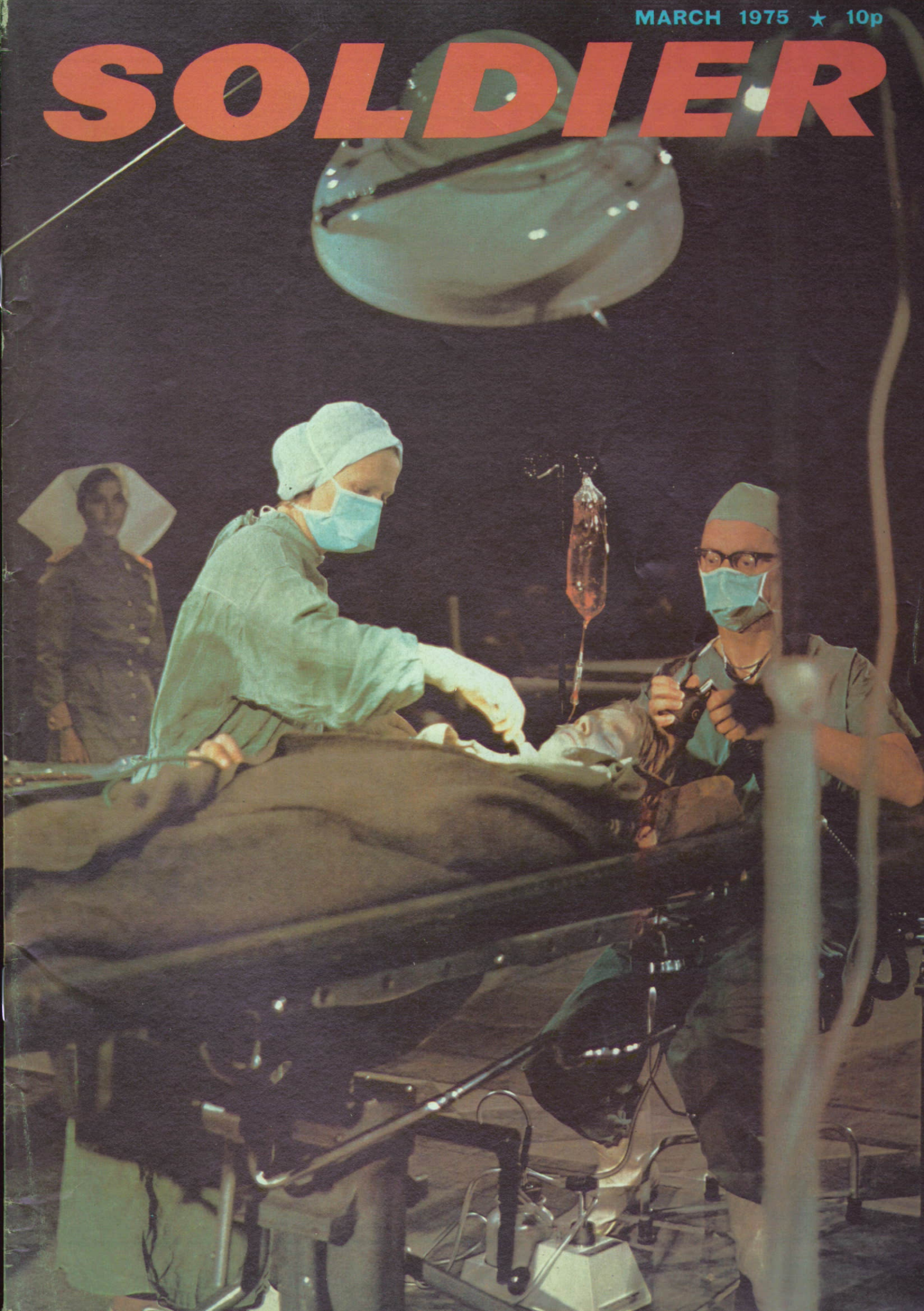


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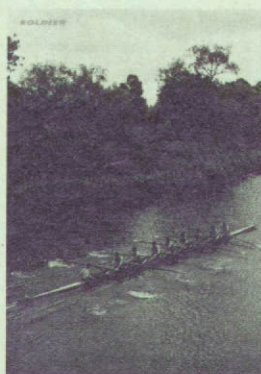
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FRONT COVER

A field hospital operation demonstrated as part of a Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve pageant staged at London's Guildhall (see *SOLDIER*, February).
Picture by Paul Haley.



BACK COVER

The picturesque Dorset Stour provides a pleasant setting for rowing practice for enthusiasts of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.
Picture by Leslie Wiggs.

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Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)
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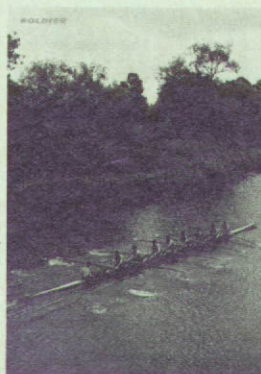
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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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

MARCH 1975

- 5 "An Evening of Music with the Scottish Regiments," Usher Hall, Edinburgh.
- 31 Surrey County Show, Guildford (arena event).
- 31 **Shell Sport, Brands Hatch (Red Devils freestyle team).**

APRIL 1975

- 26 St Albans Grammar School Fête (junior display; junior band).
- 27 **Shell Sport, Oulton Park (Red Devils).**

MAY 1975

- 3 **Queen Mother presents new Colours to 1st Battalion, The Black Watch, Colchester.**
- 10 Blackheath (London) Village Fayre (Red Devils).
- 10 Glasgow KAPE (10-17 May) (two bands).
- 14 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 16 Telford (Shropshire) Tattoo (16-17 May).
- 16 **Devon County Show, Exeter (16-18 May) (infantry displays).**
- 17 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Show (display).
- 17 Boldon (Co Durham) British Legion Carnival (band).
- 17 Wiltshire Young Farmers Agricultural Show, Great Somerton (Royal Military Police mounted display team Red Caps).
- 17 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band 17 May; Red Caps 23-24 May).
- 17 **Shell Sport, Buxton (Red Devils).**
- 21 West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (21-22 May) (Red Caps; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, gymnastic display; six bands).
- 21 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 23 **Royal Windsor Horse Show (23-24 May (Household Cavalry Quadrille)).**
- 23 Aldershot Horse Show (23-25 May) (Red Caps 25 May).
- 24 Watford Carnival (Junior Parachute Company gymnastic display).
- 24 Tidworth Tattoo (24-26 May).
- 24 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (24-26 May).
- 24 Worcester City Show (24-26 May) (junior soldiers unarmed combat; three bands).
- 24 Edinburgh KAPE (24 May-1 June) (three displays; two bands).
- 24 Pershore (Worcestershire) Show (Royal Green Jackets freestyle team; band).
- 24 Otley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 26 Swaffham (Norfolk) Show (Junior Para gymnasts).
- 26 Newcastle West End Festival (band).
- 26 Barnard Castle Meer (band).
- 26 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (band).
- 26 Hertfordshire, Redburn (band).
- 26 Surrey County Show, Guildford (Red Devils).
- 26 **Shell Sport, Thruxton (Red Devils).**
- 26 Hove Lions Fête (Red Devils).
- 28 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
- 28 Suffolk County Show, Ipswich (28-29 May) (Junior para gymnasts; RGJ freestyle team; band).
- 30 Wigan Army Display (30 May-1 June) (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Junior Para gymnasts; Red Caps; Red Devils; three bands).
- 31 Salisbury Hospital Fête (band).
- 31 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 31 Bluecoat School, Sonning, Berkshire (Red Devils).

JUNE 1975

- 3 Household Division beats Retreat; Horse Guards Parade, London (3-5 June).
- 4 Kneller Hall Band Concert.

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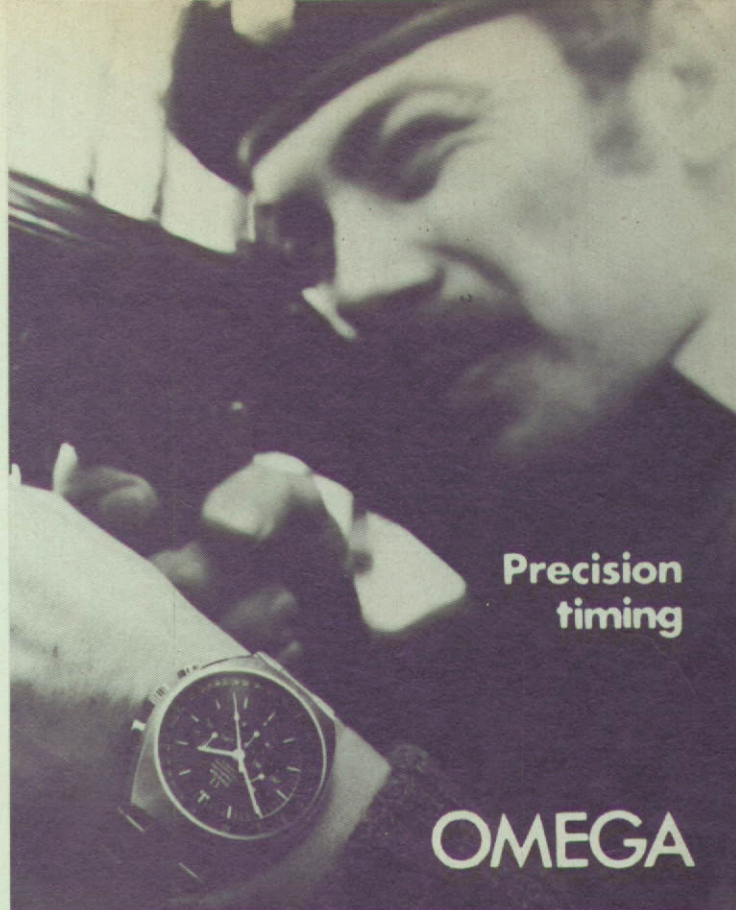
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DIARY continued

- 5 South of England Show, Ardingly, Sussex (5-7 June) (Red Caps; Red Devils).
- 5 Richmondshire Festival, Richmond Castle (two bands, drums, bugles).
- 7 Lord Mayor's Parade, Sheffield (band).
- 7 Stanley (Co Durham) Community Centre Show (band).
- 7 Glasgow KAPE (7-17 June) (band).
- 7 Chester Army Display (7-8 June) (Junior Para gymnasts; Red Devils; three bands).
- 7 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 7 **Wolverhampton Fiesta Carnival (Red Devils, bands, display teams).**
- 10 Three Counties Show, Malvern (10-12 June) (Red Caps).
- 11 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 13 Scunthorpe Families Day (13-15 June) (display team; band).
- 13 Essex Show, Chelmsford (13-14 June) (Red Caps; band).
- 14 **Frimley and Camberley Cadet Corps Fête.**
- 14 Wharfedale Show, Ilkley (band).
- 14 Halifax Gala (band).
- 14 Branksome, Darlington, School Fayre (band).
- 14 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (RA motorcyclists; band).
- 14 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 17 Royal Armoured Corps massed bands beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (17-19 June).
- 18 Lincolnshire Agricultural Show, Lincoln (18-19 June) (display team; **Household Cavalry Quadrille**).
- 18 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 19 **Mercedes Show, Eastbourne (Red Devils).**
- 21 South Tyneside Sports Week (21 June-5 July) (band).
- 21 Leighton Buzzard Carnival (Red Caps; band).
- 21 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot (Red Devils; Junior Para gymnasts).
- 21 **Round Table Fête, Accrington (Red Devils).**
- 21 **Ripon Weekend Open Day.**
- 23 Mounted Military Tattoo, Paris (23-28 June).
- 25 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (25-26 June) (display team; band).
- 25 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
- 27 Aldershot Army Display (27-29 June) (Royal Signals motorcycle display team White Helmets; Red Devils; Red Caps; 16 bands).
- 28 Welwyn Garden City Carnival (band).
- 28 Rushden Show, Northamptonshire (display team; band).
- 30 East Kent Army Week, Dover (30 June-5 July) (RE JLR gymnasts).

JULY 1975

- 1 Royal Agricultural Show, Kenilworth (Red Caps) (1-4 July).
- 2 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 3 Portsmouth Field Gun Show (Junior Para gymnasts).
- 4 **Royal Artillery (Woolwich) At Home (4-5 July).**
- 5 Battle of Sedgemoor anniversary (three bands).
- 5 Military Musical Pageant (Army Benevolent Fund), Wembley Stadium.
- 5 Birkenshaw (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 5 Hanworth Carnival (Junior Para gymnasts).
- 5 **Village Fête, Bedmond (Herts) (Red Devils).**
- 5 **Chichester Combined Charities Show (Household Cavalry Quadrille).**
- 5 **Exeter Air Day (junior band).**
- 6 Leeds Horse Show (band).
- 6 Oxted (Surrey) Village Fête (Red Devils).
- 6 Plymouth Forces Week (6-12 July) (massed bands).
- 8 **Great Yorkshire Show (8-10 July) (Household Cavalry Quadrille).**
- 9 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 10 Finchley Carnival (10-12 July) (Junior Para gymnasts).
- 11 Southampton Show (11-13 July) (Red Devils 12 July).
- 11 Kent County Show, Maidstone (11-12 July) (Red Caps).
- 12 Basingstoke Tattoo.
- 12 Open Day, Depot, Queen's Division, Basingbourn, Hertfordshire.
- 12 Dagenham (Essex) Town Show (12-13 July) (Red Devils).
- 12 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
- 12 Pudsey (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 12 **Dengie 100 Fête, Southminster (Red Devils).**
- 15 East of England Show, Peterborough (15-17 July) (Household Cavalry Quadrille; three bands).
- 16 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
- 16 Mid-Somerset Agricultural Show (Red Caps).
- 16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (16 July-2 August).
- 17 Malton (Yorkshire) Show (junior band).
- 17 Liverpool Show (17-19 July) (Red Devils; Junior Para gymnasts; two bands).
- 18 Cheltenham Tattoo (18-19 July).



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SOLDIER to Soldier

Quietly and modestly, as befits in the company of veterans a youngster still wet behind the ears, **SOLDIER** this month celebrates its thirtieth birthday. And though this is no tercentenary or even a diamond jubilee, it is an occasion in the magazine's short life and one that finds **SOLDIER** now settling into its first permanent building, appropriately in Aldershot, "home of the British Army."

Behind lie Brussels, where **SOLDIER** was born on 19 March 1945, then Hamburg, a move back to England to Eaton Square in London's Belgravia, from there a few miles north to a warehouse in Holloway and, just over three years ago, to temporary accommodation in an Aldershot barrack block.

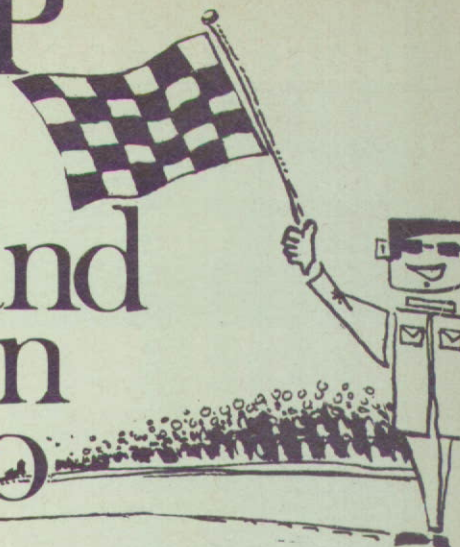
Two of **SOLDIER**'s present staff travelled that road—K Pemberton Wood, now Advertisement Manager, who joined in May 1945, and Art Editor Frank Finch who arrived just over a week later. At the end of that year they were listed, in a preface to the first bound volume, among the 41 serving soldiers who "founded, edited, produced and distributed **SOLDIER** Magazine."

That preface was written by the late Colonel S S J Fielding, first of five editors, who conceived the idea of **SOLDIER** (then with **FACT** as its title) while serving in the Western Desert in 1941-42. In congratulating and thanking his staff he wrote: "It was fully intended that **SOLDIER** should remain as the permanent magazine for the British Army; but this has been found impossible." If threat there then was to the magazine's future, nothing came of it—**SOLDIER** spread its wings from Germany, within the old British Liberation Army, to distribution in every theatre and to assume the role of the British Army magazine, later extending its sales to the civilian market. Alarms and excursions have continued down the years, as older readers—and there are many proud owners of complete issues—will recall, but 30 years on **SOLDIER** is still very much in business and still, we hope, as avidly awaited as ever by serving and ex-servicemen and by the many friends worldwide who take pride in the British Army and its three centuries of unparalleled achievement.

There is as yet no fairy tale ending to the Overlord Embroidery, featured in the January issue after a **SOLDIER** team caught sight of it in Canada.

The embroidery languishes, still in crates, at the Gloucestershire home of its sponsor, Lord Dulverton. Since the **SOLDIER** article and subsequent follow-up stories in the national Press, Lord Dulverton has been inundated with letters from members of the public concerned that the embroidery might be lost to the nation. A number of country house owners have offered to display it although few could show unbroken some 90 feet of panelling. **SOLDIER** understands that the plan now is to display the embroidery in London in the early summer in the hope that in the meantime a more permanent arrangement can be made.

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MILITARY MUSEUMS: 26

Royal Corps of Transport

THIS modern, well laid-out museum in the heart of Aldershot's military town portrays nearly 200 years in the history of the Royal Corps of Transport and its predecessors, from the Royal Waggoners raised in 1794 to today. Pictures and models illustrate the development of transport in the British Army on land, by sea and in the air while relics and souvenirs of campaigns and a wide assortment of militaria provide the human interest.

One of the finest items (below, right) is a perfectly preserved tunic (circa 1814), worn by a Royal Waggon Train officer, with its white shoulder belt and very rare wheel badge. The RWT was disbanded in 1833 and replaced 22 years later during the Crimean War by the Land Transport Corps which on 14 August 1856 became the Military Train. A model ammunition limber, an officer's leather water bottle used in the Crimea, the commissariat flag flown at the headquarters of Commissary-General George Adams at Balaclava, and a prayer book given by Florence Nightingale to Sergeant James Barrett, are in the LTC case.

In the next display the sealed pattern tunic approved on 1 February 1859 for sergeants of the Military Train is of particular interest as also is the sealed pattern of the shako plume authorised in 1861 for the rank and file. Another noteworthy item is a pay and accounts book.

General Sir Redvers Buller, who was responsible for the formation of the Army Service Corps in 1889, is remembered by a number of exhibits. Examples of ASC dress include an officer's mess jacket and waistcoat. The prefix "Royal" was granted to the Army Service Corps on 25 November 1918 in recognition of its services in World War One.

Occupying a central position in the museum's "memorial corner" are three books of remembrance listing corps members killed in both world wars.

Vintage car enthusiasts will appreciate a collection of early vehicle manufacturers' signs including Lancia, Unic, Singer, Benz, Albion and Talbot. Displayed in the sports section are several handsome trophies and an impressive array of international rugby and soccer caps.

Some early photographs and models of wagons recall the days of horse and mule transport and three distinct types of saddlery, each complete to the last detail—officers, general service and the universal saddle as used by all mounted units

in the British Army—are worth studying. Two general officers' uniforms, one with its greatcoat, are preserved for posterity in mint condition, and other items of dress include examples from the RCT's sister corps in Commonwealth countries. Outstanding in a display devoted to the Gurkha Transport Regiment and its predecessor the Gurkha Army Service Corps, are a battle kukri and three splendid ceremonial kukris in bejewelled, silver-embossed scabbards.

The varied activities of the RCT are depicted in a whole range of models. Typical examples are a large-scale target-towing launch, different types of craft used by the sea transport section of the corps, a model of a Royal Air Force Argosy aircraft as used by the RCT's air despatch units and a large model of an SRN6 hovercraft.

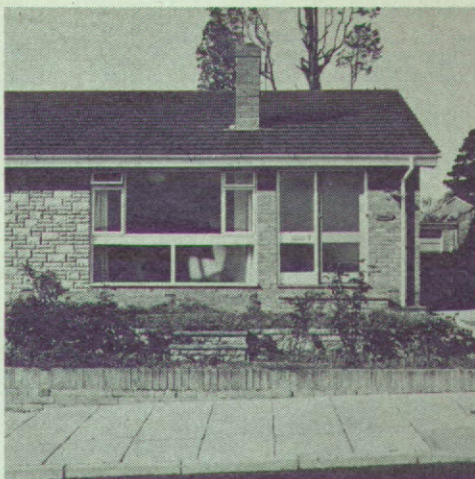
For those whose special interest is military vehicles there is a conveniently displayed pictorial history of Army transport from 1860 to 1939. Additional pictures will eventually bring this invaluable reference up to date. Corps insignia is well represented but comparatively few medals are on show—the main medal collection is housed in the nearby officers' mess and can be viewed by arrangement with the museum curator. **John Jesse**



Curator:	Lieutenant-Colonel K Capel Cure (Retd)
Address:	Royal Corps of Transport Museum Regimental Headquarters RCT Buller Barracks Aldershot
Telephone:	Aldershot 24431 (ext 2417)
Open:	Monday to Friday, 0930 to 1200 and 1400 to 1600
Closed:	Saturday, Sunday and public holidays
Admission:	Free
Amenities:	Car park
How to get there:	Bus from Aldershot Station to Allison's Road, then short walk to Buller Barracks.

Next month: The Royal Army Educational Corps

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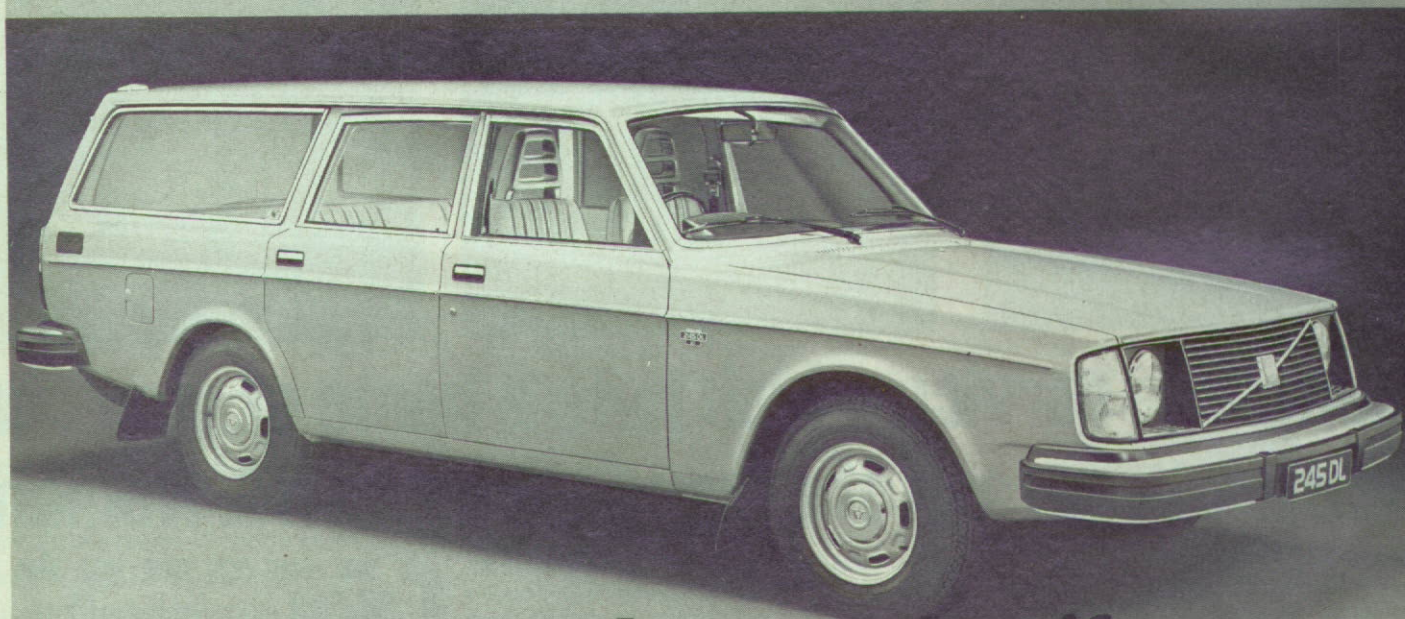
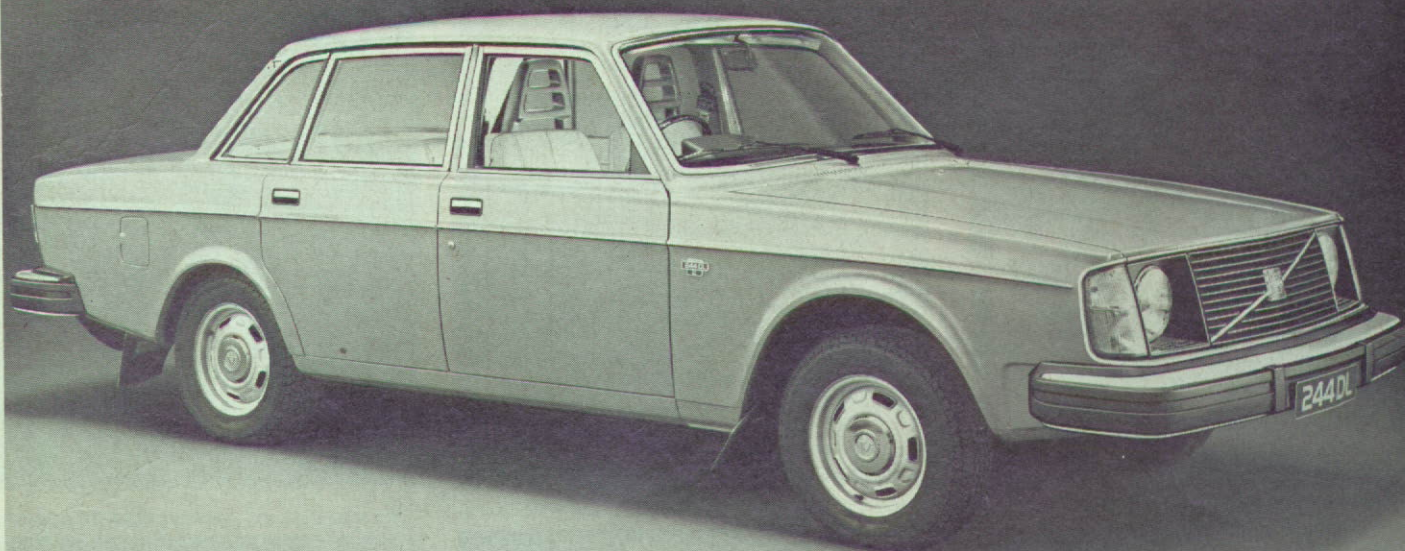
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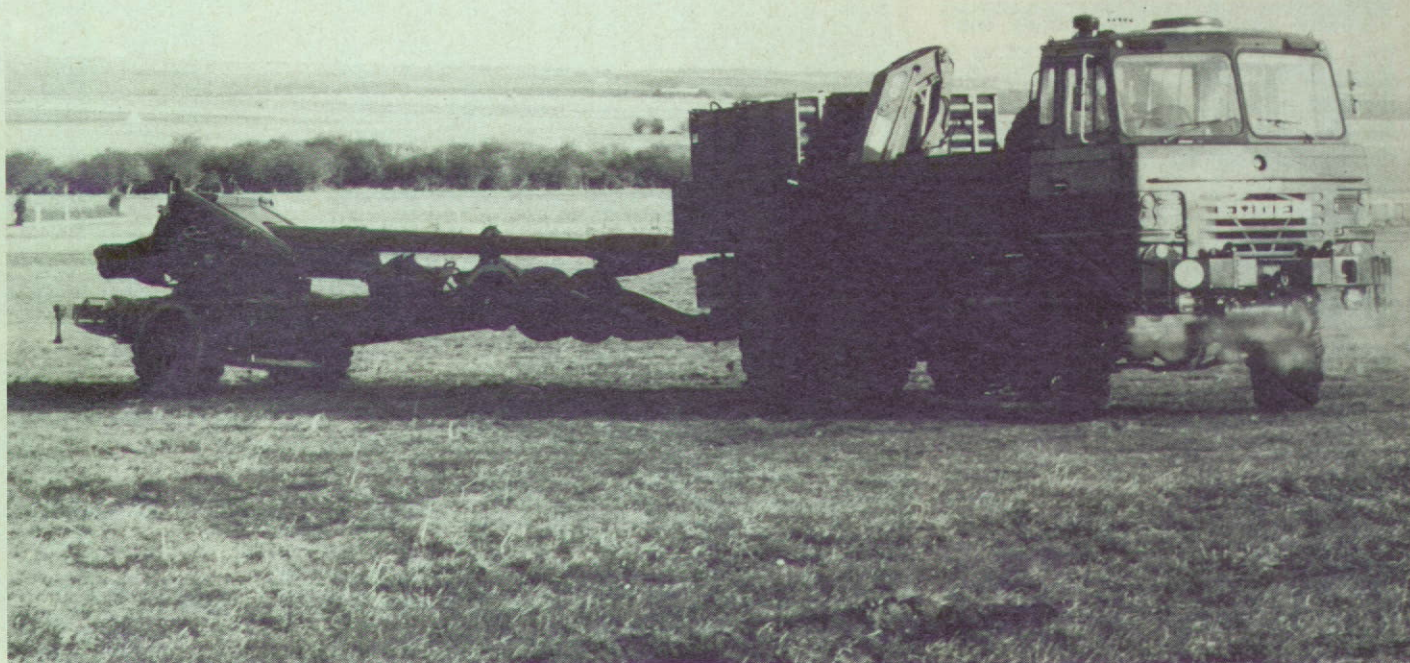
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NEW FODEN FLEET ON THE WAY

FROM a brand-new factory in the little Cheshire town of Sandbach, just off the M6 motorway, a familiar name will be restored to Army vehicles for the first time since World War Two. Foden are back and, as if to commemorate the renewal of the military link, a new FODEN nameplate in large block capitals will appear on the low-mobility range of cargo vehicles, tippers and tankers which will be delivered to the Army over the next few years.

The new vehicles represent a first step in a Ministry of Defence plan to replace the Army's present range of logistic vehicles with a fully integrated fleet. The intention is to reduce spares holdings and full integration is anticipated in the early 1980s.

In addition the Army is currently testing Foden tractors and limbers for the FH70 gun. So far only 23 of these vehicles, part of the Foden medium-mobility range, have been ordered. For the February joint-user trials of the FH70 gun at Hohne in Germany, a trials unit from Larkhill put both tractor and limber through their paces. While each of the three countries developing the FH70—Britain, West Germany and Italy—will use its own tractors and limbers, Fodens are hoping that overseas buyers may opt



Above: The FH 70 gun limber pictured at Larkhill. **Right:** Soldier climbs into cab.

*Story by John Walton
Pictures by Paul Haley*

FODEN FLEET

continued

for the British vehicles to transport the guns.

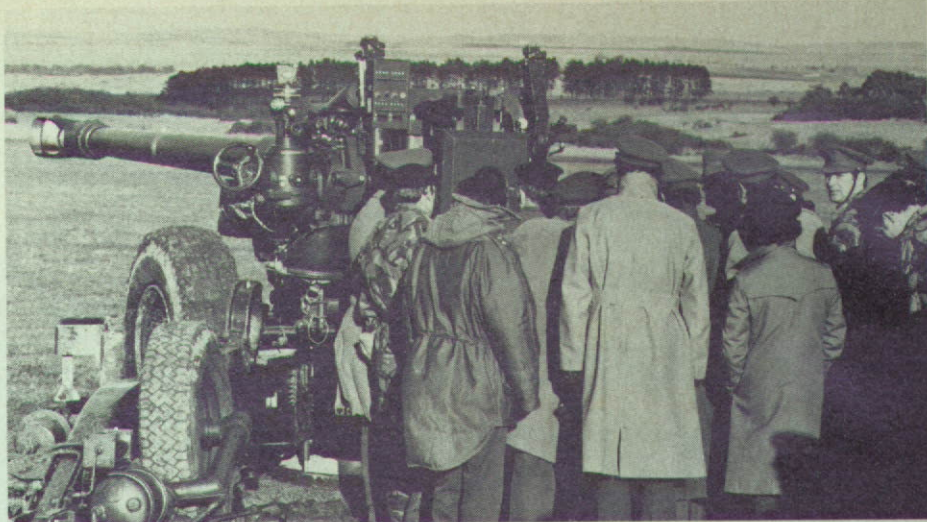
Fodens regard the low-mobility contract for more than 1000 vehicles as a major breakthrough. In World War One the firm provided more than 1000 of its famous "steamers" for the Army and in the last war designed the Crusader tank—but since then the name Foden has not appeared on Army vehicles.

Mr Edward Barber, the company's ministry projects division manager, told **SOLDIER**: "We have been after this chance for a long time. We have always had the specification the Ministry wanted but we could never do the volume. We now have a brand-new factory and for the first time in our history have suddenly got out of the 30 vehicles-a-week bracket into what could eventually be 120 vehicles."

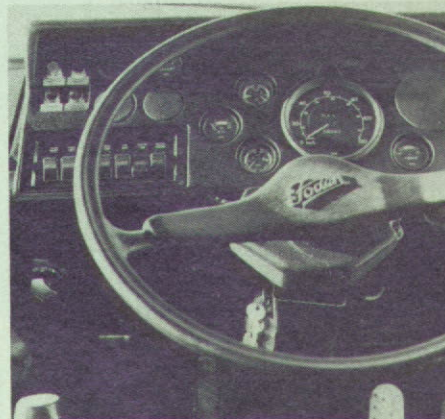
The low-mobility fleet being delivered over the next three or four years comprises 703 cargo vehicles, 70 tippers, 100 small tankers each holding 2500 gallons and 148 larger ones holding 5000 gallons. The first cargo vehicles should go into service early next year and priority is being given to tippers. Some 700 of the vehicles will be left-hand drive units scheduled for use with Rhine Army. Vehicles replaced by the new fleet cover a wide variety of different vintages and makes although the Leyland ten-tonner is the main vehicle being phased out.

The Foden low-mobility range is powered by the 220-horse power naturally aspirated Rolls-Royce Eagle 220 Mk III engine. Reliability, economy of fuel consumption, absence of exhaust smoke and simplicity of maintenance are among the factors which Fodens say make the engine especially suitable for military use.

The all-steel cab can be split at the waist rail for transporting by air and includes all the features of improved driver environment, comfort, ease and control found in the civilian version.



Officers crowd round to have a look at the new Anglo/German/Italian FH 70 gun.



What the driver of a new low-mobility vehicle will see on the instrument panel.

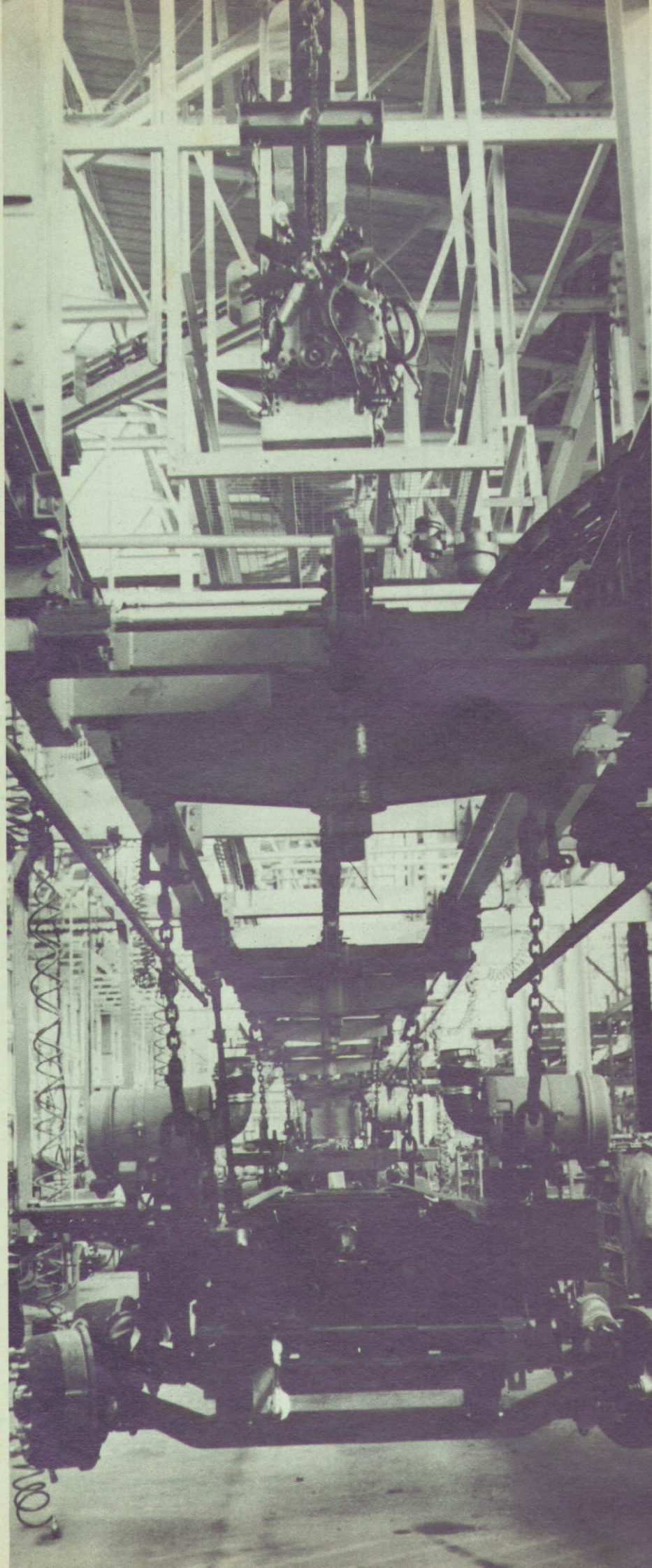


Chassis moves along the production line ready for the engine to be lowered in.

Screwing the new FODEN motif on to the front of one of the completed vehicles.

A line of the new low-mobility lorries in Foden's brand-new factory at Sandbach.





The firm of Fodens is descended from a company called Plant and Hancock. In 1856 Mr Edwin Foden became an indentured apprentice with this firm and some years later the letterhead of the Sandbach engineering company became Hancock and Foden. By 1870 Edwin Foden was in exclusive control of the firm and he branched out into the steam traction engine field. In 1880 he patented a compound engine which created a new low in operating costs and in 1887 a new company was formed as Edwin Foden, Sons & Co Ltd.

During the 1890s, business was brisk in traction engines, threshing machines and steam engines for the rolling mills of South Wales. By 1901 a Foden steam wagon took on ten others in War Office trials which required the vehicle to haul a load of three tons and tow a two-ton trailer. There were four difficult routes with a total distance of 257 miles. Despite a "calamity," Foden was credited with full marks for manoeuvrability and performance and for the next 30 years the name Foden was a leading name in the steam wagon field.

The famous Fodens Brass Band was formed on Mafeking night. The local band let the company down and after a public meeting Fodens Band was formed and played at the Coronation of King Edward VII.

During World War One practically every wagon and steam traction engine built at Sandbach was commandeered and Fodens also contributed a large output of 9.2-inch shells. By 1929 Fodens were the last word in steam wagons but the changing world led to a switch from steam to diesel. Since then Foden vehicles have remained a familiar sight on Britain's roads and there are still three members of the Foden family on the company's board of directors.

CYPRUS AWARDS

AWARDS have been announced for men of the three Services who were caught up in the inter-communal strife in Cyprus last summer.

Queen's Gallantry Medals, including the first three to be won by the RAF since the creation of the award last summer, go to Captain S J MacMillan Barnetson, The Royal Scots; Squadron-Leader R A Chasemore, RAF; Flight-Lieutenant E H Costick, RAF; Corporal J W Hall, Royal Marines; Lieutenant R C Leigh, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars; Warrant Officer I D Nicholson, Royal Military Police; and Flight-Sergeant W Barker Oldroyd, RAF.

Captain Barnetson earned his medal at Limassol on 20 July when he helped to arrange a temporary truce between Greek and Turkish Cypriots so that British families could be moved from the town. To achieve this he drove unarmed into a quarter where the fighting was fierce. His vehicle was put out of action by machine-gun fire but he remained undeterred. He pressed on and made contact with a Turkish Cypriot commander, came to an arrangement

with him, obtained another vehicle and then returned through the danger area.

The London Gazette citation reads: "Captain Barnetson displayed exceptional fearlessness in the face of danger and by his coolness and dogged determination played a considerable part in the achievement of a temporary truce at no loss of life."

Lieutenant Leigh, commanding a troop of the Parachute Squadron, Royal Armoured Corps, at Limassol, led his scout cars between the opposing sides to keep them apart. He drew fire from both and one car was damaged by mortar fire. To rescue the car he engaged a machine-gun position and drew heavy fire on his own. Later he rescued a British officer cut off by hostile fire in a building, coolly escorting him on foot to his scout car, and then made three trips under fire to arrange truce talks.

The citation states: "Lieutenant Leigh consistently and coolly exposed himself to fire from both sides but resolutely and courageously continued with his duties."

Warrant Officer Nicholson was the senior member of the Royal Military Police concerned with the evacuation of 4000 Service families and tourists from Famagusta during 20-22 July. The move was made in armoured personnel carriers but in order to guide the columns Mr Nicholson rode in the leading Saracen with the top half of his body exposed.

The last two runs were made in the face of uninterrupted cross-fire.

The citation says: "There is no doubt that his personal bravery and coolness were the prime reasons for the operation being carried out with only one casualty."

The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct is awarded to Sergeant J E Biggin, RAF; Sergeant R Burnett, Royal Signals; Corporal D Cleaver, RAF; Lieutenant R H Kerr, RN; Lieutenant-Commander P G Lang, RN; Sergeant I MacDonald, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards; Corporal J Marshall, RAF; Lance-Sergeant R A Smith, 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards; and Lance-Corporal M Wood, 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers.

Sergeant Burnett commanded a multinational signals troop at the United Nations Force headquarters near Nicosia. On two separate days he went out to lay or repair telephone lines while under air attack. His commanding officer reported: "Sergeant Burnett's leadership, bravery and untiring determination were an inspiration to others."

Sergeant MacDonald showed "utter disregard for his own safety" in an exchange of fire between his scout car and a hostile machine-gun post which temporarily prevented him from reaching wounded Canadian troops. He achieved his objective and undoubtedly saved the lives of the Canadians.

Lance-Sergeant Smith spent an uncomfortable day and night between the opposing sides in positions which came under fire from both. His task was to try to achieve a cease-fire. He was unsuccessful but, in the words of his commanding officer, he behaved throughout the operation with great determination, coolness and bravery.

Lance-Corporal Wood was under fire on numerous occasions and his scout car was hit several times. On 18 August his driver was badly wounded by air attack. While still under bomb, rocket and cannon attack, Corporal Wood dressed the man's wounds, lifted him into the vehicle and then successfully rejoined his troop, himself driving on a precipitous mountain road. His commanding officer reported: "His conduct . . . is an example of loyalty, courage and professional skill far beyond that expected of a junior NCO."



THE LEESON STREET PATROL

Damaged cars, debris-filled streets and soldiers on the move against a hit-and-run enemy. A cameo of the Northern Ireland of the early 1970s vividly reproduced by Terence T Cuneo in a painting commissioned by officers of The Royal Green Jackets. Colour prints of this painting, "The Leeson Street Patrol," are now available to SOLDIER readers. The print measures 23 x 17 inches (actual picture area 17½ x 11½ inches).

The incident depicted occurred on 13 September 1971 when a decision was taken to patrol the whole of the Falls area of Belfast in force with the aim of flushing out gunmen and snipers. A patrol of R Company, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, was fired on in Leeson Street and a battle ensued.

To: SOLDIER (LS 1), Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU

Please send me the Terence Cuneo print "Leeson Street Patrol." I enclose as payment UK postal order/UK cheque/international money order for

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Reader services

SOLDIER's reader services, listed on page 12 of the January 1975 issue, will be re-published next month. Readers will wish to know in advance that:

The D-Day print is sold out.

The Calais 1940 print is sold out.

There are two new Cuneo prints:

Capture of the 10th Italian Army (announced last month)

Leeson Street Patrol (this page)

The "elsewhere" price of the Gurkhas

Palace Guard print is £4.35, not £4.30

Two new designs have been added to the range of regimental drum ice buckets:

The Lancashire Fusiliers

The Royal Hampshire Regiment (not available until July).



Dial-a-smile Centre



Drum-major's wife, Mrs Brigitte Bunn, takes a call in one of the phone booths.

QUEUES of lonely wives standing in the rain outside telephone kiosks waiting to speak to their soldier-husbands in Belfast or Londonderry are a thing of the past in Colchester. And as a result of a successful experiment in the Essex town it is a sight now vanishing from other garrisons in Britain.

It all started in 1971 when the Army authorities at Colchester noticed the kiosk queues and came up with the idea of a telephone centre, where families could make and receive calls in the dry and warm as well as having a cup of tea and a chat with other wives in a similar situation.

The centre was handed over at the end of 1971 on completion of a £6000 custom-built building. It has an office, kitchen and four telephones—two for incoming calls from Northern Ireland, the others pay boxes for outgoing calls.

Assistant housing commandant Mr George Chapman recalls that the centre was an instant success with the 1800 military wives of Colchester: "We have sometimes had three or four units away in Northern Ireland at the same time and of course then the centre was really packed."

Now other major garrisons are in the process of providing similar centres and even many minor units are installing small telephone rooms where wives can wait for their calls.

The Colchester centre, which is open during the day and in the evenings, has a colour television but no other entertainment as too much noise would spoil the

telephone calls. It is run by a small staff of mainly officers' and soldiers' wives who are paid for their duties.

Mrs Pat Jarvis, whose husband Derek is in 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, is a frequent visitor to the centre. She told **SOLDIER**: "It gives you a break from the house to come up here and have a chat and a coffee. And it is lovely to hear the voice of your husband when he is away."

Wives visiting the centre can also use the two outgoing phones to ring their parents and friends. Connections have been made to Germany and to Belize when Colchester-based troops were out there during the recent Honduras hurricane emergency. But it was for Northern Ireland that the centre was built and as long as that unhappy province remains in a state of conflict the centre will continue to provide a much-needed link between soldiers out there and their families back in Essex.

**TELEPHONE
CALLS ARE EXPENSIVE
AND TIME IS PRECIOUS
SO PLEASE HELP ONE
ANOTHER BY KEEPING
YOUR CHILDREN QUIET.**

Top: Mothers and children relax in the centre which links them with fathers.

What would you do in the war, Daddy?

Story by John Walton/Pictures by Leslie Wiggs

SOLDIERS disappear for weeks from their families while on exercise or active service. When they return they are often curiously loth to talk about what they have been doing—which can lead to wives believing that hubby has been off on a giant “swan.”

Convinced that this was the case, Lieutenant-Colonel David Weeks, commanding 19 Field Ambulance, based at Colchester, decided to do something about it when his men went off to Stanford training area in Norfolk for ten days. He organised a coach so that 50 wives and children could see the breadwinner earning his bread.

The coach, pursued by a minibus containing newspapermen as well as other vehicles containing television crews, arrived at Stanford just in time for lunch. Little girls alighting from the coach with cries of “I want to go to the toilet, mummy” soon discovered that loos in the field are not exactly plush.

Colonel Weeks (“I don’t think any of us are very communicative with our wives”) was busy explaining the reasons for the visit while wives handed over letters, children examined guns, tents and uniforms and a delicious smell of “compo”

wafted from the cookhouse. Soon the wives were standing in line to choose from a compo-based menu consisting of chicken suprême, hamburger or steak-and-kidney pudding with peas, carrots and potatoes. As the families tucked in there seemed to be few complaints. A freckle-faced lad who had taken the day off school confided: “This is much better than school dinners.” A senior Army wife commented “It’s a good many years since I’ve tasted compo and I must say it’s a lot tastier than it used to be.”

For “afters” there were bars of chocolate and sweets for the children and lots of warm wet tea. The latter did not go down too well—“Cor blimey, what awful tea,” said one blonde as she spluttered through her first mouthful.

Now the party was divided into three for a look round the dressing station. Colonel Weeks, punctuated by crying babies, gave a briefing, the gist of which was that his audience should be careful not to trip over ropes, cables and tent pegs and to imagine they were visiting a dressing station set up in the woods some two or three miles behind the battlefront area.

Meanwhile, Corporal John Ellis, made up as a casualty with a vicious-looking

facial wound, was posing for the national Press with his sons Stephen and Martin. Aged nine and ten, they didn’t mind a bit but little Rachel, not quite two, decided after one look at Daddy that she preferred him as he usually was and retired from the scene.

At the main dressing station some gory looking casualties were sitting and lying around while ambulance personnel tended them. One victim whose hand was a bloody fingerless stump attracted a small boy’s attention: “Where’s that man’s fingers gone?”

“He’s had them cut off!”

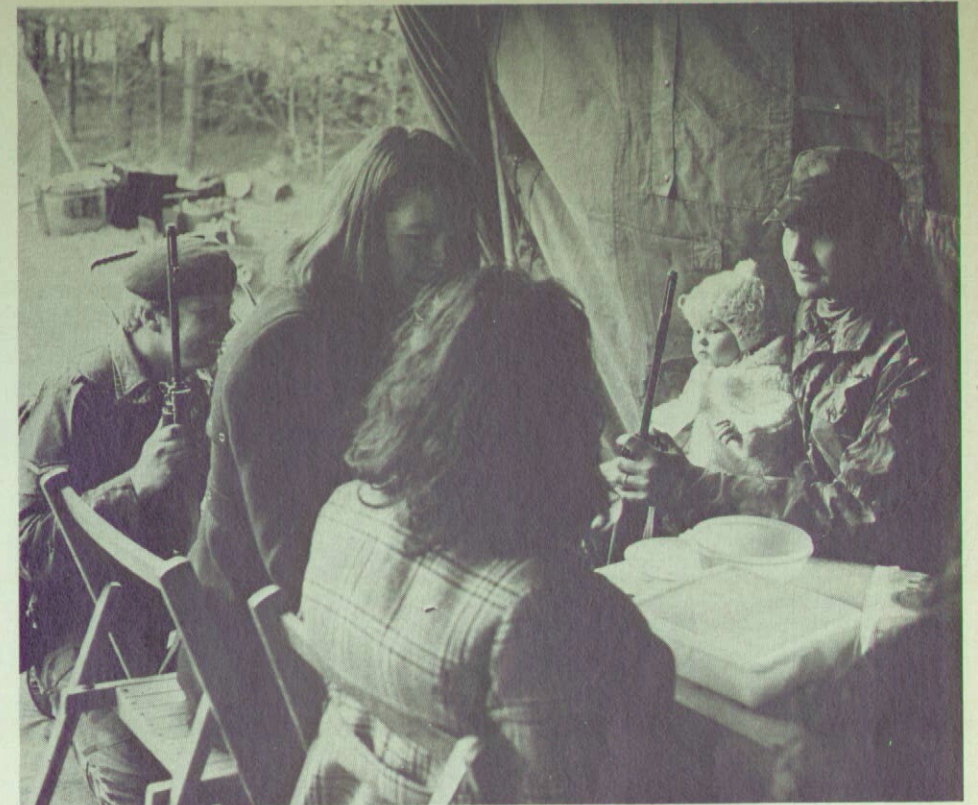
“Oh. Is this where they put him some back on again?”

After the treatment the wives went along to the cookhouse. The quartermaster, Captain John Wright, explained that one of its most important functions was the brewing of tea for those casualties who were able to drink it. He also said (and this was received without demur): “I think you will agree with me there is

nothing wrong with compo.” One wife asked: “Who cleans the pots?” Captain Wright’s reply of “We do” brought some disbelieving looks to the faces of one or two wives who obviously didn’t find their husbands dab hands at washing up at home.

All too soon the visit was over and the families prepared to board the coach and leave their husbands to face a winter’s night in the woods. Mrs Mavis Ringe, a sergeant’s wife, summed up: “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed it—the food was good and I was surprised that everything was so well planned and conditions were not rough and ready. Our husbands obviously work very hard and it was a nice idea for us to see what was going on.”

As for the children, reactions were mixed. Mrs Ringe’s seven-year-old daughter Carole confessed: “I won’t sleep tonight. I didn’t like all that blood.” But the freckle-faced school-dinner-hater took a more worldly view: “It was quite good but it didn’t look real.”



Above: Rifles in hand, soldiers get all the latest news from their families.

Left: The families queue up for their lunches—from a compo-produced menu.

Bottom left: Lieutenant-Colonel David Weeks explains the casualty treatment.

Right: Martin and Stephen Ellis take a look at Dad’s gruesome injuries.

Below: News at Ten, Stanford? Wives give their impressions for the TV.



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All year on the piste

Story by Mike Starke

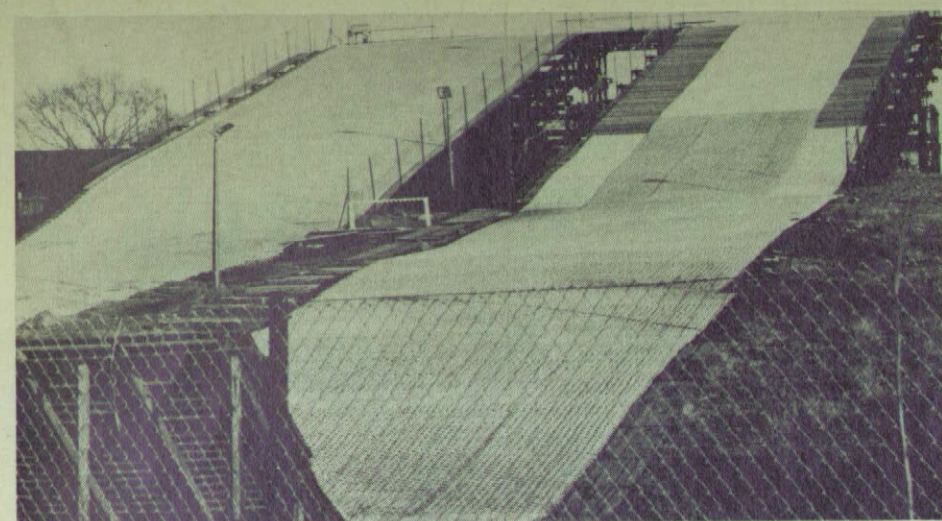
WHEN the snow season lures enthusiasts to their annual highland haunts in Europe, British skiers can reflect smugly on their year-round facility of artificial ski slopes. "Live" runs such as those at Aviemore and Glencoe offer as much to new devotees as some of the more chic resorts in the Alps, but for those who have been unable to make it to either Scotland or the Continent, ski slopes have sprung up in both town and country—one is reportedly so handy to a motorway that a good speedy schuss could land you bang in the middle of a spaghetti junction.

The Army has not been slow in catching up with the ski-ing trend in England and three slopes have been built in

recent years, one at Woolwich, another at Catterick and the third—and by far the biggest—at Aldershot.

The Stainforth slope at Aldershot is the longest in the South of England, civil or military, and its popularity has recently led to the local authority joining the Army on a fifty-fifty basis in running and financing it. Named after the then Aldershot District commander, the Stainforth Ski School was founded in 1969.

Last year it was decided to promote the school as a joint enterprise sponsored by the Army and Rushmoor Council with a management committee made up of four councillors and four Army officers. The new committee inherited vastly improved facilities that now in-



clude two slopes, each more than 100 metres long and about 20 metres wide. One is covered with Dendix "Snowslope" which provides an ideal surface for beginners while the other slope, incorporating one or two "moguls," is covered with "Ski-Mat," a faster and more difficult surface for the more advanced student. Both surfaces are of man-made fibre producing a slippery slope as close to real snow as can be found.

Both slopes are floodlit and served by a ski tow. Other facilities include a quarter-mile langlauf circuit with uphill and downhill sections and a climbing wall for would-be rock-climbers. The langlauf circuit is unique in the South of England. A clubhouse and shop complete the site.

The "snow clad" slopes of Aldershot hang high above the military town. Learner-skiers (bottom left) have a go.

Plans are in hand for a toboggan run and further improvements to the climbing wall. There are hopes that the ski-tow will be replaced by a ski lift.

The school is under the direction of Mr Gordon Tiley who is a qualified physical education teacher, a member of the British Association of Ski Instructors and a senior coach to the National Ski Federation of Great Britain. He is backed by a fully qualified staff.

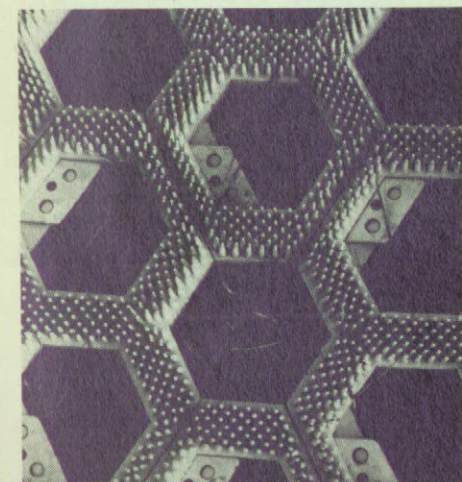
Pupils of all ages from eight upwards are welcome at the school—the younger the better, Mr Tiley says, for children apparently have better balance and less apprehension about falling than grown-ups. Junior and adult proficiency tests can be taken at the school and courses for training and assessing instructors are held periodically.

Dry slope ski-ing is not just a training for runs on snow and is fast developing as a sport in itself. The Stainforth school has its own junior racing team which takes part in regular competitions both internally and against other teams.

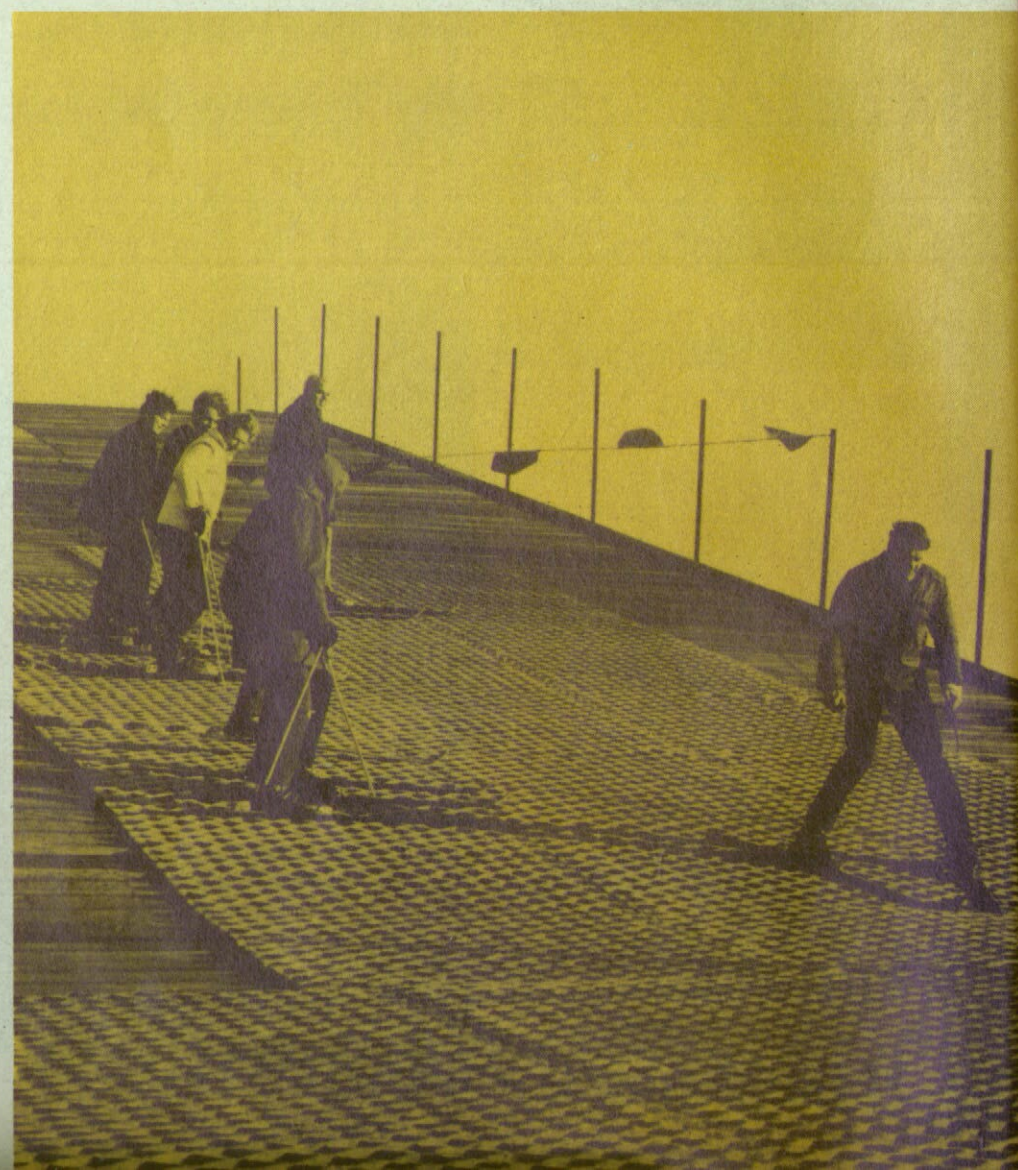
Three simple steps take a beginner from square one to a balanced run, says Mr Tiley. First the novice is introduced to the equipment and encouraged to fit his own to speed up the "getting to know you" process. Stage two is walking, turning, climbing . . . and falling-down and getting-up practice on skis. After the first hour the student can be ready to make that first run down the slope without falling over.

"The basic thing is, they learn the safety aspects," said Mr Tiley. "They learn to balance, then they can go on to ski. The great thing is to be relaxed and in this respect ski-ing is perhaps unlike any other sport but swimming."

Ski-ing is becoming more and more popular as sportsmen explore the ever-increasing possibilities of growing leisure time. The Stainforth school is determined to offer soldier and civilian alike the best opportunity to get the best out of the speed and thrills of what was once the province of the privileged few who could afford to patronise exclusive Alpine resorts.



Above and below: The two different kinds of artificial ski-slope in close-up.



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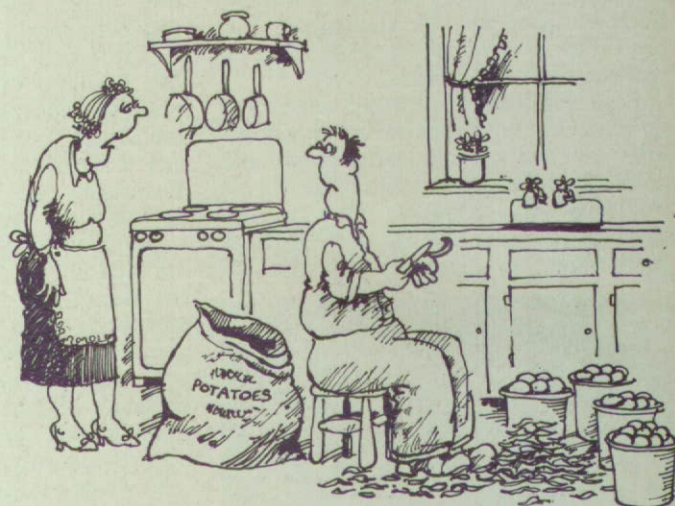


"It's the one thing he misses!"

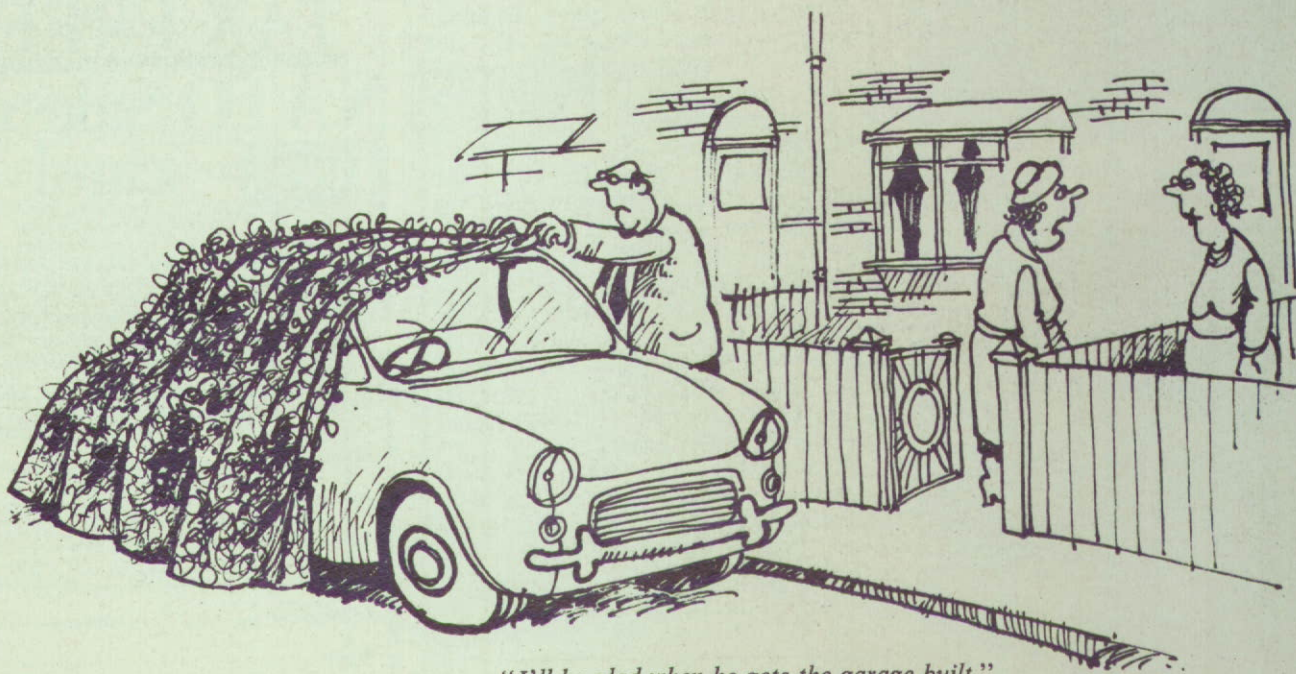


"For 20 years I drove an old tank transporter. I get demobbed—and I'm still driving an old tank transporter!"

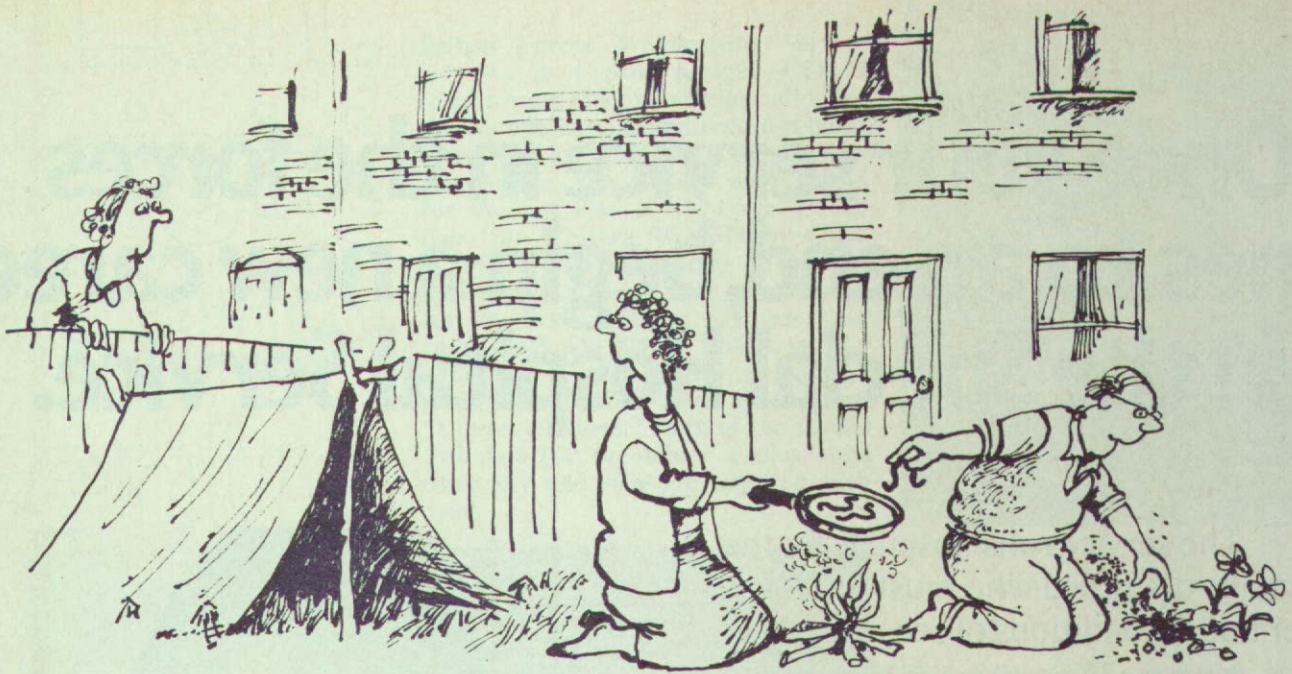
Once a soldier...



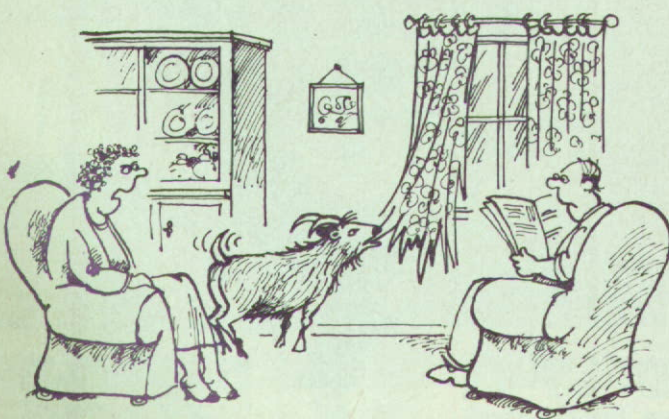
"Remember there's only two of us for dinner."



"I'll be glad when he gets the garage built."



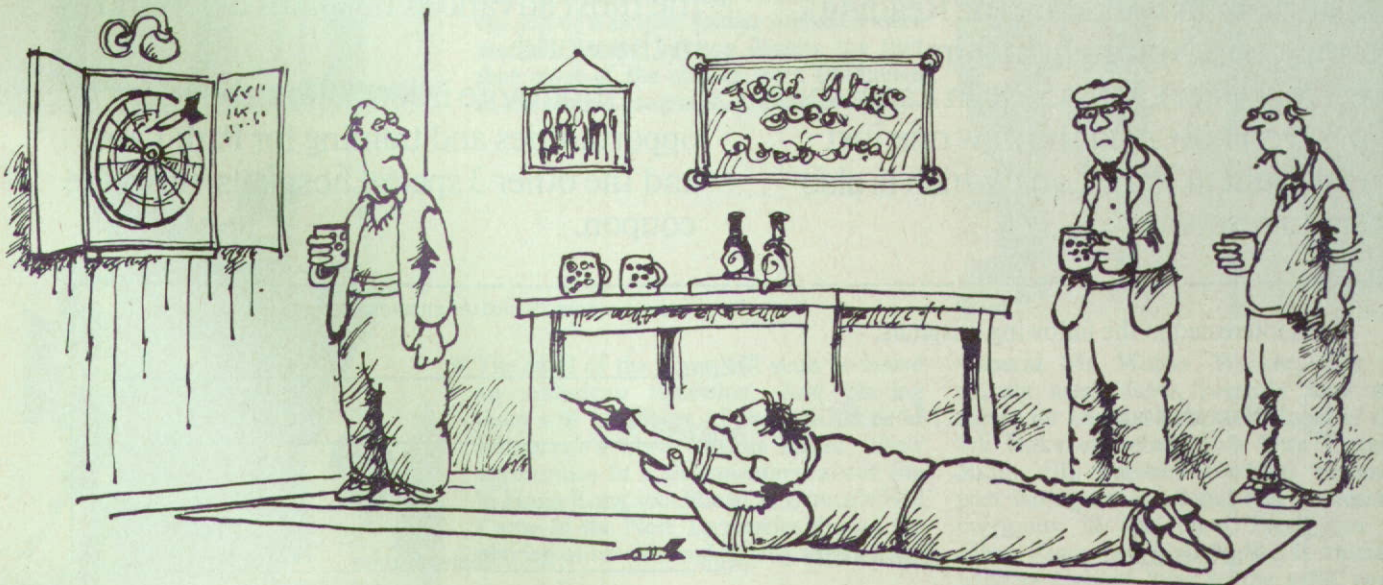
"Once a month we have to go on a survival course."



"You could have told me your old Army buddy was the regimental mascot!"



"Sorry! I could have sworn you were my old RSM."



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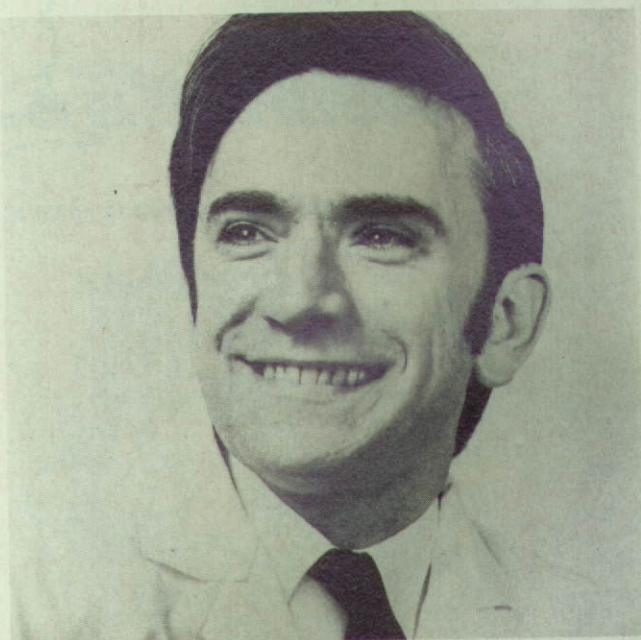
Nursing in the Special Hospital Service has attracted many servicemen and women since the war. They find it uses their training and experience in a worthwhile way.

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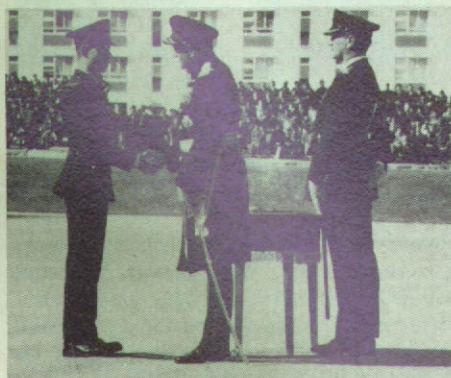
To: The Chief Nursing Officer, Special Hospitals,
Dept. of Health and Social Security, PO Box 702, London SW20 8SZ.

Left, right and centre

British Forces Broadcasting Service listeners in Cyprus pledged C£4118 to go towards buying special radios for the blind in a sponsored record request marathon on Boxing Day and New Year's Eve. The highest amount bid for the last disc of 1974 was C£525 from the Western SBA Rugby Clubs (Griffins and Akrotiri) for the National Anthem. The largest sum for the first record of the new year came from 644 Signal Troop, serving with the United Nations, with a pledge of C£410. Their choice was "Congratulations." Each of the special "wireless for the blind" radios costs some £17 and 9000 are required each year.



First of the new 55-seater buses to come into service in 1st British Corps area of Rhine Army is pictured outside the corps headquarters in Bielefeld. The new buses, built by British Leyland, will complement vehicles at present used by the Royal Corps of Transport for ferrying schoolchildren and for amenity runs. By the middle of this year 80 of the new buses are expected to be operating in Germany.



When the Commander British Forces Hong Kong, Lieutenant-General Sir Edwin Bramall, was inspecting officer at a passing-out parade of recruits to the colony's police force, he was surprised to find a former British Army corporal among them. The top recruit on course No 625, who received a silver whistle, was John Jackson, who spent six years with the 14th/20th King's Hussars. John, the son of a British soldier and a Chinese mother, passed out top despite the fact that most of the classes were conducted in his second language, Cantonese.



The skirl of the pipes will soon be heard on American television. And playing them will be pipers of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles. Their appearance in a documentary about life in Hong Kong was filmed at Queen's Hill Camp in the New Territories during the playing at reveille and shortly afterwards.



General Sir Walter Walker, now of private army fame, recently took the salute for the last time as Colonel of the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles. Six hundred Gurkhas marched past during an emotional and impressive ceremony in the New Territories of Hong Kong. Sir Walter, who is handing over as Colonel later in the year, commissioned five officers and presented six Long Service and Good Conduct medals. He also spoke to the men in Gurkhali.



Christmas is a long time ago but not quite as long for members of the Serbian Orthodox faith serving in No 1 Army Defence Unit at Headquarters, Rhine

Army. They observe Christmas Day on the Gregorian Calendar date of 7 January. Picture shows a Serbian priest giving prayers and blessings.



Minister of Defence Mr Roy Mason has certainly been out and about among the troops in the field recently. In Cyprus (above) he borrowed some binoculars to study Turkish and Greek Cypriot mili-



tary positions from the edge of the Dhekelia Sovereign Base. On his second visit to that other hotspot, Northern Ireland (above), he toured units in Belfast and Londonderry.



Former Nixon right-hand man, General Alexander Haig, who is now Supreme Allied Commander Europe, paid a surprise visit to 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, on Sennelager ranges. In this picture he chats to Guardsman Barclay.

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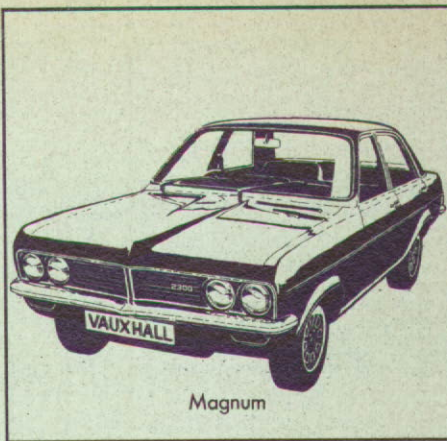
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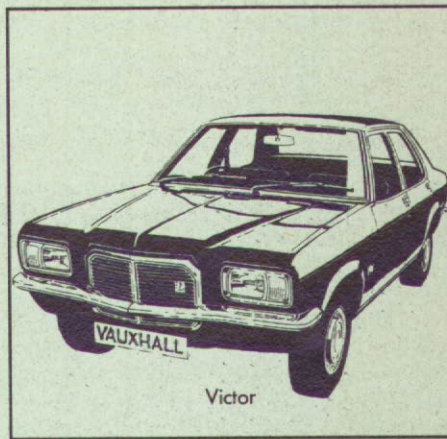
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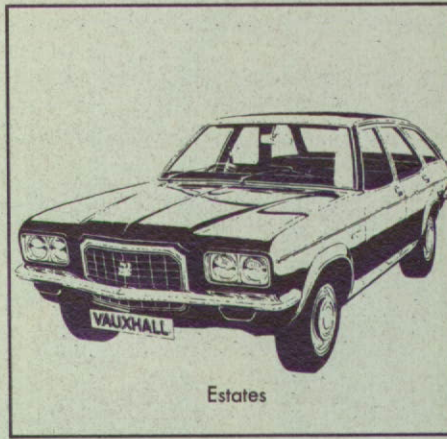
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Pull-out supplement SOLDIER March 1975

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● Nearly half the total strength of Defence personnel is civilian, Minister of State for Defence William Rodgers told Parliament in answer to a question from Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth). Civilians working for the Defence Ministry, including those working for each of the Armed Services, number 298,314, he said. The Armed Services themselves comprise 356,129 people making the civilians 45.58 per cent of the overall figure.

● The future of the Army's jungle warfare training remains undecided according to a written answer from Army Minister Mr Robert C Brown replying to The Hon George Younger (Conservative, Ayr) who asked what arrangements had been



"Now I have it, Peter, the black lines are rivers and the red lines roads!"

made for jungle training following the planned withdrawal of British troops from the Jungle Warfare Training School in Malaysia. Mr Brown said: "At this stage of the defence review it would be premature to identify possible means of meeting any future need for such training."

● More than 120 people, both Catholic and Protestant, suffered the crippling torture of "kneecapping" in Northern Ireland last year. Mr Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told Mr William Ross (United Ulster Unionist Council, Londonderry) that 83 Catholics and 39 Protestants had been shot through the knees in 1974 compared with 53 and 22 in 1973.

● The latest estimate for the final cost of the Skynet II defence communications satellite system is £23,000,000, Mr Rodgers told Mr Frank Allaun (Labour, Salford East). Inflation and VAT were blamed for adding £1,000,000 to the 1970 estimate for the programme. The total cost includes launch vehicles and services and modifications to the ground control station. Skynet finally got into orbit towards the end of last year after an abortive earlier attempt when the American launcher rocket failed.

● The quarter of the cost of maintaining British forces in Hong Kong borne by the colony's government represents less than one per cent of its gross national product, Mr Rodgers revealed in answer to questions from Mr Ivor Clemitson (Labour, Luton East). The minister said some £40,000,000 were spent on the 10,700 members of the Armed Forces in Hong Kong.

● With the Vixen scout car axed in the defence review, the faithful Ferret will continue to fulfil this role. And this was, perhaps, behind Mr Trotter's questions about the vehicle's life and work. Mr Brown told him: "The first models of Ferret, including those currently in use in the liaison role, entered service in 1952. There are no plans to purchase additional Ferrets. The oldest vehicles planned to be still in service in 1984 will be about 30 years old and the average about 25 years old." He added that all vehicles are rebuilt to new standard every five years or 20,000 miles.

● Mr Brown told Mr Trotter that Army units which have not served at all in Northern Ireland since 1969 are: 1st Battalion, Irish Guards; 1st and 2nd battalions, The Royal Irish Rangers; 1st and 2nd battalions, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles); 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles; 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles; 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles; 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery; 24 and 50 missile regiments, Royal Artillery (some elements of 24 and 50 missile regiments have served one tour); 5th Royal Iniskilling Dragoon Guards and The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

● International inflation has struck again at Britain's figures, Prime Minister Harold Wilson revealed to the House of Commons. The English interpretation of a billion as one million million is apparently no longer acceptable, having been superseded by the Americanised diminutive of 1000 million. "It would be

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT *continued*

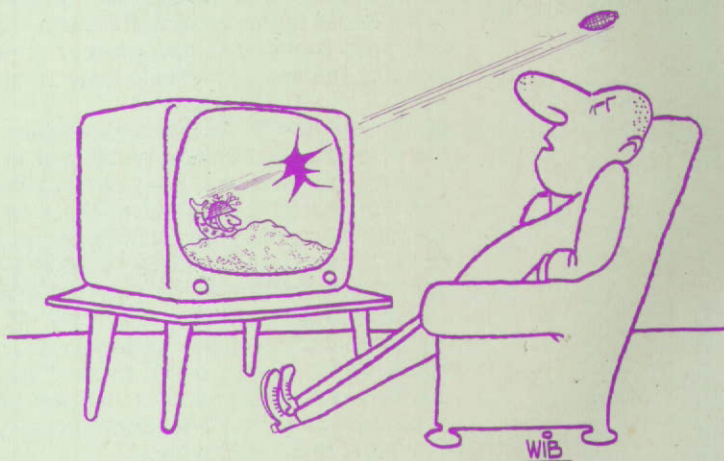
confusing if British Ministers were to use it in any other sense," warned the Prime Minister. But he added: "I accept that it could still be interpreted in this country as one million million and I shall ask my colleagues to ensure that, if they do use it, there should be no ambiguity as to its meaning."



● The £55,000,000 Lance nuclear weapon system is not affected by any defence cuts, Mr Rodgers assured MPs following a question from Mr Mike Noble (Labour, Rossendale). Mr Rodgers added that the cost was spread over six years. "Several of our NATO allies also require such a weapon," he said, "and the American system is being bought under a common procurement programme."

● Praise for the Army's part in bringing about the Christmas ceasefire in Northern Ireland came from Mr John Biggs-Davison (Conservative, Epping Forest) when he asked Mr Mason to pass on to the troops "our admiration of their courage and devotion which has brought about the cessation of firing." Mr Mason added his own plaudits and said that in the previous 12 months the Army arrested 1367 terrorists and recovered 1260 weapons, 150,000 rounds of ammunition and 24 tons of explosives.

● But there were less generous remarks from Mr Biggs-Davison's Opposition back-bench colleague Mr Anthony Kershaw (Conservative, Stroud) who greeted the news that plans for a live British television service in Rhine Army are going ahead with a testy reminder that "the primary object of British forces is to



defend this country and not to indulge in excessive welfare activities." Mr Brown quickly rebuked Mr Kershaw for his "unworthy" comments and assured the House: "We have all to recognise that as long as British troops have to be stationed overseas they are entitled to the amenities which their civilian counterparts enjoy."

● Statistics on the Army's top jobs came in answer to a question from Mr John Stokes (Conservative, Halesowen and Stourbridge). Mr Rodgers showed that the active list now held one field-marshal, ten generals, 11 lieutenant-generals and 82 major-generals. Comparative figures for the last four decades showed a decline in the numbers of top brass throughout the three Services although there are now considerably fewer major-generals than previously relative to the drop in numbers of equivalent ranks in the RAF and Navy.

ARMY GETS LONDON WEIGHTING ALLOWANCE

Army personnel up to the rank of brigadier are to get cash bonuses to cover the extra cost of working in London. The Government has agreed to the payment of London weighting backdated to 1 April 1974. There will be two basic rates—£186 a year for those serving in Inner London and £105 a year for those in Outer London. There will also be two higher rates for owner-occupiers who travel daily from their homes to work in London—£327 a year for Inner London and £185 a year for Outer London.

This is in line with the Pay Board's recommendations on London weighting after allowing for the fact that the amounts servicemen are charged for accommodation and the rules for reimbursement of their home-to-duty travel costs are the same all over the country, so that most of those serving in London spend no more on those two items than they would outside the capital. Separation allowance paid to servicemen on duty away from their families for abnormally long periods has been increased and the rules of eligibility simplified. (PR)

FIRST CLANSMAN

The first production Clansman VHF vehicle radio for the Army was formally presented to the Signals Officer-in-Chief, Major-General P A M Tighe, last month. The handover marked the culmination of a closely co-ordinated de-



velopment programme involving the Signals Research and Development Organisation, Christchurch, the School of Signals, Blandford, and Marconi Space and Defence Systems Limited. A production order worth several million pounds has been placed by the Ministry of Defence for the manufacture of the radios by Marconi in Scotland (SOLDIER NEWS, November 1974).

MORE AND MORE SIGN ON

Towards the end of 1974 the upward trend of recruiting figures continued, according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Defence. The November intake of adults and young soldiers was up 193 to 1109 compared with 1973 and the junior numbers were 20 higher than the same period in the previous year. (PR)

VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

The refurbished Victory Services Club in the heart of the West End of London—just two minutes away from Marble Arch—offers excellent facilities to all ranks, both serving and ex-service including the Women's Services, their wives and husbands, for an annual membership of £2.20.

The club has 300 centrally heated bedrooms, most of which have hot and cold running water. Married couples can be accommodated in 60 of these rooms at a cost varying between £1.35 and £1.95 per person per night. Single rooms range between 70p and £1.95 per night.

There are fully licensed bars, dining rooms and cafeteria, lounges and a television room. The club welcomes bookings for reunion dinners, dinner/dances, buffets and the like. It also offers rooms for conferences and meetings.

The club boasts some 36,000 members worldwide but this is still only a fraction of those who qualify for membership and who could benefit from the advantageous terms offered by the club for the use of its facilities.

Full details can be obtained by writing to: The Secretary, The Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London, W2 2HF.

BAC BOOMS WITH JAGUAR AND MRCA

The British Aircraft Corporation ended 1974 with a record order book of £402,000,000 received from the United Kingdom and overseas governments with MRCA and Jaguar—both of vital importance to NATO—forming the bulk of the division's manufacturing activities. By the time all MRCAs and Jaguars have been delivered to the RAF, three European air forces and the German navy, there will be more than 1200 of these aircraft in service.

The year began with the RAF's two operational Jaguar squadrons (54 and 6)

BAC BOOMS *continued*

established at their permanent base in Norfolk. By the end of 1974, 60 Jaguars had been delivered to the RAF including 19 two-seat trainers. Similar numbers have been delivered to the French air force. The first export orders for Jaguar were announced during 1974. Oman and another undisclosed customer placed orders worth £80,000,000.

The Defence Review confirmed that the MRCA programme will go ahead and, after its first test flight at the end of October 1974, the second prototype joined the flight test programme. In the same month, Prime Minister Harold Wilson praised MRCA as "one of the wonderbirds of aviation." He said: "I believe it's cheaper and better for us than any other alternative aircraft" and concluded: "MRCA is going on and we are very proud of it."

SSAFA ESCORTS

The escorts section of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association welfare department is divided into two fields of operation, schoolchildren's escorts and family escorts. Schoolchildren's escorts are for the benefit of those families stationed overseas who have no-one in this country readily available to escort their children across London at main holiday periods and at half-terms. Family escorts are provided for families who are in transit across London, particularly unaccompanied or ailing women and children.

This year SSAFA expects to carry out well over 2500 schoolchildren's escorts. On the busiest days, escorts will be looking after 70 to 80 children. To help with this work, SSAFA has some 40 escorts. They are professionals in the sense that they accept a small fee for their work. But their professionalism is most apparent in their skilled handling of children, their knowledge of London, their enthusiasm and their coolness in times of stress. The SSAFA escort service makes no profit and its charges to parents are as low as possible. Charges can be kept down only by increasing the numbers of children escorted and the service is anxious to escort many more than those already on its books. Family escorts are provided at no charge.

Full information and application forms can be obtained from SSAFA Escort Service, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9BZ. (SSAFA)

RESETTLEMENT NEWS

The first Resettlement Bulletin of 1975 deals at length in its advice section with a second career in the Civil Service. Among the job opportunities reviewed in brief are firemen, electrical and mechanical fitters, sales management and life assurance underwriting and salesmen. The reference section indexes a wide variety of jobs already outlined by the bulletins.

NEW TANK GUN SOUGHT

Tripartite firing trials have been conducted in Britain as part of a joint Anglo/German/United States tank gun evaluation with French participation as observers. The purpose of the evaluation (SOLDIER NEWS, October 1974) is to seek a common weapon for the next generation of tanks fielded by the three countries and which can ultimately be offered to other NATO nations. Decisions are scheduled for September this year between the candidates, the German 120mm gun, the British 110mm gun and the current American 105mm gun with improved ammunition. Three developmental tanks are involved in the evaluation programme—the German Leopard, the American XM 1 and the Anglo/German future main battle tank.

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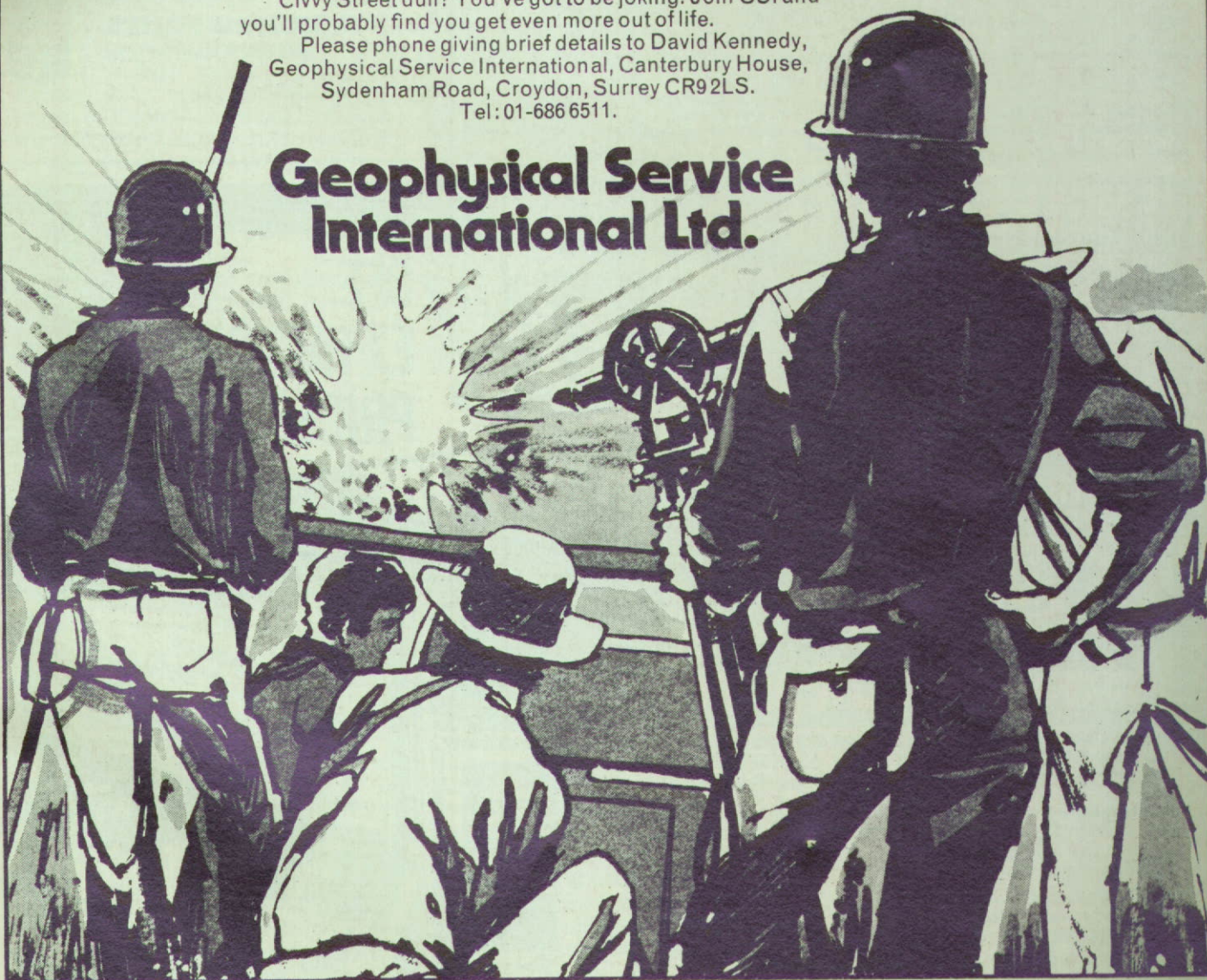
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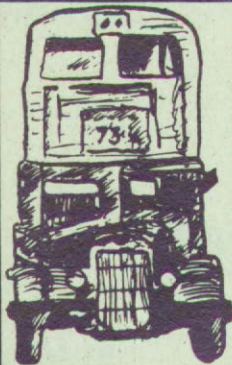




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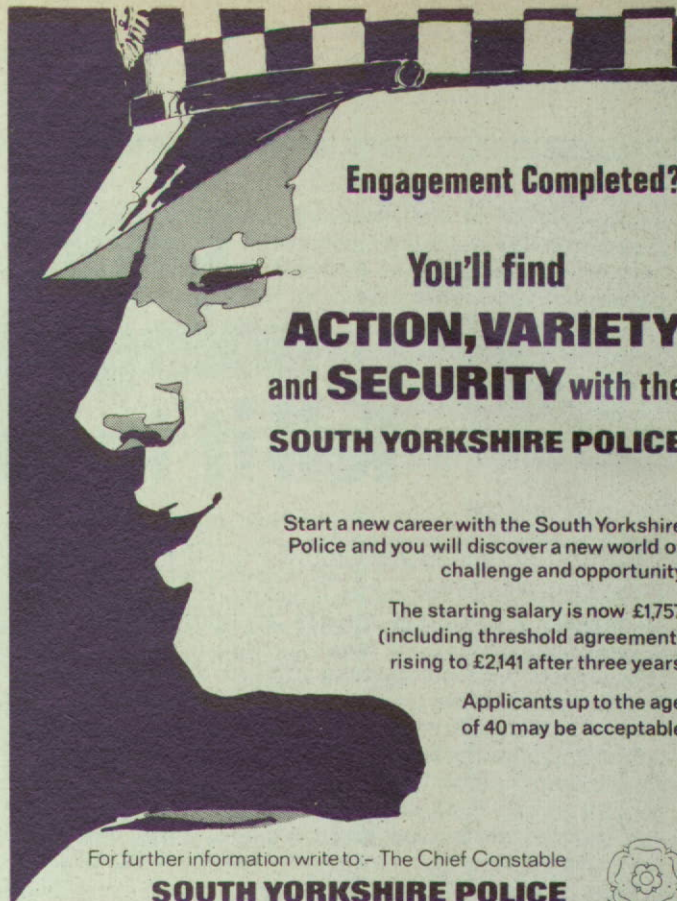
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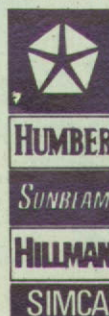
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Adventure in the South China Sea

THERE were sighs of relief when the 50-foot sloop *Russamee*, crewed by men of 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, sailed into Hong Kong Harbour. For the boat was eight days overdue after a month-long 2600-mile trip which had neared disaster in stormy seas.

It all started as an adventure training project for 13 Hong Kong-based soldiers and a civilian who planned to sail from Bangkok to Hong Kong in two sloops, the *Russamee* and *Kynaree*. The latter was dogged with troubles, including motor failure and propeller shaft damage, and had to limp into Saigon under tow far short of the target.

Meanwhile the *Russamee* battled on, facing not only the treacherous waters of the South China Sea but the suspicions of heavily armed South Vietnamese patrol boats which seemed unimpressed by assurances in fractured French from the sloop's skipper, Major Geoffrey Ransby.

There followed a period of calm and the skipper's log records: "The sea had turned incredibly calm. Our main occupation was watching the sea snakes trying to catch a huge turtle, watching the dolphins frolic, eating the fruit we had bought in Thailand and lazing in the sun. We didn't know it then but this was to be the end of the honeymoon."

Winds freshened from the north east and squalls lashed the rising sea. The winds gusted up to 48 knots and waves rose to 15 feet and more.

To their horror, the crew discovered the first of a series of serious leaks. The log again: "Sergeant Seabrook and I checked the boat for leaks and we found a bad hole in the bottom. Some pig iron ballast had been tossed about and had smashed the seacock. We had to jam it closed, but in doing so we put the loo out of order so from then on we had to answer the call of nature by balancing precariously on the bowsprit, which was not particularly easy or comfortable."

Day after day mountainous seas and howling winds tore at the sloop and wearied its crew. An electric storm provided a frightening moment as the log shows: "One bolt of lightning hit the top of the mainmast and flashed down though the rigging and into the water. The *Russamee* shook with the shock but fortunately no-one was hurt."

Conditions got no better and an exhausted Major Ransby wrote: "I can assure you we were damned well frightened." Makeshift repairs had to be made to the running backstays which were breaking under the strain of the constant battering and to complicate matters further a fire in the galley had to be put out. The log: "The wind and heavy seas kept up and we were battling to stay afloat. Our long-distance radio was useless and there were no other ships in sight. It was either sail on or sink."

And sail on they did, refusing the tempt-



Home safely after her ordeal, *Russamee* prepares to dock in Hong Kong.

ing prospects of giving up the struggle against the leaks to run for Manila and cut the journey short. But the power and hand-pumps failed under the pressure and hand-bailing became the keystone of the life-or-death struggle for survival.

"The gunners were incredible," said Major Ransby. "They were working two hours out of four, 20 hours a day. Just bailing. It was monotonous and hard, but there was little choice; it was either bail or sink."

"This was undoubtedly our lowest point in the whole voyage. Food was rationed to a minimum. There was soup for breakfast and rice and stew for lunch. For dinner there was more stew and tea. I also made sure everyone took a vitamin pill every day at breakfast time."

The crew now knew they were on the downhill run and eventually, at dawn one morning, Green Island off Hong Kong was sighted. Said Major Ransby: "I ordered 'full speed ahead.' Immediately the engine stopped. We were out of fuel!"

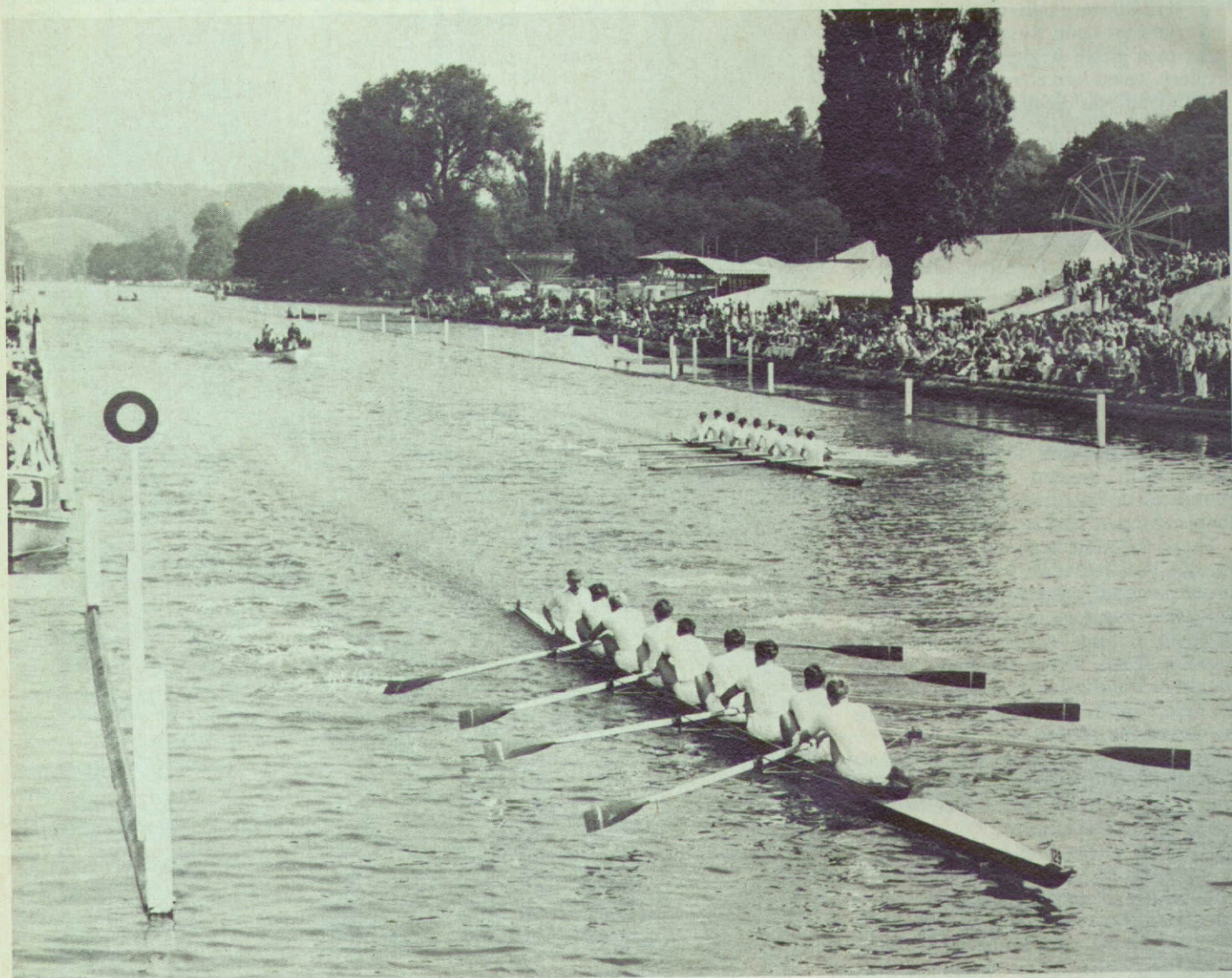
But a pilot boat came to the rescue and offered four gallons of diesel, ample for

the battered sloop to motor into the safety of Hong Kong harbour at the end of a journey of a lifetime that had lived up to its name—adventure training. Would they go through it all again? Major Ransby replied: "Emphatically, yes!"

***Russamee*:** Maj Ransby (skipper), Gnr George Sears (19), Gnr David Rutt (22), Gnr Michael Briggins (22), Sgt Michael Seabrook (34), Lieut Mike Vacher (23), Gnr Miles McHugh (22) (all 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery).

***Kynaree*:** S/Sgt Ian Jenner (33) (skipper) (415 Maritime Troop, 31 Regiment, RCT), L/Cpl John Clay (21), (1st Battalion, The Royal Hampshire Regiment), L/Bdr Robert Barnes (25), Sgt Chris Churchley (27), Gnr John Evans (23), Bdr Chris Childs (24) (all 3 RHA), Mr David Bailey (owner of *Kynaree*).

Rowing on the up-and-up



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YOUNG soldiers of the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps, at Bovington, have led the way to establishing rowing as a sport for all in the Army. The relatively large amounts of time and money demanded to take part in this sport effectively have often deterred would-be oarsmen. But the enthusiasm of ten youngsters, coupled with the development of their skills by national and world-class rowers, have produced a winning combination.

Generous training facilities have been provided by Bryanston School in Blandford and up to 1800 metres of the Dorset Stour echo to the rhythmic splash of oars as the soldiers get themselves in trim for the season.

The ultimate in rowing, according to Major Sandy Moriarty who sparked off the Bovington enthusiasm, is to take a seat in a coxless four. This demands teamwork of the highest order with four oarsmen perched in a pencil-thin streamlined shell of a boat, the bow man steering by skilful use of his blade within the unison of the three other oars.

But there is a long way to go before success in this field can be achieved by a rower. Helping to teach the boys of Bovington from scratch have been Major Chris Davey, who divides his sporting activities between wind and water—ballooning is his other delight (see *SOLDIER*, June 1974)—and was president of the Cambridge Boat Club back in 1964, and Major Alexander Lindsay of Britain's Olympic eight in 1960.

"There is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats," said the water rat in "The Wind in the Willows." But the

high standard of watersmanship demanded for competition requires a good deal more than just "messing about."

The landlubber starts by practising the basic skills of rowing in a bank tub which, as its name implies, never touches the water. Work in pairs and fours follows to develop essential teamwork, then the student graduates to fixed-seat then moving-seat craft on the water. Next comes experience in the relatively stable clinker-built four-seater followed by a "restricted" four—the restriction being a stabilising keel left out of the design of more advanced racing craft to reduce drag. A "fine" (keel-less) four steered by a cox is the next step and the ultimate is the "fine" coxless four.

The ease and grace with which competition oarsmen move their apparently flimsy craft through the water belie the hard work behind the skill. While a lack of coaches has handicapped rowing as a military sport, the Army is well qualified to offer the prime requirement of physical fitness. Practically every muscle in the body takes cruel punishment when pulling an oar. A favourite off-season training for rowers is cross-country running and four of the Bovington ten are experts in this. Technique training and weightlifting complete the effort needed to reach peak race fitness.

Their training has paid off for the Bovington boys in nationwide competitions. Two fours gained senior and junior wins in a Joint Services regatta and the first four was awarded Army junior colours. In a national schools event Bovington came third, beating Eton into fourth place, and in an inter-regional regatta they were considered good enough to represent the West and Wales.

Last season the team used what is considered to be the best Army boat, Sandhurst, an Italian Donoratico coxless four—the Rolls-Royce of the rivers. This precision-made craft is worth £1000 or

more and was provided by the Nuffield Trust. The boat is not the only expense for those who would row for even oars cost £30 plus each. Valuable equipment like this needs care and every oarsman knows he is only as good as his boatman. Here again the Bovington Junior Leaders are lucky to have the services of the veteran boatman of Bryanston School, "Mac" McKenzie, who can not only maintain but also build boats as he once did for a living with an Oxford firm.

Every opportunity to train on water must be taken by rowers chasing honours in the springtime "head" races or summer regattas. So when they cannot get to Bryanston, the Bovington oarsmen practise in Poole Harbour although the wind and water at sea can wreak havoc with a thoroughbred racing boat.

Bovington's Junior Leaders are not the Army's only oarsmen. The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, has a respectable rowing tradition but the main senior effort is at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. As a three-year posting for officers, Shrivenham offers that extra amount of time to ensure vital continuity of training and competition and thus gains an advantage over establishments where two-year stints are the norm.

The Royal Engineers at Chatham are returning to rowing, having once been among the leaders of the sport in the Army, and the lads of the Army Catering Corps Apprentices College at Aldershot have added rowing to their wide range of sporting activities.

Individuals from many corps and arms row individually but it is interest in the fours and eights that is being fostered in rowing circles. The names of Army teams are creeping into the result sheets of regattas up and down the country. Perhaps soon the straw boaters of Henley will nod appreciatively as Army oarsmen row themselves into the placings at the sport's Mecca.

◀ **Flashback to 1964—a Sandhurst eight wins a heat at Henley, rowing's Ascot.**

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Armoured infantry

SHOWERED with shrapnel, asphyxiated by gas and entangled in barbed wire, it was not surprising that foot soldiers earned the rueful label of PBI. The advent of the armoured personnel carrier meant that they were sealed off to some extent from such inhospitable elements—until the development of anti-tank missiles capable of splitting open an AFV like a sardine tin.

The United States M113, which entered service in 1960, is probably the most ubiquitous APC with production figures of more than 30,000 and use by armies of many non-communist countries.

Having armour plate of aluminium alloy, it is air-portable and amphibious. Its versatility has meant employment as a weapon carrier, ambulance, command and communications vehicle. However, in active operations in Vietnam its role was restricted to that of a mere "battle taxi" rather than a mobile pillbox because of the infantry's need to disperse and occupy ground and engage an elusive enemy. In use with the Bundeswehr it has been referred to as a *Scheunentor* (barn door) because its high profile stands out above the low German hedgerows.

The Japanese firm of Tamiya, which has already made a "killing" in the field of plastic model tanks, has now broken new ground with its recently released kit of the M113. It costs £2.50 and is marketed in UK by Richard Kohnstam (Riko) Ltd, 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 3AD. Although con-



Tamiya's 1:35 scale American APC.



Marines and their amphibious Ford.

struction is simple and straightforward with step-by-step exploded diagrams, this 1:35th scale model is intricately detailed with 110 parts including opening hatches and rear door revealing interior fittings, engine and transmission. The exterior parts are moulded in olive-green

plastic and the interior parts in pale grey but it is advisable to paint them with matt colours such as Humbrol "US Army olive drab" and "medium sea grey" for an authentic-looking finish. Weathering can be provided by smearing half-dry, muddy coloured paint with the side of a brush to such areas as the armoured skirting plates, tracks and road wheels. The kit comes complete with five soldier figures and transfer markings for the US Army and Bundeswehr.

Another amphibian from Tamiya is the US Ford GPA nicknamed "Ike's invasion taxi" and "Seep" (sea-going jeep). It is in 1:35th scale in Tamiya's "Military Miniatures" series and costs £1.20 retail. Although one of the firm's simpler models it has exquisitely detailed parts such as leaf springs, propeller, a jerrican and even a boathook. There are two figures and markings for the US Army and US Marine Corps.

This enterprising firm is now "muscling in" on a traditional British market—the "lead" soldier. Its first four figures, in 1:25th scale at £1.25 each, are of a Wehrmacht artillery officer, rifleman, machine-gunner and infantry non-commissioned officer. The packing and presentation are superb with professionally coloured artwork on the box, mounting stands and comprehensive painting instructions. However the casting is not quite so crisp as the best British figures and the hard white metal used makes conversion work difficult. **HH**

All-action Wehrmacht models in metal.





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The American soldier of the Revolution 1775 is another addition to the 54mm Collectors Series.

These soldiers who fought under the command of George Washington wore many variations of dress and although he tried to achieve some uniformity by issuing dress regulation orders, due to desperate shortages, he never achieved this aim. The uniform and equipment continued to vary among Washington's troops.

This Airfix figure represents an infantryman clad in one of the styles adopted by the patriots after the declaration of war in 1775.

There are several alternatives when modelling this kit. The figure can be an NCO carrying the spontoon or a standard bearer or an infantryman carrying the musket, tomahawk or sword.

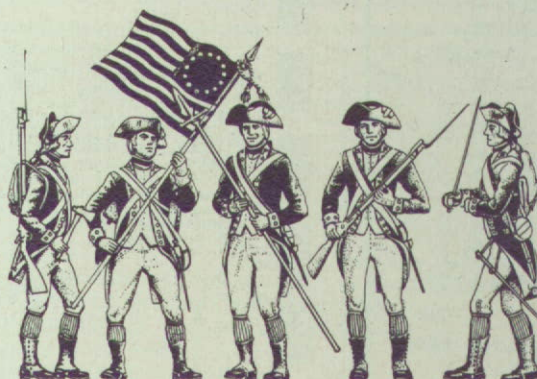
The pack has a full painting guide and there is a template to be used for cutting the

belts and straps of the uniform from the plastic sheet provided.

The fine details of the musket, water bottle, ammunition pouch, back pack and uniform have all been authentically reproduced in this 21 part kit.



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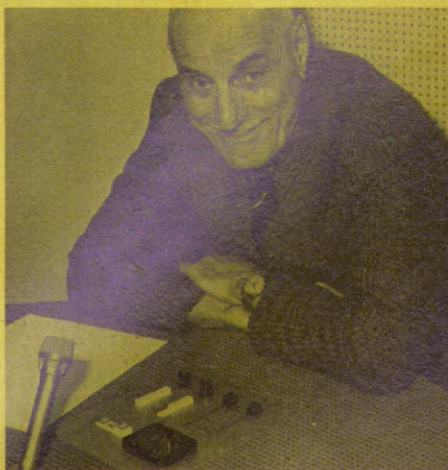
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Mr Bill Kidd, popular presenter of 2nd Division Sports Report in Rhine Army every Monday night, has chalked up his thousandth broadcast for British Forces Broadcasting Service. Almost coinciding with this event was the award of a certificate of meritorious service marking Bill's 14 years in the PT branch of 2nd Division Headquarters. Bill, who began his broadcasting career as a last minute substitute commentator at a sporting fixture, reckons he has since travelled more than 150,000 miles on Rhine Army sporting assignments.

"Mr Fix-it"

Mr Tae Yong Pak (32) (right) has spent 22 years working for the Army, having joined Naafi in 1952 as a nine-year-old counter assistant at Pusan, South Korea. He now works as a driver for the British element of the Commonwealth Liaison Mission to the United Nations command in Korea. After Pusan, Mr Tae worked behind the bar of a Royal Engineers sergeants' mess and moved to Inchon with the unit at the end of the Korean War. In 1958 he joined the Liaison Mission in Seoul as a driver and soon earned the nickname "Mr Fix-it."



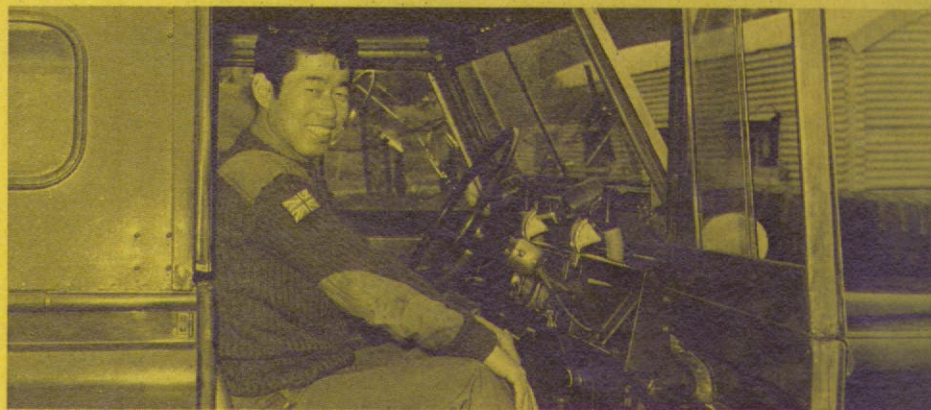
Promotion this side

Sergeant First Class Ronald A Falcone, of the United States Army Transportation Corps, received official recognition of his promotion to master-sergeant in a ceremony at Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, Gloucestershire, where he is serving as an air mounting centre training NCO on a two-year tour in England with 29 Movement Control Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport. After being marched into the sergeants' mess by **Regimental Sergeant-Major Ron Peters**, Master-Sergeant Falcone had his new chevrons pinned on his right sleeve (above) by the commanding officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel Mike Babbage**, then his wife **Ann** fastened the chevrons to his other sleeve.



Lady dentist

White surgical uniform hides a khaki one for 24-year-old **Captain Melissa Dominy** who is one of only nine women dentists in the Army. Melissa, a qualified dental surgeon, took a five-year short-service commission and is now on a Cyprus tour. Asked soldiers' reaction on finding her in the surgery, she quipped: "Their eyes open and their mouths close but we soon manage to reverse the process!"



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112-3

Sports shorts

Injury robs Army gymnasts

INJURY dogged top gymnasts just before the final stage of the National Gymnastic League to decide the 1974-75 winners, leaving no possible hope of repeating the Army's championship victory last year.

In order to field a full team of five, Apprentice Tradesman G Jones, the Army junior champion who swept the junior soldiers championship board last year, was brought in at the last minute. Jones, in his first representative match for the Army seniors—and by far the youngest and least experienced of the 20 gymnasts taking part—showed great ability in all routines. His ambitious performance in the floor test is worthy of special mention and observers predict a sparkling future in the sport for this new discovery.

Sergeant-Instructor J Purvis, as always, gave sparkling entertainment throughout and his 9.2 points for the floor routine was one of the highlights among the many brilliant performances.

Company Sergeant-Major Instructor J Wilson, a dedicated gymnast, again displayed the neatness, control and ability on all six pieces of apparatus that have hall-marked his sterling performances time after time.

Lance-Sergeant D Scott and Lance-Corporal G Sharp, originally nominated as reserves, gave first-class support to the Army team and scored good marks against the strongest opposition the Army has encountered for a long time.

The 192.55 scored by Darlington placed them first in the four-sided match and in winning the contest they clinched the league championship. The Army was fourth with 176.55 in the match. Third was Hendon (186.20) and second Carnegie (191.65).

Last-minute entry, Apprentice Tradesman Glen Jones, made impressive début.



Soldier crosses swords with an officer at Aldershot. This year the soldiers won.

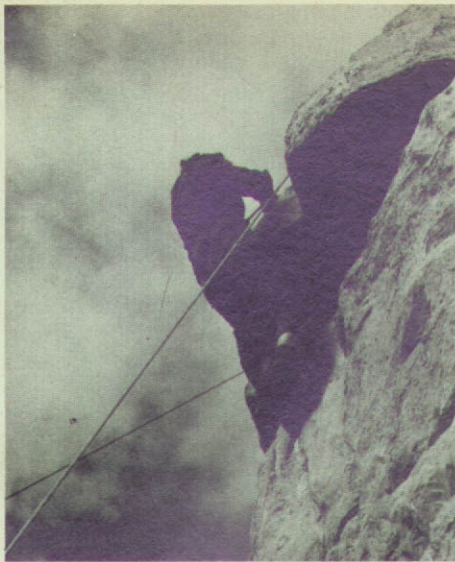
Soldiers foil officers in Mylne Cup

THE eleventh annual Mylne Cup fencing match between officers and soldiers ended in a win for the soldiers, repeating their success of 1974. The final score was 15 victories to 12, largely contributed by the soldiers' 7-2 victory with the épée. The officers had a convincing 6-3 foil win and lost the sabre encounter by just one bout. Soldiers: SMI A Flood, QMSI D Hughes, SSI J Larkham, SI P Brierley, SSI D Truman (all APTC), Sgt J Fox, Sgt P Twine (both REME), Sgt S Evans (16/5 QRL). Officers: Maj A M Bell, Lieut Sutherland, Lieut P Underwood (all RE), Capt (MAA) G W Gelder, Capt (MAA) A Richards (both APTC), Maj R Collins (ACC), Capt L Burr (RAOC), Capt M Compton (REME), Lieut C Ottowell (LI). Soldiers have held the Mylne Cup seven times and officers four.

The opponents joined forces to thrash the Universities Athletic Union 18-9. Weakness in the foil match was amply compensated by the supremacy of the sabreurs. Results:—Foil: Army (Burr, Larkham, Evans) 3, UAU 6. Épée: Army (Burr, Brierley, Twine) 6, UAU 3. Sabre: Army (Gelder, Hughes, Larkham) 9, UAU 0.



The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (light shirts), winners of the Army Cup five times in the last decade, took this season's United Kingdom Trophy when they beat The Royal Regiment of Wales by 12 pts to six at Aldershot. They will now play the Rhine Army winners for the Army Cup, again at Aldershot, on 12 March. The UK Trophy was presented to them by Prince Charles.



Glassfibre mountain

A YEAR ago Staff-Sergeant Dave Tate, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, had the idea of building a glassfibre climbing tower and has spent time since then liaising with Strand Glass Co Ltd over design and construction.

Last winter the Army made facilities at Bicester available for the construction of the tower and Strand Glass provided the materials. Now the 33-foot climbing tower is finished, complete with three climbing sides, provisionally classified as difficult, very difficult and severe, designed to test nearly all climb-

ing techniques. The tower can be put up or taken down in an hour by a small team of men.

The tower has been designed so that nine panels attach to scaffolding with a seven-foot square base. One-and-a-half tons of glass-reinforced plastic went into the panels, the lightest of which is 200lb and the heaviest 450lb. The surface of the tower looks like rock—for that is basically what it is. Ground rock was used with the top layer of resin.

The RAOC mobile display team, headed by Staff Tate, will be using the tower at shows all over the country.

Left: Glassfibre climbing tower built for the RAOC, showing two-foot overhang.

Sports shorts

SOCCER

Results: Army 0 Chelsea FC 4, Army 3 London Universities 0, Army 0 Aldershot FC 4. Kentish Cup: Belgian Army 3 French Army 0.

RUGBY

Results: Army 20 Harlequins 28, Army 15 Surrey 6, Army 9 Saracens 14, Army 13 Gloucester 19, Army 16 Oxford University 9, Nottingham 31 Army 6.

HOCKEY

Wet weather has taken its toll of the fixture list, causing the cancellation of Army matches against Tulse Hill, Warwickshire (under 22s), Oxford University and Oxfordshire (under 22s). The Middlesex match was played and the Army lost 0-1.

FENCING

The Army was the only Service starter in the 1975 men's foil team championship (Sporting Record Cup) which drew some 40 teams to the first round pools. The absence of the traditionally represented RAF and Navy robbed the Army of a sneak preview of the others' foil strengths, which could have been a useful guide for this year's inter-Service matches. The Army foilists drew Cambridge University in the first round of the cup and won 10-6. The second round brought an even more convincing win against Phoenix Foil Club 9-3. But the luck of the draw eluded the Army team in the last rounds and the foilists found themselves facing Salle Paul A—a team comprising four British internationals who had been exempted up to the third round. Against such formidable opposition the Army team lost 0-9 but made the Paul side fight hard for every hit. The Army side thoroughly deserved to go through to the last eight teams but promotion was denied them due to the draw against Salle Paul who went on to regain the British men's foil championship from Thames Club 9-4.

BOXING

The Army staged its own version of "It's a Knock-Out" with a resounding victory over the RAF. All ten bouts were wins for the Army, the successful boxers being: Flyweight: L/Cpl J Spring (3 RRF); bantamweight: L/Cpl N Phillip (4/7 DG); featherweight: Cpl A Metcalf (Kings); lightweight: L/Cpl B Curran (12 RSME); light welterweight: Spr B Cherry (95 Cdo RE); welterweight: L/Cpl E Dublin (10 Regt RCT); light middleweight: Rfn T Williams (1 RGJ); middleweight: Rfn J Roberts (1 RGJ); light heavyweight: L/Sgt

E Kelly (Coldm Gds); heavyweight: L/Cpl G Yetton (SEME Bordon); special bout: Cpl M Dowland (2 R Anglian). The heavyweight bout was a walkover, there being no opponent.

The team of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, failed in its bid to become Army team boxing champions for the third year running when it was beaten seven bouts to four by 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, in this year's final.

At the time of going to press the inter-unit championships had reached the final stage. Semi-finals results:—Major units, BAOR: 10 Regt RCT beat 1 Para eight bouts to three. UK: 1 RGJ beat 1 RWF seven bouts to four. Minor units, BAOR: 12 Mech Bde and HQ Sig Sqn beat 6 OFP RAOC five bouts to two. UK: 206 Coy RPC beat 9 Ind Para Sqn RE five bouts to two.

Minor units team champion boxers this season are the men of 206 Coy RPC who beat 12 Mech Bde HQ and Sig Sqn 6 bouts to one (13-7 points) in the final. Results (206 Coy boxers first):

Featherweight: L/Cpl C Maher a walkover. Lightweight: L/Cpl P Hollingsworth beat Cpl D Parkinson. Light welterweight: Pte K Pierre beat Sig S Haddrell. Light middleweight: Pte C Barrett beat Dvr S Porter. Middleweight: Pte H Gabriel beat Sig L Tiernan. Light heavyweight: Pte G Forrester beat Sig M Lucas. Welterweight: L/Cpl K Church lost to Sig G Bantin.

TUG-OF-WAR

1 Para Logistic Regiment took both awards in the Army indoor tug-of-war championships held at Aldershot. In the 560 kilo championship, runners-up were Proof and Experimental Establishment Shoeburyness with the School of Signals in third place. In the 640 kilo event P & EE were again second while 42 Survey Regiment, Royal Engineers, finished third.

SHOOTING

The three-cornered smallbore target rifle match for the Friendship Trophy was won by United States Army Europe against stiff competition from British marksmen drawn from Rhine Army and the United Kingdom. The match comprised two sections and the trophy was awarded to the team with the highest aggregate score. Teams of six fired 60 shots at 25 yards in the prone rifle section and teams of four fired the same number of shots over the same distance prone, standing and kneeling. The positional shooting of Captain E Schumacher for the Americans made the whole thing look so easy—he was a silver medallist in the recent world shooting championships. For the United Kingdom, Staff-Sergeant A V Glasby won a good second place in the prone, standing and kneeling event and Sergeant W K Boxall, shooting in the unfamiliar disciplines of standing and kneeling, put up a creditable performance for the UK.

Team results:

Prone rifle match (highest possible score 3600): 1st Rhine Army A (3535), 2nd British Army UK (3519), 3rd USAEUR (3495), 4th Rhine Army B (3489). Prone, standing and kneeling match (highest possible score 2400): 1st USAEUR (2133), 2nd British Army UK (2013), 3rd Rhine Army (1979). Friendship Trophy (highest aggregate of 6000): 1st USAEUR (5628), 2nd British Army UK (5532), 3rd Rhine Army (5514).

Individual results:

Prone match (highest possible score 600): 1st Maj A R Harvey (BAOR) (592), 2nd Capt E Schumacher (USAEUR) (591), 3rd Sgt W K Boxall (Army UK) (590). Prone, standing and kneeling match (highest possible score 600): 1st Schumacher (568), 2nd S/Sgt A V Glasby (Army UK) (546), 3rd S/Sgt D Mondon (USAEUR) (541).

The Army gained a resounding win in a standing and kneeling rifle match against Lancashire with a score of 1019 to 980. The Army team once more included Glasby and the others were: Sgt D J Bright, Rev D Cooper, Capt P Martin, S/Sgt J O'Brien and Sgt W A White. Major Harvey joined WO1 M C E Gosling as a reserve.

The Regular Army beat Gloucestershire in a smallbore prone rifle match, the Army XX winning by 3952 points to 3918 and the Army reserves by 3875 to 3870.

JUDO

Western Scotland proved more rugged than the east when it came to judo prowess in matches against the Army. Western Scotland scored ten bouts to four; Eastern Scotland was beaten seven to five with one bout drawn.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Army's annual cross-country match against the Welsh Cross Country Association ended with the Army winning the senior event and Wales the junior. The races were run over a very flat course and the going was extremely heavy. The Army team packed together well to win the senior race with all six team members placed in the first ten and separated by less than a minute. The youth race brought bad luck to the Army side with two runners sustaining leg injuries which took them to hospital but 4th and 5th places were well taken by Army runners.

Results:—Senior: Army 35 points, WCCA 45. Army placings: 2nd Lieut G Grant (17 Trg Regt RA), 3rd WO2 T Davies (7 Para Regt RHA), 5th L/Cpl J Henry (HP&CC Depot RE), 6th SI S Harrison (Depot & Trg Bn ACC), 9th Spr J R Broad (HP&CC Depot), 10th SI E Turner (1 Trg Regt RE). Junior: WCCA 29 points, Army 49. Army placings: 4th A/T Cpl P Staynings (AAC Harrogate), 5th A/T K Dack (AAC Chepstow), 7th A/T L/Cpl J Warburn (AAC Harrogate), 10th A/T J Richardson (AAC Harrogate), 11th A/T S J Rimmington (AAC Chepstow), 12th A/T C J Hamill (RAOC AC Depot).

On Record



"The Foden Sound" (Foden Motor Works Band) (Conductor: Rex Mortimer) (Top Brass GSGL 10511)

This famous band from Sandbach, like many other works bands, could suffer first from cut-backs in firms' costs, but it would be a false economy by firms with no soul and who take no account of "unseen" benefits. Army bands "cost" several millions of pounds to support yet wise authority realises their worth in a world rather short on the inessentials that make life richer for all. Let us hope the Foden Sound will be long with us for it has been nurtured by, and has nurtured at one time or another, the whole Mortimer family. On this disc Rex, the youngest of the three sons of Fred, presents the type of programme for which the band is famous.

"A Festival Prelude" is a modest essay in what the brass band world takes to be

modern stuff, pleasant and post-Victorian, by one of the band's cornet players, Frank Hughes. "La Chataleine" is an old waltz arranged by old Fred and "Where E'er You Walk" appears as a trombone solo. A bit of solidarity is established with Mozart's "The Magic Flute" overture.

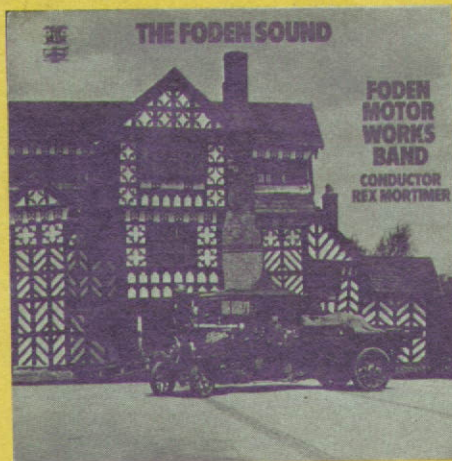
"Enchantress" is a quite good march and "Arabella" a good euphonium solo. Then follows a "work" by Sam B Wood who straightens out the beautiful curves of Waldteufel's "Skaters' Waltz" in "Rhythmic Skaters." "Pixie's Parade" is somewhat un-pixie like, but those two back-of-the-bandstand stalwarts "Ida and Dot," who must be a couple of centenarians by now, are as pretty and accessible as when I was a bandsman. "Swedish Rhapsody" ends a disc of no great pretensions but much in the way of nostalgic memories.

RB

the case with brass bands, or military come to that. The longer items are Mendelssohn's overture "Ruy Blas," Arthur Wood's "Three Yorkshire Dale Dances" and the now very popular suite by Trevor Sharpe, "Caribbean Cameo."

Of the lighter pieces, Peter Smith's "The Gypsy Trumpeter" is a rather mild venture into tzigany, the Minuet from "Music for the Royal Fireworks" (preceded by a tremendous fanfare "Fear-nought" by Clifford Wright) is too slow by half, as is the theme from "The Onedin Line," and only a headlong performance of Ron Goodwin's "The Headless Horseman" saves side two from becoming utterly becalmed.

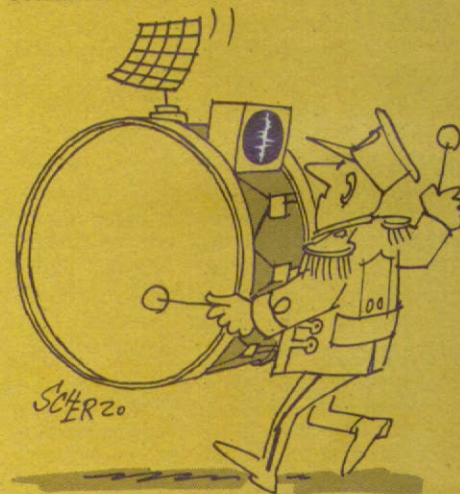
RB



"Brass Accolade" (Brighouse and Rastrick Band) (Conducted by Harry Brennan and Major Desmond Walker) (Music for Pleasure MFP 50112)

Brighouse and Rastrick again produce a record with "Champion Band of Great Britain" plastered all over the sleeve. I had occasion to chide them once before for somewhat misrepresenting the facts even though the date is mentioned in small print. The performance is very good, as one would expect, but not immaculate—several small blemishes have been allowed.

A march by Terence Brien gives the record its title, and another by Clive Baraclough, "Supreme," seems to add to the self-congratulatory excesses. Both are well-written and the remainder of the items are much better than is sometimes



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Plumbing the Blue Hole

THE waters off Belize (formerly British Honduras) in the Caribbean contain the second largest barrier reef in the world (the largest is the Great Barrier Reef of Australia). Belize's reef extends from north to south some 190 miles along the entire coastline and is about 15 miles off-shore. Further east are three large atolls separated by water up to 4000 feet deep.

The furthest group of coral islands is situated 50 miles east of Belize and named Lighthouse Reef. It is in the centre of this atoll that the fabled Blue Hole is located. One of the most interesting geological phenomena in the Caribbean, it became the subject of a detailed study by Jacques-Yves Cousteau and his documentary film on it was shown on British television.

The 1st Battalion, The Royal Welch Fusiliers, was posted to Belize early in 1974 and members of its diving club, who are also members of the Army Sub-Aqua Diving Association (United Kingdom Land Forces), had been busy gaining additional experience in England in order to make full use of Belize's diving potential. Soon after they arrived they started diving trips twice a week off the main barrier reef.

Where the coral falls away into deeper water lie some of the most interesting areas for exploration. Here the coral forms a cliff dissected by many small ravines. The first drop-off normally descends to a plateau at about 60 to 90 feet. Eastwards at the end of this plateau is the second drop-off plunging some thousands of feet.

Belize-based Sioux over the Blue Hole.

New layers of coral polyps which have formed on top of the skeletons of much older coral formations make up the coral massif. When the broken skeletons have piled up enough, vegetation may become established and islands or reefs formed. The coral is home to some of the most exotic members of the fish world. Some, such as the parrot fish, with its powerful mouth, actually live on coral itself.

The drop-off is also the habitat of predators such as groupers, jew-fish, barracuda and sharks. Barracuda are very common and always inquisitive. Although they have a reputation for ferocity, four- or five-foot specimens prowling around the divers never caused any problems but had an alarming habit of remaining quite close behind a diver until spotted.

Shortly after arriving in Belize, the challenge of the Blue Hole was considered. But it was not until the battalion's last month in the Caribbean that leading diver Captain D J Ross considered his team had gained enough experience underwater.

The Blue Hole is at the centre of Lighthouse Reef and the boat had to pick its way carefully northwards avoiding the numerous coral heads. The lighthouse keeper on Half Moon Caye was able to act as guide through water at times very shallow. It was only when a few hundred yards short of the Blue Hole that its circle of dark water was visible. The hole is some 1000 feet in diameter and surrounded by a belt of coral, some of which breaks the surface. Two small breaks in the coral give access by boat.

The hole was formed when the water level, more than 400 feet lower than at present, was beneath the maximum depth of the Blue Hole which Cousteau found to

be 412 feet. The depth of this sunken cave, the roof of which has collapsed, was foremost in Captain Ross's mind as the divers prepared for the first descent. The boat was anchored on the edge of the hole and a chain with 150 feet of rope attached to it was dropped into the hole itself.

Air cylinders were tied to this line at 20 feet under the boat as a precaution although the divers planned to remain at 120 feet for only 12 minutes and finish the dive on the sandy lip of the hole at 20 feet to avoid decompression.

The first 30 feet down the cave wall was in poor visibility because of the sand in suspension in the water. But at 40 feet the divers could clearly see the next 100 feet below. The descent continued following the anchor rope and soon the anchor itself was visible. The walls of the cave are vertical for about 90 feet where they curve outwards. This seems to indicate that the first 90 feet represented the original roof.

Where the walls curve out the massive formation of stalactites was visible. Some were 40 feet long and more than six feet in diameter. The presence of these stalactites is conclusive proof that the cave was at one time above the surface of the water. The origins of the Blue Hole can therefore be put before the end of the Ice Age when the sea rose and filled the cave.

In contrast to the lonely desolation of the Blue Hole, with its few fish, the divers made several descents around Half Moon Caye. Because of its distance from Belize few fishermen venture that far and so the drop-off is teeming with colourful tropical fish. There was also a greater amount of living coral than on the main barrier reef and the myriad colours defied description.

From a report by Captain D J Ross.

Letters

On 'arpin'

I am trying to track down the complete version of the Army monologue about life on the other side, a fragment of which is:

An the Seraph-Major gets 'em all fell in in free ranks and 'e says:

"Right, you lot, from 'ere to the left you're on cloud blaincoir'. You lot, you're on trumpets, golden, polishin' of. And the rest of yers on 'arpin'."

"But Seraph, I was on 'arpin' yest'day."

"Can't 'elp that. You're on bleeding 'arpin' today."

I would appreciate it if any reader could send me the complete version of this or any other monologue of merit.—**Martin Page, 20 Wellington Street, London WC2.**

Restoration

Some friends and I, members of the TAVR, are negotiating the purchase of a Morris CS 9 Mk II light armoured car for restoration and would like to appeal to readers for any photographs, information or personal knowledge of the CS 9. All letters will be answered and any material/photographs returned. I would also appreciate any information on the location of any of these vehicles still in existence in scrapyards etc and any other possible sources of spare parts.—**David S Walmsley, 54 Forster Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4LQ.**

Wrong Guards

I read with interest your review (December) of the record "Marching through History with the Band of The Grenadier Guards" but was surprised to see that the picture on the sleeve had no connection with the regiment. It is in fact Lady Butler's painting "The Colours at the Alma," depicting Lieutenants Lindsay (later Lord Wantage VC) and Thistlethwayte and Colour-Sergeant McKechnie, all of the Scots Fusilier Guards, as the

Scots Guards were styled in Crimean days. A more appropriate picture would have been Lady Butler's "The Roll Call," a study of the Grenadier Guards after the Battle of Inkerman just over 120 years ago.—**J Paine, Flat 4, Courtney King House, 169 Eastern Road, Brighton, BN2 2AN.**

Country louts!

In his letter about haircuts (December) Lance-Corporal Moorcroft talks of a "squaddies crop." No doubt the reason so many fall into this old trap is because soldiers drill in squads, but the word the corporal wanted is "Swaddy." Chambers dictionary defines it as "a soldier, especially a militiaman." The derivation is from the word "swad" which, dare I say it, is defined as a country lout.—**Sqn-Ldr P Biegel, Officers Mess, RAF Boscombe Down, Salisbury, Wilts.**

"Desk Job" GSM

As a recipient of the General Service Medal and four bars, all awarded for "safe desk jobs," may I comment on Mr Stokes's letter (December). The Malayan Emergency ended in 1960 and I am sure that most of the lads who served in the peninsula all those years ago aren't particularly concerned about getting a further souvenir

of their Service days. Judging by the number of GSMs gracing the windows of militaria shops, it would appear that their previous owners could not have valued them as highly as Mr Stokes seems to think they should have. I suggest that to distinguish between those who earned their GSM the hard way, and those who earned it "in safe and comfortable jobs," the GSM awarded to the latter could be the normal issue with the words "Non-

Flowers for the General

It gave me great pleasure to read the article in the December issue about the Welsh Guards visiting Brussels for the 30th anniversary of the liberation. I was especially interested in the picture of General Piron at the monument in memory of our fallen comrades. That picture is one of the last, if not the last, to be taken of him, as he died on 4 September. Readers may be interested to know more about the presentation of flowers to the general. It started on 3 September 1944. When crossing the French/Belgian border, Brigadier Piron, as he was then, commander of the First Belgian Brigade (later renamed Brigade Piron), was handed a bunch of flowers by a little girl wearing a dress in the national colours of black, yellow and red. It was thought fitting, when the monument was to be erected at Rongy, the crossing point in 1944, that the little girl

Combatant" within a laurel wreath.—**R M Fogarty, 7 Arnold Road, Manchester, 16 8NQ.**

Try the attic!

We are trying to trace the history of our unit and the units from which it sprang. I would appreciate it if any readers could provide written or photographic material relating to 151 Fd Amb RAMC (V), 149 Fd Amb RAMC (V) and 2/3 Cavalry Fd Amb RAMC. Any material received will be copied and returned to the sender.—**Capt E F Smith RAMC, 251 (Sunderland) Fd Amb RAMC (V), TAVR Centre, Dykelands Road, Sunderland, SR6 8DP.**

Ring a bell?

I wonder if any reader can throw any light on the brass bell which hangs in The Fountain public house at St Leonards-on-Sea in Sussex. The bell has an engraving of the white horse of Kent below which is a scroll bearing the words 20 London Regiment 336 Coy RE and followed by the

over ▶

should be traced so that she could hand a bunch of flowers once more to General Piron. This she did on 17 April 1971 in her married name of Mrs Arlette Dubois-Lhoir. It is interesting to note that the girl who presented the general with the flowers on 1 September 1974 was the daughter of Mrs Dubois, dressed in the same dress as her mother wore 30 years ago.—**L Van Hoeck, Secretary West Flanders Branch, OCA Brigade Piron.**



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names of the towns of Stiffkey 1938, Bockingford Sep 38, Storrington 1939, Staplehurst Aug 39, Hastings Sep 41, Leatherhead 41, Herstmonceux Nov 42. The land-lord has tried over the years to trace the origin of this bell but has had no success.—**Sgt W Duffey, Sgts Mess, 3 Queens, BFPO 42.**

Park Lane Fair

I have been asked to write to you by Lady Ward, wife of General Sir Richard Ward, who was chairman of this year's Joint Service Committee for the Park Lane Fair, which raises funds for The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts's Workshops. The Joint Services Committee assists the Fair by organising an appeal to units and individuals in the Services and commercial undertakings and by running a tombola stall. This year's Fair was opened by Dame Anna Neagle and was visited by the Queen. The Joint Services Committee's efforts this year raised £9684.45 towards the overall total of £20,113 and Lady Ward and her committee would very much like

Erratum

In Left, Right and Centre of the January issue the bridge being negotiated by a Stalwart was described as a heavy girder over-bridge. It was in fact a No. 6 tank bridge, which is launched by a Centurion tank.

to thank all those Service units and individuals who did so much towards making this year's appeal so successful, in spite of the difficult financial times in which we are all living.—**Lieut-Col J A Dillway RAPC, Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London SW1.**

Want to argue?

I was interested to read Mr Lindon's letter (December) because having been born on 23 June 1887 and joining the Right of the Line (RHA) on 24 August 1905 I can lay claim to being a little senior both in age and in service.—**A T Kennerson, Batworth Park House, Crossbush, Arundel, Sussex, BN18 9AA.**

COMPETITION

"Number please" (Competition 197, November) might have baffled originally but fell into line as soon as it was realised that the diagram of the old numbered and lettered telephone dial had a direct relationship. Each extension number translated not only into the first four letters of a person's surname but also into the first four letters of his job.

It was possible to work out every extension number but all that was asked for was Mr Derthing's job (Deputy Editor) and the Editor's extension number (2237).

Prizewinners:

1 A K Grace, 501 GL Sec, RAF Wittering, Peterborough, PE8 6HB.

2 S/Sgt D C Wheatland, 7 Fd Wksp REME, BFPO 38.

3 Mrs L Fullerton, 6 MSQ, Dawberry Fields Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham 14.
4 Sgt E R L Rees RA, ACIO, 132A Lichfield Street, Walsall, West Midlands.
5 Sig S Fold, SHQ, 244 Sig Sqn, RAF Benson, Oxon.
6 Sgt J Fullerton ACC, ACIO, 46 The Birmingham Shopping Centre, Birmingham, B2 4XN.
7 WO2 D Cannon REME, CAAT Iran, c/o Defence Attaché, British Embassy, Teheran.
8 WO1 T M Brown, Exam Centre, SEME, Bordon, Hants, GU35 0JE.
9 G Newbown, 55 Legbourne Road, Louth, Lincs.



Albert pattern

An officer's gilt Albert-pattern helmet of the King's Dragoon Guards 1847-1871 was sold for £240 at auction by Wallis & Wallis at Lewes, Sussex. The helmet, which was in good condition, was complete with black hair plume and brass scale chin-chain.

REUNIONS

Royal Horse Artillery Association. Trowbridge Branch annual dinner and reunion, New Civic Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts, 22 March. Tickets £2 from Maj J C Crowe, 55 Whiterow Park, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 0BQ.

Household Division. Wigan and District Guards Association buffet and dance, Haigh Hall, Wigan, Lancs, 3 May. Tickets from W N Moore, Morningside, Elmfield Road, Wigan.

1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards. Annual reunion dinner, Surrey Tavern, Kennington Oval, London, 3 May. Tickets from Maj (Retd) G Allsop, Home HQ, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, Territorial House, Sundorne Rd, Shrewsbury, Salop.

The Queen's Own Hussars. Reunion dinner, Tavistock Banqueting Rooms, Charing Cross Road, London, 3 May. Details from Maj J S Sutherland (Retd), Home HQ, The Queen's Own Hussars, 28 Jury St, Warwick, CV34 4EW.

85 Chemical Warfare Company/85 Field Company RE. Annual reunion, The Post House, Sandiacre, Nottingham, 26/27 April. Details from Mr Cyril Whitehouse, 175 Wagstaff Lane, Jacksdale, Nottingham, NG16 5HN.

RAOC Association. Annual dinner, COD, Chilwell, Beeston, Notts, 26 April. Tickets £1.50 from RAOC Secretariat, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey.

Armourers Reunion. Royal Green Jackets Drill Hall, 56 Davies Street, Mayfair, London W1, 17 May. Details from Maj (Retd) M G Chetwynd, 52 Cophead Rise, Warminster, Wilts.

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Norman Jack, 56 McNaughton Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 0J2.—Wishes buy or exchange cap badges British regiments.
T Jardine, 11 Cartland Avenue, Carlisle, Lancashire, Scotland.—Seeks Cameronian plaid brooch and all militaria Cameronians and 90th Foot. Has English and Scottish badges for exchange.
D Macpherson, 53-3rd Ave, Mayfair, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa.—Wishes exchange South African cigarette card albums, complete, for badges especially Cape Colony artillery, 1914 bronze copy, Canadian artillery (officer) or any Maltese cap badges.
Louis S Mevyhert, One Fifth Ave, Suite 15D, New York, USA 10003.—Wishes buy or exchange British Empire regimental badges 1880-1918 and German regimental badges 1890-1914. Willing trade US regimental badges from 1955 to present. Also wishes correspond with anyone on military history from 1860 onwards special interest US Civil War and Russian Front 1941-45.
J L Garland, 73 Upway, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8AA.—Wishes purchase or exchange shoulder titles Liverpool Irish, 5th Volunteer then 8th Territorial Bn King's Regiment.
D Rogers, 85 Eldale Crescent, Northfield, Birmingham, BBI 1SP.—Has some spare British and police badges for sale or exchange. Please send SAE.
John A Jackson, 13331-96 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5E 4B5, Canada.—Seeks socket bayonet for 1815 Baker rifle, bayonet for Sten MC, sword bayonet for Martine (shortened Md), four large and six

small Grenadier Guards buttons suitable blazer.
F A J Wright, 4280 Bl Dorchester W, Westmount, H3Z 1V7, Quebec, Canada.—Wishes trade Royal Scots or Royal Lancastrian Regt officers belt latches for RAF Ferry Command civilian aircrew cap badge.
E Kelk, 1 Sweetgate Cottages, Broad Oak, Canterbury, CT2 0RA, Kent.—Has number badges, buttons and titles for sale or exchange, CEF badges and WW2 plastic badges.
H T Jacobs, 30A Bayshore Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K2B 6M8, Canada.—Wishes purchase or exchange Commonwealth military medals.
William S Mills, 4104 Ingalls Street, Mission Hills, San Diego, California.—Wishes purchase or exchange helmet plate centres and pre-Territorial glengarry badges.
W H K Southall, 113 Bodmin Avenue, Weeping Cross, Stafford, ST17 0ES.—Wishes purchase or exchange cap badges, div signs, para wings of all countries. Also Isle of Man Home Guard and Somerset Light Infantry/Yeomanry cap badges.
John Walton, 42 Sherborne Rd, Farnborough, Hants.—Wishes purchase military and other cigarette cards, especially pre-1914. Also exchanges.
G W Russo, 35 Governors Parade, Gibraltar.—Starting collection British Army cap badges. Would appreciate any assistance.
Gerald J Jackson, Apt 504, 36 Macell Ave, Aurora, Ontario, Canada.—Wishes obtain old items,



badges, buttons etc Beds and Herts Regt showing Bedfordshire alone on the title.
S C Foote, PO Box 1899, Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa.—Will exchange rare cap badge 18th Bn Middlesex Regt (Public Works Pioneer Bn) for any one of following Victorian Cape Colony helmet plates: Cape Infantry, Cape Volunteer Engineers, Western Rifles Paarl, Western Rifles, 1st Highland Mounted Infantry, Cala Carbineers, Bedford Rifle Volunteers, Stellenbosch College Cadet Corps, Transkei Mounted Rifles and helmet plate Uitenhage Rifles K/C.
J Babchuck, 70 Warwick Avenue, London W9.—Seeks flashes 7th Armd Div (NW Europe) and 1st Armd Div, also arm flash Royal Signals (not arm of service stripe).
W A Townsend, 7 Well Lane, Curbridge, Witney, Oxon.—Seeks books, militaria and medals Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.
R J C Darley, 39 College Court, Hayle Road, Maidstone, Kent.—Wishes exchange early Irish items for plaid brooches.
H Ripley, 42 Chatsworth Crescent, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, LS28 8LD.—Seeks army buttons all countries. Purchase or exchange.
P F Banyard, 24 Holmdene Avenue, Herne Hill, London SE24.—Seeks shoulder cloth formation badges

21st Armoured Div, 3rd Inf Div, 50th Inf Div and British 30 Corps, also British cap badges.
Sgt R Donnelly, Sgts Mess, RAF Henlow, Beds.—Seeks British Army cap badges metal or plastic, also American military cap badges, metal breast wings or badges. Has some army badges for exchange.
L J Dunn, 35 High Street, Kinver, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY7 6HF.—Seeks cap badges and uniform metalware Worcester Regt. Will buy or exchange.
O/Cdt N M A Clegg, Royal Roads, Fleet Mail Office, Victoria, BC, VOS 1 B0, Canada.—Exchange Royal Military College of Canada pillbox cap or field service cap for current issue officer's wool sweater.
Lieut-Col N W Poulson, c/o Barclays Bank, Wilton, Salisbury, Wilts.—Seeks pre-1947 Indian Army lists also any badges/buttons connected with King's African Rifles and other East African military and police forces.
A Hunt, 17 Elmgrave Rd, West Cross, Swansea, West Glamorgan.—Wishes purchase British Army badges 1939 onwards.

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 50)

The two pictures differ in the following respects:

from left to right:
1. Left shoulder of No. 4. 2. Fingers of left hand of No. 4. 3. Belt of driving soldier. 4. Right arm of soldier between knees of No. 8. 5. Stick of officer fourth from left. 6. Angle of bird fifth from top. 7. Right armhole of bottom man's singlet. 8. River on right leg of pedestrian. 9. Belt of spectator third from left. 10. Ear of No. 9.



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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 5 May. The answers and winners' names will appear in the July **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 201" label.

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17 plus 75% minus 13	18 plus 6	19 add 50% take 13	20 !

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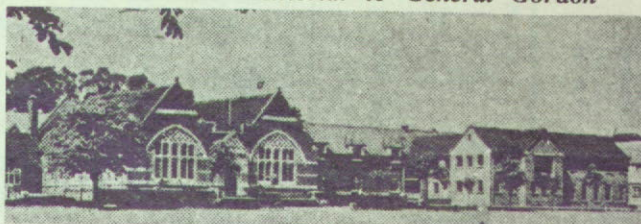
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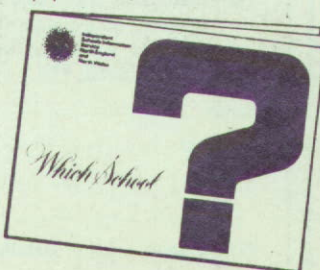
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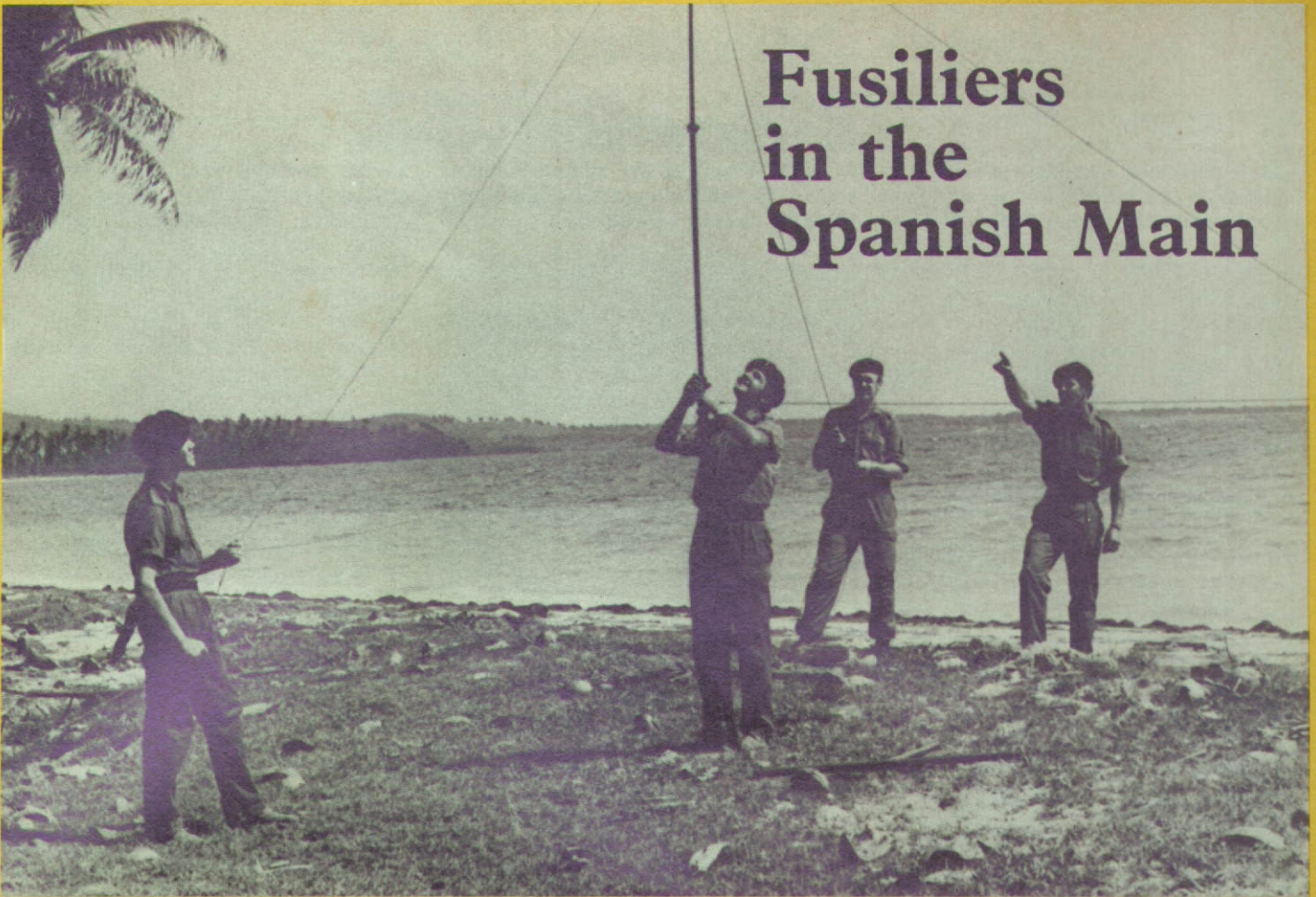
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Fusiliers in the Spanish Main



THE first glow of dawn had still to lighten the Caribbean sky as HMS Tartar nosed her way towards the rocky island of Jost van Dyke. On board was B Company of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, preparing for a first-light landing. Soon afterwards the 45 men climbed into small raiding craft and headed for shore.

The fusiliers were launching the main phase of Exercise Snow Quest, a small joint-Service exercise in the British Virgin Islands. The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Cartwright and only recently on duty in war-torn Cyprus, was now switching to jungle and amphibious training.

The 350 troops had set up a tented transit camp near the airport on the southern tip of St Lucia, one of the most spectacularly beautiful of the West Indian islands, and then moved 400 miles north to the Virgin Islands—one company and battalion headquarters on board HMS Tartar and the other two companies by Royal Air Force tactical transport.

Battalion headquarters was set up on Beef Island and each company operated independently over one or more of the sparsely populated islands during the anti-terrorist exercise. Opposition was provided by the battalion corps of drums and recce platoon, dressed in khaki to make them readily recognisable to the green-clad friendly forces.

On Jost van Dyke, B Company secured the beachhead and sent out patrols. Observation posts were set up on high points and the opposition was rounded up after two days of skirmishing and running fights through a tropical rain forest.

Responsible for clearing a handful of smaller islands, A Company carried out its task, including several amphibious landings, in weather offering fierce tropical rainstorms. Men of C Company were on the coral island of Anegada, dotted with pools of stagnant water and alive with mosquitoes. They were flown there by an RAF Andover to reinforce Royal Marines landed from the frigate HMS Eskimo.

On their return to St Lucia the fusiliers formed part of the guard of honour at the remembrance service in the town of Vieux Fort. They have traditional links with St Lucia for it was after a victory over the French there that they were granted the right to wear the red-and-white hackle.

Meanwhile 70 men of 14 and 30 signal regiments, normally based at Worcester

and Blandford, were on St Lucia for Exercise Glean, a deployment and communications exercise held in conjunction with Snow Quest. The Signals provided administrative and transit facilities for the fusiliers and established a morse link with Britain via the Bahamas. During the exercise they provided radio links between the naval frigates and a Morse high-frequency link between St Lucia, the forward airhead, and Beef Island.

The detachment also helped with communications for a small British scientific party, sponsored by the Institute of Geographical Survey, which is seeking the megacentre of the world's only drive-in volcano at Soufriere in St Lucia.

From a report by Army and Navy Public Relations.

Above: Sergeant Tony Brister explains a point in antenna erection on the St Lucia foreshore. **Below:** A Land-Rover finds a parking spot in a coconut grove.



Hi-yo Silver . . . Banzai !

THEY copied our cameras, mimicked our motor cars and even borrowed Birmingham's name to mark their mock-European goods. Now Japan's insatiable mass-production lines,

eating into the animal kingdom, have regurgitated a life-sized imitation horse. Super Steed, as the equine Frankenstein is dubbed by its creators, does everything its flesh-and-blood counterpart can

—with the possible exception of providing garden fertiliser. The 250-volt dynamic Dobbin needs no feeding and the mathematicians in his stable calculate that the £10-odd a week feed bill for the real thing, less the £4000 total cost of Super Steed, equals plenty of change to buy plastic roses anyway.

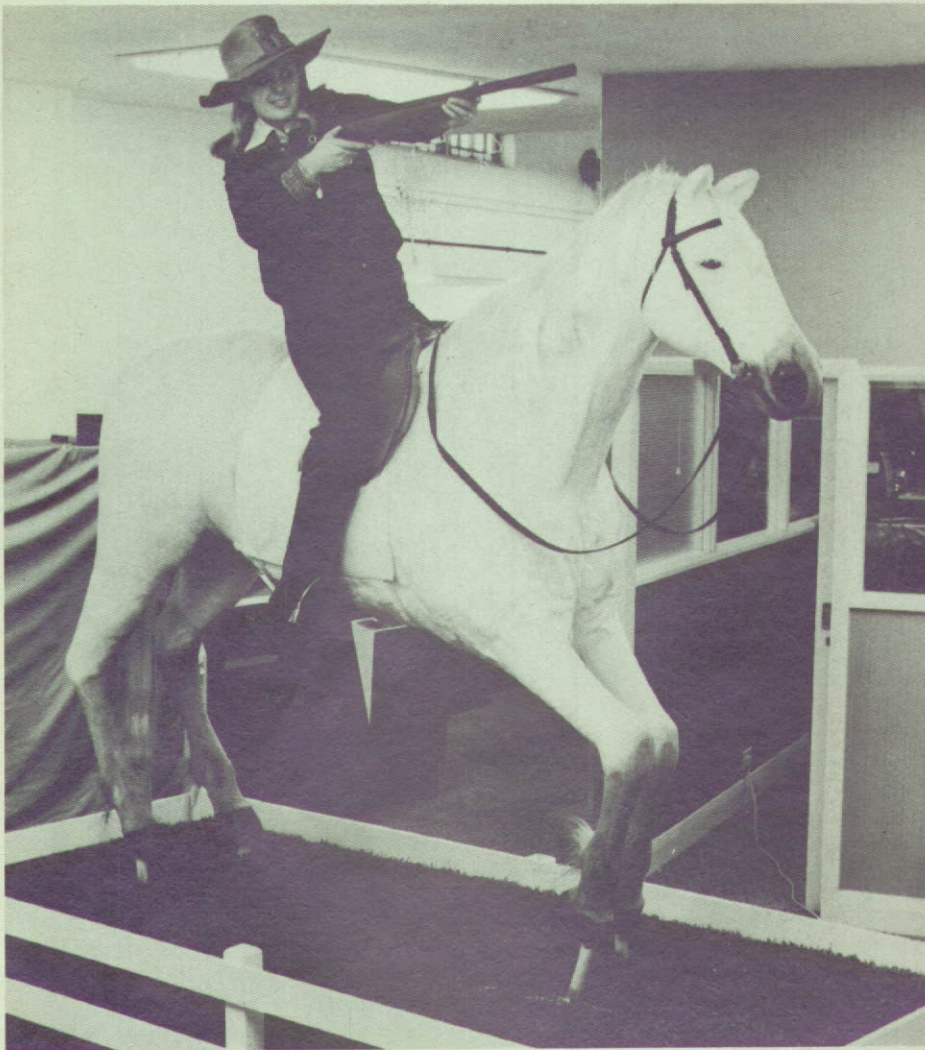
There might even be a few quid left over to buy some of the optional extras. A mileometer, perhaps, to clock up all that trotting-on-the-spot. Then there are back-projected scenic rides available to give you that real outdoor feeling right in the centrally heated comfort of your own front room.

Push-button controls on Super Steed's neck can spur you into a gallop up to 40 miles an hour. That's an imitation 40 miles an hour, of course; you never actually leave the whirring cranks that anchor his flashing hooves.

And when the sheer, untamed thrill of it all has seeped into your soul—not to mention torn your jolted liver from its sockets—a touch of another button brings you back to a sedate trot. The buttons marked "up" and "down" (apparently Japanese translations of "fast" and "slow") do away with the unseemly bellows of "giddy-up" and "whoa" that shatter the peace of Rotten Row.

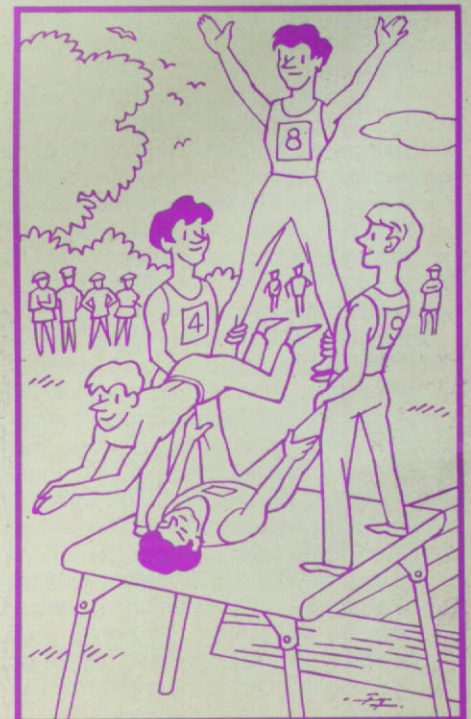
If schizophrenia makes you a mixture of the Lone Ranger and Gary Player, and you can still find the cash after the psychiatrist's bills, you could go "... for that ten-mile gallop after lunch at the golf course or a strenuous business discussion ..." as Super Steed's promoters advise.

Yes, Super Steed is not just an out-sized, four-legged, fur-coated slot-machine. It's "fun with a purpose," they tell us, like those delicious moments of enjoyment when you stop beating your head against a brick wall.



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good deal of sympathy for they sit on lonely pinnacles.

If Wavell, for instance, had retired after his spectacular victories against the Italians he would still be regarded as a top general. It was not his fault that through his losses in Greece and Crete and the arrival of the Germans in North Africa he could not repeat his success.

The chances are that if Auchinleck had had only Eighth

Army to command instead of the whole Middle East, we would never have heard of Montgomery whose victory at Alamein too often overshadows Auchinleck's victory in the first Alamein battle in which he fought Rommel to a standstill. Rommel later admitted that it was Auchinleck who spelled "the beginning of the end" for the Germans in North Africa. Sir John comments: "It is a measure of Rommel that he

could recognise with generosity the achievement of a worthy opponent, and of some flaw in Montgomery's humanity that he could not allow the glow of his own achievement to be shadowed by his predecessor's success."

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WAR OF WORDS

"Psychological Warfare" (Charles Roetter)

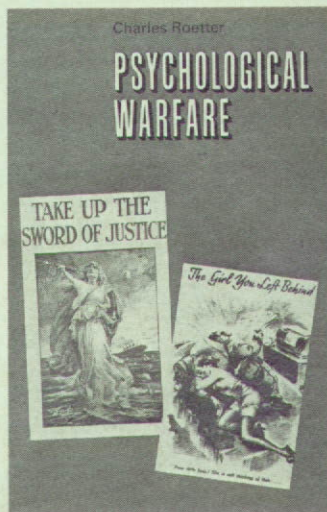
Lord Haw-Haw and Tokyo Rose were the principal broadcasters of Germany and Japan in the propaganda campaigns which sought to weaken allied morale. Haw-Haw with his "Jairmany Calling," and Tokyo Rose with her beguilingly sexy overtures to American troops, defeated their own ends by degenerating into objects of fun. But Haw-Haw's boss, Goebbels, did have some success in exploiting the infamous Katyn massacre of Polish officers as a means of sowing discord between Russia and her allies.

On the whole the allies were more successful. Sefton Delmer's British—but ostensibly German—broadcasting station Soldaten-sender Calais sowed doubt and discord from the top echelons of the Nazi party to the lowliest barrack room. In the East, the Russians attacked morale through the growing German casualty lists—"Frau Y of Magdeburg. Your husband died on the Berezina. What was he doing so far into Russia?"

Captain Ellis Zacharias of the US Navy broadcast to Japan in an effort to split the power élite. That there was a "peace faction" opposed to the "hard-liners" is a fact, and Zacharias can claim much of the credit.

Mr Roetter presents a compelling survey of psychological warfare covering the art of the big lie (and frequently the big truth) from top to bottom.

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NEW SERIES

"The Army of Frederick the Great" (Christopher Duffy)

It is hard to credit that such a frail-looking man as Frederick II of Prussia could be such a threat to Europe. Nevertheless, he perfected the Prussian military machine bequeathed to him by his father and plunged his country into a series of devastating wars.

The secret of Prussian success lay entirely with its officer corps—men dedicated to their trade and the best-trained officers in the world. Many of them were highly educated and even crea-

tive. Promotion, of course, could be rapid in an army which in four years had 33 generals killed in action!

The Prussian infantry, especially the Pomeranians, was of very high quality, although Frederick was willing to employ any mercenary. Indeed, the Prussians even had a small navy! All this cost vast sums of money and Frederick never hesitated to impose the harshest taxation upon his people, nor to borrow from the British or even debase his currency or simply loot.

This first volume of "Historic Armies and Navies" is intelligently structured, has excellent maps and diagrams, an abundance of detail for every taste, an extensive range of notes and references for the scholarly and a most impressive bibliography.

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DAYS OF THE RAJ

"The Indian Army" (T A Heathcote)

The British conquest of India must surely rank as one of the greatest feats of modern history—a vast sub-continent of 1,600,000 square miles occupied by 400 million peoples of different races and religions and held by only 75,000 British troops. But this would have been impossible without the invaluable assistance of the 150,000 men of the Indian Army.

Arriving first as merchants with the East India Company, the British settled down to making



the Raj effective. Much was beneficial—suppressing the murderous thugs, abolishing the ghastly ritual of widow-burning and installing railways and telegraphs as well as opening the Army to all the castes.

Internal stresses and strains inevitably led to the Bengal Army revolt of 1857. The Mutiny was a watershed however and it should never be forgotten that the worst excesses on the Indian side were committed by the city mobs rather than by soldiers.

Slowly the Indian Army was reconstituted and the warrior races—Pathans, Baluchis, Sikhs, Jats, Dogras, Rajputs and Marathas—hastened to volunteer and serve in almost every late 19th century campaign. Although much of their service was on the legendary North-West Frontier

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the real test came in World War One when, in an alien environment, they showed the world that the Indian soldier is second to none in courage and sacrifice.

An interesting addition to the new series of "Historic Armies and Navies" and well equipped with maps and plates, this book suffers from the fact that the period it covers, 1822-1922, is perhaps too extensive and the sharpness of the focus becomes somewhat blurred.

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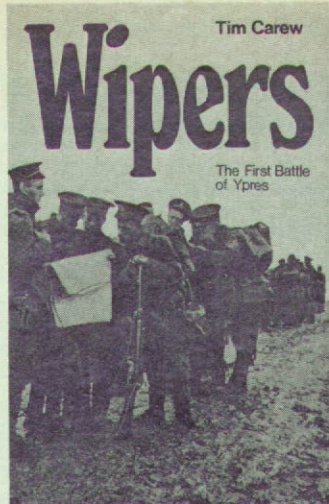
DARK WORLD

"Years of Deadly Peril 1939-1941" (Henry H Adams)

As the axes swing again at defence spending, this is a timely book illustrating vividly and starkly how the people of the Western world paid in blood and treasure for the incredible blindness of their leaders in the Twenties and Thirties. It was the unsettled issues of World War One which led to World War Two, and there are sharper divisions and wider chasms of disagreement today than ever in those two sorry decades. It seems that the lessons of history will never be learned.

Mr Adams, a former US Navy captain, has written a story of people, high and low, who fought in the battles and endured until their "second wind" came. The milestones are well-known — Narvik, Dunkirk, Oran, Dakar, Crete, Taranto, Matapan, Western Desert, Syria, Leningrad, Kiev, Smolensk, Pearl Harbour.

The big names are there too—Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin, Hitler, Pétain, De Gaulle, Raschid Ali; and the commanders — Gort, Wavell, Rommel, Rund-



stedt, Lutjens, Tovey, Cunningham, O'Connor, Dowding, Tojo, Yamamoto, Auchinleck, Somerville. Every name has a story behind it.

But life went on in those years and Mr Adams gives us glimpses of it—austerity recipes, the cost of cars, the deaths of famous authors. In fact he throws much light on a dark period of world history and we should be grateful for a well-researched, well-written and well-balanced account.

Cassell & Company Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £3.75 JCW

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words, clichés, repetitive adjectives, factual errors and generalisations.

This 230-page offering, to quote its dust jacket, tells the story of the battle based on "eye-witness" accounts.

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REPATRIATION

"The Last Secret" (Nicholas Bethell)

At the end of World War Two the Western allies were embarrassed by having some two million Soviet men, women and children in their hands. Some had fought openly for the Germans but the majority were not guilty of any treasonable acts.

Stalin wanted them all back and the British and Americans, aware that thousands of British and US prisoners were in Russian hands, agreed. It was to prove a bloody business from which none

of the states party to it emerges with much honour. There were wholesale suicides among the Cossacks and Russians who knew what fate awaited them—a bullet or a living death in a Siberian labour camp.

Lord Bethell has minutely examined the tragedy, the dilemma facing the British and the Americans, the bestial Russian lust for revenge. To their credit the British did what little they could to save many from enforced repatriation, but thousands went east to death and torment.

Wisely the author does not apportion blame; rather he performs a service to 20th century history by placing the whole sad episode within the context of the fated Forties. It is a harrowing, disturbing story, but one which had to be written sometime.

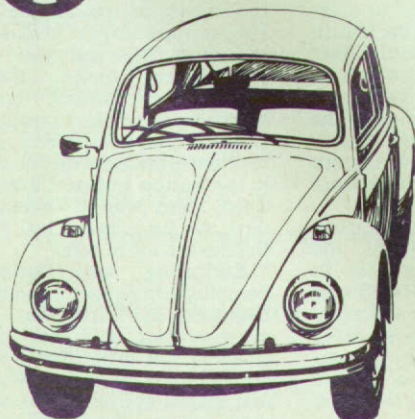
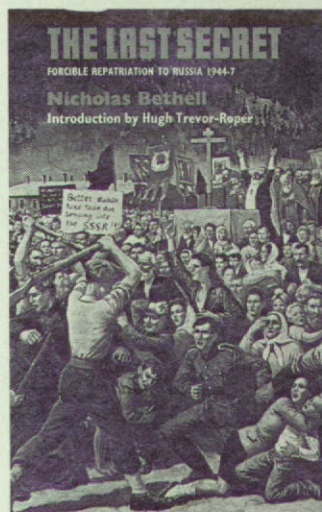
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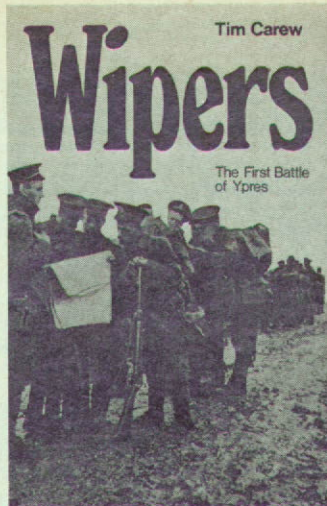
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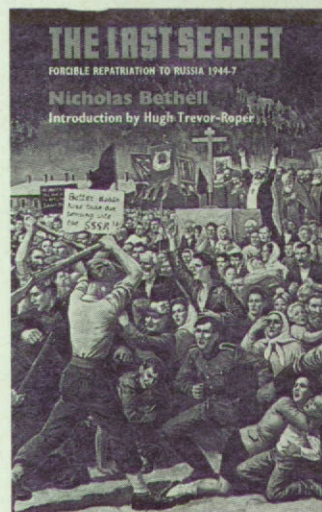
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parade harness, drum banners and sabretaches are also featured in the excellent colour prints.

But what gives this book its special attraction are the photographs of identified military personalities, groups and activities; for example, the Duke of Connaught, Colonel-in-Chief of the Zieten Hussar Regiment No 3, wearing the gold-and-silver-laced gala uniform reserved for princely marriages and receptions.

The Mounted Rifles account for 14 of the book's 96 pages and there are two very brief sections

on the Mounted Field Courier Corps, raised in 1740 by Frederick the Great, and the Grand Duke of Saxony's Orderly Gendarmes.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £1.75 JFPJ

POLISH LANCER

"The Last of the Warhorses" (General K S Rudnicki)
Poor Poland! The whole romantic tragedy is played out for us

here by a man whose approach to battle with his country's enemies was essentially romantic and whose experience at the hands of those enemies was utterly tragic.

General Rudnicki, something of a household word among expatriot Poles, started his war at the head of a regiment of gallant lancers . . . horsed, spurred, "passing by canyons glittering with silver dew on green hazelnut trees."

One almost winces as the fully equipped Germans mow down both lancers and "hazelnut trees" and the Russian stab-in-the-back sees Rudnicki carted off into disgusting captivity. Spared Katyn, Rudnicki lived to fight another day, not allowing his degradation to detract from his determination to free Poland. But Yalta put paid to his and his friends' ideals. This is an agonising book. Good reading but certainly no happy ending. If anything there is too much of the Russian captivity and far far too little of the happier end-of-the-war years when Anders and Rudnicki did so much toward allied victory.

Bachman & Turner, 45 Calthorpe Street, London, WC1X 0HH, £4.65 PC

MICRO-HISTORIES

"Regiments of Foot" (H L Wickes)

From the 1st to the 109th—The Royal Scots, raised in 1633, to 2nd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment—all the old foot regiments of the British Army march again through this extremely useful book.

For each regiment Mr Wickes has produced a micro-history—vital dates, changes of title, regimental marches and nicknames, a few words on major campaigns with here and there a mention of a famous soldier, and

REGIMENTS OF FOOT



A historical record of all the foot regiments of the British Army

H. L. WICKES

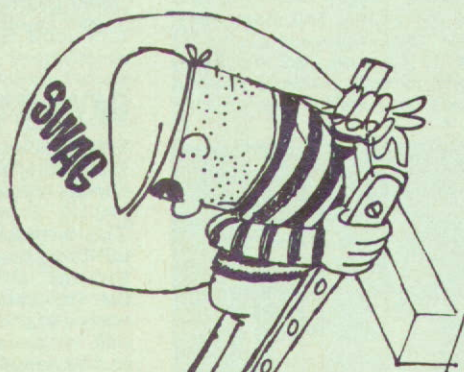
a sprinkling of traditional anecdotes. A clear table shows the various amalgamations, county titles and how the numbered regiments fit into the Army's present divisional structure.

Take for example the 38th Regiment of Foot, The South Staffordshire Regiment. Its preceding titles: Lillingston's Regiment of Foot (1705); The 38th Regiment of Foot (1751); The 38th, or 1st Staffordshire Regiment (1782); The South Staffordshire Regiment (1881); and amalgamation with the North Staffordshires (1959) to form The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's). One of two nicknames: The Pump and Tortoise Brigade. Regimental march: "Over the Hills and Far Away." And, to complete the regimental cameo, a brief but information-packed note on the past.

This volume should prove an invaluable quick and accurate reference.

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NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

In brief

"For Queen and Empire: A Boer War Chronicle" (Edited by Ralph Sutton)

Military historians tend to overlook the significance of the British colonial contribution to the Boer War. Canada, Australia and New Zealand played their part with dash and generosity and, in the case of Australia, more than 16,000 volunteers served in South Africa, of whom 6000 were from New South Wales.

In a laudable gesture to mark the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Boer War in October 1899, the New South Wales Military Historical Society has produced this very readable chronicle of Australian units on the veldt. Printed in a limited edition of 1000 copies, the book is greatly enhanced by 23 pages of illustrations.

Hon Secretary, NSW Military Historical Society, 12 Irvine Crescent, Ryde, NSW 2112, Australia, \$A5.30

"Boston At War" (Martin Middlebrook)

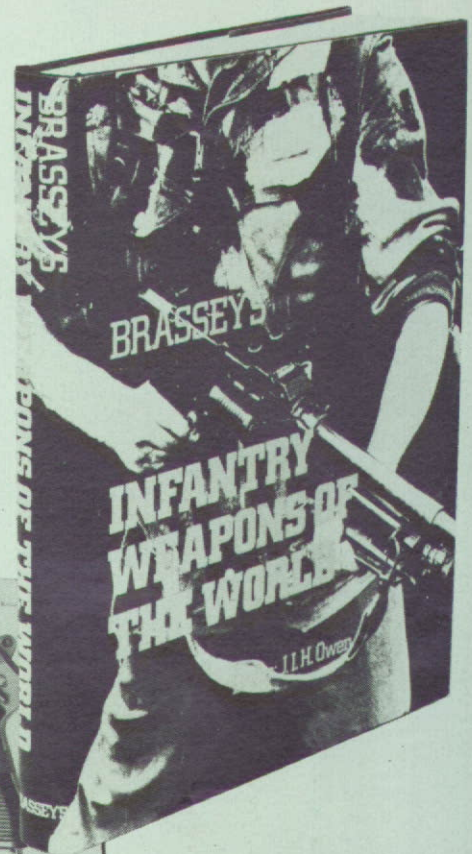
This little gem of a book traces the impact of war on the small Lincolnshire seaport of Boston—the Boer War and two world wars. Every soldier, sailor or airman from Boston who was killed, or to whom anything out of the ordinary happened, gets a mention—even the E-flat player in the Boston Imperial Brass and Reed Band who collapsed and died as he played his fellow Bostonians off to war.

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