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The car for our times

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FRONT COVER

A Turkish flag flutters in the distance as a United Nations Ferret scout car of A Squadron, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, moves out of its billet in a deserted orange box factory just south of the "Attila Line."

Picture by Paul Haley.



BACK COVER

With ten tors behind them, a team of Scouts strides past the finish line after facing the challenge of a day and a night on Dartmoor (see SOLDIER July 1975) tramping up and down dale and fending for themselves.

Picture by Paul Haley.

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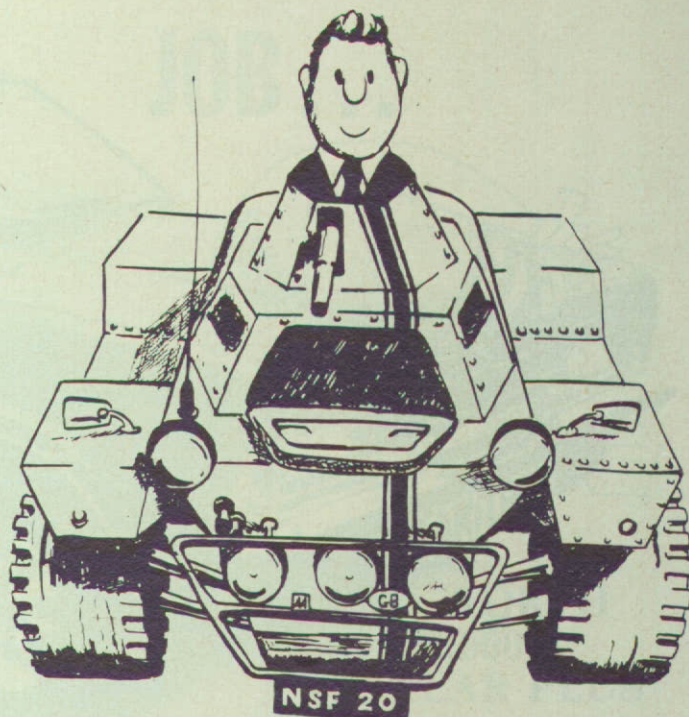
In this regular feature **SOLDIER** keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment. Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

JULY 1975

- 21 Kirkby (Lancashire) Army Display (21-22 July) (Junior Parachute Company Pegasus gymnastic team; helicopter display team Blue Eagles; Parachute Regiment freefall team Red Devils; Royal Signals motorcycle display team White Helmets; three bands).
- 22 Cleveland Army Display, Middlesbrough (22-25 July) (junior gymnasts; Royal Corps of Transport freefall team Silver Stars; two bands).
- 24 Manchester Show (24-26 July) (Red Devils; Household Cavalry Quadrille; White Helmets; five bands).
- 24 St Helens Town Show (24-26 July) (Red Devils).
- 24 Deal Regatta (24-26 July) (7 Para RHA freefall team Black Knights 24 July; band).
- 25 Cardiff Searchlight Tattoo (25 July-2 August).
- 25 Northampton Show (25-27 July) (display team; band).
- 25 Army Air Day, Middle Wallop (25-26 July) (Blue Eagles).
- 26 Cleveland County Show, Middlesbrough (two bands).
- 27 Selby Lions Gala (junior band).
- 27 Shell Sport, Snetterton (Red Devils).
- 27 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington Camp, Dorset (Blue Eagles).
- 28 KAPE tour, Jersey (28 July-8 August) (Black Knights).
- 29 Tyneside Summer Exhibition, Newcastle (29 July-2 August) (Red Devils; junior gymnasts; three bands).
- 30 Lancashire Show (30 July-3 August) (Household Cavalry Quadrille. 1-3 August).
- 30 Stranraer Agricultural Show (White Helmets).

AUGUST 1975

- 1 Southsea Show (1-3 August) (Blue Eagles 1 August; band).
- 1 Oxford Agricultural Show (1-2 August) (two bands).
- 1 Hull Show (1-2 August) (White Helmets; JLRA gymnastic display).
- 2 Open Day, Central Ordnance Depot, Chilwell (Blue Eagles).
- 2 Gatehouse (Kirkcudbrightshire) Gala (White Helmets).
- 2 Open Day, Depot, Prince of Wales's Division, Lichfield (Red Devils; Blue Eagles).
- 3 Knebworth Air Display (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team; Blue Eagles; two bands).
- 3 Rutland County Show, Oakham (White Helmets; band).
- 4 King's Troop RHA gun salute, Hyde Park, London (Queen Mother's birthday).
- 6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Agricultural Show (band).
- 6 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show (band; displays).
- 6 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (6-9 August).
- 6 Llandudno Carnival (Blue Eagles).
- 8 Gloucester Military Festival (RA motorcyclists; band; freefall team).
- 8 Girls' Friendly Society Centenary Day, Stoneleigh (Red Devils).
- 9 Castle Howard (Yorkshire) Steam Fair (9-10 August) (band).
- 9 York Sportsmen's Gala (band).
- 9 Wessex Machinery Museum Club Show, Southsea (9-10 August) (Royal Military Police mounted display team Red Caps).
- 9 International Model Power Boat Meeting, Welwyn Garden City (Blue Eagles).
- 10 Derwentside Show, Consett (10-11 August) (junior gymnasts; band).
- 13 "Hythe Entertains" (13-20 August) (arena event; band).
- 13 Poole (Dorset) Hospital Gala (band).
- 13 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 14 World Festival, Ottawa (14-17 August) (two bands).
- 14 United Counties Show, Carmarthen (14-15 August) (Red Caps).
- 15 ARMEX 75, Harrogate (15-17 August) (King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery; APTC display; Red Devils; mock battle; White Helmets; eight bands).



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PERSONAL EXPORT



DIARY continued

- 15 Berkshire Show, Reading (15-16 August) (Red Devils; two bands).
- 16 Darlington Show (junior gymnasts; two bands).
- 16 Mid-Somerset Agricultural Show, Shepton Mallet (Red Caps; band).
- 16 Holiday Highlights, Castle Douglas (Red Devils).
- 16 North Devon Show, Dulverton Cross (Pegasus gymnastic team).
- 16 Wolverhampton Charity Race Meeting (Army Benevolent Fund) (Red Devils; display teams; bands).
- 17 Hartlepool Show (band).
- 17 Rochester Aerobic Championships (Blue Eagles).
- 18 Cleveland Show (White Helmets).
- 19 Cleethorpes Show (19-22 August) (White Helmets).
- 20 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 21 Southport Flower Show (21-23 August) (Red Caps).
- 22 Edinburgh Tattoo (22 August-13 September).
- 23 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire (23-25 August) (Pegasus gymnastic team; band).
- 23 QUEXPO, Birchington, Kent (23-25 August) (arena event).
- 23 Expo Steam Rally, Peterborough (23-25 August) (Red Devils; White Helmets; Blue Eagles).
- 23 Harlow (Essex) Town Show (Red Devils).
- 23 Poynton Agricultural Show (Blue Eagles).
- 24 Carlisle Army Display (24-25 August) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists; Red Caps; five bands).
- 24 North Devon Traction Rally, Barnstaple (24-25 August) (displays).
- 24 Leicester Air Display (Blue Eagles).
- 25 Eye (Suffolk) Show (display team).
- 25 Sittingbourne (Kent) Carnival (Red Devils).
- 25 Watford Civic Outdoor Gala (display team; band).
- 25 Hemel Hempstead Carnival (Red Devils; band).
- 25 Leicester City Show (25-26 August) (band).
- 25 Walsall Show (25-26 August) (band).
- 25 Aylsham (Norfolk) Show (band).
- 25 Worthing Rotarama (Black Knights).
- 25 Shell Sport, Brands Hatch (Red Devils).
- 27 Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show (band).
- 27 Kneller Hall Grand Band Concert.
- 28 Moretonhampstead (Devon) Carnival (Blue Eagles).
- 29 Motorcycle Show, Earls Court (29 August-4 September) (White Helmets).
- 29 Sheffield Show (29-31 August) (band).
- 29 Blackburn Army Display (29-31 August) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists; Red Caps; Blue Eagles 30-31 August; four bands).
- 30 Felixstowe Carnival (display team).
- 30 Egham and Thorpe (Surrey) Royal Agricultural Show (band).

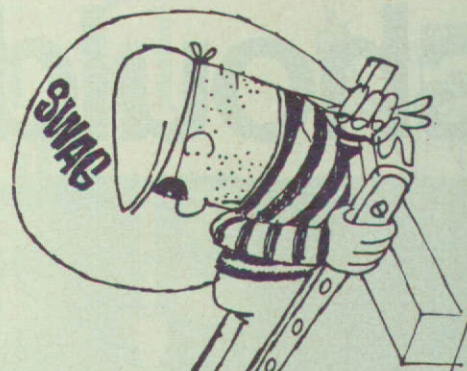
SEPTEMBER 1975

- 3 Kneller Hall Band Concert.
- 6 High Wycombe Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 6 Open Day, Amptill (Bedfordshire) Cheshire Home (Blue Eagles).
- 6 Richmond (Yorkshire) Round Table Show (band).
- 6 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 6 Norfolk Tattoo.
- 7 Burma Star Association Day, Waterbeach, Cambridge (Red Caps; White Helmets; Blue Eagles; RN, RAF and civilian flying displays; six bands).
- 7 Glasgow KAPE (7-14 September) (three displays; two bands).
- 7 Shell Sport, Oulton Park (Red Devils).
- 8 Portsmouth Show (8-12 September) (White Helmets).
- 10 Kneller Hall (Final) Grand Band Concert.
- 13 Brent (Middlesex) Town Show (Red Caps).
- 13 Romsey (Hants) Show (Red Caps).
- 14 Woodley (Reading) Tattoo.
- 20 Welwyn Garden City Water Carnival (Pegasus gymnastic team; band).
- 20 Laying-up Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment, Chichester Cathedral.
- 23 Grangemouth Tattoo (23-27 September).
- 23 Kettering (Northamptonshire) Week (23-27 September) (Red Caps; band).
- 28 Laying-up Colours, 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Buffs; 4th and 5th battalions, The Buffs; Canterbury Cathedral.

OCTOBER 1975

- 19 Shell Sport, Brands Hatch (Red Devils).

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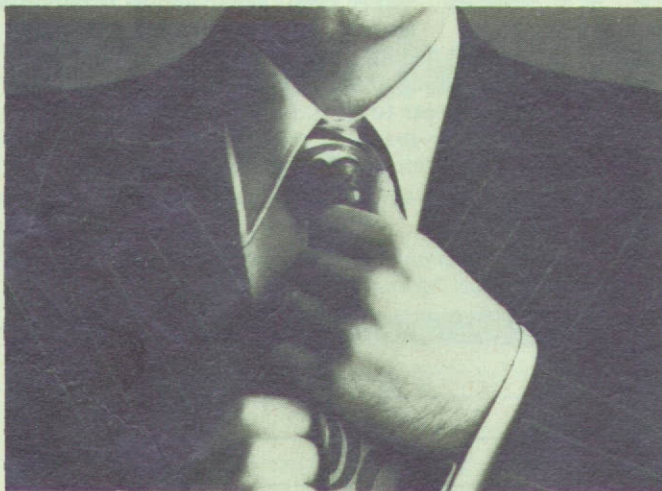
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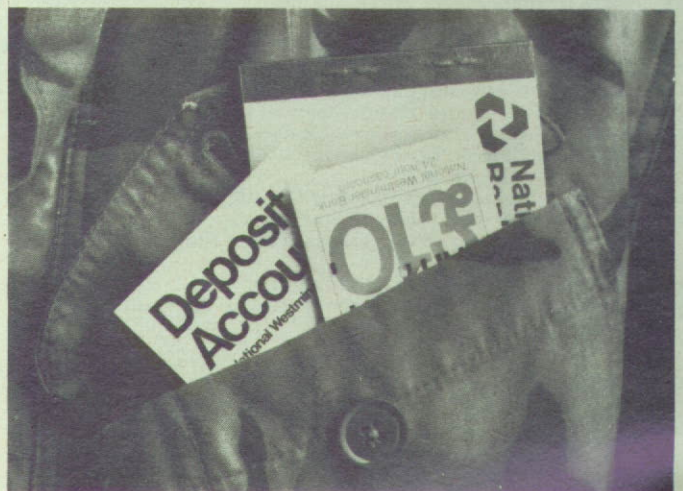
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SOLDIER to Soldier

Congratulations to The Green Howards regimental museum on sharing second place in the National Heritage Museum of the Year award scheme for 1975. The Green Howards museum, which has been given a cheque for £500, was the only military museum entered in this year's national competition and is itself unique in being housed in a redundant medieval church in the market square of the regiment's home at Richmond, North Yorkshire.

More than £96,000 was raised to move the museum from the regiment's old barracks and adapt the church. The museum was opened in July 1973 by the regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, King Olav of Norway, and is visited by more than 40,000 people a year. This surprisingly large attendance figure is partly explained by the museum's attractiveness, its ready accessibility and the fact that Richmond is a tourist town, but is also attributable to the regiment's continuing effort to publicise its museum.

Military museums are nowadays much more aware of public interest—there has been a tremendous increase in the militaria cult—but although there are problems of for example public accessibility, with a museum tucked away in a barracks, and of staffing, some museums could do more to make themselves known, to both their own and the Army's advantage.



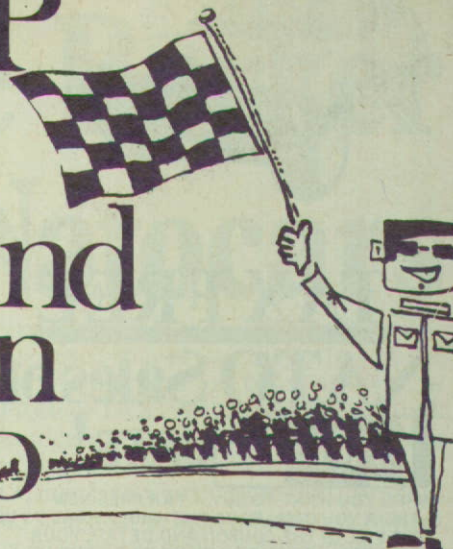
It was a splendid Wimbledon—seeds scattered, predictions up-turned, cliff-hanger matches and gorgeous weather except for the opening afternoon. And like the well-oiled machine it is, with the Services as usual contributing with their volunteer helpers, Wimbledon ran its smooth course. The tennis fans on SOLDIER staff were as green with envy as those famous lawns and courts, for life in the publishing world recently has been anything but smooth.

The printing dispute which bedevilled the June, July and this issue, is now settled but it meant loss of second colour in the magazine, long delays and typographical errors which are normally a rarity. At one time there was threat of severely rationing pages and indeed of missing an issue, but at least neither of these happened. Unfortunately SOLDIER was never able to keep readers informed, as the position kept changing rapidly, and indeed many readers, particularly overseas, were unaware that there was "trouble down at t'mill." To every reader, SOLDIER apologises for all the inconvenience.



Recently SOLDIER introduced a range of four Buckingham pewter figures—this has now been extended to ten figures (details on page 53). It is hoped that these figures, and other items marketed under the reader services scheme, will also be available for sale on SOLDIER's stand at Armex '75—the Army's biggest show this year—at Harrogate on 15, 16 and 17 August. See you there!

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Military Museums: 31

The Museum of Army Flying

AN old Army cinema at the Army Air Corps Centre has been adapted to house this recently opened museum which aims to record every aspect of flying in the British Army from World War One to the present day. The emphasis is on air observation post squadrons, the pilots of which were Royal Artillery officers, and the Glider Pilot Regiment from whose ranks comes the museum's most spectacular exhibit—the fuselage of a Horsa Mark II troop-carrying glider.

Of the hundreds of these sturdy aircraft which landed British soldiers in Norway and Sicily, in Germany for the Rhine crossing, in France on D-Day and at Arnhem, this is the only Horsa fuselage to survive with cockpit and controls intact. The fuselage interior has been turned into a mini-museum including historic pictures of wartime glider landings, a roll of honour and record of World War Two battle casualties of the Glider Pilot Regiment, a pilot's flying log book, checklist and notes, and an original regimental cap badge and other insignia.

A display of flying kits includes the suit worn by Prince Charles when he received his Army wings at the Army Air Corps Centre in 1970 and the Duke of Edinburgh's flying suit when he was at Middle Wallop for a similar ceremony in 1965.

Featured in the museum, which is still in a formative stage, are old models of different types of Army aircraft from No 1 biplane to modern helicopters. Also on show are three full-size exhibits—an Auster Mark IX, a Skeeter Mark XII and a replica of Colonel Cody's man-carrying kite. Other aircraft are parked near the centre's main entrance.

Exhibits relating to the Joint Experimental Helicopter Unit are conveniently grouped together and an exhibition of early repair techniques pinpoints the indispensable work done by the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in maintaining the Army's aircraft. Other exhibits illustrate squadron operations in Korea, Suez, Cyprus, Aden, Borneo and Northern Ireland. Glider Pilot Regiment flags, including one made in Korea, and an assortment of equipment and items of dress taken from terrorists in Malaya by members of 656 Light Aircraft Squadron, are typical.



Three long-service veterans on parade: Skeeter Mk XII helicopter, Horsa Mk II glider and the fixed wing Auster Mk IX.

The Royal Flying Corps has an honoured place, appropriately indicated by a 1914 hand-made wooden propeller and including some original uniforms.

Unusual items worth noting include a rare gas-operated signalling lamp, a massive brass door handle taken by 651 Air OP Squadron from Mussolini's Villa Carpena, and a set of wooden chessmen carved with a sharpened piece of metal by an American prisoner-of-war in Korea. A small library contains a selection of original pamphlets, documents, scrapbooks and photographs. As many of these are delicate and irreplaceable they are not available for general viewing but may be seen by arrangement.

John Jesse

Curator: Officer-in-Charge, Museum
Attendant: Mr T W Pearce
Address: The Museum of Army Flying
Army Air Corps Centre
Middle Wallop
Stockbridge
Hampshire
SO20 8DY
Telephone: Andover 62121 Ext 421 or 281
Open: Monday and Wednesday, 1000 to 1200 and 1300 to 1600; Friday, 1300 to 1600
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Next month: The Guards Museum

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Through the lines
of opposing Turks
and Greek Cypriots
the Royal Corps of
Transport drivers
take supplies
to Nicosia on
"The UN
Pony
Express"

IT is 6.45 am and the convoy of six white-painted United Nations trucks rolls into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps supply sub-depot in Dhekelia, having been on the road from Nicosia since daybreak. Six days a week, trucks make the journey from the flashpoint Cyprus capital of Nicosia where Greeks and Turks still face each other almost eyeball to eyeball. Their mission is to supply food to the blue-beret United Nations soldiers whose task is to stop further bloodshed in this unhappy yet beautiful island.

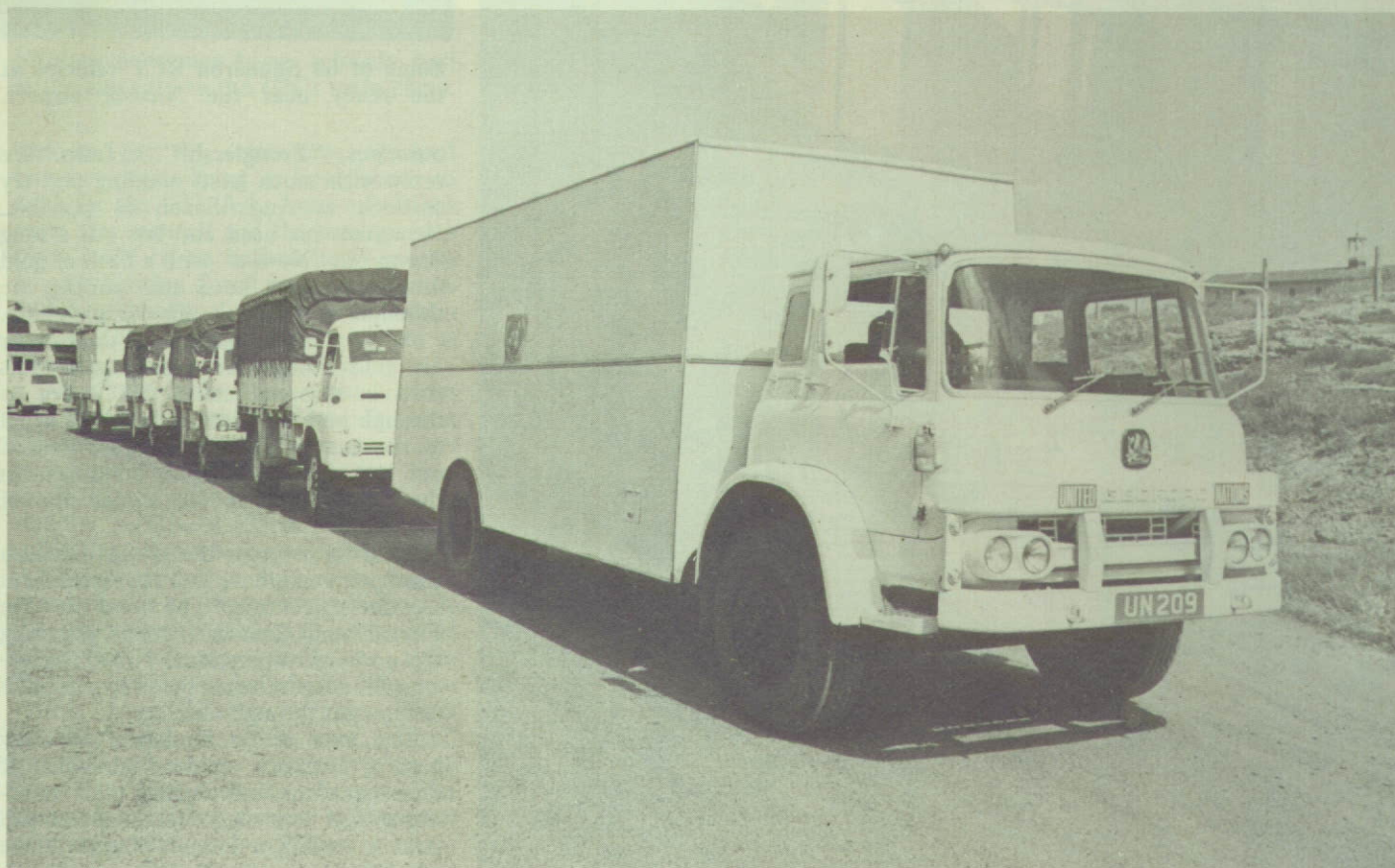
The large convoys make the run only three times a week but on two other days trucks become bakers' vans and on the sixth day there is a special provisions delivery for the Canadian contingent.

Eggs, meat, groceries and bread are all carefully stacked aboard the lorries and

after a break for a quick soft drink on the sea front at Dhekelia, where the hot, dusty drivers cast envious glances at the sun-bathers and swimmers, the men of 60 Squadron, Royals Corps of Transport, are ready to roll.

Soon we have passed out of the eastern sovereign base area and through Larnaca towards the recently created border zone. We sail past a police post and two Greek checkpoints. Lance-Corporal Bob Muir, the leading driver, is obviously a familiar figure and is waved through with a brief "OK." On into no-man's-land. On distant hilltops the red Turkish flag flutters. To right and left of the road, flocks of scraggy sheep and long-eared goats munch away oblivious to anything except the lush pasture.

Twelve months previously we had travelled this road which was then



The convoy of white-painted UN trucks gets ready to move out from Dhekelia.

Right: Anglo-Finnish project. Provisions are carried into the Nicosia compound.



Story by John Walton
Pictures by Paul Haley

Pony Express

continued

chock-a-block with traffic. Now we see only a solitary Land-Rover or private saloon car with a blue-beret driver. For Greeks and Turks this main highway has become a cul-de-sac.

Photography is strictly forbidden in these areas and the SOLDIER photographic gear had been sent ahead to Nicosia by a more roundabout route. As we round another bend we see a further roadblock, manned by Turkish soldiers.

We have already been warned that sometimes the Turks insist on inspecting the convoys and that our documents will

be scrutinised to make sure we are whom we say we are.

The Turkish soldier flags the convoy down, glances at Bob Muir's pass and then spots two unfamiliar faces in the cab. He flashes round to the nearside of the truck, jumps up to the passenger window and peers at us suspiciously. At his request we hand over identification cards bearing dubious likenesses of



Pano Zodia: 4th/7th Dragoon Guards make themselves at home among orange boxes.



Some of 60 Squadron RCT vehicles at the ready near the Nicosia airport.

ourselves, "Eeengleesh?" he asks. We reply with much head nodding and try to look as Anglo-Saxon as possible. He shakes his head and lets out a long drawn out "No-o-o" with a flash of gold fillings. At least he is still smiling, we think, as we rummage for our passports.

As soon as the soldier sees their cover his gold fillings are bared again—this time in a broad smile. He waves us through and we breathe a sigh of relief as the convoy rumbles on past burned out cars and demolished buildings. In the fields we can see a network of bunkers.

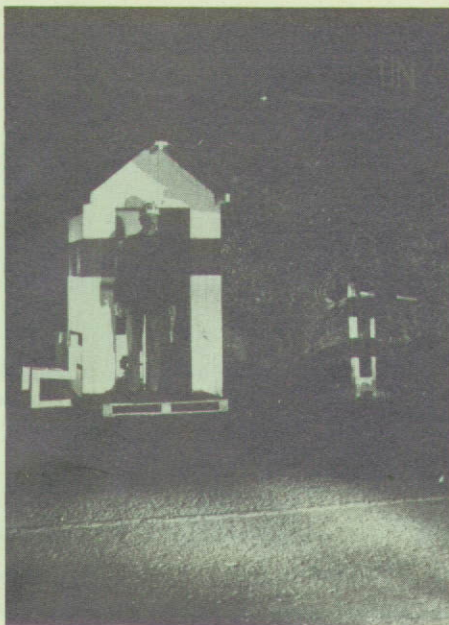
Soon we are past the second Turkish checkpoint and move into the Greek-held section of Nicosia. The food for the Finnish and Canadian troops guarding the no-longer-operational Nicosia International Airport has in best Pony Express fashion got through once again.

The men of 60 Squadron are now back in Catterick with the other half of their squadron but during their unaccompanied tour they were kept at full stretch serving a United Nations force which has almost doubled since last year's conflict. There are now almost 4000 UN troops on the island, of which 1270 are British. The remainder are Austrians, Canadians, Danes, Finns, Swedes and a handful of Irishmen.

The Squadron's A troop with the load-carrying vehicles provided second-line transport for the United Nations force as a whole. They supplied the whole of the Nicosia complex but not the British contingent in the Paphos area or the Swedes in Turkish-held Famagusta.

Major Keith Martin, the squadron commander, told SOLDIER: "We have given a large percentage of our time to humanitarian tasks—supplying the 9000 Greeks in the north-east of the island and Turkish villages in the Paphos area. These trips are very challenging for our drivers as the roads are very steep and there is often only six inches allowed on either side of a four-ton vehicle."

The B troop controlled and serviced



Military policeman keeps a lonely vigil at the entrance to the UN's main camp.

cars and at the same time operated bus services to bring in local labour to work for the UN. A 24-hour operations room was manned and the headquarters troop stood by on half-an-hour's notice in case fighting flared up again. In the first three months of its tour, 60 Squadron carried 4000 tons of supplies as well as averaging 44,000 miles a month.

Force reserve for the United Nations is A Squadron, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, with troops of Ferret scout cars dotted around the island. In its first three weeks on the island the fifth troop, on standby at UNFICYP in Nicosia, was called out twice when trouble broke out.

The other four troops were rotated every month so that during their tour the 4th/7th were getting to see a large proportion of the island. At Pano Zodia, within sight of the Turkish "Attila Line," Troop Sergeant Geoff Chadwick and his men were billeted in a deserted orange box factory. In no time they had used the thousands of orange boxes lying around to construct quarters which gave each man a bit of privacy as well as the use of a "bathroom." "We have made it just about as comfortable as we can," said Sergeant Chadwick, whose men were attached to the Danish contingent billeted at the far end of the factory.

The most fully integrated of all the United Nations troops in Cyprus are the military police. They have six detachments in different parts of the island and these are completely mixed with their own all ranks mess and no requirement to be members of any other.

United Nations troops in Nicosia have to be in camp by one o'clock in the morning and the military police enforce the curfew. As we walked round the sleazy clubs and bars in Nicosia, Canadian Master Warrant Officer Hoppy Hopkinson and Sergeant Jack Canning, Royal

Right: Policemen of different nations patrol down the neon-flashing streets of the bar and nightclub district of Nicosia.



Pony Express

continued

Military Police, reflected that the "bar-busting" depicted in so many old films was now a very rare task for MPs.

Main duties in addition to the bar patrols in Nicosia are security of the United Nations compound, escorts and protection of visiting VIPs, and normal police duties such as dealing with and investigating accidents.

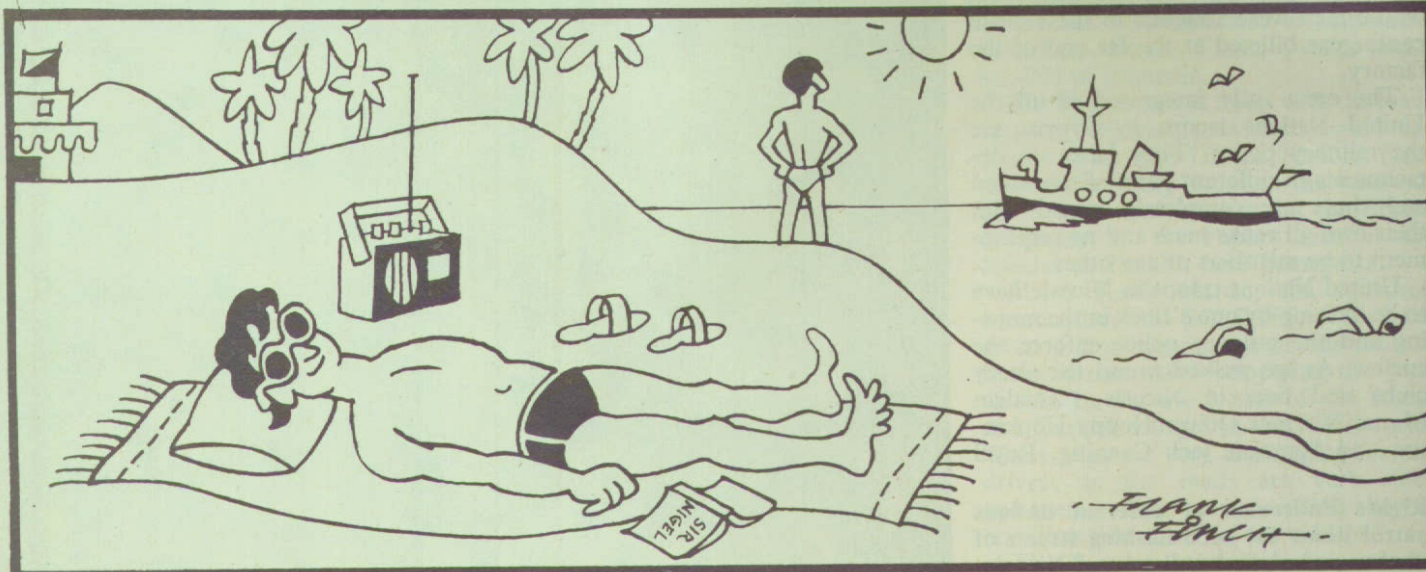
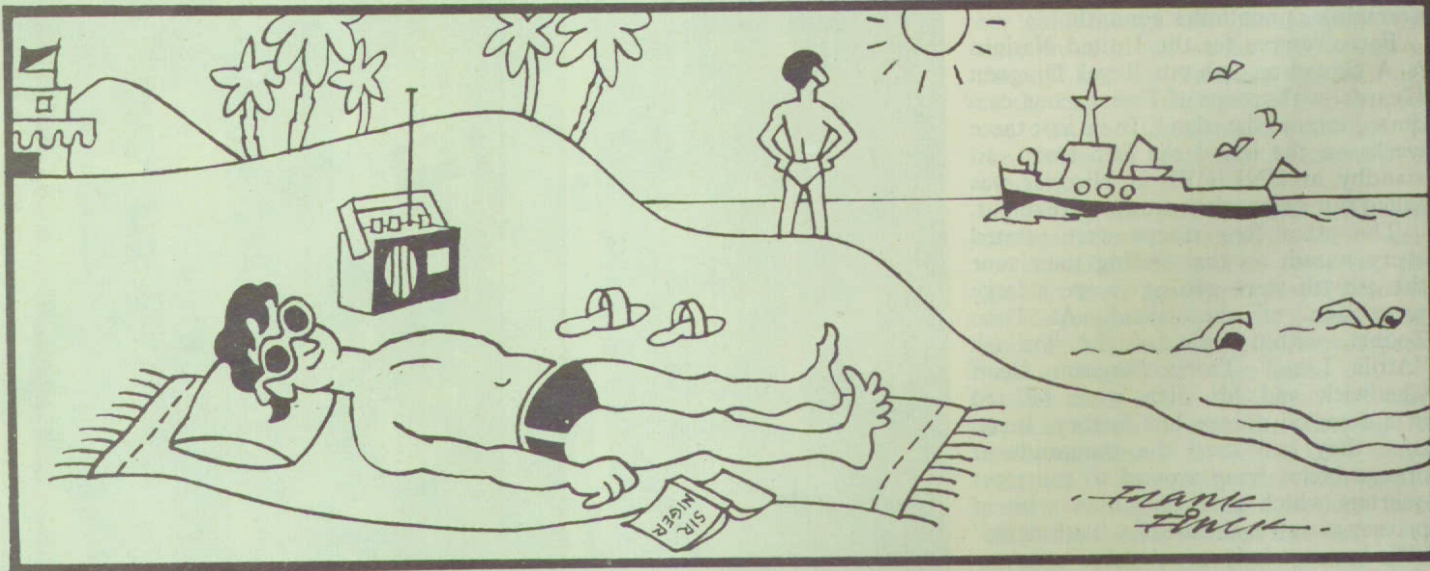
Few would care to predict events in Cyprus. But whatever the future may bring to the Mediterranean island the blue berets of the United Nations men will be there when needed by either community. Their mission is aptly put by the slogan on a Finnish soldier's tee-shirt: "I see war. I hope for peace."



Time for a cool drink in the sun for UNFICYP military police outside their club.



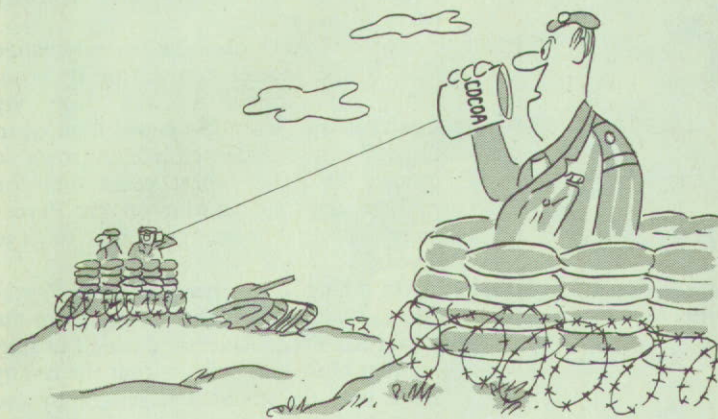
These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 52.



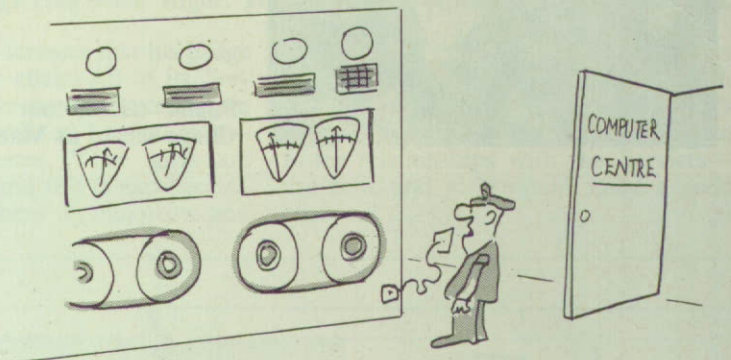
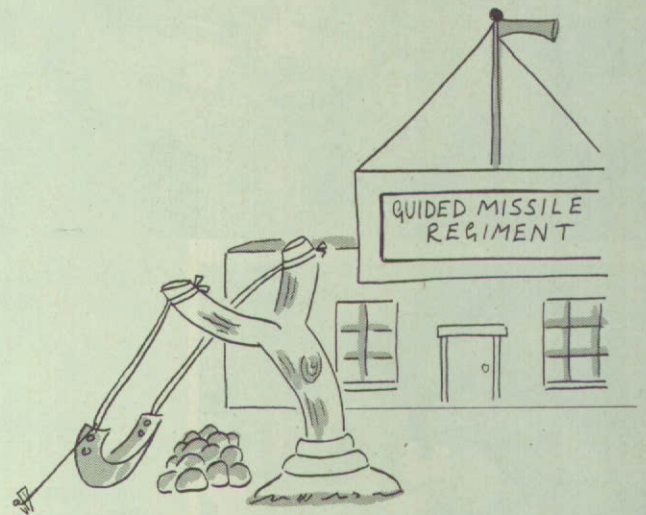


JOHN POWER asks

Where will the axe fall next?



"Sunray to Blue Leader—over."



"Bad news, O great one, you're being replaced by a pocket calculator."



"I'll give you something to deaden the pain."



"The exercise scheduled for the first two weeks in October will now be held on sports afternoon."

School of a thousand badges

Story by John Walton
Pictures by Leslie Wiggs



Chairman and secretary, Justin Lewis and Belinda Bruce, with Mr Pryce-Jones.



Even when the infants are playing the military enthusiasm manifests itself.

Pupils trickle out of the Victorian village school at Maendy in Glamorgan.



MILITARIA enthusiast John Pryce-Jones is headmaster of a little village school in Glamorgan. Yet through his efforts and the enthusiasm he has engendered among his pupils, Maendy Junior School has established links with military units in many parts of the world.

For Mr Pryce-Jones the Maendy badge club is the second venture of its type. Until last summer he was geography master at the Lakeside Junior School in Cardiff whose badge club had grown so quickly in a few short years that the postage costs alone (out of Mr Pryce-Jones's personal pocket) amounted to £150 a year.

On taking up his headship, Mr Pryce-Jones, formerly a flight-lieutenant in the Royal Air Force Reserve, decided to start another club—he believes that the hobby helps with the teaching of geography and history as well as creating goodwill to and from the Services.

In his Victorian village school there are only 62 pupils against 450 at the Cardiff school. But already the military enthusiasm is everywhere—uniform pictures painted by the children hang on the walls, there is a collection of military caps and the school already has more than 1000 military badges.

"When I first started all this at Lakeside I never imagined it would grow much," said Mr Pryce-Jones. "But our badge club members have had tea with generals, visited military units and corresponded worldwide."

Only the oldest children are allowed into the badge club and membership is by invitation. The club members (all keen **SOLDIER** readers) do their own drawings and displays, make military glove puppets and have written histories of the Army Air Corps and the infantry divisions. Honorary members of the club include several generals, three chief constables (police badges are also collected) and Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Elworthy.

One of the club's keenest supporters is Sergeant-Major Jack Jaumal, United States Marines, who made his first contact through **SOLDIER** in 1972. He regularly sends the club information about the United States and the Marine Corps as well as badges for the collection. He was given a special appreciation certificate by the Lakeside Badge Club and Maendy has kept up the contact.

The move from Lakeside has saddened John Pryce-Jones because several former contacts have been lost. "I hope we can regain contact with some of our old pals through **SOLDIER**," he says.

The club has badges of most present-day British Army units but still needs



SOLDIER magazine is essential reading for the Maendy badge club buffs. Right: Trying on some of the school cap collection.

those of many of the old county regiments. He is also keen on acquiring foreign badges—"We don't have any from Canada, Belgium, France or present-day Germany and we are also thin on the ground for Australia and America apart from the Marines."

Mr Pryce-Jones stresses that his badge club is a two-way affair. All of its Service friends receive regular letters from the children as well as handmade appreciation certificates. "The girls are particularly keen and this is excellent as they are the mothers of tomorrow and

are going to be conscious of the efforts of those who serve the country," he said. "I have often wished that Wilkinson's gave an award for civilians who help to foster relationships with the Services—my boys and girls would stand a good chance."

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Officially
the Army does not recognise
the ancient art of dowsing
but there is strong
military representation
in the . . .



TWIG-AND-MAP BRIGADE

AFRICAN witchdoctors do it; horny handed rustics do it; and even British Army officers past and present do it. Dowsing, more popularly known as water divining but in fact embracing a much wider field, claims such impressive results from an apparently supernatural art that military members of the British Society of Dowsters are still pressing for it to become an official Army trade.

Officially the Army scoffs at dowsing—its only tests ended in failure—but the convinced dowsters retort that the sensitive dowser cannot operate under strict test conditions and that feats by military dowsters in the past should have convinced the authorities otherwise.

Among those feats (*SOLDIER*, October 1954) was that of Colonel Harry Grattan, Chief Engineer in charge of planning the Rhine Army headquarters at Rheindahlen. He was assured by German geologists that the underground water

supply was too small for headquarters' needs. But after detailed exploration with divining twigs, Colonel Grattan drew a map of an underground lake which he insisted was present. Test borings confirmed his diagnosis and the Army now has its own waterworks using the lake.

The British Society of Dowsters was formed some 40 years ago by Colonel A H Bell of the Royal Engineers and to this day has retained a strong military membership. Its current president, a retired officer, is Major-General James Scott-Elliott, and council members include another major-general, two lieutenant-colonels and a major.

General Scott-Elliott, who lives in Highgate, North London, did not start dowsing until he left the Army 20 years ago. But he is convinced that the military uses are enormous. He says: "I would put a couple of men trained in dowsing in every infantry unit and they would be used in all sorts of ways. At the time

of the Aden emergency the terrorists used to lay mines on the roads overnight and I said they should have a dowser who would dowse a map every morning and say where the mines were . . . they could then fly out to deal with them.

"In Northern Ireland they could be used in searching for arms, providing the right maps were used, and the men who were trained in dowsing were also trained in the methods of hiding arms."

Outlandish though it sounds, dowsing from maps is accepted by most of the dowsing fraternity. When an Auster disappeared during a flight over the Malayan jungle in January 1960, the Army tried everything, including searching at a six-figure map reference given by a soldier-dowser. When, three months later, the Auster was found by planta-

Above: Maj-Gen Scott-Elliott does a spot of dowsing in his garden while (below) Lieut-Col Lock tries the Malvern Hills.



ARE YOU A DOWSER?

Major-General James Scott-Elliott, President of the British Society of Dowsters, supplies a few hints for those who would like to dowse. He says "I cannot teach you to dowse. You have got to develop your sensitivity. Only you can do that. I can only help and advise." He suggests beginning with a pendulum and adopting a movement in one direction as yes and in the opposite direction as no. The oscillation between can be used for "neither yes nor no."

Basic rules include practising and testing on demonstrable results, having a need to know the answer, having confidence that dowsing works, making the questions correct, clear and appropriate and knowing the background of the field in which work is being done.

Below are some elementary exercises which can be practised to develop the use of the mind in the early stages:

- Try over an electric light cable—a standard lamp flex is useful. Use the pendulum to find out if the flex is LIVE or NOT. By this you can establish what is your YES and NO.
- Put four similar coins, and one different, under a cloth and seek the different one.
- Take five or more black playing cards and one red one—shuffle and lay them face down on the table and seek the red one.
- Take three or more cups. Put water or a coin in one. Cover up and seek the one with the water or coin.
- Fill a large but shallow box with sand. Place a metal object in it and shake up. Seek the metal object.
- Get someone to hide a note or object in the shelf of a bookcase. Work along the bookcase with a pendulum and locate it.
- Get someone to take a leaf from a hedge or plant. Take the leaf in your hand and find the plant from which the leaf came.
- Work over your own house drains, electric cables, water pipes, to establish their run in and around the house. Then try your friends' pipes and drains.



Dowsing from maps works, says the President, British Society of Dowsters.

tion workers, it was within a thousand yards of the dowser's prediction. Of course, map-dowsing rules out any physical reaction between the rod and water for instance and the "physical school" among dowsters is now a rapidly diminishing minority.

"I think the art is entirely within myself," says General Scott-Elliott. "I can even do it without a rod of any sort—using my hands or on occasions just sitting in my chair. The purely physical field could not account for my being able to sit here and do a job in Berkshire or Australia—and I can even differentiate say between a Roman and a Bronze age ditch."

Archaeology by dowsing is in fact General Scott-Elliott's speciality. He has discovered a number of archaeological sites by his method, which consists first of dowsing a map and then following up by working on the actual site.

At his home he has a map of the North Sea which he dowsed in 1973 and marked with the areas he considered to have good oil deposits. Since that time he has entered the oil strikes as they have been announced and claims that almost all are within areas predetermined by him. In General Scott-Elliott's view a dowser could save oil companies millions of pounds by dispensing with the need for exploratory wells.

The general believes his practical approach to dowsing—"a dowser must be able to produce results"—is the only way. He discounts the views of some

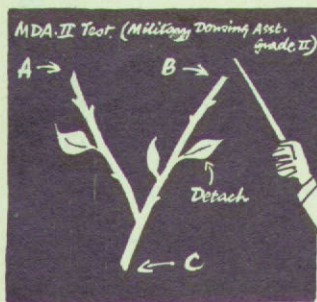
Below: The general-cum-archaeologist with some of the relics he has discovered.



dowsters that spirits and emanations are responsible for the dowser's art and says "It must be some sort of extra-sensory perception. We have a sense of smell and don't know how that works but no-one gets worked up about that."

During his presidency, General Scott-Elliott has travelled the world talking about and practising dowsing and he has seen his society's membership grow to 850 members. When in South Africa he met a local witchdoctor, with amazing results. "We found that we could do exactly the same things—only the method was different. He rolled bones and so on—but we got on together like a house on fire."

A purely scientific curiosity brought Lieutenant-Colonel Teddy Lock into dowsing. Now stationed at the Royal Radar Establishment at Malvern, the gunner colonel spends a lot of his spare time tracing underground streams around the beautiful Malvern Hills. He agrees that the rod does not matter—it can be whalebone, a twig, a coathanger or even a piece of grass, but the dowser, if he has the art, will get results. As a scientist, Colonel Lock did not accept map-dowsing as being possible until he tried—and found he could do it!



Art Editor Frank Finch gives his impression of a military lecture and of what a dowsing trade badge might look like.



"Nobody knows how it works so it is not worth arguing over," he says. "The fact that no rational explanation has been found implies to me that it is something which is not readily explainable in the current physics book. I am really an agnostic on the subject but the balance of probabilities is that it is something in



Former prisoner-of-war Lieut-Col George Taylor dowses with a metal coathanger.

what is loosely termed extra-sensory perception."

According to Colonel Lock the American forces in Vietnam used dowsing to locate Viet Cong arms dumps. He also feels that the art could be useful in somewhere like the Maze prison for detecting escape bids by tunnel.

On the other side of the fence, Lieutenant-Colonel George Taylor actually used his gift to help fellow prisoners-of-war to escape during World War Two. He was captured at St Valery when commanding 2nd/7th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, and while in a camp in Germany met a sapper water diviner. The sapper passed on a book on dowsing and before long Colonel Taylor was wandering around the camp with a twig. The Germans, both in this and subsequent camps, did not show any interest in his strange pursuit. It was an oversight which worked against them for George Taylor and his dowsing were invaluable aids to the escape committee in his next camp. He was able to advise them how to avoid drains and cables while tunnelling and was even able to give progress reports on the tunnels by walking overhead. Several men escaped as a result, although all were recaptured.

Back home in Yorkshire, Colonel Taylor found water divining rather redundant—people in that grey part of the world are more interested in drainage and getting rid of it. But a few years ago he discovered that he could use dowsing for healing and since then has cured boils and rheumatic pains as well as a case of bronchitis.

One of the best-known water diviners in Britain is Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Merrilees, of Lavenham, Suffolk. He has sited wells by dowsing in many parts of the world (SOLDIER, January 1955). Some years ago he visited the Royal Engineers at Chatham, tested more than 300 young officers and non-commissioned officers for sensitivity and found that about ten per cent were naturals and



You don't even need a rod. With just his hands, Maj-Gen Scott-Elliott dowses.

about forty per cent moderately sensitive.

Dowsing obviously has a long history and if its practitioners' theories are to be accepted it dates back to the dawn of mankind. In Britain, little is recorded of it during mediaeval times but this is not surprising since it would have been classified as witchcraft and the dowser probably burned at the stake. In the 17th century, imported dowsers from the Continent came to the tin mines of Cornwall and to the lead mines of Derbyshire. From that time on the art continued to be a part of the rural scene in Britain until Colonel Bell and a number of other Army officers organised the British Society of Dowsers in 1933.

There may well never be an acceptable explanation for dowsing. But Mrs Enid Smithett, a practising dowser and wife of the Society's secretary, believes that it is akin to the powers used by animals such as the ability of cats to find their way home from hundreds of miles away.

It is a strange story. And the efforts of the dowsers for official recognition have so far been doomed to failure. Yet at the back of anyone's mind who has talked to these adepts is the feeling that "there must be something in it."

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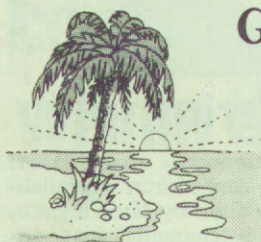
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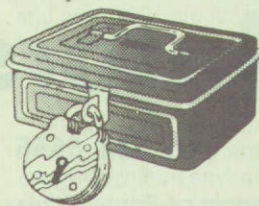


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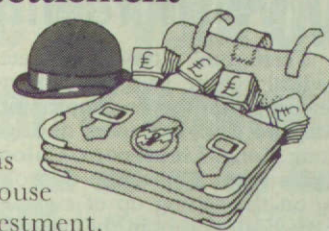


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With clasp

In recognition of 36 years' Army service, **Staff-Sergeant Eddie Edwards**, Royal Military Police, has become the proud owner of a clasp to his Long Service & Good Conduct Medal. Staff Edwards serves in the administration of Rhine Army's Headquarters at Rheindahlen and his award was hailed as "something special" by Garrison Commander **Colonel George Harris** at the presentation. It was as a boy soldier of 15 that Eddie Edwards joined up in 1938 and he has served all over the world with a number of units.



With feeling

A Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve medical officer swapped his stethoscope for bagpipes for an impromptu session with two Gurkha pipers during a visit to Hong Kong. **Lieutenant-Colonel David Myles** spent a month in the colony advising on the setting up of a group practice of medical officers in the New Territories. He is a member of a group practice himself in Nottinghamshire as a civilian. As a reservist, he commands 222 (East Midlands) Field Ambulance RAMC (V). And as a native of Fife, Scotland, he fills in his spare time as a piper.

PURELY PERSONAL



With pride

Regimental Sergeant-Major Cheung Kwok Tong (42) has become the first Chinese member of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps to be commissioned. The newly promoted Lieutenant Cheung is now the corps' assistant training officer and also has charge of the unit's basketball team. He is chairman of the 1000-strong Hong Kong Soldiers' Association. Twenty-one years ago Lieutenant Cheung joined the Hong Kong Training Unit which became the Hong Kong Military Service Corps in 1962.



With flair

Mrs Inge Eccles has won the Bielefeld final of the European Needle Princess contest for amateur dressmakers. Two years ago she won the Osnabrück final, came thirteenth in the German and eighteenth in the European finals. Ex-air hostess Inge keeps up her connection with aviation as her husband **Richard** is serving with the Army Air Corps and is currently stationed at Headquarters 1 Wing at Bielefeld. Inge failed to make the European finals this year although she was one of only 63 out of an original 10,000 to reach the German finals at Hamburg. Undeterred, she is determined to have another go next year and even plans to enter another similar contest, the Sewing Hit Parade in Germany.



With triumph

Getting a lift to stardom is artiste **Marti Caine**, seen being carried into Rheindahlen's Marlborough Club by Naafi's European Service entertainments manager, **John Ellery**. Marti signed for a three-week Naafi tour just before she won television's "New Faces" talent show to set her on the road to stardom after 14 years on the club circuit in the United Kingdom.

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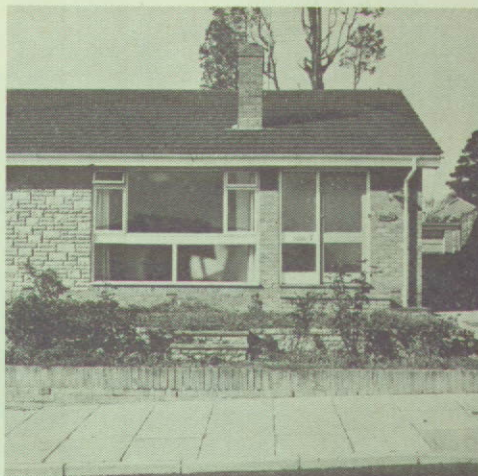
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Gobi Dust-up

THE morning gun crashes Fort Carson awake. A bugler sounds the home of the Iron Horsemen into another day while the vast 100,000 acres of Colorado training area shimmers as the temperature quickly rises into the eighties.

In the mess hall of The Warriors—1st Battalion/12th Infantry Regiment—the hamburgers and flapjacks sizzle and quantities of chocolate milk disappear as

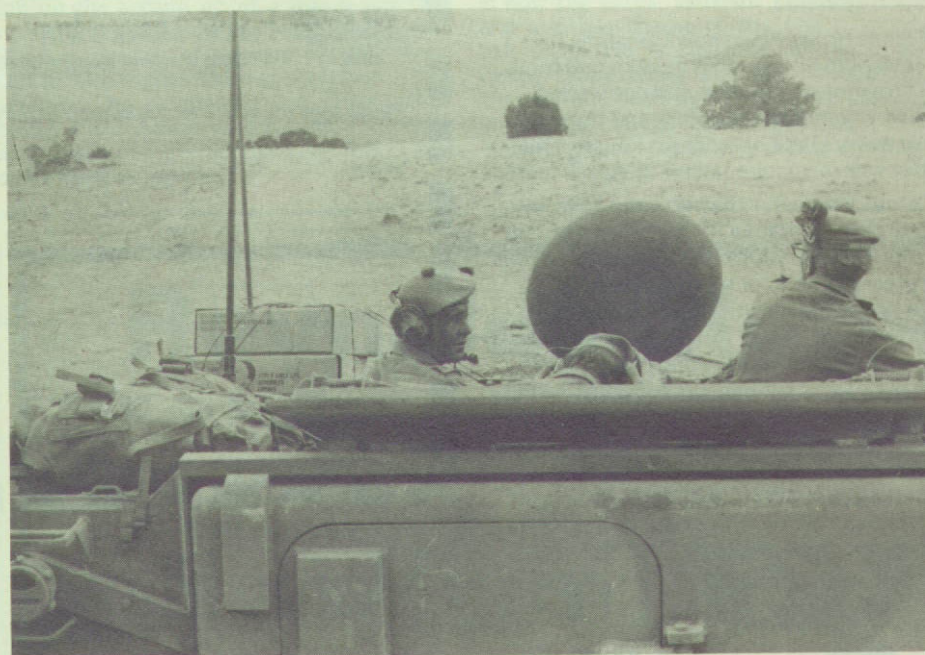
soldiers of the United States Army's famous "Fighting Fourth" Division prepare for their first day as hosts to Exercise Gobi Dust.

Amid the accents of the Highlands, the lilt of Welshmen, the voices of the shires and the Home Counties as a combat team from Rhine Army takes in the first morning of an exchange visit which has jetted 220 men of the Queen's Own Highlanders, supported by units from 4th Royal Tank Regiment, 26 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, and 16 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, all the way from Germany.

Designed to test the ability of British and American troops to absorb differing tactics, weapons and equipment, Gobi Dust lasted a month. Colorado's unusual conditions include thin air which set the lungs working hard and harsh sunlight which quickly burns. The heat of the day swiftly drops to shivering point at night but throughout there was a common factor—always the dust devils danced, bringing a fine coating of red-brown dust to everything and everyone.

Another hidden menace was the cactus. Its sharp spines pierced the boots of the unwary and the infantryman, forced to walk or crawl in the dark, soon discovered his friends when it came to extracting them from his person. There were also signs of rattlesnakes, and scorpions were an ever-present danger.

The 4th Infantry Division (Mechanised) is the latest of nine divisions which have made Fort Carson their home since it opened in 1942. The Fourth arrived



Top: An American M60 tank manned by a crew of 4th Royal Tank Regiment during Exercise Gobi Dust. **Above:** Commander's eye-view of the Fort Carson training area.

in 1970 after four years in Vietnam and, on re-organisation as mechanised infantry and in keeping with its western home, its nickname became the Iron Horse Division.

First task for the British soldiers was mastery of new weapons and vehicles. The lightweight M16 rifle, the heavy-weight .50 calibre Browning machine-gun; strange radios, new APCs and the M60 tank. A task which Major Nick Ridley, Queens Own Highlanders, commanding the combat team, thought had gone well.

"Within a week we familiarised ourselves with weapons and I think we have done well in the operational readiness training test," he said. The Warriors wrote the Rhine Army combat team into their annual test, which corresponds to the fitness-for-role inspection.

Unfamiliar tactics, particularly the use of the APC with the firepower of the Browning, differed from the dismounted approach of the British; the lack of cover in the almost desert-like terrain made camouflage a problem; the wide open plains, some four miles across, made movement difficult; the ubiquitous dust clogged filters and weapons, put grit in the teeth and signalled moving traffic from great distances.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ron Becker, commanding the 1st/12th Infantry, was full of praise for the British team: "I'm impressed by the discipline of the British soldier, his willingness to learn and the way he helps his team. I'm also impressed by his navigation and map reading."

Back from the rigours of the training test the combat team moved off the plain, with its dust and dry arroyos, to mountain country and survival training in the Rockies. The final week of the



Smiling through the dust of a week-long exercise are, left to right, Lieutenant David Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Major Nick Ridley and Lieutenant Chris Taylor.

exchange took in air mobile operations with the team getting its second taste of the giant twin-rotor Chinook helicopter.

All the combat team went to Fort Carson expecting the traditional American hospitality and they were not disappointed. Trips were arranged to Buckskin Joe's, where a collection of old West buildings has been turned into a realistic reconstruction of a mining town with legendary gunfights of the West re-enacted daily; to Royal Gorge and its 1000-foot canyon and the world's highest bridge; and to Cripple Creek and its gold mines.

Said Colonel Becker: "This type of exchange should continue and I hope

there will be more similar exercises. I've learned that your soldiers are no different from my own; I like your regimental system, the section system and the way it is self-contained; and your combat suit. At the end of the ORTT it was certainly looking better than our fatigues."

Major Ridley was just as complimentary: "On the ORTT we learned that the Americans include more in their exercises and on the admin side. They practise casualty evacuation, prisoners-of-war and reinforcements to a greater degree. I've learned a lot and I don't think there's a soldier who has not enjoyed himself."

From a report by Rhine Army Public Relations.

Northern Ireland awards

The following awards have been made for gallant and distinguished service in Northern Ireland between 1 November 1974 and 31 January 1975.

Commander of the Order of the British Empire: Brigadier R F Richardson.

Officer of the Order of the British Empire: Lieutenant-Colonel D B Edwards, The Gloucestershire Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel G L Straw, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Member of the Order of the British Empire: Major D J Delius, 13th/18th Royal Hussars; Major P T Stevenson, Royal Marines.

Military Cross: Lieutenant S G Kirkham, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Military Medal: Lance-Corporal W J Jones, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Private M W Powell, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

Queen's Gallantry Medal: Corporal M R Beeson, Royal Engineers; Sergeant A Bye, Sergeant M S Moran, both The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Staff-Sergeant J J Campbell, Royal Military Police; Sergeant F W Capper, Royal

Marines; Sergeant T P Cooney, Royal Artillery; Corporal M J Czepukojc, The Light Infantry; Sergeant T Hazard, Second-Lieutenant D J M Pollock, both The Gloucestershire Regiment; Corporal W T Jones, The Royal Regiment of Wales; Warrant Officer 2 F J J P Murphy, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Corporal P V Richart, Royal Tank Regiment.

British Empire Medal: Staff-Sergeant M Campling, Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Staff-Sergeant P J Close, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Staff-Sergeant G W A Hancock, The Royal Regiment of Wales.

Mentioned in Despatches: Lieutenant J R Adderley, Major J Hoskins, Sergeant B J Smith, all Royal Artillery; Staff-Sergeant G F Baron, Captain C H Jackman, Warrant Officer 1 C J O'Kell, Staff-Sergeant M K Watkins, all Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Sergeant T W Boon, Warrant Officer 2 S R Parfitt, both The Gloucestershire Regiment; Major T S Brown, Lieutenant-Colonel R H Godwin-Austen, Staff-Sergeant D B Shelley, all The Royal Regiment of Wales; Major W F Charlesworth, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment; Major

E G Churcher, Major M J Martin, both The Royal Hampshire Regiment; Lance-Corporal B Collier, Captain J Hall, Major M R Jones, all The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; Major F E A Davis, Royal Army Medical Corps; Lance-Corporal G A De Carteret, Lieutenant-Colonel W G R Turner, both The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment; Colonel J D Dixon, Warrant Officer 2 M G Roberts, both Intelligence Corps; Major K Farnes, Sergeant T J Harris, both The Parachute Regiment; Marine W J Ferguson, Lieutenant-Colonel L E Hudson, Sergeant A R MacDonald, all Royal Marines; Warrant Officer 2 D Gallacher, Signaller G Stork, both Royal Signals; Corporal J Greenoak, Captain D E Hammond, Sergeant D F Harding, all Royal Military Police; Lieutenant J N Martin, Royal Navy; Captain I Reid, The Royal Highland Fusiliers; Sergeant S C Scantlebury, Women's Royal Army Corps; Staff-Sergeant J Simpson (posthumous), The Royal Hussars; Second-Lieutenant M J Simpson (posthumous), The Staffordshire Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel A K F Walker, Royal Tank Regiment.

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REME to the rescue

FOR quick rescue in inaccessible places, 50 Command Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Hong Kong, has designed an emergency pack and—with 28 Squadron RAF—a drill for getting rescue experts to grips with their task at speed.

It started two years ago when a bus crashed down a hillside, trapping and injuring several people, on an outlying island. Police and fire services were hampered in their rescue work because it was in an inaccessible spot; 50 Command Workshop was asked for help but, for the same reason, could do little.

So REME skill was put to work to design and develop an emergency rescue pack that could be flown with a rescue team by RAF Wessex helicopters. The result has now been demonstrated to the three Services, police, firemen and other Hong Kong government officials.

The pack—built with mainly rescue in mind, since recovery can be done at leisure—is flown underslung from a Wessex and landed within feet of the wreck, be it truck, aircraft, building or whatever. As soon as the pack is released the helicopter lands and out jump two trained rescue operators and the required medical aid personnel.

In the pack are climbing equipment, a compressed-air ripper gun capable of slicing steel up to three-eighths of an inch thick, a hand-operated recovery winch, lighting equipment including a generator, fire extinguishers and hand tools.

For the demonstration a wrecked lorry lay on its side with a "casualty" in the cab. While one rescuer got busy with lighting, the other cut through the cab roof with the ripper gun. Then he and his medical colleague got the "casualty" on to a stretcher. Red smoke recalled the Wessex, the stretcher was loaded aboard and the rescue was over. It had all taken less than ten minutes.

The pack is kept, and regularly

maintained, at 50 Command Workshop. Its home is on the back of a lorry from which it can be picked up by helicopter or on which it can be driven to the helicopter pad—whichever weather and traffic conditions dictate.

In all, 35 REME soldiers in the workshop are trained to operate the pack and all take turns on standby. Initial training, including rock-climbing, helicopter drills and practice with the equipment, takes some 30 hours and each man has a monthly refresher of six hours or so. The pack and its team are called out through the joint police and military organisation manned 24 hours a day to cope with emergencies.

From a report by Joint Service Public Relations Staff, Hong Kong.



Action stations for the rescue team as the emergency pack is speedily deployed.

Left: A Wessex helicopter from the RAF quickly lowers the pack bang on target.



The ripper gun, with its compressed air drive, can tear away wreckage at speed.



The dummy casualty is gingerly lifted out of the wreck and on to a stretcher.

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Louise Young, popular writer and broadcaster who presents the British Forces Broadcasting Service's weekly programme "Money Facts," looks at ADAT, the Army Dependants' Assurance Trust...

If you put ten perfectly fit young men in a room together, you can be pretty certain that one of them will die before he's 55. He will leave a widow and maybe young children.

If those young men are soldiers, the dangers are even greater. Partly because we know that soldiers live life more dangerously than factory or office workers. But, even more important, if anything does happen to them they are much more likely than average to leave their families homeless. Ninety per cent of married soldiers rely on their jobs to provide their homes for them. If they die, their job dies with them and, within a few short months, so does the family home.

They must protect themselves against the possibility that their children might be brought up not only scraping for every penny but without a roof over their heads. Which of the young men in that room will be the unlucky ones, we don't know and neither do they. But the obvious solution is for them to pool their resources on the understanding that, if anything should happen, the widow and orphans will collect the pool.

If they each paid in £10 or £20 a year, there would be no financial hardship for any of their wives and families and when one of them dies his widow would collect many thousands of pounds. I'm talking about basic life assurance—not saving for your old age and not regular stock market investment, but protection. Don't confuse this with endowment policies or unit-linked savings plans. And equally don't confuse it with the few hundred pounds' benevolence that widows get to tide them over their period of bereavement.

This is basic cheap life assurance and the simplest way for anyone in the Army to do it is through the ADAT scheme which guarantees that, if any member should die before he's 55, his widow will get a tax-free income which will run into many thousands of pounds. It's based on the principle of what is called a family income benefit policy. The Army didn't invent the idea and if you are prepared to do a lot of homework you can go and buy a family income benefit policy quite independently from one of many leading insurance companies. But you have to be very careful and quite expert at reading the small print if you do want to be independent.

Many commercial policies exclude death on active service and most won't cover you for Northern Ireland. It's normal to exclude death through dangerous pursuits like parachuting and climbing or even death in a foreign country. But ADAT was designed for you in the Army and has no exclusions of this kind. Obviously with that sort of comprehensive cover it can't be exceptionally cheap—and I wouldn't want it to be. We've seen enough of cut-price holidays and motor insurance to believe in false promises. But it certainly is good value for money and with 16,000 members is already after only 21 months the largest group life assurance scheme in the country.

It took months to design and may seem a little complicated but all you need to know is that, in return for agreeing to have a pound or so a month deducted from your pay at source, you can rest assured that if you die your widow and family will get a tax-free income until you would have been 55.

ADAT is already paying out nearly a million pounds in benefits. One widow collected benefit worth £26,000 only eight days after her husband joined the scheme. Another family will get £64,000 because the soldier joined ADAT three weeks before he was killed. He'd paid in just £5.20 in premiums. But sadly many families have been left fatherless and homeless since ADAT was introduced because they had not heard about the scheme or had rejected the idea for various reasons. It's too late to do anything for them, but it's not too late for the families of soldiers who we know, by the law of averages, are likely to die next week, next month and next year.

I don't expect most of you to be able to calculate whether ADAT is a good or bad scheme, but I'm in a position to work that out. I've spent many hours comparing it with other basic life assurance policies and I'm in no doubt that everyone should join. Even people who already spend quite a bit of money on endowment policies could use ADAT to top up the pure protection. Endowment policies provide very little basic benefit on death and you shouldn't lull yourself into a feeling of false security.

ADAT also includes some additional refinements, one of which is of special interest at the moment. If you take out an insurance policy to protect your dependants, you probably do a rough and ready calculation to see how much they might need. But in times of high inflation this figure gets out of date and so most people are under-insured. They pay fixed premiums in out-of-date money.

They should be given the opportunity of increasing their premiums to take account of inflation, and so increasing the potential benefits. ADAT is one of the few schemes that allows you to do that and next month all ADAT members will be given the right to increase their premiums and their benefits by 20 per cent. I hope they have the good sense to do that.

You can get details of exactly how ADAT works from your pay office, but if you just remember that it's cheap, it's good value for money and it covers you against death from any cause, you don't really have to understand how it works. Essentially you can choose how much you want to pay in but the minimum will be 36 pence a week. It would hardly be a crippling bill and, unlike most insurance policies, it doesn't cost more if you are older.

Most of us put off taking out life assurance because we think we are immortal. But men *do* die young, widows *are* left homeless, children *are* taken into care and often because fathers never get round to doing anything about it. ADAT is intended to make it very easy for you.

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● Mr Robert C Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, welcomed the opportunity to explain to the House of Commons in more detail precisely what the Defence Review proposals would mean to the Army's organisation, capability and men.

"The Army, to a greater extent than the other Services, can only be the sum total of its men," he said. "It is often said that the Navy and the Royal Air Force man their equipments, but the Army equips its men."

The truth of this had been brought home in the review. Some savings could be found in the equipment programme but to cut too severely would have deprived the Army of modern weapons which were essential if the Army was to remain a first-rate force. The Government had therefore looked for savings in manpower and ways of streamlining the Army and cutting overheads by cutting the need for them.

Mr Brown then detailed how it was planned to remove a level of command and bring in an increased span of command. He said 1 (British) Corps currently commanded three divisions, two artillery brigades and the corps troops. Each division had two brigades, each of four major units, armoured and infantry. "The brigade level of command will be removed but, in order to avoid too many subordinates under one commander, changes will also be made at the divisional level. We shall in future have four armoured divisions, each rather smaller than the present three divisions, and a fifth field force consisting largely of infantry." The number of major headquarters would be reduced from 12 to seven and each of the new divisions would contain armoured and reconnaissance regiments, mechanised infantry battalions and artillery and engineer support.

Mr Brown continued: "There will be five battle groups of armour and infantry, compared with four in the existing brigades. At unit level there will be four squadrons in each armoured regiment and four companies in each infantry battalion, instead of three. This will result in a substantial increase in the number of combat teams, and in firepower. By cutting down the headquarters and increasing teeth arms, we shall be making a significant improvement in operational capability." Similar principles had been applied to the United Kingdom Land Forces. The headquarters of 3rd Division and 16th Parachute Brigade and a large part of their subordinate headquarters and support would be disbanded. All district headquarters in Britain would take under command all the units within their boundaries, both Regular and TAVR. But in Eastern, South East and South West districts it was planned to organise the units so that they could form field forces. In South East District there would be an air-portable formation, equivalent to a reinforced brigade group. It would include a parachute capability and, comprising about 10,000 men, would replace the United Kingdom Mobile Force.

On the pooling of specialised tasks, Mr Brown said responsibility for these would be taken on by one specific arm or corps. For example long-range anti-tank guided weapons would become the responsibility of the Royal Artillery instead of the Royal Armoured Corps and infantry as at present. Army helicopter support would be centralised in Army Air Corps units and ground-based reconnaissance would be concentrated in the Royal Armoured Corps.

Reductions in manpower would not involve corresponding reductions in weapons—thus improving the man to weapon ratio. And Mr Brown reassured the House that all cap-badged regiments in the Royal Armoured Corps and infantry, including The Parachute Regiment, would be retained.

In the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals, Army Air Corps and supporting services there would be some reduction in the number of units but impact on the regimental structure would be kept to a minimum.

● A total of 125,443 live animals was used in experiments in Ministry of

Defence research establishments last year, Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence, revealed in reply to a series of questions from Mr Ivor Clemitson (Labour, Luton East). Of these, 92,185 were mice, 10,093 rats, 9541 guinea pigs, 7747 hamsters, ten goats and six dogs.

● For what purposes had experiments been carried out on 158 sheep and 2299 chickens in Defence Ministry establishments last year, asked Mr Clemitson. Mr Rodgers said records were not kept in such a way as to enable precise information to be given. Main use of sheep was for wound ballistics work and the chickens were mainly day-old and used for the growth of virus for civil medical institutions.

● Nationalist MPs were on Mr Rodgers's trail with questions on Wales and Scotland. The Minister told Mr Gwynfor Evans (Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen) that information on the number of Ministry of Defence publications available to the public was not available but, as far as he had been able to ascertain, none of the publications was in Welsh. He was unable to give Mr Donald Stewart (Scottish Nationalist, Western Isles) the 1974-75 figures for Ministry of Defence spending in Scotland, but in 1973-74 the figure was £250,000,000 or six-and-a-half per cent of total expenditure.

● Although Service personnel were allowed to join trade unions, records were not kept of their membership, said Mr Brynmor John, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Royal Air Force, in reply to Mr Dennis Canavan (Labour, Stirlingshire West).

● It costs an estimated £2,500,000 more a year to keep a British battalion than a Gurkha battalion in Hong Kong, Mr Mike Thomas (Newcastle-on-Tyne East) was told by Mr Brown. The difference was due principally to higher costs of pay and allowances for a British battalion.

● Although no figure could be put on the numbers involved, flak jackets had certainly prevented death or injury to members of the security forces on many occasions in Northern Ireland, Mr Brown told Mr Roderick MacFarquhar (Labour, Belper). Mr Brown said that body armour to stop high-velocity bullets had been developed and was available for use in Northern Ireland in certain circumstances. However, it was much heavier than the normal flak jacket which continued to be used where mobility and speed of reaction were required.

● The Ministry of Defence resorted to eviction of tenants only when it was unavoidable and when all other expedients had failed, Mr John told the Hon Nicholas Ridley (Conservative, Cirencester and Tewkesbury). Mr Ridley said that while he understood the reasons how could it be that at the same time the Government was making noises saying that other people should not have tied houses and that they should be abolished in the private sector. Retorted Mr John: "On the question of tied houses I would wish all other landlords of tied houses to be as considerate as the Services are towards their tenants, as the recent Shelter report on tied accommodation fairly points out."

● Pensions paid to parents whose sons were killed while serving with the armed forces had remained unchanged since 1946. Mr Alec Jones, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, told Mr Jim Sillars (Labour, South Ayrshire). Mr Jones explained that the pensions were based on need arising from age or adverse conditions and were introduced at a time when a son was legally liable for the support of his parents under the Poor Law. They had remained unchanged because of the introduction of national assistance followed by supplementary benefit.

● British arms sales abroad in the last financial year were provisionally estimated at £475,000,000, a rise of £52,000,000 on the previous year, Mr Rodgers told Mr Robin Corbett (Labour, Hemel Hempstead).

● Members of the British forces wounded, and widows of those killed on active service while on loan to the forces of the Sultan of Oman, were awarded pensions in exactly the same way as those on active service in Northern Ireland or any other part of the world, Mr Rodgers said in reply to Mr Tom Litterick (Labour, Selly Oak).

NEW EQUIPMENT

Combat dress—laundering and reproofing

A very simple test can be carried out to decide whether DPM temperate combat dress has been satisfactorily proofed or not. The fabric should be held at an angle of 45 degrees to the horizontal and cold water not containing soap or detergent should be sprinkled on. It is best to use a small sprinkler but fingers should be satisfactory. If the material has been correctly proofed the globules of water will run off freely without wetting the fabric. If not the drops will wet the fabric and tend to stick.

Combat high boot

The Shoes and Allied Trades Research Association's extra-mural development

NEW EQUIPMENT

continued

project has led to the acceptance of a suitable prototype boot for further evaluation and development. Particular aspects to be examined this year are the feasibility of including a zip as well as laces, providing an aggressive sole tread and the proving of a production treatment to ensure a uniform and acceptable level of water resistance. It is hoped to accept a prototype boot for troop trials early next year and the boot should enter service in 1978-79. The new boot is not likely to be required by all troops and there will be a continuing need for a short ankle boot. Means of improving the present DMS boot are being examined, particularly with regard to water resistance.



"I don't care how long you spent polishing them..."

Combat glove, Northern Ireland

A lined and padded leather glove has been introduced into service specifically for Northern Ireland. It offers better thermal protection, allows a firmer grip to be taken of personal weapons and provides protection in operational activities. It will remain in service until the new general combat glove is introduced.

Plumes and hackles

A trial of goose feather hackles is to be undertaken by the Scottish infantry regiments concerned and by The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

Polishable cap badges

An opinion survey found a majority did not wish to return to polishable cap badges but thought that an alternative to anodised aluminium should be found which provided a stronger badge with better definition. Investigations are now being made into the possibilities.

Badges of rank, combat dress

The Army Dress Committee has approved the introduction of a new design of rank badge for warrant officers and non-commissioned officers for wear both on the temperate and the new tropical combat dress. Issues are due to start at the end of the year.

(DCT)

RECRUITING

Army recruiting of adults and young soldiers during April was substantially higher than for the corresponding month last year, totalling 1369, a rise of 321.

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The National Savings Save as You Earn third issue, which is index-linked, protects the purchasing power of savings. Money saved will generally buy as much in goods and services at the end of its term as when paid in, even if prices have risen in the meantime.

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ENTERTAINERS

THE hitherto unsung heroes and heroines of 1st Battalion, The Light Entertainers, have marched into the limelight to display their talents on stage. There are so many top-class light entertainers serving in the Army, thought Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Warrant Officer 1 Arthur Mills, that the public should be given an opportunity to enjoy their talents.

The show, "The Professionals," was held in Aldershot's new civic centre, Prince's Hall, and tickets were sold in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund. Arthur Mills explained: "I would hope this could become an annual event, depending on the success of this one." He added enthusiastically: "For many years I've been organising this sort of light entertainment and it has been apparent there are a lot of very good entertainers in the Army and this is a resource we have been wasting."

Arthur himself is a member of the folk-singing trio "The Freewheelers" who featured in the show he produced and directed at Aldershot. On stage with him were Alison Collins (above), wife of REME Staff-Sergeant Hugh Collins, and Second-Lieutenant Alvin Tull, Royal Corps of Transport.

A past winner of the Army pop contest, Sergeant Betsy Clewlow, Women's Royal Army Corps, was there as well as this year's individual winner, Bandsman Monty Fusco (centre, top) of The Parachute Regiment. The big band sound of swing was provided by the REME Staff Band's 17-strong swing section (above, right) and seven Women's Royal Army Corps girls (right) brought a taste of New Orleans to the show with their Dixie Belle band. A bit of "oompah" was provided by the antics of "König der Grün" (top right), an 11-piece Tyrolean band drawn from 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets.

The show ran for two nights and there are high hopes of it being repeated to present yet more of the Army's light entertainers who are not necessarily full-time musicians by trade but who nevertheless produce a highly professional standard of singing and playing.





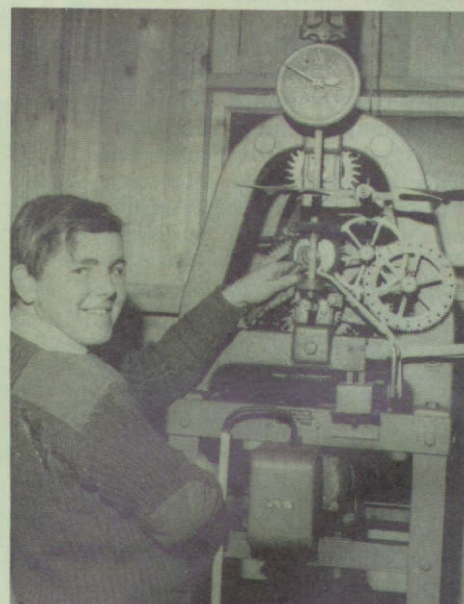
Stands the clock . . .

FOR at least 12 years the clock on Block 14 had not been working. The Department of the Environment had told the barrack occupants, 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, that the clock, installed in 1951, was far too complicated and expensive to repair.

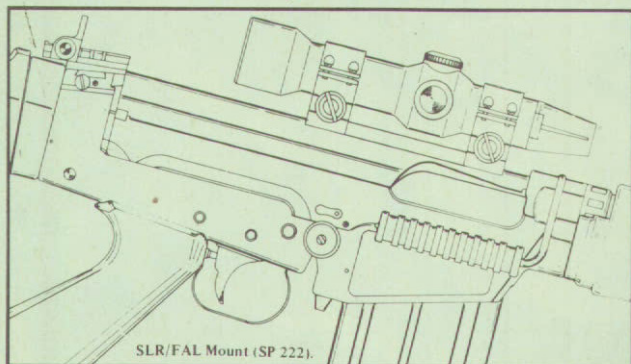
Then Gunner Derek Hughes told his commanding officer that he was interested in clocks and would like to try and repair it. Permission was readily given and the very next day, to the regiment's delight, the old clock was working again and keeping excellent time.

The regiment's barracks are about the oldest in Rhine Army and Block 14 is a listed German historical building, the outward appearance of which cannot be altered in any way.

Bird's eye-view of Block 14 with Gunner Hughes taking a bow and the clock still at ten to three. Below: Gunner Hughes.



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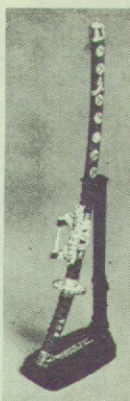
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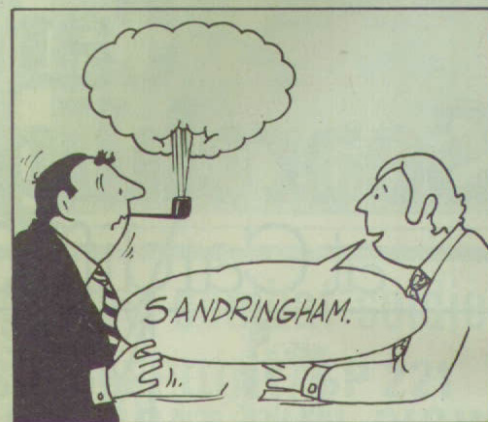
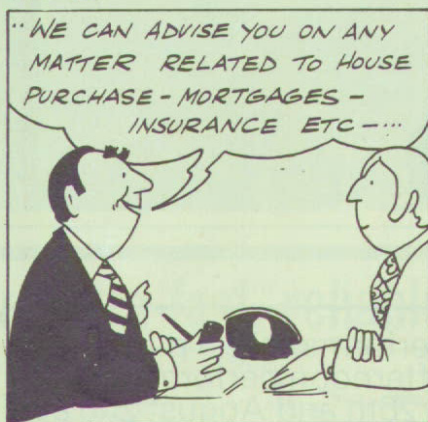
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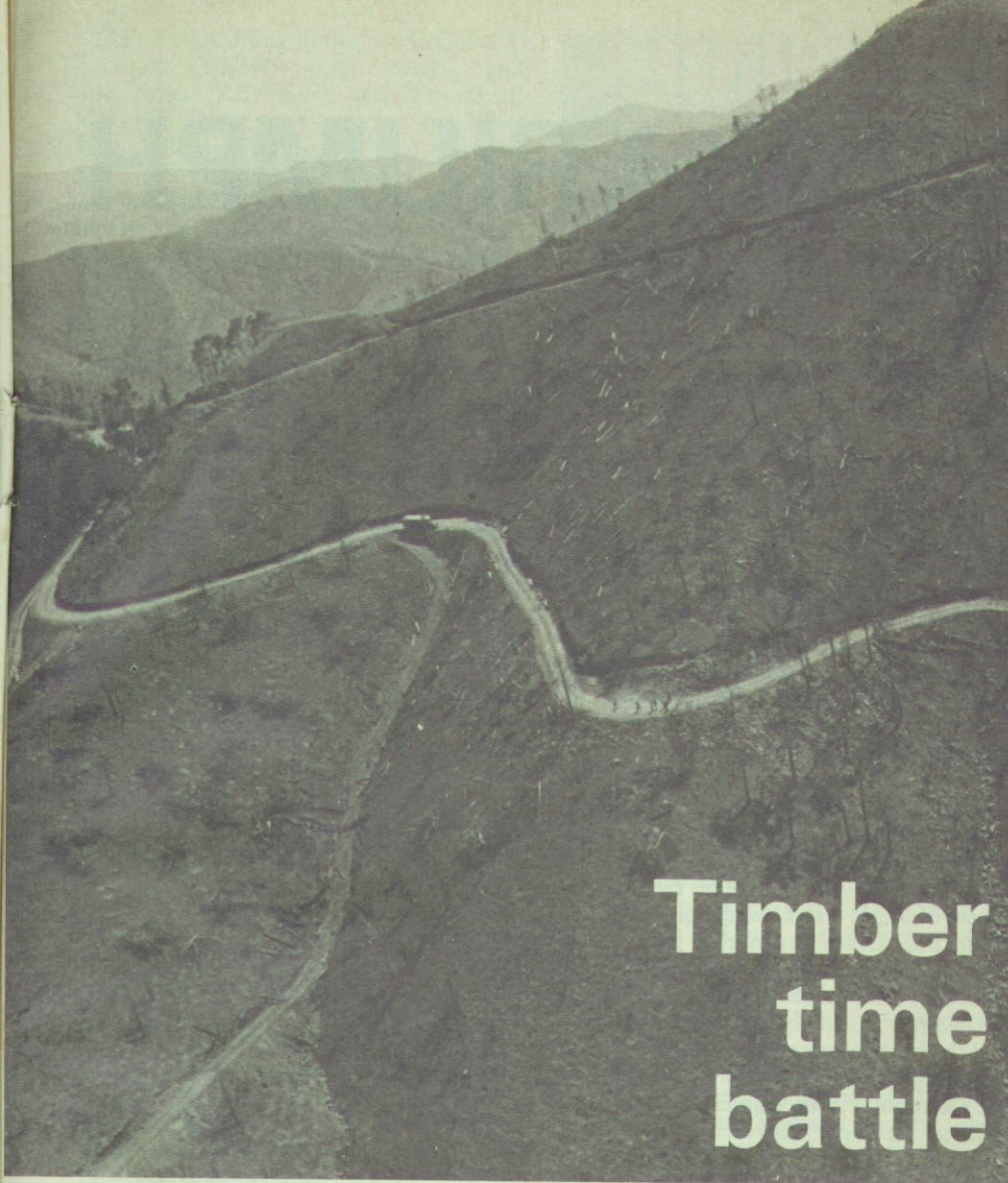
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Timber time battle

A helicopter's eye view of the new sapper-constructed mountain road at Kambos.
Below: Sapper uses caterpillar tractor to clear away the rubble and bracken.

WHEN the Turks and Greeks went to war in Cyprus last summer, a major casualty was three million cubic feet of timber worth millions of pounds. In the Paphos forest on the north-eastern side of the island forest fires destroyed thousands upon thousands of trees over a wide area.

Much of the forest is inaccessible to motor vehicles and the Cyprus Forestry Commission, faced with the daunting task of clearing the timber before it was made useless by termites, asked 62 (Near East) Support Squadron, Royal Engineers, for help.

The squadron sent a driver and two operators with a brief to construct trackways through the mountainside forest and enable the Cypriots to get the timber felled and away by lorry to the sawmills. Using two caterpillar tractors, the sappers constructed five kilometres of trackway while local lumberjacks felled trees and rolled the timber down the hillsides.

Cypriot blasters worked with the sappers and some measure of the size of the task can be gauged from the fact that it took thousands of blastholes to shift the solid granite-like rock.

The project was carried out sometimes in very cold weather (the forest is 3000 feet up and in view of the snowy Troodos range) on an 11-hour-day basis and with two teams exchanging fortnightly. Housed at the nearby village of Kambos in accommodation paid for by the Cyprus Forestry Commission, the sappers worked at full stretch throughout.

Said Sergeant Albert Miller, as he watched a caterpillar working over a sheer drop: "They have to have nerve to work here. If anyone didn't like heights or awkward positions he would be useless. But we have found it a really worthwhile job in a race against time both for us and the forestry workers."



TWIN TRIUMPH

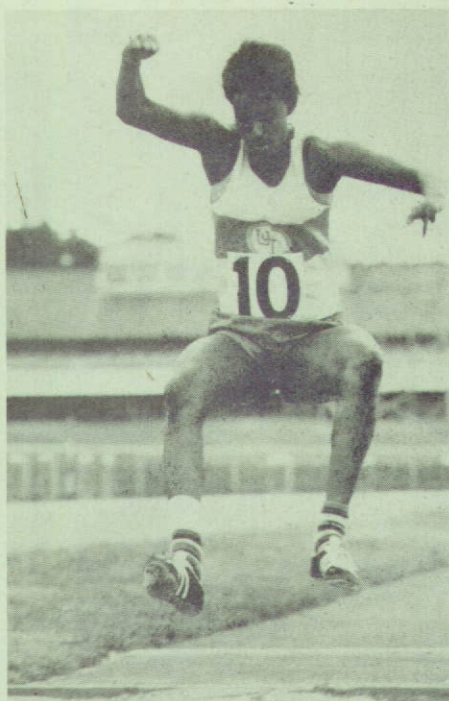


Venissa (left) and Vivienne Head—two girls destined for stardom in top-class athletics with the shot and the discus.

A HIGHLIGHT of the Army individual athletic championships was the triumph of twin sisters in the women's shot and discus events only weeks after both had captured the Welsh national records in their respective sports. The 18-year-old pair, Venissa and Vivienne Head, come from Merthyr Tydfil—from a musical rather than a sporting family—and both joined the Women's Royal Army Corps last November and now serve with 10 Company as staff clerks.

Shot-putter Venissa is a Welsh and Great Britain junior international and a Great Britain senior reserve. She is rated third in Britain following her record-breaking 14 metres 34 centimetres throw in May.

A month later, twin sister Vivienne broke the Welsh discus record with a throw of 44 metres 44 centimetres. She ranks eighth in Britain and is a Welsh



Bernadine Lewis winning the long jump. She is high jump and hurdles champ too.

international. Both were heavily tipped to win their events at the Army championships and they did not disappoint their fans although the sisters themselves were disappointed with their efforts, both well below their best, which they attributed to "big match nerves."

Vivienne won the women's discus event with a throw of 36 metres 28 centimetres, second was Warrant Officer 1 June Dabbs (33.00 metres) and third Private M A Male (30.92 metres). Venissa's winning shot-put of 13 metres 75 centimetres was nearly a metre clear of the second-placed all-rounder, Captain Elizabeth Elliot (12.76 metres), and broke Captain Elliot's 1974 Army record of 13 metres 32 centimetres. Third was Captain H M Cary (11.27 metres).

Other Army records fell under the Aldershot sun too, although a mighty long-jump leap of 5 metres 58 centimetres—15 centimetres clear of the old record for women—is unlikely to be ratified because of high wind conditions. Private Bernadine Lewis made this jump. Her second attempt also broke the previous record by four centimetres. She also holds the women's 100 metres hurdles record and the high jump record. It was as a high jumper that she charmed the crowds at the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand as the sole representative of her native Grenada. Second in the women's long jump was Warrant Officer 2 Di Lodge (5.09 metres) and third Lance-Corporal J A Hopkins (5.02 metres).

Bernadine Lewis retained her high jump title although she failed in an attempt to beat her own record and had to be satisfied with 1 metre 65 centimetres. Second was Corporal Beryl Jones (1.55 metres) who broke off her tussle with Private Lewis to win the women's 800 metres in a new record time of 32.7 seconds after an exciting dash to make up some 25 yards of lead which had been maintained by the eventually second-placed girl, Private H E M Luke, who also broke the old 38.3 seconds record by a tenth of a second. Third was Captain B A Fraser (40 seconds). Back at the high jump, third place was taken by Private L Hodge (1.45 metres).

The other title retained by Private Lewis was the 100 metres hurdles which she won in 16.4 seconds—well outside her own 15.7 seconds Army record. Second was Lance-Corporal A M Patterson (16.8 seconds) and third Di Lodge (16.9 seconds).

Two men's records tumbled too. Combined Services champion Lieutenant G A B Grant (Royal Artillery) scythed nearly a second off the 800-metres record which has stood for 15 years. His time was 1 minute 51.1 seconds. Second was Sergeant J G Turvey (Royal Signals) (1 minute 52.9 seconds) and third Sergeant-Instructor C F Campbell (Army

Physical Training Corps) (1 minute 58.9 seconds).

The 400 metres Army record fell to Second-Lieutenant Chris Van-Rees (Royal Artillery) with 48 seconds dead, a tenth of a second inside the old record. He is studying at Nottingham University and had recently run at Crystal Palace as a junior international for Britain. Second was Private W C Taylor (Royal Anglian) (48.07 seconds) and third Corporal E M Haniver (Royal Anglian) (49.04 seconds). Grant came fourth in this race.

Lance-Corporal Stephen Hall (Royal Signals) took the 200-metre title again with a time of 22.02 seconds but did not break his own 1974 Army record of 21.09. Last year he broke the Great Britain record in this event which had stood since 1931. Second to him in the 200 metres was Captain D R Summers (Royal Engineers) (23.1 seconds) and third Fusilier R E Mathews (Royal Regiment of Fusiliers) (23.1 seconds).

Hall also carried off the 100-metre trophy with a run of 11.2 seconds. Second was Lance-Corporal A A Hyde (Queen's Regiment) (11.3 seconds) and third Lance-Corporal R L Shaw (Royal Signals) (11.4 seconds).

Other results, men:—

Hammer: 1st WO2 D A Bayes (REME) 51.30 metres, 2nd WO2 E W Percival (R Sigs) 47.98, 3rd Maj R M Nicoll (APTC) 44.40. Pole vault: 1st Sgt P R G Cribb (REME) 4.00 metres, 2nd WO2 G Morris (APTC) 3.70, 3rd L/Cpl G Burton (R Sigs) 3.70. 110 metres hurdles: 1st Cfn M D Morgan (REME) 15.6 seconds, 2nd Sgt I Haldane (R Sigs) 15.7, 3rd Lieut K A Cheney



Lieutenant G A B Grant pictured in full flight pursuing yet more track honours.

(RAEC) 15.3. Long jump: 1st L/Cpl C L Chinyou (REME) 6.94 metres, 2nd Spr Rose (RE) 6.91, 3rd Fus R E Mathews 6.73. 1500 metres: 1st Lieut G A B Grant 3 minutes 51.9 seconds, 2nd SI S Harrison (APTC) 3 min 58.2 sec, 3rd Cpl L Bland (RE) 3 min 58.4 sec. Javelin: 1st WO1 N J Hart-Ives (REME) 68.96 metres, 2nd Sgt D E Chappell (Int Corps) 63.20, 3rd Cpl P N Albany (REME) 59.10. 5000 metres: 1st SI S Harrison 14 min 58.2 sec, 2nd WO2 T Davies (RHA) 15 min 01.2 sec, 3rd Sgt P H Brozil (R Sigs) 15 min 24.4 sec. Triple jump: 1st Sigmn W G Mason (R Sigs) 13.75 metres, 2nd S/Sgt R A Allen (REME) 13.38, 3rd Cpl P L Woollard (RAOC) 12.55. High jump: 1st L/Cpl J R Hutchinson (RAMC) 1.97 metres, 2nd 2/Lieut F R Antolik (R Anglian) 1.92, 3rd Spr McKeown (RE) 1.92. 400 metres hurdles: 1st Cpl R D Boyd (R Anglian) 54.7 sec, 2nd Sgt R Poynton (REME) 57.9, 3rd Spr C Bartels-Ellis (RE) 58.8. Discus: 1st Sgt T G Ratcliffe (Gren Gds) 48.18 metres, 2nd Capt E W Field (R Anglian) 45.70 3rd Gnr D Maloney (RA) 45.64. 3000 metres steeplechase: 1st SSI E C Turner (APTC) 9 min 3.4 sec, 2nd WO2 T Davies 9 min 20.8 sec, 3rd Lieut P C Hall (REME) 9 min 45.0 sec. Shot: 1st QMSI R Baldwin (APTC) 13.82 metres, 2nd Gnr D Maloney (RA) 13.54 3rd Sgt T G Ratcliffe 13.40.

Other results, women:—
Javelin: 1st Pte C Green 37.08 metres, 2nd L/Cpl B E Castle 33.72, 3rd Pte A M E Grant 31.58. 100 metres: 1st Cpl S V Burgess 12.8 sec, 2nd L/Cpl A M Patterson 12.9, 3rd Capt Elizabeth Elliot 13.0. 400 metres: 1st Sgt J M Lister 62.4 sec, 2nd Cpl B W Jones 65.5, 3rd Sgt E A Boltwood 66.4. 200 metres: 1st L/Cpl A M Patterson 27.3 sec, 2nd Capt Elizabeth Elliot 27.4, 3rd Cpl S V Burgess 27.4. All women competitors were from WRAC.



WRAC star in handball international

THE England squad for the first-ever ladies international handball match in Britain drew half its number from serving and ex-serving members of the Women's Royal Army Corps. And the Army-dominated side, managed by Warrant Officer 1 June Dabbs, gained a 13-7 goal victory over a more experienced Scotland side.

But this exciting and fast-moving match was more evenly shared than the scoreline implies. Scotland clearly ruled the opening stages of the first half, drawing first blood with a goal in the fourth minute from a devastating right-arm shot by the captain, Carla Archer. The equaliser soon followed from England but Carla Archer was back in action with that lightning right-arm to pull Scotland

ahead again. Towards half-time the Scottish attack seemed to fade—hardly surprising considering the girls had made a ten-hour minibus journey from Glasgow to Aldershot the day before the big match. Seizing the opportunity, England's captain, Warrant Officer 2 Josette Beard, began to stamp her mark on the match with two skilful goals exploiting her ability to grab a chance and follow a long dash down pitch with a sizzling shot past the goalkeeper.

England were 6-4 up at half time and despite a gallant defence plus enough attack to score three more goals, Scotland's resolve was whittled away by relentless England attacks which clocked up a further seven goals—two more by Josette Beard.

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Tactics are at the heart of this fast-moving seven-a-side game and the Scots admitted the England girls were the better team on the day. But Miss Dabbs added modestly: "We didn't expect to win. They are an experienced side and we have been playing for only some 18 months."

Olympic handball is regarded as the fastest team-ball game in the world. The modern form, played indoors, was developed in Northern Europe and is derived from the eleven-a-side outdoor game with only seven players on each side in the indoor version. Play bears similarities to basketball but scores are made by hurling the ball—smaller than a basketball—past a goalkeeper into a mini soccer-style goal.

The sport is relatively new to Britain. The organising body in this country—the British Handball Association—was founded in late 1967. But growth has been rapid and a British team took part in Olympic competition in 1972. In the same year the BHA was awarded the Hans Bauman Trophy by the International Handball Federation. This award is made bi-annually to the nation doing most for the development of the game throughout the world. The significance of this tribute to Britain can be gauged by the fact that handball is played in more than 60 countries.

A British national league for men is being established this year. In 1976 the European Group C of the world championships is to be organised by the young BHA.

Female competition in the game is also growing apace and much of the credit for this goes to Miss Dabbs, who works at the Army School of Physical Training, and a band of both Army and civilian enthusiasts.

The Army girls in the England side for the international are all members of the Tiger Belles team which plays a leading part in British handball tournaments—it recently came third in the Great Britain ladies' national championships and can boast that it has never been defeated by an English club.

Tiger Belles in the match against Scotland were:

Warrant Officer 2 Josette Beard, Lance-Corporal Sharon Check (reserve), Corporal Anne Patterson, Sergeant Susan Russell, Corporal Carol Skrzapczak, Staff-Sergeant Susan Taylor and ex-Sergeant Elaine Boden.

SPORTS SHORTS

CANOEING

Results of the Army Canoe Union surf championships at Bude, Cornwall:—Novice surf race: 1st 2/Lieut R Atkins (R Sch of Arty), 2nd Lieut C Buxton (JLR RAC). Open surf race: 1st S/Sgt D Young (AAC Chepstow), 2nd L/Sgt K Stenton (Gds Adv Trg Wing). Novice handling: 1st 2/Lieut C

Brown (518 Coy RPC), 2nd A/T C Ford (AAC Chepstow). Open slalom handling: 1st S/Sgt D Young, 2nd S/Sgt W Dean (AAC Chepstow). Open surf handling: 1st S/Sgt D Young, 2nd Spr P A McIlveen (36 Engr Regt). Team relay: 1st 16/5 L, 2nd Scratch team A, AAC Chepstow. JLR RE trophy, best junior: J/Tpr N J Keen (JLR RAC). Vardy trophy, best senior: S/Sgt D Young.

GOLF

In perfect golfing conditions at Tidworth in "flaming June," the Royal Irish Rangers' Bowl, the premier trophy played for by corps teams, was won by the Royal Signals. There were entries from 15 corps.

GYMNASTICS

The Army's junior gymnastic star, A/T G Jones (AAC Chepstow), dominated the junior and senior match against Southampton juniors and seniors. His individual first place in the junior event was nearly seven points clear of the second-placed gymnast from the Southampton squad. But Jones's performance did not save his side from being placed overall second as a team. Full results (scores and overall positions in brackets):—Army: A/T Jones (1st, 47.00), A/T S Elliot (10th, 30.80), A/T R Dreen (11th, 26.30) (all AAC Chepstow), J/Cpl G Fidler (JLR RE) (7th, 35.90), J/Dvr M Sherriff (9th, 32.10), J/Sgt J McCreath (12th, 25.20) (both JLR RCT). Team total: 197.30. Southampton juniors: P McKenzie (2nd, 41.20), C Fisher (4th, 40.20), R Masters (5th, 39.50), I Pollock (8th, 35.00), K Furmage (3rd, 40.30), K Penny (6th, 36.40). Team total: 232.60.

The Army seniors avenged the juniors' defeat by winning their event. The win was a near walkover as a result of Southampton being hit with illness immediately before the contest and being able to field only two gymnasts. Army: SI A McLean (5th, 40.85), SI J Moger (3rd, 43.50), SI D Scott (4th, 41.70), QMSI J Wilson (1st, 48.60) (all APTC), L/Cpl G Sharp (Para) (6th, 39.05), L/Cpl K Lynch (RCT) (7th, 34.60). Team total: 248.30. Southampton: R Hope (2nd, 47.80), D Rogers (8th, 32.75). Team total: 78.55.

FENCING

Results, Army fencing championships:—

Senior individual championship, foil (final pool): 1st 2/Lieut M K Chetwood (TAVR RA), 2nd Lieut-Col J A G Moore (RA), 3rd Capt L S Burr (RAOC). Epée (final pool): 1st Lieut T E Belson (Glosters), 2nd SI P J Brierley (APTC), 3rd Capt Burr. Sabre (final pool): 1st Lieut-Col Moore, 2nd Maj A M Bell (RE), 3rd SSI J V Larkham (APTC). Scott Cup (champion-at-arms 1975): Lieut-Col Moore. Under-20 championship, foil (final pool): 1st J/Pte S Kelly (R Anglian), 2nd Cfn P Bale (REME), 3rd Gnr P Eames (RA). Epée (final pool): 1st Sig P Martin (R Sigs), 2nd A/T R Parsons, 3rd A/T A Barker (both AAC Arborfield). Sabre (final pool): 1st Spr C Waterfall (RE), 2nd Gnr Eames, 3rd A/T A Ricketts (AAC Chepstow). Three-man team competitions: 1st Quality Assurance Directorate, 2nd JLR RCT. Senior inter-unit team championship: 1st RMCS Shrivvenham, 2nd AAC Harrogate, 3rd RMA Sandhurst. Junior inter-unit team championship: 1st JLR RE, 2nd AAC Harrogate, 3rd AAC Chepstow. Army women, foil: 1st Capt R Wheelock, 2nd Sgt G Horton, 3rd Pte Billingham (all WRAC). Ipat competition, foil (final pool): 1st SI Brierley, 2nd QMSI D T Hughes, 3rd SI E Manual (all APTC). Epée (final pool): 1st QMSI Hughes, 2nd SI Manual (only two competed). Sabre (final pool): 1st QMSI D D Truman, 2nd SI Manual (both APTC, only two competed).

Inter-Services triangular fencing tournament, men: Army 37 (foil 9, épée 16, sabre 12), RAF 34 (foil 13, épée 8, sabre 13) RN 10

(foil 5, épée 3, sabre 2). Representing the Army were:—Foil: Capt (MAA) G W Gelder (APTC), Capt Burr, SSI Larkham; épée: Lieut Belson, Sgt J R Fox (REME), SI Brierley; sabre: Lieut-Col Moore, Maj Bell, QMSI Hughes. Women's services, foil: WRNS 21, WRAF 18, Army Women 9. Representing the Army women were Capt Wheelock, Sgt Horton, Pte Bissett, Pte Billingham (all WRAC).

The épée team championship (Savage Shield) in London drew entries from 15 clubs; the Army team came 3rd. The powerful Army side comprised Lieut T Belson (Glosters), prevailing British individual épée champion; Sgt Jim Fox (REME), the Army 1974 pentathlon champion; SSI P Brierley (APTC), the current inter-Service épée champion; and S/Sgt J A J Darby (REME), a former inter-Service épée champion. In the first round the Army team contested Espada fencing club and came through without losing a bout. The side fenced on to the semi-final when it was eliminated 5—9 by the eventually second-placed Thames A team. Boston came first winning by a margin of one hit.

ATHLETICS

Top athletes got a warm up for the Army individual championships with a three-cornered contest at Sandhurst between the Army Athletic Association, Metropolitan Police and the Royal Military Academy. The Army's athletes, including individual championship stars such as Van-Rees, Hutchinson and Morgan, won the day with 140 points followed by the police team with 113 and the RMA with 77.

The Army athletes did not fare so well at an earlier meeting against the Civil Service and Hampshire County Amateur Athletic Association. Hampshire won with 135 points, the Civil Service was second with 133 and the Army trailed with 115.

CYCLING

Inter-Service 25-mile road time trial: 1st Army (Pte P J Smith (43 Sqn RCT), L/Cpl T F Finney (3 Trg Bn RE), 3rd WO2 M C Beech (D & T Sqn AAC)), 2nd RAF, 3rd Royal Navy. Army individual 25 RTT championship (individual times for inter-Service event): 1st Smith (1-02-24), 2nd Finney (1-02-41), 3rd Beech (1-04-17). Team winners: AAC Harrogate. Army junior team time trials, 25-mile 2-up TTT: 1st AAC Arborfield A (1-13-10), 2nd AAC Arborfield B (1-14-44), 3rd Bramcote A (1-18-32). 15-mile 3-up TTT: 1st AAC Arborfield A (42-41), 2nd AAC Arborfield B (44-34), 3rd Dover A (45-06). Army 10-mile RTT championship (course U10): 1st Beech (24-14), 2nd Bishop (AAC Harrogate) (24-46), 3rd Mallam (AAC Chepstow) (25-29). Club 25-mile RTT (course R95): 1st Beech (1-02-56), 2nd Bishop (1-03-37), 3rd Atkins (1-06-29). Team winners: AAC Arborfield.

Combined Services track championships results:—Army Cycling Club, 1000 metres time trial; 1st Sigmn Bishop (R Sigs) 1 min 22.0 sec, 2nd Pte Smith (Queens) 1 min 22.2 sec, 3rd Spr Morris (RE) 1 min 29.0 sec. Team winners: AAC Harrogate 4 min 29.8 sec aggregate. Sprint: 1st Bishop, 2nd Smith, 3rd A/T Drew (AAC Harrogate). Pursuit (8 laps): 1st Smith 5 min 18.8 sec, 2nd Bishop 5 min 23.7 sec, 3rd WO1 Foster (RAOC) 5 min 33.2 sec. Points race: 1st Bishop 49, 2nd Smith 42, 3rd Beech 24.

Inter-Services championships:—1000 metres time trial: 1st RAF, 2nd Army (Smith), 3rd Royal Navy. Individual pursuit (8 laps): 1st Army (Smith) 5 min 17.4 sec, 2nd RAF 5 min 21.6 sec, 3rd Royal Navy 5 min 47.0 sec. Team pursuit (8 laps): 1st Army (Smith, Neech, Foster, Drew) 5 min 12.6 sec, 2nd RAF 5 min 14.7 sec, 3rd Royal Navy 5 min 49.2 sec. Points race: 1st RAF 93, 2nd Army 22, 3rd Royal Navy 4. Team result: 1st Army and RAF 20 points, 3rd Royal Navy 8.

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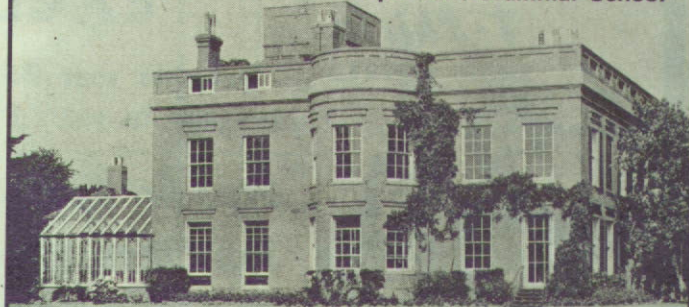
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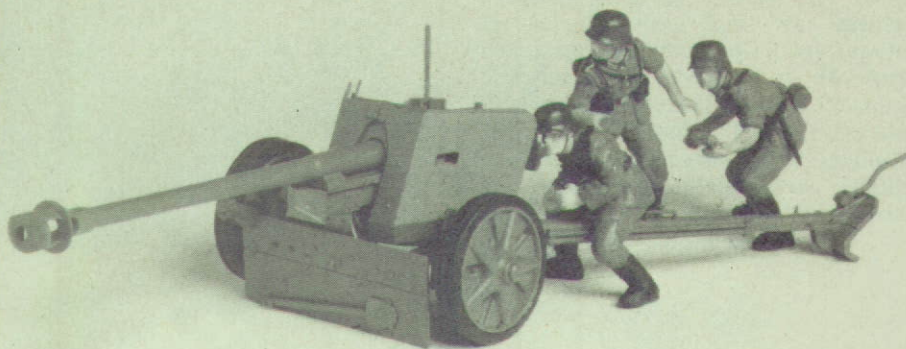
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Surprisingly the weapon that scored significant successes against allied armour was the awesome 88 mm gun originally designed as anti-aircraft artillery. It decimated British tanks at Halfaya Pass in North Africa in 1942 (see *Military Models*, February 1973). Nevertheless Pak 40, produced in great numbers, served as the standard weapon of Panzerabwehr units for the rest of the war through the snows of Stalingrad and the sweltering summer campaigns in Italy.

Basically a scaled-up version of its immediate 5 cm predecessor, Pak 40 had a distinct advantage in its low, ground-hugging silhouette which made it a difficult target. It had a minimum fire rate of 14 rounds a minute and could penetrate 130 mm (five-inch) armour plate at 1000 metres.

A recently released kit of the Pak 40/L46 (pictured above and below) will add

dramatic dimension to dioramas of allied AFVs. It comes from Tamiya whose models are marketed in this country by Richard Kohnstam (Riko) of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Moulded in grey plastic, it is in 1:35th scale and costs a modest 80 pence.

The detailing is intricate for such a small model yet the barrel slides backwards and forwards, the gun body traverses and the wheels revolve. Even parts such as a spade, ammunition box, shells and empty cases are moulded separately. Although the actual gun had a detachment of eight, only three figures are included in the kit—commander, aimer and loader. Coloured illustrations on the box give a good guide to painting. The actual weapons often had wire on the protective shield for fixing camouflage foliage; modellers can add this extra touch of realism with fine fuse wire and undergrowth from model railway scenic packs. Those seeking absolute authenticity should visit the Rotunda Museum of Artillery at Woolwich where Pak 40 has been recently put on show.

In the field of figures, Tamiya has also just produced a set of eight United States infantrymen of the "West European Theater"—35th scale at 70 pence—in running, kneeling, crouching, marching and lying poses including a lieutenant with his left hand in the pocket of a characteristic zipper jacket. **HH**



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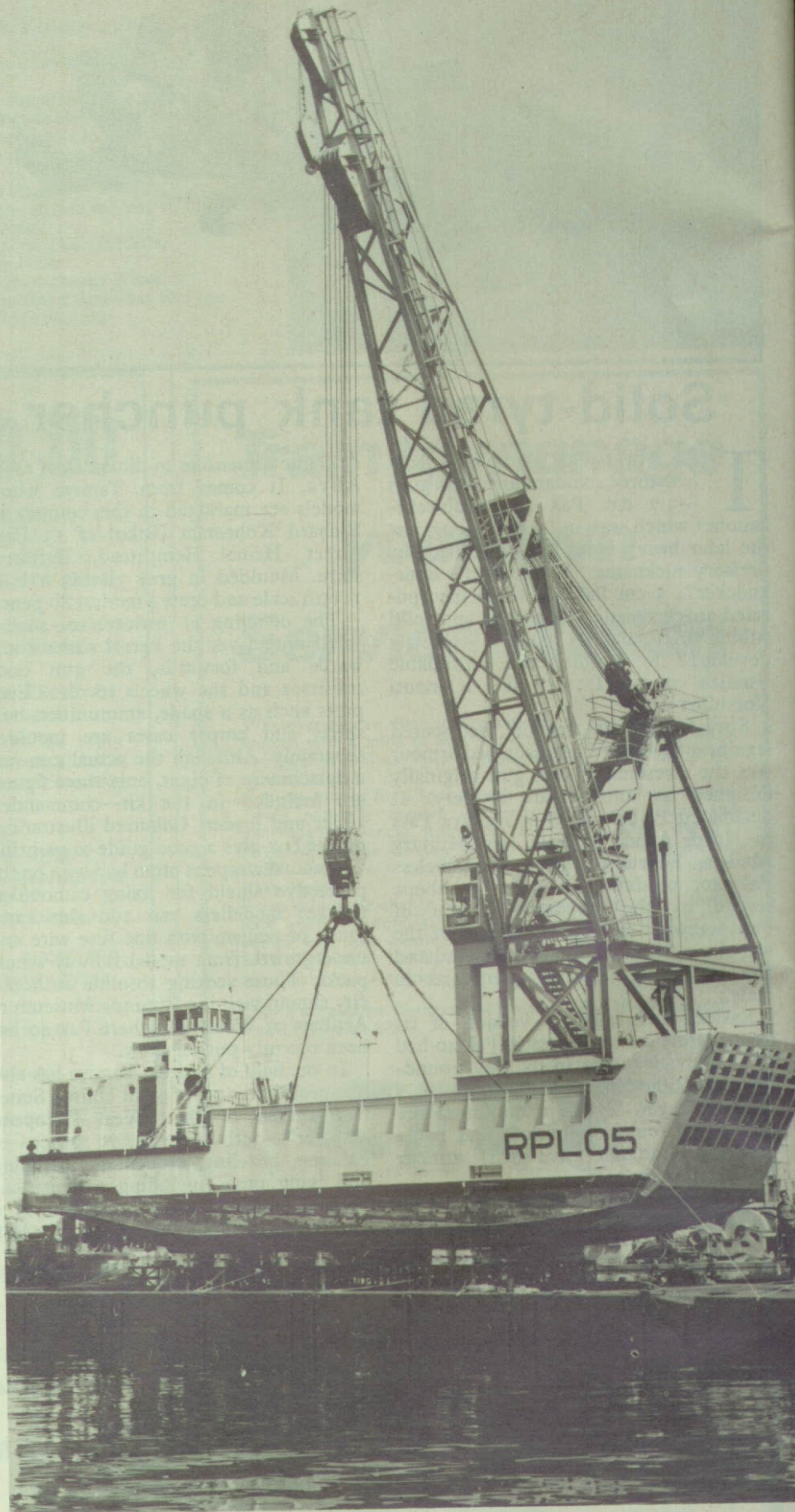
LEFT RIGHT AND CENTRE



The first-ever mass presentation of the recently inaugurated Parachute Regiment gold lanyard for those who have made 1000 freefall parachute jumps took place at this year's Airborne Forces Day in Aldershot. Pictured receiving his lanyard is Sergeant-Major Ted Lewington, of the Red Devils freefall team. Waiting for theirs to his left are Sergeant Jim Walmsley (Joint Services Parachute Centre, Bad Lippspringe), Sergeant Tony Jones (Depot Parachute Regiment) and Sergeant Bob Harman (Red Devils). Gold lanyards also went to two other Red Devils, Corporal Deak Wright and Lance-Corporal Andy Sinclair. Another qualifier, Sergeant Graham Cathro, will receive his in Berlin where he is serving with 1st Battalion. The first gold lanyard went to Red Devil Lance-Corporal Scotty Milne last year (SOLDIER November 1974).



The ribbon for the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve's biggest-ever mass medal presentation would stretch more than 12 feet. And the Territorial Efficiency medals presented to 58 soldiers—all from 111 Engineer Regiment (Volunteer)—represented 696 years of service. The special ceremony, conducted by Major-General P C Shapland, Director of Volunteers, Territorials and Cadets, took place during the regiment's annual camp in Yorkshire.



Once a year the ramped powered lighters of 10 Port Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, have to undergo a complete inspection and where necessary have their bottoms scraped and repainted. To make this possible, the vessels have to be lifted clear of the water. A massive

port crane at Limassol, Cyprus, was used to hoist the 63-ton craft out of the water and they were then rested on floating dry docks of Mexefloat on the advice of Fleet Repair Branch, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from Portsmouth.



Princess Anne has opened St Helena House, the first home for mentally handicapped children of Army families. The house forms part of MacIntyre Schools, a village settlement at Westoning Manor, Bedfordshire. The princess has a personal interest in the project as she and her husband, Captain Mark Phillips, donated part of their wedding present from the Army to the schools.



Corporal David Taylor (38), pipe-major of RAF Leuchars Pipe Band, has been on a six-week Service pipers course at the Army School of Piping in Edinburgh. David is a carpenter at Leuchars. In Edinburgh he learned advanced bagpipe techniques including pibroch playing. He is believed to be the first RAF piper to attend the Army's school. He started piping as a National Serviceman in Aden in 1957 and ended up instructing the Aden Federal National Guard in piping.



Watermanship training was a welcome feature of an exercise in sunny Cyprus for 130 Volunteers of 3 Company, 5th Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.



The Commander Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Headquarters 2nd Division, held Exercise Iron Band III this year in blazing June weather in Germany to practise 4 and 12 ordnance field parks in movement, deployment and basic infantry skills in the wooded hills west of the Edersee known as Red Hair Mountains.



After a successful Cyprus début at RAF Episkopi, the Tremeloes pop group—on tour with a CSE show on the island—travelled on 70 miles to entertain 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, in Dhekelia. Hearing that one

of the supporting groups hailed from the West Country, the Devon and Dorsets laid on a joke reception with the popsters being "arrested" for having long hair. But they were soon released and treated to a tour of the battalion's area.



The heavy toll of casualties in Kohima—the furthest the Japanese penetrated into India in World War Two—is commemorated by 2nd Division as a battle honour marked on the spot today by a memorial flanked by the plaque of units and formations which took part. Kohima is a large village in the Naga Hills of East Assam. The two weeks of fighting there in the spring of 1944 was some of the bitterest in the Burma campaign.

ON RECORD

"Army Tracks" (The Brass, Pipes and Drums of the Army Reserve in Victoria) (GAE 1074)

Here we have a definite whiff of the out-back, even if all four bands do hail from the Melbourne area. I smell the age-old smell of soldier's sweat, leather, blanco and metal polish—the smell of that unbearably nostalgic moment when you removed your puttees and boots after a long march. Perhaps it is that these part-time bandsmen sound as if they really are on the march, with imperfections that a hot dusty road would account for. Or perhaps I grow old and maudlin; anyway, imperfect or not, I was with these old sweats every long mile of the way.

The choice of music has a lot to do with the undoubted success of this disc. Just the right stuff to create a record with atmosphere, and what more should we ask of such as 4/19 Prince of Wales's Light Horse, HQ Royal Australian Artillery, 1st Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, and 5th Battalion, Royal Victoria Regiment, pipes and drums?

The 1st RVR play a fine march, new to me, called "The Northumbrian," and Bigelow's "Our Director." HQ RAA play "Soldiers of the Queen" and a march arrangement of "The British Grenadiers." Ord Hume's "Lynwood" and "Australian Light Horse" (pity they didn't play Ord Hume's "Ballarat City," only two days' forced march from Melbourne) are played by the 4/19 Light Horse.

All three wind bands mass to perform "Waltzing Matilda," R B Hall's "Death or Glory" and Arnold Safroni's "Imperial Echoes." The pipes and drums play two medleys comprising sixteen of the best-known Scottish tunes.

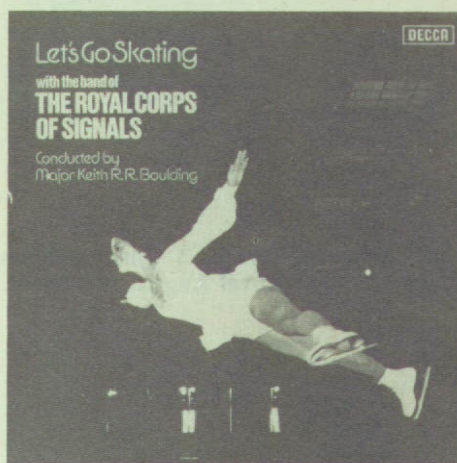
Write to Grondman Audio Electronics Pty Ltd, Melbourne, or, if you have difficulty, to Captain G Fenton, HQ 3rd Division, Australian Army, Melbourne. **RB**

"Let's Go Skating" with the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals (Conducted by Major Keith R R Boulding) (Decca SB 710)

The music purports to be familiar to the ice rinks, the sort of stuff that serves as accompaniment to the graceful gyrations of Daphne and Bert, Len and Doreen, and all other champions on ice. Not my scene, I'm afraid. I find ice skating about as absorbing as "Come Dancing" so I must take it on trust that such items as the "Light Cavalry" and "Entry of the Gladiators" can actually be skated to. In any case the connection is tenuous, to say the least, as far as record buyers are concerned.

The music is, however, perfectly acceptable as a typical band programme to be heard on any bandstand, and it is all played very nicely. Get your skates on, if you must, to extracts from "Rhapsody in Blue," the theme from "Exodus," a tango medley of "Hernando's Hideaway," "Jealousy" and old quick-quick slow-slow himself's "Golden Tango." Some tunes from "Carmen," the theme from the film "Limelight," and again the "Can-Can" from "Orpheus in the Underworld," serve their purpose admirably but the two

"musts" for this disc are Emil (not Peter) Waldteufel's waltz "The Skaters" and the title piece "Let's Go Skating." **RB**



"Regimental Occasions" with the Band and Drums of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment (Bandmaster: Mr C J Ross) (Life Records ST 50 4103,462 Castrop-Rauxel, West Germany)

What a fine title, and an attractive record in an illustrated folder, but since it was produced in Germany for regimental consumption it may be difficult to come by. Try the bandmaster at BFPO 29.

The occasions referred to are St George's Day for the old King's Own, and Arroyo Day for the Border Regiment. During a typical programme for the former you can hear Bliss's "Royal Fanfare," which greets the Colonel, the "Drum Flourish" and, for the march on, Alford's "Standard of St George." Inspection is to the "Spanish Gipsy Dance" (Espana Cani).

Most music on both sides has some association with the present regiment so you need not be surprised to find naval, South African, French and Chinese tunes cheek by jowl with traditional English airs. "And Shall Trelawney Die," Duthoit's march "The Little Bugler," "A Life on the Ocean Wave" and "Sarie Marais" serve for the march pasts and the band ends the day with a concert performance of Svendsen's tone picture "Norwegian

Artists' Carnival." A bit hectic here and there but successfully put across with exciting effect.

Side two has much the same format for the trooping of the French drums, captured at the battle of Arroyo from the French 34th by the British 34th, the old Cumberland Regiment. Panella's "On the Square" and a selection of relaxed pop tunes, "New Sounds of the Carpenters," precede more relevant music in "Soldier, Soldier, Will You Marry Me" to which the regimental fifes give nicely contemporary effect. Then the drum-major and drummers, dressed in French 34th uniforms, carry on the drums and they are trooped to "Le Rêve Passe" and La Marseillaise." March off is to the regimental quick march which includes snatches of "Lass o' Gowrie" and "Corn Rigs Are Bonnie" as well as "John Peel."

The traditional "Chinese Airs," a relic from the 55th's sojourn in China, the Cumbrian air "Joe Bowman" and the "Angelus" by Massenet bring a very pleasant regimental weekend to a close. **RB**

"Fireman's Galop" (The Grand Massed Bands (Men o' Brass)—The combined bands of Fairey (Musical Director: Kenneth Dennison), Foden's (Musical Director: Rex Mortimer) and City of Coventry (Musical Director: Albert Chappell) conducted by Harry Mortimer) (Studio 2 Stereo TWOX 1033)

The Men o' Brass play a not very exciting programme in spite of the title and a most evocative sleeve picture. "Fireman's Galop" is a well-known old band item which used to be played in my early days with "full scenic and sound effects"—without them the music is merely trite. So what are we left with to justify such a title? Two march tunes which deserve a long rest by the gramophone companies—"Thunderbirds" and "633 Squadron"—plus the "Colditz" march and the "Can-Can" from "Orpheus in the Underworld" which are also due for temporary retirement.

The trombone trio "Tricky Trombones" and trumpet trio "The Three Trumpeters" don't exactly break new ground and it is left, as so often, to Gordon Langford to provide a new item, or at least old tunes in new guise. His "New World Fantasy" is an effective stringing together of North American tunes, from folk through Dvorak to Sousa and The Saints.

Other marches are Siebert's "The Rover's Return" and a very old mixture of the "Match of the Day" tune with "Who Do You Think You Are Kidding, Mr Hitler?" of "Dad's Army" fame. "Tango Taquin" and the overture to "HMS Pinafore" complete the bunch. **RB**

"Pipes and Drums of the 1st Bn The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders" (Drum-Major: WO2 J Malloch) (Pipe-Major: Sgt K Robson) (Music for Pleasure MFP 50221)

This reissued disc was originally released in June 1968 and reviewed in SOLDIER January 1969. Its programme includes marching tunes, slow airs, competition-type items, Retreat airs and some of the Argyll's regimental music.

The record "La Citadelle: La Musique du Royal 22e Régiment" (Trans-Canada TC-49002), reviewed in May, can be obtained from La Régie, Royal 22e Régiment, La Citadelle, Quebec, P Que, G1R 3R2, Canada. The price is £3.00 including postage (this price is likely to change without notice).



Bombardier Murray prepares to fly his radio-controlled model craft into a hail of machine-gun fire.

Model Gunner

"Bandits One-Five!" The commander of a vehicle takes a bead on the model; range is about 200 yards.



MODEL aircraft enthusiasts tend to cherish the products of hours of painstaking building their hobby entails. Not so Bombardier Geoff Murray, for he deliberately flies one of his model aircraft through a hail of machine-gun fire.

But it is all in the line of duty—he is working on the development of a new system for training in local anti-aircraft defence. The robust fibreglass models can withstand a number of hits as they are radio controlled through the "flak" and are easily repaired. They give cheap but realistic training for anti-aircraft practice firing.

Bombardier Murray was the obvious choice for this particular piece of research and development since he has been a model-making enthusiast from the age of 12. He is currently engaged in a four-month stint of training others to "pilot" the aircraft using the radio control unit on the ground.

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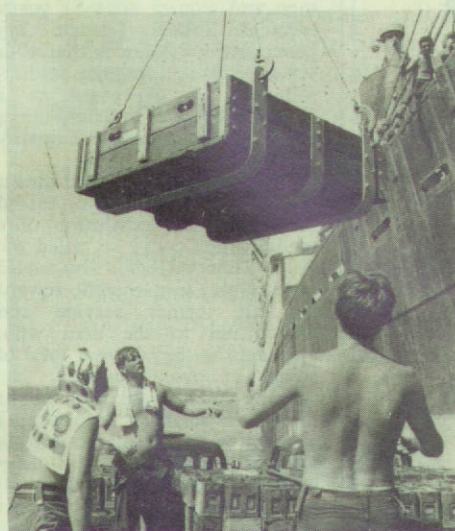
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Top: Lorries on a Mexeflote as soldiers start to offload the Agapenor's cargo.

A DEADLY cocktail of tins of rotting pineapple and 400 tons of ammunition was on board the MS Agapenor when she arrived off the Dhekelia Sovereign Base in Cyprus after spending eight years trapped in the Bitter Lakes of the Suez Canal.

The cargo was originally bound for Liverpool from Singapore but after the ship's release from the canal, as a result of the clean-up operation to which the Royal Navy contributed, it was decided to offload the ammunition in Cyprus so that the rest of the cargo could be taken to Trieste.

Major Ken Norsworthy, senior ammunition technical officer in Cyprus, inspected the ammunition, some of it hidden under pineapple chunks, toys from Hong Kong, bales of jute and clothing. He found it consisted mainly of small arms rounds with some 20-millimetre aircraft cannon shells.

The offloading was not, however, just a Royal Army Ordnance Corps operation—men of 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, 10 Port Squadron,

Royal Corps of Transport, 23 Army Fire Brigade and 52 Port Squadron of 17 Port Regiment were also involved. The latter had sent specialist winch operators from Marchwood without whom the task would have been immeasurably harder.

From the shore the ship, with faded blue funnel markings and large scabs of metal missing from her sides, looked like a latter-day Marie Celeste. But on board and four decks deep the story was different. Working in temperatures of well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit and in the throat-constricting atmosphere of sickly sweet gas from burst pineapple tins, the soldiers dragged box upon box of ammunition from the cargo.

Above them the winch operators lifted the ammunition and lowered it gently into trucks on a Mexeflote for the short journey back to Dhekelia jetty. All this for four days, including one whole night to make up for delays due to rough seas and bad weather.

From a report by Henry Bojdys, Army Public Relations HQ NEARELF; pictures by Sergeant Jim Dickson.

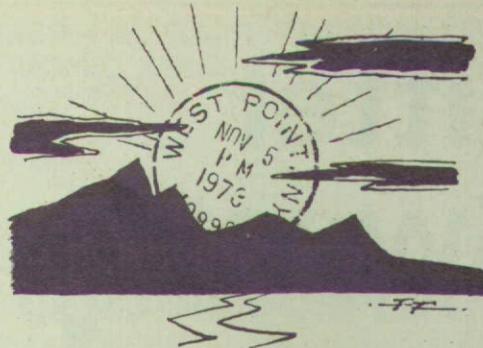
Amputation?

On reading the latest cuts in defence expenditure I realised that we still maintain separate medical services for the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Surely a single central semi-civilian service of doctors, dentists and nurses would result in a vast saving in cash and manpower? After all, medicine is the same whether for a sailor, soldier or an airman.

It should, I feel, be unnecessary also to have so many military ranks in the medical services—senior and junior grades of doctor and nurses with the same pay as their civilian counterparts would suffice. This suggestion, I know, will bring howls of fury from many veterans who are quite rightly proud of their medical service as it is, but a Defence Ministry that can abruptly cut out an historic and glorious infantry regiment should have no scruples about cutting short the tail which, in Western armies anyway, often threatens to wag the dog—often to the dog's detriment. The sensible voluntary discipline that obtains in the wards of any civilian hospital would also be good enough for the Services nowadays, and there is no longer any need for a doctor or nurse to be supported by the Sovereign's commission.

Just as an army's business is first and foremost to fight, so medical business is healing, and it can be done without military panoply. A new semi-civilian status would also be to the advantage of medical personnel. If they were to be captured they could no doubt be exchanged for enemy medics.—**W MacGregor, 145 Lower Granton Road Edinburgh 5.**

★ An MOD spokesman says that the possible amalgamation of the three medical services has been looked at from time to time in the past, most recently by the Defence Medical Services Inquiry Committee whose report was published by HMSO in October 1973. The inquiry recommended against amalgamation but proposed improved machinery in the Ministry of Defence for co-ordination and rationalisation. There are of course problems in full integration of the medical services in that the three Services have their own particular medical problems eg those associated with aircraft and underwater operations.



LETTERS

Fall in the poets

I am compiling an anthology of Service poetry about Northern Ireland which I hope will be published in 1976.

This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has written poetry about Northern Ireland and who would like his work considered. I would be pleased to receive manuscripts, typed if possible, before 31 October.—**Capt Paul E Piggott RA, Otterburn Training Area, Otterburn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE19 1NX.**

G for police?

When I served with The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment in 1909 there were eight companies

to an infantry battalion. The companies of our 1st Battalion were lettered from A to F then H and K; the letter G was not allotted to a company. I feel that the omission of G was to indicate some old regimental tradition which at some later date seemed to die a natural death.

Can any reader explain why the letter G was omitted when lettering companies of the 1st Battalion?—**C S A Avis, Hotel Majella 209, 564 Pretorius Street, Pretoria 0002, South Africa.**

Medals again

I have found the recent correspondence on medals most interesting. There is no doubt that when it comes to awarding medals we are far behind other countries and dispense them very grudgingly. A medal for wounds, as suggested by a recent correspondent, would appear to be long overdue—it is the very least a country can do to reward men and women injured in its service. The many serviceman injured in recent years, especially in Northern Ireland, have nothing to show for their efforts except the General Service Medal. An anomaly which affects me personally is in award of the Territorial Efficiency Medal to men and women after 12 years' efficient TAVR service. My particular complaint is that after seven years as a Regular soldier, followed by 9½ years as a Terrier, I have to complete a further 2½ years before I qualify for my medal.

I think it would be a good idea if credit could be given for mixed service by the institution of a medal which could be called the Army Service Medal. This would at least give a man some reward for his former service and recognition to the man who, although he may have a total of some 17 years' service, has nothing to show for it. I labour under no sense of injustice; I merely feel that some recognition should be afforded to the many ex-Regular soldiers serving with the TAVR who have not yet qualified for the TEM. Some ex-Regulars never qualified for the LS & GC Medal and will equally never qualify for the TEM.

Evidence of how sparingly we dispense our medals must surely be the Mention-in-Despatches which is denoted merely by the wearing of a bronze oak leaf on

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BRITISH GAS



the appropriate service medal. To be mentioned in the first place, an individual must have come to the notice of his superiors in such a way as to merit some recognition, so why could we not have a medal for this? Is not the MID the active service equivalent of the Commander-in-Chief's Commendation, for which no visible recognition is made? This commendation could be recognised in some visible form perhaps by allowing the recipient to wear a ribbon of some kind, even if only on his right breast.

I accept that a line has to be drawn somewhere, if only to avoid the comic opera situation which exists in some countries where gongs are thrown about like confetti—but equally we have to ensure fair recognition to our servicemen.

There are many ways of affording recognition. One which springs to mind is the former World War

Two practice of wearing service chevrons on the sleeve. These were small red inverted chevrons and their reintroduction now could be a tremendous morale booster. In a new system the red chevron could be issued after one year's service up to a maximum of say five, and after five years the red chevron could be converted to a gold one and so on. Skill-at-arms badges, which appear to be peculiar to infantry units, could be worn by any soldier with the appropriate qualifications regardless of his unit and trade. There must be quite a few clerks who are first-class shots, if not marksmen!—**J D Shaw, 52 Ivy Leigh, Liverpool, Merseyside, L13 7ER.**

★The equivalent of the Mention-in-Despatches is in fact the Queen's Commendation and its award is also denoted by a bronze oak leaf.



Back to 1941

I was interested to read about the Royal Military Police (SOLDIER, June) especially the WRAC girls serving as provost NCOs. I think you could call the girls in the enclosed photograph a piece of Army history as we were the first women military police, having been formed from the ATS in 1941.—**Mrs Betty Messenger (née Scott), 19 Watford Road, Wembley, Middlesex.**

Rotunda back in business

Extensive repairs to the main building of the Museum of Artillery, The Rotunda, which caused its closure, have now been completed and the museum is open once again at Repository Road, Woolwich, London SE18.

Opening times of the museum until 30 September are:

Monday to Friday 1000-1245 1400-1745

Saturday 1000-1200 1400-1700

Sunday 1400-1700

From 1 October to 31 March the museum closes at 1600 hrs.

Calling Royal Highlanders

Former members of The Black Watch may be interested to know that there is a London Branch of The Black Watch Association which holds various functions throughout the year. Anyone wishing to join this branch is invited to write to me for further details.—**Maj J L Samson, Highfield, Hawks Hill, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 9DS.**



Before the Army completely forgets its traditional bugle calls, organisers of tattoos and military displays might consider including a sequence of bugle calls in their programmes.

A bugler could play a number of routine calls, each being illustrated by the appearance of the persons summoned by the call.

The variations available are endless and the displays can be as large or small as circumstances permit.—**C M Humphreys, 2 Bosmere Court, 991 Bristol Road South, Northfield, Birmingham 31.**

★Thank you. A splendid idea—producers please copy!

Competition

Surprisingly a quarter of the large number of entrants for Competition 202 (May—Muck or nettles!) came up with other than the correct answer—the “odd man out” of the 81 words was “free”. The 17 incorrect variations were handsomely headed by “butter” with “guns” as runner-up.

Correct pairings were: All or nothing, coming or going, common or garden, day or night, death or glory, do or die, east or west, fair or foul, fast or slow, friend or foe, grave or gay, guns



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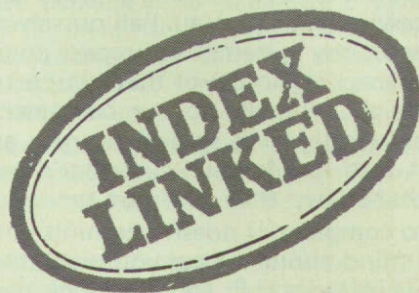
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Prizewinners:

- 1 Maj E Maarup, Jydske Dragon Regt, 7500 Holstebro, Denmark.
- 2 L/Cpl Paul Laycock, 4 Alderney Road, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.
- 3 F J Neate, High Lea, Abbey Road, Chilcompton, Bath.
- 4 F H Symth, 15 Kenton Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.
- 5 G Forty, 10 Bindon Close, Lulworth Camp, Wareham, Dorset.
- 6 D Magee, 29 Rochester Road, Taunton, Somerset.

Reunions

27 Inf Bde Sig Tp. 25th anniversary of British troops in Korea reunion, PS Old Caledonia, Victoria Embankment, London, 30 August. Details from Maj G E Loudoun, HQ 2 Signal Troop, Malta Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

6, 8 and 10 Btys, 1st Light Brigade RA (Ewshott & Scotland). Reunion, Eastbourne, 13 September. Details from D A Knight, 79 Tyrrell Avenue, Welling, Kent.

The Dorset Regiment Association. Annual reunion and dinner, TAVR Centre, Poundbury Road, Dorchester, 13 September. Details from Secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset.

The West Yorkshire and Prince of Wales's Own Regimental Association. Annual reunion and White Horse Ball, Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Strensal, 6 September. Details from Secretary, RHQ PWO, Imphal Barracks, York.

The East Yorkshire Regimental Association. Annual reunion and dinner, 13 September. Details from Secretary, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset.



E A Holdaway, 54 Stepney Green Dwellings, Stepney Green, London E1.—Seeks copy 'The Blue Flash' by Col Jolly and first-day souvenir cover visit Princess Anne to 14/20 King's Hussars, Far East 1971. Also wants British medals, original or miniature.

A Randon, 26/5 Church Street, Paceville, Malta.—Wants pictures, photographs and cuttings Humber Super Snipe staff cars in service with British armed forces during and after World War Two. Will pay cash or exchange cap badges Maltese regiments.

Bjorn Martensson, Bruno Liljeforsg 67, 754 29 Uppsala, Sweden. Seeks SOLDIER 1951 and earlier, March and July issues 1952 and January 1954 issue, also other British Army magazines.

D W Drew, 207-831 Dunsmuir Road, Victoria, BC V9A 5B9, Canada.—Seeks naval cap ribbons. Has Canadian Army cap badges in exchange.

I Ross, PO Box 61286, Marshall-



tal Association. Annual reunion, Beverley, 13 September. Church service 1030, 14 September, Beverley Minster. Details from Secretary, 11 Butcher Row, Beverley, North Humberside, HU17 0AA.

The Royal Welch Fusiliers Comrades Association. Annual reunion and general meeting, The Barracks, Wrexham, 27-28 September. Details from branch secretaries or Secretary, RWFCA, The Barracks, Caernarvon, LL55 2DB.

15 Heavy (Coast) Battery RA OCA (Hong Kong, Ceylon, Singapore Gunners) and REME/AER OCA. Reunion dinner, The Drive Hotel, Oldtown, Eastbourne, 13 September. Details from D A Knight, 79 Tyrrell Avenue, Welling, Kent.

How observant are you?

(see page 16)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Flag in top left corner. 2 Height of radio aerial. 3 Line in corner of radio carrying-handle. 4 Stripe on bathing trunks. 5 Stern flag of ship. 6 Top right frond of palm third from left. 7 Toe of bather's left foot. 8 Title of book. 9 Horizon between legs of standing bather. 10 Last letter of artist's name.

Collectors' Corner

town, 2107, South Africa.—Wishes purchase cap badges Somaliland Camel Corps, Sudan Defence Force, Trans-Jordan Frontier Force and King's African Rifles.

D Pickles, 11 Erlesmere Avenue, Denton, Manchester, Lancs, M34 3FD.—Seeks badges, shoulder titles, wings and flashes of Gurkhas, Guards, Para Regt, indep para coys, Army Air Corps and Glider Pilot Regt.

H R Yates, 9 Charlwood Place, London SW1.—Has over 300 British and Commonwealth badges for sale or exchange for similar items of Australia, New Zealand, Canada and UK. Send SAE for list.

Capt G Rodenberg, Qtrs 1104 Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, New Jersey 07801, USA.—Wishes exchange US medals, cloth patches and badges for British ones.

J William Keithan, 416 Seneca Street, Seattle, Washington 98111, USA.—Wishes purchase military prints depicting Scottish regiments in action.

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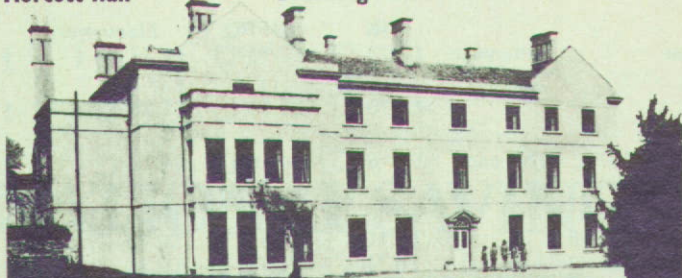
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FREEDOM RAID

"The Prisoners of Santo Tomas"
(Celia Lucas)

With the American invasion of the Philippines in full swing in 1945, there seemed every likelihood that the Japs would massacre their 2000 American and allied civilian captives in the Los Banos prison camp. This had already happened on Palawan island where 150 American POWs were herded into caves, soaked in petrol and burned alive.

The American command decided to forestall any such Japanese intention by grabbing the Los Banos prisoners in a combined airborne and amphibious operation. It was carried out

PRISONERS OF SANTO TOMAS

Celia Lucas



brilliantly for the loss of only two killed and three wounded. Three internees were slightly hurt.

Among those freed was Mrs Isla Corfield who, with her teenage daughter Gillian, had been captured when the ship taking them from Shanghai was diverted to the Philippines. Initially, they and 3500 other men, women and children were interned in Santo Tomas University in Manila. Displaying great courage, Mrs Corfield kept a diary—on which Miss Lucas bases her story.

It is a harrowing tale by any standards—brutality, degradation, starvation—yet strangely, though there were Japs who really hated them, there were others who were more considerate than their fellow internees. It's a funny world.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £4.75 JCW

EMERGENCY

"The Communist Insurrection in Malaya 1948-1960" (Anthony Short)

In 1960, Mr Short was at the University of Malaya when it was agreed between the university and the Government that he should write a history of the Emergency. He was given access to records and papers but when he presented the work in 1968 it was decided not to publish it on the grounds of security.

The first three chapters are

included in abridged form in this book. Mr Short has written an extremely detailed account of the 12-year struggle which ended in total defeat of the Communist bid to take over Malaya. It was one of the few post-war revolutions which failed utterly to attain any of its declared objectives.

The author shows how the security forces and colonial administration, ill-equipped to withstand the insurrection, reeled before the onslaught of violent crime, communal disorder and guerrilla warfare but came back to contain and then defeat the terrorists. He highlights the key role of intelligence and the resettlement programme, as well as the well-conceived battle for the hearts and minds of the people.

Sadly, he ends on an ominous note, pointing to recent border ambushes and evidence of armed propaganda units as far south as Ipoh.

Frederick Muller Ltd, Victoria Works, Edgware Road, London, NW2 6LE, £8.95 JCW

AS WORN

"British Military Uniforms 1768-1796" (Hew Strachan)

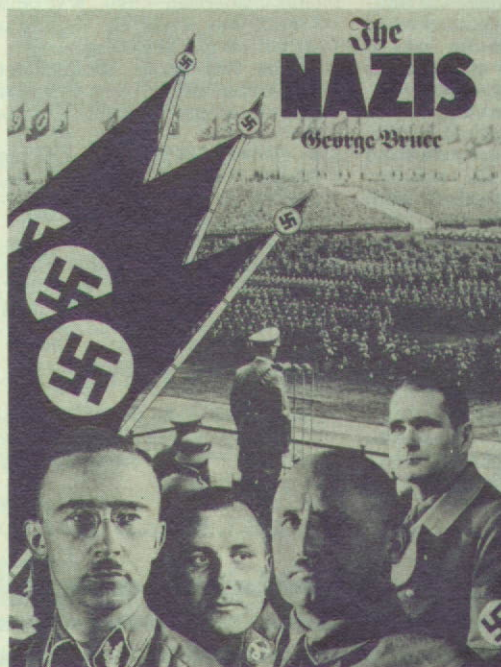
The period under study here is generally regarded as one of the most important in the history of British military dress because of the far-reaching clothing warrants promulgated in 1768 and 1796 and because uniforms in the years between started to move away from adapted styles of civilian dress and develop features of their own.

This scholarly book's value to the serious student lies in its authenticity. Warrant orders affecting dress, saddlery and accoutrements; instructions and recommendations; correspondence and contemporary regimental standing orders are quoted verbatim to show what the Army



should have been wearing at the time. The inclusion of Army inspection reports, themselves highly interesting sidelights on dress, is the author's only concession to recording what was actually worn.

The book's eight sections cover



General Officers and Staff, Household Cavalry, Cavalry of the Line, Foot Guards, Infantry, Royal Artillery, Engineers and Artificers. As well as descriptions and orders on the appearance of a uniform there is a deal of information to be gleaned on the measures a soldier took to preserve his kit and on what occasions he wore specific items of equipment.

The contemporary illustrations depict uniforms actually seen by the artists who painted them or who were alive at the time they were being worn.

Arms & Armour Press, 2-6 Hampstead High Street, London, NW3 1PR, £4.95 JFPJ

RISE AND FALL

"The Nazis" (George Bruce)

Mr Bruce, an accomplished journalist and author, gives a straightforward account of the rise and fall of Nazism from its early days of rabble-rousing and beerhall brawling in post-World War One Munich, through the "legal" assumption of power and the establishment of the Third Reich, and on to the naked displays of power of the Thirties characterised by the awe-inspiring rallies at Nuremberg.

We see Hitler drive Europe to war in a welter of crime and atrocity and, having sown the wind, we see him reap the whirlwind as his Thousand-Year Reich, beset by defeat on all fronts, crumbles in little more than a decade.

This book is very well illustrated and many of the pictures will be new even to students of Nazi history. To maintain the balance, there is one double-page spread devoted to the German resistance to Hitler, the men behind the 20 July bomb plot. He quotes Von Stauffenberg on the dilemma which faced many upright Germans: "Whoever dares to act must realise that he will probably go down in

history as a traitor. Yet if he fails to act he will be a traitor to his own conscience." It was these men who dared to act who gave hope for the new Germany.

Hamlyn Publishing Group, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9AR, £2.95 JCW

MEN OF COURAGE

"Armies of the American Revolution" (Ian V Hogg and John H Batchelor)

In many battles victory depended not on the skill of the commander but on the courage and staying power of the men. Inkerman is a good example.

Few wars have been thus decided, however. Perhaps the only one was the American War of Independence, for despite the heroic feats of men like Washington, Lafayette, de Grasse, Rochambeau and Ethan Allen, and despite the desperate fighting directed by worthy commanders like Howe, Burgoyne, Cornwallis and Rodney, the American victory was won by men, muskets and bullets, notwithstanding the gallantry of the British soldier.

As America launches the celebration of 200 years of independence, it is worthwhile taking another look at the soldier who fought on opposing sides in that war. Mr Hogg describes, with knowledge and humour, the lives of the men at war, the history of their weapons—muskets, cannon, small arms and swords—and how they were used. His colleague, Mr Batchelor, ably illustrates the text with colourful paintings of the men involved.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8JL, £4.25 JCW

WAR GAMING

"The Napoleonic Wargame" (G W Jeffrey)

"Wargames" (David Nash)

Mr Jeffrey strongly disagrees with those who would compress a large part of military history into what they call "the horse and musket" period. So he decided to fill in the detail which he feels is lacking in so many publications on this fast-growing hobby.

He has chapters on scales, dice and preliminary rules; movement; firing; morale; contact and mêlée; and wind and weather. Expressing his impatience with wargamers who claim that "even a child can play," he emphasises that it is a hobby which offers an intellectual challenge to the participant at whatever level he likes to attempt by dint of his own researches.

In his handy little book, one of those excellent Hamlyn "All-Colour Paperbacks," Mr Nash agrees that a single volume cannot do justice to such an extensive subject, but he provides a sensible introduction to it, ex-

plaining its history, basic and advanced wargames, and examines three periods—Napoleonic, American Civil War and World War Two. He rounds it off with a useful bibliography.

The two books complement each other and will be a welcome addition to any wargamer's bookshelf.

1 Almark Publishing Co Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6EA, £2.50 hardback, £1.50 paperback

2 Hamlyn Publishing Group, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9AR, £0.60 JCW

CAVALRY HISTORY

"A History of the British Cavalry 1816 to 1919: Volume Two—1851 to 1871" (The Marquess of Anglesey)

In this volume Lord Anglesey

A History of the British Cavalry

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Volume 2: 1851-1871



concentrates on two momentous decades dominated by the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny. The part played by the cavalry in both campaigns is described in fascinating detail, particularly the

battle of Balaklava of which the author writes at length. In discussing these two conflicts, and throughout the volume, Lord Anglesey quotes liberally from first-hand accounts culled from letters, diaries and other documents, many of them never before published.

The second half of the book delves into every aspect of the mounted arm—the social life of officers and men; recruiting and types of recruits; barracks and overcrowding; classes and types of officers, their finances and expenses, mode of living, purchase and sale of commissions; types of cavalry sword and the pros and cons of cut-and-thrust; weights carried by cavalry horses; saddles, bridles and horse furniture; crime and punishment; and observations on the British cavalryman's traditional reluctance to dismount. These are a few points picked at random to give an idea of the scope of this important work.

Fifteen maps and numerous illustrations, many of historic interest, embellish the 500 meticulously indexed pages. Appetite whetted, one looks forward to more good reading in volumes three and four.

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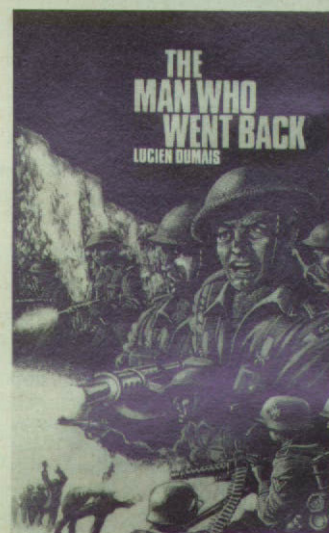
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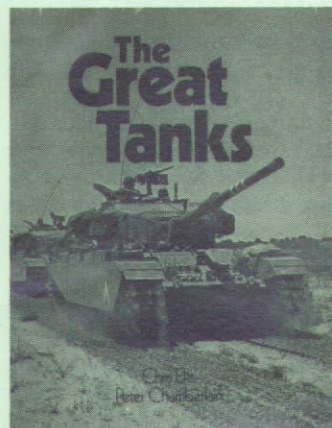
"The Man Who Went Back" (Lucien Dumaïs)

A Quebec French-Canadian in Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal, Lucien Dumaïs went ashore in the ill-fated Dieppe raid. He fought with great courage and covered the withdrawal with a Bren. After getting a hefty wounded man to the landing craft, he did not have the strength to haul himself aboard. The vessel went without him and he fell into German hands. With incredible luck, he hopped off the train taking him and his colleagues into captivity and made his way back to England via Gibraltar.

The value of his experience was quickly appreciated and eventually Sergeant-Major Dumaïs returned by Lysander aircraft to France to join the Shelburn escape network which funnelled 307 escapers back to Britain, a commendable record.

Lucien Dumais recalls it all with engaging humour and light-hearted modesty. He was certainly born under a lucky star. When, as a private, he signed for overseas service in 1939, he probably never dreamed that he would rise to captain, serve in Iceland, France and North Africa, and win the Military Cross, Military Medal, and Freedom Medal—or that his future wife would be one of the people he met while playing hide-and-seek with Gestapo radio-hunting squads. I hope his luck continues with this thoroughly worthwhile book.

Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £3.95 JCW



ARMOUR STARS

"The Great Tanks" (Chris Ellis and Peter Chamberlain)
In this excellent book, armoured warfare historians Ellis and Chamberlain make detailed studies of 12 "families" of outstanding tanks which dominated battlefields from the Western Front in 1918 to the Sinai Desert in 1973.

Among the major tanks described are the Marks I to VIII and the Liberty of World War One, the Renault FT in which the basic layout of all future tanks was defined, and Walter Christie's highly original vehicles which led to some of the most prominent British and Russian tanks of World War Two.

From that point the authors turn their attention to the most notable series—American light tanks like the Stuart, and the contemporary medium tanks from the T5 through the Grant and Lee to the war-winning Sherman. They deal with British cruiser tanks from Crusader to Centurion and infantry tanks from Matilda to Churchill. On the Russian front, the T-34 is the star turn but one should not forget the other heavy tanks like the Josef Stalin. And from the "other side of the hill" come the formidable Panzers—Tiger, Panther, King Tiger and superb Jagd-panther.

Hamlyn Publishing Group, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9AR, £3.50 JCW

MORE WARGAMING

"Wargames Through the Ages, Volume 3 1792-1859" (Donald F

War Games through the Ages

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"Tank Battles in Miniature 2" (Bruce Quarrie)

The period between 1792 and 1859 is by far the most popular among wargamers. It is an immense and unrivalled field of operations which includes the sprawling and colourful Napole-

onic Wars, the almost ignored war between Britain and the United States in 1812 and the two-year conflict between the United States and Mexico in 1846-48. Over in Europe there was the Crimean War, followed closely by the conflict in which France and Piedmont fought the Austrians at Magenta and Solferino.

Mr Featherstone guides the wargamer through them all with his customary clarity and conciseness, discussing the armies, their arms and equipment, their tactics and all the other detail so dear to the heart of the dedicated wargamer.

Mr Quarrie, on the other hand, prefers modern warfare. In this fascinating volume he examines the Russian Front from 1941 to 1945, and, in view of the dearth of detail on this vital land front, offers something for both wargamers and

historians. He summarises the campaign lucidly and takes into consideration such items as climatic conditions, armoured trains, tank recovery and partisan warfare.

He also covers the organisation of the German and Russian armies, their air cover, firepower, and general tactics. Wherever possible, he tabulates all the basic information.

On the Russian front, hundreds of miles of territory could be won or lost in a matter of days. It is therefore quite an achievement to produce an authoritative guide to the campaign which has the added merit of offering the best way to reproduce its fluctuations on the table-top.

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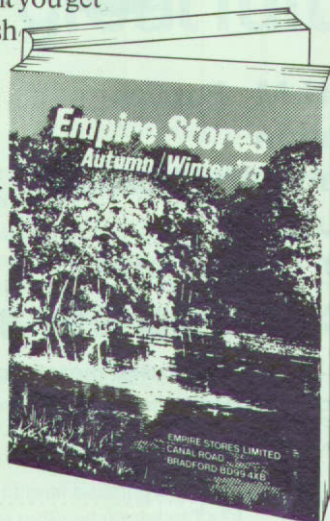
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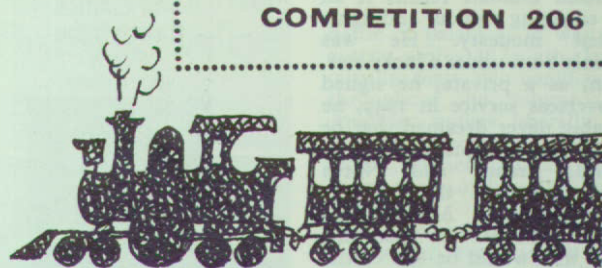
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As is well known, all trains in Mundavia are scheduled to run at a uniform speed of 50 miles an hour and the train timetables are drawn up accordingly. Mundavians, with their usual ingenuity, certainly make full use of these timetables. In fact, provided they know any two of departure time, arrival time and distance, they can immediately state the unknown one of these three.

For example, if their noon departure from Bah does not arrive until their 1.20 at Cah (20 minutes late), it is at once obvious that the distance between these two stations is 80 kilometres (naturally, Mundavians consider eight kilometres equal to five miles).

All this is in spite of the fact that the Mundavian "minute" is shorter than ours, in terms of their hour and our hour, although their day is the same length as and contains the same number of minutes as ours. For this reason the clocks in Mundavia always appear a little odd to us. If a local clock strikes eleven (a very unlucky omen) the clockmaker must be sent for at once since the hour hand cannot possibly point to double figures! Or to zero!

I was in Mundavia recently and caught their 6.17 from Aah and arrived promptly at my destination, 25 miles distant, at their time of 6.57. As I intended to stay in the country for only two days, I did not bother to change my watch at all. I was pleasantly surprised to find that sometimes my watch showed exactly the same time as the local clocks—for example at noon and midnight and at 20 minutes past three, but I must admit that they did not coincide very often. At eight o'clock by my watch I was apparently two hours fast whereas when the local clocks showed three o'clock I was only one hour fast.

The afternoon Special Train leaves the coast at their half-past three and always arrives promptly at City Hall Station at a quarter-past four the same afternoon.

How many miles is it from the coast to City Hall Station? And at what time does the six o'clock departure from City Hall Station reach its destination 237 kilometres away?

Send your answers to these two questions, on a postcard or by letter, with your name and address and the "Competition 206" label from this page, to:

Editor (Comp 206)
SOLDIER
Ordnance Road
Aldershot
Hants
GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 13 October. The answers and winners' names will appear in the December SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 206" label. Winners will be drawn by lots. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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