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Soldier

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FRONT COVER

The face of a soldier who has seen it all. He's Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur 'Jumbo' Preston, a North West Frontier veteran with the 12th and 19th Royal Lancers. Every year 'Jumbo' makes a pilgrimage from his home in Majorca to London, where he acts as arena manager for the Royal Tournament.

Picture by Doug Pratt



BACK COVER

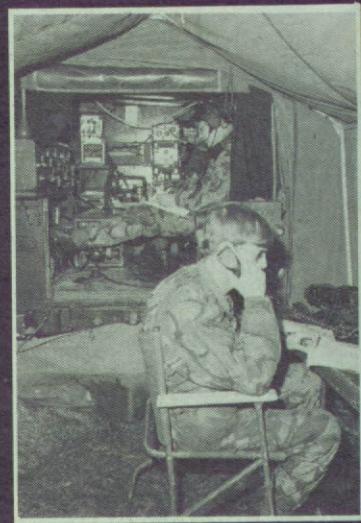
It's daybreak in the South Pacific and a patrol of 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets treads warily along a paradise beach. The picture was taken when the men left their Hong Kong base for jungle warfare training in Fiji.

Picture by Doug Pratt



10 Globetrotting members of 244 Signal Squadron are ready to go anywhere, any time, to provide communications for the RAF.

39 Stars of the film world taste action behind the Iron Curtain as a classic story takes on a new lease of life.



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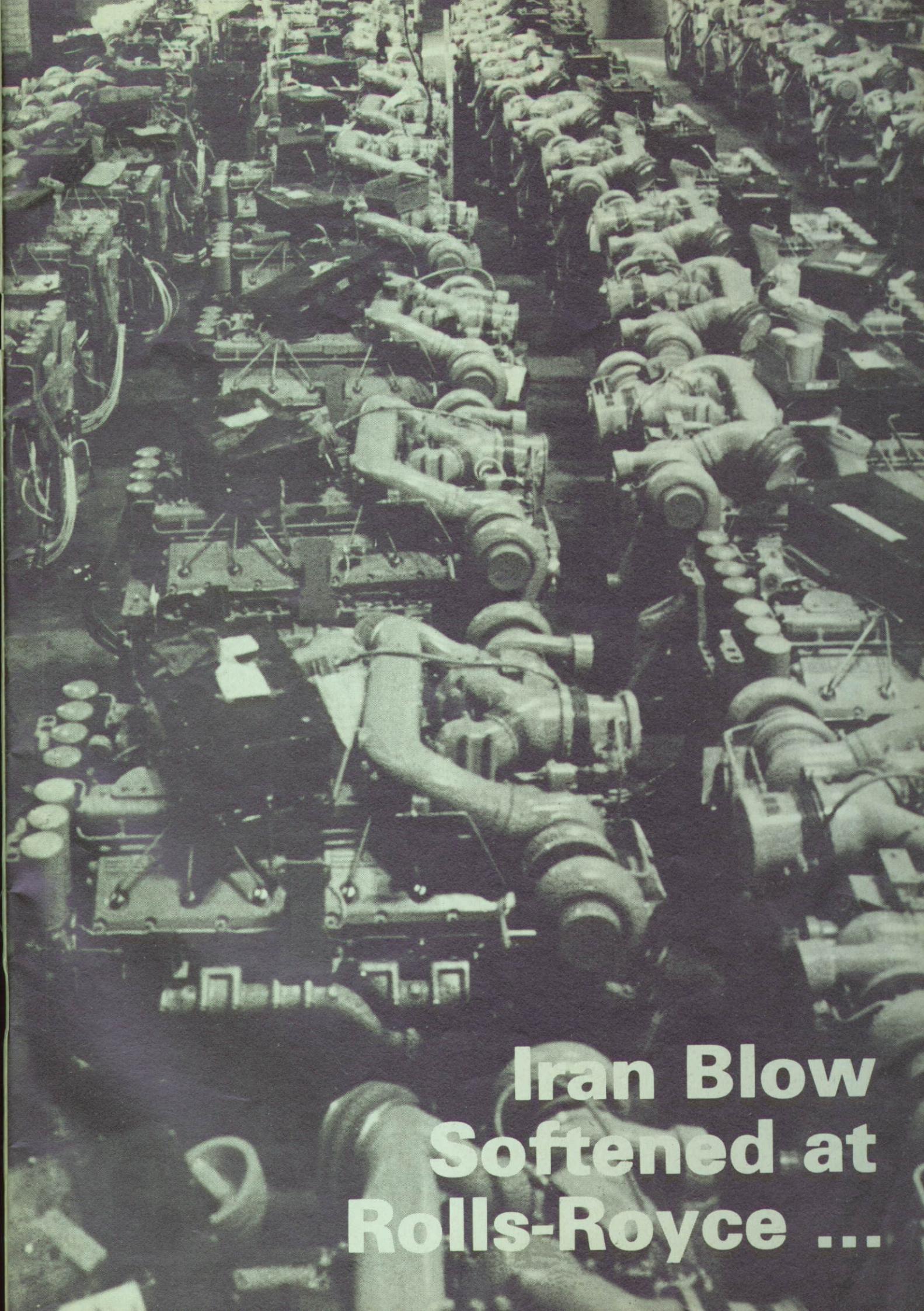
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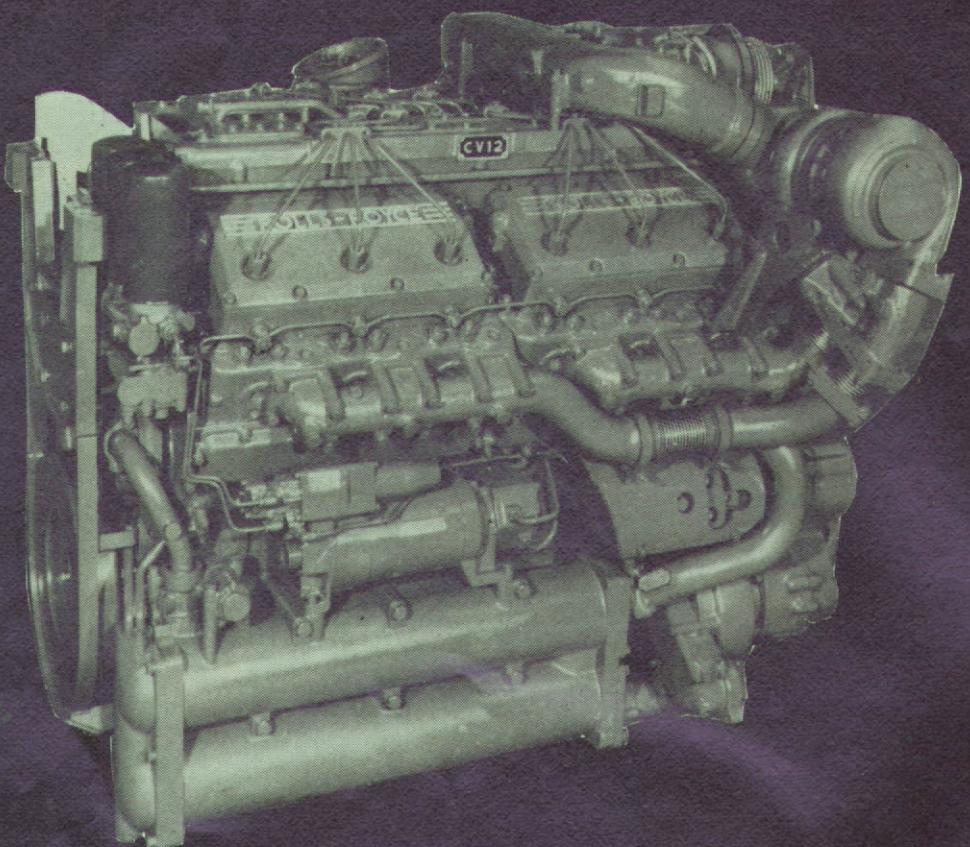
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**Iran Blow
Softened at
Rolls-Royce ...**

...CONDOR SWOOPS TO TAKE TANK CONTRACT



The Rolls-Royce Condor 12V1200 is an air-to-air charge cooled, 12 cylinder diesel, developing 1200 hp gross to British Standard test conditions at 2300 rev/min. A 60 degree Vee form, direct injection, four cycle compression ignition engine, it is exceptionally compact and weighs only 4000 lbs.

A SHADOW has been hovering over the Salopian country town of Shrewsbury since the ousting of the Shah of Iran by the Ayatollah Khomeini and his Muslim republicans. It is the spectre of future redundancies in Shrewsbury's biggest factory - the Military Engine Division of Rolls-Royce Motors, currently employing some 2500 people.

For the new government in Iran moved speedily to cancel the Shah's order for 'Shir Iran' tanks - a modernised version of the Chieftain carrying Chobham Armour and using the Rolls-Royce CV12 1200 horse power diesel engine.

No-one knows at present what will happen to the tanks for Iran which have already been built. The Ministry of Defence is considering the matter. But another Ministry decision - to select the Rolls-Royce engine, now christened the Condor, for the new main battle tank - has brought a sigh of relief to workers and management at Shrewsbury as well as at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Leeds where the tanks are made.

Competing hard for the Ministry contract were the Americans with their gas turbine engines, already chosen by the US Army for its XM-1 tank. So Mr. David Plastow, Rolls-Royce Motors' group managing director, had good reason to be jubilant. He declared: "We are convinced that the Ministry of Defence has made the right choice because the Condor range is already in military production and is backed by similar engines working in industrial fields such as commercial generating sets.

"In this respect Condor is unique in that it is the only tank engine which has been designed using commercial diesel engine technology, employing conventional materials and is also being ordered for industrial use."

In fact the Rolls-Royce management had been quietly confident that their engine would beat off the American challenge.

Earlier this year when SOLDIER visited Shrewsbury we were told: "We probably know as much about gas turbine engines as anyone else and at present their state of development for armoured fighting vehicles is not sufficiently advanced.

"With gas turbines there are problems of high fuel consumption, keeping it free from dust ingress and limiting heat signature. It has to have more volume to allow for extra fuel if it is going to have any decent range at all, it needs more space for its air cleaners and, in our view, lots of things have to be solved before it can be used for a land fighting vehicle."

It's admitted that the diesel engine has acquired a slightly dubious reputation with ordinary tank driving soldiers because of past problems. But Rolls-Royce declares that the new engine is reliable, powerful and easily maintained.

They say: "What we have developed is just a straightforward, simple engine with a high degree of reliability and durability. It has the same sort of bits as a motor car engine, it is easy to take apart and the access points have been thought out so that they can be easily got at."

The MOD decision, which is for a fleet of tanks due into service in the late 1980's, took into account all of these factors. Also

weighing in the Condor's favour was that the diesel is more easily adapted for such things as armoured recovery vehicles and bridge laying vehicles and that there is greater expertise in servicing of diesels.

It continues a long history of involvement between the Army and the famous name of Rolls-Royce, stretching back to the early days of the First World War when Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost motor car chassis were fitted with armoured bodies for use by the Army. Some of these remained in use for more than a quarter of a century. And during the Second World War the firm provided the Meteor — a petrol engine which powered the Comet, Cromwell and Challenger tanks, and later the Centurion.

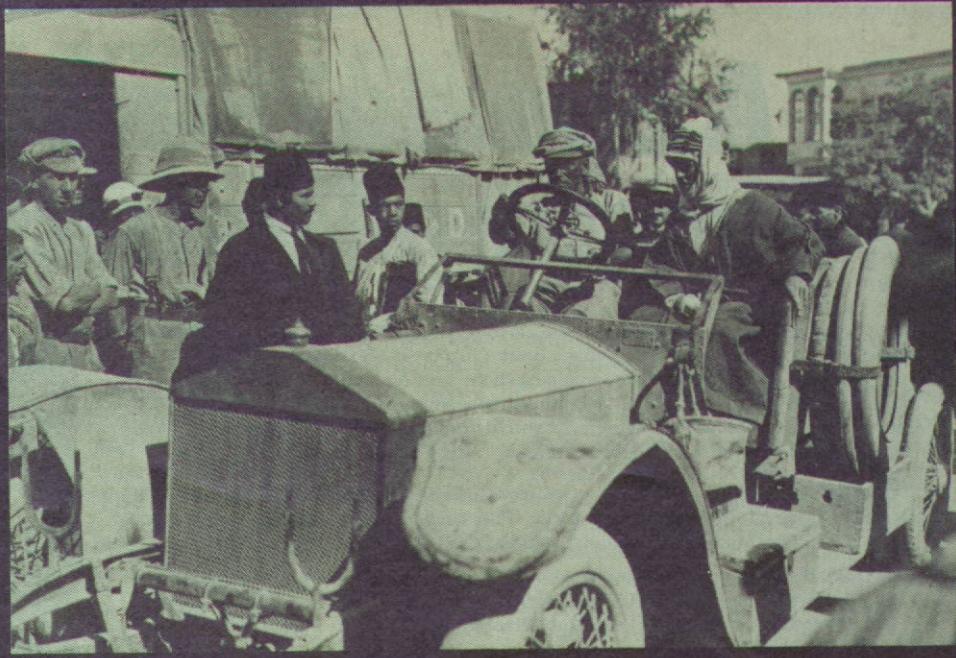
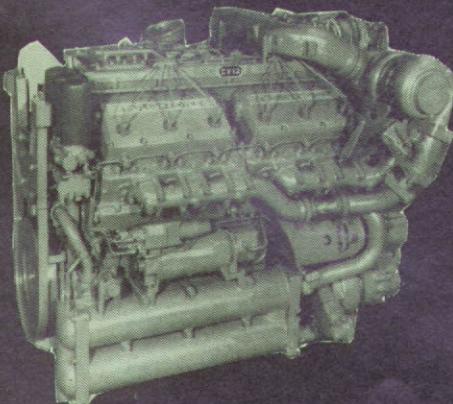
In 1948 Rolls-Royce 'B' range petrol engines were adopted as standard power units for all the Army's wheeled combat vehicles and they are in service with 27 foreign armies as well. They are to be found in such vehicles as Ferret, Stalwart and Saladin.

Other Rolls-Royce engines used by the Army include 'C' range diesels installed in logistic vehicles and engineering equipment — right up to the new Combat Engineer Tractor; Eagle automotive engines in the new low and medium mobility fleet; and 'D' range engines for marine propulsion, locomotive and electricity duties. And the 'K' range multi-fuel engines power the British FV 430 series of vehicles.

The CV12 engine which will power the new tank is also incorporated in the new Scammell Commander tank transporter, currently being trialled to replace the Army's ageing fleet of Antars.

Rolls-Royce Motors became a public corporation in 1973 and is now entirely separate from Rolls-Royce Aero Engines. Since that time the motor side has expanded considerably and the Military Engine Division has grown with it.

In 1975 a brand new factory was erected at Shrewsbury at the rear of the existing premises (the old Sentinel Works) to cope with the demand for an improved tank engine. That engine was the one affected by the revolution in Iran. But now, thanks to the Ministry of Defence, the shadow has lifted and the long-term prospects seem good for a factory bearing a name renowned throughout the world for excellence.



Above: Rolls-Royce's links with the Army date back to the First World War. Here Lawrence of Arabia rides passenger in an armour-plated Silver Ghost. Note the stock of spare tyres — essential back-up for desert roads.



Left: David Plastow, Group Managing Director of Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd.



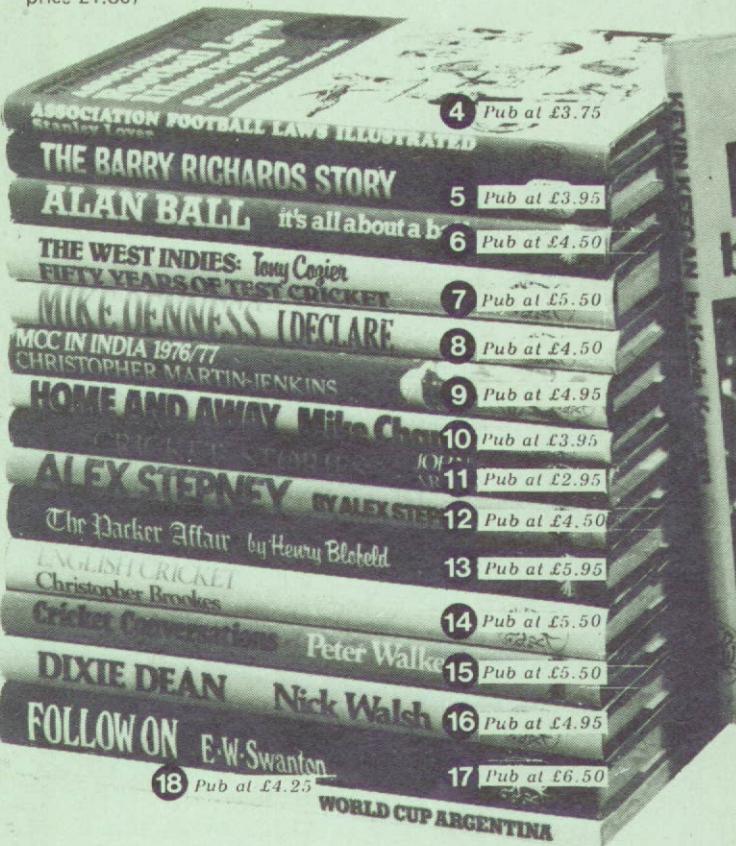
Below: The Chobham Armoured 4030/3 Tank with Condor engine.

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SOLDIER to Soldier

IT IS NOW ten years since the Army was given the thankless task of attempting to keep the peace in Northern Ireland. And after being sniped at — both literally and metaphorically — continuously during the decade, it is no fault of the soldier on the street that there is no end in sight to the horrendous toll of violence.

The British Army is well used to — and admired for — its often long and patient, sometimes swift and decisive, abilities as an internal security force. Experience was gained the hard way in Malaya, Cyprus, Borneo and Aden. But Northern Ireland brought a new dimension; here the soldiers faced their own people, speaking (more or less!) the same language in their own back yard. Many come from the Province themselves. This has sometimes made their policing rôle easier but often has made it heartbreakingly harder, with simple pleasures like home leave made literally matters of life and death.

The new dimension soon added another bewilderment to the soldiers called in to ensure fair play between the polarised factions whose bigotry thrives on the systematic destruction of its own society. As often happens to anyone who intervenes to arbitrate in a domestic squabble, the Army soon found both sides turning on it with re-doubled fury.

It is a tribute to the quality of the British soldier that the confusion this brought to his mind and the sense of injustice that went with it has only on rare occasions resulted in the sort of understandable backlash that the less well-trained would have resorted to with vigour.

Having said that, it would be fatuous to maintain that the police rôle soldiers have been made to adopt has not been resented by professional soldiers trained for more aggressive tasks in defence of their country. And it would be equally fatuous to ignore the fact that many — especially younger — soldiers have looked on their tours in Ireland as a chance for action.

Those older and more circumspect have seen it as a difficult and dangerous task with the added frustration of being able to see no light at the end of the tunnel as they patrol the streets, spat at and shot at by the mindless factions from both sides of the tragically misnamed 'peaceline'.

Soldiers used to tactical answers to military questions have been baffled — sometimes angered — in the past ten years by political decisions that have appeared to add to, rather than diminish, their difficulties in Northern Ireland.

In a way perhaps not universally to the taste of the politicians, this has strengthened the Army's traditional apolitical position in the fabric of society in that it has made it wary of politi-

cians in general of all party persuasions; an attitude it finds it shares with a large body of its ultimate paymasters — the general public.

As to that public itself, it has not forgotten the more than 300 soldiers killed in Ireland — and elsewhere — as a result of the last decade's 'troubles'. Nor must it be allowed to forget the hundreds more maimed in both body and mind by terrible injuries inflicted by bomb and bullet. Some of the public themselves have had to share the misery of such tragedies and this has forged a bond between 'borough and bayonet'.

One of the few positive things to emerge from the ten years of conflict is a renewed faith in the Army from the overwhelming majority of the law-abiding citizens of the United Kingdom who have learnt a new appreciation of its presence as a bulwark in the nation's defence at home and abroad.



SO after 12 years the wheel has turned full circle and the TAVR returns to its original name of Territorial Army. It is a change which will be welcomed by most people — the unwieldy appellation was never popular, having been brought in to illustrate that from 1967 the reservists would be smaller but more professional.

In 1967 the changes caused a furore; the Territorial Army and the Army Emergency Reserve ended and were replaced by the TAVR. Many familiar cap badges disappeared and there were complaints that the titles of many units were going to be far too long. But the dust settled and the TAVR continued to play a vital rôle in our defences. Today, the Reserve Forces are fully integrated with the Regular Forces in operational plans and the 'One Army' concept has become an accepted fact despite the sniffs of some regulars about the part-time men.

It is also good news that the tax-free annual bounties paid to volunteer reservists are to be increased to a maximum of £300 a year. Recruiting has not been a problem with the TAVR but turnover has — every year something like 30 per cent of the 60,000 force leave its ranks. This, of course means that there are lots of partly trained men around but the fully trained professional cadre is not as big as it should be.

In addition the TA member will continue to receive taxable pay. A trained private soldier for instance, putting in 27 days training, will receive £272 as well as his bounty — and he could earn more.

There are other important changes too.

From now on the minimum engagement will be three years — geared to the training cycle used by most units. More overseas training trips are promised and there will be better overnight accommodation in TA centres.

The increases will treble the annual cost of the bounty from £4 million to £12 million. But the TA remains a remarkably cost-effective fighting force, capable of providing 30 percent of the mobilised strength of BAOR for a mere three percent of the defence budget.

If the higher bounties — together with the other changes announced — succeed in reducing turnover and increasing efficiency, they will seem a small price to pay for giving the 'Terriers' more bite.



EQUAL Opportunities For Women

Has been one of the most oft-heard battle cries of the 70's. But in at least one branch of the Service it seems that it's the men who are being discriminated against. State Registered Nurses — if female — are automatically commissioned as officers, subject to them meeting the general requirements of holding the Queen's Commission. But mere males with the same qualification have to soldier on in the ranks. This is fast becoming — justifiably — a bone of contention with serving male SRNs and their case has been taken up sympathetically by their civilian counterparts who describe the anomaly as 'the last bastion to fall for male nurses'. But it will not fall until the powers-that-be in the Ministry of Defence adjust the regulations and remove this inequality. The matter is said to be 'under study' at the moment. It is hoped that this study will be translated into action as soon as possible for the sake of the hard working — and hard worked — male SRNs in the Royal Army Medical Corps so that natural justice can be seen to be done.



A MYSTERY surrounds the recent announcement that the Officers'

Club at Aldershot will, from now on, be known as 'The Royal Aldershot Officers' Club'. For the Royal title was first granted to the club as long ago as 1859 by Prince Albert yet, at some later date, apparently slipped into abeyance. Now the Queen has given permission for the title to be reassumed — but it seems astonishing that it should ever have been dropped. Perhaps one of our readers can supply an explanation?

Around the World with the Red Hand Gang



MOST OF ENGLAND WAS BASKING IN SUMMER SUNSHINE. But on the bleak Northumberland hills at Otterburn clammy mist swirled back and forth and the temperature obstinately stuck in the forties Fahrenheit. In a small group of tents and vehicles British soldiers chatted, played cards and read while they waited in vain for the mist to clear and let them get on with their job.

These men were a small detachment from 244 Signal Squadron — an Army unit operating as an integral part of a Royal Air Force wing. Their job was to provide the communications for a big Strike Command exercise — Hammer Blow 12 — involving

four days of bombing runs by Harriers, Jaguars and Buccaneers coming from Coltishall, Wittering, Lossiemouth as well as Larbruch and Brüggen on the Continent.

There were scheduled to be more than 300 bombing missions that week using a mixture of four and 28lb practice bombs and inert bombs.

When the exercise finally got going on the second day the Brize Norton-based Signal men provided ground to air links as well as relaying bombing 'scores' to Royal Air Force Upavon who in turn passed them back to the stations from which the aircraft had come. By the time the pilots returned to base they would be able to know just how

accurate they had been.

Scanning a simulated missile site (made out of an old runway caravan complemented by a circle of dinghies and telegraph poles) Sergeant Mike Partridge came to the conclusion that the mist was not lifting and turned with a sigh to talk to SOLDIER.

"The weather plays a most important part in this sort of exercise. Once you have established communications that is it. There is no traffic to speak of when there is no flying."

Sergeant Partridge has spent four years with 244 Signals Squadron, which means he has already had two extensions. And most people who join the unit like it so much that they also stay with it for as long as they can.

Says Sergeant Partridge: "I've lost count of the countries I've been to. Once men get into this unit they get used to travel and they tend to stay."

As well as supporting the RAF the squadron also provides communications for 6th Field Force exercises and the autumn tends to be particularly hectic. But there are exercises all the year round and radio technicians like Sergeant Partridge have learned not to stand on their dignity and technical expertise.

"We have to be always ready to assist the operators and there is no demarcation on jobs once you get out into the field."

Second-Lieutenant Colin Burtenshaw joined the squadron last September after Sandhurst and a six month course at Blandford (home of the Army's School of Signals).





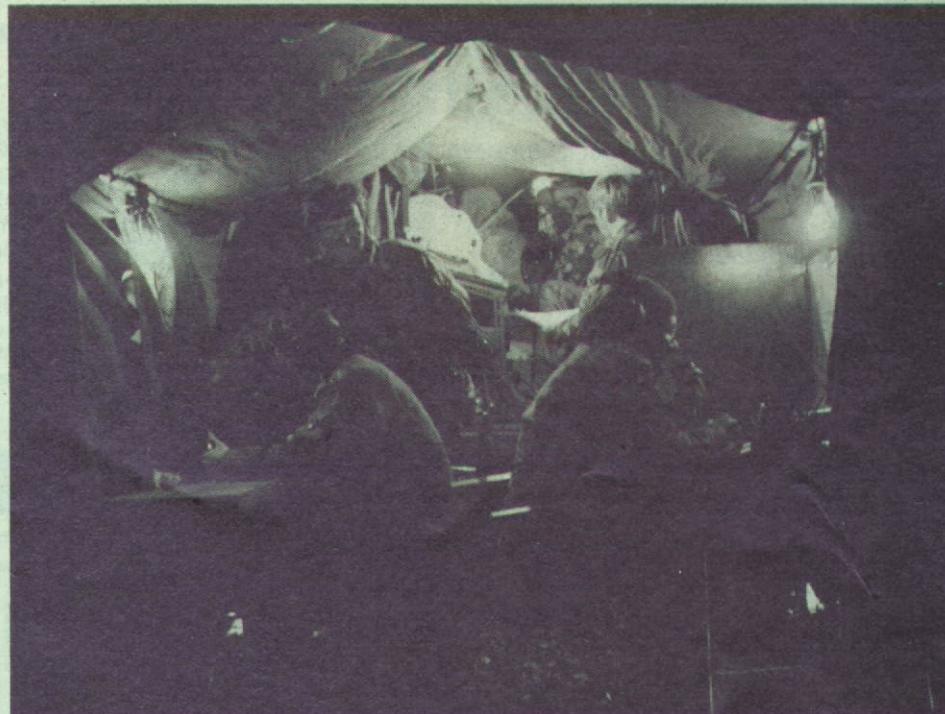
Above: Testing wind at Otterburn—will fog clear?

So, as he says "My introduction to the Army has been as part of the RAF. But I wanted this job and saw it as a great opportunity. Already I have been to Germany half a dozen times and to Norway and Denmark. And I find the only difference with air force chaps is that they wear a blue uniform."

Back at the base of the 'Red Hand Gang' (see panel overleaf) at Brize Norton on the edge of the Cotswolds they had similar stories to tell. The squadron is part of The Tactical Communications Wing, a 38 Group unit of RAF Strike Command and it currently comprises four offices and 112 other men, including its own cooks and workshop detachment.

One troop supports the Ace Mobile Force, another 6th Field Force and all of them also take part in various RAF exercises

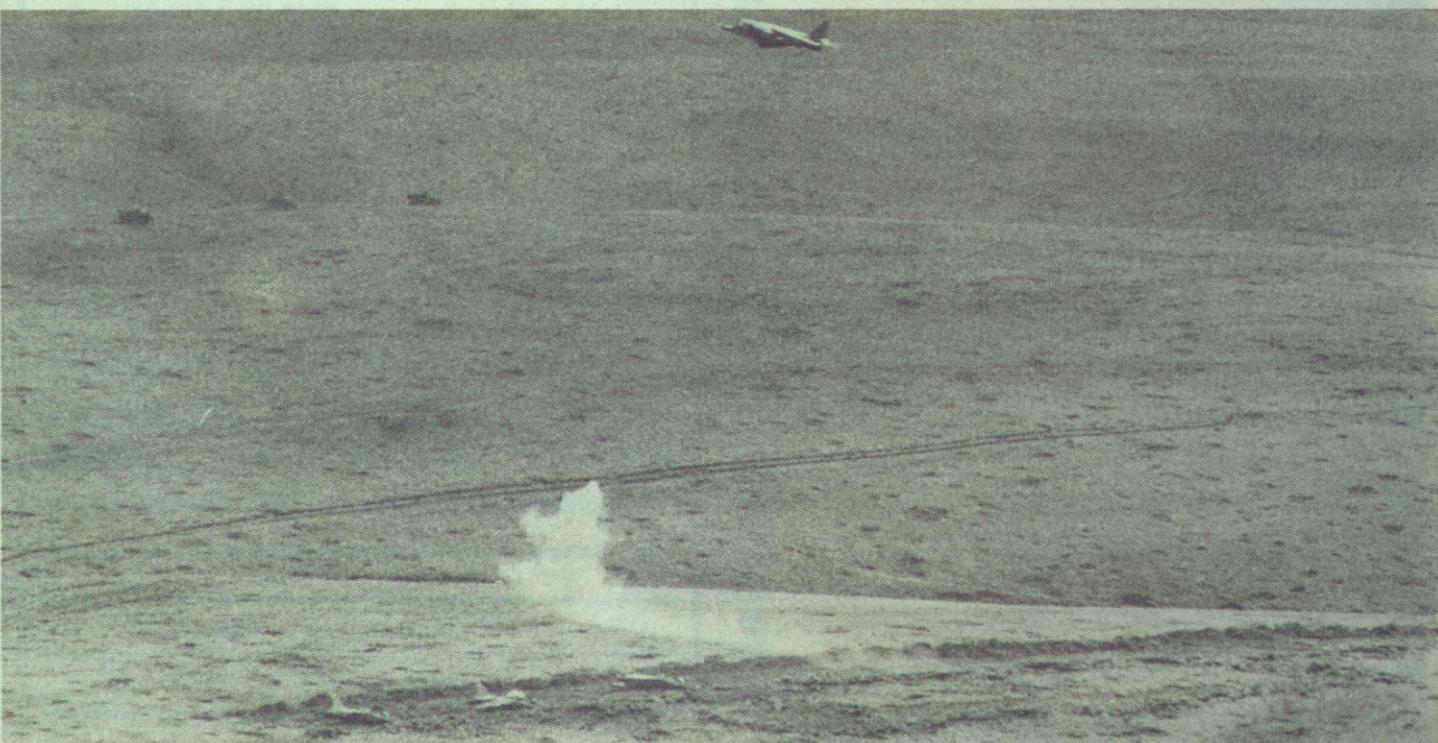
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Above: The Army signallers who work with the RAF also work for 6th Field Force. Below: The control hut at Otterburn as exercise controllers wait for the air force jets to begin their bombing.



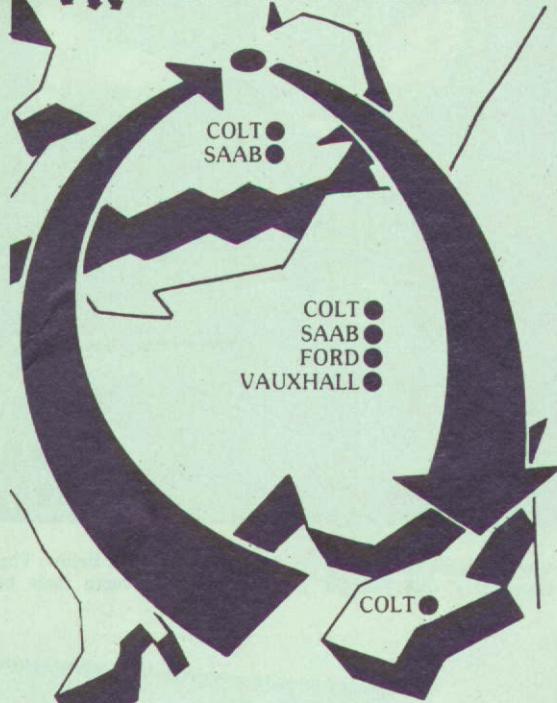
Below: Harrier drops its bomb on the target.



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around the globe. In addition there is a detached element at Upavon providing and laying out landing sites and communications for RAF helicopters.

Lieutenant Lance Byrne describes his troop as "very relaxed and very professional." He adds: "Working with 6th Field Force we move at least every other day and I pride myself on my ability to get the right people with the right equipment to the right place at the right time and do it smartly — we don't get lost."

The men of 244 Sigs spend far more time away from Brize Norton than at home. A typical example provided by Lieutenant Byrne: "We recently had an exercise finish in Wales on Friday and had to fly out to Denmark on Saturday morning. We prepared in the field, drove back and on the way the vehicle broke down. We were back at Brize Norton at 2030 that night and were going out at four in the morning. We got a replacement vehicle and stripped the old one — everyone joined in like bees round a honeypot."

Another enthusiast is Captain Mark Grieves. He says: "This is what most of us joined the Army for. We travel round a lot, we see some end product and we get to go to unusual places on unusual assignments. There are a lot of unmarried men in the squadron and they lap it up."

As the squadron is practically never at Brize Norton *in toto* there are problems. For instance in the sporting world, last season the squadron football team got off to a great start — then half of them went off on exercise and it proved impossible to sustain the momentum.

But although they are rarely united as a squadron and work from a Royal Air Force station and under RAF operational command, the men of 244 Signal Squadron are proud of their squadron and its red hand emblem which it carries on all vehicles. And this esprit-de-corps is shown by means of two or three pieces of paper every month — applications from men who wish to extend their service with the 'Red Hand Gang.'



The Red Hand of Ulster is carried on the side of all the Land-Rovers used by 244 Signal Squadron and the members refer to themselves as 'The Red Hand Gang'.

The Red Hand was chosen after the unit was formed in 1941 by its first commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel J M McNeill, a direct descendant of the original O'Neill, King of Ulster.

The Eighth Army in the desert gave official blessing to the Red Hand being retained by the unit 'providing the performance justified it'. It has been carried ever since and the squadron is now virtually the only unit in the British Army which is permitted to carry a tactical sign.



Above and below: In the wintry fastness of Norway the men of 244 Signal Squadron have to keep the communications going so that the helicopters and soldiers on the ground can work efficiently.



'AT EASE' SWEAT SHIRTS

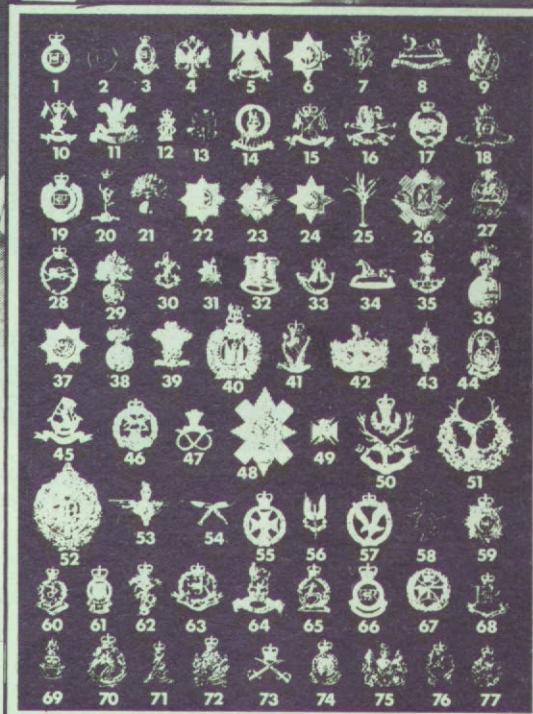


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13. 14th/20th King's Hussars.
14. 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars.
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16. 17th/21st Lancers.
17. Royal Tank Regiment.
18. Royal Artillery.
19. Royal Engineers.
20. Royal Signals.
21. Grenadier Guards.
22. Coldstream Guards.
23. Scots Guards.
24. Irish Guards.
25. Welsh Guards.
26. Royal Scots.
27. Queen's Regiment.
28. King's Own Royal Border Regiment.
29. Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.
30. King's Regiment.
31. Royal Anglian Regiment.
32. Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.
33. Light Infantry.
34. Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.
35. Green Howards.
36. Royal Highland Fusiliers.
37. Cheshire Regiment.
38. Royal Welsh Fusiliers.
39. Royal Regiment of Wales.
40. King's Own Scottish Borderers.
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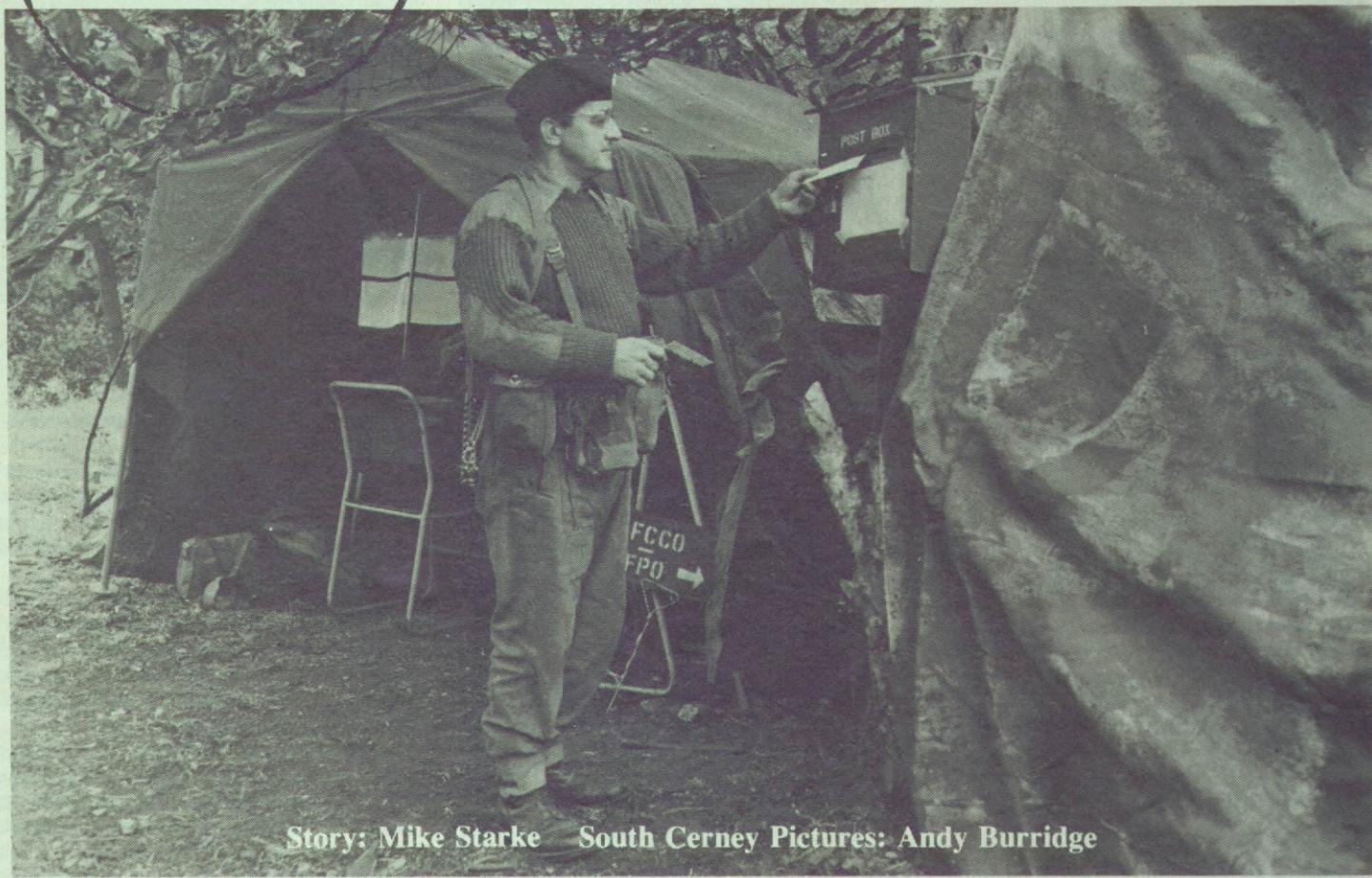
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Out on remote exercises . . . often taken for granted, you find . . .



SAPPERS ON THE MAIL TRAIL



Story: Mike Starke South Cerney Pictures: Andy Burridge

DESPITE CUT-BACKS in permanent bases for the Army overseas, units are still called upon — often at short notice — to travel all over the world on exercises or occasional operations. For the soldier a world away from his family, a letter home can make all the difference. And a band of specialists in the Royal Engineers makes sure this all-important service is maintained.

In the hustle and bustle of setting up and running a temporary town in often exotic, sometimes hostile, environments — which is what happens to exercise troops in the field — the function of the ever-present 'postie' is often taken for granted.

But like any ordinary town back home, the tented camp that becomes a temporary base has to have its own 'post office'. And not just to deal with those letters back to family and friends. A full service is offered including the sale of Postal Orders and Premium Bonds.

In fact, the exercise 'postie' — often just one non-commissioned officer but sometimes two, if say, a battalion is involved — takes with him a counter stock worth some £5000 or more, all of which he has to account for in his book-keeping.

Formally described as a Postal and Courier Services operator, the 'postie' is more or less autonomous in the field and has

to make his own decisions to keep his seven-day service running smoothly.

So it's not surprising that a lot of care and attention goes into the selection and training of postal personnel in the Royal Engineers. It all starts at the two RE Training Regiments at Cove, or the corps' Junior Leaders' Regiment at Dover where potential 'posties' are introduced to the idea of joining this particular branch of the Services. Girls are taken on, too, from the Women's Royal Army Corps Depot, Guildford.

Those selected begin their postal career at the Mill Hill, London, Headquarters of the Army Postal and Courier Services. During their seven-week B3 basic training course they learn the principles of the postal service and get first hand experience of working in a sorting office.

Here they soon learn that the PCS does not just serve the Army. It routes mail to all three Services, including the Royal Marines. A permanent cell of Royal Navy personnel works alongside its Army colleagues in Mill Hill seeing that Her Majesty's ships get their mail promptly. This often involves keeping a close eye on any sudden changes of destination so that mail can be re-routed to be there waiting for the sailors who may have been at sea for months without news from home.

Forces in the field can always rely on their mail getting swiftly and safely back home.

Mail can be dropped at sea too. In a truly combined tri-Service operation, the RAF can parachute Army-packed canisters of Royal Navy mail within 20 yards of a ship at sea.

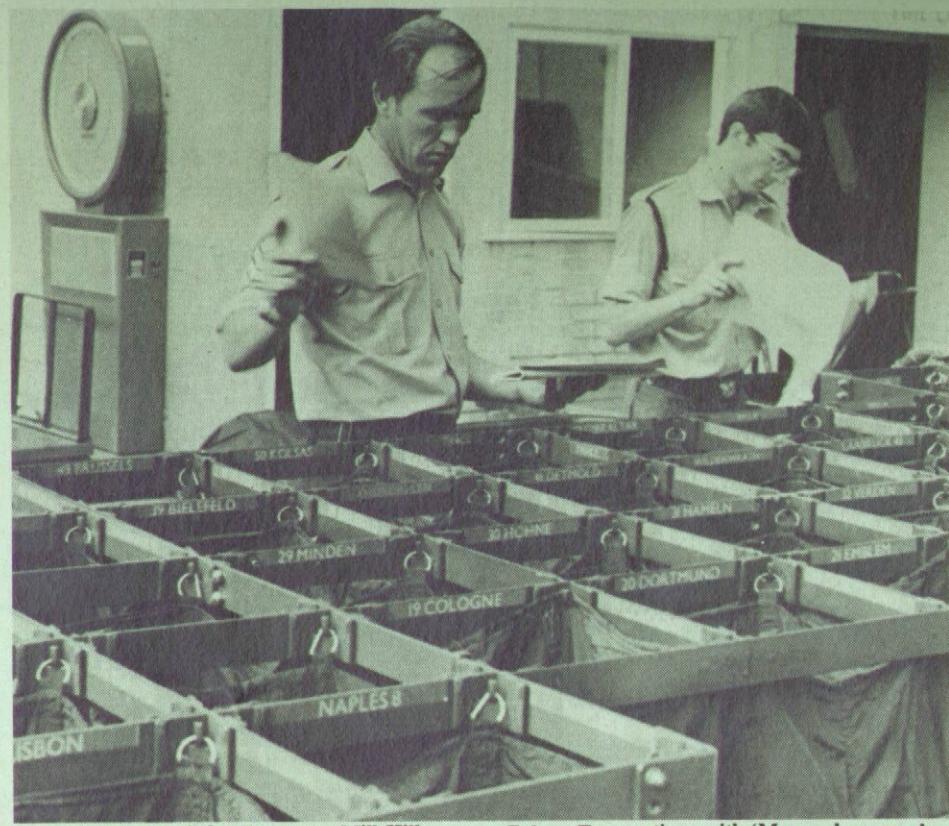
A prank once proved this could not be taken for granted though. It was Christmas time during the Beira Patrol when Royal Navy vessels hunted Rhodesian sanctions-busters slipping into the then-Portuguese colony of Mozambique to sustain the rebel regime.

The matelots aboard one frigate eagerly scanned the horizon for the first glimpse of the RAF Shackleton that would bring their mail. Sure enough, it arrived and soon the sleek canister slipped from its hold. The parachute deployed and the shock of its opening dislodged the lid of the container.

In front of the horrified gaze of the sailors, packets fluttered to their doom in the sea as the Shackleton turned for home.

But then the aircraft was seen to be returning. This time it dropped a container that stayed sealed. All was revealed: the first container had been a dummy, stuffed with

continued over



Above: Sorting mail for Europe at Mill Hill.

old envelopes by the Army 'postie' who had been faithfully serving the Beira Patrol for months. The second canister was the real thing and all was soon forgiven!

Trainees soon learn that there is a whole network of static Forces Post Offices serving bases at home and abroad. Many of these are in Germany and during their up-grading B2 course at Mill Hill they learn the ins and outs of counter service and accounting. Here they are faced with the unique problem of having to deal in two currencies as a matter of course, converting sterling to Deutschmarks and back as German-based customers pay in German cash for, say, British stamps or Postal Orders.

Eventually, when they have reached a later stage in their careers as senior nco's, the now fully-fledged 'posties' will return to Mill Hill for the third B1 course which concentrates on managerial and supervisory skills.

Although the Postal and Courier Services are always on the lookout for new 'talent,' there are up to 50 people at a time on the three types of course at Mill Hill.

Once trained, operators may be posted to one of four regiments — 1 and 3 Postal and Courier Regiments in Germany, 4 Regiment at Nato's Shape headquarters in Belgium, or 2 Regiment in South Cerney, Gloucestershire. The latter controls the lone 'posties' who support the globe-spanning exercises and has a squadron in Northern Ireland as well as a troop in Gibraltar. Additionally, it has technical control over squadrons in Cyprus and Hong Kong.

2 Regiment also maintains detachments in Goose Bay, Canada for the RAF and in Suffield for Army tank exercises, as well as in Belize and Nairobi.

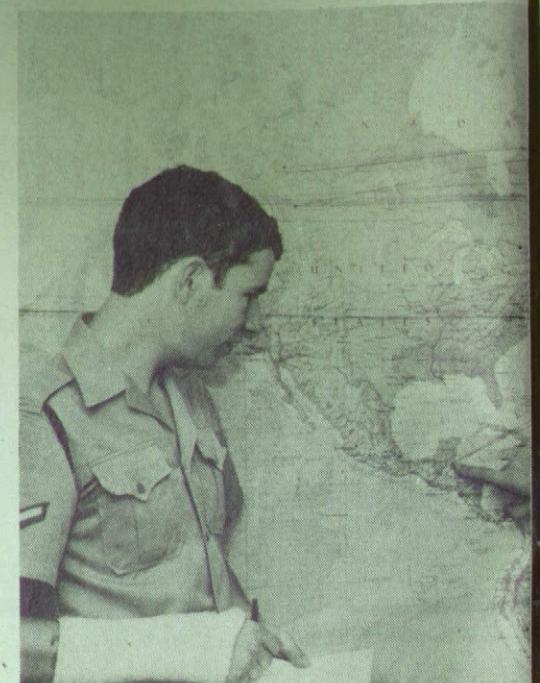
The regiment's two United Kingdom-based squadrons (20 at South Cerney and 21 at Bulford) provide the men to go off — sometimes at a moment's notice — to support troops, ships and aircraft crews throughout the world where there is no static Forces Post Office.

Below: Transactions with 'Monopoly money'.

20 Squadron — co-located with the Air Mounting Centre where troops gather for deployment abroad by air — is particularly proud of its self-appointed 'black badge' status; its shiny sapper beret-emblem dulled to tactical black for service alongside the go-anywhere Spearhead forces.

Partly because of their deployment with fighting — or exercise — troops, the men of 2 Regiment have a full programme of military rather than trade, training. For at this stage they are acknowledged experts in the postal field.

But as well as being fighting fit, it is their postal expertise which is their first concern when the call for action comes. And even if it is only an exercise, the 'postie' — as the



Above: Sgt-Maj Davidson (right) and L/Cpl Prow.

regiment's Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Neil Kelly explained — is doing his task for real.

Overseas duty is no isolated occurrence. As 20 Squadron's Sergeant-Major, Bob Davidson declared: "They come here for a three year tour and can expect to be away for at least eighteen months."

This may be ideal for the single man, but married soldiers on what is designated as an accompanied tour can end up seeing less of their families during the three year period than someone who has done an unaccompanied tour during that time!

But with regular visits to spectacular Norway, exotic parts of Africa, not to mention various parts of the United States and Canada, job satisfaction is clearly no problem in the regiment.

"Remember" says a prominent sign in 20 Squadron's office — the wall covered with a



world map dotted with pins to show places visited — "we of 20 Squadron take great pride in our role of supporting the Royal Marines, The Royal Navy, the Special Air Service, Ace Mobile Force, the Royal Air Force, 8 Field Force, on exercise anywhere throughout the world." And clearly this spirit is echoed down the road at Bulford in the sister 21 Squadron.

A significant proportion of the satisfaction and pride comes from the fact that individuals are given the responsibility to get on with the job; to sort out problems, make decisions and see the whole thing through from start to finish.

Lance-Corporal Chris Prow, a veteran of several 'campaigns' abroad, explained the routine. First comes the warning order telling the 'postie' where he's off to and with whom. His first task is to contact the Postal and Courier Services Directorate in Mill Hill to be allocated a British Forces Post Office number and a proposed route for the all-important mail home.

As often as not, this is via civilian airlines and — equally often as not — ever-changing

continued over



Above: S/Sgt Gerry Daly and his civilian postal counterpart Jerry Johnson out in Kentucky.

Below: L/Cpl Mark Hawkin readies a 'flyout' box he will take on exercise to hold all his stock.



Postie Sgt M Davison on exercise in The Gambia.

local conditions mean that problems arise which have to be sorted out on the spot by the 'postie' in the field. It's no use him signalling Mill Hill from afar — it's his responsibility and he is expected to cope.

His next step is to contact the unit he will be working with. This is done through United Kingdom Land Forces who pass on his postal instructions to the unit concerned.

Before meeting them for the first time and setting off from the Air Mounting Centre, he packs his 'flyout' box. This is a compact metal case into which is carefully placed all the stock and paraphernalia needed to run a full post office service, seven days a week, in the field. On his return, all the stock has to be accounted for and a written report made on the exercise for future reference.

Dealing with local postal staff, the Army 'postie' abroad has to call on his knowledge of the international postal regulations to make sure that all the correct procedures are adhered to.

In fact, a remarkable degree of international co-operation keeps post world-wide getting (mostly!) to the right letterboxes.

The international postal 'community' (based in Geneva, Switzerland) even has its own 'currency' — the Golden Franc — a notional coinage used to calculate the ebb and flow of mail between nations. Golden Francs represent the cost of service and carriage of the amount of mail to and from particular states. At the end of the year a balance is struck and the different countries settle up between each other in hard cash.

This is just one of the aspects of overseas postal services that the Army 'postie' has to be aware of when covering an exercise, but it illustrates the totally different world he is working in compared to, say, a normal clerk.

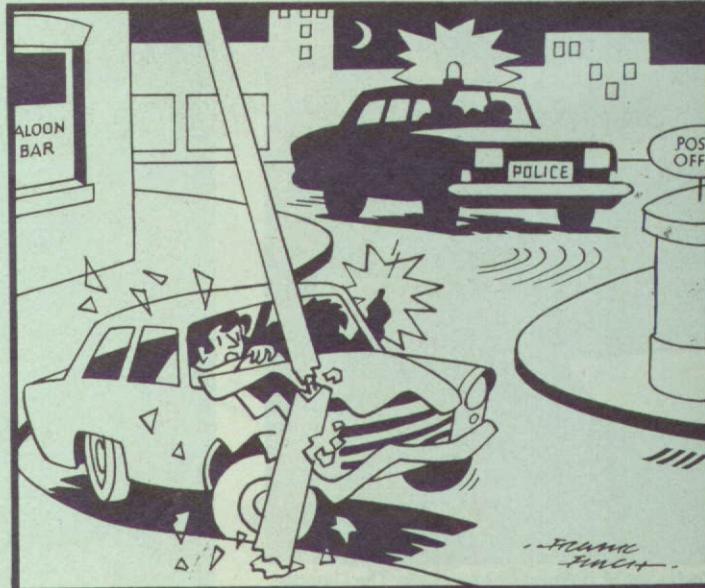
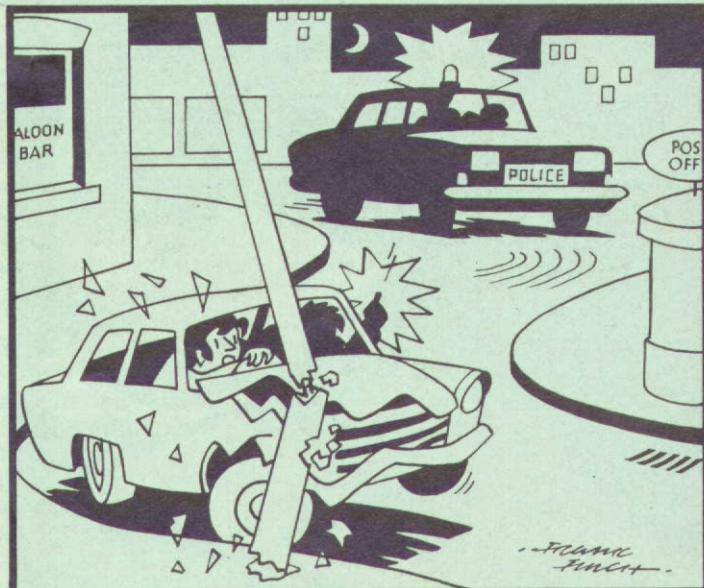
His is a highly specialised task, quietly undertaken in often very adverse conditions. So, as greetings from abroad wing their way home, spare a thought for the 'postie' who's made it all possible.

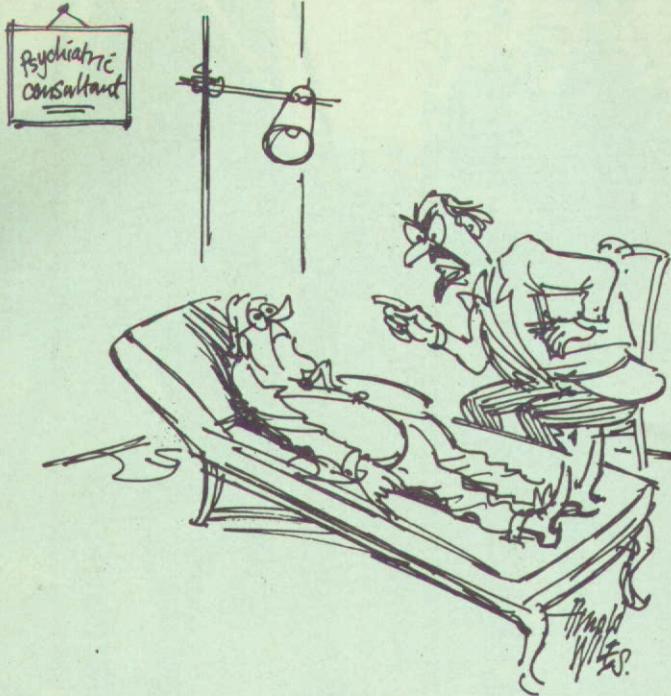
Right: Even in the Western Desert conflict of World War Two, Army 'posties' were there.



How observant are you?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences turn to page 55.



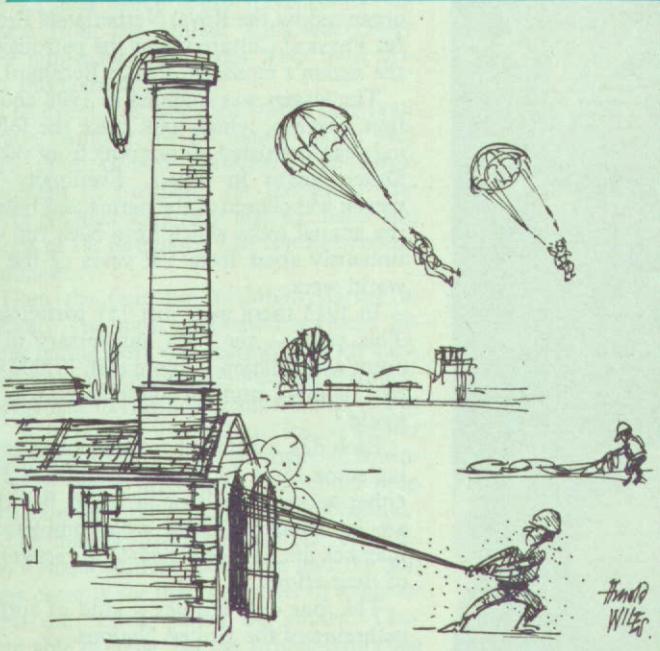
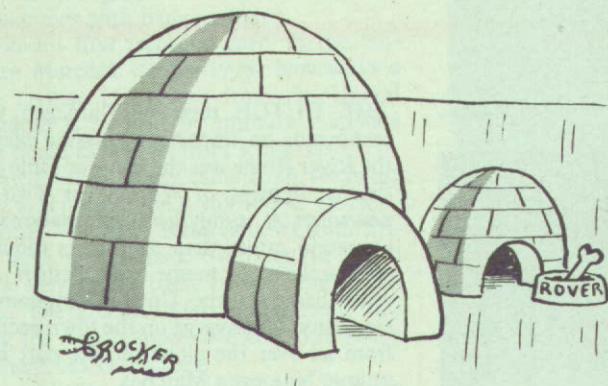


"It's not surprising you've got no friends if you put your feet all over their furniture"



"Help an old soldier stop fading away sir"

HUMOUR



"I'm in for impersonating an officer, and stand to attention when I'm talking to you!"

NIJMEGEN



Marching, Medals and Music

Above: 12 Air Defence Regiment in full song!

Below: Soprano descant from the BAOR WRAC.



THE DUTCH town of Nijmegen which commands an important crossing place on the River Rhine was the scene of some of the fiercest fighting of World War Two. But nowadays it symbolises international co-operation rather than conflict as thousands of marchers — many from British Army units based in the United Kingdom and Germany — converge on the town each July from all over the globe to take part in the unique Nijmegen Marches.

The International Four Day Marches are organised by the Royal Netherlands League for Physical Culture under the patronage of the nation's monarch, Prince Bernhard.

The league was founded in 1908 and the first marches, which took place the following year, consisted of tramping from various Dutch towns to others. Eventually Nijmegen was chosen as the permanent base for the annual treks which have been run continuously apart from the years of the two world wars.

In 1913 there were just 151 participants. This year — the 70th anniversary of the event's foundation — more than 17,000 took part, coming from 30 countries all over the world.

Each day a different route is taken covering some 25 or 30 miles. Participants enter either as individuals or in teams but there are no winners. Those who complete the marches are awarded medals in recognition of their effort.

The four days are like a kind of outdoor gathering of the United Nations.

There is a tremendous feeling of camaraderie amongst the countries rep-

Above: 1 Royal Tank Regiment — and windmill.

Below right: The Terriers kept up with the Best. Here is 7 Anglian's team in full flight.

resented who parade both before and after the marches with banners flying.

Britain's first recorded entry in the Nijmegen Marches was in 1928. Nowadays a large civilian contingent from the United Kingdom is swelled by military marchers from home as well as from Rhine Army.

Thirty-seven teams came from Germany alone to represent the Army and 12 Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve units from Britain were represented. Swelling the khaki ranks were teams from 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Ulster Defence Regiment, this being the fourth successive year this young regiment has taken part.

In addition six junior soldier and six Army Cadet Force teams travelled to Nijmegen from the United Kingdom. They were joined by RAF teams from both Britain and Germany too.

The event was launched with a four-hour parade. Among the 30 bands taking part were those of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 1st Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment and the band and drums of 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Then the four-day marathon started in earnest. The most essential ingredient for those taking part was teamwork with each team only as strong as its weakest member. Teams had to finish as teams . . . or not at all. It was not unusual to see a soldier staggering along under two loads of equipment so that a tired team-mate could keep up to complete the gruelling day's schedule.

The marches have become one of Holland's major annual spectacles and the soldiers came in for their fair share of applause from the crowds lining the routes. They were able to show that the British Army can more than hold its own when fitness and endurance are called for.

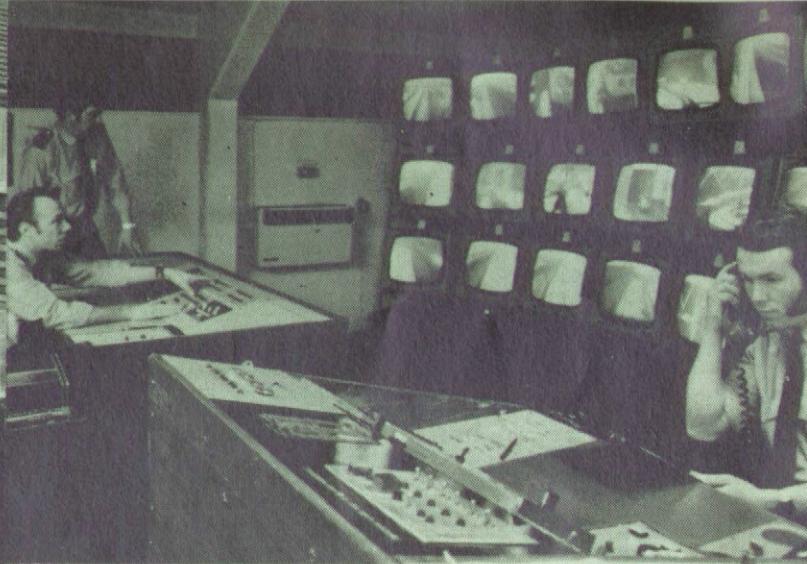


Above: They could only be Junior Guardsmen!

What's life for a Prison Officer?



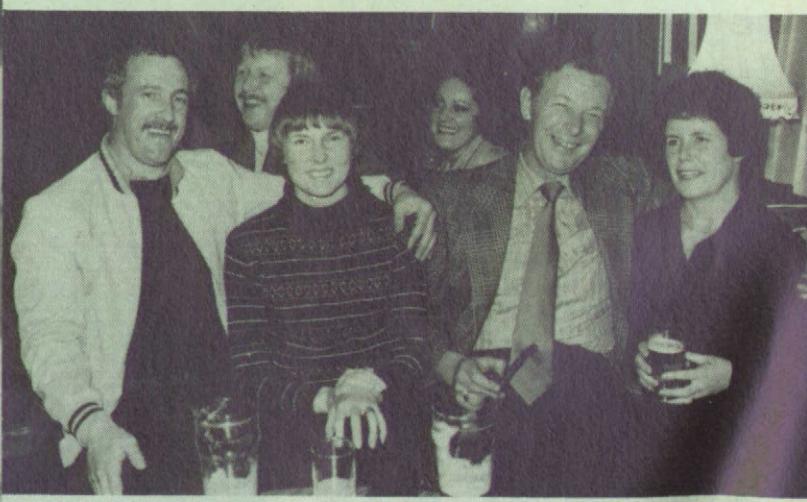
All Prison Officers have free housing (which is often within walking distance of their work), or a rent allowance. This can be put towards the purchase of their own homes.



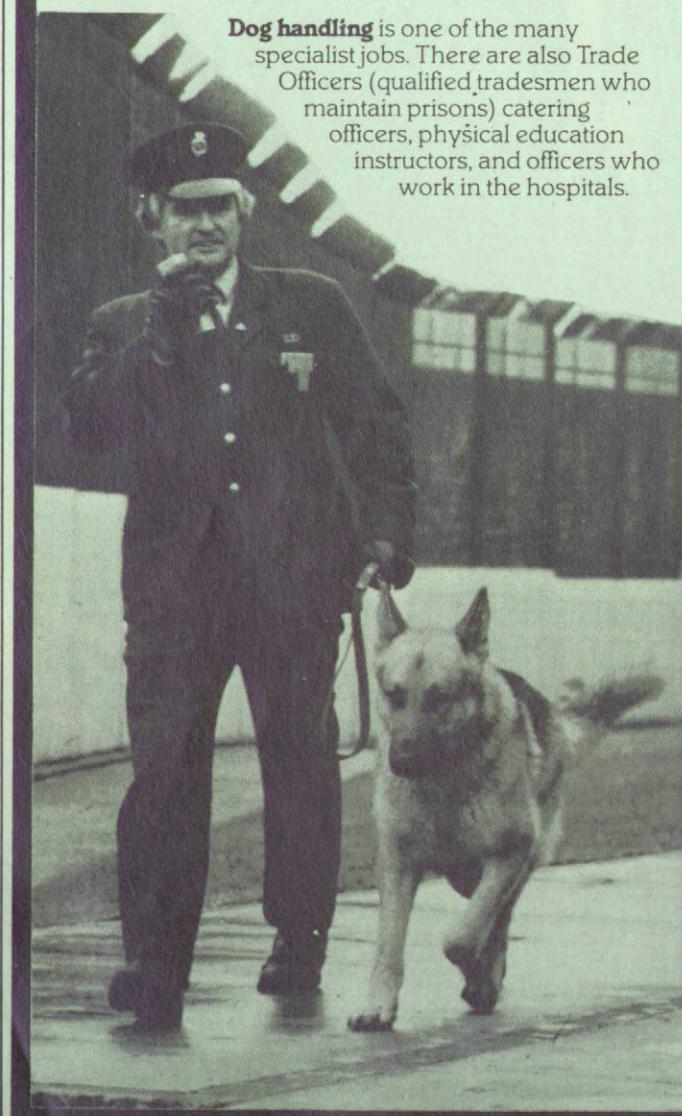
Surveillance is an important part of a Prison Officer's duties. Electronic devices are used in most prisons, but there is still a certain amount of patrolling.



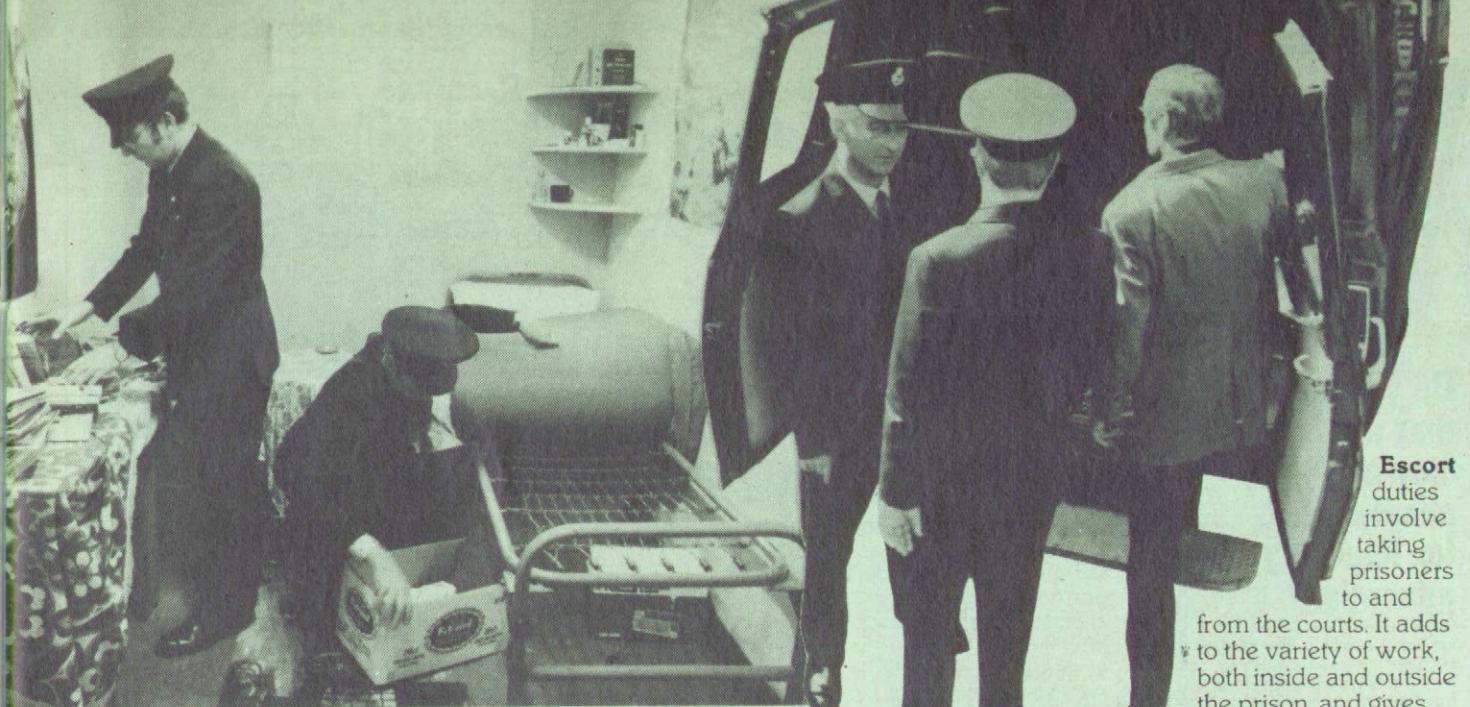
Working parties often operate outside the prison and require organisation as well as supervision. It's a great responsibility, being in charge of a group of men away from the prison environment.



Social life, with clubs and groups, is organised in some establishments by the officers. It's a chance for friends to meet in a sociable atmosphere, outside working hours.



Dog handling is one of the many specialist jobs. There are also Trade Officers (qualified tradesmen who maintain prisons) catering officers, physical education instructors, and officers who work in the hospitals.



Cell searching is one of the many jobs concerned with the security of the prison. General supervision is a Prison Officer's main duty, but it takes many forms, ranging from running the library to overseeing working parties.



Landing duties are part of general supervision duties inside but it's not just standing around. Prison Officers find this is a time to get to know inmates and talk to them.

This is one of a series of advertisements about the Prison Service today. If you would like copies of the whole series, together with further information, send in the coupon to Home Office, Freepost, London SW1E 5BR. (No stamp needed).

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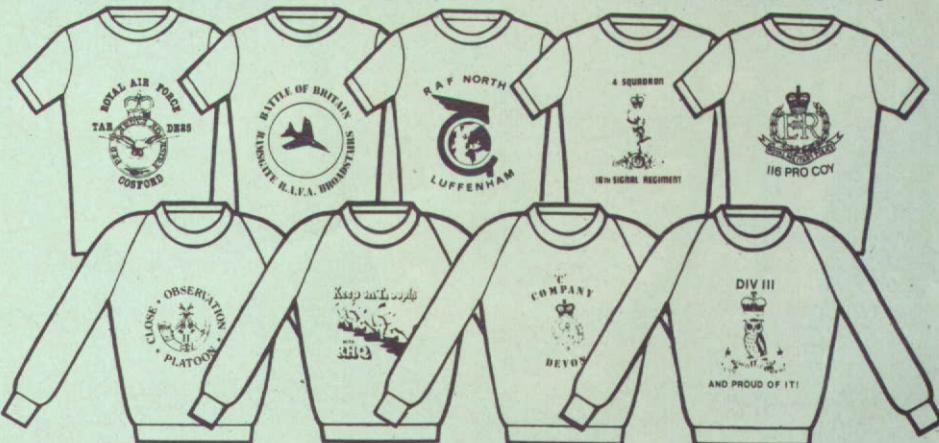
Education allowances go far towards covering the cost and a number of schools offer bursaries or scholarships to help with the balance if needed.

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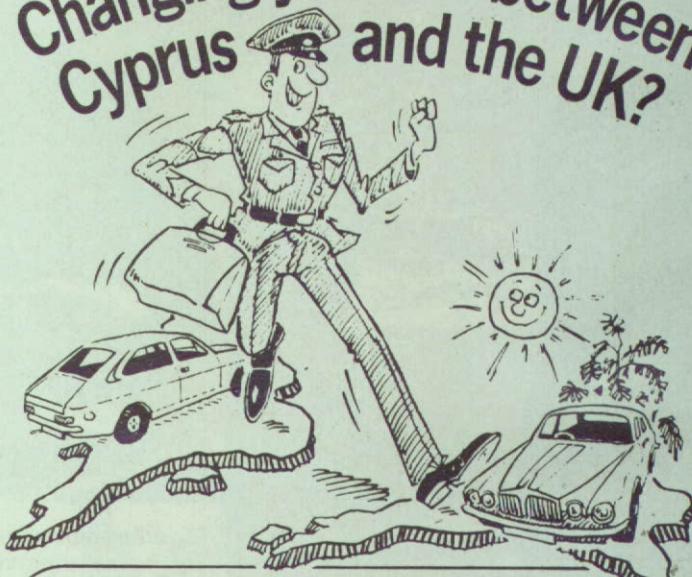
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Closed Circuit TV Training Wing



How the Army trains its TV 'Stars'

THERE HAS BEEN a major incident in Northern Ireland. Suddenly a commanding officer finds himself being questioned by probing television journalists. He handles the interview with all the aplomb of a senior politician being grilled by Robin Day.

That 'unflappability' is the aim behind a series of courses being operated by the Closed Circuit Television Wing at the Royal Army Educational Corps Centre in Beaconsfield. Every year some 450 students — some senior Army officers but mostly officers and senior nco's bound for Northern Ireland — are taught how to appear in front of the searching television cameras.

But, stresses Major Paul Phillips who commands the Wing: "We don't tell them what to say but basically how to communicate and give of their best".

The courses were introduced because of the Northern Ireland situation with its heavy media concentration but they are also used by Army brasshats and Naval commanders who may be required to appear on TV. And this year, in addition to the usual courses in the United Kingdom and Ger-

many, a special visit was made to Hong Kong where senior British officers as well as Hong Kong Government officials and policemen were taught the techniques.

Each course involves three interviews in front of the camera. The first one is a relaxed chat designed to help the person being interviewed to familiarise himself.

The middle interview is where the pressure is put on. The interviewer will ask probing questions and see how the student reacts. Major David Hudson, the Royal Hampshire Regiment officer who carries out many of them, told SOLDIER: "We have to put the pressure on for people going to Northern Ireland but nobody objects because they know it's being done for their own benefit. One or two tend to get a bit aggressive but most play it fairly cool."

Major Phillips, who also takes a hand in interviewing, says that the questions asked are more searching than hostile. And each interviewer takes it in turn as to the type of interview they carry out. "We don't want to get one person labelled as 'Mr Nice' and the other 'Mr Nasty'."

Following the face to face confrontation

there is a third interview designed to bolster the interviewees' confidence. After that, plus a lot of tips on the do's and don'ts of appearing on television and the students are, hopefully, ready to face the cameras of the outside world.

But this sort of training, although vital, is only a small part of the work done by the Closed Circuit Television Wing. For television today plays a large part in training and education throughout the Army.

The Wing itself was established 12 years ago to see just what sort of effective contribution television could make to Army training. It began life in an old Nissen hut with a staff of two. Today it occupies a special purpose-built building complete with a colour television studio of near-civilian broadcast standard and with a staff of twelve.

Operating the cameras in the colour studio, as well as working in the control room, provides an interesting and varied job for two Women's Royal Army Corps privates, Anne Wyatt and Mandy Farrar. Said Anne: "I'm a clerk by trade and I can tell you it's a lot better than clerical work."

Every new case submitted by a unit for

continued over

Story: John Walton

Pictures: Leslie Wiggs

Above: Cameraman operating in the field.



use of closed circuit television is investigated by the Wing before the appropriate Ministry of Defence committee gives its decision.

'The Wing carries out user trials of all TV equipment before it enters into service and it

has also recently been looking into the effectiveness of large screen projection systems.

The Wing also makes its own short instructional programmes for the Royal Army Educational Corps on subjects such as communication skills and the Army in the contemporary world. It serves 140 Army units with television equipment and gives advice as well as visiting them.

Even a comparatively straightforward task, such as showing a recruit how to tie knots, can be made much easier with closed circuit television. By putting a camera over an instructor's shoulder, a film can demonstrate the task from the pupil's own viewpoint rather than 'the wrong way round'.

There are three other main courses operated by the Wing. A week's course for Northern Ireland operators — people who are going to use portable, hand held cameras; an initial introduction course for students from any of the 140 user organisations; and an advanced familiarisation course for people more closely involved with television.

The courses have mixed officer and NCO classes. On the initial introduction courses people whose only contact with television may have been as viewers in their own front rooms learn about portable black and white equipment. On the advanced courses they move onto colour.

Sergeant Philip Fisher, of the 17th/21st Lancers stationed at Bovington, was running along an assault course wall and jumping down and 'freezing' as he landed. Filming him was Sergeant David Burton, from the School of Ordnance at Blackdown, and Gurkha officer Captain Krishnabahadur Lama from Hong Kong.

As he taped an old femur bone onto the side of his thigh Sergeant Fisher explained that the filming was part of a ten minute programme the four man team were making.

The idea of the jumping sequence was to show the possible damage to the femur caused by constant landings by parachute or from high walls on assault courses.

Back in the classroom the fourth member of the team, Warrant Officer 2 George McAllister, was soon adding to the programme with the aid of a skeleton. This time Sergeant Fisher was behind the camera.

"I've no camera nerves — it just comes

naturally" explained Mr McAllister, who is a tutor in remedial gymnastics at Queen Elizabeth's Military Hospital, Woolwich.

"In remedial systems, television is invaluable. You can give a lesson and if you want to look at it a year later you can sit and watch it. It can also help staff to see just how they are communicating with the patients — and of course the patients themselves can see just how much they have improved."

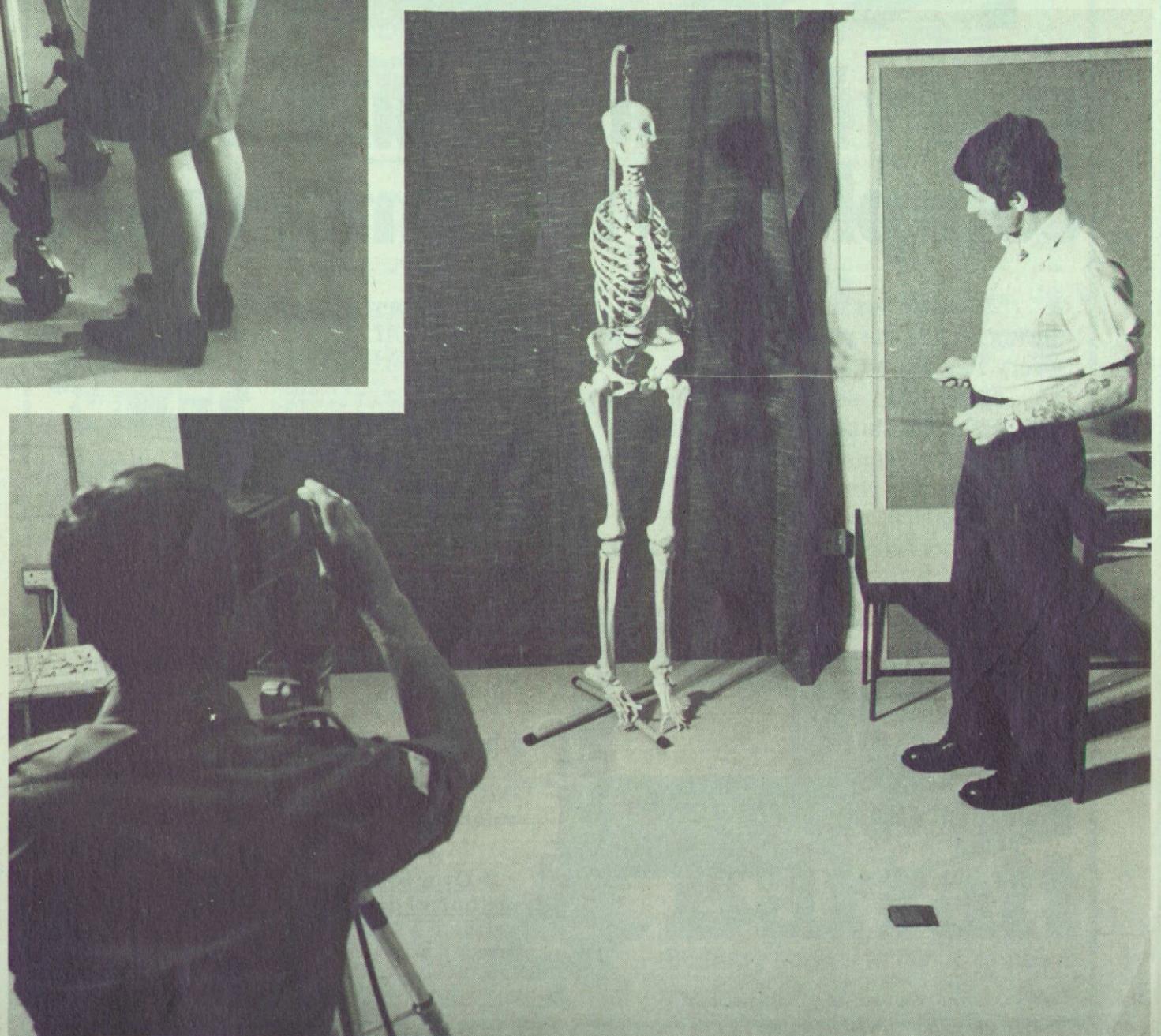
Throughout the Army in fact, closed circuit television is proving its worth out in the field as well as in the classroom. Engineers use it to build bridges. Helicopter pilots train with it. Divers explore by it. As Major Phillips sums up: "You name me a corps and I'm sure I could tell you of a use to which it is being put."

Next time you see an officer in Northern Ireland deftly parrying awkward questions on the news, you might reflect that his skilled spokeswoman is probably a gift he had to learn. Chances are that it owes something to the backroom boys at Beaconsfield who are busy teaching today's front line soldiers a new meaning to the phrase 'coolness under fire'.



Above: In the control room of the Wing's studio with Private Mandy Farrar and Major Phillips.

Below: The bare bones of making TV film. WO2 George McAllister helped by a skeleton staff.



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Fifty Sappers, supported by men from 2 Flight Army Air Corps, came up against some unusual problems on Exercise Northern Quest in Norway . . .



Knockers Tame the Trolls

Story: Tony Gibb

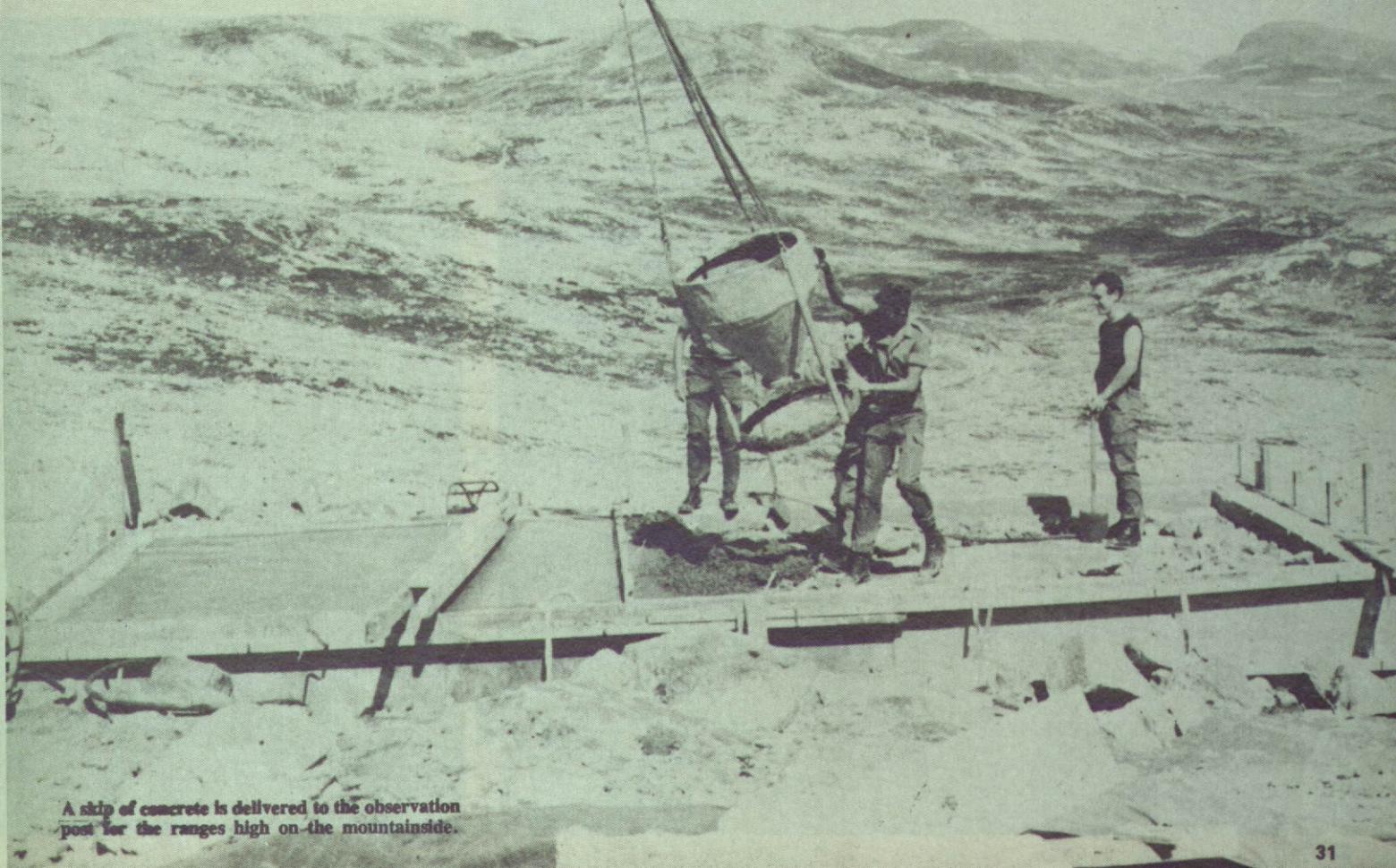
Pictures: Colin McNaughton

THE SAPPERS KNOW the mountains around Voss well. They train in the area each winter during Exercise Hardfall which is the winter exercise for the Allied Command Europe Mobile Force (Land) — AMF(L).

Their unit, the Independent Field Troop, Royal Engineers is part of the British contingent to the AMF(L) as is 2 Flight Army Air Corps.

This summer, the 'Knockers' of the Troop, alias the Combat Engineers, pitted their wits and their strength against the Norwegian trolls said to haunt the Fjordland of Western Norway. Although more accustomed to running off with maidens, the trolls are often blamed for other gremlin-like problems.

The Royal Engineers were on Exercise Northern Quest to carry out construction work for the Norwegian Army and were based in the sleepy village of Mjolfjell, 2000



A skip of concrete is delivered to the observation post for the ranges high on the mountainside.

Knockers Tame the Trolls

continued

feet above sea level on the railway line between Bergen and Oslo. The hutted campsite, owned by the host Army, lies at the junction of two mountain rivers in the Raundalen valley.

The village boasts a shop and a total population of about 80, so the influx of 50 British soldiers did a lot for trade. But most of the shopping was in Voss which had a population of 7000 and two supermarkets. During the summer months — there is no spring or autumn in Norway — the population of the Raundalen valley swells to about 1000 when townsfolk from Bergen arrive to occupy the 300 or so holiday chalets.

It was through Bergen that the Engineers travelled on their move out from England. The harbourmaster was not very amused when the 16 ton D6 Caterpillar churned across the quayside towards the railway yards. Everything came to a standstill until a

low loader had been found to take the machine on its journey of 200 yards to the train.

Otherwise the move out from England went uneventfully and the Norwegian State railways delivered the equipment safely to Mjofjell, although it was a tight squeeze through some of the tunnels.

The railway line itself is a remarkable feat of engineering. It took seven years to survey and was finally opened in 1909. In 1964 the line was modernised and electrified. Its passage from Bergen to Oslo takes it through 200 tunnels, 18 miles of snow sheds and over 300 bridges set amongst some of the most impressive scenery in the world.

The 'knockers' quickly settled into their routine and spied out the land to see what traps had been laid by the fearsome trolls. Corporal Colin Clark and his section soon discovered what they were up against. They were to build a storage bunker which required a concrete floor and a driveable access from the nearest track, but the trolls

had got there first and created a quagmire of peat criss-crossed by mountain streams.

But Colin was not to be put off. Within two weeks he and his crew had laid the floor, the walls following soon after. Round One to the 'knockers'.

On hand daily to help with ordering the specialist equipment required for the project was Major Odd Ornholt, the district engineer for the Norwegian Army. He was used to speaking English as his eldest daughter Siri is married to a Major in the Royal Marines.

The Norwegian Army also provided three tipplers with drivers to assist in laying the road into the ranges. This was the task of Corporal Gordon Aitkenhead and his section and they too suffered badly at the hands of the trolls to begin with.

The stones from the mountain quarry had been cunningly rounded off so that they slipped against each other when heavy lorries passed over them, causing the vehicles to sink. Major Ornholt found the answer by

buying a fresh quarry of rough stone hewn from the Bergen to Oslo railway line tunnels. This did the trick and Round Two was declared a British victory as well.

Another task the Sappers undertook was to fit out the inside of a wooden hut on the ranges for use as a control centre for the various range activities.

The shell of the building had been erected the previous year by the Norwegians, but that was all. So the Troop carpenters installed all the insulation and interior woodwork before putting in the partitions and stoves for heating which are so essential in that climate.

This time the trolls hardly had a look in as the only door to the building was kept firmly closed. But with the score at 3-0 against them suddenly struck in the base camp. One quiet morning a Norwegian car sped into camp with a 12-year-old girl who was thought to have broken an arm.

Lance Corporal Andy Parack, one of the medics attached to the exercise from 6 Field

Ambulance in Aldershot, was soon on the scene and discovered that the girl, who was staying at the local youth hostel from Bergen, had only dislocated her elbow. It needed hospital treatment though and as a Gazelle helicopter was available it was decided to fly her to Voss — a journey of seven minutes instead of an hour down the winding valley road.

Later the same evening the warden of the youth hostel rushed back into camp with another accident victim. A 16-year-old boy had fallen off his moped on the narrow road further up the valley.

He too needed hospital treatment, this time more urgently. Captain Ron Jenkins was soon airborne from the Flight base at the airfield near Voss. Within half an hour of being brought into camp the lad was in hospital in Voss and the trolls had met their match once again.

The hardest task for the Sappers was to build an observation post for the ranges 4000 feet up on a mountainside. The site

was chosen around a large flat topped boulder which would serve as the anchor for the concrete based building. It was about the only level spot on the mountain and Corporal John Finlay and his section had to be flown in and out at the beginning and end of each day.

Once the wooden formwork for the walls had been made the job of pouring the concrete could begin. The mixing was done in the valley two miles away at the end of the range road where the sand and sacks of cement had been dumped beside the river. From the mixer it was loaded into a skip which was airlifted to the site under one of the Gazelle helicopters. In all, about 20 tons of concrete were moved in this way.

The marvels of modern machinery were more than the trolls could take, although they did try to leave the odd footprint in the wet concrete. Once again it was victory for the 'knockers'. But no doubt those trolls will be waiting when they return to Voss early next year . . .

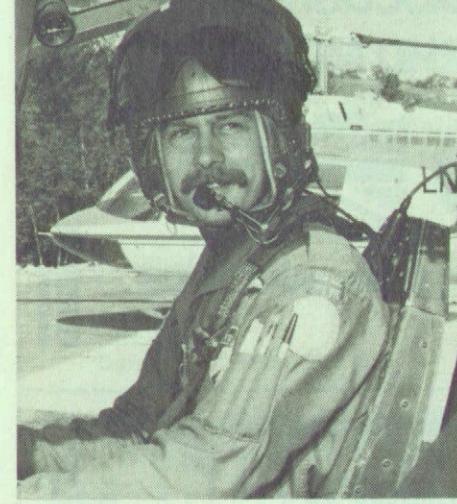


Left: Tipplers working on the new range road.

Below: Laying the concrete floor for the bunker.

Right: Sgt Terry Dakin at the controls of an Army Gazelle helicopter prior to a sortie.

Far right: L/Cpl Mick Denver directs the laying of concrete slabs for cattle grid on range road.



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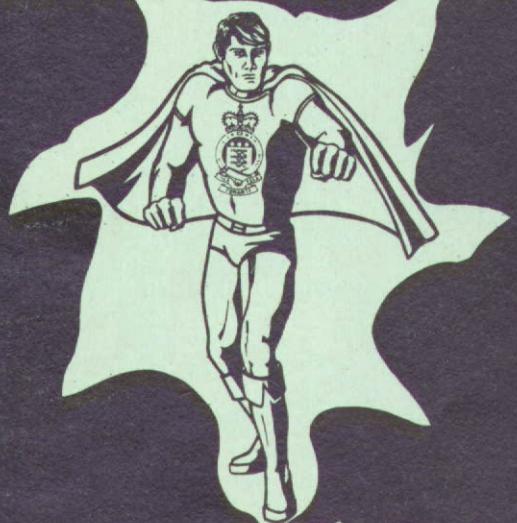


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MILITARY MUSEUMS

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps

The origins of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps go back to the appointment of Nicholas Merbury as Master of the Ordnance in 1414 and ever since the primary rôle of the corps has been the procurement, storage and distribution of armaments, ammunition and other warlike stores.

To reflect this essential function the corps museum sets the scene with three large wall charts showing the origins and antecedents of the RAOC, its development, strength and deployment in the two World Wars. Before World War One the corps had a strength of 2540 all ranks, by 1918 this had increased to 41,000 and by the end of World War Two it had reached 138,000.

A large gun wheel from the Crimea and a 7-pounder muzzle-loading mountain gun immediately catch the eye on entering the museum. There follow some interesting documents belonging to Commissary-General Sir Henry Gordon, a series of Fenton photographic prints of Crimean War scenes and a much travelled carpenter's tool chest made by Private John Luck who served in the Ordnance Store Corps on the Nile expedition. A feature explaining the history of the RAOC badge is backed up by a small collection of badges and buttons. Medals, too, are well featured. Some early 19th century pistols are prominent in a group of hand weapons while a light touch is added by a most unusual swagger cane. Made of hollowed glass, it could be filled with 'good cheer.'

Of special interest in a case full of sporting trophies are the silver cups and medals won by Captain L A W Sankey whose prowess as a marksman took him to the finals of the King's Prize at Bisley in 1932 and 1937 and the Queen's Prize in 1956. A neat display of headdress ranges from helmet, pillbox and shako to the green beret of the Airborne Forces. Shown by itself is the service dress cap worn by George VI, Colonel-in-Chief of the RAOC from 1922 to 1952.

A set of standard measures recalls the time when these and standard weights were held first by ordnance storekeepers, then by barrack masters and again by the Ordnance. Worth noting in a varied group of uniforms is a model wearing the dress of a superinten-

dent of stores (1863-69), an officer's mess jacket (1891) and an early 19th century coatee worn by ordnance storekeepers and clerks.

Swords on show include a blade forged in the reign of William IV and two Japanese swords, one of them dating back to the early 16th century. The Board of Ordnance seal, the key of the Gibraltar magazine made in the early 18th century, and the original long key to the main gate of the Grand Stores, Gibraltar, which was in constant use from 1790 until the stores were demolished in 1951 following the explosion of an ammunition ship, are shown to advantage while a case bearing the label Punishment recalls the harshness of a soldier's life when the birch and cat-o'-nine tails were in regular use.

Two other items worth noting are a powder horn introduced in 1865 for service with garrison guns and a horse measuring stick, an implement much used in the Army before mechanisation, while a not often seen World War One souvenir is a spiked trench truncheon. This weapon was used in trench warfare when rifle and bayonet were useless because of lack of space. A display of carbines and rifle illustrates the development of this type of weapon from the Brown Bess to the self-loading 5.56mm Armalite gun of today.

A vivid Northern Ireland tableau shows a RAOC bomb disposal expert making safe a terrorist device. The specialised weapon mounted on a robot equipment, known as 'Wheelbarrow,' which is used to disrupt the device, is shown to advantage.

John Jesse

Curator: Lieut-Colonel W E Saunders (Retd)

Address: Royal Army Ordnance Corps Museum, Deepcut, Camberley, Surrey

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PALACE PARTY

FOR THE OLD AND BOLD



The visitors arrive past tourist crowds (above) and are greeted in the Palace (below).



Wheelchairs find it hard going on the steps.



Wistful memories behind his gleaming medals.

WAR VETERANS from more than 50 hospitals, homes and clubs gathered in the gardens of Buckingham Palace for an annual garden party which is the highlight of the year for the 'Not Forgotten' Association, founded in 1920 for the benefit of disabled and wounded Service and ex-Servicemen.

Summer rain held off long enough for the visitors to enjoy tea and entertainment in the marquees laid out on the palace lawns which are seeded with camomile — a hard-wearing plant — in order to withstand the tread of some 8,000 pairs of feet that attend royal garden parties each year.

The neatly manicured lawns and herbaceous borders — a riot of colour in the watery sun — contrasted with the austere lines of the honey-coloured stone of the palace facade.

London's traffic was muffled to a discreet rumble by the trees and high walls and the garden party guests chatted and 'snapped' each other on film with the palace in the background to the strains of martial music from the band of the Scots Guards, their red tunics lending an extra splash of colour to the event.

In the absence of any member of the Royal Family, the veterans who fought for king and country and paid an often fearsome price in pain and misery, were greeted by Lieutenant-Commander John Holdsworth, Gentleman Usher to the Queen and her representative for the 'Not Forgotten' garden party.

The party is not the association's only event. At Christmas it provides a seasonal party in the Royal Riding School. In addition, it provides televisions for some 1,500 severely disabled ex-Service pensioners in their own homes as well as at hospitals and institutions.

Holidays, outings and concerts are arranged and monthly gifts are made to some 2,000 ex-Service patients in over 40 homes and hospitals throughout the British Isles and Eire. A similar number of presents are given out at Christmas.

For those unable to get out on the association's outings and visits, a visiting committee makes monthly visits to the bed-ridden in a number of homes and hospitals.

The association's striking elephant's-head symbol seen on many a tie and badge at the Buckingham Palace garden party represents the members' pledge that those who gave so much in war should not be forgotten.

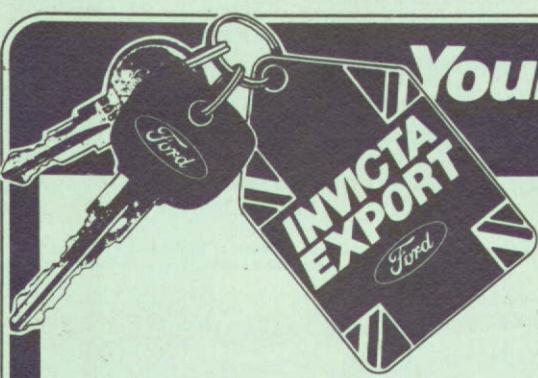


Sprightly Sergeant Charles Quinnell, and 84-years-young Chelsea Pensioner, was "not forgotten" and was included — with several of his Chelsea comrades — on the garden party list.

And the scarlet-coated sergeant's own memory was crystal clear as he reminisced about his World War One years with the then Royal Fusiliers. He pointed out his unusual three-figure Service number (533) and explained the extraordinary circumstances that surrounded its issue. Mustered at Hounslow in August 1914 with "some 2000 of us all milling about", he was proud to be one of 'Kitchener's 100,000'. He added: "A colonel lined us up and stretched out his hand. 'Right,' he said, 'all of you to the left are 9th Battalion and those to the right are 8th Battalion.' And then they numbered us from one. That's how I came to be 533."

Time has healed the wounds that left Sergeant Quinnell without a leg and he is surprisingly matter-of-fact about the holocaust he lived through in the Flanders trenches: "I was at Loos. I enjoyed Loos. It was a soldiers' fight — it was fun. But the Somme ... I lost my leg at the Somme. Forty-three of us went in and only three came out. I was a platoon sergeant — there was me, a private and a lance-corporal."

Four years ago he entered Chelsea Hospital as an in-Pensioner. "It's the best hotel in London!" he joked, adding: "It's a real home and life passes very pleasantly there." A reward that's only fitting for an old soldier.



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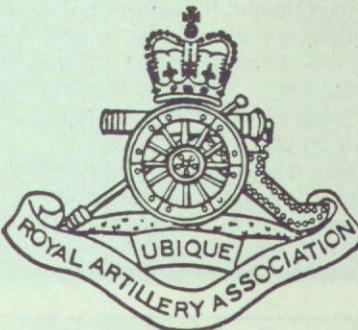
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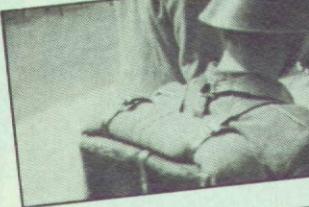
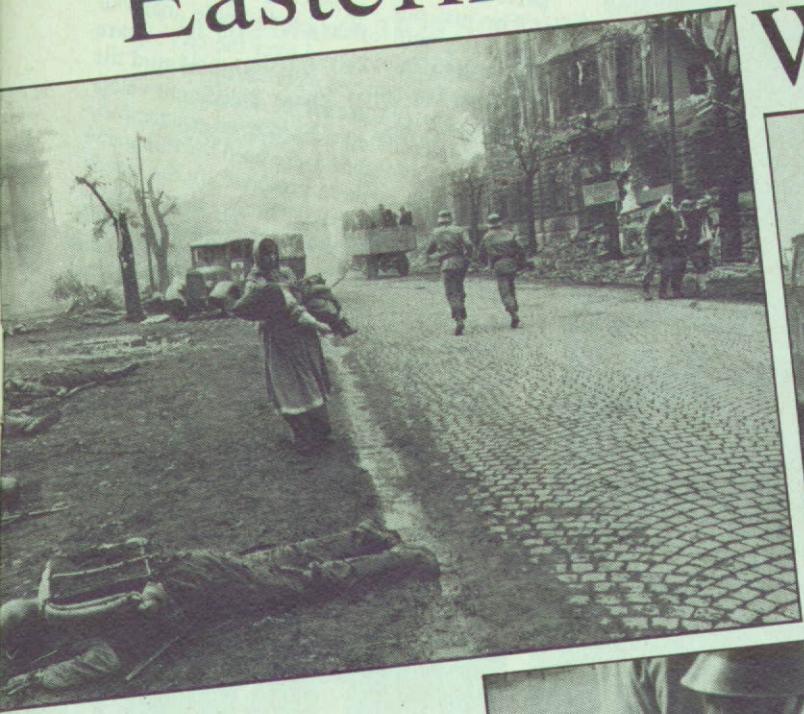
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Eastern setting for Western Front



ONE OF THE GREATEST war novels of all time Erich Maria Remarque's 'All Quiet on the Western Front', a bitter account of the First World War as seen through the eyes of a group of German soldiers, has just been filmed behind the Iron Curtain in Czechoslovakia.

The remote border town of Most in western Czechoslovakia was chosen for location filming. Once a thriving little town only a handful of miles from the German border, Most was discovered to be standing on one of the country's richest coal seams. So they built another town nearby, moved the population and began to demolish the buildings to start strip mining. But the Czech authorities loaned it to the film company to represent a French town behind the front

continued on page 40





line trenches. An added advantage is that the film-makers have been able to blow up parts of it.

For just one sequence over five tons of explosives and other combustible material was strategically placed over the city square in Most. Six cameras were set up around the square as over 100 charges of different velocity were detonated as the action progressed.

Over 1,000 extras were used for this scene — over half of them provided by the Czech Army. It also needed trucks, horse drawn vehicles, gun limbers as well as barrels, carts and refugee bundles. And at the end the film makers pronounced everything perfect — every camera had full and complete coverage of its part of the action, every truck and soldier had hit its mark and every explosion had been timed correctly.

The film, a Norman Rosemont production in association with Marble Arch Productions, stars Richard Thomas, Ernest Borgnine, Ian Holm, Donald Pleasence and Patricia Neal.



Top: The 'soldiers' relax in the ruined town.
Above: A church is converted into a hospital.

A poignant pilgrimage

In the March 1979 SOLDIER we reported celebrations in Brecon and Somerset of the centenary of the heroic battle of Rorke's Drift in the Zulu War. Later the same event was commemorated on the site of the battle itself in South Africa. IAN J KNIGHT — who took part in the celebrations there — reports

THE ZULU WAR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS were deliberately held later than the actual date (22 January) of the two famous actions at Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift. The Zulu War itself lasted another six months and the authorities organising the commemorative events were anxious not to appear to focus attention on any one battle to the detriment of others.

In addition, January is the height of the rainy season, a fact which plagued the nineteenth century Lord Chelmsford's transport and might have hampered those following in his footsteps one hundred years later.

The commemoration party of some 50 people comprised members of the Royal Regiment of Wales Old Comrades Association (the regiment is the direct descendant of the South Wales Borderers, 24th of Foot, who fought in the war), a smattering of representatives from other regiments, relatives of those who fought in the war and a younger element of students and historians

with a particular interest in the subject.

Hosts on the first part of the tour were the Royal Natal Carabiniers Association who met the party in Durban and put them up in private homes in and around Pietermaritzburg. The town itself has a close connection with the Zulu Wars. Its name is an amalgam of the names of two Boer leaders who fought the Zulus in 1838 and it was there that the British forces mustered for the invasion of 1879.

Next leg of the pilgrimage was to Vryheid, a small town full of historical interest and a centre of activity during the Boer War. Battlefield tours were organised from this base, including a visit to Kambula, the site of perhaps the most strategically significant but least remembered Zulu War action.

There a Zulu 'impi', comprising the regiments which had triumphed at Isandhlwana some months before, attacked a strongly fortified position commanded by

The King (left) and Chief Minister of the Zulus.

Sir Evelyn Wood. After several hours of hard fighting the Zulus were driven off with heavy casualties, dealing a blow to their morale from which they were not to recover. In the distance could be seen the mountain of Hlobane — the site of a British disaster on the eve of the battle of Kambula.

Highlight of the celebrations was a guided tour of the Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift battlesites conducted by Mr George Chadwick of the National Monuments Council.

The party, together with some 200 local sightseers, paused on the lip of the Nqutu plateau as the advancing Zulus had done a hundred years before.

Isandhlwana is an extraordinarily affecting place, eerily dignified with its scattering of white cairns marking the last resting place of the fallen. Sadly, Rorke's Drift is less imposing. The site is still the property of the Swedish Mission (remember Jack Hawkins' portrayal of the missionary Otto Witt in the film 'Zulu') and several buildings straddle the actual battle site.

Despite attempts to mark out the lines of the old barricades it is very hard to visualise the post as it must have been on the afternoon of 22 January 1879.

The celebrations began at Isandhlwana with a banner parade led by The Royal Regiment of Wales Old Comrades Association and this was followed by a choral display from a Zulu choir. The high spot of the day was a performance by a Zulu regiment, some 120 strong and composed of warriors wearing the dress of those who had fought in 1879.

Decked out in feathers and furs, brandishing knobkerries and carrying huge war shields, the warriors shuffled into the arena singing a mournful Zulu song; the Salute to Brave Warriors (sung at the end of the film 'Zulu'). Bellowing the traditional war cry 'usuthu!', and the soaring royal salute 'bayetel!', they enticed the current king of Zululand, His Majesty Zwelithini Goodwill ka Bhekuzulu and the Chief Minister of Kwa Zulu, Prince Gatsha Buthelezi, from their dais to join the dancing.

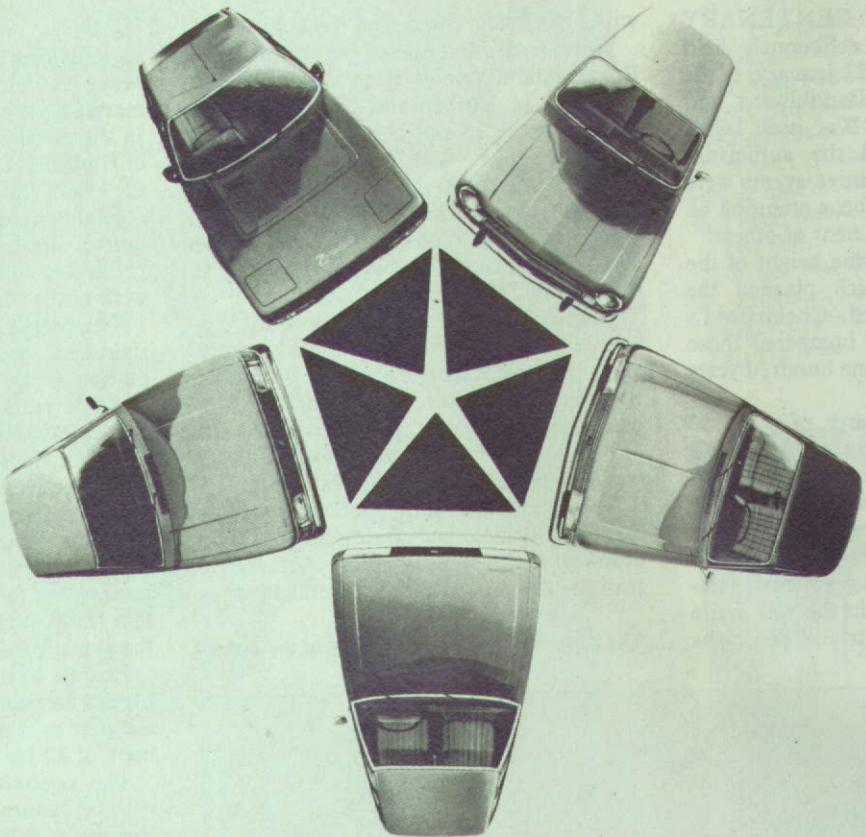
A memorial plaque was unveiled and the ceremonies were rounded off with a wreath laying and dedication.

From Isandhlwana the cavalcade moved on the long, winding road to Rorke's Drift across the track once cut by the Zulus pursuing those fleeing from the disaster at Isandhlwana. Similar commemoration ceremonies took place, including a wreath laid on behalf of the Royal Engineers. The King unveiled a memorial to the Zulus killed in the action who had previously been remembered only by a simple stone block.

The final day's ceremonies took place at Ulundi on the rolling Mahlabatini plain. This was very much a Zulu affair. Ironically, both Europeans and Zulus had channelled their energies into commemorating not their victories but their defeats.



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The first Lady of the Greenfinches

SIX YEARS AGO Lyn changed her life. From being 'just an ordinary housewife' with a five-year-old daughter, she became a soldier fighting in the front line. For Lyn was born in Belfast, and in 1973 she became the first woman member of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

"My husband was already full-time in the UDR, and I'd been a fireside critic for years," she remembers. "I could see that there were women terrorists and I had been going on to him about the need for women to be working on our side too. Then one night he came and told me that a Bill had been passed in Parliament allowing women to be recruited — the time had come for me to put my money where my mouth was! In fact, I was the first to be processed — it happened so quickly that I even had to fill in a male application form."

In the war-torn province, the UDR has now been continuously operational for a longer period than any regiment in the British Army since the Napoleonic Wars. Although it is an integral part of the British Army, its members all live at home — there are no barracks or married quarters. The backbone of the UDR is the part-time soldier — men and women from all walks of life prepared to put on uniform two or three nights a week and at weekends to help in the fight against terrorism.

'Greenfinches' — the women members — were named after their original army radio

continued on page 45



Story: Judith Stares

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callsign. The number has now reached 800 and there is a waiting list.

"The men certainly didn't want us at first," she recalls. "They resented it very much when we joined up. I think they thought we would be a burden and a handicap. I think my husband was quite proud when I volunteered, although it was very strange at first. He did day-time duties and he was the one who stayed home at night to look after the baby while I went on patrol. It was a complete reversal of roles. Mind you, I've never managed to get out of the washing up!"

A normal working night for a Greenfinch begins about 8 o'clock when she reports to her local UDR centre. After briefing and collecting her flak jacket she can expect to be on patrol until about 3 or 4 am. "We search women and cars; do the 'scribing,' which means logging details of all vehicles and drivers at checkpoints; operate the radio and do the map-reading. We're all trained in first-aid, too." None of the Greenfinches is armed, and Lyn prefers it that way. "The terrorists know that we're not armed and we don't want to carry guns. I think if we did, the Greenfinches would be in even more danger."

As it is, they live under constant threat. All UDR members work and live in or near the areas they patrol and, once recruited, they could become targets for an IRA assassination. Already three Greenfinches and more than 90 UDR men have been killed during the last ten years of the unforgiving 'Troubles.'

The dangers at home are no less than the dangers of night patrols along the hazardous roads of Ulster's bandit country. "On patrol, when we stop to operate a vehicle checkpoint, the first thing I look for is a place for myself in case of ambush. The men mustn't feel they need to protect you — it's their job to engage the enemy and to return fire. I make sure there is some cover on either side, like a bush or a tree. You must never stay in the vehicle, because if there was an attack then the petrol tank could blow up. Two Greenfinches go on each patrol, but you mustn't stand in a huddle either. You don't let them have the opportunity to get you both. One girl is briefed to operate the radio and the other will look after any first-aid that's needed."

First-aid has become Lyn's real forte. "I've done the St John Ambulance courses and become a qualified first-aid instructor for the UDR. Two or three nights a week and at weekends I come in to take training. It can be a class of six to 20 men, but I also take the Wives Club, the Boys Brigade and the young Irish Rangers."

Lyn has risen to colour-sergeant and is now second in command of the 40 Greenfinches in her battalion. "I am ambitious, but I have to think of my home. If I had an extra rank I would be above my husband and I think he would resent it. He would feel he was not wearing the trousers! My ambition was to become an officer, but to do that might have cost me my home and my marriage."

In spite of pioneering into a man's world, she enjoys being a girl. "Most of my time is spent in uniform, but it's no use pretending that it has saved me any money. It gives me a real thrill to dress up. There are at least two functions a month connected with the



Two aspects of soldiering with the Greenfinches: (above) snapping out salutes and (below) operating the radio while out on one of the regular Ulster Defence Regiment patrols.



regiment, and I'm always there — sometimes as the only woman!"

Like her colleagues, Lyn feels that she is fighting for her family's future, and for her daughter's sake she must remain optimistic. "We all have so much in common here that I often wonder what we are fighting about. We have a small country, but it has a small population and there is room enough for everyone. There are some beautiful places, too — places which the Troubles haven't even touched. People still live and love without being affected by the Troubles. My

husband is English, and we have just bought a new home here. If we didn't think there was hope for this country we would have left long ago."

But the memory of too many deaths will never be erased from her mind. "I've been to so many military funerals. I've had to comfort both husbands and wives who have been left alone. They always say their partner didn't die in vain if it helps to put an end to the war. But ten years is too long to keep saying that. I don't want to die for my country — I want to live for it."

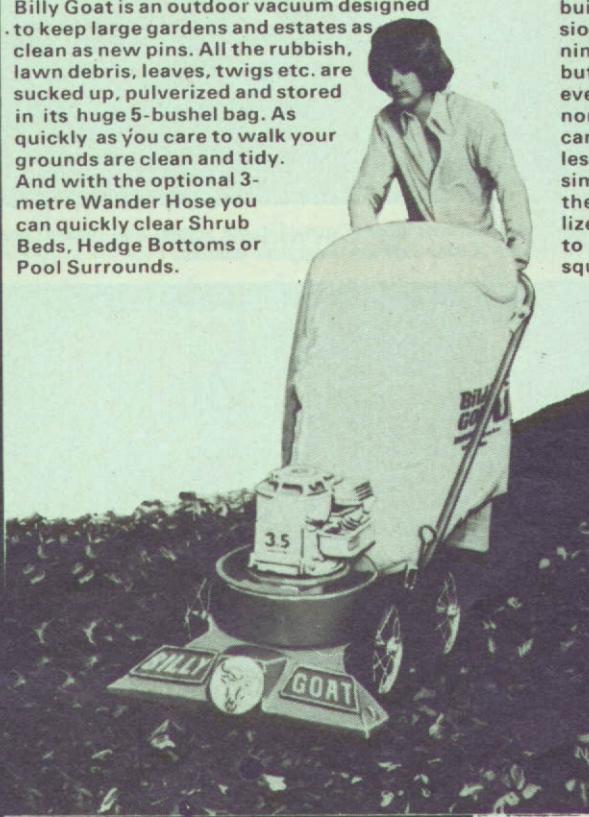
Andrews task force makes a power of difference

Saturday evening on Britain's sports terraces is not a pretty sight - 30,000 fans can leave over one ton of rubbish behind them! And every stadium, race course and sports ground in the country has the problem to some degree. A problem that the Andrews task force is designed to eliminate...



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War wheels take

A RIDE DOWN MEMORY LANE

Story: John Walton
Pictures: Doug Pratt



GIVING UP YOUR weekends and evenings to reconstruct old military vehicles may not be everyone's idea of fun. But 40 enthusiasts who do just that had their special day at Duxford Airfield in Cambridgeshire when 5000 people came along for a day of nostalgia and saw just what can be done to restore past glory.

The occasion was the third annual Duxford Military Vehicle Display — 'Wheels of War' — when scores of old timers ranging from motorcycles and jeeps through to gun tractors and trailers went on show.

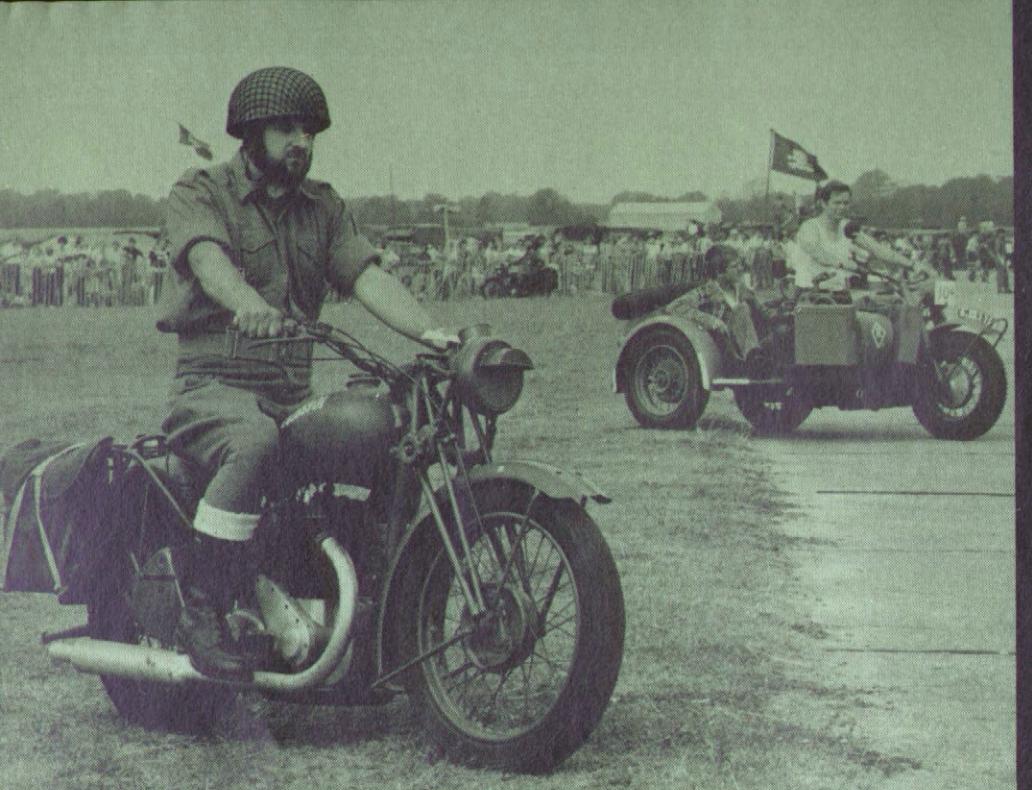
Many of the exhibitors driving jeeps, staff

cars, DUKW amphibious landing craft or ancient Royal Enfield motorbikes wore redundant Army uniforms. There were British, American and German vehicles on show and, like any agricultural show, there were prizes for the best exhibits.

Members of the organising body, the Vehicle Wing of the Duxford Aviation Society, don't go too much on the wearing of wartime uniforms themselves. Said chairman Brian Hayden, a carpenter from St Ives: "We tend to wear military type stuff but not the whole uniform bit. In fact we only wear a uniform if it is appropriate to the vehicle."

Many of the vehicles which are housed at Duxford are owned by the Imperial War Museum and the 40 members of the Wing spend two or three nights each week bending, bashing, painting, stripping and working on the vehicles right down to the last nut and bolt. Entirely non-profit making the Vehicles Wing, part of the Imperial War Museum's Associate Volunteer Force, uses any cash raised from displaying the vehicles to add more to the collection.

The organisation was formed five years ago and most of the founder members came straight over from another similar body. It is



Above: It's not exactly Thruxton or Silverstone but the display of ancient motorbikes was just as thrilling to the enthusiastic audience.



Above: A Morris Commercial CDSW 4 x 4 Field Artillery tractor and trailer. It was entered in the Combat Vehicle section by Mr R T Peacock.



Above: The Yanks are coming. Genuine US visitors chat to uniformed vehicle fan around a 1942 jeep complete with its grenade launcher.



Above: Bernard Leslie Harper 22438130 reporting. Mr Harper is wearing a similar uniform to the one he had as a wartime dispatch rider.

'Wheels of War'

continued

heavily supported by the Aviation Society which has some 1800 members — although most of those are not actually rebuilding machines.

Says Mr Hayden: "To bring a thing back to life gives us a great deal of pleasure. When it makes its maiden journey we all stand back and celebrate its successful reincarnation. And afterwards we can have a 'cabby' — which you can't do with something like a Spitfire".

After the war many of the vehicles ended their useful Army service and were demobbed into 'civvy street.' Now they are coming back — from local authorities, from industry and from the farm.

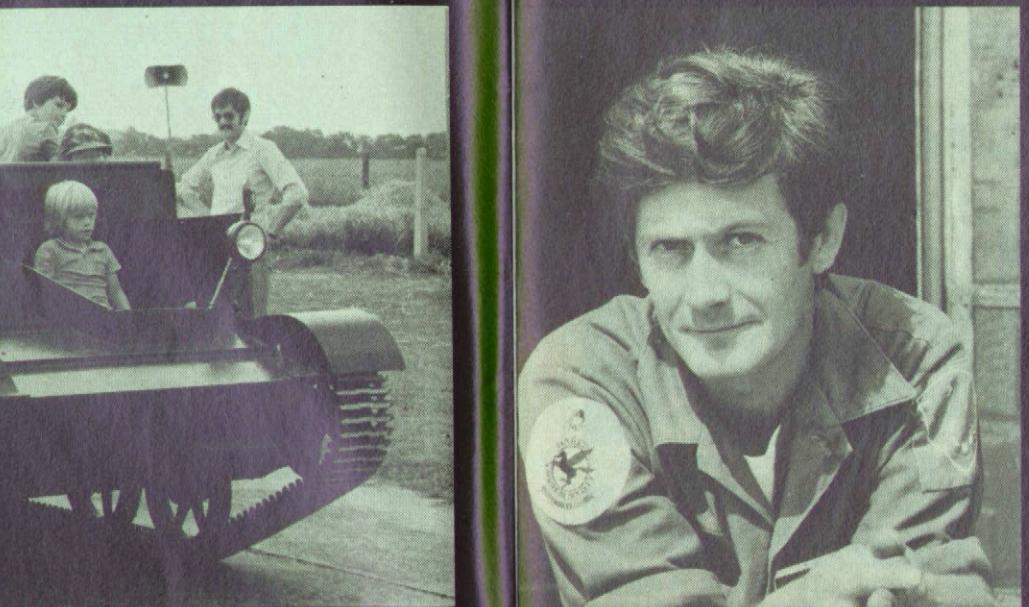
"Sometimes people come from considerable distances to offer them" says Mr Hayden. "Some virtually want to give them to us and others want silly prices. The worst seem to be farmers. They often ask fantastic prices for what is really just scrap metal."

Among the vehicles already completely restored are a Conqueror, a Saladin, a Ferret, a Daimler armoured car, a Bedford bowser and an Albion gun tractor. Among those currently being worked on are a Scammell Pioneer, an Austin K2 ambulance, and a Dodge weapons carrier.

The collection and the interest shown in it are growing fast with volunteers coming from as far away as London, Dagenham and Peterborough. They include dustmen, accountants and vehicle and aero engineers. And they are united in one cause — preserving the vehicles which saw the Allies through those dark days of World War Two.



Above: A big attraction for the children — rides in a 1944 Canadian Bren Gun Carrier.



Above: Mr Brian Hayden, St Ives, chairman of the Military Vehicles Wing of the Society.



Below: This half track vehicle attracted a lot of crowd attention.



Below: Around the field were other weapons including this German 1/60 anti-tank gun.



Below: A Cromwell tank but not exactly full size. Ian Malhomme adjusts the aerial of a model.

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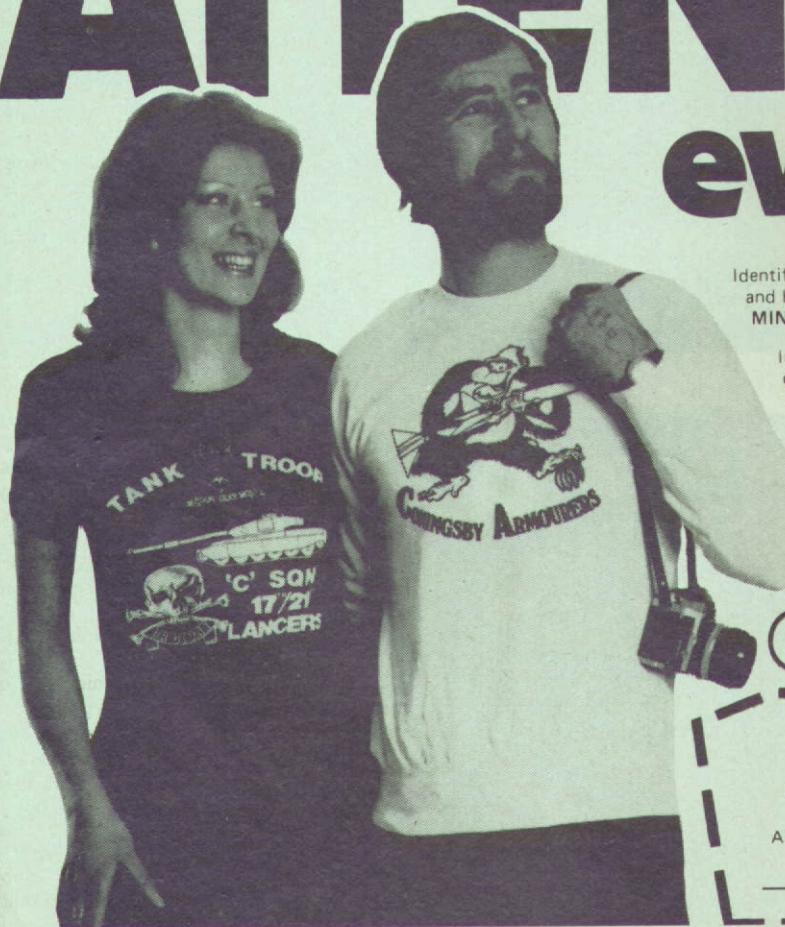
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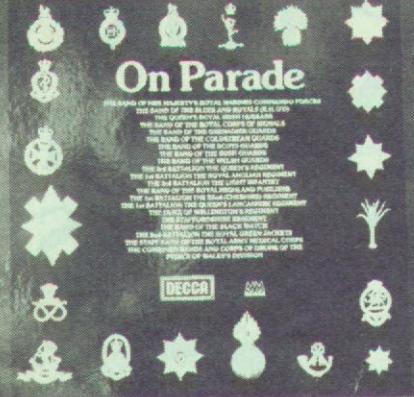
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British Military Bands



'British Military Bands on Parade' (Bands of Royal Marines, Blues & Royals, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, Royal Signals, Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, Irish Guards, Welsh Guards, 3rd Bn The Queen's Regiment, 1st Bn The Royal Anglian, 3rd Bn The Light Infantry, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, Queen's Lancashire Regiment, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Staffordshire Regiment, The Black Watch, 2nd Bn The Royal Green Jackets, Staff Band Royal Army Medical Corps, Combined Bands Prince of Wales's Division (Decca D141D 4, Box of 4 discs)

This massive project, which took months of co-ordination and discussion to decide on the musical contents, and even more to organise the box-cover and booklet notes, is exactly what it says — a comprehensive review of military bands which have appeared over the years on the Decca and Music Masters labels — 21 in all with 52 items selected from single LPs.

Needless to say that here you have an ideal 'listeners' digest' of all that is best in our military band tradition, including as it does at least one example of each genre from fanfares, marches, overtures, solo items, suites, and ceremonial parades, to piping, drumming, and bugling; all, I might say, in well-balanced and acceptable amounts so that each side represents an interesting and varied programme. Not, though, the sort of programme you could expect to hear on the seafront, for who could afford to pay all the bands of the Household Division at one go, or resurrect the batons of Fred Harris, Douglas Pope, Tommy Thirtle, or the shades of Leslie Statham and John Baker? As I have said before on behalf of less worthy projects — for the person who can't afford to buy all the records he fancies, or needs a marvellous gift for exiled friends — here in one package is all you need buy to bring Britain to your front parlour or transmit a bit of the Old Country to the outback of South Australia. The ultimate in desert island discs in fact, with reading material included.

The box cover gives a list of the bands with the regimental cap badges in colour, and inside is a booklet of a dozen pages with eight of Charles Stadden's fine water-colours of bandsmen in the 18th and 19th centuries. Modesty forbids mention of the informative, evocative and witty notes on military music in general and each item in particular, and a thumbnail sketch of each regiment for the uninitiated. As these notes say, "... the music portrays episodes in a soldier's life, from peacetime pomp and oompah of the ceremonial march, through casual canteen sing-song and band concert, to elegies for the fallen. All are here, and the episodes in this particular soldier's life are brought to a quiet end with Nimrod and the evocative Nightfall in Camp."

On the eight sides: Marches, 'El Capitan,' 'Holyrood,' 'Marche Militaire' (Schubert), 'Invincible Eagle' (Sousa), 'Cardiff Castle,' 'Bridge Walk,' 'HRH The Duke of Cambridge' (Malcolm Arnold), 'Padstow Lifeboat' (Arnold), 'Children of the Regiment' (with fifes), 'Grand March' (Aida), 'On the Quarter Deck,' 'Thin Red

Line,' 'radetzky,' 'fehribelliner' Reitermarsch, 'The Ssafa March' (R Swift), 'Sunburst' (Ostlerling), 'Hall of Fame' (Olivadot), ('Luftwaffe March' (Ron Goodwin), 'Jubilee' (Wood), 'Borough and Bayonet' (Hurst), and 'Cavalry of the Steppes,' Staffordshire Knot, 'Swing March' (Mancini). Fanfares: 'Antiphonal at Caernarvon' (Bliss), 'Occasional Fanfare' (Rhodes), 'Dignified Occasion' (Bliss).

Overtures: 'Light Cavalry,' 'Orpheus in the Underworld,' 'Plymouth Hoe.' Suite in Eb (Holst), 'Trumpetino Concertino' (Shillito), 'Song of Jupiter,' 'Trumpet Tune and Ayre,' 'Farandole' (Bizet), 'A Bridge Too Far,' 'A Scottish Celebration,' 'On Richmond Hill Bah' 'At,' 'Scottish Band Medley,' 'Soldier Alone.'

RB

on record

'The Queen's Division' (Queen's Division, Junior School of Music) (Conductor: Bandmaster D E Price) (Music Masters Ltd 0554, 28 St Lawrence Drive, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex)

I wrote a year or so ago of a previous disc by this group of budding musicians. Then I was able to say that no concessions were necessary and your money would be well spent. I am pleased to repeat myself, and even recommend this one more

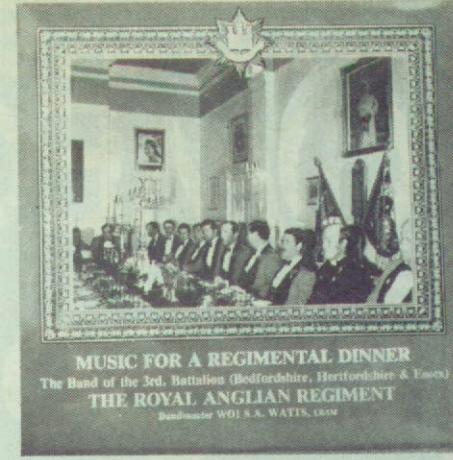


highly. The school is still in need of funds for further training aids so your odd pence will be in a good cause. The Queen's Division contains all those old East Anglian regiments, most of the Fusiliers, and of course the old Queen's Regiment, which calls for cheque books at the alert from all you old Beds & Herts, Lincolns, Northants, and all-points-east regiments. Why not send, say, £2 to Mr Price at Depot, Queen's Division, Royston, Herts, and let him keep the change? You'll get a 45rpm disc containing the marches 'Army Youth' and 'The Queensman', with 'Happy Music' and the pop tune 'Light My Fire.'

RB

'Music for a Regimental Dinner' (Band of the 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment) (Conductor: Bandmaster S A Watts) (Music Masters 0558)

Well here's a new idea for a record programme as far as I remember. A pity the door between the regimental band and the officers at dinner was closed; they might have enjoyed it. You'll notice how, after the Loyal Toast when the officers leave



MUSIC FOR A REGIMENTAL DINNER
The Band of the 3rd Battalion (Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire & Essex)
THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT
Bandmaster WO1 S.A. WATTS, LRAM

the table and join the band, the music becomes considerably more jocular, not to say low-brow. 'Twas ever thus.

Nevertheless the officers' mess is the basic training ground of Army bands and always has been, and lucky the bandmaster who must play there — occasionally nowadays; twice a week before the war.

Ideal conditions for training, with all the trappings of a public concert (full dress, stand banners, atmosphere) and a captive audience who can't hear, even if they want to, what is going on. (Put 'Tunes from Jesus Christ Superstar' on the typed programmed but play a movement from a Beethoven symphony instead). Ah, the cat-and-mouse games we who were Downstairs played with those who dined in their Upstairs sanctuary.

After the preliminaries of warning bugle calls and entry music Leo Stanley's fine march 'The Pompadours' (nickname of the old Essex Regiment) is played. Then 'New Baroque Suite' by Ted Huggins, a cornet trio 'Bright Eyes,' and two pieces by Gordon Langford, his arrangement of 'Lass of Richmond Hill' and, as I'm always saying, that best of modern marches 'The Prince of Wales March.' And before the officers emerge a couple of serious pieces, a poor arrangement of Purcell's 'Rondo' (the one Benjamin Britten knocked about a bit) and the march from Holst's 'Suite in Eb.'

The Loyal and Regimental Toasts over, none other than Catherine Watts the Bandmaster's wife is enrolled to entertain the company, and how well she does it. Whether they all got the message of 'A Word on my Ear' (Tone Deaf) is another matter, but 'I Loved you Once' was charmingly sung with all the skill one expects of a trained opera singer. Donald Swann, who wrote these two songs, has collaborated with Mrs Watts on many occasions.

Finally the regimental marches and a welcome tea and a wad for the band.

Record available from Bandmaster, Palace Barracks, BFPO 806, price £4 inclusive.

RB

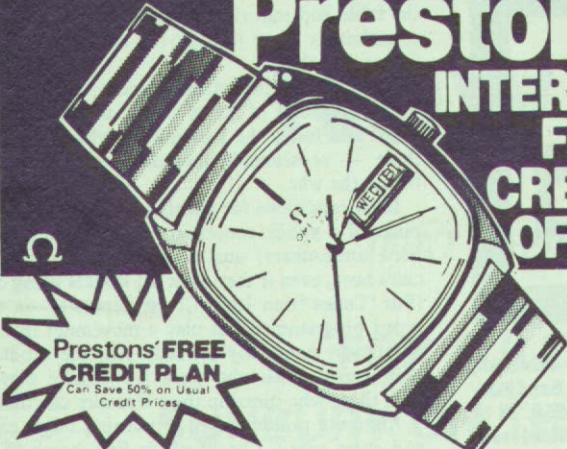
'The Best of The Royal Air Force Central Band (Vol 2)' (Conductors: Wing Commanders J L Wallace and R E C Davies) (EMI OU 2225)

Although this is the usual selection of successes from past records it contains several items you probably missed at the time, or were recorded before your time! In any case it is all great stuff, for this band hasn't made a dud yet. Others have played several of these pieces but never to this quality.

There is a march medley including 'British Grenadiers,' 'Lilliburlero,' 'Hielan' Laddie,' 'Men of Harlech,' and 'Rule Britannia,' 'Battle of Britain March,' and Denis Plater's much collected 'March of the King's Men.' A fine selection of 'Waltzes of Richard Rodgers,' five movements from the ballet based on Sullivan's music by Sir Charles Mackerras 'Pineapple Poll,' and Dvorak's 'Slavonic Dance No 71.' Among the shorter pieces are the 'Colditz March,' theme from 'Forsyte Saga,' the evocative 'Reach for the Sky,' Robert Farnon's perky 'Jumping Bean,' and a trombone trio 'Slide Kicks.'

RB

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mounted 5 speed gear-
boxes, 4 doors, vast
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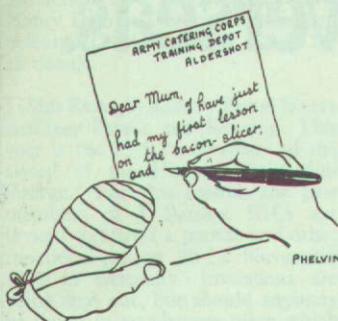
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S13

LETTERS



Unsung heroes

It was a pity that your article on the School of Preliminary Education, (May 1979) excellent as it was, appears to do the RAPC, and I suspect the ACC, less than justice.

We may not always be in evidence but nevertheless like to think we are part of the administrative team which provides a worthwhile service, especially in a unit of this nature where financial guidance and counselling could be crucial in enabling the students to cope with the future they have chosen — **Brigadier A P Skinner, Deputy Paymaster-in-Chief, Ministry of Defence, London.**

More light on . . .

I read with interest the item on the 25-Pounder gun in **SOLDIER** to Soldier (May 1979) and feel I can shed a little more light on this subject.

We currently hold four 25-Pounders as saluting guns and they fire all official and Royal Salutes throughout the year from their emplacement at Devil's Gap Battery.

As far as I have been able to ascertain these guns were originally deployed in the King's Bastion as a replacement for the five 18-Pounders which were mounted there for saluting purposes.

They were originally manned by 28 Coast Regiment until their disbandment in 1956 when they were taken over by 54 Anti-Aircraft Regiment until 1958 when this regiment, in turn, was disbanded.

They were then taken over by the only remaining Royal Artillery unit on the Rock; the Instructional and Maintenance Troop RA from whom The Gibraltar Regiment took the guns over.

Incidentally, Thomson's Battery, The Gibraltar Regiment and 8th Surveillance Troop RA, now comprise the sole gunner presence in this proud fortress where gunners have served continuously and with great distinction since 1704. — *Captain A M Rgeroni, Thomson's Battery, The Gibraltar Regiment, Gibraltar.*

... the 25-Pounder

Your piece about the 25-Pounder does not mention those guns in use in areas not under the War Office.

Each year on 31st May, now — in South Africa — renamed Republic Day, a 21 gun salute is fired from Naval Hill in Bloemfontein. The hill is named from the Naval detachment which came here during the South African War.

So your guns are still in use here. In addition, talking to one of our staff, he mentioned that the gun is also called a 'Saxon' and is self-propelled. Or maybe the title is 'Sexton'? Whatever the name, it is still a remarkable gun.

Your magazine always gives me pleasure. As a pre-war London Territorial with two short war-time spells in the Rhodesia Regiment and the South African Air Force, I find it retains the old-time Army atmosphere while giving news of the more essential developments. — *Malcolm Laing, 62 Brebner Road, Bloemfontein 9301, South Africa.*

answer but to no avail. Is this some kind of joke on how to keep an idiot in suspense or a genuine mistake? — **Fusilier L Marsen, Sigs Det, D Coy, 3 RRF, St Barbara Barracks, BFPO 38.**

No, *Fusilier Marsen, we weren't being deliberately devious. It seems our proof reader got so carried away testing his powers of observation on the puzzle, he failed to spot that some pages had been re-arranged! As some of our more hawk-eyed readers spotted, the answers were included — on page 61. Apologies. — Ed.*

Any panniers?

I am an ex-Royal Signals despatch rider and have recently purchased an ex-WD motorcycle, a Matchless G3L circa 1941-42.

To restore the bike to its original state, I require a pair of pannier bags and straps. So far I have had no luck at all. Even a search at the RAOC MT spares depot at Chillwell proved unsuccessful.

Can any of your readers help? I am, of course, prepared to pay a reasonable price and would either collect or refund postage. — **F Freeman, 58 Grove Crescent, Grimsby, DN32 8JU.**

SOLDIER — like many of its readers — is well aware of the 'unsung heroes' from supporting corps who give sterling service behind the scenes. But there is not always space to give them all a mention when the main subject of the story concerned deals with other matters — *Ed*

Burma award

In reply to the assertion that the Indian General Service Medal was only awarded for service on the North-West Frontier (**SOLDIER** April 1979) I should like to add that it was awarded for operations in Burma too (1930-32).

I was with 1st Battalion, The Buffs then. A battalion of The Manchester Regiment was there with a brigade including two Indian regiments. All would have received this decoration as would the battalion stationed at Maymyo at the time which I believe was the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. — **J E Field, 2/164 Halsey Drive, Lynfield, Auckland, New Zealand.**

Young Soldiers

I am researching the 70th (Young Soldier) Battalions which certain infantry regiments formed during World War Two.

Having served in 70th Battalion, The Border Regiment myself I would be interested to hear from any other ex-Young Soldier.

As far as I know, no 70th Battalion saw action (apart from air raids) but when these units were disbanded they formed a huge pool of reinforcements for battalions overseas and many former Young Soldiers were killed in action, decorated or quite efficiently soldiered on until VE and VJ Days and eventual demobilisation. — **J Hodgson, Honorary Secretary, Kings Own Royal Border Association (Preston Branch), 262 New Hall Lane, Preston PR1 4ST.**

Puzzled

Whilst doing the 'How Observant Are You' puzzle in your July issue I came across difficulties, so I did as your instructions suggested and turned to Page 32 for a quick look at the answer.

To my horror and dismay, Page 32 contained an article on people canoeing in the Caribbean. I looked through the whole magazine for the

Eighth Army Veterans Association
Reunion to be held Oct 20th at Norbreck Castle Hotel, North Shore, Blackpool. (Ticket holders only). Membership and further details from Mr J D Fisher, 28 Lilburne Crescent, Newton Aycliffe, County Durham, DL5 4LY.

WRAC Association — Northern Area Reunion. To be held in the Study Centre at Imphal Barracks, York, on Saturday 29 September 1979 from 2.30 to 6pm. Tickets £1, including tea, obtainable from Miss M Bradley, 60 West End Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 9BY (Tel: 0423-57023 evenings) not later than Thursday 20 September. Please send stamped addressed envelope with remittance payable to 'WRAC Association — Northern Area'. (No tickets available at the door). All Army ex-service women welcome to attend.

Army Apprentices College Chepstow. Beachley Old Boys Association Annual Reunion 28th, 29th, 30th Sept 1979. For information and booking forms write to Hon Sec BOBA, AA Coll, Chepstow, Gwent, NP6 7YG.

Hong Kong, Singapore, Ceylon and pack bdes, Royal Artillery Reunion. Eastbourne October 13th. Details from 835933 D A Knight, ERD, 79 Tyrrell Ave, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BT.

14th/20th King's Hussars reunion Saturday 24th November, Clifton, Manchester. Details from Home HQ, 14th/20th King's Hussars, Lancaster House, Manchester Road, Clifton, Manchester, M27 2PU. Tel 061-794 2898.

67th Field Regt 1939-45, Royal Artillery. Annual re-union 20 October. Details from Maj M Roberts, "Greenlands", Rose Bank, Fernhill Heath, Worcester.

continued on page 55

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Reunions

continued from page 53

The Queen's Own Buffs Regimental Association is holding a reunion and Service of Remembrance on Sunday 30 September. Please contact Mr Henry Delo at 8 Dorset Road, Canterbury (Tel: Canterbury 65867) for all details.

J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery Royal Horse Artillery Parade and Reunion. This year is the 25th Anniversary of the award of the Honour Title 'Sidi Rezegh.' For this reason, the past members of J Battery RHA are invited to attend a parade and other functions during 20-22 November 1979 in Germany. Invitations are being sent out, but should anybody be living in an obscure place which the Battery is unlikely to know about, please contact Lieut D A H Shaw RHA, Sidi Rezegh Day Parade, J Bty RHA, BFPO 16 for further information.

Collectors' Corner

J Dagleish, 149 West Port, 1st Flat, Edinburgh EH3 — Seeks British Army Gurkha Kukri.

A F Austen, 40 Simon's Walk, Patrixhall, Towcester, Northamptonshire — Requires Sam Browne Belt (less sword frog) £12 ono.

Doug Smith, 105 Cromwell Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 0NP — Seeks official postcards allied and enemy from prisoners-of-war 1914-18, 1939-45, Korea.

Sgt 1st Class Mike Johnson, 565-50-7001, Bty A, 2 Bn, 56th ADA, APO NY 09095, USA — Wants: Swedish Para qualification wings, Nato Command badges and Royal Marines cloth badges, ie King's Squad badge.

G W Haxton, 611-960 Markham Road, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, M1H 2Y4 — Will buy (or trade for) Royal Marines sleeve badge for the 'Royal Yacht.' State price or has some interesting Canadian Armed Forces pieces to trade.

Mr L Hillaby, 85 Ward Point, Hounds St, Lambeth, London SE11 — Seeks a record of 'Men of the Mall' recorded in the '50s. A cheque will be sent by return post to cover cost, postage etc.

Mr J Richardson, 36 Stratfield Road, Summertown, Oxford — Seeks metal type of cap badge of RAMC and REME from 1955-58.

M Doyle, 107 Mountainview Parade, Rosanna 3084, Victoria, Australia — Wants to sell Rhodesian General Service medal and ribbon, excellent condition, African BSAP recipient, best offer over £70.

Pte J Davidson, 32 Supply Bn, Camp Road, Broadmeadows, Victoria, Australia 3047 — Collects all artillery brass casings and would be interested in hearing from someone who has a German WW2 88mm brass casing to sell.

James Moran, RT 1, Box 247, Carl Junction, Mo 64834, USA — Seeks British and Commonwealth medals, has US medals for exchange. Also has US shoulder patches and web gear to exchange for British formation signs and '37 pattern webbing.

Mr Vic Brown, Brecklands, Northwell Pool, Swaffham, Norfolk, PE37

7HW — Wants relics from Far East war 1941-45 eg swords, flags, propaganda leaflets, bank notes, photographs, letters and newspaper cuttings etc for exhibition in aid of Burma Star and Far East PoW Assns.

R Hinchliffe, 27 Thick Hollins Drive, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD7 3DL — SOLDIER Magazine in binders from 1964. Would like medals, badges or offers in exchange.

John Harland, Beulah, 12 Vawdrey Road, Drayton, Norwich, Norfolk, NR8 6EL — Desperate to exchange, cap badges of Army, Police, Fire Service, for similar items. Also seeking naval cap ribbons, and cloth formation signs. Has also got training manuals in exchange for badges.

G T E Adamson, 10 Newton Terrace, Bishophill, York, YO1 1HE — Twelve-year old collector of military webbing and leather equipment would like to obtain British, American and Nazi items. Particularly interested in British 1944 and 1958 pattern. Will exchange for badges, steel helmets, gas-masks and oxygen masks or will pay fair prices for good pieces.

J P McCarthy, OBE, Nubes 481, Jardines del Pedregal de San Angel, Mexico 20, DF — Seeks copies of 'History 23rd Indian Division, Fighting Cock, 1942-1947' by Col A J F Doulton and 'The Siege of Imphal' (author unknown). New or secondhand.

Bill Duggan, 21 Essex Walk, Walcot, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 3EY — Seeks cloth shoulder titles — Manchester, King's, King's Own, Loyals, also any other badges or buttons of Lancashire Infantry regiments or 'Red Rose' formations patches.

A D Barrowcliffe, 4 Court Close, Patcham, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 8YG — Wants cloth and metal shoulder titles; stay-brite and metal cap badges of ACF, CCF, and university and school OTC units. Willing to pay reasonable prices.

David Turner, 14 Ambrose St, Mt Albert, Auckland 3, NZ. Wants — Commonwealth and Belgium badges especially medical corps. Has buttons and badges to exchange.

P Howarth, 17 Collen Cres, Bury, Lancs — Requires SOLDIER 1965-66-67, good price paid.

Sgt Gord Burnell, PO Box 686, Lazo BC, Canada, V0R 2KO — Would like to hear from anyone who has para wings for sale.

W W Tanner, 72 Worcester Crescent, Mill Hill, London, NW7 4LL — Seeks colour negatives for large prints of Douglas Dakota in flight in wartime camouflage.

Mr A Payne, 3 Cross Oak Road, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3EH — Wants to buy shoulder flashes of Guards Armoured Division, 1st/2nd/4th Guards Brigades, 32nd Guards Independent Brigade, 33rd Guards Brigade.

Mr V Green, 14 Belmont Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1LA — Seeks copies of SOLDIER Dec 1966, all 1967-1973, Aug/Nov 1974.

Lt Col L W Wooldridge, Flat 1, Rosemullion Court, Cliff Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon — Has pair Mess wellingtons (with trees) size 10½ for sale.

Cpl T E Pauley, 20 Armitage Sq, Larkhill, Wilts — Wants, to complete set, one stay-brite cap badge of the Life Guards. Willing to purchase or swap.

Competition

Our May 'Acrostic' competition proved quite a teaser judging by the smaller-than-usual number of entries. So a deserved pat on the back for all of you who did enter for getting it right. The quotation was by Wellington and read: "I have fished in many troubled waters, but Spanish troubled waters I will never try again."

Prizewinners:

- 1 Maj Dunlop, 18 Avenue Road, Wheatley, Doncaster DN2 4AQ.
- 2 R J Clements, 6 Spinney Avenue, Goostrey, Cheshire CW4 8JE.
- 3 T Kempshall, 36 Glendower Avenue, Coventry, West Midlands CV5 8BE.
- 4 Miss W J Parker-Wade, 3 Riverview Way, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 0AF.
- 5 L R Smith, 9 Limber Hill, Wymans Brook, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 4RJ.

6 Maj Cullen, 18 Fairview Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham NG5 4GW.

7 Mrs J Duncan, BGTC Kathmandu, BFPO 4.

8 Maj Wilmot, 1 Fetcham Lodge, The Street, Fetcham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

How Observant are you

(see page 18)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Width of office block on right, 2 Near-side headlamp of police car, 3 Size of moon, 4 Width of saloon bar window-sill, 5 Driver's sideburn, 6 Number of bars of drain near pillar box, 7 Support bar of Post Office sign, 8 Width of white car's rear tyre, 9 Number of windows left of moon, 10 Sidelamp of white car.

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.

SOLDIER is not always notified of alterations and cancellations. Readers are advised to check with the organisers.

See-the-Army DIARY

SEPTEMBER 1979

- 1 Seaham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Wolsingham Show, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, (1-2 September).
- 1 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show.
- 1 Guildford Show (1-2 September).
- 1 Moreton-in-Marsh Horse Show.
- 1 Malmesbury Carnival.
- 1 Guisborough Festival (1-2 September).
- 1 High Wycombe Show (1-2 September).
- 2 Luton (Bedfordshire) Show (White Helmets).
- 3 Crawley (Sussex) Tattoo.
- 8 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough (Red Caps; White Helmets; Household Cavalry trumpeters and drum horse).
- 8 Stanhope, Middlesbrough, Show.
- 8 Hoddesdon (Hertfordshire) Carnival (8-9 September). (Red Devils; Pegasus; static displays).
- 8 Trowbridge (Wiltshire) Carnival.
- 9 South Yorkshire Royal.
- 10 North Wales Army Careers Exhibition, Llandudno.
- 13 Army Careers Exhibition, Newport, Gwent (13-14 September) (Pegasus; 3 Para Band).
- 13 Cambrian March (13-16 September).
- 15 Stokesley Show.
- 15 Camberley Horse Show, Sandhurst (RGJ freefall).
- 16 National Carriage Driving Championships, Windsor (Red Caps).
- 18 HMS Vernon Searchlight Tattoo (18-22 September) (Red Caps).
- 20 Thame Show.

OCTOBER 1979

- 13 Armed Forces Service, Winchester Cathedral (900th anniversary).
- 23 Berlin Tattoo (23-28 October).

NOVEMBER 1979

- 3 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, lays up Colours, Auld Kirk, Ayr.
- 10 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 10 Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.

JUNE 1980

- 27 Aldershot Army Display (27-29 June).

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Twelve well-known faces, culled from **SOLDIER**'s photographic files, make up this month's competition. But we've cropped them to disguise them a little. Some belong to the past, some to the present. All you have to do is tell us who they are. Send your answers by postcard or letter with the Competition 254 label to:

Editor (Comp 254)

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GU11 2DU

The competition is open to all readers at home or overseas and the closing date is Monday 5 November. The answers and winners' names will appear in next January's **SOLDIER**.

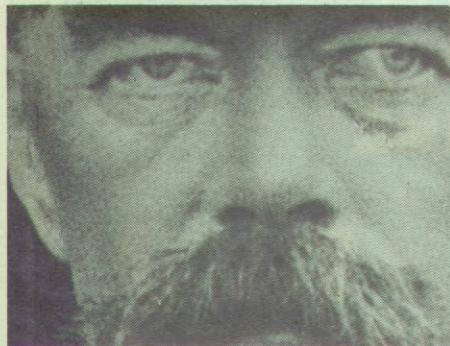
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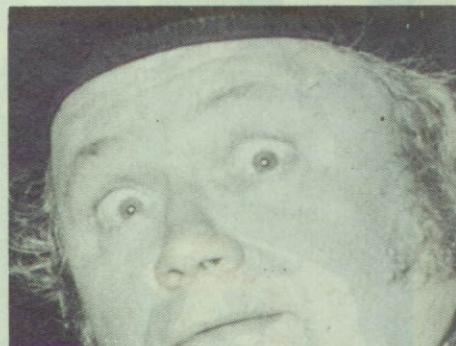
3 Stalin



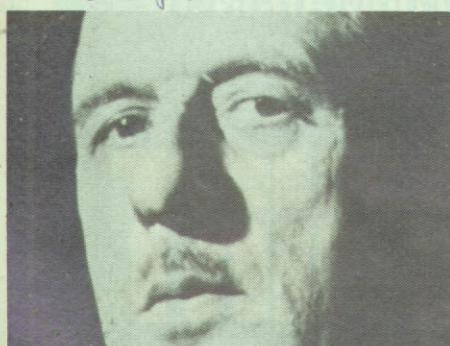
4 Callaghan



5 Vera Lynn



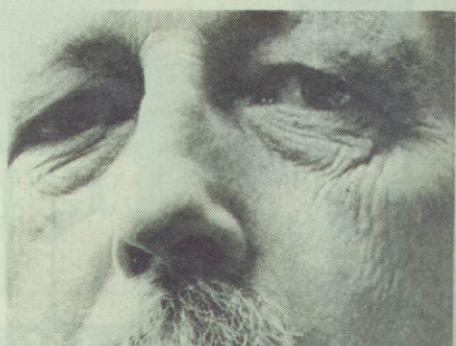
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7 D'Estany



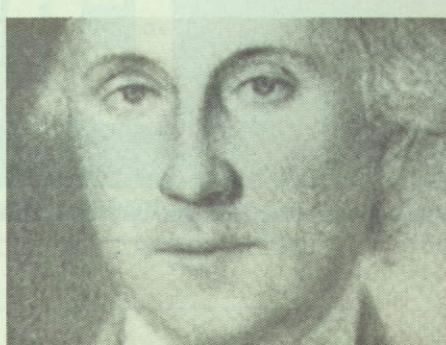
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9 Macmillan



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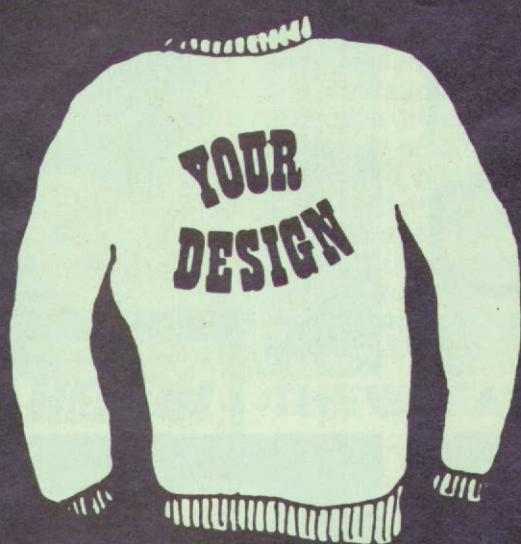


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12 Eric Morecambe

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Books

Good companion

'Wellington's Army' (Colonel H C B Rogers)

This is a companion volume to 'Napoleon's Army', but in it the author does not highlight battles and operations, rather uses them to 'illustrate tactics, organisation and the use of weapons.' He gives an historical

Wellington's Army

Colonel HCB Rogers OBE



outline of the time beginning with the campaign in the Netherlands (1793-95) passing through the expeditions to Egypt (1801 and 1807), Copenhagen (1807) then the first Peninsular Expedition of 1808 which ended at Corunna. There followed the successful expedition of 1809 which advanced into France in 1813 and brought final victory with Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815.

Apart from the details of the organisation of the Army during the period, the mass of material describing weapons, equipment and clothing, the tactics used and the conditions experienced, there are also many lighter but interesting pointers to the atmosphere of the times.

For instance: "most infantry regiments had their bands with them during the Peninsular War" and "such tunes as 'The British Grenadiers' and 'Rule Britannia' were popular." When the Life Guards were formed in 1788 they replaced in the Household Cavalry "the four troops of Horse Guards and Horse Grenadiers . . . the most useless and unmilitary Troops that ever were seen."

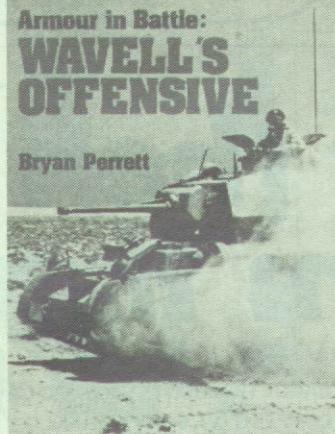
Good reading and well illustrated. *Ian Allan Ltd, Shepperton, Surrey, £7.50*

when Britain so badly needed a victory. Wavell's 'Thirty Thousand', defensively encamped in the coastal sand of the Western Desert, by a sudden bold stroke provided the national boost to morale when they utterly destroyed an Italian Army of 250,000 and captured 130,000 prisoners.

Here the 7th Armoured Division, the 'Desert Rats', earned their spurs. Here Brigadier Selby's Matruh Force of 1500 and a few Naval shells scared the 8000 Italians in fortified Maktula into surrender in a day and a night. In two months the Italians were chased out of Egypt and half way across Libya.

The story is told in pictures, with suitable fully explanatory captions boosted with comments, detail and anecdotes. It is a lively tale with dramatic photographs, supported by maps showing the movement of forces of divisional and brigade strength. There is also a chapter devoted entirely to the fighting vehicles involved, detailing specifications and including close-up photographs.

Wavell did not have the best of armour but what he did have,



together with the dash and determination of his commanders and men, was good enough to set the Italians running and defeat them in the field. A book, not only for those who were there, but also for experts and students, modelmakers and wargamers. *Ian Allan Ltd, Shepperton, Surrey, £5.50*

cerned neither with strategy nor tactics. But it does reflect the age and shows a glimpse of Army life that has now disappeared, a life shared with the horses that were once the only means of speedy manoeuvre and of transportation.

The story includes a submarine attack on the troopship *Mercian* carrying the troops to Egypt, which resulted in 100 casualties among men and horses. The French surgeons aboard who "were distinctly rough and ready" had to be actively persuaded not to amputate many arms and legs. They "found it difficult to understand that our Other Ranks were not 'common soldiers' but first class British citizens in uniform." There are many anecdotes and the photographs of personalities and places help to recall a time and manner of soldiering now long past.

Lincolnshire Life Ltd, 10 Dudley Street, Grimsby DN31 2AX, £2.95

GRH

Armour in Battle: WAVELL'S OFFENSIVE

Bryan Perrett



together with the dash and determination of his commanders and men, was good enough to set the Italians running and defeat them in the field. A book, not only for those who were there, but also for experts and students, modelmakers and wargamers. *Ian Allan Ltd, Shepperton, Surrey, £5.50*

'Rommel: Battles and Campaigns' (Kenneth Macksey)

The author believes that the many books published about Erwin Rommel — probably more than about any other World War Two general — have enhanced his reputation but have "frequently obscured his failings." Moreover, Goebbels and his Propaganda Ministry had exploited Rommel's forceful personality and battle-winning abilities to raise the German nation's morale. It was "to postwar Germany's political advantage, in restoring her self-respect, that the memory of this 'beau sabreur' should be enhanced and closely associated with chivalry — and, above all, anti-Nazi ideals."

Rommel's career is traced right through from 1914 when he first noted a chronic stomach complaint before going into battle. This often afflicted him in later years but he fought it and pushed himself hard. His forte was to push onward in victory and his failing, to panic and browbeat in adversity. He rarely blamed himself but found fault with others and made them scapegoats.

He might well have been killed on a number of occasions and several times came near to being captured. He was well aware of an animal-like instinct which often caused him to remark: "I sniff through the country like a fox." It gained him the name 'Desert Fox.'

Arms & Armours Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QZ, £7.95

GRH

Past recalled

'With the Lincolnshire Yeomanry in Egypt and Palestine 1914-1918' (J W Wintingham)

Although disbanded 60 years ago the Lincolnshire Yeomanry lives on in the memory of the remaining few who served in its ranks. This record of World War One was written in the belief that the "stores of adventures and experiences of those who fought" should be collected together "before it was too late."

This is not a great book of war — it covers barely 80 pages and is con-

Model world

'Model Soldiers in Colour' (Roy Dilley and Philip Stearns)

The children's world of tin and lead soldiers of 50 years ago has developed into a real art form, studied and cultivated by students and experts, wargamers and collectors of militaria.

This handy pocket-sized book recalls the history and explains the intricacies of the art form today. The 140 clear and colourful photographs depict military men, weapons, beasts and vehicles through the ages and many unexpected items, such as a street scene in Venice, a British Land Girl, an Atlantis fantasy scene, Lady Godiva, a Roman slave market and a Moonmaid.

Less than a third of the book is taken up by the explanatory text, a third by the pictures and most of the remainder by a clear explanation of each photograph. There are also useful lists of recommended reading (reference books, magazines and periodicals), modelling societies and their journals (worldwide) and a valuable roll of manufacturers of military models with names, addresses and the model types they produce. In all a useful book for the enthusiast and a valuable one for the newcomer. *Blandford Press Ltd, Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1LL, £4.95*

GRH

Fox unmasked



'Rommel: Battles and Campaigns' (Kenneth Macksey)

IN BRIEF

'RAF Airborne Forces Manual' (RAF Museum Series: Volume 8, General Editor: John Tanner, Director RAF Museum, Hendon)

Strictly a book for students of the minutiae of military history, this highly specialised volume makes available for the first time the technical background to British airborne warfare in World War Two.

An authentic reprint of the official Air Ministry manuals for airborne forces, it includes the data on the conversion of bombers and transport aircraft to carry parachute troops and supplies detailing information for Whitley, Wellington, Halifax, Albermarle, Stirling and Dakota Aircraft.

Components such as strong-points for static lines, straps and containers are described and illustrated plus details of loading, technical procedure for flying, emergency drills, paratroop equipment and air-dropped supplies.

The book is fully illustrated with heavily detailed drawings. *Arms and Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QZ, £8.95*

'D-Day to Berlin' (Terence Wise)

There seems no end to the permutations of catalogues of marking on military vehicles that can be presented glossily between hard covers to tempt militaria enthusiasts to part with their money.

This tome has over 270 illustrations — including 65 full-colour paintings — featuring the markings of opposing armour from just June 1944 to May 1945.

It is a big book, priced to match. *Arms and Armour Press, Lionel Leventhal Ltd, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London NW3 1QZ, £5.95*

Morale booster

'Armour in Battle: Wavell's Offensive' (Bryan Perrett)

This is a tale of the early days of World War Two in North Africa

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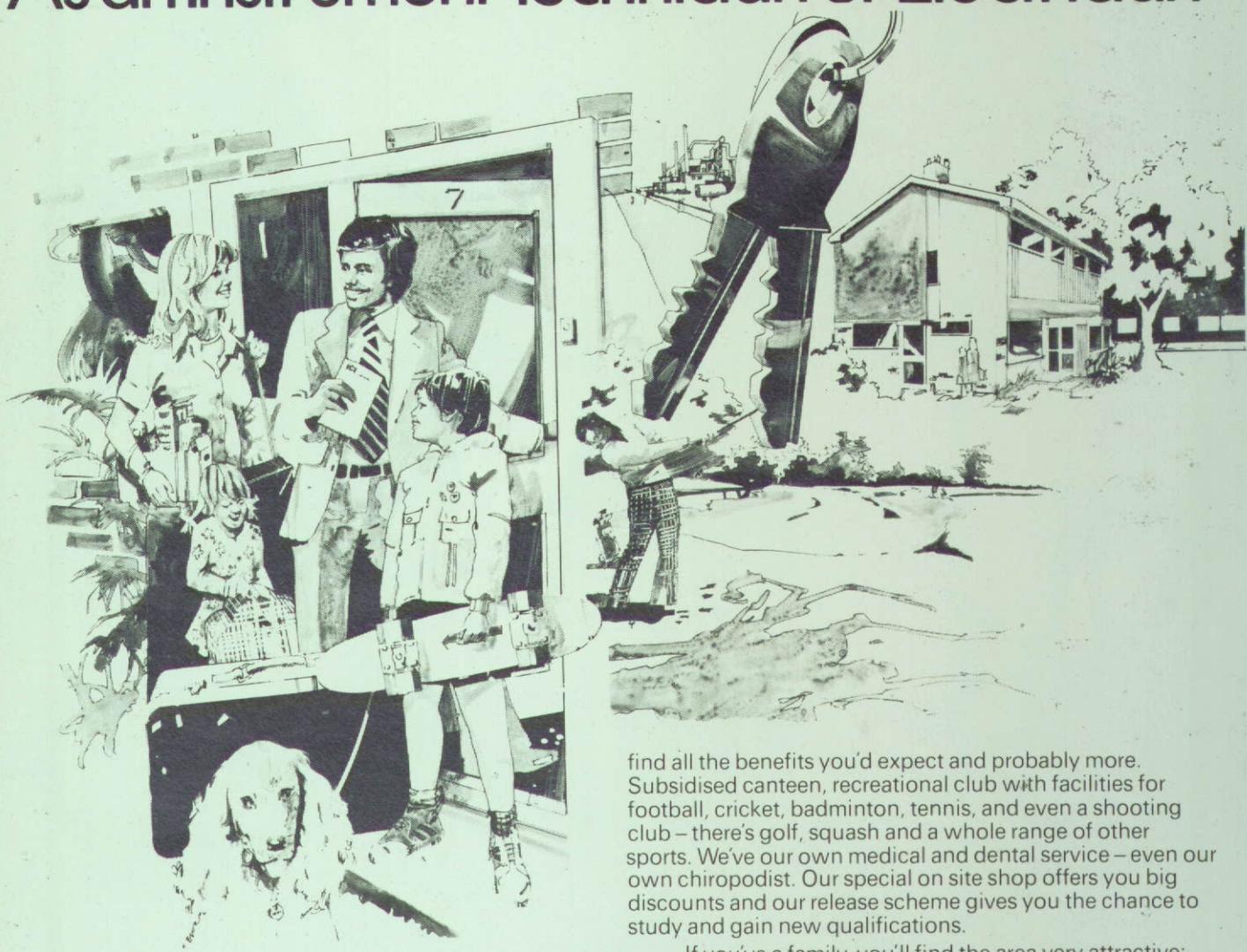
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