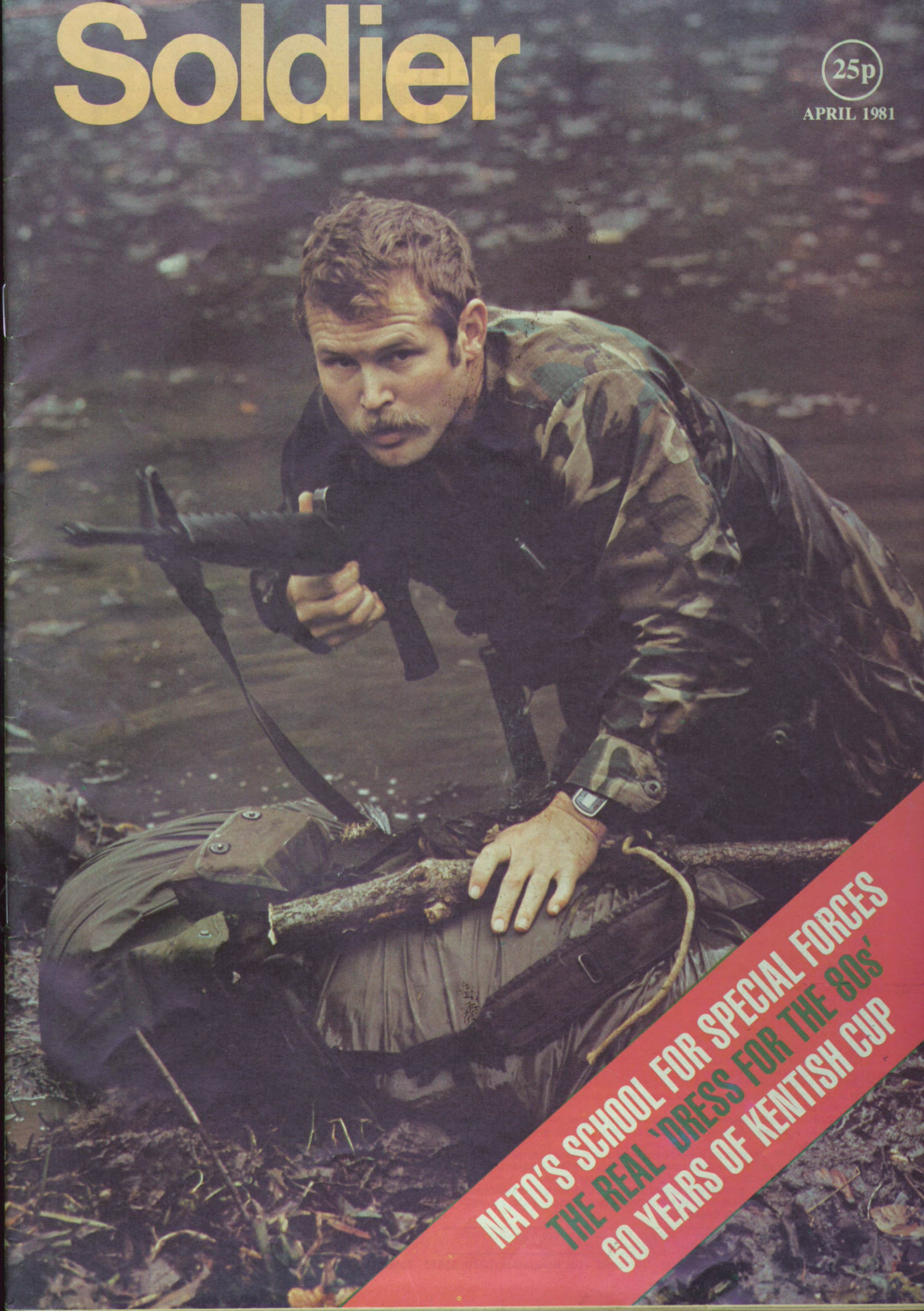


Soldier

25p

APRIL 1981



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FRONT COVER

Still on the alert after swimming the icy Danube with full kit — a 'student' at Nato's International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School in southern Germany. A feature on the school begins on page 4.
Picture by Les Wiggs



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BACK COVER

S/Sgt Dave Smith, APTC, tips a fierce drive over the bar in the 0-0 draw between Combined Services and Southampton. The match was a warm-up for the Kentish Cup, the tri-nation Forces football tournament now celebrating its 60th birthday. Full story — page 30.
Picture by Doug Pratt



25 How Rhine Army dentists are winning the war against tooth decay.

14 What the well-dressed soldier will be wearing in the Eighties.



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Following our recent articles on training for airborne and commando forces, Graham Smith visits a unique establishment in southern Germany where soldiers from Nato's Special Forces learn a variety of secret, specialist skills...



Above: A Royal Marine abseils in training.

SCHOOL FOR SURVIVORS

THE SOUL-STIRRING DANUBE flowing sedately on its way to the Balkans through southern Germany's pastoral scenes offset by monasteries and ruined castles, is more of an olive drab shade and not really blue at all despite the title of Strauss's famous waltz. A colour-blind stretch of musical imagination, indeed, all 1690 miles of it!

One little disputed modern-day fact, however, that does emerge from Germany's historic Upper Swabia region, is that it contains what is probably one of the West's top military schools of its type — set up there four years ago at the behest of Nato's Euro-Group.

It is the International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (ILRRP) School which provides a highly specialised syllabus as the Alliance's only joint tactical training establishment of that ilk.

The school is sited 125 miles south-east of Stuttgart at Weingarten, near Ravensburg, in the imposing Welfen Barracks where, in 1913, the 'Desert Fox', General Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, did his junior officer training with Number 124 Wurttemberg Infantry Regiment.

Training the school's annual turnover of 800 students enrolled from within Nato, including a handful of women, is carried out in some of the most captivating of Sound-of-Music-style scenery. But here the hills are often alive with the sound of small-arms fire.

The concept of the school began round a table in 1975 within the Euro-Group. In January 1977, a planning staff was assembled in southern Germany comprising British, German, Belgium and Holland with the aim of setting up this unique project.

Its director was Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Walter, 53, a man with experience in both the Paras and SAS, and in December 1978 the ILRRP School project was permanently established at Neuhausen ob Eck.

Then, a year later, the school and its tutors in tactical fieldcraft — all peerless artists of military expertise drawn from Nato Special Forces — moved to Weingarten, a town with a magnificent 11th century dome-crowned basilica and some 50 miles to the east.

The infrastructure and running costs are shared currently by the UK, Germany and Belgium for whom courses are free. Other nations pay for military tuition at an appropriate rate depending on whether they provide instructors for the school's International Wing. Holland, one of the original signatories, sends the occasional instructor and may play a fuller part at a later date.

Since the school's formation an estimated 1800 students in total have passed through its portals to emerge fully certificated from any of the 25 courses — of 11 different types — that are held each year. (In the first year's pilot course there were only 100 students.)

Half of the present-day students are British, most of whom attend UK national courses at the school before returning to their units to pass on their gilt-edged knowledge at first hand to their colleagues.

The school's courses are run in parallel within the various training divisions of the International Training Wing. These divisions are currently commanded by German, Belgian and British officers. Administrative support and manpower is supplied by the host nation, Germany.

Weingarten's courses can be as short as

five days or as long as six weeks. 'Trade secrets' are closely-guarded by the security-conscious but otherwise affable instructing staff.

The UK element has a resident 12-strong staff, each of whom must be qualified to at least the Army's minimum standard in colloquial German.

In all, the International Wing of the School has a staff of 20 specialist tutors, including — in addition to the 'Brits' — Greeks, Americans, Belgians, Germans and an Italian. It is expected that Denmark, Holland and Norway will shortly be providing instructors for the Wing. The school at Weingarten also houses the German national wing, the Operations Research Wing and the school HQ.

All the training methods, tailored to a potential central European defence posture, are modelled on those of the SAS. These are not intended for public disclosure but, suffice to note, they are being constantly updated.

Ten of Nato's member nations readily subscribe students to the much-favoured series of tough courses, Portugal being the other country to participate in addition to those already mentioned.

Lieutenant-Colonel Walter, CO of the International Wing and, in terms of his courses, author of its best-seller-to-subscriber success story, says: "One of the aims of the school which is repeatedly achieved is a centralised specialist training which gives not only important facilities but overall savings in costs."

"The Ops Research Wing is continually evaluating the various techniques, methods and equipments of our Nato colleagues with

the aim of standardisation and improving course content."

And still the school is adding to its intake of eager students as well as its instructional capability. This year, for instance, Canada and France are expected to send groups of students/observers to the Upper Swabian setting.

Some of the training is done over 60 miles away on a training area administered by the French — 60,000 acres of claggy clay and open heathland tracts cloaked with forests.

But the school also has its own dedicated training area not far from the picture postcard shores of Lake Constance.

The exacting daily syllabus starts at Weingarten with half-an-hour's PT which, traditionally, starts right on the dot — at 0555 hours.

"Sounds much better than 0600," said Lt-Col Walter, his eyes twinkling in a mischievous grin.

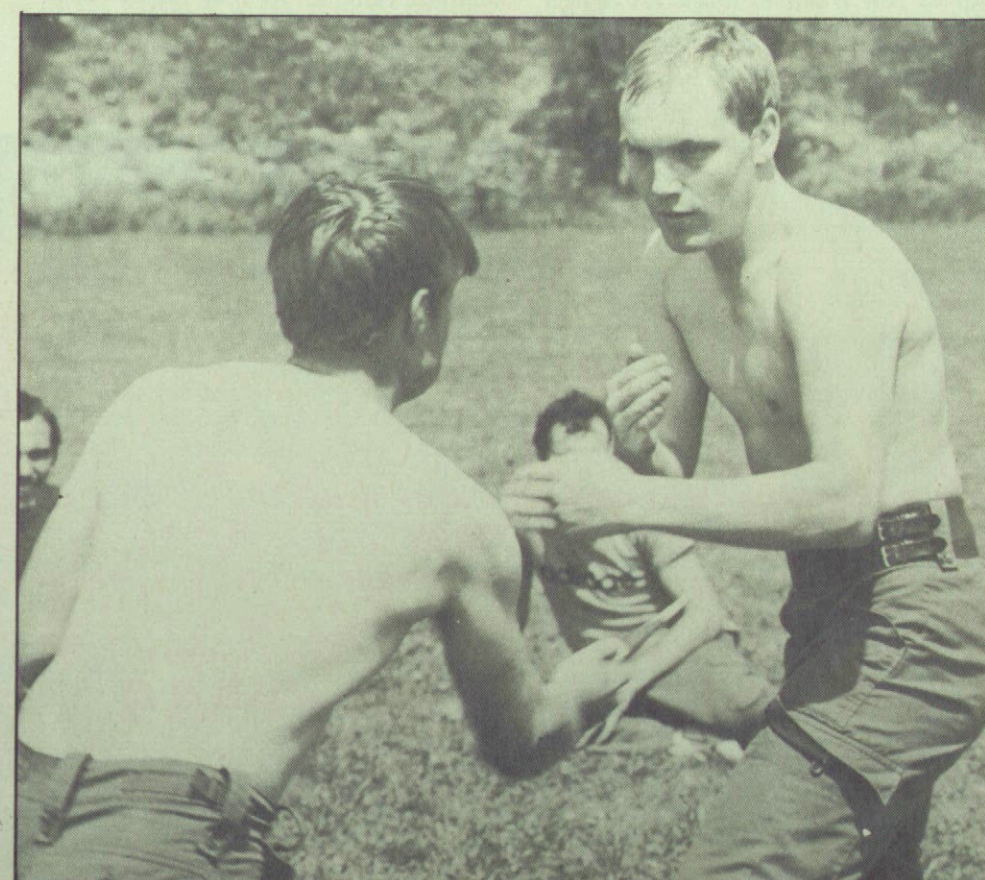
The curriculum includes close-quarter battle techniques (CBQ); modern parachuting trends, winching and abseiling from 100-foot-long strops trailing from helicopters; the study of Warsaw Pact equipment including the firing of AK-47s and other small-arms; overcoming natural obstacles like sheer-faced mountains, wide rivers and deep lakes.

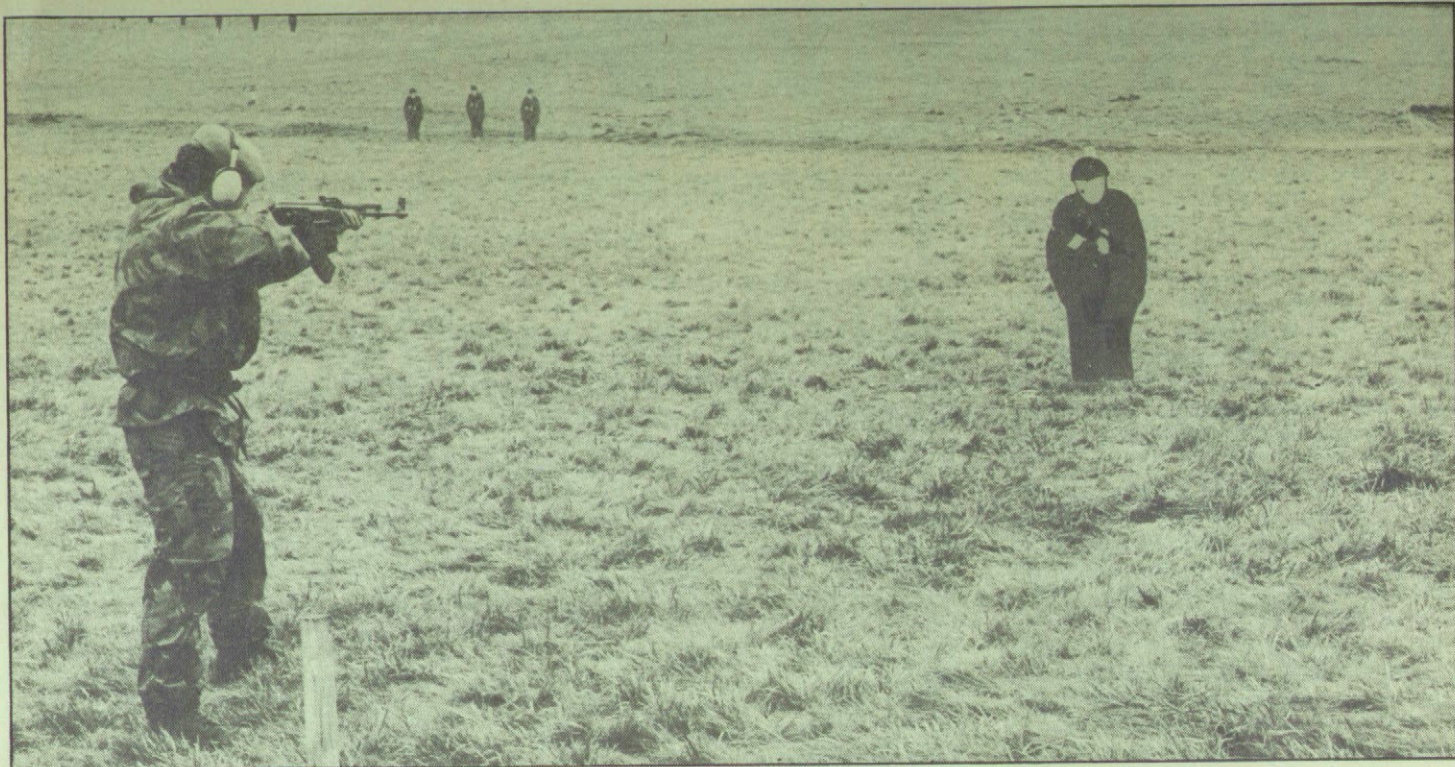
Escape and evasion modes are taught and rigorously applied. How to live off the bounteous agricultural land is also instilled from the outset on the patrol-tactical courses.

Walls... wires... fencing and outer buildings are just some of the other man-made urban impediments to conquer at the

continued on page 6

Below: Unarmed combat watched by students.





Above: A man . . . a rifle . . . and life-sized target.

school where tactical river crossings, by day and night, are part of the intensive daily digest of penetration and evasion skills.

Olive green ponchos, often helpfully inflated by breath from sturdy lungs — an American technique — and bolstered by polythene waste disposal sacks as a water-proofing aid, regularly bob across 60-yard-wide stretches of the languid Danube, Europe's second longest river.

While all the necessary safety regulations are observed, scant allowance or overt sympathy is given to 'funking' by students training in the 40-foot-deep river whose surface in winter — at the time of the SOLDIER visit — bore slivers of fragile ice as men swam across towing or pushing their packs of self-survival.

The ideal, they say, is the breast-stroked, Below: Fishnet method used for river bundles.

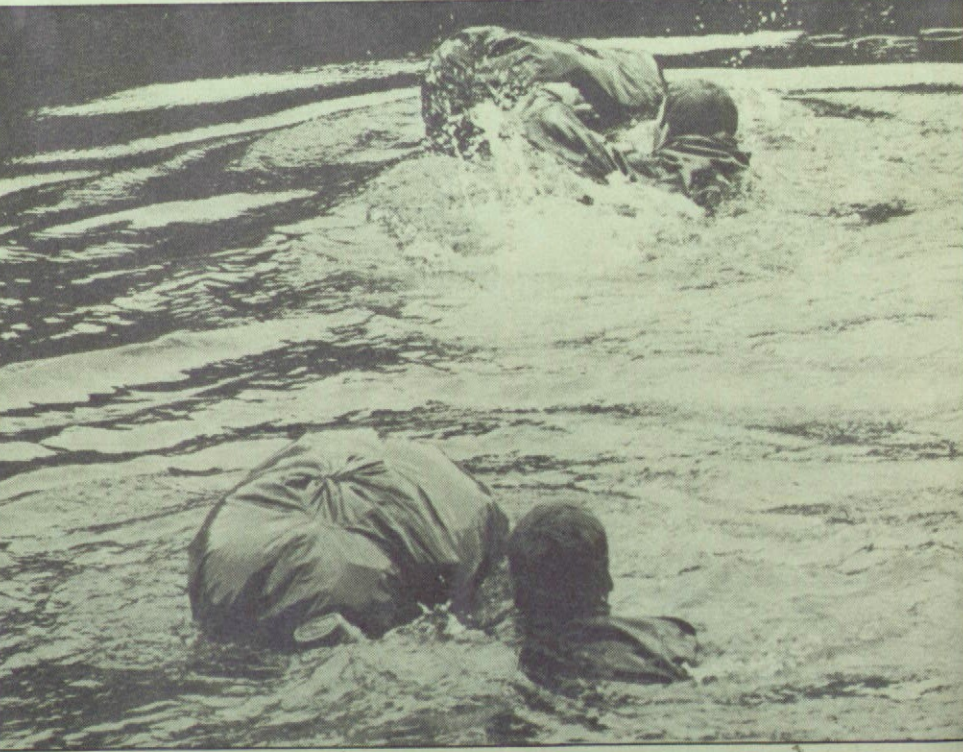


no noise, low visibility crossing with the head — it radiates 40 per cent of body heat — kept aloft and dry.

"No sucking ice on the way over!" bawled an instructor as combat-clad bodies 'baptised' themselves in the sub-zero water.

High morale at the school is 100 per cent. So too is its accident-free record on activities such as the IA (Immediate Action) drills. On these, men pass through each other firing live ammunition — a variation of the old jungle lanes theme — at pop-up targets set among towering beech trees and thick undergrowth during a head-on contact with the 'enemy'.

A silent approach in such a forest by a four-man patrol not knowing exactly when, where and how something thoroughly unpleasant will suddenly stir, is an epiglottis-tightening experience for any soldier.

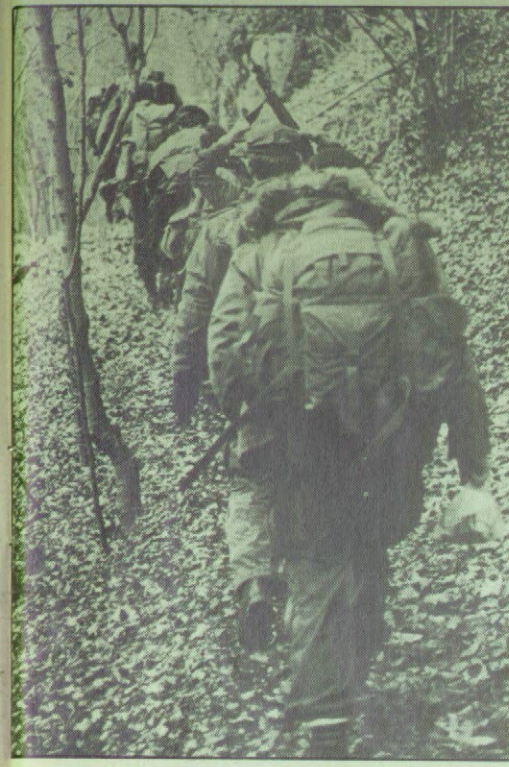


Commented Lt-Col Walter: "The more strain a man is put under, the faster his adrenalin is working and the more alert and quicker his reactions. We have a faultless accident record here and this must continue and will do so because of the high standards of professionalism of the instruction given by my men, who have a great deal of practical experience."

The Americans have drawn on their particular experiences in Vietnam . . . the Germans at Mogadishu . . . the Belgians on their African excursions . . . the Greeks from events in Cyprus and, of course, the British from their exploits in post-war campaigns in Kenya, Borneo, Malaya, Oman and, latterly, Northern Ireland.

Lt-Col Walter's team of instructors are drawn from various Nato Special Forces who, in the not-too-distant past, may have

Below: Bobbing across the Danube current.



Above: Single file climb to the abseil crags.

been members of anti-terrorist cells advising civil authorities on remedial action involving outrages in European cities.

Not surprisingly, the different ways the students approach their job often reflects their 'national' characteristics — there are the easy-going Americans, the studious Germans and Scandinavians, the lively Belgians and the quietly confident British. But the school's common denominator, say the instructors in unison, is one of 'simplicity coupled with control' in any situation.

Sergeant First Class Dave Pils, 30, a member of the 10th Special Forces Group based in Europe and a one-time marathon runner, said: "The States has nothing comparable. The expertise of the instructors here is something we just don't have. We are not that good . . . yet."

Below: Unfastening pack after river crossing.



Above: Preparing an animal trap in the forest.

He added: "Your SAS, Para and Royal Marine elements have a war-time attitude. Our Army is converted to peace-time with many people thinking about past wars and not the possibility of another."

The ILLRP School takes itself very seriously and is obviously proud of the role it plays within Nato.

Lt-Col Walter summed it up thus: "As we are a multi-national staff we are not constrained by national petty jealousies, platitudes or even half-truths. What we are concerned with is the end product of raising the standards of students on all our courses for which there is a long waiting list."

"Such a multi-national team of instructors as mine has a common loyalty and responsibility to the Nato alliance as a whole, dedicated to the vital task of improving the modus operandi of the ILLRP. Furthermore, we emphatically believe that, based on our experiences of the past few years, our aims are being achieved."

One of the 'true Brit' traditions at the school is the Battle Fitness Test (BFT) which everyone must complete in the time required for men under the age of 25.

Below: Nature in the raw — ready for the pot.



Among courses which are open to non-Special Forces from the British Army are the school's Warsaw Pact recognition and intelligence courses, various in nature, which last from one to three weeks.

BAOR is also actively encouraged to send students to the school's Battlefield Survival courses.

These courses attract 55 candidates each and sometimes include members of our Women's Forces. Students arrive at 0600 on Day One, listen to an opening address at 0630 and then work non-stop for 14 days ending with a climb over Germany's highest mountain, the 9784-foot Zugspitze, digging into snow survival holes and completing a parachute jump.

The SAS skills taught on these courses have a direct application on the BAOR battlefield although Lt-Col Walter agrees that the parachute jump's link with battlefield survival is tenuous. All the same, he maintains: "These activities are very good for increasing the students' self-confidence, an essential ingredient in a survival, evasion and escape situation."

And at this exclusive 'finishing' school with a hard-baked difference, survival is certainly the name of their particular game. ●

Army divers in Belize have been tackling a unique

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE OF THE DEEP



QUESTION: Does the living organism of hermatypic gorgonian coral lying deep in the Caribbean along the world's second largest barrier reef fastidiously feed on plankton by night or, conversely, do its growing polyps nourish themselves by a daily photosynthesis process?

Reading University, in particular, is extremely keen to know the answer and the Army has been helping it with its intriguing researches by diving for up to 15 hours a day off a sub-tropical coral atoll island, formerly frequented by bold buccaneers, called Half Moon Caye (pronounced 'key'), some 70 miles from the Belize mainland.

The exact answers, apparently, are still being deliberated on by the varsity's specialists, and more information is needed.

A small joint Services' diving expedition led by Major Peter Ormerod of HQ United Kingdom Land Forces, who is chairman of the Army Sub Aqua Diving Association, has just returned from the coral-encrusted area where they continued the unique university challenge undertaken by a dozen-strong Army team six months ago.

Major Peter Townsend, OC London District Provost Company, Royal Military Police, led an expedition there last autumn — Exercise Redcap Diver 1980 — which had several aims in addition to its main objective of giving experience in tropical water diving. These included the coral project, the making of a film for adventure training use and an abortive meticulous grid search for land snails on behalf of Liverpool University!

Among the team's number — including four women — were two diving supervisors, a quartermaster, zoological survey co-ordinator, treasurer, cameraman and even a

Top: Half Moon Caye — a paradise for divers.

Left: RSM 'Jim' Griffiths and underwater victim.



diarist. All but two of the expedition members were Redcaps.

One of the diving supervisors was WO 1 'Jim' Griffiths, RSM at the Royal Military Police Training Depot, Chichester, who was making his fifth visit to the offshore atolls of Britain's last colony in Central America.

"I've dived in a lot of places and I reckon Belize is one of the finest diving areas in the world. It is so uncommercialised," said the 40-year-old RSM who has delved the waters of the Mediterranean, the Baltic, most of the German lakes and even the Red Sea.

Each of the three daily dives by the team members averaged 35 minutes and, in the course of a day, expedition members, some of whom had set out as virtual sub-aquatic novices, were putting in 15 hours underwater on behalf of the Berkshire university which later received five handsome coral specimens.

Director of the inspection of gorgonian coral activity was Captain Angela Moore, the team's zoological survey co-ordinator.

Ultimately, each of the divers logged up 40 descents of up to 147 feet in depth, including night diving. The water visibility was excellent with the temperature like a warm bath.

Down in the depths of Davy Jones' legendary locker, danger lurked for the Army explorers. Dangers like a 12-foot-long Hammerhead shark or sleek barracudas.

Nosey barracudas, RSM Griffiths recalls, swam along with the divers, bearing their fearsome teeth. "The barracudas sometimes looked over a diver's shoulder to see what exactly was going on," he said.

As for the sharks, RSM Griffiths said: "All the gruesome stories one had ever heard flashed through the mind every time the familiar triangular shapes appeared. Even without the stories, there was still a menace in the sharks' demeanour. The



Above: Water at 78°F made wet suits superfluous. **Right:** Coral clusters were rich study material. small, unblinking, amber eyes and the powerful effortless efficiency with which they glided through the water were enough to send shivers up one's spine, however many times one met them."

'Wet suits' were found to be unnecessary and even cumbersome but night diving activities called for long sleeved shirts and trousers as protection against stinging coral as the team slipped below the surface from their hired converted tug or rubber inflatables.

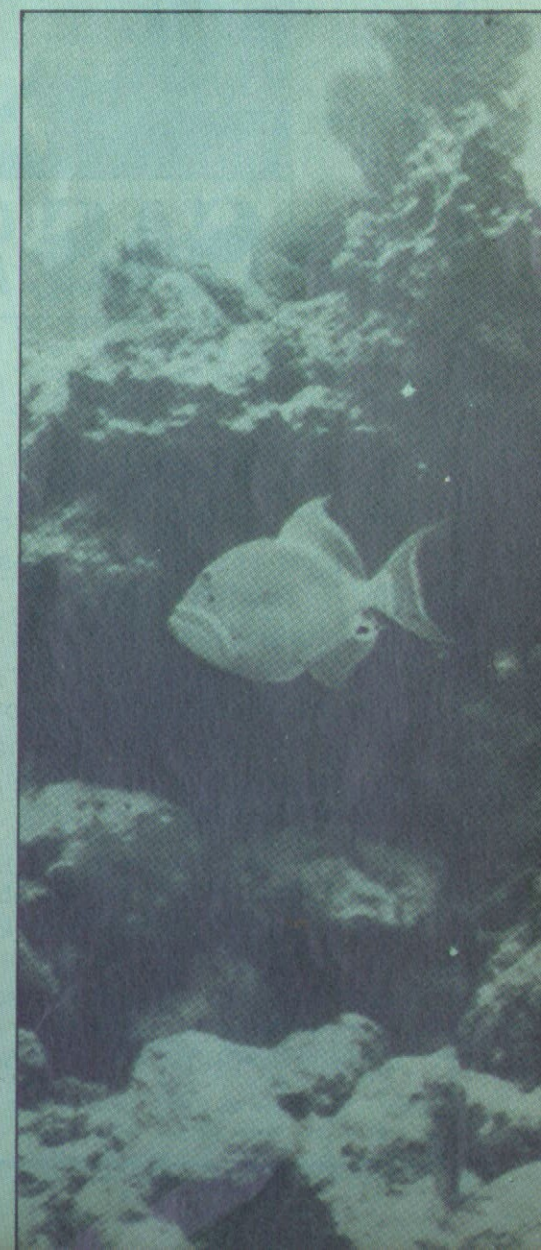
As an added precaution, one member of any diving group had to carry a shark 'bang stick' — a four-foot-long pole device housing a .303 round.

Predominantly jungle ringed by white sands, Half Moon Caye is populated only by the lighthouse keeper and his family — plus giant iguanas, hermit crabs and a colony of rare red-footed booby birds.

Some of the team lost half a stone in weight during their three-week stay. But WO 2 Derek Foster, the expedition's quartermaster, had a more serious loss — his dentures in the shallows near the pier! He is reported to have 'spent hours floating motionless on the surface with a snorkel clenched between his gums.' The luckless QM, however, was later reunited with his bottom set.

The sub-aqua search for marine biology 'treasure' over and sipping Pina Coladas on another sun-kissed island nearer the mainland, the tourist paradise of San Pedro, RSM Griffiths was satisfied that the team had completed its mission to the best of its ability, namely, to 'complete a survey on the diurnal activity of hermatypic gorgonian (coral)'.

"It was a tremendous expedition," he said. ●





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SOLDIER to Soldier

YOUR NEW MAGAZINE

WITH this issue we announce one of the most important and far-reaching changes in the history of SOLDIER. For, following the publication of our September issue, SOLDIER will appear fortnightly instead of monthly. At the same time, SOLDIER NEWS will cease publication and its news, sport and family pages will be incorporated in the new fortnightly magazine.

The changes mean that history will be repeating itself. For when SOLDIER was first launched back in February 1945 it was a fortnightly news magazine. But although the move brings a reminder of past traditions, in no way do we regard it as a backward step. On the contrary, we are convinced it will be a welcome advance for both SOLDIER and SOLDIER NEWS readers.

Why the changes? Quite simply because, in the current economic climate with spiralling production and distribution costs, it is no longer financially viable for us to produce two separate publications with overlapping readership. The enthusiasm with which the newspaper has been received has confirmed that there is a strong demand among soldiers and their families for a regular up-to-date flow of information on the whole range of the Army's activities. Equally, the continued affection and loyalty which readers have retained for the magazine — now in its 36th year of unbroken publication — has proved that there is still a substantial market for the varied feature coverage on which we have always prided ourselves.

Now, by gearing all our editorial and photographic resources to one publication instead of two, we have no doubt that our readers are going to get a brighter, more informative and more entertaining magazine than ever before. And they are going to get it every fortnight — so it will be every bit as topical as the current SOLDIER NEWS.

The changes are also going to enable us to streamline our accounting and distribution systems. So we shall be cutting overheads. And you will be getting a better service.

As this issue goes to press we are busy sorting out a new printing contract so we cannot yet announce the cover price of the new fortnightly SOLDIER. Nor, at the moment, can we give firm details of transitional arrangements for subscribers. For the time being however, we shall continue to accept subscriptions for both SOLDIER and SOLDIER NEWS for a full calendar year. This will in no way commit subscribers to taking the new fortnightly publication but, should they opt to do so, it will give them the opportunity to receive it at a preferential rate.

Over the next few months we shall keep you fully posted on the change-over. Meanwhile, if you have any thoughts about how the new SOLDIER should look or what it should contain, let us know. It will be your magazine. Help us make it the best.

ONE popular SOLDIER NEWS feature that we aim to develop still further in our new magazine will be Anne Armstrong's family page, that lively amalgam of investigation and information that does so much to help Army wives — and their husbands — fully understand their rights and responsibilities and which is quick to highlight any anomalies in official regulations.

Our crusading columnist, whose excursions in the corridors of Whitehall power have trodden on quite a few bureaucratic corns, follows a simple maxim in her fact-finding missions: if you get no joy at the bottom of the ladder — go straight to the top.

It's an approach that has enabled Anne to notch up a remarkable VIP treble in recent months. At Christmas she secured an exclusive interview with the Prime Minister for SOLDIER NEWS and BFBS radio on the question of pay and other related topics. A month later she interviewed Lord Snowdon for

SOLDIER NEWS about his Presidency of the International Year of Disabled People. And then, in February, she teamed up with Tommy Vance on the *BFBS-UK* radio show to quiz Prince Charles about his work with young people and the royal jubilee trusts.

For the indefatigable Anne 'scoops' like these are just a bit of appetising jam to sweeten her daily bread-and-butter role of sorting out readers' and listeners' problems. It's a job in which she spares neither herself nor the Powers-that-Be in her quest for answers and advice — and one that wins her plenty of fans to judge from her bulging post-bag.

BUYING insurance may be one of the best investments you ever make, but it can be full of pitfalls for the unwary. Some smooth-talking salesmen seem a lot more interested in pushing up their commission than pro-

tecting their customers.

But an Act of Parliament that comes fully into force on 1 December — the Insurance Brokers (Registration) Act 1977 — should eliminate some of these commission hungry cowboys by insisting that all insurance brokers comply with strict requirements and have their names put on a register.

In the meantime — specially to help the Services — the British Insurance Brokers Association has formed an Armed Forces Insurance Brokers Committee who publish a list of accredited brokers skilled in Forces' insurance.

So if any polished pin-striped patter merchants come knocking at your door with insurance offers you can't refuse, just ask them two simple questions: are they a member of the BIBA and are they approved by BIBA's Armed Forces Committee?

Knowing who you're buying from, as well as what you're buying, is your best insurance policy of all.

★

TWO items from our Reader Services Department. First, we still have a few 1981 Army calendars left which we're offering for £1, including packing and postage. Second, our current stock of Easibinders is now exhausted and we shall not be commissioning new ones until we have finally settled the page size and dimensions of the new magazine. We will let you know as soon as new Easibinders are available. Meanwhile, no orders please.

★

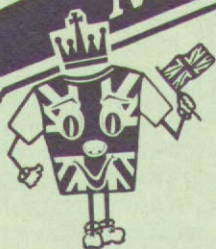
SOBERING news about alcoholism. Members of the armed forces, we read, are three-and-a-half times more likely to die of cirrhosis of the liver than Mr Average in Civvy Street. And journalists are close rivals in the tipping stakes — they run three times the risk. Where does that leave us who write for SOLDIER we wonder — three times three-and-a-half times more likely to seek solace in the bottom of a glass? Or does familiarity with the problem breed contempt for the cause? Well, publicans are closer to the bottle than most — and they run *fifteen* times the risk. Two bitter lemons and a tonic water please barman!

★

BEING woken in the middle of the night to deal with an emergency is a fairly frequent hazard for members of the medical profession. Sometimes though the calls are not as urgent as they appear — as one Royal Army Medical Corps officer found out recently. Awakened from deep slumber in the small hours by the jangling of the telephone bell, he was taken aback to hear one of his female patients complaining: "Doctor, I can't sleep".

"What are you trying to do — start an epidemic?" came the less than sympathetic reply.

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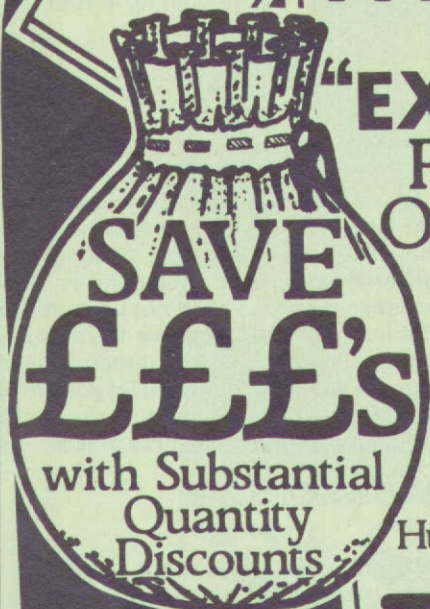
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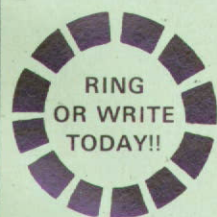
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SCRDE COLCHESTER

THE TIN HELMET is on its way out. The high combat boot is on its way in. A new uniform, not the little lamented dark green 'Dress for the Eighties', has been produced. And boffins have produced the dream of the medieval alchemists — an artificial substitute for gold.

These are just a few of the latest developments springing from a complex at Colchester employing 200 scientists, engineers, craftsmen, experimental workers and administrators — the Stores and Clothing Research and Development Establishment (SCRDE). Its task — to provide the Services with its needs in the fields of textiles, clothing, personal equipment and camouflage.

SCRDE always has to 'cut its coat according to its cloth' — and never more so than in these times of financial stringency. What they try to do is to provide the soldier with the best possible clothing within the limits of what is economically sound.

Says the Director, Dr Terry Moynehan: "We don't do anything which is frivolous and we are now having to give rather searching priorities. This financial year we are having to concentrate on the things which will have immediate practical results and putting to the bottom of the heap longer term projects which may eventually have larger economic benefits."

Dr Moynehan and his staff believe that if a soldier looks good in his clothing he will feel good and this will improve efficiency. Although there are snags — such as when the soldier is issued with combat clothing, which is baggy, and then makes his own alterations.

"If you look at combat smocks you'll find that everybody has Size One and then they take it in. You'd think that we had a midget Army. But then they go to Northern Ireland and realise that what is all right for walking round a garrison in England is not really practicable over there.

"With combat clothing we are supposed to be equipping a soldier to fight a war but it happens that he is going to be wearing the same sort of clothing while training and so on. And we cannot afford to equip a soldier with one outfit for real war and one for training."

Combat trousers were originally designed to go over battle dress. Recently that has been amended so there is room to take a little of the bagginess out of them. Says Dr Moynehan: "You then find out that what they really want is a pair of skin tight jeans. But they haven't thought about crawling through undergrowth in skin tight jeans or where they're going to put the things they need".

The only serving soldier at SCRDE is Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Wade, of the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire. He says requirements for the unusual post include a good knowledge of the pro-

curement organisation for the equipment developed there, of the user establishments and of the use of the clothing and equipment. The job is usually held by either a sapper or an infantryman.

The new No 2 dress uniform is likely to make its first official appearance on the parade ground sometime in 1982. It follows on from the abortive 'dark green' experiment in which Colonel Wade's own regiment took

PRODUCING THE REAL 'DRESS FOR THE EIGHTIES'



Above: Plastic moulds cut helmet design costs. the new 'Dress for the Eighties' for a trial.

The results were not encouraging and the green was abandoned. The new uniform has a lot of advantages, particularly as far as capital outlay is concerned. For it can be worn side by side with the existing No 2 uniform and phased in as the latter wears out.

The new uniform has been accepted for service and by the Army Board and has been

**Story: John Walton
Pictures: Les Wiggs**

shown to the Queen. Made of wool and polyester barathea, it is lighter than the current all wool version. There is no standard issue of cloth belt and it has a close fitting waist with no pleats on the pocket. Epau-lettes will no longer go underneath the collar. And the whole uniform — which will be for soldiers only as against the original plan to equip officers with it as well — will be more easy to make by modern methods.

Another task in recent times has been to reduce the number of tartans used in the British Army — now down from 23 to 19. Over 120 different colours of yarn used to go into the making of Service tartans but after negotiations with the various Scottish regiments these have been cut to about 20.

Then there are the bearskins. The Army still uses skins from brown bears and dyes them black but because it was thought these might become in short supply the Establishment was tasked to find an alternative.

The first alternative — in artificial fibre — was a complete disaster. With any electro-static charge the 'bearskin' would stand on end like Ken Dodd's hair. So the experts went to a natural material — a type of sheep's wool. This looked very much like the real thing — except that it required a lot more grooming. It was also unacceptable to the Brigade of Guards. Fortunately, assurances have been received that the supply of bear skins from Canada is unlikely to dry up — so the bear in sheep's clothing has been relegated to the SCRDE museum.

With the high price of gold these days SCRDE has been looking for acceptable alternatives to its use in ceremonial uniforms. One band in the Brigade of Guards and the Royal Air Force have already accepted the Colchester devised substitutes.

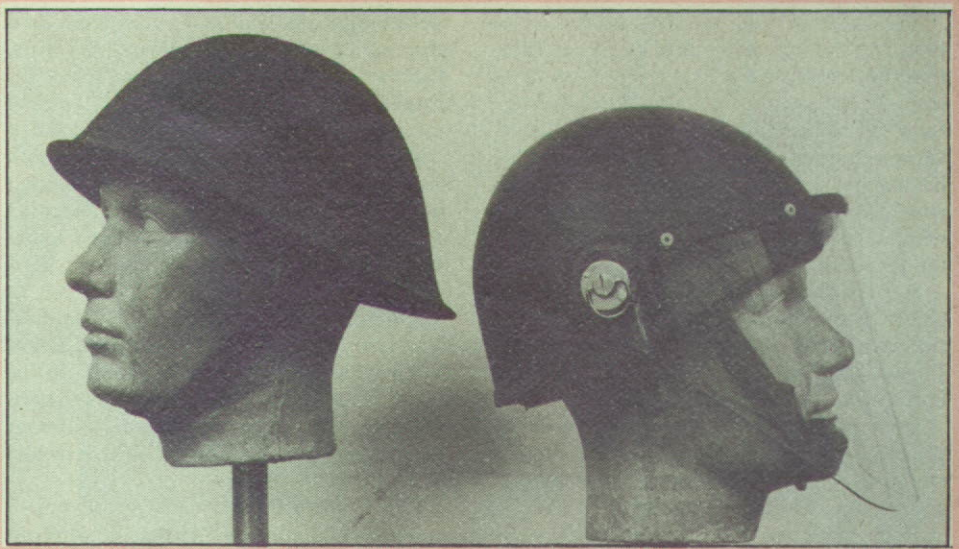
When you are designing for protection against the elements, natural fibres give the best results say the SCRDE men. But they are not so hard wearing as man-made fibres. So a 100 per cent cotton shirt is being trialled to replace the current wool/polyester shirts. The latter are not liked by soldiers — 'because they are hairy'. The new cotton version is likely to replace them — although it is not so good for thermal insulation or flame protection.

Until a couple of years ago British troops on Arctic exercises used reindeer skins as sleeping mats. But no more. An expanded polyethylene mat costing a few pence has taken their place and, unlike the skins, it will not have to be replaced every year.

There are all sorts of other items under development at Colchester. NBC suits in reverse which hold a man's body scent so that he cannot be sniffed out by dogs; survival suits; new AFV crewmen's uniforms, flame resistant and currently undergoing troop trials; and the new combat high boot.

Dr John Hudson, who heads the footwear and plastics and rubber section, told SOLDIER: "The major importance of the new boot is the improvement in water resistance as compared with the ankle boot. We've done away with the toe cap seam, which was a bad area for letting water in and have used a water resistant leather. It'll still let in water eventually but it'll take much longer and it will dry out more quickly."

But those soldiers who like shining their boots are warned. Says Dr Hudson: "What we don't want is for people to try to buff it up. It is intended as a combat boot, not a parade boot, and is not intended to take a high



Above: New helmets in composite material.

polish. If it's given a high polish the water resistance will deteriorate."

Acceptance for the Army is expected shortly as the high combat boot finished a year long troop trial last autumn. It is likely to come into service towards the end of 1982 or possibly in 1983. And one more innovation — the sizing will be in Mondopoint to Nato standard. All English and Continental sizes will be left behind and the sizing will reflect the length and width of the wearer's foot in millimetres.

Camouflage is another area where the Establishment is involved in both research and development. Ways have to be found of countering the latest detection aids such as image intensifiers, television, lasers and thermal images as well as of hiding from the naked eye.

The subjects to be camouflaged range from men in combat uniform right through various small vehicles and pieces of equipment to objects the size of helicopters and Harrier jump-jets.

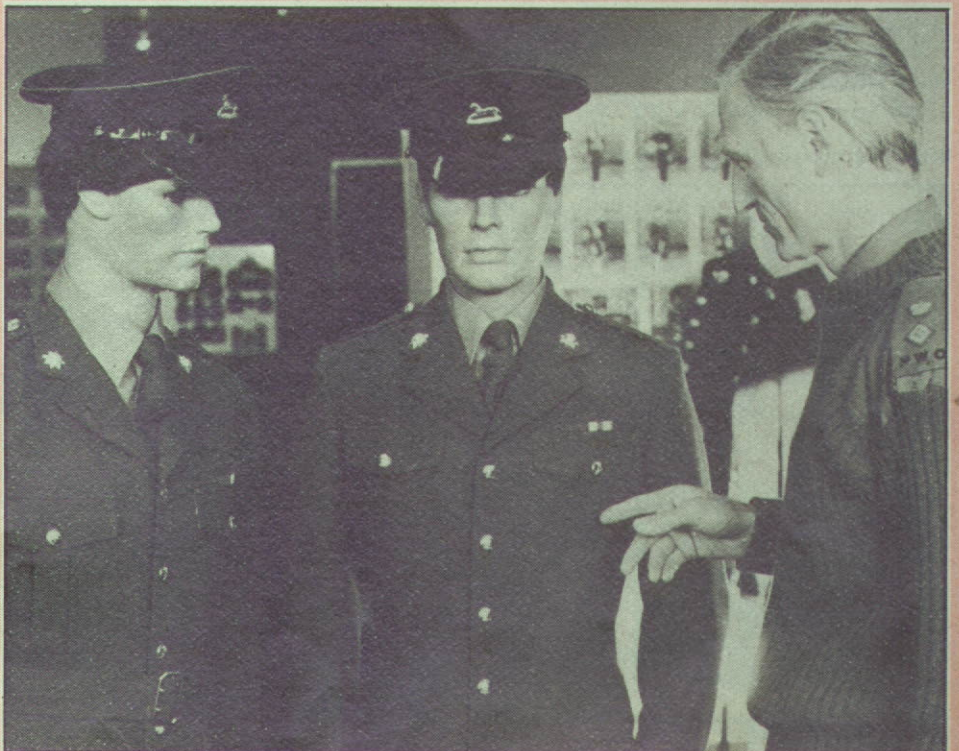
Fixed installations also have to be disguised from the air and the experts go out to Germany and Belgium to advise on the best landscaping and tree planting to hinder a conventional air attack.

continued on page 16



Above: New boot has better water-proofing.

Below: Lt Col Wade with current (left) No 2 dress uniform and new, lighter replacement.



One method used employs similar techniques to the simulators used by the Services these days. A scale model of an establishment is made and then a simulator 'flies' over it. Says Mr John Collins: "We can evaluate various camouflage methods without actually having to use an aircraft. And we can see what effect putting trees down would have without actually planting them and waiting for 15 years."

SCRDE has its own trio of craftsman tailors as well as a number of machinists in the garment workshops. In charge is Mr Jimmy Allen, who has been in the tailoring industry all his working life.

Most of the workshops' output goes to producing prototype garments for use in troop trials. But if an order is large enough it gets contracted out to the trade.

Says Mr Allan: "We also do small scale production models where the trade is not interested in the quantities required, such as divers' undersuits, overalls, coveralls and so on. "We make the small development or troop trial orders when time is of the essence but in no way do we want to do production at the expense of the trade."

When an order does go out to a clothing manufacturer a team of SCRDE specification writers will turn out a full specification for them.

But the tailors also produce half a dozen

special garments each year just to keep their expertise up to West End tailoring standards. They will make drum majors' uniforms for instance or uniforms for Queen's Gurkha officers.

Not all the projects need such fine cloth however. Old battledress material was used to produce replicas of Russian uniforms to Warsaw Pact designs. The customer — the Infantry Demonstration Battalion at Warminster.

Another important role for the Establishment is telling the textile industry the sort of things which are going to be needed in the future. This means extensive testing of various materials for warmth, dryness and wear as well as weight — all most important factors in the field.

Steel helmets are now on their way out — and that's official. Their gradual phasing out is likely to follow troop trialling this year of new helmet shells in a composite material.

The new helmets, which are designed for stopping fragments rather than bullets, are the same weight as the Mark IV steel helmets they are scheduled to replace but have a markedly improved stopping capacity. They are also said to be more stable and comfortable and have an energy absorbing liner to protect against bumps.

An AFV crewman's helmet, also in composite material, is already being troop

tried. This has been designed to cope with any problems arising from communications equipment also being worn around the head.

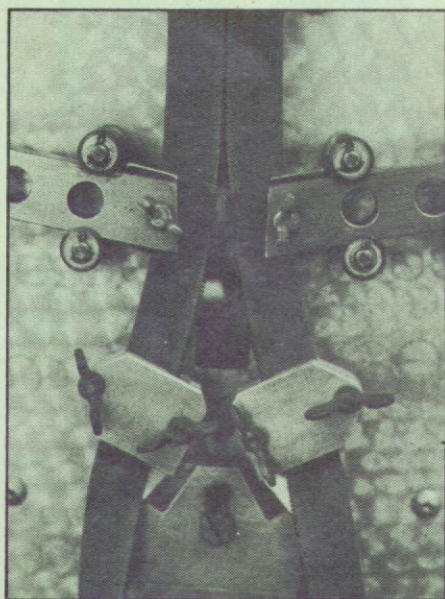
The textile materials, although costly, are reckoned to be much more efficient than steel and other metals. The SCRDE also works on transparent materials for such things as visors and riot shields as well as very hard-based ceramic armour for stopping high velocity bullets.

The flak jacket, originally an American product, has also been improved for the British Army so that a soldier finds it easier to keep clean and the pockets better for fitting his equipment into. And Mr Terry Abbott, head of the section looking after ballistic protection, predicts: "By the mid-eighties we hope to have produced a lighter item with the same stopping capability".

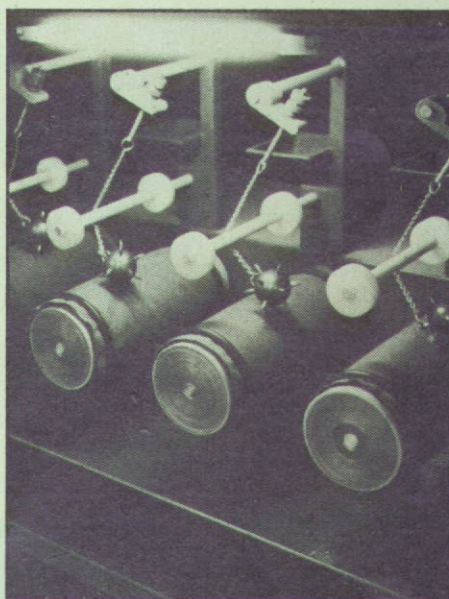
The Establishment has its own engineering workshops, which provide hardware back-up for the other sections. They also carry out their own projects — particularly in the heating and lighting fields.

In the workshop is a prototype field kitchen on a standard Army trailer which will cater for 150 people out in the field. Twenty five of an earlier version of the kitchen are already in operation and it has now been accepted into service, having just finished

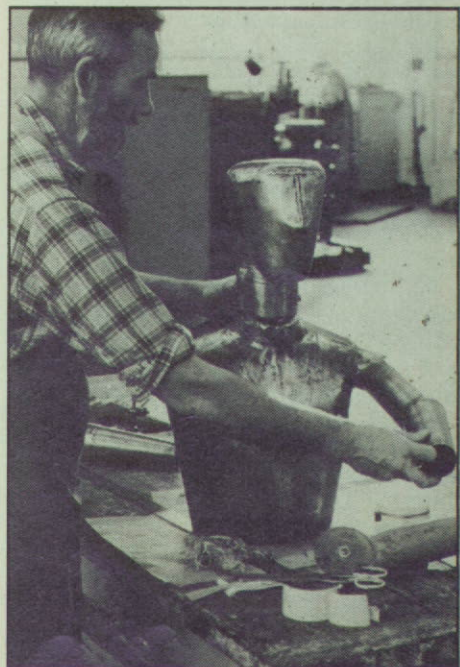
Below: Trying camouflage on model of Chinook.



Above: Special machine for testing zips.



Above: Cloth is checked for snag resistance.



Right: Making dummy for nuclear blast test.



Below: Preparing pattern in garment workshops.



Above: New style webbing under development.

scaling trials. It is likely to be fully in service with the Army from next year.

The workshops are currently producing dummies for a simulated nuclear blast in the United States this year. Masses of high explosives will be used in the test and the dummies will be dressed in British NBC clothing. The dummies will be instrumented to measure the blast and thermal effects on both current and projected NBC items.

A whole section at Colchester is devoted to heavy textiles — items like sleeping bags and shelters. Standing in the grounds is an inflatable shelter recently developed for REME. It is a workshop shelter which will enclose the powered trailer containing the mechanics' tools.

The shelter can be used worldwide and is hexagonal in shape. Three of the sides will accept engine compartments so the workshop team can work on three vehicles needing engine attention at the same time. Alternatively an entire Land-Rover can be housed inside it.

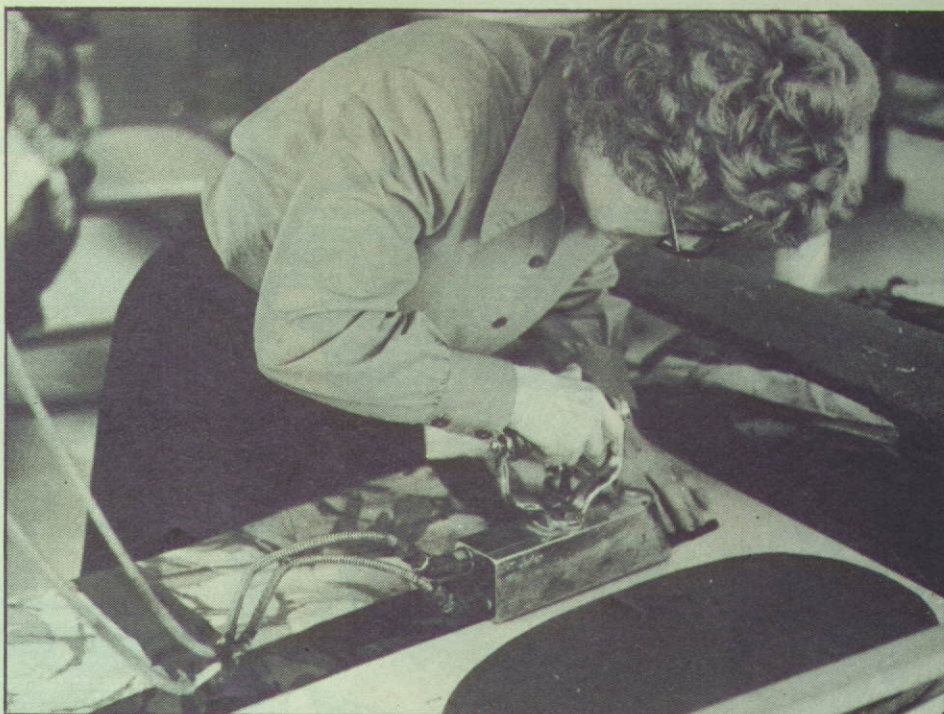
Mr Dick Walters, of the heavy textile section, told SOLDIER: "It has come back with good write-ups after six months' user trials in BAOR and we're hoping it will be accepted for service — although this is not likely to be until 1983."

Other inflatables developed by SCRDE include Rapier decoys, which look like the real missile system from the air. And they are now working on a cheaper and simpler dummy system which will be equally effective.

Plastics are another area of expertise from which all the sections benefit. For instance, in developing new helmets, any small design changes can be made on a plastic shell which is the same weight.

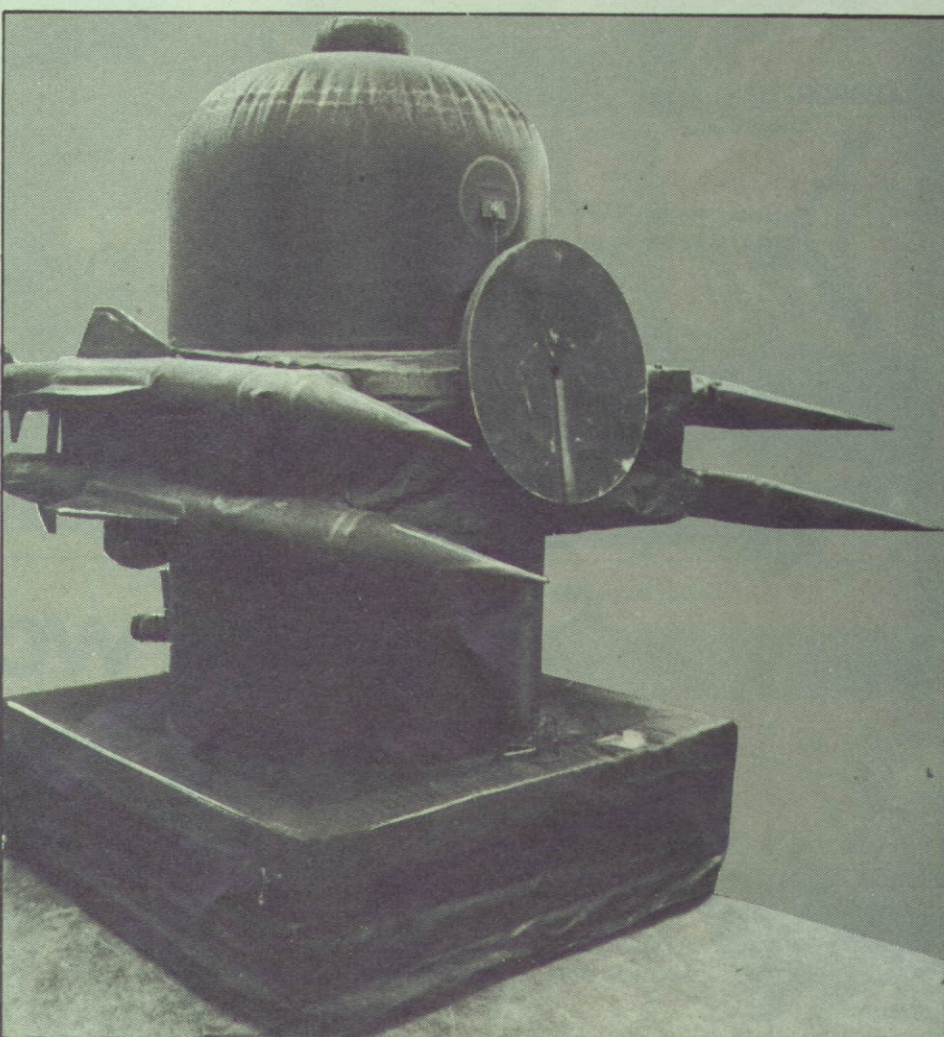
Says Dr Hudson: "We can sort out the size, range and design and compatibility with other equipment without having to keep making new helmets. Every time there is a design change we can save three months and thousands of pounds by using plastic, and if you have four or five changes during the course of a project, that's a considerable saving."

Development of new clothing and equip-



Above: Trial uniform gets final expert press.

Below: Rapier decoy to keep the enemy guessing.



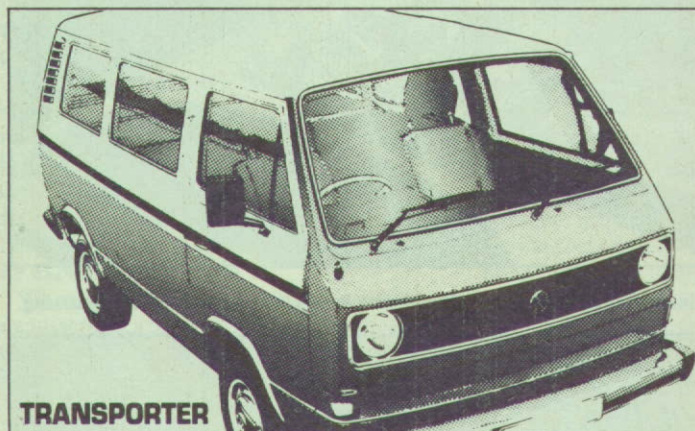
ment has been speeded up considerably over the last decade as a result of the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland.

Some older items remain, such as 1958 webbing, but even that is likely to be replaced in the not-too-distant future.

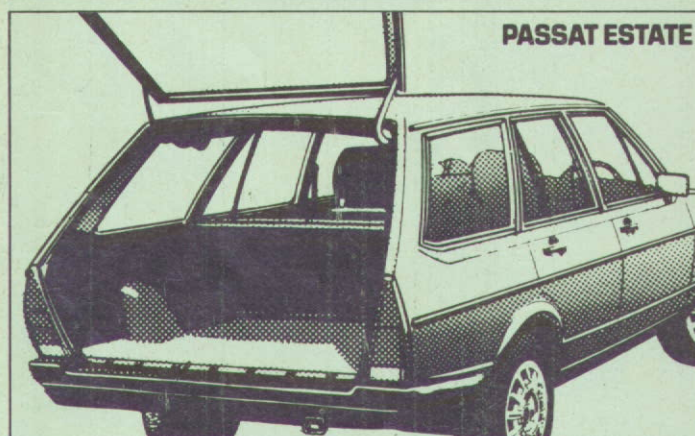
Says the director: "In camouflage, for instance, we were in the Dark Ages until the 1970s. And whole ranges of equipment have been introduced in the last six or seven years as a result of the experience in Northern Ireland.

"A lot of the personal protection stuff was developed fairly quickly because of Northern Ireland and has gradually been accepted into service because it performs a lot better than the kit already in service."

The soldier who is smartly dressed, warm and dry will always perform better than the man who is inadequately kitted out for field conditions. It is the job of Dr Moynehan and his team at Colchester to see that the British Army is always represented by the former rather than the latter man. ●



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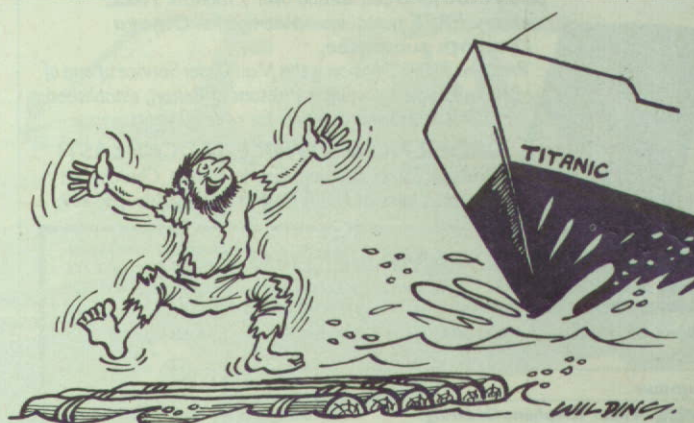
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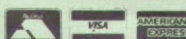
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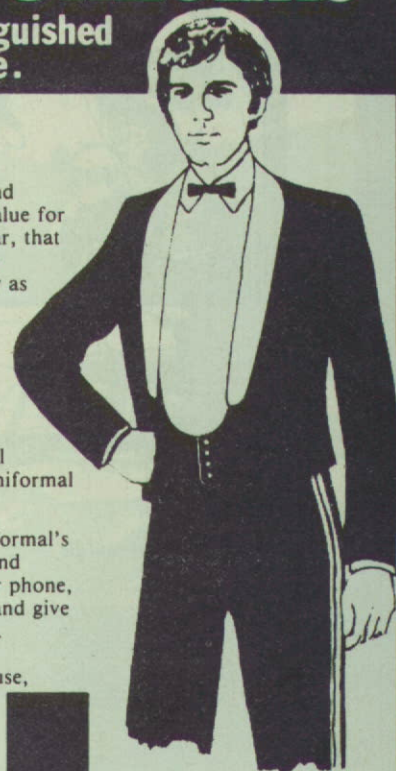
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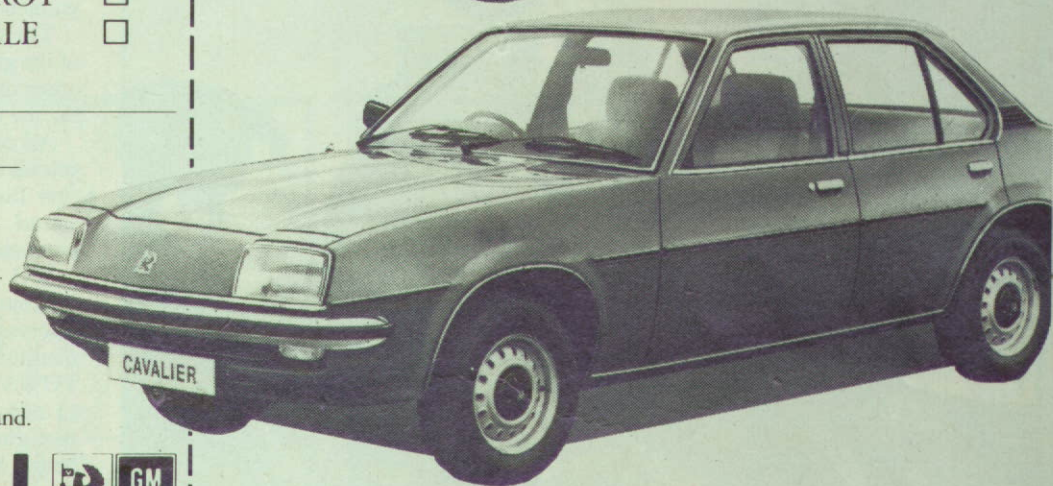
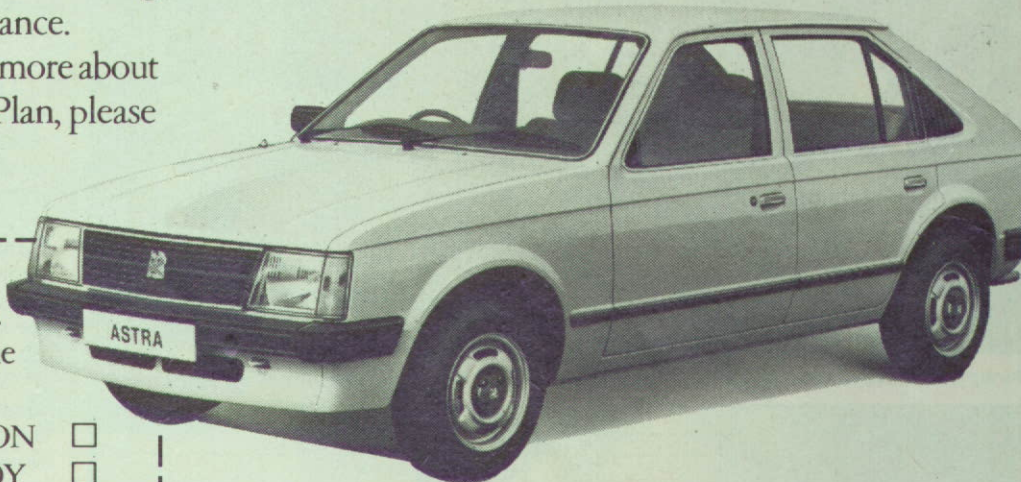
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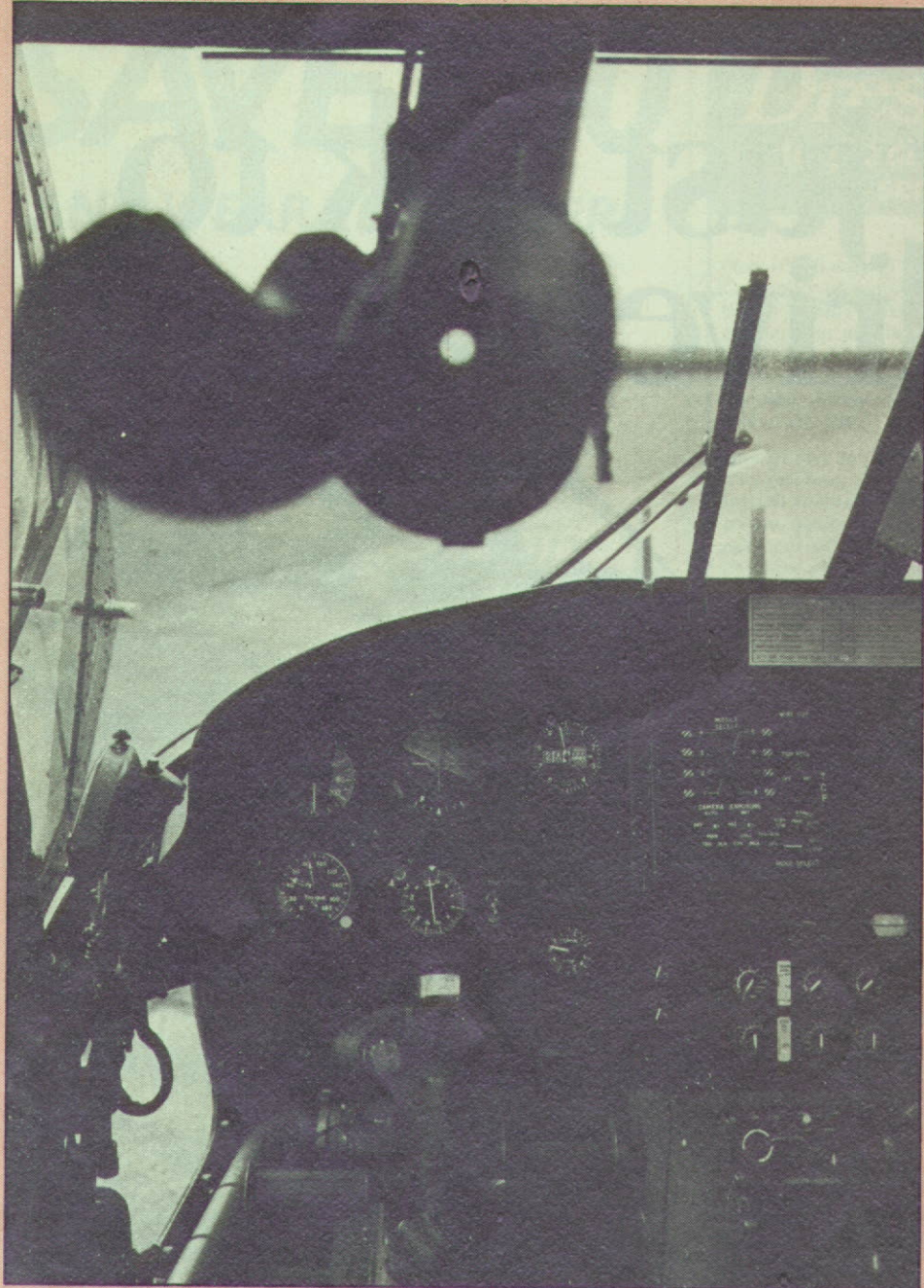
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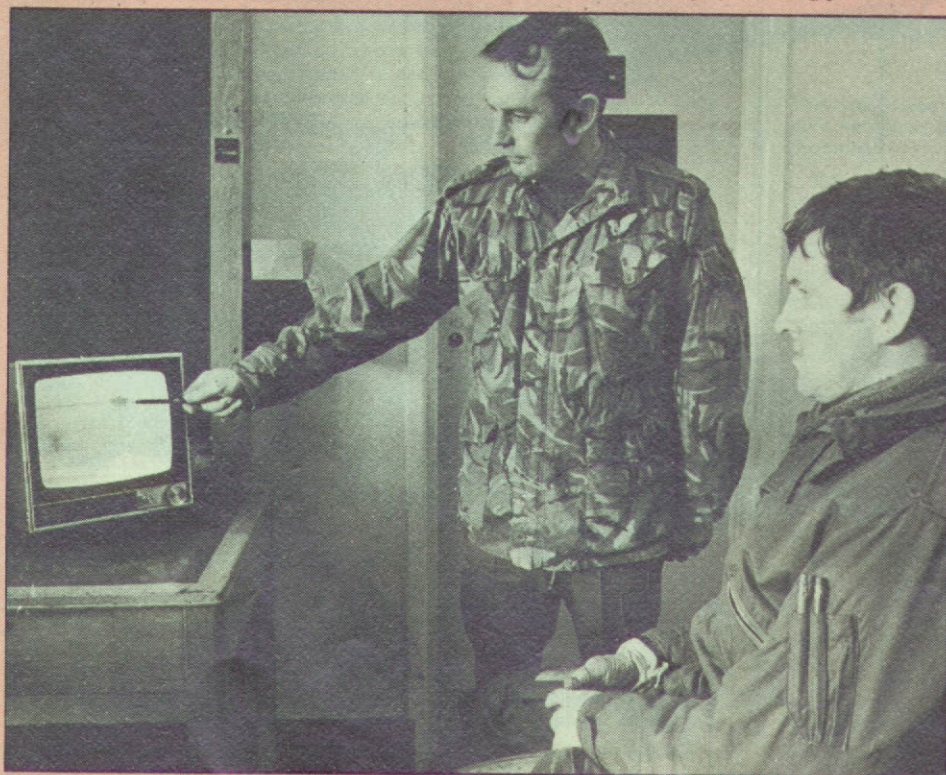
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Air gunners learn to fire TOW in a CLASSROOM IN THE SKY



Above: Gunner's-eye view of sight and camera.

Below: Instructor replays tracking performance.



THE ARMY'S LATEST Lynx helicopter-toted tank buster missile, known by its acronym TOW, has made its hedge-hopping debut over the North German Plain in squadron service at Detmold after four months of intensive 'high hit rate' trials above Salisbury Plain by the Army Air Corps' Demonstration and Trials Squadron from Middle Wallop.

As a sequel, hand-picked air gunner crewmen, selected for three-week-long courses to fire the 1000-feet-a-second wire-guided missile, are being trained on the ground in a classroom simulator and in the air by TOWAT (TOW Airborne Trainer) mounted in the Lynx itself.

TOW (Tube-launched, Optically-tracked, Wire-guided) will eventually be operational throughout BAOR and there is no shortage of aspiring air gunners eager to learn the operating techniques of the missile which has a range of 3750 metres (4000 metres head-on to target) and cruises to its target at 300 miles-an-hour plus. There are eight missiles to each 'tooled-up' Lynx and the sight has been specially adapted to British needs.

TOWAT comprises a TV camera mounted alongside the sight at the front of the £14 million Lynx and a video cassette recorder to the rear operated by an air gunner instructor.

The video recorder monitors the accuracy of the gunner student's tracking and, among other things, his aptitude — or lack of it — for the task literally in hand.

All conversations in the exclusive private tuition sessions, held often at the height of a first floor house window, are recorded by sound facility — a sort of airborne notebook.

WO 1 Harry Oliver, 37, the senior helicopter weapons instructor, says without reservation: "It's the best air gunner monitoring system we have around today. TOWAT is 100 per cent better than the SS 11 simulator. You can not only monitor the performance of the potential air gunner before he even fires TOW for real but you can also check his performance at tracking — the following of a target through the system's cross-hairs sight."

The ageing SS 11 currently equips BAOR Scout helicopters in the anti-tank role, the

Story: Graham Smith

task soon to be taken over by the Lynx/TOW partnership.

Courses started at Middle Wallop in February and students will spend, on average, five hours each on TOWAT.

WO 1 Oliver again: "TOWAT is not a course in itself but complements the three-week syllabus for air gunners. I suppose you could teach the air gunner to operate the TV camera and video recorder, which holds 30-minute cassettes, in about an hour. It's unobtrusive and does not interfere with the other equipment in the Lynx."

Why not a colour TV system, then? "It would be expensive and, besides, black and white does what we want," he says.

But TOWAT also has a possible second-

ary role of great importance to field tacticians. It is that of a low level 'spy-in-the-sky' application, almost an airborne RIC (Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre) without dark rooms.

Major Neal Baldwick, 52, OC of the Service Trials Unit closely following TOW's development phases, says: "It's not new technology but it does have the possibility of bringing back pictures of what you see on film, instead of perhaps on paper — things such as river crossings, bridge sites or next locations. But I cannot see it being used to look at the enemy. They may be too far away to be detected."

The Americans are said to favour TOWAT over another system which involves firing at infra-red sources giving digital read-outs of percentage scores.

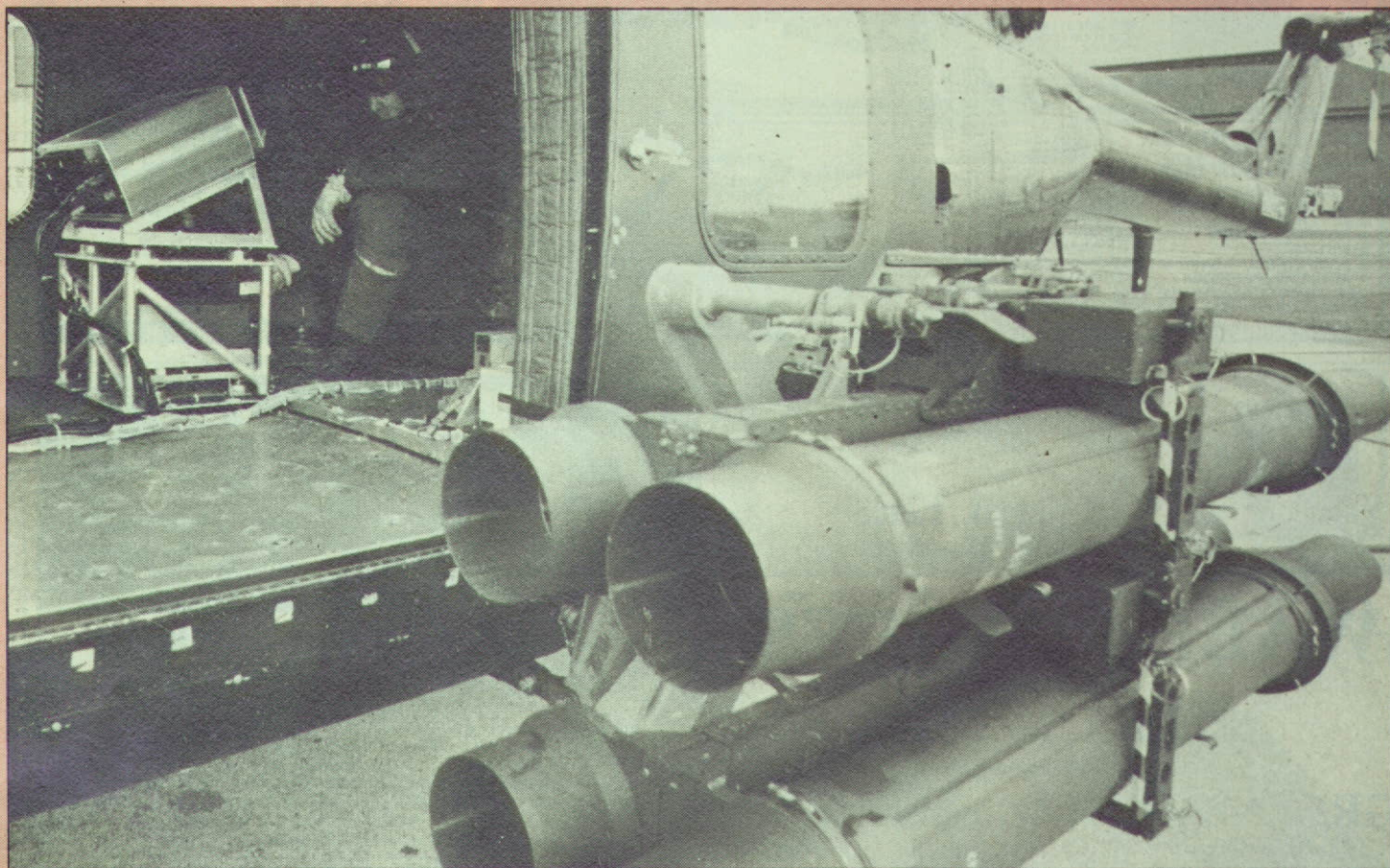
Back on the ground at Middle Wallop, the Lynx mock-up cockpit classrooms will, they estimate, cut down actual flying time by 50 per cent thus saving thousands of pounds.

Major Baldwick summed up: "TOWAT and the classroom simulator are going to be cost effective training aids. There will be no confusion. You can do on-the-spot analysis with the evidence of the students' efforts in front of you on the video cassette. You can point out where they went wrong and where they were right."

"Previously it all had to be done from memory which could give grounds for argument. People saw different things."

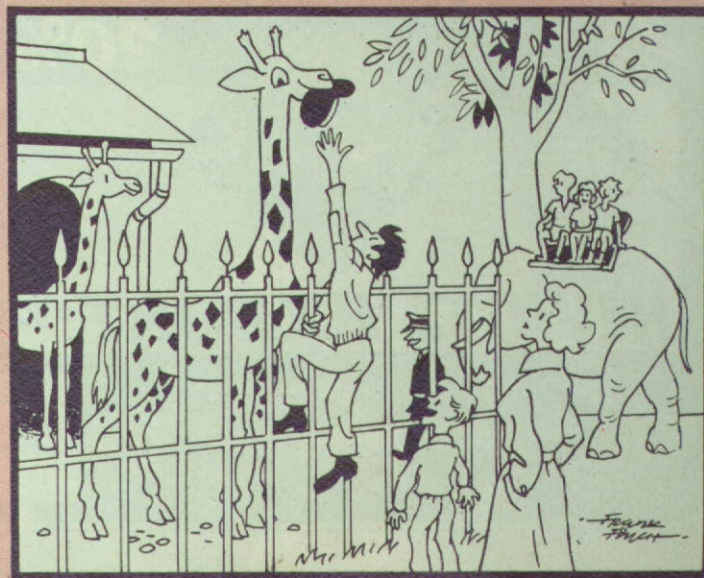
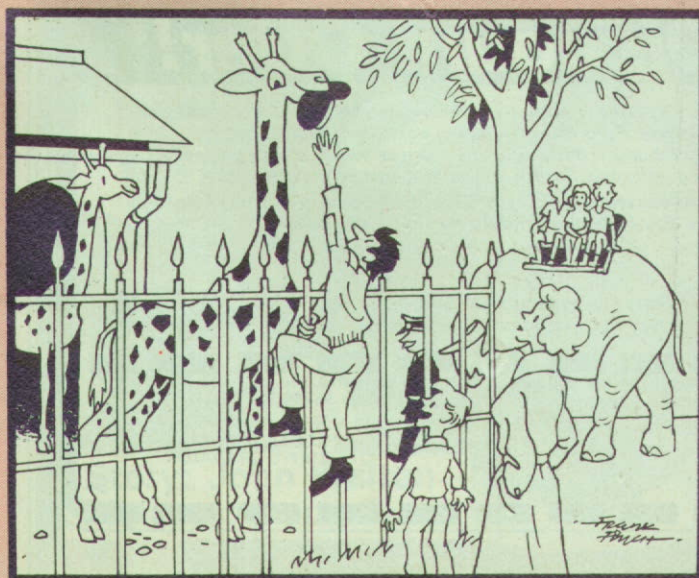
Major General Bill Withall, Director Army Air Corps, however, who has had a session with TOWAT, sees it only one way. "It's terrific!" he beamed. ●

Below: Missiles outside — video unit inside.



How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 51.



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**Sennelager
dental campaign
pays off**

The truth about teeth

SENNELAGER, A MILITARY training area for the last 90 years and almost as well known as Aldershot and Salisbury Plain to generations of British troops who have been stationed there since the end of the last war, is rapidly making a new name for itself as a training centre — in dental hygiene.

For in the last few years the Sennelager system of dental care — which teaches that prevention is better than cure — has been so

continued on page 27



Above: Sgt 'Tab' Abbott, one of trio who launched scheme, with a trainee at Aldershot.

Below: WO1 David Latimer shows young children how to brush their teeth properly.

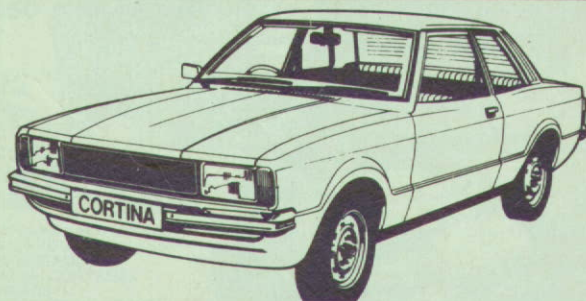


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Pictures: Doug Pratt**

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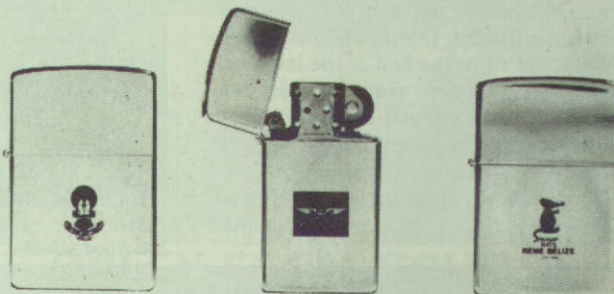
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successful that it is now spreading rapidly throughout the British forces in Germany.

It all began three years ago when Lieutenant-Colonel William Sewell, Sergeant 'Tab' Abbott, a hygienist, and Colonel Frank Ashenhurst, commandant of the Dental Group, found themselves together at Sennelager. All three were interested in a prevention system and set about introducing it on a local basis.

Recalls Colonel Ashenhurst: "It requires a tremendous amount of education and there was no way we could do it by ourselves. We are not gifted as teachers and we are associated in the minds of the public with discomfort."

So they enlisted the help of the Forces' own experts in the teaching field — teachers from Service schools, instructors from units and Ssafa sisters for the families. The dentists' job would be to teach the teachers.

The scheme started in the schools. Dental health education was introduced into the school curriculum — not as a separate subject but as an integral part of other subjects.

Colonel Ashenhurst explained: "For instance the pupils could do graphs to show how many people there were to a dentist. Or in geography they could examine dental decay figures and be told the reasons for them



Above: Hygiene treatment from L/Cpl White.

— such as diet and so on. There was nothing which interfered with the normal school curriculum."

Subsequently, a book on *Preventive Dentistry — the Sennelager System* was produced and placed in every school in Rhine Army.

But the main priority had to be soldiers. In 1979 it was estimated that 100,000 working hours were lost in 1st British Corps alone by soldiers receiving dental treatment.

At their annual dental inspections groups of soldiers were given a talk on oral hygiene plus a slide show and were encouraged to ask questions. They were told that dental decay and gum disease were more prevalent than the common cold and that healthy mouths were the only way to stop them.

Meanwhile, first aid instructors from major units were given the training to make them into unit dental health instructors as well.

Says Colonel Ashenhurst: "What we had to get over was that if you can get plaque off teeth you won't get dental disease. Tests in Sweden showed that if teeth were cleaned by a dental hygienist once a fortnight no disease occurred at all. This is, of course, not practicable but we had to teach people to perform the physical actions which would lead to clean mouths.

"Anything which can reduce the amount of dental treatment is good, not only for the patients but for the Army. They will have less digestive problems and, after all, a soldier on duty with toothache is not going to be a very effective soldier."

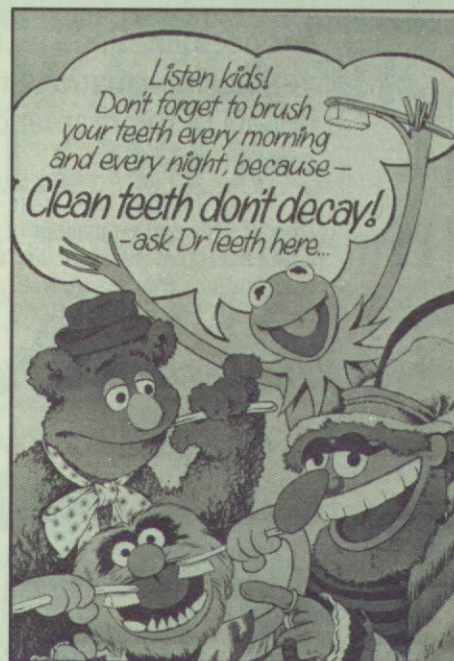
The Ssafa sisters worked on the young mothers at both post and ante-natal clinics. It was hoped that the mothers would have influence throughout their families.

And it worked. Two studies were carried out. In one of them, involving schoolchildren, 60 per cent less plaque was found on the teeth of those who had been part of the scheme than those who had not. And in a Royal Armoured Corps regiment it was found that plaque had been reduced by a third after 15 months of dental hygiene instruction.

"How do I brush my teeth properly?" is a question asked often of dentists. The new green book being distributed in Germany gives the following advice:

"Brush gently from gums to teeth. Do not brush up and down or sideways. That means brush upwards on the bottom teeth and downwards on the top teeth. Brush the insides and then the outsides and lastly brush the biting surfaces. Always use the same order, then you don't miss bits out.

"Try to get the bristles to go into the 'stagnation areas' between the teeth. Think about what you are doing when you clean your teeth rather than the shopping or whether you need a haircut — it could save you pain later on."



Above: Muppet poster gets message to kids.

Dental hygiene now officially forms part of the normal training of every unit in 1st British Corps.

The media in BAOR are also being widely used. *Sixth Sense* the newspaper for British forces in Germany, features regularly 'The ABC of Dentistry' while BFBS radio runs commercials. Throughout the Corps area a booklet *How to Avoid Dental Treatment* is being distributed to every quarter.

Tapes, slides, booklets — it is a continuous education process which Colonel Ashenhurst hopes to see spread throughout Rhine Army and eventually to the Army worldwide.

He says: "Traditionally dentists have been concerned with repairing dental disease after it has occurred. Now we realise that this is in many ways a waste of time. What we have to do is to prevent disease from happening. It is pointless doing a filling and then leaving it in the same environment because disease will inevitably recur."

In 1968 a survey showed that 38 per cent of people over 16 had false teeth. Ten years later this was down to 29 per cent. And Army dentists in Germany are in the forefront of a movement which they hope will eventually lead to most people having their real teeth for the period they were intended — their natural lives.

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8	Opel	9.6
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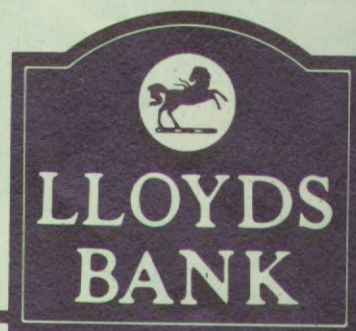
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Since the Kentish Cup started exactly 60 years ago, British Army footballers have been locked in fierce but friendly rivalry with Belgian and French forces teams. John Walton tells how it all began — and why this year marked another milestone in the competition for the British side.

TIES OF COMRADESHIP



WHEN THE FIRST WORLD WAR finally dragged to its weary end, the Allied forces had spent more than four years in the squalour of the trenches. Most of them went back to civvy street — but one man was determined that something should be established which would be an annual reminder of the comradeship in arms between British, French and Belgian soldiers.

That man was Colonel (later Brigadier-General) R J Kentish, secretary of the Army Football Association in those immediate post-war days. And on 7 May 1921 at Lille Colonel Kentish and colonels from the French and Belgian armies decided to launch a new cup — to be named the Kentish Cup after the man who was its inspiration.

Since that time the triangular tournament has been held every year except for 1928 and during the last war. Prior to this year's competition Belgium and France had carried the Cup away 18 times each while the British Army had notched up 14 wins. Twice the Cup has been shared three ways and in 1978/9 the Belgians and French shared the honours.

This year's British team was, for the first time, a Combined Services eleven. But according to Lieutenant-Colonel Gerry Mitchell, the 88-year-old former Army FA secretary, the other two nations have always followed this rule.

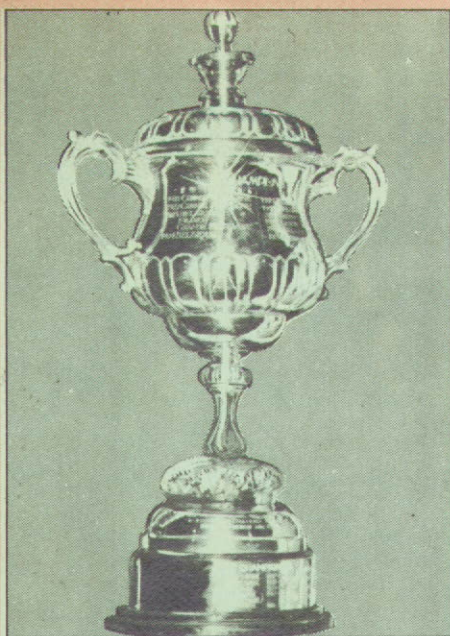
"When I took over I found that the French Army fielded all three Services while the Belgians even included Customs and Fire Brigade people," he said.

In the early days of the competition Britain had the edge and most of its 14 victories came before the demise of National Service.

"After the war we were composed practically entirely of National Servicemen and regular soldiers rarely got into the side. We

Above: Teams line up before the game in Melun.

Left: Dark shirted French players repel attack.



Above: The cup they've battled for since 1921.



Above: The French game was widely advertised.

had a lot of people who eventually became big names," remembered Colonel Mitchell.

Those names read like a roll call of immediate post-war football. Duncan Edwards, Bobby Charlton, Ronnie Clayton, Gerry Hitchens, Jimmy Armfield, Jim Baxter, Len and Ivor Allchurch, John and Mel Charles, Dave Mackay, Frank Blunstone, Johnny Byrne, the late John White, Cliff Jones . . . and many others.

Then the British Army had to come down to earth. Recalls Colonel Mitchell: "In the early sixties we were suddenly faced with the problem of forming an absolutely new team of Army regular soldiers as opposed to the young professionals who came through doing National Service.

"We had a meeting in Brussels and I suggested that it should be confined entirely to regular soldiers on account of the difference in playing standards. Belgium agreed to this but the French would not. They quite rightly said that their regular soldiers were not footballers and they could not produce a team.

"During National Service days we had also had some of the best amateurs in England but now I had to find a team of regular soldiers. I said we would experiment. It was chaotic for the first year — we were beaten

7-1 by the French, unfortunately in the presence of General Mogg. But we were greeted most enthusiastically by the French crowd."

Looking back on his many years' association with the Kentish Cup, Colonel Mitchell feels it has done a lot to cement friendships between the three armies. Many of his French and Belgian opposite numbers of the day still exchange Christmas cards with him.

Major Alan Dobson, the current secretary, agrees. He says: "The French and Belgians probably take it more seriously than we do. I think if anyone tried to stop the competition they would start a third world war!"

The Kentish Cup games on the Continent attract far bigger crowds than they do in Aldershot and are almost regarded as internationals. Attendances of up to 15,000 are by no means uncommon and while it is a great experience for the British participants Major Dobson admits it has been difficult to find the right calibre of player in recent years.

But this year the British side was extended to include the Navy, RAF and Royal Marines. And Major Dobson declared: "We have got some good lads and I will be going to France for the first match

more confident than I have been for years."

One of the reasons for Major Dobson's optimism was the appointment of QMSI Alfie Coulton as the coach and motivator for the Kentish Cup side. Alfie is one of the all time 'greats' of Army football — with an unprecedented 24 Kentish Cup appearances.

From 1967 he played against both the French and the Belgians for 11 consecutive seasons — and returned last year for two more appearances. And he was a member of the last two British sides to win the Cup — more than a decade ago — in 1968/9 and the following year. Apart from the shared tournament two years ago, Belgium has won every year since 1972/3.

Looking back on those two victories — the only ones since National Service ended — Alfie says: "I think that after National Service finished they settled into the natural expectancy of winning and after a while we came back with a stronger attitude and caught them a bit on the lazy side."

Service footballers in Britain are Servicemen first and foremost and job demands meant that in the run-up period to the first Kentish Cup game Alfie was unable to field the same team twice.

"We are having to rely very much on a deep squad of perhaps 22 people", he told SOLDIER. "At one time we used to get them for two days before a match but now it is usually 24 hours or even on the day of the game. This means they get very little time with me to learn their trade.

"I have gone nap on a group of players. I have only been able to bring in 16 or 18 at a time but have got a continuity of understanding through the side — although it does not make up for having the same players all the time. There is a tremendous spirit at the moment — far better than for many years."

Exactly half of the 16 players who flew out to Paris came from the Army. The others were three sailors, three airmen and two marines. Hopes were high as they made their way down to their home for the next 48 hours — a big French army camp at Fontainebleau — a few kilometres south of Melun, where the match was to be played.

On the night of their arrival the 16 players took over the television lounge of their quarters — for a soccer knowledge quiz. Divided into teams of four they spent the evening answering questions about football both ancient and modern — 'Who's Nat Lofthouse?' was one of the replies.

Their canny coach had spent hours researching the questions which were designed to test their football knowledge as well as encourage team spirit and reduce pre-match tension.

The next morning dawned with a sharp frost and after a Continental breakfast the squad went for an early morning limber-up and kick about. At this stage the team had still not been announced and Coulton wanted all 16 players to be sharp.

When he assembled the players for the announcement of the team the coach confessed that he had spent a sleepless night. The responsibility was much heavier than in his many appearances as a Kentish Cup player.

Skipper would be an RAF player, Corporal Dave Dodds, the first non-Army man

Left: British players get ready for the fray.



continued on page 32

ever to captain a Kentish Cup side. Goal-keeper, a vacancy left by the injury to long serving Dave Smith, would go to 37-year-old CPOPT Mick Patterson, a Royal Navy stalwart for many years but making his Combined Services debut.

"The rest of the team as substitutes will be changed and ready to go on. I feel very confident that we have the right formation to take them on. I have aces up my sleeve which we have never had in the last 12 years of campaigning", Coulton told them.

Then it was off to Melun where the team caught first sight of the French opposition. As they sipped orange juice in the local town hall the two sides eyed each other but the Frenchmen slipped quickly away — any fraternising would have to wait until after the game.

On their way back to camp the British team took a look at the pitch. Heavy rains had turned it into a paddy field.

At the tactics talk that afternoon Alfie Coulton reminded his men the pitch was going to be heavy and told them that because it was wide they must expect a lot of attacks from the flanks.



England v Belgium in Brussels, 1944. Arsenal's Ted Drake challenges the 'keeper. England won 3-0.

There is at least one survivor of that very first Kentish Cup match in 1921. He is Lieutenant-Colonel H M Prince, arguably the finest amateur footballer the Army ever produced.

Colonel Prince, now 89 and living in Andover, represented the Royal Army Medical Corps at both cricket and football while still a boy soldier. He later represented them also at rugby, hockey, tennis, athletics and cross country.

He was in the Army XI by 1912 and won the first two of his six amateur international caps in 1914. In 1920 he played for England in the Olympic Games and captained his country's side against France the same year.

He was Army 880 yards champion in 1913, Hampshire county champion at 440 yards, 880 yards and the mile in successive seasons. And on one memorable day he won every track event from 100 yards to one mile in the RAMC championships.

Immediately after the end of the First World War the English and French armies met on the football field. At that match, in which Colonel Prince played, the idea of the tri-nation tournament first germinated.

Those early Kentish Cup matches were full of atmosphere. Colonel Prince recalls big crowds, the National Anthems and most of all good football.

"The way they played was different in the same way as Continental football is today", he says. "It was a different experience altogether for us. But we had some good Army sides just after the war. With only one professional we licked Chelsea 4-1 and with an all amateur team we beat Bristol City 3-2".

Colonel Prince knew Brigadier-General Kentish very well — both in the early days and later. The Colonel was himself secretary of the Army Football Association from 1947 to 1953.

"General Kentish came to practically every Army match right up until the time he died. He was a man with great personality and flare. He used to talk French to the French officials and then talk to us before the match. He would give us a lecture on how we were not to play — not that we took that much notice of him! But he really had a flair for getting on with other nationalities and he was a great fellow".



Receiving Army Cup from Queen Mary, 1921.

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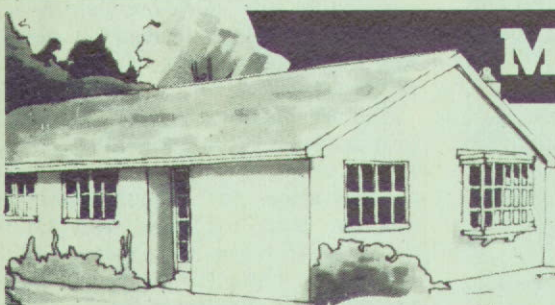
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"Don't commit yourself to a point where you are left stranded. Tackle hard but fairly. They are fresh faced young professionals, inexperienced in the ups and downs of Cup football and we have got to cash in on that inexperience."

A cold, persistent drizzle streamed down on the floodlit stadium as the French fans poured in for the big match. In the middle of the pitch a pre-match performance by 60 bandsmen churned up the mud even more.

Right from the start the French Servicemen determined to give the crowd something to shout about. Breaking fast they had two shots at goal in the first five minutes.

And after only 11 minutes, a local favourite, Buscher, the lanky striker, put the home side in front when he rose to a high lob and calmly nodded the ball home.

But far from dispiriting the visitors that early setback appeared to stiffen their resolve. The Combined Services went into the attack while the French were pressed back into their own half.

Belgian referee, Jan Peters, came in for some stick from the crowd — 'Politics Again' — as he warned the French coloured forward, Toure. But a minute later a suspect tackle from the same player brought out the yellow card.

Eventually the patient British build-ups paid off. From a free kick after a foul on Corporal Alec Hamilton, Craftsman Phil White showed his heading craft with a fine goal.

Despite playing against the wind and the drizzle the British continued to press. But the French continued to be quick on the break and Buscher in particular showed a fine turn of speed.

Buscher, unable to control the ball, let it slip harmlessly to Patterson. Toure, well placed, sent the ball ballooning into some trees behind the goal. And at the other end George Torrance also went close. But at half time the match was still all square.

Optimism in the British camp faded in the second half as the French again came out with the power of a lion and the speed of a gazelle. Within a minute substitute Menguel had shot just wide of goal. And the linesmen were kept busy flagging French offside positions to a storm of Gallic shouts and whistles.

Ball control was becoming increasingly difficult in the quagmire conditions. The French continued to pile on the pressure but the British defenders stuck doggedly to their task. Patterson in goal made a couple of fine saves and looked well in command.

Referee Peters blew his whistle and then dropped it in the mud — the crowd greeted this as a huge joke. By this time they had become noisy and frustrated as a long series of raids all came to naught.

Patterson dived at Menguel's feet to save a dangerous ball, Stopyra missed a header in front of goal by the thickness of his eyebrows, Carcier shot over the bar and Buscher earned the second yellow card of the match.

In the final minutes it was all France but the British boys continued to battle away and occasionally broke away upfield for a shot at goal themselves. But there was to be no further scoring and the muddled heroes returned to their cramped changing room well satisfied with a draw.

No one was more jubilant than Alfie Coulton: "I'm over the moon. It's been

Brigadier-General R J Kentish entered the Army in 1897 from Sandhurst and discovered that in those days a recruit could not be sure of finding good sporting facilities — although this did not apply to officers.

His *Who's Who* entry when he was alive read . . . "a strong advocate of the policy of placing the private soldier on his honour, which led to the abolition of picquets in the Aldershot command, 1910, and subsequently in the whole Army; originated at Aldershot in 1908 the scheme for providing adequate recreation grounds for the troops; in 1914 officially appointed by the Army Council to extend the scheme to Great Britain and Ireland; in 1919 he continued the scheme until he retired from the Army 1922; and in 1925 he founded the National Playing Fields Association."

Kentish is thus a name to be remembered not just for the football cup which bears it but for all of the fine sporting facilities and tradition which have grown up in the Services this century.

discipline and concentration with a capital C. One or two lads who had not played in the Kentish Cup before suffered a bit of tension at first but they finally realised concentration gets you through. We have sown the seeds for the Combined Services side."

An even bigger hurdle was still to come though — the home tie, two weeks later, with the cup holders Belgium, and the knowledge that victory would bring the trophy to Britain for the first time since 1973.

So there were great expectations in the air as the teams took the field at Aldershot Stadium on immaculate frost-tinged turf in total contrast to the mud of Melun.

Coached by the experienced Kentish Cup campaigner Commandant Bers, the Belgians with their professional footballer conscripts can usually be relied on for some sparkling, attacking football.

But this year's squad lacked the polish and maturity of their predecessors and produced few flowing moves to warm a distinguished gathering of spectators that included FA President Sir Harold Thompson and former FIFA President Sir Stanley Rous.

Combined Services on the other hand, though lacking their visitors' ball skills, more than compensated with their total commitment and teamwork and spent most of the match pressing forward.

But time after time their attacks foundered in an untidy flurry of limbs and it was nearly half time before they created their first real scoring chance. A free kick by Staff Sergeant Mickey Doig was headed into the six-yard box by Craftsman Phil White, but the ball bounced unkindly and Corporal Dave Dodds (RAF) could only manage a half-hit shot.

Five minutes after the break Lance Corporal George Torrance lost a defender and sent in a high cross but the header by Leading Physical Training Rating Leigh Tongue (RN) was well saved by the Belgian



keeper. From the corner, the ball was scrambled away and Corporal Alex Hamilton shot just over.

So it continued — with the home side continuing to have the edge but never getting the vital break to clinch matters, and the young Belgian defence steadfastly refusing to surrender.

At the final whistle it was still 0-0 and the Belgians — relieved to hang on to their vital point — looked favourites to take the trophy yet again in their home tie against the French three weeks later.

In the event though, they were disappointed, for that game too finished level — 1-1 — leaving all three nations with an equal number of points but securing the trophy for France by virtue of having scored the most goals.

Even so, the British could be well pleased with their showing and with the unbeaten debut of their Combined Services team. And there was no doubt, from their generous praise of the competition, that players from the Royal Navy and RAF will be just as keen as their Army counterparts to win selection for future matches.

So this year's Diamond Jubilee of the Kentish Cup has marked not only a milestone for Army football but an exciting step forward in inter-Services sports co-operation. Continentals beware! ●



Above: Action in the game with Belgium.

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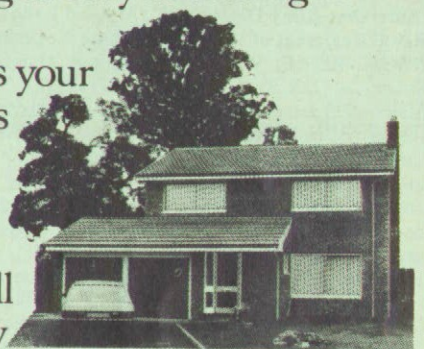
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Plymouth Pageant 1980 (Spectacular Sounds Ltd 104)

In this, the first ever Plymouth Pageant, we are given the musical excerpts played by the Bands and Corps of Drums of the Royal Marines, Britannia Royal Naval College, of the 3rd Battalion and Depot of the Light Infantry, the Royal Corps of Transport, and the Pipes and Drums of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

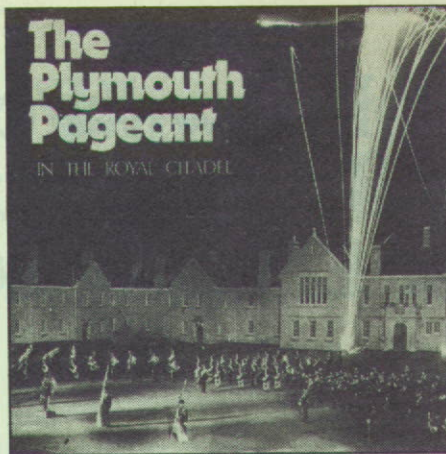
The music comes across very well, with good open-air effect, and comprises each group doing a display with finale by the massed bands. The marches are *Luftwaffe* by Ron Goodwin, *Brasses to the Fore* by Harold Walters, *Army of the Nile* and *A Life on the Ocean Wave* from the Marines; *A Scottish Soldier*, *Loudons Wood*, *Fairy Dance* and *Rowan Tree* from the pipes and drums; *Jellalabad*, *St Cross* and *Light Infantry* by Denis Plater, from the Light Infantry at a ridiculous pace I calculated to be 172 to the minute; *Wait for the Wagon*, *The Thunderer*, a Berlioz tune as a slow march, *Staffordshire Knot* and *The Longest Day* from the RCT. The finale included *Colonel Bogey*, *Bo'sun's Fancy* (a piccolo solo by T A Kenny), *Evening Hymn*, *National Anthem*, and *Radetzky* as march-off tune. **RB**

'Aldershot Army Display '80' (Massed Bands of Royal Regiment of Wales; Parachute Regiment; RAOC; REME; WRAC) (Conductor: Major D Snowdon) (DR Recording Services DR 28)

Many other bands and corps of drums took part in the actual display, this record being made by five of them prior to the event. 'The Greatest Free Show in the Country' it calls itself, and probably is, attracting many thousands to the British Army's home town for a display of all activities, equipment and music concerning T Atkins Esq. And it is the First World War's Tommy who is featured on side two in a well presented and well sung selection of old weepies interspersed with obligatory battle music and Last Post. *Oh! It's a Lovely War*, *Pack up your Troubles* and *Tipperary* lead to what I take to be a complete battle scene, with Miklos Rozsa's *March of the Charioteers*, a camp fire scene with *Keep the Home Fires Burning*, and a couple of movements depicting the battles of Worcester and Hastings from a suite by Laurie Johnson. The latter seem a little too modern for their purpose on disc but probably worked well in the arena. Then come probably the greatest of all Jerome Kern's tunes, *They Didn't Believe Me*, overlaid by Last Post to somewhat incongruous effect out of context. *Goodbye* and *Soldiers of the Queen* serve as dispersal music.

Side one has an opening fanfare *Gunfire* (early-morning tea to all you post-war squaddies), the marches *Radetzky*, *National Emblem*, Plater's *The King's Men*, a *Cockney Cocktail* medley, and Earle Brigham's slow march *Royal Standard*, originally composed by the then professor of instrumentation as the *Kneller Hall Slow March*, and a fine one it is.

A fine record for all old soldiers who enjoy an evocative hour dreaming in front of the fire now and again. £4 inclusive from AAD Office, HQ South East District, Aldershot, GU11 2DP. **RB**



The Queen's Volunteers in Concert (Band of the Queen's Regiment (TA)) (Conductor: WO 1 E T F Clark) (Music Masters MM 0569)

Self congratulation in the sleeve notes (a growing habit among our bands) can sometimes recoil with painful effect, as any unwary boomerang-thrower knows. 'Outstanding' reports notwithstanding (and I seem to remember being responsible for one of them) this cannot be graded an outstanding record. One player can ruin a whole band, and here does. Whenever he is exposed by the absence of brass the result is not pleasant, and could so easily have been put right. Otherwise the programme is attractive enough, though they dare to play the ferocious *Cachucha* from Curzon's suite, *In Malaga*, which was rash of them.

Trevor Sharpe's *Fanfare and Soliloquy* without the soliloquy starts the programme, and his setting of *The Day Thou Gavest* with Last Post is played at the end. Three marches comprise an unusual and clever one in J J Richards' *Emblem of Unity*, an American potboiler in *El Caballero*, *Soldiers of the Queen*, the regimental march, and a *Royal Salute for Band* by R Waterer. Two solo items are *Bright Eyes* for cornet trio and W J Lemon's xylophone solo *The Joyful Skeleton*, plus a piano solo with band, *Etude in Boogie*, in which Harold Walters repeats his popular Hootenanny formula.

A pop song and a pop classic (*Estrallita*) com-

plete a concert which would be perfectly acceptable on any bandstand, but lacks the security of tuning and technique demanded by the dreaded microphone. **RB**

'Stand and Fight' (Junior Band and Choir of the Prince of Wales' Division, Cwrt-Y-Gollen; Anne Smith, mezzo soprano) (Conductor: Bandmaster C R C Garrity) (Music Masters MM 0570)

I placed this LP on the turntable with not a little condescension, much charitable intention, and a patronizing sigh. Kids shouldn't make LPs. Singles maybe, even EPs to boost training-aid funds, but not LPs. Too much of an ordeal and demand on stamina for the little dears, and on the commercial market the opposition is too great.

Ah well, bang goes another theory of mine. It is a pity it is too late to buy as a Christmas present. The fact that proceeds from the record will go to the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association need influence you not at all; buy copies for your friends for next Christmas and a copy for yourself of as fine a record as has come my way in ten years of reviewing for these columns. The sheer gusto, conviction and élan with which the programme is played is staggering, if not downright impertinent, and shouldn't be allowed. If I were their commanding officer I would not 'give them permission' to make their next LP, I'd give them a direct order.

So much for the good news. Now the eulogy. A good deal of Welshery is included, but again this need not influence you. The programme hangs together so well, with well judged changes of mood and variety of style, that you hardly notice. *God Bless the Prince of Wales* is of course the Depot's march, and *Land of my Fathers* could not be excluded, but the remainder of the Welsh items are in good arrangements or brand new. *Great Big David* is a classic march by the unlikely Adolf Lotter, and includes the lovely tune *David of the White Rock*; Clare Grundman's *Welsh Rhapsody* is very attractive, *Tretower Court* is a march by Mr Garrity, and A A Ellis' *Welsh Patrol* is a winner everywhere. Anne Smith, a local school teacher, is in fine voice for the spiritual *Waterboy* and the old song *My Little Welsh Home*, giving touching and highly skilled performances of both, and also of a *Song of Crickhowell* by another local worthy, Dr E A Hamilton. The doctor provides, in addition, the title of the LP in his *Ballad of Rorke's Drift*, a narrative poem of the 24th's (South Wales Borderers) gallant stand against the Zulu hordes. Another impertinence is that the juniors sing it with much more persuasion than their elders and betters in the regimental bands, carrying the tale along with fine bravura in spite of its five verses and five choruses all in the same key — the only blemish on an otherwise stirring saga.

The modern items are *Forty Fathoms*, in which young Davis the bassist gets down deep on his tuba, *Dancing Trumpet* and *Sunburst* by Eric Osterling, *Feelin' Free*, a Latin-American number, and George Gershwin's lullaby from *Porgy and Bess*, *Summertime*, with Anne Smith again in fine voice. From Depot POW Div, Crickhowell, Brecon, Powys. Why not send a fiver and do yourself a favour? **RB**

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MILITARY MUSEUMS

SOUTHSEA CASTLE

BUILT IN 1545 by Henry VIII as an important part of a comprehensive coastal defence scheme, the fortress of Southsea Castle has, in its time, served many purposes including twice being used as a military prison. Today, restored and refurbished, it is the setting for a museum illustrating the military history of Portsmouth.

The story opens with a series of pictures, maps and diagrams outlining the development of the castle and the work of Sir Bernard de Gomme, Charles II's chief military engineer. Relics from those early days include two enormous links from a chain boom, some curious flints each with a central hole which were used on a rope by soldiers of the garrison as counterweights for drawing water from a well, a pile of 16th century stone cannon balls and a remarkable print showing, among other things, the English army encamped on Southsea common in 1545 during the engagement of the French and English fleets, the sinking of the Tudor warship *Mary Rose* and in the bottom right-hand corner the King's Storehouse, an iron window grill from which can be seen in the museum.

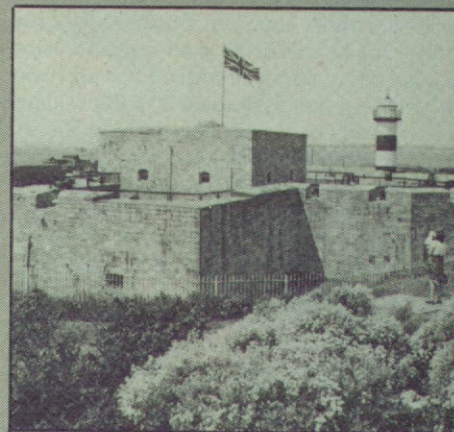
Some examples of Civil War armour, portraits of General Sir Philip Honywood, Governor of Portsmouth from 1740 to 1752 and Lieut-General Sir Peter Campbell, Governor of Portsmouth in 1713, together with a gun port pierced in a 10-foot thick wall, are among a number of features paving the way to the Napoleonic period.

There is a somewhat grim picture of the prison hulks anchored in Portsmouth harbour in which French prisoners-of-war were held. Items carved by the prisoners from bone such as a miniature dice and domino set, a model of the Crucifixion and a box of dominoes, all intricately worked, are typical examples of the prisoners' craftsmanship.

Among some unusual pieces of uniform are the jacket and cap of a captain in the Portsdown Yeomanry Cavalry (1803), the shako of an officer serving in the Royal Dockyard Volunteers and the uniform and cocked hat of Master Gunner Richard Ponting, Royal Garrison Artillery, who was stationed at Southsea Castle from 1909 to 1920. The first two units were both raised for defensive purposes during the Napoleonic wars. Two other items worth noting are the finial of the RDV flagstaff and a World War One Turkish mortar captured at Kut.

Of special interest are two guns designed respectively by Joseph Whitworth and William Armstrong, founders of the Armstrong-Whitworth company. Whitworth's somewhat unusual production had a hexagonal barrel while Armstrong's weapon, produced in 1861, was a heavy rifled breach-loader.

The fort is particularly rich in the variety



of its cannon. The guns mounted on the upper gun platform are 32-pounder smooth bore muzzle loaders mounted on truck carriers of the type which formed the main armament in the 18th century. On the seaward side the gun platforms were reformed in the middle of the last century to take 64-pounders and one of these has been placed in position on a traversing platform. In the centre of the Bailey there is a bronze cannon raised from the 104-gun flagship *Royal George* which foundered off Spithead with the loss of some 900 lives.

Another display concentrates on the warship *Mary Rose* which went down off Southsea, again with heavy loss of life, in 1545. The wreck was first explored in 1836 by John and Charles Deane, pioneers of the diving helmet, who salvaged several guns. Work was resumed in the 1960s and it is hoped to raise the ship in 1982. On view in the *Mary Rose* room are a variety of guns and several miscellaneous items including a leather bucket, a slate protractor, a rigging block, a miniature sun dial the size of an old penny and a wooden comb.

John Jesse

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At the Army's Victualling Training Branch they learn all about . . .

Bringing home the bacon

NOT ONLY NAPOLEON but even Frederick the Great, it is said, claimed an army marches on its stomach. Ensuring that this joint dictum still holds good centuries later, there are specialists in today's British Army who have to know all there is to know about every aspect of food supply — from buying beef on-the-hoof right down to checking a consignment of rosy-cheeked apples for succulent texture.

And it all boils down to that old-fashioned word with Latin and French forebears — victualling.

Whether it involves buying that apple, perhaps originating in Miami, Florida, or fresh fruit and vegetables from a bustling barrio market in mile-high Mexico City, the Army's Victualling Training Branch at Aldershot, part of the Employment Training School at Blackdown, will have played a vital role in educating the purchaser.

The Branch, which provides a variety of specialist victualling courses, is not an establishment for the squeamish. Blood and guts are a fact of everyday life in the slaughtering of cloven-hoof livestock.

Basic instruction given at the branch involves teaching trainee soldiers the techniques of all types of food handling and quality control. Other parts of the syllabus include baking bread, buying fresh fruit and vegetables, controlling tinned foodstuffs, storing and stacking commodities and learning how to draw up contracts.

The slaughtering tuition on loaned livestock follows on from the butchery course which shows students how to recognise various joints of meat, how to cut them up, store them and, in certain tropical areas, how to diagnose ailments on any bovine animal.

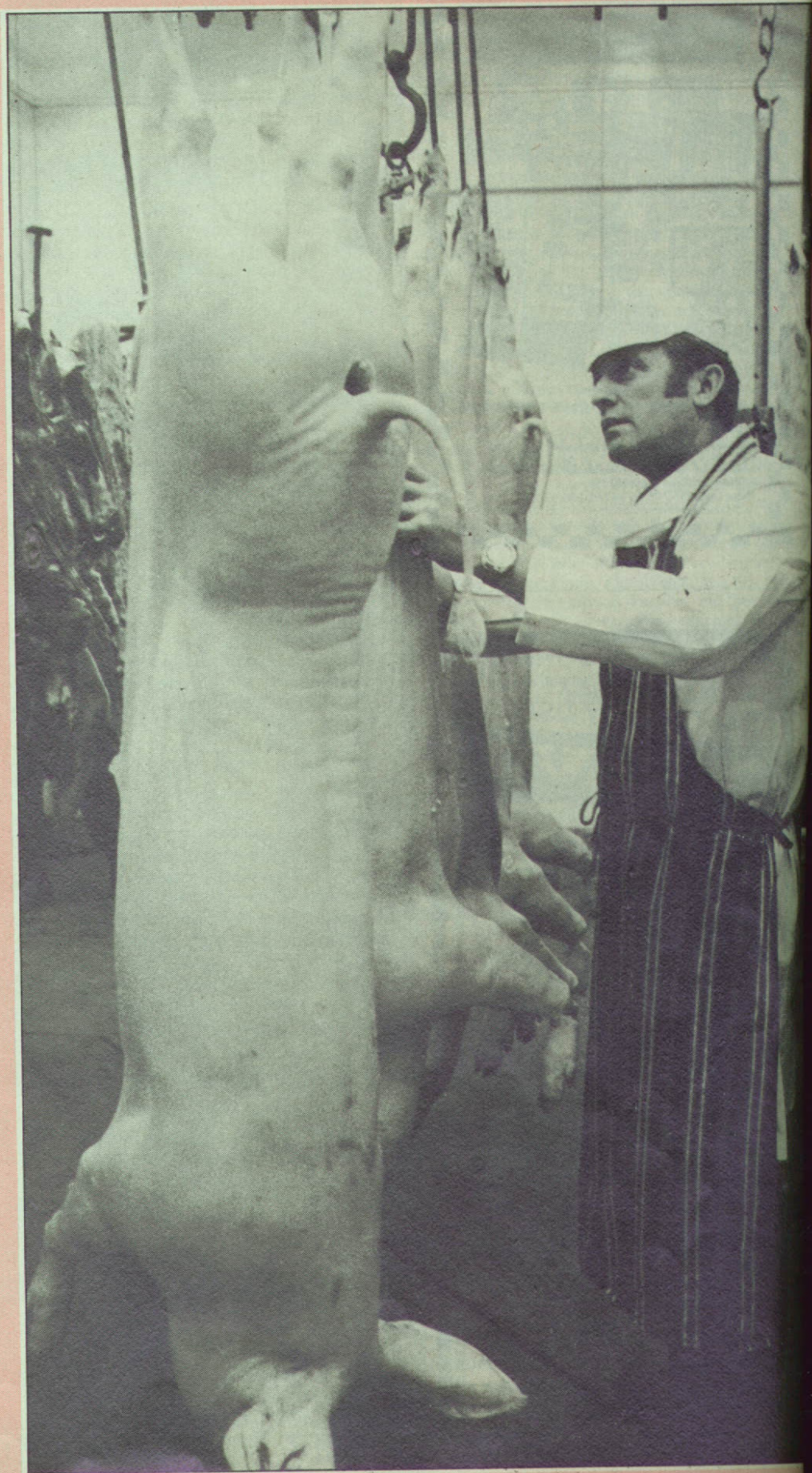
Half-a-dozen, three-week basic courses are held yearly, averaging nine students per session, with four permanent staff passing on their expertise gained over the years with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

WO 1 (SSM) Dave Jackson, in charge of the branch, said: "We like students to attend the basic courses soon after joining the Army or after about two years' service, following which they usually move on from here to serve in a field supply unit or supply depot."

After five years in such posts, and by then promoted to corporal, many candidates who aim to further their careers return to take the 12-week-long B1 Master Butcher (or Baker) course which includes the humane slaughtering of six cattle, six sheep and six pigs.

Pass mark for the courses is assessed at 60 per cent and then, depending on the course, students go away duly certificated to Associateship or Affiliateship level within the Institute of Meat.

Practical experience is enhanced by actual



Story: Graham Smith

visits to farmyards for the buying of livestock.

"Students by then can appraise the condition of carcasses and discern disease just by looking at them standing in their pens or hanging on hooks," said WO Jackson. "The buyers will, after all, have a tremendous responsibility and need a faultless knowledge in deciding whether or not an animal is fit for consumption."

In Cyprus, the Army has to slaughter its own pigs because local methods of despatch do not conform to its standards. And in Cyprus too — as in other hot countries like Belize and Hong Kong — the art of cold storage for meat preservation is another textbook essential learned thousands of miles away back in Aldershot.

Buying up-country in Belize, for example, is done by personal visits to jungle-flanked farmsteads where beef currently fetches about two-dollars-forty Belizean or less than fifty pence per pound.

It is quite a demanding task when the aim of the errands is to supply 2000 men with eight ounces of meat each per day. A dead-weight animal weighing in at 575 lbs would fetch about 95 pence-a-pound, wholesale, in the UK.

Drawing on his own Central American experiences of buying supplies for troops in the colony, WO Jackson recalls: "I've bought cabbages and cauliflowers in Mexico City for delivery by local contractor and arranged the buying of apples in Miami under similar arrangements."

But it is not all as easy as that. Nepal provides difficulties in livestock acquisition because cattle are sacred and pigs considered unclean.

WO 2 (SQMS) John Darling, an instruc-

tor at the Branch, acquired six pigs a week at a resettlement farm in Dharan with which to feed the British administrative staff for retired Gurkhas and the staff at the hospital there.

For other supplies he flew down to Calcutta to buy chickens, fish and other meat locally. Then followed a 24-hour return haul aboard a four-tonner which toted a fridge on the back! Luckily, the trip was only once a month.

In Malawi, supplying beef for a squadron of hungry sapper airfield engineers meant loading the bought, dead meat, into a trusty old Beaver for a 400-mile air trip.

Another instructor at the Branch, who returned there subsequently for his B1 Master Butchery course, is Sergeant Charlie Potts who has done eight tours in Africa after acquiring his local shopping skill and know-how at Aldershot. It all came in useful in countries like Ethiopia and places like Nairobi and Nanyuki in Kenya and Khartoum and Juba in The Sudan.

Throughout its daily activities, the Branch has visits from local Health officers who report back to their employing authorities.

The present is very much in the minds of the quartet of tutors who instruct the Army's victuallers of tomorrow. And the future, too, as they run four-week resettlement courses for those emerging into 'civvy street' as butchers or bakers.

Housed in a quiet corner of Aldershot military town, the supply of victualling specialists goes on, keeping pace with modern trends in the various trades.

No wonder Army grub has come a long way since the days when bully beef and carrots were staple soldierly fare. ●



Above: Instructor WO2 John Darling gives Pte Barry Lay some tips on cutting a side of beef.

Far left: WO2 Darling inspects recently slaughtered pigs at Victualling Training Branch HQ.

Below: Buying lessons are put to the test at Port Antonio, Jamaica during Exercise Trim Craft.



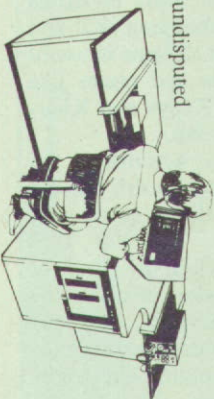
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LOTS OF BRASS — BUT NO MUCK

A WORKMAN IS ONLY AS GOOD as his tools they say. For the soldier, the most basic tools of all are his rifle and the bullets which go into it. And practically all of the small arms ammunition used by the British Army comes from a 160-acre complex near Crewe — the Royal Ordnance Factory, Radway Green.

In the last few years the 40-year-old factory has undergone an extensive revamping into what the Director, Mr Fred Bolton, claims is the best small arms ammunition making factory of its size in Western Europe if not the world.

Much of the work is now automated with fully integrated systems ensuring that the ammunition is produced more quickly, and with a more accurate and unvarying product.

Fred Bolton has done his best to make the Radway Green site a little more attractive than the average factory. There are lots of trees and landscaping between the buildings. Producing some colour photographs he enthuses: "This is a beautiful well laid out factory. You would think they were pictures of Majorca wouldn't you?"

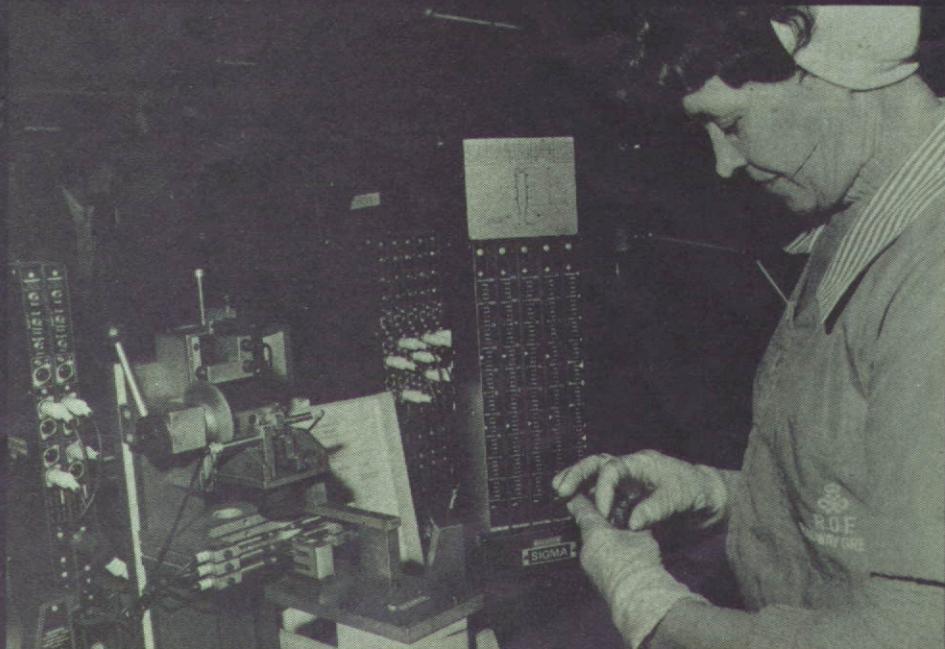
And he has followed a similar approach for the factory interiors. Roofs are painted sky blue, stanchions bright yellow, machines marina green and sand colour.

"I told them that the machines represented the Mediterranean and that after they had had their swim they could go onto the sand," he grins. "Then I heard someone say 'he's a funny b . . . the old man isn't

continued on page 42

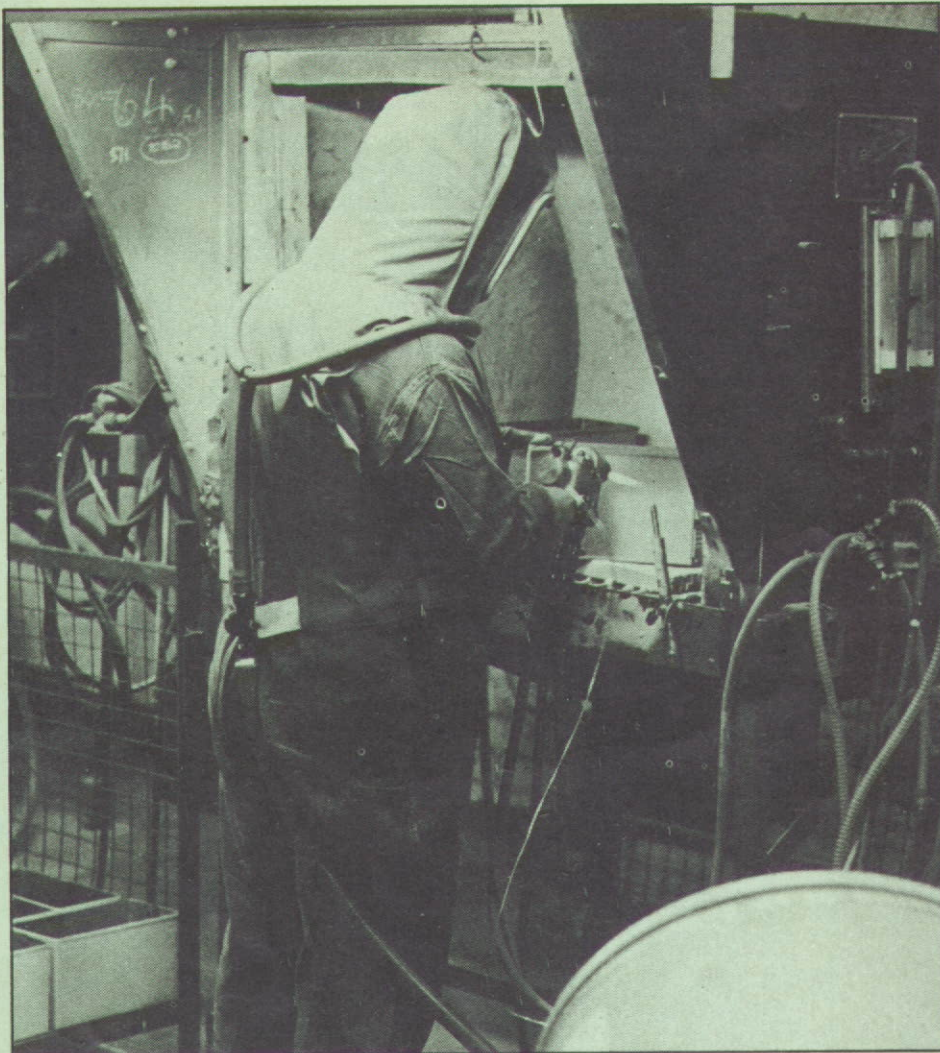


Story: John Walton Pictures: Doug Pratt



Top: Inspecting 200-round metallic linked belts.

Right: Checking for damaged cap chambers.



he?' But that is the way to success — clean, orderly factories."

The ROF Radway Green was a rush job early in the Second World War. Begun in the terrible snows of January 1940, it was completed and operational in not much more than six months. Sited on the Crewe-Derby railway line with its own station, it was ideally situated for bringing both people and materials into the factory. And in 1941 it was decided to put a filling factory on the site as well.

During the war years 15,000 people were employed at Radway Green, working three shifts around the clock and producing 15 million .303 cartridges every week. It also made 20mm cannon shell and cartridge cases for Spitfires and Hurricanes at the rate of a million a week.

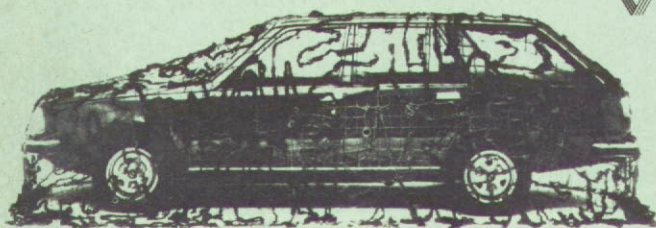
After the war ended the Royal Ordnance Factories were reduced from 52 to 22 and Radway Green, like the other survivors, went into civil manufacture designed to get the economy going again. A thousand gas cookers a week left the Cheshire factory.

The Korean War again provided a busy period with double shift working, but by the late fifties there was not enough work to keep all the factories open. The ROFs were slimmed down to eleven, each dealing with a particular product, plus two agency factories run by private industry for the Government.

In the mid-seventies there once again came a great demand for small arms ammunition as the Army embarked on an intensive marksmanship training policy. Stocks of ammunition were low and Radway Green

Left: Spray painting ammunition boxes.

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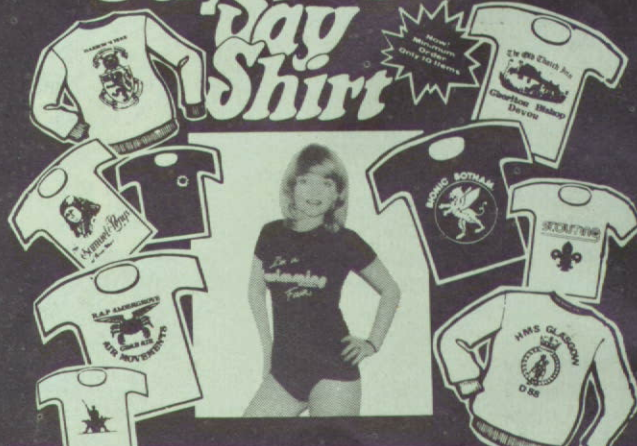
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went back onto double shift to meet the demands.

But at the same time it was recognised that the plant was old — with the equivalent of 50 or 60 years' working behind it. So, while the old machinery was kept going double shift at full stretch, a new small arms facility within the existing factory began to take shape.

Now, production that used to occupy 12 acres of covered factory floor space is compressed into only four. A capital injection of some £12 million has transformed the Second World War factory into one of the most modern in the world.

They produce 7.62 mm ammunition at present but will be able to convert to the new Nato calibre. They also make aircraft cannon and munition items, blanks, tracer, links for machine gun belts and ammunition boxes as well as a lot of small items for other ROFs.

One of the main savings has been in time and labour. A new 7.62mm bullet press for instance replaces 14 machines of the older type. Presses for cases have seen the number of operations cut from 18 to 11.

And the accuracy of the product has improved at the same time. Fully 75 per cent of the rounds made are now of sniper quality and every year at Bisley they get a thorough examination. "What better test could you have than to have them fired by the best marksmen in the world?" asks Mr Bolton.

All empty cases used on British Army ranges are returned to Radway Green but contrary to popular impression they are not melted down and used again. "We could do it, but don't, because you would eventually get traces of lead left in the brass and cause cracking."

The brass used in the cases is about 70 per cent copper and 30 per cent zinc but the percentage of copper can be lowered to 69 — which saves money as it is the more expensive metal.

Before Radway Green was modernised a sample of brass used to be taken from each furnace for analysis, but the process took 24 hours by which time the metal had been poured and was in bond. Now the checking process can be completed in as little as four minutes.

The sample passes through tubes to a spectrometer for monitoring. If a green light is flashed back to the furnace operator he can go ahead with pouring; a red light, which happens very occasionally, and the procedure is halted. And in addition to the time saving there is the labour saving — one person can operate the spectrometer against six involved in the old analysis.

After the cartridge cases have been produced, the propellant is inserted by filling machines and the final product is brought together. The finished rounds get a 100 per cent examination before a sample goes off for testing in the factory's own range. But there is no man with a rifle — it is all done electronically. It is, after all, the bullet which is being tested for accuracy and human fallibility cannot be a factor.

Blanks, incidentally, are produced in an entirely separate building so that there is no possibility of an accidental mix-up.

Soon the modernisation programme will be completed and Radway Green will be more fully automated than almost anywhere else in Europe. But Fred Bolton believes that the factory's success lies not only in its modern equipment but in its work force.

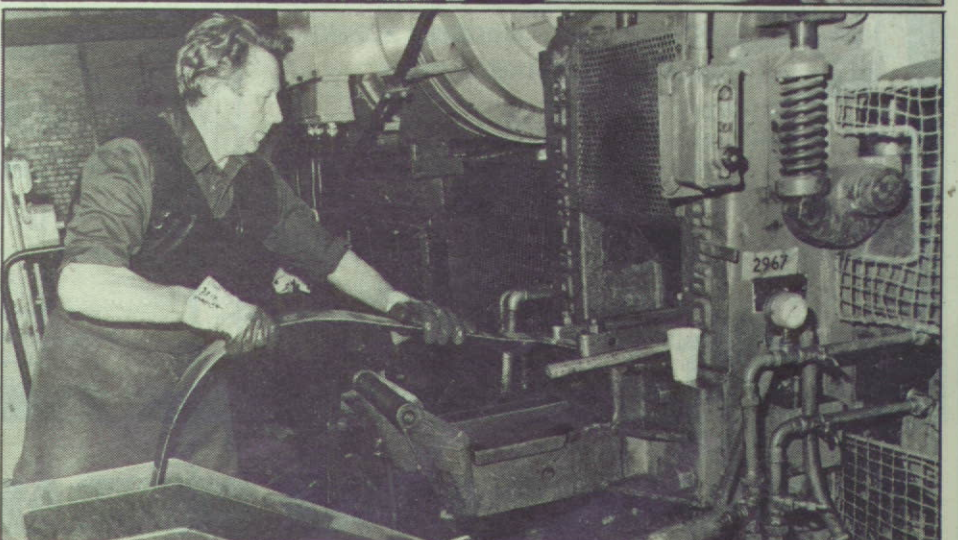
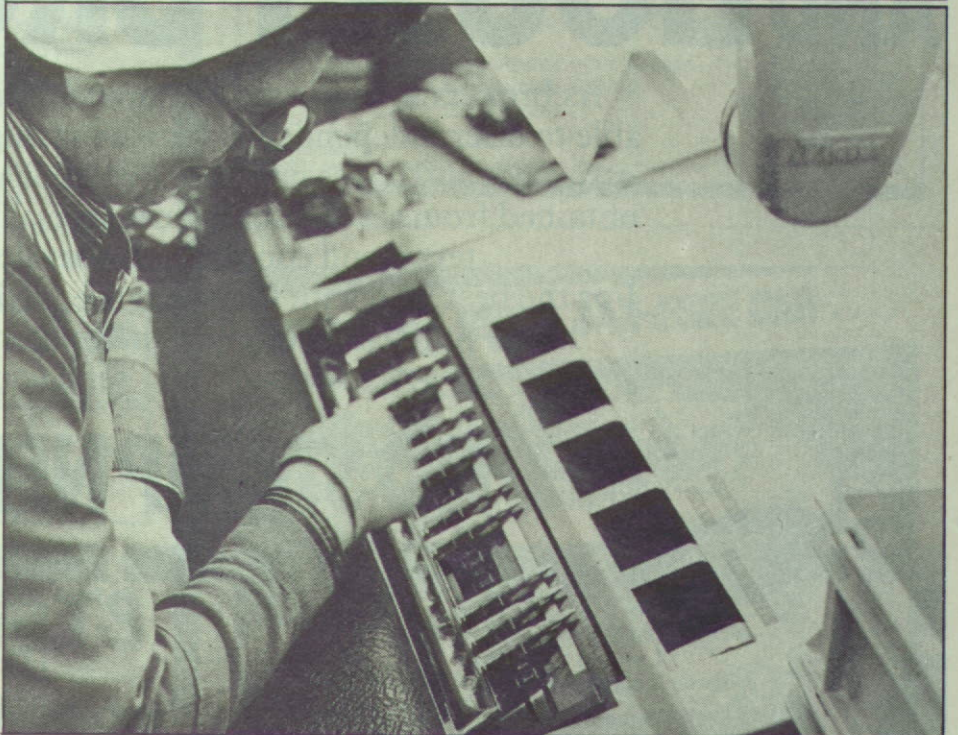
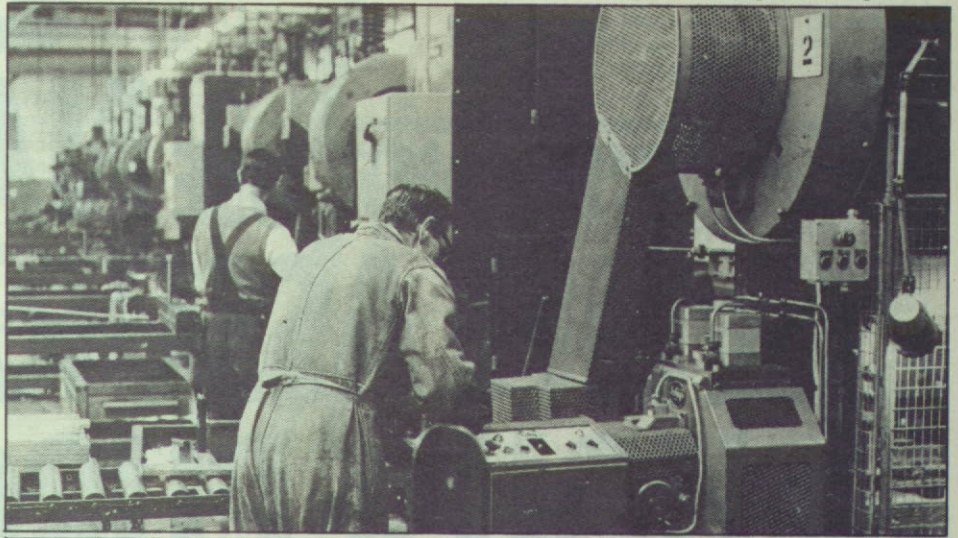
"There is still a father to son attitude in this area. I have 50 per cent female staff and my girls work hard and are all happy and smiling. They are becoming dear to me."

And he insists on one thing which helps

bring to life the link between the ROF's products and the soldiers who use them. When military people visit the factory, from top brass down to sergeants on courses, they are encouraged to wear their uniform.

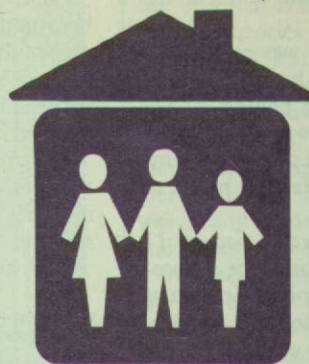
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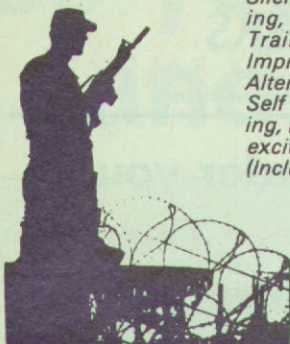
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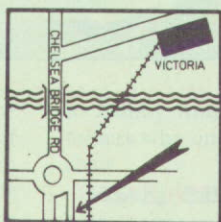
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MR WILLIAM 'NOBBY' CLARKE, the acclaimed Barber of Larkhill, superno of the snipping scissors and accomplished with the comb, has applied his tonsorial talents for 35 years-plus to the pates of thousands yet says he is "still serving out his apprenticeship".

Nobby, now 76, operates from his shop — formerly a ladies' loo — in the Royal Artillery Mess, Larkhill, where punctually at 1600 hours on Monday 14 January, 1946, he opened for business as the Mess barber. Just weeks before he had been Lance Bombardier W S H Clarke.

His first client was the late Major General G W Heath, Commandant of The School of Infantry from 1945-1947.

Since then his valued customers have ranged from four-star generals right down to fresh-faced subalterns. And all are equal as they sit in that original chair of 1946 for 20-minute depilating sessions by the doyen who once worked in London as a hairdresser and then enlisted with the RA in May 1940 to serve as a Heavy Ack-Ack gunner in the Orkneys, Belgium and Germany.

Nobby, a stickler for punctuality, believes in giving his customers satisfaction of service for their 50-pence haircuts.

There is plenty to look at in the small L-shaped, cream-walled room. Visiting small boys often improve their geography by gazing at around a thousand postcards sent

to Nobby from all over the world by customers who once sat in the same old brown chair.

Visiting dads — without trailing small boys — can equally gaze at a wide selection of discreetly located girlie magazines, trade publications or the Daily Mirror.

Such is the satisfaction of his customers in this respect that Nobby has a fairly hefty paper bill.

"Don't like the Sun," said Nobby, the silver scissor blades flashing in mid-air, "that's Maggie Thatcher's favourite paper, isn't it?"

"Some of my magazines are accidentally taken away and, at other times, people forget to replace them," he added. "I put it all down to good customer relations."

The end result of his labours is reflected in a five-lb, half-century-old oblong mirror, once housed in the Young Officers' Mess.

Nobby gets no complaints, not even from the wives. "There's no Women's Lib here," he affirmed. "This is a man's world. My customers know what they want and they keep coming back for it — on average every 21 days or so."

And is the short back and sides still the preferred military coiffeur? According to Nobby that 'style' is just a piece of Fleet Street fiction — like the image of Civil Servants with bowler hats and brollies. "There

is no short back and sides. Never was. It's just a myth," he offered.

His tips on hair care are equally straightforward. "You only need wash the hair once a week with a well-recommended shampoo and give it a good brushing," he says.

And for those whose thatch is getting thinner, he is not a vociferous advocate of the toupee. "It's all right for professional people behind counters or for those getting on in age, I suppose, but hair loss is not really worth worrying about."

Nobby, now in his 36th year of office, has met and talked to Prime Ministers, Defence Secretaries, MPs, Chiefs of Staff and foreign Heads of State. The visit which he treasures and remembers most vividly was that of the Queen to Larkhill on 3 April 1973, when they chatted for ten minutes.

Like most institutions of long tradition, legends and tales are legion. And Nobby is no exception. It is said that he has the knack of foretelling promotions and appointments. It is further hearsay that he has a 'hot line' to AG 6 itself.

Tradition must be served and upheld, it seems, and Nobby goes along with it in fine spirit.

Confidante and comedian to thousands who have graced his shop, Nobby let out a loud laugh and said: "Yes, if you want a good posting, come and see me and I'll tell AG 6 just what to do!" ●

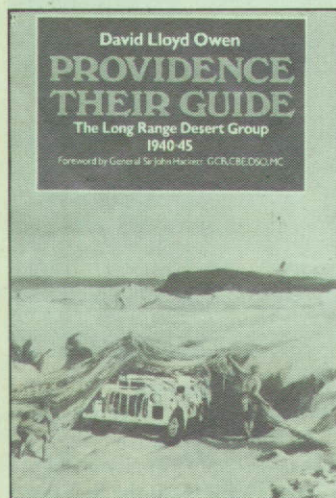
BOOKS

Desert patrols

'Providence Their Guide' (Major General D L Lloyd Owen)

Men in Arab headdress bristling with beards, vehicles bristling with guns, a patrol of the Long Range Desert Group was an eye-catching sight in the Western Desert, but a rare one in the more populous parts of that battlefield. The Group was formed in 1940 by a Royal Signals officer who had made desert exploration a pre-war hobby, to observe and harass the Italians in the deep desert. It was composed largely of New Zealanders and Rhodesians, bought and flew its own aircraft and later crewed and maintained its own ships.

General Lloyd Owen joined it as a patrol commander, rose to command a squadron and then, at 26, took command of the whole Group. In this history of its five years of existence, he writes with pride of its exploits, and with modesty about his own part in them (which earned him a DSO and a MC).



Its main mission was reconnaissance and perhaps its best-known operations were the 'road watches' when, hundreds of miles behind the enemy lines, its observers reported vehicle movements along the coast road that was the lifeline of the desert war.

'Beating up' was a secondary role but more exciting, sometimes shared with the Special Air Service, for whom the Group provided a desert 'taxi service'. But the LRDG patrols, with massive firepower on their vehicles, took on enemy airfields, installations and convoys in their own right.

The desert war over, the Group learned to ski and parachute and was then whisked to the Dodecanese in an infantry role, to stiffen the Italian garrisons. The campaign was a failure and the Group suffered grievous losses. Next it was based in Italy, but made only one sortie in that country. Its activities were nearly all in the Adriatic Islands and mainland, Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece. Road watch became ship watch, and the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force had the benefit of the targets. On

land, there were many shooting operations against the German land forces, some with, some in spite of the local partisans. These were Communists more interested in seizing power for their party than killing Germans and the Yugoslavs actually arrested some of the Group's patrols in the last weeks of fighting in Europe.

The Group did not long survive after VE-Day. There was some talk of its being sent to the Far East, but in June 1945 came the news that it was to be disbanded.

Harrap, 182 High Holborn, London WC1V 7AX, £9.50 **RLE**

Fear and fury

'And No Birds Sang' (Farley Mowat)

It was 1943. King George VI was visiting an exercise on Salisbury Plain and the Royal party was settling down to a picnic lunch when 12 Spitfires zoomed out of the sky in a spirited 'beat-up' which sent the VIPs scrambling for shelter and anti-aircraft guns firing for real. The Spitfires had been called on to the target by Farley Mowat, a trainee Canadian Army air liaison officer who had neglected that morning to attend a briefing that would have told him about the tempting, taboo target.

He had a number of other mishaps in those long days of training in Britain as a member of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment (known as the Hasty Pees) and life was not made easier for him by the fact that he was small and young and looked even younger. He tells all this with good humour, but the humour wears thin when he describes his first tastes of action in the invasion of Sicily. Fury and fear consume him in desperate battles in Italy, and he is in tears at the deaths of his friends at the end of the book.

This is a graphic and moving chapter of autobiography by a writer who, since the war, has made an international reputation as a writer of nature books.

Cassell, 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG, £5.95 **RLE**

Candid camera

'Cameramen at War' (Ian Grant)

A very vivid, exciting account of day to day happenings in World War Two made all the more entertaining by the fact that the author was a cameraman whose task with the British Army's Film and Photographic Unit gave him the opportunity to move around with some freedom. He possessed a sense of humour and an ability to put into descriptive prose the dramatic and vivid incidents his alert mind spotted, selected and recorded. This inborn and technically trained ability also enabled him to produce the excellent war photographs reproduced in this book, although he admits that just after landing in Normandy on D-Day he did miss excellent opportunities to take some unusually dramatic, if macabre, pictures.

He was then thinking more of physically keeping up with the Lovat's Commandos to whom he was attached, and not getting lost in hos-

tile country. But he recognised what he was missing and the knowledge bore fruit in the photographs that followed. Later he was to record on film the arrest of Josef Kramer, commandant of the notorious, horrific Belsen Camp, and took the first photographs of the naked, almost skeletal Jewish victims assembled there in their tens of thousands.

This book is a must for photographers, and one that will be difficult to put down again by any military minded individual who should happen to open its covers.

Patrick Stephens Ltd, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8EL, £7.95 **GRH**

Myths exploded

'The Smoke and the Fire' (John Terraine)

'Frightfulness' was the means by which the Kaiser's army set out to cow the population of occupied territory, thus reducing the number of men needed to guard lines of communication. It involved the burning of Belgian towns and the slaughter of hostages and was, in Mr Terraine's words, "the fire of truth from which billowed the smoke of the evil myths we call propaganda". That is, it was the basis for the blood-curdling 'atrocity' stories against which there was such a strong reaction after the war.

The Germans added their own billows of smoke to justify their actions. A neutral wrote that he heard of so many German generals being shot by the sons and even daughters of burgomasters that the Belgians must have bred a special race of burgomasters' children like the Assassins of Syria.

The 'atrocity' myths and many others of World War One are exploded by Mr Terraine in a book which is incisive, entertaining and useful. Not only does he knock the myths, he names some of those who created them and passed them on.

The Great Casualty (or Lost Generation) Myth is one of the most cherished, and dates from 1916 when the British Army had about 660,000 casualties — 200,000 of them dead. Horrible it was, "but, regrettably, it was also commonplace." At the beginning of that year, the French had already had two million casualties, four times as many as Britain. The only really exceptional thing about Britain's experience in 1916 was that she had been spared so long, says the author.

Mr Terraine denies that the Somme battles of 1916 were futile. They brought a turning-point, the beginning of the decline of the German armies and, as Haig wrote, the victories of 1918 were directly dependent on the stubborn fighting of the previous two years.

The worst myth of all was that the whole war was futile. Among other things, this myth helped rot national morale in the 1920s and 1930s. The tough treaties our enemies imposed on the defeated Russians and Romanians explode that one.

Mr Terraine denies that the British generals were reluctant to adopt new ideas, including the machine-gun and tank; that the machine-gun was the most lethal weapon (the artillery

was); that the clumsy, slow, vulnerable, unreliable tanks of the period could have been a war-winning weapon. He also takes the stuffing out of the famous newspaper legend about the "tank walking up the High Street of Flanders with the British Army cheering behind it". His quotations even indicate that no German general said British soldiers were lions led by donkeys; the phrase was used about French troops beaten in 1870.

Sidgwick and Jackson, 1 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG, £8.95 **RLE**

War day by day

'Chronology of World War II' (Christopher Argyle)

This is a volume that all military historians will want and need. It is also required reading for all who would study World War Two from any standpoint. Every day of the six-year war is covered and, although the entries are necessarily confined to major events, the scope of the war was so vast that no day or night passed without the recording of some far-reaching action.

The air war, the sea war, the home front, the Med, diplomacy, the secret war, the Balkans, the Atlantic, the Russian front, the neutrals, the Pacific, the Arctic, Japan, Burma, Britain, the Solomons, Malta... were mentioned time after time as destiny, destruction and daring dominated the news.

The record, in 200 large pages, is set out clearly in chronological order with sub-headings indicating the location and subject. The 132 photographs help to enlarge the stark, concise record into a vivid story, while the reproductions of 27 newspaper headlines and main stories and the 20 maps recreate the atmosphere of the times.

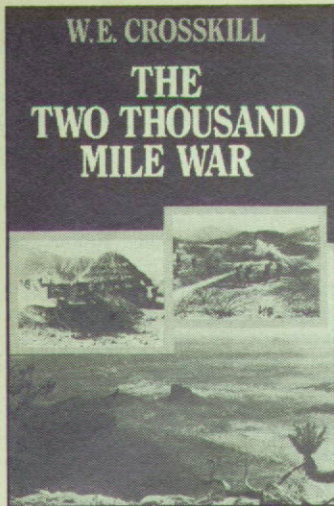
There are explicit pen portraits of all the leaders on both sides and tables of facts and figures showing casualties, monetary costs and armament losses. A glossary is a necessary appendix explaining the abbreviations of the times.

Marshall Cavendish Books Ltd, 58 Old Compton Street, London W1V 5PA, £7.95 **GRH**

Horny threat

'The Two Thousand Mile War' (W E Crosskill)

When Italy declared war in 1940 Mussolini had 250,000 men in North Africa. General Lord Wavell, Commander in Chief Middle East, had 36,000. He also had 27,000 in Palestine, but these had their own particular area to safeguard. In East Africa the Italians had 300,000 seasoned troops. Wavell had 10,000 extended through Kenya, the Sudan and Somaliland. Any Western Desert advance by the British could have been met by half a million Italians, including a horde moving up from Abyssinia to encircle from the left flank. The Italians also had force enough to push southward into Kenya and if they captured Mombasa could interfere with our convoy reinforcements round the Cape to Egypt — indeed, they made a great effort to



do so.

Wavell, therefore, determined first to eliminate this threat from the Horn and ensure a quiescent East Africa. How it was done, and how this most important and least remembered campaign succeeded, is the subject of this book. The terrain was vast, almost as large as Europe. It varied from the coastal lowlands of Somalia, through Eritrea to the mountains of Abyssinia, 10,000 feet high, and from hot waterless barren wastes to sticky, rain soaked, muddy forests.

Although eventually reinforced by troops from South Africa, Nigeria and North Africa, the British force under Lieutenant General Sir Alan Cunningham was still tiny in comparison with the Italians and had the task of attacking them in their well sited and extensively prepared fortifications. Moreover, the British lines of communication stretched nearly 2000 miles. There is much humour as well as many facts in this book and the many photographs give vivid impressions of the extreme difficulties of the terrain.

Robert Hale Ltd, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0HT — £8.25 GRH

Final stages

'Across the Rhine' (Franklin M Davis and the Editors of Time-Life Books)

This latest in the popular *World War II* series from Time-Life considers some of the final stages of the war. In January 1945 Hitler's once triumphant army was reduced to fighting for its homeland; *Across the Rhine* tells the story of the Allied thrust towards the Elbe, the spectacular capture of the bridge at Remagen, the liberation of the concentration camps and the bitter fighting which marked the push into the Reich's spiritual and industrial heartland.

This series aims at the general reader rather than the experts, so students of the campaign will probably find little here that is new, though they may find it a useful and attractive resumé. As an introduction to this aspect of the war, it is excellently written in an exciting and fluent style, brought alive with numerous eyewitness accounts. There are dozens of illustrations, intelligently tied in with the text to illustrate particular aspects of the story. Those depicting the liberation of the concentration camps are particularly harrowing, and not for the squeamish.

The Time-Life series is proving to

be 'one of the most attractive and accessible of the popular histories of World War Two. This latest instalment is up to the standard of its predecessors.

Time-Life Books, Time-Life Building, New Bond Street, London, W1Y DAA — £7.50 IJK

Blue Division

'Germany's Spanish Volunteers 1941-45' (John Scurr); 'Armies of the Vietnam War 1962-75' (Philip Katcher)

Here are two more volumes in the *Men at Arms* series, which is noted for its detailed colour plates showing uniforms, arms and equipment of the period, as well as its detailed accounts of campaigns and photographs of activities and participants.

Spain was neutral in World War Two and Hitler's demand for a military alliance and permission to march 20 German divisions through the Iberian Peninsula to attack Gibraltar was turned down by the dictator Franco. Nevertheless, many Spaniards felt they owed a debt to Germany and had a score to settle with Soviet communists for their intervention in the Spanish Civil War. So it was not surprising that a division of 18,000 volunteered to fight for Germany on the Russian front. Known as the Blue Division they had a difficult task over hard terrain and in atrocious weather conditions. In 58 degrees of frost, rifle bolts ceased to function and on some assignments large units were practically wiped out. This record is the story of the Blue Division — for the first time in English. The uniforms and the insignia detailed in the photographs and coloured plates will be of particular interest to modellers and historians alike.

In South Vietnam in the early 1960s the United States had nearly 17,000 troops acting in advisory, support and other non-combatant roles to the Army of the Republic. America did not officially enter the war until 1964 and their first combat troops arrived in 1965. The Katcher book details the troops of all nations engaged during the 13-year period and shows examples in colour of the uniforms, equipment and arms of the Army of the Republic, the Viet Cong, the Khmer Rouge, the United States, Australia, Philippines and North Vietnam.

The grim realities of the muddled filth of the swamp jungles is dramatically illustrated. It was in Vietnam that the Americans first used their Special Forces Groups, each made up of small counter-insurgency units of ten all ranks to work behind the enemy lines.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP — £2.95 each GRH

Rough and tough

'The Conquistadores' (Terence Wise); 'The Wild Geese' (Mark G McLaughlin)

These two new volumes also belong to the *Men at Arms* series and deal with two groups of restless, wandering adventurers: the Spanish who had settled in the islands of the West

Indies when the New World was discovered in the 15th century and the Irish who became mercenaries and fought for France, Spain and England in the 17th.

The Spaniards moved west to harass South America and later to seek out by conquest the precious gold so badly needed in Europe to finance war. The Irish, rough, tough and all too ready to fight, were excellent mercenaries, fearsome in battle and impossible to capture if routed. As usual in this series there are excellent coloured drawings and dramatic black and white illustrations. Each volume gives a detailed survey of the times, the background and the campaigns.

Osprey Publishing Ltd, 12-14 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LP — £2.95 each GRH

Artistic views

'Army Brat' (William Jay Smith)

Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, on the banks of the Mississippi, was founded in 1826 as an American outpost during the Indian Wars. It closed in 1946, but it is with the period between 1921 and 1941 that the author is mostly concerned. During these years he was growing to manhood as the son of a corporal who was serving in the Band of the United States Sixth Infantry Regiment.

William Jay Smith became a poet of some distinction and it is his artistic and discerning views of life that keep this account of army activities, and especially the vicissitudes and struggles of his own family, flowing like a romantic saga — with all its attendant crudities and earthiness. His father drank continuously, gambled and set up his own bootlegging business in the family quarters while still serving. His mother was hard-working and earned money to keep the home going in hard times. The tales of army life have so many similarities with life in the British Army of the same period, while the ambitions and frustrations of the many characters makes this a fascinating record of the times.

Among the many distinguished Americans who were stationed at Jefferson Barracks and trained there were Ulysses S Grant and Robert E Lee. It is also notable as the venue of the world's first parachute drop. Albert Berry landed in the middle of the parade ground on 1 March 1912 having jumped from a pusher-type aircraft at 1500 feet.

Persea Books, 225 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012 — \$15 GRH

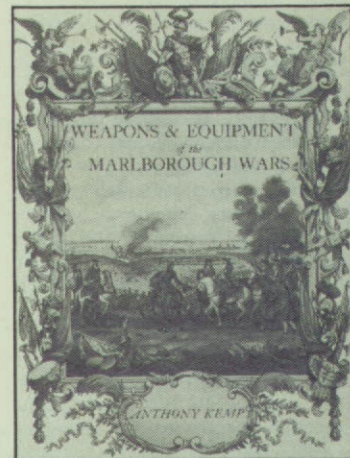
The long trek

'Weapons & Equipment of the Marlborough Wars' (Anthony Kemp)

Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, in fact all of Marlborough's campaigns in the early part of the 18th century, have been well recorded. His long trek across Europe from the Netherlands to Schellenberg and beyond in 1704 has been noted as a masterpiece of organisation but, until now, little precise detail has been available about the logistics. The author of this book has painstakingly researched into the armies of those days — English, French, Dutch, Austrian and the

German states — to assemble an account of their manpower, weapons, transport, organisation, equipment and their tactical fighting and marching arrangements. The result is a graphic picture of men and horses, guns and wagons, sutlers and baggage moving like long scarlet caterpillars at slow pace through the deep muddy countryside of Europe.

The book goes far beyond its title, including many things such as the use of the drum and the fact that an army had to halt every fifth day to bake bread. The illustrations include many black and white reproductions of contemporary paintings, engravings and tapestries, showing life in camp and activities on battlefields. There are also some 50 line drawings



of weapons, equipment, vehicles and clothing, as well as tactical formation movements and intricate drill exercises with personal weapons.

Many of today's movements, orders and appointments can be traced back to Marlborough's days, including the 'orderly sergeant' and, maybe, the sergeant's staff or pacesstick (then the halberd) and the officer's cane (then the spontoon). Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset — £9.95 GRH

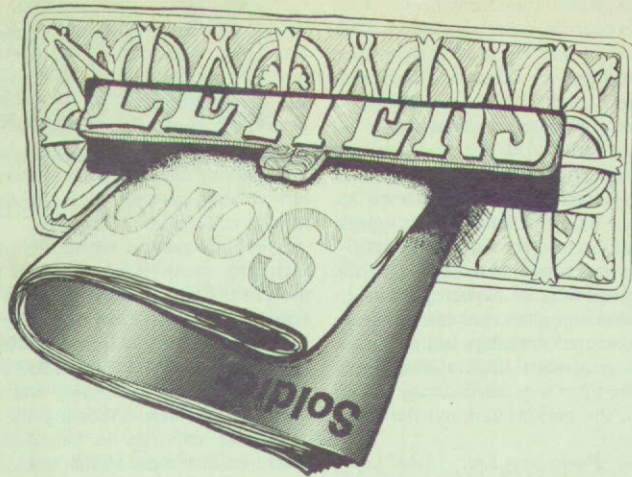
Lessons for all

'The Hollow Détente: Anglo-German Relations in the Balkans, 1911-1914' (R J Crampton)

This volume has nothing to do with the relations between East and West today, though it may contain pointers that could still be studied with advantage in these more technically advanced times. The suspicious attitude that separated Britain and Germany up to 1911 had resulted in a 'naval race' that extended beyond these two major powers. But diplomacy during the Balkan crisis of 1912-13 tended to produce a détente that prevented serious confrontation.

The author examines the failure of the détente and the eventual inability to co-operate — and shows that it had no real value when events brought on World War One. This is obviously the work of a scholar who has gone to great lengths to research extensively. The bibliography alone takes up 17 pages and there are 41 pages of over 1100 individual, but lengthy, notes explaining and extending the text.

The 'hollow détente' of 1911-14 contains lessons for those who lead us today — and all of us who are led. George Prior Publishers, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. £7.50 GRH



Sensitive issue

I suspect that I speak for every man from general to private in proposing that the British Army needs a change in the type of issued toilet paper. Soft camouflage green paper will save the taxpayer money and the soldier discomfort. The reason for this is the well-known non-absorbent quality of the current issued paper which necessitates more being used.

No doubt large stocks of the existing paper are held. I, however, challenge the relevant authority to show the same versatility and rapid response that the British soldier of the 80s is called upon to show and change the new paper by the end of this year. Existing stock can be kept for the HM prisons and Civil Service departments requiring discomfort.

Surely there must be a man able to take up this challenge for the benefit of us all. We must escape the shadow of the Fifties. It makes sense. — **Crusader (name and address supplied).**

I wonder whether any of your readers in the London area could help me? I am registered blind, the result of a progressively deteriorating condition, and have been for the last six years — although I do have very limited sight. I am very anxious to participate in outdoor sports and pursuits and have a special interest in the TA and its activities, but I need people to help and escort me. At the moment I am putting on weight and getting very bored through lack of exercise. — **Terry Wells, 58 Cornwood Drive, Exmouth Estate, London E1 0PW.**

Real service

I read your January article on mess stewards with great interest and feel it really does mean so much to us in the Forces to be trained to such a high standard that we can be accepted by the City and Guilds of London Institutes.

As a chef adds a fine sauce and choice garnish to make a delightful dish that is 'something different' so a mess manager directs and co-ordinates the work of all the mess staff and then adds 'dressing' to create atmosphere and provides service that is distinctive.

I feel that there would be tremendous value in forming a corps of stewards within the ACC who could provide the real service our messes deserve. After all we now have the courses running and they are obviously fully established to meet all our needs. — **Sgt R V Edge, Officers Mess Caterer, 1st Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment, BFPO 17.**

Dhala Convoy

I read the article about David Shepherd's work in your February issue with considerable interest, first because I admire his work and second because of reference to his painting the *Dhala Road* (which incidentally the Arabs did not buy).

The Commander, Federal Regular

Army (formerly the Aden Protectorate Levies) at the time was Brigadier James Lunt. He saw the painting and mentioned it to others and, after some discussion, the British officers seconded to the FRA bought it by personal subscription and presented it to the FRA HQ Mess at Seedaseer lines: of which I was PMC at the time.

Later that year — 1962 — the FRA Christmas card's frontispiece depicted the painting to which, at our request, Mr Shepherd had added an RAF Twin Pioneer to record the very close affiliation between the FRA and the RAF. The aircraft is not shown in the SOLDIER photograph.

I was intrigued to read that the *Dhala Road* now has a home near Warminster. With whom and how would also be of interest. Mr Shepherd says it would cost £1500 to have it painted now. — **Major W R Davidson (Retd), Garth, Malthouse Lane, Bredon, Glos.**

I was intrigued about David Shepherd's story of the trip he made up the *Dhala Road* in Aden during 1960.

I am based with a squadron from my Regiment (C Squadron The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars) in Warminster, and hanging in the Infantry Mess is the original *Dhala Road* painting. To its left on a side wall is a print of the original unaltered version and accompanying this is a letter signed by David Shepherd telling much the same story as in your article. There is one small difference however, and that is in the regiment which he accompanied on the trip. In your February issue Mr Shepherd states that he was with the Blues and Royals, in this letter he states he was taken by the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars!

We were based in Aden between October 1961 and October 1962, taking over from the 11th Hussars and handing over to 3 RTR. The Royals (the Royals were not amalgamated with The Blues until 1969) served in Aden 1959-1960.

I don't know why it was that we or the Royals never bought the painting. I do know that each mess has at least one original Shepherd in its collection, so cost would certainly not seem the right answer! Whatever the case, we do have a full size print of the *Dhala Road* in our Regimental Headquarters to make up for it! — **H T K Peterson, C Sqn Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, RAC Demonstration Sqn, School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 0DJ.**

In his account about the amended painting of the *Dhala Road*, David Shepherd, on page 65 of his paperback autobiography, *'The Man Who Loves Giants'*, writes: "Later I was asked by the Arabs who had now become the Federal Regular Army in Aden if it would be possible to turn The Royals into Arabs; they would then buy the picture. The painting was accepted with delight at the proper price and hung for several years in the Arab officers' mess in Aden."

The original painting now hangs in the bar, sometimes used as the Ladies' Room, in the Infantry Mess, School of Infantry, Warminster and is deduced, from the results of an audit in 1972, to have been there since the end of 1971 or

early 1972. The inscription reads: "Presented to the School of Infantry by the British Officers of the Aden Protectorate Levies, Federal Regular Army and the South Arabian Army, Aden, 1957/1967." — **Ed.**

Competition

Our bumper Christmas competition 'Battle Honours' (269) proved tremendously popular with quite a few people reaching the magic century mark. As we might have guessed there were honours in the grid that even our compiler hadn't spotted and after hours of checking we had to split the winners by lots. For those of you who didn't get near the three figures, here are 101 of the most popular answers — we know there were a few others too; so no angry letters, please!

Aart, Abu Klea, Aden, Aisne, Albert, Ali Masjid, Aliwal, Alma, Amboyna, Anzio, Arabia, Arcot, Arras, Assaye, Atbara, Athens, Ava, Balaklava, Banda, Belle Isle, Bourbon, Burma, Busaco, Buxar, Caen, Cambrai, Canton, Cape of Good Hope, Cassino, Chillianwallah, Chindits, Condore, Defence of Escaut, Deig, Delhi, Doiran, Dour, Egmont-op-Zee, Egypt, Epehy, Gallipoli, Gaza, Gibraltar, Hindenburg Line, Hooge, Imjin, India, Java, Kabul, Kirkee, Kohima, Koosh-Ab, Korea, Loos, Lys, Macedonia, Maida, Malplaquet, Mandalay, Mangalore, Marne, Mesopotamia, Miami, Minden, Mons, Montevideo, Mooltan, Mysore, Namur, Niagara, Nile, Nive, Normandy Landing, Orthes, Passchendaele, Pegu, Pekin, Persia, Piave, Punniar, Quebec, Rhine, Rome, Salamanca, Sambre, Scarpe, Scheldt, Scinde, Seine, Seringapatam, Suvla, Tangier, Tarifa, Tel-El-Kebir, The Hook, Tirah, Vimy, Waterloo, Wilhelmstahl, Ypres, Yu.

Prizewinners:

- 1 R A Hamilton, 4 Richmond Way, Whitefield Park, Tarbock, Merseyside L35 1RU.
- 2 P Hoare, Dept of Industry, LGC, Room 434, Cornwall House, Stamford Street, London SE1 9NQ.
- 3 M Fountain, 14 Ladbroke Road, Epsom, Surrey.
- 4 J W Elliott, 12 Rowantree Crescent, Linlathen, Dundee DD4 8EX.
- 5 Mrs K Johnson, c/o WO2 Johnson, HRT, HQ 1(BR) Corps, BFPO 39.
- 6 P A Mayes, 3 Chetwode Close, Wokingham, Berks RG11 2LL.
- 7 Col P B Burge, Forge Cottage, Lower Ashton, Exeter EX6 7QN.
- 8 S/Sgt G Tyson, 7 Meadow Court Road, Westgate, Morecambe, Lancashire LA4 4SW.

Reunions

The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment Association: Saturday 16 May 1981. St George's Hall, Exeter, Devon. Doors open 7pm. Tickets from RHQ The Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Bks, Exeter, in advance, £1 per person. Wives and lady friends welcome.

Christ's College, Finchley, CCF. Annual Prizegiving and AKMAR Cup Competition — Sunday, 17 May 1981 at 3pm at Upper School. All ex-cadets welcome.

The Band of the Rifle Brigade: Sunday 3 May 1981 at Newburgh House, TA Centre, Winchester. Details from Reg Myatt, Barton House, 16 St Faith's Road, Winchester, Phone Winchester 3139.

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Royal Military Police Association: Dinner Saturday 16 May 1981 at Central Vehicle Depot RAOC, Ashchurch, Near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Tickets £8.00 (including Dance after the Dinner) from Secretary RHQ/RMP, Roussillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex. Wives (and husbands of lady members) welcome!

How observant are you?

(see page 23)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 First pipe-joint down from roof gutter. 2 Giraffe's tail. 3 Fifth fence spike from left. 4 Soldier's right thumb. 5 Toe of soldier's left boot. 6 Badge on elephant keeper's cap. 7 Position of arms of girl on elephant. 8 Left giraffe's right hoof. 9 Woman's coat collar point. 10 Length of elephant's tusk.

Collectors' corner

Per Melin, Mygdalsvägen, S-135 42 Tyresö, Sweden. *Wishes to purchase shoulder badges of army groups, armies, corps and divisions of the US Army, US Marine Corps, State and National Guard from 1939 to date. Also SOLDIER magazines from Jan 75-Oct 80. Please write giving details and prices.*

Barry Tupling, 130 Carlton Road, Boston, Lincs. *Has SOLDIER Magazines for sale or exchange due to sudden blindness. Copies from 1970 to December 1980 with one or two gaps. Good condition. Will part with part-lots. Interested in brass cap badges.*

Mr R Nugent, 22 Trewitt Road, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE26 2QS. *Will accept offers for SOLDIER back issues: Jun, Aug, Oct, Nov, Dec 1975; All but May 1976; complete 1977; complete 1978; all but Nov 1979.*

AWAN Dale E Johnson, VS 41, Training Bldg 979, NAS North Island, San Diego, CA 92135, USA. *Wants United States Navy Squadron patches for the following types of units: VS, HS, VP, and VQ squadrons. Also interested in anti-submarine type squadron insignias.*

Mr L Newport, 18 Swinburne Road, Donnington Bridge Road, Donnington Estate, Oxford, OX4 4BG. *Requires any cap badges and buttons for collection.*

John Swan, 265 Compton Av, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2B 5A8. *Wishes to correspond with other collectors of Canadian military insignia, from all periods, especially badges of the CEF and 1920-36 period. Good spare badges for trade. Wants/spares lists welcomed. All letters answered.*

P E A Hall, Kohima, 1030 Harrow Road, Wembley, Middx, HA0 2QT. *Wishes to buy Victorian stamps, letters and postcards. Also military medals and campaign stars.*

P Kelly, RR2 Spencerville, Ontario, Canada, KOE 1X0. *Seeks any information on the seven volunteer battalions of the King's (Liverpool) Regiment. Will exchange for insignia, Regimental History etc of The Brockville Rifles.*

Mr T P McNicholas, 138 Keyham Road, Devonport, Plymouth, Devon, PL2 1QZ. *Wishes to obtain for reasonable prices any 1st The Royal Dragoons militaria, in particular copy of The Royals' 1963 Freedom of London March by Terence Cuneo. Also wants 'Eagle' magazines. Has some RN cap tallies and RN equipment for exchange.*

John H Ellis, Goddington House, Court Road, Orpington, Kent. *Requires following second hand books for sale: 'The Path of the 50th' (story of the 50th Northumbrian Div) 1939/45, by Maj E W Clay; 'History of the 51st Highland Division 1939/45' by J B Salmond; 'Welsh Spearhead - History of the 53rd Recce Regt 1941/6' by Maj P M Cowburn (published in 1946 by Wilhelm Müller).*

A Millar-Robinson, 43 Rudsdale Way, Prettygate, Colchester, Essex. *Has large collection of Royal Navy,*

RAF and British Army cloth embroidered arm badges (e.g. Ships Writer, Weapons Artificer, WO2 Light Inf and Rifles, Glider Pilot wings etc). All items in mint, unused condition, some in original packing. Seeking West Yorks Regt (metal) and any Canadian, Australian, or New Zealand Army cap badges.

John L Garland, 73 Upway, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8AA. *Wants shoulder title 199th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force (Irish Canadian Rangers, Duchess of Connaught's Own) - a dual crown above script 'DCO' over 'Canada.' Will purchase or part exchange other, mainly Irish, items.*

P Starr, 26 Hartmead Road, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks. *Wants cap/helmet badges of police forces - Belfast Harbour; Dover Harbour Board; Isle of Man; States of Jersey; Guernsey, Manchester Dock; Northern Ireland Airports; Port of Bristol Authority; Port of London Authority; Royal Parks.*

K M Bell, 27 Queens Road, Twickenham, Middlesex. *Seeks offers for a hardback book 'The Best from Yank' pub. New York 1945. 300 pages of selections from US Army mag of WWII, also three 'Bystander' booklets of Bruce Bainsfather cartoons published in WWI.*

See-the-Army

DIARY

Lots more events and details for your diary this month. Additions and amendments to last month's list are in bold type. Please remember though that events are sometimes altered, postponed or cancelled so always check before setting out. We hope too that organisers will advise us of any changes so that we can keep readers fully in the picture.

APRIL 1981

24 Stratford-upon-Avon Freedom Parade and Shakespeare Weekend (RE Band) (24-26 Apr).

MAY 1981

- 4 Lydiard Park.
- 16 Hinckley Tattoo, Leics (16-17 May).
- 16 General Assembly Church of Scotland, Edinburgh (1 Para Band CD) (16-22 May)
- 23 International Clan Gathering, Edinburgh (1 Gordons Band) (23-30 May).
- 24 Loughborough Tattoo, Leics (24-25 May).
- 25 Derby County Show.
- 25 Herts County Day, Hertford.
- 27 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (1, 2 and 3 R Anglian Bands) (27-28 May).
- 30 St Neots Riverside Festival, Cambs (30-31 May) (White Helmets).
- 30 1st rehearsal for Queen's Birthday Parade (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division).

JUNE 1981

- 2 Beating Retreat, Horse Guards (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division) (2-4 June).
- 5 Ripon Weekend (RE Band) (5-7 June).
- 6 Sutton Coldfield RSC Open Day (JLRRA Band; RA para team, JLRRA Gymnastics).
- 6 2nd rehearsal The Queen's Birthday Parade (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division).
- 11 South of England (Queen's Division Band) (11-13 June).
- 12 Essex Show, Chelmsford (3 R Anglian Band) (12-13 June).
- 13 Water Spectacular, Nottingham (13-14 June).

13 The Queen's Birthday Parade (Massed Bands, Pipes & Drums Household Division).

14 Glencorse Open Day (Scottish Infantry Depot).

20 Ashford Extravaganza (1 Queen's Band) (20-21 June).

20 City of Leicester Tattoo.

23 Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh (23-26 June).

24 Lincs Agricultural Show, Lincoln (24-25 June).

26 International Air Tattoo, Greenham Common (Lt Div Band; Red Devils) (26-28 June).

27 Wembley Military Musical Pageant (40 bands, Corps of Drums, Pipes & Drums) (27 evening-28 afternoon June).

27 Royal Signals 'At Home' Catterick (R Signals Band; Jnr Regt Royal Signals Display Team).

JULY 1981

- 1 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (1-2 July).
- 4 Army Open Day, RPC Trg Centre, Northampton (3 R Anglian Band).
- 7 Basingstoke Carnival (Red Devils) (7-11 July).
- 10 Southampton Show (POW Div Band; RGJ Freefall) (10-12 July).
- 11 RCT Corps weekend 'At Home' Aldershot (RCT (Northumbrian) Band).
- 11 Corby Highland Games, Northants (11-12 July).
- 11 Royal British Legion, Scotland, Royal Review, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh (1 Gordons Band, 1 Para Band).
- 15 The Royal Tournament, Earls Court (Massed Bands of Royal Marines, Royal Signals Band, Netherlands Marine Corps Band; Display Teams: Field Guns, King's Troop, White Helmets, RAF Queen's Colour Squadron) (15 July-1 August).
- 14 Great Yorkshire Show, Harrogate (1 DWR Band) (14-16 July).
- 15 Army Expo for Schools, Basingstoke, Cambs. (Queen's Div Jnr School of Music Band; Red Devils, R Sigs Jnr Display Team) (15-17 July).
- 18 Bournemouth Air Pageant (R Signals Band; Red Devils) (18-19 July).
- 21 East of England Show, Peterborough, Cambs (21-23 July).
- 23 Nottingham Army Display (RA Motorcycles) (23-25 July).
- 24 Northampton Show (24-26 July).
- 30 Folkestone Tattoo (Queen's Div, Para Regt Bands) (30-31 July).

AUGUST 1981

- 5 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (WG, RCT and Drums, WRAC, QDG, 1 RRW and Drums, 1 R Irish, 1 DWR, 1 R Hamps and Drums, 1 6/5 L) (5-15 August).
- 5 North Devon Show (1 Devon & Dorsets, Corps of Drums; Red Devils).
- 12 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Regimental Band Scots Guards, 2 Scot Div, 1 Para) (Bands of Scots Guards, Royal Highland Fusiliers, Black Watch, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1 Para) (12-August-5 September).
- 14 Reading Show (14-15 August).
- 29 Expo Steam, Peterborough, Cambs (REME Band) (29-31 August).
- 30 Uffington White Horse Show (Lt Div Band; RGJ Freefall) (30-31 August).
- 30 QUEXPO (1 Queen's Band) (30-31 August).



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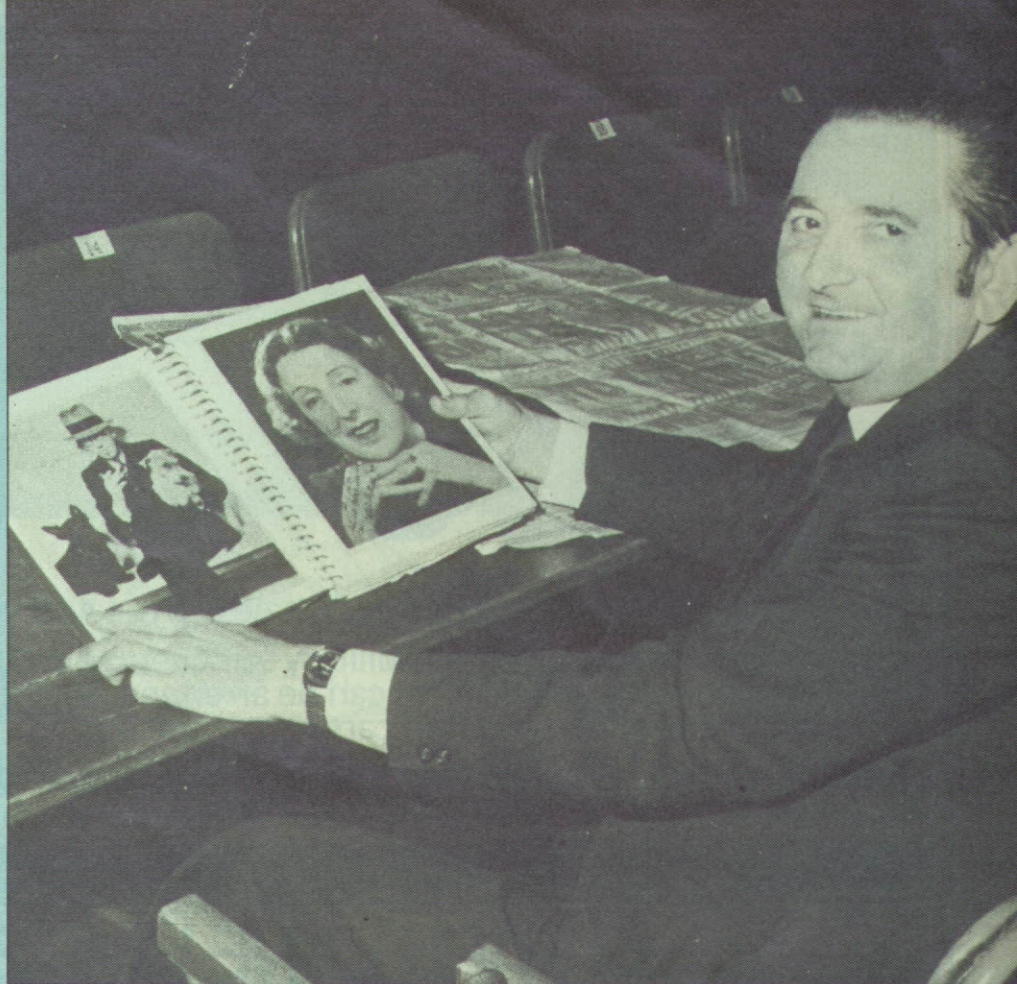
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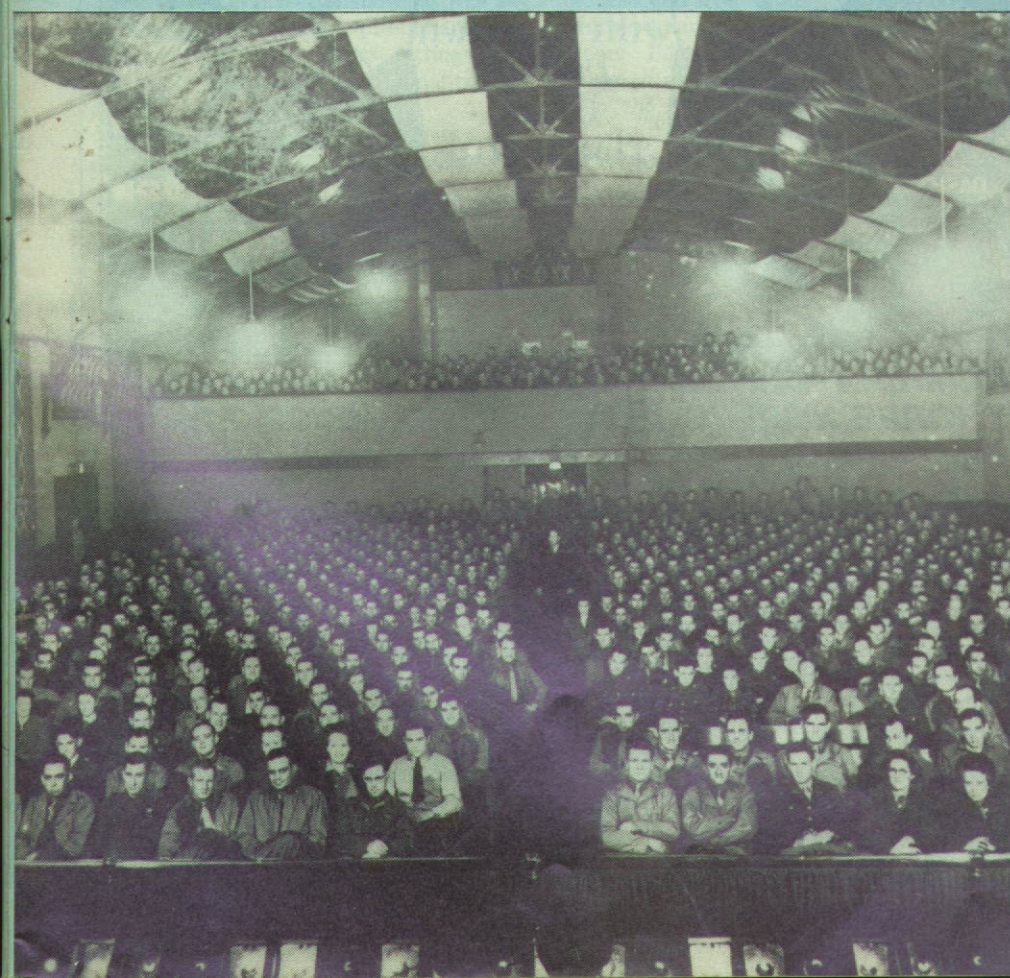
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discovered,
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Theatre is...



STILL PACKING 'EM IN



REMEMBER THAT PICTURE of Harold Wilson as a small boy standing outside Number Ten Downing Street? Ken Pickernell's got one just like that. His much treasured and faded snapshot shows him standing at the door of Tidworth's Garrison Theatre. Today, half a century later, he is still there — as Tidworth's Entertainments Manager.

The astonishing thing is that since the Garrison Theatre opened at Tidworth back in the reign of King Edward VII it has been managed by only two men — father and son.

Mr Bert Pickernell moved over from the Empire Theatre at Swindon when the Tidworth establishment opened its doors for the first time in 1909. And he continued to manage the theatre until his son Ken took over the reins in 1946.

Tidworth is not the favourite Army posting in England and in those days when soldiers did not have any personal transport the appearance of a theatre to entertain the thousands of troops stationed there must have proved a godsend.

It was still the day of the music hall but the first show at Tidworth featured boxing. In the main bout Lance-Sergeant Sunshine, described as 'the second best heavyweight in

continued on page 55

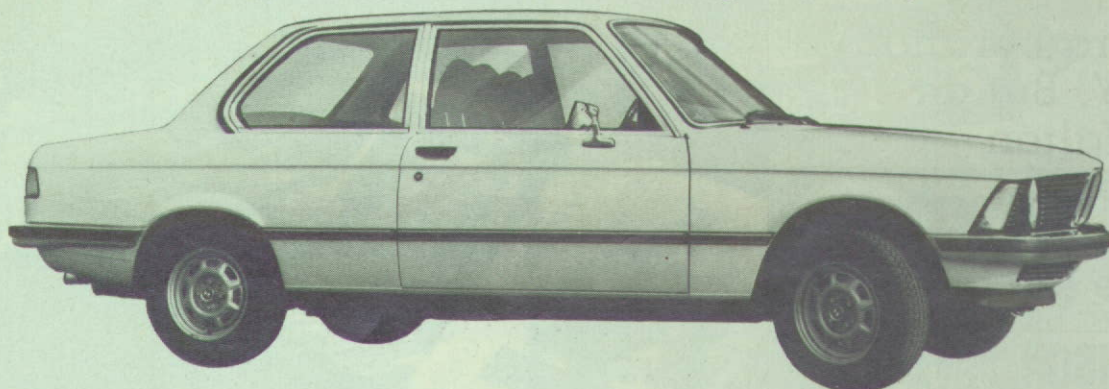
Top left: Sign of the changed modern times.

Above: Ken Pickernell with old pix and posters.

Left: US troops pack theatre in World War Two.

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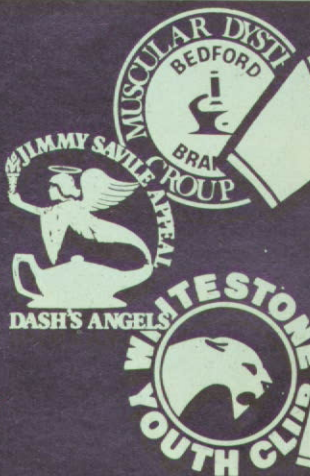
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PHOTO: ANDOVER ADVERTISER

Above: Queen's Royal Irish Hussars' panto. the country' stopped Harry Croxon, trainer of the current British heavyweight champion, Sam Langford, in the fifth round. The odd thing to note, in these modern days of 'shamateurism', is that Sunshine, serving with the Royal Fusiliers, received a purse of £10 — by no means a small sum in Edwardian times.

Boxing at Army level was held at the theatre for many years — only moving to Aldershot in recent times. Among those to splash it about a bit in the theatre was National Serviceman, Private Henry Cooper. And the legendary 'Brown Bomber', Joe Louis, put in a personal appearance there during the last war — but not with the gloves on.

In those early days and between the wars there were lots of celebrity shows as well as numerous amateur dramatic productions. In his scrapbook Ken has posters, cuttings and photographs of many of the personalities of the day.

During the First World War shows were staged by the Navy and Army Canteen

Board — such as 'Follies of 1919'. And in the twenties, when young Ken was a mere lad, it saw such occasions as Dame Nellie Melba's farewell concert before returning to Australia.

"We used to have silent picture shows there. My brother and I had the job of hiding behind the screen to create sound effects. I remember when *Ben-Hur* was showing we had great lengths of chain and we used to shake those chains like mad. And when horses rode by we would shake cans of peas."

As soon as he left school Ken joined his father as an assistant. When the Second World War began and the garrison became swollen with troops, ENSA began to put on regular shows.

Old time music hall star Harry Champion of 'Any Old Iron' fame, Charlie Kunz, Sid Millward and the Nitwits, Peter Cavanagh, Dame Edith Evans and many others appeared in the early part of the war. Ken, then the youngest stage manager in the

country at the age of 19, joined the Royal Air Force and went off to play his own part in the struggle.

Soon preparations were under way for the European invasion and Tidworth became a centre for American troops. Thousands of them were in the garrison — even taking over all the married quarters.

They required their own entertainment and tough guy James Cagney and Bob Hope were among the American stars who played there.

The theatre was also a centre for GI brides to get their final instructions before making their journey across the Atlantic. And General Eisenhower used it for a briefing before D-Day.

After the War, Combined Services Entertainment continued to bring shows to the theatre and the BBC used it to record live shows such as *Music While You Work* and *Any Questions* — featuring a young MP named Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

Frankie Howerd, Norman Wisdom and other stars still did the occasional show in Tidworth. And in 1956, before the Suez invasion, another famous general spoke to his troops in the theatre — Field Marshal Montgomery.

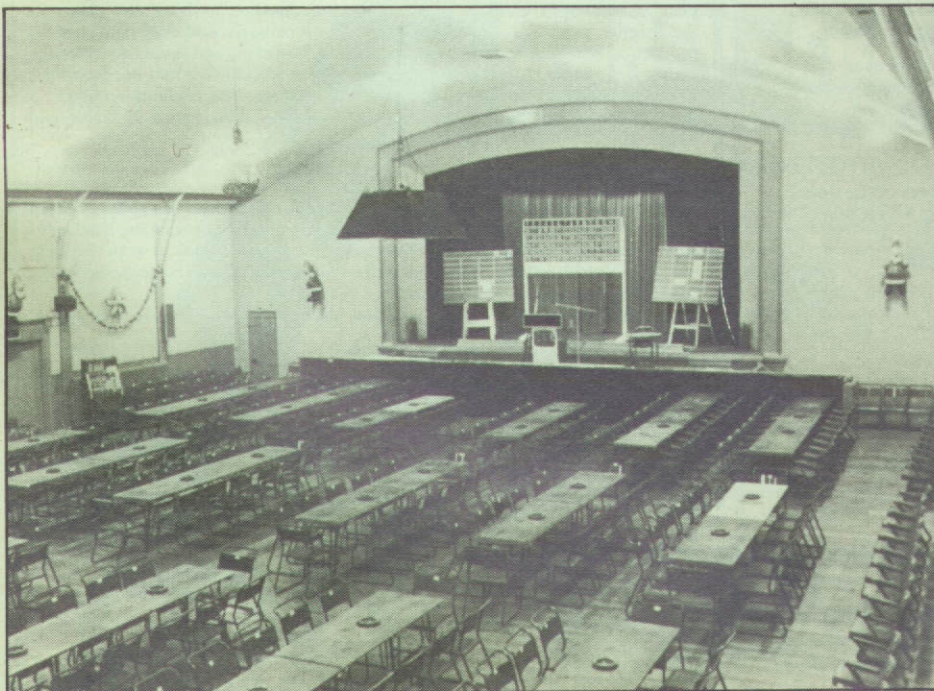
But the world was changing. Television had arrived and live shows no longer had the pulling power for the troops. Eventually the theatre seats were unscrewed and removed and the theatre went over to dances and other general entertainment.

That was followed by bingo — which now pulls in several hundred people twice a week. Says Ken: "As much as you may dislike something like bingo, if that is what the public wants then that is what you have to put on."

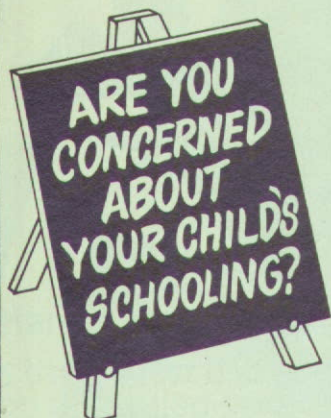
Last Christmas, the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars bucked the trend by staging the first pantomime in the theatre for many years. And it was a sell-out success. Now there is talk of a revue being staged there.

Says Ken: "It felt good to see someone on the stage again." Perhaps the wheel has turned full circle for the grand old theatre which has seen so many triumphs in the past but today resounds only to cries of 'Eyes Down' and 'Legs Eleven' rather than the 'Encores' of yesteryear. ●

Below: Bingo is the big attraction nowadays.



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THE SCULPTOR

Anthony Miller was born in 1947, married with two young children he studied art using his talents as a portrait artist as well as a sculptor.

A WORK OF ART



After months of work, the artist's original sculpture is handed over to our master pattern maker to be prepared for production ensuring every subtle detail is retained when making the moulds. It is the infinite care and skill used at this stage that ensures every figure is an exact replica of the original. Each Figurine is then hand cast in the finest cold cast bronze, carefully checked for flaws, then passed to the polisher to be burnished and patinated with masterly skill. The final stage of production is to seal the figurine to prevent any tarnishing and cover the underside with a green baize. After final checking when we are satisfied that the figurine is perfect its edition number is stamped under the base. The resulting sculpture, a marriage of the sculptors talent and the craftsmens skills stands 9½ inches and weighs approximately 3½ pounds.

COLD CAST BRONZE

The traditional method of fusing the constituents of metal has been heat. Modern casting methods have evolved using chemical and catalyst to provide the bonding of metals and eliminate the furnace. This technique is cold casting, it is an excellent medium in which to present the skill of the sculptor and should be accorded all the care normally given to works of art.

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SO/81

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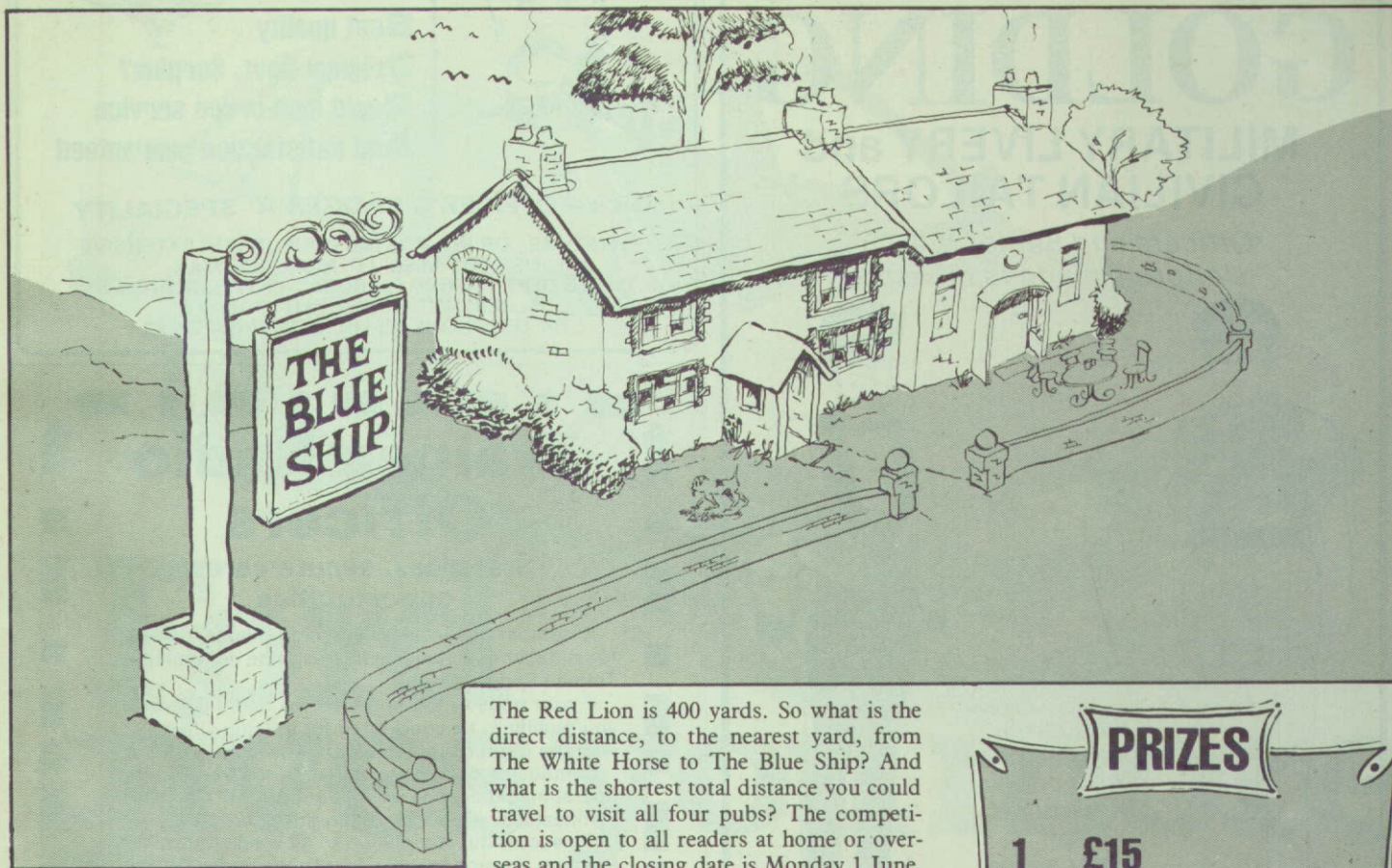
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PUB CRAWL

COMPETITION 273



"YES", SAID THE OLDEST inhabitant, "there are four pubs hereabouts — The Green Man, The White Horse, The Blue Ship and The Red Lion. And it's very strange but, as the crow flies, it's just as far from The Red Lion to The White Horse as it is to The Blue Ship or The Green Man. Also, it's as far from The Green Man to The Blue Ship as it is from The White Horse to The Green Man or from The Blue Ship to The White Horse."

Further questioning elicited the fact that the direct distance from The Green Man to

The Red Lion is 400 yards. So what is the direct distance, to the nearest yard, from The White Horse to The Blue Ship? And what is the shortest total distance you could travel to visit all four pubs? The competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 1 June. The answer and winners' names will appear in the August issue of SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 272' label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Send your answers by postcard or letter with the Competition 272 label from this page and your name and address to: The Editor, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2DU.

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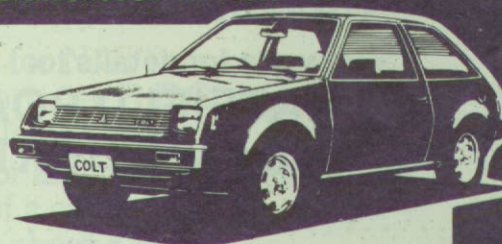
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