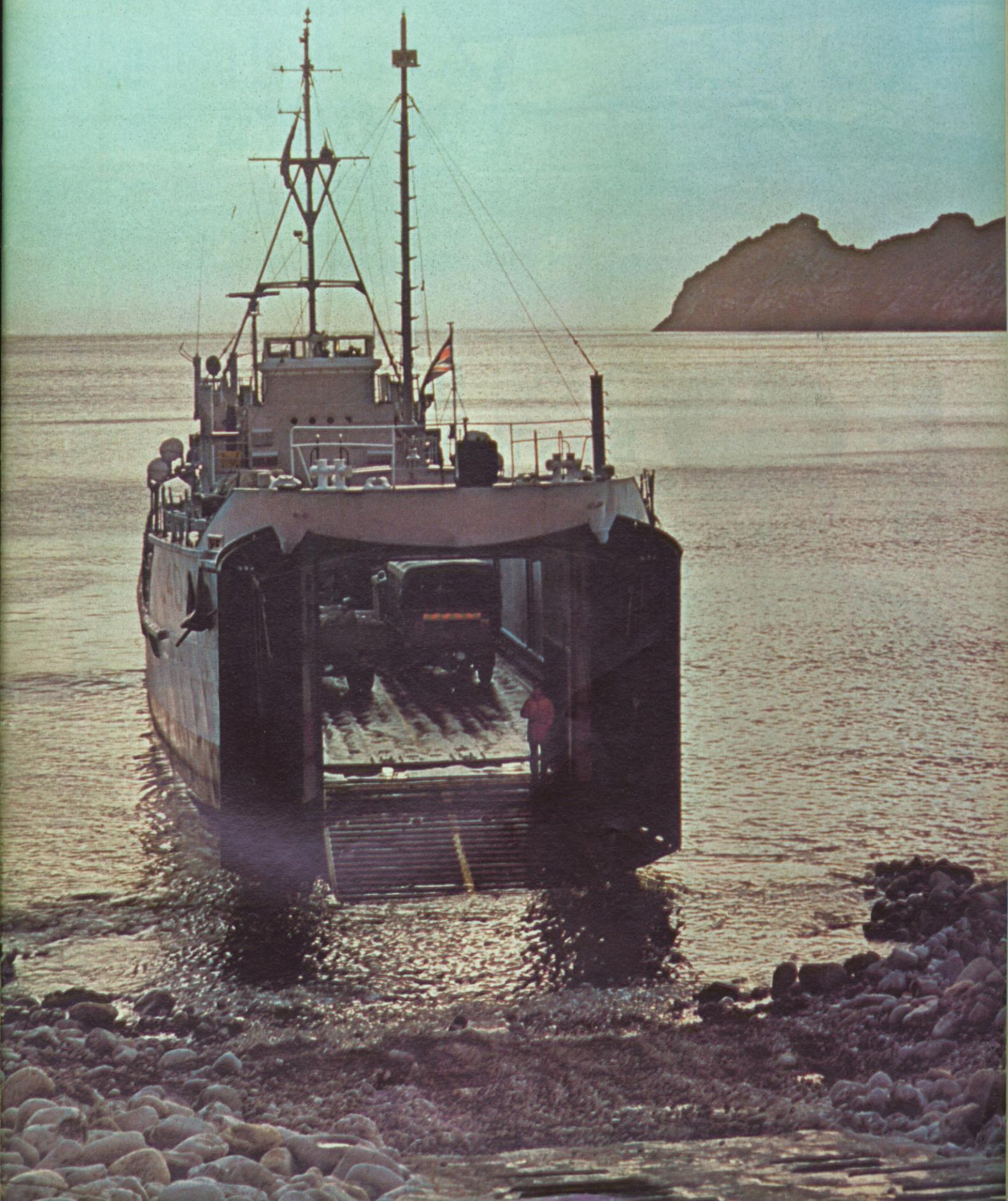


FEBRUARY 1976 ★ 15p

SOLDIER





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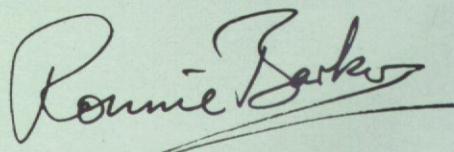
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FRONT COVER

Dawn over the Hebrides outpost of St Kilda highlights the lonely task of the men who operate the plotting station there and the crew of the 30-year-old Abbeville which supplies St Kilda and the gunnery ranges at Benbecula—weather permitting. Abbeville, here unloading in Village Bay, was built for the invasion of Japan in 1945.

Picture by Geoffrey Manners
MOD PR.



BACK COVER

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton, chairman of the North Atlantic Military Committee, reviews a Sovereign's Parade of budding officers at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, on behalf of the Queen. On this occasion some 75 officers were commissioned into the British Army. Also passing out were 12 officer cadets from abroad.

Picture by Sergeant Jim Dickson, RAOC.

Editor: PETER N WOOD (Ext 2585)
Deputy Editor: JOHN WALTON (Ext 2586)
Feature Writer: MICHAEL STARKE (Ext 2590)
Art Editor: FRANK R FINCH (Ext 2589)
Research: BILL SMITHERMAN (Ext 2591)
Picture Editor: LESLIE A WIGGS (Ext 2584)
Photographers: PAUL R G HALEY DOUG PRATT (Ext 2584)
Advertisement Manager: K PEMBERTON WOOD (Ext 2583/2587)
Circulation Manager: Miss D M W DUFFIELD (Ext 2592)

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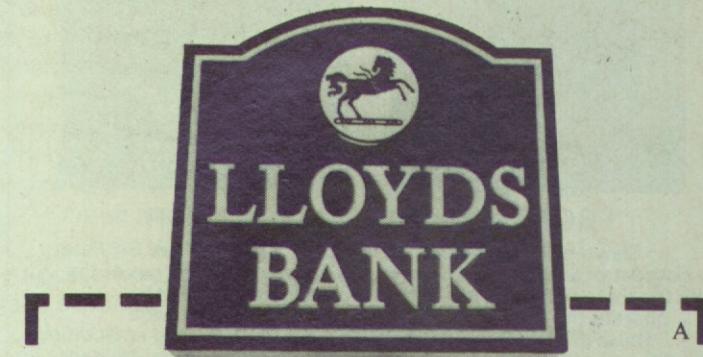
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SEE - THE - ARMY DIARY

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.

APRIL 1976

- 24 Freedom of Delyn (Clwyd), The Royal Welch Fusiliers.
- 24 Presentation new Colours, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Gloucester.
- 25 Laying up old Colours, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Gloucester Cathedral.

MAY 1976

- 3 Bridgend (Glamorgan) Army Exhibition (3-5 May) (Parachute Regiment "Red Devils" freefall team; Royal Signals "White Helmets" motorcycle display team; band).
- 7 Swansea Army Display (7-9 May) (Red Devils, White Helmets, Royal Military Police "Red Caps" mounted display team; Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery; band).
- 12 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 13 Devon County Show, Exeter (13-15 May) (band).
- 14 Biggin Hill International Air Fair (14-16 May).
- 15 Boldon (Co Durham) British Legion Festival (band).
- 15 Medway Steam Fair, Gillingham (15-16 May) (arena event; band).
- 15 South Suffolk Show, Bury St Edmunds (Red Caps; band).
- 17 Long Eaton (Derbyshire) Carnival (17-18 May) (Red Devils; band).
- 19 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 19 West Midland Agricultural Show, Shrewsbury (19-20 May) (White Helmets).
- 19 Birmingham Careers Exhibition (19-21 May) (Royal Green Jackets freefall team; band).
- 21 Warrington Army Display (21-23 May) (Junior Parachute Company "Pegasus" gymnastic team; Red Devils; Red Caps; White Helmets; five bands).
- 22 Hadleigh (Suffolk) Show (Royal Corps of Transport "Silver Stars" freefall team).
- 22 Oxford Federation Young Farmers Agricultural Show, Oxford (Army Air Corps "Blue Eagles" helicopter display team; Royal Army Ordnance Corps "Cannonballs" freefall team; band).
- 26 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 29 Tidworth Tattoo and Fair (29-31 May).
- 29 First rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 29 Combined Cadet Tattoo, Gosport (29-31 May).
- 29 Glasgow Army Display (29 May-13 June) (Scottish Division "Golden Lions" freefall team; White Helmets 6-13 May; Pegasus; band; pipes and drums).
- 29 Tulip Festival, Birmingham (band).
- 29 Worcester City Show (29-31 May) (band).
- 29 Congleton Carnival and Tattoo (29-31 May) (Red Devils; Blue Eagles 29 May; White Helmets; five bands).
- 30 Currington Park Rally, Boston, Lincolnshire (Cannonballs; band).
- 31 Southam (Warwickshire) Carnival (JLR RA PT display; band).
- 31 Selby Carnival (band).
- 31 Surrey County Show, Guildford (arena event; band).
- 31 Pershore (Worcestershire) Show (RGJ freefall).
- 31 Derbyshire County Show, Derby (arena event; band).
- 31 Oulton Broad Fête (arena event).
- 31 Watford Borough Carnival (arena event; band).
- 31 Dunstable Fête and Carnival (arena event; band).

JUNE 1976

- 1 Household Division massed bands beat Retreat, Horse Guards Parade, London (1-3 June).
- 2 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 2 Suffolk Show, Ipswich (2-3 June) (Red Devils; band).
- 4 Ripon Weekend (4-6 June) (band).
- 5 Second rehearsal, Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 5 36 Engineer Regiment freedom march, Maidstone.
- 5 Stanley (Co Durham) Community Centre Show (band).
- 6 Open Day, Scottish Infantry Depot, Glencorse (Golden Lions; displays; bands).

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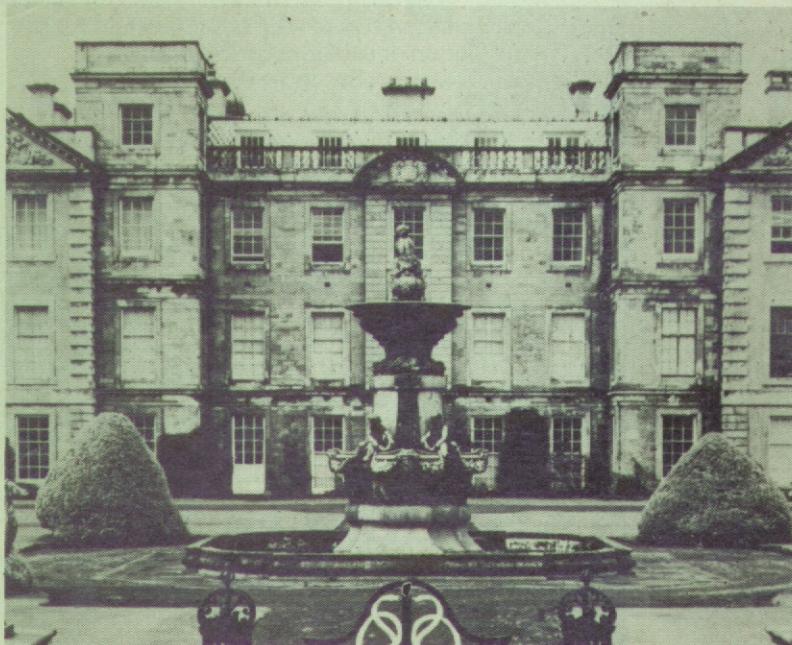
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F11

DIARY

continued

- 7 Coventry Carnival (JLR RA PT display; band).
- 9 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 12 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.
- 12 Branksome, Darlington, School Fair (band).
- 12 Wolverhampton Fiesta (Red Devils).
- 12 Ilkley Show (band).
- 12 Nuneaton Carnival (band).
- 12 Open Day, Royal Pioneer Corps Training Centre, Northampton (Red Devils; band).
- 12 Vauxhall Motors Spectacular, Luton (Pegasus).
- 12 Kings Lynn Round Table Carnival (Silver Stars; band).
- 16 Kneller Hall Band concert.

AUGUST 1976

- 1 Open Day, Royal Armoured Corps Centre, Bovington.
- 1 Knebworth Park (Hertfordshire) Air Display (Blue Eagles; arena event; band).
- 4 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (4-7 August).
- 4 Bingley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 4 Gloucester Festival (4-7 August) (Silver Stars; White Helmets; band).
- 6 Bakewell (Derbyshire) Show (Red Devils; band).
- 7 Brighton Carnival (band).
- 7 Biddenden (Kent) Spectacular (band).
- 14 York Sportsmen's Gala (band).
- 18 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 18 Cromer Carnival (Cannonballs; band).
- 20 Edinburgh Tattoo (20 August-11 September).
- 20 Reading Horticultural Show (20-21 August) (Red Caps; band).
- 21 Darlington Show (two bands).
- 25 Kneller Hall Band grand concert.
- 27 Blackpool Services Display (27-29 August) (Pegasus; RA motorcyclists; Red Devils; Blue Eagles 27 August; three bands).
- 27 British Timken Show, Northampton (27-28 August) Red Devils; Red Caps; King's Troop; band).
- 28 Expo Steam, Peterborough (28-30 August) (Blue Eagles 28-29 August; band 29-30 August).
- 28 South Tyneside Show (28-30 August) (band).
- 28 QUEXPO, Birchington, Kent (28-30 August) (Cannonballs 30 August; band).
- 30 Walsall Show (30-31 August) (Red Caps).
- 30 Leicester City Show (30-31 August) (Red Caps; band).
- 30 Eye (Suffolk) Show (RA motorcyclists).
- 30 Aylsham (Kent) Show (arena event; band).
- 30 Hemel Hempstead Carnival (Red Devils; arena event; band).
- 31 Barrow Army Display (31 August-1 September) (Pegasus; Red Devils; Blue Eagles; RA motorcyclists; two bands).

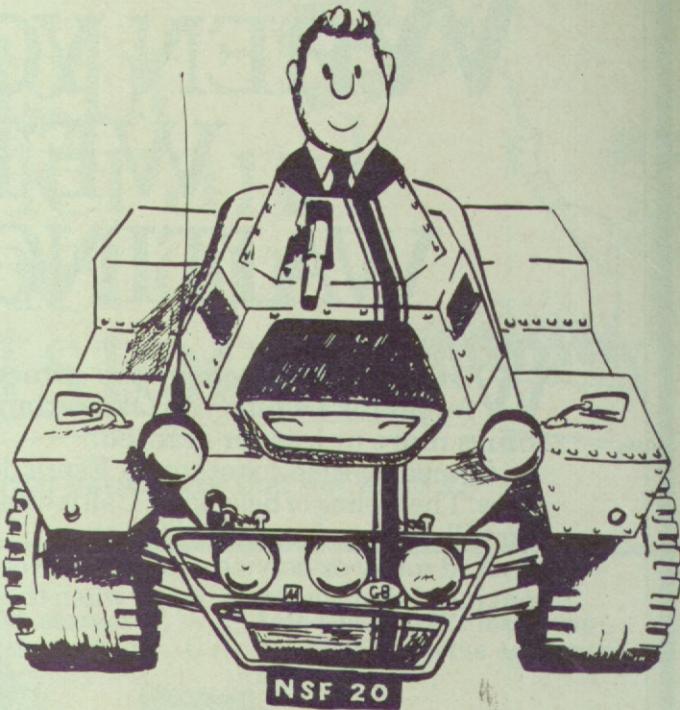
SEPTEMBER 1976

- 1 Kneller Hall Band concert.
- 2 Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury (arena event; band).
- 3 Watford Show (3-4 September) (Silver Stars; band).
- 3 Sheffield Show (3-4 September) (band).
- 4 Seaham (South Shields) Show (4-5 September) (band).
- 4 Bury Army Display (4-5 September) (Red Devils; Red Caps; RA motorcyclists 5 September; three bands).
- 4 Hinckley (Leicestershire) Steam Fair (4-5 September) (arena event).
- 4 Ampthill (Bedfordshire) Cheshire Homes Fête (Blue Eagles; Red Devils).
- 4 Keighley (Yorkshire) Show (band).
- 4 Richmond (Yorkshire) Round Table Show (band).
- 4 County Agricultural Show, High Wycombe (Red Devils; band).
- 5 Burma Star Association Day, Waterbeach, Cambridge (Red Devils; Blue Eagles; three bands).
- 6 Guildford Town Show (band).
- 8 Kneller Hall Band final grand concert.
- 11 South Norfolk Tattoo, Attleborough.
- 11 Welwyn Garden City Hospital Fête (Red Devils).
- 11 Henley Show (band).
- 11 Glasgow Army Display (11-19 September) (Golden Lions; band; pipes and drums).
- 12 Woodley (Berkshire) Tattoo.
- 13 Mid-Wales Army Exhibition (13-18 September) (Red Devils; Red Caps; band).
- 16 Thame (Oxfordshire) Show (band).
- 18 Stokesley (Yorkshire) Agricultural Show (junior band).
- 18 Welwyn Garden City Water Carnival (Blue Eagles; Red Devils).
- 18 Basingstoke Show (18-19 September) (Blue Eagles; band).

NOVEMBER 1976

- 13 Lord Mayor's Show, London.
- 13 Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.

For other June and July dates see SOLDIER January 1976.



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Queen's Gallantry Medal: Sergeant S R Bream, Warrant Officer 2 M Donnelly, both The Queen's Regiment.

British Empire Medal: Staff-Sergeant J C Noeken, Intelligence Corps.

Mentioned in Despatches: Captain J Q Adams, Captain P D Harry, both The Royal Regiment of Wales; Corporal M Barlow, Warrant Officer 1 M J D Groom, both Royal Signals; Major M J A Bond, Lieutenant-Colonel D H McMurtrie, both The Light Infantry; Lance-Bombardier J A D Cavill, Sergeant D W Lyon, both Royal Artillery; Captain R W Clarke, Lance-Corporal L S Davies, both The Royal Welch Fusiliers; Major K E Curtis, Sergeant J Williams, both Royal Army Ordnance Corps; Lieutenant-Colonel J A V de Candole, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards; Captain F E G Davy, Army Air Corps; Colonel P J Goss, late Intelligence Corps; Major H M du V Lohan, Major R C Pitman, Corporal B F Winder, all The Queen's Regiment; Colonel R B Robertson, late Infantry; Captain (QM) F Smith, Lieutenant R E Whyte, both Scots Guards; Sergeant J Sutherland, Queen's Own Highlanders; Corporal N T Williams, Royal Engineers.

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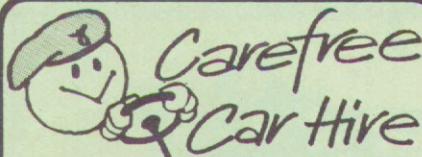
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Military Museums: 37

The Light Infantry

JUST a few paces from The King's Shropshire Light Infantry Museum (SOLDIER January) and you are in its modern, specially designed next-door neighbour, The Light Infantry Museum. The two complement each other perfectly, the LI taking over where the KSLI left off.

A life-size model of a bugler wearing the regiment's distinctive dark-green No 1 dress stands in the entrance and a few representative historical exhibits pave the way to the museum's main purpose of recording the post-World War Two story of The Light Infantry—formed just under eight years ago from The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, The King's Shropshire Light Infantry and The Durham Light Infantry. The flags of these regiments, lowered for the last time on the eve of The Light Infantry's vesting day, 12 July 1968, now hang in the museum.

A display of British infantry firearms from the 18th century Brown Bess to a modern No 5 Lee-Enfield is of particular interest in that it also demonstrates the changes in bayonet design as each weapon is shown with bayonet fixed. A selection of pistols and revolvers includes an example of that standard cowboy piece, the single-action Colt Peacemaker (circa 1880), a British short-barrelled 1916 Webley and a German Mauser.

A DLI mess dress, the pre-World War One full dress of a KOYLI captain, a DCLI soldier's tunic with Slade-Wallace belt and pre-1965 combat kit complete with entrenching tool, are among uniforms on display. Collectors will appreciate a comprehensive range of Light Infantry regimental badges and buttons and those of affiliated Canadian, New Zealand, Kenyan and Pakistan regiments, while a selection of LI badges of rank shows how these have changed in design and size over the years.

Souvenirs of service the world over from the Malayan jungle to the streets of Belfast contribute to modern military history in a series of separate cases. From Korea (1950-53) there is the regimental flag, holed by bullets and shell splinters, which flew over a DLI position; one of the first flak jackets to be issued to British troops; a snow smock and trousers; two Russian sub-machine guns captured from the Chinese and the Victoria Cross won by Lieutenant P K K Curtis DCLI while serving with the Glosters.

From Cyprus, the United Nations uniform and weapons taken from terrorists. A parang jungle knife and a long Dyak blowpipe with a quiver-full of



thin poison tipped darts are featured in the Borneo case; from Mauritius (1968) a crude muzzle-loader, a sugar-cane cutlass and an assortment of home-made daggers and swords including one beaten from a car bumper. Weapons captured in Aden indicate the use of more sophisticated arms by terrorists—Russian rocket-launchers and light machine-guns, and a box mine (so called because the explosive is packed in a wooden container to avoid disclosure by detectors). The Northern Ireland section is dominated by the figure of a soldier clad in riot kit with anti-riot shield, truncheon and leg protectors. Terrorist weapons include a catapult using sharpened coins as ammunition and a bomb of six-inch nails round gelignite.

Other notable exhibits include the sealed pattern of the Light Infantry Colours and the museum's pride and joy, a Vickers Vigilant anti-tank wire-guided missile cut away to show its inner workings.

For the benefit of cadets, young soldiers and wargamers, a large landscaped table model illustrates a company group attack with tank and air support, and for students there is a small library containing histories of The Light Infantry county regiments.

John Jesse

Curator:
Custodian:
Address:

Telephone:
Open:

Closed:

Admission:
Amenities:
To get there:

Officer-in-Charge, Museum
Mr S R A Templeman
The Light Infantry Museum
Sir John Moore Barracks
Cophthorne
Shrewsbury
Shrewsbury 4427
Normal visiting hours on
application to guard room;
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Next month: The Royal Welch Fusiliers



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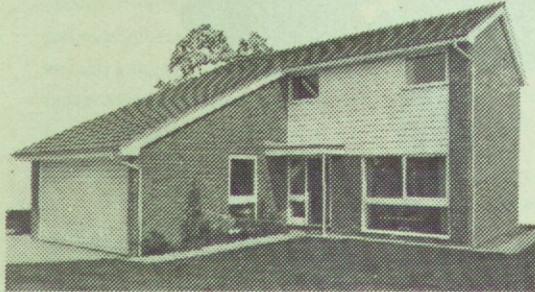
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<input type="checkbox"/> Gainsborough	7,350
<input type="checkbox"/> Marton	8,700

<input type="checkbox"/> Bellingham	6,650
<input type="checkbox"/> Darlington	12,250
<input type="checkbox"/> Gainsborough	7,350
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The royal routine of the Queen Bees

"From the moment you're outside the gate you're in the public eye. You're the showpiece of the RCT and today we're the most important part of the corps..."

The morning sun gleams on spit and polish: Major Adrian Furnival checks that all is "just so" before departure.





Left: Captain Peter Marno briefing the hand-picked drivers on their journey.

Below left: The Queen Bees getting the extra special attention their job needs.

Below: The roofs of the vans have to get a polish too to be well turned out.

Right: Ready for the off, the special escort prepares to lead the way out.

Far right: The baggage train keeps in close formation when on its mission.

Below right: Gatwick's dull tarmac is brightened by the squadron's parade.



It is 0830 on a crisp November morning. Wintry sun glints on officers' No 1 dress spurs whose muted clinking punctuates the low rumble of London's rush-hour outside Regent's Park Barracks.

Major Adrian Furnival, officer commanding 20 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, adjusts a collar here, points a gloved finger at a button there and nods approval of the gleaming vehicles lined up ready for today's royal detail for the squadron's B Troop.

Three large Bedford vans—"Queen Bees" to their crews—make up the Royal Baggage Train, accompanied by the officers' black Austin 1800 staff car and all bearing a distinctive badge of a black crown on white background. Their destination is Gatwick airport where they will pick up the luggage of President Nyerere of Tanzania and his party coming on a state visit.

A duplicate convoy of second-line vehicles will go to Heathrow to a stand-by in case the aircraft is diverted. But if all goes according to plan—and sometimes it does not—the baggage train will race the clock and the royal procession to arrive at Buckingham Palace as near

the time of the visiting VIPs as possible.

Some three to four weeks' planning has gone into the operation and in the meantime B Troop has been maintaining its second task of providing details for the Army's London District, ranging from cargo jobs in the troop's ageing four-ton lorries—most of which have 100,000 miles-plus on their clocks—to keeping an eye on the cars used by a variety of organisations.

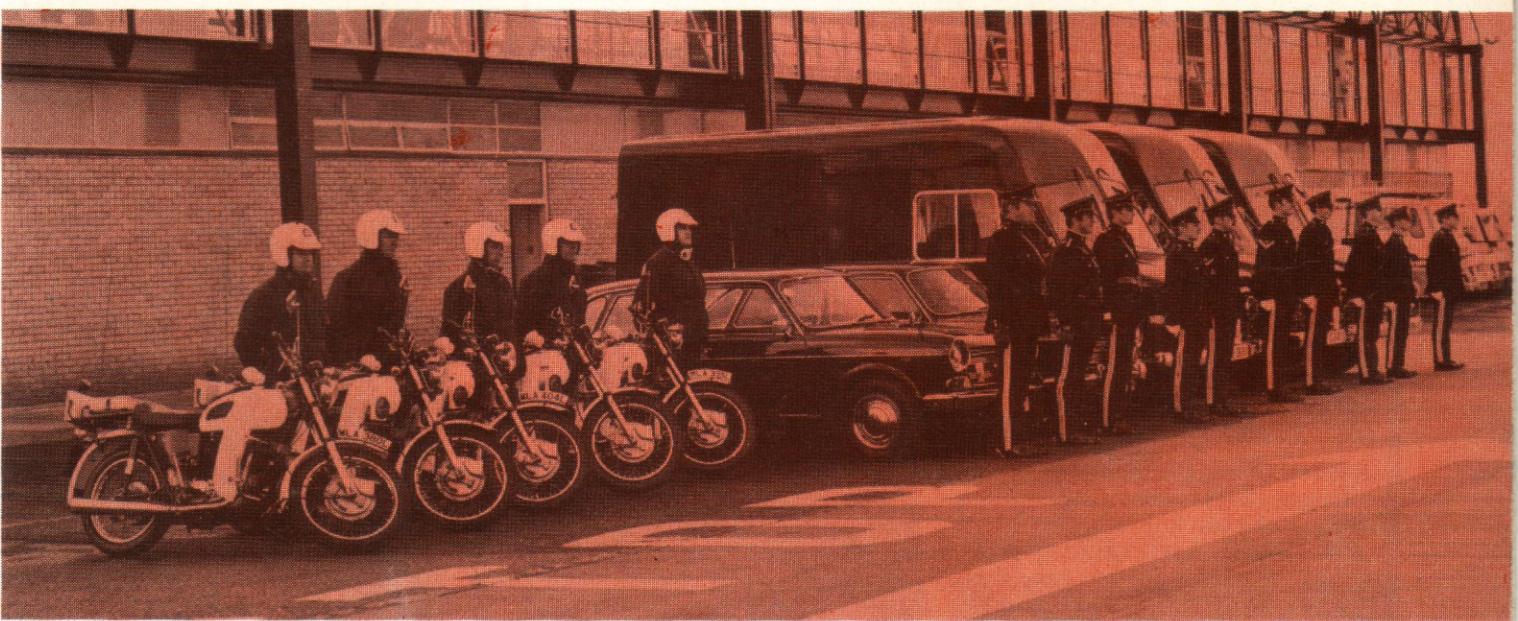
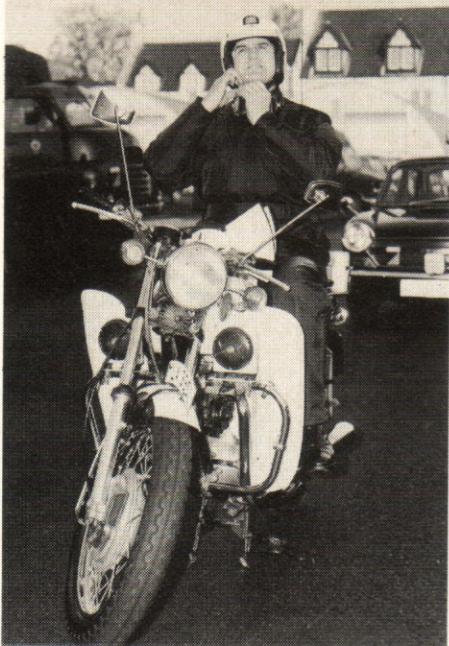
For the past week concentrated effort has gone into the details of the state visit baggage train duty. Routing and timing have been carefully logged to ensure a smooth operation on the day. This means close liaison with Buckingham Palace and the Metropolitan Police special escort group which provides two motorcycle outriders from its score of experts to accompany the convoy.

On the barrack square the first-line vehicles, used only for royal duties, and their second-line counterparts usually employed on other cargo tasks have been polished to perfection. Metal hinges and handles gleam with chrome. Hub nuts are painted red and tyres blacked. Green paintwork is polished and a special rub given to van roofs for

it is the tops of the vehicles which will be first seen by VIP passengers glancing out of their aircraft windows at Gatwick. Even the insides of the vans are brightened with white paint.

The white-gloved drivers and co-drivers are confident their vehicles are in perfect mechanical order. A busy Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer's workshop puts all vehicles through rigorous servicing. There are four inspections a year plus 6000-mile services. Immaculate bodywork is kept so by men in the panel beating, coachwork and signwriting shops. The signwriter, Mr Bill Showell (62), has just over 47 years' experience in his craft. He modestly dismissed the painting on intricate royal crests, which can take up to 50 hours for each one, with: "It's not bad."

But it is not just its baggage train for which 20 Squadron is renowned. Its other half—Ministry of Defence Troop—runs a fleet of cars allocated to senior officers and government officials of the three Services in London. Civilian drivers, once traditionally chauffeurs for Royal Navy staffs, have joined forces with Army chauffeurs and



a handful of RAF men plus one Royal Marine to spend their working days driving MOD Troop's vehicles.

Thirty-five Rovers, eight Vauxhall Ventoras, 15 Austin 1800s and five luxurious Daimler limousines provide tri-Service transport. The three Services once had their own transport organisations but in 1967 they amalgamated under the banner of 20 Squadron.

Daimler 43 FJ 37 is the flagship of the troop's fleet and carries the Queen or other members of the Royal Family on military ceremonials, its roof topped with the appropriate shield, produced by Mr Showell, and miniature ensign. The permanent driver is Sergeant Harry Lovegrove who, with 15 years of Army service behind him, considers this job he has had for some nine months among the best he has seen: "It's great," he declared. "This job is entirely different from any other I have done. There are long hours but there are compensations. This is a great chance—a great honour, really."

One of the eight RAF drivers attached to the troop, Sergeant Peter Richardson, explained that his job with 20 Squadron was virtually the only

chance he could get to actually work behind the wheel in his Service: "On an RAF station I'd be sitting behind a desk organising transport."

In MOD Troop, the desk job was that of the troop commander at the time of *SOLDIER*'s visit, Staff-Sergeant Tony Young. He described his work as "diplomatic administrator." Variety is the spice of his life, he said, and every hour brings new demands on his resources of men and machines. Tact and a sense of humour are vital ingredients of his telephone technique as he copes with the needs of his "customers" who include not only royalty but the nation's top military men and government ministers.

There are a few more civilians than servicemen in the troop and they feel they give a continuity to the unit whose uniformed members move on to new postings every two years or so. The civilians tend to make a career of it. B Troop is staffed entirely by soldiers.

It is 0845. Satisfied with the turnout of B Troop's men and vehicles, Major Furnival, Captain Peter Marno (transport control officer) and troop commander Lieutenant David Partridge

move to the briefing room. A map of London and its outskirts fills one wall and Captain Marno reminds the drivers of the route while the two escorting policemen look on.

"Driving to an escort needs a great deal of concentration," he warns. "In the lead car we shall be setting the pace at about 35 to 40 miles an hour. Look well ahead—it's only a case of thinking driving, after all." Major Furnival adds his own reminder: "From the moment you're outside the gate you're in the public eye. You're the showpiece of the Royal Corps of Transport and today we're the most important part of the corps."

Captain Marno checks his watch. It is 0900, time to go.

The two powerful police bikes are throttled to life and the gleaming convoy now blazes with headlights. The column moves off the square leaving the troop's remaining lorries and staff cars for their more routine tasks.

MOD Troop's day has started too with its rota of details for the special staff cars. Those not required by their regular passengers will be used for short-notice jobs within a six-mile



Far left: President Nyerere leaves by Buckingham Palace car as the squadron works behind his VC10 aircraft.

Left: The Queen Bees are dwarfed by a giant tail fin as their crews unload the presidential baggage from a hold.

Below left: First-class hotel liveries mingle with Army Number One Dress as baggage is delivered for the visitors.

Right: Only the most careful servicing by 20 Squadron's workshop team keeps the prestige fleet in top condition.



nington and the police outriders have an extra problem at a traffic light. A turning car has been in a collision and straddles the road. A gauntletted hand semaphores to the oncoming traffic on the junction's four roads and the Queen Bees weave past without a pause.

Traffic thins as the A23 trunk road stretches out towards Gatwick and the convoy sweeps on to the airport tarmac at 1015 to line up in neat array where the visitors' aircraft will taxi to a halt. There is a moment's respite for the drivers as their smart No. 1 dress mingles with the uniforms of airport staff in the staff canteen queue. Then they parade again in front of their gleaming vehicles in time to see the sleek East African Airways VC10 jet slow to a halt in front of them as the RAF's Queen's Colour Squadron holds the limelight.

Formal greetings over, a fleet of royal cars from Buckingham Palace purrs from the gates at 1135 for the short trip to the station and the baggage vehicles slip forward unnoticed to start their work at the aircraft's cargo doors. Baggage for three destinations — the Palace, Claridge's and the Park Lane

Hotel — is sorted into the three Queen Bees. At 1153 the convoy leaves Gatwick accompanied by a Daimler carrying Buckingham Palace officials. Vehicles and drivers' minds are in top gear to span the 26 or so miles back to the heart of London as quickly as possible.

A smart white limousine pulls over obediently at a wave from an outrider and the driver is recognised with a smile of greeting from the convoy drivers as a top pop star. Not so obliging is a pedestrian down the road who points indignantly to the crossing he is on as the same outrider halts him with a raised hand. The convoy is so close on the heels of the state coach horses that a guard of honour of Gurkhas in Parliament Square has not yet been dismissed. An hour to the minute after leaving Gatwick the vans pull in to the side entrance of Buckingham Palace. "Just perfect timing," says Captain Marno with satisfaction. Within six minutes the baggage train is back on the road heading for the Park Lane Hotel where another six minutes is enough to empty van number two. The last call is to exclusive Claridge's and its liveried foot-

men keep the unloading time down to a mere three minutes.

By 1328 the convoy is back in Regent's Park Barracks where it will be cosseted back to spotlessness in time to collect the baggage again at the end of the Tanzanian president's state visit three days later. Collars are loosened and white gloves eased off as the Queen Bees' crews gather for a de-briefing. Murmurs of satisfaction from the drivers: "A good one... Enjoyed every minute... Great, wasn't it?"

"A few small mistakes were made," notes Captain Marno, "but everyone, including the policemen here, has worked magnificently today. We got over our problems and you showed your professionalism and concentration." Praise came from Major Furnival with: "You were specially picked to drive these vans and you proved we made the right choice."

But the final seal of approval came from the faces of the drivers themselves as they settled back into their more routine tasks of the day knowing they had taken their Queen Bees on another successful sortie.

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you can not spot the differences see page 36.



radius. Any not needed all day may be called upon for any longer journeys which may crop up.

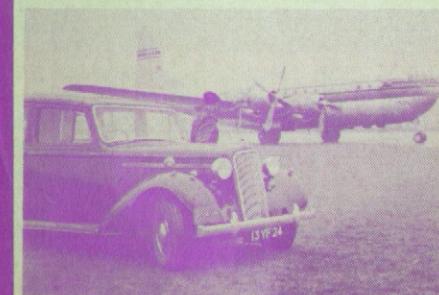
Central London is thick with traffic. The two police motorcyclists bob and weave like sheepdogs up and down the convoy. Speed with safety is the motto as the two constables make snap decisions to clear the way for the busy Queen Bees. This involves crossing traffic lights at red—an impish thrill for any driver used to obeying the signals' tacit commands—and occasionally driving up one-way streets the wrong way. A queue of traffic looks like holding up progress in Woburn Place. Deft control by the two policemen allows the convoy to cross on the right-hand side.

The Aldwych is reached in ten minutes and four minutes later the convoy has crossed the Thames and passed Waterloo Station. Lance-Corporal Steve Brown, 11 years an Army driver, says: "This must be one of the few jobs in the Army where you can see for yourself the end product of your work. You get a real sense of personal satisfaction out of that."

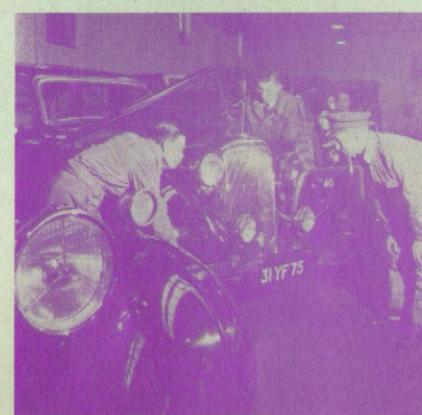
By 0919 the Royal Baggage Train is heading out of London through Ken-



Regent's Park Barracks has changed little since these 1951 pictures, but vehicles and aircraft have altered.



The Royal Corps of Transport's 20 Squadron started life as a company of the Commissariat and Transport Corps at Woolwich on 7 April 1885. The company saw active service in the South African War and at the Modder River served with 1st Division troops. Before August 1914, 20 Company (Horse Transport, Army Service Corps) was used on local transport work with seven pairs of beasts in Aldershot. In August 1914 the company formed the 4th Reserve Park and mobilised. It was made up to war strength by men from the Reserve plus "Waggoners" who were specially enlisted Yorkshires experienced with horses. The company landed in France on 20 August and served there throughout the war, disbanding after the armistice. In 1939 the re-formed company was bombed out of Eaton Square and moved to a house in Gulgford Gardens, SW3. In

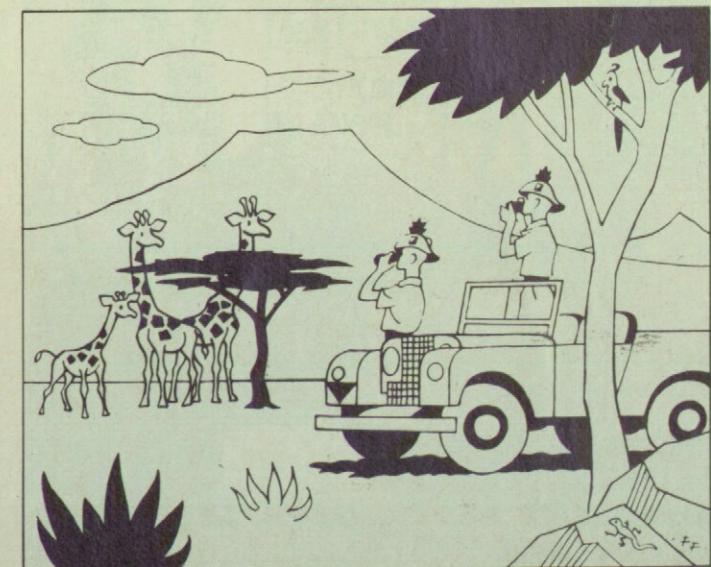


1943 it moved to Cadogan Gardens, in 1945 to Draycott Place and in 1946 came to rest in its present home of Regent's Park Barracks.

During World War Two the unit provided transport for the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, and the War Cabinet as well as the War Office. Special transport contingents were sent for the Yalta, Potsdam and Paris conferences.

In 1947 the unit was re-designated 20 Company, Royal Army Service Corps (Motor Transport) and on 15 July 1965 became 20 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, when the RCT came into being. On 1 July 1967 the unit became responsible for providing staff cars for the whole of the Ministry of Defence. The squadron now comprises two transport troops, one for London District transport details and one for Ministry of Defence details.

How observant are you?



Belize Volunteer Guard

Story by John Walton
Pictures by Paul Haley

JUST 20 years after the Queen officially approved an alliance between The Gloucestershire Regiment and the British Honduras Volunteer Guard, the Glosters back in the Central American dependency have resumed close ties with the part-time unit now known as the Belize Volunteer Guard.

The Gloucestershire Regiment's 1st Battalion, was last stationed in Belize back in 1948 but the BVG's former commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Fairweather, now 75 years old, remembers them well: "Everybody got on very well with them while they were here and we continued the friendships afterwards. We lost some very good friends at the Imjin river battle in Korea."

Today's men of the 1st Battalion are making new friendships with the Guard which, like the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve, embraces a wide variety of

civilian occupations. There are BVG detachments in all of the main towns and in Belize City the Glosters' Regimental Sergeant-Major Geoff England takes three senior non-commissioned men to the militia hall for their twice-a-week drill nights. He said: "It's an ideal opportunity for us to strengthen our affiliation. Since I got here in August I've been amazed how many people remember us from the last time."

Initially Sergeant Steve McPherson, and Colour-Sergeants Paddy Dalton and Bill Evans have been training the Belizeans in handling the sub-machine gun, general-purpose machine-gun and self-loading rifle respectively.

The Volunteer Guard's adjutant, Major G Lewis, told SOLDIER that all of the infantry battalions on six-month tours in Belize in recent years had been a great help: "In particular they have always helped with our annual camps where we practise the usual conventional and jungle warfare." These camps, on Mountain Pine Ridge, a dense forest area, comprise both conventional and jungle warfare. Last year 225 part-time soldiers took part.

The Belize Volunteer Guard has a long and interesting history dating back to Napoleonic times and embracing a number of name changes. In 1814 The Prince Regent's Royal Honduras Militia was formed entirely of volunteers. It was a large force comprising eight companies

of infantry of the line, a company of light infantry, another of grenadiers and three artillery companies. Its principal role was to defend against Spanish and Indian attacks.

In 1850 the militia was disbanded for financial reasons but seven years later large-scale Indian attacks began again and the British Honduras Volunteer Force was formed. During the next quarter of a century it fought a number of major battles against Indian tribes before being disbanded. The Belize Light Infantry Volunteers were formed in 1895 and as the British Honduras Volunteers saw action in 1907 against Indian desperadoes.

In 1911 the Inspector-General, Brigadier-General J R M Dalrymple-Hay, reported to the British War Office that the British Honduras Volunteers were the most efficient force in the West Indies. Another name change followed in 1916 to the British Honduras Territorial Force and again in 1928 to the British Honduras Defence Force. During World War Two this formed the nucleus of the British Honduras Battalion, North Caribbean Force.

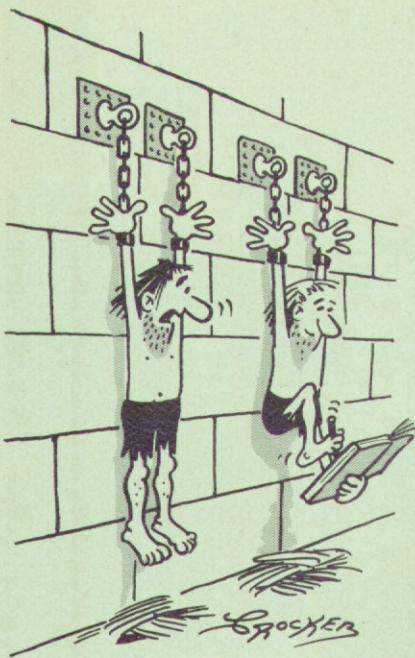
Colonel Fairweather served 48 years with the Volunteers, having joined in 1915 by adding two years to his age. Although few would expect to emulate this feat there are still some part-time Belizean soldiers who have been with the Guard since World War Two.

Left: Colour-Sergeant Bill Evans of the Glosters instructs the volunteers of Belize City on self-loading rifle drill.

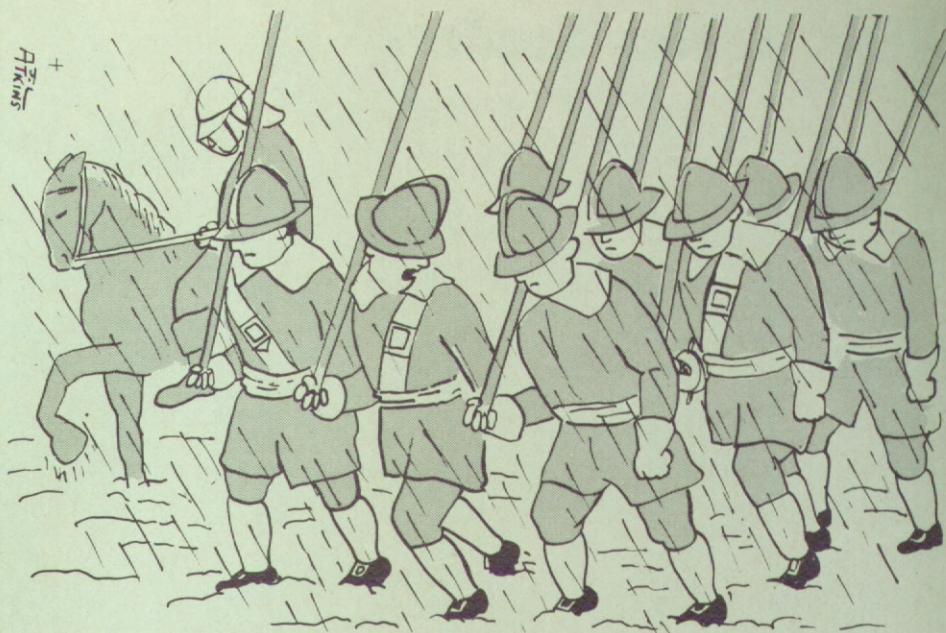
Below left: The Volunteer Guard's band practises "Colonel Bogey," one of their favourites for ceremonial occasions.

Below: Straw-hatted volunteer gets a tip on the general-purpose machine-gun from Colour-Sergeant Paddy Dalton.





"I don't know what you find to put in that diary!"

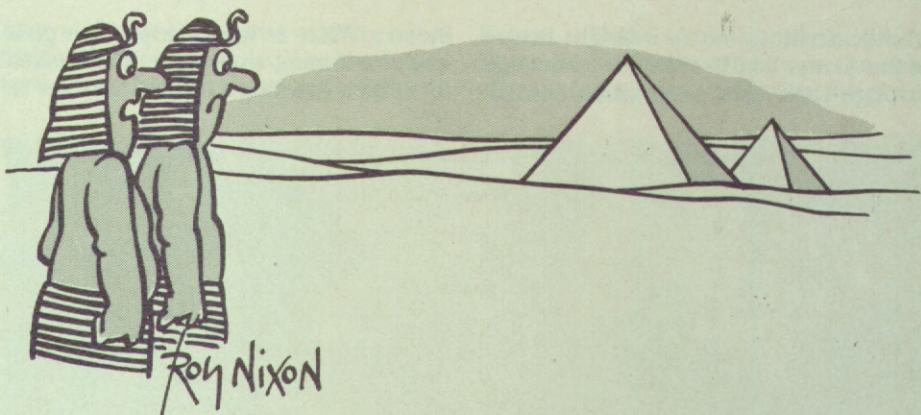


"Heard any more about that 144-hour week?"

H • ∗ m • ∗ o • ∗ u • ∗ r



"Has anyone seen my—AAARRRGH!"



"What makes you think you're accident-prone?"



"Don't worry—we'll try it again with a larger apple."

WRAC Junior Leaders

Story by John Walton
Pictures by Paul Haley



Sweet seventeen-and soldiers

Above: Striding out to a bright future in the Army. The first junior leaders go through their drill paces at Guildford.

Below: What is leadership? The girls who are aiming to provide it are asked to write a definition of how they see it.



SIX months ago they were still schoolgirls in gymslips. Yet when 27 girls pass off the parade ground at the Women's Royal Army Corps centre at Guildford later this month they will be at least as smart and well trained as any group of older recruits.

The passing-out parade of this first group of WRAC junior leaders will be the climax of six months' hard work for the girls, all now around their 17th birthday, and for the four-woman training team headed by Second-Lieutenant Suzette Beament who was specially selected as wing officer because of her previous experience as a schoolteacher. And her three team members, also handpicked, have each contributed to the success of the junior leader pilot scheme. A second course is due to begin shortly and during the next few months a decision will be taken on whether to make junior leaders a permanent feature of the corps.

From the first day they arrived at Guildford last September, the girls were put through their paces. Corporal Glynn Cardy, regimental non-commissioned officer, is proud of the way they responded. "They are above-average recruits," she said. "Because they have not had the chance to get into civvy street habits and have come straight from school they have adapted more easily."

Physical training instructor Corporal Anna Downes told SOLDIER: "We have screamed and shouted at them a lot but it has done them good." Administration Sergeant Nerys Owen admitted that other instructors at Guildford had said that the team was too hard in its attitude — "but we get



results." The girls themselves confirmed this. Private Maria Callen told SOLDIER: "At first all the work got you down but now we don't notice it and we all like drill." Another girl, Private Sally Bowles, commented: "We thought it would be harder than this. Now we feel so smart."

An adventure training programme was an important ingredient of the six-month course. The girls went offshore sailing at Gosport, to Outward Bound school and walking in the north of Scotland in bitter weather.

Their day was a long one — officially until eight o'clock each evening but often until ten or 10.30. Hobbies included chess, bridge, cookery, copper and enamel work, sewing and photography. Fencing and volleyball were among the more active interests but the fact that the girls want to be soldiers was emphasised by the demand for rifle shooting. A civilian instructor from Bisley came to the range at Guildford on two evenings a week to teach eight girls — but 24 wanted to take the course!

With only one week-end off during the six months, apart from a three-week break at Christmas, the junior leaders could have become too bound up with Army life. But a local children's home which was in dire need of cash provided them with an outside interest and aim. The Longford Cross Families Home is entirely voluntary and looks after 12 children from deprived homes, most of them from London. The children, aged from two to 14, suffer from cruelty, neglect or just a broken home and are

Above: Some of the girl soldiers meet little girls they "adopted" at the Longford Cross Families Home, Guildford.

Below: Those traditional military Xmas dinners with officers in the role of waiters go down well with the girls.



Right: "I reckon it must be thataway." Practising their skill at map-reading.

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usually sent to Longford Cross through the courts.

Mrs Kathleen Boland, director, explained the financial situation: "We do get paid an amount for each child from the social services but for buildings, staff and running costs we have to rely on fund-raising and donations. It is becoming so difficult that there is quite a threat that we might have to close down next year — we just do not have the capital left."

By a sponsored swim the junior leaders raised £96 for the home and followed this up with a sponsored walk expected to raise a similar amount. By the end of the course they hope to raise £300. The girls have also visited and made friends with the children and helped with security at a huge sale in aid of the home. Said Mrs Boland: "They were everywhere and looked after everything. They looked so smart and it would have cost a lot of money to have employed people to do the work."

Training for these 27 pioneers has been strict and tough. But when the 27 future non-commissioned officers march smartly off to their new jobs later this month, Lieutenant Beament and her team are confident that the Junior Leaders, Women's Royal Army Corps, will be a permanent achievement of International Women's Year.

Junior leaders regiments first appeared in the late 1950s. Boys selected for them went through training aimed at enhancing their inherent character and leadership qualities with a view to early promotion to non-commissioned rank and ultimately to that of senior non-commissioned officer and warrant officer.

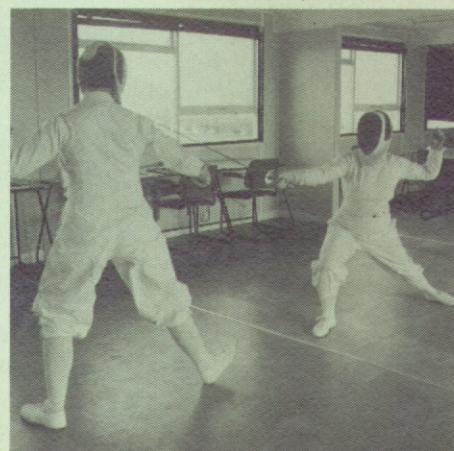
Plans to reorganise the units have been modified because of high recruitment in junior soldiers.

The Junior leaders of the Royal Engineers were to have merged with the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, but will now remain at Dover. The Royal Corps of Transport JLR would have been co-located with the Royal Artillery JLR at Bramcote, Nuneaton, but this has also been abandoned although it is still likely to move from Taunton in the future. The Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corps at Bovington also takes junior leaders for the Army Air Corps and the Royal Military Police. The Infantry Junior Leaders Regiment, formerly at Oswestry, is now at Shorncliffe.

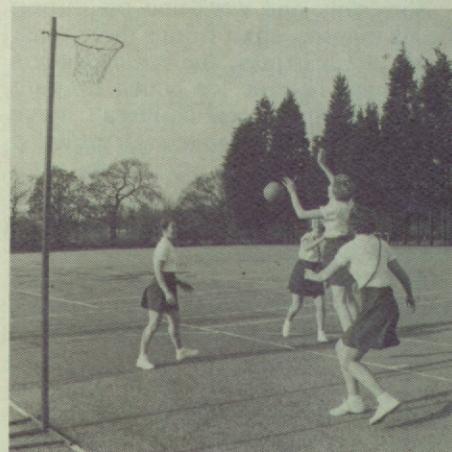
Below: Best foot forward at Tweseldown racecourse at the Guildford girls go on a sponsored walk for charity.



Below: A bit of Three Musketeers type fun is one of the girls' many hobbies.



Below: A vigorous attacking move during a thrilling netball encounter.



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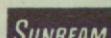
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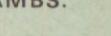
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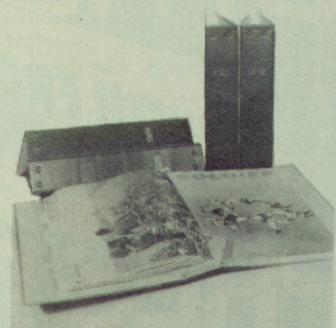
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NEWS

NAAFI REPORTS

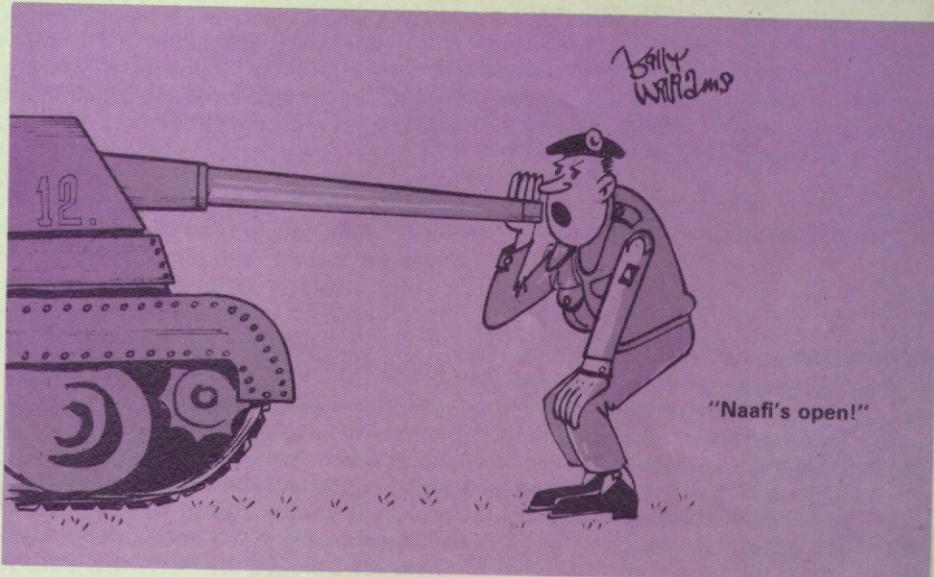
Despite what it describes as "probably the toughest trading conditions of its 55 year history," Naafi continued to win an increasing share of servicemen's and women's spending power. Turnover at £69,000,000 was £28,000,000 up on the previous year but because of rising costs, depressed profit margins and high interest rates the trading surplus fell by £100,000 to £7,800,000. Naafi's annual report says that nevertheless the amount of rebate, dividend and discount paid to individual and unit customers during the year increased by a fraction less than £1,000,000 to £6,339,000 and a further £416,000 was paid out as bonus discount from money previously set aside for this purpose.

In 1921, when Naafi began trading, the forces spent only 35 pence per head each week with the corporation — now the weekly spending is £9.25, equivalent to £2.55 at 1921 values.

Car, motorcycle, boat and caravan business continued to soar during the year. There were well over 8000 hire purchase transactions amounting to more than £10,000,000 worth of business. In the United Kingdom, Naafi arranged to take orders direct from customers for various makes of foreign cars for export. Since the scheme was introduced in January 1975, orders have been running at a monthly average of 80-85 cars. In Germany a team of three Naafi salesmen with a roving brief sold 480 cars in the first six months.

Galloping inflation caused modification of a plan for a new distribution system in the United Kingdom for fresh and frozen foods. The new proposals are based on the operation of two, rather than four, distribution depots. These will be at Lincoln and Aldershot, both starting in the first few months of 1976.

Club turnover in Europe was up by only four per cent on the previous year and this was attributed to the increased number of troops away on duty or on exercise overseas. But elsewhere there was a 25 per cent increase, mainly caused by the Cyprus emergency with families largely repatriated and restriction of movement outside the sovereign base areas.



EQUIPMENT UP-DATE

Lightweight parachutist helmet

The main trials of this helmet have been completed but it was found necessary to redesign the chinstrap assembly and a new pattern is now on trial. The helmet will be accepted for service as soon as the problem is resolved.

Combat high boot

A contract has been placed for the production of 300 pairs of high boots to allow extended development trials and evaluation worldwide. The boots are currently being distributed and the trials will last a year. The boot cannot enter service before 1980.



Service caps

The recent upsurge in recruiting for the Army and the Army Fire Service has meant that much of recent cap production has been needed for issue to newcomers. Temporary shortages may still be experienced in cap service in the Royals and Devon and Dorset patterns.

Clips for badges

Too many soldiers have been losing their cap badges from their berets. As a result a securing clip is being introduced which prevents the shank of the badge from sliding out of the leather pockets of the beret.

Sewing kits

Since the introduction of the military salary only Gurkhas have been entitled to sewing kits. British soldiers are expected to buy their own needles and thread.

(DCT)

MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT

● Miss Jo Richardson (Labour, Barking) asked a series of questions which were answered by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Roy Mason. He said there were 31 British servicemen in Malaysia, of whom 18 were on loan to the Malaysian government and there were none in Angola. About 2300 foreign and Commonwealth servicemen from 64 countries were attending training courses in Britain. Finally he told Miss Richardson that there had been 24 fatal casualties in the last five years among British servicemen in Oman.

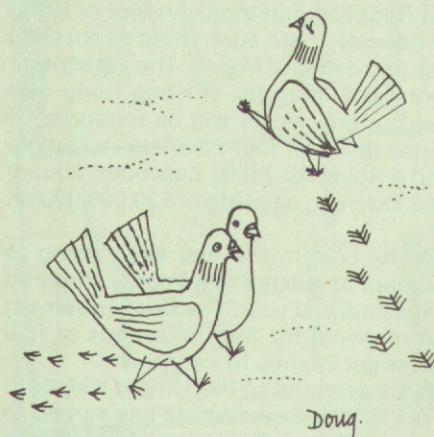
● What part was the Army playing in the "Save It" campaign, enquired Mr John Tomlinson (Labour, Meriden). The Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Royal Air Force, Mr Brynmor John, said that during 1974-75 the Army more than achieved its objective in the United Kingdom of reducing 1972-73 levels of consumption by ten per cent in the case of liquid fuels and by six per cent in the case of other forms of energy. The Army also expected to achieve these objectives during the current year and substantial savings were also being achieved overseas.

● Mr Peter Blaker (Conservative, Blackpool South) asked about plans for using air trooping facilities through Sri Lanka. Mr John said future routes to Hong Kong were still under consideration. A Ministry of Defence team was studying staging points and Sri Lanka was one of the countries being visited. Mr Blaker asked if the Government was satisfied that if arrangements were made for air trooping through Sri Lanka or other countries in the area, Britain would still be able to use the facilities in the event of a disagreement on policy between the British Government and the government concerned. Mr John said that as only preliminary discussions had taken place that was what the Ministry was trying to find out in order to come to an agreement acceptable to both governments. Mr Julian Amery (Conservative, Brighton Pavilion) suggested that staging troops through Sri Lanka did not seem very much cheaper than maintaining existing facilities at Gan. Mr John said it was believed that the frequency of flights using Sri Lanka would be very low. It would be required for the replenishment and rotation of the reduced Hong Kong garrison. He added: "On preliminary findings we are satisfied that the retention of Gan is not justified by the continuation of that task, but we are going into these matters in more detail. . . ."

● What progress had been made in gaining the same good co-operation from the Eire Army as existed between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Garda? Questioner John Biggs-Davison (Conservative, Epping Forest) also wanted to know whether, if the co-operation were not given, British troops would be authorised to fire on terrorists and to hotly pursue them across the border as they were fully entitled to do under international law. Mr Robert C Brown, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Army, emphasised that Britain was receiving excellent co-operation from the security forces of the Republic.

● There were no proposals to increase the special daily payment to the forces in Northern Ireland, Minister of State for Defence Mr William Rodgers, told Mr Ian Gow (Conservative, Eastbourne).

● Mr Alec Woodall (Labour, Hemsworth) wanted a statement on the standards of Army barracks. Mr Brown told him that so long as some soldiers were required to live in hutt or sub-standard accommodation he could not say he was satisfied. But a major building programme to improve Army accommodation was going ahead as fast as financial resources permitted. An extensive barrack modernisation programme was under way in Germany and 11 barracks were being modernised in the United Kingdom. In addition some surplus Royal Air Force stations with good accommodation were to be taken over by the Army.



"He's just been promoted."

Miss Jo Richardson asked what steps were being taken to prevent British servicemen using references they received on leaving the forces for the purpose of enlisting in the Rhodesian forces. Mr Mason: "None. It is a matter for the individual ex-serviceman's discretion to whom he shows his certificate of service or any testimonial he has received from his former officers."

Mr Mason told Miss Richardson that 16 British servicemen had died in Malaysia since 1969 — five from natural causes and the rest from accidents of various kinds.

In answer to a series of questions on Service children's education from Tom Litterick (Labour, Selly Oak), Mr Frank Judd, Under-Secretary of State for Defence for the Navy, revealed that boarding school allowances were currently being issued for 16,000 children of officers and 5800 children of servicemen at an estimated gross cost in 1975-76 of £21,250,000. In reply to a further query from Mr Litterick, Mr Judd said there were no residential schools in the United Kingdom maintained from Ministry of Defence funds for the exclusive use of children of serving members of the forces.

The fate of the mules of 414 Pack Transport Troop of the Royal Corps of Transport in Hong Kong worried Mr Geoffrey Finsberg (Conservative, Hampstead). Mr Rodgers said that the mule strength was allowed to run down naturally following a decision to disband the unit. Four of the youngest animals were given to the local jockey club to provide riding facilities for physically handicapped children. Alternatives for the rest were considered but all proved impracticable and 23 mules were destroyed.

A soldier appealing against his discharge did not have a right to a personal hearing by the Defence Council, Mr Brown told Mr Harold McCusker (United Ulster Unionist Council, Armagh).

CONSERVATION

Considerable co-operation from the Ministry of Defence is noted in the first report, covering an 18-month period, of the Nature Conservancy Council. The report says that liaison with the ministry has been greatly assisted by the appointment of a conservation officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman Clayden. Nature Conservancy Council staff have carried out surveys, produced reports on MOD land and advised on management of land in such areas as Salisbury Plain, Lulworth, Foulness, Torrs Warren in Wigtownshire and the Rudha Ardvule peninsula in South Uist. In Wales, the report says, MOD has co-operated in a scheme to protect an important nesting colony of little terns on the Meirionnydd coast and in preventing disturbance from low-flying aircraft to Greenland white-fronted geese in the Dyfi estuary. Co-operation was maintained at St Kilda, where the conservationists depend on the Army for transport and communications, and discussions were being held on the Stanford Training Area in Norfolk. During the coming months SOLDIER will carry a number of articles on the work of some of the 70-plus conservation groups now operating within the Ministry of Defence.

BRIDGING

The latest development and addition to the medium girder bridge capability, a single-storey span junction unit, was demonstrated to military observers from 14 countries at the Military Vehicles Engineering Establishment, Christchurch, by Fairey Engineering Limited. Aim of the demonstration was to introduce new components and techniques which have been developed to enable single-storey floating bridges to be constructed, further extending the floating capability of the medium girder bridge. Due to the limitations of the Christchurch site, the demonstration build was restricted to 60 metres although bridges of virtually any length can be constructed using this method of building. A new medium girder bridge pontoon is presently under development which will further enhance the floating version of the medium girder bridge. Made of aluminium alloy and with a buoyancy of 10 tonnes, the new pontoon will be stackable. It will be carried on its own trailer suitable for towing behind a four-tonne truck (four per load). The pontoons will have automatic bailers and sufficient buoyancy to carry the dead weight of the bridge if the open section is fully flooded.

(Fairey Engineering)

HONG KONG DEFENCE COST AGREEMENT

The Minister of State for Defence, Mr William Rodgers, and the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Murray MacLehose, signed a new defence costs agreement to succeed the present five-year agreement which expires at the end of March. The agreement reaffirms Britain's commitment to the security and integrity of Hong Kong and stipulates a smaller garrison than in the past but one which will be reinforced if necessary. It will include four infantry battalions (three of them Gurkha), a Gurkha engineer squadron, five naval patrol craft and a Royal Air Force helicopter squadron. At current prices the cost will be £42,500,000 a year, a saving of £20,000,000 on the present garrison.

The Hong Kong Government will meet half the cost in the first year, rising to five-eighths in the second year and three-quarters in subsequent years compared with a contribution of £11,000,000 in the current financial year. The new agreement will run initially for seven years and will be renewed for further periods of five years on the same terms unless either government wishes to vary them. An important new feature is that Hong Kong's payments to the United Kingdom will be adjusted for changes in price levels. The British Government has agreed to release 120 acres of land at Kai Tak and 43 acres at Victoria Barracks in 1977-78 and 1978-79 respectively, subject to the re-provision elsewhere of essential Service facilities by the Hong Kong Government. Other land no longer required will also be released for civil use.

Mr William Rodgers, Minister of State for Defence (left) and the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Murray MacLehose, sign the new agreement on Hong Kong costs.



RECRUITING

The higher level of adult and young soldier recruiting experienced in recent months continued in October. The total of 2181 was 530, or 32 per cent up on the corresponding month of 1974.

LIVE SHOWS IN BAOR

'Ntertainment, a service operating in Germany and providing live cabaret, groups and individual acts for Naafi clubs and station and unit messes, arranged more than 100 live performances during its first three months of operation — in many cases for clubs which had never previously had live entertainment. (Naafi)

DYRMS PRESIDENT

The Duke of Kent, a serving lieutenant-colonel, has taken over the presidency of the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover, in succession to the late Duke of Gloucester.

MORE RAPIER SALES

The Iranian Government has entered into an agreement with British Aircraft Corporation to buy the "tracked" version of the Rapier low-level air-defence system. This version has been developed by BAC in close collaboration with Iran to meet the requirements of ground-force operations. It will complement the standard Rapier equipment already in service with the Imperial Iranian Air Force.

A contract worth more than £23,000,000, for the supply of Rapier to the Australian Army, has been signed in London. The contract is for fire units of optical Rapier together with test equipment, including a base repair facility, which will enable Australia to be self-sufficient in maintenance and support of the system. An option provides for the supply of the blindfire tracking radar at a later date. Australia is the fifth overseas country to choose Rapier — the others are Iran, Abu Dhabi, Oman and an unnamed African country. (BAC)

BAYONET BARGAINS



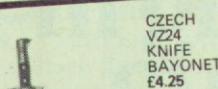
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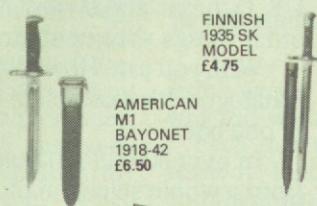
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Coronation Strasse!

Story by John Walton
Picture by Paul Haley

"CORONATION STREET" followed by "The Goodies" and, a little later on, "Match of the Day." Television programmes which the average British viewers just take for granted but which are now reaching 4000 customers—soldiers and their families in Celle in Western Germany—whose only television programmes until now have mostly been in a foreign language.

British Forces Broadcasting Services' television arrival in Germany last September was without much fanfare and the daily service is highly directional—even fringe areas of Celle cannot receive the pre-recorded programmes. But soon the service will gradually move towards the distant Rhine Army headquarters in Rheindahlen. When the network is completed in a few years' time it is planned to transmit live programmes direct from Britain.

In charge of the Celle venture is Jim Luxton, a bluff, genial BFBS veteran who is best known in Cyprus where he spent six years until returning to London last Spring. He has some television experience, having been a newsreader with the BBC in the North of England in the early sixties, but admits that his ten-year gap from the viewing side has meant virtually starting all over again.

Not that station controller Jim and his small staff have had anything but success so far. The daily programmes have attracted a favourable postbag from the television-starved Celle domiciles. But Luxton is a realist: "I expect when the honeymoon is over we shall start to get letters asking why

Below: Jim Luxton climbs in to this mobile home of the new TV service.



Right: Maria, one of "Cellevision's" German civilian video tape operators.



In the studio, Nicol Raymond cues in Coronation Street's fiery Ray Langton.

didn't we get a particular programme or why did we carry that one."

Each day there is a short afternoon session, then six hours of non-stop entertainment in the evening. The programmes are recorded and packaged in London with two in-view announcers doing introductions and trailers. In Celle Jim Luxton, Robert Neil and Nicol Raymond, another recruit from Cyprus, link the programmes with out-of-vision announcements.

The programmes are a mix of all three British channels and at Celle the video tape machines are used to edit out commercials. No news is carried although there are standby procedures in case of world-shattering events. Copyright problems have meant that some films and some television series have been ruled out. But overall the recipe has been acclaimed.

Says Jim Luxton: "What is happening is that people are staying in more and in particular when wives have husbands away in Northern Ireland or on

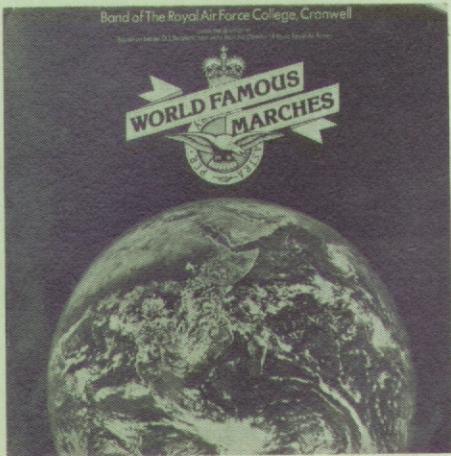
exercise they have something to look forward to each evening. The welfare authorities are particularly pleased with the response."

Mrs Sheena Derwin, wife of a gunner away on a course in Britain, agrees. As she watched television with her two daughters, Susan (10) and Joan (8), Mrs Derwin enthused: "It's made a tremendous difference as far as I am concerned because it has been company after the children have gone to bed. The evenings seem to be a lot shorter now." A schoolteacher, Mrs Derwin said she had also noticed the effect of "Cellevision" on her pupils. There had been a run on books from the school library connected with featured television series and programmes had also shown up in essays.

Early in 1976 the first extension takes place when families in Hohne, Soltau, Münsterlager and Fallingbostel will be able to receive the programmes. Just one more step in making Germany a "home from home."



on record



"World Famous Marches" (Band of the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, under the direction of Squadron-Leader D S Stephens) (Polydor Super 2383 349)

I love a chance to quibble about titles of records and this one gives me yet another. Great marches yes, but not all world-famous I think. When in a foreign country it always comes as a surprise, though it shouldn't, to find its list of famous marches different from our own and I doubt if Graham's "The Champion" and Alford's "The Thin Red Line" are known in Chile, Japan and Sweden, let alone whistled by errand boys.

Never mind. Here is Britain's idea of fourteen famous marches from half a dozen countries, and not a very thrilling lot, being all much over-recorded. The companies are finding, however, that the "famous march" market is still in the best of health, thank you, and blow all you collectors.

In very good performances by band and conductor we have the traditional arrangements of "Under the Double Eagle," "El Abanico," "With Sword and Lance," "Marche Lorraine," "Light of Foot," "Blaze Away" and "RAF March Past." In special arrangements by Gordon Langford are "Washington Post," "Cavalry of the Steppes," "Radetzky," "Entry of the Gladiators" and "Liberty Bell." RB

"Salute to John Philip Sousa" (The Band of the Coldstream Guards) (Conducted by Major Trevor L Sharpe) (Music for Pleasure MFP 50225)

As I was saying . . . "Salute to Sousa" means just that and no-one in his right mind is going to salute a master with a dozen of his lesser opuses, at least not in the military band market.

A private US citizen called Robert Hoe Jnr, a band buff in the heroic mould, is prevailing on famous bands to record the lesser marches of the lesser composers but unless you are on his mailing list there is little or no chance of hearing them. British bandmasters are sometimes able to slip in a rarity under the noses of their producers but otherwise you need wealth and willpower to get beyond the hackneyed.

Here Trevor Sharpe manages to include "The National Fencibles" among the usual bunch but as there is some slight variation in "the usual twelve" I will name them as "Washington Post," "Liberty Bell," "Stars and Stripes," "King Cotton," "El Capitan," "High School Cadets," "Manhattan Beach," "Hands Across the Sea," "Semper Fidelis," "Invincible Eagle" and "The Gladiator."

All beautifully played of course and will no doubt continue to sell like hot cakes. RB

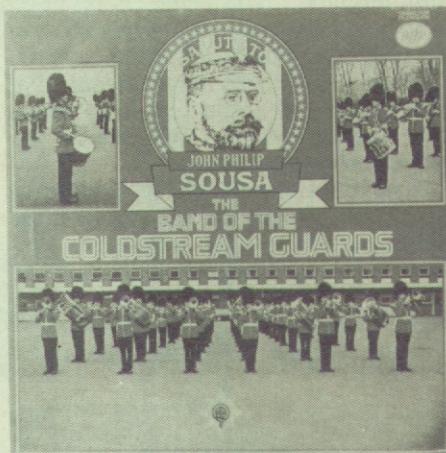


"Sunset" (Band of HM Royal Marines (Royal Marines School of Music) conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Neville and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Vivian Dunn) (EMI ONE-UP OU 2096)

Here we go again. The inclusion of "Liberty Bell," "King Cotton," "El Capitan," "With Sword and Lance" and "Cavalry of the Steppes," plus a nice picture of a Royal Marine bugler, will without doubt sell enough copies to cover production costs which, since it is a re-issue mixture, may be small.

Your reviewer is currently sick of Sousa and, although not quite all for Alford, would welcome the nigh-forgotten tones of dear old "Colonel Bogey." As it is, we have a performance of his xylophone duet "The Two Imps" and his brother's post horn solo "The Huntsman" to vary the diet. Other marches are the ubiquitous "Preobrazensky," "Thunderbirds" (what, no 633 Squadron?) and "Sussex by the Sea."

Three light numbers to vary the tempo are "Alfie" by Bert Bacharach, "Do You Know the Way to San Jose" (Yes, every last inch of it) and "The Edwardians," who entertained us up and down stairs every Sunday evening. RB



"Salute to Heroes" (The Band of HM Royal Marines, Commander-in-Chief Fleet) (Director of Music: Captain Peter A Sumner) (Music for Pleasure Sounds Superb SPR 90075)

This is one of those discs with a title which requires that all stops are pulled out in the sentiment stakes, and very well served it is, if you follow my metaphors. The meatier morsels are from famous films celebrating heroic naval actions and are by now well known from other Royal Marine records.

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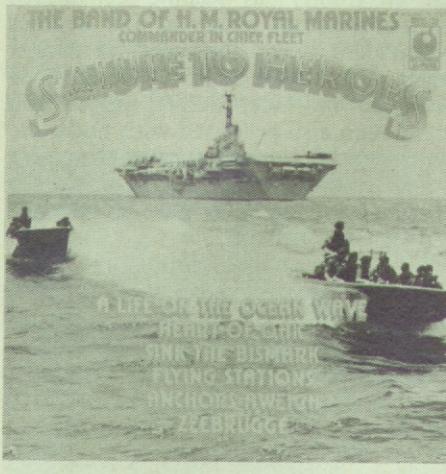


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The British film industry has done the Navy proud with "Sink the Bismarck," "Battle of the River Plate" and "Yangtse Incident" while "Anchors Aweigh" accompanied Errol Flynn on all his war-winning escapades. "Naval Occasion" is an excerpt from a documentary film by Hubert Clifford, a great supplier of apt music for post-war epics grade B.

Marches which just happen to have suitable titles for this naval tribute are "Flying Stations" by Stovin Bradford, "The Mountbatten March" by Sir Vivian Dunn and two more by Captain Sumner called "Zeebrugge" and "Sergeant of Marines."

The tear-jerkers are "A Life on the Ocean Wave," "Heart of Oak," "The Preobrazensky March," a fanfare, "Salute to Heroes," leading into "Rule Britannia" and a "Prelude, Sunset, and Soliloquy" by Peter Sumner. The bottom of this particular barrel has, I trust, now been scraped, but if you want a well-played and well-produced record of naval occasions you could not find better than this. **RB**



"Best Foot Forward" (The Band of HM Royal Marines, Commander-in-Chief Fleet) (conducted by Captain P A Sumner) (RCA LSA 3219)

Of the fourteen marches on this one about half will, by title anyway, be attractive to collectors. I wonder though how many of them I dare recommend by sound. The trouble with un-famous marches is that they are so unmemorable. As I have said before, no great march lies mouldering unsung in someone's drawer, except my sixteen. There is some excuse of course for new marches so let us be charitable and consider the seven new or newish ones.

Those comparative masterpieces which



will be of no interest to you whatsoever, unless you are new to the game, are "HM Jollies," "Belphegor," "The Waveney," "Action Front," "Officer of the Day," "On the Square" and "When the Saints." Of the others, the title march by Ernest Tomlinson received a less frantic performance a year or two ago when I said it had taken a couple of centuries for someone to think of "Best Foot Forward" for a march. Naturally several would-be Alfords and Sousas wrote and said they'd thought of it years before. Anyone want sixteen titles equally good?

Then there are two by Captain Sumner, one of which proves that we should leave it to the French to write mock-Spanish music. "Barcelona" is no go but "The Blue Light" is a catchy 6/8 affair with some nice touches. Sir Vivian Dunn's "The Captain General" has had a few recordings by loyal Royal Marine bands and two marches by Army bandmasters of pre-war days have also managed to survive in a tough market. These are "Ellesmere" by J Grace and "Glorious Victory" by W M Kendall.

Eric Coates's "The Seven Seas" is probably the master's worst and least-known march yet still manages to outshine most others of its kind by lesser mortals. **RB**

Brass in brief

"National Brass Band Festival, recorded live at the Royal Albert Hall, London, October 11th, 1975" (Combined bands of Brighouse & Rastrick Band, Cory Band, Fairey Band, Yorkshire Imperial Metals Band) (Conductors: Robert Farnon and Geoffrey Brand) (Pye Top Brass TB 3004). This annual concert benefited from the distinguished presence of composer-conductor

Robert Farnon in some of his own compositions, and Don Lusher giving the first performance of Gordon Langford's "Rhapsody for Trombone and Brass Band." "Colditz March," "Belle of the Ball," "Concord March," "Westminster Waltz," "Trojan March" and an overture, "Tombstone-Arizona," form the bulk of the programme. **RB**

"Music from Vale Royal (Cheshire)" (Besses o' th' Barn Band) (Conductor: Frank Bryce) (Northwich and District Festival Choir) (Conductor: Cyril Dawes) (Pye Top Brass TB 3003)

Traditional band and choir compôte of mixed sweetmeats. Band alone plays a new "Concerto Grosso" by Edward Gregson, two short pieces by Frank Bryce; choir alone gives seven items including "Trotting to the Fair," "Old Mother Hubbard" and "Sanctuary of the Heart." Concerted items are "Hymn to Music" by Dudley Buck, Quilter's "Non Nobis Domine," "O Lovely Heart" and "How Great Thou Art." All very cosy and easy on the ear. **RB**



Brass
in
brief

"Brass International" (The Band of Yorkshire Imperial Metals) (Conductor: Trevor Walmley) (Pye Top Brass TB 3001) Fairly serious items are Mussorgsky's "Night on the Bare Mountain," the overture "If I Were King" and Lecuona's "Malecuna." Solos are "Concorde" for cornet, "Frolic for Trombones" and the "Post Horn Galop." Pops are "Yesterday," "Eye Level" and "McArthur Park," with a Norwegian march, "Valdres," to start things off. **RB**

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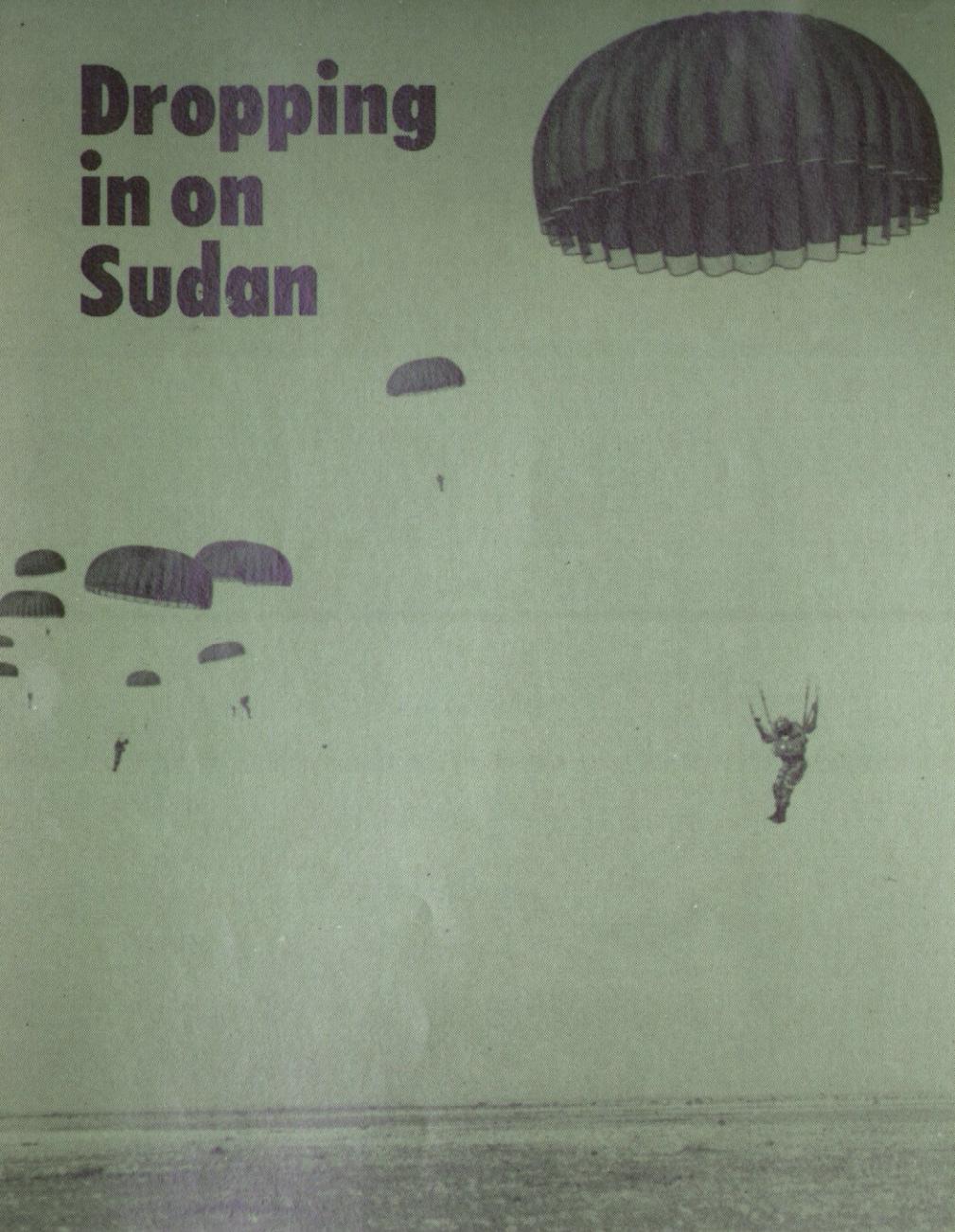
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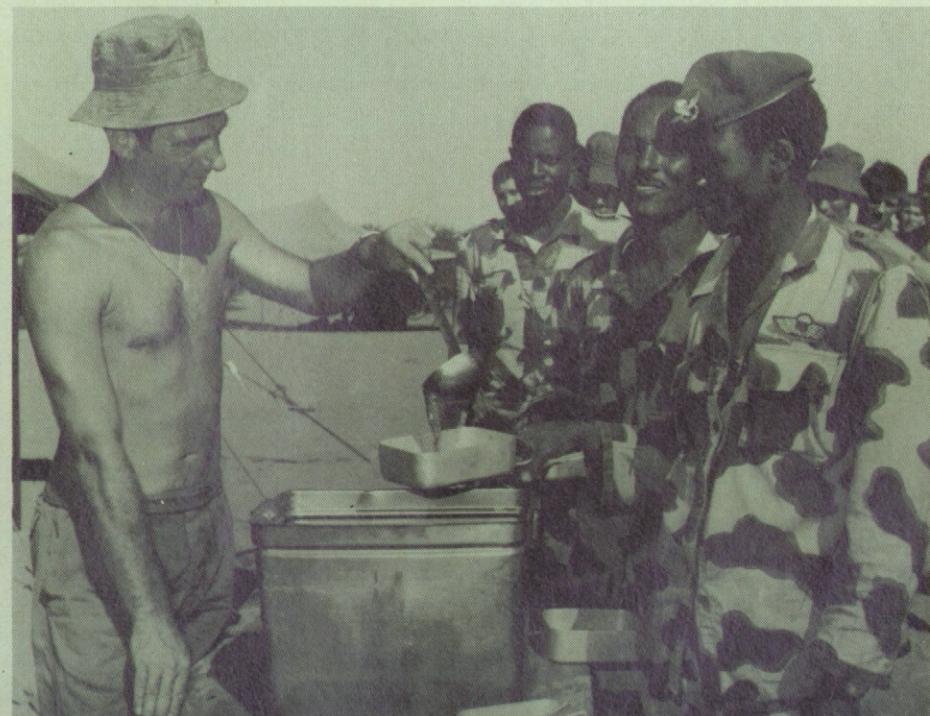
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Dropping in on Sudan



Below: Sudanese paratroopers listen to Sergeant Ralph Hooper's briefing.



Below: Sergeant John Cumbers, a military policeman, ladling out food.

From a story by John Westing, PR UKLF Mobile Team.

A DESERT parachute drop featuring 700 men from 16th Independent Parachute Brigade and a hundred Sudanese paratroopers began the final battalion group exercise of a four-week Anglo/Sudanese parachute training exercise called "Jowar."

Most of the Britons were from 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, with others from 1 Battery of 7 Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery, 3 Troop of 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, 23 Parachute Field Ambulance and 6 Flight, Army Air Corps.

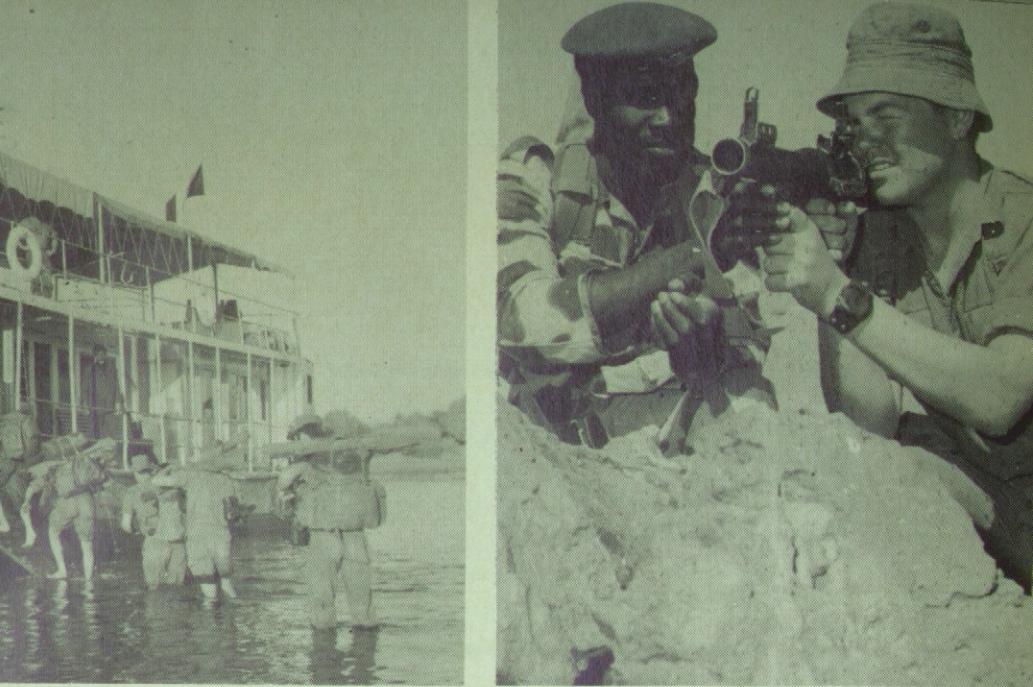
The 48-hour final exercise in blistering heat with limited supplies proved extremely testing. The battalion group had in support Mig 17s and Mig 21s of the Sudanese Air Force and faced an "enemy" armed with T55 tanks.

During the previous weeks of training the troops had become accustomed to temperatures of up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit by day and below freezing at night. They were able to fire all their weapons on local desert ranges and some men also practised with Sudanese weapons. All companies went through a company test exercise which included a crossing of the Nile and an 18-mile advance to contact.

There was also time for Anglo/Sudanese sporting contests at soccer, cross-country, boxing and basketball which the Sudanese won handsomely with the aid of their tall Dinka soldiers. At the Sudanese Parachute School, Warrant Officer 2 Ted Lewington and fellow members of the Red Devils freefall team instructed local paratroopers in freefalling and three Royal Air Force instructors attached to the parachute brigade spent hours teaching British jumping equipment and techniques.



Above: British paras wade out to the steamer Floating Garden which took them to and from base and rest camps.



Below: Piloting an Alouette, Captain Geoff Hartless flies over the confluence of the White Nile (left) and Blue Nile.



Above: A Sudanese paratrooper shows Private Stuart Birch how to operate a Russian RPG 7 anti-tank weapon.



Above: Field-Marshal Mohammed Bashir; Brigadier Geoffrey Howlett.



Below: Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmed Mursi being taught freefall techniques.



Below: Private Colin Watts in practice. He beat his Sudanese opponent.



Left...

British Day at the Expo 75 exhibition in Okinawa, Japan, coincided with St Andrew's Day — Scotland's saint's day — and there to herald what was on show were pipers and drummers of 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, who had been specially invited to play. This followed the Scots musicians' resounding success with the Japanese when they played during the visit to that country by the Queen last summer. The pipers and drummers were among the rear party of the Gordons in Singapore — the battalion was the last "teeth arm" of the Army to be stationed there. Pictured left are Miss Tomoe Yokota, a hostess at the British pavilion, and Piper Richard Gregson.



This portrait of the Queen as Captain-General of the Royal Artillery was commissioned to hang in the officers' mess of the Royal Artillery Headquarters, Woolwich. Her Majesty is depicted wearing the regimental cloak. Artist David Poole (seen right with Field-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker, Master Gunner) was in the Royal Engineers during National Service.



The last round from a Royal Artillery gun in Hong Kong was ceremonially fired at 1325 on Friday 28 November 1975 — the resident gunner regiment is being withdrawn from the colony this March. The round was fired from Castle Peak Ranges by 27 (Strange's) Battery of 20 Light Regiment. On leaving its base at Sek Kong camp, New Territories, the regiment is to disband except for one battery, 12 (Minden) Battery, which will join 32 Light Regiment in Bulford. The titles of 27 (Strange's) Battery and 43 Battery (Lloyd's Company) are to be transferred to the Junior Leaders' Regiment, Royal Artillery, at Bramcote.



...right

To bring a little joy to Greek Cypriot refugees displaced in the recent Cyprus strife, the band and drums of 1st Battalion, The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, based on the island, visited camps to play music and meet the homeless locals.

...and centre

Child entertainer Lena Zavaroni topped the bill in a star-studded Combined Services Entertainment programme specially organised for families of 3rd Battalion, The Light Infantry, whose menfolk are currently serving in Northern Ireland. Staged in the gymnasium at St George's Barracks, Minden, the concert attracted more than 300 spectators who were treated to almost two hours of non-stop entertainment.



A unit formed in 1825 to survey Ireland as the 16th Company of Royal Sappers and Miners celebrated its 150th anniversary at Osnabrück, Germany. Now known as 16 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, the unit's modern tasks have included earthquake relief in Skopje, Yugoslavia, and one of the largest earthmoving projects in the history of the corps during the construction of Greven airfield. Left: Lieutenant Peter Tuddenham dressed for the anniversary pageant in the uniform Stanley Baker wore in the film "Zulu."

Sport



Army tackles Titans

ABARNSTORMING attack from the first whistle of the game brought a shot at the Chelsea goal by Corporal Micky Doig in the first minute of the Army's floodlit game against the Football League's Second Division side at Aldershot Military Stadium.

Three minutes later a goalmouth tussle brought a scoring chance for the Army's captain, Staff-Sergeant Instructor Alf Coulton, but the ball refused to find the netting. Chelsea soon fought back and just ten minutes into the game a bad back-pass from an Army defender was intercepted by Kenny Swaine to score the first of his two goals of the evening. He hammered the ball past Army goalkeeper Corporal John Dudley five minutes later but was given offside. The second allowed goal came early in the second half with a sizzling shot from 15 yards. Swaine put the ball away again in the last minutes of the match but was penalised for pushing.

Although Chelsea were clearly — and predictably — the dominant team, the Army players put up a spirited performance and gave the professional side many an anxious moment. And they were undaunted by being ranged against such stars as Charlie Cooke and Scottish international David Hay.

It was a tribute to the fitness of all 22 players on the pitch that the ball was moved the length and breadth of the field for most of the match. The Army took full advantage of their visitors' settling-down period early on to press home several purposeful attacks.

Chelsea's Derek Richardson was well beaten by one fine shot but the whistle blew for hand-ball in the flurry preceding the kick.

The second half opened with both goalkeepers replaced by Corporal Frank McKinney and John Phillips. Other substitutions brought Lance-Corporal Tony Cox on for Staff-Sergeant John Woodward and Lance-Corporal Michael Rogers for Corporal Aly McDonald. But even with new blood, the Army could not break down the Chelsea defences, strengthened in turn by the substitution of John Bumpstead for Graham Wilkins.

But at the final whistle there was no call for the Army side to feel abashed by the 2-0 scoreline since their spirited — if unsuccessful — performance against Chelsea was only the second defeat they had suffered in the first 13 matches of the season. There can be no doubt that the attacking play of Coulton and Doig will put their names in future scorelines and McDonald and tough sweeper Corporal Alan Goucher will surely be instrumental in frustrating would-be opposition scorers.

Army: Dudley, L/Cpl Ken Langley, Goucher, Cpl David Blanche, Rogers, McDonald, L/Cpl Jimmy Slade, Doig, L/Cpl David Steadman, Coulton, Woodward (substitutes: Cox, McKinney).

Chelsea: Richardson, Les Brierley, Wilkins, Clive Walker, Steve Wicks, Cooke, Ray Lewington (Captain), Johnnie Sparrow, Hay, Steve Finnieston, Swaine (Phillips, Bumpstead).

Miles o' money

ARMY marathon runner Sergeant Fred Howell, 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars, raised £740-worth of ten pfennig pieces in a sponsored run for charity from east to west across West Germany.

The 263-mile trek took eight days with sponsorship for the Army Benevolent Fund at ten pfennigs a kilometre netting 40,000 coins for the achievement. Individuals, messes and units stationed in Rhine Army contributed to the total.

Fred took up ultra-distance running — any length over the traditional marathon's 26 miles — two years ago and is now ranked ninth in the world in this test of stamina. "I am a bit too long in the tooth for the marathon, but a spring chicken as far as ultra-distance runners go," said 32-year-old Fred.

Last October he came fifth in the international 100-mile track race held by the Road Runners Club of Great Britain at Tipton, Staffordshire. First placed man, Gavin Woodward, was home in 11 hours 38 minutes 26 seconds collecting the 100, 50 and 30 mile records on the way. Fred's time was 12 hours 49 minutes 29 seconds. He is now in training for the Isle of Man 40-mile event in April.

Below: Sergeant Fred Howell's 263-mile run in eight days earned 40,000 coins for the Army Benevolent Fund.



Swinging photographer

SOULIER photographer Doug Pratt is in the sporting swing as a golfer — he plays to a four handicap — by carrying off top trophies at his home club in Weymouth.

The club's Beets Cup, named after long-serving professional Fred Beets, was awarded for Doug's performance as a low handicap player and he won the Porteus match-play knock-out cup. He is also current holder of the singles and scratch championships and the Rockliffe Trophy of the Admiralty Underwater Weapons Establishment Golf Society. He worked at AUWE before joining SOLDIER last autumn.



Sports shorts

BOXING

The Army's annual match for the Leach Cup against Wales was drawn although the Army won five of the nine contested weight divisions. The decision was the result of the Army not having a representative at featherweight.

In the lightweight class Lance-Corporal B Curran (59 Ind Cdo Sqn RE) was most unlucky to lose by a majority points decision to C Brown (Llandaff ABC) — a verdict which gave rise to loud disapproval from spectators. Late Army substitutes in the welter and middleweights for selected first-string boxers unable to appear gave good performances, bringing much-needed wins to hold Wales to the draw.

Flyweight: L/Cpl J Lucas (1 RWF) lost to B Griffiths (Rhondda ABC). Bantamweight: Bdr J McGonigle (RA) lost to J Owen (Porthouse Merthyr ABC). Featherweight: Walkover for D Jones (Denbigh ABC). Lightweight: Curran lost to Brown. Light welterweight: L/Cpl C Sexton (1 BW) lost to C Davies (Splott YMCA). Welterweight: Pte B Malarkey (1 BW) beat K Webber (Rhondda ABC). Light middleweight: Rfn G Williams (1 RGJ) beat A Feal (Prince of Wales ABC). Middleweight: Fus A Jones beat C Lawson (Pembroke ABC). Light heavyweight: Rfn H Miles (1 RGJ) beat B Edwards (Denbigh ABC). Heavyweight: L/Bdr C Williams (5 Regt RA) beat T Chard (Maindee ABC).

The match was organised by the Staffordshire Police Sport Club at Hanley Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent.

Army v Western Counties matched boxers tournament at Bristol.

Light flyweight: Bdr M Gregory (RA) beat G Nicette (Torbay ABC). Featherweight: Tpr Holdsworth (QRIH) lost to G Ambrose (Mylor ABC). Lightweight: L/CoH A Hough (Gds Depot) lost to P Jones (Watchet ABC). Light welterweight: L/Cpl M Dowland (Depot Queens) lost to R Donnington (Hartcliffe ABC). L/Cpl C Sexton (1 BW) beat M Lawrence (Hartcliffe ABC). Welterweight: Pte W Malarkey (1 BW) lost to R Hutchinson (Gloucester ABC). Light middleweight: Gdsmn J Spencer (2 Coldm) lost to E Lawrence (Hartcliffe ABC). Middleweight: Cpl J Phillips (1 RWF) lost to R Squires (Empire ABC). Light heavyweight: SI J Evans (APTC) lost to A Hall (Gillingham ABC). Heavyweight: L/Bdr C Williams (7 Regt RHA) beat C Mitchell (Mere/Gillingham ABC).

At the Army v Western Counties tournament, Sergeant Richard Dunn, of 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment — the British and Commonwealth Heavyweight Champion — was presented with a "sportsman of the night" award by the president of the Army Boxing Association, General Sir Cecil Blacker. Dunn recently retained his title by defeating Danny MacAlinden.

Minor units (UK) team boxing championships 1975: 59 Indep Cdo Sqn RE defeated 16 Para Bde HQ & Sig Sqn by six bouts to one and 13 points to seven.

GYMNASICS

In the men's apparatus championships at York, SI J Purvis (APTC) came third in the floor exercises with 8.85 points, equal third on the rings with 8.25, first in the vault with 9.10 and third on the parallel bars with 8.15. He was not in the frame for the pommel horse or high bar events but his total score of 48.30 was enough to put him in the top six qualifying for the Champions Cup at the Royal Albert Hall.

CANOEING

Army wild water championships, Richmond, Yorkshire.

Kayak: 1st L/Cpl Storey (R Sigs), 2nd Capt Crawford (16/5 L), 3rd Sgt Moore (ASPT). Slalom: 1st Sig Jackson (R Sigs), 2nd Pte Jelli (1 WFR), 3rd L/Cpl Waterton (JLR RE). Canadian single: 1st Sgt White (R Sigs), 2nd S/Sgt Brett (R Sigs), 3rd SSI Hargreaves (JSMT). Canadian double: 1st SSI Parker/SI Fyffe (APTC), 2nd A/T

Richards/A/t L/Cpl Lawrence (AAC RAOC), 3rd A/T L/Cpl Wilkinson/A/T Bolwell (AAC RAOC). Ladies: 1st Capt Gillespie (QARANC), 2nd Cpl Mangang (1 Regt RMP), 3rd Capt Elliot (12 Regt RSME).

Junior kayak: 1st A/T Ford (AAC Chepstow), 2nd A/T Cpl Wilkie (AAC Arborfield), 3rd A/T Hattray (AAC Chepstow). Junior slalom: 1st A/T Pritchard (AAC Harrogate), 2nd A/T Speck (AAC Arborfield), 3rd A/T Wright (AAC Harrogate). Junior team: 1st AAC Harrogate A, 2nd AAC Harrogate B, 3rd AAC Chepstow A. Inter-Services team: 1st Army (63 points), 2nd RAF (38), 3rd RN (19).

RUGBY

Army 12, RMCS Shrivenham 10; Army 39, Public School Wanderers 3; Army 11, Aldershot Services 9.

JUDO

In Olympic trials at Crystal Palace, L/Cpl Steve Travis (RPC) came third in the middleweight division behind British star Brian Jacks (1st) and his training partner Roy Inman (2nd).

FENCING

The Army is always assured of a good match in its annual Civil Service contest and this year's meeting in London was no exception. All the Civil Service swordsmen concerned were members of top-grade London fencing clubs but the Army won by 15 to 12. Defeats in the foil and sabre of 4-5 and 3-6 respectively for the Army in no way reflected one-sided contests, several bouts going to the assault point. In the épée match the Army turned the tables and recorded an 8-1 win. Representing the Army were: Capt L S Burr (RAOC), Lieut T E Belson (Glosters), QMSI D T Hughes (APTC), QMSI D D Truman (APTC) and SSI P J Brierley (APTC).

SHOOTING

British Army (United Kingdom) won the Friendship Trophy in the annual three-cornered shooting match with BAOR and the United States Army Europe. Out of a highest possible of 13000, Army UK scored 11840, US Army Europe 11745 and BAOR 11428. The trophy went to the team with the highest aggregate score in three competitions — prone, standing and kneeling with 40 shots in each position at 25 yards; prone with 60 shots at 25 yards and air rifle with 80 shots standing at ten metres.

Team results. PS and K (HPS 6000): 1st British Army UK 5381 points, 2nd US Army Europe 5310, 3rd BAOR 5071. Prone, rifle (HPS 3000): 1st British Army UK 2939, 2nd BAOR 2929, 3rd US Army Europe 2866. Air rifle (HPS 4000): 1st US Army Europe 3569, 2nd British Army UK 3520, 3rd BAOR 3428.

Individual results. PS and K (HPS 1200): 1st Capt E Schumacher (US Army) 1138, 2nd S/Sgt J D Smith (US Army) 1096, 3rd Lieut-Col R H Mac Keith (Army UK) 1092. Prone rifle (HPS 800): 1st Capt Schumacher 596, 2nd Major A R Harvey (BAOR) 594, 3rd Sgt W A White (BAOR) 593. Air rifle (HPS 800): 1st S/Sgt A V Glasby (Army UK) 737, 2nd Capt Schumacher 734, 3rd Lieut-Col MacKeith 727.

Representing British Army UK were Lieut-Col R H MacKeith (RAMC), Capt P Martin (DERR) (team captain), WO1 M C E Gosling (RAO), WO2 J O'Brien (REME), S/Sgt A V Glasby (RAOC), S/Sgt T E Watts (RAMC) and Sgt W K Boxall (RAOC).

SOCER

Undaunted by the 0-2 defeat at the hands of Second Division Chelsea, the Army went on to beat Wiltshire by a resounding 3-0 a week later. Not to be outdone, the Army Youth side beat Middlesex 2-1 in an FA Youth Cup match and drew Hampshire in the next round due to be played on 31 Jan.

Red House handover

ONE of the casualties of the British withdrawal from Singapore (see SOLDIER January 1976) has been the thriving Red House Sailing Club.

At one time the club — which was the last United Kingdom Forces sailing club on the island — boasted nearly 60 dinghies, 10 Ospreys, 30 GP 14s, 3 Larks and 14 Bosuns. Some of these boats have been handed over to the Republic of Singapore Sailing Club and others have been passed on to Hong Kong or returned to the United Kingdom.

To mark the handover to Singapore sailors, a number of trophies, ships' plaques and flag officer boards were passed on to the local club by Captain T A C Clack, Resident Naval Officer, and Major David Twigg, Commodore of Red House Sailing Club.

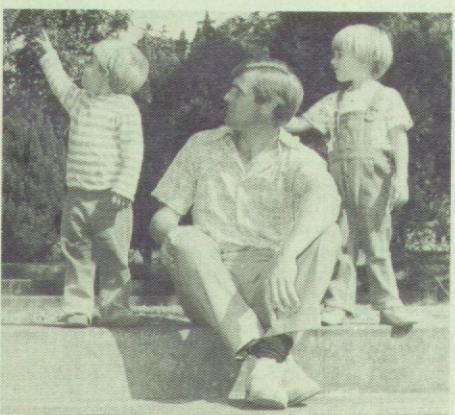
Man of the mountains

A KEY man in the organisation of the British/Nepalese Army assault on Everest this year is Captain Mike Kefford (28) who has been coping with the logistics of the operation in Nepal as well as being one of the lead climbers in the team.

"I am responsible for the Nepal end of the organisation — importing food, gathering equipment, radio licences, selection of Sherpas (I speak Nepali and Sherpa). And I am the liaison officer with the Nepalese Government and Royal Nepal Army."

Captain Kefford has been in Nepal for two years with his wife Fiona and sons (pictured below) William and Benjamin. He is second-in-command of the British Gurkha Depot in Dharan with responsibilities for administration, recruiting and the welfare of ex-Gurkha soldiers.

He added: "February and March 1976 will be the culmination of five years of planning and training towards Everest."



Letters

MID record

In researching the career of my father, Lieutenant-General H Karslake, I find that he was mentioned in despatches a total of eleven times — twice in the South African War and nine times in World War One. I am led to believe that this may be a record and wonder whether any reader knows of anyone mentioned-in-despatches more than eleven times.—B Karslake, Flat 3, 18 Goring Road, Worthing, Sussex.

ACF plea

As detachment commander of an ACF unit with very limited funds I would like to appeal to readers for any equipment they no longer have use for. We are anxious to acquire any type of equipment from tentage to anklets and would be very appreciative of any offers.—T H Cheppard, Detachment Commander, Fordingbridge Detachment Army Cadet Force, The Old Manor House, Church Square, Fordingbridge, Hants.

Photo quest

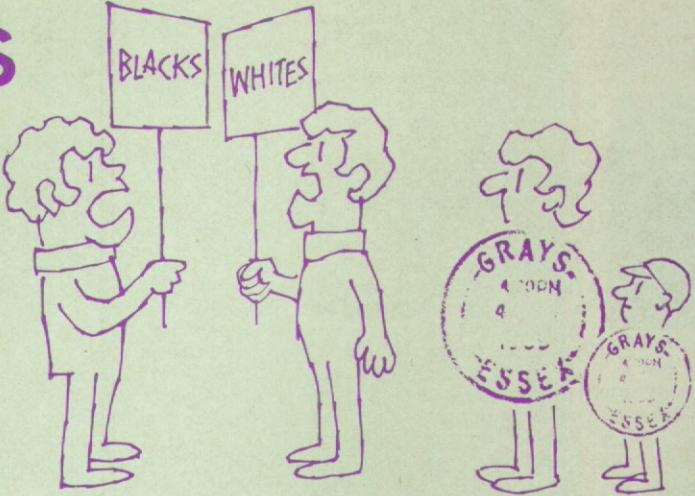
I am trying to obtain a photograph of 5328 Corporal William Wilson who served in the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, between 1881 and 1899. Is any reader able to help me in my quest please?—I R Durban, 116 Westminster Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 9SF.

Free lectures

A series of lectures entitled "Great Commanders" will be held in the National Army Museum at 2.45 pm on the following Saturdays during 1976. Admission is by ticket only, available free of charge from the Keeper of Education, National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HT.

Lectures so far arranged are:

- 7 Feb 76 Oliver Cromwell,
by Brigadier Peter Young
- 14 Feb 76 Duke of Marlborough,
by David Chandler
- 21 Feb 76 Duke of Wellington,
by Michael Glover
- 28 Feb 76 Field-Marshal Lord Wolseley,
by Michael Blanch
- 6 Mar 76 Field-Marshal Lord Alexander,
by General Sir William Jackson



Remember Herr Kaib

During a recent visit to Germany I met a gentleman by the name of Herr Erich Kaib. During our conversation he told me of his experiences as a prisoner-of-war of the British in North Africa and he would now like to make contact with his captors. He worked with the ammunition clearance team in Tobruk, the officer commanding the unit was Major Snelling and two sergeants he remembers were named Murray and Roach. He has some very happy and amusing memories of his time as a POW and would like anyone who remembers him to write to him at 68 Mannheim 51, Dilsberger Strasse 3-5, West Germany. I will be going to Germany again soon and I hope to hear that some SOLDIER reader who remembers Herr Kaib has got in touch with him.—E Morley, Vennely, Arun Vale, Coldwaltham, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1LP.

Naafi diorama

Mr Edward MacGowan, managing director of Naafi, has handed over to the Imperial War Museum a diorama depicting the Expeditionary Forces Canteen rest centre at Etaples during World War One and also a scale model of a mobile canteen lorry of the same period. The models, specially made for the museum by Naafi, will be incorporated into the permanent displays in due course.

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.

Sgt J R Donnelly, c/o Sgts Mess, RAF Gibraltar, BFP 52.—Wishes purchase or exchange American breast wings or badges all forces. Has for exchange British Army cap, collar and shoulder badges.

David Parker, Selhurst Farm Cottage, Lower Beeding, Horsham, Sussex, RH13 6NQ.—Seeks army badges and buttons of WW1 German or British Army uniforms also *The War Illustrated*.

William S Mills, 4104 Ingalls Street, San Diego, California 92103, USA.—Seeks HPCs of Royal Scots (Lothian Regt), Norfolk, Somerset, Royal Irish (KCI), Kings Own Borderers (1881-84, 1884-87), Worcestershire (1881-85), Border (1881-83), Welsh with word *neu* in scroll, Connaught Rangers (narrow harp), all in circlet. Has many HPCs for exchange. Also requires large 34th

tunic button; has similar for exchange.

Alan Pawson, 34 Hovis Street, Openshaw, Manchester, M11 2JD.—Wishes purchase regimental journals English, Scottish and Gurkha regiments. Please state price.

Myles Penny, Box 306, Brantford, Ontario, Canada.—Seeks waist belt buckles of Royal Highland Fusiliers, British Highland Light Infantry and Canadian Highland Light Infantry. Will purchase or exchange for Canadian items.

B Mear, c/o GPO Sherborne, Dorset.—Seeks records of Corps of Drums, 2nd Bn, Scots Guards (Fontana 5421); Band of Queen's Lancashire Regiment; Band of Welsh Regiment (MFP 1314); also NCO arm badges 9th Lancers.

S M Low, 37 Strathiseg Place, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, Angus.—Seeks pre-1950 copies regimental journals of 5th Dragoon Guards, 6th Inniskilling Dragoons and 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards. Irving Galis, 357 Atlantic Avenue, Marblehead, Mass 01945, USA.—Has military books for exchange.

Hugh Jones, 11256 81A Avenue, Delta BC, Canada.—Seeks cap badges issued by the Crown in Ceylon, Seychelles, Mauritius, Malaya and Fiji.

E Kelk, 1 Sweechgate Cottages, Broad Oak, Canterbury.—Seeks CEF and Bakelite infantry badges. Has many badges, buttons and titles for sale or exchange.

James Moran, Rt 1, Box 247, Carl Junction, Mo 64834.—Seeks British and Commonwealth medals, formation signs and cap badges. Has US medals, shoulder patches and other insignia to exchange.

Reunions

Royal Horse Artillery Association. Trowbridge Branch annual dinner and reunion, New Civic Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts, 27 March. Tickets £2.50 from Maj J C Crowe, 55 Whiterow Park, Trowbridge, Wilts, BA14 0EQ.

Royal Army Pay Corps Regimental Association. Annual general meeting Hanover Grand, Hanover Street, London W1, 6.30 pm, 30 Apr, followed by annual dinner 7 pm for 8.00 pm. Tickets £3.10 from Secretary, RAPC Regimental Association, Corps HQ, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants.

How observant are you?

(see page 17)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Right hind leg of lizard. 2 Centre spike of smaller plant. 3 Bird's tail. 4 Skyline left of larger tree. 5 Flash on left man's bush hat. 6 Right man's pocket. 7 Top of Land-Rover's left headlamp. 8 Patch on rear quarters of right giraffe. 9 Right-hand branch of smaller tree. 10 Horizon between right giraffe's forelegs.

Competition

"Women's Lib" (Competition 208, October) set both a problem in logic and in the illogicality of a

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topsy-turvy Mundavia. Nevertheless many readers correctly came to grips with Mundavian elections and produced the answers that Harih was elected president while Dikh cast one vote against Harih and one against himself. Dikh received nine votes, Tomh eight and Harih seven. Had Fredh's votes been allowed, Tomh would have been president.

Prizewinners:

- 1 James Garven, Academy House, Ewanfield, Crieff, Perthshire, Scotland.
- 2 R H G Travers-Bogusz, 77 St Thomas's Road, Hardway, Gosport, Hampshire.
- 3 Robin Clapp, Poplars, Keward, Wells, Somerset.
- 4 S/Sgt B H Bertram, 73 Fd Wksp AC, BFPO 23.
- 5 Lieut-Col P W Lonnion, Ponderosa, Park Road, Ashtead, Surrey.
- 6 P S Day, 12 The Grove, Norwich, Norfolk.
- 7 Mrs P Start, 2 Holly Walk, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hampshire.
- 8 Cpl K Jackson, HQ Sqn, 14/20 King's Hussars, BFPO 15.

Picture Postcards

The National Army Museum is marketing a series of five postcards at four pence each plus postage. These postcards, which are in full colour, can be obtained from the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, SW3 4HT. The five subjects are: Horse Guard 1862, Band of the 1st Life Guards 1850, Band of the 2nd Life Guards 1832 and two pictures of the Battle of Tamaai 1884 from paintings by Douglas Giles.

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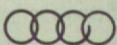
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Air girl Angie

The Royal Corps of Transport's 55 Air Despatch Squadron is proud of its links with the RAF. So much so that when the lads of the squadron decided to invite a personality girl to visit them in Northern Ireland the pretty miss chosen was a serving member of the Women's Royal Air Force, Corporal Angie Strafford from RAF Upavon. She has now been duly dubbed Miss Air Despatch.



Family reunion

The Army united a family at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Bordon, where husband and wife Gerald and Margaret Watson work as instructor and librarian respectively. They were joined there by their two sons William and Duncan (right) who entered the Army last year and passed through Bordon as Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers trainees.



In the air

Used to working ON the air, BFBS announcer Hilda Bamber decided to play IN the air when she made her first parachute descent in Dhekelia, Cyprus. Hilda joined BFBS in Malta in 1974 and before then was with the BBC and was Radio 4's first woman announcer since World War Two.

Gan "postie"

The Royal Engineers postal service is the only link with wives, families and sweethearts for Servicemen on the lonely coral atoll of Gan in the Indian Ocean and this vital link is forged by two men. Pictured is half the team, Lance-Corporal Graham MacColl, whose "long-time-no-she" post-bike reminds his customers of the value of a letter from home. But post back to the United Kingdom can come in strange shapes. Here Graham clutches a carved and painted coconut husk complete with address etched on for posting.

By numbers

HERE comes number three in the new series of numerical crosswords. First step is to fit the numbers listed below into the left-hand grid. Next, using the right-hand grid, convert the "cross-figures" into a crossword by the substitution of ten different letters for the ten figures.

Finally, identify the five-letter word ringed in the centre of the right-hand grid and send this word on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 212" label from this page and your name and address, to:

86	039	0212	05816	154575	1515736	15981757	3291805326
89	157	1375	08956	349596	1571566	69551805	6489951516
	315	1575	15696	657895			
	377	3756	15816	759516	1		
	429	3816	41569	899569	2		
	500	4315	43869	981059	3		
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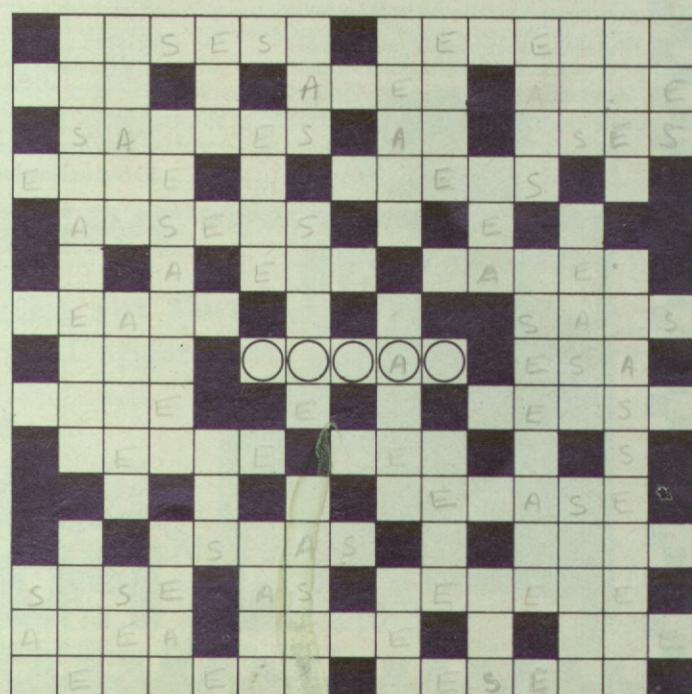
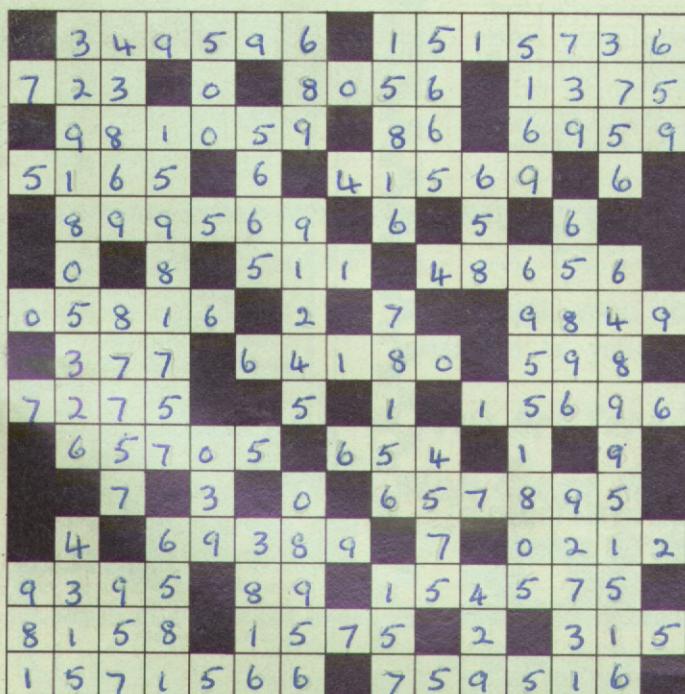
Editor (Comp 212)
SOLDIER
 Ordnance Road
 Aldershot
 Hants
 GU11 2DU.

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 12 April. The answer and winners' names will appear in the June **SOLDIER**. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 212" label from this page and your name and address, to:

label. Winners will be drawn by lots from correct entries. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

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Military models

WITH goggles characteristically flipped up over his hat peak, a legendary general surveys a scene of desert devastation from atop his sand-painted armoured half-track.

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It is Alamein all over again, this time in the field of plastic military models. As a tribute to their former foe and ally, British and Japanese firms have simultaneously issued kits of Rommel's armoured command vehicle SdKfz 250/3 with its distinctive Afrika Korps palms and red painted decal "Greif" (Strike).

The Airfix kit, in 1:32nd scale at



Top right: Rommel's armoured command vehicle. Above: Afrika Korps, Eighth Army. Below: Centurion III.



Good Greif!



£1.19, includes a two-inch figure of General Erwin Rommel with a remarkable facial likeness. By the way, many modellers make the mistake of painting goggles silver while the correct method is to paint the colours seen underneath and apply a "glaze" of gold size or clear gloss varnish or enamel.

The vehicle has about 200 parts including interior detail such as a dashboard, steering wheel, gear lever, handbrake, radio set, fire extinguisher, ammunition box and small arms.

Japan's contribution is from the Tokyo firm of Nitto Kagaku whose kits are marketed in this country by Richard Kohnstam ("Riko") Ltd of 13 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. It is available here at a recommended retail price of £1.70. The kit is in smaller 1:35th scale with fewer parts but only marginally less detail. The figures supplied have Waffen SS uniforms, complete with jackboots, "coal scuttle" helmets and swastika insignia which are quite incorrect for the "Greif" vehicle illustrated. How-

ever, modellers could paint the vehicle Panzer grey and add SS decals for North-West Europe or Russian fronts. One figure in fact has a grenade wedged under his belt — a practice not to be recommended for AFV crews!

Continuing the Alamein theme, Airfix has also released a kit of the Crusader III tank (at £1.59) and boxed sets of figures of the Eighth Army and Afrika Corps (55p each) all in compatible 1:32nd scale.

The Crusader is well detailed and builds up into a businesslike model but the non-working suspension is rather fragile. Its particular attraction is the wide selection of transfer decals for armoured divisions and regiments.

The figures come in an exciting new form called "multipose." Each box contains more than 100 parts to construct six figures. These parts are interchangeable, which means you can make up an almost infinite variety of poses. Not only that, each of the faces has a different expression from an anguished grimace to impassive resolution. HH

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Saxon advent on Salisbury Plain



Above: A joint effort by tanks and the infantry in an advance over the Plain.

Below: The 105mm pack-howitzer and Italian gunners. Britain also uses it.



WEST Saxons and East Saxons trod the ancient fastnesses of Salisbury Plain again — but only as mythical opposing forces in Advent Express, Allied Command Europe Mobile Force's first-ever exercise on British soil.

A small, highly mobile conventional force, AMF comprises land and air elements from several of NATO's member nations. The land component draws together infantry, artillery, helicopter, combat support and administrative units from Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, United Kingdom and United States. Air support squadrons are provided by Belgium, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States.

Most units are based in their own countries and deploy to join the force for exercises and operations. A permanent headquarters is maintained at Mannheim-Seckenheim, West Germany, and is staffed by men from countries contributing to the force. Although ACE Mobile Force may be deployed to any threatened part of the alliance, it is primarily concerned with NATO's flanks — those areas where member nations have common frontiers with Russia or her allies and where NATO forces are weakly represented, as in northern Norway, Denmark, Greece, Turkey and northern Italy.

The United Kingdom provides a major part of the force with an infantry battalion, the force artillery headquarters and a gun battery, reconnaissance squadron, radio troop, half the force helicopter unit, force air support centre, intelligence detachment and the logistic support battalion.

The infantry unit is at present 1st



Above: An American airborne infantryman with ground surveillance radar extending the soldiers' eyes and ears.



Above: NATO's watchword — vigilance — depicted by a lookout posted in Imber village during Advent Express.



Above: Joint Italian/British umpires. Below: Battle comes by air, on tracks, English is the NATO language. on foot with today's varied tactics.



Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, stationed at Tidworth. It took over its AMF(L) role in 1974 and operates on both northern and southern NATO flanks. The battalion is fully airportable and spends two months each year in Norway on winter training.

The force artillery headquarters is drawn from 19 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery which also provides 13 (Martinique) Light Battery for the force artillery itself. The battery, which has been with AMF(L) since 1969, is being equipped with the new British light gun to replace the Italian 105mm pack howitzer. The reconnaissance unit is C Squadron, The Life Guards, stationed at Windsor and equipped with Scorpion, Scimitar and Ferret vehicles. The radio troop from 30 Signal Regiment in Blandford plays a vital part in keeping the force communications working smoothly. The intelligence detachment comes from 83 Intelligence and Security Section.

The Logistic Support Battalion, stationed in Bulford, is part of 27 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, and is aided by national support elements from the various nations contributing to the force. Another RCT element comes from 50 Movement Control Squadron. The RAF's 38 Group contributes aircraft for the force helicopter unit and the force air support centre controlling all flying in the AMF area. Various squadrons flew in Jaguar, Phantom and Harrier jets during Advent Express.

The exercise also included Chieftain tanks from B Squadron, The Queen's Own Hussars, and 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, plus Royal Tank Regiment Fox vehicles. Troops from 16th Parachute Brigade were there too.

Books

Fun and games

"Mud, Songs and Blighty" (Compiled by Colin Walsh)

This is strictly fun and games. Colin Walsh, ably assisted and drawing from a wide variety of journals, publications, printed ephemera, the BBC, the Imperial War Museum and so on, has produced a most enjoyable vox populi of World War One.

There were the jaunty songs, the sentimental ones. The poets write both soberly and lightheartedly. The Pals and Chums went out to teach the Kaiser a lesson he'd never forget — allegedly urged by their women folk, encouraged by the posters calling men to arms, hoping to be home for Christmas. In their hundreds of thousands they never knew another Christmas.

"Keep the Home Fires Burning" is here in pages and pages of sheet music, vying with "There's a Long Long Trail a'Winding," with "Tipperary" and "Good-By-ee." Advertising, comics, the music halls — everyone had a message, every message geared to a war destroying a world everyone remembered.

This would have been called "a grand book" 60 years ago. But when you've read it go back to the beginning and re-read Colin Walsh's own short poem. It is as moving an epilogue as any.

Hutchinson & Co (Publishers) Ltd, 3 Fitzroy Square, London, W1P 6JD, £3.50

PC

War on wheels

"Oyslager Auto Library: Cross-Country Cars from 1945" (Edited by Bart H Vanderveen)

"Motorcycles to 1945" (Edited by Bart H Vanderveen)

The field car is probably one of the most interesting breeds of vehicle. Jeeps have been used as locomotives, Land-Rovers with flanged hubs to cross rivers on aerial wireways, and VW Mehrzweckwagens (multi-purpose cars) to find a way through dense trackless forests.

The word Jeep — originally from the letters GP for general purpose — is now a trade mark, and jealously guarded too, but many field cars



have this famous vehicle's characteristics. This excellent book covers the world, giving comparisons and histories and showing in its profuse illustrations the many roles played by field cars. It does not overlook the civilian market for four-wheel drive, multi-purpose vehicles where demand has grown considerably in recent years.

"Motorcycles to 1945" reviews worldwide development from earliest beginnings to the end of World War Two. Its five sections deal with



the early years, World War One, the Twenties, the Thirties and World War Two. In addition to two-wheeled mounts of various shapes and sizes, it covers many examples of motor tricycles, sidecar combinations and some of the cross-country machines which used tracks for propulsion. Nearly 200 illustrations, from a dozen countries, show a representative selection of exhibits.

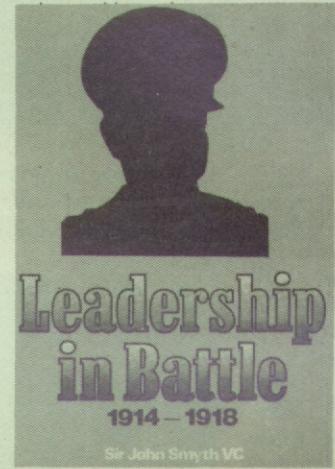
Frederick Warne & Co Ltd, 40 Bedford Square, London, WC1N 3AU, £2.95 each

JCW

Human spirit

"Leadership in Battle 1914-1918" (Sir John Smyth VC)

This is a study of leaders of men in action — generals commanding armies, corps and divisions, battalion commanders, and individuals who by their valour set examples that inspired and encouraged their comrades. Such natural leadership often turned doubt into victory. There was also the calculated leadership through strategic and tactical



planning and professional knowledge.

The author fought through both world wars, won the Victoria Cross and commanded an Indian division

in Burma in 1942. He has intimate knowledge of his subject and knew many of the commanders.

Battles and actions from Mons to Palestine are reviewed, all the principal allied generals from French to Foch are examined and the brave exploits of a number of Victoria Cross heroes are chronicled. The author does not produce an abc of leadership. He believes "the best definition lies in the lives and experiences of such men" who have "one thing in common: a rising of the human spirit over doubt, despair, fear, hardship, strain and fatigue, and a great danger to life itself, man's most precious possession."

David & Charles (Holdings) Ltd, South Devon House, Newton Abbot, Devon, £5.25

GRH

Mechanised wargaming

"Military Modelling Annual 2" (Edited by Chris Ellis)

Wargaming, traditionally played on a tabletop, has entered a new phase, with radio-controlled model tanks battling it out on Sunday mornings over rugged terrain in Kent.

Don Simmons, founder member of the Model Armoured Group in Bromley, writing under the title of "Mechanised Wargames," describes in detail how to construct an Italian L6/40 model tank from plywood and Meccano parts. Even in miniature, military hardware is expensive, he explains — the radio control costs anything from £50 to £140 and the £4 battery required lasts only up to two hours.

Mechanised wargaming is apparently good clean fun, as hits are registered by jets of water fired from a gun controlled by an additional radio channel. Effect is determined by the toss of a coin.

This book also has articles on adding extra detail to a commercially available kit of a Hanomag half-track; technical drawing for model-makers; improving Dinky Toys; making dioramas; and his-

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tories of famous regiments of the world illustrated with uniform prints in colour.

Model & Allied Publications Ltd, PO Box 35, Bridge Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 1EE, £2.95

HH

Casevac

"Hospital Ships and Ambulance Trains" (John H Plumridge)

Elizabeth Alkin, known as Parliament Joan, was an early "Florence Nightingale" who nursed wounded soldiers during the Civil War and tended sick sailors during the

were carried on these trains in France alone. Only one is now in service, located in Germany and used by RAMC (TAVR) personnel on annual training.

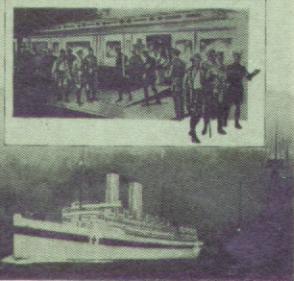
These facts are just a few of a great mass woven into this book which should interest all associated with the medical and nursing services, railway enthusiasts and many ex-servicemen.

Seeley, Service & Co Ltd, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8JL, £6.95

GRH

HOSPITAL SHIPS AND AMBULANCE TRAINS

JOHN H. PLUMRIDGE



Dutch Wars in the 1650s . . . Lady Randolph Churchill acquired and fitted out the hospital ship *Maine* for service in the South African War and the first casualty received aboard was her son Winston . . . The fifth HMHS *Maine* was the only hospital ship to gain a battle honour, "Korea 1950," but retired in 1954 and the Royal Navy is now without a hospital ship . . .

The Army has maintained a long list of such vessels over the years and has also run a great number of hospital and ambulance trains in Europe, Africa and the Near and Middle East. During World War One more than 5,000,000 patients

Merit recognised

"The Evolution of the Victoria Cross" (M J Crook)

At the outbreak of the Crimean War, bravery in the field was rewarded by membership of the Order of the Bath, promotion to brevet rank or by mention in a despatch. Awards went almost automatically to all generals and all their staffs. Even after Inkerman the battalion officers and soldiers who won "the soldiers' victory" were not rewarded but the staff, "even not engaged," were "duly enumerated."

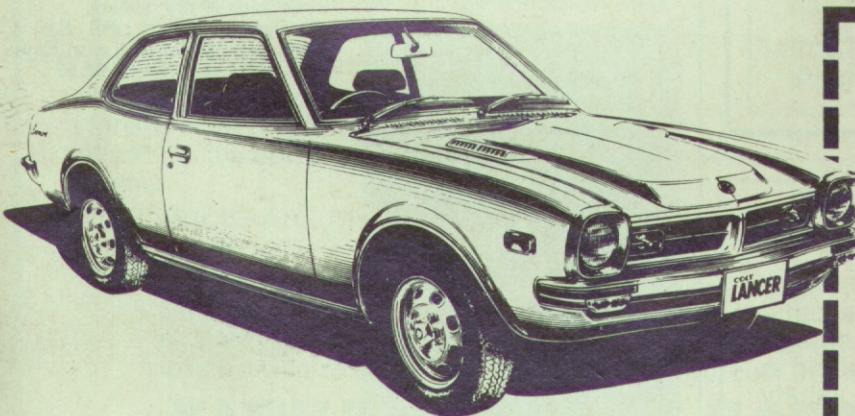
The introduction of the telegraph enabled newspaper correspondents to instance first-hand accounts of bravery. Letters from the front to

THE EVOLUTION OF THE VICTORIA CROSS



M J Crook

THE EVOLUTION OF THE VICTORIA CROSS
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relatives were published as it became clear that the common soldier were not "the scum of the earth" but men worthy to have their merits recognised.

After questions in Parliament and much discussion a Royal Warrant instituted the Victoria Cross. The Prince Consort took great interest in the drafting and one of his ideas was to allow nomination of recipients by a vote among comrades when a particularly brave action had been performed collectively. To date, 46 VCs have been so awarded, though to the Army none since Gallipoli.

The author searched painstakingly through original papers and records to produce a detailed review of the various changes in the governing regulations. In so doing he has revealed the progress of thought over the past century and shown facets of many personalities. *Midas Books, 12 Dene Way, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN3 0NX, £5.50*

GRH

Initiation

"The North African Campaign 1940-1943" (W G F Jackson)

A must for the student of desert warfare, an authentic souvenir for the veteran and an authoritative analysis for the historian.

General Sir William Jackson has produced a fine appreciation of the whole North African campaign, the strategy behind it from the British, German and American viewpoints, the course of the battles and the pressures and purposes that motivated the generals' moves. He shows their strengths and weaknesses and how this cauldron of initiation produced the professionalism necessary for the success of the European invasions and the determination for the drive through to Berlin. The leaders learned nothing from their early easy victories over the Italians but gained knowledge and developed materially when pitting their wits and military training against the skilful, determined, foxy Rommel.

The Royal Navy's outstanding part in the Mediterranean and Malta's role in the campaign receive their just praise. Even the mere

The North African Campaign 1940-43

1940-43



W G F Jackson

determination to retain Malta played its part when the build-up of allied shipping off Gibraltar for the "Torch" invasion was temporarily mistaken by the Axis for just another attempt to get a convoy through. Churchill's thoughts and designs are shown as frequently tormenting the generals but he did not always get his way.

B T Batsford Ltd, PO Box 4, Springwood Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex, £6.95 GRH

In brief

"Army Badges and Insignia of World War Two: Book Two" (Guido Rosignoli)

This second volume covers the armies of the British Commonwealth, Canada, South Africa, British African and overseas territories, India, Finland, France, Japan, Netherlands, Yugoslavia, China, Denmark and Czechoslovakia.

More than 2000 cap badges, formation signs, badges of rank, campaign flashes, collar patches and other insignia have been collated and illustrated with painstaking attention to accuracy by Mr Rosignoli whose supporting historical and explanatory notes for each section are commendably uncluttered, lucid and restricted to essentials.

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Further details from the Headmistress Miss S. Haughton, B.Sc.

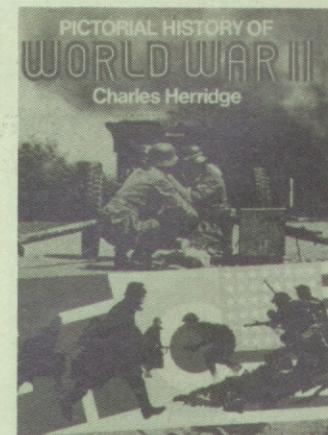
(Tel: Haynes 234)

Books in brief

continued

The chapter on French insignia is particularly rich and those on Finland and Czechoslovakia throw welcome light on relatively unknown fields. Like its predecessor, which dealt primarily with the badges of Britain, Germany, the USA and Russia, this carefully researched book is a "must" for wargamer, student or collector.

Blandford Press Ltd, 167 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6PH, £2.75



"Pictorial History of World War II" (Charles Herridge)

Another attempt to record the atmosphere of World War Two in a single volume of 350 pictures—a hard task to accomplish effectively in 250 pages, even though they are 12 by 8 inches. Nevertheless, within its size limits, this volume could be preserved by veterans for its nostalgia and by their grandchildren for its indication of atmosphere. The photographs are representative and show action and drama, historical events, personalities and the stark facts of war.

Typical are a jubilant Hitler in France in 1940 and the same man haggard and careworn in Berlin ten days before his suicide; Cassino as a huge mountain of dust; the Graf Spee sinking; a living bridge of Japanese in a Malayan river. These and many more preserve memories and tell a factual story.

Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd, Astronaut House, Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9AR, £2.50

battle plans as well as wider surveys of military and political strategy.

The sequence is chronological with separate sections for the worldwide war at sea, war in the air and the "peripheral" campaigns including Mexico, Caribbean, South America, South Africa and Middle East.

The diagrams of guns, ships, aeroplanes, airships, tanks, mines, weapons and munitions augment a fascinating volume that can be considered a work of reference.

Heinemann Educational Books Ltd, 48 Charles Street, London, W1X 8AH, £8.50

COLLECTING OLD TOY SOLDIERS

Ian McKenzie



"Collecting Old Toy Soldiers" (Ian McKenzie)

Toy soldiers, once the target of pea-shooters and bedfellows of white mice in schoolboys' pockets, have now been elevated to the ranks of antiques. The author attributes this to the law of supply and demand—a decline in production, an increase in collectors, as well as a "nostalgic quality" and the fact that they are "important items of social history in a scantily documented area."

Mr McKenzie treats his subject in a scholarly way. His book, which covers toys as distinct from models, is largely devoted to examining the products of such manufacturers as Britains, Elastolin, Timpo and Louis Marx. Flat "lead" figures and paper and wooden soldiers are also included and there is a particularly useful section on repair and renovation of toy soldiers.

B T Batsford Ltd, PO Box 4, Springwood Industrial Estate, Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex, £6.50



"A Military Atlas of the First World War" (Arthur Banks)

A useful volume of 250 maps, diagrams and illustrations for the student of World War One, drawn and arranged by the compiler and supported by summaries of the different fronts and campaigns written by Alan Palmer. There are detailed





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