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SOLDIER

NOVEMBER 1970 Volume 26, No. 11

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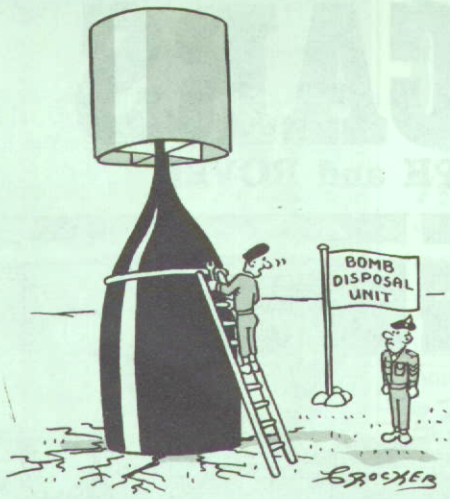

"Fetch me some ear-plugs—just in case!"

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See-the-Army DIARY

In this regular feature SOLDIER keeps you up-to-date on tattoos, open days, exhibitions, at homes, Army displays and similar occasions on which the public is welcome to see the Army's men and equipment.

Amendments and additions to previous lists are indicated in bold type.

NOVEMBER 1970

7 British Legion Festival of Remembrance, Royal Albert Hall, London.
8 Remembrance parades, London, Bristol, Chester, Cardiff, Manchester.
8 Royal Artillery ceremony of remembrance, Hyde Park, London.
14 Lord Mayor's Show, London (7 bands).

APRIL 1971

25 **Open day, Women's Royal Army Corps Centre, Guildford.**

MAY 1971

19 Army recruiting display, Shrewsbury (19-20 May).

JUNE 1971

5 Trooping the Colour second rehearsal, Horse Guards Parade, London.
5 Army recruiting display, Nuneaton (5-6 June).
7 Scottish Division massed pipes, Horse Guards Parade, London.
9 Royal Tournament, Earls Court, London (9-26 June).
11 Army recruiting display, Leigh, Lancashire (11-12 June).
12 Trooping the Colour, Horse Guards Parade, London.

JULY 1971

Opening of National Army Museum.
3 **Battle of the Bands, (Military Music Pageant) Wembley Stadium.**
10 **Aldershot Army display (10-11 July). (NOT 10-11 June).**
14 Army recruiting display, Birmingham.
15 Army recruiting display, Liverpool (15-17 July).
21 Army recruiting display, Stoke-on-Trent.
22 Army recruiting display, Manchester (22-24 July).
30 Cardiff tattoo (30 July-7 August).

AUGUST 1971

20 Edinburgh tattoo (20 August-11 September).

SEPTEMBER 1971

2 Army recruiting display, Blackburn (2-4 September).
11 York tattoo: 1900th anniversary of York (11-18 September).
24 Berlin tattoo (24-25 September).
24 Military band festival, Berne (24-26 September).

JOBFINDER

ALSO ON PAGES
7, 10, 28, 34, 36, 37, 38, & 40

British Army headdress

Officer's hussar busby 1900

Pattern sealed 12 November 1887

The hussar busby first came into use in the British Army about 1807 and was worn by regiments converted from light dragoons to hussars although certain regiments adopted the shako due to the frailty of the busby.

The 1887 pattern differed from that first introduced by being lower in the crown. Its body was made of black sable and measured 6¼ inches high in the front and 7¾ inches at the back. The front was ornamented with a gold gimp oval boss 2 inches deep and 1½ inches wide which was fixed on a level with the top of the busby.

A cloth bag, which fitted into an inset in the top of the busby, hung down on the right-hand side and was ornamented with a line of gold Russia braid along the outside seam and down the centre. At the junction of the lines of braid there was a gold gimp button.

The plume, fitting behind the boss, was of ostrich feathers measuring 15 inches from the top of the busby to the top of the plume and had a gilt metal ring encircling it about half-way up. At the base of the plume was a ring of vulture feathers and a corded gilt ball socket with four upright leaves.

Colours of the plumes and bags were; 3rd—garter blue bag and white plume; 4th—yellow bag and scarlet plume; 7th—scarlet bag and white plume; 8th—scarlet bag and white-over-red plume; 10th—scarlet bag and white-over-black plume; 11th—crimson bag and white-over-crimson plume; 13th—buff bag and white plume; 14th—yellow bag and white plume; 15th—scarlet bag and scarlet plume; 18th—blue bag and white-over-scarlet plume; 19th—white bag and white plume; 20th—crimson bag and yellow plume.

Gold purl cap lines were worn by all hussar regiments except for the 11th Hussars, who wore plaited lines, and the 15th Hussars who wore no lines at all. The chin chain was of interlocking corded gilt rings backed with leather and velvet. There was a gilt hook at the top right of the busby to hook up the chain when not required to be worn under the chin.

C Wilkinson-Latham

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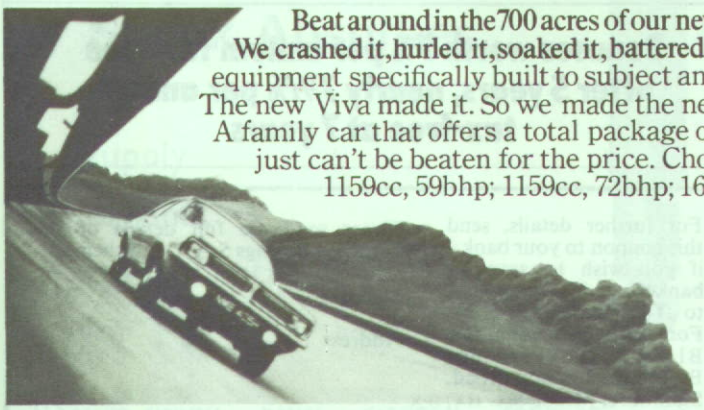

In Western Germany contact: Egbert Menke, 4050-Moenchengladbach-Rheindahlen, Erkelenzerstr. 8. Tel: 02161/29091.
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Kerr Motors, 4800 Bielefeld, Herforder Str. 101/103. Tel: 0521/67867.
Neotechnik, Goethe & Prior, 4800 Bielefeld, Herforder Str. 110/114, Tel: 0521/61637. Telex: 0932513.
Schwarzwald-Auto, 7630 Lahr, Offenburger Strasse 5. Tel: 07821/2378.
Wichmann & Co., 1000 Berlin-31, Wilhelmsaue 39/41, Tel: 0311/862350. Telex: 0183501.

Military mascots

Wojtek the 'Little soldier'

IT seemed like a mirage amidst the smoke and dust of the Battle of Monte Cassino. Yet the English corporal quite clearly saw a big brown bear helping a squad of soldiers to unload crates of 25-pounder shells, then pause to climb a tree as if to observe enemy artillery fire.

And the squad sergeant's matter-of-fact reply did little to alleviate his astonishment: "Ah, that's Wojtek. Always grabbing the limelight." Wojtek was a living legend. He accompanied his unit, 22nd Company, Polish Army Service Corps (Artillery), over the high mountains of Persia, through Syria and Lebanon, across the deserts of Iraq, Jordan and Egypt, and into action in the rocky hills of Italy.

The motif of a bear carrying a shell against a steering wheel was adopted as the unit hat badge and vehicle crest.

Wojtek shared a similar background with his masters. They were Polish expatriates, cut off from their homes and families, fighting on the side of the allies. The bear was orphaned at a few months old when his mother was killed by hunters. He was bought from a Persian peasant boy for a couple of low-denomination banknotes, an army penknife, a bar of chocolate and a tin of meat. He was taken on strength and named Wojtek (pronounced Voytek), Polish for "little soldier".

His most infamous misdeed was to tangle with a women's signal company, or at least with their washing line. He wound some bright, frilly garments round himself and marched along with the rest of the line as if he was trooping the colour.

Wojtek made up for this disgrace by "capturing" an Arab terrorist. During the hot season in the desert in Iraq, he found out how to operate the showers by pulling a chain and used to sneak into the bath-house when the camp was asleep. Early one morning he surprised the Arab who had broken in there. His screams awoke the soldiers and he confessed that he was a scout for a raiding party—and would reveal all if not thrown to the bear.

The "little soldier" was growing up. He was only two years old but stood six feet tall, weighed 200 pounds and could lift a man like a mechanical grab or crush him like a steel vice. Wrestling was his favourite pastime. Once he taught an over enthusiastic opponent a lesson by pulling off his trousers and holding him upside down. Then he beamed and bowed to the cheering crowd like a circus star.

The war over, Wojtek sailed to Britain with his unit, to a camp near Berwick-on-Tweed, where he (pictured there, above) soon settled down and even helped out by carrying logs, moving crates and rolling barrels. Soon his fame spread and news-papermen wrote about his exploits and took his picture. Eventually he was "demobbed" and found a home in the brown bear enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo where he died, at the ripe age of 22, in 1963. Wojtek's is told in "Soldier Bear" by Geoffrey Morgan and W A Lasocki, recently published by Collins at £1 5s.

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Air Support Command

PART 2

Story by George Hogan

A NOBLE PAIR OF BROTHERS

A second drop quickly follows the first at the Royal review of 16 Para Brigade at Aldershot.

IN 1951 the Royal Navy moved 16 Independent Parachute Brigade Group to Cyprus, staging for Egypt. The facility for air movement associated today with parachute troops was not then available and the soldiers missed the training that an air lift would have afforded.

The previous year, men of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were flown in Hastings aircraft from Britain to reinforce 27 Infantry Brigade fighting in Korea. The journey took eight days.

Today it is normal practice for all troops to move by air and Royal Air Force Air Support Command regularly flies VC10 aircraft the 8865 miles from Brize Norton via Singapore to Hong Kong in less than a day. The same aircraft can reach Cyprus in four-and-a-half hours and can carry 150 troops. The Belfast freighter flies regularly to the Far East with huge cargo loads and can if necessary carry 150 fully armed men.

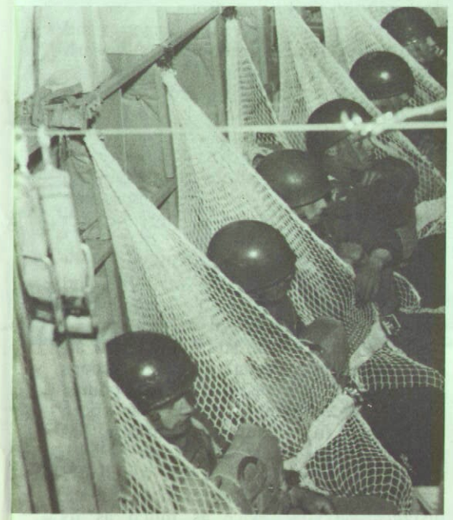
These are the command's long range aircraft which can be reinforced by Comets and augmented by Britannias and Hercules to carry troops, stores, vehicles, light guns and helicopters and set them down nearly half the world away in less time than it takes the ordinary individual to travel by car and steamer from London to Londonderry. Using eight VC10s, Air Support Command can lift 4000 men to the Far East in a week.

Within the command, 38 Group operates a force of Hercules, Argosy and Andover aircraft, Wessex and Whirlwind helicopters which can place troops tactically in the field by airlanding and airdropping, keep them supplied and re-deploy them as necessary.

There are seven Army officers on the staff of 38 Group headquarters at Odiham, Hampshire, and Royal Air Force officers at the headquarters of Strategic Command and 3 Division. There is a close liaison between the three headquarters which makes full use of the expertise, technical knowledge and close contacts of the staff officers within their own services. This ensures rapid and authoritative answers to all inter-service questions.

The same system applies to officers of the Royal Navy. The close co-operation that this produces between the three services provides effective efficient action in

Abbot, one of the largest and heaviest fighting vehicles, easily fits into the Belfast freighter.



Troop trials in a Beverley in 1956. The plane could carry 94 fully equipped men 1200 miles.

The Hercules came into service in 1967 and its versatility increases the power of 38 Group.

Below: Pilot's view as Argosy lands at Jamaica en route to British Honduras with relief troops.

Above: A Saladin armoured car of 5th Royal Tank Regiment loads into a Hercules at RAF Lyneham.
Below: A Wessex helicopter of 72 Squadron in Norway during NATO exercise Arctic Express 1970.

Below: The main fuselage of the Beverley could take 48 stretcher cases. The Hercules can carry 93.

every operational commitment and swift reaction and movement.

It is essential that an emergency force be ready to move fast to a sensitive area. Both 3 Division and 38 Group are keyed to achieve this and their intimate co-operation ensures that troop formations can be in the air within hours of a political decision to act.

When troops are flown overseas for operations or peacetime exercises an airhead is formed near the sensitive area from which 38 Group can move formations tactically into the battle or operational area. An air transport operations centre is first set up which comprises about 15 officers and airmen under a senior Royal Air Force officer. Army representatives include an officer from 14 Air Despatch Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, and signallers of 244 Signal Squadron (Air Support), Royal Corps of Signals. The ATOC can form part of a joint force headquarters for 38 Group and 3 Division.

The air despatch regiment has its headquarters at RAF Odiham, with 47 AD Squadron at Lyneham and 22 AD Squadron at Thorney Island, while 244 Signal Squadron is based at RAF Tangmere.

Army air transport liaison officers live and work on Royal Air Force stations of Air Support Command and there are Army ground liaison officers with helicopter and close-support strike squadrons.

From the airhead Hercules, Argosies and Andovers lift the troops and stores forward and set them down on improvised airfields. They keep formations supplied in the field by using airstrips and by parachute dropping. Wessex and Whirlwind helicopters also are used for this purpose. 38 Group can drop parachute troops and also controls a force of Phantom fighters and jump-jet Harriers acting as close-support strike aircraft.

The military force is therefore not confined to a static front and long land lines of communication. 38 Group transport aircraft can swiftly re-deploy them and re-supply them and in addition provide air cover with strike aircraft. Parachute troops can quickly be dropped to seize vital points.

The re-equipment which has been taking place in Air Support Command has replaced the Hastings and Beverley with the versatile Hercules C 130K which can fly about twice as fast over twice the distance carrying twice as much as its predecessors. By the end of this year four squadrons will be based at Lyneham which has handed over its scheduled service role to Brize Norton and is expanding as the main base for 38 Group's tactical fleet.

The supersonic Phantom FGR Mk2 which has replaced the Hunter is probably the world's most versatile warplane and can be used for reconnaissance and interception as well as carrying an impressive varied load for strike purposes.

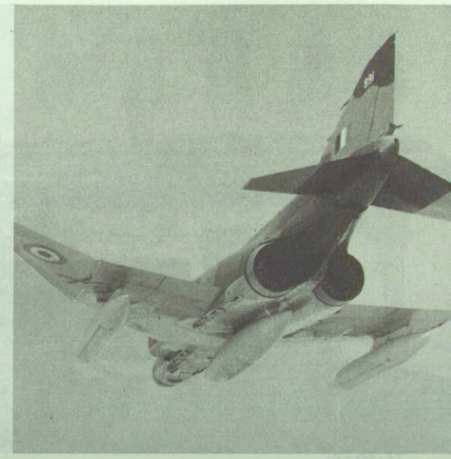
The Harrier with its vertical take-off and landing ability is the first combat aircraft of its type to enter service in the world. It is better armed than the Hunter and can react more quickly to requests for assistance than any previous ground attack aircraft. It can also be used well forward—perhaps at brigade level—requiring no runway and only a small clearing for concealment.

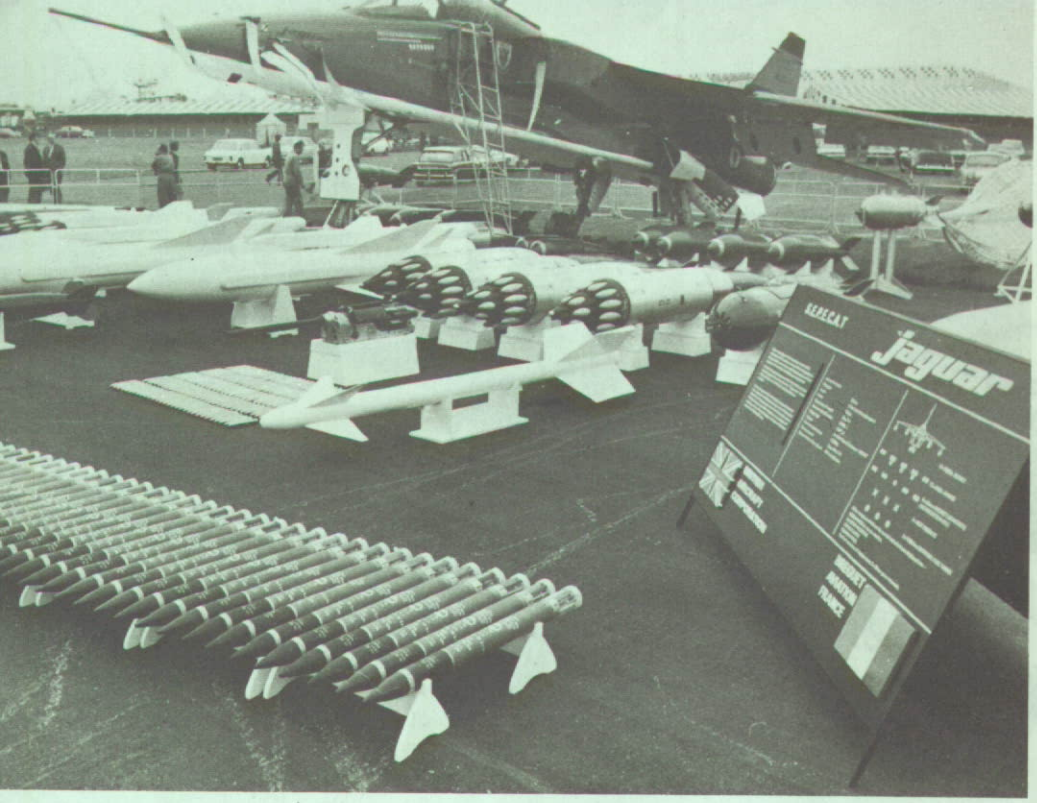
Expected in the near future are the

Exercise Unison on Salisbury Plain demonstrated how closely RAF helicopters can support troops.

Left: The Harrier needs no airstrip and a few trees will conceal it. It is fast and fierce.

Below: The supersonic Phantom can intercept as well as strike and is useful for reconnaissance.





Above: The Anglo-French Jaguar, coming into service soon, with impressive display of armament. Below: Puma, due early, will further improve the speed, range and capacity of RAF helicopters.

Below: A VC10, one of the planes that flew stores to Antigua to support the Anguilla operation.

Anglo-French Jaguar strike aircraft which can be easily maintained in the field and the Puma helicopter with its increased capacity, speed and range.

Last year Air Support Command flew 80,000 troops on exercises and operations, including Anguilla and Northern Ireland—this in addition to 358,000 passengers, including families carried on regular scheduled services. Helicopters of 38 Group lifted more than 109,000 men and nearly 3000 tons of cargo. Parachute descents from 38 Group aircraft totalled about 27,000 plus 214 tons of cargo.

Today the Army moves fast in emergency. There is plenty of joint training with 38 Group which this year included the five-nation Far East exercise Bersatu Padu. In this 4500 soldiers were lifted from England to Malaysia and back again together with their vehicles, stores, howitzers and helicopters and were supported in the field for six weeks.

This is the pattern of the Army today—get there fast and act quickly. It is possible only with the close co-operation of Air Support Command cemented by the affinity built up over the years between 3 Division and 38 Group. Appropriately the command's motto is *Ferio ferendo* (I strike by carrying). 38 Group, so closely associated with 3 Division, proudly bears *Par nobile fratrum* (A noble pair of brothers.)

FRONT COVER

Tanks roaring into action, guns blasting the enemy, vast military parades, cap badges and historical uniforms—all have been popular and colourful subjects for postage stamps in many countries.

A £1 orange Gibraltar of 1960 was the work of a Sergeant T A Griffiths, probably the only serving soldier to have designed a stamp. A former Regular officer, Major A C Davidson-Houston, painted a portrait of the Queen in 1956 for The Royal Welch Fusiliers which was later reproduced on stamps of the West Indian island of St Lucia. Former National Service sergeant David Gentleman, onetime instructor in the art department at the Army School of Education at Bodmin, is now a leading British stamp designer. He was responsible for the Concorde commemorative set.

Britain itself did not even issue stamps with a military motif in wartime. But it is a different story in the Commonwealth, as can be seen from this month's cover.

The Falkland Islands celebrate the 60th anniversary of their Defence Force. During the naval battle of the Falklands in 1914 they patrolled on horseback and made preparations for the possible evacuation of the capital, Stanley. Conscription was introduced in World War Two with the maximum age limit raised from 48 to 51. The present force is trained by Royal Marines seconded from Britain.

Gibraltar commemorates British regiments which have served on the Rock. Among them are the Royal Artillery who took a prominent part in the sieges of the 18th century, the Royal Engineers, born there in 1772 as the Company of Soldier Artificers, and The Royal Anglian Regiment whose badge incorporates the Arms of Gibraltar.

St Helena presents a set of historical army uniforms. The 6d value shows an 1815 warrant officer and drummer of the 53rd Foot, later The King's Shropshire Light Infantry; the 8d is of a surgeon and officer of 20th Foot (now 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers); the 1s 8d is an officer of the Royal Artillery and drum-major of the 66th Foot (The Berkshire Regiment) and the 2s 6d is a second-corporal of The Royal Sappers and Miners and private of 91st Foot (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders).

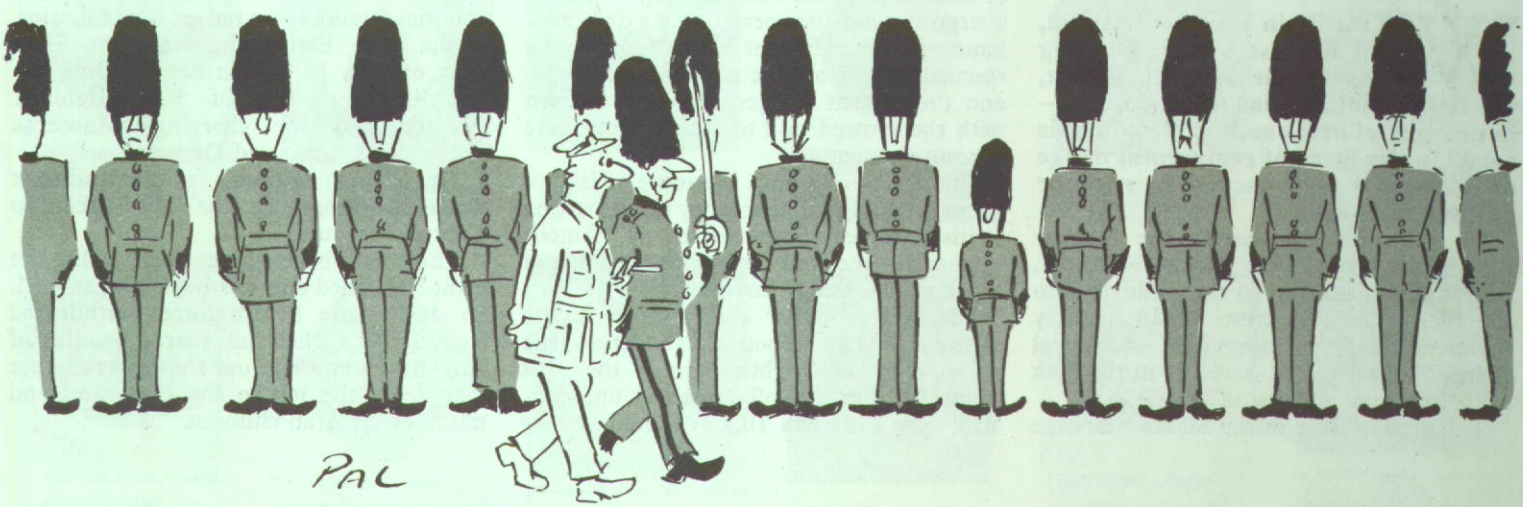
These three sets have been issued during the past year.

HUMOUR

"English soccer club on the 'phone, Sir. Can you spare a few CS gas canisters for next Saturday?"

" I want to get into those Army commercials on TV."

" I've already been done!"



" We have him in there to relieve the monotony."

TOMMY ATKINS
passed this way

WHETHER in Europe or India, the Far East or the burning sands of the African desert, the British soldier has left his mark—in prowess of arms and by "leaving his card" in the form of regimental badge or divisional sign carved in rock or painted on a wall.

On the cliffs overlooking the Khyber Pass in the North-West Frontier of India, British regiments carved their badges into the rock face. The crests of 18 infantry regiments and the insignia of the Royal Army Medical Corps were cut in the rock at the one-time outpost of Cherat.

A barren hillside in the Sudan bears the insignia of famous regiments of line whose battalions saw service in this region of scorching sun and arid land. The great Kiwi emblem of the New Zealanders, cut in World War One, looks out from a silent slope on Salisbury Plain.

More than 50 years ago nine badges were carved on another Wiltshire hillside by restless young soldiers waiting to cross the Channel to serve "King and Country." The badges appeared after three villages—Fovant, Compton Chamberlayne and Sutton Mandeville—were taken over to be used as a huge training camp. In the course of time some of the smaller badges became overgrown and disappeared, but a dedicated band of former Fovant Home Guardsmen rescued them from the ravages of nature—and the Fovant Badges Society was born with the avowed task of maintaining these unique mementoes.

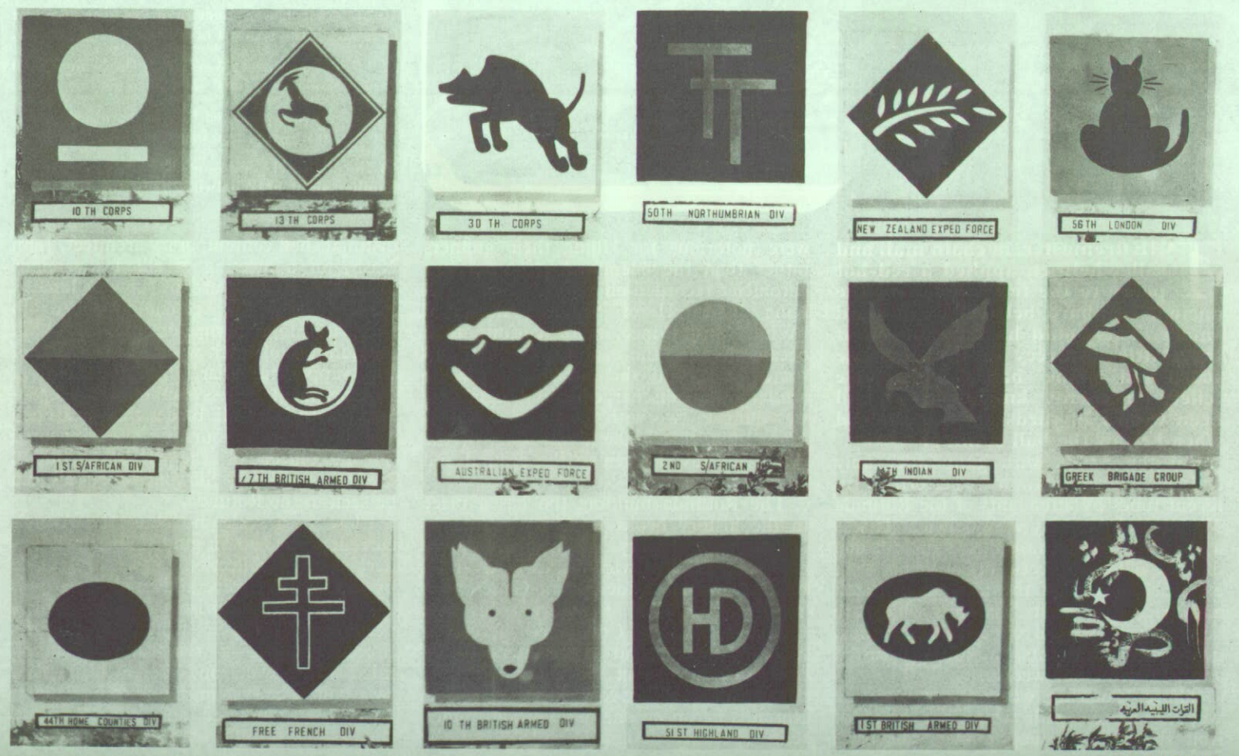
But at Tobruk, once the scene of Eighth Army's triumphal liberation, the departing British forces have erased a famous memorial—the wall bearing the insignia of those gallant desert divisions.

Flanked at either end by the Eighth Army campaign ribbon and the Crusader's cross sign of Eighth Army, the first painting from the left remained unidentified. The next was 10 Corps followed by the leaping red gazelle of 13 Corps, the black charging boar of 30 Corps, two red Ts for Tyne and Tees of 50th Northumbrian Division, the fern leaf of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, the black cat set on a red background of 58th London Division, the yellow-and-green divided diamond of 1st South African Division, the famous desert rat of 7th Armoured Division, the boomerang of the Australian Expeditionary Force, the halved yellow-and-green circle of 2nd South African Division, the red eagle of 4th Indian Division, the Greek Brigade Corps, the scarlet oval of 44th Home Counties Division, the red cross of Lorraine of the Free French Division, the fox's mask of 10th British Armoured Division, the distinctive HD of 51st Highland Division and the charging rhinoceros badge of 1st Armoured Division.

The badges had been a familiar landmark to troops tramping the hot street to Tobruk harbour.

They had been there since 1943, the paint had faded and was beginning to peel. So during the British forces withdrawal from Libya earlier this year a handful of airmen whitewashed out the badges rather than leave the job to the sun, sand and mischievous Arab children.

Above: The wall of honour, Tobruk. Right: The sequence of badges, with the unidentified one last. Few reminders of the British presence now remain.



1 Rotunda attendants fire the bombard. It gave us present Royal Artillery rank of bombardier.

2 With a flash and a swoosh a Congreve rocket is fired by the RHA on Plumstead Marshes, 1845.

3 Doing it in style. Battery of 13-inch mortars, 1845. Models of them are in the Rotunda Museum.

4 Shattered wheels but steady nerves at Néry, 1914. 'L' Battery survivors serve the last gun.

5 Funeral gun carriage that bore the remains of Queen Victoria in 1901 and Edward VII in 1910.

6 Kipling's screw gun. Barrel unscrewed in two. Carried in pieces by five mules over mountains.

7 Smooth-bore muzzle-loaders. Once they shot forth fury. Now they just nestle in the grass.

The guns that now lie silent

Story by Hugh Howton

8 Squat 5½-inch howitzer on a wooden carriage. They pounded the French at Battle of Waterloo.

9 17-pounder anti-tank gun of World War Two. It punched holes in Nazi panzers at up to 3000 yards.

10 Guns which were once fired in anger now rest in peace in the shadow of the trees at Woolwich.

11 4.5-inch howitzer, World War One, range 7300 yards. Fired over hills 18-pdr could not reach.

12 Dragon that breathed fire. Elaborate Burmese gun which was captured from palace in Mandalay.

13 The distinctive curves of the Rotunda Museum, familiar sight at Woolwich SE18 for 150 years.

THE firemaster, in chain mail and sallet helmet, applied a red-hot poker to the touch hole and the ancient bombard belched flames and smoke. This could have happened at the Battle of Crécy in 1346 and the 160-pound stone ball might have felled an enemy knight—if he had been within 70 yards and not dodged when he saw the ball coming.

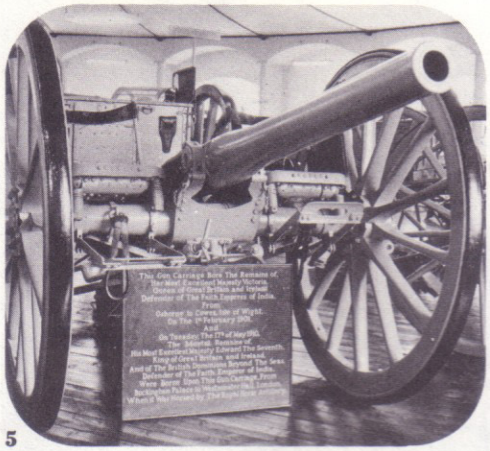
But this firing, with gunpowder only and no stone shot, was performed in recent times by attendants of the Rotunda Museum of Artillery at Woolwich. It was a rare occasion because this bombard, one of the oldest "pieces of ordnance" in existence, is one of the museum's prized and priceless exhibits. Exhibits which are kept in glass cases and roped-off compounds, guarded by attendants, and lovingly dusted and polished twice weekly.

Those ancient weapons, built like wooden barrels with white hot rings of iron shrunk over longitudinal iron bars, were notorious for killing their gunners rather than the enemy. A contemporary chronicler recorded an accident that befell King James II of Scotland in 1460: "While this Prince, more curious than became him, or the majesty of a king, did stand near hand the gunners when the artillery was discharged, his thigh-bone was dung in two with the piece of a mis-framed gun that brake in shooting, by the which he was stricken to the ground and died hastily."

The Rotunda building too has a place in the history books for this year marks its 150th anniversary. Artillery items were exhibited at Woolwich as early as 1778 by Captain (later Lieutenant-General Sir William) Congreve. But it was his son, Colonel Sir William Congreve—succeeding him as the second Superintendent of Military Machines at Woolwich in 1814—who was responsible for the Rotunda. The Rotunda had been one of six wood-framed tents specially designed in 1814 by the distinguished contemporary architect, John Nash, for a meeting of allied sovereigns in Carlton House Gardens (now St James's Park). Nash was re-commissioned to make it into a permanent building with the addition of brick walls and a lead roof with supporting pillar.

Experimental glass cannonballs, a projectile with jackknife blades that flick open after firing and a bursting shell invented by an officer of the Royal Artillery, Lieutenant Henry Shrapnel . . . all can be seen in the Rotunda.

Close to a scale model of the Army's current ground-to-air guided missile Thunderbird is a collection of rockets made by Colonel Congreve and used as early as 1815. Another surprise is provided by a peterara of 1461-83 which incorporates breech loading—a removable chamber, filled with powder and shot, held in place by a bolt. The system, found to be dangerous, was abandoned and not readopted successfully for 400 years.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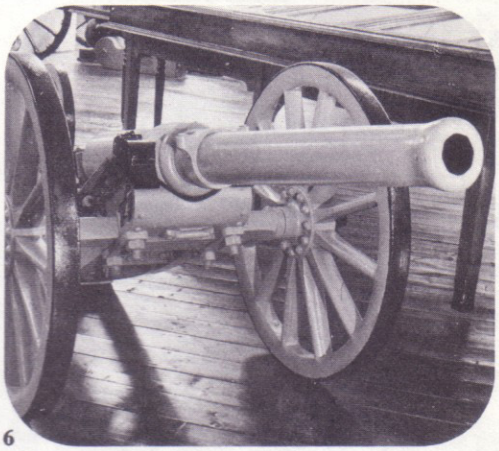
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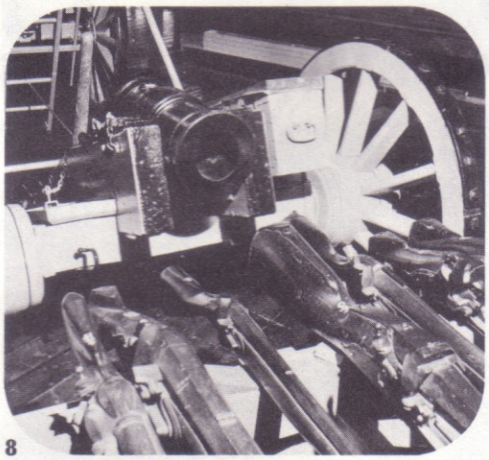
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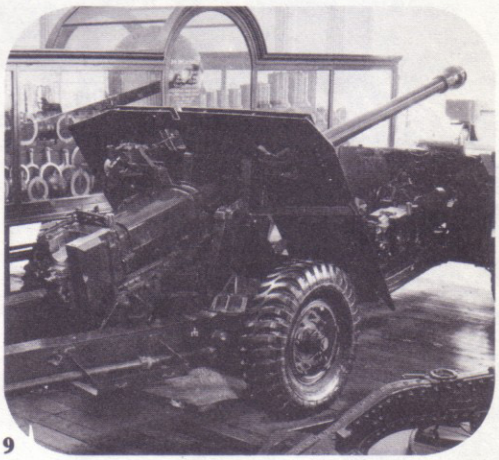
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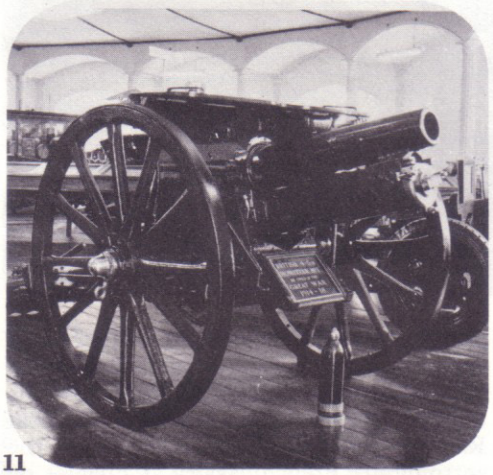
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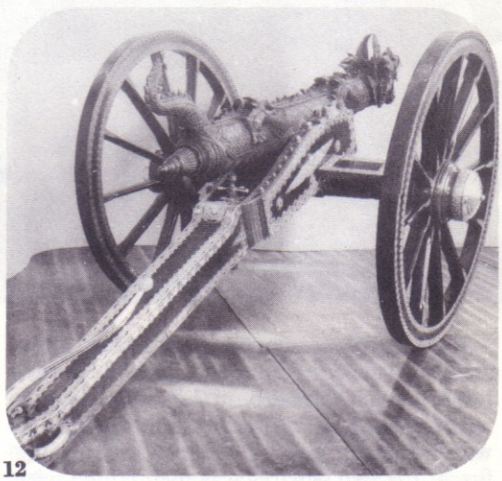
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Early pieces of ordnance were named after birds and monsters. There were the two-inch calibre falconet (a species of shrike), three-and-a-half-inch saker (a lanner falcon) and the five-and-a-half-inch culverin (from the French *couleuvre*, a grass snake). Even the word mortar came from the German *Meerthier*, a sea beast. The museum also has a gun cast in the form of a dragon with white fangs, red eyes, scales and horns. It is Burmese and was captured in Mandalay in 1885. Some were white elephants, like Mallet's mortar which weighed 42 tons and fired a projectile of 25 hundredweights. It cost £14,000 and was made for the Crimean War but never used.

Here you can peer along the barrel of a famous 13-pounder. Imagine the smoke over the battlefield at Néry in 1914 and the enemy shells that shattered wheels and battered trunnions. Pretend you are one of the three VCs who manned the gun the Germans could not silence.

Those actual Victoria Crosses, like the others before and since, were made of metal taken from two Russian Crimea cannon exhibited at the Rotunda.

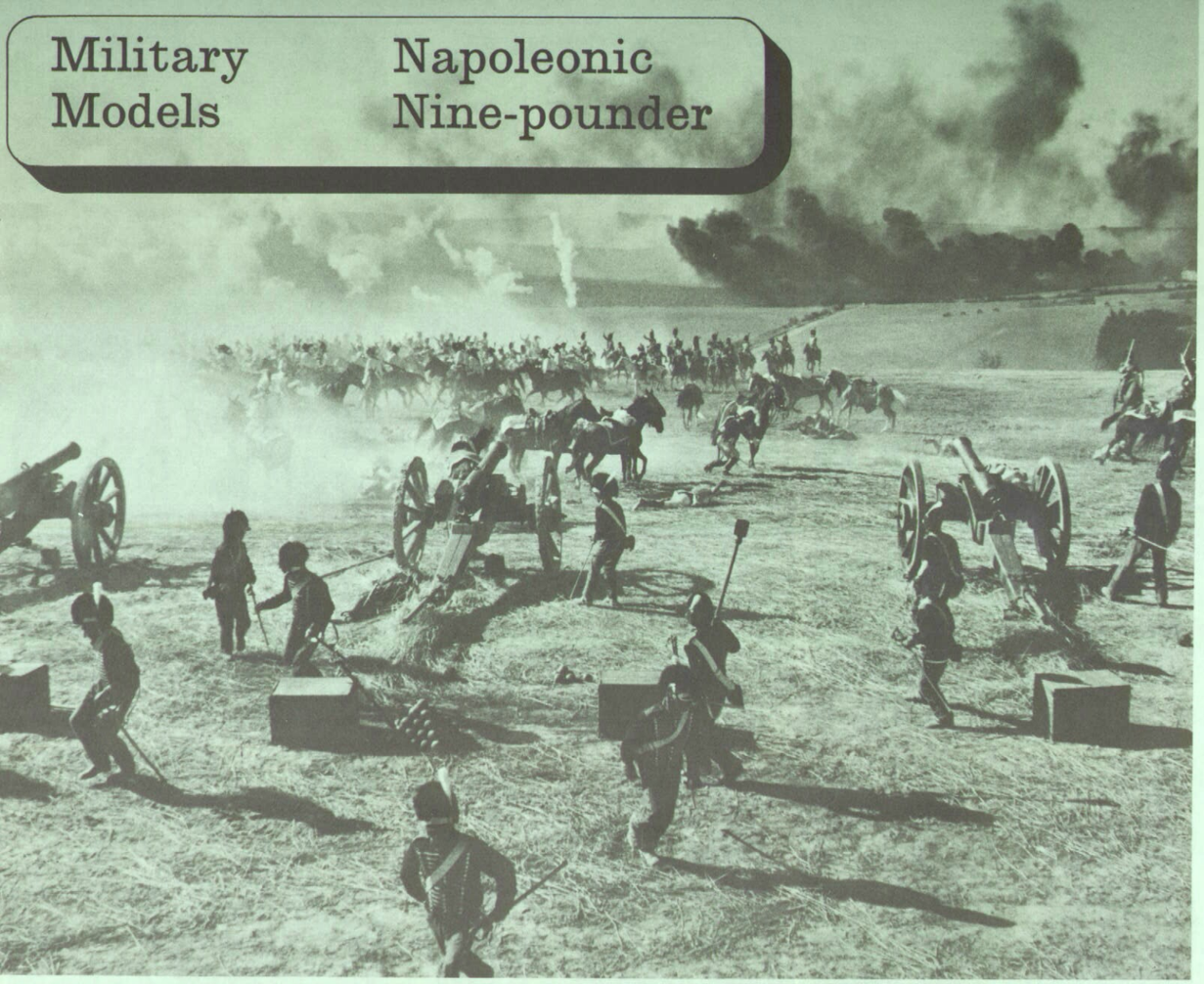
Not all were distinguished. A wreck of a gun at the Rotunda blew up in 1716 killing 17 people and badly burning many others including Colonel Albert Borgard, the Chief Firemaster of England, later first Colonel of the Royal Artillery. It happened during casting, not firing. The mould was still damp when pouring began, the moisture exploded into steam and threw out a shower of molten metal. The damaged gun was found in 1950 buried in the grounds of the Royal Arsenal.

Another, a wrought-iron breech loader, is from the wreck of the Mary Rose. She was the first English true man-of-war and hailed as "the flower of all ships that ever sailed," but her gunports were too low and she took in water and sank at Spithead in 1545. The gun, badly rusted, is kept in the Bronze Room, not normally on public view.

Some of the guns on show have been immortalised in verse. Kipling wrote nostalgically of the screw guns: "Smokin' my pipe on the mountings, sniffin' the morning-cool, I walks in my old brown gaiters along o' my old brown mule, With seventy gunners be'ind me, an' never a beggar forgets It's only the pick of the Army that handles the dear little pets . . ." And Newbolt dramatically narrated: "The sand of the desert is sodden red—Red with the wreck of the square that broke; The Gatling's jammed and the Colonel dead, And the regiment blind with dust and smoke . . ."

But others have a more prosaic story. Two perfectly preserved iron 32-pounders of 1859, on permanent exhibition outside the Rotunda, were discovered only a few months ago with a barracks in Shoeburyness was demolished. They had been used as hard core in the foundations.

Military Models — Napoleonic Nine-pounder



THE column of cuirassiers pounded over the Waterloo turf—sabres flashing in the sun and black plumes streaming out behind—bearing down inexorably on Captain Mercer's exposed battery of nine-pounders.

They were just 100 yards away when the gallant captain ordered his guns into action. The deadly case-shot unseated the leading riders. There was hesitation and panic.

The cavalrymen were tightly bunched together right under the muzzles of the guns, so they used the pommels of their swords to fight their way clear. Then they turned and fled.

Captain Mercer, probably the only battery commander at Waterloo to repulse a French attack unaided, had disobeyed Wellington's order—"That in the event of their persevering and charging home, you do not expose your men, but retire with them into the adjacent squares of infantry."

Wellington's strategy was to withdraw his gunners from a cavalry charge to the safety of the squares, then send them back to fire into the retreating horsemen. Incredibly the French made no attempt to spike or drag away the unmanned guns. Consequently their cavalry had to charge the same guns again and again.

Captain Mercer, whose battery of horse artillery never retreated despite severe losses, was to record in his famous eye-witness account: "Our guns were served with astonishing activity, whilst the running fire of the two squares was maintained with spirit. Those who pushed forward over the heaps of carcasses of men and horses gained but a few paces in advance, there to fall in their turn and add to the difficulties of those succeeding them. The discharge of every gun was followed by a fall of men and horses like that of grass before the mower's scythe."

The French cavalry men were seized with rage and frustration. Their temper was epitomised by Marshal Ney, his third horse killed under him, seen standing by an abandoned English battery furiously slashing the muzzle of a gun with his sword.

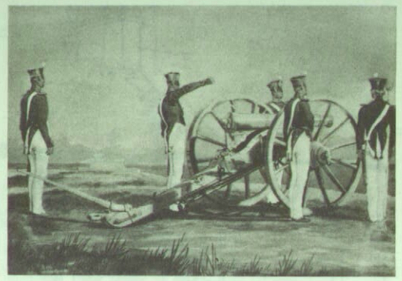
Wellington unjustly discredited his gunners, probably because they were controlled at that time by the Board of Ordnance and did not consider themselves subservient to him. Formerly the gunners were considered of little account but during the Napoleonic Wars they proved their worth. They manhandled their guns across the desert in Egypt, brought about the surrender of Martinique by a ceaseless bombardment for five days and nights, had not one straggler in 11 brigades of guns in the gruelling retreat to Corunna, carried out a skilful barrage over the heads of advancing infantry at San Sebastian, and the guns under command of Captain Norman Ramsay galloped their way out of the surrounding French cavalry at Fuentes de Onoro.

The three main field pieces used were the nine-pounder, six-pounder and 5½-inch howitzer. All were smooth-bore muzzle loaders. They had about the same rate of fire as a musket—two rounds a minute. The nine-pounder weighed 13½ hundredweight and had a range of 1400 yards at four degrees elevation with a three-pound charge.

Ammunition comprised solid iron balls ("round shot"), canister (small cast-iron spheres in a sheet-metal can disintegrating on discharge) and the new exploding case-shot invented by Lieutenant Henry Shrapnel.

Nineteen seventy is a commemorative year because Columbia Pictures have just launched their spectacular epic "Waterloo" and the Northampton firm of Bassett-Lowke has produced a remarkably authentic model of a nine-pounder. Bassett-Lowke now specialise in "one-off" industrial and commercial models.

The nine-pounder kit, the first of a series, is a new venture and is certainly in keeping

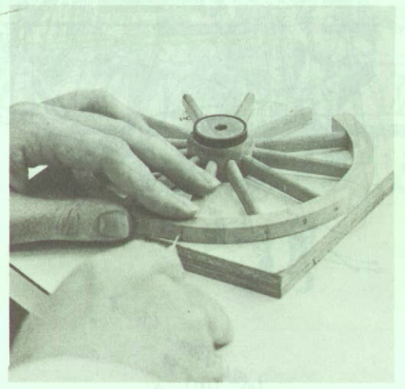


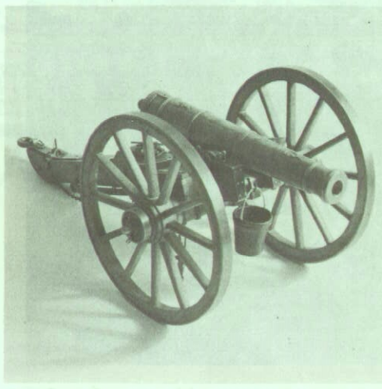
Left: Empty saddles, whinnying horses and the acrid stench of gunpowder. British guns topple French cavalry. Scene from the film "Waterloo."

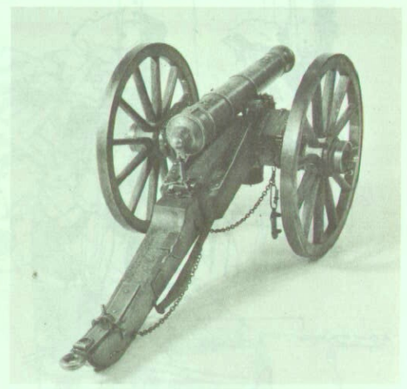
Above: Fire! The portfire (quick match) applied to the touch-hole sets off the charge. Drill on six-pounder by the Royal Artillery about 1830.

Right: Adjusting the elevating screw. The model is 1:10th scale. Hands give impression of size.

Below: Wheel is built on a jig. The felloes are drilled, then glued and pinned to the spokes. Note quenching bucket—made of real leather.







with the firm's high reputation in model engineering.

This is a cannon for connoisseurs, not a gun for beginners. For a start the kit costs £12 10s. Although it includes plans, an exploded diagram and step-by-step instructions, much of the constructional detail is left to the maker's initiative. As a member of Bassett-Lowke said, "You can end up with something worth 5s or £150."

The kit is obtainable from Bassett-Lowke (Holdings) Limited, Kingswell Street, Northampton, NN1 1PS. It consists of partly shaped hardwood parts; rims, hinges and brackets already finished; metal fittings cast in lead alloy which require trimming, drilling, and treating with a hydrochloric stain provided; and a superb barrel cast in gunmetal which bears faithfully reproduced cyphers of George III and the Master General of Ordnance.

Making up the kit should take a reasonably experienced model-maker about 60 hours. Minimum tools required are miniature drills and files, a small hammer and a craft knife. The wheels are probably the most fascinating. They are built like the real ones with a hub, 12 spokes, six felloes and a rim.

Some constructional details are rather tricky. For example, nails in the strengthening brackets on the ammunition boxes will foul each other if inserted at 90 degrees—I pre-drilled one hole at about 85 degrees and the other at 95. Another tip is to fit the last two felloes in under the rim, which you will find easier than bashing the rim over the completed wheel with a hammer.

No method is shown of attaching the elevating screw to the cascable flanges. I drilled through both, inserted a small piece of brass rod and filed it off at the ends.

Guns in the field had carriages painted slate grey and metal fittings black, but I gave my model a parade state wax polish. First the wood is sanded, then dyed with an oak wood stain, given one coat of linseed oil and finally four coats of beeswax applied with a soft cloth and polished with a brush. Beeswax, by the way, has to be flaked and dissolved for about 12 hours in turpentine.

Modellers may be disappointed to note that the barrel is drilled only partly along its length. To complete the job with the addition of a touch-hole turns it into a lethal weapon. By law, the barrel then has to be proofed and you need a firearms certificate.
Your local police station will advise you about this.

HH

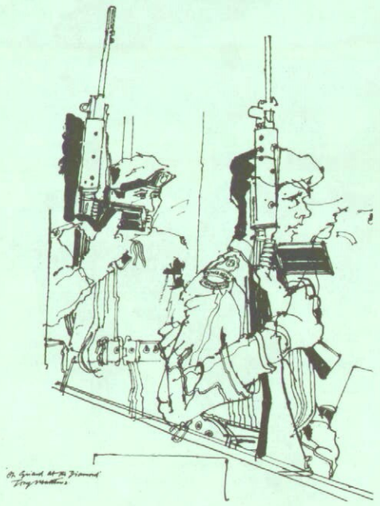
Glossary of contemporary artillery terms

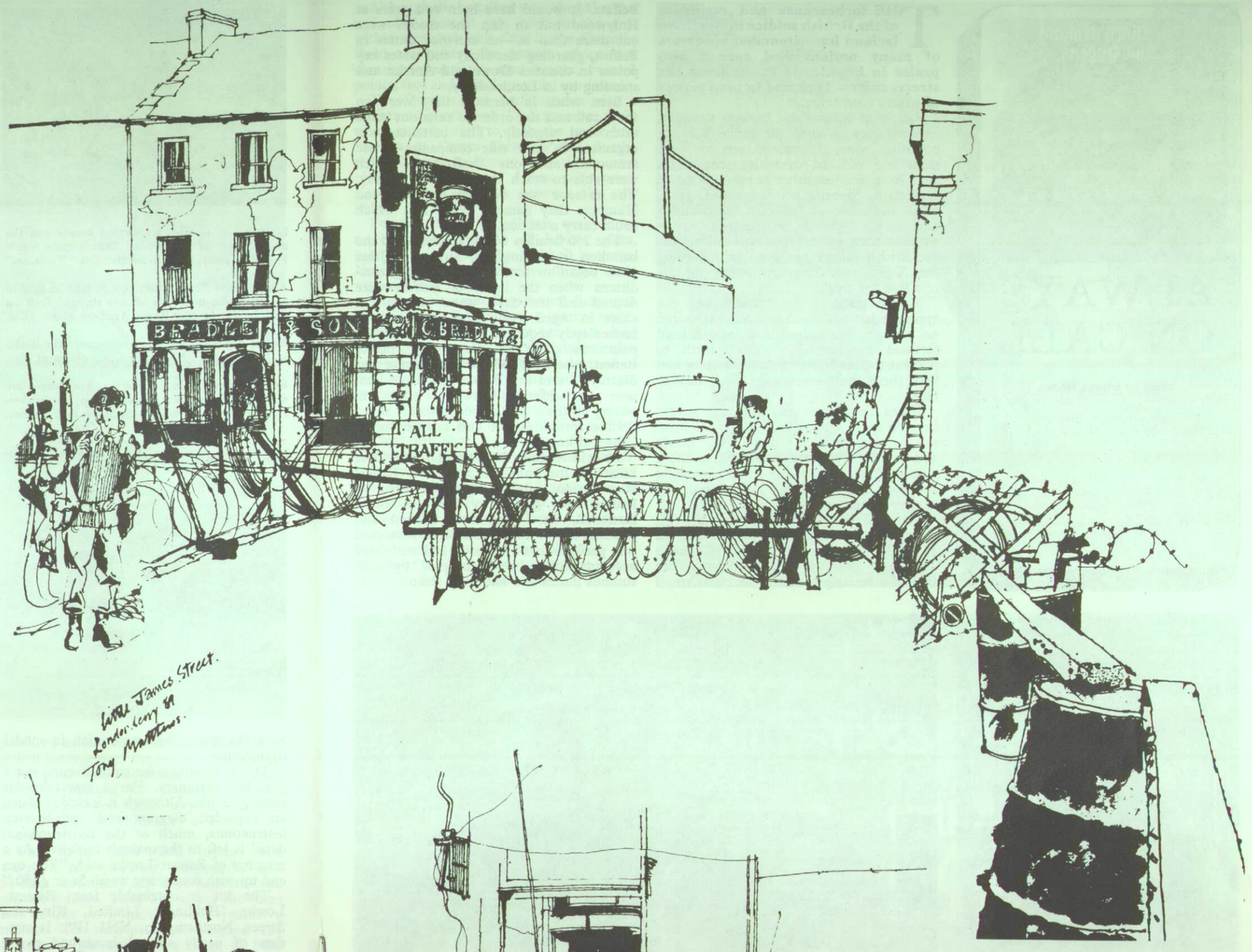
Portfire: quick match for lighting powder in touch hole.
Wheel shoe: or skid pan clips on to one wheel and locks it while gun is manhandled downhill.
Trunnions: bars extending from either side of the barrel to rest on the carriage.
Handspike: fitted into carriage trail to lift and re-lay the gun.
Rammer and sponge: for ramming home shot and damping down any powder left burning in barrel after firing.
Dolphins: carrying handles on barrel, so named because original ones were sculpted in the shape of dolphins.
Cascable: protuberance at the rear end of the barrel to which elevating screw is attached.

Northern Ireland sketch book

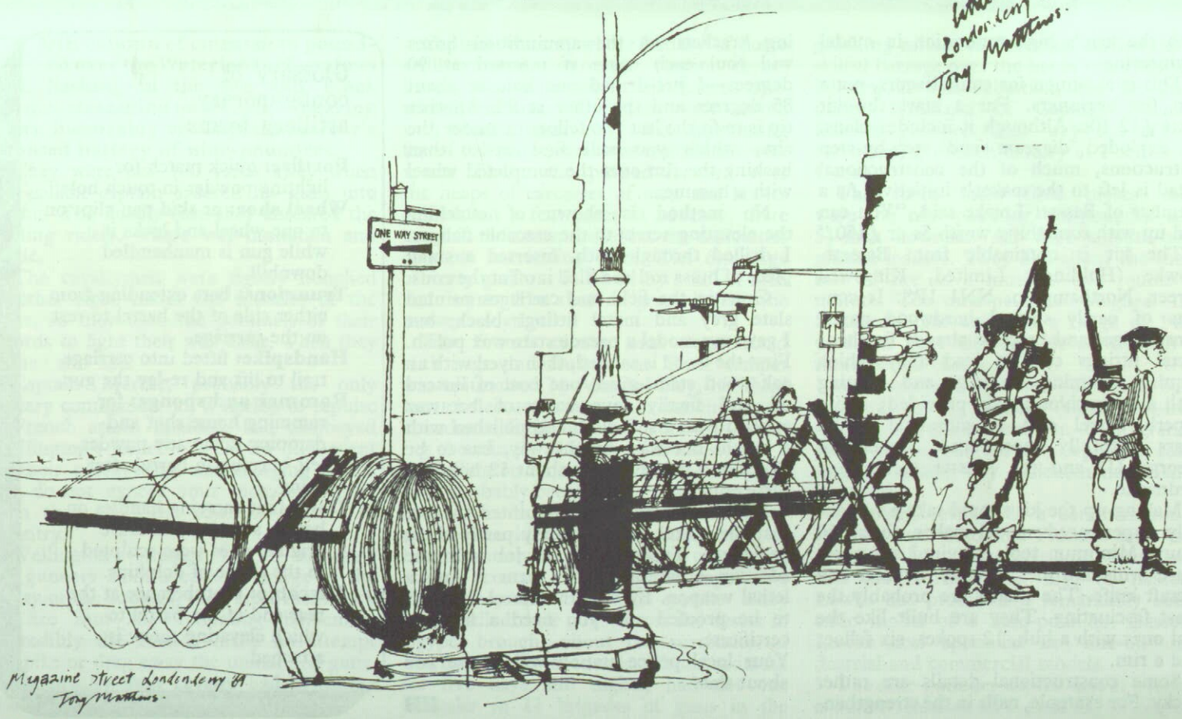
Although he has never served in the Army, 27-year-old Tony Matthews may be starting a new fashion in recording Army life. Because he wanted to follow the tradition of the old artists and portray life in black-and-white sketches instead of by photographs, he took his sketchbook to Northern Ireland—he is seen below at work in the street.

In Londonderry the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, saw him sketching and commissioned him to sketch the battalion on public duties at Buckingham Palace. Mr Matthews spent five years at Leicester College of Art studying advertising design and illustration, then worked in an advertising agency for a year. He has travelled for six months in Europe with his sketchbook and is now a freelance illustrating books and magazines, working from his Bloomsbury studio at 106 Great Russell Street, London WC1.

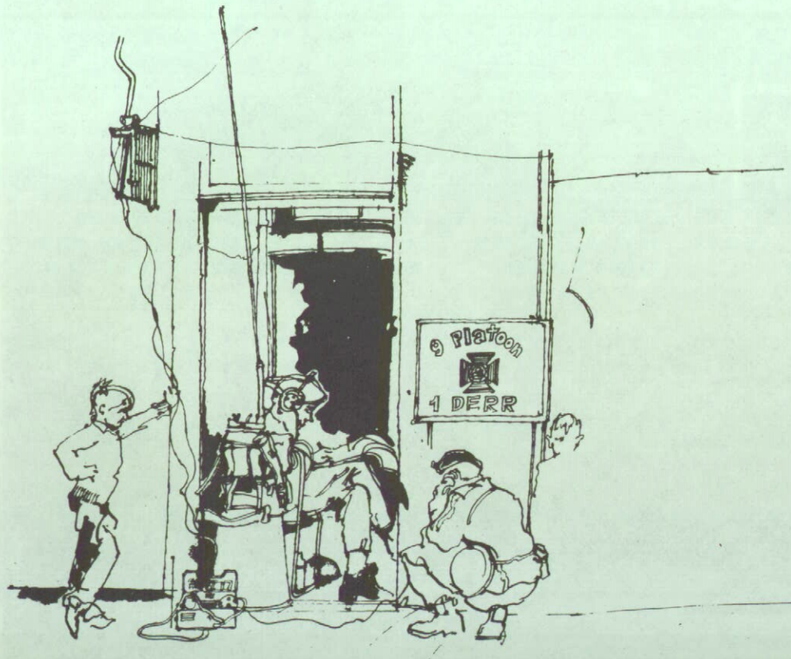




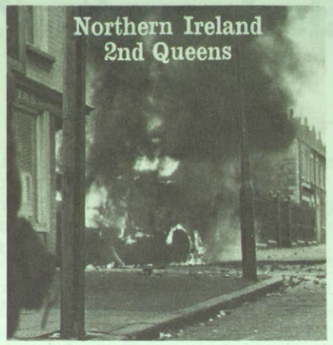
Little James Street.
Londonderry 69
Tony Matthews.



Magazine Street Londonderry 69
Tony Matthews.



'Radio Operators'
Tony Matthews.



ALWAYS ON CALL

Story by George Hogan

Operational pictures by
Private Robert Excell, 2nd Queen's *

** A SOLDIER Jubilee soldier—born on 19 March 1945, the date of SOLDIER's first number published in Brussels*

THE forbearance and resilience of the British soldier in Northern Ireland has astounded observers of many nations and earned him praise in broadcasts direct from the streets to New York and in newspapers of many countries.

Patrols of section and platoon strength, endeavouring to keep the peace between opposing mobs, became targets for both sides and suffered casualties that might well have incited other armies to fierce retaliation. Stoned, petrol-bombed, grenaded and shot at, wearied by continuous duty, confined to riot-torn streets without time off for personal relaxation, the British soldier has been fully earning that X-factor for dangerous living and loss of a five-day week.

Yet in spite of the hazards and the apparent hatreds the Army has harboured no grudges nor entrenched itself behind fortified positions but sallied forth to prevent the protagonists from meeting and kept them apart when they came face to face.

When the mobs cool and the streets become quiet again the soldier finds himself turning without difficulty to "hearts and minds" projects, giving aid to those who stoned him, advising on all manner of subjects and building and re-building bridges of contact.

The 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Jack Fletcher, has left Northern Ireland after two years in the modern Palace Barracks at Holywood on the outskirts of Belfast. It would have been two years at Holywood but in fact the troops were out more than in—on anti-riot duties in Belfast, guarding electricity and water key points in counties Down and Antrim and standing by in Londonderry.

Even when in barracks they were on short call and the order to turn out came often and urgently. The battalion was organised in four rifle companies—three armoured and one "soft-skin"—which were able to reach trouble spots quickly. The armour was Saracens and one-ton Humbers they named "pigs" and which could carry a section.

The 250 families which accompanied the battalion from Lingfield, Sussex, in June 1968 began to notice the changing conditions when the lights of Belfast were doused and the city's water supply cut short in April 1969. The battalion was immediately required to guard vulnerable points including the Castlereagh power station, where a £500,000 transformer was destroyed, and the Woodburn triple dam near Carrickfergus. Prompt action in setting up these two guards probably saved Belfast from drought and ensured some light and heat.

In mid-August the battalion took over billets in the Falls Road area of Belfast after serious rioting in which rows of houses were gutted by fire, gas mains fractured, buses and cars burned and civilians killed. The troops were welcomed but perforce lived in poor and restricted accommodation, were occupied by continuous duties and had little sleep.

In the Falls area after a night of rioting. Top of page: Bus explodes. Women had formed a line to try to stop it being used as barricade.

Although the battalion was relieved at the end of August it was back in the city within two days, this time in the Crumlin Road area where the pattern of internal security operations, road blocks, control points, foot and vehicle patrols, continued.

The Queen's first confrontation with a Belfast mob came on 17 September 1969 when crowds tried to rush the peace-line barriers in Coates Street. Petrol bombs were thrown at houses and the mortar platoon and corps of drums with other elements took position between the two mobs.

For two hours the soldiers were under a continuous barrage of bricks, glass, petrol bombs, roof slates and ball bearings. Nearly every man was hit—though none was seriously injured.

During the night Regimental Sergeant-Major G H Brown led a party which rescued a woman and her son from their burning home under a fusillade of missiles and bursting petrol bombs. The arrival of reinforcements and the use of CS gas eventually dispersed the mobs.

In October there was trouble in the Ballymacarrett area of east Belfast and for the first time shots were fired at the troops, Corporal Street of the anti-tank platoon being wounded in the leg. Less than a week later the publication of the Hunt report on the future of the Royal Ulster Constabulary sparked riots throughout Belfast and there were more battalion casualties by shooting in Ballymacarrett and the Shankill area where for the first time troops were forced to return fire in self-defence.

Left: Soldier takes up firing position after sniper seen. Three snipers were shot this day. Above: In 1969 women sat on first barricades to prevent their removal. Divis Street area. Top of page: A snatch squad with batons and shields prepares to arrest riot ringleaders.

Far Left: A sergeant injured while collecting prisoner during Falls rioting in July 1970.

Left: Water cannon in use in Belfast during night riots in sensitive Artillery Flats area.

Right: Commanding officer questioning car owner in New Lodge Road area. RSM Brown is on right.

Right, below: Now for England! Last days were spent loading—but still on call if needed.

For the first four months of 1970 the battalion was responsible for an area of north Belfast which included Unity Flats, Artillery Flats and other sensitive points of confrontation. Routine patrolling, continuous vigilance and anticipation were needed to keep the peace yet time was also found for "hearts and minds" projects.

In May the battalion returned to Holywood for rest and training but within three days was back in Belfast after a bomb explosion had attracted crowds. Vicious fighting broke out and CS gas was used. The battalion suffered 13 casualties with bad bruises and cuts.

A week later there was more fierce rioting, more casualties and some of the instigators were arrested. At the end of May half the battalion left Northern Ireland for three weeks' well-earned leave and during this time there were further troubles which stemmed from a re-routed march and ended with petrol bombs and other missiles being thrown. Again there were casualties needing hospital treatment; 16 arrests were made.

The following week a search operation with other battalions in the Black Mountain area and the hills to the north-west of Belfast uncovered caches of stolen clocks and shirts and a quarry that apparently had been used as a shooting range. Gelignite, detonators and instantaneous fuse were also discovered and destroyed.

On the return of the leave party in mid-June the other half of the battalion left for England and towards the end of the month there was restlessness throughout Belfast because of the annual Orange marches in July. A mobile patrol was hoaxed by a report of a gathering crowd and ambushed. The officer was hit in the face by a brick and needed hospital treatment and the vehicle was in danger of being turned over. The driver, also hit, managed to get the vehicle away.

Rioting during the next few days included shooting in the Crumlin Road, where civilians were killed and an officer wounded, and in the Ballymacarrett area where hundreds of rounds were fired. Here the difficult task of the troops in Northern Ireland was emphasised. When soldiers made sorties from their armoured carriers to deal with snipers firing on the mob, the people they were seeking to protect tried to set fire to the vehicles.

The other half of the battalion was recalled from leave because of the rising tension in Belfast following the discovery by the Royal Scots of revolvers and ammunition in a house in the Lower Falls. Crowds gathered incredibly quickly all over the area and petrol bombs, gelignite bombs and grenades were thrown. Shots were fired and soldiers injured.

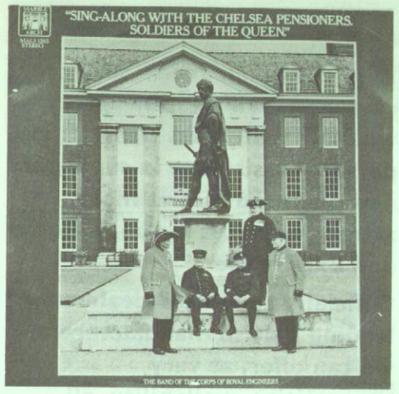
In the night operation which followed, the Queen's captured 18 rifles, three shotguns, 20,000 rounds of ammunition, 26 pistols and eight machine carbines.

In August there was trouble in the Ballymurphy area and around Artillery and Unity flats which kept the battalion busy on the streets. Right up to the time they left Northern Ireland in September the Queen's were standing by ready to turn out at short notice.

Their tour had been two years of tension and action which they tried to ease with some social occasions such as dances. Families stood the periods of separation well and during the two years 100 Irish colleens married into the battalion of men of Kent and Kentish men as the result of personal hearts and minds operations pursued in difficult and frustrating days.

This is the abbreviated story of one battalion stationed in Northern Ireland for two years. All other units have had similar experiences, most of them for shorter periods unaccompanied by families and based continuously for four or six months entirely within the trouble areas of Belfast and Londonderry.

On Record



"Sing-Along with the Chelsea Pensioners. Soldiers of the Queen" (accompanied by a **wind ensemble from the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers (Chatham)**) (Director of Music: Captain P W Parkes) (Marble Arch MSLS 1283).

I have my lunch within a few yards of the Royal Hospital, overlooking the infirmary of that ancient institution. All is peace and beauty—old men tottering about in the shadow of one of Christopher Wren's masterpieces, men and buildings serene and eternal. Hidden behind that distinguished facade is "The Club"—open its door on any night and you may wonder where the peace and serenity have gone. You leave the world of modern Chelsea and discover the world of the Old Kent Road of half a century ago or perhaps the road to Arras.

On this record we are privileged to enter this very private door and hear an In-Pensioners' sing-song assisted by the Royal Engineers (Chatham) Band. They give us 19 of the "oldies" with wise guidance from producer Geoffrey Brand and conductor Captain Peter Parkes. If anything the effort to avoid sentimentality sometimes shows through. At a real sing-song the output is governed by the intake—I hope there was real beer at the recording session.

For your sheer delight are "Boys of the Old Brigade," "The Bells of Hell," "I Feel No Pain," "Breaking out of Barracks," "Hello, Hello," "Tipperary," "If You Were the Only Girl," "Blighty," "Soldiers of the Queen," "Here We Are Again," "Goodbye-ee," "If the Sergeant Steals the Rum," "Broken Doll," "Pack Up Your Troubles," "Fred Karno's Army," "If You Want to Find the Sergeant," "A Bird in a Gilded Cage," and "What Did I Join the Army For?"

And how rare to hear some of the verses as well as the choruses, especially of "If You Were the Only Girl in the World."

RB

"This is Our Scotland" (Talisman STAL 5010).

For anyone who likes to have all the music of Scotia on one disc this is the record to buy—what a pity room was not found for the solo bagpipe and the clarsach. Their inclusion would really have made it complete. The Scottish dance music is lively, really well played and an entertainment of high order. The fiddle music is played by two masters of the art, Ian Powrie and Bobby Harvey.

Two examples of Scotland's songs—"Duncan Gray" and "Scots Wha' Hae"—are sung in great style by Bill McCue and Peter Mallan respectively and there's a snatch of the ever-popular folk music when the Lowland Folk Four sing some Dundee street songs.

The selections from the pipes and drums of the Edinburgh and Glasgow city police pipe bands are in direct contrast to one another.

Edinburgh favours the lighter music while Glasgow goes in for the heavier competition stuff. The Edinburgh selection is four 4/4 marches—"Murdo's Wedding," a composition by that up-and-coming young piper, Gavin Stoddart, who is currently serving in the pipe band of 1st Battalion, Scots Guards; "The Sands of Loch Bee" and "Road to Gerinish" were at one time great favourites of the Glasgow band; and finally "The 79th Highlanders," which is the Queen's Own Highlanders' tune for marching into barracks.

"Donald Cameron," "Blair Drummond" and "MacAllister's Dirk" comprise the competition set played by the Glasgow band and are typical of pipe band contest test pieces.

The selections by both these pipe bands show the very high standard reached by the leaders in this field. The bagpipes are beautifully tuned in unison, the playing is distinct and the drum accompaniments are very expressive.

This record ends with excerpts from the finale of an Edinburgh tattoo, with the massed pipes and drums at their very best, the lone piper playing the haunting air "Sleep, Dearie, Sleep," then the military bands and lastly the pipes and drums playing "The Black Bear" as they march off the Esplanade.

In all a record that provides a little from the massive recordings made of Scotland's music, is well worthy of a place in any record library, and a snip at 19s 11d.

JM

"Festival Brass" (**Combined brass of Morris Concert Band** (Conductor: Clifford J Edmunds), **Ransome and Marles Works Band** (Conductor: Dennis Masters), **Yorkshire Imperial Metal Band** (Conductor: Trevor Walmsley), **Camborne Town Band** (Conductor: Fred J Roberts)) (Conducted by Harry Mortimer) (HMV CSD 3675).

Last year saw the first of a new annual brass band championship sponsored by WD & HO Wills and as is usual the top bands in the contest gave a concert afterwards.

This record is the result. With four bands involved, and presumably little rehearsal time, the programme had to be well known to all. This is reflected in the choice of such well-worn favourites as the "Light Cavalry" overture, "Trombones to the Fore," "Marche Slave" (yet again mis-spelt) and, worst of all, the puerile "Lustspiel."

The opening fanfare is by Moreton, the "Lustspiel" arrangement by Martyn and all but one item conducted by Mortimer. I suspect a triple personality at work here and his (their) name is Harry! I also detect, in view of the sponsorship, a little advertising by those venerable gentlemen Messrs WD & HO in an excerpt from the "Embassy" suite.

The march "Bramwyn," "March of the Pacemakers," a version of Liszt's "Liebestraum" and an arrangement of the "Londonderry Air" by G Coleman complete the programme—why anyone should think it necessary to compete with Percy Grainger's masterpiece I shall never know.

All in all this disc has little to add to our libraries.

RB

"The Gordons for You" (**Drums and Pipes, 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders**) (Drum-Major: Gren Hall) (Pipe-Major: Joe Kerr) (Columbia SCX 6409).

The gay Gordons have produced here an excellent selection of pipe band music—hornpipes, competition marches, jigs and polkas are all represented. Pipe-Major Kerr and Drum-Major Hall have chosen a very interesting programme, some from past composers but a good deal in a very modern idiom with up-to-date tunes.

Side one opens with a traditional competition set, "The Royal Scottish Pipers Society," "Arniston Castle," "The Grey Bob" and the fine 6/8 march "Redford Cottage."

Then away to the jigs and a particularly melodic slow air "Malcolm Ferguson" which up till now has always been left to the solo piper. Band four presents a very tuneful set of three 9/8-time marches—"Archie MacKinlay," a modern tune which seems to be currently at the top of the piping pops, blends well with the older "Battle of the Somme" and "Heights of Dargai." This side ends with a group of polkas under the title of "The Victory Polkas."

It is a great pity that the pipe-major decided on such a high pitch for this recording. Bagpipes are difficult to record at any time and, being a shrill instrument, the resonant sound of a lower pitch would have been greatly to advantage in this reproduction. In particular the top notes on this recording tend to be so sharp that they are nearly out of tune. The playing is very good and all the tunes have a very lively lilt and tempo which I like very much. The drum settings fit the melodies well and are a fine contribution to the record.

I cannot help feeling that regiments tend

to go overboard a little on their histories on record sleeves—I would have liked more about the excellent pipe band heritage of regiments.

The Gordons particularly had a chance to mention the great Pipe-Major G S MacLennan who died in 1929 but whose compositions are evergreen—his "Kilworth Hills" and "Alick C MacGregor" are on this record.

Side two is full of interest. The drum salute is very good and improves with listening as one begins to discern the differing rhythms. "Lieut-Col John Neish" is an excellent piece of music by Pipe-Major Kerr and shows up well against the classic "Kilworth Hills" and "Land of My Youth." I suppose "Irene Meldrum's Welcome to Bon Accord" was chosen for its Aberdeenshire connections but the tempo seems rather bright for this complicated tune—it fails to rate as high as the others.

The final selections are most melodious—"Gallowa' Hills," "Craigmillar Castle" and "My Faithful Fair One"—and lead one to the Gordons' delightful "Long Reveille" with which the record ends.

JM

The Mighty Marenghi Fairground Organ (Regal Star Line SRS 5035).

In reviewing (May) an LP of the Duke of Bedford's Van Der Beeck organ I said that if anything the performance was too perfect, the genuine article being wheezier and more unpredictable.

Blow me down if we haven't here another noble gent, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, with, in his backyard, a fairground organ which is utterly charming to see and listen to.

It has all the quirks and caprices of the Hounslow Heath organs of my childhood—wrong notes, centipede-with-a-wooden-leg rhythms, approximate tuning and, best of all, a totally illogical order of programme. Beat "I Was Kaiser Bill's Batman" and "Land of Hope and Glory" for juxtaposition!

Every man, they say, has a weakness and mine is undoubtedly a passion for the English pastoral scene—rural junketings, country dances, hey nonnies and haystacks goings-on.

I'm keeping my copy of the Mighty Marenghi at play and the Editor can buy himself another.

The repertory is very wide but every single item sounds just right and suitable for this medium.

Obvious choices like "Entry of the Gladiators," "National Emblem," "Lovely Bunch of Coconuts," "Yellow Rose of Texas," "Marching Along Together" and "Turkey in the Straw" I looked forward to with relish, but I confess to qualms about "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Congratulations" and "South Rampart Street Parade."

Miserable doubter that I am—they all sound as if specially written for the old windbag.

Other magical offerings are "Vienna, City of My Dreams," "Canadian Capers," "Titina," "Spanish Gypsy Dance" and "March of the Cobblers," but for sheer unequalled joy listen to "Abide With Me" and "God Save the Queen" (in this case Victoria) as rendered by this mighty instrument.

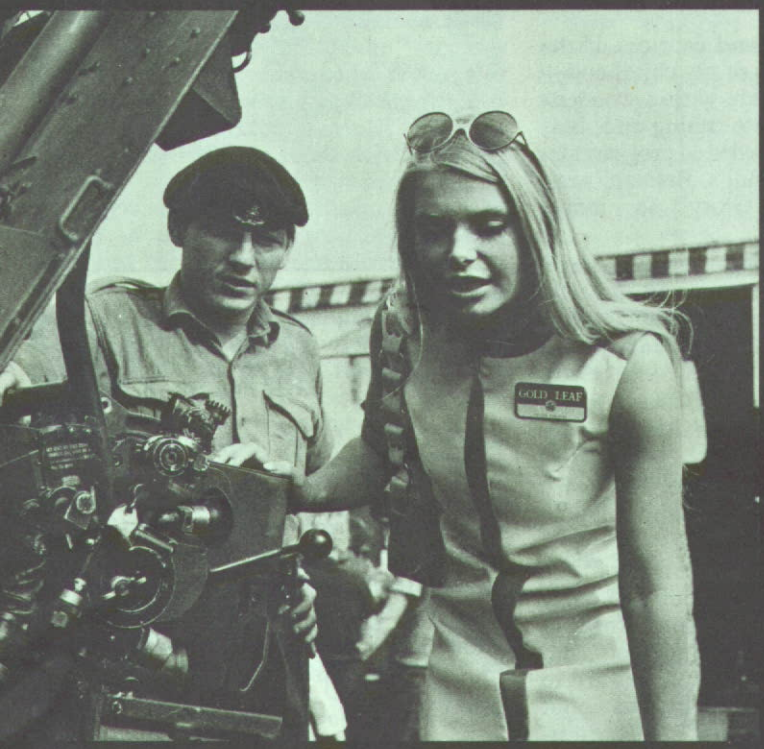
An archbishop is reputed to have said "May I die with a Bible in one hand, a glass of whisky in the other and to the sound of the Kneller Hall trumpets."

I'm with him on the whisky but let my exit music be this record.

RB

Left Right & Centre

With skirling pipes, swaying kilt and swirling plaid, The Black Watch march along the tree-lined avenues of Aberfeldy to mark conferment of the freedom of the town on the regiment. To represent the gathering of the old independent companies, who were formed into The Black Watch in Aberfeldy 230 years ago, the troops marched on parade from four different directions in company groups each led by sections of the pipes and drums. A freedom scroll in a casket was presented by Provost James Fisher to Brigadier Sir Bernard Fergusson, Colonel of the regiment. There were nearly 500 soldiers on parade. Kilt, glengarries and rifles with fixed bayonets. It looks (below) like any other parade and inspection of a highland regiment. But these men receive no pay, have no barracks and have never been called out in an emergency—even in wartime. They are the Atholl Highlanders, probably the only private army in Britain (see SOLDIER February 1959). They paraded in Perthshire to mark the 125th anniversary of the presentation of their Colours by Queen Victoria.



They had expected to spend the day at the Bakewell Show watching boys clambering over their Ferret scout car and telling long-haired youths about the real man's life. So it was a pleasant surprise for members of 575 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers (V), when a pretty blonde popped in for a chat. Especially as she was Miss World, Eva Reuber-Staier. At the stand of 47 Light Regiment, Royal Artillery, she was shown how to work a gun sight.

Sapper surveyors have been helping to put Indonesian Borneo on the map. Working with a Royal Air Force photo-reconnaissance squadron and Indonesian and Australian Army surveyors they have spent three months on Operation Mandau in the region of West Kalimantan. Members of 84 Survey Squadron, Royal Engineers (left), instruct an Indonesian in the use of a telluro-meter with the Equator post at the town of Pontianak in the background. The results are being fed into a computer back in Britain to produce the first 1:50,000 scale maps of the region. The maps will be used by the Indonesian Government for planning future economic and rural development of the area.

The sideburns and crocodile skin shoes may not go with a beret and jersey, heavy wool, but then Harry Secombe (left) was always a comedian, even in his army days as a lance-bombardier. Harry was topping the bill at a Combined Services Entertainment show at Höhne so 20 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, stationed there, decided to call him up again for a day. They even thoughtfully issued him with an appropriate uniform. He found the regiment's huge 175-mm guns drowned even his own powerful voice—so he stuck his fingers in his ears. But Harry had the last laugh. When asked to autograph a battery pennant he also added the word "Me" with an arrow pointing to the horse motif.

Ship ahoy!

OFF we go to sea again with another adaptation of the pen-and-paper game of "Battleships," that old end-of-term occupation in which each player plots out his fleet then tries to sink his opponent's ships before losing his own.

In this month's competition your opponent has deployed his battleship (four squares long), two cruisers (each of three squares), three destroyers (two squares) and four submarines (one square) within this rectangle of 63 squares. The rules are that no ship may touch another, larger ships may be positioned vertically or horizontally but only a surface ship may touch the sides of the rectangle and then only bows or stern on and not broadside.

Your first six shots:
Round 1 hit a destroyer at D1
Round 2 hit the battleship at F6
Round 3 hit a cruiser amidships at B4
Round 4 sank a submarine in the north-west
Round 5 missed at E6
Round 6 hit a second destroyer at A6.

You have already fired six shots and know the results of these. Obviously another 15 shots would finish off the fleet if you knew exactly where the ships were. You don't—there are alternatives.

What is the minimum number of rounds you must fire (in addition to the given six) to make sure of finishing off the fleet? List your rounds in relation to the rectangle, eg A1, and send your list on a postcard or by letter, with the "Competition 150" label from this page, and your name and address, to:

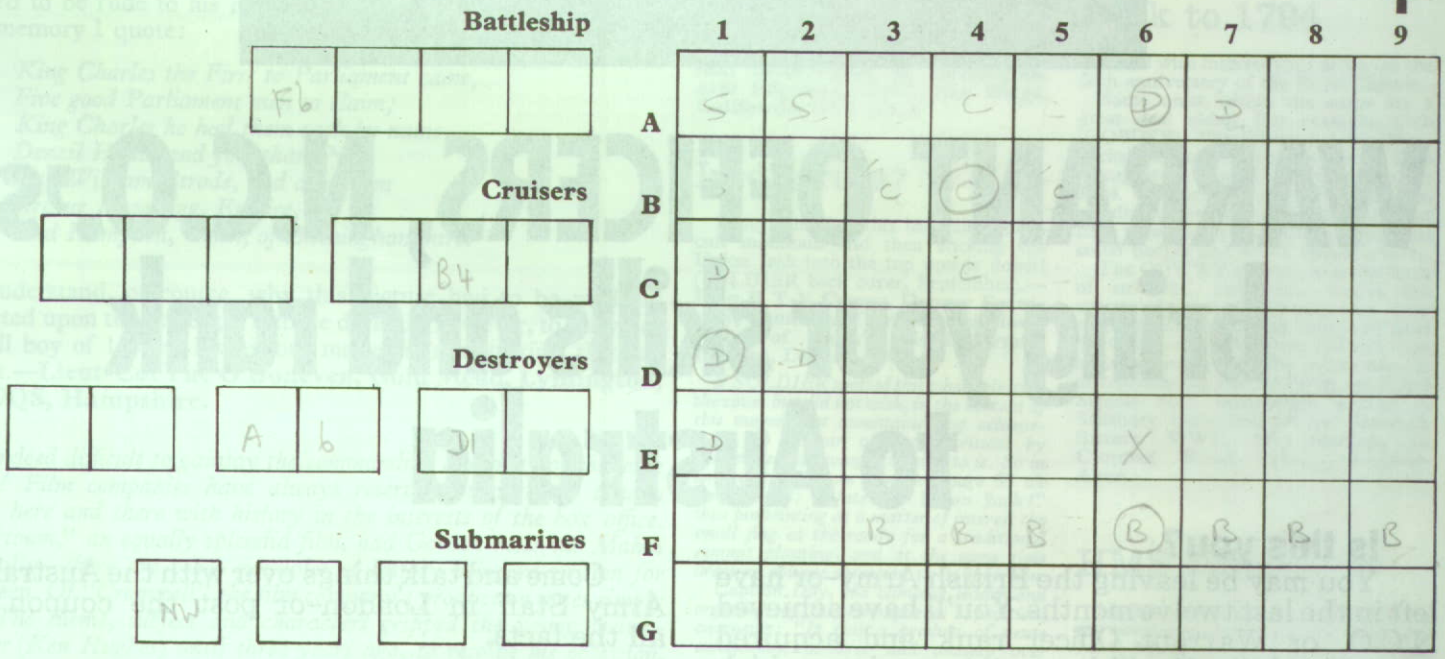
Editor (Comp 150)
SOLDIER
433 Holloway Road
London
N7 6LT.

COMPETITION 150

This competition is open to all readers at home and overseas and closing date is Monday 15 February 1971. 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 150" label. Winners will be drawn from correct solutions.

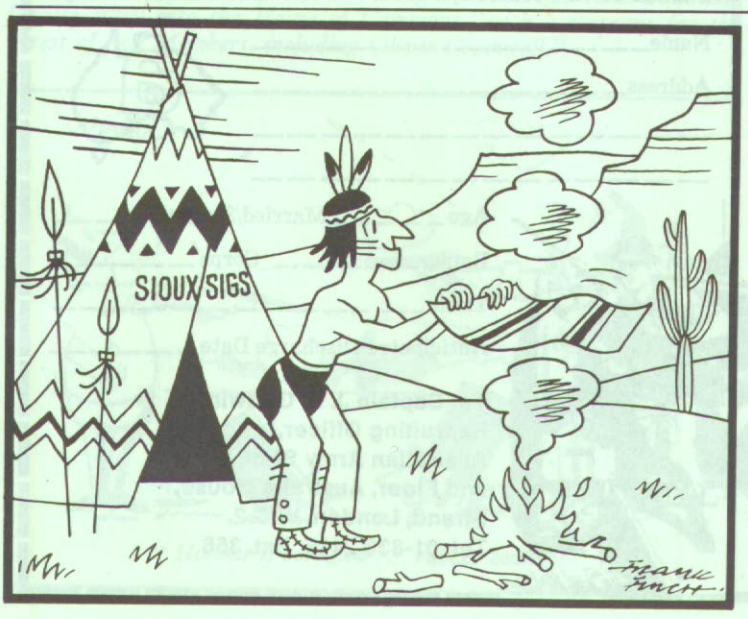
Prizes

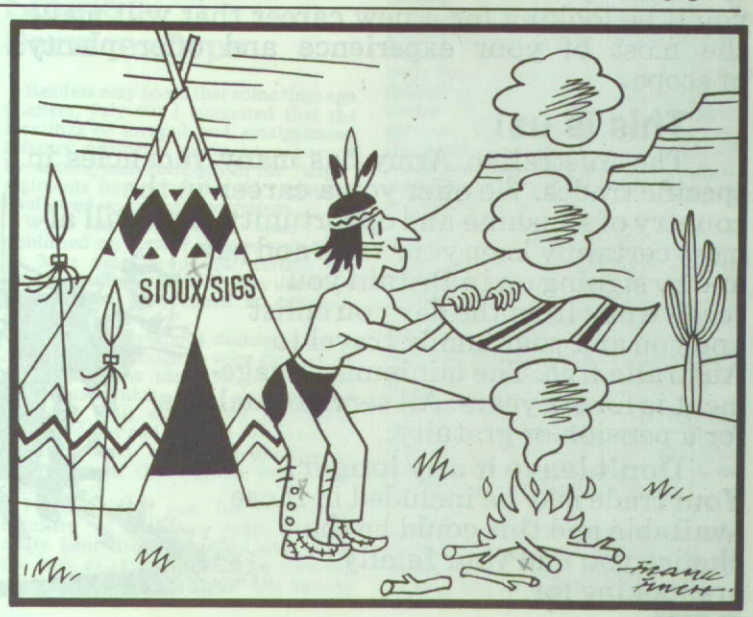
1 £10
2 £5
3–4 £3
5–6 £1
7–8 Three books
9–10 Set of BP veteran car table mats
11–12 SOLDIER free for six months



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 37.





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Come and talk things over with the Australian Army Staff in London–or post the coupon for all the facts.

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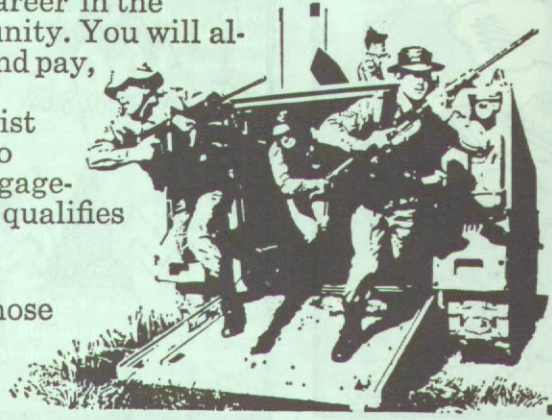


Age_____ Married/Single_____

Rank_____ Corps_____

Trade_____

Anticipated Discharge Date_____

To: Captain J. R. Godwin,
Recruiting Officer,
Australian Army Staff,
2nd Floor, Australia House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.
Tel: 01-836 2435 Ext. 356

"Adapted for the screen . . ."

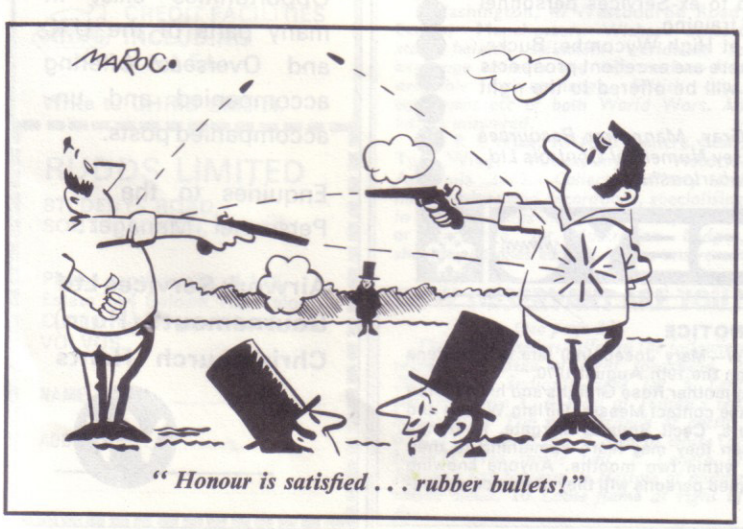
I recently saw that very fine film "Cromwell" and enjoyed it. But, although the producer had Oliver's elder son killed at Naseby when he was actually killed in Ireland, I thought it a pity that Oliver himself was put among the impeached five members and allowed to be rude to his monarch from a seat in the Commons. As a memory I quote:

King Charles the First to Parliament came,
Five good Parliament men to claim;
King Charles he had them each by name—
Denzil Holles and Jonathan Pym
And William Strode, and after him
Arthur Hazelrigg, Esquire,
And Hampden, Gent., of Buckinghamshire.

I understand, of course, why this picture had to be made as projected upon the screen; it is more difficult, however, to convince a small boy of 11 that his history master is now talking through his hat.—**Lieut-Col The O'Doneven, Gold Mead, Lymington, SO4 9QS, Hampshire.**

★ *Indeed difficult to gainsay the commanding authority of the wide screen! Film companies have always reserved the right to take a liberty here and there with history in the interests of the box office. "Khartoum," an equally splendid film, had Gordon meet the Mahdi personally—there are other examples of history being re-written for the screen. Of "Cromwell" the film company's production notes simply say "The theme, subject and characters gripped the young writer-director (Ken Hughes) until three years ago, to resolve his obsession, Hughes began work on a screen version." You pays your money and you takes their choice!*

Picture here, from the film, shows King Charles I (Sir Alec Guinness) forcing entry into the House of Commons "with a warrant for the arrest of five Members, including Oliver Cromwell."



" Honour is satisfied . . . rubber bullets!"

Back to quicksteps

I agree with Mr R J Davenport (June letters) that the corps of drums (fifes or flutes and drums) is in danger of extinction in the British Army and as an old drummer I put the blame on the drum-majors. They are in charge of the corps of drums and, since World War One, have been trying to make them into a second regimental band by playing band marches instead of what they were originally intended for—playing two-four and six-eight quicksteps.

I joined the British Army at the beginning of the century as a drummer boy of 14 and was taught the B flat flute, the side drum and the bugle. The instruments of our corps of drums were eight side drums, a bass drum and 16 B flat flutes. We played only two-four and six-eight quicksteps on the march, generally for about a mile at a time. When we finished playing, half of the side drummers would keep up the beatings until the flutes and drums played again. In that way the battalion had a rhythm to march to all the time.

I am sure if this were resurrected the corps of drums would be as popular in the Army as it was in the old days. Leave the band marches to the regimental bands. Can you imagine the pipes and drums of a Scottish or Irish regiment playing band marches? I am afraid they would soon be on the same path as the present-day corps of drums.

If those in power want to save the corps of drums the remedy is to put the B flat flutes to playing lively quicksteps with plenty of stick swinging by the bass and tenor drums—and leave the band marches to the regimental brass and reed bands.—**John E Harrington, 4530 Edgeware Road, San Diego, California, USA 92116.**

In distress?

Fancy climbing this incredibly difficult mountain and then sticking the Union Jack into the top upside down! (SOLDIER back cover, September).—**Brig B T V Cowey, Deputy Secretary, Council of TAVR Associations, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3.**

★ *SOLDIER spotted this when selecting the cover but did not wish, in the context of this magnificent mountaineering achievement, to appear carpingly critical by deliberately drawing attention to it. So in writing the picture panel on page 55 we simply said: "Note the Union Jack!" thus pinpointing as a matter of interest the small flag at the ready for a traditional summit planting, and at the same time drawing oblique attention to its inversion.*

Captain Day, the climbing leader and organiser of the Annapurna expedition, comments: "It was a product of acute exhaustion, annoxia and anxiety over getting down again—and a deplorable lack of attention to detail!"

Single Service corps

Readers may recall that some time ago (Letters, July 69) I suggested that the identities of merged and amalgamated infantry regiments might be preserved by naming each company in the "large" regiments for one of the old regiments swallowed up in the new system.

What has happened since you published my letter? The powers-that-be have announced that certain old infantry regiments which were due to be axed are to be retained at company strength!

Will the anonymous decision makers now be bold enough to seize the chance to preserve the identities of all those regiments which have already been merged? Will some bold committee now sit down and allocate the names of illustrious old infantry regiments to companies in the existing large regiments?

Further, dare one hope that the Ministry of Defence might become really joint Service-minded and tackle the task of reducing the ever-growing administrative tail? Much has already been written and said about the increase in pen-pushers and the decrease in infantrymen. The three Services appear to triplicate every aspect of administration. Surely it would be far more efficient to "merge" or "amalgamate" their administrative effort rather than hack at the "PBI" and the other "teeth" arms.

The Canadians have taken the plunge; dare we follow? The foundations are already laid. The RASC became the Royal Corps of Transport—an organisation just made for "joint-Servicery"! We have had the Corps of Royal Engineers, Royal Corps of Signals and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers for some years now. Their present titles make them eminently suitable for assuming the tasks performed by their opposite numbers in the other two Services.

Shall we ever see a Royal Chaplains' Department, Royal Medical Corps, Royal Ordnance Corps, Royal Pay Corps, Royal Veterinary Corps, Royal Educational Corps, Royal Dental Corps, Physical Training Corps, Catering Corps, Royal Nursing Corps, Royal Women's Service and Legal Service serving the land, sea and air forces and absorbing all those various branches in various Services already engaged upon such tasks?

At least Naafi is already a joint Service organisation!—**H Eaton, 256 Wendover Road, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks.**

Back to 1794

I read with interest your article on the 50th anniversary of the Royal Signals.

Some units within the corps are a great deal older. For example, 67th (QOWWY) The Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry was formed 176 years ago in 1794. We wore the badge of the corps in our distinctive black-and-white hats and have been allowed to retain our original collar badges and WWY shoulder titles.

The QOWWY is retained in the form of an RAC cadre and enjoys the unique honour of being the only regiment in the British Army to have the Queen as its Honorary Colonel. The signal squadron had the recent honour of representing the TAVR at the Royal Signals 50th anniversary parade at Salisbury Cathedral.—**S/Sgt Derrick Smart WWY, Bun-Machon, 34 Clopton Road, Stratford-upon-Avon.**

HMS Maidstone

My happiest day every month is when my newsagent and friend (ex-soldier and MM) hands me my SOLDIER. This August issue gave extra pleasure with personal memories revived by your articles about The Gibraltar Regiment and "HMS Maidstone" barracks in Belfast.

Promoted to sergeant after the fall of France in 1940 I went to a camp near Belfast. In those days such places as Falls Road were "out of bounds." The following spring I went with a party of senior NCOs to join the Gibraltar garrison. We sailed a long way round via the north and mid-Atlantic in HMS Maidstone hugely escorted by a battleship, aircraft carrier, two cruisers and several destroyers.

The old lady seems to have an affinity with soldiers. For about two weeks we had the hospitality of the POs mess and also had to work our passage with duties as look-outs and action-station fire parties. She had guns then and was regarded as one of the most valuable ships in the Royal Navy. We were troubled a little by Fokker-Wolfe Condor bombers.

It is good to know that the old Maidstone is still going strong. Good luck to her and her crew and fine billetees.—**A R Blake, 24 New House Lane, Northfleet, Kent.**

★ *HMS Maidstone's current role as a floating barracks—the antithesis of the Royal Navy's "stone frigates"—will be featured in next month's SOLDIER.*

Back to the knot

The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) re-assumed the knot symbol of its parent county as part of its new cap badge at a re-badging parade in Berlin.

The Stafford knot had been worn as a cap badge for more than 200 years by regiments associated with the county until 1959 when the new regiment, like others in The Mercian Brigade, adopted the eagle badge of the brigade.

Sign please

I am anxious to obtain the correct design of the formation sign worn by Indian air formation signal regiments during World War Two in order that our regimental history can be completed.

According to our records the design comprised a diamond of blue-and-white sections superimposed by a red Beaufighter, the whole being surmounted by an Indian star. Would any reader who has this formation sign kindly loan it to me for copying or, alternatively, trace or draw the design showing actual size and colours.

I will refund all postal charges and ensure that any sign forwarded to me is promptly returned.—**Capt J J Bingham, Royal Signals, 19 Signal Regiment, Changi, c/o GPO Singapore.**

Frontier badges

Reference Mr G E Milgate's letter (August) inquiring about the North-West Frontier rock badges. There are 19 regimental badges carved into the rock face in Cherat near Peshawar. These are all badges of infantry regiments with one exception, that of the RAMC.

Mr Randolph Holmes, the well-known artist and photographer in pre-partition India, who had a studio in Peshawar, produced an excellent paper-back book, about 1955, of photos and sketches called "Between the Indus and Ganges Rivers." It contains a picture of

SOLDIER Photographs

Prints of published or unpublished SOLDIER photographs can be supplied in glossy or white fine lustre surfaces, unmounted or mounted as required.

Photographic prints can be mounted on white or grey card at an additional charge of 2s 6d per print.

The prices listed here apply only to SOLDIER copyright photographs.

On occasions pictures from outside sources are published in the magazine.

It is regretted that copies of these cannot be supplied but the source will be given if known.

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LEGAL NOTICE

ROW—Mary (otherwise known as ROW—Mary Josephine) late of 2, Helena Avenue, Margate, Kent, and who died on the 19th August 1970.
Will William Henry Griffiths and his stepmother Rose Griffiths and his children Billy Griffiths and Patricia Griffiths please contact Messrs. Girling Wilson and Harvie of Westminster Bank Chambers, Cecil Square, Margate, Kent, the Executors of the deceased's Will, when they may learn something to their advantage if communication is made within two months. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any of the above named persons will they please communicate with the aforesaid Solicitors.

the badges in question and was still in print up to a few years ago. Copies could be obtained from the artist, whose address was c/o The Westminster Bank, Williton, Somerset.

There were also regimental badges adorning the roadside cliffs along the Khyber Pass—or were when I was there in 1927.—**Col C R Buchanan, Hawthorn Cottage, Beech Road, Haslemere, Surrey.**

★ *The British Army has left many a reminder in the form of badges, as for example in Jamaica, Aden's Crater Pass and Tobruk. The latter, on the famous wall, have alas been destroyed* (see pages 18-19, *this issue*).

2 AND 1 OR 1 AND 2

Competition 145 (June), based on the knight's move in chess, required a two-part answer to the question of which knight said what. Many competitors got "what" but fell down on "which." It was in fact Sir Winston Churchill who said "We cannot flag or fail. We shall go on to the end."

There were permutations on white and black knights, both knights, a young soldier named Knight, many entries without attribution and a gallant stab with "General Haig."

Prizewinners:

1 G A Gladman, 33 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17.

2 Cpl D P Kinnon, Power Station Tp, 1st Fortress Sqn RE, Gibraltar.

3 Mrs W N Dormer, 16 St Thomas Drive, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1HF.

4 Sgt R Ewington, 10 Dorset Close, Bulford Village, Salisbury, Wilts.

5 Mrs L P Weekes, c/o 3rd Bn, Parachute Regt, Malta GC, BFPO 51.

6 D H White, Melrose, Furlongs Road, Sutton-on-Sea, Mablethorpe, Lincs.

7 Mrs Joan Mahood, 36 Donaghadee Road, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland.

8 Tpr J A Ramsay, HQ Sqn, 13/18 Royal Hussars, BFPO 17.

9 Capt R C Boulter, 22 Sig Regt, BFPO 16.

10 D Howie, 9 Mansion Gardens, Old Park Barracks, Dover, Kent.

JACKPOT

After a long duel in which each submitted correct entries to competitions 137 to 143, Major Val Noble, Welton House, 15 Magdala Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DE, and Mr J Giblin, 14 Oxendene, Warminster, Wilts, both fell at hurdle 144, "Three Rounds Rapid"—the battleships game.

This jackpot started with Competition 133—the pair had therefore sent in 11 consecutive correct entries. As they say so unnecessarily in TV wrestling, "both men having gained one fall, the referee's decision is a draw." The jackpot prizes of £15 and £5 are pooled and it's £10 each to Major Noble and Mr Giblin—well done!

The current jackpot is still running—it started with Competition 147 (August).

COLLECTORS' CORNER

Jay L Paterson, East Cottage, Mellerstain, Gordon, Berwickshire.— *Requires South African and Australian army cap badges. Will purchase or exchange; has large selection of "spares" from many countries, also US medals.*

L/Cpl J Neal, 651 Avn Sqn, BFPO 32.— *Wishes purchase, or exchange for British Empire stamps, badges of Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, Blues & Royals and Scottish infantry regiments. All letters answered.*

G M Lose, 154 Shooters Hill Road, Blackheath, London SE3.—*Wants all types of military badges for cash or exchange, especially artillery items and helmet plate centres. Prompt replies to all letters.*

Sgt P Kavanagh, WRAC, HQ Shorncliffe/Dover Garrison, Risborough Barracks, Folkestone, Kent.—*Wishes purchase any brass regimental Scottish badges.*

Terence Wise, Walnut Tree Cottage, Netherend, Lydney, Gloucestershire.— *Wishes obtain photographs of military vehicles bearing divisional, brigade or similar markings (date and nationality unimportant). Will pay 7s 6d for use of each print or negative.*

W H Bloomer, 94 Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich, London SE22.—*Requires Scottish and Commonwealth Scottish cap badges, helmet plates and shako plates; glengarry badges, Militia, Volunteer and Territorial badges; also Scottish regimental plaid brooches and London regiments cap badges all types. About 200 cap badges for exchange. List available.*

A H Stevens, 66 Colston Street, Bristol 1.—*Wants any Gloucestershire Regiment badges, including cloth titles, especially Volunteer; regimental information also required.*

R J C Darley, 39 College Court, Maidstone, Kent.—*Wishes exchange rare headdress badge Rangoon Volunteer Rifles Highland Company for early Irish infantry items.*

R Watson, 5 Elterwater Avenue, Workington, Cumberland.—*Requires for purchase or exchange cap badges of 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars and 12th Royal Lancers. All letters answered.*

J Washington, 47 Westbourne Road, Eccles, Manchester.—*Wishes contact steel helmet collectors worldwide to exchange helmets and information. Also available for exchange, British caps, equipment etc of both World Wars. All letters answered.*

Pte R E Wise, RAASC Centre, Staff, Tpt Wing, Puckapunyal, Victoria, Australia 3662.—*Collects military and naval badges and decorations, specialising in Service Corps insignia. Will purchase or exchange for Australian badges, shoulder patches etc. All letters answered.*

HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?

(see page 33)

The two drawings differ in the following respects: 1 Size of right spearhead. 2 Buttons on Indian's right leg. 3 Tent pattern above X. 4 Heel of Indian's left moccasin. 5 Top right branch of cactus. 6 Middle twig in fire. 7 Size of white (or black!) area inside tent. 8 Length of Indian's left forearm. 9 Bottom of middle smoke cloud. 10 Loose flame at right of fire.

Wee Gordons at 11,000 feet

UP into the clouds they climbed, picking finger and toe holds in sheer rock faces and taking careful steps across ice traverses. Finally, atop the Dolomites' highest mountain 10,965-foot Marmolada, they gave a cheery wave of ice picks and paused for commemorative photographs.

It was the peak of achievement for 18 "cocky wee Gordons." The men, from 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, were just completing a four-week mountaineering course at Corvara in Italy.

When the Gordons return home from Minden in Germany, the 18 will provide a mountain rescue team in the Cairngorms. Although the course was Army-sponsored, they supplied their own climbing kit and paid part of the cost.

Under the eye of experienced climber Lieutenant Michael Tait and professional instructor Signor Giovanni Castlunger, they practised such arts as belaying, abseiling and prussiking (a technique for escaping from a crevasse or surmounting an overhang).

Commented Lieutenant Tait afterwards: "The Battalion now has a superbly fit team of rock climbers who, after special training in the Cairngorms, could meet anything that we will be asked to tackle in Scotland."

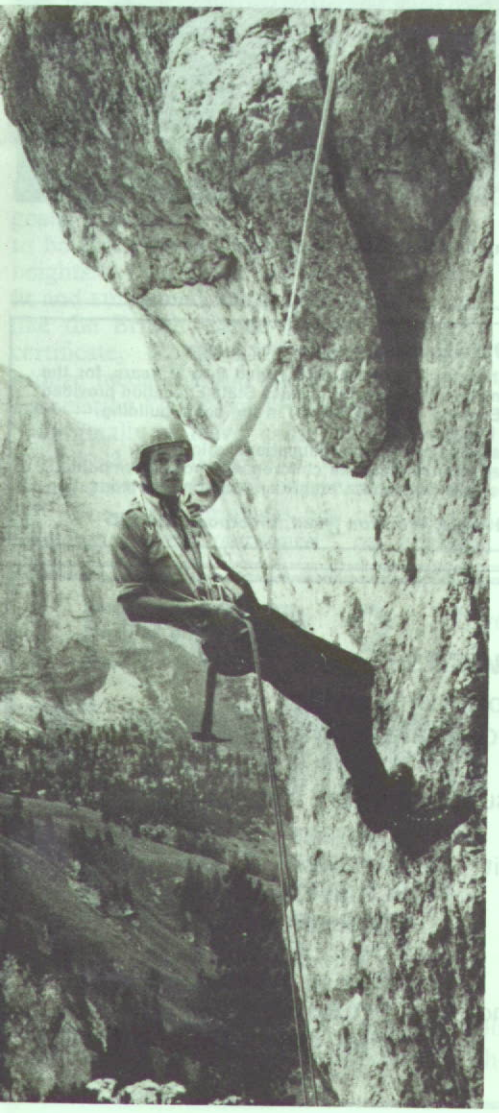
Pictures by G Medoch, Public Relations, Headquarters Rhine Army.

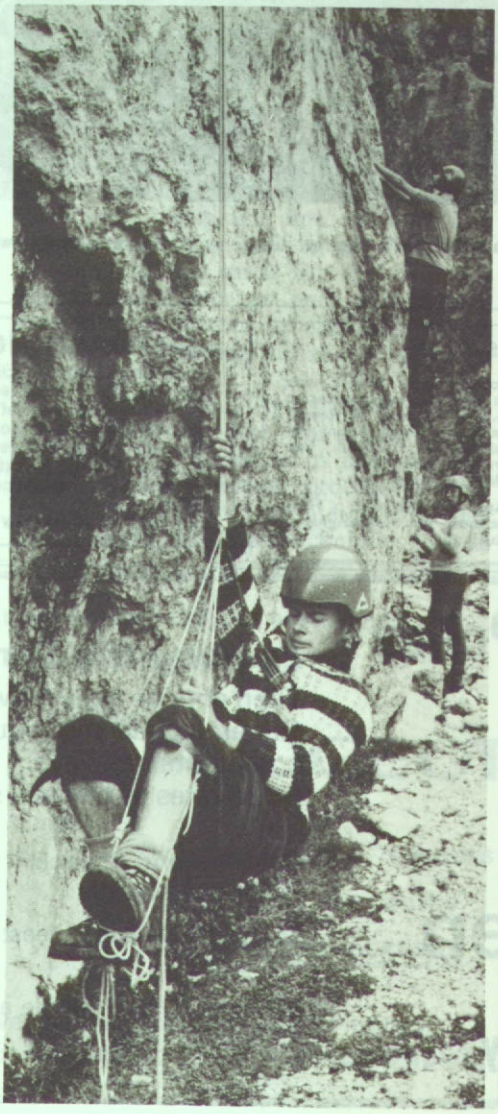
Above: Feeling for footholds on an ice traverse.

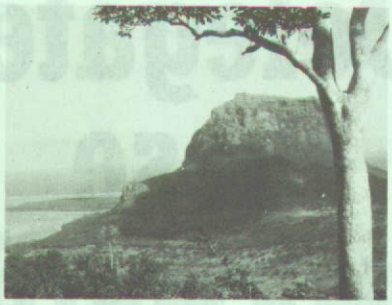
Right: "We've made it!" Atop mount Marmolada.

Below: Awe-inspiring for some. But just plain abseiling for cool-nerved Private James Glen.

Below right: Practising the art of prussiking, used for negotiating crevasses and overhangs.







Sun, sky and sea. View from hilltop on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius.

Operation Reefer

WHILE police are prosecuting drug traffickers in Britain, a handful of British soldiers is getting to the root of the problem in Mauritius—digging up and destroying marijuana plants.

The soldiers are members of the Mauritius Special Mobile Force, featured in SOLDIER in September 1967. The objective of "Operation Reefer," as they call it, is a plant known locally as gandia, which looks like a tomato plant and can grow up to eight feet high. It is grown surreptitiously in inaccessible spots high up on cliff faces or on jungle covered mountains.

An underworld tip-off, sometimes instigated by rivalry between the illicit planters, sends local police and the Mobile Force out on a sweep into the outback. Using compass bearings for direction, they hack their way through dense undergrowth, scramble up wet cliffs and gingerly pick their way among giant thorns.

The discovery of a gandia plantation is heralded by a whistle. The entrance is usually covered by large, dry, brittle leaves which crack like a pistol shot when trodden on, acting as an alarm. The plantations vary in size from a few square feet to 40 yards across. Often there is a shelter for the cultivator and sometimes there are seedlings planted under wire frames with a watering can nearby.

All the plants are rooted out and may be either burnt on the spot or taken to the nearest police station. Forensic experts examining the plants glean information about the quality and date of planting which can sometimes lead to arrests.

However, the planters are very elusive. While they are prepared to gun down rivals they flee from armed troops. But the soldiers and police are cunning too. Sometimes, instead of destroying the plants immediately, they wait in hiding for the planter to return. Several arrests have been made in this way. In one recent two-day sweep more than a thousand plants were found and destroyed.

From a report by Lieutenant-Colonel A J Ward, Commandant, Special Mobile Force, Vacoas, Mauritius.

Above left: Using sharp-edged machetes to destroy a cultivator's shelter. Above right: Soldiers carry away bundles of the illicit gandia plants

Improvising tents for over-night stop during final 50-mile canoe expedition.

For canoeists and climbers

Gently does it. Lowering a "body" down a craggy cliff during mountain rescue training.

HIGH above a Norwegian fjord, a cluster of chalets nestles among the trees with seagulls swooping and shrieking in the pale blue sky. It is one of the Army's remotest stations—the Outward Bound Centre near Kristiansand.

Soldiers who come here exchange drab khaki for gaily patterned Scandinavian sweaters and spend a fortnight in what is peculiarly known as the "wet" or "dry" department: swimming in cool, clear water and canoeing through foaming rapids or trekking over rugged countryside and climbing the sheer cliffs at the side of the fjords.

The courses are not intended to turn lounge lizards into fish and mountain goats. Everyone is a volunteer and expected to be able to swim and to have a head for heights. At the end of the course they leave fit and suntanned, often with qualifications like the British Canoe Union proficiency certificate, Royal Life Saving Society bronze medallion and Amateur Swimming Association "gold" survival award.

Originally a leave camp, it was taken over by 1 (British) Corps and developed as an outward bound centre seven years ago. The early emphasis was on survival. Students were "marooned" on offshore islands for several days with only the clothes they stood up in, a box of matches, jack-knife, fishing line and washing and shaving kit. They had to use rainwater for drinking and catch fish and seagulls, cooking them over an open fire. Today there is more instruction and the stress is placed on developing initiative, endurance and leadership.

Those on the "dry" course live in a farmhouse on the mountainside at Gautestad. Here they learn map reading, rock climbing, rescue procedures and first aid, leading up to a final four-day trek. The canoeists learn techniques such as the "eskimo roll" (turning sideways through 360 degrees) before tackling the "white-water"—foaming rapids with rocks, whirlpools and undertows. They too have a final expedition, paddling through lakes and fjords into the open sea and back again.

The fjords freeze up in winter but the centre remains open—for ski-ing.

Those who complete the course are entitled to wear the centre's insignia, incorporated in a tie and blazer badge, which comprises a canoe paddle crossed with an ice-axe surmounted by a viking ship.

From a report by Army Public Relations, HQ 1 (British) Corps, Germany.

Purely Personal

Sappers and Saffron

East meets West in Thailand (below) when two British sappers, **Lance-Corporal Tony Masselis and Sapper "Audy" Anderson,** observe the correct oriental etiquette in greeting two saffron-robed bhikkhus (Buddhist monks) outside the temple of Nakornpathom. Sappers are now familiar figures in the exotic Thai capital. A specialist team of Royal Engineers has been spending more than nine months drilling for fresh water in the Province of Ratburi, a three-hour drive from Bangkok. Villagers now no longer have to use the insanitary "klongs," dykes and canals filled with muddy water.

Parallel careers

Both joined the Scots Guards on the same day and rose to the rank of captain, but they had not met for 22 years. **Captain Campbell Graham** (below, left) and **Captain Norman Alldred** were both in the same training squad at Caterham 25 years ago, were promoted to lance-corporal on the same day, went to Italy in the same company and returned to England in 1947 as lance-sergeants. Their paths then diverged, with Mr Alldred transferring to the Small Arms School Corps as an instructor. But both rose to regimental sergeant-major before being commissioned. Now, after 22 years apart, they held a two-man reunion in the officers' mess at Dhekelia where chance had thrown them together again. Captain Alldred is with the Near East Land Forces in Cyprus and his compatriot was posted there for adventure training. Soon they are returning to England, Captain Alldred as a training officer with Strategic Command and Captain Graham as quartermaster with the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards. When RSM of the 2nd Battalion in Kenya, Mr Graham was pictured on SOLDIER's March 1964 front cover with one of the battalion's twin lion cub mascots.

Re-reunion

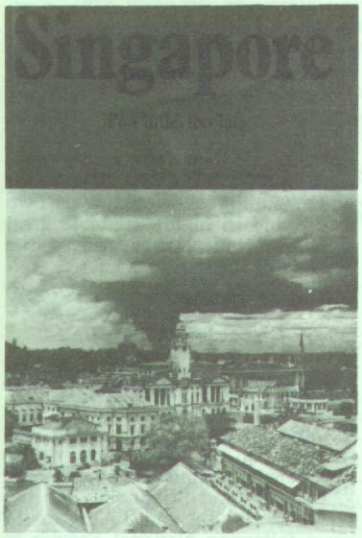
During his farewell visit to 32 Engineer Regiment at Hohne, **Major-General J C Woollett** recognised a face out of the past. It was his former driver of 25 years ago, **Gunner (now Captain) Bob Grocott.** Standing (below) atop a World War Two vintage Churchill AVRE (armoured vehicle, Royal Engineers) they reminisced about the Normandy landing and the assault of Le Havre. In those days General Woollett was a major commanding 16 Assault Squadron, Royal Engineers. He was responsible for promoting Gunner Grocott to lance-corporal. The lance-corporal rose to sergeant-major, was commissioned in 1964 and is now captain quartermaster of 21 Engineer Regiment at Nienburg.

BOOKS...

Bitter indictment

"*Singapore: Too Little, Too Late*" (*Brigadier Ivan Simson*)

This book, by a soldier who was on the inside in the defence of Singapore in 1941-42, should have been published 20 years ago—there might then have been some answers to the "why's" which punctuate this sorry story. There have been many books on this subject, some full of bitter accusation, others praiseworthily attempting to defend the defenders, but



few have been able to point the accusing finger with such authority as Brigadier Simson.

In May 1941 he was sent to the Far East as Chief Engineer, Malaya Command, with specific verbal instructions to install up-to-date defences throughout Malaya and Singapore. The situation even then was worsening yet the brigadier's plea for written instructions was refused. He need not have bothered to go. He told his superiors of his verbal instructions—and was received with such restraint that he thought they suspected him of bluffing. In any case the GOC Malaya, General Percival, and his senior commanders were averse to defences on the grounds that they were bad for morale.

Brigadier Simson can be excused for the bitterness with which he tells of his vain attempts to give Malaya and Singapore a fighting chance. Though no one can say that they would have survived if his plans had been acted upon, it is nevertheless fair to say that the lack of action virtually doomed the command.

Equally grim was his struggle to have vital facts included in the official history. After detailing his contacts with General Kirby, the official historian, Brigadier Simson goes on: "The Official History nowhere mentions the point that senior commanders were opposed to defence as a matter of policy 'because defences were bad for morale;' and not because of a shortage of labour, material, time, finance or ideas, which any reader might otherwise think. This 'no defences' policy left Singapore 'Fortress' deliberately without all-round defences."

Brigadier Simson has a few stern comments on the Staff College too and questions the loss of first-class leadership material by retirement merely because the officers concerned do not have psc or ptsc after their names. It is a valid point.

So too is his call for close study of episodes like Malaya 1941-42. We must learn to learn from our mistakes—and only through books like this will all the facts for study become available.

Leo Cooper, 50s **JCW**

Swift and sure

"*Through to 1970: Royal Signals Golden Jubilee*" (*Colonel R M Adams, edited by Lieutenant- Colonel E G Day*)

"The confounded telegraph has ruined everything" moaned General Simpson, a British commander in the Crimea. A 340-mile submarine cable had been laid across the Black Sea from Varna to Balaclava—and along it came a continuous daily stream of minor administrative queries from Whitehall. The poor old general did not have the staff to cope with them, hence his heartcry. His French counterpart, on the other hand, had to suffer a constant stream of advice from his King who feared for his throne in the event of a defeat.

It was a momentous event in the history of war—field commanders of the future were to find that they were no longer on their own.

The Crimean War was the first occasion on which the electric telegraph was used in war. It marked the real birth of the complex, world-wide signals systems through which the armies of today are directed.

Like other now-independent units, the Royal Signals were mothered by the Royal Engineers with the formation on 1 September 1870 of C Telegraph Troop. Very early in its history in 1872, the troop had as its adjutant a young lieutenant named Herbert Kitchener. Maybe it was a prophetic posting for both went on to bigger and better things.

It was not until 28 June 1920 that the Corps of Signals became a separate entity. Six weeks later the King conferred the title "Royal" on the corps in recognition of the war record of the RE Signals Service.

It had been a long hard road, one marked by such memorable milestones as China, the Ashanti and Zulu wars, Abyssinia, Tel-el-Kebir, Bechuanaland, India, the Sudan, Nigeria, South Africa, Mons, Marne, Somme, Ypres, Vimy, Messines, Cambrai, Salonika, Mesopotamia and North Russia.

And there were more to come—France 1940 and 1944, North Africa, Abyssinia (again), Greece, Italy, North-West Europe, Burma . . . And more—India, Palestine, Malaya, Korea, Kenya, Suez, Aden, Cyprus, Borneo.

It is a great corps and this splendid book is an excellent tribute to it. It is one of the brightest and best produced of its kind, well researched, particularly in the photographs, profusely illustrated and imaginatively laid out and presented.

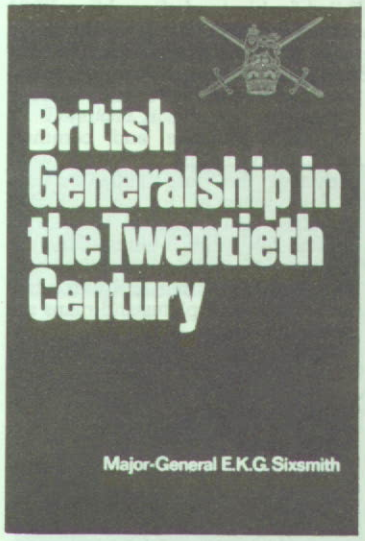
Royal Signals Institution, Cheltenham Terrace, London SW3, 12s 6d **JCW**

★ SOLDIER drew extensively on this book for its August feature on the Royal Signals' 50 years and is indebted to its author and editor and the Royal Signals Institution.

The art of war

"*British Generalship in the Twentieth Century*" (*Major-General E K G Sixsmith*)

After the recent rash of "instant" military history it is indeed refreshing to read this important and scholarly book.



General Sixsmith has written a most lucid, cogent and perceptive study of British commanders in the South African and world wars.

He clearly and fully analyses the strategic thinking and tactical doctrines behind the main campaigns and describes the relationships between the various commanders-in-chief and their political masters. The conflict between the "frocks" and the military is exemplified in the relationship between the ineffably devious Lloyd George and the rock-like Haig and his CIGS, "Wully" Robertson.

Lloyd George made every effort to discredit and bring down Haig who survived to win his final great victories mainly because he had the ear of George V.

Haig has been one of the most unjustly vilified of British commanders. Certainly had he not fought the Pyrrhic battles of 1917-18 to take the pressure off the French armies, particularly after the Nivelle offensive, they would have crumpled and the war would have been lost.

There is an excellent chapter on the period between the two wars dealing with the new tactical doctrines emerging as a result of the lessons of the first war and in particular the use of the tank. The author has drawn widely on the writings of the late Sir Basil Liddell Hart, the prophetic but little-known General Sir Ivor Maxse and the "high apostles of the tank"—Fuller, Hobart and Martell. Internecine quarrels, but chiefly the Treasury, precluded implementation of many of the ideas although the German Army was quick to take advantage of their teaching.

World War Two is fully covered and especially interesting is the analysis of the strategic and tactical

...Books...

thinking of Montgomery in his two major clashes with the American generals—the breakout from Normandy and the "broad front" clash with Eisenhower. Alanbrooke, Wavell, Alexander, Slim and Auchinleck are fully assessed.

Illustrated and well indexed, with a bibliography, this is a splendidly penetrating and well-reasoned book supported by well-balanced judgements.

Arms & Armour Press, 65*s* **RHL**

Unconditional surrender

"*Grant as Military Commander*" (*James Marshall-Cornwall*)

"You just tell me the brand of whisky Grant drinks; I would like to send a barrel of it to my other generals!" Such was President Lincoln's famous answer to those politicians who criticised General Grant's handling of the four-million-dollar-a-day Civil War of 1861-65.

In some ways this concern about Grant was justified. He had reluctantly entered West Point and, although a good horseman and brave soldier in the Mexican War, he had resigned from the army as a captain. He was known to be a heavy drinker, cigar-smoker and bankrupt farmer. When war broke out he was a rather slovenly and unkempt clerk in a store at Galena, Illinois. But the problem of expanding an army of 16,000 into one of 1,000,000 forced the authorities to use every trained man they had.

Grant was made colonel of the 21st Illinois Infantry, a wild and unruly lot which he licked into a tough, disciplined force. As a reward he was posted to the western theatre where he realised that the key to the whole campaign was the Mississippi-railway system and immediately took the initiative.

His speedy capture of forts Henry and Donelson with 15,000 Confederates made him a hero overnight and gave him his nickname of "Unconditional surrender." Bloody fighting followed at Shiloh, Iuka and at Vicksburg where another 31,000 prisoners were taken with 172 guns.

Men now talked of another Napoleon and historians regard this battle rather than Gettysburg as the turning point of the war.

Grant had fought and won the first modern war, with its electric telegraph, observation balloons, rifles and telescopic sights, against two enemies—the Confederates and his own generals. Grant always triumphed, President Lincoln believed in him and the soldiers liked him, He never tried to limit the scope of talented lieutenants and his kindly, humane, straightforward personality won him friends all over the nation.

Grant's patience and common sense served his country well. Although he lost 190,000 men in four years he inflicted 243,000 casualties on the enemy.

Like all other volumes in the Military Commander series this book is well written and extremely interesting. The plates and maps are excellent.

Batsford, 64*s* **AWH**

Filling a gap

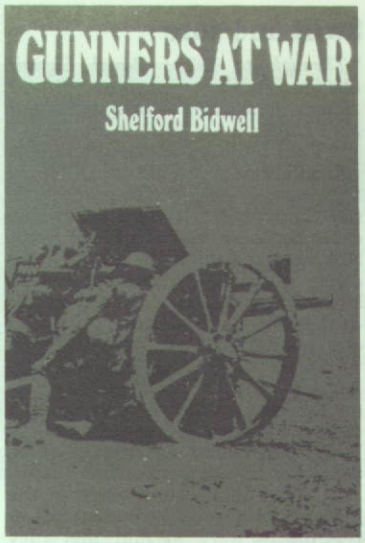
"*Gunners at War*" (*Shelford Bidwell*)

Brigadier Bidwell's account of the Royal Artillery's role in two world wars fills a gap—although more men served in the Royal Artillery than in the whole of the Royal Navy in World War Two, there had not been one single book on the gunners' work.

His story starts in 1914 with a detailed account of artillery at Le Cateau where a brave if somewhat old-fashioned artillery commander ordered his gunners to deploy and go into action in full view of the enemy.

He then flashes back to the development of British artillery over the previous centuries in a potted history which makes the essential point that, apart from the Royal Engineers, the gunners were the only really trained, professional soldiers this country possessed right up to the present century.

Brigadier Bidwell then spends some considerable time discussing the various opposing camps on army and in particular artillery reform during the 'twenties and 'thirties and although he understands and appreciates the theories



of the innovators (such as Liddell Hart) he also gives the traditionalists their due for making outdated practices work, But for most people who buy this eminently readable book, which neatly combines theory and practice in an easy prose style, the sections devoted to World War Two will undoubtedly be of most interest.

Brigadier Bidwell (who served in North Africa and Italy as a battery commander and later a staff officer) covers such exciting actions as the defeat of the 5th Panzer Regiment by the artillery in an early attempt to break into Tobruk, and the battle of the "Admin Box" in Burma in 1944. He also deals with the technical problems facing the average gunner as each year of the war brought technical innovations on the enemy side which had to be met by the Royal Artillery, crippled by pre-war lack of funds for long-range planning.

In layman's language Brigadier Bidwell explains among other things why the British Army was never able to present an effective answer to the German 88mm, probably the best gun to find multi-purpose application in World War Two, and why the British 3.7 was never used for a similar purpose.

Presumably some of this book originated in essays—one misses an underlying thread and continuity. But it fills an important gap, contributes a great deal to a better understanding of World War Two tactics and in highly readable form and non-technical language describes the role of the gun in warfare.

Arms & Armour Press, 55*s* **CW**

In brief

"*Vicious Circle*" (*Alan Evans*)

Alan Evans is the pen-name of a TAVR sergeant who has been writing for 20 years—his earlier books are "The End of the Running," "Mantrap" and "Bannon." He has served in the TA and TAVR for 19 years following National Service in the Royal Artillery.

But his latest novel has nothing to do with war or the Services. It is an action-packed story of Crawford, tough ex-smuggler, hi-jacker and gun-runner, who gets involved with a stop-at-nothing renegade general and his followers. The general has assassinated the government's strong man, Crawford's young son witnesses the killing and when Crawford finds him both are desperately on the run.

Robert Hale, 21*s*

. . . and more books

"*The Regimental Badges of New Zealand*" (*D A Corbett*)

At last a book on the badges of the New Zealand Army to fill an age-long empty space on the shelves of the badge-collecting enthusiast. Illustrated by more than 600 photographs of badges, helmet plates and titles, this 250-page reference, the first to be produced on the subject, covers the whole range of badges from the early militia days to the present time. Corps and regimental insignia are accompanied by a brief historical note and there is an interesting section on design plus a list of regimental mottoes and much other useful information.

This is a "must" for the keen collector but, rather unfortunately, the book is printed in a limited edition of 1000 copies.

Corbett Publishing Company, 2 Spencer Street, Reumera, Auckland 5, New Zealand, 6 dollars (plus 20 cents postage)

"*Headdresses of the British Army: Yeomanry*" (*W Y Carman*)

Another first-class book from the prolific and authoritative pen of Mr Carman. Well illustrated with 41 full-page prints, the frontispiece in full colour and the remainder in black and white, this is an informative and well-produced book. In dealing with a wide range of yeomanry helmets the book also comes as an invaluable historical reference. Different yeomanry regiments are tackled in detail county by county and the result is a handy, reliable guide.

W Y Carman, 94 Mulgrave Road, Sutton, Surrey, 32s (plus 1s 4d UK postage and packing)

"*Ypres* 1914*: Death of an Army*" (*Anthony Farrar-Hockley*)

A welcome addition to the paperback ranks, this reprint of "Death of an Army" first published in 1967 and reviewed in SOLDIER (January 1968) very sensibly incorporates "Ypres 1914" in its title, thereby indicating immediately the theatre of war and the heroic army concerned.

This graphic description of the never-to-be-forgotten struggle by British soldiers who stood and died against appalling odds to hold back Germans, while their own countrymen took up arms, now comes within the reach of a much wider reading public.

Pan Books, 6s

"*Discovering Military Traditions*" (*Arthur Taylor*)

A useful potted introduction to matters military—historical and actual—laced with many a stirring regimental anecdote. Good value.

Shire Publications, 4s 6d

"*Regimental Badges Worn in the British Army One Hundred Years Ago*" (*Edward Almack*)

The author was inspired by the chance acquiring of a silversmith's working notebook, the first 21 pages of which contained pen-and-ink drawings of badges with instructions for their manufacture and recorded in great detail work carried out between 1809 and 1813 on numerous shoulder belt plates.

All these drawings are reproduced in this fascinating facsimile reprint from the 1900 edition with the author's own notes on the various regiments. A book for the badge collector which should also appeal to the military historian.

Muller, 65s

"*Badges of the British Army*, 1820-1960" (*F Wilkinson*)

The badges of almost every regiment and corps in the British Army are illustrated in this handy reference. Each badge is clearly identified and details of material given but there are no historical notes although there is a brief introduction outlining the history of badges.

A useful addition to the collector's bookshelf.

Arms & Armour Press, 21s

Bellona Military Vehicle Prints

Series 22 features the United States 155mm gun motor carriage T6, 155mm gun motor carriage M12 King Kong and cargo carriers T14 and M30, and two Russian vehicles, the Soviet assault gun carriages ISU-122 D-25S and ISU-122 A195.

The T6 (illustrated in colour on the front cover by George Bradford) was used by US artillery in World War One and comprised the French grande puissance Filloux gun, named after its designer, Captain Filloux, mounted on the chassis of the medium M3 tank. Development continued until 1925 against the horse v machine argument and in the next 16 years there was a further argument of towed v self-propelled artillery.

Towards the end of 1942 the T6 was standardised as the M12; it was declared obsolete three years later but had proved particularly effective against pillboxes. The cargo carriers T12 and M30, based on the same chassis as the guns, were used to carry ammunition and service the T6 and M12 guns.

The Russian D-25S self-propelled gun, a 122mm gun on the IS-I heavy tank chassis, was produced in 1944-45 and followed by the A-195 with a modified 122mm gun.

Series 23 deals with the Federal German Bundeswehr's main battle tank, Leopard, the main rival of Britain's Chieftain. Described and illustrated are the orginal prototype of January 1961—the Porsche 723, the second prototype (1962), standard Leopard (1963), recovery and armoured engineer Leopards.

Series 23 notes that at the time of writing Leopard has become the mainstay of NATO armour in Europe. The Bundeswehr has nearly 2000 Leopards in service and a further 2000 have been sold to or ordered by Belgium, Norway, Holland, Italy, Denmark and Spain. New anti-aircraft systems based on the Leopard chassis are under test and a Leopard bridge-layer is being produced.

Bellona Publications, Badgers Mead, Hawthorn Hill, Bracknell, Berkshire, 5s each (UK)

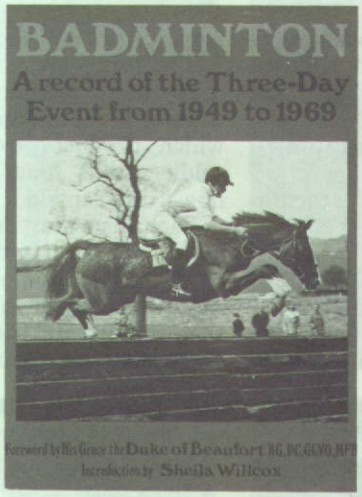
"*Badminton, the Three-Day Event* 1949-1969" (*Barbara Cooper*)

A complete record in text, pictures and diagrams, this book is a must for those who have come to regard the three-day horse trials at Badminton as the event of the year.

It includes every aspect of the Badminton story—the dedicated pioneers, biographical sketches of famous competitors and their horses, diagrams and photographs of the spectacular fences and the bustle and tense excitement of preparations behind the scenes.

The principal aim of the Duke of Beaufort in initiating the event was to produce a British team capable of winning an Olympic gold medal. In 20 years that aim has been splendidly realised by riders like Major Laurence Rook, Colonel Frank Weldon, Major Derek Allhusen and Sergeant R S Jones.

Threshold Books, 50s



"*Old British Model Soldiers:* 1893-1918" (*L W Richards*)

More than a thousand lead figures are illustrated in this survey of the pioneers of model soldier manufacturing in Britain. These are the miniatures with which H G Wells waged his "Little Wars" and which provided patterns still in use today. Originally intended for the nursery floor, they are now collectors' pieces, and for the collector this book is an invaluable illustrated reference compiled by one of the world's foremost authorities on the subject.

Arms and Armour Press, 30s

"*Military Pistols and Revolvers*" (*I V Hogg*)

The hand guns used by the major powers during the 20th century varied widely in design and performance, from the enormous Montenegrin Gasser revolver weighing about five pounds to the diminutive Walther PPK semi-automatic "polizei pistole kriminal" intended as a concealed weapon for plain-clothes detectives.

These and all the standard weapons, including the products of such famous manufacturers as Luger, Mauser and Colt, are described here. Also included are lesser-known weapons such as the rare Webley-Fosbery self-cocking revolver and the self-loading Mars and Savage pistols. The history and development of each piece are described in some detail in this well-illustrated miniature encyclopedia of a book.

Arms & Armour Press, 15s

CENTO's Bisley shoot

Britain v Iran v Turkey v USA

GOOD shooting with the light machine-gun took 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, representing Britain, to second place in the 1970 CENTO small arms competition *Nishan VII* at Bisley. This is the British Army's best-ever result in an international event that is as keenly contested and produces as great dedication to the art of marksmanship as the national championships.

This competition, now in its seventh year, is between four nations of the Central Treaty Organisation—Iran, Turkey, Britain and the United States. The fifth signatory, Pakistan, does not compete but had high-ranking officers watching the contest and attending the many social functions that emphasise the friendly relations between the member nations. These are developed by the close contact of the troops in professional rivalry and the yearly change of shooting venue which allows each nation to host in turn, with the Americans using their base in Germany.

The teams are not packed with military marksmen of national calibre; each country is represented by a combatant unit which produces from its own ranks 24 soldiers plus four as reserves, led by a non-firing captain.

Each man must have been with his unit at least three months and there may not be more than two officers in the team. No more than seven rank and file with more than three years' service may compete and there must be a minimum of 15 with less than three years' service. No man may have taken part in a *Nishan* meeting for at least five years and no one may fire more than one weapon. Twelve fire in the rifle match, two in the pistol and ten (five pairs) in the light machine-gun event.

These would seem to be odds against exceptional shooting but such is the professional keenness and national pride that first-class highly competitive marksmanship results. The word *nishan*, meaning "aim and sight," is common to the three regional languages and both the Turks and Iranians look upon winning the competition as the greatest achievement in their shooting world.

This was the second time that Britain had been host. The first was in 1966 when 3rd Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets (The Rifle Brigade), gained third place overall and won the light machine-gun championship.

No championships fell to the British this time but the Royal Anglians shot well and only one poor score prevented them from again winning the light machine-gun trophy.

In this event Iran scored 1355 out of 1800, Royal Anglians 1311, United States 1243 and Turkey 1173. The top scoring pair and runners-up were British: Lance-Corporal C A Sayers and Private P S Elliot with 303 out of 360 and Privates K Kirby and A Ivory with 289.

The pistol championship went to Turkey with 250 out of 288, and there were only 28 points between top and bottom. Britain had 222, the United States 241 and Iran 244.

Iran also won the rifle championship with 1669 points out of 1920, Turkey made 1620 and the United States and Britain 1617 each.

This was a high scoring *Nishan*, Iran's championship points of 3268 out of 4008 being 100 more than last year when they also won.

The totals for the Royal Anglians of 3150, the United States 3101 and Turkey 3043 also compare very favourably with the last Bisley in 1966 when the United States won the championship with 3070.

The Iranians have now won four *Nishans* and the Americans three. Although different men and regiments meet together each year the standards are consistently high while the drill which accompanies the opening and closing flag ceremonies is worthy of larger appreciative audiences.

Left: Scoring hits. The targets represent full-size head and neck, with inner and outer rings.

Below: Brothers in arms. Competitors from four CENTO countries examine each other's equipment.

Below right: Word of encouragement from General Sir John Mogg for competitors from the US Army.

Top left: The Americans march past, led by the Stars and Stripes during the opening ceremony.

Above left: Dressed in camouflage kit, the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment follow.

Left: Next come the high-stepping Iranians, the eventual winners of the 1970 CENTO competition.

Below left: Last are the Turks marching behind their distinctive flag with star and crescent.

Top: Top trophy won by Iran for the third year.

Above: The pistol shield, won by Turkish team.

Back Cover

The CENTO nations' closing ceremony at Aldershot. The national teams paraded in order of merit: Iran, Britain, United States, Turkey.

The champions, Iran, march past as General Sir Geoffrey Baker, Chief of the General Staff, takes the salute.

Picture by Leslie Wiggs

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