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# SOLDIER





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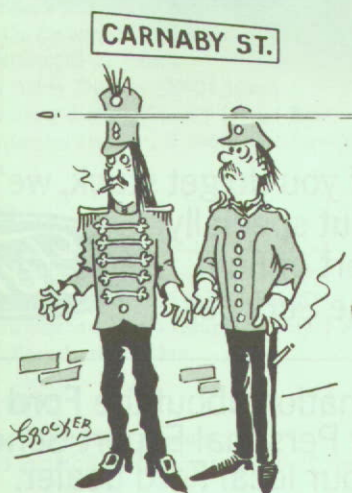
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## See-the-Army DIARY

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 *italics*.

### NOVEMBER

- 20 Disbandment parade, 5th Royal Tank Regiment, Wolfenbuttel, Germany.

### FEBRUARY 1970

- 14 *1 Squadron Royal Corps of Transport, centenary, Colchester (14-15 February).*  
18 Festival of Military Music, Antwerp.

### MARCH 1970

- 23 25th anniversary of Rhine Crossing—1st Airborne Division pilgrimage.

### APRIL 1970

- 21 British National Day, Osaka World Expo (or 23 April).  
25 *Kneller Hall Band concert, Royal Albert Hall, London (for Army Benevolent Fund).*

### MAY 1970

- 8 25th anniversary VE Day.

### JUNE 1970

- 5 Royal Artillery At Home, Woolwich (5-6 June).  
13 *Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.*  
19 Bexley Tattoo (19-21 June).  
20 Aldershot Army Display (20-21 June).  
27 *Army recruiting display, Cardiff (27-28 June).*  
27 *Military Musical Pageant, Wembley Stadium (for Army Benevolent Fund).*

### JULY 1970

- 4 *Army recruiting display, Swansea (4-5 July).*  
4 School of Artillery Open Day, Manorbier.  
11 Army Display, Nottingham (11-13 July).  
15 Royal Tournament, Earl's Court (15 July-1 August).  
18 Royal Artillery Larkhill Day.

### AUGUST 1970

- 5 Colchester Tattoo (5-8 August).  
24 Command exhibition, Birmingham (24-29 August).

### SEPTEMBER 1970

- 26 British Week, Hamm (26 September-4 October).  
Mid-September to Mid-December—North American band tour (Band and Corps of Drums, Coldstream Guards; Pipes and Drums, The Black Watch).

### NOVEMBER 1970

- 8 Royal Artillery Ceremony of Remembrance, Hyde Park, London.

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**“Dear Mum,  
Buy me out,  
I’m on the  
tele . . .”**



The Army seems to be getting quite a lot of space on television lately—and a jolly good thing too. As long as the troops don’t get ideas above their station, because it can be very unsettling. The slightest buzz that an outside broadcast van is cruising round the barracks and things tend to get a bit disorganised. The van may only be looking for runaway horses or a missing oil slick from a stranded tanker. But the word soon gets around and then everybody wants to get in on the act.

Maisie, pride of the Naafi, drops her neckline a good two inches to make plenty of room for the big, instant gleaming smile that will shine round the tea urn at first glimpse of the eagerly awaited cameras. A pretty picture. Marred only by her dangling sugar lump earrings and that uncouth gunner asking her if she wants a bosom friend.

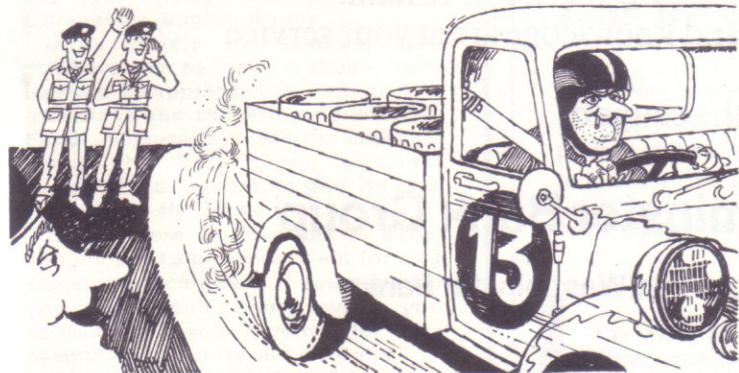
The guards at the main gate assume granite faced do-or-die expressions, stamp their feet nearly unconscious and, on the strict instructions of the guard commander, turn out the guard immediately they see anything that remotely resembles an outside broadcast van. So far they have saluted three railway freight trucks, four post office vans, two travelling libraries and a fire engine.

The orderly officer would have been proud of their turn-out, if he could have seen it! But he is always whipping those big, dark sunglasses on and off and groping his way around camp with a James Bond haircut dreaming of a series on television.

Which may be why signal station girls have “minied” their skirts to amazing heights with the help of a clever venetian blind device. Held by a strategically placed safety pin to drop them to regulation length if the signal officer drops in unexpected. As if he could with the long sword and big spurs he has taken to wearing lately.

Just as keen are gunners Pike and Murphy, “Fish and Chips” to their friends. The pride of the new gun computers. To help along public relations they have grown their hair as long as they dare, have bought a pair of thick horn-rimmed spectacles each to slip on at first sight of a camera, and refer to each other as computer experts in loud voices especially when the birds are about.

Old soldier Jock, who drives the camp dustbins around in his truck, has blossomed out in a vividly coloured crash helmet, fitted safety belts to his wagon and painted a huge number “13” on the side. Completely oblivious to many ribald remarks, he drives round and round the cookhouses in ever-decreasing circles, finally disappearing into



the Naafi for a quick cup of tea. But ever ready to leap behind the wheel again to follow any strange wagon with BBC or ITV on it.

It was a pity about the regimental mascot though. Fed exclusively on a special dog food to give a good impression in front of the cameras he became very moody after a week and deserted. Not surprising as he was a goat. But it was the best the boys could do.

Which all goes to show that television is a medium that has to be handled very carefully by experts. So I had better get down to the main gate and see if any strange vans are about.

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# SOLDIER to soldier

Once upon a time a year's copies of **SOLDIER** slotted neatly into the **SOLDIER** Easibinder. That was when the magazine contained only 40 pages. Later, along came six 40-page and six 48-page numbers in a year—they too will fit into the Easibinder without any problem.

But this year **SOLDIER** has overflowed its binder with two 40-page, eight 48-page and two 56-page issues. These larger issues of 1969, carrying more advertising and editorial matter—an expansion unforeseen when the current binder was marketed—will simply not fit in the binder.

So for 1969 and future years a Mark II Easibinder, with a wider spine, is being introduced and will be available later this month at the same cost, including packing and postage worldwide, as the Mark I binder.

Some readers will have already bought an Easibinder for their 1969 copies. If they will return this Mk I binder to **SOLDIER** (Easibinders), it will be replaced free of charge with the Mk II binder. Future orders should specify whether the requirement is for a Mk I binder (up to and including December 1968) or a Mk II (January 1969 onwards).

★

Got your diary for 1970 yet? If you have, then make a note of this date in bold letters—**SATURDAY 27 JUNE**. If you haven't, write the date on the wall. It is that of a military musical pageant to be held at Wembley Stadium in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

It will be on similar lines to the occasion last June when 1200 musicians from 30 Army bands gave a magnificent performance culminating in the 1812 Overture. Rarely can there have been an audience so appreciative of massed bands at their best—precision marching and countermarching, contrasting pace of the light infantry and the guards, trumpeters, bugles, drums...

Unfortunately the stadium was nowhere near as it should have been—a disappointment both to the musicians and the Army Benevolent Fund—because this was the night on which the BBC chose, although aware of the pageant, to give its first showing of the Royal film.

If you were at Wembley in June, you'll want to be there again for this second musical feast. If you weren't, you just don't know what you missed—and you mustn't let this second opportunity slip past you.

**SATURDAY 27 JUNE 1970!**

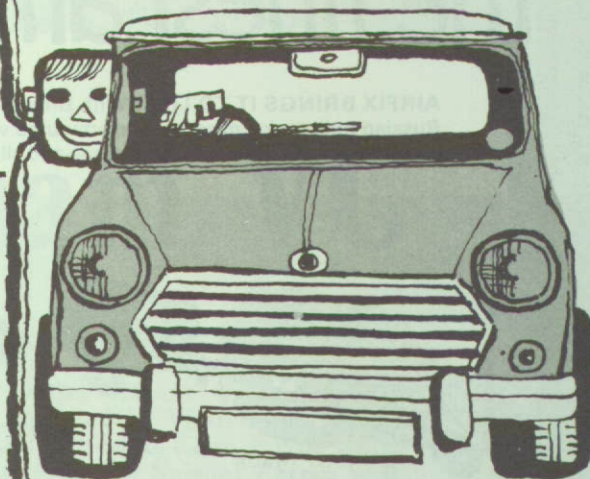
★

In 1968-69 the Army Benevolent Fund made grants of £874,000, of which £635,000 went in normal relief work (against £558,000 in 1967/68) and £239,000 was loaned to serving soldiers against their terminal grants to enable them to prepare for civilian life. In the previous year these loans totalled only £63,000.

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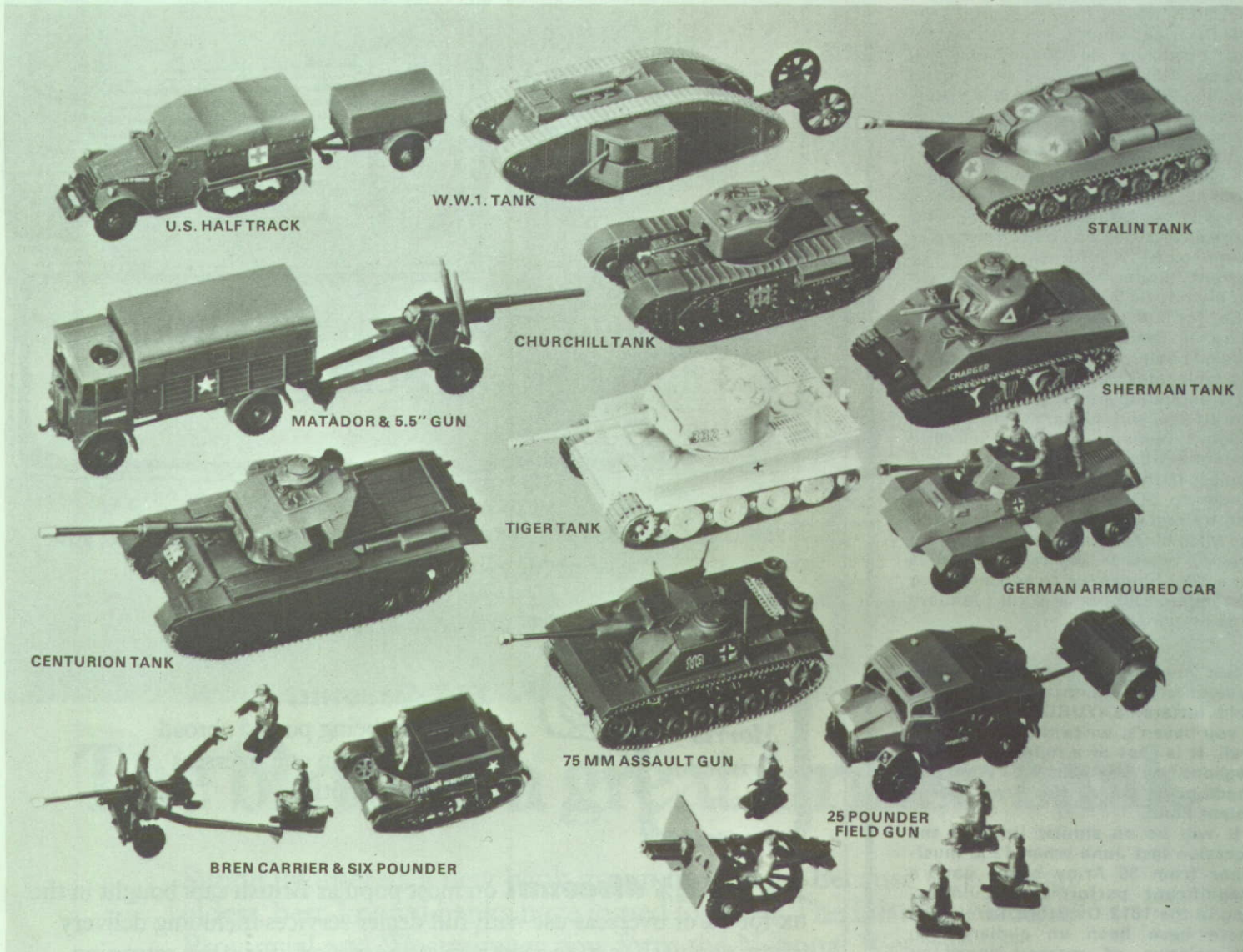


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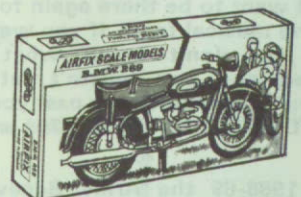
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# Fourth Vietnam VC



**A**USTRALIA'S 96th Victoria Cross and the fourth to be awarded in Vietnam has been won by Warrant Officer II Keith Payne while serving with a battalion of a Special Forces unit in Kontum Province last May.

Following an attack on the 1st Mobile Strike Force Battalion by a North Vietnamese force of superior strength, two companies, one of them commanded by Warrant Officer Payne, were isolated and assaulted by the enemy, using heavy mortar and rocket support, from three directions simultaneously.

Says the citation: "Directly exposing himself to the enemy's fire, WO II Payne, through his own efforts, temporarily held off the assaults by alternately firing his weapon and running from position to position collecting grenades and throwing them at the assaulting enemy. While doing this he was wounded in the hands and arms.

"Paying no attention to his wounds and under extremely heavy enemy fire, WO II Payne covered his withdrawal by again throwing grenades and firing his own weapon at the enemy which were attempting to follow up. Still under fire, he then ran across exposed ground to head off his own troops who were withdrawing.

"He successfully stopped them and organised the remnants of his and the second company into a temporary defensive perimeter by nightfall."

Having achieved this, Warrant Officer Payne, at great personal risk, moved out of the perimeter into the darkness alone in an attempt to find the wounded and other South Vietnamese soldiers. Some had been left on the position and others were scattered in the area.

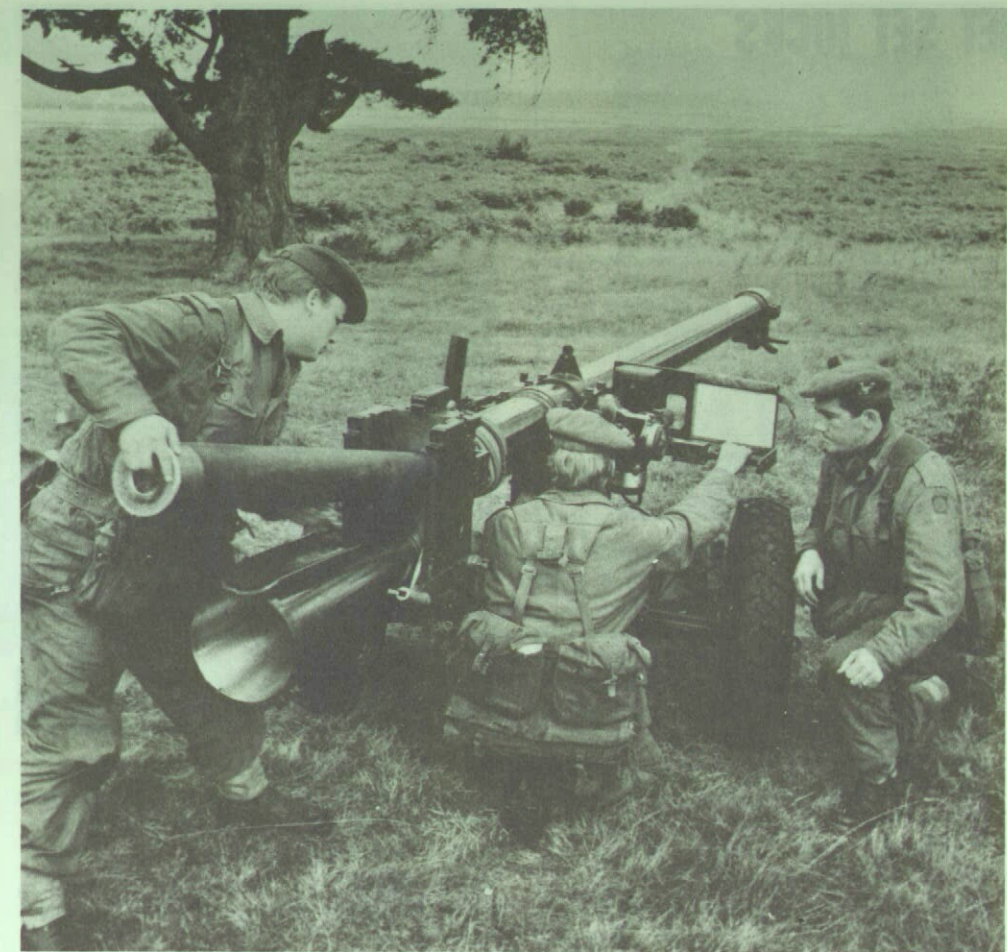
The citation continues: "Although the enemy were still occupying the previous position, WO II Payne, with complete disregard for his own life, crawled back on to it and extricated several wounded soldiers. He then continued to search the area, in which the enemy was also moving and firing, for three hours. He finally collected 40 lost soldiers, some of whom had been wounded, and returned with the group to the temporary defensive perimeter he had left, only to find that the remainder of the battalion had moved back."

Undeterred by this setback and personally assisting a seriously wounded American, he successfully led the group through the enemy to the safety of his battalion base.

The citation concludes: "His sustained and heroic personal efforts in this action were outstanding and he undoubtedly saved the lives of a large number of his indigenous soldiers and several of his fellow advisers."

The three previous awards of the Victoria Cross to Australians serving in Vietnam were made to the late WO II Kevin "Dasher" Wheatley for action in Quang Nhai Province in November 1965; the late Major Peter Badcoe for his actions between February and April, 1967; and to WO II Rayene "Simmo" Simpson, also for action in Kontum Province in May this year.





Training near Thetford, Norfolk, the 51st Highland Volunteers practise the rapid loading of personnel in lorries for emergency purposes (above) and Mobat firing drill (above, right).

Right: Private John Pottinger of No 1 (Lovat Scouts) Company made his first trip outside the Shetland Islands for training with the Highland Volunteers in Norfolk. As a crofter his life is concerned with looking after sheep and cows. Badges on sleeve are the Highland Division sign of two world wars and the anchor of Scapa Flow.



## JET SET JOCKS



**J**OHN Pottinger is a crofter. He spends his time making hay, shearing sheep and milking cows. At 22 he had never left the Shetland Islands.

At 8.0 am on a Saturday in late summer he left home and drove 15 miles in his car to Lerwick. From there he went by bus to Sumburgh Airport. Because of cross winds the plane could not take off so he went back by bus to Lerwick. The boat left at 5 pm and arrived in Aberdeen at 6.30 am on Sunday. The journey continued by train to Peterborough (changing at Doncaster) and from there by three-tonner arriving in East Wretham, near Thetford, Norfolk, at 11.30 pm.

The journey that took a whole weekend was shared by 24 of his colleagues of No 1 (Lovat Scouts) Company of the 51st Highland Volunteers. They had done it to attend annual camp.

Travelling is a major problem of the 51st Highland Volunteers. It is the Army's

biggest battalion. Its recruiting area stretches 600 miles from the Shetland Islands to London. When the Lovat Scouts want to meet for a training weekend they have to charter a plane specially to take men from the Orkneys to the Shetlands or those from the Shetlands to the Orkneys. Once they had two men on the Isle of Shapinsay who came to the drill hall by motor boat. No military training is allowed in the Hebrides on Sundays, so the 31-man detachment there has to spend up to 22 hours travelling by ferry and lorry to Inverness.

The battalion's itinerant commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Critchley, has travelled 160,000 miles, had three drivers and three staff cars and spent 483 nights away from home in two-and-a-half years. He was five months in hospital with a thigh broken in seven places after an American car, driving down the wrong side of the road, crashed head on into his car in the Cairngorms.

Then, while flying over uncharted desert in the Persian Gulf, his brief case fell out of his Scout helicopter (it had the doors removed because of the heat). Incredibly it turned up four months later with his passport and money intact. Apparently it had been found by a wandering bedouin and was passed on to the British Army headquarters in Sharjah.

The 51st Highland Volunteers, an amalgam of eight former highland Territorial Army battalions, is a natural successor of the renowned 51st Highland Division ("Harper's Duds" of World War One and the "Highway Decorators" of World War Two). The new battalion, which retains the "HD" flash on uniforms and vehicles, is now part of the Territorial Army Volunteer Reserve II. It took eight months from conception to birth in April 1967. On receipt of a greetings telegram from one of his new companies, Colonel Critchley replied: "We welcome you as one of our

Below: An impressive array of Bats and Mobats crosses the Stanford training area in "line ahead."





# JET SET JOCKS *continued*

**Right:** Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Critchley spends more than half his days and nights away from home supervising his 1000 men located in 11 companies from the Orkney and Shetland islands through the Highlands to Liverpool and London.

healthy and possibly lustiest octuplets and know that you have been given a good delivery by your mother unit."

Colonel Critchley, a lean six-footer who fought at the Rhine Crossing and in Korea, has more than 1000 men under command. He and the adjutant, the quartermaster, training majors and regimental sergeant-majors are Regular soldiers and there are a further 72 Regular Army and civilian permanent staff. The original companies are:

## **HQ (Black Watch) Company and Battalion Headquarters**

Located at Perth. Formed from 6th/7th Battalion, The Black Watch TA. Wear red hackle but no badge on tam o'shanter, Black Watch tartan, Highland Brigade badge, red hackle on the blue bonnet. Officers and sergeants of HQ company wear the fourragère (lanyard), and all ranks the ribbon, of the Croix-de-Guerre won by the 6th Black Watch who lost 450 men at Bois de Courton, a wood near Rheims, in 1918.



## **A (Black Watch) Company**

Dundee. From 4th/5th Black Watch. Dress as above, less Croix-de-Guerre.

## **B (Seaforth) Company**

Wick. From 11th Seaforths, formed in 1947. Highland Brigade badge and Seaforth tartan.

## **C (Cameron) Company**

Inverness. From 4th/5th Camerons. Highland Brigade badge, blue hackle and Cameron tartan.

## **D (Gordon) Company**

Aberdeen. From 3rd Gordons. Highland Brigade badge and Gordon tartan.



## **E (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) Company**

Stirling. From 7th Argylls. Highland Brigade badge and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders tartan.

## **V (Liverpool Scottish) Company**

Liverpool. From Liverpool Scottish raised in 1900 as 8th (Scottish) Volunteer Battalion, The Kings Liverpool Regiment, for service in the South African War. Highland Brigade badge, blue hackle and Forbes tartan.

## **G (London Scottish) Company**

London. From London Scottish, raised in



Twice wounded, D-Day veteran Colour-Sergeant James Malone has served for 27 years in The Black Watch. He is 44 and a fitter in a jute factory which makes tarpaulins and sandbags. Colour-Sergeant Malone, who joined up in 1942, is now with the 3rd Battalion Cadre attached to A Company at Dundee. He landed at Ouistreham on the evening of D-Day, had shrapnel removed from his eye two days later, and was wounded by a shell fragment in the right leg during the Rhine crossing—but still soldiered on. His demobilisation came through in 1947, but by that time he had already joined the Territorial Army.



He has been with 51st Highland Volunteers only since April, but Private Andrew Renton-Green has quite a military family tree. His father was a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps, step-father a major in The Green Howards, mother a squadron officer in Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, grandfather a pilot in the Royal Naval Air Service and later a squadron-leader padre in World War Two (his uncle being the First Sea Lord, Sir Cecil Borney), and great-uncle in the Maharajah of Boroda's Camel Corps in World War One, later a district commissioner in Tanganyika and recently re-married at the age of 86. Private Renton-Green is 26, lives at Richmond and is in G (London Scottish) Company. He is a director of a London firm which prints cheques and business forms and at one time printed the Territorial Army magazine. He is going to try for a commission—"if I am good enough."



Sergeant John MacDonald Stoddart (28) missed National Service call-up by a few weeks and was "so disappointed" that he joined the Territorial Army. When his Royal Military Police detachment at Inverness was disbanded, he transferred to the Camerons and is now in the C (Cameron) Company. He is a forester on a private estate at Inverness and his job entails tending and cutting trees, saw-milling, and making fences.



He delayed his honeymoon to attend annual camp. Corporal Frederick Bates (28) has reason to be grateful to the Army. It was on Exercise Viking Ship near Stavanger, Norway, that he met his future wife, Harriet. That was two years ago. Harriet, a brunette, was serving in a cafe. Corporal Bates, a painter and decorator, returned to spend Christmas with her, then got a job in Norway painting ships. He was married in Stord, Norway, just a few days before coming to Thetford, England. Corporal Bates, who has been on exercises in Singapore, Aden, Sharjah, Bahrain and Germany during his 11 years with Liverpool Scottish, explained: "I didn't want to miss camp. I like doing it. It's a hobby and it grows on you."





A panoramic panoply of tartans. Left to right: V (Liverpool Scottish), C (Cameron), 2 (Queen's Own Highlanders), E (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), 1 (Lovat Scouts), B (Seaforth), HQ (Black Watch), V (Liverpool Scottish) and D (Gordon). Left: Monty at 51st Highland Division reunion.

1859. The first Territorial Army battalion into action in 1914. Highland Brigade badge and Elcho (Hodden Grey) tartan.

With the reorganisation of the Reserve Army in December 1968, three existing companies gained new platoons—D (Gordon) Company at Keith, C (Cameron) Company at Elgin and HQ (Black Watch) Company at Kirkcaldy—and three new companies were formed:

#### 1 (Lovat Scouts) Company

Kirkwall, Orkney (company headquarters) plus a platoon at Lerwick. Raised in 1900 by Lord Lovat from deerstalkers and game-keepers to act as scouts and sharp-shooters

in the fight against the Boers. Later commandos, ski troops and gunners. Latterly, a battery in The Highland Regiment, Royal Artillery, TAVR III. Highland Brigade badge, Hunting Fraser tartan and fouled anchor insignia on sleeve commemorating their part in the defence of Scapa Flow.

#### 2 (Queen's Own Highlanders) Company

Stornoway, Isle of Lewis (headquarters) and platoon at Fort William. From 3rd (Territorial) Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders, at Fort William and Lovat Scouts at Stornoway. Highland Brigade badge, blue hackle and Queen's Own



## Back Cover

A second generation of Dutch children now tends the airborne graves of Arnhem. Their parents gave flowers before them and knew just what the paratroops endured. The Dutch say they will never forget.

Picture by Trevor Jones.

Highlanders' tartan.

#### 3 (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) Company

Dumbarton (headquarters) and a platoon at Campbeltown, Mull of Kintyre. From 8th (Argyllshire) Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Highland Brigade badge and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' tartan.

In addition, the 51st Highland Volunteers has attached cadres from five old Territorial Army battalions: 3rd Black Watch, 3rd Queen's Own Highlanders, 3rd Gordons, 3rd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and The London Scottish.



When Private George Maclean says he spent five years learning how to weave Harris tweed he is not just spinning a yarn. For the letters "LTI" after his name mean he is a licentiate of the Textile Institute. Nevertheless, he makes the cloth in the time-honoured way on a loom with foot pedals. He is self-employed and produces an average of 120 weaver's yards a week (a weaver's yard is 2½ feet). Private Maclean, 20, spent two years with The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, Territorial Army, while studying in Leeds and later transferred to 2 (Queen's Own Highlanders) Company at Stornoway. Said Private Maclean: "I always fancied joining the Regular Army but went to college instead."



Corporal Kenneth Marlowe (42) has had something of an up-and-down life. Once he was an Army paratrooper, now he is a professional diver. His job entails cargo recovery and inspection and repair of ships, working as a frogman with flippers and aqualung or in standard diving gear of helmet and lead soles. He joined the Camerons in 1944 and since then has served in 6th Royal Welch Parachute Battalion, seven years as a diver in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, 12th/13th Parachute Battalion TA, Liverpool Scottish and now V (Liverpool Scottish) Company, 51st Highland Volunteers. His view of the Army: "There is more spirit, more comradeship, and to a certain extent you are allowed to think for yourself more than in the Navy."



They cannot pronounce his name and he cannot understand their Scottish accent. Corporal Ray Kwiatkowski (far right at a reconnaissance patrol briefing) has never been to Scotland. Indeed, he admitted that this was his first trip "over the great pond." For Corporal Kwiatkowski is in The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, based at Hamilton, Ontario. He was on an exchange. Corporal Kwiatkowski, a 20-year-old student, spoke of his difficulty: "When the sergeant-majors give a command they really zip it out. What with the speed and the accent I just cannot follow, so I have to look round to see what the other guys are doing." His ancestry is Polish not Scottish, and he added: "I really wanted to join the Polish Lancers, but when they were disbanded after World War Two I thought the next best regiment was The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders."



Company Sergeant-Major William Davidson came all the way from Wick on the remote north-east tip of Scotland for annual camp. But he is used to long distances. He drives 70,000 miles a year. Every lunchtime he sets out from his home in Wick to pick up a load of 2000 loaves of bread 70 miles away in Aberdeen, and returns home usually by 10 o'clock. Sometimes he has been snowed up on the road all night. CSM Davidson (40) was in the 1st Seaforths in Malaya during his National Service in 1947, later joined the 11th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders TA, and is now in B (Seaforth) Company at Wick. "I need four legs on my job. It's a nice rest to go out on exercise," he joked.



Each cadre comprises three officers and five other ranks, and they wear their old regimental badges.

Despite its eight tartans and vast recruiting area, there is a greater *esprit* in the battalion than an average English county regiment, claims Colonel Critchley. This is because of a "fierce clannish loyalty" and father-and-son tradition even among expatriate Scots in Liverpool and London. Even the new commanding officer is in the family—he is Lieutenant-Colonel The Hon W D Arbuthnott, Black Watch, who is the first cousin of Colonel Critchley's wife.

Nevertheless, the companies retain their individuality. There are hardy crofters and lumberjacks in the islands and the north, tough miners from the south and Londoners who have a reputation for turning up on training nights in pin-stripe suits, bowlers and furred umbrellas. Indeed, London Scottish once advertised for recruits with the slogan "We have 100 varieties of Scotch whisky in our bar. Come and try them." Liverpool Scottish retaliated with "When you join the Highland Volunteers you join the jet set." V (Liverpool Scottish) Company was the first TAVR unit to train outside Europe, flying by VC 10 to Sharjah for exercises in the remote, arid *wadis*.

Recruiting in most TAVR II units is running at about 60 per cent. The 51st Highland Volunteers is not only up to strength; there is a waiting list of 80. "The reason is that we have a proper job and proper kit," explained Colonel Critchley.



After six hours of bruising travel the Liverpool Scottish clamber off their trucks and wait to be directed to their quarters. Yesterday a civilian in Liverpool, today a soldier in Wadi Shawkah.

Numbers dwindled in the past when the Reserve Army's role was vaguely defensive. During the last two years, with a decisive function of supporting Rhine Army in emergency and frequent training abroad, the 51st Highland Volunteers have been recruiting an average of one man per day.

The battalion has the general purpose machine-gun, self-loading rifle and Sterling sub-machine-gun, and even received the Carl Gustav anti-tank gun before some units of the Regular Army. One enter-

prising company commander overcame the irritation of issue 1937 pattern webbing by buying 1958 pattern from an ex-Government surplus store and giving it to his men at £1 5s a set (a sum which is reimbursed when they leave).

But it was an old soldier who gave this young battalion its biggest incentive. Field Marshal Montgomery, inspecting them during an El Alamein reunion of the old Highland Division, said: "I would go to war with these chaps tomorrow."



RSM W R Freeman raises the flag of the 51st Highland Volunteers for the first time at the unit's new headquarters, Tay Street, Perth.

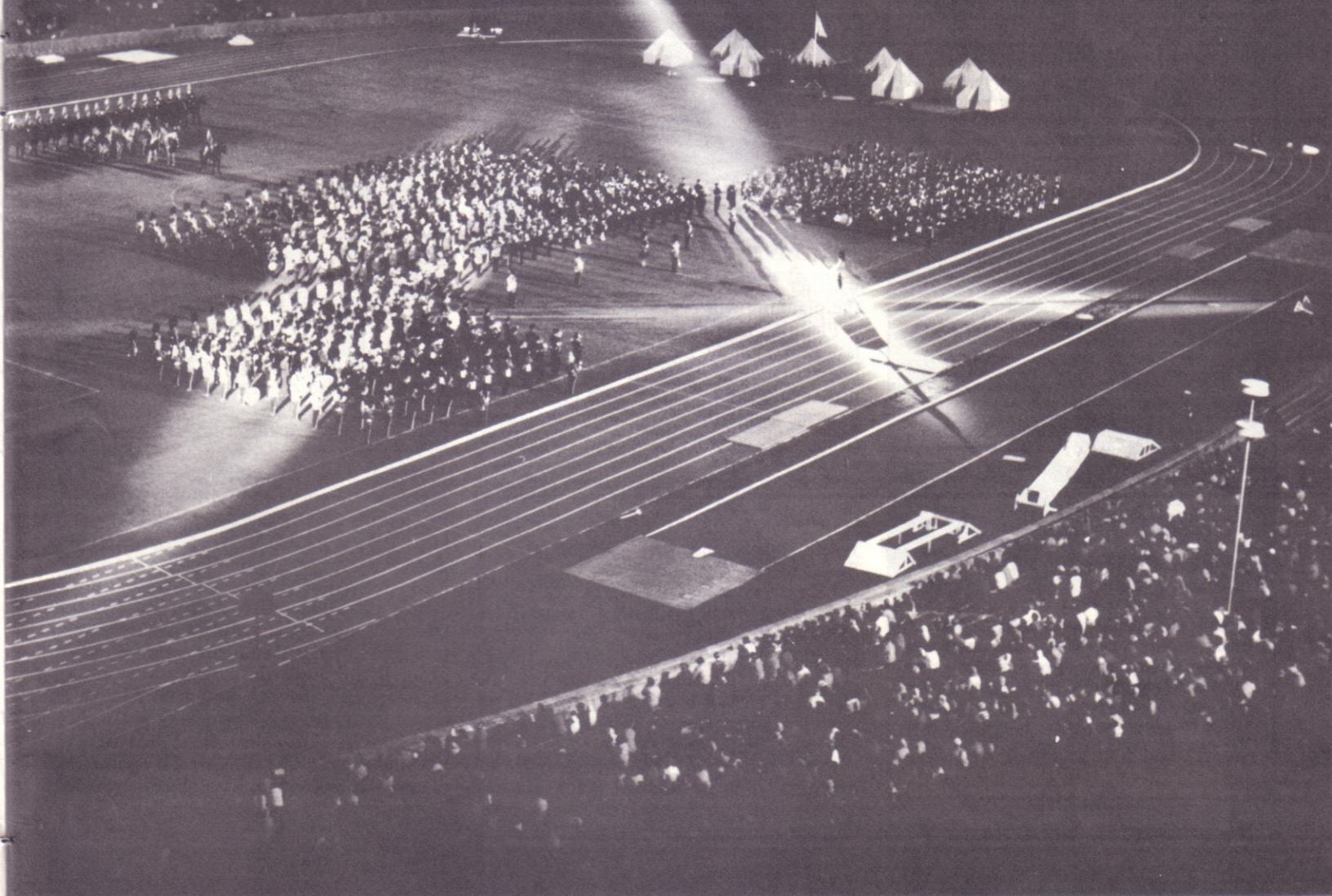
The Kirkwall company, raised as scouts and sharpshooters by Lord Lovat in 1900, maintains its traditional fast-action shooting proficiency.





# All for five hours...

BRITISH  
MILITARY TATTOO  
1969



**B**RITISCHES Militar-Tattoo 1969. The Berlin Tattoo. It lasted 2½ hours, it was held on just two evenings and enthusiastically received by a hundred thousand Berliners.

They had seen something of the preparations in their vast Olympic Stadium, a daily mecca for tourists, local sightseers and parties of schoolchildren, but none of the Berliners and few of the British troops involved could know just how much spade-work there is in putting on a show of this kind.

Behind five hours of actual performance were days of rehearsal, weeks of preparation and months of planning. Directly or indirectly, every man in the Berlin Infantry Brigade and the Royal Air Force station at Gatow was involved in the tattoo.

Why a British tattoo in Berlin? Brigadier R W L McAlister, commanding Berlin Infantry Brigade, gave SOLDIER the answer: "It is a gesture of our friendship to the people of Berlin for the wonderful co-operation and hospitality extended to our soldiers. It is an outward and visible sign of our friendship for the Berliners. It is something we do well and love doing and they love it too."

The Americans in Berlin hold their Independence Day parade and a folk festival, the French have their Bastille Day and a French fortnight. The British Army concentrates on its big military spectacle, the tattoo, first held in the Olympic Stadium in 1964, again in 1965 and since then at two-yearly intervals.

Hitler's stadium, built under his direction for the 1936 Games (when Jesse Owen

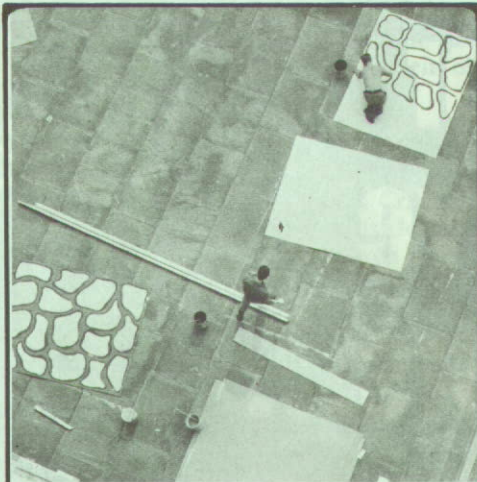
won four gold medals), is both the joy and despair of tattoo organisers. Its vastness—it seats 100,000 round a football pitch and surrounding athletics field—makes it a perfect backdrop for massed spectacle, but sound is swallowed up in the huge bowl while presentations which would seem to fill the Royal Tournament arena or Edinburgh Castle's esplanade, dwindle to cabaret size in Berlin.

But the Berliners love military music, the marching of massed bands—and their stadium.

It is said that whenever the floodlights of the four tubular towers are switched on, 15,000 Berliners will flock there on principle without knowing what, if anything, they are going to see.

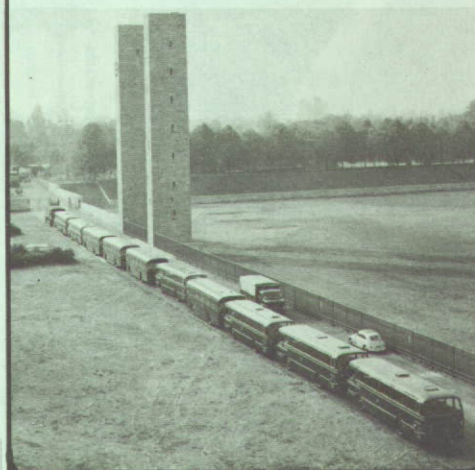
So, in a few months' time, military heads will quietly come together to decide





Sappers of 38 (Berlin) Field Squadron painting and fixing the castle setpiece. The squadron was also involved at the actual performances—setting off the fireworks during the finale. The sappers were assisted by the assault pioneer platoon of the Argylls.

Coaches of 62 (Berlin) Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, lined up on the Maifeld, next to the Olympic Stadium. The tattoo troops were also taken from Gatow on shopping expeditions into West Berlin and sight-seeing in East Berlin. Other tattoo commitments were fetching to a dress rehearsal handicapped children from a German school and providing hired buses to take Service families to the tattoo evening performances.



whether 1971 will see another tattoo, and the planning will begin all over again. . .

Planning for the 1969 tattoo started early last year and by December a programme began to emerge—massed bands, pipes and drums and the mounted band of The Life Guards. Planning devolved on the Berlin Brigade headquarters staff with Major D W Fladgate becoming co-ordinating staff officer and producer, taking over both his staff appointment and tattoo task in midstream from his predecessor, Major John Hutton, and with Captain M C B Smart as the artistic director.

Like everyone else concerned in staging the tattoo, Major Fladgate, Captain Smart and the musical director, Major Rodney Bashford, were starting from scratch although in the early stages they had the helpful advice of Captain Michael Parker, now in Hong Kong, who produced the 1965 and 1967 Berlin tattoos.

Early this year the programme was finalised with the addition of a physical

training display, anti-tank obstacle race between the three infantry battalions, two one-man hovercraft (the first seen in Berlin) and the Royal Air Force police dogs and mock battle.

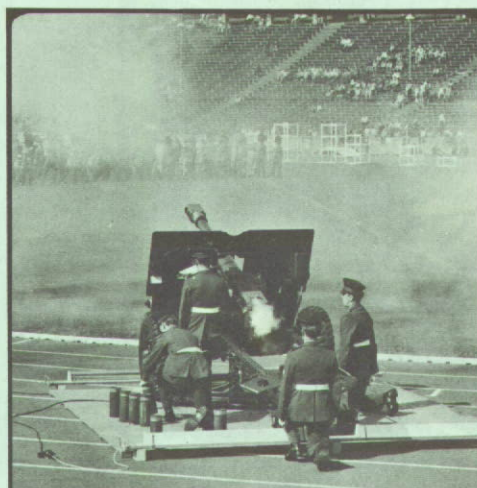
As soon as the stadium became available—it was taken over by the Defence Lands and Claims branch—the Army moved in with sappers building and painting the castle scenery over the arena entrance, signalmen fixing communications and the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works setting up the special lighting.

A fortnight before the show 650 tattoo troops (Berlin supplied the other 400) started arriving from Rhine Army and Britain. Royal Air Force Britannia, Hercules and Argosy aircraft flew two bands direct from the Edinburgh Tattoo and three more from Lyneham while the two hovercraft sailed in a tank landing craft from Marchwood to Antwerp. The horses of The Life Guards mounted band made the journey by road and sea in civilian horse boxes at a cost of £5000 and four animals were lost on a rough sailing home.

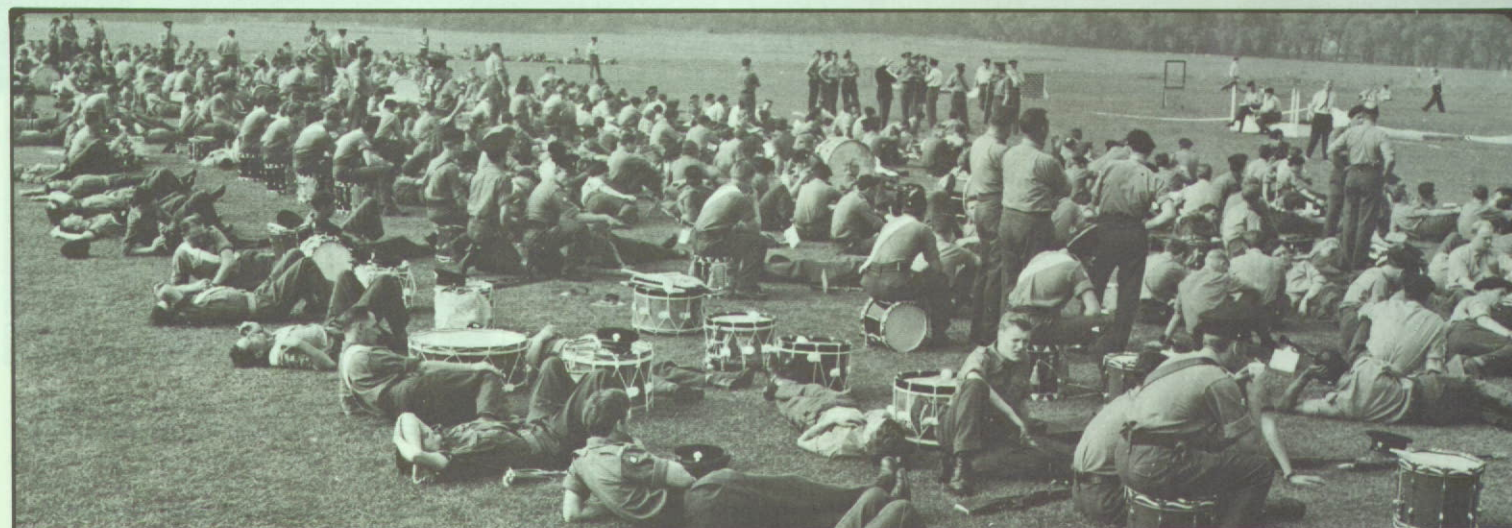
Most of the incoming troops travelled on the military train into Berlin or by road, with a special coach for the RAF police and their dogs, and the six 25-pounder guns of 159 (Colenso) Battery carried in lorries. All this movement into and out of Berlin was the headache of 468 Movement Control Troop, Royal Corps of Transport. The troop had also to organise a complicated shuttle service in Berlin itself between Gatow and the stadium for rehearsals and performances. Transport was mainly drawn from 62 (Berlin) Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport, and hosting units.

Captain R Burns, second-in-command of the Berlin Brigade Headquarters Company, ran the special camp set up in barrack blocks at RAF Gatow for the incoming bands and displays. His camp staff, fatigue parties and some cooks (others were brought in from Rhine Army) were drawn from Berlin units, the cleaners were mostly Servicemen's wives, and help was also given by Naafi, WRVS and CVWW.

Although due to return home only a fortnight after the tattoo, 1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, provided



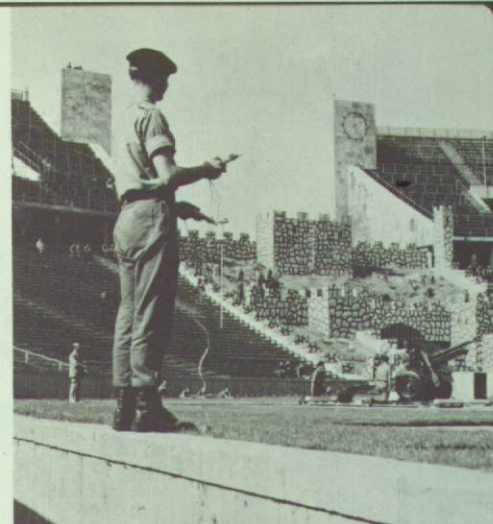
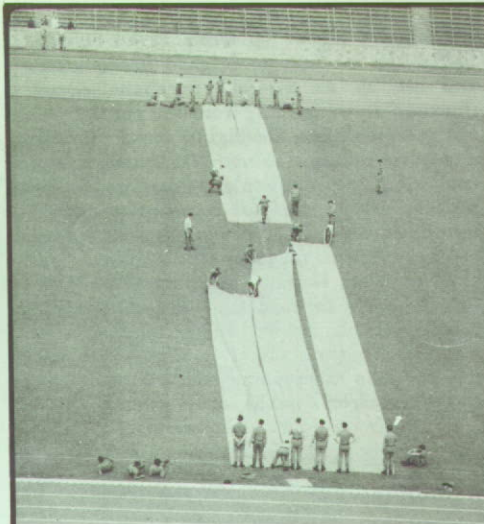
Seventy men of 159 (Colenso) Field Battery, Royal Artillery, came from Rhine Army with six 25-pounder guns—three from the battery and three from another field regiment. The guns, now obsolescent, are used for observation post training. At the tattoo they fired 200 rounds, synchronising on a cue light.



"Let's stop for ten minutes." (Major Rodney Bashford, musical director, during early rehearsals at Gatow). "Sit down where you are and have a smoke. Then we'll carry on and see if we can get the finale right first time." Naafi, Wesley House and Toc H mobile canteens rewarded thirsty bandmen.



This box attachment was produced by Berlin's 14 Infantry Workshop, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, to protect bandmen as the riflemen, marching with them in the musical battle, fired blanks. The workshop also contributed the 18 big obstacles used in the infantry units' anti-tank race.



The busy Glosters arena party, under CSM G England, comprised three teams of a corporal and 12 men. They had to roll out and back (above) the hessian strips on which was outlined the Berlin bear, take out and recover the box, four springboards, 37 mats and trampoline of the physical training display, and the 18 large obstacles of the anti-tank race. For the RAF display there were more obstacles and "props" to handle and, for the finale, "instant" trees and tents to erect. Marker posts for the mounted band appeared and disappeared; two men with green torches helped the bands to keep time (above). Wearing black track suits the Glosters were almost unseen as they worked in near-darkness. They more than earned their applause.



A pre-rehearsal get-together of drum-majors. Regimental bands vary in their mace drill and with 16 different bands in the massed items it was essential to standardise a drill.

a hard-worked arena party, competed in the anti-tank obstacle race with teams from 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, and 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and found four stretcher parties for the stadium. The Royal Army Medical Corps manned a medical room and had an ambulance on standby.

The Berlin Brigade's postal unit dealt with the extra mail of the incoming troops and issued a commemorative tattoo cover carrying the Berlin bear. All the finances of the tattoo, including ticket sales to the British, French and American forces, were the responsibility of Berlin's Forward Base Pay Office.

Men of A Squadron, Royal 9th/12th Lancers, provided flag escorts at the stadium and manned the camp in the finale. From the Royal Army Ordnance Corps came the gun platforms, sundry stores, and dresses for the Women's Royal Army Corps girls in the Scottish country dancing. The girls, two from Berlin and

six from Rhine Army, were trained by Pipe-Corporal Henderson of the Argylls.

On the two tattoo nights the busiest unit was 247 (Berlin) Provost Company, Royal Military Police. Every man (none were on leave or courses) was either on normal duties or involved in the tattoo on VIP escorts, traffic control or the security duties of guarding the GOC's box, patrolling the arena and preventing any tampering with flags. Then there were escorts for troop convoys from Gatow, signing of approach roads, entrances and car parks, duty at rehearsals before the day and, only two days after the tattoo, an inspection by the Provost Marshal!

Of all the key men, Major Rodney Bashford, the director of music, had probably the biggest headache. Massed bands are the traditional backbone of any tattoo and it was his job to drill to perfection 650 musicians from 16 different bands.

First came the basic idea for a finale, in this case the theme of a soldier dreaming of

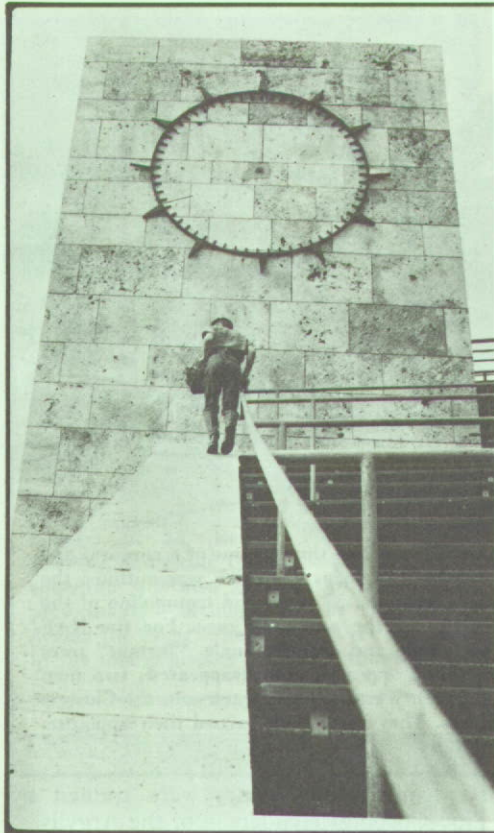


This was the tattoo's control box. On the left is Capt Mike Smart, Scots Guards, the artistic director, with his lighting chief, WO II C Morrell, on whose right is the main lighting panel. The buttons between them operated the 25-pounder cue lights. The pillars in front of the castle entrance carried three sets of spotlights which in turn picked up troops as they advanced into the arena.

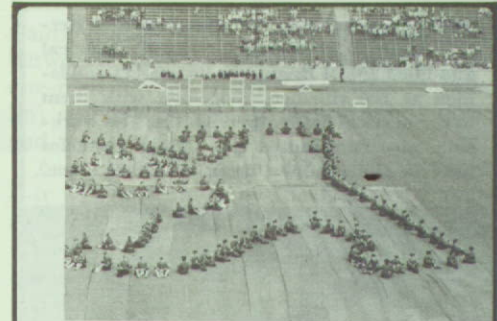


As part of the publicity campaign the participating bands gave concerts in different areas. This one was at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in the heart of the city.





Berlin's 229 Signal Squadron, Royal Signals, linked the stadium to brigade headquarters and set up an internal telephone circuit (lineman at work, left) from the control box to the searchlights, floodlights, arena entrance and other strategic points. The squadron also controlled the stadium's permanent public address system, used for commentary, taped music, effects and announcements, and added another system for the arena master and chief marshal, Garrison Sgt-Maj A A Cripps, to call troops forward from the marshalling area. For the massed bands rehearsals at Gatow and in the stadium the musical director had a radio microphone, linked at Gatow to the squadron's public address van (below).



The Berlin bear, outlined in darkness by 75 men each from the Staffordshires and Argylls, came as an opening surprise to the delighted Berliners. Each soldier held two small torches. Above: In rehearsal on the hessian and (below) in a blackout on the night.



battles fought not with guns but with music. At one point it called for four groups of buglers to sound different calls out of time with each other while the massed bands, in two sections, marched and counter-marched playing different slow and quick marches with riflemen firing in their ranks.

Cacophony is not taught in Army music and at early rehearsals, without lighting and gunfire cues, the massed bands had to be taken step by step through unaccustomed drills. The variations between bands, as between regiments, brought problems of keeping in step and retaining accurate "dressing" while marching on a difficult and unprecedented frontage of 48 bandmen. Musicians and drum-majors alike had also to learn a standard mace drill.

"The main problems," said Major Bash-

ford, "were the tremendous echo in the stadium, keeping people marching together and the large area around the arena which made it difficult for the audience to become involved and keep in contact."

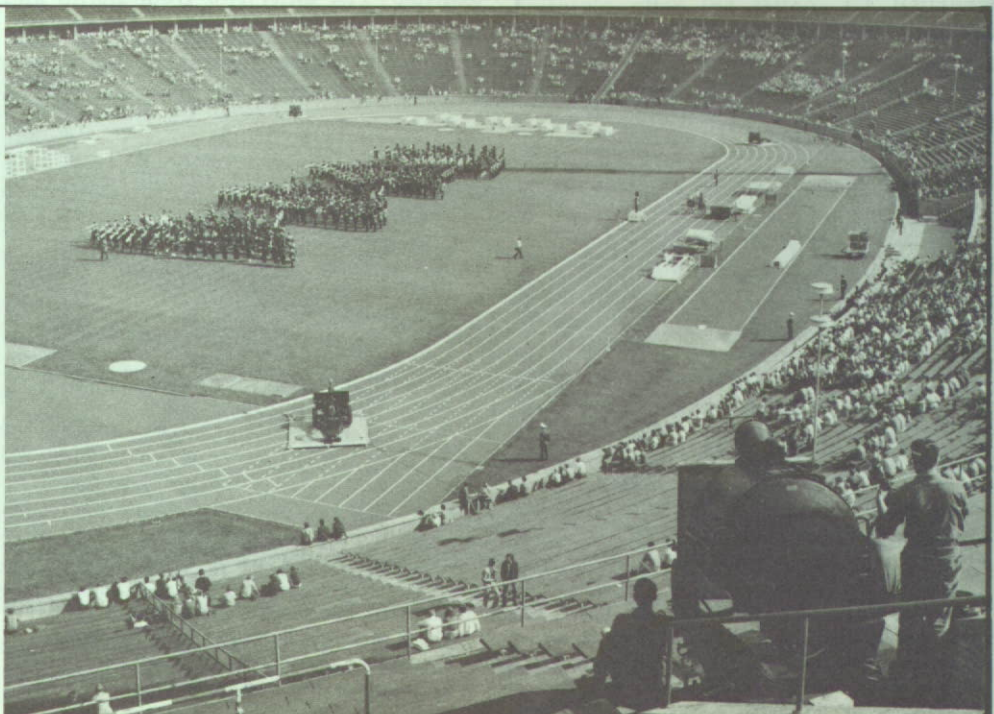
But though Major Bashford may not have been entirely satisfied, there was no doubt from their reaction to the mounted band, the pipes and the massed bands that, more than anything else, Berliners thoroughly enjoy good military music.

**For the first time the Russians accepted an invitation to attend the tattoo. Their Ambassador, protocol officer and governor of Spandau prison were in a party of five at the first night. The Russian military chiefs sent their apologies.**



**More publicity: The Life Guards mounted band rode to the Brandenburg Gate. Then, near the Russian War Memorial, horses and men transferred to trailers and lorries.**

The 20 lighting staff included men of the Royal Engineers' lighting troop and four TAVR men of 873 Movement Light Squadron. The banks of lights round the stadium and spotlights in the arena were from the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works stock and are normally used for the Queen's Birthday parade, open days, Retreat beating and demonstrations. Also from stock (below) were four searchlights of pre-World War Two vintage. The total lighting of half a million watts was sufficient to light 500 houses! The stadium's own tower floodlights were used for the curtain-raiser football match and for final crowd dispersal.







A built-in screen enables Scorpion to swim without further preparation. Its concertina folds can be clearly seen in these two pictures.

## SCORPION WITH A STING IN ITS TURRET

**T**HE Scorpion—a light tank built almost entirely of aluminium—is now undergoing trials.

Built by Alvis Limited of Coventry, it has been developed to British Army specifications for use in conditions demanding high power/weight ratio, low ground

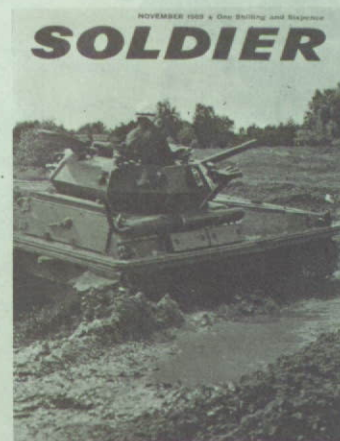
pressure and positive traction over bogs, swamps and snow.

The Scorpion does 50 miles an hour and its "sting" is provided by a 76mm gun and 7.62mm co-axial machine-gun. Its main roles will be reconnaissance, convoy and internal security.

The Scorpion is the first of a new series of lightweight, tracked armoured vehicles. Proposed variants include an armoured personnel carrier, guided weapon carrier, command vehicle, armoured ambulance, recovery vehicle, and an anti-APC and anti-aircraft vehicle.



FRONT COVER



Trailing smoke and spray, the Scorpion lunges through deep mud at the Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, Chertsey, Surrey. Pressmen—like SOLDIER photographer Arthur Blundell who took the picture—were bogged down in this near-quagmire in their wellington boots.



# ARNHEM

25 years on





**THEY** came as pilgrims a thousand strong, 400 in the main official party, others as friends direct to friends.

They came to see where their fathers, husbands, brothers, sons, comrades fought fearlessly, tenaciously, heroically a generation ago.

They came from all parts of England, from Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the Isle of Man, from Canada, New York, South Africa, Poland, Germany and Bahrein.

Some came as their fathers did 25 years before—to parachute into Arnhem—and the Dutch turned out in their thousands to welcome them, crowding the roads with coaches, cars and cycles.

Dutch hosts thronged the railway station when the pilgrims' train drew in on a misty morning that had delayed the Airborne Special half an hour on its journey from the Hook. Some knew their hosts, others did not; but the joys of meeting, recognition and acceptance bubbled over in laughter and excited conversation.

Some had visited year after year since the first unofficial pilgrimage took place in 1945. Others were in Holland for the first time but were immediately part of the general camaraderie that has grown from the deep mutual involvement in the battle of Arnhem that covered a dramatic week in September 1944.

The Dutch, who have long memories, still speak with admiration of the heroism of the British airborne troops who came to liberate them and found the odds too heavy. They do not speak of their own agony and of the brutality that followed the British withdrawal when all 98,000 inhabitants were forced by the enemy to leave their battered town and at least 50 were shot for alleged collaboration.

The mothers and fathers of those days are in their sixties now. The children who sheltered in cellars at the height of the fighting are in their thirties. Their children today tend the graves of 1700 who fought and died. The graves are gay with flowers—the memories of the Dutch are long.

A generation has grown up, 25 years have passed, but when **SOLDIER** visited the Airborne Museum at Kasteel Doorwerth on the edge of the Rhine the girl attendant said: "You are English? You do not pay!" In a sermon in Oosterbeek parish church, overflowing with pilgrims so that loud-speakers had to be placed outside, the padre quoted: "You need not pay—you have paid enough." Even after 25 years this is still the attitude of the Dutch to the British.

The main ceremony of the four-day pilgrimage was the remembrance service in Oosterbeek War Cemetery where 1764 airborne troops are buried. Official pilgrimages organised by the Airborne Forces Security Fund at Aldershot have attended here yearly since 1946. The cemetery was thronged with relatives, friends and with troops of 10th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, who parachuted in as part of their training and whose predecessors took part in the battle.

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and Prince Bernhard attended and 1764 young children at a given moment laid flowers on the 1764 neatly kept graves. Around the outside of the cemetery, beyond the ten-



Pilgrims and Dutch hosts meet at Arnhem station on a misty morning. Left: Bands of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and The King's Own Scottish Borderers play at night in Market Square, Arnhem.

STORIES BY GEORGE HOGAN / PICTURES BY TREVOR JONES

Below: Oosterbeek crossroads 1944 and today. David Shepherd's impression of the battle was verified by survivors **SOLDIER** met on this year's pilgrimage. Photographer Trevor Jones waited a long time for a lull in the usually heavy traffic to get an unblanketed impression of the crossroads today.





foot thick rhododendron bushes, thousands of Dutch people listened to the service and joined in the singing without being able to glimpse the action. One told me: "This is your day and your territory. We will not go in until all the British people are accommodated."

It started as another misty morning but the sun broke through and the quiet subdued atmosphere of rest that is so noticeable here seemed to become strangely animated. The murmuring of thousands, the colourful clothes of the children and the mass of varicoloured flowers all contributed to an awareness of life and reunion.

The hymns were sung in Dutch and English and there were addresses in both languages. Wreaths were laid, including one by Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard jointly. A lament was played by a piper of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, and Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a bugler of 1st Battalion, The

Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. The Oosterbeek town band, which has attended every ceremony since the war and whose badge includes the Pegasus motif, and the band of The King's Own Scottish Borderers, played at the service.

Afterwards the ashes of remembrance crosses planted in the Empire field of remembrance, Westminster, and in other fields, were scattered.

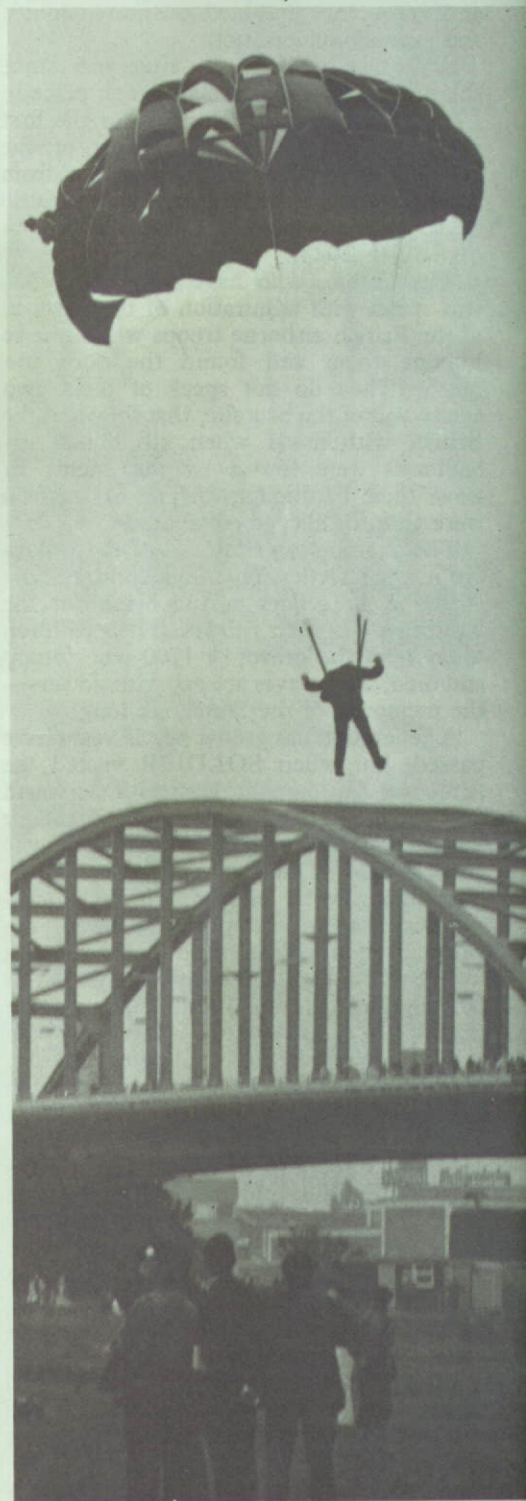
That morning the pilgrims had breakfast together in Oosterbeek concert hall as they and others have been doing for 25 years. Some remembered the first official breakfast in 1946 when the tables were laden with food and cigarettes saved from the sparse personal resources of a heavily rationed people.

In the afternoon a military display in a sunken field by Arnhem bridge attracted some thousands who lined the embankments and the bridge itself. The 10th Battalion demonstrated the action of paratroops

after a drop. Other displays included light relief by The Blues and Royals engaged in security operations, and excellent music and marching by the band and drums of The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment and the military band and pipes of The King's Own Scottish Borderers.

That evening Arnhem's rush-hour traffic was halted for a silent ceremony at the bridge memorial, a broken pillar from the old war-damaged Palace of Justice set in a sunken roundabout at the bridge's northern end. A silent procession of 1000 pilgrims headed by Dutch girls in orange red made its way slowly by the cycle path the half mile from its place of assembly in the market place. Church bells rang loudly and flags on nearby buildings were at half mast.

As the shadows lengthened and the procession reached the pillar to circle and fill the sunken roundabout the traffic suddenly ceased. A square mile in the





centre of Arnhem stood hushed, devoid of cars, cyclists and pedestrians, as the last light turned to dusk. The air was still. The flags had been hoisted full mast. The bells had ceased.

The ceremony carried on silently and wreaths were laid. The only movement was the distant circling of thousands of starlings, the only sound the chattering of the birds as they busily flocked to their resting places in the high trees.

The halting of the evening rush-hour traffic for 20 minutes was a remarkable tribute which again emphasised the deep feelings of the Dutch for the heroes of Arnhem and their real friendship with the British.

The next day was to have been another highlight with 300 officers and men of the 10th Battalion parachuting from wartime Dakotas and modern Hercules on to Ginkel Heath where their predecessors with the 4th Parachute Brigade dropped in

1944. The Dutch again crammed the roads with cars and cycles and thousands surrounded the dropping zone before word could be passed that the wind was much too strong and gusty for peacetime parachuting.

A disappointment for all, but the pilgrims made a battlefield tour by coach which eventually took them to a point overlooking the Rhine where Major-General Urquhart and some of his wartime staff, including Brigadier C MacKenzie and Brigadier C Myers, explained the dramatic hours of the withdrawal across the river.

Then to Hartenstein, General Urquhart's hotel headquarters in the centre of the horseshoe-shaped "cauldron." Here a surprise call brought the General to the exact position outside the hotel where he was photographed during the war with his spectacle case in his hand.

Then Hajo Topzand, a Dutch executive of Air New Zealand living in Frankfurt,

presented the General with a pennant bearing an airborne motif which he had "acquired" as a lad of 16 from a momentarily unattended German car. Quite spontaneously and with obvious pleasure the General said: "It is my own pennant off the jeep. This is the most wonderful souvenir to have."

Then across the road to Oosterbeek's own memorial to the airborne forces. Built without permission by the citizens within a year of the battle, it represents their earnest belief that the sacrifices of the British, Poles and Dutch should be remembered for ever. Said Jan DeGoeien, chairman of the Oosterbeek airborne committee: "Each stone in this monument must be said to be the heart of one of those who built it. May it stand for ever in a free country."

General Urquhart told the pilgrims: "This is their battle as it was our battle. After 25 years the links between our two



No words were spoken at this silent ceremony by Arnhem bridge and the town's traffic stopped.

Right: General Urquhart presents a pennant to the leader of the Oosterbeek town band which has a Pegasus as crest and will "play for ever."

Left: A demonstration of free-falling by 10th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, interested the spectators, although one man fell among cows.

Far left: Major-General Urquhart, leader of the pilgrimage, posed again outside Hartenstein Hotel which was his headquarters in 1944. "I still have a spectacle case," he said. Here he was handed a pennant recovered from a German car.

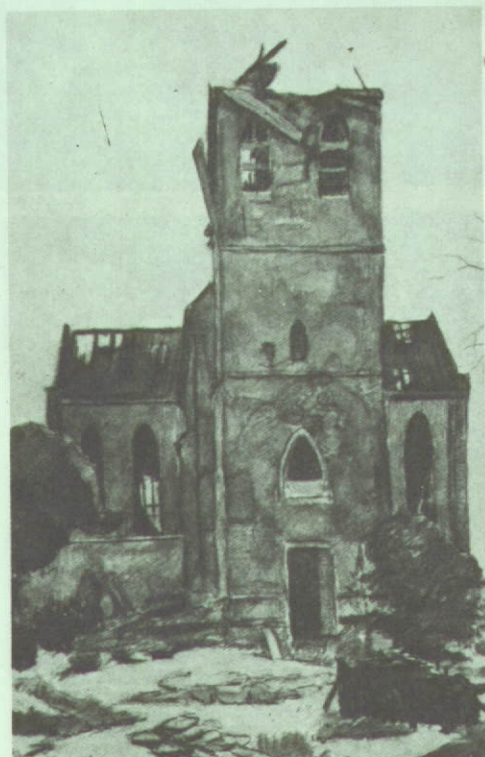
Top left: A light episode by The Blues and Royals at Arnhem bridge. The "innocent" motorists were gunmen and the vendor's truck exploded.







Thousands attended the service at the cemetery. Dutch children laid flowers on every grave. Below: Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard lay their wreath. Left: An artist's impression of Oosterbeek parish church 1944, now restored.



nations are even stronger and we hope they will never diminish."

Said Colonel Stanislaw Jachnik, second-in-command of the Polish Parachute Brigade in 1944: "We salute their great sacrifices. They stood as an example for all generations of how to fight for freedom for mankind."

General Urquhart presented a pennant to the Oosterbeek band, whose president promised that, although this was the last official pilgrimage, the band would "play each year for ever" at the monument.

There were many sidelights to this 25th Arnhem pilgrimage. Many friendships have blossomed over the years, many stories that are common knowledge and many that are not reveal the intensity of the Dutch involvement with the British.

Mevrouw De Horst, who lives in the vicarage by Oosterbeek church, is one who suddenly found herself in the midst of drama in September 1944. Her husband was working with the resistance movement, her five children were sheltering in the cellar of her house. Although not trained as a nurse she found herself tending wounded soldiers until there were 300 filling her







Hank and Nellie Aalbergs have accommodated and entertained CSM George Gatland (centre) for 20 annual pilgrimages. Here they examine yet again the photographs of events they will never forget.

rooms and passages, even the stairs. With a young lad of 17 she toiled without rest and food and in the evenings walked from room to room, reading aloud from a Bible the 91st psalm: "Thou shalt not be afraid...." The little water still available came from a pump in the garden, in which eventually were buried 64 airborne soldiers.

Today there is a small fountain above a tiny pool with a plaque depicting Pegasus crashing to earth. Said Mrs De Horst: "It shows Pegasus sinking but it symbolised our belief that Pegasus would rise again."

Many men were buried in gardens and the people were reluctant to allow their bodies to be moved when the airborne cemetery was created.

Company Sergeant-Major George Gatland, 11th Parachute Battalion, was in one of two Dakotas shot down ten miles short of Arnhem on the second day of the drop. He baled out and met a 17-year-old lad who led him through the German lines so that he joined up next day with his comrades. His success was short-lived, for he

was wounded almost immediately at Wolfheze and taken prisoner.

He has gone back to Arnhem with every pilgrimage since 1946 and for the last 20 years has stayed with one family, garage co-proprietor Hank Aalbergs and his wife Nellie, who have never tired of offering their hospitality. He has seen their four children grow up: Nette now 21, Jan 18 and the twins Lisha (Elizabeth) and Henneke 14. He spent two years searching before he found in the village of Ede the youth, Gerrit Steinbergen, who led him to safety in 1944.

The bonds between the Dutch and British are stronger than ever today. They have been strengthened by the yearly pilgrimages which have been so successfully arranged by the Dutch committee. Queen Elizabeth recognised its help on this 25th anniversary with awards of a CBE to the chairman, Queen's Commissioner for Guiderland H W Bloemers, and MBEs to Rene van Lerven and J W Donderwinkel, secretaries for Arnhem and Oosterbeek respectively.

## MALTA, ALDERSHOT, STOKE

Arnhem was also remembered in Aldershot, the home of The Parachute Regiment, in Malta, where the 3rd Battalion is stationed, and in Stoke-on-Trent where a plaque was unveiled to a Victoria Cross hero.

At Aldershot 850 officers and men of 16 Parachute Brigade attended a commemoration service in the Royal Garrison Church. Among those present who had served at Arnhem were Major-General Frank King, Commandant, Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, Major-General Anthony Deane-Drummond, ACDS (Operations), Ministry of Defence, and Captain John Humphreys, 9 Independent Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, who was a lance-corporal during the battle.

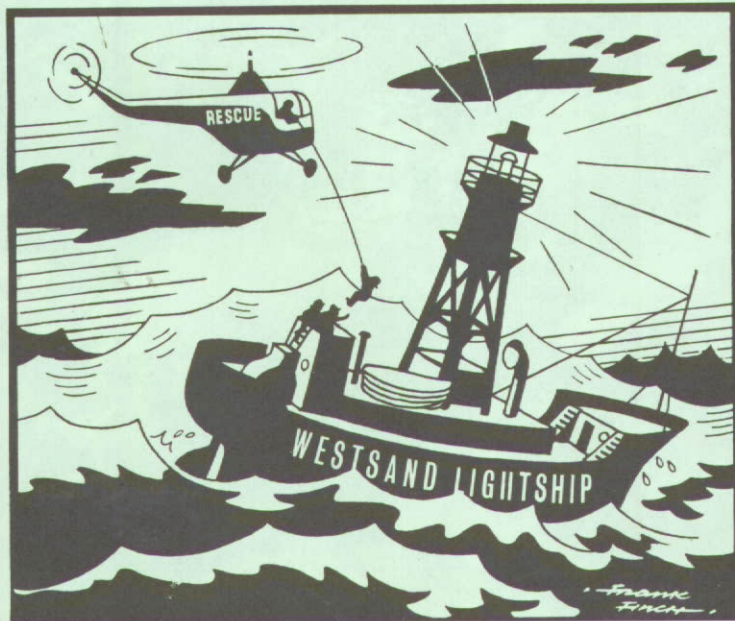
General Sir Geoffrey Musson, Adjutant-General, reviewed an unusual night parade in Malta when 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, trooped the Colour and fired a rippling *feu-de-joie*. Coloured floodlights and the skilful manipulation of vehicle headlamps gave this parade a dramatic quality which thrilled Maltese and British spectators. A lone Royal Air Force Canberra dipped in salute over the parade where the guest of honour was Mr T E Seiczowski, a United Nations' technical adviser working in Malta. Twenty-five years ago he parachuted south of Arnhem as ADC to the commander of the Polish Brigade.

At Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, a plaque was unveiled to the memory of Lance-Sergeant John Baskeyfield, 2nd Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment, who was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously for valour at Arnhem. His brother and sister and 14 members of 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, stationed in Berlin, were present. Relics of Arnhem, brought by Sergeant-Major Peelen, Royal Netherlands Army, were displayed in the nearby Princes Hall where there was also a film reconstruction of how the Victoria Cross was won.

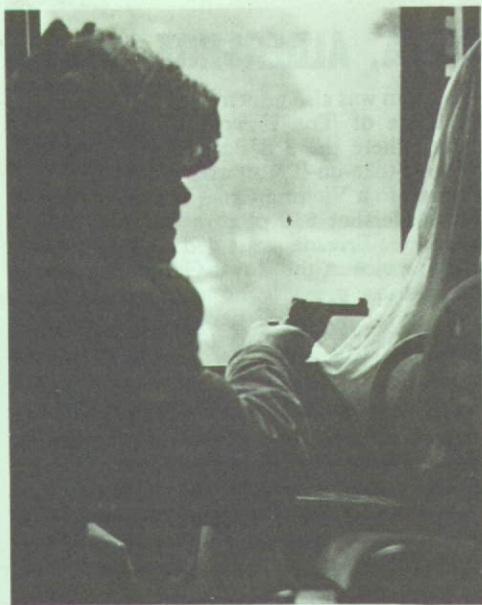
Five Victoria Crosses were gazetted for bravery at Arnhem, one to Flight-Lieutenant John Lord, RAF, and others to Lieutenant "Jack" Grayburn, 2nd Parachute Battalion, Captain Lionel Queripel, 10th Parachute Battalion, and Major Robert Cain, 2nd Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment, who alone survived the battle.

# HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

These two pictures look alike but they differ in ten details. Look at them carefully. If you cannot spot the differences see page 41.







# BATTLE FOR A BRIDGE

Arnhem is an epic of courage and endurance in the face of tremendous odds, of perseverance and determination when surrounded by a larger, stronger, better-equipped enemy and of a faith and dedication to duty that never envisaged nor accepted defeat.

Dropped at Arnhem in operation Market Garden in September 1944, the lightly equipped 1st Airborne Division expected little resistance but found itself fighting two German panzer divisions of tanks, self-propelled guns, armoured troop carriers and flame-throwers.

Surprisingly, 2nd Battalion of 1st Parachute Brigade reached its objective, the main road bridge over the River Rhine in the centre of the town, but could not cross it. The troops fought tenaciously for four days and nights, inflicting tremendous casualties on the enemy while awaiting the advance of Second Army that had been expected within 48 hours.

The attempt to capture the railway bridge caused the enemy to destroy it when the first British troops were actually on it and the pontoon bridge had been burned.

Efforts by four battalions to relieve the 2nd were unsuccessful and the remainder of the airborne division formed a perimeter to the west of Arnhem where they, too, were encircled. After eight days with few supplies about 2000 of the original 10,000 men made their way south across the Rhine to join up with Second Army, but only after suffering considerable privations and bombardment.

They had lost 1200 killed and 6500 captured but had killed or wounded 3300 Germans. It took the Allies seven more months to capture Arnhem.

These are the bare bones of an epic of heroism that really began when the six battalions of paratroopers in 1st Airborne Division were told on D-Day that 6th Airborne had landed in Normandy.

They knew their turn must come and expected it to be soon but 14 weeks elapsed before they saw action. During that period they were fully alerted 16 times for different operations.

The reason for the delay was the rapid advance from Caen which precluded the need for parachutists. Then the Germans, nearing their own frontier, established a firm and continuous line in the region of the Escaut-Meuse canal by the Dutch border. The Allies decided to mount three large airborne assaults in a line 15, 35 and 60 miles ahead to take seven river crossings, disorganise the enemy's rear and help the ground troops to press northward. The British force was given the most distant objective, the main bridge over the Neder Rijn at Arnhem.

## LIKE LIONS

German observers wrote of Arnhem: "The British paratroopers fought like lions. They made themselves strong in houses and gardens. Every window became a fire-spitting fortress, every basement a machine-gun nest. Only when the roof crashed in, the tall walls crumpled, and the whole house was about to be devoured by a sheet of flame did they leave these strong-points. They were the most hardy warriors we have met in the whole invasion. They resisted to the end with knives and pistols."

Right: Airborne troops firing mortar at Arnhem. One of the first pictures taken in this action by an Army photographer who wrote: "All day we have been under shell, mortar and machine-gun fire." Far right: Major Lonsdale's backs-to-the-wall message on a door of Oosterbeek church.

## ORDER OF BATTLE

These were the units that fought at Arnhem:

1st Airborne Division, comprising 1st and 4th parachute brigades, 1st Air Landing Brigade and divisional troops including an independent parachute company, reconnaissance squadron, two Royal Artillery anti-tank batteries, light regiment, Royal Artillery, and elements of RE, RASC, REME, RAOC, provost, signals and field security.

1st Independent Polish Parachute Brigade with 878th United States Airborne Aviation Engineering Battalion.

In 1st Parachute Brigade were 1st, 2nd and 3rd parachute battalions, and in 2nd Brigade, 10th, 11th and 156th parachute battalions. Both brigades included a squadron of parachute Royal Engineers and a parachute field ambulance.

The air landing brigade included 2nd Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment; 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment; 7th Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers; 1st Air Landing Regiment, Royal Artillery; field company, Royal Engineers, field ambulance and personnel of the Glider Pilot Regiment.





It was not realised that the IX and X SS panzer divisions that had made a rapid retreat from the Falaise Gap were refitting in the area. The Germans reacted violently and opposed the airborne troops' every move. In this they were aided by circumstances and the weather. There were insufficient aircraft to move the whole airborne division from eastern England between dawn and dusk and the operation was spread over three days. On the first day things went well, but bad weather delayed the second day's drop and by then the enemy was fully alerted and the paratroops came under heavy fire from the time they left their planes.

Thereafter, as ground objectives could not be reached, supplies from the air fell into German hands and the airborne division was fighting against tremendous odds.

The 600 officers and men of the 2nd Battalion and attached troops who reached the main bridge were gradually reduced to 100 in the four days they held back the enemy. They had only one day's rations and little water.

Radio sets were useless—the area appeared to be shielded—but some use was made as long as possible of the public telephone system.

The battalion's few six-pounder anti-tank guns and Piats took a heavy toll of tanks and self-propelled guns before they were put out of action or ran out of shells and bombs. When the small arms ammunition was getting low, enemy tanks and guns came up to within a few yards of the

paratroopers' positions and systematically pumped shells into them.

The troops pulled out of houses as flames took hold but came back and fought on in the smouldering ruins. Then, as pressure mounted, they mouse-holed from building to building making each a fortress in turn. The last few, surrounded in a warehouse, split into small groups to fight their own way out. Some were captured. Some got through and were succoured by Dutch families who risked their own lives to hide them. The 2nd Battalion came out of battle only 17 strong.

Other battalions of the airborne division had formed a defensive perimeter, roughly horseshoe shaped, on the north bank of the Rhine west of Oosterbeek. Here, in what became known to the Germans as the "cauldron," the remnants of the division held on against constant bombardment and infiltration by infantry, Tiger tanks, flame-throwers and self-propelled guns.

Without water and food, with little sleep and less and less ammunition the air-

borne troops doggedly struggled to maintain their position, still waiting for reinforcements from Second Army to reach the southern bank. They had suffered terrible casualties and few of the air-dropped supplies were reaching them. They were completely exhausted but they still fought on.

When 4th Battalion, The Dorset Regiment, did at last get through it was too late to reinforce. It had already been decided that the long-held perimeter, so tenaciously fought over, must be evacuated. The troops withdrew through another heavy bombardment by the Germans with machine-gun bullets and shells spattering and bursting upon the water as the small boats moved slowly across the river.

So during the night of the eighth day what was left of 1st Airborne Division left the fields of Arnhem and Oosterbeek, many more men being lost in the waters of the Rhine. Of the 10,000 who fought at Arnhem only about 2000 were safely evacuated from the "cauldron."

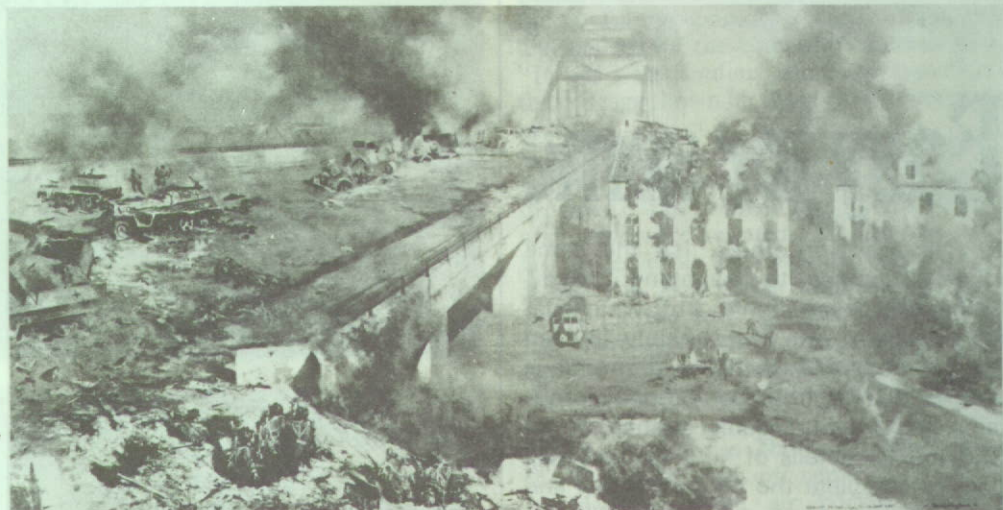
## ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR

David Shepherd's painting (below) of Arnhem bridge from the north, commissioned in 1963, shows the destruction of a German convoy by troops of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (now Major-General) J D Frost.

Prints of this magnificent picture in eight colours are available as souvenirs in this 25th anniversary year.

Each print, including a white border, measures 35½ x 24 inches and the actual illustration is 35 x 21½ inches. The print costs £3 15s including packing and postage to any part of the world. Orders, accompanied by cheque, postal order, money order or international money order, made out to "SOLDIER Magazine," should be sent to SOLDIER (Prints A2), 433 Holloway Road, London N7.

WELL NOW, THE FORM IS, I HAVE WITHDRAWN YOU FROM THE OPEN GROUND BY THE RIVER. I WANT YOU TO REST HERE FOR 2 HRS. IN WHICH TIME GET A MEAL FROM WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT, GET YOURSELF CLEAN & BE PREPARED TO MOVE UP TO A NEW POSITION AROUND THE HOUSE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE PERIMETER. ON THIS POSITION WE MUST STAND OR FALL & FIGHT TO THE LAST ROUND. THIS EDGE OF THE PERIMETER IS BEING HELD BY A MIXED BAG CONSISTING OF SO FAR, WE HAVE HAD A GOOD BATTLE AGAINST GOOD TROOPS THAT ARE NOT UP TO OUR STANDARD. WE HAVE FOUGHT THEM IN A SKILLY & LUCKY, BUT AT TIMES AGAINST GOOD. THEY WERE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR US THEN & I AM CERTAIN THEY ARE NOT OUR MATCH NOW. GET YOURSELVES DUG IN AND SHOOT TO KILL. CLEAN UP.



Above: As David Shepherd envisaged the battle on the bridge with the German convoy burning and the troops in position. Below: Arnhem bridge today with new buildings and the trees growing high.





# PARATROOPERS IN SHIP-SHORE RESCUE

**W**AIST-DEEP in the sea and drenched by heavy rain and spray, 200 paratroopers took part in a dramatic sea-to-shore rescue of the passengers and crew of a Greek oil tanker wrecked off Malta.

With Royal Navy and Royal Air Force volunteers, local police and civil defence workers, the 200 men of A and B companies, 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, formed a human chain linking the stricken 18,000-ton tanker, Angel Gabriel, to the shore.

In rough seas and a freak gale the tanker, moored off Zonqor Point, dragged her anchor and was driven ashore, breaking her back on jagged rocks. Seamen of HMS St Angelo fired a line aboard and throughout the day the rescuers worked to save her passengers and crew. At times the human chain disappeared under white surf and spray as waves swept over the ship and rocks.

Three paratroopers, Lance-Corporal J Morris, Private I Haig and Private D Ellis, had narrow escapes when they were washed from the lifeline. As Ellis was swept past the tanker's stern he grabbed and held on to a dangling oil-covered rope ladder. "A very brave Greek seaman spotted his would-be rescuer's plight and shinned down the ladder to fasten a noose round Ellis's shoulders," said Major D Taylor, one of the company commanders. "It was a tremendous effort and typical of the courage shown on the rocks by everyone all day."

Tragically one Greek seaman attempted to make his own way ashore and was drowned. The remaining 34 passengers and crew were rescued. Traditionally the last to leave his ship was the captain. He joined the local Press and television in praise for the way in which the rescuers had disregarded their own safety for the lives of others. "No one in my crew can express his gratitude properly in words," he said.

A United States Navy helicopter from the Galveston took off some of the crew but landed in an air pocket, severely damaging its undercarriage. Men of 234 Signal Squadron, Malta, provided radio and telephone communications from the scene of the wreck to Valetta to co-ordinate rescue efforts. Royal Navy ambulances stood by in case of emergency.

*From a report by Army Public Relations, Malta. Pictures by Sergeant Frank Osgood who was himself frequently up to his waist in water taking some of the shots.*

Top: A huge wave breaks over the Angel Gabriel.

Left: Injured Greek seaman is carried ashore.

Far left: Paratroopers man lifeline to the ship.

PAGE 31

## Easy for some

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Selection is by written examination and interview. Boys born between 2nd August 1953 and 1st August 1954 are eligible, and application must be made before 1st December 1969. The written examination will be held at schools in early February.

**For full details of the scheme, write to:**

**Major T. W. Tilbrook, Army Officer Entry, Dept. 129, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London, W1X 6AA**

K.I.



# LEFT, RIGHT

Trophy held high in triumph, Sergeant Sid Derry is carried off the field by jubilant team-mates after the Army (Singapore) team won the Far East Land Forces Inter-Services soccer championship for the first time since 1964. They beat the Royal Air Force six-nil and held the Royal Navy to a two-all draw, thus winning on goal average. Sergeant Derry, Royal Army Pay Corps, was presented with the trophy by Admiral Sir Peter Hill-Norton, the Commander-in-Chief Far East.



The Manchester Regiment, disbanded ten years ago, has been immortalised by a new public house. The pub, named The Manchester Regiment, has been built in the city by a local brewery. The décor includes a life-size replica of an ensign of the 63rd Regiment of Foot (the regiment's predecessor) and photographs and murals of its campaigns. Brigadier Eric Holt, senior serving officer of The Manchester Regiment before its amalgamation with The King's Regiment, performed the opening ceremony by drawing the first pint of beer and presenting it to In-Pensioner Robinson, of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, who is a former regimental sergeant-major of The Manchester Regiment.



## AND CENTRE



Now they can say nay to pack mules. This articulated trolley called Pacstar is now in use with the United States Army. It is designed for rugged off-the-road travel.



A key-ring and necklace with helicopter motifs are presented to Brigadier D W Coyle, Army Air Corps, by Mr Desmond Plummer, leader of Greater London Council (left). The gifts are replicas of those Mr Plummer gave last year to the first tenants of a GLC housing estate built on Croydon Airport. On that occasion, Mr Plummer and his wife were flown to the airport by Brigadier Coyle and Captain I C Scott of the School of Army Aviation in a Scout helicopter—the last aircraft to land at Croydon (SOLDIER, September 1968).



Fifty-five years after exchanging rifle and shell fire across the muddy trenches of the Western Front, British and German veterans of World War One met again, in a comfortable sergeants' mess, to swap gifts and reminiscences (above). The meeting took place at the barracks of the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets, in Celle, West Germany. The British veterans were a party of the Old Contemptibles' Association and the Germans members of the local Kyffhäuser Kameradschaft. Party leader Mr Jimmy Bougourd (above left), showered with gifts by the Germans, said one of them had been in a battery which had rained shells on to his trench. Added Mr Bougourd "I reprimanded him for keeping me awake and told him I hadn't been able to sleep properly since." Through interpreters, the former enemies swapped reminiscences while thumbing through World War One photographs from the regimental museum at Winchester. Said Mr Bougourd "It's only unfortunate that we can't physically converse with each other. If only we had a universal language, nations would understand each other so much better. Maybe that is something we should aim for with our children."



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NATIONAL SAVINGS

**MILITARY MODELS**



A real German Leopard tank (top) on the ranges of Luneburg Heath compared with the Japanese model (centre). Small parts like spades are separate—not moulded to the body. It is painted a muddy brown.

Below: A Churchill in the Aurora range. An impressive tank in its day, it weighed 40 tons and was first used in action in the 1942 Dieppe raid; 5640 Churchills were produced during World War Two.

Right: The new Dinky model of the Austin para-Moke (no longer in use in the British Army) is supplied complete with a workable parachute and a rigid unbreakable platform. The Moke is held by a nylon strap.



## On the right track

**T**HE Japanese have raced in front with their motor cycles, overshoot others with their reflex cameras and now in the field of model tanks have leapt ahead with the Leopard.

This model—a credibly authentic version of the tank at present in use with the Bundeswehr—is neat and compact, yet simple to build. It is made by Tamiya Mokei Plastic Model Company and has just been released in Britain.

It has several improvements over earlier models—a two-speed gearbox (gear change is by adjusting two screws), nylon hawsers (the plastic ones break easily when bending), small parts like spades, axes, saw and wire snips come separately (formerly they were moulded on to the tank body) and there is an improved switch and battery retention fixture (the batteries slid about inside earlier models).

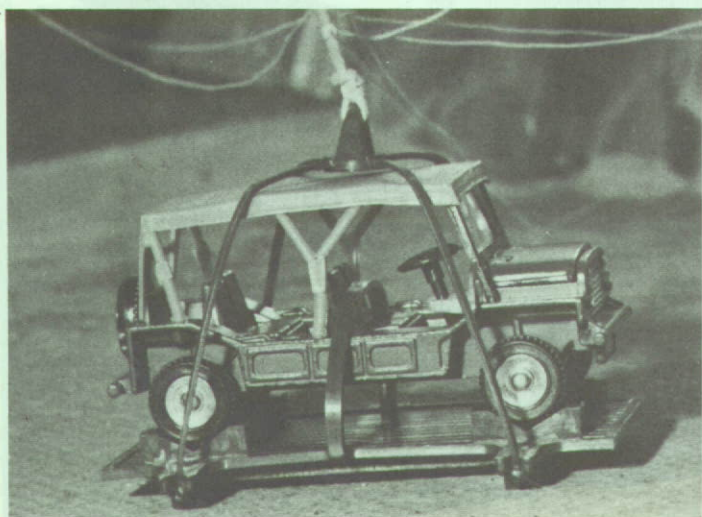
However, not all of the transfers are to scale and the infra-red searchlight does not have any glass. I used a small piece of Perspex for this. Another tip is to drill out the hinges which are of plastic and replace them with wire.

Unfortunately, Tamiya continue to let themselves down with irritatingly inaccurate details in their background information. For example, they talk of the collapse of "Imperial Germany" after the defeat of World War Two, spell the Leopard manufacturer's name wrong (it is Krauss-Maffei of Munich) and have some quaint wording: "... this tank is a modern, excellent maneuverability tank of which importance is attached."

Models of non-working tanks, guns and helicopters are available from Aurora Plastics Co (UK) Ltd, 64 High Street, Croydon CR9 1NA, Surrey. These models are accurate, simple to make and cost only 13s 6d. They are not however in the same class as the Japanese kits.

The tanks include the Churchill, Centurion, German Panther and Tiger, Russian Stalin, Japanese medium tank, Swedish S tank, and the US General Patton tank. There are also an M 109, M 8 munitions carrier, Long Tom and howitzer. Military helicopters are the Chinook, Cobra, Sikorsky Windmill and Piasecki Workhorse. Also available are dioramas of a desert rat patrol, a "green beret" and Iwo Jima flag-raising.

Dinky—the firm famous for toy cars—also does a series of military models, from 3s 11d to 18s 11d. They are made of metal and therefore not so well detailed as plastic, but are strong and solid. They comprise a US jeep towing a 105mm howitzer, military Volkswagen and 50mm anti-tank gun, Centurion tank, Austin Champ, Saladin, Honest John missile launcher, 25-pounder field gun set and para-Moke. The guns and missile operate by spring loading and the parachute on the Mini-Moke actually works (we dropped it 40 feet from the top floor of the SOLDIER building and it landed intact).



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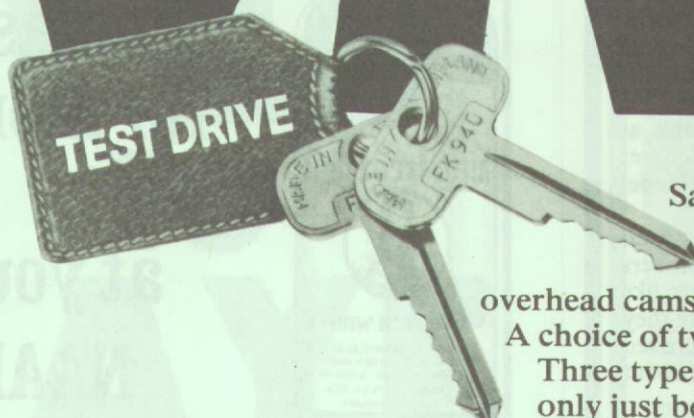
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# FLAT RATE

Most Army families in Hong Kong, and indeed in many Army stations, live in flats. If you are one of these lucky (?) people, here is a quiz to see how you fit into the local scene. Allot yourself a, b or c and see how you rate:

**Use of the lift:** Do you

- (a) fill it with bicycles and prams.
- (b) stack it with parcels, fish tanks and potted plants, or
- (c) use the stairs instead.

**The landing** outside your flat is

- (a) full of prams, broken chairs and roller skates,
- (b) neatly stacked with "d-i-y" packing crates, or
- (c) polished and disinfected daily.

**Hobbies:** Are you addicted to

- (a) radio, guitars, TV commercials,
- (b) mouth organs, typing, shoe mending, or
- (c) reading.

**Cooking:** Do you have strongly smelling curry, fried onions, local fish

- (a) always,
- (b) sometimes, or
- (c) delete above and substitute "sandwiches."

**Night habits:** During the small hours do you

- (a) move grand pianos, fourposter beds and packing crates,
- (b) play with marbles, golf balls, or
- (c) wear carpet slippers.

**Bathroom usage:** Do you run the bath at

- (a) 10pm, 12pm, 2am and 4am,
- (b) 1am (including melodious gargling), or
- (c) use a face flannel for washing.

**Departing guests:** You of course

- (a) call farewells from the verandah to save going down,
- (b) escort them to parking area with slamming car doors and "See you soon" calls, or
- (c) ask them to leave their cars on main road to prevent waking ground-floor tenants.

**Washing:** If the upstairs *amah* (servant) hangs wet sheets over the starched uniform you need tomorrow, do you

- (a) tell upstairs *amah* she no good and she leave go find new job,
- (b) tell your own *amah* same thing, same result, or
- (c) go and buy a spin dryer.

**Personnel:** In your family do you have

- (a) six or more children under five,
- (b) three musical teenagers, or
- (c) strong views on family planning.

Now, how do **YOU** rate as a flat tenant? If you have scored mostly a's the firing squad is coming round with next week's barrack exchange. If you have mainly b's, don't worry—there are a hundred more families like yours! If your c's come up on top, come off it! Do the quiz again and tell the truth this time . . .

*Flatnote: The author, an Army wife, admits to mostly a's—four children, guitar, electric organ, trumpet, cat, two bicycles . . . the lot!*



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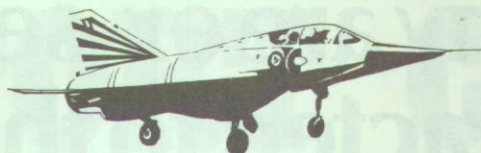
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**SOLDIER** cannot admit correspondence on matters involving discipline or promotion in a unit.

# LETTERS



neck and removed only a few minutes before the flash.—Maj Gian Singh (Retd) Corps of Engineers, 3/42 Jangpura-B, Mathura Road, New Delhi 14, India.

## Historic lance

In "Left, Right and Centre" (July) there is an article on 2nd Division's cavalry lance.

This would be one of two presented to 5th Brigade by an Indian Army armoured formation at the close of the Burma campaign. These lances accompanied the brigade to Japan and thence to Malaya, and the pennants were blue brigade ones bearing the crossed keys and two red bars. When the number of 2nd Division was transferred to a formation in Germany, 5th Brigade, the last of the three to remain intact, became 25th British Independent Brigade Group.

The brigade sign was then changed to the Japanese *torii* surmounting the crossed keys in white on a black ground and the pennants were duly emblazoned with it. The *torii* was of course chosen to commemorate the brigade's service as part of the Army of Occupation in Japan.

On 31 December 1947, 25th Brigade ceased to exist and its headquarters became HQ Johore Sub-District, though still operational with four battalions under command. Instructions were received to the effect that all brigade trophies would be sent to 2nd Division in BAOR. A sad party was held at the officers' club in Johore Bahru that New Year's Eve. The pennants were ceremoniously removed from the lances; the brigade commander kept one, and I the other.

The lances were too much of a problem to post off to Germany and in 1950, when Johore Sub-District became 48th Gurkha Brigade and moved to Mentakab, they were deposited with the Gurkha Engineers in Kluang.

A few years ago, not without a twinge of conscience, I returned my pennant to the commander of 5th Brigade.—**Dick Treyer Evans** (late 4th Foot), Hunters Lodge, Hassocks, Sussex.



## Cherished secret

When the British left India they took away with them one of their cherished secrets—the waxing of moustaches by sergeant-majors! I tried to get the secret from one of the most authoritative sources—in-pensioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, but got no response. I don't blame them as they themselves do not sport any needle-sharp moustaches now.

My moustaches are always "in the soup." I find it difficult to control them with the result that even when I put on the sweetest of smiles (as I did when visiting a crèche in a London hospital) the children get frightened! At home, I find the moustaches act as a filter for creamed milk, espresso coffee, whey, ice cream etc, causing considerable embarrassment at table during meals.

Fortunately I have very understanding and intelligent grandchildren (I am glad they joined the Boy Scout movement) who do a good deed by pinching me or kicking me on the shin at the right moment. This is one occasion when I do not spank them.

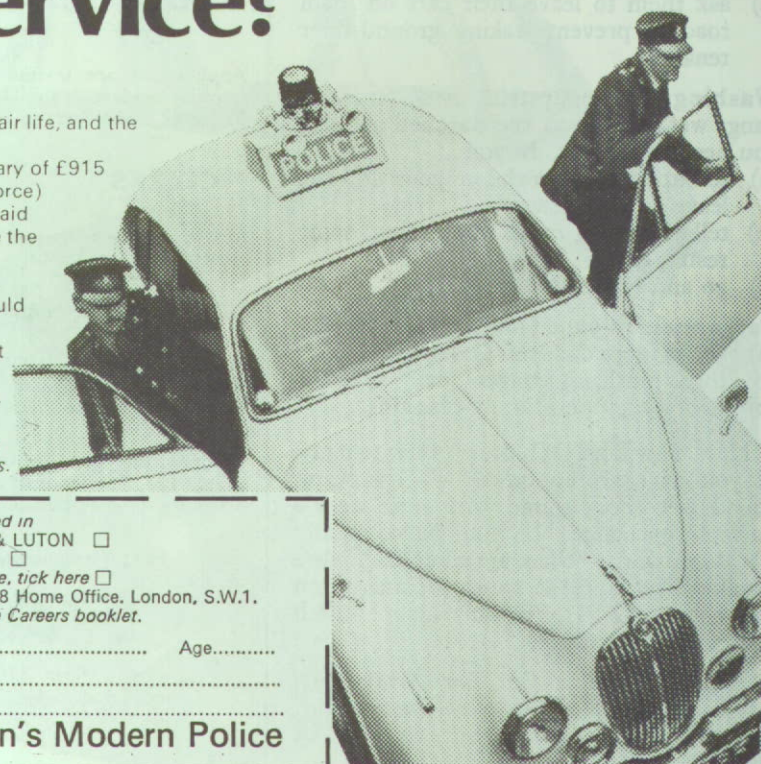
Surely there must be among your wide circle of readers some company sergeant-majors or regimental sergeant-majors of the pre-war era who could remember the formula for waxing moustaches. Could any of them, for old time's sake, send me a simple home-made recipe for waxing moustaches?

Incidentally, for the purpose of the accompanying photograph, I had to look smart for a special occasion so the moustache was touched up with a mixture of gum, mustard oil, soap, candy etc. A piece of cloth was placed on the moustache and tied behind the

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## Not shire knot

In your June review of gramophone records I notice that a march called "The Staffordshire Knot" has been recorded.

I am a "daughter of the regiment" (38th) and used to have it drummed into me that our famous knot is the Stafford Knot, badge of the Stafford family, and must never, never be called the Staffordshire Knot. Any comments from the present Staffordshire Regiment?

I add with pleasure that a friend has bought the record and I hope to hear it soon.—**O M Bent, Bovey Tracey, Devon.**

★ *You are absolutely right, madam. It is always the Stafford Knot, never the Staffordshire Knot. The title of the march "The Staffordshire Knot" is wrong—a slip by the composer when he titled it.*

## "Flashman" first

I noticed with pleasure details of the book "Lady Sale: Journal of the first Afghan War" in the July SOLDIER. Having recently read "Flashman," I recommend this be read before "Lady Sale." It is published by Herbert Jenkins at only 25s.

"Flashman," edited and arranged by

George Macdonald Fraser, is from the papers of the bully of "Tom Brown's Schooldays" relating his exploits in Afghanistan. It is so exciting and amusing that it is indeed history without tears. It has notes appended and although it may not be the authorised version of the period 1839-42 it is a must for amateur historians and light reading for serious campaigners.—**Sgt T W Garland, Headquarters Land Forces Gulf, BFPO 63.**

## Thataways

Captain H M Sullivan gave a detailed account (March) of the coast defence guns of Singapore. I am not a founder-member of the "pointing the wrong way" brigade; my complaint is against those writers of history who make these statements as in "Sinister Twilight" by Noel Barker and again more recently by John Connell in "Wavell: Supreme Commander 1941-43," as follows: "It was not merely that the strongest defences of Singapore Base faced the wrong way."

Such a statement to an ex-IG, B/Mati or any other coast defence artilleryman is puerile in the extreme.—**W J Kemp, 8 High Street, Pirton, Hitchin, Herts.**

★ *This correspondence is now closed.*

## NORTH SEA BARGAIN

Of particular interest to Rhine Army personnel and their families planning to travel to Britain and back this winter will be the news that Associated Humber Lines are introducing reduced return fares on their overnight Rotterdam-Hull service for the period 3 November 1969 to 12 March 1970 (excluding sailings on 20 and 22 December from Rotterdam and 19 and 22 December from Hull).

The return fare will be £9 10s and as this in turn is subject to a concessional discount of 15 per cent to members of HM Forces and their dependents, the cost will be still further reduced to £8 1s 6d.

This covers a berth in a two-berth cabin, all meals on the voyage and port taxes but a supplementary charge is made where a single or de-luxe cabin is required. Children between two and 12 years old can travel at half price and infants under two, free. Cars are accepted subject to prior reservation at a return charge of £16 10s irrespective of length.

Sailings depart from Rotterdam (Prinses Beatrixhaven) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and from Hull (A jetty, Alexandra Dock) on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The new winter fare is available on any of these sailings.

## More bands please

I enjoyed the Royal Tournament 1969 immensely. As usual it was well organised and expertly carried out and my only grouse is that apart from the massed bands of the Royal Armoured Corps as the final item there were no other bands at the Tournament. I am not of course forgetting the grand display of the Junior Leaders Regiment and Army Cadet Force bands and drums during the intervals.

I well remember my last visit to the tournament ten years ago when there were six bands and drums on show and a massed beating of Retreat at the end. Today the emphasis seems to be on display and object lessons on exercises which tend to be a bit boring to the layman.

The British public (and overseas visitors) love and appreciate a good band and drums, so let's have more bands and marching displays at the 1970 Royal Tournament. And why no commemorative covers for the philatelic visitors?—**Jess Matthews (ex D/Sgt, The Cambridgeshire Regiment), Wykeham, 6 Henry Street, Peterborough.**

★ *Reader Matthews has overlooked the tournament's resident band, the Midland Band of the Royal Air Force, which played during every performance, and the following bands which took it in turn to play before all the evening and Saturday afternoon performances: combined bands of Kingston-upon-Thames and Twickenham Sea Cadet Corps units; Corps of Drums of Reigate Grammar School Combined Cadet Force; RAF Halton brass and pipe bands; Band of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Artillery; Band of the Junior Leaders Regiment, Royal Engineers; Band of 236 (Oratory) Cadet Corps; British Legion Military Band; Corps of Drums, Royal Marines Volunteer Cadets Corps (Deal); Pipe, Drum and Trumpet Band of the Apprentice Wing, RAF Locking; County of Suffolk ACF "A" Band; HMS Caledonia brass and pipe bands; junior bands of The Light Division; Apprentice Wing Band, RAF Cosford; Apprentice*



## Christmas cards

A pack of 12 assorted Christmas cards is being marketed this year by the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association. The cards cater for all tastes and include a reproduction of Pieter Bruegel the Younger's "Snowscape" and "The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Franz von Defregger. Good value at 6s a pack. Orders should be sent to SSAFA, 27 Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, London SW1.

*Wing Band, RAF Hereford; Bugle Band of HMS Ganges; Band of the Junior Wing, Royal Marines School of Music; East Essex Wing Band, ATC; and Surrey Wing Band, ATC.*

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## D-Day bridges

To keep the record straight I would like to point out that it was not "paratroopers of the 6th Airborne Division" who captured the bridges over the Canal de Caen and River Orne on D-Day (SOLDIER, August).

The troops involved in this operation were five platoons (the sixth inadvertently landing on the wrong river) of 2nd Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (52nd Light Infantry) which at the time was a glider-borne battalion of 6th Airlanding Brigade.

Unfortunately, in the interests of security, neither the Glider Pilot Regiment nor airlanding battalions received the publicity that was their due. All too often, both during and since World War Two, did one read that paratroopers of 1st and 6th Airborne Divisions had done this and that when in fact it was glider troops of 1st and 6th airlanding brigades who had participated.

I would further like to mention that until becoming a rifle regiment, the Oxf and Bucks were the only regiment to carry the battle honour "Pegasus Bridge" on their colours. This honour is now worn on the cap badge of The Royal Green Jackets.—WO/II J A Ball, Royal Green Jackets, British Army Support Unit, Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe, BFPO 28.

## Junior Guardsmen at Ballymena

Under a new scheme, and for the first time in history, The Royal Irish Rangers Depot at St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena, is training young soldiers for the Irish Guards. The first intake was in September.

Until now the depot has provided training for recruits of The Royal Irish Rangers and young soldiers for the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, Queen's Royal Irish Hussars and the Royal Artillery.

The new scheme comes as a welcome opportunity for young Irishmen wishing to join the Irish Guards to carry out their initial training in the familiar surroundings of Northern Ireland. After training at Ballymena the boys go to the Guards Depot at Pirbright for a few weeks before joining 1st Battalion, Irish Guards.

In addition to the many skills and trades taught in a modern infantry battalion each soldier may volunteer for attachment to the Guards Independent Parachute Company or the Guards Special Air Service Squadron.

## Moving on

When I was serving in Korea there was a song called "We're Moving On." This was probably the only song that was unique to the Korean war. Although the words varied slightly according to nationality and regiment it was basically the same.

I wonder if any readers of SOLDIER could supply me with the words of this song as sung by a British battalion.—P Oxenham, 3 Sid Lane, Sidmouth, Devon.

## Recruiting posters

I was most interested in the article (June) on recruiting posters of World War One. The enclosed cigarette cards of recruiting posters were issued in 1917. I can't say if they were meant to encourage the public to join the Forces, but one can imagine the rich comments of serving soldiers at the Front if they received any in cigarette packets from home!—S Cottam, 52 Willmer Road, Birkenhead, Cheshire.

## Alex to Suez

Letters written by my grandfather when proceeding to India to join the 95th Regiment describe how he travelled from England in ss Helvetia as far as Alexandria, and from Suez in the



ss Malabar. Although he gives an interesting account of the rather uncomfortable conditions on the troopships of that day it is strange that he does not mention how the troops moved from Alex to Suez in early January 1869 for, as you know, the Suez Canal was not formally opened until 17 November 1869.

Was there a railway between the two ports or did the troops and their families have to march? If the latter it must have been one of the worst parts of the journey and, I should have thought, most "newsworthy" for his letters. Hoping you can throw some light on the subject.—J A Sturges (ex-RSM Foresters), 210 Coleridge Street, Derby DE3 7JX.

★ The Suez Canal was, as you say, formally opened on 17 November 1869. In 1858 the railway from Alexandria through Cairo to Suez was completed; presumably this was used by troops on their way to India.

In 1866 five new British troopships were built—the Crocodile, Euphrates, Jumna, Malabar and Serapis. Before the opening of the canal the Crocodile and Serapis plied between England and Alex and the other three maintained the service between Suez and Bombay. Previously most troopings were via the Cape of Good Hope, and before 1850 the great majority were by sail.

There was, of course, an overland route linking the Mediterranean and Red seas. Too cumbersome for general use, it was used by individuals, mostly officers, and detachments of a reasonable size. One such movement which took place when the Alexandria-Cairo-Suez railway was still under construction is described in "Troopships and Their History" by Colonel H C B Rogers.

It concerns a party of 235 officers and other ranks on their way to reinforce a unit in India. Their journey over the 25 miles of sandy, desert road to Suez from the point where the unfinished railway line from Cairo ended was accomplished by various modes of transport including donkeys, wagons and mules!

## Waterloo

I was wondering how long it would take before the letters started arriving about our part in the film "Waterloo" (June SOLDIER).

Let me say first of all that it was a very frustrating time for the drum-major and myself in that both of us are very interested in regimental history and everything in the particular scenes that we were filming ran nothing near authentic. In fact, had it not been for "Drummy," certain subalterns with quite large roles would have appeared on the screen improperly dressed.

To turn to Lieutenant-Colonel G I Malcolm's letter (August), several dances were performed for the producer, Sergei Bondarchuk, but he could not see past the "Argyll Broadwords." As for leaving the drums and pipes out of the scene, he wouldn't even consider it.

To add a bit of spice, it has been discovered that while filming battle scenes in Russia it was impossible to find men who could hang on to the stirrups of charging horses, so the "great man" has calmly written this famous episode out of the script!—Pipe-Maj J Kerr, 1st Bn, The Gordon Highlanders, BFPO 29.

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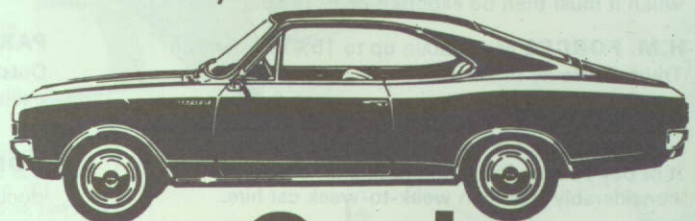
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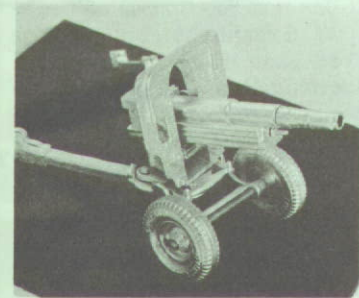
Mr K E Ford's letter (August) on the LSGC medal correctly points out that members of the Services who are invalidated out receive a silver badge for "Loyal Service." This may sound reasonable enough to him and others but I would like to point out what happened when my father died three years ago.

Within days of his death I received an official letter from the Ministry of Pensions requesting the return of his pension book and silver badge immediately. I think that asking for a badge that cost about 2s 6d to make in those days (1941 when he received it) is pretty niggardly. At least a medal is yours for good.—J Frances, (ex-Royal Fusiliers), 203 Mortlake Road, Ilford, Essex.

## Oh, dear!

Please allow me space and time to point out how true is the statement by Lieut-Col Skinner (Military Models, August) referring to the need of soldiers to recognise equipment. But alas, you have already failed because the top picture on that page shows a 105mm howitzer and not, as stated, a 25-pounder.—S/Sgt S Rankin, r Foresters, BFPO 29.

★ You have spiked our guns, Staff. The picture indeed shows a 105mm howitzer and not a 25-pounder.



## HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 27)

The two pictures differ in the following respects: 1 Shape of middle small cloud at top right. 2 Right X girder below light. 3 First "H" in "Lightship." 4 Door in fo'c's'le. 5 Number of men in helicopter. 6 Movement lines of main rotor. 7 Sky line at left horizon. 8 Shape of rudder. 9 Deck area at stern. 10 Wave lines in front of ship.



## COLLECTORS' CORNER

J A Sturges, Box 8363 Belmont, Bulawayo, Rhodesia.—Collects British Army cap, collar and shoulder titles, especially cavalry. Will purchase or exchange.

N Black, 79 Tindal Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham 12.—Seeks following British headdress badges: 3rd Carabiniers, 9th/12th Royal Lancers, 10th Royal Hussars, 16th/5th Queen's Royal Lancers, Lowland Brigade, Highland Brigade, Staffordshire Regiment; Yeomanry—Royal Wiltshire, Warwickshire & Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Ayrshire, Cheshire, Leicestershire, Queen's Own

Lowland, Pembroke, Surrey, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, Essex, Middlesex, and North Irish Horse.

G L Green, 10 Sandall Road, Ealing, London W5.—Wishes sell inter-world war military tattoo programmes, Aldershot, Tidworth, Royal Tournament etc; bound booklets, regimental tours of duty; manuals and sundry souvenir booklets. See to above address.

WOII M E Youl, 167 Eastern Road, Wahroonga 2076, NSW, Australia.—Requires worldwide hat badges, helmet plates, decorations, medals and helmets for private museum. Can offer in exchange similar items, worldwide stamps and matchbox labels. All correspondence acknowledged.

Sqn-Ldr G W Watling, 39 Kelmscott Road, London SW11.—Will purchase any type of medal or coins. Please send or describe.

M Osborne, 9 Newlands, Elmsett, Ipswich, Suffolk.—Has for disposal authentically designed large coloured transfers depicting formation sign of Combined Operations Command, Burma Chindits and Confederate Battle Flag 1863. Ideal for car display.

J Stratfull, 45 Princes Road, Romford, Essex.—Wishes locate Queen's South African campaign medal awarded to 6861 Trooper Ralph Creasy, 44 Company Imperial Yeomanry.

Lieut-Col Natale Dodoli, 76 Infantry Regiment, 33043 Cividale del Friuli, Udine, Italy.—Wishes exchange Italian Army cap badges and other items insignia, including Alpini, for British Army badges and insignia.

## REUNIONS

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First Sergeant E P José Herrera Garcés was born in 1881 in the village of Chinchá, south of Lima, the Peruvian capital. He joined the Barracks No 1 of the Artillery, Coast of Callao, in 1897, fought against Ecuador in 1910 and again in 1941 and for a short period served in the Peruvian Navy.

Today he has charge of the cleaning squad—a second sergeant and 12 soldiers—at the armoured division barracks in the Lima district of Rimac. He still wears uniform and lives in the barracks. Sergeant Garcés has become a mascot and is affectionately nicknamed "Alliance" because of his fanatical support of the Lima Alliance football club.

One of his proud memories is that for a year he had under his command "a

magnificent soldier" who became General Juan Velasco, President of the Peruvian Republic.

In 1910 Sergeant Garcés joined the Battalion of Montaña Artillery to fight against Ecuador, and in the 1941 conflict he won a medal for his foresight in saving a Peruvian Army column from ambush as it marched along a narrow forest path. In the column were a general who became Marshal of Peru and two colonels, one of whom, Colonel Manuel A Odría, became President of the Republic.

Sergeant Garcés joined the Peruvian Navy in 1921 and served in the cruiser Admiral Grau, visiting New York, Panama, Valparaíso, Buenos Aires and many American countries. After a year he asked to leave the navy "because sailing made him very seasick."

His deep-rooted affection for the Army is such that he stays in barracks even on Sundays and fiesta days in spite of having a house nearby. The quality he most admires in soldiers is that of courage.



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# BOOKS

## On Napoleon's side

"Charles Parquin" (edited by B T Jones)

Napoleon is constantly described in British histories as "ambitious, cruel, bloody-minded and ruthless." Yet to those who fought and died for him he was a wonderful hero. This was especially true for Denis-Charles Parquin whose eye-witness account of a turbulent age, first published in 1842, is now re-issued in Peter Young's Military Memoirs series.

At the age of 16, Parquin, his mind full of romantic notions of glory and in defiance of his parents' wishes, put on the black shako, green jacket and gold sash of the 20th Chasseurs. Their glamour was more than matched by their bravery and he was to see almost all his comrades killed over the next 12 years in bloody campaigns fought in Prussia, Poland, Austria, Spain, Saxony and finally in France itself.

Parquin enjoyed military life to the full—he fought four duels, enjoyed six passionate love affairs, was wounded seven times and taken prisoner twice, by Cossacks and later by Spanish guerrillas. His courage and experience gained with the sabre at Jena, Eylau, Wagram, Salamanca, Dresden and Leipzig took him up through the ranks to captain in Napoleon's mounted guards.

Although never an intellectual his memoir is made enjoyable by his frank and unpretentious style and obvious good nature. Full of *joie-de-vivre* and panache, Parquin lived to the full in the tradition of *l'esprit cavalier*.

His subsequent career was rather sad. As a devout Napoleonist he toured Europe trying to win support for Louis Napoleon and becoming involved in a second attempted coup in 1840 was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. He died there in 1845.

An excellent little book for anyone who likes a good yarn.

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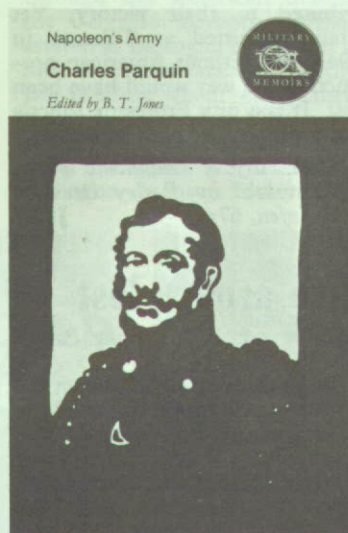
AWH

## Twice shot down

"British GI in Vietnam" (Ian Kemp)

This is a graphic story of action in Vietnam and a highly readable account of United States Army training methods.

At the age of 23 the author wished to study at an American university. When he applied for his visa he was told he would be liable to call-up on completion of his studies. He volunteered for three years, fortified by a strong and reasoned antipathy to communism and its aims.



Oddly, when he volunteered for Vietnam, he was told aliens could not serve overseas until they had been investigated by military intelligence.

After parachute training he was posted to Santo Domingo, then a Caribbean trouble spot. He wrote to President Johnson pointing out that he was now overseas. So why could he not go to Vietnam? It worked and he was posted to 101 Airborne Division, then operating in the Vietnamese jungle.

His first action was as gunner in a helicopter evacuating wounded in the face of heavy fire from an enemy who did not respect the Red Cross. His "chopper" was frequently hit and was once shot down in hostile territory.

In the following months the author fought in the jungle as an infantryman. Towards the end of his 12-month tour of duty his small patrol was surrounded and almost wiped out by a vastly superior force of North Vietnamese regulars.

For his bravery in that action he was awarded the US Silver Star and the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

He astonished his American comrades by volunteering for a second tour of duty and this time was posted to assault helicopters, constantly flying sorties in support of ground troops. Once again he was shot down.

Mr Kemp is a keen observer. He writes vividly of ambushes and patrols, of air fighting and of Viet Cong mortar and rocket attacks.

He paints an unforgettable picture of war, its hardship and danger, its squalor and its infinite sadness. And he found his dislike of communism vindicated in the struggle of the South Vietnamese people to be free from its threat.

He left Vietnam with 12 separate awards for bravery and from his experiences has produced a book which earns a place alongside those of Bernard B Fall, the late great chronicler of that troubled country.

Robert Hale, 35s

JCW

## Clontibret, Clontarf and co

"Irish Battles" (G A Hayes-McCoy)

In many a shabby street in Belfast and Glasgow you will find walls and doorways splashed with paint and, among colourful comments on the Pope and William III, always a reference to the Battle of the Boyne. The writers would find a very level-headed analysis of that battle in this volume written by one of Ireland's most distinguished military historians.

Indeed they would find detailed accounts of 14 of Ireland's some 200 battles and these set against a background of changing political situation and evolving tactics. Geography determined the sites of most of these conflicts—usually on the coasts in attempts to repulse invaders of whom there were plenty, Vikings, Normans, Scots, English, French and Spanish. None really succeeded and we find the Gaelic spirit struggling to survive and express itself century after century.

Some of the battles are well-known—Clontarf (1014) by which Brian Boru smashed the power of the Vikings; Clontibret (1595) where the musket and pike began to replace the bow and where O'Neill discovered that the English could be defeated if attacked while marching in column through bog country; Boyne (1690), significant rather than great and the slogan of fierce religious hatreds even to the present day.

Then the not so well-known—

Knockdoe (1504), where firearms were first used in Ireland; Yellow Ford (1598), where the Irish were victorious, and Kinsale (1601) where they were defeated.

This book, which covers a much neglected piece of military history, has some excellent plates of weapons, contemporary maps and sketches to explain the sequence of each battle.

Best of all are the rolling names of Ireland—Rory O'Connor of Connacht, Tiernan O'Rourke of Breifne and Owen Roe O'Neill.

Longmans, 65s

AWH

## Battle of the Bulge

"Decision at St Vith" (Charles Whiting)

This year will see the 25th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's last great surprise attack of the war on the American front in the Ardennes. This paperback deals with the first great attack of the battle on the small frontier town of St Vith.

St Vith was one of the two vital rail and roadheads (the other was Bastogne) which the Germans urgently needed if they were to get their armour to the Meuse bridges and the flat open tank country beyond.

It was defended by the newest and most inexperienced division of the whole allied front, the 106th Infantry Division, which had been in the line exactly five days.

The division surrendered most of its effectives within two days, creating what the United States official history calls "the greatest defeat of American arms of the whole campaign." But the Germans had not reckoned with the inspired leadership of the 6th Armored Division's combat commander, General Bruce Clarke, who held the town against three German divisions with a scratch force.

After several days of intense fighting, General Clarke abandoned the town at the express command of Field-Marshal Montgomery who had now taken over and wanted to "tidy up" the line.

This controversial decision and the fact that Montgomery was now commanding more American troops than any US general, resulted in a breach between the British and American military which was going to affect the remaining course of the war.

St Vith had been forgotten in favour of the successful defence of Bastogne (relieved incidentally by the then Colonel Abrams, now commander in Vietnam). This book provides a welcome balance to the many accounts of Bastogne



# BOOKS

which really played a secondary role in the battle.

It depicts the agony of Colonel Cavander surrendering his men to the Germans; the lone one-man war of Lieutenant Woods, cut off behind the German lines; the battle of Parker's Crossroads, which had to be held as the only means of escape for the retreating survivors of the defence of St Vith; it depicts too the intense in-fighting at Eisenhower's headquarters between the British and American generals.

*Ballantine Original Paperbacks, New York, 8s* **CW**

## Lend-lease

*"The Roads to Russia" (Robert Huhn Jones)*

Professor Jones takes us along a very interesting byway of history to tell the story of United States lend-lease to Russia during World War Two.

It has not been told in its entirety before and is therefore a useful addition to World War Two history.

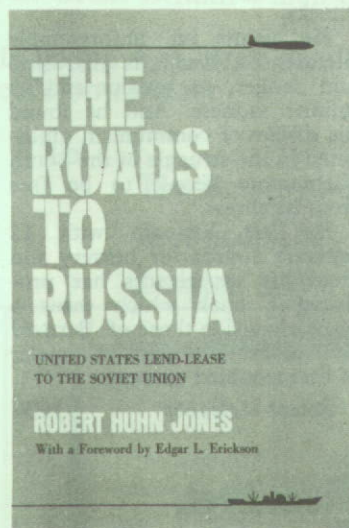
American help for Russia was on a mammoth scale. For example American factories and mills sent sufficient leather, rubber boots, cloth and blankets to clothe, boot and bed the entire Soviet army. Thousands of aircraft and tanks, medical supplies, millions of tons of food, millions of tons of ammunition were sent along the roads to Russia.

These roads were long and arduous. The shortest and most hazardous was the sea route via Iceland to Murmansk and Archangel. The longest was via the Cape of Good Hope to the Persian Gulf. These were 4500 miles and 15,000 miles respectively.

In between were the Arctic

sea route across the top of Siberia, the Pacific route from the United States western seaboard to Vladivostok, and the ALSIB route across Alaska and Siberia to European Russia.

The ALSIB route was that taken by aircraft. Aviation fuel had to be taken through the Bering Strait and along the Siberian coast, then south along the great Siberian rivers to keep the refuelling points at



Seimchan, Yakutsk and Krasnoyarsk operating.

Professor Jones shows clearly how Roosevelt's determination to aid Russia triumphed in the face of American suspicion and distrust of a communist regime which "sold out" to the Germans at Brest-Litovsk.

Then came the difficult task of establishing a workable agreement with Stalin and here the author recounts the backstage manoeuvrings of Roosevelt and men like Harry Hopkins.

Since the war Russia has never ceased to belittle lend-lease. Indeed most Russians still do not know how greatly America contributed to their victory. Yet Stalin admitted at Teheran in 1943 that without American production the war would have been lost. It is a pity Professor Jones's book will not be read in Russia.

*University of Oklahoma Press, distributed by Bailey Bros & Swinfen, 67s* **JCW**

## Five armies lost

*"Stalingrad: The Turning Point" (Geoffrey Jukes)*

Between August 1942, when the first German thrust was made at Stalingrad, and February 1943, when Paulus and his Sixth Army survivors had trudged away into captivity, Stalingrad cost the Axis forces in Russia 1,500,000 casualties in killed, wounded and missing. Five Axis armies were practically wiped out by the time the thaw arrived—all of Sixth Army, most of Fourth Panzer Army, five out of the seven divisions of the Third Rumanian Army and almost all of the Fourth Rumanian and Eighth Italian armies.

The Axis forces lost more than 3500 tanks and assault guns (about seven months' production), 12,000 guns and mortars (about six months' output) and 3000 aircraft (about four months' production).

The losses in equipment and matériel would have been sufficient to equip 75 divisions.

The removal for reburial of corpses buried in the area produced 147,200 German and 46,700 Russian dead. Of the 330,000 men surrounded in the original Stalingrad perimeter, only 91,000 marched out after

the surrender; 50,000 of these died of typhus, which was already in their ranks before the capitulation, and thousands more died on the march to labour camps in the hinterland. Only 5000 of those taken prisoner ever saw Germany again.

Statistics are always suspect in history but this brief summary from Mr Jukes's excellent Purnell Battle Book No 3 seems to accentuate the enormity of the German defeat. Mr Jukes is a specialist in Soviet affairs and military history and he gives a great deal of valuable background information which is not to be found elsewhere without considerable research. A very worthwhile effort.

*Macdonald, 8s 6d*

**JCW**

## Battle of the Bulge

*"Bastogne: The Road Block" (Peter Elstob)*

Bastogne has a population of only about 5000 and, as in most small towns, nothing much happens.

Its importance lies in its position astride an important road junction in the Ardennes where roads are few.

It assumed vital importance just before Christmas 1944 when Hitler launched his Ardennes offensive, his last desperate bid to slice the allied forces in two. He was repeating the German performance of May 1940 when the Panzer blitzkrieg led swiftly to the defeat of the French and British armies and the fall of France.

In an introduction, Captain Sir Basil Liddell Hart notes that in 1944 the Ardennes sector of the allied line was 80 miles long and manned by only four



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# BOOKS

tired divisions sent there for rest and recuperation after the autumn battles. He observes how strange it was that the Americans should have been so blind to the possibility that the Germans might try to stage their comeback through the well-tried Ardennes route.

But if the higher echelons of the American command do not come very well out of the Battle of the

Bulge, the American fighting soldier does. As Von Manteuffel's Fifth Panzer Army bored rapidly through the American defences the US 101st Airborne Division arrived at Bastogne by road in the nick of time to establish a hedgehog position which was to throw the whole German plan out of gear.

By its aggressive defence the Bastogne garrison delayed the

westward drive of the Panzer Lehr Division and the 2nd Panzer Division for three days. In the stubborn fighting which followed it tied down other German forces which were therefore not available for the main objective, the drive to the Meuse.

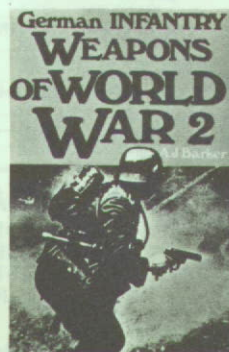
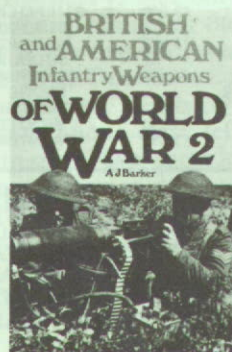
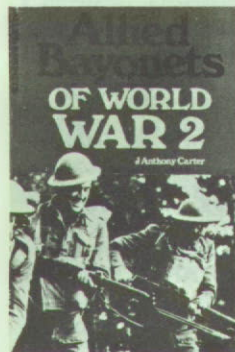
Had the Germans been able to use Bastogne by 21 December they would almost certainly have crossed the Meuse and no one knows what damage they might then have caused. The town was eventually relieved by the spearhead of Patton's Third Army pounding up from the south.

Mr Elstob traces the dramatic struggle with a graphic account which does full justice to a battle worthy of study.

This is Battle No 4 in the splendid Purnell series and, like many others, is worthy of a hardback edition.

Macdonald, 8s 6d

JCW



## Infantry weaponry

"Allied Bayonets of World War II" (J Anthony Carter)

"British and American Infantry Weapons of World War II" (A J Barker)

"German Infantry Weapons of World War II" (A J Barker)

For collectors and students of weaponry these three volumes might be regarded as treasure trove.

While collecting firearms has its problems, Mr Carter points out that all the bayonets described in his book can still be found without too much difficulty and, though bayonet prices rise year by year, they are still the cheapest branch of arms collecting.

Well illustrated, his book ranges the world with examples from Britain, the United States, Russia, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, India, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland.

In his two volumes on infantry weapons, Lieutenant-Colonel Barker covers the small arms with which the British and American footsloggers went into action and those with which their German counterparts fought back.

He shows how up to 1939 the infantry soldier was regarded as useful only with a rifle and bayonet and how, after the outbreak of war, he was required to master a wider range of arms than any other branch of the Service. In both books he describes in meticulous detail small arms ammunition, rifles and bayonets, pistols and revolvers, machine-guns, sub-machine-guns, mortars and anti-tank guns, grenades and flame-throwers.

Among the weapons of the British and American forces discussed by Colonel Barker is the M1 30-calibre Garand rifle which General George Patton described

as "the greatest battle implement ever designed." When Patton made this claim in January 1945 the United States Army was the only one in the world fully equipped with self-loading rifles. Another American item is the Thompson sub-machine-gun issued in limited numbers to British commandos early in the war. It still evokes a picture of Chicago during the prohibition era.

Discussing British bayonets, Colonel Barker recalls the Australian's disgust when issued with the spike bayonet. Those virtuosi of the bayonet charge claimed that the little spikes made them the laughing stock of the Italians. And that is how the short-bladed bayonet, which can also be used as a patrol knife, came into being.

All the famous and often envied weapons names of the German forces (Luger, Walther, Mauser, Schmeisser) are to be found in Colonel Barker's second volume, but perhaps the most intriguing item is the Krummerlauf curved barrel attachment for the MP 44 Sturmgewehr sub-machine-gun.

This weapon was designed to fire round corners (as in street fighting) and for use in tanks as a hose-pipe weapon for removing enemy infantry who had a habit of jumping aboard.

Similar circumstances a decade later in Korea resulted in the experimental resurrection of this German innovation. It is also interesting to note that the Sturmgewehr's design was not lost on the Russians. Their present automatic rifle embodies all the German gun's original characteristics.

Arms & Armour Press, 25s each

JCW

## "Land warships"

"British and German Tanks of World War I" (Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis)

Britain was the first nation to have tanks in service and in action and, apart from France who developed her own tank independently, the other nations, notably Germany and America, looked to Britain for pointers.

Indeed the Germans' operational tank strength depended to a large extent on the number of serviceable British vehicles which could be captured and German efforts at tank design and building were centred upon ideas copied from the British.

Nineteenth century science fiction writers had for years been featuring "land warships" and four or five years before the outbreak of World War One they had been studied by both the British and German high commands.

Progress was slow, but necessity is the mother of invention—and the prime necessity of the 1914-18 period was to overcome the stalemate of trench warfare. The first British tanks chugged into action at Flers-Courcellette on 15 September 1916 and though their debut was not a shattering success it showed the way for the swift developments which were to follow.

Britain had some 2000 tanks in service by the end of the war; Germany did not get any into the field until March 1918 and then only in modest numbers. It is irksome to consider that with such a lead Britain should have fallen so far behind in 1939.

The authors produce a comprehensive but concise survey of the origin and development of tanks in World War One which should be of value to all students of armour.

Arms & Armour Press, 25s JCW

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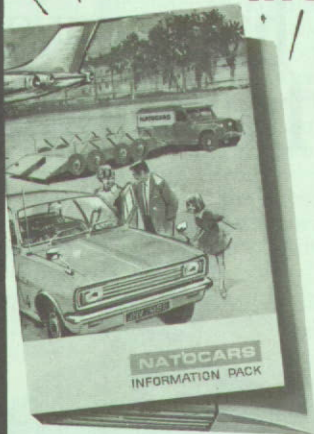
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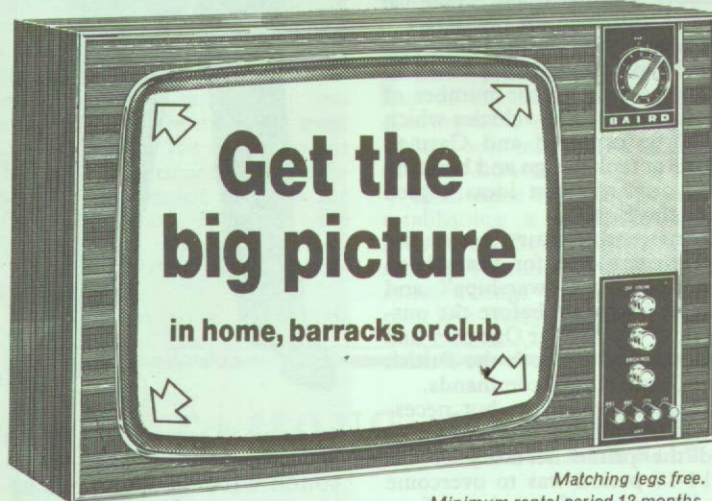
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# PURELY PERSONAL

## Kyrenia Colleen

Things are going swimmingly for **Lance-Corporal Dorothy Killberry**. Not only is she spending her first trip abroad in the Cyprus sunshine, but is the first girl ever to be attached to the Irish Guards—as a diving instructress. Corporal Killberry, member of a London sub-aqua club, left home in Hornchurch to spend five weeks in Kyrenia teaching the guardsmen how to use shallow water diving equipment. But there is no flippancy. For 20-year-old Dorothy serves with the Women's Royal Army Corps contingent of the Royal Military Police.



## Master-at-arms

When it comes to fencing, **Sergeant Yusof bin Hussein** has the edge on other competitors. Sergeant Hussein, a physical training instructor with the British Army at the Far East Training Centre, is again the Far East Land Forces "Champion-at-Arms." He won first place in the foil and third places in both the sabre and épée at the three-day championships at Nee Soon. In 1967 he won all three competitions.



## Airman Ian

**Private Ian Davison**, 16 Battalion, Royal Army Ordnance Corps, is in high spirits. For Ian, whose parents run a pub in Redcar, has qualified as a solo glider pilot. He is pictured (left) being presented with his wings by his commanding officer, **Lieutenant-Colonel K F Holtby**. Private Davison has trained for 11 months, completing 91 launches in five different types of glider, at the Royal Air Force Gliding and Soaring Centre at Bicester, Oxfordshire.

## Farewell air

Scottish pipers have no dearth of weapons—a dirk worn on the belt and a *skean dhu* in the sock. But **Corporal Iain Morrison**, a piper of The Queen's Own Highlanders, recently added to his armoury a *kukri*, bearing a silver crest of the Royal crown of Nepal and badge of the Gurkha Signals. It was awarded to him for his bagpipe composition "The Gurkha Signals' Farewell to Serenbam." The tune commemorates the Gurkha Signals' departure from Serenbam after 20 years and it will be adopted by their pipe band. Corporal Morrison's tune—his first to be published—won the contest at the Army School of Piping in Edinburgh Castle. He was presented with the *kukri* by **Brigadier W P W Robertson**, deputising for **Major-General P E M Bradley**, colonel of the Gurkha Signals. Brigadier Robertson commanded the Gurkha Signals in 1965.



## Harmonious Marriage

Passing the baton—from **Warrant Officer I Robert Smith** to his wife, **Captain Zara Bowness Smith**. He is Bandmaster of 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, and she is Director of Music of the Women's Royal Army Corps. They were rehearsing a concert—said to

be unique in the history of music—when the two bands would be performing together with husband and wife taking it in turn to conduct. The couple, who were married in May, met while they were studying at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.



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Send your solution (quotation and author) on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 138" label from this page, and your name and address, to:

**Editor (Comp 138)**  
**SOLDIER**  
**433 Holloway Road**  
**London N7.**

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday, 9 February 1970. The answer and winners' names will appear in the April SOLDIER. More than one entry can be submitted but each must be accompanied by a "Competition 138" label. Entries using OHMS envelopes or official pre-paid labels will be disqualified.

Winners will be drawn by lots from correct solutions.

## ACROSTIC CLUES

- A** (left) Jump to it and begin here  
(right) Penniless relations in a short way
- B** Mistress held the soldier's thread ...
- C** (left) ... but not for stringing these  
(right) Amorous utensil
- D** Municipal office
- E** (left) Blown to produce groan  
(right) Nip and it's ...
- F** ... this a new round pile
- G** (left) Went ahead in a steamship, on runners  
(right) Turn keen to concur

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A	S	T	A	R	T						
B											
C							B	E	A	N	S
D											
E	P	I	N	C	H						
F											
G							A	G	R	E	E

E5 H	B7	A5 T	C5	D6	E10	F9	A3	D2	F6 A	A8	D9	B5	E2 I	G2			
E7	D5	G10 E	B4	C1	F2	B3	G7 A	B10	E8	B8	C2	B2	A7	F4	G4		
A11	C7 B	G9 R	B6	D8	C10 N	A9	G5	E3 N	F8	D3	D10	F10	C8 E	E1 P	A10	F5	G8 G
G3	E4	F3	E11	F7	G11 E	B9	C11 S	D7	D4	E9	C4	A1 S	C3	A2 T	G1	A4 R	

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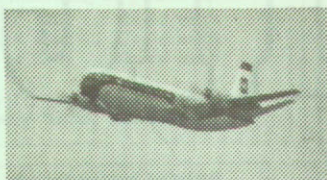
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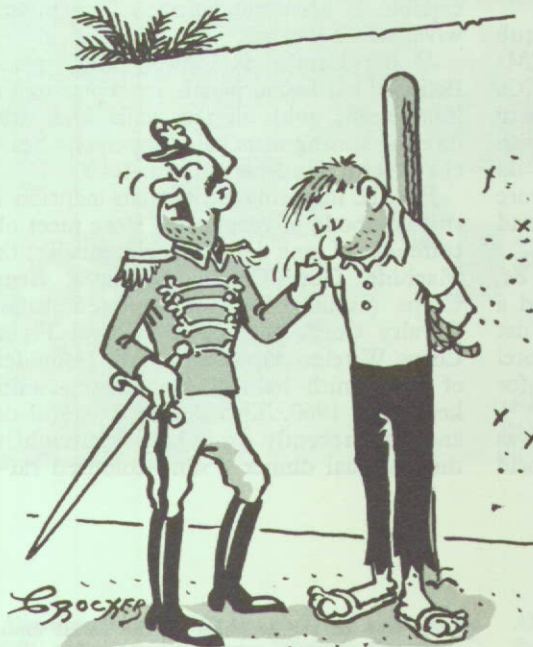


"Look, dear, how many times have I asked you not to phone me here!"

# Humour



"Let's go this way—it's prettier."



"Wait a minute—he's fallen asleep again!"



"Yes, that's lovely, dear, so you've found another shell?"



# BROTHERS IN ARMCHAIRS



**S**URROUNDED by dramatic paintings of historic battles, under soft lights, to the restrained ticking of a grandfather clock, veterans of two world wars still fight it out—with chessmen, billiard cues and dominoes.

The scene is the Victory Ex-Services Club in London's Seymour Street. It is an exclusive West End club where men and women who have braved the trauma of war and undergone the discipline of uniform can relax, and eat and sleep in carefree comfort.

Here ex-National Servicemen may rub shoulders with Chelsea pensioners; MMs from the Battle of the Marne meet DFCs of the Battle of Britain; and women decorated for bravery in the blitz mix with holders of the Victoria Cross. But they do not talk much about the past; more popular topics are the weather, sport and current affairs.

Prices are modest too. Lunch is 8s, dinner 9s, breakfast 3s 9d or 5s 6d and a bed for the night costs from 6s to £1. Just round the corner at the Cumberland Hotel in Oxford Street they charge £5 10s for bed and breakfast.

The Victory Club opened its doors as the Veterans Club in 1907. After World

War One the name was changed to the Allenby Club when Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby became president. It was twice blitzed in World War Two, but it never closed. In 1944 it became the Victory Club.

Club premises were in the City of London and Hand Court, Holborn, before moving to Seymour Street in 1948. Six years later work was begun on a contemporary extension and the foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Edinburgh. Today there are nearly 300 bedrooms capable of accommodating 380 members, wives and husbands.

Modernisation is now taking place. Polished hardwood panels are replacing the lime-green, gold filigree walls and deep interior-sprung armchairs supersede heavy chairs with hand-carved arm-rests.

But the imposing Edwardian mansion is still an abode of memories. Here meet old comrades of long defunct regiments like the Machine Gun Corps, Women's Army Corps (India), Ceylon Mounted Rifles, Cavalry Corps Signals and Royal Flying Corps Wireless Operators. The Defenders of Ladysmith held their annual reunion here until 1960. The Desert Rats still do, and until recently a zoo keeper brought to their annual dinner a sand-coloured rat—

which sat in the centre of the table eating lettuce.

It is a venue for the Military Medallists League, whose members include holders of the Victoria Cross, the George Cross and other gallantry awards. At their membership enrolment ceremony, a silk standard is raised, one of the vice-presidents calls out "Old guard, attention," and the recruit is received into the league fraternity with the title of "brother."

Attendances at reunions have dwindled in recent years. In 1966 it was 12,500, in 1967 10,800 and last year 7500. Membership too was hit this year, when the club increased its annual subscription from £1 to £1 10s, dropping from 36,000 to 33,000. Now it is faced with a decreasing membership potential because of defence cuts and ageing of veterans of the two world wars.

Anyone who has served with the armed forces of Britain, the Commonwealth and the allies is eligible to join. There are even a few Americans, French, Dutch, Norwegians, Czechs and Poles. Wives and husbands can be family members. Serving soldiers, sailors and airmen are normally barred but there is a case of an Army officer who joined because his wife (ex-ATS) was a member.

Because the club does not cater for current members of the Forces, it does not have the status of a charity and thus cannot claim a reduction in Selective Employment Tax unlike the Chevrans Club (see SOLDIER April 1969). However, by careful management, it is able to maintain a slight profit margin.

Nearly £2000 was spent on welfare in the last financial year. The club dealt with 413 cases which included granting £5 a month to a widow with seven children and paying for a television licence for another widow too infirm to go out often.

The club has been helped by donations from many sources. Funds have been raised at an international fair at St James's Palace and at premières of "Porgy and Bess" and a Disney cartoon. Regimental associations, organisations like the Women's Royal Voluntary Services and Football Association, and individuals such as Earl Mountbatten of Burma and General Smuts, who have given money, have had their name plaques put on bedroom doors.

Anyone allotted Number 256 will be staying in the Prime Minister's Room. It commemorates money raised at a 10 Downing Street garden party in 1950 run by Mr and Mrs Clement Attlee.

Top right: A royal dub with a wooden gavel and the foundation stone of the memorial wing is fixed in place. The date was 5 November 1954. Two years later His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh became the club's patron-in-chief.

Above centre: In 1951 the club was a venue for BBC radio's parlour game "Twenty Questions." The panel include Richard Dimbleby, Joy Adams, Jack Train and Anona Wynn. One of the topical brain teasers was "The eightpenny meat ration."

Above: From a room at the top—a view of Hyde Park and Park Lane. Yet at the Victory Club you can get a bed for the night for as little as six shillings, egg and chips for one and nine and an egg-and-tomato roll for ninepence.

Left: One of the trophies in the small dining room—George III's coat of arms from his yacht Royal Sovereign. The yacht, launched in 1804, took Louis (later Louis XVIII) to France to become king after the abdication of Napoleon.

Above left: A warm smile of welcome from behind the reception desk. The club has a staff of 80. Above: Brothers in armchairs in the main lounge. Here they can read, play chess, cribbage and dominoes—or fall asleep behind the newspapers.





**SOLDIER**

