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# Soldier



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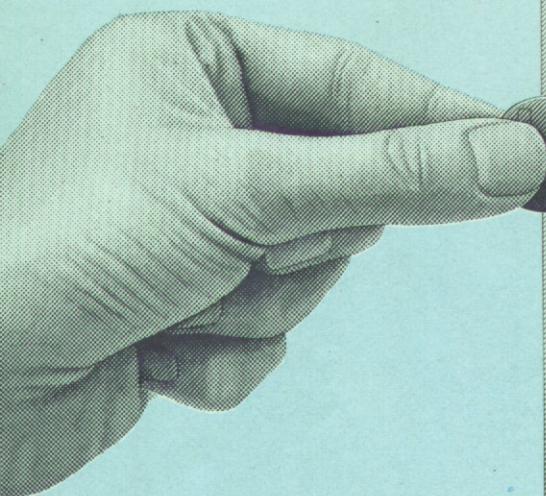
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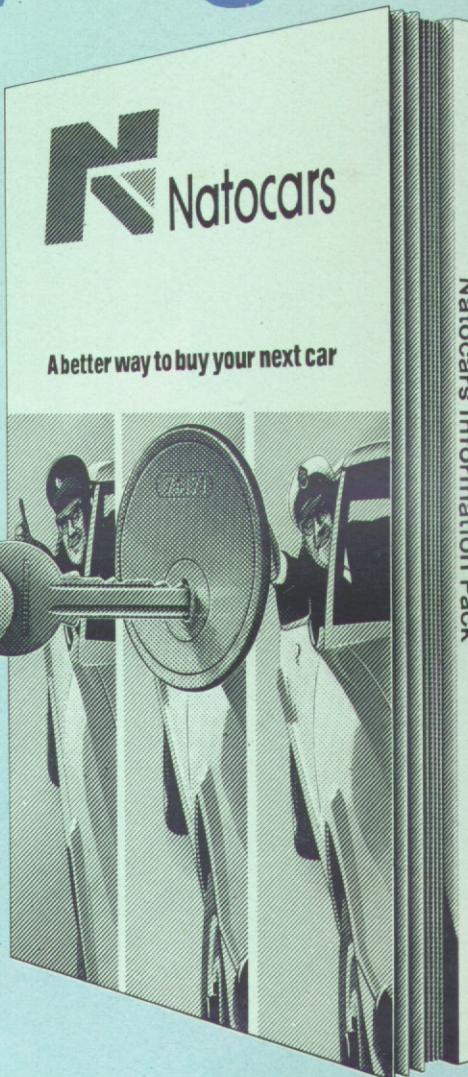
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### 6 Army youth teams disband

Generations of youth have benefited from youth teams' help. Now these small units of enthusiasts have been axed — communities feel the loss.

### 19 The Army's soldier-sailors

Not only matelots brave the briny. The Army has its own navy whose members enjoy a unique form of service.

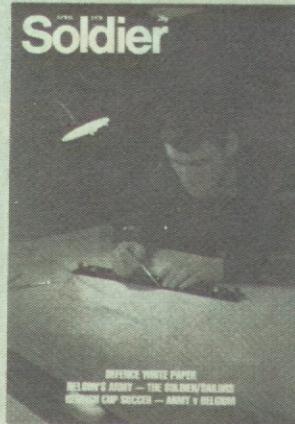
### 35 BFBS TV expansion in Rhine Army

As Phase Two comes into operation in November, British TV programmes will be available to many more Service homes in BAOR.

### FRONT COVER

In the chart room of HMAS Ardennes, Warrant Officer 2 Bill Havad, of The Maritime Detachment, Royal Corps of Transport, plots a course under simulated night conditions.

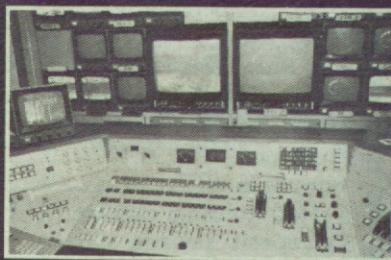
Picture: Doug Pratt.



### BACK COVER

Rangers of 1st Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, firing the Combat anti-tank weapon on the ranges of the Eastern Sovereign Base Area during the unit's tour in Cyprus.

Picture: Doug Pratt.



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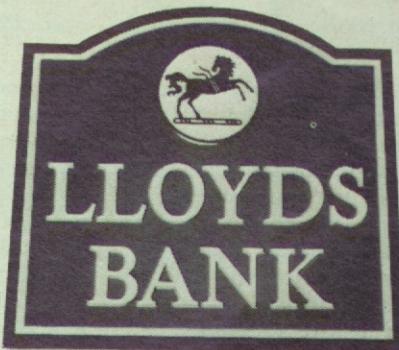
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# ARMY YOUTH TEAMS BOW OUT



Story: John Walton  
Pictures: Paul Haley

A THICK FILE lay on the desk of the staff captain at the Directorate of Army Recruiting. Its contents — letters from educationalists, youth club leaders, local authorities and just ordinary individuals lamenting the passing of Army youth teams, a section of the Army which has perhaps done more than any other in recent years to cement friendships between the Army and the civilian population.

The 79 Army youth teams, each comprising an officer or warrant officer and four non-commissioned officers, were dotted around the country to give a wide coverage of each of the Army's ten districts. Their disbandment, from the end of March 1978, will save £500,000 a year in operational costs. But the main reason for the decision is the need to transfer to areas of higher priority the skilled and experienced soldiers in the youth teams.

The Army youth teams were raised in 1964 to encourage young people's interest in soldiering following the demise of National Service and at a time when there was doubt whether the Services would be able to recruit sufficient volunteers.

The regiments and corps from which team members were picked were as far as possible those in whose recruiting areas the teams were based. And the teams rapidly made their mark on those areas by helping schools

and youth organisations and taking youngsters out hill-walking, canoeing, mountain climbing and on other adventurous pursuits.

Until last year the AYT charter called for them 'to assist groups of young people in character-building activities, both indoor

Above: Army youth team instructors take some Cadet Force hikers through moorland snow.

Below: Sergeant Dennis, of the Sheffield Army Youth Team, shows the way on an assault course.



and outdoor, to inform them about life and conditions in the Army, and by doing so encourage those of the right calibre to make the Army their career.'

But for the last year of their life this was altered to a more direct recruiting aim, 'to contact young people and encourage those of the right calibre to join the Army by assisting them in character building activities, both indoor and outdoor, and demonstrating Army skills and methods.'

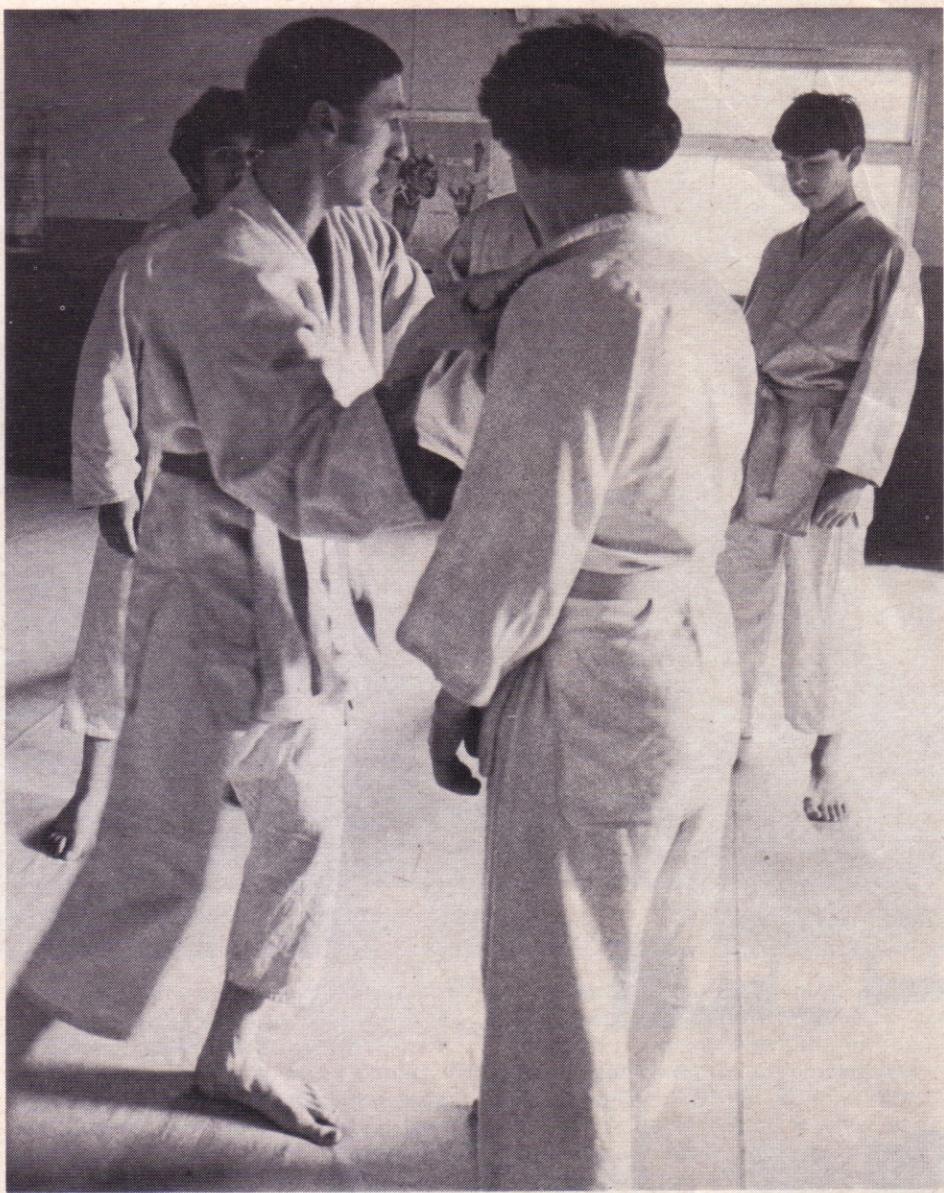
The new charter noted that while the teams could not normally be used as a direct recruiting agency, they were a component part of Army district recruiting organisations. As such they were to be used at all times in the best interests of recruiting — consideration of their social value was not to obscure their primary purpose.

In many areas the disappearance of the Army youth teams will mean the last Regular Army presence has also gone. In the rugged Yorkshire steel city of Sheffield only a careers information office remains now that 12 AYT has disbanded and its five men of 13th/18th Royal Hussars have rejoined their regiment in Northern Ireland.

In the dying weeks of 12 AYT's life, SOLDIER visited Sheffield to see the work of the team from 'Yorkshire's own cavalry regiment' and to assess the gap they would leave behind them.

Mr Albert Winter is a bluff, no-nonsense Yorkshire industrialist. During his busy life he has been a soldier, a prisoner-of-war (with Mr Fred Mulley, currently Secretary of State for Defence) and in more recent times a steel company sales director and vice-president of Sheffield and District Chamber of Commerce. He is also a past-president of Sheffield Rotary Club, which for the last ten years has been running summer camps for under-privileged Sheffield lads out at Castleton in the Peak District. And the AYT has helped out.

Said Mr Winter sadly: "This is going to be felt very heavily by the Rotary Club and



Above: Judo is one of the many sports schoolchildren were introduced to by youth teams.

Below: A friendly snowball fight between Army instructors and hikers rounds off a day's trek.



it's going to be a lot more difficult to run our camp this year. We are all older businessmen and when it comes to activities that are glamorous to boys, like canoeing and climbing, we just will not be able to cope unless we can find some other professional help.

"We got on like a house on fire with these Army chaps. I've tried to run this camp on semi-military lines and to get a sense of discipline in the boys and it has worked because we have had young fellows here in Army uniform."

The five members of 12 AYT were

Lieutenant Robin Bell, Sergeant Dennis Williams and Corporals Malcolm Pickering, Paul Walker and Alan Thompson. They are familiar figures in schools and youth clubs throughout the Sheffield area. Said Lieutenant Bell: "As soon as we walk into some of the schools in this area a cry goes up of 'Hey up — Mr Army Man.' We are probably the only soldiers they ever see. The schools are really going to miss us." Apart from Lieutenant Bell, all the team are Yorkshiresmen — a great advantage in an area where accents can be incomprehensible to outsiders.

During the winters, 12 AYT kept up a regular programme of school visits, training children in trampoline, fencing and judo. Evenings were spent with youth clubs and weekends with local Army cadets.

Allied to the disbandment decision was a move to increase the size of cadet training teams from four to seven men. But there are only 34 of these around the country and the geographical area they have to cover is greater.

Lieutenant Terry Scrivens, commanding F company, The Hallamshires, a cadet unit based at Rotherham, near Sheffield, told SOLDIER that 12 AYT had helped considerably by taking his cadets out climbing and walking at weekends as well as visiting their drill hall. "The cadet training team just won't find it possible to help us to the same



extent," he said. "This is going to restrict our activities a lot although we will do the best we can to get the lads out at weekends."

Barnsley-born Alan Thompson was teaching judo to some of the cadets. He reported: "This really goes down well with both boys and girls. I teach them the basics and this lights a flame — if they are really interested they go on to join a judo club."

Trampolining instructor Paul Walker said: "We are trained to pass on our skills and what really surprises people is that there is no charge. We often get people coming up to us at shows and asking how much a go on the trampoline costs."

Sergeant Williams recalled that at one time the team had opposition in some schools from physical training teachers who



Far left, top: With a bit of encouragement the youngsters take the plunge in an icy obstacle.

Far left, bottom: Under the watchful eye of a team expert, boys try their marksmanship.

Left: The trampoline is a favourite piece of apparatus for kids to let off steam at play.

Above: Army Cadets are given a lesson in the art of map-reading before setting off hiking.

to their regiment in Northern Ireland and Lieutenant Bell pointed out that the 13th/18th Royal Hussars would benefit. "Inside our regiment now they will have a number of people who have been with this Army youth team," he said. "We should be able to build up quite a good adventure training outfit and we shall be taking quite a lot of good kit back with us."

Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce Beattie, at the Army Careers Information Office, was sorry to see the departure of the only other Regular soldiers in Sheffield. "I'm not sure how we will ever replace them. Their contact with schools and youth organisations has been magnificent. I think it is very sad because not only did they display their own regiment but they were good recruiters for

the Army as a whole. They provided many young people's first introduction to the Army and to outdoor activities which some of them took up for the rest of their lives — now that opportunity will be lost to them."

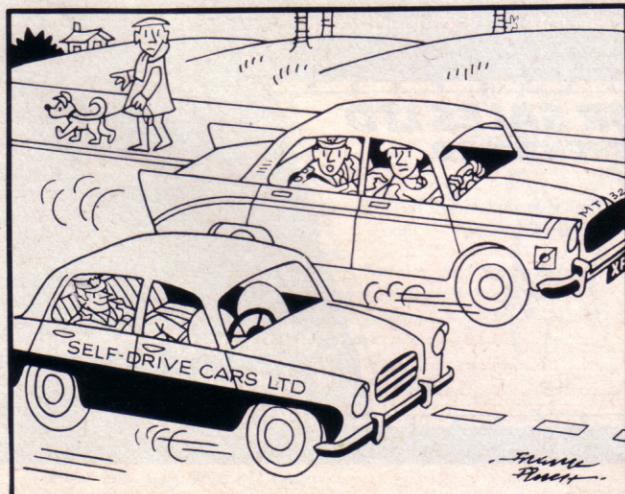
So much for Sheffield. In other areas, where there is still a strong military presence, the disappearance of the Army youth teams may not be noticed so much.

Says the DAR spokesman: "It may be possible to provide some of the facilities from other sources but it is always difficult to replace one highly efficient organisation with another without any time for a hand-over. Particularly in those parts of the country where there is not a particularly strong affiliation, the military is bound to fade somewhat from people's minds."

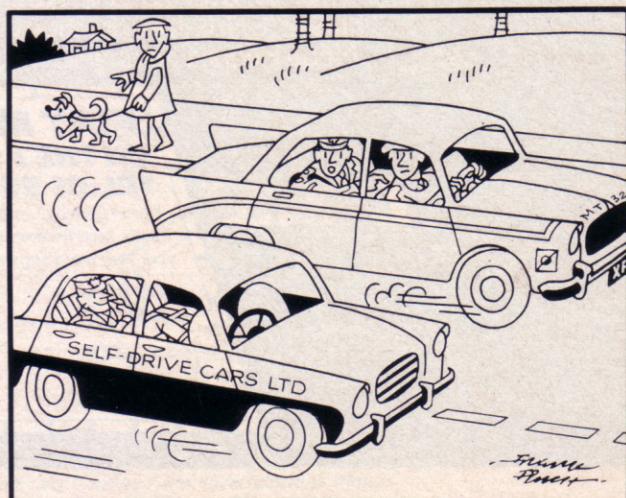
thought the soldiers were taking away their jobs. "But we told them we were only there to help them out with things like trampolining and fencing where we can train children up to bronze medal standard."

All five were looking forward to returning

## How observant are you?



*These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences, see page 40.*





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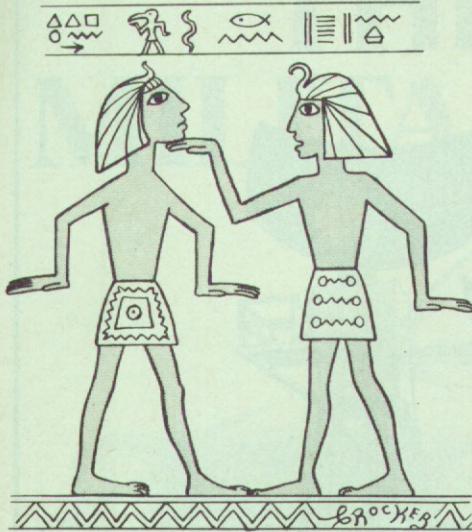
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# Humour



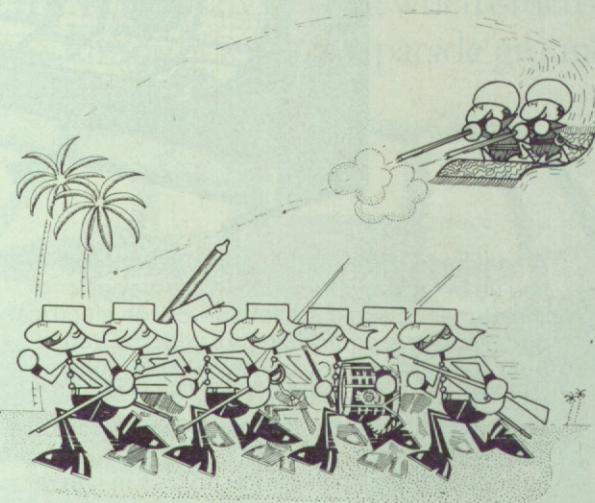
"Get out of that!"



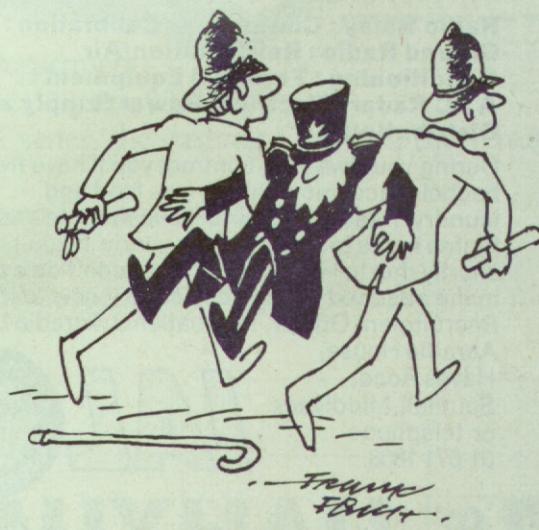
"Do you mind if I cut in?"



"SOLDIER Magazine inquiries? Can you tell me what the qualifications are for wearing the Iron Cross?"



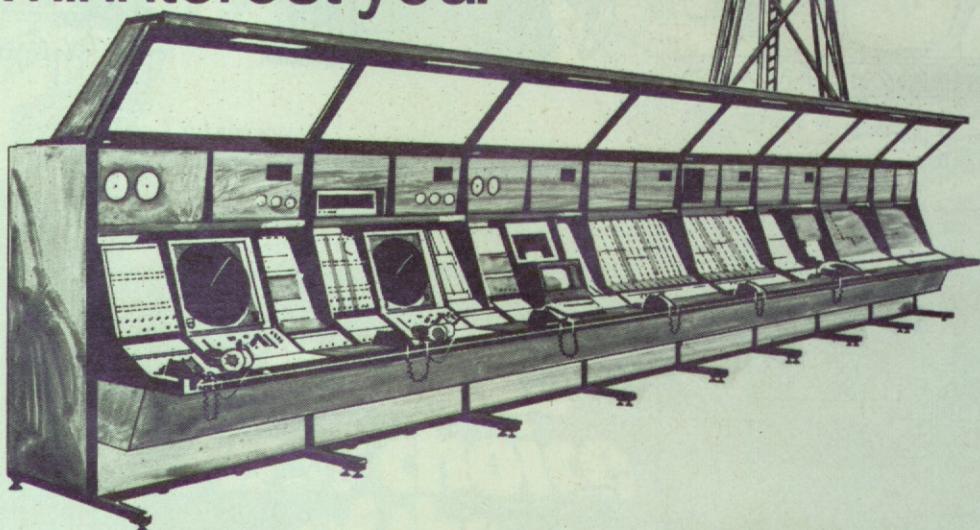
"Wipe that silly grin off your face and look to your front."



"Poor old Chalky — a race relations bloke heard him say 'Fuzzy-Wuzzies'."

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## Junior infantry plant woods of the future

# On the trail of the lonesome pine

IN THE POLDARK books it would have been good wreckers' weather. A fierce wind came howling across the bleak sand dunes, accompanied by mist and drizzle and meeting only the scantiest resistance from coarse, yellow grass and stunted thornbushes.

This was Penhale camp on the north Cornish coast — a place where in summer the Army, mostly reservists, camp out in the midst of a packed holiday area. But in winter, as 68 junior soldiers found to their cost, it can be cold and cheerless.

But the young soldiers, from Shorncliffe at the other end of southern England, were digging away on the hillsides around the camp for a good reason. Their job was to plant 8000 trees at Penhale as the first stage of a project which will eventually turn large areas of the camp into woodland. In one operation Penhale will be screened from nearby holidaymakers and from the fierce sea breezes.

The conservation-type exercise came about when Lieutenant Peter Littlewood, of

the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion, visited Cornwall County Council headquarters. His mission was to see if the boys of Peninsula Company could carry out some public service task during their camp at Penhale.

He met Martin Godfrey, a county council forester who, like Johnny Appleseed, is keen on seeing trees planted in as many places as possible. Said Mr Godfrey: "I got on to the Property Services Agency and they provided the cash to buy the trees. Then we drew up a planting programme which is designed partially to screen the camp on the inland side from the residents and holidaymakers at Holywell and at the same time to give the camp a setting and shelter and make it a more pleasant place for the soldiers who use it."

Much of the ground is sand dunes so the initial plantings have all been of pine. But when these are established in two or three year's time, Mr Godfrey has plans to supplement the pines with broad-leaved trees such as sycamore, ash and birch.

Major Alan Westcob commands the company of boys, who are all earmarked for regiments in The Prince of Wales's Division. The 68 planters were in their second term at Shorncliffe and the camp was held in a period called 'company external activities.' Major Westcob told SOLDIER: "This is left very much to company commanders as to how they want to play it. What they can do is to send them in groups to visit battalions but I think this kind of exercise gives the platoon commanders the opportunity to get to know their lads well because they work as a group and it gets the team spirit going."

The camp was not all tree planting. The boys split into groups and each of them spent time visiting Service establishments in the West Country, going on long coastal walks, trying out surfing (although the weather virtually put paid to that) and visiting a local sports centre. They also cleared a pathway for the National Trust.

There was also a trip to a Cornish lifeboat



Story: John Walton  
Picture: Leslie Wiggs



station, courtesy of one of the junior soldiers, Gary Tate, whose father is Assistant Chief Operations for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Said Gary: "My father fixed up the lifeboat trip for us. As for the tree planting, it was good fun and did not take as long as I thought it was going to."

For another youngster it was something of a busman's holiday. Seventeen-year-old Nigel Morris had previously worked as a gardener. He joked: "When I joined up I thought I'd seen the last of planting trees!"

Everyone was happy about the operation. Said Major Westcob: "The average boy here has been learning that life is not all take and I want a bit of give from them. Now if they come back to Cornwall in a few years' time they will have a sense of achievement when they come and look at these woods."

Mr Godfrey looked forward to further similar exercises: "I've got my beady eye on other Ministry of Defence properties in Cornwall. I want to see what could be planted there."



Top: The young infantry after a two-day trek.

Above: Modest shoot, one day to be a lofty pine.

Right: Tree-planting training for an infantryman.

Left: Battalion commander Lieut-Col S Green.



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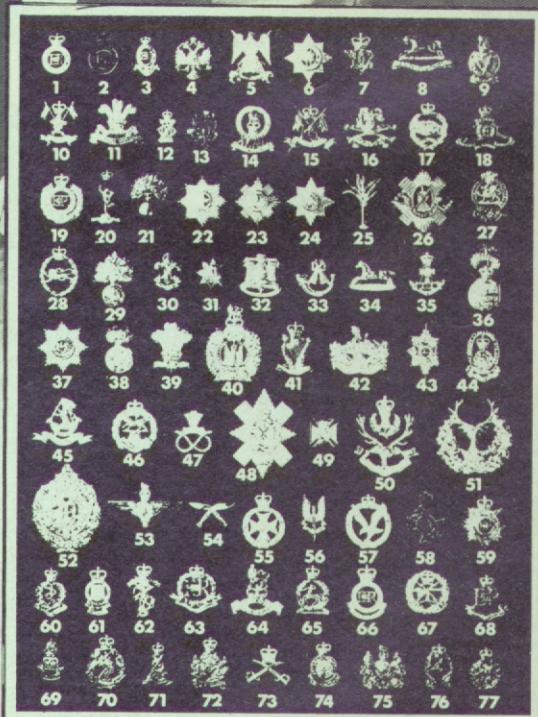
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54. Brigade of Gurkhas
55. Royal Green Jackets
56. Special Air Service Regiment
57. Army Air Corps
58. Royal Army Chaplain's Dept
59. Royal Corps of Transport
60. Royal Army Medical Corps
61. Royal Army Ordnance Corps
62. Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
63. Royal Military Police
64. Royal Army Pay Corps
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# SOLDIER to Soldier

**S**tarting with this April issue, SOLDIER has now taken over distribution to the trade, previously carried out by Her Majesty's Stationery Office. SOLDIER will 'top up,' as required, its supplies to wholesalers and hopes that by so doing there will be no disappointed buyers in the future. If any reader has difficulty in buying the magazine at his stockist — bookshop or newsagent — SOLDIER will be happy to investigate. While on this subject of availability, have you bought your copy yet of the special Silver Jubilee issue, *The Queen and Her Army*? It is available in units at the cover price of 50 pence or on direct individual order from SOLDIER at 65 pence, including postage worldwide.

★

**R**eader Al Fuldsy, of April, New Jersey, writes to ask the origins of the rank stripes worn by non-commissioned officers in the British Army. Happy to oblige, Al.

The Romans first chronicled the stripe in its original form when they invaded Britain in 45BC. They noted that some of the woad-painted warriors who steadfastly resisted the march of civilisation wore one, two, or three painted white streaks on their sword arms. From close inspection of prisoners it was discovered that the streaks were, in fact, made by applying a crude whitewash made from the powdered chalk of their native downland in what is now Kent and Sussex.

Interrogation established that the stripes indicated the number of enemies killed by the wearer. One represented 12 slain, two 24 and three 36. Obviously, since the markings denoted above-average skill in the martial arts, the wearers tended to emerge as leaders of small bands of Britons in battle. Although the Romans rejected the system as barbaric nonsense, it was maintained throughout the generations in British forces and has survived until today in the current form of cloth stripes sewn on to the uniform.

Similarly, the crown insignia of the warrant officer class 2 dates back to the same period when warriors who had killed a chieftain wore bronze bangles depicting a crown. These were decorated with laurel leaves by the wearer during pagan festivals. The warrant officer 1's 'cats and dogs' badge with the rampant lion and unicorn is based on the Ancient Britons' coveted bracelet portraying the bravery of a man who had slain a chieftain, his charger and household animals (living objects of pagan deification and highly prized by tribal headmen).

The origin of 'pips' on officers' shoulders to denote their rank comes from a later date. In the Middle Ages, when every Englishman had to be a proficient archer, their village burgesses would encourage them in the following way. To prove their own bravery as well as improve the aim of

the archers, the burgesses (who often led their villages in war), would place horsechestnuts on their shoulders for the bowmen to aim at. We hope the foregoing answers Mr Fuldsy's question.

★

**W**ritten orders rarely rival the Boys' Bumper Fun Book for hilarity. But a chuckle may be forgiven when reading an order announcing the UKLF Tickle Fitness Competition, named after the late Mr A B J Tickle who served in the Army during both world wars. The scheme is not to tone up the muscle by poking a comrade in the ribs, but to encourage physical fitness and personal swimming survival. The competition begins on ... wait for it ... 1 April.

★

**A**utograph hunters would have a field day if they could lay their hands on the Army's visitors' books. Of course most of the books in messes are filled at a rapid pace by fairly mundane visitors such as junior officers and SOLDIER staff! But the book at the Ordnance Supply Depot in Aldershot is still going strong after 75 years — and it really is a gallery of the famous. First name in the book is that of King Edward VII and he is followed by King George V (three times), Queen Mary (four times), Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and other royalty.

Famous soldiers include Lord Roberts, Earl Haig, Sir John French, Field-Marshal Montgomery and Maréchal Foch. And in 1916, the year before the Russian revolution, the visitors included Count Alexis Tolstoy and other Russian dignitaries.

The most amusing entry is more recent — written by a group from a foreign army. They recorded for posterity: 'We visit the UK Army in Aldershot. We find a nice systemes and that it a vere cleen place and good managers. That is meen that the pepole work her they do all their best at all time.'

Part of the tradition of the depot, now a far smaller place in terms of manpower than in days of yore, is that the red-bound visitors' book is passed from officer commanding to officer commanding and remains under his personal protection.

★

**L**ast month's SOLDIER to Soldier, which was devoted to a talk by Lieutenant-General Sir John Archer on the British Army's Gurkhas, serves as a timely reminder of the work of the Gurkha Welfare Trusts, the address of which is Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W1X 6AA. The Trusts do for Gurkha ex-servicemen and their dependents what the Army

Benevolent Fund does for British ex-servicemen, in providing grants or pensions to Gurkhas and their dependents who need help. The need for prompt assistance is, however, usually very great in the Gurkha recruitment hill areas of Nepal because of the high incidence of natural disasters, particularly the landslides which carry away houses and farms at a time.

There is no way of insuring against such disasters or against fire in the thatched houses, nor is there as yet any form of public welfare aid or any other charitable organisation which can come to the rescue.

The Gurkha ex-servicemen who can benefit from the Trusts are those who have served in the Brigade of Gurkhas since 1948 and the surviving volunteers, now growing old, of World War Two service. The majority of these went home to the mountains without pension, because of their comparatively short service; disablement pensions are relatively small and have not kept up with inflation.

When the Brigade of Gurkhas Welfare Scheme was set up in Nepal in the early 1960s with contributions of one day's pay from all serving officers and soldiers in British Gurkha units, help was given first to former members of the Brigade.

Later, after a successful appeal in the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries, the Gurkha Welfare Trusts were set up and help offered to all ex-service Gurkhas in need who have ever served the British Crown.

Last year the Trusts sent £92,500 to Nepal, the same amount as in the previous year, but the sum produced in local currency was less, because of the lower value of sterling, and did not go as far because of inflation.

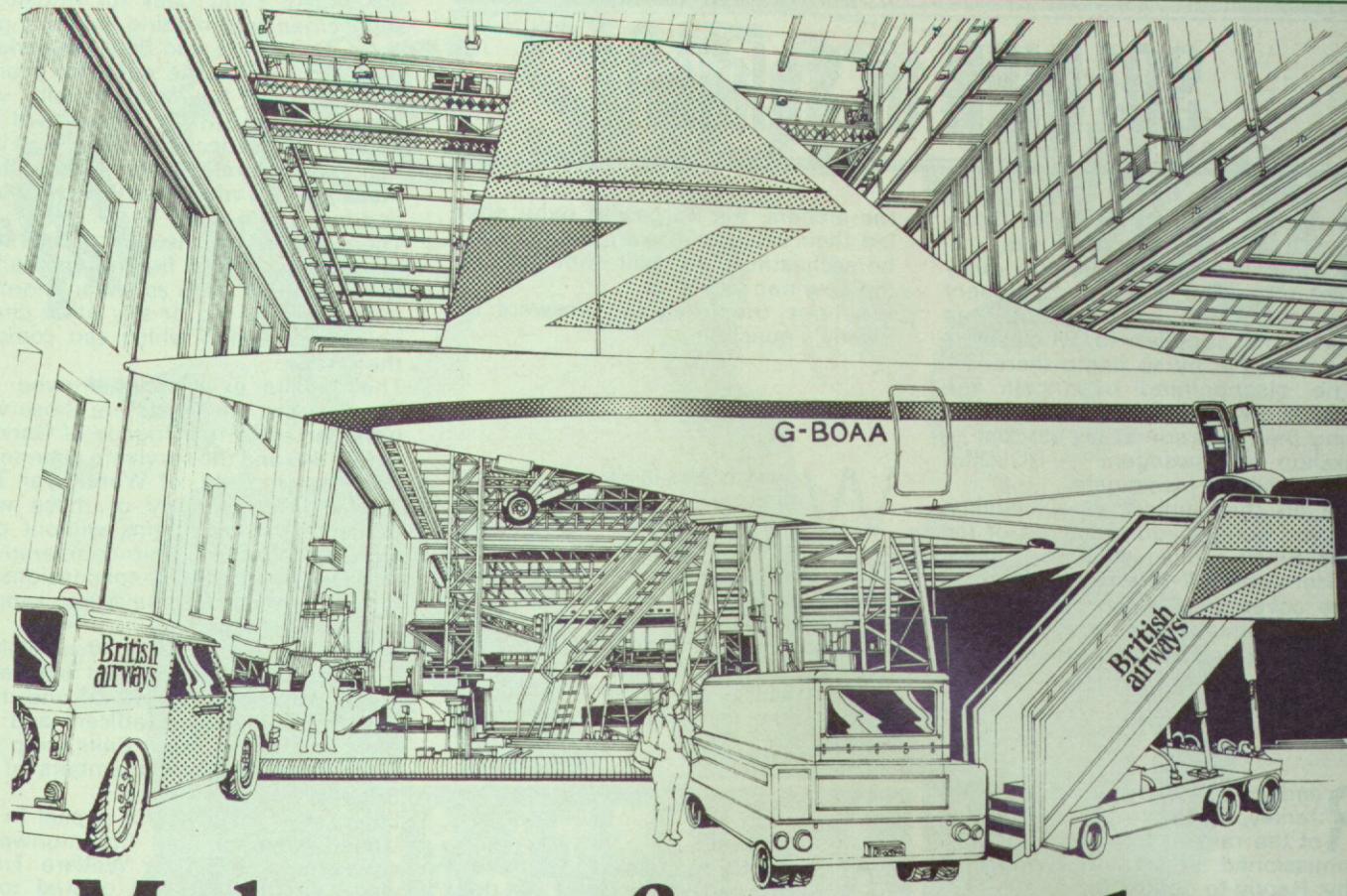
The Trusts are therefore anxious to increase the yearly contribution to ensure that the money disbursed is not less than in previous years and, if possible, to do more for the older warriors and dependents of World War Two.

★

**N**ew designs in the ranges of regimental drum ice buckets and pewter figures are listed in SOLDIER's Reader Services on pages 29-30 of this issue. Also added to the list is the museums guide marketed by SOLDIER on its stand at last year's Army major displays.

This year, incidentally, there will be a full stand at the Aldershot Army Display (public days 23-25 June) and at Catterick Army Display (7-9 July). The museums booklet, published by the English Tourist Board, provides a quick guide to corps, regimental, Services and special museums in the United Kingdom with opening times, location, telephone number and a brief reference to each collection. The museums are listed alphabetically by place names and located on a map. The museum guide costs 40 pence, including postage worldwide.

For those who would not want to miss it, the 1978 Army Calendar is still available, at the reduced cost of 45 pence, again including postage worldwide. SOLDIER's latest Easibinder, while of the same size and design, varies slightly from its predecessors in its covering material and shade of red. The changes were dictated by costs.



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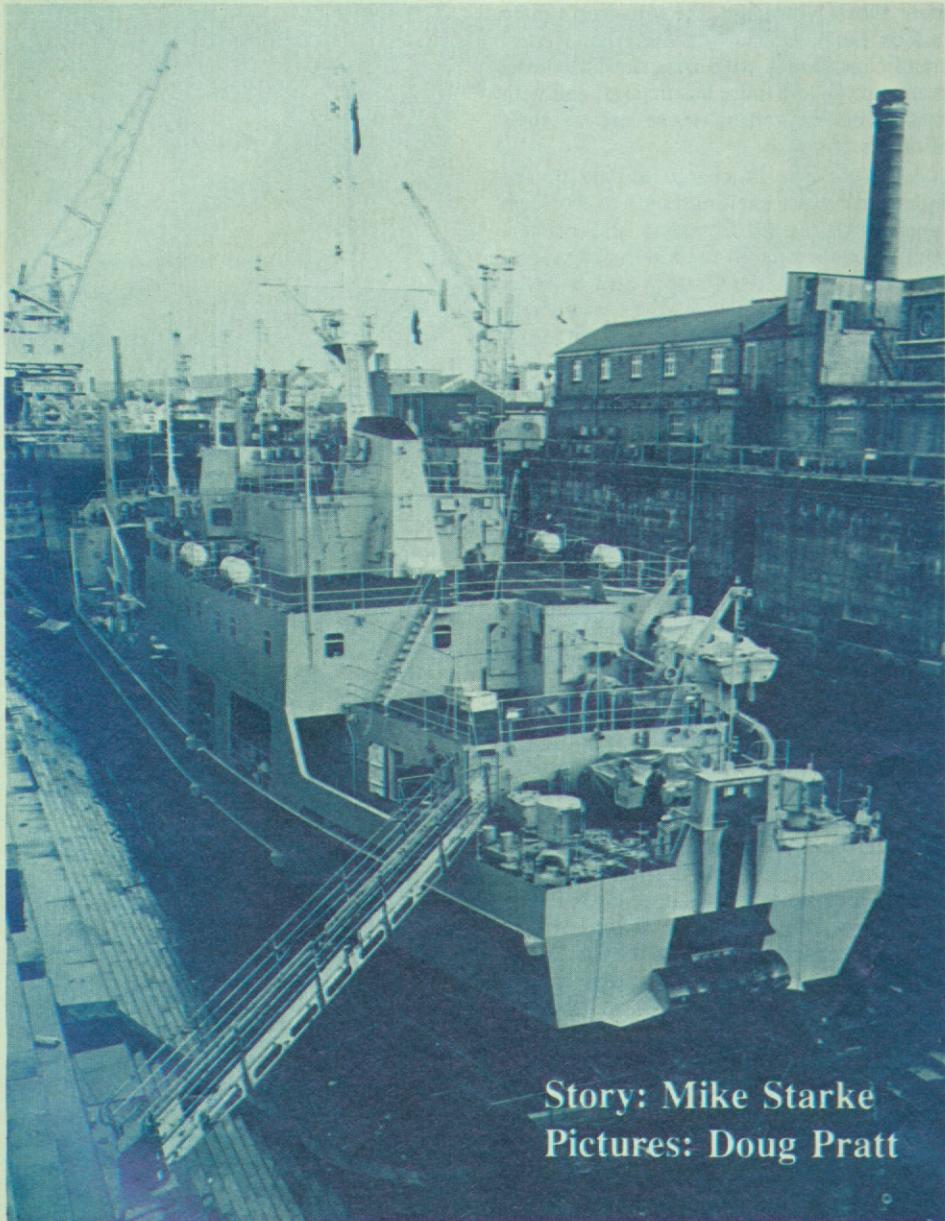
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Story: Mike Starke  
Pictures: Doug Pratt

Meet the Maritime Detachment's soldier - sailors, plying the high seas in . . .

# 'NELSON'S ARMY'

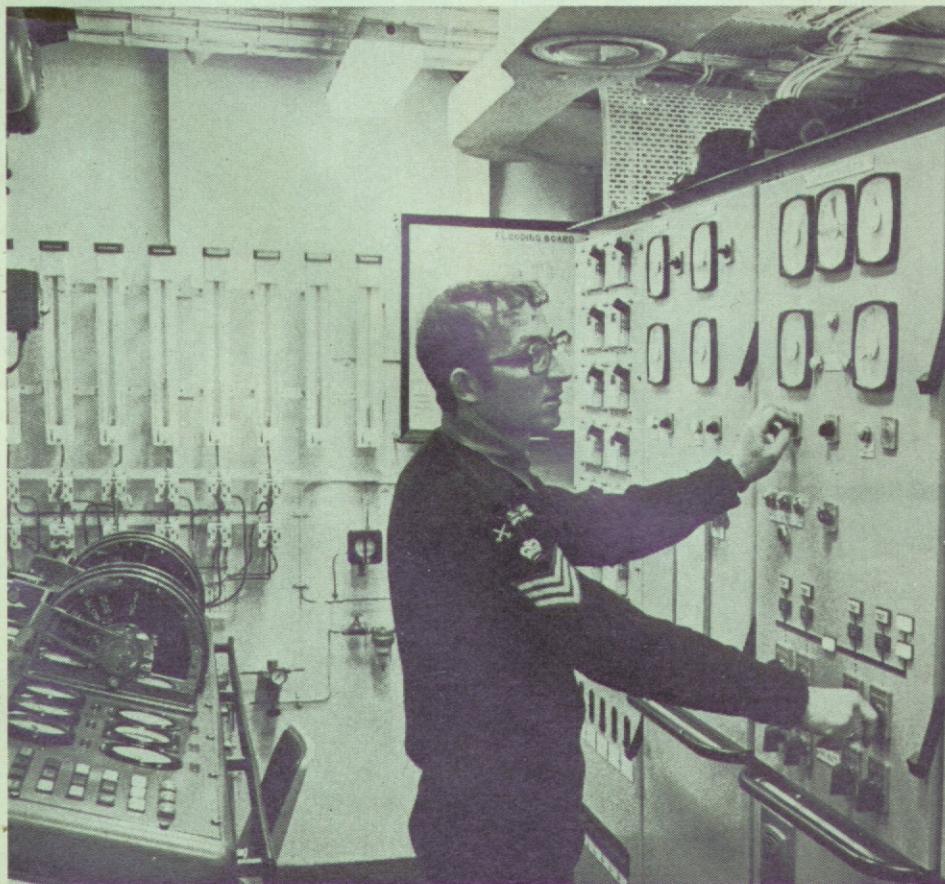
THERE IS ONE REGIMENT in the British Army that's all at sea. And if it were not, it would not be doing its job properly. That regiment, The Maritime Detachment, Royal Corps of Transport, runs a fleet of support boats and ships in what has been described as 'Nelson's Army.'

In war and peace, the 178 soldier-seamen and 185 civilians who make up the Maritime Detachment are kept busy with up to a dozen different roles. Eyeing the formidable list, the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Street, said: "What that says is — our ships do everything."

Mainstays of the work are maritime support for United Kingdom Land Forces, logistic support for the Royal Artillery ranges in the Hebrides, maintaining a cargo service to Rhine Army, and range clearance and safety tasks for coastal ranges around Great Britain where the sea is used as an impact area.

Among the other jobs are offering training support for both the Regular and Reserve Army, reconnaissance of ports and beaches (the unit has two diving teams of its own),

Top: The brand new Ardennes having finishing touches added to her in Portsmouth dockyard.  
Left: Staff-Sergeant Peter Nichol at the up-to-the-minute console of Ardennes' controls.  
Below: Lance-Corporal Richard Timms has the wheel on the Ardennes' gleaming new bridge.



and providing support for civilian authorities moving difficult loads from time to time around the coasts of Britain and Europe. It is also currently helping the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, with development of sonar buoys.

Pride of the fleet is the new landing craft logistic (LCL) *Ardennes*, only recently commissioned and described as 'the largest and most expensive bit of kit the Army has ever owned.'

But there is no doubt that the fleet pays its way. Take for example the ageing landing craft tank (LCT) *Agheila*, currently used on Defence Sales tasks delivering tanks to the Middle East — and saving the country some £210,000 a month in shipping fees. This saving is expected to climb to £400,000 a month in the near future.

The Maritime Detachment is organised as a regiment with three squadrons. The first is known as Fleet Troop, 18 Maritime Squadron RCT. Largely civilian manned, this squadron operates more than 25 small craft in four flotillas, one of which consists of the LCT *Agheila*.

Here is to be found the very latest addition to the fleet — the sleek range safety launch *Samuel Morley*, a 15-metre Talisman craft powered up to a top speed of 20 knots by its two eight-cylinder Rolls-Royce engines. The well-upholstered bridge and comfortably-appointed cabin make this boat the envy of the soldiers working alongside the civilian crews.

The squadron is the oldest part of the unit whose present form dates back to 1956 when it became apparent there was a need for a uniformed logistic support service for the Army. The Royal Navy, emphasising its role as a strictly fighting force, was unable to provide the necessary cover.

But Fleet Troop can trace its roots back even further — way back to 1812 when its forefather was formed as the War Depart-

ment Fleet. Nowadays, the squadron's main task is range safety — a task that is constantly increasing with coastal waters containing more and more leisure craft and with coastal ranges getting more use as their numbers diminish.

A corporal is in charge of one of the squadron's most exciting boats to work on — the Atlantic 21 fibreglass and rubber-pontooned safety craft used in the Hebrides. This can be required to work five to seven miles from land in Force Seven winds and has a top speed of 30 knots. Remembering his own experiences in it, Colonel Street recalled: "It's very exciting in a Force Seven. It does your nerves no good at all!"

The Maritime Detachment's two other 'squadrons' are made up of two LCLs — the *Ardennes* and *Arakan* — with the 34-year-old tank landing craft *Audemer* until her honourable retirement soon after a heavy workload that has increased, rather than decreased, in recent years.

These larger ships are manned by servicemen and run weekly container cargoes to and from Marchwood Military Port and Antwerp to service Rhine Army with goods and, more recently, vehicles. The LCTs (there are still three old Mark VIIIs running) take on the job of re-supplying the Hebrides ranges from the mainland once a week, although one trip in bad weather at the end of last year took 17 days. Coastal 'tramping' voyages are also taken on.

The new LCLs, at 241 feet long with a speed of ten knots, are manned by an Army crew of 25 and carry 32 passengers, a 520-ton load or 36 containers. Even the old LCTs are capable of taking 32 containers.

There are no fixed working hours for the crews — time and tide wait for no man. And 'weekends' fall mid-week, which can be inconvenient for wives and families but, as Colonel Street pointed out, there was "no mutiny" when last year produced a workload of 46 weekends, excluding bank holi-



Top: Checking bearings on board *Ardennes*.  
Above: *Audemer*'s boat crew at Jubilee Review.  
Below left: RCT's newest boat, *Samuel Morley*.  
Below: Navigation is taught to Army sailors.





Above: Samuel Morley's skipper, Mr Bill Farmer.  
 Top right: Audemer dresses overall at Review.  
 Below: Maintaining a Johnson outboard motor.  
 Bottom left: Audemer at Jubilee Fleet Review.  
 Bottom right: Making fast to come alongside.



days.

Currently the old LCTs are working harder than ever in their 34-year lives, contributing to the ships' 80 per cent availability for last year. In the case of 18 Maritime Squadron, an extremely high 78 per cent availability was maintained.

There is never a shortage of candidates to join this unique corner of the Army and soldiers come to the detachment's home in St George's Barracks, Gosport, from basic training in Aldershot as members of the Royal Corps of Transport, to train at the co-located Maritime Division Maritime Wing of the Army School of Transportation.

Here the would-be soldiers-sailors are given a grounding in matters maritime from knots and splices to galley cooking before emerging as seaman B3. After a year they can graduate to seaman B2 and navigators are selected from them. A corporal or lance-corporal can gain a navigator A2 qualification and then go on to achieve his navigator A1, entitling him to skipper a boat. Warrant officers go on to become ocean watchkeepers — in the only Service where the post is not that of an officer.

Running parallel with the seaman's side are courses in marine engineering — there are more technical stores on a boat than in an infantry battalion.

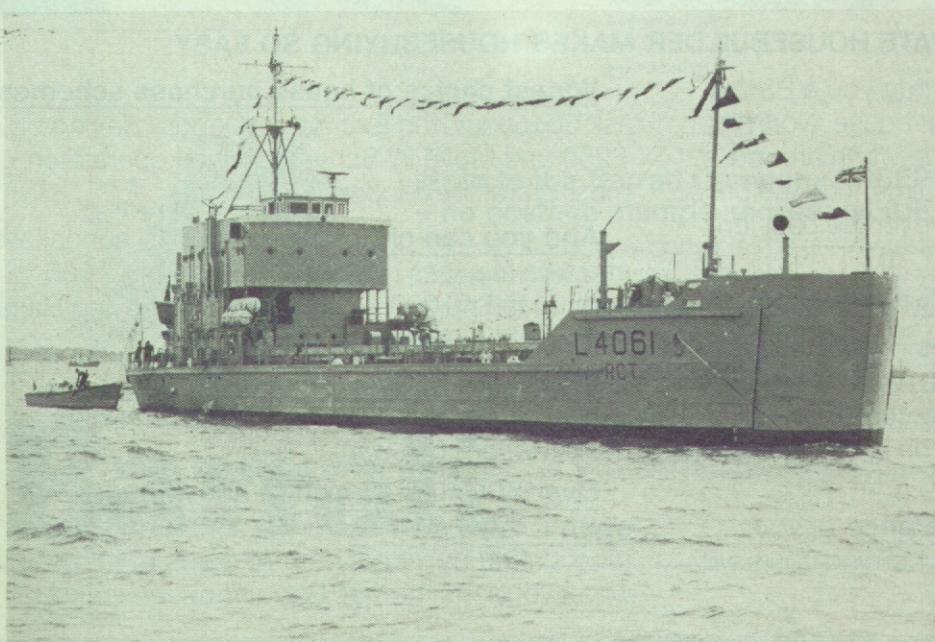


One of the chief attractions of this branch of the Service is that an officer aged 22 to 25 years can be in command of his own vessel "with nothing between him and God," as Colonel Street put it. A similar command in the Royal Navy would be taken by a man of about 38.

This is one of the answers men of the Maritime Detachment give to the question: 'Why didn't you join the Royal or Merchant navies if you wanted a career in boats?' Other answers cover a variety of reasons. First, you can 'do your own thing.' The unit attracts an intelligent, individualistic kind of soldier who responds to the heavy responsibilities demanded of working with those hardest of task masters, the wind and the waves.

The unit is in business to run small boats, not big ships like the Royal Navy, and here you are not lost in a crowd. A lance-corporal or corporal can find himself commanding a small boat in coastal waters. It is a regiment of enthusiasts with a belief that command in it can be as satisfying as command of a whole division of troops.

Colonel Street summed it up: "It's like the water rat said in 'The Wind in The Willows' — 'There's nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats!'"



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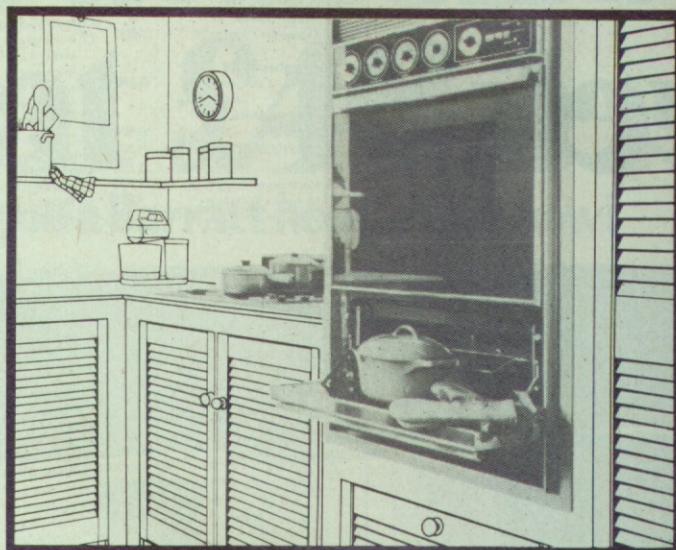
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<input type="checkbox"/> East Dereham—Beeley	11,100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heacham—Lodge Rd	9,800	
<input type="checkbox"/> North Walsham—Yarmouth Road	10,950	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tasburgh—Church Rd	*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thetford—Cedar Gdns	10,750	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thetford—Blakeney Rise	*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Norwich Stoke—Holy Cross	*	
<b>Northamptonshire</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Brixworth—Ashway	9,850	
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bedlington—Bever Gr	8,850	
<input type="checkbox"/> Darras Hall—Ashbrooke	30,300	
<input type="checkbox"/> Darras Hall—Queensway	*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Darras Hall—Western Way	*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heddon Village	30,500	
<b>Shropshire</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Whitchurch	*	
<b>Somerset</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Milbourne Port—Gainsboro	10,750	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wedmore—Mendip Vw	19,950	
<b>Staffordshire</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Uttoxter—Byrds Lane	8,000	
<b>Suffolk</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bury St Edmunds—Northgate Avenue	10,700	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bury St Edmunds—Glastonbury	10,550	
<input type="checkbox"/> Needham Market—Chain House	10,900	
<input type="checkbox"/> Northwold—Gawthorpe	8,495	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ossett—Westwells Rd	13,995	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ossett—The Green	9,450	
<input type="checkbox"/> Shipley—Brafield	9,995	
<input type="checkbox"/> Steeton—Thornhill Rd	11,350	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wakefield—Crofton	8,550	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wakefield—Pottovens	12,150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wakefield—Sandal	12,850	
<b>Tesside</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Darlington—The Links	*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Darlington—Haughton	*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Darlington—Manor Pk	15,500	
<input type="checkbox"/> Billingham—Orange Pk	9,950	
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaglescliffe—Coatham	*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Guisborough—Kempshah Pk	9,150	
<input type="checkbox"/> Marton—Dene Park	15,500	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stockton—Elton Park	9,950	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stockton—Elton Park	9,950	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yarm—Ingleby Grange	13,500	
<b>Wales—North</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Prestatyn—Crud y Craig	6,950	
<b>Wiltshire</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wootton Bassett	9,350	
<b>Worcestershire</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Redditch—Oaklands	*	
<input type="checkbox"/> Redditch—Tree Tops	*	
<b>Wales—South</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Harrogate—Fairways	7,595	
<input type="checkbox"/> Harrogate—Forest Vw	9,250	
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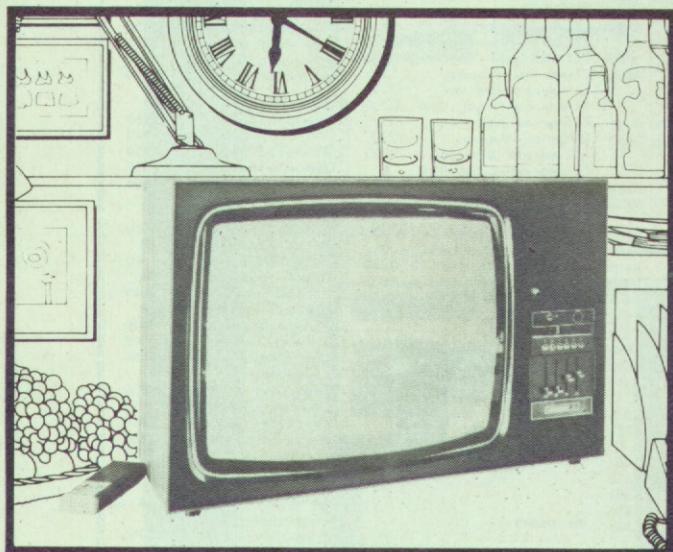
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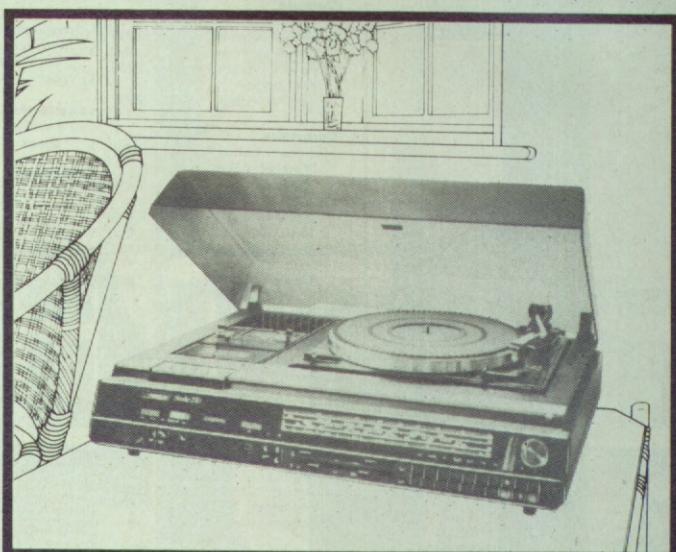
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# Soldier news

## Army improved—White Paper

Britain's Nato-committed forces have been improved, according to the latest Defence White Paper, yet defence spending, as a proportion of overall Government spending, continues to fall.

The defence budget for 1978-79 totals £6,919,000,000 — about 4.75 per cent of the gross domestic product, compared with 4.9 per cent last year and 5.1 per cent in 1976.

About half of the 1976 cuts were made to equipment, which last year saw an increase in spending. This year equipment's share of the budget jumped from 37 per cent to 40 per cent.

According to Nato, Britain spent last year a higher proportion of her defence budget (21.8 per cent) than any of the other 11 allies on major new equipment.

Only 26 per cent of the £2,184,000,000 that will be spent on new equipment will be specifically

for the Army. Thirty-one per cent will go on ships and weapons and 34 per cent on aircraft and weapons. The rest is for general support.

On production and development, the White Paper mentions the work in hand to maintain and improve Chieftain into the 1980s. Two more variants in the tracked combat reconnaissance vehicle series, Striker (carrying the Swingfire anti-tank weapon) and Sultan (the com-

Turn to NEWS 2

## End of an era



Yet another era has ended for the Army with the withdrawal of 'funny money' from Berlin.

Funny money, Naafi money, Mickey Mouse money, Bafs, or British Armed Forces Service Vouchers as they were properly called, have finally been phased out in Berlin and the garrison will now be paid in Deutschemarks through local banks.

BAFSVs were introduced in Germany in 1946, primarily to stop Servicemen profiteering on the black market. These special vouchers were valid only in British Service organisations and it was an offence for soldiers to use them to buy goods from people not authorised to use British canteens.

They were peculiar to Germany, although there was a limited circulation for a short while in Korea. Elsewhere the British Government printed and distributed currency but this was to help local economies and was available to civilians and soldiers alike.

The vouchers were withdrawn from British Army of the Rhine in 1959 but continued to be used in Berlin up to this year. Denomi-

nations were £5, £1, 50p, 10p, 5p as well as new penny coins as in UK. Servicemen in Berlin are now being encouraged to open German bank accounts, which they were unable to have while the vouchers were in circulation.

Sergeants Adam Fleck and Bob Walton of the Royal Signals in Berlin show they have money to burn by using one of the last ten pence vouchers in circulation to light up — after opening their new bank accounts in the city.

## Generals fight the flab

Stringent new fitness tests for everyone in the Army are to be introduced this month in a bid to keep all soldiers from privates to generals fit to face any operational task at any time.

All men and women under the age of 50 will now be required to pass a basic fitness test twice a year. The tests have been introduced as a result of recommendations made by a working party.



## Cost of the strike

A bouquet for the Queen from six-year-old James Thompson of Newtownards, Co Down. Her Majesty was attending the royal premiere of 'Four Feathers' (see SOLDIER, March).

James is the son of Ranger Hugh Thompson, Royal Irish Rangers, one of two servicemen killed when their 'Green Goddess' overturned on the way to a fire call outside Manchester just before Christmas.

The premiere was in aid of SSAFA.

The report showed that soldiers reached their fitness peak at the end of recruit training. The aim of the fit-to-fight programme is to maintain this peak to the age of 30 and beyond.

The tests, graded to suit different age groups, will be conducted by Army Physical Training Corps instructors. Men under 40 will be required to run and walk one-and-a-half-miles in 15 minutes as a group and then, immediately afterwards, a further one-and-a-half-miles individually in 11½-12½

minutes, depending on age. Over-40s will have more time to complete the test or may choose a diagnostic step test instead of the run.

Servicewomen under 40 will take a modified form of the step test, and those over 40 may opt for a two-mile walk in 28 minutes.

And it means more training and exercising — some probably in a soldier's spare time. The Ministry of Defence estimates that under-40s will need to carry out at least one-and-three-quarter hours' fitness training a week.

# 'Improvement in Warsaw Pact readiness'

Continued from NEWS 1  
mand vehicle), will soon be entering service.

The towed 155mm field howitzer — FH70 — will begin to enter service this year and development is continuing of the SP70 self-propelled version. The helicopter-borne anti-tank guided weapon TOW will enter service with the Lynx helicopter in the early 1980s, and delivery of the initial batch of Milan has been accelerated.

The new combat engineer tractor will enter service this year and development of Supervisor, a battlefield surveillance and target acquisition system, is continuing. Supervisor is based on an unmanned miniature helicopter, the prototype will make its first flight this spring.

Development is continuing of a trailer-mounted radar — Cervantes — to locate rocket launchers and mortars.

Deployment of the all-weather DN181 blindfire tracking radar, for Rapier, will begin early this year, and studies are being carried out on further improvement to the air defence missile system.

Development of a thermal-imaging night-sight for Swingfire, the long range anti-tank guided weapon, is continuing. Discussions



have also started with France and West Germany for a third-generation long-range anti-tank guided weapon.

A man-portable anti-armour weapon to replace the 84mm Carl Gustav recoilless rifle and 66mm M72 rocket is being looked at and Nato technical trials to select a stan-

dard calibre for future small arms have begun. The British 4.85mm automatic rifle and light support weapon are in the running and the results should be known by the end of next year.

The bar mine anti-tank mine is now in service and work began last year to develop additional fuzes to extend its operational application and improve resistance to countermeasures. The off-route mine and the Ranger scatterable anti-personnel mine will enter service later this year.

In July last year an electronic warfare regiment joined 1 (BR) Corps. Most of its equipment will be British, but some is being bought from France. Improvements in electronic warfare capability are under consideration.

A range of low mobility vehicles — a basic cargo carrier, with tipper, fuel tanker and recovery variants — is proceeding and an eight-tonne medium mobility load carrier which, with its variants, will form the backbone of the Army's future logistic fleet, has been chosen.

The Ptarmigan tactical trunk



Combat engineer tractor

## Bar minelayer in action

communications system to replace Bruin has entered final development stage. Ptarmigan has been designed to conform with standards agreed in the communications sub-group of the Eurogroup so that future trunk systems can be fully inter-operable.

Trials are to be carried out in BAOR of Wavell, a new command and control automatic data processing system. If these trials are successful it is planned eventually to equip all formation headquarters in 1 (BR) Corps with Wavell.

Two new logistic landing craft have been launched. HMAV Ardenne was commissioned last December and HMAV Arakan will be commissioned this August. These vessels will provide peace time logistic support to the Hebrides and logistic support for reinforcement in Europe in war.

The White Paper notes a 'significant increase' in the number of trained officers and soldiers who applied for premature voluntary release from the Army in the first six months of 1977-78. The Army's redundancy programme will be completed in 1979-80, although by December 1977 some 820 officers and 3500 soldiers had been selected for redundancy, all except seven officers and 134 soldiers being volunteers.

Manpower reductions imposed after recent management and spending reviews at the Ministry of Defence should bring savings approaching nine to ten per cent of the 1974 headquarters numbers by April 1979. But 'the intention is to find further economies by the early 1980s.'

The White Paper's comparison with Warsaw Pact countries makes the usual depressing reading. Despite the addition of French forces — not officially assigned to Nato — the allies still have less than half as many tanks, artillery and tactical aircraft in Central Europe as behind the Iron Curtain.

In Central Europe the increase since 1968 includes 31 per cent in tanks, 38 per cent in artillery, 79 per cent in armoured personnel vehicles and 20 per cent in tactical aircraft. The ratio in main battle tanks and artillery is unchanged since the last breakdown in 1976.

But these assessments do not reflect two areas of concern for the West — the state of readiness of Warsaw Pact forces in Europe which has recently been improved, and the continued introduction of new equipment.

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# New demo battalion formed

The Army is to be increased in size by 1900 men this year. Details of the increase, which will take the manpower level to 166,300 by 1979, were given by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Fred Mulley, in a House of Commons reply to a question from the Liberal defence spokesman, Mr Emlyn Hooson.

Mr Mulley said the extra men would be retained to compensate for the effects of continuing emergency commitments, especially in Northern Ireland. This would make it possible to provide personnel to fill command and administrative posts in Northern Ireland without depleting the rest of the Army.

Mr Mulley revealed that in addition a new battalion would be formed from the infantry as a whole to take over a training role.

"As a result the number of units available to undertake emergency unaccompanied tours will be increased and the training and operational readiness of Nato-assigned units will be improved."

SOLDIER understands that 1250 of the men will be required to compensate for the filling of command and support organisation posts in Northern Ireland. They will be used to top up battalion strengths reduced by the taking of men for these posts.

The extra battalion, to be enrolled by September this year, will be the demonstration battalion at the School of Infantry, Warminster. This task has previously been done by infantry battalions on rotation. The new arrangement, with men supplied from all infantry regiments, will leave an extra battalion on call for emergency commitments.

And any fears that the new Warminster battalion might take either all the best or the worst soldiers from the different battalions have been allayed in that it is designed 'to represent the infantry as a whole.'

The Royal Green Jackets and The Light Infantry regiments are to provide about 150 men from their battalions, almost a quarter of the new unit. They will serve together as a company of the new battalion. To help provide the extra soldiers, the Royal Green Jackets and The Light Infantry are intensifying recruiting in Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

The new battalion will take over from 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, which will join 2nd Armoured Division in BAOR this summer.

Officers and men will continue to wear their regimental badges though there may be a common shoulder

flash incorporating a bayonet, the crest of the School of Infantry.

Service in the battalion is likely to be welcomed by family men because it will enable the troops to spend two years in one place without being sent on the unaccompanied tours performed by normal infantry units.

Up to a short while ago the battalion consisted of only two men — the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Caiger, of The Staffordshire Regiment, and his adjutant, Captain James Barry, of The Royal Irish Rangers.

The two 'midwives' are standing in front of rows of armoured personnel carriers which the Demonstration Battalion will take over.



## Flowers for granny



Toddler Kelly Merritt was not even born when the Aldershot bombing killed her grandmother six years ago.

The 50lb bomb went off in a car parked outside 16th Parachute Brigade officers' mess and was intended for airborne officers as

retaliation for 'Bloody Sunday' in Londonderry. In fact it killed five women, a gardener and a padre.

Shortly afterwards a simple plaque was erected in Aldershot and then, when the mess was finally pulled down, the plaque was rededicated on the site in Arnhem Bar-

racks, which will now be kept as a Garden of Remembrance.

The plaque was rededicated by Padre Paul Mears, chaplain to 6th Field Force — the descendant of 16th Parachute Brigade — and the Reverend Stanley Zeal, chaplain to the Mayor of Rushmoor.

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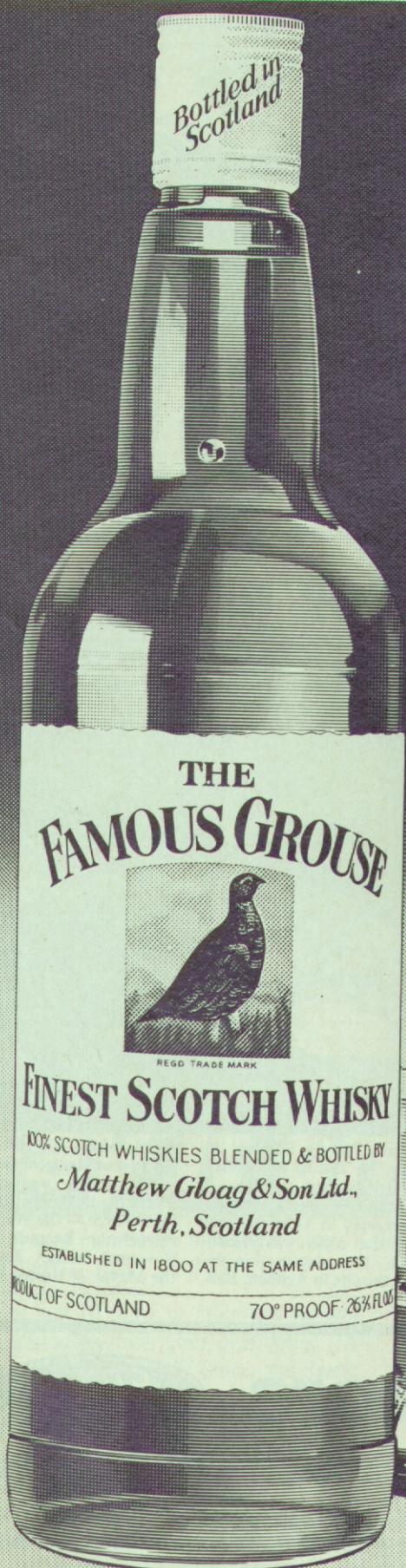
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## Junior entries now, please

Every two years junior units have the chance to compete for the Earl Wavell adventure travel award, created in memory of Major the Lord Wavell to encourage adventurous training, and worth £75.

A junior entrant should plan and implement an expedition and submit an outline of the proposed activity which should take place during the August leave period.

The purpose of the award is in keeping with the emphasis placed on adventurous training, requiring initiative, endurance and determination. The last two successful units were the Light Infantry Depot at Shrewsbury, which in 1974 charted some of the marshes on Dartmoor, and the Army Apprentices College, Harrogate, which in 1976 carried out a survey of Ailsa Craig, the island off the Ayrshire coast.

All junior units have received invitations to submit entries by 5 May to Headquarters, United Kingdom Land Forces.

## Another Gazelle first?

What is believed to be the first Army Gazelle helicopter ever to land on a Leander class frigate moves in for touchdown on the flightdeck of HMS Cleopatra.

The Army Air Corps' Hong Kong-based 11 Flight took advantage of the warship's visit to the Far East colony to practise its pilots in deck-landing techniques as the ship exercised at sea after a month-long Christmas stop-over. Three aircraft took part in the exercise.

The Gazelles of 11 Flight are now the only Army Air Corps aircraft based in the Far East, where they provide air support for the Hong Kong garrison.

The flight believes that while Gazelles serving with the Royal Marines have operated from ships, this was the first occasion on which Army aircraft flown by Army pilots, who are not normally trained in deck-landing techniques, had landed on a frigate.

It is probably only the second or third occasion on which any Army Gazelle has landed on a ship, although British-based aircraft have operated from Royal Navy aircraft carriers.



## *A soldier is a soldier, is a soldier ...*

Underneath the uniform most soldiers all seem to have the same interests, whether general or private, British or Romanian.

Here, a party of four Romanian officers watches officer cadets of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on the firing ranges and it is obvious that they are keenly interested in the results.

The Romanians were in Britain on a flying four-day visit and although they spent most of their time at Sandhurst — they are all involved in officer training in Romania — they still made time for a little sightseeing before returning home.

A party from Sandhurst will make a return journey this June.



## Medics treat hijack injured

When the shooting started during the Larnaca airport hijacking in Cyprus, one of the first emergency medical crews on the scene was from the new medical reception station at Dhekelia.

Would-be rescuers from Egypt were fired on by Cypriot troops who had ringed the hijacked plane and, even before the shooting had died away, Corporal Bob Jordan, Royal Army Medical Corps, and Corporal Myra Wilson, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, had driven on to the body-littered runway to treat the injured.

The call for help came in the evening when Corporal Wilson was at home having her evening meal, but the ambulance quickly rounded up the pair and with their standby

emergency treatment box then left for Larnaca.

On arrival, and with the help of a guide, the ambulance went on to the airport tarmac to help treat the wounded. There were still plenty of armed men around but most of the shooting had stopped although the Egyptian Air Force Hercules aircraft was still burning.

The ambulance made two journeys to Larnaca civil hospital with casualties before being stood down in the early hours of the morning.

## Show of grace

A graceful silhouette by 11-year-old Sally West shows how she became a Southern Counties gymnastic champion.

Sally and her friends from the Fox Gymnastics Club gave a display during the Women's Royal Army Corps Centre 'Show 78' at Guildford. International gymnast and club coach Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Jimmy Wilson (right) compered the display.

Featured in Show 78 were the WRAC Staff Band, members of the Arborfield Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and Roundabout, the Army's champion group.

## Soldiers' memorial

An appeal for £35,000 has been launched for a soldiers' memorial in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral which already houses the Duke of Wellington's sarcophagus.

The memorial will be formed from ten plaques round the walls of the chamber, each plaque commemorating a distinguished soldier who was created field-marshal during or immediately after World War Two.

The list includes Viscount Alanbrooke, Earl Alexander, Sir John Dill and Viscount Gort. The plaque to Viscount Slim is already in position and was sponsored by the Burma Star Association.

There will also be two dedicatory plaques in the chamber showing that the memorial is intended to commemorate all — British, Imperial and Allied — who served with the field-marsheals in war.

No public funds are available for the memorial, so the cost rests entirely with the public. Donations should be sent to 'Commemoration of Great Soldiers Fund,' Williams and Glyn's Bank, Holt's Branch, Kirkland House, Whitehall, London SW1. Cheques should be made payable to 'Commemoration of Great Soldiers Fund.'

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## Sponsored splash-in

A dozen girls proved quite a headache for Staff-Sergeant Les Donkin for they all wanted to go over the recruits' obstacle course at Wyvern Barracks, Bulford.

The girls, from Salisbury College of Technology, had a target of £50, for which they had been sponsored if they all completed the course. And with a little help from Les, who is an Army Physical Training Corps instructor attached to 32 Guided Weapons Regiment, Royal Artillery, they managed to do just that.



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The abolition of the Army youth teams after 15 years' service was a matter of serious concern, said Mr Neville Trotter (Conservative, Tynemouth) in an adjournment debate.

Mr Trotter said the teams had been a great success, providing threefold benefits to the Army. They had helped in recruiting, had improved the Army's image and provided excellent experience for the soldiers in them.

Quoting from "a host of testimonials," Mr Trotter said a youth club spokesman had written that without the teams many youth clubs

package of measures that had to be taken, such as the replacement of single-Service recruiting offices with combined offices wherever possible. Forty-three recruiting offices were due to close by this April.

Mr Brown said they had looked at the possibility of reducing the size of the teams or maintaining a smaller number. But cuts of sufficient size to yield the required saving would have reduced their strength so much they could no longer have performed a meaningful task.

Even such a small number as 293 men released to operational units from Army youth teams would make

(can) Boeing Vertol Chinook aircraft with a British avionics system based on equipment that was or was about to become standard in the British service. Provisional terms for the purchase of 30 aircraft, which were subject to US Government approval, had been agreed with Boeing.

A total of 269 Army captains left the Army prematurely at their own request last year, Mr Brown told Sir Ian Gilmour (Conservative, Chesham & Amersham). This compared with 171 in 1976.

Dr Gilbert told Harrogate's Tory MP, Mr Robert Banks, that in

Lord Goronwy-Roberts said the Government believed that the only satisfactory way of limiting the worldwide build-up of conventional arms was by multilateral agreement between suppliers and customers. Pending these, the Government thought it right to continue to export limited quantities of defence equipment to friendly countries under strict controls. The exhibition would play a small part in this process by demonstrating the types of equipment available.

Mr Robert Banks asked Mr Brown if he could set out the arrangements for meeting the social

# IN PARLIAMENT

"will revert to the dreary old routine of darts and shove ha'penny competitions, discos and quizzes. Gone will be the wholesome and worthwhile activities for many organisations."

Mr Trotter said a particular aspect of the youth teams' work had been the help they had given to the young unemployed. The head of a comprehensive school had said that "the school's outdoor activities would otherwise have been impossible had it not been for the Army Youth Teams' expertise. The work they do is aiding the fight against boredom and apathy among impressionable people."

An Ulster authority had spoken of "the vast amount of good work the Army youth teams did and the even greater extent of the influence they had and impetus they gave youth work in the Province, which will be sadly missed."

Mr Trotter asked why the teams were being disbanded when they were leaving a clear void and when all concerned in civilian life agreed they were irreplaceable?

The answer was really simple, he said — it was as a result of the Government's axe. The total annual cost was only half of what the country could afford to give to support the Marxist regime in Mozambique.

Mr Trotter suggested that at least part of the cost should be borne on the Civil Estimates. It was false economy to cut down by abandoning the teams.

Appealing for a reprieve, Mr Trotter declared: "To apply the axe to the Army youth teams is a shabby and ill-considered act, destroying a most important youth support group."

The Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, Mr Robert Brown, said that the Army had been well aware of the goodwill won by the Army youth teams and the disbandment decision was taken only after long consideration and with the greatest possible reluctance.

However there were pressing reasons, in particular the paramount need to find savings and, most important of all, the need to find extra trained manpower for areas of greater priority, particularly in the combatant branches of the Army.

The defence review had made it necessary to reduce recruiting expenditure in the three Services by nearly £3,000,000 in this year and by a further £3,000,000 next year. Therefore the disbandment decision was only part of a much larger

a significant difference, especially as a high proportion of the men were officers or non-commissioned officers and all were very highly trained.

Mr Brown said there was no pleasure in disbanding such a worthwhile organisation. A correspondent had said that the goodwill they achieved was "beyond price."

Declared Mr Brown: "Unfortunately in the present circumstances goodwill is not beyond price — far from it."

It was not the Army's intention to allow the goodwill to evaporate without vigorous efforts to preserve it. The cadre training teams would continue some of their work, servicemen would be encouraged to continue the work on a voluntary basis and commanding officers would be encouraged to open their facilities, such as shooting ranges and assault courses, to outside organisations when they were not in use and the necessary manpower was available to run them.

Dr Gilbert told Mr T Skeet (Conservative, Bedford) that there were 38 surviving Victoria Cross holders from World War One, 63 from World War Two and five from other campaigns.

In the Lords, Viscount Maserenee and Ferrard (Conservative) asked if the Government would reconsider its refusal to legislate to make the licensing of crossbows compulsory. The Minister of State, Home Office (Lord Harris of Greenwich), said they had no evidence that crossbows had been used for serious crime or that they were misused to any significant extent. A licensing system would impose additional burdens on the police, disproportionate to the scale of the problem.

A list of 30 Commonwealth, colonial and foreign armed forces with which British servicemen are currently serving, was given by Dr Gilbert to Mr Stan Newens (Labour-Co-operative, Harlow). The top six, in terms of numbers, are the United States (197), Oman (196), Kuwait (107), Brunei (101), Australia (91) and Iran (69). Belgium, Ecuador, Italy, Mauritius and Nepal have one man each.

Mr Edwin Wainwright (Labour, Dearne Valley) asked about progress towards meeting the Army's requirements for medium-lift helicopter support. Mr Mulley said the requirement had been reassessed and it had been concluded that it should be met by the (Ameri-

1976-77 more than 95 per cent of unaccompanied baggage moved on behalf of individual servicemen between the United Kingdom and overseas destinations was by commercial means.

Mr Robert Banks (Conservative, Harrogate) asked for confirmation that servicemen who purchased cars in Rhine Army did not receive duty allowances for the time they were absent in Northern Ireland even though the car remained in Germany.

Mr Brown agreed this was so but said that a serviceman who failed to qualify for relief from car tax and VAT on an imported car because his overseas service had been interrupted by emergency service in Northern Ireland, could claim a refund from Ministry funds of the amount paid, provided that he purchased the car not less than 16 months before the planned end of his tour in BAOR.

Mr Fred Mulley provided Mr Winston Churchill (Conservative, Stretford) with the gross weekly pay of various ranks in the armed forces of Nato members.

This showed the highest weekly pay of a lieutenant to be £165 in Luxembourg compared with £77 for the United Kingdom and £46 for Greece. For a private, Denmark came top at £122 against £52 for the United Kingdom and £10 for Italy.

Mr Mulley said that various forms of overtime were paid in Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway.

An upsurge of interest among people eligible for medals from World War Two was reported by Dr John Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence. He told Sir Bernard Braine (South East Essex) that some 12,000 applicants were still awaiting their medals. The waiting time for the Army was about two years.

He continued: "Priority is given to the issue of medals to personnel who are currently serving and to the processing of applications for World War One medals. Financial constraints rule out any possibility of taking on extra staff at the Army Medal Office, but I hope that there may be some improvement in the situation following a recent reorganisation."

In the Lords, Lord Hylton asked how the Government's attitude at the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament was to be reconciled with its sponsorship of the second British Army Equipment Exhibition at Aldershot next June.

work requirements previously undertaken by the WRVS in Rhine Army. Mr Brown said they would in future be undertaken from within unit resources.

A total of 4878 soldiers bought themselves out of the Army in 1977, Mr Brown told Mr Brotherton.

Mr Arthur Lewis (Labour, Newham North West) asked for details on the number of immigrants or natives of the New Commonwealth who had entered the three Services. Dr Gilbert said the Ministry of Defence did not keep records of that nature.

Moving the second reading of his Armed Forces (Repossession of Dwellings) Bill, Mr Churchill said he was trying to remedy the hardship, inconvenience and cost imposed by the 1974 Rent Act on those members of the armed forces who were owner-occupiers.

The serviceman was frequently posted away from his home and this left the married owner-occupier the choice of leaving his home empty and bearing the cost as well as that of a married quarter; separating from his family and leaving them at home while paying the additional cost of single accommodation; and letting his home.

In the latter case the serviceman found he was paying tax on any rent received and in most cases the residue was insufficient to pay the cost of the married quarter rent. Most of all, the owner experienced extreme hardship when a tenant refused to leave after being given notice of repossession.

Members of the forces were now to be relieved of the heavy financial penalties arising from the Rent Act but this did not make his Bill unnecessary, said Mr Churchill. By allowing servicemen to be on the same footing as those in agricultural holdings, resident owner-occupiers, those in houses belonging to the Crown, those in local authority housing associations or housing co-operatives — in other words by being in an unprotected tenancy — the repossession process would be speeded up.

The Under Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Ernest Armstrong, expressed surprise at Mr Churchill's "extravagant language." He said the problem did not arise from the 1974 Rent Act at all. "There is a problem when someone — not only a serviceman who works overseas and does a valuable job — returns and wants to take possession of his home . . ."

# Croydon's seal of approval

A long and sometimes turbulent connection between Croydon and the Army stretching back to before the Napoleonic Wars has been cemented by the borough's adoption of the four remaining units in the town.

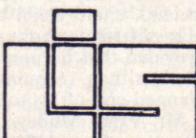
A special parade — thought to be the biggest in the town for 25 years — marked the adoption by the borough of the four, Yeomanry, signals, parachute and transport Volunteer units.

On parade were C (Kent and Sharpshooters) Yeomanry Squadron, The Royal Yeomanry, with their Guidon leading their brand new Fox armoured cars; 41 (Prin-

cess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron, of 31 (Greater London) Signal Regiment (Volunteers); 2 Company, 10th (Volunteer) Bat-



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talion, The Parachute Regiment; and 151 (Greater London) Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport (Volunteers) — the unit with the longest association with the borough, going back to 1908.

Also on parade were the Staff Band of the Royal Corps of Transport and the band of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, supported by the band of The Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court and City Yeomanry) at the saluting base.

The parade, at Mitcham Road Barracks, was inspected by the Mayor of Croydon (Councillor Robert Coatman) who complimented the Volunteers on their turnout. Councillor Coatman also took the salute outside Croydon's Fairfield Hall and presented a scroll to each unit.

As well as the Yeomanry's Foxes, the parade included Land-Rovers of the parachute company, complete with mounted machine-guns, and the heavy vehicles of the RCT Volunteers.

All four units have a Nato role, and as well as their venerable flat-fronted AEC trucks, the transport regiment also had on parade up-to-the-minute Foden petrol tankers and Eager Beaver tractors.

One man who caused quite a stir on parade was Driver Tarlochan Singh Thanjal, one of the few soldiers left — either TAVR or Regular — to wear a turban. Driver Thanjal wore his turban in RCT blue, and said as far as he knew it was one of only two in the Army. Coincidentally the other turban is also worn by a Sikh in his unit, 240 Squadron based at Slough. Driver Thanjal, a test engineer in civilian life, has been two years in the TAVR.

Despite the cold weather the parade attracted more than 5000 Croydonians obviously impressed by the TAVR turnout. Two hundred years ago the locals might not have been cheering, but booing.

According to Captain Malcolm Smith, of 151 Transport Regiment, at that time, Croydon, then a thriving market town, was handily placed

as a billet for the suppression of domestic disorder in London and also for the southern ports.

In Croydon, as in most billeting towns, the presence of soldiers was unwelcome, not least because the many innkeepers were not reimbursed as generously as they would have liked for their unwanted guests. In 1759, Lord Ancrom's Dragoons were ordered out of the town by a harassed War Office so that the 30 or so innkeepers could make a profit during the annual fair.

The Royal Corps of Transport can trace its history in Croydon back to 1801 and the ill-fated Royal Waggon Train headquartered at Mitcham Road Barracks.

The Waggon Train had a false start between 1794 and 1797 in the disastrous Flanders campaign when it earned the nickname of the Newgate Blues because of the standard of men in its ranks. But at least this short-lived unit proved the need for properly organised logistic support and, after 1801, Waggon Train units were sent from Mitcham Barracks to serve in the Peninsula campaign and at Waterloo.

But their main impact, so far as Croydon was concerned, was that they were the first unit to attempt publicity exercises in the town. The Waggon Train saw the need to 'Keep the Army in the Public Eye' and organised its own band which included 'fine black men who played necessary instruments, viz drums, cymbals, tambourines, triangle and bells. Their fine statures and picturesque dresses corresponding between a Turk and a Zouave, wearing short red jackets embroidered in gold, very loose trousers and high Turkish turbans.'

The Waggon Train soon moved from Croydon and was disbanded in 1833, but Mitcham Barracks remained as a military centre.

Since then there has always been an Army presence in the town, albeit predominantly TAVR, and although roles and units have changed over the years, the good feeling worked up by the Royal Waggon Train all those years ago obviously still remains.



Top: One of the Yeomanry's Fox armoured cars at the saluting base.

Above: Turbanned Driver Thanjal fixes his bayonet with his regiment.

# Silly muggers!

Two Hong Kong muggers picked on the wrong women last October when they tried to rob an Army nursing sister and her companion.

The fight put up by Major Stella Mary Fitzpatrick, from the British Military Hospital, and Mrs Roddy Carpenter, WRVS representative with Headquarters British Gurkhas in Nepal, resulted in one of the thieves being arrested and the two ladies each being presented with Hong Kong's Good Citizen Award.

Major Fitzpatrick and Mrs Carpenter were returning to their car after an evening shopping expedition in Kowloon when they were attacked from behind by the robbers. The two assailants knocked Mrs Carpenter, who was in Hong Kong on leave, to the ground and snatched her handbag, but then found they had to fight off an irate Major Fitzpatrick before they could escape.

"I was more furious than frightened," said Major Fitzpatrick, who suffered a broken bone in her right hand during the fight.

The awards, worth the equivalent of £120, are presented by the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce.

Mr Leslie Gordon (centre), chairman of the chamber presented the cheques to the two ladies in a ceremony at Hong Kong's British Military Hospital, where Major Fitzpatrick is sister-in-charge of the maternity unit.



## What a find

A Cyprus schoolboy's mudlark has uncovered a piece of bronze age history.

Two boys from Ayios Nikolaos Primary School, Martin Cowland (11) and Jonathan Lindsey (9), were exploring an earth bank after heavy rains had washed away the sub-soil. Martin spotted what he thought was a ladle, but after digging around the embedded object it became apparent to the boys that it was a beautifully decorated pot.

Word spread like wildfire and soon several children were busily digging. Several pots, a bowl with an eye-hole, some bones and part of a human skull were uncovered. The next day the children brought their finds into school where their teacher, Mrs Pat Collins, displayed them.

The teachers, including the head-teacher, were sceptical about the children's claim that it was bronze age pottery, but Alan Grave, of the Cyprus British Forces Broadcasting Service, who is an amateur archaeologist, agreed with the children. He said the objects were late bronze age — about 1500 BC. He called in an expert from Nicosia Museum who confirmed that the pieces were in fact early bronze age and who dated them about 2000 BC.

The pots are now in Nicosia Museum being fully restored. Even in their present state they are beautifully glazed with superb ornamentation. The schoolchildren have been invited to visit the museum and because nothing of this type has been discovered in this part of the island they may have added a little footnote to Cyprus history.

Picture shows the children pointing out their treasures to museum expert Mr Sophocles Hadjisavvas.



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## Small boat to Greenland

Volunteers are being called for to join a ten-man Army Canoe Union expedition to North West Greenland next year.

The expedition will be a return journey for Sergeant John Bull, now of the Adventure Training Wing at Rington, who was the only Army member of a four-man team which covered the same ground — or water — in the North Wales Kayak Expedition '77.

Sergeant Bull's exciting report on his team's adventures in Greenland, the equipment used, meetings with Eskimos and a full diary of the journey, are available from him at Rington, Yorks, price 75p. He also has details of next year's trip.

## Forces art

There is still some time left for entries for the 47th annual exhibition of the Armed Forces Art Society, to be held at the Mall Galleries, London.

The exhibition, from 13 to 21 April, is open to anyone in the forces, or ex-service. For entry forms and particulars, contact the honorary secretary, Colonel E L I Vulliamy, Meyricks, Blanford Road, Reigate, Surrey.

## Charity run

Just over £600 has been raised for the National Kidney Research Fund by six soldiers who ran 100 miles a day for a week.

The men were all from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Employment Training School, Deepcut. The run took place last September and each man ran two stretches of ten miles each day with one man in reserve.

Now the men are planning another run, this time of more than 1000 miles, from the East German border through Belgium and, after crossing the Channel, from Dover to Deepcut.

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# King of nosh



So far as the US Army is concerned, Major 'Tank' Nash of the Army Catering Corps is the king of nosh.

For Major Nash, who served for two years with the US Army as an exchange officer, has been commended by the Americans for the impact he made on the US Army Culinary Arts Team.

Under his direction the team achieved the highest standard of performance experienced by the Army to date in national and international competitions, said Major-General Fred C Sheffey, Commanding General, US Army Quartermaster Centre, Fort Lee, Virginia.

"Major Nash greatly enhanced the professionalism of the staff and faculty of his department," said General Sheffey.

The commendation was presented (above) by General Sir Patrick Howard-Dobson, Quartermaster-General and Army Catering Corps Colonel Commandant.

During his tour, Major Nash served as Chief, Culinary Skills Division, and was responsible for training 4500 cooks a year.

His ten-man culinary arts team, which included two British warrant officers, WO1 David Dodd, and WO2 Bob Smith, won a total of 35 major awards at the Chicago Culinary Salon last year.

"I had a great time out there," said Major Nash. "There was only one real problem. Whenever I went to a function in an hotel I had to wear mess kit — and if I'd taken a dollar for every American who asked me to carry his bags I'd be a rich man by now."

## General is handed a rocket



It's not often a lance-corporal in the British Army gets the chance to give a general a rocket — but a Somerset soldier has done just that in Berlin.

Twenty-year-old Lance-Corporal David Frampton, the youngest soldier on the general's staff, was chosen to present a German Panzer rocket as a farewell gift when Major-General Roy Redgrave, commanding the British sector, left the city to become Commander British Forces, Hong Kong. Corporal Frampton, who comes from Taunton, Somerset, has been serving in Berlin for only three months but he made light work of his latest responsi-

After firefighting...

## Troops mobilised on blizzard relief

First it was fires, then came the snow, and finally floods — and during each potential disaster the Army was there, saving lives and livestock and protecting the community.

The snow came shortly after operations rooms had been closed down from Operation Burberry, the nation-wide firefighting campaign. But in certain parts of the country those operations rooms were quickly opened again to fight the new threat.

First hit by the worst blizzard in 30 years was the North of Scotland where man-high snowdrifts completely paralysed roads and even railway lines. Then the bad weather moved south, crippling Somerset, Dorset and parts of Hampshire and Devon.

Initially the only troops on the ground were as much caught by surprise as the civilian population, and one of the first units into action was a platoon of C Company, 2nd Battalion, 51st Highland Volunteers, from Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides.

Twenty-five men of the 70-strong platoon were caught in the blizzard while on their way to a weekend shoot at Fort George. They were in one four-tonner and a Land-Rover when they were stopped by a 'mess of cars' high in the hills. There was

no hope of moving either forward or backward so they just had to stick it out. Luckily they had blankets with them and one of the lorries stuck was loaded with meat pies which were quickly shared out.

There was a redistribution of 'bodies' and after putting people into the cabs of various lorries and vans, 17 of the 25 Terriers spent the night in the Land-Rover.

The next morning they got the Land-Rover through to the civilisation of a wayside inn, and spent the rest of the day ferrying people from their cars to the inn. The volunteers then took over the running of the inn and the by-now 70 inhabitants and placed it under 'Highland Volunteer Commune Rules.'

Elsewhere the situation looked much grimmer. One of the first Lynx helicopters to be accepted into service left Middle Wallop for the Highlands and was fully occupied with a 'flying doctor' service visiting remote farms and hamlets.

A few phone calls were made and at 1650 a Lynx took off from Middle Wallop. Lance-Corporal Beck was picked up at 1701 and landed at Blandford at 1715. By 1733 the Lynx was back at Middle Wallop, and Beverley, aged two, made a marvellous recovery.

The first day was spent checking abandoned cars for signs of people trapped, and then flying a doctor to houses where people were known to

be recovering from illness or undergoing regular treatment. At one stage a message was relayed via an overhead search-and-rescue Shackleton that a woman in Newtonmore needed urgent medical attention. The Lynx was landed as close as possible to her house and she was found to be suffering from severe abdominal pains and was flown to Inverness hospital.

The weather throughout remained unpredictable with snow showers at varied — and usually the wrong — times. Just twelve minutes before arriving back at Middle Wallop the Lynx passed the 600 hours flying mark — the first in service to do so.

Just as in Scotland, the TAVR played a big part in the snow operation in the south. First troops into action when the big snow came to the South West were men of 155 (Wessex) Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport Volunteers, from Taunton.

The regiment opened an 'ops' room after being tasked by H/Q South West District and kept it running 24 hours a day until the crisis passed.

Their first major problem was road clearance. Sergeant Jim Nation, Lance-Corporals Gerald Dare and Trevor John, and Driver Randall Stephens plus two civilian drivers, set out by Land-Rover to pick up five snow ploughs and deliver them to the motorway maintenance park on the M5 near Wellington.

The rest of the regiment operated a special group of Land-Rovers and four-tonners mainly in support of the local hospitals, delivering staff, medical supplies, food and linen, with Sergeant Terry Gregson using a four-wheel-drive vehicle to take a doctor and nurses on rounds to patients in isolated areas.

The demands on the regiment continued unabated through the storm and along with two Regulars, Regimental Sergeant-Major Willis,

and Warrant Officer 1 Hugo, the training warrant officer, the TAVR men worked on a completely voluntary basis.

While the Volunteers battled on, the Regulars, many of whom had taken part in firefighting duties during the strike, were alerted. The long-suffering sappers of 22 Engineer Regiment provided their first detachment when four snow-clearers from 8 Field Squadron set off for Taunton. They were followed in Wiltshire by 52 Squadron, tasked with cutting through drifts on the A303 and at other points.

From the Royal Army Ordnance Corps Vehicle Depot at Ludgershall went Volvo oversnow vehicles, taken pick-a-back style on low-loaders down the M4 to North Devon, where they proved most welcome. Meanwhile, in the wilds of Dartmoor, two companies of junior leaders — from the Royal Engineers camping at Okehampton and the Royal Armoured Corps at Renney Lentney, were already deeply — literally — involved helping marooned motorists and snowed-in householders. From the RAC Centre itself at Bovington, two AVRE Chieftains plunged into drifts and cleared the roads from Wool to Dorchester and Bere Regis.

Meanwhile 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, had driven a path through from Warminster to a stranded train packed with passengers. The 68 people on the Portsmouth train were given hot drinks and then taken out in APCs.

As things began to return to semi-normal, the rains came. At the same time the wind rose and with it

the tide. Once more men of 22 Engineer Regiment sallied forth, this time to Bridport where they used four trucks to carry six-foot high blocks of Portland stone to plug a gap in the broken sea wall at West Bay near Bridport.

Chief Inspector Bob Rose, an Arnhem veteran and now with Wiltshire Police, flew regularly on recce by 7 Regiment, Army Air Corps, at Netheravon — other missions were flown from Middle Wallop, where the new Lynx was again among aircraft tasked. "I just don't know what we would have done without the troops," he said afterwards. "They have been magnificent."

Above: Sappers of 52 Squadron, Royal Engineers, from Tidworth, use heavy plant to clear drifts at Chicklade on the A303 in freezing fog.

Far left: A Stalwart sets out on a recce of farms and isolated homes on Salisbury Plain. Aboard is a typical recce section of two policemen, an officer and troops.

Below: Engineers clear the road to allow a Volvo oversnow vehicle through to Taunton.

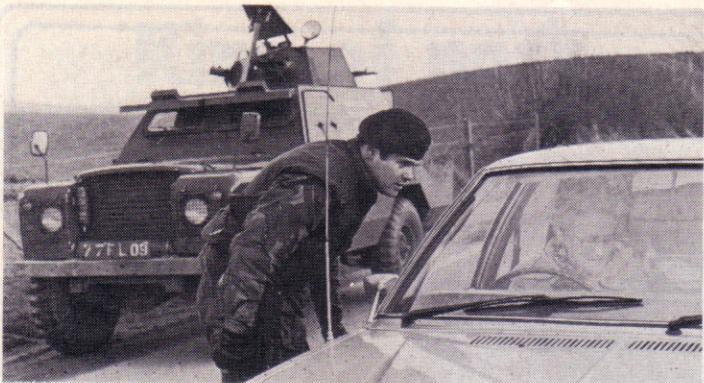


Among the tributes received by the Army during the blizzard was one from the Highland (Inverness) Branch of the National Union of Journalists which put on record its appreciation of the co-operation received from all three Services during the emergency.

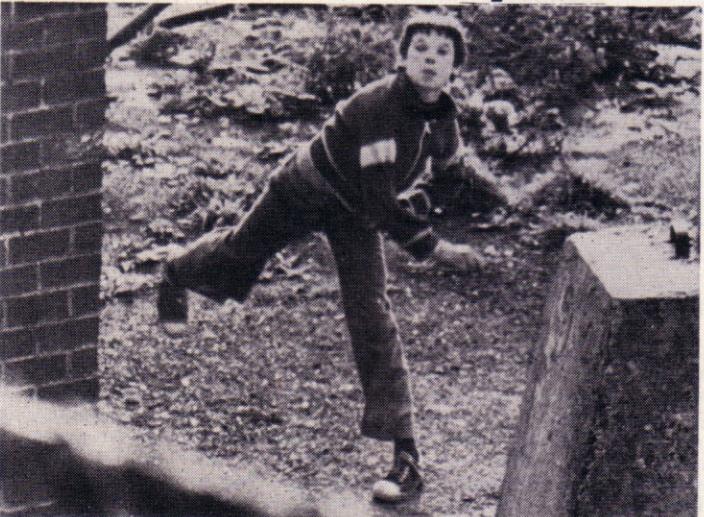
'This co-operation, at a time when there was a great deal of pressure on both them and our members, certainly made our jobs that much easier in the trying circumstances. The facility arrangements offered to us by the Services were first class, and were of great benefit in ensuring that the people in the country as a whole knew the scale of the tragedy, hardships and problems created by the snows.'

'We would also like to put on record our admiration for the way in which the men of all three Services responded to help this area at the time. It was a most creditable and worthwhile effort, and we are all sure that if it were not for the swift response of the Services, and for the modern technology that they were able to bring quickly into play, that the disaster would have been so very much greater. Indeed the whole "show" could well serve as a model for any future natural disaster in any part of the country.'





## Photo of the year



A youth spots the camera during a Belfast riot, and the bricks fly, but the picture that Captain A J Tait, of 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, managed to get, earned him the title of Army Photographer of the Year.

The annual Director of Public Relations' photographic competition was open to professional and amateur photographers working with the Army.

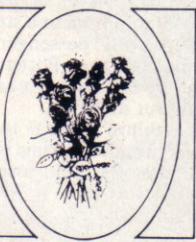
Captain Tait's picture was taken on Kodak Verichrome Pan at 1/125th of a second at f5.6.

Class two, for a colour print or transparency, was won by Sergeant B H Lawrence RAF, of Hong Kong Joint Service Public Relations; class three, for a single black-and-white print, by SOLDIER Magazine's Doug Pratt; and class four, for the best 'open' picture, by Arthur Kinloch of the Glasgow Evening Times.

Best unit photographer was Corporal M I Henshilwood, 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment; best junior soldier, Junior Bandsman D Richardson, of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps; and best TAVR picture was by Captain J H M Millar, of 38 Signal Regiment (V).

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## Fewer short tours

The number of resident battalions in Northern Ireland is to be increased to five, it has been announced in the House of Commons. The new battalion is expected to arrive in September.

The announcement was made by Mr Roy Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who predicted that the additional battalion would reduce the number of short tour units — 'a great advantage to the Army as a whole.'

The new battalion will live in Alexander Barracks, Aldergrove, currently occupied by 1st and 2nd regiments, Royal Military Police, which will move to Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn.

At the same time the RMP command structure will be rationalised to bring all RMP personnel under the administrative command of 1 RMP. This rationalisation will not affect force levels in the Province.

A major combined operation was mounted in the Province following the murders of two Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers. The 10-year-old daughter of one of the men was also killed in the explosion at Maghera. In North Tyrone, men of the UDR, Royal Ulster Constabulary and 13th/18th Royal Hussars worked in a search operation covering about 120 square miles.

Left: A UDR soldier on a vehicle checkpoint.

The bomb disposal teams found themselves working at full stretch during the upswing of terrorist activity. Below: Explosive ordnance device specialists with their 'Wheelbarrow' robot.



## Life-savers reward

A soldier who had apparently died after an accident during firefighting training was brought back to life again by his instructors.

Fire Service Officer 3 Alan Dye, of the Army Fire Service, and Sergeant Alan Leek of the Employment Training School, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, were commended for their prompt action by the General Officer Commanding South East District, Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley.

The two were instructing soldiers on hose and branch holding as part of the emergency fire training when the incident happened.

Sergeant Bradley, who was under instruction, lost his balance while holding a charged hose and fell to

the ground, striking his head on the concrete strip. He unbalanced another soldier who fell on him. The second blow knocked Sergeant Bradley unconscious and he appeared to have convulsions, read the citation.

Fire Officer Dye immediately switched off the pump and with Sergeant Leek ran to Sergeant Bradley, whose breathing and heart appeared to have stopped. Mr Dye instructed Sergeant Leek to perform external cardiac massage and he himself gave oral resuscitation until breathing and pulse were restored.

The calm and efficient way in which Fire Officer Dye and Sergeant Leek controlled the whole situation was a major factor in preventing serious injury to Sergeant Bradley.

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# Prince Charles meets his regiments

It was a red-letter day for two battalions in Germany when Prince Charles came to visit them. For 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, in Berlin, and 1st Battalion, The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, in BAOR, this was the prince's first visit to either since his appointment as their Colonel-in-Chief.

Both visits were very full and kept as informal as possible. Top left, the prince sees a Cheshire's' mortar in action and, below left, is 'shot' by two paras while shooting on the SMG range. He scored a two-inch group from 30 metres.

Below: Back home again, at the UK final of the major units rugby competition in Aldershot, Prince Charles presents the cup to Lieutenant R Withers, skipper of The Royal Regiment of Wales team, of which the prince is also Colonel-in-Chief. (See NEWS 18 for match report.)



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What an island of contrasts Cyprus is. Beautiful spring flowers, scrub-covered hills, dry wadis, orange, grapefruit and lemon groves, towns and villages steeped in Greek mythology, old Paphos with the remains of the Temple of Aphrodite, beautiful mosaics and mosques with their minarets.

The Cyprus economy is leaping ahead once again, hotels are springing up along the coast and, hijackings notwithstanding, package-tour holiday makers are flying in to the now thriving Larnaca airport. To this island come hundreds of Service families for two- or three-year tours. For them it is not a two-year package holiday, but two years of a different way of life.

School starts at 7am and the children are home again by 2pm. Two years of sun and sea with wonderful leisure activities, but two years with hardly a chance of a job for a wife or teenager so the sixth forms are full and no extra income for the family budget.

Lack of cash means that families cannot really leave the island for a holiday — even camping holidays are limited because the best spots are in now restricted areas. Cyprus is the only overseas station without a leave scheme, so despite the evident pleasure of serving on the island, there is a feeling among the families that to some extent they are out of the mainstream and although such worries as conditions of service and pay are the same as in other stations, perhaps those in Cyprus do not always get heard.

They feel that they are probably worse off than those in BAOR and, with the added burden of the very high charges levied on excess baggage, life is not all a bed of roses serving in the sun.

*Anne Armstrong*



# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## WITH

### ANNE ARMSTRONG

## Scouting gets off the ground



As the picture above shows, Scouting activities have really got off the ground in Cyprus. The Scouts and Cubs have an area — called appro-

priately enough Scout Wood — set aside just for them in Happy Valley, the Services' own sports centre.

The Valley is always a hive of

activity for over the years many clubs have been formed, catering for every kind of sporting taste; so the choice for a newcomer is wide.

## Madeline's mountain top home

Madeline Brothwood just laughs when she is accused of having her head in the clouds. Madeline and her family live 7000 feet up on the side of a Cyprus mountain.

For Madeline, a mother of three daughters and with six grandchildren, isolation and days surrounded by swirling mists are tempered by the breathtaking view down into the valleys when the weather permits.

In her bungalow, surrounded by deep snow, were all the interesting things collected on her travels round the world and photographs of her children to remind her of home.

Madeline, the wife of Warrant Officer 2 Brothwood, based at Troodos Camp, does not drive, so shopping from her mountain eyrie can prove difficult, but bulk buying for her freezer helps.

Boredom can be a problem but Madeline has it beaten with her absorbing hobby of sewing tapestry pictures. "I took up making tapestry pictures when we came here," she explained, "so with that, and knitting, I am kept busy."

She also looks after the leave chalets which are heavily booked all the year round. "It's the only place to which families and single soldiers



can come for a change in climate," she said. "In winter it's never above freezing, and summer is a cool 60-70 degrees, so the chalets give the families a much-needed break from the sovereign bases."

The long day at Troodos starts at 6.30am for the camp is used for adventure training and orienteering and has an excellent ski centre and leave resort.

"A 16-hour day is the norm," said WO2 Brothwood, who still finds time to make the 120-mile round trip to Episkopi to play badminton once a week.

For entertainment there is a Naafi club and, hopefully by the end of the year, there will be a Naafi shop as well. Fresh trout makes excellent eating in the small restaurants near the camp.

Many of the families soon become expert skiers at Troodos, particularly with the sound coaching given by two Austrian Army ski instructors who are fully occupied teaching, making slalom courses and finding new runs.

Life at lofty Troodos is certainly a contrast to the rest of Cyprus, and nowadays a contrast to virtually any posting anywhere.

# No skaters in Dodge City

Families in Episkopi go to Dodge City to do their shopping. Not the Wild West but their own wooden-hutted shopping precinct.

Skateboards have not reached Cyprus yet and vandalism and litter are virtually unknown. The square is dominated by the Naafi, surrounded on all sides by small local shops full of aromatic Mediterranean flavours.

In the Greek Cypriot shop, baskets and smoked sausages hang from the ceiling and every inch of space is filled with local meat, fruit and vegetables.

Currency takes some getting used to, particularly for wives coming straight from Germany. "But you soon learn to work out Cyprus pounds against Deutschmarks and British pounds," said Sally Lovegrove.

Sally lives in married quarters in Episkopi. There the houses are cool and comfortable. They are set in their own open-plan gardens and exotic flowers provide a perfect backdrop.

But even in this idyllic setting there are problems. Local overseas allowance helps, but monthly wages do take a bit of stretching. Meat, particularly pork, and fruit and vegetables are plentiful and prices are

reasonable. Globe artichokes, for instance, which are such a luxury at home, are plentiful in Cyprus.

But on the other hand, cornflakes, children's rusks, washing powder and cosmetics are expensive. One family brought out two years' supply of toothpaste and shampoo because local prices are so prohibitive.

Cotton dresses, shirts and material are cheap, so are leather and suede goods although, somewhat surprisingly, children's shoes are difficult to find and Naafi stocks are limited. Most of the children wear locally made 'bondu' boots.

Most of the wives I spoke to were unanimous in recommending that families posted to Cyprus should not forget to bring wellingtons, macs, jumpers and jeans with them — and, if they can manage it, an electric blanket will be handy.



Left: John and Helen Wilson do their weekly shopping in Dodge City, watched by Sally Lovegrove.

Above: Mrs Anne Murphy, one of the few wives to have a job, makes a reservation in the travel agency.



## These chalets are not so hot

Platres is an isolated holiday hill village 7000 feet above sea level. During the hot Cyprus summer the chalets, designed to let the heat out, are idyllic. During the winter, for more than 70 Army and RAF families, the story is very different.

Platres, just below Troodos, is a two-and-a-half hour drive from Episkopi up narrow, twisting mountain roads. The views are breathtaking and there is none of the searing summer heat of the plains.

Because of the summer coolness the Platres population shoots up from a winter 300 to more than 4000. But in winter, with crisp snow underfoot, the Service families in Platres have very mixed feelings about living in a mountain village.

The hirings were designed only for occupation during the summer. No insulation and a design geared to banishing heat do not help. Neither do stone floors and lack of cupboard space and carpeting.

"Skiing and lovely walks are right on the doorstep but it's over two hours in the bus down the mountain to the Naafi and the sea," said one wife.

One problem at Platres is filling in all those long winter hours. But one wife, Joan Wheeler Lilly, has found a novel, if punishing way of passing the time. Every week Joan walks 30 to 40 miles in preparation for the gruelling 24-hour Cyprus Walkabout every October.

"The sun was pretty hot last year, but I made it," said Joan, "and I hope to compete again this year."

## Families page letters

Dear Anne,

It has never failed to amuse me how the Army gives everything and everyone a label. For the past nine years I have been a 'wife of,' my children when they arrived became the 'children of' but the 'of' that amused me most of all was given to me a week before I got married. I travelled to Singapore as an 'intended wife of.'

I wonder under what 'of' they would have sent me back had I changed my mind and not married him after all?

Mrs Angela Stewart,  
BFPO 53.

Dear Anne

In August 1975 we were posted from Germany to Cyprus. Not having served in UK before then, we had accumulated many items of our own, including smaller items of furniture. We had, therefore, been unable to take advantage of storage allowance and had to carry all our belongings with us. This amounted to 16 boxes/crates which created an excess baggage charge of approximately £30.

We are now posted to UK in March 1978 and to move the same amount of belongings will cost between £70 and £80 in excess charges.

To help offset the excess charges we would have to dispose of certain items locally and again lose financially.

Needless to say, one is bound to collect more clothes, books, toys etc with the arrival of each child. Normally I would be keeping a lot of these items to pass on to the next child but we will be forced to sell as much as possible.

We also will have to dispose of various articles that we value for sentimental reasons, which again is most annoying.

Mrs S M L  
BFPO 53

The points raised in these two letters are being looked at by the Ministry of Defence.

Dear Anne

Uppermost in families' thoughts during a Cyprus summer is having sufficient cold drinks to hand. Although we fortunately don't suffer from a water shortage on the bases, the heat of the water from the taps makes it rather unpalatable, so we stock our refrigerators with bottles of water to cool. The amount required per head, per day, is at least one gallon. Unfortunately the refrigerators are quite inadequate in capacity for such a stock.

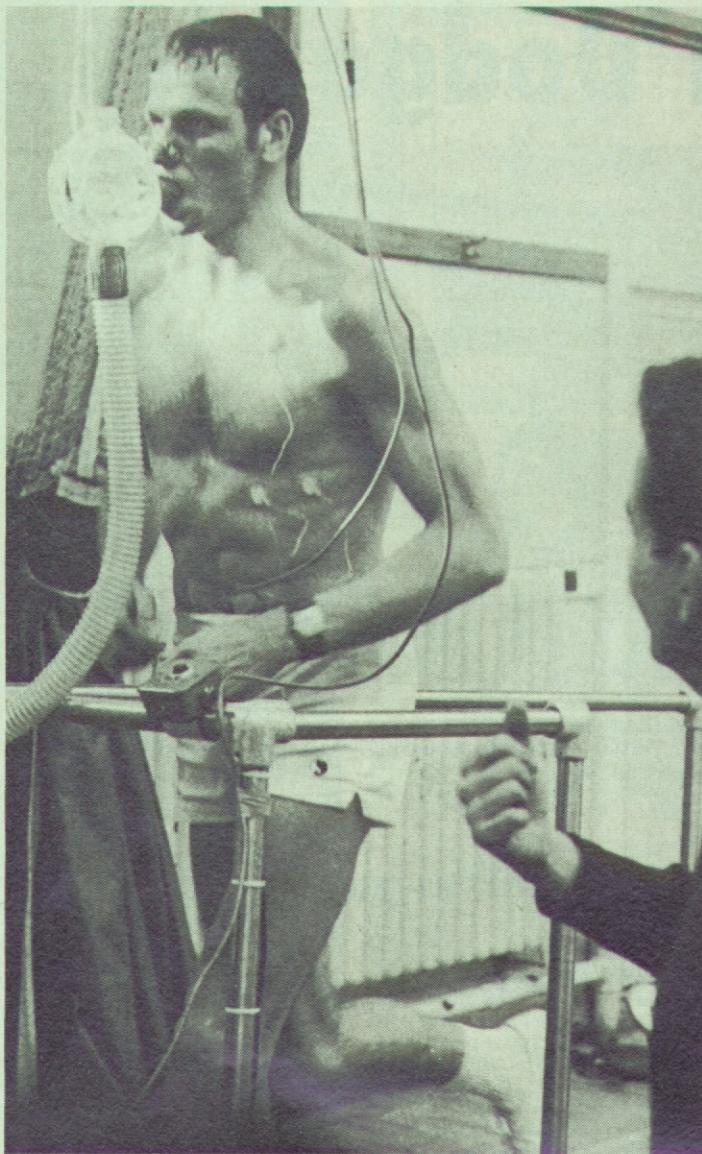
In addition to drinking water we have to keep in the refrigerator milk, butter, margarine, bacon, meat, eggs, jam, marmalade, fruit and cheese, in fact everything that would deteriorate in the heat. Even cosmetics such as cold cream and lipstick have to be kept cool or they melt.

To combat this excessive use of the refrigerator most people either hire another, and/or a deep-freeze. Refrigerators are prohibitively expensive to buy in Cyprus.

We are a family of five and the present issued refrigerator is barely adequate during the winter months. However, the quality of the appliance is good and for a smaller family it is ideal. We are extremely fortunate to be issued with what amounts to a luxury for Service families in the UK. However it is an essential item in a hot climate and, if an assessment of the size of family were made and a refrigerator of an adequate size issued, it would lessen the extra burden of cost incurred by hiring.

As transportation of excess MFO is now very costly, many families cannot afford to bring their own freezers or refrigerators to Cyprus. Therefore we greatly rely on issued items.

Mrs J G  
BFPO 58



## School shows what it can do

The Army School of Physical Training had a chance to show what it can do when 200 sport coaches converged on Fox Gymnasium in Aldershot to hear all about the measurement of fitness.

Various kinds of systems designed to measure both stamina and strength, including the 'Star Wars' apparatus pictured above, were on display.

The day was sponsored by the Sports Council and supported by staff of the Army Personnel Research Establishment who brought along their sophisticated isometric strength measurer.

Picture shows Sergeant Terry Palliser working up a sweat on a treadmill loaned by APRE. The treadmill can measure pulse rate and lung capacity at the same time.

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## Olympic target



Two top modern pentathletes are aiming for Olympic honours — thanks to a pair of pistols they have been given.

Staff-Sergeant Instructor Peter Brierley and Craftsman Anthony Woodall, both rated among the top six pentathletes in Britain, each received one of the £350-plus pistols — the one with a left-handed grip for Brierley and the other right-handed — at a special presentation at the Farnborough branch of Williams and Glyn's Bank which had paid for one of the guns.

The Swiss weapons — Hammerli 232s — are considered among the

best target pistols in the world and ideal for top-class modern pentathletes who have to compete in swimming, riding, fencing and running as well as shooting.

Both Brierley and Woodall hope to be picked for the British squad for the 1980 Moscow Olympics and are almost certain of places.

This month Woodall is representing Britain at a full international meeting in France.

## Double rescue



A double rescue by Ranger Tereance McCormick, of 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Rangers, bugle section, while on leave in Northern Ireland, has earned him an honorary testimonial of the Royal Humane Society — of which there are only six awarded in any one year.

His citation explains that he was crossing a bridge over the Lower Bann River at Coleraine when he saw a man fall in from the other end of the bridge. Without any hesitation he dived in to the man's aid. Another boy trying to help fell in, so Tereance rescued him as well.

The award was presented by Major-General M Walsh, General Officer Commanding 3rd Armoured Division, watched by Bugle-Major Paddy Shortt.

# Kentish Cup hopes dashed

It took just four minutes on the greasy, sleet-swept pitch of Ostend Football Club to dash deep into the Belgian mud British hopes of the first Kentish Cup win for nine seasons.

The British Army soccer team came to Ostend hoping for a win over the youthful Belgian side, having beaten the French in the three-cornered tournament, a week earlier in Aldershot, by one goal to nil.

The British hoped to capitalise on their experience (there were three veterans of the last British win in 1969-70 in the squad) and one hundred per cent teamwork to beat the young Belgians who were conscripts from professional clubs.

But they had not reckoned with the wily expertise of the Belgian's veteran coach, Commandant Albert Bers, whose stocky figure has dominated the Belgian soccer scene for years.

He sent his team — Les Jass — on to the pitch inspired with the will to attack from the first whistle and before two minutes had passed the British defence reeled under the onslaught. Mommens passed the ball to striker Lecloux who hammered it on to the crossbar. The reprise for Britain was shortlived as Hoebeck instantly followed up to hit the rebound into the back of the net.

The British Army's goalkeeper, Sergeant Instructor Dave Smith, normally so self-assured at his job, was still reeling from the shock when the exuberant Lecloux took a chance shot well outside the box which lobbed its way lazily over Smith's outstretched arms to make it 2-0 within four minutes of kick-off.

Mommens and Lecloux then set up another swift attack and Lecloux passed to Nollet who just missed the goal for what would have been the

Belgian's number three.

The agony carried on just minutes later when Mommens made a long run down the wing and passed to Meeus who beat all the British defenders to have all the time in the world to set up a shot. Smith made a desperate dash from his line only to slip in the mud. Meeus looked certain to score but his unerring shot was well cleared off the line by Sapper George Torrance, the young British player who emerged as the man of the match for his side.

The British managed to pull themselves together a bit more towards the end of the first half hour and Corporal Dave Blanche crossed a good ball in front of the open Belgian goalmouth. But there was no-one there to rap it home.

Blanche got a second scoring chance a few minutes later but shot wide and Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor Alf Coulton — one of the veterans of the last British team to win the Kentish — made a fine shot from a mis-kicked pass by skipper Corporal Micky Doig which was well saved by the Belgian goalie and skipper, Van Geersom.

But the Belgians broke away again and Goret got his name on the scoresheet by heading on a flick from the wing to beat Smith for the third goal. Hoebeck and Lecloux were soon in action again setting up a shot for Meeus to head goalwards. But this time Smith saved well.

A demoralised British side came off the pitch at half time having been outclassed by the young Belgians whose accurate passing and forward



Dave Smith dives to save after a Belgian attack.

play had paid off handsomely.

Lance-Corporal Gavin Wood was brought on instead of sweeper Corporal Bob O'Hara at the start of the second half. With nothing to lose and everything to gain, the British made a determined effort to attack.

Doig took a swerving freekick which nearly found the top corner of the net and then, within ten minutes of the re-start of play, Wood took up a well-placed flick from Coulton to score the first British goal.

But the Belgians refused to be ruffled by the improved British play and once more asserted their domination, making a series of harrying attacks and at least two shots that nearly found their mark.

The British team rallied with fire and urgency during the last 20 minutes and Coulton made a good cross to Wood again for him to score the second goal despite the injection of new blood into the Belgian side in the form of Cornelissen brought on for Meeus.

But the worthy British effort came maddeningly late in the proceedings and left the Belgians deserved 3-2 winners and virtually assured of the cup for the sixth year running, having only to draw with the French to hold the title again.

For the British, the game was lost in those fatal first four minutes when they failed to recover their composure in the face of the undisputed skill of Les Jass.

**British Army:** SI Dave Smith (APTC), L/Cpl Alex Hamilton (R Sigs), Cpl Aly MacDonald (REME), WO2 Geoff Nelson (R Sigs), Cpl Bob O'Hara (R Sigs), L/Cpl Jimmy Cook (RHF), Cpl Micky Doig (RE), Cpl Dave Blanche (RCT), Spr Gordon Ashbridge (RE), QMSI Alf Coulton (APTC), Spr George Torrance (RE). Substitute: L/Cpl Gavin Wood (RHF) for O'Hara.

**Belgian Army:** Van Geersom, Depluvrez, Van den Wijngaarden, Reaygaert, Van Neste, Hoebeck, Nollet, Mommens, Meeus, Corez, Lecloux, Substitute: Cornelissen for Meeus.

In the spirit of its medieval namesakes, the Crusaders Football Club is on the warpath for new blood. The club was formed in 1922 to promote association football among officers and is still thriving today although it is now keen to recruit new members to strengthen its numbers.

Based at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, the club's fixture card spans matches against schools, universities, other Services and membership of the Isthmian League, culminating in a match against the Army side.

For more information, contact Lieutenant G L Keene, 5 Taiping Road, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants.



Alex Hamilton vies with goalie Dave Smith to clear.

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# A royal win—but only just

Royal encouragement seemed to do the trick for 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Wales, who, watched by their Colonel-in-Chief, the Prince of Wales, beat 8 Signal Regiment by 13 points to six to win the Army rugby UK Cup.

This win qualified the Welshmen to go on to meet the winners of the BAOR cup in the overall Army final.

The Welsh scored first with a try from a five-yard scrum by Goddard, but Abbott, the Signals' kicker, turned the tables with two penalties.

The Welsh trailed 4-6 until about the 40th minute of the second half when their scrum-half, Evans, made a break with wing-forward Mains in support. A ruck was forced inside the Signals' 22-metre line which caught the defence offside and Rees kicked the crucial penalty.

In the fifth minute of injury time, Evans again broke from a scrum on the half-way line to send A'Hearne away on the right wing. Rees converted.

Both sides made their mistakes in this game which could have swung the Signals' way if their kicker, Abbott, had been on form. Signals domination of the second half put him near enough the line for three relatively easy penalty kicks—easy considering his two successful attempts.

Picture shows Evans running for the line.

## Nearly home

The tri-Service entry in the Round-the-World yacht race is due back in Portsmouth by Easter weekend and there are high hopes of Adventure regaining her fifth place overall on handicap during the last leg.

For the last leg from Rio to Portsmouth, Adventure is being skippered by Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Duchesne.

The final position given before Adventure reached Rio was taken on 1 February. It was 32.21 South, 43.27 West.



## Chefs supreme

In the Army junior basketball championships ACC Apprentices College beat AAC Arborfield into second place in the major units match with JLR RAC third. In the minor units match, the ACC's B Company team was first to AAC Chepstow's B Company and Junior Soldiers Company, The Prince of Wales's Division, Crickhowell.

## Junior judo

The Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, dominated the junior judo championships Results:—

Light heavyweight: AT/CSM C W Skelton (AAC Harrogate). Middleweight: J/Pte G Wilkinson (JSC King's Div). Light middleweight: A/T S Williamson (AAC Arborfield). Welterweight: AT/CSM R H Killoh (AAC Chepstow). Lightweight: AT/Cpl A Deeks (AAC Chepstow). Bantamweight: A/T D Pettit (AAC Chepstow). Open class: AT/Cpl K Ball (AAC Chepstow).

## Champ—for the fifth time

Scottish international Lieutenant Neil Stewart has successfully defended his Army squash title for the fifth year running.

Despite a lack of top-match fitness since his posting to Germany, Lieutenant Stewart, of the Royal Signals, showed the value of experience in his fast-moving final against Sergeant Robbie Robinson, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, who is still a long way short of his full potential.

Lieutenant Stewart came back from Germany early so that he could brush up his game with some top-level contests in London before competing in the Army championship at Aldershot. Even then he had a clear run through the semi-finals because his opponent scratched.

Sergeant Robinson has benefited from his time working in London by improving his game so much that he is now number two player for Wimbledon in Division One of squash's premier competition, the Cumberland Cup. Robinson took on—and beat—another Scottish international, Captain Christopher Wilson, Royal Artillery, to earn his place in the final. Sergeant Robinson is almost certain to be in the top England 14 in the next ranking.

"It was confidence that really counted in the end I think," said Lieutenant Stewart after his exciting 3-1 match with Sergeant Robinson. "You try and get into a rhythm and make your opponent try harder and harder, until eventually he is forced into making a mistake."

Lance-Corporal Tom Prentice, Royal Engineers, beat Second-Lieutenant Simon Upton, RA, 3-1 in the under-21 competition and in the Open Plate, for competitors knocked out in the first or second rounds Sergeant Dave Bradley, RAOC, beat Captain the Hon A J C Campbell, Queen's Own Highlanders, 3-0.

A past winner of the open competition, Major Dennis Cooper, Royal Army Educational Corps, beat Captain Dick Richards, Army Physical Training Corps, 3-0 in the veterans competition.



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# Universities foiled

The Universities Athletic Union fencers arrived well before their annual fixture with the Army in the hope of getting in a good warm-up to prepare them for a reversal of their defeat at Army hands last year. But their efforts were to be in vain.

The match started with the sabre competition which proved to be one of the best sabre clashes the Army has had in the last few seasons. The fencing standard was extremely high and many of the bouts went to 4-4.

The Army sabreurs pulled out all their skilful stops and emerged winners by six bouts to three. Major Tony Bell, Sergeant-Major Instructor Dave Hughes and Quartermaster-Sergeant Instructor John Larkham all chalked up two victories apiece.

A final score of four all in the épée event came as no surprise with the fencers very evenly matched. Craftsman Tony Woodall — a top ranking British and Army pentathlete — fenced very well, winning two of his three bouts.

Regimental Sergeant-Major Clive Eldridge gave a fine performance, too, winning two of his three bouts, and young Driver Tony Watson fenced very well but lacked the necessary experience to deal with tough opposition.

Final result: Army 15, Universities 11.

## Runners pipped at the post

The Army senior cross-country team was narrowly beaten by Wales over a very wet course of six-and-a-half miles.

Leading from the start, Staff-Sergeant Instructor Ted Turner ran strongly for five miles before being overtaken by fellow Welsh international John Robertshaw who pulled away to win convincingly over a stretched-out field of runners.

Turner was followed by the next Army runner home, Commonwealth Games marathon hope



More than 100 skiers from 30 units took part in the Army/BAOR/UKLF Alpine ski championships in the three severe Alpine disciplines of downhill, giant slalom and slalom.

Observers pronounced the standard of skiing as very high and competition keen.

The difficult courses for the event, held at Ischgl in Austria, were set by local ski ace Hermann Vogt and Major Zach Freeth (above), an organiser of the races and himself a former British Olympic skier.

Chief honours went to Lance-

Corporal Paul Ford (2 Division Signal Regiment) for the downhill, Rifleman Scotty Barber (3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets) for slalom and combined, and Lieutenant Andy McInnes (Queen's Own Hussars) for slalom.

Best teams came from 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, and 94 Locating Regiment, RA.

## Still going strong

Still digging his running spikes into cross-country courses at the age of 39, Sergeant-Major Tecwyn 'Taff' Davies, of 7th Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, in Osnabrück, has received the Harrington Trophy for outstanding personal service to Army athletics.

He has turned out for the Army in athletics and cross-country 57 times since 1966 and was Army team captain four times and Combined Services captain twice. Consistency has been the hallmark of his running. Since 1968 he has never been placed lower than fifth in the Army cross-country championships and has been runner up for the last four years. In previous years he has notched up another second and two third placings.

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# Boxers scuppered by Navy

For the first time in nearly a decade, the Army has had the inter-Services boxing championship wrested from its grasp.

Dogged by a disappointing entry in the all-important Army intermediate championships, where selectors have found their up-and-coming hopefuls in the past, plus a thinning of the boxing ranks by firefighting duties, the Army boxing world was resigned to its fate.

The bad dreams started to become reality when the RAF scored a 6 - 4 win in their match against the Army in the first round of the championship.

So when the Army's turn came to meet the Royal Navy in the next fixture of the series, they were dismayed to find no fewer than four international boxers on the Senior Service's list — one a European under-19 bronze medallist.

But it is to the credit of the Army boxers that they did not give up in despair. They gave a packed Aldershot Boxing Centre their moneys-worth with an entertaining evening of bouts.

Indeed, they opened the match with two wins. But there was only one to follow, leaving the Navy with seven bouts to its score sheet.

Driver P Hitchin, from the Army's renowned boxing unit, 10 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, came out stylishly in his bantamweight bout against CEM M Chance for the Navy. Hitchin asserted his domination in the second round and despite a game fight-back in the third, he had done enough to earn a majority decision.

Featherweight Lance-Corporal I McKinnon had AB M Garrity down for a mandatory eight count in the first round of the next bout and pressed home his advantage to pin Garrity in his own corner where he took another standing count.

Before the first-round bell could ring, the referee correctly decided Garrity had had enough and stopped the fight.

The Navy came back in the light-weight division when the first of their internationals, Recruit T Marsh, Royal Marines, put on a performance of exhibition boxing, totally outclassing 10 Regiment's Lance-Corporal S Johnson. It was a pleasure to watch Marsh unerringly snatching every unguarded opening to pile up points against his under-

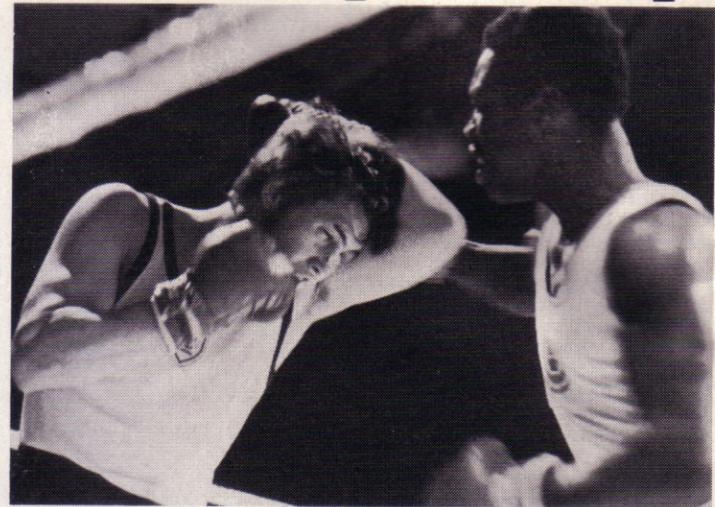
nably strong opponent. In round two, Marsh proved his skilful ability to pick off his man with unerring accuracy.

Johnson made a game — but vain — attempt to slug his way on to the score sheet at the beginning of round three but Marsh kept nimbly out of reach and allowed himself a delightfully cheeky Ali shuffle before winning what was the best bout of the night by a deserved unanimous decision.

Another 10 Regiment boxer, Driver R Stephens, evened the honours in the next bout at light welterweight against Marine A Gill, a man of his own size and build but outclassed in boxing skill. Punches were fast and furious and by the third round it was only Gill's bravery that kept him on his feet. When the referee finally stepped in to save him further punishment, he protested but was out on his feet.

Another good bout followed at welterweight with the classy international AB W Green a pleasure to watch with his ability to change the pace of the bout at will. Corporal M Gannon, of Junior Leaders Regiment, RCT, had to be warned for not keeping his head up. But he kept it up long enough in the first minute of round three for Green to put it on the receiving end of his punishing right which led to him failing to beat the count.

European bronze medallist AB N Croombs came in at light



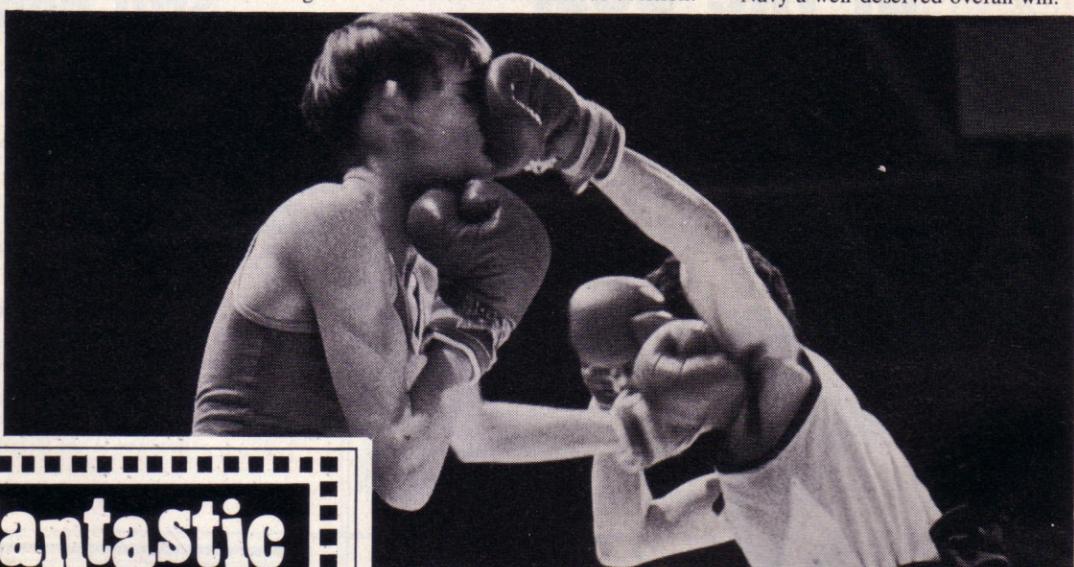
AB T Taylor (left) won this light heavyweight bout against Rfn J Roberts (3 RGJ) on a unanimous points decision.

middleweight for a wary first round against Royal Pioneer Corps Corporal C Barrett. The pace picked up before the bell and Croombs moved in for the kill with a right that hurt in the second. Barrett took a standing count of eight before the referee stopped the fight.

The Army had high hopes of Corporal T Williams of 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, in the middleweight division after being 1977 runner-up in the ABA light-middleweight final. But NAM S Willis, for the Navy, was too much for him with combination punches that earned him a unanimous decision.

The Green Jackets' 3rd Battalion produced light heavyweight Rifleman J Roberts for the next bout, against AB T Taylor. Both moved with monotonous regularity from clinch to clinch and the referee had to warn Roberts more than once for not breaking. The only really dull bout of the evening went unanimously to the Navy.

Two solid heavyweights rounded off the proceedings with Private R Lewis of 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, giving a good account of himself against SA R Greenacre who emerged the winner to give the Navy a well-deserved overall win.



Gunner S Fenn stops with his nose a left hook thrown by Lance-Corporal J Woods, the eventual winner of the flyweight bout in the Army's individual boxing championships.

Lance-Corporal Woods made up for his lack of inches with a display of aggression which ended in the referee stopping the fight in the second round when Fenn, of 94 Locating Regiment, Royal Artillery, sustained a split lip.

Traditionally a strong boxing regiment, 10 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, fought and won in two bouts, light and light-welter. Lance-Corporal Steve Johnson did particularly well in one of the best bouts of the evening to beat Private M Geddes, one of the strong all-black team from 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, in the light-weight bout.

The 1st Queens were represented in four bouts, two of which, middle and heavy, they won. The heavy-weight bout, between Rifleman C McCormack, of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, and Private R Lewis, 1 Queens, proved a fitting finale to the evening when a lumbering Lewis knocked out his opponent in the second minute.

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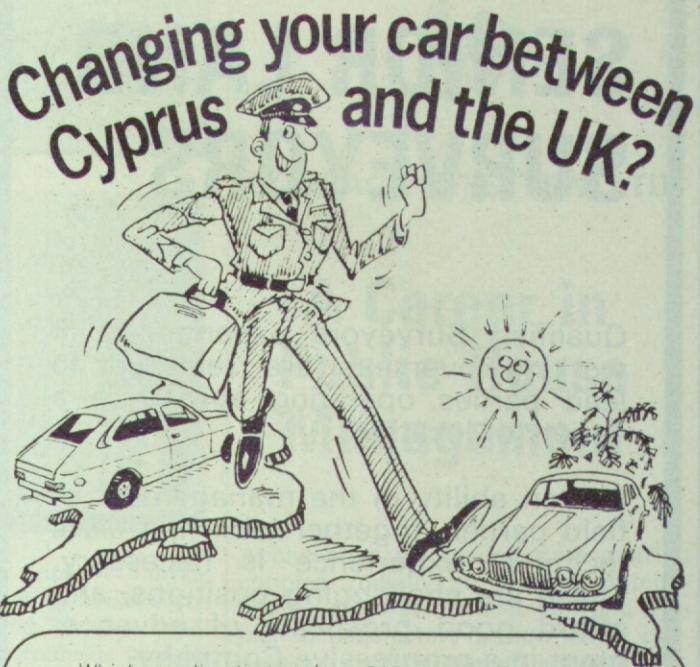
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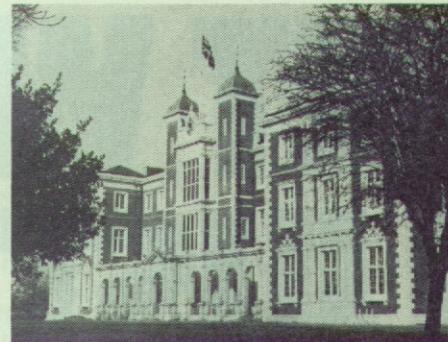
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Standing in a corner of the first room is a German Schellenbaum, a decidedly crude affair compared with the splendid 18th century 'Jingling Johnnie' to be seen in another part of the museum. Crowned by a Turkish crescent, it was captured from the Moors by the French and subsequently from them by The Connaught Rangers at Salamanca. Nearby, a collection of water colours of 19th century bandsmen by Charles Stadden is typical of this painter's meticulous eye for detail. In a display of pipes, fifes, bugles, trumpets and drums are a battered duty bugle used at Waterloo and an 1830 Royal Artillery fife case.

A range of horns, showing their development from about 1820, different types of cornet and a Swiss cavalry bugle make an interesting show while clarinets, oboes, flutes and piccolos all help to demonstrate the resources of a military band.

Victorian experimental trumpets which never saw active service, a presentation baton given to the staff of Kneller Hall by Queen Victoria, an 1836 serpent which once boasted the deepest note in the band, and a communion plate used at Waterloo by the Duke of York, make another varied group. A well-filled visitors' book contains many British and foreign royal autographs as well as the signatures of famous musicians like Arthur Sullivan, Edward Elgar and Henry Wood. The original hand-written scores of fanfares for great royal occasions like the Queen's coronation or Princess Anne's wedding strike a regal note.

Kettledrum and regimental music stand banners, batons, saxophones of various dates and types, a clutch of trombones and Sousa relics, including a cap worn by a member of his band, are in another room which rather surprisingly boasts a replica of the Elgin Marbles. Here too are strange and weird instruments presented to the museum from all parts of the world — 'talking

drums' from Ghana, a primitive Libyan goatskin bagpipe or zookra, an Indian sitar, Australian dijeridoos and Kenyan hand drums. German band instruments used in World War One, and blackened to avoid glinting in the sunlight, are also noteworthy.

The museum is particularly rich in royal relics. There is the basso di camera (1650) made by Guaneri and played by Dragonetti who presented it to Prince Albert and also gave him lessons on it; a double bass and kettledrums from Queen Victoria's private band which played for her at Buckingham Palace; the organ installed at the palace on which Mendelssohn taught the Prince Consort; and the original printer's plates of works by the prince who was a skilled composer of choral music.

Not to be missed are the trumpet, medals and spurs of Trumpet-Major Gray, 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, who took part in the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava; the silver baton presented to Colonel Barrington-Foote by Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in appreciation of the musical arrangements made by Kneller Hall for their coronation; and the unaphone, with its electrically operated chimes, once owned by the 60th Rifles.

So downstairs and over the Wren flagstones into the converted cellar. Tucked away here are some choice pieces like the Queen Anne drum; an 18th century organ keyboard; a case full of wind instruments with their attendant crooks; a small device used before the introduction of valves to alter pitch; and the largest and heaviest instrument ever carried on parade — a massive double bass tuba which once formed part of a Canadian regimental band.

John Jesse

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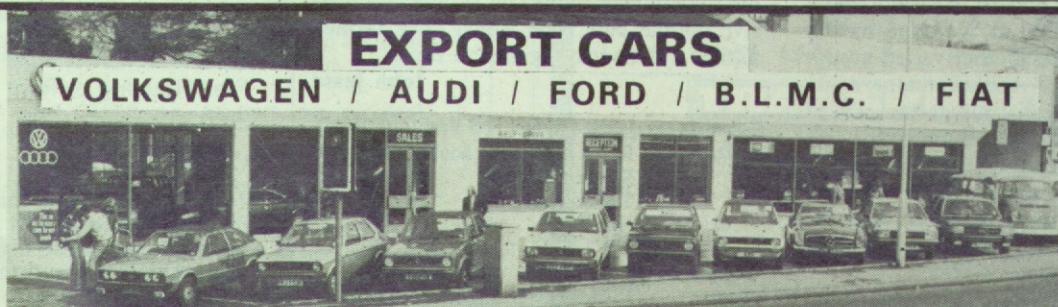
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63 RM and Light Inf changing sentries, 1855

50 Drum-major, Welsh Guards, 1975

64 RM commandos, 1944

51 Private, 41st Foot, 1854

65 Marine marksman, 1799

52 Drum-major, Scots Guards, 1975

66 RM bugler, 1973

53 Private, 24th Foot, 1879

67 Officer of Marines, 1799

54 Fusilier, R Regt of Fusiliers, 1975

68 RM at Battle of Trafalgar, 13 Mar 1805

55 Officer, 23rd Foot, 1854

69 Grenadier, Villiers' Marines, Gibraltar, 24 July 1704

70 RM landing craft deckhand, D-Day, 1944

71 RM Forces Volunteer Reserve, 1948

72 RM at capture of Oswego, 5 May 1814

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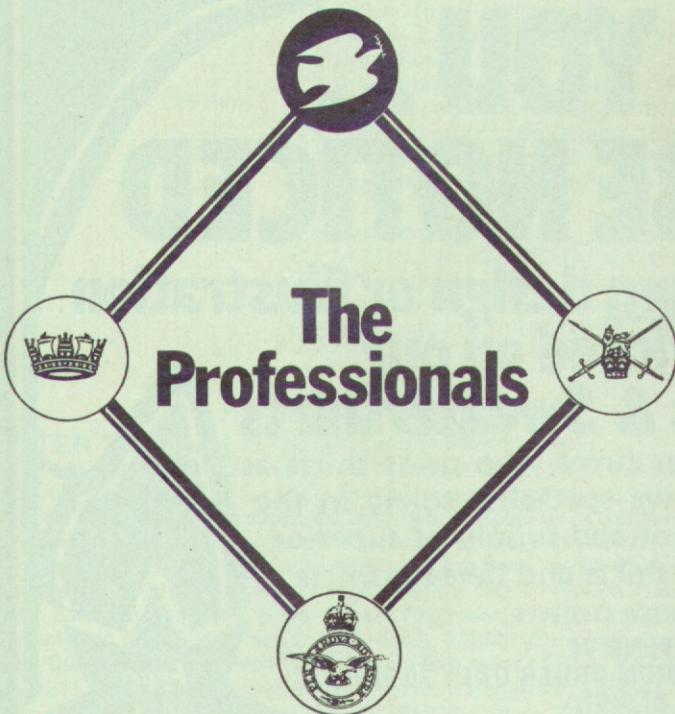
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# TURRETLESS TANKS



ALTHOUGH not favoured by Britain, the turretless tank has been developed by the Soviet Union (as the Samokhodnaya Ustanovka), Germany (Sturmgeschütz) and Sweden (S Tank).

The hull-mounted guns have limited traverse, which is a particular problem when dealing with a moving target, but these tanks can carry bigger guns than corresponding turreted vehicles and cost less to manufacture. Above all, their low silhouette means they are able to hide behind sparse cover.

The Soviet Army has used its SU vehicles in the dual roles of support, as field artillery following tanks and infantry, and assault, employing direct fire against centres of resistance, enemy tanks and artillery.

These vehicles were deployed on a massive scale by the Soviet Army in World War Two. Vast numbers helped to knock out 1500 German armoured vehicles in the Battle of Kursk in 1943.

They had a major role in the devastating 22,000-piece artillery pounding of Berlin and accompanied conventional tanks in the

bitter street-by-street battle during the last days of the war.

One of the most significant of these vehicles was the SU 122 which mounted an adapted 122-millimetre field gun-howitzer on the hull of the formidable T-34 tank.

A model of the SU-122 is a recent release from the Japanese firm of Tamiya. It comes as a kit of plastic parts, in 1:35 scale, with a recommended retail price of £3.30.

It is typically 'Russian' looking with the weld marks and rough, utilitarian casting faithfully reproduced, as well as the distinctive sloping glacis plates, wide tracks, hull-mounted petrol tanks and commander in a ribbed leather helmet.

World War Two modellers will be interested to note that the comprehensive four-volume work 'Arms and Uniforms — The Second World War' is available from Historex Agents at 3 Castle Street, Dover, Kent. The price is £3.95 a volume and 66 pence (for one or all four volumes) post and packing. Although hardware such as armoured fighting vehicles and aircraft are rather crudely hand-drawn, there is a great wealth of invaluable detail about uniforms and badges of rank — all in full colour. The authors, Liliane and Fred Funcken, have managed to epitomise national characteristics in such illustrations as a lieutenant of Spahis with a swirling cloak and an arrogant Obertruppführer with hairline moustache and dress dagger. **HH**



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## Rhine Army



Story: John Walton



# FORCES TV EXPANDS

LIKE A SLOW-MOVING octopus, British Forces Broadcasting Service's television service in Germany has gradually extended its tentacles from its original base at Celle to Soltau, Fallingbostel, Hohne, and Munsterlager.

And this November the British television programmes for Rhine Army servicemen will suddenly be available to many more of them. For that is the month in which Phase Two will come into operation — based on Werl and feeding viewers in Gütersloh, Lippstadt, Hildesheim, Rinteln, Hameln and the surrounding districts.

But it will be two years before the final stage is complete, with programmes from all three British channels available right down to Rhine Army headquarters at Rheindahlen as well as a live link back to Britain to replace the canned packages of programmes which are shown at present.

It was in 1975 that the first programmes went out from the mobile transmitting van in Celle. Since then, while the geographical progress has been slow, the service has become ever slicker and more sophisticated. Colin Ward-Lewis, who as head of presentation and promotion is in charge of linking and planning as well as trailers, says: "All in all our programmes now are a vast improvement on the first year of operation."

From the studio which BFBS rents from London Weekend Television at Wembley, a number of BFBS's own shows are now included in the weekly programmes. They have to be simple for BFBS has at present only one camera although its videotape recording equipment would be the envy of some of the smaller commercial television companies.

There are programmes on viewers' letters and a special celebrity spot called 'Take Five' in which BFBS interviewers talk to celebrities for five minutes. These are often shown before the programme in which the star takes part. Among top names who have appeared on this show free are Hughie Green, Pam Ayres, Bruce Forsyth, Angela Rippon and Jimmy Savile. Says Mr Ward-Lewis: "These artistes do it solely for the love of it. There is something about performing for troops and people don't mind doing it for nothing."

Probably the most popular home-grown programme of all is 'Instant German' which stars Corinna Schnabel, a London-based German journalist. Lasting for five minutes,

Top left: A controller mixes videotape for a programme shortly to be beamed to Rhine Army.

Bottom left: BFBS announcer Hilary Osborn and television star Johnny Morris in an interview.

Right: Angela Rippon's legs were not revealed in this interview for the BFBS show *Take Five*.

Centre: Corinna Schnabel's Instant German is helped by a non-speaking dummy for a lesson.

Bottom: A touch of *The Good Life* for the Army Minister, Robert Brown, with Felicity Kendal.

it teaches simple German words and phrases which can be used in the everyday life of the British serviceman and his family in Germany.

The idea came from the Army and Corinna found during a recent trip to Germany that the lessons had caught on in a big way. "An officer told me that he had been able to get on a bus for the first time as a result of one of the programmes," she said. "He had been in Germany for eight years."

Wherever Corinna went in the BFBS viewing area she found herself instantly recognised and soldiers would begin to whistle the programme's signature tune. "If the German people realised that attempts were being made like this, I'm sure they would help the English boys to learn German," she added. Said John Harrison, television programme controller: "The effect of Corinna walking into a Naafi out there was just as if Angela Rippon was to walk into her local Sainsbury's."

Another BFBS programme is 'Birthday Time' for children — with the birthdays being read out and often a slide of the child shown on the screen. This has proved so popular that birthday parties are often now timed to coincide with its screening.

As the programmes are compiled (with a strictly agreed ratio of nearly two to one BBC to ITV), those of topical interest such as Match of the Day, The Big Match, Panorama and Opportunity Knocks are starred as urgent and screened as early as possible. In the last case they are shown to give sufficient time for Service viewers to send in their votes for the best act.

Originally there was a ban on American material but this has now been sorted out and the main problem left is with cinema films, which are still not available.

At Celle, voice-only announcers do time checks and provide weather forecasts and information on road conditions. Back in Wembley the staff announcers, Stephen Withers and Richard Barnes, and three others who are freelances, link the programmes and announce future viewing attractions. This is all so professionally done that many of the viewers believe that the announcements are live. When announcer Hilary Osborn went out to Celle, she was asked if she shopped in the Naafi at Celle or the one at Hohne!

So for some servicemen and their families, British television is already an established part of life in Germany. In the not-too-distant future it will reach all of them, thus changing life patterns which have remained relatively unaltered since 1945.

And at the same time today's fledgling service will have expanded into a more sophisticated live operation direct from Britain and ultimately, it is hoped, including coverage of major Army personalities and events both in BAOR and UK.

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# LETTERS

## 'The odd can of beer'

Please forgive a civilian writing to *SOLDIER* but I feel I must have my say in the magazine where it may be seen by those concerned.

At the start of the firemen's strike I visited Major R H Ker and C Company of 1st Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets (now in Hong Kong), during their stay at Merton Road, London SW18, and with the help of my family and friends had the pleasure of delivering the odd can of beer. At that time the general attitude was to laugh at, rather than support the troops' efforts but this attitude quickly changed to one of surprise at the efficient way in which they tackled their task.

Subsequently I was invited to visit the Depot at Winchester where, after lunch in the sergeants' mess, I was taken on a short tour and then watched a passing-out parade, taken by Major-General P J H Leng. Later I was shown the museum and again entertained in the sergeants' mess. I left with the feeling that we all owe a lot to this gallant band of gentlemen and General Leng's efforts to assure everyone that there is a future in the Army did not go unnoticed by me — however small my voice, it will be heard.

My thanks go to Lieutenant-Colonel C L G Henshaw for the invitation, to Captain 'Mac' Arnold for the welcome, to the sergeants' mess members and especially to my able, informative and patient escort, Sergeant Bob Such.

This is not the end of it. There will be return visits to the museum and the price of a few cans of beer will be finding its way to Major Ker and the company in Hong Kong to show



them that they are not forgotten. I feel part of the family and proud to know them.

I would also like to repeat the same message I gave in my letter to Colonel Henshaw, that if any member of The Royal Green Jackets finds himself stranded in London or is just passing through and in need of a cup of tea (or something stronger), or if I can be of any help in the future, then they can be assured of that help, given in the same spirit as that which is shown by all in the regiment. If we are at home when you call, then so are you.

— E McGeorge, 38 Stapleford Close, Beaumont Road, London SW19 6TQ.

*\*Mr McGeorge's necessarily abridged letter needs a little amplification. He did his National Service in the Royal Air Force but had no connection at all with the Army until his visit to The Royal Green Jackets firefighters near his home. He called there on a Tuesday evening and went back on the Friday evening with his 'odd can of beer.' That 'odd can' was in fact 266 cans of beer!*

*Thank you, Mr McGeorge, and we hope you have a long and happy liaison with The Royal Green Jackets.*

## Your division?

I am gathering material for a history of 4th Division and am anxious to trace anyone who is prepared to lend documents, photographs, etc about the division or units and persons who served in it at any time. Any documents loaned to me will be treated with the greatest of care and speedily returned to their owners.

The division was formed by Wellington on 18 June 1809. During the last 169 years it has seen action in the Peninsula, Waterloo, Crimea, Boer War, World War One and World War Two, although it was not until after the Boer War that divisions became peacetime formations. — Lieut-Col C D J A Tempest (Retd), AQ Branch, HQ 4 Armd Div, BFPO 15.

## 'Keep Right On . . .'

Full marks to Harry Diamond for his story 'Love from the trenches remembered' (*SOLDIER* News, December) of Captain John Lauder and his fiancée. I well remember — I was five years old — my father saying that after Sir Harry Lauder received the news of his son's death in action he composed the song 'Keep Right on to the End of the Road' in his memory. — J G Ferrigan, Portchester.

## Come and join us

The Arborfield Old Boys Association has agreed to invite into membership any ex-apprentices who served at the Army Apprentices School/College, Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle, during its existence. Those eligible should write for details to me. — H Shaw (honorary secretary, Old Boys Association), Army Apprentices College, Arborfield Camp, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 9NJ.

## No 'plant'

I read with incredulity the paragraph in February's *SOLDIER* to Soldier in which you claimed that an 'ordinary soldier' told you that at a time when civilians have their wages pegged to ten per cent he felt that this is not a time for the Army to be asking for more pay.

I will not impugn your journalistic honour by suggesting that this was a 'plant' inserted on orders from above, but the statement is so naïve that it is almost worthy of the psychological operations school at Old Sarum! If this statement really was made by a serving 'ordinary soldier' then I can only say that it does not accord with the (unsolicited) comments that I have heard from many ordinary British ranks around the country.

Without exception the Army feels that it has been sold out and neglected and that its loyalty has been cynically exploited in terms of pay and allowances.

Surely you are aware that the firemen were able to achieve a pay deal that is far superior to anything that we are likely to get, by striking, when the soldiers who replaced them were paid less than the firemen before the strike!

Over the Christmas period, in this area I personally met a petrol attendant, a barman, a lorry driver and an ice-cream salesman who stood to attention and called me sir — they were all NCOs who had to moonlight to pay their bills!

Come off it, *SOLDIER* — don't throw away your reputation for straight reporting by stooping to whitewash and propaganda which you know to be untrue. Even the Army Board admits that we are up to 25 per cent behind our equivalent civilian pay scales! — Major C, Camberley.

*\*Thank you, Major C, for not impugning *SOLDIER*'s integrity. This was in fact an unsolicited comment from a serving soldier. Major C can be assured that had it not been, it would not have been published.*

## Medals for museums

Having expressed your editorial support (*SOLDIER* to Soldier, December) that military medals, particularly gallantry decorations, should be held by military museums when recipients or families no longer want them, and having indirectly questioned the motives of Mr Ernest Bell's 'Soldiers Killed on the First Day of the Somme,' I am surprised that you have given him further publicity in the book reviews of your February edition.

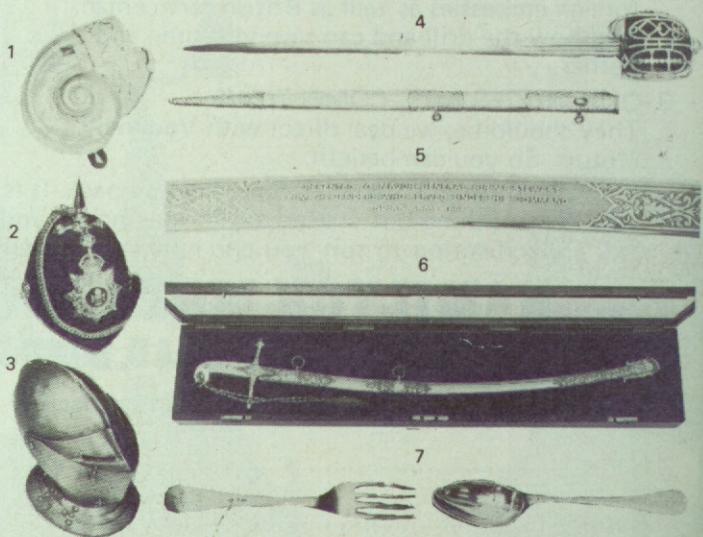
Mr Bell has been reported as saying that 'Too many curators know nothing about the man behind the medals. To them, medals are often so much wallpaper. There are a number of regimental museums which are a travesty of the memory of the men whose honour they are supposed to perpetuate.' These are strong words and Mr Bell should be asked to name

*continued over*

## UNDER THE HAMMER

At an auction sale by Weller & Dufty Ltd, Birmingham, an extremely rare 17th century close helmet (picture 3) fetched £200. An Edwardian infantry officer's 1878 pattern home service helmet (2) realised £145 and an Indo-Persian flask (1), with mother-of-pearl mosaic work on its wooden top, made £75.

An early 18th century silver-mounted Scottish broadsword (4) fetched £1600 when sold at auction by Messrs Wallis & Wallis, of Lewes. An officer's mameluke sabre (5 and 6), given to Major-General Sir N R Stewart in 1897 by officers who served under his command in the Indian Army, went for £900. The regimental museum of The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers bought for £500 an early 19th century fork and spoon (7) which belonged to Joseph Bonaparte and which were taken from his carriage after the Battle of Vittoria in 1813.



the curators and museums he condemns.

Being privileged by my job to know the curators and contents of all the 141 regimental museums, I would be grateful if you would refute these allegations and let your readers know that the hard-worked officers who look after these museums, many voluntarily and most in addition to many other duties, consider their medals to be the most treasured part of their collections.

To suggest that they know nothing about the man behind the medal is nonsense since regimental or corps records are unique and, as practically every medal has been presented by the owner or relatives, the curators have individual knowledge of the recipients. Curators do not only care but realise that when families donate medals to a museum they do so with the intent that these will be seen at some time by thousands of visitors and thus become a personal memorial to their gallant forebears.

With my trustees' approval, I have countered Mr Bell's allegations in the national Press, which resulted in 30 sets of medals being donated to museums, including a triple Military Cross. I am grateful for this opportunity of also doing so through your columns, especially since *SOLDIER* runs such an excellent series on regimental museums and supports our contention that the proper home for medals is the regiment in which the soldier earned them. — Col P S Newton, Secretary, Army Museums Ogilby Trust, Ministry of Defence (Army), 85 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2NP.

## Side-drummers

Like Mr F M Waters (Letters, January) I am glad we still have the

Marines and others who look and sound good without this latest fad. A style of solo drumming called 'hand-to-hand' or 'Gaelic' has developed from civilian pipe bands who need super beatings in competitions. Wonderful as it is to hear, it forces the player to adapt a crab-like walk and can also cut the tempo to a crawl. Still serving in a TAVR unit myself, I find the drummers have become prima donnas who delight in outdoing each other in impossible beatings which are useless on parade.

Give me the old swagger with trail ropes swinging and bugle worn and played by an all-rounder, and not the virtuoso, like the Irishman, 'playing for his own amazement.'

All bandsmen adapt their playing to suit marching conditions; some drummers have reversed this old rule and it's not a pretty sight. — Stanley

Boyd, RHF Band (TA).

## Angel of Catterick?

During World War Two I found myself in a bad way in Catterick Hospital. Throughout my conscious periods there was always a St John nurse in attendance. As I got better she left. Asking around, nobody knew her. At the reinforcement holding unit I asked again and the blokes laughed and said it was 'The Angel of Catterick'. Was she a ghost or real? — G H Jackson, 6 Walkington Avenue, Margaret River 6285, Western Australia.

★*SOLDIER* can find no documentation on an 'Angel of Catterick.' Perhaps this was an up-dated reference to the legendary World War One 'Angel of Mons.' Or has any reader heard of a Catterick angel?

## NEW WEAPON GALLERY

A new permanent exhibition, opening on 12 April on the ground floor of the National Army Museum, to complete the displays in the first phase of the building, is the first serious attempt by any museum to trace the development of the hand-held weapons used by the British soldier from medieval times to the present.

The influence of tradition, emergency, fashion and science are explained, as are the special preferences and requirements of many individual regiments, of the East India Company, which ruled the great sub-continent until after the mutiny of 1857, and of the Indian Army.

This new weapon gallery tells a complicated story — although it deals with little more than the weapons carried by the infantry and cavalry — for there were occasions when a cavalryman might carry pistols, carbine, sword and lance. In addition to these personal arms the displays include machine-guns, grenades, mortars and light anti-tank weapons.

Earliest weapon on show is a longbow from the wreck of Henry VIII's ship Mary Rose, sunk in 1525. The development of gunlocks is explained through exploded line drawings and specially commissioned models. Comparisons are made of the accuracy and range of half-a-dozen weapons from the smooth-bore musket of 1580 to the 1903 short-magazine Lee Enfield.

The gallery's design makes much use of contemporary illustrations; film and slide sequences show how the weapons were carried and used. Many of the weapons are displayed in circular and semi-circular cases so that the contents can be examined from all angles. In an electronic rifle range the visitor can test his marksmanship.

## Pattern '58

I have been a member of the TAVR and TA now for 24 years and with luck still have one or two 'good years' left. It would be wonderful if, just once before I go, I could see our smiling quartermaster issue webbing equipment that is a little more recent than pattern '37.

It must surely be possible for someone 'up there' in Whitehall to hold back from the next surplus sale a small quantity of pattern '58 kit for we long-suffering TA bogs! I am sure the dealers would not really mind! — Sgt P W Flock, 71 Sig Regt (V) (LAD), Hill House, Bromley, Kent.

★*Keep your fingers crossed, Sergeant F! Pattern '58 has already been issued to all TAVR infantry with a Nato role and is in course of issue to logistic units with a Nato role. It will reach the remainder of the TAVR as supplies become available. And if you see any kit offered by dealers it will be unservicable equipment which has been refurbished by them!*

## Not overrun

Commenting in your February issue on the article 'From Stalag 383 to the Silver Jubilee' (September 1977),

Lieutenant-Colonel Williams says he last saw me at Dunkirk 'riding in the general direction of the enemy' on a motorcycle. After all these years he might like to know where I was going!

At the time I was detached from Prince of Wales Company, 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, to the B (transport) echelon. Major W D C Greenacre, second-in-command of the battalion, ordered me to recover a Bren carrier guarding a crossroads to our rear. Hence my rapid exit on two wheels towards the enemy!

Former Platoon Sergeant-Major Williams and his platoon were lucky indeed to get home from Dunkirk. Sixty-three of their comrades in the battalion — myself included — didn't make it and ended up 'in the bag' as prisoners-of-war. — Cyril Phillips (Sergeant-Major of The Queen's Bodyguard), St James's Palace, London SW1.

## Staff/command cars

May I appeal for any material about military staff and command cars for a book covering commanders of all arms and rank, of all major com-  
*continued over*

## Collectors' Corner

This column is open to bona-fide collectors, not dealers. Announcements are made free of charge as a service to readers. Subsequent correspondence must be conducted direct between readers and not through *SOLDIER*.

Leslie Forster, 1 Eldon Drive, Harbary, Carlisle, CA1 3RS. — Seeks old badges (without clips), buttons and plumes.

R Neilson, 2 Cot Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8JP. — Seeks metal cap badges all Regular Scottish regiments, also any Gurkha and Royal Border Regiment.

Michael Moore (7½ years old), Alban House, The Lane, Creeton St Peter, Ipswich, Suffolk. — Collects British, Dominion and Colonial cap badges and seeks exchanges.

E Birtles, 30 Holmfeld Avenue, Moston, Manchester 9. — Seeks General Service Medals with bars, especially Near East, Arabian Peninsula, Brunei, Radfan, Dhofar. Will buy or exchange.

Lieut B F Sforcina RAAOC, 25 Colenso Crescent, Puckapunyal, Victoria 3662, Australia. — Collects medals, headdress, occupational money and badges and items worn by ordnance corps worldwide. Wishes buy or swap for similar items or swap current and some older Australian badges.

Tom Coyne, c/o 12 Jordan Avenue, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 8DQ. — Seeks copy 'Assault Division' (Norman Scarfe), published by Collins, 1947.

W H Twitcher, 42 Whytadys Lane, Cookham Rise, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 9LP. — Button collector wishes buy following large A/A buttons: 9/12 R Lancers, R Hussars, R Scots DG, Wiltshire Regt 1956-59, Inns of Court & City Yeo, Queen's Own Dorset & West Somerset Yeo, Highland Yeo.

F Ronald Marshall, The Lodge, New Place, Park Road, Banstead, Surrey. — For sale, 'War Monthly' (set of 48 Marshall-Cavendish magazines), £20 ono.

R J Girling, 8 Edinburgh Gardens, Claydon, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 0DS. — Seeks all types army medical services badges, insignia, militaria. Will buy or exchange British militaria.

S Crowter, 78 Unity Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1HX. — Schoolboy collects postcards and photographs of anything on military theme including humorous, uniforms, ceremonies, battle scenes, any period. Reasonable prices paid.

J C van Wilkelen, Noordweg 59, Serooskerke (W), The Netherlands. — Wishes buy '48 Royal Marine Commando 1944-46,' 'Haste to the Battle,' 'ARE: The story of the 1st Assault Brigade Royal Engineers 1943-1945,' shoulder titles 41, 47 and 48 RM commandos; cap badge RAC (GVI crown).

Howard Robson, 1 Palmer Road, Belle Vue, Carlisle, CA2 7NE. — Seeks LPs or cassettes vols 1, 2 and 3 'Regimental Marches of the British Army.' Please state prices.

R J Drenzek, 593 Park Street, Bridgeport, Conn 06608, USA. — Seeks current issue DPM camouflage tropical lightweight jacket, also DPM para smock in new condition.

Jules Thillen, 181 rue de Saupant, 6800 Bertrix, Belgium. — Seeks any military badges and medals (NB French-speaking, does not understand English).

C G Churchill, Stepping Stones, 4 Abbey Hill Close, Winchester, Hants, SO23 7AZ. — Wishes buy British formation signs, shoulder titles and any items connected with Dorsetshire Regiment. Also seeks 16th (Queen's) Lancers collar badges.

T A Jolly, 22 Melville Road, Bispham, Blackpool, Lancs. — Has for sale or exchange lancer plumes, plume cups, brass corners, cap lines, chin chains; hussar plumes, plume cups, cap lines. See for inquiry.

Geoffrey Newport (aged 11), 15 Iffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1EA. — Seeks to complete collection, cap badges RAEC, RMA Band Corps, Gordons, King's Own Scottish Borderers, Royal Scots. Offers in exchange (all Staybrite) Queen's, R Signals, Royal Artillery, R Irish Rangers, Para, Green Jackets, RAOC, REME, Military Police, RAPC, APTC, ACC, GSC. Or would exchange for pre-amalgamation badges.

batant nations, within the period 1904-1975. The main need is for details of special fittings, modifications, equipment, driver's and maintenance manuals, anecdotes and photographs of the cars, drivers and the officers themselves.

All collaboration will be acknowledged in the book and material returned as soon as possible. — Brian Jewell, *Midas Books, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Kent.*

## Reunions

**15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association.** 59th annual reunion dinner and dance, Empire Rooms, 161 Tottenham Court Road, London W1, Saturday 6 May, 6pm for 7pm. Tickets from Major B O Simmonds, Secretary, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars Regimental Association, Fenham Barracks, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 4NP (tel: 0632 29855).

**The Royal Hussars.** Annual reunion, Barker's Penthouse Restaurant,

Kensington, 7.15pm, Saturday 6 May. Tickets from Home Headquarters, The Royal Hussars (PWO), Lower Barracks, Winchester.

**Fiddlers Club.** Seventh annual reunion, Royal School of Artillery, Larshill, Friday-Saturday, 4-5 August. All pre-1939 RA trumpeters invited. Further details: Major (Retd) J J Dobbs, Easter Ross House, Minley Road, Cove, Farnborough, Hants. SO21 2RG.

**The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment Association.** Annual reunion, 7pm, 13 May, St George's Hall, Exeter, Devon. Tickets from RHQ Devonshire & Dorset Regiment, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, in advance (£2.50 including buffet and dancing).

**King's Royal Rifle Corps Association.** Annual reunion, 1830 hrs, Saturday 6 May (Cup Final night), HQ, 4th (V) Bn, RGJ, 56 Davies Street, London, W1Y 2HR. Tickets at door, £1.20 each (with buffet). Nearest Tube, Bond Street.

**RAPC Regimental Association.** Annual general meeting (30th),

6.30pm, Friday 28 April, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2. Followed by 29th annual dinner, 7pm for 7.30pm. Tickets (£4.00) from Secretary, RAPC Regimental Association, Corps HQ, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants, SO21 2RG.

**The Wiltshire Regiment Old Comrades Association.** Annual reunion, 10-11 June, Devizes. Details from Hon Secretary, Le Merchant Barracks, Devizes, Wilts, SN10 2ER.

**Armourers.** Annual reunion, 7pm, 13 May, Royal Green Jackets Drill Hall, 56 Davies Street, London, W1Y 2HR. Details from Secretary, R Manning, 4 North Bank Close, Strood, Kent.

**Royal Military Police Association.** Reunion dinner, Saturday 13 May, TAVR Centre, 132 Upper Tulse Hill, Brixton, London, SW2 2RP. Tickets (£5.50 including dance after dinner) from Secretary RHQ/RMP, Rousillon Barracks, Chichester, Sussex. Wives (and husbands of lady members) welcome. Limited single male accommodation available in TAVR Centre on written request to RHQ/RMP.

## Competition

December's Competition 233 (Outline plot) disguised 38 familiar objects in outline in the maze of lines. The objects were: Bird, bobbin (cotton reel or spool), button, chair, (tea) cup, dart, die (dice), fork, frying pan, golf club (putter, iron), gramophone, (claw) hammer, key, (fish) knife, nail, nut, (artist's) paint brush, padlock, paper clip, pear, (pen) nib, pencil, pencil sharpener, (automatic) pistol, razor blade, revolver, rolling pin, rugby ball, safety pin, scissors, (child's) scooter,

screwdriver, spectacles (glasses), spoon, (three-legged) stool, (water) tap, trumpet (bugle) and tweezers. Prizewinners:

1 Spr L Gruncell, HQ Tp (MT), 30 Fd Sqn, 3 Armd Div Engr Regt, BFPO 24.

2 Mrs S Banks, c/o WO1 J C Banks, 227 Sig Sqn, BFPO 18.

3 R G Coase, 7 Highfield Court, Glebelands Road, Prestwich, Manchester.

4 I H Balestrino, C305, GM's Dept, HM Naval Base, BFPO 163.

5 C/Sgt J A Collier, 1 Glosters, BFPO 802.

6 S/Sgt N Scott, RAPC Computer Centre, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants.

7 Alistair Dunn, 24 West Leys, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

8 George Andrews, 7 Hayman Road, Minehead, Somerset.

9 S/Sgt R de St Croix, RAOC, NATO Programming Centre, Nato HQ, BFPO 18.

10 Sgt M A Filmer, 40 (U) Sig Regt (V), BFPO 801.

11 Mrs P M Rossiter, HQ Lisburn Garrison, BFPO 801.

12 Mrs R Moss, Pay Services, HQ 2nd Armd Div, BFPO 22.

## How observant are you?

(see page 9)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Dog's lead in pedestrian's hand. 2 Shoulder flash of officer in big car. 3 Driver's door handle of big car. 4 Divisional sign by front wheel of big car. 5 Officer's stick on seat of self-drive car. 6 Sideburn of officer in self-drive car. 7 Position of chimney on house. 8 Ventilating slots by rear window of big car. 9 Rabbit by right tree. 10 Middle section of white line on road.

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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.

# See-the-Army DIARY

## APRIL 1978

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

## MAY 1978

4 Evening of Nostalgia (in aid of Ssafa), Royal Albert Hall, London.  
 5 Plymouth Services Tattoo (5-6 May) (band; pipes and drums; Royal Military Police 'Red Caps' mounted display team; Royal Signals 'White Helmets' motorcycle display; Junior Parachute Company 'Pegasus' physical training display).  
 5 Newark Agricultural Show (5-6 May) (band; static displays).  
 6 Goodwood Air Pageant (6-7 May) (Royal Artillery motorcycle display team).  
 12 Burslem Show (12-14 May) (band; static displays).  
 13 Market Rasen Show (13-14 May) (junior band; White Helmets; static displays).  
 13 Harpenden Carnival (RA motorcyclists).  
 17 Shropshire and West Midland Show, Shrewsbury (17-18 May) (junior band; Red Caps; The Light Division 'Flying Bugles' freefall team).  
 20 Long Eaton Carnival (20-21 May) (band; The Parachute Regiment 'Red Devils' freefall team; static displays).  
 20 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Tattoo.  
 20 Hadleigh (Essex) Farmers Club Show (Red Caps).  
 20 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.  
 20 Combined Forces Show, Duxford (20-21 May) (White Helmets).  
 20 Mitcham Carnival (RA motorcyclists).  
 21 Brentwood Tattoo.  
 23 Massed bands, Household Division, beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (23-25 May).  
 24 Queen's Birthday Parade, Berlin.  
 24 Stafford Show (24-25 May) (band; corps of drums; White Helmets).  
 26 Aldershot Horse Show (26-28 May) (Royal Corps of Transport 'Silver Stars' freefall team; band).  
 27 Cannon Hill Festival, Birmingham (27 May-3 June) (band; junior band; RA motorcyclists; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery, physical training display).  
 27 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.  
 27 Anglo-American Air Festival, Bassingbourn, Hertfordshire (27-28 May).  
 27 Montgomery Agricultural Show, Welshpool (Red Caps).  
 27 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (27-29 May) (three bands; junior band; White Helmets; Red Devils; Pegasus).  
 28 Hove Lions Day (band).  
 28 Carrington Park Rally, Boston (28-29 May) (band; Flying Bugles).  
 29 County Centenary Show, Derby (two bands; Flying Bugles).  
 29 Scottish/American War Memorial service, Edinburgh (junior band).  
 29 Surrey County Show, Guildford (Red Caps).  
 30 Royal Marines massed bands beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (30 May-1 June).

## JUNE 1978

2 Gosport Combined Cadet Tattoo (2-4 June).  
 3 St Neot's Riverside Carnival (3-5 June) (band; Red Devils; Pegasus).  
 3 Nuneaton Carnival (junior band; JLR RA PT display).  
 3 Wolverhampton Fiesta (3-10 June) (band 3 June; Pegasus 6 June; band 10 June).  
 3 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.  
 3 Open Day, 38 Engineer Regiment, Ripon.  
 4 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot (Glencorse) (Scottish Division 'Golden Lions' freefall team; bands).  
 10 Coventry Carnival (junior band).  
 10 Perkins Families Day, Peterborough (band).  
 11 Mayor's Carnival, Lincoln (11-12 June) (band).  
 11 Hungerford Steam Rally (11-12 June) (band).  
 12 Edinburgh Army Display (12-17 June) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).

16 Essex Show, Chelmsford (16-17 June) (band; King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, musical ride).  
 23 Aldershot Army Display (23-25 June) (15 bands; six corps of drums; pipe band; Red Caps; Pegasus; King's Troop; RA motorcyclists; Red Devils; Hong Kong Police display team).  
 24 East Midlands Gas Gala, Leicester (junior band; Red Devils).  
 24 Shoreham Air Day (24-25 June) (band).  
 25 Ssafa Air Display, RAF Church Fenton, Yorkshire.  
 26 Chesterfield Carnival (band; pipes and drums; Red Devils).  
 28 Royal Norfolk Show, Norwich (28-29 June) (two bands; Pegasus).

## JULY 1978

1 Aveling Barford Show, Grantham (1-2 July) (band; Guards freefall team; static displays).  
 2 Wilton Spectacular, Wilton House, Salisbury (in aid of Ssafa) (Red Caps).  
 7 Catterick Army Display (7-9 July) (White Helmets).  
 7 Southampton Show (7-9 July) (band).  
 8 Basingstoke Tattoo (8-15 July).  
 8 Airborne Forces Day, Aldershot.  
 8 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (two bands; Guards freefall; RA motorcyclists; JLR RA PT display; static displays).  
 8 Teeside British Steel Show, Redcar (Red Caps).  
 9 Tercentenary parade, The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Edinburgh.  
 12 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (12-29 July).  
 13 Norfolk Army Display, Earlham Park, Norwich (13-15 July) (four bands; corps of drums; Red Devils; Pegasus).  
 13 Kent County Show (13-14 July) (band).  
 15 Artillery Day, Larkhill.  
 15 Highland Games, Corby (15-16 July) (junior band; pipes and drums; RA motorcyclists 16 July).  
 15 Open Day, Prince of Wales's Division Depot, Crickhowell (Red Caps).  
 18 Dunfermline Army Display (18-19 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).  
 18 East of England Show, Peterborough (18-20 July) (band; Red Devils; Red Caps).  
 20 Burntisland Army Display (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).  
 21 Greater Manchester Band Pageant (in aid of Variety Club of Great Britain and Army Benevolent Fund) (21-23 July) (11 bands; corps of drums; two pipe bands; JLR RA PT display; Red Devils).  
 22 Aberdeen Army Display (22-23 July) (Golden Lions; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).  
 22 Open Day, Light Infantry Depot, Shrewsbury (bands; Flying Bugles).  
 27 St Helens Tattoo (27-29 July) (three bands; Red Caps; Red Devils; Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; Royal Armoured Corps hot-air balloon).  
 27 Manchester Show (27-29 July) (band; corps of drums; Red Devils; White Helmets).  
 30 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps, Bovington Camp.

## AUGUST 1978

1 Tyneside Summer Exhibition (1-5 August) (White Helmets).  
 2 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (2-5 August).  
 3 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (band; Flying Bugles).  
 4 Southsea Show (4-6 August) (band).  
 11 Stoke-on-Trent Carnival (11-12 August) (band; corps of drums; Flying Bugles).  
 11 Shrewsbury Show (11-12 August) (two bands).  
 17 Edinburgh Tattoo (17 August-9 September).  
 18 Reading Show (18-19 August) (band).  
 19 Skegness Carnival Week (19-25 August) (band; Pegasus; static displays).  
 19 Doncaster Horse Show (19-20 August) (Red Caps).  
 25 British Timken Show, Northampton (25-26 August) (Guards freefall; static displays).  
 26 Expo Steam, Peterborough (26-28 August) (Red Devils; RA motorcyclists).  
 26 Town and Country Festival, Stoneleigh (26-28 August) (Flying Bugles).  
 26 Preston Tattoo (26-28 August) (three bands; corps of drums; two pipe bands; Red Devils; Pegasus; Red Caps; Royal Navy window ladder display; White Helmets).  
 27 Quexpo '78, Birchington, Kent (27-28 August) (band).  
 28 Leicester City Show (28-29 August) (Guards Freefall).  
 28 Walsall Show (28-29 August) (White Helmets 29 August; Pegasus 29 August).

## SEPTEMBER 1978

1 Birmingham Show (1-3 September) (band; RA motorcyclists; Pegasus).  
 2 Guildford Town Show (2-3 September) (band).  
 2 Cosgrove Park Carnival (2-3 August) (band).  
 7 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (Red Caps).  
 9 South Midland Tattoo, Banbury.  
 9 Freedom of Nottingham, 17th/21st Lancers.  
 9 Romsey Agricultural and Horse Show (Red Caps).  
 21 Thame Show (band).  
 23 New Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Edinburgh.  
 24 Laying up of Old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Royal Highland Fusiliers, Ayr, and march past.

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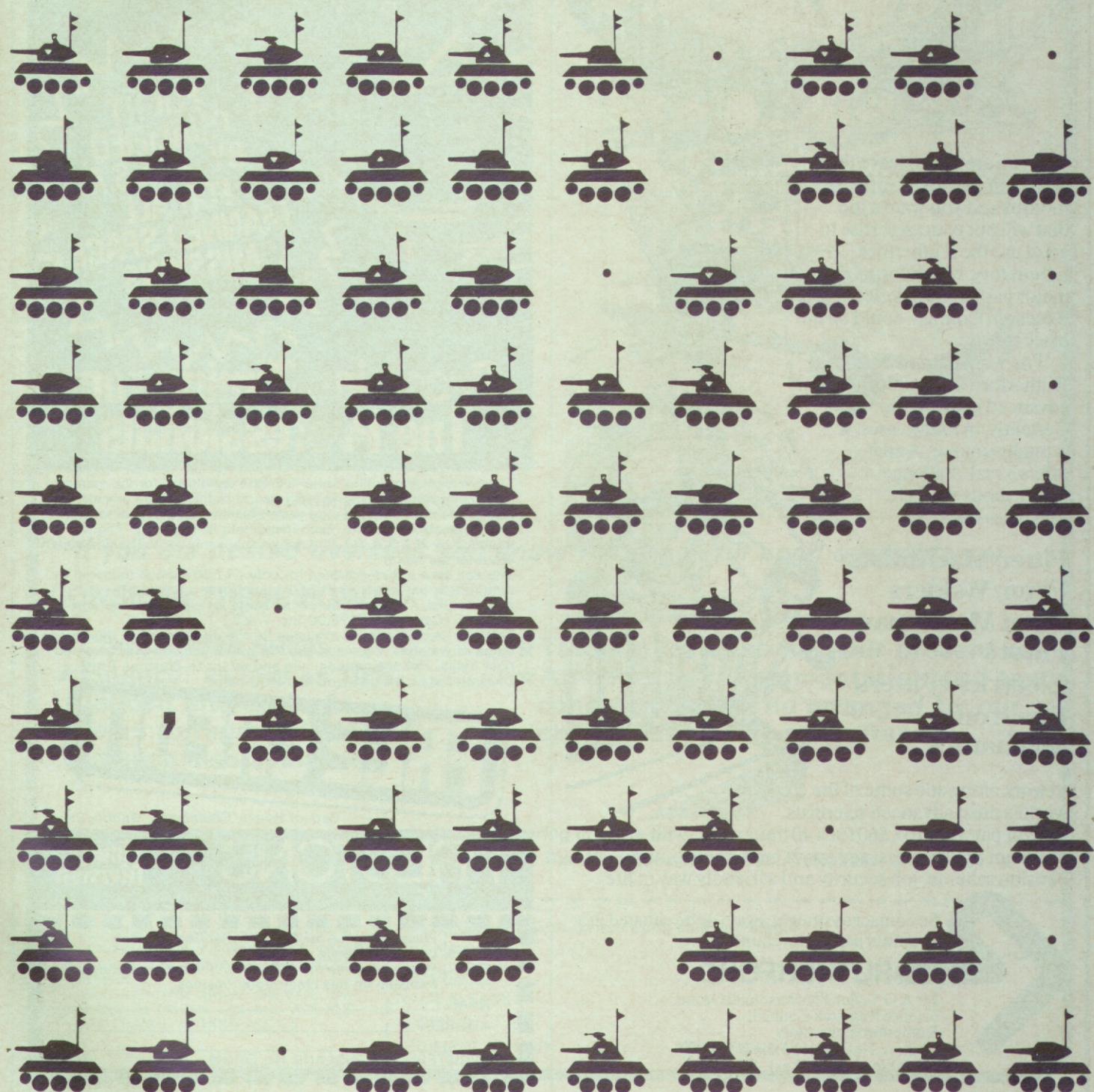
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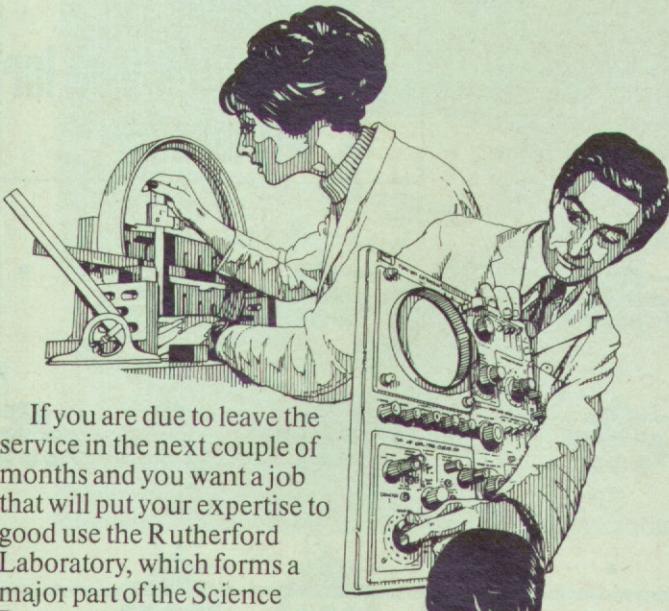
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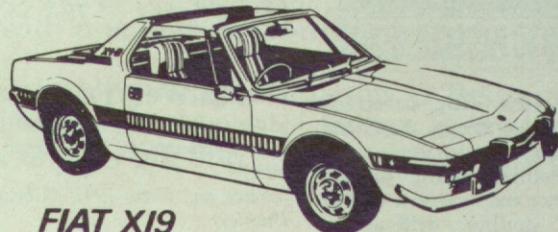
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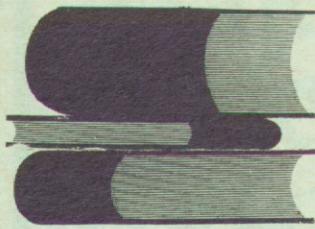
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# BOOKS



## Top thinking

*'The Road to Passchendaele'* (John Terraine)

Not another account of mud, blood, stench and heroism. Far from it. This is an analysis of the thinking in the upper echelons — the directors of the war effort in the 1914-18 era. British politicians, headed by the Prime Minister, their French counterparts,

John Terraine



### THE ROAD TO PASSCHENDAELE

The Flanders Offensive of 1917. A Study in Inevitability

and the generals — Haig, Robertson, Wilson, Nivelle, Pétain, Foch and others — all spent much time writing to one another, liaising through intermediaries and otherwise recording their doubts, difficulties, requirements, orders and impressions. The observations of German generals and German official reports also are included.

The author has welded these records into an interesting volume that throws considerable light not only on the characters of the leaders but also on the thinking that prompted the actions the troops were required to carry out.

Lloyd George's intriguing attempt to subordinate Haig to Nivelle, the mutinies in the French regiments and the guessing suppositions among the allied generals when the Germans withdrew to straighten and, therefore, strengthen their line, all disclose human frailties that must have imperilled success.

This is an interesting volume compiled from recorded facts and it shows how and why the 'top brass' acted. One wonders sometimes whether many of those in high places really did have any special talents to qualify them for the influence they held over the lives of millions.

*Leo Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £11.50*

GRH

## Fontenoy to Ulster

*'The Black Watch'* (Eric and Andro Linklater)

This remarkable history of The Black Watch has the added distinction of

having for its joint authors Eric Linklater, who served as a Black Watch private on the Western Front, and his son, Andro, who completed the book following his father's death. Based on contemporary records, diaries and memoirs, this definitive work takes the reader through 236 years of Black Watch history from formation in 1739 to 3 May 1975 when the Queen Mother presented new Colours to the 1st Battalion.

From the mutiny on Finchley Common, still sympathetically remembered in the regiment, and followed two years later by its exemplary behaviour at Fontenoy, through to Ticonderoga, the West Indies, Alexandria, the Peninsula, Quatre Bras and Waterloo, the Crimea, India, South Africa, the two world wars, Burma and Northern Ireland, the regiment has served and fought the world over.

Rich in personal anecdotes, the story of The Black Watch weaves its way through the years. The Peninsular campaigns are etched with vivid accounts of individual encounters and the chapter on the Highland Brigade in the Crimea is noteworthy for the anecdotal way in which it tells the story of the campaign. Again and again the Jocks' sense of personal responsibility, regimental tradition and comradeship comes through in the narrative.

Beautifully illustrated in colour and black and white, this is a regimental history par excellence.

*Barrie & Jenkins Ltd, 24 Highbury Crescent, London, N5 1RX, £8.95*

JFPJ

## World War Two

*'Arms and the Men'* (Ian Hay)

*'The Campaign in Italy'* (Eric Linklater)

*'Greece and Crete 1941'* (Christopher Buckley)

The re-issue of Ian Hay's classic, first published in 1950, and five companion volumes about World War Two campaigns, reflect the continuing interest in war books and the increasing demand for information about the 1939-45 holocaust.

This first volume in the reprinted series lays the foundation for full appreciation of all five. The author looks back to Cardwell and Haldane, who gave a firm basis for the present British Army, and touches on Cromwell, Roberts, Kitchener and Haig, the Crimea, South Africa and World War One before pursuing his subject in greater detail through World War Two.

This is required reading for all who would wish to study the subject from the beginning, and nostalgia and informative remembrances for those who were there.

In a single and rather large volume, Eric Linklater puts together the facts of a momentous campaign that started with the landings in Sicily and went doggedly step by step from the toe to the topmost part of Italy.

Written with the help of official war records and first published in 1951, this book is full of detail of the many actions which took the allied armies ever northward to final victory. It also contains some 51 maps, many illustrations and an index to the hundreds of formations and units which took part.

The campaign in Greece, the inevitable withdrawal, and the courageous defence of Crete are episodes in the early years of World War Two that played their part in the overall strategic pattern but registered at the time as disheartening defeats.

Britain, although sorely harassed, fulfilled her pledge to go to the aid of Greece. Troops from the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand performed heroically against odds and suffered the new air-land technique — the invasion by an armada of gliders carrying specially trained and expertly equipped men.

This re-issue of Christopher Buckley's book, first published in 1952, includes 14 maps and 17 illustrations.

*1 HMSO, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, £2.00*

*2 HMSO, £3.00*

*3 HMSO, £2.00*

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## More WW2

*'Norway: The Commandos: Dieppe'* (Christopher Buckley)

*'Five Ventures'* (Christopher Buckley)

*'North-West Europe'* (John North)

The actions fought in Norway against the German invaders by British, French and Polish troops are well worth keen study. The Norwegians were initially stunned by the invasion and offered little resistance. Later they organised a nationwide resistance and fought bravely to delay the invaders while the British landed and sought to safeguard the main ports.

The Germans were well trained and equipped and had air superiority. The British lacked guns, tanks, equipment and air support. Then came the setback in Belgium and France and the force was withdrawn.

The second half of this volume, fourth in a re-issued series of six books about World War Two, concerns the development of the newly formed commandos in the desert, the Mediterranean and Europe, and the larger seaborne assault and raid on Dieppe in 1942 with six infantry battalions and a tank regiment of the Canadian Army, plus commandos.

Next, again compiled from official records, is Mr Buckley's 'Five Ventures.'

When the war was going badly for Britain in 1940 and 1941 the German propaganda machine found it easy to sway feelings in the Middle East. Wavell had his hands full with the Western Desert, Greece, Crete and Ethiopia. When Britain was still falling back in 1941 he also had to deal with enemy influence in Iraq and Iran. With swift, energetic and decisive actions, his forces were able to turn out the dissidents and forestall enemy action.

With Vichy Frenchmen operating in Syria and Madagascar, two more swift campaigns had to be fought to deter the saboteurs, block the way against the infiltrators and keep the sea lanes open.

These determined and energetic campaigns are well described in this volume. Also recounted in detail is the operation against the Dodecanese Islands in 1943 — unsuccessful but courageous. There are ample maps, some photographs and a full index of the units engaged.

'North-West Europe,' the final volume, first published in 1953, was

compiled by an author specially commissioned for the task. Nearly a third of the photographs come from the files of SOLDIER.

There are also adequate maps to serve the text which vividly describes the Normandy invasion, the battle of Caen, the break-out and the long haul across Europe to the Rhine and the Baltic.

The story is centred on Montgomery's command, 21st Army Group, which included the Canadian First Army, the British Second, British airborne troops and allied contingents.

*HMSO, Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1P 1BN, £2.00 each*

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## IN BRIEF

*'The Citizen General Staff: The Australian Intelligence Corps 1907-1914'* (C D Coulthard Clark)

Thoroughness and an eye for detail are two of the virtues which characterise this first volume of a history of the Australian Intelligence Corps. Divided into four parts, starting with the early days of Intelligence in colonial Australia, through to the raising of the corps and ending with the outbreak of World War One, this 95-page book has much to offer.

A detailed description of the AIC uniform, a summary of awards to former members of the corps and a nominal roll of members from 1907 to 1914 with biographical notes, are among points covered in appendices.

*Military Historical Society of Australia, Federal Secretary, PO Box 67, Lyneham, ACT 2602, hard cover \$A 10, soft cover \$A 5, surface mail \$A 1, air mail \$A 2.*

*'Skiing for Beginners'* (Maurice Tugwell)

A book by an experienced enthusiast for the novice enthusiast. Although experienced, having started skiing in his 40s, the author admits to not being an expert and advises his readers to consult one after whetting their appetites by trying out his methods on the piste. His book is a readable and well-illustrated introduction to a sport with growing popularity.

*Seeley Service & Cooper Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £3.50*

*'The Dart Player's Handbook'* (George Hakim)

Darts has become a sophisticated and complex sport with many variations to test a player's skill. Mr Hakim's very readable little book covers everything from the rules to what to wear while playing. He warns of gamesmen's ploys, ranging from dropping your 'arrers' behind a throwing opponent to telling him what he requires for game shot. As an aid to this latter unsporting manoeuvre — but mainly as a help to failing maths after a few pints in front of your favourite board — Mr Hakim appends a dartsman's ready reckoner at the back of his book to calculate the shots needed to finish from any points in a game.

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