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S/12/74

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FRONT COVER

Two "Johnny Rebs" pose with their "Billy Yank" captors from the Southern Skirmish Association beside a Wild West covered wagon at the American Museum, Claverton, where the association's members staged a weekend battle.

Picture by Paul Haley.



BACK COVER

Captain Sue Stebbing (right) and Lieutenant Margaret Jones, Women's Royal Army Corps, were the first girls to take the week-long diving course at the Joint Services Sub-Aqua Club, Fort Bovisand.

Picture by Royal Navy Public Relations.

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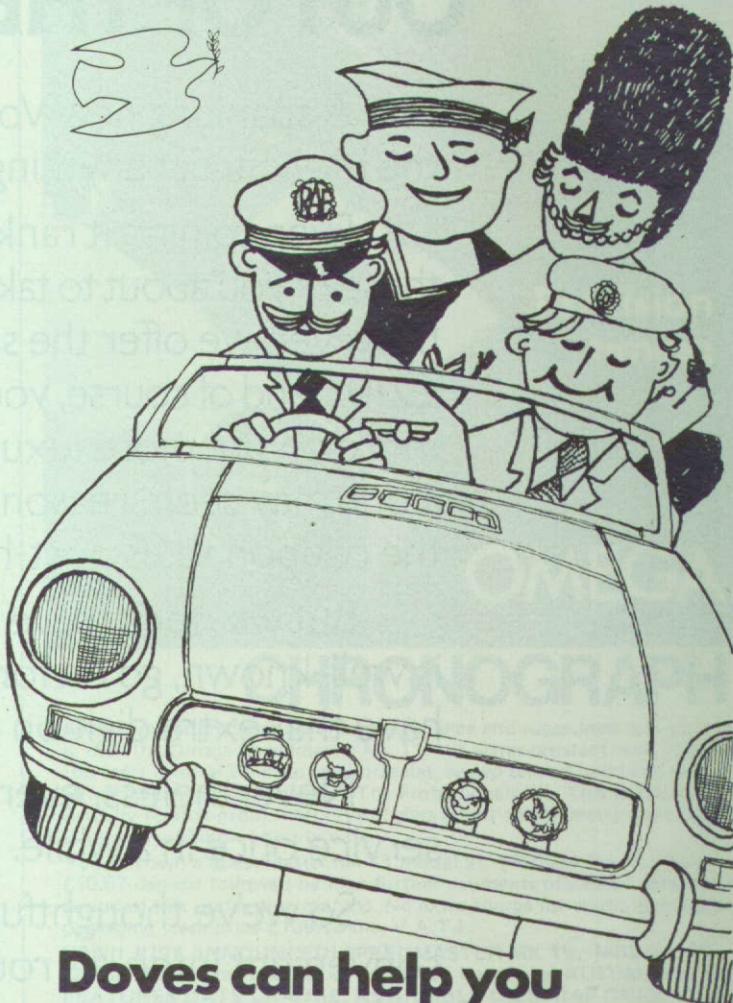
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DIARY

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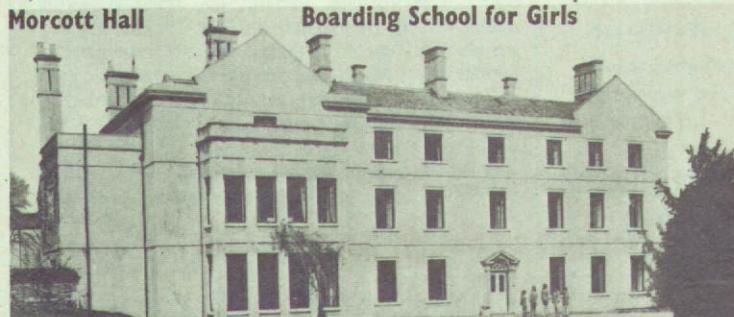
28 Rushden Show, Northamptonshire (display team; band).
 30 East Kent Army Week, Dover (30 June-5 July) (RA JLR gymnasts).

JULY 1975

1 Royal Agricultural Show, Kenilworth (1-6 July (Red Caps).
 5 Military Musical Pageant (Army Benevolent Fund), Wembley Stadium.
 6 Oxted (Surrey) Village Fête (Red Devils).
 11 Southampton Show (11-13 July) (Red Devils 12 July).
 11 Kent County Show, Gravesend (11-12 July) (Red Caps).
 12 Basingstoke Tattoo.
 12 Open Day, Depot, Queen's Division, Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire.
 12 Southminster (Essex) Show (Red Devils).
 12 Dagenham (Essex) Town Show (12-13 July) (Red Devils).
 12 Artillery Day, Larkhill.
 15 East of England Show, Peterborough (15-17 July) (Household Cavalry Quadrille; three bands).
 16 Mid-Somerset Agricultural Show (Red Caps).
 16 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (16 July-2 August).
 17 Liverpool Show (17-19 July) (Red Devils; two bands).
 18 Cheltenham Tattoo (18-19 July).
 20 Doddington Special (Red Devils).
 21 Kirkby (Lancashire) Army Display (21-22 July) (Junior Para gymnasts; Red Devils; three bands).
 22 Cleveland Army Display, Middlesbrough (22-25 July) (junior gymnasts; Royal Corps of Transport Silver Stars freefall team; two bands).
 24 Manchester Show (24-26 July) (Red Devils; Household Cavalry Quadrille; five bands).
 24 Deal Regatta (24-26 July) (Black Knights freefall team; band).
 25 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (25 July-2 August).
 25 Northampton Show (25-27 July) (display team; band).
 26 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop.
 27 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington Camp, Dorset.
 29 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle (29 July-2 August) (Red Devils; junior gymnasts; three bands).
 30 Lancashire Show (30 July-2 August) (Household Cavalry Quadrille 31 July-2 August).

AUGUST 1975

2 Open Day, Depot, Prince of Wales's Division, Lichfield (Red Devils).
 3 Knebworth Air Display (RA motorcyclists; band).
 3 Rutland County Show, Oakham (display team; band).
 4 Turreff (Scotland) Show (4-5 August) (Red Devils).
 6 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (6-9 August).
 8 Girls' Friendly Society Centenary Day (Red Devils).
 10 Derwentside Show, Consett (10-11 August) (Junior gymnasts; band).
 13 "Hythe Entertains" (13-20 August) (arena event; band).
 14 ARMEX 75, Harrogate (14-17 August) (King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery; APTC display; Red Devils 15-17 August; ten bands).
 22 Edinburgh Tattoo (22 August-13 September).
 23 Expo Steam Rally, Peterborough (23-25 August) (Red Devils; motorcycle team).
 24 Carlisle Army Display (24-25 August) (Junior Para gymnasts; Red Devils; RA motorcyclists; five bands).
 29 Burnley Army Display (29-31 August) (Junior Para gymnasts; Red Devils; RA motorcyclists; four bands).



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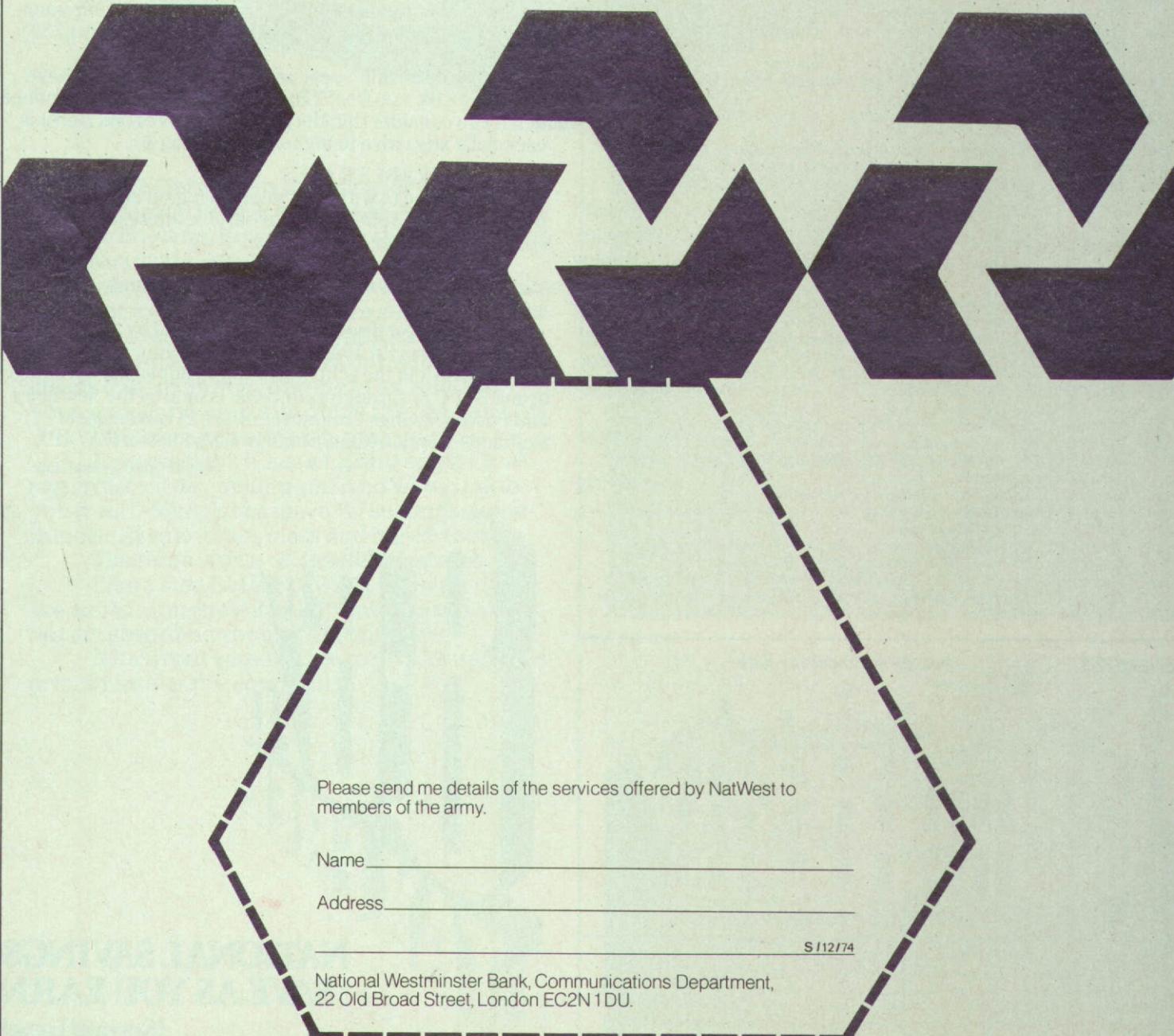
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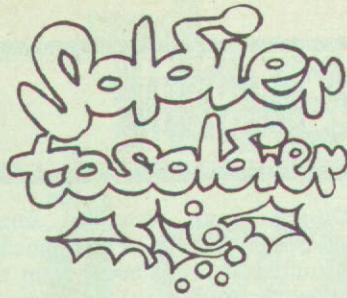
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Seven more designs have been added to the range of regimental drum ice buckets. They are: The Yorkshire Volunteers; The Queen's Lancashire Regiment (1st Battalion); 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars; Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian); The Royal Green Jackets; 6th (Co Tyrone) Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment; and 11th (Craigavon) Battalion, Ulster Defence Regiment. The ice buckets cost £5.60 (UK), £5.20 (BFPO) and £5.90 (elsewhere), including postage and packing.



Another **SOLDIER** reader service which makes a splendid permanent gift is the Army Diary. The 1975 diary costs £3.50 (UK), £3.20 (BFPO) or £3.30 (elsewhere), including packing and postage, and like its predecessors is bound in red imitation leather with gold blocking. It has a ribbon bookmark and full-colour jacket.

The content follows the pattern established by previous editions, with 40 introductory pages containing the usual diary information plus items of specific military interest such as a calendar of ceremonial events, Army sporting fixtures, detailed list of Army museums, Army charities and—new this time—a mileage chart of distances between principal military centres in the United Kingdom.

The page-a-day desk diary section includes regimental, battery and corps days, anniversaries of all major military events, days on which the Union Flag should be flown, and has a historical footnote each day, drawn from a wide range of sources and including extracts from old letters, diaries, papers and regulations, or quotations, verse, anecdotes and interesting statistics. At the end of each month is an eight- or nine-page feature. The 1975 edition subjects are the 1st Punjab Regiment, senior unit of the old Imperial Indian Army; the battle of Dettingen; 14 Air Despatch Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport; The Legion of Frontiersmen; the relief of Kumasi 1900; Signals in the Great War (second in a four-part feature tracing the development of Army signalling); The King's Own Scottish Borderers; 2000 years of military police service from the Roman legions to today's Royal Military Police; a brief history of the British connection with Cyprus; "Lord Wargraves"—the work of Sir Fabian Ware for war graves; and the story of L Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, winning three Victoria Crosses at Nery in 1914.



And finally a reminder that the box office at Wembley Stadium opens on 5 February 1975 for personal bookings for the military musical pageant to be held on Saturday, 5 July, in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Postal bookings only can be accepted now. Prices are as for the 1973 military musical pageant: £2.50, £2.00, £1.50, £1.00, outside stands 50p, terraces 30p.

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DORSET MILITARY MUSEUM

THE Dorsetshire Regiment has two unique honours—the motto "Primus in Indis" won by the 39th Regiment of Foot in June 1757 at Plassey, and the Sphinx badge over the inscription "Marabout" granted to the 54th Foot after the Egyptian campaign of 1801. Exhibits commemorating both can be seen in the Dorset Military Museum.

There is the Marabout gun, one of two brass cannon captured from the French at Fort Marabout near Alexandria by the 54th, later to become the regiment's 2nd Battalion, while a detailed diorama of the battle of Plassey shows the 39th in action with Colonel Clive, later Lord Clive of India, surveying the scene from the roof of the hunting lodge which served as his headquarters. Two 30lb enemy cannonballs stand nearby. Forebear of the Dorset's 1st Battalion, the 39th was the first King's or Regular regiment to land in India.

A display of nearly 2000 medals includes the Victoria Cross won by Private S Vickery of the 1st Battalion in October 1897 for rescuing a comrade under fire in the Tirah campaign on the North-West Frontier of India. This VC is part of an impressive group which includes his seven-bar South African War Medal and Indian General Service Medal. Another act of bravery is recalled by the two musketballs which mortally wounded 19-year-old Ensign T D Bray as he carried the Regimental Colour of the 39th at the battle of Maharajpore in December 1843. Also on view are the cap and tunic he wore in the battle in which his father, Lieutenant-Colonel Bray, commanded the regiment until wounded.

The museum has a good collection of weapons, particularly in the automatic and personal categories. Peninsular War exhibits include a powder horn and series of battle pictures, while photographs by pioneer war photographer Roger Fenton vividly portray the Crimean campaign.

Two Colour belts salvaged from fire and explosion aboard the India-bound troopship "Sarah Sands" on 11 November 1857 when 800 miles from the nearest land, are reminders of the cool courage of the men of the 54th who cleared the powder magazine and fought the flames for 18 hours until the outbreak was subdued.

A tableau vivant depicts a group of officers in mess dress from the mid-19th century to modern times and there are several other examples of different types of uniform. A lifesize model of a steel-helmeted private of the Dorsets stands with reversed arms in the museum's memorial corner and a startlingly realistic German sniper wearing protective armour takes aim from a church tower window.

Mementoes of the South African War range from a small piece of cake kept as a souvenir from a gift box sent to British troops by Queen Victoria and a battered

2nd Dorsets drum recovered from the crest of Spion Kop to a combined two-bladed knife and pistol taken from a Boer prisoner and a Boer waistcoat ammunition carrier with three rows of pouches.

A 1st Dorsets bugle with a bullet embedded in it and a German trench periscope are two of many World War One items. World War Two exhibits range from a Nazi eagle and swastika car badge and a stormtrooper's dagger to one of the museum's most popular attractions—flanked by two Nazi standards, a massive wooden desk taken from Hitler's chancellery in Berlin. A Home Guard case shows a British pike, 1940 issue, and a Thompson sub-machine-gun.

An upper room houses a Korean case showing a British soldier in winter combat kit, a good collection of shakos and helmets, two Volunteer drums of 1803 vintage and a number of other interesting exhibits, mostly relating to Volunteers, including the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry.

Noteworthy in a valuable collection of regimental silver are two kettledrums and a handsome cigar box. Pictures include a good portrait of the Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria.

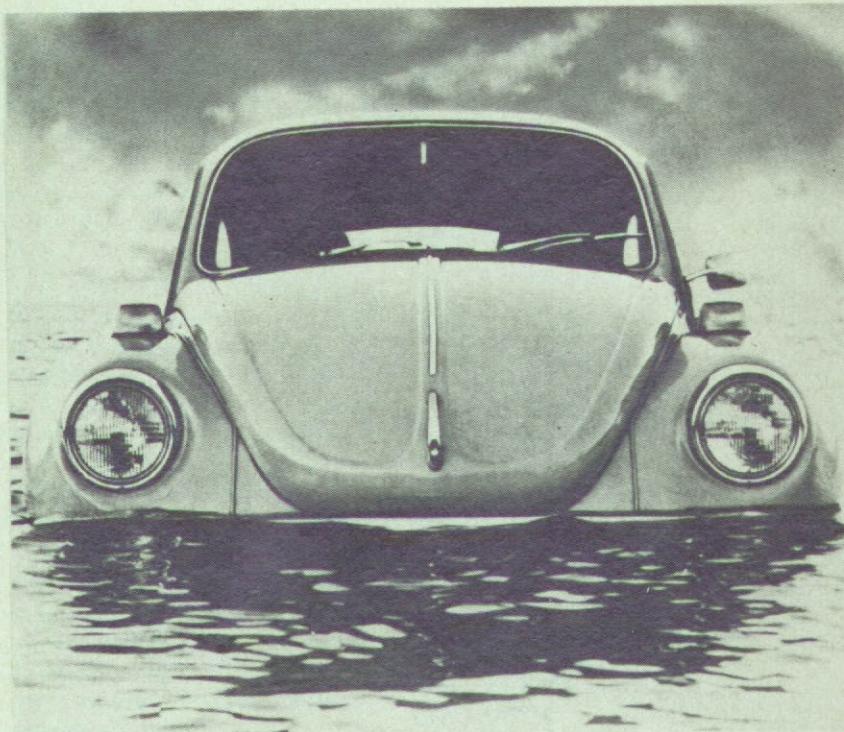
It is not just the attractive way in which the exhibits are presented that makes this museum so rewarding to the visitor but also their intrinsic interest and the fact that so many have a story to tell. Typical are the officer's sword of the German 1st Dragoons of the Guard—the Queen was Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment—with "I GD Tgt Königin Victoria von Grossbritannien & Irland" engraved on the blade; a sporting rifle belonging to the Kaiser; and the binoculars which deflected a bullet, thus saving the life of a Devon and Dorset corporal in Northern Ireland in 1972.

The Devonshire and Dorset regiments amalgamated in 1958 to form The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and a room has been set aside in the museum for the new regiment's exhibits.

John Jesse

Curator:	Lieutenant-Colonel D V W Wakely (Retd)
Museum Custodian:	Mr S S T Avery
Address:	The Dorset Military Museum The Keep Bridport Road Dorchester Dorchester 4066
Telephone:	Monday to Friday, 0900 to 1300 and 1400 to 1700; Saturday, 0900 to 1200 except in July, August, September when same as Monday to Friday
Open:	Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Good Friday 10p, children 5p
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THIRTY YEARS ON - and the Welsh Guards are back in Brussels for the liberation anniversary



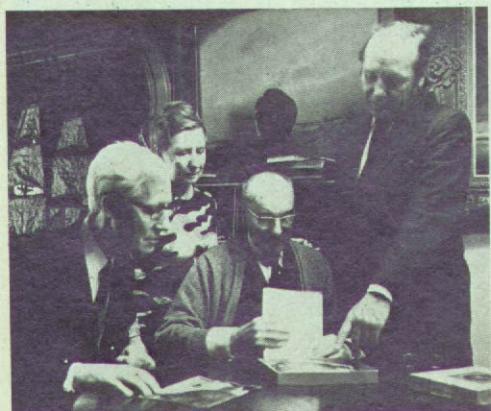
Brussels sprouts Welshmen as the Guards march through in 1944 (left) and (above) 30 years later.

FIRST IN - CAPTAIN DENT'S CROMWELL

MARCEL VANDERSTRAETEN waited patiently in his flat high above the constant roar of traffic along Boulevard Anspach in the heart of Brussels. He knew that old comrades of the Welsh Guards who liberated the city from Nazi occupation 30 years ago were in the Belgian capital for a reunion. Somehow he knew, as surely as if an appointment had been made, that someone from the party would visit him.

For Monsieur Vanderstraeten has very special memories of the dark days of the war, lightened at last for him and the rest of Brussels on 3 September 1944 when the Welsh Guards drove their Cromwell tanks up the tram lines into the centre of the city. He was the proud possessor of a camera—he delights in creative hobbies as the sculpture and paintings that furnish his flat proclaim—and he risked his life to make a remarkable record of the liberation of his city, photographed from the window of his flat.

One of those pictures shows the first Welsh Guards tank dashing unopposed across Boulevard Anspach. A public clock on the corner shows the time as 7 am and the streets are deserted. By chance he met the commander of that tank—a quiet young officer with a more serious-minded approach than many he had seen—in the Hotel Anspach almost next door to his home. The hotel later became a rest centre for officers.



M Marcel Vanderstraeten (centre) shows his liberation photographs to the men on them.

After the war, the crew of the first tank into Brussels during the liberation went their separate ways. Pictured here are Guardsman Ralph Beresford (left of turret), Lieutenant Dent (right of turret) and the driver, Guardsman James, who now lives in Liverpool, peering out of the hull. The apprehensive-looking face to the right of the tank belongs to squadron commander Major Nigel Fisher. The picture was taken on the day after the liberation and published in a magazine. Lance-Corporal Rees, not pictured, went back to Wales after the war and the other Beresford, also not pictured, settled in Kenya.

Story by Mike Starke Pictures (1974) by Paul Haley

THIRTY YEARS ON

On the strict condition that it would not be offered for publication, Monsieur Vanderstraeten parted with a copy of the historic print as a keepsake for the young officer, Lieutenant—later Captain—J A W Dent.

Thirty years later, Captain Dent, now a farmer in Gloucestershire, brought his treasured photograph back to Brussels to show his old comrades at the reunion—and a chain of events was set in motion that was to fulfil Monsieur Vanderstraeten's intuition.

SOLDIER sought out Captain Dent and, as luck would have it, the radio operator from his old crew, Mr Ralph Beresford, was also on the trip and met his one-time commander for the first time since the end of the war. At the sight of Captain Dent's photograph the memories flooded back of the balmy summer of 1944 when 3 Troop, 1 Squadron, 2nd Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion, Welsh Guards, led the way into Brussels.

"Actually, it was a race against the Horse Guards who were in armoured cars. But I believe they were held up by burning vehicles," said Mr Beresford. Captain Dent added with a grin: "They always claimed to us that they got into the city at 0715 on 3 September." He pointed triumphantly to the clock in his photograph: "But there you see the indisputable evidence—we were there spot on seven!"

It was a worrying time for Guardsman Beresford—the electric trams overhead had cut out all radio communications. His young commander, almost half his own age and whom he openly admired for his quiet dedication, showed no sign of anxiety then, but he too confessed as the two sat together again 30 years on: "We just couldn't get through on the radio—we actually came into

the city right down a tramline. To be honest, I was hopelessly lost."

But its crew had come to believe their trusty Cromwell was a lucky tank. It had served them well ever since they took delivery of it in Staffordshire before the invasion of Europe. And Dame Fortune continued to smile as the tank edged uncertainly into the silent city on that September morning. From nowhere, a Canadian pilot, downed earlier by enemy fire and since then in hiding with the Resistance, leapt on to the back of the tank to direct Lieutenant Dent through the maze of streets. He was joined by a Belgian partisan.

"There they are," Captain Dent pointed again to the photograph: "Just after we got out of sight of the photographer we came under machine-gun fire and our two guides jumped for cover. We never saw them again from that day to this." The lucky Cromwell survived the attack and went on to carry its crew as far as the Rhine where the main drive failed and it had to be abandoned. "We were loathe to lose it—it was a very lucky tank," recalled Mr Beresford.

As the two old comrades reminisced, they glossed over the grimmer side of the job they had to do at the time. But it is a matter of history that the teenage Lieutenant Dent, driver Guardsman E J James, gunner Lance-Corporal E K Rees, Guardsman Ralph Beresford and hull gunner Guardsman Robert Beresford—curiously not related—were the first allied soldiers to re-enter the Belgian capital on 3 September.

They destroyed a busload of Germans by the Avenue des Arts on their way to the Arc de Cinquantenaire where they knocked out a German tank before halting for the

night with Prince of Wales Company of the Welsh Guards' 1st Battalion.

So intriguing was the story that it was decided to try to find the crossroads where the photograph was taken to make a "then-and-now" comparison. "As I said, we were lost," Captain Dent shook his head sadly. "All I know is we had crossed the canal there," pointing to his new street map, "and we were photographed somewhere near the Bourse, the Stock Exchange, there."

SOLDIER set off with the two ex-Guardsmen and soon came to the wide boulevard where the Bourse stands. With remarkable ease the very crossroads pictured being traversed by their tank was found. The small party was in Boulevard Anspach and SOLDIER's photographer was looking for a similar vantage point to picture Dent and Beresford on that corner again for the first time in 30 years.

A close study of the original print led the group to a doorway between two large department stores. The bell-push produced no reaction from within but, on trying the handle, the door opened. Inside all was darkness but the small group fumbled along a passage until Mr Beresford found a light time-switch which revealed a staircase spiralling up an apparently deserted building.

Some floors above street level the party made an arbitrary choice of a door. "Qui est là?" enquired a querulous voice from within. It was Monsieur Vanderstraeten's wife. "Come in," she said, as soon as she saw the photograph of the first tank into Brussels, "there is the photographer . . . he had an intuition that someone would come."

The flabbergasted veteran crew members of the Cromwell were soon poring over

Cromwell tank commanded by Lieutenant J A W Dent crosses Boulevard Anspach as first tank into Brussels.





Never-to-be-forgotten scenes as Brussels celebrates its liberation. Right: Smashed tank symbolises Nazi defeat.

Monsieur Vanderstraeten's unique photographic record of the day they were first in Boulevard Anspach. A few minutes before photographing them, he had got a shot of a German tank hurrying in the opposite direction, a large fuel barrel lashed to the hull. "I knew then he was going to travel far and the allies must be close," said the photographer. The next picture was a copy of Captain Dent's and at last he was absolved from the promise he had kept not

to let it be published—it had been offered exclusively to a now defunct English paper.

Two boxes full of prints told the tale of 3 and 4 September 1944 in pictures from the flat window. The air was electric with emotion as each print was slowly displayed in old Monsieur Vanderstraeten's quivering hands. The memories crowded back and tears welled to his eyes for a moment. "Excuse me, I am an old man," but his apology was unnecessary in the highly

charged atmosphere the old comrades shared with him.

Time to go and Madame Vanderstraeten produced a key for the street door. "But the door is open," the visitors protested. "That cannot be, Messieurs, it is always kept locked . . . always." The last in a series of coincidences that fulfilled her husband's intuition. Or perhaps an echo of the luck that followed the tracks of the leading Cromwell tank of 3 Troop 30 years ago.

Below: The same street today with tank survivors Captain Dent and Mr R Beresford standing on the corner.



A BEARSKIN FOR THE MANNEKEN



Left: A new bearskin for Brussels' most famous resident, Manneken Pis.

Right: Welsh Guards band marches through Ostend shopping centre.

Below: At Manneken Pis an inspection of a Welsh Guards guard of honour.

UNDoubtedly the oldest—and boldest—inhabitant of Brussels to be liberated on 3 September 1944 was the Manneken Pis. This fountain is the most celebrated, if not the most decorous, monument in Brussels—a bronze statuette of a little boy from which a stream of water issues in ingenious fashion.

The monument dates back to the early 17th century. Legend has it that it was commissioned by a grateful father whose small son got lost but was found, to the relief of his parent, finding relief himself behind a hedge.

Since Louis XV of France gave the statue an embroidered coat and decoration, an extensive wardrobe of suits and uniforms has grown. So it was only natural that the Welsh Guards who delivered the lad from Nazi control should present him with the uniform in miniature of a Welsh Guards sergeant-major, complete with bearskin.

Highlight of the 30th anniversary of the liberation was the presentation by the Welsh Guards Association of a new, bigger, better bearskin to the manneken in exchange for the old one he has had since the war.

On the eve of the anniversary the party of old comrades and the band and drums of the Welsh Guards formed up in front of the manneken. In the centre stood a Colour party bearing the Brussels Standard, a treasured banner made by the ladies of Brussels and presented to the Welsh Guards in 1945. Other units in the Guards Armoured Division were given similar standards. The Standard is carried only in Brussels and so has been paraded only a handful of times since the war.

As the band struck up "We'll Keep a Welcome in the Hillsides . . ." the Welshmen could not repress their natural national urge to join in and sing—a fitting serenade for the little statue, resplendent for the evening in his scarlet tunic and dark trousers. The new bearskin was presented as a crowning glory and the turn of a tap brought a stream of appreciation from the "fountain."

The band marched off to play before a crowd of thousands in the Grand Place. Selections from modern musicals and the pop charts echoed back from the spectacular baroque façades of the floodlit buildings lining the square.

For three days the ex-guardsmen re-took Brussels and found a warm welcome wherever they went. Young and old alike thronged to see the men who took part in what was described during World War Two as "An armoured dash unequalled for speed in this or any other war." The tanks covered 83 miles in a day, fighting three actions en route, to become the first allied troops into Brussels to flush out dwindling German resistance. In fact, several veterans recalled their major concern was the tumult



tuous reception from the Belgians whose delirious welcome sometimes threatened the safety of both men and machines.

As well as celebrations during the anniversary, there was time for reflection. One of the first ceremonies was at a memorial to the dead of the Free Belgian Brigade Piron, led by Brigadier J Piron, which fought alongside the Welsh Guards.

The Brussels Standard proudly fluttered in the morning drizzle as the band struck up "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" on the march to the monument. During the brief

ceremonies—tragically cut short because of the sudden collapse and death of a local dignitary—General Sir Richard Gale, commander of the British 6th Airborne Division, in which served the Belgian Brigade, was created a Grand Officer de l'Ordre de la Couronne, an honour specially decreed by King Baudouin of Belgium.

Parades and wreath-laying ceremonies punctuated the visit with acts of remembrance and the strains of the Welsh Guards' regimental march—"Men of Harlech"—rang out more than once in the Brussels

streets. In fact the duties of the band and drums began when they landed from the cross-channel ferry at Zeebrugge and were sped to nearby Ostend to march, counter-march and play in the main square before a cheering crowd. A section of musicians then played at a civic banquet while their colleagues tucked into beer and sandwiches provided by a grateful town.

For the old comrades, the most poignant moments came during tours of the battlefields that marked their advance in 1944. At Jodoigne, old friendships were renewed

after 30 years and overwhelmed villagers and visitors wept unashamedly. At Hechtel, scene of some of the fiercest German resistance in 1944, the veterans were shown a small museum of World War Two militaria including a home-made flag giving thanks for the liberation. The daughter of the local seamstress who made it married a British soldier, William Jones, who settled in Hechtel after the war as a builder and was soon taken to the local expert who sold him a pair of birds. "I'm not going to fly them," said Mr Davies, "I'll keep them for breeding purposes." And they went back to

Pigeon fancier Stan Davies, who served during the advance as a lance-corporal and went on to soldier as a Regular, retiring as a company sergeant-major, made two additions to his loft, thanks to a Hechtel man who shares his hobby. Mr Davies explained that Belgium is renowned for its racing pigeons and when he asked the interpreter if Hechtel had any fanciers, he was soon taken to the local expert who sold him a pair of birds. "I'm not going to fly them," said Mr Davies, "I'll keep them for breeding purposes." And they went back to

Below: Hands on heads for group of German prisoners brought in by men of 1st Battalion.



HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?



These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 45.

THIRTY YEARS ON

join the other 50 pigeons in his loft.

But the past caught up with the present as the party made a stop at a canal bridge where an action was fought during the advance after Brussels was liberated. Mr Davies remembered laconically: "We baled out on the other side of the canal bridge on the way to Hechtel. No-one was hurt." Had the place changed a lot in 30 years? "It seems about the same, but to be honest, in war as a lance-corporal your main interest is just keeping alive—that's how I got through it all."

Every man had some personal triumph or tragedy indelibly stamped on his memory. Many had reminders by seeing old places and faces that had once been so familiar for a few days or weeks. One man was quietly shown a doorway by a widow whose husband had died in a hail of bullets there. The veteran remembered with a sudden shock how he had yelled a vain warning to a Belgian emerging from the self-same door to be cut down by enemy fire. There was every possibility they were the same man.

Nor did the old comrades forget their fallen brothers-in-arms. Each coach party made stops at war graves to plant small regimental crosses at Welsh Guards' graves distinguished from the serried ranks of white stone markers by the distinctive leek badge of the regiment.

Previous research had established where specific graves were and the names of the long dead sprang once more to their comrades' lips as the cemeteries were searched for the headstones: "Whose got Jones? . . . I've got Davies . . . have you a spare cross, here's an unknown Welsh Guardsman."

There was a special concern for the simple stone which bore only the inscription: "A soldier of the Second World War, Welsh Guards 1944, known unto God."

"He must have lost his discs, that one . . ."

"It seems almost impossible; someone was bound to know him in his company."

And the spirit of wartime comradeship spanned the years as a veteran stooped to plant a cross in front of the stone and murmured: "He might be unknown, but he's not forgotten."



Above: Welsh Guards Old Comrades meet some of today's youngsters in Hechtel, the scene of fierce battles.

Right: Badged headstone marking the grave of a fallen Welsh Guardsman.



Below left: General Piron, Commander of the Free Belgian Brigade Piron.

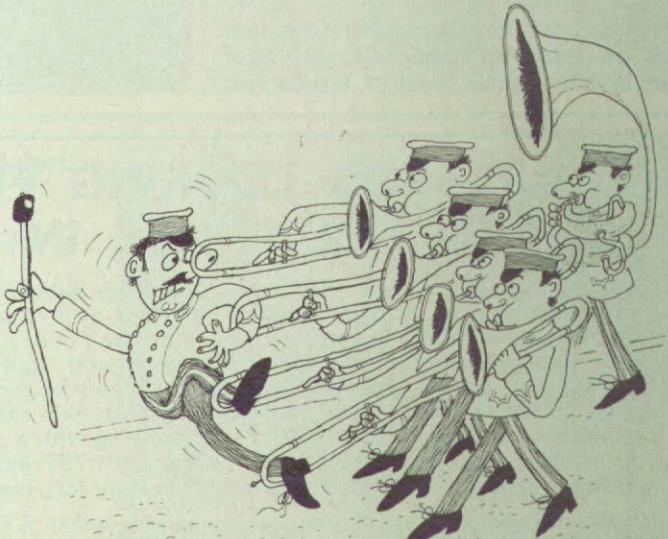
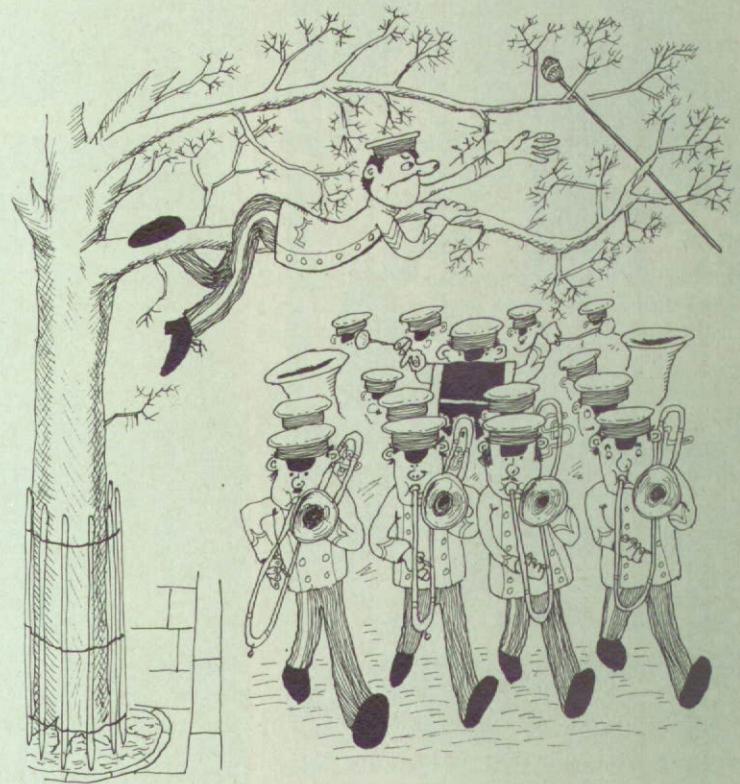
Below: Sadness in onlookers' eyes at one of the wreath-laying ceremonies.





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Sgt Geoffrey Scott RAMC, a hygienist, had to overcome many difficulties in establishing a working base for the Army medical team.

Right: Sgt Dave Freeman, of 663 Squadron, takes off from an improvised pad after flying in food for this group of Hondurans.



HONDURAS

British troops aid "Fifi's" victims

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AGE

AMONG the first rescuers to fly into the devastated Central American country of Honduras, following Hurricane Fifi, were British soldiers from neighbouring Belize (formerly British Honduras). A Royal Air Force aircraft lifted men of C Company of 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, with attached soldiers from the Royal Engineers, Army Aviation flight and Royal Army Medical Corps, to San Pedro Sula in the centre of the damaged area.

A small reconnaissance group had flown in the previous day to assess the situation and see what aid could be given from Belize-based resources. Heading this team was the battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel B M Lane, who with his quartermaster, Major Dennis Lloyd, and intelligence officer, Lieutenant David Wynne Davies, made contact with the United States Army relief team.

The Sula Valley had sustained severe flooding which had washed away concrete bridges and covered villages and roads with a quagmire of mud and fallen trees. Working with Sioux helicopters, C Company's 10 Platoon was deployed to distribute food supplies to isolated areas. Pilots Captain Tony Stansfield and Sergeant Dave Freeman both of 663 Squadron, Army Air Corps, flew 62 hours locating those in need of immediate relief. The platoon, in assault craft manned by sappers from 60 Squadron, Royal Engineers, Maidstone, crossed the floods to distribute food and medical supplies.

To aid local medical services, Staff-Sergeant Millard and Sergeant Scott, of the RAMC, took over the running of a hospital ten miles east of San Pedro Sula. Assisted by Army medical orderlies, they helped in minor operations—and the delivery of babies!

The relief operation lasted a week and during that time the lone Hercules carried out all of the moves and ferried more than 80 tons of grain from the capital, Tegucigalpa, to La Ceiba on the north coast. It was yet another example of a successful inter-Service combined project.

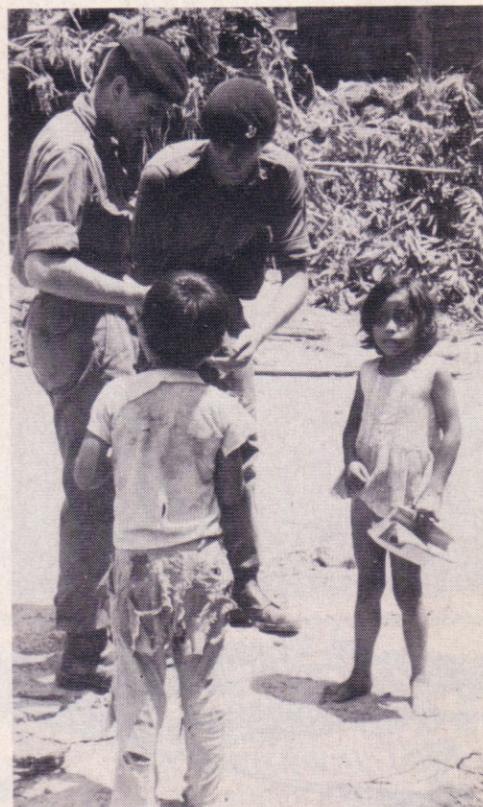
One man worth his weight in gold was Sergeant Eric Jones, Royal Signals—as a fluent Spanish speaker he was in great demand.

From a report by Lieutenant David Wynne Davies.

Right: Two Light Infantry soldiers making friends with an orphaned Honduran boy and his sister, the survivors of a family of ten.



2/Lieut Martin Mackain-Bremner, from Warminster, chatting to a "World in Action" team during a distribution run.



Below: Commander British Forces Belize, Col J I Fraser-Orr, flown in by Capt Tony Stansfield to inspect the relief operation.



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GUNSMOKE clings like a spectral mist to the wet grass of a hillside strewn with the grey-clad dead of a foolhardy Confederate charge against a Union gun battery. The voice of a surviving officer cuts through the battle's reek: "All right, everybody stand up now."

The corpses spring to life to fight another day in the ranks of the Southern Skirmish

Rebel yells rent the air as Confederate cannon goes into action on a Bath hillside.



throughout the Deep South—of Britain—but rarely venturing north of a Mason Dixon line drawn, say, through Birmingham... Warwickshire, that is, not Alabama.

This is not to say that the skirmishers favour the Confederacy, no sirree. The membership is divided carefully into Johnny Rebs and Billy Yanks for display purposes with company strengths of actual Civil War units from both sides represented by handfuls of men.

SOSKAN was formed in 1968 by a band of Civil War researchers who pooled their interests. It was decided to subsidise the research by performing public battle displays using Civil War field tactics. The results of members' studies forms a static display of contemporary militaria, dioramas, posters and descriptive boards. Some individuals have set about writing books on various aspects of the conflict. At the other end of the scale, some of the 200 to 300 members are attracted by the escapism offered in dressing up and playing at war.

One smart young Union officer fingered his sword-knot nervously as he confided: "I didn't know a thing about the American Civil War when I joined. I just came along for something to do." But a growing interest was rewarded by a swift advancement from the ranks—SOSKAN has a strictly administered rank structure governed by its committee.

Some 40 or 50 skirmishers muster for each display and all take a pride in their authentically reproduced uniforms. Several sport original accoutrements and weapons. One told of a search for Confederate-style buttons being rewarded by a find of 10,000 originals which had lain forgotten in an English manufacturer's store since the 1860s when they were made—but never delivered for fear the losing rebels would not pay the bill.

The battle's roar is provided by carefully placed charges to simulate cannon fire from the association's home-made replica field pieces and blank twelve-bore cartridges fired as often as not from a variety of shot-guns. Rebel yells rend the air from the lines of grey. They were lent a certain

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The Long, the Short and the Tall? SOSKAN certainly takes all sorts and all ages.

Right: "Waddya mean I'm not old enough? I'm a soldier's son you know."

Below: Rifles firing, men falling as the skirmishers go into battle.

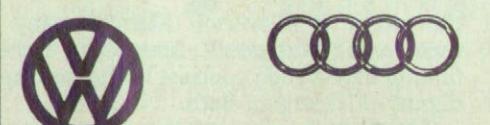


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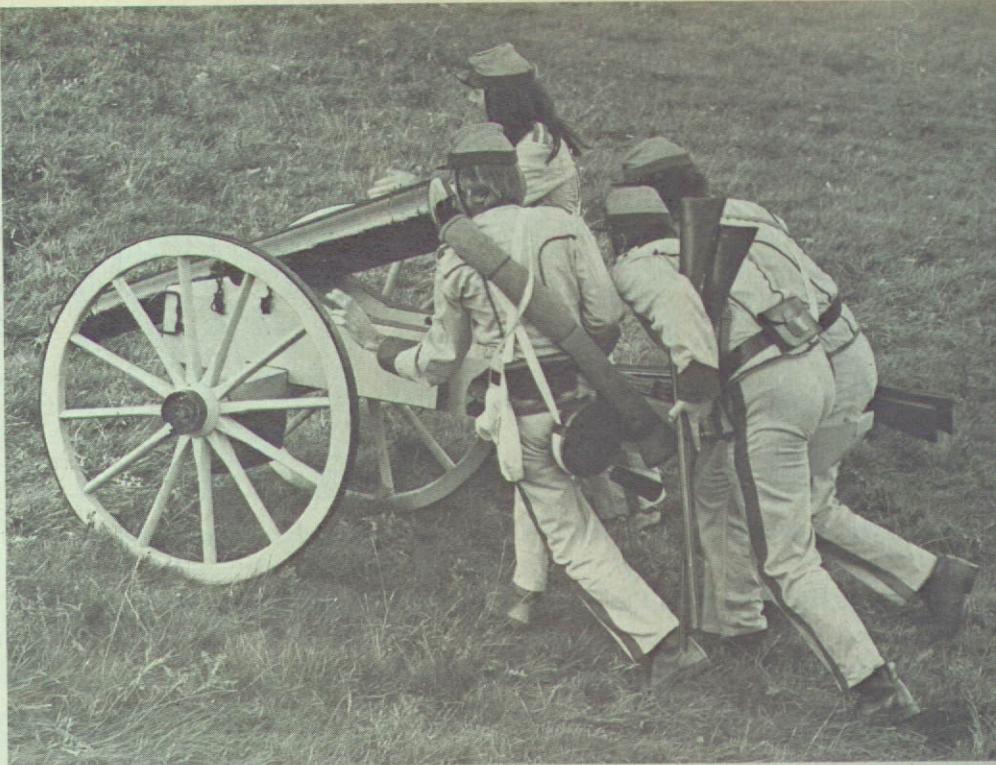
Pictures by
Paul Haley

urgency in an attack SOLDIER watched at the American Museum, Claverton Manor, near Bath, when a herd of cows began its own outflanking manoeuvre at the trot when disturbed by the din of war.

Away from the battlefield, the association meets every six weeks for lectures, often illustrated with slides and film. Few of the predominantly young membership have had the chance of visiting the actual battlefields although the Educational Officer, Laurie Watson, enthused: "The excitement gets to such a pitch that they feel they must go themselves to see the old battlefields."

A study group has been formed within the association to survey in depth various aspects of the war. Its findings are correlated and published in an illustrated magazine called "Skirmisher." This also carries articles received from other historical societies and individuals on both sides of the Atlantic. Copies are sent to the British Museum, Bodleian Library, the libraries of Wales, Cambridge and Edinburgh universities, New York, Chicago, California, Yale, Harvard, Windsor (Canada) and to Civil War organisations in America and Australia.

Camp followers are not forgotten in the endless quest for realism and SOSKAN recently recruited its first lady member, Davina Powell, a secretary who has fostered an interest in the Civil War. She does not take part in battles but decorates the static display with her charming presence and contemporary costume. Other female members have followed her lead and they



Death-defying greycoated Southerners wheel their cannon in under fire.

Below: Southern flag rides high as the rebels attack Union positions.



come into their own at the association's annual social climax, a ball held at a top London venue. Everyone dresses up as for the skirmishes. But on this occasion they leave their guns in the cloakroom as any "Southern Gentleman" should.

SOSKAN deliberately uses the word "re-education" for its research drive in scorn for "the popular image of the war founded on inaccurate novels and films and one which we wish to correct." But the craving for authenticity goes no further than the muzzles of their blank-loaded guns. For the war's dreadful carnage is glossed over in the skirmishers' engagements. Paradoxically, Laurie Watson claims this is because "we don't want to glorify war." He adds: "We want to show a pageant. The public wants to be entertained, not sickened. The fights we stage are representative of the Civil War . . . but we have to amend certain things to add excitement."

And excitement there certainly was for

the public at Claverton Manor—many of them were surprised American tourists finding here a rude contrast to the measured dignity of Georgian Bath.

The British sense of fair play coloured the outcome of the two weekend battles staged, the one being won by Union troops and the second by the Rebels. The latter outcome was decided upon in a gentlemanly exchange of self-deprecation between opposing officers:

"Would you like to win today?"

"Oh, no, I don't mind really."

"Well, we won yesterday, give your lads a turn."

"Oh, all right then, if you like."

And a British sense of weekend priorities marked the post-battle parade with a Confederate officer addressing the combined ranks: "Right lads, the pub for tonight is outside the main gate, then turn left . . ."

Ulysses S Grant, with his legendary taste for whisky, would have approved of that.

Left: SOSKAN's first lady recruit—Miss Davina Powell, a secretary, in vintage dress.



CAPTURE THE 95th RIFLEMEN!

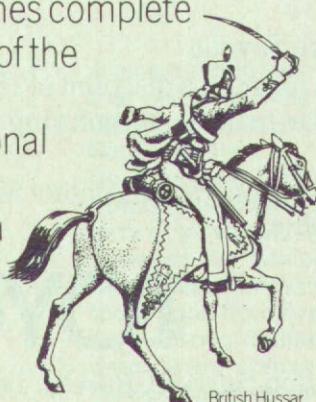


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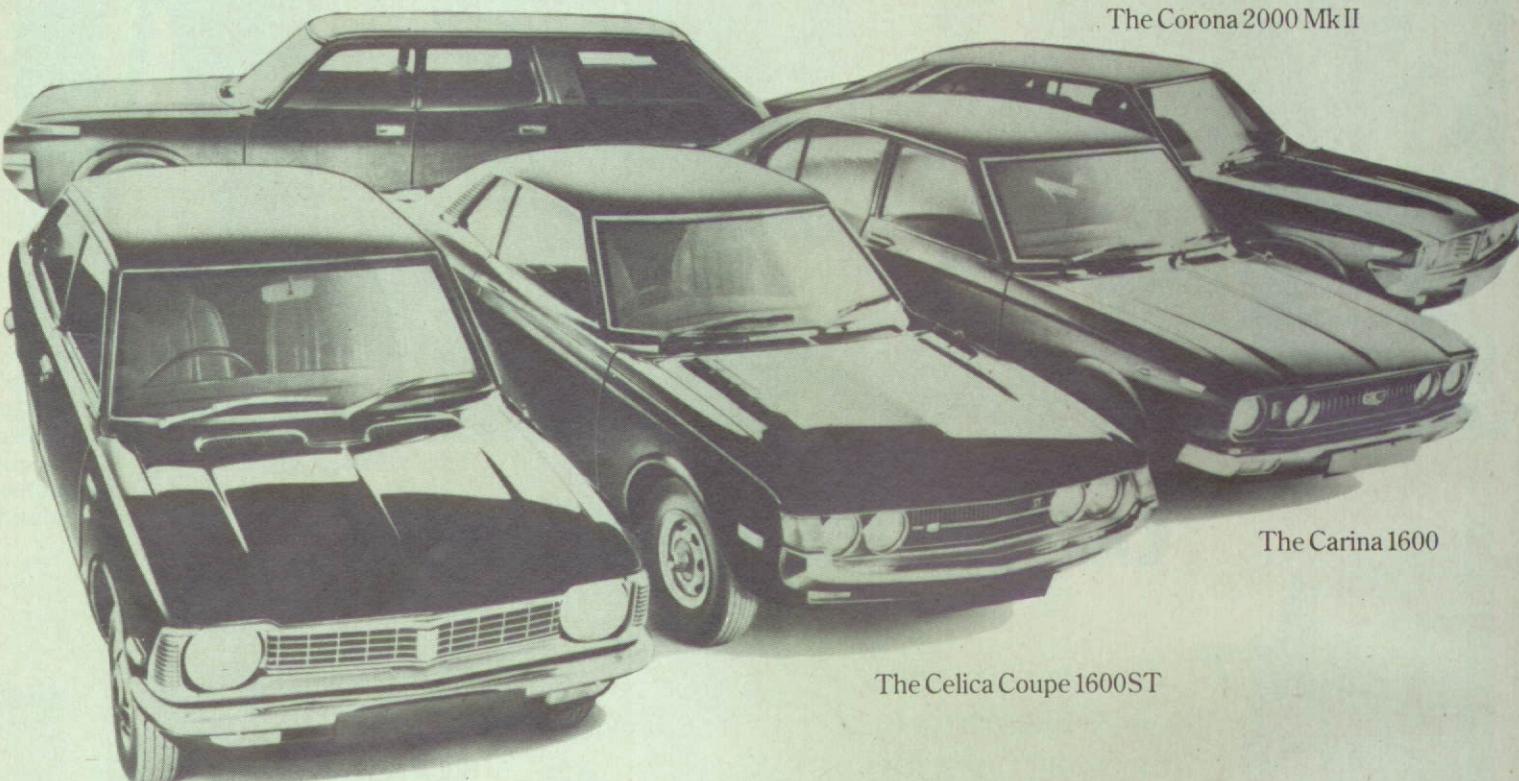


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SOLDIER NEWS

Pull-out supplement SOLDIER December 1974

CIVILIAN RECOGNITION FOR ARMY CLERKS

Civilian recognition has been negotiated for qualified Army clerks with the Institute of Administrative Management, formerly the Institute of Office Management, which has for 50 years been the only organisation in the United Kingdom specialising in the promotion of administrative management in commerce, industry and government. There are four grades of Institute membership: Fellow (F Inst AM), Member (M Inst AM), Affiliate and Student. The Diploma in Administrative Management, one of the country's leading qualifications in the field of management, is awarded as a result of examination by the institute.

The Army Department has negotiated entry standards to the institute and certain exemptions from the diploma which are very favourable for servicemen who have qualified as clerks and for those who have experience in administrative management or organisation and method.

Full details of the terms of entry and more information about the institute are being published in Defence Council Instructions.

(DOS)



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my clERks COurse, . ; : 1"*

NAAFI PLOUGHS BACK PROFITS

More than £400,000 from Naafi's profits for 1973-74 was ploughed into the Army Central Fund as the Army's share of the rebate divided among the three Services in proportion to the amount of money each spends. The biggest share of the £409,500 Army rebate went on an £80,000 annual grant to the Army Benevolent Fund. Other annual grants made from the cash were £54,745 to the Army Sports Control Board and £27,616 to the Regular Army. The highest special grant made was £53,584 for swimming pools and welfare transport accounted for another £39,887. Leave chalets and amenity centres were helped to the tune of £31,244 and boating and sailing were granted £28,891. Three interest-free loans of £12,000, £5000 and £500 were made to Army parachuting, yachting and football respectively.

ACCIDENT BLACK SPOT

A recent traffic accident survey in the United Kingdom produced the horrifying statistics that nearly half the people killed or seriously injured while a driver or passenger in a vehicle were in the age group 15 to 24. This group, of course, includes the majority of Service drivers.

So, the motto for the month behind the wheel... Do or Die—DO take extra care, DO obey the Highway Code, DO consider other road users, DO make sure the vehicle, be it lorry or bicycle, is in good working order before starting any journey... or DIE. Not the driver of the vehicle perhaps, but some innocent bystander. Statistics show these casualties fall into the age groups around five or 65 years old. Nearly 6000 young pedestrians aged from five to nine are killed or seriously injured each year.

At the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, the Royal Corps of Transport data centre computer team produces statistics on the frequency and type of road traffic accidents involving Service vehicles. These figures are analysed so that the efforts of road safety committees can be directed to combating incidents that happen time after time and those that result in injury, death and high costs.

ACCIDENT BLACK SPOT

continued from previous page

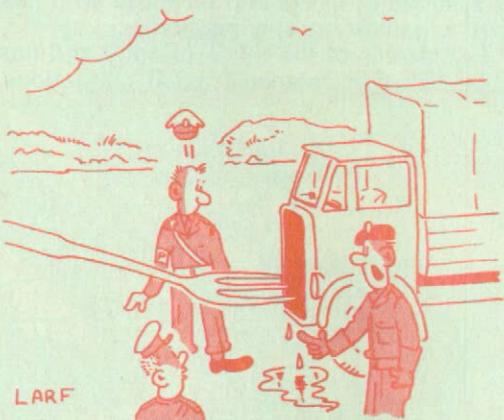
The survey for the last quarter shows that a significant proportion (17 per cent) of accidents was caused by the Service vehicle hitting a "static object." The remedy is to travel at the proper speed to match prevailing conditions and watch where you are going.

Many accidents happen at crossroads and T-junctions. They account for another 17 per cent in the survey. The Highway Code gives these clear instructions to avoid the errors leading to these crashes (for those in Rhine Army, read left for right): "Well before you turn right, use your mirror to make sure you know the position and movement of traffic behind you. When it is safe, give a right turn signal and, as soon as you can do so safely, take up position just left of the middle of the road, or in the space marked for right-turning traffic. If you can, leave room for other vehicles to pass on the left. Wait until there is a safe gap between you and any oncoming vehicle; then make the turn, but do not cut the corner. Remember: Mirror-signal-maneuvre.

"When turning right from a dual carriageway, or when joining it from a side road and then turning right, wait in the opening in the central reserve until there is a safe gap in the traffic in the second half of the road."

Cemeteries are full of people who said: "It'll never happen to me."

(QMG)



"Then suddenly there's this fork in the road . . ."

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

Even before the last session of parliament ended, MPs' thoughts turned to the soldier's lot at Christmas, thanks to a question from Mr F F A Burden (Conservative, Gillingham) who asked how many units of battalion strength have never served successive Christmases in Northern Ireland nor will be called upon to do so and how many such units have had to—or are likely to—serve there for two or more successive Christmases.

Defence Minister Mr Roy Mason replied: "The number of units of battalion strength eligible for service in the infantry role in Northern Ireland, including Royal Marine commandos, is 110. Of these, 99 have not served two successive Christmases in the province. Following Christmas 1974, this figure is likely to fall to 95. Since April 1969 six Army units of battalion strength have served two consecutive Christmases in Northern Ireland on unaccompanied tours and five have done so while serving accompanied tours. These figures are likely to rise to seven and eight respectively following Christmas 1974."

"The future pattern of service in Northern Ireland depends on the force level required to meet the security situation and cannot be forecast. The duties will continue to be shared out as fairly as possible having regard to the number of tours a unit may already have served, their duration and the interval between tours."

● In answer to questions from Mr Ian Paisley (Democratic Unionist, North Antrim), Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, produced figures showing that resignations from the Ulster Defence Regiment showed a steady decline for the first five months of 1974 compared with last year's numbers. He produced a table detailing resignations for the same period over the past three years:

	1972	1973	1974
January	75	264	143
February	33	126	84
March	72	160	88
April	64	116	64
May	104	147	74

Enlistment figures for the three years between 1 January and 31 May were 2486, 648 and 469 respectively. From 1 January to 31 May 1974, 179 women were recruited into the regiment.

● Mr. Rodgers told Mr James Wellbeloved (Labour, Bexley, Erith and Crayford) that 78 Regular Army personnel, four Royal Marines and two members of the Ulster Defence Regiment have been discharged from the Services as a result of injuries sustained on Northern Ireland duty. He added that 39 had died as a result of injuries sustained, as opposed to those killed outright. A total of 1211 men had had hospital

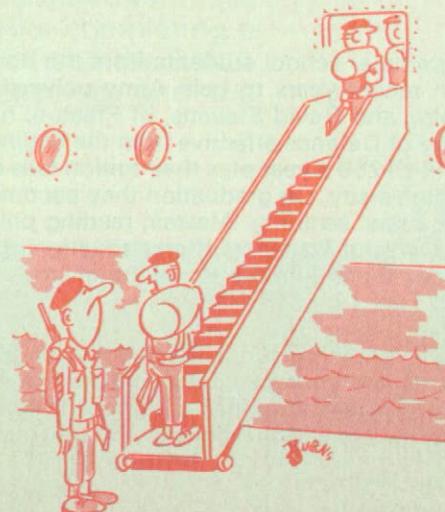
treatment for injuries sustained in Northern Ireland since 1969. The Army had by far the highest number with 1122. The Ulster Defence Regiment had 44, the Royal Marines 43 and the RAF 2.

● With 150,000 Service wives not entitled to be registered as Service voters, Mr John Spence (Conservative, Thirsk and Malton) is pressing for reforms to get this changed. The higher number of women who lose their electoral rights just because they are married to a serviceman was revealed in Parliament by Mr Brynmor John, Under-Secretary of State for the RAF, in answer to a question from Mr Spence who went on to pursue the point with the Home Department at a later session when he called for an amendment to the law relating to the matter and for Service wives to be able to claim a Service vote like their husbands. He was told by Under-Secretary of State for Home Affairs, Dr Shirley Summerskill: "This matter is being considered in the context of the various recommendations about registration of servicemen and their wives made by the Speaker's conference on electoral law."

● Defence sales exports have shot up by nearly 150 per cent in the past eight years according to figures given in answer to a question from Mr F F A Burden (Conservative, Gillingham). Mr Brynmor John told him that the figures, in millions of pounds, since 1966-67 had been: 152, 165, 214, 227, 235, 242, 257, 400 respectively. The provisional figure for the current year showed the most dramatic leap in sales. Mr John went on to explain that the defence sales organisation is responsible for helping industry to promote exports of defence equipment but it is not possible to say what proportion of the total orders have been obtained by its influence.

● Mr F F A Burden asked for the total value of defence imports in the financial years from 1966-67 to the provisional figure for 1974. Mr Rodgers gave the list, in millions of pounds, as 46, 73, 97, 84, 91, 92, 122 and 135 respectively.

A contract has been placed with Brooke Marine of Lowestoft for the construction of two landing craft logistic. Both vessels should be accepted into service with 20 Maritime Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, by early 1977. The vessels will replace the landing craft tank Mk VIII which will be phased out over the next three years. The new craft will have similar characteristics to the LCT except that it will have a better lift capacity and generally better performance. The vessels will be used primarily to support the Hebrides ranges.



"Sarge! The escalator's broke down."

ROUND-THE-WORLD SAILING CREW SOUGHT

Crew selection for the Army's entry in the latest round-the-world sailing adventure is now starting. The *Financial Times* clipper race 1975-76 for ocean racing yachts is planned in two stages—United Kingdom to Sydney, rounding Cape Town, and Sydney to United Kingdom rounding Cape Horn. Chay Blyth is allowing the Army to enter the ketch Great Britain II which he sailed round the world with a Parachute Regiment crew. A 14-man crew for each stage is being sought and some members of the other Services have been invited to form part of the crew on each leg. Selection will continue into the 1975 sailing season but in order that everyone may be given a chance for selection, applications are required as soon as possible. Corporals and below are particularly encouraged to apply although application is open to serving soldiers of all ranks. They will have to convince the project management team that they are likely to achieve their commanding officer's permission to be totally involved with the project from either early August until late November 1975 or from late November 1975 to March 1976. There will also be a requirement for some crew selection and training in the period March to June 1975.

Applications should be sent to Team Manager, Great Britain II, Round-the-World Project, c/o 38 Engineer Regiment, Claro Barracks, Ripon, Yorkshire.

NEW BARRACKS AT TIDWORTH

Cachy/Cambray Barracks at Perham Down, Tidworth, originally built for two light tank battalions of the Royal Tank Corps in the early 1930s, have been undergoing a rebuild since June 1971. The rebuild is costing about £1,800,000 and, with the exception of two messes and a few technical buildings, comprises entirely new accommodation. The new complex will be renamed Swinton Barracks and will be occupied early next year by 22 Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, at present housed in Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.



"You say you made this yourself, Private Higgs?"

NEW UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

The new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Army, announced in the recent Government re-shuffle, is Mr Robert Brown (53). He takes over the £5500-a-year job vacated by Lord Brayley who resigned at the end of the last parliament. Mr Brown, previously Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, is MP for Newcastle-on-Tyne West where he was returned with a comfortable 15,000 majority in the October election. He has in the past been an Opposition spokesman for environment matters and is a former vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party trade union group. He was Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport from 1968 to 1970. He was elected to the House in 1966 and before that served for ten years on Newcastle City Council as councillor and alderman.

UNIVERSITY CADETSHIPS

Two grammar school students from the north-west of England are the first from the area in recent years to gain Army university cadetships. Alastair Davies, of Lymm, Cheshire, and David Stevens, of Preston, have just been awarded cadetships by the Ministry of Defence effective from the beginning of the current term. University cadets are paid £1250 a year plus their tuition fees and rank as second-lieutenants while they are at university. On graduation they become lieutenants in the Regular Army with up to four years' seniority. Alastair, reading philosophy and linguistics, hopes to join the Royal Corps of Transport after graduation in 1977. David, studying engineering, hopes to graduate and join the Royal Engineers. (PR)

RECRUITING UP

Delays in recording during the holiday period have led to an understatement of numbers for adults and young soldiers entering the Army in August 1974. The general level of entries to these categories continues to run above that of last year. The main intake of Army juniors will be recorded with the September figures. (DPR)

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- 9 N.C.O. at ease
- 10 Afrika Corps Infantryman arm raised
- 11 Afrika Corps Infantryman dispatch case
- 12 Paratrooper at ease
- 13 Paratrooper throwing grenade
- 20 Paratrooper grenade stance
- 21 Afrika Corps Infantryman shorts
- 22 Afrika Corps NCO arm raised

54 mm

- 23 NCO Paratrooper kneeling with small arms
- 24 Afrika Corps Infantryman adv. with brief case
- 25 Officer peaked cap binoculars
- 26 Paratrooper with chute
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GIBRALTAR



Win your water wings

HIDING behind a door is as far as you can get on Gibraltar from sight of the sea. So it is small wonder that exiles from the British seafaring race should take advantage of a posting on the Rock to indulge in water sports when off-duty.

Gibraltar's Army Watermanship Training Centre provides a welcome recreational outlet. For there is a limit to the permutations of entertainment available on the Rock itself and, with the Spanish border sealed, soldiers and their families must look to the sea—which flanks the Rock's other three sides—for that get-away-from-it-all feeling.

Courses in offshore and dinghy sailing, canoeing, water-skiing and sub-aqua are run from the watermanship centre which has been growing ever faster and thriving for the last six years. The only curb to a full supply of facilities to meet increasing demand is cash, but even so, improvisation and a tremendous self-help effort have kept the centre up to scratch.

A staff of eight from all units on Gibraltar runs the centre under the direction of Sergeant Tom Donnelly from the resident infantry unit, 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment. They not only see that soldiers are qualified to enjoy water sports but also

take on the all-important task of training them to handle military assault boats—the centre has nine for this purpose.

Once the military and adventurous training are taken care of, the recreational side of the centre can come into play and regular regattas give water sportsmen the competitive edge. For those wishing even more excitement, the centre boasts some shark-fishing equipment for the would-be hunter. Families too can take advantage of the recreational facilities, enhanced by a waterfront refreshment bar run by Sergeant Donnelly and his wife Judith.

The centre's committee is drawn from officers on the Rock. Its secretary, Captain Duncan Green, said of the cash problems: "We get a certain amount from adventurous training funds, but not very much. We charge for the recreational facilities. This must be low enough for soldiers to enjoy themselves but high enough to make us a bit of money to cover costs and maintenance. We just about break even."

On the maintenance side, cost and delivery time from the United Kingdom prove a headache when a boat needs repair but a close liaison with the Royal Navy helps the centre considerably. The centre's stock of

equipment covers a wide range of activity. There are five Bosun and one "420" dinghy, one Victory yacht and a Halcyon 27. As well as the nine assault craft, there are 14 canoes, four dories, a speedboat for water-skiing, plus a Mark VII tug and a 16-foot inflatable craft for sub-aqua. Six 40 horse-power engines and six "seagull" engines power the motor craft. This provides plenty of work for Sapper Ray Allison who looks after engine fitting and the craft operation side of training.

The centre is very well used—hence the need for a high degree of maintenance—and a typical six-month period recently produced 48 qualified dinghy sailors from seven courses involving 54 students spending two weeks each in training. In the same period there were two regattas—one an open event involving the other Services and one for Army sailors. There was also an attempt on the world record of the number of miles sailed in 24 hours—it failed by a margin of 24 miles due to a two-hour becalming.

The watermanship centre is alive and kicking and, given the funds, will clearly have no lack of enthusiastic support from servicemen confined to Gibraltar for the length of their posting.

Above: One of the centre's craft tacking in the shelter of Gibraltar's harbour area.

FTER the last shot is fired and peace returns to warring nations, a grimmer personal battle begins for many thousands of soldiers who have to learn to live with the permanent disability of the loss of one or more limbs.

The fearful carnage of World War One left 40,000 limbless ex-servicemen to drag themselves back from the trenches to the "home fit for heroes." So in 1932, at the height of the depression, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association—BLESMa for short—was founded.

Today, more than 40 years on, BLESMa is still fighting to give limbless ex-servicemen and women a job, a home and friendship. Only 8000 limbless veterans of World War One now remain but their ranks have been swelled by 11,000 limbless from World War Two and still they come from new theatres of war. Today the indiscriminate

terrorist bombs in Northern Ireland swell the numbers even further with their ghastly toll of maimings.

BLESMa offers new hope to these victims of war for whom the future often looks bleak at first. It provides cash grants to ease financial hardship and continuing grants to widows, residential homes for amputees, convalescence, pensions case work, research into the development of artificial limbs and—perhaps most important—rehabilitation training and placing in employment.

After the initial shock of hopelessness, many limbless people are amazed at what can be achieved if they set their minds to it. This was never more spectacularly demonstrated publicly than when a trio of BLESMa members, one of them the association's chairman, Sir James Stuart Menteth, made a parachute jump.

For Sir James, an ex-Scots Guardsman, it was his first parachute descent. The other two men, who both lost legs on active service, were paratroopers in the Army. The older of the two, 50 year-old Cliff Sadler, had a leg amputated after being wounded in Normandy in 1944 and although he had not dropped by parachute for 30 years he confessed himself less worried than on any previous jump. "After all," he quipped, "there won't be anyone shooting at me as I come down!"

Former Corporal Frank Sutton (37) was the third man. He lost his left leg after being injured by a land mine in Aden; he also lost part of his right foot. For Frank the drop held no fears—it was his 200th, although his first since demobilisation.

The training and jump itself were organised by The Parachute Regiment's free-fall team, the Red Devils, with help

from the Navy which provided pick-up craft after the men were dropped into the Solent to give them a soft, if soggy, landing.

The Red Devils took a special interest in the trio's adventure as one of their own members has only one leg. Sergeant Albert Hooker lost his limb while serving in the Middle East with The Parachute Regiment. He stayed in the Service after learning the specialised trade of parachute rigger and gaining his qualifications in America. He is now the highest qualified rigger—military or civil—in this country, capable of making or mending any harness or canopy in part or whole.

Sergeant Hooker does not just stay in the backroom slaving over his sewing machine; he is a competent free-faller with nearly 60 jumps to his credit. He added one more to his log book by joining the BLESMa trio in their drop.



A World War Two vintage truck sports 1974 N registration plate in the drive-past.

When war is over then starts... BLESMa's endless fight



BLESMa member comes to enjoy the All-Services Spectacular show at Aldershot.



Limbless ex-servicemen arrive at the show.

Left: Mr Sutton, Mr Sadler and Sir James train with Red Devil. Sgt Hooker looks on.

Of course BLESMa's efforts on behalf of the limbless ex-serviceman are rarely as spectacular as the exploits of these three members, although the joy and elation brought to those who benefit is probably greater and certainly more lasting than the undoubtedly thrill of parachuting.

But all these efforts cost money and BLESMa, which as a charity relies on the funds it can raise, needs well over £140,000 a year to keep going. Nerve centre of the operation is Frankland Moore House, named in tribute to the achievements of fund-raiser Major Frankland Moore and his wife. The new building, in Chadwell Heath, Essex, houses a full-time administrative team of a general secretary and three other limbless ex-servicemen.

Through each of its 113 branches, BLESMa maintains a voluntary welfare home-visiting service designed to help with the complexities of form-filling to get the maximum State benefits for members. It also helps with domestic problems.

Amputees are especially prone to arthritic and circulatory troubles as they get older

and this increases the burden on both themselves and their families. To help ease this problem BLESMa has established three permanent homes, in Portsmouth, in Blackpool and in Crieff, Scotland.

Permanent sanctuary is thus provided for

those in need of constant special care but temporary residence is also offered to badly disabled ex-servicemen who need a change of air but who cannot use ordinary holiday or convalescent facilities because of their disability. These homes are manned by fully qualified nursing staff and accommodate 132 residents.

As well as helping the limbless, BLESMa's work has created useful spin-off for the rest of the community. Over the years it has built up a wealth of knowledge and experience on the subject of war pensions which is readily available to all concerned. It has also contributed greatly to the study of problems of artificial limbs, appliances, transport, rehabilitation and employment.

But the men and women BLESMa is most concerned with are those still paying the

price of freedom. The association believes its members should not have to bear this hardship alone. Having paid the deposit with their own flesh and blood these limbless look to the rest of the community to help with the instalments.

Aldershot's tree-lined Rushmoor Arena, scene of the fabulous pre-war searchlight tattoos, attracted 20,000 spectators to BLESMa's All-Services Spectacular. Hundreds of BLESMa members themselves flocked, swelling the Sunday crowd, and the bulk of the administrative tasks on the showground were handled by the limbless ex-servicemen. The arena display was staged by serving soldiers, sailors, and airmen but a parade of vintage fighting vehicles had some limbless ex-Service passengers and was led by actor Kenneth More who took the part of legless air-ace Group Captain Douglas Bader (a leading BLESMa member) in the film "Reach for the Sky."

Story by Mike Starke
Pictures by Arthur Blundell & Paul Haley

EXERCISE BOLD (AND BIGGEST) GUARD

Story by Mike Starke/Pictures by Leslie Wiggs



Above: Troops drive up the beach in a German successor to the DUKW amphibious vehicle.

Below: British paratroopers dug in and under cover with their WOMBAT anti-tank gun.



WHEN NATO forces flexed their muscles on Exercise Bold Guard, the district of Schleswig-Holstein in north-west Germany saw the biggest-ever post-war concentration of allied troops in the area. Some 40,000 men from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Germany provided land and air forces for the exercise and the German Navy was involved with the deployment of landing craft for a dawn beach assault.

Schleswig-Holstein forms the landward end of the Jutland peninsula which stretches its featureless finger of land north into Denmark. The East German border is not far away and exercising troops in the early stages of Bold Guard were operating as close as three kilometres from the border between the two Germanies.

But this was not a deliberate act to add realism. Senior officers stressed that Bold Guard's "enemy" troops were not briefed to adopt Warsaw Pact forces' tactics in the scenario of battle. The main purpose was to exercise all the troops that might come under Commander Land Forces Schleswig-Holstein and Jutland and prove their capability for international co-operation.

COMLANDJUT is one of the many strange-sounding names sired by NATO, out of Europe, in the family tree of defence. He is one of two land force commanders answering to COMBALTAP (Commander Baltic Approaches). The other is COMLAND-ZEELAND (Commander Land Forces Zeeland). COBALTAP has a subordinate naval commander, COMNAVBALTAP, and air force commander, COMAIRBALTAP. Baltic Approaches is one of three commands under AFNORTH (Allied Forces Northern Europe).

The family introductions over, the forces deployed on a free-ranging three days of operational training covering vast tracts of land in some 8000 wheeled and 2500 tracked vehicles. Meanwhile the air roared with

jets, including the RAF's 54 Squadron from Lossiemouth equipped with the new Anglo-French Jaguar.

The Jaguars provided the bite in the air element of United Kingdom Mobile Force on the exercise, British participation on the ground coming from the land element's 24th Airportable Brigade, based in northern England and assigned to NATO flank operations. Included in the force were part-time soldiers of 1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers, working alongside the Regular troops on Bold Guard. Tragedy struck the other British force deployed, United Kingdom Joint Airborne Task Force (UKJATFOR), when several paratroopers dropped to their deaths in the Kiel Canal.

UKJATFOR operates from Lyneham, Wiltshire, with Britain's fleet of Hercules transport aircraft lifting the Red Devils of 16th Parachute Brigade to the front line at a moment's notice. Explaining the concept, the force commander, Air Vice-Marshal Norman Hoad said: "If you take about 50 Hercules and the existence of the Parachute Brigade, you have a capability to increase the number of options open to Strategic Allied Commander Europe to defend NATO."

The 35-ton aircraft take off at 15-second intervals and spread in waves over some 11 miles of sky, finally dropping their loads of men and material from a height of 650 feet.

As well as giving three nations a chance to work together in the field, Bold Guard gave soldiers the opportunity of seeing each other's military hardware in action, including the German Leopard tank and Marder armoured personnel carrier, seen to good advantage during a beach assault made from landing craft accompanied by amphibians.

Above all, Bold Guard demonstrated the ability of members of the NATO family to link arms in the common defence of Europe's northern flank.



Right: Soldier of The Yorkshire Volunteers races into action across a German field.

Britain's Bold Guard participants

United Kingdom Mobile Force (Land)

HQ 24th Airportable Brigade and Signal Squadron
Reconnaissance Troop, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards
HQ 100 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery (V)
Battery, 7 Parachute Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery
51 Field Squadron (Airfields), Royal Engineers
Detachment, 1 (Postal and Courier Communications) Squadron, Royal Engineers
3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment
1st Battalion, The Yorkshire Volunteers
666 Aviation Squadron, Army Air Corps
24 Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
24 Airportable Ordnance Field Park, Royal Army Ordnance Corps
3 Field Workshop (Airportable), Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
Platoon, 164 Rear Area Patrol, Royal Military Police (V)
83 Intelligence Section
604 Tactical Air Control Party (Forward Air Controller), RAF
622 Tactical Air Control Party (Forward Air Controller) (V)

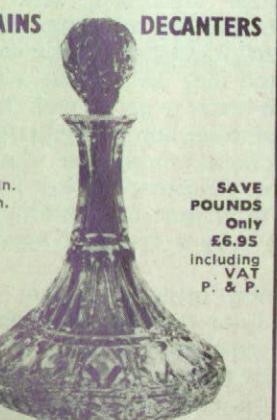
United Kingdom Mobile Force (Air)

230/33 Squadron, RAF
54 Squadron, RAF
Tactical Supply Wing, 38 Group, RAF
Tactical Communications Wing, 38 Group, RAF

United Kingdom Joint Airborne Task Force

HQ 16th Parachute Brigade
E Troop, 14 Signal Regiment (E21), Royal Signals
Detachment, 216 Parachute Signal Squadron, Royal Signals
2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment
15th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (V)
X Parachute Vigilant Platoon
Y Parachute Vigilant Platoon
664 Parachute Aviation Squadron, Army Air Corps
23 Parachute Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps
Detachment, Aeromedical Evacuation Unit
47 Company, 10 Ordnance Supply Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps
1 Parachute Tactical Air Control Party (Forward Air Controller)
2 Parachute Tactical Air Control Party (Forward Air Controller)

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S/12/74



The car that apprentices built

TEENAGED Army apprentices from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Apprentices College, Arborfield, put in some 800 man-hours on a special project to design and build a town car—the prototype of a challenge thrown out jointly by BP and REME to the nation's mechanically minded schoolchildren.

The project was to create a compact car for use in towns and cities of the future. The specifications included rules that the car must have four wheels, be capable of carrying at least two adults and run on oil-based fuel.

The School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, was the scene of the final judging and teams from as far apart as Durham, Wrexham and Bristol were among the 26 finalists. A rigorous test programme had been devised and many competitors expressed surprise at the thoroughness of the trials—the entries were even tested for the level of pollution emission as well as more obvious manoeuvrability checks.

Youngsters from Cranleigh School, Surrey, won the handsome first prize of a new mini-bus for their school. Their winning car was later displayed at the Motor Show. Second prize of £150 and a rosebowl went to William Temple High School, Preston, and

third prize of £100 and a rosebowl to Farnborough Grammar School.

The REME apprentices' car was not entered for the contest itself but was on show in a static display at Bordon showing visitors facets of life in REME today.

Six young vehicle mechanics worked on the Army car. They have all since passed out of Arborfield with flying colours and started their adult careers in the corps.

As with most of the competition cars, mainly discarded parts were used by the apprentices—body centre section from a Vauxhall Viva HA saloon, engine, transmission and wheels from a Fiat 600D, chassis from a Reliant Regal three-wheeler and steering and front suspension from a Morris 1000. The 767cc engine cruises at an economic 40 miles to the gallon.

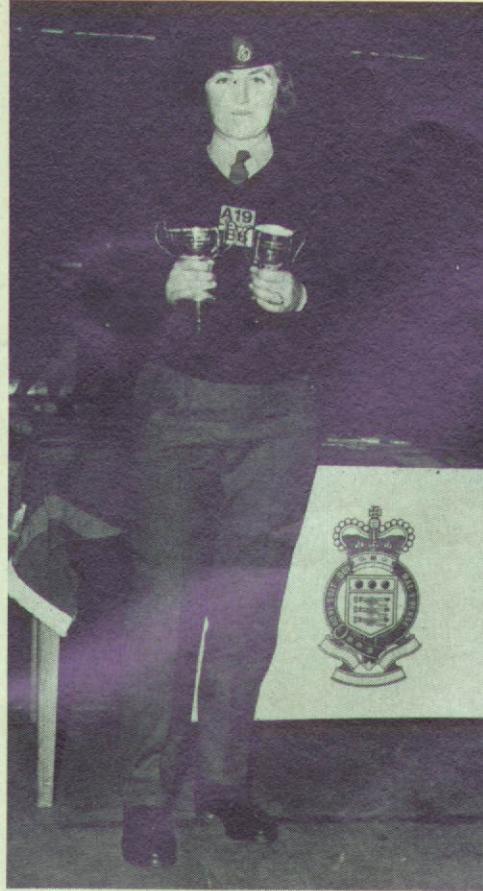
Major Mike Waterman, who was in charge of the project, said simply: "I told the lads what I wanted and how it should be done . . . and they did it!" He added: "I considered it better to get on with the job of cutting metal to see how it fitted rather than spend many hours working the whole thing out on paper. Of course the lads had some sketches to work from but basically the car was arrived at by a system of applied trial and error."

Construction made maximum use of welding and, to save weight, light-gauge sheet-metal brackets, stiffened with flanges and ribs where necessary, were incorporated.



Top: The REME car, complete with shining bodywork, trim and, of course, corps badge.

Left: From Cranleigh School a high coach-built model—with mudflaps and hub caps.



PURELY PERSONAL

Launch to lunch



Commuting to work each day by ferry is **Corporal Aidan Watson**, Army Catering Corps. Aidan lives in married quarters in Kowloon, Hong Kong, and travels by boat to Stonecutters Island where he cooks for the inmates and staff of the detention centre.

Fork-lift first

Lance-Corporal Jennie Smith, of the Women's Royal Army Corps, shook the men when she took part in the UK Base Organisation fork-lift truck driver of the year contest at Bicester. For not only did she win the cup for the best lady operator but beat male operators to take the title of best military operator. Jennie is stationed at Kineton, Warwickshire.



NORTHERN IRELAND AWARDS

The following awards have been made for service in Northern Ireland between 1 February and 30 April 1974:

Commander of the Order of the British Empire: Brigadier K J Mears, late Intelligence Corps.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire: Lieutenant-Colonel P Burdick, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel M R Lee, Welsh Guards; Lieutenant-Colonel J P Maxwell, Royal Tank Regiment.

Member of the Order of the British Empire: Major P Bayldon, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Captain P E Cheney, Welsh Guards; Major P J Hubert, The Queen's Regiment; Captain J H G Allen, Scots Guards; Major W E Rous, Coldstream Guards.

Air Force Medal: Sergeant R L Southgate, Army Air Corps.

Military Medal: Corporal A R Gill, The

Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Private M O'Connell, The Parachute Regiment.

Queen's Gallantry Medal: Sergeant P J Anthony, Sergeant M A N Britton, both The Queen's Regiment; Corporal C A D Barber, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Staff-Sergeant A R Carter, Corporal P Fletcher, Warrant Officer 2 R Gill, Captain P V Snell, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Warrant Officer 2 P H John, Welsh Guards; Driver W G Mountain, Royal Corps of Transport; Sergeant G F Riley, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

British Empire Medal: Staff-Sergeant J J Adamczyk, Sergeant J F Beston, both Royal Military Police; Sergeant M Newton, Royal Tank Regiment; Staff-Sergeant V H Rogers, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Mentioned in despatches: Captain J Q Adams, The Royal Regiment of Wales; Colonel the Hon W D Arbuthnott, late Infantry; Staff-Sergeant A N Brammah (now deceased), Colonel E H Brown, Corporal I Moore, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lance-Bombardier G K Bruce, Royal Artillery; Captain F W Chipperfield, Sergeant M J Gard, Sergeant M J Harries, all Royal Military Police; Sergeant B L Clarke, Corporal J Ormond, Major J F Rickett,

Lance-Corporal C F Sinclair, all Welsh Guards; Lieutenant A N Coates, Sergeant A M Turner, both The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Colonel J M Cubiss, late Infantry; Corporal D A Cummings, Royal Tank Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel P R T Driscoll, Major A Mornement, Sapper J C Roche, all Royal Engineers; Sergeant P A Dudley, Second-Lieutenant M D Winthrop, both The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Lance-Corporal G B Elder, Royal Army Medical Corps; Captain E D Grounds, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards; Lieutenant T W Hambrook, Corporal J S Jolly, Lieutenant-Colonel A W Scott-Elliott, Staff-Sergeant G Spence, all The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; Lieutenant-Colonel J C O R Hopkinson, Lieutenant S H R H Monro, Sergeant W G J Munro, all Queen's Own Highlanders; Captain J L Lawson, Women's Royal Army Corps; Captain E G Mercer, Intelligence Corps; Major D M Naylor, Scots Guards; Corporal A O'Connor, Corporal R F Russell, Sergeant J R Spicer, all The Queen's Regiment; Major R L Stevens, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Lieutenant J W White, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment; Second-Lieutenant C D Wetherell-Piper, 14th/20th King's Hussars.

From "Japan upop,"

Among the titles Aussie beauty queen Debbie Phin holds is Miss Philately Australia. So where better to go, when in London on her world tour, than to the Army's Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot. During her "tour of inspection" Debbie was shown how the Services' postal system operates and was given a demonstration of how to deal with suspect letters and parcels. Picture left shows her with Lieutenant-Colonel D J London inspecting outgoing parcel mail.

SPORT



Staff-Sergeant Instructor Terry Hewett, Army Physical Training Corps, and his partner Jim Sibier, Windsor Canoe Club, on their way to the men's open C1 class title, against opposition from Germany and Ireland, in the international canoe slalom held at Llangollen.

SPORTS SHORTS

BOXING

Forty-six boxers competed in the Army intermediate competition at Aldershot and another six, not eligible to compete, took part in matched contests. The event was a triumph for 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, who took six titles. Results:

Flyweight: Gnr B McMahon (19 Fd Regt RA) beat L/Cpl J Hopkinson (12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn) (referee stopped bout). Bantamweight: Rfn J Warr (1 RGJ) beat Pte P Smart (1 DERR) on points. Featherweight: Rfn J Arnott (1 RGJ) beat Pte J Goodman (1 Queens) (referee stopped bout). Lightweight: Rfn G Harrison (1 RGJ) beat Rfn W Daley (1 RGJ) (knock-out). Light welterweight: Gnr A Fenton (47 Lt Regt RA) beat Pte Smith (1 Queens) (referee stopped bout). Welterweight: L/Cpl M Jean Pierre (1 Queens) beat Sig P Bantin (12 Mech Bde HQ & Sig Sqn) on points. Light middleweight: Rfn L Williams (1 RGJ) walkover. Middleweight: Rfn J Roberts (1 RGJ) walkover. Light heavyweight: Rfn T Brade (1 RGJ) beat Rfn H Mills (1 RGJ) (knock-out). Heavyweight: Gnr P Bodell (94 Loc Regt RA) beat L/Cpl T Moran (1 QLR) on points. Matched open contests—Light welterweight:

L/Cpl R Curran (12 RSME) bt Rfn J Cheetham (1 RGJ) on points. Bantamweight: L/Cpl D Donnison (1 RGJ) beat L/Cpl G Maker (206 Coy RPC) (referee stopped bout). Welterweight: Rfn M Oswald (1 RGJ) beat Bdr R Lewis (AAC Arborfield) (referee stopped bout).

FENCING

The Army opened the new fencing season with a win over RMA Sandhurst. The RMA scored a good win 5-4 with the épée but the Army team fought back to win the foil and sabre bouts 6-3 and 7-2 respectively. Representing the Army were: Sabre—Maj A M Bell (RE), Maj R M Collins (ACC), CSMI D T Hughes (APTC), Épée—Lieut L S Burr (RTR), CSMI C Eldridge (APTC), Cfn A Woodall (REME). Foil—Lieut J S Underwood (REME), CSMI Eldridge, SSI S McNeish (APTC), SSI D Truman (APTC). Overall result: Army 17, RMA 10.

JUDO

A senior team specially selected from Army judo experts took the trophy and five gold awards in an international contest held in Holland. The Aldershot Services Judo Club and Army School of Physical Training Judo Club found the senior and a junior team which competed against teams from the host nation, Germany and Sweden. The junior team won two contests but failed to go through

to the finals by a narrow margin of three points. The seniors were: L/Cpl S Travis (RPC), Cpl C Castello (RAOC), A/T F Moseley (AAC Arborfield), Pte I Rogers (Para), L/Cpl M Williams (RE). Juniors: A/T Gregory, A/T N Butler (both AAC Arborfield), Messrs P Slater, M Chalmers, G Edwards (all ASPT Judo Club).

Ten lads from Edinburgh's Taka-Kwai judo club were guests of 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in Germany by way of a "thank you" to Mr Edward Mullen who not only runs the club but is the Scottish national coach. He trained the regiment's judo team last year, contributing to its success in being runner-up in the Army inter-unit championship and in Sgt Lyon winning the Army light-heavyweight title.

Army judo star L/Cpl S Travis (RPC Depot) may well be considered for the national team and even the next Olympic squad thanks to a brilliant performance in the National Young Men's Judo Championships at Crystal Palace. In the 18 to 21-year-old junior middleweight class, Travis was joined by L/Cpl M Williams (1 Trg Regt RE). Travis had a tough six contests before reaching the final but won all six with maximum points. Among his opponents was the reigning Scottish middleweight champion. In the final, Travis met J Lyndon, the London Area middleweight champion, whom he defeated in the same event last year. But the tables were turned and Lyndon got his revenge in a hold-down near the end of a

Professionals meet professionals

EX-LIVERPOOL and England soccer star, Ron Yeats, who now manages Tranmere Rovers, has come up with a "professionals meet the professionals" idea to help boost the Army soccer side's expertise.

The plan is to send a squad of top players from the Birkenhead side to Aldershot to coach the Army team for three or four

Ex-Army player Joe Mercer meeting the Army's team before the match.

days in March, shortly before Tranmere plays a Third Division match against Aldershot FC.

The package offered by Tranmere includes a spot of coaching for any interested unit sides in Aldershot and the possibility of an Army versus Tranmere game midweek.

This would add to the respectable list of professional sides the Army is due to meet this season. As well as Aldershot and Tranmere, the Army is down to play Fulham, Chelsea, Brentford, Southampton and Colchester United.

A game against Coventry City ended in a 4-0 win for the Midlanders. Manager Joe Mercer, a great follower and friend of Army football, was present at the Aldershot stadium for the game. Other results at the start of the season have not been encouraging. Hampshire and Wiltshire both won 1-0 against the Army and a game against Essex ended in a 1-1 draw. The youth team kicked off with a 1-1 draw against Somerset.

gruelling ten-minute contest, beating Travis into the second place silver medal position. L/Cpl Williams, only a 1st Kyu, battled his way through four difficult bouts against higher-graded players to reach the quarter-finals, but failed to qualify for the semi-final and finished fifth in the class.

GLIDING

The three-man Army team in the inter-Services gliding championships came second to the RAF, whose trio included the British champion, Flt-Lieut G Lee. The William Younger Silver Cup for the highest-placed Army pilot went to Lieut-Col E G Shepherd (RAOC) who came fourth. He was also in the Army team in which he was joined by Capt L Hood (R Sigs) who came fifth in the top 30 pilots and Sgt P Cook (R Sigs) who came ninth. Two other Army entrants, Sgt G Berry and S/Sgt D Webber, were 29th and 30th respectively.

HORSE TRIALS

Princess Anne has become patron of the Army and Royal Artillery hunter trials. The Royal Artillery hunter trials, held in October this year at Larkhill, were first held in 1928 in the same area of Salisbury Plain. Except for a gap between 1939 and 1949 they were held annually until 1965. The combined Army and Royal Artillery trials have



As a result of becoming Army junior tug-of-war champions (560 kilo) and British national championship runners-up, the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, were invited to take part in the European open tug-of-war championships in Switzerland. Also competing were teams from Holland, West Germany, South Africa, Switzerland, Eire, Jersey, Sweden as well as other representatives from the United Kingdom. Pulling against experienced adults, the young gunners did well to come 32nd out of the 40 teams and came away



from the event with a wealth of experience and new training ideas.

carried on the tradition since then. The course has been ridden by many generations of servicemen and women. Captain Mark Phillips, who competed in 1971, won the King's Royal Irish Hussars cup. The events are open to civilian and Service riders but the majority of the prizes are awarded specifically to servicemen and women.

TUG-OF-WAR

The Army indoor tug-of-war championships for 1975 will be held at Aldershot's Maida gym on 29 January. There will be two separate competitions for teams whose aggregate weights do not exceed 560 kilos and 640 kilos respectively. Entries will be forwarded by entering units direct to the championship's secretary, Captain R M Nicholl, HQ SE District, Steele's Road, Aldershot, before 10 January.

CANOEING

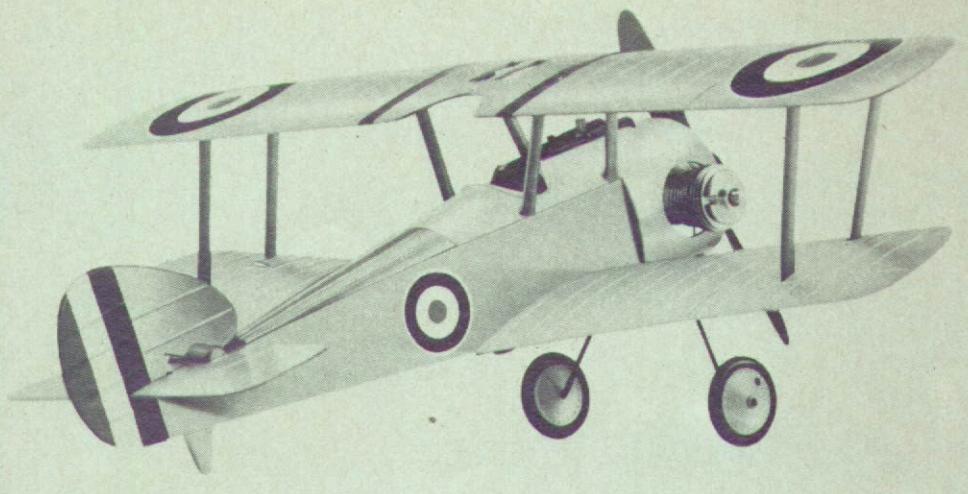
The Army scored a resounding win in the inter-Services slalom canoe championships, beating the RAF for the first time in five years. The Army team also won the long-distance championship. The total Army score in the slalom was 758 with the RAF 2nd with 702 and the Navy 3rd with 340. In the team event, each team comprising three canoes, Army successes were: Kayak—Army 2nd (Capt J Crawford, Tpr L Ross, Tpr J Thomson, all 16/51). Canadian C1 (single)—Army 1st (SSI

K Dyer APTC, Sgt W White R Sigs, Dvr G King RCT). Canadian C2 (double)—Army 2nd (Lt S Cooper APTC/SSI T Hewett APTC, S/Sgt L Hartless REME/Cpl J Smith R Sigs, Sgt E Harper R Sigs/Dvr King).

Overall scores in the long-distance championships gave the Army 158, RAF 108, Navy 94. The first three Army canoeists home in the kayak K1 (single): 1st L/Cpl A Williams (36 Engr Regt), 5th Capt M. Davies (14/20 H), 6th Spr T. Williams (36 Engr Regt). First three home in the kayak K2 (double): 1st Sgt R Evans/Cpl B Kidston (1 Para Log Regt), 3rd L/Cpl R Storey/Sgt C Fielding (School of Sigs), 4th Cpl C Haskey (36 Engr Regt)/L/Cpl K Collins (Depot Regt RE).

ATHLETICS

Following his retirement as secretary of the Army Athletic Association—an office he held for the past eight years—Lieut-Col Harry Harbin was guest of honour at a lunch at the Army School of Physical Training, Aldershot, when Maj-Gen A R Cornock, chairman of the AAA, presented him with a cheque in appreciation of his devoted service to Army athletics over the years. Col Harbin's connections with Army athletics go back over 40 years. As a participating athlete he was pole vault champion as long ago as 1930 and Army long jump champion and record holder in 1935 and 1936.



FLYING CIRCUS

PAINTED in myriad hues, covered in canvas and held together by wire struts, the first warplanes were like fragile, flamboyant butterflies. Rival pilots, high above the trenches on reconnaissance missions, waved gallantly to each other. Story-book chivalry was suddenly dispelled when one of these "knights of the sky" replied to a salute with a pistol shot. Then machine-guns were mounted on the fuselage and someone thought of lobbing overboard unpleasant things called bombs.

Armchair aviators still spend many hours recreating those early aircraft as static models in plastic or flying scale in balsa and tissue. Some sadly end up in the vacuum cleaner or make disastrous maiden flights into trees and brick walls. All the frustration, but none of the fun, has been taken out of flying scale models by two American firms, Testors and Cox, with their ready-to-fly, glo-plug powered aeroplanes in sturdy plastic.

Testors models, marketed in this country by Richard Kohnstam ("Riko") Limited, 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, include a Sopwith Camel and Albatros of World War One, and Messerschmitt and Mustang of World War Two, each £9.99.

Cox models, marketed by A A Hales Ltd, PO Box 33, Harrowbrook Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, comprise a Sopwith Camel, Fokker triplane and Fokker D-VII, each at £11.30, Bf-109E Messerschmitt (£15.28), JD-87D Stuka (£15.65), P-40 Warhawk

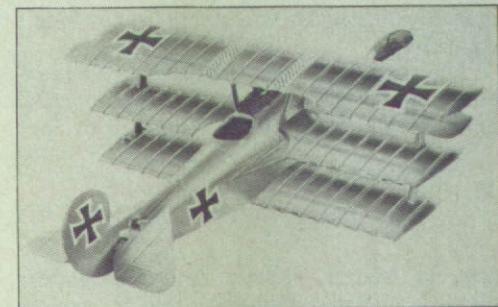
(£15.45) and a P-51D Mustang (£12.70).

Models from both firms come in presentation packs complete with everything necessary for flying—lines, control handle, fuel and starting battery.

Although these models feature such details as miniature machine-guns, wood-grain propellers and aerofoils with simulated "ribbing," accuracy has been somewhat sacrificed for "flyability." Fuselages are basically in two parts held together by screws and, though this gives access to the engine, it makes for ungainly joints. On both supplied samples, the Cox Sopwith Camel and Testors Albatros, the needle valve is located between the propeller and leading edge of the wing, making adjustment of engine revolutions a precarious procedure. The Cox engines have more positive starting, aided by a wire starting spring.

Ranging in wing span from 13 to 23½ inches, these models all fly by the control-line principle—a handle operating the tail flaps via wires connected to a bellcrank. By this means it is possible to simulate the thrills of a dogfight with two "pilots" in the flying circle each attempting to clip with their propeller paper streamers attached to the "enemy's" tailplane. To add to the authenticity, one could fly a British Sopwith Camel and the other a blood-red Fokker triplane of Baron von Richthofen's Flying Circus.

While absorbed in the excitement of aerial combat, do not forget that others might



not take kindly to your new-found pastime. These high-revving engines can do damage to the fingers of inquisitive offspring and they make a racket guaranteed to wake neighbours from post-roast turkey naps for a quarter of a mile around. Not only that, an unwary passer-by wandering into the flying circle and encountering the control lines with the back of his neck will experience the rather nasty effects of garrotting.

Those who prefer the quiet life are recommended to fill Christmas stockings with some of the new military models from Dinky. Dinky toys, as well as Cox models, are obtainable by mail order, subject to availability, from the West End toyshop of Hamleys, 200 Regent Street, London, W1R 6BT. Dinky's recent releases, ranging from 1:32 to 1:180 scale, comprise a 42-part Chieftain tank kit at £1.55 and ready made models of the Striker anti-tank armoured vehicle (£1.49), German Leopard tank (£1.65), 105-millimetre howitzer and gun detachment (£1.19), MRCA (multi-role combat aircraft) (£1.40), RAF air-sea rescue launch (£1.35) and naval motor patrol boat (£1.45). Made of die-cast metal and strong and durable, these models incorporate working parts such as movable caterpillar tracks, swing wings, and firing guns and missiles—handy for shooting holly off the Christmas pud!

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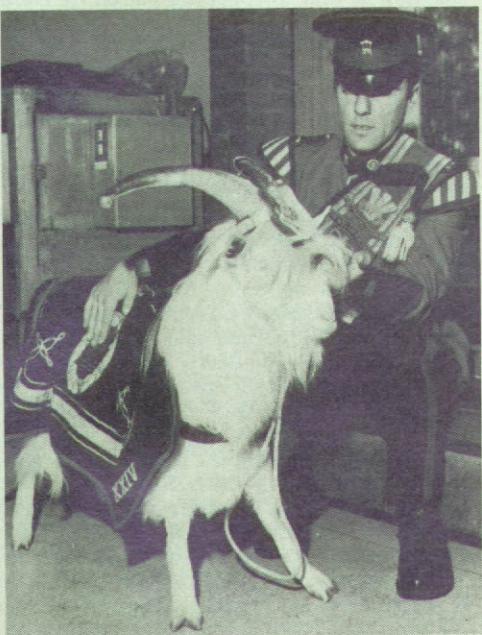
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LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTRE

A giant American Skycrane helicopter (right) places a medium girder bridge across the River Heder in Germany. The Skycranes and Chinooks have been working with sappers from 39 Field Squadron of 25 Engineer Regiment on the final stages of a three-phase Anglo/US study of the concept of bridgelaying by helicopter. By the 1980s, bridges in the rear combat zone will have to be capable of rapid erection and removal and it is thought that medium and heavy lift helicopters may be the answer.



Ten Long Service and Good Conduct medals were presented en masse by Major-General J M Sawers, Signals Officer-in-Chief, at Catterick. The service of the ten men totalled 199 years. Recipients (pictured left to right) are: Warrant Officer 1 Alan Walton, Warrant Officer 1 Gordon Penman, Corporal Kenneth Orton, Warrant Officer 2 Michael Palmer, Warrant Officer 1 Ralph Donnell (bandmaster of the Royal Signals band), Staff-Sergeant Paul Greenhalgh, Warrant Officer 2 George Shepherd, Warrant Officer 2 Tony Davies, Staff-Sergeant James Young and Warrant Officer 2 Raymond Briant.



Goat in the coat is Taffy, the new regimental mascot of The Royal Regiment of Wales, presented to the regiment by the Whipsnade Zoological Society. He is the 13th Taffy since the tradition began during the Crimean War with the 41st Foot, and the second since The South Wales Borderers and The Welch Regiment amalgamated in 1969 to form The Royal Regiment of Wales.



The Commander of the United Nations Force in Cyprus, Lieutenant-General D Prem Chand, renewed an old acquaintance-ship when he visited the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles at Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia. The General commanded the 1st Gurkhas (Indian Army) just after World War Two. Picture shows him interestingly watching a Gurkha Carl Gustav anti-tank team.

What the smartly dressed soldier wore before going off to the trenches in World War One was on display again (left) at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, during a searchlight tattoo to mark the impending closure of The Prince of Wales's Division Wessex Depot. The pageant depicted incidents in the history of regiments associated with Wyvern Barracks. The saluting officer is Lieutenant Martin King of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

★ Sounds Of Brass Series ★

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(John Foster & Son Ltd.)

Double Champions 1972



Conducted by
GEOFFREY BRAND & ROY NEWSOME

DECCA

"Sounds of Brass Series Vol 8: Black Dyke Mills Band" (conducted by Geoffrey Brand and Roy Newsome) (Decca SB 308) Black Dyke must, I suppose, have achieved the ultimate in brass band virtuosity. Not only did they win the "double" in 1972 but, with one or two other bands, forced upwards the general standard of contest playing.

Virtuoso playing of Eric Ball's "A Kensington Concerto" and Jack Beever's "Sovereign Heritage" is to be expected since these were the test pieces at the national and open championships. The Royal Albert Hall is in Kensington Gore, hence the concerto, and like the Jack Beever piece explores the capabilities of the brass band almost beyond reason. There seems no limit to what a composer may ask of these Paganinis of the valved instrument, both in musicianship and technical skill.

Geoffrey Brand, now not so fully committed to Black Dyke, conducts side one and the band's regular conductor, Roy Newsome, the remainder of the programme. Bliss's "Antiphonal Fanfares" sounds odd to me on cornets, vibrato and all, but Peter Yorke's suite "The Shipbuilders" is a winner as always and the dazzling display by Jim Shepherd in Damare's old polka "Cleopatra" is beyond belief. He must breathe through his ear 'oles—and such equality of tone throughout the compass of the cornet! Black Dyke's own march, "Queensbury," is named after the band's Yorkshire village. RB

ON RECORD

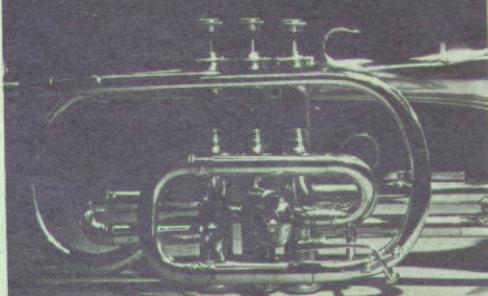
THE WORLD OF BRASS BANDS VOL. 3

Massed Bands of Fodens, Faireys & Morris Motors Conducted by Harry Mortimer

Overture: The Pirates of Penzance
Swedish Rhapsody
Napoleon Galop
Zamora
Grand March/Queen of Sheba

Marche Slave
John Peel
A Trumpet Piece (for a ceremonial occasion)
Military Polonaise
Sunset

DECCA



"The World of Brass Bands Vol 3" (Massed bands of Fodens, Faireys and Morris Motors conducted by Harry Mortimer) (Decca SPA 306)

Another fine selection from earlier records, some dating back to 1957 but none the worse for that. You need expensive equipment to get the best out of these massed band discs. The volume, tone and charisma of such skilled massed forces as these, and under studio conditions as opposed to the usual festival concert imperfections, is a thing apart from a one-band effort.

The overture to "The Pirates of Penzance" is really one of Sullivan's pre-curtain pot-pourris, but a rarity worth having. Other classics are the "Grand March" from Gounod's opera "The Queen of Sheba," Tchaikovsky's "Marche Slave," a very difficult work for brass, Chopin's "Polonaise in A" (The Military), and the popular extract from Alfvén's "Swedish Rhapsody."

Smaller items which threaten to become modern classics are HM's own "Napoleon Galop," Harold Scull's "Trumpet Piece for a Ceremonial Occasion" and the paso doble "Zamora." A somewhat turgid set of variants on "John Peel" won't make the grade I think but "Sunset," which ends the record, has made it and looks like being around (especially on record) for many years to come. RB

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TWO IMPS
RAHPSODY IN BLUE
FAMOUS FRAGMENTS
MILITARY POLONAISE (Marches of W. Rimmer)
STRIKE UP THE BAND
CHA CHA FOR BAND
GO TELL IT TO THE MOUNTAIN
RHYTHMIC DANUBE
GOOSE FAIR from NOTT'NUM TOWN
NOCTURNE AND POLONAISE

DECCA



"The Desford Conquest" (The Desford Colliery Band) (Conductor: Ernest Woodhouse) (Golden Guinea Top Brass GSGL 10501)

After the Redbridge non-phenomenon we have the Desford non-conquest. The excuse this time is that the opening march by Derek Broadbent is called "Conquest"—a "contest" march no less. This means, as far as I can gather, lots of semiquavers running about to no useful purpose except that semiquavers are presumed to be difficult to play. Some of the music on this LP is reasonably interesting but, like the march, suffers from a reticent, not to say wary, performance.

Too much of the programme is poor stuff, or goodish stuff poorly played, so unless you want a piece which is quite fun, "Goose Fair" from a suite by Allan Street called "Nott'num Town," I can't recommend it as a good buy. The cornet solo "Hailstorm" is dull and Harold Walters's great cornet trio "Trumpets Wild" is made to sound so. Alford's xylophone duet "The Two Imps" isn't bad but the "Nocturne" and the "Polonaise" by Chopin, the former as a euphonium solo, just don't come off.

Arrangements of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," Glen Osser's "Cha Cha," "Go Tell it to the Mountain," the "Rhythmic Danube" (square waves), with a medley of marches by W Rimmer and a march version of "Strike Up the Band" complete a not very attractive album. Perhaps I have heard too many fine brass bands lately. RB

"Marching through History with the Band of the Grenadier Guards" conducted by Major Peter Parkes (Decca SB 706) Occasionally a record comes along which can be recommended wholeheartedly. This is such a one. We are expertly guided at a brisk, no-nonsense pace through some of the most glorious pages of military musical history, glorious not only for their association with famous generals, regiments, or battles but for the tunes themselves. Almost without exception the melodies were sung by soldiers or written in honour of great events and, as the sleeve says, so caught the spirit of the times that some actually influenced history.

You will have to buy another "Radetsky Marsch" but don't let that put you off—this one is more spirited than usual. A fine paraphrase on the old French tune "Ca Ira" (The Downfall of Paris) by Major Parkes is exciting stuff and is followed by three beautifully orchestrated pieces by Haydn known as the "Derbyshire Volunteer Marches" and composed during a visit to London in 1810. RB provides an "Inkerman March" based on

tunes associated with the Inkerman Company of the Grenadier Guards. The theme from TV's "War and Peace" (more Tsarist national anthem) and the "Fehrbelliner Reitermarsch" complete a side one which left my mouth watering for side two.

I was not too happy with Sousa's "Imperial Edward March," almost a parody of Sousa by Sousa, but was with conductor and band all the way in "Hurrah for the CRE" and "Men of Harlech," both in extended arrangements; that stirring national anthem of Belgium, "La Brabançonne," coupled with the "European Anthem;" and an effective medley of American Civil War songs called "Divided We Fought."

I have purposely left till last the great "Over the Hills and Far Away" by the great Percy Grainger, a perfect gem I have loved for many a year. It is in Grainger's usual form, a series of subtle variations which together form a ravishing whole. The addition of a pianoforte to the score is totally characteristic and the whole band in this, as in every item, is at its most skilful. RB





"The Regimental Band of The Green Howards" (Bandmaster G T Pike) (Polydor Karussell 2430 119)

Recorded during the 1st Battalion's stay in Germany, this LP will no doubt attract at least those wanting Ord Hume rarities. Some inexperience shows through here and there, or else the studio balance was poor. Very little euphonium is heard, especially in the famous chromatic run in Zehle's "Wellington" march, and stamina is lacking in places.

The marches are played, however, with a nice swing and steady tempo. Whether you want further recordings of "On the Square," "With Sword and Lance," "Royal Standard" (Chesterton's) and "Wellington" depends on how much you want Ord Hume's "The Green Howards," and this may be your only chance.

Side two is a concert programme beginning with Mr Pike's own march "Fidele" which is not bad at all. Then "English Country Garden," "Irish Festival," "Spanish Harlem" and "When the Saints Go Marching In," which have all been done before. The regimental slow and quick marches are there of course, and the sleeve notes in German and English provide one with some very handy translations. I wish I, like Mr Pike, had won the Preis des Kommandanten fur den besten schnellen Marsch des Jahres at Kneller Hall.

Available from Regimental Band, The Green Howards, Saigton Camp, Chester, CH3 6ES, £1.75 (UK). **RB**

The Staff Band
of the
Corps of
Royal
Electrical &
Mechanical
Engineers

Director of Music: Captain David Snowden ARCM psm RE ME



"The Staff Band of the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers" (Director of Music: Captain David Snowden) (SSLX 396)

Made in 1972, thirty years after the formation of the Corps in 1942, this LP has just come my way and is still available for members who want their regimental marches. There is very little else here to attract buyers, although everything is put across with verve and not a little skill.

As always the marches are the weak spot. "Washington Grays," "Semper Fidelis," "Berliner Luft," "Old Comrades" and the trumpet trio "Trumpets Wild" are hardly welcome strangers. "Kaiser Friedrich Marsch" by the composer of the Slavonic rhapsodies, Carl Friedemann, is a good one but "Ellesmere," by Army bandmaster J E Grace, is merely a well-written series of clichés. Paul Anka's "The Longest Day" survives more for its title than its music and Birkin's fantasia on Cockney tunes, "Lays o' London," could do the same.

"A Tribute to Glenn Miller" is well played in near-Miller style and the programme is rounded off with the old and new quick marches of the corps and its slow march "The Grand March" (Duchess of Kent).

Available from PRI, Training Battalion and Depot REME, Poperinghe Barracks, Arborfield, Berkshire, RG2 9NL, £1.30 (UK). **RB**

★ Sounds Of Brass Series ★
C.W.S. (MANCHESTER) BAND



Conducted by
ALEX MORTIMER & DEREK M. GARSIDE

DECCA

"Sounds of Brass Series Vol 9: CWS (Manchester) Band" (conducted by Alex Mortimer and Derek M Garside) (Decca SB 309)

Most, if not all, of the music is arranged from orchestra, piano, and even the string quartet. A pleasant mixture in spite of this and Mussorgsky's vivid and frightening "Night on the Bare Mountain" receives a highly colourful performance with a beautifully controlled ending. Walton's Coronation March "Crown Imperial" on the other hand loses much in its translation to brass and a careful, pedestrian performance misses the hustle and bustle of an excited crowd, the procession and above all the tolling of the bells, which the music is meant to portray.

The almost immediate continuation with Ancliffe's trite, fair-groundish "Nights of Gladness" waltz was a shock to the system. Nothing much can follow "Crown Imperial" so I would rather it ended the disc.

Several of Chopin's "Preludes" go well on band and here are two of the best known from Op 29, nos 7 and 20. Haydn's famous "Serenade" from the String Quartet in F also goes without much trouble, for after all it has been arranged for harmonica, jew's harp and hurdy-gurdy among others.

Tom Paulin gives a bravura performance of Harold Moss's polka "The Nightingale" and there are Osterling's march "Thundercrest," Martini's classic melody "Plaisir d'Amour," and Rimmer's arrangement in overture form of "Rule Britannia," a work much admired by modern composer Malcolm Arnold. The sleeve rather uncharitably attributes the work to Arne arr Rimmer. The tune is certainly by Arne but Purcell's "Come if You Dare" is also quoted, making the whole thing definitely Rimmer's. **RB**



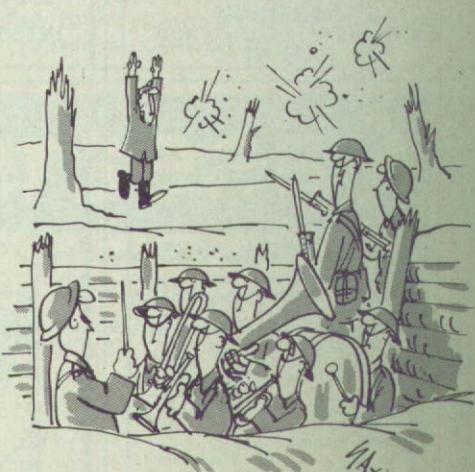
"In Step with Europe" (The Band and Bugles of the 2nd Battalion, The Light Infantry) (Conducted by M E Cadwallader) (Bugle-Major: T Kent) (Grosvenor GRS 1024)

Europe—on the march, united, or in step with—is a popular peg these days on which to hang a series of marches. This lot is played by one of our regimental bands and does not

depart very much from the obvious. It really is too tedious that yet another "Old Comrades" and "Sambre et Meuse" (mis-spelled and title incomplete) are included to represent Germany and France. The choice for Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg is much more restricted so one accepts with pleasure the inevitable in those three fine marches "Grenadiers Mars" (March of the Dutch Grenadier Guards), "Marche des Parachutistes Belges" and "La Grande Duchesse Charlotte."

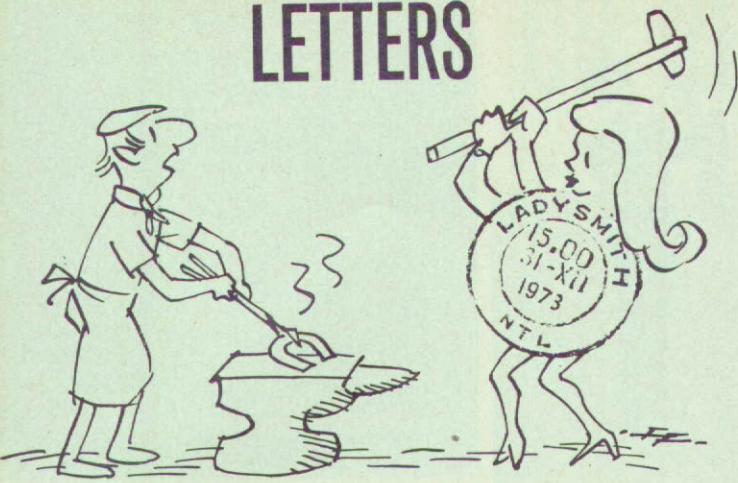
Zehle's "Europe United" is of course enjoying a new lease of life after many years of neglect and rightly so since it is quite up to the standard of his "Viscount Nelson" and "Wellington." "La Ritirata Italiana," "Copenhagen" and Denis Plater's "Light Infantry" all deserve a place but I'm not so sure about "Yorkshire Relish," a "regimental" medley by former bandmaster J Wood. I'm dead certain about "Delaney's Donkey" and "Paddy McGinn's Goat," arranged by another former bandmaster, M Clark, to represent Eire.

A not faultless performance is given, at heavy infantry pace except for the bugle marches, and the poor marches are played poorly—the good marches well. Another moral somewhere. **RB**



"Get ready—here comes our thousandth prisoner."

LETTERS



Oldest old soldier?

We of The Gordon Highlanders are very proud of our Boer War veterans, of whom four are known. The doyen is Mr Thomas Townshend Cook, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, who was 102 years old on 11 November. As well as being the oldest living Gordon Highlander, Mr Cook may well be the oldest British Army soldier still living. Mr Cook joined 2nd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, in 1890 and went to the Reserve in 1896. He was recalled to the Colours for the Boer War in which he served in the 1st Battalion, losing a thumb in the battle of Magersfontein in 1899. The comparatively high number of Gordon Boer War veterans may be explained by the fact that the regiment was very heavily committed right from the start. Both Regular battalions were in action and later reinforced by Volunteer companies from the regimental recruiting

area totalling 483 men. The total regimental commitment throughout the campaign was 135 officers and 3900 other ranks. We would be interested to learn whether any other regiment or corps can beat Mr Cook's record of service and longevity. —Maj G Slater, Honorary Secretary, Gordon Highlanders Association, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen, AB1 7XH.

That vexed question

If I may intrude an opinion into the long-or-short-hair controversy, simply being a fashion does not necessarily make something desirable. Some prominent personalities in the current pop culture can be described only as moral and physical degenerates and no-one will wish our young men to follow their example. It is true that long hair has been popular with men in more than one period of history but at such times men and women wore distinctive dress. Nowadays it is often quite impossible to tell whether a long-

haired young person in jeans is a boy or a flat-chested girl. We should always be able to say "Vive la difference"—no one wants unisex! The Army is turning out fine, manly soldiers and it is a pity that the entire youth of this country does not get the privilege of passing through the ranks. As the cream of the nation, let the soldiers keep their short hair and be proud of it.—W MacGregor, 145 Lower Granton Road, Edinburgh.

To continue the saga. Don't the civilian contributors realise that today's soldier, with modern bath and shower facilities, washes his hair almost nightly? How many women with hair longer than soldiers can equal that claim? Surely these staunch advocates of the one-inch-above-the-ear school would not like their womenfolk to sport a "squadron crop."—L/Cpl Moorcroft, 12 RSME, Chattenden, Rochester, Kent.

GOLD LANYARD

A new addition to No. 2 Dress for members of The Parachute Regiment is to be a gold lanyard worn by those who achieve a score of 1000 freefall parachute jumps. The lanyard will be worn on the right shoulder; unit lanyards will continue to be worn on the left. Among the very few so far qualified to wear the new lanyard are three members of the Red Devils freefall team: Lance-Corporal Scotty Milne, Lance-Corporal Deak Wright and Corporal Bob Harman. Two ex-members of the team, Sergeant Graham Cathro, 1st Battalion, and Sergeant Don McNaughton, 10 Para Support Company, also qualify.

Victorian cobwebs

I, like many ex-servicemen, heartily agree with the points raised in the two letters (October) of J B Morris. He rightly hits back at those who "knock" the National Serviceman—any right-thinking person knows they helped to maintain the strength of our forces and therefore honour our overseas commitments. As an ex-Regular NCO who helped train many of these lads, I was amazed at the speed with which they adapted themselves and at the number who became Regular soldiers.

Mr Morris's second letter (Medals again) was another good one. Many letters have appeared in SOLDIER on medals, or lack of them, and the Berlin airlift is one of the seemingly unfair cases where it is felt a medal should have been awarded to British servicemen. The Malayan emergency is another instance. In the early 1950s many lads faced the dangers and discomforts of the Malayan jungle assisting the Malayan forces to fight the Communist threat. For this they received the GSM with the clasp "Malaya," the same award which servicemen in safe and comfortable jobs in Singapore also received. I understand that after the emergency the Malayan Government offered their Malayan Active Service Medal to British servicemen who had served in operational areas, but that it was

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accepted only for those who had been attached to Malayan units and not to those who had been in the thick of it, unless they were attacked.

During the early part of the Vietnam campaign the South Vietnam Government offered the South Vietnam Active Service Medal to the Australian government—it was accepted and Australians who took part in the campaign were allowed to wear the medal. Malaysia is a member of the Commonwealth and Vietnam a foreign power; as Britain is recognised by the Commonwealth as the mother country it appears we could learn a lot from our children. When are the Victorian cobwebs going to be swept away?—**J J Stokes, 15 Charterhouse Road, Stoke, Coventry, CV1 2BH, Warwickshire.**

Book coming up

I am gathering information for a book on regimental mascots and pets, past and present, and would be very grateful for information on the subject. All letters will be acknowledged.—**A R Mansey, 3 Easthill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5JW.**

Ambulance trains

The Great Western Society is concerned with the preservation of a representative collection of Great Western Railway stock. This involves also the compilation of records concerning the company. During the two world wars the GWR produced a number of ambulance trains made up of converted coaching stock. Most of these vehicles were handed back to the GWR though some were retained by the Army. Information on these vehicles is scarce and I would be grateful if any of your readers with information or photographs of GWR ambu-

lance trains would contact me.—**J G Hosegood, Byways, Church Lane, Kings Worthy, Winchester, Hants.**

Formation colleges

I am endeavouring to compile a history of the formation colleges established by the Army in 1945 as part of the education scheme for the release period and would very much like to hear from anyone who was a student or on the staff of any of the colleges (or at one of the Army colleges, as they were redesignated), to obtain personal recollections and enlivening anecdotes.—**Maj P Love, Marymede, 27 Ryeworth Road, Cheltenham, GL52 6LG.**

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 17)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Cowl over headlamp. 2 Position of number on tender. 3 Middle tree on hilltop. 4 Right lapel of soldier second from left. 5 Left end of roof of first coach. 6 Lines on car radiator. 7 Cliff edge near front of car. 8 Height of locomotive's dome. 9 "A" in "FRANK". 10 Whiskers at end of cow's tail.

COMPETITION

In "On the air" (Competition 194, August), the initial letters of words in the Commissioner's speech produced five associated words—brand, torch, light, glows and wanes. The consecutive middle letters of these five words gave the required answer of argon.

Prizewinners:

- 1 H Stevens, 2A Manor Close, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts, EN5 4BP.
- 2 L/Cpl T Jennings, 280 Pet Filling Pl, 47 Coy RAOC, Prince Maurice Barracks, Devizes, Wilts.
- 3 S/Sgt Smart, 1 SG LAD REME, BFPO 17.
- 4 Sgt R J Baker, Air Sqn, 14/20 H, BFPO 801.
- 5 Mrs M Brown, 1 Nell Gwynn Avenue, Shepperton, Middlesex.
- 6 Capt C G A Whitehead RAPC, Computer Centre, Worthy Down,

The Honourable Artillery Company has a number of gilded metal artillery cap badges (RA gun with scroll top and bottom) for sale at £2 each, also the new badge embroidered in gold wire on scarlet or blue background. Anyone interested should contact Quartermaster, Honourable Artillery Company, Armour House, City Road, LONDON, EC1Y 2BQ.

Winchester, Hants.

7 Sqn-Ldr D Lawrence, 7 Fielden Road, RAF Benson, Oxford.

8 G H Bendell, 199 Midanbury Lane, Southampton, SO2 4GW.

9 D J Gibbins, Ashbourne Lodge, Andover Road, Winchester, Hants, SO22 6AS.

10 Mrs J Budd, c/o Sgt Budd, ACC Centre, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants.

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Editor (Comp 198)
SOLDIER

Ordnance Road
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Hants
GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 10 February 1975. The answers and winners' names will appear in the April 1975 SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 198" label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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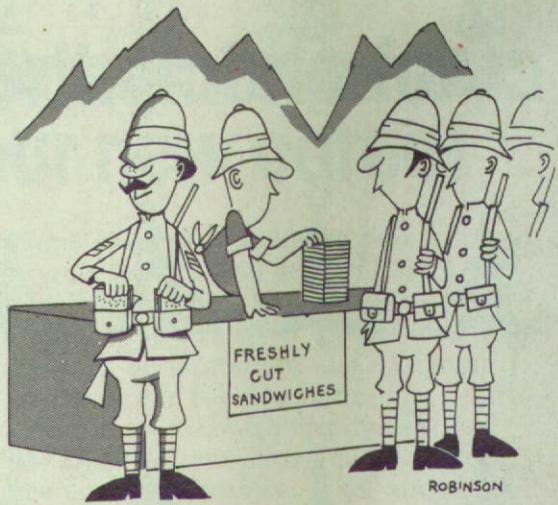
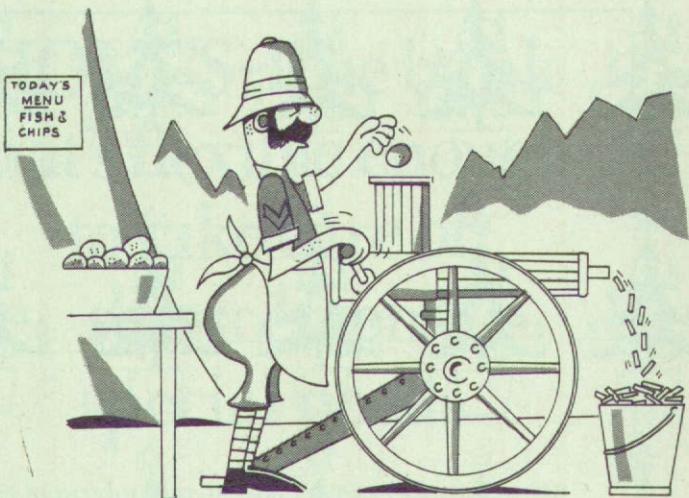


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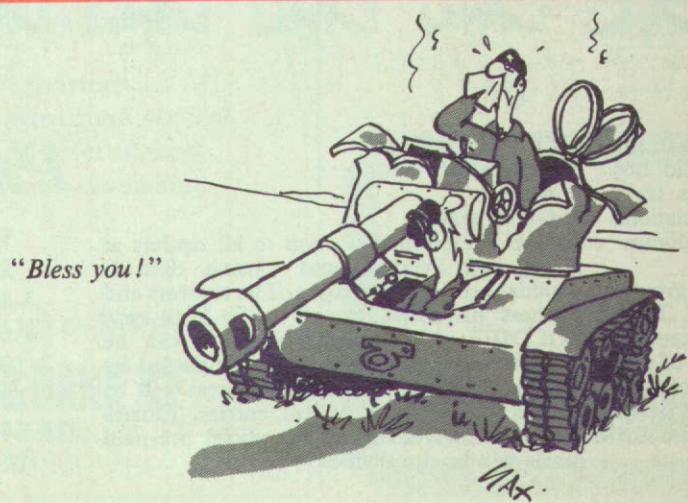


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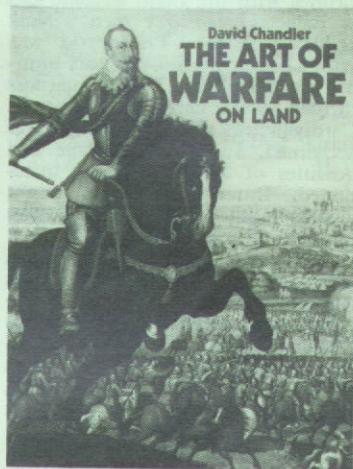
"The Art of Warfare on Land" (David Chandler)

It is a formidable task to cram a survey on land warfare into 240 pages, admittedly big ones, but as one automatically expects, David Chandler does a good job. This essentially "popular" look at warfare covers the essentials to paint a faithful picture of the changing scene.

In quite masterly fashion Mr Chandler explains the differences between grand strategy and strategy, grand tactics and minor tactics and the evolution of them, as well as the importance of logistics. Thereafter he takes us on a battlefield tour, selecting Hydaspes and Cannae to illustrate classical warfare, the siege of Merv and the battle of Bhamo to cover Asiatic conflicts, Hastings and Agincourt represent feudalism, and the battles of Daras, Hittin and Arsouf the period of Byzantium and the Crusades.

Pavia and Lutzen marked the emergence of modern warfare, continued through Blenheim and Leuthen. Austerlitz and Waterloo are Mr Chandler's examples of revolutionary and Napoleonic warfare with Gettysburg and Gravelotte-Mars-la-Tour bringing us to the end of the 19th century. Tannenberg and Cambrai are selected from World War One, with the battles of France and El Alamein marking the second world conflict.

Mr Chandler has shown great care



in his selections and each of his battles illustrates a point he wishes to make. A select reading list for further studies completes an excellent volume.

The Hamlyn Group, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9AR, £3.95

JCW

NEGRO TROOPS

"The American Civil War" (C J Hunt and G A Embleton)

For a short summary of a complicated war, this book is remarkably informative and its authors explore avenues on which emphasis has been lacking in similar works. It is frequently overlooked, for instance, that several months before President Lincoln made his emancipation proclamation, the North was organising negro troops for combat. This was new ground, but then the American Civil War is of particular interest for its innovations.

Some 186,000 negroes were recruited before the end of hostilities and those engaged in actual fighting, for example in Butler's belated attack on the defences of Petersburg in June 1864, acquitted themselves well, earning distinction by their tenacity and courage.

Of interest too is a chronological table which traces the changing situation, internally and externally, in the vital half-century of America's development from 1820 to 1870. The former year saw the Missouri compromise which excluded slavery in western lands north of Missouri's southern boundary; in 1833 Britain abolished slavery in her colonial possessions; in 1861 Russia's millions of serfs were freed—ironically in the year the North and the South went to war.

Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £2.00

JCW

INTO PROFESSIONALS

"Napoleon's Army" (Colonel H C B Rogers)

Napoleon's dynamic energy and incredible mastery of detail made him a powerhouse of new ideas. He had much to do. The 18th century wars had been fought by professional armies to a rigid set of rules. This changed almost overnight in

Napoleon's Army



Col. H. C. B. Rogers

1789 when the French Revolution created national armies of enthusiastic, but undisciplined, conscripts. Napoleon's task was to turn them into professionals.

Napoleon was no fool and much of the pre-1789 tradition was retained. The cavalry, for instance, was greatly expanded and drilled incessantly to fight in large units. Its tactical handling in battle, unlike the British cavalry, was so superb that Wellington thought it the best cavalry in Europe. The French infantry was never quite so successful—its movement of attacking in column was no match for resolute infantry held in line formation.

The ingenuity of the French was amazing. At Fleurus in 1794 they employed a balloon to observe enemy movements. Their communication system, based on pigeons and telegraph, was outstanding. As early as 1805, entire units were transported 60 miles a day by road vehicles, contributing much to Napoleon's ability to move his troops to new fronts at great speed.

Other aspects of his formidable planning—artillery, transport, medical and staff—are analysed in this interesting and scholarly work which goes far towards explaining the mechanics by which Napoleon won so many battles.

Ian Allan Ltd, Terminal House, Shepperton, Middlesex, TW17 8AS, £3.15

AWH

WORLD WAR TWO

"Japanese High Seas Fleet" (Richard Humble)

"Schweinfurt: Disaster in the Skies" (John Sweetman)

"P-51: Bomber Escort" (William Hess)

The naval war against Japan is one of the most fascinating conflicts in history. At Pearl Harbour the Japanese wiped out the American Pacific battle fleet but the aircraft carriers were at sea and thus escaped. The carriers were vital for this was the first war in which opposing fleets fought without sight of each other, with carrier-borne planes taking the place of battleships' guns.

Mr Humble spans the years of Japanese naval expansion from the days of the redoubtable Togo, victor of Tsushima, to the time when the biggest battleships ever built—the 64,170-ton Yamato and Musashi, each mounting nine 18-inch guns—were sunk in suicidal attempts to stem the American tide of success.

Two useful re-issues in the Pan/Ballantine Illustrated History of World War Two, "Schweinfurt" and "P-51" together form a history of American bombing in the European War. The first shows how the B-17 Flying Fortress proved to be so vulnerable in its daylight bombing role; the second illustrates how the advent of a tough, long-range fighter pulled the US Army Air Corps' chestnuts out of the fire by providing the vital protection that experience had shown the bombers needed.

Pan Books Ltd, 33 Tothill Street, London SW1, 50p each

JCW

BEHIND THE LINES

"Chindits: Long Range Penetration" (Michael Calvert)

When Orde Wingate raised the Chindits to fight far behind the Japanese lines in Burma, he pioneered a new form of warfare. The original Chindits were the 77th Indian Infantry Brigade, comprising the 13th King's (Liverpool) Regiment, 3rd/2nd Gurkha Rifles, 142 Commando, a force of Burma Rifles split between the columns, signallers and RAF detachments.

Wingate took his brigade into the jungle in February 1943. Four months later, two-thirds of them

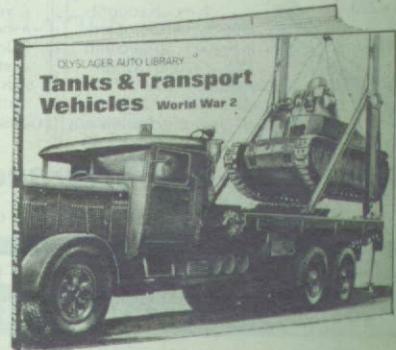
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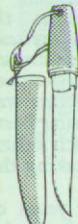
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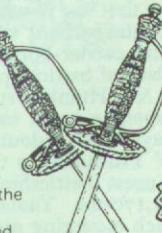
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BOOKS

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returned, leaving the rest prisoners or dead. The immediate results of their operations were not very great. They had destroyed the main railway in several places, fought several minor actions, marched an average of 1500 miles, gained some intelligence, learned a lot of bushcraft, and made many friends among the Burmese and the Kachin, Karen and Shan hill tribes. Few of the survivors escaped malaria, dysentery and malnutrition but their morale was amazingly high.

When the force was expanded for further operations, the fittest of the survivors became the expert nucleus on which it was built.

"Mad Mike" Calvert, a brigadier in the force, was there and he presents a lively and lucid account of the Chindits' operations, their trials and triumphs, in a worthy addition to the Pan/Ballantine Illustrated History of World War Two.

Pan Books Ltd, 33 Tothill Street, London SW1, 50p

Then in 1966 came the "large" regiments and The Queen's Own Buffs were absorbed into The Queen's Regiment. While one wishes the very best for the new, one can only regret the passing of so young and promising a regiment.

An interesting little book marking a confused period in the Army's history.

Queen's Own Regimental Association, Block 21, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent, £2.00

HERO-VILLAIN

"Charge! Hurrah! Hurrah! (A Life of Cardigan of Balaclava)" (Donald Thomas)

James Thomas Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan, had many advantages in life having been spoiled by a doting family and educated at Harrow and Oxford. He ran off with another man's wife, fought duels and when commanding the 15th King's Hussars baited his junior officers and horsewhipped an editor who criticised him. His legendary strictness led to an incident, court-martial and dismissal from the Army.

He then "bought" the 11th Light Dragoons for £40,000 and spent a fortune on their upkeep. Although his men admired him for his harsh justice, toughness and generosity, his officers despised him for his petty restrictions. The Press labelled him "plague-spot of the British Army."

War with Russia changed everything. Cardigan was sent to the Crimea with the Light Brigade and at Balaclava led 673 men against 25,000 Russians. The world was astonished at the folly of this blunder but the average Englishman was thrilled to the core. On his return Cardigan was feted, decorated and acclaimed. Later, his courage and qualities of leadership were questioned. Bitterly hurt, he fought vicious legal battles to defend his honour and reputation.

A strange man, Cardigan revelled in regimental intrigue, seduced women almost without conscience, infuriated everyone he met and used his wealth and power for self-advancement and praise. Yet he was a man of great courage, a born soldier, completely without guile and given to sudden acts of kindness.

Undoubtedly the best study on Cardigan to date, this fascinating book is extremely well-written and accompanied by detailed notes and an excellent bibliography.

Routledge & Kegan Paul, Broadway House, Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5EL, £5.50

DEFENCE AND ATTACK

"Bir Hacheim: Desert Citadel" (Richard Holmes)

"Cassino" (Dominick Graham)

It was the classic Foreign Legion situation when, in 1942, General Marie-Pierre Koenig's brigade was attacked by Rommel at the isolated desert fortress of Bir Hacheim and compelled to make a desperate stand in total isolation.

In describing that stand, Richard Holmes paints a glowing picture of traditional French courage and determination at its back-to-the-wall best. Men of all colours from all parts



THE QUEEN'S OWN BUFFS,
THE ROYAL KENT
REGIMENT
(3rd, 50th and 97th of Foot)

BY GREGORY BLAXLAND

BRIEF LIFE

"The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment (3rd, 50th and 97th of Foot)" (Gregory Blaxland)

Their amalgamation was arranged in 1957, delayed till 1961 and the new regiment then lasted only five years and ten months. This is the sad story of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) and The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, and their young offspring, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment.

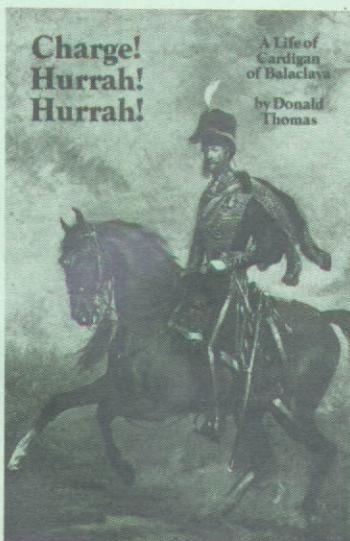
Amid the welter of clumsy titles one can feel the heart-searching behind the scenes to preserve something of the long traditions of these fine parent regiments. That it was done at all is a tribute to the common-sense of all involved considering the delicate areas of compromise involving badges, mottoes and Colours.

Happily the new regiment knew nothing of its future when it left for service in Kenya. The exciting years to follow included security patrols through the Cyprus hills, exercises in Canada and Denmark, riot control in Guyana and Hong Kong, visits to the Jungle Warfare School in Malaya and action in Sabah and Sarawak.



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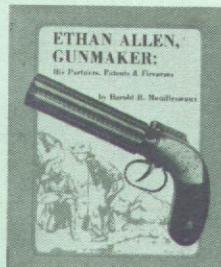
"Jane's Pocket Book 4: Modern Tanks and Armoured Fighting Vehicles" (Christopher F Foss)

Every soldier in every army today should have a working knowledge of the tanks and armoured fighting vehicles of his own and other armies and should be able to identify quickly anything he sees. This is the object of Mr Foss's excellent compilation. He covers all post-World War Two vehicles at present in service as well as many which will be entering service in the immediate future.

His book is divided into sections for tanks (main battle tanks and light tanks), armoured cars and reconnaissance vehicles, mechanised infantry combat vehicles and armoured personnel carriers, self-propelled guns (including tank destroyers and anti-aircraft vehicles), and ends with a selection of bridgelayers and armoured recovery vehicles.

Of particular value are the status notes given for each vehicle listing the various armies with which it is in service.

Macdonald & Jane's Publishers, St Giles House, 49-50 Poland Street, London, W1A 2LG, PVC £1.75, cased £2.50



"Ethan Allen, Gunmaker: His Partners, Patents and Firearms" (Harold R Houillesseaux)

Ethan Allen is considered to be the father of the extraordinary looking "pepperbox" gun—its chubby barrel doubling as a chamber for a number of rounds. It may look quaint now, but the pepperbox had a lot of work to do in the lawless days of early-19th century America. These weapons were the days of Ethan Allen and it is interesting to see the personal background of the man explored as well as his works.

One could be put off this Canadian-produced book by its price, of £10.95, and by the American Society of Arms Collectors' frontispiece recommendation as a "valuable reference work for the collector and historian." It probably is but readers may prefer to form their own opinions.

Frederick Muller Ltd, Victoria Works, Edgware Road, London, NW2 6LE, £10.95

of the French Empire—including many Germans who put loyalty to the Foreign Legion before country—regained the honour of France in a 16-day defence which can only be described as epic. This spellbinding book well maintains the high standards of the Pan/Ballantine Illustrated History of World War Two.

In the same series comes Dominick Graham's excellent account of the siege and capture of Cassino, the Benedictine monastery which barred the advance of the British and Americans from Sicily to Rome. It was one of the most agonising battles of World War Two. In the Italian campaign, Field-Marshal Albert Kesselring stands out as the commanding figure. He bought Hitler many months by his steadfast defence of the leg of Italy; nowhere was this more marked than at Cassino.

Pan Books Ltd, 33 Tothill Street, London SW1, 50p each JCW

ON THE TABLE TOP

"War Games Through the Ages Volume Two: 1420-1783" (Donald F Featherstone)

The wargamer swears by Featherstone—and well he might. No author has made a subject so much his own and this second volume in his history of wargaming enhances his reputation as the guide and mentor of anyone who follows this enthralling hobby.

The first book in the series (reviewed in SOLDIER, July 1972) covered ancient and medieval wars. This one covers what is loosely termed the "horse-and-musket" period of increasing change and Mr Featherstone describes the dress, arms, equipment of the armies which then marched and fought. Each chapter describes the techniques, tactics and fighting methods of the opposing armies and discusses how best to simulate these on a table-top.

The post-medieval period was heralded by the Hussite Wars of 1420-1434, and ends with the American Revolution, which the Americans call the War of Independence.

In between we have the Wars of the Roses, Italian Wars of 1494-1525, French religious wars 1562-1598, Dutch revolt 1566-1609, Thirty Years War 1618-1648, English Civil War 1642-1651, Dutch

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