

JUNE

1978

20p

Soldier

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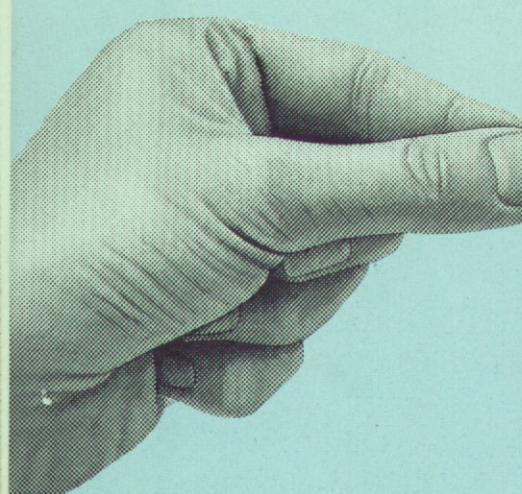
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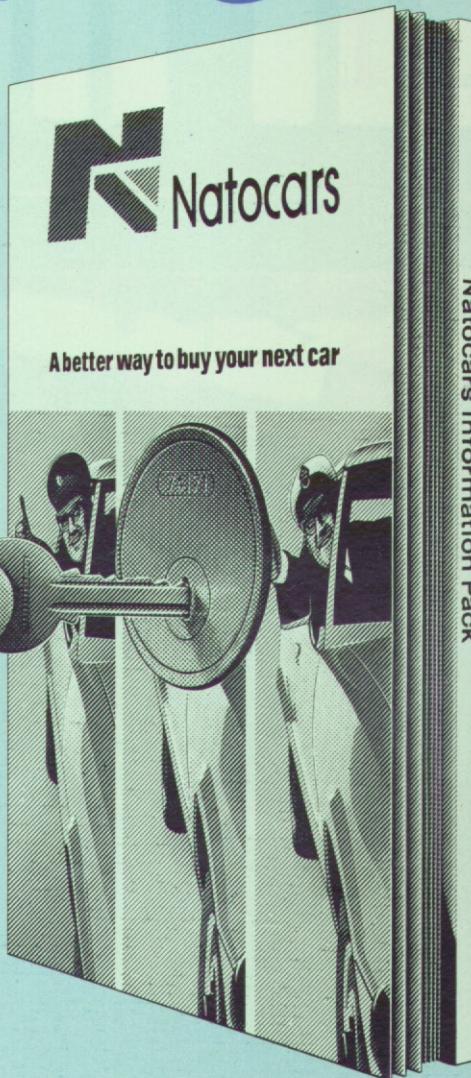
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FRONT COVER

'Halt, who goes there?' The classic pose of the vigilant sentry captured as a Grenadier guardsman makes his challenge as a guardian of the Tower of London during the Ceremony of the Keys.

Picture by Doug Pratt.

**4 RCT junior leaders leave Taunton**

The Somerset county town, an Army centre for two centuries, is gradually being abandoned. Latest to leave are the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport — now housed in a former Royal Air Force station in Wiltshire.

11 Joint Warfare Establishment

At Old Sarum, senior officers from all the Nato countries gather to discuss battlefield strategy with a heavy emphasis on co-operation. SOLDIER takes a look at this vital Nato centre — soon to move to a new home.

18 Training Gurkha recruits

Out in steamy Hong Kong the new Gurkha recruits from the hills of Nepal experience their first taste of life in the British Army. At the Gurkha Training Centre SOLDIER shows how they are converted into some of the world's toughest soldiers.



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Editorial, photographic, advertising and circulation enquiries should be addressed to SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, ALDERSHOT, Hants, GU11 2DU (phone GPO Aldershot 24431, military network Aldershot Military). SOLDIER is published by the Ministry of Defence and printed by Eden Fisher (Southend) Ltd, 555 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. Crown copyright 1978.

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For two centuries an Army town, Taunton is losing its military association. Latest to leave are the Royal Corps of Transport's junior leaders, who have been so much a part of the local community

So long, Somerset—Colerne calls



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs

THERE ARE two very significant pictures on Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Wright's office wall. On the left, what appears to be an assortment of yobboes and punk rockers. On the right, the same group of youngsters a few months later — standing rigidly to attention and wearing smart Army uniform. "That," says Colonel Wright, "is what this place is all about."

Like all young soldier units, the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, had to cope with a major upheaval when the school-leaving age was raised to 16. What had been a not too leisurely two-year course had to be encapsulated into a frenetic four terms of activity.

But for the RCT juniors there have been two further massive changes in the past 12 months. Last August the fourth-term boys were separated from the rest of the regiment. Henceforth their driver training would be carried out at the new complex at Leconfield/Driffield in Yorkshire.

Says Colonel Wright, who commands the regiment: "Suddenly we had a detached squadron 260 miles away and I have to make the round trip every fortnight. But it is an interesting experiment as it may provide an answer to the age-old problem of transition from junior soldier service to adult service.

"The junior soldier is shepherded all his days with us from the time he gets up to the time he goes to bed, then suddenly he is in an adult unit where he is expected to be independent and an adult. By having a detached squadron so far away we are allowing them to live in a slightly more adult environment. At Driffield we have reduced the number of hobbies and tried to make

them slightly more adult in style. We do see some advantages in being separated."

The advantages do not extend into the sports arenas. The RCT juniors find themselves at a disadvantage in sports such as football and boxing for their older and heavier boys are now too far away to be included in all but the most important fixtures and events. And practically all of the sports instructors are with the main regiment rather than at Driffield.

Now it is all change for the rest of the regiment. In April they abandoned their hutt camp at Norton Manor just outside Taunton for the former Royal Air Force station at Colerne. Some £500,000 is being spent to bring the brick-built station up to the requirements of the regiment.

The old Norton Manor, a listed building, is surrounded by a wood reputedly containing every tree which it is possible to grow in Britain. Below, where the grounds and lake were, is an assortment of huts used by the junior soldiers. The future of the site is as yet uncertain.

Still living in a former gardener's cottage is Mrs Margaret Gibbs, who began her working career as a parlourmaid at the 'big house.' She has seen Army units come and go since Norton Manor was brought for the Army just before World War Two. "I'm going to miss the boys," she told SOLDIER. "Everybody has been very kind to me over the years."

Nature aimed its final blow at the boys as they prepared for their move to Wiltshire — in the form of a 'flu epidemic which claimed 250 cases in six weeks, causing an overflow at the medical centre which led to the

appropriation of an entire block as a sick bay. Said Sergeant Michael Sharp, Royal Army Medical Corps: "We have been hit with everything possible. There were three different strains of 'flu here at the same time — Texas 'flu, Victorian 'flu and Russian 'flu."

Since actual driving lessons do not take place until the fourth-term, boys get their first driving experience in the classroom. Using a simulator and films, they find themselves in traffic situations and with speed limits imposed. Their mistakes are recorded on a computer and each boy is given a score at the end of the film session.

Says Dick Bennett, warrant officer in charge of the General Mechanical Principle Wing: "We try to give them a good grounding before they go to Leconfield. What is surprising is that when adult drivers have a go on these trainers we find they have all sorts of bad faults which these young lads just don't have."

But all get a chance to get on the real road as soon as they are old enough — riding motorcycles. The 25 elderly BSA 350cc bikes have been a familiar sight around Taunton and the majority of the boys take their tests on them and pass. About 20 boys each year join a demonstration team which gives displays at the regiment's open day and at other local events.

The regimental band has also been conspicuously successful — no other unit has had a look in for years in the Army junior band championship. After winning for eight

Above: Maj-Gen Benson inspects final parade.
Opposite: Pony mascot Bruneval leads the band.

years in succession, the RCT junior leaders withdrew for two years — then re-entered and won every year from 1973 to 1977. Running the corps of drums is Trumpet-Major Peter Kirk, one-time senior drum-major of the Guards. He keeps two squads going, rather like a professional soccer club, and can field up to 56 musicians in any major competition.

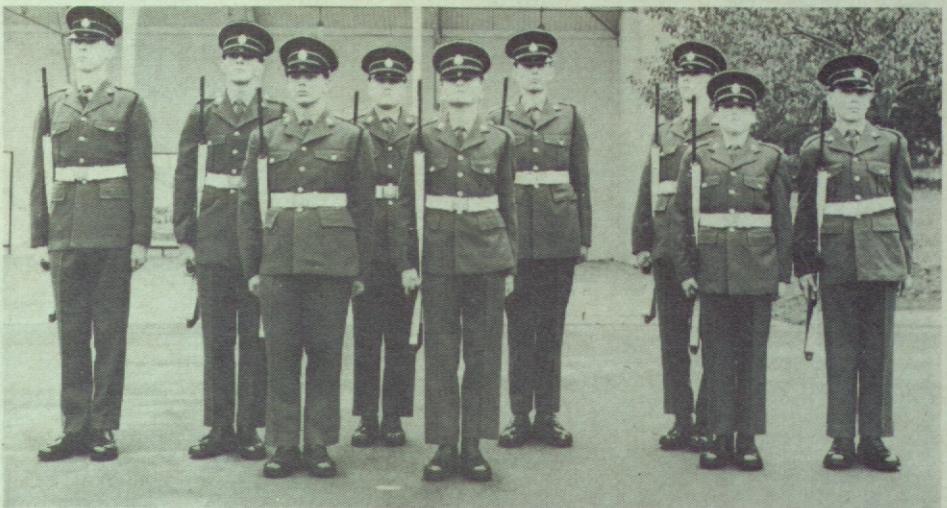
Sports instructors with the regiment are of a high quality — they include an Army footballer, Army fencer, Army judo star and an Army boxer. Over the years the sports emphasis has changed with the instructors and currently the junior leaders are tops in fencing with boxing coming up fast. Last year they took the Army junior fencing championship for the second time on the trot while the instructors walked away with the Army senior championship. Says the training adjutant, Major Gerry Boyle: "The nice thing about juniors is that we take people who want to do something as a hobby and then we make them into a team which wins championships."

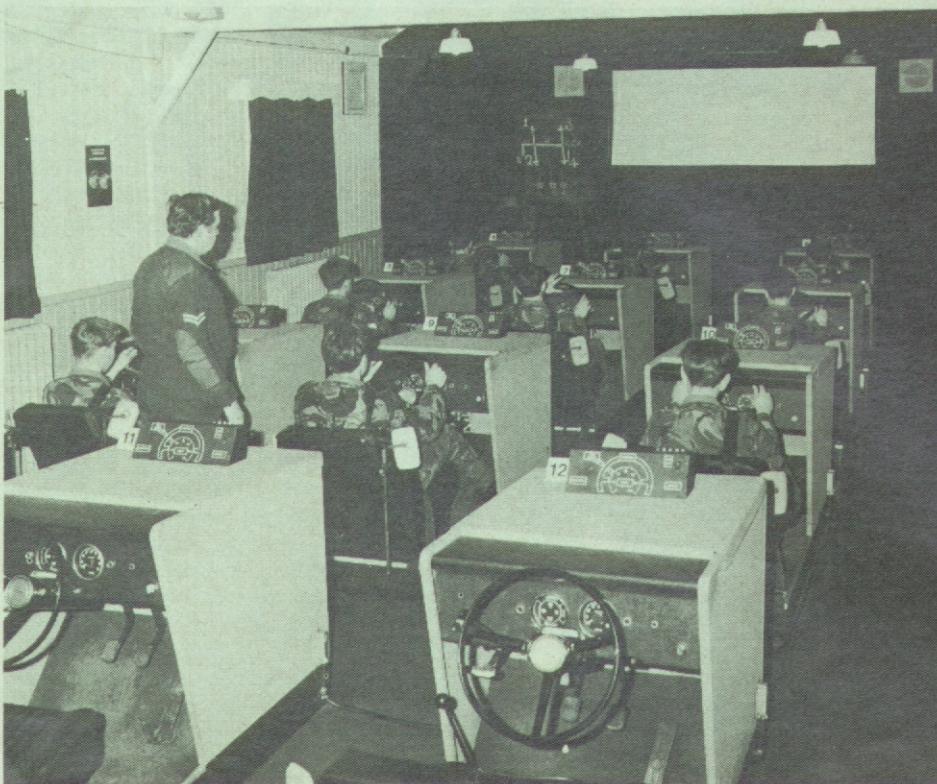
In the Taunton area there will be a great sense of loss with the departure of the young soldiers. Their work with the local community over the years was recognised in 1975 when they won the Army Wilkinson Sword of Peace Award.

Listen to Mr Bernard Biggs, vice-chairman of the parish council at Norton Fitzwarren, a village just a stone's throw from the camp. "I was in the Army myself

Top: Looking for bovver? Nine new recruits pose for the camera on arrival at Taunton.

Right: Six short weeks later the same nine have been converted into junior soldiers.





for six years and in those days community relations meant nothing. I was staggered to find that the Army now encourages ties with the local community.

"We asked them if they could help out with the church fête and the association has blossomed since then — anything they could provide in terms of manpower, equipment and cash has been forthcoming. We have had charity walks, barbecues and the boys have provided most of the contributions for the old people's Christmas party. All of this has been collected voluntarily amongst themselves. They have visited old people, chopped sticks, fetched coal, dug gardens and done small painting jobs for those who could not do it themselves. And our boys' club has been able to use the facilities at the camp on a regular basis."

To mark the junior leaders' departure, Norton Fitzwarren presented the unit with a specially commissioned framed pen-and-ink drawing of Norton Manor. The cost was borne by the parish council, old-age pensioners, youth clubs, parochial church council, women's institute and the school — in fact the whole village. Said Mr Biggs: "There's going to be a hell of a gap in our village life."

Colonel Wright said the sadness is mutual. "Taunton holds happy memories for us all and the people have treated us very well. Many of the permanent staff are on their second and third tour and the juniors often come back as officers and senior ranks. In a corps this family spirit is difficult to achieve — and now we must move home. But we are looking forward to moving to Colerne with its better facilities and different style of living. And we feel we have something to offer the people of that part of Wiltshire which is a traditional stronghold of the RAF."

Top left: Youngest recruit receives a scroll from the Mayor as Taunton bids its farewell.

Centre: A reminder of the past — the former Somerset Light Infantry Depot at Taunton.

Left: At the wheel — recruits 'take to the road' in simulators while Cpl J Henderson instructs.

Above: Bringing out initiative and leadership qualities — teamwork gets drum over the wall.



And as a footnote perhaps nothing illustrates more the attitude of a unit ready to adapt to and take advantage of change than the adoption of a new sport ready for Colerne. When Major Mike Hawkins, a lecturer in the military studies wing, was talking to Colonel Wright at a small regatta held by the boys near Taunton, he jokingly said: "I don't know what we shall do next year — we shall have to sail on the runways."

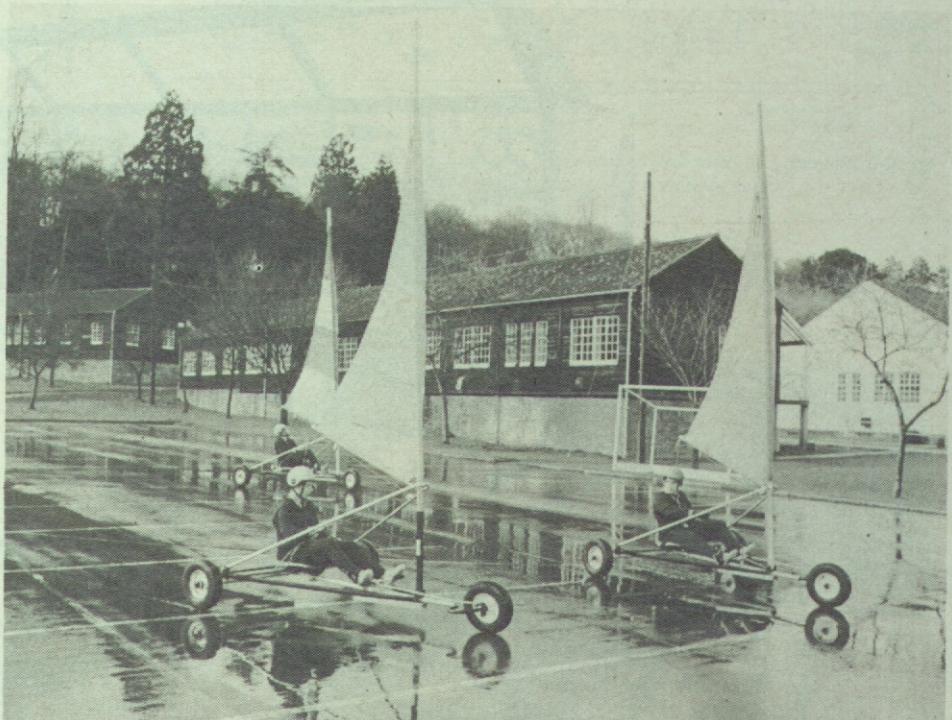
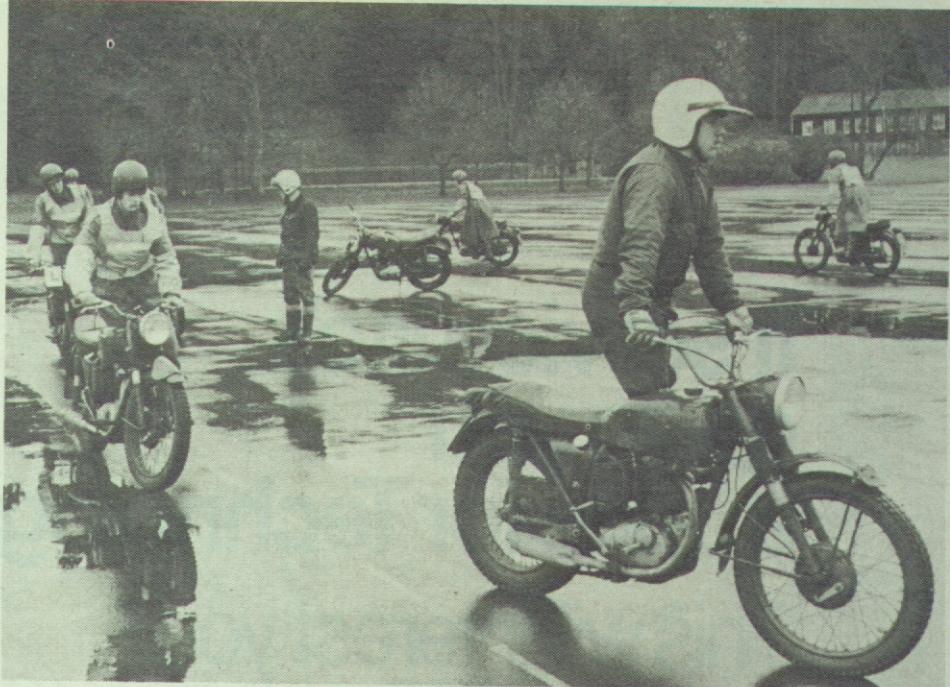
And this summer that is exactly what the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, will be doing. When the wind whips across the old RAF station, it will be helping along boys in land yachts, which, says Colonel Wright, "is the Army sport of the future now that we have taken over all these old airfields."

Top: Youngster abseils from a special tower.

Top right: Young motorcyclists practise on old 'Beezers' — this stunt gives confidence.

Right: Land yachting, which will soon become a major unit sport on their move to Colerne.

Below: Both the juniors and the instructors have won fencing championships recently.



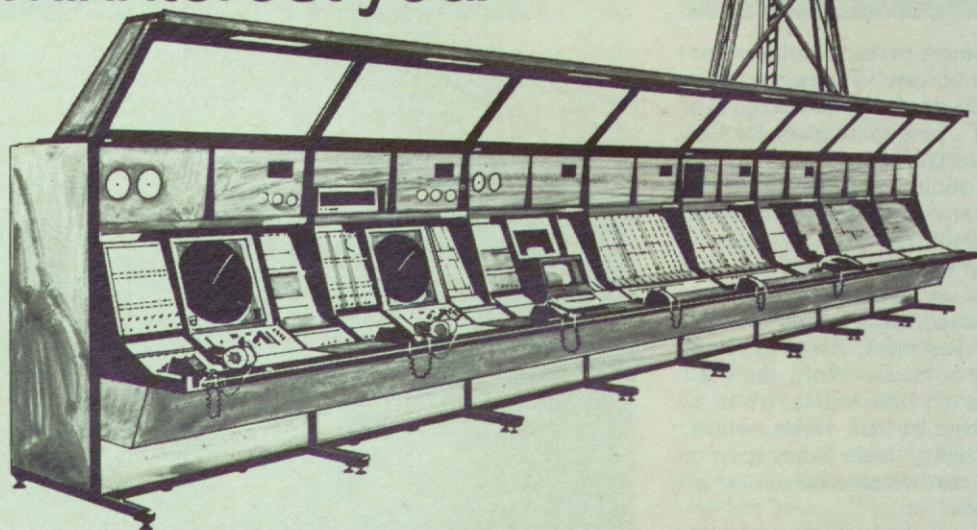
After more than two centuries, Somerset's county town of Taunton will soon no longer boast a Regular Army presence. Final unit to leave the cider town will be the Regimental Pay Office, currently housed in the old Somerset Light Infantry depot at Jellalabad Barracks.

Already closed, in addition to Norton Manor, is Sherford Camp — the wartime hatted complex which served for many years as the home of HQ South West District.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset, Colonel Cecil Mitford-Slade, told SOLDIER he was disappointed at the departure of the Army from Taunton although he could see that from a military point of view it made sense. "There is no doubt it will be a great loss after so many years to Taunton and to the whole of Somerset. It will be a sad day and we shall miss the Army and it will mean a lot of lost jobs locally."

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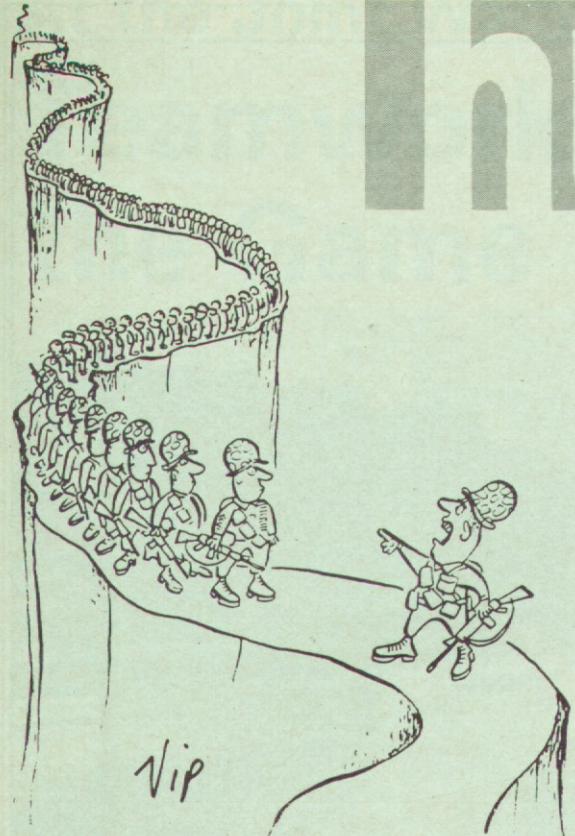
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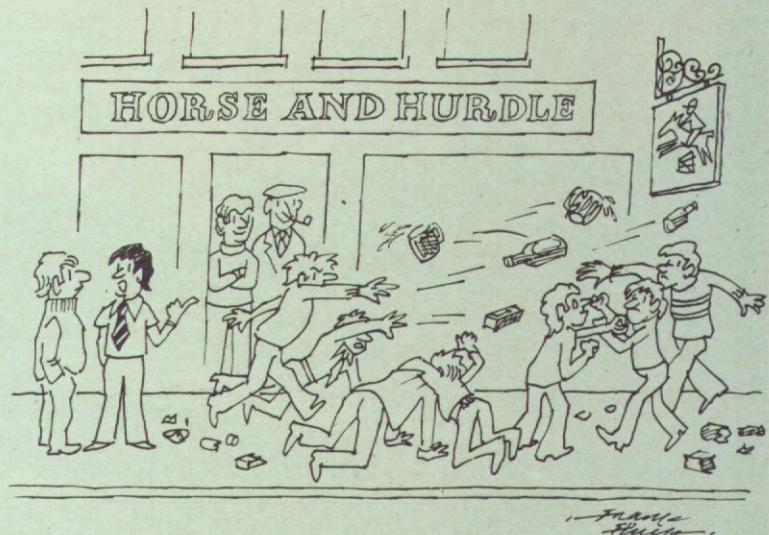
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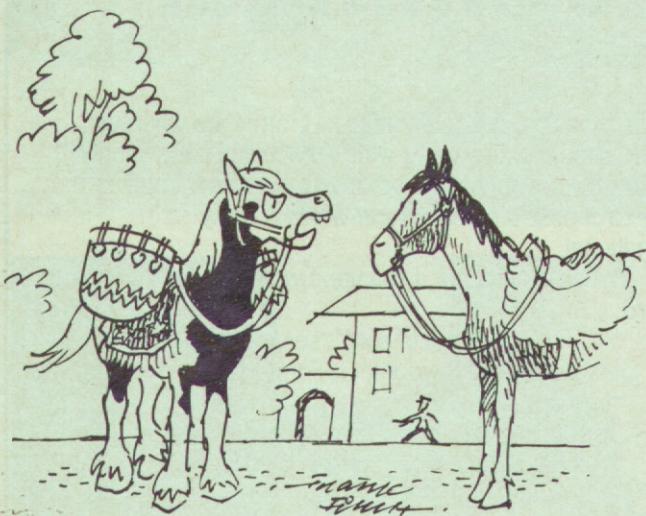
Humour



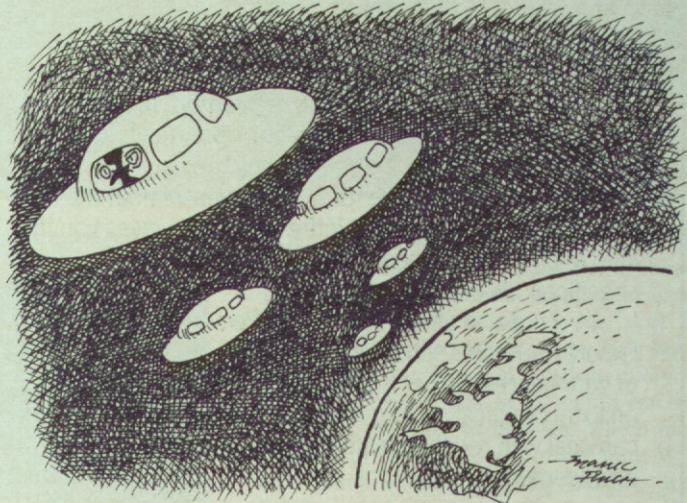
"Straighten up that line!"



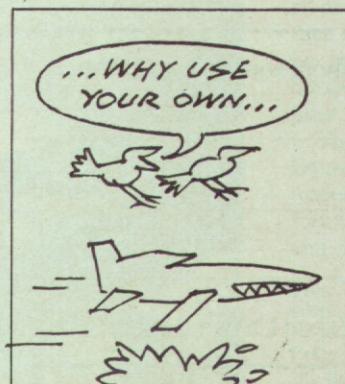
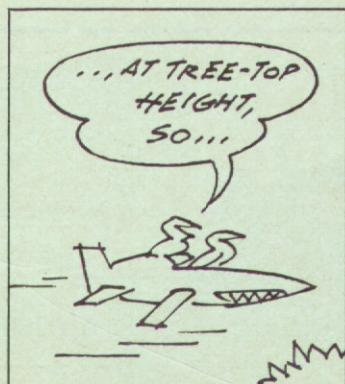
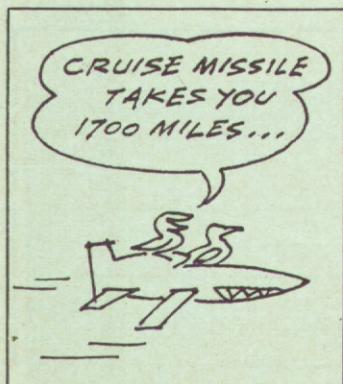
"It all started when Baxendale here assumed for the sake of argument that no civilised society would trigger off a missile war."



"I keep getting this banging in my ears."



"Well, at least we haven't got spaghetti junctions."





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At the Joint Warfare Establishment . . .

Teamwork is the Name of the Game



Story: Doug McArthur
Pictures: Doug Pratt



YOU ARE a lieutenant-colonel working in a Nato headquarters. War has been declared. The enemy's parachute troops, dropped behind your lines, threaten a key port for Nato supply and reinforcements. You know the enemy's numbers and locations and your own Nato dispositions. What would you do?

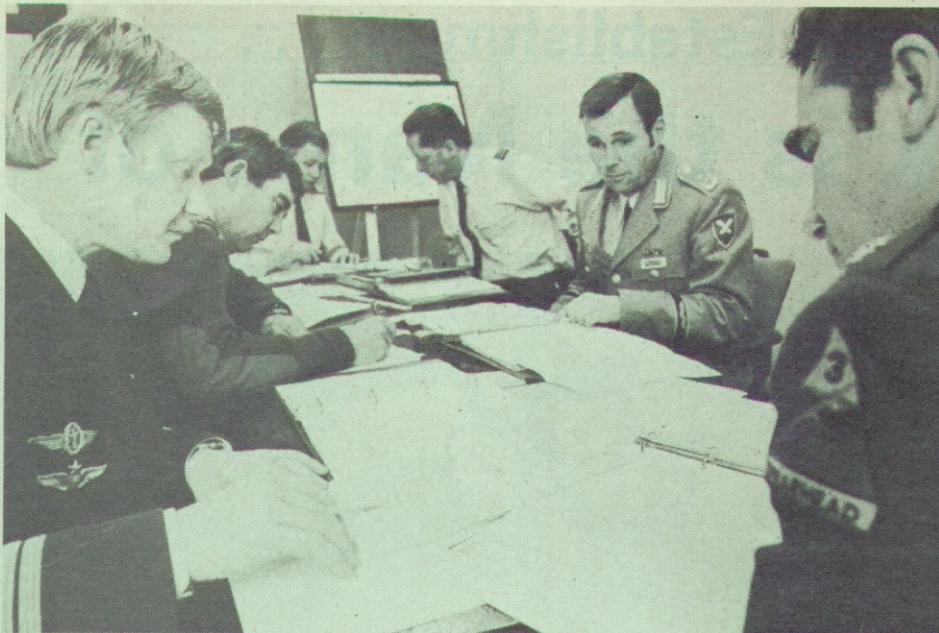
This is the kind of problem which faces students in the classrooms of the Joint Warfare Establishment at Old Sarum, near Salisbury, where the creed of co-operation between the armed forces of Nato is hammered home at every opportunity.

Today about 70 per cent of the students at Old Sarum are from Nato countries and are usually of major or lieutenant-colonel equivalent rank. Most of them are either already at or shortly joining a Nato headquarters; each is an expert in his particular field. What he gains from the school is the broader outlook of how that expertise can best be used in a multi-national alliance.

The Commandant, Major-General Pat Ovens, Royal Marines, sees the prime importance of his school as providing a forum for officers at a decision-making level and making them aware of the value of

Top: Time out for sight-seeing in Salisbury is a must for Nato officers interested in history.

Left: Visual aids are used whenever possible to try to make problems seem more realistic.



working within Nato. "One of the values of the school is that it provides a place for officers of the same ranks to meet and discuss common problems," he said. "The only other place faintly similar is the Nato school at Oberammergau."

"The sort of people who come here will be staff officers formulating operations and plans at a senior level and, in its quiet way, JWE has quite a high turnover of students. This means that over the years our students have been taking over important Nato jobs, which obviously must increase the school's standing."

"The courses here provide a useful background brief to Nato for men going to work in large headquarters. Nato is so big and compartmented nowadays that it is quite difficult to get a feel of how the whole thing is working. What we do is prepare people to take their part in Nato and be able to work with other Services and nationalities. I think we are unique in giving that service."

"What is a bit sad is that because of the turbulence in a battalion nowadays we get rather fewer British officers than we would like. This is a great pity because they would get a lot of value from working so closely with other Nato officers, because some British officers, I regret to say, do not know as much about Nato as they should. There are a lot who never come face to face with Nato. Some are a bit insular and don't really understand what makes Nato tick and what a complex thing it is. Here we give them a straight down-the-line view, warts and all."

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Rowland has been posted to Shape (Supreme Head-

quarters Allied Powers Europe) in Belgium from a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve signals regiment in the West Midlands. Apart from annual camp with his regiment under a German commander, this is Colonel Rowland's first working experience of Nato.

"This two-week course has been of great value to me," he said, "because it allows me to mix freely with other Nato officers and talk over the same problems. We are discovering that we are all servicemen together and that the colours of our uniforms and varied languages are relatively minor differences. There are three of us on this course either going to Shape or already there, so already I am building up contacts which will prove invaluable."

One of the students already at Shape is Major Hans Möser from West Germany. "At Shape we have to work so closely that it is vital to co-operate," he said. "My interest in this course is to pick up as much as I can about other people's methods and ways of doing things and generally widen my horizons within Nato."

Old Sarum, a converted Royal Air Force station, has quite a history of joint Service work. It started out in life in 1917 as the home of the first three bomber squadrons of the fledgling RAF, but only three years later became the Royal Air Force School of Army Co-operation, with the aim of training pilots in ground/air reconnaissance. The school was enlarged during World War Two and during its latter years renamed School of Air Support. Officers of all three Services were posted to the staff and the school stopped instructing RAF pilots in flying to con-

Left: A syndicate works on a problem together.

Below: Behind the scenes, L/Cpl 'Dinger' Bell.



centrate on academic instruction.

In 1947 the name of the school was again changed, this time to School of Land/Air Warfare. This amalgamated in 1963 with the Amphibious Warfare School, from Poole, to become the present Joint Warfare Establishment. Later this year the school moves to Latimer, home of the National Defence College, because Old Sarum is to close.

The Joint Warfare Establishment's courses start right at the top with an annual Nato senior officers' study period — a forum for the exchange of joint warfare ideas. Vacancies are allotted to all Services of alliance countries from colonel and equivalent up to four-star general. Then there is the senior officers' joint warfare course which up-dates senior staff on current joint warfare policy, procedures and techniques in a Nato setting.

But the school's 'bread-and-butter' is the ten days' instruction of the joint warfare course in the 'principles, planning and conduct of joint conventional operations primarily in a Nato context.' These courses are designed to bring out problems in the planning and conduct of operations by setting a problem, describing the organisation and equipment of the British Services and then examining how best these Services can be used within Nato.

The syllabus covers the crisis management and transition to war measures, the conduct of the land/air battle in Central Europe and the reinforcement options for

Below: Some of the variety of badges caught on the course. 1 Lieutenant-colonel, Royal Hussars. 2 West German Air Force (the 'collar dog' denotes air force, the top wings are German and the lower, American, pilot's wings). 3 199th Infantry Brigade, Vietnam (in the American Army, right shoulder patches denote the unit the wearer has been into combat with. If he has been



1



2



3



4

If the name of the JWE game is teamwork, behind the scenes there is another team ensuring that the school runs like clockwork. Because of the continuous infusion of ideas by students, class lectures have to be constantly updated. This keeps busy the Training Aids Office, run by RAF Warrant Officer John Parsons, which looks after the lecture theatres, training aids, film equipment and the thousands of slides which can be used by the different courses.

Slides are used whenever possible to lighten a script. Often a lecturer will come to the section with only the vaguest idea in his mind about a subject he wants portraying. It is up to graphics officers Neil Macleod (right) and Mike Goodwin to make sure he gets what he wants. This two-man band turns out something like 300 new slides a year.

Under WO Parsons is Sergeant Jack Hill, of 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, whose last posting was with his battalion in Hong Kong.



the flanks of Nato. Special attention is paid to air support of the land battle, air defence, electronic warfare, amphibious capabilities and parachute and helicopter operations.

An annual Cento-Commonwealth course has the same syllabus but is aimed at that specialist audience and includes visits to other Service bases in Britain.

An air support course goes through joint doctrines and procedures for tactical air support and helicopter operations in support of land forces, and a forward air controller's course covers controlling close-support aircraft for forward air controllers, ground liaison officers, carrier-borne ground liaison officers and air liaison officers.

Two psychological operations courses, one for staff officers and the second for unit officers, are run for men who will have to plan and work in 'psyops.' The staff course includes lectures on communist propaganda practice, the urban guerilla, modern advertising techniques and experience from recent psychological operations. The unit officers' course also includes propaganda and community relations and the role of a unit within the overall psyops plan.

As well as running in-house courses, lec-

ture teams from JWE visit other defence training schools in the UK and, on invitation, overseas schools. A lecturer goes once a year to the Malaysian Staff College and there are regular visits to America, Norway and Denmark, Rhine Army and RAF Germany.

The Joint Warfare Establishment started out in life teaching British officers how to make the best use of all three Services in combined operations, and then, with the increasing importance of Nato to national defence plans, how to work with officers of all Services and nationalities in the alliance. Since then Old Sarum has steadily evolved as a school for co-operation and its value to Nato is evident in the calibre of students sent by member countries. The United States has attached two lieutenant-colonels (one marine, the other air force) to take syndicates in their specialised fields. "Obviously the school is of great value here in Europe," said Lieutenant-Colonel Don Morris, United States Marine Corps. "It is the only place in Europe teaching amphibious, which of course will be vitally important for resupply and reinforcement."

Lieutenant-Colonel David Fairs, Royal Corps of Transport, leads the logistic support section. He has given his German, Canadian, American and British students responsibility as high-powered planners tasked to decide how to get British reinforcements to a deteriorating European battlefield.

The students have been given only a third

of the resources necessary to shift the men and materials and only two days in which to move them. "They have to work out what they will take and with what justification," he said. "It is usually a question of taking armour and infantry at the expense of logistics or a smaller but well-balanced force with logistic support."

Because the problems discussed in syndicate refer essentially to British strengths, alliance officers sometimes have difficulty with details and equipment which have no exact parallel in their own forces. For this reason the British officers on the courses are spread out as much as possible so that they can help their Nato colleagues over this stumbling block.

"What we are trying to do is keep up with present doctrine," said Colonel Fairs. "The students will already be experienced in their own fields and the instructors all have recent operational experience. But we do get a serious input from the students because of their expertise. For instance, on the logistics question I could expect to get views from Army logistics specialists and from air transport experts."

"The syndicates have a wide spectrum of experience and we hope to hear some controversial ideas. All the proposals will be discussed and gradually we reach an agreed solution. The important thing is that the syndicate will have worked it out among themselves with officers from other Nato countries."

"And that is what we are all about."

into combat with a number of units he is entitled to wear the badge of his choice). 4 British Royal Air Force pilot's wings. 5 German lieutenant-colonel (the 'collar dogs' denote general service and the shoulder patch, Ministry of Defence. 6 Major in the German 3rd Armoured Division. 7 American First Field Force, Vietnam. 8 German major at the Army officers school.



5



6



7



8

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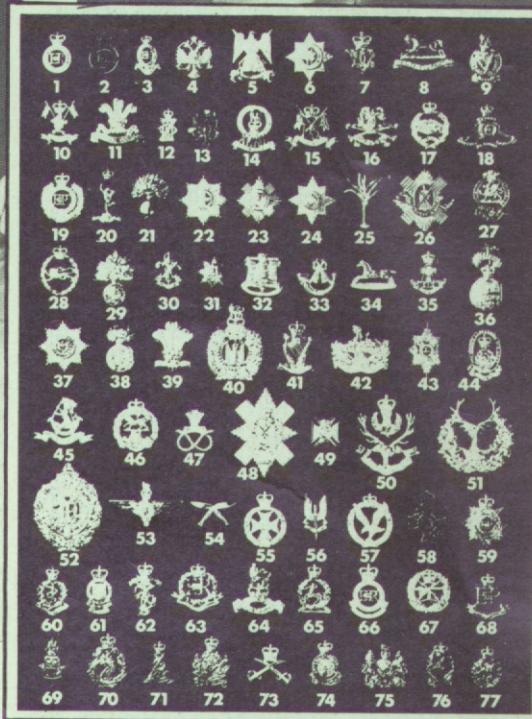
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SOLDIER to Soldier

WHILE exceptional performance in the military field can be rewarded by military honours and decorations, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps had no means of recognising outstanding achievements in other, non-military, activities. The corps has now put this right by establishing the RAOC Award for achievement to recognise exceptional endeavours of officers and soldiers in activities outside the normal scope of their military duties.

The award, of a silver medallion, will be made sparingly and only in recognition of achievements that are 'notable and meritorious to a degree consistent with the award's high status.'

In the award's first year, the RAOC Colonels Commandant have selected two mountaineers and, posthumously, an explorer.

Major John Muston has been an active member of the Army Mountaineering Association since 1957 and taken part in expeditions to Greenland, Arctic Canada, India, Norway, Turkey and Nepal. He is best known for his part in the Army's conquest of Everest in 1976 — 'the ultimate success of the expedition was due in no small way to his own climbing skill, his determination, dedication and the sheer hard work over a very long period he put into playing his part in the organisation and execution of the expedition.'

The second award was to Major Tim King, also a mountaineer, who was in the Army team for the Nuptse expedition in 1975 — a dress rehearsal for the Everest attempt. Selected for the Everest climb, he contracted pneumonia in the early stages but returned to the mountain and with great determination took part in the build-up from base camp to Camp IV at 25,000 feet. Returning to base camp he was found to be bronchitic and has been advised never to climb above 20,000 feet again.

The posthumous award recognises the work of Lieutenant Adrian Ashby-Smith, a zealous conservationist and ardent member of the Scientific Exploration Society who was a member of expeditions to Zaire, Jamaica and Ecuador. He actively encouraged many servicemen and women to train for and participate in outside adventurous pursuits. His expertise, particularly as an expedition quartermaster, resourcefulness, patience and popularity gained him an invitation to join the 1976 geological expedition to Mount Sangay in Ecuador where tragically he died.

but, when asked where he came from, the unknown jester replied 'Ah, I'm from the Woolwich,' presuming that the intrepid newshound would realise that the joke referred to the building society's TV commercial.

But he didn't, and as a result the squadron was faithfully recorded in the national newspaper as coming from Woolwich.

★

IT is being mooted in some quarters that it is high time Army representative sportsmen were given a better deal. Every year, soldiers represent their Army and often their country at home and abroad in a number of sports. But their attendance at events depends on the goodwill of commanding officers hard-pressed for men. And after a few seasons of dedication to a sport, a soldier may find himself slipping down the league table of promotion in his corps or unit.

It is being argued that sport does the Army a lot of good both internally and externally. Excellence at sport encourages the fitness to fight currently being urged and what better advertisement for the Army can there be than the sight of a soldier — like Lieutenant Jim Fox, the pentathlete — on the gold-medallists' podium in an Olympic stadium?

The argument goes on that if you accept that sport is a good thing for the Army, then its top sportsmen should be allowed to join a special unit — not the Army Physical Training Corps which has other work to do — where they can train to a high peak of excellence and do even better than now when, against all the odds, they still manage to win a few major prizes.

The French and Belgians, and probably others, operate this system, largely to cater for professional sportsmen called up for National Service. Britain could easily do this too.

At present the Army sportsmen dominate modern pentathlon and biathlon. They also occupy the odd corner of other sports — athletics, judo, parachuting. How much better they could do, both for the Army and themselves, if they were free to concentrate on their sport and not have to worry about upsetting the CO or losing out on that extra tape and the cash to go with it.

★

BURMA veterans, it is reported, were told by the Prince of Wales that he wished he had the chance to win a 'real medal.' Wearing his newly earned parachute wings, Prince Charles referred to his own medals — in the best traditions of military modesty — as won for 'supreme gallantry at the Coronation and for bravery beyond the call of duty during the Jubilee.'

★

IT'S that generation gap again! A reader, obviously and properly a proud father, wants to know why his young son, with less than a year's ser-

vice, comes home on leave wearing 'civvies.' Why, asked his father, did he not travel in heavier and warmer uniform in cold weather and pack and carry his mufti. Son's answer was that uniform may not now be worn for travelling. Father now asks SOLDIER if this is general practice or 'just the edict of some unit commander?'

And, as he points out, although admitting that he may be out of touch with modern ideas, having left Regular service in 1953 and TAVR service in 1973, the soldier in uniform on leave has always been regarded as a good source of recruiting.

Father is certainly right in assuming that things have changed. Nowadays, uniform is normally worn only when on official duty although a Regular soldier can wear uniform at all times if he so wishes, if it is not forbidden by local decree.

Today's custom is that Regular soldiers do not wear uniform on leave; they are forbidden to wear it if their route takes them through non-Nato countries. And in the UK they are firmly discouraged from wearing uniform when hitch-hiking, on the grounds of bad public relations and of security.

★

WHENEVER down the years — and it is a recurring process — particularly in Parliament — the cost in money and manpower of Army bands is raised, it was always pointed out that the musicians and bandsmen were soldiers and had a second 'trade' as stretcher-bearers, as they indeed were during the two world wars.

Since 1970, the line bands of the infantry and Royal Armoured Corps have been trained as medical assistants to support the Royal Army Medical Corps in war. This came about because of a shortage of medical personnel and criticism of the cost of maintaining bands. But the bandsmen are not now just stretcher-bearers but are trained in first aid and in basic nursing techniques.

Now the staff bands have been brought in line as well. The majority of their musicians are being trained as medics but some, notably Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Corps of Transport musicians, are doubling as heavy goods drivers.

Bands of The Household Division, Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Military Academy and Women's Royal Army Corps are currently undergoing medical training while musicians of the Royal Signals and Royal Army Medical Corps are learning special-to-arm skills.

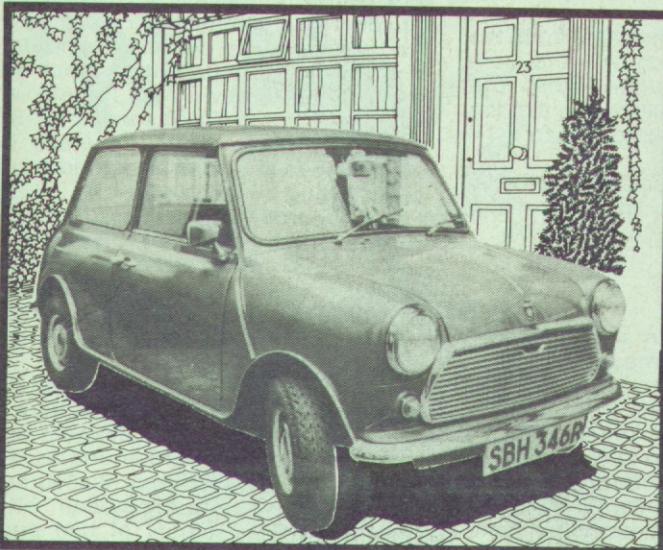
★

MANY Army families make the best of their postings by mixing with locals and adopting from the local culture. But SOLDIER was dismayed to find signs in Hong Kong of the good old British 'home-from-home' syndrome that took fish and chips to the Costa Brava. For we saw, not fifteen minutes' drive from the exotic bright lights of Hong Kong's bustling Chinese night life, an imitation British pub catering for the Service and civilian families living nearby. It was just like the imitation British pubs back in Britain, 9500 miles away — except that beer was about £1 a pint and spirits about 50 pence a tot!

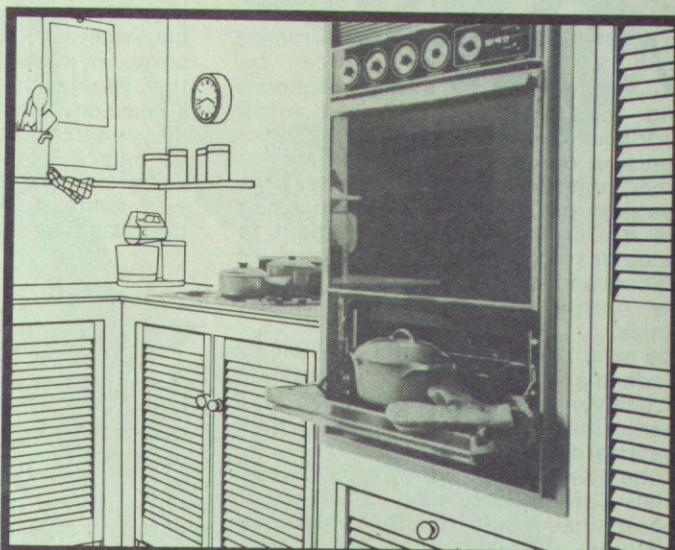
IT obviously pays to be absolutely humourless when dealing with the Press — as a sapper found when he tried to crack a joke with a national newspaper reporter.

It all started when 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, Royal Engineers, turned up at East Tilbury to make safe a two-ton Luftwaffe Herman bomb (see News 9, this issue). The team had come from Chattenden on the North Kent coast

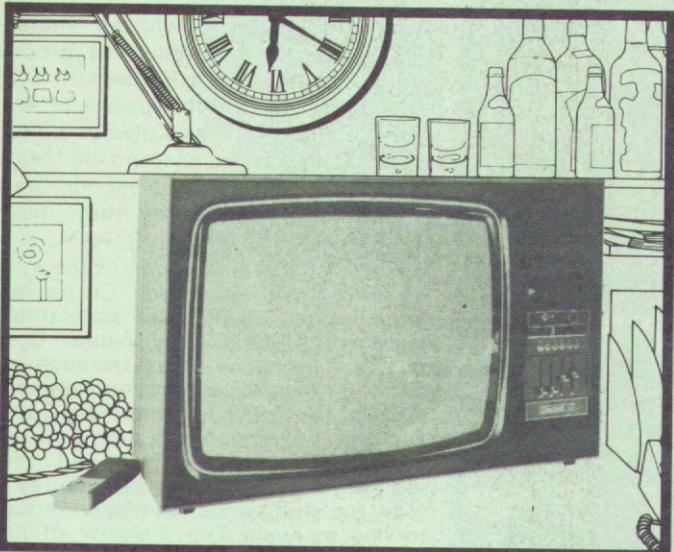
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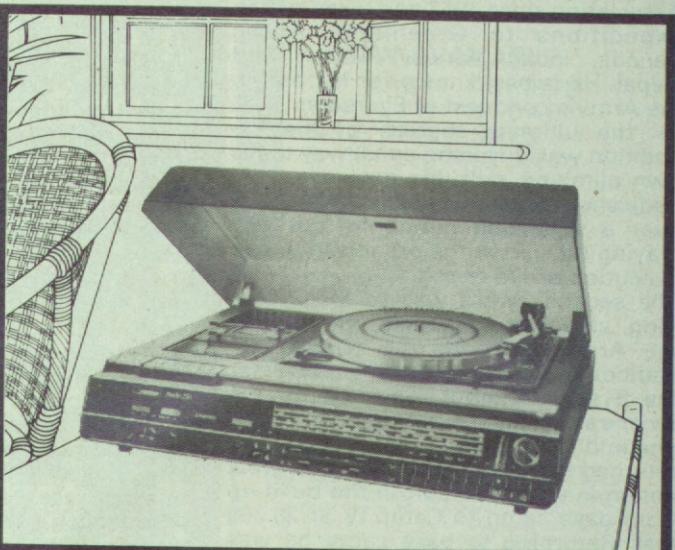
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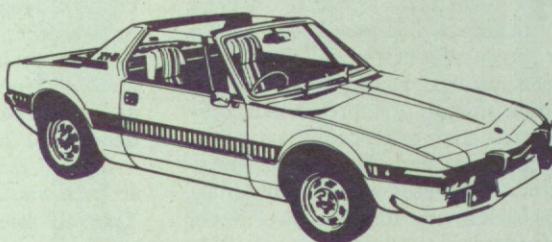
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FIAT 132

Boys from sparse hilly farmland walk back in time from their own 21st century into the 20th century British Army and become . . .

Tomorrow's Gurkhas in the making



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley

THEY WALKED out of the hills of Nepal, some 400 of them. Unsophisticated teenagers; they turned their backs on their remote rural homes — they will not see them again for three-and-a-half years. With eager anticipation, pride at having been selected, and a certain amount of apprehension, they took their first steps towards initiation into the ways of the Western World in its twentieth century of civilisation. Ironically these were steps back in time for the boys of Nepal whose calendar is in the year 2034, not 1978.

But whichever date they work from, this will be for them a year to remember as they put on the uniform of the British Army to become soldiers of the Brigade of Gurkhas in Hong Kong.

Unfamiliar with crowds and unfamiliar with their surroundings, they have now settled in to the communal accommodation at the Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas. They have been bemused by the bustle of Hong Kong with its non-stop human and motorised traffic. Its towering skyscrapers were like grey, symmetrical parodies of the distant, towering Himalayas they had watched looming in the north throughout their childhood in Nepal.

Had they not been from the fearless martial tribes found in the central region of Nepal, running from east to west of the country, the frantic pace of Hong Kong might have been a frightening experience. But they had already overcome one ordeal by flying in an RAF VC10 from Kathmandu to Kai Tak airport. Many had never seen an aircraft before, indeed never known any other form of transport but the yak and their own two feet. But recruit conductors — serving Gurkhas returning from home —

had helped them adapt to the idea of flying.

They had had little time to take in the bustle of Hong Kong before boarding buses to take them deep into the New Territories to the Training Depot at Sek Kong. Here life was less crowded, but still a teeming metropolis compared with the scattered settlements of the homes they had left behind.

It was January in Hong Kong. Later arrivals would come the following month. They all faced nearly a year in the depot before joining the regiments that had already earmarked them for their Service lives as Gurkhas. It was humid in the natural bowl of the valley of Sek Kong and in those early days many yearned for the cooler climate of Nepal. Some were homesick. But there to look after them was their 'squeaker' — a fatherly lance-corporal of some six or seven years' experience in the Army who drew on those years and his own memories of being a recruit to help them with their problems and questions.

He was second-in-command of a section, sharing his time between two sections. And that was another thing to get used to — being sub-divided into groups for the purposes of training at the depot. The boys found they were all divided into sections of ten or 11 and lived in a hut — or the luckier ones in the new blocks replacing the huts — with their 'squeaker.'

Three sections made up a platoon, they quickly discovered, and three platoons per wing formed the two-wing strength of Number 1 Recruit Company or Number 2 Recruit Company. Each company, they found, was commanded by a British officer. But all the rest of the staff were Gurkhas like themselves.

The 17-year-old recruits had come from east and west Nepal to join up. Here at the training depot they found they were mixed together, the permanent staff of each company being half-and-half from east and west.

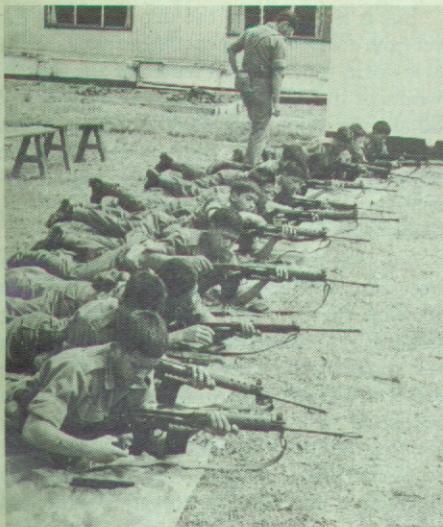
The boys from the west were destined to join 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) and 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles. Those from the east will go to 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles and 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. The specialists among them already selected to join the Queen's Gurkha Engineers, Queen's Gurkha Signals or the Gurkha Transport Regiment were already wearing their unit cap badges at the depot. Clerks were recruited separately and will wear the depot's crossed kukri badge until they leave to join a regiment.

They had been too excited, though, to take in this new system of regimentation on first arrival. After pouring off the buses at Sek Kong, they tucked ravenously into the meal of bhat — curried vegetables and meat — and mountains of rice that had been prepared for them. They will never tire of this diet which they will get twice daily throughout their recruit training.

They will eagerly bolt it down each lunchtime between classes and in the evening before continuing their training afterwards in the hands of their section commanders and 'squeakers.'

Among the first things they noticed when settling in after their first meal were the outdoor 'lecture theatres' behind each hut

Above: Open-air lectures are a feature of the Hong Kong depot where Gurkha recruits train.



and the mini-rifle ranges on which they would soon, probably next day, begin the weapon training — initially using air guns — which would become as much part of their play as their work. For shooting will be encouraged as a sport alongside basketball, volleyball and football.

It was too early on that first day to compare billets. But they soon realised that the lucky ones were those who joined Number 1 Recruit Company, to be housed in the new blocks, one third of which have now been completed. The boys in Number 2 Company have to be content with old Hong Kong Huts, not nearly as comfortable as the new buildings which are daily increasing to replace them.

There are no more than 12 lads to any accommodation unit and the recruits — naturally neat and tidy — soon take a pride in keeping their own areas spotless. They share a locker, one between two, and the only wall decorations are the helpful training aids which have mostly been made by conscientious section commanders to help their young charges consolidate in the evening the lessons learned in the day. These section commanders are members of the depot's specially selected permanent staff, chosen for their excellence and sent there by their units in the belief that you get out of the depot what you put into it. So standards are high. Gleaming kukris hang in special racks on the hut walls — the distinctive curved blades are all made by the one expert in Dharan back in Nepal.

When day one of training finally arrived, after sleep had refreshed the recruits following their long journey, it came early at 0600. There followed a bewildering two hours of administration, documentation and kitting out. They all had been issued with a basic personal kit back in Nepal before setting off — which had meant a whole series of new experiences like wearing shoes and socks.

Then very basic training began. There was drill and weapon training for a start. They were soon made familiar with the self-loading rifle which they would shortly be able to fire in its Heckler-Koch converted



form at .22 calibre before shooting the full 7.62 bore after some four weeks.

There were non-syllabus subjects to be mastered too. And unlike any other body of soldiers in the British Army these include subjects such as use of electric lights, Western clothes, even Western toilet facilities — the smooth stone in the open air gives way to the marginally more yielding paper in a cubicle. And some neither read nor write, although a few are graduates of Kathmandu University. Educational standards in Nepal are rising dramatically nowadays.

It all adds up to a non-stop day which finally comes to a halt at 2200 each evening with kit cleaning before bed. There is no drinking or smoking, not even a visit to the canteen at first — soft drinks are brought to the recruits in their quarters. Sport is compulsory and basketball or soccer takes up an hour a day at first. Later they will take up athletics, Judo, Aikido and abseiling.

Physical training is regarded as very important and has to be specially geared by experts to the recruits' specific needs. They come to Hong Kong strong in the neck, legs

and hands from their work in their highland farmsteads. But they tend to have weak chests and arms which need developing. By the time they leave they will be well above average all-round specimens.

The intake of recruits — just one a year — has 42 weeks of training ahead of it. The first phase will be 28 weeks of individual training after which all the recruits are formed into sub-units to learn minor tactics. Phase one comprises 406 periods of weapon training, 167 of fieldcraft, 126 of physical training and 107 of drill. And then there is all the 'after-hours' training that goes on deep into the evening.

The recruits in their two companies will have little time to take note of the depot's other function as a 'mini' Warminster — delegated by the School of Infantry at Warminster to allow its Courses Division to issue qualifications on its behalf, thus saving the time and money that would be involved in sending Gurkhas to England. The division caters for career and qualification courses to help the Gurkhas move up through the ranks with a high and consistent standard.

Above: Stripping weapons soon becomes second-nature to the young recruit marksmen.

Top right: A tactical exercise for NCOs on a Courses Division scheme in Hong Kong's hills.

Right: Back sticks straighten shoulders as the recruits number their paces aloud at drill.



But it is all part of the depot's world the recruits are getting more used to each day. It is a world they will not leave for the first 28 weeks of their life in it. After that, they will be able to enjoy organised shopping sprees outside the camp. But no-one will be allowed out in other than the regimental mufti of blazer, white shirt, regimental tie, black brogues and socks.

Not that they find their money goes far in high-priced Hong Kong, for, as Gurkha recruits, the boys have only 100 Hong Kong dollars (£11) in their hands each month. The rest of their pay is invested for them. In the affluent Western environment they had been surprised to learn their basic pay was only £9.35 a month. Surprised, but not alarmed. For even that is more money than they saw in many a day back in Nepal. The second surprise was to receive their Gurkha Addition of £43.05, making up their monthly total to more than £50.

Their surprise, in fact, was more at how much they were getting rather than how little. Back home it had been one of the incentives to join the British Army. First and foremost had been the martial pride of being accepted by this unique body of fighting men. But they had also heard their elders back in their villages telling wide-eyed listeners about the financial advantages of a career in the Gurkhas.

In a world where every drop of water for meagre crops and every blade of grass for hungry cattle is a bonus, the thought of being able to send a son away to be paid, be given free clothing, play games every day and eventually return and still be paid for doing nothing by getting a pension was very attractive indeed.

At night, in their section huts, as they think of home in the few minutes before sleep overtakes their tired bodies after a full day's work, it is these first stirrings of their ambitions to become Gurkha soldiers that spring to the minds of the young recruits.

Spurred on by their parents — many of whom were Gurkhas themselves — the boys had been sought out by the 'Galah Wallahs' — former senior non-commissioned-officers who had walked up into the Nepalese hills looking for likely recruits. The eager boys had no idea of the careful planning that had preceded the treks of the 40-plus Galah Wallahs who, with a keen eye for their physical features, had spent three days in their villages looking for suitable boys.

As a result of the Brigade of Gurkhas' careful career planning, working seven years ahead, recruiting officers from the main Gurkha depots in Nepal — Dharan in the east and Pokhara in the West (Paklihawa in the south closes this year) — had already briefed the Galah Wallahs on the regimental needs.

One in 20 of the boys had been chosen by the Galah Wallahs who then fixed a day for the long walk to one or other of the depots. The journey may have been as little as one

Top: Mountainous platefuls of bhat sustain the hungry recruits after their non-stop training.

Centre: An instructor loads .22 ammunition in SLR magazines for recruits' shooting practice.

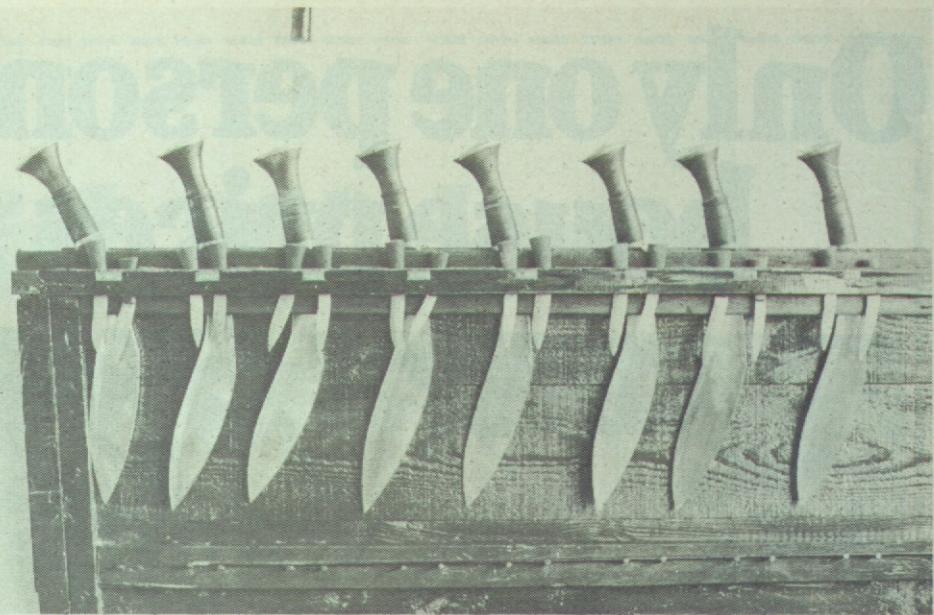
Left: Physical training is an important part of the recruits' daily lives at their depot.

day, as many as 16, and all on foot. Further selection at the depot had weeded out some 50 per cent of the hopefuls — mainly on medical grounds — and they had merely to accept their fate, turn around and trudge back into the hills to nurse their bitter disappointment. The remaining jubilant 400 or so had been flown to Kathmandu before the final break with their homeland and the journey to Hong Kong.

Most recruits will soldier on for 15 years when anyone below the rank of corporal will be reluctantly sent home. Senior NCOs and the few Gurkha officers can serve longer. But ultimately their British officers will have to make the heart-rending decision to part company with their loyal and trusting brothers-in-arms. It is not unknown for the annual 'pensioning off' to reduce company commanders to tears.

But for the boys now training as recruits in Sek Kong this is all a long way off. For them, it is all smiles — with just a few frowns as they master the intricacies of their rifles or the 120-paces-per-minute marching they learn before graduating to the full 140 paces.

Then they will take their places in the ranks as fully fledged riflemen, fit, tough, aggressive, disciplined and well-trained . . . fit to fight as only a Gurkha can fight.

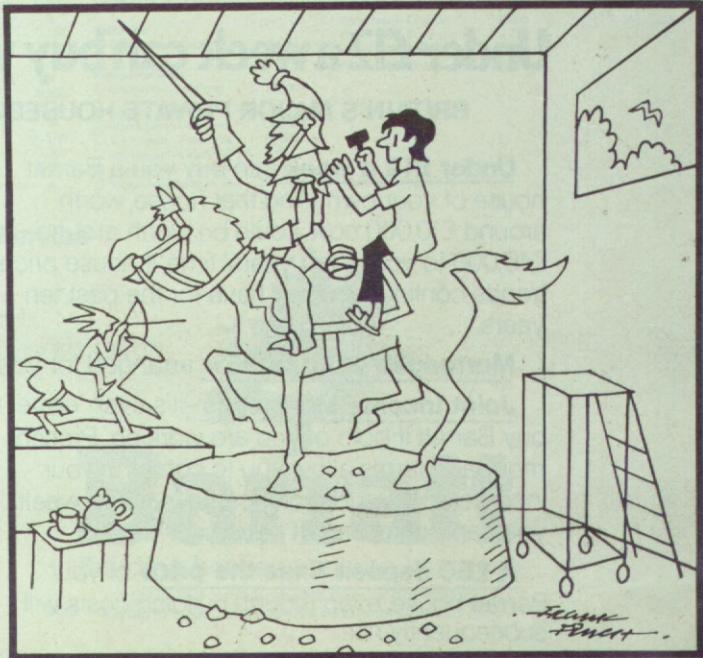
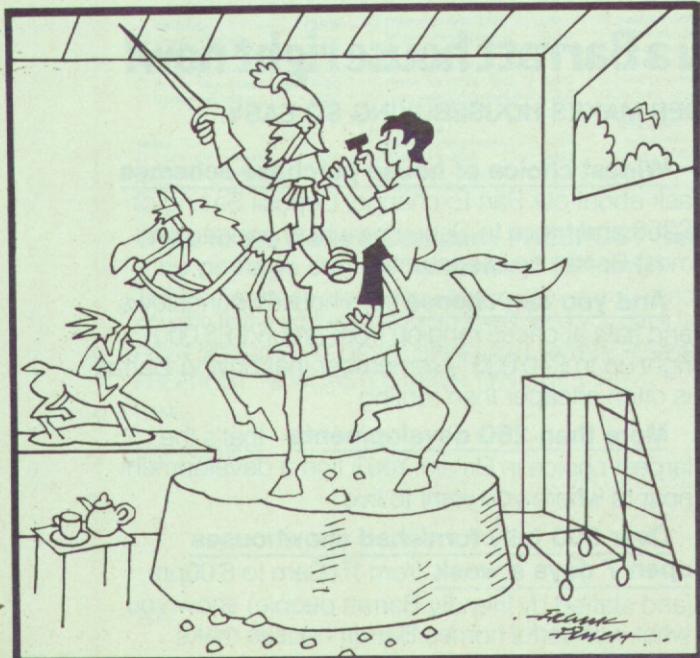


Top: Each young soldier prizes his gleaming kukri — all made by one man in Dharan, Nepal.

Right: A special gauge marks the exact size of the spread of soldiers' heels standing at ease.

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 41.



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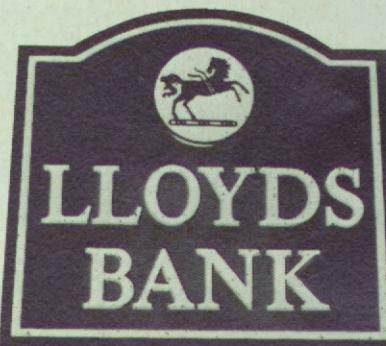
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Soldier news

'Forces drain' worries PM

The Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, has expressed his alarm at the number of men leaving the Army.

He was speaking in the House of Commons about figures which showed that the number of officers wanting to quit is equivalent to the officer strength of 30 battalions.

"These figures do display a disturbing factor of the Armed Forces drain," he said, "although I understand that recruiting is going well."

The figures were disclosed before recommendations of the Armed Forces Pay Review Board.

Whitehall officials have now joined the military in warning that if the Ministry of Defence does not quickly stem the numbers wanting to quit the Services, 'There will be very great dangers to morale.'

Applications by Army officers for premature voluntary release in the year up to April, show a 100 per cent increase over the same period of 1976-77 — the worst rate for a decade.

A total of 977 have asked to resign, 469 of them in the last four

Tournament time again

The 1978 Royal Tournament, London's finest display of military entertainment, at Earls Court, London, from Wednesday 12 July to Saturday 29 July, will include, as its overseas representation, the Hong Kong Police Band and Gurkha Pipes and Drums. As always, the tournament will provide London with a unique blend of music, pageantry, skill and courage appealing to all ages.

The show opens this year with the massed bands of the infantry, comprising the Foot Guards, The Royal Anglian Regiment, The Royal Irish Rangers, The Light Infantry, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and The Parachute Regiment.

A family favourite, back once again this year, is the musical drive by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery — six teams of horses at the gallop, pulling guns and limbers around the arena in a series of skilled manoeuvres.

The Royal Marines will give a thrilling display, including their famous heart-stopping 'death slide' into the arena. The White Helmets motorcycle display team returns by popular demand, giving a chance to see the Royal Signals at their best.

The finale this year will be a musical interpretation of the Battle of Waterloo, including the massed bands of the infantry, fireworks, horses and guns, and will conclude — on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the Tower of London — with the Ceremony of the Keys.

months.

The full effects have not yet been felt because most officers are required to serve six months' notice.

Other ranks' applications to leave show a 42 per cent increase over the 1976-77 figures — with experienced non-commissioned officers and specialists leading the rush.

The official figures for other ranks are only from April 1977 to February this year — but they show that 4643 left the Army, compared with 3401 for the same period of the previous year.

A total of more than 5000 for the full year is gloomily expected.

The total strength of the Army at present is 162,250.

In the RAF there has been a 77 per cent increase in the number of officers wanting to quit. By 1 March, 450 were waiting to leave. Many have to wait long periods before they can go.

About 90 of the 200 or so pilots who, after the expiry of 16 years' service, have the option to leave, have asked to do so.

If this trend continues unchecked it is believed there will be 200 empty cockpit seats in the RAF in two years' time — despite the recently introduced new short-service commission. Each fighter pilot costs around £500,000 of taxpayers' money.

Some 1200 airmen have also

applied to leave the RAF but many of them will have to serve out 18 months' duty before they will be allowed to do so.

Recruiting shortfalls range from 36 per cent for pilots and more than 50 per cent for navigators to just over 60 per cent for fighter controllers.

The RAF's total strength is 83,000.

The figures for the Navy are not so clear because it has a more complicated system of voluntary release. But they show a 60 per cent jump over last year in the number of officers wanting to quit.

The Navy has a strength of 72,700.

Joggers fight the flab



Factory boost

The Royal Ordnance Factories have again won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

The ROFs make defence equipment ranging from the Chieftain tank to distress warning flares.

The organisation is big business for Britain, with 20,000 people employed at 11 factories producing cash receipts expected to reach £370,000,000 this year, over half of it from overseas customers.

Much of the factory work is concerned with making sub-assemblies and components, but the ROFs are known mainly for their finished products including guns, armoured fighting vehicles, engineering support vehicles and ammunition.

The 'Chairborne Brigade' in the corridors of the Ministry of Defence in London has banished the image of flabby staff officers by forming a highly successful cross-country running team.

The MoD (Army) team won the London District championship in the Army's minor units class and came second in the Eastern Area championship. The team finished sixth out of the ten teams competing in the Army finals.

And all this with the average age of the team being more than 35. On the day of the Army finals the youngest member of the team was 28 years old and the oldest 49 years young. The latter, Colonel G G Strong, first qualified for the Army final in 1951 as a mere 22-year-old.

The team, pictured going through its paces in St James's Park — left to

right: WO2 O F Osman, Capt B M Semple, Maj D G W Gardiner, Col Strong, Sgt I Barnes, S/Sgt J H Spafford. Not shown are Maj R P Arridge, Capt C R C Green and Maj R H J Nash. A woman in the corridors of power shares the team's enthusiasm for their sport — Pte M Bowden, WRAC, ran very well to finish sixth in her first Army final as did the team.

Pictured above, going through their paces in St James's Park, are (left to right) WO2 O F Osman, Capt B M Semple, Maj D G W Gardiner, Col Strong, Sgt I Barnes, S/Sgt J H Spafford.

What complaints had been received about conditions and pay of forces in Belize, inquired Mrs Lena Jeger (Labour, Holborn and St Pancras South). Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, said there had been some misunderstanding on the part of those serving in Belize about the effect on their pay and allowances of a recent adjustment of the rate of exchange at which they were paid. The misunderstanding had now been resolved, conditions in Belize had been improved and the situation was continually under review.

Three Labour members who asked about the possibility of discussions between the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, and the Trades Union Congress about members of the forces joining trades unions, were told that Mr Mulley had no such plans.

Miss Jo Richardson (Labour, Barking) described the reply as "short but not very sweet" and asked what facilities Mr Mulley would be prepared to provide in order to make a reality of his oft-stated view that servicemen had the right to belong to a union.

able through military circles, but if the serviceman concerned wants someone else to represent him, he may choose someone else."

Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, told the House that the number of British troops serving in Oman was likely to be reduced by the end of the year.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Conservative, Bexleyheath) said that British servicemen in Oman helped to bring peace and stability to the area and at the same time gained valuable military experience. Dr Gilbert replied that the military

never been any democracy in Oman to defend. Was it not right to ask the Sultan to introduce elementary democratic rights for his people if we were to continue to have forces stationed there?

Dr Gilbert said it was not for him to comment in detail on Omani internal affairs but a great deal of progress had been made in the last few years under the present Sultan.

Sir David Renton (Conservative, Huntingdonshire) spoke of former prisoners-of-war who found that as they got older their health and strength suffered because of their

Dr Gilbert said all complaints were investigated thoroughly and he had received no recent representations on the matter.

Dr Gilbert gave Mr Winston Churchill (Conservative, Stretford) a list of 42 equipments which would enter service this year. They included: Rebarrelling of M109; combat engineer tractor; Bruin management information system; telescope night observation device; general purpose binoculars; tripod-mounted and hand-held laser rangefinder; laser target marker; ranger mine; recovery vehicles; escort motorcycle; Lynx helicopter (below); Rapier Blindfire radar; remote-controlled Eager Beaver; Samaritan; and Chieftain muzzle reference system and laser sight.

Dr Gilbert said there were another 12 equipments of which details were classified and he added that in the period 1979-83 it was expected that 99 equipments would enter service.

Mr Mulley said they had such a right, particularly in order to safeguard their trades on return to civilian life. But active trade union organisation was not demanded or required by the Services at present.

"It would also be necessary to have legislation before a trade union could operate in the way that I think (Miss Richardson) has in mind."

Mr Tom Litterick (Labour, Selly Oak) asked for confirmation that there was nothing in Queen's Regulations to prevent a serviceman from retaining union membership when he joined up or from joining a union while he was serving. He also asked if a serviceman who was a member of a union could, when faced with a court-martial, choose a trade union-appointed lawyer to defend him.

Mr Mulley: "Members of the armed forces can retain their membership of trade unions if they so wish. In the case of court-martial proceedings, counsel is made available.



Jungle patrol in Belize

assistance to Oman would continue only as long as it was necessary for the Omanis to take over the responsibilities.

Mr Stan Newens (Labour, Harlow) said that although it was claimed that Britain needed forces to defend democracy there had

privations during captivity. He asked if Mr Mulley could keep an eye on the matter and report to the House on what might be done to help them.

Mr Mulley said he had great sympathy with Sir David's comments, not least because he had been a prisoner-of-war himself.

Referring to the famous Press picture of him 'asleep,' Mr Mulley continued: "Contrary to what was generally thought, I felt in military terms that my number was up at Finningley last July."

He said that if Sir David sent him further details he would do what he could to help.

In the Lords, Lord Mancroft asked if the estate of a member of the armed Services who was killed on service in Northern Ireland was liable to estate duty. Baroness Birk, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment, said that it was exempt from capital transfer tax which replaced estate duty three years ago.

The Government had no proposals to introduce pensions for divorced widows of officers and other ranks of the armed forces, Lord Winterbottom said in the House of Lords.

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Question: What is a scout car really for? And of course, the answer is that it is for Scouts (and Cub Scouts) to climb on.

At least that is the use that this Royal Yeomanry vehicle was put to when it called at Gilwell Park, Essex. No fewer than 67 boys managed to scramble aboard — and that's not counting the crew inside.

'Blood and guts' back on parade

Major-General George S Patton, son of the World War Two commander, General 'Blood and Guts' Patton, was inspecting officer at the passing-out parade of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, Bovington — the first time in the 25 years' existence of the regiment that an officer from another country has taken the salute.

The invitation to General Patton came from the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel David Tindall, of the 4th/7th Dragoon Guards. He

was an exchange officer at Fort Hood, Texas, 15 years ago where he served as the operations and train-

ing officer under General Patton's command in a tank battalion of the 1st US Armoured Division. The two men struck up a friendship which has continued through the years.

Command

General Patton recently relinquished command of the 2nd Armoured Division, the famous 'Hell on Wheels' Division commanded by his father in World War Two. He is now deputy commander of the US VII Corps in West Germany.

Five hundred junior leaders were on parade, which included 28 passing out to join their regiments. The parade was commanded by Junior RSM Philip Shaw (17).

Boer War

veteran

100—not out

A centenarian in the regimental association ranks is certainly something to celebrate — which is why a party from The Queen's Lancashire Regiment made a special trip to Devon to present this cake to retired Major Geoffrey Mott.

One hundred years old this year, Major Mott is pictured at Bovey Tracey making a close inspection of his special cake, made and iced in regimental colours and badges by the cooks of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Bramcote.

With Major Mott, who can recall action in the Boer War and World War One, are Major-General Peter Downward, General Officer Commanding, West Midland District (left), Major Jim Kenney, regimental secretary, and Lieutenant-Colonel Roy Smith.

It was congratulations all round and a day of recalling old memories for a soldier who shows no signs of being prepared to fade away.



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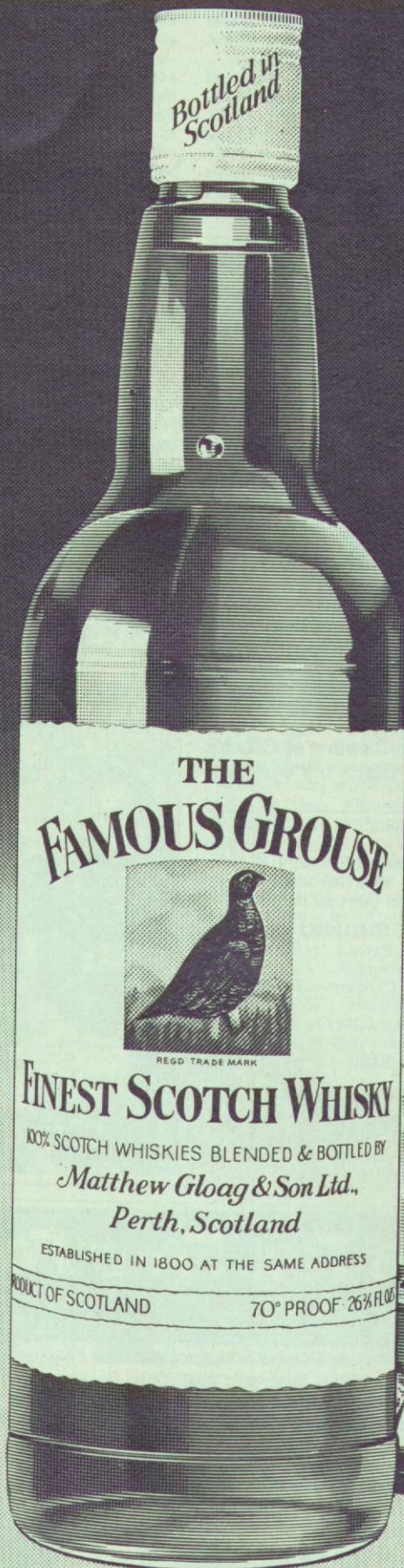
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Pipers get new kind of pipe

The pipes and drums of 103 (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Light Air Defence Regiment, Royal Artillery, led the parade when the regiment received the Freedom scroll of the Borough of Halton in a ceremony at Widnes.

After the scroll had been presented by the Mayor to Major Dai Davies, commanding 213 Battery (St Helens and Widnes), an address was given by Major-General J E Cordingley on behalf of the Royal Artillery.

Proud

"One hundred and seven years ago a company of voluntary infantry and artillery formed in Widnes," he said. "Since then there have been many changes in role, organisation and equipment but the regiment has always had a proud record."

"This includes service at Ladysmith in the Boer War, at Ypres in the Great War, in the last war in an air defence role and then in the final battle in North West Europe. It is the highest honour to me to inspect and spend the day with such a superb regiment."

First

Major-General Cordingley said it was the first TAVR regiment in the country to be equipped with Blowpipe anti-aircraft missiles.

"This air defence weapon is a sophisticated bit of equipment and it would not have been given to the regiment if there was the slightest shadow of doubt that the regiment would not handle it with the highest skill and responsibility," he said.



General John's last walk

One of the final duties of General Sir John Archer before he handed over as Commander British Forces Hong Kong was to present cheques for 146,000 Hong Kong dollars — about £18,000 — to the Community Chest, the central charity fund in the Far East colony.

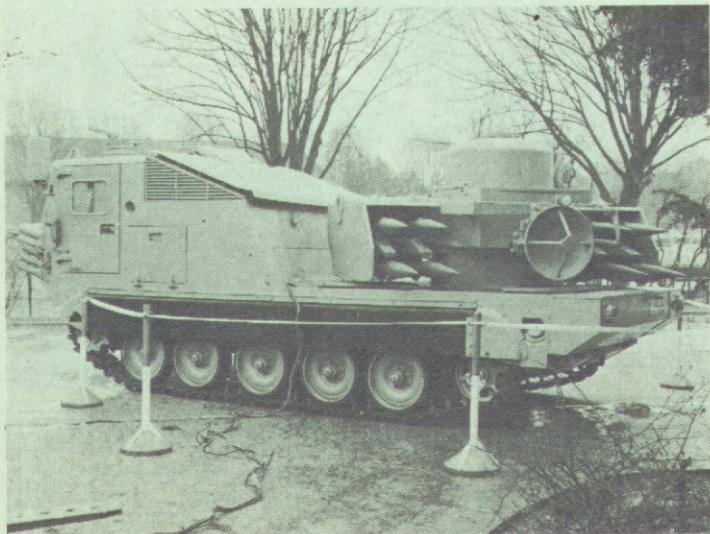
The cheques, which were accepted by the campaign chairman of the Chest, Mrs Siu Hon-Sum (left), covered a donation of 20,000 dollars from HQ British Forces Hong Kong.

The other 126,000 was raised by Sir John and Lady Archer in a sponsored walk which covered 14 miles.

he Community Chest of Hong Ko



Rapier carrier on display



The tracked Rapier vehicle, at present sold only to Iraq, aroused a great deal of interest when it went on display at the Artillery Division's air defence study day held in Rhine Army.

The study was introduced by the GOC Artillery Division, Major-General Geoffrey Wilson, and was attended by representatives from the four armoured divisions, battle groups and combat teams.

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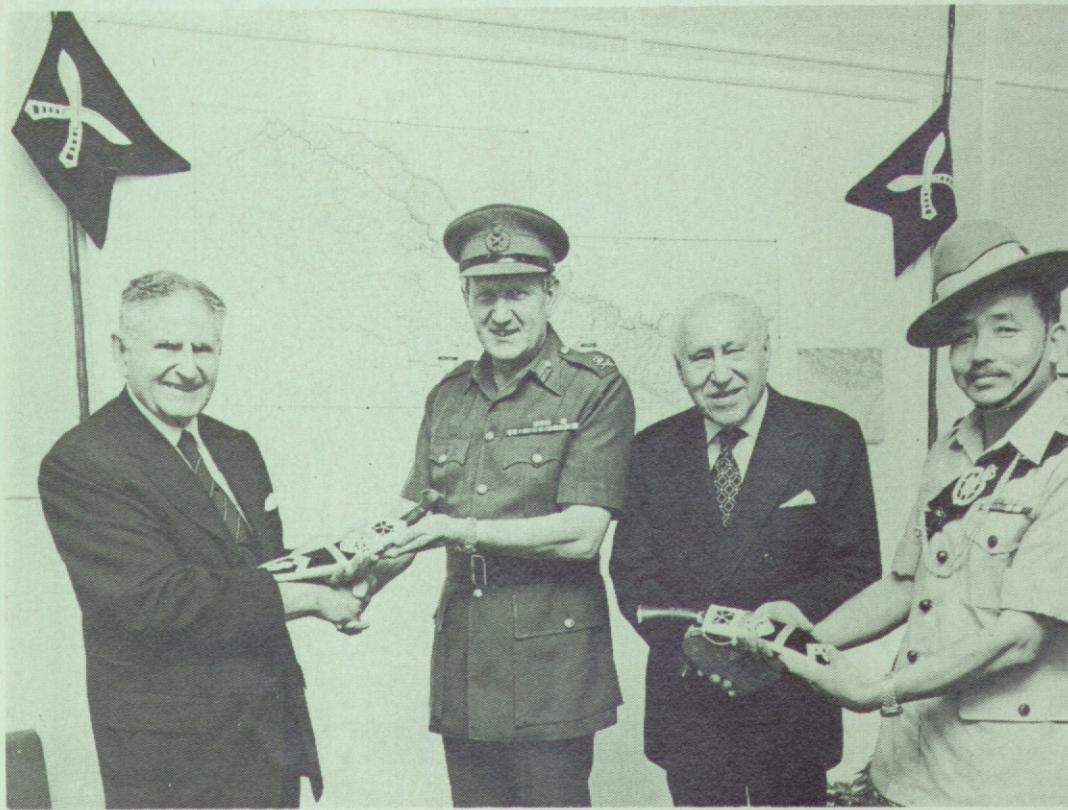
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Prospectus from Secretary. (Tel: Weymouth 2977).

Kukris for the Kadoories



The two brothers who run an agricultural aid charity in Nepal have been presented with two specially made kukris as thanks from the Brigade of Gurkhas.

The presentation to Sir Lawrence and Horace Kadoorie in Victoria Barracks, Hong Kong, was made by Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer on behalf of all past and present members of the brigade, many of whom have benefited from the generosity of the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association both in Hong Kong and Nepal.

The association runs a farm in Hong Kong where since 1965 about 2000 Gurkha soldiers have taken courses in animal husbandry, horticulture and up-to-date farming techniques to help them scratch a living from their small hillside farms in Nepal.

The Brigade of Gurkhas also runs resettlement farms in Nepal for retiring Gurkha soldiers and the aid association has made outright gifts of equipment, improved animal stock, seeds and a wealth of professional advice.

Picture shows Mr Horace Kadoorie receiving his kukri from General Archer while Sir Lawrence is presented with his by Major (QGO) Kesaring Limbu.

Diggers join Poms

Britain and Australia have signed a memorandum of understanding covering broad arrangements for co-operation between the two countries in defence science and technology.

The memorandum indicates that co-operation will continue as in the past. Previous collaborations have included the long-range weapons project which involved establishment of the Woomera rocket range and the Joint Tropical Research Unit at Innisfail.

The purpose now is to encourage joint action to discover new knowledge and incorporate it in the defence technology base of both countries. As opportunity arises, detailed arrangements will be made for joint research tasks, joint trials and experiments, exchange of technical data and materials, organisation of conferences, exchange of visits by scientists and technical specialists and long-term interchange of scientific personnel.

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Security

When the searchlight was securely chained to its trailer, it was officially handed over by Mr Albert Hampshire, resident officer-in-charge at Lasham, to Colonel John Tippen who accepted it on behalf of the Royal Artillery.

During its time at RAE, the searchlight was adapted for experiments with two satellites — the applied technology satellite and SATCOM, a communications satellite.

Old searchlight Woolwich-bound

A World War Two searchlight brought to the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, in the mid-1950s to provide a steerable platform for an aerial to track the Blue Streak inter-continental ballistic missile, has been presented to the Royal Artillery's Rotunda Museum at Woolwich.



Above: The old searchlight is loaded on to its trailer.

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Audemer to the rescue

On her final journey after 21 years' service, an Army ship had just one last unscheduled task — going to the aid of a stricken vessel in distress.

Her Majesty's Army Vessel *Audemer* (right), a tank landing craft (LCT), has spent most of her working life plying the treacherous waters between the Hebrides and the mainland to re-supply the Royal Artillery ranges.

And on her last voyage into retirement from the Hebrides to Marchwood she answered a 'May Day' call from the Sail Training Association's schooner Winston Churchill, aground off the Isle of Wight in the early hours of the morning in a Force 8 wind.

The majority of the 50-plus crew aboard the schooner were girl trainees. Audemer's skipper, Captain Roy Potts, dropped a bow anchor and allowed the ship's stern to swing towards the stricken boat.

A five-inch tow line was attached and Winston Churchill was pulled to safety. Eye witnesses said that had the schooner been allowed to stay stranded as the tide fell, the next incoming flood would almost certainly have swamped her.

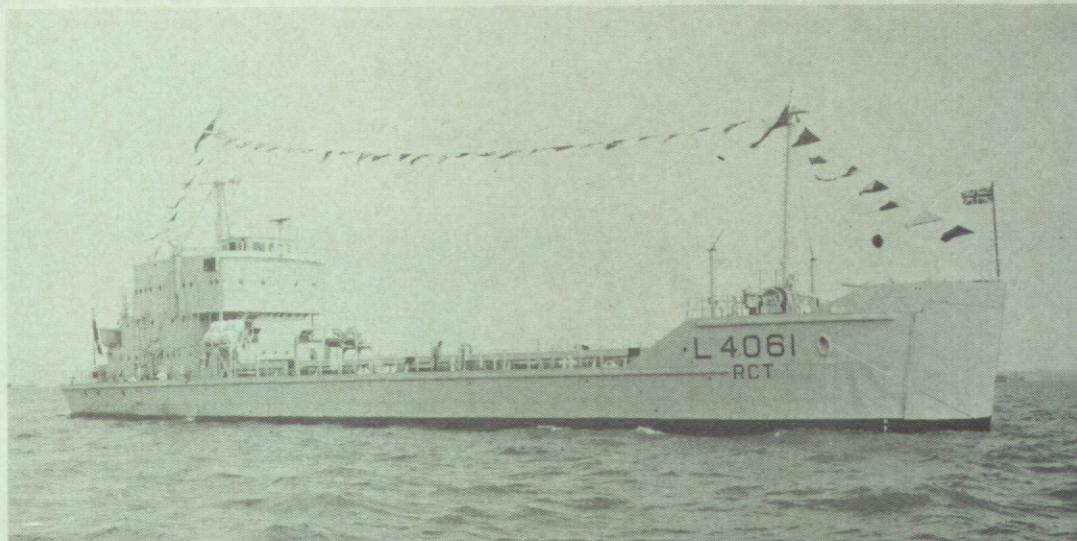
Cheers, Gajendra

Hong Kong's best rifle shot is Lance-Corporal Gajendra Dewar of 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

With a score of 313 points out of a possible 360, he took the major individual prize of best rifle shot at the end of the four-day annual British forces skill-at-arms competition.

Winner of the major unit championship was 1st Battalion, 2nd Gurkha Rifles, with Gurkha Field Force Headquarters and Signal Squadron taking the minor units championship.

Commander British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer, toasts the top shot as he is carried from the rifle range in the champion's chair by his team colleagues.



BAOR sappers reform

Royal Engineers in 1 (BR) Corps have marked their re-formation through restructuring in two separate parades.

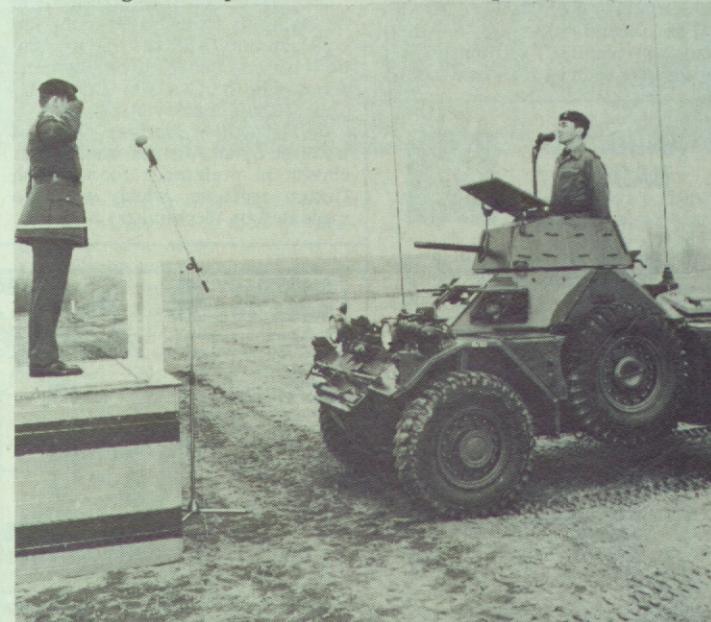
At Nienburg, 21 Engineer Regiment formed up on the square at Assaye Barracks for a brief 15-minute appearance before marching off parade for the last time. As the three squadrons marched off, the five squadrons of 1st Armoured Division Engineer Regiment marched on. Major-General Barry Pollard, Chief Engineer, British Army of the Rhine, took the salute at the march and drive past.

At Münsterlager, 26 and 31 armoured engineer squadrons amalgamated to form 26 Corps Engineer Squadron. At this parade the armoured squadrons formed up before Brigadier John Groom, Commander Corps Royal Engineers.



Above: Marching off parade for the last time — the commanding officer of 21 Engineer Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Peck, leads the regiment off parade.

Below: Major Mike Brain, squadron commander of the newly formed 26 Corps Engineer Squadron, reports to Brigadier John Groom, Commander Corps Royal Engineers.



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Army gets new bikes



Two new Service motorcycles — one a Canadian machine and the other from the workers' co-operative at Meriden — are to replace the Army's fleet of elderly BSA 350cc machines. The 'Beezers,' made by a firm which disappeared in the British motorcycle industry collapse in the early seventies, have been used by the Services for many years — with the last contract being placed in 1971.

First on the scene will be the big bikes for police escort duty. A contract has been placed with Meriden Motorcycles Ltd, the workers' co-operative, for 106 of their 750cc Triumph Tigers. Of these more than 80 will go to the Army — mainly to the Royal Military Police — and these will be coming into Service this summer, both in the United Kingdom and Rhine Army.

First

The second machine, the 250 Can-Am (pictured) will be the first motorcycle used by the Army not to

be entirely manufactured in Britain. The contract is for 872 machines of which all except 61 are for the Army.

The 250cc machine is made by the Canadian firm of Bombardier and is based on their Enduro trials bike. Described as 'a rugged, off-road type bike' it will start coming into service next year.

Agents

Norton-Villiers Motorcycles will be acting as British agents for the contract and will be making the deliveries on behalf of Bombardier. At present the Can-Am is not marketed in this country at all.

The Canadian machine, which is powered by an Austrian engine, was chosen in preference to a British Cotton machine, which was also evaluated by the Ministry.

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Princess visits School of Infantry



Princess Margaret receives a bouquet from ten-year-old Theresa McPherson, daughter of Lance-Corporal John McPherson, of The Gordon Highlanders. The occasion was a visit by the Princess to the School of Infantry at Warminster.

During her four-hour visit she met many soldiers and their wives and inspected a parade of a combat team provided by 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, and A Squadron, 3rd Royal Tank Regiment.

Later she opened Harman Lines, Sack Hill, built to house the tanks of the demonstration squadron from the Royal Armoured Corps.

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Redcaps Peace sword on parade

The two Military Police regiments in Northern Ireland have been amalgamated. A ceremony at Alexander Barracks, Aldergrove, centred around the amalgamation of the two remaining companies of 2 RMP with the five companies of 1 RMP.

During the parade, there was an inspection and short address by the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, Lieutenant-General Sir Timothy Creasey, and a response by the Colonel Commandant RMP, Major-General Peter Lang.

The Wilkinson Sword of Peace, awarded to 2 RMP for outstanding efforts in fostering good relations with the local community in 1976 was handed over to the Colonel Commandant for safe keeping at the RMP Centre, Chichester.

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German Hermann unearthed



Hermann the German caused quite a stir when he turned up in London's dockland — because it is not every day that a digger driver nudges a two-ton bomb that has lain dormant for 37 years.

The two-ton wartime bomb, nicknamed 'Hermann' after Hermann Goering, the Nazi wartime leader, was found in a gravel pit in East Tilbury, and the Army was called in.

From Chattenden, on the North Kent coast, 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, Royal Engineers, sent a crash crew to the scene, and meanwhile police evacu-

ated the surrounding busy streets.

Two thousand shoe factory workers were sent home early and an ammunition barge moored in the Thames was moved out of danger.

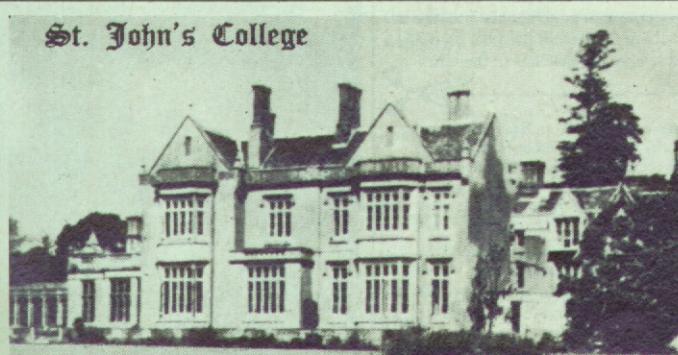
The fuse was made safe before a hole was 'trepanned' in the bomb and explosive washed out.

"Water had got in over the

years," said Major Barry Birch, "which liquefied the explosive and some of the rest had crystallized. It was undoubtedly still dangerous."

When the bomb had been made safe it was loaded on to a lorry and taken away for detonation.

Picture shows the sappers digging away slurry from the bomb.



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Air Apparent Andrew does the twist 1000 feet up



Eighteen-year-old Prince Andrew took to the skies over Brize Norton and made a parachute drop from a C130 Hercules aircraft with a stick of other trainees from the parachute training school that has recently moved from Abingdon.

After being grounded for a day by bad weather, the prince, accompanied in training by his big brother Charles — Colonel-in-Chief of The Parachute Regiment — dropped over South Cerney from 1000 feet.

The pictures show the two princes joking in their 'dummy' rigs at the training stage, and Prince Andrew airborne. The twists can clearly be seen in the lines above his head as he floats earthwards.

Prince Charles did not jump with his brother. He has done it before, seven years ago when he was in the RAF.

The pictures show the two princes joking in their 'dummy' rigs at the training stage, and Prince Andrew airborne. The twists can clearly be seen in the lines above his head as he floats earthwards.



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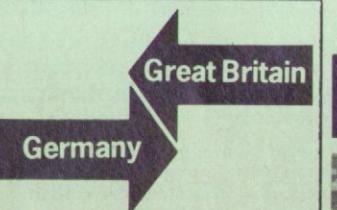
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Brigadier is the Gurkhas' postman

Nobody blamed Rifleman Minbahadur Gurung for looking mystified when the highest-paid postman in Hong Kong sought him out. It's not often a private soldier finds a brigadier bringing letters from home.

Brigadier Mike Carleton-Smith, Commander Gurkha Field Force, made his delivery after presenting commissions at a parade of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles, at Cassino Lines, near Yuen Long.

The brigadier had been on a visit to Nepal to inform himself on the country that is the home of the majority of the soldiers under his command. Flying by scheduled RAF VC 10 to Kathmandu, he visited some of the British-run establishments on the fertile plain as well as high mountain villages. High up in the foothills of Mount Annapurna, in the village of Siklis, accessible only by narrow goat tracks, the brigadier offered to carry

back mail to soldiers serving in his command in Hong Kong. Here, as in many other villages, he was greeted at the edge of the village by ex-service men of the British and Indian Gurkhas, their wives and families, and escorted to a site where the porters made a tented camp.

Brigadier Carleton-Smith also visited British-run establishments which included the Gurkha depots at Dharan and Pokhara, the British military hospital for ex-servicemen and dependants of serving soldiers, and the farm for the re-settlement of Gurkhas returning to the hills after their period of service with the British Army.



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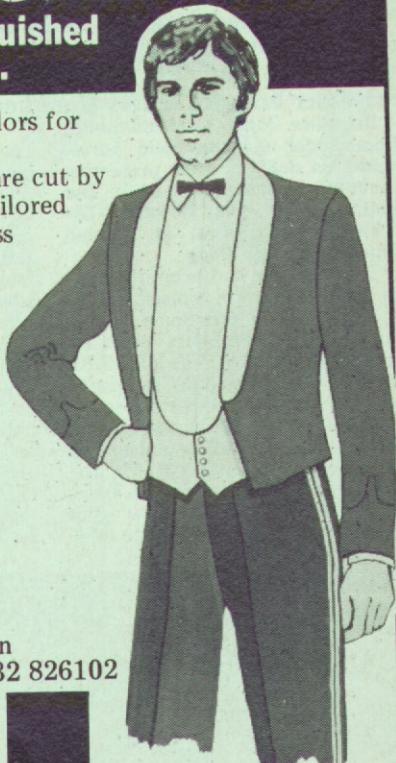
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Freedom of Chelsea for Cockney Paras

The Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve's 10th (V) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, has been granted the Freedom of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. For the first time, on 19 April, the battalion, many of whose members are Londoners, exercised its ceremonial right to march through the streets of the borough with Colours flying, bands playing and bayonets fixed.

Rhine Army puts out cigarettes

More than 200 people in Rhine Army have stopped smoking completely and more than 1000 have cut their daily consumption of cigarettes as a result of the one-month anti-smoking campaign in Rhine Area (see SOLDIER, March).

Making the claims after examining information fed in by every unit in Rhine Area, a jubilant commander, Brigadier John Moore, told SOLDIER: "It has exceeded all our expectations."

The brigadier said that the anti-smoking day, when everyone was asked to stop completely for 24 hours, had also gone well. "While a lot of people caved in during the afternoon and evening, a large percentage of Rhine Area managed to stop altogether."

He said that the campaign had been most successful among soldiers and families about to return to the United Kingdom. This, he said, was

'for obvious financial reasons.'

Reports from Naafi about sales of cigarettes and tobacco in the area in the aftermath of the campaign are still awaited although Brigadier Moore said first indications were that there had been a drop.

Schools had played a big part in the campaign and a bus fitted out with a model of someone smoking — showing tar settling on his clear plastic lungs — had also had a big impact.

Summing up, Brigadier Moore concluded: "Whether people smoke or not they are now very much more aware of the dangers of smoking."

Trouble-shooters



Royal Marine Commandos from 45 Commando Group, Arbroath, set up their positions on a gas platform in the southern North Sea.

The platform was in the Shell/Esso Indefatigable field and the Commando was flown in from RAF Croydon by helicopter.

The joint-Service exercise was carried out with the full cooperation of the UK Offshore Operators Association. There is a 500-metre 'safety zone' around each platform which is sometimes infringed by Russian warships, or by trawlers chasing shoals of fish.

VCs to visit UK

Two Gurkha Victoria Cross holders have met for the first time, thanks to Colonel Duncan Green of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Lieutenant Rambahadur Limbu (pictured) of 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles and the only serving VC in the British armed forces, won his award in Sarawak in 1965. His elder kinsman, Lieutenant Tulbahadur Pun, who now lives in retirement in Nepal, gained his VC in action against the Japanese in Burma in 1944.

The two Gurkhas returned to Britain for the two-yearly reunion of holders of the Victoria Cross and the George Cross. During their stay they attended a service at St Martin-in-the-Fields and visited Penshurst, the home of Lord De L'Isle and Dudley VC, former Grenadier Guards officer and former Governor-General of Australia.



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There are a number of vacancies at present for all ages. Fees are on a scale to meet the financial circumstances of the parents. MoD allowances at Boarding School rate apply to children of school age.

Application form and further details available from:

Captain R. E. Wilson CBE, DFC, RN,
The Chief Executive,
Royal Caledonian Schools,
Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD2 3T6

The families page postbag seems to swell with every month that passes, but though there is space to publish only a few letters, I can assure you that I am always trying to get answers to all your queries.

Among the principal topics raised over the last six months are the anomalies in social security benefits affecting Service families, particularly child benefit, supplementary benefit and unemployment benefit. The particular problem seems to be the delays encountered in moves involving Northern Ireland, elsewhere in UK and overseas stations. I know of one case where a mother had to wait six months for child benefit, which obviously causes hardship. The Department of Health and Social Security is looking at paying child benefit direct to mothers and at reducing payment delay.

To help save delay in claiming child benefit when posted abroad, you can go to the Department of Health and Social Security office, hand in your benefit book and get a receipt, which you take to your new posting. This is attached to Army Form O 1765 which is then sent to the regimental pay office for crediting to your husband's account. Alternatively, you can take your benefit book with you and hand it in to the unit pay office, which will process it for you.

To speed up enquiries, when you write to pay offices, put your husband's Army number on the letter. One regimental pay office has 40,000 accounts and there may be hundreds of Smiths or Browns to sort through.

Families now are more aware of the need for a roof of their own over their heads, and the earlier they start thinking, the better it is. Forthcoming sales of Ministry of Defence surplus houses are published in UKLF orders and overseas stations are notified. I also hold details, so if you are interested in a particular area, let me know. This applies to the ministry's sales of furniture as well.

Anne Armstrong

New jobs



Miss Sheila Barker, of Stockport, has been appointed deputy director of nursing and social work at Ssafa headquarters.



Miss Sheila McKay, of Portsmouth, is the new Ssafa training officer. She will be responsible for regular courses at head office.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH
ANNE ARMSTRONG

Crisis in the classroom



Meet a Queen's Guide

Laura Smith (14), whose father is serving in British Army of the Rhine, has been presented with the Queen's Guide award.

She is pictured receiving her award from Lady King, wife of General Sir Frank King, Commander-in-Chief BAOR. Lady King is co-president of British Guides in Germany.

The ceremony took place at Bracht, near Moenchengladbach, where Laura's father, Warrant Officer Graham Smith, is a senior ammunition technician with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. She is a member of the 1st Bracht Guide Company.

Register now for a vote

About two-thirds of all soldiers and their wives will not be able to vote in the next general election if it happens before February 1979 — because they failed to register as voters last autumn.

From 16 February 1979, a new register of electors will come into force and to be able to vote after that date your name must be on the register. If you have not yet registered as a Service voter and want to be, then complete a registration form before October if the constituency is in England, Scotland, or Wales — or before September if you want to vote in Northern Ireland.

You need only register once during your service and your name is then carried forward automatically

from year to year as each annual register is prepared. Exactly the same conditions apply to the wives of servicemen and the husbands of servicewomen.

In early June a DCI will be published giving the procedure for registration this year and requiring units to make registration forms available. But you don't need to wait for this if you want to make sure you are registered. Get the form from your unit and complete it now.

If you are in BAOR or elsewhere outside the UK and cannot vote in person, you can appoint someone else — a parent, relative or friend — to vote for you. The details are on the forms.

There are to be referendums on devolution for Scotland and Wales and in 1979 there are expected to be

A part-time civilian instructor in charge of an adult education course will earn a maximum of £4.97 an hour for teaching to A-level standard. A soldier on the same part-time basis will earn a maximum of £1.86 an hour.

Local authority part-time instructors receive standard rates which vary according to their qualifications and the type of course. But a serviceman who teaches receives a different rate from that of a civilian, or even a Services dependant.

A serviceman and his wife who both have the same qualifications and who teach the same type of course, receive different rates of pay — the soldier at the lower rate. In addition, in Britain, the rates of payment vary from county to county but are index-linked. Overseas the rates are not index-linked and were laid down in 1975.

Difficult

"Because the rates paid overseas are so low and no expenses are allowed for travelling, people are not bothering any more," said one part-time soldier-teacher. "As a result it is more and more difficult to find instructors, so classes are suffering."

"This is unfortunate because facilities and opportunities for adult education are already limited overseas in comparison with those available at home."

elections of British representatives to the European Assembly. Only if your name is on the electoral register will you have a vote in these polls.

The forms, F/VOTE/33 for servicemen and women, and F/VOTE/34 for wives and husbands of members of the Services, are available from units. The forms are being revised for 1978, but the 1977 ones are still valid.

Next sales

The next Ministry of Defence sales of surplus single lots of furniture will be at Roman Way Camp, Colchester, on 10 June; Garrison Theatre, Tidworth, 21 June; Ordnance Support Unit, Ashford, Kent, 5 July; and RAF Stafford, 12 July.

Growing pains in playgroups

One of the fastest 'growth industries' on married patches nowadays is the pre-school playgroup.

Virtually every station now has at least one group and more are springing up all the time. Most have been started up by wives who saw the need and set out to fill it, but how many know that there is now a large organisation which they can join, opening up a huge reservoir of experience and expertise which they can tap.

The Pre-School Playgroup Association is now 17 years old and at its annual conference at Reading University nearly 2000 residential mothers and visitors heard all about the advances in education and play the association has made.

During the weekend, several expert speakers stressed the benefits both to children and parents who use playgroups, and particularly the 20,000 group teachers who attend the association's courses every year.

Exhibitions showed the range of information that new groups can tap, including the newly formed National Association of Child Minders, PPA market and bookstall, National Playing Fields Association, and the National Association for the Welfare of the Child in Hospital. In short, there was just about everything possible to keep mother and toddler, playgroup mums and families amused for hours.

A subscription of £7.00 for group membership opens the door to a wealth of knowledge and help. This forward-thinking organisation will continue to grow and I hope that at next year's conference at Sheffield University there will be Service groups represented.

For more information write to PPA, Alford House, Aveline Street, London, SE11 5DH.

Of course they're for wives

The Open University has four exciting new courses just tailor-made for wives.

The courses span the first years of life, the pre-school child, energy in the home and consumer decisions, and are available from October this year or from January 1979.

Each course costs £10 but a group of friends can club together.

Applications — including those from overseas — must be sent to Associate Student Central Office, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AN.

Sailaway

Nominations are now open for the four places for Army youth on the London Sailing Project. The Army Sailing Association has made a donation towards each place.

Two places (16-19 years) are available on 1-7 July, and the other two (15-16½ years) between 19-25 August. Write to me for further details.



Families page letters

Dear Anne,

With reference to your very interesting and informative article 'Pay Review Report Crucial' published in the March edition of SOLDIER.

I would, if not being too presumptuous, like to make a comment on the question that was asked 'Why don't the majority of servicemen's wives work — most civilians do?'

I feel strongly that whoever asked the question has not delved too deeply into this matter.

As a civilian, I and other Service wives would apply for two or three jobs which suited our qualifications and, with luck, would be employed within a couple of weeks or so, which we would maintain for as many years as suited.

It is not quite so simple being a serviceman's wife. I, for instance, recently arrived in BAOR to accompany my husband and after a few days of 'settling in' I applied for employment through the only channel open to me, the Pioneer Civil Labour Unit. I have good qualifications, references and experience which would have stood me in good stead in a civilian job. My application was accepted, but naturally was bottom of the list as I was the latest arrival. I would eventually get a job — the waiting list stood at one year — but I would be given no choice as to where I would work. As my husband's posting is only for one year this does not give me or other wives in my position much hope of employment however desperately we want to work.

These are just some of the problems. Other wives, with small children, who would like to work on a part-time basis — which they could achieve in 'civvy street' — find employment on these terms non-existent within the Army system.

Therefore I would stress that although we want to work — and financially need to — whoever asked

the question 'Why' might understand 'tis easier said than done.

Mrs C M C
BFPO 16

Dear Anne,

As a serviceman's wife I am very concerned about the way present child benefit payments affect servicemen's families, especially now that the payment has been increased.

Our regiment went from Germany to Northern Ireland in April 1976. The wives applied for their family allowances and in some cases waited six months until they received their books and were able to claim their allowance. During this six-month period their husbands were losing the extra money out of their salaries as if they were actually drawing the allowance.

In November 1977 our regiment left Northern Ireland and came to Tidworth and once again the wives had to reapply for new allowance books. They were warned that the administrative process involved in processing new books would be approximately twelve weeks, during which time they were unable to draw any money.

During the last few months the plight of the servicemen and their families with regard to pay has been well highlighted but isn't it time a scheme was devised to allow servicemen's wives to draw their allowances easily wherever they move, without having to reapply if they move from area to area.

The administrative costs to the Government must be phenomenal when you consider the number of Service families involved in moving around and the inconvenience to the wives can, in some cases, be quite acute.

When the families go to Germany or Cyprus the allowances are put into the husband's salary and therefore a wife has no direct access to her child benefit which, to my mind, is very unfair. After all, wasn't the child benefit payment to wives designed to give them money direct

Painting is a serious business particularly for a toddler. Here, Mrs Judith Taylor of the Quetta Park playgroup, Church Crookham, lends a helping hand.

The playgroup took over a small infants school and now caters for about 36 infants between the ages of three and five.

in case they had difficulty obtaining money from their husbands?

I would therefore like to submit the idea that servicemen's wives should be given a special pass to enable them to draw their allowance wherever they go in the United Kingdom and that there should be a drawing facility for wives to claim their benefit at British Forces Post Offices when they are abroad.

Sheila Mitchell
Tidworth

Dear Anne,

I should like to take this opportunity of asking your assistance in helping me to clear up a few points about house purchase by serving members of HM forces. Firstly, about these houses that the MOD sell from time to time, would it be too much to ask that these properties be first offered to the forces and would it really be asking too much for the authorities involved to initiate some scheme whereby it could be made easier for us to purchase these houses. I believe that some local councils offer discounts and 100% mortgages to enable their tenants to buy their own homes.

Today I was looking into the possibility of recovering expenses, solicitors' fees, stamp and in some cases surveyors' fees. However, after reading the rules and regulations of eligibility, I admit defeat. What I would really like to know, in plain English, is this — exactly what, if anything, will the forces do to help me if I wish to buy a house?

Mrs I M J D
BFPO 45

These points have been passed to the MOD.

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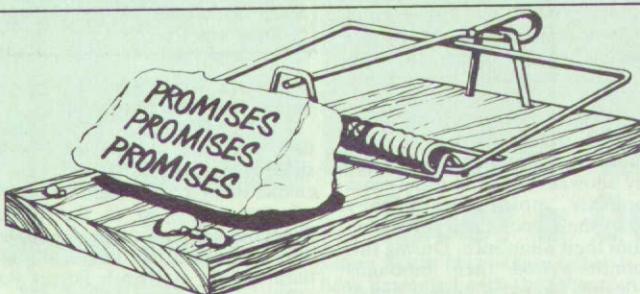
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Pauline blows the whistle on the men

Blowing the whistle on male domination of the soccer pitch is 21-year-old Pauline Brumwell, a senior United Kingdom football referee who donned her own style of the 'little bit of black' to keep control of a match between a team from Rhine Area and RAF Netherlands.

Not that she would have lacked advice over any awkward decisions. For she was one of 23 referees on the pitch ... both teams were made up of soccer referees.

Plays

Pauline plays the game too and is joint manager with her father of a soccer team back home in Kendall, Cumbria. She was the first qualified lady referee to visit the Army in BAOR.

The result of the match she officiated at was a 6-2 win for the RAF.



International run draws top athletes

A British unit took a major prize in the top international Afcent-Brunssum cross-country meet in The Netherlands which attracted leading European competitors to the third of these annual events.

The British 21 Signal Regiment was the winning military unit team with the Belgian 1st Parachute Battalion second and RAF Stanbridge third.

But the first team in the military national competition was France, favourites from the start. After the first lap of the ten-kilometre course there was no doubt that the form book was correct. Leaving the front runners to their own devices, the French in their blue shirts clung together in a close bunch and maintained their group tactics throughout the race.

This tactic in cross-country racing calls for a high degree of training and discipline which was abundantly on display in the Afcent-Brunssum event.

The individual winner of the race was equally impressive. He was Jos Hermens, Dutch champion since 1974 and tipped as a possible world title contender.

The weather conditions were again perfect, encouraging the large crowds of spectators to turn out to see what has become the foremost cross-country event in The Netherlands.

The most encouraging sign was the increased entry in all categories, especially in junior races. In all some 350 youngsters between nine and 20 years of age took part in 11 races, representing clubs and schools in The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, England and United States and British schools in Germany.

The Army's cross-country stars did not hit top form when they finished down the field in the inter-Services championships, letting the RAF in for a win with 39 points. The Army was second with 52 and the Royal Navy third with 97.

First soldier home was Lance Corporal Norman Wilson (1 Glos-

ters) who later made up for his fifth place in this event by storming home in the RAF and Combined Services marathon at a later venue in a course record time of two hours 22 minutes 9.4 seconds.

International 1500-metre specialist Lieutenant Glen Grant was seventh in the cross-country and Army champion Warrant Officer 2 'Taff' Davies was ninth.

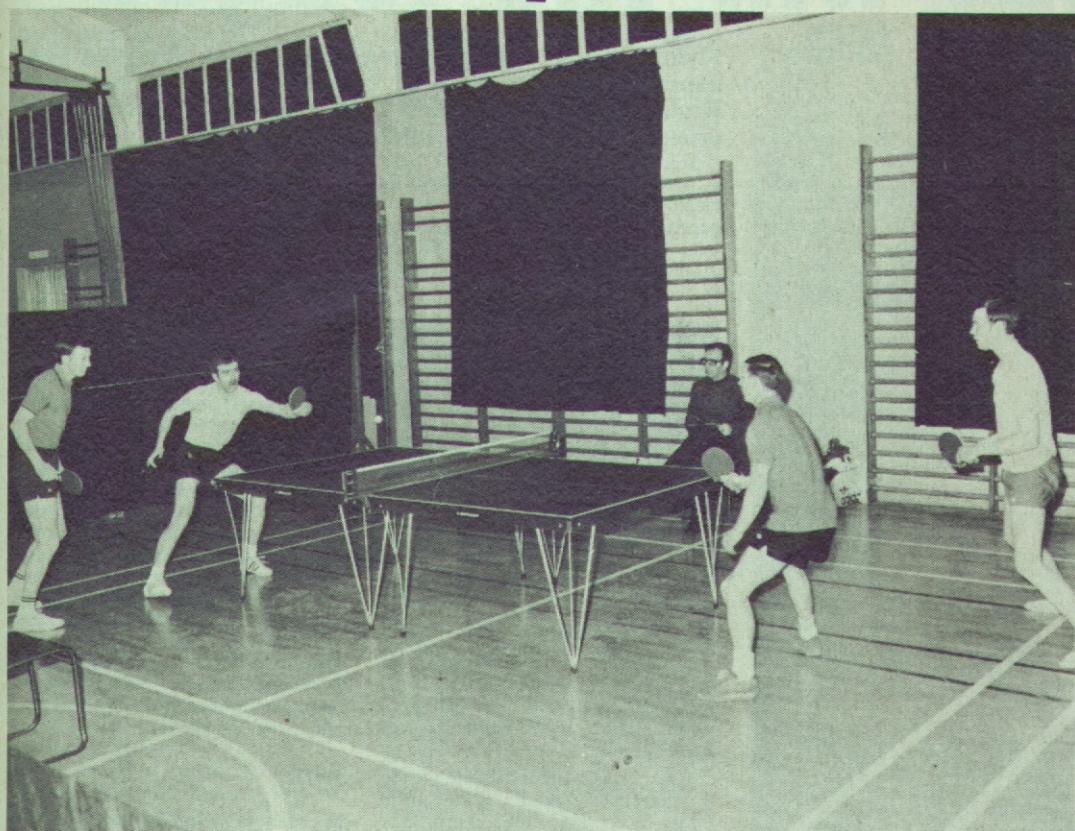
Top shot



The right man for Wyatt Earp to have had beside him at the OK Corral could have been QMSI J Cairns who has proved a dead-shot with a pistol himself.

In 1977, QMSI Cairns, of the Small Arms School Corps, collected nine major Army and national firsts for shooting as well as two worthy seconds. He represented Great Britain in the Nordic championships and was leading scorer in the team in the ISU standard pistol event.

'Best entry' in finals



Rhine Army's table tennis finals attracted the best entry for many years this year with more than 70 competitors taking part.

Singles winner was Cpl K P Har-

rison (110 Pro Coy RMP) who beat Cpl I Sadler (RMP Afcnt) 21-14, 21-18. In the doubles, Sigm P Giles (22 Sig Regt) and Ranger B Varnham (2 RIR) beat S/Sgt B G

Atherton and Cpl K P Harrison (110 Pro Coy) 19-21, 21-10, 21-19.

In the Plate, L/Bdr P Hoyes (RA Mtd Band) beat Pte A Gontier (2 Armd Div Fd Amb) 21-18, 23-21.

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Nailbiting finish for fencers

A nailbitingly close finish gave the Civil Service a 14-13 win over the Army in their annual fencing match which lived up to its reputation of providing top-quality fencing.

Against very strong top grade swordsmen from London clubs, the Army sabreurs fenced brilliantly to open the score 7-2 in their favour. Major Tony Bell (RE) won three bouts in fine style followed by QMSI John Larkham (ASPT) and QMSI Derrick Truman (APTC) with two wins each.

Too good

The Civil Service foilists were too good for the Army, though, and the match was equalised at this stage with the Civil Service making a score of 7-2 against the Army's SSI Peter Brierley (APTC), John Larkham and Apprentice Tradesman Ferrid Kanuga (REME).

Crucial

The outcome all rested on the épée match which was neck-and-neck when Craftsman Tony Woodall (REME) lost a crucial fight 4-5. The decider came in the last bout when Peter Brierley met S Roose and was defeated 5-2.

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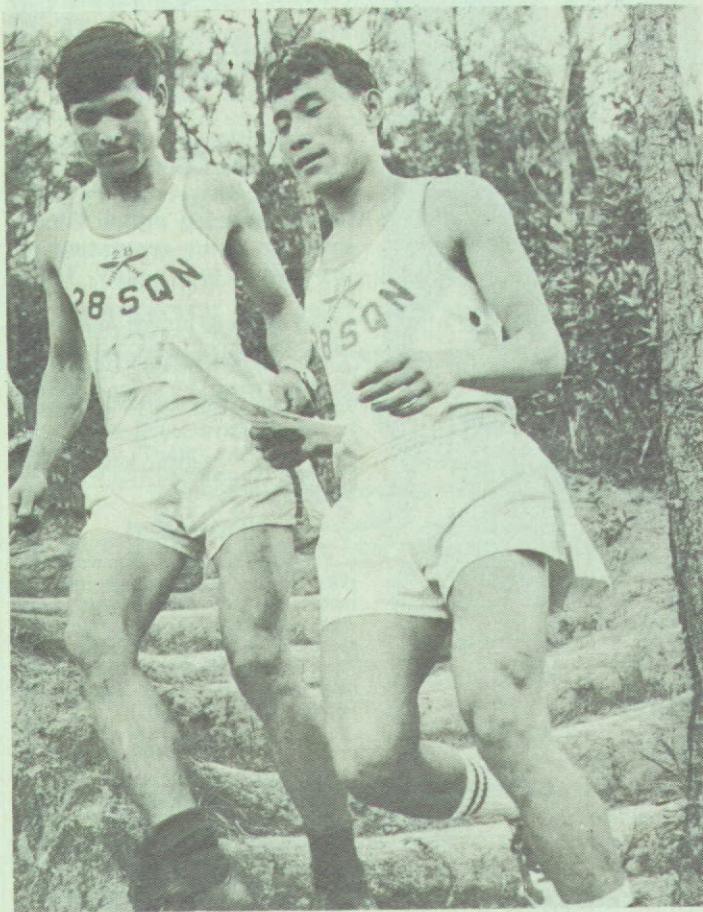
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Gurkhas win the league



Flying Gurkha Drivers Karnaprasad Thapa (left) and Purnaprasad Gurung from 28 Squadron, Gurkha Transport Regiment, won this year's final event in the Hong Kong orienteering league competition.

Some 260 competitors took part in the final event which was held in blazing sunshine and high temperature in the hills of Hong Kong Island. Orienteering is specially modified for Hong Kong to allow

for these problems — entrants have to run in pairs for safety.

Prizes presented by Brigadier Derek Crabtree, Deputy Commander British Forces, included the British Forces Cup to 28 Squadron.

Sports shorts

Cycling

Results of the Army Spring Cup for Army team cycling: 1st AAC Arborfield (1hr 21mins 34secs), 2nd AAC Harrogate (1:23.09), 3rd 38 Engr Regt (1:31.23). Army club 25-mile time trial: 1st Atkins (30 Ac Wksp REME) (1:12.04), 2nd Hawkins (RAOC) (1:13.38), 3rd Lee (SEE REME) (1:14.51).

Any cyclist wishing to take part in the marathon Audax UK ride from Paris to London then Harrogate from 26 to 31 July 1978 should contact S/Sgt W Happy, Army Dental Laboratory BAOR, BFPPO 34.

Eyes right!

The Army Boxing Association has issued a warning to boxers not to wear contact lenses during either training or competition bouts. The warning follows the discovery that a novice in the ring this season was wearing lenses. Fortunately he was not injured.

Boxing

The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion emerged convincing winners of the junior inter-unit team boxing championships after defeating JLR RA by nine bouts to two in the final. In the semi-final, the ultimate winners trounced Army Apprentices College Chepstow by 11 bouts to nil while JLR RA beat Guards Depot (Juniors) 8-3.

Basketball

United Kingdom major unit champions in Army basketball are the School of Electrical Engineering with the runners-up 39 Engineer Regiment. The Royal School of Artillery was third. Minor unit champions are Rifle Depot, Royal Green Jackets, with Army Apprentices College, Chepstow (Permanent Staff) second and 10 Signal Regiment third. The SEE team went on to beat the Rhine Army's 2 Armoured Division HQ & Signal Regiment team 59-43 for the all-Army championship.

Judo

The champion junior unit at Army judo is Army Apprentices College, Chepstow. They beat Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion into second place, with Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, third. In fourth place came the AAC Army Catering Corps.

Champions

The RAF has emerged hockey champions of the three Services this year with the Royal Navy second and the Army trailing third. The Army did slightly better by being runners up in the under-21 title which was won by the Navy.

Hockey

Combined Services, fielding two Army players, brought off a surprise win against inter-collegiate champions Slough College of Higher Education at hockey. Although without almost half of their first-string players, the Services pulled off a 4-3 win.

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Top judo medal win

National team championship honours went to Services judo players after 12 years of trying when this year's mainly Army team contained two Olympic standard men.

Ostensibly a Combined Services team, the seven first-line fighters and five of the seven reserves were all from the Army, among them Corporal Arthur Mapp, Royal Army Pay Corps, and Recruit Eddie Mullen of the Guards Depot, both of whom are Olympic hopes for Britain.

Although this pair were the mainstay of the team, the intensive training done at national level by the whole squad played a large part in their medal-winning performance in the national championships.

The Army first entered the championship in 1967 and the entry became a Combined Services effort in 1974. The best result up to this year had been to reach the quarter-finals.

The draw for the opening pool of players threw the Services against Scotland and the North West of England, both opponents being previous medallists. The Services won both matches.

The next obstacle was the West of England team. A win against them guaranteed a medal and the Services got through after seven fierce and aggressive fights.

The Services joined three other finalists, South of England, London and York & Humberside. After a very close match, the Services lost to London 3-4. The South of England then beat the very strong London team 4-3 so the Services emerged with the bronze medal.

Centenary win

for Pay Corps

A 4-1 victory over 8 Signal Regiment gave the Royal Army Pay Corps hockey team its third successive senior title in the Army (UK) hockey championship — a fitting tribute to sportsmanship in the centenary year.

Minor units champions are Depot Prince of Wales's Division (Lichfield) who beat 6 Field Force HQ & Signal Squadron 2-0.

Big field assured for pentathlon

Thirty-two of the 43 entrants scored the requisite 2100 points in the Army tetrathlon championships to qualify them for the modern pentathlon championships at the end of this month.

The four-discipline event — swimming, fencing, shooting and running — was predictably dominated by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers working out at their new centre of excellence at Arborfield under the watchful eye of Lieutenant Jim Fox, the Olympic Gold medallist pentathlete.

The REME A team which won the tetrathlon team championship included Olympic hope Craftsman Tony Woodall and Lance-Corporal Peter Whiteside who recently transferred from the RAF. Individual champion was Staff-Sergeant Instructor Peter Brierley, of the Army Physical Training Corps and based at Arborfield.

Guest team winners were the Modern Pentathlon Association of Great Britain A team which included Olympic gold medallist Danny Nightingale and British junior champion Robert Phelps.

Juniors on target

The Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion won the third junior soldiers' small-bore target rifle match with 1481 out of a possible score of 1600. Runners-up were Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery (1471), with Army Apprentices College, Army Catering Corps, third with 1461. Eleven units entered the match which was fired in two stages, the first stage being a postal contest fired on unit ranges.

The pace tells on 24-hour walk

Veteran endurance walker Staff-Sergeant John Brooks reckons a new world record for the 24-hour walk is unattainable after his failure in Hong Kong to beat the 133-mile figure (See SOLDIER News May).

The heat and humidity defeated

John who still managed a magnificent 101 miles 1467 yards. He ruled out any more record attempts by himself but said he would continue to make endurance walks for charity. He was the only individual entrant to finish the ordeal.



John before and after his ordeal.

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Fairy-tale finish for Taff

In a fairy-tale finish, cross-country veteran "Taff" Davies pulled off his first-ever win of the Army individual championship in a year that has brought him honours for his contribution to the sport.

Warrant Officer 2 Davies, of 7 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, has competed at Army and Combined Services level in cross-country for the past ten years but until now had never won the Army individual title.

Outstanding

He had been second on five occasions, third twice and had never finished lower than fifth since 1969. He is the current Rhine Army champion and was recently awarded the Harrington Cup for outstanding services to Army athletics. And to cap that, he has now pocketed the elusive all-Army crown.

Hardest

A massive field started the Army cross-country race at Tweseldown racecourse in Aldershot — considered to be one of the hardest

courses for point-to-point horses, let alone men — and Staff-Sergeant Instructor Ted Turner emerged ahead of a bunch of a dozen runners at the end of lap one of the hilly course.

Prowess

At the two-mile stage, Lieutenant Glen Grant (50 Missile Regiment RA), a man well known at national level for his prowess on the running track, took the lead and dominated the field up to the six-mile mark. He increased his lead and stretched out the front runners, finding himself 15 seconds ahead of the second place man at one stage.

Strongly

Turner ran strongly in second place for the first half of the race with danger-man Davies poised among the challengers behind him. On the third lap Davies caught Turner and began his attack on Grant. And in a fairy-tale finish that capped the recognition of a brilliant sporting career, Davies was home 25 metres clear of Grant who tired over the last three-quarters of a mile.

Third place went to Lance-Corporal Norman Wilson with Turner fourth.

Favourite

Wilson's performance reinforced the tipsters' beliefs that he must be a favourite for Commonwealth Games marathon selection this August.

In fact the high standard of running this year in the championships — notably by the first half dozen home — has brought further hopes of international selection, especially for the Commonwealth Games in which Grant must be a serious candidate to represent Wales in the 1500 metres.

Won

The junior Army event was won by Lance-Corporal Carr (11 Signal Regiment) over six-and-a-half miles and the youth race of four-and-a-half miles went to Apprentice Tradesman Corporal Hart (Army Apprentices College, Arborfield).



Above: Davies takes the lead. Left: Second-placed Grant.

Canoeists aim high



Two Army white-water canoe champions have their sights set on new honours in the 1981 world canoe championships after their win at Richmond, Yorkshire.

Following their top honours in the Army and inter-Services Canadian canoe section at Richmond, Staff-Sergeants Stan Richmond (pictured front) and Roger Ivey, both of REME, have been cutting their teeth on international competition in Germany, where they are serving, before going on to have a crack at the world titles.

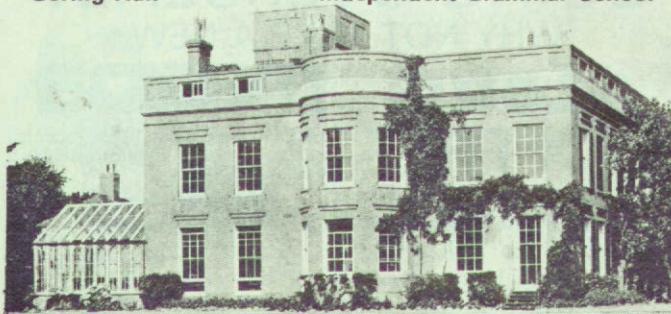
Said Stan: "Our main objective is the 1981 world canoe championship in the United Kingdom. We put in

many hours of practice after duties each day and at weekends. We give up nearly all our annual leave to take part in this sport which is growing in the Army."

Their 15-foot fibreglass canoe has to withstand the buffeting of fast-moving waterways as the pair race over distances of up to eight kilometres, kneeling Red Indian-style in their craft, with one paddle each.

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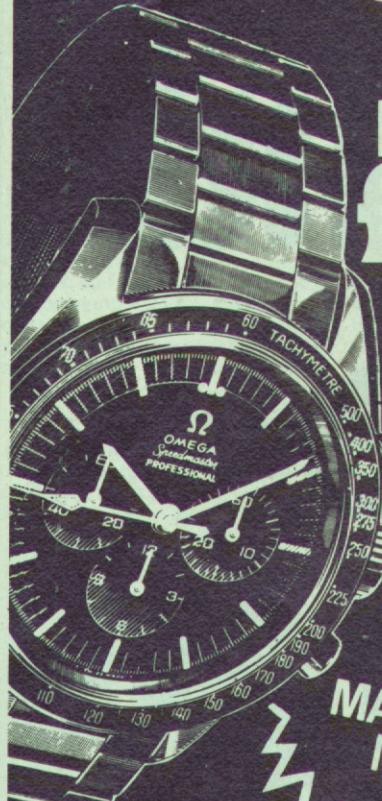
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Military Museums: 65

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

OVER THE YEARS treasures of great value and interest have been accumulated by the Royal Army Medical Corps historical museum which can trace its origin to the mid-19th century. For example, its remarkable collection of 19 of the RAMC's 31 Victoria Crosses includes the British Army's only two double VCs — those of Lieutenant-Colonel A Martin-Leake, who won the VC in the South African War and bar in 1916 to become the first double VC, and Captain Noel Chavasse, who won his VC in 1916 and bar a year later. Then there are the medals of Surgeon-General W G N Manley, believed to be the only man to have won both the Victoria Cross and the German Iron Cross.

The museum spans more than 300 years of military medical history. There is a splendid Cromwellian pay chest with its complicated locking system, a roll of all medical officers from 1660 to 1960 and an example of the 17th century coastguard's sword later issued to privates of the Army Hospital Corps. A cat-o'-nine tails, a branding iron marking 'D' for deserter and a piece of skin with the 'D' clearly visible, are among a group of punitive exhibits, while hearing aids used by the Duke of Wellington and a case of dental instruments belonging to Napoleon are featured in a nearby section.

A portrait of Dr James Barry (1795-1865) recalls a famous name in the history of the RAMC. Trained as a doctor in Edinburgh, Barry served 46 years in the Army, ending up as Inspector-General of Hospitals. Only on 'his' death was it discovered that this fine doctor was in fact a woman who, during all those years, had been masquerading as a man.

One of the best collections of Crimean relics is assembled here. There are the padded black leather chair which Florence Nightingale used at Scutari hospital, an example of the uniform worn by her nurses and a painted portrait, said to be the only one in existence, of Florence Nightingale herself. Other Crimean souvenirs include the cocked hat of Sir John Hall, principal medical officer to Lord Raglan, and a Russian drum.

The Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, now facing closure, is remembered by the Netley relics of a prototype Victoria Cross, Crimean War Medal and clasps, and a set of 1856 coins. Here too is Queen Victoria's quilt, knitted by the Queen herself and presented to the hospital in 1882. Another Victorian relic is the desk top used by the Queen when signing documents in the



House of Lords, among them the Royal Warrant marking the formation of the Royal Army Medical Corps on 23 June 1898.

Not to be overlooked are a painting of No 1 Bearer Company with stretcher bearers and dressing station in Egypt (1882) and a vivid portrayal of the action at Rorke's Drift where Surgeon-Major Reynolds won the VC. A sjambok, knobkerry and a case of surgical instruments are souvenirs of the South African War. Moving on to 1913, one's attention focuses on a strange instrument known as the coin catcher — a slender, foot-long rod, with a small circle at the end, used for hooking a halfpenny from the gullet of malingering soldiers.

Field dressings, water sterilising equipment, a pill box with a compartment for the dreaded 'Number Nines' and a photograph of a front-line first-aid post are among reminders of World War One. Exhibits commemorating World War Two are highlighted by a model of the hospital carrier St David, sunk off Anzio in January 1944. It was here that Captain Thompson RAMC lost his life returning to the ship to take off patients, an act of bravery which won him a posthumous George Cross, now in the museum.

Other noteworthy exhibits are the sledge, loaded with equipment and supplies, used by Major Ken Hedges on his epic walk from Alaska to Spitzbergen via the North Pole in 1968-69, and pencilled notes made by Rudolf Hess during his detention at Mytchett Place.

It is planned to move the museum from its present temporary quarters to a purpose-built home in a more convenient part of the Keogh Barracks complex towards the end of 1980.

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On record

'Colchester Silver Jubilee Searchlight Tattoo' (State Trumpeters and Drum Horses of The Life Guards and The Blues and Royals; bands of 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars; Royal Tank Regiment (Rhine Band); Royal Artillery; Royal Engineers (Aldershot); Royal Corps of Signals; 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment; 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Queen's Lancashire Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment; Junior Bandsmen and Drummers of Depot, The Queen's Division; Corps of Drums of the Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre; Pipes and Drums of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles) (Viking Seven-seas SPVP 160)

As with the Trooping the Colour record (On record, February) the proceeds from the sale of this one will go to Service charities and, apart from the cavalry trumpeters being off form, the imposition on your generosity is not as great as formerly. In fact the choice of music is un-hackneyed and imaginative and comes across with some clarity. The new-fangled efficiency of those direction microphones has, though, a lot to answer for.

After an opening fanfare, 'Silver Jubilee,' the bands and corps of drums of The Queen's Division march and counter-march to 'The Gladiators Farewell,' Sam Rhodes's slow march 'Golden Spurs,' a first recording (I think) of 'Men of

COLCHESTER SILVER JUBILEE SEARCHLIGHT TATTOO



Might' by Meretta, and 'Queen's Division' by Captain Don Pryce. An unseen pageant is accompanied by snatches of such unlikely composers as Monteverdi and Ivor Novello, with more usual bits of Handel, Purcell, Meyerbeer, Elgar and Edward German, the most effective being a fine fanfare extract from Laurie Johnson's suite 'Vivat Regina.'

On side two the Gurkha pipes and drums give their speedy rendering of several Scottish tunes and the bands join in to lead us into the finale with 'Procession of the Sirdar' and glorious old 'Ca Ira.' The finale itself is that desperate last resort of all tattoo directors, '1812,' and all march off to the welcome innuendo of 'Keep Going' (a march by Cyril Watters) and Alf Young's fine 'Colchester Castle.'

Apart from a record due shortly from the Kneller Hall band and trumpeters, that appears to be it as far as the Silver Jubilee is concerned — and what a spree the record companies have had.

A wonderful effort on their part, I think. So hey ho, it's back to Sousa on the March, Semper Sousa, Sousa on Parade and Sousa Supreme. See you.

RB

Other music on side one: Royal Procession (fanfare), Jubilee Salute, Toccata from 'L'Orfée,' Trumpet Tune and Air, Minuet, Coronation March, Triumphal March, Rose of England, Long Live Elizabeth.

Side two: Marching On, Scotland the Brave.



'This is the Regimental Band of the 15th Field Artillery Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery' (Director of Music: Lieutenant Peter M Erwin) (IRC)

It so happens, the sleeve notes say, that 1976 is the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association and the 50th of the Royal Canadian Legion, hence this celebratory record. It is the first by this band, the equivalent of a British TAVR band, and, considering both performers and recording technicians are non-professional to a great extent, the programme is imaginative and acceptably produced.

Side one is predictably an effort to convey in sound an impression of the regiment's music and activities, using the 'voice over' technique to some effect. After 'O Canada,' the commanding officer introduces the programme, accompanied by the 'The Royal Artillery Slow March,' then orders the regiment to march past, followed by the trot and a wordless rendering of 'The Screw Guns,' obligatory neigh from a horse and all.

The band is often involved in the Queen's Birthday ceremony so we have a 21-gun salute accompanied by Alf Young's fine march 'Royal Birthday' and followed by 'God Save the Queen' and 'The Maple Leaf Forever.' The side ends with a narrative poem, 'Strange Harvest,' dedicated to those who landed on D-Day and particularly to the Canadian 3rd Division. This too is accompanied by various patriotic tunes.

As is usual with this type of record, side two, where the band shows its musical paces, is the weak spot. 'Great Themes from Italian Movies,' 'Trumpets Wild,' 'Themes from Offenbach' and a medley of oldies called 'The Legion Song Book' rather expose the band as necessarily a Thursday night and Sunday morning outfit. Nonetheless the project as a whole was a brave first try and all concerned will be itching to have another go, having learned a few lessons in the process.

Available from 15 Field Artillery Regiment, 2025 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, at C\$6.00 plus C\$1.00 postage.

RB

'Pancharagam Volume 2' (Band of the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment) (Director of Music: Captain John A Brush) (OCW 1030)

We have all heard, via television, those unrecognisable Star Spangled Banners and God Save the Queens that emanate from native bands when greeting distinguished visitors to their countries. Well, Mr President and Mr Prime Minister may rest assured that if they ever visit Brunei 'their tune' will be performed with musicianship, style and mellifluousness. Under the influence of a succession of British Army directors of music, the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment band now produces the sound one expects from a British regimental band.

As I said in a recent review, bandmasters must nowadays put pen to paper if they want an up-to-date repertory; all that needs to be said about the Pancharagam Askar Melayu Diraja Brunei is that 12 of the 15 items recorded here are composed or arranged by the band's director.

For those of you, and I know of several, who have nostalgic memories of this corner of the world, the record can be obtained quite cheaply from Captain John Brush, Director of Music, State of Brunei, and with a bit of luck he may also still have copies of Volume 1 which I reviewed a couple of years ago.

Apart from John Brush's own quick marches for the 1st and 2nd battalions — 'Berkas' and 'Bukit Bendera' — and his slow march 'Commander-in-Chief' (all excellent), there are nine Malay sections. Volume 1 contains more of the famous and well-loved tunes but these on Volume 2, although more Western in style, are all attractive and melodious. The pipe-major also plays a selection of 'British' airs just to remind us that the regiment has formed a pipe band.

For aficionados, the other titles on this record are: 'Hamidah' (an evergreen), 'Waltzing Melayu,' 'Persembahan Ku' (local love song), 'Yale Yale' (Malay favourite), 'Jalan Burong Kaka Tua' (based on a regional folk song), 'Potong Padi,' 'Rupa Kachak,' 'Seiring Jalan' (Malay pop song), 'Dua Sajoli,' 'Kanakanak' (children's song), regimental march 'Samalindang' and Brunei National Anthem. RB



'The Very Best of the Band of HM Royal Marines (Royal Marines School of Music)' (EMI Studio 2 Stereo TWOX 1063)

A further selection from the various discs by the Royal Marines, all reviewed in their time.

On side one, conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn, are 'Colonel Bogey,' 'The Standard of St George,' 'The Great Little Army' (all by Kenneth Alford), 'El Abanico,' 'National Emblem,' 'Anchors Aweigh,' 'Semper Fidelis,' 'Cockleshell Heroes' by Colonel Dunn, 'Espana' and 'A Life on the Ocean Wave.'

Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Neville takes over on side two with the theme from 'Warship' and 'Sutherland's Law,' marches 'On the Square' and 'When the Saints Go Marching In,' Burt Bacharach's 'This Guy's in Love with You' and 'What the World Needs Now is Love,' 'The Shadow of Your Smile,' 'Eye Level,' 'Troika' (Prokofiev) and the xylophone solo 'On the Track.'

RB

A DOG'S LIFE IN HONG KONG



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Paul Haley

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE for one British Army unit in Hong Kong. And that's just the way they like it. For they are the 60 Alsatian guard dogs — plus two arms-and-explosives searching Labradors — of the Hong Kong Dog Company, one of the largest Royal Army Veterinary Corps units in the world.

The dogs are assisted by their handlers in their job of providing guards for nine key points in the colony. There are two British officers and six soldiers, who are qualified dog trainers as well as handlers, plus the 143 men of the local Hong Kong Services Corps — badged as RAVC — who are all handlers.

As a part of the Gurkha Field Force they spread throughout the New Territories and Hong Kong itself, working mainly on night guard duties of 12 hours with just three 24-hour watches where five men with two or three dogs work two hours on and four hours off round the clock. Smaller groups man the 12-hour stints where the motto is: 'When the Army goes to sleep, the Hong Kong dog wakes up.'

It is the deterrent value of the dogs that is so useful on these guards. As the company commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Morgan-Jones, explained: "It is a most efficient and cost effective way of maintaining security." So much so that in an atmosphere of defence cuts, the unit is shortly to be increased in size and hopes to raise its complement of dogs to 74.

A Royal Military Police unit from 1959 to 1976, the dog company is now back in the hands of the RAVC and all its dogs come from the corps' headquarters in Melton Mowbray back in England. They normally arrive already trained for allocation to handlers — Hong Kong dogs work to two handlers — but because of the demands of Northern Ireland, the RAVC specialists in Hong Kong become involved in training.

The dogs work a 'prolonged active life' that can span eight years, sustained daily by

Top: A Hong Kong handler demonstrates control.

Centre: Even in training an attack is fearsome.

Left: Heavy padding protects the dog's 'victim.'

two pounds of meat and one-and-a-half of meal. Their diet is always under review to adapt it to local conditions — heat takes some getting used to for Alsatians bred originally for shepherd work in the temperate climate of northern Europe.

As the only RAVC vet in the Far East, Colonel Morgan-Jones finds much of his spare time taken up with creatures great and small throughout the area. Twice a year he travels to Nepal to advise on the Gurkha resettlement farm projects and he goes to Brunei when his agricultural advice is sought there.

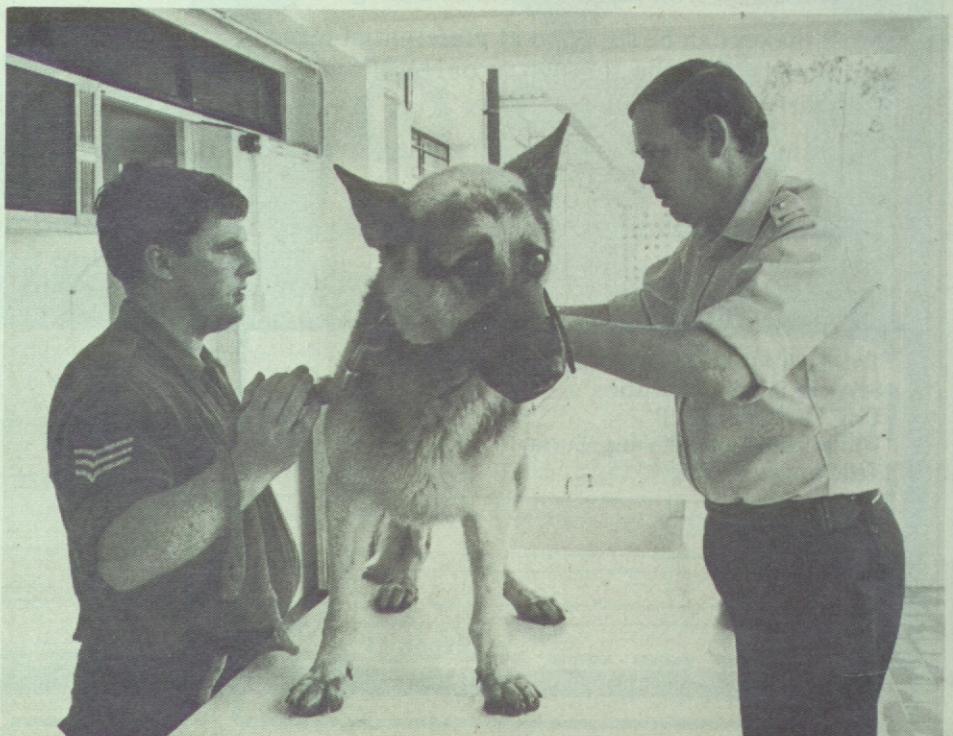
The Gurkhas also call on his skills to check the health of the 30 or so goats required for consumption every month — most of them imported from China. The number rises to some 200 in three weeks during the annual Gurkha festival of Dasheera. The colonel finds them in very good condition. Not within his sphere of influence are the 5000 pigs a day also sent by the People's Republic of China on their final bitter-sweet-and-sour journey to end up on the tables of the local community.

Among that community, the dog company keeps its corner of the Army in the public eye by maintaining an eight-man demonstration team to show dogs being put through strenuous athletic paces, including the ever-popular leap through a hoop of fire. This calls for a high degree of trust and obedience. So it is no surprise that in last year's Hong Kong obedience trials, the unit — competing against police, military and civilian animals — padded off with no fewer than five cups.

At their smart eight-year-old kennels, with their well-stocked canine hospital at Sek Kong, the dogs are kept at peak fitness not only to entertain the public but for their primary and more serious role of guarding some of the most important sites on the colony with what can only be described as dogged determination.



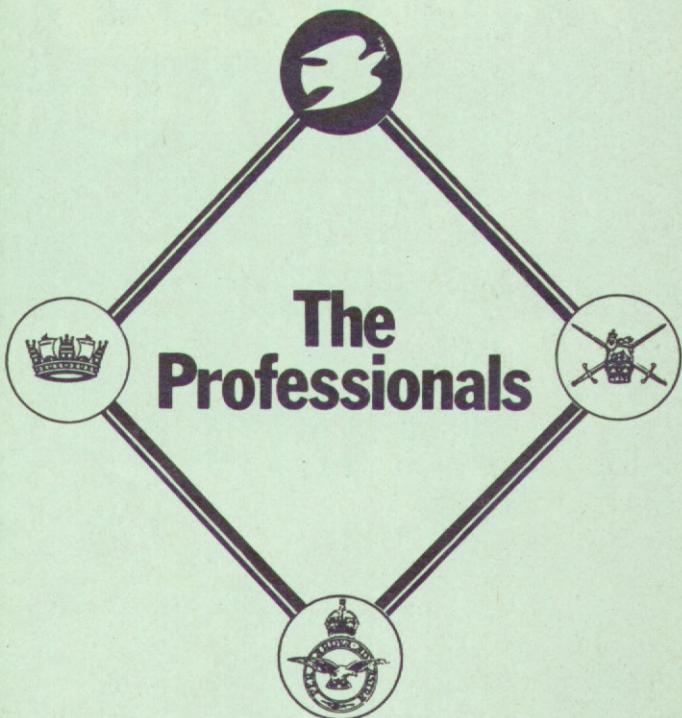
Above: Daily grooming is a luxury for the dogs.



Top: Perfect discipline on a practice patrol.

Centre: Military commands rule dogs and men.

Right: Hospital patients get the best of care.



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At Rothiemurchus Lodge, resident warden Len Holmes and his wife Hazel welcome visiting military and family units. After a career in the Royal Marines, Len has swapped a life on the rolling deep for one in the rolling highlands to look after the lodge.

The Holmeses explained that the lodge is packed with visitors from December to mid-April and from July to September. Now they are trying to encourage more people to come during the slacker periods in May and June as well as in October and November.

The lodge can house some 88 people at a time in four-berth cabins designed for self-catering in fully equipped kitchens with cooking utensils and crockery provided. Visitors provide their own food. Each bunk has blankets and pillows but guests are asked to bring their own sheets and pillow-cases or sleeping bags. Winter sportsmen can hire skis, poles and ski boots at the lodge for less than half the usual ski school charges.

The daily rate for adults is £1.62 with children under 18 charged 54p a day from May to October.

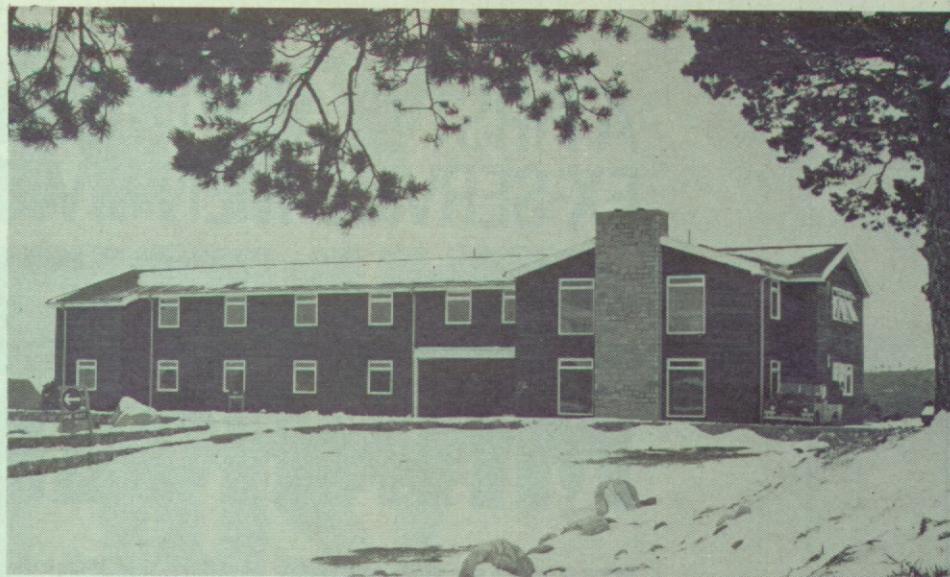
The lodge started out as a small bothy, or mountain shelter, back in 1950 and has grown over the years to the modern complex used by all three Services and their families today. It is set in the old Rothiemurchus forest 1500 feet up on the slopes of the

Top right: Spacious accommodation is offered in the roomy Rothiemurchus Lodge at Aviemore.

Right: Flashback to the old bothy which has been superseded by the bigger modern complex.

Top left: Len and Hazel Holmes smile welcome to all their visitors to Rothiemurchus Lodge.

Left: Peaceful Loch Morlich lies in the vale below the lodge and is used by the visitors.



Cairngorm Mountains, thanks to the generosity of the local laird, Colonel J P Grant of Rothiemurchus, who allows his land to be used rent-free. Construction and maintenance of the site and its facilities has been done by all three Services, particularly by men of the Royal Engineers who also do annual repairs to the two-and-a-half miles of rough track that link the lodge to the main road. Financial support has come from the central funds of all three Services plus the Union Jack Association and the Nuffield Trust.

All serving members of the Royal Navy, Army and RAF, including the Women's Services, and cadet forces, are eligible to stay at the lodge at any time and are given precedence over families — who are also welcome there — during the busy ski season.

Further details are to be found in Defence Council instructions and bookings should be made through the Secretary, The Rothiemurchus Lodge Committee, Headquarters Scotland (Army), Edinburgh, EH1 2YX.

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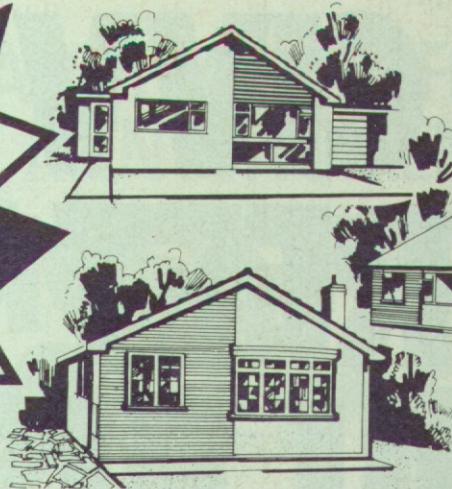


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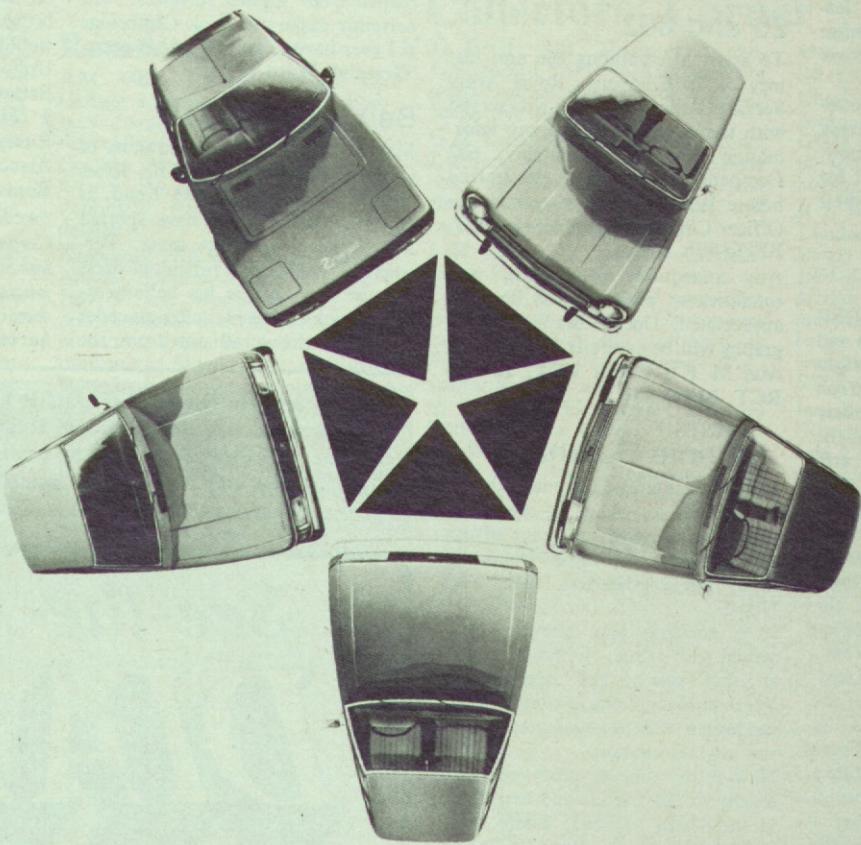
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Letters

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

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

Military ballet?

The picture in the March **SOLDIER** (News 2) of Mr Angus McEwan and his sons stepping it out at Pirbright reminded me of a similar photograph our Old Comrades had taken, many years ago now — in common was the pose of left foot forward with arm swung shoulder high.

I wonder, though, if any thought is being given to the fact that the swinging of arms shoulder high appears to be becoming the norm. Reviewing a record, your own 'RB' made the aside that the standard of Trooping the Colour is getting higher and, while he did not particularise, I suspect this is partly because of the impression created when arms are swung above waist belt level. There can be no doubt that this can create a favourable impression, but does it mean the standard is getting higher? I think not, although it could mean the standard is changing.

It would be interesting to know what answer would be given to the question as to how a deterioration in standards would show. Would a shambles necessarily have to be made and would it have to be in the actual mechanics of drill? I suggest not, because the criterion of good drill is not, and never has been, whether it is precise or not. Anyone can be precise, given time and attention, but the result, far from enhancing a unit's performance, actually diminishes it because it produces a standard which leads to anonymity — there is nothing to distinguish one unit from another. This is the very antithesis of drill which, being about discipline, should express an identity and give an insight into what a unit is and how it sees itself. It should relate to and reflect a way of life.

The emphasis on arm swinging is an indication that this is increasingly less so, that drill is becoming trivialised, frivolous and superficial. At the Festival of Remembrance, Raymond Baxter described a display of drill as a 'military ballet' which, I think, illustrates well how a deterioration of standards manifests itself. The performance was no doubt impeccable yet an intelligent man likened the performers to ballet dancers. Compare this with Patrick O'Donovan's likening of the Trooping to a 'solemn masque.'

Another indication as to the way in which a deterioration might show comes from a conversation I had

recently with a number of men, still serving, with whom I served. When I asked them how things were these days they all said, without exception, 'There are no characters left.' Now that, I suggest, is what happens when drill is pursued as an end in itself — which it never used to be — and I think it is a bad omen for the future. — **E W L Barlow (ex-Irish Guards), 108 Lansdowne Road, London W11.**

26 and 602

To assist in compiling the unit history of 26 Company, Royal Army Service Corps, any reader who served with the company or has any information about 26 Company, 602 Company or the RASC in Ireland before 1956, is asked to contact the Officer Commanding, 26 Sqn RCT, BFPO 801.

Any anecdotes on events, personalities or places would be most appreciated. Documents and photographs will be carefully returned. — **Maj M F I Cubitt RCT, 26 Sqn RCT, BFPO 801.**

'Johnnie Gurkha'

I was most interested in your editorial 'SOLDIER to Soldier' of the March issue — it proves the point of our nation's debt to those wonderful little, but big-hearted, men from Nepal.

It is amazing how many soldiers served with or met 'Johnnie Gurkha' at some stage of their careers, from Ypres to Hong Kong — and always it has been a story of a cemented friendship and admiration.

Now is the time to prove our own loyalty to our friends and help them in their time of need. There is no question that hardship is being endured back in the rugged mountains of Nepal, especially by those who were wounded while serving their and our country.

At the moment I am trying to establish a mobile exhibition of military items mainly connected with Gurkhas and the Japanese war in South East Asia. Although I have a selection of exhibits I would most grateful to anyone who happens to have something of interest and would be willing to part with it to aid this exhibition in aid of Gurkha welfare.

I hasten to add that no expenses are taken from welfare proceeds and should anyone visiting the Great Yarmouth area care to pay a visit they will receive a great welcome to view the exhibition and have Gurkha 'char.'

Should anyone wish to make a cash gift to Gurkha welfare, the address is Gurkha Welfare, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W1X 6AA. — **Eric Williams, Tyn-Cwm, Lords Lane, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR31 8PA.**

Thanks, Cambridge!

As a civilian I consider myself fortunate to have had operations carried out by the surgeons at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot.

From the day of my first appointment I was treated with faultless service. My operation was successful and the nursing was first class. Nothing was too much trouble for any of the staff and the way they care for their

patients is certainly second to none. The food can only be described as exceptional, not only in its standard but in the variety and imagination that goes into making meals appetising — and they certainly are appetising. They always arrived piping hot and were dished up quickly, which prompted a fellow patient to remark, 'If my leg didn't hurt I'd really enjoy this place.'

Finally, the interest shown in the patient from 'highest to lowest' will certainly make me think Cambridge if I ever have to go to hospital again. — **'Grateful, Ward 7.'**

Belt up, Ronnie!

May I add my comments to those of Corporal Colin Secker in his letter 'Belt up, Ronnie' (March). I and, as you say, many others have spotted Mr Barker's incorrect dress. Personally I would call it ridiculous dress because not only is his belt incorrectly buckled but his collar grenades have had the scroll cut from the

bottom and his cap badge appears to be an authentic badge with a 'collar dog' stuck on the front, presumably to hide its real identity. All this and wearing the crowns of a warrant officer class 2!

I seem to recall an editorial of yours some time ago when you applauded the decision of a dealer not to supply badges and insignia of a disbanded regiment to some group forming a mock army. In doing so you said that the use of uniform in such a way as to bring it into ridicule or disrepute would be a contravention of the Uniform Act. I would say Ronnie Barker's picture does just that. — **H J Tipping (Honorary Secretary, Romsey Branch, Royal Artillery Association), 22 Nightingale Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO5 8AY.**

*As **SOLDIER** said in a footnote to Corporal Secker's letter, the advertiser knew the belt was not fastened and was not pleased with the attention that this drew to the advertisement. **SOLDIER** has been told that, during preparation of

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

See-the-Army DIARY

JUNE 1978

- 3 St Neot's Riverside Carnival (3-5 June) (band; The Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training display).
- 3 Nuneaton Carnival (junior band; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, physical training display).
- 3 Wolverhampton Fiesta (3-10 June) (band 3 June; Pegasus 6 June; band 10 June).
- 3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 3 Open Day, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.
- 4 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot (Glencorse) (Scottish Division 'Golden Lions' freefall team; bands).
- 8 South of England Show, Haywards Heath (8-10 June) (Royal Signals 'White Helmets' Motorcycle display team).
- 10 Coventry Carnival (junior band).
- 10 Perkins Families Day, Peterborough (band).
- 10 Wolverhampton Fiesta (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team).
- 11 Gosberton Open Day (RA motorcyclists).
- 11 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (11-12 June) (band).
- 11 Hungerford Steam Rally (11-12 June) (band).
- 12 Edinburgh Army Display (12-17 June) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 16 Essex Show, Chelmsford (16-17 June) (band; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, musical ride).
- 17 Lydd Club Day (RA motorcyclists).
- 18 Putney Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 18 Nottingham Water Spectacular (Royal Green Jackets freefall team).
- 23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June) (15 bands; six corps of drums; pipe band; Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team; Pegasus; King's Troop; RA motorcyclists; Red Devils; Hong Kong Police display team).
- 24 East Midlands Gas Gala, Leicester (junior band; Red Devils).
- 24 Shoreham Air Day (24-25 June) (band).
- 25 Ssafa Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.
- 26 Chesterfield Carnival (band; pipes and drums; Red Devils).
- 28 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (28-29 June) (two bands; Pegasus).

JULY 1978

- 1 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (1-2 July) (band; Guards freefall team; static displays).

the advertisement, Mr Barker went off for a cup of tea, undid his jacket but inadvertently did not fasten his belt properly for the photographic session. On Mr Tipping's other points, it is the practice in films, television, advertising and so on, to use 'fictional' and not actual insignia.

Competition

February's easy deduction problem, 'Dominoes' (Competition 235), baffled only a few of the large number of competitors. The order of fall, ruler, capital and country were: 1st General — Kingston — Stonga; 2nd — Colonel — Vlim — Nagadi; 3rd — King — Avnik — Blakz; 4th — Queen — Glasd — Ostland.

Prizewinners:

- 1 C R Harker, Sgts Mess, 9 Sig Regt, BFPO 58.
- 2 Michael Sutton, 23 Strand Close, Meopham, Gravesend, Kent.
- 3 Mrs M D Hendstock, 60 Williams Crescent, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancashire.
- 4 L/Cpl J E McCulloch, Inf Coy, Scottish Inf Depot, Bridge of Don, Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen.
- 5 WO2 J R Baxter, 71 Fd Wksp (AC) REME, BFPO 41.
- 6 L/Cpl D Tinkler, 325 Engr Park RE, BFPO 808.

- 1 Royal Army Pay Corps centenary freedom march and cathedral service, Winchester.
- 2 Wilton Spectacular, Wilton House, Salisbury (in aid of Ssafa) (Red Caps).
- 3 Winchester Cadet Tattoo.
- 4 Royal Show Stoneleigh (3-6 July) ('White Helmets' 3 July; RGJ freefall 4-6 July).
- 5 Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
- 6 Catterick Army Display (7-9 July) (White Helmets).
- 7 Southampton Show (7-9 July) (band).
- 8 Basingstoke Tattoo (8-15 July).
- 9 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 10 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (two bands; RGJ freefall; RA motorcyclists; JLR RA PT display; static displays).
- 11 Teesside British Steel Show, Redcar (Red Caps).
- 12 Tercentenary parade, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh.
- 13 Ancaster Gala (RA motorcyclists).
- 14 Bromley Family Day, Croydon Road (RGJ freefall).
- 15 Great Yorkshire Show Harrogate (11-13 July) (RA motorcyclists).
- 16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (12-29 July).
- 17 Norfolk Army Display, Earlham Park, Norwich (13-15 July) (four bands; corps of drums; Red Devils; Pegasus).
- 18 Kent County Show (13-14 July) (band).
- 19 Massed bands and bugles, Royal Green Jackets, sound Retreat, Peninsula Barracks, Winchester (13-15 July).
- 20 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 21 Open Day, Prince of Wales's Division Depot, Crickhowell (Red Caps).
- 22 Highland Games, Corby (15-16 July) (junior band; pipes and drums; RA motorcyclists 16th July).
- 23 Masham Rally (White Helmets).
- 24 Shobdon Air Display (White Helmets).
- 25 Dunfermline Army Display (18-19 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 26 East of England Show, Peterborough (18-20 July) (band; Red Devils; Red Caps).
- 27 Burntisland Army Display (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 28 Malton Agricultural Show (White Helmets).
- 29 Greater Manchester Band Pageant (in aid of Variety Club of Great Britain and Army Benevolent Fund) (21-23 July) (11 bands; corps of drums; two pipe bands; JLR RA PT display; Red Devils).
- 30 Aberdeen Army Display (22-23 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 31 Open Day, Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury (bands; The Light Division 'Flying Bugles' freefall team).
- 32 Bournemouth Air Pageant (22-23 July) (White Helmets).
- 33 Open Day, Marchwood Military Port (fairground; static displays including steam train, small marine craft).
- 34 Vintage Vehicle Show, Goodwood (22-23 July) (RA motorcyclists).
- 35 New Forest Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 36 Stranraer Cattle Show (White Helmets).
- 37 St Helens Tattoo (27-29 July) (three bands; Red Caps; Red Devils; Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; Royal Armoured Corps hot-air balloon).
- 38 Manchester Show (27-29 July) (band; corps of drums; Red Devils; White Helmets).
- 39 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps, Bovington Camp.

How observant are you?

(see page 21)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Officer's epaulette. 2 Top edge of officer's boot. 3 Horse's right forehoof. 4 Lower point of Indian's headdress. 5 Top rung of ladder. 6 Thickness of sculptor's mallet. 7 Spout of teapot. 8 Length of nearest table-leg. 9 Top line of window. 10 Chipped stone at right foreground.

Reunions

AAC OBA. All ex-Arborfield and Carlisle apprentices and past members of staff. Penultimate reunion in the college will take place 14-15 October. Write to Hon Sec, OBA, Army Apprentices College, Arborfield, Reading, RG2 9NJ, for details.

Airborne REME Association. Annual reunion, Friday evening 7 July, 3 Field Workshop Club, Bordon (opposite fire station). Accommodation available and hopefully transport to Aldershot on morning of Saturday 8 July for Airborne Forces Day. For details contact S/Sgt E Wroe, A Coy, Trg Bn and Depot REME, Rowcroft Barracks, Arborfield (phone Arborfield Military (760421) ext 293). For infor-

mation on statuettes, colour prints, ties and hopefully sweatshirt, contact Capt A Jones, 9 Fd Wksp, Bordon (phone Bordon Military ext 443).

The Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades Association. Reunion and cathedral service, Exeter, Saturday 8 July. Form up in Bury Meadow 4.30 pm. Dinner 7 pm in St Georges Hall. Tickets (£1.50 per head in

advance) from RHQ The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, Devon.

Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon and Pack Artillery Associations. Reunion, Eastbourne, 2 September. Details from 835933 D A Knight, 79 Tyrell Avenue, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BT.

Collectors' Corner

D Grice, 108 Thirlmere Road, Liverpool, L5 6PR. — *Seeks all Para wings, patches and insignia, also cap badges and medals.*

G M Lose, 154 Shooters Hill Road, London SE3. — *Has Japanese officer's grey mess jacket complete with epaulette insignia and buttons; will exchange for British badges.*

S R Jackson, 7 Lakeside Gardens, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire. — *Collects WW2 divisional and regimental histories, including German language books. Also seeks other books on WW2, especially Russo-German War. Sae for books for sale.*

M F Scott, 13 Crawley Avenue, Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, NE31 2LU. — *Seeks officers' embroidered cap badges from Army Department Fleet, Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, Cus-*

toms, RNLI, harbour authorities and tug operators.

Charles Taylor, 33 Churchill Crescent, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 8EL. — *Starting collection British militaria and would appreciate any assistance in acquiring cap badges.*

R S Batten, 199 Chiswick Village, London, W4 3DG. — *Seeks collar badges all types, all British Army units 1908-45; also pre-1914 Canadian Militia and CEF 'collars,' STs/numerals and buttons. Scarcer British badges 1914-45 (excluding cavalry and yeomanry), many 'collars' and some STs for exchange, or will buy.*

Ian Balestrino, 7/2 Church Lane, Gibraltar. — *Seeks Staybrite Household Cavalry cap badge and Staybrite Grenadier Guards NCO/musician cap badge. Willing to buy.*

AUGUST 1978

- 1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August) (White Helmets).
- 2 Redcar Carnival (RGJ freefall).
- 3 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
- 4 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (band; Flying Bugles).
- 5 Southsea Show (4-6 August) (band).
- 6 Bromley Family Day, Norman Park (RGJ freefall).
- 7 Keith Show (7-8 August) (White Helmets).
- 8 Cheltenham Tattoo (9-13 August).
- 9 Bingley Centenary Celebrations (White Helmets).
- 10 Bournemouth Fiesta (10-12 August) (White Helmets).
- 11 Stoke-on-Trent Carnival (11-12 August) (band; corps of drums; Flying Bugles).
- 12 Shrewsbury Show (11-12 August) (two bands).
- 13 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-9 September).
- 14 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
- 15 Gloucester Carnival (RA motorcyclists).
- 16 Lincolnshire Steam Spectacular, Lincoln (19-20 August) (RA motorcyclists).
- 17 Skegness Carnival Week (19-25 August) (band; Pegasus; static displays).
- 18 Doncaster Horse Show (19-20 August) (Red Caps).
- 19 British Timken Show, Northampton (25-26 August) (Guards freefall; static displays).
- 20 Expo Steam, Peterborough (26-28 August) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists).
- 21 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (26-28 August) (Flying Bugles).
- 22 Preston Tattoo (26-28 August) (three bands; corps of drums; two pipe bands; Red Devils; Pegasus; Red Caps; RAC hot-air balloon; White Helmets).
- 23 Quexpo '78, Birchington, Kent (27-28 August) (band; RGJ freefall).
- 24 Leicester City Show (28-29 August) (Guards freefall).
- 25 Walsall Show (28-29 August) (White Helmets 29 August; Pegasus 29 August).
- 26 Erith Show (RGJ freefall).

SEPTEMBER 1978

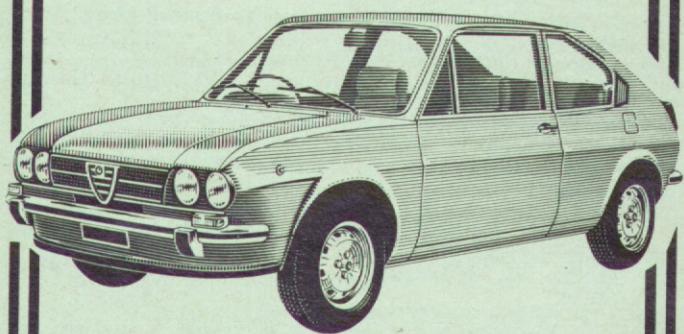
- 1 Birmingham Show (1-3 September) (band; RA motorcyclists; Pegasus).
- 2 Hinckley Steam Engine Rally (2-3 September) (White Helmets).
- 3 Guildford Town Show (2-3 September) (band; Red Caps 3 September).
- 4 Cosgrove Park Carnival (2-3 September) (band).
- 5 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (Red Caps).
- 6 South Midland Tattoo, Banbury.
- 7 Freedom of Nottingham, 17th/21st Lancers.
- 8 Romsey Agricultural and Horse Show (Red Caps).
- 9 Theale Horticultural Show, Reading (RA motorcyclists).
- 10 Epping Forest Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 11 Welwyn Garden City Water Show (RGJ freefall).
- 12 Thame Show (band).
- 13 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Ayr, and march past.
- 14 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow.

OCTOBER 1978

- 14 Queen's Own Highlanders bicentenary parade, Elgin.

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COMPETITION 239

HERE IS another numerical crossword to keep competition enthusiasts quiet for half an hour or half a day. First stage is to fit the numbers listed below into the left-hand grid — you have one number given as a starter.

Stage two is to convert the "cross-figure" into a crossword by substitution of ten different letters for the ten different figures, entering the letters on the right-hand grid. Finally read off the ringed letters, from top to bottom and from left to right, to produce two words with military associations. The letters making up these words are in each case in separate lines of the crossword.

Send your answer — just the two words — on a postcard or by letter, with the 'Competition 239' label from this page and your name and address, to:

Editor (Comp 239)

SOLDIER

Ordnance Road

ALDERSHOT

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This competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 14 August. The answer and winners' names will appear in the October **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 239' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

PRIZES

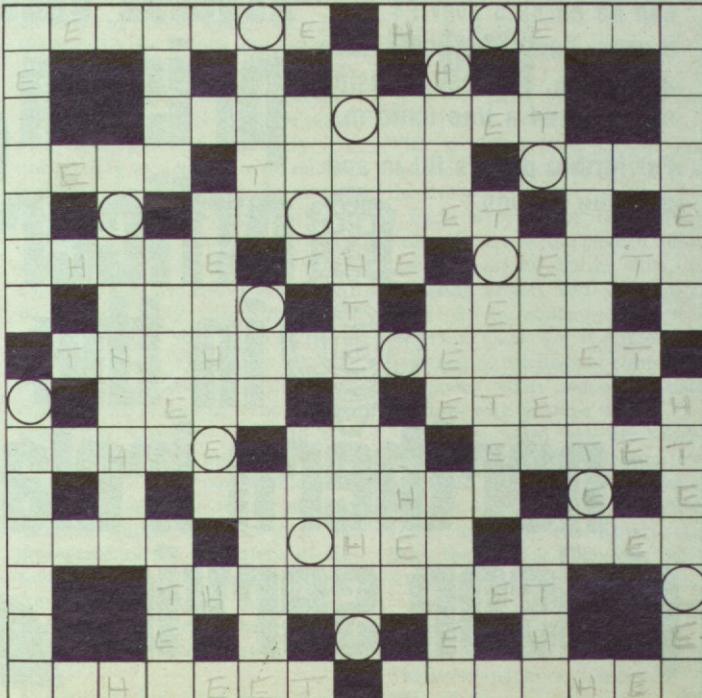
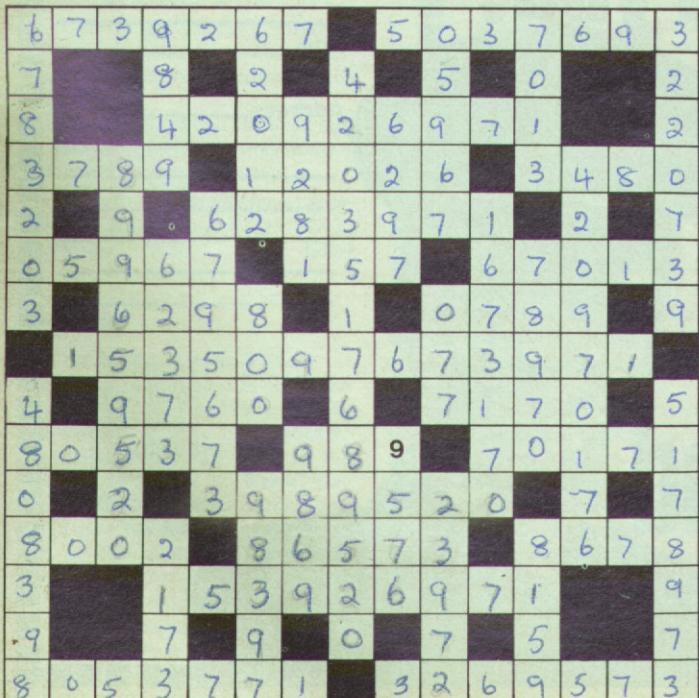
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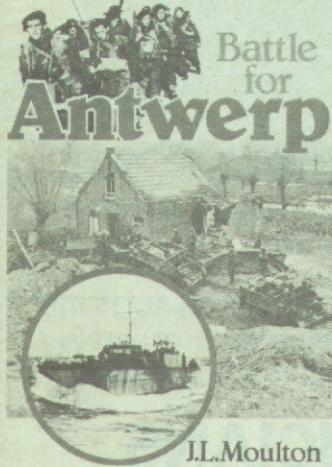
BOOKS

Pointed pistol

'Battle for Antwerp' (J L Moulton)

The 'pistol pointed at the heart of England' through the ages, Antwerp was outside the range of fighter aircraft based in Britain and therefore not a feasible point for allied landings in Europe. However, once the Germans were retreating, after the allied breakout from Normandy, then Antwerp could have been 'a pistol pointed at the heart of Germany.'

This vast port was recovered early and intact, but the Scheldt estuary and its environs were still held by the Germans. What could and should have been the most direct logistic route was not being used while the allied armies were strained by the long haul from Normandy.



J.L. Moulton

This book reviews the Battle for Antwerp that belatedly took place, including the work of the Belgian resistance movement and the assaults on Walcheren Island by the 52nd (Lowland) Division and the 4th Commando Brigade. Alanbrooke was later to query Monty's strategy, believing he should have made certain of Antwerp before advancing on Arnhem.

It became in the end the main task of Second British Army as well as that of First Canadian Army.

Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £5.95

GRH

Psywar

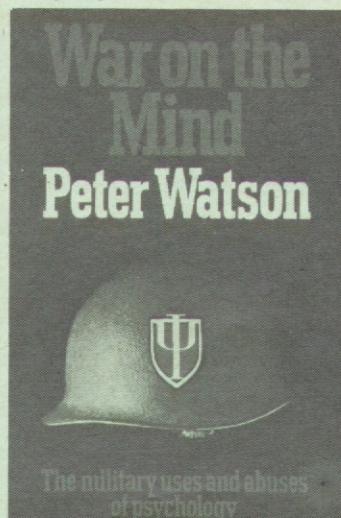
'War on the Mind' (Peter Watson)

Psychology in warfare is as old as the primitive warrior who beat his shield and shouted to scare his opponent. His methods were still in use by the Japanese in Burma in World War Two, when they rattled bamboo and yelled into the jungle night. Today that psychological tactic has been up-dated by the use of helicopters and loudspeakers, or delayed-action tape records dropped into the woods.

The change is a result of the growth of a whole new industry, particularly in the past 15 years. Mr

Watson found 146 separate institutes (130 of them in America) working on the use of psychology in warfare, and 7500 separate studies. His digest of those studies, and commentary, make a fascinating book with much of value to soldiers on most levels and of most arms.

Subjects studied range from the obvious interrogation and brain-washing and how to resist them, to the psychology of underground insurgency cells, the psychological effects of weapons, the different needs of leadership in combat and garrison, and the notion that leadership might differ from command.



Among what the author calls 'colourful capers' are experiments in improving shooting effectiveness by reducing the number of rounds issued to the 'wild shooters' in a squad; the catastrophic effects of giving every infantry soldier a walkie-talkie; training pigeons to guide missiles and locate enemy forces; and adding nasty smells to bombs.

Hutchinson, 3 Fitzroy Square, London, W1P 6JD, £9.95

RLE

Great occasions

'Coronation and Royal Commemorative Medals 1887-1977' (Lieut-Colonel Howard N Cole)

From Queen Victoria's Jubilee Medal of 1887 to Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee Medal, this informative booklet deals exclusively with awards conferred by the sovereign to commemorate great occasions like durbars, royal visits to Scotland and Ireland and, of course, coronations and jubilees.

The first Coronation Medal, struck in 1547 to commemorate the crowning of Edward VI, shows the young monarch clad in armour. From the time of James I, coronation medals were given to people attending the coronation service but this practice was discontinued by Edward VII to avoid the 'undignified scramble' for these mementoes.

The medals dealt with in considerable detail here are confined to six reigns from 1887 to 1977 and include the unusual diamond-shaped medal struck for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee for presentation to lord mayors, mayors and provosts.

Coronation and commemorative medals of other nations are informatively dealt with in an appendix.

J B Hayward & Son, 17 Piccadilly Arcade, London, SW1Y 6NL, £3.00

Fourteenth Army

'Tank Tracks to Rangoon' (Bryan Perrett)

The almost legendary campaign in Burma of the 'Forgotten' Fourteenth Army is brought to life in this story of the tanks, which were so very nearly not allowed to take part. Experts said they could not be used in such difficult terrain; only the faith and persistence of two officers found them a place in the campaign.

Once there, they excelled as flanking cavalry, forward trouble spotters and working partners with the infantry. The combined tactics and inter-reliance of the two arms became almost automatic.

The terrain was tough, varying between marshy land and steep mountainous climbs. The Japanese enemy was tough, too, and imbued with a national age-long code of honour with death the only alternative to failure. The 3500 Japanese garrisoning Meiktila 'died to a man' rather than surrender. When the campaign was going badly, the Japanese General Sato ordered his men to 'fight to the death with their bodies and to continue the fight afterwards with their spirits.' It inspired them to resist for another 14 days, in spite of starvation and disease, before they broke.

There are many dramatic accounts of actions and much personal on-the-spot narrative that makes this story of the tankmen of Fourteenth Army a volume to be treasured.

Robert Hale Ltd, 45-47 Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £6.50

GRH

Intelligence

'The Hidden War' (R A Haldane)

Mr Haldane, a World War Two intelligence officer, ranges the field of intelligence in that war. He gives special attention to codes, ciphers and signals services, including a layman's guide to ciphers, but also looks at some of the highly successful agents' operations. He brings together the essence of many published sources, assesses their reliability and gives a useful bibliography.

He is scathing about the lack of security on both sides, but particularly in the British Foreign Service before and during the war. He also accuses Supreme Headquarters Allied Forces Europe of recklessness and disregarding security by enciphering as many as nine million words in a single day — the more a cipher is used the less secure it is.

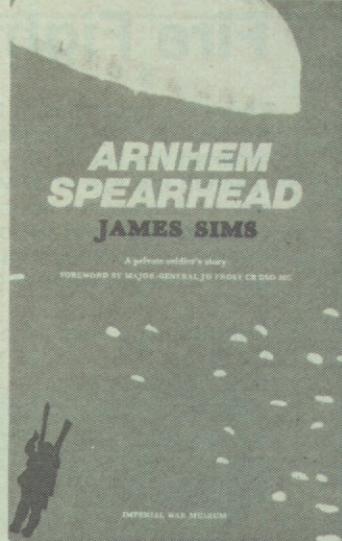
The success of Ultra, the breaking of the German Enigma codes, which Churchill said was decisive, imposed its own security problems. Who should be told how much of what Ultra produced? The danger was that the Germans might learn that their ciphers were being read if action was taken too obviously on Ultra material, or if Ultra information was passed on in allied codes which the Germans might, in turn, read. In fact, the author concedes that the arrangements for the safety of the secrets of Ultra, and equally of the American cracking of the Japanese Purple cipher, 'seem to have worked out as nearly perfectly as one could wish.'

Robert Hale Ltd, Clerkenwell House,

Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0HT, £4.50

RLE

Young eyevi



'Arnhem Spearhead: A Private Soldier's Story' (James Sims)

Mr Sims was 19 when he dropped at Arnhem with 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, which was to hold out at the northern end of the Rhine bridge until the 200 exhausted survivors were overwhelmed.

As an under-age member of the mortar platoon, he was something of an odd-job man. His hairsbreadth escapes were many but, towards the end, he was wounded in the leg and in the famous cellar hospital when captured. His wound partly healed, he was one of the prisoners employed by the Germans to clear up the railways after allied bombings. His group was being marched towards Berlin when it was caught up by the advancing allies.

This, the fourth in the Imperial War Museum's series of personal reminiscences of the two world wars, is a very readable private's eyevi of the Arnhem battle. It adds to the long list of incidents which illustrate the high quality of the paras' comradeship and morale.

Seeley, Service & Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £3.75

RLE

IN BRIEF

'A World Atlas of Military History 1860-1945' (Arthur Banks)

This second volume in this series includes the American Civil War and the two world wars.

Each map — and there are 160 pages of them — is a page of military history marking battle sites, participating armies and strategic features. An introductory map of the American Civil War is reinforced by explanatory briefings of strategy and manpower while individual battles are dealt with in some detail.

The two world wars are similarly handled with charts covering every sector on land, sea and in the air. Another section covers the inter-war years, including the Russian Civil War, the Chinese upheavals and the Axis 'training ground' in Spain.

An exceptionally good index completes this handy reference.

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JFPJ

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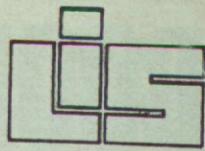
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