

January

1978

20p.

Soldier



BAOR: WRVS 'demobbed'
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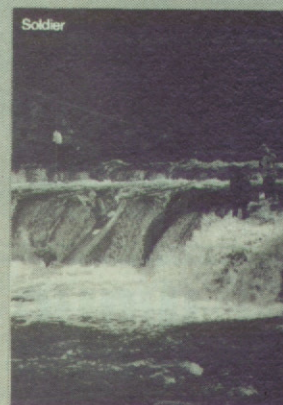
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FRONT COVER BACK COVER

A soldier of The Royal Irish Rangers keeps an alert eye open on the perimeters of the British Army's eastern sovereign base area at Dhekelia.
Picture by Doug Pratt.

Divers stand by in the icy water of the River Swale at Richmond in Yorkshire as canoeists plunge over the swirling falls after the Army's wild water race.
Picture by Leslie Wiggs.



4 Women's Royal Voluntary Service 'demobbed' from Germany

Substitute mothers and friends — that has been the role of the girls in green for young soldiers overseas. Now, after 32 years, they are all withdrawn from Germany — SOLDIER visits the last few as they wind up their clubs.

10 Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery

How has the raising of the school-leaving age to 16 affected junior soldier units? Now that it has had time to settle down, the only effect seems to have been in the pace of life. SOLDIER surveys Bramcote.

16 Joint Services computer training establishment

The three Services keep up with the fast-moving world of electronic brains where trainees learn about computers from basic essentials to highly advanced methods of the most sophisticated modern machines.



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END OF AN ERA



Story: John Walton
Present-day pictures: Paul Haley

WRVS 'DEMOBBED' FROM GERMANY

JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS a sad procession of dedicated ladies made their way back to Britain — after more than three decades the Women's Royal Voluntary Service was ending its welfare and social role with Rhine Army.

In addition the WRVS welfare personnel in Hong Kong and Gibraltar are also returning home immediately — and this summer the last two will leave Cyprus.

Now only a handful remain of hundreds of WRVS volunteers who at one time manned clubs for troops throughout the world. Three ladies are left in Berlin — while talks are still going on about their position, a Ministry of Defence spokesman told SOLDIER: "We are doing our best to see that they stay in Berlin for the foreseeable future."

There is also a question mark over the one WRVS lady in Belize — discussions are still being held between the Ministry and the WRVS.

What finally sounded the death knell for the WRVS ladies and their clubs was money. Until 1975 they were paid for by Naafi. Then Naafi decided that an overwhelming need for the WRVS clubs in Germany no longer existed.

The Royal Air Force accepted the situation and all of its clubs closed. But the

Army continued with a limited number of clubs throughout Rhine Army. In recent years the cost of keeping the WRVS ladies in Germany (they were allowed only their keep and a small amount of pocket money) was met by a half of one per cent deduction from the Army's Naafi rebate. When the rebate was reduced from five to three per cent, this meant that units were receiving, after deducting the WRVS half per cent, only half their previous rebate.

A spokesman of the Army's Directorate of Personal Services said: "The closure of the clubs was an economic necessity. We had a go at running them ourselves but we have just not found it possible to continue. After all, the rebate deduction was being made from every unit in the Army but only a small number were actually benefiting."

As well as in Berlin and Belize, WRVS representatives remain with boys' units in the United Kingdom and with troops in Northern Ireland. In addition they will continue with Gurkha family welfare work in Hong Kong, Nepal and Brunei.

Services welfare work was started by the then Women's Voluntary Service (the 'Royal' was added in 1966) during World War Two with station canteens serving refreshments to servicemen travelling by train. These quickly developed into clubs

and centres near railway stations and, in 1943, the WVS was invited by the Director of Army Welfare to undertake welfare social activities in large leave clubs run by Naafi overseas.

In March 1944 the first of the green-uniformed WVS women left for Algiers and Italy and, after the Normandy invasion, groups were soon working in both France and Belgium. In February 1945 the first of the canteens was in operation and by May the WVS were in Germany itself — an association which was to continue for more than 32 years.

A survivor of that early canteen service, 74-year-old Miss Kathleen Robeson, recalls that with a partner she drove a canteen through Belgium and France and then spent a hectic year doling out 'char and wads' at nominal prices to the British occupation forces.

"I was in the Hamburg area and then around Celle," she said. "It was an all-day job. We had a different round each day and would often visit every unit in a brigade in a single day. We would finish in the evening and then had to clean up the van. But it was a grand experience."

By the end of 1945 the number of WVS personnel in Germany with canteens and libraries, as well as in Naafi clubs, was about



Opposite and above: Tea, sympathy and advice were given on railway station platforms by WVS ladies during World War Two and (right) modern clubs offered snooker tables and darts.



A TRIBUTE FROM THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL

On behalf of the many hundreds of thousands of soldiers who have benefited from the kindness and understanding of the ladies of the WRVS Services Welfare, I would like to acknowledge the debt we owe to them. The Service has been in existence for over thirty years and we have come to recognise the familiar green uniform as a part of the Army scene. It is very sad that circumstances have led to the withdrawal of most of the ladies from overseas. They leave, as did their predecessors over this very long period, with our grateful thanks for a job incomparably well done.

General Sir Jack Harman



Above: A National Service draughts game for men of the 3rd King's Own Hussars, Iserlohn.

Below: Iserlohn 23 years later. Sappers enjoying a game of cards in their crowded WRVS club.

180 and this figure was maintained throughout the late 1940s and the 1950s.

At first the WVS worked in large town clubs which provided every facility and social activity in a self-contained world, then as things improved and servicemen were able to go out and find recreational facilities on the German 'net' the large clubs were phased out and unit canteens gained in importance.

But in the past five years there has been a steady decline in numbers — until two years ago when only 70 WRVS women remained.

Then the RAF decided not to continue with their clubs and the Army's limited funds from the Naafi rebate meant that only 31 ladies could be retained.

Now, the last club has closed its doors — except for those struggling on with volunteer help. And the last WRVS lady has left Rhine Army — possibly forever.

But the Services Welfare administrator at WRVS HQ, Miss Josie Dukes, told SOLDIER: "We have said that if in the future the Army needs us again we shall answer the call as we have done in the past."



Above: Miss Kathleen Robeson (right) with the mobile canteen she took to occupied Germany.



Above: Only a handful of pins left in the map.

AS THE ADMINISTRATOR for Rhine Army, Miss Nancy Barlow has watched the pins on the map on her wall diminish from almost a hundred to a handful — and now both she and the map have gone from the Naafi headquarters at Waldniel near Rheindahlen.

For Nancy Barlow, and many women like her, the WRVS and the welfare of the single soldier have been their life's work — it was back in 1945 when Miss Barlow sailed away in a troopship bound for Bombay.

Her travels encompassed India, Burma, Germany, the Canal Zone, Hong Kong and Benghazi. Then in 1958 she got her first administrative post — based in Cyprus and spanning an area including Swaziland, North Africa, Bahrain, Aden and Kenya. In 1966 her headquarters moved to Aden where it stayed until the British withdrawal. She then went back to the Far East, based in Singapore and administering Malaysia, Gan and Hong Kong as well. Then it was back to Germany and eventually her present post.

Miss Barlow, a well-spoken and kindly woman, told SOLDIER: "I wouldn't have missed any of it. First of all I was with men who had actually fought, then with National Servicemen and lastly with the all-volunteer Army.

"Running a club in National Service was very worthwhile because very few of them wanted to be in the Army and they were missing their Mums. They had practically no money so anything that we could organise in the WRVS clubs was successful. We used to have talent shows and either billiards, darts or table tennis tournaments every night and there was a marvellous spirit among them. The sort of programme we had then would never go down now because the soldiers are so well paid and sophisticated."

Now Miss Barlow retires to Britain with regrets — "I suppose I should consider myself jolly lucky to have been able to do this work for so long. But now I will have to get to know and learn to live in my own country — where I have not spent more than two months at a time in 30 years."

MRS JOAN KEANE knew all about the Army — she was married to a soldier. After her husband died she joined the WRVS, leading to eight-and-a-half happy years in Fallingbowl, Cyprus and then with 26 Engineer Regiment at Iserlohn.

An attractive blonde lady, Mrs Keane is known throughout Corunna Barracks at Iserlohn as 'Joan.' And while she is one of the lucky few, having landed a WRVS appointment with junior soldiers at the Guards Depot, Pirbright, the wrench of leaving Iserlohn is a strong one.

When she arrived there four-and-a-half years ago, Joan was given a set of attic rooms and set about creating her club. Now it boasts a lounge, a table tennis and darts room and a snooker hall.

She told SOLDIER proudly: "Everything is immaculate. We have never had a table or a chair damaged. If you give soldiers something nice they respect it — I get so angry when people refer to them as a lot of animals. I'm not saying they are all angels but I cannot fault their behaviour. They tease the life out of me but are never rude."

WRVS ladies (or 'girls' as they call themselves) have received only out-of-pocket expenses in addition to their free food and accommodation. Says Joan: "I subsidise this myself because I have a private income, but not everyone is so lucky. If you don't smoke, don't go to the hairdresser's and don't run a car you could probably manage. But our payment is in the appreciation we get from the soldiers. Money's not everything."

The sappers at Iserlohn, like other units, are making every effort to keep their WRVS club going, even though the WRVS worker herself has been withdrawn. They are using a roster of volunteer wives to open for two or three nights a week. Major Geoff Hill, second-in-command, told SOLDIER: "The wives are not really the answer because they are part of the machine. The great value of someone like Joan is that they trust her and know she will not pass on what they say to anybody else.

"The room and facilities in it are valuable

in themselves in that they constitute a quiet place where chaps can play games and read magazines and where they cannot buy booze. It is a very widely used and popular place."

Sapper Tim Agace agreed: "We shall miss her. When Joan has been on holiday we come and sit down here and it just doesn't have the same atmosphere at all. She never has less than a dozen people in here even when the squaddies are out on exercise."

Below: Bull's-eye for Miss Keane — a new WRVS job with junior soldiers at Pirbright.



AT OSNABRUCK, a major garrison town, there used to be seven WRVS ladies. Now the last two, Mrs Julia Midgley and Miss Margo Espeland, awaited the end. As Miss Espeland put it: "We are the last of the green bottles on the wall."

Like Mrs Keane at Iserlohn, Mrs Midgley has managed to obtain another post — with the junior signalmen at the former RAF station at Ouston, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. She felt that unlike most units her own clients, 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, might not miss the WRVS club too much. This is because their home at Belfast Barracks, Osnabrück, has recently been modernised. Single soldiers' quarters now consist of flatlets with their own cooking facilities.

"We hope they are going to keep it running with a committee of boys — but even if not, the Devons and Dorsets will find somewhere to go. They are very enterprising lads."

Her table tennis partner, Private George Mortimore, said he hoped to be a member of the organising committee. He added: "If this closes we will have nowhere to go when we have no money. The next thing may be that some people will go down town and cause trouble."

Miss Espeland's club was one of the few in Germany not owned by or on Naafi premises. Called the 'Colditz Club,' it comprised some hutments left behind by a film company after they filmed the screen version of the Colditz story at Scarborough Barracks, Osnabrück, now the home of 15 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport.

Here again the axe has been poised for two years and already the club has lost one of its billiard tables. Said Miss Espeland, who has no job to go to: "We have not been able to plan ahead at all for the last two years. It has been most unsettling."



Above: Mrs Midgley is a table tennis champ.

Below: Miss Espeland — 'a last green bottle.'



home of 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, was already undergoing conversion as Mrs Wilcox spent her final days there. It is scheduled as a families community centre.

As she pored over a scrapbook recalling happier times with the WRVS, Mrs Wilcox said wistfully: "Eight years is a very long time. I felt so attached to the men that I wanted to stay to the end. But perhaps this was a mistake — if I had left earlier it might not have been so sad."

She describes her role as that of a mother and a friend. "I see them get engaged and fall in love. Then they need to cry on your shoulder when they get a 'Dear John' letter. I tell them to cheer up and that there are lots of fish in the sea and as time goes by you gradually see their smiles coming back."

Right: Miss Wilcox and scrapbook of memories.



UNTIL A COUPLE of years ago there were so many WRVS girls in the Sennelager-Paderborn area that they had their own mess. But since the first cut-back, Mrs Helen Irving and Miss Judith Richardson have had an entire floor of the mess to themselves.

Almost nine years ago Mrs Irving and Miss Richardson flew to Germany on the same aircraft to begin their WRVS careers. Mrs Irving, a widow, had a particularly daunting task. Her club at Barker Barracks, Paderborn, embraces men from three units — The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, 45 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 1 (British) Corps Combat Supplies Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

"At first I had to work very hard to make these units friendly with each other," Helen recalled. "But now there is never any trouble between them and they all mix quite happily. This is in fact the only place where they do this — even in the Naafi they tend to stick in groups."

Miss Richardson, whose club is with 39 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Sennelager, was also put into a hot seat on her arrival. "They told me I would last three months when I first arrived. There had been

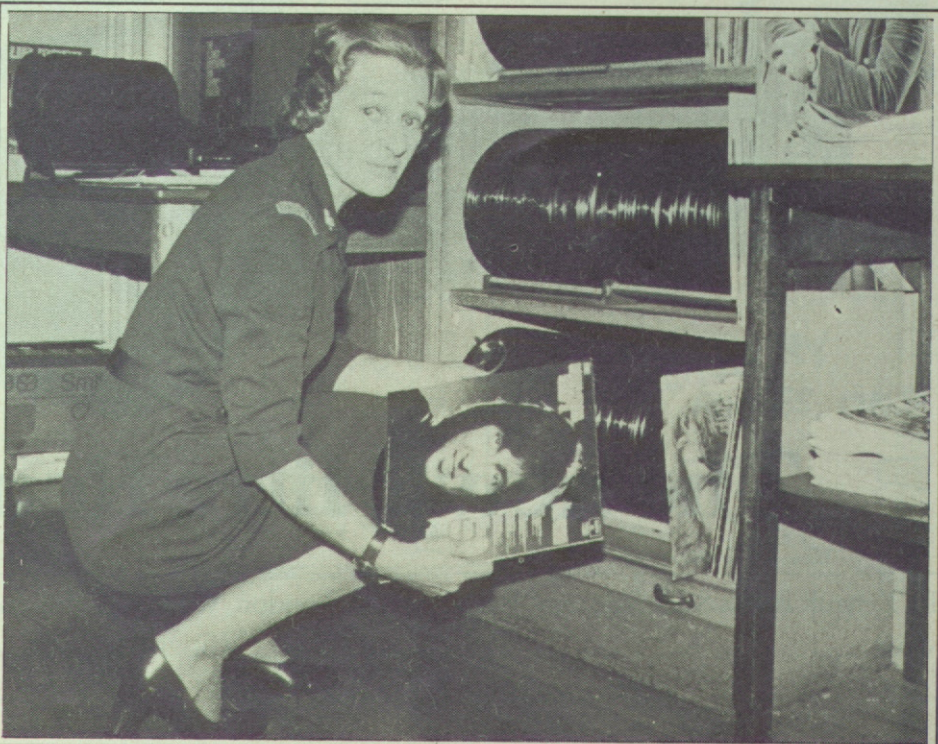
a lot of changes in the club before and I was told that the gunners were too rough. Yet I have found that the so-called bad hats are often very nice people."

Miss Irving's club runs the entire length of the upper floor of a Naafi building. Its future is still undecided. And an air of uncertainty hung over the club like a black cloud in its final months.

"I have had people asking what is going to happen to this and what is going to happen to that," she said. "I don't know any more than anyone else but my guess is that it will be carved up. I feel sometimes as though I am getting into a coffin and someone is knocking the nails in."

A Queen's Royal Irish Hussars senior non-commissioned officer expressed his misgivings in blunt terms: "I think it will be a big loss. If you deprive these boys of these facilities they will have to go out of the camp gate. I reckon if you asked them they wouldn't mind financing the club on a membership basis. Or even deduct something from pay — even as a married man I would not object. To close this place down completely is stupid in my opinion."

Below: Mrs Irving and club record collection.



POLISH BORN Mrs Marianne Wilcox speaks fluent German and has relatives in Germany. So, after spending 22 years in England and raising her daughter, she jumped at the chance to go to Rhine Army with the WRVS.

Now it has ended on a sad note. Her club in the Naafi at Waterloo Barracks, Münster,

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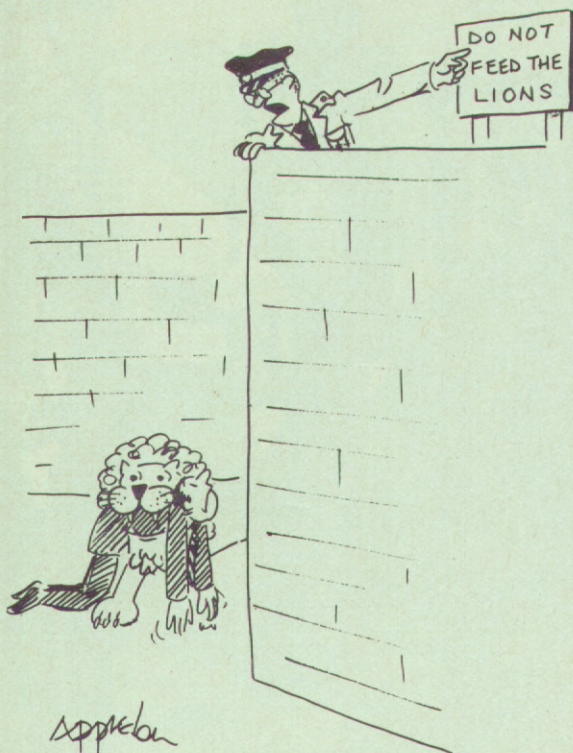
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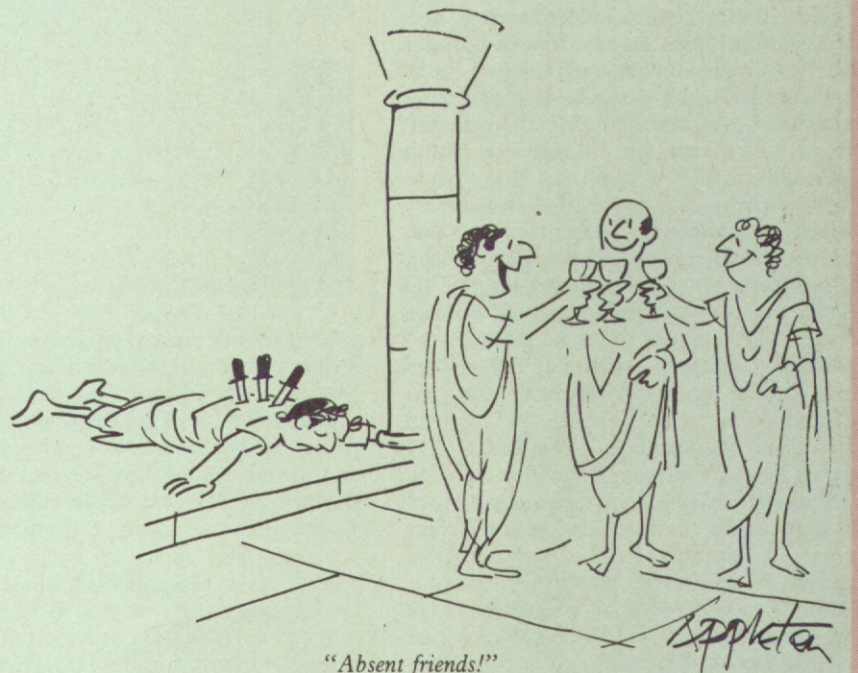
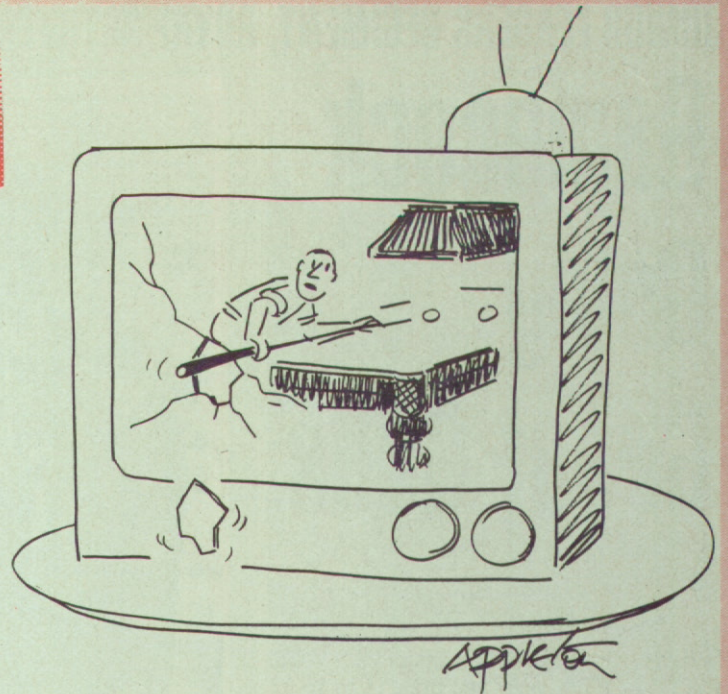
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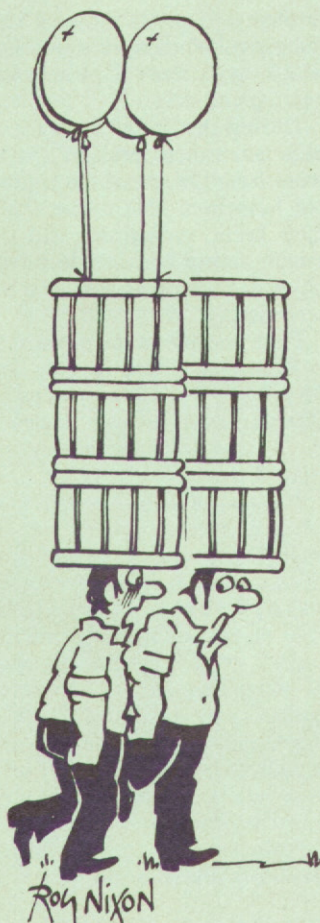
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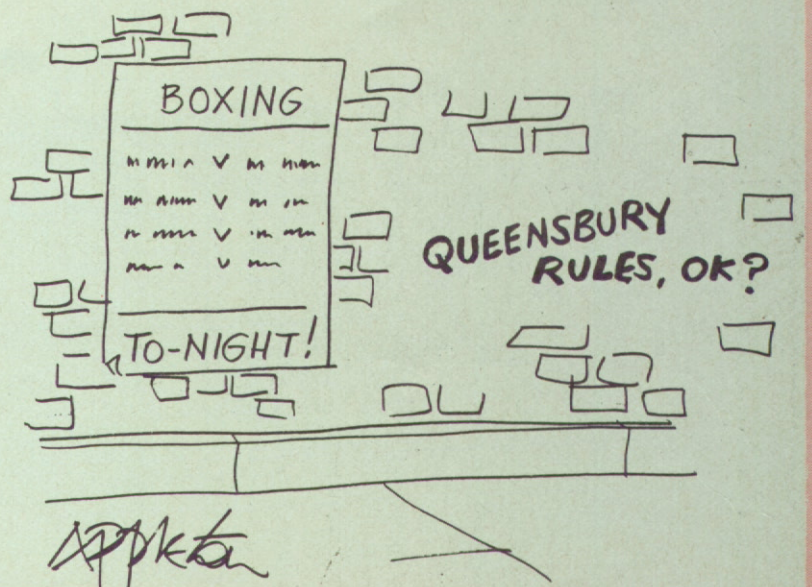
"Can't you read?"



"Absent friends!"



"I had a terrible night!"



Gamecock Going Great Guns

WHEN THE SCHOOL-LEAVING AGE was raised a few years ago from 15 to 16 its biggest impact on the Army was in the junior soldier units. No longer could these units take two years or more to prepare a boy for his adult service.

Now the maximum time allowed is four terms. "Our biggest problem is fitting a quart of instruction into a pint of time," says Lieutenant-Colonel Derek Corner, commanding the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Bramcote, near Nuneaton.

Nevertheless, despite the frenzied activity which characterises Bramcote and other junior leader training centres, great care is taken both to equip a youngster for his Army career and to encourage and develop leadership qualities.

Bramcote caters for both junior leaders and junior gunners training. But no distinction is made between the two on arrival and often the boy will not know at the outset in which category he has been placed.

Bramcote has the unusual distinction of having housed all three Services at different times. A wartime RAF station, it later passed to the Navy, which christened it HMS Gamecock. When the gunners took the camp over in 1958 the name was retained as 'Gamecock Barracks' and two golden

cockerels, reminiscent of the insignia of a well-known brewery, still adorn the camp gates.

But unlike most former airfields now in Army hands, Bramcote is not open, bleak and windswept. The regiment wisely planned windbreaks and these have grown to maturity and provide protection from nor'easter and sou'wester alike.

Recruits go to Bramcote in three intakes. In September there may be as many as 500 new junior soldiers, at Christmas only a handful and perhaps 250 in May. On arrival they go

through a rigorous six-week training programme culminating in a 'Farren Parade' at which they already show impressive military bearing and drill.

During that initial spell the recruits will have taken their meals in a separate dining room from the rest of the regiment and will not have been able to use the Naafi. And their hectic programme will include drill, assault course training, lectures, sport and physical training as well as a host of other activities.

First priority on the physical side is given to swimming — and it is the boast of Army Physical Training Corps instructor Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Gordon Young that no non-swimmers ever pass out from Bramcote.

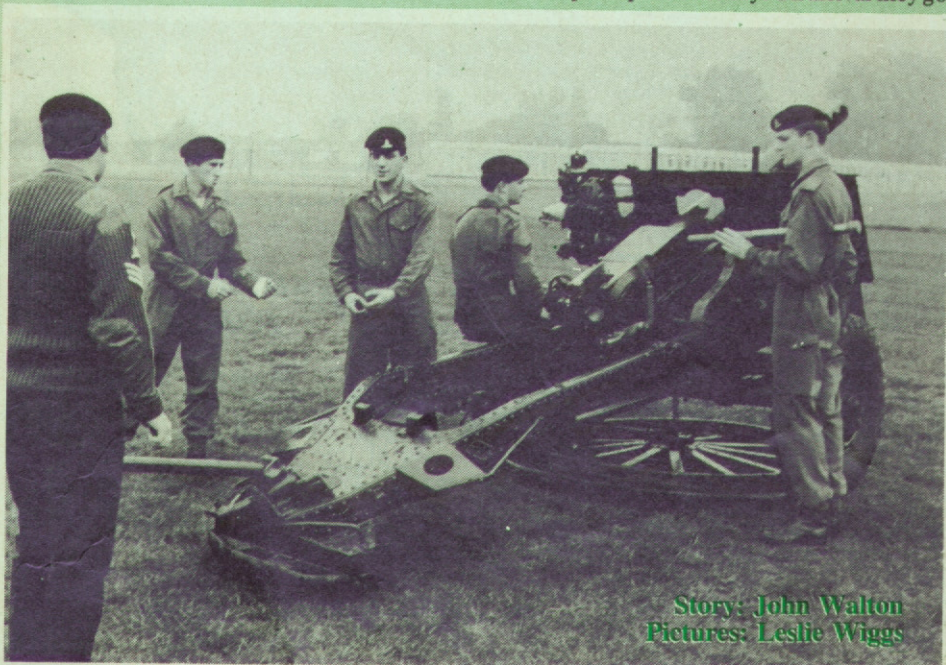
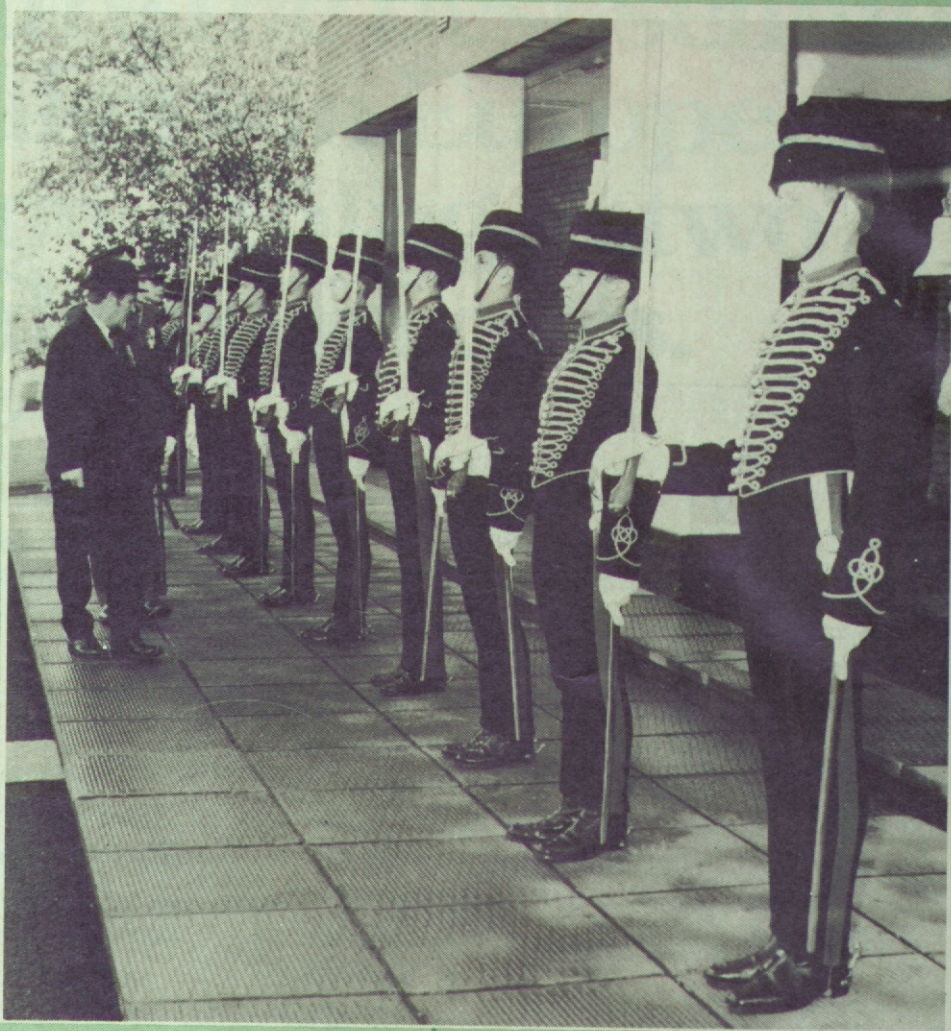
He told SOLDIER: "It's a satisfying job here because you can see the end product. They come in and over the year develop into a different type of boy altogether, both physically and in outlook."

In his first six weeks the recruit will do 25 periods of physical training and 15 periods of swimming as well as extra swimming classes in the evenings. It is not surprising that the regiment's gymnastic team (which is actually a hobby) has a fine reputation and each summer performs at Army displays all over the country.

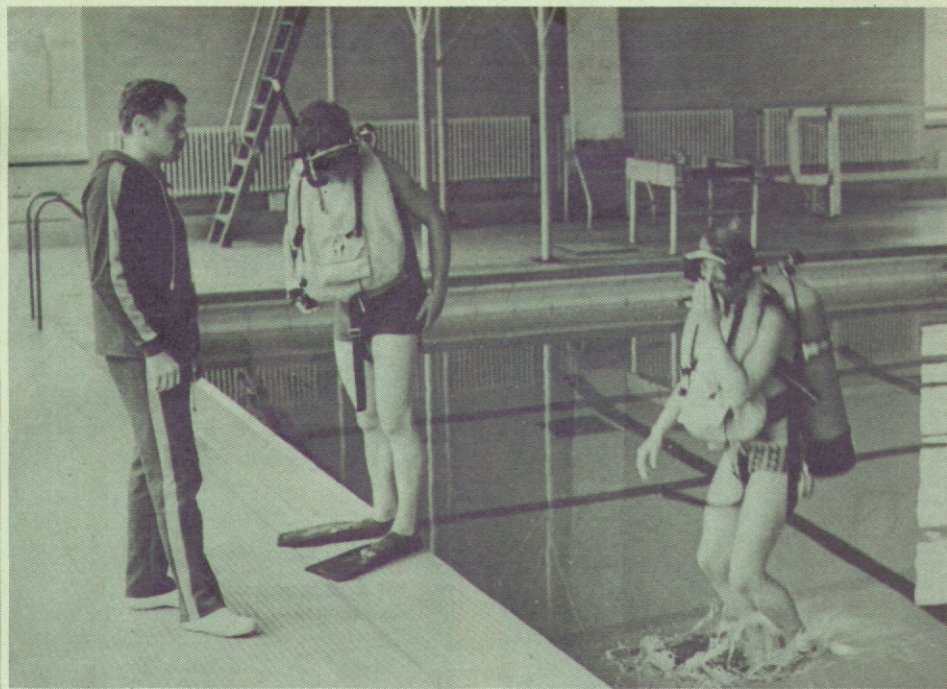
Adventure training plays a big part at Bramcote and Captain Martin Cooper was

Top: Victoria Cross holder and former commanding officer, Col Pat Porteous, inspecting.

Left: Gun drill with 25-pounders prepares the junior gunners for more modern kit to come.



Story: John Walton
Pictures: Leslie Wiggs



the first officer to take on this post as a full-time job. Every boy does three courses designed not only to test his stamina but also his leadership and thinking.

In their first term the recruits each spend a week based at a cottage in Snowdonia. Here they do mountain walking, map reading and cook for themselves. An addition to the Spartan existence is a bath in a mountain stream every morning, summer or winter "... encourages them to save on heating bills," quips Captain Cooper.

In their second term the boys spend a further week in North Wales to include a three-day walking expedition and a three-day canoeing trip. Incidentally the canoes they use are all made by the boys themselves in the workshops — some as part of the curriculum and some as a hobby.

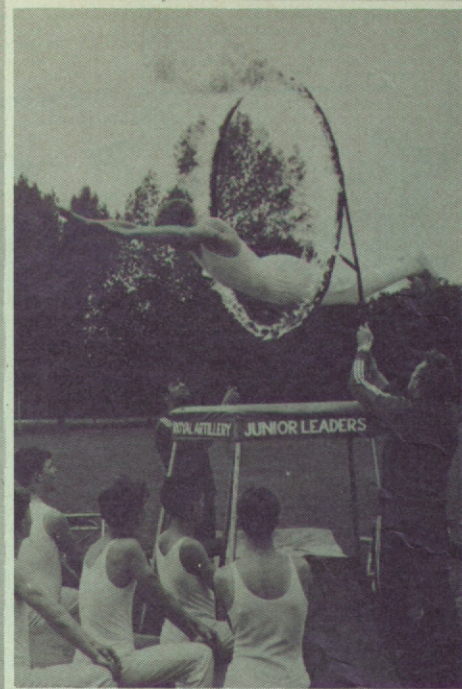
In their final term (third term for those taking gunnery employment training and fourth for the remainder) there is a three-

day walking exercise on Brecon Beacons plus another two days of either canoeing, rock climbing or potholing. They are split into groups, leadership is rotated and the boys are expected to take all their own decisions as the instructor does not travel with them (he keeps a watchful eye from a discreet distance).

The stiff initial training weeds out a few of the recruits and by the end of the full course perhaps one-fifth will have dropped by the way. But for most it is the life they look for.

Says the regiment's second-in-command, Major Bill Hills: "They expect the drill square side and the strict discipline and they expect the sergeant to be beastly. They want to live out in a bivouac, to fire weapons and go on field exercises. The only thing most of them are not keen on is the classroom work!"

The gunners are the boys who still do what soldiers did for many years — fire

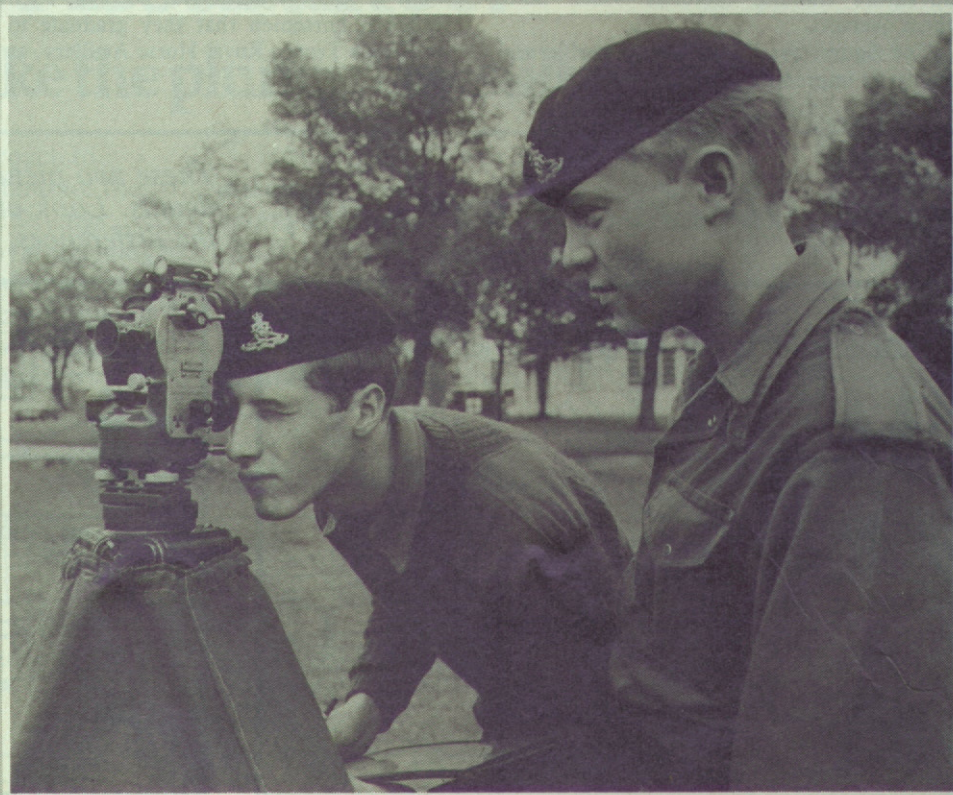


25-pounder guns. There are 20 of the old campaigners at Bramcote and they are used to train the gunners up to the standard of the basic trade test.

Major Peter Youlton, commanding 39 Battery, which deals with gunnery training, is happy to see his charges train on 25-pounders: "It may be out of operational service but it is a very useful gun. It is soldier-proof and easy to handle but the system is similar to any other gun so they can learn all the normal drills. And when they muster to their regiments they can fairly quickly convert their knowledge to the systems which are in service."

One of the three former hangars on the camp is used to house lecture rooms and an

Top left: Taking the plunge in sub-aqua session.
Top right: The gymnastic team's fiery display.
Below left: New recruits on the assault course.
Below: First lessons in gunner survey trade.





Above: Making canoes for use on expeditions.
Left: Trumpet voluntary — the band's a hobby.

ammunition display room as well as a blacked-out room containing a 25-pounder where night firing can easily be simulated.

Education is still well to the fore but the curriculum has had to be pared to cope with the shorter period. At one time great emphasis was placed on obtaining civilian qualifications such as GCEs and CSEs. Now this is no longer possible but the boys learn communications skills and their use in simple military situations as well as various elements of military science, military calculations and other subjects.

The four-term junior leaders all train as command post assistants, clerks and signallers — and the success rate for trade training is 100 per cent. For those who fail first time there is a special five-week retraining — meanwhile their colleagues are freed for cadre courses, special projects and adventure training exercises which take them overseas.

The figures for the self-loading rifle are almost as impressive — a 98.5 per cent pass

rate. Some of this success is probably attributable to the excellent training facilities. In addition to one outdoor and two indoor ranges, Bramcote boasts a new cine-target range, installed only last year.

Said an instructor, Staff-Sergeant John Jeavons: "It's absolutely invaluable and is constantly on the go. It not only uses film but can be transformed into snapshooting targets. We don't really need the other ranges any more."

All work and no play . . . great store is set on sport of various types and there is even an artificial ski slope. If a lad shows aptitude he may find himself ski-ing in the Alps and the Cairngorms. Last year, in the junior and novice section of the Army ski championships, the Bramcote junior leaders took the first five places out of 117.

There is also a saddle club and here the boast is that some boys become such proficient horsemen that they graduate to the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, as riders.

The Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, has a great success story. By the end of 1975 a total of 75 Old Boys held commissioned rank, with four lieutenant-colonels and 29 majors.

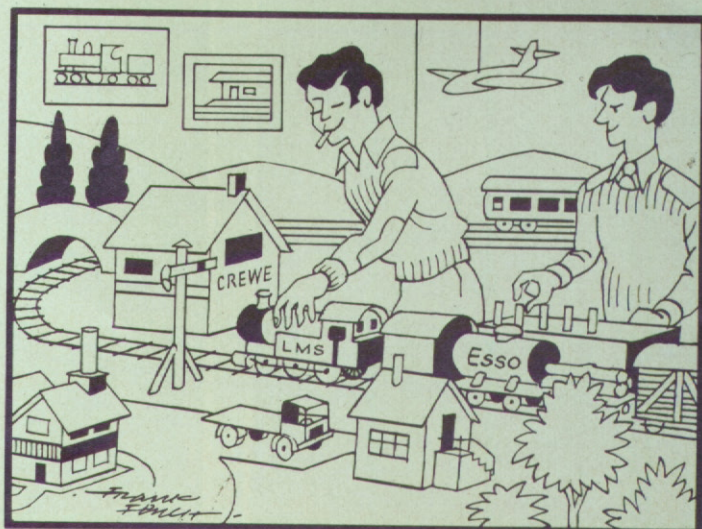
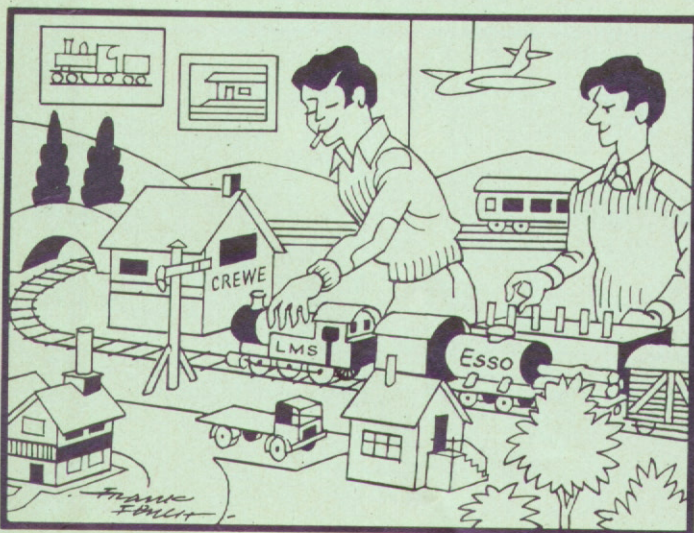
Distinguished ex-members include four-minute miler Glen Grant and Everest hero "Bronco" Lane.

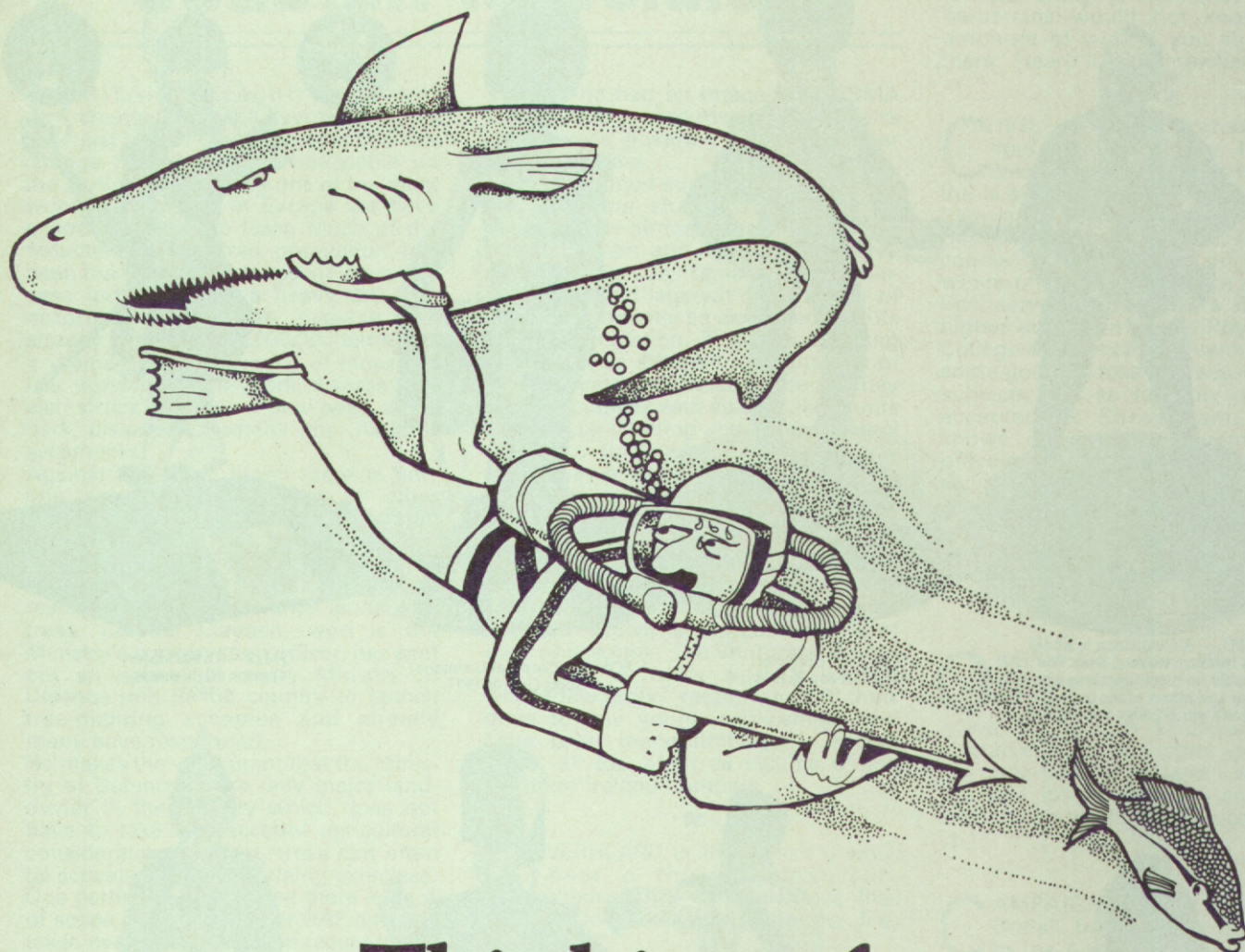
Junior Regimental Sergeant-Major Ken Amyss feels that Bramcote has made a great difference to his life: "I never did any sport before I came here — yet now I wouldn't miss it for anything. And I act differently when I go home. I used to go around in gangs with my friends but I don't need that any more."

The final word must rest with Colonel Corner: "The development of these lads is quite extraordinary. Some of them grow up to six inches in a year due to good food and exercise. The thing that strikes you most here is the enthusiasm and dash of both the permanent staff and the juniors. It's a very enthusiastic place."

How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences, see page 25.





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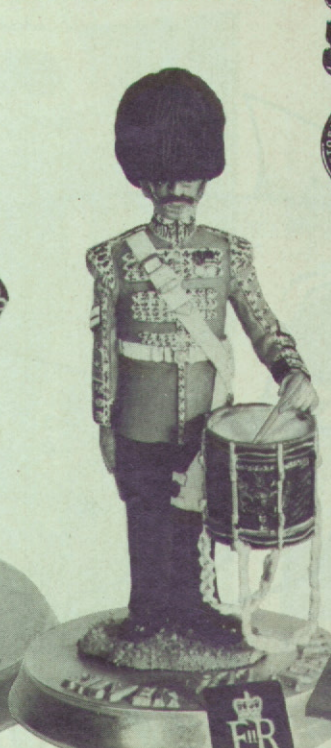
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QM14 — Bugler,
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SOLDIER to Soldier

BRITAIN'S countryside has changed for the worse over the last two or three decades and that change has been most noticeable on the skyline. From being one of the most wooded countries in Europe we have become one of the least. Much of the reduction in the tree population has been man-made but in recent years disease too has taken a heavy toll. The notorious Dutch elm disease has already wiped out 11,000,000 elms and it seems doubtful if many of those left can survive. Beech bark disease has also struck and now a new peril, sooty bark disease, threatens the nation's sycamores.

Against this triple threat there is only one answer — replanting of other species. And SOLDIER is more than happy to back that persistent conservation gadfly, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Clayden, in his efforts to restock Ministry of Defence lands with trees. Colonel Clayden, who is the Ministry's conservation officer, has sent out an appeal to every Ministry of Defence unit in the country to launch tree-planting schemes and already many have responded.

He makes the valid point that the Ministry of Defence is the only major landowner in the country which does not have to take into account agricultural considerations. In fact, trees can often be actively helpful in training exercises. One particular area where there is a lot of scope is on the former RAF airfields taken over by the Army in recent years. Usually these are bleak, windswept and completely treeless. But now, in the absence of aircraft, there is no reason why windbreaks of trees should not be planted. As is recorded elsewhere in this month's issue, the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, thought ahead in this way when the gunners moved into Bramcote. Now the camp is neatly broken up by the windbreaks — and not nearly so cheerless.

Tree-planting is admittedly a long-term operation. But, as Colonel Clayden says, those who plan ahead in this way are insuring the environment for future generations.

Colonel Clayden deserves success for his efforts and on the rest of the conservation front he can report that success. The natterjack toads featured a couple of years ago in SOLDIER are thriving, as are many other reptiles, flora and fauna. There are now 100 active conservation groups in Ministry of Defence establishments — proof indeed that the armed forces are not merely concerned with death and destruction.



A WORLD War Two pilot who lost a leg on active service has only recently joined the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association's Venturers. The reasons for his late arrival were twofold. First, he had never let his disability hinder the leading of an active, normal life and so was reluctant to join an organisation which tended to single out the limbless as special cases.

Second, he had an image of BLESMA Venturers as broken men in wheelchairs with nurses hovering attentively over their shoulders.

To his delighted surprise he found that the Venturers shattered both myths. They are an almost alarmingly active bunch of men and women who have most successfully replaced their missing arms and legs with an attitude of mind that can only be described as guts and determination. They abhor being thought of as different from the rest of us and quite firmly make the point. They prove it publicly with spectacular stunts such as parachuting and cross-Channel canoeing. But perhaps more impressively they prove it in their private lives by simply not accepting that their disability will get in the way of a full and rewarding life.

Such people do not inspire pity — they have none for themselves. But they command admiration and respect — and self-respect is the cornerstone of their philosophy. The Venturers are out for new recruits and SOLDIER wholeheartedly recommends their drive to any young servicemen who have been made limbless in recent years, all too often as victims of the Northern Ireland bombers.



OVERHEARD in the mess: "I won't hear a thing against sub-alterns. They definitely have their uses. Chuck another one on the fire, would you!"



IT is interesting to note that the international co-operation between armies that Nato is constantly striving to achieve, spans the centuries, at least as far as one corner of the British Army is concerned. Some years ago, when the Department of the Environment was merely a worried look on the face of the Ministry of Works, the latter was concerned about flooding on the old South Cerney airfield, now home of the Royal Corps of Transport's 29 Movement Control Regiment.

A drainage contract was put out to tender and came to the notice of the curator of the museum in nearby Cirencester. He invited the men from the ministry to see his aerial photographs of the site and they clearly showed the line of a Roman drainage system installed to serve the adjacent Fosse Way. He gave as his opinion that, Roman drains being Roman drains, the problem was probably only that they needed unblocking. This evidently proved to be the case and the work first done by the Roman sappers proved as good as new after refurbishing.



MENTION of the Romans recalls that archaeologists have unearthed undelivered letters home from soldiers of the Roman Army stationed in Britain. These letters reflect not unfamiliar attitudes to suffering accommodation in draughty camps relieved only by the dubious alternative

of sallying forth to keep the peace between belligerent tribes who, when not attacking the Romans, were attacking each other. Roughly translated, some of the letters read: 'Dear mum, the food's terrible, the girls are worse and these barbarians would not know a good amphora of wine if you showed it to them.' Heard it all somewhere since?



CIVIL servant Graham Wright has made military history by becoming the first private soldier (he is a part-time trooper in The Royal Yeomanry), to have psc — passed Staff College — after his name, following a course at the college in Camberley where officers study before promotion. Civil servants and officers also receive higher education at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, where some go on to take degrees in technical subjects. But so far only officers are accepted at Shrivenham. SOLDIER knows of several non-commissioned officers who have gained degrees from civilian establishments and it seems anomalous in a modern, technical and professional Army that warrant officers and senior NCOs with proven academic ability should be denied the opportunity to study at Shrivenham.



OVERHEARD from the Regimental Sergeant-Major: "It's not like it used to be in the Army. Nowadays we run on kindness and consideration. Only the other day I had a lad up in front of me and I said to him: 'Be kind to yourself, lad, and consider what I'll do to you if you don't smarten up.'"



CAMPAIGNING for the best of British traditions is nothing new to the Army so it should come as no surprise that more and more soldiers are joining their civilian bar-counterparts in preferring cask-conditioned 'Real Ale' to its modern keg equivalent. In the van of the campaign are the staff of the Joint Air Transport Establishment at Brize Norton who have followed the example of their commandant, Colonel Michael Hickey, in sampling the excellent local brews.

A home brewer himself, Colonel Hickey is trying hard to get Brize Norton officers' mess to stock Real Ale to make a change from the well-kept bottled Guinness he finds the only palatable drink to his taste there now.

Are there more pockets of resistance to the rising tide of keg beer in the Army's messes and clubs?



THE latest Irish joke going the rounds has an added zest because it is a true story. It concerns a patrol from 5th Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment, at a border post just north of Londonderry. The patrol stopped a British Leyland truck and asked the driver for identification, both of himself and his vehicle. Imagine the raised eyebrows when the driver proudly produced a logbook for a Volkswagen car! Because he was heading into the Republic he was allowed to proceed but, as the sergeant in charge of the patrol said as the lorry disappeared into the distance: "Just let him try that one on the way back and he'll get a surprise."

PROGRAMMING PROFESSIONALS

THE SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION, the firing of guns and even the diagnosis of casualties' injuries can all be handled by computers these days. It is the job of a small Army sponsored tri-Service unit to see that the men behind the electronic machines use them to best advantage.

Some 500 students a year come from the Army, Navy and RAF to the windswept collection of huts high in the Dorset hills at Blandford to study computers and computer science. Civilians from various government departments come on the courses too as well as a small number of servicemen from Commonwealth and allied armed forces — currently an Australian, an Iraqi, and a Portuguese officer are studying there. All are officers or senior non-commissioned officers.

The main job of the Defence Automatic Data Processing Training Centre is to provide the courses for these students who fall into four categories. The first group — more than half the total — are those with no previous ADP experience. These are people who although not ADP workers themselves need a basic understanding of the subject as users or newcomers about to take up a career with computers.

Those just needing an understanding of computers take a one-week concepts course designed to show how the system works and what it can and cannot do. It also introduces students to the sub-culture of computer terminology — "The battle of the jargon" as the unit's commander, Colonel B V H Fullerton, calls it.

Students starting their careers in the subject take a three-week fundamentals course which delves in greater depth into the concepts and adds some computer language programming and systems analysis as well.

One step up from these two categories of beginners come the students developing their ADP skills. They may wish to special-



Story: Mike Starke
Pictures: Doug Pratt

ise in programming, systems analysis or 'real-time' systems — computers in action. These courses include a two-week study of the CORAL computer language and three weeks on the COBOL language for the trainee programmer. For the student of systems analysis and design there is a six-week course leading to the basic certificate in the subject issued by the National Computing Centre.

The real-time course — five weeks long — has been revised recently to give greater emphasis to command and control information systems and data communication as well as the problems of operating the hardware.

A surprisingly low two per cent of the

student intake go on the advanced course of 30 weeks' duration which delves into the inner secrets of various computer systems and prepares students for management posts in computer projects. At the end of this course, students sit the British Computer Society Part I examination.

The low demand for the advanced course is a puzzle to the training centre's staff who last year passed some 80 Army students through the basic course but only one through the officers-only advanced course. "It just doesn't make sense," said Colonel Fullerton.

As dedicated computer scientists, Colonel Fullerton and his staff are concerned lest the Services be left lagging behind in a world



An Automatic Data Processing training wing was created in 1962 as an element of the School of Signals in Catterick and moved to Blandford with the school in 1967. In 1969 it achieved a separate identity and became a joint Service unit whose major appointments rotate regularly — the present commandant took over from an RAF officer and hands over to a Royal Naval officer when he leaves. With independent status came the new current name of Defence Automatic Data Processing Training Centre.

Left: A typical classroom of students shows tri-Service, plus an overseas and civilian content.

Below: Instructor Lieutenant Jonathan Tamblyn and assistant WREN Evelyn Stark at their work.

Bottom: Col Fullerton and Cdr John Davis, the chief instructor, with course-designed plaques.

increasingly dominated by electronic technology. Although the quality of students passing through Blandford is described as "very reasonable," it is the quantity which causes concern.

The capacity of the training centre has increased by 51 per cent in the last year but its intake has increased by only 35 per cent. While this is a "move in the right direction," Colonel Fullerton said: "There is still a lot of empty room at the moment."

Royal Army Pay Corps, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Royal Army Ordnance Corps and Royal Signals personnel are the most likely users of ADP in the Army today. But teeth arm units too have their share of 'real-time' systems and it is considered that all too few operators of equipment such as the Royal Artillery's FACE gunnery control computer or Rapier missile get a deep enough insight into the background of computer science.

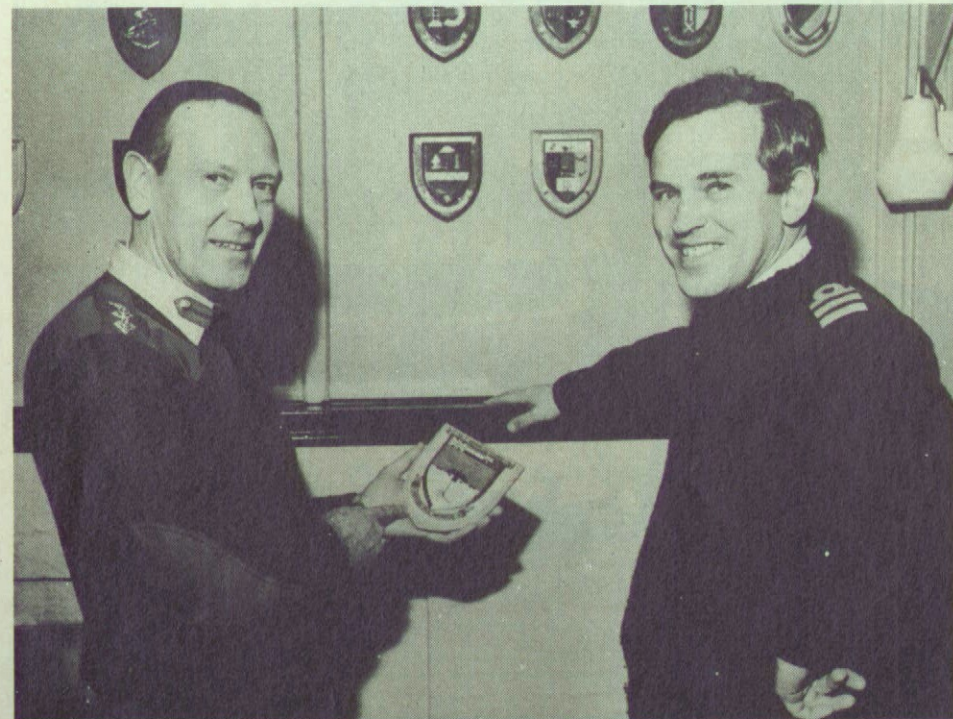
The basic mechanics of these systems is taught within units but Colonel Fullerton believes more could be achieved if a more



Top: A Naval instructor and his Army student.

Right: An RAF student fits in a punched tape.

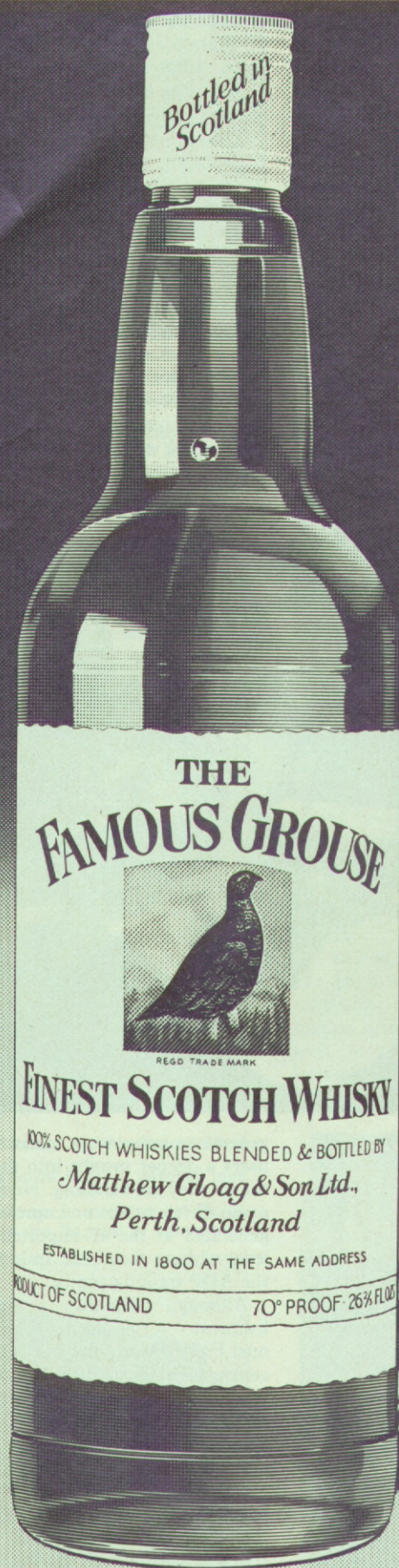
Below: A joke abacus is mounted outside the computer room to use 'in case of emergency.'



general training were undertaken to give users a deeper insight into the concepts of the kit they are handling. He fears that little or no development or improvement can be generated at the all-important 'shop-floor' level without that basic training offered by the ADP training centre.

Although primarily a training establishment — a role keenly promoted by Colonel Fullerton and the tri-Service staff — the centre uses its various mechanical brains, controlled by expert human counterparts on the staff, for pilot study projects for the Ministry of Defence.

It also provides a consultancy service, gives presentations and symposia on computer topics and provides a bureau facility for other ADP users. The latter has been recently streamlined by the addition of a dial-in facility which — given the correct coded password — can tap the memory core of the centre's main DEC 10 computer which emits the contented hum of deep electronic thought from the air-conditioned comfort of its brick-built home in the School of Signals complex a mile or so from the centre's hatted home.



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Soldier news

Probe may mean more cash

Evidence is being sought by the Supplementary Benefit Commission which may be able to put right the anomalies that leave unemployed school-leavers of Service families abroad penniless when they cannot claim supplementary benefits their United Kingdom-based counterparts — and foreign visitors — can take advantage of.

A glimmer of hope emerged from an exclusive interview SOLDIER's Anne Armstrong had with Professor David Donnison, Chairman of the Supplementary Benefit Commission. And although the professor could make no assurances that the anomalies could be put right, he issued an open invitation for Army families to join all the other interested parties in giving evidence to the current review of the matter.

Anne Armstrong asked: "How can the anomaly which I raised in the August SOLDIER concerning supplementary benefit for teenagers abroad be resolved?"

Professor Donnison: "Part One of the 1976 Act, Section One, states that every person in Great Britain over the age of 16 shall be eligible for benefit. This means anyone whom the Home Office has given permission to live in Great Britain under the Act."

Anne Armstrong: "As some Service families do not live in Great Britain, does this mean that their teenagers overseas are not covered by the Act. Can they claim under Common Market rules?"

Professor Donnison: "I do see the Service families' problem. Unfortunately supplementary benefit is one benefit which — for example — in Germany is not as good as ours. This means that Service teenagers will be unable to qualify under present EEC regulations."

Anne Armstrong: "What can you suggest can be done to put this anomaly right as well as the one concerning the claiming of family income supplement abroad?"

Professor Donnison: "These are the areas which must be looked into by the current review of the supplementary benefit scheme."

Anne Armstrong: "If evidence was gathered together on both problems would this be of any help?"

Professor Donnison: "Any evidence submitted by the Services will certainly be considered by the working party. The review will probably be published in Green Paper form which will enable comment from all concerned and the opportunity for the public to discuss the paper."

With the increases announced by the Government, which took effect in November, more families are eligible for family income supplement and free school meals as well as rent and rate rebates.

In view of the fact that £240,000,000 worth of benefits were unclaimed in 1975, Professor Donnison was asked what was being done to see that those eligible got what they were entitled to. The professor replied: "This is a major problem. New forms, posters and

pamphlets are now available in post offices, citizens' advice bureaux and unemployment offices."

The media could be used to spread the news about them too and

he suggested that the British Forces Post Office system could distribute the pamphlets like their civilian counterpart at home.

He added: "Regional supplementary benefit officers are available to help with local welfare courses to help voluntary workers interpret the regulations."

If any wife has any evidence for the review body or any other points to raise, please send them to Anne Armstrong at SOLDIER.

New uniform to be trialled

Limited trials of improved *barathea* parade uniforms in dark green are to be conducted by the Army in 1979. The trials, at unit level, have as their object increased standardisation of uniform and the containment of the cost of maintaining the soldier's wardrobe.

If the trials are successful and the colour and design are approved by the Army Board, general issue could begin in 1982. It would take about six years to fully re-equip the Regular and Reserve armies.

The decision follows a comprehensive review of Army dress policy which took into account the trend in the clothing and textile industries towards garment engineering. In addition a substantial body of Army opinion regarded the current khaki service dress as unsatisfactory in style, colour and weight of material.

There was also some opposition to the stand collar of the more formal blue uniform and the escalating cost of officers' uniforms. There is general support in the Army for a proposal to introduce one basic uniform which can be worn by both officer and soldier on ceremonial occasions to replace both the current khaki and blue uniforms. The continued requirement for the latter will be further reviewed during the course of the troop trial.

If the proposed new parade dress proves to be of sufficiently high standard it is intended that it will become the standard uniform for officers and men. Officers' parade uniforms would then be provided from Service sources and not bought from military tailors. This will result in considerable saving to the taxpayer. As far as is practical, full account is to be taken of regimental tradition in a re-equipping operation which would involve 236,000 suits. For example, Scottish regiments would keep the kilt, trews and traditional headdress — only a new jacket (and suitable shirt and tie) would be considered.

Covering Fire



A soldier guards other soldiers standing in for the striking firemen in Northern Ireland. The threat of terrorist attack added just one more dimension of danger to duty there. Meanwhile, at home, the troops were being kept busy by blazes up and down the country. SOLDIER News looks at their dramatic work on pages 12 and 13 of this issue.

Britain wins nutrition war

Troops from Belgium, Germany, Italy, the United States and Britain, on exercise on Salisbury Plain, have just put their culinary reputation on the line for Egon Ronay.

Cooks from the five countries laid on a dazzling array of dishes for him, all designed to be highly nutritious and quick and easy to prepare as well as light and non-bulky to carry.

But he felt these limitations did not make for gourmet meals.

Italian ravioli was "a bit tasteless," Belgian peasant stew wasn't

"fit for peasants" and Mr Ronay said that German pork and beans "should be fed to the enemy."

He did not think much of Britain's chocolate sponge but the baked beans and steak and kidney pudding came in for special praise. The steak and kidney pudding, he said, was "excellent".

What action was being taken to improve the stability of the Fox armoured car, asked Mr Cranley Onslow (Conservative, Woking). Mr Robert Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, said that the stability of Fox was within the normal range for turreted armoured cars.

He continued: "Investigations into Fox accidents have indicated that in most cases the principal cause was the inexperience of the driver with this particular vehicle and its handling characteristics,

rather than any inherent lack of stability. The training of drivers has been expanded to give increased emphasis to the handling characteristics of Fox."

Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, told Mr Julian Critchley (Conservative, Aldershot) that servicemen had the same freedom to write to Members of Parliament as all other members of the public.

The closure of the Army youth teams next April prompted a series of questions from members. Mr Brown told them that the 79 teams cost approximately £2,000,000 a year.

The disbandment decision would mean that 395 people would be released for work of greater military priority elsewhere. In addition there would be a saving of £500,000 a year in running costs.

Since the Rent Act 1974 it had become very much harder for servicemen to let their homes in the United Kingdom on being sent abroad, Mr Critchley (Aldershot) told the House.

"All too often the tenant has become the 'cuckoo in the nest.' Safeguarded by the provisions of the Act, some have refused to budge and others to pay the rent. Servicemen have been forced into expensive, slow and tiresome litigation."

Mr Critchley said that as a result, homes had been left empty or let to reliable people at well below the market rate. There was no such reduction for servicemen obliged to pay rent for quarters abroad and wives had been left at home while husbands went to Germany.

He asked when the law would be amended as the Government had already recognised the defects of the Rent Act.

Replying, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Navy, Mr Patrick Duffy, said the Government took the matter seriously and was working to ensure that servicemen were protected as far as possible from difficulties.

The particular feature of Service life which complicated the domestic problems of servicemen, especially home owners, was the high degree of mobility demanded. The average tour of duty was about two years and it was not unusual to move at short notice within that period. Wherever a serviceman bought his house it was virtually certain that he would be posted elsewhere for substantial periods.

"In the interest of both the family and the Service we are keenly interested in ensuring that ser-

vicemen are not being forced to accept separation because of fears about letting or because of financial disincentives such as loss of tax relief on mortgage interest payments."

Mr Duffy said the number of cases of real difficulty that had been reported was fairly small in comparison with the number of servicemen who let their houses, but they could have a widespread influence on attitudes in the close Service community.

The building societies had now

agreed to houses being let when the owner was posted away. An insurance had been introduced to give societies some cover against the risk they ran of not being able to remove a tenant in order to recover their capital in the event of the mortgagor defaulting.

Mr Duffy said action in hand on simplification of the rent legislation, a possible speedier repossession procedure in the context of the Rent Act and guidance to be given shortly to local authorities on the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, should substantially improve the position of the serviceman who temporarily let his house.

Three members asked what arrangements were being made to increase forces' pay. Mr Fred Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, said the Pay Review Body had already begun the work of collecting the necessary information on which to base a recommendation to take effect from 1 April 1978.

Mr Philip Goodhart (Conservative, Bromley & Beckenham) asked if Mr Mulley was aware that many soldiers were paid less than the firemen they would be replacing in Britain's cities. And would the Pay Review Body be bound by the Government's ten per cent guideline?

Sir Anthony Royle (Conservative, Richmond-on-Thames) spoke of the grave danger of serious demoralisation throughout the Services. He asked if Mr Mulley knew "that his own people inquiring into Service pay have discovered that some officers are drawing social security and rent allowances, that there are officers in great difficulties in their own areas and that many of them, so it is reported in the Press, have been moonlighting?"

Mr Mulley said he appreciated there was strong feeling among the armed forces that their pay had lagged behind but this was true of many other sectors. But it was totally untrue that any member of the armed forces was drawing social security benefit — a condition of such benefit was that one was not employed.

About ten officers and 6000 men were drawing rent and rate rebates and Mr Mulley pointed out that when these were introduced by the Conservatives it was proclaimed that there should be no shame in drawing them.

Mr Mulley then told Mr Edwin Wainwright (Labour, Dearn Valley) that it was the Government's object, as soon as conditions permitted, to restore the full comparability of military salary.

Mr E Loyden (Labour, Garston) asked if Mr Mulley would agree to open up trade union membership to the Services and begin negotiations with the armed forces about pay.

Mr Mulley: "I am not sure that that would solve our problem of dealing with the armed forces within the Government's pay policy. On the other hand, I have no objection in principle to the armed forces, if they are so minded, seeking such representation."

Sir Ian Gilmour (Conservative, Chesham & Amersham) described

Mr Mulley's answers as "ridiculously complacent." He said that unless the shackles were taken off, a ten per cent increase would leave the armed forces about 50 per cent behind comparable people in civilian life.

Replying to two other questioners, Mr Mulley said much effort and expenditure had already been devoted to improving, as far as was possible in field service conditions, the accommodation of servicemen in Northern Ireland.

"There are, however, a few locations where we have to remain for operational reasons which could not, even by substantial expenditure, be brought up to the standards I would wish. These problem locations, which house about five per cent of the force, are a matter of active concern."

Mr John Farr (Conservative, Harborough) said it was totally disgraceful that soldiers in Northern Ireland doing such a heroic job should have to live in sub-standard accommodation at any time.

Mr Mulley said the first test of accommodation had to be operational. The troops were in field service conditions which by definition could not come up to those expected in peacetime. He said the Army had already vacated six poor places of accommodation in the last year and the Government was constantly looking for ways of improving bad conditions.

Mr Tom Litterick (Labour, Selly Oak) had a simple and cheap solution. He suggested that the troops should be moved from Ireland altogether as the majority of British people now wished. Mr Mulley agreed it would solve the accommodation problems but said the problems that would be created in their stead would be much more serious. The Government was determined to provide Army support to the civil authorities for as long as necessary.

The Hon Timothy Sainsbury (Conservative, Hove) asked what was the pay, including local overseas allowance in Deutschmarks, of a married sergeant with two children serving in Rhine Army in October 1976 and October 1977.

Mr Mulley said that pay and allowances were normally expressed in sterling. However, the figures for a married sergeant with two children were 549.36 DM in October 1976 and 532.77 DM a year later. This reflected a change in the forces' fixed rate of exchange on 1 November 1976.

Mr Sainsbury said that to face servicemen with an actual cut in

their gross pay after a year of inflation in both Germany and Britain would have a totally disastrous effect on morale.

Mr Mulley said he had already announced there would be no reduction in the level of local overseas allowance during the next 12 months. Expressed in sterling the local overseas allowance for the same sergeant was increased from £37.59 to £49.83 because of the dramatic fall in the pound against the mark in the autumn of 1976. Since only 70 per cent of a soldier's

pay was drawn in Deutschmarks he would not accept that anyone had suffered a real loss.

Referring to the recently signed offset agreement with West Germany, Mr Gwilym Roberts (Labour, Cannock) said it was derisory and Britain was again being taken for a ride by the West German Government.

"... the only sort of offset agreement which is acceptable to the large majority of members on this side of the House is one that would at least meet the great bulk of our balance of payments costs."

Mr Mulley thought it was a satisfactory outcome to a difficult problem. In actual money terms, taking into account the rate of exchange, it represented over the three-year period about 50 per cent more than the previous agreement.

An extensive programme of building new small arms ranges and modernising others was announced by Mr Brown in reply to a question from Mr Jerry Wiggin (Conservative, Weston-super-Mare).

Mr Brown said that since last July five ranges had been re-opened plus one for restricted use and two more were expected to re-open by the middle of 1978. However, this would still not meet the range requirements of Regular and TAVR units and these would be met by a building programme over the next five years.

In the Lords, Mr Mulley's statement about restoration of full comparability of the military salary as soon as conditions permitted was repeated by Lord Winterbottom.

The Marquess of Donegall (Conservative) said this was encouraging as far as it went. But he added: "May I ask whether Her Majesty's Government would agree that a private soldier, or a non-commissioned or junior officer serving, if you like, with a bomb disposal unit in Belfast ... should receive in cash or in kind at least as much as can be earned in the docks or the coal-mines?"

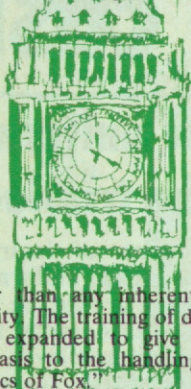
Lord Winterbottom refused to be drawn on this but conceded that comparability had slipped.

But the veteran Lord 'Manny' Shinwell introduced a pessimistic note when he asked how much it would cost to bring Service pay up to rates which were common in industry.

"Is it wise to furnish expectations which are going to be very difficult to fulfil?" he asked.

Lord Winterbottom said he had every confidence that full comparability would be restored within a comparatively short period.

IN PARLIAMENT



Heavens! I've been booked!

The Reverend Roy is faced with a parish problem of profound proportions in Hong Kong — his Land-Rover, chaplain for the use of, has been withdrawn by the Ministry of Defence in the latest wave of cuts in military expenditure.

But tough infantry priest Roy Griffith, 36-year-old padre of 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, based at Stanley Fort at the isolated south end of Hong Kong island, is determined to keep in close touch with his

scattered flock around the colony.

He has abandoned the white cassock of a Church of England priest and now roars around the island on an ancient BSA 350cc motorcycle —

clad in combat kit and helmet with 'PADRE' stencilled on it.

The former heating engineer joined the Army as a priest in 1971: "One sort of hot air to another" was his comment.

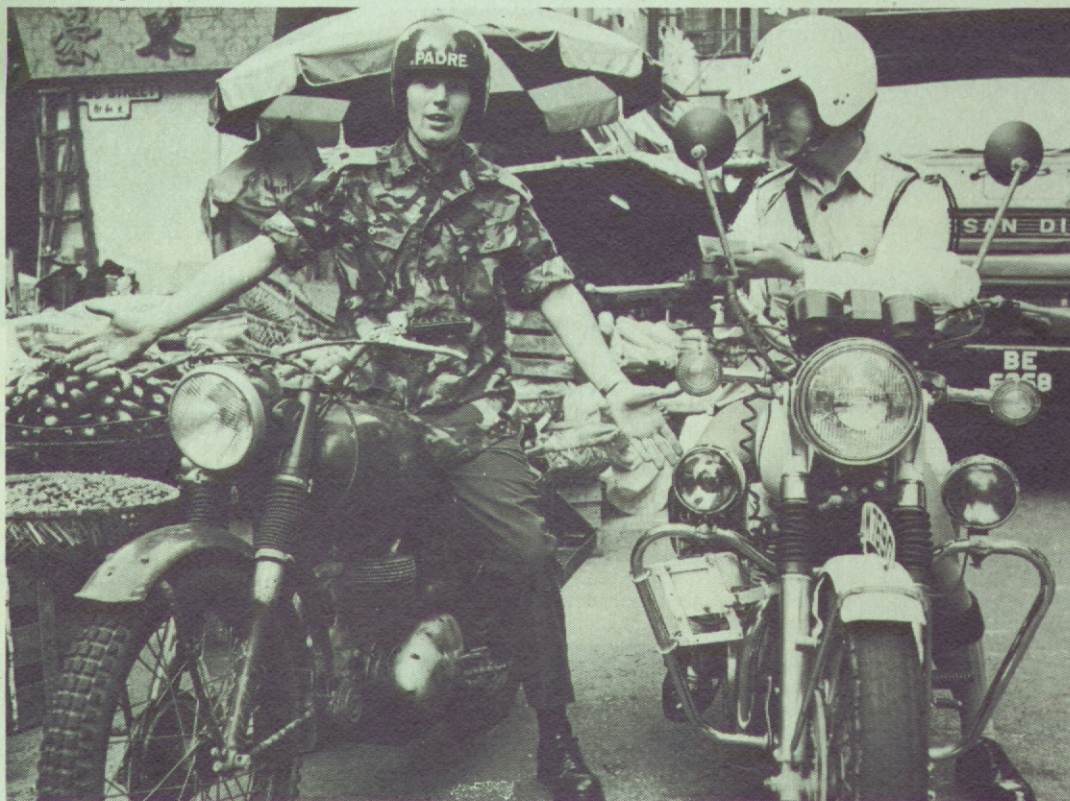
Roaring Roy's priestly progress was brought to a temporary halt in Wanchai by Police Patrolman Wong King-kiwok mounted on an immaculate Yamaha 650. It wasn't the trail

of nuts and bolts or the terrified chickens that stopped his pastoral proceeding but the excess of holy smoke from the exhaust.

"Get it fixed," warned Constable Tung, taking his name and number.

"Bless you brother," replied the Reverend Roy as he rattled off back to base.

Picture by Sergeant Brian Lawrence RAF, JSPRS Hong Kong.



BLESMA branches out

Parachuting into the sea, climbing Snowdon and canoeing across the Channel are challenges that have been met and conquered by an energetic group of limbless ex-servicemen to prove their disabilities are just not going to be allowed to stop them leading a normal active life.

And now the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association (BLESMA) Venturers are seeking new challenges — and new members — to carry on the campaign.

Venturers' chairman, Sir James Stuart-Menteth, lost both legs while serving with the Scots Guards in World War Two. But that has not stopped him making great strides forward in the battle to highlight a limbless man's ability to overcome his disability — Sir James himself was one of the parachutists trained and dropped over the sea by The Parachute Regiment's Red Devils freefall team.

Explaining the growth of the Venturers as an offshoot of BLESMA, Sir James said bluntly: "We were determined we were not going to be just another Poppy Day. We wanted to show that a disabled person — given a bit of help — could work wonders."

He said the Venturers were less concerned with increased pensions or welfare than with attracting the attention of other disabled ex-servicemen like those "getting disabled right here and now." He also wants to draw the attention of potential employers to the fact that these people "with nous" can be

trained to undertake all sorts of jobs.

Since they started in 1974 the Venturers have hit the headlines with their exploits as parachutists, climbers and cross-Channel canoeists. But Sir James plans even more ambitious projects for the future including a possible trans-European relay canoe marathon.

For this more members are needed and Sir James is leading a determined recruiting drive: "What we need is young fit members," he said, characteristically dismissing limblessness as irrelevant to fitness.

Anyone interested can contact the Venturers through their Executive Secretary, Mrs Gina Majendie, 48 Lamont Road, Chelsea, London SW10.

The men in the scarlet coats all have something in common, apart from being In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Each of them holds an award of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

They received special plates, made by Aynsley China Ltd of Stoke-on-Trent, to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the Order. The plates cost £60 each and are available only to holders of the Order.

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The Greatest Show in Berlin

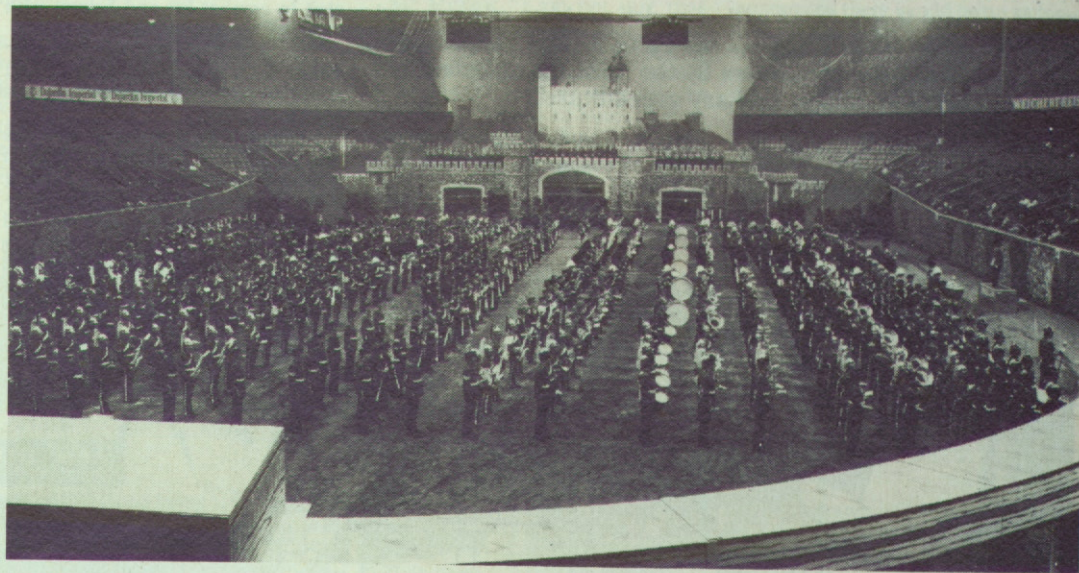
In what has been described by the Berlin Morgenpost as 'The British Show — The Greatest Ever,' Berliners have again been treated to a musical pageant considered to be amongst the largest and most spectacular in the world.

This year's theme was naturally centred on the Queen's Silver Jubilee. The setting, in Berlin's Deutschlandhalle, was superb — depicting Hyde Park Corner and a magnificent replica of the Tower of London.

Before near-capacity audiences, 700 musicians from 17 Service bands took part in an unforgettable display of pomp and ceremony. This year's programme also included the Morriston Orpheus Choir from Wales — believed to be the first time that a civilian choir has performed in a military tattoo.

Also included were performances by the ever-popular White Helmets motorcycle team of the Royal Signals, the musical drive by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, precision drilling by the Queen's Colour Squadron of the Royal Air Force and an intricate display of acrobatics by the Royal Navy display team.

Adding to the pageantry were two Beefeaters from the Tower of London, drumhorse Hector and four mounted trumpeters of the Household Cavalry and drumhorse Dettingen and two dismounted



escorts of The Queen's Own Hussars.

Highlight of the 1977 Berlin Tattoo was, however, the finale — a re-enactment of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

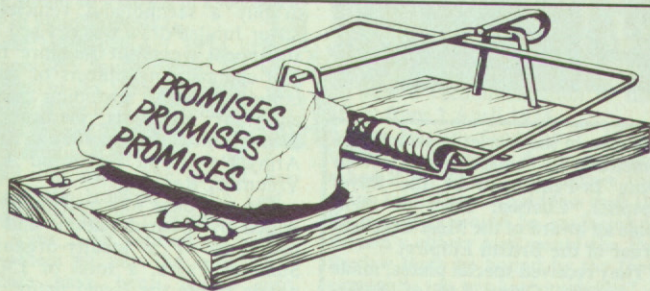
To the accompaniment of the combined Morriston Orpheus and Welsh Guards choirs and 700 musicians under the tattoo's senior musical director, Major Derek Taylor, Welsh Guards, the coronation procession entered the arena. Carrying the replicas of the Crown of Saint Edward, the Orb and the Sceptre used during the 1952 rehearsals, the

'Archbishop of Canterbury' and his attendant bishops, escorted by peers and heralds, moved solemnly towards King Edward's Chair — the seat of Coronation since 1308.

The audience then saw the 'Archbishop,' with the grace and dignity befitting such an occasion, symbolically place the crown on the monarch's head.

Contributing in no small way to the tremendous success of the tattoo

were the many unseen 'stagehands' — 1st Battalion, The Green Howards, who were responsible for the arena party; Property Services Agency and 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, responsible for area maintenance; 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who produced the roof party and 229 Signal Squadron (Berlin) who controlled the lighting for the spectacular.



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Army Radio was in action at the Tattoo. Simon Tait, the Army's radio officer normally based at MOD in London, talks to Staff-Sergeant Jimmy Scott of 38 Field Squadron (Berlin), Royal Engineers.

Staff Scott's home is in Maryhill, Glasgow, and his interview was heard three times on the BBC's 'Good Morning Scotland' programme. Altogether 21 interviews were done in and around Berlin's Deutschlandhalle, and they were sent to 11 radio stations in UK. Although Army Radio is anxious to cover stories for the 39 thirsty local radio stations in UK, any unit press officers who have got a tape or cassette which they think might be of interest should send it along to Simon Tait in the Defence Press Office — edited or not — and he will take it from there.

All the King's Horses and all the King's Men were needed back in London when the Berlin Tattoo came to an end.

To the rescue came the 'Queen's' drivers of the Royal Corps of Transport with their own brand of horse power...

After the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, had completed its last performance at the tattoo, its equipment, including 18-pounder guns and limbers, had to be speedily transported to London in time for the Queen's State Opening of Parliament.

In moved members of 38 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, from Mulheim in West Germany.

Using three RCT Mammoth Major tractors with trailers, the

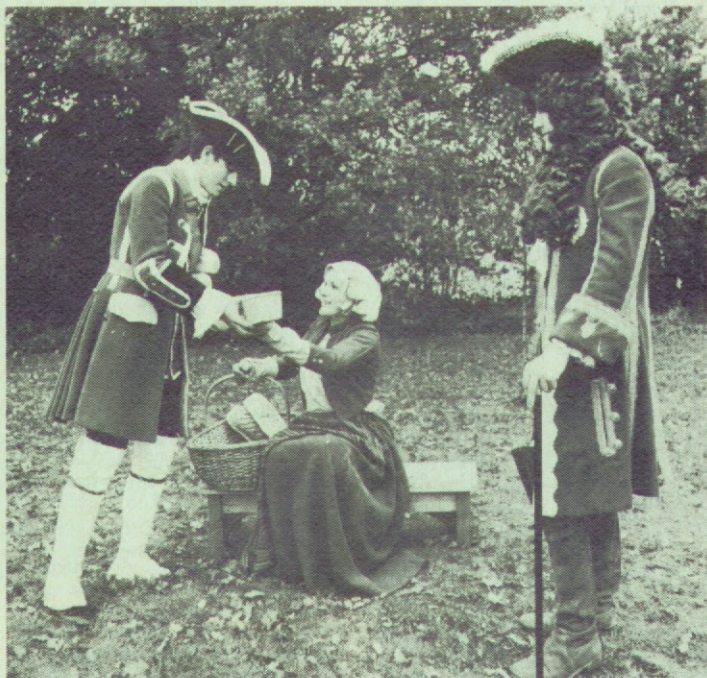
'Waggoners' conveyed the equipment, packed in three civilian freight containers, to London from Berlin in just over one day's journey time, including cross-channel ferry. Involved was a 15-strong RCT team which operated in two shifts, with a mid-way break at Moenchengladbach.

BAOR freight service transport, operated by 23 Transport and Movement Regiment, RCT, was provided for the move.

Sixty-three horses used by the King's Troop for their Berlin display were transported to the United Kingdom in a separate operation by civilian transport.

... All the King's Horses and all the King's Men were back in London again.

Festival fare is ACC favourite



'Try this for size, it's very good,' seems to be Lieutenant Bridget Lowe's sales line with her meat pie. It certainly seems to have won Lord Marlborough over, even if the Redcoat is doubtful.

The three 'actors,' all from the Army School of Catering at Aldershot, were going through their paces before doing their star turn at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert

Hall in London. This was the first time the Army Catering Corps had put on this kind of display.

Its theme was 'Army Catering Through the Ages.'

Playgrounds for unique estate

A unique estate of Army married quarters has been opened at Perham Down, near Tidworth.

When finished it will comprise 91 three- and four-bedroomed houses.

The unique feature lies in the special provision of toddlers' playgrounds. The estate consists of a series of culs-de-sac, each with its own play area for younger children. Each play area has a different focal point. One has the stump of an old tree from the site bedded in concrete. Some have large concrete drainage pipes converted into Wendy houses. For older children there are separate areas with swings or climbing bars.

All toddlers' playgrounds are in full view of the kitchens of the houses so that mothers can keep an eye on their children.

Another unusual feature of the soldiers' quarters is the gardens. Instead of being left bare they have been turfed so that children will not be trailing in mud the moment a family moves in.

The Army's project liaison officer on the site, Major Peter Price, a retired sapper officer who has been involved in Army building for 40 years, believes the houses to be among the finest he has been associated with.

On top of everything else, tenants are supplied with a handbook to help them run their all-electric houses as economically as possible.

The handbook also advises them in detail how to eliminate the bugbear of condensation. Charges for

the quarters range from £9.59 to £10.99 per week.

The estate, called the Jubilee Married Quarters, was formally opened by Brigadier Neil Fletcher, Deputy Commander South West District. It will meet a need for married quarters of the larger type in an area which is well supplied with smaller houses.

They won through

A nationwide 'value-for-money' catering contest proved to be just that for two members of the Army Catering Corps. They won the first prize and shared £1000 for their pains.

Major Sidney Denham and Warrant Officer 2 Barry Gray won the Scottish Meal of the Year competition (SOLDIER News, September 1977) and went on to compete against other area winners for the top honour of best manager and chef. And against stiff civilian competition, the Army couple came out on top.

The contest was jointly sponsored by the Wine Development Board and Caterer and Hotelkeeper Magazine with the idea of finding a team capable of producing the best balanced combination of food and wine with an eye to originality and value for money.

The £1000 first prize comes on top of the £50 and three cases of wine the Army pair won earlier.



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Tattoo shows Jubilee flag

Royal fanfares proclaiming the Queen's Silver Jubilee rang out in far-off Iran . . . thanks to Army and Royal Marines musicians who were included in a cultural visit to the country for three weeks.

The bands of the Royal Marine Commando Forces and Commando Training Centre, the band, drums

and pipes of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, the band and bugles of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, and six State trumpeters from The Life Guards were among a 225-strong party of servicemen who went on the trip.

The back-up production team included men of the Royal Signals and Royal Engineers plus personnel from The Light Infantry for the

heavy work of baggage carrying. The Royal Navy provided a medical team.

Not only the capital of Iran, Teheran, but the provinces were able to enjoy the full programme laid on by the military bandsmen in this vast country of contrasts containing 24,000,000 inhabitants.

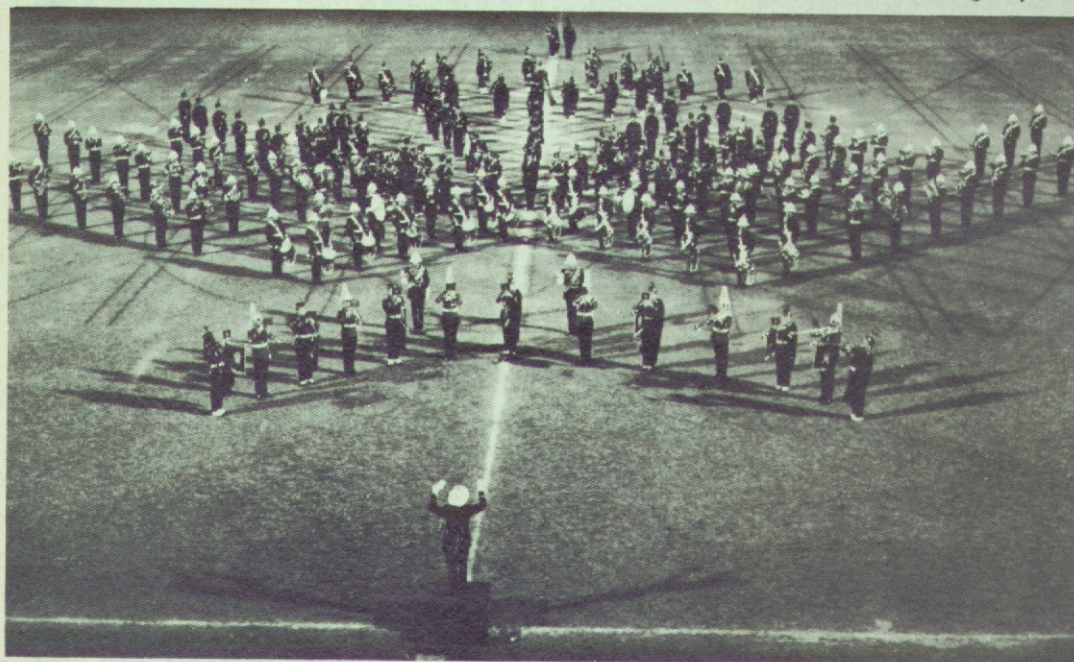
The road travel involved soon introduced the British visitors to the vagaries of the Iranian highway code

and a contest to spot the heaviest laden moped resulted in a tie between Army bandsmen, who spotted seven people on one, and the Marines who saw three people — plus a seven-foot gas cylinder — riding another.

To meet the tight schedule in the provinces, reveille at 0330 and final curtains at midnight were the order of the day. But there was still time for a brief reunion of old soldiers when Warrant Officer 2 Donaldson of The King's Own Scottish Borderers came across a chum from the days of his boy service, Mike Smith, who had left the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers to work as a civilian engineer in Iran.

And as the bands played on they notice just how far their Army pay would stretch in oil-rich Iran where a bottle of sauce costs £2.50, a tin of baked beans £2.10 and where the bandsman's dream of an XJ6 Jaguar car means payment of a down-to-earth £82,000.

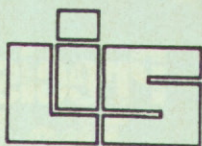
But the thousands of delighted spectators who enjoyed the glittering displays found that money could not buy the pleasure brought to them by the military musicians sent to entertain them right royally.



Left: The floodlight finale at Esfahan.

Below: The country dancers of the KOSB perform at Farahabad Park during a concert in Teheran.

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Sidi Rezegh reunion

On the day that the men who first went to war in tanks were commemorating their 60th anniversary at Cambrai in France, old comrades of 7th Armoured Brigade met in Soltau, West Germany, to recall the Desert Rats' most famous armoured battle, Sidi Rezegh.

The service, held in a helicopter hangar, was also attended by the present staff of 7th Armoured Brigade, including the commander, Brigadier Norman Arthur, as well as by the commander at Sidi Rezegh, Brigadier George Davey.

Paddlers turn icy 'corner'



A 250-mile ice-infested journey round "the most remote corner in the world" is dangerous enough in a modern boat. A four-man team has done it by kayak.

The canoeists, from North Wales, paddled from Dundas to Kap Alexander on the north-west coast of Greenland during the short summer while the area was relatively free of ice.

This is the most westerly point of the Greenland sub-continent and as far as is known, with the possible exception of Eskimos, is also the furthest north ever canoed.

The expedition's main objective was to advance sea canoeing techniques, although the choice of location was determined by the design of canoe used. These were an adaptation of the West Greenland Eskimo kayak design, using modern glass-fibre instead of seal skin.

Icebergs were always in evidence and at one stage the tiny canoes were dwarfed by towering 250-foot-high bergs which drifted past and sometimes capsize "with an enormous roar like massive thunder."

Pack ice proved a problem. On one day it was so thick that the canoes had to be dragged out of the water and pulled across by hand.

Sergeant John Bull, of the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre in Wales, said afterwards: "Our method was to jump from floe to floe trying to select one which would carry our weight and impact."

"Where the gap was too great the canoe was used to straddle the space. All went well until two of us broke through to the Greenland Sea. This was no joke and we decided then to exercise more care although it slowed us down."

The canoeists faced pack ice, zero temperatures, freezing rain and wind, and northerly gales. Several times they had to keep a wary eye on walrus and whale and at one stage were within only 25 miles of Canada.

"But," said John Bull, "the weather was considered fairly good for those parts, though rain, wind, snow and fog were almost constant companions."

Drivers are 'gonged'



Picture shows Sergeant John Bull in shirt sleeves. When the sun came out, paddling was hot work despite the -4 degrees Centigrade temperature.

Mass NI medal presentation

More than 50 men — all ranks — of the Royal Corps of Transport received their Northern Ireland General Service Medal in a mass presentation at Moscow Camp, Belfast.

The men, of 16 Tank Transporter Squadron, normally based at Fallingb., Germany, were on a four-month tour of duty in the Province and received their medals from Brigadier William Allen, Commander RCT, BAOR. He also presented two Long Service & Good Conduct medals.

Brigadier Allen was visiting corps units in the province and the officer commanding 16 Squadron, Major Chris Rawlinson, felt this would be an ideal opportunity to present the medals, to the men on their first tour.

The squadron provides general transport throughout the province.

Recruiting down

Army recruiting during the period July to September last year was down on figures for the same period of 1976. But the Ministry of Defence is satisfied that its needs are being met at present.

There was a 16 per cent drop in the Army's total intake with 7537 signing on compared with 9016. There were 714 fewer juniors joining up, representing a 13 per cent drop, and there was a 23 per cent drop in the adult and young soldier intake.

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A medical memory lane

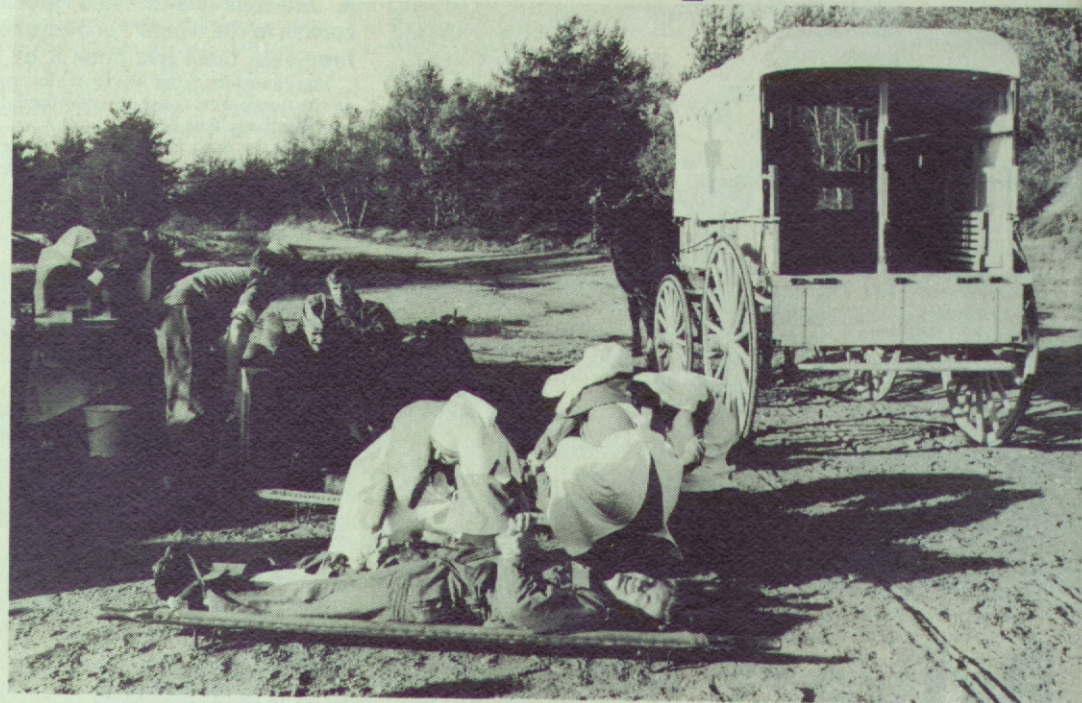
Somewhere in France. A canvas field dressing station, everything calm and orderly. Then suddenly through the smoke of battle comes clip-clopping a horse-drawn ambulance. Quickly the nurses bustle forward in their long dresses and bright red capes to care for the wounded 'Tommies'.

However, this was not World War One France but modern Aldershot, and the wounded soldiers and nurses were merely actors. And if the modern observers gave the scene a sense of unreality, there was nothing unreal about the purpose of the enactment.

For 1977 was the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Army's nursing service. The actual anniversary fell in March but the nurses, too busy with Silver Jubilee festivities, felt it better to leave their anniversary celebrations to later in the year. Which is why they picked on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month commemorating also the signing of the World War One Armistice.

But for one former nurse the re-enactment was only too real. Ninety-one-year-old Miss Bessie Lidstone was one of four World War One military nurses invited to the commemoration, and it was easy to see that the scene brought back many memories for her.

"It was very authentic," said Miss Bessie, who was awarded the MBE



after service in France in World War One, and in France, North Africa, Italy and Australia in World War Two.

"It is difficult to pick out any one thing that I remember, except perhaps the mud. There were always duckboards everywhere to stop you falling in shell-holes filled with water.

"One of the saddest things was leaving soldiers behind in a retreat. Some of them were too ill to move, and we just had to leave them.

"But I would say that these modern nurses really know their job. I was in Millbank Hospital for four months and they really looked after me very well. I think the nurses now are excellent."

The anniversary the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps was celebrating was the royal warrant establishing its predecessors, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, in 1902. But Army nursing goes back much further than that.

The earliest traces of organised Army nursing in Britain go back to the Roman occupation of AD43 for it is known that the armies of the Roman Empire had military hospitals.

Little is known of Army nursing before the Crimean War but records show that nurses were serving with the Army as early as 1757. They were untrained, usually soldiers' wives and camp followers, and their pay was one shilling a day.

Florence Nightingale and the infamous Crimean War really started Army nursing as it is known today.

Critical Press reports of the appalling conditions suffered by the sick and wounded roused public feeling and, with the support of Queen Victoria and Lord Herbert, Secretary of War, but against considerable opposition from many quarters, Florence Nightingale arrived in Scutari with 38 ladies of varying degrees of nursing experience.

The effect on the troops' morale and their physical condition silenced much of the opposition and the Army nurses won acceptance and recognition.

Nurses were on active service during both the Zulu wars and the Egyptian campaign and then, as Princess Christian's Army Nursing Service Reserve, went back to Africa for the Boer War and, as a result of their hardships and achievements, the service was enlarged and reorganised.

During World War One the

QAIMNS, supported by the QA Reserve and the Territorial Forces Nursing Service, numbered 10,000.

The girls served in make-shift hospitals set up in any available building, in hospital trains, barges and in tented casualty clearing stations, often only a mile from the front-line trenches.

In addition to treating the wounds and sickness caused by conventional warfare, they also dealt with trench foot, the results of poison gas attack and shell-shock.

The QA's served in France, Flanders, India, Gallipoli, Egypt, Palestine, North Russia and Mesopotamia. Many were killed and many were decorated for their bravery.

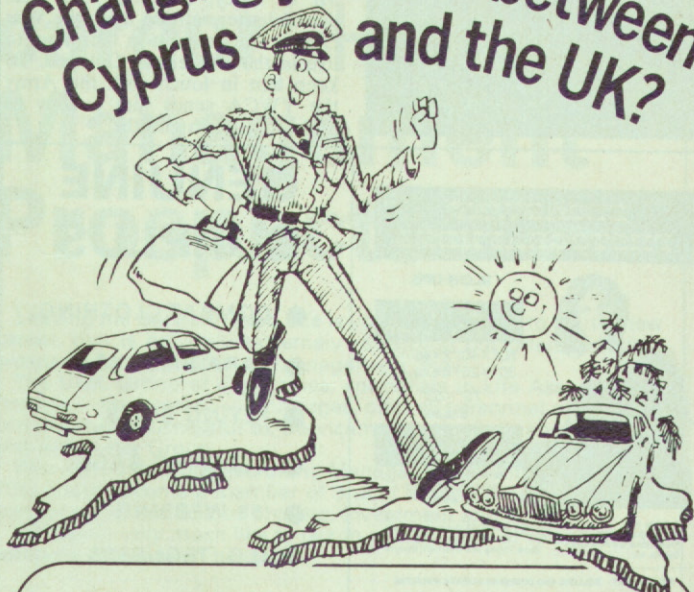
At the outbreak of World War Two the QAs had been run down to only 624. By the end of the war this had increased to 12,000. This war found the girls nearer the front line than ever before. At the fall of Singapore, many QAs serving there were captured by the Japanese and suffered dreadful privations for three-and-a-half years. And in 1945, when the Belsen concentration camp was liberated by the British Army, the QAs were among the medical services drafted in to care for those who had survived its horrors.

In 1949 the QAIMNS and Territorial Army Nursing Service amalgamated to form the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. The sisters were granted for the first time Regular commissions in the women's forces. Queen Mary became their first Colonel-in-Chief.

A year later other ranks were recruited and the corps began to train its own nurses. Today all nurse training in the QARANC is aimed at eventual qualification in State registration (SRN) and State enrolment (SEN). There is also training for dental hygiene, dental clerks, medical clerks and ward stewardesses.

As the corps grew, a hutted camp at Hindhead was started as a depot and training establishment, but in 1966 the site of Queen Victoria's Royal Pavilion at Aldershot was taken over as the new corps' home.

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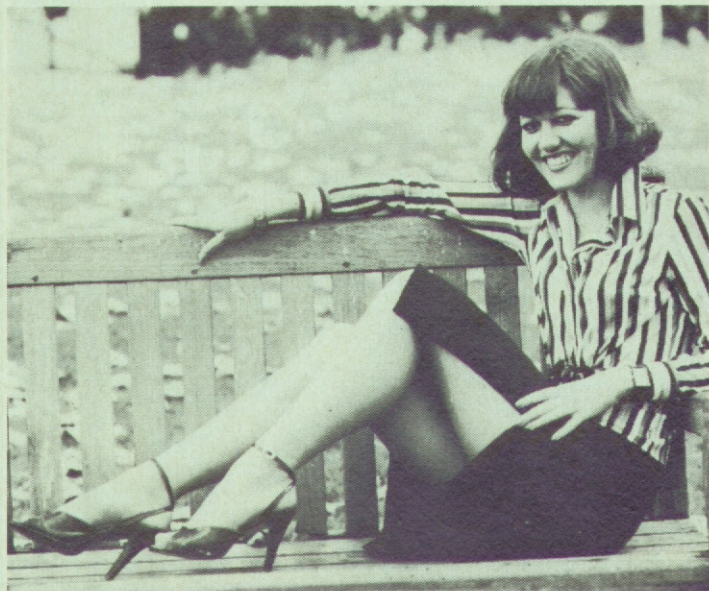
These misses are Army hits

A shapely Miss World contestant went head over heels for the Scots Guards . . . in a rugby scrum.

For Miss New Zealand — Michele Jean Hyde — proved the prettiest prop in the pack when she matched her nine-stone 35-24-35 frame against the muscle and might of 1st Battalion, Scots Guards' rugby team to get her own energetic version of a mud-pack beauty treatment before her more elegant line-out with the other beauties for the Miss World contest.

Miss United Kingdom was wished well for her title bid by admirers from 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry.

Madeleine Stringer is the unit's pin-up and Corporal Anthony Batkin (left) and Junior Bugler Brian Rackstraw wished her luck with a kiss and a statuette which worked like a charm . . . for a charmer.



Top: Miss New Zealand in tip-top form for her match with the Scots Guards (above).

Top right: Miss United Kingdom gets her good luck kiss and mascot from the Light Infantry.



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Home savings are growing

In its first year of operation under its new title the House Purchase Savings Scheme showed a massive jump in membership of nearly 27 per cent. Savers in August 1977 totalled 15,343 compared with 12,098 a year earlier.

A delighted Major Richard Bland, of the scheme's sponsor branch (Army Education 5), said the increase had resulted from a low profile publicity campaign aimed at making servicemen aware of the possibilities of saving towards house purchase.

"This caught on in a big way," he said. "We think the name change has had something to do with it. Now it has a clearly stated purpose whereas the old name SWUS (Save While You Serve) had become known as SWIZ."

The aim of the scheme is to enable all ranks to be in a position to buy their own houses when they end their service. For soldiers, contributions have always been deducted from pay and from this month this service will also be available to officers.

All of the major building societies are taking part and in the event of a scheme member having problems in obtaining a mortgage the Ministry of Defence will take up the matter. Says Major Bland: "We have no record of anyone being refused a reasonable mortgage."

The societies have in fact pledged

as part of the scheme that they will give special consideration to members applying for mortgages and will accept a firm promise of employment as a loan condition instead of requiring the applicant to be already established in a civilian job.

To join the scheme all a soldier has to do is to fill in a form from his unit pay office. The paymaster will give advice in completing the form and the Royal Army Educational Corps officer can help.

Ex-Paras camping club seeks members

Ex-Paras who still enjoy the outdoor life are being urged to join the Parachute Regimental Association's latest offshoot, a camping and caravan club. The club is open to all PRA members at only £3 per year with the object of ex-servicemen enjoying the Great Outdoors as well as helping the PRA wherever possible.

Army improves view

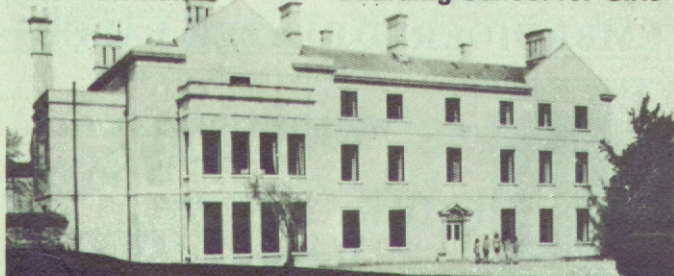


Visitors to Gloucester will be able to admire a striking view of the ancient city from one of its ancient buildings, thanks to lads from the Army Apprentices College, Chesham.

Apprentice carpenters and joiners have constructed a set of guard rails and footwalks on St Michael's Tower at the junction of Southgate, Northgate, Westgate and Eastgate. The tower, which commands a fine view of the cathedral, is the remains of a church built around 1465.

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Veterans see film

Arnhem veterans and former Dutch Resistance workers met again to relive that fateful battle, but this time on German soil.

The occasion was the screening of 'A Bridge Too Far,' the film epic of the battle, at the Service Kinema Corporation's Globe Cinema, Rheindahlen.

The evening was in aid of Ssafa and raised about DM 10,000.

In the audience was General Sir Frank King, Commander-in-Chief BAOR, who was a company commander with 11th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, during the

Arnhem battle. The aircraft in which he travelled from Britain was shot down and he arrived 36 hours later at Arnhem. Subsequently wounded, he was cared for in a Dutch house and taken prisoner.

The band of 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, opened the film show with a fanfare 'Arnhem' specially composed for the occasion by the bandmaster, Warrant Officer 1 Ernest Mortlock.

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Prospectus from Secretary at the School.

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General judges Gurkha cooks in Hong Kong



The military maxim that an army marches on its stomach was taken seriously at Sek Kong, Hong Kong, when the Brigade of Gurkhas mounted the finals of the brigade cookery competition — the first time the event has ever been held in Hong Kong.

Cookery instead of kukri was the order of the day at the Gurkha Training Depot for the visit of the Commander British Forces, Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer, who also holds the appointment of Major-General Brigade of Gurkhas.

Before the final judging, Sir John displayed extraordinary gastronomic staying-power by sampling such creations as curried dal Mysore, green beans fried with coconut, minced lamb balls stuffed with almonds and jelebi with syrup, followed by vegetable pulao, pancakes and chicken korma. He even had room for the Gurkha delicacies of aludam, cheese chutney and fried mutton curry.

Sir John, who has held many important military posts, is known to be immensely proud of his appointment as Major-General

Brigade of Gurkhas, and delighted the Gurkha cooks by taking man-sized samples of every dish. He presented prizes to the best individual cook, Lance-Corporal Lilbahadur Pun, of The Training Depot, Brigade of Gurkhas, Lance-Corporal Deobahadur Limbu of 7th Gurkha Rifles, and Lance-Corporal Lilshang Limbu of 10th Gurkha Rifles. The team competition was won by 7th Gurkha Rifles with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Gurkha Rifles, in second place and the Queen's Gurkha Signals third.

The competition, organised by Major Mike Dickinson, Deputy Assistant Director, Army Catering Corps, was last staged about seven years ago at Nee Soon in Singapore and is aimed at stimulating interest in the art of cookery in the Brigade and encouraging cooks to raise their technical standards.

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Soldiers get better quarters

Improvements costing about £500,000 are being made to soldiers' accommodation in Northern Ireland.

According to the Ministry of Defence, only about five per cent of the soldiers serving in the Province live in accommodation regarded as sub-standard even under the special circumstances of field service conditions in Northern Ireland.

About £80,000,000 at current prices has been spent on works services for the Army in Northern Ireland in the last four years. Nearly half of this has been devoted to living accommodation. "The number of men badly housed has been progressively reduced."

Six unsatisfactory sites have been vacated during the last year alone, and immediate improvements are being made to five other sites.

The problem at Magherafelt is being solved by a new company camp due to be completed in

December. At Maghera, improvements will be made when the work at Magherafelt has been completed.

The removal of a builders' hut at Newry will give a chance to relieve overcrowding by releasing space for new sleeping quarters. Another hut affected by condensation may also be replaced by something more suitable.

At Forkhill an additional Portakabin will give a bit more breathing space and, at Crossmaglen, work at present in hand includes general improvements to living conditions, including washing, dining and recreational facilities.

West's bootie spot



The pinnacle of achievement in the climb to the top of their profession for these men of C Company, 40 Commando, Royal Marines, was a cliff assault in Cornwall on a recent training exercise. The cliff-climbing phase of the exercise followed sea-borne assaults as raiding training.

Germany has third CCF unit

A third Combined Cadet Force in Germany has been badged in Münster at the Army's Edinburgh School.

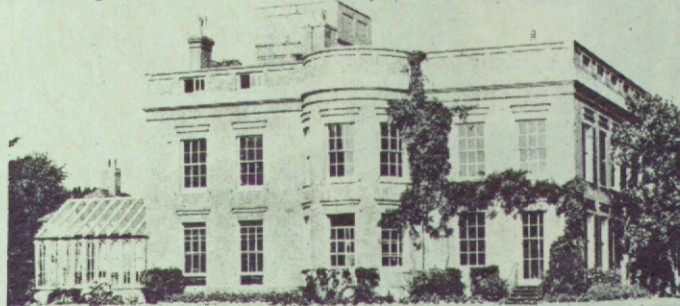
The 45-strong contingent was formed earlier in the year under the guidance of Captain Lyndon Moore, the school's creative studies teacher.

The other CCFs in Germany are at Windsor Boys' School, Hamm, and Prince Rupert's School, Rinteln.

Badges were presented to the Münster cadets by the Garrison Commander, Brigadier Desmond Langley. The ceremony ended with a march past to music by the Royal Tank Regiment's Alamein band.

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Places for January, 1978

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Prospectus: Admissions Officer, Coveys Ley, Moats Tye, Combs, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 2EY.



Above: The strike was a heaven-sent opportunity for the IRA. Here a warehouse blaze is tackled in the Springfield Road, Belfast, while an armed guard protects the firefighters.

Below: John Collins, an 18-year-old gunner, was one of the first soldier casualties. He was helping to fight a fire in a five-storey office block near the centre

Firemen in combat kit

of London when he was overcome by smoke. A Green Goddess which skidded on ice and crashed in the third week of the strike claimed the first two soldier fatalities.

The whole world knows all about the firemen's strike, and the part played in it by the Services. About the unflinching devotion to duty of the men who stepped in once again to fill the breach.

The amateur firemen were in many cases earning a lot less than the men on strike but even so they soldiered on, despite the obvious danger in fighting fires without proper equipment and adequate training.

Here then is SOLDIER's tribute in pictures to the firemen in combat kit.



Soldiers on a pallet surrounded by water as they direct a hose at one of the biggest blazes of the strike. The fire in a rag warehouse spread through five factory blocks.



Above left: Mobile elevated platforms were pressed into service to give firefighters the height to direct their hoses down on to the blaze. Senior fire officers stood by with advice.

Above: A policeman, helped by a soldier, brings the body of a small child out of a razed London house. Who is to say whether she would have lived if experienced firemen had been on the scene?



Left: Men of 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, were too late to do anything but contain this fire in a Belfast office.

What will 1978 bring for the families of soldiers? Perhaps an end to the conflict in Northern Ireland, which would put an end to the horrors of death, and injuries and stop the splitting up of families as dad goes off yet again across the sea to Ireland.

The Pay Review Board will deliver its findings in April and perhaps then there will be hope for families stretched to the limit. Last year many local authorities faced huge overdrafts on their housing budgets because of tenants defaulting on rent payments. Soldiers in quarters cannot do this. Their rent is deducted from their pay packets before they see them.

So Army families cannot juggle with the rent money in a tough week. But Army families are not a burden on the State, so praise must go to them during these difficult times.

The Glasgow dustmen's strike, the drought and now the firemen's strike. Each time the troops have set to with a will, despite defence cuts and Northern Ireland which already stretch them to the limit.

But it would appear that that is part of being a soldier nowadays.

"When Britain gets back on its feet, as Britain must, we should make sure that these brave boys we send to Ulster are not just high up in the pay queue, but at its head." That was taken from a recent editorial in a Sunday newspaper. We must wait to see the outcome of the Pay Review Board in April.

The British soldier does his job and, as in the firemen's strike, other people's jobs as well.

I wish all of them and their families a Happy New Year.

Anne Armstrong

Postal problem

In a letter in the October issue, two sisters at school in England complained about the cost of writing to their parents — their father is attached to the French Army.

The Ministry of Defence has replied that if the parents of Sara and Teresa have, or could use, a 'military type' address in France, there is no reason why the children should not use the forces airletter or any of the forces' concessionary rates of postage. Details are on pages 358-360 of the Post Office Guide, which can be consulted at any post office.

Brighter bedrooms

The New Year should prove brighter — at least in the bedrooms of quarters.

White blanket stocks have gradually been exhausted and will be replaced with a variety of pastel shades.

A spokesman in the Logistic Executive explained: "It will of course take some time before the new coloured blankets get into the system but nevertheless a start is to be made in the New Year."



ALL IN THE FAMILY

WITH

ANNE ARMSTRONG

If in doubt, claim

The Government has raised the qualifying amounts for rent and rates rebates, family income supplement and free school meals.

Along with civilian families, many more Service households will now be eligible and my advice to them is, if in doubt, claim.

Here is a simple example. If you are earning a gross wage of £64.57 and have a wife and two children living in a C type quarter, you qualify for the rent and rate rebate. And remember your wife's earnings up to £5 a week are not taken into consideration, but child benefit is.

You can work out for yourself whether you qualify for the new rates of family income supplement by getting hold of the appropriate form from the Department of Health and Social Security. This is SB1 Nov 77. All you do is fill in the back of the form.

As for free school meals, the following examples give you an idea of whether you qualify. You are elig-

ible if you are a family with one child with a net income of £38 (about £65 gross), with two children and net earnings of £44.15 (about £70 gross), or with three children and net wages of £50.30 (about £75 gross).

Remember these figures for net pay are taking both parents' wages into account, but there are deductions and allowances made — income tax, national insurance, superannuation and the cost of travel to and from work. Payments for rent or mortgages plus rates are counted as allowances as are life assurance premiums and the first £5 of earnings in a one-parent family and the first £4 of the earnings of the mother in a two-parent family.

The new higher qualifying amounts came into force on 14 November 1977.

Soldier on the board?

An American Army newspaper, Army Times, reports that a soldier has joined the President's Commission on Military Compensation.

The reason, said a commission spokesman, is that he will "add to our research and analysis strength and bring first-hand knowledge of problems experienced by enlisted personnel. He is assigned to the staff task force studying Service pay and benefits."

With our own Pay Review Board due to give its findings on Service pay before April, I wonder if similar representation might be of help to them?

New form saves signatures

The old cumbersome inventories for married quarters are to be scrapped. No longer will the new occupant have to sign the number one copy at least 21 times.

Instead there will be only one copy of the new inventory which will be retained by the accommodation services unit.

The occupant of the married quarter will get a simply laid out inventory sheet showing the entitlement of 'accommodation stores' applicable to each type of quarter. Against the entitlement is a column showing the quantities issued. This sheet will always be correct at the time of takeover and it will be updated by the accommodation unit 'in order to assist the occupant in checking and laying out the stores at the time of handover.'

"One of the good things to come out of this radical change," said a spokesman in the Logistic Executive, "is the revised annex to Army Form A10 (the form on which you apply for your married quarter and your family movement)."

"This revised annex lists the contents of your married quarter by groups. In groups 1 to 7 are the items which can be 'wharfed' in their complete groups. Unfortunately, because of financial restrictions which affect all branches of the three Services, commands and dis-

tricts have had to impose certain restraints affecting the method of operating the wharf scheme.

"Your accommodation stores accountant will acquaint you with full details of these restraints upon request.

"One other point worthy of mention is the amalgamation of Army Form G8032 (the marching-out certificate) with the occupants copy of the inventory. You now only have one piece of paper to sign and this combined form records not only the handing/

taking over of the quarter but also lists the contents, records the damages the deficiencies and the surpluses (if any)."

The new system is to be started in quarters in Colchester, Shorncliffe and Rhine area within the next few weeks and it is hoped to introduce the system generally by the end of 1978.

Quarter saving

If the new scheme for unfurnished quarters in BAOR (see October SOLDIER Families Page) goes through, then the saving each year for, say, a C-type quarter will be £47.32 a year, the same as in UK at present.

The Ministry of Defence has still to confirm whether the scheme will go ahead.

Families faced bleak six months

One of the first things that struck me when I visited the windy Imjin Camp at Little Rissington is the almost complete lack of soldiers. The men were all away on a six-month tour of Cyprus, leaving 280 families behind to cope as best they could.

The camp, a former RAF station, is isolated, bleak and wind-swept. It is ten miles from the nearest station, 23 miles from Swindon, 45 from the nearest military hospital, and a whole country away from mum. Imjin Camp is the home of 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers.

A civilian housing estate would never face a mass male exodus, leaving no one to ask to repair a faulty bike or blown fuse, or mend a car, so how did these families cope?

Self-help

The first point, said the wives, was that the rear party of a small number of soldiers was a great help and, for the rest, they managed on a self-help good neighbours system.

"Wives find getting away at the weekend, or to shop, is difficult, as public transport is virtually non-existent," said Sue Keogh, a representative on the Naafi committee. "But there are many outings and trips organised, especially shopping trips to Swindon."

Driving

Miss Peggy Hunt, a civilian who has worked in the Naafi shop since the days when Rissington was an RAF station, summed up the problem: "When the RAF were here, it would never happen that all the husbands would be away at the same time. The majority had cars, so then the Naafi was adequate."

"Now that has changed. We now have 280 families who need everything from pins to frozen foods.

Many of the wives do not drive and many do not even have a car left behind for them to use if they could drive."

Safety

Now the Wives Club is trying to change that. Tricia O'Byrne explained that the club has bought two cars and with the wide expanse of tarmac runways the wives are learning to drive in safety.

And there is the consolation that husbands do not have to cringe at the sound of grating gearboxes and pay for dented bumpers and scratched doors.

Accidents

"But don't worry," said Tricia, "we don't have any runaway cars, because we come under the watchful eye of Sammy Campbell of the regimental police and, with maintenance classes as well, the wives will soon be very competent."



Above: Teenagers maintain and run their own go-karts.

There is a small medical centre on the camp which copes with everyday accidents and also runs the baby clinic.

"We have had a number of births," said Sister Betty Garvey, "and one expectant father jumped out of his vehicle and into the ambulance as it was speeding out of the gate with his wife. He just made it."

Own school

Older children have to travel by bus to school while the younger ones are lucky enough to have their own primary school on the camp. Street parties, trips to the sea-side and to the circus in Bristol all helped to, while away the hours.

Playground

A flourishing playgroup keeps the toddlers happy.

"Jobs are very hard to come by," said Eileen Dempsey, "but some-

times wives are lucky. It's really the distances involved that prevent us, especially when husbands are away."

It is by no means a bed of roses at Little Rissington but, once again, Army wives are proving they can get through by pulling together. They are self-motivated, and self-generating.

Their husbands were home in time for Christmas but it is on the cards that they will be packing their bags again in July, this time for a six-month tour in Belize.

Families page letters

Dear Anne,

I feel it is essential that the barrack inventory accountant and other people should have females to assist them in their work.

It is a foregone conclusion that the men are adequately equipped to cope with plumbing, electrics and construction of the quarters. But, I feel that a female would be the best person to choose curtains, carpets, paint etc. The men's choice of colours can be bizarre, to say the least. They have no idea of a complete colour scheme for any one quarter.

The priorities concerning these quarters are ludicrous. In Imjin Barracks here, high above sea level, the houses are cold and damp.

The first priorities have been lagging of the attic and a form of window sealing. Yet the Department of the Environment has seen fit to install first the control valves on the radiators and kitchen humidifiers which, though important, are not essential to the warmth of a house.

Many of the men in these departments feel that a wife can 'march' into a quarter with toilets and bathrooms devoid of lino, baths and toilets stained, doors that do not lock etc.

I feel that women, liberated as we are, should have representation on their board.

'Trish,'
Little Rissington.

Dear Anne,

I have just been reading a back issue of SOLDIER News and was very interested in the article 'Self-help wives beat boredom.'

We have just opened a community centre here and we too are looking for new ideas. Our ladies' evening has now got off the ground and one success we have had is a party, run on Tupperware lines, called Colormaid (paint embroidery). You can easily transform wood tiles, tablecloths and plastic containers by using transfers and this new paint.

If any other club has any ideas we can use, we would be glad to hear them.

Joyce Hart,
Jan Leightley,
Cove.

For more details on Colormaid, contact me, Anne Armstrong, SOLDIER, Ordnance Road, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 2DU.

Guides pay homage

Lady Olave Baden-Powell, the Chief Guide, died last year at the age of 88. During her lifetime she headed the vast worldwide organisation of Girl Guides and nowhere is this organisation stronger than among Army families in whatever obscure corner of the globe they may be.

Many of those girls were among the huge congregation at Westminster Abbey for the thanksgiving service for her life and work. It was the Abbey's largest congregation since the Queen's coronation.

Clever kids

Encouraging figures from the British section examination results at Afcnt's international school in Holland show a pass mark well above the national average.

Fifty-eight GCE O level papers were taken, resulting in 40 passes at grade A B or C. The 102 CSE papers resulted in 95 passes.

There are 4000 guides in BAOR alone and the number worldwide is still growing. In one of her last messages Lady Olave said: "I trust that you will continue fully to use the system of work and play that our movement provides, keeping up the fun and friendships you have made and upholding the laws that you undertook to live by when you made your Scout or Guide promise."

In the same year that Lady Olave died, her husband, the first Baron Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scout movement and first General Officer Commanding 50th (Northumbrian) Division, had a new married soldiers' housing estate at Catterick named after him.

Mrs Henry Woods, wife of Major-General H G Woods, GOC North East District, unveiled the commemorative plaque and officially named the married quarters the 'Baden-Powell Estate.'

Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, representing the family, were the guests of honour and, after the unveiling, Lady Baden-Powell and Mrs Woods were presented with bouquets by two eight-year-old Cat-

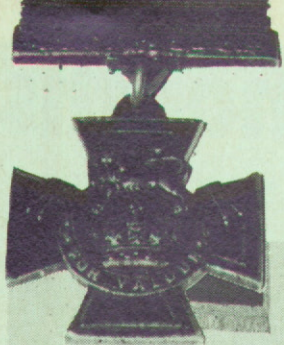
terick Brownies, Sharon Pierce and Sylvia Scott.

The late Lord Baden-Powell, then Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, was the officer who ordered the initial survey of the North Yorkshire area to find a site where a military training centre could be established and his subsequent report was a major factor in the decision to build a camp at Catterick in 1914.

Lucky car winners

Three cars and two colour television sets were the top prizes in Ssafa's biggest-ever fund-raising effort which netted a record £28,000.

Winners were Mrs Merrifield, Reading (Renault 5), S Murray, Peterlee, Co Durham (Ford Popular), R Williams, Didcot (Mini 1000). Colour TVs went to Captain T M Dalton, Lincoln, and Major Pringuer, Bulford.



The badge of courage

One of the last Victoria Crosses invested by Queen Victoria has been handed over to a regimental museum for safe-keeping.

Sergeant Henry William Engleheart, of the 10th Royal Hussars, won his supreme award in 1900 during the Boer War. Now his 67-year-old twin sons Geoffrey and Hugh have handed over the medal to the museum of the Hussars' descendant regiment, The Royal Hussars (Prince of Wales's Own), at Winchester.

Sergeant Engleheart was in a party which destroyed the railway north of Bloemfontein, then had to charge through a Boer picquet and get over four deep spruits to make their way back through enemy lines. At the fourth spruit a soldier's horse failed to get up the bank, leaving him in a very dangerous position.

The citation reads: 'In face of a very heavy rifle and shell fire, and notwithstanding the great chance of being cut off, Sergeant Engleheart returned to Sapper Webb's assistance.

'It took some time to get the man and his horse out of the spruit, and the position became momentarily more critical owing to the advance of the Boers. He was, however, at last successful, and retiring slowly to cover Webb's retreat, was able to get him safely back to the party.

'Shortly before this, Sergeant Engleheart had shown great gallantry in dashing into the first spruit, which could only be reached in single file, and was still full of Boers hesitating whether to fly or fire. Had they been given time to rally, they must have destroyed the small party of British as they outnumbered them by four to one.'

On 15 December 1900, Sergeant Engleheart was invested with his decoration by Queen Victoria at the last investiture she was to hold.

He retired in 1908 while serving with his regiment in Rawalpindi. From then until 1936 he was lodge keeper at Windsor Castle.

Sergeant Engleheart died at Datchet (the present home of his twin sons) on 9 August 1939.



Above: Twins Geoffrey and Hugh pass their fathers medals on to former commander of the 10th Hussars Colonel Jack Archer.



Right: The hero himself, Sergeant Henry Engleheart.

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One of the most valued medals in the world has been presented to the New Zealand Army Memorial Museum.

The Victoria Cross awarded to Lance-Corporal Samuel Frickleton for outstanding bravery at Messines on 7 June 1917, was donated by his widow, Mrs V Frickleton, of Stokes Valley, Wellington.

The Chief of General Staff, Major-General R D P Hassett, said the Army was honoured by the presentation and deeply grateful to Mrs Frickleton.

Corporal Frickleton was awarded the Victoria Cross following courageous action at Messines in Belgium. He headed a charge against two enemy machine-gun

posts, saving the lives of many of his comrades. He was wounded twice during the action.

He was a member of 3rd Battalion, 3rd Rifle (NZ) Brigade, at the time and later rose to the rank of captain.

He died in August 1971 after a long illness, caused partially by gasping he received during World War One.

One of the first members of the public to see the Frickleton Victoria Cross was Mr A W Shepherd from Christchurch. Lieutenant Shepherd was at one time also a member of the 3rd Battalion, NZ Rifle Brigade. He is seen here admiring the presentation medal case with Sergeant McKenzie, curator of the Army Memorial Museum.

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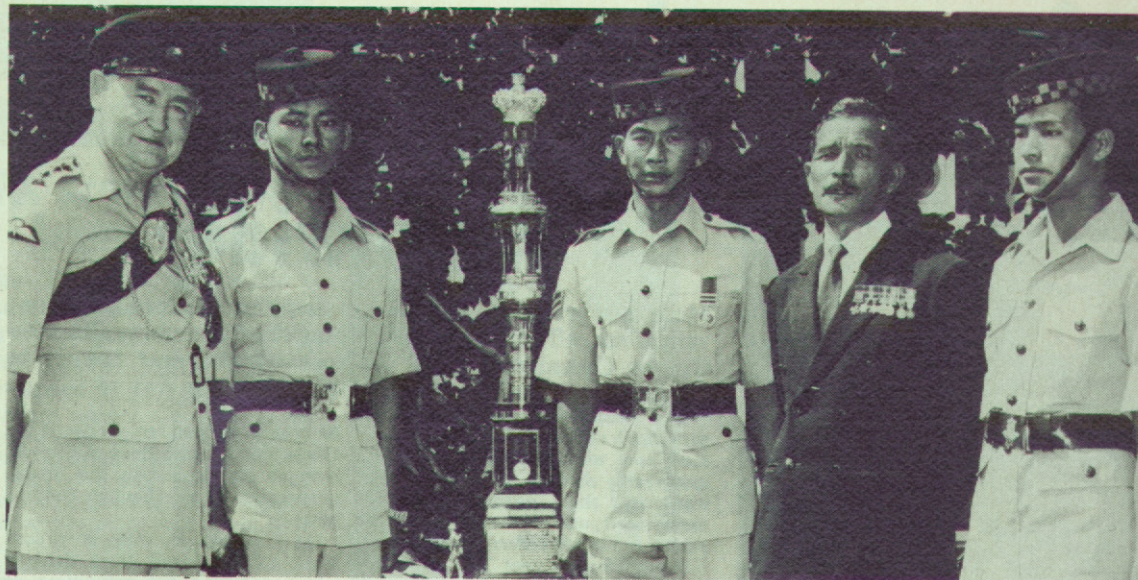
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Prospectus from Secretary. (Tel: Weymouth 2977).



Havildar Bhanbhagta Gurung, who won the Victoria Cross in Burma in 1945 while serving with 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), has returned from the hills of Nepal after 30 years to visit his three sons, all now serving with his old regiment in Hong Kong.

The havildar was one of 46 old comrades who travelled from Nepal, Britain, Eire, India, Australia and other parts of the world for the first regimental reunion of the Sirmoor Rifles since 1957.

It was Bhanbhagta Gurung's first return to the regiment since his demobilisation in 1947 and his return to Nepal.

The Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Edwin Bramall, a former Commander British Forces Hong Kong and now Commander-in-Chief, United Kingdom Land Forces, flew from Britain to participate in the ten-day reunion organ-

ised to mark the first time the Sirmoor Rifles' two battalions have served together for many years. The 2nd Battalion joined the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong earlier this year after a tour of duty in the United Kingdom.

Havildar Bhanbhagta Gurung, then a rifleman, won his Victoria Cross at a position known as Snow-

den East in March 1945. After single-handedly knocking out four enemy foxholes, he then, still single-handedly, attacked a Japanese machine-gun bunker, forced two of the occupants out with smoke grenades, killed them with his kukri — the Gurkha fighting knife — and then crawled into the bunker to kill the third and capture the machine-gun.

His eldest son, Corporal Krishnabhadur Gurung (30), joined the regiment 14 years ago and is now a rifle section commander in his father's old 2nd Battalion; Lance-Corporal Chandrabhadur Gurung (26) has been with the battalion for eight years; and youngest son Private Sukbahadur Gurung (19) joined his brothers at the beginning of October after completing recruit training.

The 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) is the senior regiment in the Brigade of Gurkhas. Founded in 1815, it has won 58 battle honours during the past 160 years — more than any other Gurkha regiment.

Picture shows General Sir Edwin Bramall with Bhanbhagta Gurung VC and his three sons during the reunion.



Two crack shots — one of yesterday and one of today — get down to some serious business during the recent regimental reunion of the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles) in Hong Kong.

On the left, in traditional Nepali topi, Honorary Lieutenant (GCO) Kishanbahadur Thapa, in his day a celebrated rifle shot who once took on six Japanese tanks with his platoon of Vickers Machine-Gun Carriers. On the right, Rifleman Gamparsad Pun, a very good shot indeed who has represented the Regiment's 1st Battalion at



Bisley, instructs the old master in the intricacies of the Armalite rifle.

The two got together during an inter-battalion shooting competition staged as one of the events in the ten-day reunion.

Kishanbahadur's son, Rifleman/Clerk Parsad Thapa, is carrying on the family's Gurkha tradition and is currently serving with his father's old 2nd Battalion.



Amid the tension of anti-terrorist activity in Belfast, gunners of 49 (Inkerman) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, found time to remember the anniversary of the Crimean War battle from which they take their title, and to honour a hero of that action.

Sergeant-Major Andrew Henry won the Victoria Cross at Inkerman in 1854 when he gallantly defended the flank guns of his battery against overwhelming hordes of Russians advancing in three directions. Miraculously he survived twelve bayonet wounds and continued serving until 1870, when he died while stationed at the Royal Citadel in Plymouth in the Coast Artillery.

Though he was buried with military honours, his grave lay forgotten until 1952 when through the initiative of a retired gunner, Major G B Wilson, a granite headstone in the form of a Victoria Cross was unveiled in Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth.

And there, on the 123rd anniversary of the battle, a wreath was laid by Sergeant Norman Harris who had travelled from G Battery, 2nd Division RA, of which Andrew Henry was sergeant-major in 1854.

Inkerman Battery is part of 40 Field Regiment.

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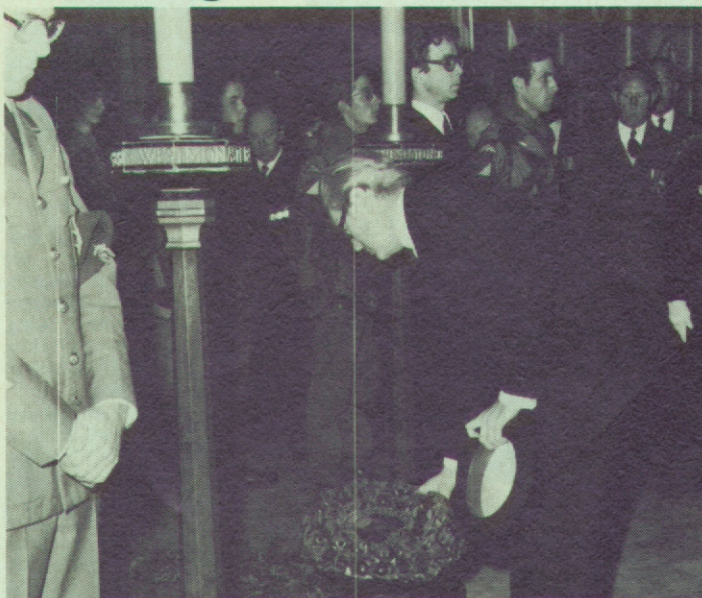
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Belgian tribute



As the strains of the Last Post died away in Westminster Abbey, a small band of Belgian war veterans remembered the dead of two world wars and the sacrifices their country had made in both.

The veterans, of Amicale Des Anciens Combattants Belges En Grande Bretagne, watched the Belgian Ambassador, Mr Robert Vaes, lay their wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

A torch was lit at the small ceremony which was carried to Belgium to be joined with other torches kindled by Belgian veterans now scattered all over the world.

A guard at the tomb was provided

by C Troop, Headquarters Company, 562 Parachute Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers), from Southall. This is the third year that the unit has turned out for this ceremony — and the last time it will do so wearing the red beret.

After the ceremony, the veterans, the paras, and a detachment from the Legion of Frontiersmen, marched to the Belgian Embassy.

Commission hard at work worldwide

Modern wars, natural disasters and that modern affliction, vandalism, all contribute to keeping the Commonwealth War Graves Commission hard at work all the year round, in virtually every corner of the globe.

The commission's annual report says that a million and three-quarter men and women from the Commonwealth died in the two world wars and their names are commemorated on memorials and in cemeteries in 140 different countries.

In the Suez Canal Zone, structural and horticultural repairs are still being made after the destruction caused by the 1967 and 1973 wars. Kantara War Memorial Cemetery on the east bank has only recently become accessible and work is being started there with the aid of the Canadian and Polish contingents in the United Nations forces.

Nicosia War Cemetery, between the Greek and Turkish lines in Cyprus, is being carried out by the British contingent in the United Nations force.

At Granada in Italy, a violent freak storm caused great damage which required the rebuilding of some of the terraces and considerable replanting.

Devastated

Two years ago the Gallipoli graves were devastated by fire. Last year it was the turn of Britain and the staff at Brookwood, Surrey, in particular, had to devote many hours to containing heath fires which threatened the cemetery.

At Cannock Chase War and German Military cemeteries the efforts of the staff kept the heath fires clear of the main parts of the cemeteries but there was some damage to planting and 80 headstones were cracked and destroyed.

Fighting

Though the prolonged fighting in the Lebanon resulted in considerable damage to the two cemeteries in Beirut, those at Triplo and Sidon were virtually untouched. In Ethiopia, the local war has made access to Keren cemetery impossible.

Such maintenance as is possible at

Vandalised

The memorial at Liverpool, commemorating merchant seamen lost at sea while serving with the Royal Navy, has been badly vandalised over the years. After consultation with the City of Liverpool, the commission decided that the memorial should be renovated and remain on its present site on the understanding that it would receive the maximum local protection possible.

But it is not only long-established cemeteries with which the commission deals. Dead from both wars are still being found. Forty-four bodies were found last year in isolated areas of France, Germany and Sweden.

Discovered

Among them were the remains of four of the crew of an RAF Lancaster shot down over Berlin which were discovered and handed over by the Russian Army and buried with military honours in Berlin War Cemetery.

The unusually warm summer melted the snow covering another bomber which had crashed in a remote part of Swedish Lapland in 1942. The identified remains of the three Canadian airmen recovered were buried in Kviberg Cemetery at Gothenburg.

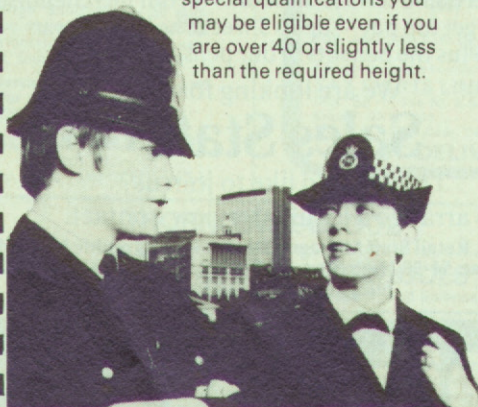
Commission spending rose during the year by more than £1,000,000 to £6,474,637. The British Government provides more than three-quarters of the cost with contributions from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Pakistan.

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Marathon postie's run

FA scores with Army stars

The Football Association's judgment in picking two Army players for a side to play Oxford University was rewarded by two goals.

Army skipper Corporal Micky Doig opened the FA XI's account with a fine chip over the Oxford defenders' heads to score and team-mate Corporal Dave Blanche was next to score with a shot from the spot when a penalty was awarded.

The FA team went on to a convincing 4-0 win. The match was watched by Army coach QMSI Eddie Green who was well pleased with his dynamic duo's performance for, apart from their major contribution to the final score, it is believed to be the first time for some years that Army players have been picked for the prestigious FA side.

Golf drive against apathy



At present there are about 12,000 members of the Army Golf Association and one thing that the newly-elected captain of the all-ranks club wants to do is to bump up this already high membership.

"Last year we had to cancel some fixtures," said Lieutenant Dave Everitt (above), the new skipper, "which with the membership we have got already is not very good."

"One of the main reasons for this was apathy, and that is one thing that must be changed. Also there are a lot of golfers in the Army who do not see any reason to join the association, but the more members we have, the better facilities we can create."

One useful facility is a network of affiliated clubs up and down the country which association members can play on so many times a year.

"This means that a man away on a course can play at a civilian club at reduced fees."

Lieutenant Everitt has a handicap of six, was captain of the Warren Golf Club in Singapore in 1973 and has been connected with the AGA committee since its inception.



A Yorkshire soldier has emulated his Greek military counterpart of 490 BC by taking part in Greece's premier long distance race between Athens and Marathon.

Private David Ellam (left), who comes from Mirfield in Yorkshire, became the first Englishman to take part in the famous Athens marathon since 1975. It was a Greek soldier, Pheidippides, who in 490 BC ran 150 miles in two days between Sparta and Athens to bring news of his country's victory in the battle against the Persian invader, Darius. In 1896, when the first modern Olympics took place in Athens, part of that historic route, between Athens and Marathon, became the Olympic marathon course.

Prominent

As a prominent long distance runner in Army circles, 34-year-old Dave's ambition has always been to run over the original Olympic course; but the prohibitive cost kept his goal out of reach until he was posted to the British Military Hospital in Berlin. While working there as the hospital postman, Dave's friends heard of his ambition and began raising funds to send him to Greece. Through dances and raffles the rest of the hospital staff managed to raise the £300 needed just in time for him to take part in this year's race.

All that was left for him to do was run the 26 miles and 385 yards, and he repaid their faith in his ability by running the distance in a personal best time of 3 hours 10 minutes, to finish a creditable 138th in a field of 1,500 starters.

Weather's wild welcome for Sappers

Two officers and six men of 1 Squadron UK (Support), Postal & Carrier Communications, Royal Engineers, received a ferocious welcome as they crossed the border into Scotland at the end of a trek lasting nearly a fortnight.

A gust of wind blew one man into a barbed wire fence and he remained pinned there by the force of the gale until dragged away by his companions. The same violent storm lifted the second-in-command of the squadron, Captain Andrew Speight, right off his feet, rucksack and all, and sent him crashing to the ground.

The sappers, led by their officer commanding, Major Peter Wescott, embarked on a march along the National Trust's Pennine Way route as part of fitness training for the annual Exercise Hardfall in Norway.

They covered 270 miles in 13 days, with the weather growing worse every day.

Their unit is stationed at Bulford Camp, Wiltshire.

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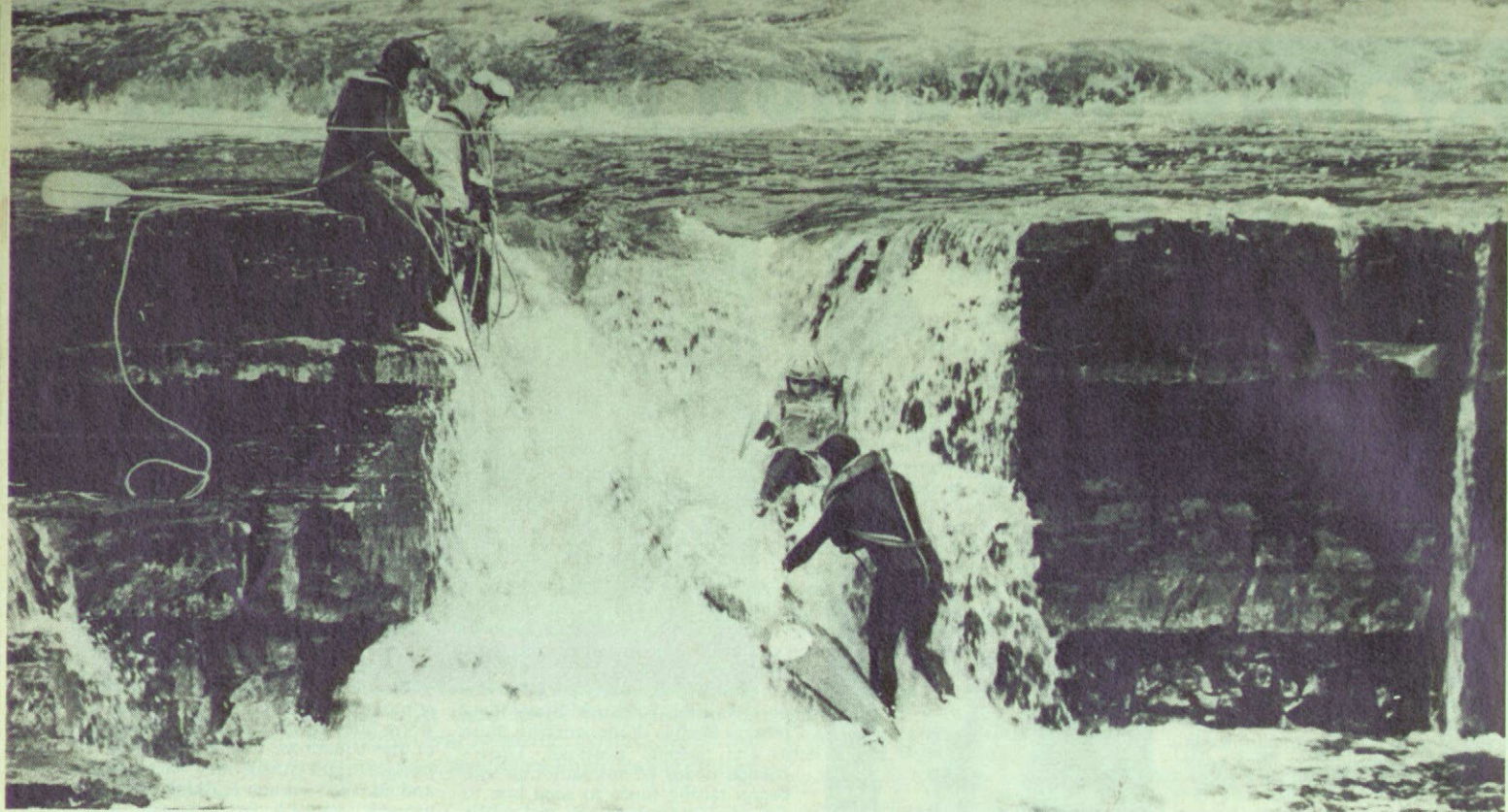


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Canoeists from all over Britain and BAOR converged on Richmond, Yorkshire for one of the most exciting — and from any Army point of view — encouraging white water races in the calendar.

The tenth annual Army 'Wild Water' in freezing conditions on the swift-flowing River Swale showed up the increase in form of Army paddlers and was a useful prelude to the forthcoming season when England selectors are bound to be looking with keen interest for Olympic contenders.

Corporal Alan Williams who did so well in the gruelling Devizes — Westminster race earlier this year reaffirmed his Olympic status by winning the K1 wild water class with a time of 36.15 minutes. He also paddled in the winning open Army team, despite gastric trouble which has kept him out of recent competitions.

"Our first priority was conserving the boats for the individual events," said team-mate Captain John Crawford, "but we were going as fast as we could. Williams is definitely on form and is well in line for the British team. This race was a good gauge for him before the season starts."

The two days of racing were a triumph for the Army who swept away inter-Service opposition and a particular triumph for 4 Field Workshop, Royal Electrical and

Mechanical Engineers, who won the Army team event and the C2 Canadian kayak. Staff-Sergeants Roger Ivy and Stan Richmond beat the British pair, Cooper and Parr, with a best time of 43.40 minutes.

Severe

Despite severe arm pains, the pair came down again in individual white water boats. They must have been pleased to see the performance of

their protégé Craftsman John Hodson, who turned in a respectable time and actually beat them down, second time round.

Captain Anne Gillespie of the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps took the women's honours, winning the Army, open and inter-Service titles.

Anne lost vital seconds at the start of the race when her spray-deck — which keeps water out of the cockpit — came loose. However, fast paddling brought her time back up to 45.35 minutes.

Cold

"The water was cold, but not as cold as I expected," she said. "On the first day the wind was behind us which meant that you could conserve more body warmth, but by the next day it had shifted round and was blowing across the water. I don't think my thumbs really thawed out at all."

Conditions over the twisting five-and-a-half-mile long course changed almost hourly. The first day saw the river level dangerously low with more jagged rocks showing than usual. But by the next day melting ice and snow higher up in the hills changed the scene completely by adding another foot to the water level.

Speed

This resulted in an immediate increase in speed as paddlers found they could manoeuvre much more easily in the faster, deeper water, although the falling water level at the end of the day again, tended to handicap some of the later starters.

Chairman of the Army Canoe Union, Colonel Dennis Franks, paddled down in the veterans race. He broke his paddle, but still managed to come second in his class.

The race was organised by the Army Canoe Union, supported by 8 Signal Regiment with 150 Provost Company Royal Military Police, 40 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, and Duchess of Kent Military Hospital providing signing and traffic control, transport and ambulance cover. Firefighting duties meant that some teams — particularly infantry — had to cancel at the last minute but more were allowed to compete and stay on two-hour standby.

Exciting

Worst hit by firefighting duties were the teams of safety divers on 15-foot falls below the race. At one stage it was feared that this exciting finale to the weekend's racing would have to be cancelled because so many of the divers were called away.

But in the end enough divers were found to make up two five-man teams to provide adequate cover, despite the fact that with the water temperature at 39 degrees Fahrenheit, they could only stay in the river for only half an hour at a time.

"It is unbelievably cold," said Sergeant Pete Dunning, of 8 Signals Regiment, "and the trouble is that for a lot of the time we are just sitting there in the water waiting to



Left: Divers rescue a young paddler who went the wrong way down the falls.

Above: Olympic contender Alan Williams powering to victory.

Below: Signalman Andy Taylor records a canoeist passing his checkpoint.



pull someone out, so when we do go in we are absolutely numb. Still, with the number of paddlers who are tumbling, it is essential to have divers right there in the water."

Braved

The paddlers who braved the falls — this was not part of the race — qualified for an insanity certificate, which is a fair comment on how dangerous the falls could be.

Sergeant John Lock from Bordon capsized before he reached the falls and was swept over while hanging on to the outside of his canoe. Luckily he shot straight to the surface, but his boat was held in the Stopper and reappeared half an hour later in two pieces. The Stopper is the 15-foot hole below the falls. The water crashing down the falls foams backwards, holding anything in it in a vice-like grip.

Several canoeists were pulled out gasping and spluttering, boats and paddles were swept miles downstream, and everyone in and on the water was chilled to the bone, but as one shivering Junior Leader said through blue lips: 'There is no other race like it, it's a real buzz. I am certainly coming back for another bash next year.'

Army paddlers freeze out opposition



Above: Top woman paddler Captain Anne Gillespie.

Below: The winning 4 Field Workshop team, strokes to the post in unison.



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Army riders win in France

Close competition characterised an international riding event in which a tri-Service British team took its share of the honours.

Captain Malcolm Wallace, Royal Artillery, Corporal-of-Horse Douglas McGregor, Blues and Royals, Corporal Jack Tarr, RAF, and WRNS Petty Officer Eileen O'Hara made up the British team at the international Services equestrian event at Fontainebleau, France, where they competed against top riders from the host nation as well as from Germany and Belgium.

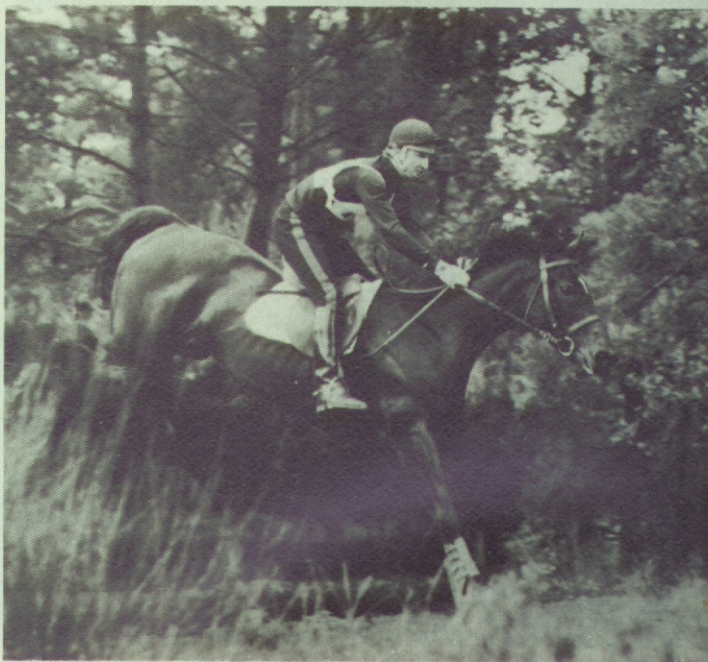
Britain pioneered the event by starting it last year at Melton Mowbray under the auspices of the Combined Services Equitation Association which sponsored this year's British entry.

A feature of the event is that riders draw for horses supplied by

the host nation and so have the added handicap of testing their skills on unknown mounts. It was a measure of the expertise of all concerned that a mere six points separated the 2nd, 3rd and 4th teams when a single fence fault incurred a 10-point penalty.

Captain Wallace (pictured below) won the dressage prize and came second in the individual placings. Germany won the team trophy with France second and Belgium third. Britain was fourth overall.

With traditional Gallic charm, the French hosts introduced a special prize for Eileen O'Hara as the only lady competitor in this major international event.



Come skiing!

No need to head for the hills — or even wait for winter — to take up winter sports these days if you're in striking distance of Aldershot's Stainforth ski slope.

The slope was originally built by the Army and has now been developed under joint management by the Army and local authorities. Manager Gary Shackleton has a staff of qualified instructors available seven days a week to teach would-be skiers at all stages of the sport from absolute beginner to advanced skier.

Instruction and equipment can cope with both downhill and cross-country skiing skills. The centre has a 100-metre downhill slope equipped with floodlights, a ski tow and a 400-metre cross-country track. There is also a clubroom and bar for that all-important après-ski enjoyment.

All charges include equipment hire and there are special rates for clubs and units. Gary Shackleton can be contacted on Aldershot Military (Aldershot 24431) extension 2299 or on Aldershot 25889.

Adventure well placed in race

Daily runs of more than 200 nautical miles were logged by the tri-Service entry in the Round the World yacht race as the boats sped towards Auckland, New Zealand on the second leg of the race. Prevailing westerly winds of 35 to 40 knots pushed Adventure along through rain, sleet and snow in very low temperatures. On 7 November she was at 53.34 South, 66.50 East and on 16 November: 55.32 South, 119.37 East. Adventure was still well up in the running being second on handicap to Treaty of Rome with Heath's Condor in the lead on the water. The heavy weather was taking its toll of sails and rigging in the fleet but so far Adventure had suffered slight sail damage and a broken spinnaker pole — albeit a spar as thick as a thigh needing two men to lift it!

Recruiters fit for anything

A recruiting team in Norfolk keeps fit for its role while away from its units . . . by keeping fit.

Deprived of their regimental Wednesday sports afternoons, the sporting quintet set about joining local civilian clubs to continue their own activities.

Sergeant Jean Tomlin (pictured), Women's Royal Army Corps, is a top table tennis player. She is a former holder of the Army women's singles and doubles championships and is current London and Eastern districts singles and doubles titles holder. In Norwich she has been playing for a local government officers' team.

Sergeant Colin Gidman, Royal Army Medical Corps, is a keen rugby enthusiast who plays for his corps. In Norwich he now turns out for the city's 2nd XV.

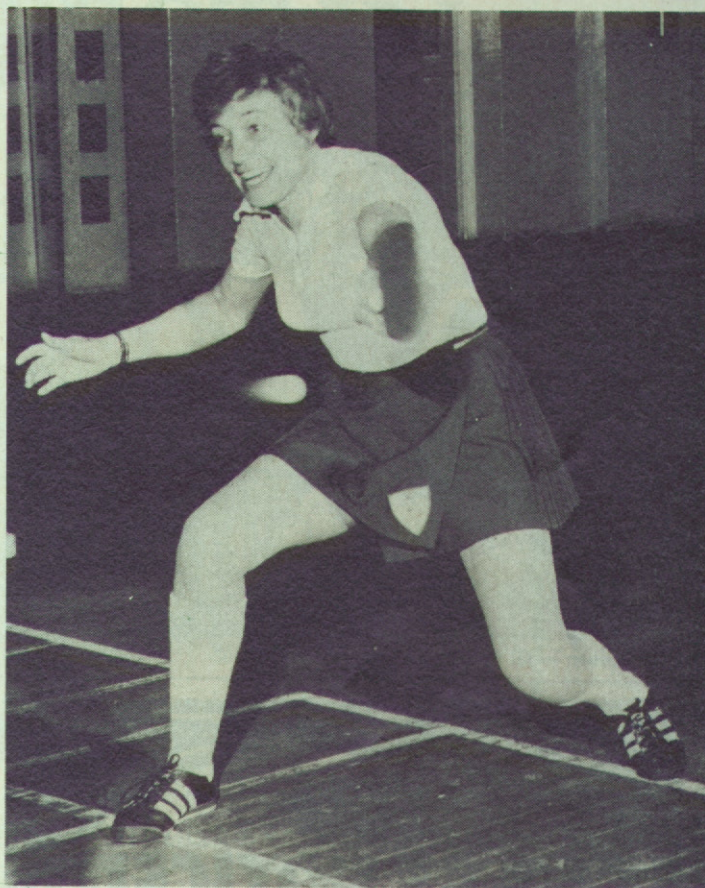
Sergeant Mick Callaghan prefers

round-balled football and has played for his unit, 49 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. He now plays for two clubs, Syderstone and RAF West Raynham.

About to return to 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, after a two-year tour as a recruiter, is Sergeant Chris Norman who has played for three local football clubs during his stay and for one cricket club. He was elected club skipper of Parkhouse FC during the 1976-77 season.

Finally a fifth recruiting sergeant, 'Naff' Norfolk of REME, is also a cricketer.

In the season just ended he headed the bowling averages at Kirkley Cricket Club with 42 wickets for 11.3 runs per wicket.



Sergeant Tomlin in action

Sports shorts

Squash

Having stormed through the fifth division of the prestigious Cumberland Cup squash league last season, the Army team look set to lead Division Four this year and hopes are high for further promotion to the next division.

Highly competitive civilian clubs have been toppling like ninepins to the Army players this season and out of seven matches to date, only the one against Bexley has been lost.

Meanwhile other matches have produced pleasing results with 4-1 wins against both the RAC and London House while Hertfordshire managed to beat the top-form Army players 3-2.

Hockey

The Army hockey team lost 0-2 in its match against Surbiton.

Soccer

An Army soccer side depleted by the call of duty to stand by during the firemen's strike was no match for a sharp Somerset team which gave them a 3-1 drubbing on their home ground at Aldershot.

Heavy reliance on the stretched skills of skipper Cpl Micky Doig and the nippy Cpl Dave Blanche left ragged holes in defence and attack that soon let the West countrymen in for two quick demoralising goals within ten minutes of the match. The seal was then set on defeat for the Army XI which needs all the strength it can muster for the major international tournament in the Kentish Cup against France and Belgium in the New Year.

There were mixed results in other matches with a win against the TAVR 4-1 and a loss to Northern Universities 2-3.

The youth side lost 1-3 to Kent in the FA Counties Challenge Cup.

Basketball

Just one point gave the Army basketball team its win in a grandstand-finish match against Middlesex BB Club. The final score was Army 91 to Middlesex's 90.

Shooting

British marksmen scored notable successes in a triangular shooting match at Fontainebleau, France, against French and Swiss military teams.

In the smallbore rifle match the British Army's Major P Martin (1 DERR) won the individual gold medal for the 60-shot prone match with a score of 594 (highest possible score 600). Captain A V Galsby (RAOC) won the silver medal in the prone, standing and kneeling match with 1132 (HPS 1200) and Warrant Officer 2 J O'Brien (REME) won the bronze with a personal best of 1131. Sergeant Bright's 1127 was also a personal best and the team scores in the prone and PS & K matches broke Army records.

Warrant Officer 2 J Cairns (SASC) came close to the national record in the pistol centre fire match and set a new Army record with 585. The team broke the Army record in both courses.

Boxing

Deprived of four boxers originally selected to represent the Army, a team of eleven lost by seven bouts to four in a match against the North East division of the NE Counties ABA. But the best boxer trophy went to welterweight Cpl M Gannon (RCT) who won his bout and a best loser's prize went to Pte P Devanney (Para) who boxed at lightweight, a division higher than his normal boxing weight. The rest of the team were: Pte D McInnes 1 BW (bantamweight — lost), Fus M Ullah (bantamweight — lost), Pte M Mannion 3 LI (lightweight — lost), L/Cpl P Harper Coldm Gds (light welterweight — lost), CoH A Hough Blues & Royals (light welterweight — lost), Pte P Cocoran LI (welterweight — won), L/Cpl C Barrett RPC (light middleweight — won), Rfn J Astbury 3 RGJ (light middleweight — lost), Cpl M Bowering RAOC (middleweight — won).

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Rally plans go up in smoke



Major Skinner — all dressed up and nowhere to go!

Speeding 'Green Goddess' fire engines had to be substituted for a dashing rally car for Lieutenant-Colonel John Hemsley when forced to withdraw from the Lombard/RAC rally due to his commitment on fire duties during the firemen's strike.

A veteran Army representative on the rally circuits of the world, Colonel Hemsley and co-driver Major John Skinner were all set to go with their brand new Japanese Mazda car when the red light of firefighting put paid to their hopes of trying out the new 1272cc single overhead cam engine on the grueling round-Britain event.

Realising the bitter disappointment of the Army duo, a sympathetic RAC held an entry open for the Clubman's event in the rally which started later than the main rally. But even that was in vain and the Mazda will have to wait until the new year to be put through its competitive paces.

'Grounded' at his Hampshire home, Major Skinner shrugged off his despondency at having to miss the RAC by looking forward to the challenge of the Mazda Hatchback Challenge and Mintex International Rallies which are both possibilities for the new Army car's debut.

Answering critics who had raised

their eyebrows at rallying being represented by a Japanese rather than a British vehicle, Major Skinner declared bluntly: "It's quite simple and straightforward — it's the only car we could get."

He added: "Obviously the choice would have gone to a British car," but he went on to explain that £50 worth of postage spent on writing letters to potential sponsors was testimony not only to his efforts to secure a sponsor but the inability of British firms to come up with the goods in the current period of strict economies.

But having been forced into the overseas market, he is by no means accepting a second best alternative in the tried and tested Mazda which he describes as a 'good little motor.'

He looks forward to putting the team's judgment to the test in the new year when he and Colonel Hemsley are keen to get back on to the rally circuit.

A winner at 14

A fourteen-year-old soldier's son emerged with top honours in the last racing series of the season at the Army's Netley Sailing Club.

Newcomer Stephen Morley — son of Warrant Officer 2 George Morley, Royal Army Pay Corps — took first place in the Autumn Series, beating a strong field of older and more experienced dinghy sailors. Second was Staff-Sergeant Lance Andrews (REME).

The other five series were dominated again by Naafi executive Mr Alan England who won the Easter, Spring and Summer series. Captain Rob Welsh was second in the Easter event and Warrant Officer 1 Charles Hurn (APTC) was runner-up in the other Spring. Second in the Summer series was Mr Derek Witts, recently retired from the RAOC as a Warrant Officer 2 in the TAVR.

WO1 Hurn was second again in the Silver Jubilee regatta when Captain David Peerless (RAPC) won. The August regatta was won by Mr Dermott O'Malley with Witts second once more.

The trophies were awarded at the club's annual general meeting where Vice-Commodore Major Roger Wilcox reported: "The club has made its mark on the sailing scene both locally and nationally."

He referred to the highly successful staging of not only all the Army's major dinghy events but the national championships of the Kestrel class and an area final of the RYA/Dunhill championships.

He added: "Most importantly we have proved we have a management team capable of running a 50 to 60 boat event with efficiency."

Changes in the committee included the election of Major-General Michael Callan (Director-General of Ordnance Services) as Commodore to replace Colonel David Worsley (RAMC) who has been posted.

Major Wilcox made special mention of the hard work put in by

Colonel Worsley during his year of office and also wished to record his appreciation of the other committee member who had been posted away from the club, Sergeant Ramsey Ord (15th/19th King's Royal Hussars), for his efforts too.

In the coming season the club plans to increase its ever-growing membership even further throughout the civil and Service communities and there are high hopes that the club — under Army control — will be able to buy its clubhouse and surrounding land when the Royal Victoria Hospital, in whose ground it stands, reverts to civil use.

Top cop hot-shots

Hamburg Police proved to be top shots in exercise 'Cop Shoot,' organised by 111 Provost Company, Royal Military Police.

Teams from Nato military police units and civilian police teams from Hamburg, Verden, Soltau, Celle, Hannover, Fallingb., Bergen-Hohne, the Bundesgrenzschutz and Autobahn Police took part in this third shooting competition.

Each team had to fire a rifle at 100, 200 and 300m targets, a sub-machine-gun from the standing and kneeling position and 9mm pistol from the standing and kneeling position at 25m. This year the Hamburg Police team won and also had the best individual competitor.

The British Military Police company from Bergen-Hohne organises the event each year.

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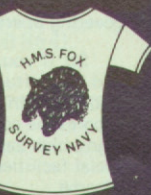
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Worcestershire

10,500	Redditch—Oaklands
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Yorkshire—North

7,150	Harrogate—The Fairways
8,995	Harrogate—Forest View
*	Harrogate—Oakdale
9,695	Leeming Bar—The Paddocks
9,995	Pickering—Firthland Rd.
11,995	Pickering—Middleton Rd.
16,750	Ripon—Hall Park
*	Selby—Orchard Lodge
*	Scarborough—The Orchard
11,250	Stamford Bridge
7,095	Skipton—Dales Gate
11,750	Thirsk—Kings Meadows
9,295	Thirsk—Dowber Lane
7,995	Whitby—Eskdale Park
12,450	York—Copmanthorpe
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21,250	York—Dunnington
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Yorkshire—South

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7,150	Sheffield—Mosborough
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9,350	Leeds—Adel Grange
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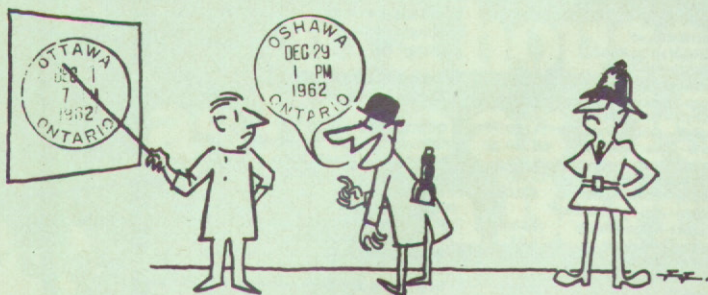
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LETTERS



Hamdi-l'Allah

I wonder if any readers remember an unofficial Army newsletter called Hamdi-l'Allah (God be praised) which circulated in GHQ Palestine and Allenby Barracks, Jerusalem, just after the end of the last war? I was its editor and I had a band of enthusiastic helpers and duplicating specialists.

Since then I have edited many different journals but none gave me anything like the fun and satisfaction that Hamdi-l'Allah did. My lasting regret was that I never kept a single copy for myself. Perhaps a reader may have one among his souvenirs which he will allow me to have copied.

Incidentally, our usual charge for the newsletter was one cigarette — which ensured that the occupants of Hut 44, Allenby Barracks, always had plenty of smokes! — **Tom Price, Windlass Cottage, Whilton Locks, Daventry, Northamptonshire.**

Renovating

I have recently acquired a 1943 Humber light reconnaissance car Mk IIIA which has been in a barn for 30 years and which I am proposing to renovate to its original condition. Information on this vehicle is rather

scarce but possibly older readers may have served in these cars in armoured car companies during or immediately after World War Two. I would be most interested to hear from anyone who was involved with the Mk III and Mk IIIA models and might have interesting information, manuals and photographs which they could lend me for photocopying. — **Tom H Thomas, 20 Dollis Hill Lane, Gladstone Park, London NW2.**

Ex-114?

There has recently been a local wave of enthusiasm for regular meetings of former members of 114 (Sussex) Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. We have had messages from here and there saying how much former members would like to meet old friends but it is difficult to trace people.

The regiment was formed in 1939 as the second line regiment of 58 (Sussex) Field Regiment and originally had a battery in Hastings and one in Eastbourne. I was a Territorial Army officer and served with the regiment through to the end of the Burma campaign so my name will be known to most. Perhaps interested former members would like to contact me. — **Warren Bugler, 20 Old Camp Road, Eastbourne, BN20 8DH.**

Where and when?

In 'Where and when?' (Letters, November), Mrs Alexandra C Bremridge queried the Crimean location of a picture of a mounted military policeman used in 'The Redcaps' centenary article (August).

I have checked back to the original source of this illustration and can confirm that it appeared in the Illustrated London News of 11 March 1855 and definitely relates to the Crimean War. Although the universal pattern helmet with a spike was introduced for infantry in 1878, a similar pattern helmet has been worn by the Household Cavalry since 1842 and by the heavy cavalry since 1845. The fact that it was a spiked helmet

was often obscured by the wearing of a plume.

An article on 'The Origins of the 1855 Uniform Changes,' in the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research, quotes a report in the Illustrated London News that the Mounted Staff Corps (the predecessors of the Military Police), raised on 21 August 1854, adopted a black felt helmet with a plume for review order and a spike for other orders of dress. It would appear that it is this helmet that the mounted policeman in the illustration is wearing. — **Boris Mollo, Deputy Director and Keeper of Records, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4HT.**



Nursing chores

I would be grateful if you would correct a wrong impression given in your article on the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital in the October SOLDIER. In the article it states that Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps nurses do not any longer have to perform chores such as bed making. This is not true and it is unfair to our nurses in both the QARANC and Royal Army Medical Corps to suggest that their work has so radically been altered.

The advent of QARANC stewardesses has helped considerably in those

hospitals where they serve. These stewardesses perform many of the 'chores' hitherto given to nurses and they help substantially with those ward duties which are more of a hotel-type of service rather than of nursing.

However, I think your readers should be assured that nurses still make beds and perform those chores necessary for the care and comfort of their patients. In many hospitals there are no stewardesses to assist them. — **Brig R H Freeman, Commanding Officer, Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Stadium Road, Woolwich, London, SE18 6XN.**

Side-drummers

A record sleeve picture in 'On Record' (SOLDIER, November) shows the band of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment headed by four side-drummers. Both my brother and I view this with a critical eye; what we observe is unbecoming and a pace away from correctness and tradition. Retired as we now are, we have never lost our interest in the way we were brought up and in the lively British Army which we still admire.

The Scots Guards drummers were the first to come under our criticism in that the side drum should hang at a slant crossing the left knee, for which many units issued a protective leather guard, pipe-clayed and strapped above the knee. The drum appears now to be pushed into an uncomfortable position between the legs or knees of the drummers.

For many years now I have concluded that modern drummers start off as jazz or pop group specialists and consequently are not taught to play the drum properly. If they were, they would not have to push the drum between their knees to obtain a straight platform for beating.

Side-drumming, correctly performed with the movements of the drumstick executed properly with the right

hand, does not require a straight platform and it is only the unorthodox drag of the right drumstick which necessitates the perfectly natural and long hang of the drum. — **F M Waters, 14 Brinkburn Court, Manor Road, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 8HZ.**

★ Side drums are now frequently carried in the fashion shown in the picture. This is evolution and not the result of new regulations — the carrying of the side drum is a matter for individual regimental decision. The old side drum had a skin 'head' and, when worn on the tilt, rain could run off without damaging the head. The modern drum is lighter and has a plastic head which is unaffected by weather. When carried level, there is a better 'bounce' from the head.



CENTENARY

The centenary of the Order of St John of Jerusalem is being commemorated by an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in London. Open on weekdays from 10am to 5.50pm and on Sundays from 2pm to 5.50pm, the exhibition is free and runs until 4 March.

It illustrates the work of the British Order of St John over the last hundred years with particular reference to the two world wars. Notable exhibits include 19th century items of uniform, mementos from the Brigade hospital at Etaples during World War One, a food parcel sent to prisoners-of-war in World War Two, and modern robes and insignia.

POSTCARDS

Two postcards have been produced by the National Army Museum from watercolours by Denis Dighton of the Battle of Waterloo. These are available at 4p each plus 7p postage (unless a stamp is supplied there is a halfpenny extra for VAT on the postage) from the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, London, SW3 4HT.



Collectors' Corner

This column is open to bona-fide collectors, not dealers. Announcements are made free of charge as a service to readers.

Sgt F A J Wright, 1667 Coughtry Street, St Laurent, Quebec H4L 2H3, Canada. — *Wishes contact experts on British sabres, swords and edged weapons. Also wishes trade Legion of Frontiersmen (RCMP Auxiliary) for Brigade of Guards items.*

Cpl T Slattery A & SH, MT Pln, Admin Coy, 1 Gordons, BFPO 806. — *Seeks badges all airborne units, also set French para wings and cap badges SAS. Please state prices.*

D Galvin, 30 Clivedon Road, Highams Park, London, E4 9RN. — *Seeks medals; has for exchange pair pre-WW2 British cavalry spurs, cloth badges, brass shoulder titles, collar dogs.*

P Banyard, 24 Holmdene Avenue, Herne Hill, London SE24. — *Fair prices paid for German Army equipment and uniforms WW2, also German naval other ranks cap WW2.*

D Bowyer, 6 The Wynd, Calne, Wiltshire. — *Wishes to buy British Army cap badges, collar dogs, buttons. Limited funds. State prices.*

John Hadden, 3/8 Piershill Square East, Edinburgh, EH8 8BD. — *Seeks records of Edinburgh Tattoo 1951 and pre-1971, also any other records by Scottish or British bands.*

R Postans, 122 Hoo Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY10 1LS. — *Seeks offers for 'War Illustrated' (complete, 255 issues, unbound) and 'War Pictorial' (complete, 85 issues, unbound), both in fair condition.*

John Norman, PO Box 319, Florida 1710, South Africa. — *Collects caps of eg police, armies, navies, air forces, prisons and traffic departments. Seeks gifts or swaps.*

J D Fisher, 28 Lilburne Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham, DL5 4LY. — *Seeks plastic economy badges*

TANKARD GOBLET AND MUG

The National Army Museum has produced a tankard, goblet and mug with reproductions from lance exercises of 1820. The goblet, illustrated here with a white paper lining to highlight the design, and the mug cost £1.00 each plus postage and the tankard is £2.00 plus postage.

No money should be sent with orders (to National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HT) — a bill showing postal cost will be included with the parcel.



WW2. Has for exchange solid gold 9ct DLI badge, hallmarked, cap badge size, pin fastener, in presentation box. B L Owen, Douglas PO, Cork, Republic of Ireland. — *Selling large collection British Army badges, all metal, including 5 RI Lancers, Munster, 4 (V) BW, 5 Border, LRDG gold badge. Send for list.*

WO1 F W Gray, RE Work Study Team, BFPO 34. — *For exchange, Athletes Vol Force (City of Exeter), R Dublin Fus, Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps, Artists' Rifles and other badges, buttons, brass and cloth shoulder titles, formation signs, collar badges etc. Large sae for list.*

WO2 Bjarne I U Sørensen, Jægersborg Kaserne, 2820 Gentofte, Denmark. — *Seeks collectors interested in swapping with English, Canadian, Australian and British overseas badges.*

Brian Dean, 11 North Cote, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 9DL. — *Young Army cadet collector wishes to buy any British cap badges, collar dogs, buttons and other militaria, especially 3rd Carabiniers, Royal Scots Greys or South Wales Borderers. Limited funds — state price; contributions welcome.*

Tom H Thomas, 20 Dollis Hill Lane, London NW2. — *Seeks spring-tensioned pull-over (or rigid type) vehicle-mounted aerial base, taking 1/2 in diameter aerial, used with No. 9 radio set circa 1941.*

T Harding, 35 Mayesbrook Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 2EA. — *Open to offers for Aldershot Command Tattoo 12in 78 rpm records C2551/1 (1931), C2437/8 (1932), C2572, C2575/6 (1933). In good condition.*

Lieut McGill Alexander, Military Academy, Saldanha 7395, Republic of South Africa. — *Seeks 'Airborne to Suez' (Sandy Cavanagh), 'Airborne to Battle' (Maurice Tugwell), 'The Special Air Service' (Philip Warner), 'The Battle of Dien Bien Phu' (Jules Ross), also airborne insignia and combat clothing. Can offer South African badges, military publications etc, or will pay for books if necessary.*

H E Moss, 6 Saxonbury Gardens, St Mary's Road, Long Ditton, Surbiton, Surrey. — *Requires current British-type bayonet and UK Korea medals to Duke of Wellington's, KOSB and Royal Norfolk. Will buy or exchange.*

Competition

September's Competition 230 ('Couplets' — an alphabetical crossword) was not easy and a third of the entries were incorrect. Answers to the clues were: Across — 1 Yeoman stock 9 On horse 10 Perdu 11 Kill 12 Ursa 13 Set 15 Apnoea 16 Flexes 19 Gib 21 Draw 22 Wage 24 Relic 25 Iron tip 26 Holy terrors; Down — 2 Echelon 3 Mars 4 No ears 5 Top sails 6 Corps 7 Look daggers 8 Quite sleepy 14 Jet decoy 17 X factor 18 Valise 20 Bilbo 23 Zoar.

Prizewinners:

- 1 P C Bowden, 509 Upper Elmers End Road, Beckenham, Kent.
- 2 G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham.
- 3 P S Day, 12 The Grove, Norwich.
- 4 C V Halden, Douglas, Scotts Way, West Chinnock, Crewkerne, Somerset.
- 5 Miss J H Jones, 11 Meadow Close, Harden, Bingley, West Yorkshire.
- 6 T J Blad, Bridles Cottage, Bloxworth, Wareham, Dorset.
- 7 Sgt H A Lovegrove RAOC, MS/A Branch, HQLF Cyprus, BFPO 53.
- 8 Maj R G Reed, Isington Farmhouse, Alton, Hampshire.
- 9 Capt B D Stacey, 46 Comd Wksp REME, BFPO 806.

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

See-the-Army DIARY

JANUARY 1978

- 21 Scottish Military Collectors Society Militaria fair, Glasgow.

APRIL 1978

- 15 Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia) Freedom of Swansea.

MAY 1978

- 20 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 27 South Midland Tattoo (27-29 May).
- 27 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (27-29 May).
- 27 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 28 Hove Lions Day (band).

JUNE 1978

- 3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 11 Hungerford Steam Rally (11-12 June) (band).
- 23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June).

JULY 1978

- 7 Catterick Army Display (7-9 July).
- 7 Southampton Show (7-9 July) (band).
- 8 Basingstoke Tattoo (8-15 July).
- 8 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.
- 9 Tercentenary parade, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh.
- 13 Kent County Show (13-14 July) (band).
- 16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (16-30 July).

AUGUST 1978

- 1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August).
- 2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).
- 4 Southsea Show (4-6 August) (band).
- 9 Plymouth Services Tattoo (9-12 August).
- 18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).
- 25 Edinburgh Tattoo (25 August-9 September).
- 27 Quexpo 78, Birchington, Kent (27-28 August) (band).

SEPTEMBER 1978

- 2 Guildford Town Show (2-3 September) (band).
- 21 Thame Show (band).
- 23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Edinburgh (provisional).
- 24 Laying up of Old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Ayr, and march past (provisional).
- 25 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, march through Glasgow (provisional).

10 Mrs P J Farnan, 4 Mount Michael drive, Belfast.

Reunions

RHA Association (Trowbridge Branch). Annual reunion dinner, New Civic Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts, Saturday 18 March 1978. Ladies welcome. Details will be circulated to all known members by 20 January. Any member who does not receive a circular and wishes to attend should contact WO2 (RQMS) T J S Carter, 5 Dean Close, Melksham, Wilts (tel home 0225-708223, office 0225-810342 ext 61).

How observant are you?

(see page 12)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Left window of coach between soldiers. 2 Black band on signal arm. 3 Sleeper in front of locomotive. 4 Door of house at bottom left. 5 Number of switches in front of right soldier. 6 Steering wheel of model lorry. 7 Left soldier's collar behind neck. 8 Tail of model aircraft. 9 Bottom step of building in front of lorry. 10 Nail of left soldier's forefinger.

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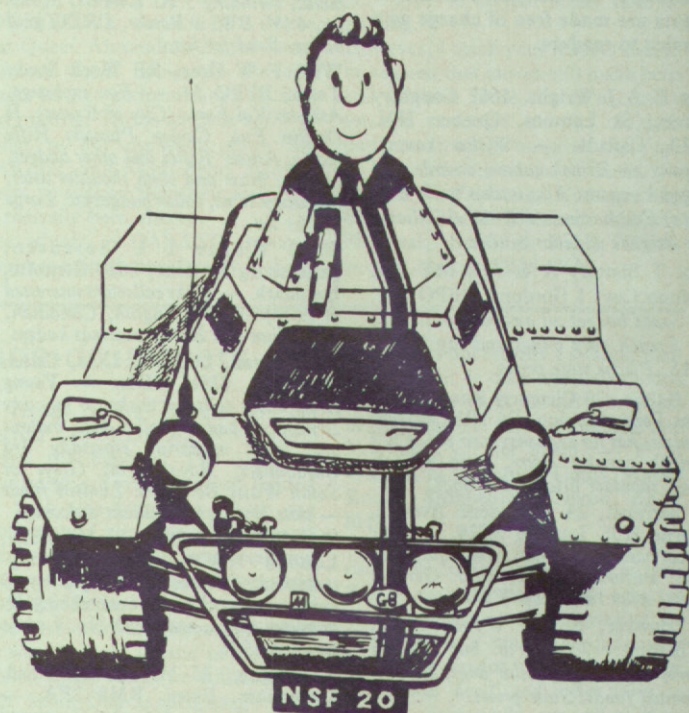
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THE AIRBORNE FORCES MUSEUM



ONE OF THE MOST modern and best equipped in the British Army, this museum outlines the development of the Airborne Forces from their inception in 1940 to the present day.

By way of introduction there is a comprehensive display of model aircraft which have played a part in British airborne history — troop-carrying gliders like the Horsa and giant Hamilcar and a wide range of planes including such veterans as the Hastings, Beverley, Lysander and ubiquitous Dakota. Nearby is the famous red beret worn by Field-Marshal Montgomery, Colonel Commandant of The Parachute Regiment from 1944 to 1956, which he presented to the museum when he opened it in March 1969.

A freefall display case with medals and team trophies stands alongside tactical freefall clothing and equipment. Reminders of two splendid feats of endurance are a pair of oars used by Captain John Ridgway and Sergeant Chay Blyth in their epic 3000-mile row across the Atlantic in 1966, and photographs of Flight-Sergeant Pat Maloney RAF and Sergeant Mervyn Evans, Army Physical Training Corps, on their 3000-mile walk across the United States in 1960.

Set out in the main exhibition hall are the original briefing models used by Lord Louis Mountbatten for the Bruneval raid, the first successful allied combined operation of World War Two. There too is a diorama of the Merville battery action by 9th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, on D-Day, 6 June 1944, and the briefing model for the Pegasus Bridge operation showing the exact positions of glider landings.

Other original briefing models indicate the dropping zones for the Normandy landing and Rhine crossing, the largest allied airborne operation of the war.

Arnhem is recalled by a clever reconstruction of two-machine-gunners covering the bridge from an upper room in a nearby house, and the Arnhem gun, a 75mm pack-howitzer, recovered from the battlefield seven years later.

Here too can be seen a lightweight bicycle as used in Normandy on D-Day with shrapnel still lodged in its frame, the prototype of a folding model, a collapsible wheel stretcher and a folding motorcycle in perfect working order. The complete equipment of an airborne soldier down to silk map, antilice powder, emergency rations, waterproof matches and miniature compass is another feature.

Lieutenant-General 'Boy' Browning, the 'father' of the Airborne Forces, is remembered by a number of personal objects — headgear, Standard and uniforms including a Royal Flying Corps style experimental

jacket of which only six were made, and three revolvers.

A Special Air Service case shows parachuting equipment and another demonstrates how a parachute works from the moment of leaving an aircraft to touchdown. A group of Polish souvenirs dominated by a Standard surmounted by a massive eagle includes the rare Polish jump badge, an officer's uniform and a flag presented to the Polish Parachute Brigade by 1st Airborne Division.

Of the Airborne Forces' six Victoria Crosses, only that won by Captain Lionel Queripel, of 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, is on show. It is part of the remarkable Queripel medal bequest comprising groups won by Captain Queripel himself, his father, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle.

A fine display of German airborne weapons and equipment is highlighted by a presentation sword inscribed 'Reichsmarshal Herman Goering' which he presented to a senior German officer for distinguished service. Noteworthy among other German relics are the key to the Berlin bunker in which Hitler committed suicide, medals, badges and insignia, and the pride of any Germany military band, a magnificent Schellenbaum hung with yak hair.

Other notable exhibits are a Jeep crated for parachuting, the nose of a Horsa glider, a collection of airborne insignia and wings, the original signal signed by General Alexander giving the Paras their nickname of 'Red Devils,' and the sealed pattern of the airborne smock and cap badge.

A small collection of medals with some good groups and a varied display of British and foreign firearms are in a separate room which also doubles as a cinema. A third room concentrates on post-war exhibits.

John Jesse

Curator: Major H M McRitchie
Custodian: Mr Tom Fitch
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Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces HQ
Browning Barracks
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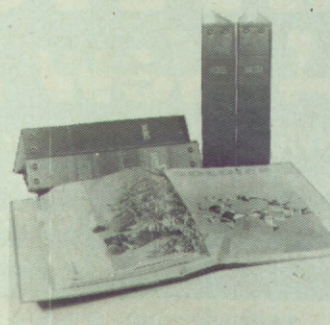
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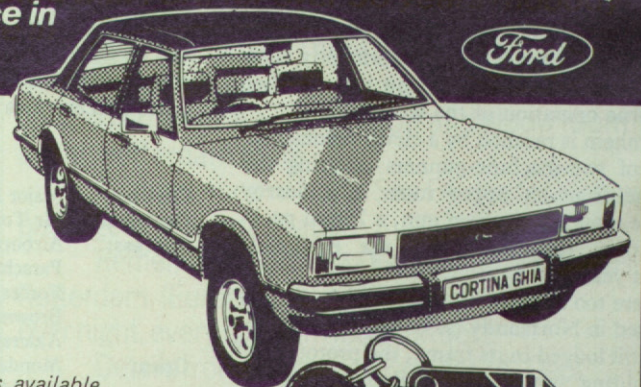
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MILITARY MODELS

BURMESE BATTLEFIELD

THE RISING SUN reached its zenith and then began to set. During the twilight of World War Two the Japanese fought with desperation. In the Pacific, kamikaze planes hurtled out of the sky on to the decks of battleships; in the Burmese jungle their infantrymen leapt on to M3 Lee tanks, thrusting swords through vision slits.

A dramatic diorama of a Burmese battlefield can be reproduced with three new plastic kits from Airfix. They are of the M3 Lee at £2.40, Japanese infantry at 75 pence a pack and a jungle outpost at £1.05.

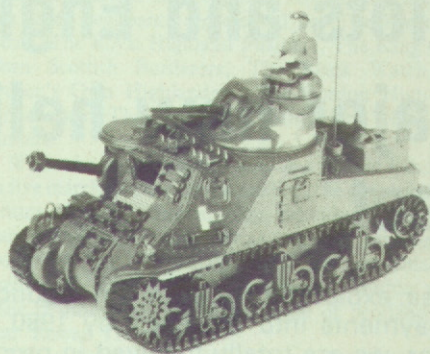
The M3 Lee is in 1:32nd scale with detailing right down to the rivets. There are several working features such as movable tracks, opening hatches, traversing turret and elevating guns. The 184 parts even include accessories like a wrench, axe, jerricans and spare track links. The kit comes complete with transfer decals for British and US Army units.

The infantrymen are also 1:32nd scale in the multi-pose series. There is a selection of heads, torsos, limbs and weapons which can be made up into six figures in a variety of

action poses, for example an officer wielding a samurai sword, non-commissioned officer firing a machine-gun and soldier running with a fixed bayonet.

The jungle outpost is in the somewhat smaller HO/OO scale but it can be set in the background to add perspective to the diorama. There are parts for a native long-house on stilts, fuel dump, sandbags, bicycles, pack mules and two Japanese soldiers.

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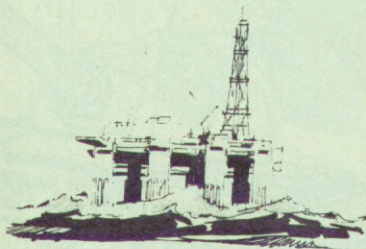
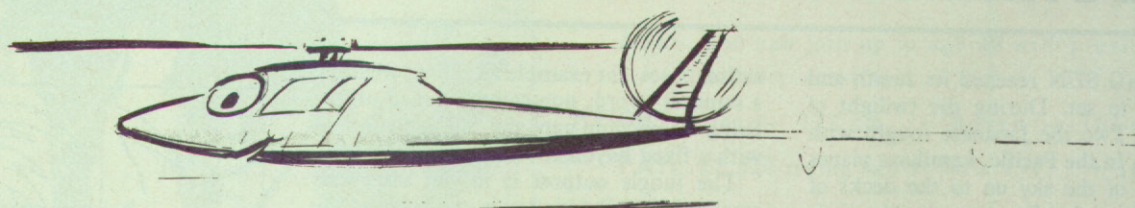
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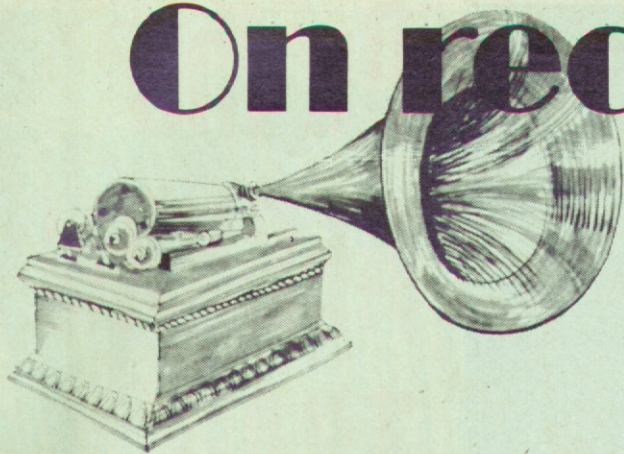
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On record



'Big Band Sounds' from the **Royal Artillery Mounted Band** (Director of Music: Captain T A Kenny) (EMI NTS 131)

Without over-use of 'the electricals' Captain Terry Kenny succeeds in his aim of making a normal military band sound anything but a normal military band. A very legitimate aim too, for the so-called standard repertoire had just about had it by the time electric guitars, organs and whatnots came into popular use.

By the 1950s and early 60s the public wanted only the lighter and more tuneful of the pre-war repertory items. Gone were the days when a concert audience would listen to (or bands could play) movements from the symphonies, symphonic poems, rhapsodies other than the hackneyed, or any other work of serious intent. They could now hear the serious repertoire, played by fine orchestras, on their transistors in their bath or in the middle of a field if they wanted to.



All this meant that the normal repertoire was reduced to about three hundred 'acceptable' items, of which about a hundred were for the better bands only. For a good ten years you could hear the same programmes day after day in Eastbourne, Bournemouth and all stations north. Something had to be done, and it is thanks to people like Terry Kenny, and to those who started the trend by putting pen to paper in the 1960s, that military bands have a wholly new repertoire of up-to-date, popular and (most important) good quality light music available. For everyone's benefit I trust that the best of the warhorses will survive, for if a band is unable to perform a standard classic then it is failing in the traditional versatility expected of a British Army band.

Sermon over, so here is this big band programme, with 'Brass Buttons' (Mantovani), 'Souvenir de Montmartre' (Reynolds), 'Doghouse' (Harrison), 'Regency Rumba' (Reynolds), 'I Love You and Don't You Forget It' (Mancini), 'Chubby Chuba' (Payne), 'Harlem Nocturne' (Hogan), 'Swaggie' (Whittaker), 'Auchtermuchty Gala' (Jimmy Shand), and five items either composed or arranged by Captain Kenny: 'Zapateado' (Sarasate), 'Trumpets Trocadero', 'Serenade for a Gondolier', 'Yes, We Have No Bananas' (Cohn, Silver) and 'Sonatina for Mandolin' (Beethoven).

RB

'The Scottish Division presents a Musical Tribute for the Jubilee Year, by the Pipes and Drums and Regimental Bands of The Scottish Division (EMI Waverley SZLP 2152)

Here I am, half out of my depth again but, working daily with a King's Own Scottish Borderer and with the Queen's Piper on my doorstep, I do not lack for advice. This tribute for Jubilee Year is the result of a combined Retreat beating in Holyrood Park in the presence of Her Majesty and the seven regiments represented are The Royal Scots, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, The Black Watch, Queen's Own Highlanders, The Gordon Highlanders and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

While the military bands play as a massed band in five marches and a march medley, the pipes and drums of each regiment play individually with bands and pipes and drums massing for the 'March of the Scottish Division' and the final medley of 'Mist Covered Mountains', 'Within a Mile o' Edinburgh Toon', 'Thistle of Scotland' and 'Rowan Tree'.

The military bands play 'Moray Firth' (McKenzie), 'Holyrood March' (Alford), a medley 'Marching with Scotland' and, on side two, 'Dunedin' (Alford), 'Pride of Princess Street' (Howe) and 'Mechanised Infantry' (McBain). The pipe tunes are less hackneyed than usual and include several new to me.

RB



Pipe music on this record: Hi Ho Hiram, The Wee Man from Uist, The Braes o' Mar, Ca' The Yowes, Lt-Col J Neish, (all played by the Gordon Highlanders); The Waters of Kylesku and The Victory Polkas (Queens Own Highlanders); Fond Farewell, Jean Hastie, The Glasgow Police Pipers and The 42nd (Black Watch); The 8th Argylls' Farewell to the 116th Régiment de Ligne, Dainahassaig, Sleepy Maggie, Bobs from Balmoral and The Blackthorn Stick (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders); McKenzie Highlanders March, The 10th HLI Crossing the Rhine, Cork Hill and Castle Dangerous (Royal Highland Fusiliers); My Land, Paddy McGinty's Goat, Lt McGuire's Jig, Campbeltown Kiltie Ball, The Country Girl and the Hungarian Fiddler and Blue Bonnets O'er the Border (King's Own Scottish Borderers); The Muir of Ord, The Piper's Waltz, Buckled Fingers and The Irish Washerwoman (Royal Scots).

'Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities Officers Training Corps Pipe Band' (Pipe-Major: Ian Glass) (Drum-Major: David Scott) (Lismor LILP 5082).

And here are another 43 tunes, this time eminently suitable for use at parties as well as pure listening. Perhaps 'pure' is questionable since two of the medleys are of pipes with piano, bass and accordion accompaniment. Purists, for all I know, have already accepted such a combination as inevitable considering their surrender on almost every other front, so we can expect pipes and electric guitars fairly soon, and haggis and mushy peas on highland menus.

This band, well-known in Scottish competitive circles and winner of many prizes, divides its programme into groups of 4/4 marches, 6/8 marches, the attractive 9/8 marches, strathspeys, reels and so on, giving you ample time to get warmed up in each tempo. The piano, bass and accordion appear in a Scottish waltz medley and an old-time waltz medley, and I must say the ensemble offends me not a bit. Some of the harmony was ill-chosen but you have a problem-and-a-half when accompanying pipes with instruments of fixed tuning.

RB

Music on this record: Pride of Scotland (slow air); Meeting of the Waters, Rowan Tree, Caller Herrin', Scotland the Brave (4/4 marches); My Home, Liverpool Hornpipe, Cork Hill (slow march, hornpipe and jig); Bonnie Galloway, Rothesay Bay, Westering Home, Skye Boat Song (Scottish waltz medley); I Am a Young Man, Muckin' o' Geordie's Byre, Cock o' the North, Bonnie Dundee (6/8 Marches); Rose Among the Heather, The Smith's a Gallant Fireman, Circassian Circle, Petronella, Paddy Whack, Connaught Man's Rambles (strathspeys, reels and jigs); Drummers' Salute; Alex F Ibell, Kirkhill, Mrs Lily Christie (6/8 marches); Loch Leven Castle, Skye Gathering, Road to the Isles (slow marches); Sweet Rosie O'Grady, Little Annie Rooney, Two Lovely Black Eyes, Daisy Belle, I'll Be Your Sweetheart (old-time waltz medley); The Banks of Allan Water, Dr Ben Jenkins, Shoals of Herring (retreat marches); 25th KOSB's Farewell to Meirut, Highland Harry, Lexie Macaskill (march, strathspey and reel); Archie MacKinley, Battle of the Somme, Heights of Dargai (9/8 marches).

'On the Beat' with the Band of the Metropolitan Police (Director of Music and Conductor: Major W Williams) (Polydor Select 2460 270) (Cassette 3170 450)

This will probably be Major Billy William's last record with the band before his retirement, and a good one it is, if very much 'on the beat' in both senses. Apart from the two marches, William Rimmer's 'Punchinello' and W V Richard's 'Namur', the programme is very lightweight. 'Punchinello' is of course a brass band march originally. Perhaps it is too soon to blow the full gaff on the origins of 'Namur' although it all happened nearly 70 years ago now. Suffice it to say that those in the know call it Kenneth Alford's 18th march. More likely his first!

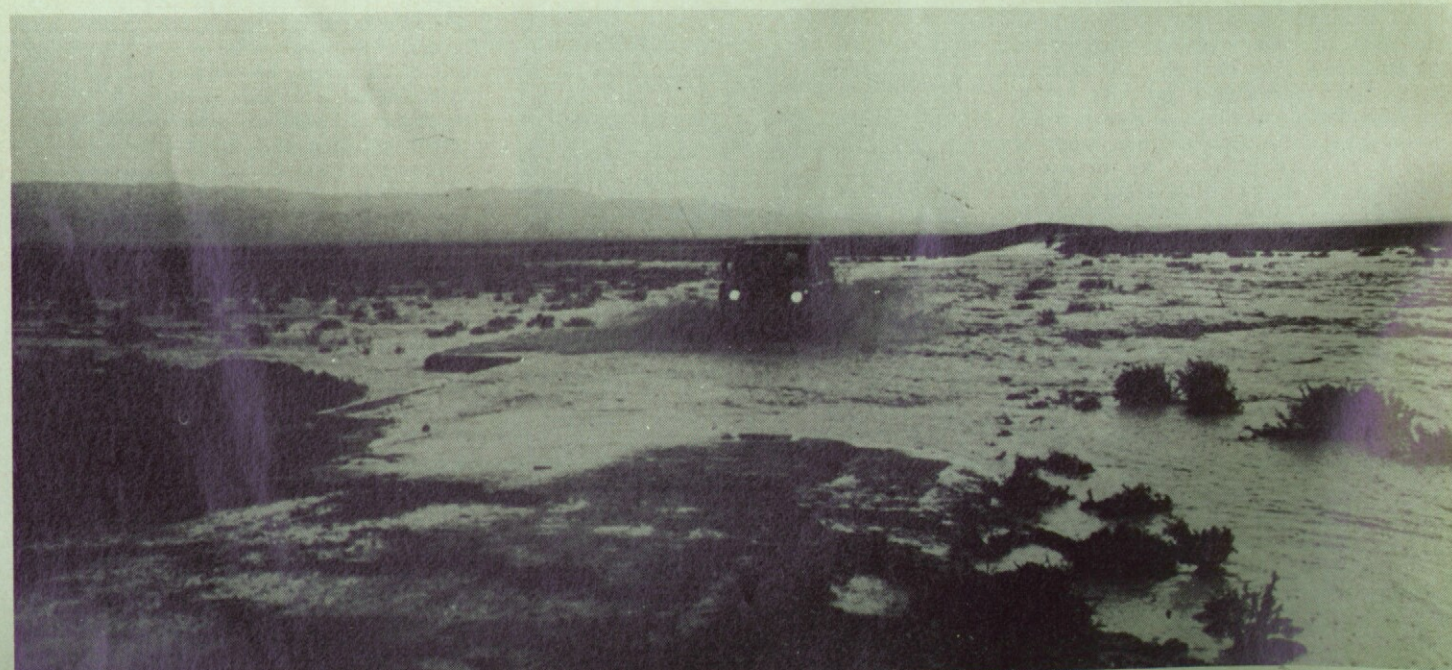
Those who know the band from its appearances at the seaside will have heard the vocalist, Alexander Morgan. Here he is in good voice with, as always, other people's pops. 'Delilah', 'Amazing Grace', and 'My Way' are not quite right for his tonal qualities; I would have thought songs that are less of the blockbuster type would suit him better.

'Singa-Songa-London' is a pleasant little medley of Cockney tunes for the band alone, and there are two items from the Andrew Lloyd-Webber/Tim Rice stable with 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Don't Cry for Me, Argentina'. The clarinets are featured in 'Woodpeckers Three', three arrangers have fun with Baa Baa Black Sheep in 'Arrangers Holiday', and the Jubilee is given an odd mention with 'Ring Out the Bells of Jubilee', a very tame little tango. Surely they got the tapes mixed?

So move along there, Major Billy Williams. A fine last effort. Now you can get your boots off, your feet up, and have a good rest, boyo.

RB

QUEEN'S ROYAL IRISH HUSSARS EXPEDITION



On the AFGHAN TRAIL

TOLL-EXACTING TRIBESMEN, flash floods, deserts, mountain passes and searing heat were just some of the hazards experienced by a ten-man team from The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in an epic 13,000-mile journey by Land-Rover to Afghanistan.

The two officers and eight soldiers were taking part in a seven-week exercise which combined adventurous training with reliving regimental history. For they were able to retrace the steps of their ancestors, the 4th Light Dragoons, during the First Afghanistan War of 1839.

The three long-wheelbase Land-Rovers were painted in the regimental colours of green, blue and yellow and were serviced and modified for the anticipated heat. Each vehicle had canvas beds with mosquito nets and sufficient petrol to enable 1200 miles to be covered without refilling. The team also took medical supplies, water purification kit and tinned and dehydrated food for consumption once they were out of Europe.

After leaving the regiment's headquarters in Germany, the expedition passed through

Top: Mountain crags loom above the Khyber Pass and scree slopes threaten the highway.

Left: The three expedition Land-Rovers stopped to pose for the camera in a lonely Afghan pass.

Below: A torrential downpour flooded a plain in Pakistan making an extra hazard for drivers.



Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and Iran before reaching the Afghan border. Here there was a one-day hold-up — apparently only a short delay by local standards.

Expedition leader Lieutenant Charles Weston-Baker describes the next part of the journey: "The roads in Afghanistan have tolls, which are controlled by the tribesmen of the neighbourhood. This modern equivalent of allowing them to continue their ancient custom of robbing all travellers amused us greatly."

After driving through hot, lifeless deserts to Kandahar along the 'trail,' the expedition arrived in Kabul after 14 days of hard driving. They entered the city along the

Above: A Kabul antique dealer with British and Afghan weapons — relics of the Afghan wars.

same route as the Army of the Indus nearly 140 years before.

They found Kabul a busy modern city surrounded by a circle of barren hills. The soldiers stayed at the Inter-Continental Hotel — camping in the car park!

There followed a sightseeing tour including the house where the political officer was murdered, the British cantonments and along the route of the retreating British force (the 4th Light Dragoons fortunately missed this débâcle, having left earlier).

On the return journey the 1977 British

soldiers decided to go through the deserts of Western Pakistan. The drive to Quetta was hazardous as they encountered heavy rain in the desert — which turned dirt roads into quagmires. Many vehicles had become bogged down and one truck had overturned in a ford. Staff-Sergeant James Roxborough used his flair to organise the locals and the truck was removed.

At Quetta the Hussars were entertained by the Pakistani Army and accommodated by two British majors attending the Staff College there. This gave time for research into the First Afghan War as well as such diversions as watching a polo match.

Then it was back over the same route as the outward journey. The return journey ended on an anti-climax. One vehicle had a seized gearbox in Austria and a Land-Rover trailer picked up a puncture — just as the expedition entered Paderborn!

Said a pleased Lieutenant Weston-Baker: "The aim of the expedition had been achieved, all the members had a chance to see areas new to them, and regimental history had been relived."

The expedition was led by Lieutenant Charles Weston-Baker. Other members were Lieutenant James Hurst, Staff-Sergeant James Roxborough (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers), Sergeant Alan Kells, Corporals Colin Cowper, Nigel Briggs, Richard 'Ginger' McCartney and David Hadfield and Troopers Patrick Boyle and Jonathan Schofield.

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Although in some cases there are obviously several associations, as with number 7, only one answer for each number is required. Any acceptable answer will be accepted! If you cannot find an association for each number, send your entry in just the same — prizewinners will be drawn from all-correct answers or from those with the highest total of acceptable solutions.

Send your list, with the 'Competition 234' label from this page, and your name and address, to:

Editor
SOLDIER (Comp 234)
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This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 13 March. The answers and winners' names will appear in the May SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a 'Competition 234' label. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official prepaid labels will be disqualified.

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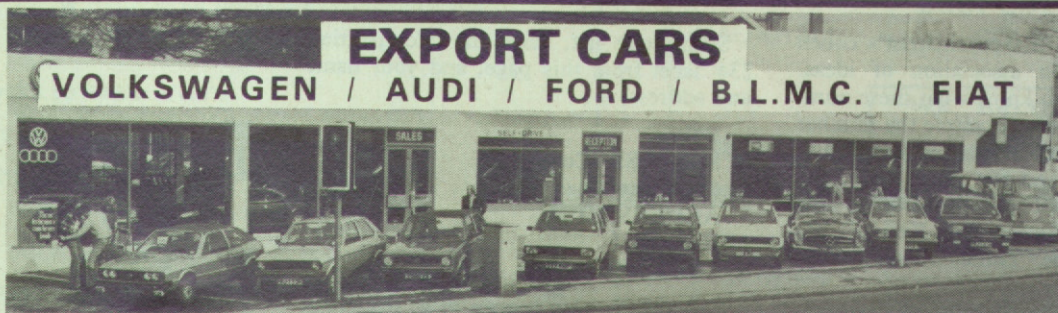
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Books

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'Great Stories of the Victoria Cross' (Sir John Smyth)

Tales of the brave, involving courage, devotion to duty and sacrifice for comrades, will always be read and re-read, told and re-told. The Victoria Cross, so sparsely awarded, pinpoints the greatest of heroes and is usually associated with dramatic actions that grip the reader and stir the imagination. Sir John Smyth, who won the VC in France in 1915, founded the Victoria Cross Association and has taken part in every VC (and VC and GC) reunion since 1920, has known personally many of these courageous men.

In this book he has assembled 32 great stories, some concerning more than one man, and now presents them as a cross-section of the 1351 VCs awarded. They cover all three Services from the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1854, through 'minor' affairs and the two world wars to Burma in 1945.

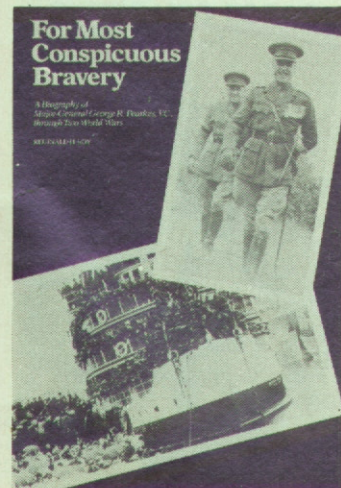
Chapter headings, which themselves tell a story, include The Taking of the Taku Forts, Three Father and Son VCs, Gallipoli 1915, Three Famous Fighter Pilots, Commander Campbell of the Q Ships, Five Padre VCs, The Model Battle of Hamel, The Sinking of HMS Glowworm, Three VCs and Bars, The Dam Busters, Three Great Submariners — and many more.

Arthur Barker Ltd, 11 St John's Hill, London SW11, £4.95 **GRH**

Making good

'For Most Conspicuous Bravery' (Reginald H Roy)

A tall young Englishman was one of a group of migrants who reached Canada from London in 1906. He was 18, alone, and hoping to become a successful farmer. What George Pearkes did accomplish, after first enlisting as a constable in the Royal North West Mounted Police, is the subject of this engrossing biography.



Sir John Smyth Great Stories of THE Victoria Cross



As one of Canada's most energetic and courageous adopted sons he soldiered through two world wars, gaining promotion from the ranks to rise eventually to major-general. After retiring in 1945, after a disagreement about policy, he became a member of the Canadian Parliament and 12 years later was appointed Minister of Defence under Diefenbaker's premiership and with an immense department responsible for about one-third of the national budget. From 1960 to 1968 he was Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

His half century of devoted and energetic service is traced in this very readable biography which also reveals a great deal of the Canadian nation's character and substance.

"I would have followed him through Hell!" was the reaction of a man serving with him at Passchendaele where he won the Victoria Cross in 1917.

University of British Columbia Press, 2075 Westbrook Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1W5, Canada, \$15.95 **GRH**

Eight battles

'Uniforms of the Seven Years War 1756-63' (John Mollo)

Not only were all the major European powers, except Turkey, involved in the Seven Years War but it also raged in North America, the West Indies and on the sub-continent of India. In that wide context John Mollo discusses eight specific engagements — Rossbach, Leuthen, Minden, Kunersdorf, Monongahela, Quebec, Emsdorf and Warburg.

This tremendously important period saw the rise of Prussia to world power status, the establishment of the British Empire and the first intervention of Russia in Central Europe. Each of the eight selected battles is analysed in detail and informative chapters on the

Blandford Colour Series

Uniforms of the
Seven Years War
1756-63



John Mollo Malcolm Neill

armies of Prussia, Britain, France, Austria, Russia and other forces set the general scene.

A feature of this instructive book is the 172 excellent coloured illustrations, many of them depicting personalities like Frederick the Great, General Baron von Loudon, Graf von Schaumburg-Lippe, the 'greatest artilleryman of his age,' and General Wolfe.

Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1LL, £3.25

Prophets

'"Boney" Fuller' (Anthony John Trythall)

'Liddell Hart: A Study of his Military Thought' (Brian Bond)

Fuller and Liddell Hart were friends for more than half a century, military writers, critics of each other's work, guinea-pigs for each other's ideas.

They were two leaders of the military prophets who called for mechanisation between the two world wars. They found more disciples abroad than at home, particularly in Nazi Germany. After a parade of armoured formations in Berlin early in 1939, Hitler told Fuller: "I hope you were pleased with your children." General Heinz Guderian, the man responsible for the Blitzkrieg, freely acknowledged the influence on his thinking of Fuller, Hart and Lieutenant-General Sir Gifford Martel. Much later, Israeli generals paid handsome tribute to Hart for the success of his ideas in their Sinai campaigns.

Major-General J F C Fuller found peacetime regimental soldiering "only a pastime" and revelled in a subaltern's independent command of Kaffir scouts in South Africa.

His military reputation was founded in World War One when he was the principal originator of the tactics and organisation of the Tank Corps, which he was later to fit into the peacetime Army. His other reputation, for what he called "violent military Bolshevism," came in 1920 with the publication of an essay calling for a fully mechanised Army with a single Ministry of Defence and a commander-in-chief to replace the Army Council.

Sir Basil Liddell Hart was a World War One volunteer who stayed on in the Army. He was invalided out in 1924 and four years later produced his most famous doctrine, the strategy of indirect approach.

More of a diplomat than Fuller (who joined the British Fascists), Hart reached a peak of Whitehall influence in the thirties when two War ministers, Duff Cooper and Hore-Belisha, consulted him frequently, not least on appointments of senior officers — which did not endear him to the generals.

Both men spent the war years and after in journalism and writing books of military commentary, later concentrating on military history.

Brigadier Trythall and Mr Bond write with admiration and affection which do not blind them to their subjects' faults. Both books are stimulating and enjoyable.

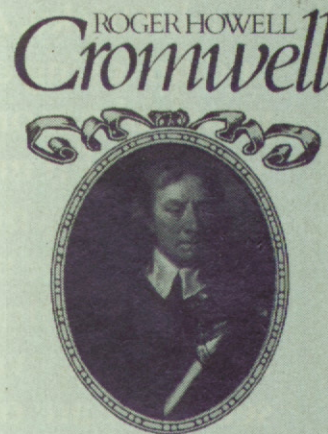
1 Cassell & Co Ltd, 35 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4SG, £6.95
2 Cassell, £7.95 **RLE**

Democrat

'Cromwell' (Roger Howell)

The author seeks to show that this was no clear-cut case of an ambitious man seeking dictatorial authority. Cromwell was apparently in favour of retaining the monarchy and his basic political principles were centred around a democratic parliament.

Here was a man of the people with God-fearing puritanical principles who was gradually edged into power, was eventually offered the kingship, yet never seemingly aspired to it and never accepted the ultimate title. He displayed a genius for success in the



field and gave the nation the idea and the beginnings of a national army.

The Commonwealth survived only two years beyond his death but he was the man of the hour who believed he was following God's will at a critical moment in Britain's history.

Hutchinson & Co (Publishers) Ltd, 3 Fitzroy Square, London, W1 6JD, £4.50 **GRH**

In Russian hands

'The Prisoners of Voronesh' (Sergeant George Newman: Edited by David Inglesaat)

Sergeant George Newman of the 23rd Regiment (Royal Welch Fusiliers) was captured at Inkerman and in captivity for nearly a year, half of which he spent walking to and from Voronesh, 550 miles from Sebastopol.

When he got back to Britain, he wrote this account of his adventures

continued over

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for the benefit of his half-brother — and remarkably well-written and interesting it is. Like many prisoner-of-war reminiscences, it is much preoccupied with food. The detail in which, months after the event, Sergeant Newman recalls individual meals emphasises how large the subject loomed in his life.

In general, the Russians treated their prisoners well, allowing them a very reasonable sum of money on which to keep themselves and a good deal of freedom to go and spend it.

A pleasant aspect of the story is the large number of civilians who helped the prisoners with hospitality, money, food and influence with authority. A surprising number were Britons and French living in Russia, but there were Russian officers also anxious to show civility to genuine prisoners-of-war.

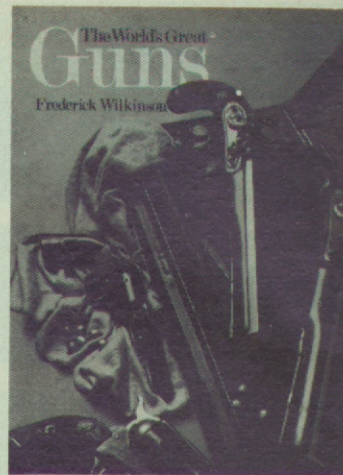
Unwin Bros Ltd and the Trustees,
RWF Museum, £7.80 **RLE**

Treasure trove

'The World's Great Guns' (Frederick Wilkinson)

There is a fascination about old weapons quite apart from the craftsmanship and the artistry which went into their creation. The history of mankind can be traced parallel to their development from the simple cannon used in Europe in the early 14th century to the sophisticated automatics now available for modern warfare.

'Guns' in this volume refers not to large guns, cannon or howitzers but to the musket, rifle, pistol and today's automatic rifles and



machine-guns — in other words the personal weapon used in medieval and modern warfare, in hunting, duelling and competition target shooting.

This book is an artistic joy and a treasure trove of discoveries with 370 pictures, 120 of them in full colour. Both novice and expert can gain knowledge and enjoyment while examining in detail the progression and evolution of guns through famous names such as Brown Bess, Samuel Colt, Winchester, Enfield and Maxim.

The author, a master of his subject, traces and explains the transition of guns through matchlock, wheel-lock and flintlock, smooth-bore and rifled barrels, muzzle-loading and breech-loading, to the machine-gun and the automatics. Good value and a goodly sized production.

Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd,
Astronaut House, Feltham, Middlesex,
£4.95 **GRH**

IN BRIEF

'World War I in the Air' (M J Smith)

No frills, no anecdotes — just the barest facts of World War One aeroplanes, the men who flew them and a detailed catalogue of relevant aviation literature listing 2035 publications.

This is a ready reference to the war's major events in the air and an informative preface lists ace pilots including such famous names as Manfred von Richthofen with 80 'kills' and Ernst Udet with 62. Britain's Edward Manock (73), Canada's William Bishop (72) and the legendary French trio, René Fonck (75), Georges Guynemer (53) and Charles Nungesser (45).

Bailey Bros & Swinfen Ltd, Warner House, Folkestone, Kent, £9.35

'The Good Book Guide' (Edited by Peter Braithwaite and Bing Taylor)

This new quarterly, of particular appeal to the busy, independently reviews non-fiction and 'selects for the general reader the best from the 30,000 plus new books published in Britain each year.'

Backing the choice of hardbacks and paperbacks, from all major publishers and covering a wide range of interests, is a direct postal supply service.

This first issue of the new guide reviews some 260 books and includes special sections by Anthony Huxley and Captain Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes Bt, on gardening and exploration, plus its

editors' Christmas selection.

Braithwaite & Taylor Ltd, PO Box 28, London, SW11 4BT, annual subscription UK £3.50, overseas £4.50

'Military Badge Collecting' (John Gaylor)

Now in its second edition, John Gaylor's book on badge collecting is deservedly popular. Every aspect of this fascinating hobby is discussed, from cavalry and infantry badges to those of schools and training establishments. There are more than 600 illustrations and an appendix which includes sections on plastic cap badges, mottoes, plumes and hackle and the present-day infantry line-up. Seeley Service & Co, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2, £7.50

MILITARY BADGE COLLECTING

John Gaylor



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