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**FRONT COVER**

Night turns into day as parachute flares illuminate an enemy creeping forward under cover of darkness and coming under a bombardment of fire from Chieftain tanks. The spectacular pyrotechnics were captured by SOLDIER photographer Leslie Wiggs on the British Army's 1000-square-mile training range at Suffield on the Canadian prairies.

**BACK COVER**

Pictured by Leslie Wiggs against the pine-clad slopes of the Rocky Mountains are members of the adventurous training team from Suffield—Captain Ron Reilly (right), Army Physical Training Corps, and Sergeants Dave Robinson (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) and Eddie Humphries (Welsh Guards) as they map out a route for a party of visiting soldiers.

Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)

Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)

Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)

Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH (Ext 2589)

Research: BILL SMITHERMAN (Ext 2591)

Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)

Photographers: ARTHUR BLUNDELL, PAUL R G HALEY (Ext 2584)

Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD (Ext 2583/2587)

Distribution: Miss D M W DUFFIELD (Ext 2592)

Accounts: J ANDERSON (Ext 2593)

Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation inquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU. (Phone: GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER, the British Army Magazine, is published for the Ministry of Defence by HMSO and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1975.

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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

MARCH 1975

- 5 "An Evening of Music with the Scottish Regiments," Usher Hall, Edinburgh.
- 31 Surrey County Show, Guildford (arena event).

APRIL 1975

- 26 St Albans Grammar School Fête (junior display; junior band).

MAY 1975

- 10 Blackheath (London) Village Fayre (Red Devils freefall team).
- 10 Glasgow KAPE (10-17 May) (two bands).
- 16 Telford (Shropshire) Tattoo (16-17 May).
- 16 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Show (display).
- 17 Boldon (Co Durham) British Legion Carnival (band).
- 17 Wiltshire Young Farmers Agricultural Show, Great Somerton (Royal Military Police mounted display team Red Caps).
- 17 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band 17 May; Red Caps 23-24 May).
- 21 West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (21-22 May) (Red Caps; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, gymnastic display; six bands).
- 23 Aldershot Horse Show (23-25 May) (Red Caps 25 May).
- 24 Watford Carnival (Junior Parachute Company gymnastic display).
- 24 Tidworth Tattoo (24-26 May).
- 24 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (24-26 May).
- 24 Worcester City Show (24-26 May) (junior soldiers unarmed combat; three bands).
- 24 Edinburgh KAPE (24 May-1 June) (three displays; two bands).
- 24 Pershore, Worcestershire Show (Royal Green Jackets freefall team; band).
- 24 Otley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 24 Swaffham (Norfolk) Show (Junior Para gymnasts).
- 26 Newcastle West End Festival (band).
- 26 Barnard Castle Meet (band).
- 26 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (band).
- 26 Hertfordshire Show, Redburn (band).
- 26 Surrey County Show (Red Devils).
- 26 Redhill (Surrey) Carnival (Red Caps).
- 26 Hove Lions (Red Devils).
- 28 Suffolk County Show, Ipswich (28-29 May) (Junior Para gymnasts; RGJ freefall team; band).
- 30 Wigan Army Display (30 May-1 June) (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Junior Para gymnasts; Red Caps; Red Devils; three bands).
- 31 Salisbury Hospital Fête (band).
- 31 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 31 Bluecoat School, Sonning, Berkshire (Red Devils).

JUNE 1975

- 3 Household Division beats Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (3-5 June).
- 5 South of England Show, Ardingly, Sussex (5-6 June) (Red Caps; Red Devils).
- 5 Richmondshire Festival, Richmond Castle (two bands, drums, bugles).
- 7 Lord Mayor's Parade, Sheffield (band).
- 7 Stanley (Co Durham) Community Centre Show (band).
- 7 Glasgow KAPE (7-17 June) (band).
- 7 Chester Army Display (7-8 June) (Junior Para gymnasts; Red Devils; three bands).
- 7 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.

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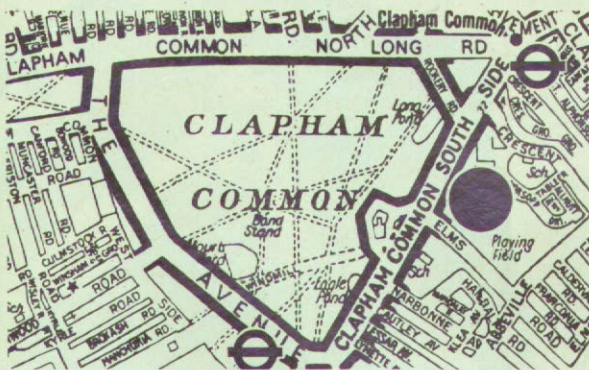
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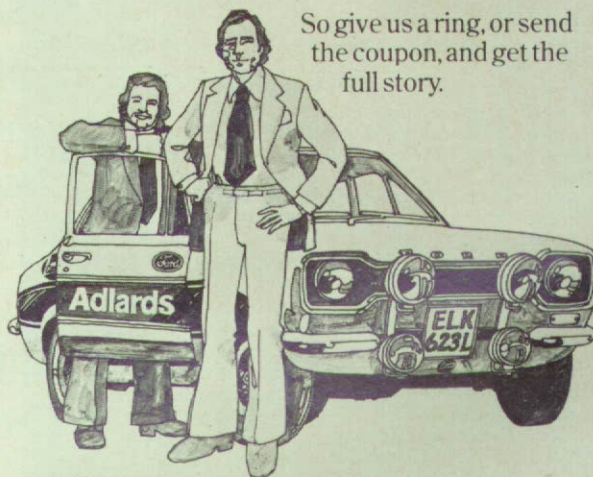
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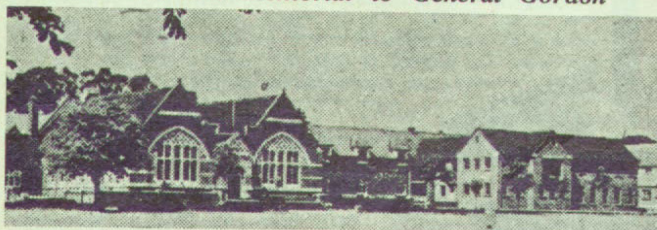
- 10 Three Counties Show, Malvern (10-12 June) (Red Caps).
- 13 Scunthorpe Families Day (13-15 June) (display team; band).
- 13 Essex Show, Chelmsford (13-14 June) (Red Caps; band).
- 14 Wharfedale Show, Ilkley (band).
- 14 Halifax Gala (band).
- 14 Branksome, Darlington, School Fayre (band).
- 14 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (RA motorcyclists; band).
- 14 Aberdeen City Festival (14-28 June) (Red Devils).
- 14 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 17 Royal Armoured Corps massed bands beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (17-19 June).
- 18 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (18-19 June) (display team).
- 21 Leighton Buzzard Carnival (Red Caps; band).
- 21 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot (Red Devils; Junior Para gymnasts).
- 23 Mounted Military Tattoo, Paris (23-28 June).
- 25 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25-26 June) (display team; band).
- 27 Aldershot Army Display (27-29 June) (Royal Signals motorcycle display team White Helmets; Red Devils; Red Caps; 16 bands).
- 28 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
- 28 Rushden Show, Northamptonshire (display team; band).
- 30 East Kent Army Week, Dover (30 June-5 July) (RE JLR gymnasts).

JULY 1975

- 1 Royal Agricultural Show, Kenilworth (1-6 July) (Red Caps).
- 3 Portsmouth Field Gun Show (Junior Para gymnasts).
- 5 Military Musical Pageant (Army Benevolent Fund), Wembley Stadium.
- 5 Birkenshaw (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 5 Hanworth Carnival (Junior Para gymnasts).
- 6 Leeds Horse Show (band).
- 6 Oxted (Surrey) Village Fête (Red Devils).
- 10 Finchley Carnival (10-12 July) (Junior Para gymnasts).
- 11 Southampton Show (11-13 July) (Red Devils 12 July).
- 11 Kent County Show, Gravesend (11-12 July) (Red Caps).
- 12 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 12 Open Day, Depot, Queen's Division, Basingbourn, Hertfordshire.
- 12 Southminster (Essex) Show (Red Devils).
- 12 Dagenham (Essex) Town Show (12-13 July) (Red Devils).
- 12 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 12 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 15 East of England Show, Peterborough (15-17 July) (Household Cavalry Quadrille; three bands).
- 16 Mid-Somerset Agricultural Show (Red Caps).
- 16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (16 July-2 August).
- 17 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 17 Liverpool Show (17-19 July) (Red Devils; Junior Para gymnasts; two bands).
- 18 Cheltenham Tattoo (18-19 July).
- 19 Masham (Yorkshire) Traction Rally (19-20 July) (band).
- 19 Howard School Fête, Welwyn Garden City (junior display; junior band).
- 19 Open Day, Fording Trials Branch REME, Instow, Devon.
- 20 Doddington Special (Red Devils).

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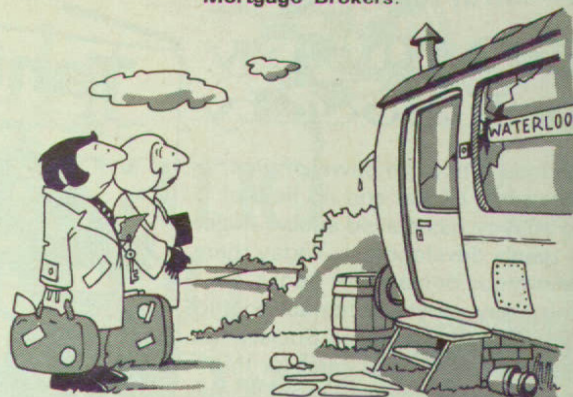


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EP16

SOLDIER to Soldier

Yes, indeed the first issue of 1975 is different. It has had to shrink to meet the whims of metrication and standardisation, coming down slightly in width and depth to the paper manufacturers' A4 size. Quarter of an inch lopped off the width some years ago had already reduced the page margins to a workable minimum so this time the columns have had to be slightly narrowed.

The January 1975 SOLDIER has too a difference on its front cover with an increase in price from 7½ to ten pence. The timing, during a spate of price increases, is unfortunate but not of SOLDIER's choice. Older readers will recall that this increase, the first since April 1966, was due to be made a few years ago but eventually got caught in the price freeze of late 1972. And no-one would dispute that in comparison with other publications SOLDIER is still under-priced.

As always in the past, the ten pence figure will be held as long as possible but already, from October 1974, the cost of printing the magazine has risen by another 14 per cent. Printing costs have now gone up by 50 per cent since October 1970—the cover price by 33 1/3rd per cent since April 1966!



In almost every direction the last 12 months have been difficult for both the magazine's staff and its readers, particularly in trying to keep pace with price changes. An up-dated list of reader services is on page 26 of this issue and with a bit of luck should survive until at least the ink has dried!

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

The first Queen's Gallantry Medal awarded to a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve soldier has gone to a 38-year-old painter and decorator from Aberdeen. He is Company Sergeant-Major John McRae, of 15th (Volunteer) (Scottish) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who risked his life to save a comrade. After jumping from an aircraft at 650 feet, another parachutist, Sergeant John Rose, whose canopy failed to deploy, passed through Mr McRae's rigging lines. As the seconds ticked away, Mr McRae managed to free the lines but by this time it was too late for Sergeant Rose to land on his own parachute. Mr McRae wrapped his legs around the sergeant's lines and both men landed heavily but safely.

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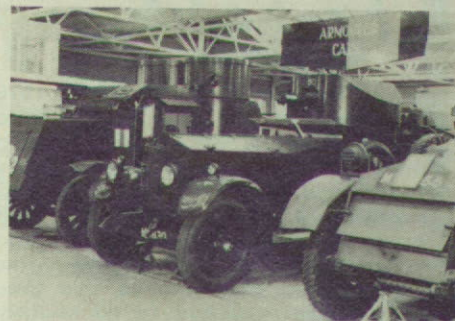
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MILITARY MUSEUMS: 24

Royal Armoured Corps Tank Museum



THE finest free show in the country," said the attendant at the RAC Tank Museum at Bovington Camp, Dorset—and from the number of young and not-so-young visitors viewing this unique collection of tanks and armoured cars this would seem to be no idle boast. Grouped into seven sections are some 140 armoured fighting vehicles illustrating the historical and technical development of the armoured fighting vehicle from 1915 onwards.

In group one are the first tracked vehicles to be used by the British Army, a 1909 Hornsby tractor and the historic first prototype tank "Little Willie" built in 1915. Here too are the only remaining Mark I with characteristic wheeled steering tail as fitted to the first 150 tanks but discarded in November 1916 after the first-ever tank attack near Flers in Northern France; the medium A or Whippet tank in which Lieutenant Harold Sewell won a posthumous Victoria Cross in 1918; and a Mark V, still in working order, fitted with an unditching beam, wooden blocks known as "spuds" and semaphore signalling equipment.

Examples of the lighter and faster tanks developed between the wars can be seen in section two. Historically the most interesting vehicle here is the 1928 two-man Carden-Loyd carrier, forerunner of such famous tanks as the Matilda and Valentine, both of which are represented.

Sections three and four bring together a good selection of British, American and allied tanks, among them some special-purpose vehicles such as the aptly named Praying Mantis experimental twin-Bren gun carrier; a prototype of the giant British 76-ton Tortoise with its 32-pounder gun; a mine-clearing Sherman and a Valentine bridge-layer.

Foreign tanks monopolise section five. The period covered is 1939-45 and students will be attracted by the comprehensive display of German tanks ranging from the powerful 67-ton Royal Tiger armed with an 88mm gun and the 45-ton Panther to the 40 mph, 11.8-ton Luchs, or Lynx, and a diminutive, remote-controlled demolition vehicle. Russian, French, Italian, Japanese and Swedish examples are also on view. Russian heavies are represented by a 46-ton KV1, Kliment Voroshilov, and one of two 30-tonners is the 30 mph T34/85, the

Soviet Army's standard medium tank in the last two years of World War Two.

Post-war tanks in group six include the German Leopard and an early prototype of the Chieftain, battle tank of today's British Army.

While the huge main hall provides a unique chance to study the technical evolution of the tank, the adjoining Alan Jolly Hall offers a similar opportunity for those whose special interest is armoured cars, half-tracks, airborne AFVs scout cars and guided missiles. Early armoured cars include a 1918 vintage Peerless, a 1920 60-mph Rolls-Royce and a 1931 Lanchester. Among later models are a British Saladin, American Staghound and a French eight-wheeled Panhard, while a Humber Hornet Malakara launcher and a tracked FV 438 Swingfire launcher serve as introduction to the age of the guided missile.

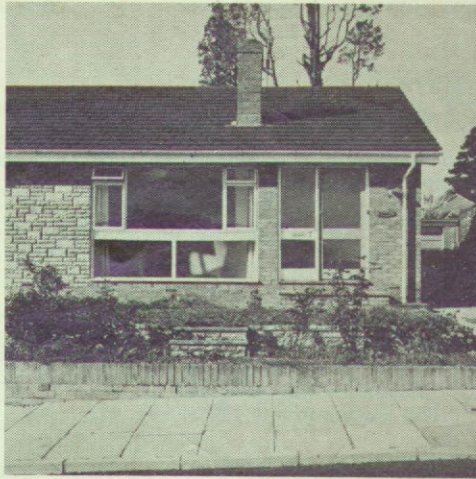
The RAC Tank Museum also incorporates the Royal Tank Regiment Museum and exhibits are many and various. There is an illuminated diorama of the World War One battle of Cambrai, collections of badges and stable belts, a display of formation signs, navigation aids, tank gun barrels and ammunition, and some choice items of militaria, not the least of which is a very famous beret—that given to Field-Marshal Montgomery by the RTR sergeant who commanded his tank in the desert offensive.

John Jesse

Curator:	Colonel PH Horden (Retd)
Address:	Royal Armoured Corps Tank Museum Bovington Camp Wareham Dorset BH20 6JG
Telephone:	Bindon Abbey (STD 0929) 462721 ext 463
Open:	Monday to Friday, 1000 to 1230 and 1400 to 1645; Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays, 1030 to 1230 and 1400 to 1600
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Next month: The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

A black and white photograph of a traditional English cottage with a thick thatched roof. The house is white with dark window frames and a small arched doorway. A large, leafy bush is in the foreground on the left, and a stone wall with a wooden gate is in the foreground on the right.



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SOLDIERING IN JOHN WAYNE COUNTRY

Story by John Walton/Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

Every year 5000 British soldiers train in mobile battle situations at Suffield in the heart of the Canadian prairies

FOR mile after mile as far as the eye can see in any direction there is not a single landmark—just a succession of hills and valleys covered by short, parched yellow grass. Suddenly the skyline is broken by a Chieftain tank . . . then another . . . and another. Artillery shells whine overhead and we are in the midst of a full-scale battle of the seventies as armoured personnel carriers carrying Scots Guardsmen also come into view.

Not quite the real thing but as near as the British Army is likely to approach reality in training. We are at Suffield, in the heart of the Canadian prairies, where more than 5000 British troops now engage in mobile battle situations each year.

Suffield is real John Wayne country—vast and desolate. The training area, which the British Army has taken on a ten-year lease from the Canadian government, covers 1000 square miles (which in English terms would embrace Southampton, Dorchester, Warminster and Andover and all the area between. This means that soldiers in the battle groups can spend 15 days live-firing in the field and be on the move most of the time, covering some 250 miles without ever seeing the same piece of land twice.

The need for a range of this size, allowing mobile live firing without the safety restrictions necessitated by lack of space in Germany and the United Kingdom, was brought about by the revolution in Libya which meant that the desert there was no longer available for training. Army experts inspected a number of sites in different parts of the world before selecting Suffield.

The first training was in 1972 and is now established for seven battle groups a year including armour, gunners, infantry and sappers, a total of more than 5000 men. Six groups come from Rhine Army



Sappers move in towards a minefield.

Top: Borrowed (with permission) from the local paper, the BATUS medicine man.



Soldiering in JOHN WAYNE country *continued*

and one from United Kingdom Land Forces. The training programme for each battle group is divided into four phases. For their first six days out on the range, troops are allowed to settle down and sort themselves out, culminating in a small-arms battle run. A day's maintenance follows during which time the dusty soldiers are allowed to nip back to camp for a quick bath. Then comes a withdrawal exercise with night firing.

Night firing at Suffield (see this month's front cover) is awe-inspiring. First, green lights like flickering fireflies appear in the valley below—the Chieftains move into position. The enemy, having been repulsed by daylight, is moving on and being drawn into a trap by sniper tanks.

The green lights change to red and suddenly night becomes day as tracers,

flares and shells pulverise the target area. Numerous small fires break out—and here it is worth recording that about 300 square miles of the prairie grass are burned every year as a result of live firing. But the grass is said to grow stronger than before and by the new season next spring the prairie will look as it did when bison and not tanks roamed over it.

It can get a bit nippy around these parts in the spring and autumn. During the summer the dust gets everywhere and there are mosquitoes around to add to the misery. But then war was never a picnic. Temperatures and weather in this part of Alberta are notoriously hard to predict—hence the local saying “you don't like the weather?—Just wait a minute!” The lowest recorded temperature at Suffield is 53 degrees Fahrenheit below zero and the highest 105 degrees above. In early October the day's 85 degrees plunged to 12 degrees of frost at night.

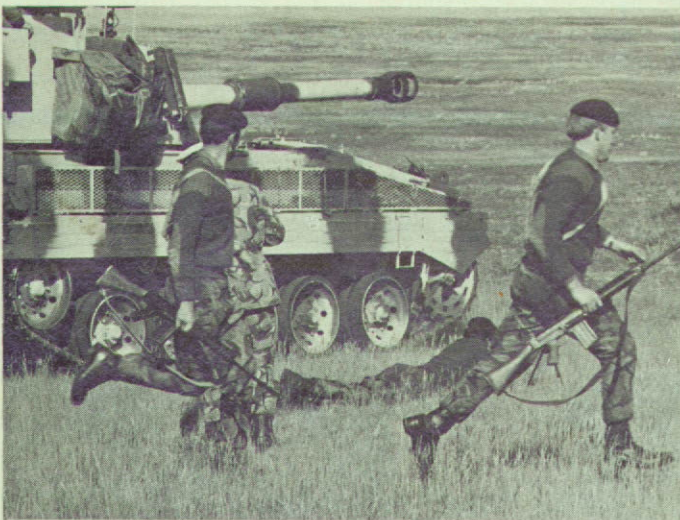
The training programme's second phase continues with a mobile defence battle and the next night the battle group does a night march, driving on night aids. This is

followed by another maintenance break.

In the third phase a battle run includes the breaching of a minefield and the training period ends with another three-day battle run. An exhausting schedule in primitive conditions and living off compo—but the camp which the battle group returns to is purpose-built and although crowded should counter all the deprivations out in the field.

Camp Crowfoot, opened by a genuine Red Indian chief, operates almost completely separately from BATUS (British Army Training Unit, Suffield). At Crowfoot the 750 men of all arms, assembled for fighting a battle, have their headquarters. When in camp they are housed 40 to a block but the food is more than compensatory—steak being high on the menu as well as fresh salmon. Staff-Sergeant Edwin May and Warrant Officer 2 Edward Hudson, who were boy soldiers together, both agreed that the kitchens were the best they had worked with during their 16 years in the Army Catering Corps.

When the battle runs are operating, Camp Crowfoot operates as a rear base

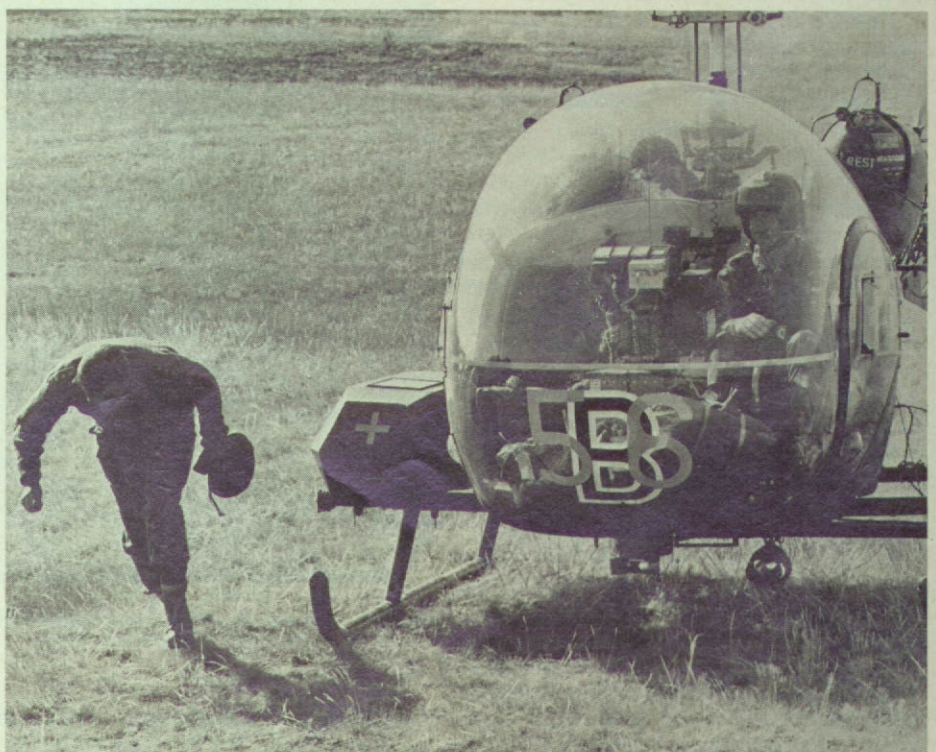


Even gunners manage to get in a spot of infantry training on the prairie.

Above right: Sappers clear minefield as the battle group begins to advance.

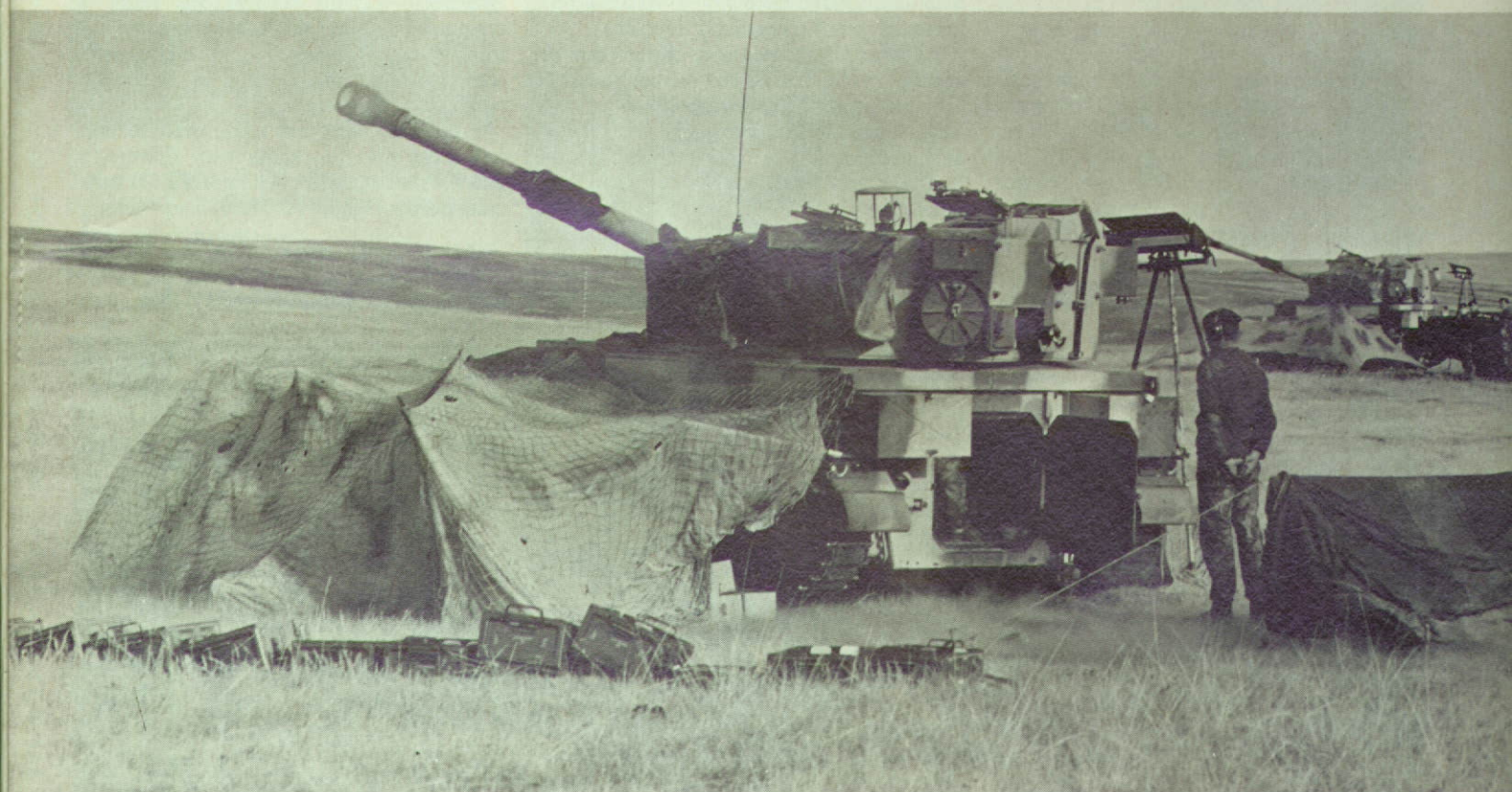
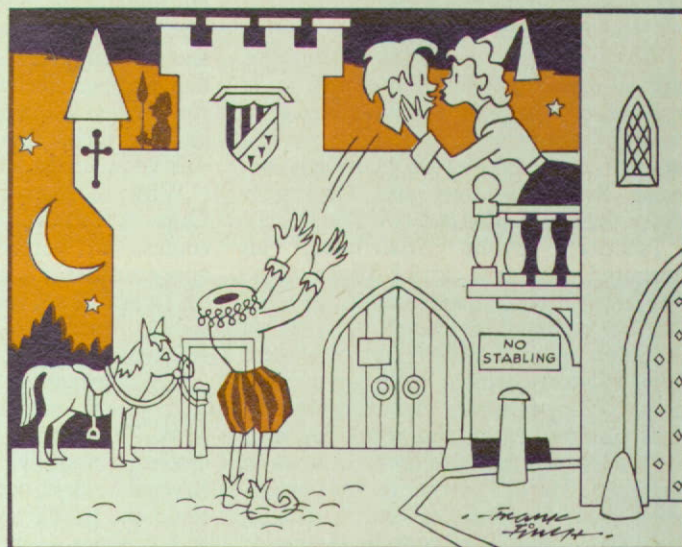
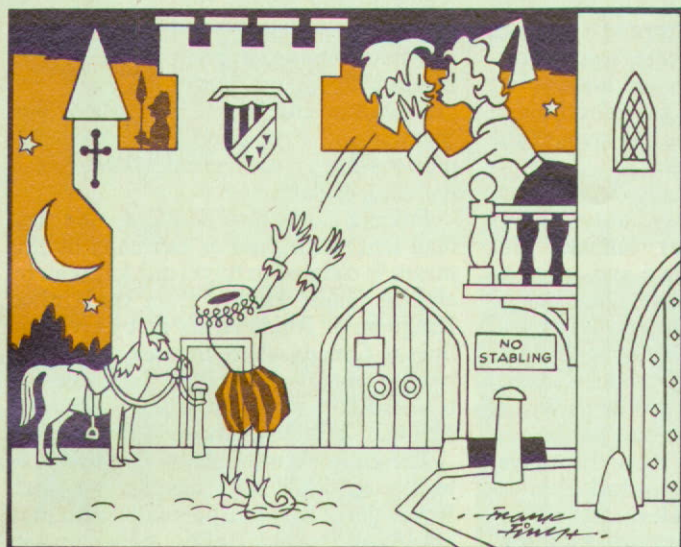
Right: BATUS Commander, Colonel J Castle, arrives at the battle by chopper.

Below Corporal Alan Routledge rides the detachment clerk's bicycle round the camp.



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 43.



Abbott batteries can fire more shells and over a wider area than anywhere else in the world.

headquarters for supply and communications. Battlefield vehicles are necessarily controlled—in this vast area, all looking rather similar, a map-reading error can soon take a vehicle into a target area.

Men in the battle groups can see something of North America. At the end of their visit they are allowed four free days with the chance of trips to the Rockies, Vancouver, Montana in the United States or to visit North American relatives. Some prefer to go no further than the town of Medicine Hat, 28 miles away along the trans-Canada highway. A local wag said: "We can tell the British

soldiers a mile away—they are the ones wearing the cowboy hats!"

Trade has certainly boomed in Medicine Hat since the British arrived. Several million dollars a year are poured into the local economy, not counting the money spent by soldiers from the battle groups. Taxi drivers queue up at the camp gates to take soldiers to town at a charge of 12½ dollars a time (more than a fiver) and the bars, restaurants and souvenir shops all do a roaring trade.

It is the permanent staff on two-year tours and the temporary training period

continued on next page ►

Adventurous training in the Canadian Rockies is one of the fringe benefits of a trip to Suffield. From every battle group a party is selected for three weeks in the mountains and remains as the rear party. Rear parties are in fact made up with adventurous training in mind.

The Cline River area is in a beautiful part of the Rocky Mountains inhabited, among other animals, by deer, moose, elk, black and grizzly bears, big horn sheep, mountain goats, cougars and wolves. Adventurous training here includes rock climbing, mountaineering, canoeing and trekking. Two further sites have also been cleared by the Canadian authorities for similar activities.



Soldiering in **JOHN WAYNE country**

continued

staff on unaccompanied ten-month tours who get to know people in Medicine Hat. Proof of the friendly relations is the rapidly rising number of marriages between British soldiers and local girls (more than 30 in the last two years).

Trooper Arthur Mallender, an armoured personnel carrier driver of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars, met his wife Carol in 1973 and they were married that October in a double ceremony with Carol's sister, Carmen, marrying another soldier. They returned to Suffield for the 1974 training season and at the end of it Arthur left the Army to live and work in Medicine Hat. His partner on the personnel carrier, Bombardier Syd Turnbull, from 50 Missile Regiment in Germany, also married in Canada last October.

Carol says: "Some girls think the British soldiers are rather fresh at first but really they are more polite and not so aggressive as the local boys."

Most of the families live in Ralston, a village about two miles from the camp. Their quarters are interspersed with houses occupied by Canadian forces personnel and scientists from the defence research establishment at Suffield. The village has a recreation centre containing

shops, bowling alley, swimming pool, golf course and winter ice rink.

Principal of the village school, Mr Reg Thain, who moved out to Canada from Kent in 1957, has 60 British children out of 188 five- to 15-year-olds in his school. He finds them extraordinarily well integrated: "We play a mixture of Canadian and English games—cricket, soccer, softball and ice hockey. In ice hockey last year we had a side which got right through into the school finals and the stars of the side were British children."

With the nearest really large town, Calgary, 150 miles away, a few wives confess to boredom at Suffield. But opportunities for holidays and visits to exotic places are unrivalled. The whole of North America is easily accessible and some even venture to Hawaii or Mexico.

The permanent staff, under Colonel John Castle, carries out a wide variety of tasks—all to ensure that the battle-runs operate smoothly. The runs themselves have to be designed, set up and administered and BATUS provides safety officers and vehicles—very important with constant live firing over wide areas. The "enemy" consists of pop-up targets, usually operated by magic-eye lasers, and these have to be regularly replaced.

Back at the blunt end, things can be equally hectic during the training season. Quartermaster Captain John Reynolds has to provide battle groups with rations and compo. He is also responsible for quarters and for a number of hirings in Medicine Hat. "They get beautiful food here, but what has really interested me

has been the different eating habits of each regiment. For instance country regiments seem to go for salmon while the Scots prefer minced beef and chops and others want nothing but potatoes."

Longest-serving members of the BATUS staff are in the pay office. As Suffield was a completely new venture, two-year tours for everybody would have meant a complete change-over every two years and no continuity. Both Major Bob Stanton and Staff-Sergeant Neville Palmer are happy with extended tours and handling dollars.

Suffield has its own BFPO number and mail sent to England or Germany by this means is claimed to travel quicker than by civilian mails. Letters from the United Kingdom or Rhine Army go by civil airlines to Canada where they are taken over by the Canadian Post Office until collected by an Army postman from Ralston or Medicine Hat post offices.

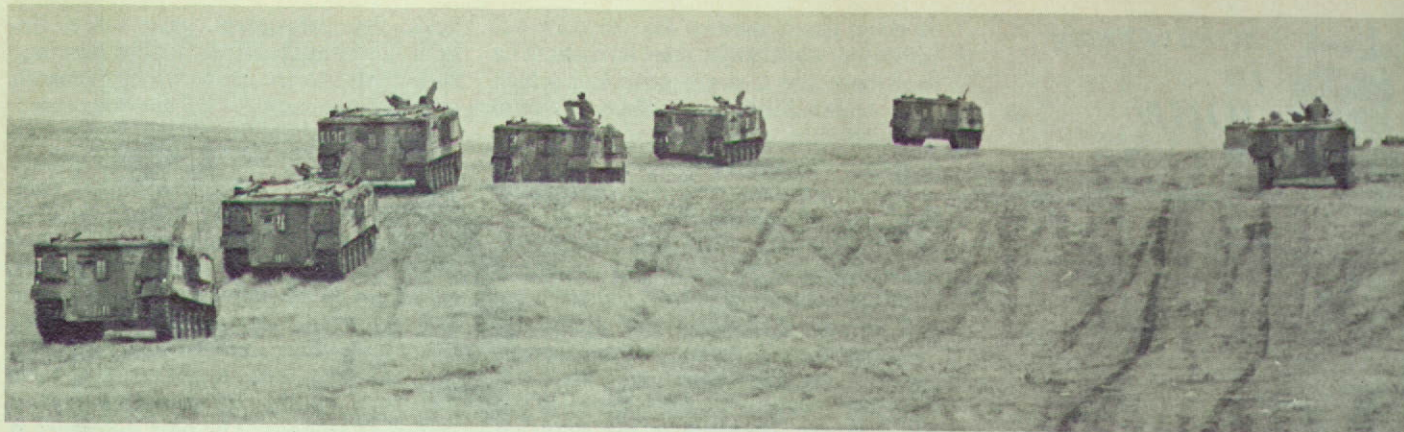
Handling air movements in and out as well as road and rail transport is a small Royal Corps of Transport section headed by Major Donald Hobbs. Battle groups travel by air to Calgary and complete their journey by road—although a Royal Engineers airfield construction team is currently looking at the possibility of improving the airstrip at Suffield to take something larger than the light aircraft permitted at present.

Under its wing the movement section has local vehicles, some with drivers, a British staff car and even an ANTAR tank transporter. Major Hobbs is also military

continued on page 18

It could be the Scottish Highlands—but is in fact the Canadian Rockies, where parties go for adventurous training.





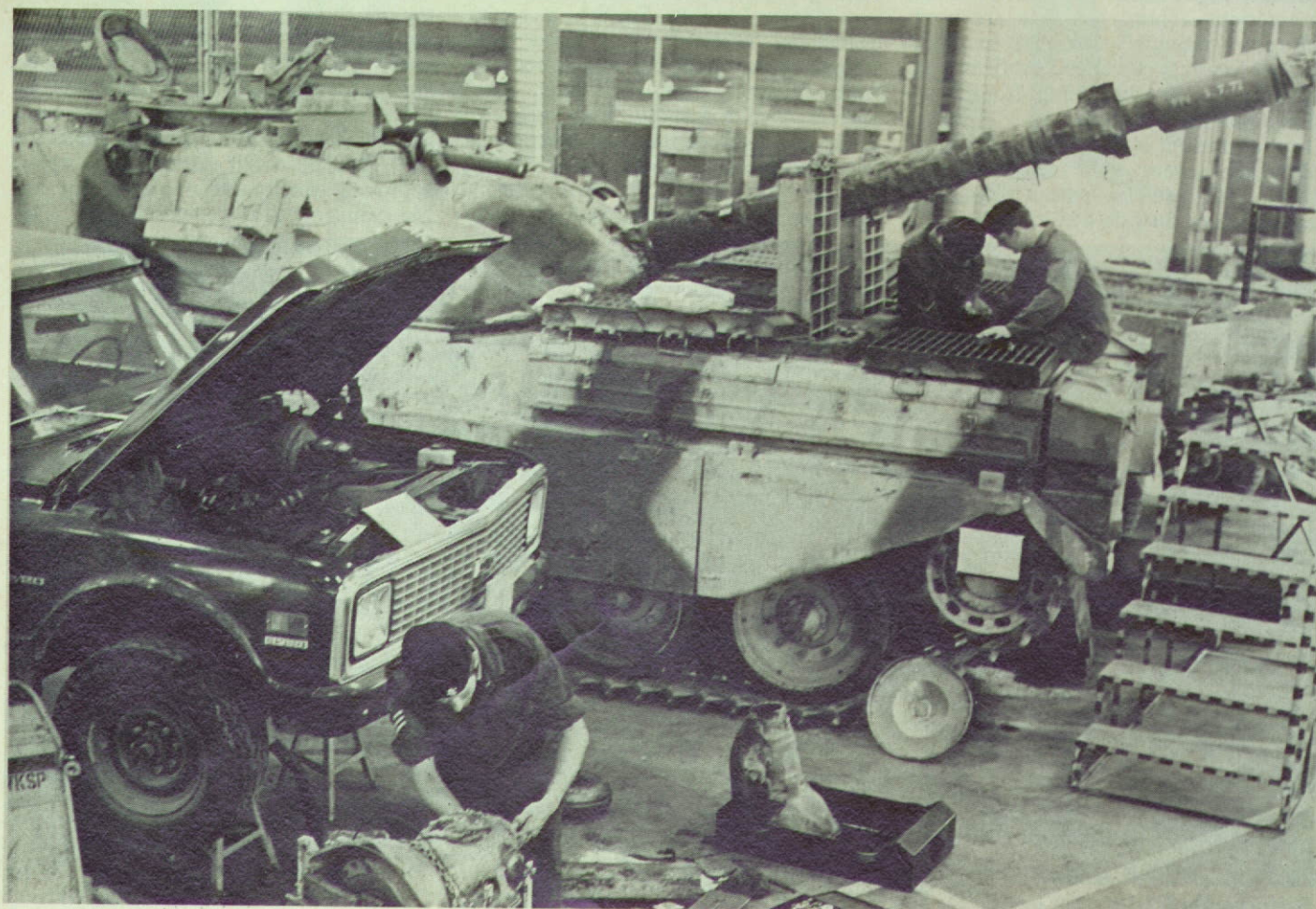
Armoured personnel carriers move across the stunted yellow grass of the prairie.



Sgt Bob Pirie (right) ready to go out on police patrol with Medicine Hat constable.



Right: Truck wash bay uses boiling water to beat the sub-zero temperatures. Below: Busy maintenance scene in workshops.





Soldiering in JOHN WAYNE country

concluded

port commandant, Vancouver and Seattle, and visits those cities whenever supplies, vehicles and ammunition arrive by logistic landing ship. The freight continues its journey by rail from the Pacific coast to Suffield. When the trains arrive at Suffield sidings the Royal Army Ordnance Corps combines with the Royal Corps of Transport to get the freight across the final three miles to the stores. Major John Dobie, who heads the Ordnance section, told SOLDIER: "No matter what your rank or trade you are a porter for those periods."

Winter is normally the stocking-up period and this poses extra problems because of its sharpness. Men are able to work safely outside for only 20 minutes in each hour—with 40 minutes to thaw out—and new equipment, which might include heavy items like tank track, has to be hauled along icy roads.

Major Dobie says his unit is unique in that it is almost a complete miniature Ordnance depot inside BATUS. It stores ammunition—about 1500 tons are used each year—provides specialist services, and supplies bulk petrol and lubricants to the battle groups plus spares from first-aid equipment to tanks.

In the winter it is time for refurbishing and again severe cold makes things difficult. All vehicles except Chieftain tanks are kept outside and they have to

be taken inside for two days to thaw out before any work can be done on them. The wash bays use a steam generator which pumps out boiling water—the only way to clean vehicles, even indoors, without the water turning to ice.

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Workshop Detachment employs half local civilian and half military mechanics. During the winter extra men are flown out to help with the servicing and repairs of vehicles and equipment. Each battle group sends out three forward repair teams who come under the workshop but work in direct support of the battle group. Members of the workshop detachment go out regularly and check what maintenance is being done by vehicle crews in the field.

"After all, you cannot have the same enthusiasm for a tank which someone else is going to be using in a week or so," said Major Bill Wall, detachment commander.

Major Wall believes that the repair statistics from Suffield will be invaluable in calculations for a possible war—"we get much nearer a war user's rate than anywhere else."

"Gopher Airways International," named after the little burrowing animals found everywhere on the prairie, is the tag given to the Army Air Corps operation at Suffield. The Beaver light aircraft flies regularly back and forth to Calgary and has also been used for such tasks as assisting the local police in watching out for cattle rustlers.

During the training season three Scout and two Sioux helicopters are in operation and the Scouts also get the opportunity for some SS11 missile firing in between battle groups. Only the officer commanding (Major Lindsey Smith), a senior technician, a fitter and a stores clerk are permanent staff; the others come in on tours varying from battle group duration up to nine months. With such vast distances involved, both the Beaver and the helicopters fly more hours than in most theatres. And on the rare occasions when there have been casualties in the

field, the helicopters have taken the injured straight to Medicine Hat hospital. Minor injuries are dealt with by the battle group doctor and BATUS medical centre.

Men who really do get involved in the local community are the military police. Warrant Officer 2 Norman Smith, runs the provost section at Suffield, with a sergeant and four military policemen who come over with each battle group. All go out on car patrol with the Medicine Hat city police. Corporal Dave Potts, over from Osnabrück, told SOLDIER: "We get on very well together. We have visited a couple of shootings and a couple of knifings. The only difference is that the local police are armed and we have only whistles for our protection."

When Suffield was first mooted as a British Army training area there were protests and demonstrations from ecologists who feared for the safety of the animals on the range, which include rattlesnakes, coyotes, antelope, hawks and deer. But according to Colonel John Beveridge, the Canadian base commander, the fears have proved completely unfounded. A recent survey of the antelope population on the range showed that it had jumped from 800 to 1760 since the British arrived. Obviously civilian hunters have been deterred and, Colonel Beveridge adds: "I've never yet found an animal which has been shot by the military authorities."

In the early years of this century the area which is now the Suffield training area was used for a massive wheat-farming experiment. It failed and subsequent farming with cattle also proved uneconomic. In 1941 Suffield became a combined Anglo-Canadian experimental station and was at one time considered for the testing of Britain's first atomic bomb. In 1946 the establishment became an all-Canadian enterprise but now "the Brits" are back in force and while the use of the land is being put to is not so spectacular as that proposed three decades ago it is proving equally useful to the Army and less damaging to the environment. ●



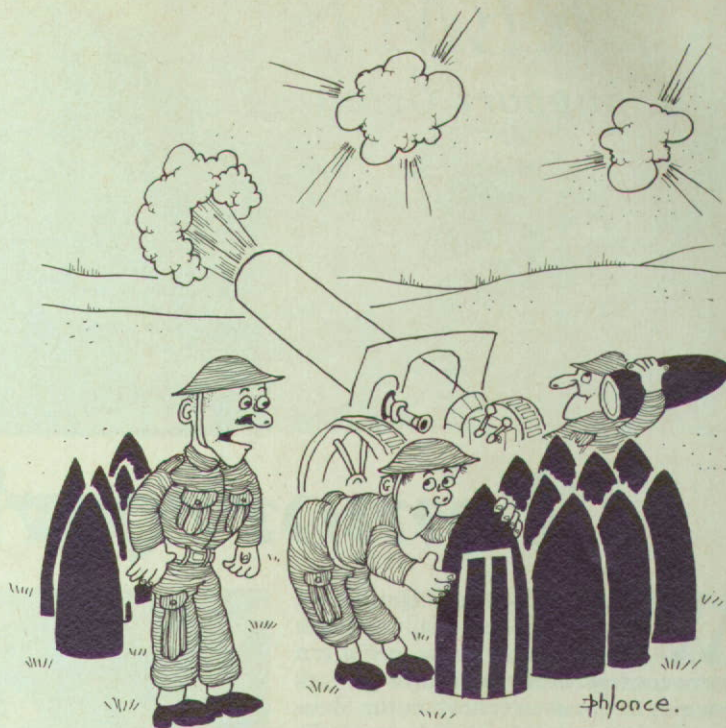
Army corporal tries on a stetson for size in Ralston Canex.



Mixed class of English and Canadians in village school.



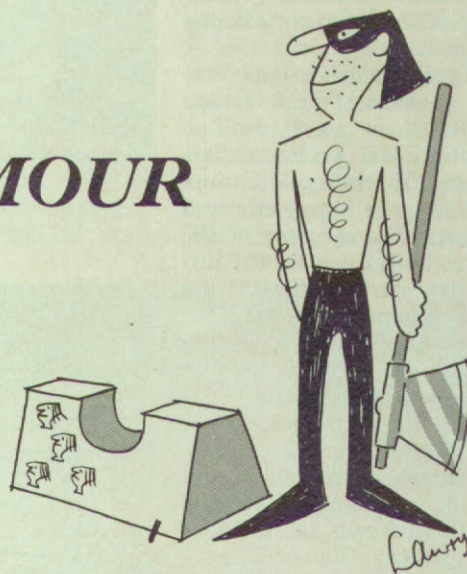
"Hello, Mum—I've joined the Commandos."



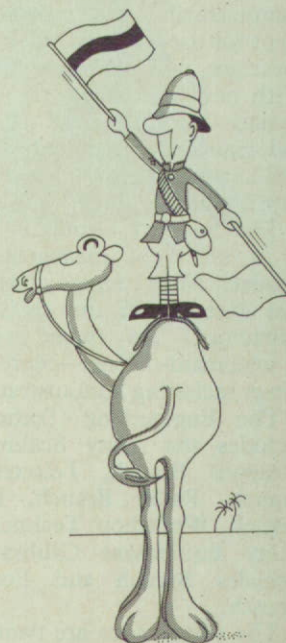
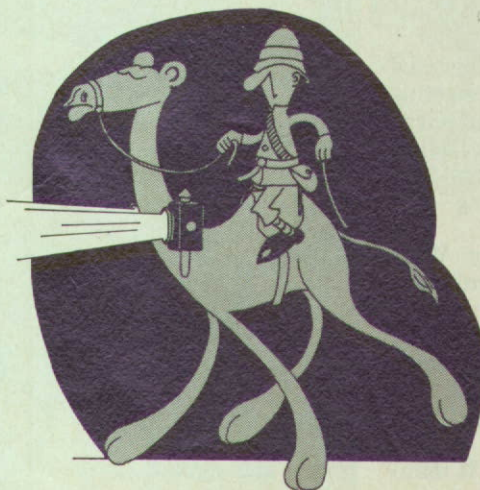
"Not that one, Jones!"



HUMOUR



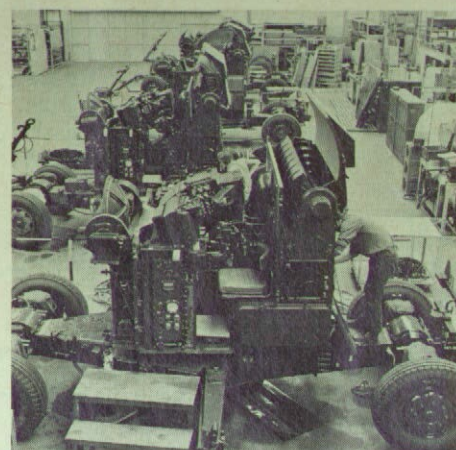
Camel Corps by Robinson



REME

Support Group

Story by John Walton
Pictures by Leslie Wiggs



Left: Sergeant Ted Warner testing a FACE computer sent in for overhaul.

Far left: Row of fire control equipment being repaired in Old Dalby workshops.

Right: Sgt David Robb doing a final check on MIDGE aerial surveillance equipment.



Tomorrow's technicians

WHAT'S in a name? Quite a lot sometimes—especially when in the case of an Army unit it can give an entirely false impression of the work it carries out or even reflect on the abilities of other units. One such case—the Technical Group, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers—has recently changed its name to REME Support Group for this very reason.

The commander, Major-General Vincent Metcalfe, explains: "Tech Group REME was formed in 1960 from an amalgamation of REME Technical Services and Base Workshops Group. The name was never a happy one and tended to indicate that the rest of the corps was non-technical, which was just not true. Our new name indicates that we are both a group which supports REME and also a support group for the rest of the Army."

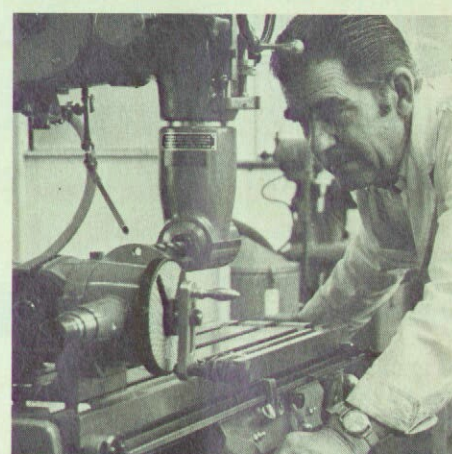
REME Support Group has its headquarters at Woolwich, on the site of the old Woolwich Repository, but its tentacles extend throughout the length and breadth of Britain. It administers Central Workshops in the Midlands and includes Fording Trials Branch, Radar Branch, Fleet Repair Branch and others.

The old Technical Group carried out sterling work on overhauling, up-arming, manufacturing and maintaining equipment for use in Northern Ireland and its successor will continue with this task. With new equipment its role is fundamental—for unless REME can support and maintain equipment when it comes into service the troops may as well not have the item.

The Support Group is administered by a board of management, meeting regularly like a company board with General Metcalfe in the chair. His fellow "directors" are three brigadiers and a lieutenant-colonel—representing four wings including administration.

The Engineering Technology Wing includes the Army Scaling Authority, Weapons Branch, Telecommunications Branch, Radar Branch, Fleet Repair Branch, Workshop Technology Branch, Army Equipment Calibration Centre, Vehicles Branch and Fording Trials Branch.

The wing's aims are twofold. It influ-



Left: Woolwich-universal miller developing gauge for the new 105mm light gun.

Far left: Sergeant Chris Pollard inspects the gunner sights of a Chieftain tank.

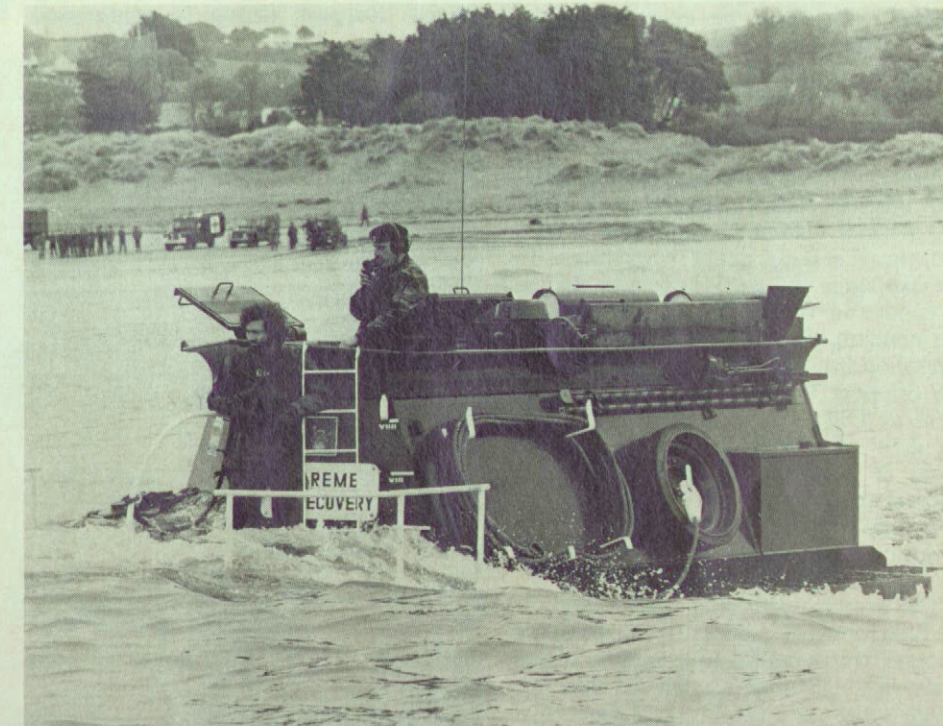
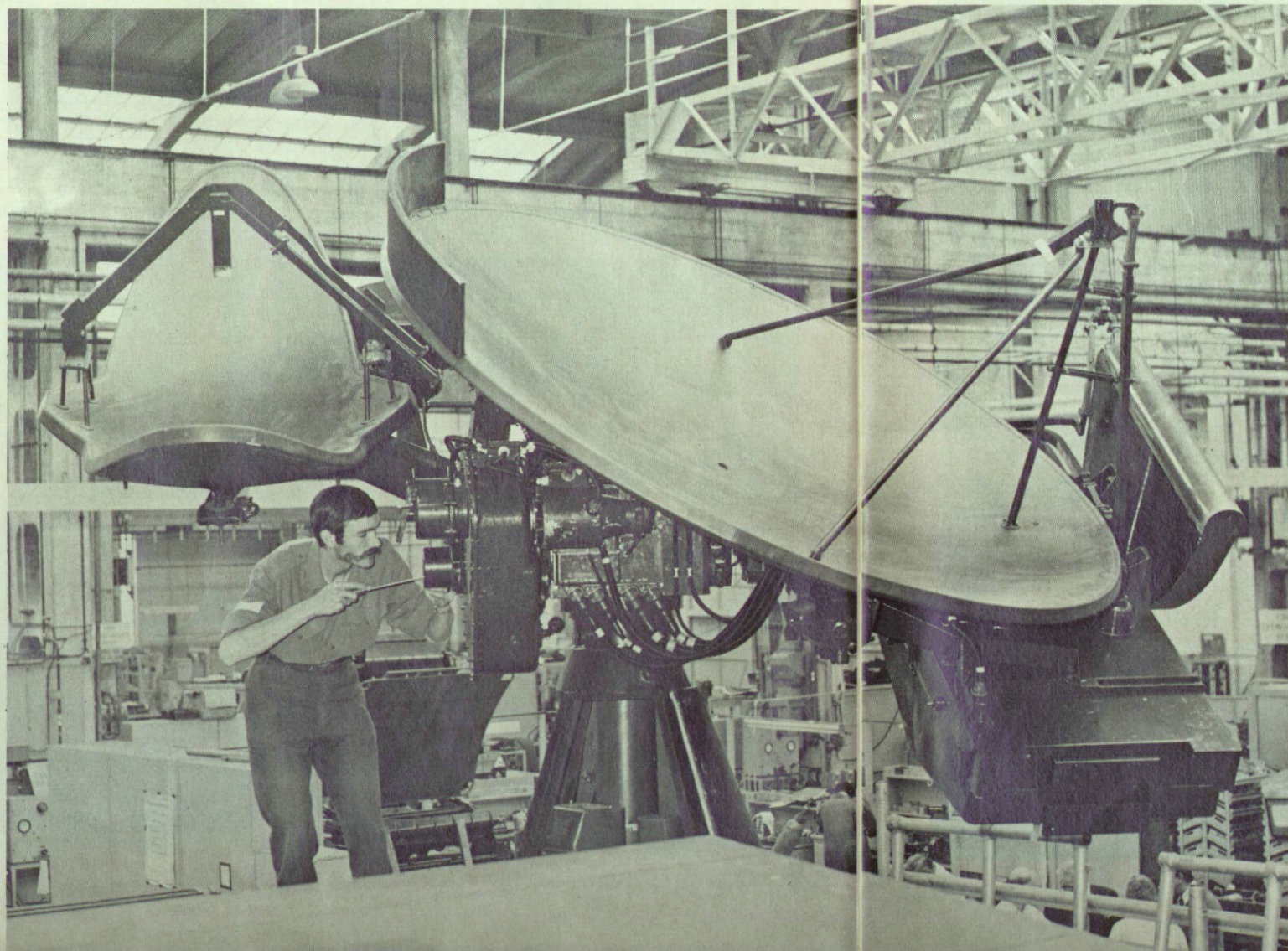
ences the detailed design of Army equipment to make it easier to maintain with higher reliability. And it ensures that REME is ready to support new equipments with repair and recovery services and sets repair standards for the corps to meet. This equipment can vary from guns and anti-tank missiles to the medical and dental equipment recently added to REME's maintenance roster.

The Army Scaling Authority at Woolwich is concerned with advice on the range, quantity and distribution of spares. It decides on the spares that are going to be required for new pieces of equipment and great care is taken neither to over-estimate (wasteful) nor under-estimate (disastrous). All new products are analysed, using a staff of more than 200 civilian and military engineers who look at the characteristics of the equipment and how it is likely to perform. Their advice is passed on to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps which does the actual buying. The scaling authority's library now contains more than 3,000,000 agency cards and 2,000,000 drawings of parts

giving military and manufacturers' numbers.

Calibration, for the uninitiated, means making sure that measuring instruments read correctly. The Army Equipment Calibration Centre, also at Woolwich, is responsible for maintaining standards used by workshops involving mechanical, physical and temperature measurements. It has a mobile van which goes to various parts of the United Kingdom monitoring the reference standards in use.

The Management and Information Systems Wing takes in the corps' data and publications centres, both playing important roles in support of the Army. The aim is to provide methods which will



Also part of REME Support Group is the Fording Trials Branch at Instow, Devon.

Left: Sgt Terry Neale working on the gearbox of a target illuminating radar.

improve efficiency and to this end the wing is involved in designing and introducing a works measurement programme for static workshops.

The Forward Maintenance Data System is claimed to be the most advanced of its type in the world. At the data centre, 50 girls prepare information to go into the computer from job reports written in the field. Something like 25,000 job reports a week are received worldwide. They show work being done by tradesmen on all the Army's equipment from helicopters down to bayonets. The library already contains 2200 miles of tape, enough to span the Atlantic.

The Publications Centre, housed in a room built to store the Army's saddlery around the turn of the century, provides technical publications for the support of Army equipment.

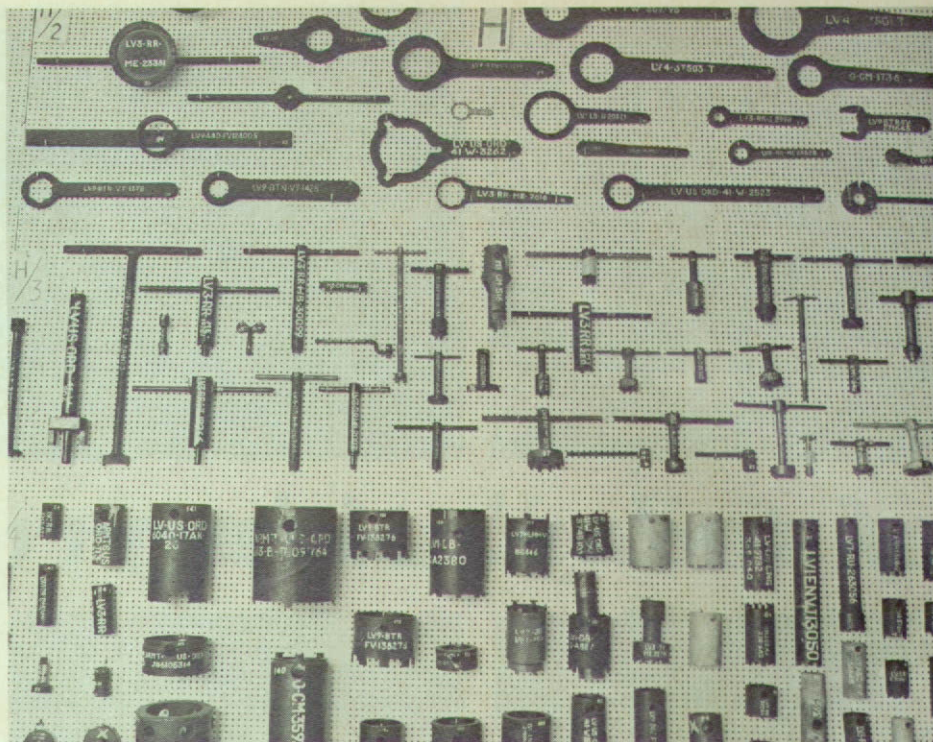
Now publications for every piece of equipment are handled at Woolwich by a drawing office, technical editors and a photographic section. The off-set litho productions are printed in quantities varying from small numbers in the case of air-guided weapons systems to vast amounts for commonly used vehicles. About 720,000 pages are printed at the centre each month and pages farmed out to other printers bring the total monthly output to more than a million. There are currently 1400 users of the publications including 15 foreign and Commonwealth forces owning British equipment. Paper will eventually be replaced by microfilm; readers which can be operated by the man in the field are already on trial.

Also at Woolwich the Support Group has a library of tools, including a number of historic pieces.

The Production Management Wing embraces the five central workshops, HQ REME Stores Inspection Branch, HQ REME Vehicle Organisation RAOC and three vehicle depot workshops. In the Midlands the workshops also double as command workshops, of which there are none in that area, but each central workshop has its own role to play within the Support Group's production task. That at Old Dalby, Leicestershire, has the greatest variety of work. It employs about 80 soldiers as well as civilians—soldiers are necessary partly because of the workshop's rural location and partly because the repair of radar and guided missiles is largely Service-orientated.

The principal function of Old Dalby is the base repair of radar and guided missile systems, weapons and equipments. It also deals with instruments, infra-red cameras, navigational equipment and specialist vehicles such as mobile laundry and bath units, and printing machines.

The work of REME Support Group spreads over many fields and many types of operation—indeed it would require a book to list them all. The new title not only reflects the Group's role more accurately but has also made the soldiers working for it happier—before the change-over a survey found that 80 per cent of them wanted a new name.



Just part of the library at Woolwich containing every tool still available.

Right: The preparation room of the Data Centre where 50 girls process reports.



Below: The Board of Management of REME Support Group in conference.





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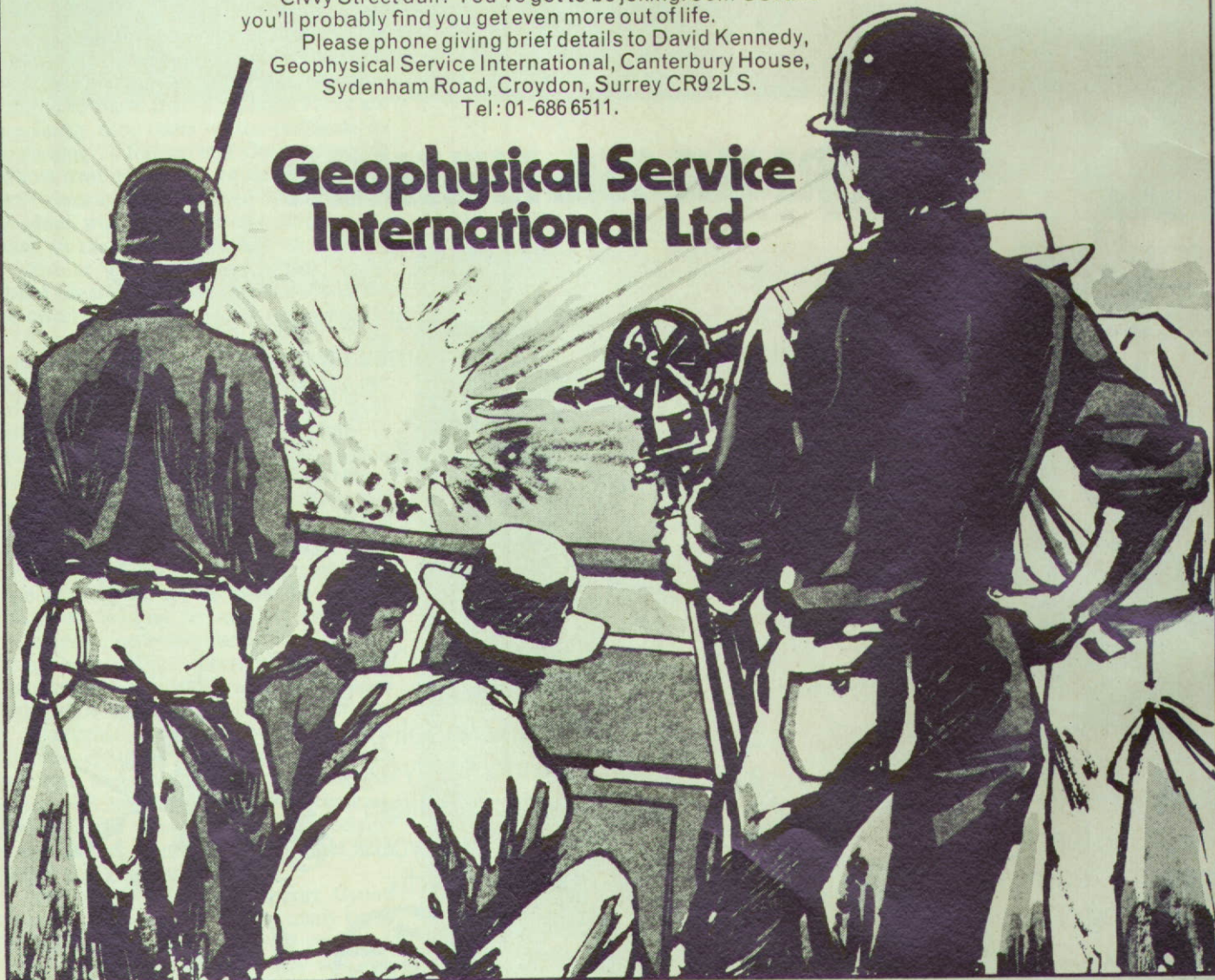
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Pull-out supplement SOLDIER January 1975

PRAISE FOR FORCES HOUSING

A tribute to Service accommodation comes from Shelter, the national campaign for the homeless, in a special report on tied accommodation. The report states: "The (Armed Forces) housing is essentially of a high standard and well maintained. It is allocated on the basis of needs, although rank is also a consideration, which means that overcrowding does not occur. The rent paid for such housing is uniform across the country for each type of house and is probably lower than private market rents for such housing . . . Armed Forces' accommodation is intrinsically good value for the rent paid, but also of great relative value when one considers the scarcity of accommodation in the vicinity of the stations and the necessary mobility of Servicemen."

It is the ex-serviceman who finds problems, the report concludes: "The greatest problems in rehousing ex-servicemen occur for those who have served short-term engagements and wish to return to areas where there is great pressure on council housing waiting lists. Local authorities in such areas do seem to insist on certain residential qualifications despite Department of the Environment advice to the contrary. There is great uncertainty right up to the time of discharge as to whether or not the serviceman and his family will be rehoused by the council in the area of their choice. Resettlement of servicemen would be greatly eased if all local authorities were obliged to guarantee rehousing, when sufficient warning is given, for a certain number of ex-servicemen each year."

RECRUITS—AT THE DOUBLE!

More than double the number of recruits entering the Army in the quarter July to September 1973 joined up in the corresponding period of 1974. Junior intakes in 1973 were severely affected by the raising of the school-leaving age. But the 1974 intakes recovered to near pre-ROSLA levels and are described by the Ministry of Defence as "most encouraging." The figures were as follows (1973 totals in brackets): Adults and young soldiers 3164 (2756), juniors 5264 (1321). (PR)

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● In answer to questions from Mr Stan Newens (Labour/Co-operative, Harlow), Mr Brynmor John, Under-Secretary of State for the RAF, told the House of Commons there are 39 married quarters for officers and 186 for other ranks at North Weald in Essex. Of these, 23 officers' quarters and 59 other ranks' quarters are unoccupied at present. The unoccupied officers' quarters have been vacant for varying periods up to 12 months and the other ranks' quarters for varying periods up to four months but all the latter are expected to be occupied soon. All officers' married quarters at North Weald which were intended for disposal have had to be retained for possible emergency use by Service families returning from Cyprus and there is a continuing Service requirement for the other ranks' married quarters.



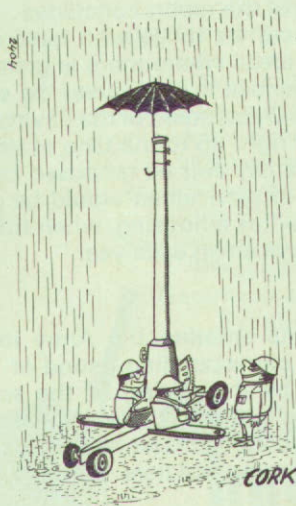
"They've certainly slashed the band establishment this time!"

● With defence expenditure uppermost in MPs' minds recently, questions to ministers have included some on the cost of various items. Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth) was concerned with the cost of band services in the forces and how much is recovered by charges made for public performances as well as the numbers of bands and bandsmen. The Minister of State for Defence, Mr William Rodgers, produced figures showing that the Army dominates the band scene in the forces. There are 78 Army bands made up of 3438 bandsmen. The Royal Marines have 11 bands with 546 bandsmen and the RAF six bands with 319 bandsmen. The total cost is estimated at £12.7 million and an estimated £26,000 was the figure given for cash recovered in charges for public performances.

● It was Mr Trotter again who highlighted the difference in costs per head of Gurkha pay and other personal costs for non-commissioned officers and

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

continued



men compared with those in other infantry battalions. Mr Rodgers said the figure was £720 for Gurkhas in Hong Kong and £2530 for those stationed in the United Kingdom. This compared with £3061 for the British infanteer.

● Still on money matters, traditionalists will be pleased to know that the faithful little "tanner"—regrettably now known as a "2½p piece"—is not yet to be withdrawn from circulation. The fate of the old sixpenny bit was the subject of a query from Lieutenant-Colonel M Lipton (Labour, Lambeth Central) and he was reassured by Treasury Financial Secretary Dr John Gilbert.

● Costs of a grimmer kind, in terms of human life, were brought to Parliament's attention by Mr John Stokes (Conservative, Halesowen and Stourbridge) who asked how many members of the forces had been killed in Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom between 1969 and November 1974.

Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for the Army, replied that between 14 August 1969 and 13 November 1974 there had been 277 members of the forces killed in Northern Ireland. Another 18 had died in the rest of the United Kingdom as a direct result of terrorist activity.

● The first regiment to be re-equipped with the new FH70 155mm medium gun is due to take delivery "towards the end of the 1970s," according to Mr Rodgers, answering questions on the subject from Mr Trotter. The House heard that the old 5.5 inch medium gun was introduced in 1942. It remains in service with some Regular and Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve artillery regiments. It will be replaced by the FH70 towed gun which is in an advanced stage of development.

● An impressive array of statistics showing forces help for worldwide famine relief was produced in answer to a question from Mr Peter Hardy (Labour, Rother Valley). Mr Brynmor John, Under-Secretary of State for the RAF, said that in 1973 the RAF flew more than 2400 tons of food and grain into the famine area of West Africa. In 1974 the Army and RAF made available 60 four-ton lorries with spares and two Land-Rovers for famine relief work in West Africa and Ethiopia. The RAF airlifted 34 of the lorries and 26, plus the Land-Rovers, were driven across the Sahara to Niger by the Army. A further 11 non-Service vehicles have been flown to Ethiopia by the RAF and nine more were due to follow. The Army has also helped in road building in Ethiopia and advised on the improvement of a vital ferry link in West Africa.

● The RAF is "well pleased" with the Jaguar strike aircraft, Mr John told Mr James Johnson (Labour, Kingston-upon-Hull) in answer to a question about the aircraft. Mr John went on: "Pilots have found it easy to fly and have been particularly impressed with its low-level performance and handling." The ease of maintenance and reliability of Jaguar has meant that the flying rate has been consistently higher than forecast. The first two operational squadrons are now well advanced towards taking over completely from Phantoms in Strike Command. After this, it is planned that Jaguar will go into service in Germany in the strike/attack role. Looking still further ahead, the Jaguar will eventually replace the Phantom in tactical reconnaissance in Strike Command and RAF Germany.

● A new Naafi club and cinema for Airport Camp, Belize (formerly British Honduras), is due to be ready next month to replace the one destroyed by fire in June 1973. Announcing this in answer to a question from Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (Conservative, Camden, Hampstead), Mr Brown said alternative accommodation had been used in the meantime.

● A cry to revive "Dad's Army" was turned down by Mr Rodgers when Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker (Conservative, Cheltenham) made a plea for the setting up of a Home Guard on the lines of that operating in Denmark. Mr Rodgers said such an organisation would "not be a worthwhile addition to our present defence structure."

INFLATION—NAAFI FEELS THE PINCH

A note of warning on the effects on Naafi of the current economic crisis was sounded by Major-General R E Worsley, the Vice Quartermaster-General, when he chaired the sixth all-ranks meeting of the Army General Institute Committee. General Worsley said: "We must not forget the difficult times we are living through nationally on the economic front. The profitability of Naafi is being seriously affected by this situation." He pointed out that the Army's share of the extra rebate ploughed back through the Army Central Fund had dropped from more than £400,000 in 1972/73 to less than £300,000 in 1973/74. "If the trend continues, this figure could fall even more significantly," he warned.

He assured the meeting that Naafi will continue to give a service in the cold economic climate but added: "It can only do so with the support of us—the customers. Naafi welcomes constructive criticism which can be made through normal channels at garrison and district levels."

Naafi's managing director, Mr E W MacGowan, stressed that it was difficult to be optimistic about the economic situation with inflation as the real enemy

of the institute. Although sales remained high for the year, profit margins had been eroded by higher costs. But Naafi was not just standing still, he said, and hire purchase business was expanding "very fast."

Mr MacGowan hinted that Naafi might bid to get the Services to surrender some of the trading activities they involve themselves in while the institute for its part would undertake to control expenses.

A day of debate covering a wide field of topics followed the formal addresses.

ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS SOUGHT

One-third of a 12-man expedition to the Antarctic is expected to be drawn from the Army when a joint-Services party sets off to explore the Elephant Island Group from December 1976 to March 1977. The call for volunteers will go out this year in Defence Council Instructions and applicants will be expected to be tough, fit and have a waterproof sense of humour. Mountaineering and



canoeing experience will be needed but the top priorities are for geologists, botanists and ichthyologists. The expedition will be led by Commander Chris Furse, of the Royal Navy, and has links with two famous British trans-Antarctic exploits as it will revisit the beaches where Shackleton's men wintered in 1916 whilst its patron is Sir Vivian Fuchs who led the first successful trans-Antarctic expedition.

ARMY DEPENDANTS ASSURANCE TRUST

All members of the Army Dependants Assurance Trust scheme can now continue membership when they leave the Army. The premium and benefits will not change but there will be a small policy charge which is a normal part of assurance contracts in civilian life to cover the costs of collection of individual premiums. This continuation should not be confused with the option available to members to convert their unexpired ADAT cover into an individual private policy when they leave the Army (as described in the ADAT Defence Council Instruction paragraph 23c), to which this is an alternative.

Full details of the continuation scheme are in DCI (Army) S58/73.

(DPS)

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

It is 60 years since the "war to end wars" began and 30 years have passed since the allies landed in Normandy. But still today the graves and memorials of the 1,700,000 Commonwealth servicemen and women who died in the two world wars are tended by the staff of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The commission's 55th annual report describes the variety of work and complexity of problems which arise throughout the world to face the organisation. The commission has fought hard against rising costs and with responsibilities in 144 countries and dealing in some 50 currencies the battle has not been made easier. With two-thirds of its expenditure incurred outside the sterling area, the commission has revised its organisation in an attempt to keep down costs.

With the increasing interest in the history of the two world wars the number of visitors to the cemeteries and memorials grows and the commission is doing much to meet and encourage this interest.

After successful trials a new toxic wash for headstones has been adopted worldwide in preference to laborious hand-washing. Attempts continue to find solutions to the problems of pollution and vandalism and the growing mechanisation of techniques in the maintenance of stonework and horticulture all over the world.

THE PRICE OF BEING A SOLDIER

A reader's letter in the Daily Mail complained that her husband's mortgage protection policy premiums had been increased because of his service in Northern Ireland. The Ministry of Defence has been aware of this problem for some time and one of the concessions granted as part of the last pay review was that servicemen whose premiums had been increased because of the demands of their profession are able to claim a refund. DCI(Gen)S106/74 contains details of this scheme. (DPS)

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

The museum has continued to benefit by the generosity of many donors and lenders of important material, states its 1973-74 annual report. As the museum becomes better known, more and more interesting gifts, some of the highest quality, have been added to the collections.

The same spread of knowledge has brought many societies and associations to the museum. These range from the Clan Donnachaidh Society to the Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled and include many learned organisations. The Society of MoD (Main) Librarians, National Heritage and the Society for



Army Historical Research have all held their annual general meetings at the museum. A great success was a small exhibition and lecture series organised by the Battle Commemorative Unit and based on a war game of the Battle of Leipzig. The combined lecture and exhibition led to the museum having its highest attendance on a single day so far.

The building fund had raised £1,350,000 up to 30 June 1974. Donations during the year included one of £20,000. The cost of the lecture hall, originally estimated at £12,000, is now expected to be £20,000. Apart from this, all costs have been paid and nearly £250,000 is invested towards the cost of Phase II.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS

All service since 1 April 1973 is reckonable for the new half-rate widows' pensions. Service before then attracts only the old one-third rate. Anyone who was serving on 31 March 1973 can now "buy in" his previous service, thus making provision for a complete half-rate pension for his widow. Details appear in DCI(Gen) S117/74 and it is worth noting that whatever the cost of "buying in"—and this, naturally, varies according to rank and length of service—before the end of two years of widowhood the increase in benefits drawn will have more than offset that cost. (DPS)

TOC H PLAY SCHEME IN RHINE ARMY

For the past two summers Toc H has run a play scheme for Rhine Army children. The highly successful experiment, with the backing of Army facilities, was based on Paderborn where the garrison is home for some 300 servicemen and their families. Summer 1974 found more than 100 people directly involved in the scheme—some 80 children plus helpers, mothers and the Toc H team flown out from the United Kingdom. Together they took part in a wide variety of activities including swimming, games and visits to a parachute display and Army dog training kennels. Toc H has now handed over to the local community so that its scarce resources can be used to start similar schemes elsewhere. (Toc H)

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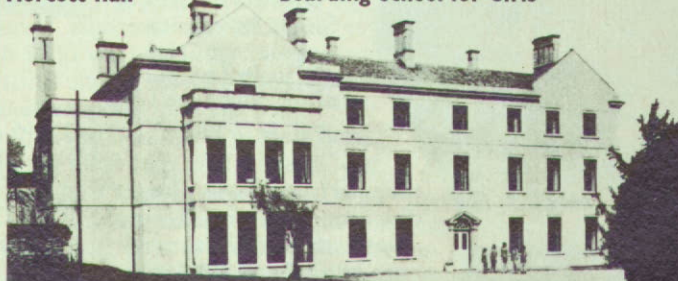
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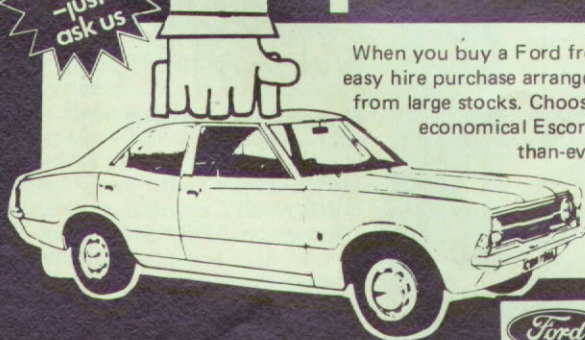


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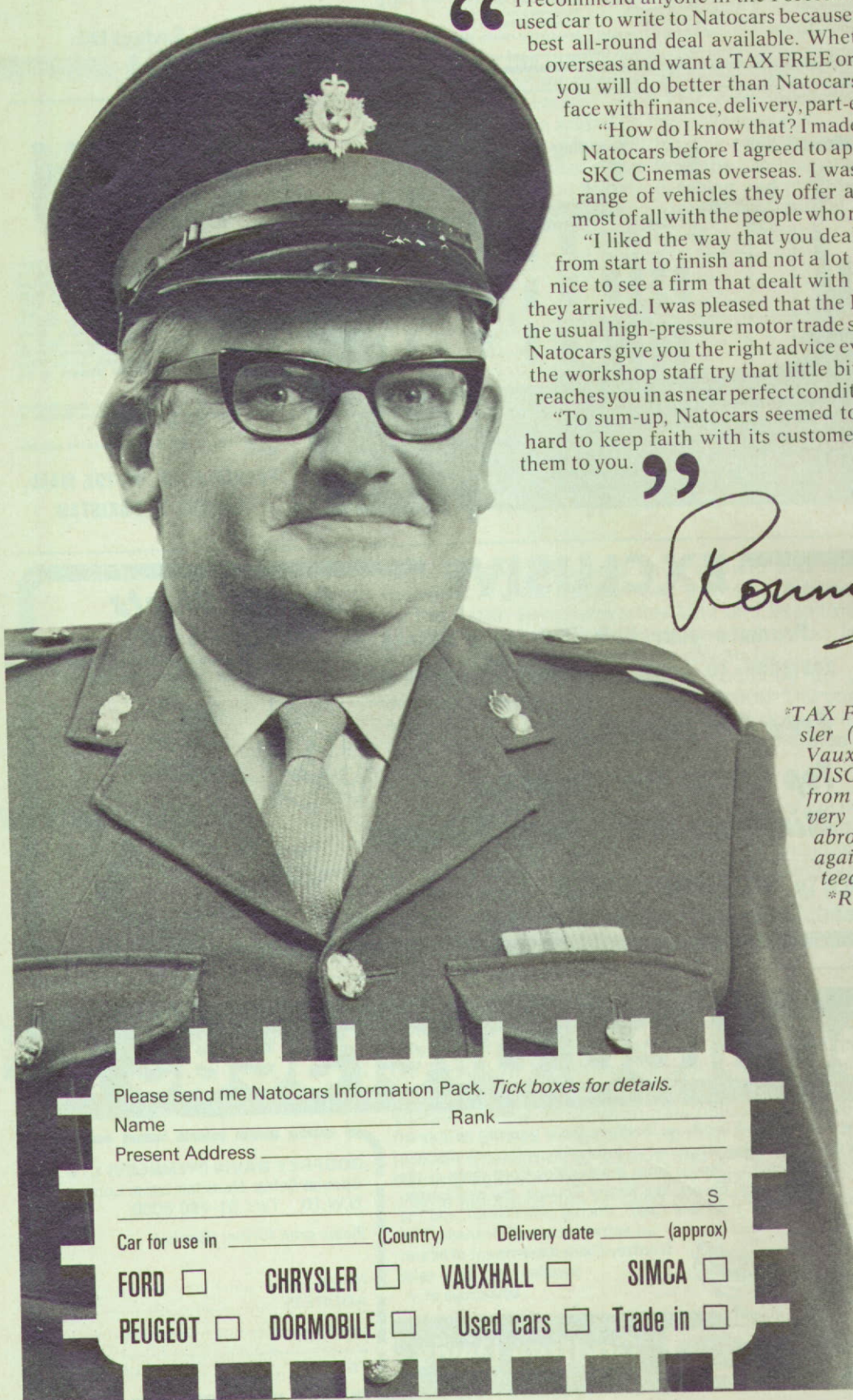
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PURELY PERSONAL



Pin-up Sue

Cheering the men of The Royal Hussars, based at the Maze prison, Northern Ireland, was 20-year old **Sue De Gruchy**, the regiment's pin-up. Sue, a bank clerk from Jersey, spent a week with the Hussars.



Bar for Green Howard

George William Awty, not yet 15 years old, was enlisted at Hull on 13 September 1937. Thirty-six years later, WO2 G W Awty, of The Green Howards, was presented with a bar to his Long Service & Good Conduct Medal by **Major-General E J S Burnett**, Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas and Deputy Commander Land Forces Hong Kong. After joining the band of 2nd Battalion, The Green Howards, as a cornet player in India, the young Awty served with the regiment for four tours before returning to Britain. In 1944 he joined 7th (Light Infantry) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, with whom he was wounded in action on the Rhine crossing in 1945. He became an instructor back in Britain for the next two years. Pilot Awty served with B Squadron, The Glider Pilot Regiment, at Netheravon from 1947 to 1949 when he rejoined The Green Howards for the Malayan Emergency. He stayed with the regiment throughout worldwide postings until 1962. The next 11 years were spent in various staff and administrative posts. He was appointed regimental quartermaster-sergeant at the families' administrative office at Sek Kong in the New Territories of Hong Kong in 1973 and is due to return home at the end of 1975.



Men of the year

The Army's Man of the Year who took his place alongside the other men of the year at the annual Savoy Hotel lunch for the specially picked heroes was **Staff-Sergeant Bill Watt** (37), Royal Army Medical Corps. He performed a kerbside operation on **Private Ian Jackson**, 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, who was severely wounded in the throat by a bomb in Northern Ireland. The soldier was only minutes from death with a blocked wind-pipe when Bill Watt, then a sergeant, performed an emergency tracheotomy using an improvised tube to allow Private Jackson to breathe again. Staff Watt, who has already been awarded the British Empire Medal for his action, visited Whitehall to receive the personal congratulations of **Defence Minister Roy Mason**. Also at the Man of the Year lunch was bomb disposal expert **Lieutenant-Colonel George Styles** who won the George Cross for his 16-hour ordeal defusing two bombs in Belfast. Colonel Styles has now retired from the Army after 28 years.



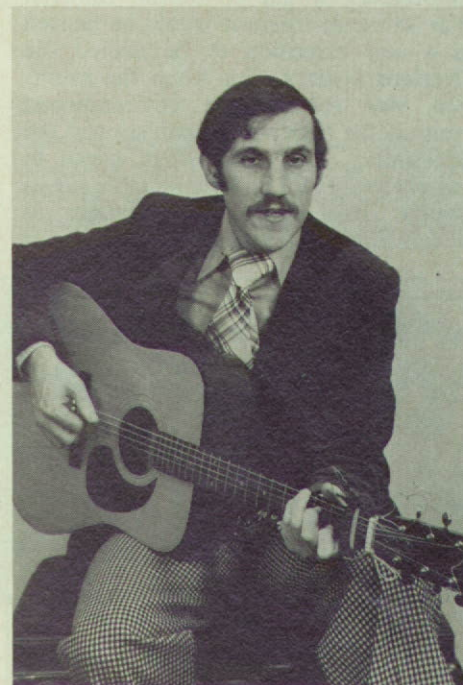
All but one

Private Carl Sims (19) set up a record when Sicily Platoon held its passing-out parade at the Wessex Depot of The Prince of Wales's Division at Exeter. He won all the prizes except one—and that he could not win as it was for the runner-up to best recruit. Private Sims was best all-round recruit in his platoon, best rifle shot, best shot on the general-purpose machine-gun and best all-round shot. He finished up with a tankard, a pen and four framed certificates. His training and expertise are now being added to the prowess of the unit he has been posted to, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.



Goodbye, DLI

A farewell for **Major John "Darkie" Williams** (left), the last officer serving with the Regular Army to wear the uniform of The Durham Light Infantry. Major Williams, pictured with **Major-General Geoffrey Collin**, GOC North East District, has retired after 45 years in the Army. As Army Careers Officer in South Shields he was allowed to continue wearing The Durham Light Infantry uniform after the regiment was merged into The Light Infantry in 1968.



For charity

Sergeant Peter Ferns, Royal Corps of Signals, earns more than a general. . . for charity. For he is a leading folk-singer whose music made while serving earns hard cash for good causes. He recently teamed up with fellow Scot Hamish Imlach—one of the most-recorded British folk artistes—to present a show in Berlin, aptly named "Double Scotch," in aid of Saint Joseph's Children's Home, Charlottenberg, and the Princess Louise's Scottish Hospital in Renfrew.

A 20th century Bayeux Tapestry, the Overlord Embroidery, which commemorates the allied invasion of Europe, may be lost to the United Kingdom unless a home is found for it...

No room at the gallery

UNCERTAINTY hangs over the future of the Overlord Embroidery, one of the largest works of art in the world and said to be the modern counterpart of the Bayeux Tapestry. This 264-foot-long embroidery, depicting the allied invasion of Europe in World War Two and created by 23 seamstresses of the Royal School of Needlework in London over a five-year period, has yet to be shown in the United Kingdom.

For more than a year it has been in North America where it has had an enthusiastic reception. After being on loan to the United States Army in Washington it went to Ottawa where the response was so great that it was taken on a major tour of Canadian cities by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It was intended that on its return the Embroidery would go to the Imperial War Museum where it would be housed in a new extension to be named the Overlord Gallery. But when the extension was rejected on environmental grounds the man who commissioned the embroidery, Lord Dulverton, began to put out feelers for another suitable site to display it—nothing was certain as SOLDIER went to press. If no site is

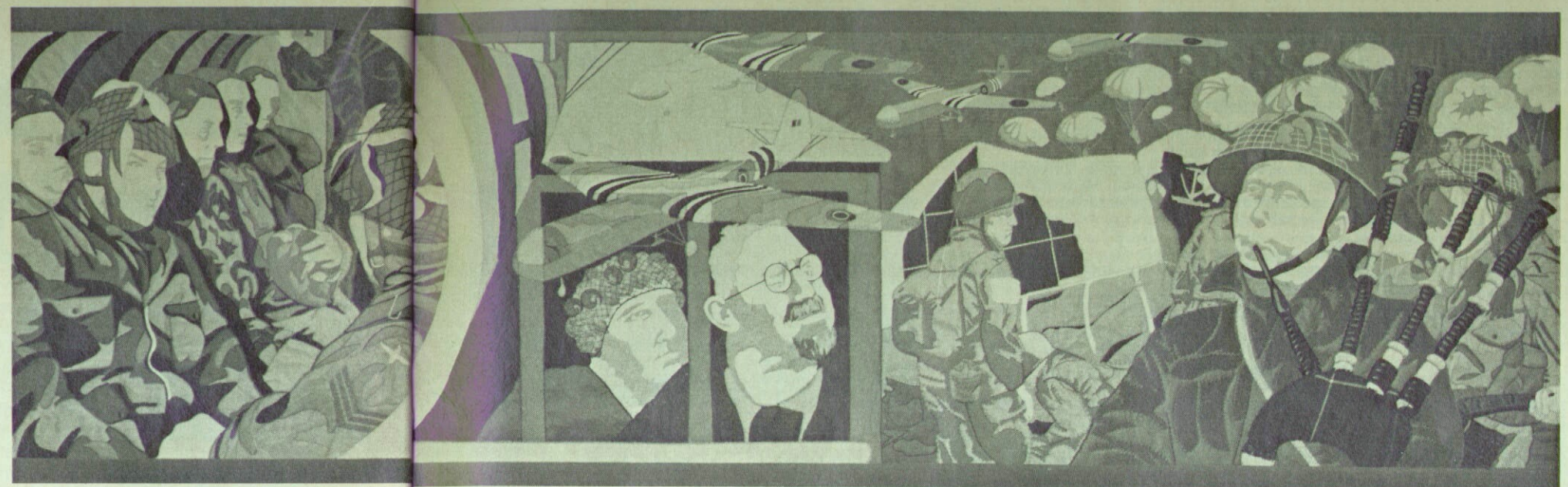
found it is even possible that the Overlord Embroidery may cross the Atlantic again—this time for good.

The Embroidery commemorates not only Operation Overlord, the allied invasion of Europe, but also the efforts and activities of people who had taken part in preparations for that day. It not only shows British and other allied servicemen at work but farm and factory workers, merchant seamen, civil defence personnel and women and children caught up in the war effort.

It comprises 34 panels, each approximately eight by three-and-a-half feet. They weigh only about seven pounds each but with the frames and crates in which they are carried the exhibition as a whole has amounted to more than 12 tons and has taken three-and-a-half days to set up at each venue.

The story begins with panel one in 1940 when Britain and the Commonwealth began the fight to mobilise for a return to mainland Europe. Other scenes include Cockneys sheltering in Tube stations, the Home Guard training with umbrellas and sticks and Land Army girls at work in the field.

Then the plan takes shape. Rommel is



Above: Early on D-Day, British and Americans land by parachute and glider. Left: King George, Churchill and Brooke tour the invasion beaches between 12 and 16 June with Eisenhower and Montgomery.

shown inspecting the German defences and allied landing ships are seen to be assembling in British ports. By panel 17 the D-Day landings are under way.

The next ten panels depict the inva-

sion and panel 28 shows the arrival of King George VI, Churchill and Field-Marshal Brooke on the invasion beaches where they tour with Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery. The final panel

shows the Germans retreating to the Belgian border. Ahead of the Allies is a long, wet winter in the Low Countries and then the invasion of Germany.

During its showings in Canada the

Embroidery has been guarded round the clock. It cost Lord Dulverton £100,000 but he has provided mankind with a unique historical record which should last for hundreds of years.

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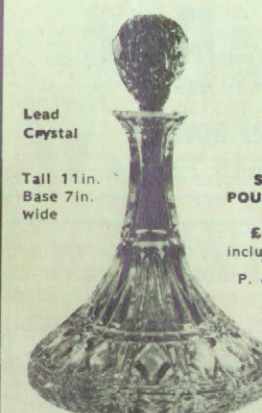
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8 Afrika Corps Infantryman advancing
9 N.C.O. at ease
10 Afrika Corps Infantryman arm raised
11 Afrika Corps Infantryman dispatch case
12 Paratrooper at ease
13 Paratrooper throwing grenade
20 Paratrooper grenade stance
21 Afrika Corps Infantryman shorts
22 Afrika Corps NCO arm raised

23 NCO Paratrooper kneeling with small arms
24 Afrika Corps Infantryman adv. with brief case
25 Officer peaked cap binoculars
26 Paratrooper with chute
27 Infantry Officer pointing
28 NCO at ease
29 Infantryman rifle slung
30 Officer forage cap pointing
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Capriccio Brilliant

Besses
o' th' Barn
Band



Conductor: Ifor James, Bandmaster: Frank Bryce, Guest Soloist: John McCabe - piano

"Capriccio Brilliant" (Besses o' th' Barn Band) (Conductor: Ifor James) (Bandmaster: Frank Bryce) (Piano: John McCabe) (Golden Guinea GSGL 10510) Old and famous Besses o' th' Barn try something new here with famous guest pianist and conductor. We have had new works for piano and brass band before but not, I think, a classical piece arranged for this medium. Mendelssohn's "Capriccio Brillante Op 22" is played by composer-pianist John McCabe with the orchestral accompaniment arranged for band by Oliver Brockway. The idea will add variety to the sometimes monotonous sound of a brass band but I don't really see the point in recording such music when the original is readily obtainable. The mixture is not ideal since the lower half of the band is

necessarily involved in most of the accompanying and the basses boom and smother much detail.

Handel's "Sonata in G minor" for oboe is even less successful as a euphonium solo; here, as in much of the music, a heavy-handed and somewhat joyless approach is evident. Ifor James, a born virtuoso, will have learned a thing or two, being the musician he is, from this his first effort.

"A Jazz Intermezzo" by Peter Sieve-wright, son of an organist, betrays his early influences. Peter Yorke's suite "The Shipbuilders" and Joseph Horowitz's "Sinfonietta" are well enough played but the performances as a whole do not achieve the humour and verve of large sections of both works. **RB**

ON RECORD

THE ORCHESTRA of the CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS

Conducted by Capt. R.A. Ridings ARCM, psm, RE



"The Orchestra of the Corps of Royal Engineers" (Conducted by Captain R A Ridings) (Rediffusion 1500 011)

Quite rightly the sleeve claims this to be the first Army orchestra to be recorded, on the occasion of the first combined recording by the corps' two bands. I can think of another first. The sleeve picture is of what must be the first sapper orchestral concert in the only hole on/in Gibraltar the sappers didn't sap.

In only one place does inexperience show through on this LP, otherwise it is a first-class effort by all concerned. The strings I suppose could be richer in tone but the woodwind, brass and percussion do wonders with some popular old-timers and particularly in a tremendous medley of tunes about Paris and the Seine.

"March of the Peers" from "Iolanthe," two of the sumptuous "Spanish Dances" of Granados, a little pizzicato piece called "Eavesdropping," a real "Flash of Strings" by Ronald Binge, Kennedy-Fraser's selection of "Songs of the Hebrides," an exciting flute solo "Tamboo," and the lush "Czech Song" comprise the very varied programme. Only in Paul Lincke's old waltz "Unrequited Love" did I sense a lack of truth, but then you have to be my age to remember what Albert Sandler did with it on wet Sunday afternoons.

A fine first effort. May there be more to come under the new Director, Captain Roy Hunt. **RB**

"Cymru am Byth" (The Regimental Band and Choir of the Welsh Guards) (Conducted by Major F L Statham) (Conductor of the choir: Sergeant H Carpenter) (with Maria Korchinska, harp) (Qualiton Daffodil DAF 221)

This reissue came at a time when the Welsh Guards suffered the staggering blow of losing their former Director of Music, Leslie Statham, and their serving Director of Music, Major Desmond Walker, within a few weeks of each other. Both men were fine musicians who through their compositions, arrangements and general musical gifts made the regimental band and choir a force in recording circles. Both would have chosen no better and more suitable epitaph to their work than this LP, including as it does the best of Welsh melodies and especially that which accompanied them both on their last journey, "David of the White Rock."

Leslie Statham conducts several of his own marches—"The Guardsman," "Royal Review" (concert march), "Great and Glorious" (slow march)—and his arrangements of the regimental slow and quick marches, "Men of Harlech" and "The Rising of the Lark."

The choir with harp or band accompaniment sings "We'll Keep a Welcome," "Hodie Christus Natus Est," "David of the White Rock," "Dychwelyd" (The Return), and "Cwm Rhondda." Two old favourites in Myddleton's fantasia "The

Leek" and A A Ellis's "Welsh Patrol" by the band complete a record which enshrines the purposes and accomplishments of two devoted, if factitious, men of Harlech. **RB**



"The Royal Marines Play Burt Bacharach" (Band of Royal Marines School of Music) (Conductor: Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Neville) (Studio 2 Stereo TWOX 1013)

The Bach of the pop scene, Burt Bacharach, is here honoured with a right royal salute from the Royal Marines. I cannot think of a finer or more deserving composer of popular music. His tunes have a characteristic twist which pins them down immediately as his, the avoidance of the obvious being his chief gift. I am sorry the tune which announced the birth of a new star is not on this LP—his "Anyone Who Had a Heart" in which he opened new vistas at about the time the Beatles were being launched upon an unprepared world, I remember the Grenadiers playing this song, about 1964 I think, and because not sung by its protagonist, Cilla Black, the audience mistook it for an avant-garde piece, so intricate and off-beat was it.

Well done, the Marines. There will be a few moans about "another fine band gone to pot" but G & S were not too well received by military band enthusiasts at first, nor were the ditties of Lionel Monckton, Leslie Stuart, and Hume's arrangements of music hall songs.

In fine arrangements by ex-marine Ray Woodfield, the band plays "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head," "Magic Moments," "This Guy's in Love with You," "What's New Pussycat?," "I'll Never Fall in Love Again," "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?," "To Wait for Love," "Always Something There to Remind Me," "The World is a Circle," "Alfie," "Wives and Lovers," "Trains and Boats and Planes," "I say a Little Prayer," "Close to You" and "What the World Needs Now is Love." **RB**

CYMRU AM BYTH THE REGIMENTAL BAND AND CHOIR OF THE WELSH GUARDS

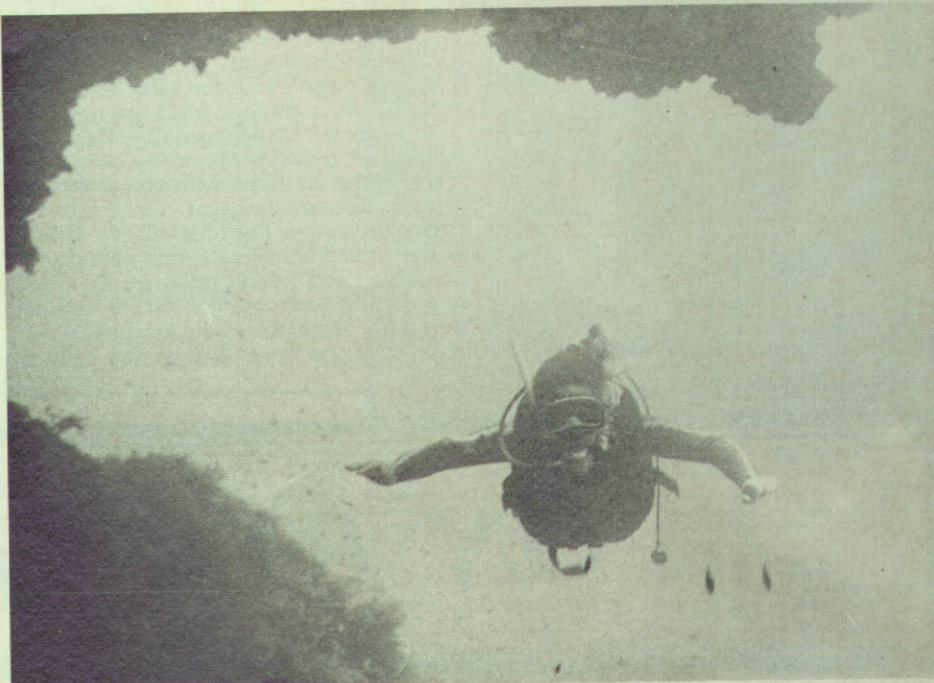


Divers raise cannon

AN Army diving team on exercise in Malta found time to raise an early-19th century cannon from the seabed off Manoel Island. The cannon had been discovered some time ago by a member of the Malta Garrison Sub-Aqua Club.

Three divers went down to secure the cannon with ropes and having hauled it to the surface it was taken by boat to St George's Bay for inspection by the Director of the Museum Department. The cannon was later delivered to Fort St Elmo where a new government museum is being prepared.

The 18-strong team, drawn mainly from the Depot Regiment, Royal Artillery, spent three-and-a-half weeks on the expedition to Malta. After an intensive training stint on arrival, the team began a marine biology project for the Royal University of Malta. Its members



A weightless diver glides over the sea bed.

collected specimens of worms, sponges, coral, molluscs, crustaceans and other creatures.

During the stay, the team carried out 136 dives which included one to 100 feet. For the more experienced there were

dives to 150 feet and night diving to 70 feet was also done. Malta's clear, safe waters provided ideal conditions for training divers and offered a great deal of interest varying from wrecks to caves as well as the wealth of marine life.

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TOUR DE VAR

AMINI-TOUR de France centred on the hilly wine-producing Var region north of the Mediterranean coastal resort of Hyères has become a highlight of the cycling world in Europe. The event was started in 1972 by Mathieu Aimar, elder brother of Lucien who won the Tour de France itself in 1966.

The Tour de Var is a stage race for amateur riders over 30 years of age. The only foreigner competing in the first race in 1972 was Royal Army Dental Corps Sergeant Wally Happy whose annual holidays in Hyères had brought him in contact with local riders, including Aimar. Sergeant Happy was fired with the ambition to enter a Services team in the 1973 Tour de Var and the three Army and two RAF riders recruited to do the job acquitted themselves well. With many lessons learned from the first venture, a stronger team entered the 1974 Tour. This report is from team member Warrant Officer 1 Ron Foster:

"The 1974 Tour was more ambitious than the previous two. In addition to entries from amateurs over 30 years of age, ex-professionals of over 40 were allowed to ride. The race was extended to 728 kilometres to be completed in 11 stages over five days.

"The team was finalised as: Warrant Officer 1 Ron Foster, Warrant Officer 1 Len Benton, both Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Warrant Officer 2 "Lofty" Beech, Army Air Corps, and Sergeant Wally Happy, Royal Army Dental Corps. Gunner "Bas" Howarth, Royal Artillery, a promising young Army rider, was loaned by his unit, 39 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, as mechanic and helper. There were 130 starters including a Swiss team of near-national standard plus a team of Belgians and a team from the Spanish border in the Pyrenees.

"Cycling can be a hard sport and the first British casualty was Foster who crashed on a sharp bend in a town.

Except for minor bruises he was unhurt and went on to finish the stage at Le Luc. Ahead of him were Benton and Beech and behind came Happy.

"The second stage to Vidauban started in torrential rain which did not let up for the entire 69 kilometres. With 40 kilometres to go a crash brought down Beech and Foster. Beech fell heavily in the road and suffered abrasions; Foster went down a ten-foot embankment into a vineyard. The two casualties remounted and, with Happy, chased hard but never caught the leaders, in whose company Benton was riding very strongly.

"The second day's two stages were also held in continuous rain and, by the end of the day, morale was very low despite Benton's consistent riding. The situation was not helped by a spate of punctures and mechanical mishaps. At the end of the stage the team travelled back to its tented camp at Carcès to find floods. Tired, wet and hungry and faced with the prospect of cleaning and oiling their machines before dark, they first had to dig channels to take away the water. There were three sets of racing clothes to dry, too. This was just impossible as it rained all night and the tents stayed damp. It was at this point the team wished it had more backing, financial and otherwise. All the other teams were staying in hotels paid for by their sponsors. Commercial firms put up cash for French teams.

"Day three dawned and . . . surprise, surprise, the weather was fine! Morale was lifted . . . and so was the jaw of organiser Aimar, on the end of a Swiss rider's fist. A dispute with the judges caused the fracas and Aimar's bike was used as a trampoline by the Swiss team. The whole race hung in jeopardy as the Swiss withdrew and the event was stopped. Finally it was re-started but the riders made their protest at the upset by riding at snail's pace for several kilometres.

"Benton rode very strongly with the leaders and found himself quite at home in the hills. The long gradients and endless hairpin bends are very different from the terrain cyclists find in England. Consequently—apart from Benton—the team found it difficult to climb in company with the leaders. But they were not alone; the Belgians are not renowned climbers and a fair number of Frenchmen also struggled at the rear of the field.

"Two punctures on this stage set back Happy. Benton gained 12th place at Montmeyan and was improving his placings all the time. He had moved up to 12th on general classification. The afternoon stage to St Maximin saw more improvements by the Army riders. With only 20 kilometres to go, a long climb split the field with Benton staying near the front. He finished eighth on this stage closely followed by Beech, Foster and Happy.

"After treating themselves to the luxury of a good night's sleep in a hotel, the team joined the field to set off for Rians, 74 kilometres away. Despite French attempts to block his every move, Benton managed to finish a well-deserved fifth. Beech's chain jammed and Foster punctured a little later, robbing them of high placings in the stage.

"Next came the longest leg of the Tour, 90 kilometres to Carcès. Only ten minutes out, Foster's brand new rear wheel tyre punctured. Happy and a group of four came up and for the next 55 kilometres they worked well. At the start of the first 13-kilometre circuit of Carcès they caught up with a group of ten riders.

"In the main peloton three French riders had detached themselves from the bunch and were about two minutes ahead. On the first of the two circuits, Benton took a 'flyer' and overhauled the break-aways, went straight past the startled trio and was first over the line on the first lap. He drew away to win the stage by one minute five seconds from the big bunch. The streets were lined with crowds cheering 'L'Anglais.' All the British riders got a great reception and Benton delighted the crowd by giving his winner's bouquet of flowers to a bride who had just emerged from a nearby church after her wedding.

"The next morning the local French teams combined to protect the positions of their leading riders and would not allow Benton to make up more time. But he still emerged 10th in the stage, closely followed by Foster. Beech was not at peak fitness and finished several minutes down with Happy. In the afternoon the final road stage to La Garde was held over 56 kilometres. It was Benton's last chance to gain places in the general classification. He attacked from the start and was out in front with a Belgian until the top of the first four-kilometre climb. The bunch was going all out and had dropped the other three Britons. Foster was only 100 metres down at the top and

continued ►

Army riders who took part in the '74 Tour de Var, left to right: Benton, Happy, Foster and, finally, Lofty Beech.



helped get the chasing group working.

"After five kilometres they had made up ground but Foster faded on the climb again and lost 300 metres. On the dangerous, twisting descent of Rocbaron, Foster pulled out all the stops and made contact with the bunch just as it split. He made his way to the front of the peleton to find four men had broken away.

"Benton made vain attempts to break, too, but the flying four were not caught up until three kilometres from home. From then on it was cat-and-mouse with a strong head wind adding to the strain. On

the run-in from 500 metres a group of 12 went clear. Foster joined Benton near the front but the final sprint was too much for them and they were placed 10th and 12th respectively. Beech and Happy finished together in a group several minutes down.

"Stage 11 from La Garde to Hyères was a 15-kilometre team trial and, as most of the teams were seven strong, they had a decided advantage over the Army's quartet. But with Benton at his best and doing most of the work and Foster obviously improving, the team managed to gain fifth place out of 15 teams in a time of 21 minutes 58 seconds. The winner's time was 43 seconds faster.

"In the general classification Benton did best, coming eighth with a time of 19 hours 37 minutes 45 seconds, seven minutes 52 seconds behind the winner. Beech was 31st, Foster 37th and Happy 51st out of the 130 starters. The Army's overall team placing was eighth.

"The pioneer team rode well despite the disadvantages of a shoestring budget, too small a team, the lack of a masseur, no French speaker and no back-up transport of its own. With these lessons learned, future participation in the Tour de Var could bring better results to the Army riders and make the event, to quote Benton, 'The highlight of a rider's career.'"



Captain Crawford overtakes (Number 28) and (right) a youngster gets his "insanity certificate."



Racers brave the wild water

THE annual Army Canoe Union wild water racing championships held on a five-mile-long course of almost continuous rapids on the river Swale at Richmond, Yorkshire, this year attracted more than 200 Service and civilian competitors.

Rain fell throughout the day but the river, notorious for flash floods, remained at a constant medium level for the competition, providing testing conditions for the less-experienced participants and ideal water for the championship.

The premier event of the day, the K1 Army championship, was won by Captain John Crawford, 16th/5th Lancers, closely followed by his regimental colleague, Trooper L Ross. Members of this club have made an impressive impact on British slalom in 1974. Third place went to Lance-Corporal Bob Storey, School of Signals.

The ladies' K1 event was dominated by Lieutenant Ann Gillespie, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, who won by a clear ten minutes from late-entry Lance-Corporal Skippen, Women's Royal Army Corps. Third was Captain Liz Elliot, WRAC, who had travelled all the way from Benbecula in the Outer Hebrides to compete.

Sergeant Bill White, Royal Signals, won the C1 event in a very respectable time from Staff-Sergeant Instructor Ken Dyer, Army Physical Training Corps. Staff-Sergeant Instructor Hargreaves, Joint Services Mountain Training Centre, Towyn, came third.

Staff-Sergeant Parker and Staff-Sergeant Instructor Fyfe, from the UKLF School of Physical Training (North) at

York, paddled C2 for the first time and snatched victory from Corporal Frank Kelly and Corporal Jim Travers, 8 Signal Regiment. The junior crew of Junior Troopers Keen and Milligan, Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, did well to gain third place in the senior event.

Private D Summerbell, 16 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, won the slalom class and Corporal C Kirkbride, Joint Services Mountain Training Centre, Scotland, and Lieutenant John Cornforth, School of Signals, were second and third respectively.

The inter-Services team event was won by the Army with 91 points to 80 points from the RAF; the Navy did not compete.



Sgt C Graham on top of the Matterhorn.

A K1 open event was won by the second-ranking wild water paddler in the country, Nigel Moreley, in a record time of 37 minutes 55 seconds. The first Army entry home in this event was Captain Crawford who came fourth.

The whole championship was organised by 8 Signal Regiment from Catterick which mounted an impressive array of communications and provided a chicken lunch for competitors from a field kitchen.

Richmond Falls—a spectacular vertical drop of eight feet—was not part of the championship course but provided an opportunity for canoeists to gain a "certificate of insanity" by shooting the rapids for the entertainment of spectators. Some 80 paddlers took part.

Army climbers conquer Matterhorn

AN Army mountaineering team has conquered the 15,000-foot-high Matterhorn in the Alps via the most difficult of the four recognised routes to the peak. Sergeant Caie Graham (33) led the party of six climbers, which included his German-born wife Annmarie, up the Jean Antonio Carrel route which has claimed the lives of mountaineers on previous attempts.

Sergeant Graham left the rest of his party at base camp and—as the only

climber with enough experience to tackle the tricky ascent—went on with an Italian guide to complete the mission.

On the summit, in sub-zero temperatures and with the wind whipping by at 90 miles an hour, Sergeant Graham marked his achievement by raising the crossed keys flag—emblem of the Army's 2nd Division with whose Signal Regiment he is serving in Germany.

Exercise Steeplejack, as the climb was dubbed, lasted five weeks. The early part was spent training in the Allgäu Alps at altitudes of 9000 feet. From there the team moved to the Alps of northern Italy to climb the four classic peaks of the Brighthorn, Mont Blanc, Mont Rosa and Gran Paradiso. Then came the biggest test—the Matterhorn itself.

A subsidiary aim of the expedition was a botanical survey in the Aosta Valley, the success of which was marked with the finding of many extremely rare Alpine plants.

Sergeant Graham has been climbing for 15 years, starting as a boy soldier on the slopes of Snowdonia. He has been on two previous Army expeditions, to Kenya in 1962 when he climbed Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro, and to the Bavarian Alps in 1971. But the Matterhorn was his biggest triumph. He said of the climb: "The weather on the Matterhorn is nearly always bad and there are only a few days each year when it is climbable. It was touch and go whether I would be allowed to make the attempt but I was lucky that my guide had confidence in my climbing ability. By the time we got down the weather had closed in so no-one was able to attempt the climb again that year—I was the last."

He is a member of the German and Italian Alpine clubs and is the first recorded British military climber to scale the Matterhorn by Carrel's route. Before being posted to Germany 18 months ago, Sergeant Graham was a leading light in 45 Army Youth Team in East Anglia (see **SOLDIER**, July 1972).

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER

Results: Army v Oxford University 1-0, Army v Northern Universities 0-1, Army v Somerset 1-1, Army v Cornwall cancelled because of rain. Junior soldiers' cup final: RAPC AAC beat Inf Jun Soldiers, Shrewsbury, 3-0. Junior leaders' cup final: Inf JLB Oswestry beat JLR RE 3-1.

BOXING

The Regular Army won by seven bouts (17 points) to three bouts (ten points) in its clash with the TAVR. Individual results:—Flyweight: L/Cpl J Spring (3 RRF) walkover. Bantamweight: L/Cpl N Phillip (4/7 DG) beat Pte T Hetherington (1 Lancs). Featherweight L/Cpl V Northover (206 Coy RPC) lost to Pte A Robertson (204 Med Bty RA). Light-

weight: Cpl G Metcalf (1 Kings) lost to Cpl R Davison (2 Yorks). Light welterweight: Cpl M Dowland (2 R Anglian) beat Pte J Kaye (4 Para). Welterweight: Rfn M Oswald (1 RGJ) lost to Pte R Hurst (4 Para). Light middleweight: L/Cpl J Rudman (1 LI) walkover. Middleweight: Rfn T Williams (1 RGJ) beat Pte L Cartman (4 Para). Heavyweight: Pte R Crossley (1 Queens) walkover. Additional bouts:—Flyweight: Rgr J Wilson (1 R Irish) beat Gnr B McMahon (19 Fd Regt RA). Lightweight: Pte C Foy (1 QLR) lost to Rgr K Beattie (Northern Ireland Militia).

Of the 11 Army boxers selected to box against selected North West Counties ABA Club boxers, eight actually participated to give six wins for the Army. Bantamweight: L/Cpl J Lucas (1 RWF) lost to J Bott (Kingsway). Featherweight: L/Cpl R Curran (12 RSME) beat S Jeng (Cavendish ABC). Light welterweight: Cpl M Dowland (2 R Anglian) beat S Bell (Cavendish ABC). Welterweight: L/Cpl M Jean-Pierre (1 Queens) lost to P Murphy (Whiston ABC). Light middleweight: L/Cpl J Rudman (1 LI) beat G Goole (Bury YMCA). Pte D Whiting (1 LI) beat W Barnes (Raven ABC). Middleweight: Rfn T Williams (1 RGJ) beat J Baron (Lancs Constabulary S & SC). Light heavyweight: Pte R Crossley (1 Queens) beat S Brown (Preston/Fulwood ABC).

HOCKEY

Results: Army v RMAS 7-1, Army v Hampshire 2-2, Army under-22s v Sussex A 2-9, Army under-22s v Berkshire under-22s 0-1.

BASKET BALL

The Army Basketball Association's tour of Jersey produced two convincing wins over local teams. Army versus Jersey ended with a scoreline of 89 - 49 and the Jersey Select team was beaten 116 - 55.

Six Army players were among the ten-man team the Combined Services Basketball Association fielded against the Civil Service. The result was a close win for the forces 78 - 73. The winning team's coach was also from the Army.

SQUASH

Results: Army v Surrey 2-3, Army v Wimbledon 2-3, Army v RAC 1-4, Army v London House 4-1. The Army was represented at an international in Holland and Lieut Neil Stewart (R Sigs) reached the semi-final but was beaten by English international Stuart Courtney. Also in the tournament was an RAF team which was beaten by the Army in a "friendly."

GYMNASTICS

Results of the Army senior men's and women's gymnastic championships 1974:—Army Olympic Six competition: 1st SI J Purvis (APTC) (51.50 points), runner-up CSMI J Wilson (APTC) (43.60).

Army 1st grade gymnastic competition: 1st SI A McLean (APTC) (94.80), 2nd Sgt D Scott (RE) (90.60), 3rd Sgt J Moger (R Anglian) (86.60). Individual, floor exercises: L/Cpl B Beck (DWR). Individual, pommel horse, rings, vaulting, parallel bars, high bar: McLean.

Army 2nd grade gymnastic competition: 1st L/Cpl K Lynch (RCT) (59.90), 2nd Cpl D Rogers (RE) (55.00), 3rd L/Cpl L Thwaites (RCT) (53.40). Individual, floor exercises, pommel horse, rings, high bar: Lynch. Individual, vaulting, parallel bars: Rogers.

Army team trampoline: 1st DWR A team (62.80), 2nd 3 LI (50.60), 3rd 7 Sig Regt (46.90). Individual, trampoline: 1st Beck (32.60), runner-up Rogers (19.40). Individual, intermediate trampoline: 1st Cpl J Hogg (DWR) (29.90), 2nd L/Cpl M Salter (LI) (26.00), 3rd SI D Cross (APTC) (25.00).

Women's Services vaulting and agility: 1st Pte

A Podgorski (WRAC) (15.80), 2nd Pte F Anderson (WRAC) (13.20), 3rd Pte H Hicks (WRAC) (12.35). Women's Services trampoline: 1st Pte S Quinn (WRAC) (28.40), 2nd Pte J Marriner (WRAC) (28.30), 3rd Anderson (26.90).

A strong Army team beat Leeds A and B teams in its first match in the National Gymnastic League competition for the 1974-75 season. SI Jim Purvis headed the individual placings with an excellent score of 53.15 points. CSMI Jim Wilson—who featured in the television "It's a Knock Out" series—took second place with 46.9 points. Third was D Marshall of Leeds with 44.35 points. Highlights of this friendly but keen match were: Purvis (floor routine 9.2, rings 9.0, vault 9.55), Wilson (vault 9.1) and SI A McLean (vault 9.0). This match was the first major competition for the Leeds B team which forms the nursery for the Leeds club. Other members of the Army team were: Sgt J Moger (R Anglian), Sgt D Scott (RE) and QMSI A E Dooley (APTC) (team coach). Final score: Army 183, Leeds A 160.10, Leeds B 129.55.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Army Athletic Association gained a second place in a four-cornered cross-country match involving the association, Universities Athletic Union, Physical Education Wing Colleges and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. Team results are as follows with individuals' placings given in brackets: 1st PE Wing Colleges, 37 points (1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 12); 2nd AAA, 44 points (4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13); 3rd UAU, 98 points (10, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21); 4th RMA, 152 points (22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28). The course was over a two-and-a-half-mile lap course in the RMA grounds over very soft going.

FENCING

After a crushing 2 - 7 defeat in the foil contest by Oxford University, the Army épée experts regained a little ground by a 5 - 4 victory making a total score of 7 - 11 in Oxford's favour after two weapons. In the sabre encounter the Army replied to the earlier foil disaster with a convincing 8 - 1 to win the match by 15 to 12. Representing the Army were: SI P Brierley (APTC) (épée), Lieut L S Burr (RTR) (épée/sabre), CSMI C Eldridge (APTC) (foil/épée), Sgt S R Evans (16/5L) (foil), Capt G W Gelder (APTC) (sabre), CSMI D T Hughes (APTC) (sabre), L/Cpl R J McCann (R Irish) (foil).

The Army gained a narrow victory (14 - 13) in its match against Cambridge University. Again, the foil men failed to gain the upper hand and the épée and sabre fencers were left to decide the contest. This they did with 5 - 4 and 6 - 3 wins respectively. Representing the Army were: Brierley (foil/épée), Gelder (sabre), Hughes (sabre), Gnr P Lee (RA) (foil), SSI S G McNeish (APTC) (foil), Capt A E Richards (APTC) (sabre/épée), Lieut J S Underwood (REME) (foil).

Army fencers scored a resounding victory against a strong Civil Service side in their home match at Aldershot. Brilliant fencing by the sabreurs, who defeated their opponents by nine victories to nil, and the épéeists, who scored a 6-2 victory, were the highlights of the match. SI Peter Brierley, the 1974 inter-Service épée champion and British pentathlete, brought off a draw against Hodges, a British épée team member. Lieut-Col John Moore (RA), CSMI Dave Hughes (APTC) and SSI John Markham (APTC) gave masterly displays with the sabre against difficult opposition and all finished undefeated. The Army foilists again failed to win, this being the fourth time this season that they have finished in second place in team matches. Despite the 3-6 defeat, the Army had an overall win of 18 victories to eight. Representing the Army were: Moore (sabre), Lieut N A Sutherland (RE) (épée), Larkham (foil/sabre), Cpl S A Graham (R Sigs) (foil/épée), Underwood (foil), Hughes (sabre) and Brierley (épée).

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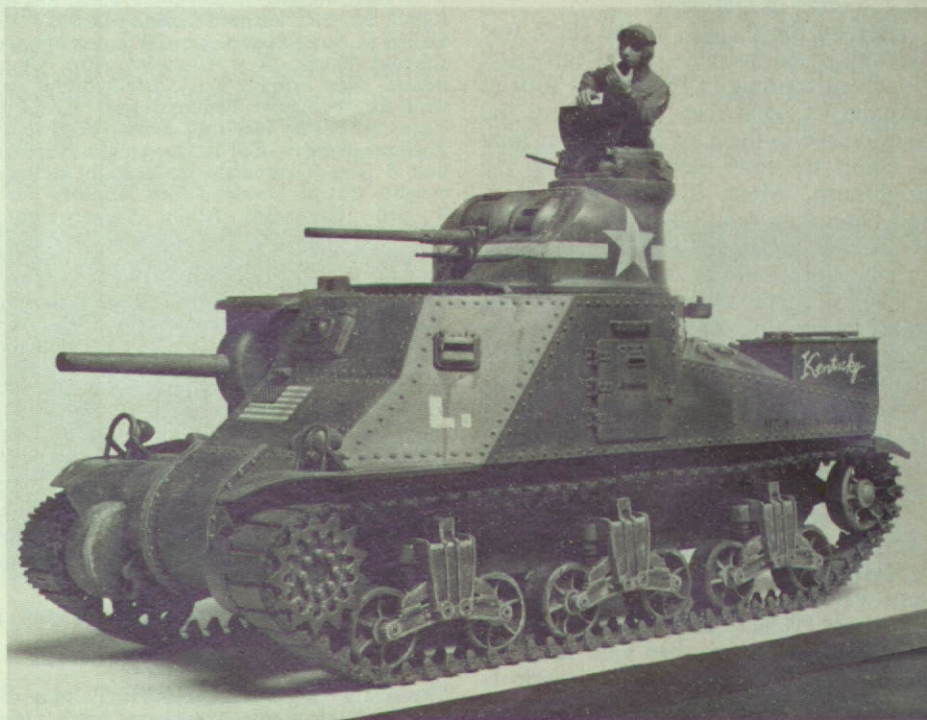
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S/1/75

HANNIBAL'S war elephants were mounted with "towers" and the Assyrians and Philistines used juggernaut chariots from which warriors rained down arrows, spears and slingshot. But it was perhaps the Americans who came closest to the concept of the mobile fort with their triple-turreted tank, the M3 Lee. Its three gun turrets comprised a 75-millimetre main armament in a sponson on the right of the hull, a traversing turret with 37mm secondary gun, and a commander's cupola mounting a 7.62 mm Browning atop the turret.

Nicknamed "Moving Fortresses" by their American crews, the first M3s were hastily put into production just before the United States entry into World War Two. The tank's high profile and the awkward arrangement of its main armament, with low placing and limited transverse, meant that it had to come out of cover and manoeuvre on its tracks to engage an enemy with its maximum firepower. Silhouetted against the skyline it was a sitting target.

However, the M3 Grant was the first tank in British service—supplied under Lend-Lease in May 1942—with a gun large enough (75mm) to fire a high explosive shell. Both the 75mm and 37mm guns were fitted with gyro-stabilisers which meant that the British could not only match the Panzer Mark IIIs and IVs but could accurately engage them on the move.

The M3 appeared in two main versions the early one named after the Confederate

General (Robert E) Lee and the later one after his Civil War opponent, General (Ulysses S) Grant. The Grant, however, was without the cupola and had the side access doors welded shut or eliminated altogether.

The Lee and Grant are a recent dual release by the Japanese model firm of Tamiya whose kits are wholesaled in this country by Richard Kohnstam ("Riko") Ltd, 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 3AD. Priced at £1.65 each, these kits are moulded in plastic in 1:35th scale. Neither model is motorised but they have movable tracks and transfer decals for British and American units.

The British models can be painted overall with Humbrol "8th Army desert yellow" and then lightly smeared with "khaki drill" to give a sand-dusted effect. Caterpillar tracks are painted with "gun-metal," brushed with half-dry "silver" where they are rubbed by the road wheels and the ground, and then touched with "rust" paint along the edges. For extra authenticity add a stowage rail cut from plastic card to the hull sides and bind to it with thread such items as a roll of dyed bandage (representing scrim netting) and packs and steel helmets from Tamiya's British infantry set (three figures at 35 pence) or Eighth Army infantry (eight figures at 70 pence).

The final touch is a "shell" hole made in the armour plate and lined with silver and/or rust paint. The hole can be made in the plastic with a hot gimlet. **HH**

Just the job

THE advertiser sought a school-leaver with a minimum of four O levels—preference would be given to an applicant with more than this number. The job went to the writer of the longer of the following letters:

Dear Sir,

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J. Swott

Dear Sir -

When exams are to be taken, swotting will, I guess (with all its rigours), always demonstrate a willingness to succeed. Although I was not to hear my exam results until last week, I was awaiting these too long. However, a trip which my father promised me in the event of success was duly earned. I wonder if, for example in music (which I failed) I had done better, he would have taken me further afield? Unhappily I was prevented from attending classes during the winter term - a reason perhaps for my miserable performance in the music exam. As you will see, Sir, I not only exceed your requirements with my exam results but also I'm a student with lots of experience. I hope you will give me the job.

Yours truly,

S. Tudent

P.S. This is a copy of my last letter which you seem to have missed.

How many more O levels than Mr Swott did Mr Tudent have?

Send your answer on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 199" label from this page and your name and address, to:

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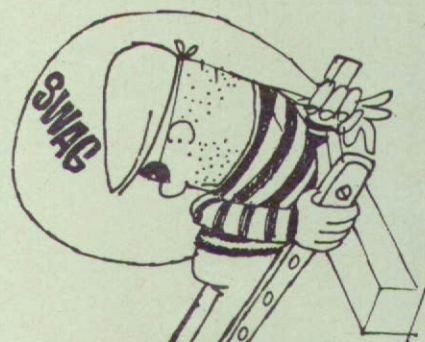
This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 3 March. The answers and winners' names will appear in the May SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 199" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official prepaid labels will be disqualified.

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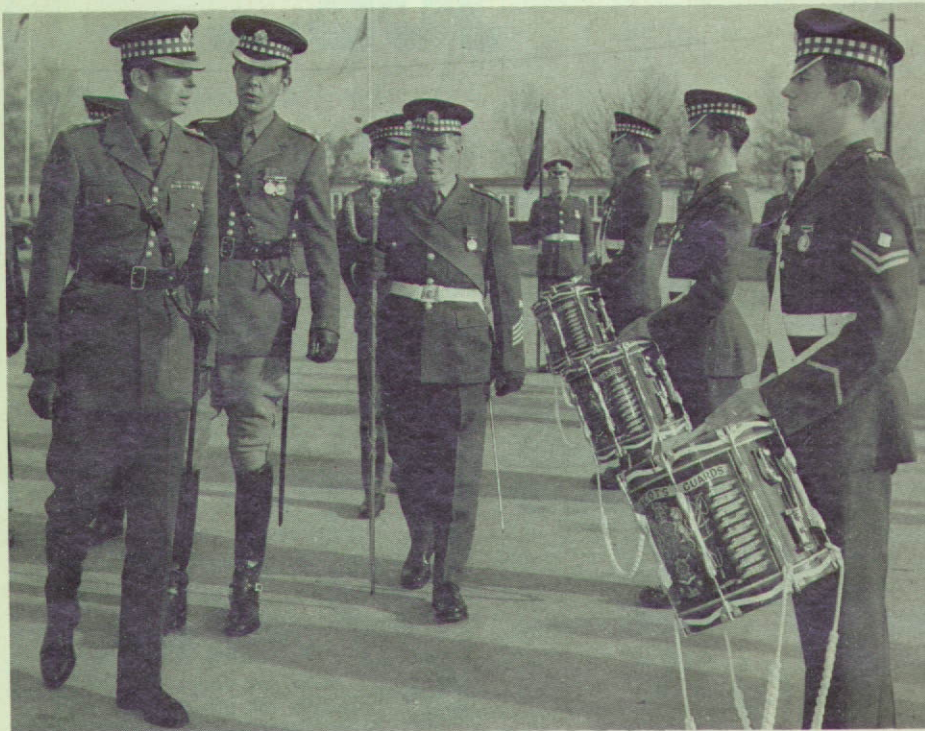
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Left, right and centre



The Duke of Kent, who became Colonel of the Scots Guards in September 1974, visited the 1st Battalion in Münster for the first time a month later. After inspecting the battalion, he presented Long Service & Good Conduct Medals to the

Regimental Sergeant-Major, WO1 G Cooper, and the Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant, WO2 G Sollars. He visited the sergeants' mess and after lunch with the officers took an informal walk around the battalion area.



The writing is on the wall for the IRA Provisionals, say 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment. To help speed that state of affairs the Staffords in just two months in Londonderry arrested 11 terrorists, found seven weapons, several hundred rounds of ammunition and nearly 50 pounds of explosives.



The crew of a Scorpion from C Squadron, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, watches a Wessex of 28 Squadron RAF flying in visitors to a medium girder bridge demonstration in Hong Kong by 68 Gurkha Field Squadron.

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A Stalwart silhouetted negotiating the hump-back of a heavy girder overbridge during an exercise in Germany.



This little lad may not be ready to step into a general's shoes but he is willing to try his hat on. Lieutenant-General Sir Edwin Bramall, Commander British Forces in Hong Kong, met the pistol-packing tot on a visit to a Service school in the Colony.



The new regimental mascot of 5th (V) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, met the regiment's deputy colonel, Major-General R C Macdonald, after the young blackbuck was "re-

cruited" from London Zoo where he has lived since his birth last August. Fusilier John Spiers was there to look after the mascot who now takes up his job with his battalion in Coventry.



It was seven times lucky for 14 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, when its team carried off the Rhine Army safe driving competition trophy for the seventh successive year. Pictured (left to right) are Corporal "Molly" Molloy, Lance-Corporal Jock Sim and Corporal Mick McKeown receiving their prize from Mrs Betty Benson, wife of Brigadier P H Benson, Chief Movement and Transport Officer at HQ Rhine Army. Extra honours went to Corporal McKeown who, after two years as runner-up, finally won the individual contest.



Warrant Officer Ransing Limbu was one of five Gurkhas to be commissioned to lieutenant during a visit to Cyprus by Major-General E J S Burnett, Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas, to see 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. General Burnett served with the 4th Gurkha Rifles in India before World War Two and transferred to the 10th Gurkha Rifles.

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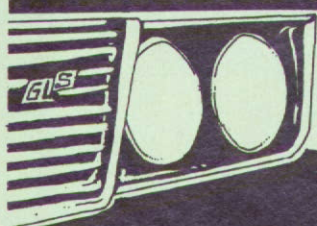
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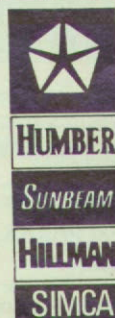
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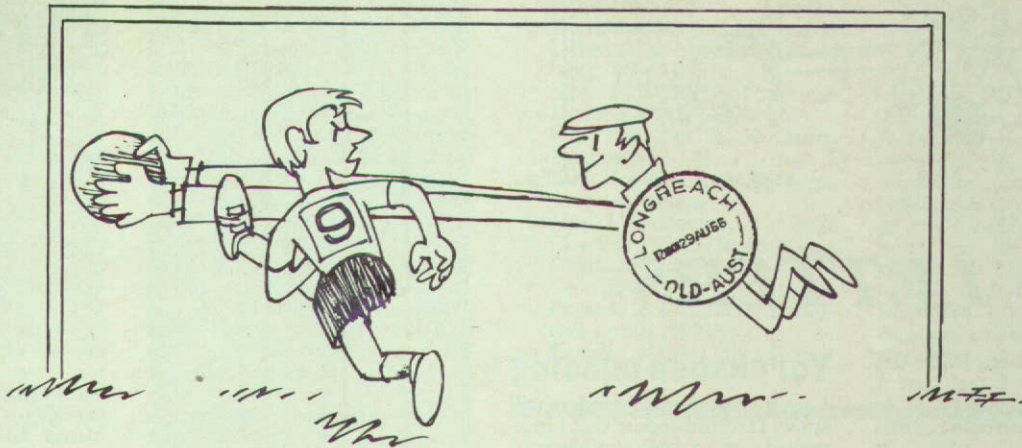
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LETTERS



An old tie...

I recently attended the Alamein Reunion and wore my old regiment's tie. During the whole evening I never saw a similar tie nor did I recognise a single person. I was bitterly disappointed but on reflection felt that possibly many of my old comrades could not attend and that perhaps the new regimental tie was the fashion. I served with 3rd The King's Own Hussars in 9th Armoured Brigade at El Alamein. On leaving the regiment after the battle I lost touch with my comrades, so if any of them did attend the reunion perhaps they might like to drop me a line.—R J

Rampling (ex-sgt), The White Horse, Rendham, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 2AF.

★The 3rd King's Hussars amalgamated with the 7th Queen's Hussars on 3 Nov 58 to form The Queen's Own Hussars and the regimental ties of those regiments were changed at that time. There is a thriving regimental association and all members receive a newsletter at least twice a year. Mr Rampling has been put in touch with Major J S Sutherland, Regimental Secretary, Home Headquarters, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury Street, Warwick.

...and a new tie

The Air Movements Squadron,

RAF Gütersloh, now has its own tie. Manufactured in Terylene, it carries a single wings motif including the letters AMS in light blue on a dark blue background. The numerals 47 appear in yellow in the motif centre. Anyone who has served with the squadron or the Air Transport Liaison Staff attached to it, is eligible to wear the new tie which can be purchased from the Senior Air Movements Officer, Air Movements Squadron, RAF Gütersloh, BFPO 47, at an inclusive cost of £1.00. Cheques, money orders etc should be made out to PSI RAF Gütersloh.—WO C W Cater, Air Movements Squadron, RAF Gütersloh, BFPO 47.

Tall order

I am writing a book on the British "Tommy" in Northern Ireland and would appreciate any information that readers may be able to give me.—Don S Johnson, 4600 N, New England, Harwood Hts, Ill 60656, USA.

Canoe chaperones

While I admire enormously the achievement of 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in canoeing more than a 1000 miles through Germany and Holland and along

continued ▶

Home Guard memories

Weapons, equipment, photographs, cartoons and paintings relating to the Home Guard are featured in an exhibition, "The Real Dad's Army," at the Imperial War Museum. It was opened by Lord Avon and previewed by experts—the cast of BBC TV's "Dad's Army" who turned up in Lance-Corporal Jones's butcher's van. As Secretary of State for War, Lord Avon (then Anthony Eden) announced the formation of the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV) in a radio broadcast on 14 May 1940. Among the objects on display are improvised weapons including the celebrated pike, a Smith gun, a small field gun which had to be tipped on its side before it could be fired, cartoons by Giles and Strube, the Colour of the 1st (Loyal City of Exeter) Battalion, Devon Home Guard, the original "Sea Lion" invasion directive signed by Hitler and King George VI's sten gun which was issued to him when he was Colonel-in-Chief of the Home Guard. Part of the exhibition is devoted to the BBC's "Dad's Army" with a fine reconstruction of Captain Mainwaring's office.

The exhibition is open until 29 June 1975 from 10 am to 5.30 pm on weekdays and from 2 pm



OC Arthur Lowe and fellow "Dad's Army" actors lend a hand to Jones's van.

to 5.30 pm on Sundays. Admission: Adults 20p, children and OAPs 10p.

Forward the DCMs!

The Distinguished Conduct Medal League has a battle on hand—to remain in existence. At its last rally in London only 60 members mustered for a review by the Duke of Kent. Another is planned for this summer, possibly in June, and Mr Arthur McAlister, honorary secretary of the league, hopes for a better response. If holders of this infrequently awarded decoration do not support their organisation it could face disbandment, he says. Mr McAlister, a former captain in The Royal Hampshire Regiment who won the DCM as a sergeant-

major in Italy in 1944, says: "We have about 300 members on the books but there are probably hundreds more outside the league and I would like to hear from them." His address is 29 Mountfield Road, Ealing, London W5 (tel 01-998 6913). The DCM was instituted 110 years ago and since then more than 20,000 have been awarded. The DCM League, formed in 1931, is a registered benevolent organisation with headquarters in London and branches in Brighton and Bristol.



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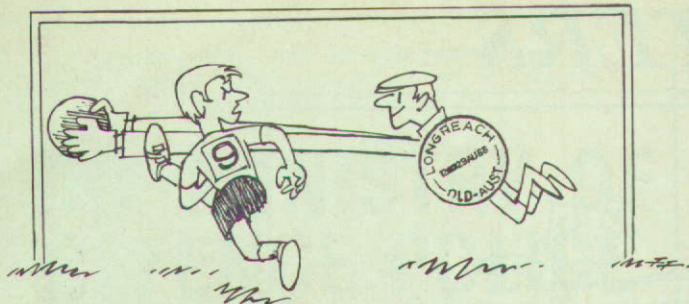
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more LETTERS

the South Coast (Left, Right and Centre, October) I feel that I must put the record straight in respect of the chaperoning across the channel.

A ramp powered lighter (RPL) of this regiment, crewed by navigators, marine engineers and seamen of the Royal Corps of Transport, in fact escorted these canoes across the channel in very difficult conditions. However, we must express admiration for 19 Field Regiment on their great achievement.—**Capt C J Constable, 17 Port Regiment RCT, McMullen Barracks, Marchwood, Southampton, Hants.**

★ Sorry, 17 Port Regiment! **SOLDIER** was not on the ground/water at the time and relied on provided information.

Yorckshen pudding

I am no historian, as readers will know. It would appear that I misspelled (on record) the German word "Yorck'schen," but so did Lieutenant-Colonel Wood (Letters, October). "Marsch des Yorck'schen Korps 1813" is well known to most Army musicians but, as is the custom of armies everywhere, corruption to simpler form has occurred over the years. As far as Bandsman T Atkins is concerned, The "Yorkshire March" it is, and always will be. I have four German books printed in Germany which refer variously to Yorckshen, Yorckschen, Yorck'schen, York'schen and York'shen when discussing Beethoven's Zapfenstreich. No won-

War poets

A special exhibition on World War One poets was opened at the Imperial War Museum by Sir Geoffrey Keynes who, apart from being a close friend of Rupert Brooke, was also his literary executor. Manuscripts, letters, paintings, photographs and personal belongings of six famous poets are on view.

Among the objects on display are Rupert Brooke's commission as a Royal Navy officer, Siegfried Sassoon's Royal Welch Fusiliers tunic, Wilfred Owen's binoculars, the Military Cross won by Edmund Blunden, paintings by

Isaac Rosenberg and a diary kept by Edward Thomas which he was carrying when killed by shell-blast in 1917. The manuscripts and letters include the final draft of Rupert Brooke's "Granchester," Wilfred Owen's last letter to Siegfried Sassoon, the typescript of Rosenberg's poem "Dead Man's Dump" and the original sketches for Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem."

The exhibition is open until 13 April 1975, from 10am to 5.45pm on weekdays and from 2 to 5.45 on Sundays. Admission is free.

At auction

Five items of headgear were sold at auction for more than £1500 by Wallis & Wallis of Lewes, Sussex. The highest price paid was for an officer's bell top shako of the 9th (Norfolk) Regiment of Foot—it bore a gilt silver-and-enamel badge, silvered chin scales and a green tufted ball plume. An officer's lance cap of the 16th Lancers, with its gilt-and-silver plate bearing 13 battle honours, was minus its plume but still realised £370. The hammer fell at £290 for an Albert-pattern helmet of the Glasgow Yeomanry with brass badge mountings and chin chains and fine green cocks-feather plume.

A scarce pikeman's armour circa 1620 was sold for £500 by Weller & Dufty, Birmingham. The armour, released from the Tower of London Armouries, comprised peascod-type breastplate, large domed tassets with simulated lames and hinged straps with felled frinials.

At the same auction an incomplete set of rare Victorian sights



for a Gibbs match rifle was sold for £65. The set comprised a clamp base for a 9/16th-inch diameter barrel with slide for the windgauge foresight, now missing, eight foresight elements, rear peepsight disc, screws and long backsight with vernier adjustment and nickel silver scales marked "radius 47.2 inches." They were sold in their original fitted oak case.

der we illiterate squaddies settle for Yorkshire? Knowing Beethoven's vagaries I would not be surprised to learn that General Yorck was, like Lieutenant Kijé, a figment of the army command's imagination. Nevertheless I will be more pendent in future, for Beethoven, of all composers, has let me down several times. Beethoven's own directions for the performance of "Wellington's Victory" are that the Engliche Trommeln und Trompeten will sound from the left, and no British Army bandsman will ever be convinced that the Scots played any part in the Battle of Vittoria.

Readers have also noted that I rarely go into details about regimental marches. A crafty old fox like me knows that there is usually a high ranking sniper in the wings, just waiting to bang off about The York'schein Fusiliers or The Worcester'scher Light Horse, not

to mention the Schwarze Wacht and the Grün McHowards!—**RB**

Leftrightleftright

I was interested in the letter (November) about various marching paces and agree with your editorial note on the different rates but I wonder if readers know that a Gurkha rifle regiment on occasions does 160 paces to the minute, and never less than the regulation 140. You may imagine how difficult it was for a six-foot-oner who was infinitely proud to achieve this.

There was a story about a brigade going into the line in the first world war. At night a battalion overtook another when came a shout in the darkness "Is that The West Riding?" "No" came back the reply "It's the Rifle Brigade marching."

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VC Memorials

The Staffordshire Regiment has combined with two local newspapers in an attempt to set up practical memorials to two holders of the Victoria Cross, both ex-members of the regiment, who died last June.

Lance-Corporal William Colman was awarded the VC for courage while serving as a stretcher bearer in 1918. His local newspaper, the *Burton Daily Mail*, hopes to raise enough money to dedicate a bed to his memory in a Burton-on-Trent hospital.

A bursary to the old school of Major Robert Cain is the hope of the *Wolverhampton Express and Star* as a memorial to Major Cain who earned the VC at Arnhem in 1944.

Of the 13 soldiers of The Staffordshire Regiment who were awarded the Victoria Cross, the only survivor is Mr John Carmichael, now living in Scotland.



Col Hugh Cook, curator with Maj Cain exhibits.

On a more serious note I wonder how many know of, or have moved at the Peninsular Trot—some of us did in Burma. It was devised by Sir John Moore, the originator of the fast-moving infantryman. Not unlike Baden Powell's "scouts trot"—you walked two paces and jog-trotted three. You could go on for ever with the least effort.—E D Murray, Spa, Co Down, Northern Ireland.

Dress cords

In 1965 I recall seeing the 4th/6th Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment (TA), wearing dress cords of an unusual pattern; they were green in colour and in the style of aiguillettes. I assumed that this was a style peculiar to the TA. However, I recently saw photographs of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Berkshire Regiment, wearing the same type of cord and the corps of drums wearing the conventional pattern. I can

find no evidence that either the 1st Battalion or corps of drums wore the aiguillette-type dress cord. Can any reader say why the aiguillette type was worn by the 2nd and 4th/6th battalions and when they ceased to be worn?—**Capt J A Barrow DERR, Royal Military Academy, Camberley, Surrey.**

Competition

"Raffle waffle" (Competition 195, August) set a fairly simple problem in figures and produced a handsome ratio of ten correct to one incorrect solution. The required answer, of who held raffle tickets which included the digit 4, was Albert with 340 and Dennis with 407. The full solution was: Dennis (barber) 407, Charlie (nurse) 599, Albert (fireman) 340 and Bertha (clerk) 290. Prizewinners:

1 Martin Stevens, 54 Holcombe Green, Upper Weston, Bath, BA1 4HU.

- 2 D Learthmouth, 18 Rastell Avenue, London SW2.
- 3 C Allardyce, 74 Engr Regt (V), BFPO 801.
- 4 K Richards, 11 Westwood Drive, The Mount, Shrewsbury, SY3 8YB.
- 5 Maj T F Pearson, 79 Sup Depot RAOC, BFPO 30.
- 6 D A Pope, 39 Palace Court, London W2.
- 7 John Lewis, 70 Mill View, Maesteg, Glam.
- 8 Mrs L Fullerton, 6 MSQ, Dawberry Fields Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham 14.
- 9 Glyn Bevans, c/o WO1 J R Bevans, 4 Central Distribution Point, BFPO 23.
- 10 Rachel Naish, 16 Cotton

Lane, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9SA.

How Observant Are You?

(see page 15)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Fingers of girl's left hand. 2 Width of bracket supporting balcony. 3 Black gap in ghost's collar. 4 Lower end of girl's headdress. 5 Width of notice on far door. 6 Toe of ghost's left shoe. 7 Ghost's hair behind ear. 8 Width of girl's waistband. 9 Rear edge of saddle on horse. 10 Position of window at top right.

Collectors' Corner

J P Donnelly, Australian National University, Box 4, PO Canberra, ACT, Australia 2600.—Wishes dispose of British, Australian and New Zealand badges ranging from pre-Boer war to 1918.

F C Pizze, 4 Ives Close, Yateley, Hants.—Has for disposal pre-war copies Tidworth and Aldershot tattoo programmes.

W H Bloomer, 94 Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich, London, SE22 8QY.—Seeks information about Calcutta Scottish, Shanghai Scottish, Scottish companies of Rangoon Volunteer Rifles, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Force, Bombay Volunteer Rifles and Singapore Volunteer

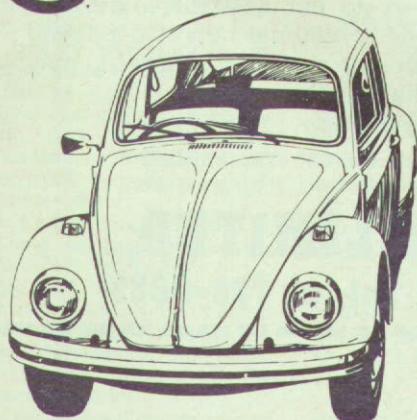
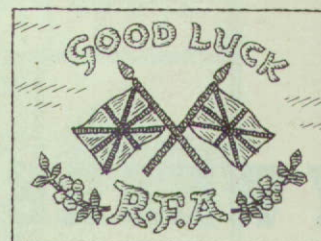
Corps, also Scottish Platoon 2nd Selangor Bn, Federated Malay States Volunteer Force.

P Turner, 10 Church St, Lyme Regis, Dorset, DT7 3BS.—Wishes purchase cavalry other ranks white buff leather sword belt, 1885-1914.

R G Penny, 50 Leinster Road, Old Swan, Liverpool, L13 5SX.—Seeks officer's No 1 RA collar dogs and RA Q/C brass cap badge.

Would like to hear from collectors of artillery and RASC/RCT badges.

D K Owen, 73 Hagley Road, Rugeley, Staffs, WS15 2AL.—Seeks British and Canadian cap badges incl OTC, also overseas Scottish units.



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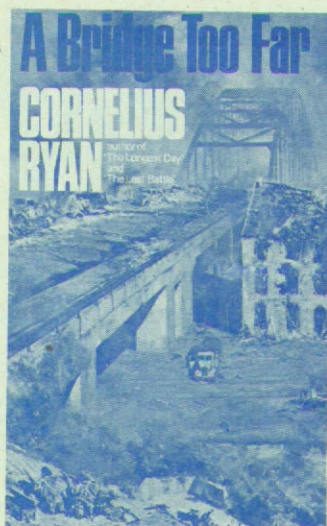
THE ARNHEM GAMBLE

"A Bridge Too Far" (Cornelius Ryan)

Thirty years ago Montgomery gambled, possibly for the only time in his life. In his search for a means of driving on Berlin, he planned to drop a 64-mile carpet of airborne troops to seize a series of bridges, the last one, over the Lower Rhine at Arnhem, being the major target.

With the airborne troops holding five bridges, Montgomery would have been assured of a short cut to the heart of Germany. It was a daring plan. Eisenhower was impressed; even Bradley, never a friend of Monty, declared it to be the most imaginative plan of the war.

Cornelius Ryan, best-selling chronicler of D-Day and the Battle for Berlin, presents his third great book on World War



Two, the story of Operation Market Garden. He takes his title from a remark made by Lieutenant-General Browning at one

of Monty's planning conferences. He asked how long the ground troops would take to reach Arnhem. "Two days," said Monty briskly. "We can hold it for four," replied Browning. And added: "But sir, I think we might be going a bridge too far."

Tragically, he was right. Though the Americans successfully took their bridges, things went badly wrong for the British. Warnings of the presence of two SS Panzer divisions around Arnhem were ignored, the dropping zones were too far from the bridge, but worst of all was the complete failure of the British and Polish units' radios. To crown everything, early in the battle the Germans captured a complete operational plan, so detailed that Model, the German commander, at first thought it was a plant.

The 1st Airborne Division never really had a chance. A small force—a company of 2 Para and some engineers and

men from Major Freddie Gough's reconnaissance squadron—did, in fact, take the bridge but was overrun after heroic resistance.

Gradually the division was forced back into a shrinking perimeter at Oosterbeek. Monty's two days stretched to nine and, though he could claim 90 per cent success for his plan, all there was to show for the loss of three-quarters of the 10,000 Red Devils who landed was a 50-mile corridor with a dead end.

Mr Ryan pays glowing tribute to the heroism of the Red Devils and their allies. He tells the story through the recollections of those who took part and achieves his hat-trick brilliantly. And if he seems harsh—to British readers at least—in some of his judgments on the decisions taken and the personalities involved, we should, perhaps, remember that defeat is an orphan.

Hamish Hamilton Ltd, 90 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3PT, £3.95 JCW



PORTRAIT OF A TANK

"Armour in Action 4: 'The Churchill'" (Bryan Perrett)

This informative and useful book tells the story of the Churchill tank and its many variants. The fourth type of infantry tank to be built by Britain, the Churchill had many teething troubles and always seemed to be under-gunned in relation to opposing Panthers. But the increasing skill of its crews made it into a formidable fighting machine.

It was cast in many roles—as a gun tank with a variety of armaments, flamethrower, bridge-layer, demolition vehicle and mine-clearer.

Mr Perrett conducts us on a vivid and exciting tour of the Churchill's battlefields—the Dieppe raid, El Alamein (only six, issued to a special unit called Kingforce), Tunisia, Italy, D-Day and Normandy, and North-West Europe through to the Reichswald battles.

This is an excellent portrait of a tank in all its guises.

Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £3.15 JCW

GALLERY OF SPIES

"Espionage" (Graeme Kent)

Which British counter-espionage chief had also been a prime minister and the governor of a prison? Who was Margarethe Zelle and for what was she famous? Just a couple of random questions from this treasure trove of details on spies and spying through the ages, a worthy addition to Batsford's "Past-into-Present" series.

The answer to the first is Sir Basil Thomson, head of the Special Branch in World War One. The son of an archbishop, he had been Prime Minister of Tonga in the South Pacific and governor of Dartmoor Prison before entering counter-espionage. Margarethe Zelle has gone into history as Mata Hari, probably the most unsuccessful in this gallery of traitors and spies but easily the most famous.

Mr Kent spans the centuries from the days when Moses sent spies into Caanan to today's unceasing clandestine international and industrial spying. Along the



way are such characters as Daniel Defoe, Louise de Keroualle, Richard Gibbs, Titus Oates, the Chevalier d'Eon, Major John Andre, Colquhoun Grant, Sir Roger Casement and all the

spies who have made headlines in recent years.

B T Batsford Ltd, PO Box 4, Springwood Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex, £1.50 JCW

NATIONAL SERVICE VETERANS

"Fortune Favours the Brave: The Hook, Korea, 1953" (A J Barker)

The last great infantry battle in history may well have been the Battle of the Hook, fought in Korea towards the end of May 1953. The Hook was the key position in the Commonwealth Division's sector of the United Nations front. It dominated the ancient invasion route to Seoul, the South Korean capital, and had already seen bitter fighting.

In May 1953 it was held by 29th Infantry Brigade, made up of the 1st Battalions of The Black Watch, The King's Regiment, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment and 20 Field Regiment,

Royal Artillery. With tactical stalemate reached in late 1952 and armistice negotiations going on in Panmunjon, the fighting took the form of savage struggles for hills which would be significant to the eventual demarcation line. The Hook was one of these.

A whole Chinese army was sent to seize it. The main attack fell on the Dukes and, for the first time since World War One, British forces fought a Western Front-style battle. With the artillery decimating the attacking Chinese, the Dukes and their neighbours survived the screaming, fanatical waves of Red Chinese. Sixty per cent of the British troops were National Servicemen, average age 19. They fought like veterans. And many died like veterans.

Colonel Barker does full jus-

tice to the Battle of the Hook and the men who fought it. At a time when the future of the Services is under review, it is well to have a reminder of what can happen in "peacetime."

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.25 JCW



STAMPING GROUNDS

"Iraq and Syria 1941" (Geoffrey Warner)

The inescapable impression from reading this excellent précis is that World War Two would have taken an entirely different course had Hitler not been so totally obsessed by his plan to invade Russia and had Germany been much more of a colonial power. Hitler would have paid more attention to the wonderful opportunity presented to him by a weakling Iraq to execute a massive pincer movement and smash the only fighting British

troops left arrayed against him. But Hitler was obsessed and Germany was not a colonial power so he pressed on to attack Russia and left Arab nationalism to those who knew it best... the British.

The first half of Geoffrey Warner's diplomatic detective story leads us through the hue-and-cry of pre-hostility schemings, with Iraq and Syria trying to find the best backer, having for one reason or another found themselves without the government to which they had long been accustomed.

Neither were masters of their

own destiny and despite devious machinations both countries proved the stamping grounds of the first division teams of Glubb Pasha, de Gaulle, von Papen, Wavell and Mussolini. This book is a valuable addition to the shelves of the serious-minded.

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"Regimental Badges" (Major T J Edwards)

This is the sixth revised edition of the late Major Edwards's classic reference work, first published in 1951. Arthur L Kipling, in this revision, maintains the high standard one expects of him. This new edition takes account of the amalgamations and conversions to "large" regiments that have taken place since 1968 and includes the

new badges resulting from this and other principal reorganisations such as the formation of divisions from the former brigades and changes in the TAVR.

The introduction traces the general history and evolution of the cap badge. There are seven pages illustrating different types of headdress from the late 18th century to the present-day beret. Then follows a wealth of information on cap badges with regiments listed in order of seniority and infantry regiments grouped under their divisions.

There are five appendices giving information on the badge features of the Garter, the Castle and Key of Gibraltar, the Sphinx superscribed Egypt, the White Horse of Hannover and the Bugle. A four-page index completes the book.

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Then on to banners, gorgets and standard poles of the various German organisations which, apart from the armed forces, included the German Labour Front banner (a decoration possibly intended as an award for outstanding war production by a firm), the pennants flown on political leaders' vehicles, police units and the Hitler Youth Movement.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £2.00

"European Edged Weapons" (T Wise)

For the cold-steel enthusiasts' groaning bookshelves, yet another volume. This little paperback gives a concise history of the evolution of edged weapons through the ages and includes a useful glossary of terms to help ignorami who might think a spontoan was a cuspidor for card players instead of a miniature partizan which in turn is not a dwarf in the Maquis... but is also explained in this book.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £1.50

"Jane's Pocket Book 5: Military Transport and Training Aircraft" (Edited by John W R Taylor)

One usually examines its fighters and bombers, strike and anti-submarine aircraft to determine the strength of a modern air force. Such estimate would have little practical value without the host of other aircraft of the types which Mr Taylor and his compilers, Michael J H Taylor and Kenneth Munson, so ably survey and describe in this useful volume.

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editor is that one should never under-estimate the value of military transport aircraft.

Most of the world's air forces and aircraft manufacturers are represented in this book which should find a place in the military library of anyone who wishes to keep up to date.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, St Giles House, 49-50 Poland Street, London, W1A 2LG, PVC £1.75, cased £2.50

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Invasion Publishing, 98 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 9PL, 60p

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