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FRONT COVER

At the very top of the new British Forces HQ, and high above the teeming streets of Hong Kong, Signalman Dhanbahadur Thapa, Queen's Gurkha Signals, tries a test shot with an antenna for a microwave radio relay connection to Victoria Peak which will be operating this summer.

Picture by Doug Pratt.



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BACK COVER

In the midst of the steaming jungles of Fiji, a patrol from 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, comes across a beautiful and spectacular waterfall. The men were on a six-week jungle training exercise on the South Sea island.

Picture by Doug Pratt.



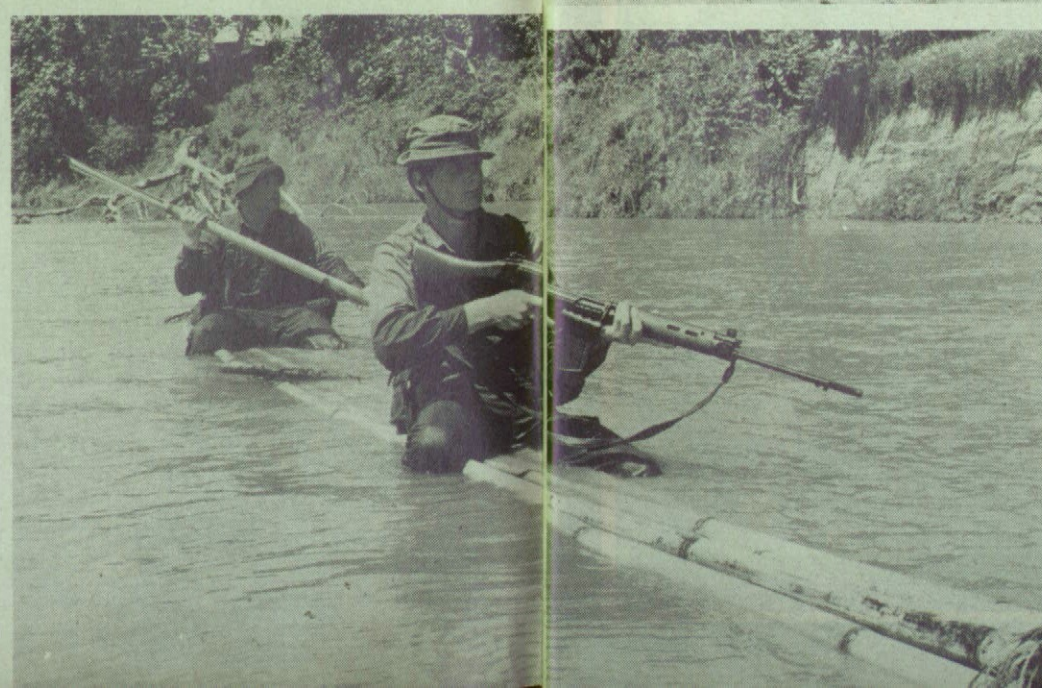
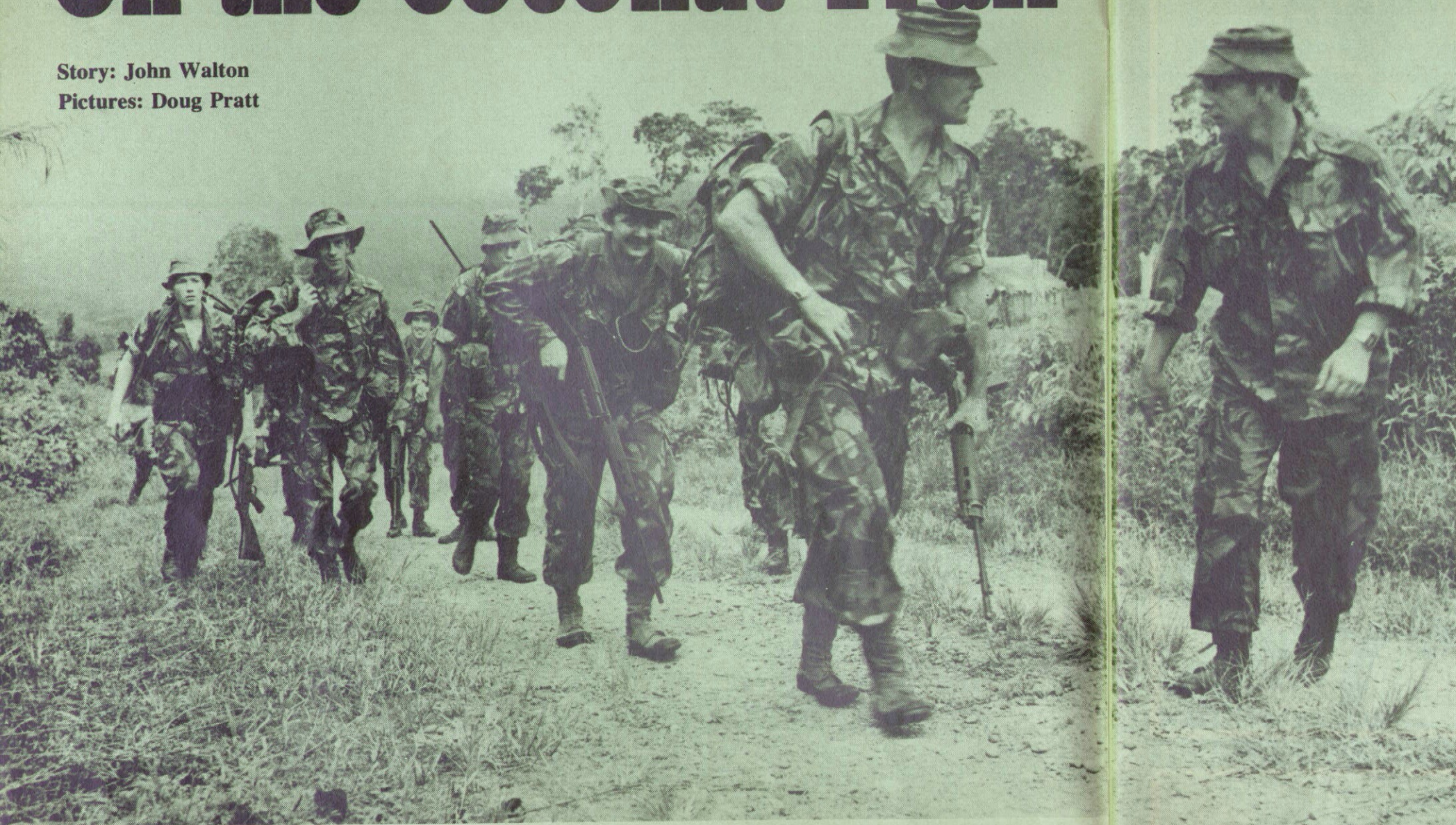
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From its densely populated base in Hong Kong, a company of 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, went to another island — Fiji, a tropical South Seas paradise. Join them. . . .

On the Coconut Trail

Story: John Walton

Pictures: Doug Pratt



GIANT FRUIT BATS flapped silently yet menacingly in the early evening sky. Young soldiers looked up and made nervous jokes about wearing garlic and crosses that night. Steam arose from the thick jungle foliage and the incessant chirruping of a multitude of unseen insects recalled old Tarzan films.

It was the first night in the jungle for men of 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, on exercise for six weeks in the paradise isle of Fiji — most of it in the dense hinterland, a far cry from the burgeoning tourist areas of the coast.

The 150-strong party from the battalion's A Company had arrived in Fiji, from its normal base in Hong Kong, three days earlier. The Green Jackets had spent the weekend in a small hutted camp at Lautoka, on the western side of the island, normally used as a weekend training camp by Fijian part-time soldiers.

An advance party led by Captain Robert Martin had arrived a week earlier. While Captain Martin inspected the training area high in the hills and made contact with village chiefs, a Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers forward repair team under Staff-Sergeant Chris Lynn had worked 17 hours a day to get on the road the three Land-Rovers and two four-ton lorries which the British Army keeps in Fiji for its exercises.

"We painted them in camouflage paint, which caused quite a stir as the Fijians had not seen that before," said Captain Martin.

The journey from Lautoka to the Navura training area was long and arduous in those vehicles. Even the main highway eventually turned into a dirt track and torrential rain replaced the stinging dust with oozing mud. The coaches which took the main body of soldiers were unsuitable for the winding fifteen-mile stretch of track into the mountains and the men had to be ferried the rest of the way in the trucks and Land-Rovers.

Initially the men spent three days in the jungle receiving basic instruction in such jungle crafts as making their own bashas, butchering and preparing pigs and chickens, fording rivers by using ropes, and making and using bamboo rafts. All this was in preparation for later on in the exercise when they would be practising those skills during a ten-day march from one end of the island to the other — a march which would take them across savannah and jungle, through mountains and down rivers. They would cover well over a hundred miles during that trek and operate at all times as though they were at war.

But these were early days and Captain Martin had first to reassure the people of a village a couple of miles away. Taking a small party he led them in wading across a fast-flowing, though shallow, river to the village of Nku. Small children peered curiously at the soldiers as they took off their shoes and hats and entered the headman's hut. In this all-male domain the men squatted on the floor and waited for the tradi-

tional kava or yaqona ceremony, a custom unique to Fiji.

The chief and his elders were dressed in Western-style shirts with the traditional sulus (brightly coloured skirts). Down at the Pacific Harbour resort, Australian tourists don these to dance in the discos, but here all was peace and dignity.

Kava is made from the roots of a plant widely grown in Fiji. It is left in the ground for between five to seven years then the roots are dried and pummelled into a powder. The Fijians get a bucket or bowl, put some powder in a piece of cloth and knead it into water. The result looks like dirty washing-up water, has an earthy taste and produces strange results. It is not alcoholic but the effect of one or two drinks is to numb your lips as from a dentist's injection. The more you take the more numb you become — the Green Jackets wisely avoided taking the experiment too far.

Each man in the hut solemnly drank in turn a half coconut-shell full of kava, to the accompaniment of much ritual handclapping. Meanwhile, Captain Martin explained through a Fijian Army guide that there would be no danger to the villagers. Blank rounds, a few explosions and coloured smoke — but nothing more. He then told them of the next stage of the exercise — a three-day trek through the jungle followed by three days of rafting down river on home-made bamboo rafts.

The chief maintained that the soldiers were likely to get lost. The native tracks through the jungle were criss-crossed with hundreds of tracks from wild pig. He offered to supply one of his sons as a tracker — an offer which was speedily accepted. After about an hour the party returned to their base, with an invitation for the villagers to visit the Green Jackets — for beer or tea but no kava.

As the young soldiers settled into jungle life and practised making their bamboo and creeper rafts, they were visited by the company commander, Captain Dan MacLean who had been preparing the next phase. He was pleased with what he saw.

"They have quickly got over their initial trepidation about working in the jungle and their confidence is growing every day," he said. "One of the most important things about soldiering in different environments is getting to know yourself and your own physical and emotional responses. From the streets of Northern Ireland to the jungle is a big step with different pressures."

One man who was really enjoying that big step was Lieutenant Hamish Fulton — his normal Army role is in a tank. While his regiment, the 17th/21st Lancers, is stationed at Bovington, he is on attachment to the Green Jackets. He told SOLDIER: "This is my first experience in the jungle as a soldier and I consider that I've been very lucky. The soldiering with the infantry is equally as good as with the cavalry and I wouldn't have missed this for anything."

As the sun rose each day, the temperature rapidly shot towards the nineties and the young soldiers learned to cover up — the sun has a short way with exposed skin. But in the afternoons a few fluffy white clouds would gather on the mountains, soon followed by ominous black ones and then by two hours or more of pelting rain — a blessed relief to the hot and dusty Green Jackets.

Above left: Mist shrouds the hills as Sergeant Chris Richards leads a patrol in rain forest.

Opposite: As the convoy of troops passes along the dirt roads, Fijian children stare in awe.

Left: Rifleman Pete Clark (front) and Lance-Corporal Billy Hughes on their bamboo raft.



Although the secondary jungles of Fiji are as thick and luxuriant as in other parts of the world, they have one advantage — there are no poisonous snakes and very little wild life of any kind. Only millions of flies and mosquitoes.

This made life easier for Serjeant Fred Ward, the regimental medical assistant. Fred, who received the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List for his medical work, has been working with the regiment on the medical side since 1967.

He told SOLDIER of the toss of a coin which decided the whole route of his Army career: "While I was a lance-corporal, a medical course came up and it was a question of either myself or another lance-corporal going on it. Neither of us wanted to so we tossed up and I lost. But when I went on the course I started to get really interested." Insect bites, stomach upsets and minor cuts were all that Serjeant Ward had to cope with during the initial stages of the exercise.

Despite its growing tourist business, Fiji is still one of the most unspoiled paradise islands on earth. After wading more than a mile up a rushing stream, a Green Jacket patrol came across a feature which would already be a tourist Mecca in most places. The Wainakavou Falls, completely inaccessible by road, drop a sheer 200 feet and are surrounded by thick jungle. It was a memorable sight for young soldiers not long out of England.

Captain MacLean said the first week of

Top left: Captain Robert Martin (facing camera) confers with platoon leaders and local guides.

Far left: Sometimes friendly villagers were on hand with longboats to make river crossings.

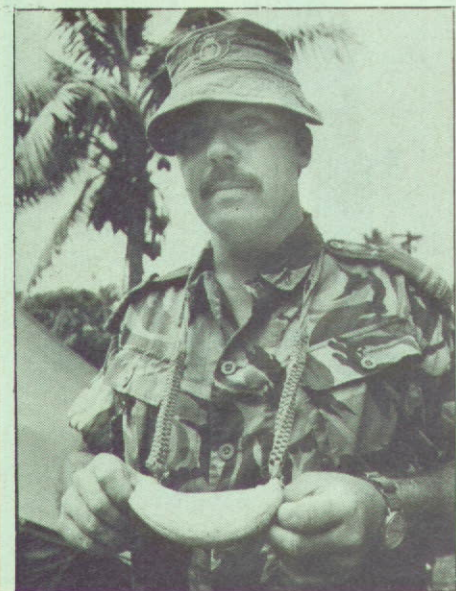
Left: The spectacular Wainakavou Falls come tumbling down for 200 feet deep in the jungle.

Bottom left corner: Fijian islanders perform a traditional 'meke' — a song and dance show.

Below left: Lisi Lockwood isn't washing up — she's happily making kava for soldier visitors.

Top right: Just down the hill from the first jungle camp was a stream for a refreshing swim.

Below: Captain Dan MacLean with the whale's tooth which was an instant passport to homes.



While the Green Jackets were enjoying their island in the sun, 30 men of the 1st Fijian Light Infantry were spending six weeks in crowded Hong Kong. The platoon, which has already completed one operational tour with the United Nations in Lebanon, spent part of the time with the Green Jackets at Stanley Fort. Initially they were with the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles in the New Territories — a unit which will send a company on exercise in Fiji towards the end of this year.



Picture by JSPRS, Hon Kong.



Above: Soldiers wade across a fast flowing river with aid of rope — one was nearly swept away.

Right: Women and children from the isolated village of Nku pose for soldiers and SOLDIER.



the exercise had been very useful to these newcomers. "The one thing we can provide is leadership training and responsibility because that is our job. The Green Jackets have one of the best records in the Army for keeping our men in and that is because we do push responsibility down to the lower levels. The job is done by whoever's there." Captain MacLean, an exchange officer from Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, has certainly seen life since he joined the Green Jackets. He arrived in the middle of the firemen's strike and was plunged straight into firefighting in London. Then he went out to Hong Kong and he has also trained in Brunei.

Both he and his men consider themselves lucky to have experienced Fiji. A company amateur mathematician worked out that in future it will take more than 120 years for an infantry battalion to get a Hong Kong posting — and even then the annual 'Coconut Grove' exercise in Fiji is carried out by Gurkhas three years in every four.

For all of them the extent of their welcome was an even bigger surprise. The Fijians are tremendously pro-British (although independent, Queen Elizabeth still reigns) and everywhere the soldiers went (they were known as the 'Green Army') they were pursued by chanting and waving children, whistled at by girls (a neat reversal of roles) and invited into local homes.

During their stay they were giving some military instruction for Army cadets at a local school, erecting a sea wall and taking on the Fijian Police in a boxing contest. But the national passport to the Fijian's hearts, apart from the oft-shouted greeting of 'Bula,' was a memento presented to Captain MacLean by a district chief — a whale's tooth. Normally only royalty and other dignitaries receive such an honour and Captain MacLean was told that anywhere on the island that he produced the tooth he would receive any help he required.

Taking time out for a spot of diving off Fiji's unspoilt beaches were father and son Colour-Serjeant Frank Varney and 17-year-old Rifleman Philip Varney.

Philip joined the battalion in Hong Kong just before Christmas but normally serves in a different company from his father. But Frank found himself attached to A Company for Exercise Coconut Grove and working closely with his son for the first time.

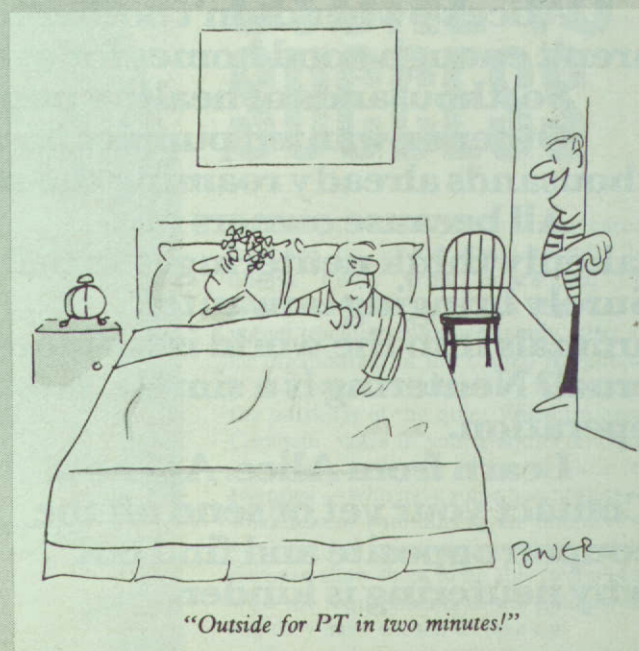
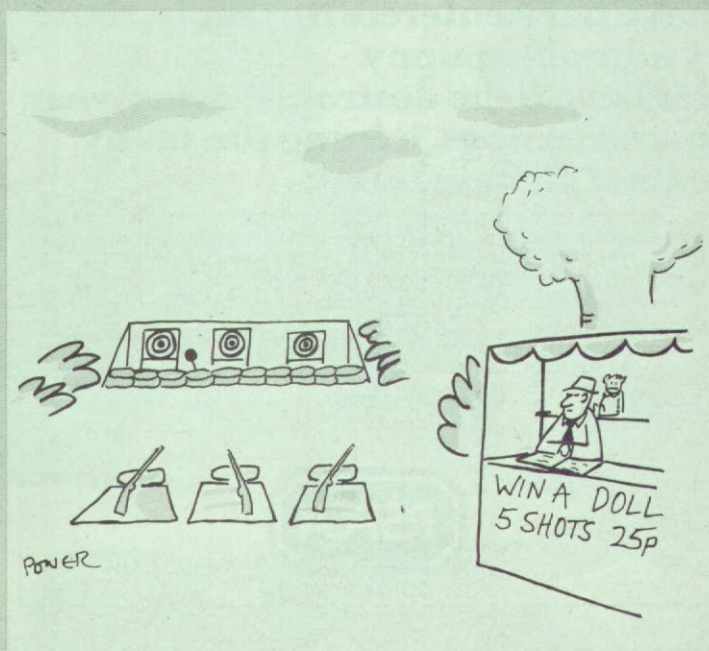
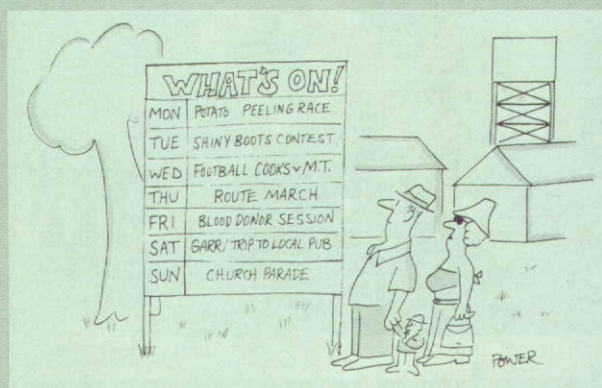
Said Philip: "It's entirely different from being at home with him to when we are working together."





Up-coming holidays remind cartoonist Power of the time when he escaped from . . .

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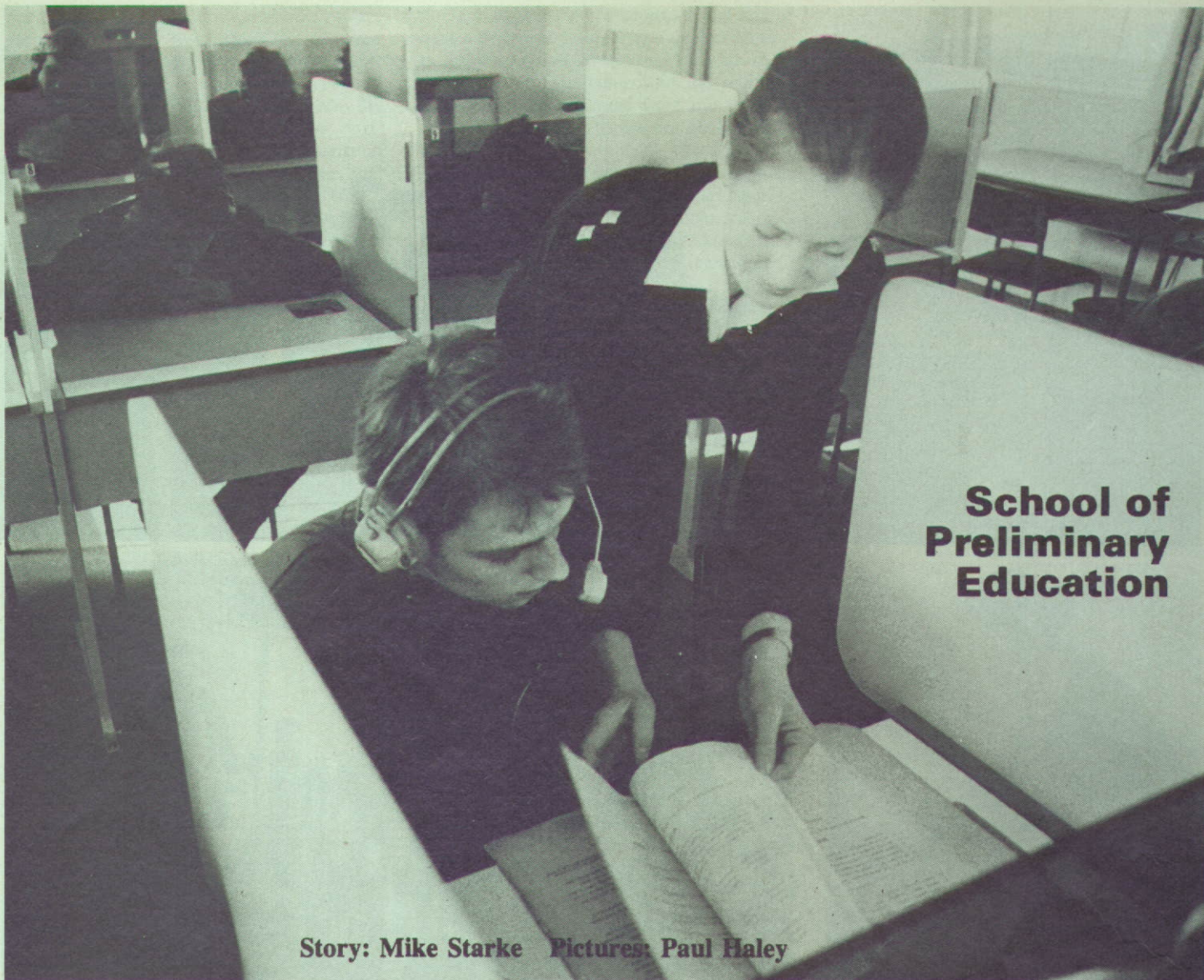
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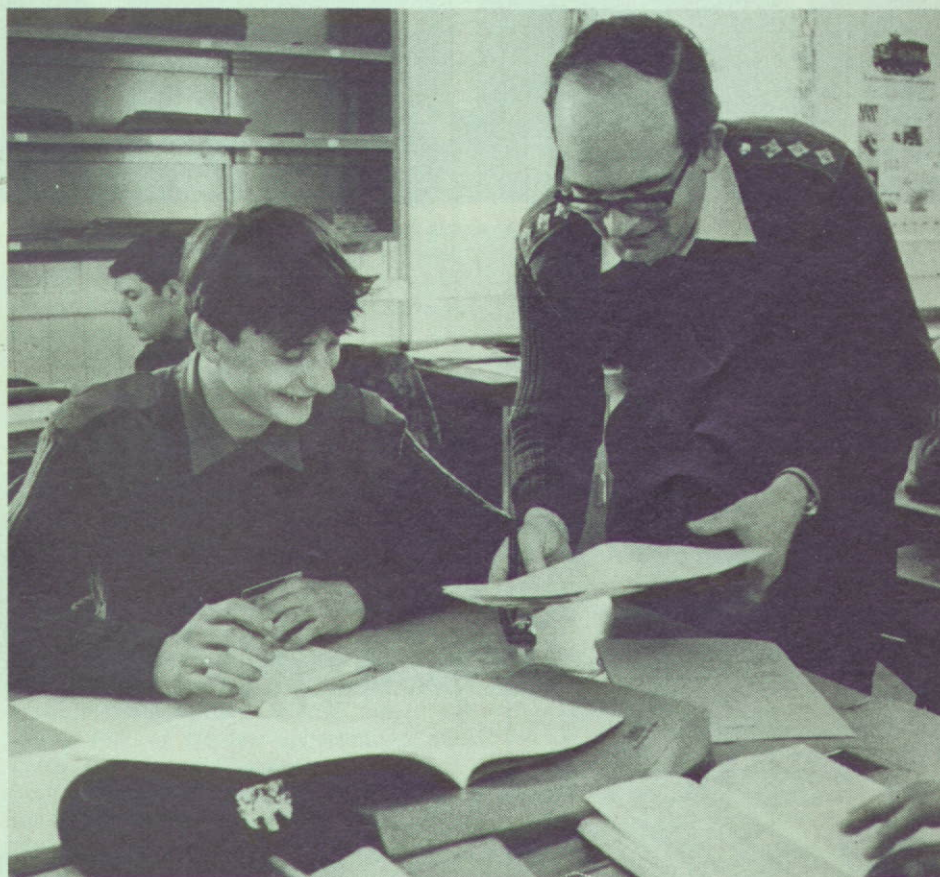


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Story: Mike Starke Pictures: Paul Haley



Top: In Corsham's ultra-modern language laboratory the only female officer works hard.

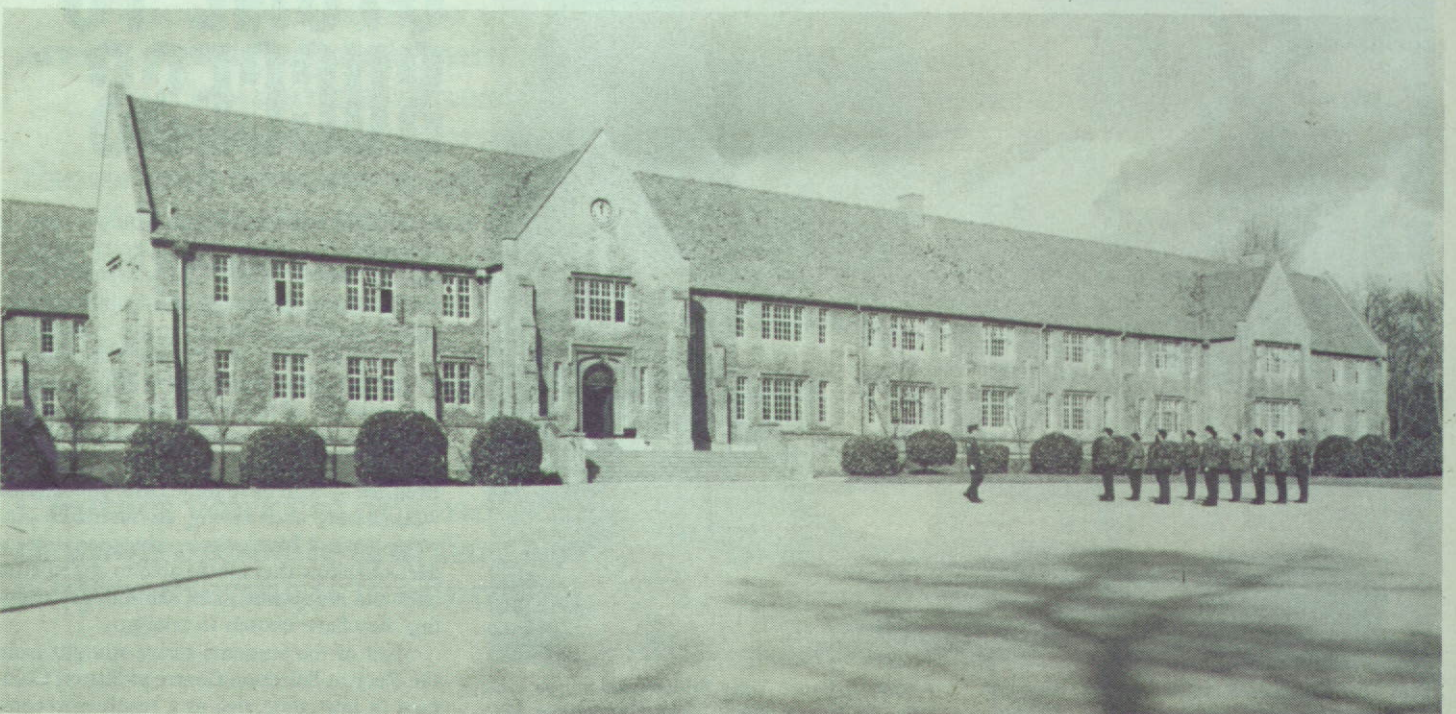
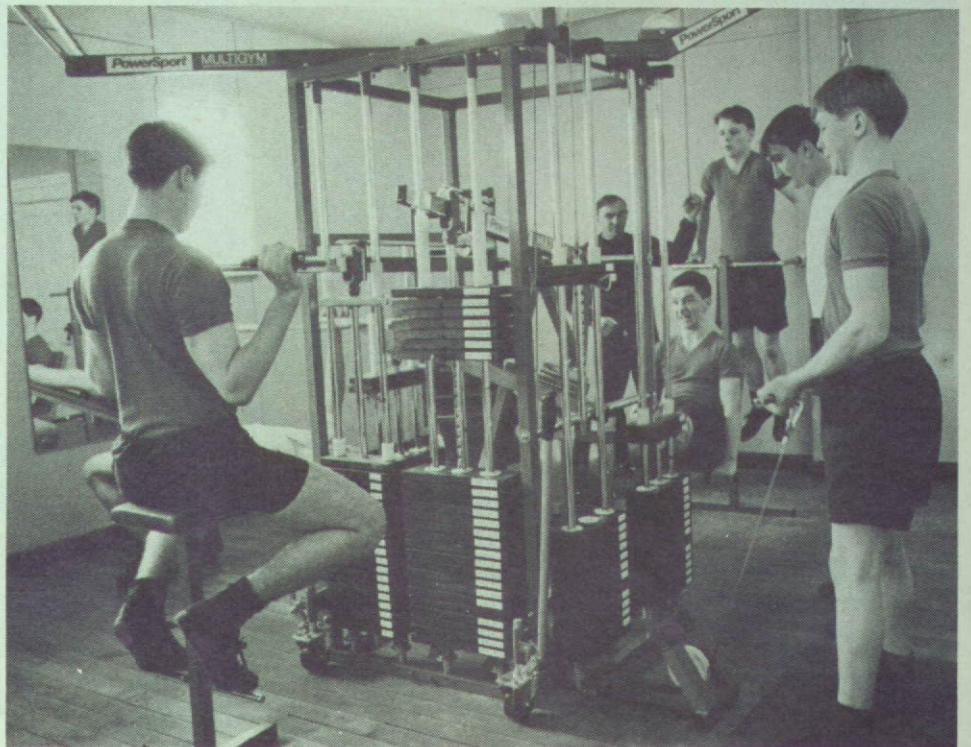
Above: A Royal Army Educational Corps captain goes over a knotty point with another lad.

STEPPING STONE TO SUCCESS

A STEPPING STONE to a new career is provided for young Army recruits by a unique Royal Army Educational Corps establishment dedicated to a degree of individual teaching unknown in any other similar organisation in the United Kingdom.

The School of Preliminary Education, on the outskirts of the quiet Wiltshire town of Corsham, takes in young adults of 17 to 19 — plus occasionally those in their early twenties — who have some basic educational weaknesses, and during an intensive ten-week period raises their educational standards to allow them to be able to cope better with the requirements of the military training they have chosen to take up.

Most of the students arrive straight from the Recruit Selection Centre at Sutton Coldfield (a few come also as a result of recom-



mentations by commanding officers) where they have scored just below the required points in some aspect of the personal selection test.

Courses are continuous throughout the year and the weekly — sometimes fortnightly — intake of 16 recruits represents on average three to five per cent of the total recruiting figure for the Army at the time.

Although two-thirds of the work at Corsham is educational, the staff take great pains to make life as little like school as is possible. Schooldays are long past for most of the recruits and the Corsham courses steer clear of a classroom atmosphere.

On arrival — usually on a Thursday or Friday — instructor officers begin to assess each individual's needs, be it in reading, spelling, writing or arithmetic that he shows a weakness. Helped by the Sutton Coldfield and other test results, the tutors over two or three days design individually tailored worksheets mapping out each student's studies for each week. As he progresses, his tutor adjusts the emphasis of the work. It is up to each recruit to complete his work in the given time each week.

The tutor is always there to lend a hand if

non-commissioned officer concerned has to have a degree of patience and understanding in order to guide his charges through their ten weeks at Corsham. Like the recruits, most of the NCOs come from the infantry and artillery. The officers are all from the RAEC.

Although the Corsham courses are short, they are intensive, and results are readily apparent at the end when the majority manage to score the required points. Those with reading problems, for instance, may come to Corsham with reading ages of from seven to 12 years. During their ten-week stay, these figures can jump by one or two years.

Two-thirds of the work at Corsham is educational. But the staff never loses sight of the fact that the students are Army recruits. So one-third of their time is taken up with what is called 'pre-basic' military training.

Recruits wear uniform and are badged General Service Corps, apart from those who come direct from Scottish regiments via the Glencorse depot. They learn basic drill and saluting and how to live communally in their airy barrack rooms in the impressive Bath-stone main building of the school. There is physical education, too, to keep them in trim.

Thus the successful student leaves Corsham with the advantage of some slight knowledge of the Army to take with him to his depot; knowledge that the recruit who goes direct from Sutton Coldfield does not necessarily have.

Corsham's chief instructor, Major Gordon Cummings, explained that there are two types of man who come to the school. There are those who have proved they are good enough for the Army but who need to brush up their educational skills in order to qualify for some specialisation of their choice. But the majority — some 75 per cent of the intake — are there to learn enough to allow them to pass the basic Sutton Coldfield tests.

The school's commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Roy Greenwood, stressed that the recruits are not fundamentally different. "These men have passed most of their tests to join up but they just need a boost to their educational attainment to be able to cope with the adult training at their depots."

The recruits come from all manner of backgrounds. Many have tried other work before. At Corsham an ex-merchant seaman rubs shoulders with an ex-decorator, a prize-winning show-jumping horseman with an officer's son. But all are being guided towards success in a new career.

The building bricks of education carefully laid at Corsham can provide that stepping stone to success that is so vitally needed.

Top left: Learning how to communicate. Face-to-face interview and the results go on video tape.

Far left: The lessons for the language classes come on reel-to-reel tape — kept in a library.

Left: Not only their brains have to be exercised but the recruits have to be licked into shape.

Below left: High noon on the parade ground as recruits get a taste of basic drill commands.

Top right: Commandant, Lieut-Col Greenwood.

Right: The only other badge is Royal Anglian.

he is needed but the recruits' motivation is usually strong enough to make sure they get through their allotted tasks. They are well aware that it is in their own best interests to do the work in order to be able to continue their embryonic Army career.

The work goes smoother, too, because the recruits are not basically unintelligent. Many have high enough IQs but, for a variety of reasons — some social, some education — are shaky in some aspect of basic education. Much of the problem stems from a lack of self-confidence and the staff spends considerable efforts in maturing its young charges. Communication skills are concentrated on in order to form a firm footing for the educational development of the recruits.

To this end, the courses are organised into small platoons with an RAEC officer in charge (one of the few opportunities the corps' officers get to actually command a group of men in their own right). Each mini-platoon has a corporal assigned from the staff who acts to all intents and purposes as a platoon sergeant would in a line regiment.

The difference is that each officer and



Most of the 100 or so students at Corsham at any one time wear the distinctive royal arms of the General Service Corps as a cap badge. The corps is a repository for Army personnel not yet assigned to a specific arm of the Service, and officers too are to be found in the corps' 'ranks,' usually before assignment to their units.

But the School of Preliminary Education at Corsham is thought to be the only unit whose personnel are badged almost entirely General Service Corps. The SPE officers are all Royal Army Educational Corps — with the exception of the quartermaster, a Royal Anglian — and the majority of the non-commissioned officer staff are from infantry regiments (plus a member of the Royal Signals, a gunner and a pioneer). But the 'rank and file' appear to represent the largest 'unit' in the nebulous General Service Corps throughout the Army.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

This year's pay award to the Services, long awaited and more than welcome, is by no means the complete answer to recent dissatisfaction with Service life. It cannot be expected, even had the rises been to immediate parity, either to stop in its tracks the rate of bids for premature voluntary retirement or to attract a flood of recruits.

But the pay award — the full tables are published in the 4 May issue of *SOLDIER* News — goes a long way to removing one of the basic causes of dissatisfaction. And there is the prospect of a new government agreeing an even earlier increase to the parity recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

So while the Services were promised parity with comparable civilian rates by 1 April 1980, including any further upward trend between now and then, they are aware that this year's promise has been met and can look hopefully forward to an earlier settlement than next April by the Conservative Party, which has declared it will do this if in power, or to a similar decision by the Labour Party.

Of equal importance to the pay award itself is that its honouring of promises is a major step towards the vital restoration of confidence in the future, as much a keystone in the attraction of a Service career as pay, conditions of service, separation and job satisfaction — all of which have been causes of unrest.

Looking into the crystal ball, there is prospect of improvement in varying degree in all these directions. Pay is currently 'buttoned up' with more to come and perhaps sooner than expected, and the Pay Review Body's report has laid it firmly on the line that future pay increases should be on the dot and at full parity.

Allowances which have not already been increased are being studied. Conditions of Service life are being updated, though improvements are largely ruled by the major problem of finance. Separation, however, is not a problem which can be solved overnight. It is interesting to note that the 1975 Defence White Paper, based on 1974 assumptions, anticipated strength reductions in Cyprus, Malta, Belize and Northern Ireland — only in Malta has the prediction materialised. Overstretch was also exacerbated by fire and ambulance duties.

Nevertheless, with manpower cuts restored, re-structuring completed and the pay gap narrowed, the Army can look forward to better days and getting on with its job, not only with confidence in the future but with the knowledge that the public, with whom its rating has

never been higher in peacetime, stands foursquare behind it.

★

On a domestic note, it is obvious from queries that not all units are au fait with the current production of *SOLDIER* News and the accounting procedures involved. *SOLDIER* apologises — as everywhere else, times are hard here as well! The staff, as yet unaugmented, has had to cope with a phased introduction of the fortnightly newspaper, convert to two lots of book-keeping, handle hundreds of new accounts, switch from one type of addressing machine and plates to another and gear itself to 38 instead of 12 distributions a year. Leaving too little time to keep everyone well or even adequately informed.

Answers to the main questions raised by units are:

SOLDIER is still a monthly magazine and still 20 pence (though this will be increased to 25 pence, hopefully not before the end of this year).

SOLDIER's terms for unit orders are:

One to four copies no discount, post and packing charged.

Five to nine copies five per cent discount, no charge for post and packing.

Ten or more copies — ten per cent discount, no charge for post and packing.

Credit is given for returns (from UK and BAOR) up to ten per cent of unit order, provided the returns are sent back on receipt of the following issue and are in re-saleable condition.

Elsewhere, credit is given on certification.

SOLDIER News costs eight pence and is issued fortnightly.

The terms for units are exactly the same as for the magazine. There is, however, an initial 'grace' period during which the ten per cent limit on returns will not be strictly applied — until units have had time to establish firm regular orders.

★

As British forces finally withdrew from yet another overseas station — this time the George Cross Island of Malta — many servicemen would recall happy days spent there in surroundings made familiar by 180 years of accepted British influence. Particularly would those be thinking back — nearly 40 years now — who formed the World War Two garrison of 15,000 troops and shared with the Maltese people the three years of endurance, with no fewer than 3343 air raids during the Island's epic siege.

For while Malta, independent only since 1964, had been subservient in its long

history to one empire after another, reflecting its strategic position in the to-ing and fro-ing of power, the British stay though comparatively short, had the greatest effect on the Island, leaving its mark in stone, the English language and above all in the friendliest of bonds with the Maltese people. The welcome to British people among today's tourists — now a main source of revenue for the island — is to kinfolk rather than to foreigners. And wherever Malta's future lies, that well-forged link will remain.

★

Falling into a you-can't win-'em-all category is the continuing presence of the Royal Artillery's 25-pounder gun. A note in these columns two months ago pointed out that the 12,500 25-pounders produced from 1940 onwards were now no longer — except for those preserved in museums or public places; those with university officer training corps; with the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery; the couple maintained by gunners in the Royal Armoured Corps' Bovington stronghold; those of the Honourable Artillery Company; and except for those with 266, 269 and 307 batteries of the Territorial Army Volunteers Reserve ... Plus, we now learn, the dozen held as saluting guns by 102 (Ulster and Scottish) Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery (Volunteers). As the regiment points out, at least six times a year its 25-pounders fire royal salutes from the saluting bases at Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Parliament Buildings, Stormont, in Northern Ireland.

SOLDIER's original researches could produce, surprisingly, no categorical inventory of the British Army's remaining 25-pounders, let alone those remaining from allied armies. One would have thought someone, somewhere, would, with W S Gilbert, have 'got a little list,' but alas not so.

'It would be appreciated,' wrote 102 Regiment, 'if you would publish the above information to complete your article.' *SOLDIER* is happy to oblige, but not at all sure that 'complete' it yet is! Watch this space!

★

Any fears that the peacetime infantry tends to go soft were dispelled by a soldier describing his company commander on exercise recently. With more than a hint of approval, the soldier told *SOLDIER*: "Let's put it this way, when the OC gets up in the morning and looks in the mirror, he says, '... and I even hate YOU, you bastard!'"

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BANG GOES THE BOFORS



STANDING PROUDLY against the rapidly darkening skyline were six familiar outlines — Bofors 40/70 guns, successors to the most widely used anti-aircraft guns in World War Two and now making a final appearance with the British Army after serving it for more than 40 years.

That ceremony on the windswept ex-airfield at Kirton Lindsey in Lincolnshire was a poignant moment to many — but none more so than to Mr Douglas Tilley, a ready mixed concrete salesman from Nottinghamshire.

When Mr Tilley saw in a newspaper that 30 Air Defence Battery (Roger's Company), Royal Artillery, was saying farewell to its Bofors with full pomp and ceremony, he knew he had to be there — 'for the Bofors was something special.'

Accompanied by his wife, a moist-eyed Mr Tilley watched as the gun detachment stood by, 30 members of the Royal Artillery Band came on to the concrete apron, and Bombardier John Tripney, regimental piper, emitted what sounded suspiciously like a lament as it mingled with the howls of the wind.

Mr Tilley told **SOLDIER** about the Bofors: "I was one of a few infantrymen who were transferred to 24 Regiment, Royal Artillery, during the war. We ended up on the Romney Marshes where we used to fire at the buzz bombs and the Jerry aircraft. I reckon I am probably the only bloke here who's actually fired one of those in anger."

Four Lightning fighters from RAF Binbrook swept overhead in a last salute as the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Mr David Hodge

continued over

Left: Night-time shot, World War Two. Bofors gun opens up at a marauding enemy plane.

Above: Spent cases litter the grass after the Army's last six guns fired their final shots.



Above: Break-up practice shot goes out over the old airfield as the Kirton-in-Lindsey men fire.

Below: Another old wartime photograph shows a Bofors in the desert waiting for aircraft.



(the battery is 80 per cent Scottish), carried out an inspection of the men and guns on parade. Canberras and a Vulcan had also been promised but the weather forestalled that.

So to the final demonstration of the Bofors. The gun detachment turned the guns round, facing out towards the airfield, and at the command 'Fire' eight rounds of break-up shot tumbled out in quick succession from each gun. Spent shell cases bounced over the concrete — it was all over in seconds. And as they fired — the rain came down in an awesome deluge.

This was the end of yet another link with the wartime Army. For the first basic Bofors gun was produced in Sweden as long ago as 1930 and during the war it was used by practically every combatant on either side.

By 1939 the gun was in service with 18 different countries and the United Kingdom was among ten nations actually producing them under licence. Germany was not on that list but it was not long before they

Below: Mr Douglas Tilley (centre) compares gun shell with Rapier missile held by Bombardier 'Scouse' Fielding and Sergeant Paddy Watson.



acquired Bofors — firstly from the Poles and later from the Dutch and British. The Japanese, too, got Bofors by this method — as they conquered Dutch colonies. The Battle of Britain and El Alamein were among major encounters in which the guns played a prominent role.

After the war, Britain continued to protect airfields and installations with Bofors and production continued with constant

updating and improvements. In 1957, 16 Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, was equipped with the 40/70 and its three batteries had a total of 18 guns.

The arrival of the Rapier anti-aircraft missile has seen their gradual phasing out and 30 Air Defence Battery was the last unit in the British Army to retain them — even the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve is no longer equipped with Bofors.

As the guns were coupled up to their ten-ton Leyland tractors and driven slowly past for the last time, Mr Tilley recalled that his wartime guns had been drawn by Morris Commercial vans. Then they were gone and the British Army's Bofors were no longer in service — bound for stores where they will be mothballed for the time being.

Below: Mr David Hodge, Lord Provost of Glasgow, meets the gun crews before the last firing.



Below: Mr Hodge and the GOC North-East District take salute as gunners march by in rain.

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PRIVATE WATSON- GENERAL MANAGER



FEW OF THE GUESTS passing through the luxurious Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi — rated as one of the top 300 hotels in the world — know that the man in charge of this famous establishment is a serving private in the Army Catering Corps.

For Mr Neville Watson (42), general manager of the Norfolk, leads a 'double life' as Private Watson of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve.

Shortly after the formation of the Civilian Volunteer Headquarters of the Army Catering Corps in Aldershot, Mr Watson — then in charge of Trust House Forte's international industrial catering division — joined up as a Reservist to get back to his first love in the catering trade, cooking.

He trained 25 years ago at the Lausanne Hotel School — 'The Eton of the catering world,' as he describes it. Contrary to the 'square-pegs-in-round holes' myth of the time, his National Service from 1957 to 1959 found him in the Army Catering Corps. After that his connection with the Army was broken until he joined the TAVR some two years before going to Kenya and his present job.

Keen to continue his TAVR service, he approached the Defence Attaché at the British High Commission in Nairobi who soon got permission from the ACC CVHQ for Private Watson to soldier on.

To fulfil his commitments, he spends weekends in the bush cooking for British troops on exercise in Kenya, trading his immaculate manager's suit and air-conditioned office for the tropical kit of a soldier slaving over a hot field kitchen under canvas in the British Army's tented bases in the bush.

He has now attended three such weekends since arriving in Kenya in August 1978 and will attend a two-week summer camp in Rhine Army during the passage-paid leave he is allowed by his employers at the Norfolk Hotel.

Back from his stints in cooks' whites, disruptive pattern material uniform and boots DMS, there could be no greater contrast for Private Watson as he dons once more his managerial suit in the plush hotel he runs.

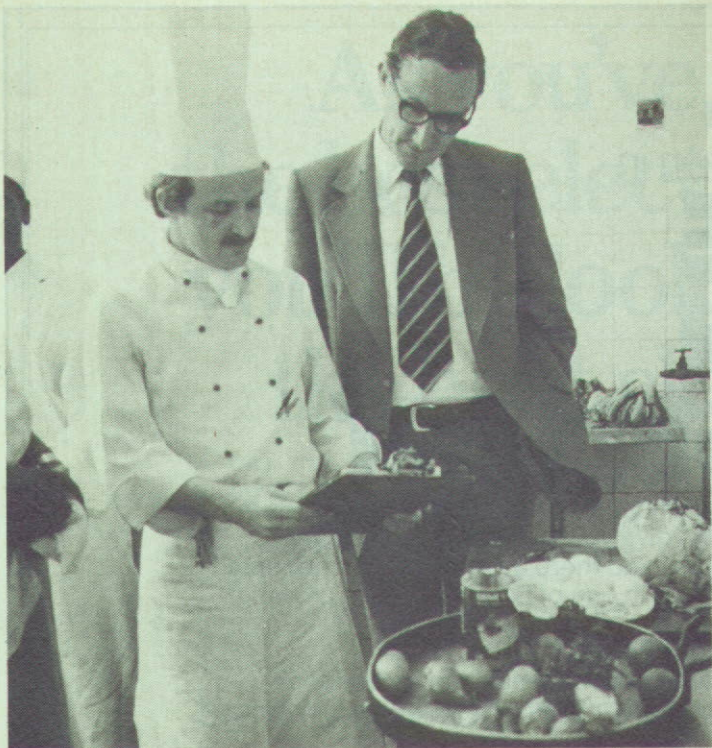
The Norfolk is steeped in colonial tradition. Now celebrating its 75th anniversary, it opened its doors on Christmas Day 1904 as the first establishment of its kind in East Africa — the last outpost of civilisation at the end of the railway line in the small settlement of Nairobi, now the thriving capital of independent Kenya.

Then — as now — the hotel's guests included the rich and famous. It soon became known as 'The House of Lords' because of the constant stream of titled guests who stayed there en route for safaris into the then-trackless wastes of Africa.

As a tribute to their memories of the Norfolk, many leading literary figures have mentioned the hotel in their work, including Ernest Hemingway and Robert Ruark, author of the definitive book 'Uhuru' about East Africa. On the Norfolk's shady verandahs, people still talk about the record-breaking safari mounted in 1909 by ex-president Teddy Roosevelt of the United States who set off from the Norfolk with 500 porters each carrying a 60lb head load.

Left: Private Watson poses in uniform on the verandah of his cottage in the Norfolk grounds.

Story: Mike Starke/Pictures: Paul Haley



For all its magnificence — and its still-impressive guest list — the Norfolk has maintained a friendly atmosphere. It is a favourite rendezvous for local people and Mr Watson laughs off their good-natured teasing about his double life as a 'spud-bashing pongo' in the British Army's TAVR.

He has no difficulty himself in reconciling his two lives. He explained: "I like cooking and don't get a chance to do it at work. In my job, I can only put on my cook's whites in an outside environment — and the TAVR provided me with the ideal opportunity.

Also, I find it interesting to find out what it's like to be back at the bottom of the tree again to see how the chain of command works from the point of view of the grass roots level."

As for his comrades in uniform, he said: "It takes about an hour to get acclimatised to a field kitchen and the work there for the blokes to see I'm not in it for a 'swan' and that I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty. I find I've got on very well with the units I work with."

He is also pleased to see the degree of autonomy allowed to the specialist teams he

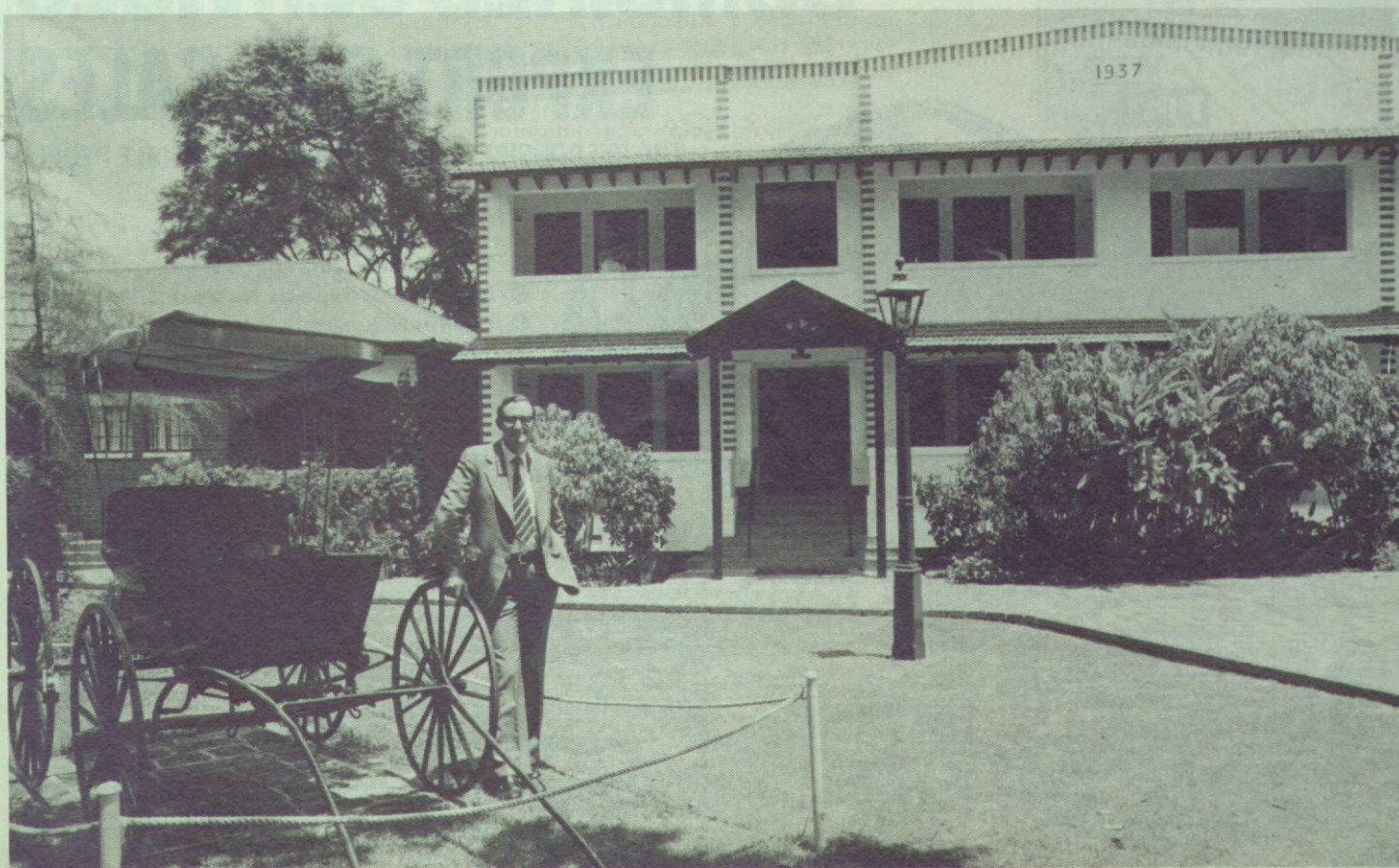
works with in the field; he says he used to find this back in the old days as a National Service cook. "No-one interferes with you. They just let you get on with the job."

In this context, he occasionally cannot resist experimenting with his skills in the field. Once he made a splendidly garnished fish-shaped presentation of a dish of tuna for the troops — who were promptly somewhat suspicious of the 'cordon bleu' treatment.

But they soon realised that part-time Private Neville Watson was a true professional in his own right, whether in the tented camp as part of a team of soldiers or in his immaculate civilian clothes greeting the international guests staying at Nairobi's historic Norfolk Hotel.

Above: With the Norfolk's chef, Eamon Mullan.
Below: Posing in the hotel's spacious square.

Above right: Mr Watson adjusts the 'scoreboard' kept at the hotel of game seen at Treetops.



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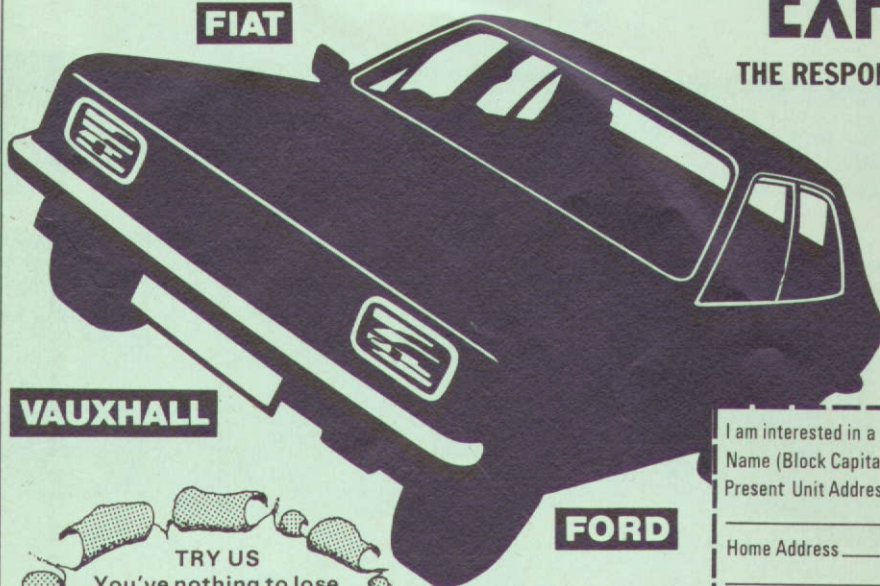
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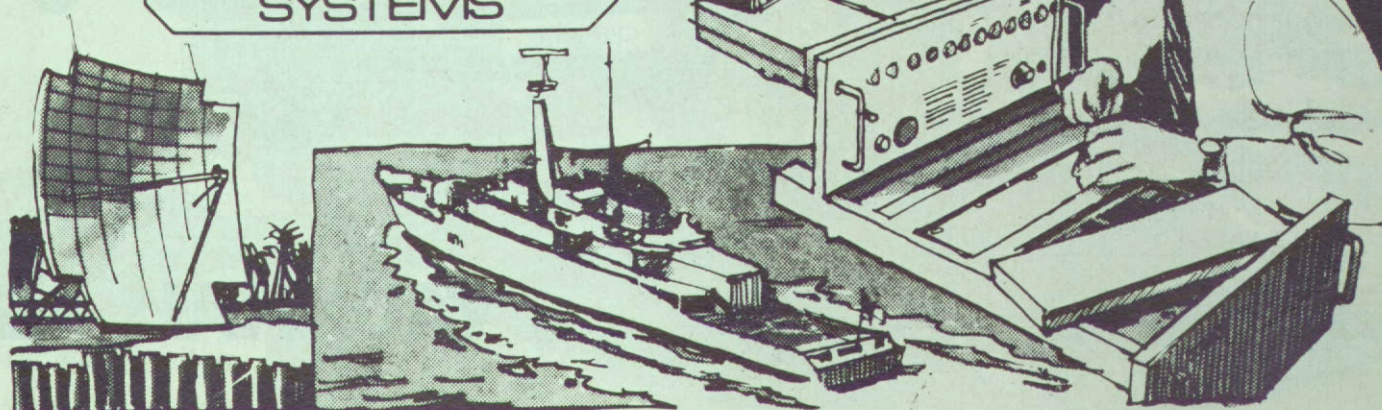
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BAPTISM OF FIRE

ONE OF THE MOST intensive periods of major projects by signalmen anywhere in the world — that was the baptism of fire awaiting the Queen's Gurkha Signals as they received their Royal title towards the end of 1977.

For the Queen's Gurkha Signals are now fully responsible for British Army communications throughout the Far East. And 1978 and the early part of this year saw many changes within Hong Kong, most of them involving the communications men.

The new British Forces Headquarters at HMS Tamar had to be provided with its own new joint communications centre. At the same time the Royal Air Force was moving from Kai Tak airport up to Sek Kong in the New Territories. And Victoria Barracks, a British Army centre since the 1840s, was to be handed over to the Hong Kong Government by the end of March 1979.

This meant removal of some telephone

Below: Watched by a woman dockyard worker, Hong Kong Military Service Corps telecommunications mechanics join a cable at HMS Tamar.

exchanges, the installation of new ones and the expansion of that at Sek Kong. Communications centres were being relocated and expanded and in addition a colony-wide static micro-wave radio relay system was being installed.

Meanwhile the Hong Kong civilian authorities were as usual busily developing. The creation of the Mass Transit Railway and the widening and electrification of the Kowloon-Canton railway also led to problems for the Queen's Gurkha Signals. Lots of cabling had to be moved — this in itself was a major headache as in many cases the cables had been laid by the occupying Japanese and no-one could really be sure just where they were.

Finally, teams from the QGS created a contingency high-frequency radio site on Stonecutters Island and installed special radio communications operations rooms for military and police use in the event of civil disturbance.

Not a bad catalogue of work — and Lieutenant-Colonel Paddy Verdon, who commands the Queen's Gurkha Signals, is

justifiably proud of his men. He says: "We are taking people from the hills of Nepal with little or no education and we are bringing them up to the point where they are fully comparable with any signals regiment anywhere in the world."

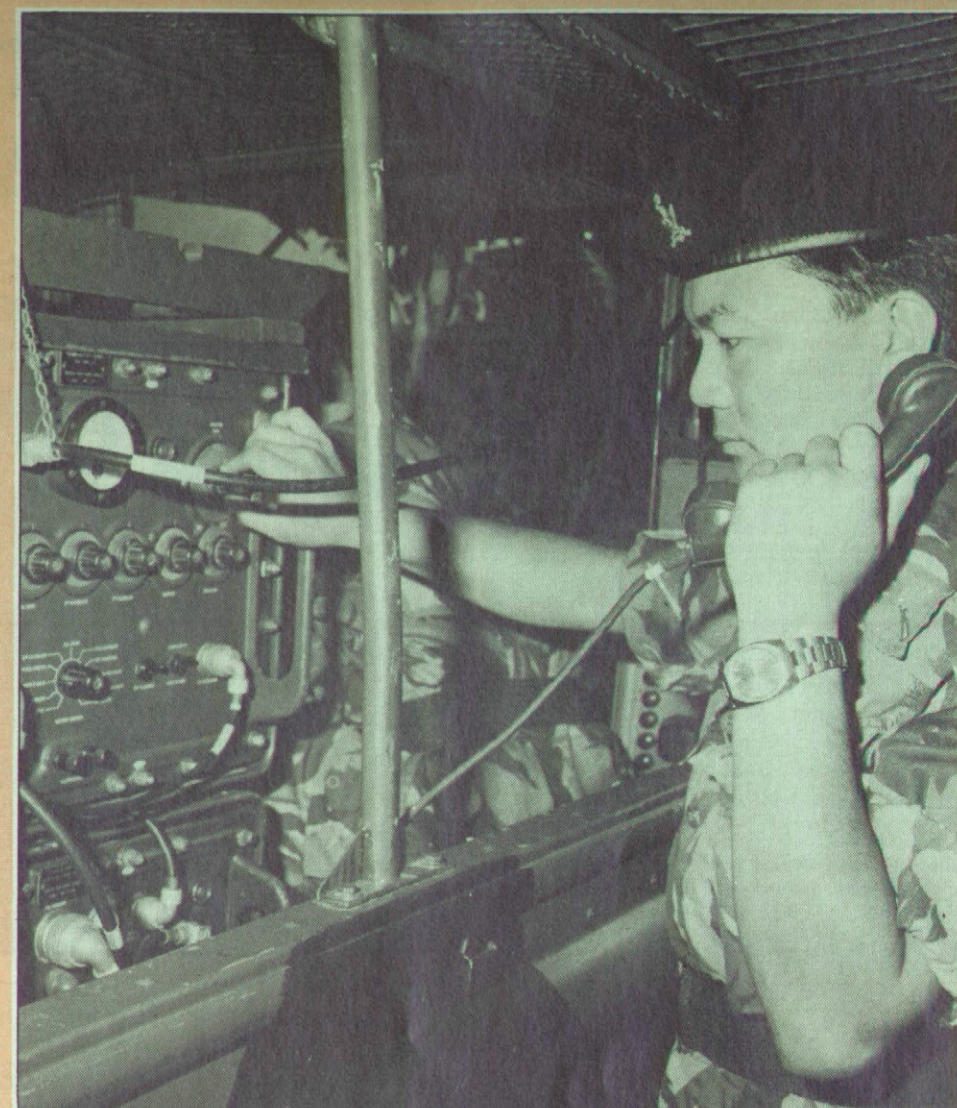
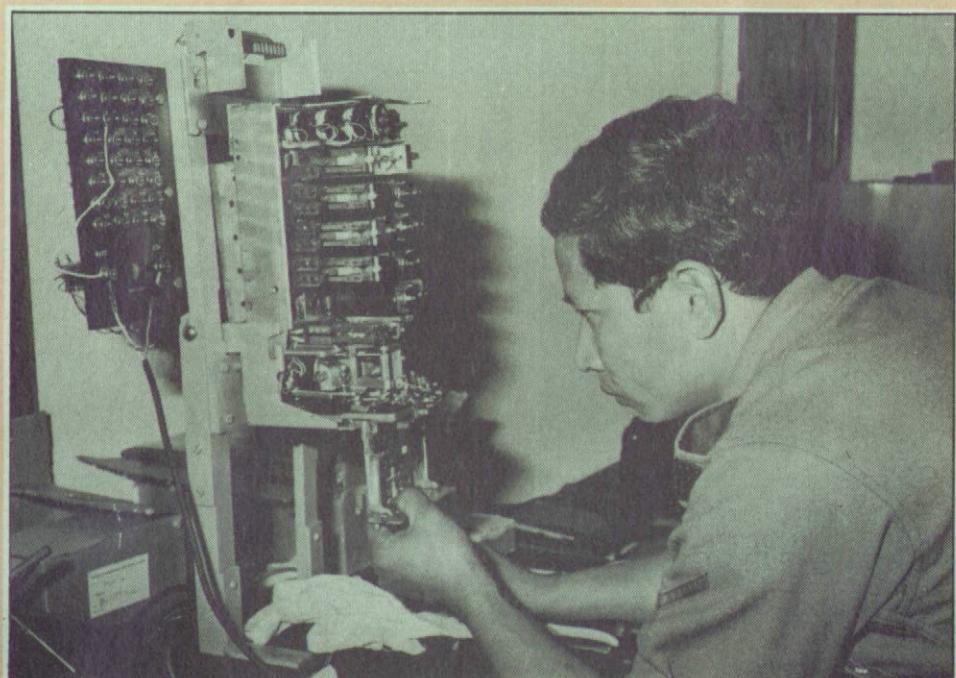
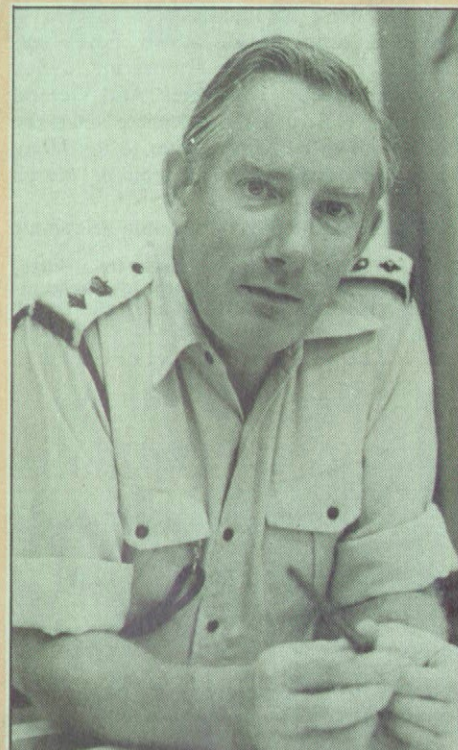
The regiment is just over 1000 strong — of these about half are Gurkhas, with 229 local civilians, 72 Chinese soldiers from the Hong Kong Military Service Corps and the rest British, including 34 girls from the Women's Royal Army Corps.

There are signals troops in Nepal, in Brunei and with the Gurkha battalion stationed in England at Church Crookham. But the bulk of the regiment is in Hong Kong — mainly with two squadrons, the Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron and the Gurkha Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron at Sek Kong.

The latter squadron provides support to the commander of the Gurkha Field Force and has day-to-day responsibility for administering the headquarters. And while the soldiers patrol along the border they have a signal troop detachment with them



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt



Top left: A row of Land-Rovers fitted with C41 radio equipment ready for action at Sek Kong.

Centre left: Maj John Neeves (left), squadron commander at Sek Kong, with Lieut Jo Fletcher.

Left: Lieutenant-Colonel Paddy Verdon — 'no finer or better signal regiment to command.'

Bottom left: Piper Signalman Birbahadur Ghale plays a Scottish air in the local Highlands.

Below left: In the bowels of the new Forces HQ, L/Cpl Narayan Tamang makes an adjustment.

Above: Recreation time and men of the Gurkha Field Force squadron play lots of basketball.

Right: Tuning in one of the C41 Land-Rover-based sets which are soon to be replaced.

Below: The Signal Officer-in-Chief questions a Gurkha NCO. Left is Lieut-Col Paddy Verdon.



responsible for keeping them in touch with headquarters. Says Major John Neeve, who commands the squadron: "In this hilly country you have to put a re-broadcast station to act as a relay. Our men have to anticipate which way the battalions are moving and put in the communications so that the commander can speak to them."

Another troop, mostly Chinese, is responsible for all cables in the New Territories. Every time a road is up they have to be present to make sure cables are not damaged.

There is a troop of radio technicians who keep the kit working and about 20 men form the defence and employment platoon. They dig trenches, defend the headquarters and act as a personal bodyguard to the field force commander as well as in more peaceful times providing the pipes and drums of the regiment.

The signalmen who go out with the border patrols are still equipped with rather old Pye and Larkspur radio systems — but soon it is hoped to replace these with new ultra high frequency pocket phones similar to those used in Northern Ireland. And investigations are being carried out into providing a full military telephone system along the border.

On the wall of the communications centre at Sek Kong is a series of Comstar awards — the Gurkha radio telegraphists almost got gold awards four years running but failed narrowly by winning a silver on one occasion. Yeoman of Signals Ross Graham told SOLDIER: "This is even more remarkable

when you realise that they are Gurkhas who work in English and have to pick up all the errors in another language. I think they are even better than British telegraphists in that they have been doing the job longer and are desperately keen."

Sek Kong's Garrison Sergeant-Major Ray Briant says that the Gurkha Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron has a lot more variety in its life than its counterpart in Germany. "This is more like the traditional east-of-Suez role. There used to be signals squadrons operating like this all over the world — now we are probably the last. Although our first priority is internal security, we retain the capability to operate and provide support in any brushfire situation."

Down at HMS Tamar the Hong Kong Gurkha Signal Squadron had to renew all the cabling before the opening of the new headquarters as well as re-route cables from Victoria Barracks. Staff-Sergeant Brian Clark found the cable changing quite a task — especially as the Japanese intruders, not surprisingly, did not leave any records of where they laid their cables.

"The earliest records were 1952 and the problem was that there has been such a lot of rebuilding in Hong Kong since the war and many of the cables are under main highways where you cannot get at them. In those cases we had to find an alternative route and lay a new section. In fact one section of cable at Aberdeen had to be abandoned because it was 40 feet below the present road level." It took 11 months of frantic work between the

continued over

first cables being laid and the last — a month before the new headquarters exchange was to open.

In the Kowloon police district headquarters there is a special room where the Hong Kong police and the military authorities would control operations in a civil disturbance emergency. Sergeant Ratnaman Pradhan and two non-commissioned officers from the Kowloon troop installed all the communications equipment for this centre and his radio technicians from the Kowloon troop would also operate it for the Army.

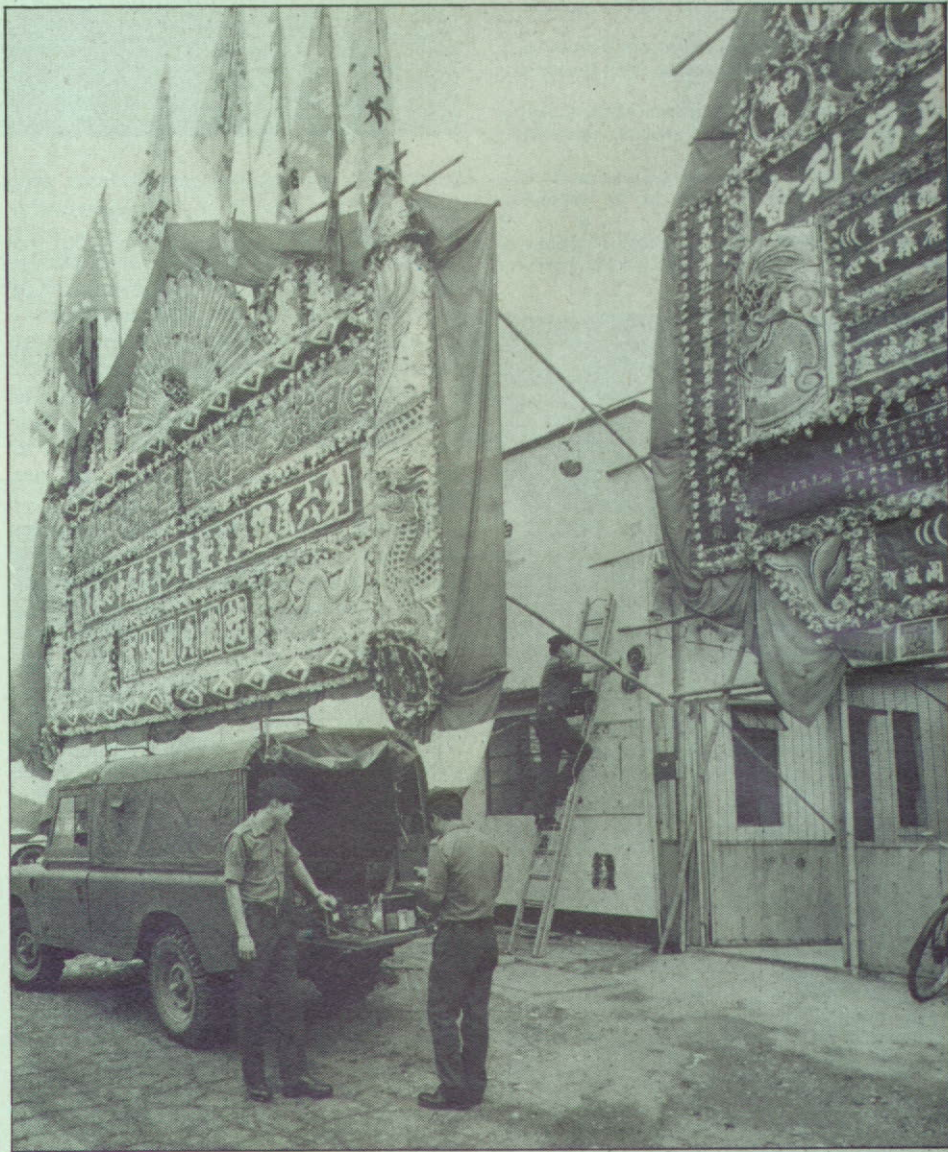
All these projects have been carried out during a period of re-organisation and at a time when the Queen's Gurkha Signals were taking over their far-reaching responsibilities. Small wonder then that the Signals Officer-in-Chief, Major-General Alastair Anderson, expressed surprise at the achievements since he served in Hong Kong years ago.

He told them: "You may regard yourselves as one of the crack regiments of the Royal Signals." To which Lieutenant-Colonel Verdon adds his own tribute: "There's no finer or better signal regiment to command."

Right: Sergeant-Major Ray Briant shows a young Gurkha recruit how to hold a crossbow.

Below: The men at Sek Kong take it in turns to act as 'combat goatherd.' The goats are food.

Below right: Chinese New Year decorations show lots of colour as linemen find a cable fault.



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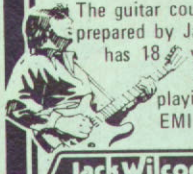
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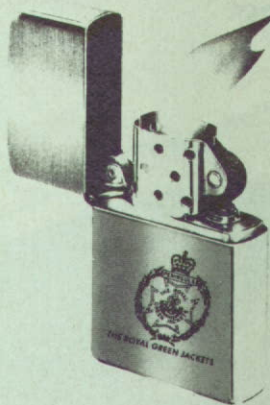
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Military Museums

76

THE STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT



THIS PURPOSE-BUILT museum houses a wealth of relics associated with the South and North Staffordshire regiments which amalgamated in 1959 to form The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's).

By way of introduction, descriptive wall panels, which include a 'family tree,' trace the history of the regiment, from its formation on 25 March 1705 by Colonel Luke Lillingston, with its battle honours and all the stations in which it served. Nearby are photographs of the 13 regimental winners of the Victoria Cross while six VCs — two won in the Zulu War, one in World War One and three in World War Two — are on display.

Reminders of the Napoleonic wars follow with relics including buttons, coatees and prints of Peninsular battle scenes. A waist belt of 1876-81 marks the first appearance in the regiment's badge of the Prince of Wales's feathers; a King's Own Staffordshire Militia shako badge features Windsor Castle; another shako plate boasts a silver dragon commemorating the participation of the 98th, the Prince of Wales's, in the first China War of 1842.

Here too can be seen a pioneer's serrated sword and pictures of young Ensign Wolseley, the future field-marshal, who started his career in the 80th, later the 2nd South Staffords. Next, an early Fenton photograph shows all that was left of the Light Company of the 38th after Sevastopol, and another Crimean relic is a 38th coatee with massive epaulettes. There follow some souvenirs of the Indian Mutiny, among them a pair of Pathan jezails, a cannonball from Cawnpore and a section of the last Union flag to fly over the Residency at Lucknow.

The earliest of six uniforms in the Militia and Volunteer section is one of the Staffordshire Militia dating from about 1807. An early grey Volunteer tunic is also noteworthy and there is a fine display of shakos, forage caps and badges with most of the latter featuring the Stafford knot. Among other uniforms are an 80th officer's white tropical undress patrol jacket, an 80th sergeant's coatee from the Sikh wars and a 64th shell jacket.

Some well-preserved relics of Field-Marshal Lord Clyde, who as Colin Campbell commanded the 98th, include his KGCB robes and a small cannon taken from the Lucknow mutineers and later presented to him. A nearby case contains the huge key of the Lower Gate of the Citadel in Cairo, the sword carried by the commanding officer of the 1st South Staffords, who was killed at the battle of Kirbakan during the attempt to relieve General Gordon, and a Sudanese jibba as worn by the Dervishes.

A splendid diorama of the Zulu War

In the entrance to the museum is this 200lb bell taken by the 80th Foot from the Shwe Dagon pagoda in Rangoon in 1853. It was presented in 1855 to the Borough of Stafford and kept at the fire station until returned to the regiment in 1940.

battle of Ulundi and a smaller one illustrating the regimental custom of handing over the Colours to the sergeants on the anniversary of the battle of Ferozeshah, occupy a central position.

A good display of medals and decorations features awards gained in various parts of the world and groups earned by individuals from the Peninsular War to the present day. A selection of weapons used in the South African War leads up to souvenirs of World War One such as a batch of German grenades, a cavalry headdress, a long-barrelled Lugar pistol and an early British gas mask, while a Piat is in a selection of World War Two miscellanea. A comprehensive assortment of hand arms, the bugle which sounded the advance of the 1st North Staffords on the opening day of the third battle of Ypres, and the beret and smock worn by Major Robert Cain, 2nd South Staffords, when he won his VC at Arnhem, are also featured.

Worth noting is the handsome presentation sword given by the ruler of Bahrein to the 1st Staffords, the last British unit to leave the Persian Gulf; a contrasting link with the past is the restored Colour of the Loyal Pottery Infantry of the Napoleonic period.

An adjoining room contains among other exhibits a fascinating collection of regimental records, an international array of machine-guns and an excellent series of paintings by Lawson, depicting the uniforms of the 38th from 1705 through to the 1st South Staffords in 1959.

John Jesse

Curator: Major M K Beedle (Retd)
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SAPPERS IN THE SUN



Story: Alan George
Pictures: Sgt George Moffatt

THE 120 SAPPERS of 11 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, left icy Yorkshire and 18 hours' flying-time later were blinking at the warm Californian sunshine. As their RAF VC 10 taxied to a halt an American Army band awaited them on the tarmac and they were greeted too — at an impromptu parade — by the local US Army divisional commander, Major-General Philip R Feir.

A series of tough exercises awaited the sappers. They had swapped jobs, equipment and barracks with B Company, 13th Engineer Battalion, US Army. Once settled in at Fort Ord, a huge base 120 miles south of San Francisco, their first task was to learn to use US Army equipment. Every soldier fired the M16 rifle — the US Army's stan-

dard infantry weapon, the M60 machine-gun and a grenade-launcher. Most also fired AK47 Kalashnikov assault rifles captured from the Viet Cong.

Then military engineering skills were put to the test and the Ripon-based sappers laid minefields, prepared demolitions, set out barbed-wire entanglements and built pontoon bridges. As the soldiers toiled in the exercise area scrub-land, buzzards lazily wheeled overhead. Throughout the month the tempo quickened and the individual training gave way to section tasks and then to troop level exercises, culminating in a squadron exercise.

But all work and no play would make the soldiers very dull boys indeed. The first weekend, the squadron visited San Francisco, the most cosmopolitan and colourful of North American cities. Staying in a US Army barracks within sight of the Golden Gate Bridge, they were free to ride cable cars and tread in the footsteps of all those film and TV stars regularly seen on the screen.

One weekend was spent in Los Angeles and its Disneyland was acclaimed by most soldiers as the attraction they wanted to visit. "I've always wanted to come here, I'm only sorry I couldn't bring my children," one soldier exclaimed as he wandered from the stern-wheel paddlesteamer, Mark Twain, which churns around 'Frontierland.' Soldiers were delighted to see their sergeant-major fraternising with Mickey Mouse, or at least a man dressed up as Mickey Mouse. Most of the famous Disney characters wander around amid the crowds

of tourists to the delight of old and young and soldiers.

Some of the secrets of the film-makers were revealed the next day when the squadron visited Universal Studios in Hollywood. The publicity handouts boasted: 'Runaway trains are as common an occurrence on the Universal Studios Tour as the "Parting of the Red Sea," a "Collapsing Bridge," a "Doomed Glacier," an attack by a "Killer Shark," a "Flash Flood," the crash of "Airport 77," and the mean green "Incredible Hulk," who rampages the tour.' The soldiers were not disappointed.

Throughout the exercise the sappers lived in US Army barracks and ate in a mess hall — NCOs and officers as well as the men. Most felt British Army cookhouses served better fare and with a less limited choice — but it was a chance to have melon followed by fried eggs on waffles for breakfast, even if hominy grits were not to everyone's taste. Nevertheless, countless hamburgers and hot-dogs were wolfed and almost every soldier spoke glowingly of the standard of civilian food and of the overwhelming friendliness of the Americans.

"The exercise was challenging and its value lay in seeing how our principal ally operates," stated Major Chris Jarvis, commanding 11 Field Squadron. "We had the chance to look at the US Army's engineering equipment and methods and the way they live. I like to think they learned something from us too."

Top: Sappers pose by the Golden Gate bridge.

The 120 British soldiers were at Fort Ord for a month and swapped jobs, equipment and barracks with an American engineer company which flew to Ripon, Yorkshire, 11 Field Squadron's home. In addition to a series of rigorous exercises which taught them American techniques and accustomed them to US Army equipment, they also taught the Americans something of their own skills and methods.

But it was not all work and no play. The sappers visited San Francisco, Los Angeles, Disneyland and a film studio.



Left: Climbing aboard one of the streetcars.
Above: Sometimes you just grin and bear things.



Above: The paddlesteamer Mark Twain made men wish they had been able to take their kids.



Above: There was American equipment to use like this M47 Dragon anti-tank weapon system.



The Royal Engineers were introduced to the 'Gun that won the East' during the exercise in the Wild West. This sapper is pictured with two US Army hosts, one of them (right) dressed as a 'potential aggressor' and holding a Chinese-manufactured Kalashnikov AK47 assault rifle.

Lieutenant Michael DeJohn, a US Army Intelligence officer, explained: "The Russian-designed AK47 was captured from the Viet Cong. This type of rifle was the terrorist's mainstay and has been called the 'Gun that won the East.' In the picture the British sapper is holding up an Egyptian-made bullet captured during the Yom Kippur War — the communist nations have armed many of their allies with this, their basic infantry weapon. We have a lot of ex-communist equipment at Fort Ord to implement the 'OPFOR' (opposing forces) concept.

"This concept is designed to add realism to military training and a doctrine has been developed where the 'enemy' in an exercise not only copies potential aggressors' tactics, but also uses their weapons and try to look as similar as possible to these 'potential aggressors.' "

Lieutenant DeJohn added: "This is a positive step to bring realistic training into the everyday life of the soldier; we are teaching an awareness of the potential enemy. The United States has identified the Warsaw Pact countries and North Korea as 'potential aggressors'; that is why we have collected as much of their equipment as possible. When on exercise we wear uniforms similar to theirs.

"There is an ironic touch — the OPFOR uniform I am wearing is basically an American workman's clothes bought in a local department store and modified." He continued: "Here at Fort Ord we have a Russian-built T54 tank and a BTR 60 armoured personnel carrier in addition to a selection of infantry weapons."

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On top of the world — on St David's Day

TWELVE WELSH GUARDSMEN were more than usually on top of the world when they celebrated St David's Day with the traditional exchange of leeks this year. The guardsmen, and two members of 72 Squadron, RAF, spent the day on top of Mount Kenya, at 17,058 feet the highest mountain in Kenya, and second highest in Africa as a whole.

The leader of the expedition was the Welsh Guards' paymaster, Captain Dave Kirkwood, a climber of some 20 years' experience. He explained that the once-in-a-lifetime chance to take a party of soldiers up the snow-capped mountain, incongruously set in the scorching bush of central Kenya, came up, thanks to the co-operation of 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, which agreed to take the Welsh Guards contingent under its wing during Exercise Strident Call in the shadow of the mountain at Nanyuki.

The Berlin-based Welsh Guards mounted an expedition to the Alps last year and had planned to go again this year. Then the Mount Kenya opportunity cropped up. An experienced Alpine mountaineer, Captain Kirkwood said that Mount Kenya was much higher than the tallest Alp and was technically very difficult. He added: "Its height and remoteness make it a very serious mountain."

Most of the party had had only a year or

so's experience of climbing and basic training had been done on a synthetic rock face in Berlin's Grunewald. So the plan was to spend some five weeks on the slopes of Mount Kenya with climbing parties rotating every fortnight or so, "After any longer at that altitude you get stale and shattered," added Captain Kirkwood.

Acclimatisation had to be made methodically with the party practising navigation at altitude. They went on to make reconnaissance of possible routes to the summit and do what Captain Kirkwood described as 'serious scrambling.' Only after that did the serious climbing begin.

While their comrades back in Berlin had their ceremonial parade during which leeks were presented to the members of the battalion, the group of guardsmen on Mount Kenya faithfully maintained the tradition by exchanging paper replicas of the symbolic Welsh leek.

The party got within 400 feet of the summit when they met severe ice conditions, making it too dangerous to press on to the top. But they managed a complete 'circumnavigation' of the peak and climbed Point Piggot and Point Le-Nana — two of the lower crests of the mountain.

Captain Kirkwood said: "We made it a day off and had a bit of a party." . . . As if they had not got high enough on Africa's second highest mountain!



Above: All the stores are laid out and checked and now the climbers pack up for their climb.



The climbers were (left to right) — kneeling: Sergeant Chris Hopkins, Guardsman Dave Clark, Mark Pemberton, Mark Herbert, Billy Smith, Jeffrey Lilwall, Graham Hogg. Standing — Guardsman Colin Farrelly, Paul Turley, Sergeant Pat Aston, Captain Dave Kirkwood, Lieutenant Nigel Hambury; from the RAF — Flying Officer Andy Buckland, Corporal Mike Evans.

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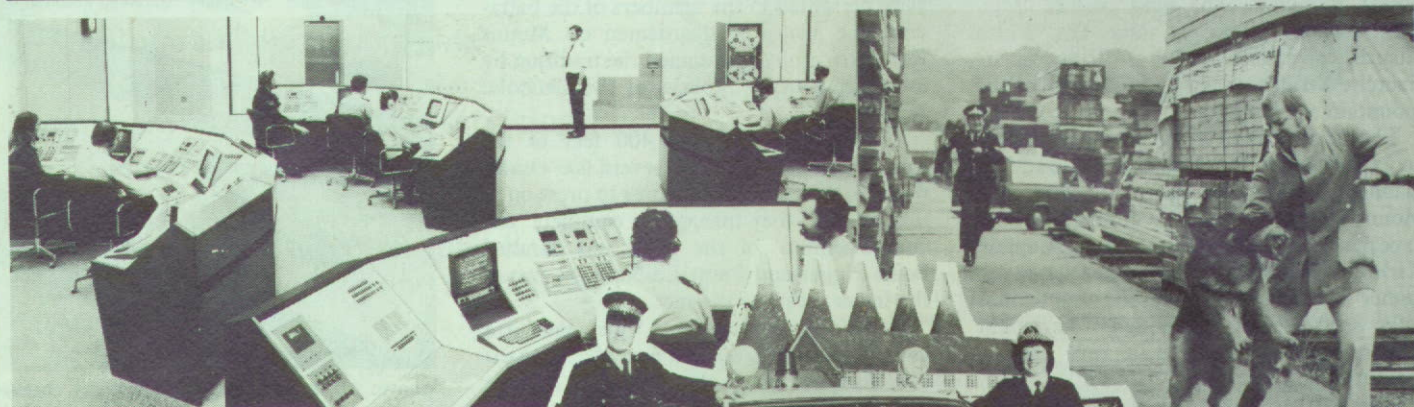
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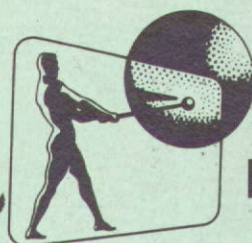
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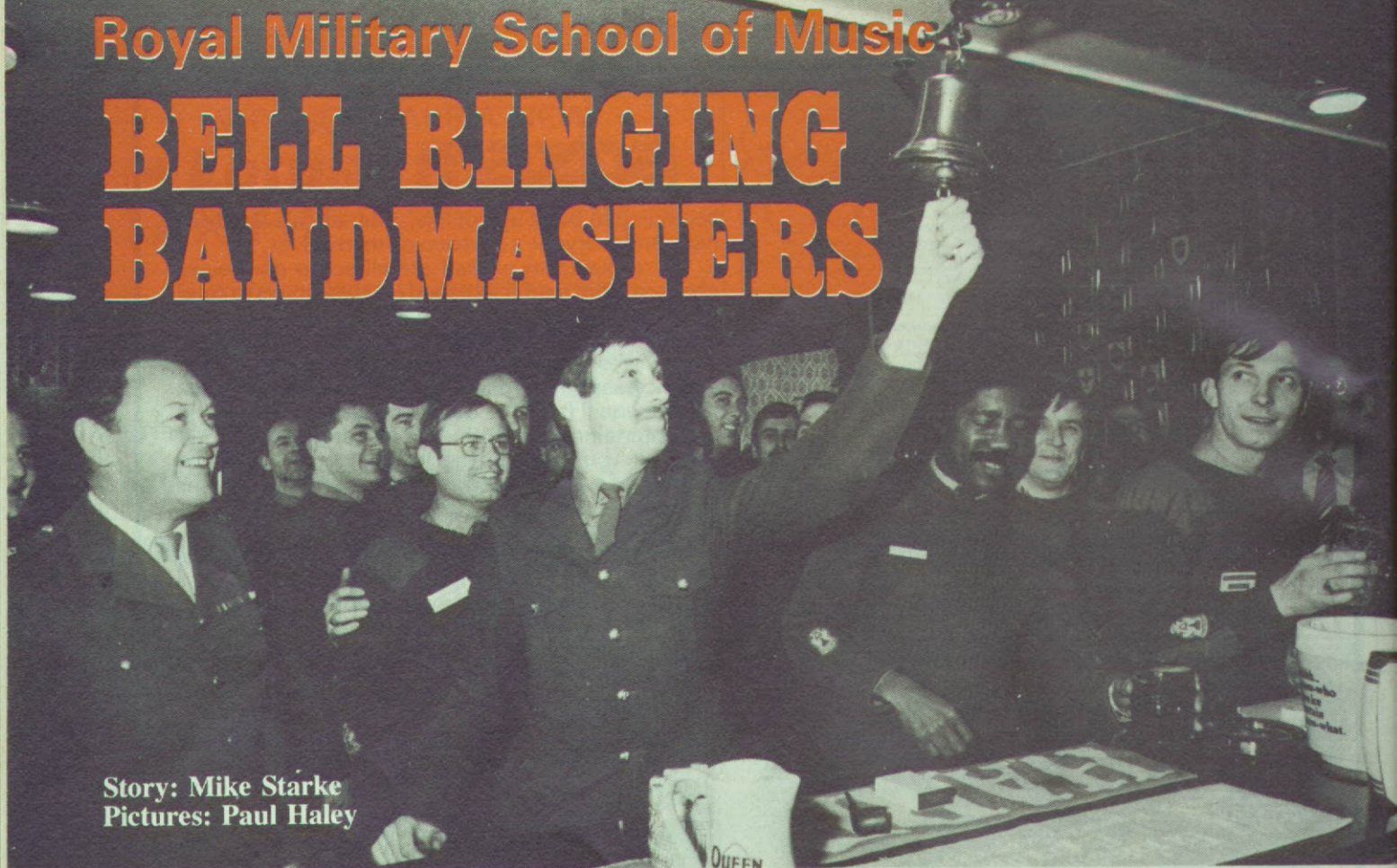
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RANK LEISURE

Royal Military School of Music

BELL RINGING BANDMASTERS



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley



WHEN THE BELL above the bar rang, it sounded a mental note of A in the minds of the soldiers assembled around it. For music is their business as students at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

The bell's A note set the tone for celebrating the graduation of a bandmaster from the school after a gruelling three-year course. Now a warrant officer 1, Frank Slack was looking forward with barely concealed pride to taking up his appointment as bandmaster with The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in Germany.

His pride was amply justified by a colleague at the celebration who said: "It's a big moment, this — there's a hell of a lot of blood, sweat and tears behind that simple act of being qualified to ring the bell as a graduate of this course."

And Frank was no beginner in the first place. He had played for some time with the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and an orchestra in Israel before joining the Army — relatively late — at 25.

But in common with all the other candidates for the two types of course at Kneller Hall, he had to be a member of an Army band and be recommended for his course. Some students also come from foreign and Commonwealth armed or police forces.

The student bandmaster course — which Frank Slack had passed — is a three-year affair for 25- to 30-year-olds with both musical and band experience. But they are recommended and auditioned for Kneller Hall not only on their musical ability but also on their potential as warrant officers. For that is the rank their ultimate appointment will carry and some will go from lance-corporal to WO1 to fill it.

The musical skill needed is considerable. A candidate must be able to play at least one wind instrument and have knowledge of stringed and keyboard instruments before being accepted. During his course he will have to master the other nine band instruments apart from his own. These are flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, horn, cornet, trombone, euphonium and tuba, as

Top left: Warrant Officer 1 Frank Slack rings a bell in the sergeants' mess — he's graduated.

Left: Conductor learning his job in front of critical orchestra of soldier musicians.

well as the rudiments of percussion. This has to be accomplished in some 20 to 24 months — roughly two-and-a-half months per instrument!

A candidate remains on his regimental strength during his six-month probationary period at Kneller Hall following the September of his arrival. He then spends a year in what is known as Ministry of Defence Class II before spending his final year of intensive theoretical training in Class I.

The MoD examination consists of four subjects — harmony, instrumentation, aural training and conducting. Competition is fierce and if a student fails two theory subjects he is returned to his unit as unsuitable for further training. He gets just one second chance at the exam if he fails one theory subject plus conducting only.

The last six months of the course is spent on competitions by the successful students. During this time they get intensive instruction and practical experience in conducting and administration.

After all this, the student is qualified as a bandmaster and waits for a vacancy to occur in one of the Army's 78 bands. The large corps have staff bands while cavalry and infantry maintain regimental bands.

A military historical oddity occurs among the staff bands with the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Band Corps, which was specially constituted at the beginning of the 19th century and, as a corps in its own right, is the smallest corps in the British Army with an establishment of under 40 men.

As well as the student bandmasters, Kneller Hall also accepts some 200 bandsmen a year as pupils for a one-year course. They, too, come in September and are instructed in their primary wind instrument and are given additional training on the piano or a stringed instrument. Again, the pupils come by recommendation, this time by their depot bandmasters if they are junior musicians, or by their regimental bandmasters if they have already joined a band. Their ages range from 17½ to 21.

On arrival at Kneller Hall the pupils are divided into four companies and each is formed into a balanced band of some 50 players. Each company is divided into three squads for administrative as well as musical purposes and student bandmasters are



Commandant, Col E I Windsor-Clive.

appointed as company and squad commanders as part of their training for senior rank.

The four companies work as individual bands or as a massed band of up to 200 in Kneller Hall's popular public concerts which are designed to give experience in playing in front of large and discerning audiences.

As well as working together, the pupils are given individual instruction by the 20 or so civilian instrument professors on the staff as well as other training by the student bandmasters, such as the daily elementary theory classes. They are also encouraged to form small chamber music groups and take part in local musical activities in and around Twickenham — just a few miles from the centre of London — where the school is situated.

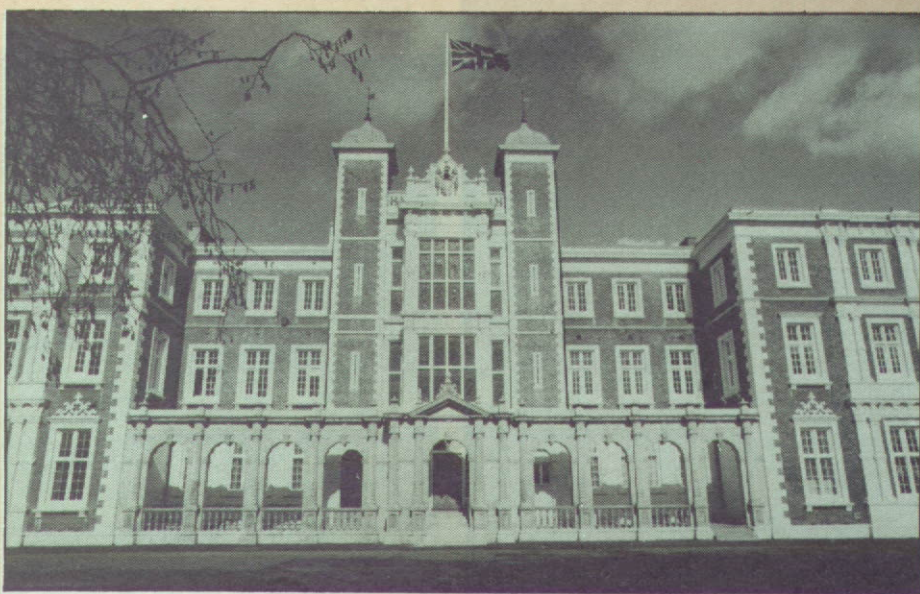
The pupils may compete for various prizes in the same way as the student bandmasters do. In the pupils' cases these are for progress on their instruments, theory

continued over

Kneller Hall was originally built in 1709 as the country house of Sir Godfrey Kneller, a German immigrant who was court painter to Charles II and four other monarchs. Sir Christopher Wren's original building was irreparably damaged by fire in 1848 but was rebuilt before the Army took it over. Since 1857, Kneller Hall has been the Mecca of military music with the exception of the years 1939 to 1945.

During those war years it took on a top-secret role as a second-line bunker for Churchill and his staff should the bunker at Horse Guards in London be destroyed, and the cellars still bear the remnants of this intended use.

Later, the hall was used for rehabilitating prisoners-of-war of the Japanese.





Above: Budding tympanist gets some instruction on how to get the background beat just right.

Above right: Lieutenant-Colonel Rodney Bashford, now retired from the Army but still at Kneller.



(including harmony, instrumentation and aural training) and for the best instrumentalist of the year.

As a military unit, Kneller Hall is headed by its commandant, a colonel, who has a small military and civilian administrative staff. The musical staff is headed by the director of music, a lieutenant-colonel, who is chief instructor of the school and the Army's senior director of music.

His assistant is a retired officer (his initials, RB, might ring another bell, who is himself an ex-director of music at the school). There are also a staff bandmaster and a librarian as well as the score of expert civilian professors.

Said one of the staff: "All the most famous instrumentalists of their day have taught at Kneller Hall." Sir Arthur Sullivan's father was among them and Sullivan himself learned music at Sandhurst before his collaboration with W S Gilbert on the series of operettas which have become world famous.

Kneller Hall's student bandmasters and pupils themselves graduate into a branch of military life that keeps them constantly in the public eye.

The single A note rung out on the student's mess bar bell to mark their graduation becomes orchestrated into a whole repertoire of military music that will take them worldwide as British Army bandsmen to set the seal on many a glittering occasion.

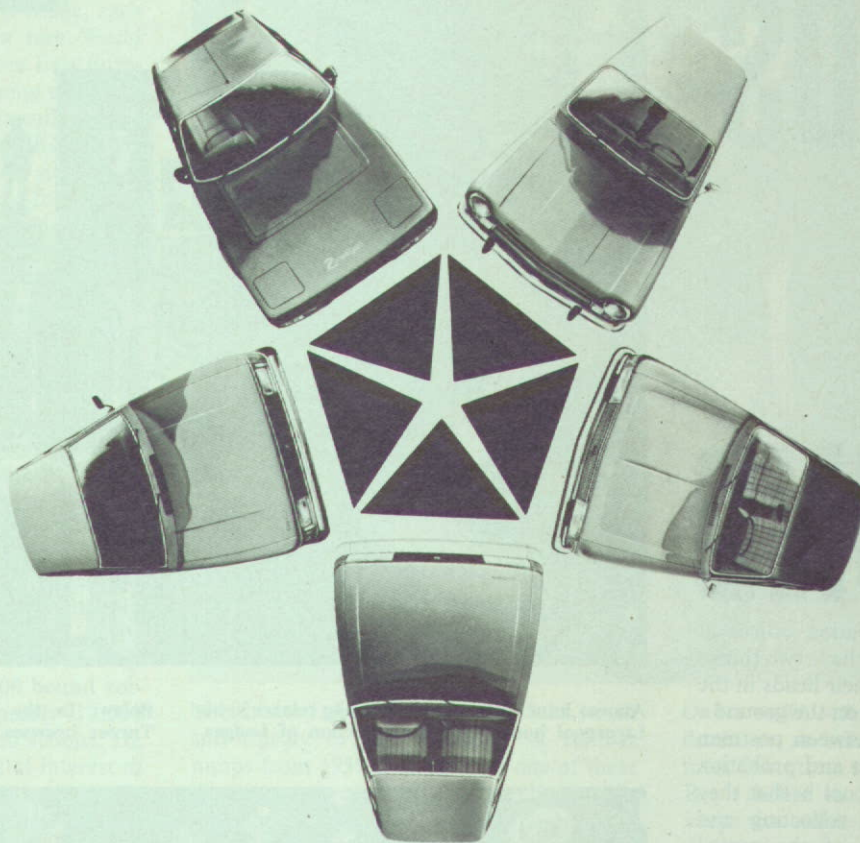
Regimental music in its earliest form was created by soldiers with the trumpet, fife and drum. It was not until the first part of the 18th century that military bands as such began to make their appearance. They consisted of eight instrumentalists comprising two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons and two horns. They were privately maintained. Civilian 'Masters of Bands' — many of them German immigrants — led these bands. These leaders were individualists whose training and upbringing were found to be unsuitable for the rapidly expanding British military music scene in the mid-19th century.

At a victory parade to celebrate the end of the Crimean War, the massed bands were found to have no cohesion of style and different instrumentation and pitch. The resulting cacophony was vividly described by the Duke of Cambridge, then Commander-in-Chief of the British Army.

The Duke ordered that there was to be a central training establishment to unify the efforts of British Army military bands and he founded the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall in 1857.



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S 5

HEAD IN THE CLOUDS FEET ON THE GROUND

A POSTMAN and a probation officer at opposite ends of the country have two things in common . . . they have their heads in the clouds, but their feet firmly on the ground.

The heady connection between postman Roy Turner from Aldershot and probation officer Bob Bragg of Liverpool is that they share an avid interest in collecting and studying airborne insignia of the armed forces of the world.

As down-to-earth militaria enthusiasts they have spent years collating, researching and gathering together exhibits. This has now resulted in their joint authorship of 'Parachute Badges and Insignia of the World,' which has just been published and looks like becoming a standard reference work on the subject.

The two struck up a friendship some ten years ago through their shared interest in parachute badge collecting, a branch of the worldwide fraternity of military enthusiasts. Although both are now civilians, they both served in the forces, Roy in the Royal Marines for four years and Bob in the Royal Air Force for two years at the end of World War Two before transferring to the Army in 1945. He ended his service as a major in 12th/13th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in the Territorial Army as it was then.

Soon after leaving the 'Royals,' Roy began collecting badges and by 1963 was specialising in airborne insignia. He still remembers his first badge — a beret patch of the United States Army's 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Over the years he has established close personal links with not only American collectors but units too. He and his wife Margaret, and sometimes their children Katrina and Christopher, have been guests of Americans in the States, "They're all so hospitable," said Roy. "We pay our fares there, of course, but from then on we're looked after by friends and contacts in their own homes."



Above: Joint author Mr Bob Bragg relaxes in his Liverpool home with his collection of badges.

Below: In the 'Para' town, Aldershot, Roy Turner browses in his collection of 1000-plus.



Story: Mike Starke

Living as he does in Aldershot, depot town of the British airborne forces, it is not surprising that he has a complete set of British insignia. Beautifully framed and mounted, the badges form one of a number of frames that cover the walls of his dining room at home.

Each badge represents hours of painstaking research and many have fascinating histories. Roy picked out one 'wing' issued to the Katanga Gendarmerie during the Congo civil war — only 100 were ever made, each numbered. He pointed out a rare World War Two patch from an obscure East European unit, now long gone, among the many rarities he cherishes among his collection.

But although priceless to him, Roy's 1000 or more insignia cost him little or nothing to collect. "The most I've ever paid for a badge was ten dollars (£5)," he said. "Mostly you build up a collection by swapping." And however big your collection is, he added, someone who has just started can show you his handful of badges and nine times out of ten one or two of them will be ones you've never seen before. So the bartering process starts immediately!

A bulging correspondence file bears witness to years of international research towards Roy's collection which represents 102 nations.

Meanwhile, up in Liverpool, Bob Bragg presides over his own collection which has occupied his leisure time for more than 25 years. He too has some 1000 badges, in his case from 93 countries, and backs this up with a staggering library of 400 bound volumes on the subject and nearly 10,000 documents relating to units and actions. He has recently extended his field of interest to take in combat swimmer units and already has 170 insignia from 17 countries.

Describing the book he wrote in collaboration with his old friend Roy Turner, Bob said: "The aim of the book was to make available a reference work in three separate areas that had never been previously published. Firstly to give illustrations of the world's parachute wings, secondly to give a



brief history of parachute units of the world and thirdly to give a history of combat jumps from 1939 to 1978. Not one of these three separate areas of interest had previously been published."

The two collectors have been encouraged to see their contribution to the hobby has already attracted interest from others on both sides of the Atlantic.

Both are members of the American-based 'Chute and Dagger' organisation dedicated to Special Forces enthusiasts and, with a

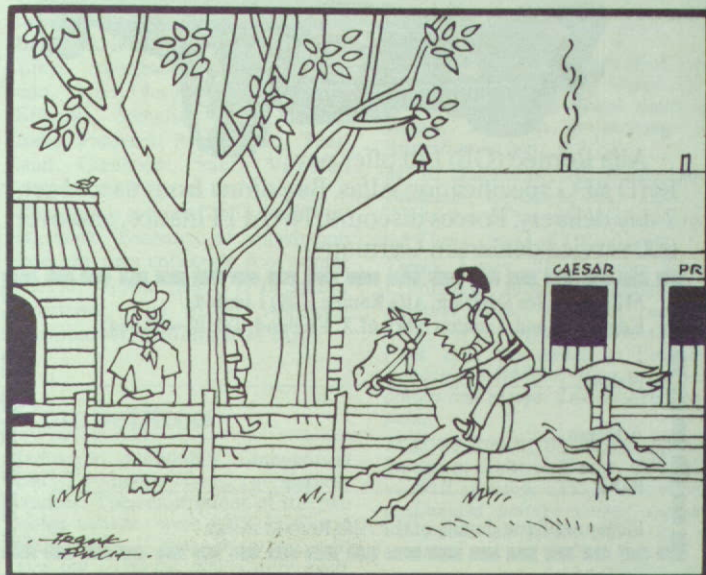
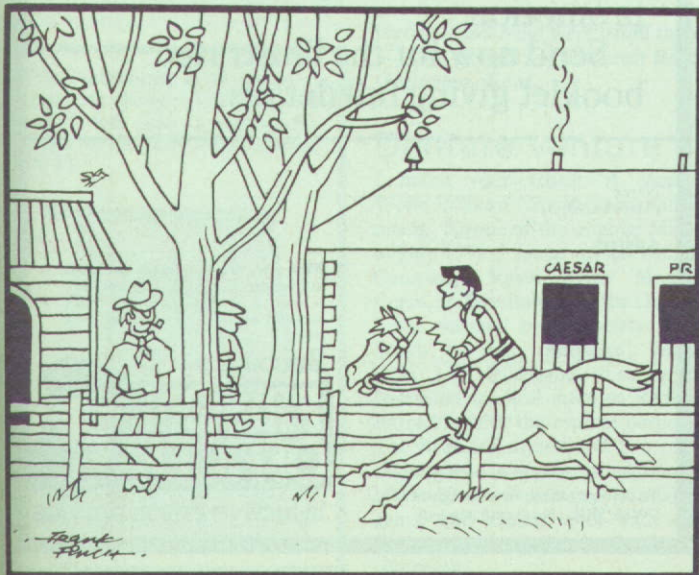
dozen or so other British members, they meet from time to time to compare notes at Roy's house in Aldershot. "My wife just keeps the coffee and sandwiches going and we 'jaw' away into the early hours," commented Roy.

As with all true enthusiasts, time is no object.

'Parachute Badges and Insignia of the World' (R J Bragg and Roy Turner) is published by Blandford Colour Series, price £4.95.

How observant are you?

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



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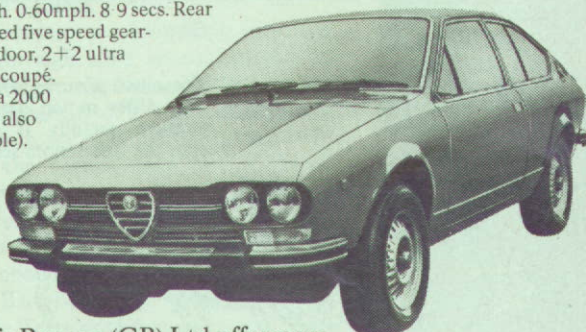
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shaped saloon.



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122mph. 0-60mph. 8.9 secs. Rear
mounted five speed gear-
box, 2 door, 2+2 ultra
stylish coupé.
(Alfetta 2000
saloon also
available).



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Letters

God bless . . .

As a very young boy and a military enthusiast, with an elder brother serving as a sergeant in The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment, I regularly attended occasions of military pageantry in Dublin before World War One. Every Sunday my family attended church parade at Wellington Barracks, South Circular Road, Dublin.

At that time, the National Anthem at the end of all military band performances was preceded by 'God Bless the Prince of Wales.' Would it be deemed a cheeky suggestion that this should similarly be played today before 'God Save the Queen' at all Service occasions? — **F M Waters, 14 Brinkburn Court, Manor Road, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8HZ.**

Kitchener

Reading of Lord Kitchener's railway coach (February SOLDIER) brought back a memory of 63 years ago when, I think at Easter, the London boys' organisations held a big parade, marching past King George V and Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace, to Horse Guards Parade and through the arch into Whitehall, where Lord Kitchener took the salute.

I took part in the parade as a member of the London Diocesan Church Lads Brigade. I wonder how many of those boys are alive today and who can remember seeing the great man in Whitehall? — **C G Andrews, 16 Blossom Way, Heston, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW5 9HD.**

'I was Lord Kitchener's . . .', brought back fond memories of my boyhood, spent at the Shoeburyness experimental establishment. For

many years my father was ESM there and we lived in one of the few married quarters on the ranges until he left the Service in 1929.

We children were allowed to ride on the train which ran twice a day to bring military personnel from the barracks in Shoebury Town to work on the ranges. We were confined to the guard's van but nonetheless thought this infinitely better than walking or cycling.

If my memory is accurate — it is 50 years since I left Shoeburyness — the train comprised three carriages painted in Service green. Two of these were conventional, although rather austere for those days, while the third, the subject of your article, was a complete contrast and known to we children as 'the officers' carriage.' It was particularly impressive with its highly polished table, brown polished lino on the floor and lots of brass fittings, including the external rail shown in the picture.

Imagine my delight on reading your article — and how nice it is to know that some links with the past still remain. Mr Jim Higgins deserves considerable praise for his skills in restoring this fine old coach to its former condition — long may it continue to serve as a reminder of bygone days.

I shall be interested to hear from any readers who also may have known this train in the 1920s. Incidentally, some of the photographs which you say line the Kitchener coach's walls may have been the work of my grandfather, Mr Bob Williams, who was the official photographer on the ranges in the 1920s and early 1930s. — **E R Soame, 115 Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon.**

Wakey, wakey!

I am trying to locate any wartime members of The Border Regiment band who were at Alford, near Woodhall Spa, in Lincolnshire, on 12 and 13 November 1944, when the battalion and band were based there. — **A W Cooper, 47 Elmcroft Road, Orpington, Kent.**

Denture venture

I found your article 'A Medical World in Store' (March) most enlightening. As one of the original Militia of July 1939, I found myself with 13 Company, Royal Army Medical Corps, in Edinburgh. In the October I was selected by a veteran of the South African campaign, Major (QM) J H McClelland, to set up the command medical store at Redford Barracks, with the rank of corporal. The brief for myself and two other soldiers was to receive consignments of surgical dressings, bandages, gauze and cotton wool and send these, on demand, to units in the command.

The War Office had other ideas — we started getting in initial supplies of drugs, glassware, surgical instruments and everything but the kitchen sink for Army dental centres, including 1,000,001 false teeth (yes, the total was verified on a recount!)

Major McClelland arrived as the first officer-in-charge, the staff was increased and in December I became a sergeant and, in January 1940, at the ripe old age of 21 and with only six months' service, a staff-sergeant! 'Mac's' vast experience was early evidenced by his foresight. He had many friendly battles with the then deputy director medical services and his deputy at HQ Scottish Command, over what appeared to them to be gross over-ordering, but he was adamant, foreseeing a long war, and we never had any real shortages. Certainly we never re-ordered stationery or packaging materials in my time!

I left in 1941 to join the Embarkation Medical Store in Glasgow and was a chief clerk before being commissioned in the Pioneer Corps in 1942. Although I enjoyed the latter war years and in the Army Emergency Reserve with the Pioneers, my heart often yearned for the old corps. Given the chance to re-live those memorable years, I would without doubt have remained 'In arduis fidelis.' — **Andrew Cowans, 1 Southfield, Wiveliscombe, Somerset.**

Gurkha appeal

While I appreciate Corporal Lovibond's sentiments (Letters, January) in donating a day's pay to the Gurkha relief fund, to which I am a subscriber, I feel that such a precedent would inspire other Service charities to seek the same benefit from soldiers.

It is not that I have anything against the Gurkhas — I served with some of them at Mons Officer Cadet School, my company commander was 2nd/7th, and I have the greatest admiration for them. — **Francis McGarrell, c/o Mrs B Howard, Box 2641, Palm Beach, Florida, USA.**

Been there?

I would be most interested in hearing from anyone with information on the following armies and their uniforms, badges of rank and regimental distinctions in the period 1945-1979: Biafra, Algeria (post-independence), Libya (post-independence), Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Saudi-Arabia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Korea, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Thailand, Cambodia, South Vietnam, present-day Vietnam and China. This data is required for a forthcoming book. Exchange of information from my own collection is of course offered. — **Maj (Retd) D G Smith, Bramcote, The Street, Ashfield, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6LY.**

Competition

January's double-bill Competition 246 ('Two in one') foxed a good many readers. The registrations of the two stolen vehicles were LBR 332F and WGL 392N. These were the odd men out — all the others were made

up of the final letter of the licensing authority plus its first two letters and, in the case of four letters, the penultimate letter of the authority.

The second competition, based on substitution of figures for symbols, gave a multiplications of 14149 by 22, making 311278, ie 31 Dec 78 as the predicted end of the world — and the eccentric was fortunately wrong again!

Prizewinners:

- 1 Mrs R Strain, 18 French Road, Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.
- 2 Mr D Magee, 29 Rochester Road, Taunton, Somerset.
- 3 Cpl J Rodger, Regimental Band, 1 RS, BFPO 17.
- 4 Capt R Bacon, 14 Eastleigh Drive, Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire.
- 5 J V Cooke, 39 Cody Road, Farnborough, Hampshire.
- 6 Sgt E Atkinson, ACIO, 10 Midland Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

How observant are you?

(see page 47)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Position of right chimney on stables. 2 Bird on left roof. 3 Scarf of man on left. 4 Base of bucket carried by workman. 5 Top of fence post second from left. 6 Horse's mane. 7 Horse's left rear hoof. 8 Front of rider's beret. 9 Shape of saddle. 10 Broken branch of left tree.

Collectors' Corner

S T Petersen, Dalen No. 2, DK-7130, Viby-Sj, Denmark. — *Collects worldwide artillery badges and emblems. Wishes to buy Malta Artillery, HAC and others. Has Danish badges and flashes for exchange.*

Niall Cherry, 228 New Cross Road, London, SE14 5PL. — *Seeks British formation signs. Buy or exchange. Also 240 cap badges for sale or exchange for formation signs.*

R J Sinnott, 1 Alleyn House, Great Dover Street, London SE1. — *Seeks trade, proficiency and skill-at-arms badges British Army, in cloth or metal. Will buy or has cloth badges for exchange.*

A White, 26 Daniels Welsh, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. — *Do you have any militaria from a button upwards, from any theatre of war or any country, you would sell, load or give to the new Milton Keynes Military Museum which opens shortly?*

R P Hale, 1 Preventative Med Coy, Ingleburn, New South Wales 2174, Australia. — *Seeks British Army cap badges. Will buy or exchange for Australian badges.*

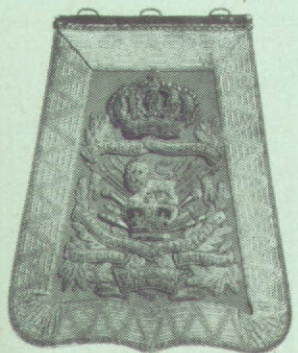
M K Blackshaw, 42 Moss Lane, Bramhall, Cheshire, SK7 1EH. — *Wishes buy LP or tape 'Marching with the Tigers' (band of 1 Leicesters).*

Derek Lister, 10 Hollings Street, Cottesley, Bingley, Yorkshire. — *Requires medals for Zulu campaign 1877, 78, 79, any regts, especially 24th Foot. Also any medals to York and Lancaster 65th/84th Foot, especially officers and groups. Top collectors price paid.*

Miss M Smith, 65 Ricardo Street, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 4EX. — *Will exchange with other collectors used/unused postage stamps and low value coins all denominations and all countries.*

continued over

This sabretache of an officer of the 15th (King's) Hussars, post 1880, was sold at auction for £360 by Sotheby Parke Bernet & Co.



S Icton, 38 Spring Garden Road, Hartlepool, Cleveland. — *Walthers P38 Replica gun as new, with dummy shells. Will exchange for British cavalry or any QVC cap badges.*

R B Williamson, 40 Bryn Hedydd Road, Clwyd, LL18 3UG. — *Seeks any military sew-on patches. Reasonable price paid. Also wanted, any military badges and a peaked cap.*

K Campbell, PO Box 11, Aberdeen, AB9 8AG. — *Seeks medals, diaries, militaria or anything to Scottish Horse or 79 or 80 med regts RA; also to 13 (Scottish Horse) Bn, BW.*

Flt-Lieut S J Lloyd, Royal Signals and Radar Establishment, Reconnaissance Section, G203(S), Malvern. — *Seeks No. 5 Mk I bayonet and scabbard as used with Lee-Enfield .303 jungle rifle of WW2. Any condition considered.*

P S Pearson, 182 Middleton Road, Gorleston-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth,

Norfolk. — *Ex-service collector requires all copies SOLDIER 1945-54 to complete collection. Reasonable prices please.*

Mrs I Stephen, 12 Wannock Close, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, TN40 2SQ. — *Wishes buy old paperback copy Cornelius Ryan's 'The Last Battle,' now out of print, also 'Lancaster Bomber' (D B Tubbs). Also seeks all Polish airborne insignia and WW2 RAF 'Sweetheart' wings, silver or other, with or without pin, to replace similar of sentimental value which have been lost.*

Geoffrey Newport (aged 12), 15 Ifley Road, Oxford, OX4 1EA. — *Starting collection of British military medals. Has two of WW1 (Mum's uncle), and WW2 Defence and War medals. Seeks advice on collecting medals and any spare medals at reasonable price.*

W Field, 12 Dolland House, Newburn Street, Kennington, London, SE11 5LR. — *Seeks parodies of 'I Lost the Sunshine' (I lost my oil bottle*

and pull-through), 'I Wore a Tulip' (I wore a tunic, a dirty khaki tunic) and 'Lili Marlene' (The D-Day Dodgers). P Howarth, 17 Collen Crescent, Bury, Lancashire. — Wishes trade 30 misc issues Globe & Laurel 1968-78 for SOLDIER 1966-67.

G Vickery, 12 Burden Close, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, Wiltshire. — *Has D-Day book published by Daily Express in 1954. Wishes exchange for para and SAS cap badges, also wings and shoulder flashes of para. Sae with enquiries, please.*

Officer M Pleasance, c/o HM Prison, 1 Brighton Road, Lewes, East Sussex. — *Ex-piper 1 A & SH seeks LP 'Pipes in Concert' (Invergordon Distillery Pipe Band — EMI SZLP 2078), now out of print.*

Capt Phillip M Block, 12 Bath Road, Muizenberg, Cape 7945, Republic of South Africa. — *Collects badges, buttons, bayonets, helmets, belts and other military items. Has cap and collar*

badges in metal and cloth shoulder flashes of RSA for exchange.

Captain Paul G Durrance USMC, PO Box 82, Stella, North Carolina 28582, USA. — *Wishes trade USMC militaria for British cap badges and regimental journals.*

Jerry Hunt, 5 Digby Street, Far Beach, Mackay 4740, North Queensland, Australia. — *Wishes buy cap badges British Regular cavalry regts, especially pre-amalgamations; also Australian Army cap badges.*

Albert C L Q Hing, 706 10 Street North, Lethbridge, Alberta T1H 2E3, Canada. — *Possesses red serge jacket, beaver skin cocked hat and two sets of leathers of an ADC to Queen Alexandra. Seeks sash belt to complete.*

Reunions

Notices of corps and regimental reunions should be sent to Editor, **SOLDIER**, Ordnance Road, Alder-

shot, Hants, GU11 2DU, at least two months before the event is due to take place. No charge is made for announcements which will, where appropriate, be repeated at two-monthly intervals.

Fiddlers Club. Eighth annual reunion, Royal School of Artillery, Larkhill, Fri/Sat 10-11 Aug. All pre-1939 RA trumpeters invited. Details: Maj (Retd) J J Dobbs, Easter Ross House, Minley Road, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire.

32 Regiment, Royal Artillery. Sergeants' Mess reunion, 6-7 Oct, Bulford Camp. Ex-mess members and their ladies most welcome. Further details from BSM D A Dufall, Sgts Mess, 32 Regt RA, Wing Barracks, Bulford Camp, Wiltshire.

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.

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.

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, BFPO 46.

The XVIIIth, The Royal Irish Regiment and South Irish Horse. Annual reunion dinner, 82 Eaton Square, London SW1, Sat 2 Jun,

8pm. Annual service of remembrance, Cenotaph, Whitehall, London, Sun 3 Jun, 11am. Details from P J Boyce, 13 Sticklepath Terrace, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX31 2AY.

The Middlesex Regiment (DCO). Albuhera service of remembrance 2.30pm, Sat 12 May, St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4. Annual reunion, Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2, 7.15pm, Sat 12 May. All Diehards welcome at both.

The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades Association. Reunion and cathedral service Sat 14 July. Form up in Bury Meadow 4.30pm. Dinner 7pm, St George's Hall, Exeter. Tickets (£2.00) in advance from RHQ The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, EX2 6AE.

5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. All ranks reunion, Sat 5 May, Connaught Suite, Royal Com-

monwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue, London, 8pm. Tickets (£5.00) from Regimental Secretary, Home Headquarters, 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, The Castle, Chester.

The Welch Regiment Old Comrades. Reunion, Sat 13 Oct, TAVR Centre, Broadway, Pontypridd. Further information: V D Williams, 41 Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 8EZ.

The Dorset Regiment Association. Annual reunion, Sat 8 Sep, TAVR Centre, Poundbury Road, Dorchester. Details from: Secretary, The Dorset Regiment Association, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1RN.

Ex-Prisoners-of-War. Annual reunion and concert, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, Fri 14 Sep. Details: Maj J Howe (Retd), Castleton, Hookwood, Limpsfield, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 9DU.

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

MAY 1979

- 10 Queen presents new Colours to 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Queen's 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). (Light Infantry Flying Bugles' freefall team).
- 17 Devon County Show, Exeter (17-19 May) (Royal Green Jackets freefall team).
- 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) (Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team; RA motorcyclists 20 May).
- 19 **Open Day, IBM Hursley, Winchester (RGJ freefall).**
- 20 **Round Table Show, Ringwood (RGJ freefall).**
- 23 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 23 Stafford Show (23-24 May) (RA motorcyclists; RGJ freefall).
- 25 At Home, Royal Artillery, Woolwich (25-26 May) (RA motorcyclists).
- 25 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, lays up Colours, Derby Cathedral.
- 26 Hertfordshire Agricultural Show, Redbourn (26-27 May) (RA motorcyclists).
- 26 Blackburn Army Tattoo (26-28 May) (Red Devils; Pegasus; static displays; five bands).
- 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).
- 30 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 30 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (30-31 May) (static displays).
- 30 **Royal Bath and West Show, Shepton Mallet (30 May-2 June) (RGJ freefall).**
- 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 Neot's (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) (Red Caps; Red Devils; Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; five bands; pipes and drums).**
- 3 Ssafa Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.
- 3 **Surrey Area Horse Show, Tadworth (RGJ freefall).**
- 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.
- 7 **Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge (7-8 June) ZRGJ freefall.**
- 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) Zjunior band).
- 9 Solihull Carnival (Flying Bugles).
- 9 Nuneaton Carnival Gala (RA motorcyclists).
- 9 Horley Carnival (Red Caps).
- 9 **South of England Show, Ardingley (RGJ freefall).**
- 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 sounds 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).
- 17 **Nottingham Water Festival (RGJ freefall).**
- 20 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 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).
- 24 Princess Margaret presents new Colours to 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, Bury St Edmunds.
- 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) (Red Caps).
- 30 **Wales and the West Show, Crick, Chepstow (30 June-1 July) (RGJ freefall).**
- 30 **Open Day, 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, Hohne.**

JULY 1979

- 2 Millennium celebrations, Isle of Man (2-3 July) (RA motorcyclists).
- 4 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 6 **Southampton Show (6-7 July) (RGJ freefall).**
- 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 (JLRR PT. Flying Bugles; RA motorcyclists; two bands).
- 7 Town and Country Show, Stafford (7-8 July) (Flying Bugles).
- 7 **Exeter Air Day.**
- 8 Royal Tournament march, The Mall, London.
- 8 Lymington Sports Club, Lymington (RA motorcyclists).
- 8 **Tethury Horse Show (RGJ freefall).**
- 10 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (10-12 July).
- 11 Kneller Hall band concert.
- 11 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (11-28 July).
- 12 **Kent County Show, Detling (12-14 July) (RGJ freefall).**
- 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).
- 14 **Barking Show (14-15 July) (RGJ freefall).**
- 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) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists; Pegasus; six bands; bugles; corps of drums; pipes and drums 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 **New Forest Show, Lyndhurst (25-26 July) (RGJ freefall).**
- 25 Kneller Hall (grand) band concert.
- 25 Ilfracombe Tattoo (25-26 July).
- 26 Manchester Show (26-28 July) (Red Devils; White Helmets; band 26-27 July).
- 26 St Helens Show (26-28 July) (Red Devils; JLRR gymnasts; band).
- 27 Northampton Borough Show (27-29 July) (Pegasus 28-29 July; RGJ freefall 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).
- 28 **Manchester Horse Show (RGJ freefall).**
- 29 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 31 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (31 July-4 August).

AUGUST 1979

- 1 **North Devon Show, Bideford.**
- 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 Floral and Musical Fête (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.
- 10 **Great Northumberland Show, Stannington (10-12 August) (RGJ freefall).**
- 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).
- 16 **Denbigh and Flint Show, Rhyl (RGJ freefall).**
- 16 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).
- 18 **Minsted Carnival (RGJ freefall).**
- 19 **Mid-Somerset Show, Shepton Mallet (RGJ freefall).**
- 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; RGJ freefall 25 August).
- 26 Carlisle Services Display (26-28 August) (Red Caps).
- 26 **Quexpo 79, Birchington (Kent) (26-27 August) (RGJ freefall).**
- 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).
- 30 **Melplash Show, Bridport (RGJ freefall).**
- 31 **Newport Show (31 August-2 September) (Red Caps).**
- 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 (Red Caps; White Helmets; Household Cavalry trumpeters and drum horse).
- 8 Stanhope, Middlesbrough. Show.
- 8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September) (Red Devils; Pegasus; static displays).

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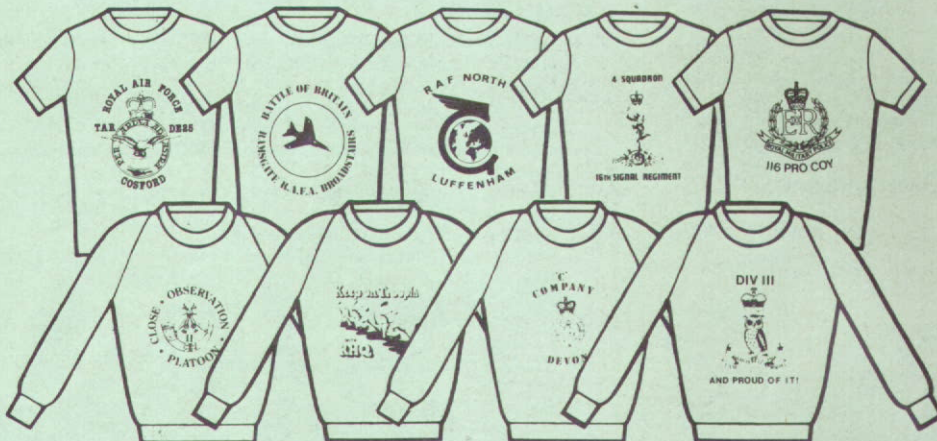
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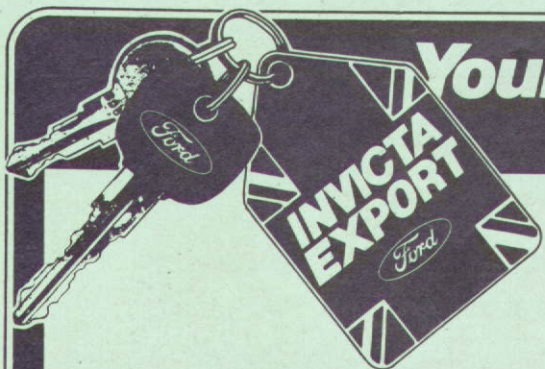
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Next, transfer the letters from the acrostic to their appropriate squares in the boxes below. Then decode the message by simple substitution of letters to reveal a quotation. The person quoted is named in a vertical column of the acrostic.

Finally, send your solution — the decoded quotation — on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 250' label from this page and your name and address, to:

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This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 9 July. The answers and winners' names will appear in the September SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 250' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Acrostic clues

- A Aircraft take-off direction
- B Best lad in stable mix-up?
- C Apprehend — and cash in on assets
- D Stone — dam big in Colorado!
- E No straight answer, this!
- F Ascot win for panelling
- G Most bright *Brilliant*
- H Misunderstood meaning of
- J Unvaried pitch
- K Brain bones

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| C | | | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | | | | | | |
| E | | | | | | | | | |
| F | W | A | I | N | S | C | O | T | |
| G | | | | | | | | | |
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| B4 | D1 | C6 | A2 | E5 | A3 | C2 | K3 | B2 | J6 | J1 | E2 | A6 | | | |
| E3 | G8 | C1 | F6 | C5 | B6 | F1 | C4 | D3 | K4 | H5 | K7 | | | | |
| A7 | H3 | K5 | H6 | G6 | B1 | K6 | B3 | E4 | A5 | G4 | E7 | G2 | J8 | F2 | G1 |
| F3 | J5 | A4 | D4 | E6 | J7 | F7 | H1 | D5 | B5 | H2 | J2 | H4 | C3 | D6 | |
| E1 | C7 | F4 | J3 | K2 | J4 | H7 | D2 | G9 | G3 | F8 | K1 | | | | |
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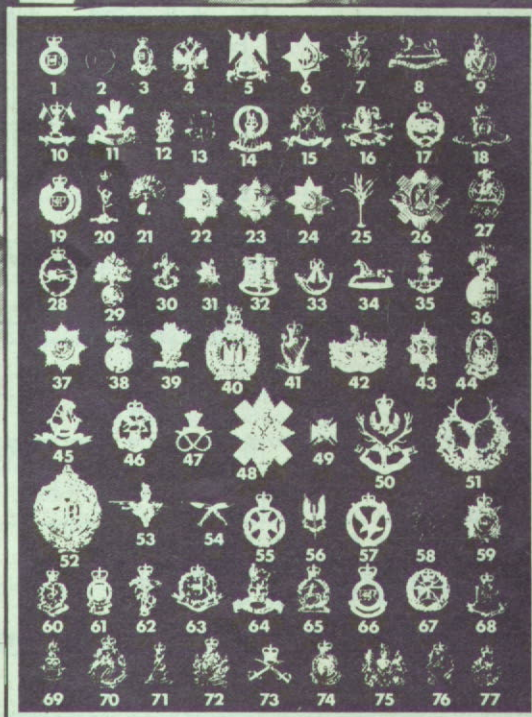


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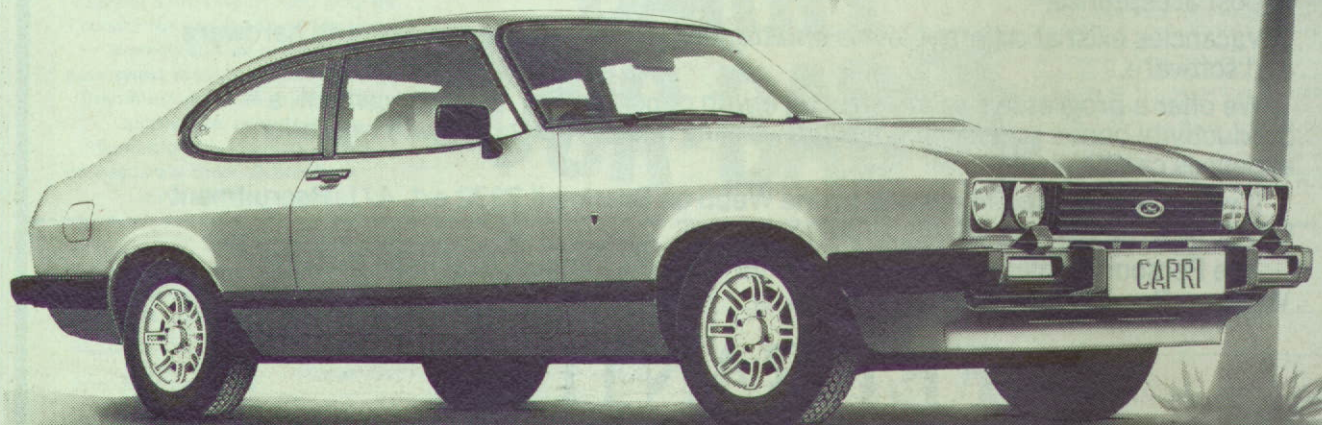
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BOOKS

World Wars



'The German Wars 1914-1945' (D J Goodspeed)

This intriguing volume, printed in the United States of America, was written by Lieutenant-Colonel Goodspeed, who is a professor of history at Brock University, Ontario, Canada, so in a way it is a detached look at the two world wars, here seen as one prolonged struggle.

The author seeks the reasons for the conflicts and endeavours to prove that those given by the politicians were misleading 'myths.' That, for instance, it was not the German breach of Belgian neutrality that brought Britain in in 1914. Also, 'there must always be a sense of wonderment that so great a tragedy was staged by such small actors.'

Whereas the 1914-18 conflict could, he believes, have been avoided, World War Two was 'necessary' and 'did more good than harm.' His reasoning is acceptable in that it 'appears probable that warfare in an industrialised society is no longer an effective instrument of policy,' and some of his words should be read, marked and learned by those in this most advanced age who are elevated to positions of power over the nations.

For instance: 'The political leadership of all the powers in this century has been frighteningly inadequate, so inadequate indeed, that unless it soon improves, the extinction of all human life on the planet is a probable result. Perhaps the most urgent problem facing the world is how to improve the quality of the world's politicians.'

Orbis Publishing Ltd, 20-22 Bedfordbury, London WC2, £5.95 GRH

The Wall

'The Ides of August: The Berlin Wall Crisis of 1961' (Curtis Cate)
When the East Germans divided Ber-

lin with the 'Wall' on 13 August 1961, the three Western commanders, including Britain's Major-General Rohan Delacombe, must have been the world's most frustrated generals. They could do nothing without orders from their governments, so they worked out a statement to issue to the Press, only to have that forbidden. Their troops, few in number, were on the alert but confined to barracks.

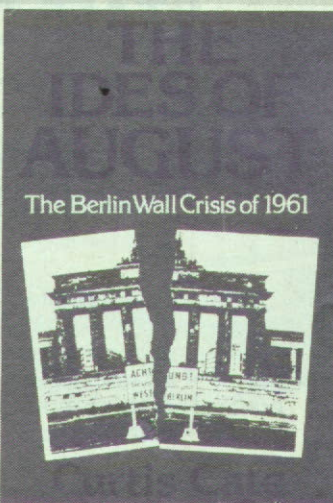
The fact was that little or nothing could be done. Had they brought up tanks and destroyed road barriers, the East Germans would merely have re-erected them farther eastwards. Above all, allied policy was to avoid anything that might encourage a mass uprising in East Berlin, for it would only have been drowned in blood, as in 1953.

Some gestures did come later. A British one was to wire off the Russian war memorial — to protect it from angry West Berliners, protesting Russian officers were told.

In this long book, based on many interviews, the author clothes his account with scores of personal anecdotes, from President Kennedy being called from a family picnic to a teenage hotel maid leaving her mother and crawling under the wire 'to resume her job in the West, from a young man passionately kissing a girl pressed against the chicken-wire fence while his hands were busy with wire-cutters behind her back, to an old man who hesitated just too long before trying to step over a roll of wire to join his family in freedom.

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 91 Clapham High Street, London SW4, £8.95

RLE



1815

'The Waterloo Roll Call' (Charles Dalton)

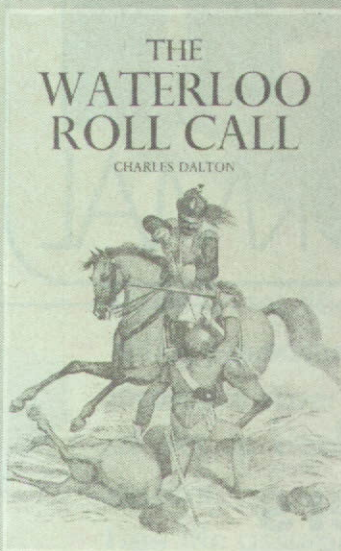
This penetrating reference work provides a complete regimental record of all the officers who fought at Water-

loo, with individual biographical memoirs and other reminders of that great day in June 1815.

The roll call was first published in 1890 and the present volume is reproduced from the complete second revised and expanded edition to include a list of non-commissioned officers and soldiers who served at Waterloo and were subsequently commissioned.

The potted biographies make fascinating and instructive reading while a few pages pay tribute to certain Waterloo heroes such as Sergeant John Graham, Coldstream Guards, who distinguished himself in the defence of Hougomont; Sergeant-Major Edward Cotton, 7th Hussars, whose horse was killed under him and who later became a guide to the battlefield and started the Waterloo Museum; or Field-Trumpeter J Edwards, who sounded the charge of the 1st Life Guards.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1QQ, £4.95 JFJ



Sawdust and glue

'War Toys' (Reggie Polaine)

Subject of this first in a series of books on makers of toy soldiers and military vehicles is O & M Hauser of Stuttgart and later Coburg. It might,

says the author, have been sub-titled 'Sawdust and Glue,' the main constituents of Elastolin, from which Haussers' figures were made.

The illustrations of military figures start thinly with a few German troops of about 1905 and do not get really going until the Nazi era. Then, toy-making in Germany necessarily kept up with the nationalist spirit of the time. Haussers made their soldiers until 1943 and went back into the business after the war.

For collectors, perhaps the most useful part of this book is a complete reproduction of the rare Hauser catalogue of 1939-40. At that time you could have Hitler (choice of poses) for 65 or 70 Pfennigs.

Associated Book Publishers, New Fetter Lane, London, EC4P 4EE, £7.95 RLE

Western Front

'The Hungry One' (C P Clayton)

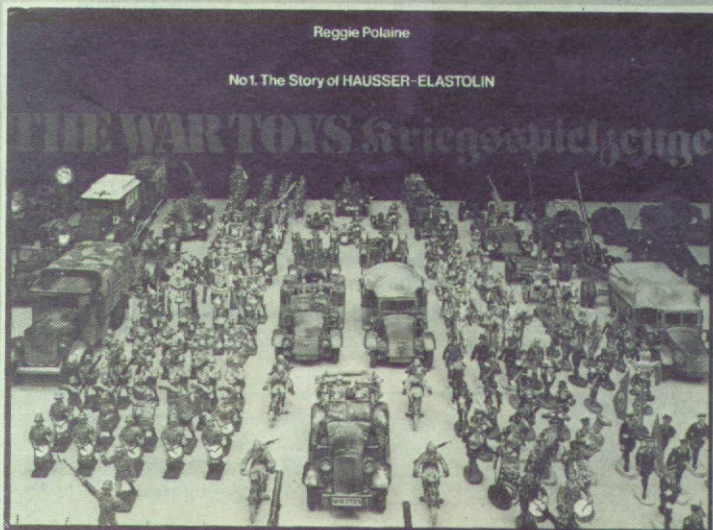
The author was a university lecturer when he joined The Welch Regiment in 1914 as a wartime officer. Within two years he was commanding a battalion in action.

He spent all his war on the Western Front and his diaries, edited by his son, give a matter-of-fact account of life in and out of the trenches. Apart from regretting losses among his friends, he rarely shows emotion. One time he does is when he sees the first victims of a gas attack.

Another time is when, as second-in-command, he goes to take his place with the reserve when his battalion is going forward to battle. 'Going back does not seem right... I cannot get rid of a sense of shame.' As it turned out, he did not have to feel it long. A few hours later his colonel was wounded and he had to go forward to take command.

One must admire the stoicism with which he, and so many others, faced the ever-recurring hardships and horrors of the trenches. One marvels that he came through so many storms of bullets and shells with only one 'Blighty' wound. And one rejoices that he lived healthily to the age of 70.

Gomer Press, Llandysul, Dyfed, £5.95 RLE



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