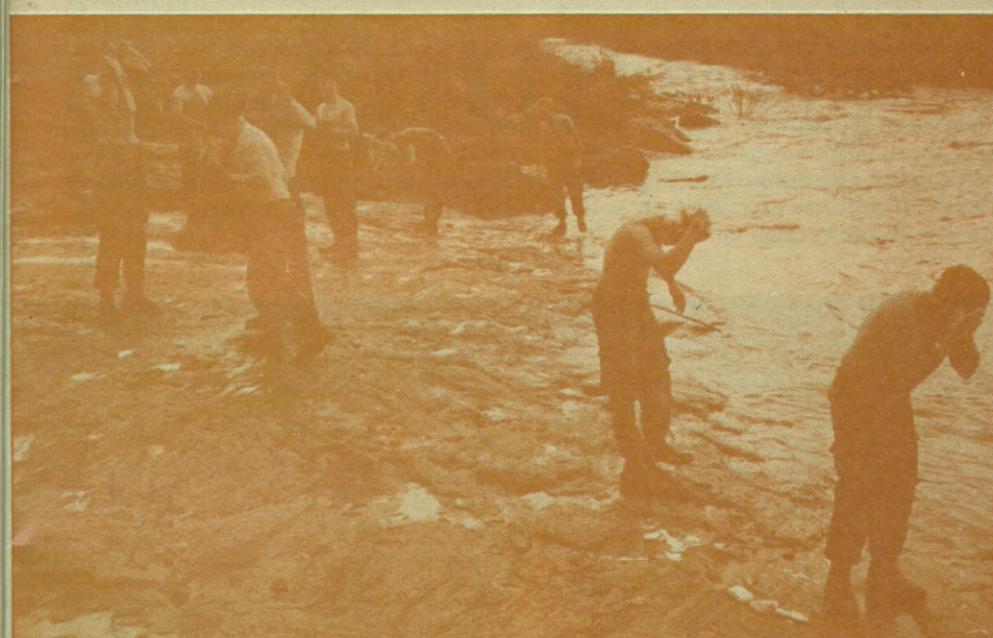
New skills such as rigging a poncho to collect rain water and digging in dry river beds to find something to drink were soon mastered. Barbed wire as a protection for overnight bivouacs was not needed when there were the three-inch spiked local thorn bushes handy as a deterrent to marauding animals at night.

Camouflage had to be re-learned and adapted in the sun-baked bush where foliage picked to festoon a soldier's equipment quickly shrivelled into ineffectiveness in the heat.

With an eighteen-month tour of duty in Northern Ireland coming up in September,

**Top right:** A young goatherd looks on as the morning 'brew' stews on a soldier's wood fire.





the battalion was keen to develop the leadership qualities of its junior commanders — the section commanders, platoon sergeants and platoon commanders — on this early phase of the exercise. Two junior non-commissioned officers' cadre courses were also run to test the up-and-coming leaders of the future.

This phase was climaxed at the arid Archer's Post training area where each company practised advancing to contact, using live mortar support.

Colonel Hague commented: "This is something we don't often have a chance to do and it just shows the value of overseas exercises such as this."

The mortars got a chance to exercise with their opposite numbers in 7th Battalion, Kenya Rifles, exemplifying the close liaison maintained between the Staffords and the Kenyan Armed Forces. The Kenya Transport Battalion also provided liaison officers and 7th Battalion, Kenya Rifles, to work alongside the rifle companies in the field. Several officers in the Staffords, who had served with Kenyan troops in the past, renewed old acquaintances.

In the forest vastnesses of Gathiuru the battalion did a week's jungle training, each company taking its turn.

Colonel Hague explained: "We were in Belize for six months just over a year ago so we have a certain amount of jungle experts on hand to pass on their experience to younger soldiers. I hope all this will help to mature our soldiers and improve their self-sufficiency."

In between this intensive military activity, the battalion's shooting team got itself on target for honours at this year's Bisley meeting by taking advantage of the ideal practice conditions.

But by no means all the Staffords' activities were the hard graft of infantry training in the field. With many of the

Top: All work and no play . . . A pair of young Staffords enjoying the view at Lake Naivasha.

Centre: Rumours of crocodiles in the river did not deter the hot and dusty Staffords' washes.

Left: Swahili-speaking sergeant-major exchanges notes on weaponry with some Samburu warriors.



Above: A lesson in bushcraft soon learned by the Staffords was 'first, catch a chameleon.' These swivel-eyed reptiles are most effective at keeping tents free of the insects that can make life a misery in camp.

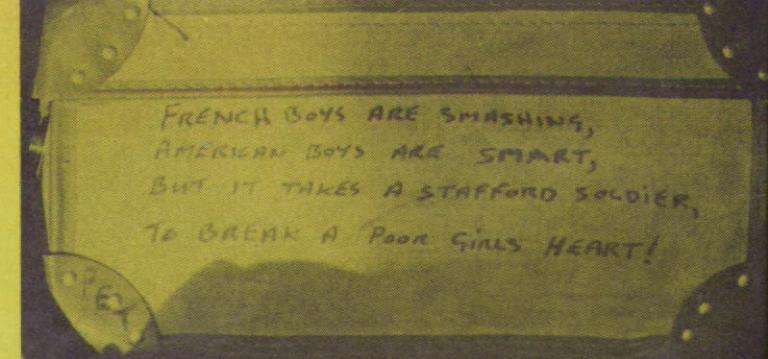
younger soldiers unused to overseas travel of any kind — let alone Africa — full advantage was taken of the ample opportunities to explore the vast potential for recreation in exotic Kenya.

Each company had a few days at Jardini Beach, Mombasa, taking part in adventurous training pursuits including diving, canoeing, sailing and surfing. Another period was set aside for a demanding trek to Lenana Peak, at 16,350 feet the third highest peak of Mount Kenya. The eventual aim was to get more than three-quarters of the battalion atop the mountain to beat the record set by a previous unit. Each rifle platoon also had two expeditions of two days each to places of interest, exploring game reserves by way of administration and initia-

tive exercises as well as for the sheer excitement of it.

For those unwilling to chance the vagaries of the camel safaris — designed to explore remoter areas accessible only by camel — two Land-Rover safaris lasting a week each were arranged to Lake Turkana to explore the lake shore and fish for the massive Nile perch. These formidable fish can be caught from the shore up to 170 lbs in weight, and from boats on the lake up to 300 or 400 lbs.

Colonel Hague spelled out the threefold aim of Exercise Strident Call: "As any commanding officer will tell you, life is hectic for an infantry battalion today. There is little time for the ordinary training vital to a unit's efficiency so exercises such as this give us a chance to catch up."



Above: One soldier making a 'case' for more romantic exercises abroad! Below: A quick and efficient open-air laundry service was run by local 'dhobi wallahs' recruited for the duration of the exercise at Nanyuki.

Secondly, he wanted the training to be designed to test his junior commanders to improve their skills too.

And thirdly he planned to give the Staffords a challenging and interesting experience to make the exercise a memorable milestone in the battalion's history that — in the re-telling to friends and relatives back home in England's Midlands — would make a positive contribution to recruiting to bring the Staffords up to strength.

And certainly, the sun-tanned Staffords, returning with kitbags full of memories of Africa to an England still in the grip of a chilly spring, proclaimed a call — if not strident, then enticing — to those both in and out of uniform back home.



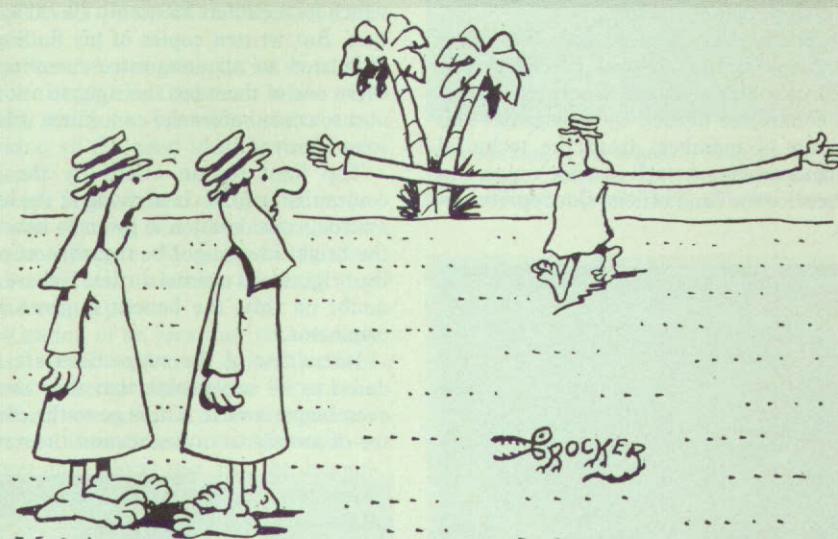


"Now promise me, darling, you won't go and do anything posthumously."

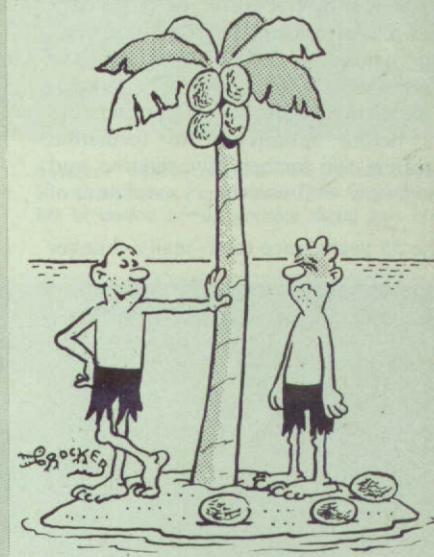


"Right, gentlemen, combined operationswise, from this moment in time we have an ongoing H-hour situation."

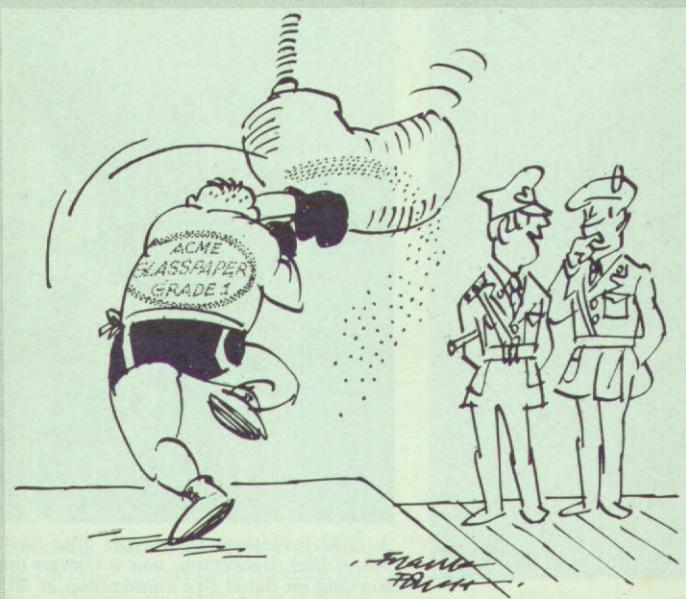
# Humour



"Here comes Jonah!"



"You're the unluckiest bloke I know, Fred!"



"Corporal Kettle is one of our most abrasive fighters."



"Well, yes, I've found it a very rewarding career."

# The Army's Suggestions Scheme

## JACKPOT FOR FEW - but cash for many

LAST YEAR a Royal Navy officer hit the national headlines when he was awarded £25,000 for his invention of the 'ski-jump' take-off ramp for Harrier aircraft on board ship.

Less widely publicised are the awards made every year to thousands of soldiers and civilians working in military establishments — for inventions and suggestions which may not be spectacular but which cumulatively result in the saving of much time and money.

The Army has been in the business of rewarding people for bright ideas since the middle of World War Two. In those days the War Office scheme operated through suggestion boxes — which no doubt gave anonymous wags a lot of fun. The suggestions were investigated by commanding officers before submission to formation headquarters for further investigation and possible award — it was then a maximum of £10.

In the 35 years since then, many changes

have taken place, perhaps the most important being that which established two separate award schemes — one for technical and the other for non-technical suggestions.

The present technical suggestions and awards scheme, set up in 1973, has a three-tier system. At the bottom are the local committees at unit or garrison level which can make awards of up to £75. They deal with thousands of cases every year — no-one is quite sure how many as no central records are kept. Indeed, Mr Charles Kassa, who is secretary to the next stage — the Army Department suggestions and awards scheme committee — does not know just how many local committees there are.

Mr Kassa, who is based with Workshop Technology Branch, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, at Woolwich, works for a committee headed by a brigadier and made up of members from the technical arms and services as well as trade union and civil service staff and official side representatives.

Most of the inventions and suggestions have purely local application, but where the local committees think they might be used more widely they are forwarded to Mr Kassa. The Army committee, which meets quarterly, considers about 500 ideas every year.

Mr Kassa, a man with a strong technical background who has been working for the Ministry for 32 years, investigates every idea before it goes to the committee. Sometimes he visits the unit and inspects the suggestion — or he may inspect the evidence and make his recommendation. Either way, Mr Kassa rejects what he calls 'the rubbish' — things which he considers have only a local application. But written copies of his findings are circulated to all committee members and every one of them has the right to ask for an idea to come before the committee if he sees some merit in it.

Top limit for an award by the Army committee is £150. In arriving at the level of awards, consideration is given to how much the bright idea might be regarded as part of the originator's normal duties. If there is any doubt on this, the benefit is given to the originator.

Just a few of the suggestions are considered to be so valuable that they merit an even bigger award. These go to the committee of awards to inventors and theoretically



Story: John Walton

Squadron Sergeant-Major R J Aquilina, of 3rd Royal Tank Regiment, won a £1000 award for his invention — a light-bracket system to go on an

armoured fighting vehicle gunnery simulator. Sgt-Maj Aquilina is currently serving with the United Nations Force Reserve in sunny Cyprus.



A £250 inventions award has gone to retired Major Dick Henderson, now a systems manager working on direct fire ammunition at HQ Base Organisation, Didcot. His suggestion for a reduced propellant charge for 105mm practice rounds will save £2,000,000 in some ten years.



the sky is then the limit — although in fact the Army's top award so far has been around the £1000 mark.

Mr Kassa, who has been secretary for five years, notices lots of trends. For instance when new kit comes into service the ideas flow in thick and fast — gradually tailing off as all the useful modifications are discovered.

"At present we are getting a lot of useful ideas for things like Clansman while with Chieftain, which has been around for donkey's years, all the good ideas have already been aired."

Northern Ireland has contributed more than its fair share of new ideas over the last troublesome decade. Most of the innovations have been in the fields of bomb disposal and security.

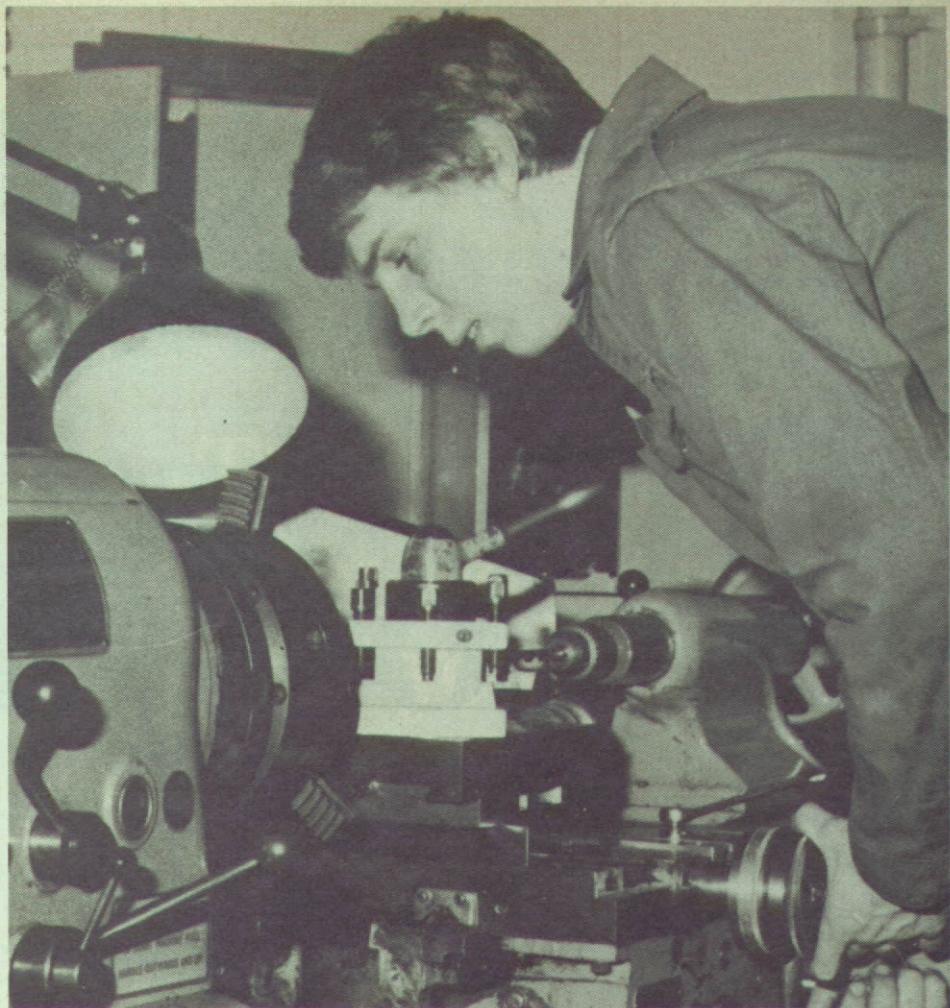
Investigation of an idea may take as long as several years — but if it is submitted before the inventor leaves the Service he may still get a windfall in his retirement.

Not every invention is a world-beater — most have only a local use. But the encouragement or merit award has been increased from £5 to £20 and, the Woolwich people point out, that is more than most people have ever won from football pools or premium bonds.

What they are looking for, according to Mr Kassa, is the modification or improvement made by the soldier to his equipment in the field and which might have a wider application. "We want the soldiers in the field to put in their suggestions because they are working with the equipment under operational conditions and know it better than those who work in workshops or technical establishments.

"Often the ordinary soldier comes up with an idea to cope with a problem which is better than that from the research establishments because it is both practical and simple. In fact we have to send the ideas to research establishments for their comments and sometimes these are a bit sour — because they have not managed to think of it."

So, budding Marconis or just ordinary private soldiers — all may have something to contribute. The important thing is that they tell someone of their ideas — if they are any good, the rewards will follow.



Now working at the School of Military Survey at Hermitage, Craftsman Cliff Smedley thought up the brilliantly simple idea of the 'Smedley

'Smearer' when stationed with 2 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. A version of the 'pull-through', his invention neatly greases along gun barrels.



Pictured with Lieutenant-Colonel J V Fitzsimmons, who presented him with his cash award, is Mr John Wolf, ex-Royal Army Ordnance Corps,

of Berlin's Ordnance Services. Now a clerk, Mr. Wolf came up with a suggestion for saving paper in the central records branch where he works.

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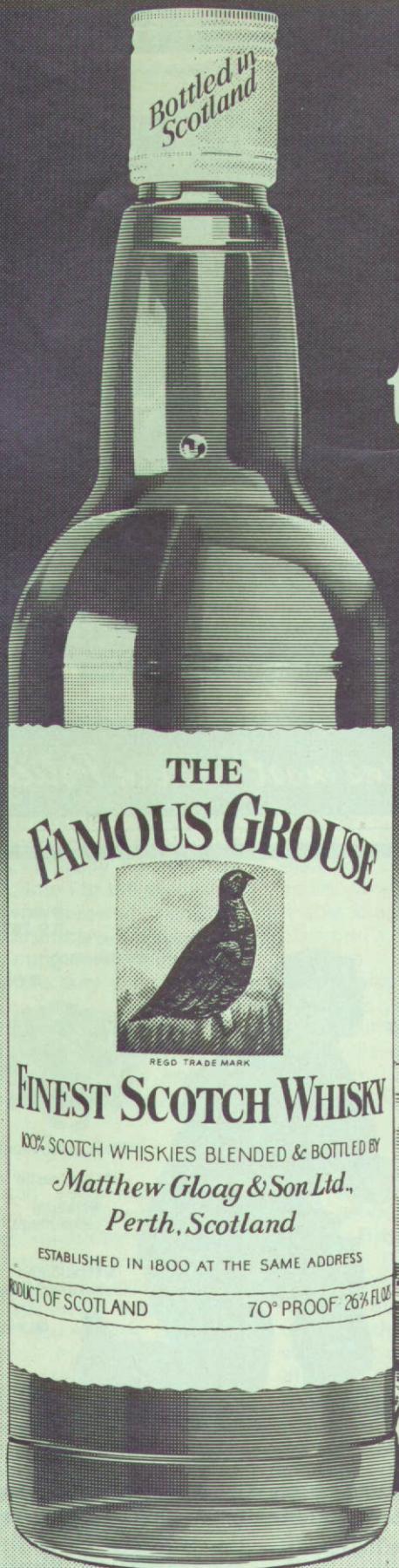


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# SOLDIER to Soldier

**M**ost readers of the magazine will have received the April SOLDIER News, the first issue of the newspaper to be put on sale and separately distributed. The next issue will be published three weeks later, on 6 April, and thereafter SOLDIER News will be fortnightly, initially for a trial period of six months. The magazine retains its monthly frequency.

Because of the complications of separating magazine and newspaper, and last-minute decisions, SOLDIER was unfortunately unable to give adequate notice of the impending changes. Units, Naafi and the trade were, however, asked to state the quantities required of the newspaper and replies were processed up to the last minute before the April News sped from SOLDIER's offices. Where no information was received, quantities sent out were based on the March demand for the package magazine/newspaper.

Demands have also come in from units in reply to a command letter but few of these were received by SOLDIER in time to amend the April News distribution. These changes will therefore be made to the 6 April distribution.

Subscribers were told in a letter with their March magazine/newspaper that they would automatically be sent the April News in addition to the magazine and would then be invoiced. SOLDIER apologises to subscribers for the short notice and for putting on them the onus of saying no where they did not want the newspaper.

Those Subscribers who received the April News but who do not wish to receive the newspaper will not, of course, be charged for that issue.

★

**O**ur American subscriber, Mr Al Fulsdy, has set another seasonal poser for our researchers which has revealed more fascinating military facts. Mr Fulsdy has asked us which is the smallest single unit in the British Army. After exhaustive inquiries we came up with the answer — the 1st Army Pikeman's Regiment (1 APR).

The regiment traces its history back to the 15th century when it was raised by Henry V as a personal bodyguard at Agincourt. The first written record of the unit is attributed to none other than William Shakespeare, with the lines, in an early folio of his play about that great king: 'Those British yeomen silken-hosed and safe in bed will wish they had been Harry's pikemen bold instead.'

Having acquitted themselves well in France, the pikemen were retained as a body by the king on his return to England and elevated to Custodians of the Privy Purse to Esteemed Royalty — a title which

in later years, suffering from an early mania for abbreviations, gave rise to the term 'copper' to describe a policeman. The pikemen's new task as custodians was to stand guard over the royal coffers in the vaults of the Tower of London. Since the low-ceilinged room in which the king's treasure was kept measured only eight feet by eight feet, the pikemen's ranks had to be reduced to just six men — and none of these could be more than five feet five inches tall to avoid stooping.

Ever since then, the 1st APR has never been more than six strong and has strictly maintained the height restriction among recruits. The pikemen's main battle honour is the Siege of Gibraltar and they celebrate their action then on 1 April each year. During the siege they were used as human 'pull-throughs' for the massive naval guns which kept the attackers at bay. The intrepid half-dozen were wrapped in damp cloth and their diminutive size allowed them to wriggle the length of the mighty gun barrels to swab them between salvos.

In recent years the pikemen have been used purely on ceremonial duties, mounting guard on the roof of Buckingham Palace whenever the reigning monarch has been in residence. Unfortunately, the height of the balustrade precludes the six men from being seen from below by the public, which is therefore unfortunately unable to appreciate the splendour of the pikemen's bright yellow medieval uniforms.

The six pikemen making up the 1st APR nowadays are always selected from the most optimistic — and therefore smallest — recruits who fail to measure up to the minimum height requirement of the Brigade of Guards.

★

**A** hundred years ago, when the news of Rorke's Drift filtered back to Britain, Punch carried a cartoon showing Lieutenants Bromhead and Chard with Mr Punch saying 'In the name of the country I thank you and all the defenders of Rorke's Drift. You have saved not only a colony, but the credit of old England.' This prompted a letter the following week from an anonymous officer who asked why a corner could not be found for a memorial to the members of the Commissariat who had taken part in the gallant defence.

Now, a century later, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Bennett, of the descendant Royal Corps of Transport, has again taken up cudgels on the Commissariat's behalf. This time the target is SOLDIER which, Colonel Bennett suggests, in last month's issue gave all the centenary publicity to the sappers and Welshmen. The balance is duly restored with the news — regrettably not imparted to SOLDIER until now — that the Royal

Corps of Transport held a centenary luncheon at which the Victoria Cross awarded to Acting Assistant Commissary James Dalton and the Distinguished Conduct Medal won by 2nd Corporal F Attwood were for the first time displayed together. There was also a commemorative service at Dalton's grave in South Africa when a wreath was laid on behalf of today's corps by the British Consul; another wreath was laid by the grandson of the owner of the Grosvenor Hotel, Port Elizabeth, in which Dalton died.

The anonymous letter of March 1879 is perhaps worth reproducing in toto — thus completing the picture once again. It reads: 'In your cartoon of March 22, you, as worthy head of the Army, thank Lieutenants Chard and Bromhead for their heroic defence of Rorke's Drift. In the background are seen some men of the 24th Regiment and scattered about are quantities of Commissariat Supplies. Cannot you find some corner for a memorial to the only officer who was killed that night while gallantly doing his duty, Assistant Commissary Byrne? Should you ignore the only officer "severely wounded" to whom all are indebted for his advice and skill in turning his supplies of flour and biscuits into parapets, Assistant Commissary Dalton? Or the young officer who gained the admiration of all by erecting the last defence under heavy fire, Assistant Commissary Dunne?'

One wonders which publication will draw similar fire in 2079!

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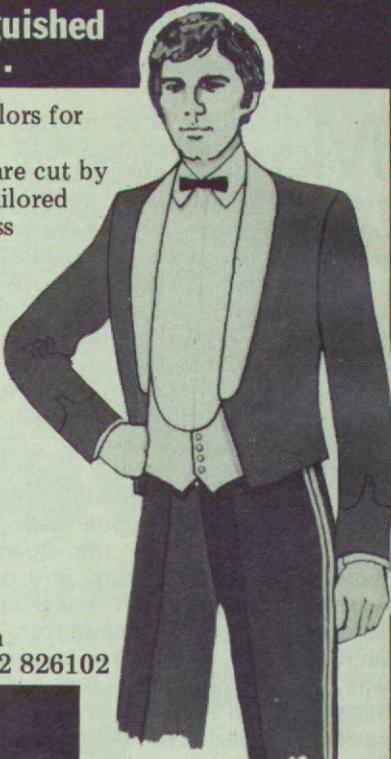
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SD1



Worthy Down's electronic brainpower keeps the soldier constantly in 'mind'

# Multi-million memory

Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Doug Pratt

THE ARMY CAN BOAST that it constantly bears in mind every one of its serving soldiers — that 'mind' being the multi-million character memory bank of the Royal Army Pay Corps computer.

In its squat complex of buildings on wind-swept Worthy Down near Winchester, the mechanical memory is in fact made up of two computers, the most recent of which was installed last year.

The Army pioneered the introduction of large-scale commercial computers in the United Kingdom. The first machine to be installed at Worthy Down, an IBM 705 in December 1960, cost £700,000 and at that time was the largest commercial computer in

the UK. The 1960 census was processed on that machine.

The power and capacity of that old machine is minute by today's standards. The new Worthy Down complex offers a mind-boggling 8,400,000,000 characters of memory on magnetic disc storage and a further 250,000,000 characters on magnetic tape. The computer gobbles up 16 tons of paper a month from a standing stock of 180 tons.

About a quarter of the computer's time is taken up with matters relating to pay. Part of this function is the monthly credit of pay for serving officers and soldiers. This can be processed in one working day and the total payments initiated by the computer centre each month in respect of the Regular and

Reserve armies, and pensions, come to a staggering £42,000,000. The bulk of the computer's time is taken up with providing a service to manning and record offices and those branches in the Ministry of Defence that are concerned with manpower. Eighteen manning and record offices dip into the machine's electronic files to plan the movement and careers of soldiers worldwide — the computer provides the basic data on which the manning and record officers can make their decisions.

A new development to assist manning and record officers in this task is the introduction of a countrywide teleprocessing network. This began in June of last year as a pilot scheme which linked the computer centre at Worthy Down with visual display

Above: The computer 'talks' via visual displays.



unit (VDU) terminals in the Leicester Manning and Record Office. The service has now been extended to the Exeter, Taunton and Reading record offices and by July 1979 will include all the regimental pay offices and the remaining record offices in UK.

In operation, the VDU system will allow a clerk to get an answer from the computer in less than ten seconds. It will also reduce the amount of paper work currently passing between offices.

Another recent development which became operational last year is the production of 'microfiche' output. The regimental pay offices now receive their copies of soldiers' pay statements in microfilm form. More than 500 statements can be held on each fiche, which is about the size of a post card. This development too has the

advantage of reducing the amount of paper passing between offices.

The computer is manned in three shifts day and night round the clock from midnight on Sunday to midnight on Friday. The weekends are reserved for maintenance and any exceptional jobs which may arise such as the pay review when the aim is to get money to individuals as quickly as possible.

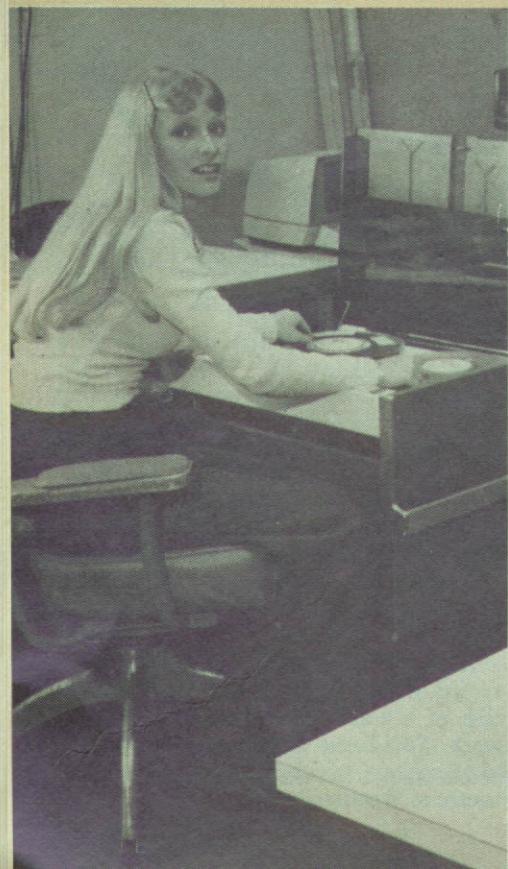
Some 300 people man the centre — more than half of them civilians. And they are keen to point out that it is they who control the equipment, not vice versa. One commented: "The computer does nothing on its own — it is 'fed' by humans."

To keep this massive processing centre going takes an equally massive electrical supply. Under the floor on which the computers stand is a complex network of cables

feeding power to the electronic brain. This creates an enormous amount of heat and the computer has its own air-conditioning system run by the Department of the Environment 24 hours a day to keep the vital machinery at a constant temperature and humidity.

In addition to the pay account and personal record of all officers and soldiers in the active Army, the computer centre also maintains records and accounts for the Territorial

**Top left:** Civilian operators prepare to print the pay cheques for the Army's personnel. **Top right:** The computers' tape 'memory' includes emergency duplicates too in case of accidents. **Bottom left:** The input of information starts with these girls feeding the computers' 'brains.' **Below:** Sleek and solid, the computers hum day and night 'thinking' out the Army's problems.



Army, the Reserve Army, and all pensioners. So, if you are a long-serving soldier, your records will be held at Worthy Down from your date of enlistment until the time you die.

With growth of the data held and the improvements brought about by standardisation, there has been an ever-increasing demand for information from the system. Ministry of Defence statistics branches can now obtain considerable amounts of information which would not have been available under the manual system. Not that the information was not there — it would just have been impossible to find the time to extract it from the manual system.

As methods of input have become more sophisticated, so have the output requirements. Most payments made into soldiers' bank accounts (some 75% are paid this way nowadays) at home and abroad are made by magnetic tape input into automatic banking systems worldwide.

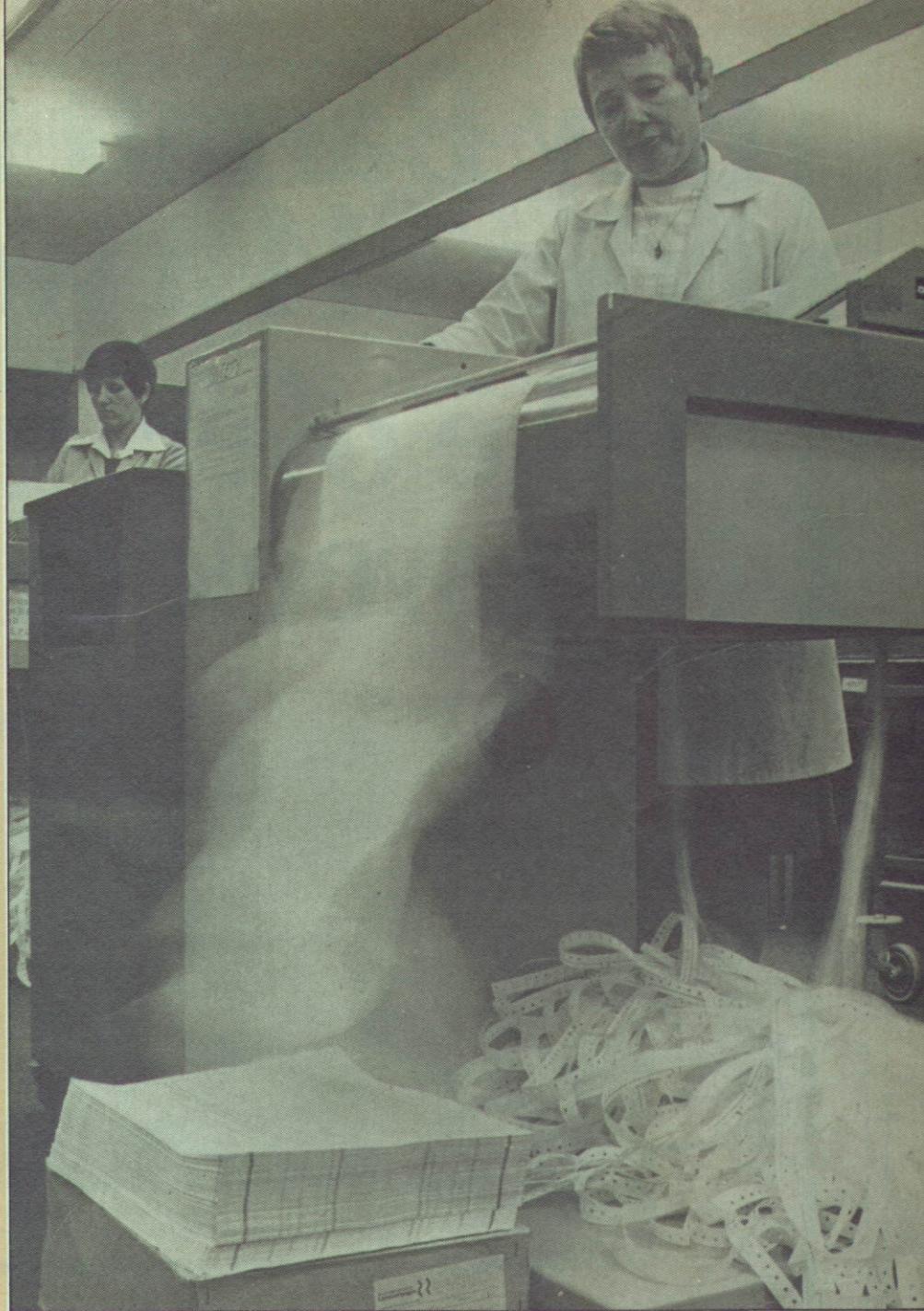
The payment system allows a soldier considerable flexibility in how and where his pay is credited. He may split his monthly pay between two bank accounts, one, say, in the United Kingdom and one in Germany, allowing the soldier posted to Germany to have money available there while his wife at home can still draw cash from a UK bank.

Alternatively, the system will allow payments to dependents by Army payment order book. This too can be issued by the computer system — even at short notice — and make it possible for a soldier's wife to cash weekly payments at a post office.

Clearly no job is too big for the computer centre to handle when it comes to pay and records . . . and no job is too small, either. Some 170 'one-off' requests are made a month. Recent examples have been to find all Italian speakers in the cavalry; to list all Army personnel born in Canada; and last — but not least — to produce the names and ages of all the young children of the men of a particular battalion for the Christmas party guest list.

Who said computers didn't have hearts!

The camera shutter could not freeze the rush of paper gobbled up by this greedy machinery.



how  
observant  
are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 49.

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Pontefract—  
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Pontefract—Cheat View  
Pontefract—Gawthorpe  
Pontefract—Brierfield  
Pontefract—Wakefield  
Pontefract—Sandal Wood  
Pontefract—  
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Birstall—Brookroyd  
Bishop Monkton—  
Bishop Monkton  
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Wakefield—Silcoats Pk

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# HONG KONG



AFTER 135 YEARS the British Army has moved its Hong Kong headquarters out of Victoria Barracks into a modern skyscraper block on the island's shoreline. The new headquarters building, comprising 23 stories above a five-storey podium, was opened on 4 March by Prince Charles.

The move stems from the colony's 1975 defence cost agreement. Under this agreement the British Forces were to hand over 47 acres of land at Victoria Barracks to the Hong Kong Government while the Hong Kong authorities built the new tower block on the naval base of HMS Tamar at a cost of HK\$65,000,000 (about £7,000,000).

The striking difference is in the amount of land being used. Those 47 acres at Victoria Barracks are in a prime area and Hong Kong land prices are among the highest in the world. The new tower block occupies only eight-tenths of an acre. What the Hong Kong authorities will do with the Victoria Barracks site has still to be decided.

Even in Hong Kong, where rapid development is the order of the day, the breakneck speed of the new headquarters project has been extraordinary. The brief for the building was produced in September 1976, the foundation stone laid six months later and the whole complex completed in two years.

This is a considerable achievement by the Hong Kong building contractor, says Major Paul French, the Royal Corps of Transport officer who has spent his whole Hong Kong tour as liaison officer for the project. Virtually all of the staff involved, from architects and engineers down to labourers, have been Hong Kong Chinese and work went on around the clock.

Major French's task was to prepare the brief and ensure that the Service requirement was met throughout. He also provided the liaison for the orderly move of all the facilities from Victoria Barracks and will remain for the initial maintenance period.

Another aspect of his job has been to act as secretary of the co-ordinating committee to sort out the joint administration of the new building. The naval authorities will remain responsible for administration of the whole HMS Tamar base but this will now contain a predominantly Army organisation and include some Royal Air Force personnel.

"We shall have to learn to work and live together and the messes will be joint, with joint committees," he told SOLDIER.

The last vestige of British forces' presence at Victoria Barracks will be on a three-acre site to be known as Queen's Lines. It will contain a new community centre and Naafi shopping complex and two high-rise blocks of officers' and non-commissioned officers' married quarters.

At the very top of the new headquarters block is a penthouse flat to be occupied by Captain-in-Charge Hong Kong. Below that are the officers' mess (four floors), the sergeants' mess (three floors), a junior ranks' club and four floors of junior ranks' living and sleeping accommodation.

Much local rosewood and teak has been used for internal panelling and fittings and each floor has been designed so that bedrooms have a panoramic harbour view. Below the junior ranks are five floors of offices and three floors of stores as well as the cantilever structure supporting the main tower.

# High-rise headquarters



On the podium roof are two open-air tennis courts. Any lobs over the fence are liable to turn into drop-shots — down five floors to the ground below. "No novices allowed," commented Major French.

Within the podium are two floors of car parking, offices, stores, classrooms, the communications centre, a massive gymnasium, a library, a miniature firing range and three squash courts. There is also a church which incorporates the stained glass window from the church in the building the block replaces.

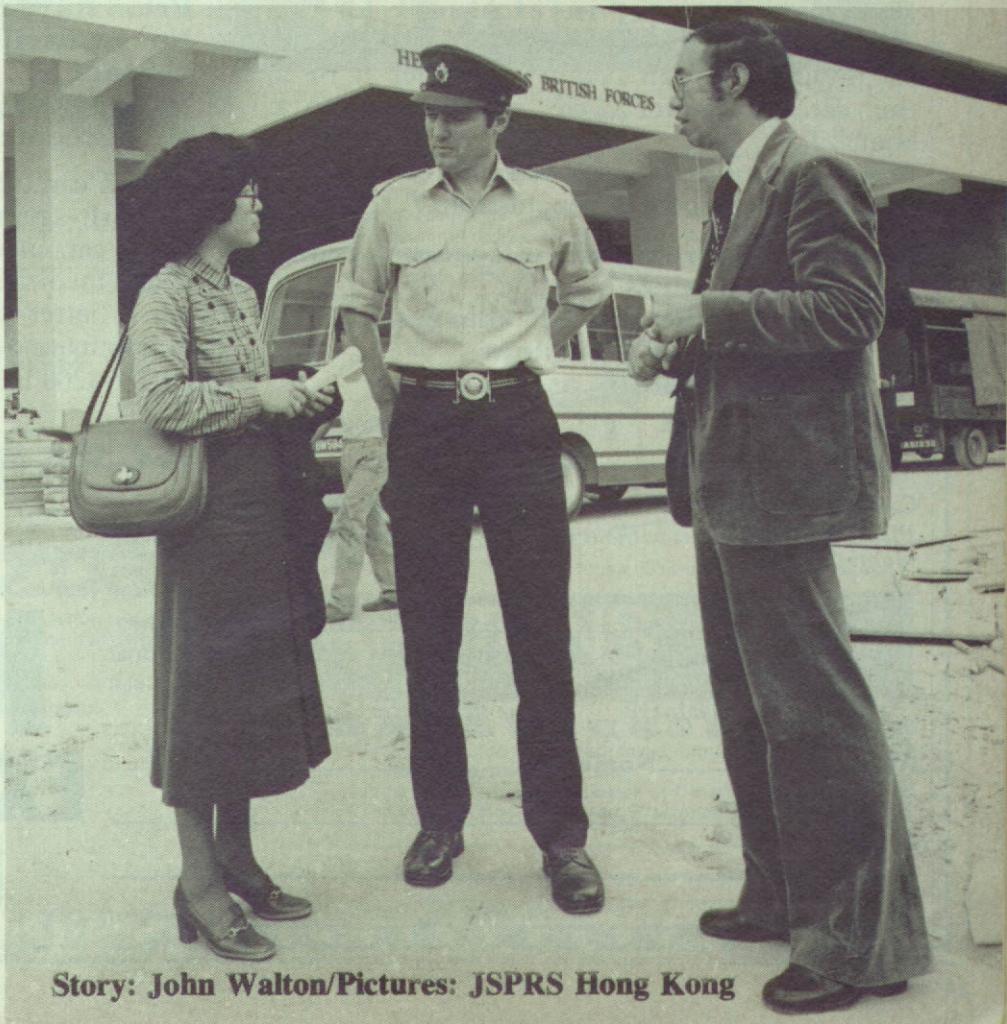
The whole headquarters is a revolutionary concept for the Services. Even the Ministry of Defence's giant Empress State Building in London is only an office block whereas the new tower contains all sorts of facilities.

Says Major French: "If you had an unimaginative soldier it would be perfectly possible for him to spend his whole tour here without leaving the building. He could work and live here and still keep himself pretty fit with squash, tennis or in the gymnasium. This is the Army's first vertical barracks."

Above: This spectacular view of the Hong Kong island waterfront is from the HQ's top floor.

Left: The new building has joined the forest of concrete skyscrapers typical of Hong Kong.

Right: Major French outside the new HQ with architect Mrs Eliza Lau and colleague H W Pun.



Story: John Walton/Pictures: JSPRS Hong Kong

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# INTO ACTION WITH TV'S 'SPEARHEAD II'

THE SLEEPY VILLAGE of Owslebury in the heart of rural Hampshire took on the gaunt appearance of Northern Ireland security forces' fortifications. The gentle clip-clop of horses being exercised in the leafy lanes was drowned by the penetrating whine of Saracen armoured personnel carriers.

For Owslebury had been cast in the role of an out-of-town Army location in Northern Ireland for the filming of the last of six episodes in the second series of the Southern Television programme 'Spearhead' which dramatises the life of the fictitious 6 Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Wessex Rangers.

The first series of seven episodes of

'Spearhead' (see *SOLDIER*, December 1977) proved so successful that it was decided to develop the theme in a second series.

When they first appeared on the nation's television screens, The Royal Wessex Rangers were seen as a resident battalion in Northern Ireland and later on a four-month emergency tour as well as being based in England. In 'Spearhead II' the Rangers are posted to Rhine Army. But — inevitably, like their real-life counterparts—they find another four months in Northern Ireland part of their routine.

Most of the central characters are retained in the second series. But new dramatic

potential is exploited by the introduction of the inexperienced 'Lieutenant Pickering' — fresh from Sandhurst — to command the platoon in place of 'Colour-Sergeant Jackson' (Michael Billington).

The climax of the series is played out in Northern Ireland with Owslebury based on the Province's community of Middletown as a location for B Company.

The uncanny resemblance to a real Northern Ireland Army location is a tribute to Southern Television's painstaking research and property departments. Only touch reveals 'breeze block' barriers as expanded polystyrene and 'steel' gates as painted hardboard.

The Spearhead military adviser, Lieutenant-Colonel John Rymer-Jones, explained that Middletown's Army installations were extensively photographed in order to aid the set builders. And once at Owslebury the production team had to ensure that Hampshire thatch was kept out of camera shot; distinctive windows had to be masked in the interests of verisimilitude.

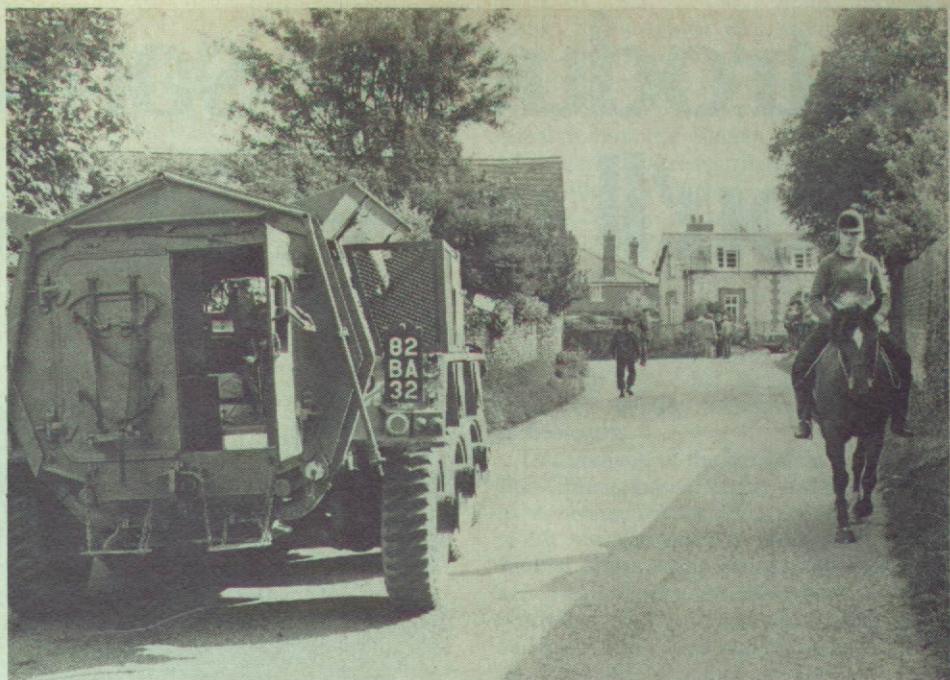
Actors, too, had to be imbued with the realism that Spearhead prides itself on and many of the main characters — none of whom have any military background — spent some time with actual soldiers in order to get the feel of modern Army life at work and play. Officer-actors stayed in an officers mess to accustom them to their roles.

Extras for the second Spearhead series came from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, temporarily 're-badged' as Royal Wessex Rangers for filming. They took to their new-found stardom like seasoned troupers and the only murmur of mild discontent came when Welsh national pride was dented by having to don Scottish tam-o-shanters to play the outgoing company in Northern Ireland handing over to The Royal Wessex Rangers!



Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Doug Pratt





Far left: Keeping up with what's going on in the Army, Royal Wessex Rangers read *SOLDIER*.

Left: The scene is set for a funeral after a dramatic incident during Spearhead's new run.

Top left: The clapperboard chronicles progress on the television-eye view of the infanteers.

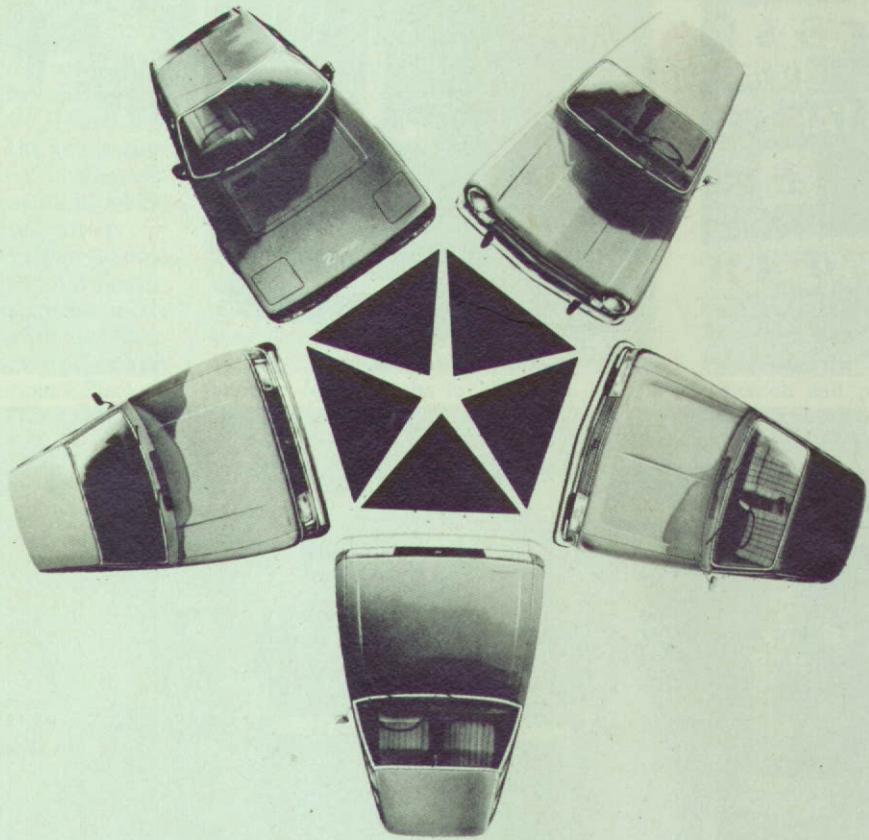
Top right: A quiet Hampshire village getting a taste of Army internal security operations.

Above: Soldiers walk hand-in-hand with death, whose final embrace is portrayed in the series.

Right: Director James Ormerod seeks advice on a technical point from Lieut-Col Rymer-Jones.



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# Meet the Ermine Street Guard



## Friends, Romans and countrymen...

THE GLORY that was Rome lives on, thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group whose army headquarters is in the heart of the Gloucestershire countryside. This is the Ermine Street Guard, a society devoted to research into the Roman Imperial Army, particularly the reconstruction of its armour and artillery equipment.

What began as an idea for a village pageant in 1972 has blossomed into a unique and absorbing hobby for the 24 men who now form its ranks. Their research into the uniforms, weapons and way of life of the Roman soldier in Britain has been so meticulous that their authenticity is now renowned among museum curators and archeologists.

In command of the detachment is Centurion Christophorus Verres — Chris Haines to his civilian friends. "Our original aim was to kit out the smallest component of the Roman Army, which consisted of eight men and was called a contubernium. It took about five months of research and hard work and it just seemed a natural thing to carry on. The more you find out the more your interest grows."

Acknowledged as experts now, for the founder-members it was literally a case of bricks out of straw — "One of our members was presented with a drawing from which he produced templates of the body armour." Drawings, mosaics and archeological finds had been the only source of information on the subject until the early 1970s, when a chest containing three complete suits of armour was found along Hadrian's Wall. For the first time, authentic reconstruction was possible — and authenticity is almost a religion with the Ermine Street Guard.

Monday evening throughout the year is do-it-yourself night at the 'armoury.' Members meet at Chris Haines's farm, where they have together converted and extended an old garage to house their equipment. Sheets of mild steel, fetched by trailer from the local stockist, are cut by guillotine or tin snips into templates. "We are none of us metal workers, but we are all handymen," says Chris. "It is surprising what you can produce if you set your mind to a thing."

The armour is then riveted internally to leather strips. Painstaking care is needed and the motto is strictly 'If you make it — you wear it!' This can have advantages for those who like a Savile Row finish for, in the words of the song, you can 'Bend it, shape it, any way you want it.' One member lightly suggests jumping on it if the fit isn't perfect — that probably works too!

According to the text books, the Roman armour makers would have gone about the job in much the same way. "We use modern tools, but they probably chiselled it from the sheet," says Chris.

Equipment issued from this rural store is undoubtedly impressive. As well as the body armour (lorica segmentata for the academically inclined), there are the shield, an ornate helmet, 20-inch sword, a seven-foot-long javelin and a short dagger, not forgetting the red woollen under-tunic and rope-soled leather sandals. Each item is standard equipment for a Roman legionary (equivalent to the humble private) and everything is made by hand.

Left: When in Rome, do as the Romans do — so men of the Ermine Street Guard eat à la Rome.

The original eight soldiers were kitted out for £100 the lot. "Nowadays, in terms of material alone, it costs about £35 to £40 per member," says Chris. In the quest of perfection no expense is usually spared, although there are two compromises which embarrass the legionaries. The silver dagger sheaths have been substituted by pewter, and the rope used on the artillery weapons is nylon. The 'real' thing used to be a mixture of animals sinews and hair, both horse and human!

Only five of the Guard have been in conventional military service and none has yet visited the Eternal City, although they made an en masse excursion to the Pompeii exhibition in London. Full-time occupations cover a wide range, from students to teachers and civil servants. Officer ranks within the Guard are by election but, for display purposes, roles are to some extent interchangeable. Individual features cannot compete with the glamour of the Guard in full array.

Summer is inevitably the busiest time for displays, but the Guard members keep in trim during winter too, for the occasional

TV appearance. What is essentially a hobby needs almost full-time application for the armour needs regular cleaning to stop it rusting.

Twentieth-century living is far removed from 2000 years ago, but the Guard can be complimented on shaking any dust out of the history pages. "We obviously get all sorts of questions after our displays, and we like to be able to answer them, even if they get away from the military side of things. Perhaps we do represent a sort of escapism, but I think people enjoy going back into their history — after all, many Roman soldiers in Britain had never been to Rome. At one time the Italians in the Roman Army were down to seven per cent."

Today's professional British Army could certainly give the Ermine Street Guard full marks for professionalism. "We see ourselves as soldiers dealing with ancient problems. We have to work under conditions of discipline, otherwise the unit would fall apart," says Chris Haines.

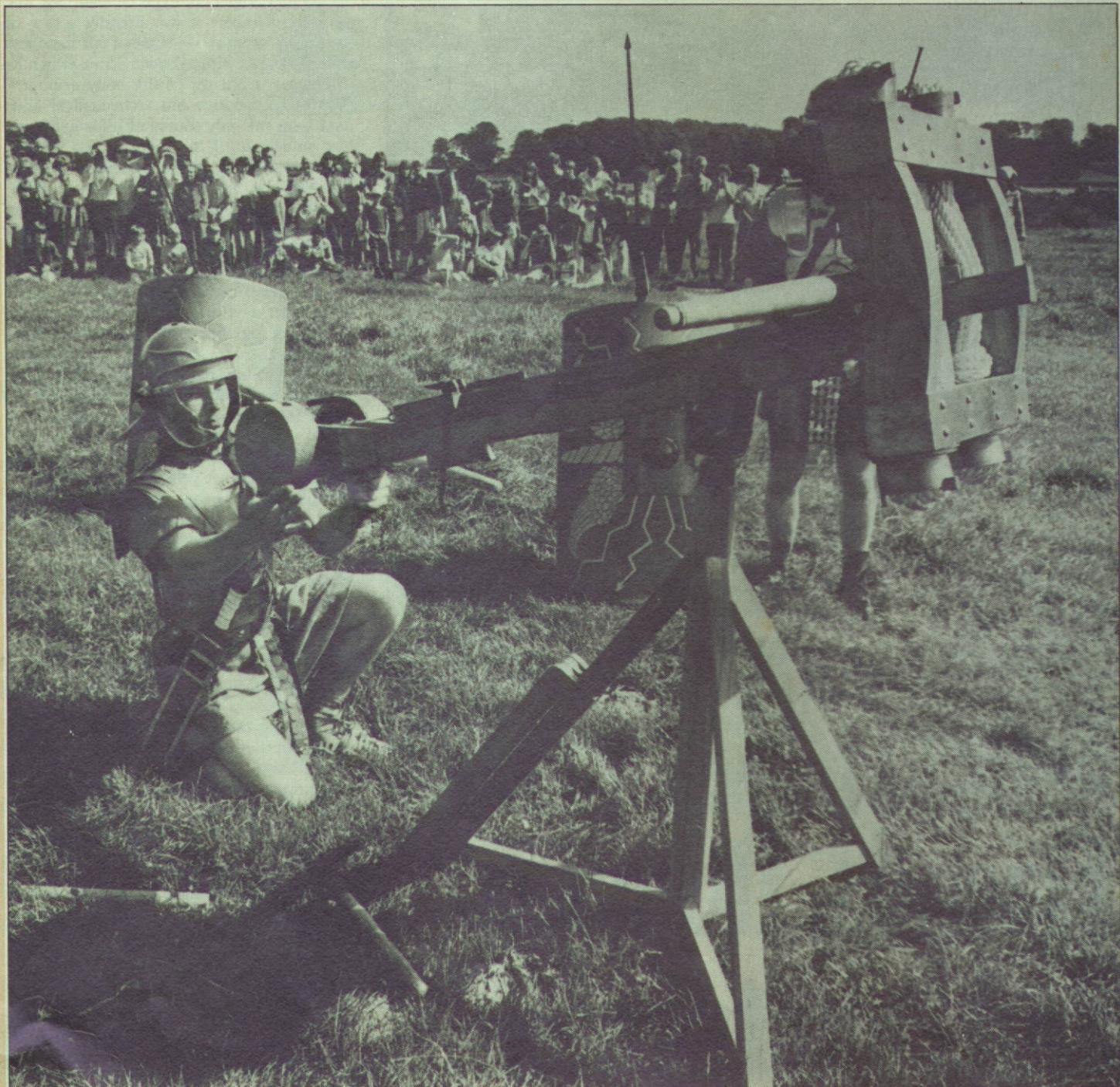
Sentiments about team spirit obviously never date, and when the BBC ask to borrow

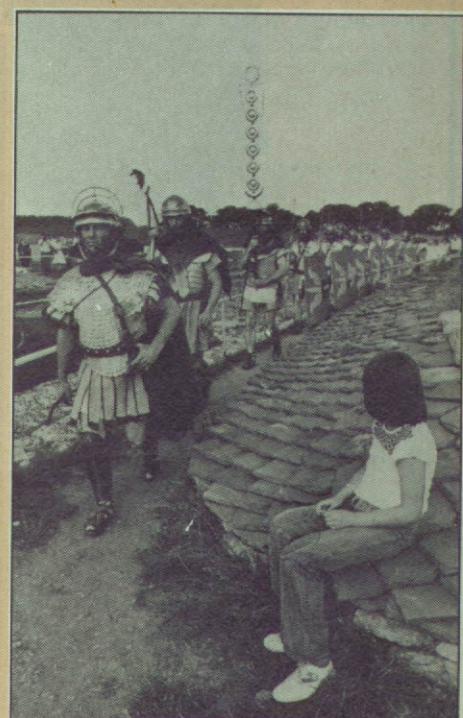
your sandals for their production of Julius Caesar you know you've got it right!

The Ermine Street Guard holds about 12 displays a year, as far afield as Hadrian's Wall, London, Wales and the Midlands. "We will go anywhere provided the venue has a Roman connection," says Chris. Nevertheless, they are not available to all and sundry, so if you want them for a village fete you are likely to be unlucky. "As a society we are less inclined to run out at the drop of a hat than some. We have to have a legitimate reason to kit up. I think this is due not just to pressure of time, but also to a genuine feeling of occasion which all the members have."

To suggest they 'dress up' is probably the biggest insult and provokes such responses as: 'Does the Guard at Buckingham Palace dress up?' or 'Do the Beefeaters at the Tower of London dress up?' So it seems fair to allow the Guard to describe themselves as 'in kit' — especially when they've probably placed every hinge and rivet themselves.

Drill and firing practices take place in a nearby field — preferably without an audi-





ence. Between them the legionaries have reconstructed two impressive artillery weapons. The onager, or wild ass, hurls stone missiles with deadly potential, while the catapulta, often called a scorpion because of the sting in its tail, fires arrows with surprising accuracy towards distant targets. All commands are shouted in Latin, and those too far away to hear the cry of 'Jacite!' (Fire!) are treated to a blast on the cornu — a horn with a language of its own.

Ask any member of this enthusiastic army why they do it and the answer given by

Top left: A 'Roman' legionary steps out of character for a cuppa. Top right: Modern Britons charged by 'Romans.' Above: Roman Naafi break — compo was never like this. Above right: Marching off to mount guard as of yore.

Left: A replica of a powerful version of the Roman catapult is demonstrated to the crowd.

Chris Haines is echoed by them all. "Fun, enjoyment, and a great deal of satisfaction and sense of achievement. When you turn out to do a display and see everybody together you are proud to be a member."

New members are welcome, although many would-be legionaries find the prospect of making such splendid outfits a daunting task. Add to this the commitment of having to turn out for displays on bank holidays, and you have an effective self-filtering system for any unsuitable candidates. "We never accept anyone without meeting them, then we give them an application form and they go away and complete it. Anyone who isn't really keen generally backs down at that stage," says Chris. Completed applications are submitted to the official committee, which has not yet turned anyone down.

The lower age limit is set at 16, but veterans can go on for ever — the current one is a mere 57 years old. Pint-size applicants will not be turned down for lack of

height though the real Roman Army would have felt differently. But the Guard is not too keen if you have a very ample girth — perhaps because the armour for a Billy Bunter type would be too costly. Not that weight-shedding should be any problem once inside the kit, which weighs anything up to 40 pounds 'on the road.' "It is heavy, but it's flexible and you get used to it. If it makes your back ache you're not standing properly," maintains Chris. "Today's soldier would probably carry the same weight, but in a pack on his back, which is much easier. This stuff can be very unwieldy to carry."

In spite of this the legionaries undertake lengthy marches without turning a hair. Twenty miles in two days along stretches of Hadrian's Wall were completed with only one casualty — one member suffered hypothermia, but this was blamed on the night before rather than the rigours of the route.

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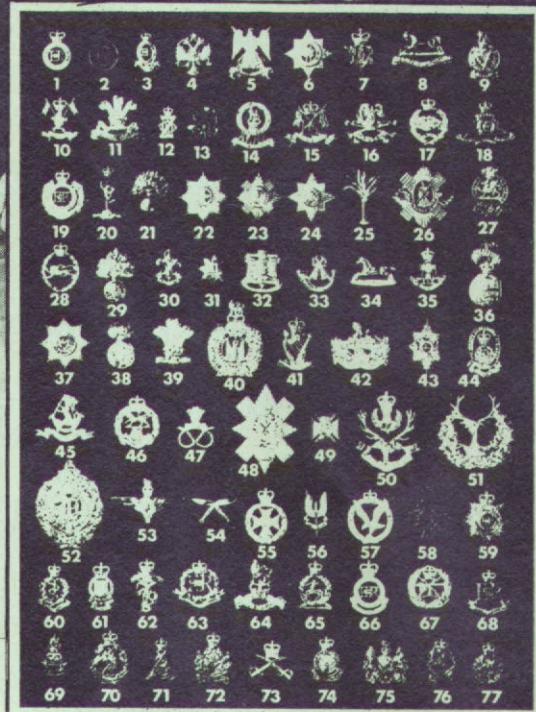
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## Military museums

# The Military Heritage Museum

THE ORIGINAL pencilled message from Sir Herbert (later Lord) Kitchener, then Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, which initiated the charge of the 21st Lancers at Omdurman; the silver-mounted wooden saddle used by the notorious Nana Sahib, who contrived the massacre at Cawnpore in June 1857; and the helmet worn by Captain Henry Maddox, showing the entry and exit holes made by a musket ball during the charge of the Heavy Brigade at Waterloo, are just a few of the many rare items on view at the Military Heritage Museum, which in effect comprises the collection of one man, Roy Butler, of Messrs Wallis & Wallis, the well-known auctioneers of militaria.

Opened in October 1977, this museum, though small, is exceptionally well arranged with exhibits displayed to maximum advantage in two rooms. The first covers the British Army from the mid-17th century to 1914 and the second concentrates on cavalry and artillery.

Among the oldest items are a pair of knee-length cavalry boots and cage stirrups (circa 1685), an officer's wheel-lock pistol of 1650 and a buff leather bandolier of similar date nicknamed the 'Twelve Apostles.' Each of the 12 cylinders, or apostles, suspended from the bandolier, contained enough powder for one shot while musket balls were carried in a centrally attached pouch. A display covering the 70 years of the plug bayonet's life until it became obsolete about 1700 includes some prime examples of officers' blades with ivory and silver hilts, two of them bearing Charles II and James II inscriptions.

Moving on to the 18th century, several exhibits quickly catch the eye, among them the silver-embroidered mitre cap of a grenadier company officer of the East Suffolk Militia; a Scottish targe or shield as used in the 1745 Jacobite rebellion; a sergeant's halberd engraved with the owner's name; and a saddle holster for a Heavy Dragoon's flintlock cavalry pistol. A select group of gorgets is highlighted by a beautifully worked example in silver bearing the royal arms of George II.

Souvenirs of the American War include a flintlock musket with a 42-inch barrel; a 1768 pattern fur cap as worn by grenadiers of line regiments; a cavalry trooper's leather cartridge pouch; and a 5th Foot helmet, in remarkably good condition, worn by Corporal William Herd, who fought with his regiment in many of the principal battles of the war.

A display dealing with the Napoleonic wars has some interesting relics, among them an officer's shako of the French 4th



Regiment, les Gardes d'Honneur; a silver-mounted powder horn belonging to an officer of the 26th (Camerons); a Paget cavalry carbine; and an Indian pattern musket carried by most infantry regiments at Waterloo. A Sudanese ox-hide shield and broad sword; a bagpipe played by 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, pipers in the Sudan and a few years later during the Boer War; and a Dervish jibbah (tunic), are reminders of fighting in Africa while an early 19th century matchlock jezail (musket); the tunic and sash of a colonel, 45th Rattray's Sikhs (circa 1905); and a Sind Horse officer's gilt-and-silver helmet with puggaree and chain are typical of a rich collection from India.

A representative collection of shako and helmet badges and officers' shoulder belt plates paves the way to the cavalry and artillery room. Featured in the gunnery section are ammunition, artillery uniforms and a variety of antique equipment such as a 1780 powder horn, a flintlock cannon igniter and an early 18th century linstock (a pike-like piece of dual purpose equipment, being a source of fire for the gunners and a handy weapon in an emergency).

Throat plumes and breast plates, bit bosses and lances, shoulder belt pouches and headwear all contribute to a first-class display in the cavalry section. Full dress uniforms of various cavalry regiments, epaulettes, sabretaches and the czapka of an officer of the 3rd Lancers, Imperial Guard, with Napoleon's cypher on the plate, and many other items add to the collection's richness and variety while a cavalcade of cavalry headdress, viewed from a platform, shows examples of successive patterns worn by officers from 1812 onwards.

John Jesse

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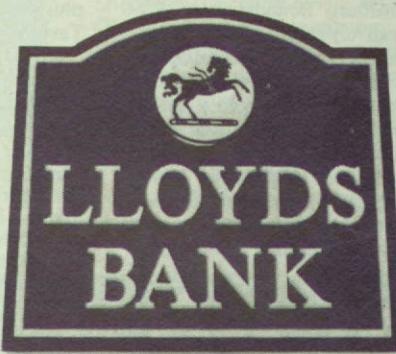
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# ON RECORD

## A Concert of Military Music



Performed by the Fife and Drums of Colonial Williamsburg  
Produced by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

'The Fife and Drums of Williamsburg' (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation WS 101)

'A Concert of Military Music' (performed by the Fife and Drums of Colonial Williamsburg) (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation WS 109)

Alexandria, June 12, 1775

The Subscribers would willingly learn any Number of Boys the MILITARY MUSICK of the FIFE AND DRUM; and also supply any Persons with Music for said Instruments. Gentlemen desirous of having Pupils instructed may depend on the greatest Attention being paid to them. Our Terms are half a Guinea Entrance, and a Guinea per Month for each instrument.

THOMAS STERLING.  
THOMAS HOOKINS.'

Thus began the effort to raise musicians, particularly for signal and field instruments, to serve in the embryo army of 18th century America. These lads, some 20 fifers and 20 drummers, of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation of Virginia, form a comparatively recent addition to the American military musical scene, but make no mistake, you sticklers for authenticity, they are no ham-fisted amateurs such as we often see at displays and tattoos in this country. And don't expect to hear a Guards-type corps of drums thumping its way along the Mall to an idiotic march like Colonel Bogey or Stars and Stripes. No, they hark back to their grass roots in 1775 and play tunes which their forebears would have known.

Much of their present skill must be due to the teaching and influence of the present staff of three adults, headed by the Musick Master, John Moon, who as recently as 1962 was senior drum-major of The Guards Division and, I believe, the Army. So, with the American talent for achieving authenticity via inexorable research, plus inspired and inspiring leadership, you can take it that what you hear is as near as dammit the real thing and, unlike our own military fifers, played with style and sensitivity.

I suppose I must have had more than a hundred letters in the ten years I have been reviewing your records asking for corps of drums discs. There have in fact been very few. Now, with a little effort, you can have two complete LPs of fife and drum music so varied as to style, tempo, mood and volume that you need have no fear of monotony or, worse still, that thumping, thumping, thumping of the drums.

'The Fife and Drums of Williamsburg' has many delights I never thought to hear, played at the much steadier old army pace in their (probably) original notation and in some cases under an older title than we now know them by. Beethoven's 'Yorkester Marsch,' whose spelling resulted in some correspondence, I recall, sounds



just right on fifes, as of course do 'Greensleeves,' 'Westering Home,' 'Keel Row,' 'The Pleasures of Spa,' 'Polly Oliver' and dozens of equally famous airs.

The second LP, 'A Concert of Military Music,' has in addition to the fife and drums the glorious and wistful sound of penny whistle and tabor, as evocative a 17th century nuance as now exists. The great 'military' composers, Handel and Haydn, are well represented and there are such mouth-watering titles as 'Yorkshire Bite,' 'Andrew and his Cutty Gun,' 'Bung Your Eye,' 'Tenpenny Bit,' 'The Oddity' and 'Drops of Brandy.' For sheer entertainment value, achieved through skilful dispersal of the musical material and instrumental forces, I recommend these two LPs to all who want fife music and a slice of musical history into the bargain.

The two programmes may be had on disc or cassette from AV Distribution Section, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Box C, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185, USA. Each disc or cassette is USA \$4.95 plus \$1.50 postage. Payment in sterling will be accepted at the current rate of exchange. At, say, £3.00 each, this is a bargain.

Other records available: 'A Williamsburg Candlelight Concert,' 'O Come Sweet Music,' 'An Evening at Carter's Grove,' 'The Music Teacher,' 'Songs of Liberty,' 'Colonial Singing, Games and Dances,' 'Mr. Jefferson's Music,' all at \$4.95 each plus postage. At \$6.39 is 'Songs from a Colonial Tavern.'

On 'The Fife and Drums of Williamsburg' Devil's Dream, Marionettes, Skye Boat Song, slow march Scipio, march The Races, Smith's Hornpipe, funeral march Rosline Castle, Over the Water to Charley, Chester, retreat marches Polly Oliver and The Battle's O'er, Maggie Lauder, Hohenfriedberger Marsch, Count Brown's March, Londonderry Air, marches Buttonhole and Balquhidder Lasses, Newport, Fisher's Hornpipe, Old Country Ballards (Flow Gently, Sweet Afton; Barbara Allen; David of the White Rock; Singing Bird; Come O'er the Stream, Charlie; Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Dundee), marches Mathew's Hornpipe and Norman Toy, Handel's Coronation March, Bonnie Lass o' Ballochmyle, Stamitz Air and Prince Eugene's Medley (Prince Eugene's March; Over the Hills and Far Away; Swiss Guards' March; Drum Solo; Chain Cottillion; Harum Scarum).

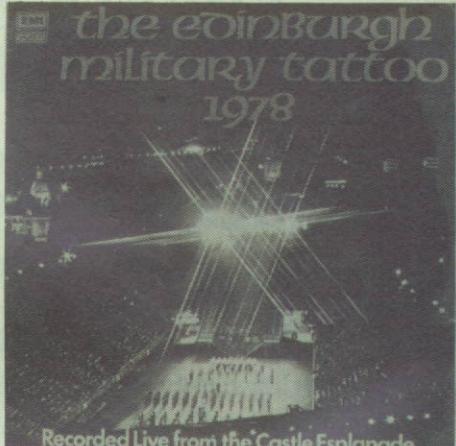
Music on 'A Concert of Military Music': Fanfare Handel's Water Piece, medley (Drum Introduction; Haydn's March; March in Rinaldo; Morelli's Lesson; Edinburgh Slow; Bottom of the Punchbowl), trooping (Three Taps, Three Cheers; Marquis of Granby; Marsch der Pappenheimer Reiter; Hey! Johnny Cope), dances (Ash Grove (fife solo); An Irish Jig (tin whistles and tabors); The Irish Nation; It's a Man; An Irish Reel), long march (Drummond Castle; Open Beating; A Quickstep; Open Beating; Here's to the Maiden; Open Beating; Dornoch Links), medley (Rocky Road to Dublin; Costla Bay; Yorkshire Bite; Quickstep, 25th Regiment; Andrew and his Cutty Gun), fanfare Rondeau of Mouret, long march (Duke of Perth's Reel; The Reel of Tulloch; New Rigged Ship; Open Beating; Bung Your Eye; A Man's a Man for A' That), trooping (Three Taps, Three Cheers; Cottillion, The Gesuit; Tenpenny Bit), medley (Colin's Cattle; Ah! Ca Ira; Jubilee March; Soldier's Wedding; Black Mary's Hornpipe), review (Mar-

shall Lowendahl's March; Drum Introduction; Del Caro's Fancy; Garb of Old Gaul; The Oddity; Drops of Brandy), dances (Washington's Reel; Rhu Vaternish; Drummond's Rant (fife solo); Drum Introduction; Corn Rigs; Lilliburlero), march Yankee Doodle.

'The Edinburgh Military Tattoo 1978' (Pipe bands of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards; 4th Royal Tank Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers; 1st Battalion, The Black Watch; 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Military bands of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards; 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry; 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry; 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets; 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers; 1st Battalion, The Black Watch; Women's Royal Army Corps. Bugles of The Light Division. Band, Pipes and Drums of the Royal Hong Kong Police. Lochiel Marching Team) (Director of Music: Captain J G McColl) (EMI Waverley SZLP 2155).

In my day the tattoo music was recorded static, without an audience other than a few urchins, but I see this one is done live. And of course it has the faults of both methods, chief of which is that you are never likely to get a complete tune in a live version. In any case there isn't much I can tell you about the music since the sleeve is printed before the programme is decided and sometimes is played without being mentioned on the sleeve.

What sounds suspiciously like a mounted cavalry band opens the record and is followed by the pipes and drums in a long trapeze up and down the esplanade. The WRAC Band accompanies the Lochiel Marching Team from New Zealand (girls



Recorded Live from the Castle Esplanade

by the wolf whistles), and the ever-popular Light Division bands and bugles create their usual reaction of startled disbelief. The Royal Hong Kong Police band and pipes and drums have a short spot and of course the massed military bands a much longer one.

The unlikely name Cedric Thorpe Davie appears against a work called 'Flodden Field' and I listened in vain for the one item of any interest to me. Tunes I definitely remember are 'Jellalabad,' 'Keel Row' and their regimental march from the Royal Green Jackets, the 'Coronation March' (or a bit of it) from 'Le Prophète,' 'Imperial Echoes,' 'Hail, Smiling Morn,' 'The Liltin,' 'Crimond,' an imaginative 'Retreat,' 'Sons of the Brave' and the usual exit tunes.

The lasses of Lochiel and their gyrations, the Chinese lions, the swing o' the kilt and the Light Division at the double must all, I'm afraid, be left to your imagination.

Music on this record from:- Fanfares Triple Salute and Coburg. Pipes and drums: Glasgow Week in Hamburg, 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar, Duncan McInnes, Leaving Eriskay, The Duke of Edinburgh, Weary We've Been, Come by the Hills, Leaving Stornoway, Green Hills of Tyrol, When the Battle is Over, Blue Bonnets o'er the Border, Loch Lomond, The Bluebells of Scotland. WRAC Staff Band: The Good Old Bad Old Days, Semper Fidelis, Burns on the March, Twin Eagle Strut, I Wanna Be Like You, Swing March, Lass of Richmond Hill. Band and bugles of the Light Division: Light Division Assembly, Light

Infantry, Geordie, Saint Cross, Jellalabad, Keel Row, Road to the Isles, Huntsmen's Chorus, Silver Bugles, Bugle Horn, Secunderabad, Post Horn and Echo. Band, pipes and drums of the Royal Hong Kong Police: Road to Sham Shui Po, 79th Farewell to Gibraltar, Earl of Mansfield, Brown Haired Maiden, The Chinese Drum Dance, Chinese March Selection, Wong Chuk Hang, Scotch on the Rocks, Lion Rock, The Happy Wanderer. Massed military bands: Coronation March, Imperial Echoes, Scottish Emblem, Namur, Flodden Field, Hail Smiling Morn, When You and I Were Young, O' a' the Airts, Jessie's Dream, Scouter of Selkirk, The Lilt, Crimond, Retreat, Donald of Laggan, Sons of the Brave, Garb of Old Gaul, Scotland the Brave, Will Ye No' Come Back Again, We're No Awa' tae Bide Awa', Blue Bonnets O'er the Border.

**'The Pride o' Them A'** — The Gordons in Chester (The Drums and Pipes and Military Band, 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders) (Bandmaster: Warrant Officer 1 T D K Batham) (Pipe-Major: Colour-Sergeant B MacRae) (Drum-Major: Colour-Sergeant B Huntington) (DR 4).

A worthy venture this, being almost entirely home-made. The drums and pipes and military band of course, and in addition the greater part of the programme either written or arranged by pipe-majors past and present and members of the band. The sleeve photo is by an officer of the regiment and I dare say the regimental sergeant-major was in there somewhere making sure the trombone slides moved together.

A nice domestic little project in fact, with all concerned doing their stuff to pleasant effect. Side one is 'Music from a Retreat' and begins with a march 'The Scottish Division' by Corporal A Kelly. 'The Drummers' Call' and retreat march 'Kilworth Hills' are followed by two Alford marches, 'Holyrood' and 'Dunedin,' two drums and pipes medleys, and a foray into grand opera with pipes and band playing Verdi's 'Va Pensiero.' 'Sunset' and the regimental march 'Cock o' the North' end the parade.

On side two the military band plays the theme from 'Lawrence of Arabia' and Frank Erikson's well-known 'Toccata for Band,' interspersed with more drumming and piping.

The Gordons have things in true perspective regarding drums and pipes, military bands, and their relative importance, and I particularly liked the throw-away ending to the record. Not for them the grandiose finale by the band, nor yet the pipes and band, but the drums and pipes alone in all their regimental glory and, with a nice touch of contumely, even refusing to finish on the tonic chord. Take that, you Sassenachs.

Obtainable at £2.90 from PR Cell, 1 Gordons,

Saughton Camp, Chester, CH3 6EB. RB

The drums and pipes play: The Sheiling, Muir of Ord, Kitchener's Army, The Standard on the Braes of Mar, Dancing Feet, 92nd Quickstep, Hills of Alva, Galloway Hills, Old Toastie, Marion and Donald, Glen Orchy, Children of Larbert, Banks of the Lossie, The Black Isle, The Conundrum, Canongate and Willie Cumming's Rant.



**'The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) in Concert Mood'** (The Pipes and Drums and Regimental Band of The Royal Scots) (Bandmaster: C J Reeves) (Pipe-Major: P W Morecroft) (Drum-Major: A J Keane) (EMI NOTE NTS 162).

Yet more Scottish wha' ha'e, this time recorded in Germany and rather more commercial in intent, Not for The Royal Regiment the snook-cocking farewell offered by the Gordons, but an all-hands-on-deck performance of Paul McCartney's

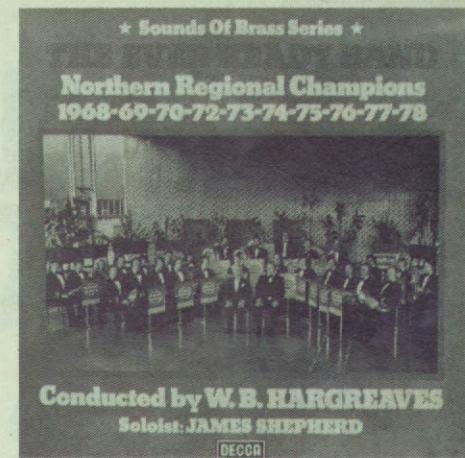


latter-day folk song 'Mull of Kintyre.' The sleeve notes warn me that their motto loosely translates as 'No-one offends me and gets away with it,' so stand by for hymns of praise.

In the end I suppose loyalties will govern your choice from these two very similar records, but like the character in The Beggar's Opera 'how happy I'd be with either.' Or both, for in spite of about 30 tunes on each, only two, Alford's 'Holyrood' and 'Galloway Hills,' are duplicated.

'Don't Cry for Me Argentina' is left to the military band but the pipes join in for a tune called 'Arrival,' the pop folk song 'Portsmouth,' and Ark Royal's 'Sailing,' which I thought too expressionless for such a wistful song. The band alone plays the march 'Moray Firth' and the lovely 'Hebridean Lament' by Malcolm Arnold. RB

The pipes and drums play the Edinburgh Polkas, Galloway Hills, Buckled Fingers, Maggie Duncan, Jock MacNichol's Fancy, My Land, The Irish Washerwoman, Drum Salute, The Drunken Piper, The Shepherd's Crook, Alick C MacGregor, Mrs Valerie Thomson's Fancy, The Woods of Stirkoke, The Pony Gallop, Flett from Flotta, Wings, Mingulay Boat Song, Paddy McGinty's Goat, Donald Willie and his Dog, Flower of Scotland and Nameless.



**'Sounds of Brass: The Ever Ready Band'** (Conducted by W B Hargreaves) (Soloist: James Shepherd) (Decca SB 334) (Cassette: KBSC 334). Old-style brass band programme with a selection from 'Cavalleria Rusticana,' finale and themes from Tchaikovsky's 5th Symphony, 'March of the Bowmen' (Curzon), Handel's 'Largo,' 'Thunder and Lightning Polka,' 'Neapolitan Suite' (Bartók), 'Russian Dance' and 'Concerto for Two Trumpets' (Vivaldi). This band has topped the Northern Regional championships since 1972. RB

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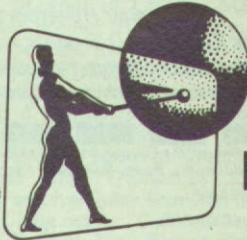
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# end of the line

THE HISTORIC railway train once used by the commanders-in-chief of Rhine Army has been saved from the scrapyard by a Belgian enthusiast who has bought it to add to his collection in Zeebrugge.

The train completed its last official journey on 30 April 1976 and has since been stabled at Moenchengladbach in the care of 79 Railway Squadron, the Royal Corps of Transport's only Regular railway unit.

Rumours abound concerning the history of the train. It has been said it was the President of Lithuania's personal train and then Hitler's command train. But hard facts point to a somewhat less exotic — if nonetheless interesting — history.

The train consists of one powered car and a trailer car with driving positions at each end. The power car was built in 1939 by WaggonFabriken Dessau for the German railways and powered by a 260-horsepower MAN Nurnburg diesel engine. This type of car was introduced between 1936 and 1940 by the German railways in order to speed up journey times and improve comfort on secondary lines. They were most successful.

But events overtook the German railways modernisation programme during World

War Two and the actual history of the car is somewhat obscure, largely because of the extensive renumbering and lack of records during the war years.

The car was requisitioned by the Wehrmacht and used as a mobile command post and later as part of an evacuation train. It would seem to have been laid up during the last year of the war due to fuel shortages brought about by the ever-tightening grip of the advancing allied forces. After the war it was placed — along with several other similar cars — at the disposal of the Allied High Commission.

The trailer car was built about 1937 for the Lithuanian railway and requisitioned during the war. There are no facts about its actual use although, again, rumours abound. The two cars did not come together until 1953 when they were both extensively rebuilt by Maschinenfabrik Kiel (MAK). They then entered British Army service and were first used as the C-in-C's train in that year, and continued in this role for the next 23 years.

The train was administered by 79 Railway Squadron but actually housed in the Deutsche Bundesbahn Betriebswerk in

Rheydt, a suburb of Moenchengladbach. The DB provided a driver when required and it was but a short run from Rheydt to Rheindahlen station where the train was frequently seen awaiting the arrival of the C-in-C. During its service it was used by nine commanders-in-chief, the last being General Sir Frank King. The train travelled extensively over Germany and provided an excellent mobile headquarters for the commander.

It was equipped with a radio telephone link and once it had taken up a position it was then connected up to the civilian and military networks. Comfortable accommodation for the commander was built into the train including a conference room, bathroom, kitchen and dining room. Staff officers had compartments, and other personnel, bunks.

The train was the last of its kind in service and it was hoped that it would interest a collector rather than being sold for scrap. Hopes were dwindling after a period of two years awaiting a buyer and more than once it was supposed to have been sold, but the deals fell through.

Then in November last year, Monsieur de Lille, director of a firm near Zeebrugge, heard that the train was available. He is a keen railway preservationist and owns more than 20 locomotives which he keeps in his works yard.

He has now bought the command train and intends to restore it to its former glory, complete with its RCT badge and 79 Railway Squadron shield.

At present M de Lille's collection is private, but he hopes in future to be able to open it to the public. So this valuable piece of RCT history will not just disappear, as was once feared, but will be on view for all to see.

*Story by Captain J H S Tait.*

**Top:** Flashback to 1955 — National Serviceman L/Cpl J B Vigden, RE, affixes four-star plate.

**Left:** Maj C M Streatfield, who commands 79 Squadron, with M de Lille and his new buy.

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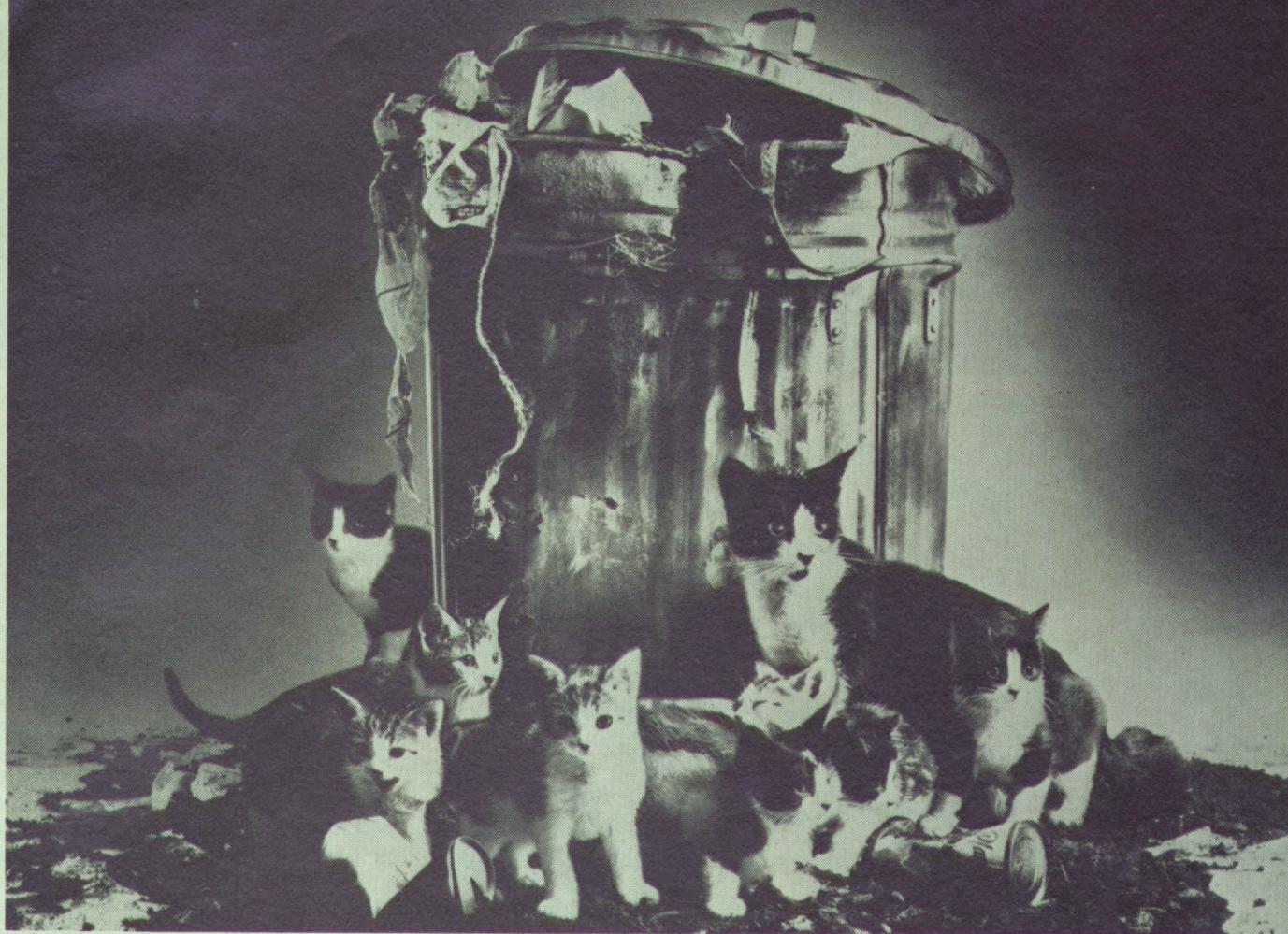
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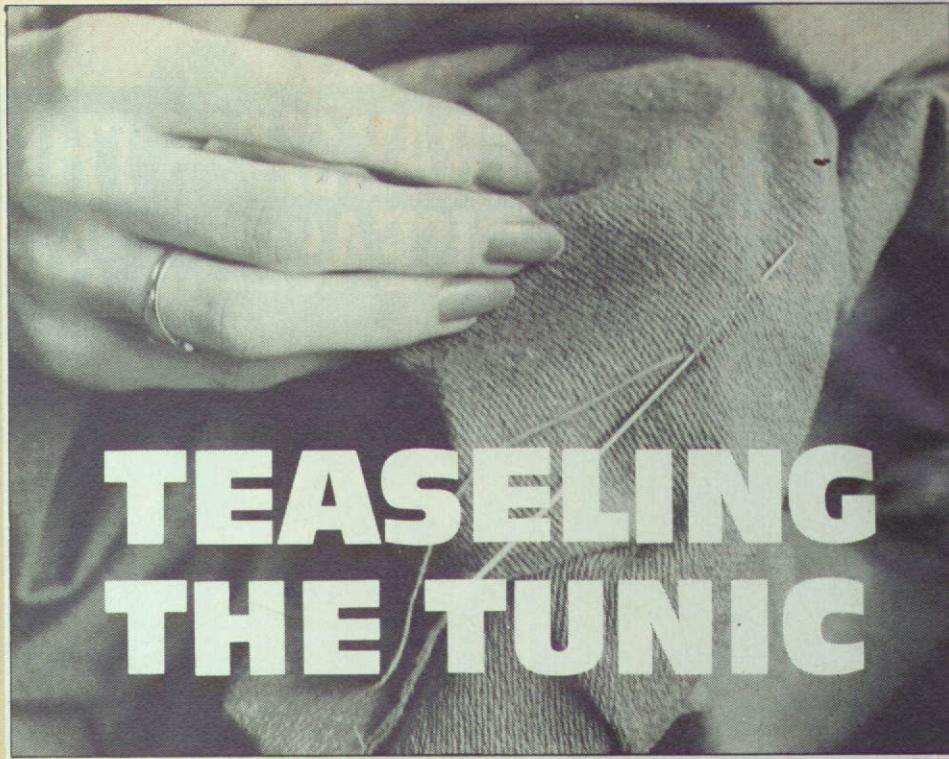
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## TEASELING THE TUNIC



IN AN AGE of technology, an embankment weed, the humble teasel, is responsible for the perfection of the scarlet tunics worn by the Queen and her guardsmen at the Trooping the Colour.

As supplier of scarlet refine to the Royal Household, the West Country firm of Strachan & Co Ltd, in Stroud, is well qualified to expound the virtues of the humble teasel. "If you want to produce a perfect finish, then teasels are essential," says the firm's production director, Mr John Giles. "It is not only a question of raising the surface fibre — you are polishing at the same time."

The superiority of the cultivated teasel lies in the hundreds of tiny downward-pointing hooks on the flower head. Light contact with these hooks is all that is needed to give a piece of cloth that burnished look.

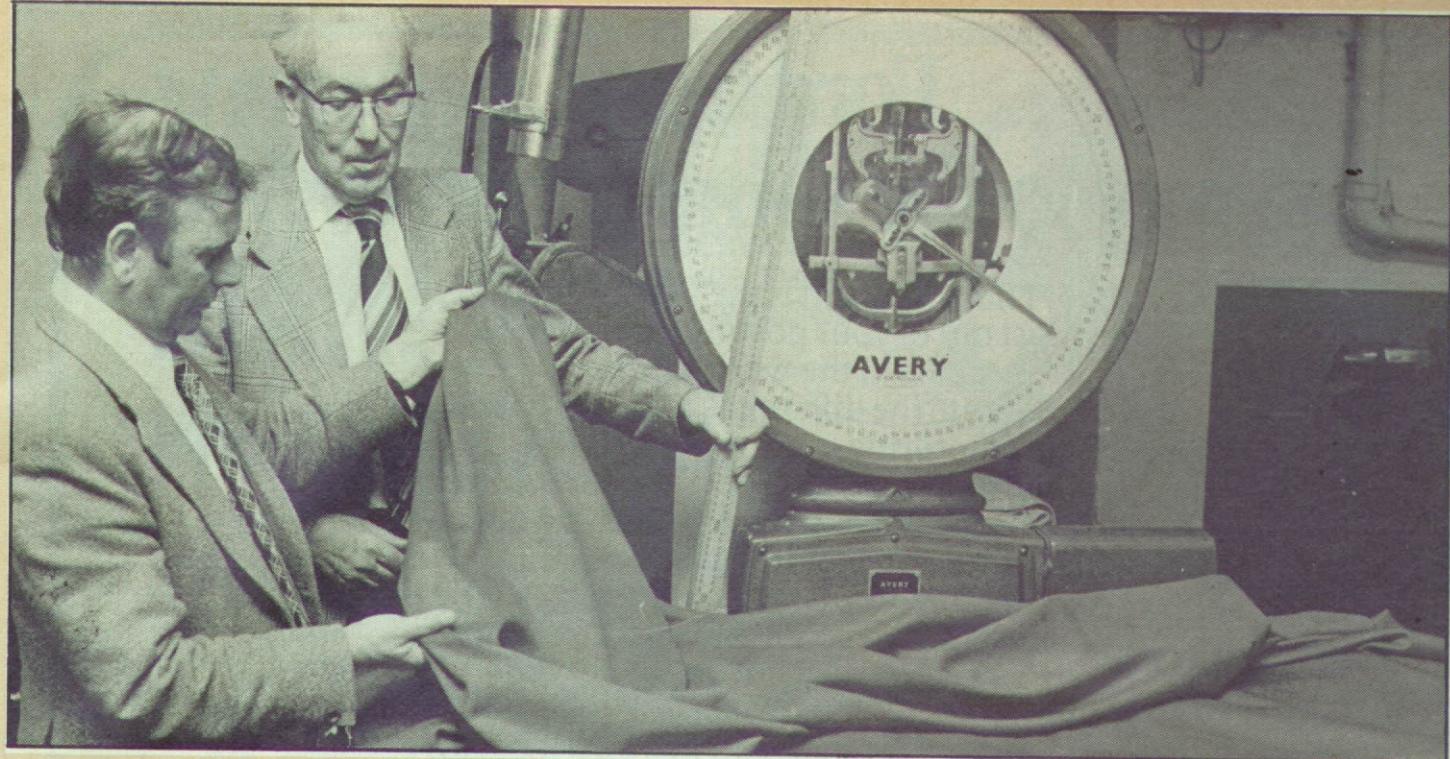
To feel a teased cloth is an education. Stroke it one way and your hand glides across the surface. Brush against the pile and it immediately becomes as bristly as a dog's coat. Certainly there is no need to be sorry for those guardsmen standing out in the rain — they are probably better protected than their audience.

The type of scarlet cloth produced at Strachan's is a descendant of the broadcloth that coachmen wore. Made from very fine wool and manufactured into a dense felt, it has a natural resistance to water. The top shoulder-capes, always associated with the stage-coach era, were fashioned with the pile teased downwards. Raindrops would automatically slide from the polished surface and drip on to the floor. So it is today with the guardsman's uniform.

Mr Henry Baker is the virtuoso teasel-setter in Stroud. Wearing industrial gloves for protection, he cuts the teasels from their

Top pictures: After being woven the cloth is mended by hand before processing and dying.

Left: 'I've got a lovely bunch of teasels.' Mr Henry Baker, who prepares teasels for work.



long stems, then fits them by hand into a teasel rod, which is in turn strapped on to a rotating drum.

If six hours' contact with a teasel head sounds like rough treatment for a high-quality product (the scarlet costs more than £12 a metre), then it is positive luxury for the pure merino wool involved. From the moment the sacks of white wool arrive from South Africa or Australia, they are destined for a much tougher life than was ever experienced on the back of a sheep.

After the cloth has been woven and passed through the mending shop, it is scoured, pickled, neutralised, dried, milled, soap-scoured, dressed, potted, dyed, cut, steam-brushed, rotary pressed, then presented for final inspection. These various stages even include a bath in sulphuric acid, followed by baking, to remove any bits of vegetable matter.

The teasels appear during the 'dressing' process. After a spell of being brushed and trimmed by a modern machine which incorporates imitation wire teasel-brushes, the rolls of wet, white cloth are then mounted on revolving teasel gigs for treatment with the 'real' thing. Mr Roy King, the finishing manager, says: "We try to do all the things you want to avoid in a domestic washer."

He is also convinced that natural teasels cannot be compared with any substitute. "A lot of modern machines do a good job, but you still need to put it on to the teasel gig for that extra-finish. It might be particular to our mill, but we have researched it and it gives us the results we want." Strachan's have five teasel machines working full time. "You have a job to get them now," says Mr King. "We would probably have to pay more than £3000 for a new one."

To ensure every centimetre of cloth meets

the highest specification, there are three official inspectors. Mr Harold Fryer, the firm's chemist, is the chief inspector. "We must do tests on the strength of the cloth — on the weft and on the warp. If for any reason the quality does not pass these tests, then the cloth is likely to end up as piano felts." Uniforms are stored at Didcot; Mr Fryer is summoned there if there is a complaint.

One problem with scarlet used to be that of colourfastness. In the past there were instances of a white horse being stained red because of the 'bleeding' of the rider's uniform. "But we do not think that this

would happen nowadays," says Mr Fryer.

The splendour of the Guards uniform, and any other ceremonial use of scarlet refine, represents an enormous time investment. One roll of cloth, up to 70 yards in length, takes up four full days in the manufacturing process. Out of this roll it is possible to get up to 25 uniforms. To kit out 3000 guardsmen involves nearly 18 months' work for this labour-intensive industry.

But in the age of the silicon chip, Strachan's make no apologies for sticking to traditional methods. As far as they are concerned, only the best is good enough for the boys in red.



Above: The scarlet cloth is ready for despatch and Mr Roy King and Mr Harold Fryer check it.

Right: Sacks of pure white merino wool destined to be made into scarlet refine for uniforms.

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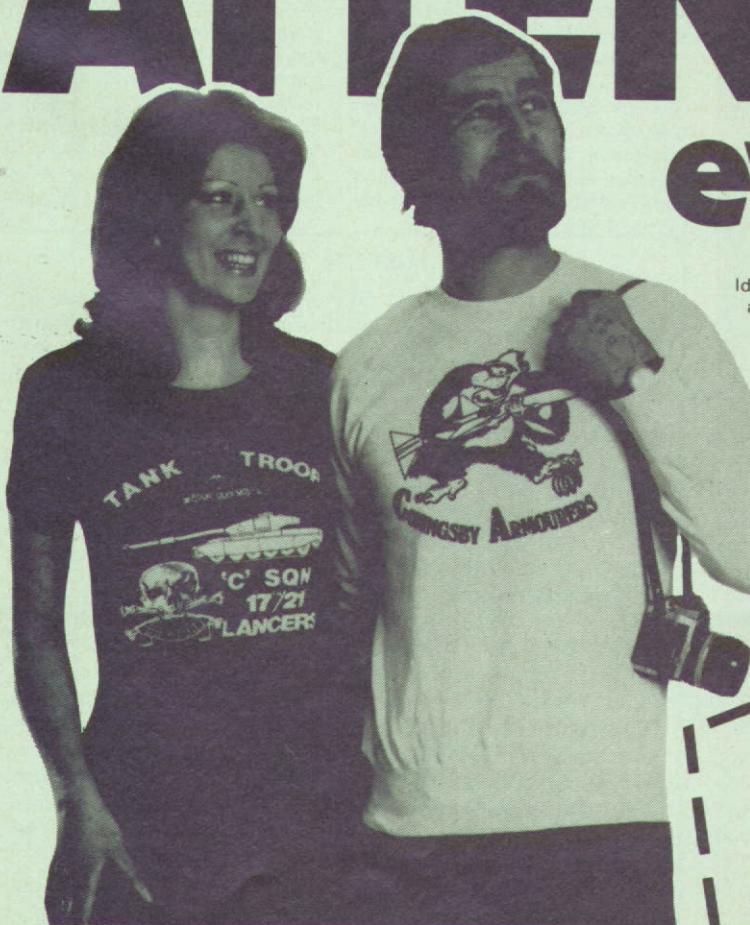
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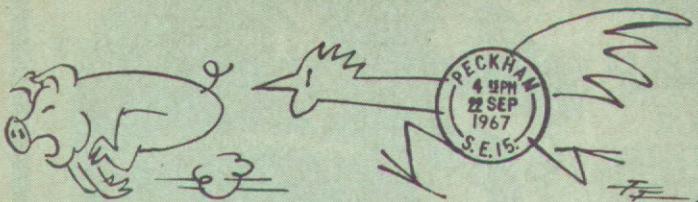
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(CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE)

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# LETTERS



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## War films

It would give very great pleasure to many old soldiers if some of the hundreds of films taken during operations were marketed in the popular Super 8mm size. I know that these films do exist, but who owns them, where they are hidden away and for what reason, I do not know.

If these were made available, old soldiers all over the country — in their British Legion halls, at reunions or in the comfort of their own homes — could see again the history they helped to make.

I once stood with two Army photographers on Alam el Halfa ridge watching 23rd Armoured Brigade advance up the valley between Alam el Halfa and Ruiseisat to meet the German Panthers. They covered the whole floor of the valley and their dust trails and flying battle pennants made a sight I shall never forget. Nor shall I forget the seven Stukas, from a gaggle of 21, that fell in flames among them, brought down by the guns of 5th Indian Division — plus unfortunately one Canadian Kitty Hawk (we rescued the pilot).

The whole action was filmed by those two official photographers and seen by thousands of men on Alam el Halfa ridge who no doubt would really enjoy re-living those moments. Again, how many hundreds of thousands of men who were serving all or the world have ever seen the film of the wonderful victory parade held in London just after the war? So very few, yet they made it possible. They were the stars of the show, the ordinary chaps who crewed the tanks, manned the guns or foot-slogged their way 'up the blue.'

They're getting older now, so let's have a look at some of these films. Let's laugh a bit, even cry a bit — but let's have another look before it's too late. — Ex-Eighth Army.

## Miniatures

In February's SOLDIER to Soldier you invited comment on the wearing of miniature medals with lounge suits. While you are perfectly correct in saying that there are no dress rules for ex-servicemen, I would suggest that the rules laid down for the Army should be taken as the basis for guidance on what might be termed the proper form of dress for those no longer serving.

Perhaps surprisingly, these rules cover the precise circumstances outlined in SOLDIER to Soldier. I quote from paragraph 81, chapter 3, of 'Dress Regulations for Officers of the Army 1969,' amended to November 1971, which I believe to be current in this respect today:



'At ex-Service or old comrades etc functions by day, when those attending are asked to wear medals, it would be appropriate to wear full-size medals but not stars or neck decorations. At similar functions in the evening it would be appropriate to wear miniatures with dinner jackets and either miniatures or full-size medals in other forms of plain clothes, but no stars or neck decorations in either case.'

I have seen many photographs of senior persons wearing miniatures with lounge suits — one before me now shows King Edward VIII at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance in 1936, wearing this form of dress in common with two of the three senior officers flanking him. The third is wearing full-size medals. It is of course attractive for those with classes 1, 2 or 3 of orders to wear miniatures since wearing full-size medals without neck decorations or stars deprives them of the opportunity to display their most senior awards, whereas in miniature all are worn from the same bar. — Maj A R Tinson, 6 Larchfield Road, Fleet, Hampshire, GU13 9LW.

## 'Unfair' awards

Mr H Hollier (Letters, January) infers that the awards for home service during World War Two were insufficient with the 1939-45 War Medal and/or the Defence Medal which, he says, could 'be awarded to anyone who had just joined.'

Qualifying service for the Defence Medal was three years. Thousands of British soldiers who failed to return from Dunkirk were not entitled to the Defence Medal which is highly esteemed by both Service and civilian recipients.

Home service in World War Two was better rewarded than in World War One when no medals were granted for service in the United Kingdom

## NATO's 30th

The British Forces Post Office at Nato Headquarters in Brussels is issuing a commemorative envelope on 4 April 1979 to mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on 4 April 1949 in Washington.

The envelope will bear the new British 10½ pence daffodil stamp (British Spring flowers special issue on 21 March 1979) which will be cancelled by a special circular pictorial one-day-only (4 April 1979) handstamp, 'British Forces Postal Service 4449,' at BFPO 49 (HQ Nato). The envelope incorporates the flags of the 15 Nato nations surrounding the Nato star, which is in the form of a protective shield over land and sea.

The complete commemorative envelope can be obtained from Philatelic Officer, BFPO 49, or Philatelic Officer, British Forces Post Office, HQ Nato, Evere, Brussels, at 45 (UK) pence, or Belgian francs 30, Dutch guilders 2, Deutschmarks 2, US 90 cents, plus return postage. The commemorative envelope with all four stamps of the British Spring flowers special issue costs 80 pence (or equivalent) and the commemorative envelope without postage stamps or date stamps costs 20 pence (or equivalent).

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except for the Royal Navy, Royal Army Medical Corps personnel who handled war wounded and some anti-aircraft gunners who engaged enemy aircraft. They received the 1914-18 war medal but were not entitled to the Victory Medal (1914-1919). — R L Barlee, 27 St George's, Chester.

Mr Hollier says that you could not be considered for the General Service Medal (India) unless you served on the North-West Frontier. I was on the frontier with 1st Battalion, The Loyal Regiment, from January 1931 to January 1932. Our stay was peaceful — there had to be a campaign or military operations to qualify for the medal.

He also says you were not eligible for the 1939-45 Star unless you served abroad — again this medal was awarded for military operations. For service in the UK, the War and Defence medals were awarded. — Sgt J O'Reilly, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3.

## Tank-killer

I am carrying out research preparatory to writing a biography of Michael Wittmann and would be interested to hear from any readers who feel they may have relevant information.

Wittmann, born in 1914, joined the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler in 1937 and saw action in Poland, France and Greece, where he won the Iron Cross 2nd Class, before going to the Russian front. Having earned the Iron Cross 1st Class during the advance on Rostov, he was commissioned at the end of 1942 and won fame at Kursk by destroying 30 tanks, two artillery batteries and 28 anti-tank guns — his final tally of 138 tanks and 132 anti-tank guns made him the most successful tank commander of the war. He was also awarded the Knight's Cross with oak-leaves and swords.

He also fought in Normandy as a company commander of 501 Heavy Panzer Battalion, taking part in the fighting round Caen. On 13 June 1944, on Height 213, he virtually destroyed 22nd Brigade of 7th Armoured Division. He was killed in action south of Caen on 8 August 1944. — Elisabeth M Brodie, 215 Kingsacre Road, King's Park, Glasgow.

## Band call

May I appeal on behalf of the band of 2397 (Devizes) Squadron, Air Training Corps, for equipment which may be surplus to requirement in any unit of the Services. We have just formed a corps of drums. We have a complete kit of drums but alas no equipment to go with it. We need drum strings and belts, protective skins for bass and tenor drums, leopard or otherwise, knee pads, spare drumsticks, a mace for our drum-major and instruments for our brass section, yet to be formed.

We are attached to a TAVR drill hall, to which any items of equipment can be sent. — WO I G Campbell, OIC 2397 ATC Band, TA Centre, Church Walk, Devizes, Wiltshire.

## Let's hear!

I wonder if any readers can help me to trace former comrades (war period only) of 32 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. I have tried without success the Royal British Legion, Dunkirk Veterans Association and Eighth Army Veterans Association. — Bert Gentry (ex-sgt, 107/32 Fd Regt, BEF and Eighth Army), 187 Chart Downs, Dorking, Surrey.

## Back-and-sides

Permit me to say how much I am in agreement with Mr E Henderson's letter (February) on Army haircuts. Both my sons are now in junior service. Some short while ago the elder was home on leave looking very smart with a 'Kojak.' Imagine my amazement when he informed me that he and another lad had received a stern rebuke from their company commander who, in fact, ordered them to grow their hair or be disciplined — the precise opposite of my Army days when one was put on a charge if hair was too long.

I stand open to correction when I say that a proper haircut should be actively encouraged in all schools, universities and more especially when wearing uniform, be it that of the Army, police or fire service. — Herbert Boothroyd, 182 Psalter Lane, Sheffield 11, South Yorkshire.

After reading (Letters, February) yet more views on haircuts, it would seem that the Army generation of 30 or 50 years ago is never to move with the times or trends of today's soldiering.

If today's soldiers, like Mr Smellie, were serving in the Western Desert, they too would have their hair short(er) for obvious reasons. If Mr Henderson considers crew cut, skin-head crop and Kojak as 'smart haircuts,' I'm glad he's not my barber. No, gentlemen, I'm sure you're wrong. I doubt that 'a little bit of hair' lowers the look of today's soldier in the public eye. So let's once and for all try to get off the long-drawn-out subject of hair. After all, we can't always find sufficient time to get a haircut, what with Northern Ireland, driving petrol tankers, put-

ting out fires, collecting rubbish... I'm beginning to fall asleep! — Sgt V Hunt, 1 QLR, BFPO 53.

In response to my original letter on Army haircuts (August), I would very much like to thank all those who have written to me on the subject. I would say the replies are equally divided, the majority of ex-Regulants and National Servicemen being in favour of very short hair and the younger men, including many serving soldiers, 100 per cent in favour of the more liberal haircut.

The replies have been most stimulating. Once again many thanks for the many letters both for and against — the replies have been too numerous to answer personally. — P E Barber, 29C Fieldway Court, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L41 4IQ.

\*Agreed — this correspondence, like its theme, has grown and grown. Subject now closed!

## Memorial

A party of six loan service personnel from the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment visited on 10 February the site of a memorial at Long Merarap in the 5th Division of Sarawak. The plaque bears the following inscription:

'In memoriam  
M H Day Esq'

The Office of the Commissioner-General South East Asia

D Reddish Esq  
The Borneo Company

Maj H A I Thompson MC SAS

Maj R H D Norman MBE MC SAS

Capt J F Conington RF

Flt Lt A P J Dodson RAF

Flt Lt D R W Viner RAF

Cpl P Murphy SAS

Cpl Tech J L Williams RAF

Killed whilst on active service,

in a Belvedere helicopter

which crashed in the Trusan valley

on 4 May 1963.'



The opening by the Prince of Wales of the new headquarters of British Forces in Hong Kong (see pages 22-23) has been marked by the issue of a commemorative cover. The design, pictured, incorporates a drawing of the new building and the joint Services flag. The cover's nine pence stamp will be cancelled by a special British Forces Postal Service handstamp. Each cover will contain a card insert detailing the history of the British Army in its previous location at Victoria Barracks, the reasons for the move to the new building at HMS Tamar, and a brief description of the new building's facilities.

In addition to the ordinary cover, at 50 pence or HK\$4, there are limited issues, of 100 signed by the Commander British Forces Hong Kong (Major-General Sir Roy Redgrave), at £2 (HK\$16), and of 100 each signed by the Hong Kong Service commanders of the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, at £1 (HK\$8).

Orders for all covers, with UK/Hong Kong cheques or British postal orders, should be sent to Philatelic Officer, HQBF, BFPO 1.

## NEW ZEALAND SIGNALS

Military covers commemorating corps day, on 24 March 1979, of the Royal New Zealand Signals, are available at NZ\$8.00 for a full set and NZ\$2.50 or NZ\$1.50 for individual covers. Orders, with remittance, should be sent to RNZ Signals Directorate, Army General Staff, Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand.

The memorial was found to be in a clean and tidy condition. It lies approximately five minutes' walk due south of the existing longhouse on the east side of the River Trusan and track.

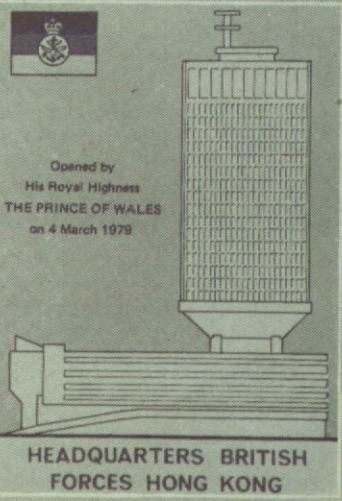
Members of the visiting party, in addition to myself, were RSM M Brown RGJ, ATO S Emerson RAOC, SQMS M Hayes RE, MALM R Fletcher RAF and S/Sgt H Callow RADC. — ASM H V Fuller, Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, Berakas Camp, Brunei, BFPO 605.

## Overlord

I have recently come into possession of a book on Operation Overlord (the 1944 invasion of Normandy) and the Overlord Tapestry. The appendix shows all units that took part in the initial assault and as such I suppose these regiments are described in the tapestry. I do think the units of 56th Independent Infantry Brigade — 2nd Battalion, The South Wales Borderers, 2nd Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and 2nd Battalion, The Essex Regiment, should be mentioned.

Under command of 50th Division, the brigade landed at about 1000 on D-Day and at the end of the day, as

## HONG KONG HQ



the most forward British troops, reached the outskirts of Bayeux, which was entered the next day. The brigade also fought with 7th Armoured Division and 59th Division before being absorbed into 49th Division, with which it finished the war.

It would be nice to get the record put right — it was no joy-ride from Lymington to Gold Beach in those flat-bottomed assault boats and circling from early morning outside Arromanches before being called in.

— **F E Wright, 12 Howard Close, Chelston, Torquay, TQ2 6DR.**

## Collectors' Corner

This column is open to bona-fide collectors, not dealers. Announcements are made free of charge as a service to readers. Subsequent correspondence must be conducted direct between readers and not through **SOLDIER**.

**B J Christopher, 14 Chapel Street, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 2BS.** — *Seeks two copies out-of-print 'The Wings of Pegasus,' Glider Pilot Regt history by Brig Chatterton. Fair price paid.*

**W Lambert, 4 Moggswell Lane, Orton Longueville, Peterborough, PE2 0DS.** — *Collector of British cav badges and buttons requires embroidered cap, arm, collar badges, particularly obsolete types, for cash or exchange.*

**Pipe-Maj E Parkinson, 60 Ramsey Street, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.** — *Forming band, seeks kilts, doublons and all items Highland dress. Please send price and details.*

**E H Thomas, 20 Dollis Hill Lane, London NW2.** — *Wanted: Complete set of 'Instructions for Armourers 1931' with amendments to 1945; also storage box for Boyes rifle magazines (8).*

**D F Harris, Little Dursley, 94 Foley Road, Claygate, Surrey.** — *Seeks all Bakelite WW2 cap badges, early copies 'Pegasus Journal,' any airborne items. Exchange or purchase.*

**Pr T Hurst, C Sqn, QOY, 14 Eaton Road, Handbridge, Chester.** — *Seeks Army officer's greatcoat, good condition, size 38 chest, height 5ft 8in.*

**Pierre E A Hall, 1030 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 2QT.** — *Seeks military stamped postal letters and postcards, also military photographs up to 1912. Will buy or exchange for world mint postal stamps.*

**Walt Barrington, 25 Gardner Street, Pendleton, Salford 6, Lancashire.** — *Will exchange Liverpool Pals h/m silver cap badge for 2nd VB Loyal North Lancs South Africa scroll KC w/m cap badge. Seeks Volunteer items Loyal North Lancs.*

**Arthur Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Densbury, West Yorkshire.** — *For sale: Spanish steel helmet, made for Spanish Civil War by Nazis and similar WW2 German helmet, £15; Israeli camouflage combat jacket (as used in Six Day War), £10; Scottish Army kilt, Black Watch tartan, very heavy, fit waist 30in, £20.*

**Oliver Simmons, 5 Jeffreys Street, London NW1.** — *Offers over £11 considered for Indian GSM with bar North West Frontier 1936-37 to Swpr Iman Din, 1 Norfolk.*

**Maj B A Pond, 19 Stanton Avenue, Spinney Hill, Northampton.** — *Seeks OR collar badges QORWK, cap badge and collar badges The Buffs, cap badge*

*(and if possible collar badges) RF.*  
**A F Austen, Tantallon, Langford Budville, Wellington, Somerset.** — *For sale: Two Sam Browne belts, less sword frogs, good condition, £12 each; Commando escape pack in Perspex case, £3; nine Scottish military prints (Hugh Evelyn), unframed (list on request), £5.*

**G M Cocking, 5 Woodedge Avenue, Dalton, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, HD5 9UX.** — *For exchange: Genuine Nazi Totenkopf, Panzer Div, assault badge for genuine khaki British Army berets.*

**C G Andrews, 16 Blossom Waye, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW5 9HD.** — *Collecting, for Military Historical Society, photographs of regimental war memorials of any campaign. Willing to pay for them.*

**F LeRoes, 6 Heliograf Street, Gen De Wet, Bloemfontein 9301, Republic of South Africa.** — *Collector of airborne badges and equipment seeks British para steel helmet. State price.*

**Sgt C Hutchinson, D Sqn, 14/20 King's Hussars, BFPO 30.** — *Will pay fair prices for British and Commonwealth cap badges.*

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

### APRIL 1979

- 22 Pageant of the Horse, Doncaster (Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team) **(NB not 22 May as shown in March 'Diary').**
- 28 Burma Reunion, Royal Albert Hall, London.
- 29 Burma Star Association Cenotaph parade, London.

### MAY 1979

- 4 Queen Mother presents new Guidon to 9th/12th Royal Lancers, Tidworth.
- 5 Stoke-on-Trent Festival (Light Infantry 'Flying Bugles' freefall team **5 and 7 May**).
- 5 Burleigh Show (5-7 May).
- 10 Queen presents new Colours to 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Lancashire Regiment, Preston.
- 12 Machine Gun Corps OCA observance, Hyde Park Corner, London.
- 16 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 16 West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (16-17 May).
- 19 Scout Show, Harlington (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team).
- 19 Harpenden (Hertfordshire) Carnival (band).
- 19 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo (Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, physical training team; two bands).
- 19 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (19-20 May) (Red Devils; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training team; two bands).
- 19 Brighton Festival Tattoo.
- 19 **Ten Tors march (19-20 May).**
- 20 Imperial War Museum Display, Duxford (19-20 May) (Red Caps; RA motorcyclists).
- 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 Stafford Show (23-24 May) (RA motorcyclists).
- 25 At Home, Royal Artillery, Woolwich (25-26 May) (RA motorcyclists).
- 25 **1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, lays up Colours, Derby Cathedral.**
- 26 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (26-28 May).

26 Hertfordshire Agricultural Show, Redbourn (26-27 May) (RA motorcyclists).

26 Blackburn Army Tattoo (26-28 May).

26 Cannon Hill Festival, Birmingham (26 May-2 June) (RA motorcyclists 29 May-1 June).

26 Dudley Spring Festival (**Flying Bugles**).

26 Mexborough (Yorkshire) Gala (**Flying Bugles**).

26 Military Pageant, Winthorpe Showground, Newark (26-27 May).

26 **2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, lays up Colours, Leicester Cathedral.**

27 Dodington Show (27-28 May) (Red Caps).

27 Hertfordshire Show, St Albans (RA motorcyclists).

28 Derby County Show (band).

28 Hove Lions Day.

28 Surrey County Show, Guildford.

28 Open Day, Army Apprentices College, Chepstow (**Red Devils**; mock battle; gymnastic display; static display; bands).

28 Shrewsbury Lions Club (**Flying Bugles**).

28 Barnet Carnival (RA motorcyclists).

28 Open Day, Wythenshawe Park, Manchester (**Flying Bugles**).

30 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.

30 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (30-31 May) (static displays).

31 Review of the Scots Guards, Horse Guards Parade, London.

31 Wolverhampton Fiesta (31 May-3 June) (**Flying Bugles**).

### JUNE 1979

- 2 Impel '79 Doncaster (2-9 June).
- 2 St Neots (Cambridgeshire) Riverside Festival (2-3 June) (**Red Devils**; band).
- 2 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 2 Chester Army Tattoo (2-3 June).
- 3 Ssfa Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.
- 5 Beating Retreat by massed bands of The Household Division, Horse Guards Parade, London (5-7 June) (6pm 5 June, 9.30pm (floodlit) 6 and 7 June).
- 6 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 8 Installation of Governor, Edinburgh Castle.
- 8 Livingston Army Display (8-9 June).
- 9 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 9 Halifax Gala.
- 9 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (9-10 June) (junior band).
- 9 Solihull Carnival (**Flying Bugles**).
- 9 Nuneaton Carnival Gala (RA motorcyclists).
- 9 Horley Carnival (Red Caps).
- 10 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse.
- 10 Glasgow Army Display (10-15 June).
- 10 **Open Day, Heaton Park, Manchester (**Flying Bugles**).**
- 10 Bromley Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 12 The Light Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (12-14 June).
- 12 Three Counties Show, Malvern (12-14 June) (Red Caps).
- 13 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 15 Essex Show, Chelmsford (15-16 June) (static displays).
- 16 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 16 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen.
- 16 Coventry Carnival (**Flying Bugles**).
- 16 AC Delco Sports and Social Club, Southampton (RA motorcyclists).
- 16 Fareham Show (Red Caps).
- 17 Ford Sports and Social Club, Romford (RA motorcyclists).
- 20 Kneller Hall band concert.

Mark Morgan, 296 Kenton Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 8RJ. — *Has any other medal collector any WW1 medals of G2104 Pte A Gowers MM, 2nd Bn, Middlesex, and D/902 Pte P S Morgan, 1 KDG? Willing to purchase, as of sentimental value.*

R Shields, 5 O'Connell Street, West End 4101, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. — *Interested in anything related to corps of artillery eg metal badges, buttons, also cloth formation signs and insignia WW2. Will buy or exchange current Australian cap badges.*

Carl Walter, PO Box 2824, 83 Landshut, West Germany. — *Seeks South African and Rhodesian cap badges and shoulder flashes, also para wings and élite unit flashes worldwide, especially South America. Has German badges in exchange or will pay reasonable prices.*

## Reunions

**The Queen's Own Hussars.** Reunion dinner, Sat 5 May, The Empire Rooms, 161 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 9JL. Dress optional.

Tickets £4.00 from Maj J S Sutherland (Retd), Home Headquarters, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EW.

**Kohima Reunion.** All old comrades of 2nd Division Signal Regiment who served with the regiment at Kohima are invited to join us for our celebrations at Bunde this year. We will send over a bus to collect you; all you need is a valid passport. If you can come, please contact Commanding Officer, 2 Armd Div HQ and Sig Regt, BFFPO 46.

**The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment Association.** Reunion, Sat 12 May, St George's Hall, Exeter, Devon. Doors open 7pm. Tickets in advance, £1.00 each, from RHQ D & D, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, EX2 6AE.

**Royal Military Police Association.** Reunion dinner, Sat 5 May, RMP Training Centre, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester. Tickets £6.00 (including dance after dinner) from Secretary, RHQ/RMP, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex. Wives (and husbands of lady members) welcome. Limited single male accommodation available in barracks on written request to RHQ/RMP.

**The Duke of Wellington's Regiment Association (London Branch).** Annual reunion and dinner, Sat 12 May, Victory Club, Marble Arch, London, 7.30 for 8pm. Tickets and details from Ken Waterman, 21 Vivian Court, 128-134 Maida Vale, London W9.

## Competition

Some of you gave up after finding between ten and 20 differences in December's bumper 'How Observant Are You?' Competition 245 (Baronial Hall). Most competitors settled for 20 differences but others plodded on to come up with the correct figure of 21 or even those and a few rather fictitious ones!

### Prizewinners:

- 1 A Daniel, 35 Malvern Avenue, Boroughbridge Road, York.
- 2 Cpl L G Newcombe, QM's Dept, 1 R Irish Rangers, Imjin Bks, Little Rissington, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
- 3 John Woods, Elm Farm, Landford, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
- 4 Maj C N Cullen, 18 Fairview Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham.

5 Mrs E Fannan, c/o WO2 P Fannan, HQ No. 4 Dental Gp, Newfoundland Road, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey.

6 R V Stevenson, 5638 Holland Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V6N 2A8, Canada.

7 D L T Piggott, 11 Churton Place, Westminster, London.

8 G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham.

9 James Sims, 111 Hollingbury Road, Brighton, Sussex.

10 Miss P Theophane, c/o Tp Office, King's Troop RHA, Ordnance Hill, St John's Wood, London.

## How observant are you?

(see page 19)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Size of moon. 2 Scarf of newspaper seller. 3 B of top right sign. 4 Height of far left building. 5 Left arm of left soldier. 6 Width of poster above man on right. 7 Hat of man buying newspaper. 8 Bottom horizontal of Z in big RITZ. 9 Walking stick of man third from left. 10 Cat's tail.

- 20 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (20-21 June) (Red Caps; two bands).
- 23 Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (23-24 June).
- 23 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 23 Rotherham (Yorkshire) Tattoo (23-24 June).
- 23 Wordsley (Staffordshire) Gala (Flying Bugles).
- 23 International Air Tattoo, Greenham Common (23-24 June) (RA motorcyclists).
- 23 Ashford Extravaganza (23-24 June) (Red Caps).
- 27 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 27 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (27-28 June) (Red Devils; Pegasus; band).
- 29 Hook (Yorkshire) Gala (29 June-1 July).
- 30 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham, Lincolnshire (30 June-1 July) (Red Devils; Pegasus; band).
- 30 Ssafa Aldershot Tattoo (30 June-1 July).

## JULY 1979

- 2 Millennium celebrations, Isle of Man (2-3 July) (RA motorcyclists).
- 4 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 7 Birkenshaw (Yorkshire) Show.
- 7 Open Day, Depot Queen's Division, Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire (RA motorcyclists; three bands; static displays).
- 7 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Wootton, Northamptonshire (JLRRA PT; Flying Bugles; RA motorcyclists; two bands).
- 7 Town and Country Show, Stafford (7-8 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 8 Royal Tournament march, The Mall, London.
- 8 Lymington Sports Club, Lymington (RA motorcyclists).
- 10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (10-12 July).
- 11 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 11 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (11-28 July).
- 12 The Rifle Depot band concert and Retreat beating, Winchester (12-14 July).
- 13 Open Day, King's College, Taunton (Flying Bugles).
- 14 Corby (Northamptonshire) Tattoo and Highland Games (14-15 July) (static displays; two bands).
- 14 Durham County Show, Middlesbrough.
- 14 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show.
- 14 Bristol Steam Rally (14-15 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 14 Basingstoke Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
- 15 Dagenham Town Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 17 East of England Show, Peterborough (17-19 July) (Red Devils; Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle display team; band).
- 18 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 19 Liverpool Army Tattoo (19-21 July).
- 21 Adwick (Sheffield) Gala.
- 21 Open Day, Marchwood.
- 21 Bournemouth Air Pageant (21-22 July).
- 21 Open Day, Light Infantry, Shrewsbury (Flying Bugles).
- 24 Royal Welsh Show, Builth Wells (24-26 July) (RA motorcyclists).
- 25 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 25 Ilfracombe Tattoo (25-26 July).
- 26 Manchester Show (26-28 July).
- 26 St Helens Show (26-28 July).
- 27 Northampton Borough Show (27-29 July) (Pegasus 28-29 July; Royal Green Jackets freefall display team 27 and 29 July).
- 27 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop (27-28 July).
- 28 Cleveland County Show, Middlesbrough.
- 28 Worcester City Show (28-29 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 28 Cromford Traction Rally (28-29 July).

- 29 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 31 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (31 July-4 August).

## AUGUST 1979

- 1 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 1 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 2 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (2-11 August).
- 2 Leicester Army Display (2-4 August) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists; Junior signalmen display team; static displays; three bands).
- 2 Plymouth Spotlight Spectacular (2-5 August).
- 3 Hull Show (3-4 August).
- 8 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 8 Shrewsbury Show (8-11 August) (Flying Bugles 10-11 August; Red Caps 10-11 August).
- 9 Bournemouth Fiesta (9-11 August).
- 10 Gloucester Carnival and Military Display.
- 10 Staverton Air Show.
- 11 Sedgefield, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 11 Castle Howard Steam Fair, Malton (11-12 August).
- 11 Lord Mayor's Gala, Stoke-on-Trent.
- 12 Royal Military Police and City of Chichester march.
- 15 Cromer Carnival (Red Devils; static displays).
- 15 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (15 August-8 September).
- 18 Skegness (Lincolnshire) Carnival (18-25 August) (WRAC band).
- 18 Darlington Show.
- 18 Hartlepool Show (18-19 August) (Flying Bugles).
- 18 Horse of the Year Show, Doncaster (18-19 August).
- 18 Fairford and District Steam Gala (18-19 August) (Red Caps).
- 22 Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show.
- 23 Eastbourne Show (Red Caps).
- 24 British Timken Show, Northampton (24-25 August) (Red Devils; Pegasus; static displays).
- 25 Expo Steam, Peterborough (25-27 August).
- 25 Durham City Show (25-26 August).
- 25 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (25-27 August) (Flying Bugles 26-27 August).
- 26 Carlisle Services Display (26-28 August) (Red Caps).
- 27 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show (band).
- 27 Leicester City Show (27-28 August) (RGJ freefall 28 August).
- 27 Leeds Gala.
- 27 Walsall Show (27-28 August).
- 27 Open Day, Debdale Park, Manchester (Flying Bugles).
- 31 Sheffield Show (31 August-2 September).
- 31 Birmingham Show (31 August-2 September).

## SEPTEMBER 1979

- 1 Seaham, Newcastle upon Tyne, Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Wolsingham Show, Newcastle upon Tyne, (1-2 September).
- 1 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 1 Guildford Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Moreton-in-Marsh Horse Show.
- 1 Malmesbury Carnival.
- 1 Guisborough Festival (1-2 September).
- 1 High Wycombe Show (1-2 September).
- 2 Luton (Bedfordshire) Show, (White Helmets).
- 3 Crawley (Sussex) Tattoo.
- 8 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
- 8 Stanhope, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September) (Red Devils; Pegasus; static displays).

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**Infantry regiments:** Grenadier Guards (1st Bn or 2nd Bn); Coldstream Guards; Scots Guards; Irish Guards (1st Bn); Welsh Guards (1st Bn); Royal Scots; Royal Highland Fusiliers (1st Bn); King's Own Scottish Borderers (1st Bn); Cameronians; Black Watch (1st Bn); Queen's Own Highlanders; Seaforth Highlanders (1st Bn); Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders; Gordon Highlanders; Highland Light Infantry; London Scottish; Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (1st Bn); Queen's; Queen's Royal Surrey; Buffs; Queen's Own Royal West Kent (4th/5th Bn); Royal Sussex (1st Bn or 4th Bn); Middlesex (1st Bn); Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Royal Warwickshire Regiment; Lancashire Fusiliers; Royal Anglian; Northamptonshire (1st Bn); King's Own Royal Border (1st Bn); Border; King's; Liverpool Scottish; Prince Of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire; East Yorkshire; Green Howards (1st Bn); Duke of Wellington's; King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry; Yorkshire Volunteers; Queen's Lancashire; Loyal (1st Bn); Royal Irish Rangers; Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers; Royal Ulster Rifles (1st Bn); Royal Irish Fusiliers (1st Bn); North Irish Militia (4th Bn, Royal Irish Rangers); Devonshire and Dorset (1st Bn); Dorsetshire; Cheshire; Royal Welch Fusiliers; Royal Regiment of Wales; Gloucestershire (1st Bn); Sherwood Foresters; Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters; Royal Hampshire (1st Bn); Staffordshire (1st Bn); Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Durham Light Infantry; Royal Green Jackets; Rifle Brigade; Parachute; 2nd KEO Gurkha Rifles; 4th PWO Gurkha Rifles; 6th QEO

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**Corps:** Royal Engineers; Royal Signals; Royal Corps of Transport; Royal Army Medical Corps; Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; Royal Military Police; Royal Army Pay Corps; Royal Army Educational Corps; Royal Army Dental Corps; Army Catering Corps; Women's Royal Army Corps; Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

**Miscellaneous:** Honourable Artillery Company; Household Division; Staff College; Royal College of Defence Studies; Army Catering Corps Apprentice College; George IV; Royal Jersey Infantry; Royal Navy; Royal Marines; Royal Air Force; Atholl Highlanders; Royal British Legion Scotland; University of London OTC.

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- 6 Officer, 27th Foot, 1733
- 7 Officer, 87th Foot, 1809
- 8 Officer, 82nd Foot, 1829
- 9 Corporal, 47th Foot, 1770
- 10 Private, 5th Foot, 1773
- 11 Drum-major, 6th Foot, 1800
- 12 Sergeant, 7th Foot, 1814

Set 2

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- 14 Bugle-major, R Green Jackets, 1972
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- 16 Guardsman, Scots Guards, 1972
- 17 Private, 33rd Foot, 1702
- 18 Officer, 34th Foot, 1702
- 19 Private, 31st Foot, 1702
- 20 Caliverer, 3rd Foot, 1572
- 21 Drum horse, 3 POW Dragoons, 1896

22 Trooper, 2nd Dragoons, 1805

23 Bugle-major, 68th Foot, 1846

24 Officer, 20th Foot, 1769

Set 3

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- 28 Officers, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, 1922
- 29 Officer, Royal Artillery, 1772
- 30 Pikeman, 1st Foot, 1633
- 31 Drum-major, Devon & Dorsets, 1973
- 32 Standard-bearer, 15th/19th Hussars, 1973
- 33 Officer, 4th/7th Royal Dragoons, 1743
- 34 Officer, 1st KDG, 1815
- 35 Standard-bearer, Life Guards, 1973
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38 Private, 19th Foot, 1873

39 Fifer, 25th Foot, 1770

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41 Mounted trooper, Life Guards, 1973

42 Goat-major, R Regt of Wales, 1973

43 Drum-major, Royal Marines, 1973

44 Officer, Royal Jersey Militia, 1772

45 Drum-major, Staffordshire Regt, 1972

46 Officer, R Irish Rangers, 1972

47 Drum-horse, Life Guards, 1972

48 Airman, Queen's Colour Sqn RAF, 1973

49 Officer, 39th Foot, 1757

50 Drum-major, Welsh Guards, 1975

51 Private, 41st Foot, 1854

52 Drum-major, Scots Guards, 1975

53 Private, 24th Foot, 1879

54 Fusilier, R Regt of Fusiliers, 1975

55 Officer, 23rd Foot, 1854

56 Pipe-major, Black Watch, 1975

57 Officer, 30th Foot, 1742

58 Sailor, Royal Navy, 1975

59 Paratrooper, Parachute Regt, 1975

60 Private, Company of Artificers, 1772

Set 6

61 4 RM 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 marksman, 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 July 1704

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continued overleaf ▶

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1 Drum-major, Royal Marines, 1973	12 Drum-major, Queen's Regiment, 1974
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3 Officers, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, 1922	14 Private, 41st (Welch Regiment), 1854
4 Officer, Royal Artillery, 1772	15 Drum-major, Welsh Guards, 1975
5 Private, Company of Artificers, 1772	16 Standard-bearer, Blues and Royals, 1973
6 Drum horse, Life Guards, 1972	17 Drum-major, Scots Guards, 1975
7 Drum horse, Blues and Royals, 1972	18 Sailor, Royal Navy, 1975
8 Paratrooper, Parachute Regt, 1975	19 Piper, Ulster Defence Regiment, 1975
9 Mounted sentry, Life Guards, 1974	20 Standard-bearer, Life Guards, 1973
10 Mounted sentry, Blues and Royals, 1974	21 Drummer, Royal Anglian Regiment, 1974
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\*Available, with appropriate dress differences, for following corps/regiments: 10UQR/1 Queen's Regiment ; 10USG/2 Scots Guards ; 10URA/3 Royal Anglian ; 10UDG/4 4th/7th Dragoon Guards ; 10UCG/5 Coldstream Guards ; 10URF/6 1st Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers ; 10URF/7 2nd Battalion, RRF ; 10URF/8 3rd Battalion, RRF ; 10UAS/9 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders ; 10URT/10 1st Royal Tank Regiment ; 10UL/11 Life Guards ; 10URH/12 15th/19th Royal Hussars ; 10UGG/13 Grenadier Guards ; 10URA/14 Royal Artillery ; 10UCR/15 Cheshire Regiment ; 10UCR/16 A Company, Cheshire Regiment ; 10UR/17 B Company, Cheshire Regiment ; 10UCR/18 C Company, Cheshire Regiment ; 10UCR/19 S Company, Cheshire Regiment ; 10UWF/20 Royal Welch Fusiliers ; 10URL/21 9th/12th Royal Lancers ; 10UWG/22 Welsh Guards ; 10UHL/23 Royal Highland Fusiliers ; 10URL/24 Queen's Lancashire Regiment ; 10URS/25 Royal Signals ; 10URE/26 Royal Engineers ; 10UGJ/27 Royal Green Jackets ; 10UBR/28 King's Own Royal Border Regiment ; 10UGH/29 Green Howards ; 10UL/30 Light Infantry ; 10UMP/31 Royal Military Police ; 10UQRH/32 Queen's Own Highlanders ; 10URM/33 Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers ; 10URO/34 Royal Army Ordnance Corps ; 10UBW/35 Black Watch ; 10UUR/36 Ulster Defence Regiment ; 10URE/37 Royal Engineers (combat) ; 10URT/38 3rd Royal Tank Regiment ; 10URH/39 Royal Hampshire Regiment ; 10UR/40 Royal Corps of Transport ; 10UWR/41 Duke of Wellington's Regiment ; 10URS/42 Royal Scots ; 10URL/43 17th/21st Lancers ; 10UQR/44 Queen's Regiment (Londonderry) ; 10UL/45 Light Infantry (combat) ; 10UPW/46 Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire ; 10URT/47 2nd Royal Tank Regiment ; 10UCR/48 Cheshire Regiment ; 10UIB/49 HQ 39th Infantry Brigade ; 10UGR/50 Gloucestershire Regiment ; 10URW/51 Royal Regiment of Wales .

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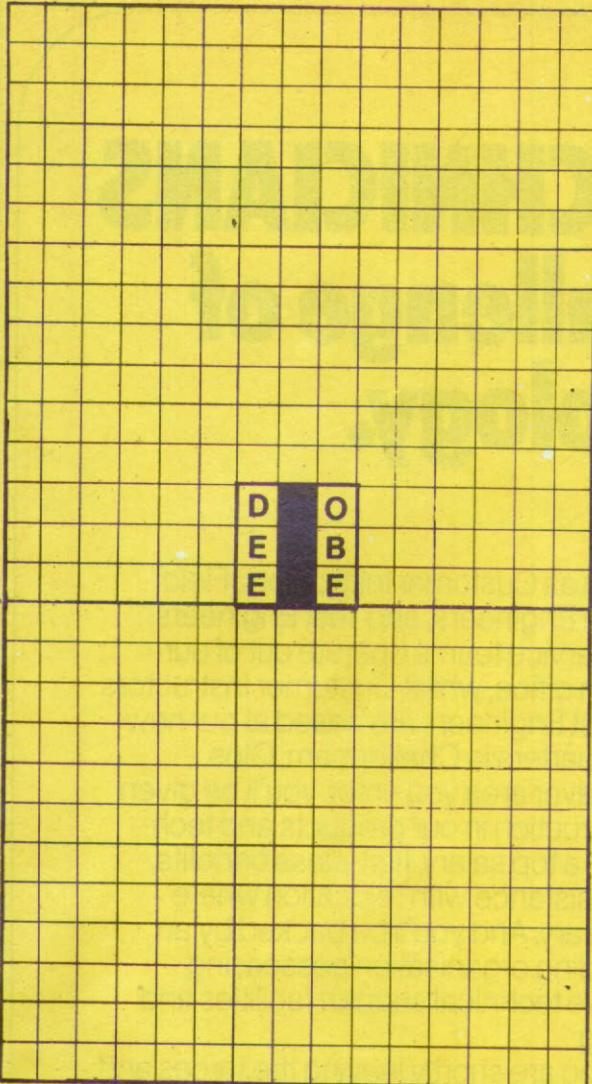
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AS A VARIATION on the September competition, here is a cross between a crossword and a jigsaw puzzle. You have a starter in the grid and it is then a simple (?) matter of transferring the remaining blanks and letters to complete the crossword.

The grid is semi-symmetrical, ie upper left is reversed at lower right and upper right at lower left.

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This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 11 June. The answer and winners' names will appear in the August SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 249' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.



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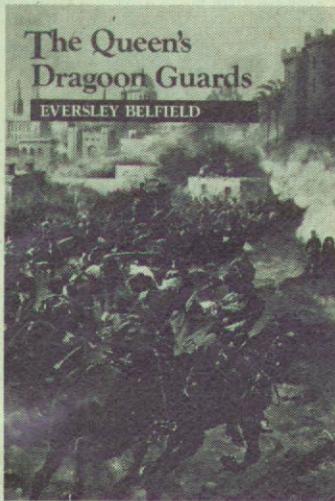
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# Books



## For 300 Years

*'The Queen's Dragoon Guards'* (Eversley Belfield)

A readable tale of the regiment and its predecessors - 1st The King's Dragoon Guards and The Queen's Bays 2nd Dragoon Guards. Even without going into too much detail it still requires great journalistic expertise to condense nearly 300 years of the eventful history of two regiments into barely 100 pages.

Formed in 1685 as the Queen's Regiment of Horse and the Third Regiment of Horse, the regiment's first tasks came after the Monmouth rebellion when it was required to escort the captured Duke from Winchester to London and to round up and guard prisoners in the West of England. It later took part in continental and colonial wars, gaining honours from Blenheim to Waterloo, at Sebastopol and Lucknow and in China and South Africa.

In World War One it fought well in Europe and Afghanistan. In 1940 the regiment was on the Somme, then played a meritorious role with the Eighth Army in North Africa and Italy. After the war it served in Ireland, Germany, Malaya, Jordan, Iraq and Libya until amalgamation in 1959. Since then The Queen's Dragoon Guards have been in Aden, Germany, Borneo and Ireland.

Costs have rocketed during the regiment's three centuries of existence. In 1747 the annual bill for the King's Dragoon Guards was £28,979 9s 7d. In 1977, pay only for officers and men of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards totalled £1,940,884.40. Overseas allowances and other increments doubled it. Upkeep of transport and equipment was about £1,500,000 annually, while capital value was approximately £13,000,000.

*Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £7.50*

GRH

## Bairnsfather

*'The Best of Fragments from France'* (Captain Bruce Bairnsfather) (Compiled and edited by Tonie and Valmai Holt)

No soldier looking through this selection of World War One cartoons will see them as mere echoes of the music

hall jokes which, in the words of Siegfried Sassoon, 'mock the shattered corpses round Bapaume.'

The handsome young Captain Bairnsfather (there are two photographs of him in this book) drew from first-hand acquaintance with the war of attrition in the trenches. It has been said that war produces a more abundant flowering of pictorial humour than do times of peace, and this will remain a paradox of the human spirit.

Some of Bairnsfather's subjects are common to both the major wars — flying shells, map-reading confusion and the grousing about leave and rations. But the distinctive ingredients of the earlier war are poignantly caught in the contexts of Mons, Ypres, the Somme and Passchendaele. The drawings reveal that the artist had other ideas as well as the one which latched on to his name — 'If you know of a better 'ole, go to it.'

These unsophisticated cartoons are at times moving in their sensitivity to the fighting man's multiple discomforts and nightmares on the Western Front where 'the average life expectancy of a subaltern was measured in days.'

*Phin Publishing Ltd, Churchill Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, £3.25*

FRF

## Vanguards

*'Vanguard 5: US 101st Airborne Division 1942-45'* (Philip Katcher)

*'Vanguard 6: The Lee/Grant Tanks in British Service'* (Bryan Perrett)

On 5 June 1944 an anxious General Eisenhower drove to Newbury where he informally mingled with the men of the 101st US Airborne Division who, as he later wrote, 'admonished me that I had no cause for worry since the 101st was on the job and everything would be taken care of in fine shape.' Such was the indomitable spirit of this division.

With many a colourful anecdote, Philip Katcher writes of the meticulous training that preceded the parachute jump into Normandy, all of it told in a peculiarly personal way which makes for compulsive reading. The fighting in the Bastogne area is realistically reported and the many illustrations round off a thoroughly researched episode.

After a rigorous course of training under American instructors, British crews took their Lee and Grant tanks into action for the first time at Alamein. This was not a success but the second Alamein was and it heralded the long advance against Rommel with the tanks really proving their worth in battle. A short section giving the personal opinions of various men, from a tank driver to a major-general, who served aboard these fighting vehicles, is remarkable for the frankness and divergence of the views expressed.

There follows accounts of battles, many at first hand, against the Afrika Korps and later in Burma on the long haul to Mandalay. Supported by photographs and maps, the story of the part played by the Lee-Grant tanks on all the fronts on which they served is told in an easy, personal way with plenty of technical description to point up the general picture.

Features of this book are the detailed colour plates of the turret interior and fighting compartment of a Grant and another showing part of a Lee's combat cabin.

*Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP, £2.50 each*

JFPJ

graphs, many not previously published, illustrate this comprehensive record of weapons used by German land forces in World War Two.

From revolvers to coastal and fortress artillery, railway guns and rockets, all weapons used by the army, by air force field divisions and by navy shore units are reviewed. Included is much captured material, as the all-conquering Reich of 1939-41 rapidly expanded its occupying forces and had not sufficient weapons of its own to arm them. The foreign weapons include the British quick-firing two-pounder Mark 8 naval gun and the Vickers three-inch AA gun.

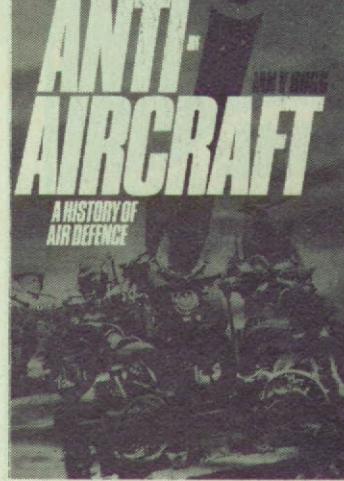
The 29 chapters each deal with a different category of weapon — pistol, rifle, anti-tank gun, mortar, rocket, grenade, land mine, flamethrower etc, and each individual weapon is illustrated and described fully. There are introductory remarks to each chapter and useful tables showing, for instance, the number of anti-aircraft guns (by varieties) in Luftwaffe service for each month of each year from September 1942 to February 1945.

This is a worthwhile buy for enthusiasts as it includes all the weapons used by the German land forces from 1939 to 1945.

*Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £15.00*

GRH

## Air defence



*'Anti-Aircraft: A History of Air Defence'* (Ian V Hogg)

While it has many photographs (95), as is usual in books on guns and gunnery, this volume concentrates more fully on textual information about the development of air defence tactics and anti-aircraft weapons. The first AA shots were fired in 1794 by two 17-pounder howitzers of the Austrian Army against a French observation balloon — all that did was to frighten the balloonists.

Later came airships and Londoners became so alarmed in World War One that great efforts were made to counter the Zeppelins with guns of various calibres; research and development really began. In World War Two, as planes increased in speed, so did the necessity for new weapons and new techniques. Today, jets and rockets are in conflict, with history showing that as each new air punch was developed so was a defensive counterpart evolved.

The author describes not only the development of the guns and missiles but also the defensive tactics used. In World War One, guns were first sited within the target area, but later were deployed to strike at and divert aircraft many miles away on their approach routes. In World War Two, forts were constructed in the Thames and Mersey estuaries to close gaps that land-based guns could not cover.

The appendices include details of the performance of AA guns and aircraft of the allies and their enemies in both wars.

*Macdonald & Jane's Publishers Ltd, 8 Shepherdess Walk, London, N1 7LW, £7.95*

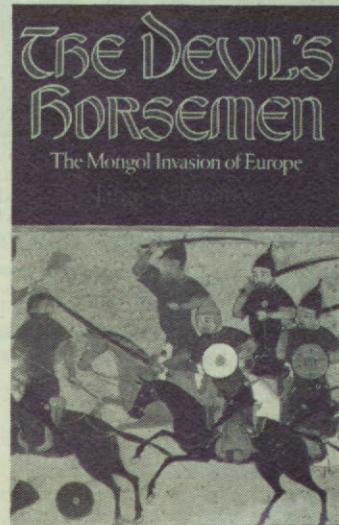
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## Tartar terrors

*'The Devil's Horsemen: The Mongol Invasion of Europe'* (James Chambers)

This is a fine book about a period of military history that is not well known. In the 13th century the Mongols were advancing ever westward and conquering all in their path. They built the largest empire every known, which, but for chance, would have reached the Atlantic. Their reconnaissance in force, alone, which entered Europe, covered 5500 miles in two years, won more than a dozen battles and returned over-loaded with plunder.

Rumours of gruesome and diabolical atrocities credited them with supernatural powers and they were feared as the 'merciless horsemen from hell.' Superstitious hysteria said their princes bore the heads of dogs and that their soldiers ate the bodies of the dead. In fact, the Mongols did record enemy casualties by cutting



## Encyclopaedia

*'Small Arms, Artillery and Special Weapons of the Third Reich'* (Terry Gander and Peter Chamberlain)

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## IN BRIEF

*'Les véhicules blindés français 1945 — 1977'* (Pierre Touzin)

Specialist military vehicle enthusiasts — with a knowledge of French — will find interest in this volume that covers the development of French armoured vehicles from the end of World War Two to 1977. The differences in French defence policy as opposed to those of full Nato members is reflected in the type and number of vehicles studied in the book. The illustrations (there are 350, mainly black-and-white) occupy most of the 280 pages.

The author concentrates his study into two main parts, the first dealing with internal security contingencies and the second with interventions in overseas conflicts. He traces the development of the armoured vehicle in France as it has been brought to bear on these two types of operation. Editions EPA, 83 Rue de Rennes, 75006, Paris 609.00.05, 150F

*'Orders, Decorations and Medals of the Sultanate of Oman'* (Major A R Tinson)

Medals in Oman date from the Jebel Akhdar campaign, a mere 20 years ago, and the overall precedence for wear was agreed as recently as 1976. First to be issued was the Campaign Medal, with its ribbon of diagonal red-and-green stripes said to represent blood and the Jebel Akhdar (Green Mountain), where much of the fighting took place.

Although the Gallantry Medal is reckoned as one of the rarest awards for valour in the world — only 17 have been awarded since its inception in 1960 — it ranks only seventh in order of precedence, the first being the Order of Oman 1st Class and the 21st and last the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

This lavishly presented and costly book of 100 pages comprehensively surveys the Sultanate's military and civil decorations.

Spink & Son's, 5-7 King Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6QS, £14.00

*'Gunners, Game and Gardens'* (Eric Harrison)

Major-General Harrison excelled at all sorts of energetic pastimes, and

this book is mainly about them. He played rugby for his country and the Army, ran in the 1924 Olympics, was master of several hunts, killed all manner of game in India, Africa and Britain, and hooked all kinds of fish. But when he was beaten at tennis by a woman he gave up that game.

As a World War One subaltern he was brimful of promise, but after the war was not keen to study for his profession. He was ordered on to a staff-learners' course and eventually went 'as an old age insurance' to provide a colonel's pension. He later refused to instruct at Staff College: 'Perhaps my reply would have been different had the Staff College been situated in good hunting country.'

He retired in 1946 to cultivate rhododendrons, and of course excelled at it.

Leo Cooper, 196 Shaftesbury Ave, London, WC2H 8JL, £6.95

*'World War 2 Photo Album 5: Panzers in North-West Europe'* (Bruce Quarrie)

More than 150 pictures in this book, compiled from German wartime photographs now preserved in the Bundesarchiv, Koblenz, show machines and weapons as they were in use over the European terrain. There are some dramatic shots of devastation and of personalities, such as Rundstedt and Meyer, but in general the photographs are chosen for the wealth and clearness of detail.

One very good heart-touching picture shows two captured British paratroopers at Arnhem supporting a wounded comrade.

A map gives the disposition of German forces on D-Day 1944 and a four-page introduction sets the scene. Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge, CB3 8EL, casebound £3.95, softbound £2.50.



Because of an error in the published address, readers may have had difficulty in obtaining the brochure, 'The Commando Memorial, Spean Bridge,' reviewed in the December SOLIER.

This brochure is obtainable from Commando Association, 122 Brompton Road, London, SW3 1JE, at 30 pence plus 12 pence postage and packing.

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